



United States Department of Agriculture

Colorado Snow Surveys

# Water Availability Task Force Meeting

## May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### NRCS Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program

Brian Domonkos

Hydrologist

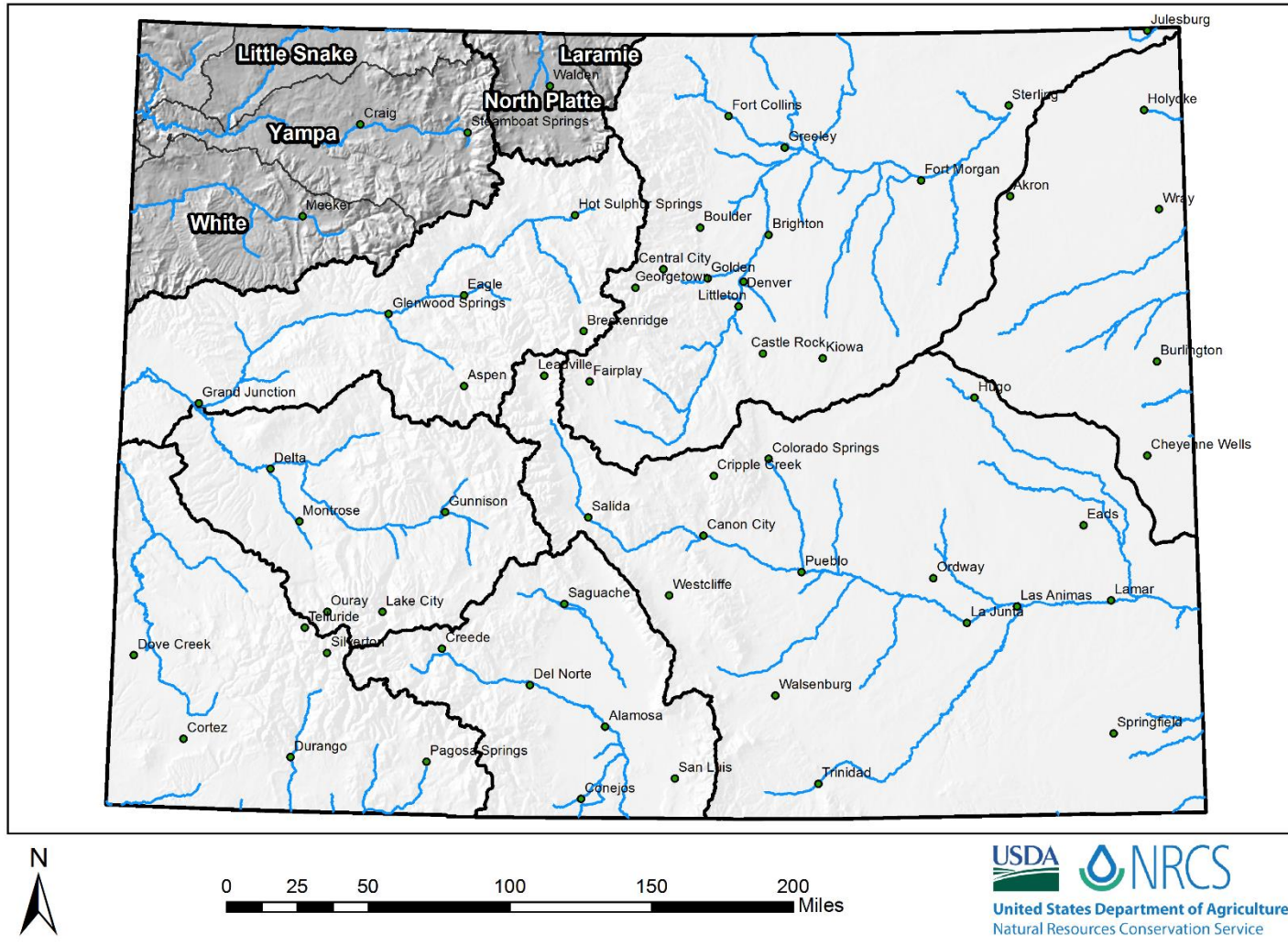
[brian.domonkos@usda.gov](mailto:brian.domonkos@usda.gov)

720-544-2852

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/co/snow/>

## Major Basin Summary

Yampa, White, and North Platte River Basins





United States Department of Agriculture

# Colorado Snow Surveys

## Soil Moisture





## DEPTH AVERAGED SOIL SATURATION IN STATE OF COLORADO

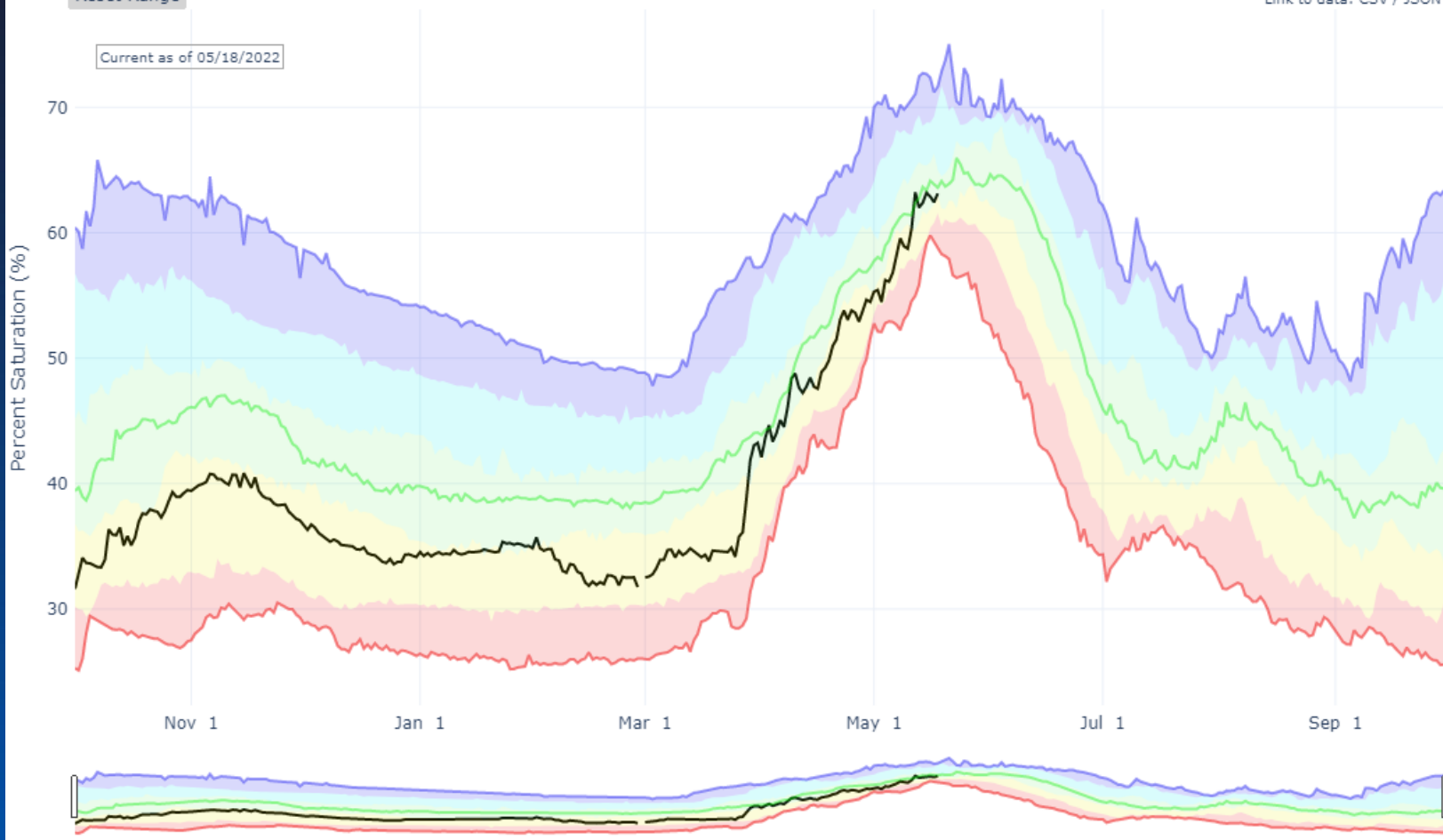
Reset Range

[Link to data: CSV / JSON](#)

Station List

Current as of 05/18/2022

- Max
- Median (POR)
- Min
- Stats. Shading
- 2022 (45 sites)
- 2021 (45 sites)
- 2020 (47 sites)
- 2019 (45 sites)
- 2018 (46 sites)
- 2017 (41 sites)
- 2016 (44 sites)
- 2015 (42 sites)
- 2014 (42 sites)
- 2013 (41 sites)
- 2012 (39 sites)
- 2011 (39 sites)
- 2010 (31 sites)
- 2009 (29 sites)
- 2008 (28 sites)
- 2007 (24 sites)
- 2006 (24 sites)





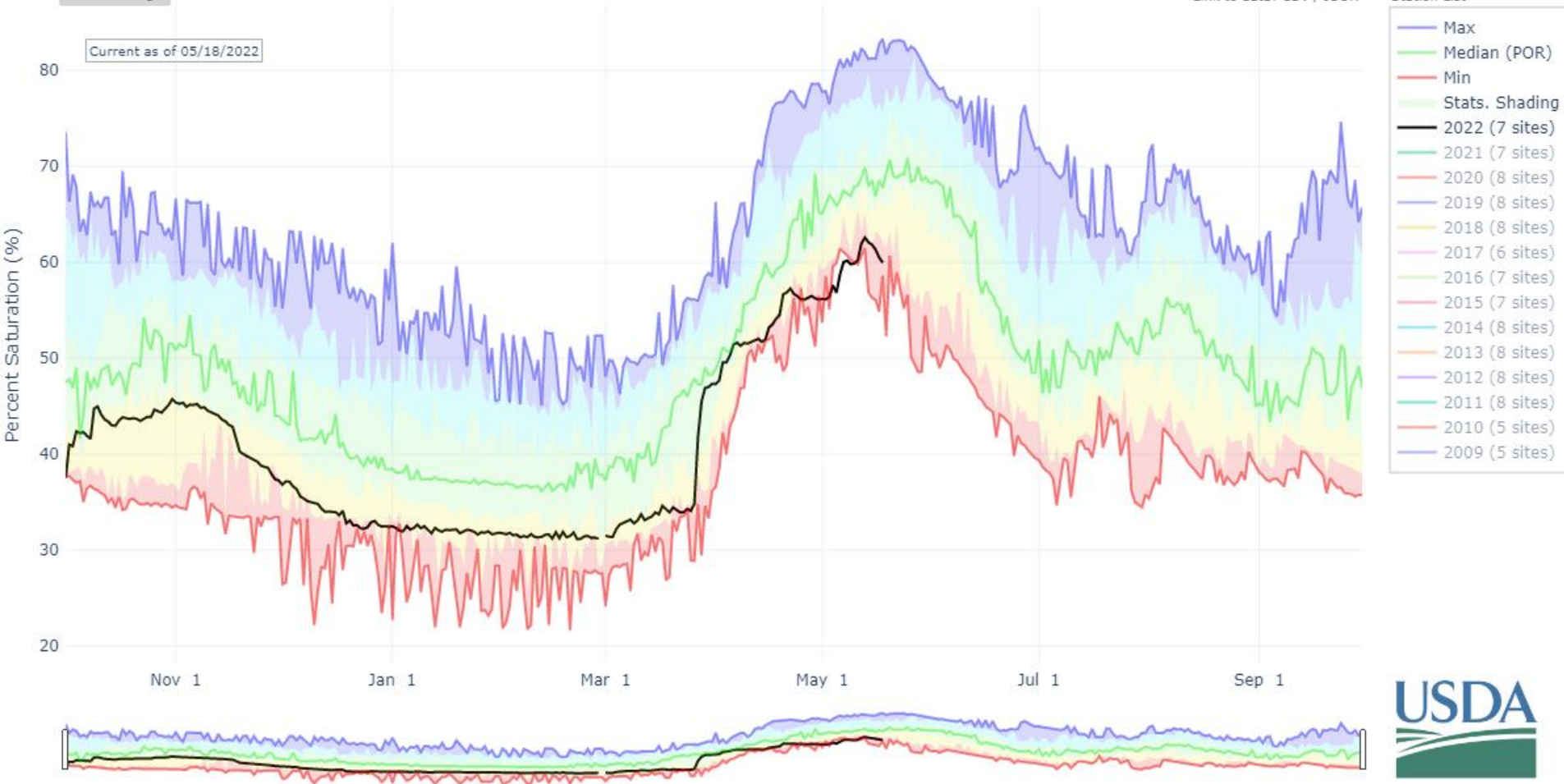
## DEPTH AVERAGED SOIL SATURATION IN UPPER RIO GRANDE

Reset Range

[Link to data: CSV / JSON](#)

Station List

Current as of 05/18/2022



## DEPTH AVERAGED SOIL SATURATION IN COLORADO HEADWATERS

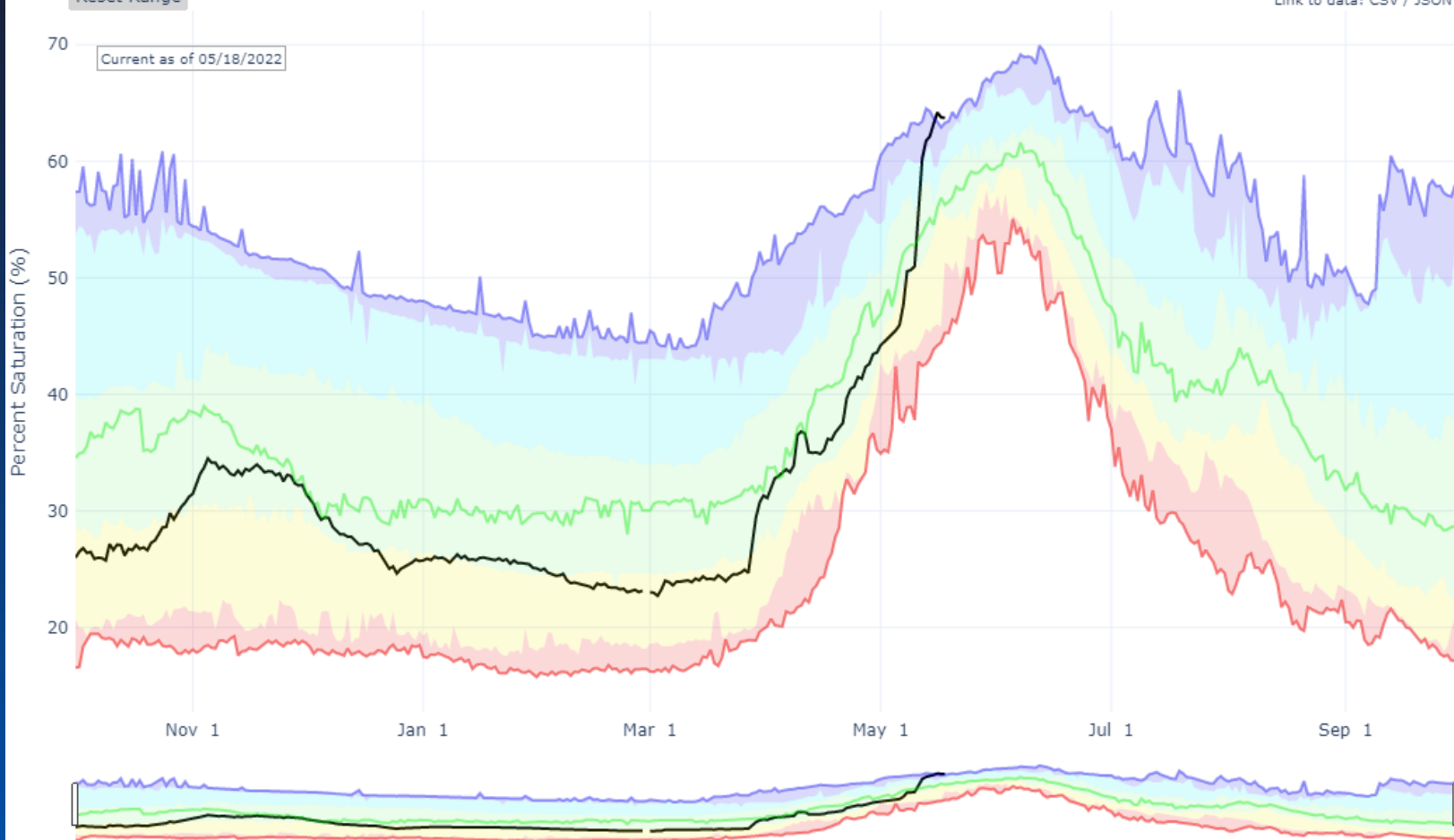
Reset Range

[Link to data: CSV / JSON](#)

Station List

Current as of 05/18/2022

- Max
- Median (POR)
- Min
- Stats. Shading
- 2022 (13 sites)
- 2021 (13 sites)
- 2020 (13 sites)
- 2019 (13 sites)
- 2018 (13 sites)
- 2017 (11 sites)
- 2016 (13 sites)
- 2015 (11 sites)
- 2014 (11 sites)
- 2013 (9 sites)
- 2012 (9 sites)
- 2011 (9 sites)
- 2010 (7 sites)



## Soil Moisture Data

- Soil Moisture data still new
  - Need time to quality control. So data may change.
  - Soils should saturate during snowmelt.
- Low soil moisture trough winter across all basins concerning
- What to watch – recession after snowpack melt
  - Percent of normal
  - Rate of recession – drying out faster than normal





