

NWS Form E-5  
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(PRES. BY NWS Instruction 10-924)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA (HSA)

**WFO Caribou, Maine**

**MONTHLY REPORT OF HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS**

REPORT FOR:  
MONTH                      YEAR  
**April                      2017**

TO: Hydrologic Information Center, W/OS31  
NOAA's National Weather Service  
1325 East West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283

SIGNATURE  
**Maureen Hastings, HPM**

DATE

*When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions below the small box, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts, and hydrologic products issued (NWS Instruction 10-924).*

An X inside this box indicates that no flooding occurred within this hydrologic service area.

**April 2017**

April was, on the whole, a wet month, particularly across central Aroostook County. Snowfall was above average across the north as well, and near to slightly below normal Downeast. April was also warmer than normal; monthly temperatures averaged 1.5 to 3.5 degrees above normal.

In the midst of chaos – a classroom, a courtroom, a hasty exit from Egypt – a clear set of rules can go a long way. That fact may help explain the enduring currency of the Ten Commandments, an economical list of shalts and shalt-nots etched onto stone tablets 3,300 years ago somewhere in the Middle East, or so the story goes.

The tablets upon which the commandments were inscribed have long since disappeared, if they ever existed at all. But the ten edicts have proved surprisingly hardy in other ways, serving as the foundation not just of modern morality, but for lawsuits, blockbuster movies, self-help books, and conflagrations in the culture war. Last year, the oldest-known stone version of the commandments sold for \$850,000 at an auction in Beverly Hills.

In *Set in Stone: America's Embrace of the Ten Commandments*, historian Jenna Weissman Joselit argues persuasively that the Ten Commandments have special resonance in the United States. Joselit spends ample time with the Cecil B. DeMille movies of the same name (yes, movies – you know the 1956 version, but the director also released a silent epic in 1923), but she is also drawn to more obscure expressions of the commandments' clout. She exhumes arcana, including a proposed "Decalogue Bill" that would have enshrined them into law in late 19<sup>th</sup> century Kansas, and Dr. Laura Schlessinger's 1998 best seller promoting them as "moral focal point" applicable to modern-day personal quandaries. Moses, for his part, has been deployed as mid-century comic book hero, an action figure, and according to a 1920s life insurance pamphlet, "one of the greatest salesmen and real-estate promoters that ever lived."

The commandments have a way of popping up in peculiar places. Joselit writes about a retired surveyor who claimed to discover an ancient stone copy in Ohio, electrifying the whole country in the 1860s. The

artifact seemed to confirm a popular theory that Native American burial mounds in the Midwest were remnants of an ancient Hebrew civilization – proof, one Ohio pastor wrote, that the “sons of Jacob were walking on the soil of Ohio many centuries before the birth of Columbus.” The Newark Holy Stones were almost certainly a hoax, though scholars still debate whether the surveyor was the scammer or the scammed.

Alas, unlike the concise document that inspired it, Joselit’s book is flabby and meandering, even at just 160 pages of text. The chapters are structured rather confusingly around the media in which the Decalogue has been wrought between the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and the present: stone, paper, stained glass, and film. The result is a scattershot stream of consciousness in which clarity is sacrificed for cleverness and cliché, and anecdotes stretch for pages. There’s nothing wrong with an anecdotal approach, but too often Joselit’s flimsy stories are neither entertaining nor enlightening. Timelines, motives, and historical context are often hazy. She zeroes in on a conflict within a New York City synagogue over its unusual round Ten Commandments-themed stained glass window in the 1850s, for example, but admits halfway through her account that the records don’t say who, precisely, objected to the window or why. She spends 12 pages riffing on it anyway.

Joselit, a professor of Judaic studies at the George Washington University, is strongest on the significance of the Decalogue to the American Jewish community. The commandments’ widespread popularity in the United States linked Jews’ religious identity to the broader American project. Isaac Mayer Wise, a prominent 19<sup>th</sup>-century rabbi, called them the “first declaration of independence, the first declaration of liberty, the first and eternal blast from the trumpet of freedom.” Joselit writes poignantly about screenings of the 1909 film *The Life of Moses*, embraced by recent Jewish immigrants who cheered on the Israelites on-screen “as if completely in the dark as to the ending.”

