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Probabilistic Hydrologic Outlook  
National Weather Service Eastern Grand Forks ND  
1229 PM CDT Thu Sep 23 2021

...RED RIVER BASIN OUTLOOK FOR RIVER FLOOD POTENTIAL...

This outlook covers the Red River of the North  
and its Minnesota and North Dakota tributaries.

.DISCUSSION...

Since the last outlook issuance on August 26th, much of the area continued to receive additional precipitation. Amounts for this time period were generally above normal across the area with the exception of the far northern basin near the international border. This much needed precipitation helped improve the drought conditions area-wide. The far southern portion of the basin is now generally classified as Moderate Drought while the far north remains in Extreme Drought. Elsewhere, Severe Drought remains with any mention of Exceptional Drought removed.

Climate outlooks for the end of September and into the beginning of October indicate above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation to return. The above normal temperatures look to continue through the remainder of the fall but by winter, equal chances for above, below, or near normal temperatures and precipitation are forecast.

Probabilistic Hydrologic Outlooks now use 69 years (1949-2018) of past weather, temperature, and precipitation for the ensemble predictive hydrographs used in calculating the probabilities of exceeding a river level for the valid period of the outlook.

Outlook Schedule - The National Weather Service in Grand Forks, North Dakota will be providing the Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Services (AHPS) Long-Range Probabilistic Hydrologic Outlooks for the Red River of the North and its Minnesota and North Dakota tributaries according to the following schedule:

- Near the end of the month throughout the year, except for...
- The Spring Flood and Water Resources Outlooks that will be issued at least twice a month during the spring snowmelt season beginning in mid-to-late February or early March.

The following message has three river data sections:

- The first (Table 1) gives the current and normal/historical chances of river locations reaching their minor, moderate, and major flood categories.

- The second (Table 2) gives the current chances of river locations rising above the river stages listed.
- The third (Table 3) gives the current chances of river locations falling below the river stages listed.

In Table 1 below, the current (CS) and historical (HS), or normal, probabilities of exceeding minor, moderate, and major flood stages are listed for the valid time period.

- CS values indicate the probability of reaching a flood category based on current conditions.
- HS values indicate the probability of reaching a flood category based on historical, or normal, conditions.
- When the value of CS is greater than HS, the probability of exceeding that level is higher than normal. When the value of CS is less than HS, the probability of exceeding that level is lower than normal.

...Table 1--Probabilities for Minor, Moderate, and Major Flooding...  
Valid Period: 09/27/2021 - 12/26/2021

Location	Categorical Flood Stages (ft)			: Current and Historical Chances of Exceeding Flood Categories as a Percentage (%)					
	Minor	Mod	Major	: Minor		: Moderate		: Major	
				CS	HS	CS	HS	CS	HS
-----									
Red River of the North.....									
Wahpeton	11.0	13.0	15.0	: 11	11	<5	<5	<5	<5
Hickson	30.0	34.0	38.0	: <5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Fargo	18.0	25.0	30.0	: 13	19	<5	6	<5	<5
Halstad	26.0	32.0	37.5	: <5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Grand Forks	28.0	40.0	46.0	: <5	7	<5	<5	<5	<5
Oslo	26.0	30.0	36.0	: 6	11	<5	6	<5	<5
Drayton	32.0	38.0	42.0	: <5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Pembina	39.0	44.0	49.0	: <5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5

Location	Categorical Flood Stages (ft)			: Current and Historical Chances of Exceeding Flood Categories as a Percentage (%)					
	Minor	Mod	Major	: Minor		: Moderate		: Major	
				CS	HS	CS	HS	CS	HS
-----									
Minnesota Tributaries.....									
Sabin	13.0	15.0	19.0	: 10	12	<5	<5	<5	<5
Hawley	8.0	9.0	11.0	: <5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Dilworth	13.0	20.0	26.0	: 10	16	<5	<5	<5	<5
Twin Valley	10.0	12.0	14.0	: <5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Hendrum	20.0	28.0	32.0	: <5	9	<5	<5	<5	<5
Shelly	14.0	20.0	23.0	: <5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Climax	20.0	25.0	30.0	: <5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5

High Landing	12.0	12.5	13.0	:	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Crookston	15.0	20.0	23.0	:	<5	9	<5	<5	<5	<5
Above Warren	67.0	71.0	75.0	:	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Alvarado	106.0	108.0	110.0	:	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Hallock	802.0	806.0	810.0	:	<5	5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Roseau	16.0	18.0	19.0	:	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5

