

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

Snowpacks in the South Platte River Basin have been tracking near normal all year and measurements show that trend continued into May. The May 1 snowpack measured out at 103 percent of average and 110 percent of the May 1, 2007 snowpack. This is only the second time since 1999 (along with 2003) that May 1 snowpacks have been above average. SNOTEL data indicates the snowpacks peaked on April 18 and from that time to the first of the month have experienced about a 12 percent loss in snow water content. Sub-basin snowpack percentages range from a high of 117 percent of average in the Upper South Platte to a low of 76 percent of average in the Saint Vrain.

Mountain precipitation during April was below normal at 72 percent of average. This is the second consecutive month of below normal precipitation the basin has experienced. The dryer conditions over the past month resulted in a drop in water year precipitation totals to 98 percent of average, down from 105 percent of average on April 1.

Reservoir storage is 90 percent of average (down slightly, in terms of percentages, from last month's figure of 92 percent of average) and 96 percent of the storage available last year at this time.

The forecasts call for near average streamflows during the May-September period at almost all the forecast points in the basin. In terms of percentages, the highest flows are expected at Clear Creek at Golden (114 percent of average), while the St. Vrain at Lyons is only slated to receive 82 percent of average runoff.

### SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN

Forecast Point	period	50% (KAF)	% of avg	max (KAF)	min (KAF)	30-yr avg
ANTERO RESERVOIR Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	18.9	113	11.1	32	16.8
	APR-SEP	24	110	13.5	43	22
	MAY-JUL	17.2	112	10.1	29	15.4
	MAY-SEP	22	108	12.4	39	20
SPINNEY MOUNTAIN RESV Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	63	113	36	109	56
	APR-SEP	77	112	41	143	69
	MAY-JUL	56	110	32	97	51
	MAY-SEP	70	109	38	130	64
ELEVENMILE CANYON RESV Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	65	112	38	110	58
	APR-SEP	79	110	42	149	72
	MAY-JUL	58	109	34	98	53
	MAY-SEP	72	108	38	136	67
CHEESMAN LAKE Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	123	108	72	210	114
	APR-SEP	149	106	78	285	140
	MAY-JUL	107	106	61	187	101
	MAY-SEP	133	105	73	245	127
SOUTH PLATTE R at South Platte (2)	APR-JUL	210	102	120	370	205
	APR-SEP	260	102	142	475	255
	MAY-JUL	187	103	106	330	182
	MAY-SEP	235	102	129	430	230

If you have questions, please contact:

USDA / Risk Management Agency / Topeka Regional Office, 3401 SW Van Buren, Suite 2, Topeka, KS 66611

Telephone: (785) 266-0248

## SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN

Forecast Point -----	period -----	50% (KAF)	% of avg	max (KAF)	min (KAF)	30-yr avg
BEAR CREEK abv Evergreen	APR-JUL	21	109	10.8	41	19.3
	APR-SEP	26	104	13.5	50	25
	MAY-JUL	19.5	113	10.1	38	17.3
BEAR CREEK at Morrison	MAY-SEP	25	109	13.0	48	23
	APR-JUL	24	96	12.4	50	25
	APR-SEP	29	94	13.0	65	31
CLEAR CREEK at Golden	MAY-JUL	21	100	9.4	47	21
	MAY-SEP	27	100	12.1	60	27
	APR-JUL	124	113	97	158	110
ST. VRAIN CREEK at Lyons (2)	APR-SEP	150	112	120	196	134
	MAY-JUL	120	114	93	154	105
	MAY-SEP	146	114	114	189	128
BOULDER CREEK nr Orodell (2)	APR-JUL	73	78	56	97	94
	APR-SEP	87	80	67	113	109
	MAY-JUL	70	81	53	94	87
SOUTH BOULDER CK nr Eldorado Spgs	MAY-SEP	84	82	64	110	102
	APR-JUL	49	94	39	60	52
	APR-SEP	56	93	45	69	60
BIG THOMPSON R at Canyon Mouth (2)	MAY-JUL	48	98	38	59	49
	MAY-SEP	55	97	44	68	57
	APR-JUL	42	102	32	55	41
CACHE LaPOUDRE at Canyon Mouth (2)	APR-SEP	47	102	36	61	46
	MAY-JUL	41	108	31	54	38
	MAY-SEP	46	110	35	60	42
BIG THOMPSON R at Canyon Mouth (2)	APR-JUL	88	89	64	121	99
	APR-SEP	106	89	79	143	119
	MAY-JUL	85	90	61	118	95
CACHE LaPOUDRE at Canyon Mouth (2)	MAY-SEP	103	90	76	140	114
	APR-JUL	235	96	173	315	245
	APR-SEP	260	95	193	345	275
CACHE LaPOUDRE at Canyon Mouth (2)	MAY-JUL	225	96	166	305	235
	MAY-SEP	250	96	185	335	260

If you have questions, please contact:

USDA / Risk Management Agency / Topeka Regional Office, 3401 SW Van Buren, Suite 2, Topeka, KS 66611

Telephone: (785) 266-0248