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Releases Into Missouri River to Remain Low

(KLZA) The amount of water flowing into the Missouri River is expected to remain lower than usual, so officials are conserving water in the river's reservoirs.

Officials said Tuesday the drought continues to affect the river because much of the snowmelt and rainfall in the seven-state region is being absorbed into the soil.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers predicts the amount of runoff flowing into the river this year will be about 79 percent of normal.

So the corps has been releasing only enough water for a minimal navigation channel on the river. The navigation season could be shortened by as much as 15 days if the summer is dry.

But officials warn the risk of flooding is roughly normal along the river, so flood-prone locations could still have problems.

Associated Press