



# State of the River

## October 2026

USACE Mississippi Valley Division  
WATERSHED DIVISION

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# Summary

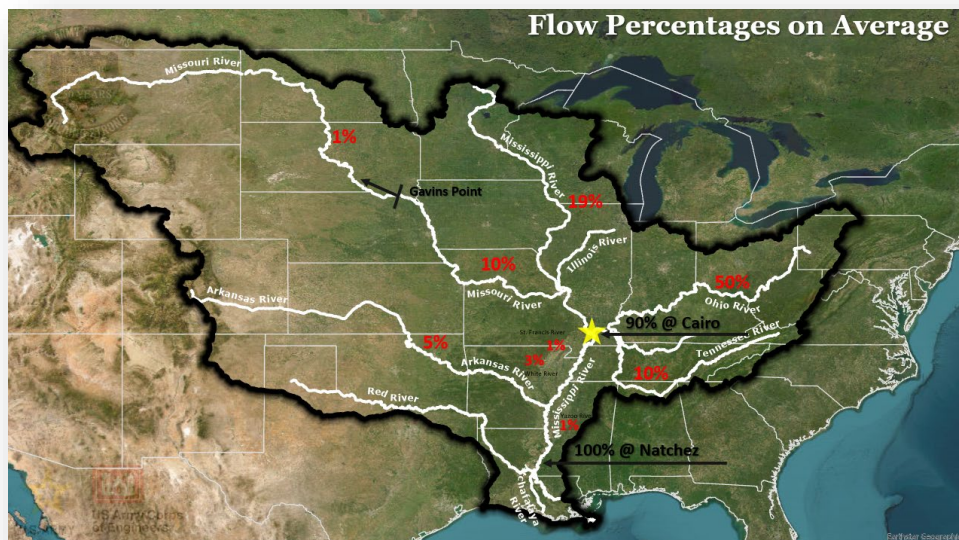
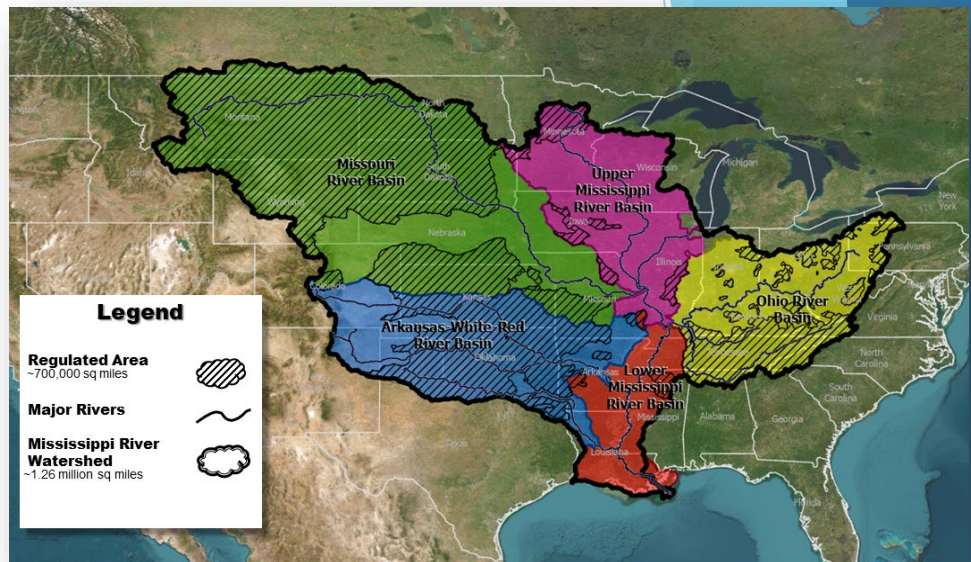
- ▶ On October 3rd, the National Hurricane Center identified an area for potential tropical cyclone development in the Southwestern Gulf. This system organized into a Tropical Depression on October 6th, then became Tropical Storm Isaias on October 7th. On the 8th, the Storm intensified to a Category 1 Hurricane. This means that the 2026 Atlantic Hurricane Season tied with 1905 for the record for latest date of first Hurricane development. Isaias is projected to strengthen to Category 2 and sweep southeast of Louisiana before making landfall around the west Florida Panhandle the night of October 9th.
- ▶ A strong El Niño persists and is expected to further intensify into the winter season. As a result, NOAA predicts a below average year for tropical systems in the North Atlantic. This event could also have an impact on fall/winter severe weather as well as precipitation totals across the basin. It is important to remember that although the official NOAA hurricane forecast calls for a below normal hurricane season, it only takes one storm to cause significant impacts.
- ▶ Precipitation throughout September remained below normal across the lower Mississippi River Basin. However, successive heavy rainfall events in the Central Mississippi River caused localized river flooding which has caused stages on the Ohio and Mississippi River to go well above average.
- ▶ Following a late-August drop and low early-September levels, the Middle and Lower Mississippi River saw a mid-month surge well above the historical average. These mid-September stages significantly exceeded those recorded from 2022 to 2025 before gradually receding back to normal.
- ▶ Stages throughout the Middle and Lower Mississippi Rivers are forecast to slowly fall in the coming weeks, but the system is not forecast to reach any low water thresholds throughout the next two weeks.
- ▶ Arkabutla Lake has been under a Dam Safety Emergency since 2023 and is operating under a Major Deviation to hold a lower target pool of 204' throughout the year. In October, Vicksburg District successfully reached a major milestone in the Phase II interim risk reduction measures (IRRM) with the completion of grouting within the outlet works. This critical step further stabilizes the dam's outlet works and reduces risk for downstream communities
- ▶ The New Orleans District continues to monitor saltwater wedge progression. The sill and water-procurement triggers are not expected to be met during the 28-day forecast period.

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# Mississippi River Basin Overview

The MS River drains 1.25 million sq miles, 41 % of the contiguous United States, and stretches more than 2,300 miles from Lake Itasca, Minnesota, to the Gulf, touching 31 states and two Canadian provinces. Its watershed comprises six major sub-basins: Upper Miss, Missouri, Ohio/Tennessee-Cumberland, Arkansas-White, Red, and Lower Miss. In these 6 sub-basins, approximately 55% is regulated by reservoirs, which leaves a total of 45% unregulated area within the overall basin.



The graphic on the left depicts the average flow contribution of major rivers in the basin. By the time the Mississippi River reaches its junction with the Ohio River, roughly 90% of its total flow has already entered. Based on the climatology of the basin, the majority of the flow comes from the Ohio River Basin.

The Mississippi River is managed by one of the largest and most complex civil-works systems on Earth, delivering flood-risk reduction, reliable navigation, and ecosystem benefits from Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico.

This is achieved through an integrated network of levees and floodwalls, flood-control reservoirs, major floodways and spillways, backwater areas, locks and dams, bank stabilization, and continuous channel maintenance and dredging.

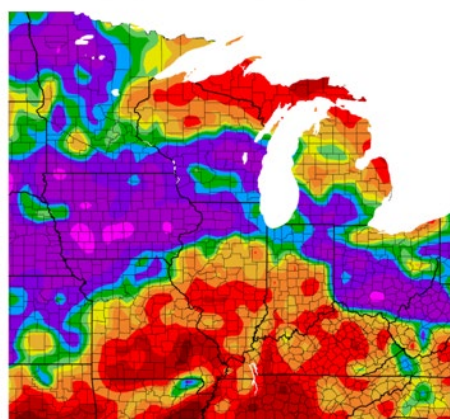
Below Cape Girardeau, Missouri, these features are coordinated under the ongoing Mississippi River & Tributaries Project (MR&T). The MR&T is designed to safely pass the Project Design Flood—an extreme hypothetical event based on the 1958A-EN standard that exceeds any flood in recorded history. For nearly a century, this system has successfully contained every major flood, preventing catastrophic losses along the Lower Mississippi Valley.

# Current Conditions

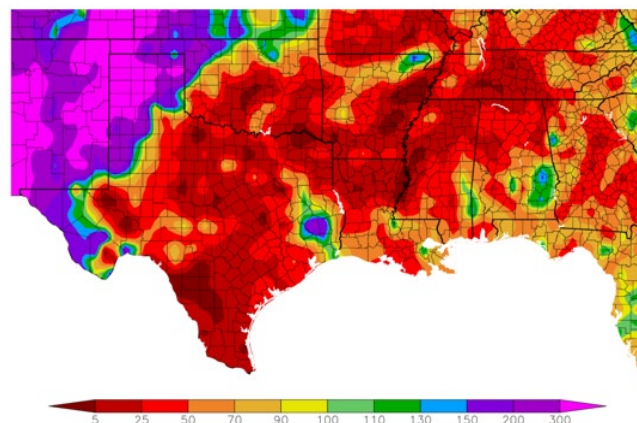
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Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
9/1/2026 – 9/30/2026



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
9/1/2026 – 9/30/2026



Generated 10/4/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Generated 10/4/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Figure 1. Maps displaying monthly precipitation percentiles across the Mississippi River Basin for the month of September  
Credit: Southern Regional Climate Center.

## Past Precipitation

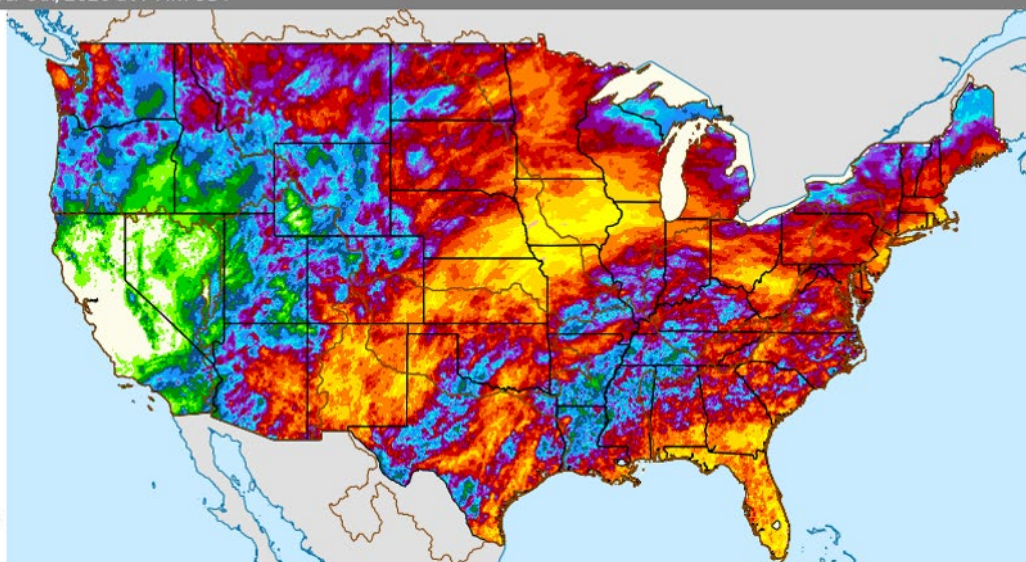
Throughout September, the Lower Mississippi and the southern half of the Upper Mississippi received much lower than normal precipitation amounts. However, the higher than normal rainfall in the northern half of the Upper Mississippi proved beneficial to the overall River system. **(Fig.1).**

Over the last 30 days, the **Lower Mississippi generally received under 2 inches of rain, while the Upper Mississippi received amounts ranging 1 to 15 inches (Fig. 2).** The heaviest rain occurred across Iowa and into northern Missouri/Illinois.



## Observed Precipitation - Past 30 Days

Valid Ending Tuesday October 6th, 2026 at 7 AM CDT



Generated: 2026-10-06 11:15 CDT

Figure 2. Map displaying observed precipitation totals over the last 30 days ending October 6, 2026 across the Mississippi River Basin. Credit: NOAA/NWS

## Soil Moisture

Low rainfall has reduced the amount of soil moisture in much of the southern Mississippi River Valley, particularly in southern Illinois and southern Missouri (**Fig 4**). Below-normal soil moisture is shown by the red and orange colors, while blue indicates above-normal soil moisture.

NASA SPoRT-LIS 0-100 cm Soil Moisture Percentile

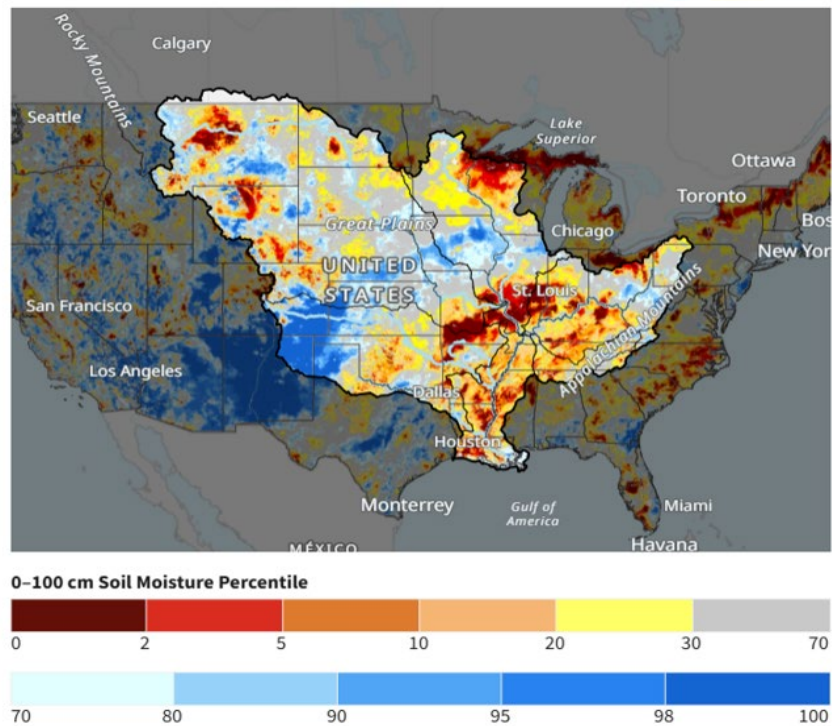


Figure 4. Map displaying the soil moisture percentile on October 5, 2026 for the first 0-100cm of soil depth compared to historical conditions from 1981-2013. Credit: [NASA SPoRT](#).

## River Conditions

The majority of gages are below flood stage (**Fig. 5**). However, localized flooding persists in Iowa and central Illinois. Some locations in southern Missouri have reached their Low Water Threshold due to limited rainfall.



Observed River Points: Mississippi Basin

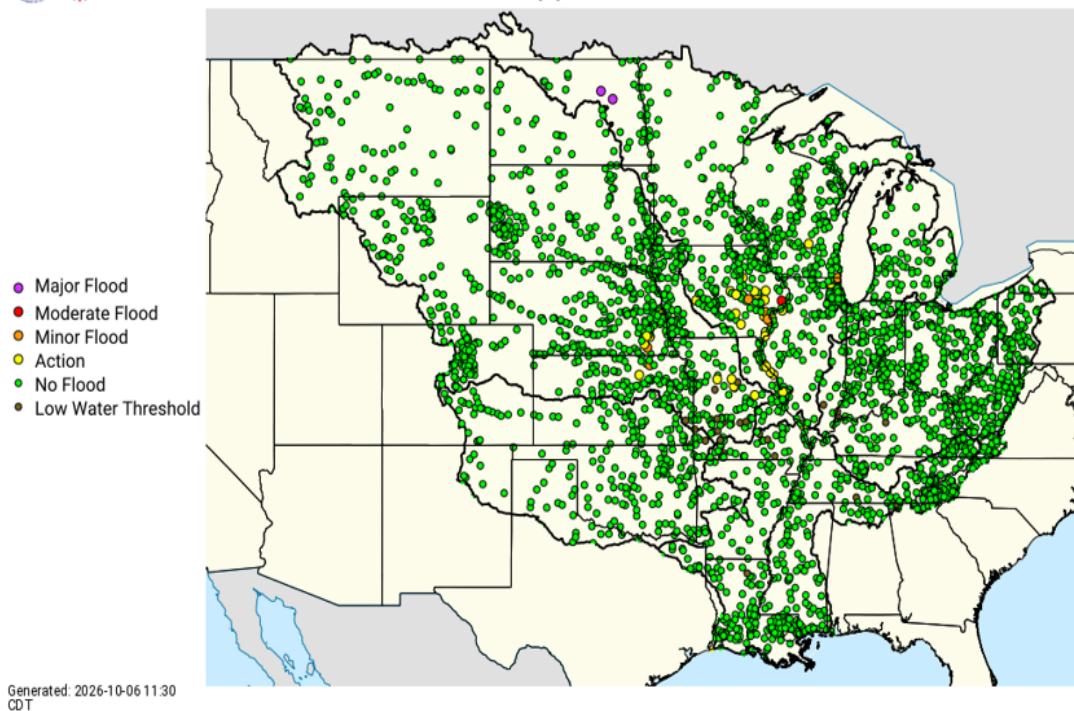


Figure 5. Map displaying all river gages and their gage status throughout the Mississippi River Basin. Credit: [NWS](#).

## Current Conditions Compared to Historical Max and Min

| Gage Location     | Stage Oct 7, 2026 | Phase I Flood Stage (ft) | Phase II Flood Stage (ft) | Record Flood Stage (ft) | Record Low Stage (ft)* |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| St. Paul          | 3.3               | 15                       | 17                        | 26.01 1965              | 2.65 1976              |
| Rock Island       | 6.7               | 16                       | 18                        | 22.7 2019               | 2.78 2012              |
| St. Louis         | 22.96             | 33                       | 37                        | 49.58 1993              | -5.2 1989              |
| Cairo             | 24.44             | 49                       | 52                        | 61.7 2011               | 4.5 2023               |
| Memphis           | 2.31              | 37                       | 39                        | 48.7 2011               | -12.0 2023             |
| Vicksburg         | 17.34             | 44                       | 49                        | 57.2 2011               | -1.6 1988              |
| Red River Landing | 27.44             | 48                       | 56                        | 63.4 2011               | 10.0 1988              |
| New Orleans       | 5.25              | 11                       | 15                        | 17.6 2020               | 0.1 1988               |

\*Record low stage 1965-Present

Following a rapid drop in late August, river stages on the Middle and Lower Mississippi remained low in early September. However, a significant rise in the middle of the month pushed stages to well above the monthly average before they began to fall back to average. These mid-September levels were notably higher than those seen in both 2022-2025 for the same period. Figures 6-9 depict Comparative Stage Hydrographs from St. Louis to Red River Landing. Daily river stages at each location are shown for 2024 (dashed gray line), 2025 (black line), and 2026 (red line). The blue shaded area indicates the max and min stages ever recorded for any day at that river point. The light green shaded area indicates the monthly average stages.

