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Flood Potential Outlook
 National Weather Service, ABRFC, Tulsa, Oklahoma
 1105 AM CDT, Wednesday, March 12, 2025

COLORADO
 -- ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN--

The Rocky Mountains

The potential for flood conditions is near normal this spring across the Arkansas River Basin in Colorado. Flooding at most forecast points in the Colorado Rocky Mountains is driven by rapid snowpack runoff or isolated, high-intensity rainfall.

Snowpack for the entire Arkansas River Basin is below normal. Snowpack is near normal at the upper reaches of the Arkansas River. Snowpack is well below normal along the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in southern Colorado. As measured at high altitude SNOTEL monitoring stations, the mountains of the Arkansas River basin have received approximately 98 percent-of-median precipitation and have accumulated 61 percent-of-median snowpack this water year. A more detailed table is included below.

S N O W - P R E C I P I T A T I O N U P D A T E

Based on Mountain Data from NRCS SNOTEL Sites
 As of Wednesday: March 12, 2025

BASIN Data Site Name	ELEV. (Ft)	SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT			TOTAL PRECIPITATION		
		Current	Median	Median %	Current	Median	Median %

ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN							
APISHAPA	10027	0.8	5.6	14	11.9	10.2	117
BRUMLEY	10594	9.3	8.8	106	10.4	11.2	93
FREMONT PASS	11326	14.7	13.4	110	14.8	13.4	110
GLEN COVE	11391	4.5	3.4	132	10.3	8.2	126
MEDANO PASS	9668	0.3	6.0	5	9.1	8.7	105
NORTH COSTILLA	10598	0.0	6.2	0	11.2	10.4	108
PORPHYRY CREEK	10788	15.4	13.4	115	16.1	12.2	132
SOUTH COLONY	10868	10.1	15.2	66	12.3	18.0	68
WHISKEY CK	10290	4.2	9.8	43	10.7	12.7	84

Basin wide percent-of-median				61	98		

Units = inches for the Current and Average Snow Water Equivalent
 and Total Precipitation values

At the end of February, mountain reservoirs in the Arkansas River Basin (Turquoise, Twin Lakes, Pueblo) were at 66 percent of capacity, 114 percent of median storage, and 102 percent of last year's storage.

Current soil moisture estimates from the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) are near normal (30-70th percentile) in the Upper Arkansas River Basin.

The U.S. Drought Monitor of March 4, 2025 indicates that there are currently no drought conditions across a majority of the Arkansas River Basin in Colorado. There is a small area of Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions in the Sangre De Cristo mountains near the New Mexico border. The most recent US Seasonal Drought Outlook issued February 28, 2025 calls for an increase in drought conditions over the next 3 months across Colorado.

The most recent CPC outlook for the next 3 months (MAR-APR-MAY) indicates an increased chance of above normal temperatures across much of Southern Colorado. The precipitation outlook for the same period indicates significantly increased chances of below normal precipitation in the Arkansas River Basin of Colorado.

The Ensemble Streamflow Prediction (ESP) model does not indicate a greater than 50 percent chance of flooding at any forecast point on the headwaters of the Arkansas River above Pueblo. The table below contains a summary of some potential maximum stages from the model output.

Colorado Ensemble Streamflow Prediction

As of Wednesday: March 11, 2025

Mar 11 - Jul 9 50% Exceedance

Weekly

Station	Flood Stage(ft)	50% exceedance Maximum Stage (ft)	50% exceedance Maximum Stage (ft)
Leadville	9.0	7.0	6.6
Salida	8.0	4.5	4.1
Wellsville	9.0	6.1	5.7
Parkdale	9.0	4.9	4.4
Canon City	10.0	8.0	7.5
Portland	9.0	5.0	4.4
Pueblo	8.0	5.6	5.0

Eastern Plains

The potential for flood conditions is near normal this spring. Normal conditions for southeastern Colorado reflect a low probability of flooding. Most flooding in this area is directly related to specific heavy precipitation events.

The Arkansas River is currently flowing at near normal levels downstream from Pueblo Reservoir. Fountain Creek is flowing at near normal levels, also. The Purgatoire River is flowing at near normal levels.

Reservoir storage below Pueblo (Meredith, Trinidad, and John Martin) at the end of February was at 15 percent of capacity, 98 percent of median storage, and 109 percent of last year's storage.

Current Climate Prediction Center (CPC) soil moisture estimates for the area indicate near normal soil conditions (30-70th percentile) in the plains of Southeastern Colorado.

The U.S. Drought Monitor of March 4, 2025 indicates that there are currently no drought conditions across much of the plains of Southeast Colorado. There is an area of Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions near the Kansas and Oklahoma borders. The most recent US Seasonal Drought Outlook issued February 28, 2025 calls for an increase in drought conditions over the next 3 months across the plains of Southeast Colorado.

The table below presents some southeastern Colorado forecast points where the ESP model indicated a greater than 10% chance of minor flooding over the next 90 days.

Colorado Ensemble Streamflow Prediction
As of Tuesday: March 11, 2025

Fcst Point Station ID	% Probability Minor Flooding	% Probability Moderate Flooding	% Probability Major Flooding
ADLC2	44	Not Expected	Not Expected
LAPC2	20	13	3
LXHC2	58	32	Not Expected
NPTC2	32	6	Not Expected

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SOUTHERN KANSAS

The potential for flood conditions in southern Kansas is near normal this spring. Most flooding in this area is directly related to specific heavy precipitation events.

