

WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION
HYDRO CONDITIONS AND PURCHASE POWER REPORT
March 2022

	Generation (Megawatt-Hours [MWh])				Purchase Power (MWh)	Purchase Power Expenses (Dollars)		
	Projected Dry	Most Probable	Average	Actual	Actual	Projected Dry	Most Probable	Actual
Oct 21	1,467,161	1,477,997	1,974,250	1,510,346	313,064	\$15,851,765	\$15,225,185	\$17,623,879
Nov 21	1,228,617	1,160,110	1,870,443	1,133,465	591,945	\$24,125,267	\$23,271,118	\$28,124,884
Dec 21	1,082,403	1,088,536	1,826,740	1,103,958	576,289	\$14,608,047	\$13,892,164	\$20,685,110
Jan 22	1,327,335	1,320,351	1,927,315	1,262,076	575,669	\$11,939,550	\$11,857,033	\$19,848,159
Feb 22	1,214,591	1,204,685	1,785,979	1,147,882				
Mar 22								
Apr 22								
May 22								
Jun 22								
Jul 22								
Aug 22								
Sep 22								
Total	6,320,107	6,251,680	9,384,727	6,157,726	2,056,967	\$66,524,628	\$64,245,500	\$86,282,032

Actual generation as a percentage of average: 65.6% Cost per MWh: \$41.95

Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) generated a total of 6,158 gigawatt-hours (GWh) from October through February of fiscal year 2022, or 66 percent of average. Actual purchase power data is currently available from October through January for all of WAPA’s Regions, and during this period total purchase power was 2,057 GWh and total purchase power expenses were \$86,282,032, which equates to \$41.95 per MWh overall.

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 melted instantaneously.

The monthly purchase power numbers in this report are used by WAPA’s regions as a forecasting tool; 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
	Oct 21	1.00	1.80	514.42	317.00	15.01	7.18	242,049	256,726	382,430	256,726	142,576	\$ 8,536,794	\$ 8,536,794
Nov 21	4.30	3.10	474.23	346.00	14.91	7.02	231,017	222,180	388,155	222,180	194,078	\$ 12,149,771	\$ 12,149,771	\$ 12,149,771
Dec 21	7.80	9.20	362.96	266.00	14.86	6.71	266,495	258,749	437,962	258,749	10,490	\$ 377,626	\$ 377,626	\$ 377,626
Jan 22	11.20	11.60	361.45	249.00	14.98	6.34	305,964	286,573	457,394	284,608	6,540	\$ 488,669	\$ 488,669	\$ 243,924
Feb 22	14.80	13.60	392.01	215.00	15.99	6.01	273,210	234,241	390,580	229,398	7,963	\$ 302,244	\$ 494,159	\$ 275,617
Mar 22														
Apr 22														
May 22														
Jun 22														
Jul 22														
Aug 22														
Sep 22														
Total							1,318,736	1,258,470	2,056,521	1,251,661	361,647	\$ 21,855,104	\$ 22,047,020	\$ 21,583,732

Actual generation as a percentage of average: 60.9%

Cost per MWh: \$59.68

Lake/Reservoir Levels

End of February storage volume for Lake Powell was 6.01 million acre-feet (MAF) or about 24 percent of capacity. Lake Powell reservoir inflow for February was 215,000 acre-feet or 59 percent of average. Lake Powell elevation at the end of February was about 3,527 feet, or about 173 feet from maximum reservoir level and 37 feet from the minimum generation level.

Weather and Other Conditions

Dry conditions persist throughout the Colorado River Basin with significantly below average reservoir inflows forecasted for water year (WY) 2022. In response to the dry conditions, Reclamation, in consultation with the seven Basin States, is considering reducing the annual release volume from Lake Powell for 2022 as well as additional releases from Flaming Gorge and Aspinall as part of Drought Response Operations Agreement planning. CRSP implemented a new rate, WAPA-199, in December 2021. Under this rate, CRSP provides customers with only forecasted available energy. Theoretically, energy purchases should be zero going forward; however, CRSP still expects to have purchases in some months due to uncertainty with hydrology.



