













# WY Conditions & Outlooks:

Precipitation, Temperatures, Drought, Floods, & Everything In-between

September 16, 2021















### **Presentation Outline**

- Current Conditions
- Outlooks
- How to Get Involved















Extension

## **Current Conditions**

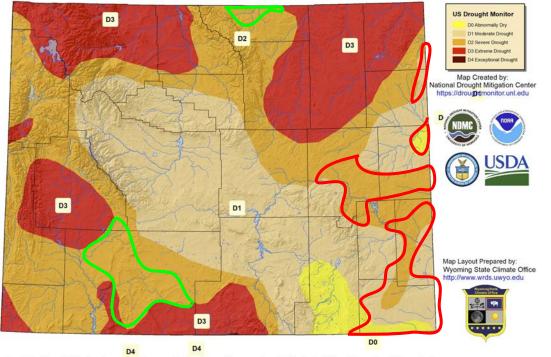


#### **US Drought Monitor for September 14, 2021**

(Released Thursday, September 16, 2021)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

D4

US Drought Monitor as of 14 September 2021



The U.S. Drought Monitor, is a weekly map of drought conditions produced jointly by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, The U.S. Drought Monitor website is hosted and maintained by the NDMC, http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Drought Level	Percentile
None	>30
D0 (Abnormally Dry)	21 to 30
D1 (Moderate Drought)	11 to 20
D2 (Severe Drought)	6 to 10
D3 (Extreme Drought)	3 to 5
D4 (Exceptional Drought)	0 to 2

Improvements in Sweetwater County along with north-central Sheridan County since the last webinar followed by several degradations over eastern Wyoming.











Prought Level	Percentile
lone	>30
00 (Abnormally Dry)	21 to 30
01 (Moderate Drought)	11 to 20
02 (Severe Drought)	6 to 10
03 (Extreme Drought)	3 to 5
04 (Exceptional Drought)	0 to 2

https://drought.wyo.gov











#### 14-Day Precipitation Percentile (02 Sep 2021 to 15 Sep 2021)

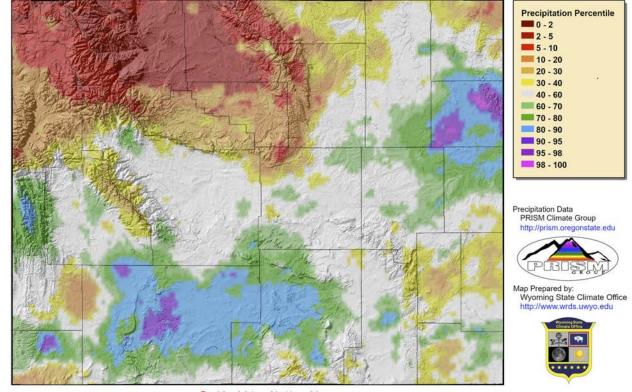
14-Day Precipitation (Percentile) for 02 Sep 2021 to 15 Sep 2021

#### **Above Median:**

- Weston County
- Sweetwater County
- Carbon County
- Minor other areas

#### **Below Median (Areas of Concern):**

Northwest and North Central



Provisional data, subject to revision

Daily precipitation data from PRISM Climate Group, Copyright ©2021, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University, http://prism.oregonstate.edu

Map Created 16 Sep 2021 http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu Daily percentiles created from PRISM daily precipitation grids



#### 90-Day Precipitation Percentile (18 Jun 2021 to 15 Sep 2021)

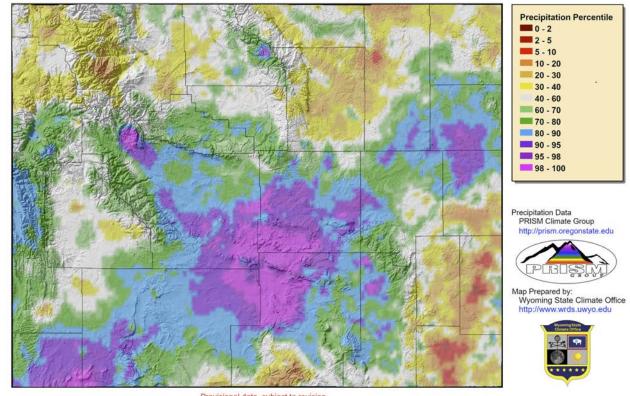
90-Day Precipitation (Percentile) for 18 Jun 2021 to 15 Sep 2021

#### **Above Median:**

- Southwest
- Weston/Niobrara/S Campbell
- Northern Lincoln County
- Fremont, Sweetwater, Natrona, Carbon Albany Counties area

#### **Below Median (Areas of Concern):**

- Laramie County
- Goshen County
- South Central Carbon County
- Johnson County
- Campbell County

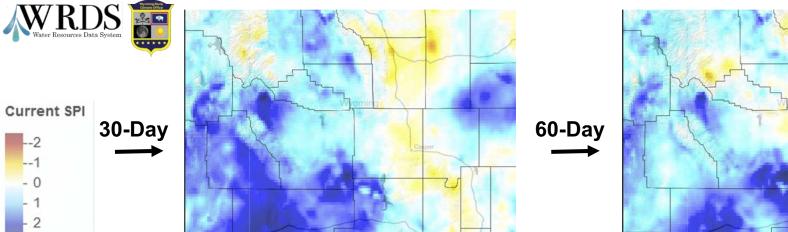


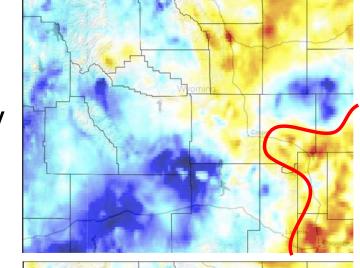
Provisional data, subject to revision

Daily precipitation data from PRISM Climate Group, Copyright ©2021, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University, http://prism.oregonstate.edu

