



News Release

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James River near Mitchell Approaching Peak of Record Stage

The James River near Mitchell (USGS stream gage 0647800) is almost eight feet above flood stage and has already attained the second highest recording at this site, according to real-time data collected by the U.S. Geological Survey.

At 1:45 p.m. today, the stage was 24.94 feet and rising, exceeding the 17-foot baseline flood level. The peak of record stage of 25.33 feet for this site was recorded on April 11, 2001. The next highest previous peak stage for the James River at Mitchell was 24.38 feet on May 10, 2007.

“We have yet to see the large flows in the James River coming down from North Dakota because the ice up north is just breaking up,” said Joyce Williamson, USGS hydrologist. “It is too soon to tell if the stage of the James River at Mitchell will break the record, but it will certainly approach the record.”

Above Flood Stage

James River: Columbia, Stratford, Ashton, Huron, Mitchell, Forestburg, and Scotland

Elm River: Frederick, Westport, Ordway

Firesteel Creek: Mount Vernon

West Fork Vermillion River: Parker

Big Sioux River: Watertown, Castlewood, Bruce, Brookings, and Dell Rapids

More information about the current and historical stages for the James River at Mitchell is available at http://waterwatch.usgs.gov/wwapps/ftc.php?site_no=06478000. A map showing current river stages throughout South Dakota is available from <http://waterwatch.usgs.gov/?m=flood&r=sd&w=real%2Cmap>.

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