# HIGHLIGHTS FOR DECEMBER 2025

## DAKOTAS AREA OFFICE

December precipitation was above average in the Heart River Basin with 188 percent of average precipitation at Dickinson Reservoir and 157 percent of average at Heart Butte Reservoir. Within the Cheyenne, Grand, and James River basins precipitation was varied, ranging from four percent of average precipitation at Angostura Reservoir to 233 percent of average at Deerfield Reservoir.

December inflows in the Heart River basin were above average, with 247 percent of average inflow at Heart Butte Reservoir and 449 percent of average inflows at Dickinson Reservoir. For the Cheyenne River basin, inflows were below average, ranging from 65 percent of average inflow at Keyhole Reservoir to 135 percent of average at Pactola Reservoir. The James and Grand River basin inflows were above average with 449 percent of average inflow at Shadehill Reservoir and 439 percent of average at Jamestown Reservoir.

End-of-month storage in the Heart River basin was above average; 117 percent of average for Dickinson Reservoir, and 103 percent of average at Heart Butte Reservoir. End-of-month storage in the Cheyenne River basin was above average, ranging from 81 percent of average at Angostura Reservoir to 183 percent of average at Belle Fourche Reservoir. End-of-month storage at Shadehill and Jamestown Reservoirs was above average, showing 112 percent of average for Shadehill and 104 percent of average for Jamestown.

## EASTERN COLORADO AREA OFFICE

Precipitation was below average over the Colorado-Big Thompson Project (CBT) during December. Green Mountain Reservoir reported the lowest precipitation at 52 percent of average, while Lake Estes Reservoir had the highest at 90 percent of average.

Inflows were below average over the CBT during December. The inflow to Lake Estes Reservoir was the lowest with 62 percent of average. The inflow to Green Mountain Reservoir was the highest at 92 percent of average.

The Lake Granby end-of-month storage of 387,100 acre-feet (AF) was 23,473 AF below average and 36,200 AF lower than one year ago on this date. End-of-month storage in Carter Lake and Horsetooth Reservoir was 130 and 133 percent of average, respectively. The December end-of-month CBT storage in Green Mountain, Lake Granby, Carter Lake, and Horsetooth Reservoir was 651,900 AF; 5,909 AF above average.

Precipitation was below average over the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project (Fry-Ark) during December. Precipitation at Turquoise Reservoir was the lowest with 56 percent of average precipitation, while Pueblo Reservoir received 138 percent of average precipitation during the month.

Native inflows were varied over the Fry-Ark during December. The inflow to Turquoise Reservoir was the lowest with 15 percent of average inflow. The inflow to Twin Lakes Reservoir was the highest with 214 percent of average inflow.

End-of-month storage is about average for the Fry-Ark. Pueblo Reservoir end-of-month storage was the highest at 109 percent of average. Ruedi Reservoir end-of-month storage was the lowest at 91 percent of average. The total December end-of-month storage in the four reservoirs was 458,100 AF, 100 percent of average.

**MONTANA AREA OFFICE**

Precipitation during December was above average in the upper Missouri River basin, ranging from 149 percent of average at Clark Canyon Reservoir to 265 percent of average at Gibson Reservoir. Inflows were above average, ranging from 87 percent of average at Clark Canyon Reservoir to 357 percent of average at Gibson Reservoir. End-of-month storage is varied, and ranges from 19 percent of average at Willow Creek Reservoir to 191 percent of average at Gibson Reservoir.

For the Milk River Basin, the precipitation was above average, ranging from 383 percent of average at Fresno Reservoir to 228 percent of average at Sherburne Reservoir. The inflows were above average; 407 percent of average at Sherburne Reservoir and 133 percent of average inflow at Fresno Reservoir. End-of-month storage ranges from 78 percent of average at Fresno Reservoir to 173 percent of average at Sherburne Reservoir.

December precipitation was 166 percent of average at Yellowtail Dam. Inflows were 82 percent of average. End-of-month storage was 104 percent of average.

**NEBRASKA-KANSAS AREA OFFICE**

Precipitation in the Republican River Basin was below average during the month of December, ranging from zero at Swanson Lake Reservoir to 53 percent of average at Lovewell Reservoir. Inflows were below average and ranged from nine percent of average inflow at Bonny Reservoir to 90 percent of average at Keith Sebelius Reservoir. Ignoring Bonny Reservoir, which has been drained for Compact compliance, end-of-month storage ranges from 37 percent of average at Enders Reservoir to 92 percent of average at Keith Sebelius Reservoir.

Precipitation in the Solomon River Basin was below average during the month of December, ranging from 29 percent of average at Webster Reservoir to 58 percent of average at Kirwin Reservoir. The inflows were below average, ranging from three percent of average inflow at Webster Reservoir to 28 percent of average at Kirwin Reservoir. End-of-month storage ranges from 30 percent of average at Webster Reservoir to 81 percent of average at Glen Elder Reservoir.

For the Smoky Hill, Niobrara, and Lower Platte Basins, precipitation was below average, ranging from zero at Calamus Reservoir to 25 percent of average at Cedar Bluff Reservoir. The inflows were varied, ranging from two percent of average inflow at Cedar Bluff Reservoir to 112 percent of average at Merritt Reservoir. End-of-month storage ranges from 59 percent of average at Cedar Bluff Reservoir to 108 percent of average at Davis Creek Reservoir.

