

Hydrology Summary for March 6, 2013 FGTWG Meeting

Current sea surface temperatures indicate that ENSO-neutral conditions exist. Snow water equivalent (SWE) as of March 5, 2013, for the Upper Green River and Yampa/White River Basins are 81 and 79 percent of median, respectively. Current SWE is similar to the snowpack development last year as shown in Figures 1 and 2 below. The Tower snotel site, used a reference point for Yampa snowpack and runoff, currently has 26.5 inches of SWE (71 percent of median). On March 5, Tower snotel had 28.7 SWE inches 2012 and 27.9 SWE inches in 2007, two analog years that are used for comparison purposes, with the caveat that all values are snapshots taken on March 5, 2013.

Figures 3 and 4 illustrate the Yampa River at Maybell and Little Snake at Lily snow water equivalent as of February 20, 2013, comparing it with SWE for analog years 2002, 2007, 2010 and 2012. Snowpack in 2010 was below-average through most of the season, but a series of spring storms and cold weather through early spring increased the observed runoff considerably. The observed stream flow related to the snowpack for 2002, 2007, 2010 and 2012 are the last four figures (Figures 5-8) in the document.

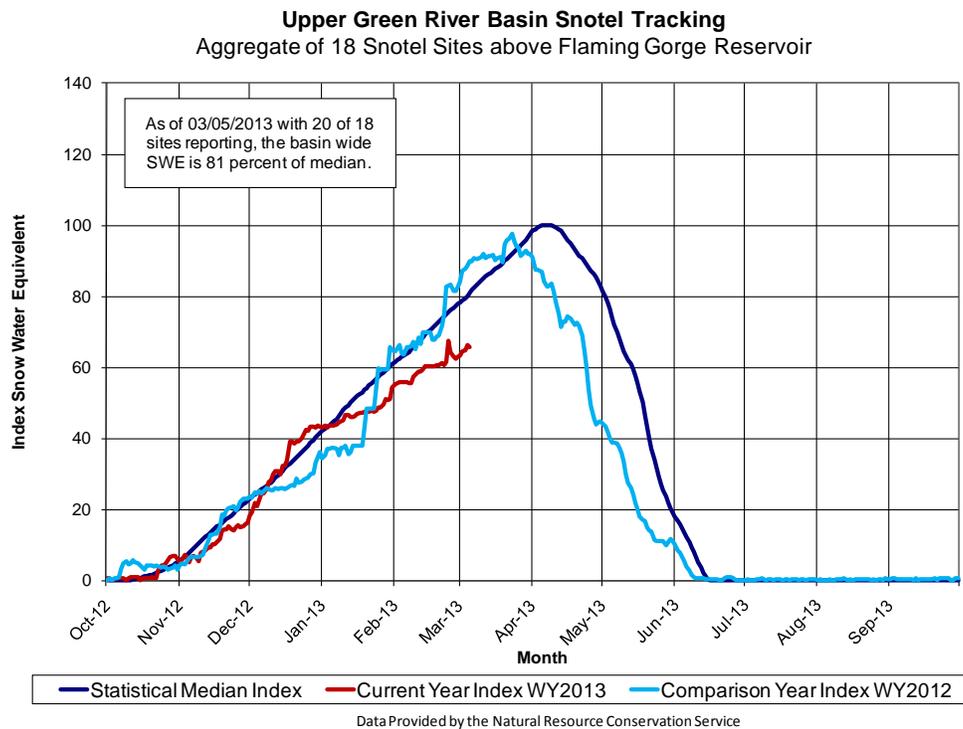


FIGURE 1—Upper Green River Basin Snotel Tracking. 1981-2010 percent of median compared against 2013 YTD Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) and 2012 percent of average SWE

