



Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

Arizona Basin Outlook Report February 1, 2016



Issued by

Jason Weller
Chief
Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Released by

Keisha L. Tatem
State Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Phoenix, Arizona

Basin Outlook Reports And Federal – State – Private Cooperative Snow Surveys

How forecasts are made

Most of the annual streamflow in Arizona originates as snowfall that has accumulated in the mountains during the winter and early spring. As the snowpack accumulates, hydrologists estimate the runoff that will occur when it melts. Measurements of snow water equivalent at selected manual snow courses and automated Snow Telemetry (SNOTEL) sites, along with precipitation and streamflow values, are used in statistical and simulation models to prepare runoff forecasts. These forecasts are coordinated between hydrologists in the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) the National Weather Service, and the Salt River Project.

Forecasts of any kind are not perfect. Streamflow forecast uncertainty arises from three primary sources: (1) uncertainty of future weather conditions, (2) uncertainty in the forecasting procedure, and (3) errors in the data. The forecast, therefore, must be interpreted not as a single value but rather as a range of values with specific probabilities of occurrence. The middle of the range is expressed by the 50% exceedance probability forecast, for which there is a 50% chance that the actual flow will be above, and a 50% chance that the actual flow will be below, this value. To describe the expected range around this 50% value, four other forecasts are provided, two smaller values (90% and 70% exceedance probability) and two larger values (30%, and 10% exceedance probability). For example, there is a 90% chance that the actual flow will be more than the 90% exceedance probability forecast.

The wider the spread among these values, the more uncertain the forecast. As the season progresses, forecasts become more accurate, primarily because a greater portion of the future weather conditions become known. This is reflected by a narrowing of the range around the 50% exceedance probability forecast. Users should take this uncertainty into consideration when making operational decisions by selecting forecasts corresponding to the level of risk they are willing to assume about the amount of water to be expected. If users anticipate receiving a lesser supply of water, or are concerned about having an adequate water supply, they may want to base their decisions on the 90% or 70% exceedance probability forecasts. On the other hand, if users anticipate receiving too much water, or are concerned about the threat of flooding, they may want to base their decisions on the 30% or 10% exceedance probability forecasts. Regardless of the forecast value users choose, they should be prepared to deal with either more or less water.



For more water supply and resource management information, contact:

Dino DeSimone
Water Supply Specialist
230 N. First Ave., Suite 509
Phoenix, AZ 85003-1706
Phone: (602) 280-8786
Email: dino.desimone@az.usda.gov

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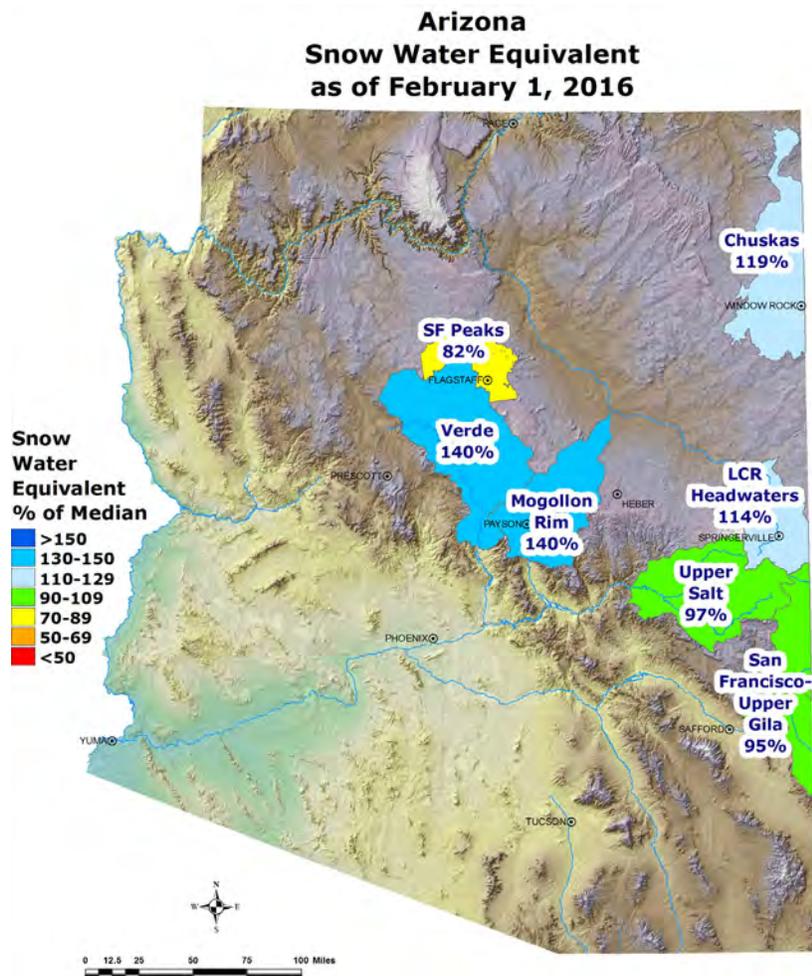
ARIZONA Basin Outlook Report as of February 1, 2016

SUMMARY

As of February 1, snowpack levels are near normal to above normal throughout the basins. Precipitation for the month of January ranged from below average to above average in the mountains. The Salt and Verde River reservoir system now stands at 54 percent of capacity, while San Carlos Reservoir is at 11 percent of capacity. The forecast calls for normal to well above normal runoff in the basins for the spring runoff period.

SNOWPACK

Snow water equivalent levels are near normal to above normal in the major river basins, ranging from 95 percent of median in the San Francisco-Upper Gila River Basin to 140 percent of median in the Verde River Basin. Statewide, the snowpack is above normal at 116 percent of median. There was very little snowpack accumulation during the latter half of January.

