# HIGHLIGHTS FOR FEBRUARY 2026

## DAKOTAS AREA OFFICE

February precipitation was below average in the Heart River Basin with 53 percent of average precipitation at Dickinson Reservoir and 70 percent of average at Heart Butte Reservoir. Within the Cheyenne, Grand, and James River basins precipitation was below average, ranging from zero precipitation at Belle Fourche and Jamestown Reservoirs to 186 percent of average at Deerfield Reservoir.

February inflows in the Heart River basin were above average, with 281 percent of average inflow at Heart Butte Reservoir and 350 percent of average inflows at Dickinson Reservoir. For the Cheyenne River basin, inflows were below average, ranging from 12 percent of average at Keyhole Reservoir to 109 percent of average at Pactola Reservoir. The James and Grand River basin inflows were above average with 103 percent of average inflow at Shadehill Reservoir and 330 percent of average at Jamestown Reservoir.

End-of-month storage in the Heart River basin was above average; 133 percent of average for Dickinson Reservoir, and 110 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 151 percent of average at Belle Fourche Reservoir. End-of-month storage at Shadehill and Jamestown Reservoirs was above average, showing 114 percent of average for Shadehill and 113 percent of average for Jamestown.

## EASTERN COLORADO AREA OFFICE

Precipitation was below average over the Colorado-Big Thompson Project (CBT) during February. Green Mountain Reservoir reported the lowest precipitation at 58 percent of average, while Willow Creek and Lake Granby Reservoirs had the highest at 74 percent of average.

Inflows were below average over the CBT during February. The inflow to Lake Estes Reservoir was the lowest with 52 percent of average. The inflow to Lake Granby Reservoir was the highest at 94 percent of average.

The Lake Granby end-of-month storage of 327,300 acre-feet (AF) was 33,700 AF below average and 37,300 AF lower than one year ago on this date. End-of-month storage in Carter Lake and Horsetooth Reservoir was 126 and 132 percent of average, respectively. The February end-of-month CBT storage in Green Mountain, Lake Granby, Carter Lake, and Horsetooth Reservoir was 639,600 AF; 10,900 AF above average.

Precipitation was below average over the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project (Fry-Ark) during February. Precipitation at Pueblo Reservoir was the lowest with 54 percent of average precipitation, while Twin Lakes Reservoir received 83 percent of average precipitation during the month.

Native inflows were below average over the Fry-Ark during February. The inflow to Turquoise Reservoir was the lowest with 18 percent of average inflow. The inflow to Twin Lakes Reservoir was the highest with 155 percent of average inflow.

End-of-month storage is about average for the Fry-Ark. Turquoise and Pueblo Reservoirs end-of-month storage were the highest at 100 percent of average. Ruedi Reservoir end-of-month storage was the lowest at 96 percent of average. The total February end-of-month storage in the four reservoirs was 452,100 AF, 100 percent of average.

**MONTANA AREA OFFICE**

Precipitation during February was below average in the upper Missouri River basin, ranging from 20 percent of average at Tiber Reservoir to 104 percent of average at Canyon Ferry Reservoir. Inflows were above average, ranging from 83 percent of average at Clark Canyon Reservoir to 157 percent of average at Gibson Reservoir. End-of-month storage is varied, and ranges from 37 percent of average at Willow Creek Reservoir to 195 percent of average at Gibson Reservoir.

For the Milk River Basin, the precipitation was below average, ranging from six percent of average at Fresno Reservoir to 67 percent of average at Sherburne Reservoir. The inflows were varied; 150 percent of average at Sherburne Reservoir and 40 percent of average inflow at Fresno Reservoir. End-of-month storage ranges from 73 percent of average at Fresno Reservoir to 153 percent of average at Sherburne Reservoir.

February precipitation was 43 percent of average at Yellowtail Dam. Inflows were 79 percent of average. End-of-month storage was 103 percent of average.

**NEBRASKA-KANSAS AREA OFFICE**

Precipitation in the Republican River Basin was below average during the month of February, ranging from 21 percent of average at Enders Reservoir to 155 percent of average at Harlan County Reservoir. Inflows were below average and ranged from seven percent of average inflow at Bonny Reservoir to 124 percent of average at Harry Strunk Reservoir. Ignoring Bonny Reservoir, which has been drained for Compact compliance, end-of-month storage ranges from 33 percent of average at Enders Reservoir to 98 percent of average at Harry Strunk Reservoir.

Precipitation in the Solomon River Basin was below average during the month of February, ranging from nine percent of average at Webster Reservoir to 48 percent of average at Kirwin Reservoir. The inflows were below average, ranging from nine percent of average inflow at Webster Reservoir to 54 percent of average at Kirwin Reservoir. End-of-month storage ranges from 29 percent of average at Webster Reservoir to 84 percent of average at Glen Elder Reservoir.

