UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

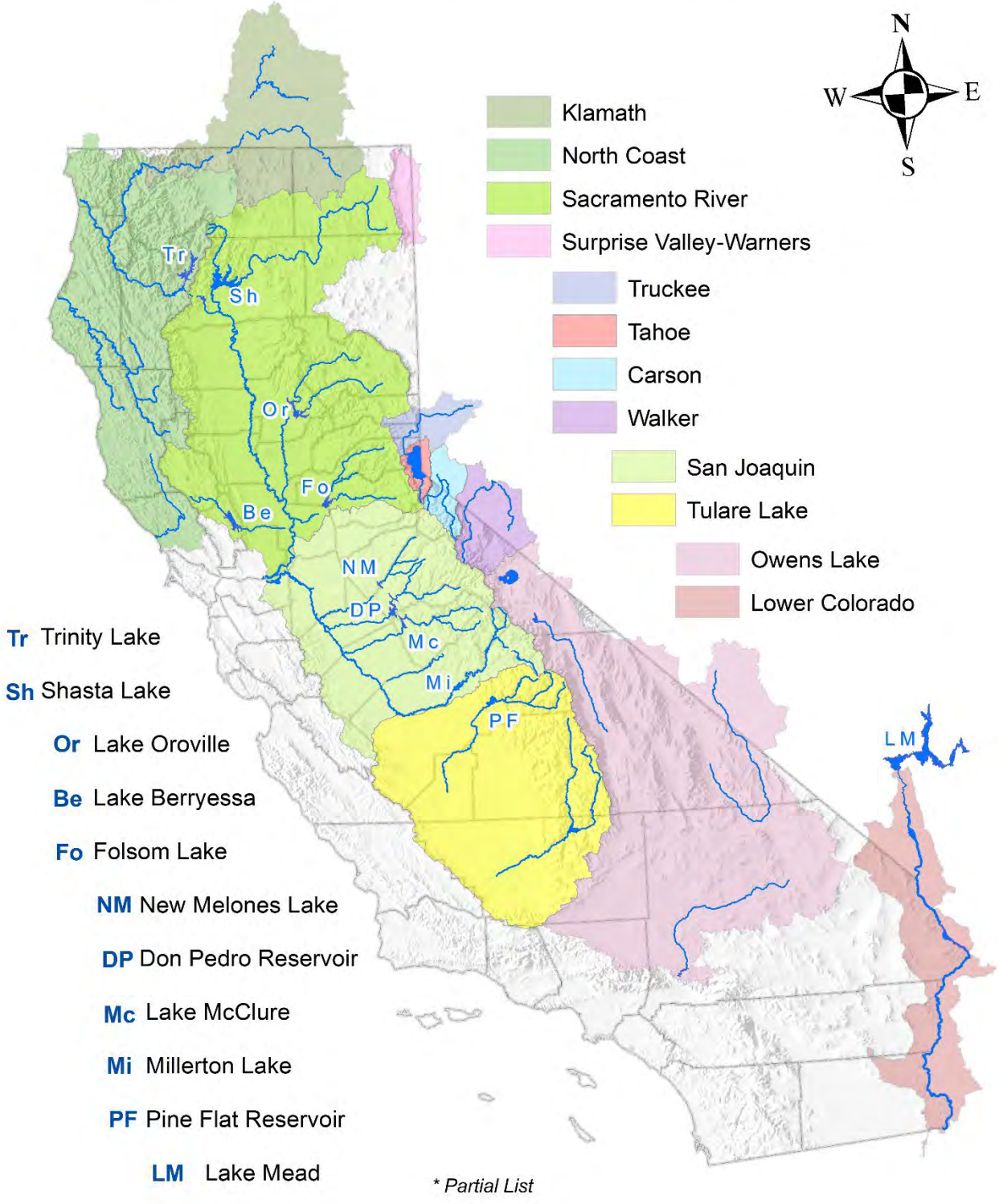
California Water Supply Outlook Report

April 2022

Contents

Cover: NRCS Snow Surveyors near Mt Rose, Snow Course 3/31/22. Photo by NRCS

California Forecast Basins, Major Rivers, and Large Reservoirs*



Tr Trinity Lake

Sh Shasta Lake

Or Lake Oroville

Be Lake Berryessa

Fo Folsom Lake

NM New Melones Lake

DP Don Pedro Reservoir

Mc Lake McClure

Mi Millerton Lake

PF Pine Flat Reservoir

LM Lake Mead

** Partial List*

STATE OF CALIFORNIA GENERAL OUTLOOK
April, 2022

NEW 1991-2020 MEDIANS

On October 1, 2021 the NRCS updated its 30-year normals period, shifting it from 1981-2010 to 1991-2020. The normals available from the National Water and Climate Center (NWCC) include the median and average for Snow Water Equivalent (SWE), snow depth (snow courses only), precipitation, volumetric streamflow, and reservoir storage. Values are calculated from data collected by NRCS-managed stations and external agencies such as the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), National Weather Service (NWS), state agencies, and private organizations. Normals are calculated for various durations including daily, month-to-date, semi-monthly, monthly, seasonal, and annual based on the data type.

The 1991-2020 normals update may have shifted the reported median values compared to those in previous reports for one or both of the following reasons: 1) the underlying data used to compute the statistics are not the same between the two 30-year periods; and 2) Calculation methods for 1991-2020 have also been updated. Therefore, caution is recommended when making inferences from comparisons between the 1991-2020, 1981-2010, and 1971-2000 normals. More information is available online at https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/wcc/home/snowClimateMonitoring/30YearNormals/.