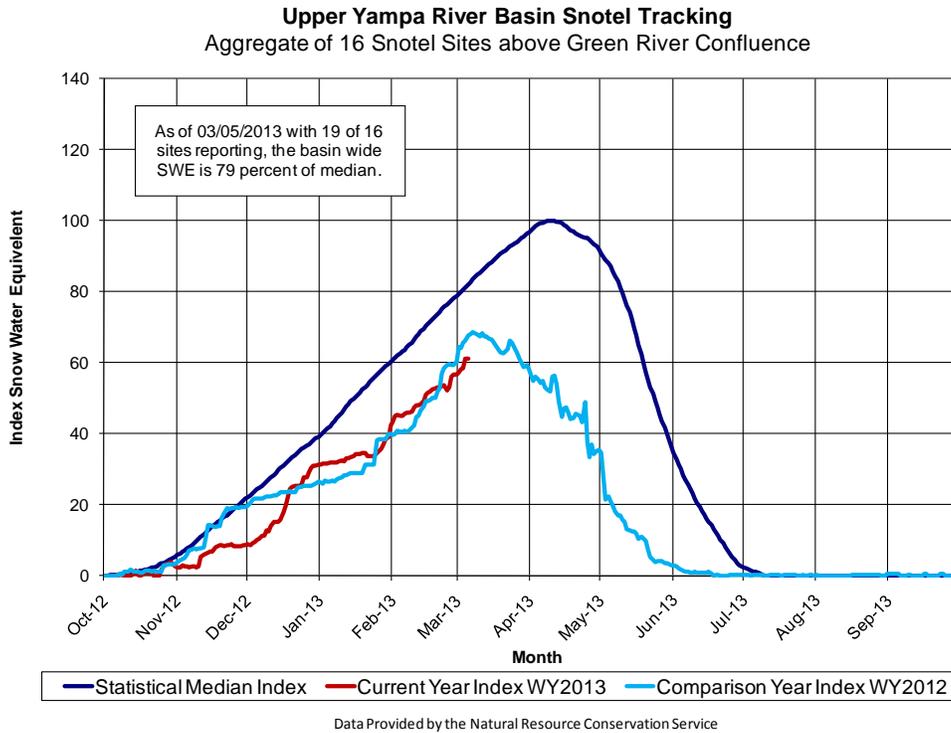


FIGURE 2- Upper Yampa River Basin Snotel Tracking. 1981-2010 percent of median compared against 2013 YTD Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) and 2012 percent of average SWE

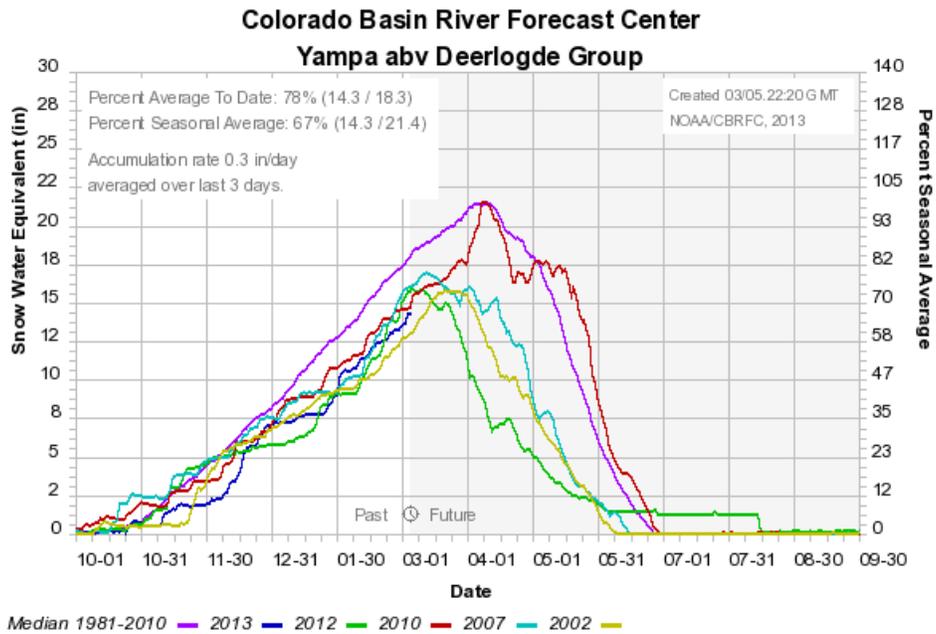


FIGURE 3- Yampa River above Maybell Snotel Group. 1981-2010 percent of average SWE compared against 2013 YTD, 2012 and analog years 2002, 2007, 2010 percent of median SWE

