

**WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION**  
**HYDRO CONDITIONS AND PURCHASE POWER REPORT**  
**July 2021 – updated August 31, 2021**

	Generation (Megawatt-Hours [MWh])				Purchase Power (MWh)	Purchase Power Expenses (Dollars)		
	Projected	Most	Average	Actual	Actual	Projected	Most	Actual
	Dry	Probable				Dry	Probable	
<b>Oct 20</b>	1,637,082	1,708,515	1,967,791	1,707,748	330,036	\$9,229,116	\$5,508,878	\$9,801,302
<b>Nov 20</b>	1,413,902	1,475,455	1,822,863	1,442,689	480,048	\$10,118,812	\$9,189,960	\$12,556,811
<b>Dec 20</b>	1,276,475	1,375,669	1,800,527	1,367,249	639,892	\$15,963,137	\$14,405,573	\$16,561,267
<b>Jan 21</b>	1,403,979	1,511,519	1,933,074	1,456,026	528,281	\$13,163,488	\$11,038,437	\$12,744,567
<b>Feb 21</b>	1,417,880	1,388,085	1,763,834	1,396,003	431,892	\$11,692,250	\$10,359,333	\$122,454,189
<b>Mar 21</b>	1,832,993	1,797,417	1,967,511	1,681,182	350,180	\$6,603,587	\$7,804,168	\$7,814,970
<b>Apr 21</b>	2,101,732	2,108,894	2,313,461	2,011,044	205,375	\$4,703,774	\$4,505,043	\$4,575,283
<b>May 21</b>	2,278,194	2,330,224	2,689,563	2,192,273	131,813	\$2,528,661	\$3,808,755	\$3,173,556
<b>Jun 21</b>	2,308,513	2,344,781	2,863,634	2,444,401	180,650	\$7,904,393	\$8,050,265	\$10,536,000
<b>Jul 21</b>								
<b>Aug 21</b>								
<b>Sep 21</b>								
<b>Total</b>	15,670,751	16,040,559	19,122,257	15,698,614	3,278,168	\$81,907,219	\$74,670,413	\$200,217,945
	Actual generation as a percentage of average: 82.1%					Cost per MWh: \$61.08		

Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) generated a total of 15,698,614 gigawatt-hours (GWh) during October through June of fiscal year 2021, or 82.1\* percent of the average. For the months of October through June, total purchase power was 3,278 GWh and total purchase power expenses were \$200,217,945, which equates to \$61.08 per MWh overall, across WAPA. High purchase power prices during the February polar vortex contribute to the average.

The following pages indicate WAPA’s Regional snowpack, lake/reservoir inflow and storage, generation, and purchase power expenses. Snowpack is reported as snow water equivalent, which is the depth of water that theoretically would result if the entire snowpack is melted instantaneously.

The monthly purchase power numbers indicated herein are used by WAPA’s Regions as a forecasting tool, and therefore they do not reflect energy imbalance transactions and other such information that cannot be forecasted. Furthermore, the purchase power numbers have not been verified for financial auditing purposes. Consequently, these numbers will vary from those reported in WAPA’s year-end financial statements, and the latter should be considered the definitive source for WAPA’s purchase power data.