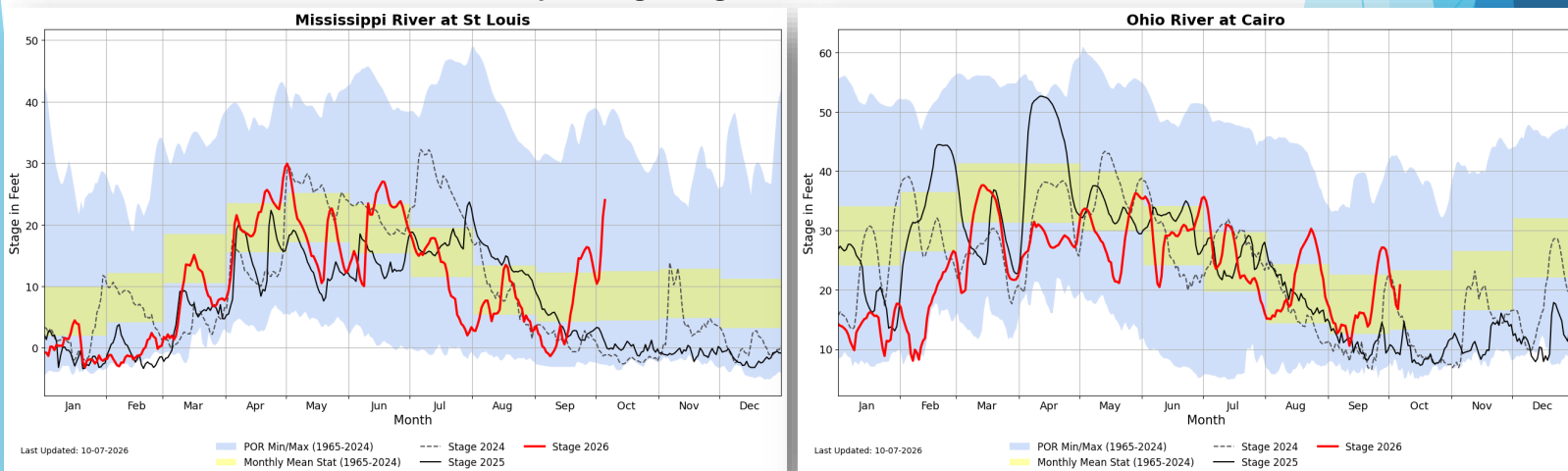


Figure 6. <https://www.mvk-wc.usace.army.mil/mvd/stlouisstats.png> & <https://www.mvk-wc.usace.army.mil/mvd/cairostats.png>

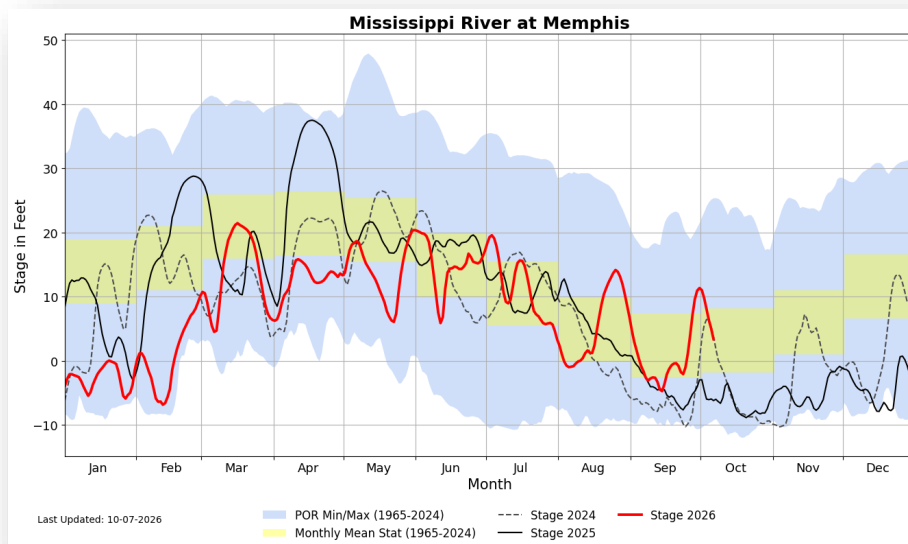


Figure 7. <https://www.mvk-wc.usace.army.mil/mvd/memphisstats.png>

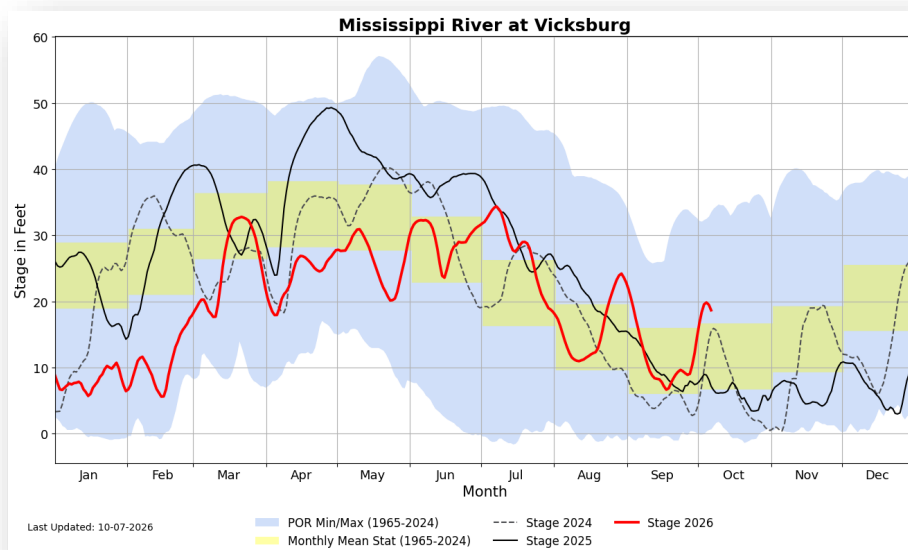


Figure 8. <https://www.mvk-wc.usace.army.mil/mvd/vicksburgstats.png>

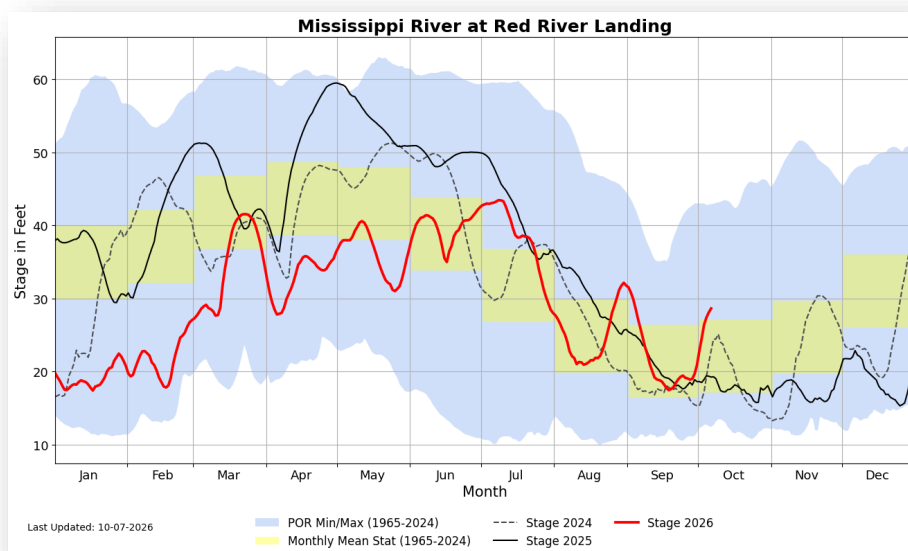


Figure 9. <https://www.mvk-wc.usace.army.mil/mvd/redriverlandingstats.png>

The higher flows from last months rainfall in the Ohio River Basin has passed Cairo, and the basin's contribution has dropped significantly below its historical average. Currently, the Ohio River is contributing only 12% of the total flow, compared to its usual 50%. This decrease is offset by above-average flows from other major basins. The Upper Mississippi (38% vs. an average of 19%), Missouri River (26% vs. an average of 10%), and Tennessee River (15% vs. an average of 10%) are all contributing much more water than usual.

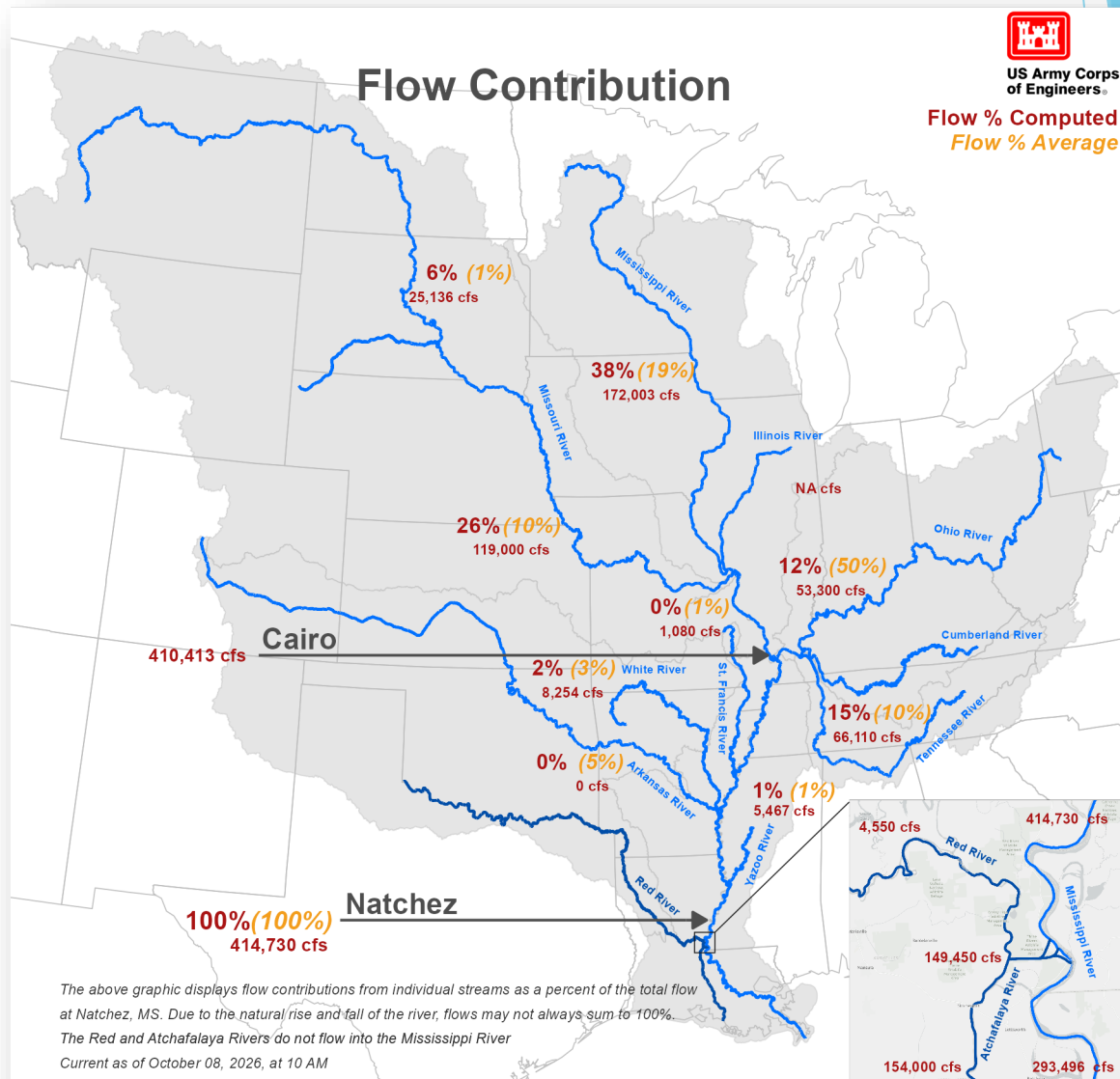


Figure 10. This map depicts the average flow contributions (values in orange) and the current flow contributions (values in red). <https://www.mvk-wc.usace.army.mil/mvd/MSValleyFlowDistro.png>

## Reservoir Conditions

Mississippi River Basin reservoirs remain near full flood storage capacity, providing critical, year-round flood risk management that is can be vital during hurricane season.

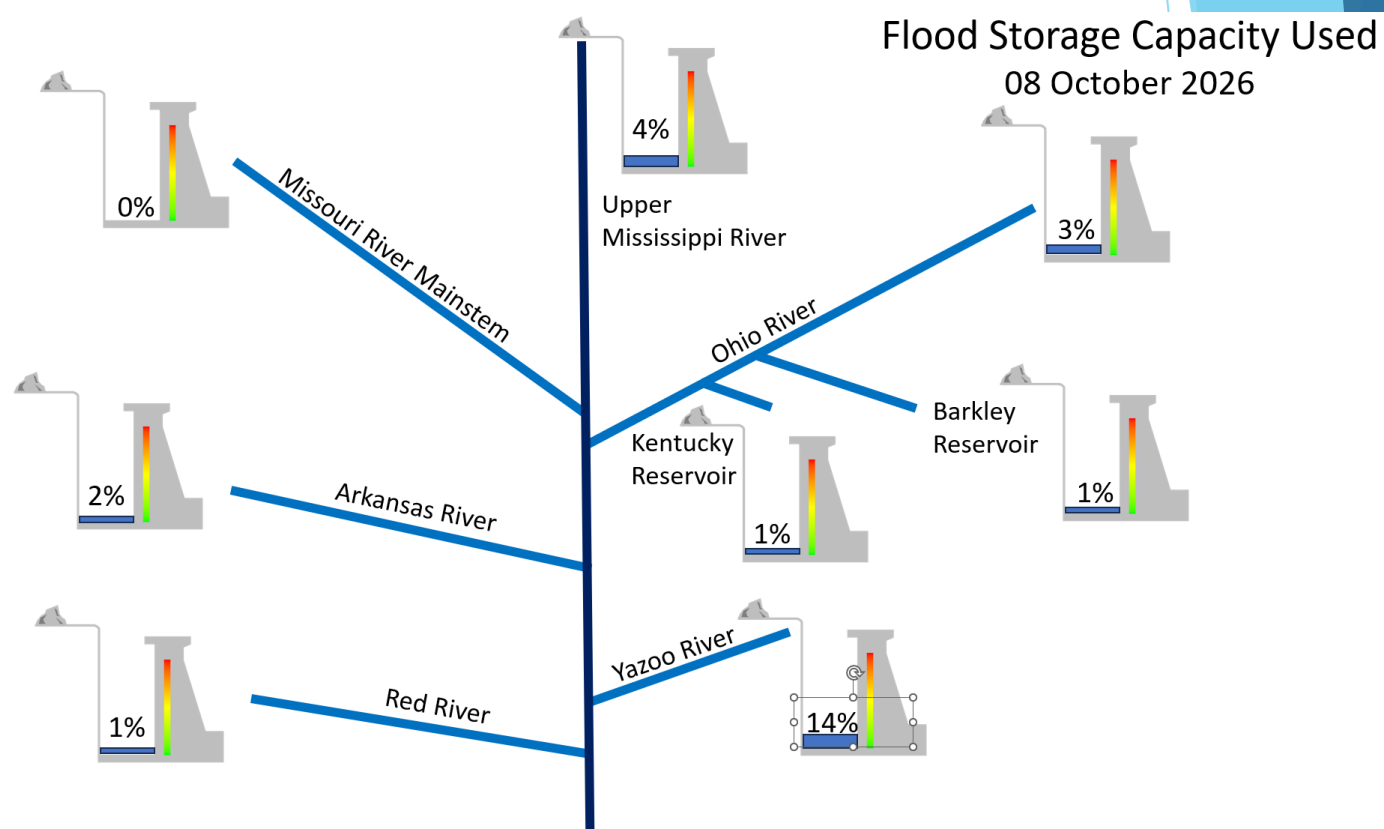


Figure 11. Greater Mississippi River Basin Flood Storage

## Missouri River Basin Reservoirs

Due to depleted system storage, navigation flow support is operating at minimum service levels on a shortened season, scheduled to conclude two weeks early on November 15. Despite these minimum releases, the Missouri River currently contributes nearly 30% of the total discharge at Cairo.

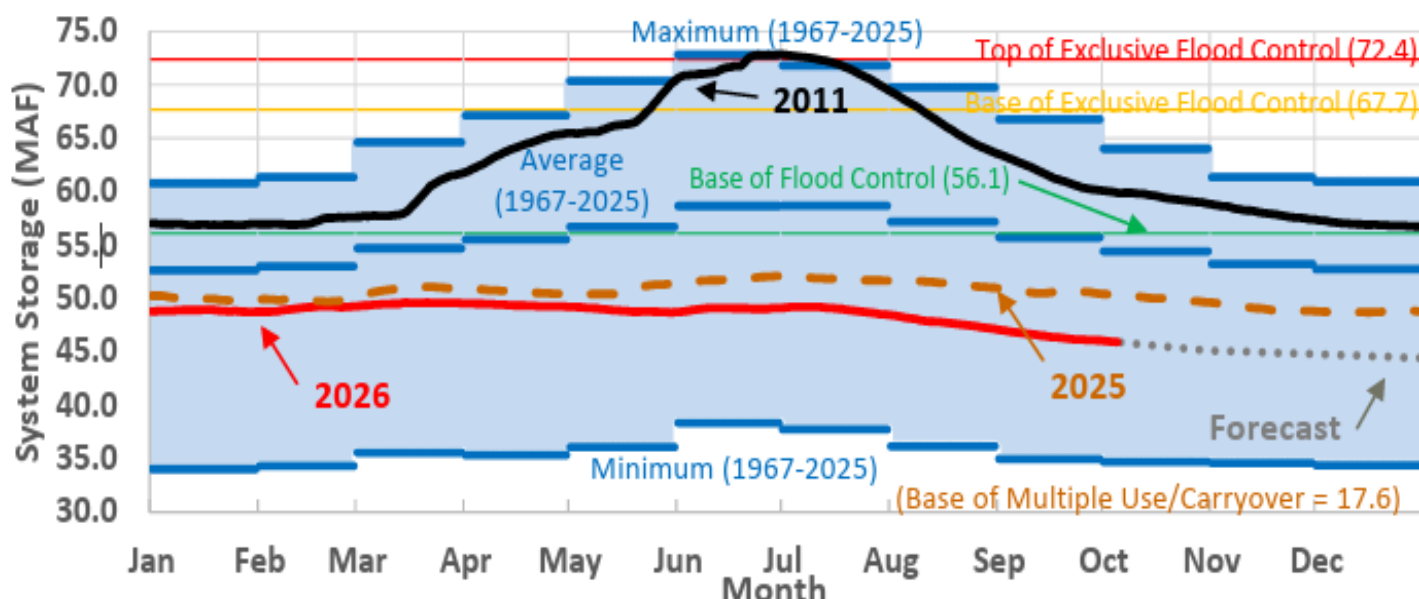


Figure 12. Missouri River Basin Storage

## Kentucky / Barkley Reservoirs

Figure 13 displays the seasonal guide curve (green line) for Kentucky Lake. The blue line depicts the lake elevations for 2026, and the gray-dashed line is 2025. **Kentucky and Barkley lakes continue their slow descent towards winter pool and are expected to slowly fall until November.**

**Kentucky Dam**  
Reservoir Level Operating Guide (ft)

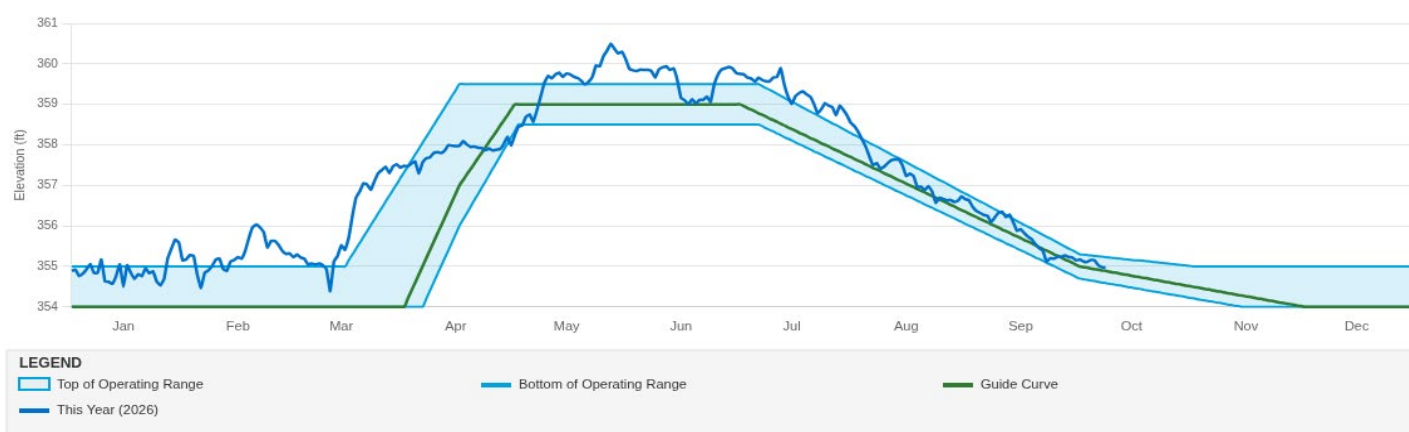
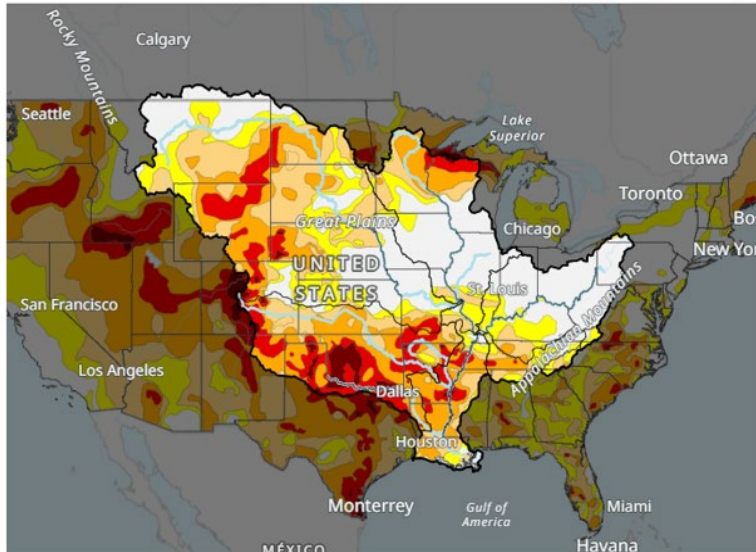


Figure 13. Kentucky Reservoir Guide Curve

The summer drought continues into the fall season. However, the drought area has not expanded overall. Instead, areas in southern US (and particularly in the Lower Mississippi Valley) have seen degradation of their existing drought conditions.

## U.S. Drought Monitor

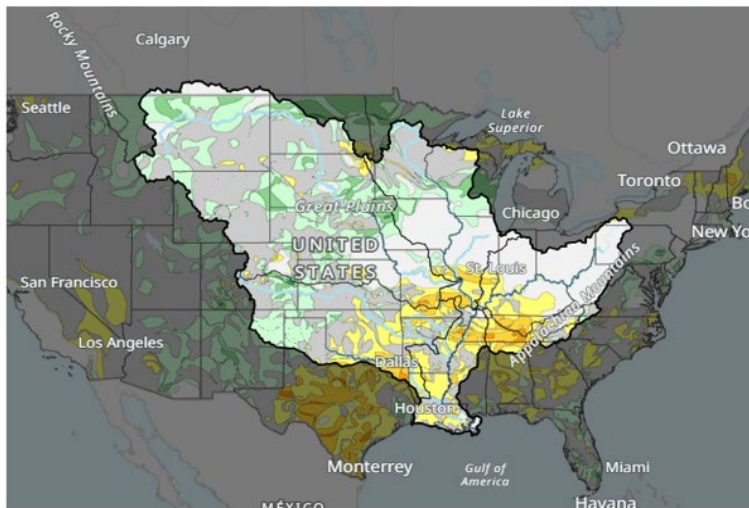


### U.S. Drought Monitor



Figure 14. This map displays the current extent and intensity of drought throughout the Mississippi River Basin. Credit: [NDMC](#).