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 21	1.00	1.80	60.11	81.00	19.69	11.00	303,950	309,595	376,487	311,252	20,015	\$ 1,502,607	\$ 1,502,607
Nov 21	4.30	3.10	55.20	43.00	19.74	10.92	321,100	311,600	361,868	319,154	12,568	\$ 1,583,400	\$ 1,583,400	\$ 593,080
Dec 21	7.80	9.20	72.87	65.00	19.85	9.64	257,800	243,900	363,944	251,578	37,736	\$ 2,353,714	\$ 2,353,714	\$ 2,961,911
Jan 22	11.20	11.60	92.36	65.00	20.04	11.18	308,250	311,340	388,038	314,878	16,791	\$ 1,310,313	\$ 1,310,313	\$ 1,084,371
Feb 22	14.80	13.60	106.49	61.00	20.08	11.16	288,300	312,730	386,047	307,920	676	\$ 370,667	\$ 370,667	\$ 32,821
Mar 22														
Apr 22														
May 22														
Jun 22														
Jul 22														
Aug 22														
Sep 22														
Total							1,479,400	1,489,165	1,876,384	1,504,782	87,786	\$ 7,120,701	\$ 7,120,701	\$ 6,125,465

Actual generation as a percentage of average: 80.2%

Cost per MWh: \$69.78

Lake/Reservoir Levels

Aggregate system storage for the Lower Colorado River Basin, or Lakes Mead, Mohave, and Havasu, was 11.16 MAF at the end of February, or 39 percent of the Lower Basin capacity. The Lower Basin tributary inflow into Lake Mead for February was 61,000 acre-feet. The total side inflow into Lake Mead for WY 2022 is projected to be 800,000 acre-feet, which represents a 48 percent increase over last year's actual of 558,000 acre-feet and 62 percent of the normal annual side inflow of 1.3 MAF. Lake Mead elevation at the end of February was 1,066.78 feet, or 152.86 feet below full storage elevation and 116.78 feet above the minimum generation elevation for Hoover Dam. In order to protect a target elevation at Lake Powell of 3,525 feet, Glen Canyon Dam will hold back a total of 0.35 MAF of releases from Lake Mead from January through April. It is still anticipated that the total projected water releases to Lake Mead for WY 2022 will be 7.48 MAF. Therefore, the water held back from January through April will have to be released later in WY 2022.

Weather and Other Conditions

The Desert Southwest Region's 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 99 percent of average, and the snowpack is 96 percent of the median.



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
	Oct 21	0.00	0.00	133.50	131.00	3.89	3.72	52,479	70,240	97,400	69,420	84,307	\$ 3,934,516	\$ 3,330,640
Nov 21	2.10	4.40	124.70	98.60	3.91	3.75	48,828	66,514	110,000	41,979	110,921	\$ 4,255,035	\$ 3,636,010	\$ 6,664,567
Dec 21	11.50	8.10	102.40	54.90	3.89	3.72	81,875	96,903	123,500	102,082	90,136	\$ 3,319,239	\$ 2,808,298	\$ 4,461,154
Jan 22	20.00	22.60	100.30	91.60	3.87	3.67	128,841	124,479	122,100	107,479	62,989	\$ 1,270,606	\$ 1,388,367	\$ 2,449,014
Feb 22	28.40	29.80	98.80	81.60	3.87	3.68	117,035	116,879	111,600	103,544	34,071	\$ 2,293,170	\$ 2,306,606	\$ 1,364,155
Mar 22														
Apr 22														
May 22														
Jun 22														
Jul 22														
Aug 22														
Sep 22														
Total							429,058	475,015	564,600	424,503	382,424	\$ 15,072,566	\$ 13,469,921	\$ 20,557,566

Actual generation as a percentage of average: 75.2%

Cost per MWh: \$53.76

Lake/Reservoir Content

At the end of February, reservoir inflows were 83 percent of average and reservoir storage was at 95 percent of average.

Weather and Other Conditions

LAP's hydrologic conditions can vary from one river basin and watershed to another. As of the end of March, the snowpack is below average in Wyoming and just below average along Colorado's East Slope. The latest National Weather Service forecast indicates April through June temperatures will most likely be at or warmer than average in Colorado and Wyoming. The same forecast indicates precipitation will be below average for Colorado and Wyoming. Spring generation in the Colorado, North Platte, and Bighorn River Basins is forecasted to be below average due to unit outages and low snowpack.



