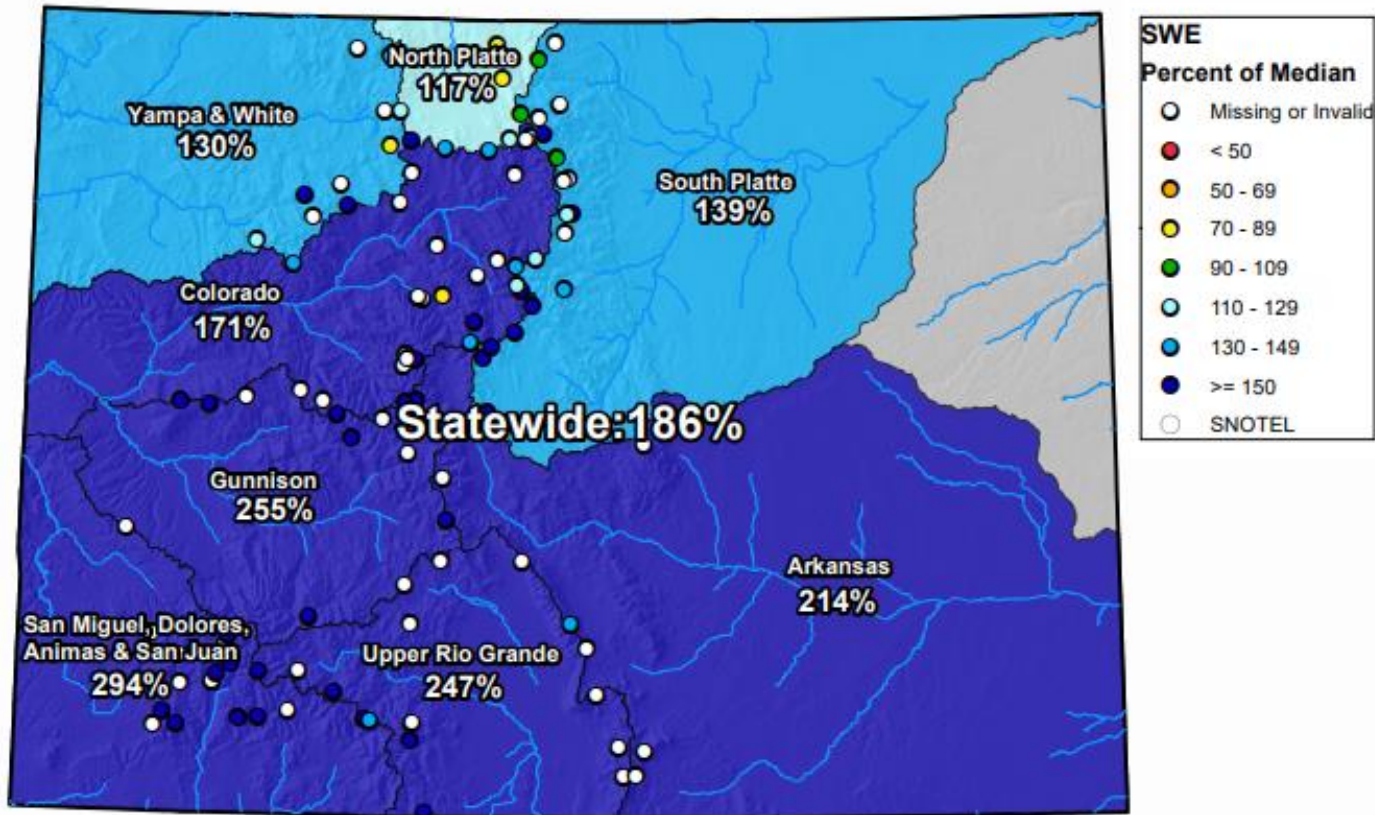


Spring Snowmelt and Flood Potential Outlook North Central & Northeast Colorado

Colorado SNOTEL Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) Update Map with Site Data

Current as of May 20, 2019



- Mountain snowpack is above normal in river basins across Colorado.
- The highest snowpack compared to normal is across Srn, & especially SW Colorado