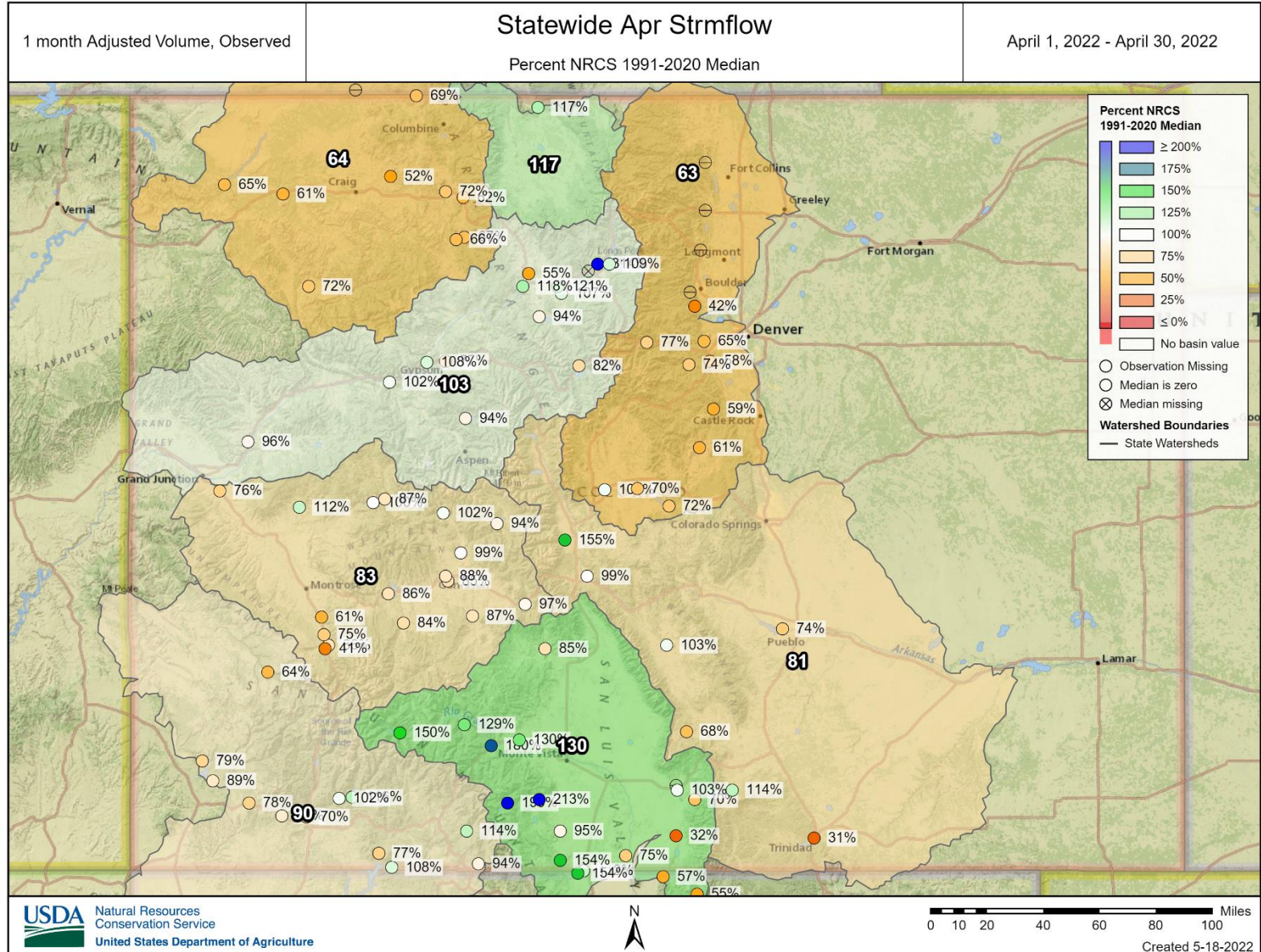
United States Department of Agriculture

# Colorado Snow Surveys

## Streamflow

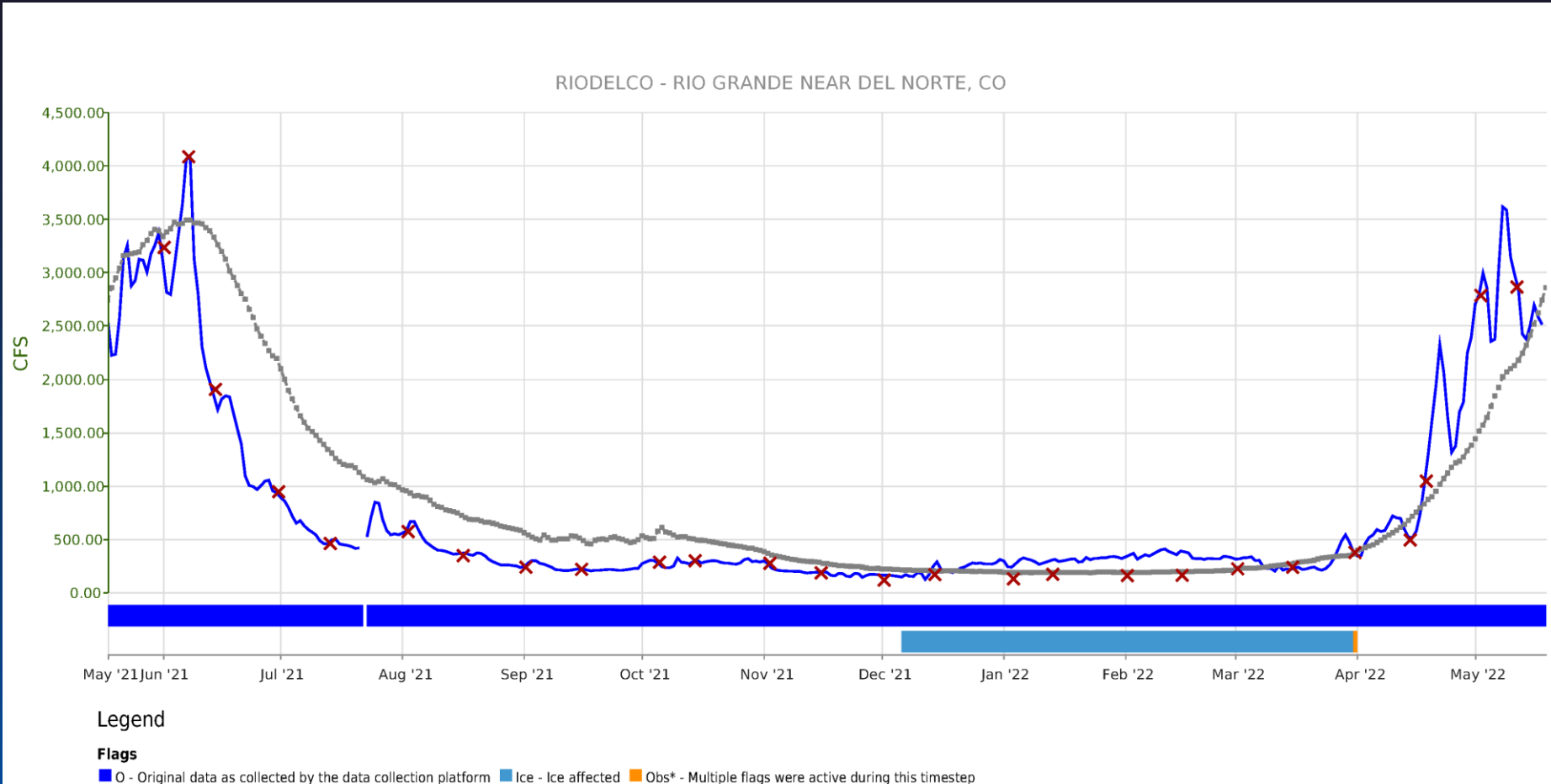








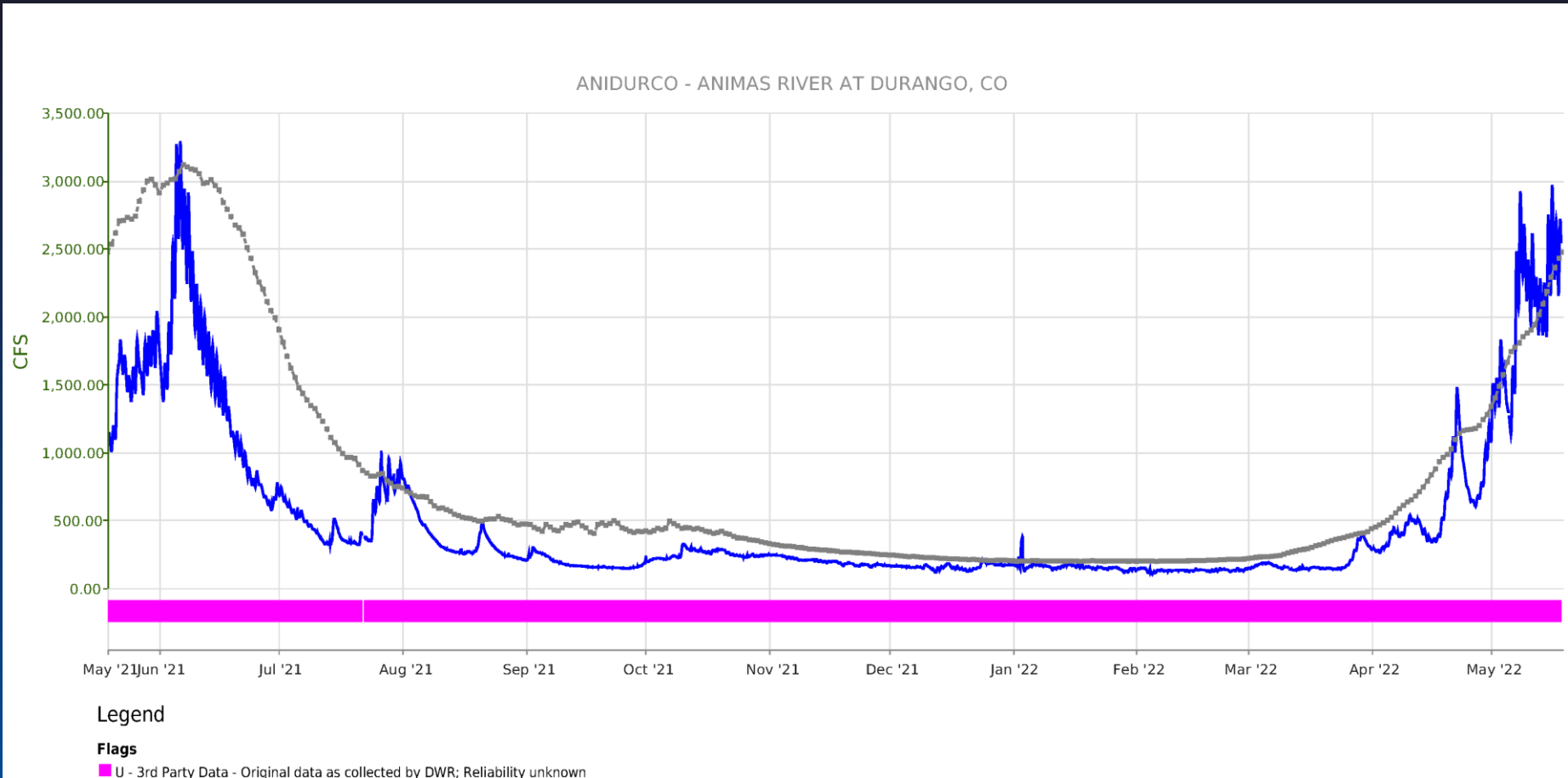
# Colorado Snow Surveys





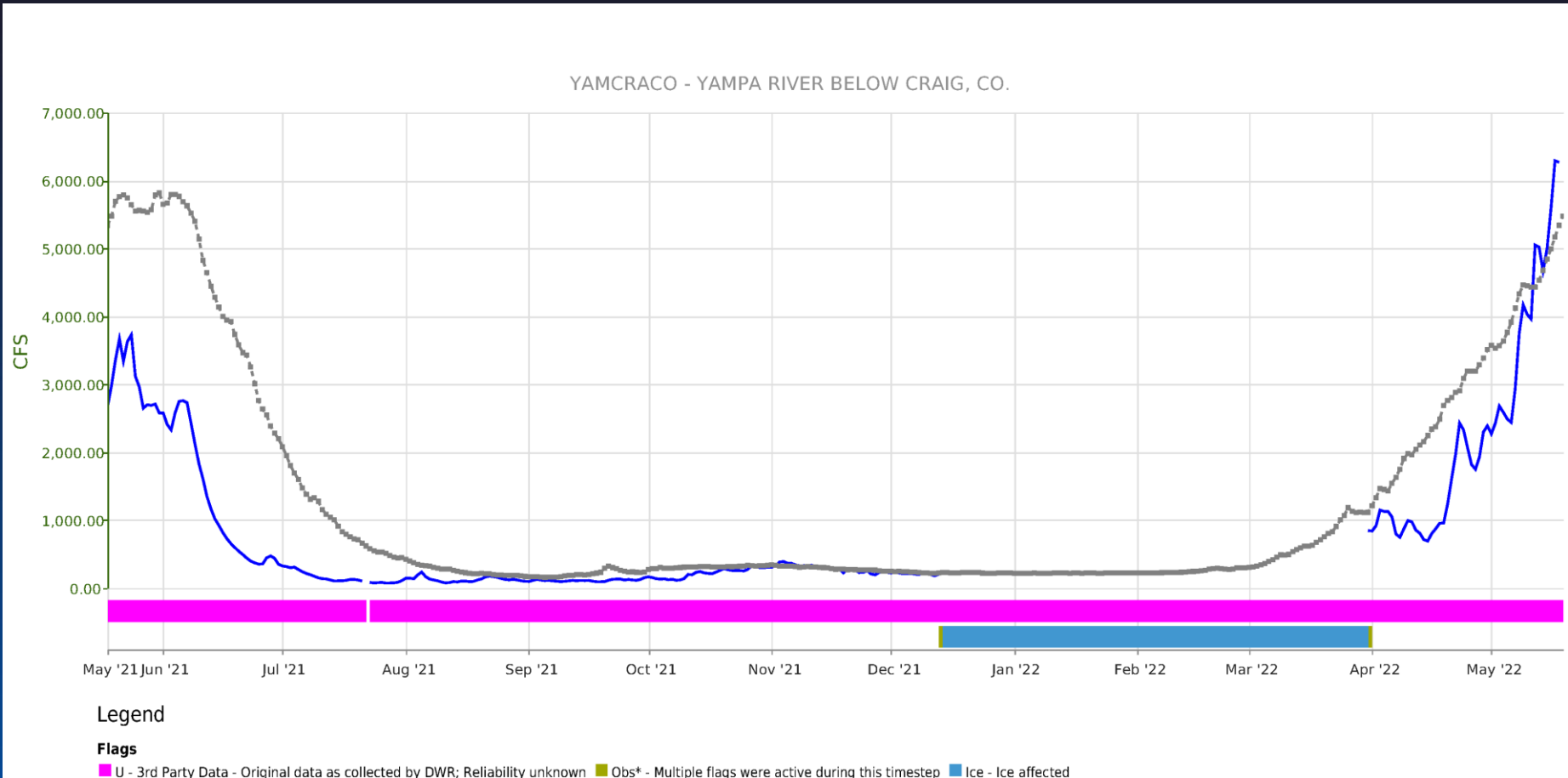


# Colorado Snow Surveys



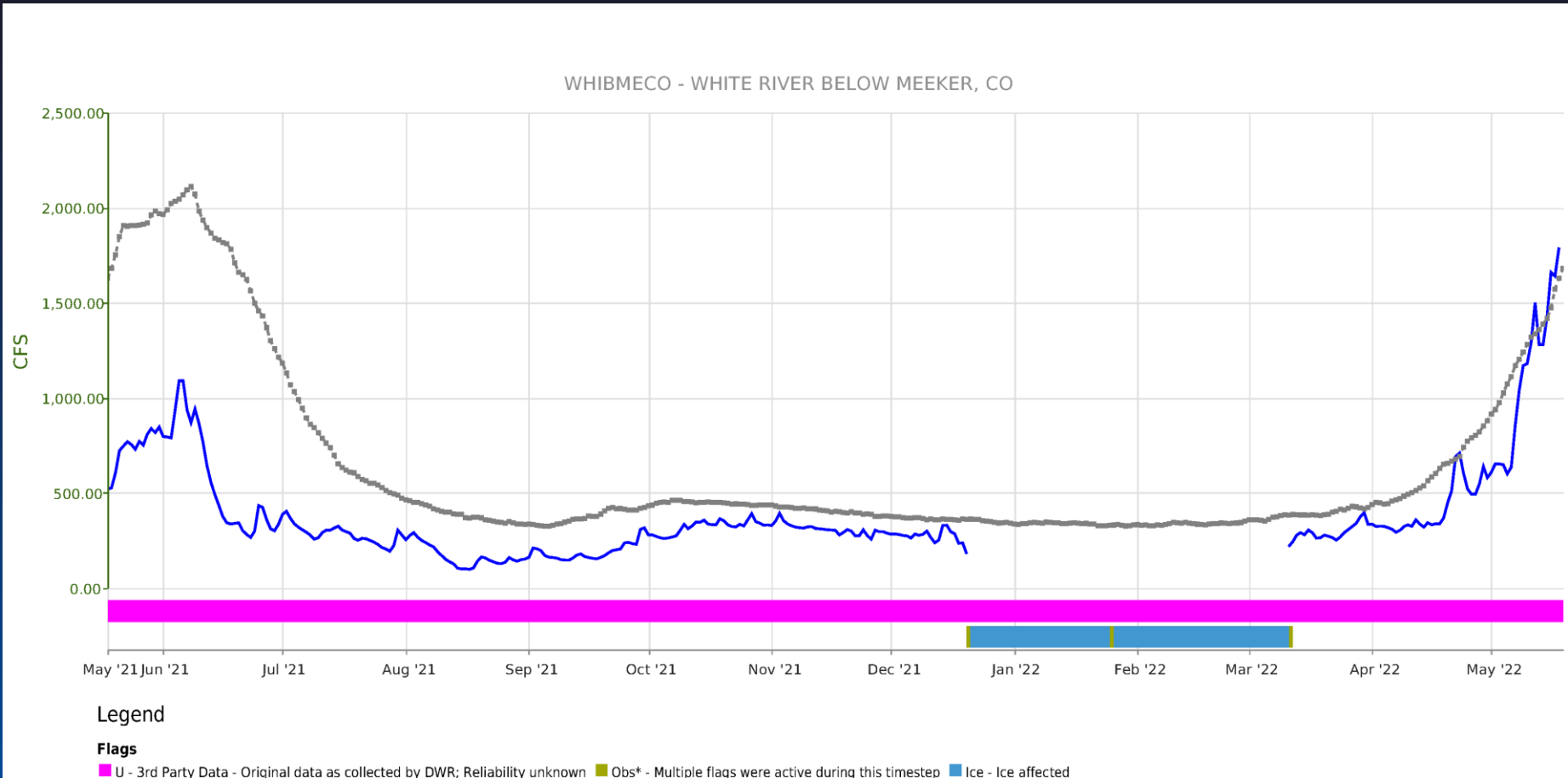


# Colorado Snow Surveys





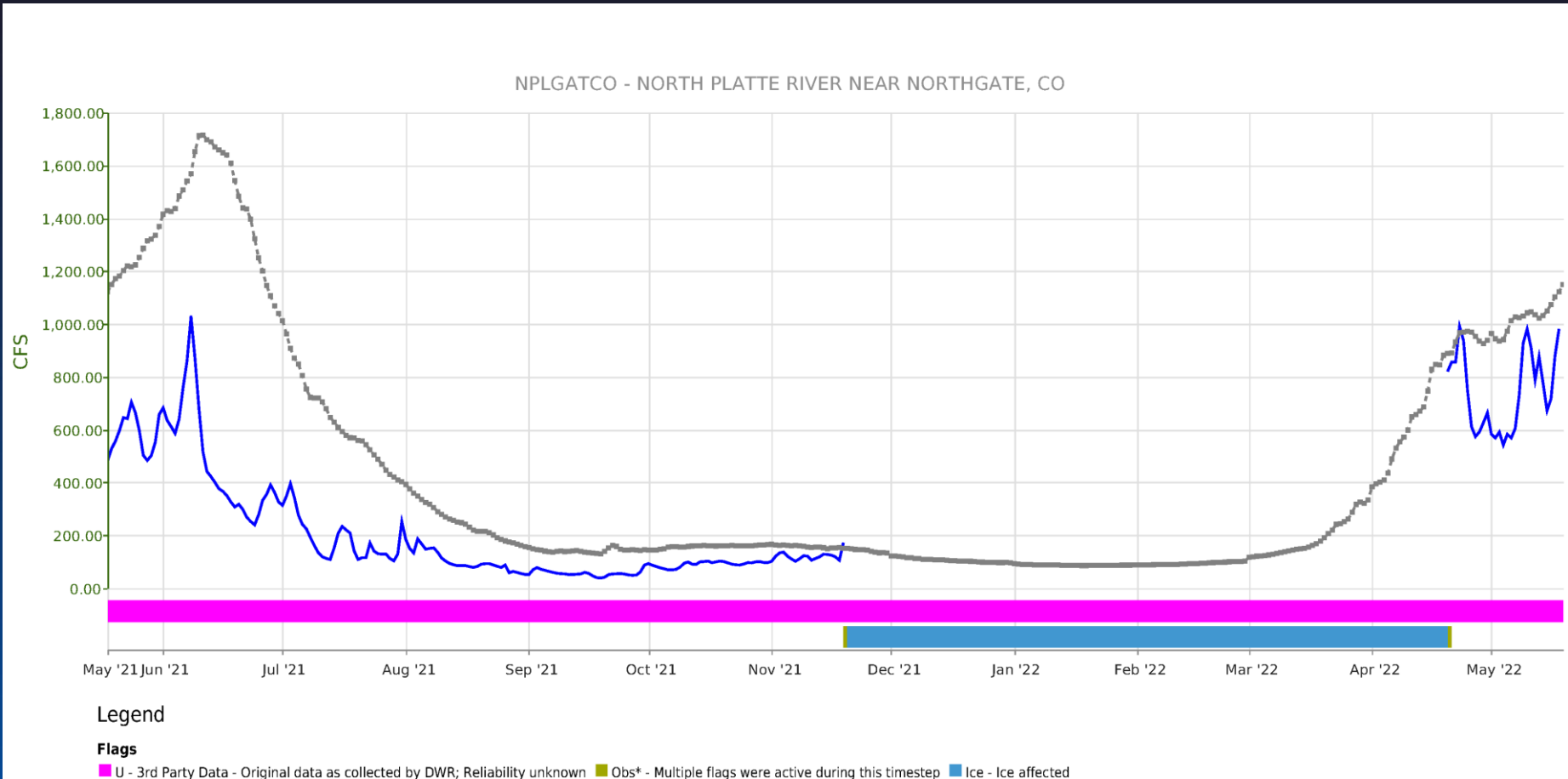
# Colorado Snow Surveys





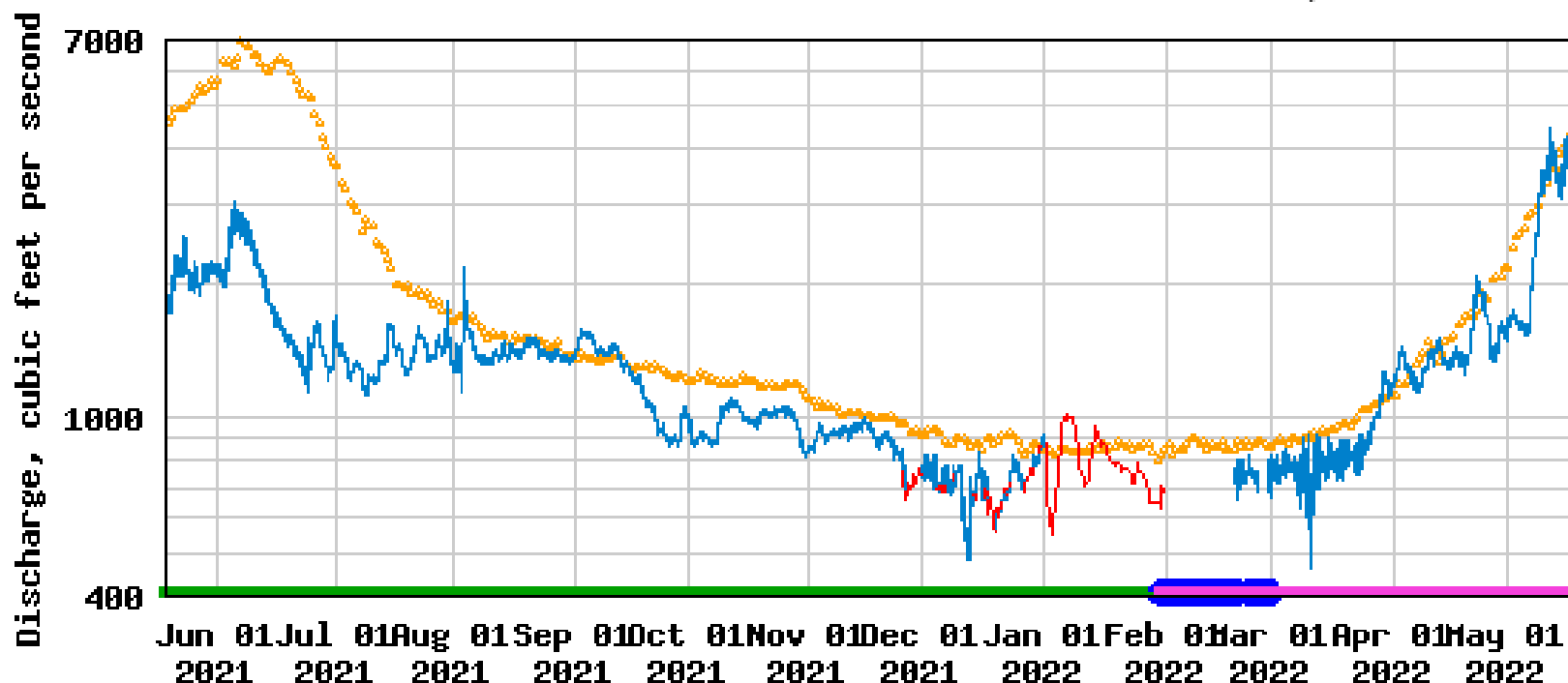


# Colorado Snow Surveys





## USGS 09070500 COLORADO RIVER NEAR DOTSERO, CO

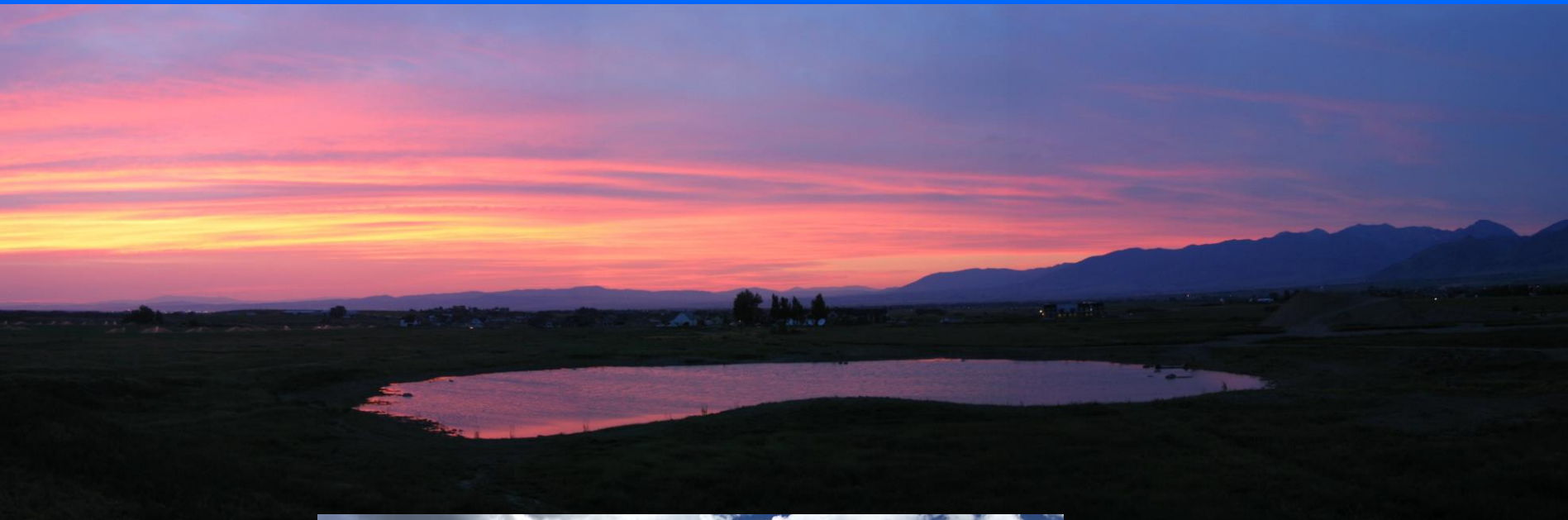


- ◊ Median daily statistic (81 years)
- Discharge
- Estimated discharge
- Period of approved data
- Value is affected by ice at the measurement site.
- Period of provisional data



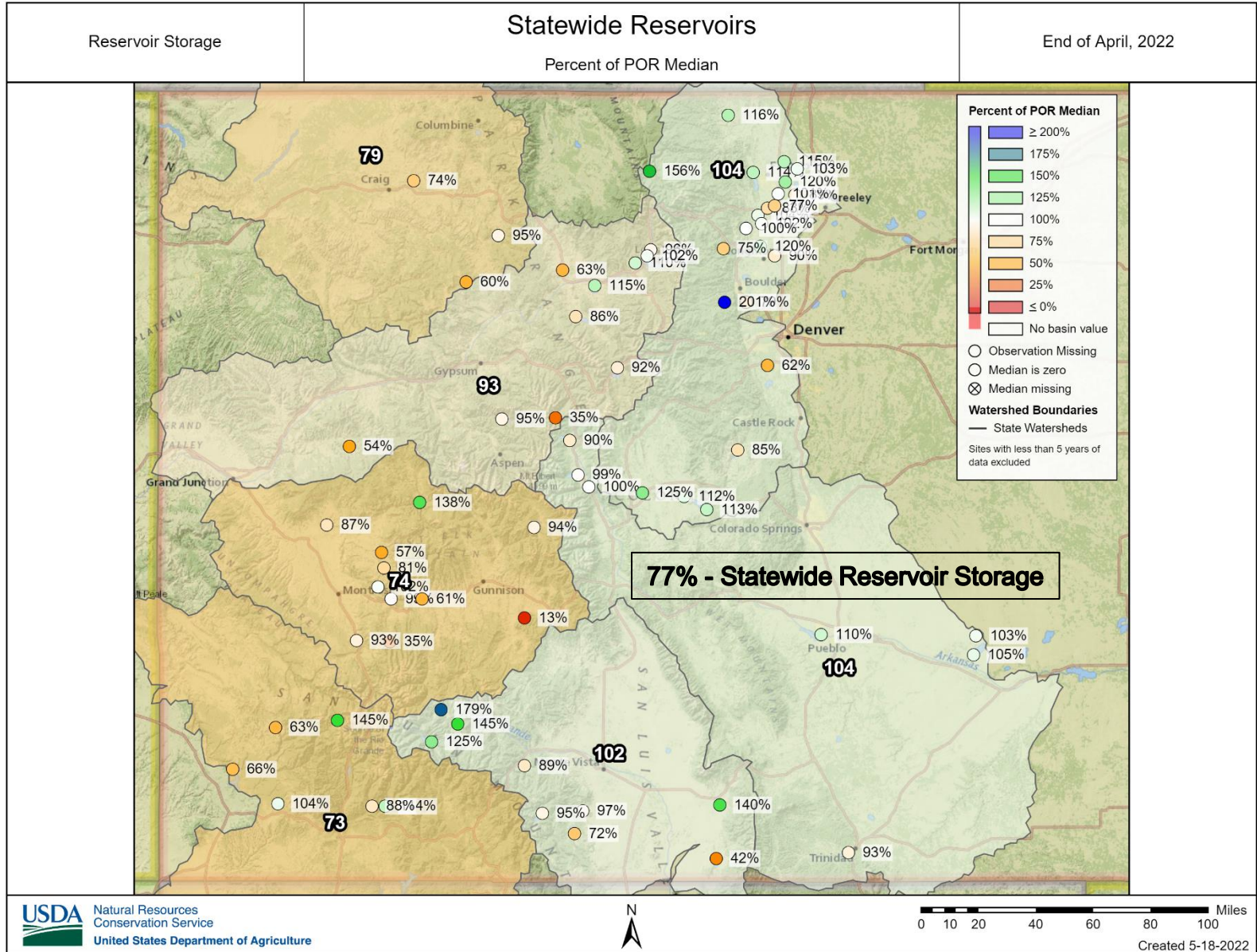
United States Department of Agriculture

# Colorado Snow Surveys



## Reservoirs





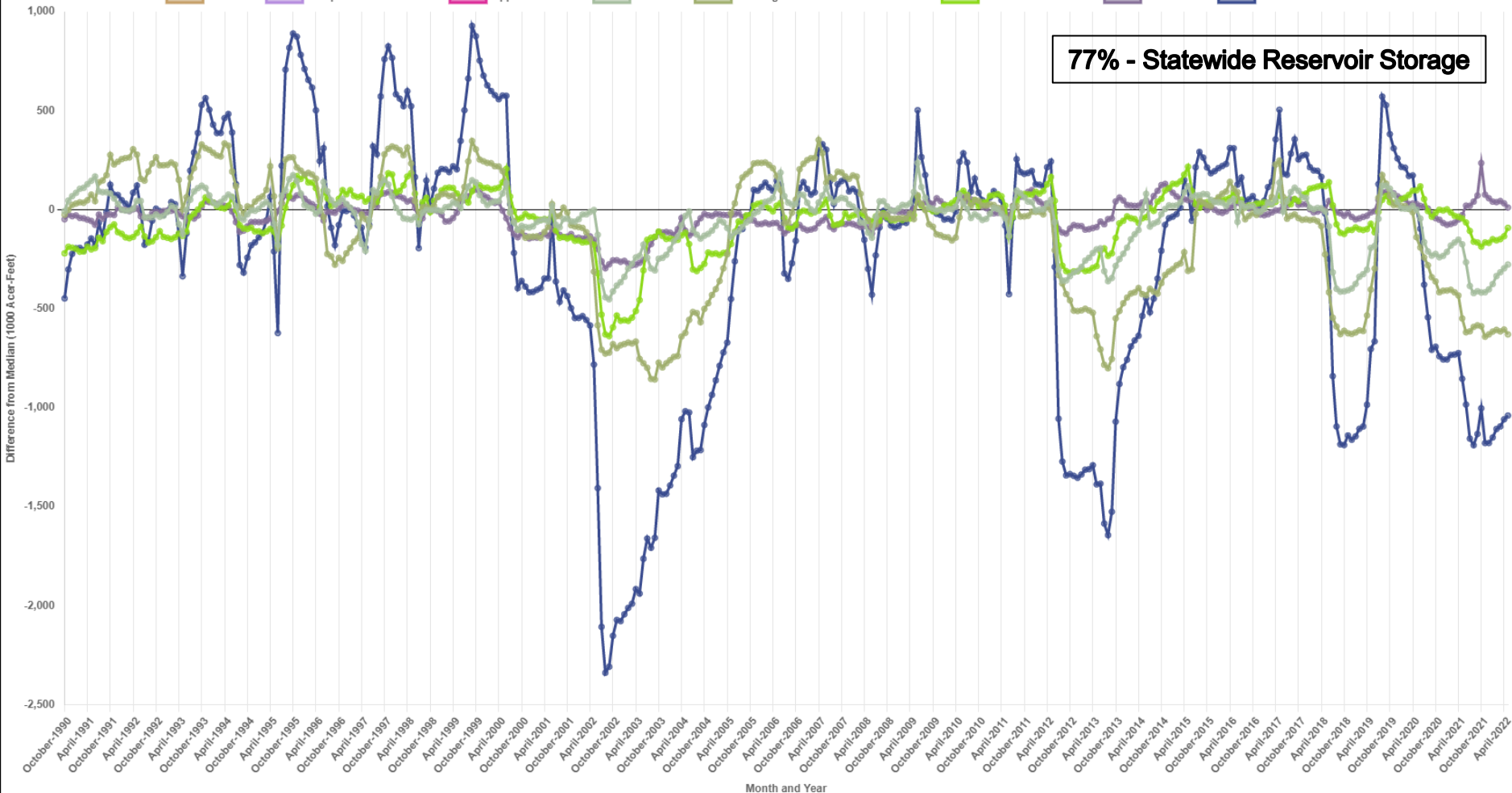


# Colorado Snow Surveys

Departure from Median

Arkansas Yampa-White-Little-Snake Upper-Rio-Grande Gunnison San Miguel-Dolores-Animas-San Juan Colorado Headwaters South Platte State of Colorado