Map Created 16 Sep 2021 http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

Daily percentiles created from PRISM daily precipitation grids





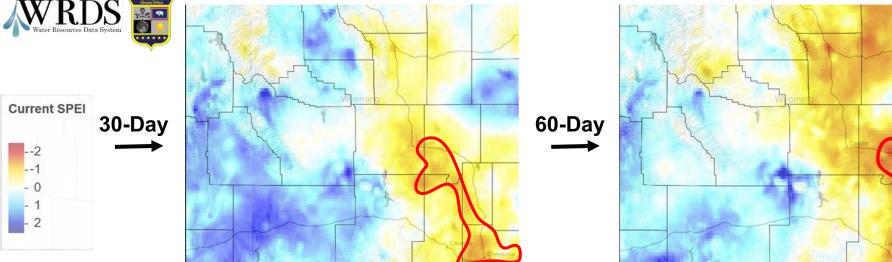
## **Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI)**

• Long-term dryness resulted in drought expansion in eastern Wyoming.

Woming Common Co

90-Day

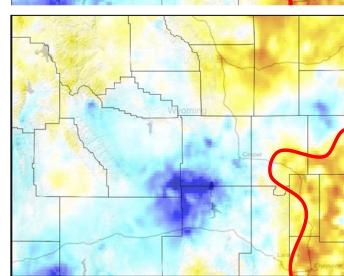
https://drought.climate.umt.edu



90-Day

## Standardized Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index (SPEI)

• Long-term dryness resulted in drought expansion in eastern Wyoming.



https://drought.climate.umt.edu

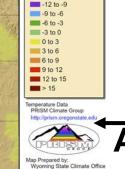


# 14-Day Average Minimum Temperature (02 Sep to 15 Sep)

 Higher elevation nighttime lows starting to dip below freezing

14-Day Average Minimum Temperature (Departure from 1991-2020 Average) for 02 Sep 2021 to 15 Sep 2021





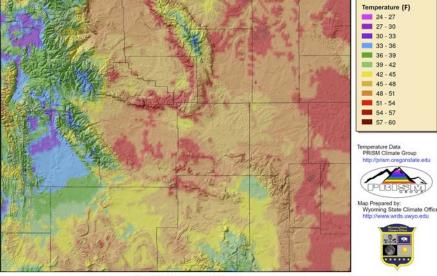
Temperature Departure

from Normal (F) < -15 -15 to -12

Provisional data, subject to revision

 Scattered areas in northwest and elsewhere to 3F below average

Up to 6F above average



Provisional data, subject to revision

Daily Temperature data from PRISM Climate Group, Copyright ©2021, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University, http://prism.oregonstate.edu Map Created 16 Sep 2021 http://www.wds.uwyo.edu Temperature warcages created from PRISM daily temperature grids

# 14-Day *Departure from* Normal Average Minimum Temperature

Daily Temperature data from PRISM Climate Group, Copyright @2021, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University, http://prism.oregonstate.edu Map Created 16 Sep 2021 http://www.wds.uwyo.edu Temperature averages created from PRISM day temperature grids

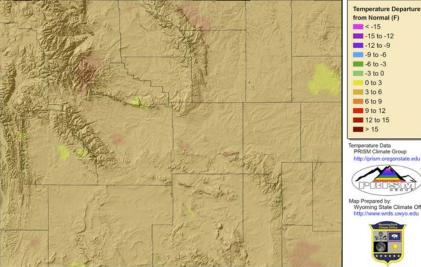


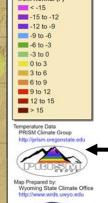
## 14-Day Average Maximum

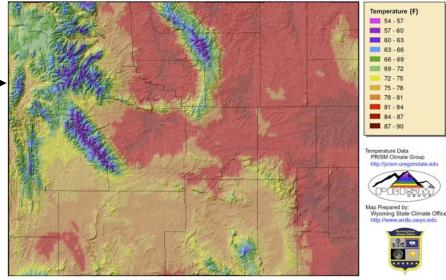
### Temperature (02 Sep to 15 Sep)

- Lowest Daytime highs in upper 50s
- 80s in east. plains & Wind/Bighorn Basins

14-Day Average Maximum Temperature (Departure from 1991-2020 Average) for 02 Sep 2021 to 15 Sep 2021







Daily Temperature data from PRISM Climate Group, Copyright @2021, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University, http://prism.oregonstate.edu Map Created 16 Sep 2021 http://www.wrds.uwvo.edu

Temperature averages created from PRISM daily temperature grids

## 14- Day *Departure from* Normal

## **Average Maximum**

Mostly 3-6F above average

Provisional data, subject to revision



#### **Soil Moisture Percentile**

Soil Moisture

Percentile

0 to 2

2 to 5

5 to 10

10 to 20

20 to 30

30 to 40 40 to 60

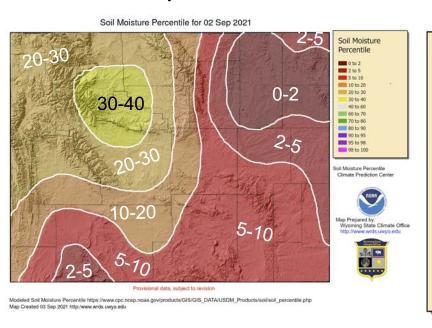
60 to 70

70 to 80

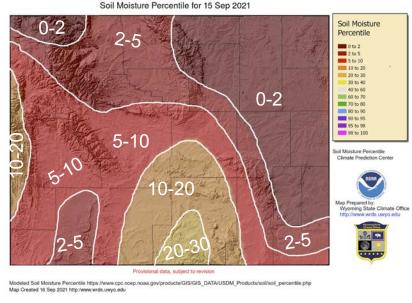
80 to 90 90 to 95 95 to 98

98 to 100

## Two Weeks Ago 02 Sep 2021



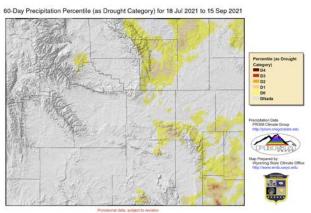
## 15 Sep 2021



Improvements in south-central, degradation elsewhere.



