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## **2008 runoff above to much above average in most mountain and foothill areas in Alberta**

Above to much above average natural runoff volumes were recorded between March and September 2008, generally ranking between the 11th and 40th highest volumes in up to 91 years historically for the same period. The high volumes are mainly due to major storms that occurred in both May and June. However, volumes were much below average in the Bow River at Banff (13th lowest), below average in the Milk River at Milk River (33rd lowest) and Eastern Crossing (30th lowest), and average in the Milk River at Western Crossing, Belly River, Oldman River near Brocket and at the Bighorn Reservoir.

Natural runoff volumes measured during September 2008 were generally below average in the Milk and North Saskatchewan River basins, and ninth lowest in 85 years of record at Edmonton. In the Oldman River basin, volumes were average, but below average in the Oldman River at Brocket. Volumes were average to above average in the Bow River basin, except much above average at the Cascade Reservoir and below average at Banff. In the Red Deer River basin, measured natural runoff volumes were above average.

This month's Water Supply Outlook also provides a review of recorded and forecasted water supplies in Alberta during the last year.

### ***Other Highlights (as of October 1, 2008):***

- Precipitation totals in the mountains and foothills for the water year (November 2007 through September 2008) were generally normal in the province south of Banff, below normal to normal between Banff and Jasper, and below normal in the Jasper-Grande Cache area. Most plains areas of the province recorded below normal to normal precipitation.
- Precipitation for September was above to much above normal in the High Level-Peace River-Slave Lake area, and in the Jasper- Grande Cache area. Most of the remainder of northwestern Alberta recorded below normal to normal precipitation. Precipitation ranging from normal to much above normal was recorded along most mountain and foothill areas and into southernmost plains areas. The remainder of the province recorded below to much below normal precipitation, including central mountains and foothills and portions of the highest reaches of southern mountainous areas.
- Water storage in the major irrigation and hydroelectric reservoirs of southern and central Alberta generally varies from normal to above normal, except below normal in the Paddle, Brazeau and Waterton Reservoirs.

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