

Summary of Lower Platte & Elkhorn Rivers

Ice Report 2/22/2014 through 2/28/2014:

Summary (2/14/2014)

The observations from the Platte River, the confluence of the Platte and Elkhorn Rivers and the Elkhorn River are summarized as having an average temperature of 11°F with wind speeds averaging 12 mph out of the North by NW during the readings this past week.

The Platte and Elkhorn Rivers were experiencing 50-90% ice coverage with most areas of the Platte showing the ice breaking up and the channels enlarging. Several areas along the Platte experienced high water this past week and there are ice piles in several places where the rivers are shallow from the warming and re-freezing cycle we are experiencing. The Elkhorn continues to be mostly ice covered and had some small channels opening up on the 26th when readings were taken. The Confluence had some break up on the 22nd & 23rd with several areas up and down both rivers showing open channels this past week.

SMALL ICE JAMS NEAR TWO RIVERS ON 23RD WHICH WAS SLOWLY RECEEDING BY THE END OF THE WEEK.
High water was noted over the weekend near Schuyler and North Bend.

Platte River:

LN1 - Saunders/Dodge County, on the Platte Hwy 77 at Fremont

Latitude: 41:21:14 Longitude: 96:30:9 (Thursday, February 27, 2014 @ 8:15AM CDT)

Temperature was 5°F. The average wind speed was 9 mph (NE). It was estimated that it was less than 6-12" feet bank full at this location. The channel remains NA%. It was noted: "The Platte River at the Hwy 77 Bridge looks much the same today as it did after all of the movement over last weekend. There is a large open area on the south side of the river at the bridge and water is flowing easily through there. There is a lot of ice piled up in the middle of the river and there is an additional open spot upstream that is on the north side of the river near Hormel Park. The conditions from last weekend have "frozen in time" this week. More snow and abnormally low temperatures will prevail over the next few days. "

Latitude: 41:21:14 Longitude: 96:30:9 (Thursday, February 27, 2014 @ 2:40PM CDT)

Temperature was 18°F. The average wind speed was 5 mph (NE). It was estimated that it was less than 8 feet bank full at this location. The channel remains NA%. It was noted: "At Hwy 77, open channel up and down the river from Hwy 77 Bridge along the north and south banks. Ice has broken up & piled in the shallows mainly in the center of the river. Doesn't look like any water rise in this area. There is a lot of intact ice up and down stream of all bridges. "

LN2 –Saunders/Dodge Co on Platte Hwy 79 at North Bend

Latitude: 41:27:7 Longitude: 96:46:30 (Thursday, February 27, 2014 @ 3:08PM CDT)

Temperature was 18°F. The average wind speed was 5 mph (NE). It was estimated that it was less than 8 feet bank full at this location. The channel remains NA%. It was noted: "At Hwy 79, there's a nice wide channel upstream from the bridge which forks off to the north and south banks. The North Channel is approx. 120' wide, south channel is smaller. Ice is piled & solid in the center of the river b/c it's shallow. It does not look like the water had risen. "

LS1 –Saunders Co on Platte Hwy near Ashland

No report this week.

PM4 - Douglas County, on the Platte Hwy 92**Latitude: 41:14:2 Longitude: 96:21:55 (Sunday, February 23, 2014 @ 8:00AM CDT)**

Temperature was 21°F. The average wind speed was 5 mph (N). It was estimated that it was less than feet bank full at this location. The channel remains NA%. It was noted: "Two Rivers Campsites flooded overnight. The two campgrounds and our day use are 1 to 2 foot deep in water. Small ice jams downstream with still mostly solid ice on the river"

Latitude: 41:14:2 Longitude: 96:21:55 (Wednesday, February 26, 2014 @ 09:20AM CDT)