But *Set in Stone* makes clear that American Jews have tended toward caution in public displays of the Commandments, while Christians have been the ones eager to brandish them in city squares and courtrooms. When Paramount Pictures collaborated with the Fraternal Order of Eagles to promote DeMille’s second *Ten Commandments*, it was the American Jewish Congress that objected to the installation of hundreds of promotional granite monuments in public spaces around the country. The AJC’s argument rested in part that the notion that reducing the Decalogue to a list of nice, nonsectarian pieces of advice stripped it of its power as a theological text.

Joselit surveys these topics in her peripatetic way, but she leaves many questions unanswered – even unasked. Why, for example, do the Ten Commandments mean so much to so many American Christians? Different Christian traditions take different approaches to Mosaic law, but in general they view it as the “Old Covenant,” superseded by the arrival of Jesus. Joselit, alas, skips any kind of orientation to the document’s historical and theological significance, breezily suggesting in the introduction that “your bookshelves, like mine, probably sag under the accumulated weight” of other books about the Decalogue. (In fact, mine, like yours, sag with books about the excitement of *breaking* the commandments.) Starting in medias res in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, the book never addresses the question of how, say, the Puritan concept of America as the new Israel might have shaped the American Christian interest in the Ten Commandments.

Maybe that’s too much to ask from a peppy cultural history. But it’s impossible not to read

### Precipitation Totals for Select Locations

All units inches

Location	Total Precip	Normal Precipitation	Departure from Normal	Snowfall	Normal Snowfall	Departure from Normal Snowfall	Greatest Snow Depth
Frenchville	2.72	2.81	-0.09				
Caribou	3.86	2.66	+1.20	9.8	7.4	+2.4	24
Houlton	3.86	3.88	-0.02				
Millinocket	3.95	3.56	+0.39	2.0			17
Bangor	3.98	3.62	+0.36	2.3	3.7	-1.4	2

\*Millinocket snowfall measured at wastewater treatment plant, not the ASOS site

### Stream Flows for Selected Rivers

River	Normal Flow (cfs)	Monthly Mean Flow (cfs)	Monthly Mean Precip (in)	Percentile Class	Drainage (mi <sup>2</sup> )	Years of Record
St. John River at Ninemile Bridge					1341	67
St. John River at Fort Kent	18700 – 34000	43200	8.13	High	5665	91
Aroostook River at Washburn					1654	87
Narraguagus River at Cherryfield	917 – 1460	1070	5.26	Normal	227	69
E Br Penobscot River at Grindstone					837	115
Mattawamkeag nr Mattawamkeag	6980 – 10000	11800	9.28	High	1418	83
Piscataquis River nr Dover-Foxcroft	1640 – 2500	3010	11.27	Very High	298	115

### Groundwater Levels

Station	Normal Range (ft)	Mean Water Level Below Land-sfc Datum (ft)	Departure from Month-end Median (ft)	Percentile Class	Years of Record
McFarland Hill	4.04 - -0.76	2.47	1.43	Normal	13
Crooked Road	5.25 – 4.65	4.87	-0.11	Normal	13
Hadley Lakes	4.20 – 3.46	3.95	0.19	Normal	30
Kenduskeag	19.30 – 17.90	17.46	-0.94	High	37
Calais	0.71 - -0.06	0.35	-0.20	Normal	16
Millinocket	9.39 – 7.41	7.47	-1.02	Normal	22
Clayton Lake	12.50 – 10.50	10.16	-1.44	High	37

Fort Kent	10.50 – 7.06	5.71	-2.89	High	38
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Flow or Water Level	Percentile Range	Explanation
Record Low	0 <sup>th</sup>	The monthly mean streamflow or median water level during this month is the lowest ever recorded during the period of record for this site.
Very Low	0 <sup>th</sup> to 10 <sup>th</sup>	The monthly mean streamflow or median water level during this month is less than the 10 <sup>th</sup> percentile when compared to all of the months during the period of record for this site.
Low	10 <sup>th</sup> to 25 <sup>th</sup>	The monthly mean streamflow or median water level during this month is between the 10 <sup>th</sup> and 25 <sup>th</sup> percentiles when compared to all of the months during the period of record for this site.
Normal	25 <sup>th</sup> to 75 <sup>th</sup>	The monthly mean streamflow or median water level during this month is between the 25 <sup>th</sup> and 75 <sup>th</sup> percentiles when compared to all of the months during the period of record for this site.
High	75 <sup>th</sup> to 90 <sup>th</sup>	The monthly mean streamflow or median water level during this month is between the 75 <sup>th</sup> and 90 <sup>th</sup> percentiles when compared to all of the months during the period of record for this site.
Very High	90 <sup>th</sup> to 100 <sup>th</sup>	The monthly mean streamflow or median water level during this month is greater than the 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile when compared to all of the months during the period of record for this site.
Record High	100 <sup>th</sup>	The monthly mean streamflow or median water level during this month is the highest ever recorded during the period of record for this site.