## U.S. Drought Monitor 4-Week Change Map



### Drought Degradation



### Drought Improvement



Figure 15. This map displays the change in the Drought Monitor over the last 4 weeks throughout the Mississippi River Basin. Credit: [NDMC](#)

Moderate to exceptional drought continues across the Greater Mississippi River Basin, with **approximately 55% of the region currently experiencing drought conditions (Fig. 14)**. Exceptional Drought (D4) is still observed in six states within the Basin.

The northern and central Great Plains generally saw drought improvement over the past four weeks, but drought conditions in the Lower Mississippi Valley have degraded. The percent area experiencing moderate drought or worse remains about the same as last month **(Fig. 15)**.

# Forecast Conditions

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## Future Precipitation

In the next week, the **heaviest precipitation will be along the Gulf Coast and in the Lower Mississippi Valley (Fig. 17).**

**Upper Mississippi/Red/Souris:**  
0.01" to 1.00" of liquid precipitation

**Middle Mississippi/Lower Ohio Valley:** 0.01" to 2.00" of liquid precipitation

**Lower Mississippi Valley:** 0.01" to 5.00" of liquid precipitation

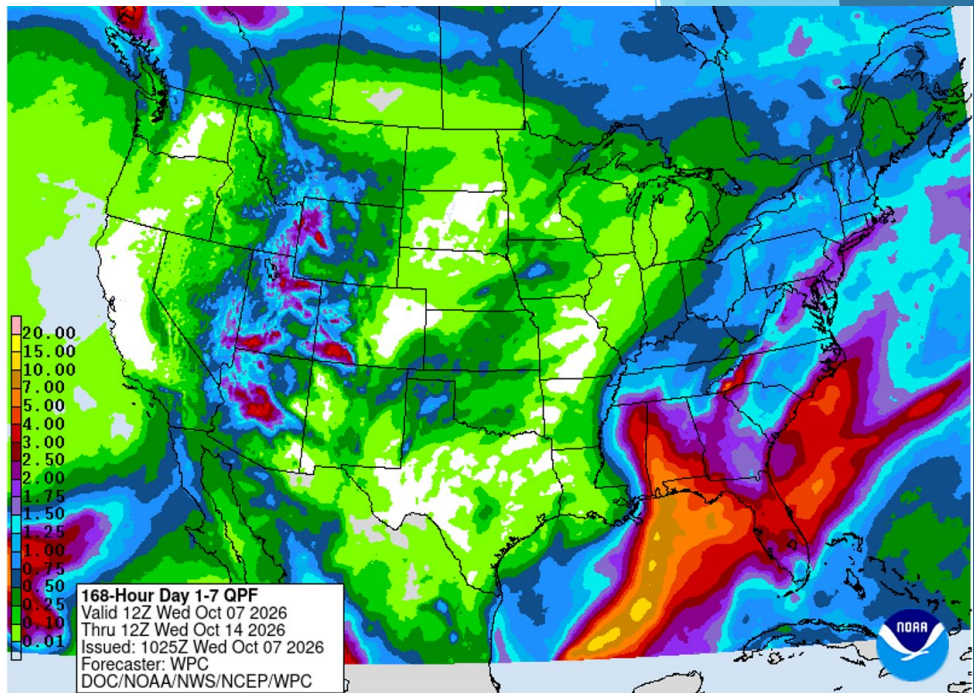
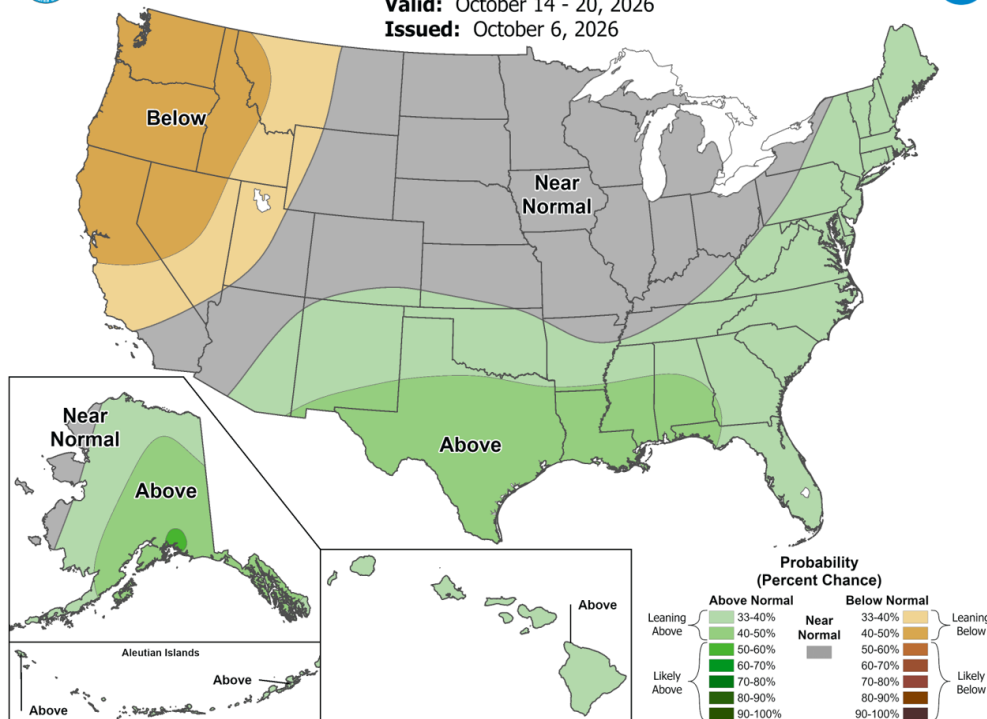


Figure 17. Map displaying the Quantitative Precipitation Forecast (QPF) for the next seven days. Credit: NOAA NWS WPC.



## 8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook

Valid: October 14 - 20, 2026  
Issued: October 6, 2026



The 8 to 14 Day precipitation outlook from the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) favors near normal precipitation for the Upper Mississippi, Missouri, and Ohio Rivers. Above normal precipitation is favored for the Lower Mississippi and Arkansas Rivers (**Fig. 18**).

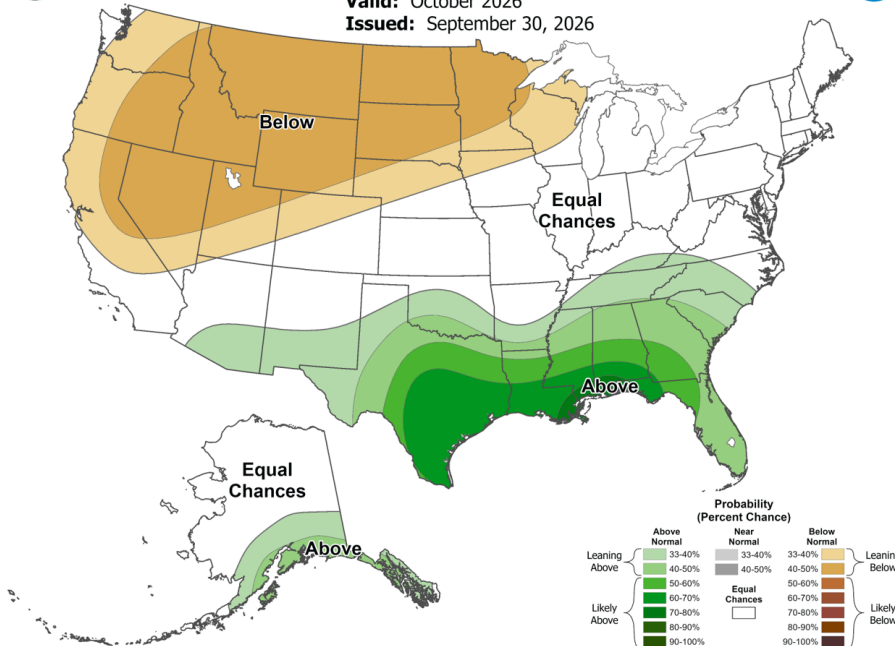
Figure 18. Map displays the probabilities for above, below, and near normal precipitation during the 8-14 day timeframe. Credit: NOAA CPC.



## Monthly Precipitation Outlook

Valid: October 2026

Issued: September 30, 2026



The CPC's monthly precipitation outlook for October favors below normal precipitation for the northernmost Mississippi River and above normal precipitation for most of the Lower Mississippi. The central Mississippi and Ohio Rivers have equal chances of below or above normal rainfall (**Fig. 19**).

Figure 19. Map displays the probabilities for above, below, and near normal precipitation during the month of October. Credit: [NOAA CPC](#).

The CPC's three-month precipitation outlook for the fall season has equal chances for above, below, or near normal precipitation across the Ohio Valley and Upper Mississippi Valley. However, above normal precipitation for the southern US and Lower Mississippi Valley could bring a reversal of the current drought conditions (**Fig 20**).



## Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: Oct-Nov-Dec 2026

Issued: September 17, 2026

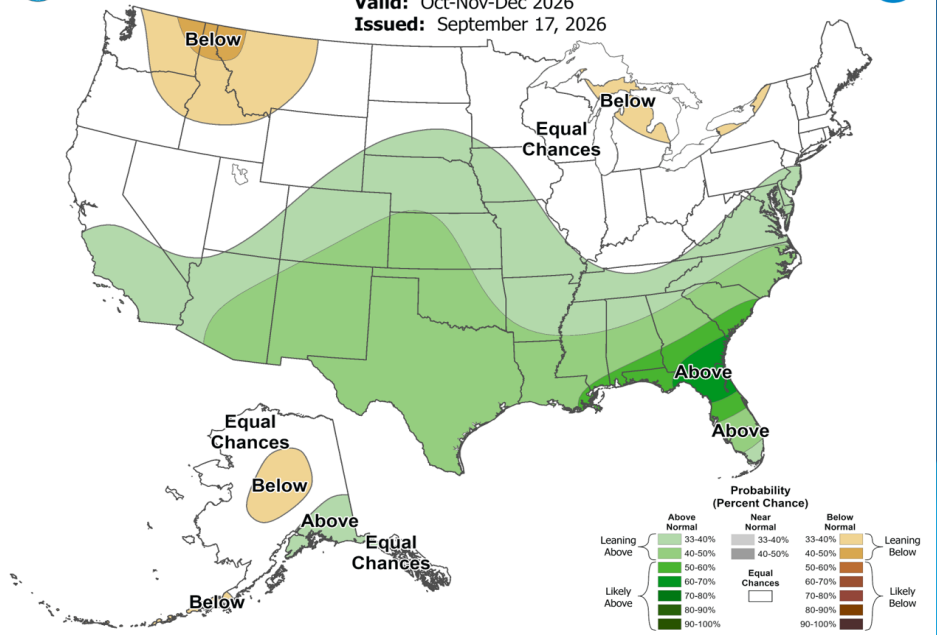


Figure 20. Map displays the probabilities for above, below, and near normal precipitation during the three month seasonal period. Credit: [NOAA CPC](#).

**El Niño conditions are present and are still expected to strengthen into the winter season.**

There is a >90% chance of a very strong El Niño event in Sept-Nov through Nov-Jan (**Fig. 21**). ENSO (El Niño/Southern Oscillation) is a global scale climate pattern forced by the changes in ocean water temperature in the Pacific Ocean. El Niño is the warm side of this pattern with above average sea surface temperatures.

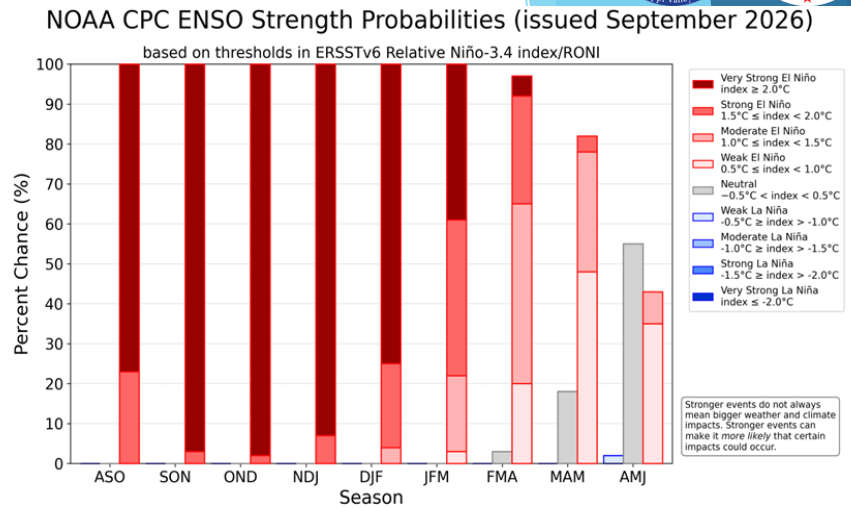


Figure 21. Graph displays official El Niño/Southern Oscillation probabilities showing the expectation of a further increase in El Niño intensity through the fall and into the winter. Each bar also shows the probability of the strength of a given ENSO state. Credit: [NOAA CPC](#).

## El Niño Influence in the Greater Mississippi Basin

- Hurricanes: Associated with less active Atlantic hurricane seasons.
- Severe Weather: Associated with more Fall/Winter severe weather and flood events in the far southern U.S.
- Ohio River Basin: Can lead to below normal precipitation in the Ohio basin.

There can be a lot of *year-to-year variability* between individual El Niño years. Average El Niño impacts (Fig 22) are derived from data 1950-present, and there are 25 El Niño years in this dataset. Recent very strong El Niño's include 2015-16, 1997-98, 1991-92, 1982-83, and 1972-73.

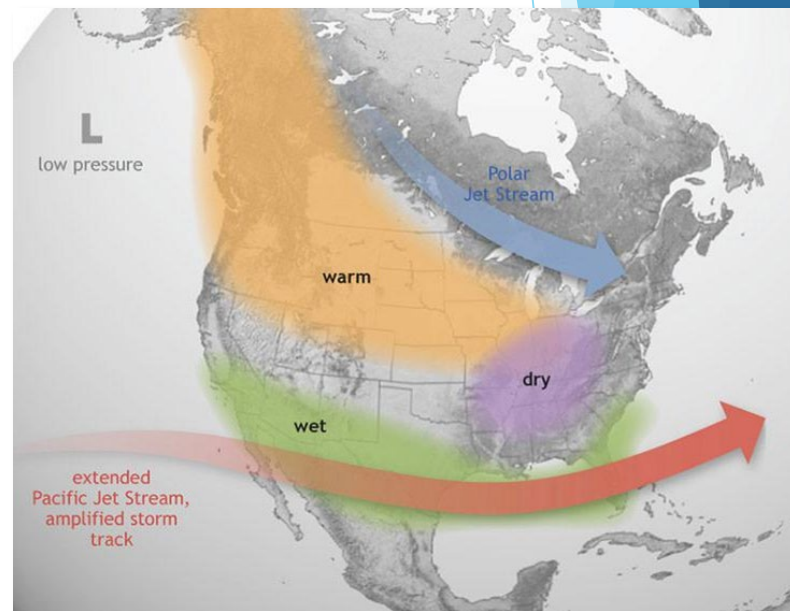


Figure 22. Typical impacts on U.S. weather patterns due to an El Niño ENSO cycle. Credit: [NOAA Climate.gov](#).

## El Niño Fact Check:

- Major hurricanes can form during strong El Niño years, see Andrew (1992).
- “Super El Niño” is not a NOAA term.
- There are no “El Niño Storms”. It is a global pattern which can help set the background atmospheric flow that steers weather events. It cannot dictate exact outcomes.

## Upper Mississippi Basin

**Upper Mississippi River stages are forecast to fall throughout the month of October.** The hydrographs show the observed stages and the forecast stages with 2 days of forecasted precipitation (pink), 7 days of forecasted precipitation (green) and 16 days of forecasted precipitation (blue).

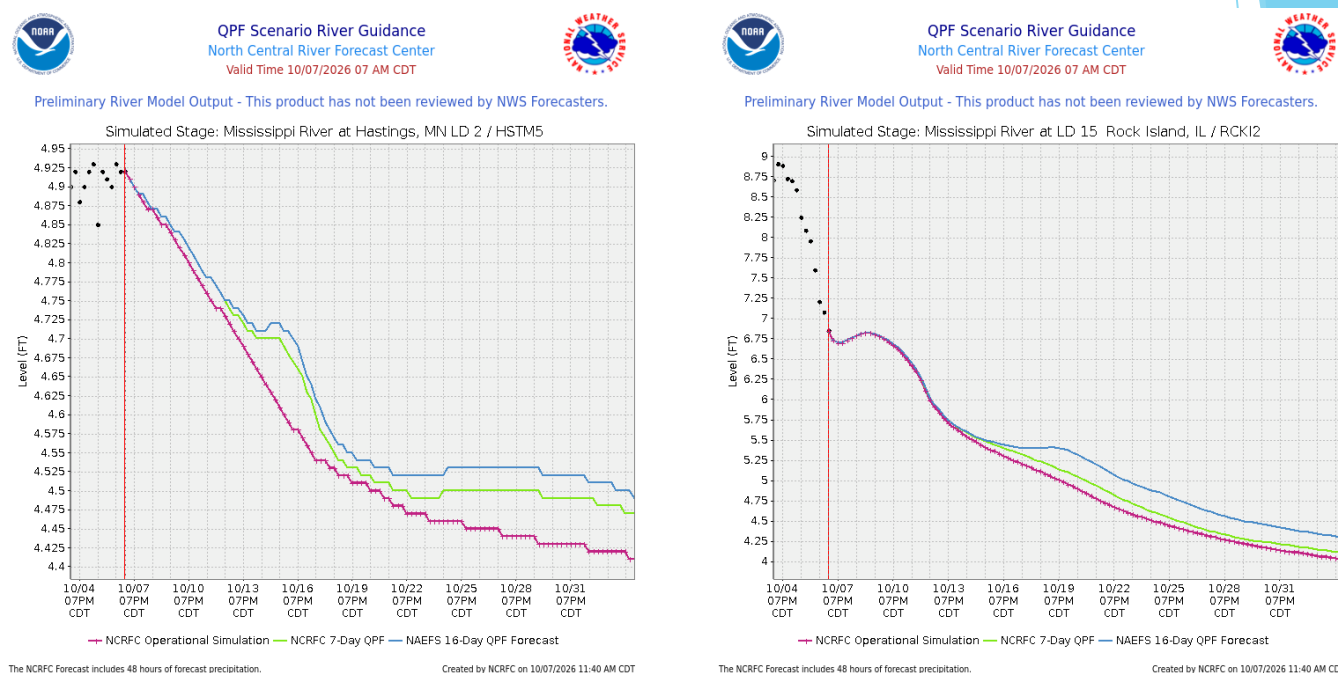


Figure 22. Forecasts for the Mississippi River at Hastings, MN (left) and Rock Island (right) from the North Central River Forecast Center. [https://www.weather.gov/ncrfc/LMI\\_WS\\_QPFScenarioGuidance](https://www.weather.gov/ncrfc/LMI_WS_QPFScenarioGuidance)

## Ohio and Middle to Lower Mississippi Basins

Figures 23-25 show extended river stage forecasts for St. Louis to New Orleans. The blue lines indicate forecast with 48 hours of forecast rainfall. The green lines indicate forecast with 16 days of forecast rainfall. The dashed lines indicate the daily average river stage based on the period of record for each respective location.

