

Ouray County State of the River Meeting Ouray County Fairgrounds March 16, 2022

DIVISION ENGINEER
WATER SUPPLY UPDATE

Blue Mesa Reservoir End of Year Conditions

Blue Mesa Current Status

Blue Mesa Snow Conditions and Forecasts

- Blue Mesa Spring Runoff Reservoir Operations
- Ridgway Reservoir Status and Uncompahgre River Forecast
- Weather Outlook

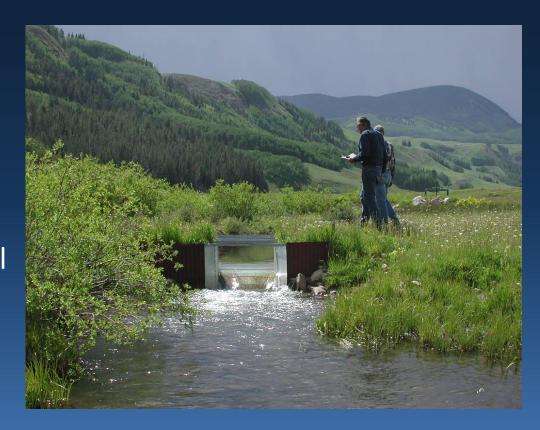


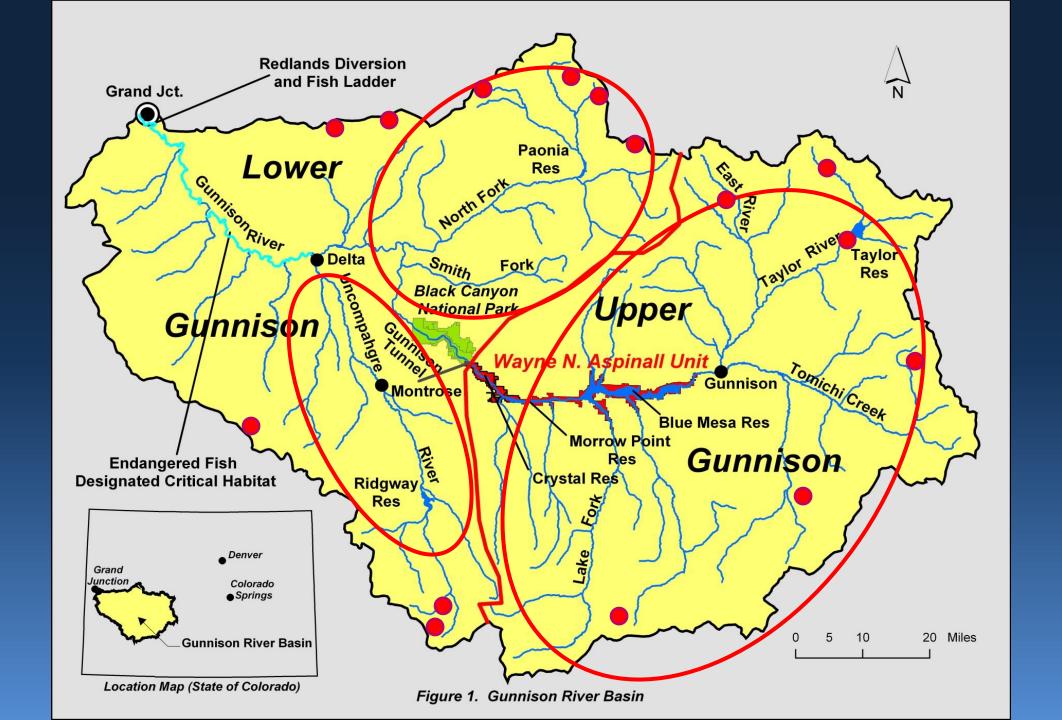
19 States & Mexico Rely on Colorado Water