**Non-Routine Hydrologic Products  
April 2017  
WFO Caribou, ME**

PIL	TIME (UTC)	Date	Description
FLSCAR	1048	4/11/17	Flood Advisory for an Ice Jam in N Central Aroostook County
FLSCAR	1631	4/11/17	Flood Advisory for an Ice Jam in NE Aroostook County
FLSCAR	1642	4/11/17	Expire Flood Advisory for N Central Aroostook County
FFACAR	1906	4/11/17	Flood Watch for Aroostook, Penobscot, Piscataquis, N Washington and N Somerset Counties
FLSCAR	2029	4/11/17	Flood Advisory for an Ice Jam in E Aroostook County
FFACAR	2204	4/11/17	Continue Flood Watch
FLSCAR	2225	4/11/17	Cancel Flood Advisory for NE Aroostook County
FFACAR	0122	4/12/17	Continue Flood Watch
FLSCAR	0151	4/12/17	Extend Flood Advisory for E Aroostook County
FFACAR	0757	4/12/17	Continue Flood Watch
FLSCAR	1205	4/12/17	Extend Flood Advisory for E Aroostook County
FFACAR	1329	4/12/17	Continue Flood Watch
FLSCAR	1819	4/12/17	Extend Flood Advisory for E Aroostook County
FLSCAR	1837	4/12/17	Flood Advisory for Minor Flooding in Poor Drainage Areas for E Aroostook County
FLWCAR	1850	4/12/17	Flood Warning for the Mattawamkeag River Above Mattawamkeag
FFACAR	1921	4/12/17	Extend Flood Watch
FLSCAR	2215	4/12/17	Continue Flood Advisory for an Ice Jam in E Aroostook County
FLSCAR	2219	4/12/17	Flood Advisory for an Ice Jam in E Central Aroostook County
FLSCAR	0028	4/13/17	Continue Flood Advisory for Minor Flooding in Poor Drainage Areas for E Aroostook County
FLSCAR	0048	4/13/17	Extend Flood Advisory for Flood Advisory for Minor Flooding in Poor Drainage Areas in E Aroostook County
FLSCAR	0219	4/13/17	Continue Flood Advisory for an Ice Jam in E Aroostook County
FLSCAR	0406	4/13/17	Extend Flood Advisory for an Ice Jam in E Central Aroostook County

