Appendix 1-A. Spanish Fork River Historic River Data Technical Report

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Spanish Fork River Historic Data

Nebo Regional Water Project EA

April 2026

U.S. Department of the Interior – CUPCA Office
Bureau of Reclamation
Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission
Central Utah Water Conservancy District

Mission Statements

The U.S. Department of the Interior protects and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; and honors its trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and affiliated island communities.

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

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Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
AF	acre-feet
cfs	cubic feet per second
CUP	Central Utah Project
SHLCC	Strawberry High Line Canal Company
SVP	Strawberry Valley Project
ULS	Utah Lake Drainage Basin Water Delivery System
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
WY	water year

1.0 Introduction

This report documents the existing operating conditions of the Spanish Fork River and surface water flows for water years 2017 to 2024.

2.0 Spanish Fork River

The Spanish Fork River is about 22½ miles long and begins at the confluence of Soldier Creek and Thistle Creek. The river flows to the northwest in Spanish Fork Canyon and through the southern area of Utah County before discharging into Utah Lake. The largest creek that enters the Spanish Fork River is Diamond Fork Creek. Its confluence is located about 2¼ miles northwest of the location where the river begins (Figure 4-1). The natural streamflow of the Spanish Fork River consists primarily of tributary inflow from Diamond Fork, Soldier, and Thistle Creeks, which discharge spring runoff from snowmelt and from seasonal precipitation (CUWCD 1988, Volume 4, Chapter 3, page 3-1). In addition, Congress mandated instream flows in Sixth Water and Diamond Fork Creeks. These creeks drain into the Spanish Fork River and contribute to the flows in the river.

3.0 Instream Flows

Sixth Water and Diamond Fork Creeks have instream flows mandated in 1992 by Public Law 102-575 (known as the Central Utah Project Completion Act), Title III, Section 303(c). These mandated instream flows were modified as part of the Diamond Fork System Environmental Update Project Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact in 2022. The updated and approved minimum instream flow for Sixth Water Creek is 22 cubic feet per second (cfs) as measured at the Sixth Water U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) stream gage (Figure 4-1). Minimum flow in Sixth Water Creek is achieved through natural stream flows in the creek and discharged import water delivered from Strawberry Reservoir through the Strawberry Tunnel. A minimum of 20 cfs is discharged into Strawberry Tunnel from Strawberry Reservoir.

The minimum instream flow in Diamond Fork Creek is 40 cfs measured at the Red Hollow near Thistle, UT USGS stream gage 10149400 (Figure 4-1). The minimum instream flow in Diamond Fork Creek is achieved through natural stream flows and delivered import water from Strawberry Reservoir through the Strawberry Tunnel (used to achieve minimum instream flows in Sixth Water), Sixth Water Flow Control Structure, and Monks Hollow Overflow Structure, which are part of the Central Utah Project (CUP) Bonneville Unit Diamond Fork System operated and maintained by the Central Utah Water Conservancy District (District). When Strawberry Valley Project (SVP) contract holders begin calling for their water allotment out of Strawberry

Reservoir, the volume of water imported to maintain minimum Sixth Water and Diamond Fork Creeks becomes part of their irrigation supply.

During the non-irrigation season and when SVP isn't calling for their Strawberry Reservoir water supply, CUP import water (defined as water delivered from Strawberry Reservoir) is used to meet the minimum Sixth Water and Diamond Fork Creeks instream flows that discharge into Spanish Fork River and eventually to Utah Lake. Once this water reaches Utah Lake, it becomes available to use as part of the Strawberry–Utah Lake–Jordanelle exchange.

4.0 Strawberry Valley Project Deliveries

Historically, SVP contract water was delivered from Strawberry Reservoir through the Strawberry Tunnel into Sixth Water and Diamond Fork Creeks and into the Spanish Fork River. Once in the Spanish Fork River, the SVP contract water was diverted at the Spanish Fork River Diversion into the Power Canal, which connects to the Strawberry High Line Canal. This continued until the completion of the Diamond Fork System in 2004, when most irrigation flows were shifted out of Sixth Water and Diamond Fork Creeks and into the constructed pipelines and tunnels. Currently, most of the SVP contract water is conveyed in the Diamond Fork System and discharged into Diamond Fork Creek at the Spanish Fork Flow Control Structure before flowing into the Spanish Fork River. However, up to 10,200 acre-feet (AF) of SVP contract water can be conveyed in the Diamond Fork System and the Spanish Fork Canyon Pipeline/Spanish Fork Santaquin Pipeline, part of the Utah Lake Drainage Basin Water Delivery System (ULS), for delivery to SVP contract holders in southern Utah County.

The flows in the section of the Spanish Fork River between the Diamond Fork Creek confluence and the Spanish Fork River Diversion are augmented by SVP water deliveries during the irrigation season and from Diamond Fork and Sixth Water Creek instream flows during the non-irrigation season. This section of the Spanish Fork River is about 4½ miles long.

The SVP contract water volume stored in Strawberry Reservoir is 61,000 AF annually. As shown in Figure 4-2, the Mapleton-Springville Irrigation District has 1/7th of the SVP contract water allocation, totaling about 8,700 AF; the River Companies (for example, South Fields and East Bench) have 2/7th, totaling 17,400 AF; and the Strawberry High Line Canal Company has 4/7th, totaling 34,900 AF. The Mapleton-Springville Irrigation District's SVP allocated water is delivered through the Diamond Fork System to the ULS pipelines for use in Mapleton and Springville. This water is not delivered into the Spanish Fork River. Most of the Strawberry High Line Canal Company and the River Company's SVP contract water allocation from Strawberry Reservoir is discharged from Diamond Fork System facilities into the Spanish Fork River and diverted at the Spanish Fork River Diversion.