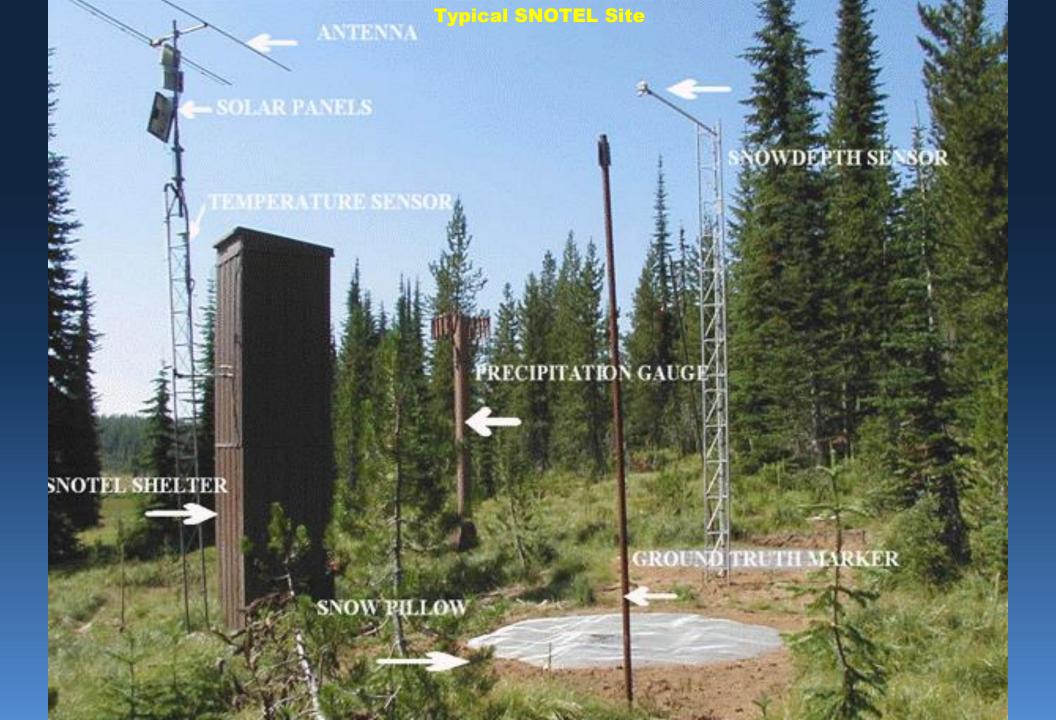


Water Deliveries in Colorado

- Agriculture 86%
- Municipal/Domestic7%
- Recreation/Fisheries3%
- Industrial/Commercial2%
- Augmentation1%
- Recharge 1%









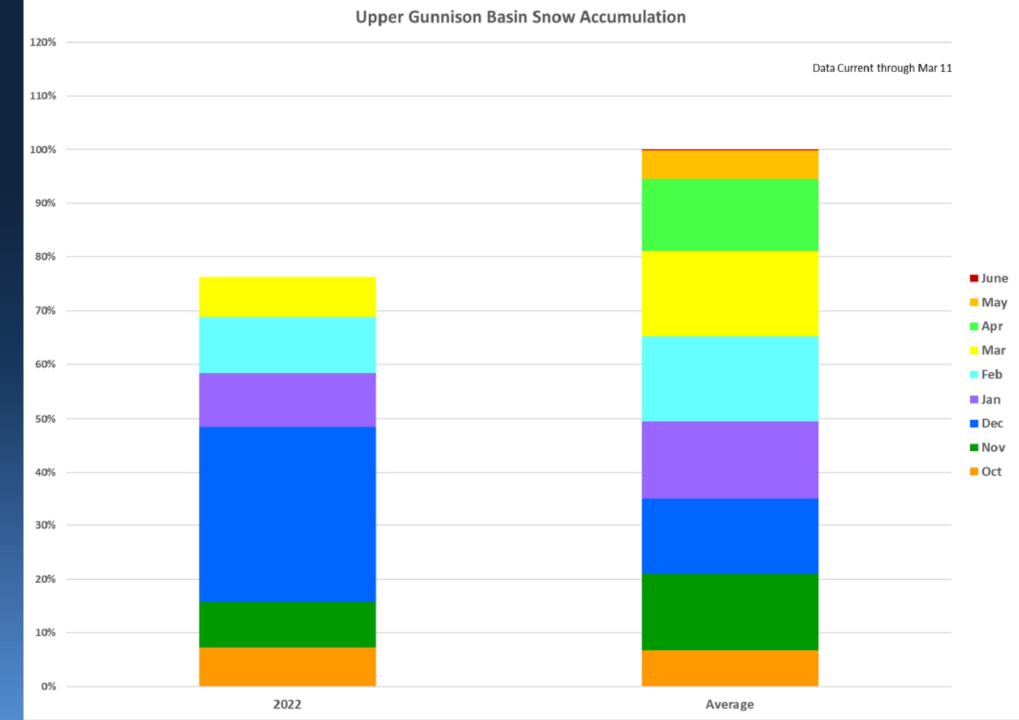
Aspinall Unit
US Bureau of Reclamation
Owned and Operated



