

Flood Outlook February 2019

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Key Topics

- February Outlook – Highlights
- Red River Valley
- Next Steps

February Outlook - Highlights

Red River Valley

- High probability of **Major** Flooding (i.e property damage and economic impacts)

Assiniboine and Souris Rivers

- High probability of **Moderate** flooding (i.e low-lying and agricultural lands flooded)
- Water levels will be below top of dikes

Interlake, Upper Assiniboine and Whiteshell Lake areas

- Low probability of Minor flooding (i.e. overland flooding from snowmelt & precipitation)

Northern Manitoba

- Medium probability of Minor flooding (i.e. overland flooding from snowmelt & precipitation)

Operate the River Red Floodway and Portage Diversion

Risk of ice jam related flooding due to thickness of ice

Manitoba's Major Lakes expected to be within desirable ranges.

Red River Valley

Under Normal Weather Conditions

- Levels on Red River south of Floodway Inlet are expected to be near 2011 flood levels

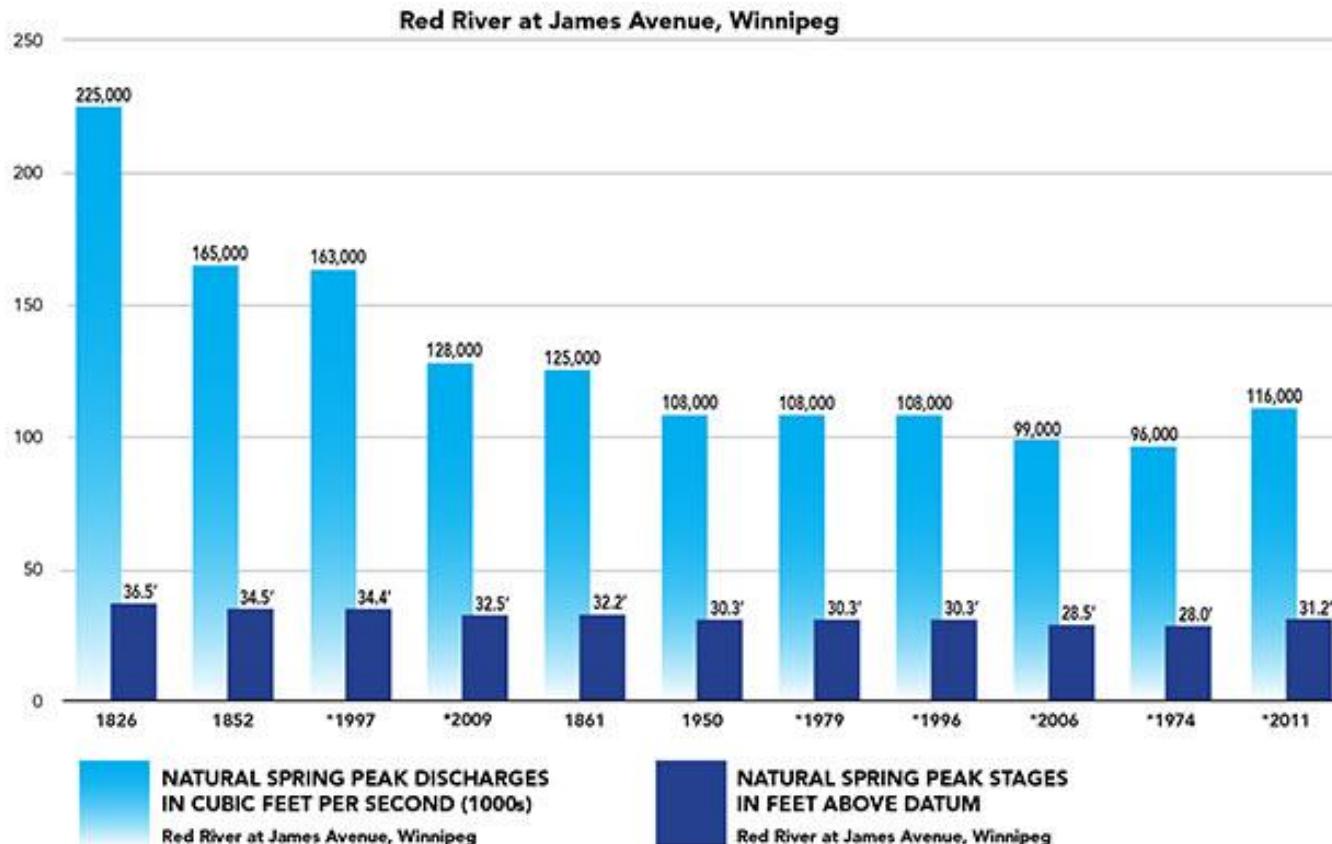
Under **Unfavourable** Weather Conditions

- Levels on Red River south of Floodway Inlet are expected to be near 2009 flood levels (2.5 feet higher than 2011)
- Within City of Winnipeg, James Avenue is expected to reach 20.4 feet

Weather Forecast

- Temperature is expected to be below normal in March and April, could lead to a late melt.
- Late melt is undesirable because spring rain is more likely to come on top of snowmelt.
- Due to the persistent cold weather, frost depth is deeper than normal. This increases the likelihood of flooding as water will not be absorbed into frozen ground.

Red River – Flood History



* Computed Natural Discharge Without Use Of Red River Floodway, Portage Diversion, Shellmouth Dam
Compiled by Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship

Red River Valley

Unfavourable Weather Conditions

- The 2009 spring flood was the fourth highest on the Red River in Manitoba, since 1826 and larger than the 1950 flood.
- 1,000 km² (386 mi²) flooded in Red River valley between Winnipeg and Emerson
- PTH 75 at Morris was closed for 37 days (April 7 to May 13)
- In Red River valley, 2 community ring dikes were fully closed and residents evacuated (Roseau River FN and Riverside); 13 ring dikes were partially closed (local access)
 - Some evacuations from other communities (e.g., personal care home in St. Adolphe)
- An estimated 250 homes were damaged. Many homes in Red River valley were accessible only by boat for more than a month
 - About 250 residents evacuated
 - In RM of Ritchot, 2,150 residents evacuated voluntarily
- In Winnipeg, 300 properties were protected by sandbags and temporary clay dikes
- DFA claims \$70 million, but a large portion of this was north of Winnipeg in the Selkirk area and on First Nations

Red River Valley

Normal Weather Conditions

- 2011 was third largest flood on Red River in the last 50 years.
- Red River Floodway operated for 55 days
- PTH 75 closed for 29 days (April 18 - May 16)
- Red River above flood stage for 50 days at St. Adolphe
- Some limited evacuations due to access issues
- Flooding was within the limits of protective measures – sometimes called a “flood of inconvenience”

Next Steps

- End of March Flood Outlook
- Manitoba prepares for the unfavourable weather conditions