Figure 4-1
Spanish Fork River, Instream Flow and SVP Delivery Locations, Diamond Fork System and ULS, and USGS Gaging Stations

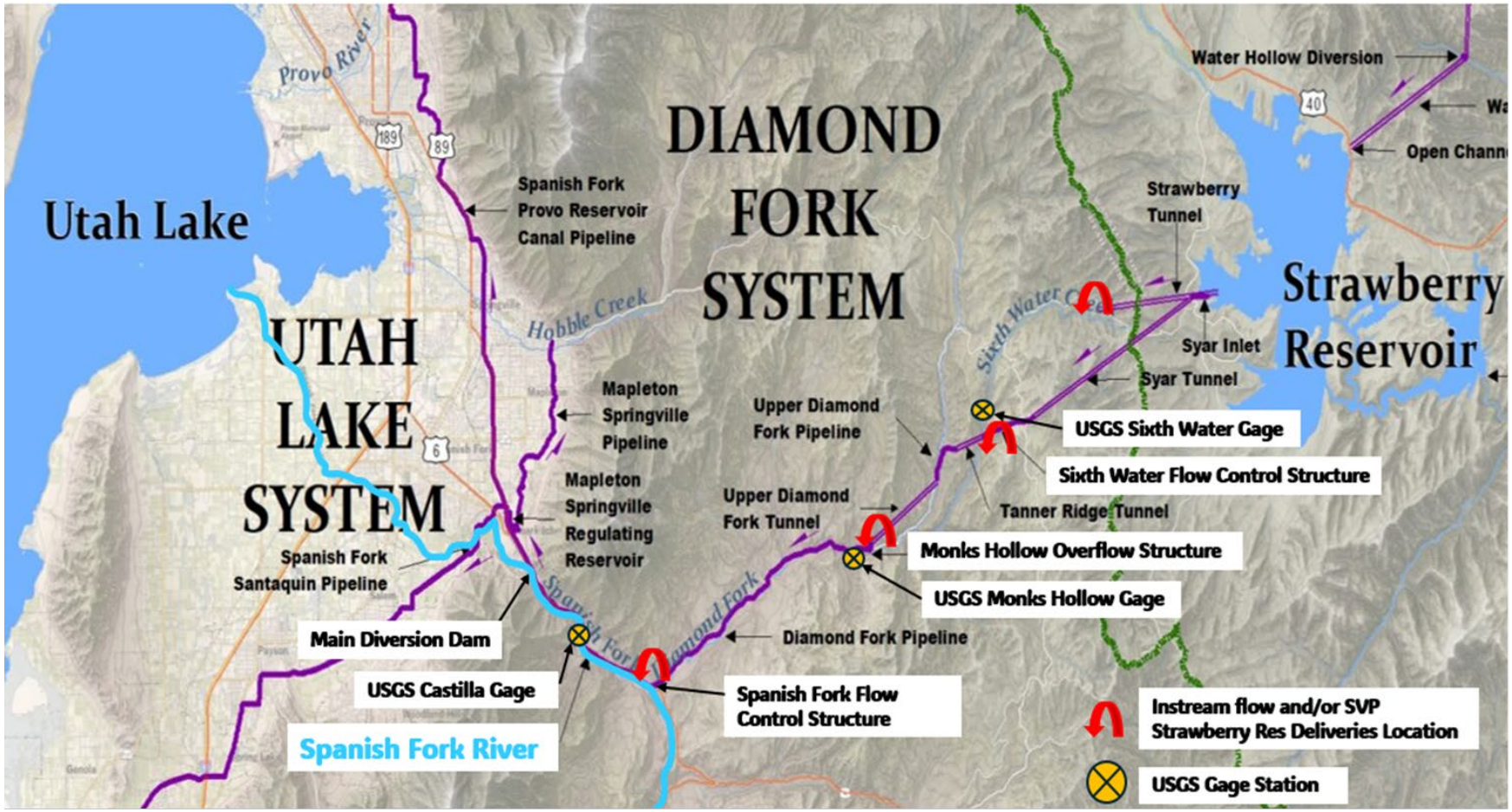
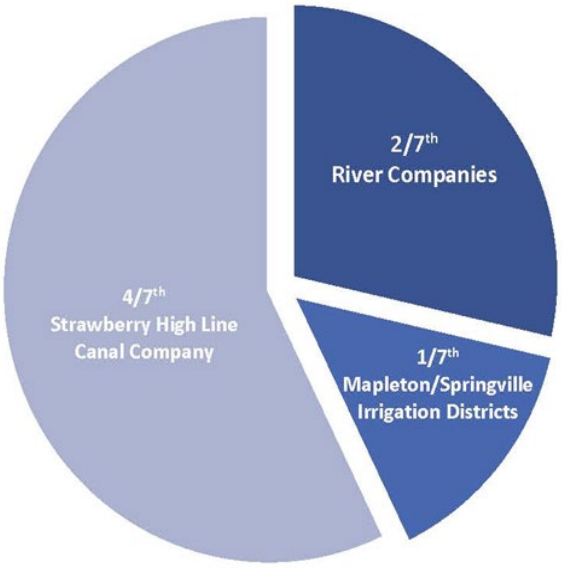


Figure 4-2
Current SVP Water Allocation



5.0 Spanish Fork River Natural Flows

To determine the Spanish Fork River's natural flows, eight water years between 2017 and 2024 were evaluated. The water year (WY) extends from November 1 to October 31 (for example, WY 2017 runs from November 1, 2016, through October 31, 2017). To determine the natural flows in the Spanish Fork River, the instream flows that are released to meet minimum flow requirements in Diamond Fork and Sixth Water Creeks and the SVP water delivered from Strawberry Reservoir were calculated and subtracted from the flows measured at the USGS Castilla Gage.

Water used to meet instream flows and the SVP contract water are considered import water because they are delivered from Strawberry Reservoir (located in the Colorado River Basin) and are not natural to the Spanish Fork River or the Utah Lake Drainage Basin. The *Annual Distribution Report of the Spanish Fork River Distribution System* for each water year that was evaluated (Utah Division of Water Rights 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024) and District Diamond Fork System and ULS distribution delivery data were used in compiling import water. The Spanish Fork River Commissioner's annual reports list a start date for SVP deliveries from Strawberry Reservoir; these dates are shown in Table 5-1.

The monthly average natural flow in the Spanish Fork River was calculated for water years 2017 through 2024. To calculate the natural river flow, the average monthly flow as recorded at the

USGS Castilla gage was used, then all import water delivered from Strawberry Reservoir was deducted. Table 5-2 shows the monthly average of the Spanish Fork River flows.

Table 5-1
SVP Contract Water Delivery Dates

Water Year	SVP Deliveries from Strawberry Reservoir		Snowpack
	Begin Date	End Date	
2017	June 1	September 28	Above average
2018	May 8	September 28	Below average
2019	June 20	September 26	Above average
2020	May 4	September 30	Average to below average
2021	April 12	September 30	Below average
2022	May 14	September 30	Slightly below average
2023	June 25	September 30	Above average
2024	June 8	September 30	Above average

Table 5-2
Monthly Average of Natural Flows (cfs) in the Spanish Fork River 2017–2024

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
58.9	67.7	100.6	267.9	459.4	205.8	102.1	82.2	63.2	72.0	58.6	55.6

6.0 Assumptions to Determine Spanish Fork River Natural Flows

The following assumptions were used to determine the Spanish Fork River's natural flows:

- Water years 2017 through 2024 were evaluated using a monthly timestep.
- Mean monthly Spanish Fork River flow data were downloaded from the Castilla USGS gaging station for each water year.
- Strawberry High Line Canal Company monthly deliveries from Strawberry Reservoir were obtained from the *Annual Distribution Report of the Spanish Fork River Distribution System* (Utah Division of Water Rights 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024) for each water year.