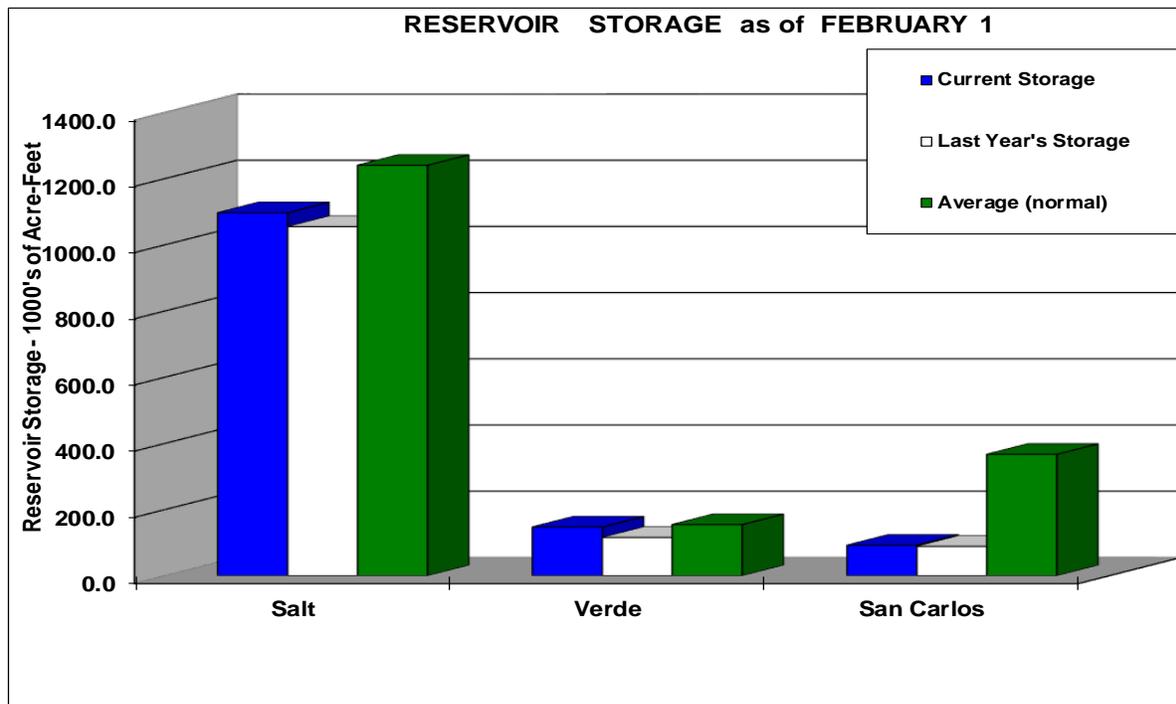


PRECIPITATION

Mountain data from NRCS SNOTEL sites and NWS Cooperator gages show that January precipitation varied from below normal to above normal, ranging from 68 percent of average in the San Francisco-Upper Gila River Basin to 122 percent of average in the Little Colorado River and Verde River Basins. Cumulative precipitation since October 1 remains above normal in the basins, except for the Upper Gila which is now at about normal for the water year.

RESERVOIR STORAGE

As of February 1, the Salt and Verde River reservoir system stands at 54 percent of capacity. San Carlos Reservoir is well below normal at only 11 percent of capacity.



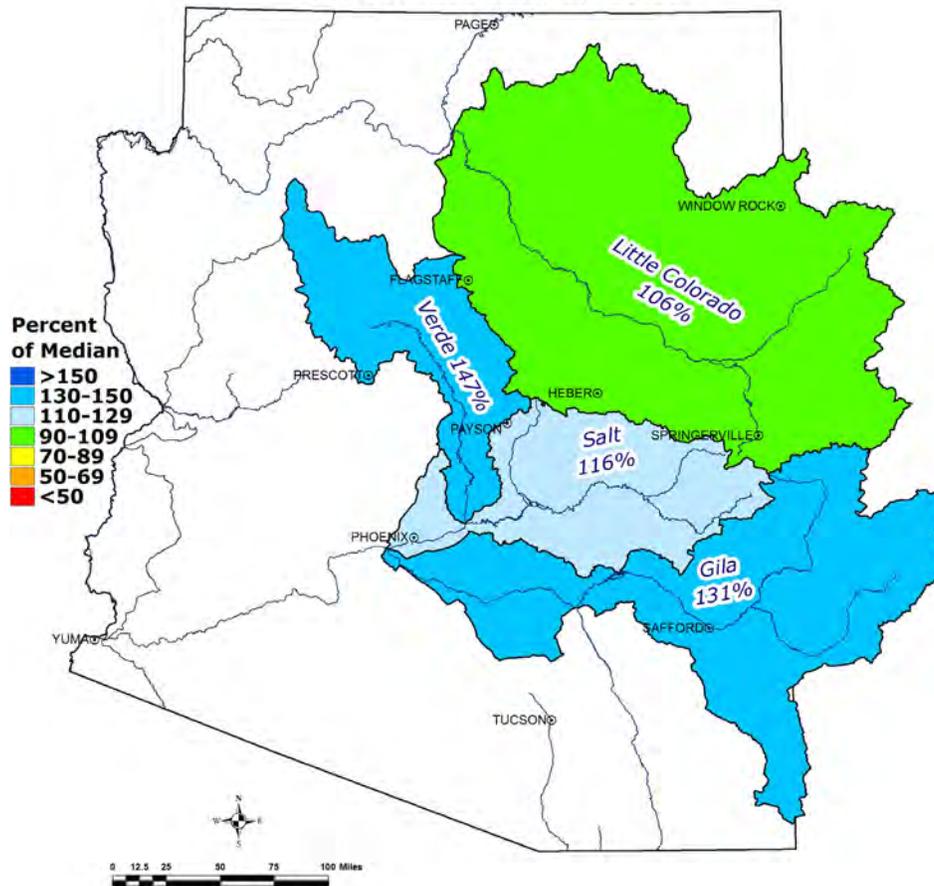
Key storage volumes displayed in thousands of acre-feet (x1000):

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Current Storage</u>	<u>Last Year Storage</u>	<u>30-Year Average</u>	<u>Storage Capacity</u>
Salt River System	1096.8	1054.6	1240.0	2025.8
Verde River System	147.1	115.5	154.4	287.4
San Carlos Reservoir	92.1	88.7	366.8	875.0
Lyman Lake	8.2	4.1	12.3	30.0
Lake Havasu	554.9	585.2	556.4	619.0
Lake Mohave	1647.0	1697.0	1676.0	1810.0
Lake Mead	10318.0	10739.0	20452.0	26159.0
Lake Powell	11429.5	11146.0	17338.0	24322.0

STREAMFLOW

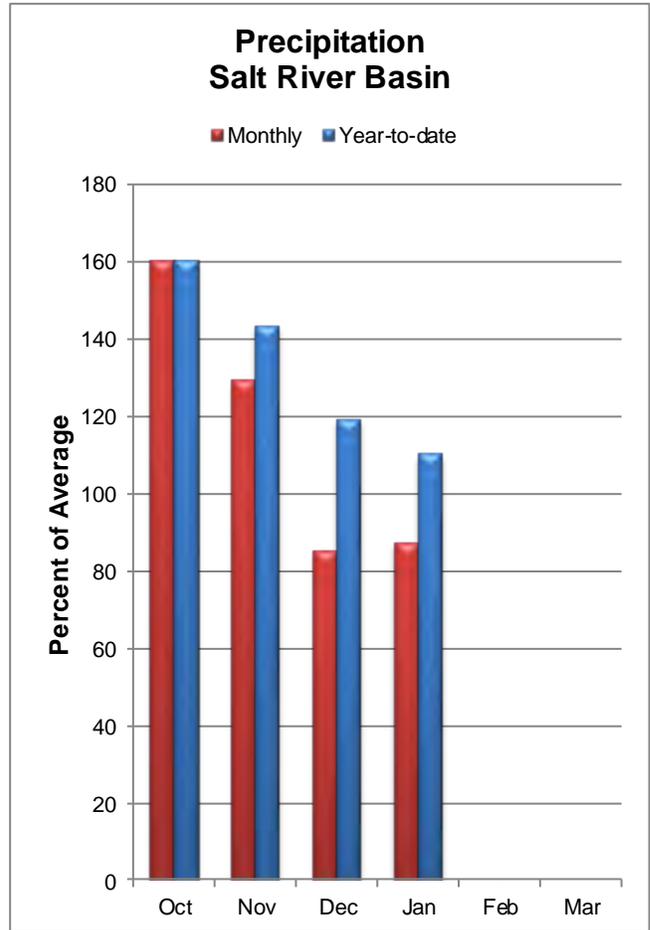
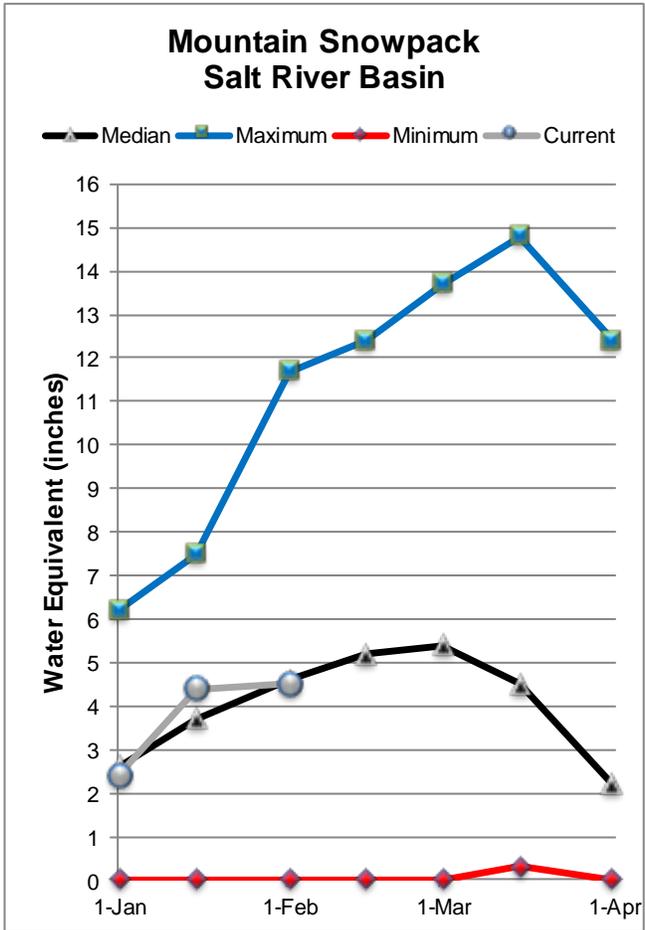
As of February 1, the forecast calls for normal to well above normal streamflow for the spring runoff period in the state's major river systems, ranging from 106 percent of median in the Little Colorado River above Lyman Lake to 147 percent of median in the Verde River above Horseshoe Dam. The streamflow forecasts are reduced from the last report primarily due to the lack of precipitation during the latter half of January. However, the outlook for the remainder of the winter still calls for above normal precipitation. Please refer to the basin forecast tables found in this report for more information regarding water supply forecasts.

