

April 10, 2012 Bulletin 120 Update

The April 10, 2012 Bulletin 120 Update has been completed and it is posted at <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/rpts/B120>. The forecast includes observed conditions through the morning of April 10, 2012.

Forecast Summary:

Considering the rivers forecasted in the B120 update, the projected median April-July runoff in the major Sierra river basins ranges from 42 percent of normal on the Merced River to 78 percent of normal on the Inflow to Shasta Lake. Since the April 1 forecast, all rivers either decreased or remained the same.

Runoff:

April unimpaired flows are above average for the Sacramento River above Bend Bridge and the Inflow into Shasta Lake. The flows of the Mokelumne River and southward are less than 61 percent of normal except the Tule River which is flowing at 71 percent of normal. Overall the flows range between 38 percent of normal for the San Joaquin River and 134 percent of normal for the Sacramento at Bend Bridge.

Precipitation:

During the first 12 days of April, the Northern Sierra 8-Station Index gained 2.7 inches of precipitation which is 69 percent of the April average. The seasonal total through April 12 is 35.9 inches which is 83 percent of average-to-date and 72 percent of an average water year.

During this same time period the San Joaquin 5-Station Index gained 1.3 inches which is 37 percent of the April average. The seasonal total is 20.5 inches, which is 59 percent of average-to-date and 50 percent of an average water year.

Snowpack:

Regionally, the snow sensor data is indicating that the Northern Sierra, Central Sierra, and Southern Sierra snowpack are 85, 51, and 34 percent of their respective April 10 averages. For the morning of April 10, the statewide snowpack was 16 inches which is 56 percent of the average to date. The snowpack has stayed at 16 inches since April 1, due to the losses being satisfied by gains in snowfall.

Weather and Climate Outlook:

The CNRFC 6-day QPF and Freezing Level Forecast, issued this morning, indicates totals of up to 2 inches of precipitation for the Sierra Nevada mountain range through Friday.

Currently, the freezing levels over the Northern Sierra Nevada are around 5,000 feet while these levels over the Southern Sierra vary from 5,000 to 6,000 feet. These levels will increase throughout the six day period and by Tuesday they will be around 10,000 to 12,000 feet for the Southern Sierra and 9,000 to 11,000 feet for the Northern Sierra.

The NWS Climate Prediction Center's (CPC) one-month outlook has not changed since last week. It was issued on March 31. The three month (April, May, June) outlook has not been updated since the forecast of last week.

Next Update:

The next Bulletin 120 forecast update for conditions on April 17, 2012 will be available on April 19, 2012. As always, you may contact us anytime if you need assistance.

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<http://listhost2.water.ca.gov/mailman/listinfo/WSI>

Full Natural Flow Data:

Daily FNF

http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snowsurvey_ro/FNF

Monthly FNF

http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snowsurvey_ro/FNFSUM

Seasonal FNF

http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snowsurvey_ro/FLOWOUT

Precipitation Data:

Latest Northern Sierra 8-Station Precipitation Index

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/queryDaily?s=8SI&d=today>

Northern Sierra 8-Station Precipitation Tabulation

http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/products/8-Stations_Tab.pdf

Latest San Joaquin 5-Station Precipitation Index

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/queryDaily?s=5SI&d=today>

San Joaquin 5-Station Precipitation Tabulation

http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/products/5-Stations_Tab.pdf

WY Precipitation Summary

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/precip/PRECIPSUM>

Snow Data:

Latest Snow Sensor Report

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snow/PAGE6>

Latest Statewide Summary of Snow Water Equivalents

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snow/DLYSWEQ>

Monthly Snow Course Report

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snow/COURSES>

Extended Regional Forecasts:

California Nevada River Forecast Center 6 Day QPF and Snow Level Forecast

<http://www.cnrfc.noaa.gov/awipsProducts/RNOHD6RSA.php>

Climate Prediction Center One-Month Outlook Forecasts

<http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/predictions/30day/>

Climate Prediction Center Three-Month Outlook Forecasts

<http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/predictions/90day/>

Drought Information:

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/seasonal_drought.html