

WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION
HYDRO CONDITIONS AND PURCHASE POWER REPORT
March 2026

Generation (Megawatt-Hours [MWh])					Purchase Power (MWh)	Purchase Power Expenses (Dollars)		
	Projected Dry	Most Probable	Average	Actual	Actual	Projected Dry	Most Probable	Actual
Oct 25	1,397,646	1,347,558	1,670,402	1,316,783	285,260	\$ 11,270,175	\$ 10,881,648	\$ 10,828,269
Nov 25	1,103,107	1,111,265	1,498,255	1,072,315	337,097	\$ 14,303,895	\$ 13,973,220	\$ 12,418,912
Dec 25	914,546	922,154	1,459,541	982,541	507,585	\$ 20,875,923	\$ 21,640,254	\$ 18,097,601
Jan 26	1,048,635	1,279,469	1,592,976	1,361,621	484,547	\$ 28,069,770	\$ 27,036,800	\$ 36,881,720
Feb 26	1,310,292	1,312,343	1,504,849	1,201,008				
Mar 26								
Apr 26								
May 26								
Jun 26								
Jul 26								
Aug 26								
Sep 26								
Total	5,774,226	5,972,790	7,726,022	5,934,268	1,614,489	\$ 74,519,763	\$ 73,531,922	\$ 78,226,502
Actual generation as a percentage of average:				76.8%	Cost per MWh:			\$48.45

Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) generated a total of 5,934 gigawatt-hours (GWh) from October through February of fiscal year 2026, or 76.8 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 1,614 GWh and total purchase power expenses were \$78,226,502, which equates to \$48.45 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.

Disclaimer: 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 25	0.61	0.31	440,023.80	662,985.62	14.26	6.80	212,124	232,118	262,786	200,599	37,225	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 1,293,014
Nov 25	3.31	1.32	407,186.39	373,683.93	14.06	6.66	190,473	208,426	274,491	209,468	8,773	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 392,435
Dec 25	6.46	4.29	313,209.50	316,540.65	13.73	6.47	189,370	207,219	326,817	209,658	4,953	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 201,438
Jan 26	9.55	5.40	311,209.70	265,117.00	13.32	6.14	226,799	248,176	336,025	250,167	184	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 7,534
Feb 26	12.82	8.99	337,866.40	252,863.87	12.98	5.90	193,209	211,420	283,556	209,956	-126	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ (3,976)
Mar 26														
Apr 26														
May 26														
Jun 26														
Jul 26														
Aug 26														
Sep 26														
Total							1,011,975	1,107,360	1,483,676	1,079,847	51,009	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 1,890,445

Actual generation as a percentage of average: 72.8%

Cost per MWh: \$37.06

* Negative values indicate net sales to the market.

** Customers are offered allocations quarterly based on actual forecasted hydrology, rather than projections.

Lake/Reservoir Levels

End of February storage volume for Lake Powell was 5.9 million acre-feet (MAF) or about 25.2 percent of capacity. Lake Powell reservoir inflow for February was 252,900 acre-feet or 74.8 percent of average. Lake Powell elevation at the end of February was about 3,531 feet, or about 169 feet from maximum reservoir level and 41 feet from the minimum generation level. Current hydrology forecasts indicate a high likelihood of Lake Powell dropping below minimum power pool elevation between August and December 2026. However, Reclamation is considering actions to prevent dropping below minimum power pool, including releasing additional water from upper basin reservoirs and reducing annual release from Lake Powell. Decisions on those actions are expected by mid-April.

Weather and Other Conditions

The forecasted release volume from Glen Canyon Dam for water year 2026 is 7.48 million acre-feet. The Department of Interior (DOI) implemented a bypass experiment, Aug. 2 to Oct. 20, 2025, to cool the waters downstream from Glen Canyon dam thereby disadvantaging spawning of the smallmouth bass. It is estimated that purchased power expenses, that were incurred due to the bypass experiment, are in the range of \$5.7 to \$7 million dollars. Purchase power in the region was available and prices in February have averaged in the low \$30s/MWh for both on-peak and off-peak.