Arizona Spring Streamflow Forecasts as of February 1, 2016



SALT RIVER BASIN as of February 1, 2016

Above normal streamflow levels are forecast for the basin. In the Salt River, near Roosevelt, the forecast calls for 116% of median streamflow through May, while at Tonto Creek, the forecast calls for 114% of median streamflow through May. Snow survey measurements show the Salt snowpack to be at 97% of median.



Salt River Basin Streamflow Forecasts - February 1, 2016

Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment
Chance that actual volume will exceed forecast

SALT RIVER BASIN	Forecast Period	90% (KAF)	70% (KAF)	50% (KAF)	% Avg	30% (KAF)	10% (KAF)	30yr Avg (KAF)
<hr/>								
Salt R nr Roosevelt ³	FEB			60	154%			39
	FEB-MAY	171	255	330	116%	415	565	285
	MAR-MAY	155	235	300	125%	380	515	240
<hr/>								
Tonto Ck ab Gun Ck nr Roosevelt ³	FEB			15	146%			10.3
	FEB-MAY	10.4	25	40	114%	60	101	35

1) 90% and 10% exceedance probabilities are actually 95% and 5%

2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions

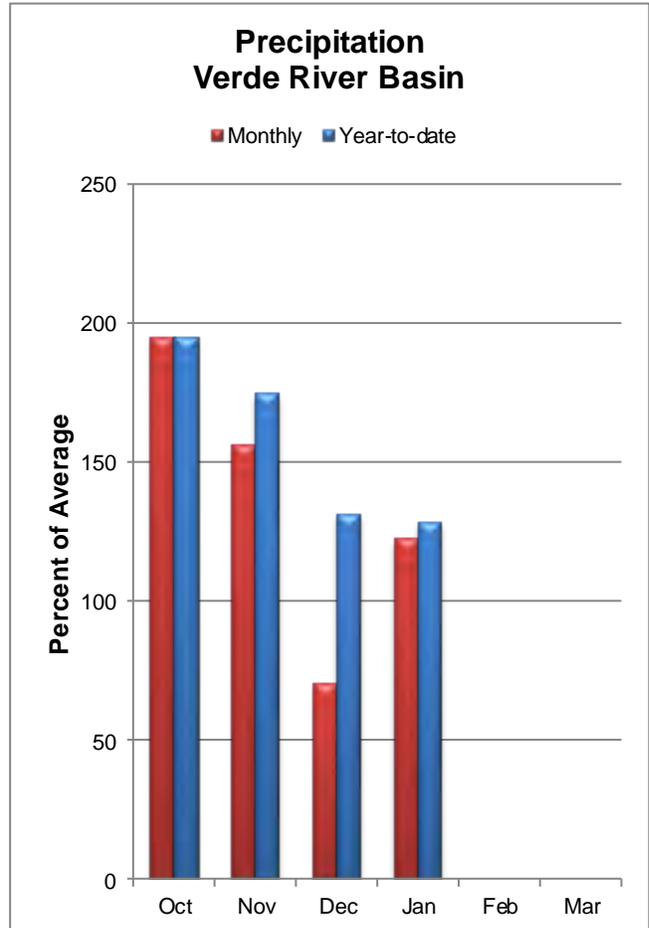
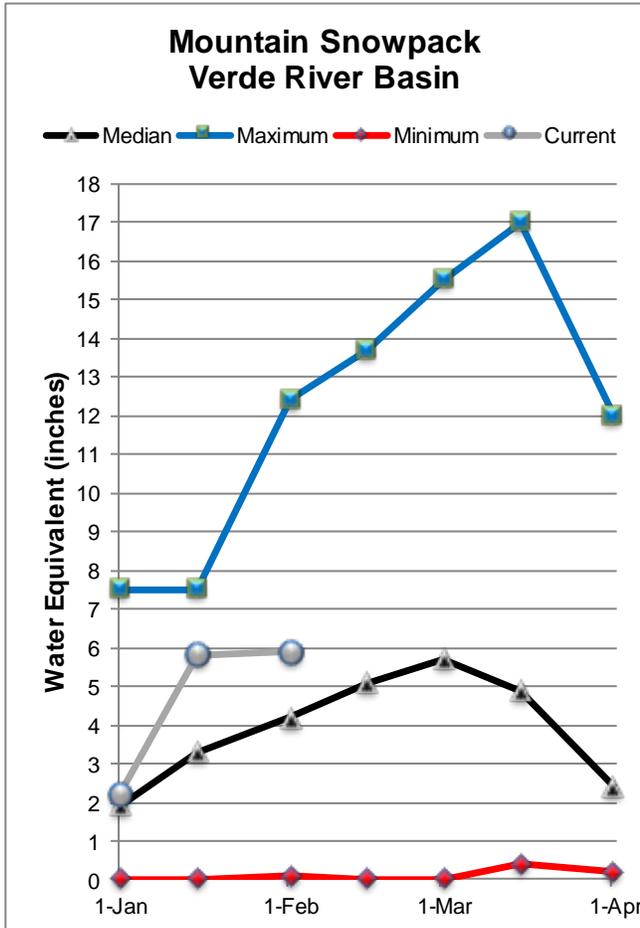
3) Median value used in place of average

Reservoir Storage End of January, 2016	Current (KAF)	Last Year (KAF)	Average (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)
Salt River Reservoir System	1096.8	1054.6	1240.0	2025.8
Basin-wide Total	1096.8	1054.6	1240.0	2025.8
# of reservoirs	1	1	1	1

Watershed Snowpack Analysis February 1, 2016	# of Sites	% Median	Last Year % Median
SALT RIVER BASIN	11	97%	54%

VERDE RIVER BASIN as of February 1, 2016

Well above normal streamflow levels are forecast for the basin. In the Verde River, at Horseshoe Dam, the forecast calls for 147% of median streamflow through May. Snow survey measurements show the Verde snowpack to be at 140% of median.



