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Flood Potential Outlook  
National Weather Service, ABRFC, Tulsa, Oklahoma  
1003 CST, Wednesday, March 5, 2015

COLORADO  
-- ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN--

The Rocky Mountains

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

As measured at high altitude SNOTEL monitoring stations, the mountains of the Arkansas River basin have received approximately 102 percent-of-median precipitation and have accumulated 100 percent-of-median snowpack this water year. (A more detailed table is included below.) At the end of February, mountain reservoirs in the Arkansas River basin (Turquoise, Twin Lakes, Pueblo) were, on average, at 82 percent-of-capacity. This represents 111 percent-of-average storage and 132 percent of last year's storage.

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 Sunday: March 1, 2015

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

ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN

APISHAPA	10000	2.9	6.8	43	9.3	9.5	98
BRUMLEY	10600	10.7	7.5	143	10.4	10.1	103
FREMONT PASS	11400	14.4	11.8	122	14.1	11.8	119
PORPHYRY CREEK	10760	12.7	12.1	105	11.3	11.8	96
SOUTH COLONY	10800	11.7	14.9	79	14.9	16.4	91
WHISKEY CK	10220	9.5	8.8	108	13.0	12.3	106
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Basin wide percent-of-average		100		102			

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

The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) Seasonal Outlooks for winter and early spring (MAR-APR-MAY) indicate equal chances of below-normal,

above-normal, or near-normal temperatures in the mountains of southeast Colorado. The precipitation outlook for the same period indicates increased chances (33%-40%) of above-median precipitation in the plains of southeastern Colorado. The chances increase (40%-50%) towards the mountains.

The U.S. Drought Monitor of February 24, 2015 indicates that the mountain headwaters of the Arkansas River are not currently experiencing drought conditions. There are abnormally dry (D-0) conditions across the divide. Conditions worsen to moderate drought (D-1) near the New Mexico border. As for the plains, severe drought (D-2) conditions dominate the extreme southeastern corner of Colorado. Conditions improve through moderate drought and abnormally dry conditions until the monitor indicates drought free conditions just north of the Arkansas River. The CPC Drought Outlook of February 19, 2015 shows that drought conditions are not expected to develop or intensify in the next several months.

Current estimates from the CPC indicate that soils in the mountains are near normal in terms of soil moisture, with values between the 30th and 70th percentiles.

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

Colorado Ensemble Streamflow Prediction

As of Tuesday: March 3, 2015

March 3 - Jul 1 50% Exceedence

Weekly

Station	Flood Stage(ft)	50% exceedence Maximum Stage (ft)	50% exceedence Maximum Stage (ft)
Leadville	9.0	6.9	6.7
Salida	8.0	4.4	4.2
Wellsville	9.0	6.0	5.7
Parkdale	9.0	5.0	4.8
Canon City	10.0	7.9	7.7
Portland	9.0	4.6	4.2
Pueblo	8.0	6.7	5.9

The Southeastern Plains

The potential for flood conditions will be below normal this spring. Normal conditions for southeastern Colorado reflect a low probability of flooding.

Visible satellite images and estimates from the National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center (NOHRSC) indicate only a light snowpack in the plains of southeast Colorado. The current plains snowpack is not expected to be hydrologically significant with regard to spring flooding. According to the CPC soil moisture

estimates, the plains of the Arkansas Basin are generally near normal with most values between the 30th and 70th percentiles. Some areas in the northern portion of the Arkansas basin are wetter with values between the 70th and 80th percentiles.

According to the USGS stream gages, Fountain Creek and the mainstem of the Arkansas River are both flowing at near-normal levels. The near-normal flows continue as far as downstream as John Martin Reservoir. Below that point, flow conditions drop below normal. At the end of February, reservoirs affecting the Arkansas River below Pueblo (Meredith, Trinidad, and John Martin) were, on average, at 40 percent-of-capacity. This represents 48 percent-of-average storage and 126 percent of last year's storage.

The ESP model does not indicate any probabilities of flooding greater than 50 percent. The table below shows the probability of flooding during the next 120 days at four forecast points in the plains of southeast Colorado.

Colorado Ensemble Streamflow Prediction  
As of Tuesday: March 3, 2015

Fcst Point Station ID	% Probability Minor Flooding	% Probability Moderate Flooding	% Probability Major Flooding
ARCC2	Not Expected	Not Expected	Not Expected
LXHC2	57	33	8
LAPC2	15	5	4
LMAC2	5	3	2

Precipitation during the last 90 days has been mostly above-average. There are widespread areas along the I-25 corridor that have received one to two inches of precipitation in excess of the average for the last 3 months. There are isolated but considerable areas that have received two to four inches in excess of the average.