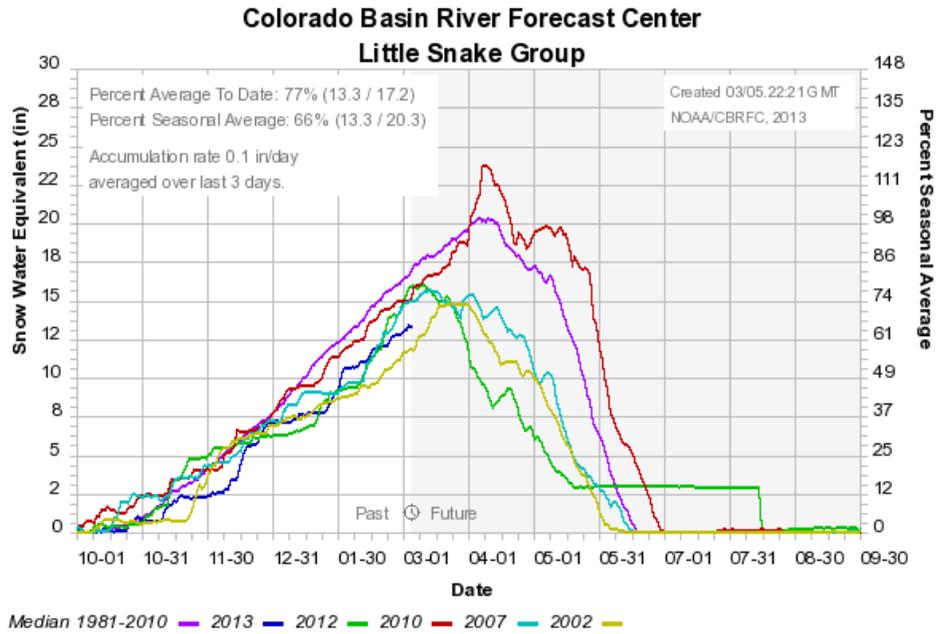


FIGURE 4- Little Snake Snotel Group. 1981-2010 percent of average SWE compared against 2013 YTD, 2012 and analog years 2002, 2007 and 2010 percent of median SWE

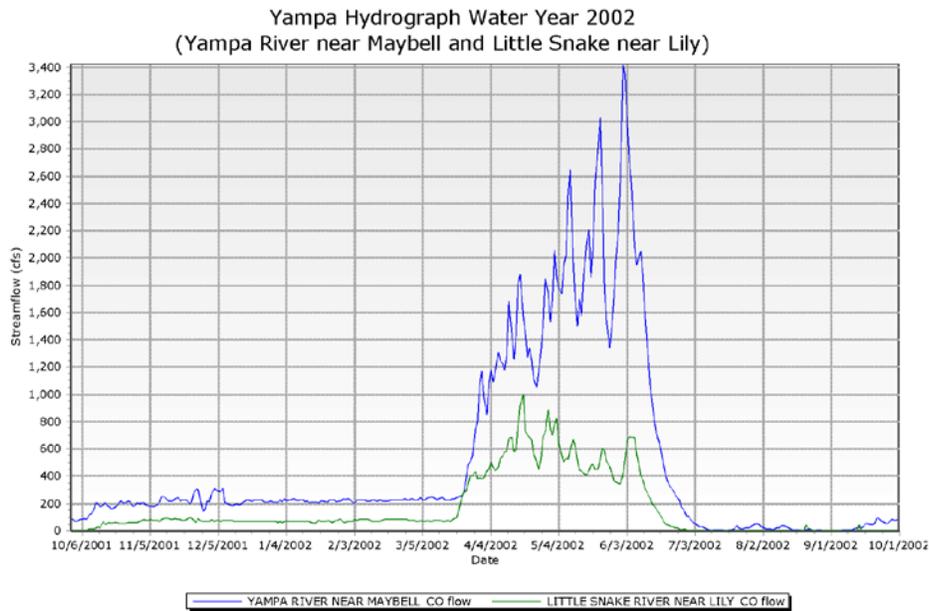


FIGURE 5- Yampa River Hydrograph Water Year 2002. Yampa River near Maybell and Little Snake near Lily observed stream flow for water year 2002.