## Colorado River Storage Project

	Snowpack (Inches in Snow Water Equivalent)		Lake/Reservoir Inflow (Thousand Acre-Feet)		Lake/Reservoir Content (Million Acre-Feet)		Generation (MWh)				Purchase Power (MWh)	Purchase Power Expenses (Dollars)		
	Median	Actual	Average	Actual	Average	Actual	Projected Dry	Most Probable	Average	Actual	Actual	Projected Dry	Most Probable	Actual
<b>Oct 20</b>	1.30	0.80	514.42	78.00	15.01	10.98	247,024	376,668	382,430	352,623	96,196	\$5,712,150	\$2,383,148	\$2,993,074
<b>Nov 20</b>	4.80	3.40	474.23	261.00	14.91	10.62	241,664	315,446	388,155	310,304	136,279	\$5,110,150	\$4,402,490	\$4,502,668
<b>Dec 20</b>	8.10	6.30	362.96	169.00	14.86	10.13	279,537	351,663	437,962	345,778	156,942	\$6,299,733	\$5,277,929	\$5,473,649
<b>Jan 21</b>	11.50	8.60	361.45	198.00	14.98	9.64	329,144	364,153	457,394	358,646	140,939	\$5,112,308	\$4,064,075	\$4,072,438
<b>Feb 21</b>	15.10	12.60	392.01	201.00	15.99	9.23	285,980	324,408	390,580	315,532	108,150	\$4,550,403	\$3,198,843	\$5,267,596
<b>Mar 21</b>	18.90	16.30	666.27	297.00	16.77	8.84	300,884	340,401	390,170	330,480	118,883	\$3,588,199	\$3,937,998	\$3,687,171
<b>Apr 21</b>	19.40	13.90	1,057.14	289.00	16.74	8.50	299,431	331,588	397,861	340,907	83,599	\$1,970,254	\$1,901,016	\$2,481,139
<b>May 21</b>	7.90	4.00	2,337.68	543.00	16.30	8.37	364,111	335,179	475,860	374,602	42,671	\$1,374,340	\$2,528,177	\$1,269,119
<b>Jun 21</b>	0.00	0.30	2,668.50	810.00	16.00	8.33	350,695	402,219	534,248	377,717	68,509	\$3,910,230	\$3,769,301	\$4,139,529
<b>Jul 21</b>														
<b>Aug 21</b>														
<b>Sep 21</b>														
<b>Total</b>							2,698,471	3,141,725	3,854,659	3,106,590	952,168	\$37,627,769	\$31,462,978	\$33,886,382

Actual generation as a percentage of average: 80.6%

Cost per MWh: \$35.59

### Lake/Reservoir Levels

End of June storage volume for Lake Powell was 8.3 million acre-feet or 34 percent of capacity. Lake Powell reservoir inflow for June was 809,000 acre-feet or 30 percent of average. End of June Lake Powell elevation was about 3,560 feet, 140 feet from maximum reservoir level, and 70 feet from the minimum generation level.

### Weather and Other Conditions

Due to the extreme drought in the Colorado River Basin, Lake Powell elevation is forecasted to drop below the threshold elevation (3,525 ft; 35 ft from minimum power pool of 3,490 ft) that triggers Drought Response Operations Agreement (DROA) releases from Upper Colorado River Basin reservoirs Blue Mesa, Flaming Gorge, and Navajo by March of 2022. The Bureau of Reclamation plans to release an additional 181,000 acre-feet total from these reservoirs by the end of December 2021 to try and maintain Lake Powell elevation above 3,525 ft.

Due to the dry hydrologic conditions, purchase power estimates for FY 2021 are expected to be very high.



## Desert Southwest Region

	Snowpack (Inches in Snow Water Equivalent)		Lake/Reservoir Inflow (Thousand Acre-Feet)		Lake/Reservoir Content (Million Acre-Feet)		Generation (MWh)				Purchase Power (MWh)	Purchase Power Expenses (Dollars)		
	Median	Actual	Average	Actual	Average	Actual	Projected Dry	Most Probable	Average	Actual	Actual	Projected Dry	Most Probable	Actual
Oct 20	1.30	0.80	59.65	35.00	19.82	12.25	407,200	384,190	377,268	391,920	27,216	\$498,024	\$498,024	\$1,510,510
Nov 20	4.80	3.40	55.47	56.00	19.86	12.28	361,600	360,155	362,391	355,236	21,032	\$800,684	\$800,684	\$1,098,412
Dec 20	8.10	6.30	73.06	60.00	20.00	12.46	217,750	256,520	365,340	266,410	24,797	\$1,639,676	\$1,639,676	\$1,208,261
Jan 21	11.50	8.60	93.00	74.00	20.16	12.78	274,050	299,265	388,937	296,996	33,596	\$907,204	\$907,204	\$1,391,031
Feb 21	15.10	12.60	107.50	56.00	20.20	12.88	318,150	305,675	386,998	311,351	14,841	\$747,756	\$747,756	\$760,432
Mar 21	18.90	16.30	103.81	34.00	20.01	12.63	522,450	517,060	526,368	517,092	10,701	\$1,092,436	\$1,092,436	\$475,939
Apr 21	19.40	13.90	83.65	37.00	19.84	12.22	553,400	567,845	569,446	570,700	9,356	\$286,954	\$286,954	\$453,665
May 21	7.90	4.00	58.40	28.00	19.92	11.75	535,900	582,945	570,961	592,962	10,127	\$383,310	\$383,310	\$516,477
Jun 21	0.00	0.30	26.28	-13.00	20.09	11.40	493,750	508,340	535,980	505,949	11,268	\$3,097,474	\$3,097,474	\$3,295,728
Jul 21														
Aug 21														
Sep 21														
<b>Total</b>							3,684,250	3,781,995	4,083,689	3,808,618	162,934	\$9,453,518	\$9,453,518	\$10,710,455