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 25	0.61	0.31	60.54	91.00	19.79	10.37	284,400	251,400	371,668	251,093	12,227	\$ 1,437,110	\$ 1,437,110	\$ 699,140
Nov 25	3.31	1.32	54.23	72.00	19.75	10.58	248,150	249,340	357,293	200,345	5,810	\$ 1,635,149	\$ 1,635,149	\$ 315,193
Dec 25	6.46	4.29	72.67	82.00	19.76	10.80	100,350	129,405	355,813	136,691	360	\$ 4,329,851	\$ 4,329,851	\$ 25,844
Jan 26	9.55	5.40	90.09	50.00	19.83	11.07	196,400	195,255	379,471	192,886	2,650	\$ 4,040,395	\$ 4,040,395	\$ 225,648
Feb 26	12.82	8.99	102.88	55.00	19.78	11.13	256,850	251,800	379,232	254,206	8,580	\$ 1,514,659	\$ 1,514,659	\$ 572,372
Mar 26														
Apr 26														
May 26														
Jun 26														
Jul 26														
Aug 26														
Sep 26														
Total							1,086,150	1,077,200	1,843,477	1,035,221	29,627	\$ 12,957,164	\$ 12,957,164	\$ 1,838,197

Actual generation as a percentage of average: 56.2%

Cost per MWh: \$62.04

Lake/Reservoir Levels

Aggregate system storage for the Lower Colorado River Basin, or Lakes Mead, Mohave, and Havasu, was 11.134 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 55,000 acre-feet, or about 92 percent of the five-year average for the month. The WY 2026 total side inflow into Lake Mead is projected to be 835,000 acre-feet, or 64 percent of the normal annual side inflow. Lake Mead's elevation at the end of February was 1,066.14 feet, or 153.5 feet below full storage elevation and 31.14 feet above the minimum generation operational elevation for Hoover Dam. Below this elevation, only wide-head turbines would be available, which represents a loss of 1,038 megawatts of capacity at Lake Mead's elevation current rated capacities. The Lake Powell operational tier for WY 2026 is the Mid-Elevation Release Tier with an initial projected water year release to Lake Mead of 7.48 MAF. Between April and July 2026, the projected unregulated inflow into Lake Powell is 2.3 MAF or 36 percent average. The projected Hoover and Parker-Davis generation for WY 2026 is 72 percent average.

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 81 percent of average and the snowpack is 27 percent of median. The February 2026 market prices averaged about \$20.60/MWh for firm on-peak and \$25.70/MWh for firm off-peak.



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 25	0.00	0.00	111.20	142.90	3.31	3.96	78,422	90,140	97,400	62,466	95,791	\$ 4,923,266	\$ 4,313,920	\$ 3,745,195
Nov 25	3.30	1.90	89.90	125.90	3.36	3.99	56,984	65,499	110,000	89,501	65,589	\$ 4,176,425	\$ 3,733,652	\$ 2,874,216
Dec 25	10.90	4.80	103.00	104.70	3.35	3.97	78,326	90,030	123,500	111,217	59,424	\$ 3,706,243	\$ 3,097,640	\$ 2,506,115
Jan 26	18.90	16.10	93.70	103.00	3.33	3.98	84,336	96,938	122,100	107,820	56,578	\$ 4,553,325	\$ 3,898,024	\$ 2,912,972
Feb 26	31.60	22.50	93.40	103.00	3.33	3.98	78,233	89,923	111,600	96,503	32,059	\$ 5,291,883	\$ 4,684,004	\$ 1,096,278
Mar 26														
Apr 26														
May 26														
Jun 26														
Jul 26														
Aug 26														
Sep 26														
Total							376,301	432,530	564,600	467,507	309,441	\$ 22,651,143	\$ 19,727,240	\$ 13,134,776

Actual generation as a percentage of average: 82.8%

Cost per MWh: \$42.45

Lake/Reservoir Content

At the end of February reservoir inflows were at 91 percent of average, and storage is at 80 percent of average.

Weather and Other Conditions

LAP's hydrologic conditions can vary from one river basin and watershed to another. At the end of March, the snowpack is below average for the Wyoming and the Colorado East Slope areas. The latest National Weather Service forecast indicates March through May temperatures will likely be above average in Colorado and Wyoming. The same forecast indicates precipitation will most likely be below average for Colorado and Wyoming. Spring generation in the Colorado River, North Platte, and Big Horn Basins is forecasted to be below average.

Note: The Rocky Mountain Region's most recent reported actual generation is an estimated value.