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 21	N/A	N/A	333.00	426.00	5.08	2.82	117,000	77,000	163,000	137,694	51,331	\$ 1,207,080	\$ 1,207,080	\$ 1,537,704
Nov 21	N/A	N/A	400.00	485.00	5.05	3.04	72,000	17,000	104,000	0	58,622	\$ 1,164,725	\$ 1,164,725	\$ 1,617,308
Dec 21	28.00	15.40	793.00	789.00	5.35	3.58	0	0	143,000	5,795	54,276	\$ 1,207,080	\$ 1,207,080	\$ 1,678,780
Jan 22	27.89	15.90	966.00	791.00	5.79	3.91	0	24,000	163,000	4,659	58,925	\$ 1,451,450	\$ 1,451,450	\$ 1,842,960
Feb 22	28.04	15.70	1,175.00	440.00	6.34	3.99	55,000	75,000	195,000	33,597	32,514	\$ 1,353,528	\$ 1,353,528	\$ 1,576,174
Mar 22														
Apr 22														
May 22														
Jun 22														
Jul 22														
Aug 22														
Sep 22														
Total							244,000	193,000	768,000	181,746	255,668	\$ 6,383,863	\$ 6,383,863	\$ 8,252,926

Actual generation as a percentage of average: 23.7%

Cost per MWh: \$32.28

Lake/Reservoir Content

As of February 28, reservoir storage was 53 percent of the 15-year average for Trinity, 57 percent for Shasta, 111 percent for Folsom, and 69 percent for New Melones. Accumulated inflow was 72 percent of the 15-year average for Trinity, 77 percent for Shasta, 86 percent for Folsom, and 92 percent for New Melones. Base Resource Energy has returned as critically dry conditions continue throughout the state. Reclamation remains at minimum instream flow requirements on the Sacramento and Stanislaus Rivers while the American ramps down. Folsom Reservoir on the American River had been encroached into flood space for a short time, but releases are ramping down to conserve.

Weather and Other Conditions

January's precipitation was only 1.36 inches or 15 percent of average, and February's precipitation was only 0.38 inches or 4.6 percent of average. Based on March 1 conditions, the Sacramento Valley index at the 50 percent exceedance level is 4.8 or "critical," while the 90 percent exceedance level is 4.0 or "critical."

Note: The Sierra Nevada Region's average generation is based upon long-term modeling done for its "Green Book." The region 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
Oct 21	1.20	0.80	7,972.00	6,835.65	56.14	50.80	751,683	764,436	954,934	735,254	14,835	\$ 670,768	\$ 648,064	\$ 477,423
Nov 21	3.80	2.20	7,334.00	5,259.62	55.06	49.68	555,672	542,816	906,420	550,152	215,756	\$ 4,972,336	\$ 4,737,212	\$ 7,100,158
Dec 21	7.10	6.60	6,422.00	4,350.10	54.46	49.29	476,232	488,984	758,334	485,754	383,651	\$ 7,350,388	\$ 7,145,446	\$ 11,205,639
Jan 22	10.30	9.20	6,641.00	5,176.51	54.18	49.32	584,281	573,959	796,783	550,451	430,424	\$ 7,418,511	\$ 7,218,233	\$ 14,227,890
Feb 22	13.10	10.40	6,281.00	4,456.74	54.50	49.34	481,046	465,835	702,752	473,424	*	\$ 8,191,334	\$ 8,022,443	*
Mar 22														
Apr 22														
May 22														
Jun 22														
Jul 22														
Aug 22														
Sep 22														
Total							2,848,914	2,836,030	4,119,222	2,795,035	1,044,666	\$ 28,603,336	\$ 27,771,398	\$ 33,011,110

Actual generation as a percentage of average: 67.9%

Cost per MWh: \$31.60

Lake/Reservoir Content

The yearly runoff forecast for the Missouri River Basin as of March 1 was 20.4 MAF or 79 percent of average. Runoff above Sioux City for February was 0.88 MAF or 78 percent of average. System storage as of March 29 is at 48.4 MAF.

Weather and Other Conditions

On March 27, the mountain snow water equivalent in the total above Fort Peck reach is 12.2 inches, or 79 percent of average. The mountain snow water equivalent in the Fort Peck to Garrison reach is 10.4 inches, or 76 percent of average. Extreme and Severe drought conditions are occurring in western North Dakota, with areas of Severe and Moderate Drought in South Dakota. The northern and central regions of Montana are experiencing Extreme and Severe Drought conditions. The 90- to 180- day outlook shows normal temperatures in Montana and North Dakota, and slightly above normal temperatures in most of South Dakota. The forecast for northern Montana and North Dakota shows normal precipitation, and the remainder of UGP's territory shows slightly below normal precipitation.

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

