HIGHLIGHTS FOR JANUARY 2026

DAKOTAS AREA OFFICE

January precipitation was varied in the Heart River Basin with 120 percent of average precipitation at Dickinson Reservoir and 19 percent of average at Heart Butte Reservoir. Within the Cheyenne, Grand, and James River basins precipitation was below average, ranging from zero precipitation at Jamestown Reservoir to 242 percent of average at Shadehill Reservoir.

January inflows in the Heart River basin were above average, with 176 percent of average inflow at Heart Butte Reservoir and 148 percent of average inflows at Dickinson Reservoir. For the Cheyenne River basin, inflows were below average, ranging from zero inflow at Belle Fourche Reservoir to 106 percent of average at Pactola Reservoir. The James and Grand River basin inflows were above average with 146 percent of average inflow at Shadehill Reservoir and 483 percent of average at Jamestown Reservoir.

End-of-month storage in the Heart River basin was above average; 110 percent of average for Dickinson Reservoir, and 105 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 164 percent of average at Belle Fourche Reservoir. End-of-month storage at Shadehill and Jamestown Reservoirs was above average, showing 113 percent of average for Shadehill and 107 percent of average for Jamestown.

EASTERN COLORADO AREA OFFICE

Precipitation was below average over the Colorado-Big Thompson Project (CBT) during January. Willow Creek and Granby Reservoirs reported the lowest precipitation at 30 percent of average, while Lake Estes Reservoir had the highest at 58 percent of average.

Inflows were below average over the CBT during January. The inflow to Lake Estes Reservoir was the lowest with 46 percent of average. The inflow to Green Mountain Reservoir was the highest at 83 percent of average.

The Lake Granby end-of-month storage of 355,300 acre-feet (AF) was 36,900 AF below average and 27,800 AF lower than one year ago on this date. End-of-month storage in Carter Lake and Horsetooth Reservoir was 127 and 131 percent of average, respectively. The January end-of-month CBT storage in Green Mountain, Lake Granby, Carter Lake, and Horsetooth Reservoir was 644,100 AF; 7,887 AF above average.

Precipitation was below average over the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project (Fry-Ark) during January. Precipitation at Turquoise Reservoir was the lowest with 24 percent of average precipitation, while Pueblo Reservoir received 216 percent of average precipitation during the month.

Native inflows were below average over the Fry-Ark during January. The inflow to Turquoise Reservoir was the lowest with 22 percent of average inflow. The inflow to Twin Lakes Reservoir was the highest with 125 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 104 percent of average. Ruedi Reservoir end-of-month storage was the lowest

at 92 percent of average. The total January end-of-month storage in the four reservoirs was 453,300 AF, 100 percent of average.

MONTANA AREA OFFICE

Precipitation during January was below average in the upper Missouri River basin, ranging from eight percent of average at Tiber Reservoir to 56 percent of average at Clark Canyon Reservoir. Inflows were above average, ranging from 85 percent of average at Canyon Ferry Reservoir to 232 percent of average at Gibson Reservoir. End-of-month storage is varied, and ranges from 22 percent of average at Willow Creek Reservoir to 209 percent of average at Gibson Reservoir.

For the Milk River Basin, the precipitation was below average, ranging from five percent of average at Fresno Reservoir to 53 percent of average at Sherburne Reservoir. The inflows were varied; 221 percent of average at Sherburne Reservoir and 25 percent of average inflow at Fresno Reservoir. End-of-month storage ranges from 76 percent of average at Fresno Reservoir to 152 percent of average at Sherburne Reservoir.

January precipitation was 36 percent of average at Yellowtail Dam. Inflows were 71 percent of average. End-of-month storage was 102 percent of average.

NEBRASKA-KANSAS AREA OFFICE

Precipitation in the Republican River Basin was below average during the month of January, ranging from eight percent of average at Swanson Lake Reservoir to 181 percent of average at Lovewell Reservoir. Inflows were below average and ranged from eight percent of average inflow at Bonny Reservoir to 103 percent of average at Harry Strunk Reservoir. Ignoring Bonny Reservoir, which has been drained for Compact compliance, end-of-month storage ranges from 34 percent of average at Enders Reservoir to 95 percent of average at Harry Strunk Reservoir.

Precipitation in the Solomon River Basin was above average during the month of January, ranging from 89 percent of average at Glen Elder Reservoir to 226 percent of average at Kirwin Reservoir. The inflows were below average, ranging from 11 percent of average inflow at Webster Reservoir to 65 percent of average at Kirwin Reservoir. End-of-month storage ranges from 30 percent of average at Webster Reservoir to 83 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 353 percent of average at Cedar Bluff Reservoir. The inflows were about average, ranging from 65 percent of average inflow at Cedar Bluff Reservoir to 102 percent of average at Calamus Reservoir. End-of-month storage ranges from 58 percent of average at Cedar Bluff Reservoir to 109 percent of average at Davis Creek Reservoir.

