

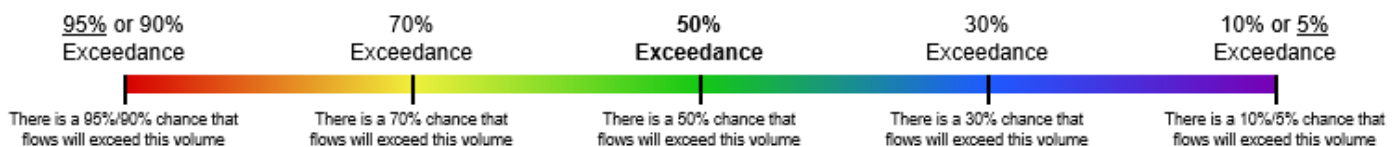
What's New?

The first official forecasts are being released by the NRCS Montana Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program for this coming spring runoff season, and the forecasts are being released in a new graphical format. If you are uncomfortable with this new format, the old format can still be found [here](#).

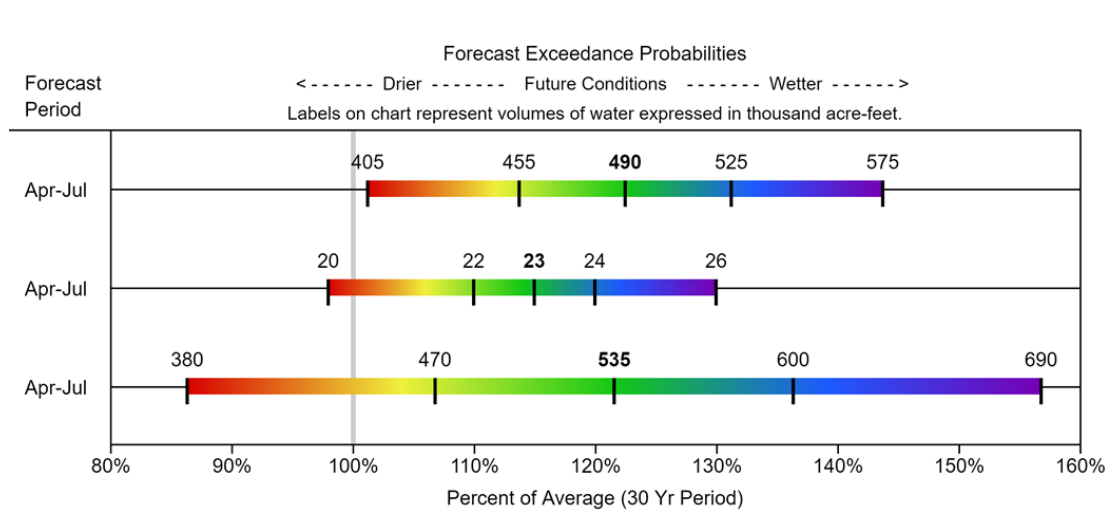
Typically, the NRCS has presented streamflow forecasts as a table format showing the five exceedance probabilities compared to the 30-year average as follows:

Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment Chance that actual volume will exceed forecast							
Forecast Period	90% (KAF)	70% (KAF)	50% (KAF)	% Avg	30% (KAF)	10% (KAF)	30yr Avg (KAF)
APR-JUL	315	375	420	187%	460	525	225

The Forecast Chart provides a visual alternative to the table. The forecast range is represented by a colored bar. Vertical lines on the bar signify the five forecast exceedances.



Below is an example. The numbers above the forecast bars are the five exceedance probability volumes in thousand acre-feet (KAF). Each exceedance forecast's percent of average can be estimated by looking at the horizontal axis. The gray line centered above 100% on the horizontal axis represents the 1981-2010 historical average streamflow for the forecast period.



In this example, almost all the forecast bars in the basin are shifted right of the gray vertical line indicating forecasts of above average streamflow. The 50% exceedance is represented by the black line in the green portion of the colored bar. For the top most line, this represents a forecast volume of 490KAF, which is ~123% of average. If drier than normal future conditions occur the 70% exceedance forecast may be more likely (455KAF or ~114% of average). If future conditions turn wetter than normal, the 30% exceedance forecast may be more likely (525KAF or ~132% of average). Water users are encouraged to consider the range of forecast exceedances instead of relying solely on the 50% forecast.