- To determine the River Companies' deliveries from Strawberry Reservoir, the District Diamond Fork System and ULS deliveries spreadsheets were used. The total SVP delivery volume (not including Mapleton-Springville Irrigation District's deliveries) was computed, then the Strawberry High Line Canal Company's volume was subtracted from the SVP volume, resulting in the total River Companies' deliveries.
- When SVP contract holders begin requesting deliveries from Strawberry Reservoir, the required instream flows in Sixth Water and Diamond Fork Creeks become part of the SVP supply.
- All volumes were converted to cubic feet per second.
- Figures for each water year show a graphical representation of the Spanish Fork River in cubic feet per second as follows:
    - Natural flow is shown in blue.
    - Sixth Water and Diamond Fork Creek instream flows are shown in brown.
    - Strawberry High Line Canal Company (SHLCC) flow is shown in green.
    - River Companies flow is shown in purple.

A discussion about each water year used in this evaluation is provided in Section 7.0. The USGS Castilla gage on the Spanish Fork River is located above the Spanish Fork River Diversion and below the Diamond Fork Creek confluence.

7.0 Water Year Results

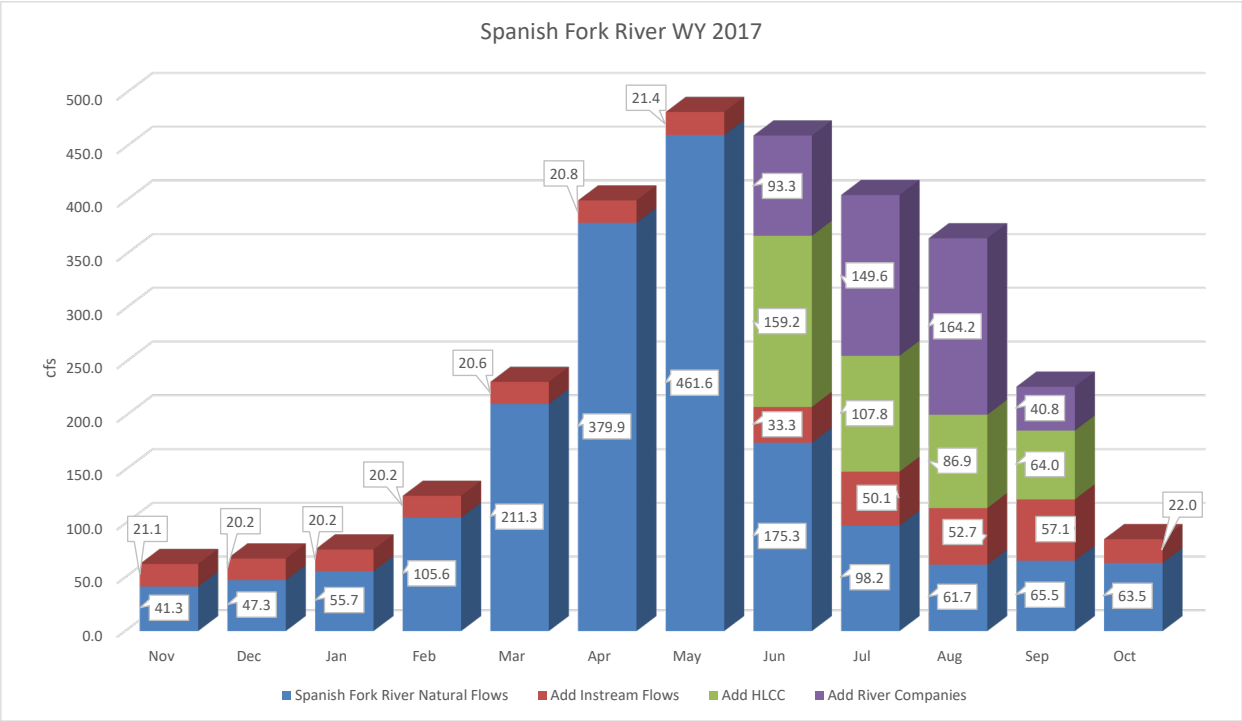
7.1 Water Year 2017

Water year 2017 was considered an above-average year for snowpack and stream runoff. SVP contract holders began requesting their water to be delivered from Strawberry Reservoir on June 1, 2017, and deliveries stopped on September 28, 2017.Without instream flows in Sixth Water and Diamond Fork Creeks along with the water added as part of the SVP contract holders, the natural Spanish Fork River flows for WY 2017 ranged from a low of 41.3 cfs in November 2016 to a high of 461.6 cfs in May 2017 (see Table 7-1). The SVP contract water (which includes instream flows) consists of between 62% and 83% of the Spanish Fork River flow between the Diamond Fork Creek confluence and the Spanish Fork River Diversion between June and September. See Figure 7-1 for flows in the Spanish Fork River for WY 2017.

Table 7-1
Spanish Fork River Flows (cfs) for WY 2017

Parameter	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct
Spanish Fork River natural flows	41.3	47.3	55.7	105.6	211.3	379.9	461.6	175.3	98.2	61.7	65.5	63.5
Add instream flows	21.1	20.2	20.2	20.2	20.6	20.8	21.4	33.3	50.1	52.7	57.1	22.0
Add SHLCC	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	159.2	107.8	86.9	64.0	—
Add River Companies	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	93.3	149.6	164.2	40.8	—
Monthly average flow rate (cfs)	62.5	67.5	75.9	125.8	231.9	400.7	483.0	461.1	405.8	365.5	227.4	85.5
% of SVP water in Spanish Fork River	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	62%	76%	83%	71%	—