0 25 50 100 150 200 Miles

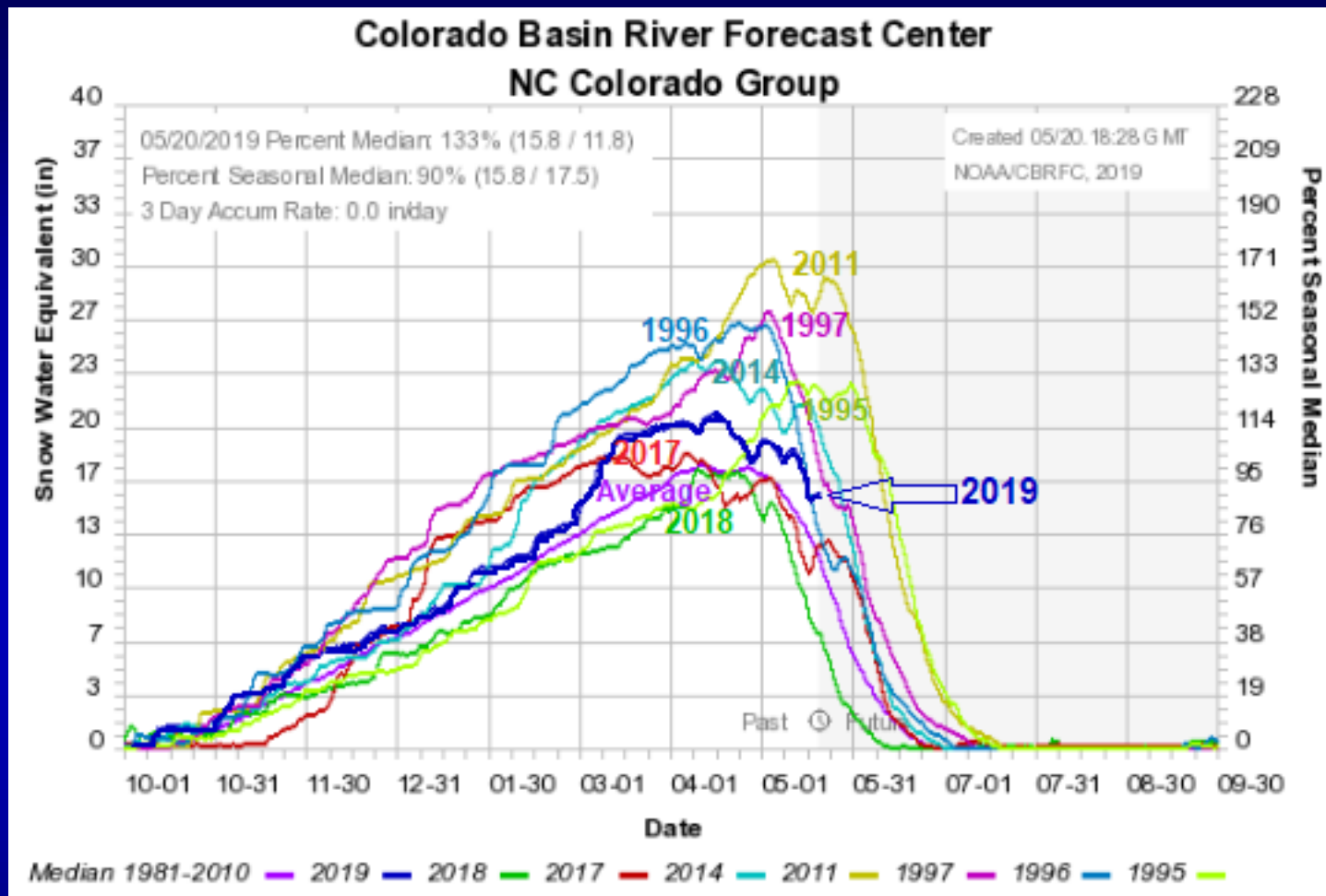


United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

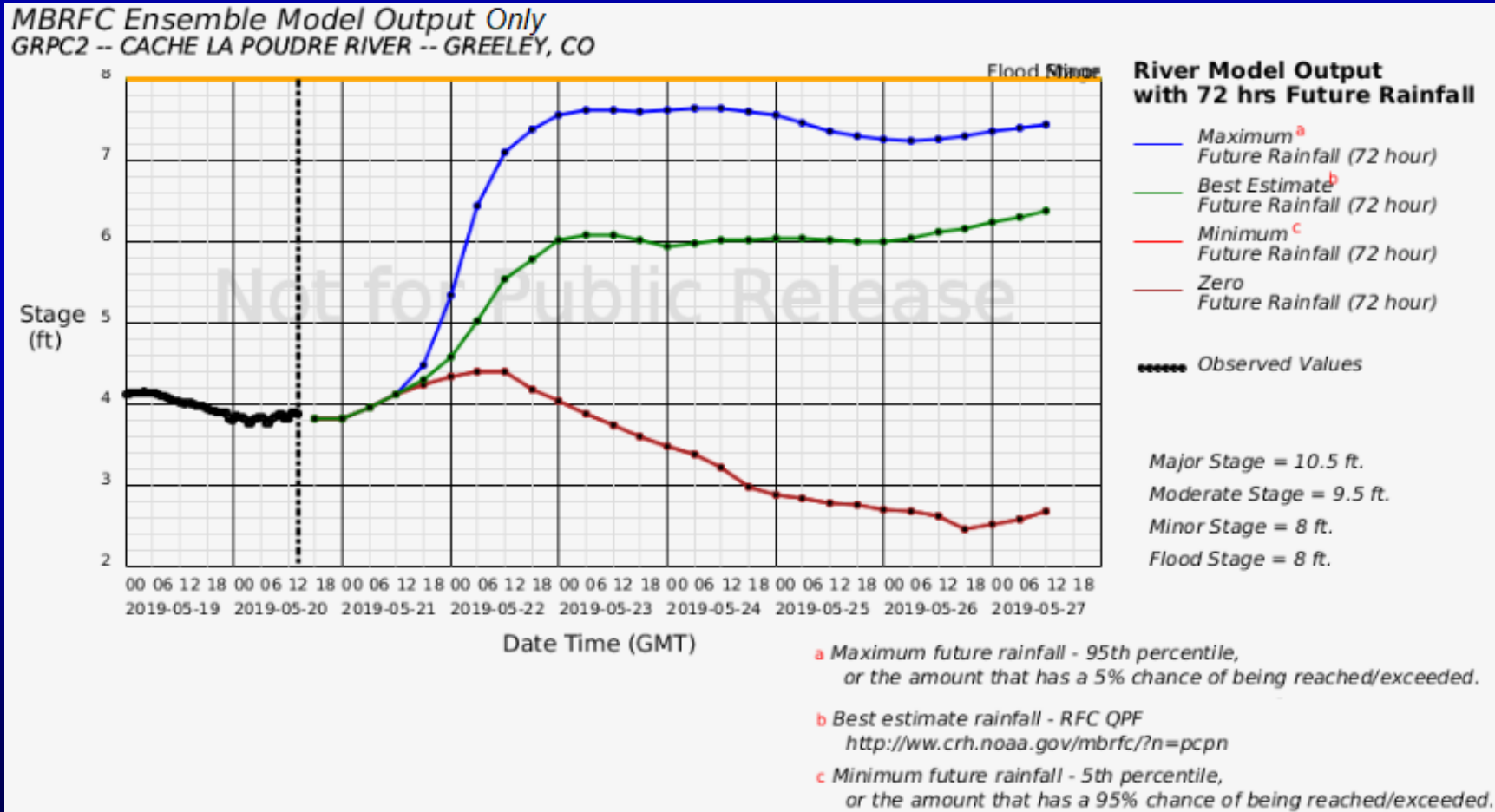
Colorado SWE Map courtesy of the Natural Resources Conservation Service

- Although the mountain snowpack in north central Colorado is above normal, it is not as high as previous notable high snowpack years.

