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Yakima Basin Water Supply - May Forecast

YAKIMA, Wash. – The Bureau of Reclamation’s May 2018 Total Water Supply Available (TWSA) forecast for the Yakima Basin indicates that the water supply will fully satisfy senior and junior water rights this irrigation season.

“April water supply indicators, precipitation (193% of average), snowpack (near average), and reservoir storage (117% of average) are each very healthy right now. The Yakima Basin water supply for the 2018 season will be ample to meet demands this spring and summer,” said Chuck Garner, Yakima Project River Operations supervisor.

Reclamation will provide water supply forecasts monthly through July. Specific water delivery levels will not be determined until later in the year after reservoir storage begins to decline.

This forecast is based on flows, precipitation, snowpack, and reservoir storage as of May 1, along with estimates of future precipitation and river flows. Other future weather conditions that determine the timing of the runoff and the demand for water also are critical in determining streamflows, prorrations, and the extent to which the reservoirs fill.

“The recent warm weather has brought on some early snow melt and increased natural flows, both very normal for this time of year,” said Garner.

If that spring precipitation and runoff are unfavorable, Reclamation still expects an adequate supply. Because longer term weather conditions can be unpredictable, Garner recommends water conservation always be considered by users in the Yakima Basin.

For more information, visit Reclamation’s website at <http://www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/yakima>.

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