**Stages on the Middle and Lower Mississippi River are above average. Stages are forecast to fall below average mid-late October and remain above concerning low water levels throughout the month of October.**

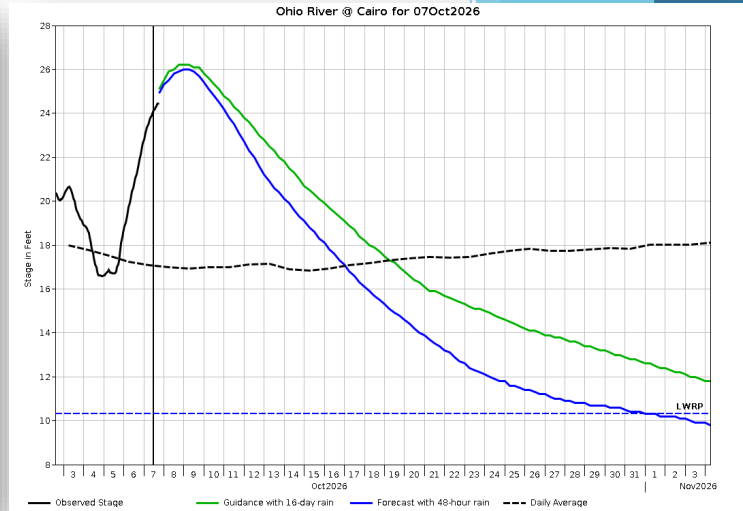
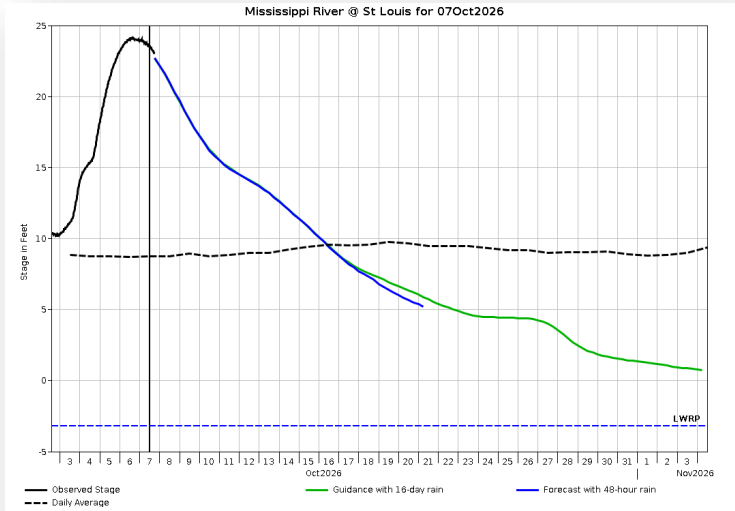


Figure 23. [https://www.mvk-wc.usace.army.mil/mvd/stlouis28d\\_guidanceplot.png](https://www.mvk-wc.usace.army.mil/mvd/stlouis28d_guidanceplot.png) & [https://www.mvk-wc.usace.army.mil/mvd/cairo28d\\_guidanceplot.png](https://www.mvk-wc.usace.army.mil/mvd/cairo28d_guidanceplot.png)

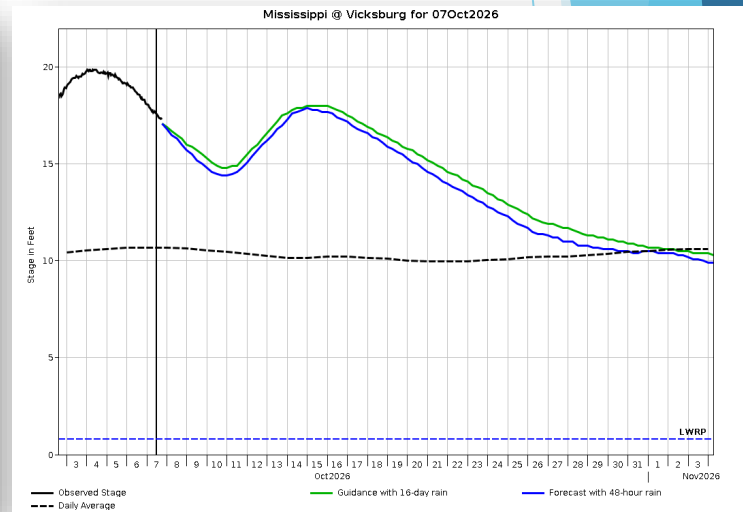
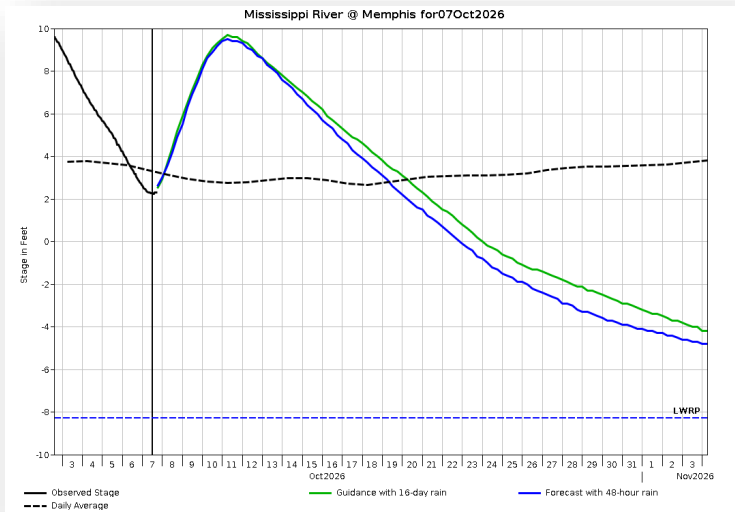


Figure 24. [https://www.mvk-wc.usace.army.mil/mvd/memphis28d\\_guidanceplot.png](https://www.mvk-wc.usace.army.mil/mvd/memphis28d_guidanceplot.png) & [https://www.mvk-wc.usace.army.mil/mvd/vicksburg28d\\_guidanceplot.png](https://www.mvk-wc.usace.army.mil/mvd/vicksburg28d_guidanceplot.png)

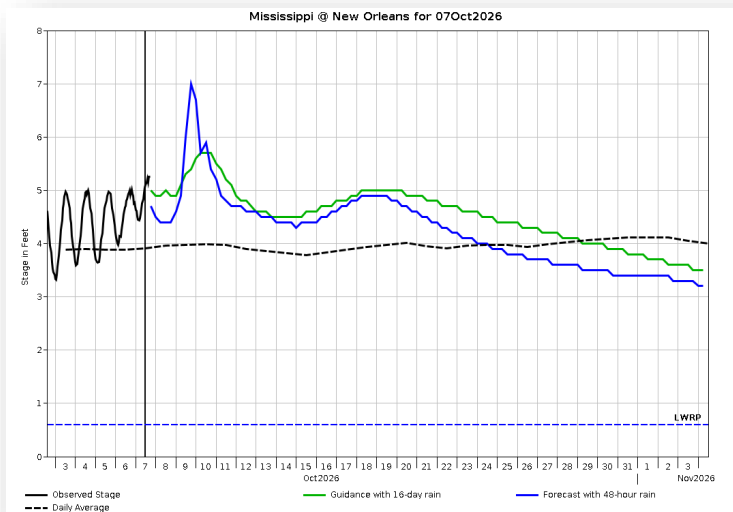


Figure 25. [https://www.mvk-wc.usace.army.mil/mvd/neworleans28d\\_guidanceplot.png](https://www.mvk-wc.usace.army.mil/mvd/neworleans28d_guidanceplot.png)

# Navigation

## Dredging

Districts are surveying the authorized (9ft x 300ft) navigation channel on the mainstem Mississippi River and harbors. MVD has 20 dredges working within the area of responsibility; 13 dredges operating on the Mississippi River.

## Lock Updates/Closures

|     |                |                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MVK | Lindy C. Boggs | The first set of tainter gates have been delivered. Contractor is prepping site for gate install. Install will have no impact to industry.                                 |
| MVN | Calcasieu Lock | Beginning on 18 May and continuing through approximately 30 October, lock will be closed M-F from 0700 to 1900 hrs to perform major repairs to the north chamber wall.     |
| MVN | Catfish Point  | <u>Currently in</u> a restricted locking procedure <u>effective</u> immediately and continuing until further notice, because of low water and high salinity in Grand Lake. |

*Figure 26. Regional Lock Status*

## Lock Status - Upper Miss

The Upper Mississippi River is open for navigation.

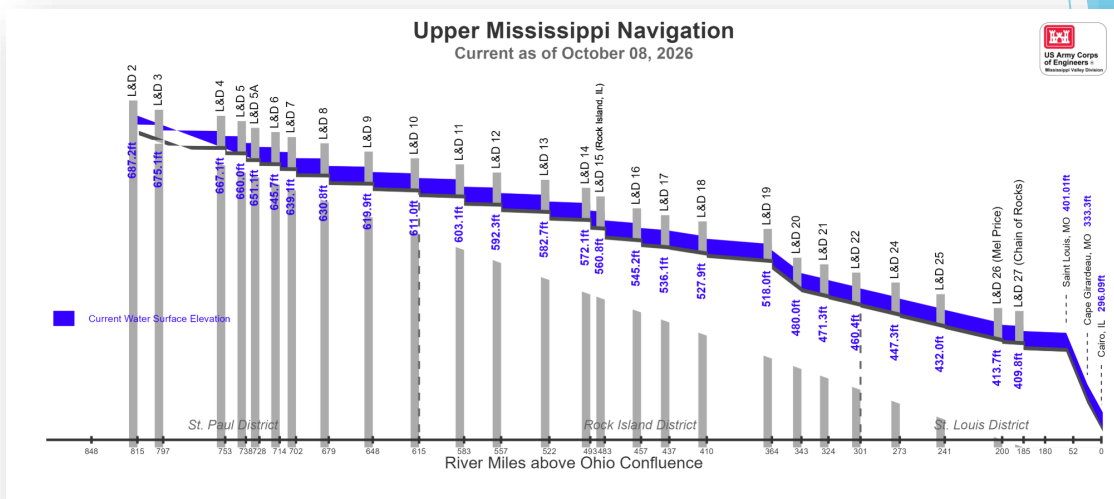


Figure 27. <https://www.mvk-wc.usace.army.mil/MVD/UpperMissNav.png>

## Navigation - Red and Ouachita Rivers

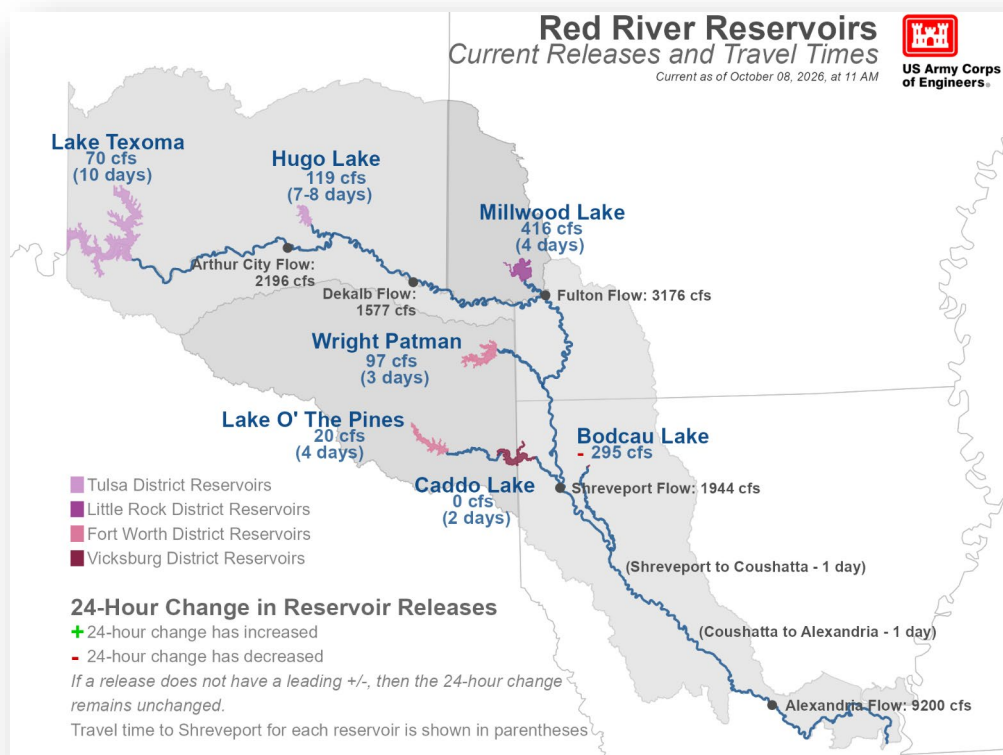


Figure 28. [https://www.mvk-wc.usace.army.mil/plots/RRNav\\_Reservoirs.png](https://www.mvk-wc.usace.army.mil/plots/RRNav_Reservoirs.png)



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Vicksburg District

## Red River Project

Current as of October 08, 2026, at 11 AM

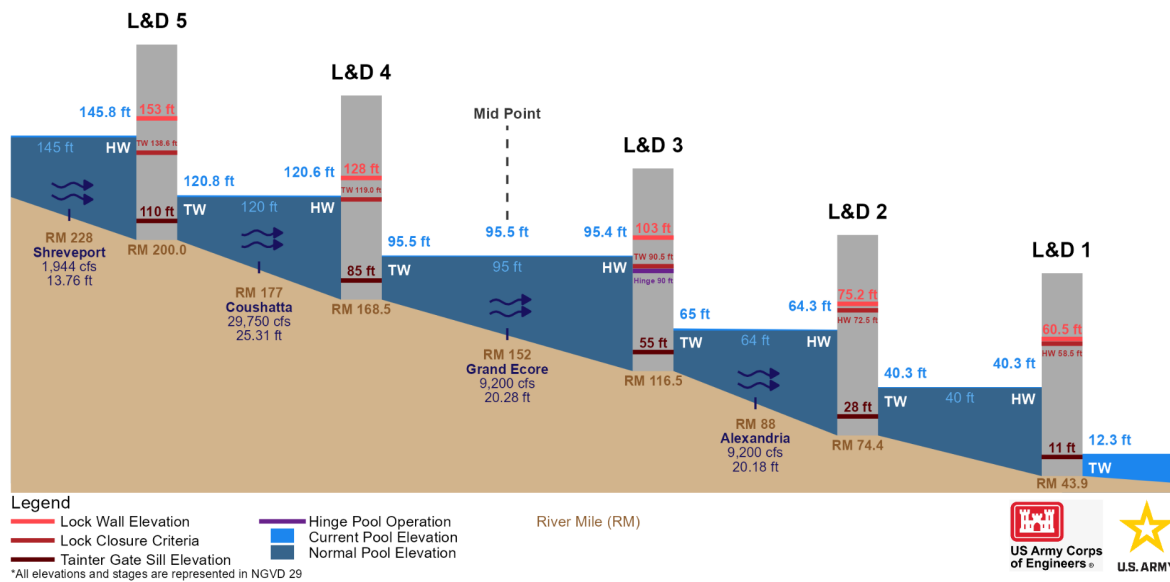


Figure 29. [https://www.mvk-wc.usace.army.mil/plots/red\\_structures.png](https://www.mvk-wc.usace.army.mil/plots/red_structures.png)



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Vicksburg District

## Ouachita River Navigation Project

Current as of October 08, 2026, at 11 AM

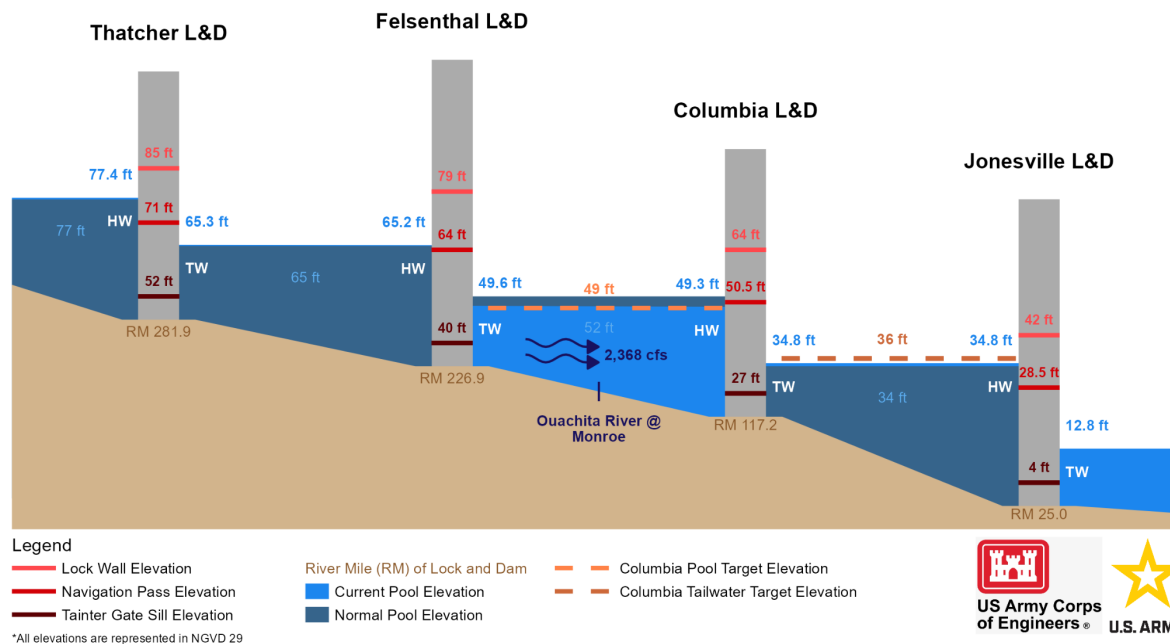


Figure 30. [https://www.mvk-wc.usace.army.mil/plots/ouachita\\_structures.png](https://www.mvk-wc.usace.army.mil/plots/ouachita_structures.png)

# MVN Lock & Waterway Status



Figure 31. Lock Status New Orleans District.

<https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/lockstatus/>

# Saltwater Intrusion



Figure 25. Saltwater Wedge Toe Location.

<https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Engineering/Stage-and-Hydrologic-Data/SaltwaterWedge/SaltwaterWedgeNow/>

New Orleans District continues saltwater wedge monitoring. Increased flow on the MS River has regressed the saltwater wedge toe location to river mile 39 Above Head of Passes (AHP). Weekly monitoring will continue through the duration of the low water season. The sill triggers and water procurement triggers are not expected to be met during the 28 Day forecast period.

## Tropics

The Atlantic Hurricane season will officially end on 30 November. Hurricane occurrence remains below the 1990-2020 average, and NOAA forecasts that the season will remain below average this year. None of the three Atlantic named storms to develop in the month of September impacted the continental US. However, the first Atlantic Hurricane of the year is expected to develop in the Gulf on October 8th and to make landfall over the weekend.

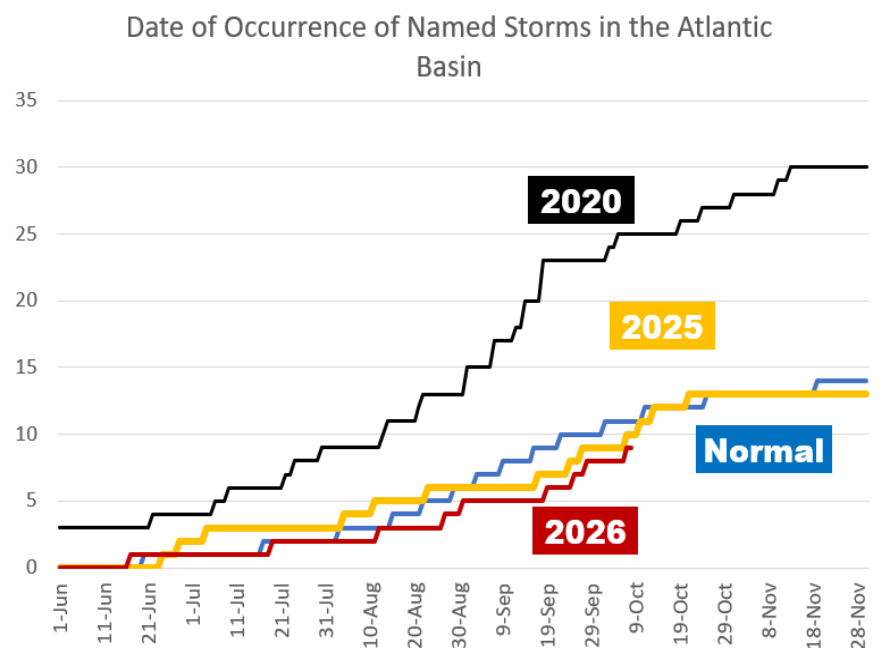


Figure 26. Graph depicting the normal amount of named storms by date throughout the Atlantic Hurricane Season.

# Hurricane Isaias

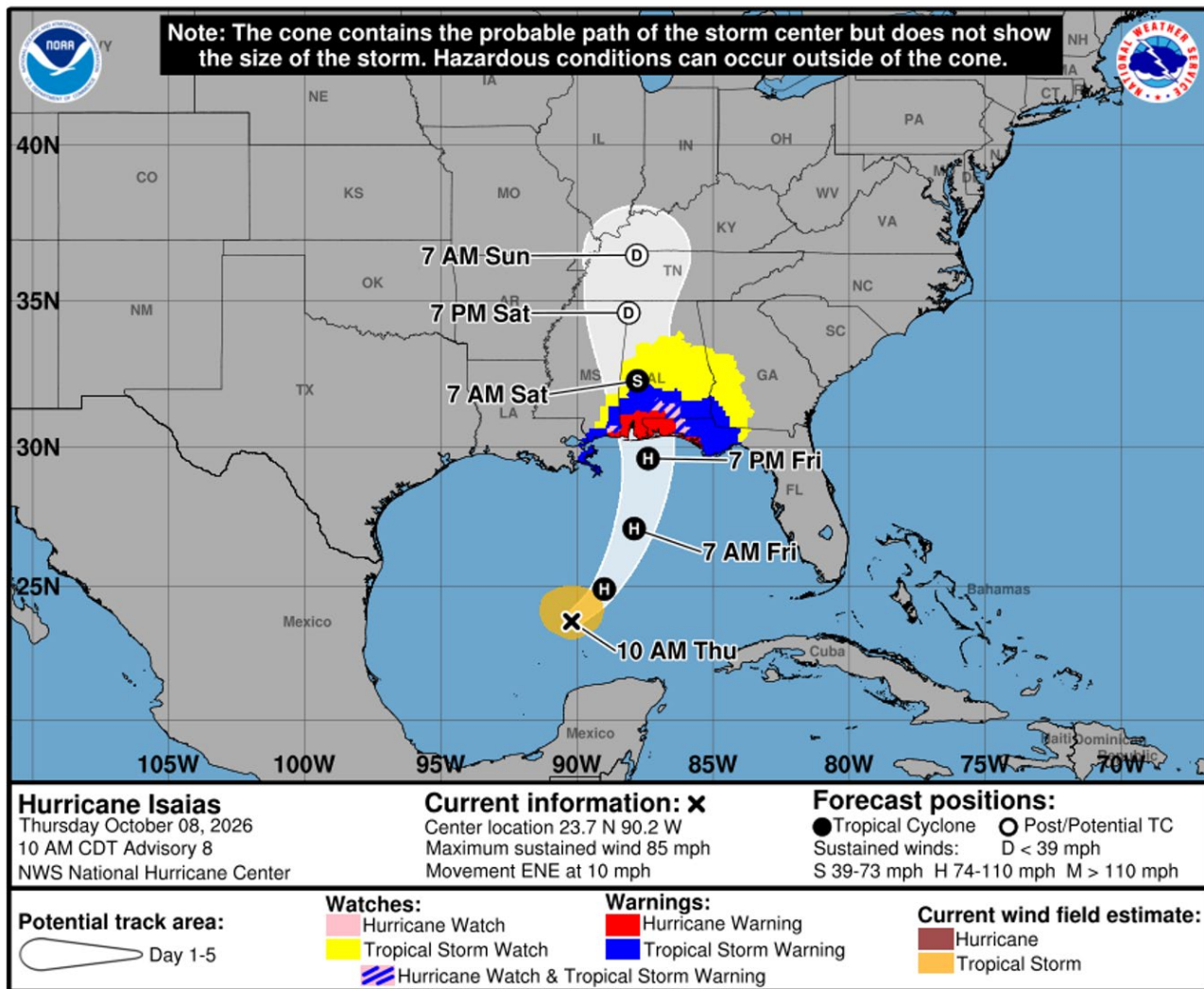


Figure 27. NHC forecast track for Hurricane Isaias, valid 1000 CDT on 8 October 2026

On October 3rd, the National Hurricane Center identified an area for potential tropical cyclone development in the Southwestern Gulf. This system organized into a Tropical Depression on October 6th, then became Tropical Storm Isaias on October 7th. On the 8th, the Storm intensified to a Category 1 Hurricane. This means that the 2026 Atlantic Hurricane Season tied with 1905 for the record for latest date of first Hurricane development.

