

USDA United States
Department of
Agriculture

**Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service**

Arizona

Basin Outlook Report

January 15, 2006



ARIZONA

Water Supply Outlook Report as of January 15, 2006

A full range of Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting products is available on the Arizona NRCS Home Page:

Snow Survey Program

<http://www.az.nrcs.usda.gov/snow/index.html>

Helpful Internet Sites

Defending Against Drought – NRCS

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/highlights/drought.html>

- Ideas on water, land, and crop management for you to consider while creating your drought plan.

Arizona Agri-Weekly

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/az/cur-agwk.pdf>

- Provides an overview of Arizona's crop, livestock, range and pasture conditions as reported by local staffs of the USDA's Agricultural Statistic Service and University of Arizona, College of Agriculture.

SUMMARY

Snowpacks in the mountain watersheds of northern Arizona have yet to develop due to mild winter weather across the region. Cumulative precipitation recorded at high elevation SNOTEL sites, since October 1, show well below average moisture conditions at all locations. Water users can expect less than half the normal runoff this season for streams monitored in this report.

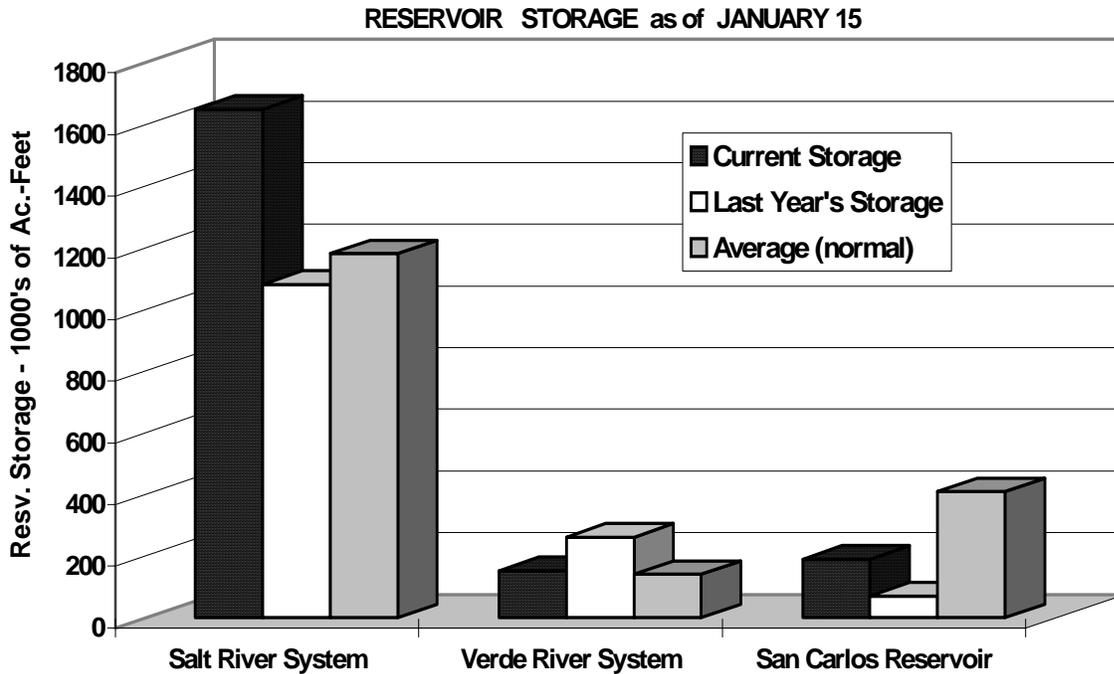
SNOWPACK

Watershed	Percent (%) of 30-Yr. Average Snowpack Levels as of Jan. 15
Salt River Basin	4%
Verde River Basin	2%
Little Colorado River Basin	0%
San Francisco-Upper Gila River Basin	5%
Other Points of Interest	
Chuska Mountains	1%
Central Mogollon Rim	1%
Grand Canyon	0%
San Francisco Peaks	10%
Statewide Snowpack	3%

PRECIPITATION

Well below average precipitation catch was recorded at all NRCS SNOTEL sites for the period January 1-15. In that regard, precipitation totals for the month of January will be illustrated in the next report.