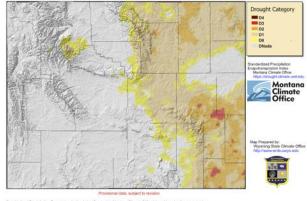
#### Input to the US Drought Monitor



Delly a respitation data from PRISM Climate Group, Copyright 60021, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University The Principle of the Copyrights with the Copyright of the Copyr

Daily percentiles created from PRISM daily precipitation grids

#### 60-Day Standardized Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index as Drought Category (17 Jul 2021-14 Sep 2021)



90-Day Precipitation Percentile (as Drought Category) for 18 Jun 2021 to 15 Sep 2021

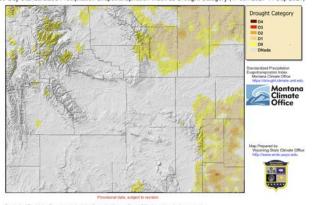
Percentile (as Drought Category)

Precipitation Date
Precipi

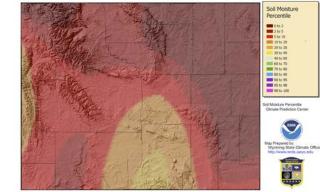
Daily precipitation data from PRISM Climate Group, Copyright 02021, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University, 15th (Jirism oregonistate orb). May Created in 5 Sep 2021 http://www.wrdu.wsyn.edu

Daily percentiles created from PRISM daily precipitation orids.

#### 90-Day Standardized Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index as Drought Category (17 Jun 2021-14 Sep 2021)

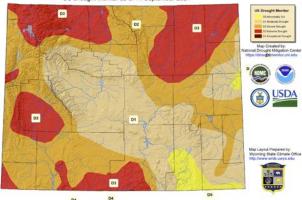


Standardized Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index Created by Montana Climate Office https://decught.climate.umt.edu Map Created 16 Sep 2021 http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu Soil Moisture Percentile for 15 Sep 2021



Modeled Soil Moisture Percentile https://www.npc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/GIS/GIS\_DATA/USDM\_Products/oil/soil\_percentile.php Map Created % Sep 2021 http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

#### US Drought Monitor as of 14 September 2021



The U.S. Drought Monitor, is a weekly map of drought conditions produced jointly by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the National Drought Miligation Center (NDMC) at the University of Nebraska-Liconi, The U.S. Drought Monitor website is headed and manifating by the NDMC, https://droughtmonitor.url.edu

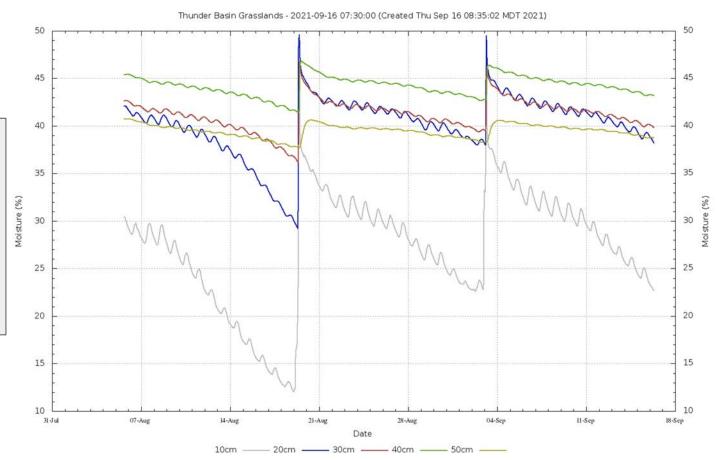


#### Soil Moisture at Thunder Basin Grasslands

Campbell/Converse County Line Area

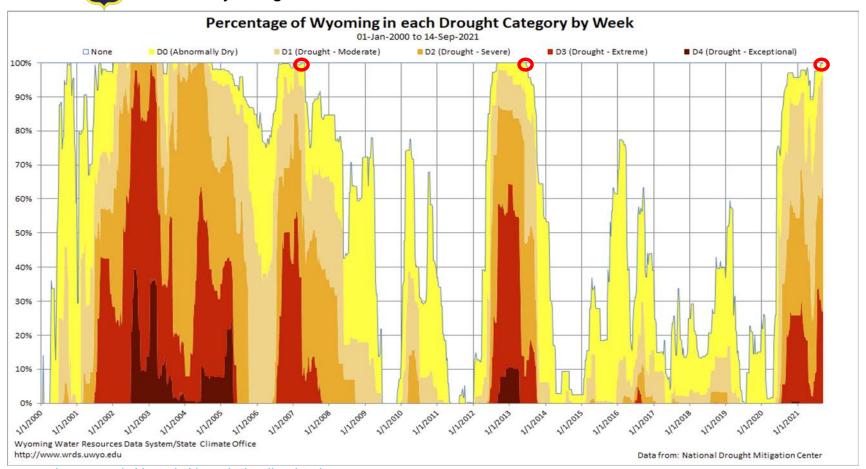


Drops off quick in upper 10cm/4"

