

Climate at a Glance: Water Levels – Great Lakes

Bullet-Point Summary:

- The Great Lakes are **benefiting from record-high water levels** just a few years **after alarmists claimed** global warming causes **low water levels**.
- Water levels have been **above normal since 2014**.
- Alarmists will likely now try to claim global warming causes high water levels, but they have already claimed global warming causes low water levels. Sound science does **not allow activists to flip** what they assert is “**settled science**.”
- Any attempts to claim global warming causes low water-level volatility are also contradicted by scientific evidence. Water levels were more volatile than today, for example, during the late 1920s and the 1960s.

Short Summary: Alarmists and their media allies claimed during a recent, short-term decline in Great Lakes water levels that climate change was bringing a new normal of low Great Lakes water levels. For example, [Think Progress in 2013 claimed](#), “Several different **climate models** for the Great Lakes region **all predict that lake levels will decline over the next century**.” Since then, as shown in Figure 1, below, Great Lakes water levels have reached their highest ever recorded, and have sustained abundant, above-average water levels since 2014. As often happens, alarmists claimed a climate crisis had arrived, only to be proven wrong yet again.

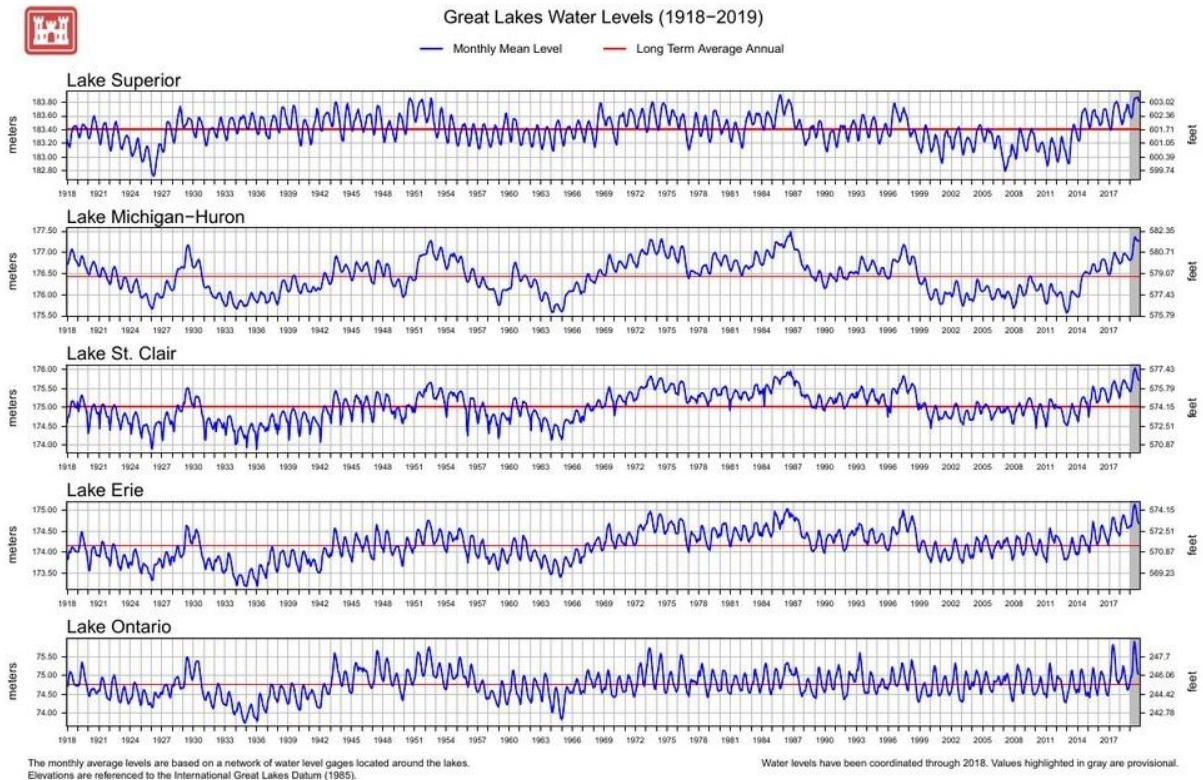


Figure 1: Great Lakes water levels are at record levels, and have been higher than average since 2014. Source: Great Lakes water levels measured by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Source: U.S. Geological Survey: <https://www.lre.usace.army.mil/Missions/Great-Lakes-Information/Great-Lakes-Information-2/Water-Level-Data/>.

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