

WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION
HYDRO CONDITIONS AND PURCHASE POWER REPORT
April 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	1,073,469	1,592,976	1,361,621	484,547	\$ 28,069,770	\$ 27,036,800	\$ 36,881,720
Feb 26	1,255,292	1,387,343	1,504,849	1,201,305	458,622	\$ 15,780,115	\$ 15,975,566	\$ 14,779,497
Mar 26	1,438,398	1,611,315	1,766,314	1,392,035				
Apr 26								
May 26								
Jun 26								
Jul 26								
Aug 26								
Sep 26								
Total	7,157,624	7,453,105	9,492,336	7,326,600	2,073,111	\$ 90,299,878	\$ 89,507,488	\$ 93,005,999
Actual generation as a percentage of average: 77.2%					Cost per MWh: \$44.86			

Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) generated a total of 7,326.6 gigawatt-hours (GWh) from October through March of fiscal year 2026, or 77.2 percent of average. Actual purchase power data is currently available from October through February for all of WAPA's regions, and during this period total purchase power was 2,073 GWh and total purchase power expenses were \$93,005,999, which equates to \$44.86 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	252,881.63	12.98	5.90	193,209	211,420	283,556	209,956	-126	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ (3,976)
Mar 26	15.45	3.81	548,146.91	349,728.26	12.72	5.72	199,301	218,086	294,752	239,094	4,292	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 119,116
Apr 26														
May 26														
Jun 26														
Jul 26														
Aug 26														
Sep 26														
Total							1,211,276	1,325,446	1,778,428	1,318,941	55,301	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 2,009,561

Actual generation as a percentage of average: 74.2%

Cost per MWh: \$36.34

* 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 March storage volume for Lake Powell was 5.7 million acre-feet (MAF) or about 23.4 percent of capacity. Lake Powell reservoir inflow for March was 349,700 acre-feet or 63.8 percent of average. Lake Powell elevation at the end of March was about 3,528 feet, or about 172 feet from maximum reservoir level and 38 feet from the minimum generation level. If current forecasts are realized, the April to July inflow to Lake Powell will be the lowest on record. Consequently, Lake Powell release volume has decreased from 7.48 MAF to 6.0 MAF for WY 2026. Also, Reclamation plans to release additional water from upper basin reservoirs to prevent Lake Powell from dropping below minimum power pool elevations.

Weather and Other Conditions

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, which incurred between \$5.7 to \$7 million dollars in purchased power expenses. DOI is considering implementing the bypass experiments again this summer and will make a final decision by mid-May. Purchase power in the region was available and prices in March averaged in the low \$30s 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	15.45	3.81	101.45	30.00	19.58	10.85	431,800	445,005	520,970	433,943	32,133	\$ 1,939,892	\$ 1,939,892	\$ 1,351,514
Apr 26														
May 26														
Jun 26														
Jul 26														
Aug 26														
Sep 26														
Total							1,517,950	1,522,205	2,364,447	1,469,164	61,760	\$ 14,897,056	\$ 14,897,056	\$ 3,189,711

Actual generation as a percentage of average: 62.1%

Cost per MWh: \$51.65

Lake/Reservoir Levels

Aggregate system storage for the Lower Colorado River Basin, or Lakes Mead, Mohave, and Havasu, was 10.845 million acre-feet at the end of March, or 38 percent of the Lower Basin capacity. The Lower Basin tributary inflow into Lake Mead for March was 30,000 acre-feet, or about 37 percent of the five-year average for the month. The total side inflow into Lake Mead for WY 2026 is projected to be 785,000 acre-feet, which represents a 44 percent increase compared to 2025 and represents 60 percent of the normal annual side inflow. Lake Mead's elevation at the end of March was 1,062.05 feet, or 157.6 feet below full storage elevation and 27.05 feet above the minimum operational elevation for Hoover Dam. If the lake elevation drops below 1,035 feet, only Hoover's wide-head turbines will be available for generation, representing a capacity loss of 1,003 megawatts. 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 1.4 MAF or 22 percent average. The projected Hoover and Parker-Davis generation for WY 2026 is 73 percent of 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 83 percent of average and the snowpack is 23 percent of median. Due to the poor snowpack accumulation in the Upper Colorado River Basin, Reclamation is anticipating reduce releases from Lake Powell to 6.0 MAF starting in May 2026. The March 2026 market prices averaged about \$21/MWh for firm on-peak and \$26/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	101.60	92.00	3.35	3.93	78,233	89,923	111,600	96,800	32,059	\$ 5,291,883	\$ 4,684,004	\$ 1,096,278
Mar 26	38.10	28.70	161.00	36.30	3.41	3.97	73,797	84,824	128,900	58,700	87,562	\$ 6,858,962	\$ 6,285,552	\$ 2,838,889
Apr 26														
May 26														
Jun 26														
Jul 26														
Aug 26														
Sep 26														
Total							450,098	517,354	693,500	526,504	397,003	\$ 29,510,105	\$ 26,012,792	\$ 15,973,665

