



Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District
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WATERNEWS

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BERTHOUD – Citing a desire to ensure adequate regional water supplies through this summer and fall while allowing the Colorado-Big Thompson Project storage reserves to continue recovering, the Board of Directors of the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District declared at its meeting Friday a 70-percent quota for Colorado-Big Thompson Project water. This is an increase of 10 percent from the initial quota set in November 2007.

The Northern Water Board declares an initial quota each November and reassesses the water supply situation the following April. The quota indicates what percentage of an acre-foot a C-BT allottee will receive during the current water year for every unit of C-BT water the allottee owns. The 70-percent quota means each C-BT unit will yield seven-tenths of an acre-foot. The 70-percent quota will make available 217,000 acre-feet of C-BT water through this water year for agricultural, municipal and industrial users in the Northern Water boundaries. The water year ends October 31.

On Friday, the Northern Water Directors discussed increasing the quota to 70 percent to provide adequate supplies for water users within Northern Water boundaries, including municipalities, domestic water districts, industry and agriculture. The Board encouraged entities that may have more water than they need because of the 10-percent quota increase to make the extra water available through the rental market to those who need it.

“The 70-percent quota gives us the opportunity to continue building our reserves,” said Director Jerry Winters of Weld County. The C-BT Project is recovering from the recent drought. C-BT active storage is still below normal at 84 percent of average.

As of April 1, snowpack in the Upper Colorado River Basin was 105 percent of average. Overall inflows to the C-BT’s West Slope Collection System are projected to be 105 percent of average.

Lake Granby, the system’s largest collection reservoir, is currently at 43 percent of active capacity, which is down slightly from 46 percent at the same time last year.

When setting quota each year, the Board considers snowpack, runoff, and estimated diversions while striving to balance the region’s water needs with the amount available in the C-BT Project and local storage reserves.

Northern Water is a public agency created in 1937 to contract with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to build the Colorado-Big Thompson Project, which collects water on the West Slope and delivers it to the East Slope through a tunnel that runs underneath Rocky Mountain National Park. The Northern Water boundaries encompass portions of eight counties and a population of approximately 770,000 people.

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