For the Smoky Hill, Niobrara, and Lower Platte Basins, precipitation was below average, ranging from zero at Cedar Bluff Reservoir to 59 percent of average at Box Butte Reservoir. The inflows were about average, ranging from 41 percent of average inflow at Cedar Bluff Reservoir to 390 percent of average at Davis Creek 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**

February precipitation was varied over the Arkansas River Basin, ranging from zero precipitation at Sanford Reservoir to 132 percent of average at Cheney Reservoir. Inflows were varied, ranging from 10 percent of average inflow at Norman Reservoir to 149 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 144 percent of average at Sanford Reservoir.

For the Red River Basin, February precipitation was below average, ranging from zero precipitation at Mountain Park Reservoir to 98 percent of average at McGee Creek Reservoir. The inflows ranged from zero inflow at Mountain Park Reservoir to 38 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 119 percent of average at Arbuckle and Mountain Park Reservoirs.

For the Nueces, Colorado and Washita Basins, the precipitation was below average, ranging from 17 percent of average precipitation at Choke Canyon Reservoir to 51 percent of average at Fort Cobb Reservoir. The inflows were below average, ranging from zero inflow at Choke Canyon Reservoir to 40 percent of average at Fort Cobb Reservoir. End-of-month storage in the basins ranges from 15 percent of average at Choke Canyon Reservoir to 124 percent of average at Foss Reservoir.

**WYOMING AREA OFFICE**

February precipitation was below average in the Bighorn River basin, ranging from 70 percent of average at Buffalo Bill Reservoir to 76 percent of average at Bull Lake Reservoir. Reservoir inflow in the Bighorn basin was about average, ranging from 89 percent of average at Bull Lake Reservoir to 114 percent of average at Buffalo Bill Reservoir. End-of-month storage in the Bighorn Basin is below average, ranging from 52 percent of average at Bull Lake Reservoir to 94 percent of average at Boysen Reservoir.

Precipitation during February was below average in the North Platte River Basin, ranging from 33 percent of average at Seminoe Reservoir to 70 percent of average at Glendo Reservoir. Inflows were below average, ranging from zero inflow at Pathfinder Reservoir to 102 percent of average at Seminoe Reservoir. End-of-month storage is below average and ranges from 56 percent of average at Pathfinder Reservoir to 103 percent of average at Guernsey Reservoir.

**CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT**

February runoff was 1.3 million acre-feet (MAF), 113 percent of average. Despite this above average runoff in the Garrison, Oahe, and Gavins Point reaches, the full-year runoff forecast above Sioux City, Iowa is 20.6 MAF, 80 percent of average. Water stored in the Missouri River Mainstem Reservoir System (System) is currently 49.3 MAF, which is 6.8 MAF below the base of the flood control zone. Releases from Gavins Point Dam are currently 12,000 cubic-feet-per-second and will remain low through mid-March to continue conserving water in the System following the Missouri River Mainstem System Master Manual's criteria.

**Navigation Flow Support:**

Beginning in mid-March, releases from Gavins Point Dam will be adjusted to provide flow support for Missouri River navigation. Flow support is expected to be 5,500 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. The actual service level will be based on the total volume of water stored in the System on March 15. Flow support for the second half of the navigation season, as well as season length, will be based on System storage on July 1.

**Mountain Snowpack:**
Mountain snowpack in the upper Missouri River Basin is accumulating at below average rates. On March 1, mountain snowpack in the Fort Peck reach was 79 percent of average, and in the Fort Peck to Garrison reach, it was 85 percent of average. Mountain snow normally peaks near April 17 and has reached about 79 percent of the total accumulation by March 1.

**Reservoir Forecasts:**

| Project | Avg. Release (Feb.) | Current Release | Forecast Release | End-of-Feb. Reservoir Level (Feet) | Forecast End-of-March Reservoir Level (Feet) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Gavins Point** | 12,400 cfs | 12,000 cfs | 25,800 cfs | 1,206.5 | 1,206.0 |
| **Fort Randall** | 9,000 cfs | — | — | 1,349.7 | 1,354.7 |
| **Big Bend** | 15,200 cfs | — | 21,700 cfs* | — | 1,420.8 |
| **Oahe** | 15,200 cfs | — | 21,900 cfs* | 1,601.9 | 1,601.7 |
| **Garrison** | 15,700 cfs | 16,000 cfs | 16,000 cfs* | 1,827.5 | 1,826.4 |
| **Fort Peck** | 4,900 cfs | 5,000 cfs | 5,000 cfs* | 2,222.0 | 2,222.0 |

**Notes:** ***Indicates "Forecast Average" rate for the month.***
**Gavins Point** releases will be increased around March 17 to begin providing minimum service navigation flow support on the lower Missouri River.
**Fort Randall** releases will be adjusted as necessary to maintain the desired reservoir elevation at Gavins Point and to back up the Gavins Point release increases. The reservoir will refill to near elevation 1,355.0 feet by the end of March.
**Garrison Dam** releases will be maintained at 16,000 cfs during March.
**Fort Peck Dam** releases will be maintained at 5,000 cfs in March.

**Hydropower:**
The six mainstem power plants generated 425 million kWh of electricity in February, below the typical February energy generation of 614 million kWh. Forecast generation for 2026 is 7.8 billion kWh 48 percent of the long-term average, 9.3 billion kWh.