*Photos courtesy of Dick Stenzel

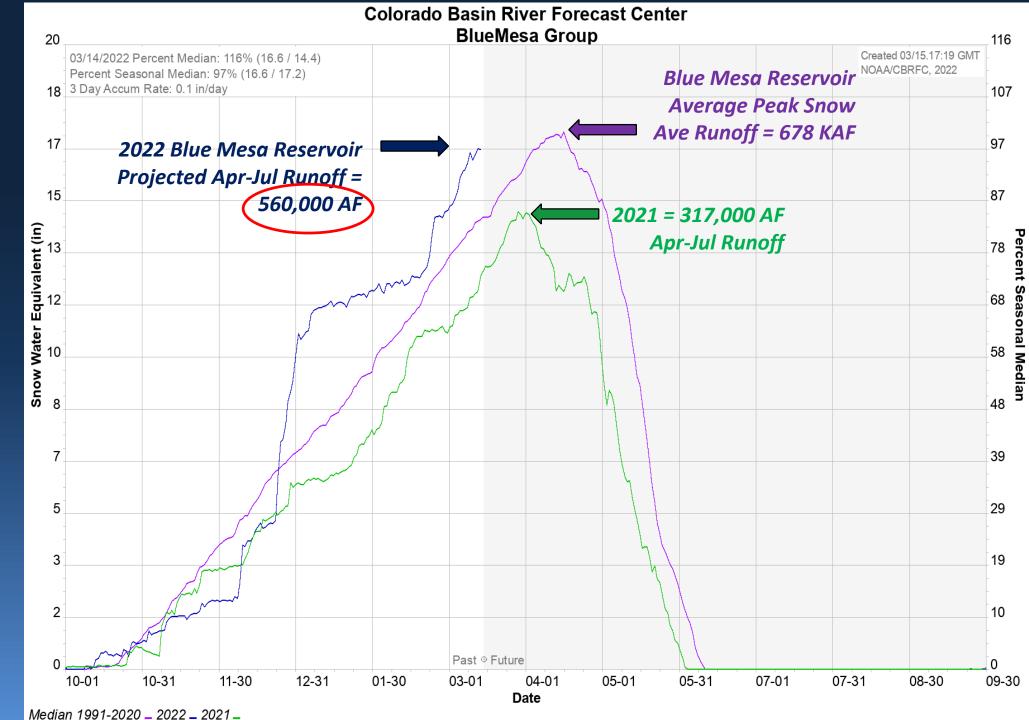


Snow Conditions in the Upper Gunnison Basin Through March 11



Blue Mesa Water Supply 2022

(Better snowpack in the north, less in the south)



Blue Mesa 2007- 649,140 AF 10/31/07



Blue Mesa 2002 - 262,523 AF 10/22/02



Blue Mesa 2018 - 246,404 AF 11/02/2018



Blue Mesa 2021 - 209,806 AF 10/31/2021



Reservoir and River Status

Blue Mesa Reservoir ended 2021 at an elevation of 7434.5-ft, or 55 feet below the winter target elevation of 7490-ft.

Blue Mesa Reservoir content is currently at 241,000 acre-feet at an elevation of 7436.3-ft.

