

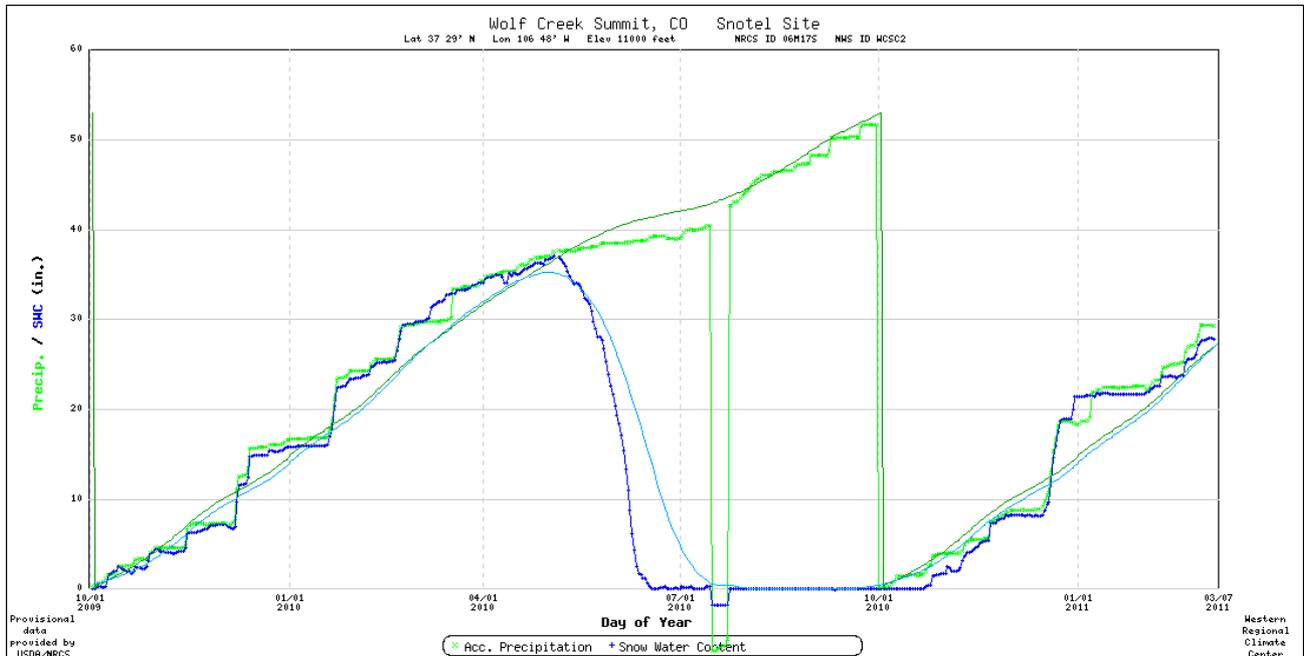
March 7, 2011 RESERVOIR LEVEL AND SNOW UPDATE

The monthly NRCS forecast of runoff at San Marcial from March to July is now available for March, and it is down considerably from the February forecast. The current forecast is for 300,000 ac-ft at the 50% exceedance level (the median), which is only 52% of the long term average of 573,000 ac-ft. The forecasts have been declining every month, going from 505,000 ac-ft in January to 405,000 ac-ft in February. The accuracy of the forecast increases as the end of the season approaches, and so if the forecast holds up it looks like 2011 could be well below average. Currently, the forecast at a 10% chance of exceedance is only slightly more than the long term average. The forecast chance of snow is very good today through tomorrow with significant accumulation possible. Storage in Elephant Butte/Caballo continues to increase at about 1,000 ac-ft/day, as it has for the few weeks.

