COLORADO
WATER SUPPLY CONDITIONS UPDATE

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER: COLORADO DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES
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February 1, 2018

The Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) is used as an indicator of water supply conditions in the seven major river basins of the state and in each of the 41 smaller watersheds, or HUCs. The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) completed a major revision to the Colorado Drought Plan in 2010. At that time, Colorado adopted a revised SWSI analysis based on the components shown below, which vary depending on the time of year. The revised SWSI is based on a ranking of total volume in a HUC or major river basin ranked against similar volumes in historical years. For instance, in January, the total volume in a HUC is based on the forecasted runoff at specific locations plus the volume in storage in specific reservoirs, all within the HUC. That total volume is ranked against similar total volumes that occurred each January between 1970 and 2010.

Time Period	SWSI Components
January 1 – June 1	**Forecasted Runoff + Reservoir Storage**
July 1 – September 1	Previous Month's Streamflow + Reservoir Storage
October 1 – December 1	Reservoir Storage

In 2015, CWCB and the Division of Water Resources (DWR) (both Divisions of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources) completed a software project to implement an automated calculation of the SWSI and to document the underlying hydrologic data. July 1, 2015 was the first month that the automated DNR SWSI was published. The results of each month's analysis are summarized within this report and additional information, maps & data are available at: http://water.state.co.us/DWRDocs/Reports/Pages/SWSIReport.aspx. This report also contains updates about current regional conditions and water matters prepared by each DWR Division Office.

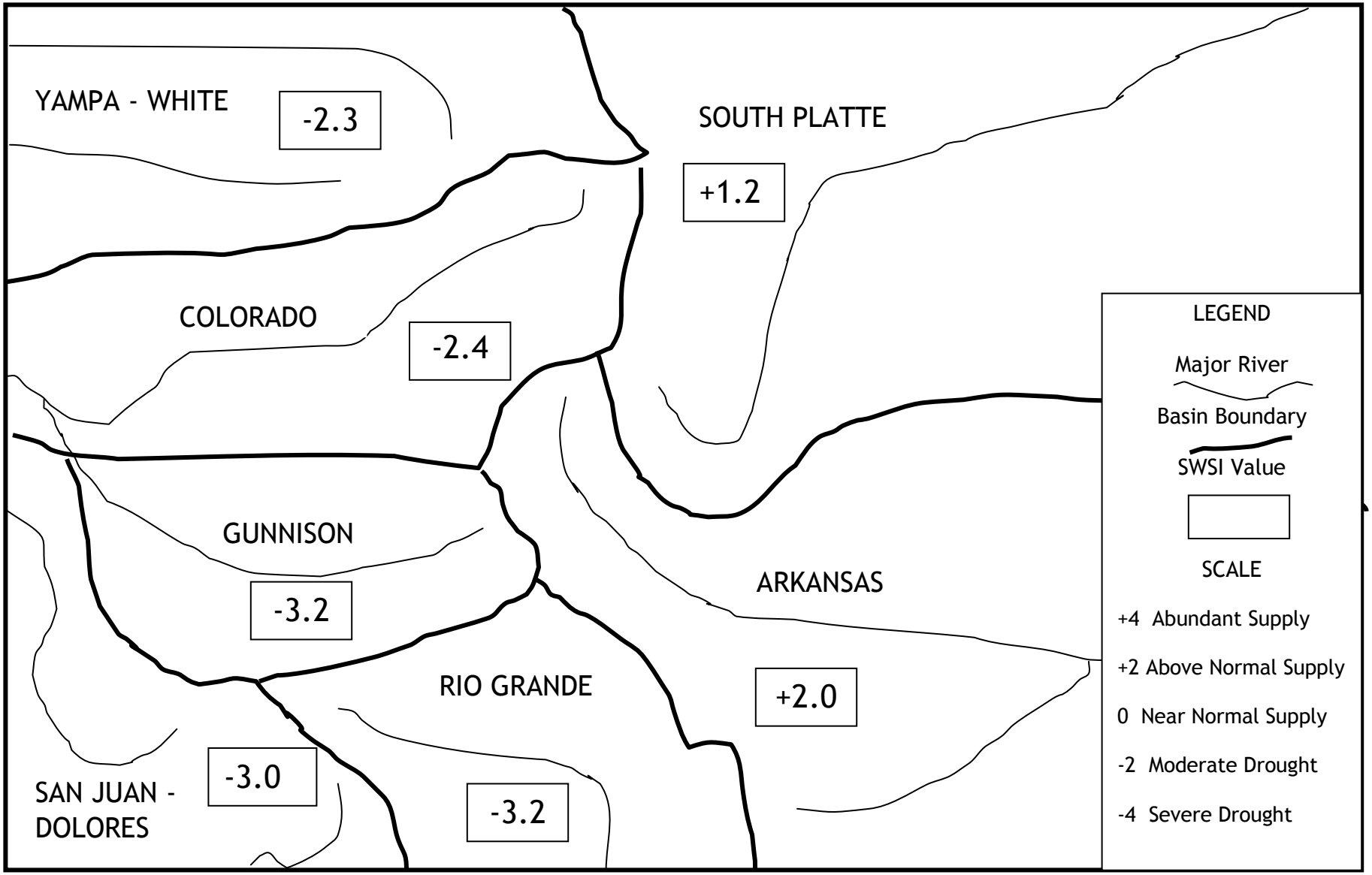
The SWSI calculation for the winter/spring season (January 1 to June 1) is based on reservoir storage at the end of last month, in this case January 31, plus the forecasted streamflow runoff volume for the runoff season (April through September in most basins). The following SWSI values were computed for each of the seven major basins for February 1, 2018. Water supply conditions are well below normal in all but the South Platte and Arkansas River basins. Those two basins have streamflow forecasts well below normal, but the SWSI is moderated by strong reservoir storage volumes. Reservoir storage is near normal to above normal statewide.

Basin	February 1 SWSI	Change from Previous Month	Change from Previous Year
Arkansas	2.0	0.0	-0.1
Colorado	-2.4	-0.2	-2.0
Gunnison	-3.2	-0.3	-5.1
Rio Grande	-3.2	-0.2	-4.4
San Juan-Dolores	-3.0	-0.1	-4.3
South Platte	1.2	-0.1	-0.3
Yampa-White	-2.3	-0.3	-1.3

SWSI Scale

-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4
Severe Drought		Moderate Drought		Near Normal Supply		Above Normal Supply		Abundant Supply

SURFACE WATER SUPPLY INDEX FOR COLORADO BY MAJOR RIVER BASIN

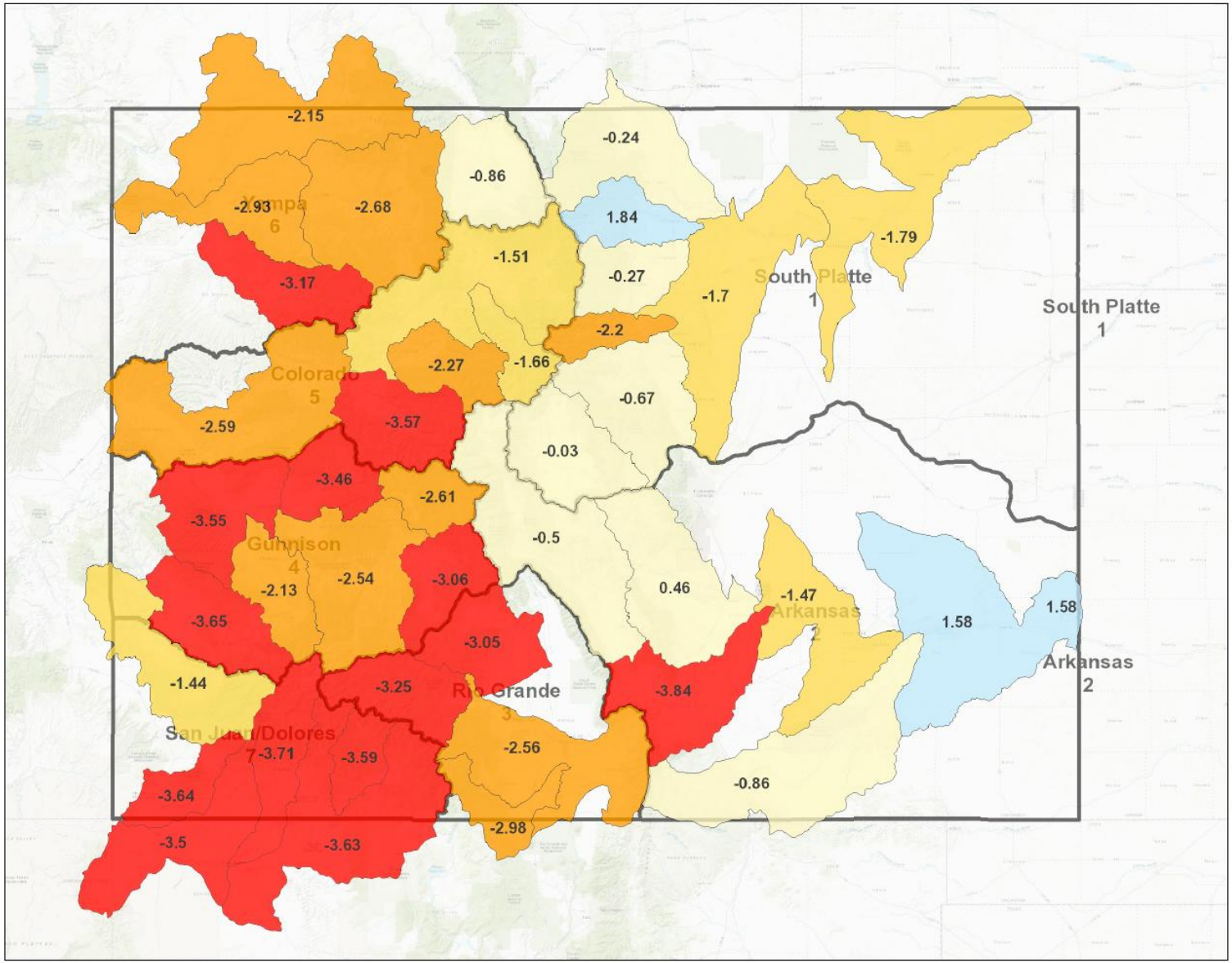


February 1, 2018

SURFACE WATER SUPPLY INDEX FOR COLORADO BY HUC

CDSS
Colorado's Decision Support Systems

SWSI February 1, 2018



Legend

SWSI - Current Report

- SWSI Not Applicable (-99.99)
- Extremely Dry (-3.0 - -4.2)
- Moderately Dry (-2.0 to -2.9)
- Slightly Dry (-1.0 to -1.9)
- Near Average (-0.9 to 0.9)
- Slightly Wet (1.0 to 1.9)
- Moderately Wet (2.0 to 2.9)
- Extremely Wet (3.0 to 4.2)
- Division
- Citations

Location

Notes

113.64 0 56.82 113.64 Miles

1: 3,600,000

This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for, or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. Users of this information should review or consult the primary data and information sources to ascertain the usability of the information.

Date Prepared: 2/10/2018 2:27:03 PM

February 1, 2018 SWSI Values by HUC and Non Exceedance Probabilities (NEP)

Basin	HUC ID	HUC Name	SWSI	Reservoir Storage NEP	Forecast Flow NEP	Total Vol (AF)
Arkansas	11020006	Huerfano River	-3.8	13	6	8,100
	11020010	Purgatoire River	-0.9	86	11	54,790
	11020005	Upper Arkansas-Lake Meredith	-1.5	99	16	304,221
	11020001	Arkansas Headwaters	-0.5	69	25	368,319
	11020002	Upper Arkansas	0.5	89	18	512,800
	11020009	Upper Arkansas-John Martin Reservoir	1.6	84	15	614,648
Colorado	14010003	Eagle River	-2.3	N/A	23	250,000
	14010002	Blue River	-1.7	19	39	303,700
	14010004	Roaring Fork	-3.6	20	8	479,383
	14010001	Colorado Headwaters	-1.5	81	31	1,290,590
	14010005	Colorado Headwaters-Plateau	-2.6	45	19	1,640,147
Gunnison	14020003	Tomichi Creek	-3.1	85	13	33,748
	14030003	San Miguel	-3.7	N/A	6	64,000
	14020006	Uncompahgre River	-2.1	46	8	125,860
	14020004	North Fork Gunnison	-3.5	47	8	130,729
	14020001	East-Taylor	-2.6	81	14	260,172
	14020005	Lower Gunnison	-3.6	N/A	7	620,000
	14020002	Upper Gunnison	-2.5	69	9	1,127,192
Rio Grande	13010004	Saguache Creek	-3.1	N/A	13	18,000
	13010002	Alamosa-Trinchera	-2.6	97	12	71,734
	13010005	Conejos River	-3.0	65	11	126,207
	13010001	Rio Grande Headwaters	-3.3	91	10	312,212
San Juan-Dolores	14080105	Middle San Juan	-3.5	50	6	9,349
	14080107	Mancos	-3.6	66	6	16,026
	14080102	Piedra River	-3.6	N/A	7	72,000
	14080104	Animas River	-3.7	39	5	218,621
	14080101	Upper San Juan	-3.6	55	6	324,333
	14030002	Upper Dolores	-1.4	72	9	414,687
South Platte	10190004	Clear Creek	-2.2	N/A	24	89,000
	10190001	South Platte Headwaters	0.0	87	24	193,900
	10190005	St. Vrain River	-0.3	99	31	225,532
	10190007	Cache La Poudre	-0.2	56	39	352,460
	10190002	Upper South Platte	-0.7	87	17	426,056
	10190006	Big Thompson River	1.8	80	31	604,088
	10190003	Middle South Platte-Cherry Creek	-1.7	99	29	743,900
	10190012	Middle South Platte-Sterling	-1.8	76	29	830,400
Yampa-White	14050005	Upper White	-3.2	N/A	12	149,000
	10180001	North Platte Headwaters	-0.9	N/A	40	185,000
	14050003	Little Snake	-2.2	N/A	24	205,000
	14050001	Upper Yampa	-2.7	99	14	455,959
	14050002	Lower Yampa	-2.9	N/A	15	525,000

NEP is non exceedance percentage for total reservoir storage and streamflow forecast in HUC. Some HUCs do not have any reservoirs considered in the SWSI and are shown as "N/A". Total Vol is the volume of reservoir storage in the HUC plus the streamflow forecast. NEP is calculated compared to the volume historically occurring this month during the period 1970-2010. The following table lists each component considered in each HUC.

SWSI Color Scale:	-4.0 (Severe Drought)	0 (Normal)	4.0 (Abundant Supply)

February 1, 2018 SWSI Component Information – Streamflow Forecast & Reservoir Storage - By HUC

HUC ID	HUC Name	Component Name	Component Volume (AF)	Component NEP for Month
11020001	Arkansas Headwaters	CLEAR CREEK RESERVOIR	7,674	58
		TWIN LAKES RESERVOIR	34,883	38
		HOMESTAKE RESERVOIR	41,023	74
		TURQUOISE LAKE	92,739	73
		ARKANSAS RIVER AT SALIDA	192,000	25
11020006	Huerfano River	CUCHARAS RESERVOIR*	0	13
		CUCHARAS RIVER AT BOYD RANCH NR LA VETA	3,700	11
		HUERFANO RIVER NEAR REDWING	4,400	4
11020010	Purgatoire River	PURGATOIRE RIVER AT TRINIDAD	15,500	11
		TRINIDAD LAKE	39,290	86
11020002	Upper Arkansas	PUEBLO RESERVOIR INFLOW	250,000	18
		PUEBLO RESERVOIR	262,800	89
11020009	Upper Arkansas-John Martin Reservoir	CUCHARAS RIVER AT BOYD RANCH NR LA VETA	3,700	11
		HUERFANO RIVER NEAR REDWING	4,400	4
		PURGATOIRE RIVER AT TRINIDAD	15,500	11
		ADOBE CREEK RESERVOIR	49,429	75
		PUEBLO RESERVOIR INFLOW	250,000	18
		JOHN MARTIN RESERVOIR	291,619	87
11020005	Upper Arkansas-Lake Meredith	CUCHARAS RIVER AT BOYD RANCH NR LA VETA	3,700	11
		HUERFANO RIVER NEAR REDWING	4,400	4
		LAKE HENRY	8,949	99
		MEREDITH RESERVOIR	37,172	85
		PUEBLO RESERVOIR INFLOW	250,000	18
14010002	Blue River	GREEN MOUNTAIN RESERVOIR	63,700	19
		BLUE RIVER INFLOW TO GREEN MOUNTAIN RES	240,000	39
14010001	Colorado Headwaters	WOLFORD MOUNTAIN RESERVOIR	54,590	99
		WILLIAMS FORK RESERVOIR	66,000	60
		COLORADO RIVER NEAR DOTSERO	1,170,000	31
14010005	Colorado Headwaters-Plateau	VEGA RESERVOIR	10,147	45
		COLORADO RIVER NEAR CAMEO	1,630,000	19
14010003	Eagle River	EAGLE RIVER BELOW GYPSUM	250,000	23
14010004	Roaring Fork	RUEDI RESERVOIR	69,383	20
		ROARING FORK AT GLENWOOD SPRINGS	410,000	8
14020001	East-Taylor	TAYLOR R INF TO TAYLOR PARK RESERVOIR	70,000	14
		TAYLOR PARK RESERVOIR	74,172	81
		EAST RIVER AT ALMONT	116,000	11
14020005	Lower Gunnison	GUNNISON RIVER NR GRAND JUNCTION	620,000	7
14020004	North Fork Gunnison	PAONIA RESERVOIR	2,729	47
		NORTH FORK GUNNISON R NR SOMERSET	128,000	8
14030003	San Miguel	SAN MIGUEL RIVER NEAR PLACERVILLE	64,000	6
14020003	Tomichi Creek	VOUGA RESERVOIR NEAR DOYLEVILLE	748	85
		TOMICHI CREEK AT GUNNISON, CO	33,000	13
14020006	Uncompahgre River	RIDGEWAY RESERVOIR	60,860	46
		UNCOMPAHGRE RIVER AT COLONA	65,000	8

HUC ID	HUC Name	Component Name	Component Volume (AF)	Component NEP for Month
14020002	Upper Gunnison	FRUITLAND RESERVOIR	1,100	54
		SILVER JACK RESERVOIR	2,253	7
		CRAWFORD RESERVOIR	5,001	23
		LAKE FORK AT GATEVIEW, CO	75,000	9
		MORROW POINT RESERVOIR	109,347	19
		GUNNISON R INF TO BLUE MESA RESERVOIR	380,000	9
		BLUE MESA RESERVOIR	554,491	74
13010002	Alamosa-Trinchera	SANGRE DE CRISTO	3,600	15
		TRINCHERA CK	4,700	7
		UTE CREEK	5,100	17
		CULEBRA CREEK AT SAN LUIS	7,500	14
		TERRACE RESERVOIR	8,275	76
		MOUNTAIN HOME	8,559	99
		ALAMOSA CREEK ABOVE TERRACE RESERVOIR	34,000	14
13010005	Conejos River	PLATORO RESERVOIR	23,207	65
		CONEJOS RIVER NEAR MOGOTE	103,000	11
13010001	Rio Grande Headwaters	CONTINENTAL RESERVOIR	11,378	98
		SANTA MARIA RESERVOIR	18,868	90
		RIO GRANDE RESERVOIR	26,966	87
		RIO GRANDE NEAR DEL NORTE	255,000	10
13010004	Saguache Creek	SAGUACHE CREEK NEAR SAGUACHE, CO	18,000	13
14080104	Animas River	LEMON RESERVOIR	18,621	39
		FLORIDA RIVER INFLOW TO LEMON RESERVOIR	20,000	5
		ANIMAS RIVER AT DURANGO	180,000	5
14080107	Mancos	JACKSON GULCH RESERVOIR	5,226	66
		MANCOS RIVER NEAR MANCOS	10,800	6
14080105	Middle San Juan	LONG HOLLOW RESERVOIR	1,749	50
		LA PLATA RIVER AT HESPERUS	7,600	6
14080102	Piedra River	PIEDRA RIVER NEAR ARBOLES	72,000	7
14030002	Upper Dolores	GROUNDHOG RESERVOIR	12,181	46
		DOLORES RIVER BELOW MCPHEE RESERVOIR	118,000	9
		MCPHEE RESERVOIR	284,506	73
14080101	Upper San Juan	VALLECITO RESERVOIR	67,333	55
		LOS PINOS RIVER NEAR BAYFIELD	85,000	6
		SAN JUAN RIVER NEAR CARRACAS	172,000	10
10190006	Big Thompson River	MARIANO RESERVOIR	4,000	56
		LAKE LOVELAND RESERVOIR	5,800	18
		WILLOW CREEK RESERVOIR	6,300	19
		LONE TREE RESERVOIR	6,800	52
		BOYD LAKE	34,600	58
		CARTER LAKE	55,362	14
		BIG THOMPSON R AT MOUTH, NR DRAKE, CO	74,000	31
		LAKE GRANBY	417,226	96

HUC ID	HUC Name	Component Name	Component Volume (AF)	Component NEP for Month
10190007	Cache La Poudre	BLACK HOLLOW RESERVOIR	3,376	76
		CHAMBERS LAKE	5,804	92
		HALLIGAN RESERVOIR	6,428	96
		WINDSOR RESERVOIR	8,779	21
		CACHE LA POUDRE	8,871	91
		FOSSIL CREEK RESERVOIR	9,316	90
		COBB LAKE	19,060	77
		HORSETOOTH RESERVOIR	85,826	36
		CACHE LA POUDRE R AT CANYON MOUTH	205,000	39
10190004	Clear Creek	CLEAR CREEK AT GOLDEN	89,000	24
10190003	Middle South Platte-Cherry Creek	HORSECREEK RESERVOIR	11,800	39
		MILTON RESERVOIR	19,300	96
		BARR LAKE	26,800	92
		SOUTH BOULDER CK NR ELDORADO SPRINGS, CO	33,000	31
		STANDLEY RESERVOIR	42,000	99
		BOULDER CREEK NEAR ORODELL	49,000	34
		SAINT VRAIN CREEK AT LYONS	74,000	33
		BIG THOMPSON R AT MOUTH, NR DRAKE, CO	74,000	31
		CLEAR CREEK AT GOLDEN	89,000	24
		SOUTH PLATTE RIVER AT SOUTH PLATTE	120,000	17
		CACHE LA POUDRE R AT CANYON MOUTH	205,000	39
10190012	Middle South Platte-Sterling	JULESBURG RESERVOIR	16,500	32
		PREWITT RESERVOIR	18,900	61
		JACKSON LAKE RESERVOIR	24,200	54
		EMPIRE RESERVOIR	25,800	67
		SOUTH BOULDER CK NR ELDORADO SPRINGS, CO	33,000	31
		RIVERSIDE RESERVOIR	41,800	62
		BOULDER CREEK NEAR ORODELL	49,000	34
		POINT OF ROCKS RESERVOIR	59,200	67
		SAINT VRAIN CREEK AT LYONS	74,000	33
		BIG THOMPSON R AT MOUTH, NR DRAKE, CO	74,000	31
		CLEAR CREEK AT GOLDEN	89,000	24
		SOUTH PLATTE RIVER AT SOUTH PLATTE	120,000	17
		CACHE LA POUDRE R AT CANYON MOUTH	205,000	39
10190001	South Platte Headwaters	ANTERO RESERVOIR	20,300	95
		SPINNEY MOUNTAIN RESERVOIR	35,800	83
		ELEVENMILE CANYON RESV INFLOW	38,000	24
		ELEVENMILE CANYON RESERVOIR	99,800	92
10190005	St. Vrain River	TERRY RESERVOIR	6,000	89
		MARSHALL RESERVOIR	7,100	87
		UNION RESERVOIR	11,995	74
		BUTTONROCK (RALPH PRICE) RESERVOIR	16,100	99
		GROSS RESERVOIR	28,337	99
		SOUTH BOULDER CK NR ELDORADO SPRINGS, CO	33,000	31
		BOULDER CREEK NEAR ORODELL	49,000	34
		SAINT VRAIN CREEK AT LYONS	74,000	33

HUC ID	HUC Name	Component Name	Component Volume (AF)	Component NEP for Month
10190002	Upper South Platte	CHEESMAN LAKE	70,956	75
		SOUTH PLATTE RIVER AT SOUTH PLATTE	120,000	17
		DILLON RESERVOIR	235,100	90
14050003	Little Snake	LITTLE SNAKE RIVER NEAR LILY	205,000	24
14050002	Lower Yampa	YAMPA RIVER NEAR MAYBELL	525,000	15
10180001	North Platte Headwaters	NORTH PLATTE R NR NORTHGATE	185,000	40
14050005	Upper White	WHITE RIVER NEAR MEEKER	149,000	12
		YAMCOLO RESERVOIR	7,559	70
		STAGECOACH RESERVOIR NR OAK CREEK	33,400	99
		ELKHEAD CREEK ABOVE LONG GULCH	35,000	19
		YAMPA RIVER AT STEAMBOAT SPRINGS	155,000	17
		ELK RIVER NEAR MILNER, CO	225,000	12

NEP is non exceedance percentage (percentile) for volume of the component compared to this month during the historical period 1970-2010.

*Empty, filling restriction

Water Volume NEP Color Scale: 0 (Well Below Normal) | 50 (Normal) | 100 (Well Above Normal)

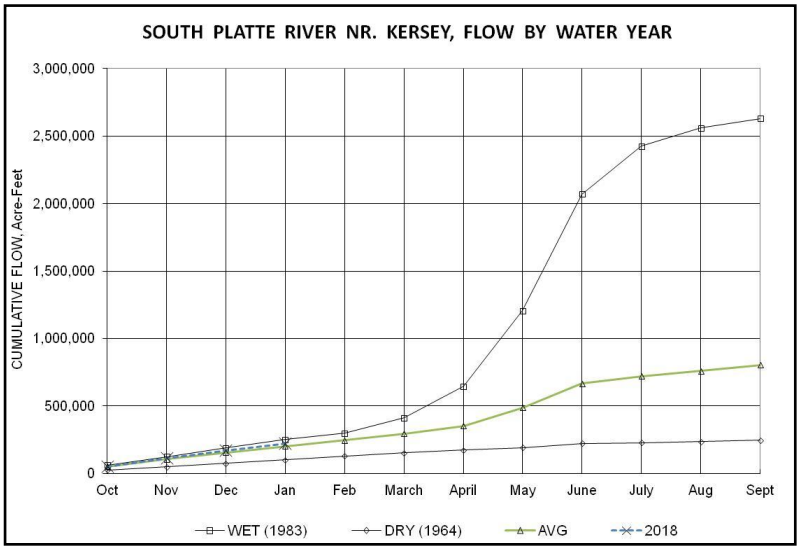
Basinwide Conditions Assessment

The SWSI value for the month was +1.2. The very welcome wetter precipitation pattern that began to emerge in December continued into January for most of northeast Colorado. Precipitation over much of the area was near normal to well above normal in the far northeast and eastern portions of the area. However, significant dry spots in South Park and most of Weld County remained.

Temperatures over most of northeast Colorado ran above to significantly above normal in January. Again the far northeastern portion of the area was the exception with slightly below normal temperatures.

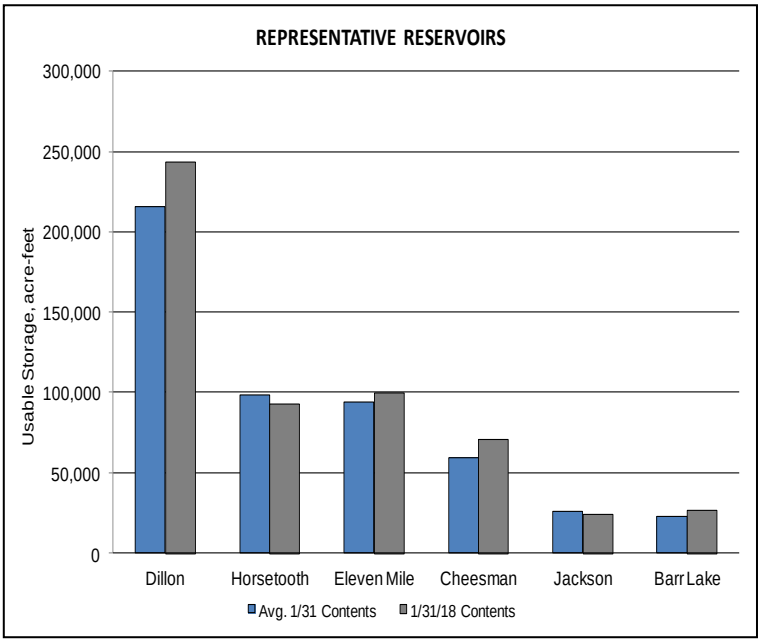
The snow pack picture in the South Platte basin, though the best in the state, continues to cause concern in the water community. The overall snow water equivalent increased in January, but the snow water equivalent as a percentage of normal actually decreased from 87% of normal on January 1 to 84% of normal on February 1.

Even with the wetter conditions described above, the USDA Drought Monitor rating indicated deteriorating conditions in northeast Colorado in January. At the end of December virtually the entire area was rated D0 "Abnormally Dry" (the exceptions were South Park and the northern Front Range mountains which had no drought rating). By the end of January, most of the southern and eastern parts of the area were rated D1 "Moderate Drought" with the rest of the area (except a small sliver in Larimer County along the Colorado-Wyoming border with no rating) rated D0.