RESERVOIR

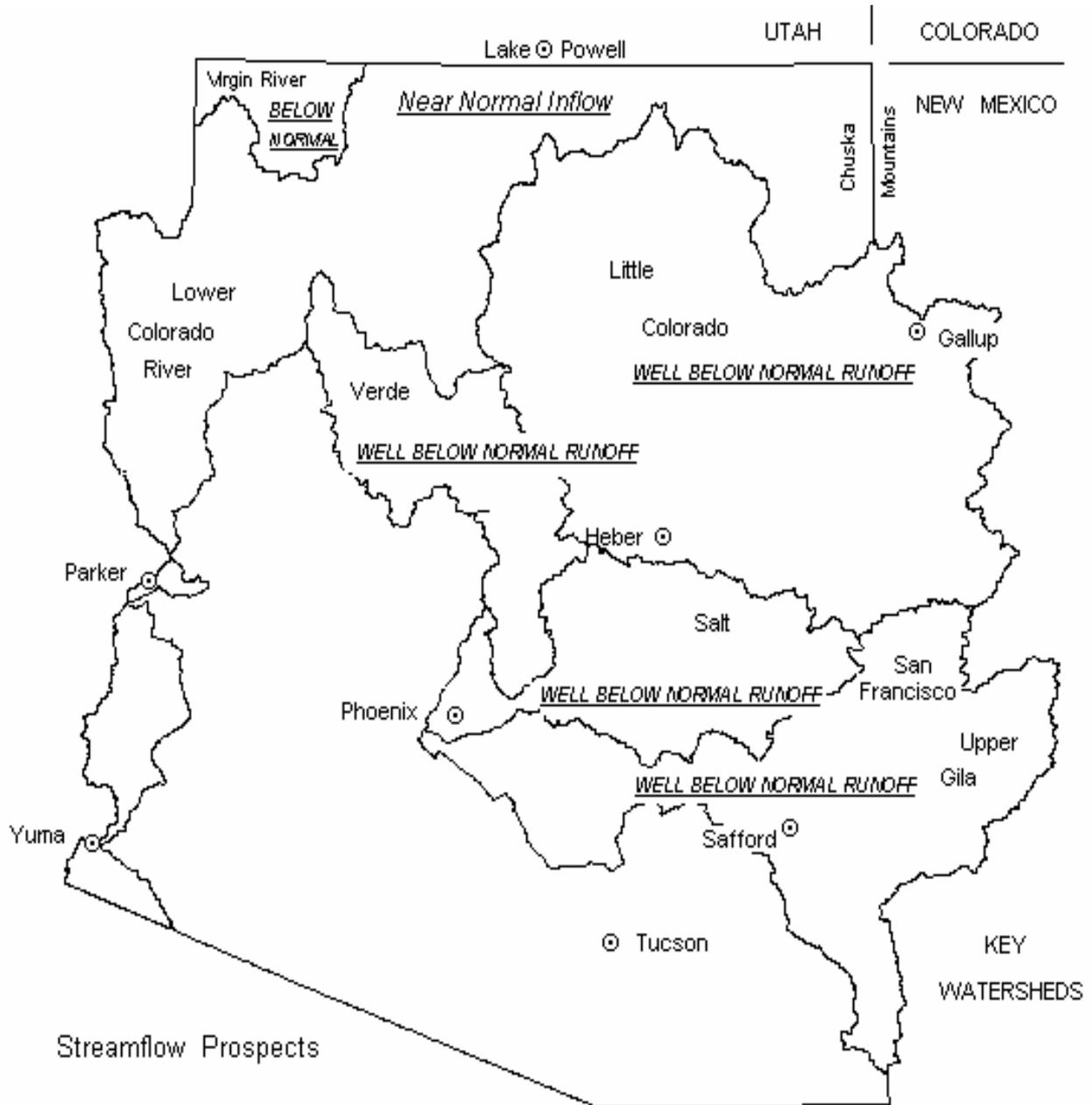


Key storage volumes displayed in thousands of acre-feet (1000 x):

RESERVOIR	CURRENT STORAGE	LAST YEAR STORAGE	30-YEAR AVERAGE
-----	-----	-----	-----
Salt River System	1650.3	1081.2	1181.3
Verde River System	152.6	261.2	141.7
San Carlos Reservoir	189.9	70.2	409.3
Lyman Lake	8.0	3.5	14.3
Show Low Lake	5.1	3.6	2.6
Lake Pleasant	650.6	587.9	----
Lake Havasu	573.4	584.8	557.4
Lake Mohave	1652.5	1723.2	1657.0
Lake Mead	15273.0	14759.0	21868.0
Lake Powell	11415.0	8604.0	18748.0

STREAMFLOW

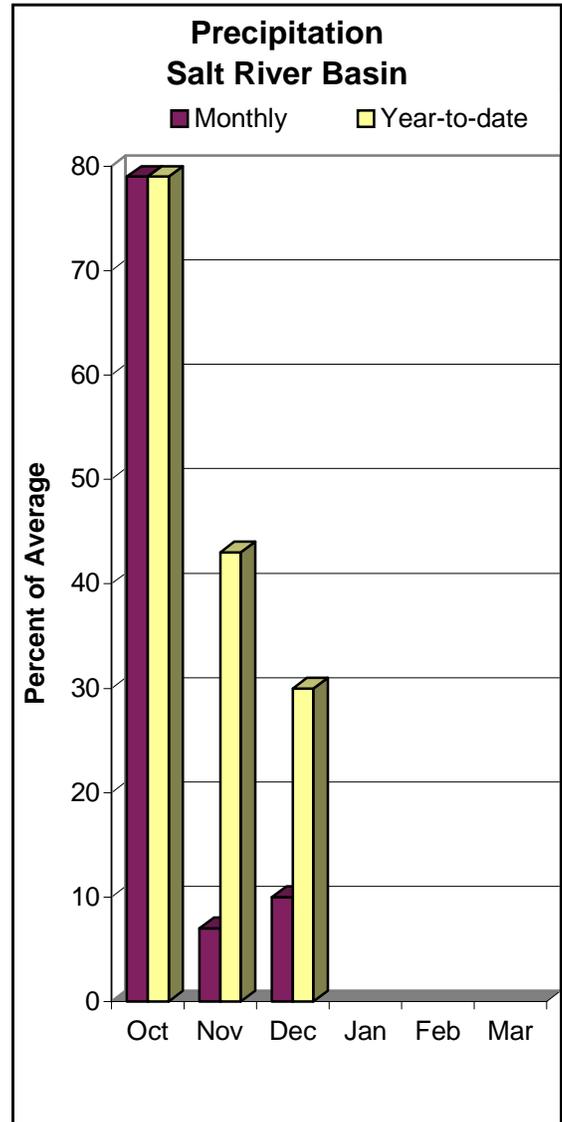
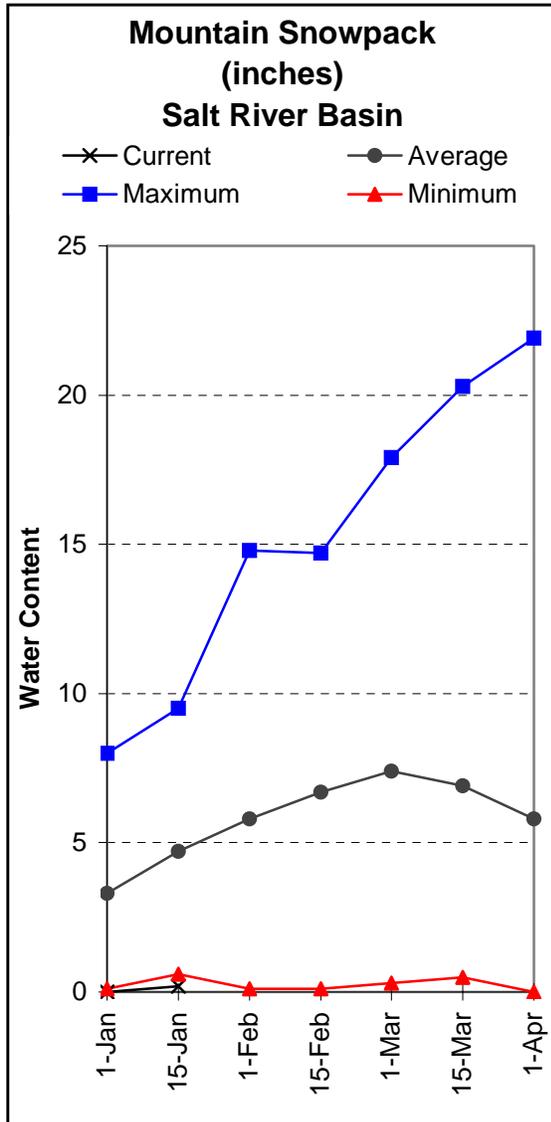
As the result of exceptionally dry winter conditions, well below median stream flow volumes are predicted for streams covered in this report. Please refer to the basin forecast tables for more information regarding this year's predicted surface water supplies.



