

Snowpack and Water Supply Conditions for the Arkansas Basin
as of April 1, 2007

March of 2007 was a dry month across the Arkansas Basin. Basinwide snowpack percentages decreased from 102% of average on March 1, to only 81% of average on April 1. These April 1 snowpack readings are 94% of those measured last year at this same time. The maximum seasonal snowpack for the year-to-date was measured on March 13th. This is one month earlier than the basin typically reaches the seasonal maximum snowpack. Also, in a typical year, March delivers 18% of the total seasonal snowpack in the Arkansas basin. However, with this year's dry conditions during March, the basin only received 4% of the seasonal maximum accumulation.

Precipitation measured at the six SNOTEL sites across the Arkansas basin totaled only 62% of average during March. These totals are only 59% of last year's totals for March. For the water year, which began back on October 1, 2006, accumulated precipitation is now 95% of average. These totals include the beneficial October precipitation which measured 158% of average for the month.

Runoff forecasts throughout the Arkansas basin call for below average runoff for the spring and summer period. Dry weather during March contributed to reductions in forecasts issued on April 1. Just a month ago, most forecast points in the basin were forecast at above to well above average volumes. As dry spring weather patterns persist, these forecasts will continue to decrease accordingly.

ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN

Forecast Point	period	50% (KAF)	% of avg	max (KAF)	min (KAF)	30-yr avg
Chalk Ck At Nathrop	APR-JUL	19.0	83	29.0	10.9	23.0
	APR-SEP	24.0	89	37.0	14.1	27.0
Arkansas River At Salida (1)	APR-JUL	210	82	271	156	255
	APR-SEP	275	89	360	202	310
Grape Creek Near Westcliffe	APR-JUL	15.0	93	33	4.2	16.1
	APR-SEP	18.5	94	36	6.8	19.6
Pueblo Reservoir Inflow (1)	APR-JUL	315	82	470	191	385
	APR-SEP	410	85	598	257	485
	APR	35	100			
	MAY	80	90			
	JUN	130	80			
	JUL	70	72			
	AUG	60	98			
	SEP	35	92			

If you have questions, please contact:

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ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN

Forecast Point -----	period -----	50% (KAF)	% of avg	max (KAF)	min (KAF)	30-yr avg
Huerfano River Near Redwing	APR-JUL	11.0	89	16.9	6.4	12.3
	APR-SEP	14.8	96	22	9.0	15.5
Cucharas River At Boyd Ranch Nr La	APR-JUL	10.0	89	17.2	4.8	11.3
	APR-SEP	12.0	92	19.2	6.5	13.0
Trinidad Lake Inflow	MAR-JUL	31	91	58	13.6	34.0
	APR-JUL	25	78	52	7.7	32.0
	APR-SEP	35	80	67	13.3	44.0

Max is 90 percentile and min is 10 percentile.
 Averages are for the 1971-2000 period.
 All volumes are in KAF (1,000 acre-feet)

footnotes:

- 1) streamflow is adjusted for upstream storage

Information compiled by USDA, Natural Resource Conservation Service