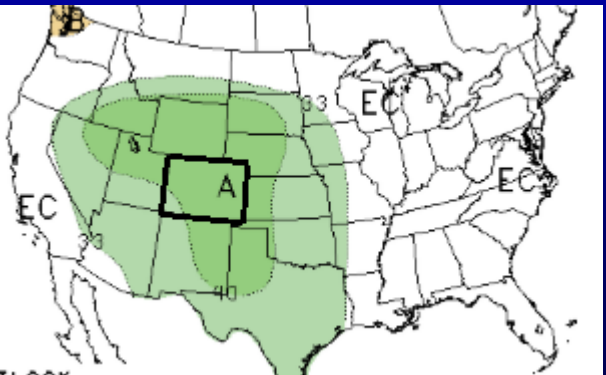
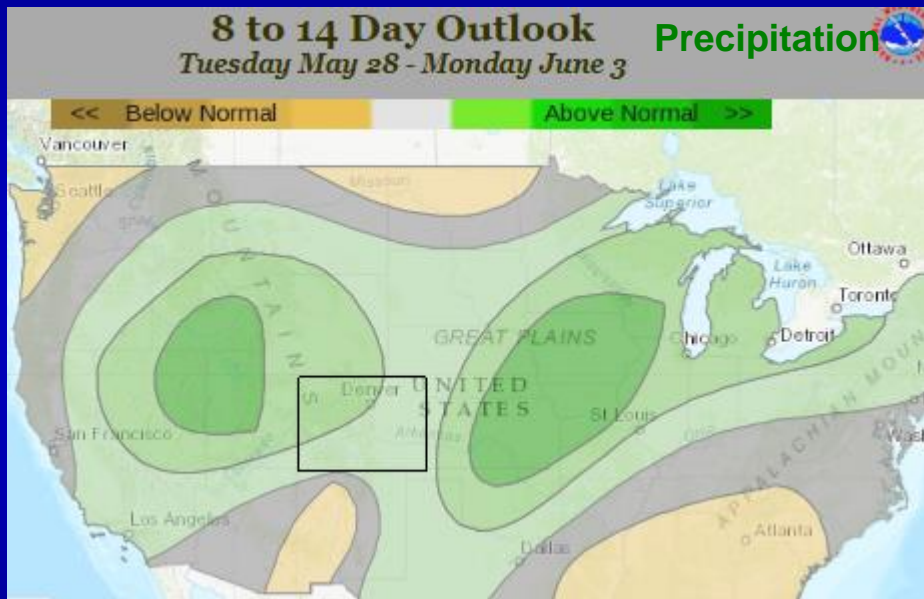
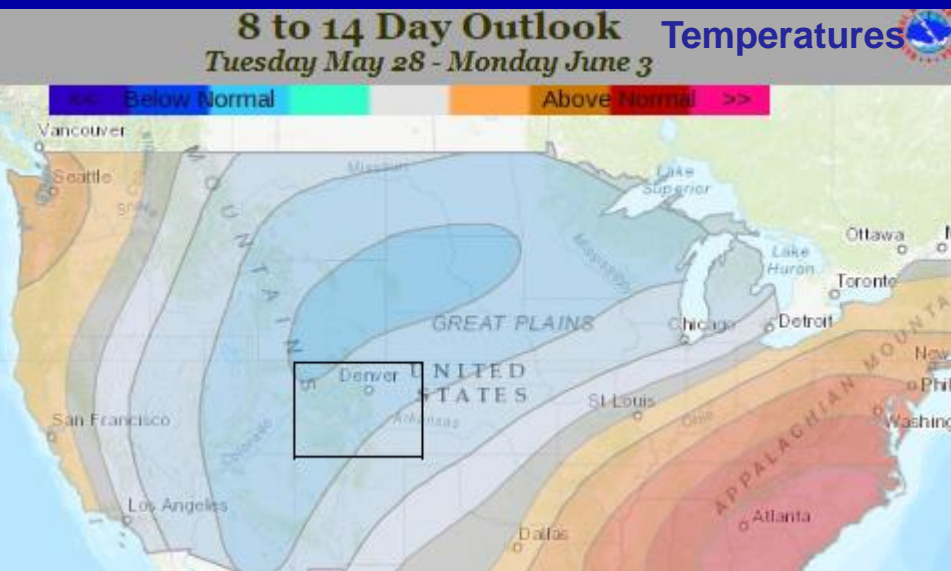


- This timeseries graph shows how the current season compares to recent years by plotting the current basin average SWE (inches) against past years.
 - The thick blue line is the current water year (2019).
 - The purple line represents the median.