SNOWPACK

Snow gages in the northern-, central-, and southern mountains have seen a steady decrease in snow pack percent of normal. As of April 22, 2022, the snow water equivalent percent of normal for the three Sierra regions were 37-, 41-, and 23 percent, respectively. Since last month's report, the statewide average snowpack has continued to drop, from 57 percent on March 16th to 35 percent on April 22.

More information is available online at http://cdec.water.ca.gov/snow/current/snow/index2.html.

PRECIPITATION

After an up and down season to date, the Northern Sierra-, San Joaquin-, and Tulare Basin Index stations are currently at 83-, 68-, and 63 percent of their monthly averages as of April 22, 2022, with a downward trend for the rest of the month.

More information is available online at http://cdec.water.ca.gov/snow_rain.html

RESERVOIRS

Most reservoirs as of April 22 had storages below normal amounts. Several major reservoir storages were far below normal for this time of year, such as Shasta (47%), Oroville (68%), and San Luis (55%). In the Colorado River Basin, the reservoir storage in Lake Powell is 45 percent of historical average.

More information is available online at http://cdec.water.ca.gov/snow/reservoir_ss.html.

STREAMFLOW

NWS forecasts are both above and below the 1991-2020 average between April and July. However, at this point, there is no specific basin that is extremely low or high on the runoff forecast. Summaries for each basin are provided below.

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Sacramento River
Streamflow Forecasts - April 1, 2022

Forecast Exceedance Probabilities For Risk Assessment
Chance that actual volume will exceed forecast

