**PRECIPITATION**

The images above use daily precipitation statistics from NWS COOP, CoCoRaHS, and CoAgMet stations. From top to bottom, and left to right: most recent 7-days of accumulated precipitation in inches; current month-to-date accumulated precipitation in inches; last month’s precipitation as a percent of average; water-year-to-date precipitation as a percent of average.

**Last Week Precipitation:**

- Much of the weekly precipitation was confined to the higher elevations in the basin.
- The Upper Green river basin in SW Wyoming saw between 0.26-3.85” of precipitation over the week. The highest amounts were reported on the border of Sublette and Lincoln counties.
- The Wasatch mountains received between 0.26-2.00 while the Uintahs saw slightly less amounts in the range of 0.26-1.00”.
- The northern mountains in Colorado (Yampa/White/Colorado) received good moisture in the range of 0.26-3.00”. The highest
amounts fell along the continental divide.

- The Gunnison and San Juan mountains received less precipitation over the week than the northern mountains, but still picked up 0.26-1.00" with the highest amounts in Ouray/San Juan counties.
- The lower elevations of the UCRB saw very little precipitation, mainly less than 0.25"
- The San Luis Valley was also dry receiving less than 0.25".
- East of the divide on the plains of Colorado was also dry with the majority of the area receiving less than 0.50". The NE corner of Colorado did pick up 0.11-0.50" over the past week but very little moisture fell south of that region.

November Precipitation:

- The month of November brought good moisture to the high country of the UCRB following a warm and dry October.
- The Upper Green saw greater than 300% of normal for the month over much of Uinta, Lincoln and Sublette counties. Sweetwater county also saw near normal moisture for the month over the northern half of the county.
- The Wasatch had above normal moisture while the Uintahs were slightly drier but still near normal for the month.
- Much of the high country in Colorado had above normal moisture for November. The lower elevations of the UCRB in Colorado and Utah were drier reporting less than 70% of normal precipitation. San Juan county, Utah is an exception to this and saw near to slightly above normal precipitation for the month.
- The Rio Grande basin saw above normal moisture over the higher terrain but moisture on the valley bottom was less than 90% of normal.
- East of the divide saw near to slightly above normal moisture to the NE and SE however, parts of the Arkansas, South Platte and Republican basins from Park/Fremont counties east to the border saw less than 50% of normal for the month. This is a climatically drier time of year for this region.

Water Year 2015 Precipitation:

- Two months into the water year, much of the higher terrain of the UCRB is at or above normal in terms of precipitation, much of this moisture fell in November.
- The southern edge of the Uintahs are drier, reporting less than 70% of normal.
- The southern basins are also slightly drier than the northern basins, but still near normal.
- The lower elevations of the UCRB are reporting below 90% of normal from Sweetwater county in Wyoming south to the Four Corners. Areas of San Juan county, UT are slightly better.
- East of the divide in Colorado, the NE plains are reporting precipitation less than 90% of normal from Weld county east and south to Kit Carson county.
- Areas south of about I-70 are reporting above normal moisture for the water year through November. Portions of Kiowa and Prowers are slightly below normal.

**SNOTEL AND SNOWPACK**

The top left image shows the Natural Resources Conservation Service's SNOTEL water-year-to-date precipitation percentile rankings. The top right image shows sub-basin averaged snow water equivalent accumulations as a percent of average. The images below show accumulated snow water equivalent in inches (green) compared to average (blue) and last year (red) for several different sub-basins across the UCRB (and were created by the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center).

**SNOTEL Precipitation Percentiles:**

- The northern tier of the UCRB is reporting precipitation percentiles above the median over the Green,
Yampa/White and Colorado headwaters.
- The Wasatch and Uintahs in Utah are reporting percentiles below the 20th with many sites reporting percentiles less than the 10th.
- The Gunnison mountains are mainly above the median however the Grand Mesa is reporting percentiles less than the 25th in Delta county.
- The San Juans are highly variable with percentile rankings ranging from 6th (Mineral county) to the 66th (Hinsdale).
- The headwaters of the South Platte and Arkansas basins are reporting above the median.
- The Sangre de Cristo mountains are reporting percentiles from the 24th to 67th.