Running counter to what might be expected from the drought ratings; the January flows at both the Kersey and Julesburg gages were above the long term mean flows. The overall January mean flow at the Kersey gage was 848 cfs or about 130% of the long term mean flow of 652 cfs. The overall November mean flow at the Julesburg gage was 887 cfs. This represents a flow of about 173% of the long term mean flow of 512 cfs.

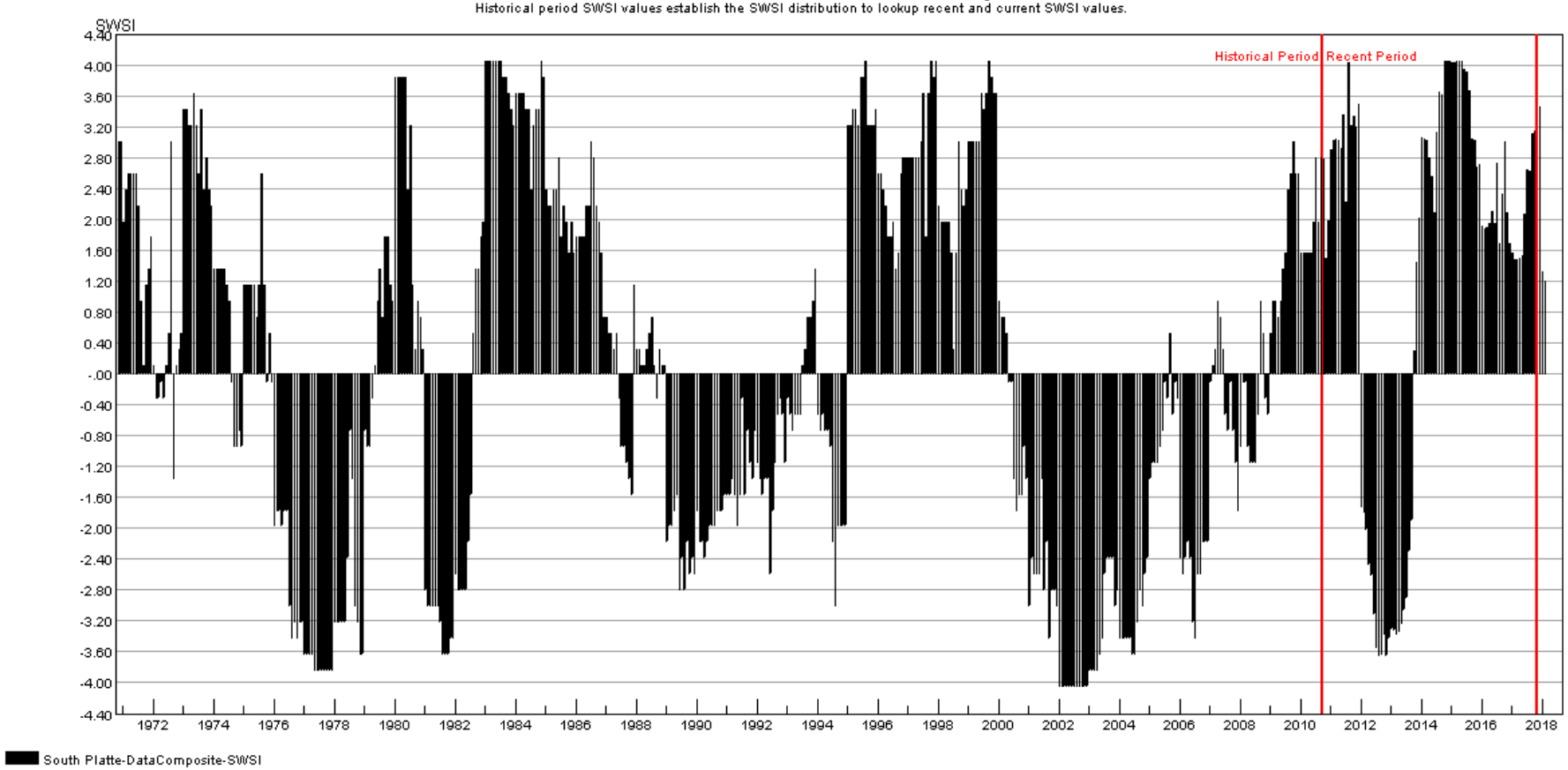
Interestingly, even with the near average precipitation conditions over much of the South Platte basin, January water calls were more junior than normal. The call from Metro Denver upstream was fairly normal until the last 7 days of January when it went to the very junior Chatfield Reservoir call with free river on the mainstem below Chatfield. The major South Platte tributaries also generally experienced no or fairly junior calls for January.



As in December, the bright spot in the water supply picture for the South Platte basin for January is reservoir storage. Storage has generally been above average since last summer and should provide a buffer if the snow pack picture does not improve. The overall end of January storage was about 77% of capacity. This compares to a long term average end of January storage of about 70% of capacity.

South Platte Basin SWSI History

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



Basinwide Conditions Assessment

The SWSI value for the month was +2.0.

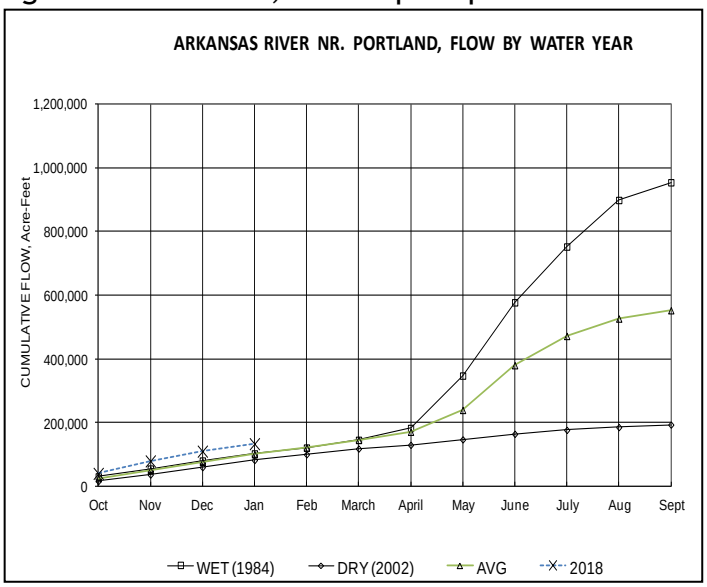
Outlook

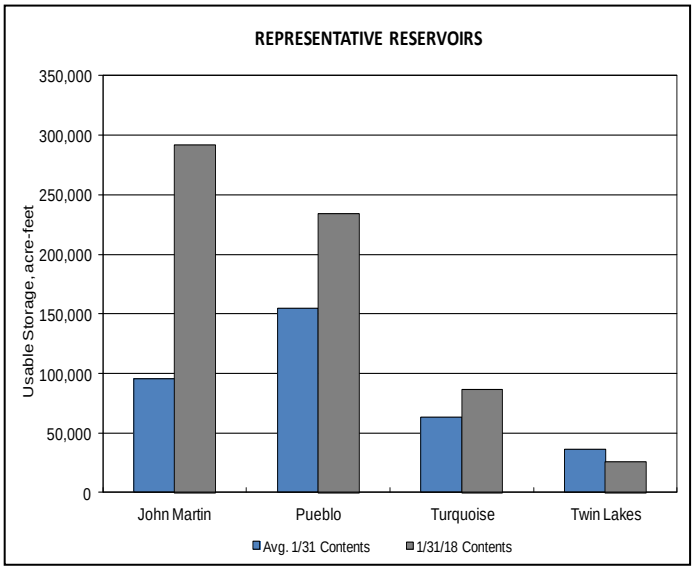
Reservoir storage in the Pueblo Winter Water Program totaled 99,654 acre-feet as of the end of January. This storage amount is greater than last year's storage to date of 92,058 acre-feet, and represents 111% of the last twenty-year average.

Conservation storage in John Martin Reservoir has accumulated 34,861 acre-feet versus 17,530 acre-feet as of the end of January last year.

Administrative/Management Concerns

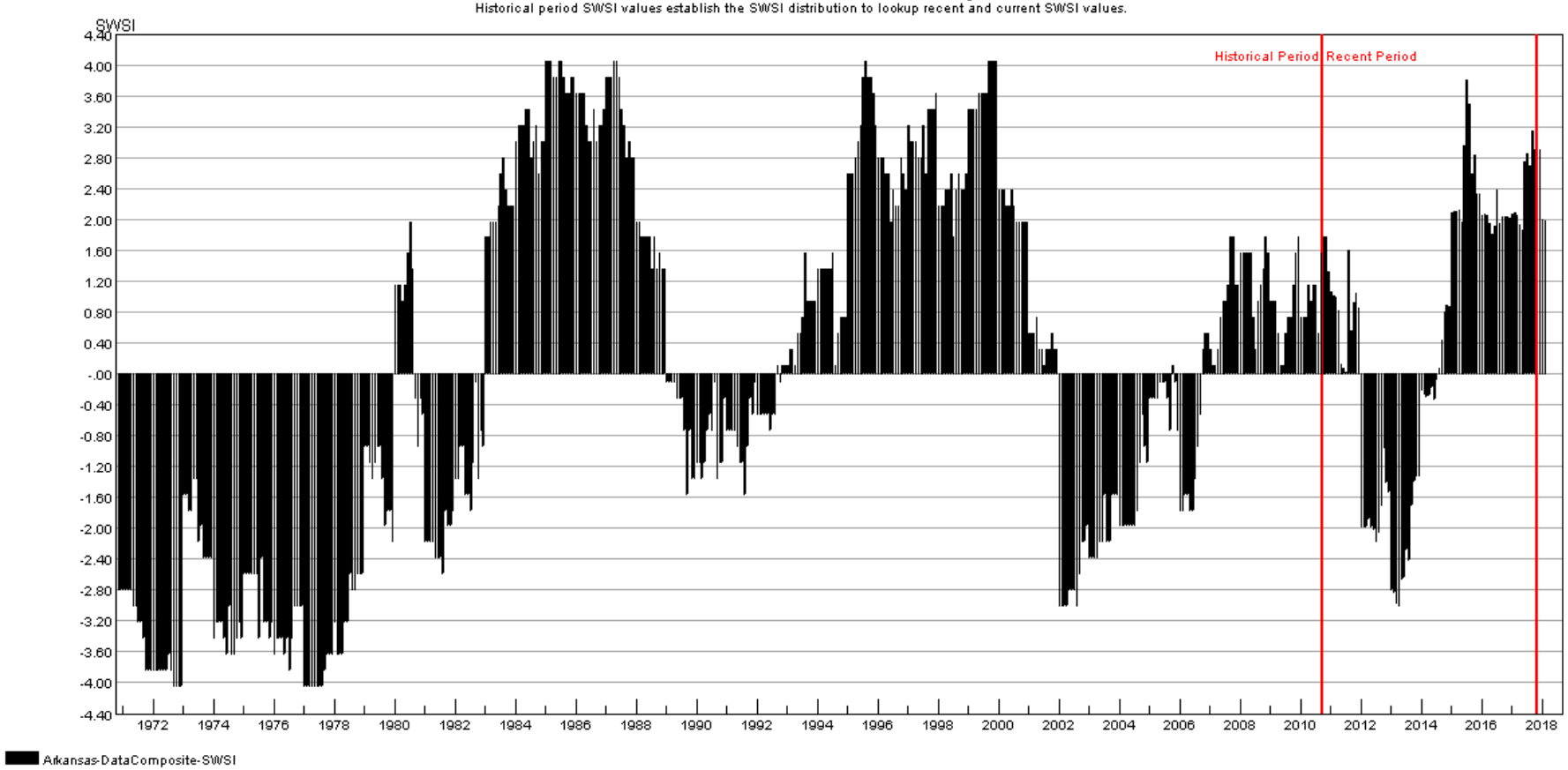
Despite a very poor snowpack through January, strong river conditions, due to precipitation the last three years, have resulted in very full reservoirs and have raised concerns about potential spills from Pueblo Reservoir and John Martin Reservoir. Loss of critical augmentation water from a reservoir, coupled with potentially poor runoff conditions in 2018, and an increased demand for well pumping, could prove to be a difficult situation to manage. Major well associations are attempting to find any alternative available to avoid loss of stored water to a spill.





Arkansas Basin SWSI History

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



Basinwide Conditions Assessment

The SWSI value for the month was -3.2. Flow at the gaging station Rio Grande near Del Norte averaged 170 cfs (98% of normal). The Conejos River near Mogote had a mean flow of 60 cfs (121% of normal).

Very limited snowfall in the San Juans and Sangre de Cristos during early January kept the snowpack well below the long-term averages. Current snowpack is well below normal and near the amounts seen during the extremely dry winter of 2001 – 2002. January precipitation in Alamosa was only 0.07 inches, 0.19 inches below normal.

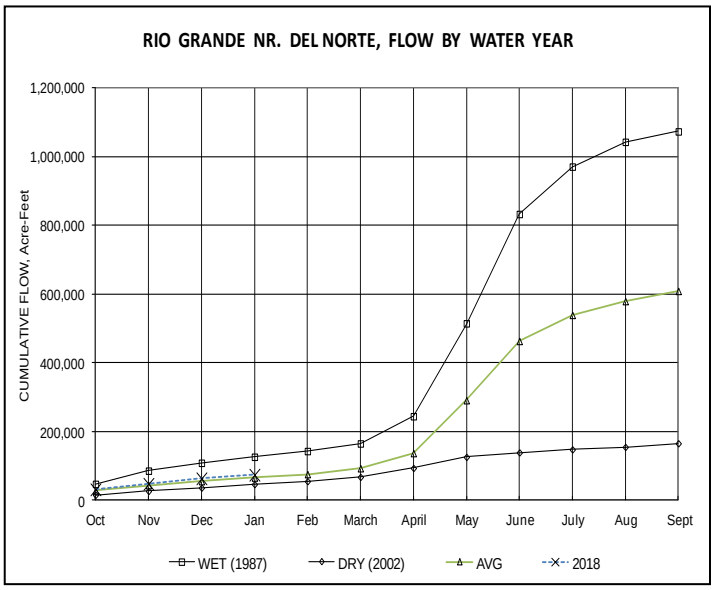
It was a warm January for the San Luis Valley. There is no snow cover on the Valley floor and very little in the foothills; therefore, no refrigerant to generate cold temperatures. Alamosa reached 63 degrees on January 31. That is a record high for Alamosa in January. Average temperatures have been about seven degrees above normal since early November, 2017.

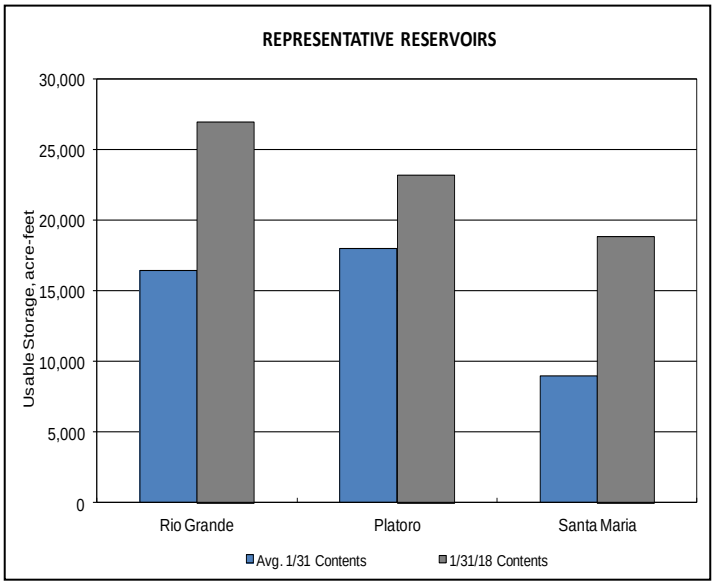
Outlook

Basinwide snowpack accumulation stood at about 31% of normal on February 1. Early February snowstorms increased that to 45% by February 13.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service stream flow forecasts are predicting runoff in area streams to be in the range of 20% (San Antonio River near Ortiz) to 59% (Platoro Reservoir inflow) of average during the 2018 irrigation season. In general, runoff predictions are very poor (22 to 47%) for the Sangre de Cristo Mountains on the eastern side of the San Luis Valley, while the rest of the basin is around 50% of average.

Current National Weather Service forecasts for February through April, 2018 are calling for above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation in this area of the state.



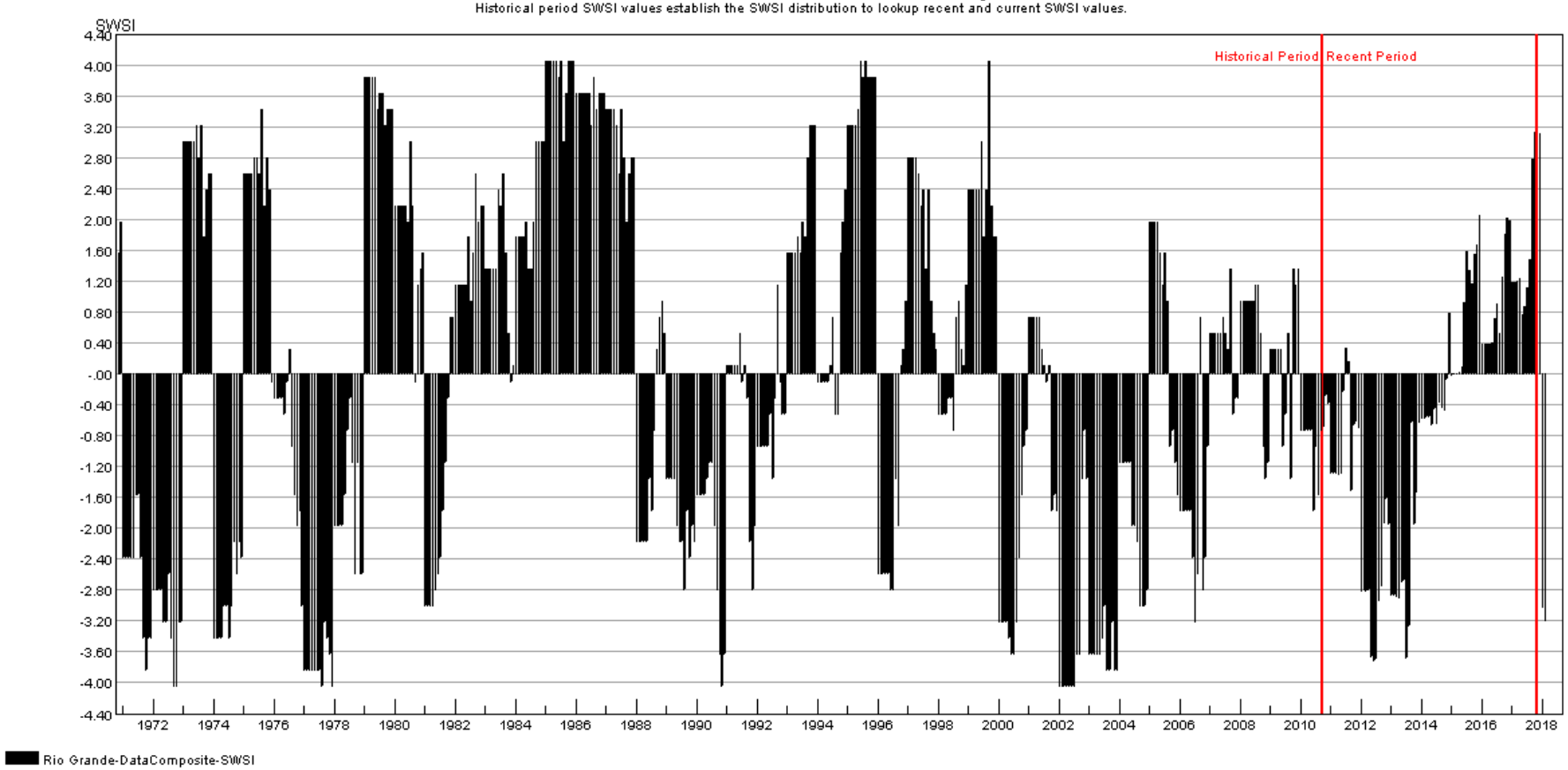


Administrative/Management Concerns

The trial for the Groundwater Use Rules for Water Division No. 3 began on January 29, 2018 before Water Judge Pattie Swift. The trial is expected to last into the third week of February. The State Engineer expects the result of this trial to bring non-exempt groundwater use rules into effect in the upper Rio Grande basin as the South Platte and Arkansas basins have done in the past. The rules will require replacement of injurious depletions from non-exempt well use and aquifer sustainability metrics. The rules also contain the confirmation of a presumptive irrigation season (April 1 – November 1) that can be adjusted by the Division Engineer based on conditions within the separate drainages.

Rio Grande Basin SWSI History

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



Basinwide Conditions Assessment

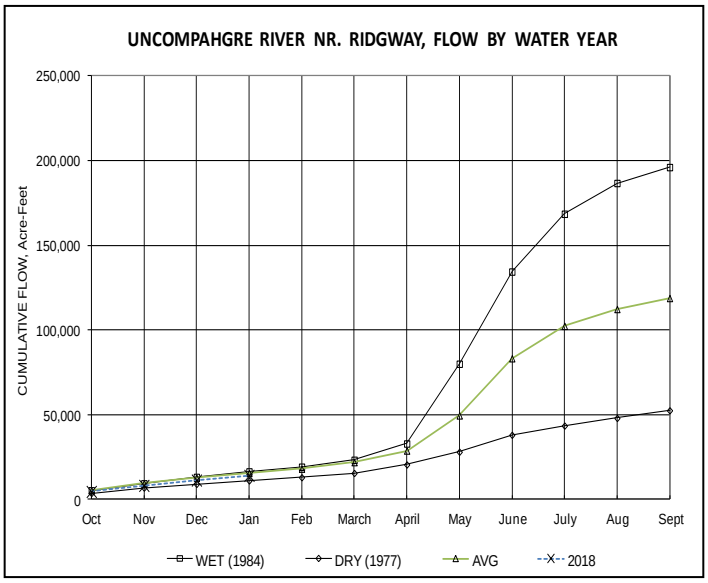
The SWSI value for the month was -3.2. For the fourth month in a row the Gunnison basin received less than average precipitation in January. The good news is that instead of 0-30% of average, like the previous three months, most of the basin received 50-70% of average. The Upper Uncompahgre basin fared best, receiving near average precipitation in the higher terrain. Total precipitation for the water year, from October 1st to February 1st, is averaging below 50% for the Gunnison basin. Gunnison basin average snowpack calculated using Snotel data improved from 37% of the median to 51% of the 30- year median. Unfortunately, this is still well below 2002 and below the previous recorded minimum for the date, which occured in 1990. As a result of the continued below average precipitation, on February 1st, many Snotel sites were still reporting the lowest levels ever recorded. One of those sites, Park Reservoir on the Grand Mesa, contains only 4.5 inches of snow water equivalent (SWE), which is 5.2 inches less than the previously recorded low of 9.7 inches in 2002 and 10.9 inches less than the median from 1981-2010.

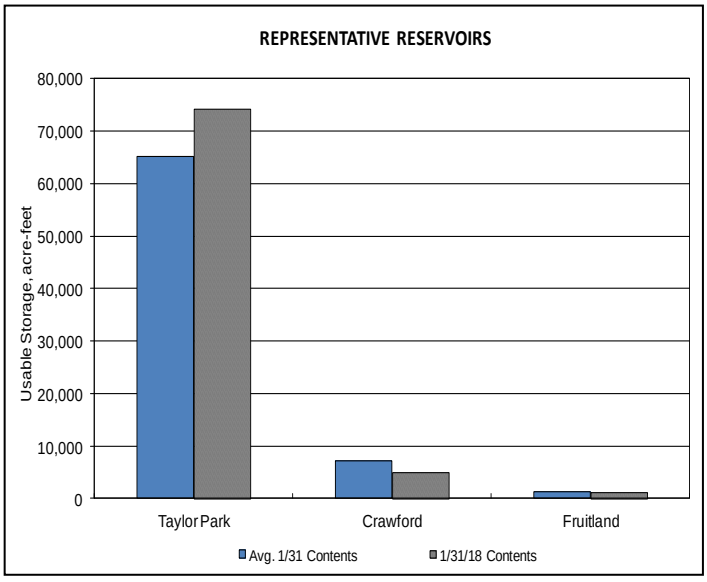
Outlook

February 1st streamflow forecasts from the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center have declined since January 1st because their forecasts assume average precipitation for future periods. February 1st April to July runoff forecasts for the Gunnison River at Blue Mesa Reservoir, Taylor River at Taylor Park Reservoir, Surface Creek at Cedaredge, Lake Fork Gunnison River at Gateview and the Uncompahgre River at Ridgway Reservoir are 59%, 71%, 27%, 60% and 55% of average, respectively.
Unfortunately, the most recent NWS forecast for February to April places much of the Gunnison basin into the area expected to receive lower than average precipitation and above average temperatures.

Administrative/Management Concerns

The Bureau of Reclamation reduced releases from the Aspinall Unit at Crystal Dam on January 7th to 1,000 cfs and further reduced releases to below 700 cfs on February 2nd to preserve remaining storage given the poor snowpack conditions. Even with these reductions, Blue Mesa Reservoir continues to decline approximately 400 acre-feet per day due to releases exceeding inflows.
The Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association (UVWUA), who operates Taylor Park Reservoir and the Gunnison Tunnel project, has a full first fill account at over 105,000 acre-feet. In addition, the second fill account in Taylor Park already contains over 15,000 acre-feet. As a result, at their annual meeting they indicated that they do not intend to reduce deliveries during the early season, which will allow farmers to get any crops they decide to plant germinated. The UVWUA will evaluate conditions as the season progresses and determine if reductions are necessary.
An area that is expected to experience significant impacts from reduced runoff is the North Fork Gunnison and its tributaries, including Surface Creek. These areas are highly over appropriated and under administration every year. Unfortunately, based on current conditions, this year could be similar to 1977, which many ranchers remember as a year with extremely low supply. Some water providers and orchard owners in the North Fork Gunnison basin have accordingly inquired about the potential to lease water and operate under substitute water supply plans during the summer of 2018.
It looks increasingly possible that many areas, which don't regularly require administration and curtailment by Water Commissioners in Water Division 4, will be under administration in 2018. These may include the Uncompahgre River, and tributaries in the Upper Gunnison, such as Tomichi Creek.



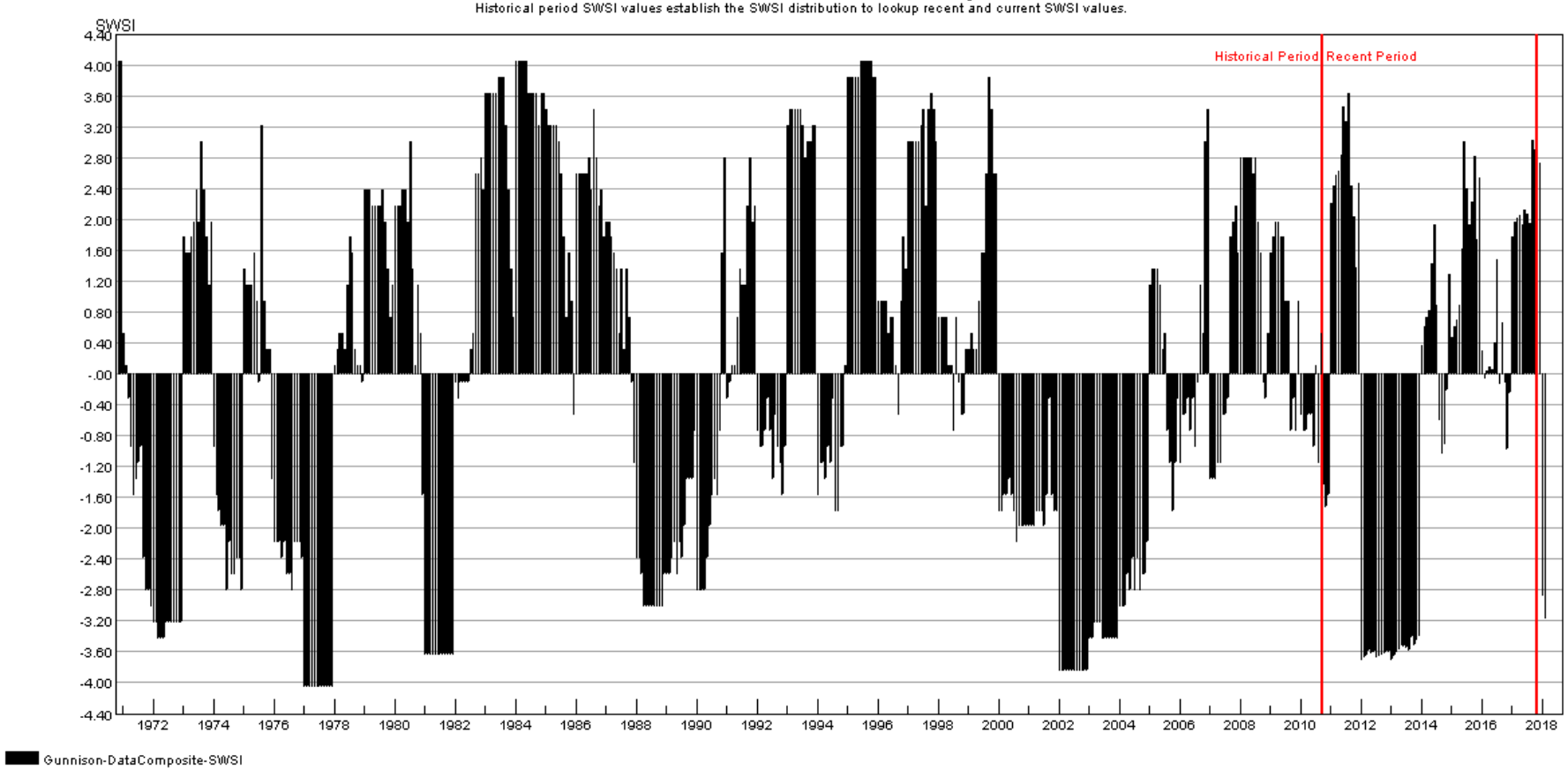


Public Use Impacts

Lack of snow continued to impact basin resorts in January and is expected to produce a shorter than normal boating season in 2018. One upshot from the current conditions is that reduced flows through the Gunnison Gorge should produce great fly fishing conditions in 2018.