Sacramento River	Forecast Period	90% (KAF)	70% (KAF)	50% (KAF)	% Median	30% (KAF)	10% (KAF)	30yr Median (KAF)
Inflow to Shasta Lk (NWS)								
	APR-JUL	660	685	710	41%	870	990	1738.5
MF American R nr Auburn (DWR)								
MF American R nr Auburn (NWS)								
	APR-JUL	133	143	162	35%	210	275	461.7
Inflow to Shasta Lk (DWR)								
	OCT-SEP	2740		2950	52%		3650	5643
	APR-JUL	640		790	45%		1400	1767
Silver Ck bl Camino Div. Dam (DWR)								
	APR-JUL			60	38%			157
McCloud R ab Shasta (DWR)								
	APR-JUL			185	47%			393
Sacramento R nr Red Bluff (NWS)								
	APR-JUL	950	980	1010	33%	1220	1380	3026
MF Feather R nr Clio (DWR)								
NF Feather R at Pulga (DWR)								
	APR-JUL			280	33%			842
Inflow Jackson Mdws & Bowman Res (DWR)								
	APR-JUL			43	42%			103
Feather R at Lk Almanor (DWR)								
	APR-JUL			80	33%			241
Inflow to Folsom Res (DWR)								
	OCT-SEP	1360		1590	59%		2120	2689
	APR-JUL	220		450	36%		960	1247
Pit R at Shasta Lk (NWS)								
	APR-JUL	400	410	420	39%	445	510	1080.2
Silver Ck bl Camino Div. Dam (NWS)								
	APR-JUL	47	51	59	34%	75	94	171.6
Pit R at Shasta Lk (DWR)								
	APR-JUL			530	53%			992
Inflow to Oroville Res (NWS)								
	APR-JUL	445	470	510	33%	665	845	1533.3
Inflow to Folsom Res (NWS)								
	APR-JUL	335	360	395	33%	495	650	1195.3
Yuba R at Smartville (DWR)								
	OCT-SEP	1760		1340	59%		1180	2273
	APR-JUL	260		400	40%		800	993
N Yuba R bl Goodyears Bar (DWR)								
	APR-JUL			110	41%			271
Yuba R at Smartville (NWS)								
	APR-JUL	295	310	330	35%	460	565	949.9
Inflow to Union Valley Res (NWS)								
	APR-JUL	28	30	35	36%	46	56	97.5
N Yuba R bl Goodyears Bar (NWS)								
	APR-JUL	86	90	95	35%	133	162	272.3
Sacramento R at Shasta (NWS)								
	APR-JUL	58	63	71	24%	100	152	296.6
Sacramento R nr Red Bluff (DWR)								
	OCT-SEP	3920		4160	50%		5600	8351
	APR-JUL	900		1090	44%		2280	2474
S Yuba R nr Langs Crossing (DWR)								
	APR-JUL			100	42%			237
Cosumnes R at Michigan Bar (NWS)								
	APR-JUL	27	29	33	27%	45	60	121.5
McCloud R ab Shasta (NWS)								
	APR-JUL	149	151	155	41%	179	205	374.5
NF American R at N FK Dam (DWR)								
	APR-JUL			90	38%			240
Sacramento R at Shasta (DWR)								
	APR-JUL			100	32%			309
SF Feather R at Ponderosa Dam (DWR)								
NF Feather R nr Prattville (NWS)								
	APR-JUL	89	98	104	37%	125	144	283.6
Inflow to Oroville Res (DWR)								
	OCT-SEP	2420		2610	60%		3440	4341
	APR-JUL	395		550	32%		1300	1710

1) 90% And 10% exceedance probabilities are actually 95% And 5%
2) Forecasts are For unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent On management of upstream reservoirs And diversions

Watershed Snowpack Analysis April 1, 2022	# of Sites	% Median	Last Year % Median
Sacramento River	85	40%	77%

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Sanjoaquin
Streamflow Forecasts - April 1, 2022

Forecast Exceedance Probabilities For Risk Assessment
Chance that actual volume will exceed forecast

