

**ITEM TITLE:**

Water Supply Update

**DESCRIPTION:**

Raw water supply update.

**SUMMARY:**

Attachment A is the snow–water equivalent chart for Bear Lake station as of March 8, 2017. Water Resources Staff generated this chart to show a range of low, median, and high years as well as the current year-to-date snow accumulation for the Bear Lake SNOTEL station in the Big Thompson Watershed.



Snowpack for the Bear Lake station is continuing to rise and is well above average. This snowpack curve is very unusual, as it does not follow any of the other more gentle sloping lines shown on the chart. We still have some big snowpack months ahead of us, so hopefully we will continue to watch it accumulate.

Attachment B is the snowpack and streamflow comparison. The snowpack for Colorado on a statewide basis is 140%. Specifically the Big Thompson River is 148% of average and the streamflow forecast is 122% of average.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Information item only. No action required.

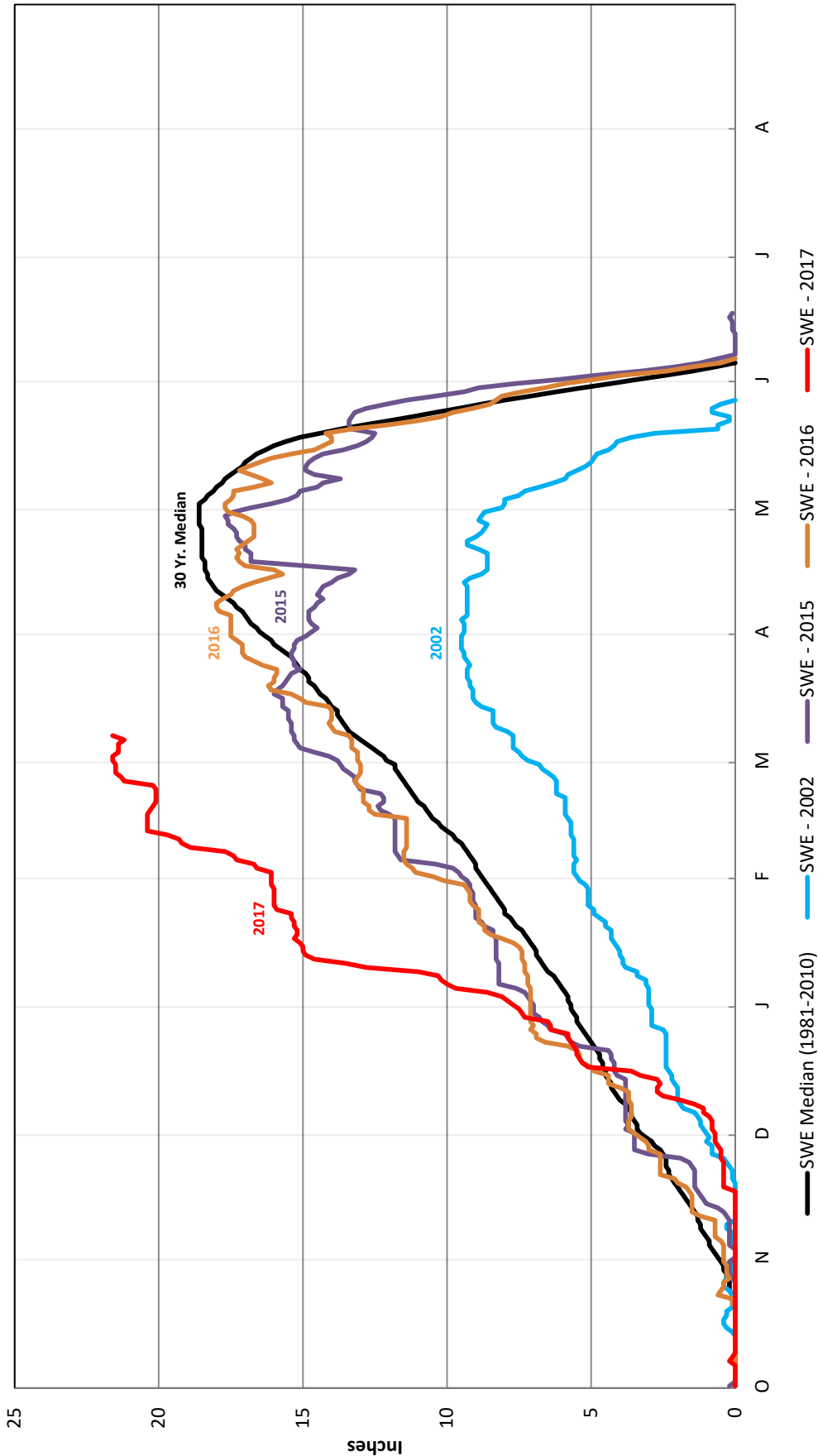
**ATTACHMENTS:**

-  Attachment A: Snow–Water Equivalent Chart for Bear Lake SNOTEL Station
-  Attachment B: Snowpack and Streamflow comparison



# Attachment A

Snow - Water Equivalent at Bear Lake as of March 8, 2017





# Attachment B

## Snowpack and Streamflow Comparisons March 1, 2017



### Snow Water Content

% of Average

Colorado's Statewide Snowpack	140%
Upper Colorado River <sup>(1)</sup>	132%
South Platte Tributaries <sup>(2)</sup>	141%

Preliminary

### Snow-Water Content Comparisons (inches)

Watershed	March 1, 2017 Snow-Water Content			March 1 Comparative Snow-Water Content			
	2017	Average	% Avg	2016	2015	2014	2002
Blue River	14.5	11.4	127%	96%	109%	137%	71%
Upper Colorado River	16.9	12.7	133%	90%	94%	139%	65%
Willow Creek	13.2	8.6	154%	104%	77%	118%	63%
Fraser River	13.4	11.7	114%	101%	101%	136%	67%
Poudre River	13.9	11.4	122%	85%	90%	134%	62%
Big Thompson River	17.1	11.6	148%	95%	108%	155%	58%
St. Vrain River	14.3	9.1	157%	103%	118%	158%	50%
Boulder Creek	12.7	9.1	140%	103%	112%	156%	54%

### Apr-Jul Maximum, Minimum and Most Probable Streamflow Forecasts (1000 af)

Watershed	Forecast Minimum	Most Probable	Forecast Maximum	Apr-Jul Avg <sup>(3)</sup>	Most Prob % Average
Blue River	248	331	426	275	120%
Upper Colorado River	202	266	338	220	121%
Willow Creek	50	70	94	47	149%
Fraser River	93	129	171	117	110%
Poudre River	176	261	345	225	116%
Big Thompson River	73	110	166	90	122%
St. Vrain River	68	106	152	88	120%
Boulder Creek	44	63	89	54	117%
South Platte Tributaries		540		457	118%

### Precipitation within District Boundaries <sup>(4)</sup>

	Totals	Average	% Average
February	0.27	0.34	79%
Nov-Feb	1.53	1.82	84%

(1) Includes the Colorado, Willow Creek, Fraser and Blue River Watersheds

(2) Includes the Poudre, Big Thompson, Saint Vrain and Boulder Creek Watersheds

(3) Average for the period 1981-2010

(4) Computed using CoCoRaHS and Northern Water Stations