



# Missouri Water Resources Center

---

Mississippi River Flood Conditions Report

March 23, 2019

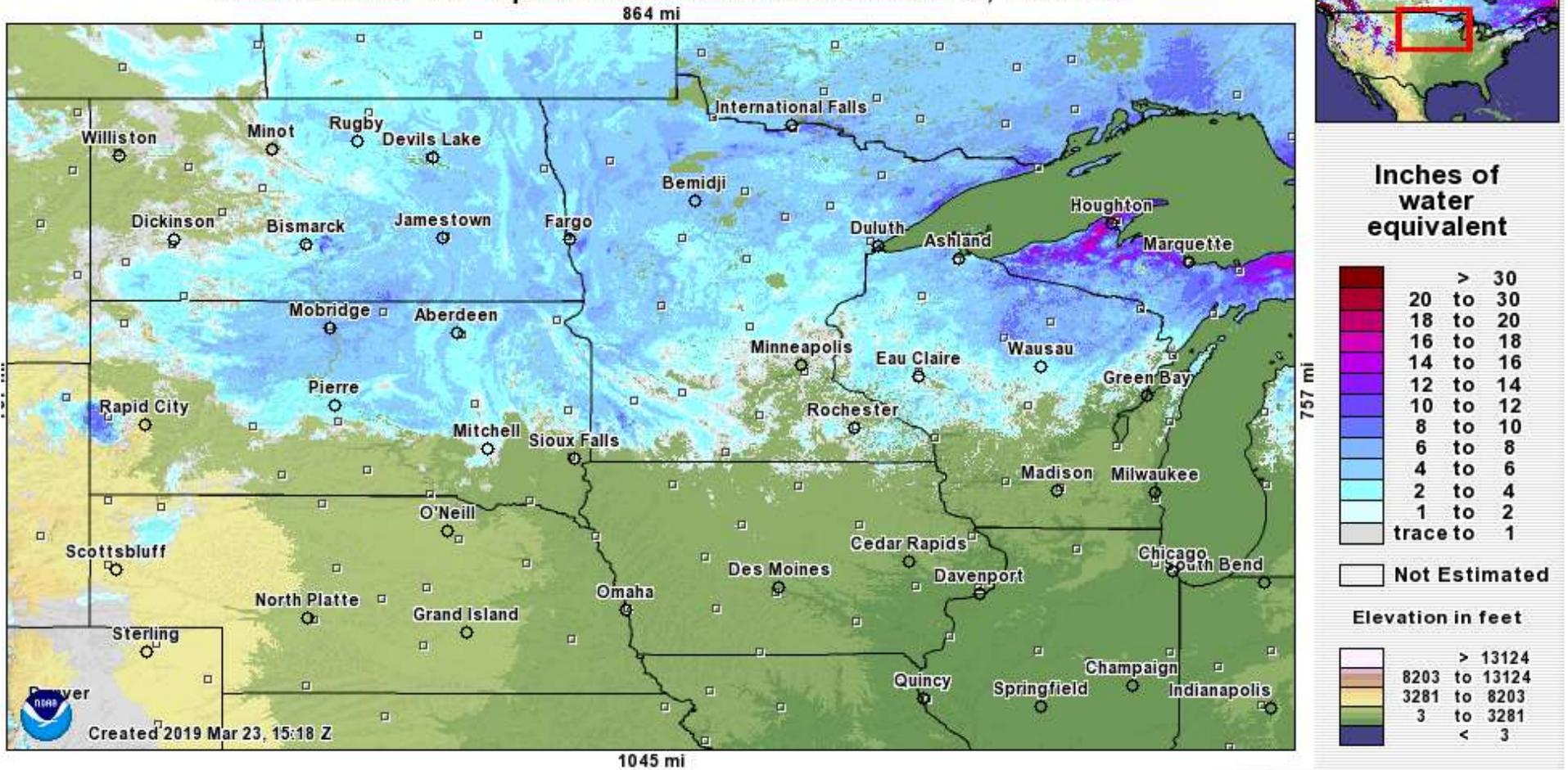
# Major Flood Levels Forecast for Relevant Sectors of the Mississippi River

- The Mississippi River is currently in major flood stage at Keokuk, Iowa, and has entered major flood stage at Saverton (Lock and Dam 22). Moderate to minor flood levels are forecasted to continue for the rest of Mississippi River adjacent to Missouri. These locations are predicted to experience a crest that will be extended over several days with river levels remaining high into next week.
- From New Madrid, Missouri to the confluence with the Ohio River, the Mississippi river has already crested and is gradually falling to lower levels. The Ohio River gage at Cairo (at the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi) has dropped below major flood stage and is predicted to continue to decline over the next several days.
- Flooding on the Mississippi River is currently primarily driven by abundant snowpack on the upper reaches of the Mississippi River watershed. Several gages on the Upper Mississippi River in Wisconsin and Minnesota are now forecasted to rise into flood stage next week as warmer temperatures increase snow melt. The river has already entered major flood stage for sectors in Iowa and Illinois north of the state of Missouri. This is contributing to forecasts for extended high water for most portions of the Mississippi River adjacent to the state of Missouri.
- Note that NWS river forecasting only incorporates 48-hour precipitation forecasts. Future precipitation along with snowmelt caused by predicted warming daytime temperatures could increase river levels from the forecasts shown below.

