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Probabilistic Hydrologic Outlook

National Weather Service Grand Forks ND

243 PM CDT Thu Aug 28 2025

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

Devils and Stump Lakes
Long-Range Probabilistic Outlook

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.

.OUTLOOK SUMMARY...

Note: This outlook incorporates a daily average of 350 cfs worth of pumping operations on Devils Lake from May 15th through October 30th.

With minimal to no precipitation through the end of August, summer precipitation (June, July, and August) will be recorded as below normal across the basin. Northern portions of the basin were the driest during this period coming in 2 to 4 inches below normal while southern portions were 1 to 2 inches below normal. With that said, recent precipitation has brought some improvement to the precipitation deficit across the basin. This has resulted in vast improvement in drought conditions with only the far northeastern corner of the state still experiencing Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions.

Climate outlooks point towards a cooler than normal start to the fall through the first week or two of September. Thereafter, above normal temperatures are expected to return for the latter half of the month before equal chances of above, below, or near normal temperatures (and precipitation) return for the remainder of the fall season.

No exceedance numbers are issued with this outlook but will resume in January 2026. The next (and final) set of non-exceedance numbers of the season will be issued on Thursday, September 25, 2025.

.Current and Previous Record High Lake Levels...

- * The current height of Devils Lake is 1448.6 feet NGVD29.
- * The current height of Stump Lake is 1446.6 feet NGVD29.
- * USGS daily average height records for Devils Lake at the Creel

Bay gage:

...1454.30 feet on June 27, 2011
...1452.05 feet on June 27, 2010
...1450.93 feet on June 27, 2009
...1449.20 feet on May 9, 2006
...1449.18 feet on June 17, 2004
...1449.17 feet on August 2, 2005

Note: All previous records are recorded in NGVD29.

.Chances of Devils and Stump Lakes Falling Below Given Lake Levels...

The probability of not exceeding a given lake level is the percentage of lake level falls that are below that level for all the years (1949-2019) 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 fall below 47.8 feet during the valid period and a 5 percent chance that it will fall below 47.6 feet.

Probabilities for Falling Below Listed Lake Levels

FROM SEPTEMBER 01, 2025 TO NOVEMBER 30, 2025

LOCATION	95%	90%	75%	50%	25%	10%	05%
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Devils Lake.....							
CREEL BAY	48.2	48.1	48.0	47.8	47.7	47.6	47.6
Stump Lake.....							
EAST STUMP LAKE	48.2	48.1	48.0	47.8	47.7	47.6	47.6

The non-exceedance value for a listed percentage is the value where that percentage of all model cases run were below that lake level for the specified valid period of the outlook.

Note: The current gage zero datum of the Devils Lake at Creel Bay gage is 1401.33 feet NAVD88 or 1400.00 feet NGVD29. The gage zero datum of the Stump Lake at East Stump Lake gage is 1401.21 feet NAVD88 or 1400.00 feet NGVD29.

.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 Resources Outlooks will be issued from mid-February through mid-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 information will be provided from October through December.

.ADDITIONAL INFORMATION...

These lake level probabilities can be used for risk management as an indication of the range of lake levels that may be possible during the valid period of the outlook. However, note that it is possible that lake levels may still reach above/fall below the 95th and 5th percentile values.

This outlook is also presented as graphs of the potential lake levels for the full outlook period as well as weekly probabilities. These graphics, and explanations that help in interpreting them, can be found on the NWS Grand Forks NWPS web page by clicking on "Rivers and Lakes" above the map at www.weather.gov/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.

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

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