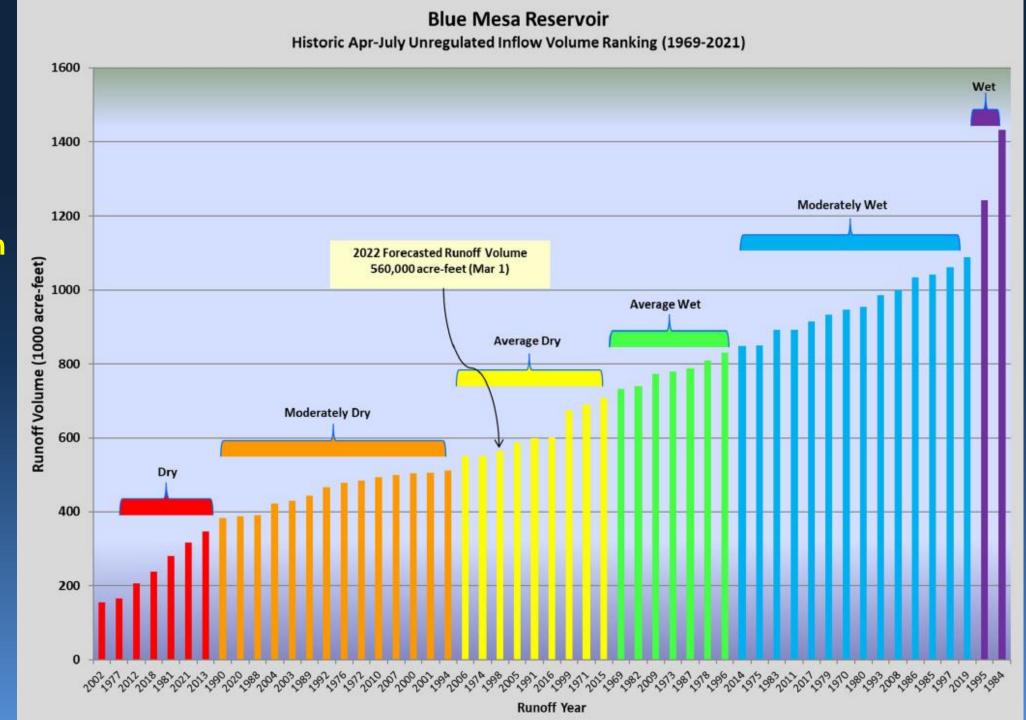
Crystal Dam is releasing 375 cfs and flows in the Gunnison River through the Black Canyon are at 375 cfs.

Releases/river flows will likely remain unchanged until the start of runoff.

Flows in the lower Gunnison River at the Whitewater gage are targeted at the minimum for this time of the year at 750 cfs until April 1st.

Aspinall Unit
Operations
Based on
Current Runoff
Forecast

Categorized as an Average Dry Year



Spring Peak & Duration Targets Based on Hydrologic Year Type

Year Type	Blue Mesa Forecasted	Desired Peak at Whitewater	Duration of Half Bank (8,070 cfs)	Duration of Peak Flow (up to 14,350 cfs)
	April-July Inflow	a fa	Davis	D
	Af	cfs	Days	Days
DRY	< 381,000	900	0	0
MOD DRY	381,000 to 516,000	2,600 to 8,070	0	0
AVG DRY	516,001 to 709,000	8,070	10	0
AVG WET	709,001 to 831,000	8,070 to 14,350	20	2
MOD WET	831,001 to 1,123,000	14,350	40	10
WET	>1,123,000	14,350	60	15

