

Snowpack and Water Supply Conditions for the South Platte Basin as of May 15, 2007

Since May 1, the South Platte basin has received variable precipitation. A single storm during May 5-6 delivered 0.5 to 1.0 inches of additional snow water equivalent to the snowpack along the upper reaches of the South Platte River, Bear Creek, Clear Creek and Boulder Creeks. Meanwhile, precipitation for the first half of May has been below average in the St. Vrain, Big Thompson and the Cache La Poudre basins.

That single storm event was enough to briefly boost the basinwide snowpack from 99% of average on May 4, to 113% of average on May 9. Warm temperatures since that time have allowed snowpack totals to return to 104% of average on May 15th.

As of May 15th, only slight adjustments were made to those streamflow forecasts issued on May 1. Improvements were seen in those basins favored by the early May storm, with continued improvements to forecasts along the upper reaches of the South Platte and Bear Creek. For the most part, forecasts around the remaining basins remain relatively unchanged from May 1.

Forecasts call for near average to slightly above average spring and summer volumes throughout most of the South Platte basin. The only exceptions are the Big Thompson and Cache La Poudre Rivers, which are expected to produce volumes ranging from 75% to 85% of average.

SOUTH PLATTE BASIN

Forecast Point	period	50% (KAF)	% of avg	max (KAF)	30% (KAF)	70% (KAF)	min (KAF)	30-yr avg
Antero Lk 1	APR-JUL	14.1	84	22	17.0	11.7	9.0	16.8
Spinney Mt Resv Inf 1	APR-JUL	50	89	75	59	43	33	56
Elevenmile Canyon Resv 1	APR-JUL	52	90	79	62	44	34	58
Cheesman Lake 1	APR-JUL	107	94	174	130	88	66	114
South Platte River At South Platte	1APR-JUL	190	93	315	235	155	115	205
Bear Creek Above Evergreen	APR-JUL	25	130	44	31	19.9	14.2	19.3
Bear Creek At Morrison	APR-JUL	31	124	68	44	21	10.8	25
Clear Creek At Golden 1	APR-JUL	107	97	136	118	97	84	110
Saint Vrain Creek At Lyons 1	APR-JUL	86	91	112	96	77	66	94
Boulder Creek Near Orodell 1	APR-JUL	53	102	63	57	49	44	52
S. Boulder Ck Nr Eldorado Spgs 1	APR-JUL	43	105	55	48	39	34	41
Big Thompson R At Mouth, Nr Drake, CAPR	JUL	84	85	113	95	74	62	99
Cache La Poudre R At Canyon Mouth 1	APR-JUL	186	76	240	205	167	143	245

Max is 90th percentile and min is 10th percentile.

Averages are for the 1971-2000 period.

All volumes are in thousands of acre-feet.

footnotes:

1) streamflow is adjusted for upstream storage