

COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

Department of Natural Resources

Bill Owens, Governor

Greg Walcher, DNR Executive Director

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White, Yampa and North Platte River Basins Drought Impact Fact Sheet Water Division 6

Reservoir Storage

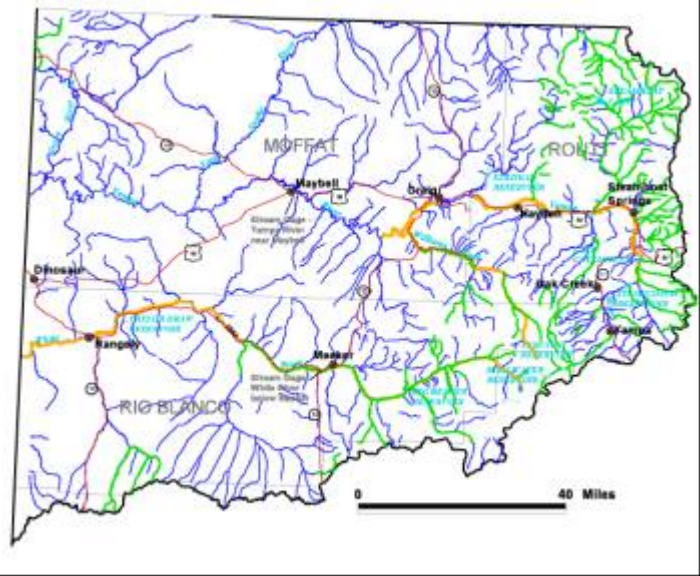
Walden Reservoir - supplemental irrigation use - will not fill this spring; will likely be drained to dead storage pool this summer.

Stillwater Reservoir - supplemental irrigation use - will not fill this spring; will likely be drained to very low level.

Yamcolo Reservoir, supplemental irrigation use; will not fill this spring, will likely be drained to very low level.

Use of Storage

It is anticipated that these reservoirs will begin releasing water earlier than normal unless significant rainfall develops in the basins. These reservoirs are anticipated to be nearly empty at the end of the summer, except for minimum fishery pools and/or dead storage pools.



Streamflow

Current stream flow conditions as of April 19 for selected gaging stations:

North Platte near Northgate, 115 cfs, average for this date is 607 cfs; Yampa River near Maybell, 1830 cfs, average for this date is 2630 cfs; Little Snake near Slater CO, 197 cfs, average for this date is 244 cfs; White River above Coal Creek near Meeker, 547 cfs, average for this date is 491 cfs.

Water Administration

Only one call in on the Division. Walden Reservoir, on the Illinois River, is calling for their storage right. Irrigation will be starting next week on the Illinois and Michigan Rivers and a call for direct flow rights is anticipated as soon as that happens. In the other areas in the Division that historically see administration, calls are expected to occur earlier than normal. Compared to average runoff conditions, calls will occur earlier and will probably extend for most, if not all, of the irrigation season.

Comparison to Prior Years

The last time conditions were this bad appears to be 1977. While the snowpack in the Division is still running ahead of that for 1977, conditions are shaping up to make this possibly one of the worst years in history. Water supplies are adequate for most of the larger cities and towns in the Division. Some smaller communities that have minimal storage available may see some shortages. Most irrigation water users in the Division have little or no access to storage water to supplement their direct flow rights.

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

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