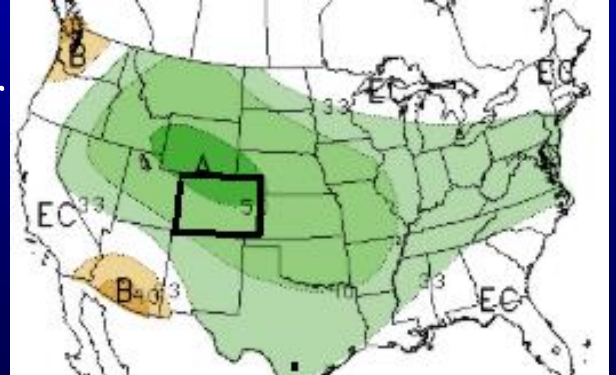
- Stream levels are expected to rise the next 2 days, due to 0.5 to 1 inch of precipitation forecast along the Front Range Urban Corridor & 1 to 1.75 inches on the northeast plains.
- River models indicate the Cache La Poudre River in Weld County & South Platte River from Weld County downstream to the state border could rise near bankfull starting Wednesday. With the best estimate of future rainfall, these rivers are expected to remain a foot or more below flood stage.



- Below normal temperatures will likely slow down the mountain snowmelt the remainder of May into early June. Delayed melting could possibly result in a higher risk of snowmelt flooding mid to late June.
- Also, thunderstorms with heavy rain can produce flash flooding in the spring. Particularly areas in and downstream of forested areas burned (in wildfires the past several years) are at a heightened risk for flash flooding, mud and debris flows.



≤The one month outlook for June (left) also calls for higher chances of above normal precipitation, as do the 3 month ⇒ outlooks through this fall.



Spring Snowmelt Flood Potential Outlook

North Central & Northeast Colorado

Mountain snowmelt alone is not expected to cause significant flooding this spring in NC/NE Colorado. However, it should be noted that like every spring; an extended period of heavy rainfall, falling on top of the snowpack or swollen streams from snowmelt runoff, will increase the likelihood of flooding.

Some factors that can impact the mountain snowmelt runoff this spring:

- Future snowfall
- Future rainfall amounts and timing
- Whether streams are already swollen during the melt
- When and how fast the snow melts (freezing and thawing in the mountains). Very warm temperatures (especially when high mountain snowpack remains above freezing for several nights in a row) will increase snowmelt runoff
- Whether rain (especially a warm rain) falls on the snowpack
- Soil moisture/groundwater
- Dry winds
- Dust reducing the albedo (solar radiation reflection) of the snow

Be Prepared for Flooding:

- * **Create a Communications Plan** - It is important to be able to communicate with your family and friends in the event of a disaster. Whether it is having a specific person identified to contact for status updates or a safe location to meet up with family members, having a plan in place will give you peace of mind if disaster does strike.
- * **Prepare your Family & Pets** – Planning can help you and your family evacuate faster. Also, have a plan for your pets so you won't be delayed in the danger zone. Don't wait until the last moment to gather the essentials for yourself, your family and/or your pets.
- * **Plan to Go to a Safe Location** – Identify locations located at higher ground in case of flooding. Know more than one way to get to your safe locations on foot if necessary.
- * **Assemble an Emergency Kit** - It is good practice to have enough food, water and medicine on hand at all times to last you at least 3 days in the case of an emergency. Water service may be interrupted or unsafe to drink and food requiring little cooking and no refrigeration may be needed if electric power is interrupted. It is also a good plan to have batteries, blankets, flashlights, a first aid kit, rubber boots, rubber gloves, and a NOAA Weather Radio or other battery operated radio easily available.
- * **Prepare Your Home** - If you have access to sandbags or other materials, you may be able to use them to protect your home from flood waters if you have sufficient time to do so. Filling sandbags can take more time than you may think.