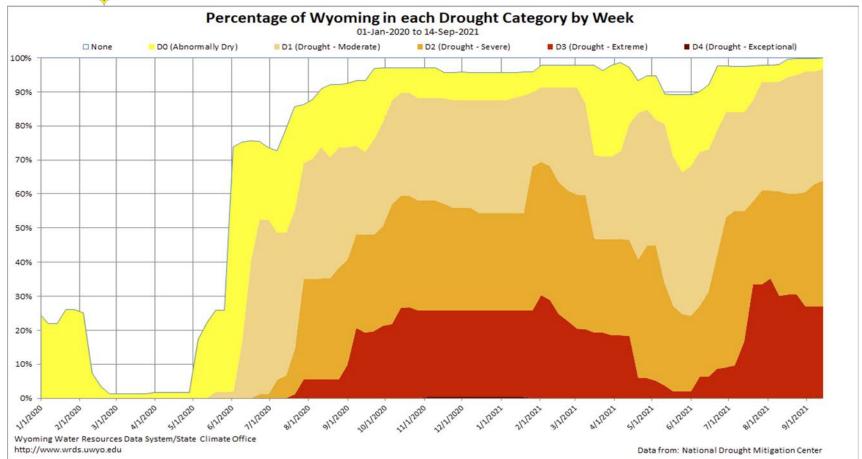




#### Wyoming Area Affected: 100% D0-D4; 96.76% D1-D4





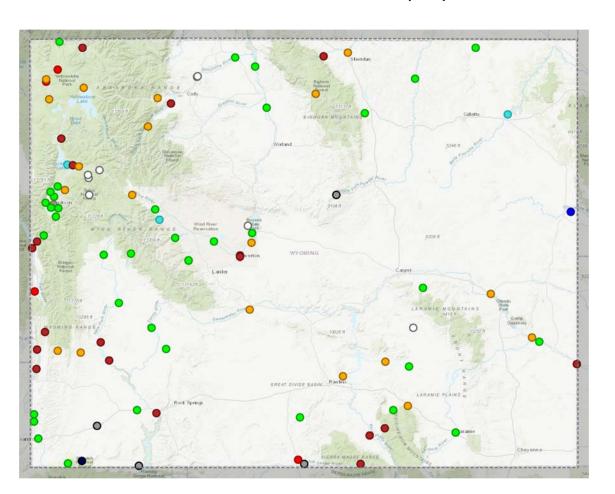




### Current Streamflow Conditions (September 16, 2021)

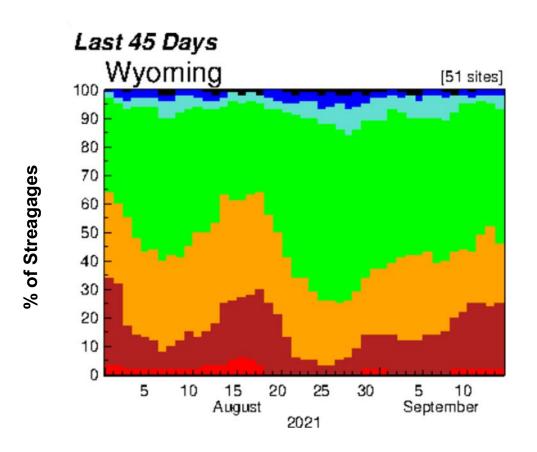
## Stream Flow Status







# Flow Trends since early August



Only sites with 30 yrs record and no missing values.

Trend during last 3 weeks is towards more streams being significantly below their long-term average flow

Still slightly better than a month ago

#### Lowest relative to their average

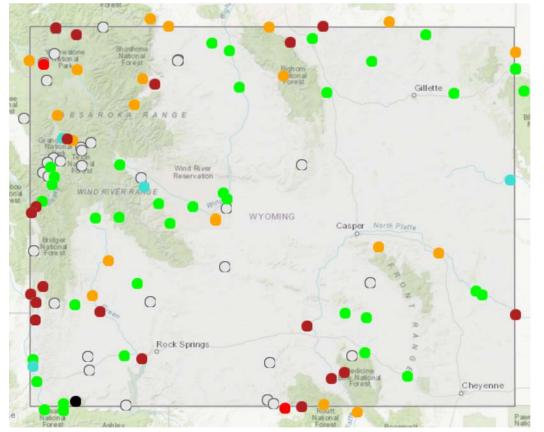
- **Firehole River near West** Yellowstone
- North Brush Creek near Saratoga

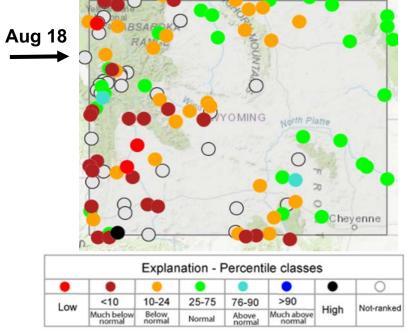
		Explar	nation - F	Percent	ile classe	s	
•		•	•		•	•	0
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90		Not-ranked
LOW	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal	High	Not-ranked

https://waterwatch.usgs.gov



## **USGS** 7-Day Avg Compared to last Month (Sep 16)

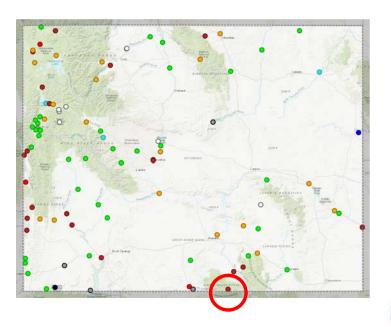


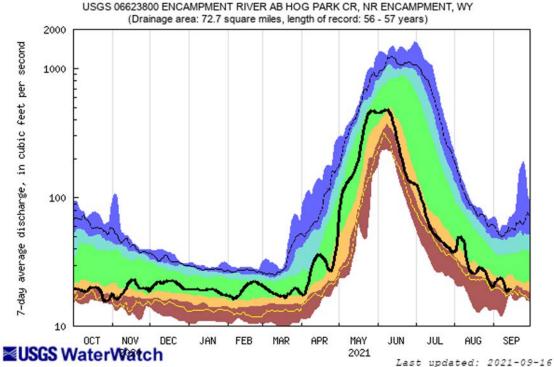


https://waterwatch.usgs.gov

**Most locations improved** slightly from last month

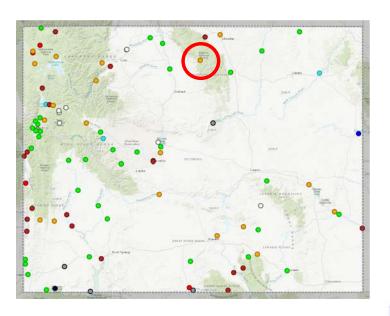






	E	xplana	tion - Pe	ercentile	classes	ŝ	
							_
lowest- 10th percentile	5	10-24	25-75	76-90	95	90th percentile -highest	Flow
Much below	Normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much a	bove normal	riow

