



Fox River Status Update May 8th, 2025

**This Update is based on the current forecast and will be adjusted based on future forecasts and rainfall.*

Summary

With “Abnormally Dry” conditions (Figure 5) covering most of the watershed and approximately 0.10” precipitation forecasted for the next 7 Days (Figure 4), inflows will be significantly lower over the next week (Figure 1) compared to last week. Fox Lake and areas upstream of the dam are forecasted to remain near 4.00’ (Figure 2). The Lower River should expect to see levels decrease as inflows continue dropping (Figure 3).

Current Conditions and NWS Forecasts

Figure 1: National Weather Service Forecasted Inflows

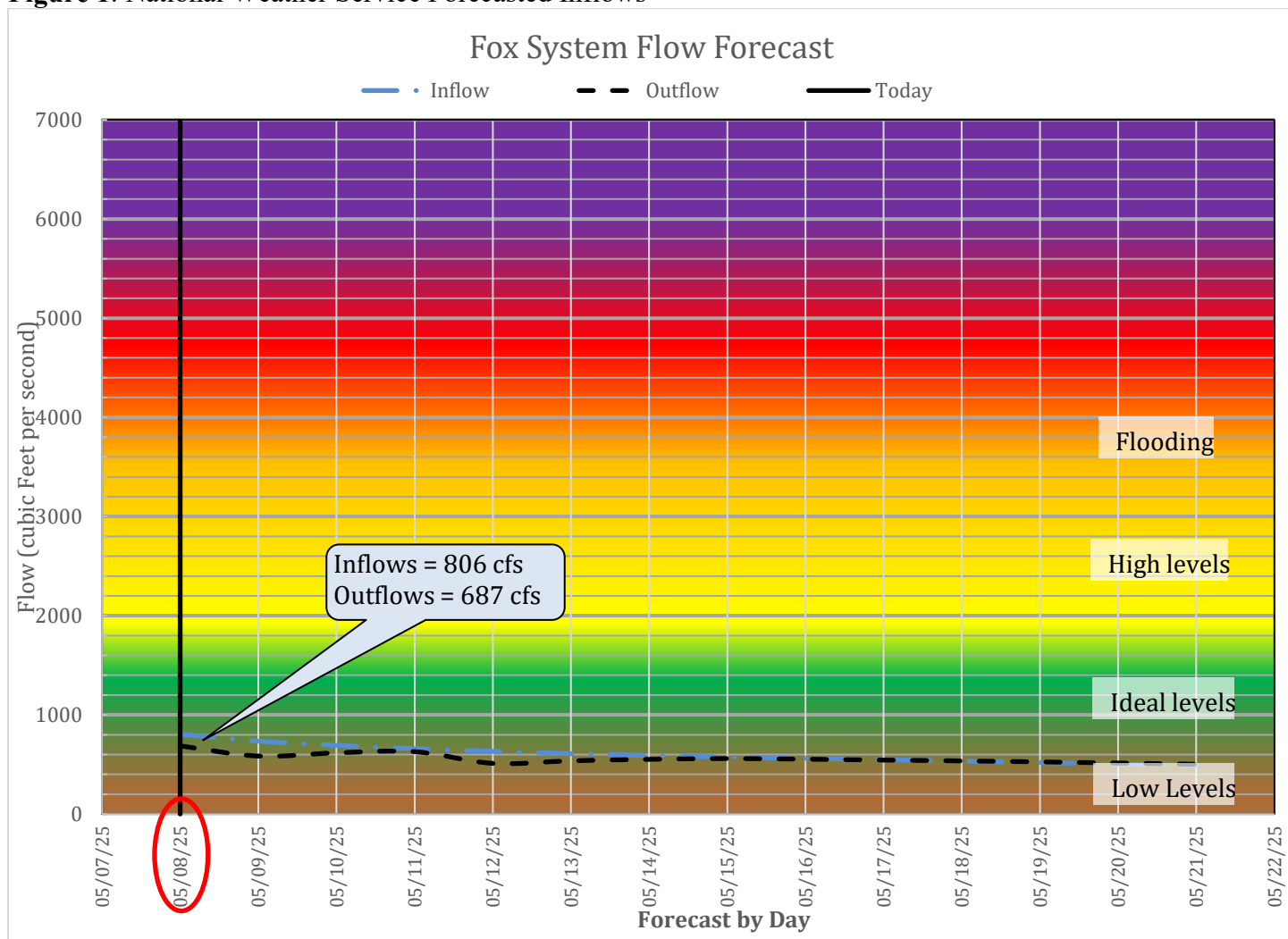


Figure 2: Estimated Upstream Gage Heights

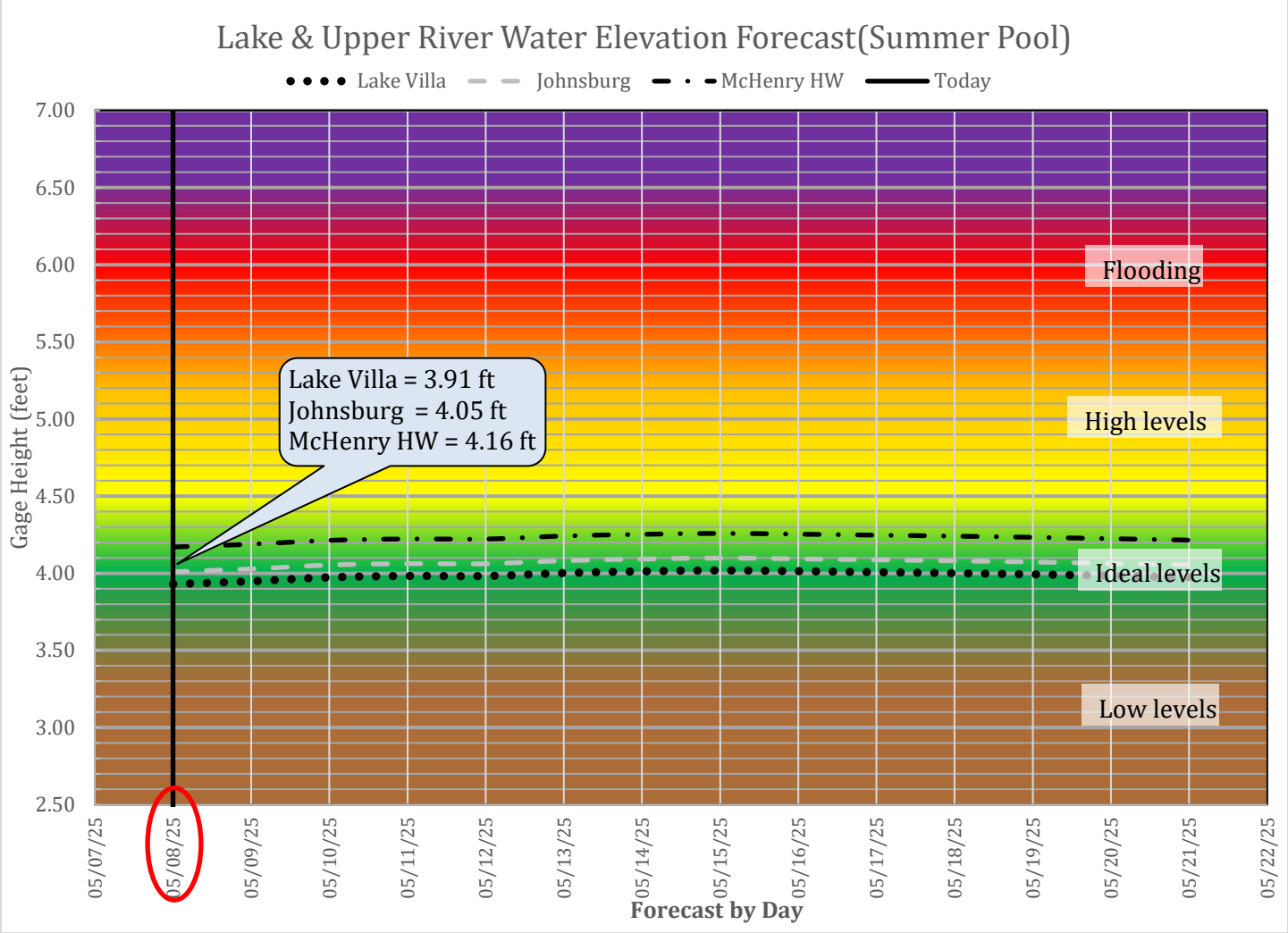
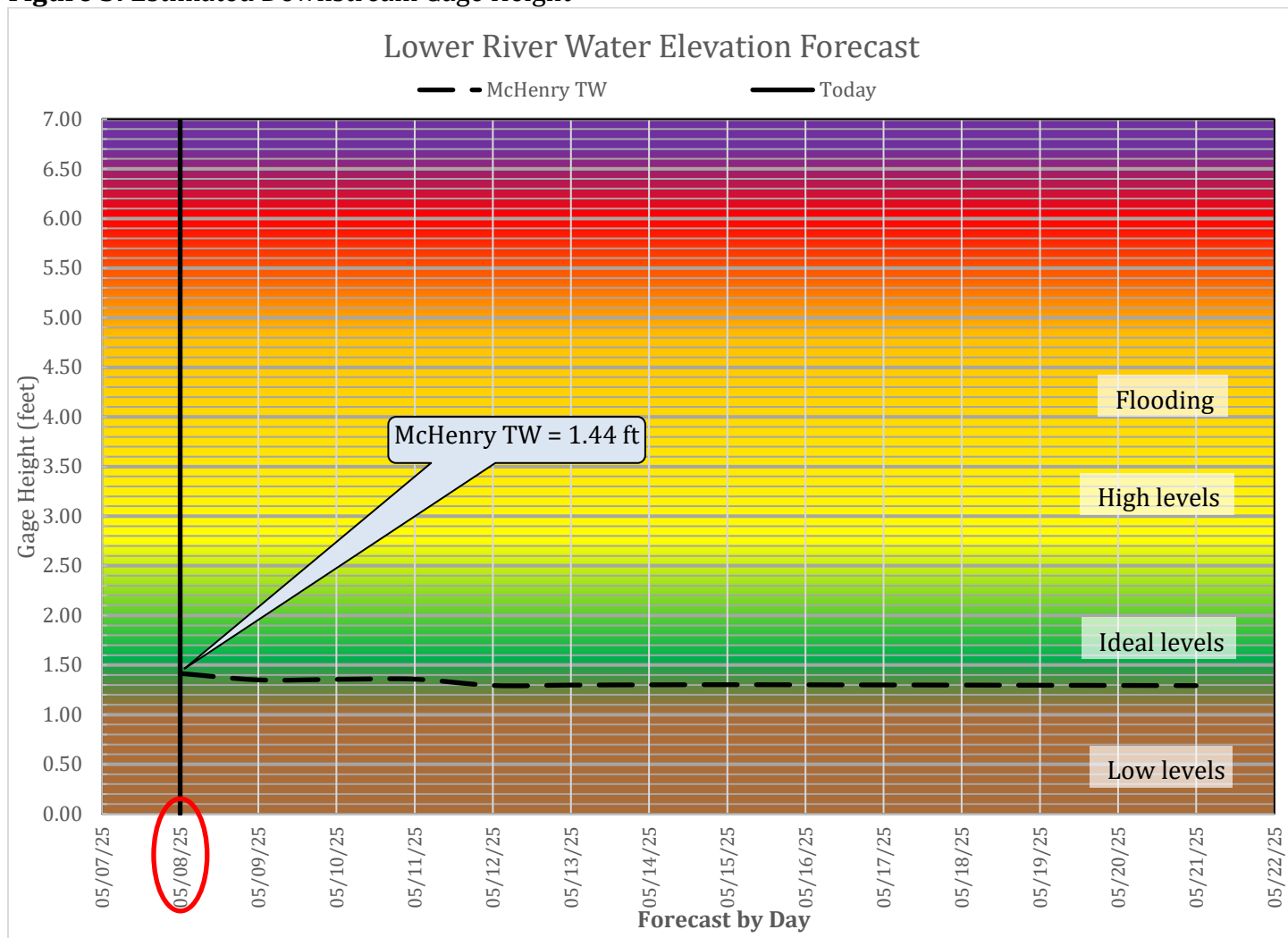


