

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

The latest snow surveys in the South Platte Basin show a significant decrease in snowpack as a percent of average. As of June 1, snowpack levels were 69% of average, down from the 93% of average measured on May 1. At the same time, the current readings are more than four times that measured last year on this same date.

Warm temperatures helped advance the melting process at a rapid rate throughout most of May. By June 1, the average snow water equivalent remaining at sites was only 4.4 inches. It is anticipated that complete melt out at all measuring sites will be reached about three weeks earlier than average this spring.

Precipitation during May was only 76% of average, with the majority of that moisture received along the upper reaches of the South Platte River. Sites toward the north, along the Front Range tributaries to the South Platte River received below average May precipitation. Even though this May's precipitation was below average, it remained 163% of that measured in May of 2006.

Reservoir storage improved again during May. Volumes have steadily improved each month since November 2006. During that time, an additional 192,000 acre-feet of water has been added to storage, and the percent of average storage has improved from 73% of average, to currently 99% of average. The June 1 storage volumes are 19% above those measured last year at this time.

The South Platte Basin has the best outlook for spring and summer runoff of any major basin in the state. Streamflow volumes are expected to be slightly below average along the upper reaches of the South Platte River, with above average contributions from the smaller tributaries from Boulder Creek towards the south. Below average volumes continue to be forecast in the St. Vrain, Big Thompson and Cache La Poudre Rivers this year, as these basins remained drier than average throughout May.

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN

Forecast Point	period	50% (KAF)	% of avg	max (%)	30% (%)	70% (%)	min (%)	30-yr avg
Antero Reservoir Inf. (1)	APR-JUL	15.9	95	131	107	85	73	16.8
	APR-SEP	18.9	86	127	100	76	63	22.0
	JUN-JUL	9.0	78	130	96	63	47	11.5
	JUN-SEP	12.0	78	129	92	59	42	15.4
Spinney Mt Resv Inf (1)	APR-JUL	51.0	91	134	105	79	66	56.0
	APR-SEP	62.0	90	141	107	77	61	69.0
	JUN-JUL	33.0	85	146	105	67	49	39.0
	JUN-SEP	44.0	85	152	108	67	46	52.0
Elevenmile Canyon Resv Inf (1)	APR-JUL	53.0	91	131	105	81	67	58.0
	APR-SEP	64.0	89	140	106	75	61	72.0
	JUN-JUL	34.0	83	139	102	68	49	41.0
	JUN-SEP	45.0	83	152	106	65	46	54.0
Cheesman Lake Inf (1)	APR-JUL	125	110	148	123	99	88	114
	APR-SEP	146	104	150	119	92	79	140
	JUN-JUL	59.0	82	143	103	65	47	72.0
	JUN-SEP	80.0	81	147	103	64	46	99.0
S Platte River at S Platte (1)	APR-JUL	260	127	161	139	117	105	205
	APR-SEP	300	118	153	131	108	96	255
	JUN-JUL	107	86	143	106	70	52	124
	JUN-SEP	148	86	139	105	70	53	172

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Forecast Point -----	period -----	50% (KAF)	% of avg	max (%)	30% (%)	70% (%)	min (%)	30-yr avg
Bear Creek above Evergreen	APR-JUL	30.0	155	207	171	140	124	19.3
	APR-SEP	36.0	144	196	160	128	112	25.0
	JUN-JUL	12.5	120	221	154	94	64	10.4
	JUN-SEP	18.2	114	200	144	90	64	16.0
Bear Creek at Morrison	APR-JUL	44.0	176	272	208	148	124	25.0
	APR-SEP	52.0	168	268	203	142	113	31.0
	JUN-JUL	19.5	164	370	235	109	53	11.9
Clear Creek at Golden (1)	JUN-SEP	28.0	158	333	220	110	58	17.7
	APR-JUL	124	113	131	120	106	98	110
	APR-SEP	146	109	128	116	102	94	134
St. Vrain Creek at Lyons (1)	JUN-JUL	76.0	93	117	102	84	73	82.0
	APR-SEP	98	93	117	102	84	74	106
	APR-JUL	85.0	90	109	97	84	77	94.0
Boulder Creek near Orodell (1)	APR-SEP	100	92	111	99	85	77	109
	JUN-JUL	54.0	87	113	95	76	65	62.0
	JUN-SEP	69.0	89	114	97	78	67	78.0
S Boulder near Eldorado Spgs (1)	APR-JUL	56.0	108	125	113	102	94	52.0
	APR-SEP	63.0	105	123	112	98	92	60.0
	JUN-JUL	34.0	103	118	103	85	76	33.0
Big Thompson R at Mouth nr Drake(1)	JUN-SEP	41.0	103	118	102	85	75	40.0
	APR-JUL	45.0	109	133	116	102	94	41.3
	APR-SEP	49.0	107	129	116	101	90	45.7
Cache La Poudre Rat Canyon Mouth(1)	JUN-JUL	24.0	94	129	105	82	67	25.6
	JUN-SEP	28.0	93	130	107	83	67	30.0
	APR-JUL	84.0	85	102	91	79	72	99.0
Big Thompson R at Mouth nr Drake(1)	APR-SEP	101	85	103	92	79	71	119
	JUN-JUL	52.0	74	99	83	66	56	70.0
	JUN-SEP	69.0	78	100	86	69	59	88.0
Cache La Poudre Rat Canyon Mouth(1)	APR-JUL	182	74	90	80	69	63	245
	APR-SEP	200	73	89	80	68	62	275
	JUN-JUL	101	63	86	71	55	46	160
	JUN-SEP	121	65	89	74	58	48	186

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