77% - Statewide Reservoir Storage







## Precipitation



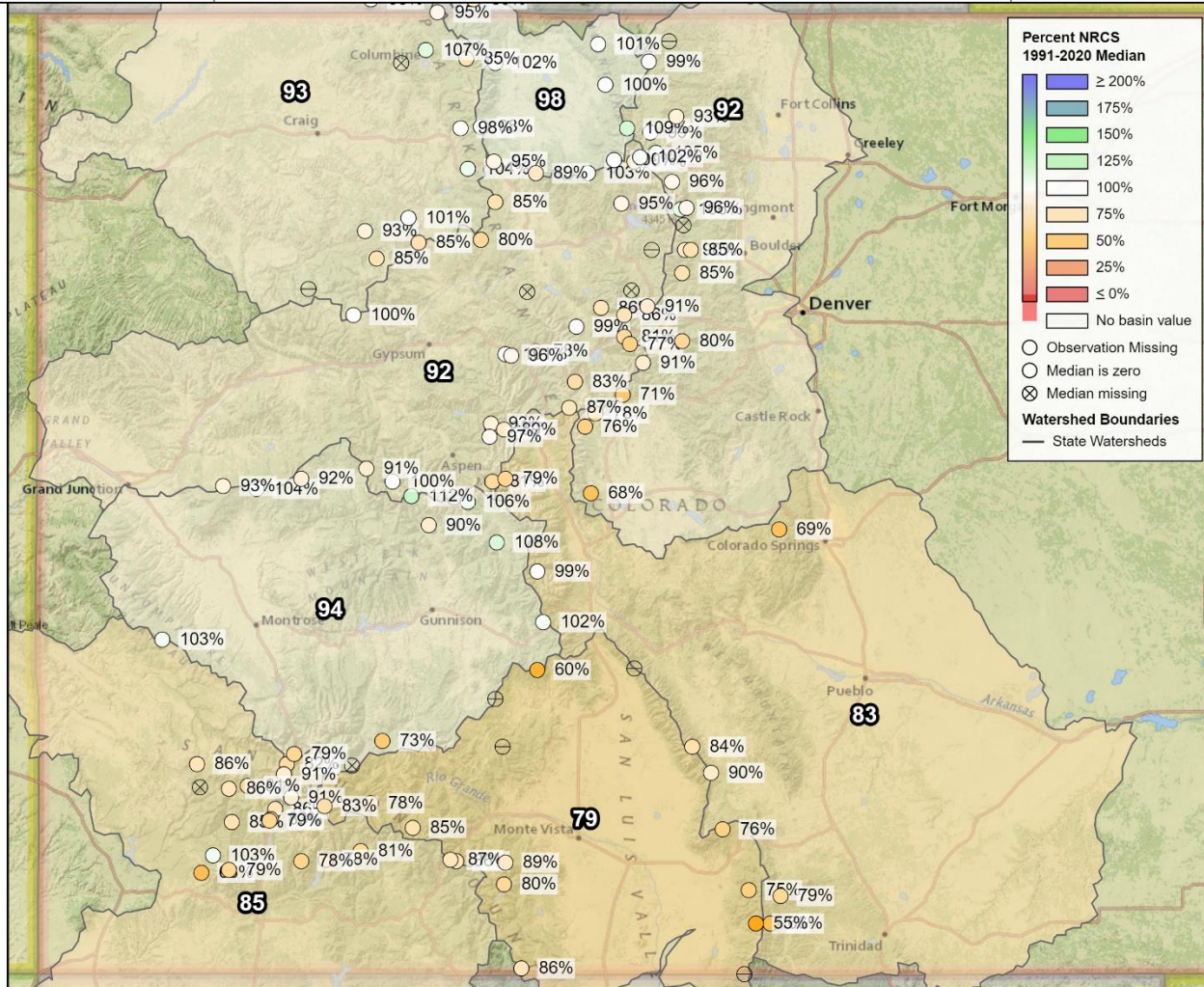


Water Year to Date Precipitation

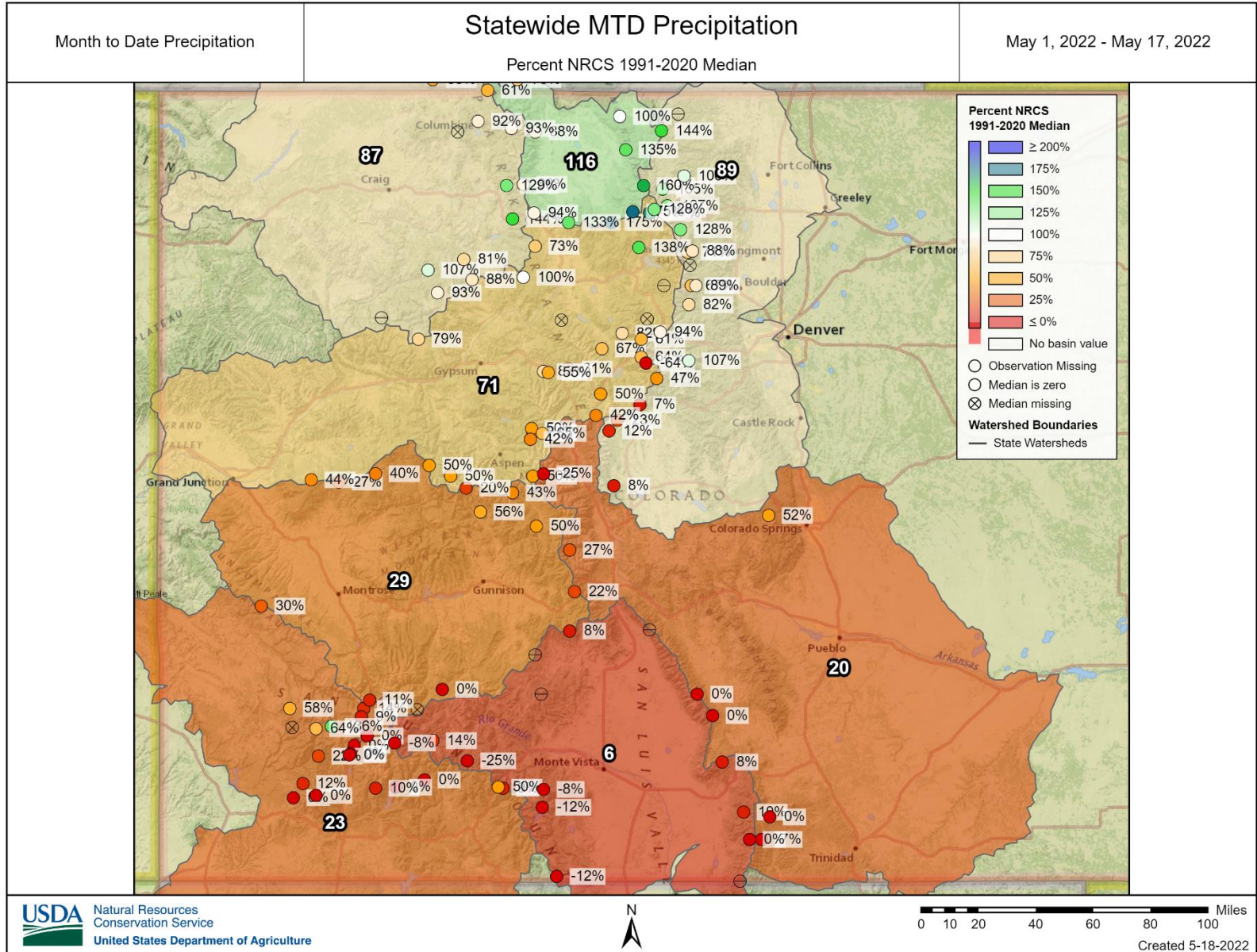
## Statewide YTD Precipitation

Percent NRCS 1991-2020 Median

October 1, 2021 - May 17, 2022







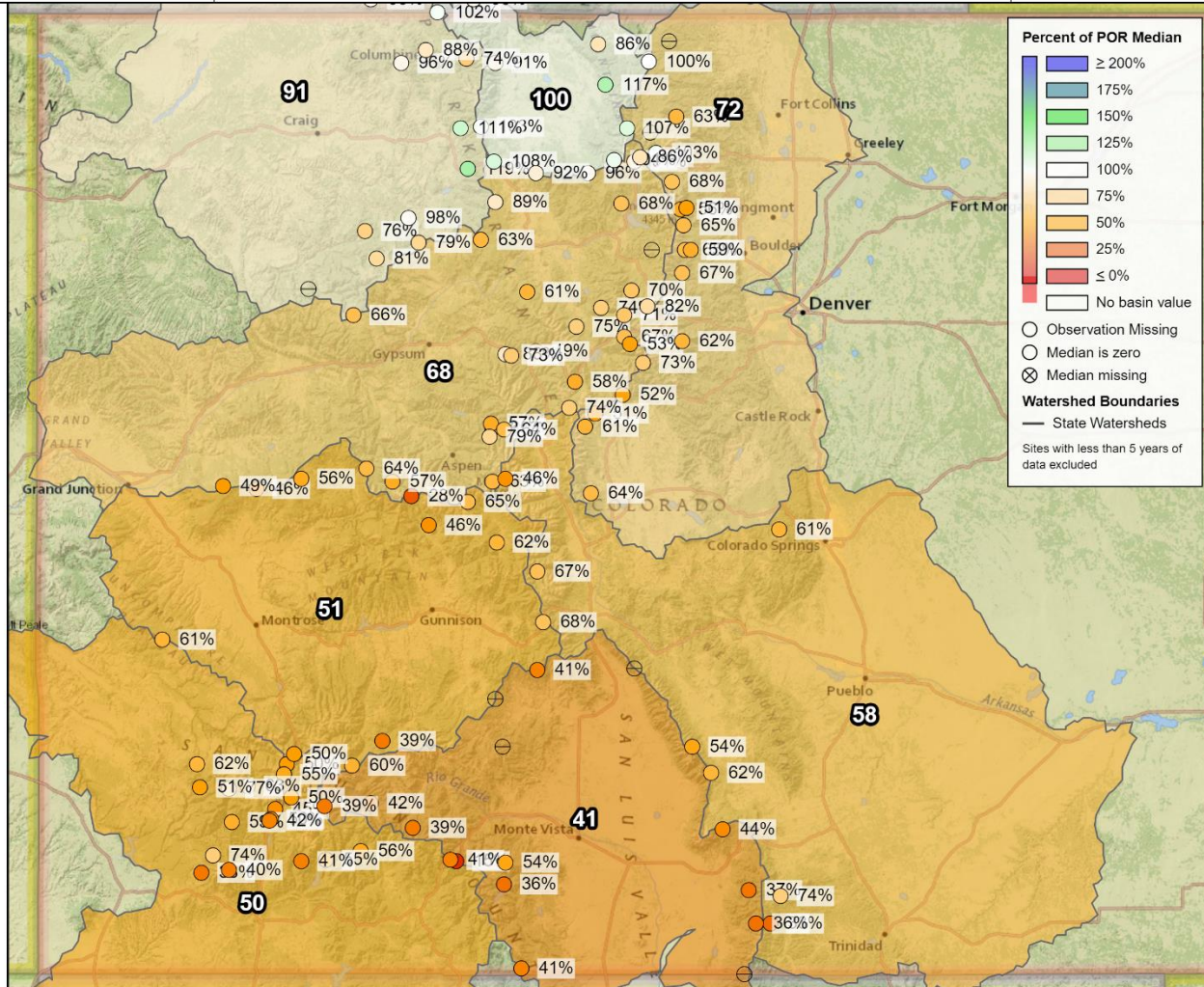


60 day Precipitation

## Statewide 60 Day Precipitation

March 19, 2022 - May 17, 2022

Percent of POR Median





# Colorado Snow Surveys

## PRECIPITATION PROJECTIONS IN STATE OF COLORADO

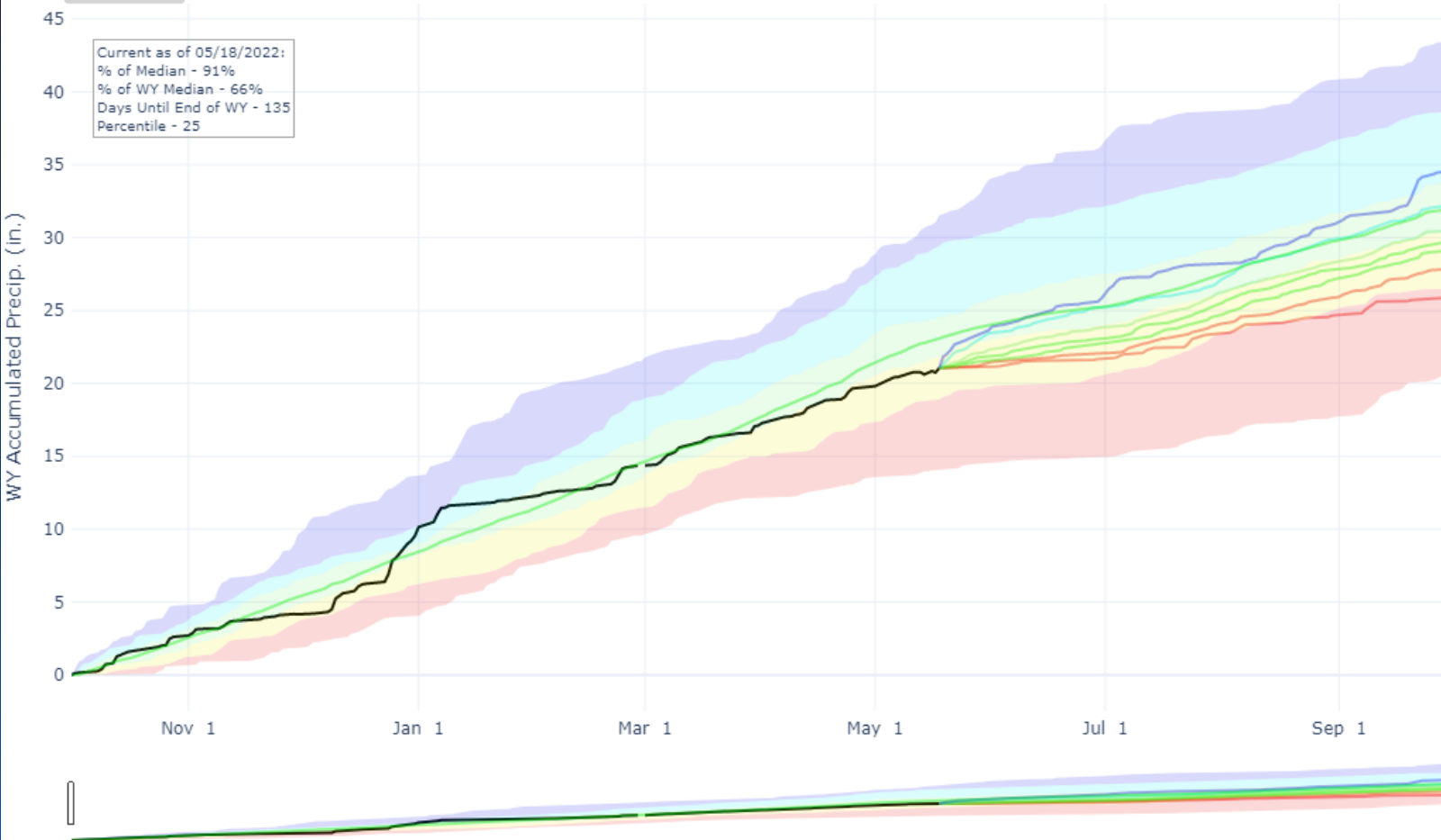
Reset Range

[Link to data: CSV / JSON](#)

Station List

Current as of 05/18/2022:  
% of Median - 91%  
% of WY Median - 66%  
Days Until End of WY - 135  
Percentile - 25

- Median (POR)
- Median ('91-'20)
- Stats. Shading
- Max Proj
- 90% Proj
- 70% Proj
- 50% Proj
- 30% Proj
- 10% Proj
- Min Proj
- 2022 (117 sites)
- 2021 (117 sites)
- 2020 (117 sites)
- 2019 (117 sites)
- 2018 (117 sites)
- 2017 (117 sites)
- 2016 (117 sites)
- 2015 (117 sites)
- 2014 (117 sites)
- 2013 (117 sites)
- 2012 (117 sites)
- 2011 (117 sites)
- 2010 (115 sites)
- 2009 (112 sites)
- 2008 (109 sites)
- 2007 (106 sites)





# Colorado Snow Surveys

## PRECIPITATION IN STATE OF COLORADO

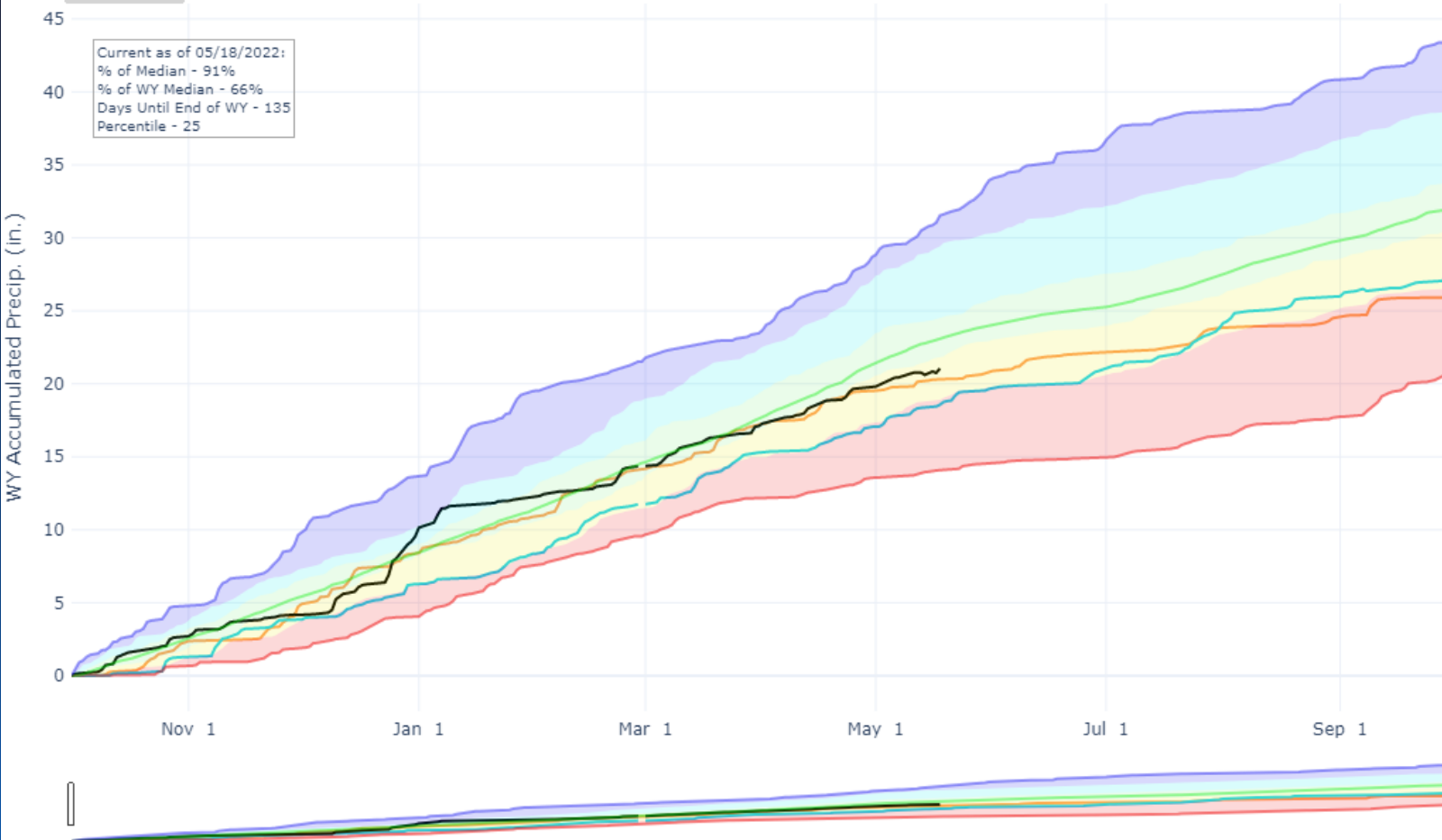
Reset Range

[Link to data: CSV / JSON](#)

Station List

Current as of 05/18/2022:  
% of Median - 91%  
% of WY Median - 66%  
Days Until End of WY - 135  
Percentile - 25

- Max
- Median (POR)
- Median ('91-'20)
- Min
- Stats. Shading
- 2022 (117 sites)
- 2021 (117 sites)
- 2020 (117 sites)
- 2019 (117 sites)
- 2018 (117 sites)
- 2017 (117 sites)
- 2016 (117 sites)
- 2015 (117 sites)
- 2014 (117 sites)
- 2013 (117 sites)
- 2012 (117 sites)
- 2011 (117 sites)
- 2010 (115 sites)
- 2009 (112 sites)
- 2008 (109 sites)
- 2007 (106 sites)
- 2006 (106 sites)
- 2005 (105 sites)
- 2004 (99 sites)
- 2003 (98 sites)
- 2002 (93 sites)





# Colorado Snow Surveys

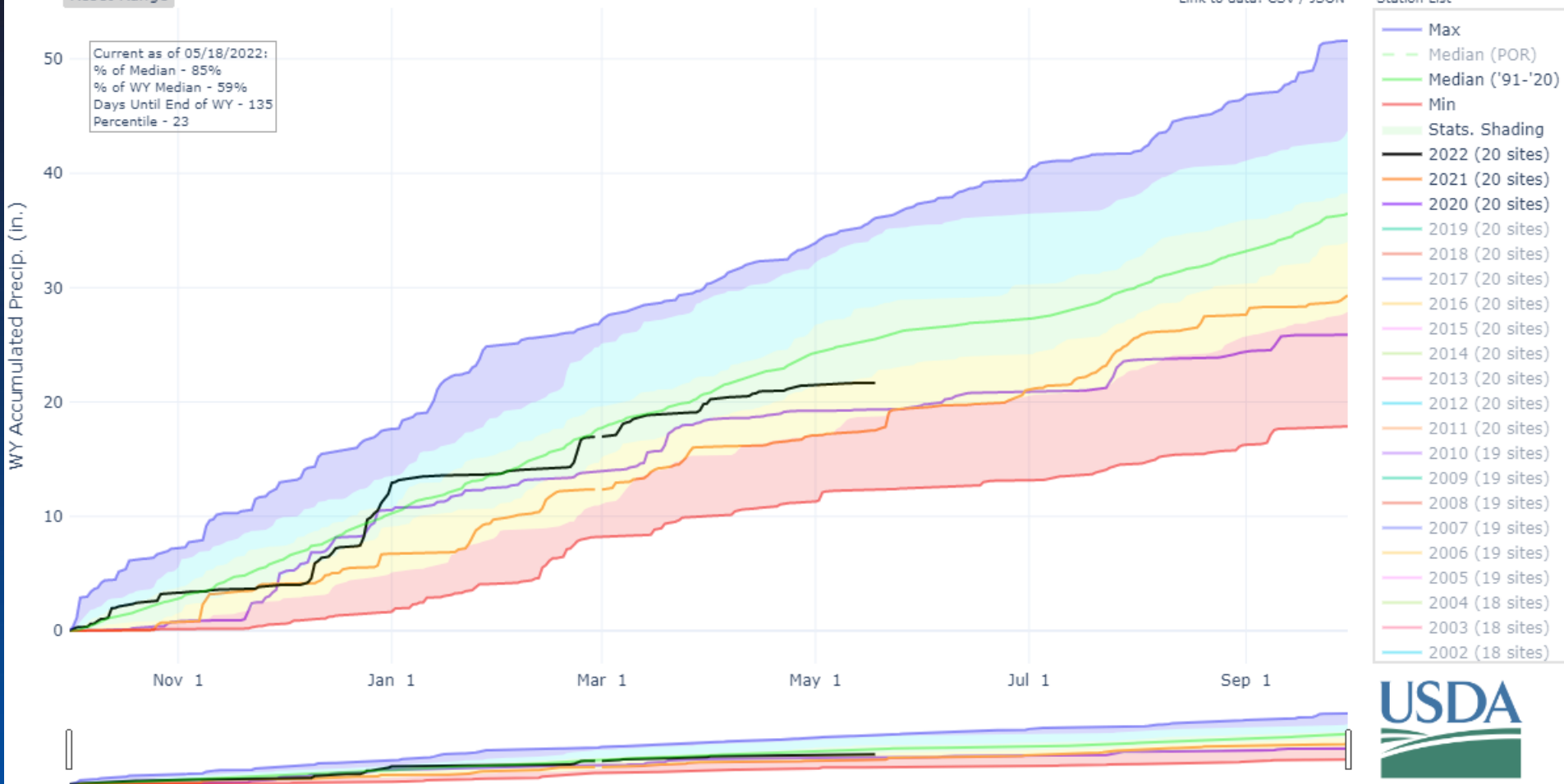
## PRECIPITATION IN SAN MIGUEL-DOLORES-ANIMAS-SAN JUAN

Reset Range

[Link to data: CSV / JSON](#)

Station List

Current as of 05/18/2022:  
% of Median - 85%  
% of WY Median - 59%  
Days Until End of WY - 135  
Percentile - 23





# Colorado Snow Surveys

## PRECIPITATION IN COLORADO HEADWATERS

Reset Range

[Link to data: CSV / JSON](#)

Station List

Current as of 05/18/2022:  
% of Median - 92%  
% of WY Median - 68%  
Days Until End of WY - 135  
Percentile - 28

- Max
- Median (POR)
- Median ('91-'20)
- Min
- Stats. Shading
- 2022 (32 sites)
- 2021 (32 sites)
- 2020 (32 sites)
- 2019 (32 sites)
- 2018 (32 sites)
- 2017 (32 sites)
- 2016 (32 sites)
- 2015 (32 sites)
- 2014 (32 sites)
- 2013 (32 sites)
- 2012 (32 sites)
- 2011 (32 sites)
- 2010 (32 sites)
- 2009 (32 sites)
- 2008 (32 sites)
- 2007 (31 sites)
- 2006 (31 sites)
- 2005 (31 sites)
- 2004 (30 sites)
- 2003 (29 sites)
- 2002 (27 sites)