Verde River Basin Streamflow Forecasts - February 1, 2016

Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment
Chance that actual volume will exceed forecast

VERDE RIVER BASIN	Forecast Period	90% (KAF)	70% (KAF)	50% (KAF)	% Avg	30% (KAF)	10% (KAF)	30yr Avg (KAF)
Verde R bl Tangle Ck ab Horseshoe Dam ³	FEB			35	100%			35
	FEB-MAY	84	145	200	147%	265	390	136

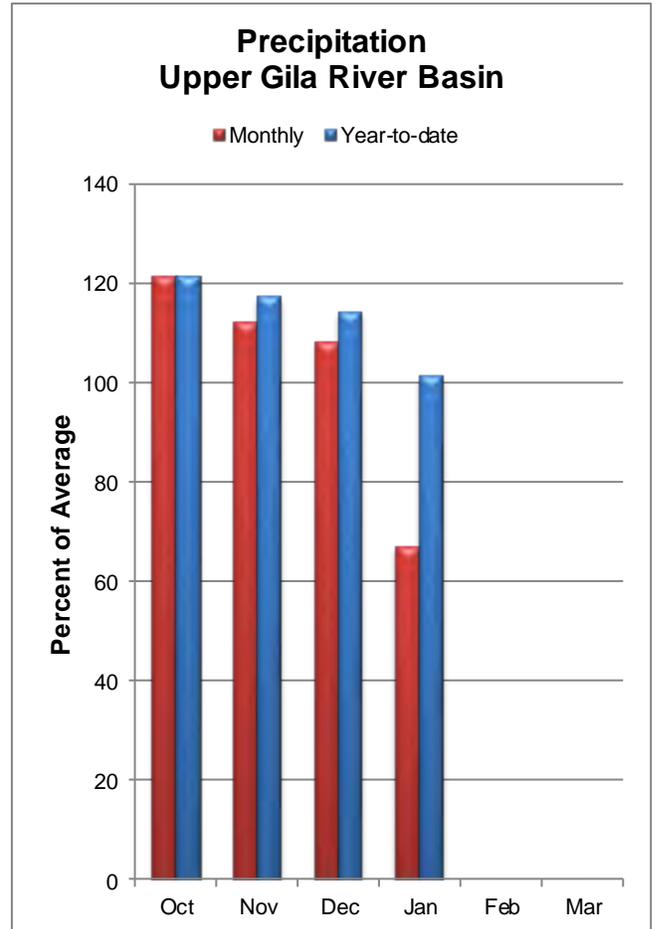
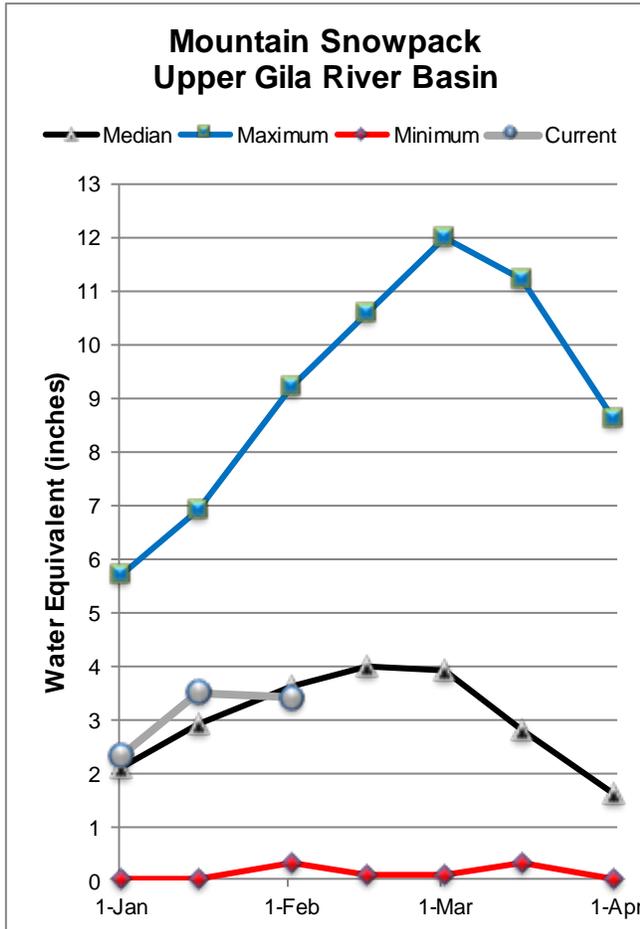
- 1) 90% and 10% exceedance probabilities are actually 95% and 5%
- 2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions
- 3) Median value used in place of average

Reservoir Storage End of January, 2016	Current (KAF)	Last Year (KAF)	Average (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)
Verde River Reservoir System	147.1	115.5	154.4	287.4
Basin-wide Total	147.1	115.5	154.4	287.4
# of reservoirs	1	1	1	1

Watershed Snowpack Analysis February 1, 2016	# of Sites	% Median	Last Year % Median
VERDE RIVER BASIN	12	140%	28%

SAN FRANCISCO-UPPER GILA RIVER BASIN as of February 1, 2016

Normal to above normal streamflow levels are forecast for the basin. In the San Francisco River, at Clifton, the forecast calls for 108% of median streamflow levels through May. In the Gila River, near Solomon, the forecast also calls for 131% of median streamflow levels through May. At San Carlos Reservoir, inflow to the lake is forecast at 168% of median through May. Snow survey measurements show the snowpack for this basin to be at 95% of median.



San Francisco-Upper Gila River Basin Streamflow Forecasts - February 1, 2016

Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment
Chance that actual volume will exceed forecast

SAN FRANCISCO-UPPER GILA RIVER BASIN	Forecast Period	90% (KAF)	70% (KAF)	50% (KAF)	% Avg	30% (KAF)	10% (KAF)	30yr Avg (KAF)
Gila R at Gila ³	FEB-MAY	33	50	65	130%	82	112	50
Gila R bl Blue Ck nr Virden ³	FEB-MAY	40	70	94	149%	122	171	63
San Francisco R at Glenwood ³	FEB-MAY	8.2	15.3	22	121%	30	46	18.2
San Francisco R at Clifton ³	FEB-MAY	19.2	38	55	108%	75	109	51
Gila R nr Solomon ³	FEB			45	196%			23
	FEB-MAY	66	117	161	131%	210	295	123
San Carlos Reservoir Inflow ³	FEB-MAY	35	87	136	168%	196	305	81