SanJoaquin	Forecast Period	90% (KAF)	70% (KAF)	50% (KAF)	% Median	30% (KAF)	10% (KAF)	30yr Median (KAF)
MF Stanislaus R bl Beardsley (DWR)								
	APR-JUL			140	47%			297
Tuolumne R nr Hetch Hetchy (NWS)								
	APR-JUL	305	315	350	58%	380	440	605.2
Big Ck bl Huntington Lk (DWR)								
	APR-JUL			57	59%			97
Inflow to New Melones Res (NWS)								
	APR-JUL	240	245	280	42%	320	390	672.1
Inflow to Millerton Lk (NWS)								
	APR-JUL	530	575	625	50%	735	825	1238.4
NF Mokelumne R nr West Point (DWR)								
Inflow to New Don Pedro Res (NWS)								
	APR-JUL	480	505	570	47%	650	750	1208.3
Inflow to Millerton Lk (DWR)								
	OCT-SEP	915		1180	66%		1470	1775
	APR-JUL	410		670	55%		940	1229
Cherry & Eleanor CKs, Hetch Hetchy (DWR)								
	APR-JUL			170	54%			317
Inflow to New Don Pedro Res (DWR)								
	OCT-SEP	885		1080	55%		1460	1954
	APR-JUL	380		570	47%		940	1222
Merced R at Pohono Bridge Yosemite (DWR)								
	APR-JUL			175	47%			369
Cosumnes R at Michigan Bar (DWR)								
	OCT-SEP	183		205	53%		300	390
	APR-JUL	15		39	29%		130	133
SF San Joaquin R nr Florence Lk (DWR)								
	APR-JUL			105	56%			188
Inflow to New Melones Res (DWR)								
	OCT-SEP	550		670	57%		910	1181
	APR-JUL	190		310	44%		540	699
Inflow to Pardee Res (DWR)								
	OCT-SEP	360		440	58%		590	764
	APR-JUL	110		190	41%		340	469
Merced R at Pohono Bridge Yosemite (NWS)								
	APR-JUL	186	195	215	56%	240	275	382.3
Inflow to Lake McClure (NWS)								
	APR-JUL	240	255	280	46%	315	375	610.6
Inflow to Lake McClure (DWR)								
Inflow to Pardee Res (NWS)								
	APR-JUL	150	166	189	43%	220	265	443.5
Tuolumne R nr Hetch Hetchy (DWR)								
	APR-JUL			320	55%			587

1) 90% And 10% exceedance probabilities are actually 95% And 5%
2) Forecasts are For unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent On management of upstream reservoirs And diversions

Watershed Snowpack Analysis April 1, 2022	# of Sites	% Median	Last Year % Median
SanJoaquin	83	47%	66%

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Tulare Lake
Streamflow Forecasts - April 1, 2022

Tulare Lake	Forecast Period	90% (KAF)	70% (KAF)	50% (KAF)	% Median	30% (KAF)	10% (KAF)	30yr Median (KAF)
		Forecast Exceedance Probabilities For Risk Assessment Chance that actual volume will exceed forecast						
Kaweah R at Terminus Res (DWR)								
	OCT-SEP	130		177	42%		285	426
	APR-JUL	65		110	40%		210	276
Kaweah R at Terminus Res (NWS)								
	APR-JUL	72	77	86	30%	103	127	282.1
Inflow to Pine Flat Res (NWS)								
	APR-JUL	500	530	560	46%	625	730	1222.8
Inflow to Isabella Res (DWR)								
	OCT-SEP	195		235	35%		330	672
	APR-JUL	90		125	29%		210	427
Inflow to Pine Flat Res (DWR)								
	OCT-SEP	635		855	51%		1160	1671
	APR-JUL	350		560	47%		850	1204
Tule R at Success Res (DWR)								
	OCT-SEP	30		38	29%		65	132
	APR-JUL	4		12	21%		35	56
Tule R at Success Res (NWS)								
	APR-JUL	10	10	12	20%	14	17	60.3
Inflow to Isabella Res (NWS)								
	APR-JUL	103	112	123	27%	142	157	455.3
NF Kings R nr Cliff Camp (DWR)								
Kern R nr Kernville (DWR)								
	APR-JUL			115	30%			379

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Watershed Snowpack Analysis April 1, 2022	# of Sites	% Median	Last Year % Median
Tulare Lake	48	46%	47%

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North Coast
Streamflow Forecasts - April 1, 2022

North Coast	Forecast Period	Forecast Exceedance Probabilities For Risk Assessment Chance that actual volume will exceed forecast 90% (KAF)	70% (KAF)	50% (KAF)	% Median	30% (KAF)	10% (KAF)	30yr Median (KAF)
Trinity R at Lewiston (DWR)								
	OCT-SEP	405		485	37%		690	1322
	APR-JUL	80		160	25%		360	648
Inflow to Clair Engle Lk (NWS)								
	APR-JUL	86	98	122	21%	198	275	584.3
Scott R nr Fort Jones (NWS)								
	APR-JUL	18	24	34	20%	47	68	167