Actual generation as a percentage of average: 93.3%

Cost per MWh: \$65.73

### Lake/Reservoir Levels

Aggregate system storage for the Lower Colorado River Basin, or Lakes Mead, Mohave and Havasu, was 11.4 million acre-feet at the end of June, or 40 percent of the Lower Basin capacity. The lower basin tributary inflow into Lake Mead for June was *negative* 13,000 acre-feet. A negative side inflow represents an overall loss of water in the system between Glen Canyon Dam and Hoover Dam; water losses such as river and reservoir evaporation, riparian evapotranspiration (consumptive use of water by plants), and diversions were greater than the precipitation and runoff downstream of Glen Canyon Dam. The total side inflow into Lake Mead for WY 2021 is projected at 577 KAF which represents a 33 percent decrease over last year's actual of 863 KAF and represents 44 percent of the normal annual side inflow of 1.3 MAF.

### Weather and Other Conditions

The Desert Southwest Region's (DSWR) hydrology, or the Lower Colorado River Basin, is mostly dependent on the Colorado River Basin snowpack and precipitation above Lake Powell. The precipitation is currently 73 percent of average.

*Note: DSWR's projected dry and most probable generation data are reported from studies conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.*



## Rocky Mountain Region

	Snowpack (Inches in Snow Water Equivalent)		Lake/Reservoir Inflow (Thousand Acre-Feet)		Lake/Reservoir Content (Million Acre-Feet)		Generation (MWh)				Purchase Power (MWh)	Purchase Power Expenses (Dollars)		
	Median	Actual	Average	Actual	Average	Actual	Projected Dry	Most Probable	Average	Actual	Actual	Projected Dry	Most Probable	Actual
<b>Oct 20</b>	0.00	0.00	142.50	95.30	3.854	4.138	97,268	107,268	104,469	73,515	103,847	\$ 1,853,600	\$ 1,533,600	\$ 3,246,505
<b>Nov 20</b>	3.70	4.00	125.30	111.10	3.702	4.020	49,932	59,932	71,586	48,589	124,138	\$ 1,131,072	\$ 811,072	\$ 3,817,277
<b>Dec 20</b>	11.80	8.90	126.10	111.20	3.794	4.105	92,471	102,471	105,136	81,323	99,875	\$ 1,319,040	\$ 999,040	\$ 3,007,865
<b>Jan 21</b>	18.60	20.40	100.40	84.30	3.788	4.075	114,675	124,675	101,067	112,305	65,082	\$ 1,701,344	\$ 1,381,344	\$ 1,576,446
<b>Feb 21</b>	25.80	27.90	99.30	78.60	3.771	4.064	101,654	111,654	100,751	95,375	37,972	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,394,430
<b>Mar 21</b>	37.30	33.90	160.50	130.80	3.785	4.125	108,080	118,080	144,642	106,409	35,071	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 894,723
<b>Apr 21</b>	45.70	43.50	252.20	191.20	3.819	4.129	123,233	133,233	206,415	151,191	21,931	\$ 1,322,176	\$ 1,002,176	\$ 593,809
<b>May 21</b>	43.30	36.70	759.80	536.80	4.143	4.341	197,390	207,390	234,507	181,846	10,531	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 332,956
<b>Jun 21</b>	11.30	9.00	1,197.50	870.70	3.733	4.665	211,066	221,066	269,854	204,831	21,365	\$ 89,312	\$ 230,688	\$ 1,310,337
<b>Jul 21</b>														
<b>Aug 21</b>														
<b>Sep 21</b>														
<b>Total</b>							1,095,769	1,185,769	1,338,428	1,055,384	519,812	\$7,416,544	\$5,957,920	\$18,174,348

Actual generation as a percentage of average: 78.9%

Cost per MWh: \$34.96

### Lake/Reservoir Content

At the end of June, reservoir inflows were 73 percent of average and reservoir storage was at 155 percent of average.