Gunnison Basin SWSI History

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.

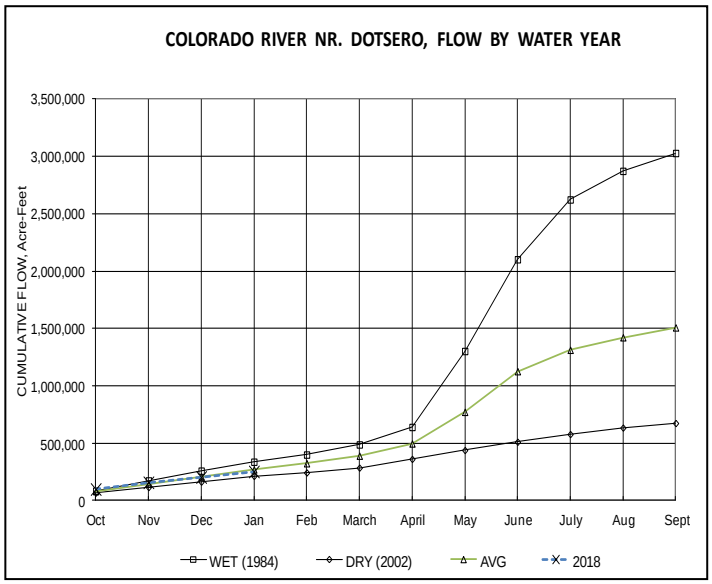


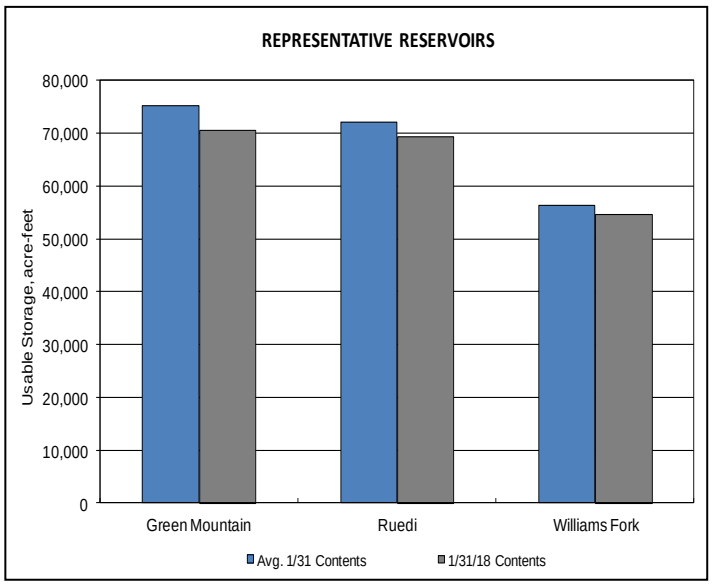
Basinwide Conditions Assessment
The SWSI value for the month was -2.4.

Outlook
Colorado River flows are running below average with tributary flows also running below average to average throughout February. As of February 14, the Upper Colorado River Basin snowpack was 68 percent of median snow water equivalent and 64 percent of average precipitation. Forecasts call for equal chances of above or below precipitation and below average temperatures for western Colorado through February.

Administrative/Management Concerns
The call on the Colorado River main stem remains the Shoshone Hydro Power right for 1250cfs. Accordingly, Green Mountain Reservoir is releasing to pass inflows, provide contract and HUP obligations and make C-BT replacements. Wolford Reservoir is bypassing inflows and releasing for contracts. Based on projections from CBRFC, the most probable inflow into Wolford between April and July of this year is projected to be 61% of average.

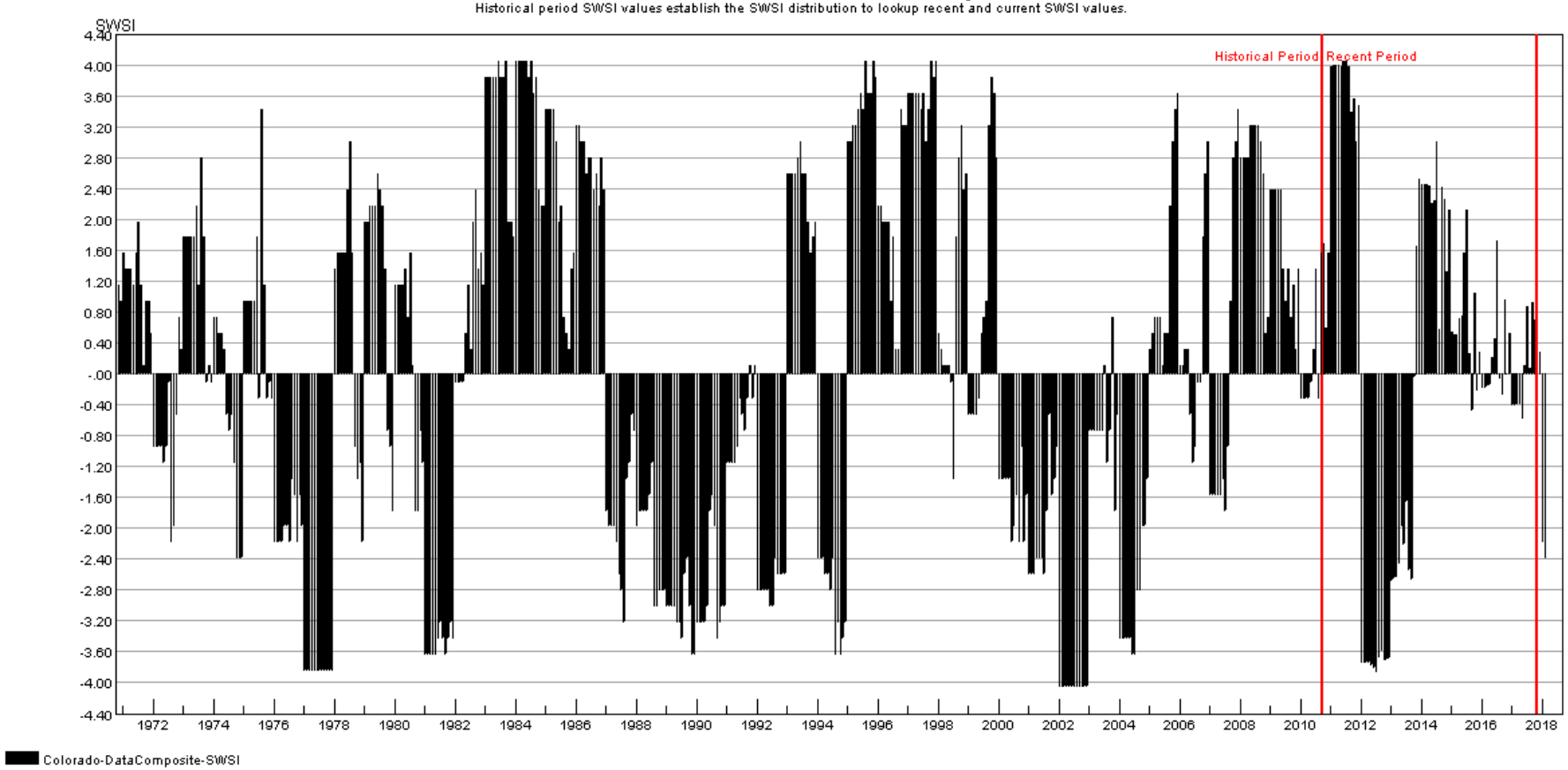
Public Use Impacts
With January continuing with below average precipitation for the fourth consecutive month, the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center's forecasters are projecting the flows into Lake Powell to be 47% of average. Snow measurement sites in southern Colorado, central Utah and Arizona are reporting their lowest levels on record.





Colorado Basin SWSI History

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



Basinwide Conditions Assessment

The SWSI value for the month was -2.3. January precipitation was below average in the Yampa, White, and North Platte River basins. Precipitation for the month, as measured at the SNOTEL sites operated by NRCS, was reported at 80% of average for the Yampa, White, and North Platte River basins. Total precipitation for the water year as a percent of average to date in the combined basins at the end of January was 77%.

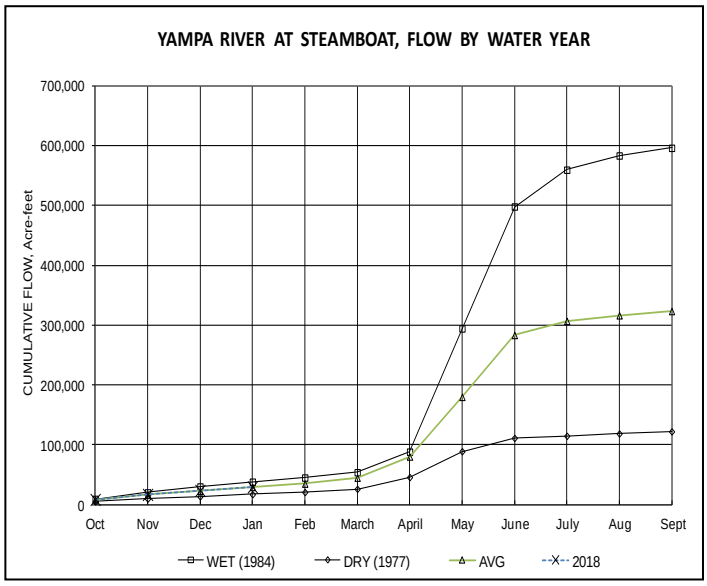
Snowpack for the combined basins as of February 1st, 2018 was at 75% of average. The snow water equivalent (SWE) as of January 31, 2018 was 82% of average for the North Platte River basin and 70% of average for the Yampa River basin and White River basin.

NRCS predicts well below average spring and summer streamflows in the Yampa, White, and North Platte River basins. The latest runoff forecasts from the NRCS for the April through July period are 82% of average for the North Platte River at Northgate, 57% of average for the Yampa River near Maybell, 59% of average for the Little Snake River near Lily, and 55% of average for the White River near Meeker.

All Division 6 stream gages were either closed for the winter season or ice/snow-affected as of February 14th, 2018. Gages will be opened during April.

Outlook

As of January 31st Fish Creek Reservoir was storing approximately 3,540 AF, 85% of capacity. The capacity of Fish Creek Reservoir is 4,167 AF. Yamcolo Reservoir was storing 7,600 AF at the end of January 2018. The capacity of Yamcolo Reservoir is 8,700 AF. The G3 web server is not functioning currently for Elkhead Creek Reservoir. The contact for the Colorado River District will let me know when the site is available.. The capacity of Elkhead Creek Reservoir is 24,778 AF. On January 31, 2018, Stagecoach Reservoir was storing 33,400 AF, 91% of capacity.



Water stored in Fish Creek Reservoir is used primarily for municipal purposes, Yamcolo Reservoir for irrigation purposes, and Elkhead Creek Reservoir for municipal, industrial, recreational, and fish recovery releases. Stagecoach Reservoir is primarily used for recreation though a significant amount of stored water is allocated for municipal, industrial, irrigation and augmentation uses.

Public Use Impacts

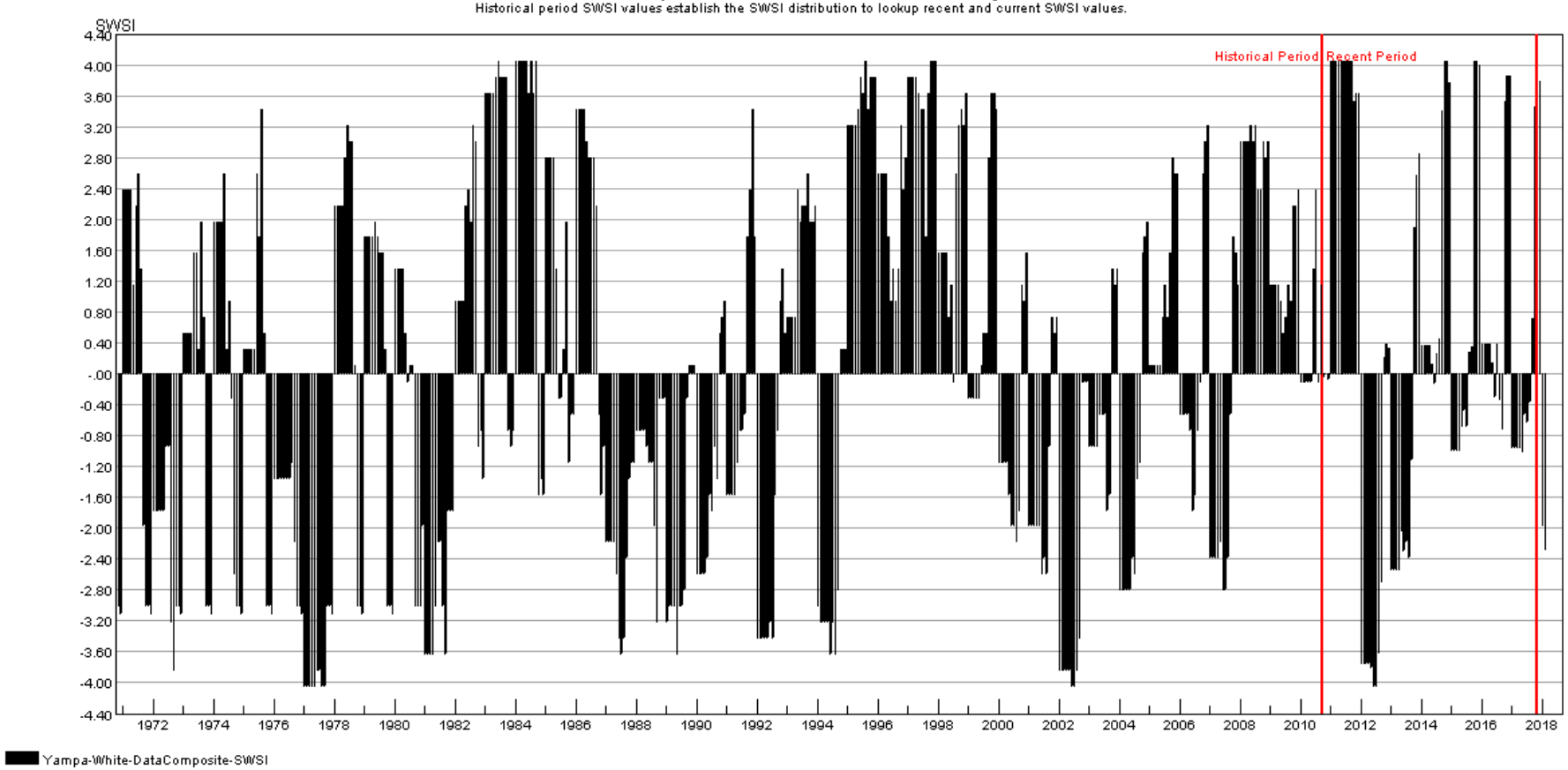
Steamboat Ski Resort has received 124 inches of snowfall since early November. That is well below the average snowfall to date.

Please check the Stagecoach Reservoir State Park website for the fishing report. Park conditions have not been updated since January 1, 2018.

Steamboat Lake is reporting that ice is 8”-10” in the Marina cove. Use caution when on the ice and take safety precautions.

Yampa-White Basin SWSI History

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.

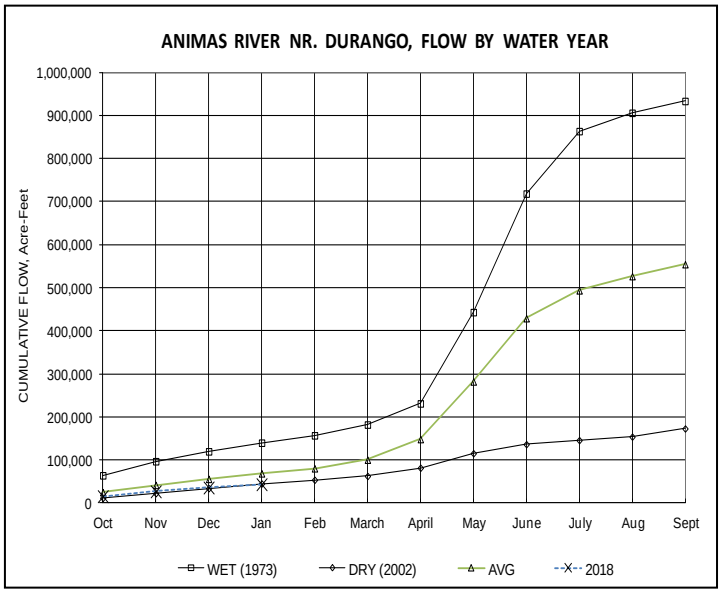


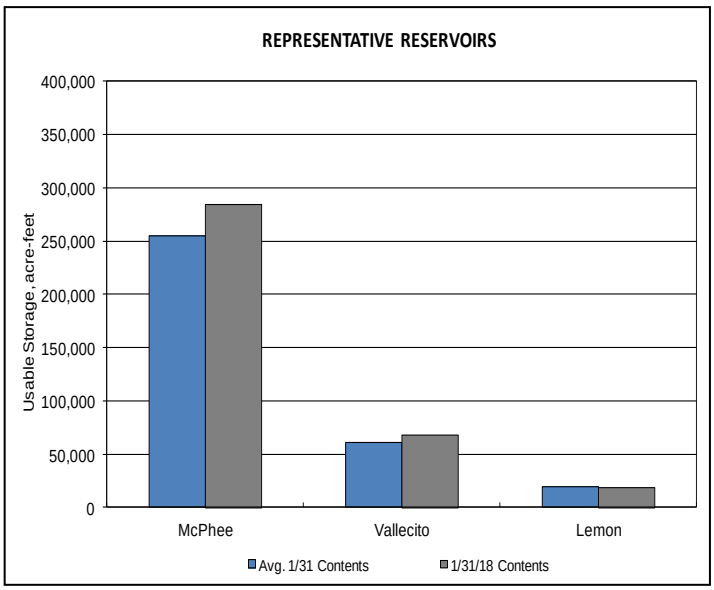
Basinwide Conditions Assessment

The SWSI value for the month was -3.0. Flow at the Animas River at Durango averaged 124 cfs (61% of average). The flow at the Dolores River at Dolores estimated average is 30 cfs (58% of average). The La Plata River at Hesperus averaged 3.4 cfs (49% of average). Precipitation in Durango was 0.50 inches for the month, 24% of the 30-year average of 2.08 inches. Precipitation was the 96th highest amount recorded in January, in Durango, out of 124 years of record. Precipitation to date in Durango, for the water year, is 0.90 inches, 13% of the 30-year average of 6.80 inches. End of last month precipitation to date, for the water year was 8% of average. The average high and low temperatures for the month of January in Durango were 48o and 17o. In comparison, the 30-year average high and low for the month is 40o and 14o. At the end of the month Vallecito Reservoir contained 68,180 acre-feet compared to its average content of 56,532 acre-feet (121% of average). McPhee Reservoir was up to 284,505 acre-feet compared to its average content of 260,064 (108% of average), while Lemon Reservoir was up to 18,960 acre-feet as compared to its average content of 19,813 acre-feet (96% of average).

Outlook

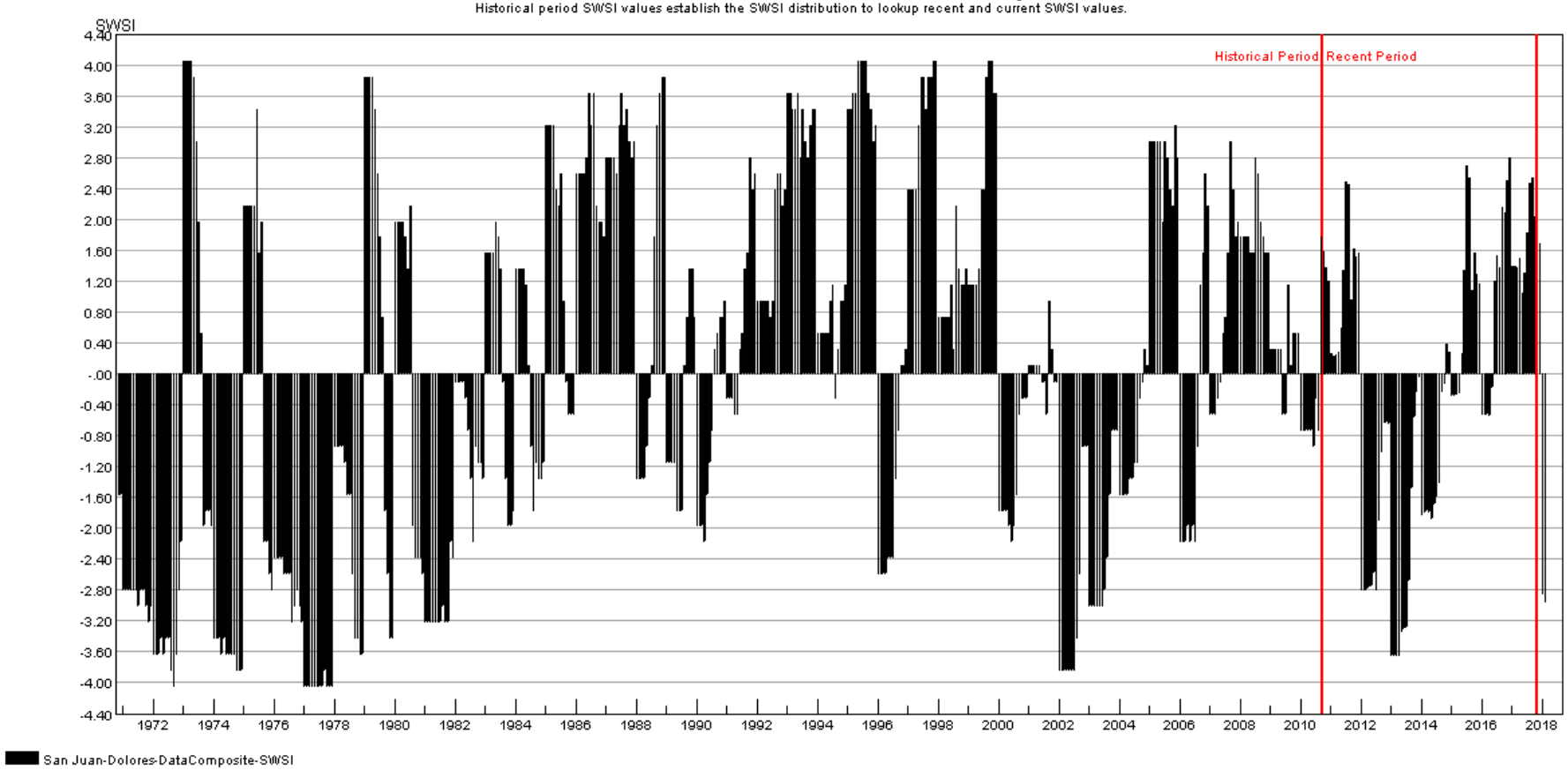
Precipitation (0.50 inches) was well below average for January in Durango. There were 96 years out of 124 years of record where there was more precipitation than this year. The flows in the rivers within the basin remained well below average for this time of year. There are 106 out of 108 years of record where the total flow past the Animas River at Durango stream gauge was more than this year. There were 99 out of 107 years of record where the total flow past the Dolores stream gauge was more than this year and 99 out of 101 years of record where the total flow past the La Plata River at Hesperus gauge was more than this year. The only years where the flows were lower on the La Plata River was 1938 and 1990 (163 AF or 2.65 cfs per day and 178 AF or 2.89 cfs per day respectively).





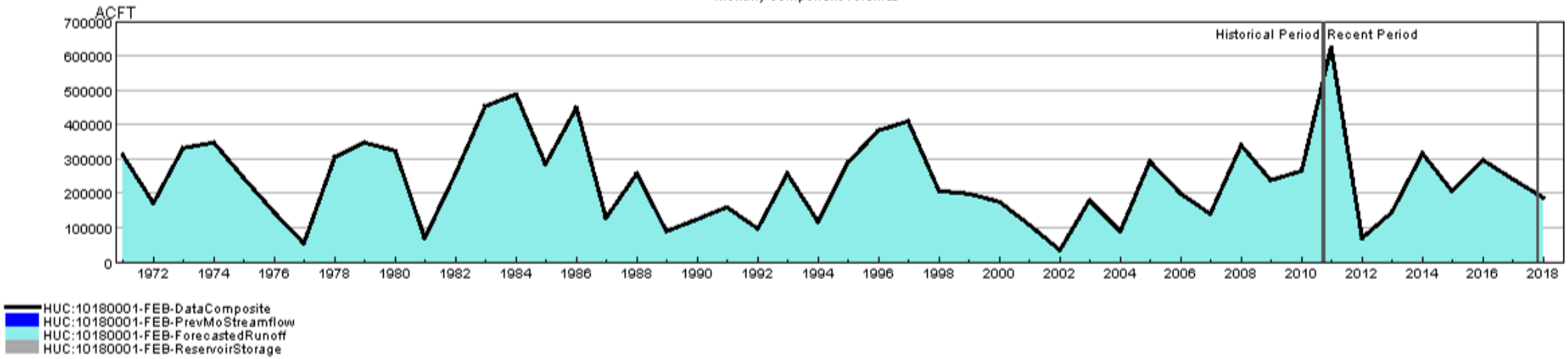
San Juan-Dolores Basin SWSI History

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



HUC 10180001 (North Platte Headwaters) Surface Water Supply - FEB

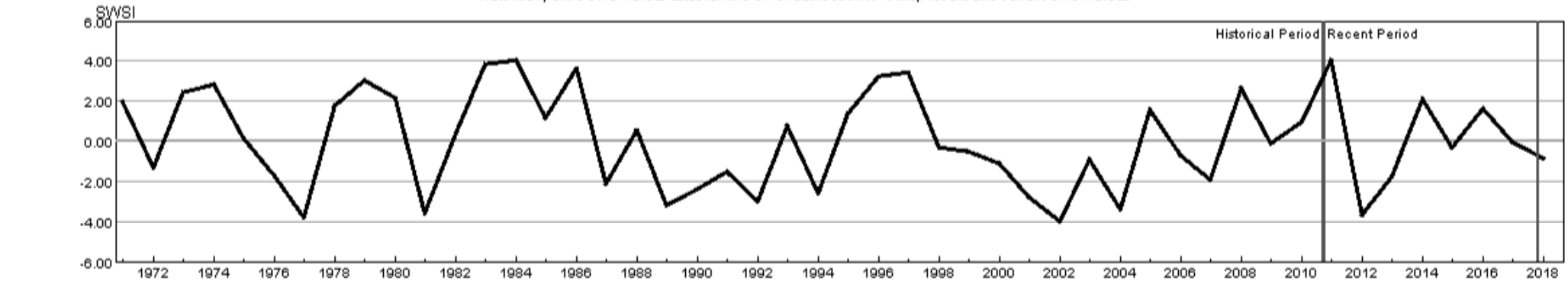
Monthly component volumes



HUC:10180001-FEB-DataComposite
HUC:10180001-FEB-PrevMoStreamflow
HUC:10180001-FEB-ForecastedRunoff
HUC:10180001-FEB-ReservoirStorage

HUC 10180001 (North Platte Headwaters) SWSI Values - FEB

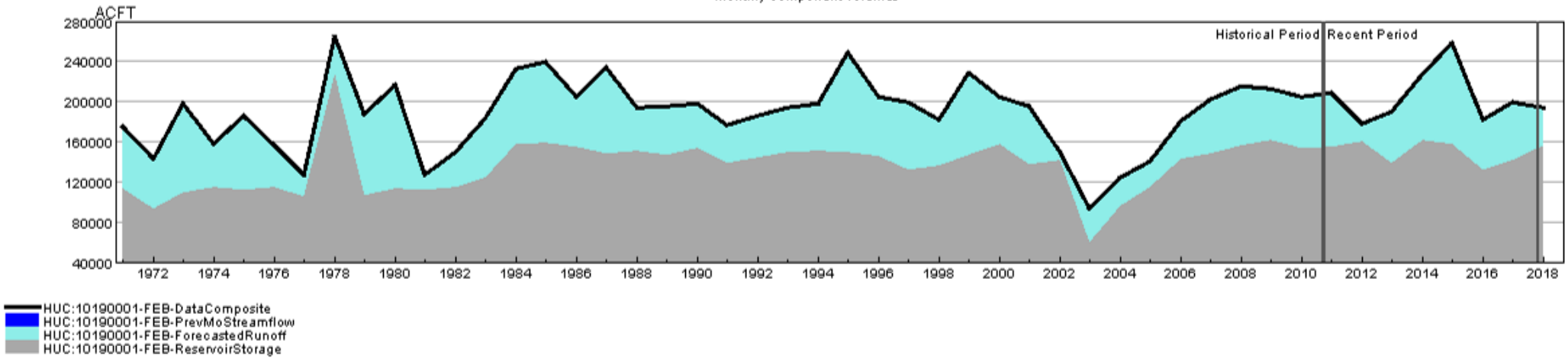
Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