Figure 7-1
Spanish Fork River Flows for WY 2017



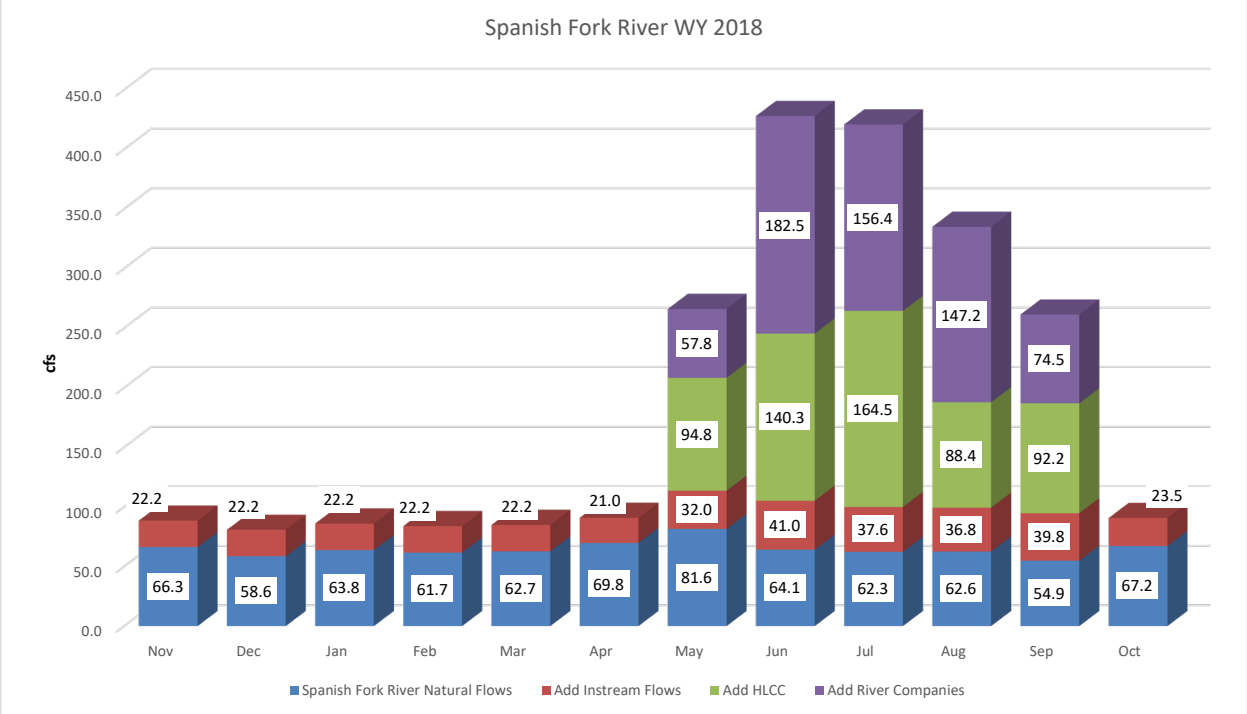
7.2 Water Year 2018

Water year 2018 was considered a below-average year for snowpack and stream runoff. SVP contract holders began requesting their water to be delivered from Strawberry Reservoir on May 8, 2018, and deliveries stopped on September 28, 2018. Without instream flows in Sixth Water and Diamond Fork Creeks along with the water added as part of the SVP contract holders, the natural Spanish Fork River flows for WY 2018 ranged from a low of 54.9 cfs in September 2018 to a high of 81.6 cfs in May (see Table 7-2). The SVP contract water (which includes instream flows) consists of between 69% and 85% of the flow in the Spanish Fork River between the Diamond Fork Creek confluence and the Spanish Fork River Diversion between May and September. See Figure 7-2 for flows in the Spanish Fork River for WY 2018.

Table 7-2
Spanish Fork River Flows (cfs) for WY 2018

Parameter	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct
Spanish Fork River natural flows	66.3	58.6	63.8	61.7	62.7	69.8	81.6	64.1	62.3	62.6	54.9	67.2
Add instream flows	22.2	22.2	22.2	22.2	22.2	21.0	32.0	41.0	37.6	36.8	39.8	23.5
Add SHLCC	—	—	—	—	—	—	94.8	140.3	164.5	88.4	92.2	—
Add River Companies	—	—	—	—	—	—	57.8	182.5	156.4	147.2	74.5	—
Monthly average flow rate (cfs)	88.5	80.8	86.0	83.9	84.9	90.8	266.1	427.9	420.8	335.0	261.4	90.7
% of SVP water in Spanish Fork River	—	—	—	—	—	—	69%	85%	85%	81%	79%	—