SALT RIVER BASIN as of January 15, 2006

Well below median stream flow volumes are forecast for the basin. In the Salt River, near Roosevelt, the forecast calls for 23 % of median stream flow levels through MAY, while in Tonto Creek, the forecast calls for 16 % of median stream flow levels through MAY.

Additionally, snow survey measurements show the Salt snowpack to be 4 % of the 30-year average, while combined reservoir storage for the Salt River system was reported at 1,650,289 acre-feet.



SALT RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - January 15, 2006

Forecast Pt Forecast Period	<=== Drier === Future Conditions === Wetter ===>						30 Yr Med (1000AF)
	Chance of Exceeding *						
	90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF) (% MED.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)		
Salt River nr Roosevelt							
JAN15-MAY	41	59	85	23	140	257	370
JANUARY	7.8	8.8	9.8	40	24	55	25
Tonto Creek ab Gun Creek nr Roosevelt							
JAN15-MAY	2.2	4.9	9.0	16	22	58	55
JANUARY	0.53	0.71	0.88	15	5.09	17.62	5.90

* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

The average and median are computed for the 1971-2000 base period.

- (1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
- (2) - The value is natural volume - actual volume may be affected by upstream water management.

SALT RIVER BASIN
Reservoir Storage (1000AF) Mid-January

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	***** This Year	Usable Storage Last Year	***** Average
SALT RIVER RES SYSTEM	2025.8	1650.3	1081.2	1181.3

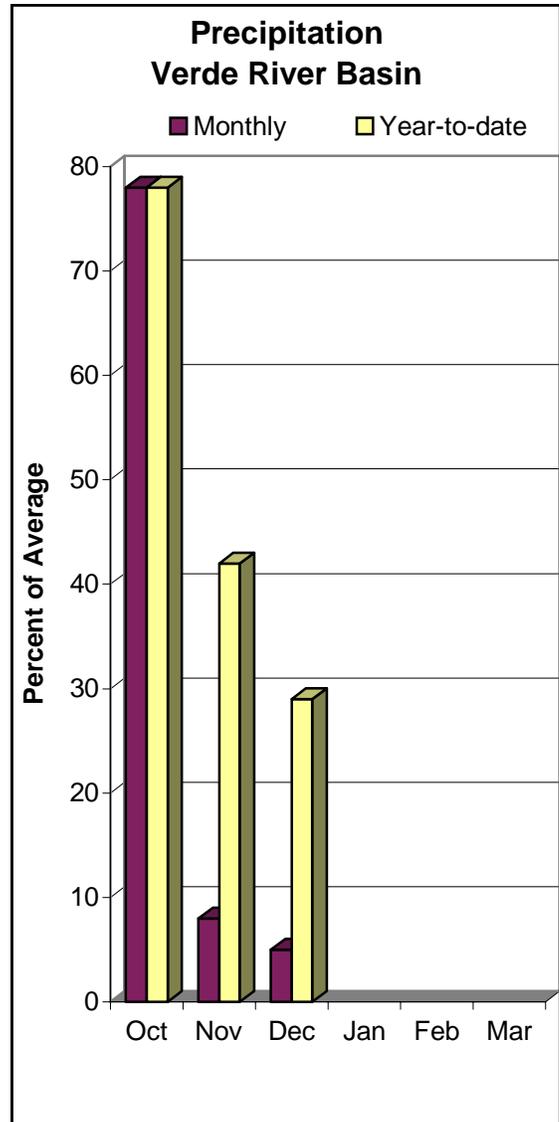
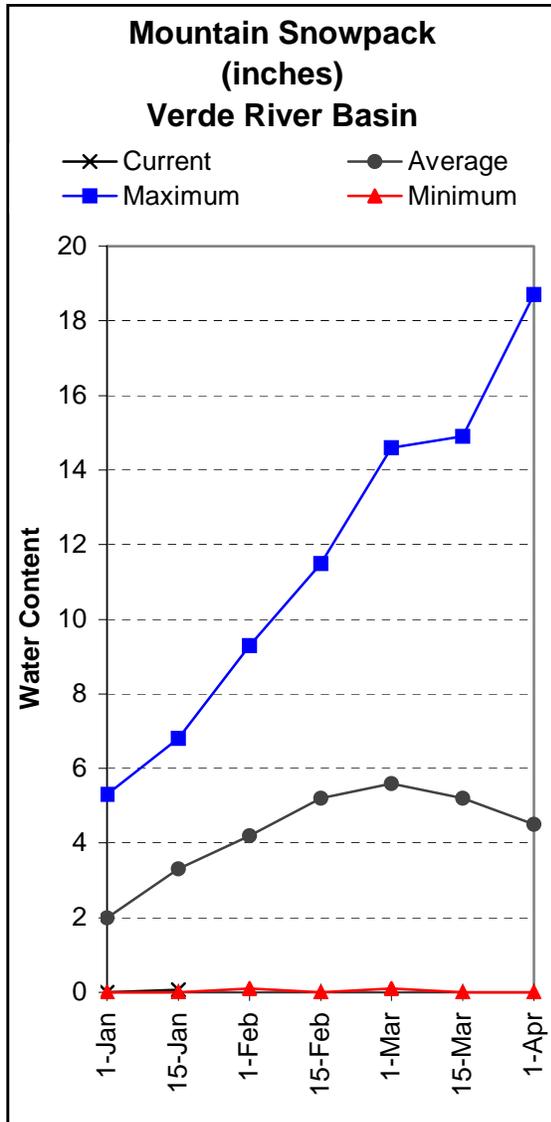
SALT RIVER BASIN
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - January 15, 2006