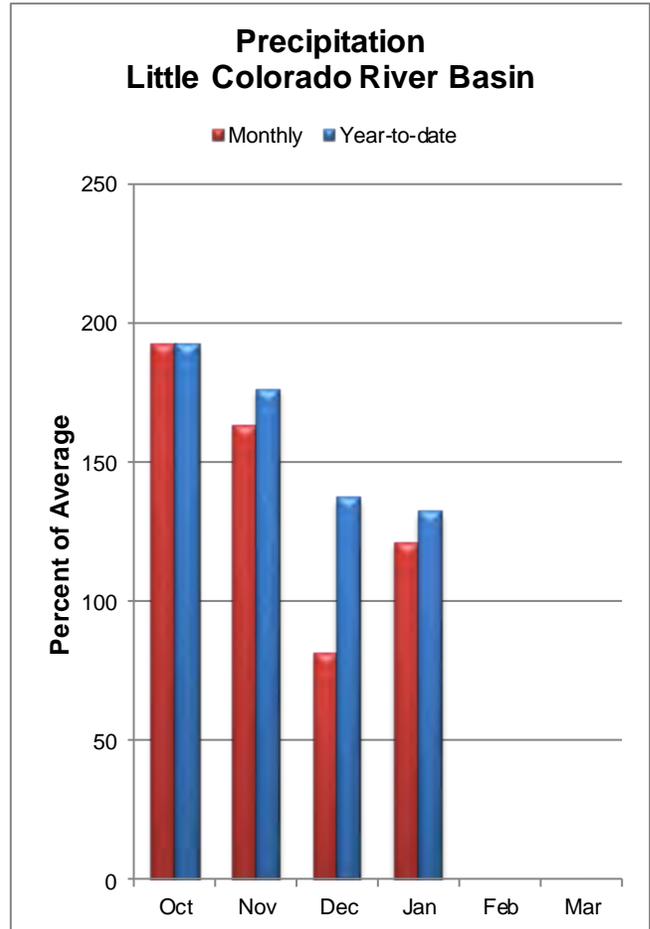
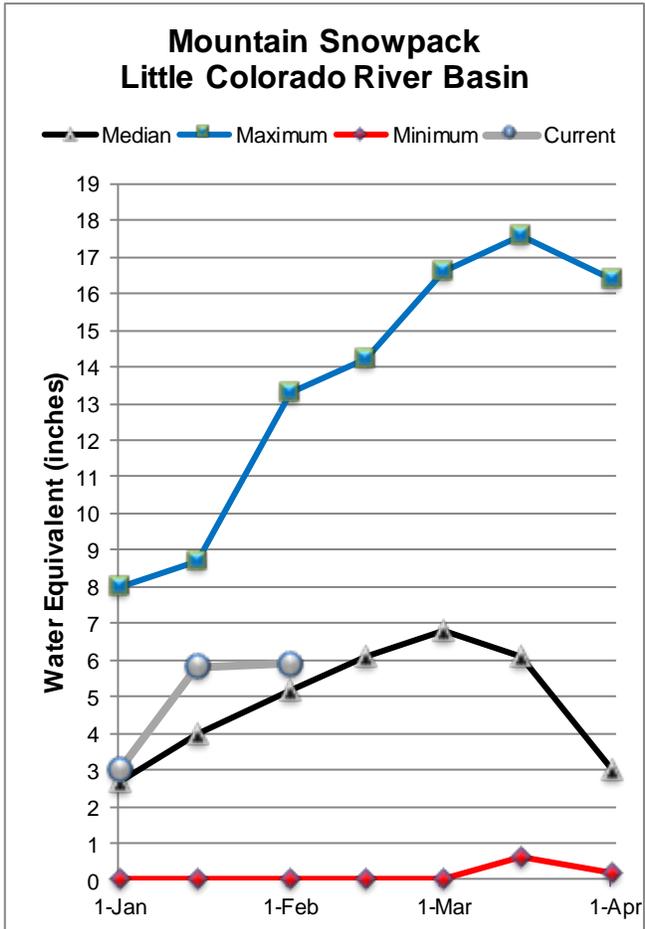
- 1) 90% and 10% exceedance probabilities are actually 95% and 5%
- 2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions
- 3) Median value used in place of average

Reservoir Storage End of January, 2016	Current (KAF)	Last Year (KAF)	Average (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)
San Carlos Reservoir	92.1	86.0	366.8	875.0
Basin-wide Total	92.1	86.0	366.8	875.0
# of reservoirs	1	1	1	1

Watershed Snowpack Analysis February 1, 2016	# of Sites	% Median	Last Year % Median
SAN FRANCISCO-UPPER GILA RIVER BASIN	10	95%	67%

LITTLE COLORADO RIVER BASIN as of February 1, 2016

Normal to above normal streamflow levels are forecast for the basin. In the Little Colorado River, above Lyman Lake, the forecast calls for 106% of median streamflow through June. At Blue Ridge (C.C. Cragin) Reservoir, inflow to the lake is forecast at 141% of median through May. Snowpacks along the southern headwaters of the Little Colorado River, and along the central Mogollon Rim, were measured at 114% and 140% of median, respectively.



Little Colorado River Basin Streamflow Forecasts - February 1, 2016

Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment
Chance that actual volume will exceed forecast

LITTLE COLORADO RIVER BASIN	Forecast Period	90% (KAF)	70% (KAF)	50% (KAF)	% Avg	30% (KAF)	10% (KAF)	30yr Avg (KAF)
Little Colorado R ab Lyman Lake ³	FEB-JUN	3.3	5.3	7	106%	9	12.7	6.6
Rio Nutria nr Ramah ³	FEB-MAY	0.23	0.86	1.66	119%	2.8	5.4	1.4
Ramah Reservoir Inflow ³	FEB-MAY	0	0.34	0.91	118%	1.76	3.5	0.77
Zuni R ab Black Rock Reservoir ³	FEB-MAY	0	0.06	0.41	108%	1.28	4	0.38
Blue Ridge Reservoir Inflow ³	FEB-MAY	8.4	15.9	23	141%	32	49	16.3
Lake Mary Reservoir Inflow ³	FEB-MAY	2.7	4.5	6	140%	7.9	11.2	4.3