Figure 7-2
Spanish Fork River Flows for WY 2018



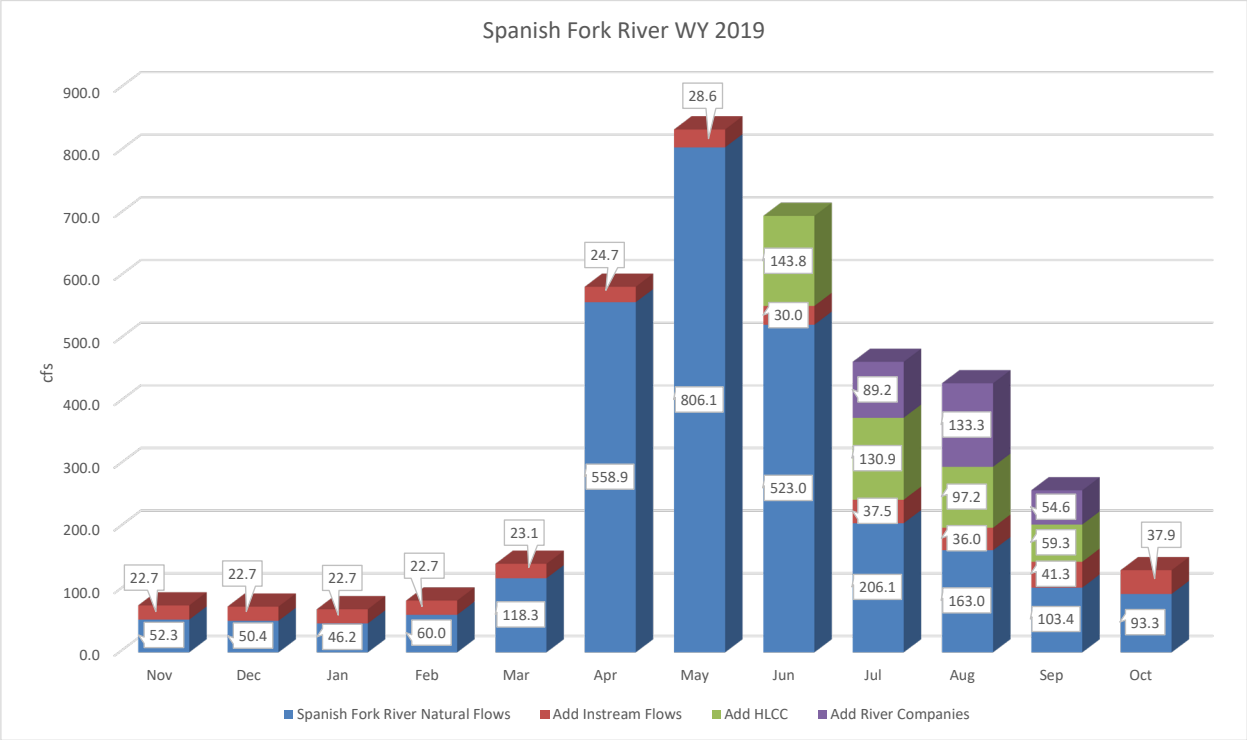
7.3 Water Year 2019

Water year 2019 was considered an above-average year for snowpack and stream runoff. SVP contract holders began requesting their water to be delivered from Strawberry Reservoir on June 20, 2019, and deliveries stopped on September 26, 2019. Without instream flows in Sixth Water and Diamond Fork Creeks along with the water added as part of the SVP contract holders, the natural Spanish Fork River flows for WY 2019 ranged from a low of 46.2 cfs in January to a high of 806.1 cfs in May 2019 (see Table 7-3). The SVP contract water (which includes instream flows) consists of between 25% and 62% of the flow in the Spanish Fork River between the Diamond Fork Creek confluence and the Spanish Fork River Diversion between June and September. See Figure 7-3 for flows in the Spanish Fork River for WY 2019.

Table 7-3
Spanish Fork River Flows (cfs) for WY 2019

Parameter	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct
Spanish Fork River natural flows	52.3	50.4	46.2	60.0	118.3	558.9	806.1	523.0	206.1	163.0	103.4	93.3
Add instream flows	22.7	22.7	22.7	22.7	23.1	24.7	28.6	30.0	37.5	36.0	41.3	37.9
Add SHLCC	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	143.8	130.9	97.2	59.3	—
Add River Companies	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	89.2	133.3	54.6	—
Monthly average flow rate (cfs)	75.0	73.1	68.9	82.7	141.4	583.6	834.7	696.7	463.7	429.5	258.7	131.2
% of SVP water in Spanish Fork River	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25%	56%	62%	60%	—

Figure 7-3
Spanish Fork River Flows for WY 2019



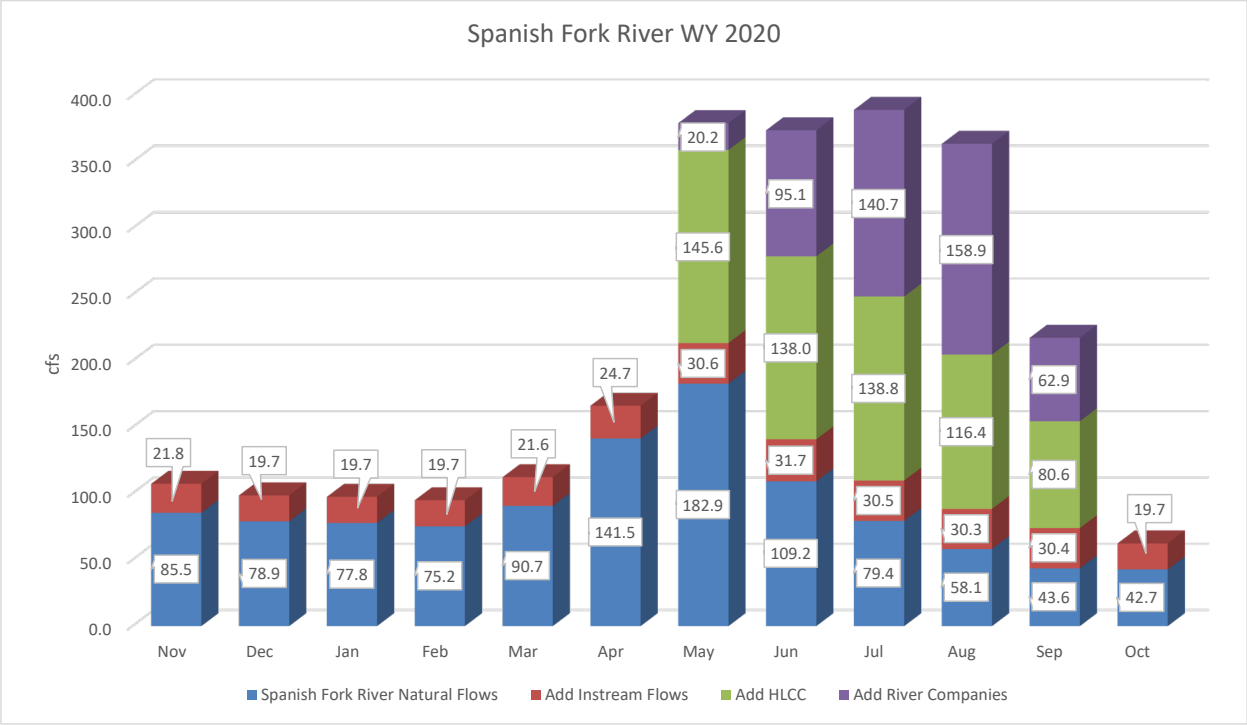
7.4 Water Year 2020

Water year 2020 was considered an average to below-average year for snowpack and stream runoff. SVP contract holders began requesting their water to be delivered from Strawberry Reservoir on May 4, 2020, and deliveries stopped on September 30, 2020. Without instream flows in Sixth Water and Diamond Fork Creeks along with the water added as part of the SVP contract holders, the natural Spanish Fork River flows for WY 2020 ranged from a low of 42.7 cfs in October to a high of 182.9 cfs in May 2020 (see Table 7-4). The SVP contract water (which includes instream flows) consists of between 52% and 84% of the flow in the Spanish Fork River between the Diamond Fork Creek confluence and the Spanish Fork River Diversion between May and September. See Figure 7-4 for flows in the Spanish Fork River for WY 2020.