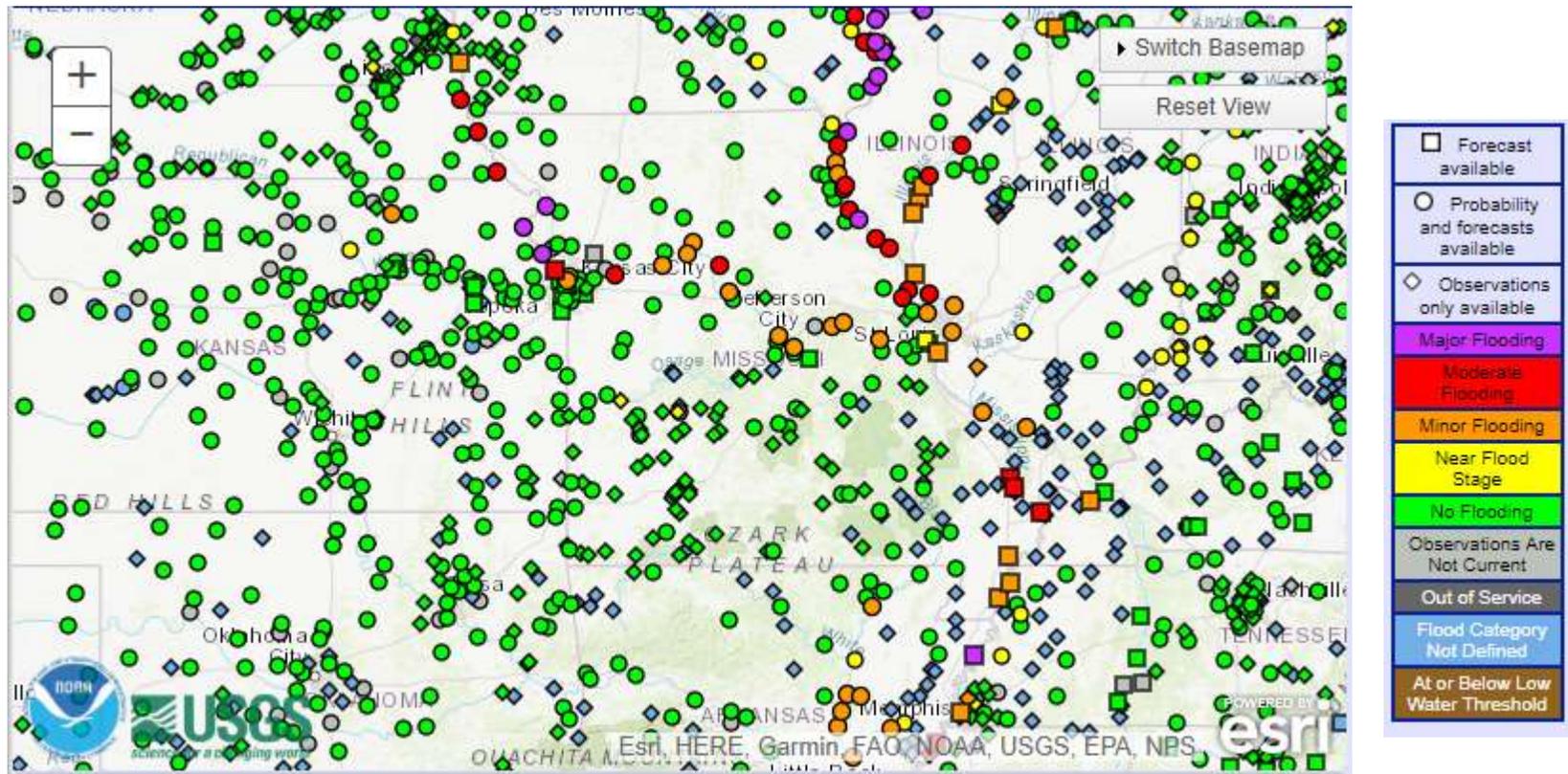


# Plains Snow Pack Water Equivalent

Modeled Snow Water Equivalent forecasted for 2019 March 23, 17:00 UTC