1) 90% and 10% exceedance probabilities are actually 95% and 5%

2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions

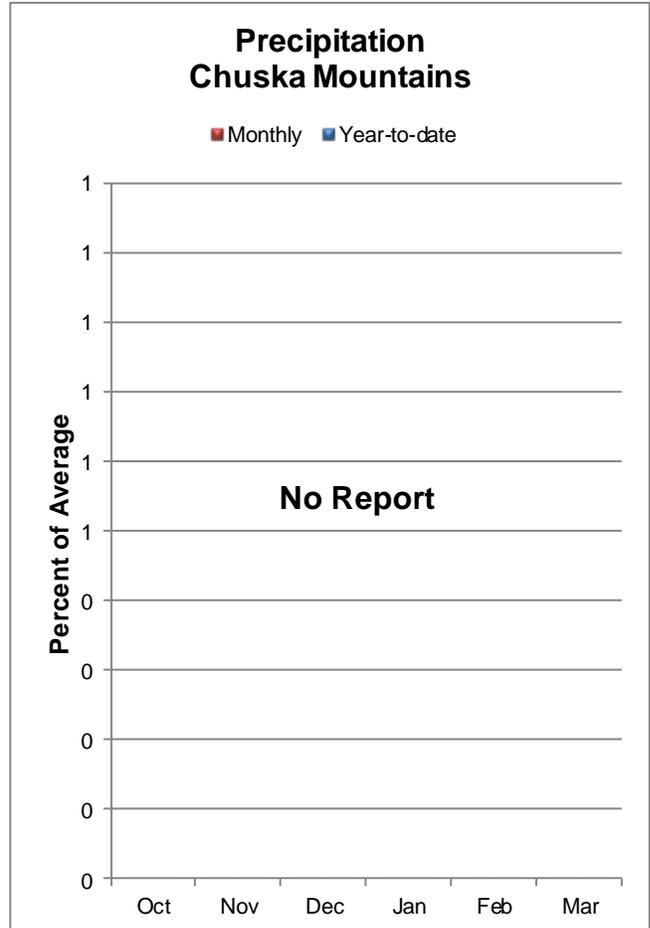
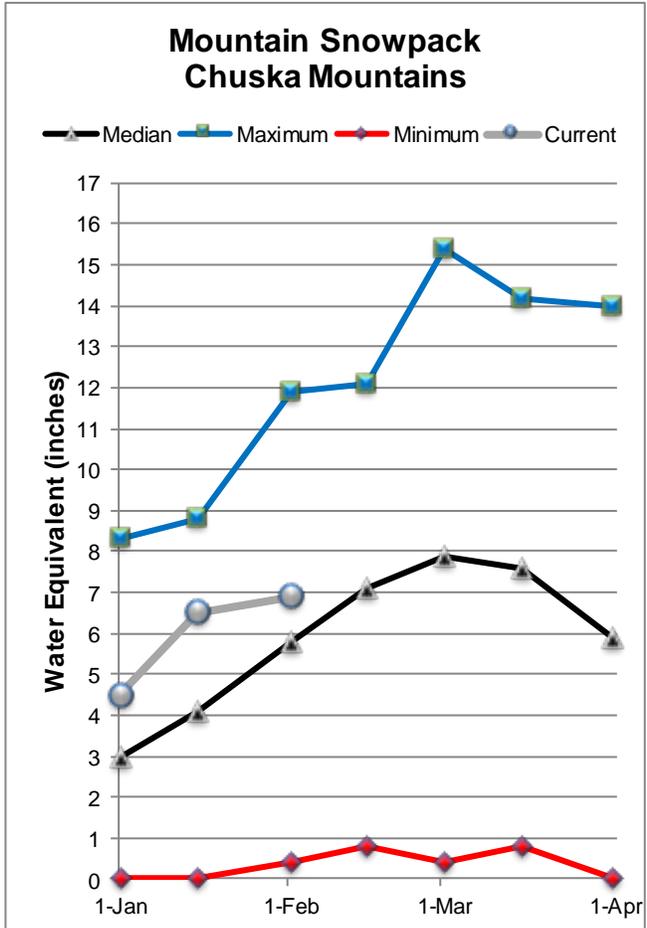
3) Median value used in place of average

Reservoir Storage End of January, 2016	Current (KAF)	Last Year (KAF)	Average (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)
Lyman Reservoir	8.2	4.1	12.3	30.0
Basin-wide Total	8.2	4.1	12.3	30.0
# of reservoirs	1	1	1	1

Watershed Snowpack Analysis February 1, 2016	# of Sites	% Median	Last Year % Median
LITTLE COLORADO RIVER BASIN	10	114%	37%
CENTRAL MOGOLLON RIM	4	140%	24%

CHUSKA MOUNTAINS as of February 1, 2016

Snow survey measurements conducted by staff of the Navajo Nation Water Management Branch show the Chuska snowpack to be at 119% of median. Above normal runoff is forecast for Wheatfields Creek, Captain Tom Wash, and Bowl Canyon Creek.



Chuska Mountains Streamflow Forecasts - February 1, 2016

Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment
Chance that actual volume will exceed forecast

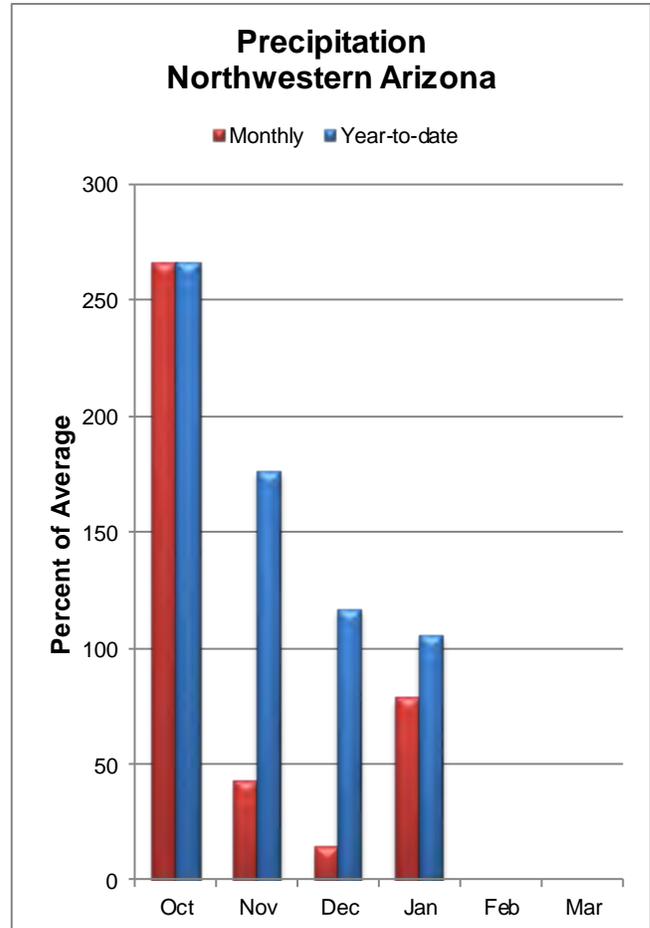
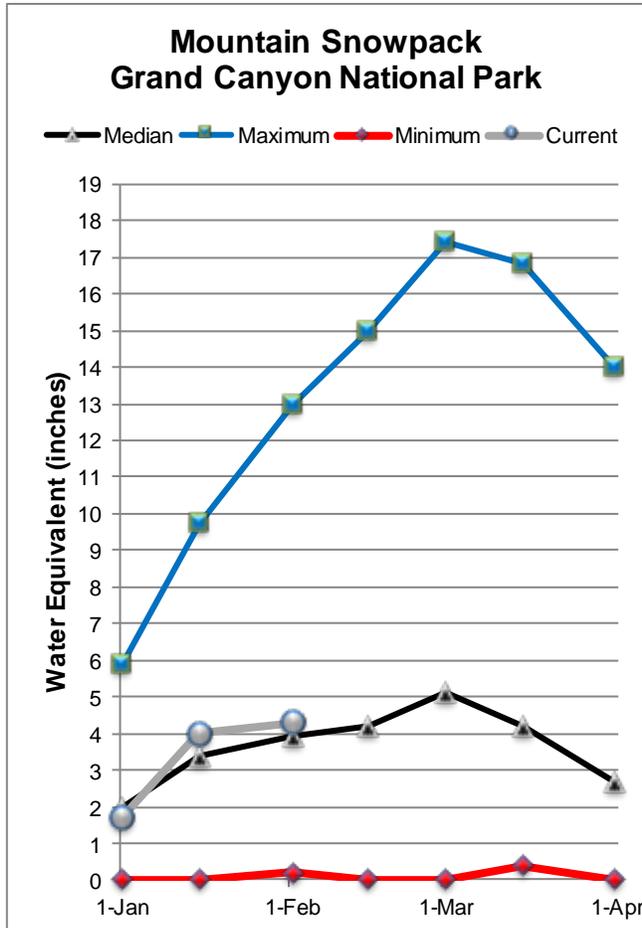
CHUSKA MOUNTAINS	Forecast Period	90% (KAF)	70% (KAF)	50% (KAF)	% Avg	30% (KAF)	10% (KAF)	30yr Avg (KAF)
Captain Tom Wash nr Two Gray Hills	MAR-MAY	0.57	1.7	3	115%	4.8	8.7	2.6
Wheatfields Ck nr Wheatfields	MAR-MAY	1.06	1.85	2.5	119%	3.3	4.5	2.1
Bowl Canyon Ck ab Asaayi Lake	MAR-MAY	0.63	1.11	1.5	115%	1.96	2.7	1.3

- 1) 90% and 10% exceedance probabilities are actually 95% and 5%
- 2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions
- 3) Median value used in place of average

Watershed Snowpack Analysis February 1, 2016	# of Sites	% Median	Last Year % Median
CHUSKA MOUNTAINS	6	119%	47%
DEFIANCE PLATEAU	1	123%	62%

NORTHWESTERN ARIZONA as of February 1, 2016

On the Colorado River, near normal inflow to Lake Powell is forecast at 98% of the 30-year average for the forecast period April-July. At the Grand Canyon, measurements conducted by park rangers show the snowpack to be at 109% of median.