Table 7-4
Spanish Fork River Flows (cfs) for WY 2020

Parameter	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct
Spanish Fork River natural flows	85.5	78.9	77.8	75.2	90.7	141.5	182.9	109.2	79.4	58.1	43.6	42.7
Add instream flows	21.8	19.7	19.7	19.7	21.6	24.7	30.6	31.7	30.5	30.3	30.4	19.7
Add SHLCC	—	—	—	—	—	—	145.6	138.0	138.8	116.4	80.6	—
Add River Companies	—	—	—	—	—	—	20.2	95.1	140.7	158.9	62.9	—
Monthly average flow rate (cfs)	107.3	98.6	97.5	94.9	112.3	166.2	379.4	374.0	389.4	363.7	217.4	62.4
% of SVP water in Spanish Fork River	—	—	—	—	—	—	52%	71%	80%	84%	80%	—

Figure 7-4
Spanish Fork River Flows for WY 2020



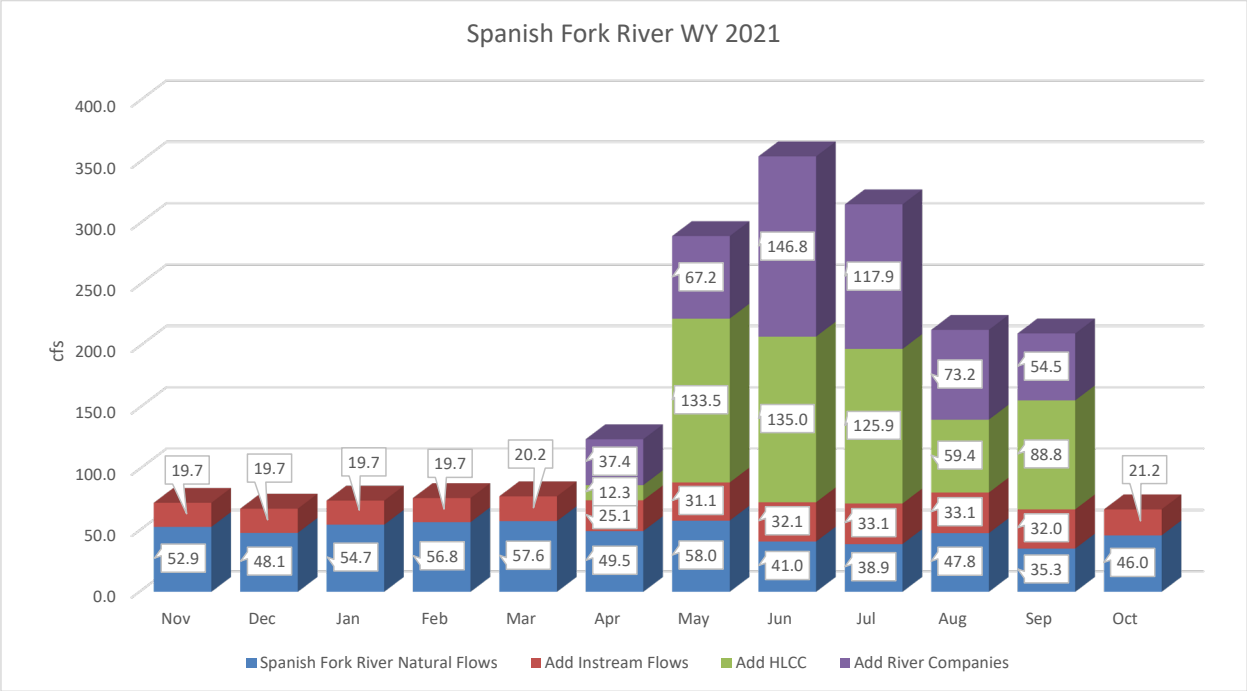
7.5 Water Year 2021

Water year 2021 was considered a below-average year for snowpack and stream runoff. SVP contract holders began requesting their water to be delivered from Strawberry Reservoir on April 12, 2021, and deliveries stopped on September 30, 2021. Without instream flows in Sixth Water and Diamond Fork Creeks along with the water added as part of the SVP contract holders, the natural Spanish Fork River flows for WY 2021 ranged from a low of 35.3 cfs in September to a high of 58.0 cfs in May 2021 (see Table 7-5). The SVP contract water (which includes instream flows) consists of between 60% and 88% of the flow in the Spanish Fork River between the Diamond Fork Creek confluence and the Spanish Fork River Diversion between May and September. See Figure 7-5 for flows in the Spanish Fork River for WY 2021.

Table 7-5
Spanish Fork River Flows (cfs) for WY 2021

Parameter	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct
Spanish Fork River natural flows	52.9	48.1	54.7	56.8	57.6	49.5	58.0	41.0	38.9	47.8	35.3	46.0
Add instream flows	19.7	19.7	19.7	19.7	20.2	25.1	31.1	32.1	33.1	33.1	32.0	21.2
Add SHLCC	—	—	—	—	—	12.3	133.5	135.0	125.9	59.4	88.8	—
Add River Companies	—	—	—	—	—	37.4	67.2	146.8	117.9	73.2	54.5	—
Monthly average flow rate (cfs)	72.6	67.7	74.3	76.4	77.8	124.4	289.9	354.8	315.7	213.5	210.5	67.2
% of SVP water in Spanish Fork River	—	—	—	—	—	60%	80%	88%	88%	78%	83%	—

