

2019 May Hydrologic Outlook Central Region (North Central U.S.)



For audio, please dial: 415-655-0052 Passcode: 532-514-076

Summary of Current Conditions and the Spring and Summer Outlook for the Missouri basin, Upper Mississippi basin, Red River of the North, Souris River, and Great Lakes Drainage



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United States Department of Agriculture Midwest Climate Hub May 2, 2019





Key Messages What is New since early April



- Extremely long duration flooding on mainstem rivers is expected to continue
- Mississippi River in the Quad Cities area is now at Day 40 above Major flood levels and the crest is forecast to break 1993 flood levels
- The mainstem Missouri and Mississippi Rivers will see several peaks into June
- Late spring and summer rain events are more likely to produce excessive rainfall
- Some areas have saturated soils and are currently experiencing flash flood impacts with less than 1 inch of rain



Current River Flood Forecast



- <u>Moderate to Major</u> flooding continues in North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, and Missouri, and a few sites further downstream in the lower Mississippi basin
- Southeastern Colorado snowmelt flooding has begun earlier than normal and is melting quickly and will need to be monitored for the next 6-7 weeks
- The region continues to be vulnerable to flooding due to very wet soil conditions and elevated rivers and lakes. Late Spring and Summer thunderstorms may cause additional flooding/flash flooding



USGS Streamflow Conditions



April 3, 2019

- Comparing USGS 28-day average stream flows from early April
- Above Normal flows in much of the Missouri, Ohio, and upper and lower Mississippi River basin





Dry Normal Wet http://waterwatch.usgs.gov/



Flood Outlook Through mid-June 2019



50% or Greater Chance of Flooding

March 7, 2019



http://water.weather.gov/ahps/region_long_range.php?rfc=mvrfc&percent=50 5



Flood Outlook Through mid-July 2019



- Moderate to Major flooding may continue into June and July in the Mississippi River basin and portions of the Missouri River basin.
- Flooding chances remain <u>higher</u> and <u>more</u> <u>widespread</u> than last year and in several years
- Long duration flooding at very high levels is expected to continue

50% or Greater Chance of Flooding

Valid through mid-July



http://water.weather.gov/ahps/region_long_range.php?rfc=mvrfc&percent=50



Past Precipitation



Past 30 days







Precipitation Forecasts for May 2-9 Days 1-3, Days 4-5, Days 6-7

10AF





Week 1 Precipitation Forecast



Heavy rain is expected the next 7 days across the lower Missouri, Ohio, and Mississippi River basins

Looking into Week 2 there is a chance for two more significant weather systems May 10-12 and May 16-18



http://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/qpf/day1-7.shtml





IOAA







Historical Precipitation Rankings Last 12 months (April 2018 - March 2019)







March 2019 Temperature and Precipitation State Rankings







Generated 5/1/2019 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Last 30 and 90 Day Temperature **Departures from Normal**

NOAA Regional Climate

-15

-12

-9

-6



Departure from Normal Temperature (F) 4/1/2019 - 4/30/2019



- Last 90 days cooler than normal
- Last 30 days cooler than normal north-northeast and warmer south

Departure from Normal Temperature (F) 1/31/2019 - 4/30/2019





12 15 NOAA Regional Climate Center



Precipitation – Last 30 Days

https://water.weather.gov/precip



May 02, 2019 30-Day Observed Precipitation Created on: May 02, 2019 - 15:12 UTC Valid on: May 02, 2019 12:00 UTC



Last 30 days continued wet to extreme wet over most of the area.







Soil Moisture



- Still widespread very wet conditions
- Has been wet for several months
- Drying will take months





Mountain Snowpack Current Conditions





- Near average to slightly above conditions
- At the end of average mountain accumulation period
- Snowmelt through June

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Shifting to Outlooks

- El Nino
- Weeks 2, 3, 4
- May
- May July
- June August

CPC/IRI Probabilistic ENSO Outlook Updated: 11 April 2019

El Niño conditions are favored to continue through fall 2019 with diminishing chances (~50% in October-November-December).