### Weather and Other Conditions

LAP's hydrologic conditions can vary from one river basin and watershed to another. Runoff is complete. Temperatures through September are projected to be above average and precipitation is projected to be below average in Wyoming and Colorado. Summer generation in the Colorado River Basin, North Platte Basin and Big Horn Basin is forecasted to be average due to decent storage and water movement.



## Sierra Nevada Region

	Snowpack (Inches in Snow Water Equivalent)		Lake/Reservoir Inflow (Thousand Acre-Feet)		Lake/Reservoir Content (Million Acre-Feet)		Generation (MWh)				Purchase Power (MWh)	Purchase Power Expenses (Dollars)		
	Median	Actual	Average	Actual	Average	Actual	Projected Dry	Most Probable	Average	Actual	Actual	Projected Dry	Most Probable	Actual
Oct 20	N/A	N/A	328.00	256.00	5.38	5.23	139,000	79,000	163,000	119,699	55,232	\$659,220	\$659,220	\$979,064
Nov 20	N/A	N/A	399.00	283.00	5.34	5.13	53,000	38,000	104,000	70,365	53,796	\$628,188	\$628,188	\$1,150,708
Dec 20	27.37	5.20	791.00	303.00	5.62	5.12	30,000	-	143,000	74,714	55,552	\$654,300	\$654,300	\$1,302,849
Jan 21	28.29	11.60	949.00	417.00	6.03	5.22	-	-	163,000	38,018	58,365	\$634,400	\$634,400	\$1,330,776
Feb 21	27.96	15.10	1,216.00	501.00	6.62	5.45	56,000	-	195,000	11,982	53,443	\$578,400	\$578,400	\$1,111,030
Mar 21	28.00	16.80	1,439.00	515.00	7.31	5.58	107,000	92,000	207,000	85,317	52,517	\$641,275	\$641,275	\$912,219
Apr 21	27.37	5.20	1,241.00	486.00	7.67	5.41	234,000	219,000	288,000	143,983	47,646	\$496,000	\$496,000	\$520,900
May 21	0.00	0.00	1,017.00	364.00	7.59	5.06	264,000	319,000	442,000	172,564	49,957	\$514,400	\$514,400	\$673,243
Jun 21	0.00	0.00	694.00	224.00	7.12	4.40	353,000	358,000	440,000	467,578	45,421	\$496,000	\$496,000	\$807,686
Jul 21														
Aug 21														
Sep 21														
<b>Total</b>							1,236,000	1,105,000	2,145,000	1,184,221	471,930	\$5,302,183	\$5,302,183	\$8,788,474

Actual generation as a percentage of average: 55.2%

Cost per MWh: \$18.62

### Lake/Reservoir Content

As June 30, reservoir storage for the water year was 69 percent of the 15-year average for Trinity, 53 percent for Shasta, 41 percent for Folsom, and 83 percent for New Melones. Accumulated inflow was 34 percent of the 15-year average for Trinity, 48 percent for Shasta, 33 percent for Folsom, and 37 percent for New Melones.

### Weather and Other Conditions

June precipitation was 8 percent of average and the water year total is 46 percent of average. Based upon May 1 conditions, the Sacramento River Index forecast for 50 percent exceedance at 6.7 is "critical" and the 90 percent exceedance at 6.0 is also "critical."