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Watershed Snowpack Analysis April 1, 2022	# of Sites	% Median	Last Year % Median
North Coast	21	16%	67%

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Klamath
Streamflow Forecasts - April 1, 2022

Klamath	Forecast Period	Forecast Exceedance Probabilities For Risk Assessment Chance that actual volume will exceed forecast 90% (KAF)	70% (KAF)	50% (KAF)	% Median	30% (KAF)	10% (KAF)	30yr Median (KAF)
Sprague R nr Chiloquin	APR-SEP	49	64	75	47%	88	107	159
Upper Klamath Lake Inflow[1,2]	APR-SEP	135	184	210	58%	235	300	365
Gerber Reservoir Inflow								
Clear Lake Inflow[2]	APR-JUN	-31	-18.4	-10	161%	-1.49	11	-6.23
Williamson R bl Sprague R nr Chiloquin	APR-SEP	123	159	183	64%	205	245	285

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Reservoir Storage End of March, 2022	Current (KAF)	Last Year (KAF)	Median (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)
Upper Klamath Lake	346.5	341.5	441.9	523.7

Basin Index	# of reservoirs

Watershed Snowpack Analysis April 1, 2022	# of Sites	% Median	Last Year % Median
Klamath	32	35%	88%

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Tahoe
Streamflow Forecasts - April 1, 2022

Tahoe	Forecast Period	90% (KAF)	70% (KAF)	50% (KAF)	% Median	30% (KAF)	10% (KAF)	30yr Median (KAF)
		Forecast Exceedance Probabilities For Risk Assessment Chance that actual volume will exceed forecast						
Lake Tahoe Net Inflow								
	APR-JUL	1.01	11.1	28	28%	55	96	101
	MAY-JUL	-43	6.6	11.8	25%	22	52	47
Lake Tahoe Rise Gates Closed[1]								
	APR-HIGH	0.1	0.25	0.55	46%	0.7	1	1.19
	MAY-HIGH	0.023	0.129	0.3	39%	0.52	0.93	0.76

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Reservoir Storage End of March, 2022	Current (KAF)	Last Year (KAF)	Median (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)
Lake Tahoe	121.4	292.9	289.3	744.5

Basin Index
# of reservoirs

Watershed Snowpack Analysis April 1, 2022	# of Sites	% Median	Last Year % Median
Tahoe	26	55%	70%

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Truckee
Streamflow Forecasts - April 1, 2022

		Forecast Exceedance Probabilities For Risk Assessment Chance that actual volume will exceed forecast						
Truckee	Forecast Period	90% (KAF)	70% (KAF)	50% (KAF)	% Median	30% (KAF)	10% (KAF)	30yr Median (KAF)
L Truckee R ab Boca Reservoir[2]								
	APR-JUL	16	29	38	53%	42	52	72
	MAY-JUL	2.2	11	22	50%	33	49	44
Independence Lk Inflow[2]								
	APR-JUL	4.7	6	6.8	65%	7.6	8.9	10.5
	MAY-JUL	1.51	3	4	55%	5	6.5	7.32
Donner Lake Inflow[2]								
	APR-JUL	2	4.7	6.6	44%	8.5	11.2	15
	MAY-JUL	0.49	2.3	4.3	52%	6.3	9.2	8.2
Truckee R ab Farad Sidewater[2]								
	APR-JUL	37	52	62	69%	72	87	90
	MAY-JUL	15.3	30	40	63%	50	65	63
Boca Res Local Inflow[2]								
	APR-JUL	-0.93	0.27	1.2	79%	1.69	2.9	1.52
	MAY-JUL	-0.41	0.09	0.3	71%	0.68	0.92	0.42
Stampede Res Local Inflow[2]								
	APR-JUL	16.7	28	36	61%	44	55	59
	MAY-JUL	2.2	11.4	21	58%	31	45	36
Martis Ck Res Inflow[2]								
	APR-JUL	0.3	2.4	3.8	67%	5.2	7.3	5.7
	MAY-JUL	0.03	0.44	1.6	62%	2.5	4.1	2.6
Sagehen Ck nr Truckee								
	APR-JUL	1.22	2.2	2.8	68%	3.4	4.4	4.1
	MAY-JUL	0.13	0.67	1.4	64%	2.1	3.2	2.2
Prosser Ck Res Inflow[2]								
	APR-JUL	12.4	16.9	20	57%	23	28	35
	MAY-JUL	2.6	8.2	12	55%	15.8	21	22
Truckee R at Farad[2]								
	APR-JUL	74	104	125	56%	146	170	225
	MAY-JUL	15.8	50	74	53%	98	132	139

