

COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

Department of Natural Resources

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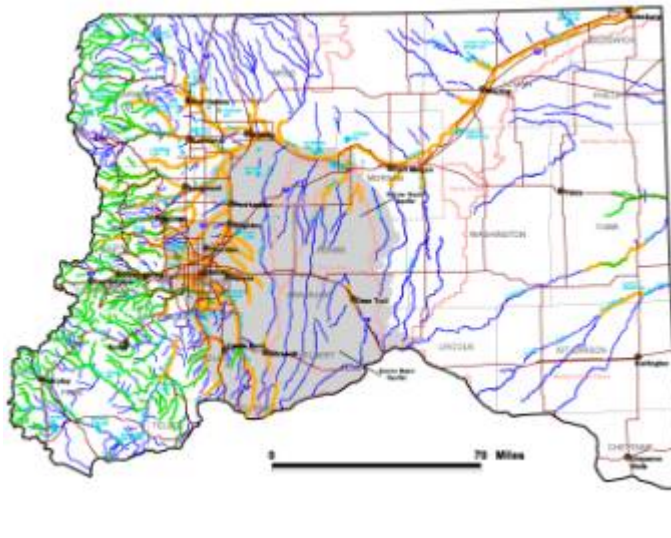
South Platte River Basin Drought Impact Fact Sheet Water Division 1

Reservoir Storage

Generally the reservoirs in the basin will not fill from surface runoff. Reservoir storage will be needed for irrigation almost immediately unless weather conditions change with significant rainfall events. Because of the early draw on irrigation reservoirs and poor potential that these reservoirs will have a chance to refill as they do most years during runoff, it is likely major irrigation reservoirs will be empty by the end of the season or even before.

Use of Storage

Municipal water suppliers have reduced the amount of their supplies they lease to farmers because of the dry conditions further reducing supplies available to farmers. Water users growing row crops that do not have senior irrigation rights or wells may not have an adequate supply. Some irrigation companies have advised their users to plant accordingly, forewarning them concerning limits in supply. The use of irrigation reservoirs may also necessitate the removal of fish from some reservoirs as has happened in the last couple of years.



Streamflow

The streamflow is about 500 cfs approximately 50% of average at the Kersey gage. The normal increase in streamflow will not occur due to poor snowpack conditions.

Water Administration

The South Platte River Basin is under an 1871 call above the confluence with the St. Vrain and 1886 water right call below and all tributaries are administered with water right calls senior to the main stem South Platte. Potential exists to administer water right calls into 1860's water rights on the South Platte and its tributaries this water year.

Small water providers in the mountains who are dependent on wells in fractured areas or have small tributaries as a source of supply may have physical supply limitations.

For more information about this or other water resource topics, please contact the CWCB at:

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