FLSCAR	0642	4/13/17	Continue Flood Warning for Mattawamkeag River above Mattawamkeag
FLSCAR	0718	4/13/17	Extend Flood Advisory for Minor Flooding in Poor Drainage Areas for E Aroostook County
FLSCAR	0754	4/13/17	Extend Flood Advisory for an Ice Jam in E Aroostook County
FFACAR	0809	4/13/17	Cancel Flood Watch
FLSCAR	1143	4/13/17	Cancel Flood Advisory for an Ice Jam in E Aroostook County
FLSCAR	1315	4/13/17	Flood Advisory for an Ice Jam in E Central Aroostook County
FLSCAR	1319	4/13/17	Extend Flood Advisory for Minor Flooding in Poor Drainage Areas in E Aroostook County
FLSCAR	1823	4/13/17	Continue Flood Advisory for an Ice Jam in E Central Aroostook County
FLSCAR	1856	4/13/17	Extend Flood Advisory for Minor Flooding of Poor Drainage Areas in E Aroostook County
FLSCAR	1909	4/13/17	Continue Flood Warning for Mattawamkeag River above Mattawamkeag
FLSCAR	1914	4/13/17	Flood Advisory for an Ice Jam in E Central Aroostook County
FLSCAR	0053	4/14/17	Extend Flood Advisory for Minor Flooding of Poor Drainage Areas in E Aroostook County
FLSCAR	0208	4/14/17	Extend Flood Advisory for Minor Flooding of Poor Drainage Areas in E Aroostook County
FLSCAR	0228	4/14/17	Continue Flood Warning for the Mattawamkeag River above Mattawamkeag
FLSCAR	1323	4/14/17	Cancel Flood Advisory for E Aroostook County
FLSCAR	1457	4/14/17	Continue Flood Warning for the Mattawamkeag River above Mattawamkeag
FLSCAR	1922	4/14/17	Continue Flood Warning for the Mattawamkeag River above Mattawamkeag
FLSCAR	0637	4/15/17	Continue Flood Warning for the Mattawamkeag River above Mattawamkeag
FLSCAR	1521	4/15/17	Continue Flood Warning for the Mattawamkeag River above Mattawamkeag
FLSCAR	0144	4/16/17	Continue Flood Warning for the Mattawamkeag River above Mattawamkeag
FLSCAR	0231	4/16/17	Continue Flood Warning for the Mattawamkeag River above Mattawamkeag
FLSCAR	1419	4/16/17	Continue Flood Warning for the Mattawamkeag River above Mattawamkeag
FLSCAR	1948	4/16/17	Continue Flood Warning for the Mattawamkeag River above Mattawamkeag
FLSCAR	0033	4/17/17	Continue Flood Warning for the Mattawamkeag River above Mattawamkeag
FLWCAR	0036	4/17/17	Continue Flood Warning for the Mattawamkeag River above Mattawamkeag
FLWCAR	0221	4/17/17	Continue Flood Warning for the Mattawamkeag River above Mattawamkeag
FLSCAR	1425	4/17/17	Continue Flood Warning for the Mattawamkeag River above Mattawamkeag
FLSCAR	1952	4/17/17	Continue Flood Warning for the Mattawamkeag River above Mattawamkeag

FLSCAR	0207	4/18/17	Continue Flood Warning for the Mattawamkeag River above Mattawamkeag
FLSCAR	1548	4/18/17	Continue Flood Warning for the Mattawamkeag River above Mattawamkeag
FLSCAR	0313	4/19/17	Continue Flood Warning for the Mattawamkeag River above Mattawamkeag
FLSCAR	1807	4/19/17	Continue Flood Warning for the Mattawamkeag River above Mattawamkeag
FLSCAR	0346	4/20/17	Continue Flood Warning for the Mattawamkeag River above Mattawamkeag
FLSCAR	1244	4/20/17	Continue Flood Warning for the Mattawamkeag River above Mattawamkeag
FLSCAR	0219	4/21/17	Continue Flood Warning for the Mattawamkeag River above Mattawamkeag
FLSCAR	1209	4/21/17	Continue Flood Warning for the Mattawamkeag River above Mattawamkeag
FLSCAR	0310	4/22/17	Continue Flood Warning for the Mattawamkeag River above Mattawamkeag
FLSCAR	1526	4/22/17	Cancel Flood Warning for the Mattawamkeag River above Mattawamkeag

**Significant River Crests  
April 2017  
WFO Caribou, ME**

<b>Location</b>	<b>ID</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time (UTC)</b>	<b>Crest Stage (ft)</b>	<b>Flood Stage (ft)</b>
Aroostook River at Washburn	WSHM1	4/11/17	0815	12.30	14.0
Big Black River at Big Black	BBRM1	4/12/17	0515	12.02	12.0
Aroostook River at Masardis	MASM1	4/13/17	1845	16.96	17.0
E Br Penobscot River at Grindstone	GRNM1	4/13/17	2000	10.38	13.0
Big Black River at Big Black	BBRM1	4/14/17	0245	11.53	12.0
Piscataquis River near Dover-Foxcroft	DOVM1	4/17/17	1200	9.55	11.0
E Br Penobscot River at Grindstone	GRNM1	4/17/17	2230	11.26	13.0

Mattawamkeag River above Mattawamkeag	MATM1	4/18/17	0900	14.77	13.5
Penobscot River at West Enfield	WENM1	4/18/17	1045	16.20	18.0
Big Black River at Big Black	BBRM1	4/27/17	11.08	11.08	12.0
E Br Penobscot River at Grindstone	GRNM1	4/27/17	2215	10.59	13