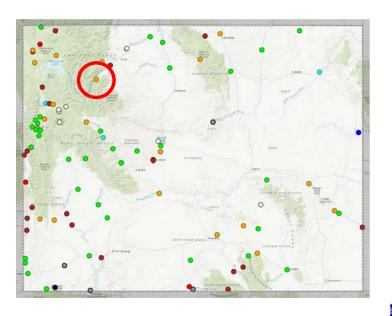


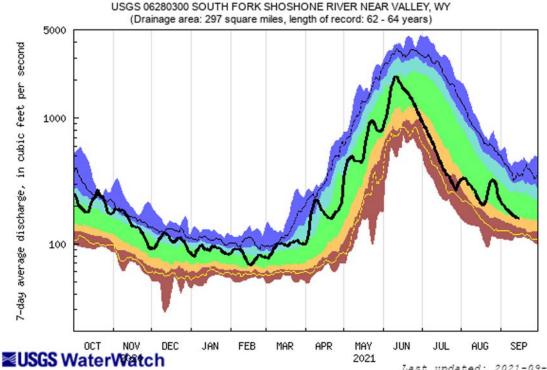


USGS 06278300 SHELL CREEK ABOVE SHELL CREEK RESERVOIR. WY (Drainage area: 23.1 square miles, length of record: 64 - 65 years) 700 in cubic feet per 100 7-day average discharge, 10 JAN MAY SEP **ZUSGS** WaterWatch 2021

	E	xplana	tion - Pe	ercentile	classes	ŝ	
							_
lowest- 10th percentile	5	10-24	25-75	76-90	95	90th percentile -highest	Flow
Much below	Normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much a	bove normal	riow

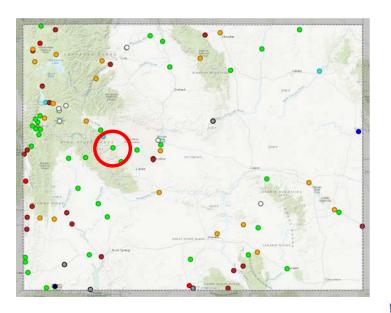






	E	xplana	tion - Pe	ercentile	classes	ŝ	
							_
lowest- 10th percentile	5	10-24	25-75	76-90	95	90th percentile -highest	Flow
Much below	Normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much a	bove normal	11011





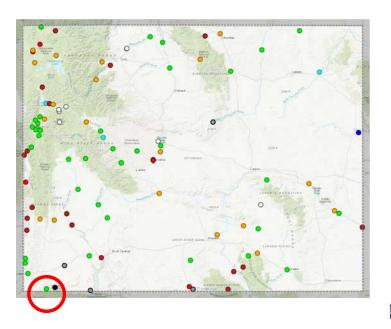
USGS 06224000 BULL LAKE CREEK ABOVE BULL LAKE, WY (Drainage area: 187 square miles, length of record: 65 - 67 years) 4000 1000 100 10 JAN SEP MAY **■USGS** WaterWatch 2021

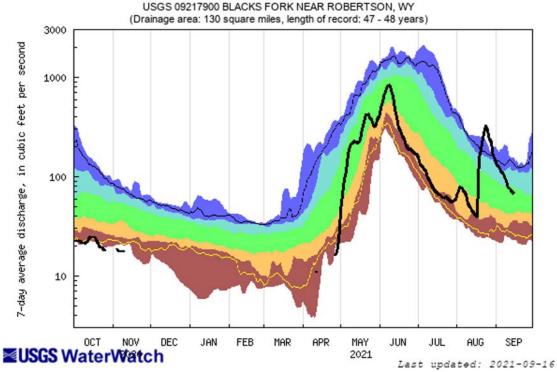
https://dashboard.waterdata.usgs.gov/ https://waterdata.usgs.gov/

	E	xplana	tion - Pe	ercentile	classes	ŝ	
							_
lowest- 10th percentile	5	10-24	25-75	76-90	95	90th percentile -highest	Flow
Much below	Normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much a	bove normal	riow

Last updated: 2021-09-16



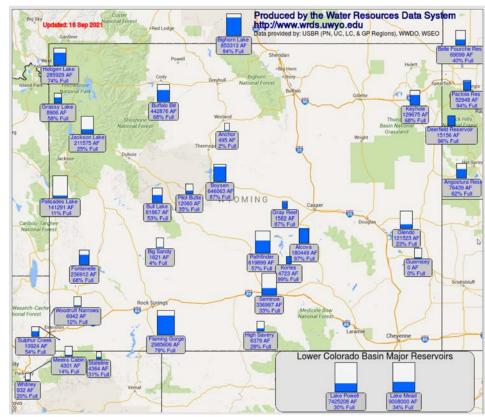




	E	xplana	tion - Pe	ercentile	classes	ŝ	
							_
lowest- 10th percentile	5	10-24	25-75	76-90	95	90th percentile -highest	Flow
Much below	Normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much a	bove normal	riow



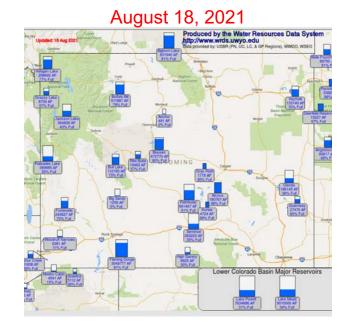
# **USGS** WY Reservoirs (Updated 09/16/21)



