



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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JB Pritzker, Governor

Colleen Callahan, Director

Fox River Status Update March 5, 2021

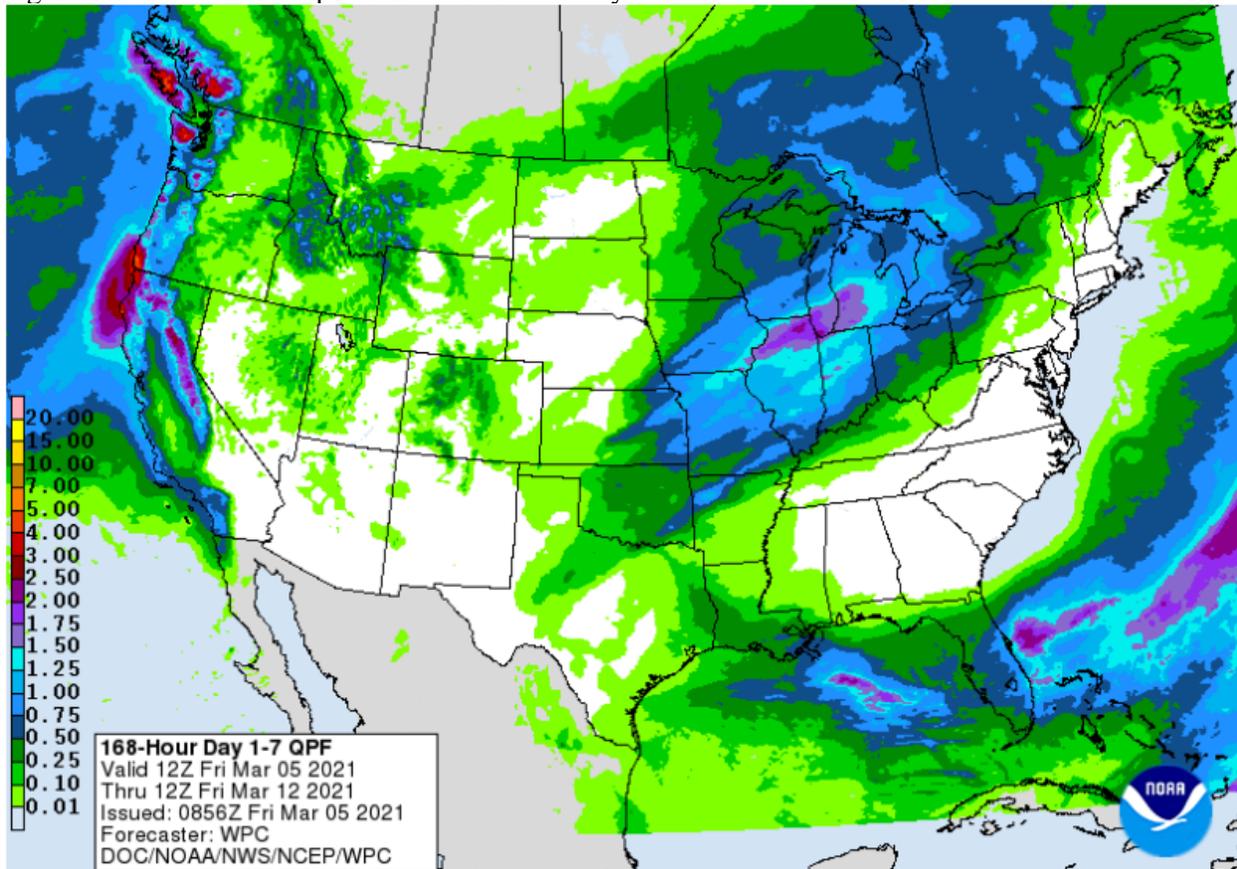
Current Conditions

Measured inflows on the Fox River near New Munster, WI are unknown (not reported on the USGS website); flows on Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove are 241 cfs and rising. The Fox Lake stage is 2.62 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 2.08 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam Tailwater stage is 6.34 ft.

Forecast

The National Weather Service (NWS) is predicting 1¼” to 1¾” of precipitation for the next 7 days in the Fox River watershed as shown on Figure 1. As a result of this precipitation and the snowmelt, the river forecast from the NWS is showing a gradual rise in the inflows for the next week.

Figure 1: Forecasted Precipitation for the Next 7 days



System Conditions and Operations

All three Torque Tube Gates (TTGs) and the hinged crest gate (HCG) at the Stratton Dam as well as the HCG at the Algonquin Dam have been completely opened to pass as much flow as possible. The recent rise in temperature has led to snow melt off for the higher than normal snow level experienced in February. Late last week, the NWS provided IDNR with above average inflows forecasted. As a result, the IDNR immediately fully opened all flood gates at the Stratton dam to discharge as much water as possible. The Stratton Dam cannot pass as much water as what is coming into the Chain of Lakes. As a result, water levels are projected to rise to 4.3 ft at Fox Lake-Lake Villa around March 15th. This is based on current forecast which does not include potential rainfall forecasted for late next week. This forecast will likely change as new inflow forecasts become available. IDNR will continue to provide updates as we evaluate new inflow forecasts as provided by the NWS.

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Office of Water Resources

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<https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/WaterResources/Pages/StrattonLockandDam.aspx>