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as Percent of Last Year	Average
SALT RIVER BASIN	8	3	4

VERDE RIVER BASIN as of January 15, 2006

Well below median stream flow volumes are forecast for the basin. In the Verde River, at Horseshoe Dam, the forecast calls for 43 % of median stream flow levels through MAY.

Additionally, snow survey measurements show the Verde snowpack to be 2 % of the 30-year average, while combined reservoir storage for the Verde River system was reported at 152,583 acre-feet.



VERDE RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - January 15, 2006

Forecast Pt Forecast Period	<=== Drier === Future Conditions === Wetter ===>						30 Yr Med (1000AF)
	Chance of Exceeding *						
	90%	70%	50%	30%	10%		
	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF) (% MED.)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)
Verde River abv Horseshoe Dam							
JAN15-MAY	57	69	90	43	144	257	210
JANUARY	12.0	13.2	15.8	66	28	56	24

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VERDE RIVER BASIN
Reservoir Storage (1000AF) Mid-January

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	***** This Year	Usable Storage Last Year	***** Average
VERDE RIVER RES SYSTEM	287.4	152.6	261.2	141.7

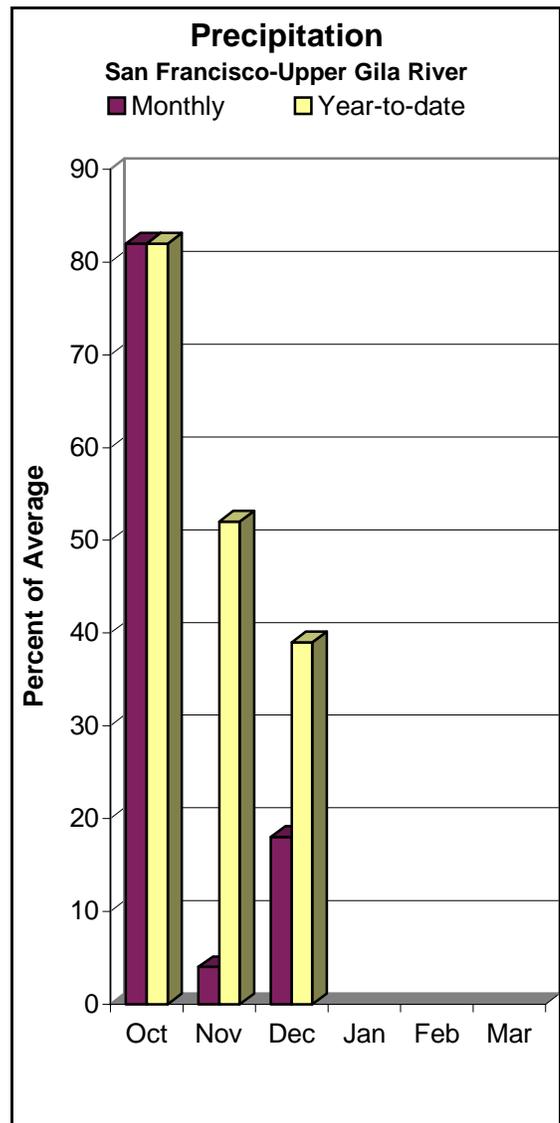
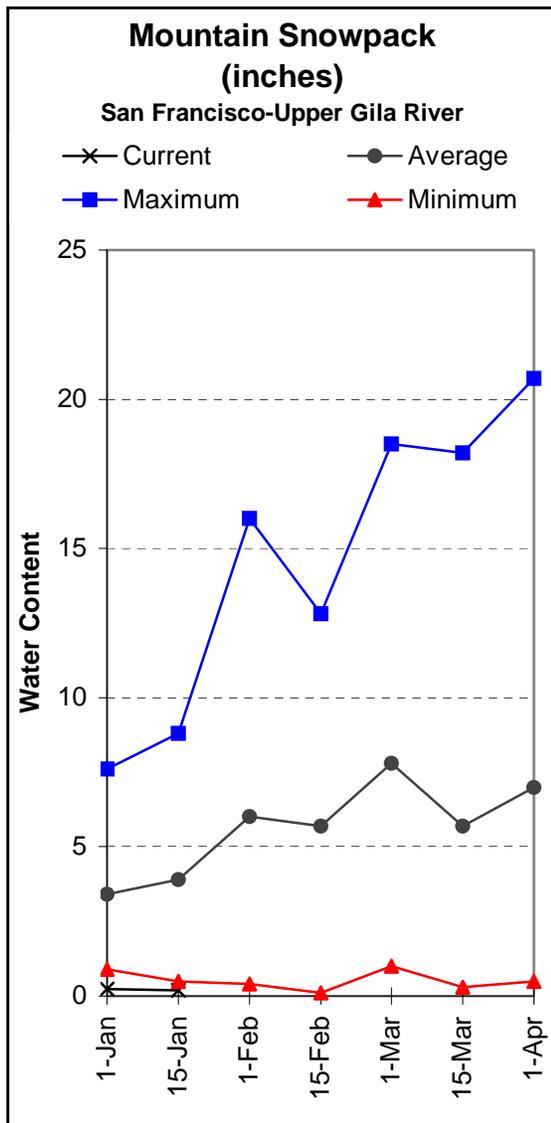
VERDE RIVER BASIN
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - January 15, 2006

