

**Snowpack and Water Supply Conditions for the Arkansas Basin as of May 1, 2007**

After a dry March, which significantly decreased the snowpack in the Arkansas basin, April brought a slight improvement to snowpack readings. The May 1 statistics improved to 88% of average, up from the 81% of average measured on April 1. This May's readings are significantly higher than last year's on this date. Basinwide totals are 132% of what was measured a year ago during a warm and dry spring.

According to the daily readings at SNOTEL sites the Arkansas basin reached its seasonal maximum accumulation of 13.4 inches of snow water equivalent on April 17<sup>th</sup>. This amount is 100% of the average seasonal maximum, which is typically reached on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

Precipitation measured at SNOTEL sites was above average during April. Basinwide totals were 122% of average and are 185% of that measured during April of 2006. For the water year, which began on October 1, 2006 basinwide precipitation is 99% of average and is 120% of last year's water year total.

Reservoir storage across the Arkansas basin continues to improve. Storage volumes in the 13 major reservoirs in the basin have improved to 94 percent of average and are 141% of last year's storage on this date. The current storage deficit amounts to about 36,000 acre-feet, but is vastly improved over the lowest volumes in storage over the past decade, when a deficit of 332,000 acre-feet was recorded in May, 2003. The current volumes are the highest in storage since October, 2001.

Runoff forecasts along the main stem of the Arkansas River remain below average and received only minor changes from those issued on April 1. The greatest improvement to runoff forecasts were seen in the Huerfano, Cucharas, and Purgatoire Rivers along the Sangre de Cristo Range. Near to above average volumes are now forecast along these tributaries. These improvements were the result of above average April precipitation in these watersheds.

## ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN

Forecast Point -----	period -----	50% (KAF)	% of avg	max (KAF)	min (KAF)	30-yr avg
Chalk Ck At Nathrop	APR-JUL	17.2	75	27.0	10.1	23.0
	MAY-JUL	16.7	76	26.0	9.6	22.0
	APR-SEP	21.0	78	32.0	12.0	27.0
	MAY-SEP	20.0	74	31.0	11.5	27.0
Arkansas River At Salida 1	APR-JUL	210	82	270	161	255
	MAY-JUL	196	82	255	146	240
	APR-SEP	260	84	335	193	310
	MAY-SEP	245	82	320	178	300
Grape Creek Near Westcliffe	APR-JUL	12.8	80	27.0	7.20	16.1
	MAY-JUL	12.4	95	24.0	4.40	13.0
	APR-SEP	18.5	94	31.0	9.2	19.6
	MAY-SEP	15.2	92	28.0	6.40	16.5
Pueblo Reservoir Inflow 1	APR-JUL	300	78	425	195	385
	MAY-JUL	270	77	395	167	350
	APR-SEP	380	78	535	250	485
	MAY-SEP	350	78	505	220	450

## ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN

Forecast Point -----	period -----	50% (KAF)	% of avg	max (KAF)	min (KAF)	30-yr avg -----
Huerfano River Near Redwing	APR-JUL	11.6	94	15.0	8.70	12.3
	MAY-JUL	10.7	96	14.1	7.80	11.2
	APR-SEP	14.8	96	19.2	11.0	15.5
	MAY-SEP	13.9	96	18.3	10.1	14.5
Cucharas River At Boyd Ranch Nr La	APR-JUL	11.7	104	16.5	7.80	11.3
	MAY-JUL	10.20	103	15.0	6.30	9.90
	APR-SEP	13.6	105	18.9	9.3	13.0
	MAY-SEP	12.1	103	17.4	7.80	11.7
Trinidad Lake Inflow	MAR-JUL	40.0	118	58.0	26.0	34.0
	MAY-JUL	27.0	95	45.0	13.6	28.5
	APR-SEP	45.0	102	70.0	26.0	44.0
	MAY-SEP	38.0	95	63.0	19.4	40.0

Max is 90 percentile and min is 10 percentile.  
Averages are for the 1971-2000 period.  
All volumes are in KAF.

## footnotes:

1) streamflow is adjusted for upstream storage