Isaias is projected to strengthen to Category 2 and sweep southeast of Louisiana before making landfall around the west Florida Panhandle the night of October 9th. Although rapid weakening is forecast due to strong vertical atmospheric shearing, Hurricane impacts are expected along the northern Gulf Coast, while Tropical Storm impacts are expected for eastern Louisiana. As the system pushes inland and decays to a Depression, it could bring localized flooding to Mississippi and Tennessee.

# St. Paul District (MVP)

25



There are three areas in St. Paul District that drain south.

## Mississippi River Headwaters Reservoirs (6):

The Mississippi River headwaters basin is in moderate to severe drought. Four of the six reservoirs are at minimum flow. All six of the reservoirs are within the normal range for this time of year. Small increases in outflow (<200 CFS total for the six reservoirs) are expected over the next 2-3 weeks to commence the winter drawdowns.

## Minnesota River Reservoirs (3 plus a diversion dam):

Following very dry conditions through August, rainfall during September provided some short-term improvement across the Upper Minnesota River Basin, although overall runoff remained limited entering October. Lac qui Parle Reservoir remained stable near the lower portion of its normal operating range, with inflows generally being passed downstream and no significant storage concerns. Marsh Lake remained low following completion of the 2026 summer habitat drawdown, with pool levels continuing to reflect the relatively dry basin conditions. Highway 75 Reservoir also continued to recede and entered October slightly below the service-spillway crest, with releases occurring through the low-flow outlet. Overall, the Minnesota River reservoir system entered October under stable, low-flow conditions with substantial flood-storage capacity available. Lac qui Parle reservoir will be raised to its winter conservation elevation during the month of October.

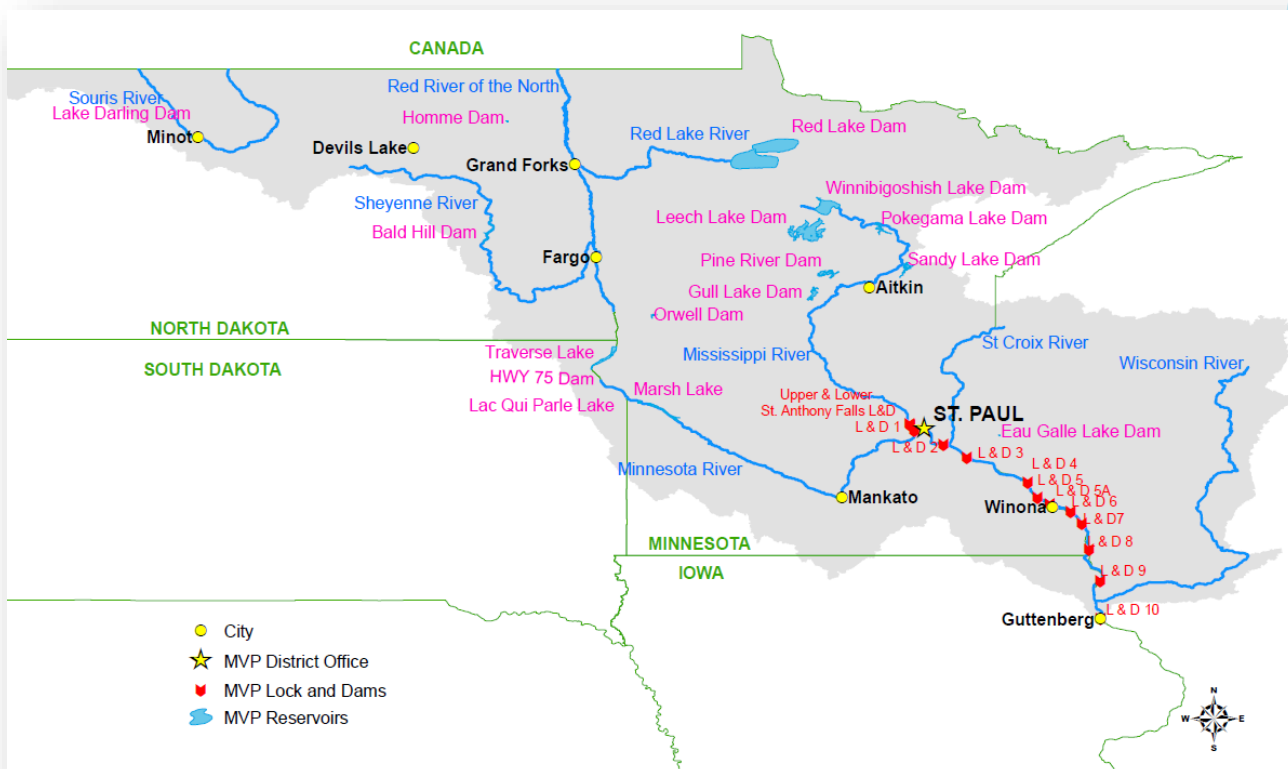
## Mississippi River Navigation Reach:

Rain near the end of September increased outflows above average for about a week. Draft depths are now in good shape with the encroachment in Pool 8 cleared after recent flooding on the Root River bringing in extra sedimentation. Additionally, flooding on the Turkey River, which was affecting flow through LD 10, has subsided allowing pool 10 to flatten out and drain.

In early October flows are about average for October. All Lock and Dams are in Primary control and no significant rain is forecasted for the basin over the next 7 days. Flows are expected to continue to fall but slowly as we start to cut into the baseflows.

Water Management webpage:

<https://water.usace.army.mil/office/mvp/>



# Rock Island District (MVR)

During September 2026, the Upper Mississippi River (UMR) experienced two distinct rain-driven high-water events—the second being more severe due to the remnants of Tropical Storm Polo—but water levels are now steadily falling back to normal

Water Management webpage:

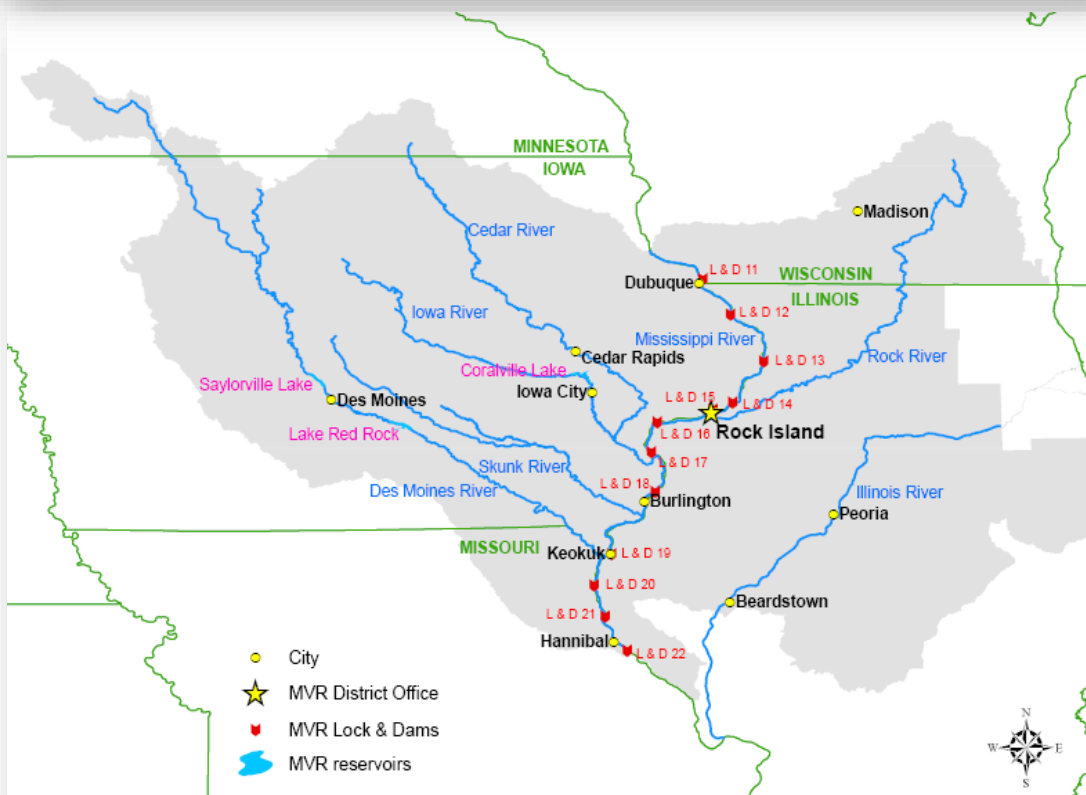
<https://rivergages.mvr.usace.army.mil/WaterControl/new/layout.cfm>

## September River Flow & Water Levels

| River Section           | First Half of September                           | Mid-Month Rain Event (Sept 11–12)                                                 | Late-Month Storm Event (Sept 21–26)                                                        | Current Status & Outlook                                                              |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Upper Dams (Dams 11–18) | Steady to falling levels; flows were near normal. | No impact. Flow remained steady.                                                  | Rapid rise in flows due to heavy regional rains.                                           | Flows have returned to normal. Levels will continue to fall.                          |
| Lower Dams (Dams 19–22) | Steady to falling levels; flows were normal.      | Brief, rapid spike in flow after heavy Iowa rains; returned to normal by Sept 15. | Significant, rapid rise in flows (most notable in this sector) due to Tropical Storm Polo. | Flows are returning to normal after peaking on Sept 26. Levels will continue to fall. |

## September Illinois River Flow & Water Levels

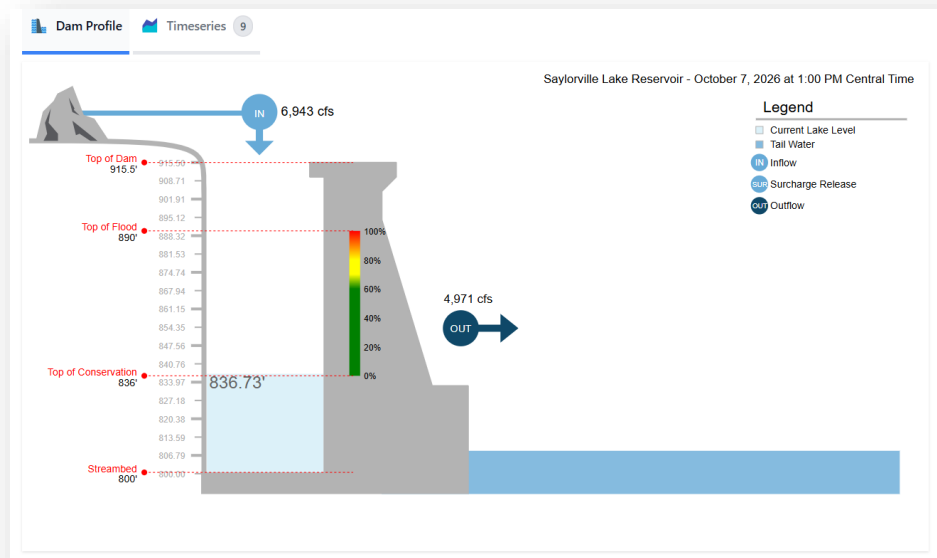
| River Section / Location    | First Half of September                                                                                                    | Late-Month Storm Event (Sept 20)                                      | Current Status & Operations                                                                             |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Dresden Island to La Grange | Flows returned to normal on Sept 3 (following an August high-water event), but water levels remained above normal overall. | Water levels rose rapidly due to the remnants of Tropical Storm Polo. | Operating near the top of the "above normal" range. Wickets are currently down at Peoria for open pass. |



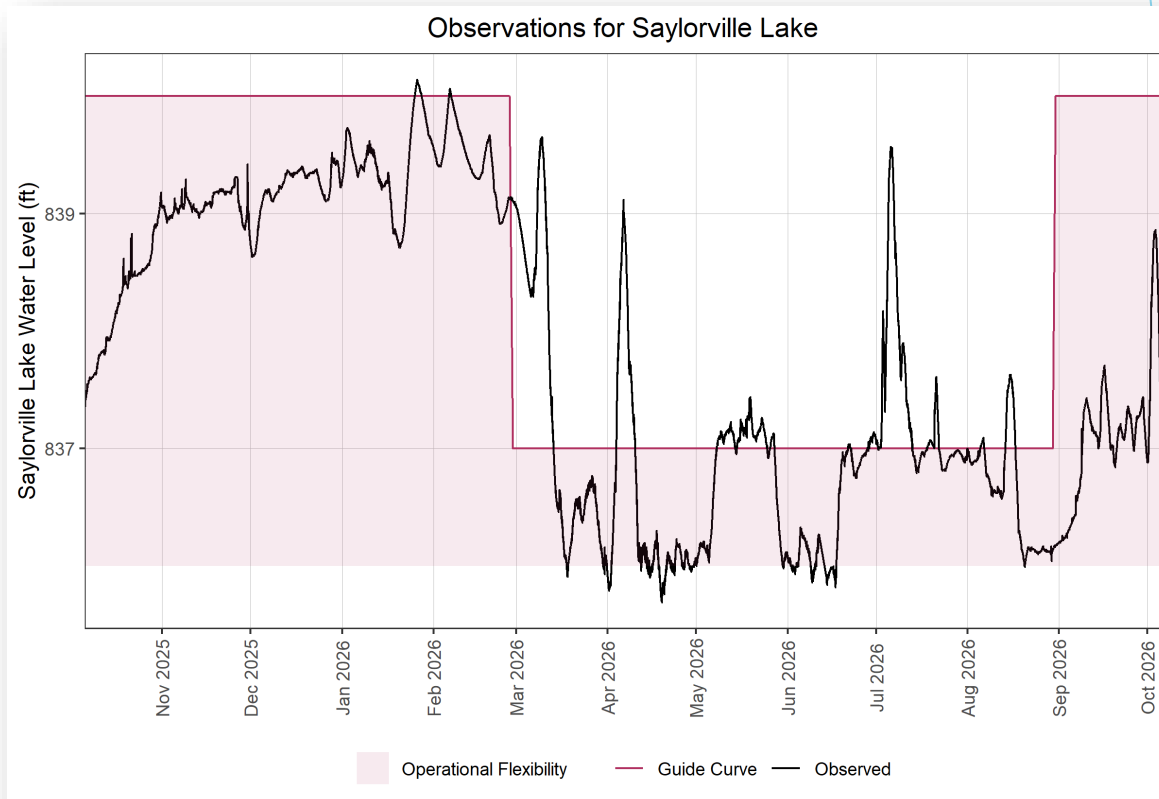
## MVR Reservoirs

### Saylorville Lake

<https://water.usace.army.mil/overview/mvr/locations/sayi4>

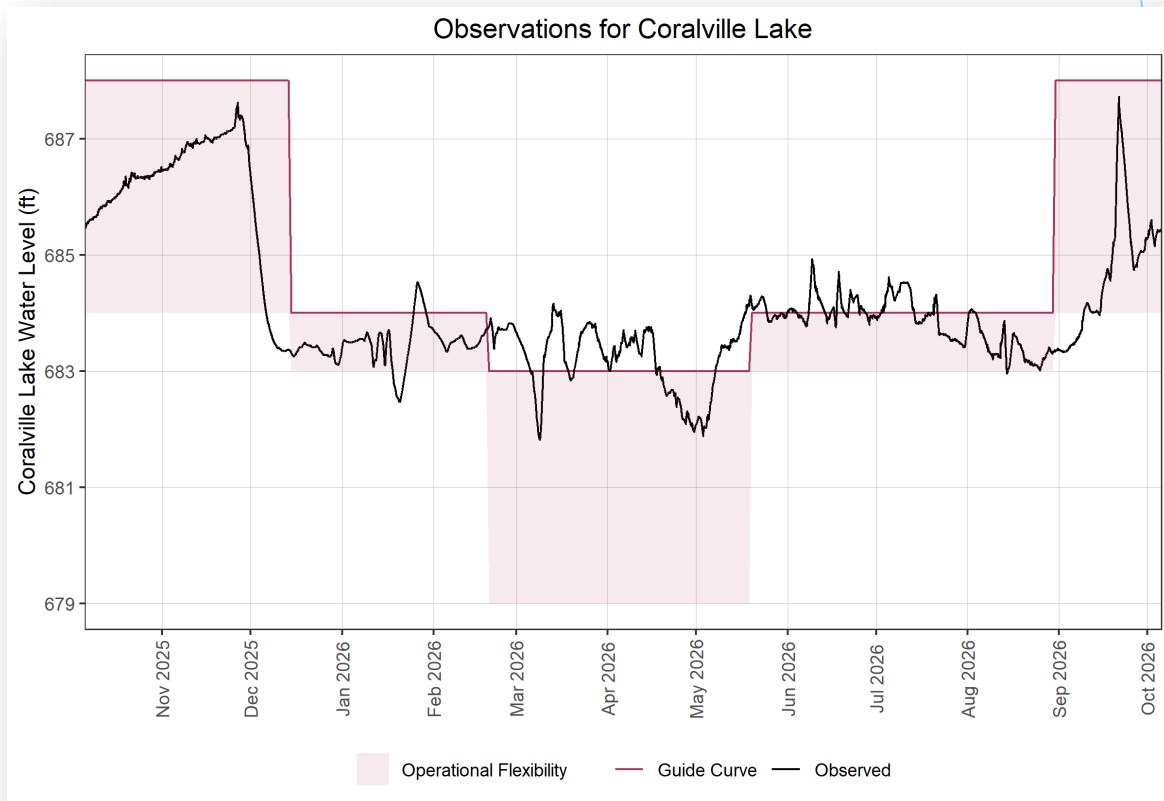
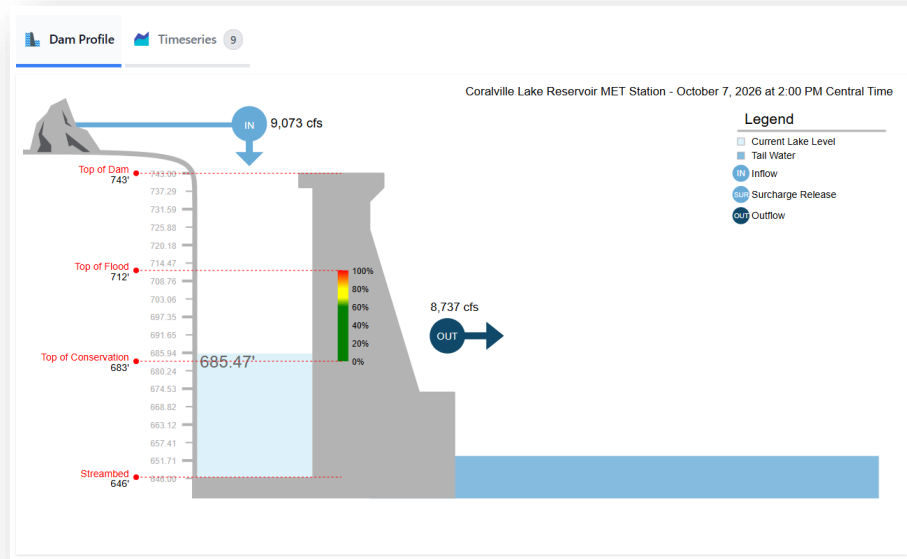


**Note:** The reservoir plots depict the current stage (black line) and the guide curve (red line). The guide curve is the target stage for a reservoir at a given point in a year. This can also be a target range, as depicted from the red shaded area.