Northwestern Arizona Streamflow Forecasts - February 1, 2016

Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment
Chance that actual volume will exceed forecast

NORTHWESTERN ARIZONA	Forecast Period	90% (KAF)	70% (KAF)	50% (KAF)	% Avg	30% (KAF)	10% (KAF)	30yr Avg (KAF)
Virgin R at Littlefield	APR-JUL	36	63	86	132%	112	156	65
Lake Powell Inflow ²	APR-JUL	4100	5730	7000	98%	8390	10700	7160

1) 90% and 10% exceedance probabilities are actually 95% and 5%

2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions

3) Median value used in place of average

Reservoir Storage End of January, 2016	Current (KAF)	Last Year (KAF)	Average (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)
Lake Havasu	554.9	586.6	556.4	619.0
Lake Mohave	1647.0	1698.0	1676.0	1810.0
Lake Mead	10318.0	10739.0	20452.0	26159.0
Lake Powell	11429.5	11146.8	17338.0	24322.0
Basin-wide Total	23949.4	24170.4	40022.4	52910.0
# of reservoirs	4	4	4	4

Watershed Snowpack Analysis February 1, 2016	# of Sites	% Median	Last Year % Median
NORTHWESTERN ARIZONA	2	109%	0%

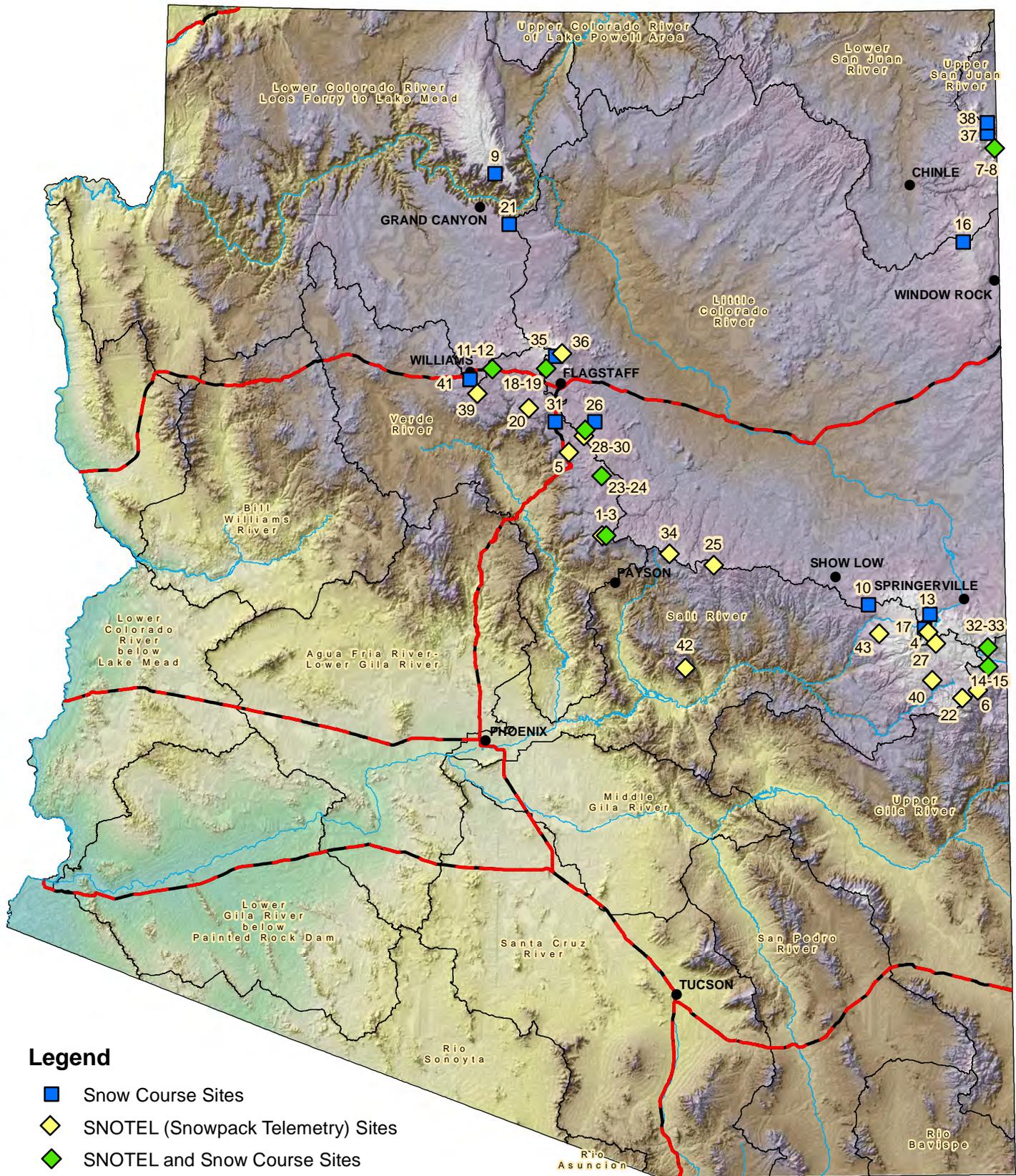
Basinwide Summary: February 1, 2016
(Averages/Medians based on 1981-2010 reference period)

