

January 16, 2013 RESERVOIR LEVEL AND SNOW UPDATE

The first NRCS forecast of the year, for runoff from March to July, is now out. Runoff at San Marcial is forecast to be well below the 30 year average. Even at the 10% chance of exceedance, the forecast is still below average. The 30 year average has also been reduced since last year, as it now covers 1981-2010 instead of 1971 to 2000. This change has dropped the average from 573,000 ac-ft to 510,000 ac-ft. Time is still on our side however as we are still only in the middle of January. The snowpack continues at 60-70% of the median, with little chance of new snow in the forecast. The rate of increase in storage in Elephant Butte/Caballo has dropped to 600-700 ac-ft per day, about half what it was during the last week of December.

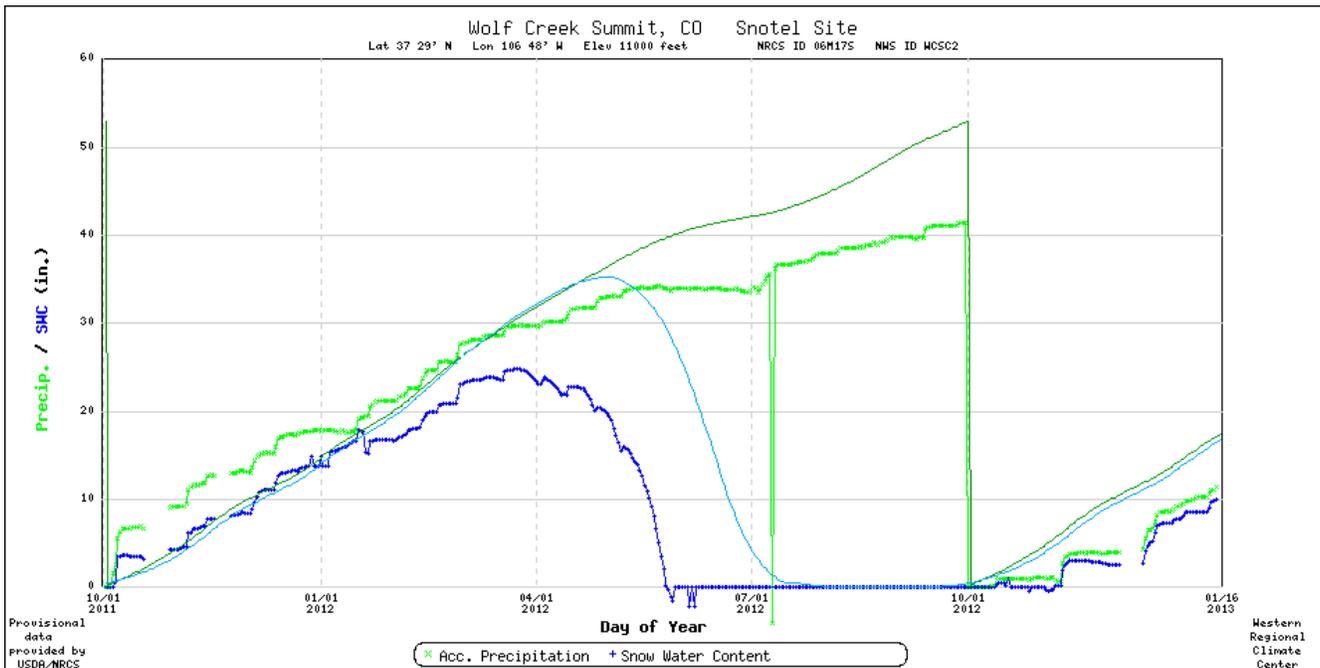
COMBINED STORAGE Elephant Butte and Caballo January 14, 2013 178,553 acre-feet

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 January 14, 2013

BASIN Data Site Name	ELEV. (Ft)	SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT %	TOTAL PRECIPITATION %
		Avg	Avg

UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN			
Basin wide percent of average		64	61
RIO CHAMA BASIN			
Basin wide percent of average		66	56
SANGRE DE CRISTO MOUNTAIN RANGE BASINS			
Basin wide percent of average		64	59

WOLF CREEK



FORECAST

UPPER RIO GRANDE VALLEY/EASTERN SAN JUAN MOUNTAINS BELOW 10000 FT-
INCLUDING...CREEDE...SOUTH FORK
713 AM MST WED JAN 16 2013

REST OF TODAY

SUNNY. HIGHS 24 TO 30. WEST WINDS UP TO 10 MPH LATE IN THE MORNING BECOMING LIGHT. WIND CHILL READINGS 5 BELOW TO 15 BELOW ZERO LATE IN THE MORNING.

TONIGHT

MOSTLY CLEAR. LOWS 3 BELOW TO 9 ABOVE ZERO. WEST WINDS UP TO 10 MPH.

THURSDAY

MOSTLY SUNNY. HIGHS 23 TO 35. SOUTHWEST WINDS UP TO 10 MPH.

THURSDAY NIGHT

MOSTLY CLEAR. LOWS 10 BELOW TO 9 ABOVE ZERO. WEST WINDS UP TO 10 MPH.

FRIDAY

SUNNY. HIGHS 28 TO 36. NORTHWEST WINDS UP TO 10 MPH.

FRIDAY NIGHT THROUGH SUNDAY

MOSTLY CLEAR. LOWS 3 BELOW TO 11 ABOVE ZERO. HIGHS 30 TO 37.