Figure 7-5
Spanish Fork River Flows for WY 2021



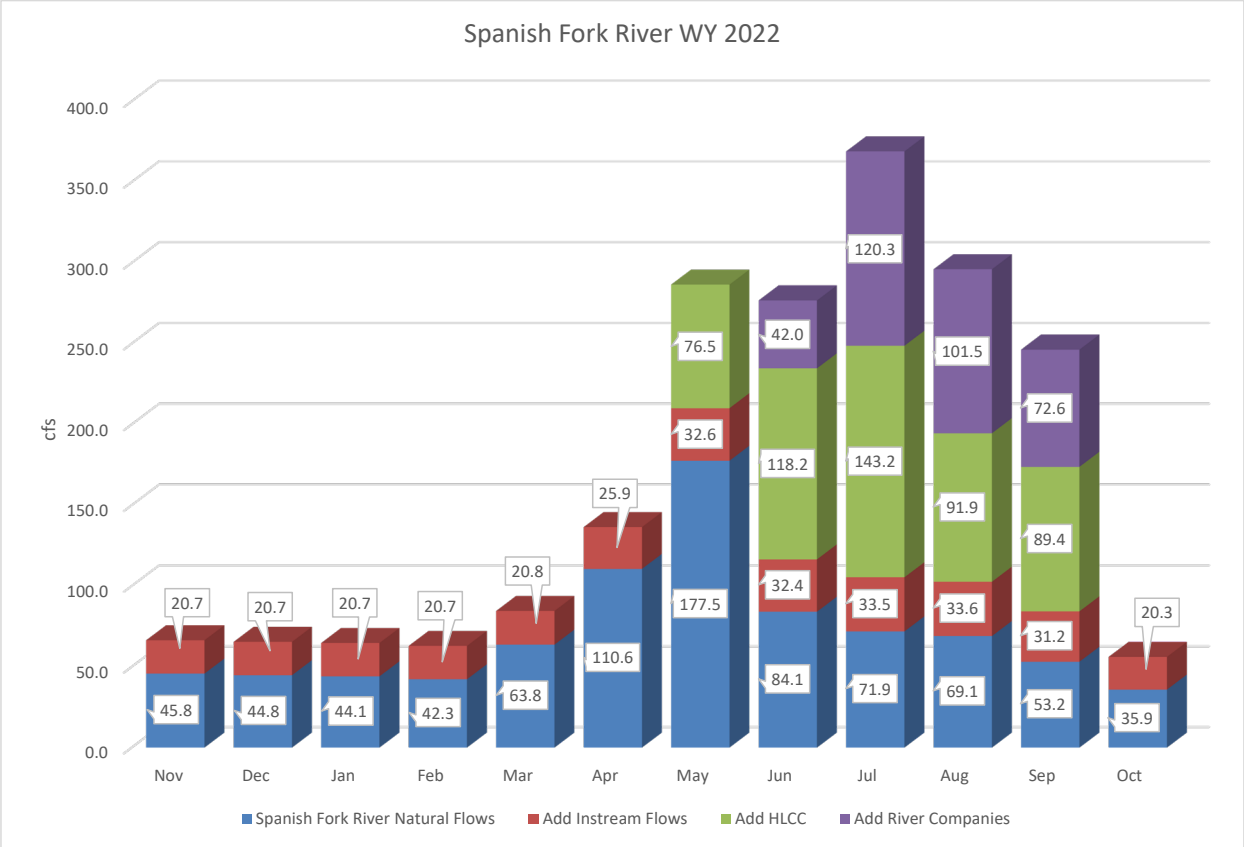
7.6 Water Year 2022

Water year 2022 was considered a slightly below-average year for snowpack and stream runoff. SVP contract holders began requesting their water to be delivered from Strawberry Reservoir on May 14, 2022, and deliveries stopped on September 30, 2022. Without instream flows in Sixth Water and Diamond Fork Creeks along with the water added as part of the SVP contract holders, the natural Spanish Fork River flows for WY 2022 ranged from a low of 35.9 cfs in October 2022 to a high of 177.5 in May (see Table 7-6). The SVP contract water (which includes instream flows) consists of between 38% and 81% of the flow in the Spanish Fork River between the Diamond Fork Creek confluence and the Spanish Fork River Diversion between May and September. See Figure 7-6 for flows in the Spanish Fork River for WY 2022.

Table 7-6
Spanish Fork River Flows (cfs) for WY 2022

Parameter	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct
Spanish Fork River natural flows	45.8	44.8	44.1	42.3	63.8	110.6	177.5	84.1	71.9	69.1	53.2	35.9
Add instream flows	20.7	20.7	20.7	20.7	20.8	25.9	32.6	32.4	33.5	33.6	31.2	20.3
Add SHLCC	—	—	—	—	—	—	76.5	118.2	143.2	91.9	89.4	—
Add River Companies	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	42.0	120.3	101.5	72.6	—
Monthly average flow rate (cfs)	66.5	65.5	64.8	63.0	84.6	136.5	286.6	276.8	369.0	296.1	246.4	56.2
% of SVP water in Spanish Fork River	—	—	—	—	—	—	38%	70%	81%	77%	78%	—

Figure 7-6
Spanish Fork River Flows for WY 2022



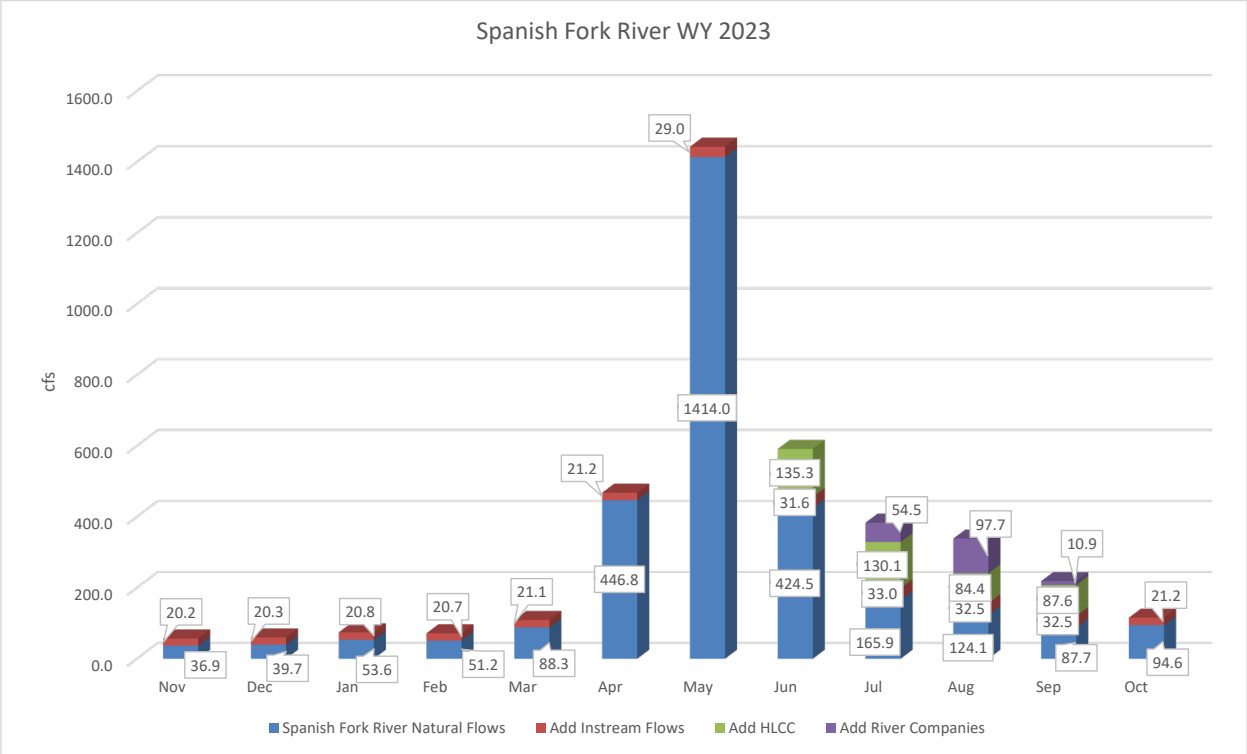
7.7 Water Year 2023

Water year 2023 was considered above-average year for snowpack and stream runoff. SVP contract holders began requesting their water to be delivered from Strawberry Reservoir on June 25, 2023, and deliveries stopped on September 30, 2023. Without instream flows in Sixth Water and Diamond Fork Creeks along with the water added as part of the SVP contract holders, the natural Spanish Fork River flows for WY 2023 ranged from a low of 36.9 cfs in November 2022 to a high of 1,414.0 in May 2023 (see Table 7-7). The SVP contract water (which includes instream flows) consists of between 28% and 63% of the flow in the Spanish Fork River between the Diamond Fork Creek confluence and the Spanish Fork River Diversion between June and September. See Figure 7-7 for flows in the Spanish Fork River for WY 2023.

