

Description of Proposed Excess Capacity Contract with Upper Arkansas

Reclamation is proposing to enter into a one year excess storage capacity contract with Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District for storage of up to 1000ac-ft of their water in Pueblo Reservoir. Of that request only the 37.2 ac-ft that would be exchanged to Rainbow Lake, Cottonwood Lake, O'Haver Lake, North Fork Reservoir, Boss Lake Reservoir, and Deweese Reservoir is to be analyzed in this Environmental Assessment (EA). The remainder of their request is within the scope of the EA and Finding of No Significant Impact No. EC-1300-06-02 for 2006-2010 contracts signed in April 2006.

As a result of entering into this contract Upper Arkansas would exchange up to 9 ac-ft into Deweese Reservoir in June and July. This would result in a decrease in the flows of Grape Creek of up to 2% in June and 6% in July. The exchanged water would be released in the second half of November, causing up to a 16% increase in flows.

Up to 15 ac-ft would be exchanged into North Fork Reservoir, Boss Lake Reservoir, or O'Haver Lake; and up to 13.2 ac-ft into Rainbow and Cottonwood Lakes. Exchanges/capture of water would occur between January through July. The maximum capture rate would not exceed 0.75 over 10 days per month for Boss Lake Reservoir and 1.5 cfs over 5 days per month for the other reservoirs. This would result in a reduction of flows of up to 23% in Gray's Creek, 21% in North Fork South Arkansas River, 30% in Boss Lake Creek, and 4% in Middle and South Cottonwood Creeks for those 5 or 10 days.

Releases would occur July through October and would not exceed 0.52 cfs for 3 days in each of those months. This would result in an increase of flows of up to 18% in Gray's Creek, 21% in North Fork South Arkansas River, 44% in Boss Lake Creek, and 2% in Middle and South Cottonwood Creeks for those 3 days.