



WATERNEWS

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District Board declares 70 percent C-BT quota

BERTHOUD – After discussion and public input, the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District Board of Directors declared a 70 percent Colorado-Big Thompson Project quota Friday morning.

C-BT Project inflows are expected to again be below normal this spring. On the Upper Colorado River, inflows are anticipated to be 15 percent below normal. Supplies within the District boundaries, including South Platte River tributaries, may only produce 87 percent of their average.

The hope is that the quota will allow more water to remain in local reservoirs and help farmers and municipal suppliers facing a sixth year of drought.

Forecasts for the region's streamflow runoff are below average. C-BT Project storage is currently 90,000 acre feet below normal. Lake Granby, the system's largest collection reservoir, is at 24 percent of capacity, or 40 percent below normal.

NCWCD operates and maintains the C-BT, a transmountain diversion project, which provides supplemental water to eight northeastern Colorado counties. The 70 percent quota will provide 217,000 acre feet of Colorado River water for agricultural, municipal and industrial users in the District. One acre foot is nearly 326,000 gallons of water, or roughly the amount used by two urban families in a year.

The C-BT quota is set to help municipal and rural domestic water providers; ditch and irrigation companies; and farmers plan and meet their water supply needs. The Board considers snowpack, runoff and estimated direct diversions, then works to balance the region's needs with available C-BT Project and local storage reserves.
