

Snowpack and Water Supply Conditions for the South Platte basin as of May 1, 2009

At 100 percent of average on May 1, up considerably from the April 1 measurement of 86 percent of average, the South Platter River Basin snowpack percentage is the highest of the major basins in the state. SNOTEL data indicates spring storms dumped the equivalent of 4.2 inches of water in the form of snow during April. That is almost four times what the basin usually picks up during the month. The peak snowpack, which was reached on April 20, was 11 percent higher than the average peak snowpack. Sub-basin snowpack conditions tend to favor the northern portion of the watershed, ranging from 83 percent of average in Upper South Platte to 114 percent of average in the Boulder Creek Watershed. After two months of below average precipitation, April came back with a vengeance producing 124 percent of average mountain precipitation during the month. This allowed the precipitation totals for the water year, which began in October, to increase to 100 percent of average. Reservoir storage is 101 percent of average and 112 percent of last year's storage at this time. The northern tributaries saw a generous increase in the forecasts this month while the southern watersheds witnessed a slight decrease. May-September forecasts call for below average to well below average runoff in the southern portion of the basin, while the northern portion can expect near average water supplies. May-September streamflows should range from 60 percent of average for the Antero Reservoir Inflow to 96 percent of average for the Cache La Poudre at the Canyon Mouth.

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN

Forecast Point	period	50% (KAF)	% of avg	max (KAF)	min (KAF)	30-yr avg
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ANTERO RESERVOIR Inflow (1)	APR-JUL	10.3	61	14.0	7.70	16.8
	APR-SEP	13.0	60	17.5	9.6	21.8
	MAY-JUL	9.5	62	13.2	6.90	15.4
	MAY-SEP	12.2	60	16.7	8.80	20.4
SPINNEY MOUNTAIN RESV Inflow (1)	APR-JUL	43.0	77	56.0	33.0	56.0
	APR-SEP	53.0	77	69.0	40.0	69.0
	MAY-JUL	40.0	78	53.0	30.0	51.0
	MAY-SEP	50.0	78	66.0	37.0	64.0
ELEVENMILE CANYON RESV Inflow (1)	APR-JUL	44.0	76	58.0	34.0	58.0
	APR-SEP	55.0	76	73.0	41.0	72.0
	MAY-JUL	41.0	77	55.0	31.0	53.0
	MAY-SEP	52.0	78	70.0	38.0	67.0
CHEESMAN LAKE Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	80	70	105	61.0	114
	APR-SEP	99	71	132	75.0	140
	MAY-JUL	72	71	97.0	53.0	101
	MAY-SEP	91	72	124	67.0	127
SOUTH PLATTE R at South Platte (1)	APR-JUL	152	74	200	116	205
	APR-SEP	191	75	250	146	255
	MAY-JUL	135	74	185	99.0	182
	MAY-SEP	174	76	235	129	230
BEAR CREEK abv Evergreen	APR-JUL	11.5	60	21.0	6.60	19.3
	APR-SEP	16.4	66	30.0	9.1	25.0
	MAY-JUL	10.2	59	19.8	5.30	17.3
	MAY-SEP	15.1	66	29.0	7.80	23.0

BEAR CREEK at Morrison	APR-JUL	13.7	55	28.0	7.30	25.0
	APR-SEP	18.8	61	39.0	9.7	31.0
	MAY-JUL	11.5	55	26.0	5.10	21.0
	MAY-SEP	16.6	62	37.0	7.50	27.0
CLEAR CREEK at Golden	APR-JUL	105	96	126	87.0	110
	APR-SEP	126	94	150	106	134
	MAY-JUL	100	95	121	82.0	105
	MAY-SEP	121	95	145	101	128
ST. VRAIN CREEK at Lyons (1)	APR-JUL	86.0	92	108	70.0	94.0
	APR-SEP	102	94	126	83.0	109
	MAY-JUL	81.0	93	103	65.0	87.0
	MAY-SEP	97	95	121	78.0	102
BOULDER CREEK nr Orodell (1)	APR-JUL	49.0	94	57.0	42.0	52.0
	APR-SEP	56.0	93	66.0	48.0	60.0
	MAY-JUL	46.0	94	54.0	39.0	49.0
	MAY-SEP	53.0	93	63.0	45.0	57.0
SOUTH BOULDER CK nr Eldorado Spgs	APR-JUL	39.0	95	49.0	31.0	41.0
	APR-SEP	43.0	94	55.0	35.0	46.0
	MAY-JUL	36.0	95	46.0	28.0	38.0
	MAY-SEP	40.0	95	52.0	32.0	42.0
BIG THOMPSON R at Canyon Mouth (1)	APR-JUL	90.0	91	113	72.0	99.0
	APR-SEP	109	92	135	88.0	119
	MAY-JUL	85.0	90	108	67.0	95.0
	MAY-SEP	104	91	130	83.0	114
CACHE LaPOUDRE at Canyon Mouth (1)	APR-JUL	230	94	280	186	245
	APR-SEP	255	93	310	205	275

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