

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN as of May 1, 2011

The South Platte River Basin posted its highest snowpack percentage of the year on May 1 at 150 percent of average and 186 percent of last May's snowpack. This was due primarily to the series of storm systems that started in mid-April and continued through the rest of the month. This is the best showing for a May 1 snowpack since 1997 and is the fourth highest going back to 1968. Above average to well above average snowpacks are reported in the sub-basins, ranging from 118 percent of average in the Saint Vrain to 174 percent of average in the Cache La Poudre. Of particular note are the anomalous conditions that exist above Antero Reservoir in the headwaters of the South Platte and in the Bear Creek area where snowpacks are well below average. April precipitation at the higher elevations was well above normal at 144 percent of average. The South Platte River Basin is the only major basin in the state that has had seven consecutive months of above precipitation. Total precipitation for the water year is 130 percent of average. Reservoir storage remains slightly below normal at 98 percent of average. The Upper South Platte saw minor percentage drops when compared to last month's forecasts, while moderate increases were seen along the Front Range. Except for the Inflow to Antero Reservoir and points along Bear Creek, the South Platte River Basin can expect near average to well above average runoff. April-September volumes should range from 51 percent of average for Bear Creek at Morrison to 153 percent of average on the Cache La Poudre.

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN							
Streamflow Forecasts - May 1, 2011							
	<=== Drier ===			Future Conditions	=== Wetter ===>		
Forecast Pt	Chance of Exceeding *						
Forecast Period	90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF)	(% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30 Yr Avg (1000AF)
Antero Reservoir Inflow (2)							
APR-JUL	5.6	7.7	9.4	56	11.3	14.5	16.8
APR-SEP	8.6	11.8	14.4	66	17.3	22	22
MAY-JUL	5.6	7.7	9.4	61	11.3	14.5	15.4
MAY-SEP	8.6	11.8	14.4	72	17.3	22	20
Spinney Mountain Res Inflow (2)							
APR-JUL	44	53	60	107	67	79	56
APR-SEP	56	68	78	113	88	104	69
MAY-JUL	43	52	59	116	66	78	51
MAY-SEP	55	67	77	120	87	103	64
Elevenmile Canyon Res Inflow (2)							
APR-JUL	45	55	62	107	70	82	58
APR-SEP	57	71	81	113	92	109	72
MAY-JUL	45	55	62	117	70	82	53
MAY-SEP	57	71	81	121	92	109	67
Cheesman Lake Inflow (2)							
APR-JUL	85	106	122	107	139	166	114
APR-SEP	103	131	152	109	175	210	140
MAY-JUL	81	102	118	117	135	162	101
MAY-SEP	99	127	148	117	171	205	127
South Platte R at South Platte (2)							
APR-JUL	149	188	215	105	245	295	205

APR-SEP	192	235	270	106	305	365	255
MAY-JUL	142	181	210	115	240	290	182
MAY-SEP	185	230	265	115	300	360	230
Bear Ck ab Evergreen							
APR-JUL	6.3	8.8	10.9	57	13.3	17.5	19.3
APR-SEP	8.3	11.9	14.9	60	18.4	25	25
MAY-JUL	5.5	8.0	10.1	58	12.5	16.7	17.3
MAY-SEP	7.5	11.1	14.1	61	17.6	24	23
Bear Ck at Morrison							
APR-JUL	6.5	9.4	11.9	48	14.8	20	25
APR-SEP	8.1	12.2	15.7	51	19.9	27	31
MAY-JUL	5.2	8.1	10.6	51	13.5	18.8	21
MAY-SEP	6.8	10.9	14.4	53	18.6	26	27
Clear Ck at Golden							
APR-JUL	139	152	162	147	172	188	110
APR-SEP	171	188	200	149	215	235	134
MAY-JUL	135	148	158	151	168	184	105
MAY-SEP	167	184	197	154	210	230	128
St. Vrain Ck at Lyons (2)							
APR-JUL	97	107	114	121	121	133	94
APR-SEP	111	124	133	122	143	157	109
MAY-JUL	93	103	110	126	117	129	87
MAY-SEP	107	120	129	127	139	153	102
Boulder Ck nr Orodell (2)							
APR-JUL	57	63	67	129	71	77	52
APR-SEP	65	72	77	128	82	90	60
MAY-JUL	54	60	64	131	68	74	49
MAY-SEP	62	69	74	130	79	87	57
S Boulder Ck nr Eldorado Springs (2)							
APR-JUL	42	48	52	127	57	64	41
APR-SEP	45	52	57	124	62	71	46
MAY-JUL	39	45	49	129	54	61	38
MAY-SEP	42	49	54	129	59	68	42
Big Thompson R at Canyon Mouth (2)							
APR-JUL	120	129	135	136	141	150	99
APR-SEP	142	154	163	137	172	184	119
MAY-JUL	116	125	131	138	137	146	95
MAY-SEP	138	150	159	140	168	180	114
Cache La Poudre at Canyon Mouth (2)							
APR-JUL	340	365	380	155	395	420	245
APR-SEP	370	400	420	153	440	470	275
MAY-JUL	320	345	360	153	375	400	235
MAY-SEP	350	380	400	154	420	450	260

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* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

The average is computed for the 1971-2000 base period.

- (1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
- (2) - The value is natural volume - actual volume may be affected by upstream water management.
- (3) - Median value used in place of average.