September 16, 2021

**Compared to August** 

- Most reservoirs decreased slightly in volume of water
- No significant changes



http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu/surface water/teacups.html





Districts having some regulation in effect

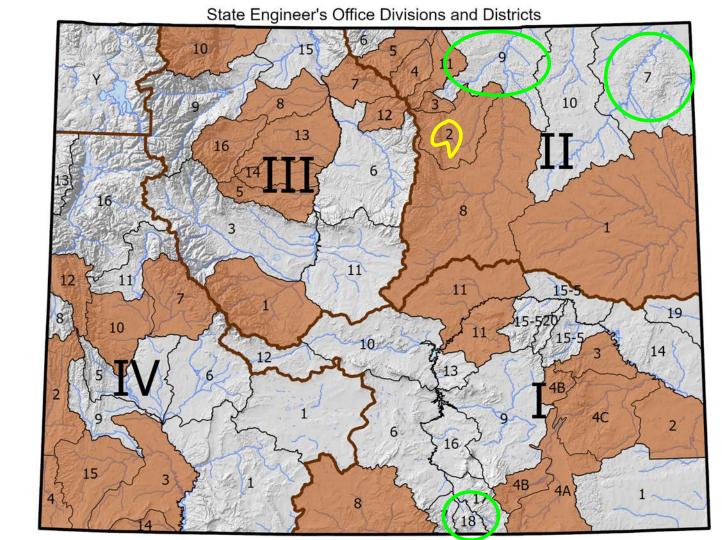
## **Division Superintendents:**

Div I: Brian Pugsley brian.pugsley@wyo.gov

Div II: David Schroeder <a href="mailto:d.schroeder@wyo.gov">d.schroeder@wyo.gov</a>

Div III: Loren Smith loren.smith@wyo.gov

Div IV: Kevin Payne kevin.payne@wyo.gov





### **Harmful Cyanobacterial Blooms**

- Dense concentrations of cyanobacteria (also known as blue green algae)
- Thrive in warm, nutrient rich waterbodies
- Appear as surface scums, clumps, and/or diffuse in water column
- Can produce toxins that can affect the nervous system, liver, kidneys, and skin
- Can affect recreation, wildlife, drinking water, and agriculture











# Harmful Cyanobacterial Bloom Action Plan for Publically Accessible Waterbodies in Wyoming



- Developed by the WDEQ, the WDH, the WLB, resource management agencies, and other stakeholders
- Identify potential HCBs in Wyoming surface waters and inform collaborators and the public of the potential health risks

STEP 1: Surveillance and Reporting

STEP 2: Optional Preliminary Screening

STEP 3: Data Collection and Issuing Advisories

STEP 4: Lifting Advisories



### **Current Bloom Advisories in Wyoming**

The WDH issues a Bloom Advisory when cyanobacteria abundance exceeds 20,000 cells/mL.



- Big Sandy Reservoir
- Boysen Reservoir
- Brooks Lake
- Buffalo Bill Reservoir
- Eden Reservoir
- Flaming Gorge Reservoir
- Fontenelle Reservoir
- Glendo Reservoir
- West Granite Springs Reservoir
- Kemmerer City Reservoir
- Keyhole Reservoir
- Leazenby Lake
- Ocean Lake
- Pathfinder Reservoir
- Pelham Lake
- Rainbow Lake
- Saratoga Lake
- Seminoe Reservoir
- Sloans Lake
- Upper Jade Lake
- Viva Naughton Reservoir
- Wheatland Reservoir #3
- Woodruff Narrows



### **Current Toxin Advisories in Wyoming**

The WDH issues a Toxin Advisory when toxins exceed recreational thresholds.



- Leazenby Lake (Hundred Springs Reservoir)
- Keyhole Reservoir
- Saratoga Reservoir
- Woodruff Narrows Reservoir



#### If You Encounter a Bloom

- Do not swim or come in contact with green water, scums, or clumps
- Do not ingest water from a bloom
- Rinse fish with clean water and eat only the fillet portion
- Avoid water spray from a bloom
- Do not allow pets or livestock to drink water near a bloom, eat bloom material, or lick fur after contact
- Report the bloom to DEQ
- Report any HCB related illnesses to WDH















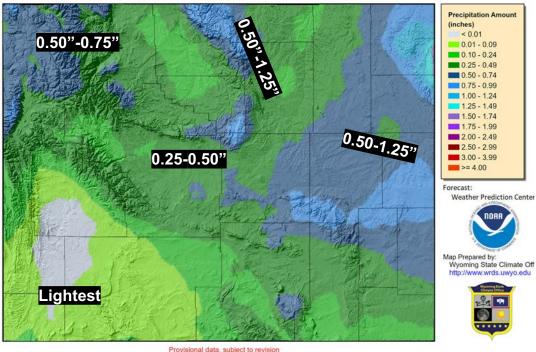


# **Forecasts & Outlooks**



## 7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast **Sept 16 - 22**

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast 16 Sep 2021



The Quantitative Precipitation Forecast shows the liquid amount of forecasted precipitation over the next 7 days The Forecast is created by the National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Weather Service, National Centers for Environmental Prediction and Weather Prediction Center - https://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov Map Layout Created 16 Sep 2021 http://www.wrds.uwvo.edu

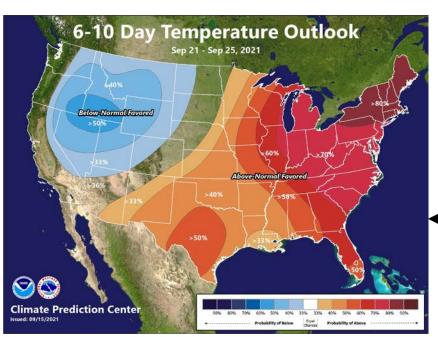
#### **Quantitative Precipitation Forecast** = Liquid Precipitation Forecast