HUC:10180001-FEB-PrevMoStreamflow-SWSI
HUC:10180001-FEB-ForecastedRunoff-SWSI
HUC:10180001-FEB-ReservoirStorage-SWSI
HUC:10180001-FEB-DataComposite-SWSI

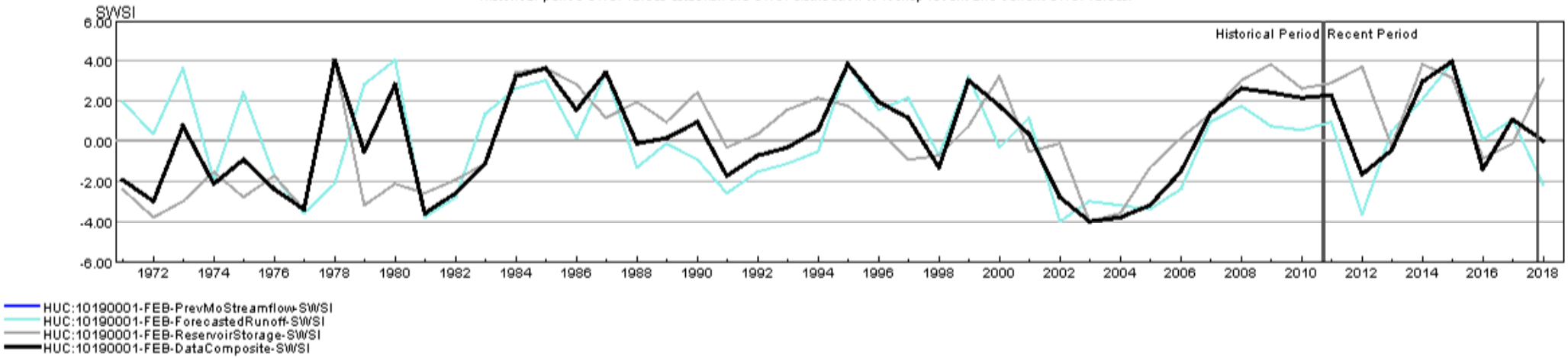
HUC 10190001 (South Platte Headwater) Surface Water Supply - FEB

Monthly component volumes



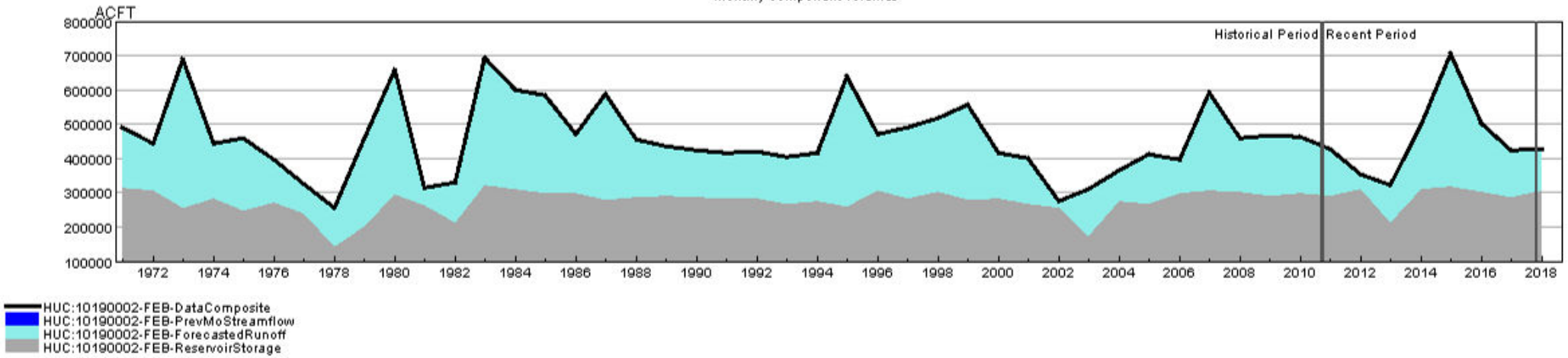
HUC 10190001 (South Platte Headwater) SWSI Values - FEB

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



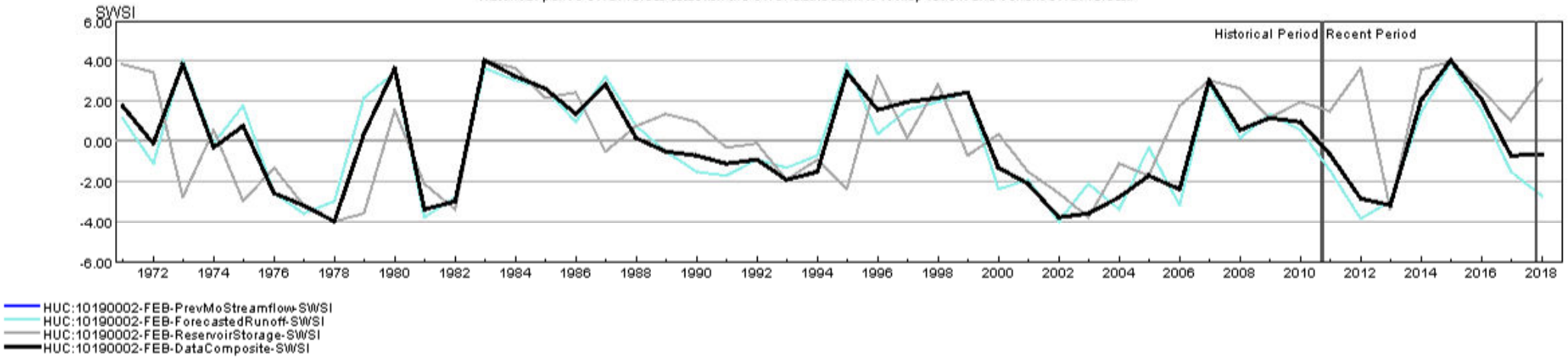
HUC 10190002 (Upper South Platte) Surface Water Supply - FEB

Monthly component volumes



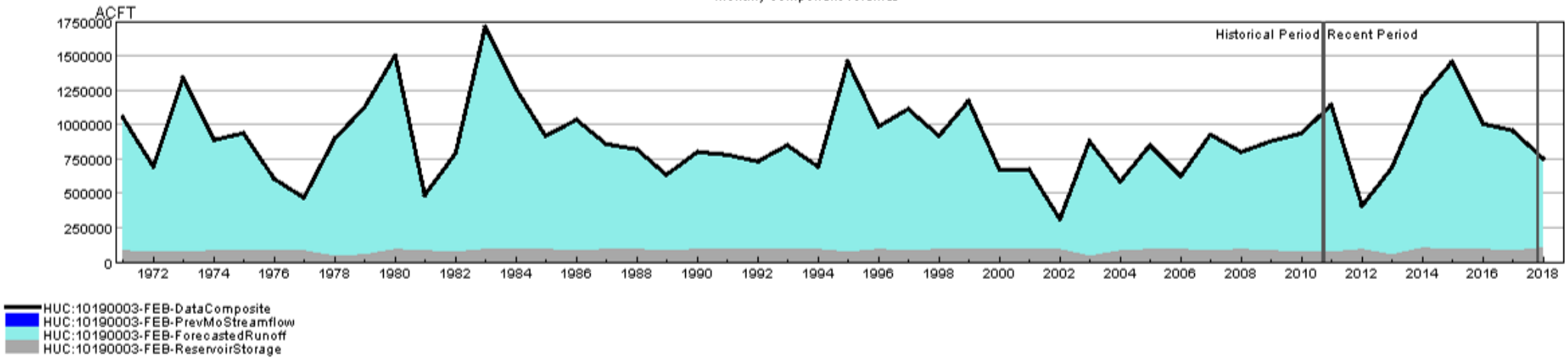
HUC 10190002 (Upper South Platte) SWSI Values - FEB

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



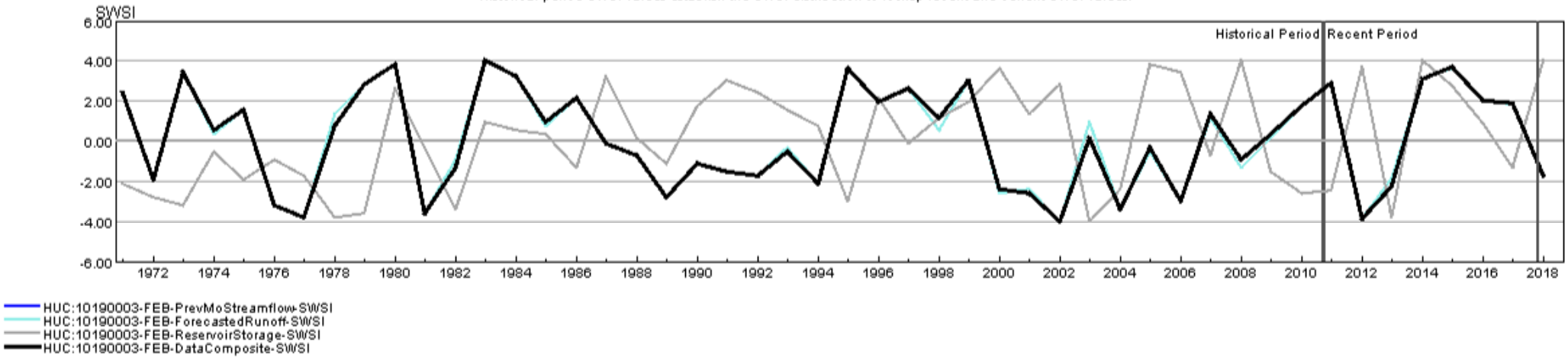
HUC 10190003 (Middle South Platte-Cherry Creek) Surface Water Supply - FEB

Monthly component volumes



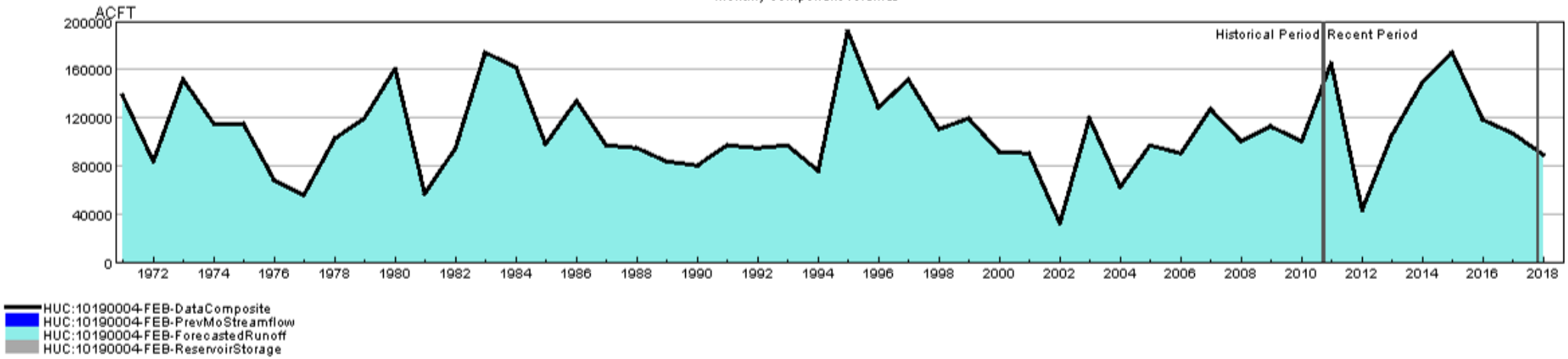
HUC 10190003 (Middle South Platte-Cherry Creek) SWSI Values - FEB

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



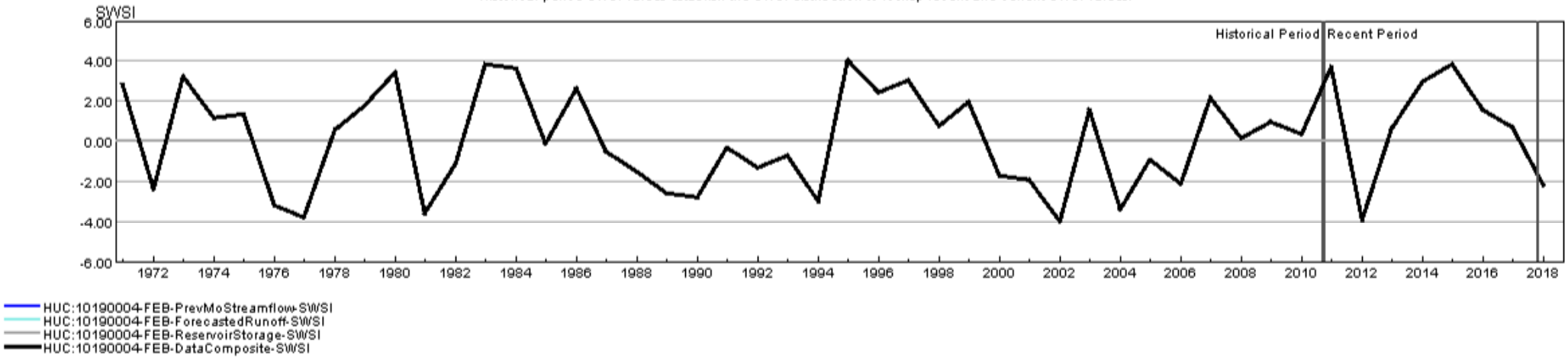
HUC 10190004 (Clear) Surface Water Supply - FEB

Monthly component volumes



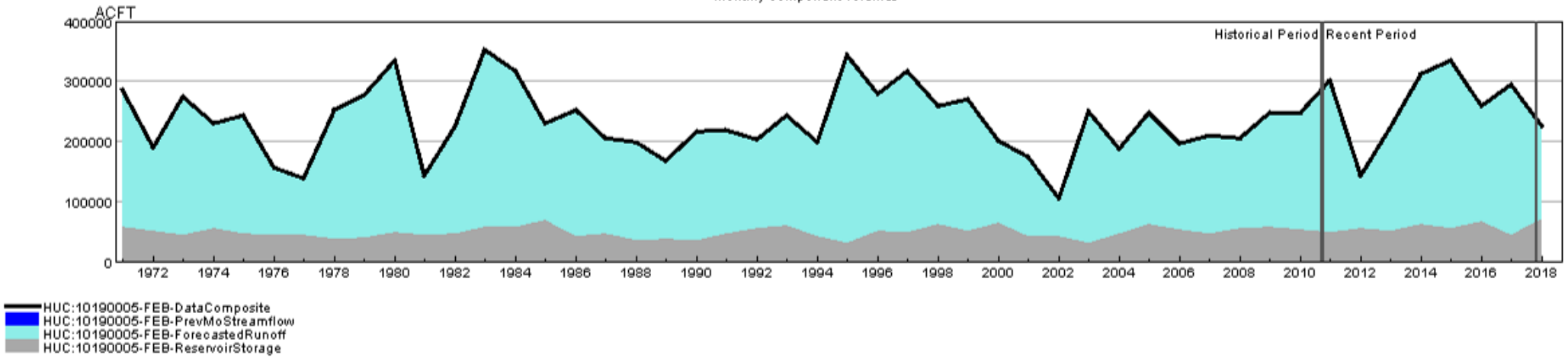
HUC 10190004 (Clear) SWSI Values - FEB

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



HUC 10190005 (St. Vrain) Surface Water Supply - FEB

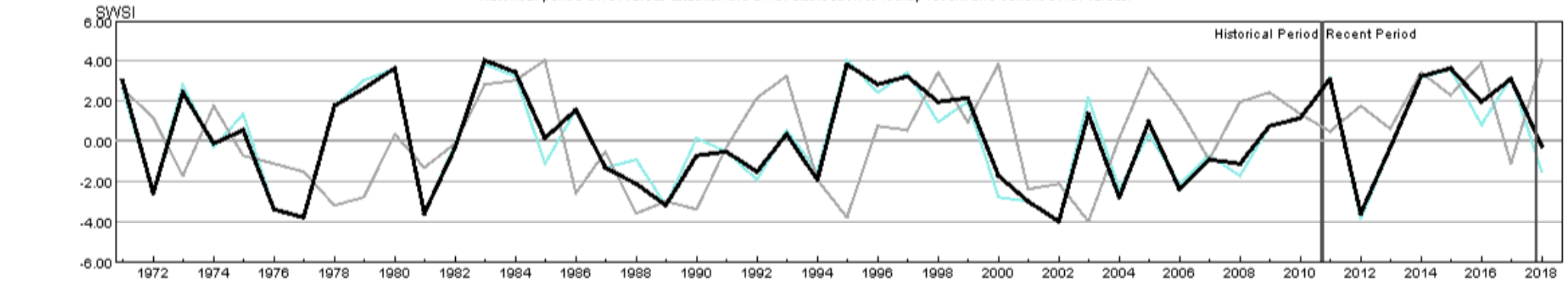
Monthly component volumes



HUC:10190005-FEB-DataComposite
HUC:10190005-FEB-PrevMoStreamflow
HUC:10190005-FEB-ForecastedRunoff
HUC:10190005-FEB-ReservoirStorage

HUC 10190005 (St. Vrain) SWSI Values - FEB

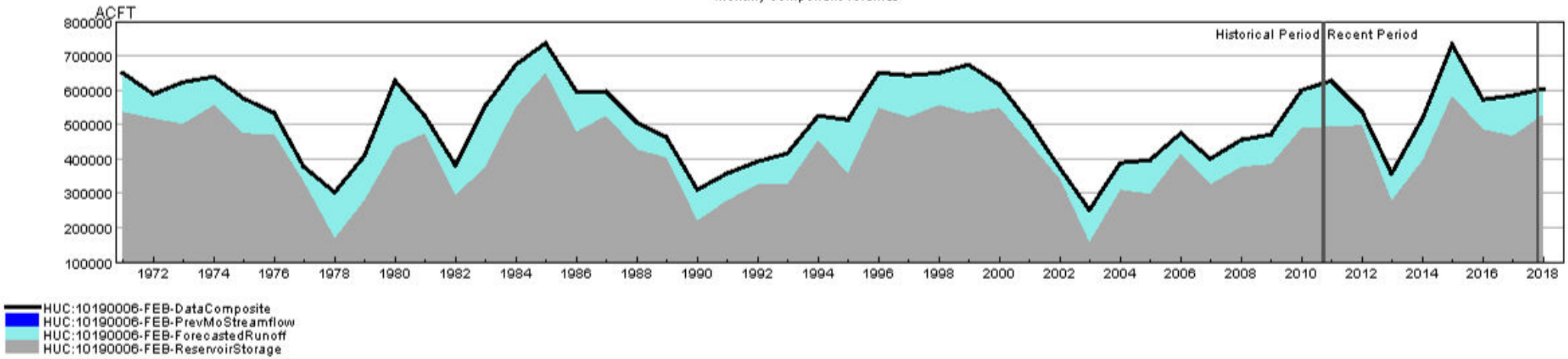
Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



HUC:10190005-FEB-PrevMoStreamflow-SWSI
HUC:10190005-FEB-ForecastedRunoff-SWSI
HUC:10190005-FEB-ReservoirStorage-SWSI
HUC:10190005-FEB-DataComposite-SWSI

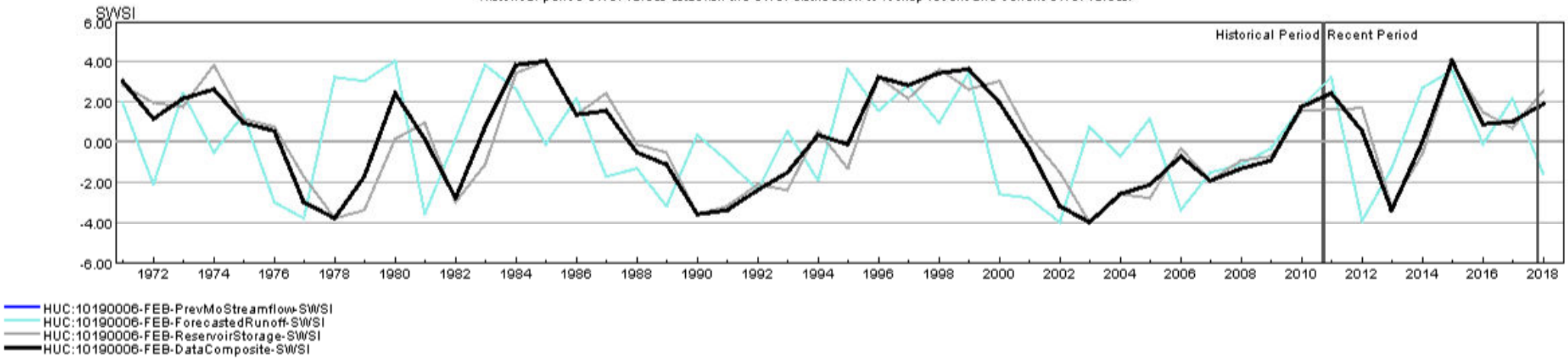
HUC 10190006 (Big Thompson) Surface Water Supply - FEB

Monthly component volumes



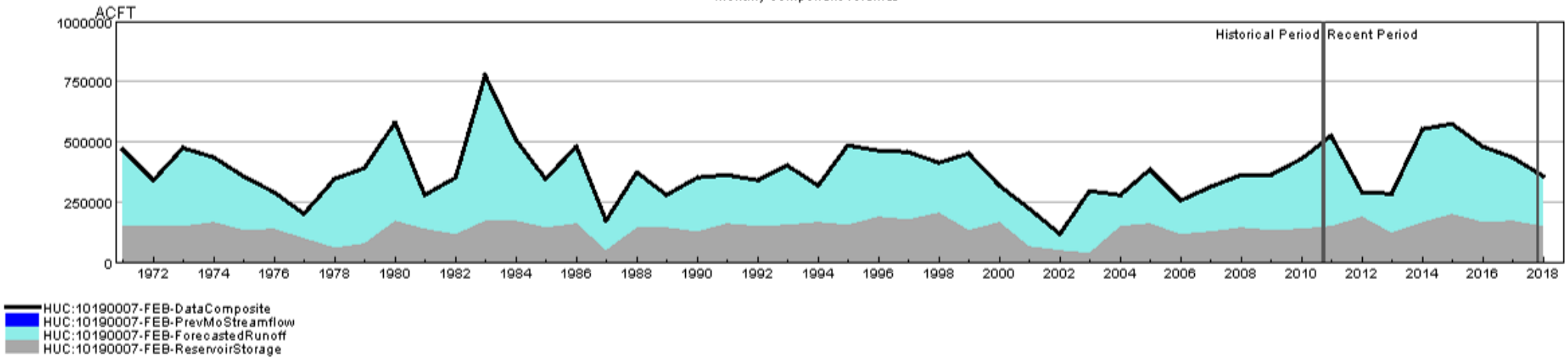
HUC 10190006 (Big Thompson) SWSI Values - FEB

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



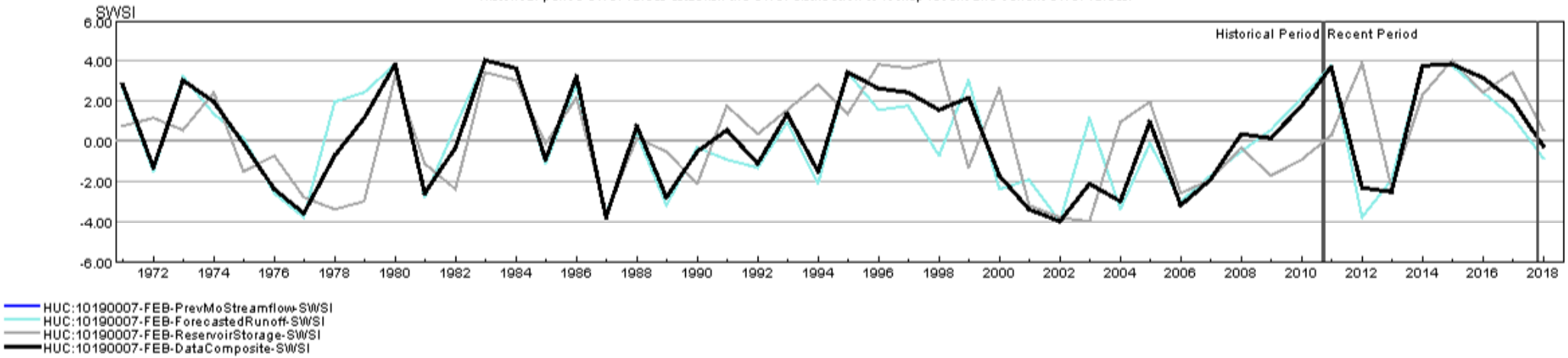
HUC 10190007 (Cache La Poudre) Surface Water Supply - FEB

Monthly component volumes



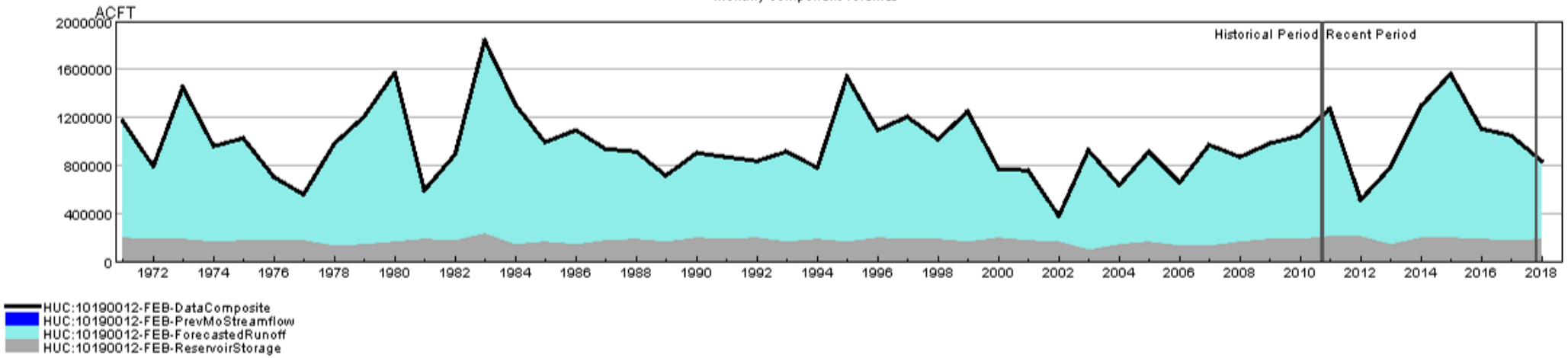
HUC 10190007 (Cache La Poudre) SWSI Values - FEB

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



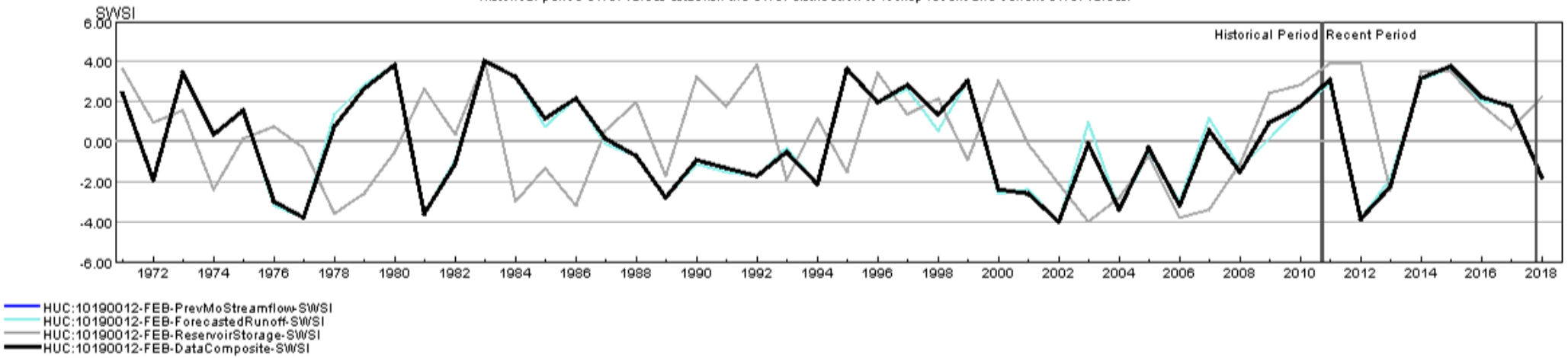
HUC 10190012 (Middle South Platte-Sterling) Surface Water Supply - FEB