Drought related conditions continue to affect the plains of southeastern Colorado but the intensity has lessened somewhat since last year. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor of February 24, 2015, areas along the I-25 corridor near Pueblo are free of drought related conditions. As one moves southeast, the drought conditions intensify through Abnormally Dry (D-0) and Moderate Drought (D-1) to Severe Drought (D-2) in the southeast corner of the state. The CPC drought outlook for the next 3 months indicates some improvement is likely in the most severely affected areas.

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NEW MEXICO -- CANADIAN RIVER BASIN

The potential for spring flooding for northeastern New Mexico is near normal. Normal conditions in northeast New Mexico reflect a low probability of flooding. Flooding in New Mexico is generally driven by rapid snow melt runoff or high-intensity rainfall. Current conditions reflect the on-going drought that has been affecting the region for the last several years. Dry conditions continue to dominate the region but are not as severe as last year. The mountains especially have gotten some relief and are now in an area of moderate drought (D-1). This is a modest improvement over last year.

The Sangre de Cristo Mountains mark the headwaters of the Canadian River in New Mexico. These mountains have experienced about 106 percent-of-median precipitation this water year and have accumulated 106 percent-of-median snowpack. (A more detailed table is included below.) The most recent basin-wide snowpack report from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) indicates the Canadian River basin snow-water equivalent is 83 percent of the historical median.

SNOW - PRECIPITATION UPDATE  
 Based on Mountain Data from NRCS SNOTEL Sites  
 As of Sunday: March 1, 2015

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 BASIN            ELEV. SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT TOTAL PRECIPITATION  
 Data Site Name (Ft)            %            %  
                   Current Median Median Current Median Median  
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SANGRE DE CRISTO MOUNTAIN RANGE BASINS

CULEBRA #2	10500	12.3	10.4	118	11.9	10.1	118
GALLEGOS PEAK	9800	8.5	9.8	87	12.0	11.5	104
NORTH COSTILLA	10600	7.1	5.9	120	11.4	9.9	115
RED RVR PASS #2	9850	7.5	6.8	110	9.0	7.9	114
TOLBY	10180	9.1	7.2	126	11.4	10.1	113
TRINCHERA	10860	7.9	7.9	100	8.0	8.9	90
WESNER SPGS	11120	10.1	12.1	83	13.0	14.4	90
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Basin wide percent-of-average				106			106

The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) Seasonal Outlooks for northeastern New Mexico indicate there are equal chances of above-normal, below-normal, and near-normal temperatures during the next three months. Precipitation outlooks for the same period indicate significantly increased chances (40%-50%) of above-median precipitation.

Visible satellite imagery and snow cover models from National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center (NOHRSC) show minimal snowpack in the plains of northeastern New Mexico. Soils in the area

have retained some of the moisture they received during the rain events in September. Soil moisture in northeastern New Mexico is near normal at this time, with estimates between the 30th and 70th percentiles.

Most stream gages on the Canadian River and its tributaries are affected by ice at this time. A generalized statement of current streamflow is therefore, difficult to make. However, the Canadian River at Sanchez is currently slightly below normal (30th percentile) while further downstream, the Canadian River at Logan is showing near-normal discharge. At the end of February, the contents of Conchas Reservoir constituted 33 percent of the reservoir capacity and 42 percent-of-average contents at this date. Contents of Eagle Nest Reservoir were at 23 percent-of-capacity and 88 percent of last year.

Water-year-to-date (October 1 to present) precipitation in north-eastern New Mexico is near average or slightly above average. Wide-spread areas have received over one inch more than their average precipitation in the last 90 days.

The U.S. Drought Monitor of February 24, 2015 indicates that Severe Drought (D2) conditions dominate the northeast corner of the state. Conditions improve to moderate drought (D-1) to the south and into the mountain headwaters of the Canadian River. The CPC's US Seasonal Drought Outlook of February 19, 2015 calls for drought conditions to persist or intensify over the next three months.

A summary of some potential maximum stages from the ESP model output are presented in the table below.