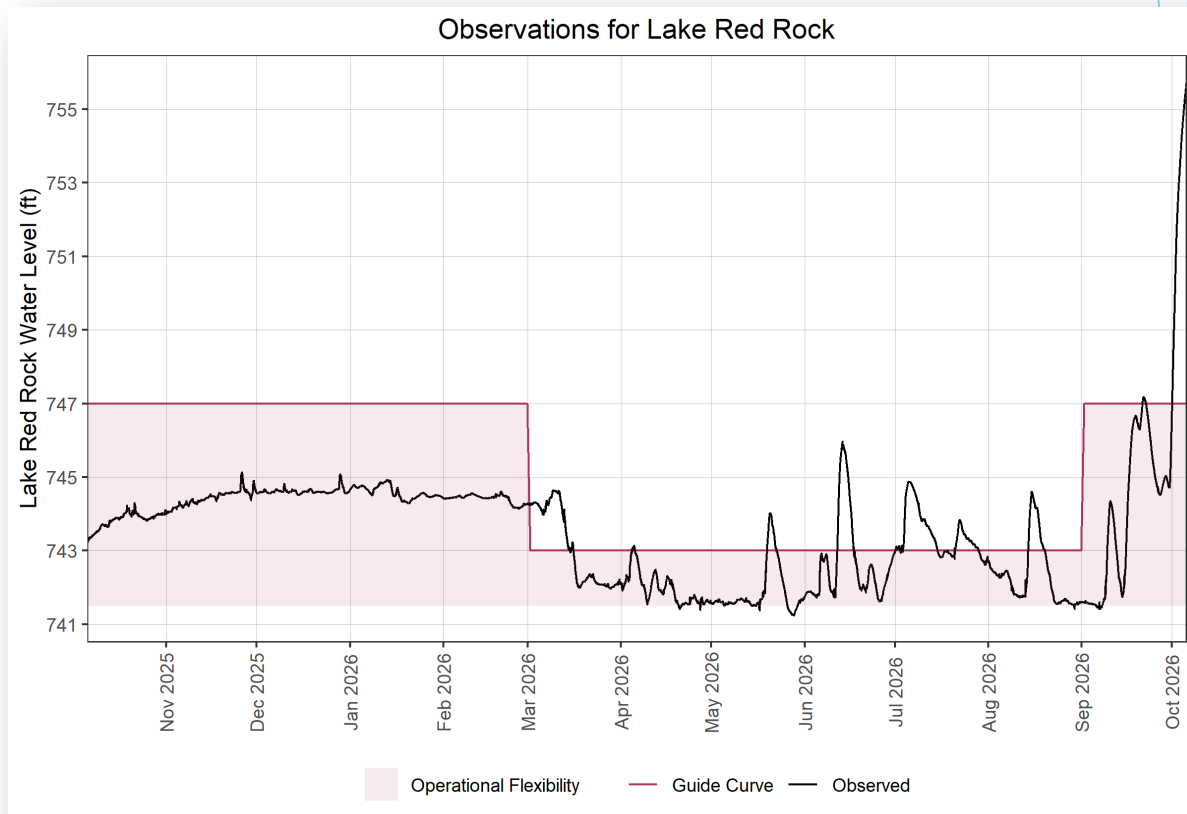
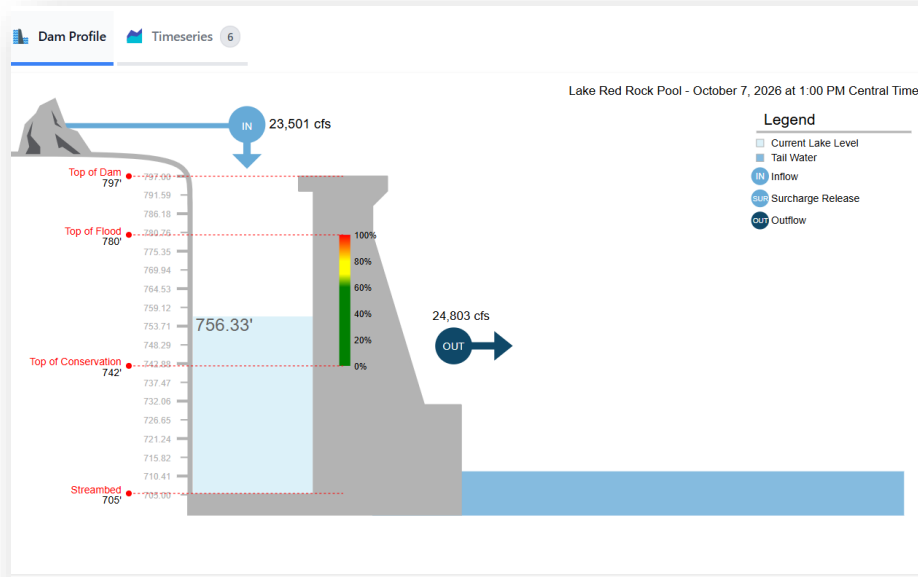
## Coralville Lake

<https://water.usace.army.mil/overview/mvr/locations/crvi4>



## Lake Red Rock:

<https://water.usace.army.mil/overview/mvr/locations/peli4>



# St. Louis District (MVS)

- The past month, we experienced significant precipitation in the three main river basins (Upper Mississippi, Missouri, and Illinois) raising river stages. Currently, we have crested and will see a quick fall to river stages St. Louis south due to the Missouri River.
- We remain in increased coordination with River Industry and the NWS on these changing conditions.
- We are preparing for a shortened Missouri River navigation season and low-water operations for mid-November.
- Our reservoirs did not receive this significant precipitation and remain at guide curve or below with minimum releases. If/when we do receive future precipitation, we plan to hold levels on the high side of our bands for future use once the Missouri River reduction occurs.

Water Management Webpage:

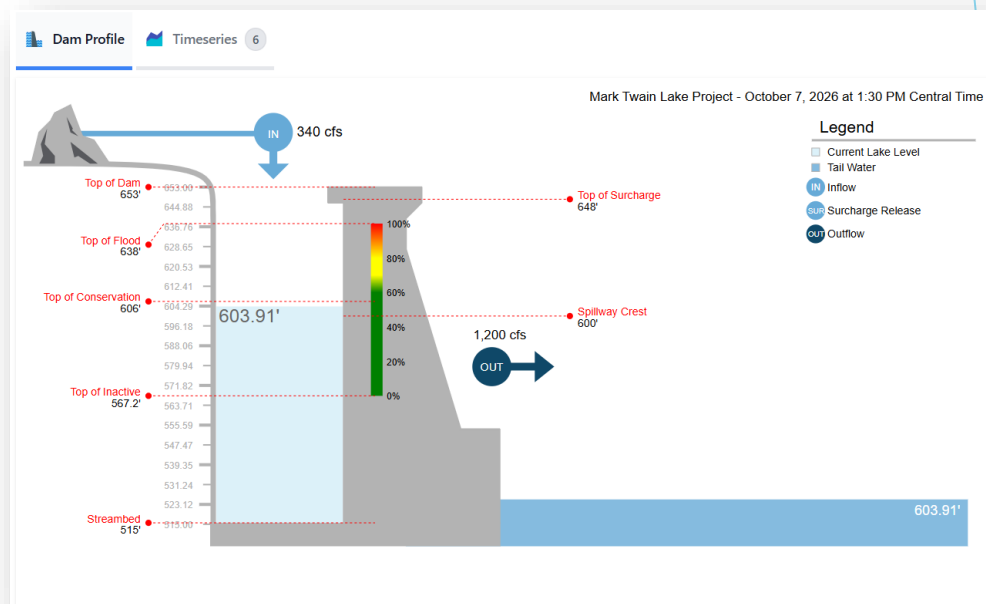
<https://www.mvs-wc.usace.army.mil/>



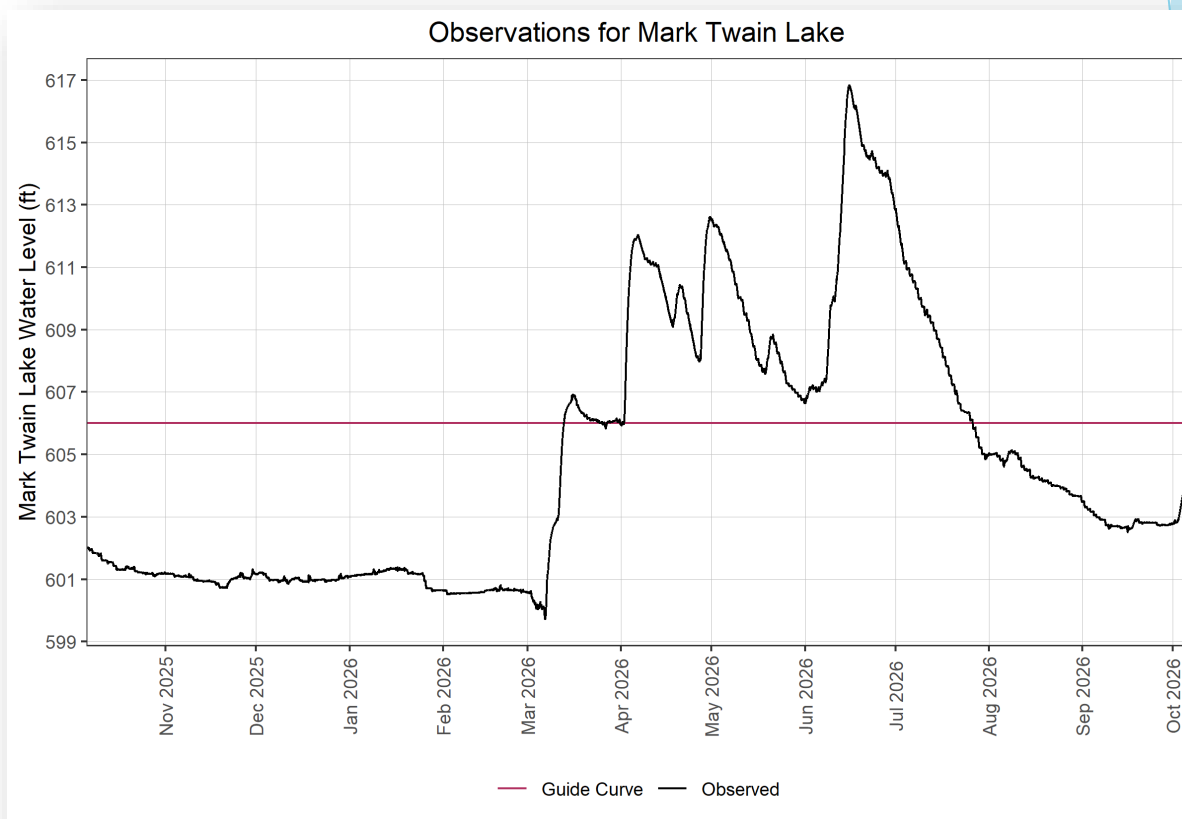
## MVS Reservoirs

### Mark Twain Lake

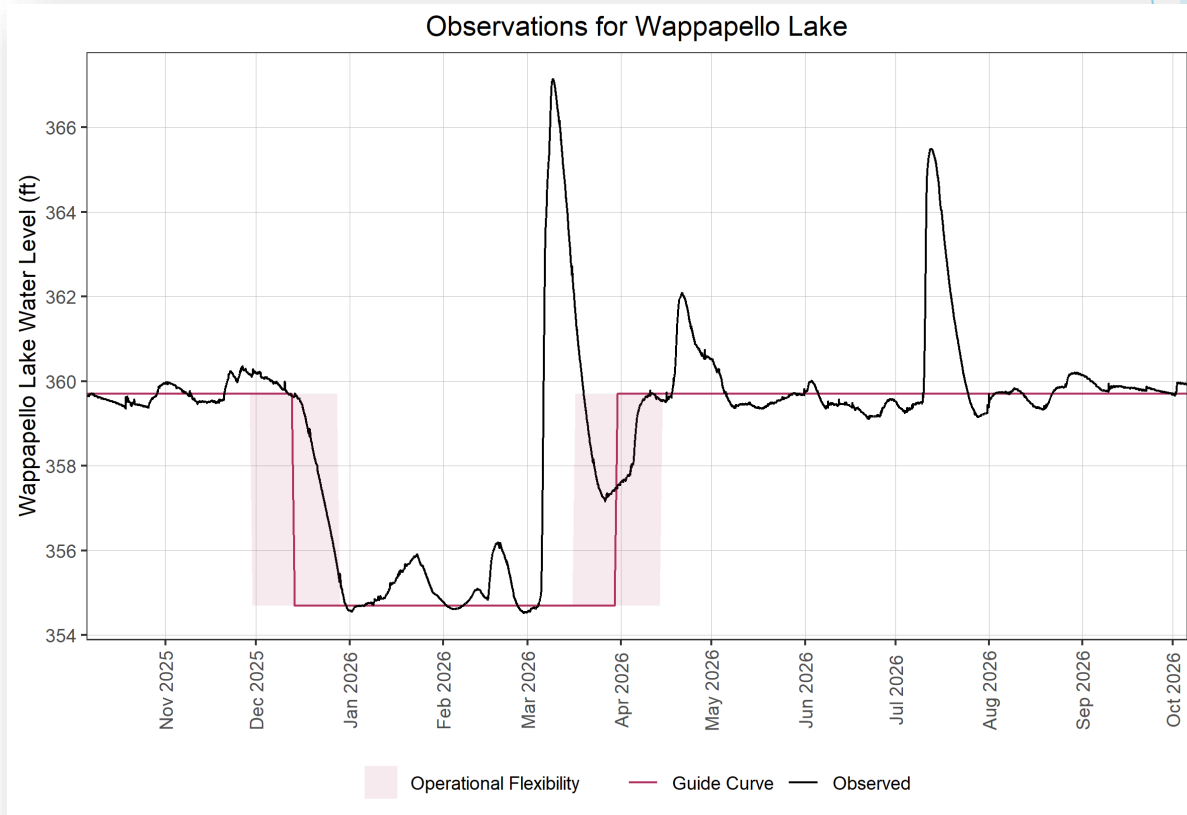
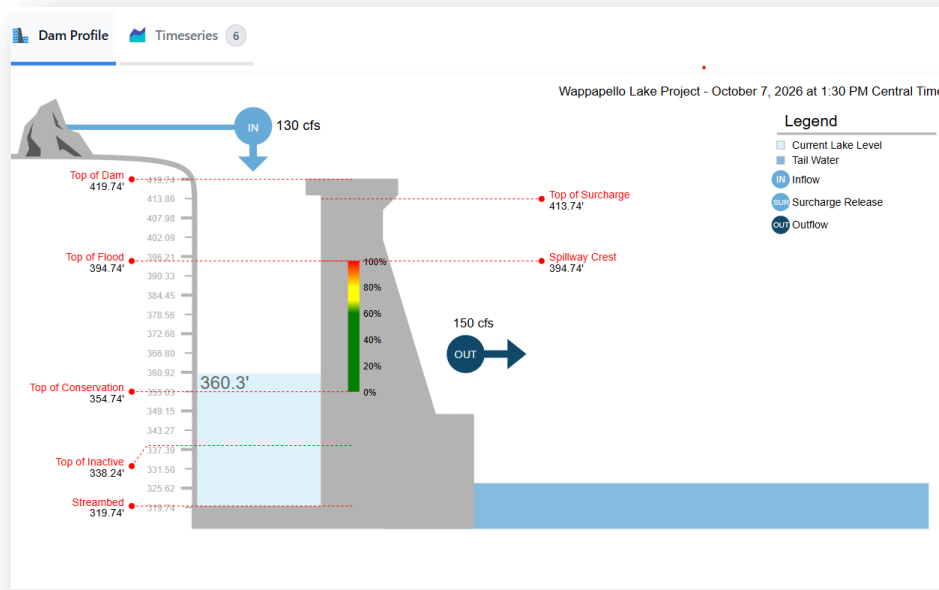
<https://water.usace.army.mil/overview/mvs/locations/mark%20twain%20lk>



**Note:** The reservoir plots depict the current stage (black line) and the guide curve (red line). The guide curve is the target stage for a reservoir at a given point in a year. This can also be a target range, as depicted from the red shaded area.

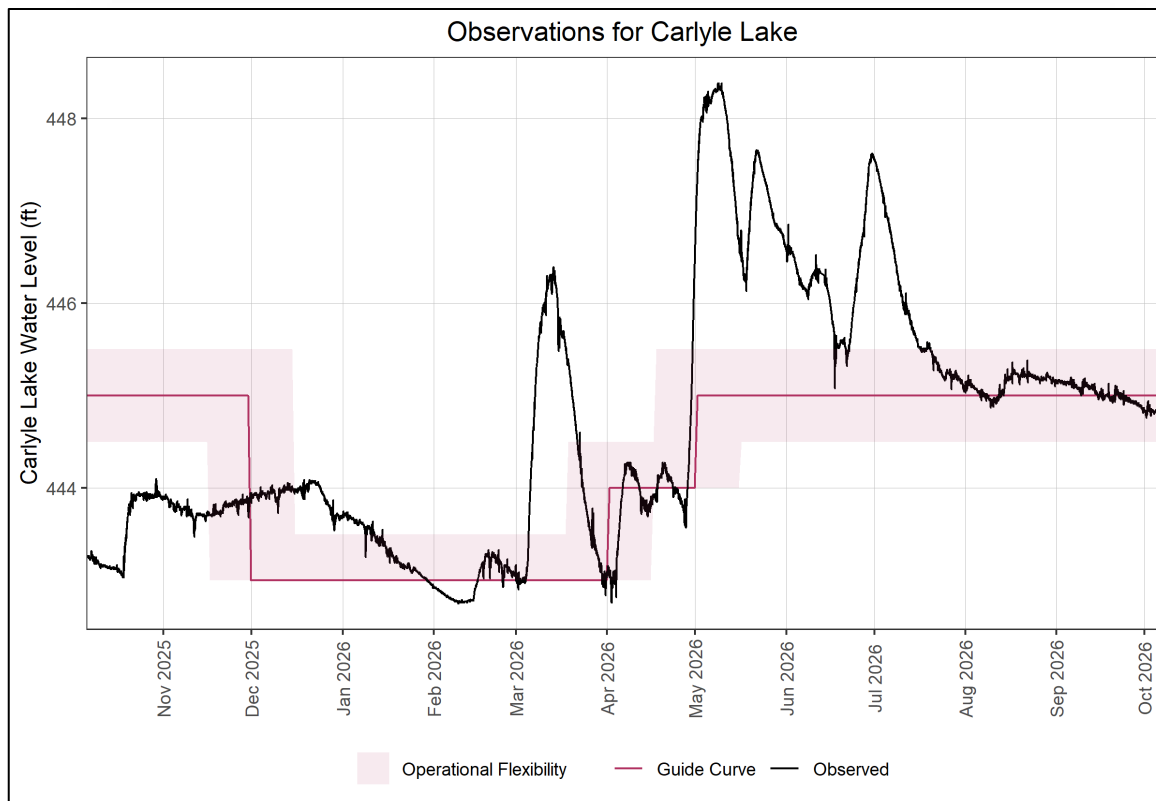
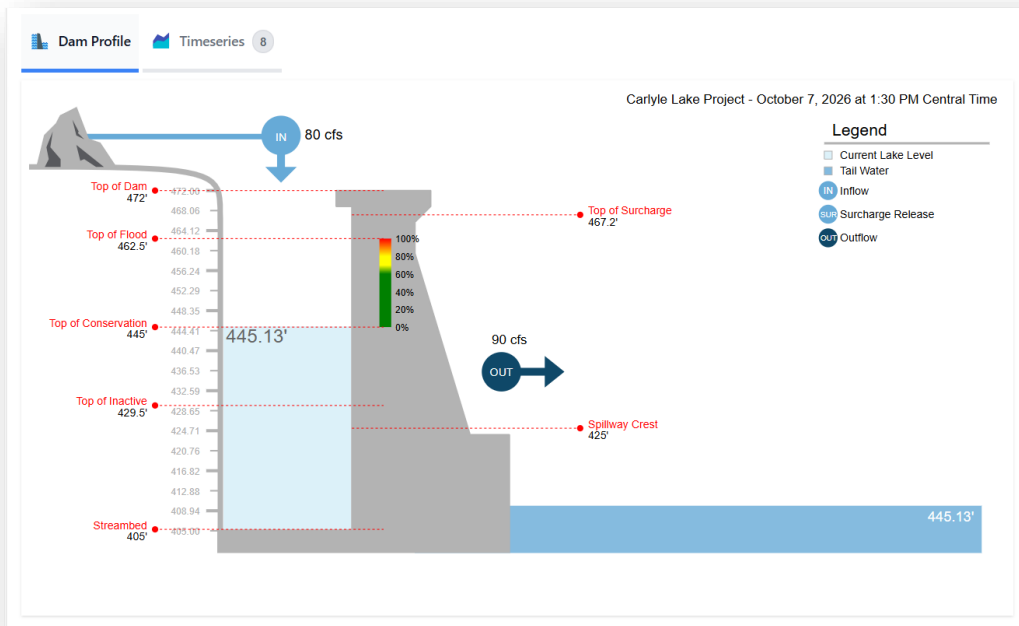