Mar 1 560,000 Ridgway Res. & Uncompangre River Operations

Ridgway Res. Storage = 84,000 AF



Ridgway Res. Content Mar. 14 2021 = 59,550 AF

Actual 2021 Apr – Jul Runoff = 56,000 AF

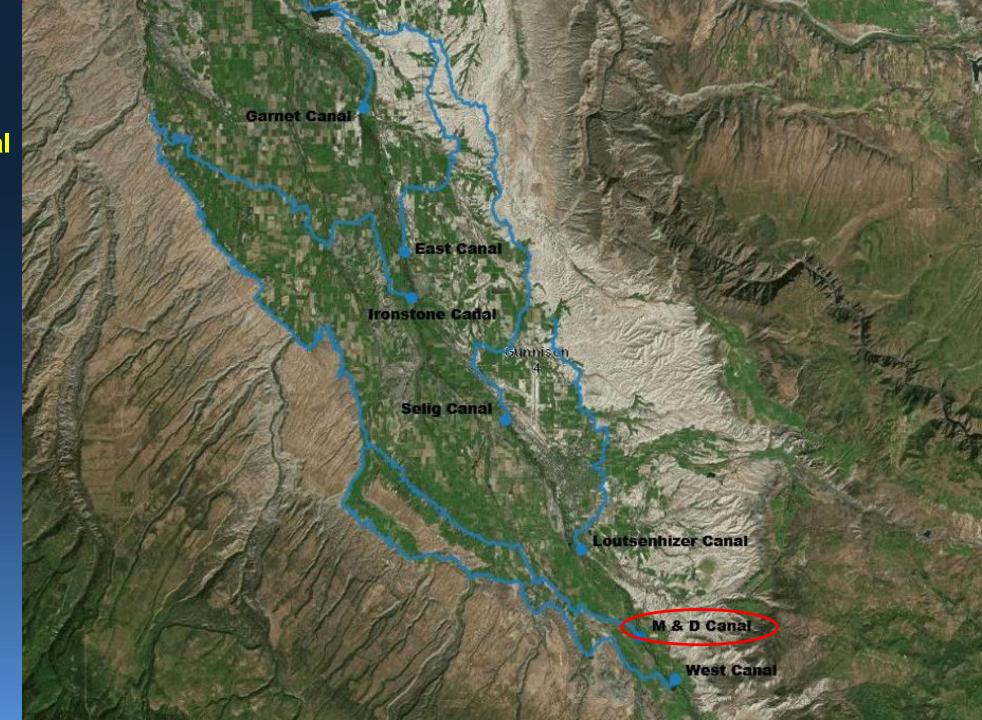
Ridgway Res. Content Mar. 14 2022 = 67,417 AF