Monthly component volumes



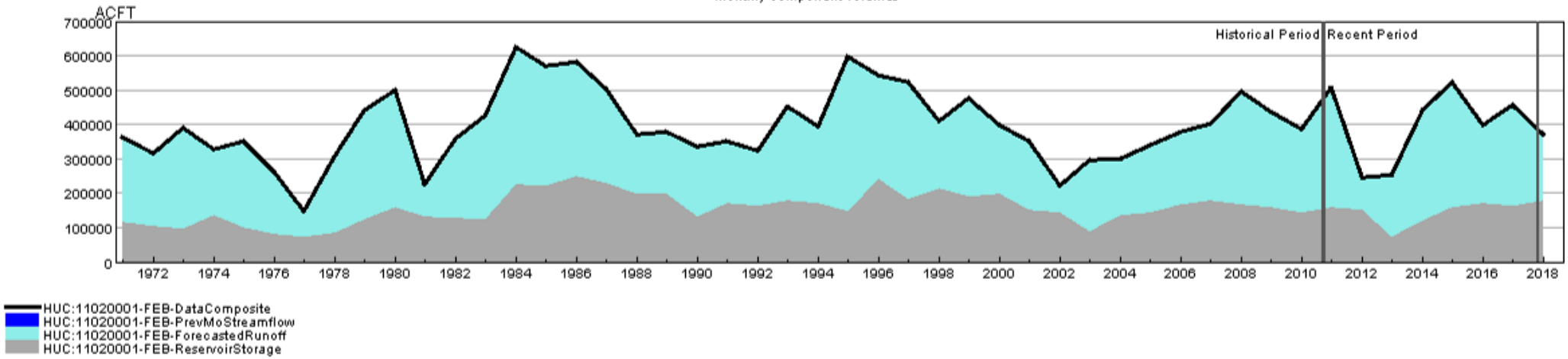
HUC 10190012 (Middle South Platte-Sterling) SWSI Values - FEB

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



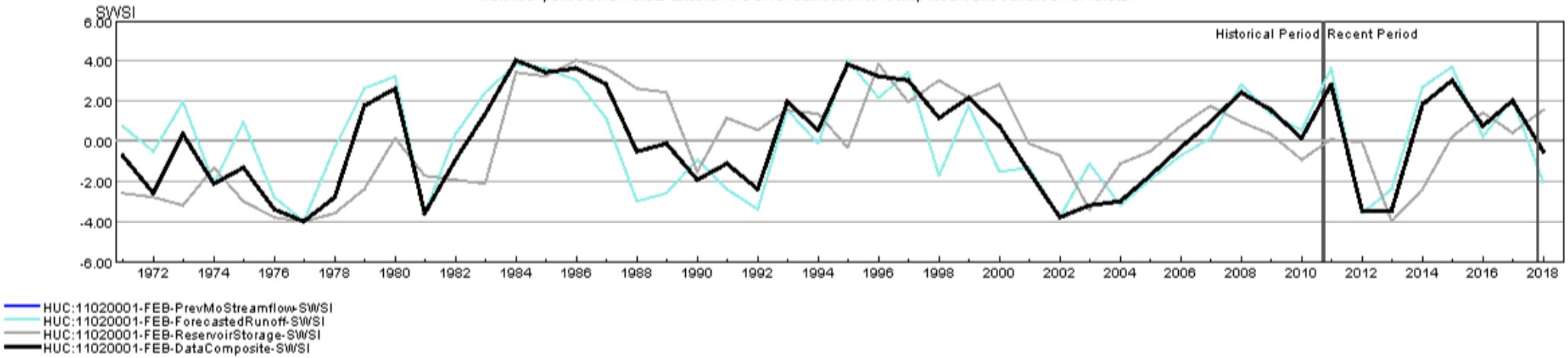
HUC 11020001 (Arkansas Headwaters) Surface Water Supply - FEB

Monthly component volumes



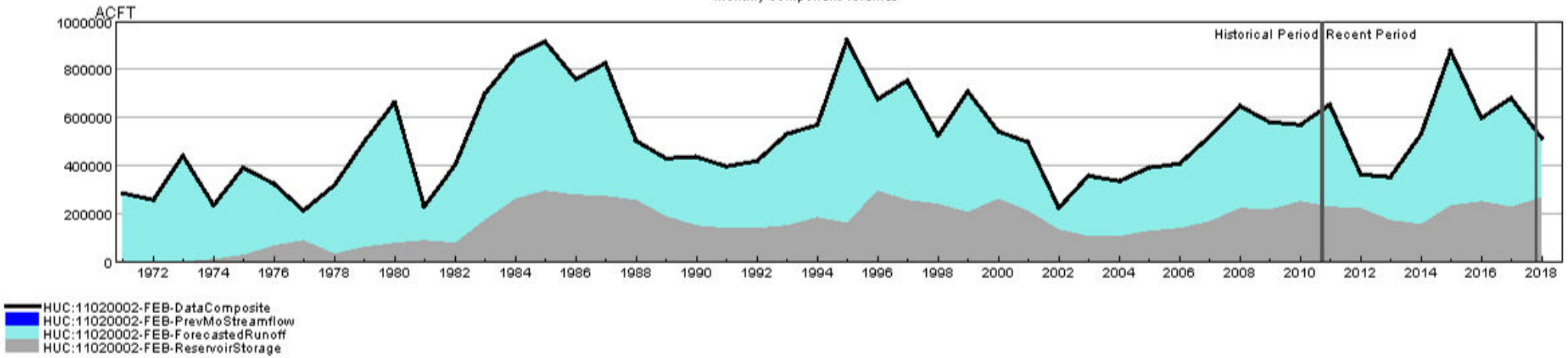
HUC 11020001 (Arkansas Headwaters) SWSI Values - FEB

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



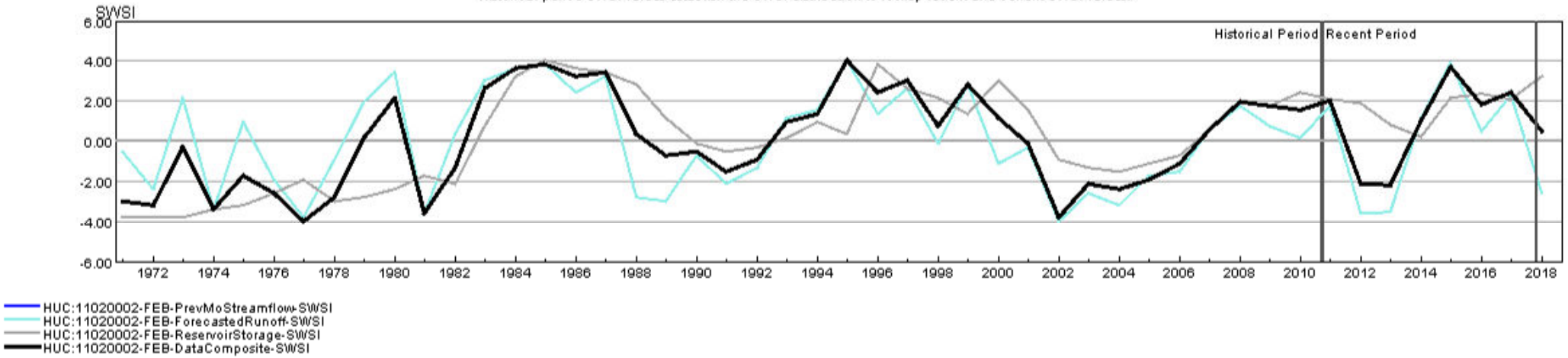
HUC 11020002 (Upper Arkansas) Surface Water Supply - FEB

Monthly component volumes



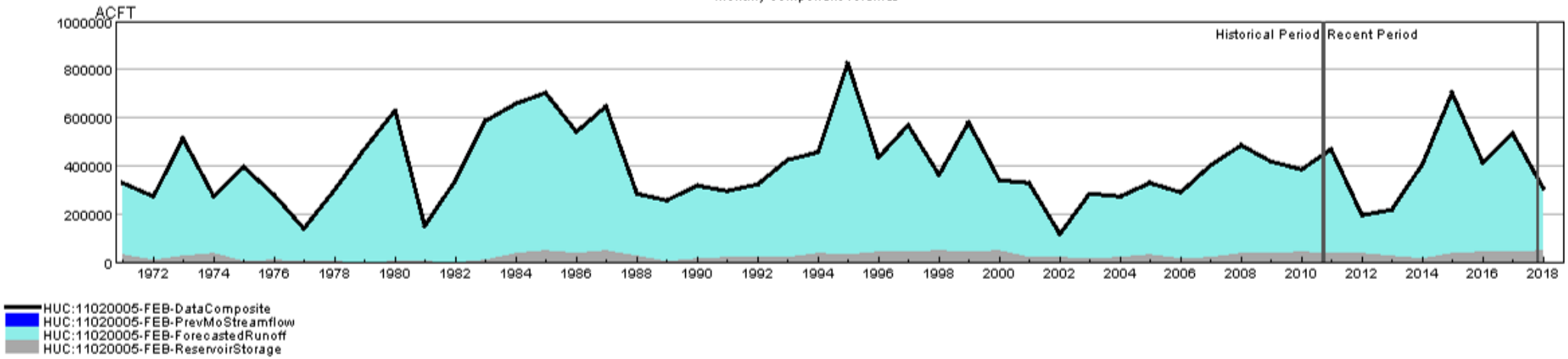
HUC 11020002 (Upper Arkansas) SWSI Values - FEB

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



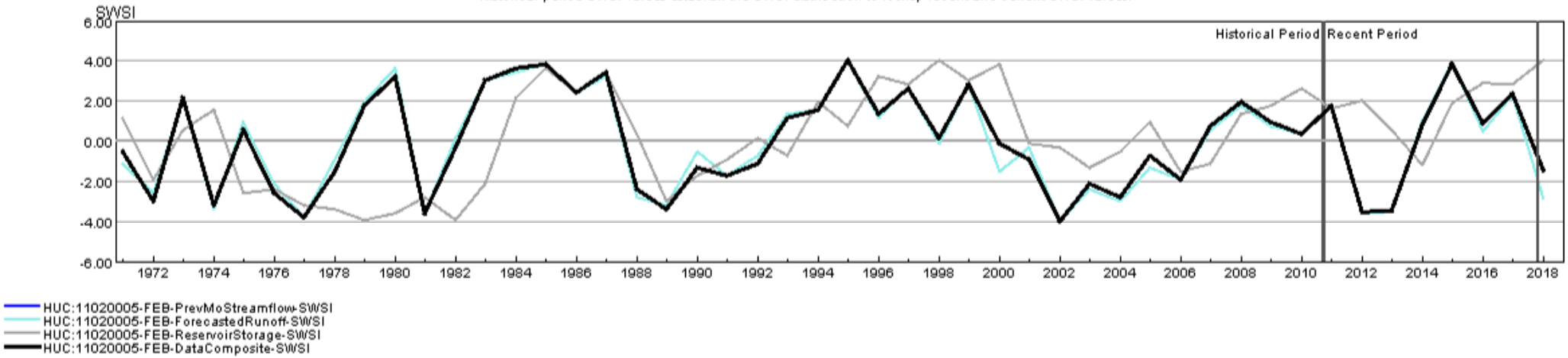
HUC 11020005 (Upper Arkansas-Lake Meredith) Surface Water Supply - FEB

Monthly component volumes



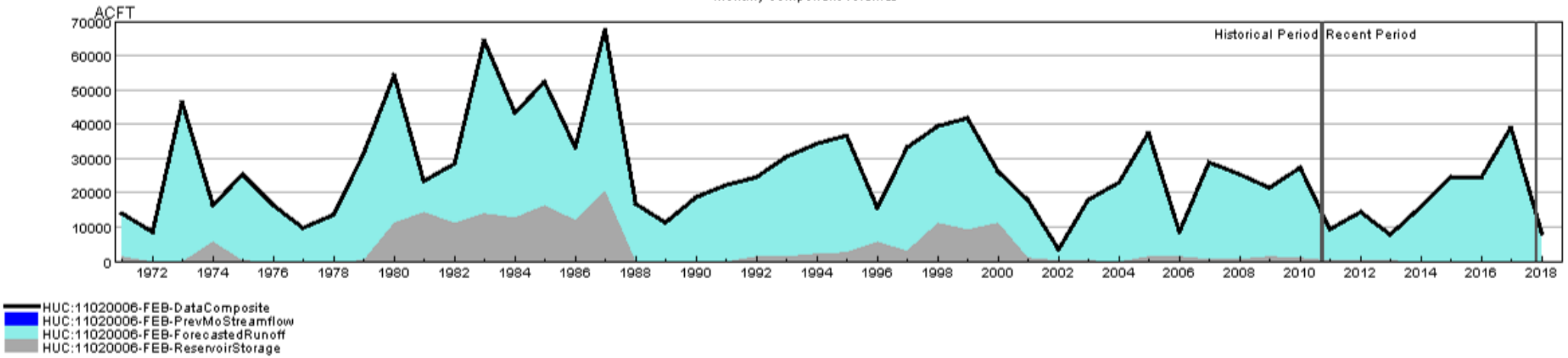
HUC 11020005 (Upper Arkansas-Lake Meredith) SWSI Values - FEB

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



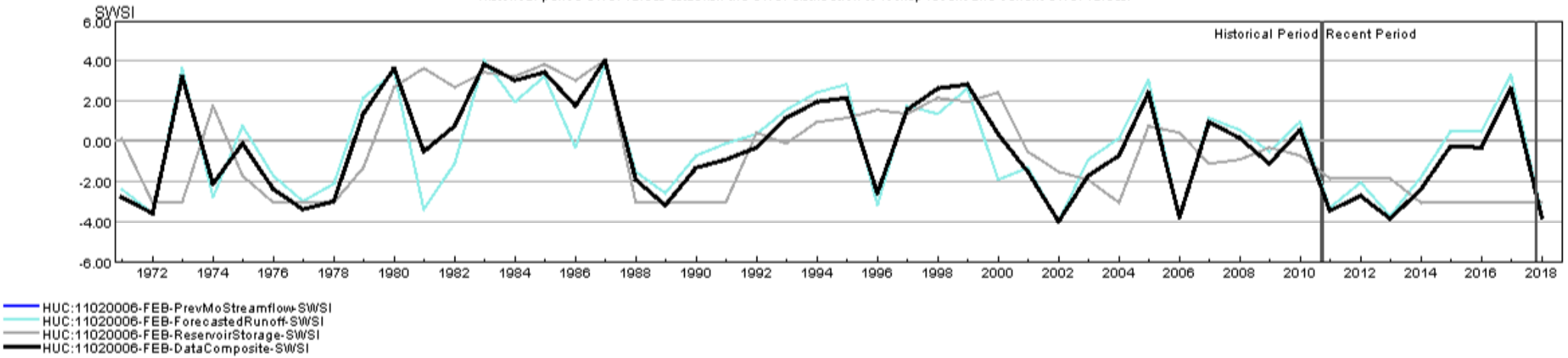
HUC 11020006 (Huerfano) Surface Water Supply - FEB

Monthly component volumes



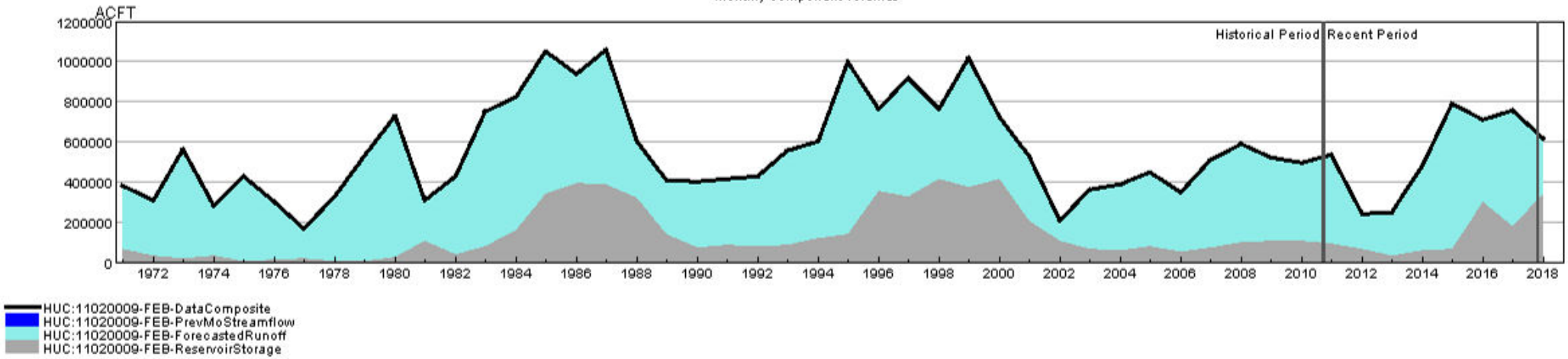
HUC 11020006 (Huerfano) SWSI Values - FEB

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



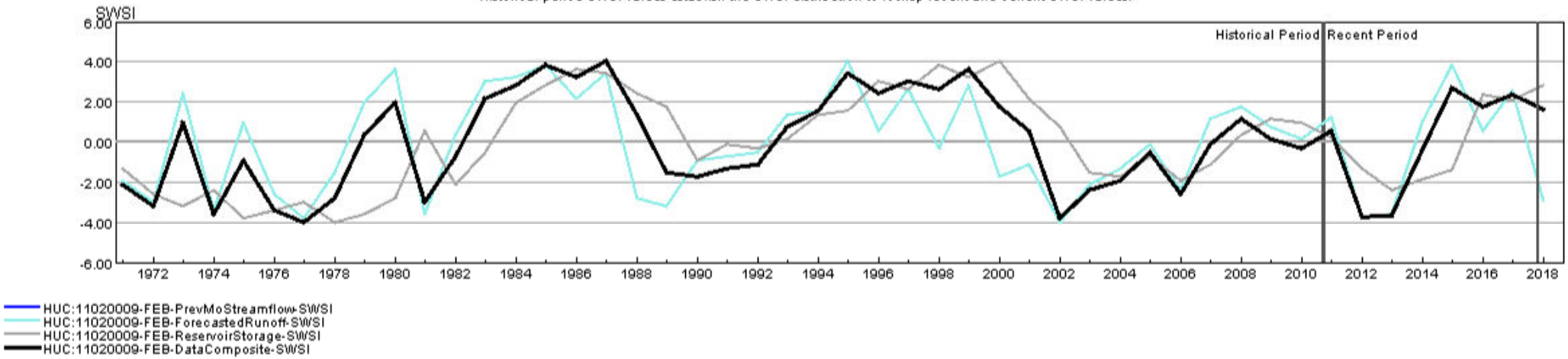
HUC 11020009 (Upper Arkansas-John Martin Reservoir) Surface Water Supply - FEB

Monthly component volumes



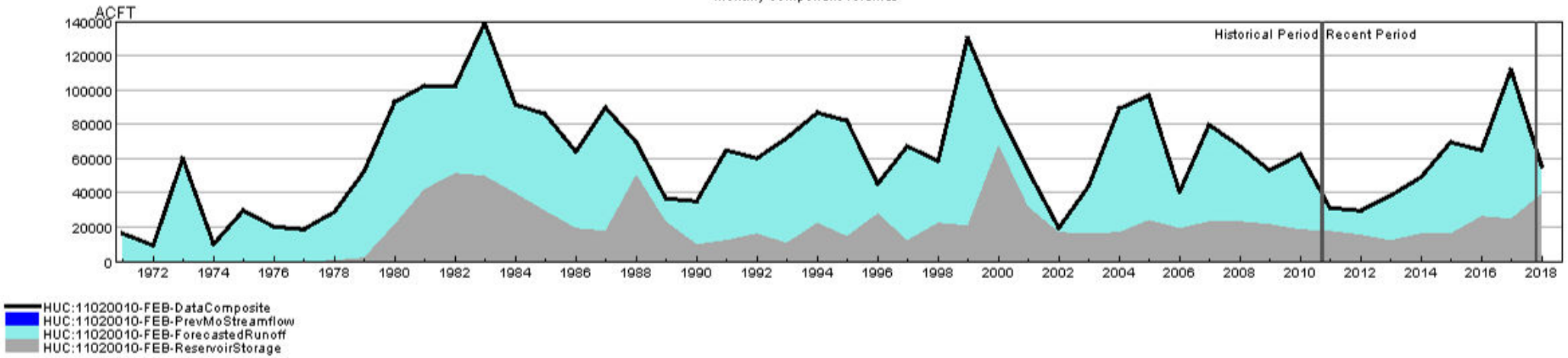
HUC 11020009 (Upper Arkansas-John Martin Reservoir) SWSI Values - FEB

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



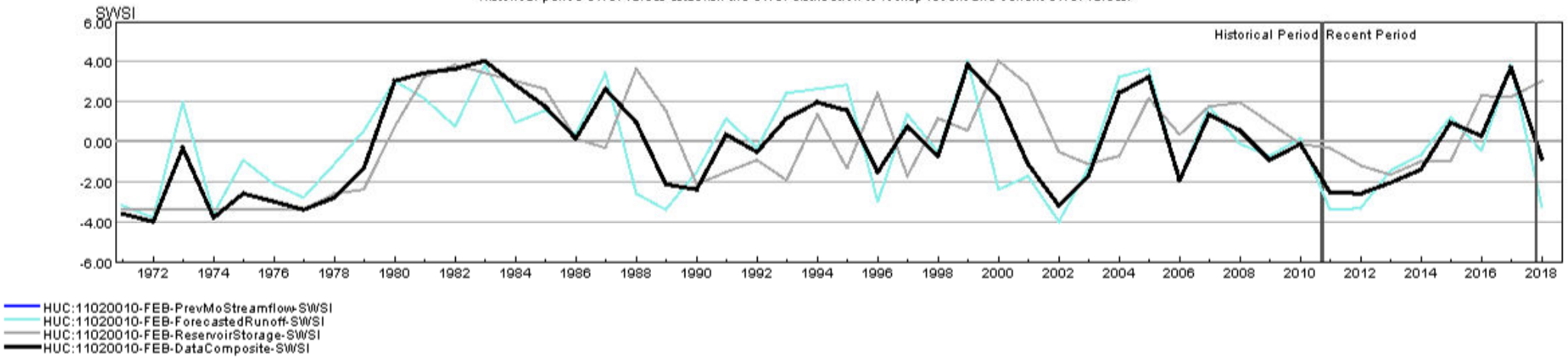
HUC 11020010 (Purgatoire) Surface Water Supply - FEB

Monthly component volumes



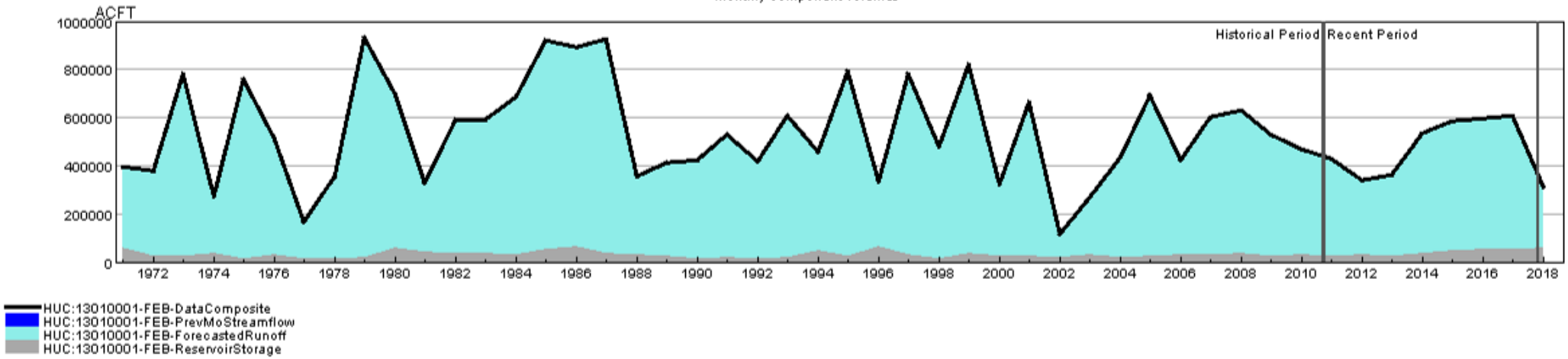
HUC 11020010 (Purgatoire) SWSI Values - FEB

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



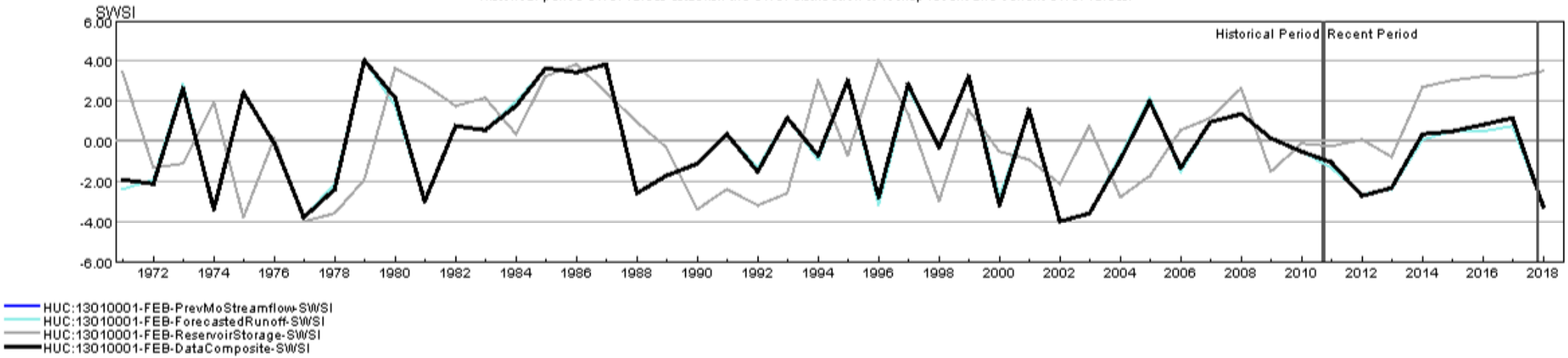
HUC 13010001 (Rio Grande Headwaters) Surface Water Supply - FEB

Monthly component volumes



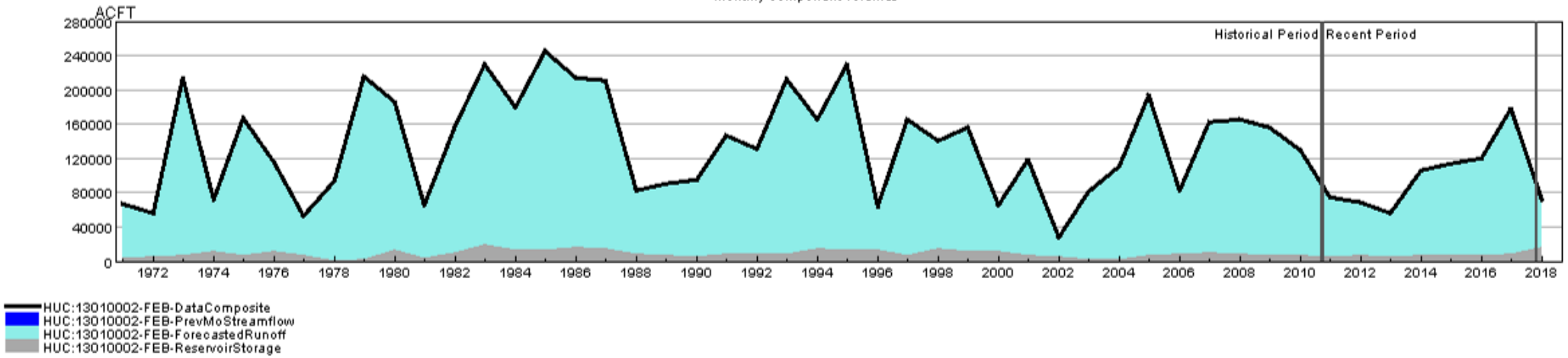
HUC 13010001 (Rio Grande Headwaters) SWSI Values - FEB

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



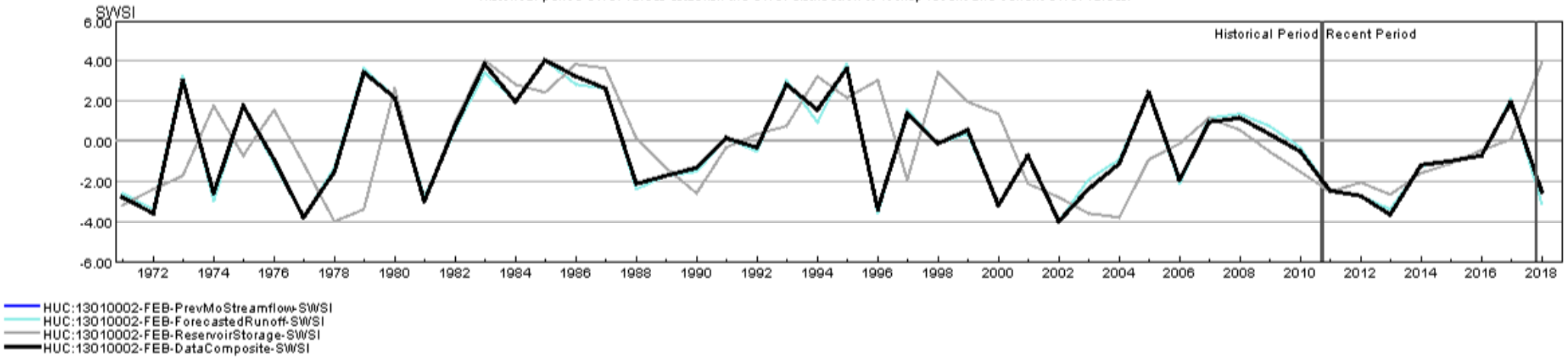
HUC 13010002 (Alamosa-Trinchera) Surface Water Supply - FEB