New Mexico Ensemble Streamflow Prediction  
 As of Tuesday: March 3, 2015  
 March 3 - Jun 1 50% Exceedence

Station	Weekly		
	Flood Stage(ft)	50% exceedence Maximum Stage (ft)	50% exceedence Maximum Stage(ft)
Vermejo R @Dawson	9.0	5.6	5.6
Cimarron R @Cimarron	5.0	2.7	1.8
Mora R @Golondrinas	5.5	2.4	2.1

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## SOUTHERN KANSAS

The potential for flood conditions in southern Kansas will be near normal this spring. Most flooding in Kansas is directly related to specific precipitation events. Most hydrologically relevant conditions in southern Kansas reflect the ongoing drought.

Rainfall during the last 90 days has been low in the southeast corner of Kansas and has increased westward. A large area in the southeast corner received two to four inches less than average. In contrast, a large area in the southwest corner of the state received one to two inches more than the average. Precipitation in south-central Kansas was about average over that same time period.

Snowpack estimates from the National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center (NOHRSC) indicate only a light snowpack in southern Kansas. The current plains snowpack is not expected to be hydrologically significant with regard to spring flooding. Soil moisture conditions in southern Kansas are generally near normal with estimates between the 30th and 70th percentiles. A small area in the extreme western edge of southern Kansas is slightly above normal, with values in between the 70th and 80th percentiles.

Streamflows in western Kansas are generally much below normal, with discharges below the 25th percentile. Conditions worsen toward the southwest corner of the state with gages below the 10th percentile.

Reservoir storage in southern Kansas is slightly below design conditions. U.S. Corps of Engineers data indicate that Corps reservoirs currently have an average of 101 percent of their flood control storage available.

The Climate Prediction Center's (CPC) Seasonal Outlook (MAR-APR-MAY) indicates there are slightly increased chances for above-median precipitation in the extreme southwest corner of the state. Otherwise the outlooks indicate equal chances of above-normal, below-normal, and near-normal temperatures and above-median, below-median, and near-median precipitation across southern Kansas.

The U.S. Drought Monitor of February 24, 2015 indicates Abnormally Dry (D0) to Extreme Drought (D3) conditions dominate southern Kansas at this time. Southwest Kansas is the driest area, with widespread Severe Drought (D2) conditions dominating the area and worsening to Extreme Drought (D3) in a small area along the Oklahoma border. The eastern half of southern Kansas is dominated by Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions that worsen to Moderate Drought (D1) as you travel westward. The US Seasonal Drought Outlook of February 19, 2015 indicates the drought in western Kansas should see some improvement across the state. The Outlook indicates drought conditions in southeastern Kansas should not develop or intensify.

The table below displays the probability of flooding for selected Dodge City forecast points. Current model output indicates that chances of minor flooding in western Kansas are low (< 15%).

Select Points in Western Kansas  
Kansas Ensemble Streamflow Prediction  
As of Tuesday: March 3, 2015

Fcst. Point Station ID	% Probability Minor Flooding	% Probability Moderate Flooding	% Probability Major Flooding
COOK1	6	4	Not Expected
BETK1	4	2	Not Expected
ENWK1	12	3	Not Expected
FRGO2	7	4	Not Expected
RCNK1	5	3	2
ZENK1	9	7	Not Expected
DDCK1	2	Not Expected	Not Expected

The table below presents some south-central and southeast Kansas forecast points where the ESP model indicates a greater than 15 percent chance of minor flooding. These are not extreme conditions and do not reflect an above-normal potential for flooding.

Select Points in South-central and Southeast Kansas  
Kansas Ensemble Streamflow Prediction  
As of Tuesday: March 3, 2015

Fcst. Point Station ID	% Probability Minor Flooding	% Probability Moderate Flooding	% Probability Major Flooding
ALMK1	17	14	2
ARCK1	25	4	2
ARKK1	15	3	Not Expected
ATOK1	23	5	Not Expected
CBNK1	37	Not Expected	Not Expected
CNUK1	43	19	5
CFVK1	20	8	Not Expected
CNUK1	32	17	Not Expected
CTWK1	19	13	Not Expected
EREK1	48	36	20
FLRK1	27	2	Not Expected
FRNK1	25	8	Not Expected
IDPK1	31	Not Expected	Not Expected
IOLK1	20	2	Not Expected
MDKK1	20	10	Not Expected
MULK1	15	3	Not Expected
OSWK1	55	45	7
OXFK1	19	11	2
PPFK1	56	45	Not Expected
PLYK1	22	12	Not Expected
WFDK1	16	14	5

EMPK1	28	18	Not Expected
EPRK1	20	15	Not Expected
NEOK1	27	23	Not Expected

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## SOUTHWEST MISSOURI

The potential for flood conditions in southwestern Missouri will be near normal this spring. Most flooding in southwest Missouri is related to specific rainfall events. Therefore, current conditions do not necessarily indicate an increased or decreased risk of spring flooding.