**Basin-wide Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) Percent of Normal:**

- The northern basins of the UCRB (Green, Wasatch, Yampa, Colorado) are all showing SWE above normal for the date. However the Duchesne basin south in Utah is reporting below normal SWE conditions ranging from 61-79% of normal.
- The Gunnison and San Juan basins are slightly below normal at 81 and 64% of normal, respectively.
- Both the South Platte and Arkansas basins are reporting above normal SWE for the date, 101 and 110% of normal, respectively.

**SWE Timeseries Graphs:**

- The Upper Green basin is at 148% of median snowpack to date.
- The Duchesne basin is only at 80% of median snowpack to date.
- The Yampa-White basin is at 95% of median snowpack to date.
- The Upper Colorado basin is at 96% of median snowpack to date.
- The Gunnison basin is at 78% of median snowpack to date.
- The San Juan basin is only at 69% of median snowpack to date.

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**STANDARDIZED PRECIPITATION INDEX**
Standardized Precipitation Index standardizes precipitation accumulations for a specified time period into percentile rankings. -1.0 to -1.5 is equivalent to a D1 to D2. -1.5 to -2.0 is equivalent to a D2 to D3. -2.0 and worse is equivalent to a D3 to D4. 30- and 60-day SPIs focus on short-term conditions while 6- and 9-month SPIs focus on long-term conditions. SPI data provided by High Plains Regional Climate Center.

**Short Term (30-day):**

- Short term SPI's throughout the UCRB are a mixed bag of slightly dry to slightly wet conditions.
- The Green River basin is reporting SPI's between +1 and -1.
- The Wasatch and Uintahs are also reporting between +1 and -1.
- The Four Corners area in SE Utah/SW Colorado are dry with SPI's ranging from 0 to -1.5.
- The higher elevation stations in Colorado are mainly reporting wet SPI's with the exception of Grand Lake (Grand county) and Walden (Jackson county).
- The San Luis Valley is reporting SPI's from +2 to -1.
- East of the divide is highly variable on the short term. Closer to the foothills, SPI's range from +1 to -1.5 with conditions drying out to the south.
- Farther east on the plains, SPI's range from +1 to -1.5. The driest areas are in Yuma, southern Lincoln and Las Animas counties.

**Long Term (6-month):**

- For the longer term, much of the UCRB continues to report wet SPI's. The Four Corners is the driest area and is reporting SPI's from 0 to -1.5.
- The San Luis Valley is showing a mixed bag with slightly dry to slightly wet (-1 to +1) SPI's.
- East of the divide, the NE plains are mainly reporting wet SPI's, however south of about I-70 is more variable. Those SPI's range from +1.5 to -1.
The top left image shows 7-day averaged streamflows as a percentile ranking across the UCRB. The top right image shows 7-day averaged discharge over time at three key sites around the UCRB: The Colorado River at the CO-UT state line; the Green River at Green River, UT; and the San Juan River near Bluff, UT. All streamflow data provided by United States Geological Survey.

Streamflow Statistics:

- Streamflows over much of the UCRB are mostly in the average range with only 64 out of 140 gauges reporting this week. Down from 122 reporting 2 weeks ago.
- 89% of the gages are in the normal to much above average the for 7-day average streamflow.
- 11% of gages in the UCRB are reporting 7 day average streamflow in the below to much below normal ranges (none are record low). The lower flows are mainly along the San Juan river.
- Streamflow on the Colorado River near the CO-UT state line is in the normal range and has increased slightly over the past week, reporting in the 60th percentile (103% of average).
- The Green River at Green River, UT also showed a slight uptick in flow this week and is reporting at the 69th percentile (109% of average).
- The San Juan River near Bluff, UT is holding steady and reporting at the 39th percentile (75% of average).

SURFACE WATER

The top left image shows VIC modeled soil moisture as a percentile ranking. The top right image shows VIC plus SWE total soil moisture storage.

http://climate.colostate.edu/~drought/current_assessment.php
The above image shows last month's and this month's current volumes of the major reservoirs in the UCRB, with percent of average and percent of capacity.

**VIC:**

- Sweetwater County, WY has been shown as dry by the VIC for a considerable amount of time and continues to depict soils between the 0th and 30th percentile in the area.
- Western CO is still showing a large area of above average soil moisture above the 70th percentile.
- Soil moisture in the Four Corners area is starting to show drying particularly in San Juan County, UT extending to the north and west up into Emery County, UT and east into Montezuma and Dolores counties in CO. Percentiles here range from 2nd to 30th.
- The San Luis Valley has rebounded to the normal range, however Costilla county into Las Animas county is now slightly dry reporting soil moisture percentiles between 20th and 30th.
- East of the divide, the northern plains are showing normal to just above normal soil moisture conditions.
- Soil moisture conditions are in the normal range in southeast Colorado. The exception is southern Lincoln County where soil moisture is between the 2nd and 30th percentiles.