Monthly component volumes



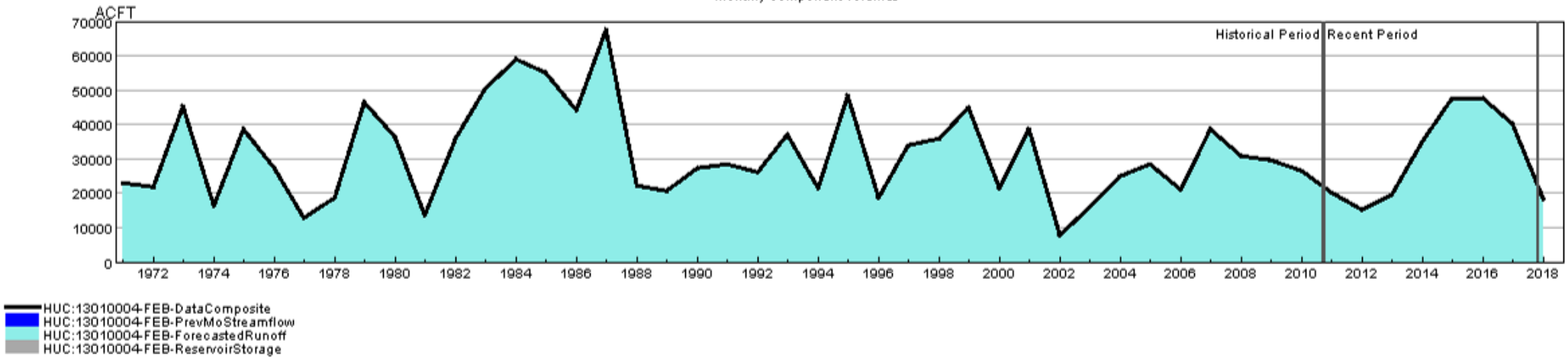
HUC 13010002 (Alamosa-Trinchera) SWSI Values - FEB

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



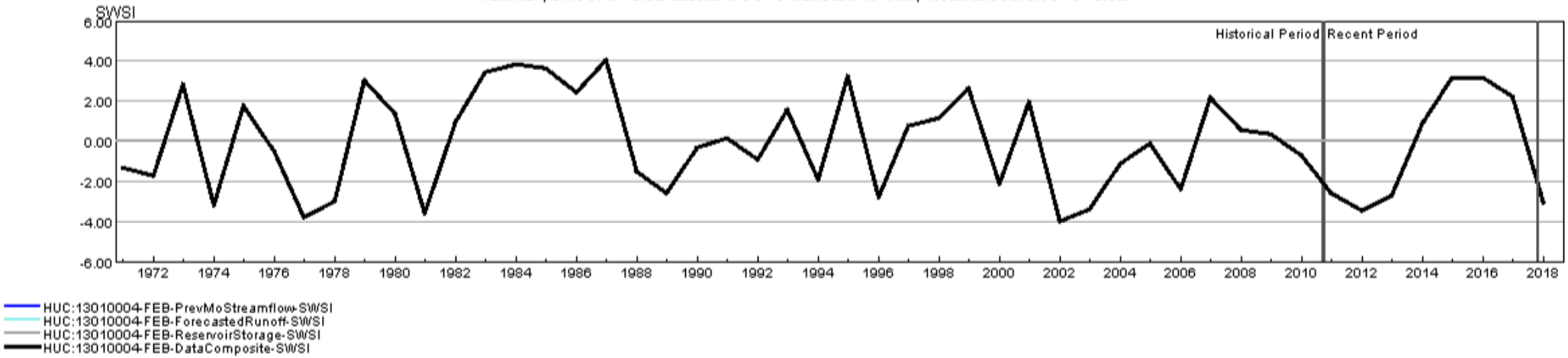
HUC 13010004 (Saguache) Surface Water Supply - FEB

Monthly component volumes



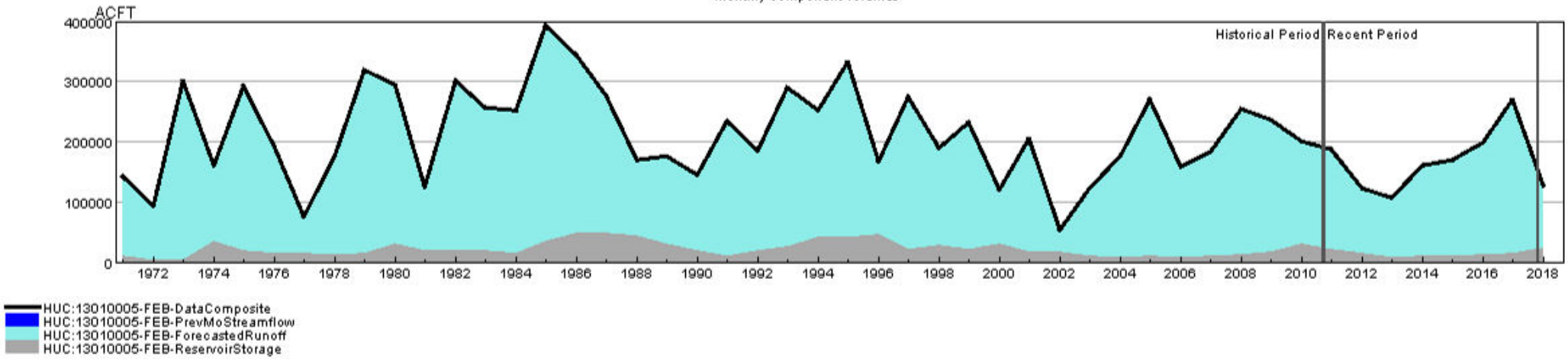
HUC 13010004 (Saguache) SWSI Values - FEB

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



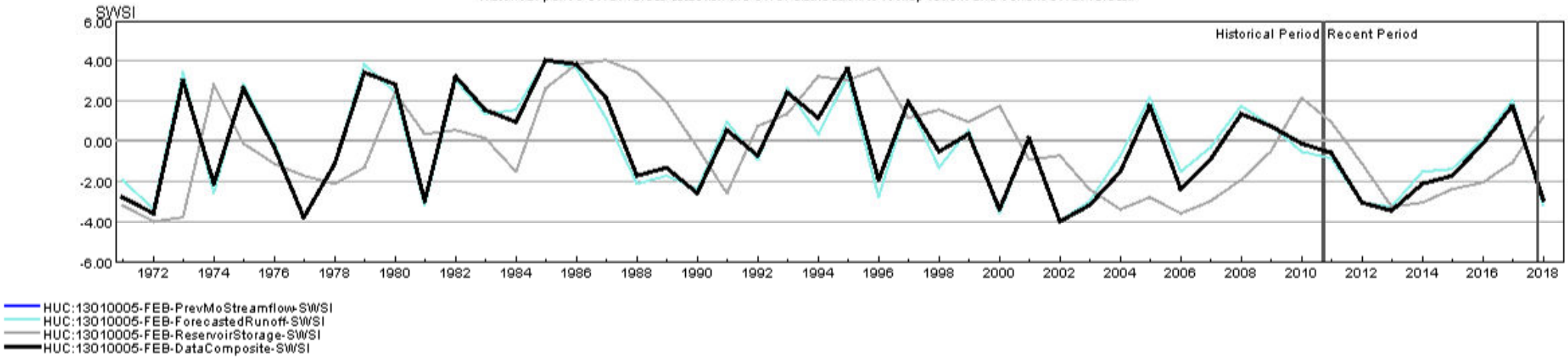
HUC 13010005 (Conejos) Surface Water Supply - FEB

Monthly component volumes



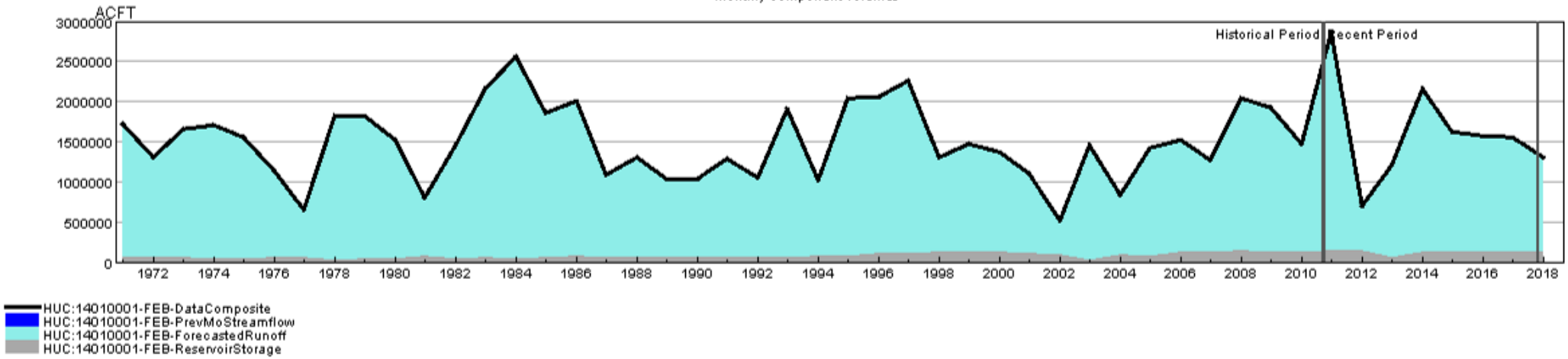
HUC 13010005 (Conejos) SWSI Values - FEB

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



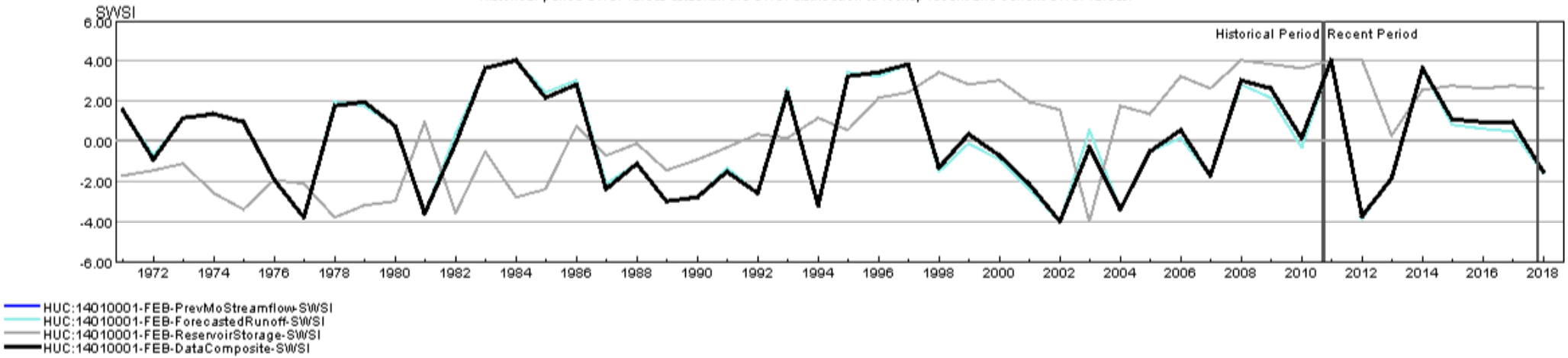
HUC 14010001 (Colorado Headwaters) Surface Water Supply - FEB

Monthly component volumes



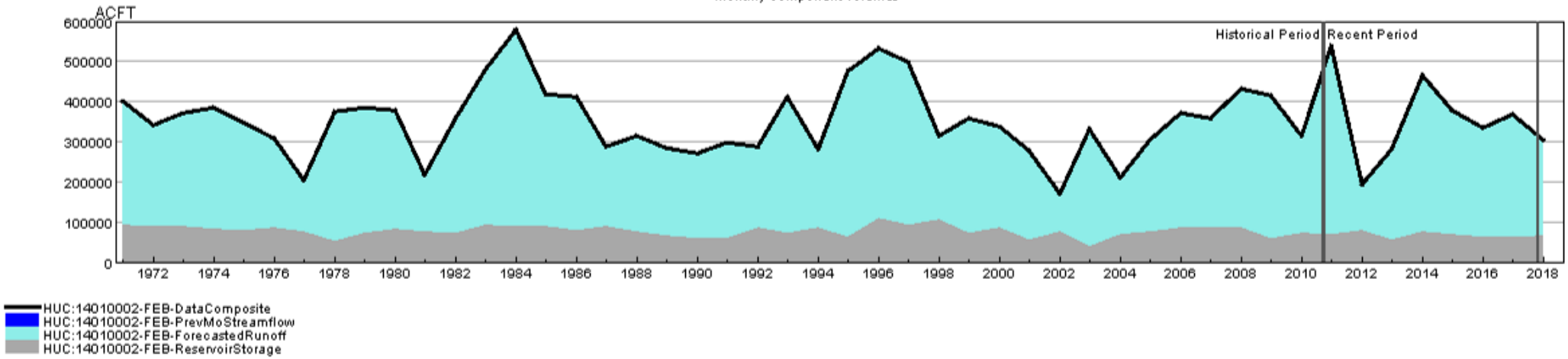
HUC 14010001 (Colorado Headwaters) SWSI Values - FEB

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



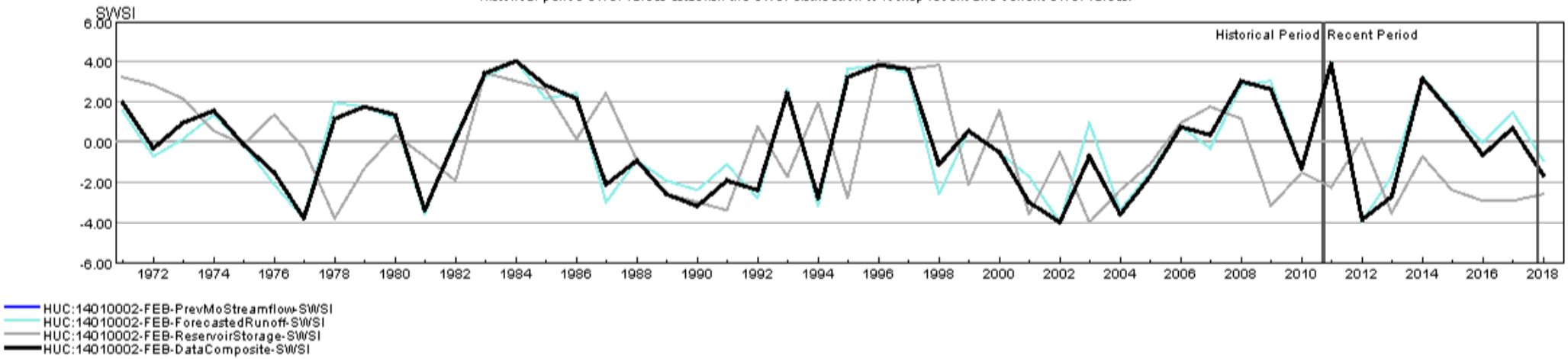
HUC 14010002 (Blue) Surface Water Supply - FEB

Monthly component volumes



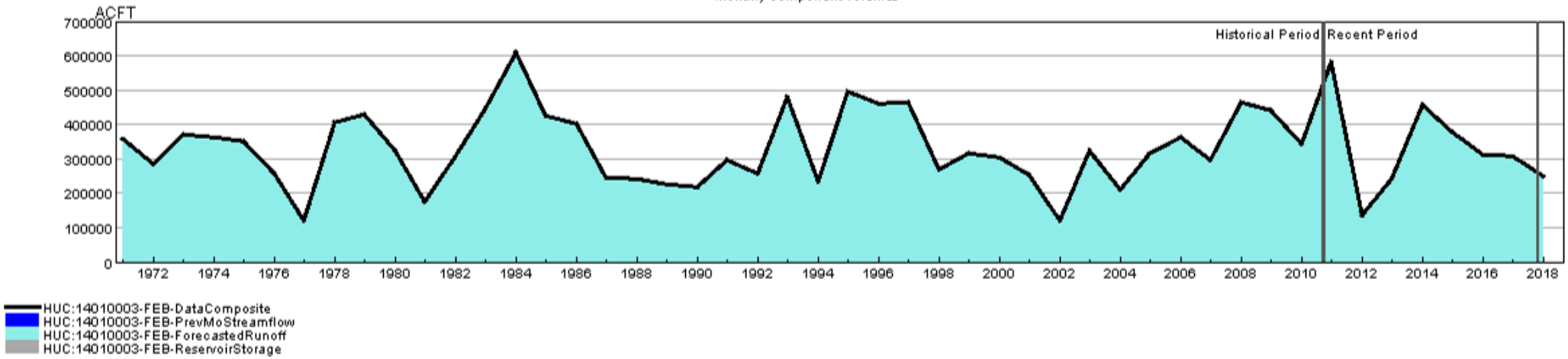
HUC 14010002 (Blue) SWSI Values - FEB

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



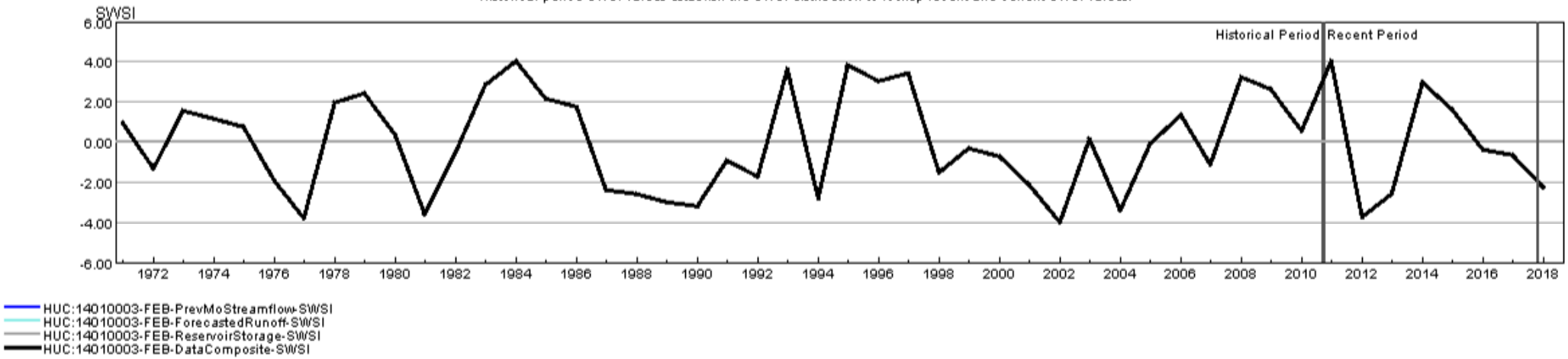
HUC 14010003 (Eagle) Surface Water Supply - FEB

Monthly component volumes



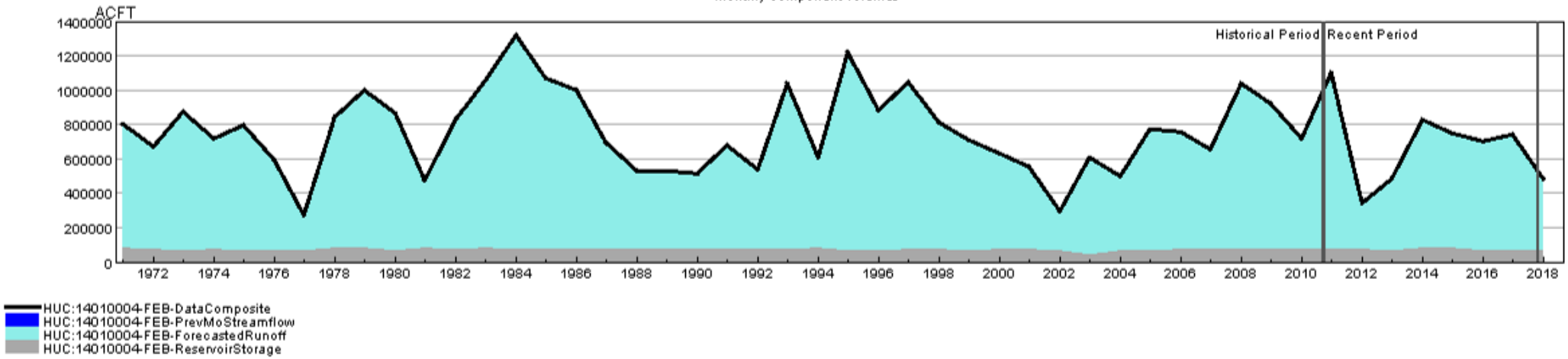
HUC 14010003 (Eagle) SWSI Values - FEB

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



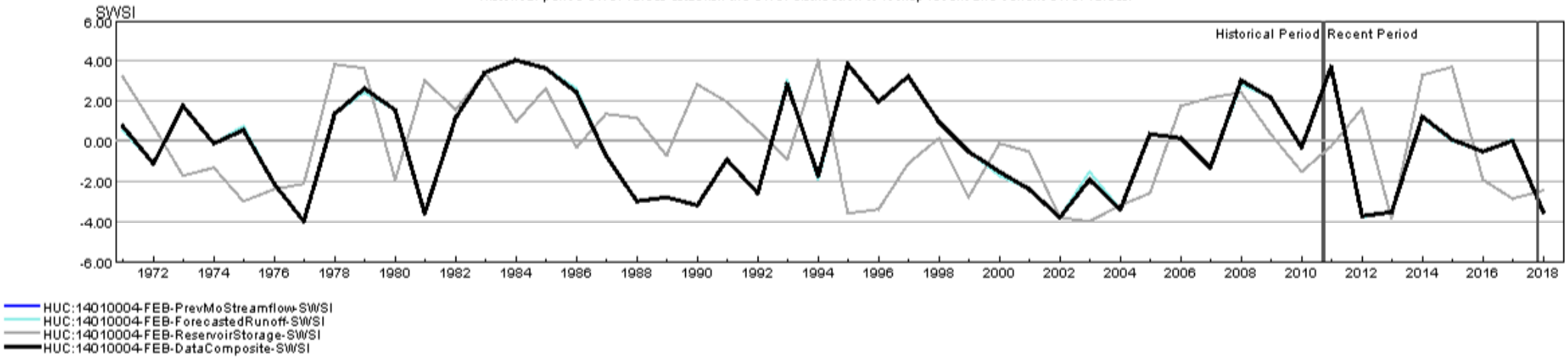
HUC 14010004 (Roaring Fork) Surface Water Supply - FEB

Monthly component volumes



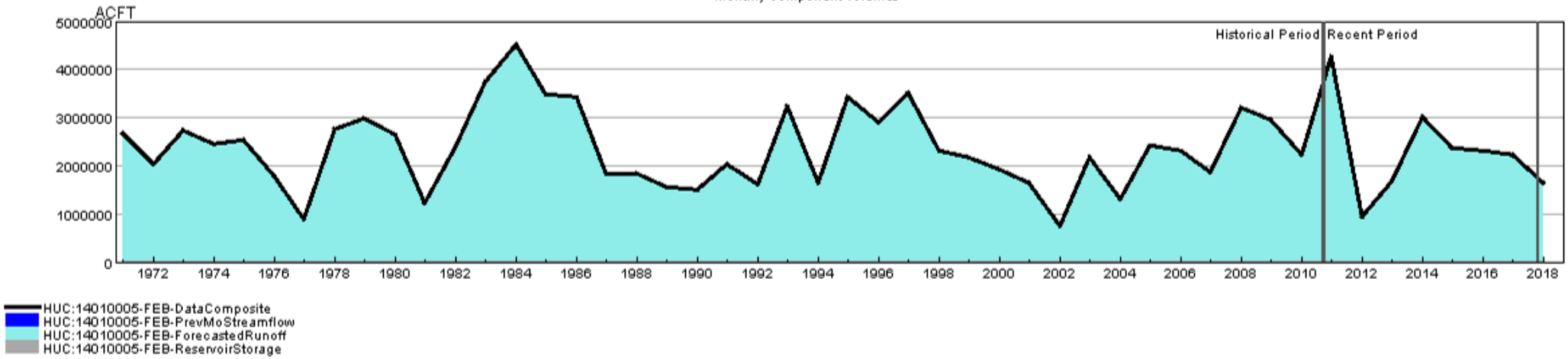
HUC 14010004 (Roaring Fork) SWSI Values - FEB

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



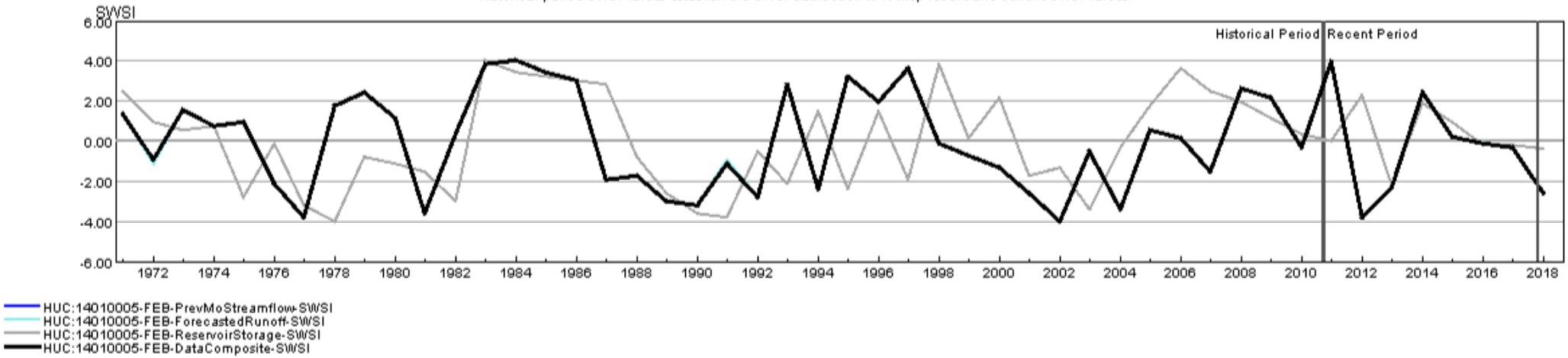
HUC 14010005 (Colorado Headwaters-Plateau) Surface Water Supply - FEB

Monthly component volumes



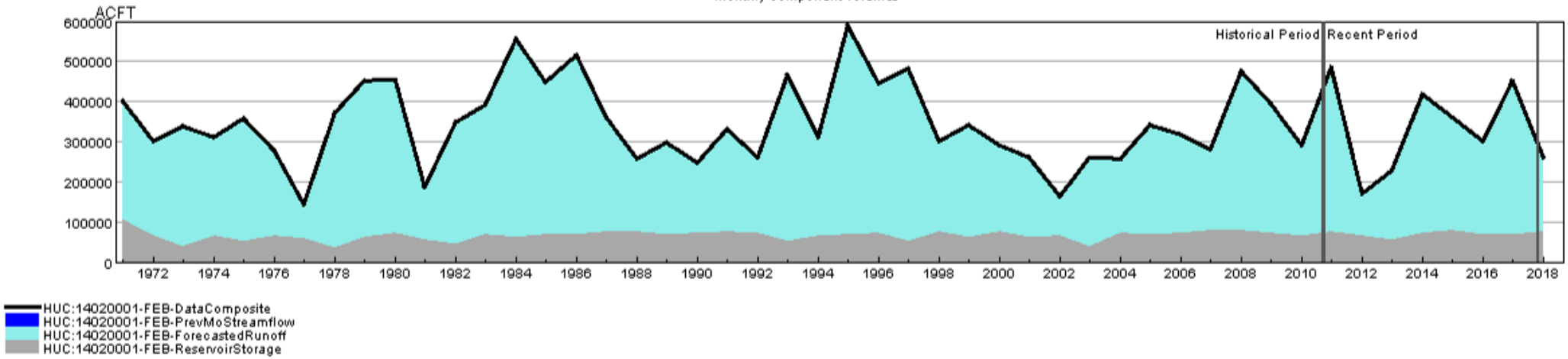
HUC 14010005 (Colorado Headwaters-Plateau) SWSI Values - FEB

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



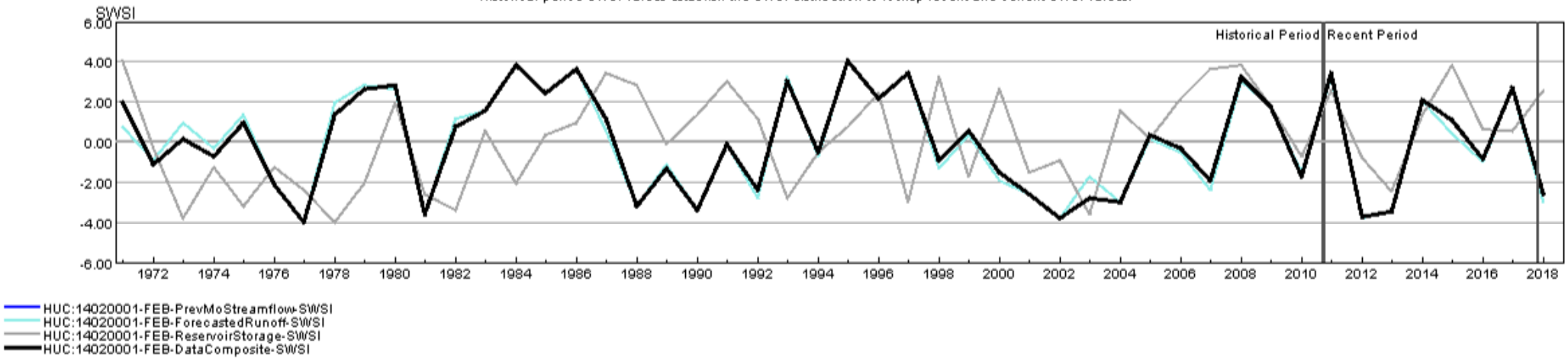
HUC 14020001 (East-Taylor) Surface Water Supply - FEB