*Note: The Sierra Nevada Region's (SNR) average generation is based upon long-term modeling done for its "Green Book." SNR does not project purchase power expenses for dry conditions, and its most probable expenses are based upon term purchases of 35 to 65 percent of projected power needs, with the difference being left to day-ahead markets after project pumping and generation have been scheduled.*



## Upper Great Plains Region

	Snowpack (Inches in Snow Water Equivalent)		Lake/Reservoir Inflow (Thousand Acre-Feet)		Lake/Reservoir Content (Million Acre-Feet)		Generation (MWh)				Purchase Power (MWh)	Purchase Power Expenses (Dollars)		
	Median	Actual	Average	Actual	Average	Actual	Projected Dry	Most Probable	Average	Actual	Actual	Projected Dry	Most Probable	Actual
<b>Oct 20</b>	1.20	1.80	7,972.00	7,076.94	56.14	58.83	746,590	761,389	940,624	769,992	47,545	\$506,122	\$434,886	\$1,072,149
<b>Nov 20</b>	3.80	3.60	7,334.00	6,581.48	55.06	57.86	707,706	701,922	896,730	658,194	144,803	\$2,448,719	\$2,547,526	\$1,987,746
<b>Dec 20</b>	7.10	5.80	6,422.00	5,580.68	54.46	57.57	656,717	665,015	749,088	599,023	302,726	\$6,050,388	\$5,834,628	\$5,568,644
<b>Jan 21</b>	10.30	8.20	6,641.00	5,891.16	54.18	57.41	686,110	723,426	822,676	650,060	230,299	\$4,808,232	\$4,051,414	\$4,373,877
<b>Feb 21</b>	13.10	12.40	6,281.00	5,848.92	54.50	57.08	656,096	646,348	690,506	661,762	217,486	\$5,815,691	\$5,834,334	\$111,920,701
<b>Mar 21</b>	15.80	14.00	8,151.00	6,911.39	56.20	57.66	794,579	729,876	699,331	641,883	133,008	\$1,281,677	\$2,132,459	\$1,844,918
<b>Apr 21</b>	14.90	11.40	8,041.00	7,292.99	57.06	56.84	891,668	857,228	851,739	804,263	42,843	\$628,390	\$818,897	\$525,770
<b>May 21</b>	6.30	5.00	9,654.00	8,690.01	58.35	56.76	916,793	885,710	966,235	870,298	18,527	\$256,611	\$382,869	\$381,761
<b>Jun 21</b>	0.50	0.00	11,746.00	9,067.75	60.54	56.84	900,002	855,156	1,083,552	888,326	34,087	\$311,377	\$456,802	\$982,720
<b>Jul 21</b>														
<b>Aug 21</b>														
<b>Sep 21</b>														
<b>Total</b>							6,956,261	6,826,070	7,700,480	6,543,801	1,171,324	\$22,107,205	\$22,493,814	\$128,658,286

Actual generation as a percentage of average: 85.0%

Cost per MWh: \$109.84

### Lake/Reservoir Content

The yearly runoff forecast for the Missouri River basin as of *August 17* was 14.6 million acre-feet (MAF) or 57 percent of average and runoff above Sioux City for the month of *July* was 1.0 MAF or 60 percent of average. System storage is at 55.2 MAF. The snowpack has melted.

### Weather and Other Conditions

The U.S. Drought Monitor shows large areas of the upper Basin continue to be impacted by drought. Extreme Drought conditions are occurring in most of North Dakota, northwest South Dakota, and northeastern Montana with some Exceptional Drought conditions in north central North Dakota. Severe, Moderate Drought and Abnormally Dry conditions are occurring in much of the lower half of South Dakota.

Average purchase power amounts and prices for the year are skewed by the extreme pricing and increased purchasing during the polar vortex on February 15 and 16, with UGP significantly exceeding its purchase power estimates for FY21 in just the month of February.

*Note: The Upper Great Plains Region reports its 50 percent share of generation from Yellowtail Dam, and RMR reports the snowpack, inflow, content, and remaining share of generation. Asterisks indicate that actual purchase power data is not available for the month.*



**Correction** – an earlier version of this report erroneously indicated the average generation for the Desert Southwest Region for March 2021 was 526 MWh and the Actual generation as a percentage of average was 107 percent; and the average generation WAPA-wide for March 2021 was 1,441,669 MWh and the Actual generation as a percentage of average was 84.4 percent.

The figures should read 526,368 MWh and 93.3 percent for Desert Southwest, and 1,967,511 MWh and 82.1 percent WAPA-wide. The figures on pages 1 and 3 and the narrative on page 1 have been corrected accordingly.

