

Colorado Basin River Forecast Center



Colorado Basin RFC
National Weather Service
337 N 2370 W
Salt Lake City, UT 84116

Telephone information:
Office: (801) 524-5130
Fax: (801) 524-4030
Recording: (801) 539-1311



OFFICE MISSION

The Colorado Basin River Forecast Center (CBRFC) is a National Weather Service office located in Salt Lake City, Utah and serves all or part of seven western states within the Colorado River Basin and Great Basin. It is one of thirteen such offices across the United States and has an area responsibility of 303,450 mi².

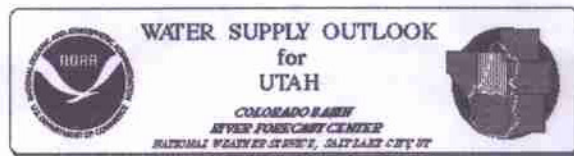
The CBRFC collects and distributes a multitude of hydrologic information to a large and varied user base. The type of information collected includes precipitation totals, river stages, reservoir storage volumes, snowpack conditions and lake elevations.

This data is used in computer models for forecasting river stages (flood events), runoff volumes (water supplies) and dam break simulations. Users of CBRFC products include local water districts, city, county, and state agencies, universities, power utilities, recreation and wildlife interests and other federal agencies.

This office is also the field site of the WARFS (Water Resource Forecasting System) initiative of the National Weather Service. WARFS is the next step beyond the Extended Streamflow Prediction (ESP) models now in use. Finally, the NWS modernization technologies of the NEXRAD radar system and AWIPS workstation environment, will help bring forecasting into the 21st century.

UTAH PRODUCTS

The CBRFC has historically been involved with Utah hydrologic forecasts of all sorts. The office was originally established solely for water supply forecasts but has evolved well beyond this initial single purpose mission. While the office now produces many other products, the series of Water Supply Outlooks for the Upper Colorado, Lower Colorado and Utah remain a prime focus for the office.



One of three Water Supply Outlooks from the CBRFC

Routine forecasts continue throughout the year for many stations along the Green, Colorado and San Juan rivers. These upstream points are used for estimating Lake Powell inflows, an extremely important point for both upper and lower basin states of the Colorado River Compact.

Specific products for Utah are:

- 1) *Water Supply Outlook - seasonal runoff vols.*
- 2) *Great Salt Lake elevation forecasts*
- 3) *Flood stage forecasts - when appropriate*
- 4) *Seasonal daily peak flow forecasts*
- 5) *Recreational river stage forecasts*
- 6) *Dam break simulations - when appropriate*
- 7) *Reservoir inflow forecasts*
- 8) *Seasonal runoff streamflow distribution*