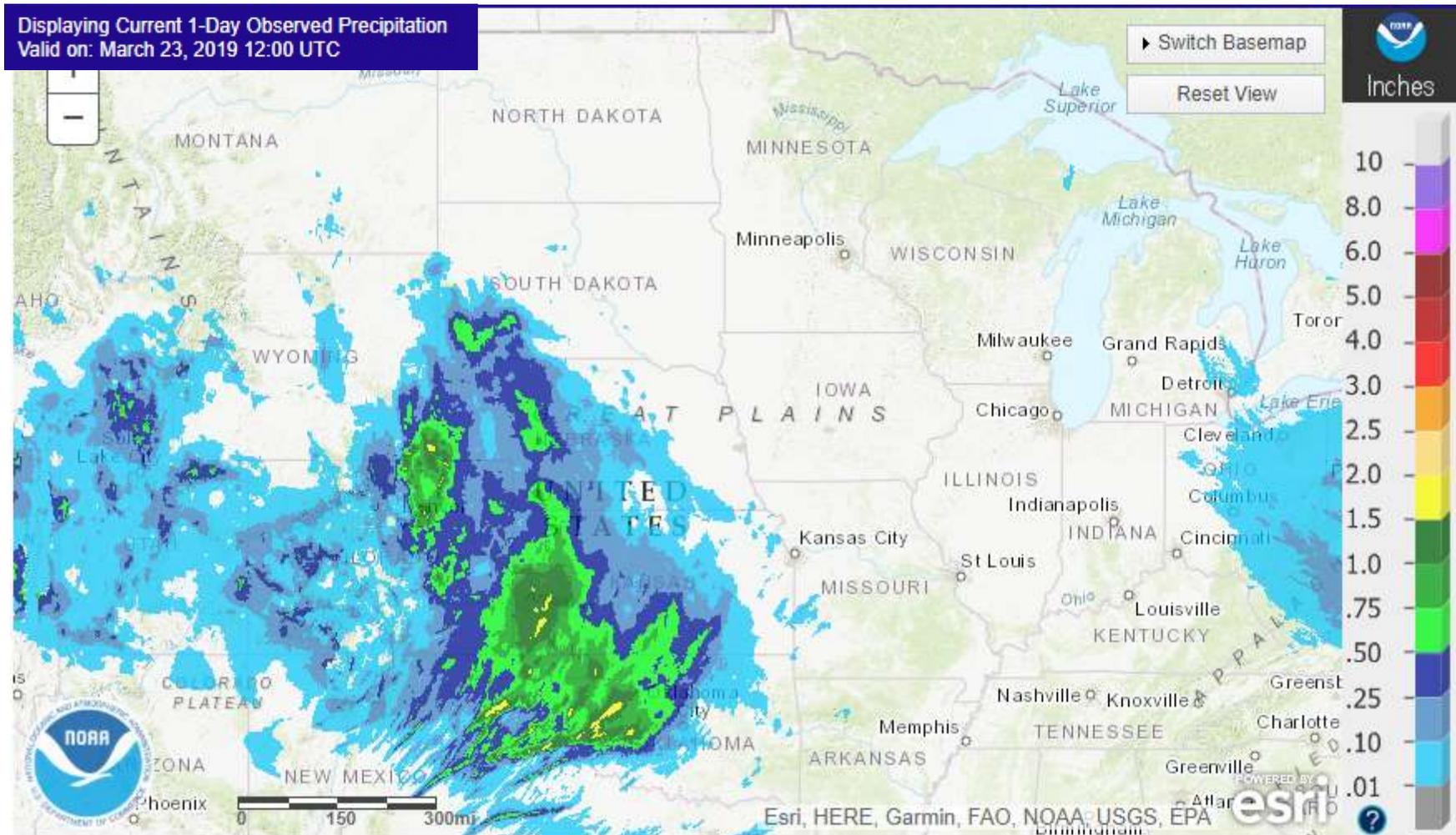


# Regional River Gage Status





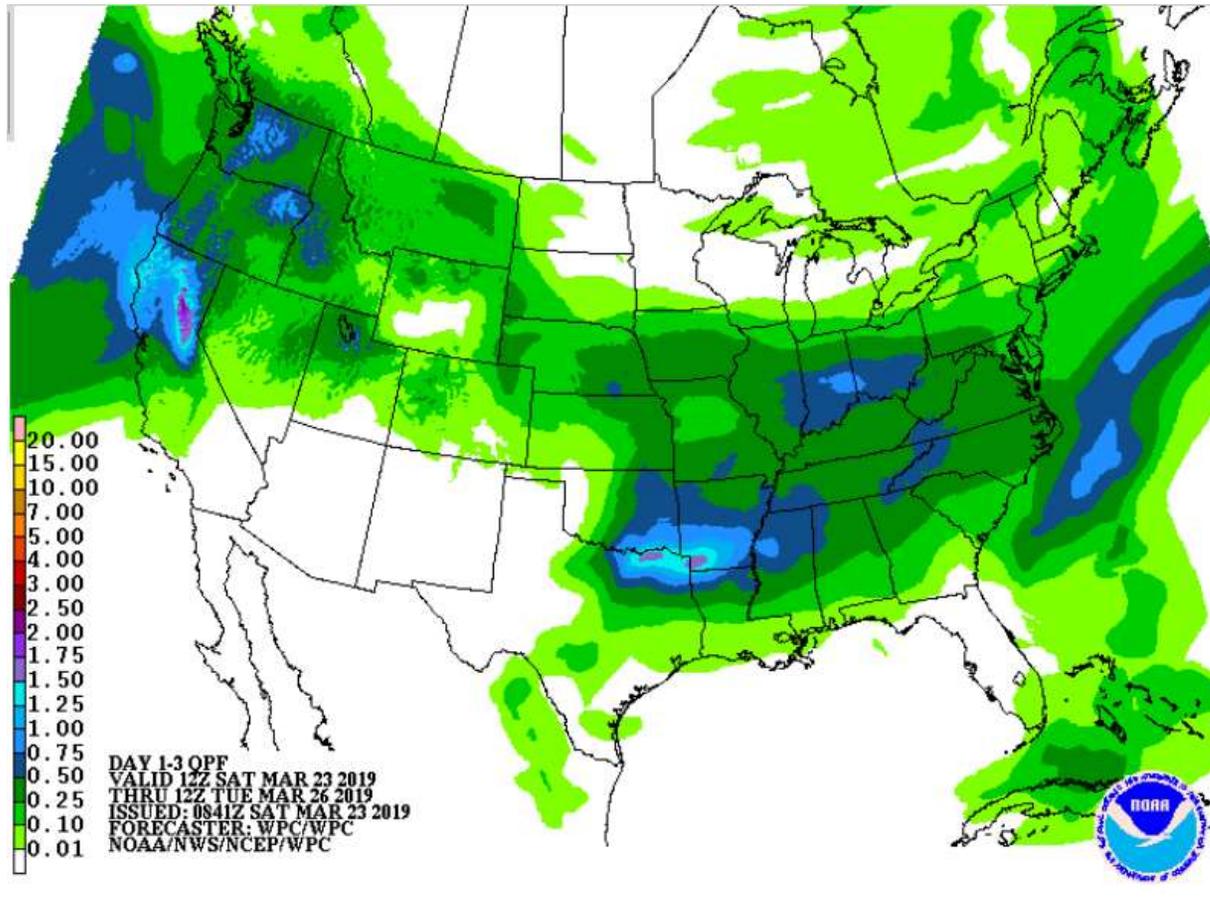
# 24-hour Observed Precipitation





**MISSOURI**  
DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES

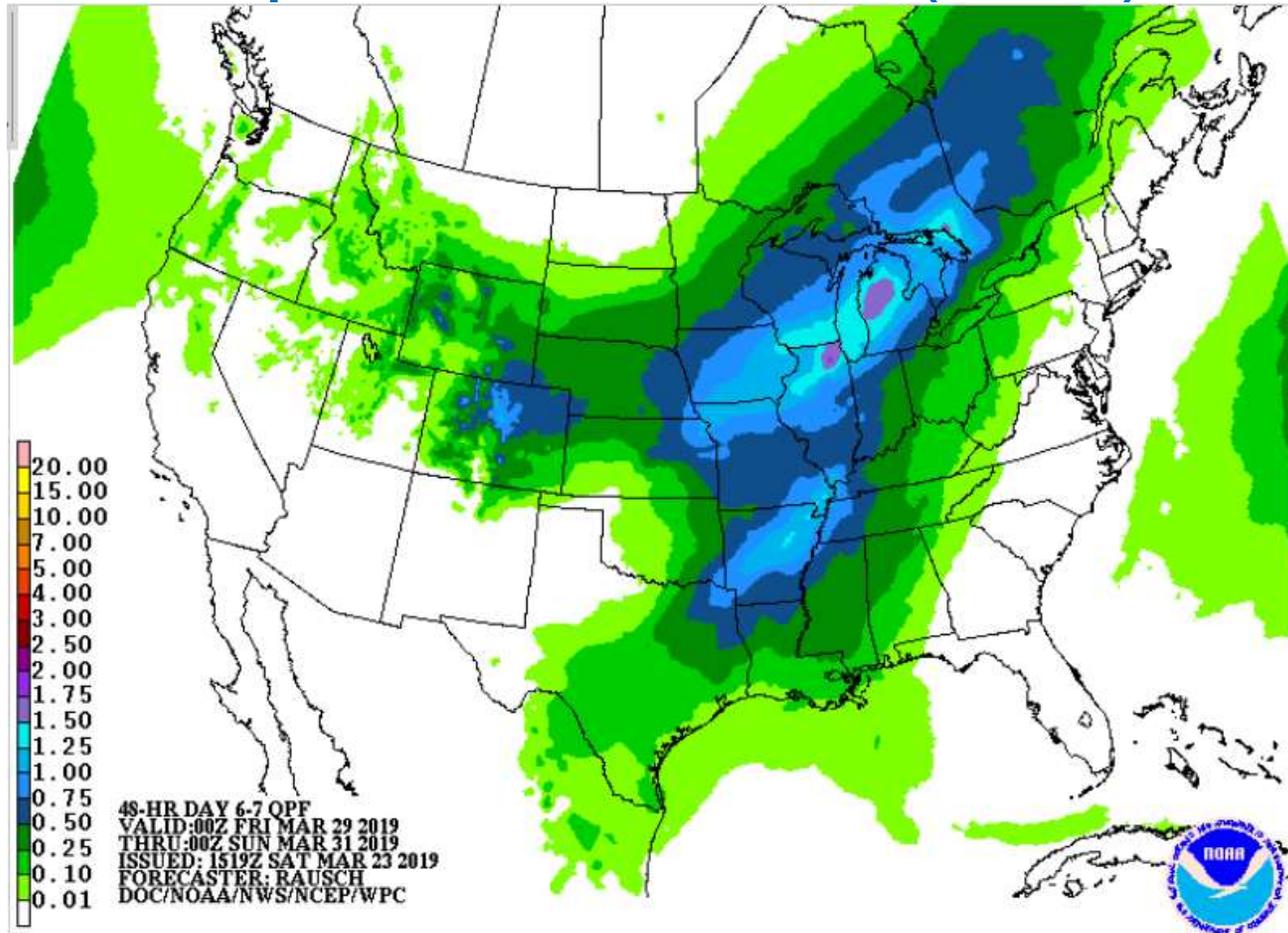
# Three-Day Total Quantitative Precipitation Forecast (QPF)

