

Summer 2007



Arkansas River Flow 2007

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The Arkansas River ran very high and fast through much of the spring and early summer. It may seem to Arkansans that there has not been enough rain to keep the river high for so long. However, the answer lies upstream. Days and days of torrential rains across southeast Kansas, southwest Missouri, and northeast Oklahoma led to record flooding on both the Verdigris and Neosho Rivers in southeast Kansas. These rivers just happen to flow into the Arkansas River. Rainfall in May and June this year was above normal in many locations of the Arkansas River watershed. Rainfall amounts in the area were as follows:

<u>Tulsa, OK</u>		<u>Normal</u>
June	9.17 inches	4.72 inches
May	10.03 inches	6.11 inches

<u>Joplin, MO</u>		<u>Normal</u>
June	17.12 inches	6.42 inches
May	5.10 inches	5.07 inches

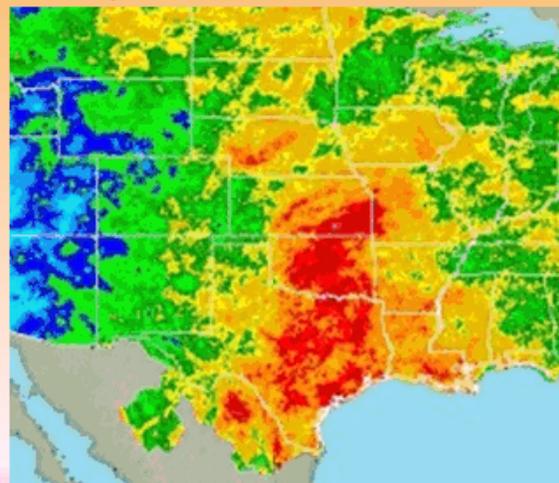
<u>Springfield, MO</u>		<u>Normal</u>
June	8.11 inches	5.02 inches
May	4.07 inches	4.57 inches

<u>Wichita, KS</u>		<u>Normal</u>
June	8.53 inches	4.25 inches
May	4.11 inches	4.16 inches

Below is a map of the precipitation over the last 90 days as of July 24, 2007. The heavy precipitation amounts can easily be noted across Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas.



As a matter of fact, 35 to 40 inches have fallen in parts of southeast Kansas.



Rain fell in this area due to high pressure anchored over the southeast United States and an area of low pressure that was stuck over Oklahoma and Texas. The low was unable to move due to the high pressure over the southeast. The upper level flow was well north of Oklahoma and unable to move the low center east. Therefore, the low continued to spin over Oklahoma and Texas and the counterclockwise rotation brought moisture continuously out of the Gulf of Mexico.