

HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE MONTH

DAKOTAS AREA OFFICE

End-of-month storage content at Lake Tschida was the fourth lowest for the month of October. End-of-month storage content at E. A. Patterson was the fourth lowest for the month of October.

EASTERN COLORADO AREA OFFICE

The Lake Granby storage of 380,300 acre-feet (AF) on October 31, 2008, was 46,800 AF below average and 6,000 AF higher than 1 year ago. Colorado-Big Thompson Project storage water in Lake Granby, Carter Lake, and Horsetooth Reservoir was 502,600 AF on October 31, 2008, 62,600 AF below average and 62 percent of the total available storage capacity.

Total water storage in the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project at the end of October 2008 was 468,000 AF, and 8,100 AF lower than 1 year ago.

MONTANA AREA OFFICE

In mid-October, the first major snowstorm of the year pushed its way into Montana. Billings, Montana, saw record snowfalls three days in a row. At the Billings Airport National Weather Station, it was reported on October 10, 3.1 inches fell; on October 11, 4.4 inches fell; and on October 12, 3.5 inches fell. Other parts of the city reported snow accumulations of over 20 inches of snow. Billings experienced numerous power outages and tree damage.

In late October, another massive frontal system swept into the Black Hills area of South Dakota bringing large accumulations of snow to the Rapid City, South Dakota area. Several feet of snow were dumped on the area. This storm was accompanied by high winds which caused drifting, road closures, and tree damage.

For the month of October, inflow to Canyon Ferry Reservoir was the eighth lowest on record.

End of October storage in Bighorn Lake was the third highest on record and the end of October storage into both Sherburne Reservoir and Lake Elwell were the highest on record.

NEBRASKA-KANSAS AREA OFFICE

October precipitation was the greatest recorded for the month at Medicine Creek, Norton, Harlan County, Kirwin, Webster, Cedar Bluff, Virginia Smith and Davis Creek Dams and the second greatest recorded at Trenton, Red Willow, Lovewell and Glen Elder Dams.

October's computed inflow was the greatest ever recorded at Waconda Lake and the second greatest recorded at Lovewell, Kirwin and Webster reservoirs since their initial construction.

Storage in Waconda Lake was the third highest ever recorded at the end of October, while storage in Bonny Reservoir was the second lowest ever recorded at the end of October since first filling.

WYOMING AREA OFFICE

Bighorn River Basin

Nothing significant to report this month.

North Platte River Basin

The Kendrick ownership at the end of October was the fifth lowest in the last 30 years.

OKLAHOMA-TEXAS AREA OFFICE

Nothing significant to report this month.

CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT

System storage in the six main stem reservoirs dropped slightly to 44.3 million acre-feet (MAF) on October 1, a decrease of 0.2 MAF in October. Runoff for 2008 is forecasted to be 26.3 MAF, an increase of 0.4 MAF from last month's forecast.

Fort Peck Reservoir at the end of October was 10.2 feet higher than last year. Garrison Reservoir was 12.7 feet higher and Oahe Reservoir was 11.1 feet higher than last year.

The six main stem power plants generated 439 million kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity in October, only 53 percent of normal because of lower pool levels and reduced releases from the dams. Total energy production for 2008 is forecasted to be 5.0 billion kWh, compared to the average annual generation of 10 billion kWh.