Monthly component volumes



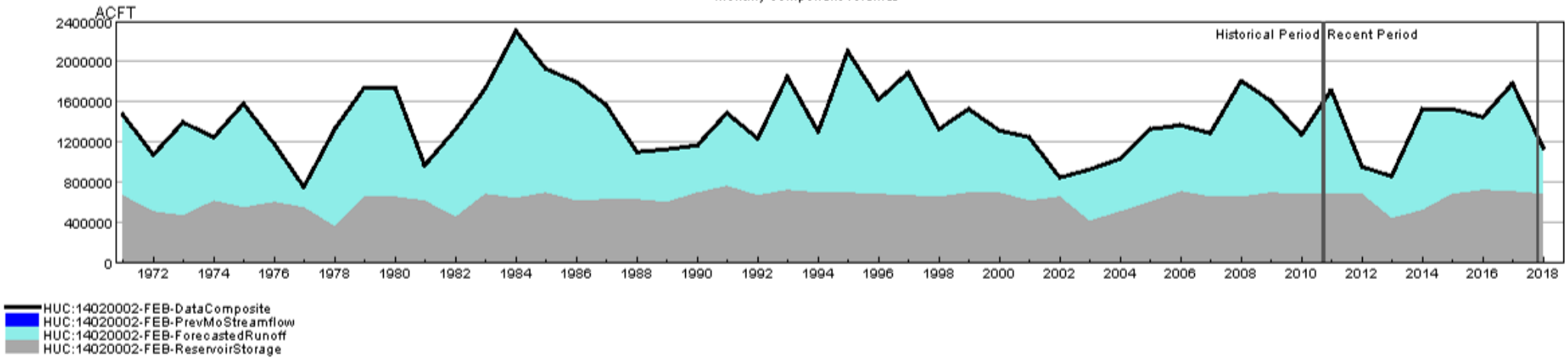
HUC 14020001 (East-Taylor) SWSI Values - FEB

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



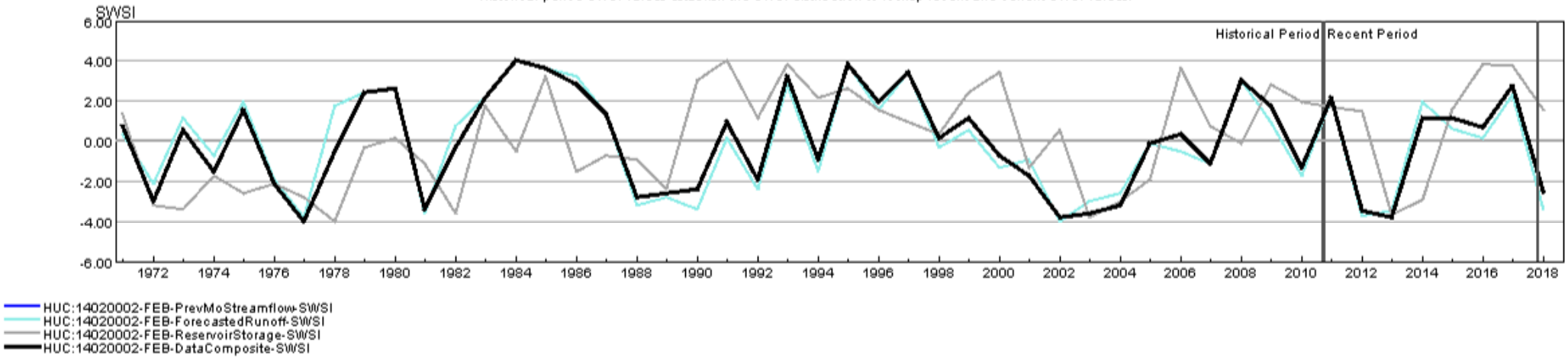
HUC 14020002 (Upper Gunnison) Surface Water Supply - FEB

Monthly component volumes



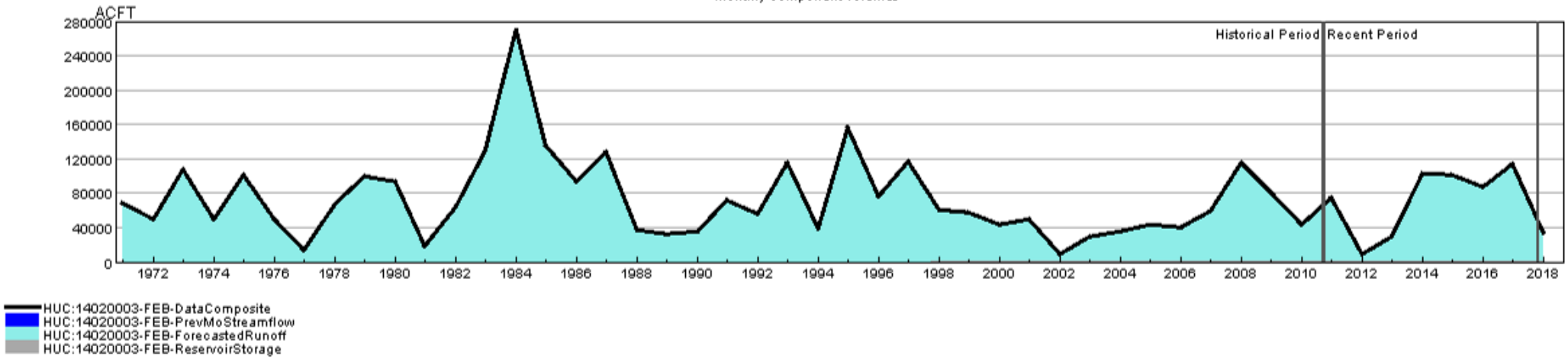
HUC 14020002 (Upper Gunnison) SWSI Values - FEB

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



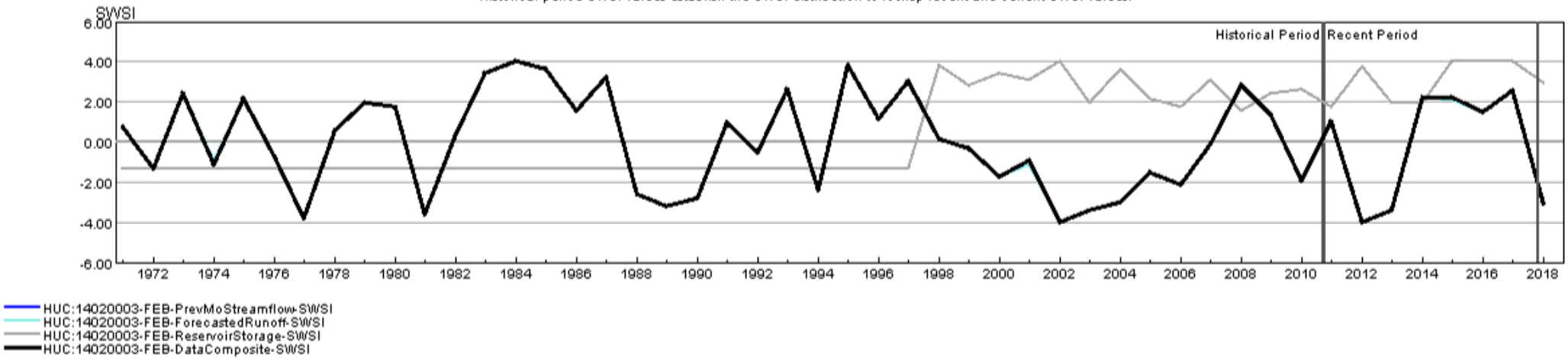
HUC 14020003 (Tomichi) Surface Water Supply - FEB

Monthly component volumes



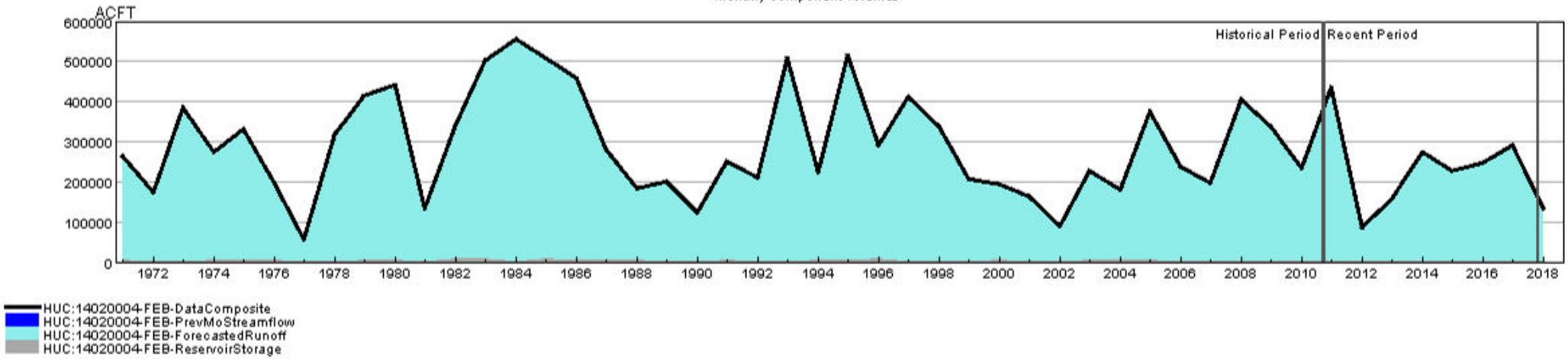
HUC 14020003 (Tomichi) SWSI Values - FEB

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



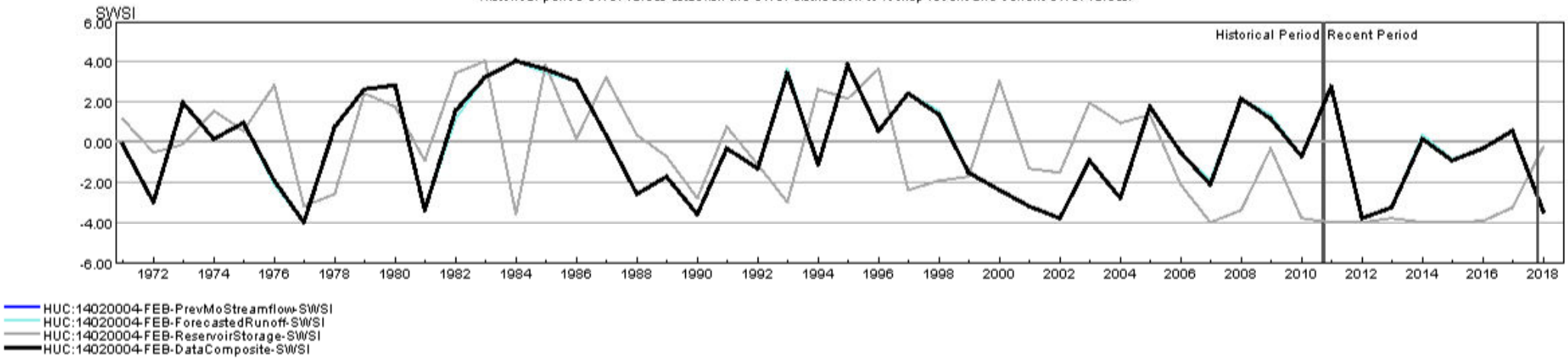
HUC 14020004 (North Fork Gunnison) Surface Water Supply - FEB

Monthly component volumes



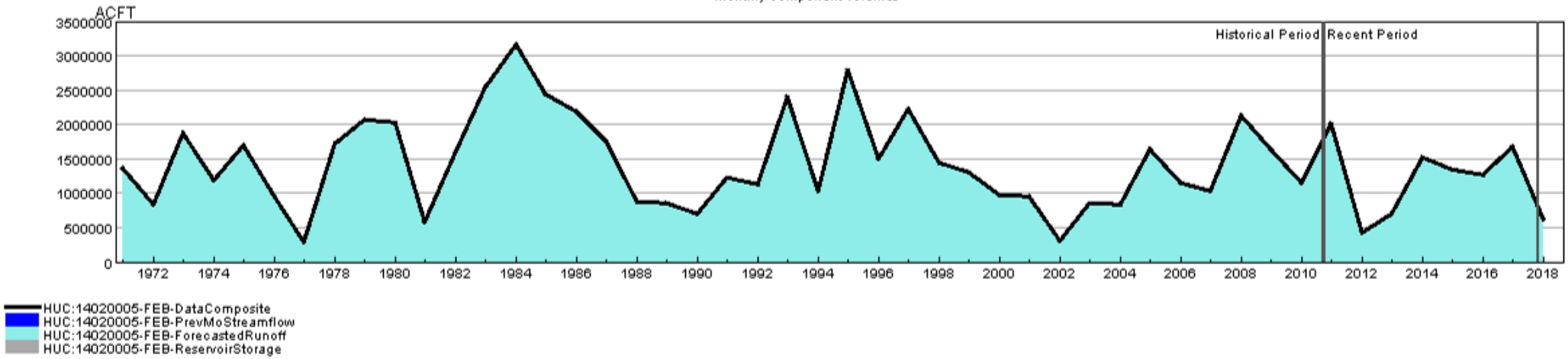
HUC 14020004 (North Fork Gunnison) SWSI Values - FEB

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



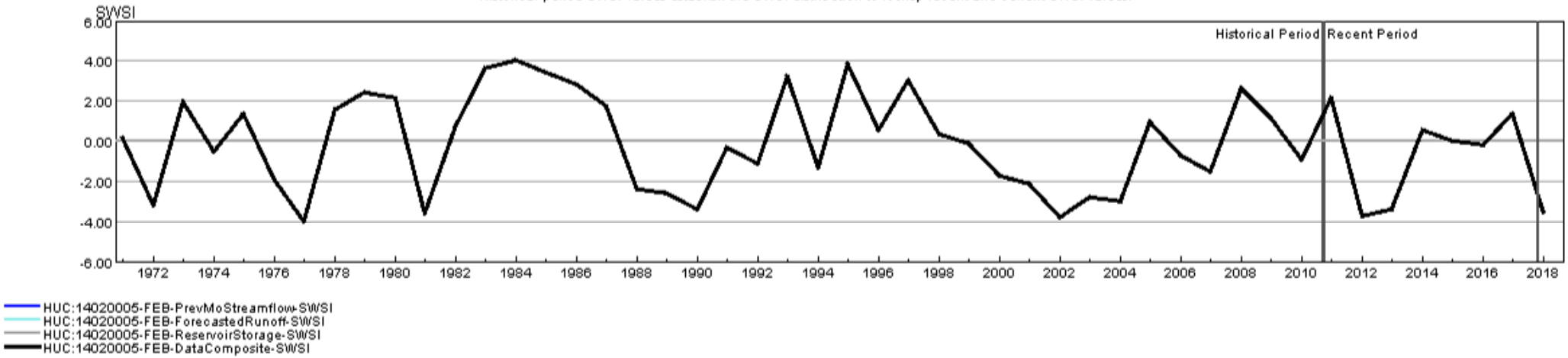
HUC 14020005 (Lower Gunnison) Surface Water Supply - FEB

Monthly component volumes



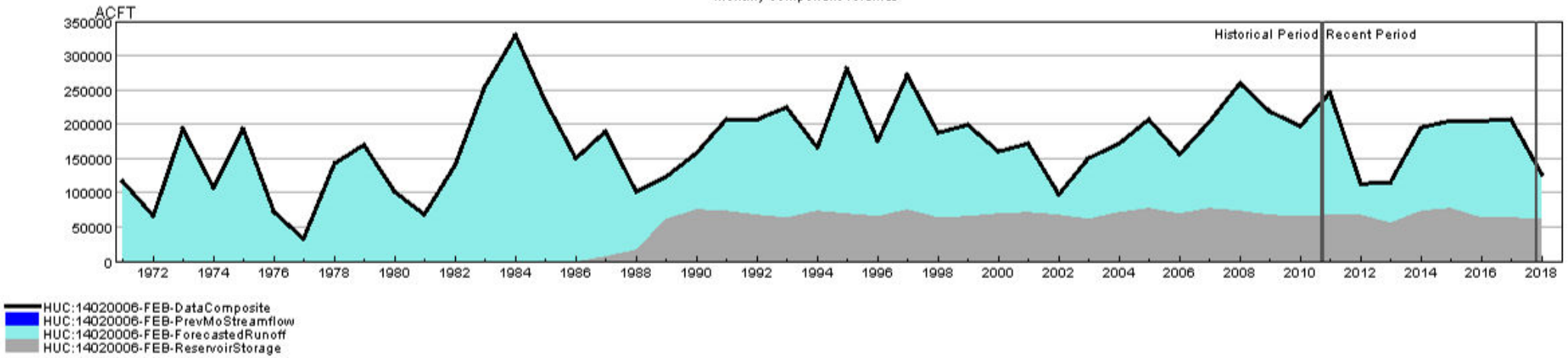
HUC 14020005 (Lower Gunnison) SWSI Values - FEB

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



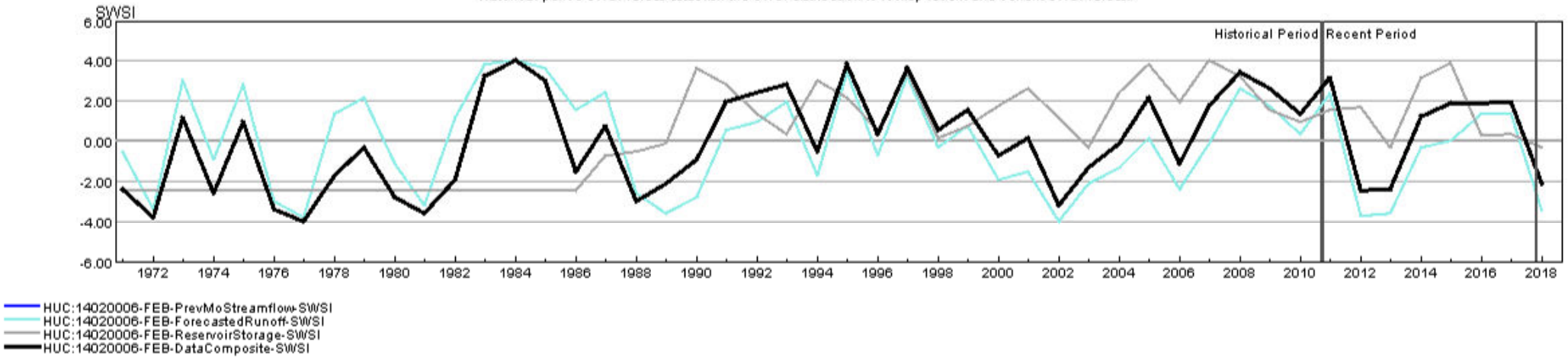
HUC 14020006 (Uncompahgre) Surface Water Supply - FEB

Monthly component volumes



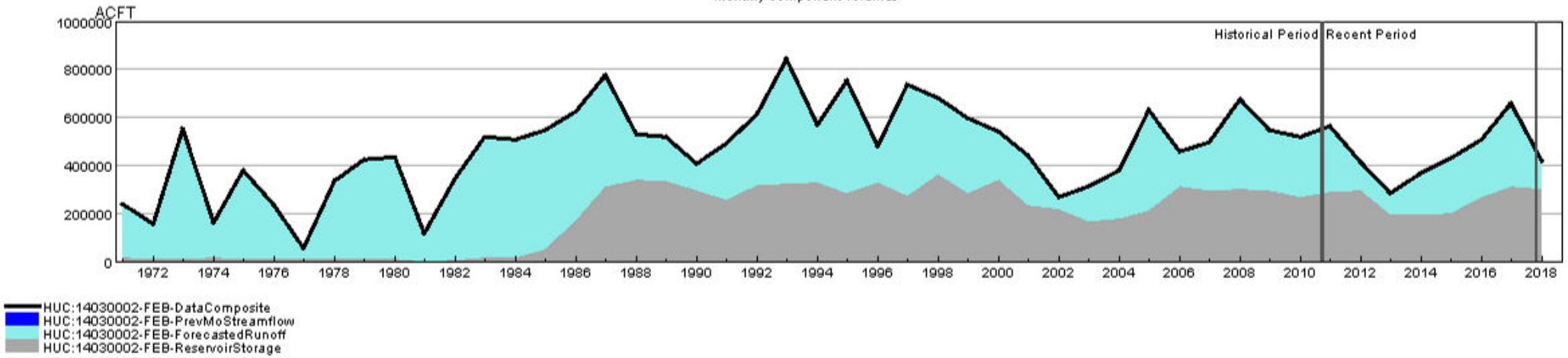
HUC 14020006 (Uncompahgre) SWSI Values - FEB

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



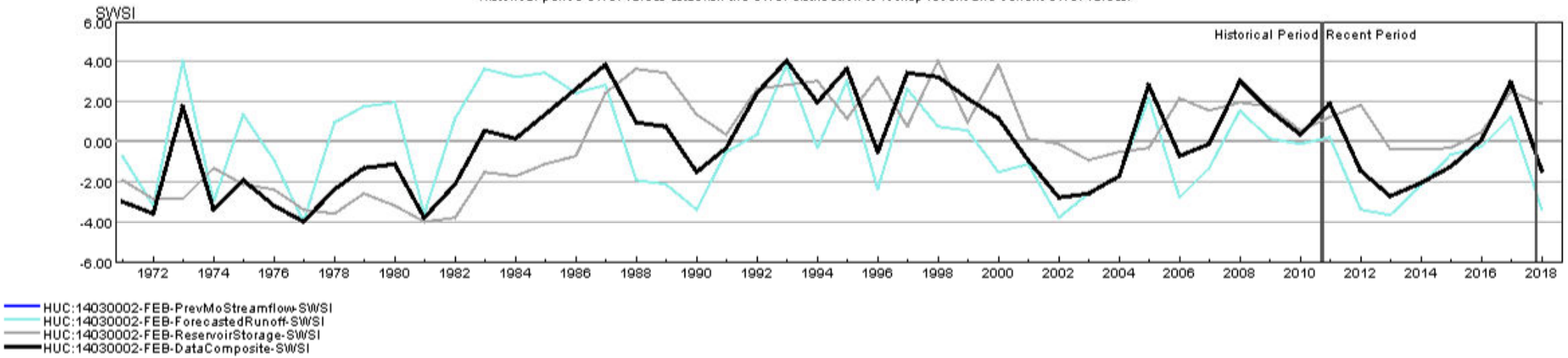
HUC 14030002 (Upper Dolores) Surface Water Supply - FEB

Monthly component volumes



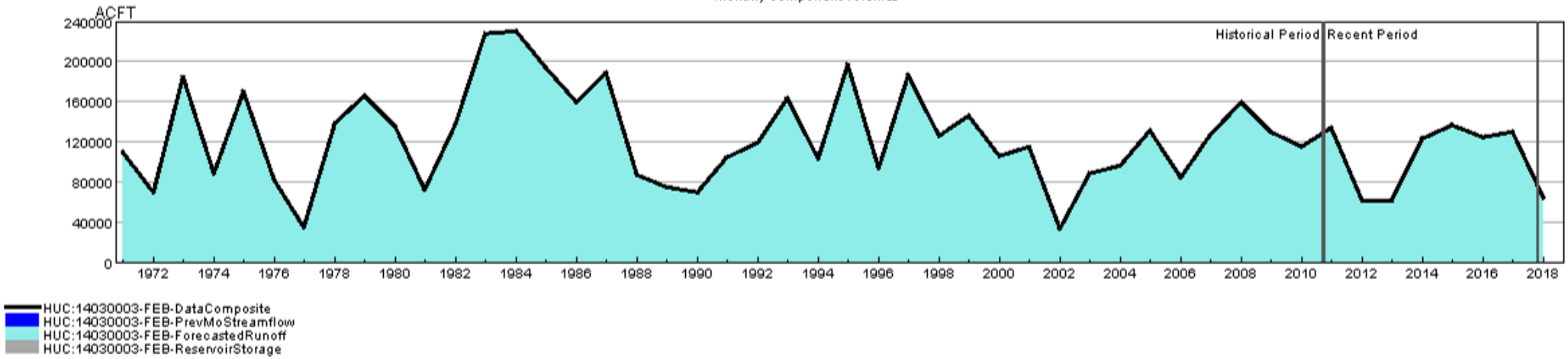
HUC 14030002 (Upper Dolores) SWSI Values - FEB

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



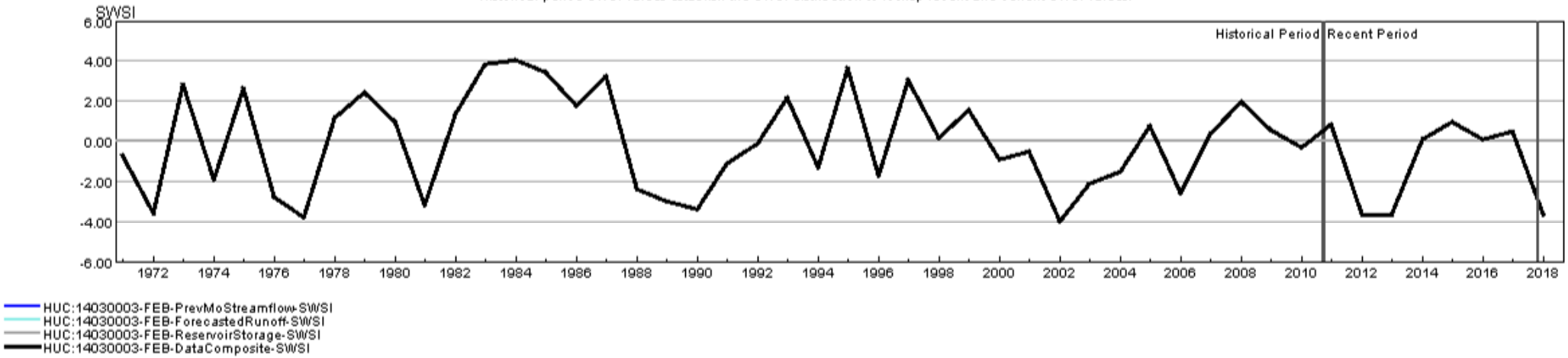
HUC 14030003 (San Miguel) Surface Water Supply - FEB

Monthly component volumes



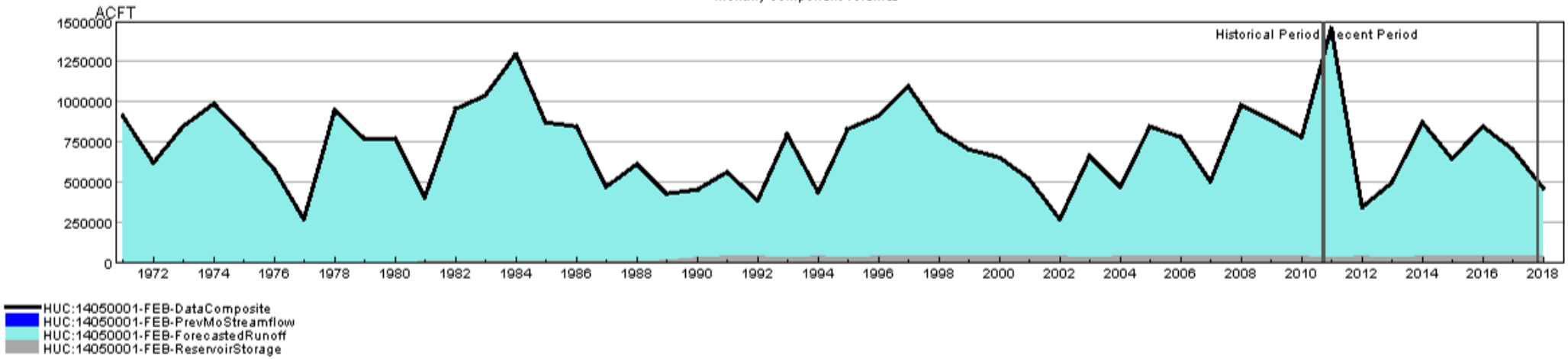
HUC 14030003 (San Miguel) SWSI Values - FEB