Actual generation as a percentage of average: 75.9%

Cost per MWh: \$40.24

Lake/Reservoir Content

At the end of March reservoir inflows were at 23 percent of average, and storage is at 86 percent of average.

Weather and Other Conditions

LAP's hydrologic conditions can vary from one river basin and watershed to another. The latest National Weather Service forecast indicates May through July temperatures will be above average in Colorado and Wyoming. The same forecast indicates precipitation will be below average for Colorado and Wyoming. Spring generation in the Big Horn, Colorado River, and North Platte 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	2,000	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	223,000	343,000	195,000	187,636	28,640	\$ 1,891,680	\$ 1,891,680	\$ 1,937,359
Mar 26	26.32	5.00	1,470.25	1,075.00	7.32	8.90	60,000	210,000	207,000	34,211	25,178	\$ 968,125	\$ 968,125	\$ 1,122,188
Apr 26														
May 26														
Jun 26														
Jul 26														
Aug 26														
Sep 26														
Total							610,000	795,000	975,000	839,368	182,765	\$ 11,126,377	\$ 11,126,377	\$ 12,161,819

Actual generation as a percentage of average: 86.1%

Cost per MWh: \$66.54

Lake/Reservoir Content

As of March 31, reservoir storage was 125 percent of the 15-year average for Trinity, 117 percent for Shasta, 128 percent for Folsom, and 122 percent for New Melones. Accumulated inflow was 144 percent of the 15-year average for Trinity, 112 percent for Shasta, 105 percent for Folsom, and 96 percent for New Melones.

Weather and Other Conditions

According to the Northern Sierra 8-Station Index, March had 0.1 inches of precipitation or 1 percent of average for the month, and in April experienced 7.7 inches or 179 percent of average. It has been an extremely wet April. The statewide snowpack is well below average and reached its peak in February. The Sacramento Valley 40-30-30 index at the 50 percent and 90 percent exceedance level is "below normal." However, the wet April may push both forecasts to "above 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	389,469	\$ 7,081,893	\$ 7,885,223	\$ 11,177,464
Mar 26	15.80	0.00	8,247.00	6,487.77	56.39	51.04	673,500	653,400	614,692	626,087	*	\$ 1,827,569	\$ 2,041,066	*
Apr 26														
May 26														
Jun 26														
Jul 26														
Aug 26														
Sep 26														
Total							3,368,300	3,293,100	3,680,961	3,172,623	1,525,447	\$ 46,360,888	\$ 48,705,898	\$ 65,102,950

Actual generation as a percentage of average: 86.2%

Cost per MWh: \$42.68

Lake/Reservoir Content

The yearly runoff forecast for the Missouri River Basin as of April 1 was 17.8 million acre-feet or 96 percent of average. Runoff above Sioux City for March was 1.659 MAF or 56 percent of average. System storage as of April 13 was 49.4 MAF.

Weather and Other Conditions

On April 14, the mountain snow water equivalent (SWE) in the total above Fort Peck reach was 9.5 inches or 78 percent of average, and the mountain SWE in the Fort Peck to Garrison reach was 7.8 inches or 95 percent of average. Both reaches peaked early on March 16. The week of April 14, the high plains region experienced temperatures that were mostly above normal, with only eastern North Dakota and northeast South Dakota near normal temperatures. Several areas, ranging from southwest and northern North Dakota, parts of Nebraska, and Kansas saw above-normal precipitation. Northeast Kansas received more than 400 percent of normal precipitation, improving the drought conditions across southeast Nebraska and northeast Kansas. Drought conditions expanded across southwest Nebraska the west half of Kansas and the plains of eastern Colorado. The 90- to 180-day averages outlook indicates above normal temperatures and near normal precipitation for most 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.