Snowpack Summary for February 1, 2016

MAP NUMBER	SALT RIVER BASIN	Network	Elevation (ft)	Depth (in)	SWE (in)	Median (in)	% Median	Last Year SWE (in)	Last Year % Median
4	Baldy	SNOTEL	9125	16	4.5	6.4	70%	4.4	69%
6	Beaver Head	SNOTEL	7990	7	3.2	3.4	94%	2.6	76%
10	Buck Spring	SC	7400	10	2.6	2.0	130%	0.0	0%
14	Coronado Trail	SNOTEL	8400	6	2.5	3.2	78%	1.5	47%
43	Hawley Lake	SNOTEL	8300	36	10.8				
15	Coronado Trail	SC	8350	10	2.8	2.0	140%	0.8	40%
17	Fort Apache	SC	9160	24	6.6	6.8	97%	2.5	37%
22	Hannagan Meadows	SNOTEL	9020	19	5.2	8.3	63%	6.7	81%
27	Maverick Fork	SNOTEL	9200	20	5.6	6.8	82%	5.2	76%
32	Nutriosio	SC	8500	4	1.2	1.2	100%	0.0	0%
33	Nutriosio	SNOTEL	8500	1	0.4			0.1	
40	Wildcat	SNOTEL	7850	12	3.1	3.0	103%	1.2	40%
42	Workman Creek	SNOTEL	6900	24	9.0	4.5	200%	0.7	16%
Basin Index							97%		54%
# of sites							11		11
VERDE RIVER BASIN									
		Network	Elevation (ft)	Depth (in)	SWE (in)	Median (in)	% Median	Last Year SWE (in)	Last Year % Median
1	Baker Butte	SNOTEL	7300	19	5.9	4.3	137%	0.1	2%
2	Baker Butte No. 2	SC	7700	27	7.9	6.9	114%	2.7	39%
3	Baker Butte Smt	SNOTEL	7700	33	9.9			3.2	
5	Bar M	SNOTEL	6393	10	4.3			0.0	
11	Chalender	SC	7100	10	3.1	1.8	172%	0.0	0%
12	Chalender	SNOTEL	7100	14	3.9			0.0	
18	Fort Valley	SC	7350	9	2.3	1.8	128%	0.0	0%
19	Fort Valley	SNOTEL	7350	6	2.1			0.0	
20	Fry	SNOTEL	7200	26	7.5	5.0	150%	2.0	40%
23	Happy Jack	SNOTEL	7630	22	6.3	3.8	166%	1.9	50%
24	Happy Jack	SC	7630	16	4.2	3.2	131%	0.1	3%
28	Mormon Mountain	SNOTEL	7500	20	6.2	4.0	155%	0.3	8%
29	Mormon Mountain Summit #2	SC	8470	30	9.3	7.7	121%	4.0	52%
30	Mormon Mtn Summit	SNOTEL	8500	27	8.0			3.2	
31	Newman Park	SC	6750	15	5.1	2.0	255%	0.0	0%
39	White Horse Lake	SNOTEL	7180	14	4.7	3.4	138%	0.2	6%
41	Williams Ski Run	SC	7720	25	6.6	5.6	118%	2.8	50%
Basin Index							140%		28%
# of sites							12		12
SAN FRANCISCO PEAKS									
		Network	Elevation (ft)	Depth (in)	SWE (in)	Median (in)	% Median	Last Year SWE (in)	Last Year % Median
35	Snow Bowl #2	SC	11200	42	9.6	11.6	83%	5.5	47%
36	Snowslide Canyon	SNOTEL	9730	51	8.2	10.0	82%	8.5	85%
Basin Index							82%		65%
# of sites							2		2
SAN FRANCISCO-UPPER GILA RIVER BASIN									
		Network	Elevation (ft)	Depth (in)	SWE (in)	Median (in)	% Median	Last Year SWE (in)	Last Year % Median
6	Beaver Head	SNOTEL	7990	7	3.2	3.4	94%	2.6	76%
14	Coronado Trail	SNOTEL	8400	6	2.5	3.2	78%	1.5	47%
15	Coronado Trail	SC	8350	10	2.8	2.0	140%	0.8	40%
	Frisco Divide	SNOTEL	8000	7	2.2	2.5	88%	2.0	80%
22	Hannagan Meadows	SNOTEL	9020	19	5.2	8.3	63%	6.7	81%
	Hummingbird - Aerial And Snow Course	SC	10550			8.9			
	Lookout Mountain	SNOTEL	8500	7	2.5	2.3	109%	0.5	22%
32	Nutriosio	SC	8500	4	1.2	1.2	100%	0.0	0%
33	Nutriosio	SNOTEL	8500	1	0.4			0.1	
	Signal Peak	SNOTEL	8360	14	5.0	3.9	128%	3.4	87%
	Silver Creek Divide	SNOTEL	9000	20	6.2	6.1	102%	4.8	79%
	State Line	SC	8000	10	2.2	1.8	122%	1.1	61%
	Whitewater - Aerial And Snow Course	SC	10750			17.8			
Basin Index							95%		67%
# of sites							10		10

LITTLE COLORADO RIVER BASIN		Network	Elevation (ft)	Depth (in)	SWE (in)	Median (in)	% Median	Last Year SWE (in)	Last Year % Median
1 Baker Butte	SNOTEL	7300	19	5.9	4.3	137%	0.1	2%	
2 Baker Butte No. 2	SC	7700	27	7.9	6.9	114%	2.7	39%	
3 Baker Butte Smt	SNOTEL	7700	33	9.9			3.2		
4 Baldy	SNOTEL	9125	16	4.5	6.4	70%	4.4	69%	
10 Buck Spring	SC	7400	10	2.6	2.0	130%	0.0	0%	
13 Cheese Springs	SC	8700	18	4.2	4.2	100%	1.9	45%	
17 Fort Apache	SC	9160	24	6.6	6.8	97%	2.5	37%	
25 Heber	SNOTEL	7640	22	6.2	4.6	135%	0.3	7%	
26 Lake Mary	SC	6930	13	3.5	3.0	117%	0.0	0%	
27 Maverick Fork	SNOTEL	9200	20	5.6	6.8	82%	5.2	76%	
34 Promontory	SNOTEL	7930	39	12.3	7.2	171%	2.4	33%	
Basin Index							114%		37%
# of sites							10		10
CENTRAL MOGOLLON RIM		Network	Elevation (ft)	Depth (in)	SWE (in)	Median (in)	% Median	Last Year SWE (in)	Last Year % Median
1 Baker Butte	SNOTEL	7300	19	5.9	4.3	137%	0.1	2%	
2 Baker Butte No. 2	SC	7700	27	7.9	6.9	114%	2.7	39%	
3 Baker Butte Smt	SNOTEL	7700	33	9.9			3.2		
25 Heber	SNOTEL	7640	22	6.2	4.6	135%	0.3	7%	
34 Promontory	SNOTEL	7930	39	12.3	7.2	171%	2.4	33%	
Basin Index							140%		24%
# of sites							4		4
CHUSKA MOUNTAINS		Network	Elevation (ft)	Depth (in)	SWE (in)	Median (in)	% Median	Last Year SWE (in)	Last Year % Median
7 Beaver Spring	SC	9220	31	8.9	7.7	116%	2.6	34%	
8 Beaver Spring	SNOTEL	9200	31	9.5			3.4		
Bowl Canyon	SC	8980	28	7.6	5.8	131%	3.2	55%	
Hidden Valley	SC	8480	25	6.6			2.5		
Missionary Spring	SC	7940	11	2.4	3.6	67%	0.9	25%	
37 Tsaille Canyon #1	SC	8160	26	5.7	4.8	119%	2.2	46%	
38 Tsaille Canyon #3	SC	8920	31	7.7	6.3	122%	3.6	57%	
Whiskey Creek	SC	9050	32	8.9	6.3	141%	3.6	57%	
Navajo Whiskey Ck	SNOTEL	9050	29	8.7			3.5		
Basin Index							119%		47%
# of sites							6		6
DEFIANCE PLATEAU		Network	Elevation (ft)	Depth (in)	SWE (in)	Median (in)	% Median	Last Year SWE (in)	Last Year % Median
16 Fluted Rock	SC	7800	14	3.2	2.6	123%	1.6	62%	
Basin Index							123%		62%
# of sites							1		1
NORTHWESTERN ARIZONA		Network	Elevation (ft)	Depth (in)	SWE (in)	Median (in)	% Median	Last Year SWE (in)	Last Year % Median
9 Bright Angel	SC	8400	21	5.8	5.4	107%	0.0	0%	
21 Grand Canyon	SC	7500	11	2.6	2.3	113%	0.0	0%	
Basin Index							109%		0%
# of sites							2		2

Arizona Snow Survey Data Sites



Legend

- Snow Course Sites
- ◆ SNOTEL (Snowpack Telemetry) Sites
- ◆ SNOTEL and Snow Course Sites
- Basin Boundaries