Early-April 2019 CPC/IRI Official Probabilistic ENSO Forecasts



- Decent chances for below normal temperatures
- Slightly elevated chances for above normal precipitation across Midwest/Plains (near normal chances Upper Mississippi)

Potential Week 2 Precip & Temp Extremes (May 9-15)





- Major storm systems focused on the S. Plains

 Lower Mississippi to the Mid-Atlantic
- Beginning May 9th but stretching through the 15th
- Cooler than normal temps north – potential freeze/frost far north

https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/

May Temperature and Precipitation Probability Outlooks





- Enhanced chances for above normal precipitation entire region (except far north)
- Enhanced chances for below normal temperature across the plains (border to border)

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https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/



- Enhanced chances for precipitation across most of the are with focus in WY, northern CO. Equal chances Great Lakes and northern areas of MN/ND
- Leaning below normal temperatures central Plains, equal chances for above, below and near normal temperatures most of region w/above normal chances east.

https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/



- Enhanced chances for above normal precipitation continues (except for Great Lakes areas)
- Mostly equal chances with some slight leaning toward warmer than normal temperatures east/west





- May June climatological wettest time of the year on average
 - Average rainfall will continue to cause flooding
- May continued better chances for above normal precipitation
- May July: continued better chances for above normal precipitation
- El Nino: Potential contributor to continuing wetness in some areas.



Soil Temperature



- Cold temperatures limiting some planting/planted crops
- Crops are sitting in many soils
 below 50 F (typical
 temperature for corn)
- 40 F appropriate for small grains
- Southern Corn Belt areas are somewhat warmer.





USDA-NASS Crop Progress









Photo – OSU Extension

Assorted AG Issues

- Crop planting is delayed over much of the region driven mainly by wet soils, but also cool soil temperatures
- Frequency of rain issues on planting/reaching critical planting time
- Further south planting has moved ahead more.
- Crop conditions are mixed (what has been planted though delayed). Winter wheat poorer in the eastern wheat areas/better western areas.
- Various winter issues on alfalfa
- Delayed shipments (grain out fertilizer in) Mississippi due to high water



Assorted AG Issues - 2

- Increased potential for disease/poor emergence
- Wet fall pushed some field work to spring
- Many prevent plant acres likely to occur.
- Still inundated acres in flooded areas
- Damaged acres in NE largely from flooding (sand, residues and trash)

https://www.climatehubs.oce.usda.gov/sit es/default/files/5.2.19MidwestFocusAgOut look.pdf



https://www.climatehubs.oce.usda.gov/hubs/midwest



Current NCRFC Flood Status for the Red River of the North and Souris River Basins





Red River of the North (Moderate to Minor, most forecasts in Moderate):

- Continue slow recession throughout the RRN maintstem with mostly slow recession or steady flow in tributaries.
- Elevated River levels may continue through early May depending on precipitation pattern.
- Most all of the snow is melted in the entire RRN basin. (Souris: still some mostly near Minot, ND and near trace amounts near Devils Lake).
- Frozen ground not too much of a concern. (upwards of top 18+ inches thawed out)

Current NCRFC Flood Status for Minnesota and Upper Mississippi Rivers

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(Upper Mississippi River to Dubuque, IA)



Minnesota River:

 Continue very slow fall
 (Moderate to Minor Flooding ongoinghigh flows; week +)

Upper Mississippi to Dubuque, IA (Major to Minor):

- Continue very slow fall-mostly minor flooding for week + (future rainfall dependent)
- Dubuque (Railroad Bridge) forecast to be below Major on Saturday at around 21.5 feet.

Current NCRFC Flood Status for Mid Mississippi River (Dubuque, IA to St Louis, MO)





NORR

Current NCRFC Flood Status for the Illinois River



Illinois River (Major to Minor, but most levels in or going to Major):

- Continue rise throughout the system. Illinois at Morris forecast to crest today or tomorrow near 23.5 feet.
- Will continue to add significant water to the Mississippi River during this time of long duration high water adding to the stress on levee and water control systems.
- Central and southern Illinois forecast to receive significant rainfall within the next 7-days (3+ inches).
- Very High levels will continue beyond a few weeks from now; depending on rainfall amounts and frequency.



Current NCRFC Flood Status for the St Joseph, Yellow, Kankakee and Iroquois Rivers





Rivers: (Major to Minor):

- Near crests on the St. Joseph and Yellow Rivers. The Kankakee will continue to rise in the next week or so with a potential record within Major stage at Shelby near 13 feet over the weekend.
- The Iroquois cresting now or soon, within Minor flood levels.
- Forecast rainfall within the next 7 days will keep levels up and prolong the recessions.