1) 90% And 10% exceedance probabilities are actually 95% And 5%
2) Forecasts are For unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent On management of upstream reservoirs And diversions

Reservoir Storage **End of March, 2022**	Current (KAF)	Last Year (KAF)	Median (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)
Independence Lake	12.5	11.4	14.8	17.3
Martis Reservoir		0.9	0.9	35.8
Stampede Reservoir	109.9	91.7	164.2	226.5
Donner Lake	5.3	3.5	4.3	9.5
Boca Reservoir	29.2	11.0	19.0	40.9
Prosser Reservoir	10.2	7.2	9.7	29.8

Basin Index
# of reservoirs

Watershed Snowpack Analysis **April 1, 2022**	# of Sites	% Median	Last Year % Median
Truckee	19	60%	72%

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Carson
Streamflow Forecasts - April 1, 2022

		Forecast Exceedance Probabilities For Risk Assessment Chance that actual volume will exceed forecast						
Carson	Forecast Period	90% (KAF)	70% (KAF)	50% (KAF)	% Median	30% (KAF)	10% (KAF)	30yr Median (KAF)
EF Carson R nr Gardnerville								
	APR-JUL	61	84	100	61%	116	139	164
	MAY-JUL	26	52	70	60%	88	114	116
	200 cfs	21 Jun	01 Jul	08 Jul		15 Jul	25 Jul	14 Jul
	500 cfs	31 May	10 Jun	16 Jun		22 Jun	02 Jul	20 Jun
WF Carson R nr Woodfords								
	APR-JUL	15.7	23	28	62%	33	40	45
	MAY-JUL	1.98	11.5	18	60%	24	34	30

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Watershed Snowpack Analysis April 1, 2022	# of Sites	% Median	Last Year % Median
Carson	16	51%	76%

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Walker
Streamflow Forecasts - April 1, 2022

Walker	Forecast Period	90% (KAF)	70% (KAF)	50% (KAF)	% Median	30% (KAF)	10% (KAF)	30yr Median (KAF)
		Forecast Exceedance Probabilities For Risk Assessment Chance that actual volume will exceed forecast						
E Walker R nr Bridgeport[2]								
	APR-AUG	1.76	12.3	22	50%	32	46	44
	MAY-AUG	2	11	20	49%	29	42	41
W Walker R nr Coleville								
	APR-JUL	41	59	71	48%	83	101	147
	MAY-JUL	30	49	62	51%	75	94	122
W Walker R bl L Walker R nr Coleville								
	APR-JUL	41	61	74	48%	87	107	153
	MAY-JUL	33	52	65	52%	78	97	126

1) 90% And 10% exceedance probabilities are actually 95% And 5%
2) Forecasts are For unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent On management of upstream reservoirs And diversions

Reservoir Storage End of March, 2022	Current (KAF)	Last Year (KAF)	Median (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)
Bridgeport Reservoir	18.8	14.8	25.1	42.5

Basin Index
# of reservoirs

Watershed Snowpack Analysis April 1, 2022	# of Sites	% Median	Last Year % Median
Walker	10	61%	74%