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



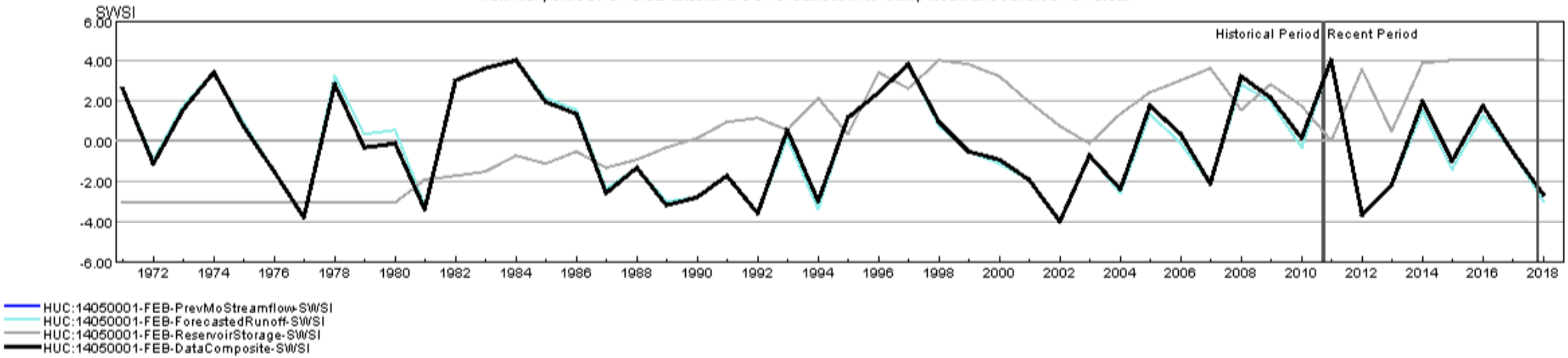
HUC 14050001 (Upper Yampa) Surface Water Supply - FEB

Monthly component volumes



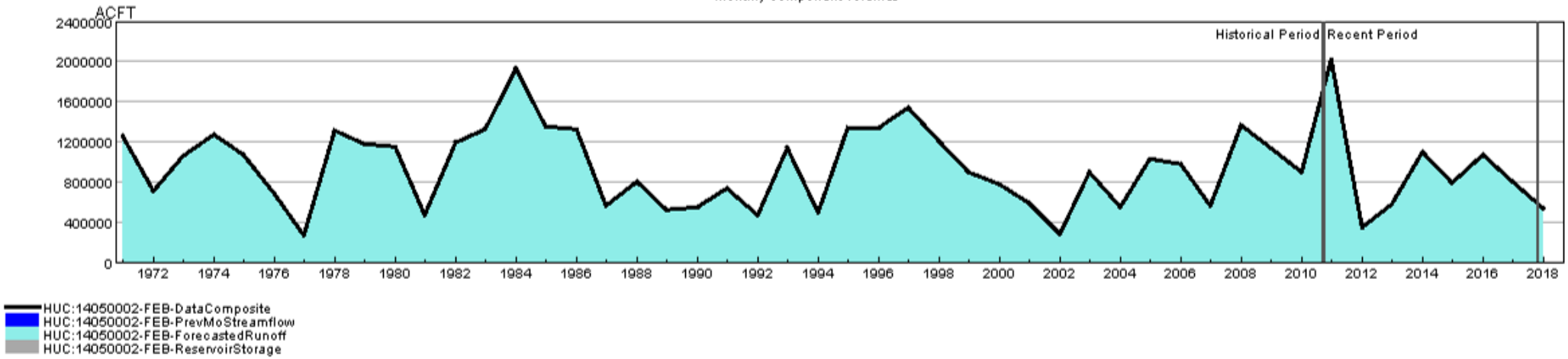
HUC 14050001 (Upper Yampa) SWSI Values - FEB

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



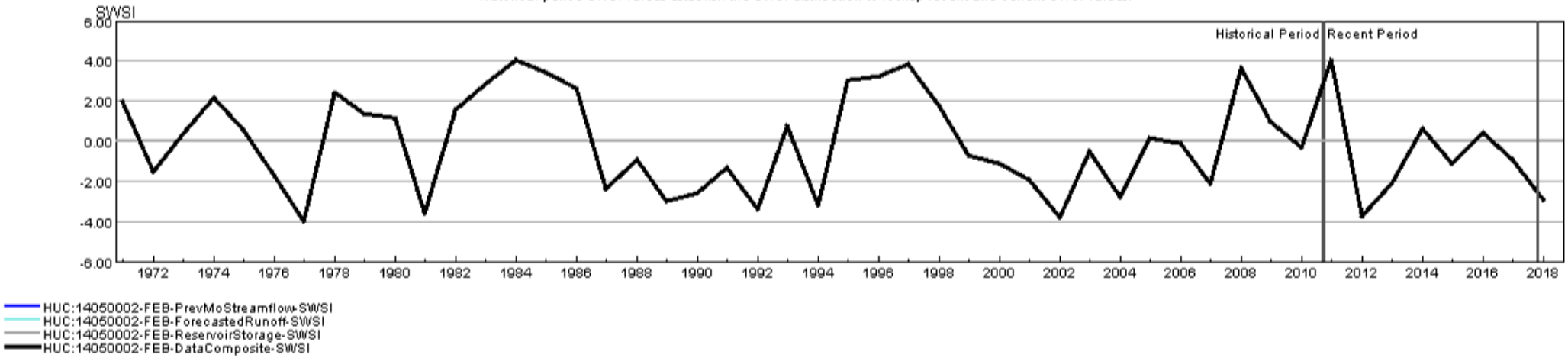
HUC 14050002 (Lower Yampa) Surface Water Supply - FEB

Monthly component volumes



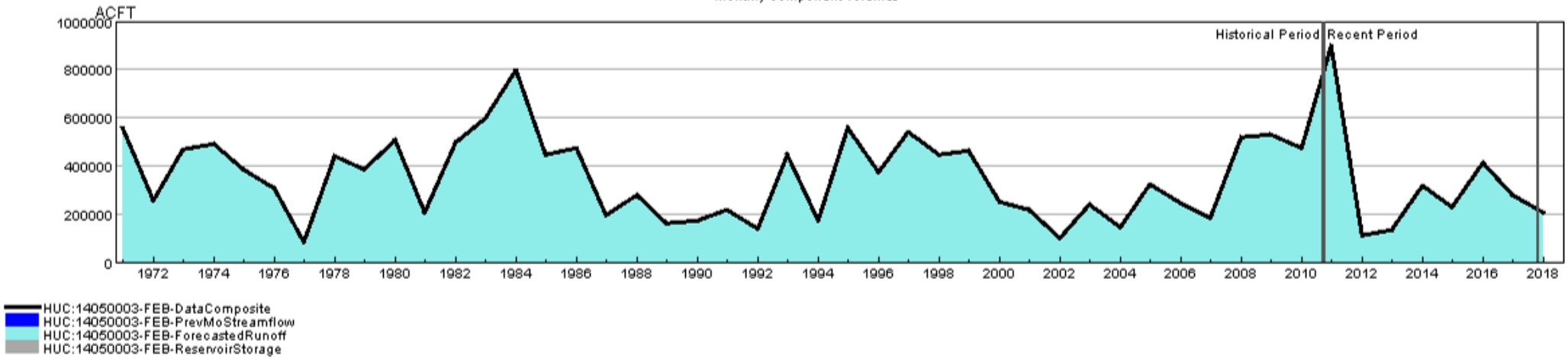
HUC 14050002 (Lower Yampa) SWSI Values - FEB

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



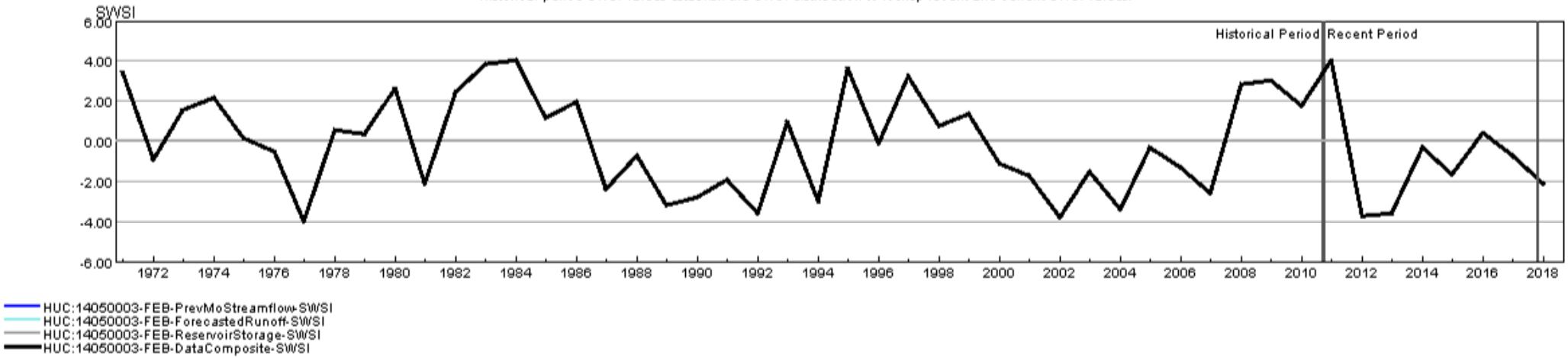
HUC 14050003 (Little Snake) Surface Water Supply - FEB

Monthly component volumes



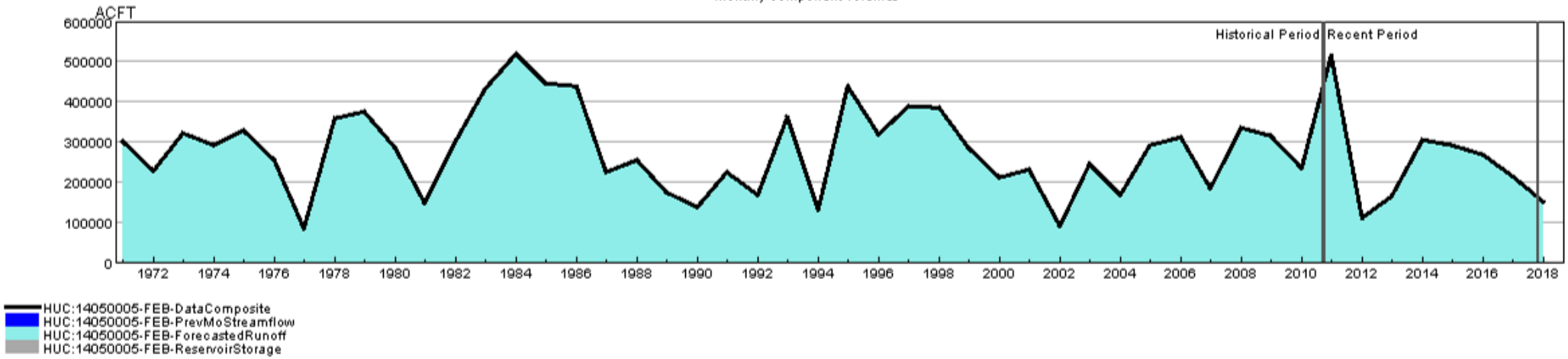
HUC 14050003 (Little Snake) SWSI Values - FEB

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



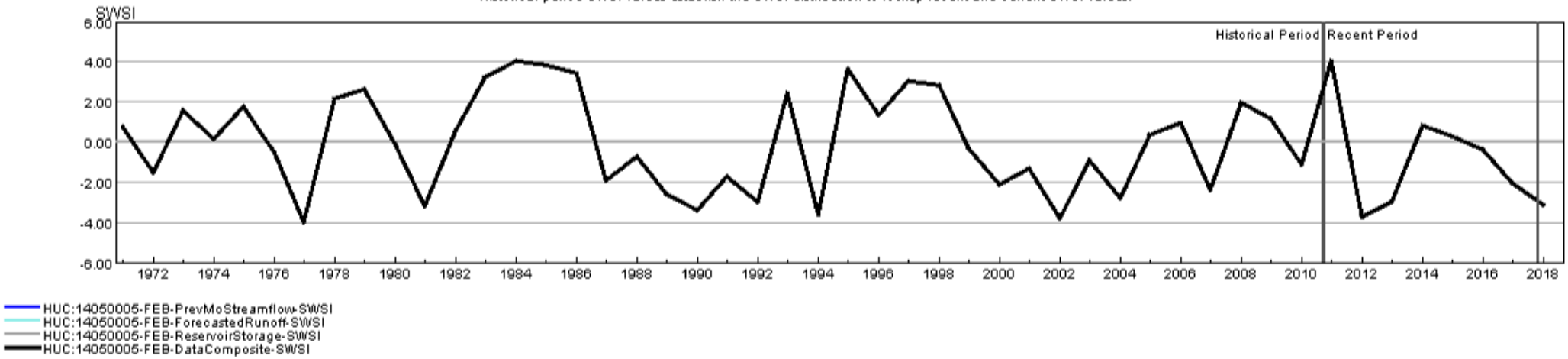
HUC 14050005 (Upper White) Surface Water Supply - FEB

Monthly component volumes



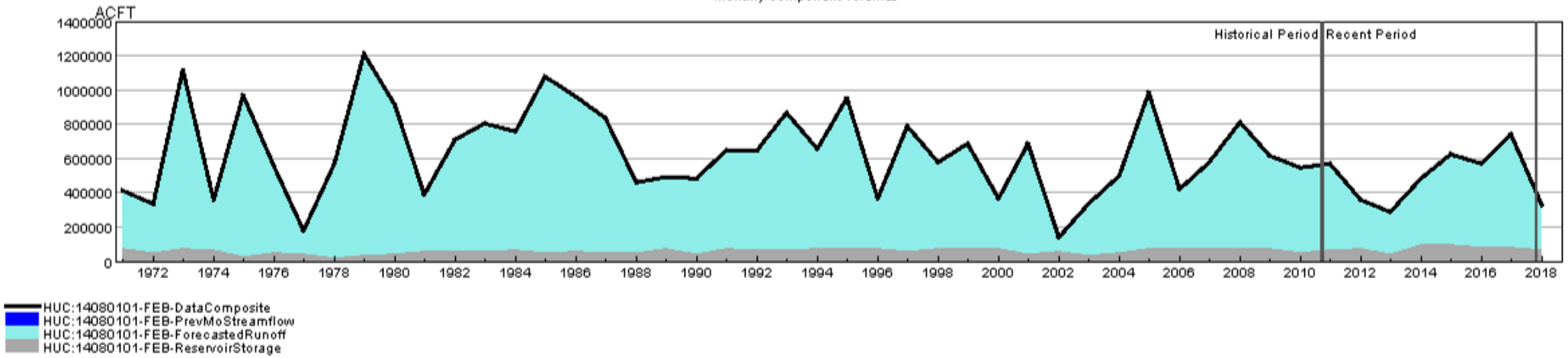
HUC 14050005 (Upper White) SWSI Values - FEB

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



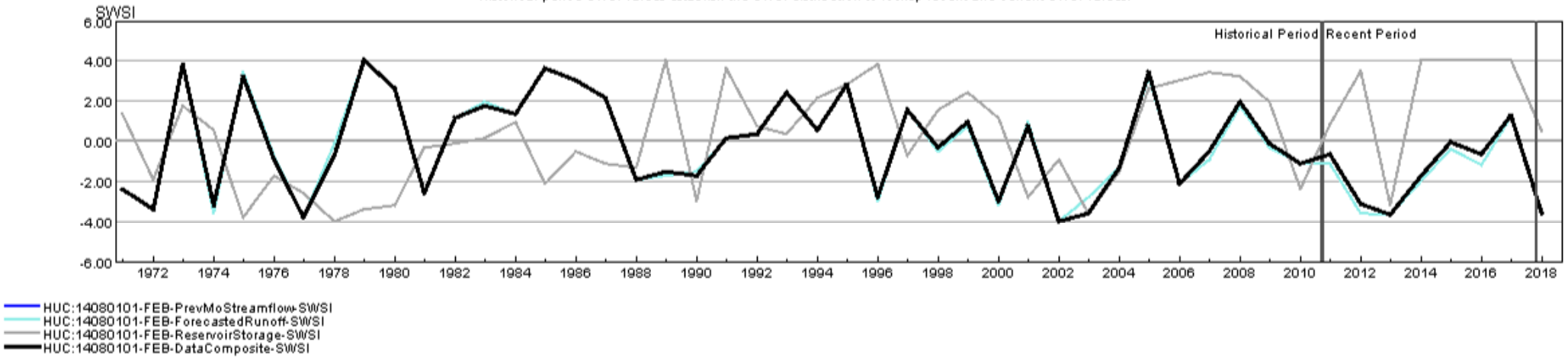
HUC 14080101 (Upper San Juan) Surface Water Supply - FEB

Monthly component volumes



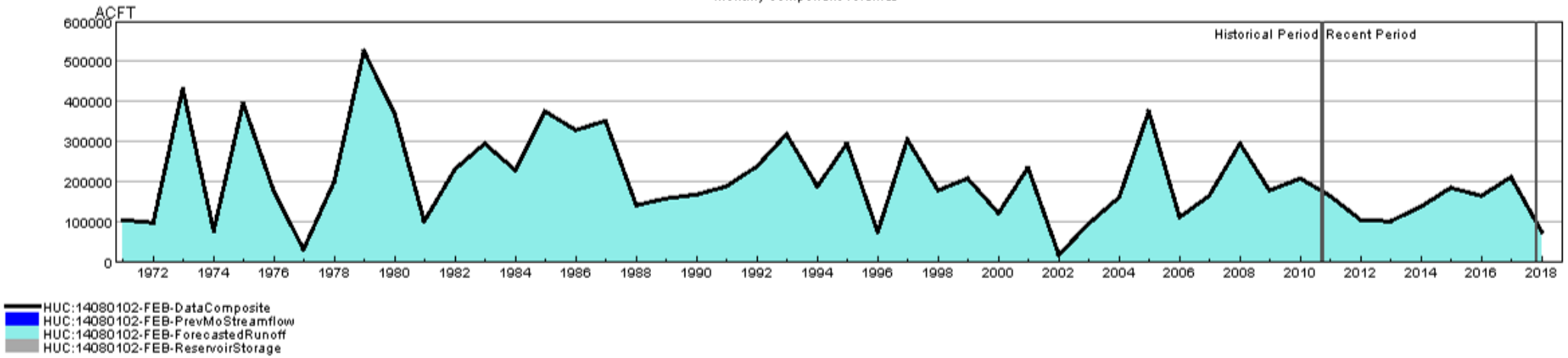
HUC 14080101 (Upper San Juan) SWSI Values - FEB

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



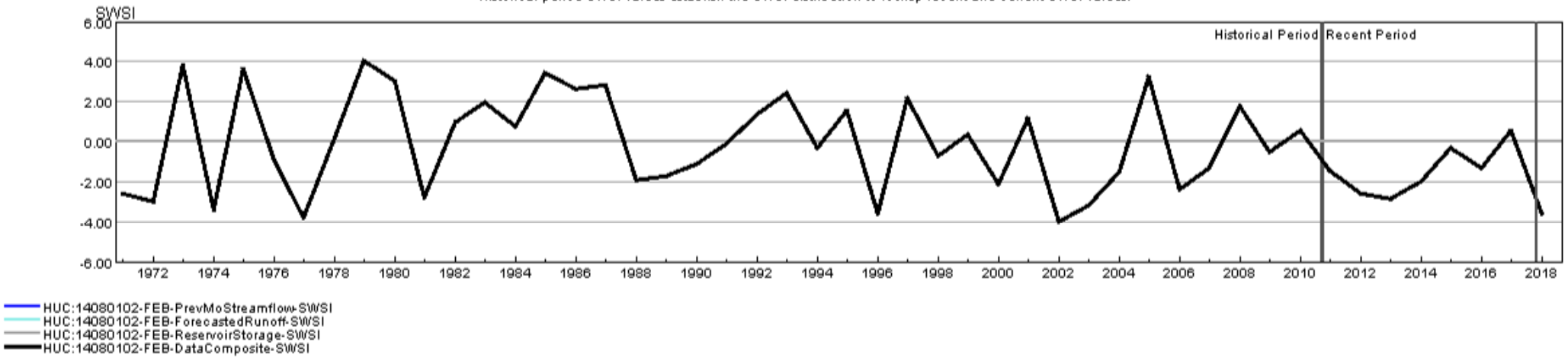
HUC 14080102 (Piedra) Surface Water Supply - FEB

Monthly component volumes



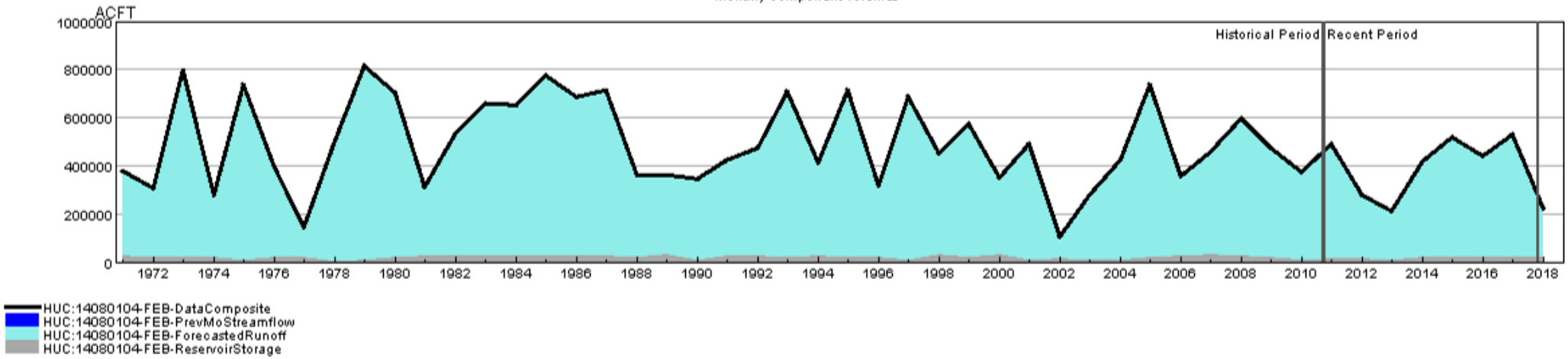
HUC 14080102 (Piedra) SWSI Values - FEB

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



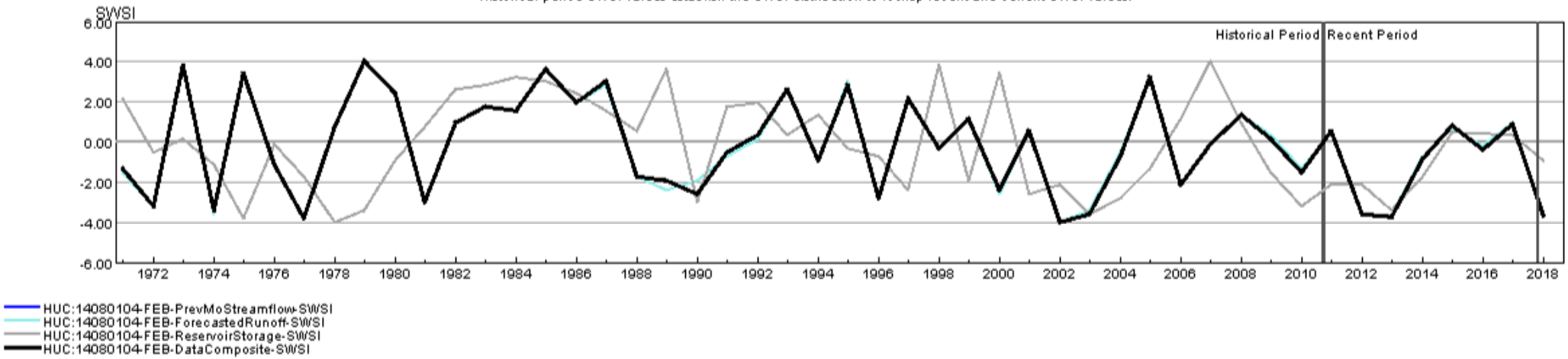
HUC 14080104 (Animas) Surface Water Supply - FEB

Monthly component volumes



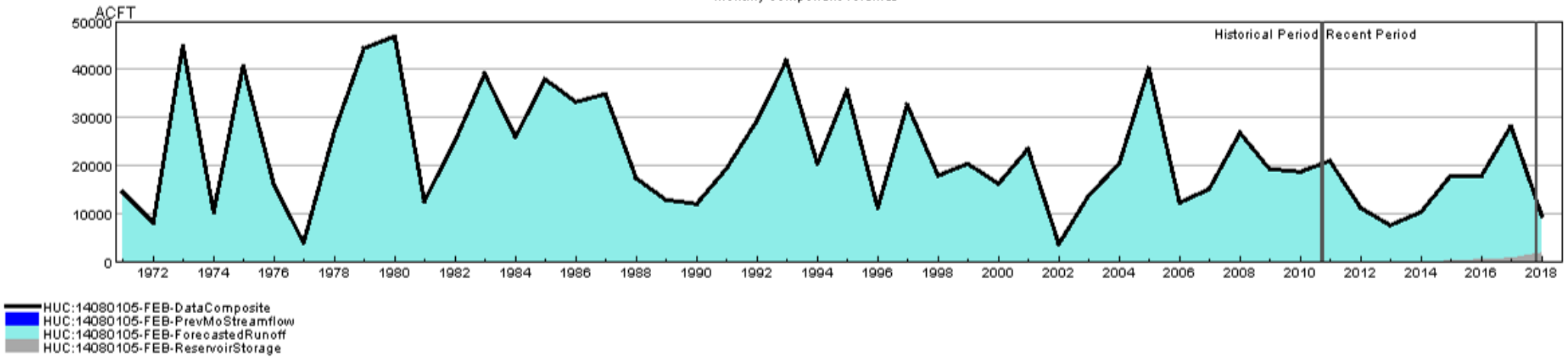
HUC 14080104 (Animas) SWSI Values - FEB

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



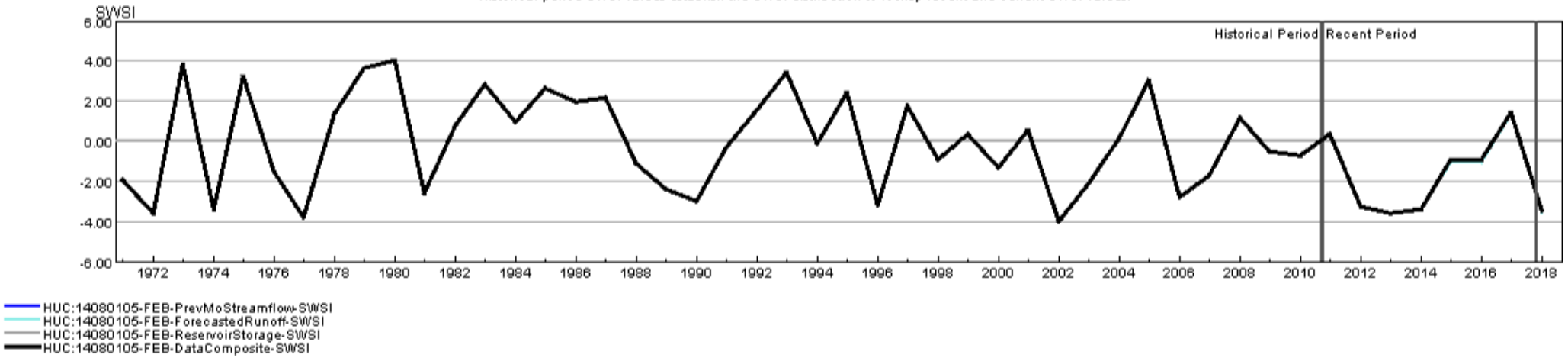
HUC 14080105 (Middle San Juan) Surface Water Supply - FEB

Monthly component volumes



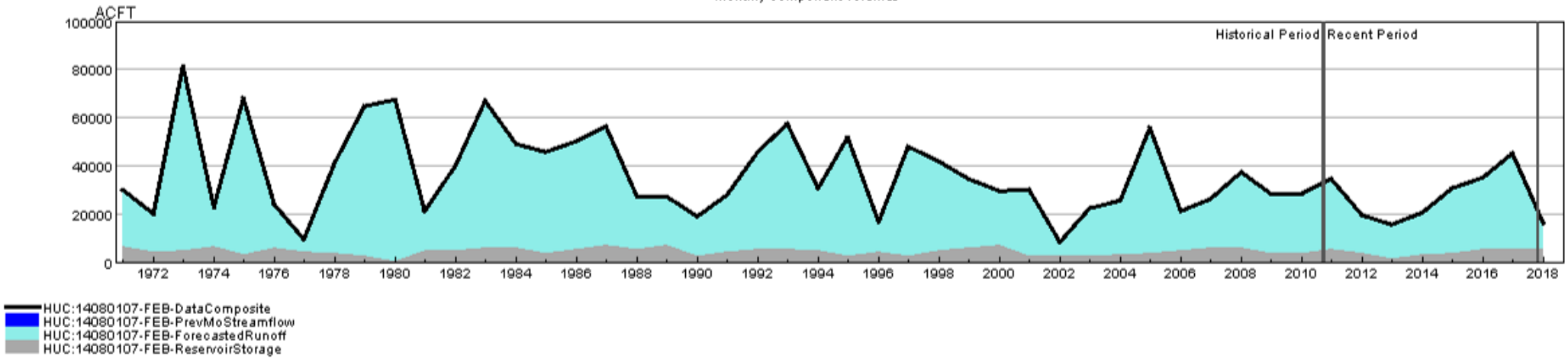
HUC 14080105 (Middle San Juan) SWSI Values - FEB

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



HUC 14080107 (Mancos) Surface Water Supply - FEB

Monthly component volumes



HUC 14080107 (Mancos) SWSI Values - FEB

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.