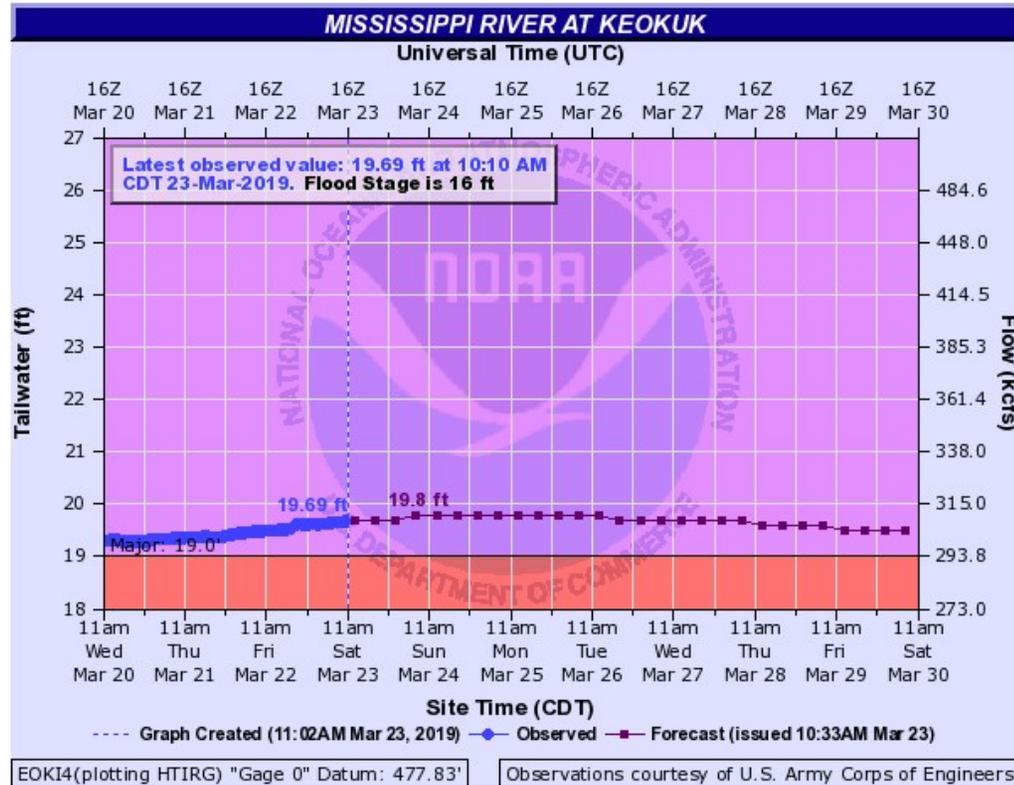




**MISSOURI**  
DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES

# Sixth and Seventh-Day Total Quantitative Precipitation Forecast (QPF)





• Near Clark County, MO

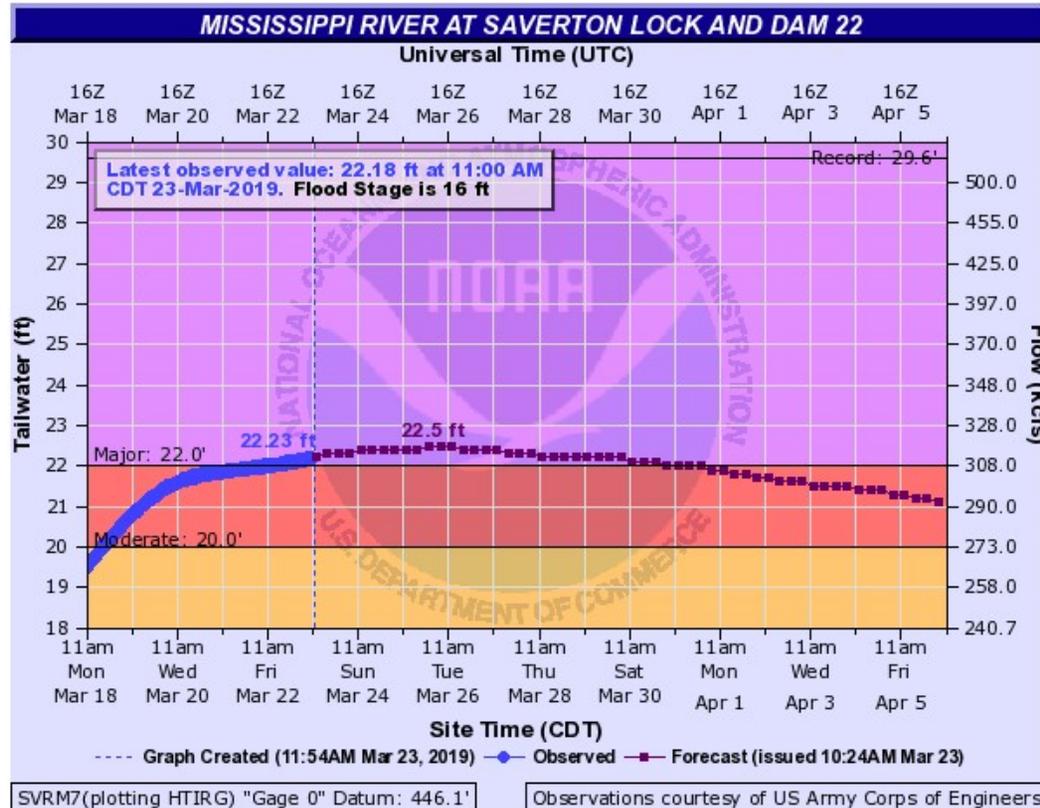
- The Mississippi River at Keokuk is above major flood stage at 19.69 feet and is forecast to remain above major flood stage through the forecast period. This extended crest is predicted to reach 19.8 feet Sunday (3/24/19).
- At Keokuk river levels of 19 feet close U.S highway 61 at the bridge over the Des Moines River and affect County Road 12.



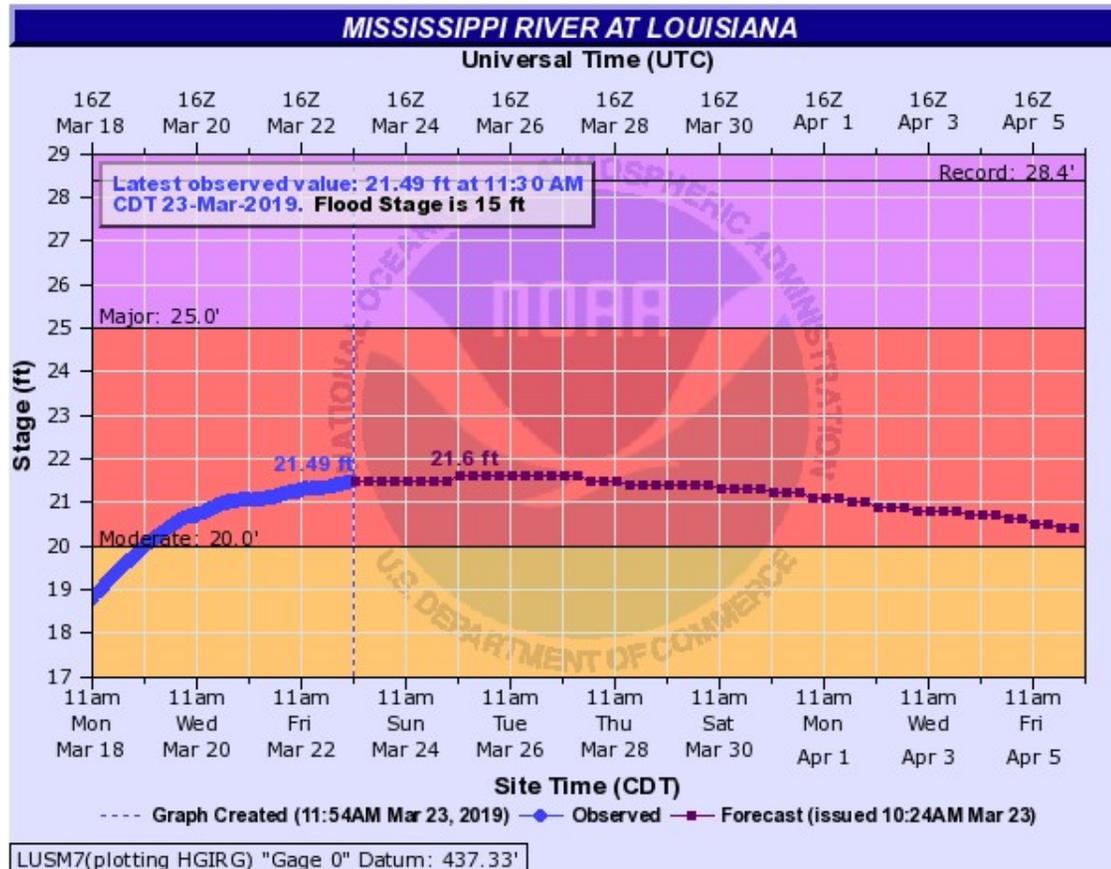
**MISSOURI**  
DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES



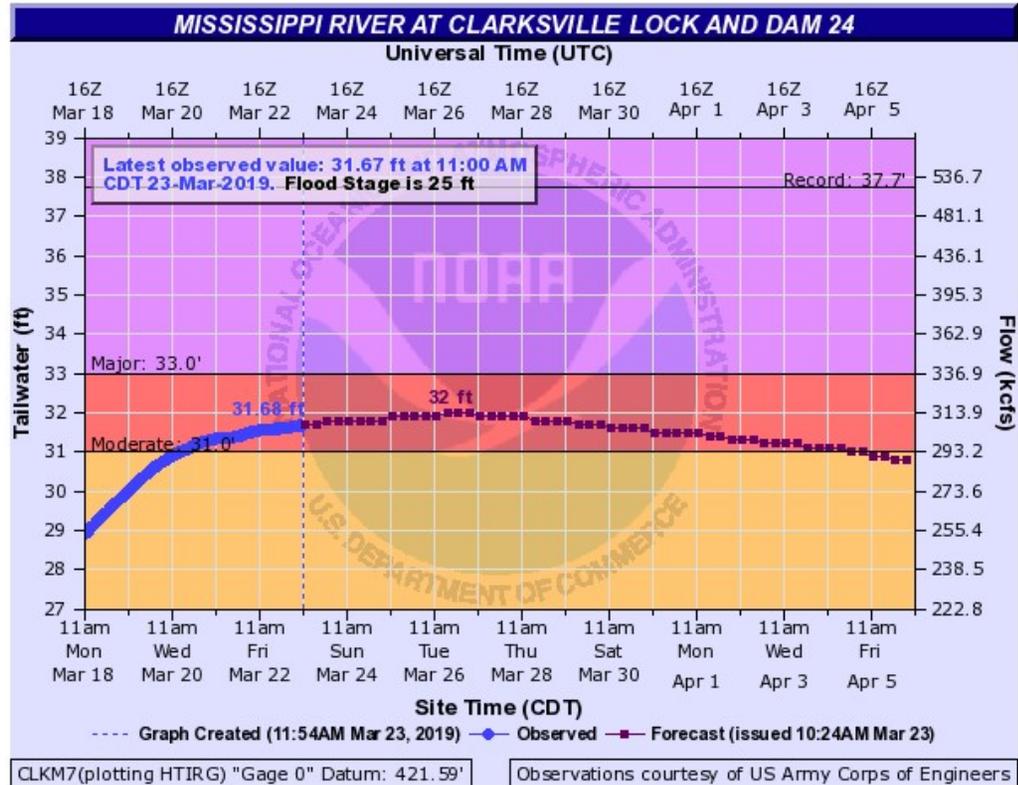
- The Mississippi River at Hannibal is in moderate flood stage at 23.15 feet and is forecast to crest in moderate flood stage at 23.3 feet Sunday (3/24/19). Moderate flooding occurs at 22.0 feet.
- At Hannibal river levels of 22 feet activate preparations to install flood gates along city river front district, Burlington Northern Railroad tracks begin to flood, Highway 79 is impacted and flooding occurs at low lying areas that are unprotected. At 23.0 feet the area south of Collier Street and along Sycamore Street outside the Hannibal flood wall floods.



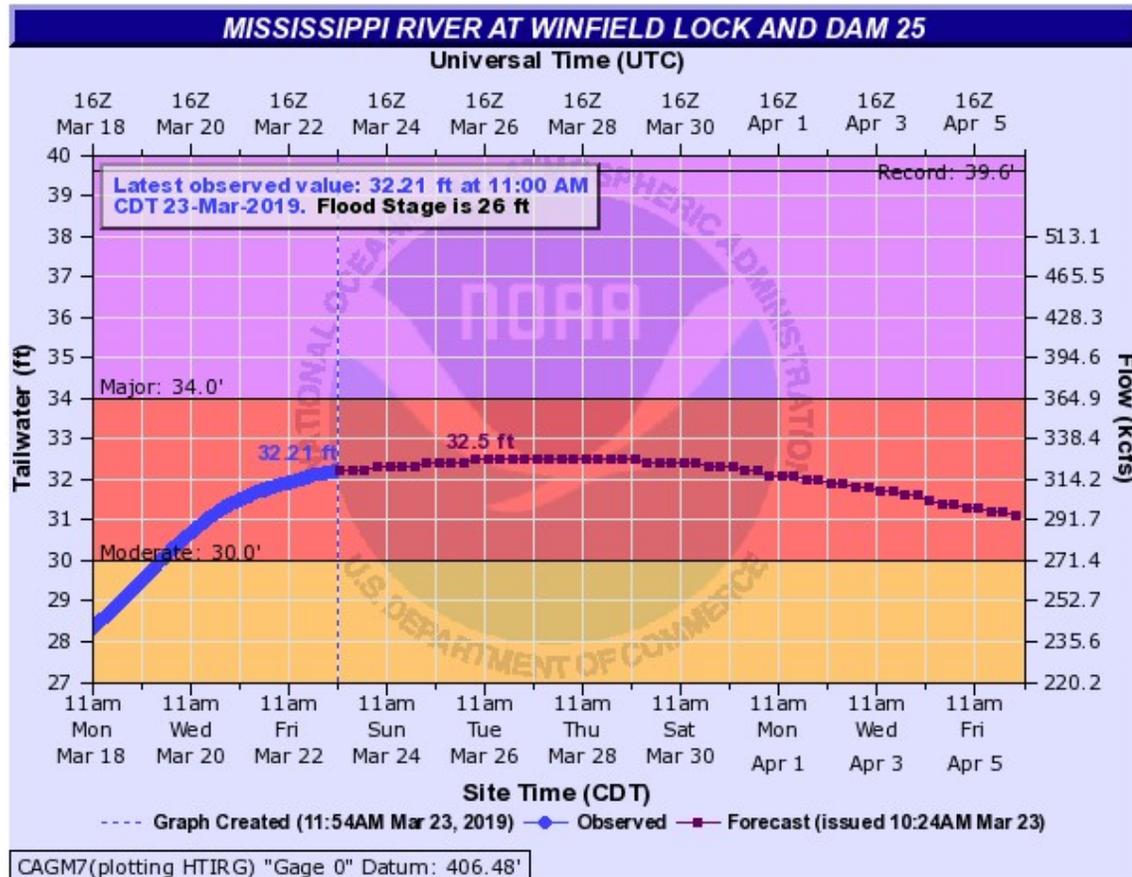
- The Mississippi River at Saverton (Lock and Dam 22) is in major flood stage at 22.23 feet and is forecast to crest in major flood stage at 22.5 feet. Major flooding occurs at 22.0 ft.
- At Saverton, river levels of 21 feet causes Lock and Dam 22 to reach its navigational limit, and buildings in unprotected areas are damaged.