Table 7-7
Spanish Fork River Flows (cfs) for WY 2023

Parameter	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct
Spanish Fork River natural flows	36.9	39.7	53.6	51.2	88.3	446.8	1414.0	424.5	165.9	124.1	87.7	94.6
Add instream flows	20.2	20.3	20.8	20.7	21.1	21.2	29.0	31.6	33.0	32.5	32.5	21.2
Add SHLCC	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	135.3	130.1	84.4	87.6	—
Add River Companies	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	54.5	97.7	10.9	—
Monthly average flow rate (cfs)	57.1	60.0	74.4	71.9	109.4	468.0	1443.0	591.4	383.5	338.7	218.7	115.8
% of SVP water in Spanish Fork River	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28%	57%	63%	60%	—

Figure 7-7
Spanish Fork River Flows for WY 2023



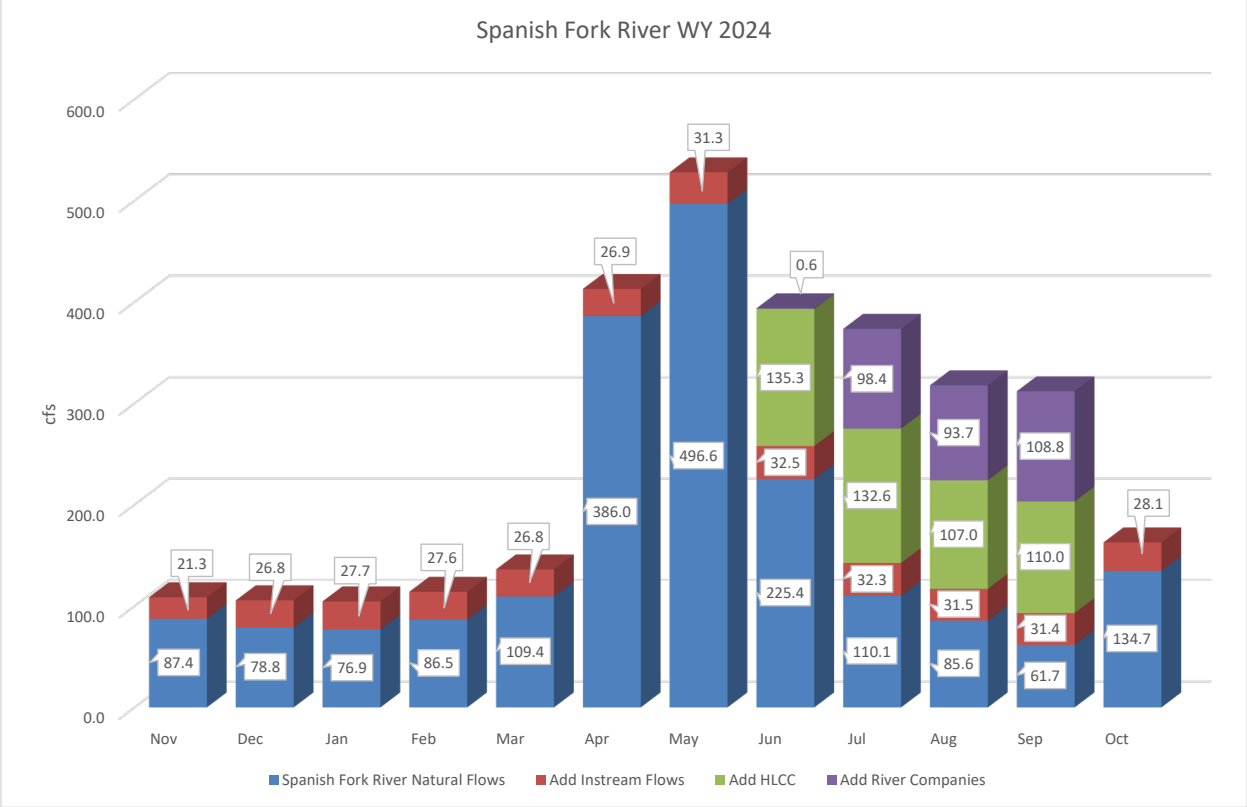
7.8 Water Year 2024

Water year 2024 was considered an above-average year for snowpack and stream runoff. SVP contract holders began requesting their water to be delivered from Strawberry Reservoir on June 8, 2024, and deliveries stopped on September 30, 2024. Without instream flows in Sixth Water and Diamond Fork Creeks along with the water added as part of the SVP contract holders, the natural Spanish Fork River flows for WY 2024 ranged from a low of 61.7 cfs in September to a high of 496.6 cfs in May (see Table 7-8). The SVP contract water (including the instream flows) consists of between 43% and 80% of the flow in the Spanish Fork River between the Diamond Fork Creek confluence and the Spanish Fork River Diversion between June and September. See Figure 7-8 for flows in the Spanish Fork River for WY 2024.

Table 7-8
Spanish Fork River Flows (cfs) for WY 2024

Parameter	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct
Spanish Fork River natural flows	87.4	78.8	76.9	86.5	109.4	386.0	496.6	225.4	110.1	85.6	61.7	134.7
Add instream flows	21.3	26.8	27.7	27.6	26.8	26.9	31.3	32.5	32.3	31.5	31.4	28.1
Add SHLCC	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	135.3	132.6	107.0	110.0	—
Add River Companies	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.6	98.4	93.7	108.8	—
Monthly average flow rate (cfs)	108.7	105.6	104.6	114.1	136.2	412.9	528.0	393.7	373.5	317.8	311.9	162.8
% of SVP water in Spanish Fork River	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	43%	71%	73%	80%	—

Figure 7-8
Spanish Fork River Flows for WY 2024



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