## Snowpack

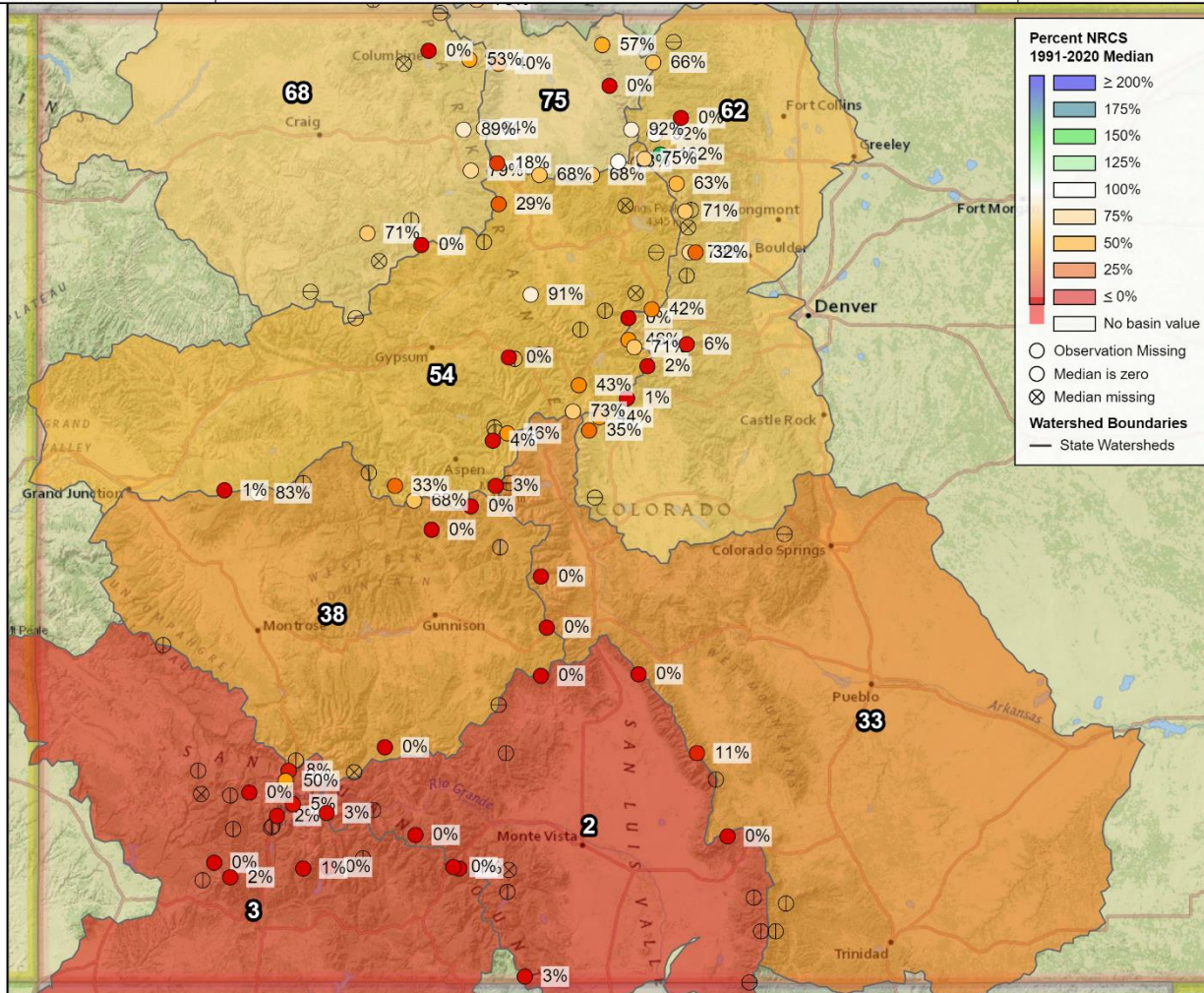


Snow Water Equivalent

## Statewide Snowpack

Percent NRCS 1991-2020 Median

May 17, 2022, end of day





# Colorado Snow Surveys

## SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN STATE OF COLORADO

Reset Range

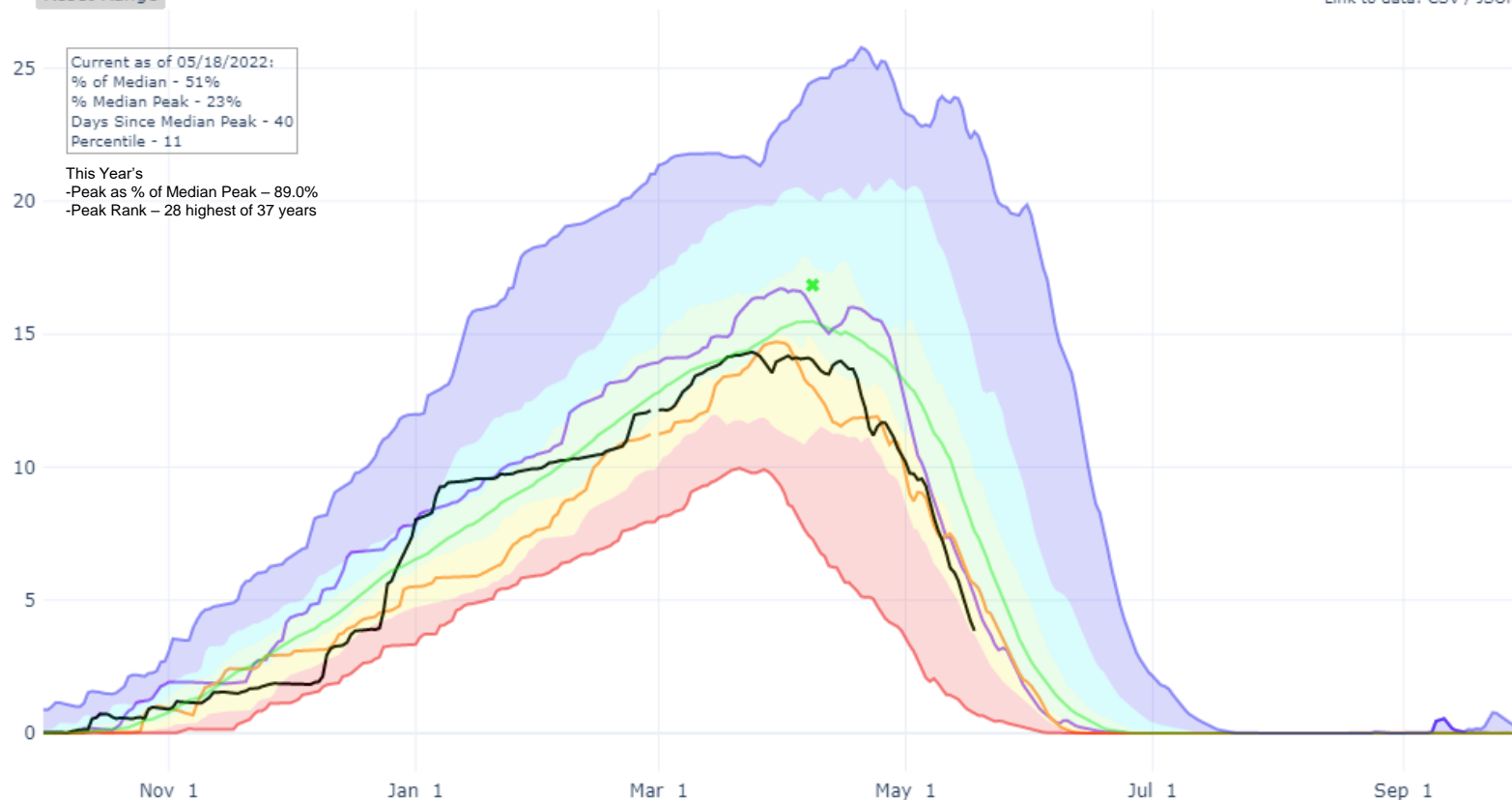
[Link to data: CSV / JSON](#)

[Station List](#)

Current as of 05/18/2022:  
% of Median - 51%  
% Median Peak - 23%  
Days Since Median Peak - 40  
Percentile - 11

This Year's  
-Peak as % of Median Peak - 89.0%  
-Peak Rank - 28 highest of 37 years

- ✱ Median Peak SWE
- Max
- Median (POR)
- Median ('91-'20)
- Min
- Stats. Shading
- 2022 (116 sites)
- 2021 (116 sites)
- 2020 (116 sites)
- 2019 (116 sites)
- 2018 (116 sites)
- 2017 (116 sites)
- 2016 (116 sites)
- 2015 (116 sites)
- 2014 (116 sites)
- 2013 (116 sites)
- 2012 (116 sites)
- 2011 (115 sites)
- 2010 (113 sites)
- 2009 (109 sites)
- 2008 (106 sites)
- 2007 (103 sites)
- 2006 (103 sites)
- 2005 (102 sites)
- 2004 (97 sites)
- 2003 (95 sites)





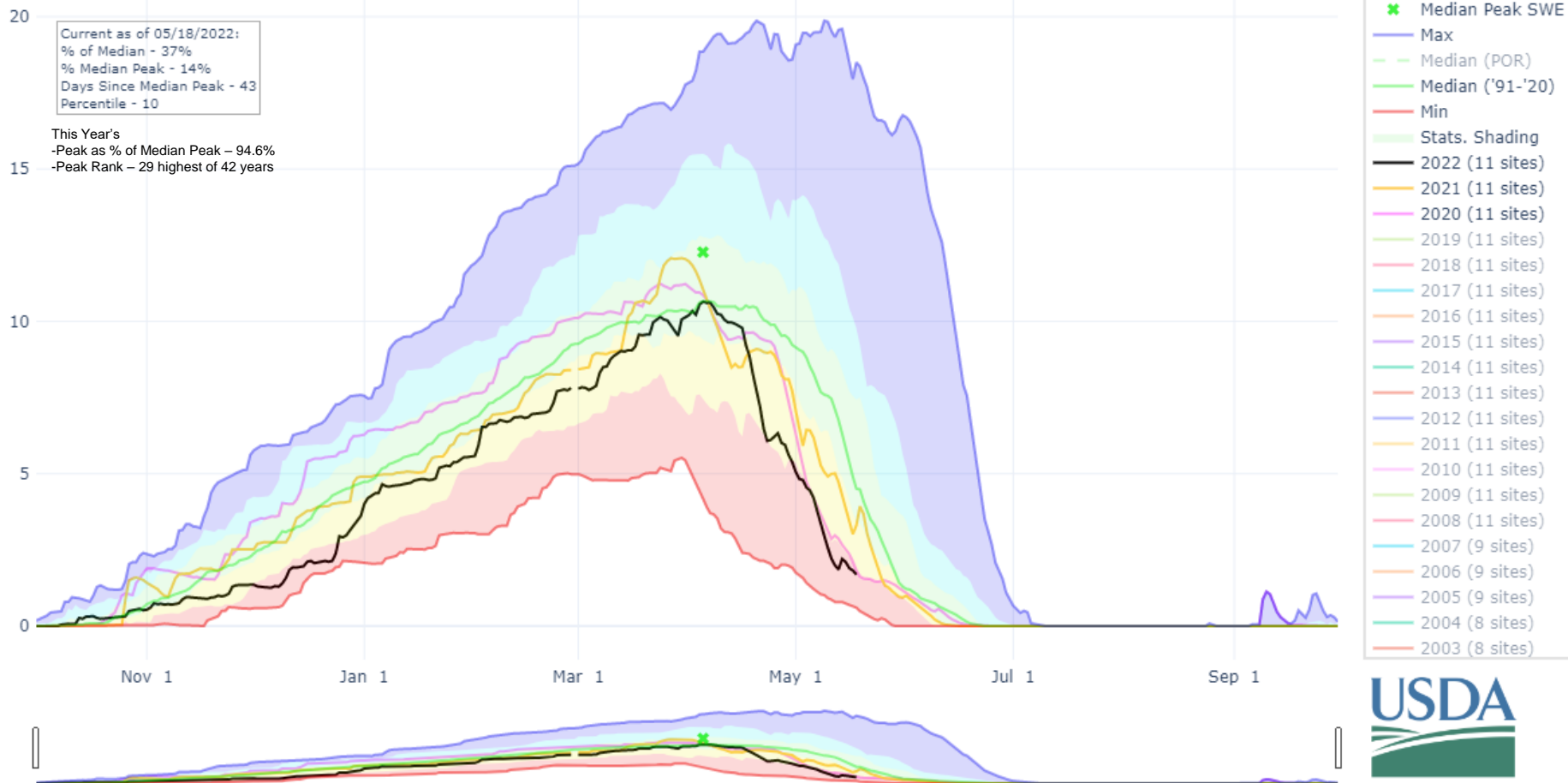


## SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN ARKANSAS

Reset Range

[Link to data: CSV / JSON](#)

Station List





## SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN UPPER RIO GRANDE

Reset Range

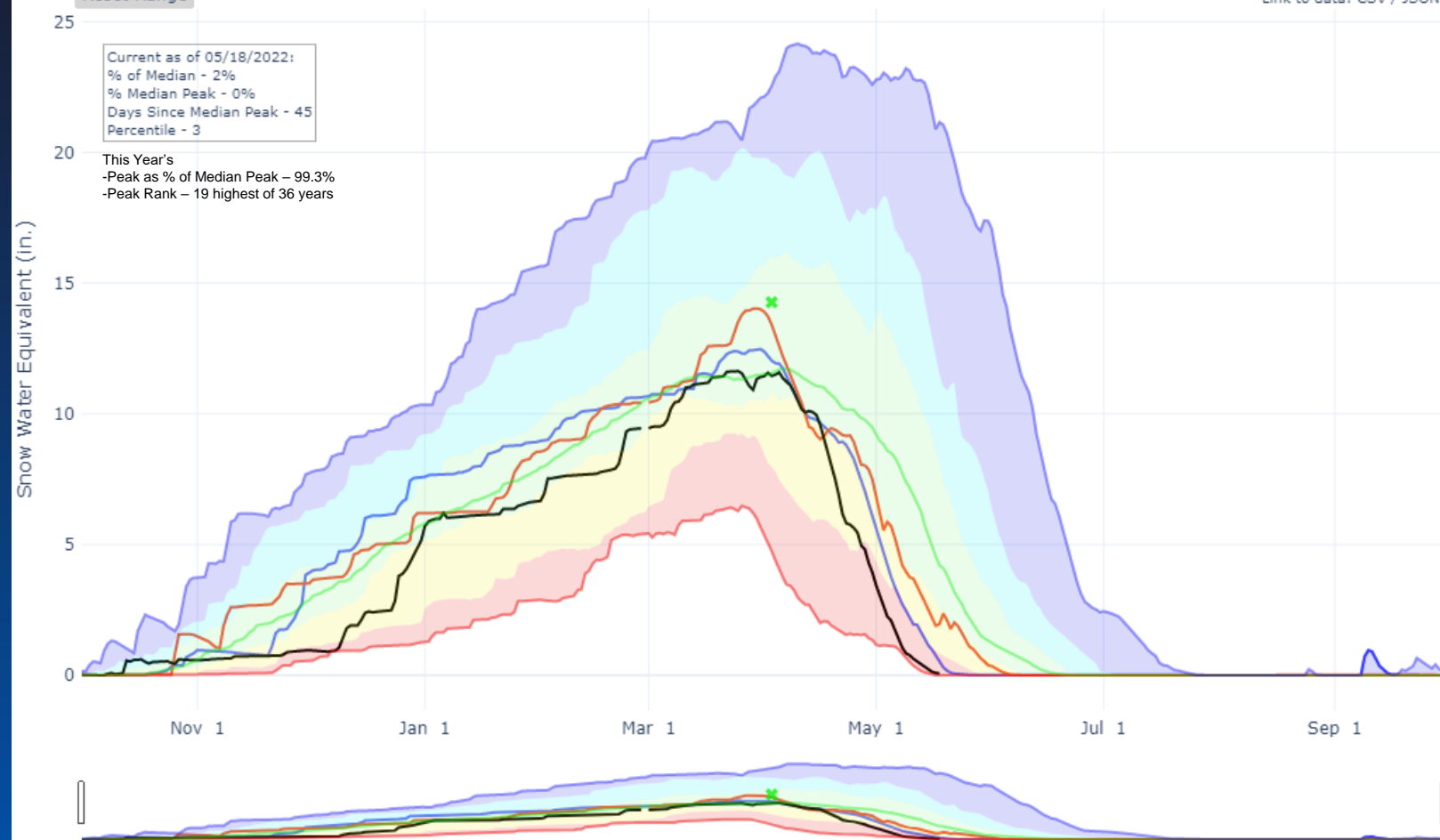
[Link to data: CSV / JSON](#)

### Station List

Current as of 05/18/2022:  
 % of Median - 2%  
 % Median Peak - 0%  
 Days Since Median Peak - 45  
 Percentile - 3

This Year's  
-Peak as % of Median Peak – 99.3%  
-Peak Rank – 19 highest of 36 years

✱ Median Peak SWE  
 — Max  
 - - Median (POR)  
 — Median ('91-'20)  
 — Min  
 Stats. Shading  
 — 2022 (18 sites)  
 — 2021 (18 sites)  
 — 2020 (18 sites)  
 — 2019 (18 sites)  
 — 2018 (18 sites)  
 — 2017 (18 sites)  
 — 2016 (18 sites)  
 — 2015 (18 sites)  
 — 2014 (18 sites)  
 — 2013 (18 sites)  
 — 2012 (18 sites)  
 — 2011 (17 sites)  
 — 2010 (16 sites)  
 — 2009 (16 sites)  
 — 2008 (14 sites)  
 — 2007 (13 sites)  
 — 2006 (13 sites)  
 — 2005 (13 sites)  
 — 2004 (12 sites)  
 — 2003 (12 sites)





# Colorado Snow Surveys

## SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN GUNNISON

Reset Range

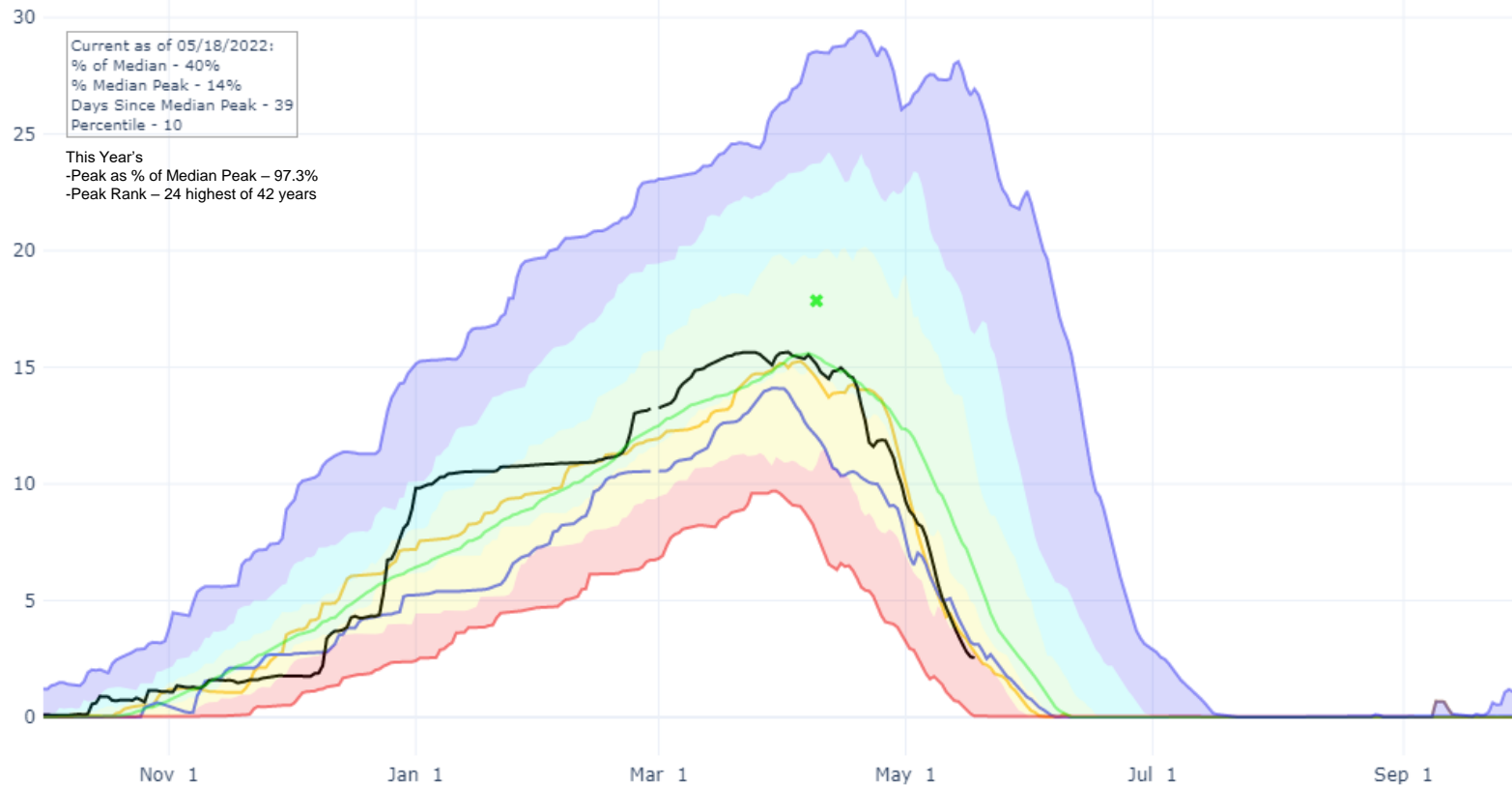
[Link to data: CSV / JSON](#)

Station List

Current as of 05/18/2022:  
% of Median - 40%  
% Median Peak - 14%  
Days Since Median Peak - 39  
Percentile - 10

This Year's  
-Peak as % of Median Peak - 97.3%  
-Peak Rank - 24 highest of 42 years

- ✱ Median Peak SWE
- Max
- Median (POR)
- Median ('91-'20)
- Min
- Stats. Shading
- 2022 (15 sites)
- 2021 (15 sites)
- 2020 (15 sites)
- 2019 (15 sites)
- 2018 (15 sites)
- 2017 (15 sites)
- 2016 (15 sites)
- 2015 (15 sites)
- 2014 (15 sites)
- 2013 (15 sites)
- 2012 (15 sites)
- 2011 (15 sites)
- 2010 (15 sites)
- 2009 (14 sites)
- 2008 (13 sites)
- 2007 (13 sites)
- 2006 (13 sites)
- 2005 (13 sites)
- 2004 (12 sites)
- 2003 (12 sites)





# Colorado Snow Surveys

## SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN COLORADO HEADWATERS

Reset Range

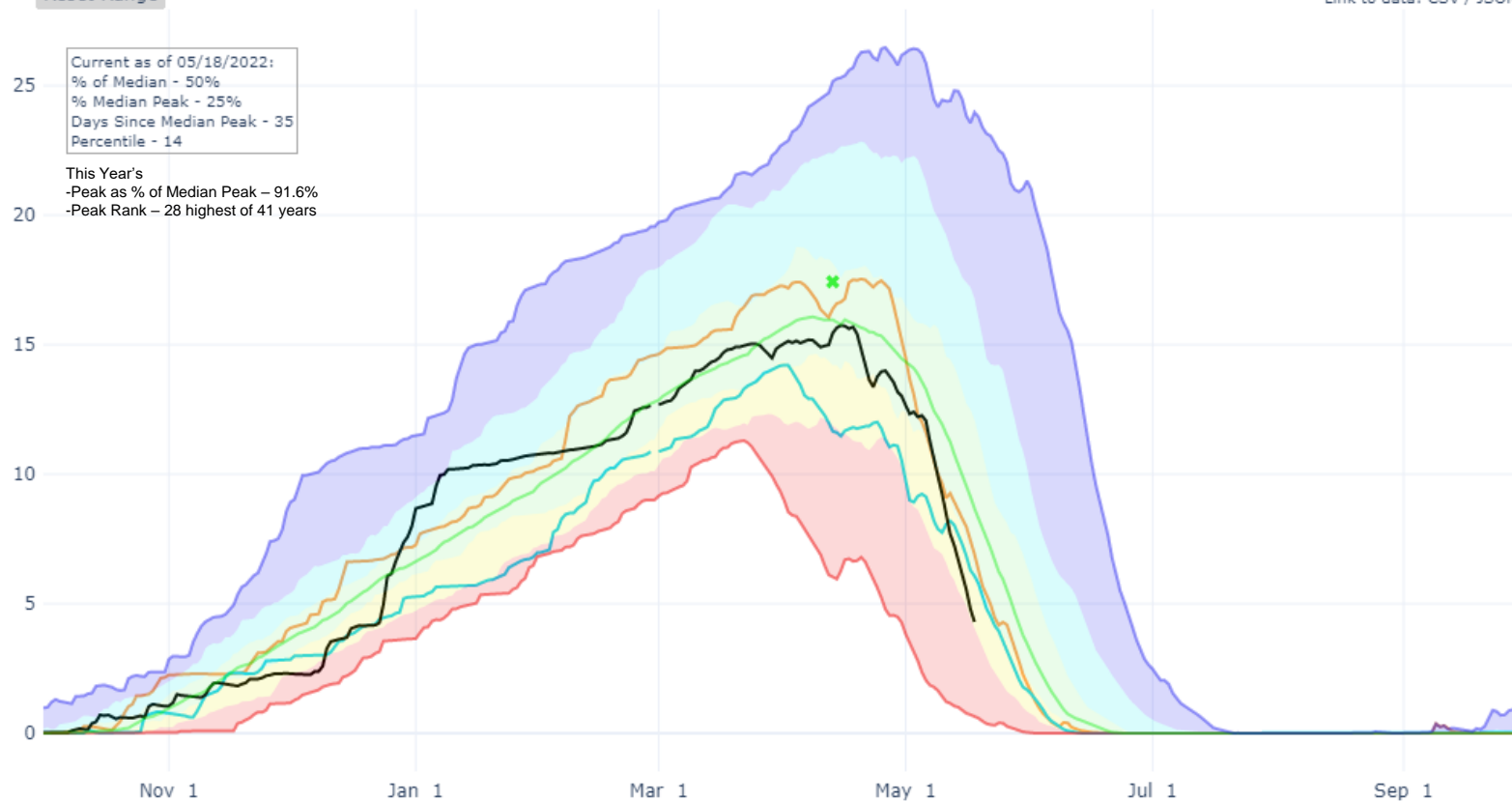
[Link to data: CSV / JSON](#)

Station List

Current as of 05/18/2022:  
% of Median - 50%  
% Median Peak - 25%  
Days Since Median Peak - 35  
Percentile - 14

This Year's  
-Peak as % of Median Peak - 91.6%  
-Peak Rank - 28 highest of 41 years

- ✱ Median Peak SWE
- Max
- Median (POR)
- Median ('91-'20)
- Min
- Stats. Shading
- 2022 (32 sites)
- 2021 (32 sites)
- 2020 (32 sites)
- 2019 (32 sites)
- 2018 (32 sites)
- 2017 (32 sites)
- 2016 (32 sites)
- 2015 (32 sites)
- 2014 (32 sites)
- 2013 (32 sites)
- 2012 (32 sites)
- 2011 (32 sites)
- 2010 (32 sites)
- 2009 (31 sites)
- 2008 (31 sites)
- 2007 (30 sites)
- 2006 (30 sites)
- 2005 (30 sites)
- 2004 (29 sites)
- 2003 (27 sites)