SUNDAY NIGHT THROUGH MONDAY NIGHT

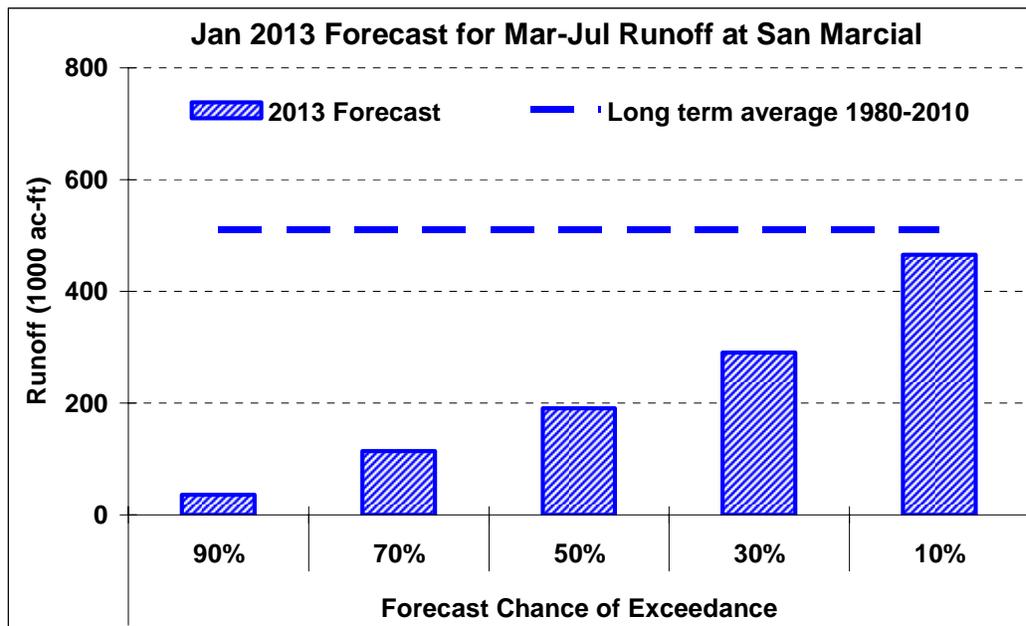
PARTLY CLOUDY. LOWS 2 BELOW TO 12 ABOVE ZERO. HIGHS 29 TO 34.

TUESDAY

SUNNY. HIGHS 30 TO 36.

NRCS NEW MEXICO Water Supply Outlook Report as of January 1, 2013

First and foremost, as another water supply forecasting year rolls around for New Mexico, users of this report need to be aware of some changes that have been made. This year represents the transition to a new set of "normals," replacing the 1971-2000



averages with updated 1981-2010 normals. This change allows us to better reflect current conditions in relation to more recent trends. In addition, Snow Water Equivalent is now calculated as a percent of median value rather than a percent of average since this provides a better representation of "normal" with less influence from outlier years.

After a near record dry 2011, 2012 proved to be another very warm and dry year for most of New Mexico. Most parts of the state saw well below average precipitation, and for much of New Mexico, 2012 set records as the warmest year since measurements began. This one-two punch has left much of the state in very poor condition, both from water supply and vegetation condition standpoints. Outlooks for this snow season seem to favor a continuation of the warmer and drier conditions, so the hope for a good snowpack does not look overly promising. It is

still early in the snow accumulation season, so there is a chance that the state could still pick up significant snowpack in the next few months if the storm track moves our direction and carries any moisture with it. Water managers need to be preparing for another year of well below average runoff if this does not happen.

SNOWPACK

New Mexico has experienced a very slow start to the snow season this year. Most basins in the state had little to no snow prior to December. Although the storm track did move across New Mexico during December, most of the storms which passed through were somewhat moisture starved, so the snowpack did not build as much as hoped. For January 1, many basins in the state are still recording less than 70 percent of normal snowpack. Basins along the western side of the state are the exception, reporting slightly above normal snowpack levels. Given the dry conditions over the last couple years, the prospects for a below average snowpack for 2013 are very concerning. Water users and managers need to be aware of the current conditions throughout this snow season as it will have a major impact on water supply this year.

STREAMFLOW

Streamflow conditions across the state are generally at or below normal for this time of year statewide. The January 1, 2013 forecast numbers from NRCS show the majority of New Mexico is on track for a significantly lower than normal runoff season at this point. Virtually all forecast points in the state are currently expecting less than 70 percent of normal runoff, with many expecting less than 50 percent. It is important to remember that it is still early enough in the snow season that things could easily change depending on the moisture/snow patterns in coming months, but most predictions call for warmer and drier than average conditions through the spring. Water users and managers need to be prepared for well below normal runoff this year.

RIO GRANDE BASIN as of January 1, 2013

Streamflow forecasts for the Rio Grande Basin are significantly below normal for the most part, ranging from 64 percent of normal for the El Vado Reservoir Inflow, to 36 percent of normal for the Rio Pueblo de Taos below Los Cordovas. The current forecast for the Rio Grande at San Marcial is only 38 percent of normal or 191,000 acre-feet. Year-to-date precipitation is well below normal at 60 percent, much drier than last year at this time. Snowpack in the basin is only 71 percent of median - well below last year's 98 percent. This trend continues into southern Colorado, where many sites are recording well below normal snowpack, which further impacts runoff forecasts for the Rio Grande Basin. Total reservoir storage in the basin is 559,000 acre-feet, down significantly from last year's 860,800 acre-feet. This is only 28 percent of the average of 1,979,300 acre-feet. Abiquiu, is the only reservoir in the basin with above average storage levels for December at 102 percent of normal. Elephant Butte levels continue to decline with current storage of 161,100 acre-feet; compared to 294,500 acre-feet at this time last year or the 30 year average of 1,267,000 acre feet.