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as Percent of Last Year	Average
VERDE RIVER BASIN	10	1	2
SAN FRANCISCO PEAKS	3	4	10

SAN FRANCISCO-UPPER GILA RIVER BASIN as of January 15, 2006

Well below median stream flow volumes are forecast for the basin. In the San Francisco River, at Clifton, the forecast calls for 20 % of median stream flow levels through MAY, while in the Gila River, near Solomon, the forecast calls for 22 % of median stream flow levels through MAY. At San Carlos Reservoir, inflow to the lake is forecast at 19 % of median through MAY.

At San Carlos, reservoir storage was reported at 189,900 acre-feet, while snow survey measurements show basin snowpack levels to be 5 % of the 30-year average.



SAN FRANCISCO - UPPER GILA RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - January 15, 2006

Forecast Pt Forecast Period	<=== Drier === Future Conditions === Wetter ===>						30 Yr Med (1000AF)
	Chance of Exceeding *						
	90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF) (% MED.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)		
Gila River at Gila JAN15-MAY	12.8	16.0	18.0	33	27	42	55
Gila River nr Virden JAN15-MAY	10.4	17.2	20	25	32	52	80
San Francisco River at Glenwood JAN15-MAY	3.4	5.2	6.0	23	10.5	18.4	26
San Francisco River at Clifton JAN15-MAY	5.6	9.5	13.0	20	25	48	66
Gila River nr Solomon JAN15-MAY	18.0	26	34	22	57	105	158
JANUARY			8.8	45			19.7
San Carlos Reservoir inflow JAN15-MAY	6.3	8.5	17.0	19	31	72	90

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SAN FRANCISCO - UPPER GILA RIVER BASIN
Reservoir Storage (1000AF) Mid-January

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	***** This Year	Usable Storage Last Year	***** Average
SAN CARLOS	875.0	189.9	70.2	409.3

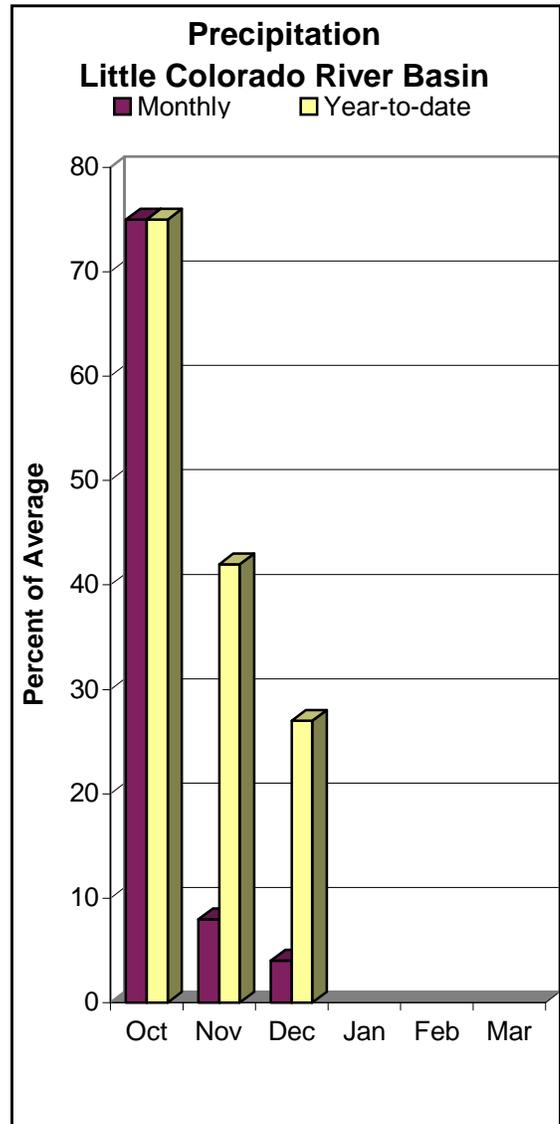
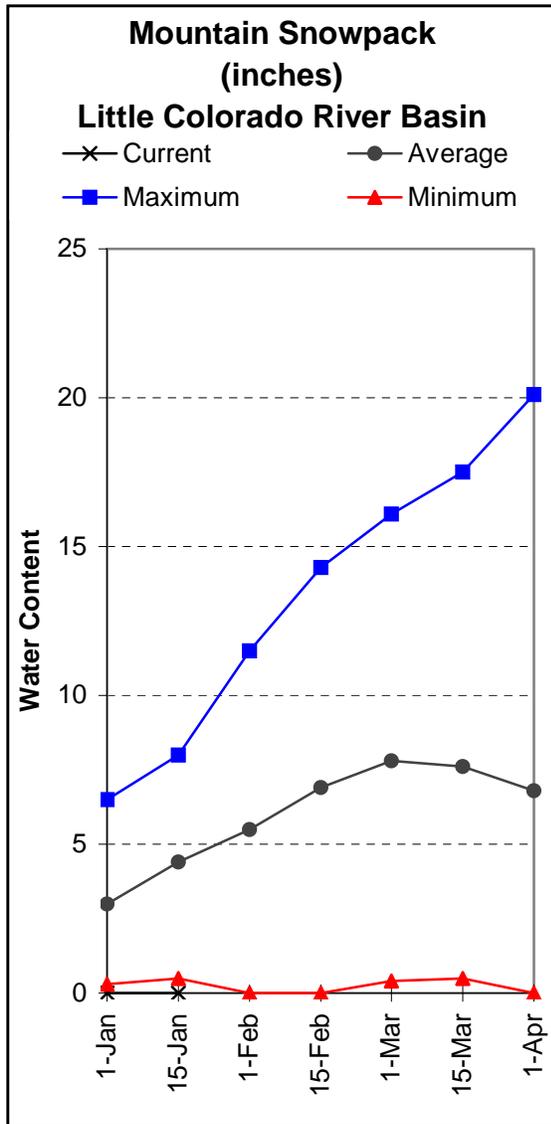
SAN FRANCISCO - UPPER GILA RIVER BASIN
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - January 15, 2006