## Wappapello Lake

<https://water.usace.army.mil/overview/mvs/locations/wappapello%20lk>

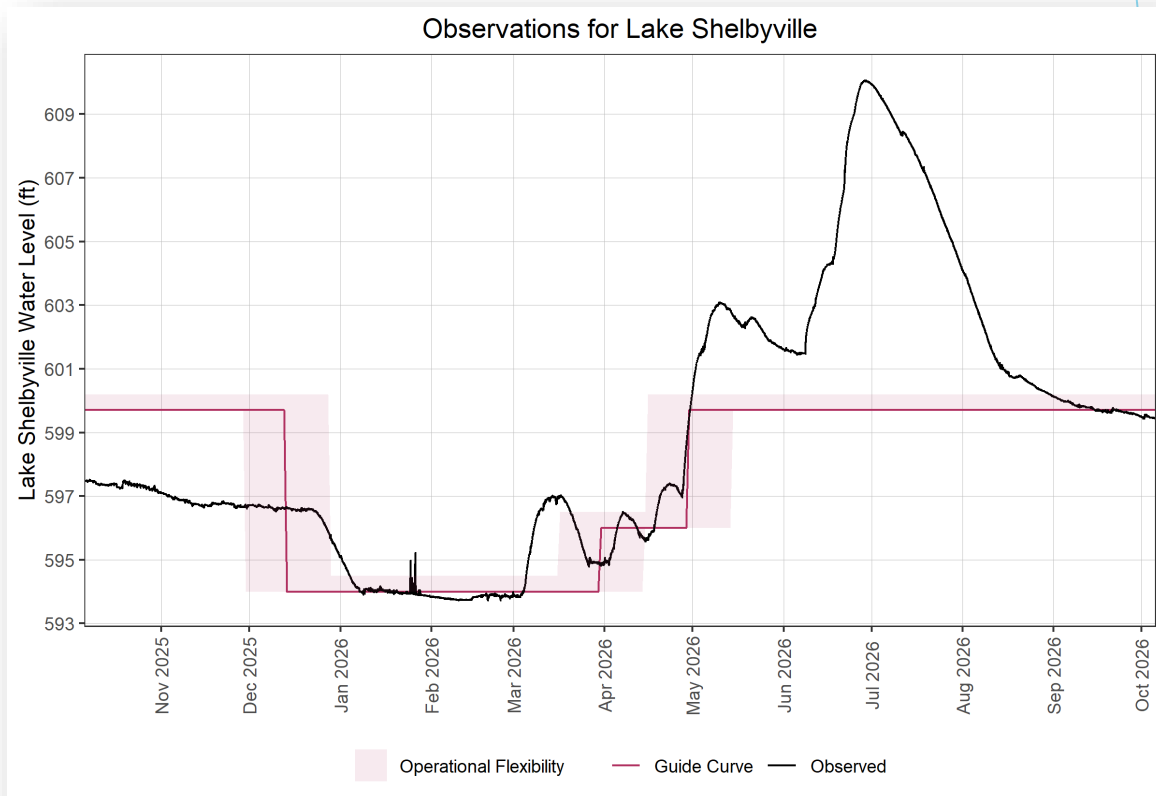
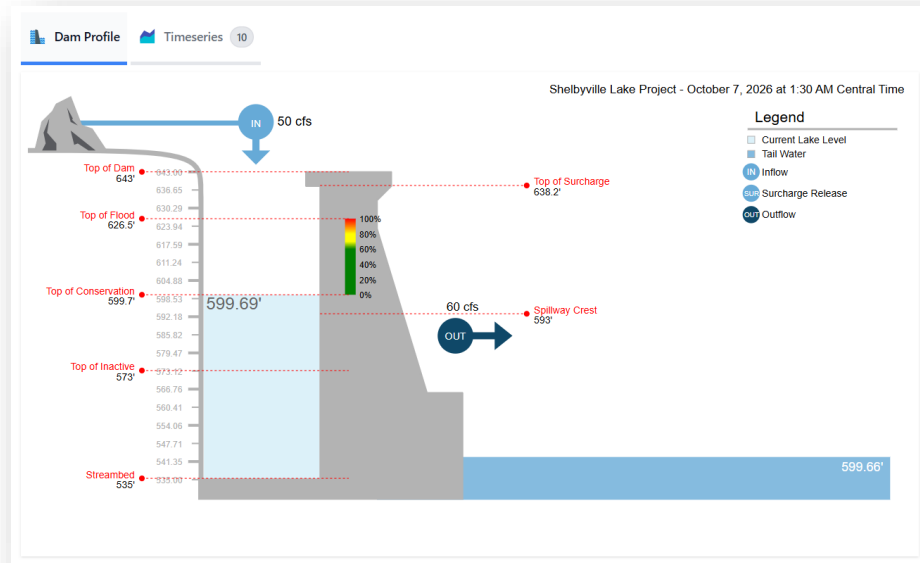
## Carlyle Lake

<https://water.usace.army.mil/overview/mvs/locations/carlyle%20lk>



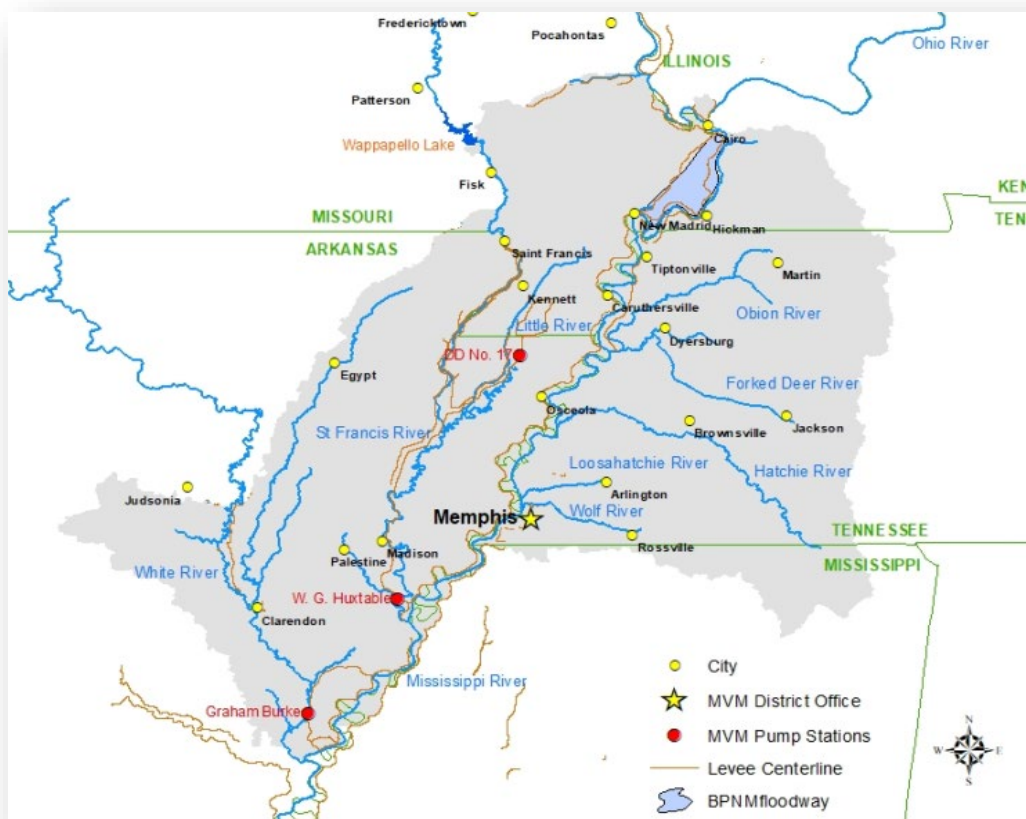
## Shelbyville Lake

<https://water.usace.army.mil/overview/mvs/locations/lk%20shelbyville>



# Memphis District (MVM)

- Mississippi River stages are above normal for this time of year.
- Abnormally dry conditions persist across the Memphis AOR.
- Graham Burke Pump Station provides interior drainage for the White River Backwater area. No pumping occurred over the last month.
- Huxtable Pump Station provides interior drainage for the St. Francis Backwater area. Gravity gates remain open as long as possible or until an interior water surface elevation of 177 ft, when pump operations commence. All gates at Huxtable are currently open and are expected to remain open for the 28-day forecast. No pumping has occurred in the last month.



# Vicksburg District (MVK)

## Mississippi River

- The river fell during the first half of September before a significant rise brought stages to 6–10 feet above the seasonal average across the Vicksburg District. However, the river is now falling, and the 28-day forecast indicates that the decline will continue. Stages at Arkansas City and Greenville are expected to fall below their seasonal averages by mid- to late October, while stages at Vicksburg and Natchez are forecast to remain at or above their seasonal average over the next 28 days.

## Red River

- Low flows are expected to persist, barring no major rain event over the basin. Work is ongoing to replace Tainter gates at Boggs Lock and Dam.

## Ouachita-Black River

- Upstream reservoirs have full flood storage capacity. Low flows are expected to persist barring no major rain event over the basin. Minor deviation in place at Columbia LD to limit head differential during low flow for Dam Safety Emergency. Deviation is resulting in persistent low-water conditions at Monroe, LA. Conditions are being monitored closely, and the Columbia LD and Jonesville LD pools will be returned to normal levels once flows increase and it is safe to do so.

## Yazoo Basin Reservoirs

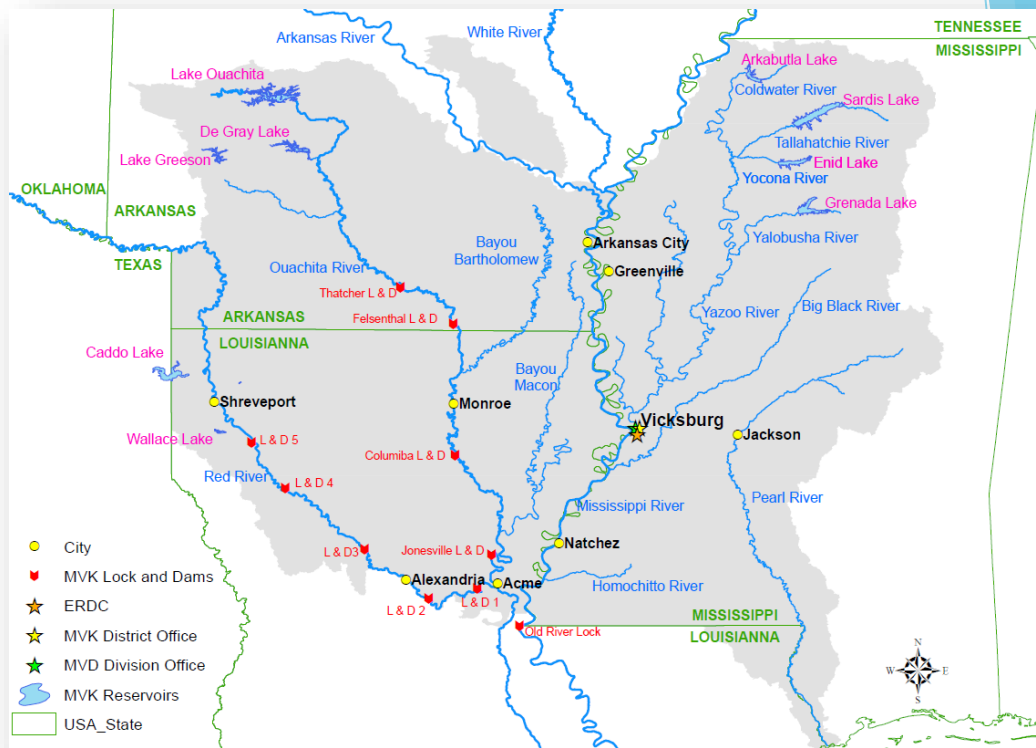
- Sardis, Enid, and Grenada lakes are releasing flow for their winter pool drawdowns.
- "Arkabutla Lake is currently under a Dam Safety Emergency and is operating under a Major Deviation to hold a lower target pool of 204' throughout the year. In October, Vicksburg District successfully reached a major milestone in the Phase II interim risk reduction measures (IRRM) with the completion of grouting within the outlet works. This critical step further stabilizes the dam's outlet works and reduces risk for downstream communities.

## Yazoo Backwater (Steele Bayou)

- The Steele Bayou structure regulates the water level in the Yazoo Backwater Area. It remains open unless the riverside elevation rises above the interior, landside elevation. It is currently open.

## Water Management Webpage:

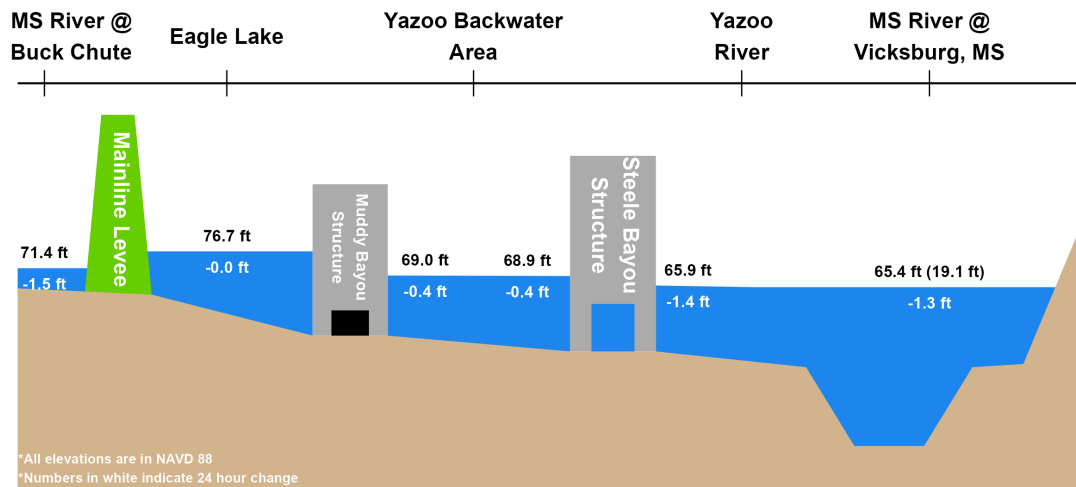
<https://water.usace.army.mil/office/mvk/>



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Vicksburg District

## Yazoo Backwater Status

Current as of September 03, 2026, at 9 AM



This graphic is designed to provide a general overview of some of the existing features of the Yazoo Backwater project and illustrates the conditions necessary to operate some of the project's structures.

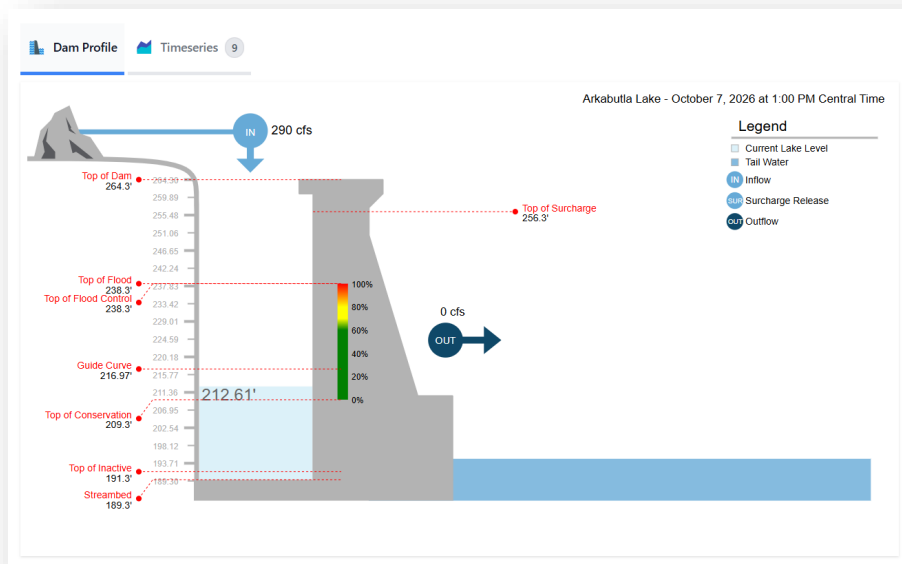
\*The reading at the Vicksburg, Mississippi, gage on the Mississippi River is a relative stage. The gage zero of 46.23 ft is added to the current stage to reference it to elevation.



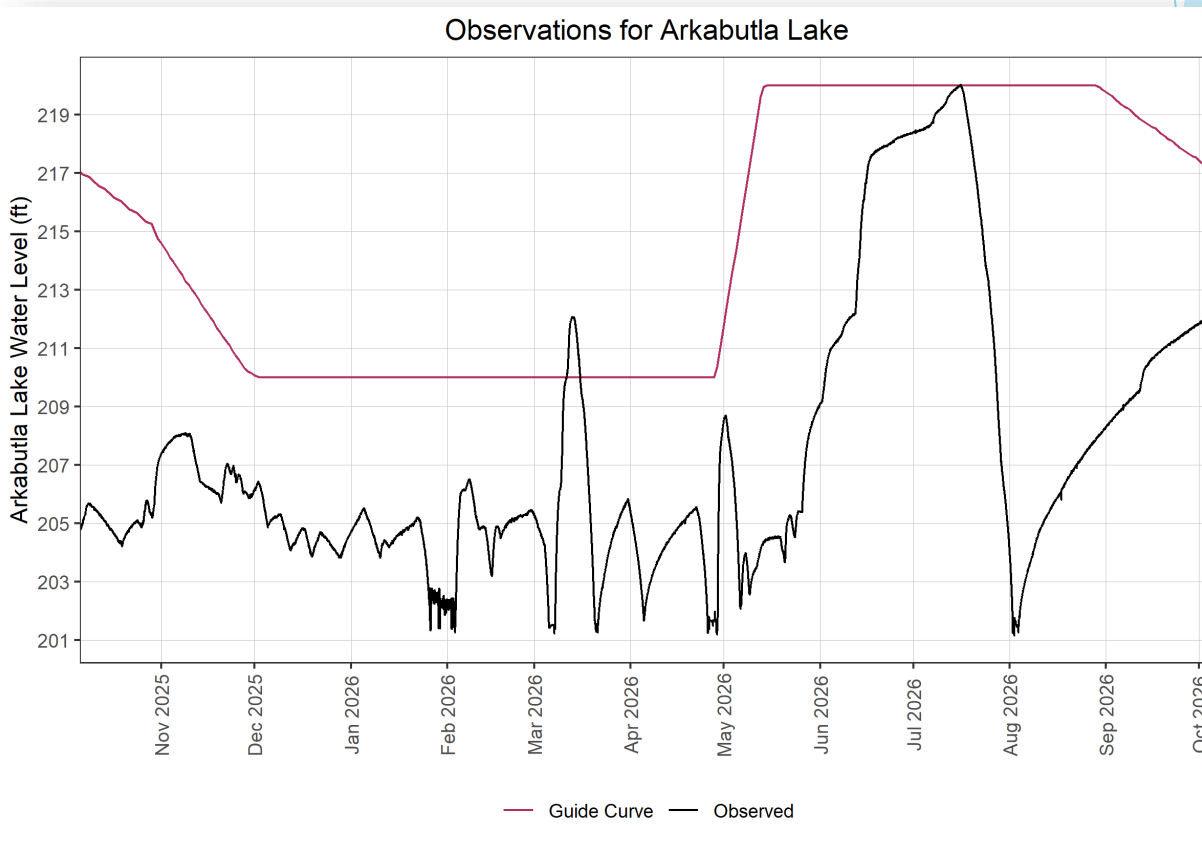
## MVK Reservoirs

### Arkabutla Lake

<https://water.usace.army.mil/overview/mvk/locations/arkabutla%20lake>

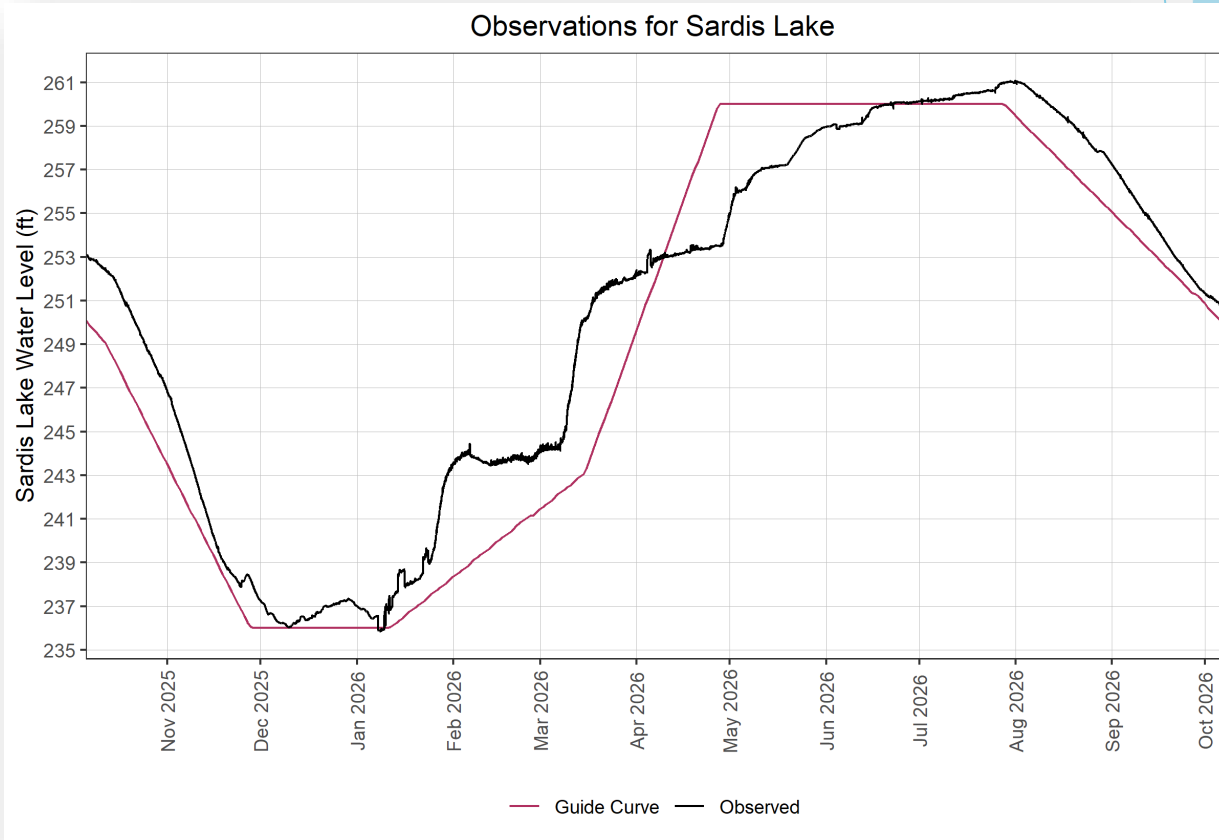
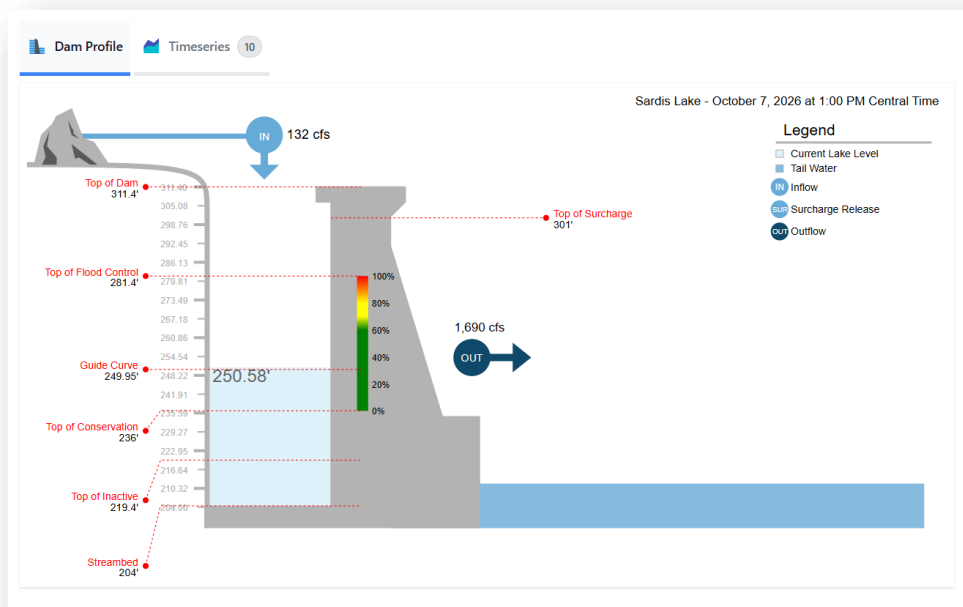


**Note:** The reservoir plots depict the current stage (black line) and the guide curve (red line). The guide curve is the target stage for a reservoir at a given point in a year. Arkabutla is currently operating under a Major Deviation and not following the traditional guide curve as it is under a Dam Safety Emergency.