Note: The Roseau numbers consider the flow thru its diversion

Location	Categorical			: Current and Historical						
	Flood Stages (ft)			: Chances of Exceeding						
	Minor	Mod	Major	: Flood Categories						
				: as a Percentage (%)						
				Minor	Moderate		Major			
	Minor	Mod	Major	CS	HS	CS	HS	CS	HS	
North Dakota Tributaries.....										
Abercrombie	10.0	12.0	18.0	:	8	8	<5	<5	<5	<5
Valley City	15.0	16.0	17.0	:	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Lisbon	15.0	17.0	19.0	:	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Kindred	16.0	19.0	20.5	:	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
West Fargo Dvsn	18.0	20.0	21.0	:	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Harwood	84.0	86.0	91.0	:	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Enderlin	9.5	12.0	14.0	:	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Mapleton	18.0	21.0	23.0	:	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Hillsboro	10.0	13.0	16.0	:	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Minto	6.0	8.0	11.0	:	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Grafton	12.0	13.5	14.5	:	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Walhalla	11.0	16.0	18.0	:	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
Neché	18.0	19.0	20.5	:	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5

LEGEND:

- CS = Conditional Simulation (outlook for current conditions)
- HS = Historical Simulation ( " " normal conditions)
- ft = feet (above gage zero datum)

In Table 2 below, the 95 through 5 percent columns indicate the probability of exceeding the listed stage levels (ft) for the valid time period at the locations listed.

Interpretation Aid: The flood stage for Wahpeton on the Red River of the North is 11 feet. There is a 50 percent chance that it will rise above 6.1 feet and only a 10 percent chance that it will rise above 11.4 feet.

...Table 2--Exceedance Probabilities...

Valid Period: 09/27/2021 - 12/26/2021

LOCATION	95%	90%	75%	50%	25%	10%	05%
Red River of the North.....							
Wahpeton	5.1	5.1	5.1	6.1	8.0	11.4	12.8
Hickson	10.9	10.9	10.9	11.9	13.9	20.6	26.4
Fargo	14.6	14.6	14.6	15.1	16.1	20.2	23.8
Halstad	4.3	4.3	4.3	5.5	9.1	15.8	20.0
Grand Forks	16.1	16.1	16.1	16.4	17.9	22.6	26.7
Oslo	7.6	7.6	7.6	8.1	11.5	21.8	26.8
Drayton	12.3	12.3	12.3	12.7	14.4	22.0	25.3

Pembina	11.7	11.7	11.7	12.6	17.6	27.1	31.6
Minnesota Tribs:	95%	90%	75%	50%	25%	10%	05%
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South Fork Buffalo River.....							
Sabin	4.9	4.9	4.9	6.2	10.0	13.0	13.7
Buffalo River.....							
Hawley	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.4	4.4	5.2	5.7
Dilworth	3.1	3.1	3.2	4.5	8.2	13.2	15.8
Wild Rice River.....							
Twin Valley	1.2	1.2	1.2	2.1	4.1	5.2	6.2
Hendrum	1.7	1.7	1.9	3.4	8.6	15.2	18.5
Marsh River.....							
Shelly	3.9	3.9	3.9	4.1	5.2	7.2	8.9
Sand Hill River.....							
Climax	5.2	5.2	5.2	6.2	7.4	9.5	12.2
Red Lake River.....							
High Landing	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.6	5.2	6.3
Crookston	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.7	7.2	12.2	14.9
Snake River.....							
Above Warren	60.6	60.7	60.7	60.8	61.7	62.7	63.6
Alvarado	95.5	95.5	95.6	95.9	97.2	99.0	101.5
Two Rivers River.....							
Hallock	792.3	792.4	792.5	794.0	795.6	797.6	799.8
Roseau River..... considering the flow thru the Roseau diversion							
Roseau	4.4	4.4	4.4	5.8	6.5	8.5	9.4
North Dakota Tribs:	95%	90%	75%	50%	25%	10%	05%
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Wild Rice River.....							
Abercrombie	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.6	2.3	7.9	11.1
Sheyenne River.....							
Valley City	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.9	6.7	8.2
Lisbon	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.7	5.9	7.9
Kindred	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	4.0	7.9	10.3
West Fargo Dvsn	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	8.3	10.6	11.1
Harwood	67.7	67.7	67.7	68.3	70.0	74.9	76.9
Maple River.....							
Enderlin	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	2.0	6.1	7.3
Mapleton	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	9.1	12.8	14.2
Goose River.....							
Hillsboro	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	2.1	3.8	4.7
Forest River.....							
Minto	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.5	2.0	2.5
Park River.....							
Grafton	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.6	8.3	8.9
Pembina River.....							
Walhalla	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.9	3.0	4.8
Neché	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.9	5.2	8.3

In Table 3 below, the 95 through 5 percent columns indicate the probability of falling below the listed stage levels (ft) for the valid time period at the locations listed.