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as Percent of Last Year	Average
SAN FRANCISCO - UPPER GILA R	9	4	5

LITTLE COLORADO RIVER BASIN as of January 15, 2006

Well below median stream flow volumes are forecast for the basin. In the Little Colorado River, at Lyman Lake, the forecast calls for 28 % of median stream flow levels through JUNE.

Additionally, snowpacks along the southern headwaters of the Little Colorado River, and along the central Mogollon Rim, were measured at 0 % and 1 % of average, respectively.



LITTLE COLORADO RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - January 15, 2006

Forecast Pt Forecast Period	<=== Drier === Future Conditions === Wetter ===>						30 Yr Med (1000AF)
	Chance of Exceeding *						
	90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF) (% MED.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)		
Little Colorado River abv Lyman Lake							
JAN-JUN	0.81	1.26	2.10	28	3.21	6.29	7.40
Little Colorado River at Woodruff							
JAN-MAY	0.04	0.11	0.27	8	0.90	1.51	3.60
Blue Ridge Reservoir inflow							
JAN-MAY	0.0	1.2	3.0	18	5.7	11.3	17.1
Lake Mary inflow							
JAN-MAY	0.00	0.22	1.10	22	1.83	3.41	5.00

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LITTLE COLORADO RIVER BASIN
Reservoir Storage (1000AF) Mid-January

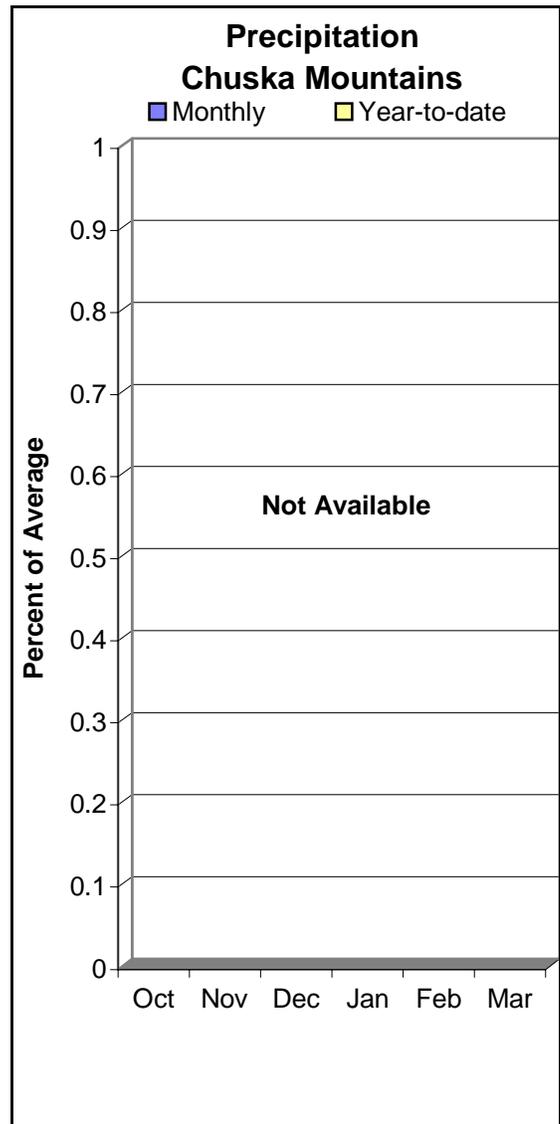
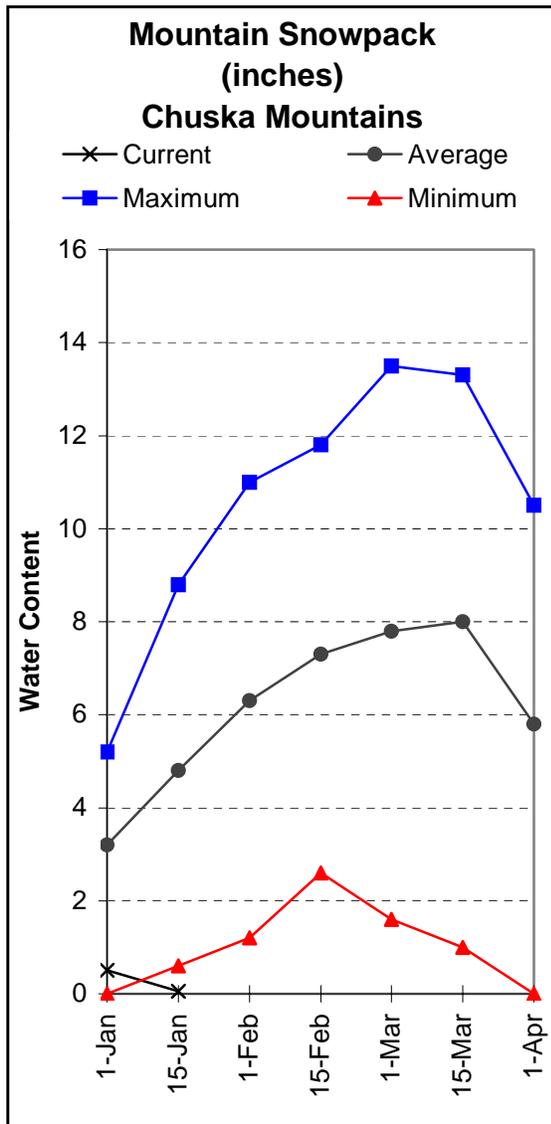
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	***** This Year	Usable Storage Last Year	***** Average
LYMAN RESERVOIR	30.0	8.0	3.5	14.3
SHOW LOW LAKE	5.1	5.1	3.6	2.6