Forecast <u>2022</u> Apr-Jul Runoff = 72,600 AF

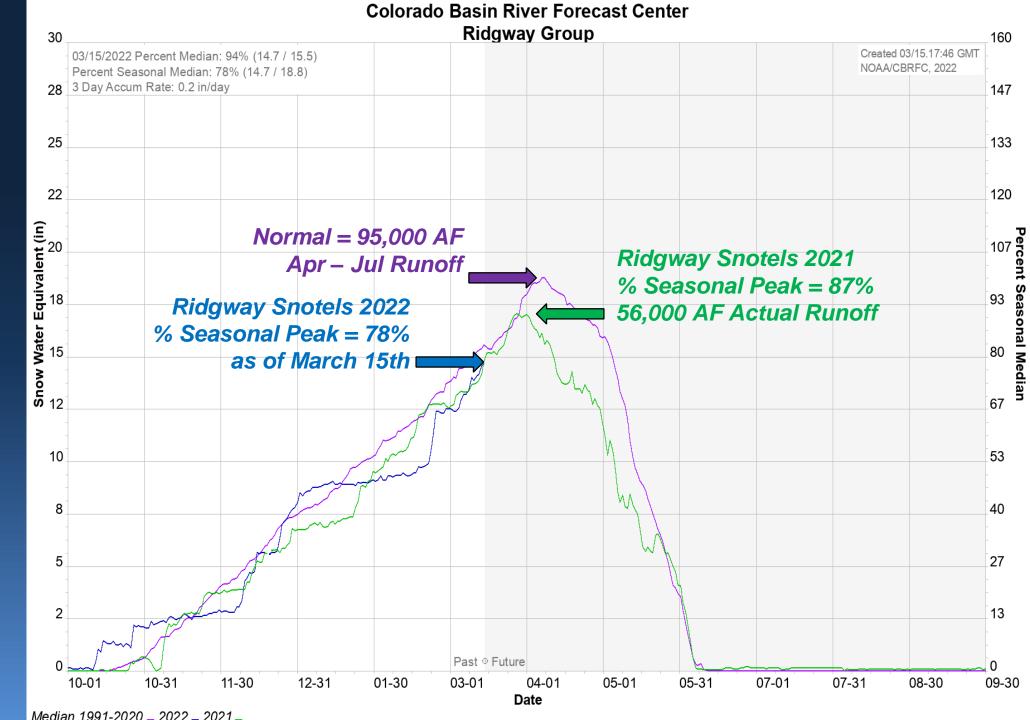


Uncompange Valley 80,000 irrigated acres

Montrose & Delta Canal Senior Calling Ditch on Unc. River



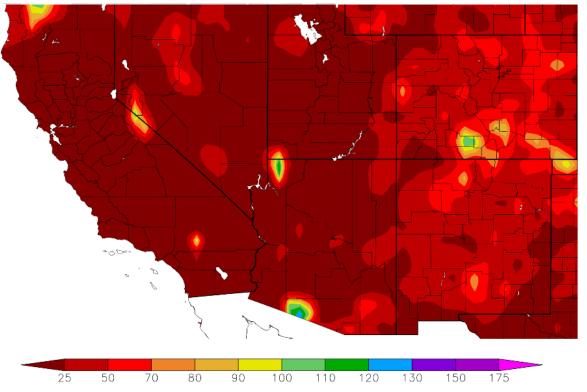
Snowpack above Ridgway Res. Spring 2022



Super dry going into last winter

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)8/1/2020 - 10/31/2020

(Super dry soil moisture conditions going into last winter)

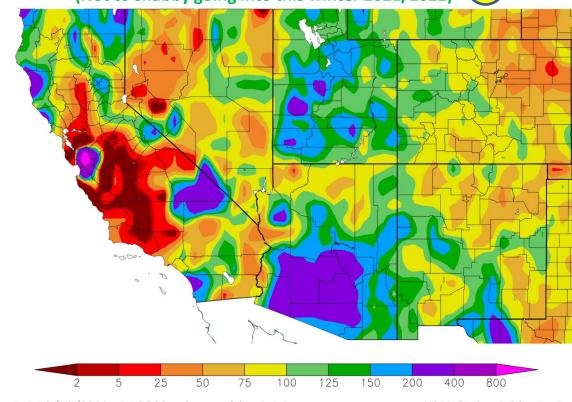


The Good News

Much better soil moisture going into this winter

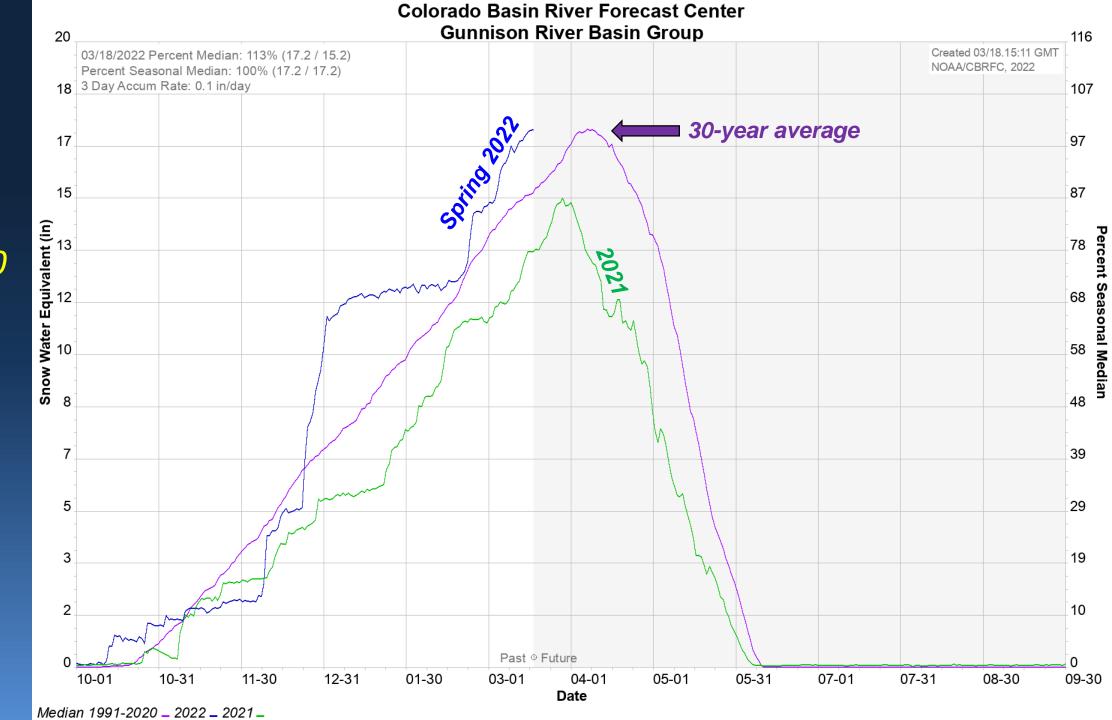
Percent of Normal Precipitation (%) 7/1/2021 - 9/30/2021

