

## **North Platte River Water Supply Update EAC/RCC Meeting October 18, 2023**

Current reservoir storage conditions for Reclamation reservoirs on the North Platte River, as of September 30, 2023, is 1,673.7 kaf which is 113 percent of the 30 year average and 59% of the total conservation storage capacity of 2,815.8 kaf (see Table 1). The term “kaf” used in this report represents 1000 acre-feet. All averages used in this report are for the period 1993-2022. The North Platte total system storage of 1,673.7 kaf by October 01, 2023 represents an increase in the system storage of 559.3 kaf from water year 2022 (1114.4 kaf). This system storage increase is attributable to higher than average inflows and lower than normal demand during water year 2023.

Table 2 shows the inflows for the entire water year 2023 and the 30-year average (1993-2022) for comparison. Total inflows in water year 2023 were 124 percent of average. Releases from Guernsey Reservoir were discontinued on September 25, 2023 after completing Pathfinder environmental account and CNPPID deliveries and lowering Guernsey Reservoir for winter operations. Table 3 shows the account ownership for the entire system on September 30, 2023. The carryover Pathfinder Ownership at the end of water year 2023 was 591.3 kaf which is 53% of the full ownership capacity of 1070.0 KAF (Table 1).

Reclamation prepares North Platte reservoir system operating plans for the reasonable minimum, most probable, and reasonable maximum inflow conditions. The operating plans for October 2023 through September 2024 use a statistical analysis of historic inflows to estimate a total system probable inflow for 2023 which approximates an average inflow condition is estimated to be 1337.1 kaf. The total Guernsey Reservoir probable outflow for 2024 is estimated to be 1,056.1 kaf for October through September. The operating plans are updated monthly to reflect changing inflow conditions. This report focuses on the information associated with the October most probable operating plan.

Based on the October most probable North Platte River Operating Plan, the North Platte Pathfinder ownership is estimated to reach a maximum ownership content of 1070.0 kaf (100% of full) by the end of May. This would indicate that the Pathfinder ownership would fill. Since the Pathfinder ownership is expected to fill, the Kendrick Ownership is expected to accrue water during the water year but is not expected to fill. Given the most probable inflow conditions; the Guernsey, Inland Lakes, and Glendo ownerships are expected to fill. Releases from Guernsey Reservoir will be in response to demands. Based on expected probable inflow condition (i.e. near average), no allocation is currently expected for North Platte Project contractors.

Reclamation will continue to update the North Platte River operating plans on a monthly basis in response to changing inflow conditions. Reclamation will prepare forecasts of the April through July snowmelt runoff starting in February and continuing through May 1. The above projected operations are subject to change in response to fluctuating inflow conditions.

Table 1. North Platte River System Reservoir Storage September 30, 2023 in KAF

**NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN RESERVOIR STORAGE**

SEPTEMBER Storage, Historical Storage, and Storage Capacity. Values in 1,000 acre-feet

Reservoir	W. Yr. 2023	30 Yr. Avg.	% of Avg.	W. Yr. 2022	W. Yr. 2021	W. Yr. 2020	Total Conservation Storage Capacity	Percent of Capacity
Seminole	684.1	616.2	111%	498.3	325.0	658.6	1017.3	67%
Kortes	4.7	4.7	101%	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	101%
Pathfinder	665.6	537.5	124%	297.8	610.1	650.5	1070.0	62%
Alcova	180.8	180.0	100%	181.5	180.6	179.8	184.4	98%
Gray Reef	1.4	1.4	101%	1.2	1.6	1.2	1.8	78%
Glendo	134.5	135.7	99%	127.2	138.4	135.0	492.0	27%
Guernsey	2.5	4.5	55%	3.7	0.0	4.5	45.6	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1673.7</b>	<b>1480.0</b>	<b>113%</b>	<b>1114.3</b>	<b>1260.4</b>	<b>1634.3</b>	<b>2815.8</b>	<b>59%</b>

1 Average is based on the 1993-2022 period.

Table 2. North Platte River System Water Year 2023 Inflows in KAF

SEPTEMBER Accumulated Water Year Inflows 1,000 acre-feet

Reservoir	W. Yr. 2023	30 Yr. Avg.	% of Avg.
Seminole	1162.0	963.4	121%
Pathfinder	142.8	103.3	138%
Glendo	302.8	220.2	138%
Guernsey	28.2	36.0	78%
<b>System Total</b>	<b>1635.8</b>	<b>1322.9</b>	<b>124%</b>

Table 3. North Platte River System Reservoir Storage September 30, 2023 in KAF

**NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN RESERVOIR STORAGE OWNERSHIP**

SEPTEMBER Storage, Historical Storage, and Storage Capacity. Values in 1,000 acre-feet

Reservoir	W. Yr. 2023	30 Yr. Avg.	% of Avg.	W. Yr. 2022	W. Yr. 2021	W. Yr. 2020	Total Conservation Storage Capacity	Percent of Capacity
Kendrick	917.6	891.2	103%	832.0	953.5	1073.8	1201.7	76%
North Platte	591.3	441.0	134%	154.8	152.2	411.1	1115.6	53%
Glendo	145.3	131.1	111%	118.2	134.2	131.2	171.7	85%
Inland Lakes	0.0	0.0	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0	46.0	0%
Cheyenne	7.2	4.4	164%	7.3	7.3	8.3	15.7	46%
PacifiCorp	2.0	2.0	100%	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	100%
Other	10.4	9.5	109%	0.1	11.3	7.9	N/A	N/A

Average is based on the 1993-2022 period.