COMBINED STORAGE Elephant Butte and Caballo March 4, 2011 533,019 acre-feet

S N O W - P R E C I P I T A T I O N U P D A T E
Based on Mountain Data from NRCS SNOTEL Sites
As of Monday March 7, 2011

BASIN	ELEV.	SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT	TOTAL PRECIPITATION
Data Site Name	(Ft)	%	%
		Avg	Avg
UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN			
	Basin wide percent of average	95	93
RIO CHAMA BASIN			
	Basin wide percent of average	82	74
SANGRE DE CRISTO MOUNTAIN RANGE BASINS			
	Basin wide percent of average	69	77



WOLF CREEK

FORECAST

UPPER RIO GRANDE VALLEY/EASTERN SAN JUAN MOUNTAINS BELOW 10000 FT-

INCLUDING...CREEDE...SOUTH FORK
427 AM MST MON MAR 7 2011

WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY IN EFFECT FROM 2 PM THIS AFTERNOON TO
11 AM MST TUESDAY

TODAY
CHANCE OF SNOW IN THE MORNING...THEN PERIODS OF SNOW IN THE AFTERNOON. SNOW
ACCUMULATION UP TO 2 INCHES. HIGHS 31 TO 40. SOUTHWEST WINDS UP TO 10 MPH BECOMING
SOUTH IN THE AFTERNOON. CHANCE OF PRECIPITATION 90 PERCENT.

TONIGHT
PERIODS OF SNOW. SNOW ACCUMULATION OF 2 TO 9 INCHES. LOWS 16 TO 26. SOUTHWEST
WINDS 10 TO 25 MPH WITH GUSTS TO AROUND 40 MPH. CHANCE OF PRECIPITATION 90
PERCENT.

TUESDAY
CLOUDY WITH A 40 PERCENT CHANCE OF SNOW. HIGHS 29 TO 41. WEST WINDS 10 TO 15 MPH.

TUESDAY NIGHT
MOSTLY CLOUDY WITH A 10 PERCENT CHANCE OF SNOW SHOWERS. LOWS 3 TO 17. WEST WINDS
UP TO 10 MPH.

WEDNESDAY
MOSTLY SUNNY.
HIGHS 34 TO 42.
WEST WINDS 10
TO 15 MPH.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT
MOSTLY CLOUDY.
LOWS 9 TO 21.

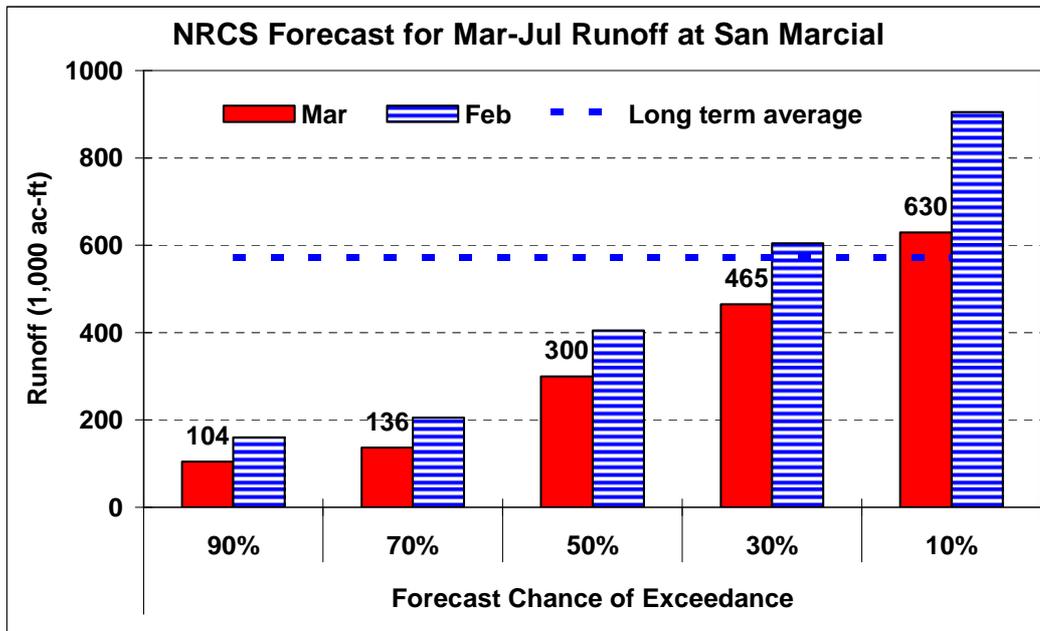
THURSDAY
MOSTLY SUNNY.
HIGHS 38 TO 48.