# Colorado Snow Surveys

## SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN SOUTH PLATTE

Reset Range

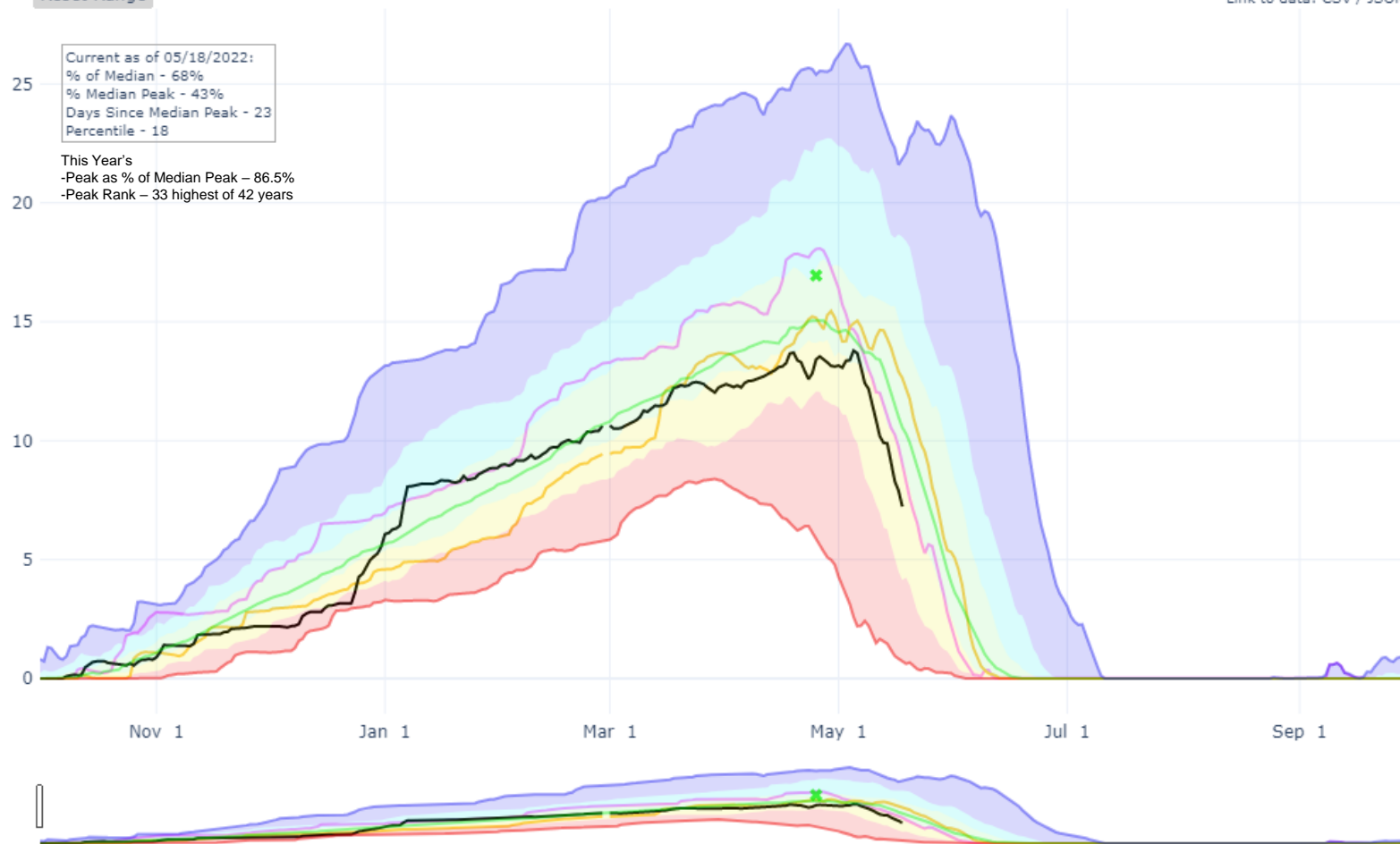
[Link to data: CSV / JSON](#)

Station List

Current as of 05/18/2022:  
% of Median - 68%  
% Median Peak - 43%  
Days Since Median Peak - 23  
Percentile - 18

This Year's  
-Peak as % of Median Peak - 86.5%  
-Peak Rank - 33 highest of 42 years

- ✱ Median Peak SWE
- Max
- Median (POR)
- Median ('91-'20)
- Min
- Stats. Shading
- 2022 (21 sites)
- 2021 (21 sites)
- 2020 (21 sites)
- 2019 (21 sites)
- 2018 (21 sites)
- 2017 (21 sites)
- 2016 (21 sites)
- 2015 (21 sites)
- 2014 (21 sites)
- 2013 (21 sites)
- 2012 (21 sites)
- 2011 (21 sites)
- 2010 (20 sites)
- 2009 (19 sites)
- 2008 (18 sites)
- 2007 (18 sites)
- 2006 (18 sites)
- 2005 (17 sites)
- 2004 (17 sites)
- 2003 (17 sites)







## SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN YAMPA-WHITE-LITTLE SNAKE

Reset Range

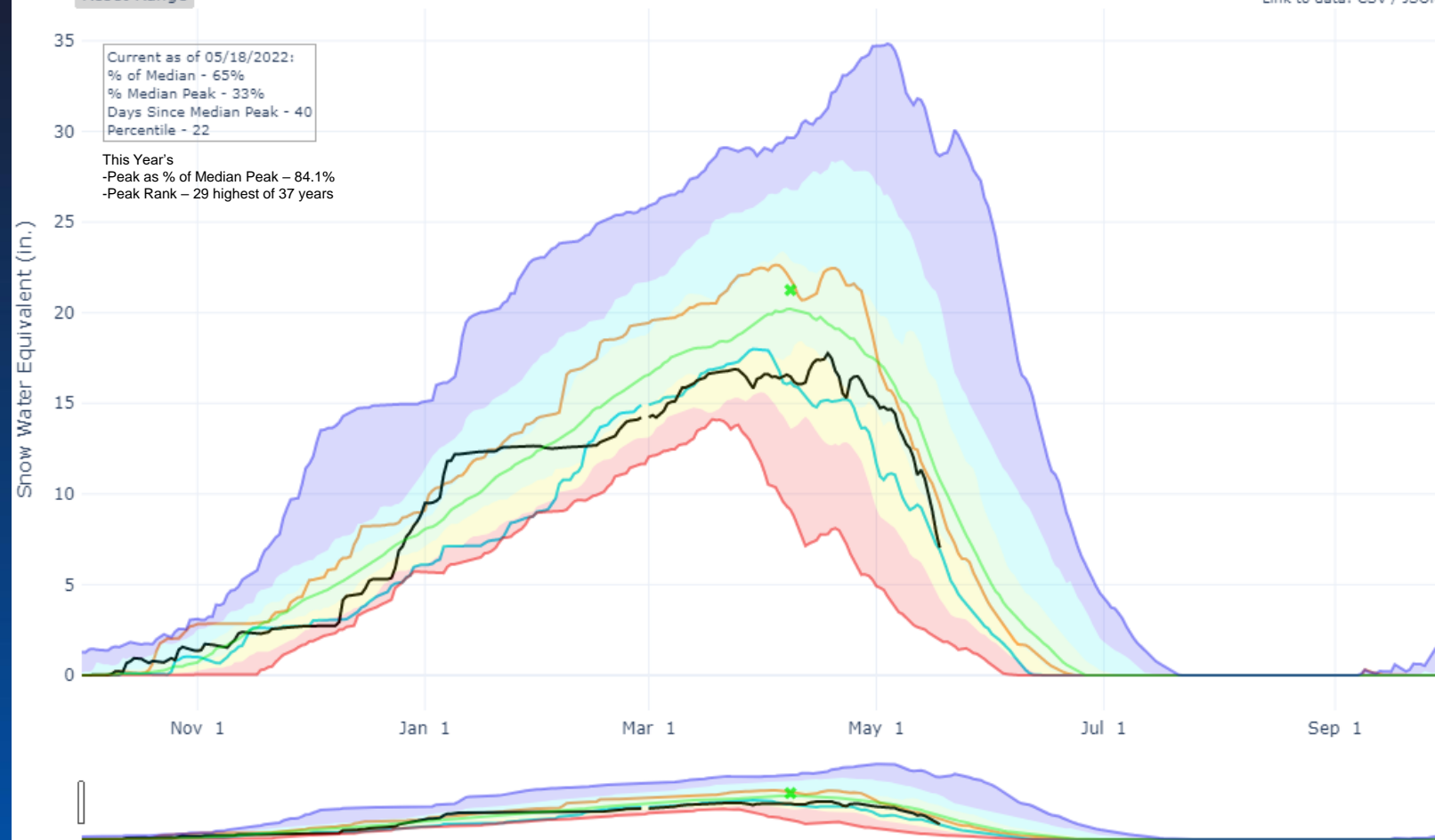
[Link to data: CSV / JSON](#)

Station List

Current as of 05/18/2022:  
% of Median - 65%  
% Median Peak - 33%  
Days Since Median Peak - 40  
Percentile - 22

This Year's  
-Peak as % of Median Peak - 84.1%  
-Peak Rank - 29 highest of 37 years

- ✱ Median Peak SWE
- Max
- Median (POR)
- Median ('91-'20)
- Min
- Stats. Shading
- 2022 (20 sites)
- 2021 (20 sites)
- 2020 (20 sites)
- 2019 (20 sites)
- 2018 (20 sites)
- 2017 (20 sites)
- 2016 (20 sites)
- 2015 (20 sites)
- 2014 (20 sites)
- 2013 (20 sites)
- 2012 (20 sites)
- 2011 (20 sites)
- 2010 (20 sites)
- 2009 (20 sites)
- 2008 (20 sites)
- 2007 (20 sites)
- 2006 (20 sites)
- 2005 (20 sites)
- 2004 (18 sites)
- 2003 (18 sites)





# Colorado Snow Surveys

## SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN LARAMIE AND NORTH PLATTE

Reset Range

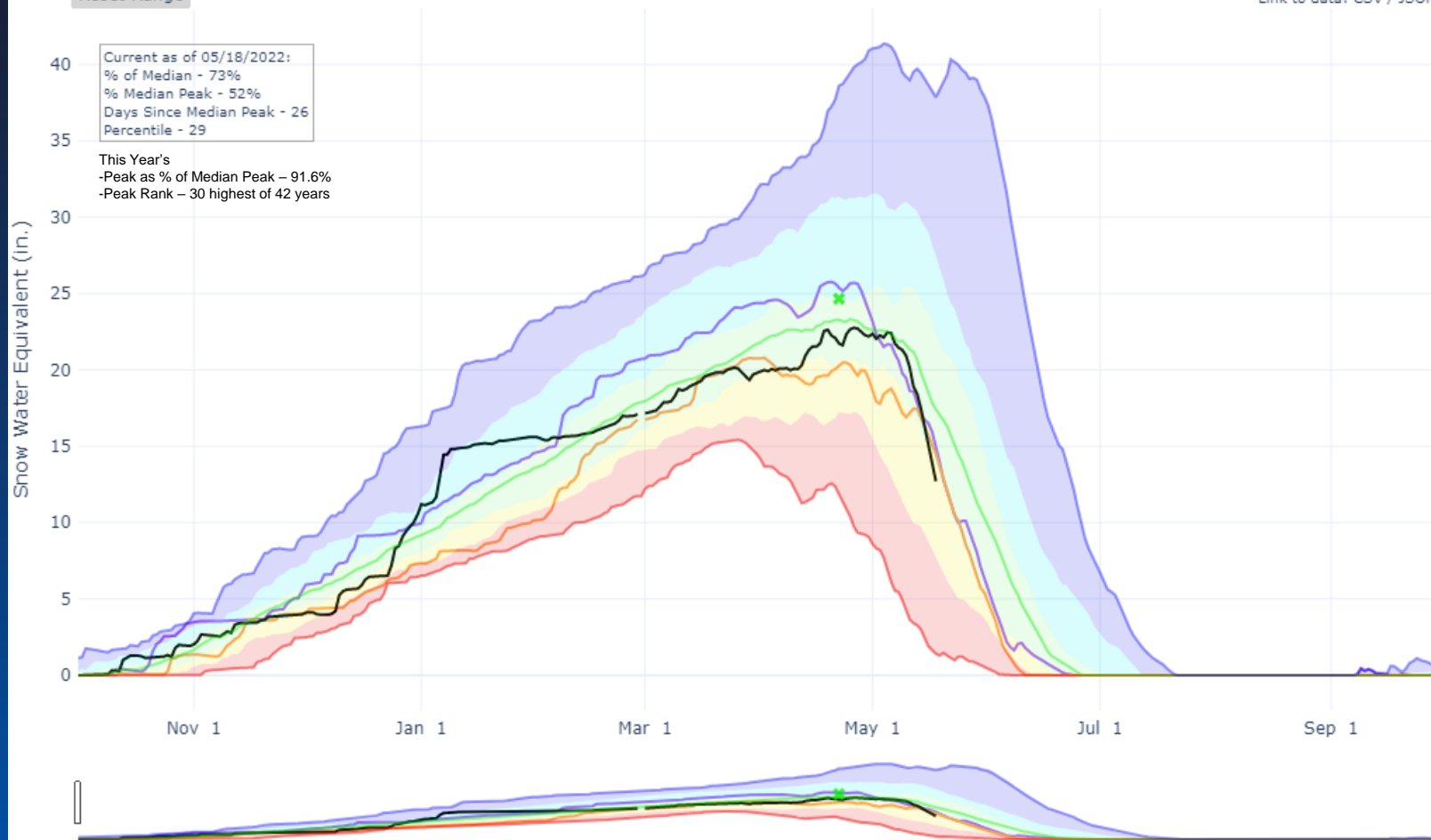
[Link to data: CSV / JSON](#)

Station List

Current as of 05/18/2022:  
% of Median - 73%  
% Median Peak - 52%  
Days Since Median Peak - 26  
Percentile - 29

This Year's  
-Peak as % of Median Peak - 91.6%  
-Peak Rank - 30 highest of 42 years

- ✱ Median Peak SWE
- Max
- Median (POR)
- Median ('91-'20)
- Min
- Stats. Shading
- 2022 (12 sites)
- 2021 (12 sites)
- 2020 (12 sites)
- 2019 (12 sites)
- 2018 (12 sites)
- 2017 (12 sites)
- 2016 (12 sites)
- 2015 (12 sites)
- 2014 (12 sites)
- 2013 (12 sites)
- 2012 (12 sites)
- 2011 (12 sites)
- 2010 (12 sites)
- 2009 (11 sites)
- 2008 (11 sites)
- 2007 (11 sites)
- 2006 (11 sites)
- 2005 (11 sites)
- 2004 (11 sites)
- 2003 (11 sites)





## SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN SAN MIGUEL-DOLORES-ANIMAS-SAN JUAN

Reset Range

[Link to data: CSV / JSON](#)

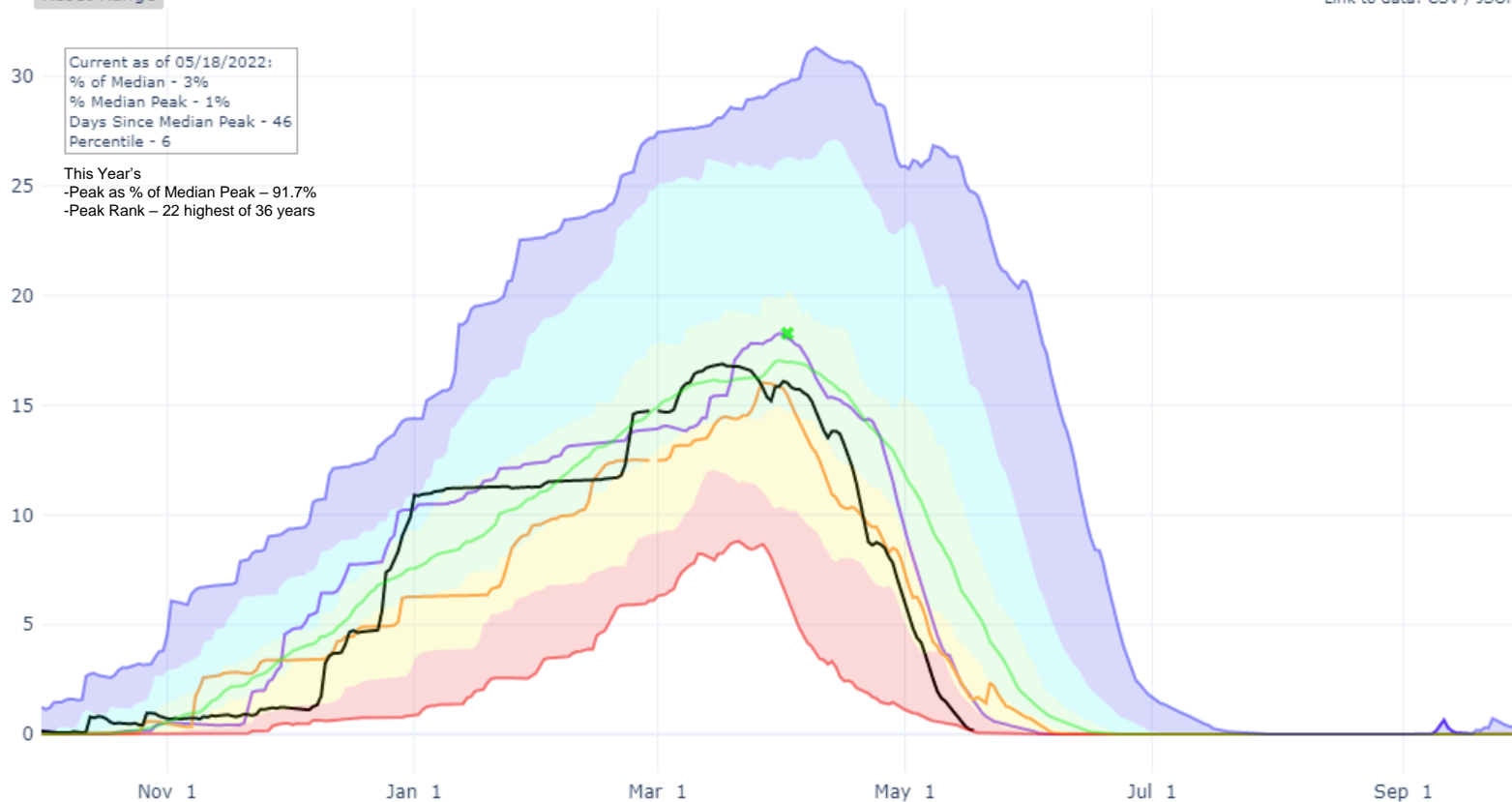
Station List

Current as of 05/18/2022:  
% of Median - 3%  
% Median Peak - 1%  
Days Since Median Peak - 46  
Percentile - 6

This Year's  
-Peak as % of Median Peak - 91.7%  
-Peak Rank - 22 highest of 36 years

- ✱ Median Peak SWE
- Max
- Median (POR)
- Median ('91-'20)
- Min
- Stats. Shading
- 2022 (20 sites)
- 2021 (20 sites)
- 2020 (20 sites)
- 2019 (20 sites)
- 2018 (20 sites)
- 2017 (20 sites)
- 2016 (20 sites)
- 2015 (20 sites)
- 2014 (20 sites)
- 2013 (20 sites)
- 2012 (20 sites)
- 2011 (20 sites)
- 2010 (19 sites)
- 2009 (19 sites)
- 2008 (19 sites)
- 2007 (19 sites)
- 2006 (19 sites)
- 2005 (19 sites)
- 2004 (18 sites)
- 2003 (18 sites)

Snow Water Equivalent (in.)