Interpretation Aid: The flood stage for Wahpeton on the Red River of the North is 11 feet. There is a 50 percent chance that it will fall below 4.2 feet and only a 10 percent chance that it will fall below 4.1 feet.

...Table 3--Non-Exceedance Probabilities...

Valid Period: 09/27/2021 - 12/26/2021

LOCATION	95%	90%	75%	50%	25%	10%	05%
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Red River of the North.....							
Wahpeton	4.8	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.1
Hickson	10.7	10.4	10.2	10.1	10.0	10.0	10.0
Fargo	14.5	14.4	14.3	14.2	14.1	14.1	14.1
Halstad	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.3	3.2	3.2
Grand Forks	15.7	15.6	15.4	15.3	15.2	15.1	15.1
Oslo	6.8	6.6	5.4	4.7	4.2	4.0	4.0
Drayton	11.9	11.8	11.5	11.3	11.2	11.2	11.2
Pembina	10.3	10.3	10.0	9.5	9.1	9.0	9.0
-----							
Minnesota Tribs:	95%	90%	75%	50%	25%	10%	05%
-----							
South Fork Buffalo River.....							
Sabin	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7
Buffalo River.....							
Hawley	3.1	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9
Dilworth	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.7
Wild Rice River.....							
Twin Valley	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0
Hendrum	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
Marsh River.....							
Shelly	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8
Sand Hill River.....							
Climax	4.4	4.0	3.8	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5
Red Lake River.....							
High Landing	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5
Crookston	4.0	3.3	3.0	2.6	2.4	2.4	2.4
Snake River.....							
Above Warren	60.5	60.5	60.5	60.5	60.5	60.5	60.5
Alvarado	95.2	95.2	95.1	94.5	94.5	94.5	94.5
Two Rivers River.....							
Hallock	792.0	792.0	792.0	792.0	792.0	792.0	792.0
Roseau River..... considering the flow thru the Roseau diversion							
Roseau	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4
-----							
North Dakota Tribs:	95%	90%	75%	50%	25%	10%	05%
-----							
Wild Rice River.....							
Abercrombie	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1
Sheyenne River.....							
Valley City	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9
Lisbon	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7
Kindred	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3
West Fargo Dvsn	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3
Harwood	66.5	66.5	66.5	66.5	66.5	66.5	66.5
Maple River.....							
Enderlin	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Mapleton	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5
Goose River.....							
Hillsboro	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6
Forest River.....							
Minto	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Park River.....							
Grafton	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1
Pembina River.....							
Walhalla	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

Neché 2.0 1.9 1.7 1.5 1.5 1.5 1.5

.THE OUTLOOK PRODUCTION PROCESS...

This long-range probabilistic outlook is based on a series of peak river levels or crests taken from the forecast hydrograph results of the NWS Community Hydrologic Prediction System (CHPS). The model is run for multiple scenarios starting at current river, snow, and soil conditions using nearly 70 years of past precipitation and temperature conditions that were experienced for those past years during the timeframe of the outlook period. These crests can then be ranked from lowest to highest and assigned an exceedance probability. For example, for a series of 50 years, the lowest ranked crest has 49 crests above it. Since 95 percent of the crests are above it, it is assigned a 95 percent probability of exceedance (POE).

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)

The probabilities can be used for risk management by using them as an indication of the range of crests that may be expected during the valid period of the outlook.

By providing a range of peak river level probabilities, the NWS is contributing to the area's Impact-Based Decision Support Services that help with long-range flood planning and response readiness. This outlook is a part of NOAA's National Weather Service's Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Services (AHPS).

This outlook was produced using precipitation and temperatures for the years 1949 through 2018.

.ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SOURCES...

This outlook is also presented as graphs of the probability of stage exceedance for the full period and for weekly intervals during the period. These graphs, together with explanations that help in interpreting them, are available from the NWS Grand Forks AHPS web page at:

[www.weather.gov/grandforks](http://www.weather.gov/grandforks) or [www.weather.gov/fgf](http://www.weather.gov/fgf)

then click on "Rivers and Lakes" above the map.

Current river conditions for all river forecast points in the Red River of the North and Devils/Stump Lake basins are available on our web site. Also, 7-day deterministic forecasts will be issued at least once a day when river forecast locations will be at or above flood during that period.

Refer to the separate Devils Lake Probabilistic Hydrologic Outlook for Devils and Stump Lakes probability of exceedance levels and low-water non-exceedance levels.

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

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