Precipitation anomalies during the last 90 days have been significantly below normal across much of Southern Kansas, especially in the southwestern part of the state. Anomalies range from less than 10% of normal near the Colorado border to less than 50% of normal near Wichita to near 75% of normal in the southeast corner of the state during the last 90 days.

Streamflows are below normal on the Arkansas River. Flows are near normal on the Neosho River and near to above normal on the Verdigris River in southeastern Kansas.

Reservoir storage in southern Kansas is slightly below normal. U.S. Corps of Engineers data indicate that Corps reservoirs in southern Kansas currently have near 100 percent of their flood-control storage available.

Current Climate Prediction Center (CPC) soil moisture estimates indicate near normal (30-70th percentile) soil moisture across Southern Kansas.

The U.S. Drought Monitor of March 4, 2025 indicates scattered areas of Moderate Drought (D1) and Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions across parts of

southern Kansas. There are also scattered areas with no drought designation. The US Seasonal Drought Outlook issued February 28, 2025 calls for the drought to intensify across the western half of Kansas. Drought conditions are expected to persist in Central Kansas, and improve over Southeast Kansas over the next 3 months.

The most recent Climate Prediction Center (CPC) outlook for the next 3 months (MAR-APR-MAY) indicates equal chances for above, near, or below normal temperatures across Kansas. The CPC outlook indicates significantly increased chances of below normal precipitation across Western Kansas. The outlook also calls for equal chances of above, near, or below normal precipitation across Eastern Kansas during the same period.

The table below presents some southern Kansas forecast points where the ESP model indicated a greater than 10% chance of minor flooding over the next 90 days.

Select Points in Southern Kansas
Ensemble Streamflow Prediction
As of Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Fcst. Point WFO Station ID		% Probability Minor Flooding	% Probability Moderate Flooding	% Probability Major Flooding
ALBK1	DDC	13	12	4
ENWK1	DDC	11	Not Expected	Not Expected
PPTK1	DDC	12	5	4
AGSK1	ICT	15	9	7
ALMK1	ICT	26	19	3
ARCK1	ICT	32	11	Not Expected
ARKK1	ICT	14	4	Not Expected
ATOK1	ICT	19	5	Not Expected
BLPK1	ICT	16	9	Not Expected
CBNK1	ICT	36	Not Expected	Not Expected
CFVK1	ICT	21	8	Not Expected
CNUK1	ICT	39	15	3
COWK1	ICT	18	Not Expected	Not Expected
CTWK1	ICT	27	21	Not Expected
DRBK1	ICT	10	Not Expected	Not Expected
EDWK1	ICT	18	16	11
EREK1	ICT	36	23	14
FLRK1	ICT	33	8	Not Expected
FRNK1	ICT	34	9	Not Expected
HAVK1	ICT	11	5	Not Expected
HTCK1	ICT	54	35	3
HTDK1	ICT	25	7	Not Expected
IDPK1	ICT	26	Not Expected	Not Expected
IOLK1	ICT	29	Not Expected	Not Expected
LYNK1	ICT	11	Not Expected	Not Expected
MDKK1	ICT	19	10	Not Expected
MULK1	ICT	10	3	Not Expected
OSWK1	ICT	46	32	8
OXFK1	ICT	22	12	Not Expected
PECK1	ICT	17	Not Expected	Not Expected
PLYK1	ICT	23	15	Not Expected
PPFK1	ICT	49	30	Not Expected
SEDK1	ICT	16	6	Not Expected

TOWK1	ICT	21	13	8
WELK1	ICT	48	31	6
WFDK1	ICT	22	18	12
AMCK1	TOP	11	8	Not Expected
BRLK1	TOP	12	Not Expected	Not Expected
EMPK1	TOP	32	23	Not Expected
EPRK1	TOP	22	21	Not Expected
LRK1	TOP	24	24	Not Expected
NEOK1	TOP	39	37	Not Expected

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SOUTHWEST MISSOURI

The potential for flood conditions in southwestern Missouri is near normal this spring. Most flooding in this area is related to specific heavy rainfall events.

Precipitation for the last 90 days across southwestern Missouri has been below normal with some areas as low as 50% of normal. Streamflows are near to below normal. Soil moisture is below normal (10-30th percentile).

The U.S. Drought Monitor of March 4, 2025 indicates Abnormally Dry (D0) and Moderate Drought (D1) conditions across Southwest Missouri. The US Seasonal Drought Outlook calls for this to improve over the next 3 months.

The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) outlook for the next 3 months (MAR-APR-MAY) indicates equal chances of above, below, or near normal temperatures across southwestern Missouri. The outlook also indicates equal chances of above, near, or below normal precipitation over the same period.

The table below presents some southwestern Missouri forecast points where the ESP model indicated a greater than 10 percent chance of minor flooding over the next 90 days.

Select Points in Southwest Missouri
 Ensemble Streamflow Prediction
 As of Tuesday: March 11, 2025

Fcst. Station ID	Point % Probability Minor Flooding	% Probability Moderate Flooding	% Probability Major Flooding
BXTK1	28	5	Not Expected
CHTM7	22	10	Not Expected
TIFM7	11	7	Not Expected
WCOM7	35	Not Expected	Not Expected

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Thanks to the USGS for streamflow condition data, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for reservoir condition data, the Natural Resource Conservation Service for SNOTEL data, and the Climate Prediction Center for the precipitation and temperature outlooks, the soil moisture deficits, and the Drought Outlook.

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