**Reservoirs:**

- Flaming Gorge is 107% of the November average.
- Green Mtn is 92% of November average.
- Lake Granby is 140% of November average.
- Lake Dillon is at 111% of the November average.
- Blue Mesa is 108% of the November average.
- Navajo is 82% of the November average.
- McPhee is 67% of the November average.
- Lake Powell is 67% of November average and 49% full.

### TEMPERATURE

*All images show temperature departures from average over different time periods (last 7 days on top left; month-to-date on top right; last full month on bottom). Temperature departure maps provided by HPRCC ACIS.*

Last Week Temperatures:

- Most of the UCRB saw above normal temperatures for the week. The Green river basin was the warmest with temperatures 5-20 degrees above normal for the week.
- The Wasatch, Duchesne, Yampa, White and Colorado basins were also warm reporting temperatures 5-15 degrees above normal.
The San Juans were slightly more seasonal with temperatures 0-10 degrees above normal.

East of the divide was also warm with temperatures 0-10 degrees above normal for the week.

**Last Month Temperatures:**

- November temperatures in the UCRB were slightly warmer than average in the Green river basin and the Four Corners regions, but the rest of the area saw below normal temperatures. Much of the region was in the 0 to 4 degrees below normal temperature range.
- The San Luis valley was one of the warmest regions with temperatures 0 to 4 degrees above the normal for the month.
- East of the divide was cold for the month of November. The plains ranged from 0-6 degrees below normal for the month.

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**FORECAST AND OUTLOOK**

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<map-image-url>
Short Term:

- Clouds will start to invade the UCRB from the SW today and bring snow to the mountains and rain to the valleys of the UCRB. Snow levels will be high for December (~9500' to the south and about ~7500' to the north). Moisture should stick around through Thursday, but temperatures will remain above normal. Another
round of showers is expected this weekend. The highest amounts depicted by the 5 day QPF are forecast over the San Juan mountains with up to 0.9" of water equivalent predicted.

- East of the divide will be warm, dry and windy today, then temperatures are expected to cool off Wednesday. Temperatures will then be above normal Thursday-Sunday. Mountain snow shower are expected again this weekend, favoring west facing slopes.

**Longer Term:**

- The 8-14 day precipitation outlook shows equal chances for above or below average precipitation over much of the UCRB. The Four Corners area does show slightly higher chances for below average moisture.
- The 8-14 day temperature outlook shows increased chances for above normal temperatures across much of the entire U.S. Chances across the UCRB and CO for above average temperature are 70-80%.
- The CPC 3-month outlook shows increased chances for above normal winter precipitation for southern Colorado and Utah. Farther north in the drought monitor region equal chances are forecast for above and below normal winter precipitation.
- The seasonal drought outlook indicates that drought is expected to persist or intensify in southeast Colorado and northeast Utah. the Four Corners Region, and the San Luis Valley are more likely to see improvement or removal.

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**U.S. DROUGHT MONITOR**

Above is the most recent release of the U.S. Drought Monitor map for the UCRB region. Below shows the proposed changes for this week, with supporting text.
Summary for December 2, 2014:

The higher terrain of the Upper Colorado River Basin (UCRB) received another round of beneficial snowfall over the past week and basin SWE percents of normal have recovered over the northern portion of the UCRB from the dry October. The southern basins received slightly less moisture and are still lagging slightly behind where snowpack should be compared to normal for this time of year. These southern areas are being monitored closely and are forecast to receive more moisture this week.

Recommendations:

UCRB:

Status Quo: With precipitation continuing to fall last week and forecasts favoring the southern mountains this week, status quo is recommended as many basins have recovered from the dry October. The southern basins are being watched closely as the snow accumulation season progresses, but at this time the depiction seems to be appropriate.

Eastern CO:

Status Quo: Much of eastern Colorado was drier for another week, however this is a climatically dry time of year. Short term SPI's are starting to dry out on the NE plains, but that area had abundant moisture this past growing season and long term SPI's are wet. Conditions are still severe drought on the SE plains and that will remain until significant moisture is realized in that area.