OKLAHOMA-TEXAS AREA OFFICE

January precipitation was below average over the Arkansas River Basin, ranging from 57 percent of average precipitation at Sanford Reservoir to 67 percent of average at Cheney Reservoir. Inflows were below average, ranging from 13 percent of average inflow at Sanford Reservoir to 83 percent of average at Cheney Reservoir. End-of-month storage in the Arkansas River basin is above average and ranges from 108 percent of average at Norman Reservoir to 140 percent of average at Sanford Reservoir.

For the Red River Basin, January precipitation was below average, ranging from zero precipitation at Mountain Park Reservoir to 73 percent of average at McGee Creek Reservoir. The inflows ranged from zero inflow at McGee Creek and Mountain Park Reservoirs to 29 percent of average at Altus Reservoir. End-of-month storage in the Red River basin ranges from 46 percent of average at Altus Reservoir to 121 percent of average at Arbuckle Reservoir.

For the Nueces, Colorado and Washita Basins, the precipitation was below average, ranging from zero precipitation at Foss Reservoir to 99 percent of average at Fort Cobb Reservoir. The inflows were below average, ranging from zero inflow at Choke Canyon Reservoir to 43 percent of average at Fort Cobb Reservoir. End-of-month storage in the basins ranges from 16 percent of average at Choke Canyon Reservoir to 124 percent of average at Foss Reservoir.

WYOMING AREA OFFICE

January precipitation was below average in the Bighorn River basin, ranging from 25 percent of average at Boysen Reservoir to 63 percent of average at Buffalo Bill Reservoir. Reservoir inflow in the Bighorn basin was above average, ranging from 93 percent of average at Boysen Reservoir to 157 percent of average at Bull Lake Reservoir. End-of-month storage in the Bighorn Basin is below average, ranging from 51 percent of average at Bull Lake Reservoir to 92 percent of average at Boysen Reservoir.

Precipitation during January was below average in the North Platte River Basin, ranging from 21 percent of average at Pathfinder Reservoir to 60 percent of average at Seminoe Reservoir. Inflows were below average, ranging from zero inflow at Pathfinder Reservoir to 104 percent of average at Seminoe Reservoir. End-of-month storage is below average and ranges from 56 percent of average at Pathfinder Reservoir to 108 percent of average at Guernsey Reservoir.

CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT

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January runoff in the Missouri River Basin above Sioux City was 1.0 million acre-feet, 132 percent of average. Runoff was above average for all of the reaches in the upper Missouri River Basin (Basin). The 2026 calendar year runoff forecast above Sioux City is 23.4 MAF, 91 percent of average. At the start of the 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 48.9 MAF, 7.2 MAF below the top of the carryover multiple use zone.

Mountain and Plains Snowpack

Mountain snowpack in the upper Missouri River Basin is accumulating at below average rates. The Feb. 3 mountain snowpack in the Fort Peck reach was 81 percent of average, while the mountain snowpack in the Fort Peck to Garrison reach was 90 percent of average. By February 1, about 60 percent of the total mountain snowfall has typically accumulated. Mountain snow normally peaks near April 17.

Reservoir Forecasts:

- **Gavins Point Dam**
  - Average releases past month – 13,100 cfs
  - Current release rate – 14,000 cfs
  - Forecast release rate – 12,000 cfs
  - End-of-January reservoir level – 1,206.2 feet

- Forecast end-of-February reservoir level – 1,206.0 feet
- **Notes:** The winter release rate will be at least 12,000 cfs and may be adjusted to lessen the impacts of winter ice formation.

- **Fort Randall Dam**
  - Average releases past month – 10,800 cfs
  - End-of-January reservoir level – 1,344.4
  - Forecast end-of-February reservoir level – 1,349.8 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 – 14,600 cfs
  - Forecast average release rate – 16,300 cfs
  - Forecast reservoir level – 1,420.7 feet
- **Oahe Dam**
  - Average releases past month – 14,400 cfs
  - Forecast average release rate – 16,300 cfs
  - End-of-January reservoir level – 1,601.1 feet
  - Forecast end-of-February reservoir level – 1,601.4 feet
- **Garrison Dam**
  - Average releases past month – 16,100 cfs
  - Current release rate – 16,000 cfs
  - Forecast average release rate – 16,000 cfs
  - End-of-January reservoir level – 1,828.0 feet
  - Forecast end-of-February reservoir level – 1,826.6 feet
  - **Notes** – Releases were set at 16,000 cfs in anticipation of the river freeze at Bismarck, North Dakota. Releases will remain near 16,000 throughout the winter season to benefit winter hydropower generation and to better balance storage in the upper three reservoirs.
- **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-January reservoir level – 2,221.7 feet
  - Forecast end-of-February reservoir level – 2,221.9 feet
  - **Notes:** Releases will remain at 5,000 cfs in February.

Hydropower:
The six mainstem power plants generated 476 million kWh of electricity in January. Typical energy generation in January is 704 million kWh. Forecast generation for 2026 is 7.6 billion kWh compared 82 percent of the long-term average, 9.3 billion kWh.