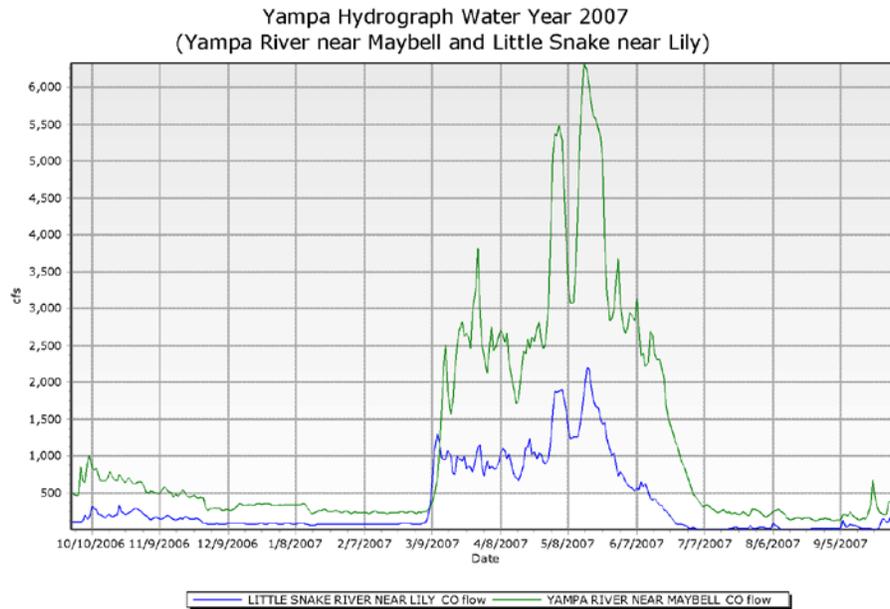


FIGURE 6- Yampa River Hydrograph Water Year 2007. Yampa River near Maybell and Little Snake near Lily observed stream flow for water year 2007.

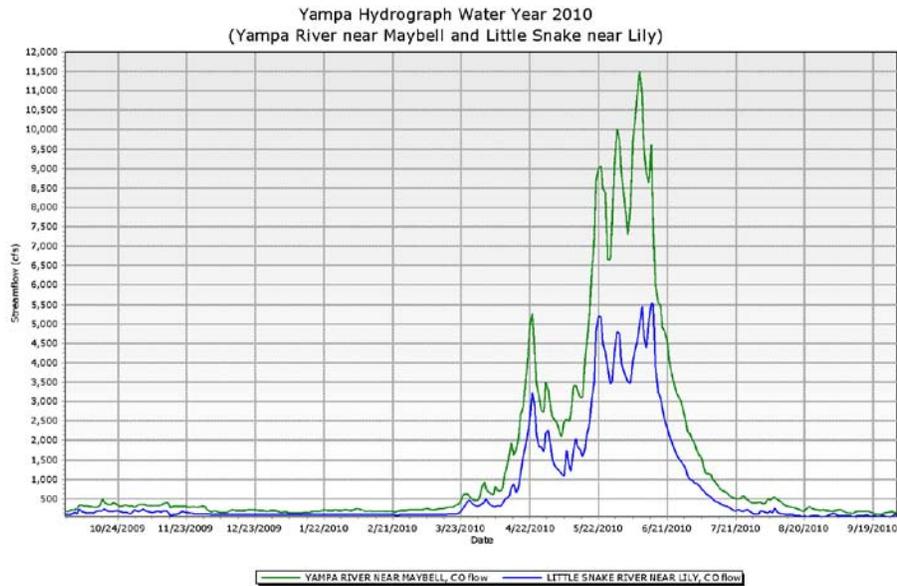


FIGURE 7- Yampa River Hydrograph Water Year 2010. Yampa River near Maybell and Little Snake near Lily observed stream flow for water year 2010.

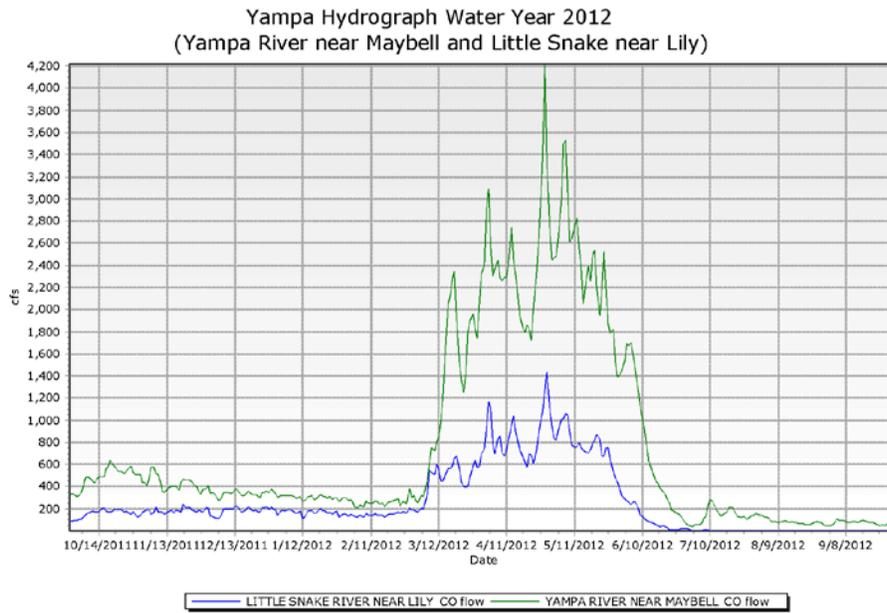


FIGURE 8- Yampa River Hydrograph Water Year 2012. Yampa River near Maybell and Little Snake near Lily observed stream flow for water year 2012.