(Not to shabby going into this winter 2021/2022)

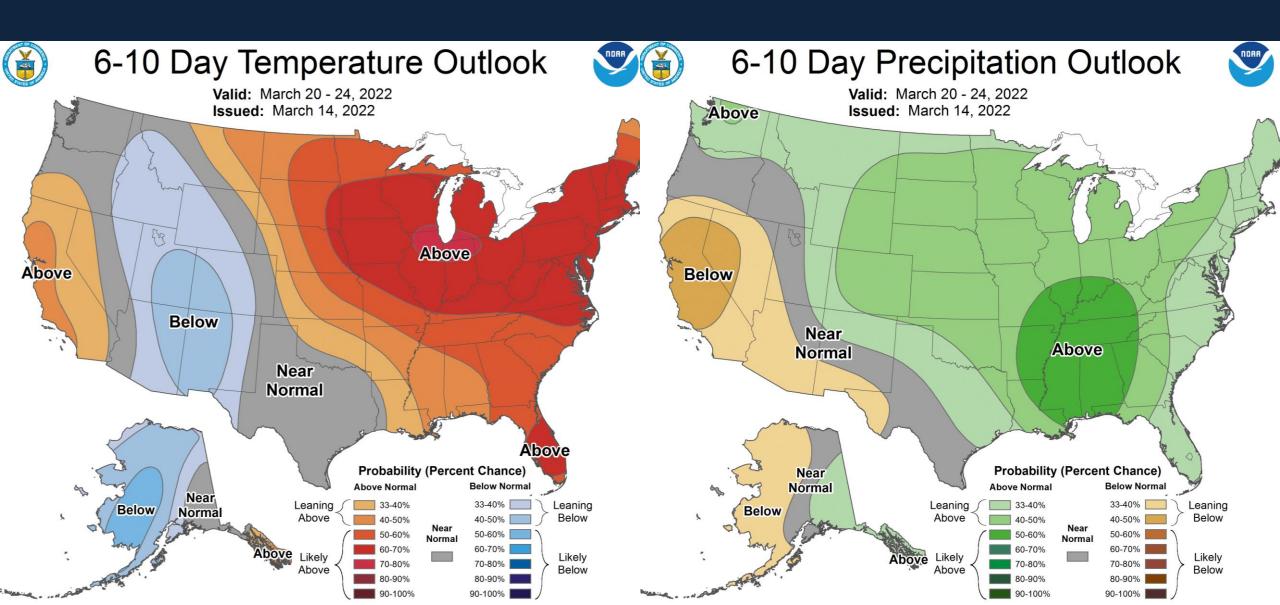


The Good News Basinwide

Based on 1991-2020 data



6-10 Day Temp and Precip Outlook



THANKS FOR LISTENING QUESTIONS PLEASE