Precipitation during the last 90 days has been below average, with widespread estimates of two to four inches below average.

The Climate Prediction Center's (CPC) Seasonal Outlook (MAR-APR-MAY) calls for equal chances of above-normal, below-normal, and near-normal temperatures and above-median, below-median, and near-median precipitation across southwestern Missouri.

Snowpack estimates from the National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center (NOHRSC) indicate only a light snowpack in southwest Missouri. This snowpack is not expected to be hydrologically significant, with regard to spring flooding. Soil moisture in southwest Missouri is currently near normal with a small area of slightly-below normal soils having moisture estimates between the 20th and 30th percentiles. Streamflow in that part of the state is approaching normal for this time of year but most stations are below the 50th percentile.

The U.S. Drought Monitor of February 24, 2015 indicates most of southwestern Missouri is experiencing Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions. CPC's US Seasonal Drought Outlook of February 19, 2015 indicates little potential for the development or intensification of drought conditions.

The table below presents some southwestern Missouri forecast points where the ESP model indicated a greater than 10 percent chance of minor flooding. These are not extreme conditions and do not reflect an above-normal potential for flooding.

Select Points in Southwest Missouri  
 Ensemble Streamflow Prediction  
 As of Tuesday: March 3, 2015

Fcst. Point Station ID	% Probability Minor Flooding	% Probability Moderate Flooding	% Probability Major Flooding
CHTM7	24	8	Not Expected
TIFM7	30	10	4
WCOM7	25	Not Expected	Not Expected
BXTK1	23	11	2

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## ARKANSAS

The potential for flood conditions in western Arkansas will be near normal this spring. Flooding in western Arkansas usually occurs in response to specific precipitation events. However, the Arkansas River may flood in response to more widespread upstream conditions. There are currently no indications of extreme hydrologic conditions to alter the flood potential of the area.

Precipitation totals during the last 90 days for western Arkansas have been significantly below average. Widespread areas in northwestern and central Arkansas are well below average with 90-day totals between 50 and 75 percent-of-average. Only in the extreme southwest corner of the state do 90-day totals approach or exceed the average.

Snowpack estimates from the National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center (NOHRSC) indicate a light but widespread snowpack in Arkansas. This snowpack is not expected to be hydrologically significant with regard to spring flooding. Soil moisture conditions in western Arkansas are near normal, with estimates between the 30th and 70th percentiles.

Corps of Engineers projects in southwestern Arkansas are at levels approximating design conditions. They have approximately 99 percent of their flood control capacity available at this time. Streamflows in western Arkansas are approximating normal conditions with streamflows between the 25th and 75th percentiles.

The Climate Prediction Center's (CPC) Seasonal Outlook (MAR-APR-MAY) calls for equal chances of above-normal, below-normal, and near-normal temperatures and above-median, below-median, and near-median precipitation across western and central Arkansas.

The U.S. Drought Monitor of February 24, 2015 indicates northwestern

and west-central Arkansas are experiencing Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions. Areas of the southwestern corner of Arkansas are free of drought related conditions. CPC's Drought Outlook of February 19, 2015 calls for no development or intensification of drought conditions during the next three months.

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## OKLAHOMA

The potential for flood conditions in Oklahoma will be normal in eastern Oklahoma and below normal in western Oklahoma. Flooding in Oklahoma usually occurs in response to specific precipitation events. Many current hydrologic indicators reflect an ongoing drought that has gripped the Southern Plains for several years. Eastern Oklahoma had gotten more relief than have the western parts of the state but has been trending drier for the last year and has slipped back closer to drought conditions.

Precipitation totals for the last 90 days are below normal to well-below normal across most of Oklahoma. There are widespread areas that have received less than 75 percent-of-average precipitation. Large but scattered areas throughout Oklahoma have received less than 50 percent-of-average rainfall in the last 90 days. The relative amounts increase towards the southern parts of the state in the Red River basin. Even that area is dominated by widespread areas of below average rainfall, getting 75 to 90 percent of normal. Conditions vary greatly from East to West across the Oklahoma Panhandle. Ninety-day precipitation totals range from less than 50 percent of average in the eastern panhandle to nearly 300 percent of average on the border with New Mexico. It should be noted that these large above average values only represent an inch or two above average.

