

River Watch Items for the March 2023 UWP Board Meeting

- River Watch items of interest:
 - Samples from our six main River Watch sites were collected between the 3rd and 8th of March 2023. February and March metal samples will be shipped to CPW on the 13th or 14th.
 - My River Watch/water quality report was sent out for comment to Amanda, Dennis, and Phil. I'm currently working on revisions based on the comments.
 - No word yet from River Watch regarding our 2022 site visit.
- Precipitation, streamflow, and reservoir storage:
 - Snowpacks in Colorado continued to increase through February 2023. On March 5th the Gunnison Basin had 140% of its median Snow Water Equivalent (SWE), slightly below the 144% noted on February 5th. SWE percentages at the Idarado SNOTEL site went up slightly from 121% of its median to 124% over the same period. Figure 1 shows current and historic SWE curves for the Gunnison Basin which includes data from 15 sites. The data as of 5 March indicates basin SWE is slightly above the median maximum (green x in Fig. 1) water year SWE.

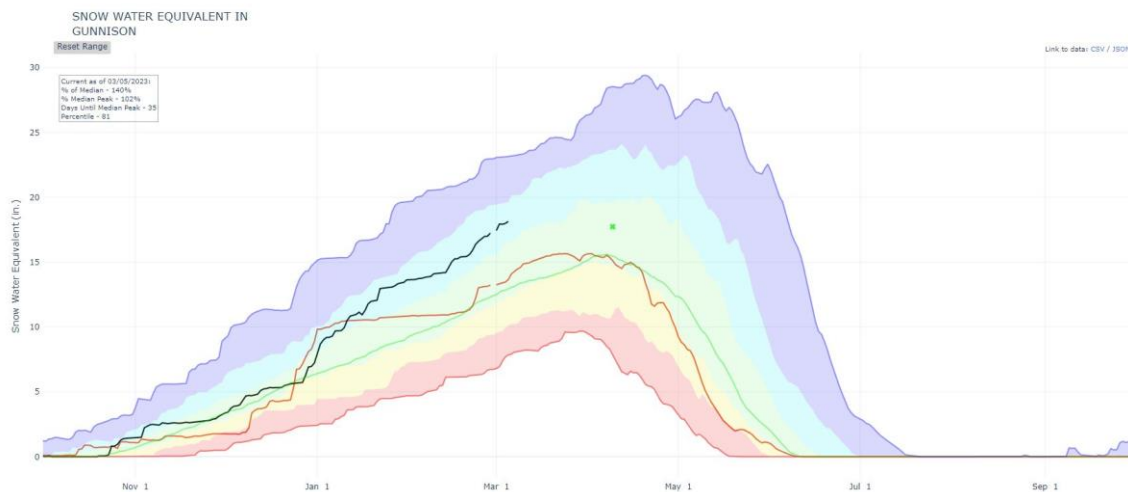


Figure 1. Graph of current and historic SWE curves for the Gunnison Basin. Black line shows the curve for the current 2023 Water Year through March 5th. Brown line is the curve for the 2022 Water Year. The green "x" represents the median maximum SWE over the past 30 years.

- Streamflow measurements at the USGS gauges near Ouray and Ridgway indicated flows on the Uncompahgre during February tracked closely with long-term median flows. The Ridgway gauge recorded ~41 cfs on March 5th, slightly below the median of 48 cfs. The USGS gauge below Ridgway Reservoir indicated outflow from the reservoir was raised from 46 cfs to about 53 cfs on 20 February.
- For the period 5 February through 5 March 2023, Ridgway Reservoir storage went from 69,370 acre-ft to 69,890 acre-ft (82.8% of capacity), with the median for the date being 63,330 acre-ft.