Temperature was 1°F. The average wind speed was 15 mph (NW). It was estimated that it was less than 9 feet bank full at this location. The channel remains 50%. It was noted: "West side is 50% open with frazil pan ice, ice on sand bars. East side is 10% open with a channel not open all the way. Breakup of the ice cover occurred February 22 and 23, an open channel exists at most locations. 3 miles south of Hwy 92 on the Platte there is not a defined open channel. 2 miles north of Hwy 92 on the Platte there is not a defined open channel. "

Latitude: 41:14:2 Longitude: 96:21:55 (Wednesday, February 26, 2014 @ 2:00PM CDT)

Temperature was 32°F. The average wind speed was 20 mph (SW). It was estimated that it was less than 1 feet bank full at this location. The channel remains NA%. It was noted: "River starting to break up. Small jams 1 mile south of Hwy 92 bridge in East channel has backed up water to campgrounds and Day use for Two Rivers. It is slowly receding after rising earlier this week"

PM7 - Douglas County, on the Platte Union Dike, 1/4 mile west of Hwy 275 & 3.1 miles upstream of Hwy 64**Latitude: 41:21:40 Longitude: 96:25:0 (Wednesday, February 26, 2014 @ 10:20AM CDT)**

Temperature was 9°F. The average wind speed was 15 mph (NW). It was estimated that it was less than 4 feet bank full at this location. The channel remains 20%. It was noted: "River is about 20% open in different areas with frazil pan ice. There is ice on sand bars. Breakup of the ice cover occurred February 22 and 23; an open channel exists in most locations. Below KPI about 1.7 miles there is not a defined open channel. Above KPI about 4 miles there is not a defined open channel. "

P7 - Sarpy County, on the Platte Hwy 31 at 204 St.

No report this week.

P9 - Sarpy County, on the Platte Hwy 6 & Platte River Bridge (Linoma)

No report this week.

P10 - Sarpy County, on the Platte Hwy 50 & Platte River Bridge

No report this week.

Confluence of the Platte and Elkhorn Rivers:**E1 - Sarpy County, on the Platte/Elkhorn Confluence of Platte and Elkhorn Rivers****Latitude: 41:8:0 Longitude: 96:19:0 (Wednesday, February 26, 2014 @ 08:45AM CDT)**

Temperature was 1°F. The average wind speed was 15 mph (NW). It was estimated that it was less than 12 feet bank full at this location. The channel remains 50%. It was noted: "Breakup of the ice cover occurred February 22 and 23. An open channel now exists on the Platte from 5 miles north of the Elkhorn confluence down to the Missouri River. The lower 5 miles of the Elkhorn River are also open. Platte River is 50% open, ice on sand bars. Frazil pan ice is moving down open channel. There is a good open channel from confluence to Missouri River. Elkhorn is open with some ice on sand bars and also has frazil pan ice. "

Elkhorn River:

PM2 - Douglas County, on the Elkhorn Hwy 36

Latitude: 41:22:45 Longitude: 96:18:9 (Wednesday, February 26, 2014 @ 10:00AM CDT)

Temperature was 6°F. The average wind speed was 15 mph (NW). It was estimated that it was less than 13 feet bank full at this location. The channel remains NA%. It was noted: "River is still ice covered and there are areas where there is open water or small channels of water."

PM3 - Douglas/Saunders County, on the Elkhorn Hwy 92

Latitude: 41:13:51 Longitude: 96:16:41 (Wednesday, February 26, 2014 @ 11:00AM CDT)

Temperature was 12°F. The average wind speed was 15 mph (NW). It was estimated that it was less than 13 feet bank full at this location. The channel remains NA%. It was noted: "River is still ice covered and there are areas where there is open water or small channels of water."

PM6 - Douglas County, on the Elkhorn Hwy 64

Latitude: 41:17:30 Longitude: 96:17:0 (Wednesday, February 26, 2014 @ 09:40AM CDT)

Temperature was 4°F. The average wind speed was 15 mph (NW). It was estimated that it was less than 13 feet bank full at this location. The channel remains NA%. It was noted: "River still ice covered and there are areas where there is open water or small channels of water."

Papio-Missouri NRD

No ice thickness measurements taken this week due to the warming conditions.