LITTLE COLORADO RIVER BASIN
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - January 15, 2006

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as Percent of Last Year	Average
LITTLE COLORADO - SOUTHERN H	9	0	1
CENTRAL MOGOLLON RIM	4	0	1

CHUSKA MOUNTAINS as of January 15, 2006

Navajo Nation snowpack levels in the Chuska Mountains and the Defiance Plateau were measured at 1 % and 0 % of average, respectively. As a result of poor winter conditions, well below average stream flows are forecast for Captain Tom Wash, Wheatfields Creek, and Bowl Canyon Creek this season.



CHUSKA MOUNTAINS
Streamflow Forecasts - January 15, 2006

Forecast Pt Forecast Period	<=== Drier === Future Conditions === Wetter ===>						30 Yr Avg (1000AF)
	Chance of Exceeding *						
	90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF) (% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)		
Captain Tom Wash nr Two Gray Hills							
MAR-MAY	0.08	0.25	1.00	35	2.31	4.20	2.83
Wheatfields Creek nr Wheatfields							
MAR-MAY	0.06	0.23	1.00	35	2.35	4.34	2.90
Bowl Canyon Creek abv Assayi Lake							
MAR-MAY	0.04	0.09	0.35	35	0.82	1.50	1.00

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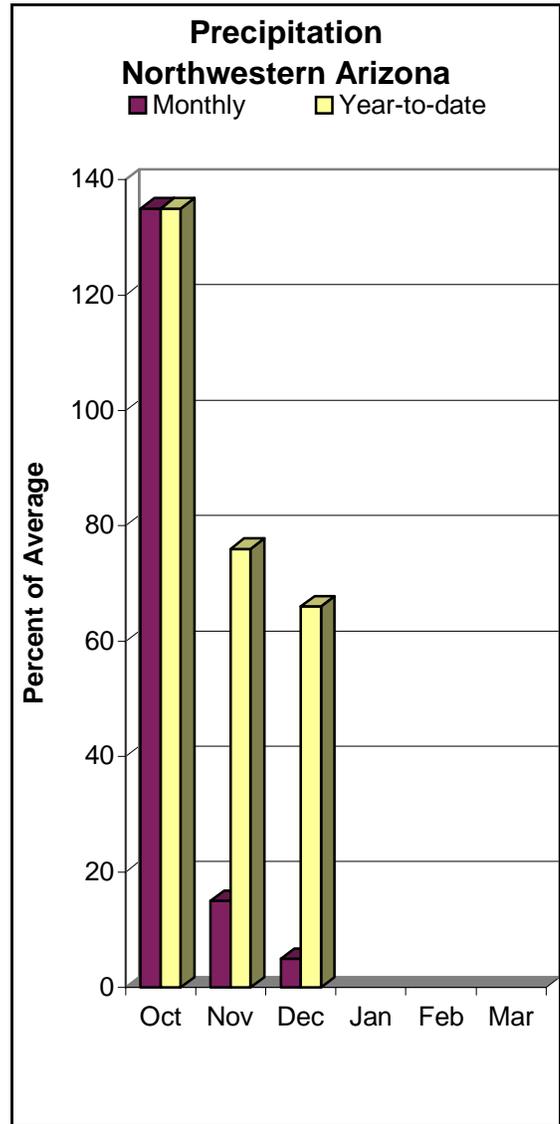
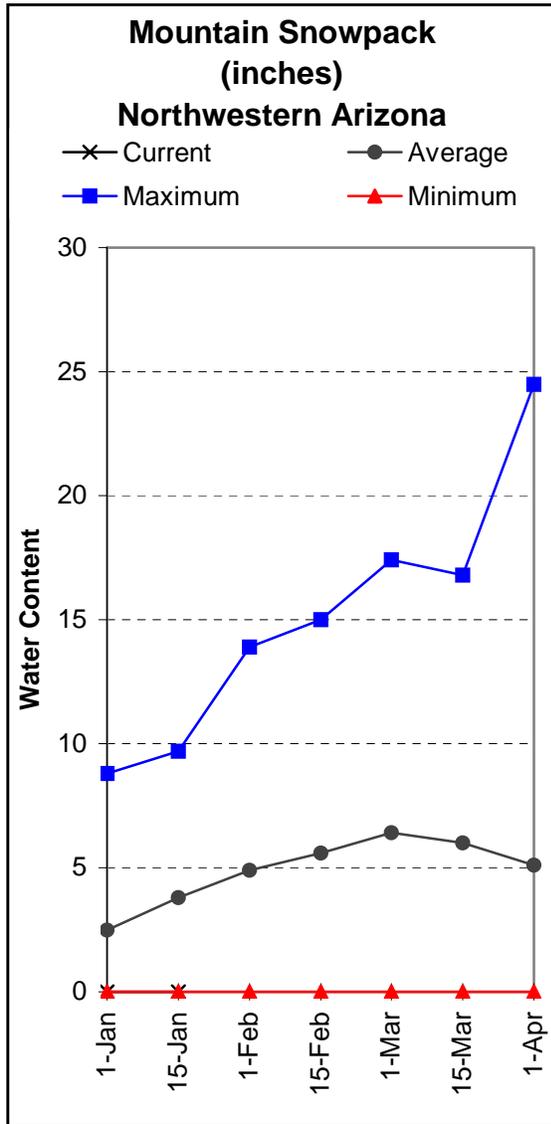
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CHUSKA MOUNTAINS
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - January 15, 2006