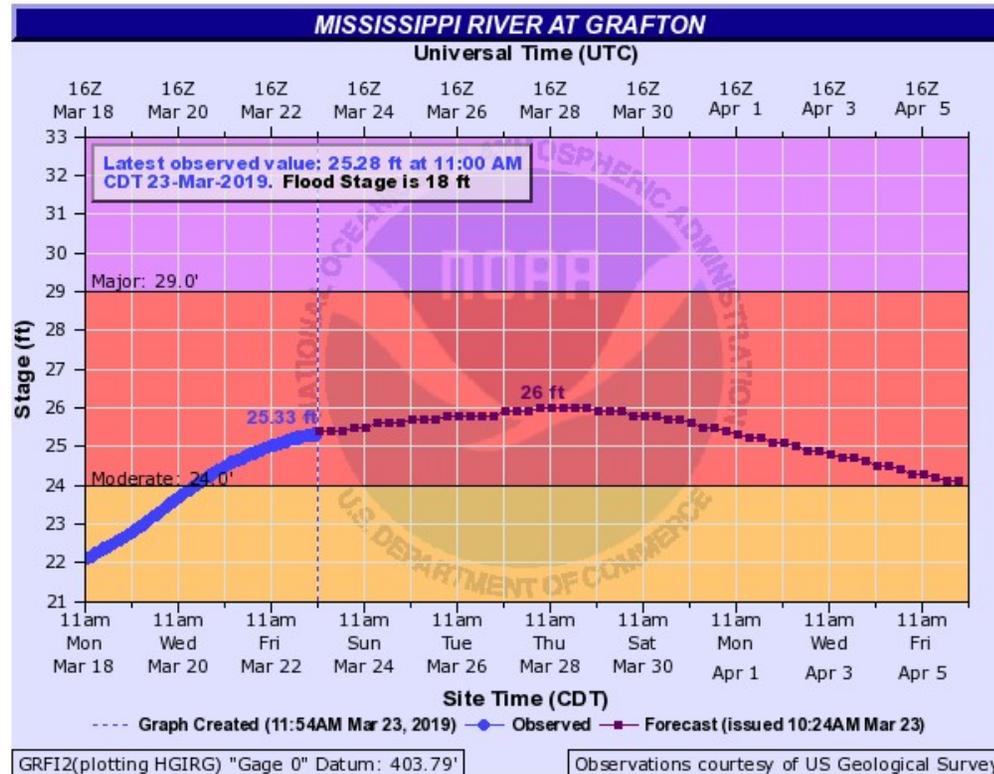
- The Mississippi River at Louisiana is in moderate flood stage at 21.49 feet and is forecast to have a broad crest no higher than 21.6 feet, beginning to fall by Tuesday (3/26/19).
- At Louisiana, river levels of 21.7 feet trigger the installation of flood gates at the city sewage treatment facility.



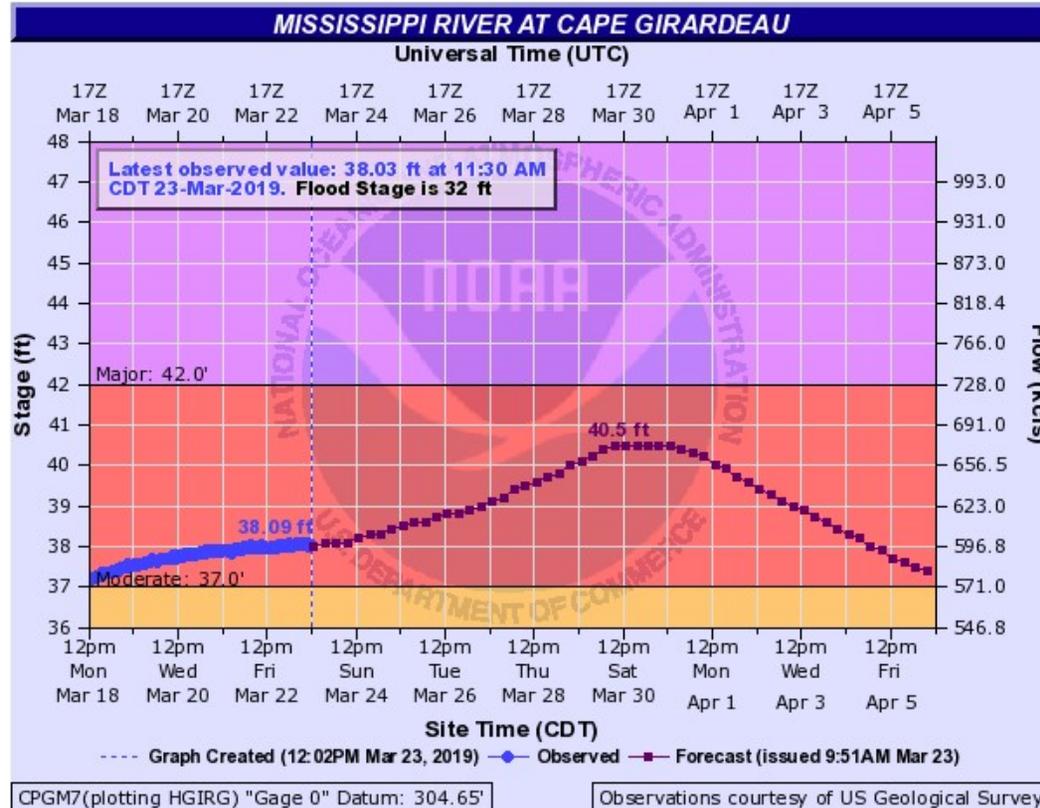
- The Mississippi River at Clarksville (Lock and Dam 24) is in moderate flood stage at 31.68 feet and is predicted to crest at 32 feet Tuesday (3/26/19).
- At Clarksville river levels of 32 feet leads to closure of Lock and Dam 24, Front Street begins to flood and the Burlington Northern Railroad tracks along with sections of Highway 79 begin to flood.



