

MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS

REPORT FOR:

MONTH

May

YEAR

1992

SIGNATURE

John W. Lipe

In Charge of River District

DATE

June 15, 1992

TO: Hydrologic Services Division, W22
National Weather Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts, and hydrologic products issued (NWS Instruction 10-924)

X No flood stages were reached in this river district for the month indicated above.

Although no flooding occurred over the West Texas HSA during May, very significant rainfall did occur during the last 10 days of the month. Most of the resulting flooding was either flash flooding or ponding of water in flat areas that are slow to drain. The heaviest rainfall area was from near Lubbock southwest to the Midland and Hobbs areas. The city of Hobbs received 6 to 8 inches of rain in a 2 hour period May 22nd which caused extensive flooding within of homes and businesses within the city. The city of Lubbock was also hit hard by the rains during the last 10 days of the month. Playa lakes within the city overflowed into streets and some homes. Additional rains through the first part of June have kept these lakes completely full and water remained in some streets through the first part of June.

Along with the heavy rain over the upper Colorado watershed near Snyder, the Colorado River at Colorado City rose to 15.15 feet (2425 cfs) on May 28th which was above the specified caution stage. No warnings were issued, however in meeting with the mayor of Colorado City, Jim Baum, and other city officials, it was noted that the caution stage should probably be reset to around 20 feet. Work is being done to reestablish this mark.

The flood threat from the Rio Grande in the Presidio diminished significantly during May as the long awaited water releases from Luis Leon reservoir on the Rio Conchos finally began. On May 11th, water releases were stepped to 3,500 cfs. On the 29th, releases were raised to about 5000 cfs. During the month, the stage at Luis Leon fell from 3440.09 feet on the 1st to 3433.2 feet on the 29th. By the 15th of June, the stage was down to 3419 feet. However, this is still 24 feet above normal. At 3419 feet the lake had 449,328 acre feet of water. Flood storage had increased to 239,700 acre feet.

Rainfall for May at NWS offices:

City	May 1992	Departure From Normal
Lubbock*	5.26	+2.66
Amarillo	3.10	+0.31
Midland	7.63	+5.58
San Angelo	1.49	-1.03
El Paso	4.22	+3.98

*South parts of Lubbock received 10 to 12 inches during the month.