## U.S. Department of Commerce National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Weather Service, Arkansas Red River Forecast Center 10159 East 11th Street, Suite 300 Tulsa, Oklahoma 74128-3050

Water Supply Outlook

June 5, 2025

ABRFC uses the 1991-2020 AVERAGE runoff volume as our Normal at each point.

Precipitation across the Arkansas River Basin in Colorado was near normal overall during May. The highest elevations saw below normal precipitation, while the plains east of the mountains had above normal. At the end of May, what's left of the snowpack was near normal in the far upper reaches of the Arkansas River. The snowpack is essentially gone in Southern Colorado.

Seasonal runoff (April-September) is forecast to be 79 percent-of-average for the Arkansas River at Salida and 68 percent-of-average below Pueblo Reservoir. Runoff from Grape Creek, the Cucharas River and the Huerfano River is forecast to be 47, 61, and 61 percent-of-average, respectively. Chalk Creek is forecast to provide 74 percent-of-average runoff. Runoff from the Purgatoire River is forecast to be 57 percent-of-average.

Water-year-to-date precipitation (October-May) in the mountain headwaters of Colorado is below median, overall. Reports range from 71 percent-of-median at South Colony to 121 percent-of-median at Glen Cove. Snowpack above Salida, as measured by (NRCS) SNOTEL sites, is near normal at 97 percent-of-median. The snowpack was only measured at one station above Salida. Snowpack in the Cucharas and Huerfano basins is mostly gone. In the Purgatoire River basin, the snowpack is mostly gone, as well.

Reservoir storage in the Arkansas River system is 108 percent-of-median above Pueblo Reservoir and 88 percent-of-median below the reservoir. The upper reservoirs are at 106 percent of last year's total. The lower reservoirs are at 127 percent of last year's total.

The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) issues three-month temperature and precipitation outlooks for the nation. The outlook for June through August calls for increased chances of above normal temperatures in Colorado. The CPC outlook also calls for increased chances for below normal precipitation across much of Colorado.