THURSDAY NIGHT
MOSTLY CLOUDY.
LOWS 15 TO 28.

FRIDAY THROUGH
SATURDAY
PARTLY CLOUDY.
HIGHS 36 TO 51.
LOWS 11 TO 28.

SATURDAY NIGHT
MOSTLY CLOUDY. A 10 PERCENT CHANCE OF SNOW SHOWERS AFTER MIDNIGHT. LOWS 16 TO 28.

SUNDAY
PARTLY SUNNY. SLIGHT CHANCE OF SNOW SHOWERS IN THE MORNING...THEN SLIGHT CHANCE OF
RAIN AND SNOW SHOWERS IN THE AFTERNOON. HIGHS 37 TO 49. CHANCE OF PRECIPITATION 10
PERCENT.



NRCS NEW MEXICO Water Supply Outlook Report as of March 1, 2011

The influence of the current "La Nina" pattern continued through most of February, with the majority of the state seeing below average snowfall and precipitation. A few disturbances were able to make their way into New Mexico during the past month, dropping some much needed snow, but most of the state remains well below average at this time. Temperatures, however, plunged early in February, with most of the state seeing record or near record lows. Even though temperatures

moderated later in the month, the cool-down did help to retain the snowpack already in place. The southern end of the state has been especially impacted by the recent weather patterns, with the Gila Region and Sacramento Mountains seeing well below average snowpack accumulation, a direct reversal of the pattern last year. Runoff forecasts in these areas, along with much of the state are currently well below normal for this time of year. Irrigators and water managers statewide should be planning for lower than average runoff, and more than likely, reduced irrigation allocations. The Animas/San Juan and Upper Rio Grande Basins (mostly in Colorado) are really the only reaches with close to normal snowpack, but runoff forecasts are still being impacted by the dry conditions in place. It remains possible to pick up some significant snow in March, specially in the northern mountains, but whether or not the storm track will favor New Mexico is unclear.

SNOWPACK

It seems that the "La Nina" which has been in place for several months continued to have an influence on the weather patterns in February with much of the state receiving well below average snowfall. This year's weather pattern has been a reversal of last year's, which saw southern New Mexico with a near-record snowpack in place. The southern part of the state is now seeing well below average snowpack conditions, a trend which continues north through much of New Mexico. Temperatures dropped to well below average for a good part of February, which helped maintain the existing snowpack and ensured that any additional precipitation fell as snow. Due to the dry conditions in place, the potential for an average runoff year is fairly poor, especially in the southern part of the state. Even northern basins are seeing the effects of the dry conditions with reduced runoff expected in these areas as well. The storm track has not been favorable for New Mexico this winter, as is typical for "La Nina", and there is not much indication that we will see a substantial shift in the coming months.

PRECIPITATION

February precipitation was significantly below average for most of the state, with most basins receiving only 35 to 65 percent of average. The Canadian River Basin was the only area which received above average amounts, with 128 percent of average received in February. The Animas/San Juan Basin was also fair, with 81 percent of average for the month. For the water year, the state as a whole is also below average. The Animas/San Juan Basin is the only exception, with 105 percent of average so far. Most other basins in the state are ranging from around 40 to 75 percent of average precipitation for the water year thus far. Again, the probability for below average precipitation to continue into coming months seems fairly high.

RESERVOIRS

With another month of below average snowfall for New Mexico in February, the prospects for good runoff this year continue to decline. The southern basins are set up to see well below average runoff, and with no reservoir storage in these basins, the impacts will be immediately evident. The northern basins, which provide most of the reservoir storage in the state, are also forecast to be significantly below average overall, so the potential for building any reservoir storage during this runoff season is poor. The main factor bolstering the runoff forecasts in northern New Mexico has been the near-average snowpack in Southern Colorado, much of which flows into New Mexico. Reservoir storage in New Mexico remains below average for much of the state, which will continue to make it tough to catch up, especially in a well below average runoff year. March still has some potential to build snowpack, but the chances of ending up to close to average are pretty low. Water managers need to be planning on a well below average runoff season for the most part.