

Midland, Texas

MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS

REPORT FOR:

MONTH

YEAR

March

2004

TO: Hydrometeorological Information Center, W/OH2
NOAA / National Weather Service
1325 East West Highway, Room 7230
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283

SIGNATURE

J. DeBerry
In Charge of HSA

DATE

04/01/04

When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts, and hydrologic products issued (NWS Instruction 10-924)

4 flood stages were reached in this HSA in March.

March saw notable changes in the synoptic pattern, with abundant low level Gulf moisture encroaching well into the HSA for the first time since Fall 2003. As a result, several hydrologist events occurred.

On March 3rd-4th, a potent upper-level storm system approached the HSA via the Baja Peninsula. Storms developed over the Big Bend region on the night of the 3rd, but little flooding occurred, due to the fact that storms that did develop moved in excess of 50 mph. By the morning of the 4th, however, a slower-moving squall line developed and began moving eastward. Flash flooding was first reported in Scurry County, where numerous city streets were closed due to high water. Several high-water rescues were performed. Portions of Howard County flooded as well, where highways near Vincent were inundated with runoff. US Rte 87 also flooded near Forsan. Numerous reports of urban street flooding were then reported in Borden, Glasscock, Midland, Mitchell, Reagan, and Upton Counties. Radar Multiprecipitation Estimates (MPE) indicate that up to 3.5" of rainfall fell in the Deep Creek watershed between 7 AM and 1 PM on the 4th. As a result, Deep Creek at Dunn (DEET2) rose above flood stage on the evening of the 4th. See accompanying E-3.

On March 12th, another upper-level storm system passed deep into Mexico, spawning heavy rainfall over the Rio Conchos watershed. This resulted in rises on the Rio Grande below the confluence, where Presidio 5SE (PRDT2) rose briefly above flood stage overnight. See accompanying E-3.

Over several days leading up to March 22nd, thunderstorms developed daily over Chihuahua in Mexico, resulting in heavy rainfall over the Rio Conchos watershed and areas west. The Rio Grande again reached flood stage at PRDT2 again on the morning of the 22nd as the Rio Conchos emptied. To aggravate the situation, the Rio Grande also rose above the confluence, and Presidio International Bridge (PRST2) rose above flood stage later that afternoon. See accompanying E-3.

Some locations in the HSA that received notable amounts of precipitation for March were:

Red Bluff Dam, Reeves County	3.42"
Gail, Borden County	3.85"
Forsan, Howard County	3.99"
Knapp, Scurry County	4.63"

The average of all stations reporting was 1.91".

Midland International Airport received 1.34" precipitation for the month. Normal for the month of March is 0.42". Total for the year is 2.18", 0.65" above normal.

Despite the rainfall for March, much of the HSA remains in drought, and conditions range from exceptional

in northwest Eddy County to near normal in the lower Trans Pecos.

Reservoir levels across the HSA are averaging 46% of conservation capacity, about 8% higher than in February. Champion Creek Reservoir remains the lowest, at about 8% capacity, while Moss Creek Lake is the highest, at around 79% capacity. The flood threat remains low.

River products issued:

RVS = 6 FLS = 8 FLW = 4

Shifts worked: 22

cc:mail: DOA IBWC-ELP IBWC-PRS SWFED USGS-CNM USGS-SJT

cc:email: HIC W/SR2 W/SR3 W/SR-ABQ W/SR-ELP W/SR-FWR W/SR-LBB W/SR-MAF W/SR-SJT