- The Mississippi River at Winfield (Lock and Dam 25) is in moderate flood stage at 32.21 feet and is forecast to have a broad crest no higher than 32.5 feet,
- At Winfield, river levels of 33 feet approach levels exceeding levee protection for Winfield, Lock and Dam 25 is closed for navigation, sections of Highway 79 and other roads are impacted.



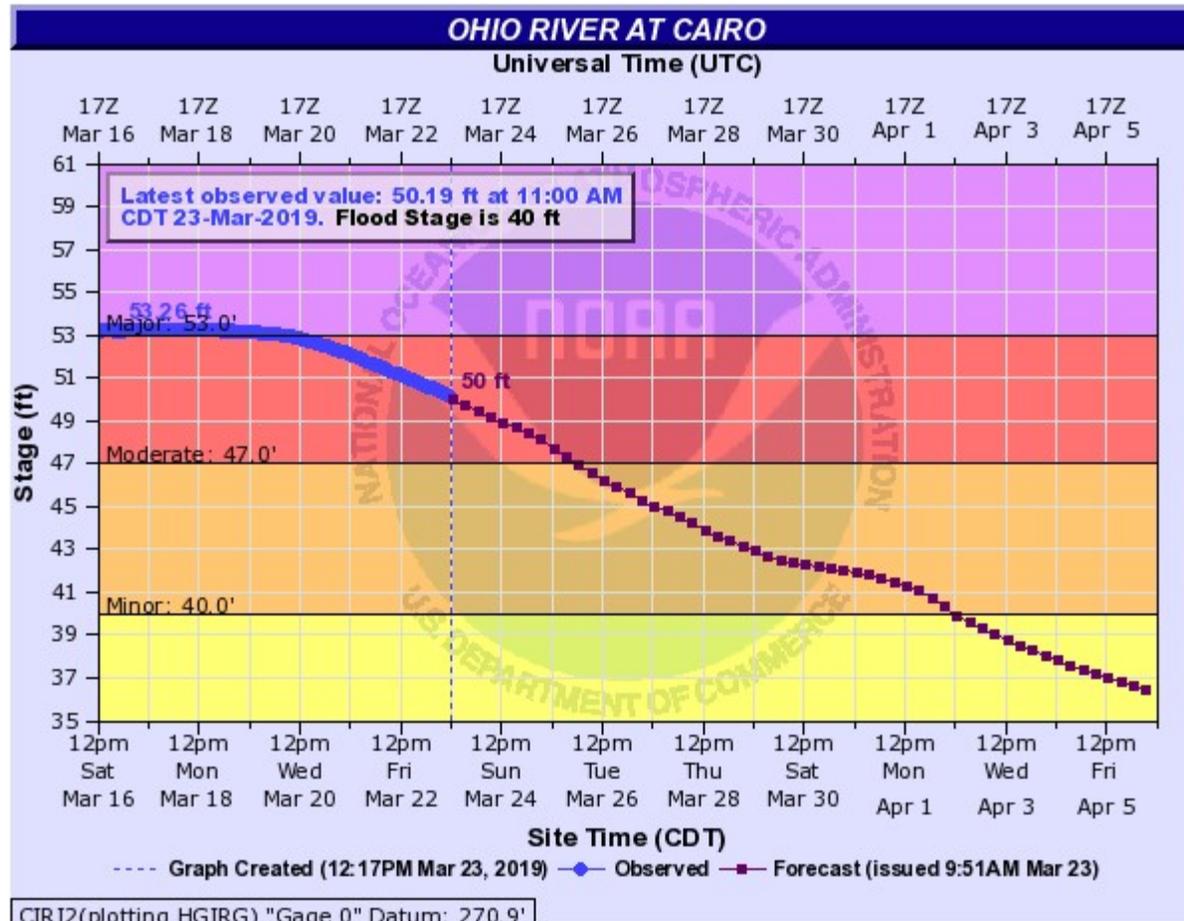
- The Mississippi River at Grafton is in moderate flood stage at 25.28 feet and is forecast to crest in moderate flood stage at 26 feet Thursday (3/28/19). Moderate flooding occurs at 24 feet.
- At Grafton, river levels of 26 feet cause the water distribution system to begin to flood, necessitating emergency measures, and at 26.4 feet residential flooding occurs.



- The Mississippi River at Cape Girardeau is in moderate flood stage at 38.09 feet and is forecast to continue to crest at 40.5 feet by Saturday (3/30/19).
- At Cape Girardeau river stages of 36 feet result in the flood gate at Themis St closing, and stages of 38 feet result in the floodgate at Broadway closing.



- The Mississippi River at Thebes is in moderate flood stage at 37.92 feet and is forecast to crest at 40.5 feet Sunday (3/31/19). Moderate flooding occurs at 37.0 ft.
- At Thebes river levels above 33 feet will lead to flooding in the town of Gale and Thebes.



- The Ohio River at Cairo is in moderate flood stage at a level of 50.19 feet and continues to fall.
- At Cairo, river levels of 50 feet (at confluence of Ohio River and Mississippi River) lead to closure of flood gates.

# Resources for Further Information

- Department of Natural Resources Flood Page:  
<https://dnr.mo.gov/flood>
- National Weather Service – Mississippi River Flooding:  
<https://www.weather.gov/dvn/MississippiRiverOutlook>
- National Weather Service – River Forecasts, Missouri Basin:  
[https://www.weather.gov/dvn/River\\_Levels#Top](https://www.weather.gov/dvn/River_Levels#Top)
- Missouri Water Resources Center – Mississippi River Informational Page: [https://dnr.mo.gov/geology/wrc/interstate-waters/mississippi\\_river.htm](https://dnr.mo.gov/geology/wrc/interstate-waters/mississippi_river.htm)