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Probabilistic Hydrologic Outlook  
National Weather Service Eastern North Dakota/Grand Forks ND  
1138 AM CDT Thu Mar 22 2018

...DEVILS LAKE OUTLOOK FOR FLOOD POTENTIAL...

Devils and Stump Lakes  
Long-Range Probabilistic Outlook

.Discussion...

Due to the continued dry conditions, the threat for significant and impactful snowmelt flooding remains low across the Devils Lake basin. Abnormally dry conditions that have been in place since February 2017 are just now starting to improve slightly.

Snowfall this winter remains slightly below normal with the current snowpack holding around 1.5 to 3 inches of water. Soil moisture and base streamflow across the basin remain near to below normal. The early spring period should start with temperatures below normal, trending to near normal by late April along with somewhat above normal moisture.

The National Weather Service provides long-range probabilistic hydrologic outlooks for Devils and Stump lakes between January and September. They will not be provided between October and December. Depending on the season, the high or low water probabilities may be omitted due to their applicability to the hydrologic situation.

.Chances of Devils and Stump Lakes Rising Above Given Lake Levels...

The probability of exceeding a given lake level is the percentage of maximum lake level rises that are above that level for all the years that were run through the model using the precipitation and temperatures for those years during the valid period of the outlook.

Interpretation Aid: There is a 50 percent chance that Devils Lake will rise above 1450.3 feet during the valid period and only a 5 percent chance that it will rise above 1451.5 feet.

Probabilities for Exceeding Listed Lake Levels

FROM MARCH 18, 2018 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

LOCATION	95%	90%	75%	50%	25%	10%	05%
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Devils Lake.....							
CREEL BAY	1450.0	1450.1	1450.1	1450.3	1450.5	1450.7	1451.5

Stump Lake.....

EAST STUMP LAKE 1450.0 1450.1 1450.1 1450.3 1450.5 1450.7 1451.5

.Current and Previous Record High Lake Levels...

- \* The current height of Devils Lake at Creel Bay is 1449.63 feet
- \* The current height of Stump Lake near Lakota is 1449.61 feet
  
- \* The most recent USGS provisional record daily average height for Devils Lake at the Creel Bay gage:
  - ...1454.30 feet on June 27 of 2011
- \* Previous records:
  - ...1452.05 feet on June 27 of 2010
  - ...1450.93 feet on June 27 of 2009
  - ...1449.20 feet on May 9 of 2006
  - ...1449.18 feet on June 17 of 2004
  - ...1449.17 feet on August 2 of 2005

.OUTLOOK SCHEDULE...

- Between January and May, only the high water exceedances will be provided with valid periods ending at the end of September.
- Special Spring Flood and Water Management Outlooks will be issued in late February and early March.
- For June and July, both high-water and low-water exceedances will be provided.
- For August and September, only the low-water exceedances will be provided with valid periods ending at the end of November.
- No probability of exceedance/non-exceedance information will be given from October through December, since lake freeze-up levels will be given in the fall outlooks previously issued.

.ADDITIONAL INFORMATION...

The long-range probabilistic outlook is based on high and low lake levels that were calculated for the valid period using multiple scenarios of temperature and precipitation from 1949 to 2012 and current conditions of the lake, snowcover (in winter), and soil moisture.

By providing the complete range of lake level probabilities, the amount of risk associated with long-range planning decisions can be determined. These probabilistic outlooks are part of NOAA's National Weather Service's Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Services (AHPS).

A YouTube video on "How to Interpret River Outlook Products" is at:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=pSoEgvsnpv4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pSoEgvsnpv4)

This outlook is also presented as probability graphs of lake height

for the full period as well as weekly probabilities. The outlook graphics and explanations that help in interpreting these outlooks are available on the NWS Grand Forks AHPS web page at:

[water.weather.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=fgf](http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=fgf)

Wind and wave forecasts for Devils and Stump lakes are available for a 7-day period when the lakes are sufficiently ice-free at:

[www.weather.gov/fgf/lake\\_info](http://www.weather.gov/fgf/lake_info)

If you have any questions, contact the NWS at 701-772-0720.

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[weather.gov/fgf](http://weather.gov/fgf)

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