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**SHERIFF LOU VALLARIO**  
**GARFIELD COUNTY, COLORADO**

# NEWS RELEASE

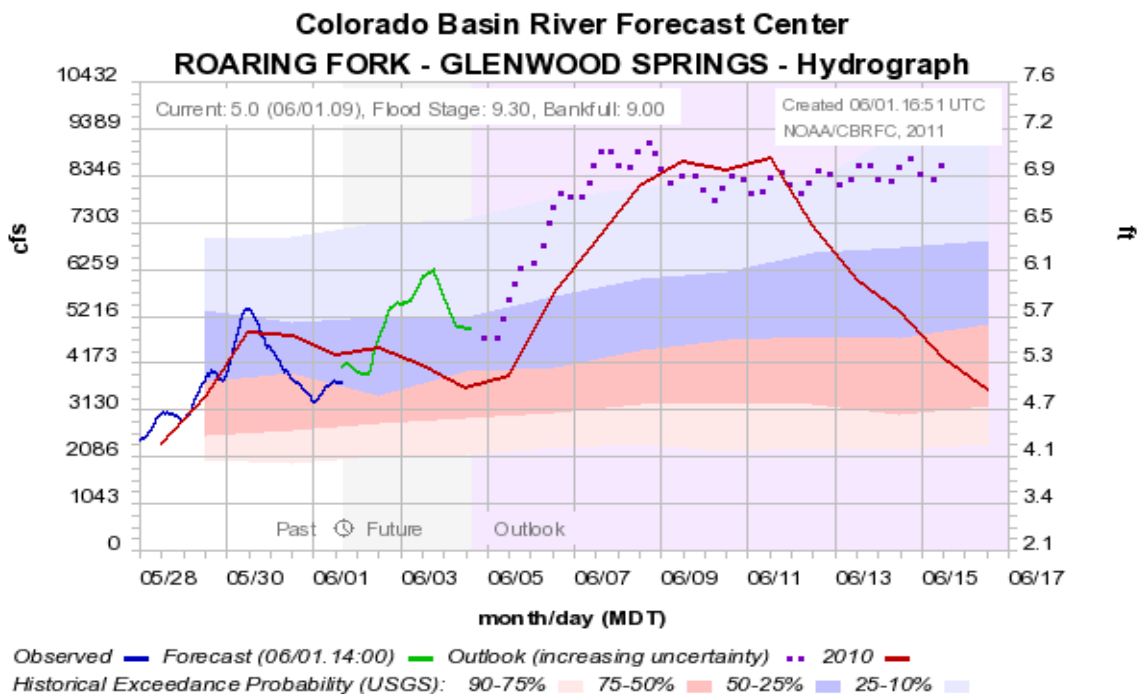
## For Immediate Release

June 1, 2011

### Garfield County High Water Information

**Garfield County, Colorado:** Today, Western Colorado Emergency Management officials met to discuss the high water events taking place throughout the state. Garfield County Emergency Manager, Chris Bornholdt, has upgraded his concerns along the Roaring Fork River in Garfield County due to last week's weather conditions.

As you can see from the Hydrograph below, outlooks are slightly higher than river flows in 2010.



Garfield County saw its highest water levels in the Colorado River since 1984, when water levels reached 11.6 feet/30,256 CFS, followed by the 1997 levels of 10.2 feet/22,750 and then again in 2010 water levels reached 10.2 feet/22,639 CFS. The Colorado River in Garfield County has already peaked at over 1.4 feet/6000CFS higher than those 2010 numbers to date.

Emergency Manager, Chris Bornholdt, wants citizens to understand that the weather will be the determining factor impacting water levels along with snowmelt to include the uncommon levels of snow pack remaining in the higher elevations. Longtime locals have noticed an abnormal level of snow pack on all southern facing slopes, which will impact the remaining runoff numbers.

The current weather forecast is calling for temperatures to fluctuate over the next two weeks which will help to slow snow melt, reminding the public that any period of high temperatures could cause significant change in forecasted snow melt.

Officials are expecting to see a fluctuation in the rivers water levels with the expectation of reaching peak levels between June 6<sup>th</sup> and June 9<sup>th</sup>.

The Garfield County Sheriff's Office wants to warn anyone planning to be around water flows, be aware of the speed of the water, floating debris, and watch for quick rising water levels. Use extra caution when along river banks and never allow children near moving water without a life jacket.

Please report to 911 immediately any threat to roadways or property you may see.

***The mission of the Garfield County Sheriff's Office is to provide solutions for the people by utilizing and employing strong morals, good character, untarnished integrity, technical knowledge and fiscal responsibility through professional, ethical and equitable conduct.***

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