Snowpack and Streamflow
Colorado Monthly Reservoir Storage Summary
End of April 2017

Statewide:
112% of Average
65% of Capacity
Last Year: 113% of Average

Yampa & White
114% of Average
94% of Capacity
LY: 115% of Average

North Platte
113% of Average
70% of Capacity
LY: 115% of Average

South Platte
106% of Average
85% of Capacity
LY: 110% of Average

Colorado
113% of Average
70% of Capacity
LY: 115% of Average

Gunnison
126% of Average
77% of Capacity
LY: 117% of Average

San Miguel, Dolores, Animas & San Juan
113% of Average
87% of Capacity
LY: 106% of Average

Upper Rio Grande
98% of Average
33% of Capacity
LY: 91% of Average

Arkansas
106% of Average
37% of Capacity
LY: 118% of Average

Reservoir Storage
Percent of Average

- >= 150
- 130 - 149
- 110 - 129
- 90 - 109
- 70 - 89
- 50 - 69
- < 50

Diamond Reservoir

United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Total Colorado: 93% of Median
85% of Last Year
Elevation = 10,880'
Colorado Basin River Forecast Center
MCPC2 - MCCLURE PASS

Elevation= 9,500'

Current Streamflow Forecasts
Colorado at Glenwood Springs - 98% of Average

The most recent (2017-05-10) full period 50% ESP forecast is 1961 kaf.
Plot Created 2017-05-10 16:24:49. NOAA / NWS / CBRFC
Forecasts in the forecast target period include observed values.
Roaring Fork at Glenwood Springs - 94% of Average

The most recent (2017-05-10) full period 50% ESP forecast is 615 kaf.
Plot Created 2017-05-10 15:30:10, NOAA / NWS / CBRFC
Forecasts in the forecast target period include observed values.
Climate Update
Colorado Drainage Temperature History

3rd warmest Oct-Apr WY
(1896-2017, 122 years)
Colorado Drainage Precipitation History

46th wettest Oct-Apr WY (1896-2017) 0.7” above normal
Summer Outlooks
What To Expect This Summer?

May - July Temperature Forecast

May - July Precipitation Forecast
ENSO-neutral is favored through mid-2017, with a slight tilt toward El Niño (~50%) during the late summer through fall 2017.
Most models favor El Niño by the late Northern Hemisphere summer 2017, with the dynamical models favoring onset during the summer of 2017.
Typical Climate Pattern for the U.S. during El Niño

- Low Pressure
- Warm
- Dry
- Wet
- Cool

Persistent extended Pacific Jet Stream and amplified storm track

More intense fronts in the Caribbean

Climate Prediction Center/NCEP/NWS/The COMET Program
U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for April 20 - July 31, 2017
Released April 20, 2017

Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

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http://go.usa.gov/3eZ73
Summary

• Snowpack started off slow, really ramped up Jan through early March.
• Very warm temperatures for the 2017 water year.
• Reservoir storage statewide is at or above normal.
• Streamflow forecasts in the Colorado Basin are near normal.
• 3 month outlook suggest warmer and wetter than normal conditions for May – July!
• ENSO forecast suggest a change to El Nino by late summer.
Thanks!