



WATERNEWS

Brian Werner, Public Information Officer • direct 970-622-2229 • e-mail bwerner@ncwcd.org

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District Board declares 60 percent C-BT quota

BERTHOUD – In an effort to “give ag the best chance” the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District Board of Directors declared a 60 percent Colorado-Big Thompson Project quota Friday morning. For the second consecutive year the Board based its decision on water availability instead of need.

The region, in its fifth year of a drought, is faced with below normal storage in its reservoirs and forecasts for a dismal spring runoff.

Compared to 2002, current snowpack conditions are similar and predicted streamflow yields are lower. C-BT Project storage is currently 50,000 acre feet below normal. Lake Granby, the system’s largest collection reservoir, is at 37 percent of capacity or 20 percent below normal.

NCWCD operates and maintains the C-BT, a transmountain diversion project which provides supplemental water to eight northeastern Colorado counties. The 60 percent quota will provide 186,000 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 farmers; ditch and irrigation companies; municipal water providers, and rural domestic suppliers plan and meet their water supply needs. The Board considers snowpack, runoff and estimated direct diversions, then works to balance region’s needs with available C-BT Project reserves.