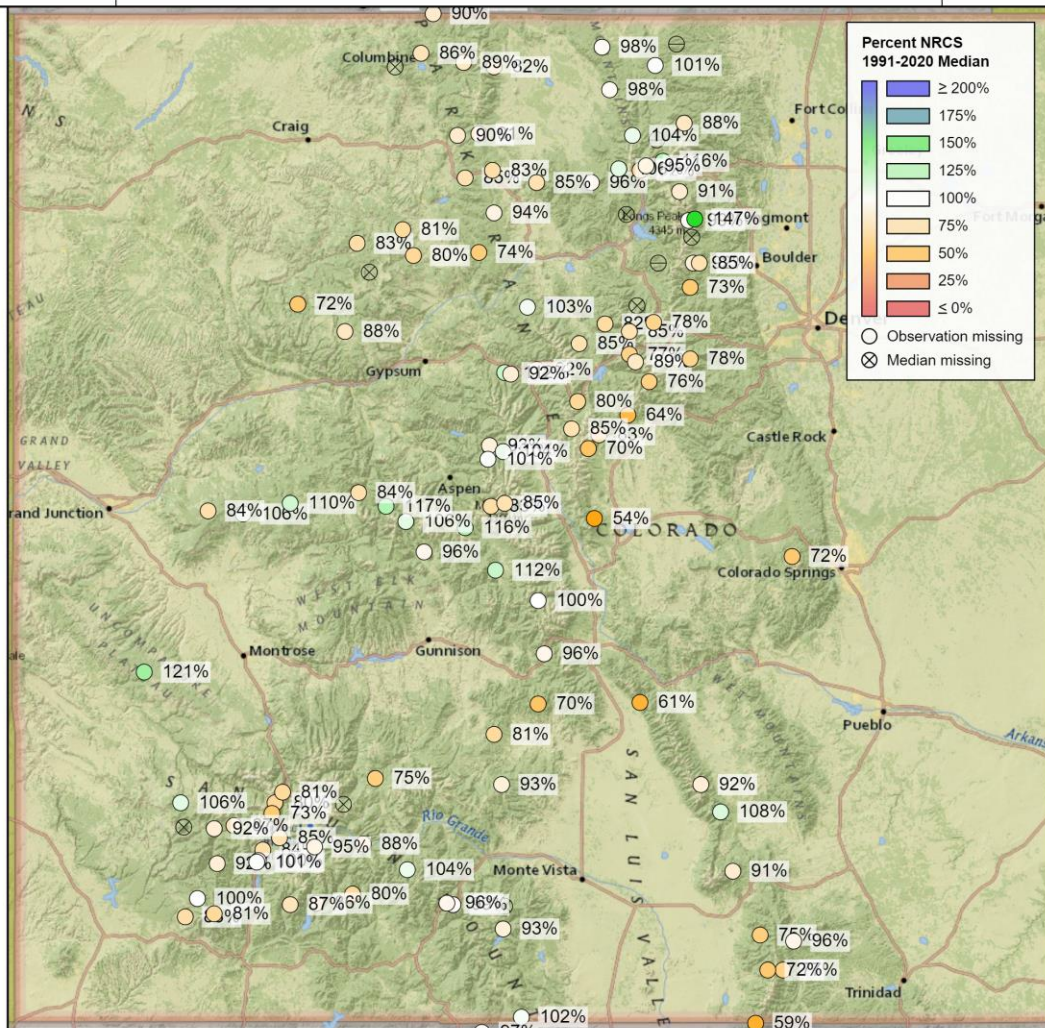


Snow Water Equivalent,  
Water Year Peak

## Snowpack Peak As % Median

Percent NRCS 1991-2020 Median

2022



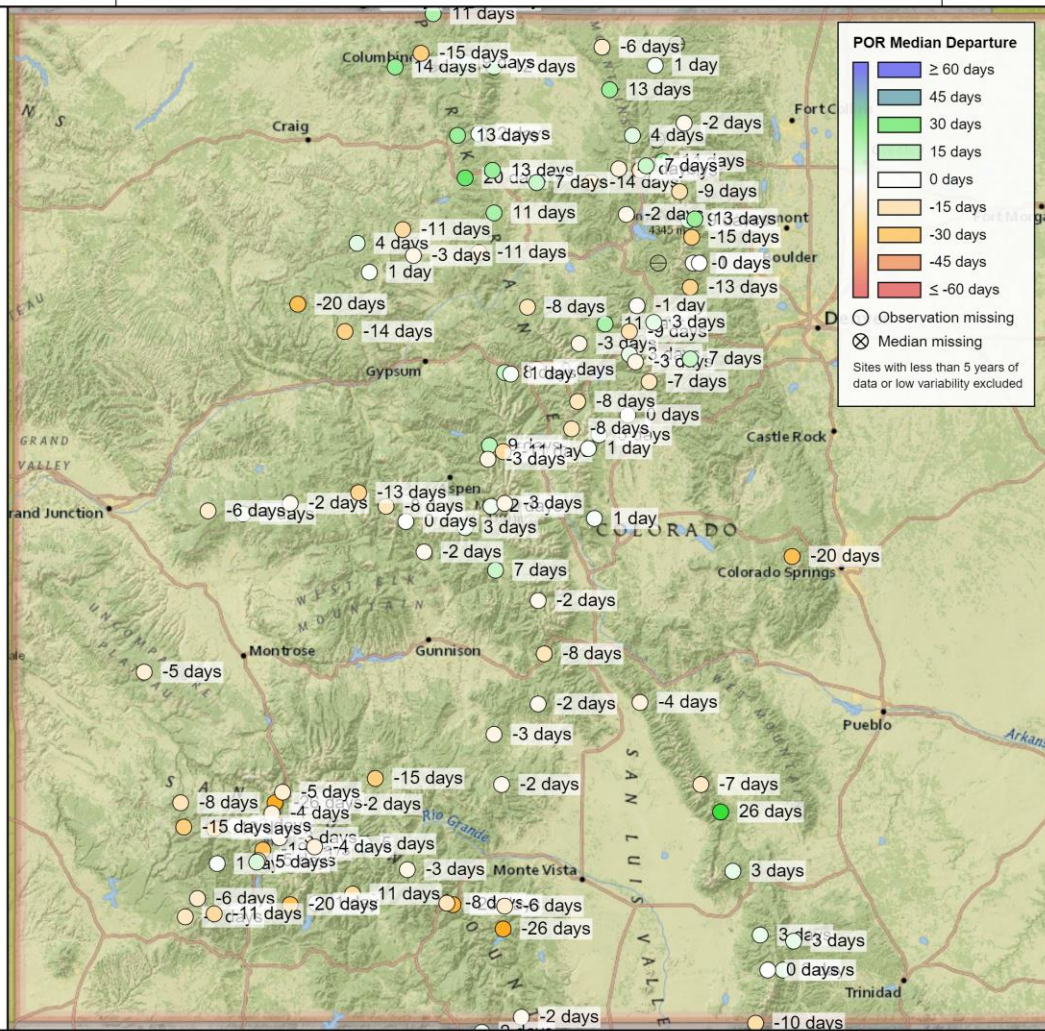


Snow Water Equivalent,  
Date of Water Year Peak

## Snowpack Peak Date Anomaly

2022

POR Median Departure

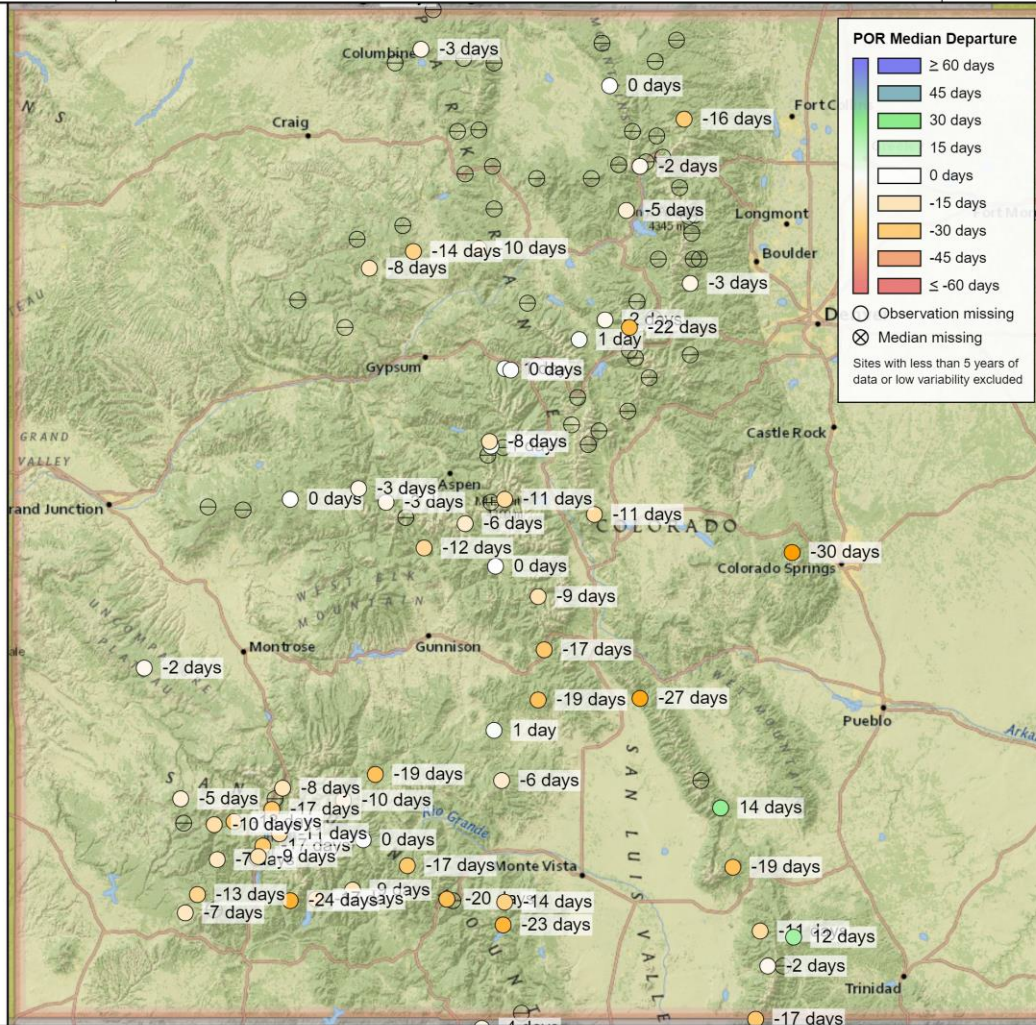


Snow Water Equivalent,  
Date of Water Year Melt Out

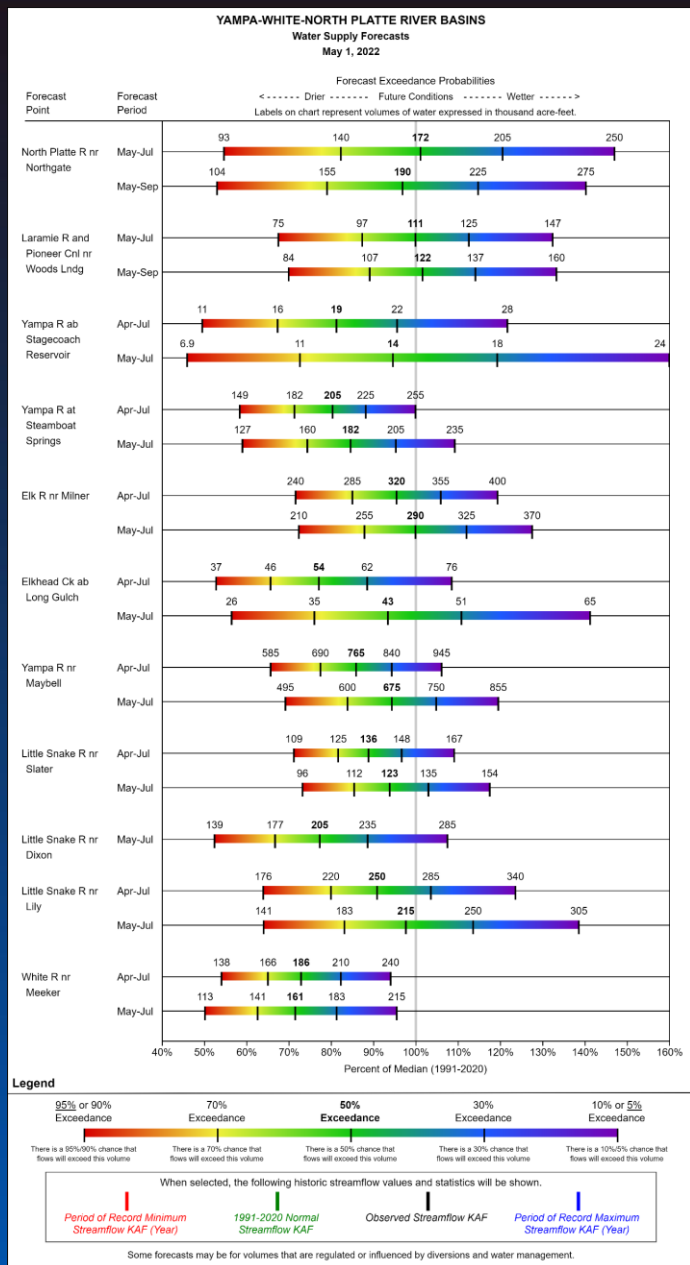
## Snowpack Meltout Date Anomaly

2022

POR Median Departure





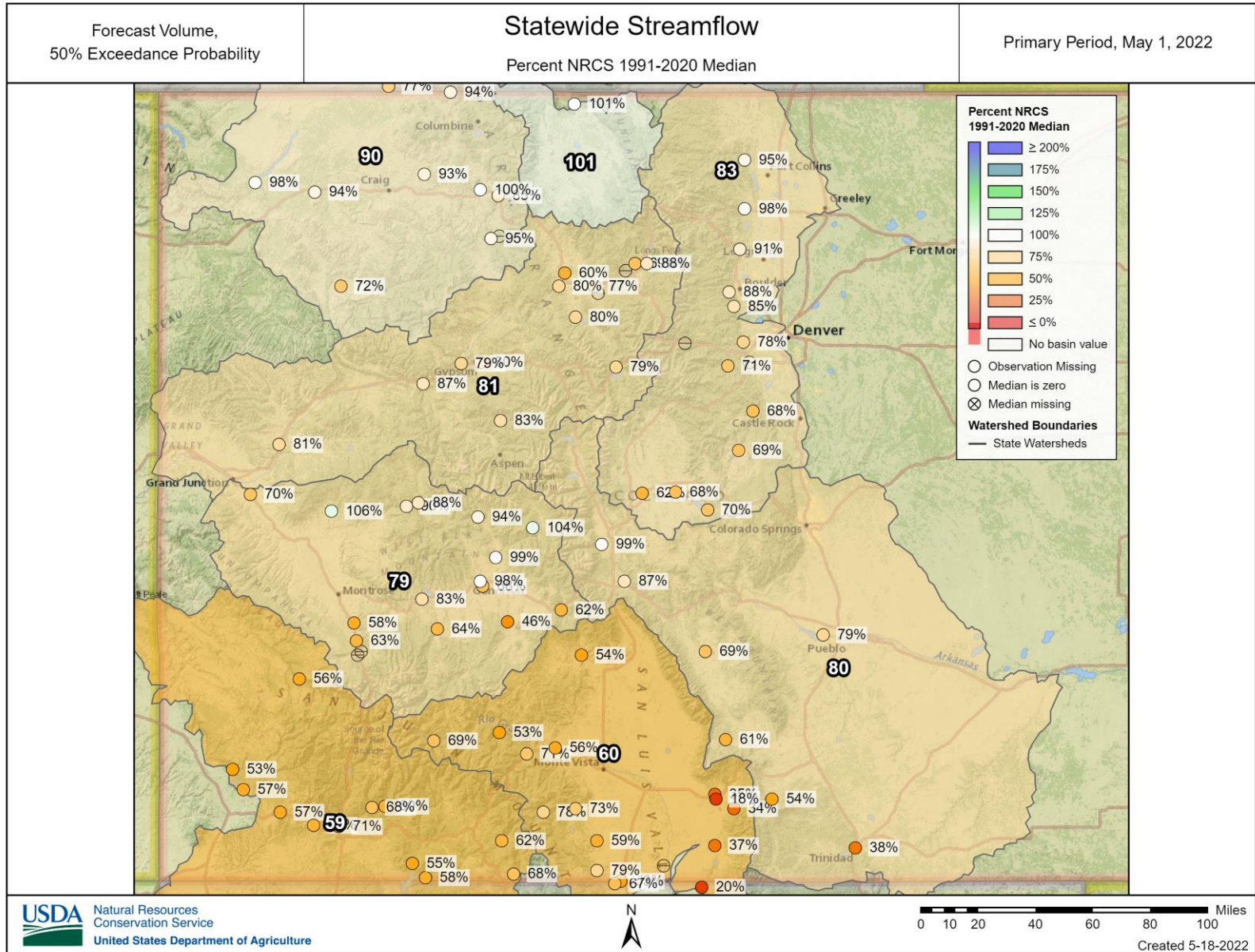


## Streamflow Forecasts



United States Department of Agriculture

# Colorado Snow Surveys







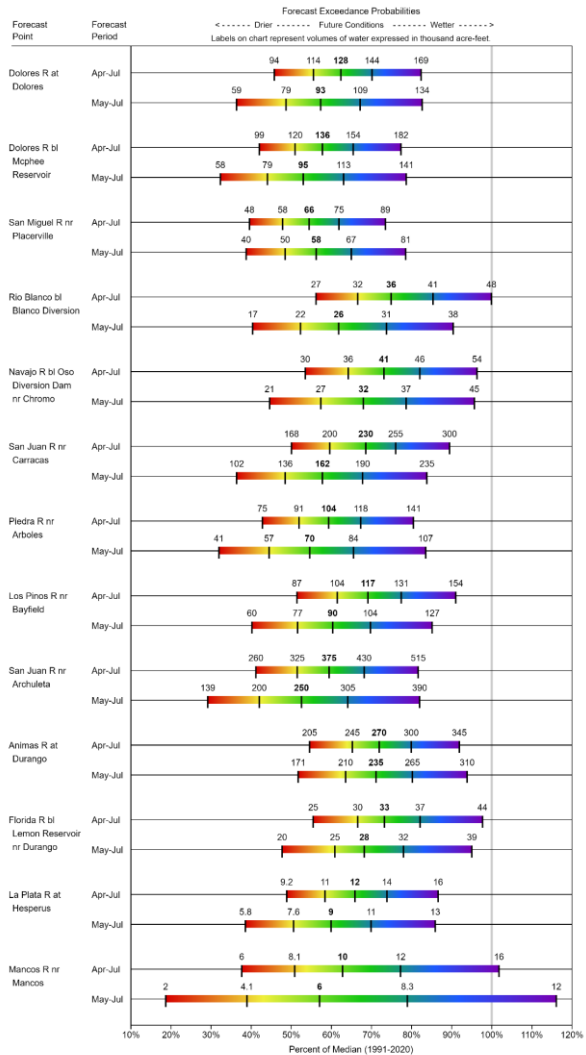
United States Department of Agriculture

# Colorado Snow Surveys

## SAN MIGUEL-DOLORES-ANIMAS-SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS

Water Supply Forecasts

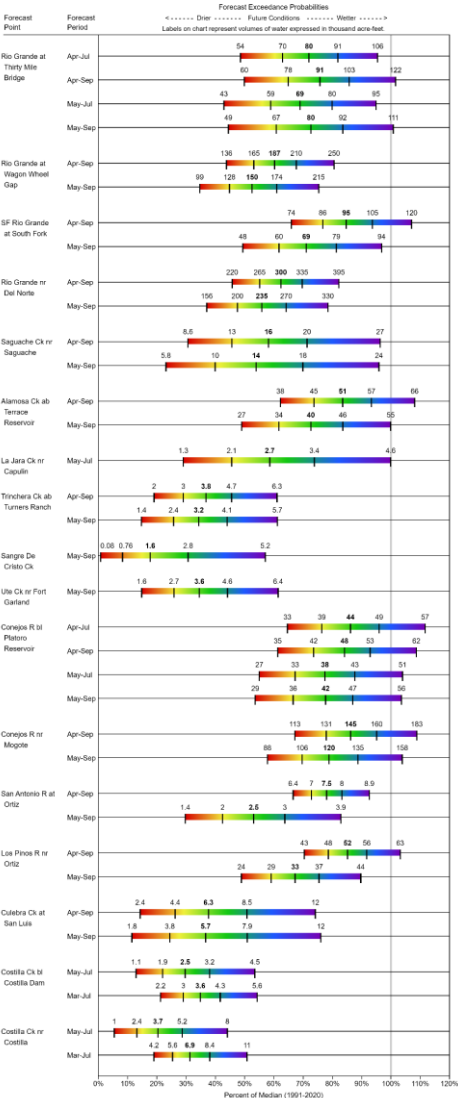
May 1, 2022



## UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN

Water Supply Forecasts

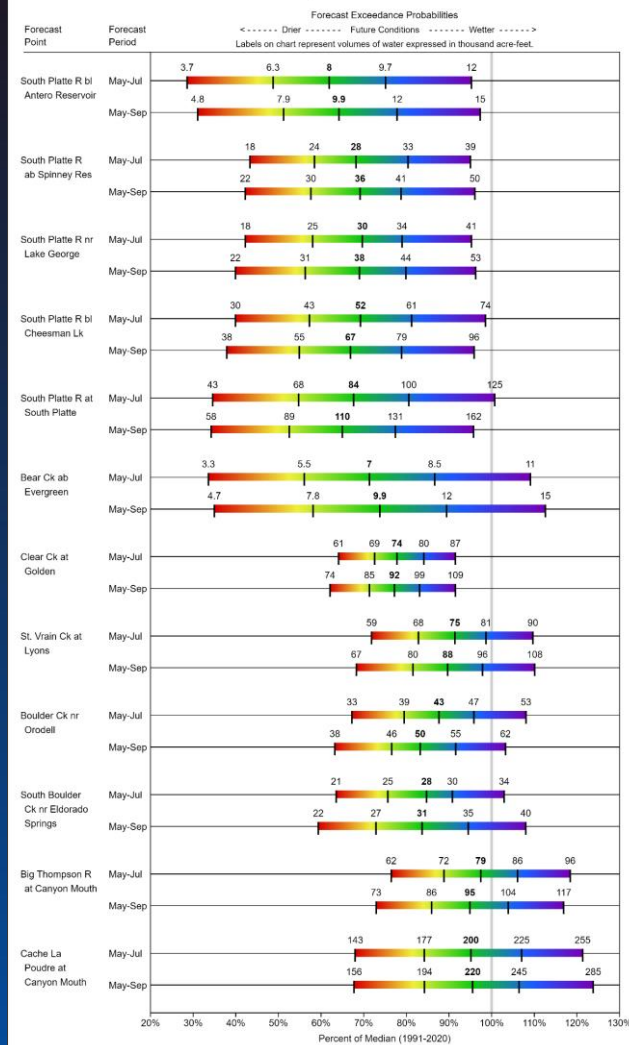
May 1, 2022



## SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN

Water Supply Forecasts

May 1, 2022



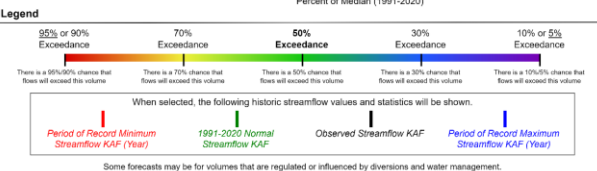
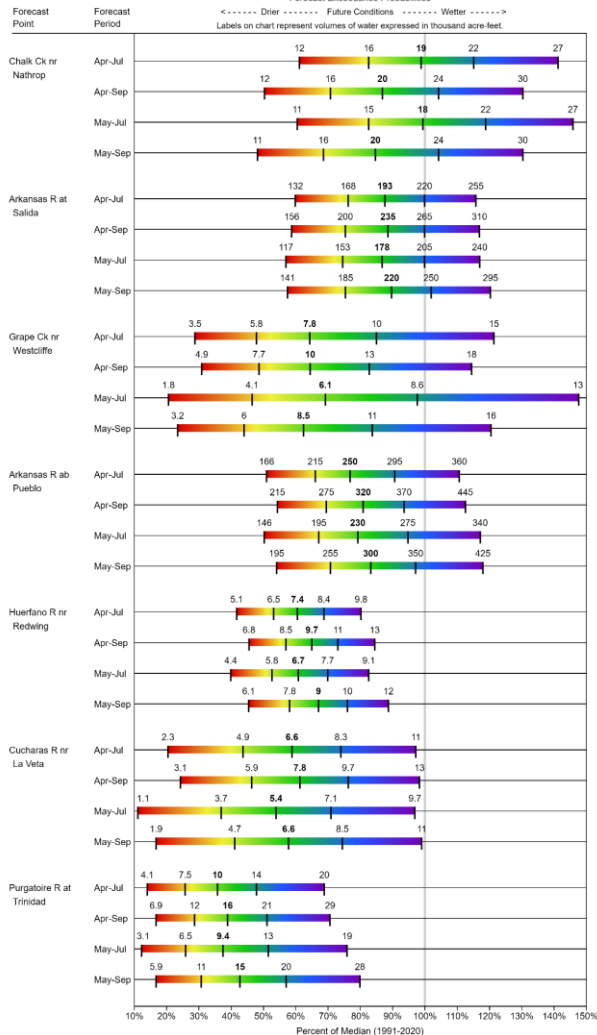


## ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN

### Water Supply Forecasts

May 1, 2022

Forecast Exceedance Probabilities  
----- Drier ----- Future Conditions ----- Wetter -----  
Labels on chart represent volumes of water expressed in thousand acre-feet.

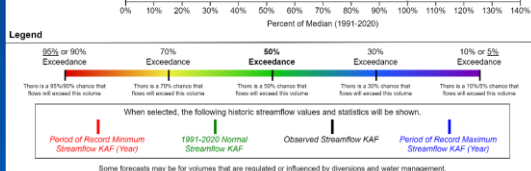
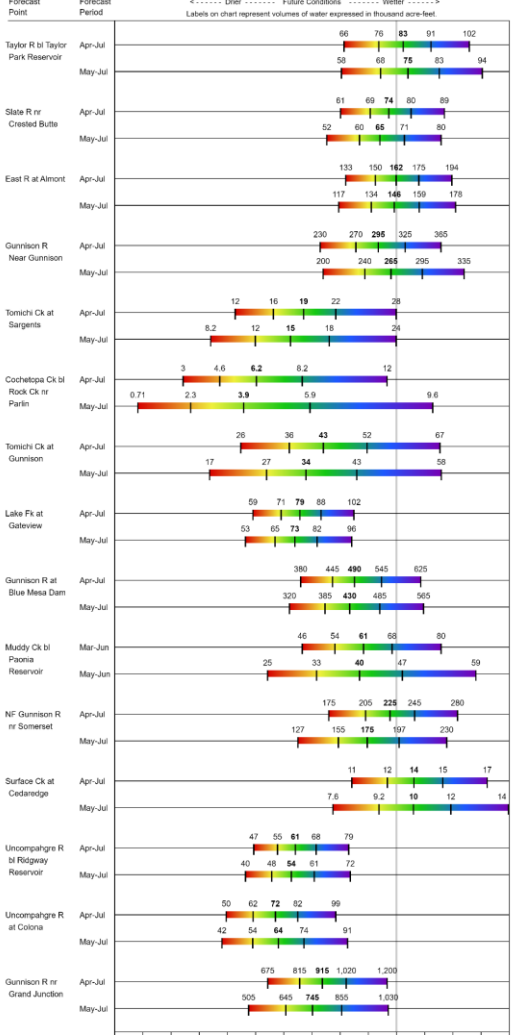


## GUNNISON RIVER BASIN

### Water Supply Forecasts

May 1, 2022

Forecast Exceedance Probabilities  
----- Drier ----- Future Conditions ----- Wetter -----  
Labels on chart represent volumes of water expressed in thousand acre-feet.

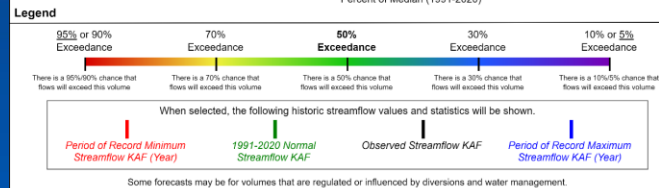
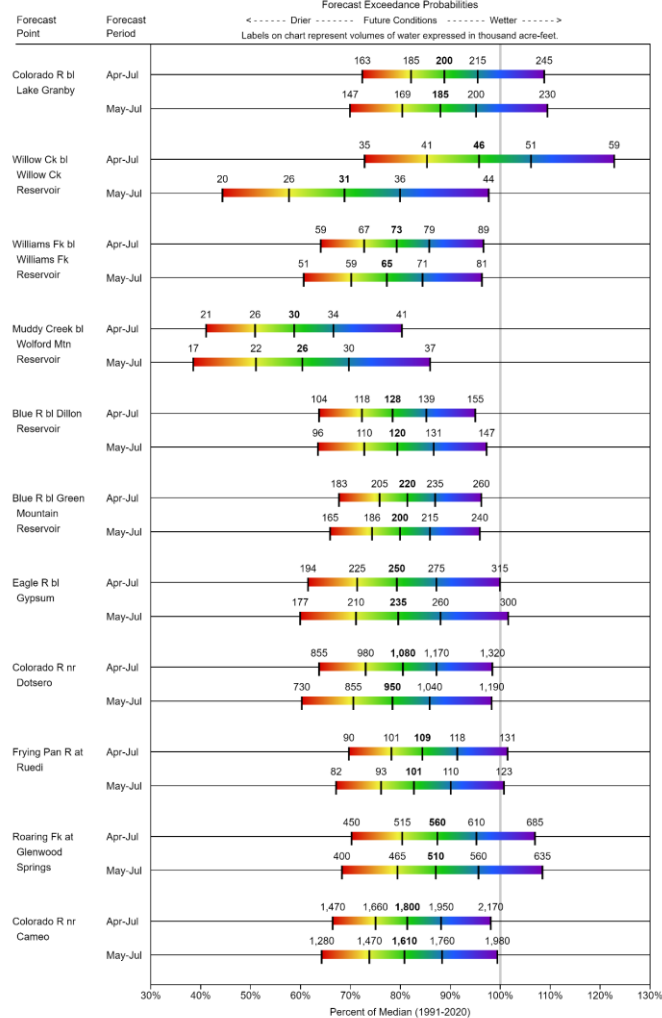


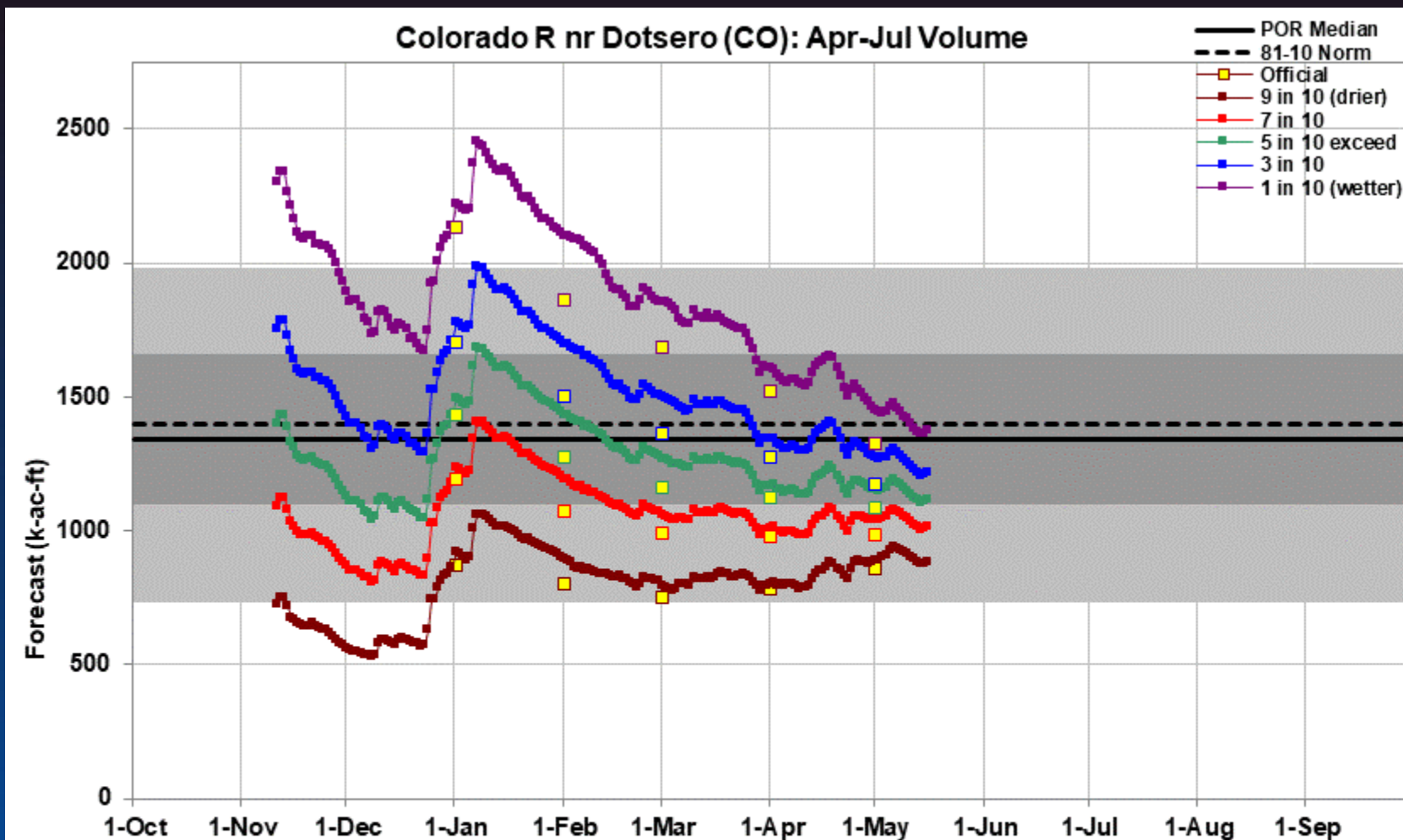
## UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN

### Water Supply Forecasts

May 1, 2022

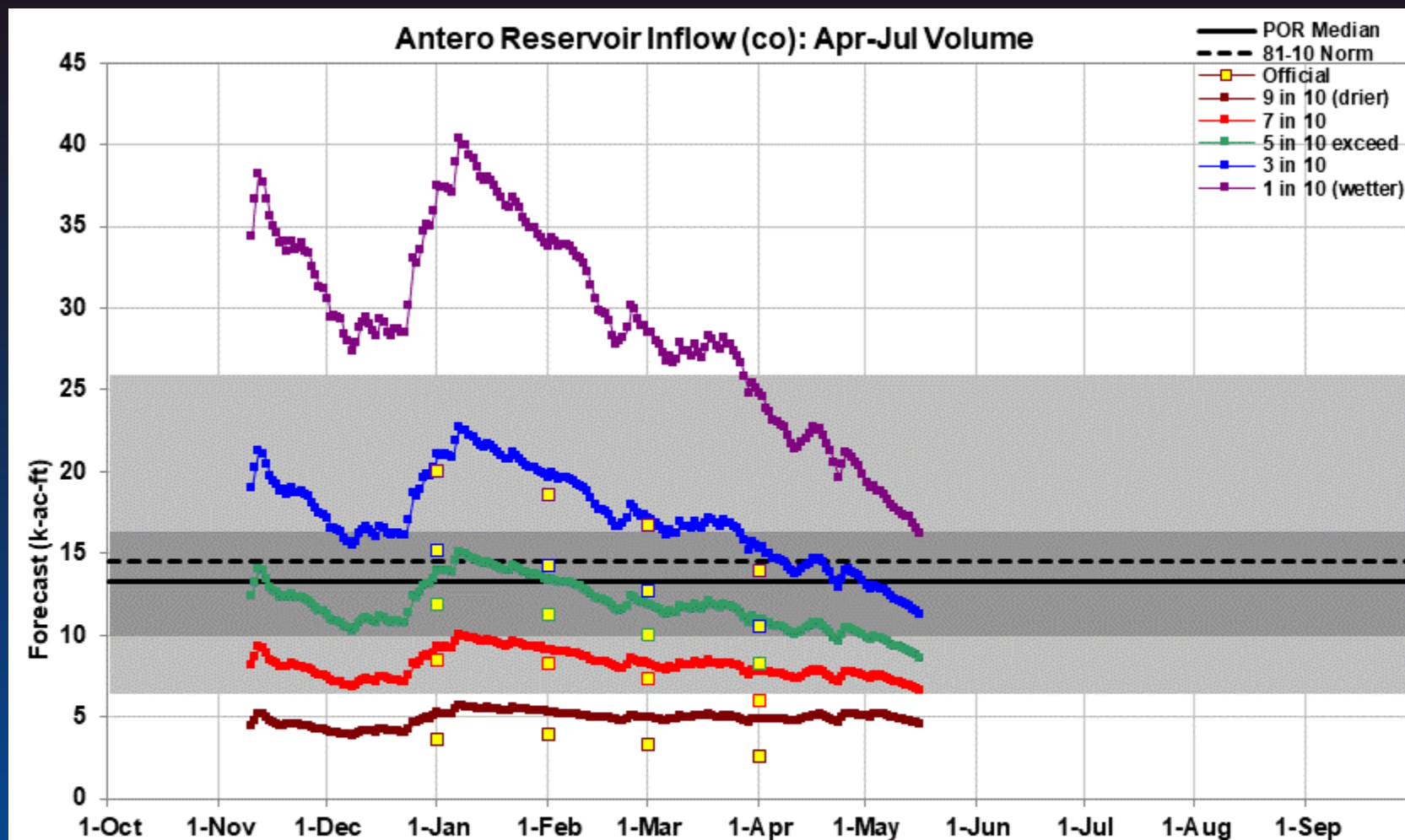
Forecast Exceedance Probabilities  
----- Drier ----- Future Conditions ----- Wetter -----  
Labels on chart represent volumes of water expressed in thousand acre-feet.