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as Percent of Last Year	Average
CHUSKA MOUNTAINS	7	1	1
DEFIANCE PLATEAU	2	0	0

NORTHWESTERN ARIZONA as of January 15, 2006

On the Colorado River, inflow to Lake Powell is forecast at 105 % of the 30-year average for the runoff period APRIL through JULY, while at the Grand Canyon, snow survey measurements conducted by National Park Service staff show the snowpack to be 0 % of average.



NORTHWESTERN ARIZONA
Streamflow Forecasts - January 15, 2006

Forecast Pt Forecast Period	<=== Drier === Future Conditions === Wetter ===>						30 Yr Avg (1000AF)
	Chance of Exceeding *						
	90%	70%	50%	30%	10%		
	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF) (% AVG.)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	(1000AF)	
Lake Powell inflow							
APR-JUL	5464	7153	8300	105	9449	11139	7930

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- (2) - The value is natural volume - actual volume may be affected by upstream water management.

NORTHWESTERN ARIZONA
Reservoir Storage (1000AF) Mid-January

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	***** Usable Storage *****		
		This Year	Last Year	Average
LAKE HAVASU	619.0	573.4	584.8	557.4
LAKE MOHAVE	1810.0	1652.5	1723.2	1657.0
LAKE MEAD	26159.0	15273.0	14759.0	21868.0
LAKE POWELL	24322.0	11415.0	8604.0	18748.0

NORTHWESTERN ARIZONA
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - January 15, 2006

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as Percent of	
		Last Year	Average
GRAND CANYON	2	0	0

S N O W S U R V E Y D A T A

JANUARY 15, 2006

SNOW COURSE	ELEV.	DATE	SNOW DEPTH	WATER CONTENT	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE 71-00
ARBABS FOREST (AK)	7680	1/13	0	.0	.8	1.7
BAKER BUTTE SNOTEL	7330	1/15	0	.0	6.6	3.5
BAKER BUTTE #2	7700	1/13	0	.0	11.6	6.5
BALDY SNOTEL	9220	1/15	0	.0	6.1	4.5
BEAVER HEAD	8000	1/13	0	.0	3.8	2.1
BEAVER HEAD SNOTEL	7990	1/15	0	.0	4.6	2.5
BEAVER SPRING	9220	1/13	1	.2	8.7	5.9
BRIGHT ANGEL	8400	1/13	0	.0	7.1	5.7
BUCK SPRING	7400	1/13	0	.0	2.0	4.1
CHALENDER	7100	1/13	0	.0	2.7	2.1
CHEESE SPRINGS	8600	1/13	0	.0	3.8	3.3
CORONADO TRL SNOTEL	8400	1/15	-	.3	4.7	2.8
CORONADO TRAIL	8400	1/13	0	.0	4.2	2.1
FLUTED ROCK	7800	1/13	0	.0	2.4	2.1
FORT APACHE	9160	1/13	0	.0	5.5	4.8
FORT VALLEY	7350	1/13	0	.0	4.6	1.9
FRY SNOTEL	7220	1/15	-	.3	9.8	4.0
GRAND CANYON	7500	1/13	0	.0	1.7	2.1
HANNAGAN MDWS SNOTEL	9020	1/15	-	.2	10.5	7.0
HAPPY JACK	7630	1/13	0	.0	4.6	3.0
HAPPY JACK SNOTEL	7630	1/15	-	.1	6.8	2.9
HEBER SNOTEL	7640	1/15	-	.1	-	3.9
LAKE MARY	6970	1/13	0	.0	3.9	2.0
MAVERICK FORK SNOTEL	9200	1/15	-	.3	7.6	5.7
MORMON MTN SNOTEL	7500	1/15	-	.2	8.4	3.8
MORMON MT. SUMMIT #2	8470	1/13	0	.0	13.2	6.9
NEWMAN PARK	6750	1/13	0	.0	5.9	2.1
NUTRIOSO	8500	1/13	0	.0	1.5	1.4
PROMONTORY SNOTEL	7900	1/15	-	.1	11.1	7.1
SNOW BOWL #1 ALT.	10260	1/13	0	.0	21.6	7.4
SNOW BOWL #2	11000	1/13	0	.0	16.2	10.4
SNOWSLIDE CYN SNTL	9750	1/15	-	2.6	24.4	8.0
TSAILE CANYON #1	8160	1/12	0	.0	4.1	4.2
TSAILE CANYON #3	8920	1/12	2	.2	6.4	5.6
WHITE HORSE SNOTEL	7180	1/15	0	.0	-	3.2
WILDCAT SNOTEL	7850	1/15	-	.2	1.9	2.8
WILLIAMS SKI RUN	7720	1/13	0	.0	7.3	4.8
WORKMAN CREEK SNOTEL	6900	1/15	-	.2	5.7	4.3

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