

Chippewa Storage Reservoir Forecast

Elevation as of February 16, 2017:	1309.14 ft.
Season¹:	Winter 2016-17
Typical Winter Low Elevation:	1308.0 ft.
2016-17 Projected Winter Low Elevation:	~1307.0 ft.

Comments

- A habitat-based drawdown, conducted over the last three years, was not performed this fall/winter season. An operation more comparable to the historic winter operation was resumed where water levels were allowed to refill during the fall season, followed by a winter drawdown with drawdown depth dependent on snowpack, inflows, flood control and downstream hydro generation needs.
- The minimum reservoir elevation this winter will be approximately 1307.0 feet. There is currently a limited snowpack in the watershed; however, inflows into the reservoir remain high. Inflows remain high due to several years of well-above average precipitation and above-normal temperatures which have allowed surface waters to continue to flow.
- The intent of this year's drawdown is to reach a reservoir elevation of 1307.0 ft. (6 ft. drawdown) by mid-March, and maintain that elevation until spring runoff begins.
- Snowpack through the end of the winter season will be monitored to determine if subtle changes need to be made to the maximum drawdown level.
- Discharge flows from the dam at the conclusion of the 6-foot drawdown will be maintained slightly above minimum levels (>250 cubic feet per second) to maintain the desired reservoir elevation and to meet the minimum discharge flow requirements.
- Refill of the reservoir in the spring will be dependent upon inflows into the flowage. Inflows will be dictated by a number of variables such as snowpack, how quickly the snow melts, base flows in the tributaries and spring rains. It is anticipated that the reservoir will refill normally.

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