This is an automated product based solely on SNOTEL data, provisional data are subject to change. This product is a statistically based guidance forecast combining indices of snowpack and precipitation. **Yellow squares** are the official outlooks. **Gray background** is the historical period of record variability. This product does not consider climate information such as El Nino or short range weather forecasts, or a variety of other factors considered in the official forecasts. This product is not meant to replace or supercede the official forecasts produced in coordination with the National Weather Service. Science Contact: [Cara.s.McCarthy@por.usda.gov](mailto:Cara.s.McCarthy@por.usda.gov) [www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/ws/daily\\_forecasts.html](http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/ws/daily_forecasts.html)

Created 14:31 May 16 2022

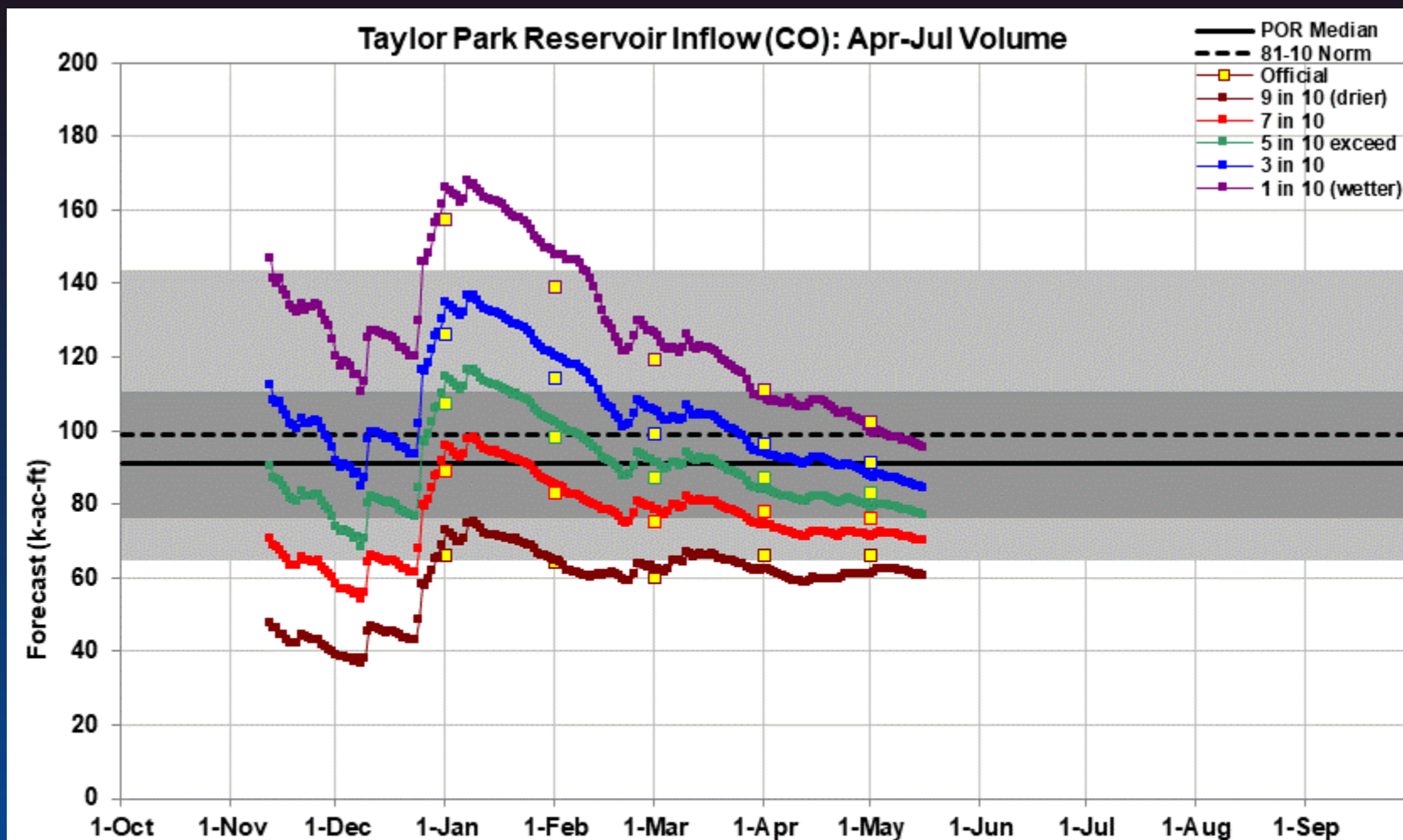


Created 14:18 May 16 2022



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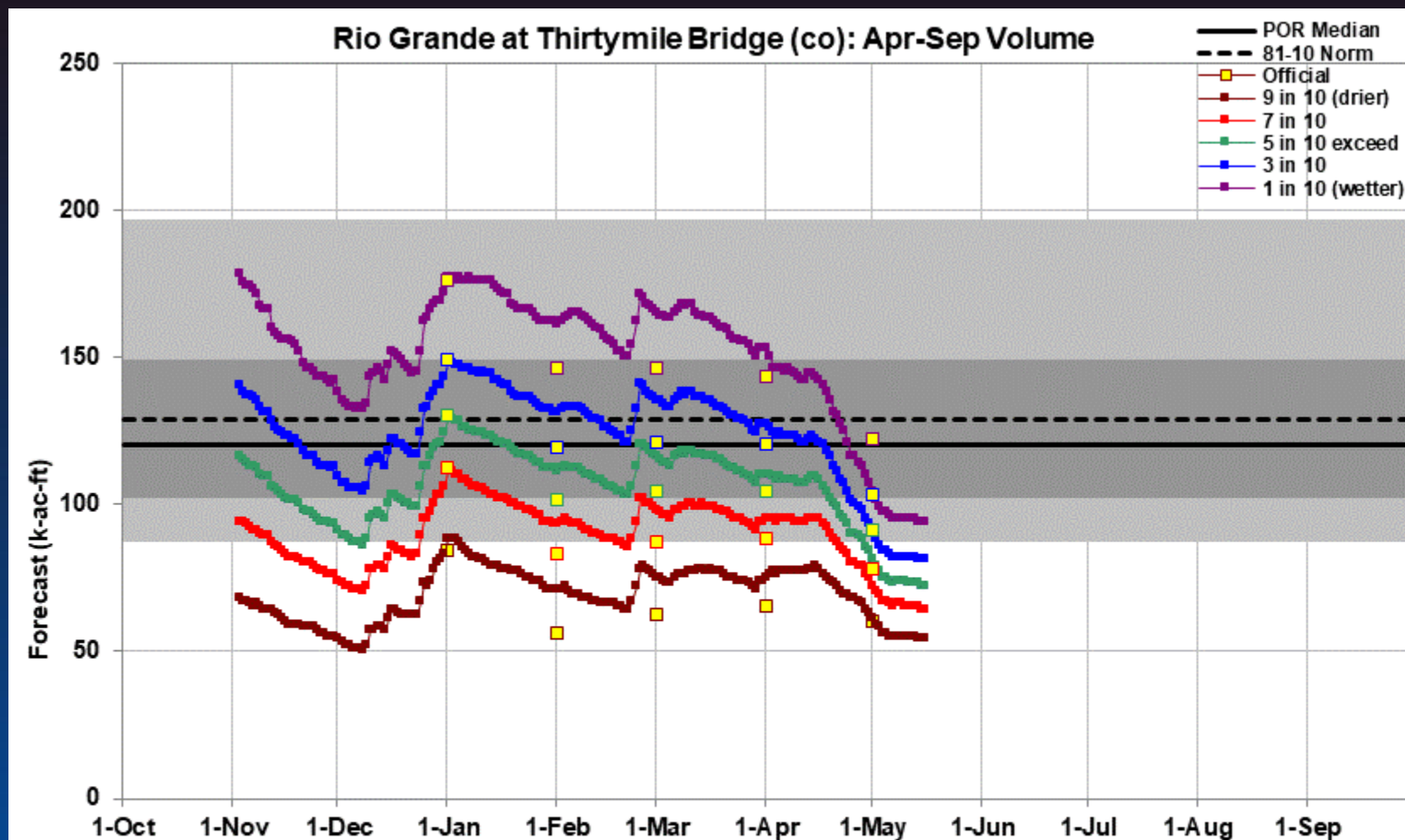




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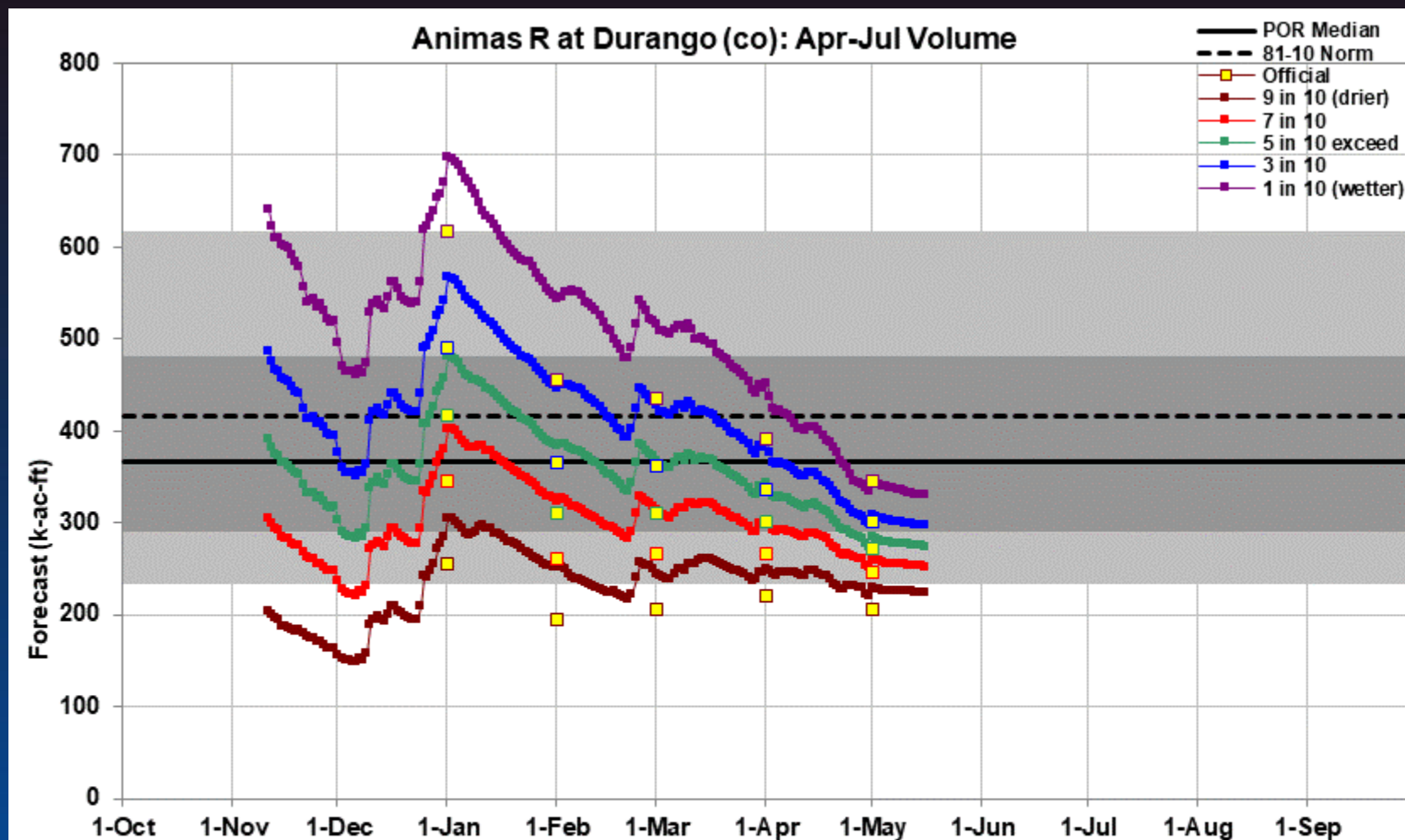
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Created 14:22 May 16 2022



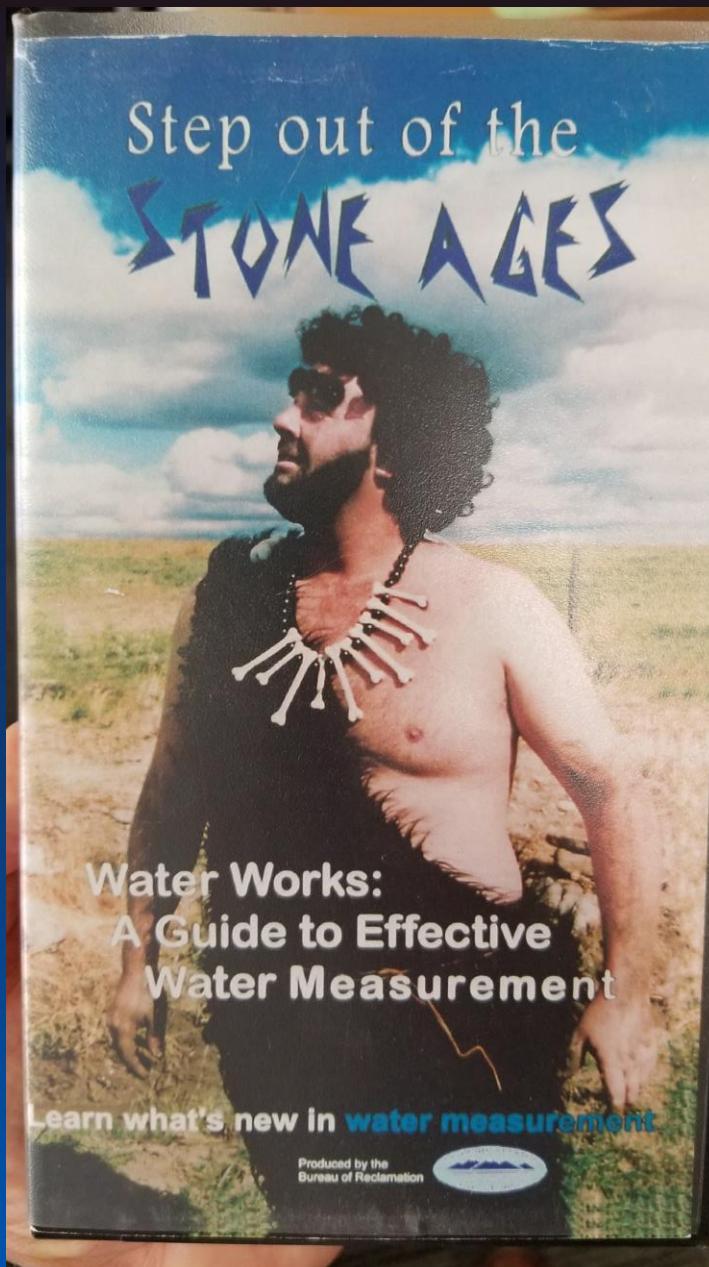
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Created 14:48 May 16 2022



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## Summary



## DEPTH AVERAGED SOIL SATURATION IN STATE OF COLORADO

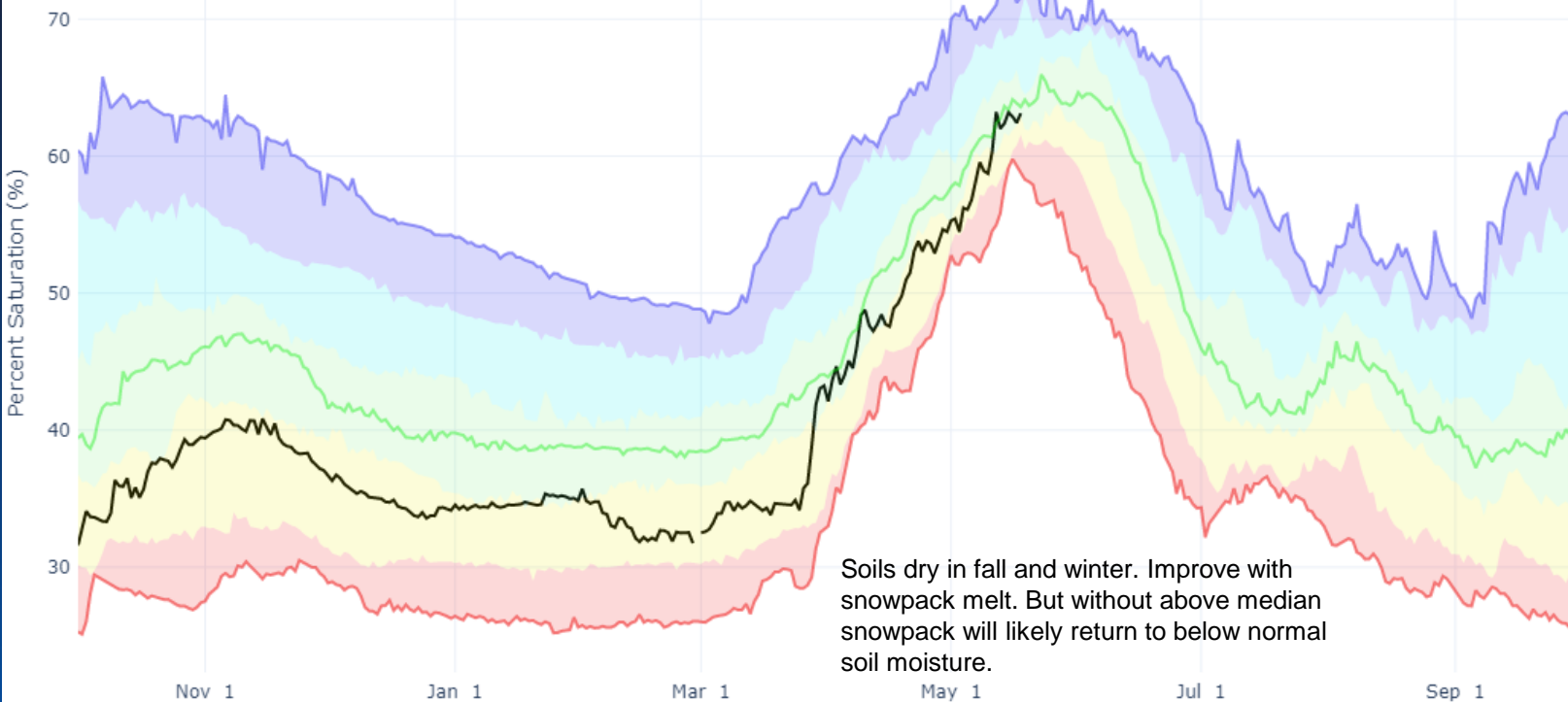
Reset Range

[Link to data: CSV / JSON](#)

Station List

Current as of 05/18/2022

- Max
- Median (POR)
- Min
- Stats. Shading
- 2022 (45 sites)
- 2021 (45 sites)
- 2020 (47 sites)
- 2019 (45 sites)
- 2018 (46 sites)
- 2017 (41 sites)
- 2016 (44 sites)
- 2015 (42 sites)
- 2014 (42 sites)
- 2013 (41 sites)
- 2012 (39 sites)
- 2011 (39 sites)
- 2010 (31 sites)
- 2009 (29 sites)
- 2008 (28 sites)
- 2007 (24 sites)
- 2006 (24 sites)

