

STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board Department of Natural Resources

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TO: CWCB Board Members

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

FROM: Veva Deheza, Section Chief
Office of Water Conservation and Drought Planning
Tom Browning, Section Chief
Watershed & Flood Protection Section

Mike King
DNR Executive Director

Jennifer L. Gimbel
CWCB Director

DATE: March 2, 2011

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item #9, March 15-16, 2011 Board Meeting**
Watershed & Flood Protection/Water Conservation and Drought Planning
Section - Spring Drought and Flood Outlook

Staff Recommendation: *This is an informational item only. No Board action is required.*

Background:

The 2011 Water Year began October 2010 and runs through September 2011. So far it has brought mixed conditions to the State. The eastern plains have received well below normal precipitation and the region is currently designated in drought conditions ranging from D0 (abnormally dry) to D2 (drought- severe). However, much of the State's west slope has received average or above average precipitation in the form of snow, especially in the northern mountains.

Staff will present the latest information on both drought and flood conditions and outlooks for the coming weeks and months. Information on snowpack, reservoir levels, stream flows, potential response actions and related topics will be presented. Klaus Wolter of the University of Colorado will present his long-term forecast for the region and discuss possible impacts from the current La Nina event impacting Colorado's weather patterns.

A joint meeting of the Water Availability Task Force and the Flood Task Force will be held on March 17, 2011. For the latest monthly Drought Update, with detailed drought information, please see the March Directors Report. Also, daily flood threat bulletins will be available on the CWCB website during the Colorado flood season.

AGENDA

JOINT MEETING OF THE WATER AVAILABILITY & FLOOD TASK FORCES

Thursday, March 17, 2011, 9:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

Division of Wildlife Headquarters
6060 Broadway, Denver, CO
Bighorn Room

PURPOSE: To review precipitation outlooks, streamflow, reservoir conditions, & potential water supply impacts from any emerging drought and flood conditions.

- 9:30 Welcome, Introductions, Announcements
- 9:40 Report from the State Climatologist
- 10:00 Report from Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- 10:20 Long Term Weather Outlook
 - NOAA Climate Prediction Center Operational Climate Forecast
 - NOAA Climate Diagnostics Center – Experimental Seasonal Forecast
- 10:45 Report from Division of Water Resources (DWR)
 - Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI Report)
- 10:55 Wildfire Update (Colorado State Forest Service)
- 11:10 Reports from WATF Impact Task Forces, Water Providers & Flood Roundtable
- 11:40 Wrap Up, Announce Future Meeting Schedules & Adjourn
 - April 14, 9:30-11:30a, CO Division of Wildlife

* **Directions to the Colorado Division of Wildlife:** Exit I-25 at E. 58th Ave and go west on E. 58th Ave. Turn right (North) on Broadway. Proceed north and cross over railroad tracks (approx. 1/4 mile). The Division of Wildlife will be on your right. The **Big Horn Room is in the main DOW building.**