

For Immediate Release: February 12, 2007

## **Mountain snowpack above to much above average in most areas north of Kananaskis**

As of February 1, 2007, snow accumulations in the mountains are above to much above average for this time of year in the Kananaskis, Red Deer and North Saskatchewan River basins, and much above average in the upper Bow, Athabasca and upper Peace (British Columbia) River basins. Mountain snowpack is average to above average in the Highwood River basin, average in the upper Oldman and Elbow River basins, and below average to average in the Waterton, Belly and St. Mary River basins.

Mountain snowpack is an important source of water supply to reservoirs in the spring. Accumulations at this time of year typically account for almost two-thirds of the season's total.

Satellite estimation of plains snowpack as of February 1, 2007 shows the snowpack in southern Alberta is generally below to much below normal, while the central and northern plains are much above normal and normal to above normal, respectively. Snow course measurements in the Cypress Hills show average snowpack.

As of February 1, preliminary natural runoff volume forecasts for the March to September period for basins in the mountains indicate average to above average runoff in the Kananaskis, upper Bow, Red Deer and North Saskatchewan River basins, average runoff in the Highwood and Elbow River basins, below average to average runoff in the Oldman River basin, and below average runoff in the Milk River basin. As it is still early in the year, precipitation over the next several months could affect these forecasts significantly.

### ***Other Highlights (as of February 1, 2007):***

- Precipitation during January was below normal to normal in mountain regions and much below normal in most plains areas.
- Winter precipitation totals to date (November 1, 2006 to February 1, 2007) have been above to much above normal in Whitecourt, the Cypress Hills, and the Cold Lake – Lloydminster area, and normal to above normal precipitation was recorded in the Edmonton – Drayton Valley and Jasper – Edson – Peace River areas. Elsewhere in the plains, precipitation has been below to much below normal.
- As of February 1, water storage in the major irrigation and hydroelectric reservoirs of southern and central Alberta is normal to above normal, except below normal in the Barrier, Spray, and Cascade Reservoirs in the Bow River basin, and in the Travers, Brazeau and Paddle River reservoirs.