

Chippewa Storage Reservoir Forecast

Elevation as of October 1, 2008: 1310.88 ft.

Season^[1]: Fall 2008

Typical Full Elevation: 1312.5 to 1313.0 ft.

2008 Projected Fall Full Elevation Range: 1311.0 – 1313.0 ft. (dependent upon all precipitation)

Comments

§ The Upper Chippewa River watershed has experienced below normal precipitation over the summer period. As a result, tributary inflows to the Chippewa Reservoir remain at a low level.

§ The summer drawdown level reached this summer was 2.26 ft. (1310.74 ft. elevation). This is approximately 0.2 ft. shallower than the average summer drawdown level over the past 15 years.

§ A drawdown of the Moose Lake Reservoir will begin in mid-October, which will provide approximately 7,400 cubic-feet of water to the Chippewa Reservoir. This should increase the Chippewa Reservoir elevation by approximately 0.5 feet. The drawdown of Moose Lake will be completed in November.

§ Discharge from the dam will be maintained at or slightly above the minimum flow requirement (250 cfs) until the reservoir refills. If the reservoir refills this Fall, the discharge flow will be increased to match the inflow into the reservoir.

§ Fall rains and any resulting river inflow to the reservoir are impossible to predict in advance. As such, the rate of refill or target elevations are also difficult, if not impossible, to predict with a high degree of accuracy.

^[1] Definitions of Seasons of the Year for Operating the Chippewa Storage Reservoir:

Winter: December 1 – March 30

Spring: April 1 – June 1

Summer: June 2 – September 30

Fall: October 1 – November 30