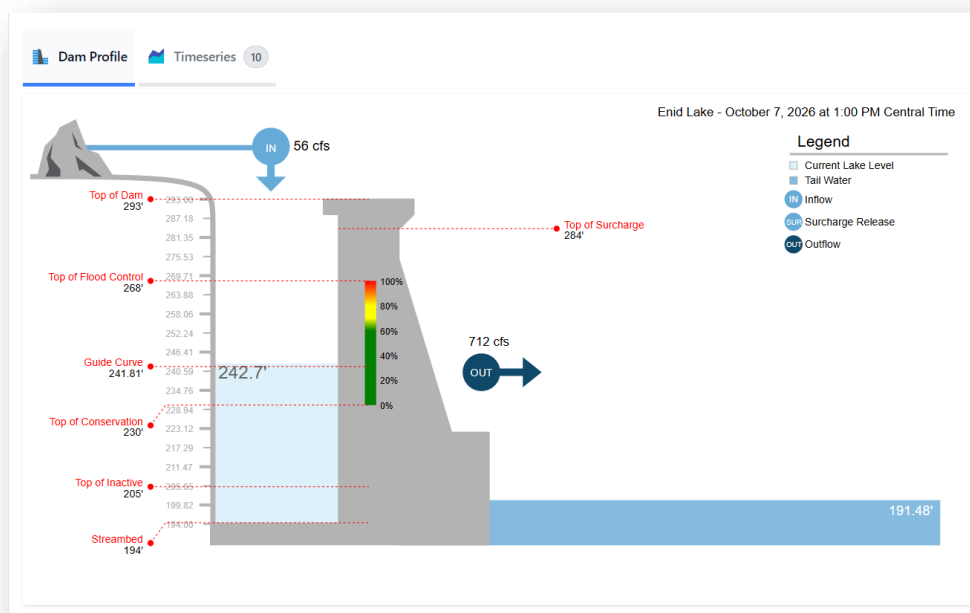
## Sardis Lake

<https://water.usace.army.mil/overview/mvk/locations/sardis%20lake>

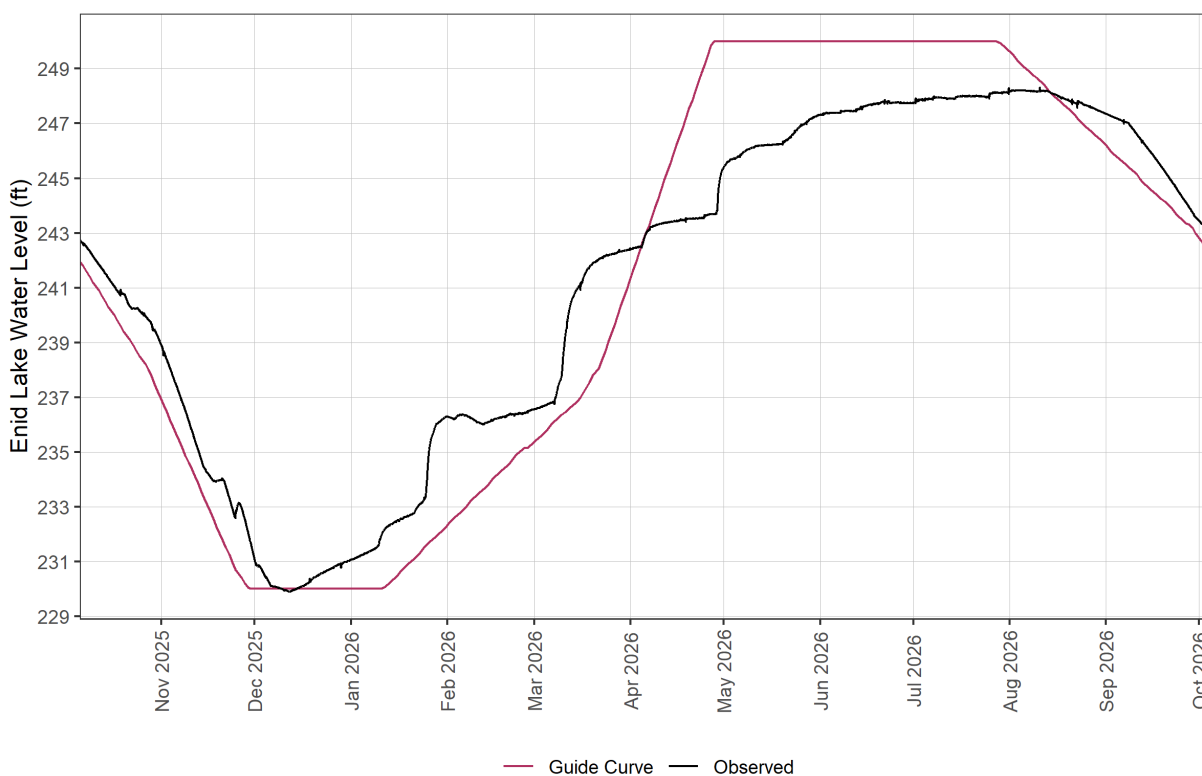


## Enid Lake

<https://water.usace.army.mil/overview/mvk/locations/enid%20lake>

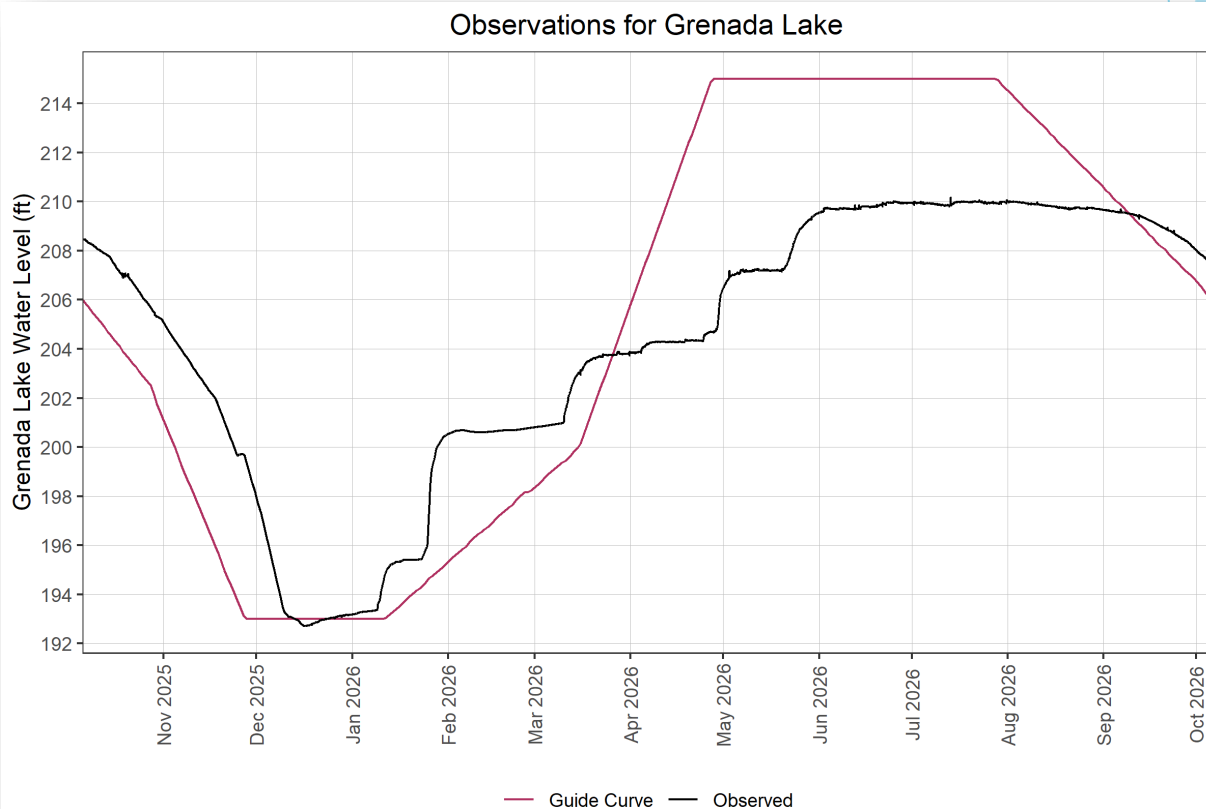
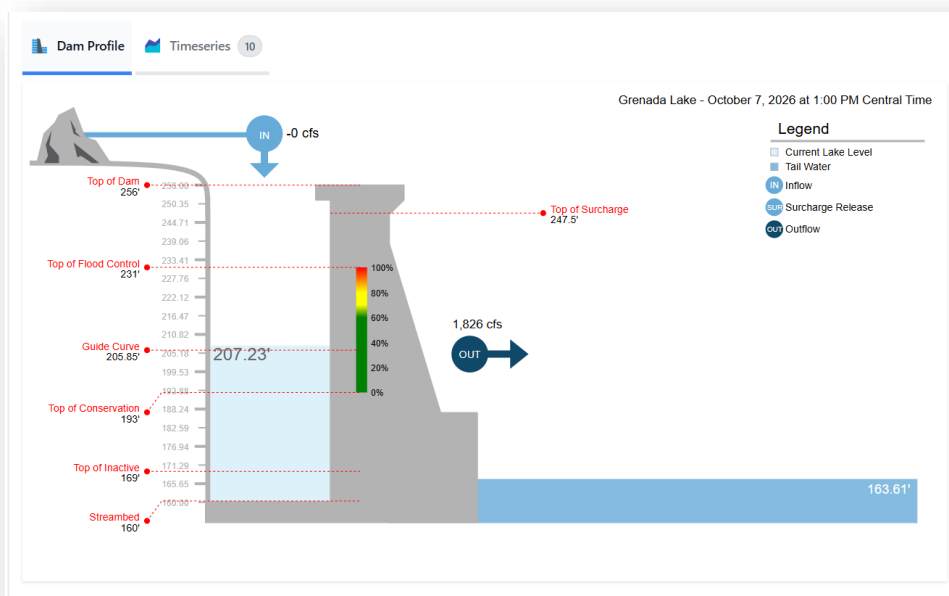


Observations for Enid Lake



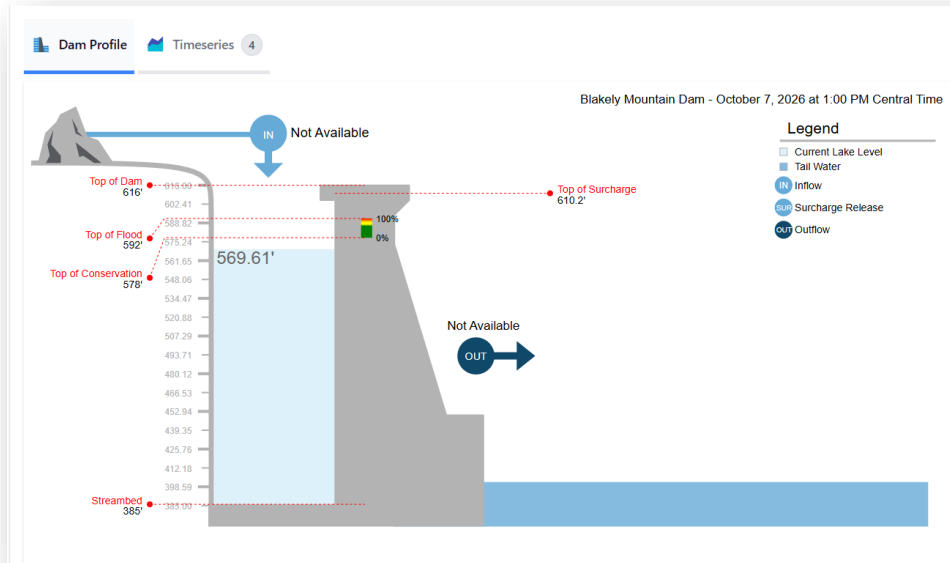
## Grenada Lake

<https://water.usace.army.mil/overview/mvk/locations/grenada%20lake>



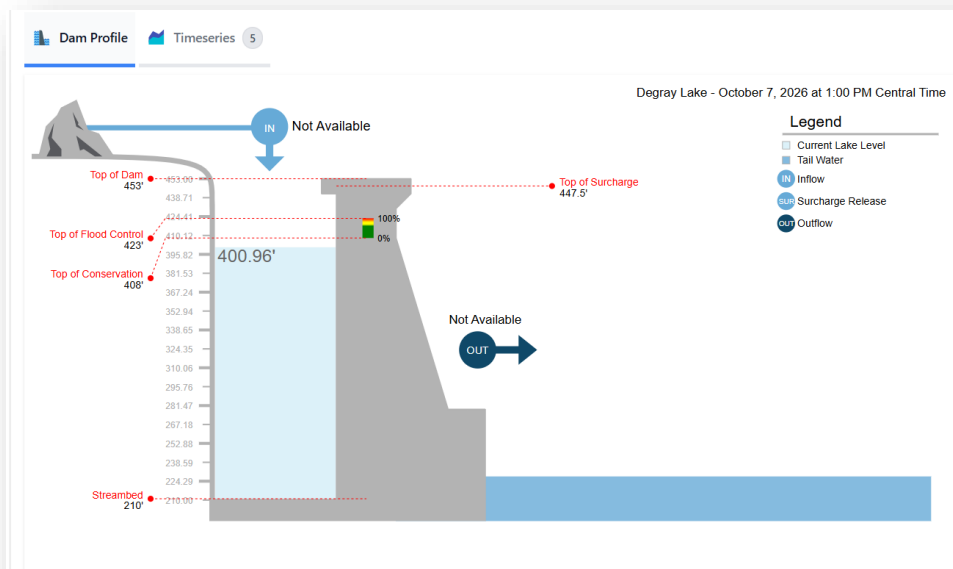
## Blakely Mountain Dam

<https://water.usace.army.mil/overview/mvk/locations/blakely>



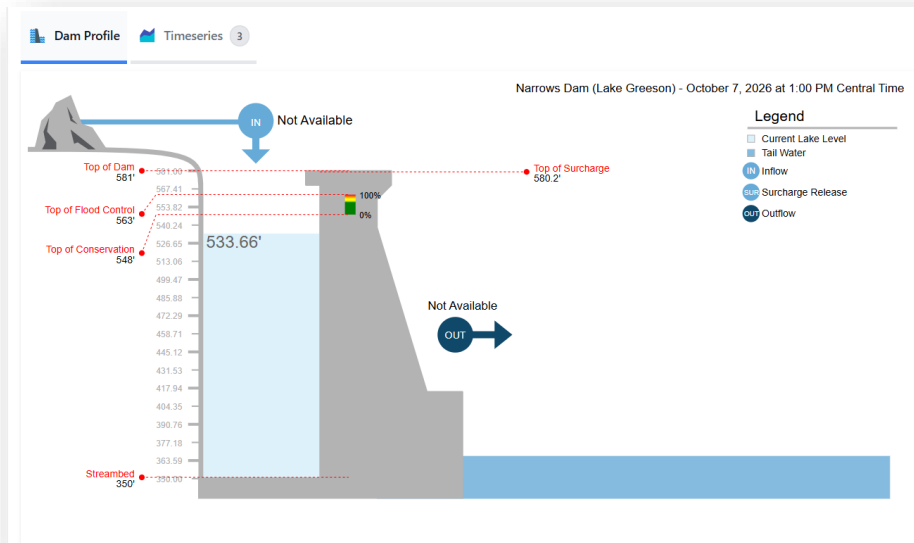
## Degray Lake

<https://water.usace.army.mil/overview/mvk/locations/deggray%20lake>



## Narrows Dam

<https://water.usace.army.mil/overview/mvk/locations/narrows%20dam>



# New Orleans District (MVN)

## Mississippi River

- Flows at Red River Landing fell below 200,000 cfs in mid September before recovering to approximately 240,000 cfs at the end of the month. Since then, the flows have tended to increase staying above the historical average for this time of year.
- The long-range forecast indicates an oscillation of flows between 350,000 and 250,000 cfs trending down overall by the end of the 21-day forecast period.
- Saltwater intrusion measurements and weekly updates will continue once per week until flows fall below 250,000 cfs again, triggering an increase to three measurements per week and two updates per week.
- The New Orleans District continues daily operations of Old River Control Complex to maintain the designed flow split between the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers.

## Atchafalaya River

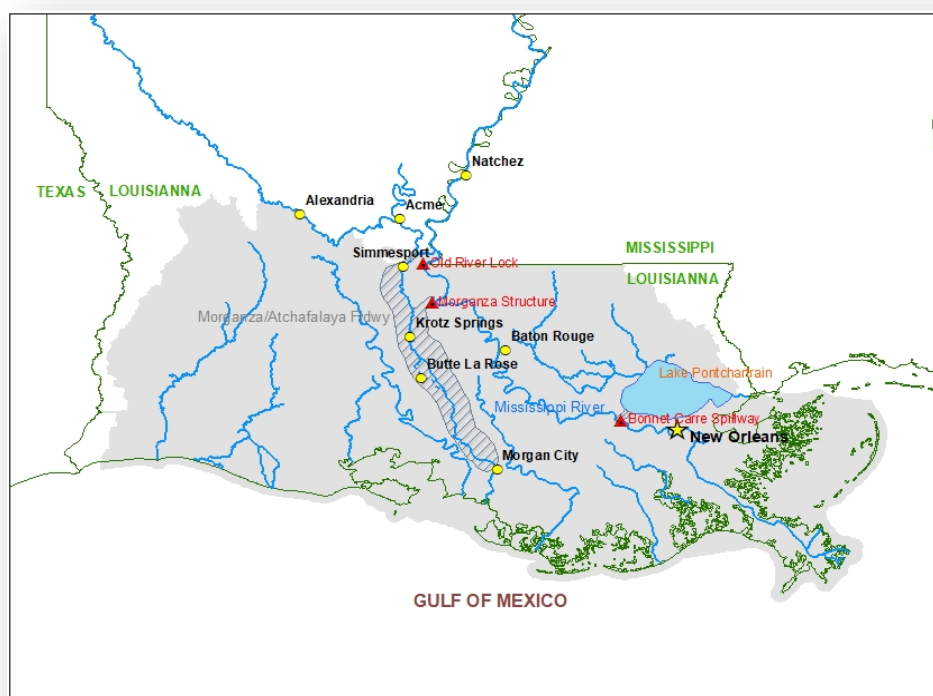
- The flow at Simmesport is currently above the historical average for this time of year.
- The current flow is estimated to be approximately 145,000 cfs and is expected to begin a trend downward through the end of the forecast period.

## Tropical Storm Isaiais

- TS Isaiais will be making landfall Friday 07 October 2026 near Mississippi/Alabama. Storm surge peaks range from 1-5ft in southeastern Louisiana. Major impacts are not expected.

## Water Management

Webpage: <https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Engineering/Stage-and-Hydrologic-Data/DailyStageDischarge/>





## MVD Watershed App

## Mississippi River and Tributaries Video