The Climate Prediction Center's (CPC) Seasonal Outlook (MAR-APR-MAY) calls for increased chances (33%-40%) of below-normal temperatures across most of Oklahoma. The outlook also call for equal chances of above-normal, below-normal, and near-normal precipitation across all of Oklahoma except for the Panhandle. There the outlook calls for increased chances (33%-40%) of above-normal rainfall.

Soil moisture across the state of Oklahoma currently reflects the long-term drought conditions that have dominated the Southern Plains. Western Oklahoma (except for the Panhandle) is dominated by below-normal soil moisture with values between the 20th and 30th

percentiles. Eastern Oklahoma is dominated by near-normal soil moisture with values between the 30th and 70th percentiles.

Stream and river discharges in Oklahoma almost mirror the soil moisture conditions. Streamflows in the southeast quarter of the state and along the Arkansas border are near normal for this time of year. The stream flows in the northeast quarter of the state and throughout the western half of the state are below normal to well-below normal. Widespread areas of western Oklahoma are experiencing streamflows below the 10th percentile.

Reservoir storage in Oklahoma currently varies between the structures in the Arkansas River system and those in the Red River system. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects in western Oklahoma, especially those in the Red River system are extremely dry and have a great deal of flood control storage available. In the aggregate, the reservoirs in Oklahoma have 110 percent of their flood control storage available at this time. Available capacity in the Arkansas system is approximately 108 percent of designed flood control storage. Available capacity in the Red River system is approximately 114 percent of design flood control storage.

Rains early last year pulled eastern Oklahoma towards drought-free conditions, but the rains did not continue through the summer and fall. The U.S. Drought Monitor of February 24, 2015 looks very much like the drought monitor from February of 2014. The Monitor indicates that Oklahoma is experiencing Abnormally Dry (D0) to Exceptional Drought (D4) conditions. Abnormally Dry conditions currently dominate eastern Oklahoma and worsen to Moderate Drought (D1) near the middle of the state. Conditions continue to worsen as you move west and reach a worst case, with Exceptional Drought (D4), in the southwest corner of the state. Conditions in the Panhandle range from Severe Drought (D2) to Extreme Drought (D3).

CPC's Seasonal Drought Outlook of February 19, 2015 calls for no development or intensification of drought conditions in extreme eastern Oklahoma and holds out some hope for drought improvement in east-central Oklahoma. Along the western border of Oklahoma and into the Panhandle, drought conditions are expected to persist or intensify.

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## TEXAS

The potential for flood conditions in north Texas will be below

normal this year. In the Panhandle, the potential for flooding will be near-normal. Flooding in North Texas and the Panhandle usually occurs in response to specific precipitation events. In the Red River drainage, the on-going drought has shifted hydrologic conditions far enough, that a below-normal flood outlook seems warranted.

Precipitation totals for the last 90 days in the Red River basin and the Texas Panhandle are very much near normal with isolated areas slightly below.

Except for gages below Denison Dam and Lake Texoma, streamflows in the Red River valley are showing the effects of the long-term drought. Discharges there are generally less than 10 percent-of-average for this time of year. Flows in the Panhandle are extremely varied and range from above normal to well below normal.

The Climate Prediction Center's (CPC) Seasonal Outlook for the next three months (MAR-APR-MAY) calls for increased chances (33%-40%) of below-normal temperatures throughout most of North Texas and the panhandle. In the northwest half of the Panhandle the Outlook indicates equal chances of above-normal, below-normal, and near-normal temperatures. The Outlook also indicates there are equal chances of above-median, below-median, and near-median precipitation in the lower Red River valley in North Texas. In the headwaters of the Red River and the panhandles of Texas and Oklahoma, the outlooks call for increased chances (33%-40%) of above-normal precipitation.

Soil moisture conditions at the end of February are generally consistent across North Texas and the Panhandle. Soil moisture is generally near normal, with conditions between the 30th and 70th percentiles of historical conditions.

The U.S. Drought Monitor of February 24, 2015 shows a range of conditions across North Texas and the Panhandle. Conditions across the Red River valley run from Abnormally Dry (D0) in the east and worsen to Exceptional Drought (D4) near the western border of Oklahoma. Conditions in the Panhandle are dominated by Severe Drought (D2), with large areas of Extreme Drought surrounding an isolated area of Exceptional Drought. The CPC US Seasonal Drought Outlook of February 19, 2015 indicates drought conditions across North Texas should persist or intensify over the next three months.

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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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