

## Snowpack and Water Supply Conditions for the Arkansas Basin as of May 1, 2008

Snowpacks in the Arkansas River basin saw their second month in a row of declining snowpack percentages. Despite that, May 1 measurements show the overall basin snowpacks at 131 percent of average and 148 percent of last year's snowpacks.

SNOTEL data shows the basin snowpacks peaked on April 14 and since then have experienced about a 26 percent loss in snow water content. Sub-basin snowpacks are quite variable and range from well below normal (54 percent of average) in the Purgatoire to well above normal in the Upper Arkansas and Cucharas & Huerfano drainages, at 134 and 128 percent of average, respectively.

The basin experienced its second consecutive month of below normal mountain precipitation during April, with monthly totals yielding only 69 percent of average precipitation. As you would expect, total precipitation for the water year dropped from 127 percent of average on April 1 to 117 percent of average on May 1.

Reservoir storage at the end of April was 90 percent of average and 96 percent of the reservoir storage reported last year at this time.

May-September runoff is expected to be well above average in the upper portion of the basin and at the forecast points along the mainstem of the Arkansas River while the southern portion of the basin is forecast to produce below to well below average flows. Forecasts range from 163 percent of average for Chalk Creek at Nathrop to 78 percent of average for the Inflow to Trinidad Lake.

### ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN

Forecast Point	period	50% (KAF)	% of avg	max (KAF)	min (KAF)	30-yr avg
Chalk Ck At Nathrop	APR-JUL	38.0	165	51.0	27.0	23.0
	MAY-JUL	37.0	168	50.0	26.0	22.0
	APR-SEP	45.0	167	61.0	32.0	27.0
	MAY-SEP	44.0	163	60.0	31.0	27.0
Arkansas River At Salida 1	APR-JUL	370	145	445	300	255
	MAY-JUL	350	146	425	280	240
	APR-SEP	450	145	550	360	310
	MAY-SEP	430	143	530	340	300
Grape Creek Near Westcliffe	APR-JUL	25.0	155	41.0	13.7	16.1
	MAY-JUL	23.0	177	39.0	11.4	13.0
	APR-SEP	30.0	153	46.0	17.6	19.6
	MAY-SEP	28.0	170	44.0	15.3	16.5
Pueblo Reservoir Inflow 1	APR-JUL	525	136	695	380	385
	MAY-JUL	495	141	665	350	350
	APR-SEP	665	137	870	490	485
	MAY-SEP	635	141	840	460	450
Huerfano River Near Redwing	APR-JUL	12.3	100	15.7	9.3	12.3
	MAY-JUL	10.9	97	14.3	7.9	11.2
	APR-SEP	15.5	100	19.9	11.7	15.5
	MAY-SEP	14.1	97	18.5	10.3	14.5

If you have questions, please contact:

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Forecast Point -----	period -----	50% (KAF)	% of avg	max (KAF)	min (KAF)	30-yr avg
Cucharas River At Boyd Ranch Nr La	APR-JUL	10.2	90	14.7	6.6	11.3
	MAY-JUL	8.9	90	13.4	5.3	9.90
	APR-SEP	11.7	90	16.6	7.7	13.0
	MAY-SEP	10.4	89	15.3	6.4	11.7
ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN						
Forecast Point -----	period -----	50% (KAF)	% of avg	max (KAF)	min (KAF)	30-yr avg
Trinidad Lake Inflow	MAR-JUL	29.0	85	46.0	17.3	34.0
	MAY-JUL	23.0	79	40.0	10.9	28.5
	APR-SEP	35.0	80	60.0	21.0	44.0
	MAY-SEP	31.0	78	54.0	14.5	40.0

Max is 90 percentile and min is 10 percentile.  
 Averages are for the 1971-2000 period.  
 All volumes are in KAF.

footnotes:

1) streamflow is adjusted for upstream storage