**OKLAHOMA-TEXAS AREA OFFICE**

December precipitation was below average over the Arkansas River Basin, ranging from zero precipitation at Cheney and Sanford Reservoirs to 12 percent of average at Norman Reservoir. Inflows were varied, ranging from three percent of average inflow at Norman Reservoir to 127 percent of average at Cheney Reservoir. End-of-month storage in the Arkansas River basin is

above average and ranges from 109 percent of average at Norman Reservoir to 140 percent of average at Sanford Reservoir.

For the Red River Basin, December precipitation was below average, ranging from zero precipitation at Mountain Park Reservoir to 30 percent of average at Altus Reservoir. The inflows ranged from zero inflow at McGee Creek and Mountain Park Reservoirs to 27 percent of average at Altus Reservoir. End-of-month storage in the Red River basin ranges from 48 percent of average at Altus Reservoir to 121 percent of average at Mountain Park Reservoir.

For the Nueces, Colorado and Washita Basins, the precipitation was below average, ranging from zero precipitation at Twin Buttes, Nasworthy, Fort Cobb, and Foss Reservoir to eight percent of average at Twin Buttes Reservoir. The inflows were below average, ranging from zero inflow at Foss Reservoir to 68 percent of average at Nasworthy Reservoir. End-of-month storage in the basins ranges from 17 percent of average at Choke Canyon Reservoir to 124 percent of average at Foss Reservoir.

**WYOMING AREA OFFICE**

December precipitation was above average in the Bighorn River basin, ranging from 100 percent of average at Boysen Reservoir to 311 percent of average at Bull Lake Reservoir. Reservoir inflow in the Bighorn basin was above average, ranging from 99 percent of average at Boysen Reservoir to 158 percent of average at Bull Lake Reservoir. End-of-month storage in the Bighorn Basin is below average, ranging from 50 percent of average at Bull Lake Reservoir to 91 percent of average at Boysen Reservoir.

Precipitation during December was below average in the North Platte River Basin, ranging from 22 percent of average at Seminoe Reservoir to 34 percent of average at Pathfinder and Glendo Reservoirs. Inflows were varied, ranging from zero inflow at Pathfinder Reservoir to 142 percent of average at Glendo Reservoir. End-of-month storage is below average and ranges from 57 percent of average at Pathfinder Reservoir to 113 percent of average at Guernsey Reservoir.

**CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT**

For 2026, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is forecasting runoff in the Missouri River basin above Sioux City, Iowa to be 24.5 MAF, 96 percent of average. At the start of the 2026 runoff season, which typically begins around March 1, the total volume of water stored in the Missouri River Mainstem reservoir system is expected to be 49.0 MAF, 7.1 MAF below the top of the carryover multiple use zone.

**Navigation:**

Navigation flow support for the Missouri River is forecast to be 5,200 cfs below full service for the first half of the 2026 season, which begins April 1 at the mouth of the river near St. Louis, Missouri.

**Reservoir Forecasts:**

- **Gavins Point Dam**
  - Average releases past month – 12,800 cfs
  - Current release rate – 12,000 cfs
  - Forecast release rate – 12,500 cfs
  - End-of-December reservoir level – 1,207.4 feet

    - Forecast end-of-January reservoir level – 1,207.5 feet
    - **Notes:** The winter release rate will be at least 12,000 cfs and may be adjusted to lessen the impacts of ice formation.
- **Fort Randall Dam**
    - Average releases past month – 10,000 cfs
    - End-of-December reservoir level – 1,339.7 feet
    - Forecast end-of-January reservoir level – 1,344.8 feet
    - **Notes:** Releases will be adjusted as necessary to maintain the desired reservoir elevation at Gavins Point. The reservoir was drawn down to 1,337.5 feet near the end of November 2025 to provide space for winter hydropower generation at Oahe and Big Bend. The reservoir will refill to the base of the flood control pool by the end of February.
- **Big Bend Dam**
    - Average releases past month –12,000 cfs
    - Forecast average release rate – 15,400 cfs
    - Forecast reservoir level – 1,420.7 feet
- **Oahe Dam**
    - Average releases past month – 12,000 cfs
    - Forecast average release rate – 15,300 cfs
    - End-of-December reservoir level – 1,600.8 feet
    - Forecast end-of-January reservoir level – 1,600.9 feet
- **Garrison Dam**
    - Average releases past month – 15,600 cfs
    - Current release rate – 16,000 cfs
    - Forecast release rate – 16,000 cfs
    - End-of-December reservoir level – 1,829.2 feet
    - Forecast end-of-January reservoir level – 1,827.8 feet
    - **Notes** – Releases were set at 16,000 cfs in early December, prior to the river freeze-in at Bismarck, North Dakota. Releases may be adjusted to lessen the impacts of ice formation.
- **Fort Peck Dam**
    - Average releases past month – 5,000 cfs
    - Current release rate – 5,000 cfs
    - Forecast average release rate – 5,000 cfs
    - End-of-December reservoir level – 2,222,7 feet
    - Forecast end-of-January reservoir level – 2,221.6 feet
    - **Notes:** Releases will remain at 5,000 cfs in January and February.

**Hydropower**

The six mainstem power plants generated 435 million kWh of electricity in December. Typical energy generation for December is 670 million kWh. Total energy generation for 2025 was 7.7 billion kWh of electricity, 82 percent of the long-term average, 9.4 billion kWh. Forecast generation for 2026 is 8.0 billion kWh.