

Winter Water Storage Program Synopsis

The Winter Water Storage Program became a reality as a result of the building of Pueblo Reservoir in 1975. The program had been in the conceptual stage since the 1930's when the Fryingpan – Arkansas Project was envisioned.

The agricultural users have some of the most senior rights on the river. In the wintertime, they were able to continue diverting water to their fields as long as there was water in the river available to their water rights in priority. The concept was that although crops needed little or no irrigation during winter months water could be stored in the soil underlying fields. This soil moisture content was important for spring planting and winter wheat. This concept was in place from the 1880's to 1976 when Pueblo Reservoir became available for storing Winter Water.

The concept of Winter Water is that there now is a vessel to store water to be released later, allowing for better water usage by the farming and ranching communities in the Lower Arkansas Valley. The need for a process of fairly diverting and dividing the amount of Winter Water resulted in the 1987 Decree (84CW179) officially recognizing the Winter Water Storage Program. The Winter Water Storage Program is administered by the Division 2 office of the Division of Water Resources.

The Winter Water Storage Program operates from 00 00:00 hours on November 15 of each year to 24:00 hours on March 14 the following spring. Currently, the Division Engineer runs 100 cubic feet per second down the river above the City of Pueblo when possible. Pursuant to the decree, the River Call is artificially set at March 1, 1910 during the Winter Water Storage Program allowing non-participants to divert water during the program period, provided they hold water rights senior to that date and they will not injure any other water users having senior priorities. There are also some further constraints and modifications in additional agreements and stipulations.

Storage is maintained at Pueblo Reservoir via an agreement with the United States Bureau of Reclamation. Additional, off-channel storage is allowed in storage vessels as agreed upon including water users above Pueblo Reservoir. This is also identified in the accounting in the section below. Overall, water is stored and released as prescribed by the decree entered in 84CW179.

The flow of the Arkansas River, including the Winter Water Storage Program, is subject to the Kansas-Colorado compact of 1948. The Army Corp of Engineers built John Martin Reservoir on the Arkansas River beginning in 1943 with completion in October 1948 for conservation and flood control purposes. The States of Colorado and Kansas agreed to a federally authorized compact regarding flows on the Arkansas River in 1948. The Winter Water Storage Program allows storage of some water in John Martin Reservoir and the Compact Administration has approved resolutions permitting use of John

Martin for this purpose. The Winter Water Storage Program is operated in compliance with these resolutions and the compact. The winter water allocation for the Winter Water Storage Program is shown below.

Winter Water

from 0:00 hours on Nov 15 to 24:00 hours on March 14.

First 100,000 af of Storage		
Direct Flow Participants		
Receive 28.8 % of the First 100,000 af stored		
	Percent of First 28.8 % Stored	Percent of Overall First 100,000 af
Bessemer	21.50%	6.19%
Highline	28.87%	8.31%
Oxford	6.96%	2.00%
Catlin	31.72%	9.14%
LA Consolidated	9.57%	2.76%
Riverside	0.46%	0.13%
West Pueblo	<u>0.92%</u>	<u>0.26%</u>
Total	100.00%	28.80%
Off Channel Storage Participants		
Receive 71.2% of the First 100,000 af stored		
	Percent of First 71.2 % Stored	Percent of Overall First 100,000 af
Colorado Canal System	15.01%	10.69%
Holbrook	11.97%	8.52%
Fort Lyon	53.60%	38.16%
Amity	<u>19.42%</u>	<u>13.83%</u>
Total	100.00%	71.20%

Next 3,106 af Stored		
Amity	2,750.00	af
Holbrook	356.00	af

Any Storage Over 103,106 af

Direct Flow Participants

Receive 25.0 % of any water over 103,106 af

	Percent of 25.0 % over 103,106 af	Percent of Overall Water Over 103,106 af
Bessemer	21.50%	5.38%
Highline	28.87%	7.22%
Oxford	6.96%	1.74%
Catlin	31.72%	7.93%
LA Consolidated	9.57%	2.39%
Riverside	0.46%	0.12%
West Pueblo	<u>0.92%</u>	<u>0.23%</u>
Total	100.00%	25.00%

Off Channel Storage Participants

Receive 75.0 % of any water over 103,106 af

	Percent of 75.0 % Over 103,106 af	Percent of Overall Water Over 103,106 af
Colorado Canal System	17.07%	12.80%
Holbrook	14.05%	10.54%
Fort Lyon	50.88%	38.16%
Amity	<u>18.00%</u>	<u>13.50%</u>
Total	100.00%	75.00%

