

May 7, 1969

South Boulder Creek Introduction - Flooding History

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Flooding History

Previous flooding along South Boulder Creek occurred in 1894, 1938 and 1969.

During the flood of May 29-June 2, 1894, the South Boulder Creek basin received up to 6 inches of precipitation, washing out bridges, buildings, roads and railroads. This event occurred at the same time as the largest recorded flood on nearby Boulder Creek.

From Aug. 31 - Sep. 4, 1938, more than 6 inches of rainfall was recorded west of Eldorado Springs causing the largest recorded South Boulder Creek flood. Floodwaters of 7,390 cubic feet per second passed through Eldorado Springs causing heavy damage and destroying numerous buildings including the Eldorado Springs Resort and leaving a path of destruction in the valley downstream.

Flooding from May 4-8, 1969 was caused by a combination of rainfall and snowmelt. Precipitation of 8.11 inches at Eldorado Springs and 10.05 inches at Gross Reservoir caused a peak discharge of 1690 cubic feet per second at Eldorado Springs and inundated many areas downstream including US 36 at South Boulder Road. Of note during this event was the fact that Gross Reservoir captured the entire runoff generated above the dam, averting what might have been a much greater flood in the South Boulder Creek valley.

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