

We've finished the March 10, 2015 Bulletin 120 (B120) forecast update. The forecast includes observed conditions through the morning of March 10, 2015. The forecast is posted at <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/iodir?s=b120up>.

**Forecast Summary:**

The projected median April-July runoff in the major Sierra river basins ranges from 9 percent on the Tule River to 56 percent for the Shasta Lake Total Inflow and the Sacramento above Bend Bridge forecast points. Statewide, the forecasts dropped by an average of 3 percent from the March 1 B120 forecast. A number of Sierra river basins dropped 4 percent.

**Runoff:**

All rivers across the Sierra are continuing to recede. Regarding the northern Sierra rivers, the flows through the first ten days of March are below 33 percent of average. Central Sierra rivers are flowing below 29 percent of average. Flows for the southern Sierra rivers are below 26 percent of average.

**Precipitation:**

Precipitation for the 2014-15 water year accumulated at the following rates of average:

Region/Index	WY accumulated Precipitation through March 12, 2015 units= percent of average
Northern Sierra 8-Station Index	83 (31.0 inches)
San Joaquin 5-Station Index	45 (13.5 inches)
Tulare Lake 6-Station Index	48 (10.3 inches)

March has produced very little precipitation thus far for the state with month totals to date of 0.3 inches for the 8-Station Index and 0.2 inches for both the 5-Station Index and the Tulare Lake Index.

**Snowpack:**

The snowpack as of the morning of March 12, 2015 stands at the following (based on snow sensors):

Region	Snow Water Equivalent (inches)	% of Average (Apr. 1)	% of Average (Mar. 12)
Northern	4.0	14	14
Central	5.2	17	18
Southern	4.7	18	19
Statewide	4.7	16	17

The southern region experienced a slight increase in snowpack over the first 12 days of March, while the other two regions experienced loss.

**Weather and Climate Outlooks:**

The six-day weather forecast indicates precipitation this coming Saturday and Sunday. Totals are expected up to 0.3 inches north of Lake Shasta on Saturday and up to 0.5 inches over the northern Sierra on Sunday. Freezing levels will remain high over the six-day forecast period with levels above 11,000 feet today, dropping to 8,500 feet on Sunday, and rising above 10,000 on Monday.

The NWS Climate Prediction Center (CPC) one-month outlook for March, issued February 28, indicates increased chances of below normal precipitation for Northern California and increased chances of above normal precipitation along the California-Arizona border. Elsewhere in the State, an equal chance of above or below normal precipitation is expected. There is an increased chance of above normal temperatures Statewide.

The CPC three-month (March-April-May) outlook, issued February 19, indicates increased chances of below normal precipitation for the very north coast of California. Elsewhere, the same forecast calls for equal chances of above or below normal precipitation. Increased chances of above normal temperatures are predicted for the entire state.

El Niño conditions are present. Positive equatorial sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies continue across the western and central Pacific, while near average SSTs are evident in the eastern Pacific. There is an approximately 50-60 percent chance that El Niño conditions will continue through Northern Hemisphere summer 2015.

**Next Update:**

A Bulletin 120 update for conditions as of March 17 will be available Thursday, March 19. If you have any questions regarding this forecast, please contact a member of the Snow Surveys staff.

**Important Links:**

**Full Natural Flow Data:**

Daily FNF

[http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snowsurvey\\_ro/FNF](http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snowsurvey_ro/FNF)

Monthly FNF

[http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snowsurvey\\_ro/FNFSUM](http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snowsurvey_ro/FNFSUM)

Seasonal FNF

[http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snowsurvey\\_ro/FLOWOUT](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>

Latest San Joaquin 5-Station Precipitation Index

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

**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>

**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/long\\_range/seasonal.php?lead=1](http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/seasonal.php?lead=1)

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

[http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert\\_assessment/sdo\\_summary.html](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/sdo_summary.html)

Weather Forecast Office California Service Area-Products

<http://www.cnrfc.noaa.gov/forecasts.php>

El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Conditions and Weekly Discussion (including La Niña)

[http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis\\_monitoring/lanina/enso\\_evolution-status-fcsts-web.pdf](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/lanina/enso_evolution-status-fcsts-web.pdf)

**Snow Surveys Staff Contact Information:**

Dave Rizzardo, Chief ([david.rizzardo@water.ca.gov](mailto:david.rizzardo@water.ca.gov)) 916-574-2983

John King ([john.j.king@water.ca.gov](mailto:john.j.king@water.ca.gov)) 916-574-2637

Steve Nemeth ([stephen.nemeth@water.ca.gov](mailto:stephen.nemeth@water.ca.gov)) 916-574-2634

Andy Reising ([andrew.reising@water.ca.gov](mailto:andrew.reising@water.ca.gov)) 916-574-2181

Sean de Guzman ([sean.deguzman@water.ca.gov](mailto:sean.deguzman@water.ca.gov)) 916-574-2208