

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

Snowpack totals continued to diminish throughout May across most of the Arkansas Basin. By June 1 the snowpack remaining across the basin was only 68% of average, but was 132% of last year's readings on this date. The exception to the below average snowpack totals occurs in the Huerfano and Cucharas basins, where June 1 snowpack readings are 109% of average. Several storms during May helped to increase the snowpack readings in these basins from last month's readings of 103% of average. Meanwhile, along the main stem of the Arkansas River snowpack totals decreased by 27 percentage points this month and are now only 58% of average.

The May storms brought above average precipitation amounts to the lower elevations of the Arkansas headwaters, but monthly totals at higher elevation SNOTEL sites was 98% of average for the month. While near average, these monthly SNOTEL precipitation totals are nearly three times that measured during May of last year.

As the snowpack continues to melt out earlier than normal, reservoir operators are continuing to take advantage of the early runoff. This is reflected in the reservoir storage statistics for the basin which now stands at 102% of average, and is 163% of last year's June 1 storage volume. This is the greatest volume in storage since September, 2001.

While snowpack readings declined as of June 1, runoff forecasts improved slightly across most of the Arkansas Basin. Good precipitation during May, along with good runoff totals already this spring, resulted in slight improvements in runoff expectations this month. While volumes along the main stem of the Arkansas remain below average, above average runoff is now forecast along those tributaries along the Sangre de Cristo Mountains.

ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN

Forecast Point	period	50% (KAF)	% of avg	max (KAF)	min (KAF)	30-yr avg
Chalk Ck At Nathrop	APR-JUL	18.4	80	26.0	12.4	23.0
	JUN-JUL	12.5	69	20.0	6.50	18.0
	APR-SEP	21.0	78	30.0	13.7	27.0
	JUN-SEP	15.0	65	24.0	7.80	23.0
Arkansas River At Salida (1)	APR-JUL	220	86	270	175	255
	JUN-JUL	131	70	182	88.0	187
	APR-SEP	250	81	320	194	310
	JUN-SEP	163	67	230	107	245
Grape Creek Near Westcliffe	APR-JUL	18.7	116	28.0	13.0	16.1
	JUN-JUL	8.00	91	17.1	2.30	8.80
	APR-SEP	22.0	112	32.0	14.7	19.6
	JUN-SEP	11.0	89	21.0	4.00	12.3
Pueblo Reservoir Inflow (1)	APR-JUL	340	88	425	275	385
	JUN-JUL	189	73	270	122	259
	APR-SEP	420	87	530	325	485
	JUN-SEP	265	74	375	173	360
	APR (OBS)	28	80			35
	MAY (OBS)	125	140			89
	JUN	120	74			162
	JUL	69	71			97
	AUG	45	73			62
SEP	31	82			38	

ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN

Forecast Point -----	period -----	50% (KAF)	% of avg	max (KAF)	min (KAF)	30-yr avg
Huerfano River Near Redwing	APR-JUL	13.1	107	15.8	10.8	12.3
	JUN-JUL	7.30	95	10.0	5.00	7.70
	APR-SEP	16.0	103	19.6	13.0	15.5
Cucharas River At Boyd Ranch Nr La	JUN-SEP	10.2	93	13.8	7.20	11.0
	APR-JUL	12.5	111	15.2	10.4	11.3
	JUN-JUL	5.40	90	8.10	3.30	6.00
Trinidad Lake Inflow	APR-SEP	14.6	112	17.9	11.9	13.0
	JUN-SEP	7.50	96	10.8	4.80	7.80
	MAR-JUL	41.0	121	49.0	35.0	34.0
	JUN-JUL	13.0	68	21.0	6.90	19.0
	APR-SEP	43.0	98	58.0	32.0	44.0
	JUN-SEP	21.0	68	36.0	9.8	31.0

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