

Irrigation Information for the 2013 Crop Year
Topeka Regional Office
May 14, 2013

In order to identify areas and water districts where inadequate irrigation water supply is suspected, the following information includes the areas the Topeka Regional Office (Topeka RO) has identified as having reduced water availability. Risk Management Agency (RMA) has not confirmed any water reduction was due to an insurable cause of loss within the insurance period or made any determinations but is providing information it has gathered for Approved Insurance Provider's reference:

Nebraska:

Southwest and Central, Nebraska:

The following information was received from the Bureau of Reclamation in McCook, Nebraska. The irrigation districts with estimated water allocations are shown below.

<u>Irrigation District</u>	<u>Estimate Farm Delivery (Acre Inches)</u>
Mirage Flats	4.0''
Frenchman Valley and H & RW	.5''
Frenchman-Cambridge	
Meeker & Cambridge Canals	8.0''
Red Willow & Bartley Canals	0.0''
Bostwick in Nebraska	7.0''

Counties which may be affected by the above allocations are **Franklin, Furnas, Harlan, Hayes, Hitchcock, Nuckolls, Red Willow and Webster.**

Western, Nebraska

The following information was received from the Bureau of Reclamation in Mills, Wyoming.

The Bureau of Reclamation is advising North Platte Project water users that an allocation is expected. With reservoir storage well below average and below average inflow forecasted for April through July, water users will need to take measures to conserve the available water supply.

Counties which may be affected by the above allocations are **Garden, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, and Sioux.**

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Kansas:

Northwest and Central, Kansas:

The following information was received from the Bureau of Reclamation in McCook, Nebraska. The irrigation districts with estimated water allocations are shown below.

<u>Irrigation District</u>	<u>Est. Farm Delivery</u>
Almena	5.5"

Counties which may be affected by the above allocations are **Norton and Phillips.**

Southwest Kansas:

Six irrigation ditches in Southwest Kansas have access to available Arkansas River flows and to water stored in John Martin Reservoir which is located approximately 70-miles west of the Colorado-Kansas state line. Surface water from the Arkansas River is generally used to supplement groundwater irrigation. However, there are fields that have access to only surface water.

Kansas did not release any water from John Martin Reservoir in 2012 for several reasons, including the extremely dry river hydrology in Southeast Colorado and Southwest Kansas and the limited amount of account water available. Kansas carried over the account water from 2012. With the 2012 carry over and the additional 3,700 acre-feet stored in Kansas accounts since the 2013 compact year began on November 1, 2012, the water in John Martin Reservoir available to Kansas on April 1, 2013 was 12,718 acre-feet which is the 3rd lowest amount in the past ten years.

Year	April 1st	Rank
2013	12,718	3
2012	12,330	2
2011	18,948	6
2010	27,012	9
2009	28,174	10
2008	15,948	5
2007	22,186	7
2006	13,211	4
2005	26,937	8
2004	11,308	1

Counties which may be affected by the above reductions are **Hamilton, Kearny, and Finney.**

All Other Areas of Kansas:

Minimum Desirable Streamflows (MDS)

The table below shows flows (in cfs*) at selected gaging stations as of May 9 for streams where MDS remains of interest. There are currently 211 files under MDS administration. Orders ceasing MDS administration went out on May 3 for the Delaware River and Mill Creek and on May 8 for the

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Whitewater River. Flow rose above MDS at the Ellsworth gage today, but it is dropping rapidly now. Flow has been above MDS since April 28 at the Alta Mills gage; if it remains above MDS until May 12, we may be able to cease MDS administration for the Little Arkansas River above Alta Mills. *(Information provided by Kansas Department of Agriculture, Water Management Services)*

*cfs = cubic feet per second

Streamflows as of May 9, 2013			
Gaging Station	Current Flow	May MDS	Comment
Republican River at Concordia	1,280	150	
Republican River at Clay Center	392	250	Admin began August 2, 2012, including above Concordia; 189 files
Smoky Hill River at Ellsworth	154	35	Admin began May 17, 2012; 3 files
Saline River near Russell	6	15	Admin began May 25, 2012; 10 files
Mill Creek near Paxico	192	30	Admin began June 14, 2012; 13 files; Admin ceased May 3, 2013
Delaware River near Muscotah	239	20	Admin began August 3, 2012, 18 files; Admin ceased May 3, 2013
Little Arkansas River at Alta Mills	22	8	Admin began May 18, 2012; 9 files
Whitewater River near Towanda	207	25	Admin began May 31, 2012; 9 files; Admin ceased May 8, 2013

A map of affected counties along with any updates can be found at: <http://www.ksda.gov/dwr/>

Colorado:

Arkansas Basin (Southeast Colorado)

The estimated 2013 irrigation water supply from Division 2, Colorado Division of Water Resources indicates that the irrigation canals in the Arkansas Basin are short of an average delivery. The 2013 irrigation estimates based on May 1 indicators can be found at: http://www.rma.usda.gov/fields/ks_rso/irrigation/2013mayirrigationestimate.pdf

The counties which may be affected by potential irrigation water shortages at this time in the Arkansas Basin are: **Bent, Crowley, Otero, Pueblo, and Prowers.**

All Other Areas of Colorado:

According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service Snow Survey and Water Supply News Release dated May 6, 2013, snowpack levels increased to 83% of median. Reservoir storage is at 74% of average. While most forecasts across the state call for below normal runoff volumes this season, some of the forecasts for the headwaters of the Colorado and South Platte basins are now near to slightly above average. The following website provides the latest Colorado Snow Survey and Water News Release: http://www.co.nrcs.usda.gov/snow/fcst/state/current/monthly/data/news_selection.html