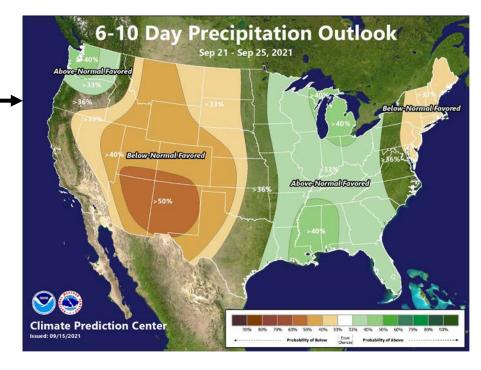
- Late Sunday through Monday
- Widespread rain for the northeast 2/3rds of state
- Heaviest mtns and northeast/east central
- Mountain snow above 7-8k FT
- Temperatures start warm over the weekend, then trend down to near/below normal temps next week



# 6-10 Day Precipitation September 21 - 25

- Probability = Chance
- Below normal chances of precipitation favored





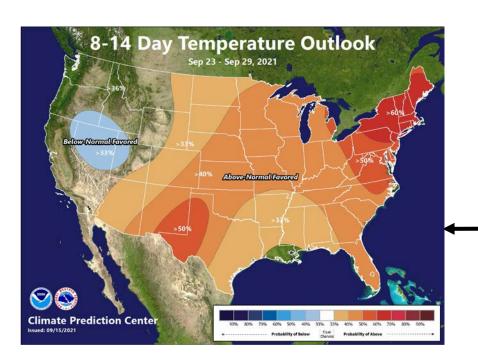
## 6 - 10 Day Temperatures

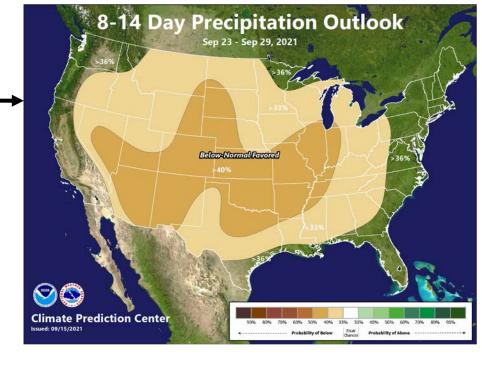
 Mixture of Below normal chances favored



# 8-14 Day Precipitation September 23 - 29

- Probability = Chance
- Below normal precipitation favored





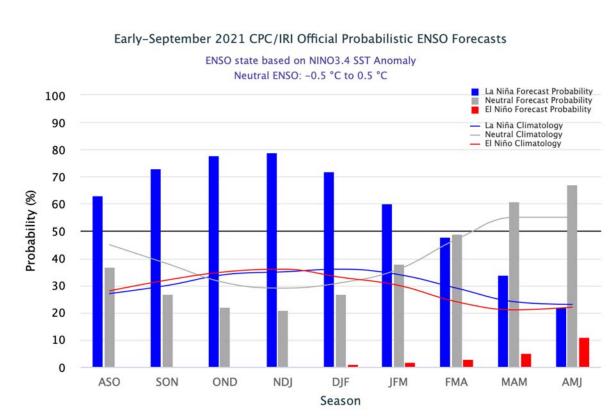
## 8 - 14 Day Temperatures

 Above Normal temperatures favored for eastern WY, more normal west.

http://bit.ly/3kw1WPF



- Note: WY's weather is not as strongly connected to ENSO due to our distance from the ocean
- High probability of a second La Nina in a row.
- Official Winter Outlook released in Oct





### **Fuels Status: Energy Release Component**

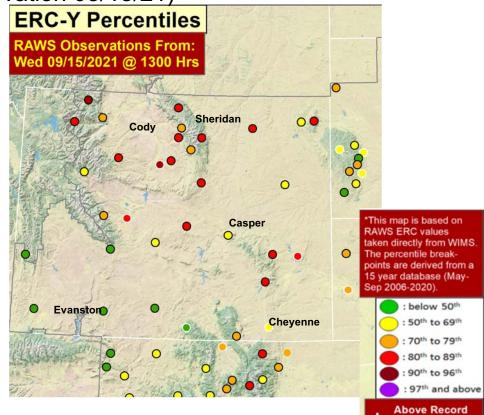
(Observation 08/18/21)

#### **ERC= Energy Release Component**

- Potential total energy released per unit area within flaming zone of fire.
- Combines live & dead fuel moistures from all size classes.
- Percentiles based on May-September values from last 15 years.

#### **Currently in Wyoming**

- Northern/ Central Wyoming (Bighorn Basin) values are high.
- Most stations reporting above average ERC values.
- Direct Correlation to Drought!
- Low elevation fuels cured where moisture has been lacking. Periodic moisture in other areas keeping things green.
- Snow next week?



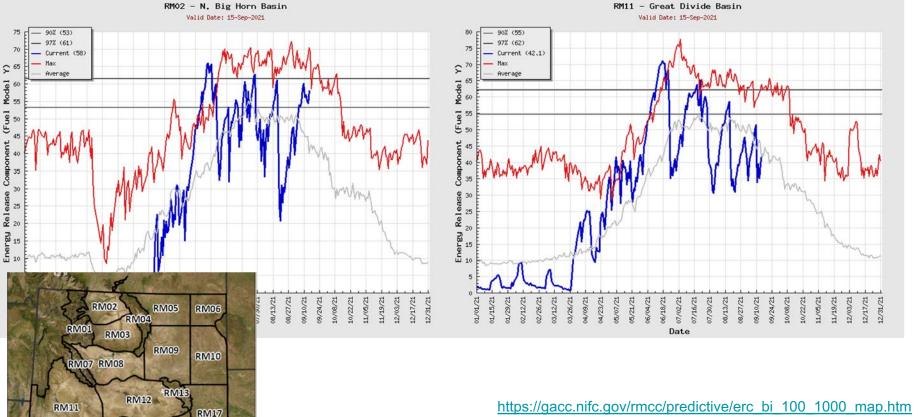
High (2006-2020) for this Date



RM15 RM16

### **Fuels Status: Energy Release Component**

(Observation 09/15/21)