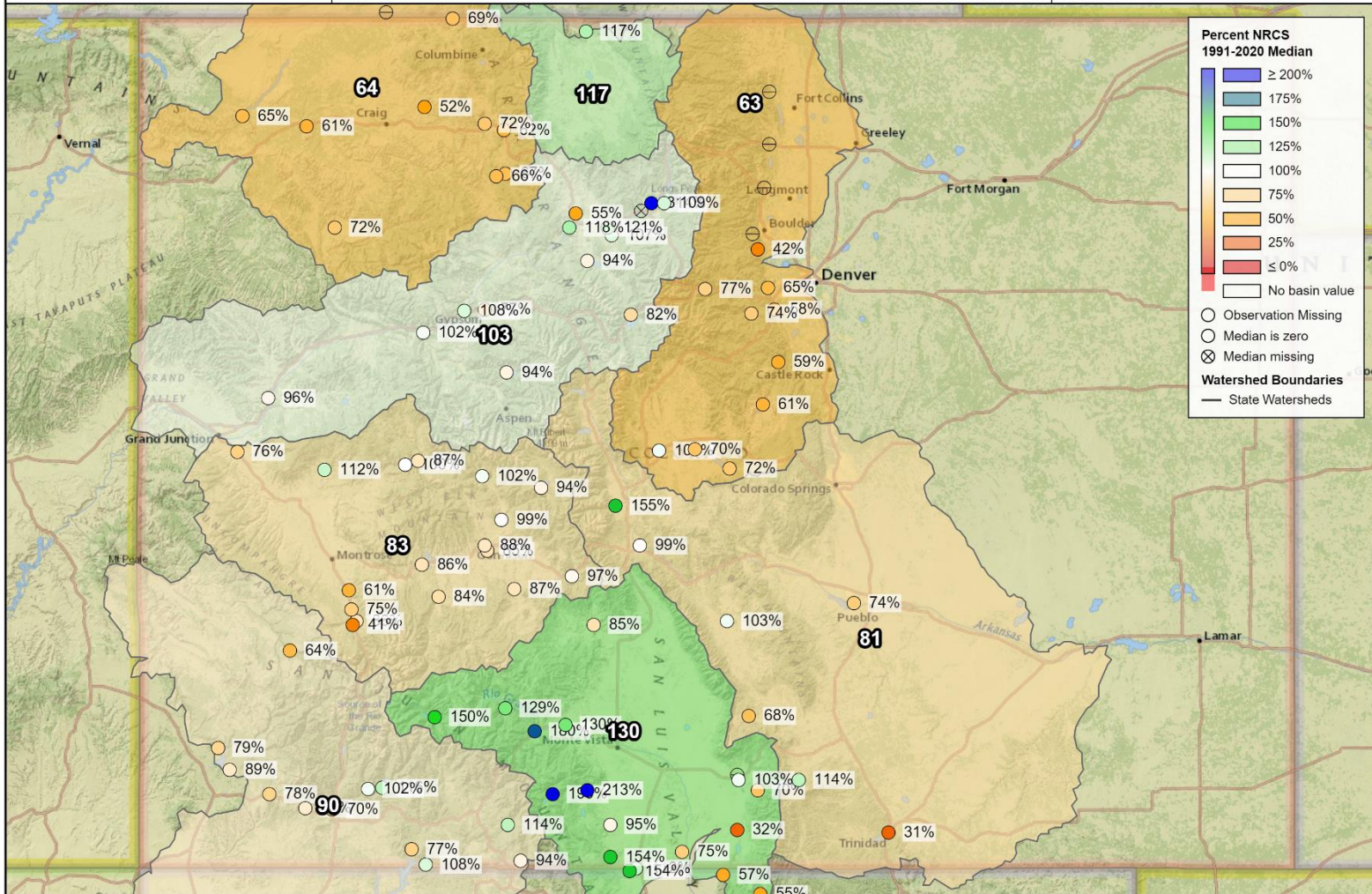


1 month Adjusted Volume, Observed

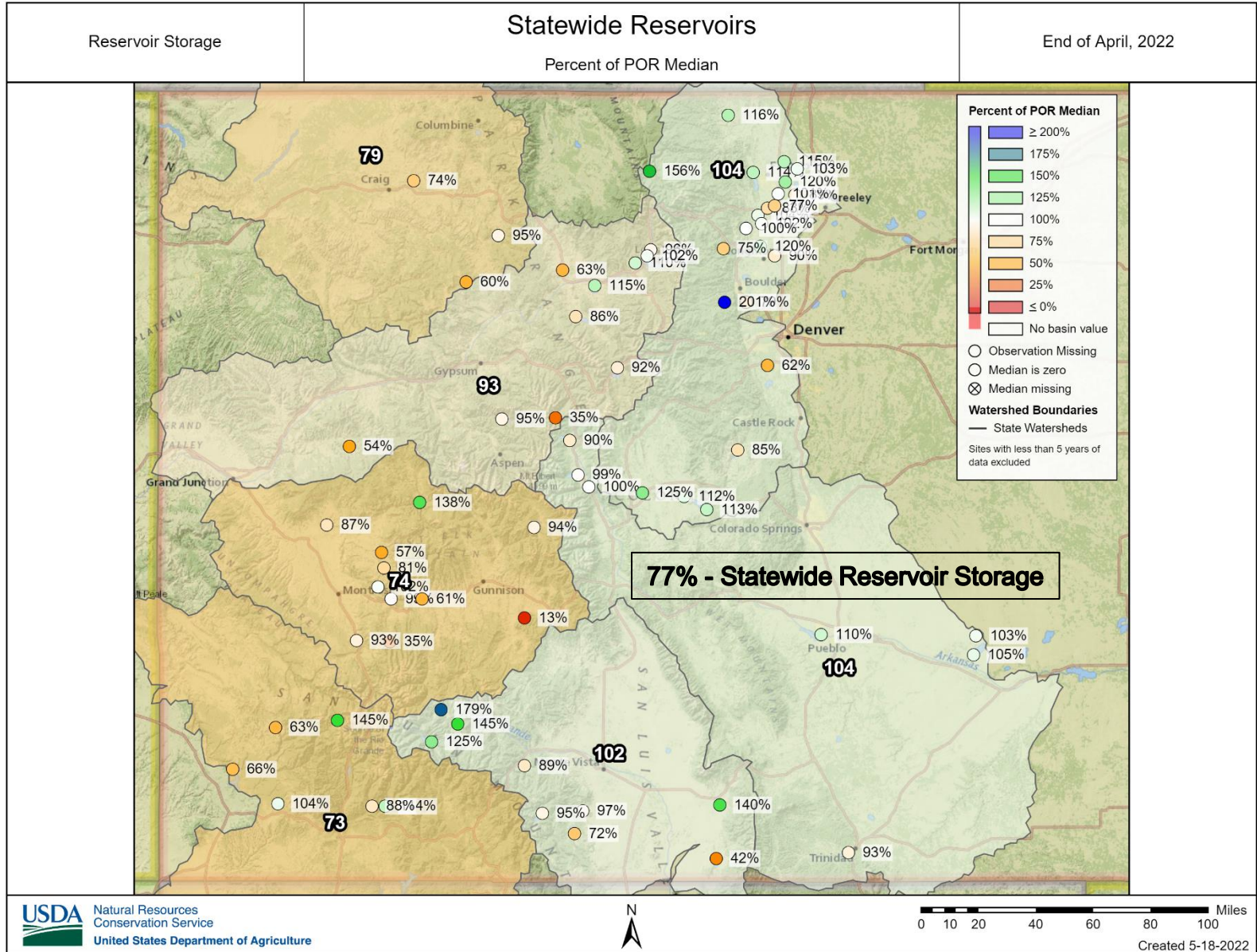
## Statewide Apr Strmflow

Percent NRCS 1991-2020 Median

April 1, 2022 - April 30, 2022







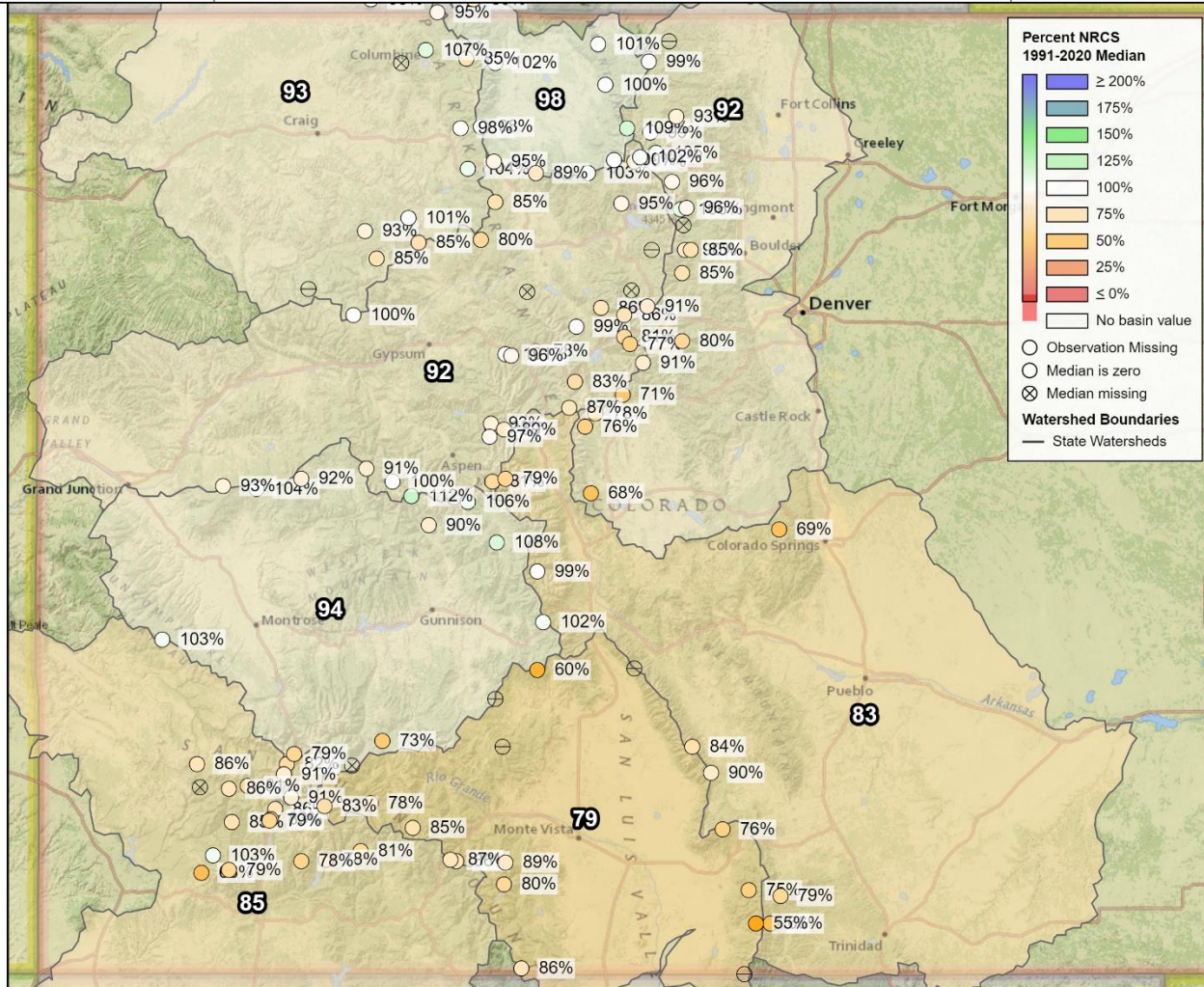


Water Year to Date Precipitation

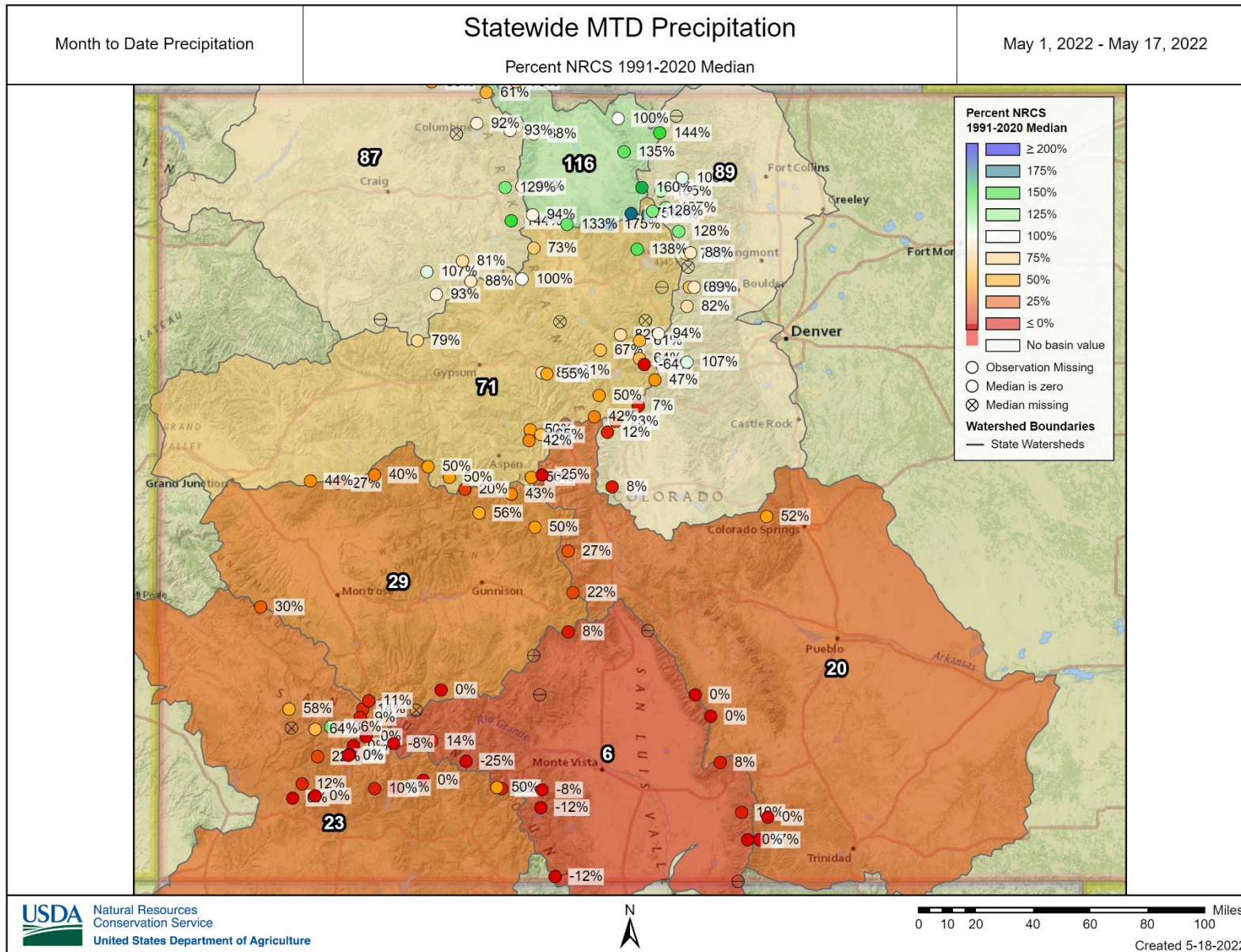
## Statewide YTD Precipitation

Percent NRCS 1991-2020 Median

October 1, 2021 - May 17, 2022









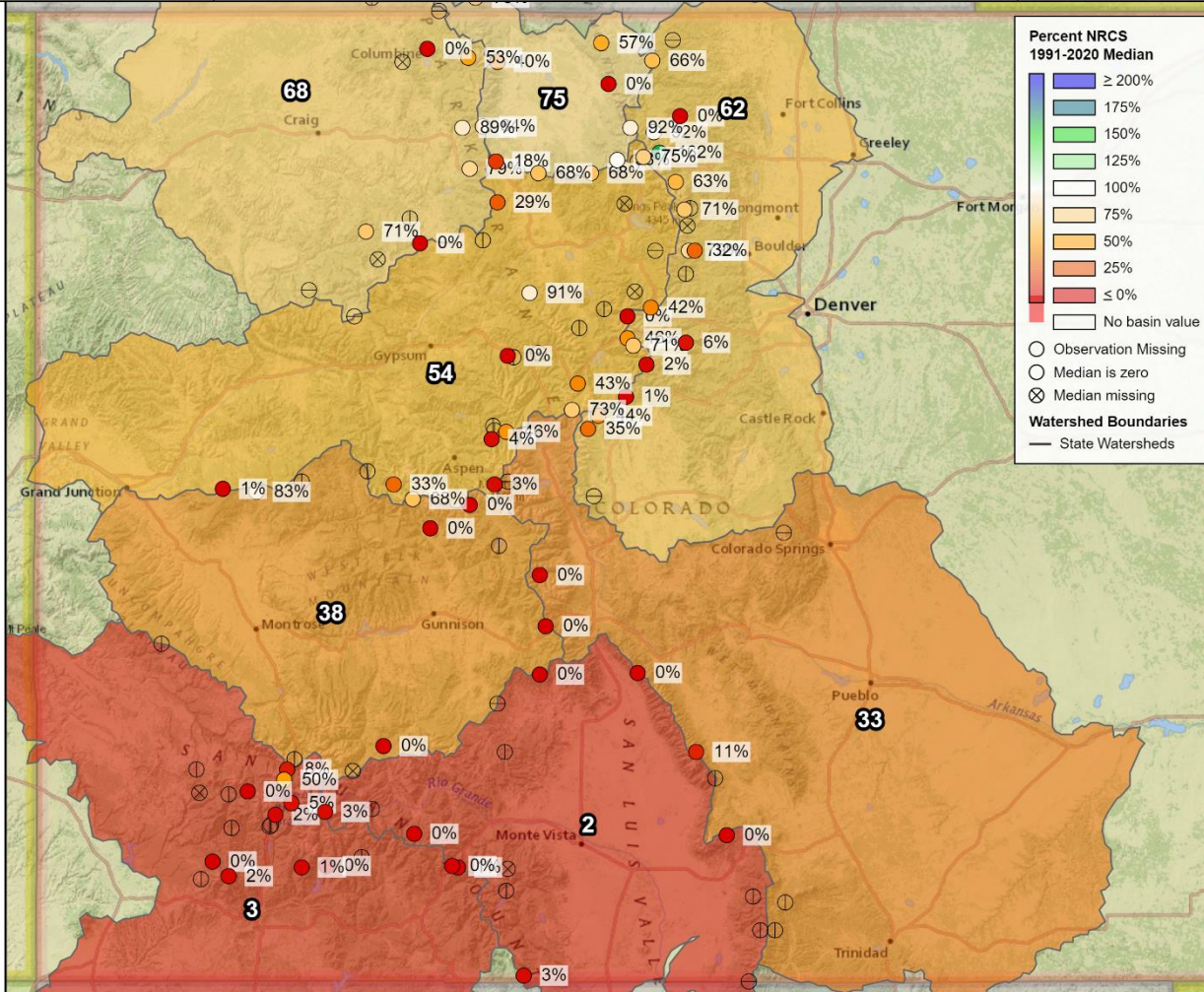
# Colorado Snow Surveys

Snow Water Equivalent

## Statewide Snowpack

Percent NRCS 1991-2020 Median

May 17, 2022, end of day







## SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN STATE OF COLORADO

Reset Range

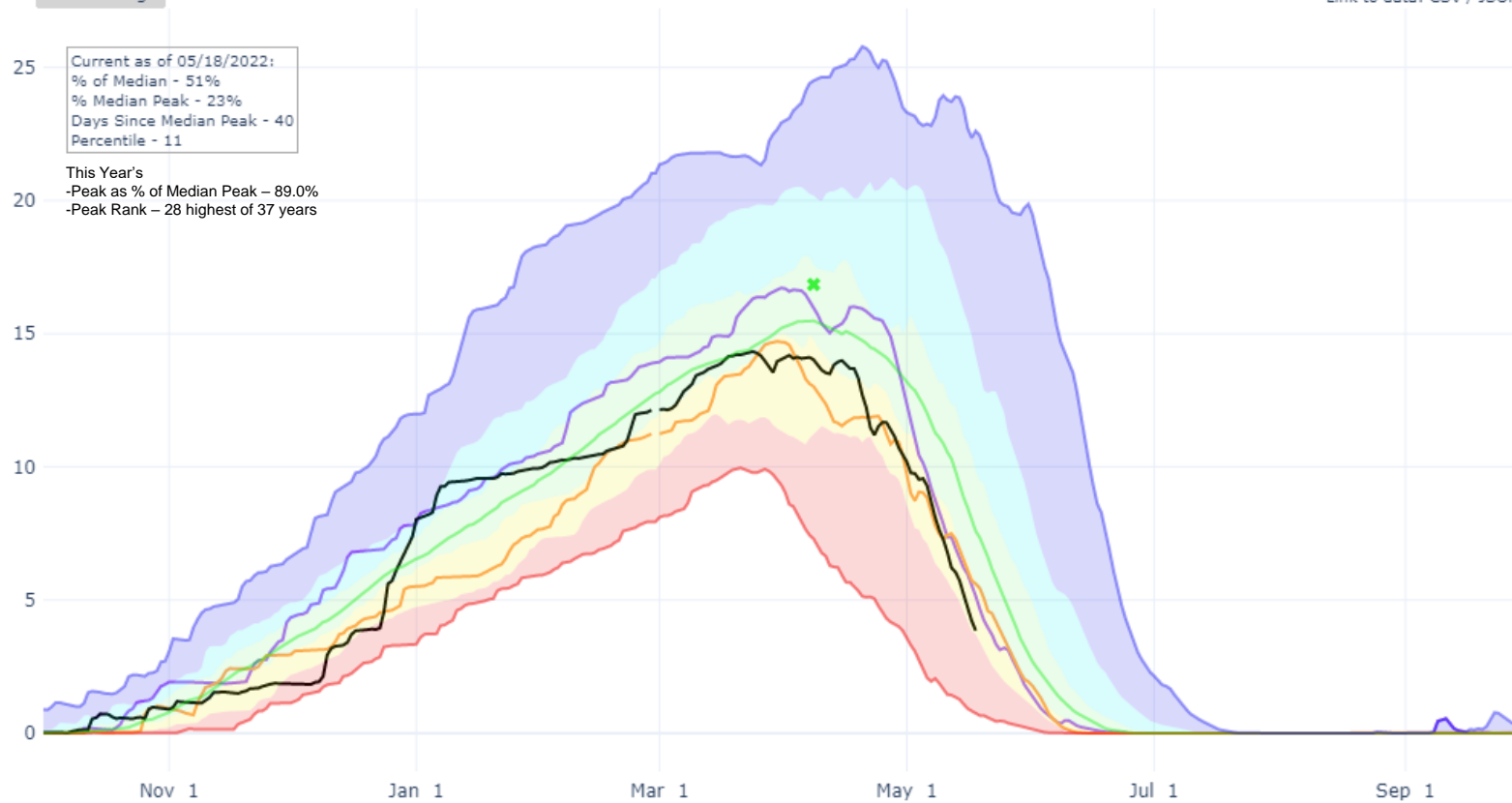
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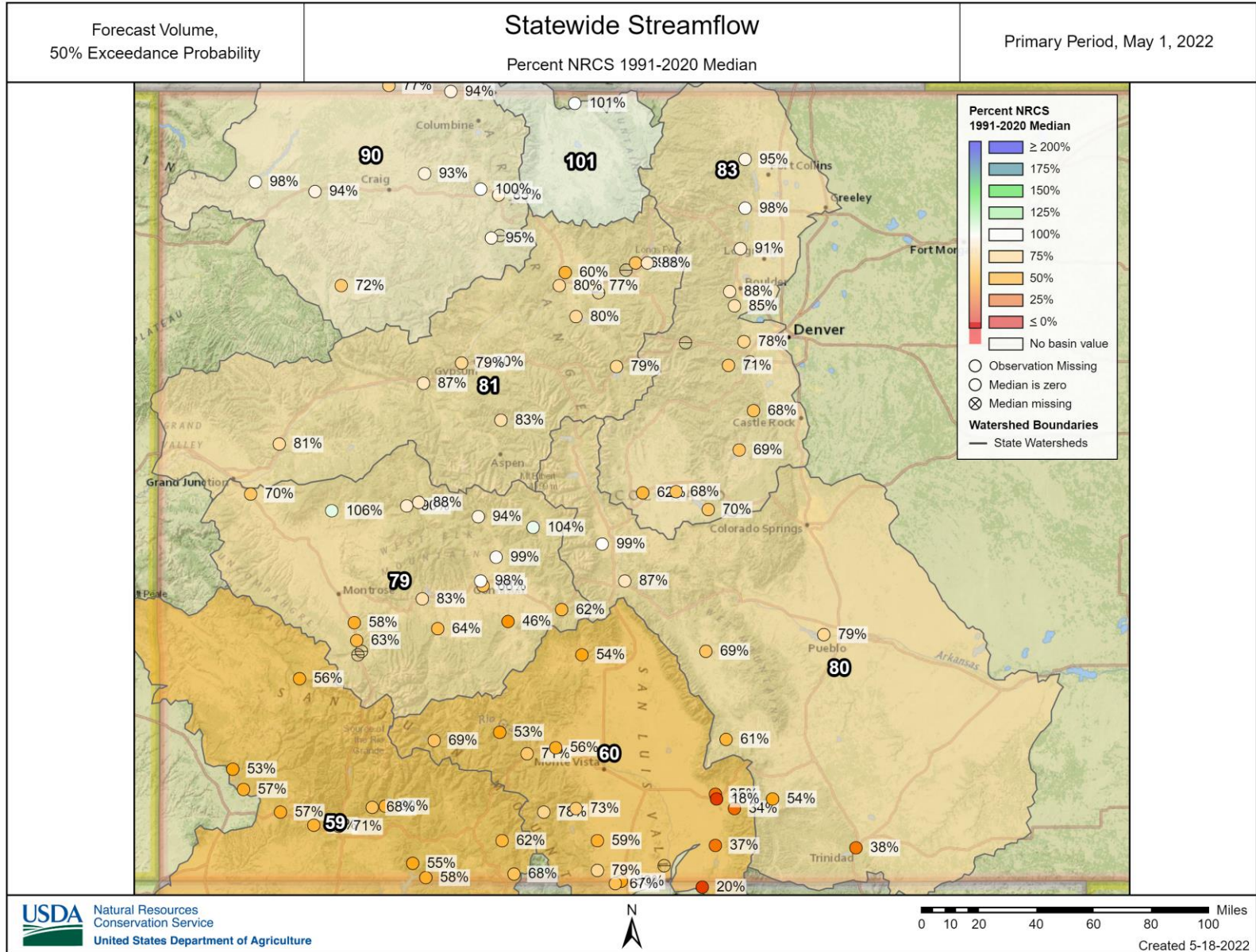
[Station List](#)

Current as of 05/18/2022:  
% of Median - 51%  
% Median Peak - 23%  
Days Since Median Peak - 40  
Percentile - 11

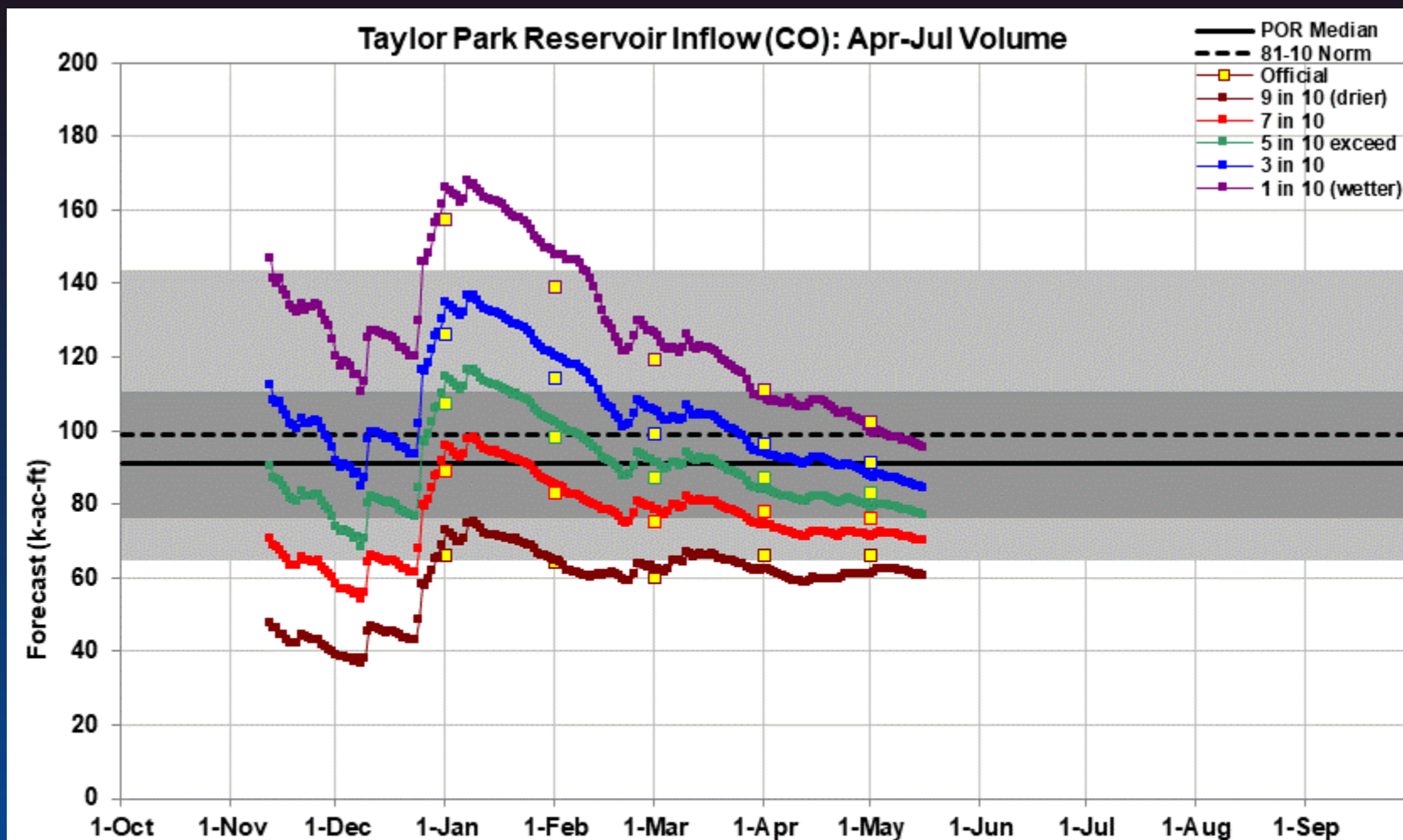
This Year's  
-Peak as % of Median Peak - 89.0%  
-Peak Rank - 28 highest of 37 years

- ✱ Median Peak SWE
- Max
- Median (POR)
- Median ('91-'20)
- Min
- Stats. Shading
- 2022 (116 sites)
- 2021 (116 sites)
- 2020 (116 sites)
- 2019 (116 sites)
- 2018 (116 sites)
- 2017 (116 sites)
- 2016 (116 sites)
- 2015 (116 sites)
- 2014 (116 sites)
- 2013 (116 sites)
- 2012 (116 sites)
- 2011 (115 sites)
- 2010 (113 sites)
- 2009 (109 sites)
- 2008 (106 sites)
- 2007 (103 sites)
- 2006 (103 sites)
- 2005 (102 sites)
- 2004 (97 sites)
- 2003 (95 sites)









Created 14:32 May 16 2022



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## Summary

- Overall, the water supply outlook is for below normal runoff across most of the state.
  - However, underlying factors vary across the basins
- Snowpack in southern basins peaked early. Northern basins peaked later than normal. All basins peaked below normal but southern basins generally peaked higher, as a percent of median, than the northern basins
- Recent precipitation was near to below normal. Better precipitation favoring the northern portions of the state. Less precipitation as one moves south.
- Snowpack melt rates have been well above normal further south.
- Most snowpack below tree-line is melted out in the south.
- Mountain soil moisture has wetted up as it typically does this time of year as snowpack melts. So it is hard to tell at this point how soil moisture will pan out after the snow melts off.
- Reservoirs range from 73% of normal across the combined San Miguel, Dolores, Animas & San Juan Basins to 104% of normal in the Arkansas and the South Platte alike. However next month values will provide the best indicator of reservoir outlooks.
- Streamflow forecasts for much of the state are expected to be below normal for the spring and summer. Poor precipitation trends could continue to degrade outlooks.



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United States Department of Agriculture

Colorado Snow Surveys

# Water Availability Task Force Meeting

## May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### NRCS Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program

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Hydrologist

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