Figure 3: Estimated Downstream Gage Height



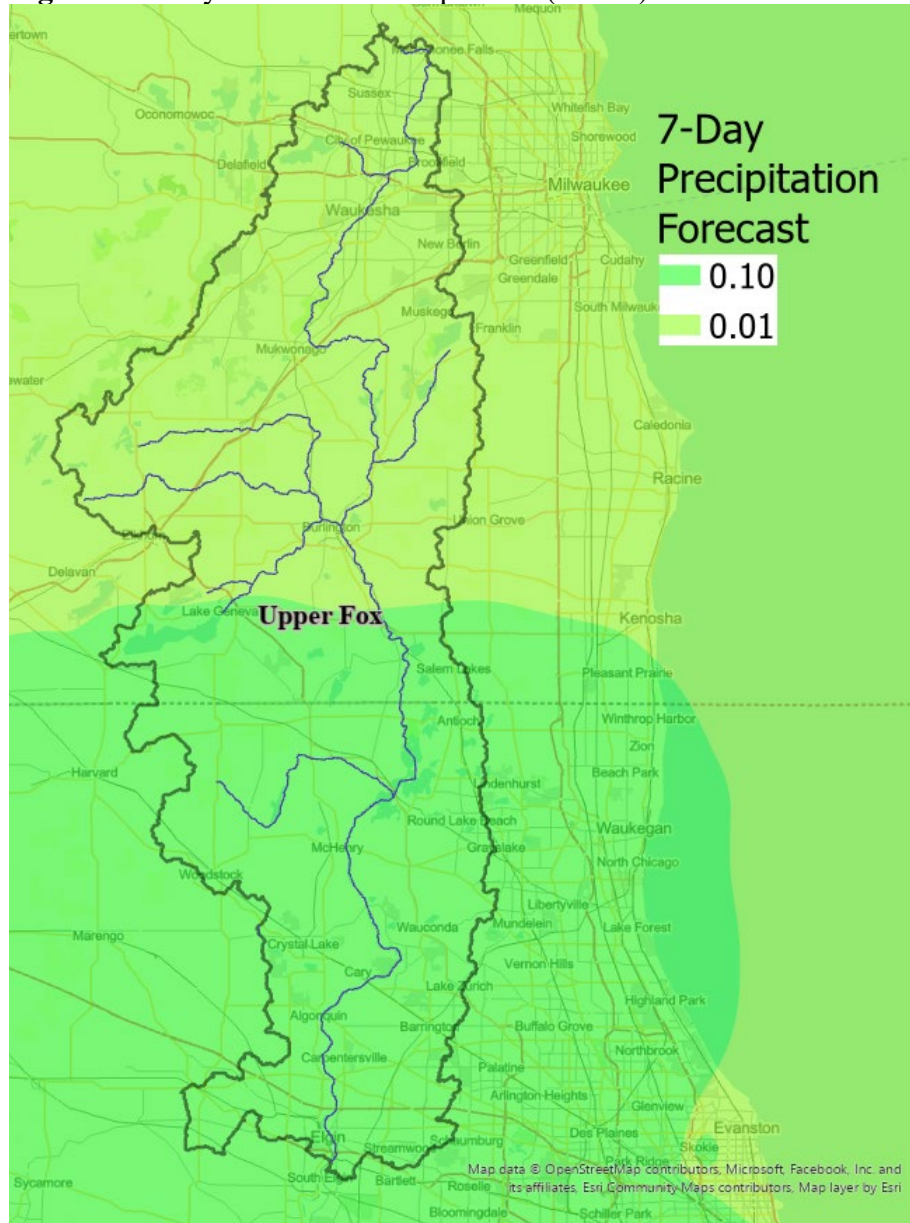
Current Conditions

Measured flow on the Fox River near New Munster, WI is 529 cfs and Nippersink Creek near Spring Grove is at 92 cfs. The total system inflow is 806 cfs. The Fox Lake stage is 3.91 ft; the Stratton Dam Tailwater stage is 1.44 ft. The Fox River at the Algonquin Dam headwater stage is 1.85 ft.

Forecast

Inflows are forecasted to continue falling off over the next week, as shown in **Figure 1**. Fox Lake and areas upstream of the dam should remain near 4.00', as shown above in **Figure 2**. The Lower River will drop off as gates are raised to maintain Summer Pool upstream, **Figure 3**. The 7-Day Precipitation forecast is showing just over 0.10" of rain for the next week, **Figure 4**. Much of the watershed is already in Abnormally Dry conditions, so the lack of rain is not going to help.

