

HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE MONTH

DAKOTAS AREA OFFICE

End-of-month elevation at Angostura Reservoir for the month of February was the fourth lowest in 56 years of record. February end-of-month elevation at Shadehill Reservoir was the second lowest in 56 years of record.

Inflows to Deerfield Reservoir in the month of February was the fourth lowest in the past 55 years of record.

Inflows to Lake Tschida were the thirteenth lowest on record for the month of February. End-of-month storage content at Lake Tschida was the thirteenth lowest for the month of February. Inflows to E.A. Patterson Reservoir were the third lowest on record for the month of February.

EASTERN COLORADO AREA OFFICE

The Lake Granby storage of 302,300 acre-feet (AF) on February 29, 2008, was 48,000 AF below average and 10,400 AF lower than 1 year ago. Colorado-Big Thompson Project storage water in Lake Granby, Carter Lake, and Horsetooth Reservoir was 448,900 AF on February 29, 2008, 113,100 AF below average and 56 percent of the total available storage capacity.

Total water storage in the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project at the end of February 2008, was 484,300 AF, and 43,300 AF higher than 1 year ago.

MONTANA AREA OFFICE

For the month of February, inflow to Gibson Reservoir was the second lowest on record; inflow to Lake Elwell was the third lowest of record; inflow to Clark Canyon Reservoir was the fourth lowest on record; and inflow to Bighorn Lake was the fifth lowest on record.

End of February storage in Gibson Reservoir was the eighth lowest of record. End of February storage was the eleventh highest on record at Bighorn Lake.

NEBRASKA-KANSAS AREA OFFICE

The end of year storage at Bonny and Box Butte Reservoirs were the lowest end of February storage on record.

WYOMING AREA OFFICE

Bighorn River Basin

Nothing significant to report this month.

North Platte River Basin

The Kendrick storage ownership was the lowest February ownership in the last 30 years. The Glendo ownership was the third lowest February ownership in the last 30 years.

OKLAHOMA-TEXAS AREA OFFICE

Nothing significant to report this month.

CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT

Although the snowpack in the Rocky Mountains is encouraging, the forecasted runoff of the Missouri River Basin is still only 79 percent of normal for this time of the year. The low forecast is due to the relative lack of snow on the plains and the continued dry soil conditions as a result of the extended drought in the upper basin.

System storage in the six main stem reservoirs was 36.6 million acre-feet (MAF) on March 1, above the storage threshold for the March spring pulse presented in the Master Manual. Runoff for 2008 is forecasted to be 20 MAF. The mountain snowpack above Fort Peck is currently 101 percent of normal and 100 percent of normal in the reach between Fort Peck and Garrison, essentially the Yellowstone River basin.

The navigation season will open at St Louis, Missouri on April 1. Because of low system storage, only minimum service flow will be provided for navigation and other downstream uses. Forecasts show the navigation season will be shortened by 30 to 61 days in 2008.

The six main stem power plants generated 425 million kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity in February, only 66 percent of normal because of lower pool levels and reduced releases from the dams. Total energy production for 2008 is forecasted to be 6 billion kWh, compared to the average annual generation of 10 billion kWh.