

For Immediate Release: August 10, 2006

Mountains and foothills receive little rain since mid-June

From mid-June through July, precipitation in most mountain and foothill areas of Alberta has ranged from 20 to 60% of normal. As a result, natural runoff volumes measured in July were generally below to much below average, ranking among the second to 25th lowest in 91 years of record. Inflows to the Bighorn Reservoir were average.

Total natural runoff volumes so far this year (March through July 2006) have also been much below average at Banff, Edmonton, and the Brazeau Reservoir, and below to much below average in the Red Deer River basin and at the Cascade Reservoir. Volumes are below average in the Milk River basin and most of the rest of the Bow River basin (average to above average at the Spray Reservoir), average in most of the Oldman River basin, and above average at the Bighorn Reservoir.

For August through September 2006, natural runoff volumes are forecast to be below average to average in the Oldman River basin, below average in the Bow and Milk River basins, and below to much below average in the Red Deer and North Saskatchewan River basins.

Total natural runoff volumes for the water year (March to September 2006) are expected to be below average to average in the Oldman River basin, below average in the Bow and Milk River basins, below to much below average in the Red Deer River basin, and much below average in the North Saskatchewan River basin.

Other Highlights (As of August 1):

- Precipitation during July was generally much below normal in the southern plains of Alberta, below normal in central and north-central areas and in the northeast corner of the province, and much above normal in the rest of northern Alberta.
- Precipitation in plains areas so far this summer (May through July) has been below normal to normal, except in most of the northern third of the province and a narrow swath between Calgary and Medicine Hat where it has been above to much above normal.
- Water storage in major irrigation reservoirs in the Oldman River basin is average, except for the Oldman Reservoir, where it is above average.
- Water storage varies widely from below average to above average in the major hydroelectric and irrigation reservoirs of the Bow River basin, but is similar to last year at this time in most cases.
- Water storage levels in the North Saskatchewan and Red Deer River basins are currently below average at the Brazeau Reservoir and above average at the Bighorn Reservoir and Glennifer Lake.