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Surprise Valley-Warners - April 1, 2022

Watershed Snowpack Analysis April 1, 2022	# of Sites	% Median	Last Year % Median
Surprise Valley-Warners	4	60%	87%

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Colorado
Streamflow Forecasts - April 1, 2022

Colorado	Forecast Period	90% (KAF)	70% (KAF)	50% (KAF)	% Median	30% (KAF)	10% (KAF)	30yr Median (KAF)
		Forecast Exceedance Probabilities For Risk Assessment Chance that actual volume will exceed forecast						
Lake Powell Inflow[2]	APR-JUL	2690	3660	4400	72%	5210	6530	6130

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2) Forecasts are For unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent On management of upstream reservoirs And diversions

Reservoir Storage End of March, 2022	Current (KAF)	Last Year (KAF)	Median (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)
Lake Powell	5812.4	8843.8	12880.0	24322.0

Basin Index
# of reservoirs

Watershed Snowpack Analysis April 1, 2022	# of Sites	% Median	Last Year % Median
Colorado	232	88%	90%

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Owens Lake
Streamflow Forecasts - April 1, 2022

Owens Lake	Forecast Period	90% (KAF)	70% (KAF)	50% (KAF)	% Median	30% (KAF)	10% (KAF)	30yr Median (KAF)
		Forecast Exceedance Probabilities For Risk Assessment Chance that actual volume will exceed forecast						
Owens R (DWR)	APR-JUL			90	39%			231

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Watershed Snowpack Analysis April 1, 2022	# of Sites	% Median	Last Year % Median
Owens Lake	17	52%	60%

HOW FORECASTS ARE MADE

Most of the annual streamflow in the western United States originates as snowfall that has accumulated in the mountains during the winter and early spring. As the snowpack accumulates, hydrologists estimate the runoff that will occur when it melts. Measurements of snow water equivalent at selected manual snowcourses and automated SNOTEL sites, along with precipitation, antecedent streamflow, and indices of the El Niño / Southern Oscillation are used in computerized statistical and simulation models to prepare runoff forecasts. These forecasts are coordinated between hydrologists in the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the National Weather Service. Unless otherwise specified, all forecasts are for flows that would occur naturally without any upstream influences.

Forecasts of any kind, of course, are not perfect. Streamflow forecast uncertainty arises from three primary sources: (1) uncertain knowledge of future weather conditions, (2) uncertainty in the forecasting procedure, and (3) errors in the data. The forecast, therefore, must be interpreted not as a single value but rather as a range of values with specific probabilities of occurrence. The middle of the range is expressed by the 50% exceedance probability forecast, for which there is a 50% chance that the actual flow will be above, and a 50% chance that the actual flow will be below, this value. To describe the expected range around this 50% value, four other forecasts are provided, two smaller values (90% and 70% exceedance probability) and two larger values (30%, and 10% exceedance probability). For example, there is a 90% chance that the actual flow will be more than the 90% exceedance probability forecast. The others can be interpreted similarly.

The wider the spread among these values, the more uncertain the forecast. As the season progresses, forecasts become more accurate, primarily because a greater portion of the future weather conditions become known; this is reflected by a narrowing of the range around the 50% exceedance probability forecast. Users should take this uncertainty into consideration when making operational decisions by selecting forecasts corresponding to the level of risk they are willing to assume about the amount of water to be expected. If users anticipate receiving a lesser supply of water, or if they wish to increase their chances of having an adequate supply of water for their operations, they may want to base their decisions on the 90% or 70% exceedance probability forecasts, or something in between. On the other hand, if users are concerned about receiving too much water (for example, threat of flooding), they may want to base their decisions on the 30% or 10% exceedance probability forecasts, or something in between. Regardless of the forecast value users choose for operations, they should be prepared to deal with either more or less water. (Users should remember that even if the 90% exceedance probability forecast is used, there is still a 10% chance of receiving less than this amount.) By using the exceedance probability information, users can easily determine the chances of receiving more or less water.

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