Figure 4: 7 Day Forecasted Precipitation (inches) for the Fox River Watershed



System Outlook

Chain O' Lakes Outlook

Water levels should hold near 4.00' on the lakes for the upcoming week.

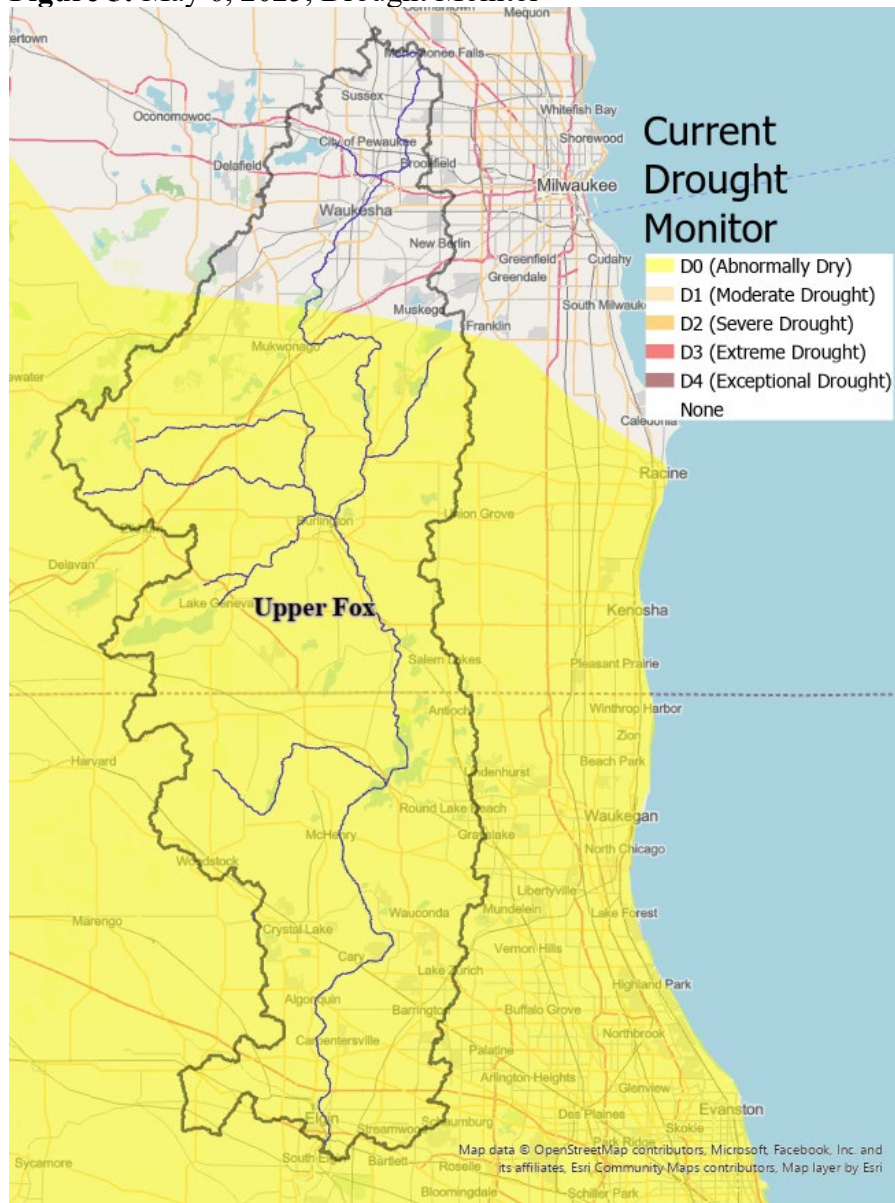
McHenry Pool Area Outlook

The Pool and Upper River should expect to see conditions similar to the lakes, depending on the wind.

Lower River Outlook

The lower river will see conditions worsen as inflows continue dropping. The only relief will be if a steady, significant rainfall event occurs in the Wisconsin portion of the watershed.

Figure 5: May 6, 2025, Drought Monitor



IDNR-OWR will continue to monitor conditions and make changes as necessary pending future forecasts and conditions.

Thank you,

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