NCRFC, Wisconsin and Upper Peninsula Basins Flood Potential Outlook: (through late-July)



> 50% chance of exceeding flood levels

Marquette O ttawa National Forest n al Green Bay Lake Crosse Fond du Lac Sheboygan Madison Milwaukee

Above to Near Normal Flood Risk

Continues in the next few months; saturated soils, above normal winter snowpack and uncertainty with future rainfall remains.



NCRFC, Mississippi Basin Flood Potential Outlook: (through late-July)



> 50% chance of exceeding flood levels Above to Much Above Normal Flood Risk continues for the Minnesota River and Mississippi Headwaters area in Minnesota and along the Mainstem Mississippi River

- Higher than Normal flows will continue through May and possibly into July with several peaks in June.
- The river has not had a chance to come back down from spring melt and as widespread spring rains continue, river levels will continue to be high.
- Again, Illinois R. and Missouri R. inputs will keep lower end of NCRFC area in flood during this period along with widspread saturated soils exacerbating conditions even when < inch of rainfall.





MISSOURI RIVER BASIN CURRENT FLOODING





In South Dakota:

James River: major, falling above Forestburg, crest now at Forestburg, expected to crest at mouth in a couple weeks. Big Sioux River: moderate, falling

In Iowa: Little Sioux River: minor, creating Big Sioux River: moderate, falling

Chica

In Kansas: Big Blue: minor, steady Marais des Cygnes: moderate, cresting

Missouri River below Gavins: Minor Neb City—Miami ~300 miles Moderate Glasgow—mouth ~ 200 miles

In Missouri: Osage River basin: moderate, cresting Grand River: moderate, cresting Several smaller tribs: moderate,

cresting



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MISSOURI BASIN Mountain Snowpack (as of 30 April)









MISSOURI BASIN 2019 Mountain Runoff







MISSOURI BASIN FLOOD POTENTIAL OUTLOOK (90-day)





Basen James River:

For locations which have already crested, this will likely be the 2019 high.

For locations downstream of Forestburg SD, the expected crests over the next couple of weeks, will likely be the 2019 high.

Some locations will not fall below minor flood stage for several weeks (couple of months).

Take-home Point: While streams within the James basin remain high for the next several weeks, the likelihood of exceeding what has already happened (or is about to happen over the next couple of weeks) is very unlikely.



MISSOURI BASIN FLOOD POTENTIAL OUTLOOK (90-day)





Floyd: Minor flooding likely.

Little Sioux: Moderate level flooding likely.

Big Sioux: Expect to see moderate.



MISSOURI BASIN FLOOD POTENTIAL OUTLOOK (90-day)





Lower basin: episodic moderate level flooding likely next 3 months due to convective activity.

This includes the Missouri River from Nebraska City to the mouth at St. Louis.



MISSOURI BASIN SPRING FLOOD SUMMARY



- Mountain snowpack has (hopefully!!!) attained its 2019 peak accumulation (mid-April). No significant flooding from mountain melt is expected. (Well, keeping an eye on the Bighorn Basin.)
- Plains snowpack no longer a factor.
- Eastern portion of the Missouri River basin still has ENHANCED RISK for flooding.
- Thunderstorm activity sure to bring episodic moderate level flooding across lower basin (southern IA, eastern KS, southeastern NE, MO.) VERY ACTIVE SPRING FLOOD SEASON STILL AHEAD.





risk.



**Due to current <u>very</u> wet conditions, the region is vulnerable to future storm systems.

- Above to Much Above Normal Flood Risk Mississippi basin (including mainstem Mississippi River) and eastern Missouri basin
- Normal Flood Risk Souris and western Missouri basin
- PLEASE MONITOR FUTURE FORECASTS AND OUTLOOKS

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NOAA/National Weather Service will continue to monitor the flood





The recording can be found here: <u>https://hprcc.unl.edu/webinars.php</u> or <u>http://mrcc.illinois.edu/multimedia/webinars.jsp</u>

Next Webinar: May 16th – Martha Shulski – Nebraska State Climatologist





NWS RFC Contact Information





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Long-Range River Outlook can be found at:

http://water.weather.gov/ahps/region_long_range.php?rfc=mvrfc&percent=50

Real-time AHPS River Forecasts are at:

http://water.weather.gov/ahps/forecasts.php



http://www.weather.gov

*Next Monthly Central U.S. Climate and Drought Outlook Webinar will be May 16, 2019