

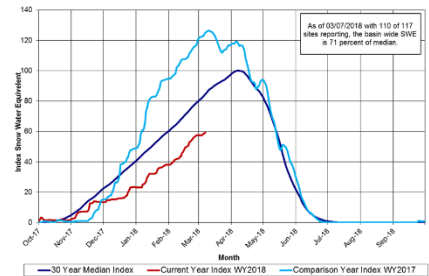
Where Can I Find Credible Colorado River Hydrology Information?

Last Updated March 2018

1. Lake Powell Snow Chart (Bureau of Reclamation)

This figure compares the 2018 snow water equivalent (SWE) aggregated across all SNOTEL measurement sites in the Upper Colorado River Basin to the median SWE for a 30-year period. SWE is one of the most important metrics indicating runoff potential, with runoff from these sites eventually feeding into Lake Powell. This figure is updated every few days.

https://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/notice/Graphs/Upper_Colorado.png



Apr 18, 2018
LOWER COLORADO WATER SUPPLY REPORT
River Operations
Bureau of Reclamation

17441-671-6712
<http://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/wsr/>

	PERCENT	CHANGES	BELOW AVERAGE	7-DAY
OVERBANK STORAGE	95%	10,800	10,800	36,849
LAKE POWELL	95%	12,300	12,300	33,769
LAKE MEAD	95%	18,700	1,008.18	33,360
LAKE MONTELEONE	95%	5,700	163.42	32,450
LAKE HAYDEN	95%	979	647.95	9,500
TOTAL SYSTEM CAPACITY **	95%	31,528		
** AS OF PREVIOUS YEAR	95%	29,187		
SYSTEM CAPACITY LAST YEAR	95%			

** Percent based on capacity of 33,120 MAF of allocation 1,219.4 feet.
** TOTAL SYSTEM CAPACITY INCLUDES UPPER 5 LOWER COLORADO RIVER RESERVOIRS, LESS LAKE MEAD INCLUDING FLOOD CONTROL STORAGE.

MAF/Percent Average	65%	5,390
Forecasted Water Use for Calendar Year 2018 (as of 03/07/2018) (Values in MAF)		
NEVADA	290	254
ARIZONA	34	34
CALIFORNIA	3,845	443
INDIANAPOLIS WATER DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA	3,484	474
INDIANAPOLIS DISTRICTS	17	17
ARIZONA	2,720	2,330
CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT	2,320	2,320
OTHER	6,162	6,162
TOTAL LOWER BASIN USE	16,522	16,522

DELIVERY TO MEXICO - 2018 (Mexico Submitted Delivery - Preliminary North Basin's)

UNREGULATED DELIVERY INTO LAKE POWELL - MARCH FINAL FORECAST DATED 03/07/2018	WY2018	% of Normal
FORECASTED WATER YEAR 2018	9,397	55%
FORECASTED APRIL-JUNE 2018	3,400	67%
FORECASTED OVERBANK STORAGE	8,240	64%
LAKE MEAD STORAGE	8,400	64%

WATER YEAR 2018 DEFICIT TO DATE
479 (14.2%)
105 (3.0%)

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2. Lower Colorado Water Supply Report (Bureau of Reclamation)

Each week the Bureau of Reclamation publishes a report that includes information on storage levels in the major reservoirs (A), as well as observed and forecasted inflows into Lake Powell (B) and precipitation the basin (C). With the vast majority of water originating as snowpack in the Upper Basin, the metric 'inflows' is one of the most important data points to track in order to understand the status of Colorado River hydrologic conditions. With Lake Powell storage levels already low, below average inflows could have implications on deliveries to Lake Mead.

<https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/weekly.pdf>

3. Water Supply Forecast Discussion (Colorado Basin River Forecast Center - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)

This robust report is released at the beginning of each month and contains past and projected information on water supply, weather, snowpack, and soil moisture. The report provides a one-page synopsis on the first page followed by more detailed summaries and figures for each of subject areas. <https://www.cbrfc.noaa.gov/wsuf/pub2/discussion/current.pdf>

March 1, 2018 Water Supply Forecast Discussion

The Colorado Basin River Forecast Center (CRRFC) geographic forecast area includes the Upper Colorado River Basin, Lower Colorado River Basin, and Eastern Great Basin.

Water Supply Forecast Summary

A change to a more progressive weather pattern occurred in mid February. This change brought an increase in storm activity during the second half of the month to the CRRFC forecast area. Near to above average precipitation was observed in parts of the Colorado River Basin for the first time in several months. However, the majority of the CRRFC forecast area observed below average precipitation, due in part to very dry conditions the first half of February.

Some areas also experienced minor improvement in snowpack conditions but most areas still remain well below normal for this time of year. The Green River Basin of Wyoming and some headwater basins of the Colorado River maintain continue to be the only areas with near or above median snow conditions. Snow conditions in most areas remain below 70 percent of median with below 50 percent of median extending from southwest Colorado into central and northwest Utah.

Above average April-July streamflow volumes are expected in the Green River Basin headwaters above Fort Collins reservoir. Near to slightly below average volumes are forecast in some Colorado River headwaters basins above downstream CO and in the Snake River Basin. Outside of these areas, below to much below average volumes are expected. The lowest forecasts with respect to average extend from the Sevier and Virgin River Basins of southwest Utah into the San Juan and Dolores River Basins of southern Colorado and in parts of the Duchesne River Basin. Between early February and early March the largest increases in forecasts as a percent of average occurred in the Green River Basin above Fort Collins and largest decreases occurred in the Duchesne River Basin.

In the Lower Colorado River Basin of Arizona and New Mexico, March-May streamflow volumes are forecast to range from near to 40 percent of the historical median. Dry conditions have persisted over much of the area for several months resulting in dry soil conditions. Despite much above average precipitation in the Gila River Basin in February, observed streamflow volumes in the Gila Basin were generally well below median, in part due to the dry soils. This area will soon enter a climatologically drier part of the year with less likelihood of significant precipitation.

April-July unregulated inflow forecasts for some of the major reservoirs in the Upper Colorado River Basin include Fort Collins Reservoir 860 KAF (115% of average), Flaming Gorge 560 KAF (90% of average), Blue Mesa Reservoir 355 KAF (50% of average), McPhee Reservoir 113 KAF (33% of average), and Navajo Reservoir 200 KAF (30% of average). The Lake Powell inflow forecast is 3.40 MAF or 47% of average.

4. Water Supply Forecast Briefings (Colorado Basin River Forecast Center - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)

The Colorado Basin River Forecast Center has scheduled monthly hour-long webinars through May explaining the current conditions and forecasts for the river basin. These webinars walk through many of the figures published in the Water Supply Forecast Discussion. At the end of the webinar, there are opportunities for the audience to ask questions. Currently, the next webinars are scheduled for Thursday, April 5 at 11:00am MT, and Monday May 7 at 11:00am MT. Registration information can be found at the following link: <http://www.cbrfc.noaa.gov/news/wswebinar2018.html>