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 25	N/A	N/A	309.00	352.00	5.28	6.32	220,000	185,000	163,000	232,419	29,763	\$ 2,148,878	\$ 2,148,878	\$ 2,148,866
Nov 25	26.00	1.30	419.00	582.00	5.29	6.44	65,000	55,000	104,000	19,416	32,360	\$ 2,047,014	\$ 2,047,014	\$ 2,231,849
Dec 25	26.67	6.40	817.00	1,392.00	5.68	7.46	42,000	0	143,000	63,013	36,333	\$ 1,522,520	\$ 1,522,520	\$ 2,147,789
Jan 26	26.76	9.90	1,138.94	1,678.00	6.29	8.05	0	208,000	163,000	302,673	30,491	\$ 2,548,160	\$ 2,548,160	\$ 2,573,768
Feb 26	23.44	15.00	1,285.81	1,073.00	6.75	8.45	278,000	268,000	195,000	187,636	28,640	\$ 2,548,160	\$ 2,548,160	\$ 1,937,359
Mar 26														
Apr 26														
May 26														
Jun 26														
Jul 26														
Aug 26														
Sep 26														
Total							605,000	716,000	768,000	805,157	157,587	\$ 10,814,732	\$ 10,814,732	\$ 11,039,631

Actual generation as a percentage of average: 104.8%

Cost per MWh: \$70.05

Lake/Reservoir Content

As of February 28, reservoir storage was 136 percent of the 15-year average for Trinity, 122 percent for Shasta, 124 percent for Folsom, and 121 percent for New Melones. Accumulated inflow was 166 percent of the 15-year average for Trinity, 130 percent for Shasta, 116 percent for Folsom, and 100 percent for New Melones.

Weather and Other Conditions

According to the Northern Sierra 8-Station Index as of March 30, monthly precipitation in March was 0.1 inches or 1 percent of average, February was 8.9 inches or 92 percent, and January precipitation was 6.7 inches or 73 percent. March has been extremely dry. The statewide snowpack which historically peaks on April 1, is well below average and occurred in mid-February due to high-temperatures causing early snow runoff. The Sacramento Valley 40-30-30 index at the 50 and the 90 percent exceedance level is "below normal."

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 25	1.20	1.00	8,188.00	5,435.95	54.11	51.07	602,700	588,900	775,548	570,206	110,254	\$ 2,760,920	\$ 2,981,740	\$ 2,942,054
Nov 25	3.80	1.60	7,527.00	5,201.19	53.08	50.30	542,500	533,000	652,471	553,585	224,565	\$ 6,445,307	\$ 6,557,405	\$ 6,605,219
Dec 25	7.10	6.60	6,425.00	4,472.40	54.44	50.26	504,500	495,500	510,411	461,963	406,515	\$ 11,317,309	\$ 12,690,243	\$ 13,216,415
Jan 26	10.30	8.00	6,664.00	4,835.06	54.34	50.20	541,100	531,100	592,379	508,075	394,644	\$ 16,927,890	\$ 16,550,221	\$ 31,161,798
Feb 26	13.10	10.00	6,297.00	4,798.37	54.63	50.70	504,000	491,200	535,460	452,707	*	\$ 7,081,893	\$ 7,885,223	*
Mar 26														
Apr 26														
May 26														
Jun 26														
Jul 26														
Aug 26														
Sep 26														
Total							2,694,800	2,639,700	3,066,269	2,546,536	1,135,978	\$ 44,533,319	\$ 46,664,832	\$ 53,925,486

Actual generation as a percentage of average: 83.0%

Cost per MWh: \$47.47

Lake/Reservoir Content

The yearly runoff forecast for the Missouri River Basin as of March 1 was 20.6 million acre-feet (MAF) or 80 percent of average. Runoff above Sioux City for February was 1.283 MAF or 113 percent of average. System storage as of March 17 was 49.6 MAF.

Weather and Other Conditions

On March 18, the mountain snow water equivalent (SWE) in the total above Fort Peck reach was 12.1 inches or 85 percent of average, and the mountain SWE in the Fort Peck to Garrison reach was 11.4 inches or 89 percent of average. The normal peak for both reaches occurs on or around April 17. The March 19 High Plains report from Drought Monitor noted warmer-than-normal weather amid mainly dry and frequently windy conditions. Degradation in drought conditions was widespread across Nebraska and southern parts of South Dakota. A deadly wildfire in western Nebraska, the Morrill Fire, burned a record amount of land, amid weather conditions favorable for fire growth and a background of worsening drought conditions. The Great Plains of southwest Kansas and southeast Colorado also saw worsening drought and abnormal dryness, as precipitation deficits continued to mount. Large precipitation deficits and above-normal evaporative demand over the last several months led to extreme drought development in parts of the Black Hills in southwest South Dakota. The 90- to 180-day averages outlook shows above normal temperatures and normal to below normal precipitation for the region.

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.