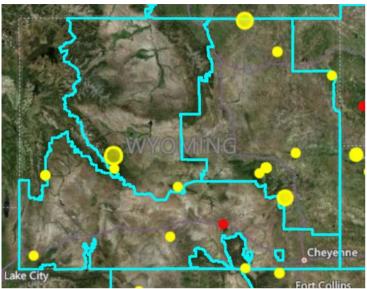




## **2021 Wildfire Activity to Date**

#### **A National Picture**

Issued 09/15/21



New Fires Initial Attack Age < 30 hrs	
Ongoing Fires Age < 10 days & Updated < 5 days	
Prescribed Fires Age < 10 days & Updated < 5 days	

GACC	Incidents	Cumulative Acres	Crews	Engines	Helicopters	Total Personnel	Change in Personnel
AICC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NWCC	19	672,755	120	279	41	5,406	-200
ONCC	10	2,037,738	157	575	70	9,388	-150
oscc	5	54,028	26	66	27	1,108	47
NRCC	22	383,891	22	110	11	1,505	3
GBCC	6	70,666	10	15	10	505	38
swcc	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RMCC	6	13,048	7	19	8	329	12
EACC	2	28,154	0	15	2	276	4
SACC	4	1,177	0	12	0	38	8
Total	74	3,261,457	342	1,091	169	18,555	-240

#### **Wyoming Fires**

Issued 09/15/21

- Fire occurrence has been limited.
- Initial Attack efforts remain successful.

https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf https://gacc.nifc.gov/rmcc/index.php



### Current Large Fires Burning in WY

#### **UPDATED NIMS 209 REPORTED INCIDENTS**

PRIORITY	INCIDENT NAME	ST	UNIT	IC	START DATE	SIZE	SIZE CHANGE 24 HRS	% CTN	TOTAL PERS	PERS CHANGE 24 HRS
1	Sand Creek	WY	SHF	IMT3 Warder	9/9	907	0	30%	197	+12
2	Crater Ridge	WY	BHF	ICT4 Vasey, DeFord (T)	7/17	6,750	+16	68%	40	0

**Sand Creek,** Shoshone National Forest. IMT3 Warder. 13 miles W of Lander, WY. Burning in timber (litter and understory), grass and brush. Minimal fire behavior with creeping, smoldering and backing. Road and area closures in effect.

**Crater Ridge,** Bighorn National Forest. ICT4 Vasey, DeFord (T). 31 miles W of Sheridan, WY. Burning in timber (litter and understory), heavy logging slash, and grass. Active fire behavior with group torching, smoldering and creeping. Road, area, and trail closures in effect. Potential threat to residences.

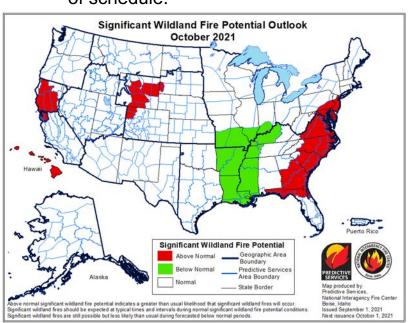


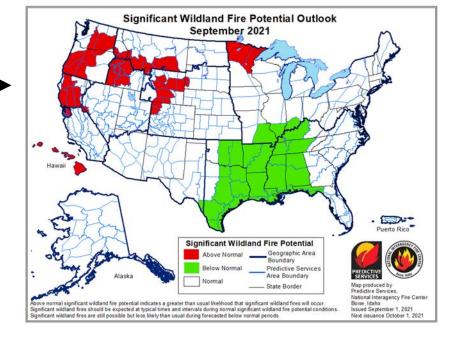
### Wildland Fire Outlooks

### September 2021

#### Issued September 1, 2021

- No major shift in Danger from last month to this month. Still significant for WY.
- Maintaining the 1-2 months fire occurrence ahead of schedule.





#### October 2021

- Most of Wyoming remains in Above Normal Significant Wildfire potential through October.
- Concerning due to potential length of fire season.















Extension

# How to get involved ...

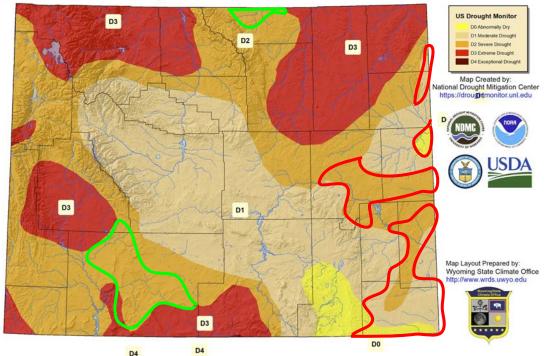


#### **US Drought Monitor for September 14, 2021**

(Released Thursday, September 16, 2021)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

D4

US Drought Monitor as of 14 September 2021



The U.S. Drought Monitor, is a weekly map of drought conditions produced jointly by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, The U.S. Drought Monitor website is hosted and maintained by the NDMC, http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Drought Level	Percentile
None	>30
D0 (Abnormally Dry)	21 to 30
D1 (Moderate Drought)	11 to 20
D2 (Severe Drought)	6 to 10
D3 (Extreme Drought)	3 to 5
D4 (Exceptional Drought)	0 to 2

Improvements in Sweetwater County along with north-central Sheridan County since the last webinar followed by several degradations over eastern Wyoming.











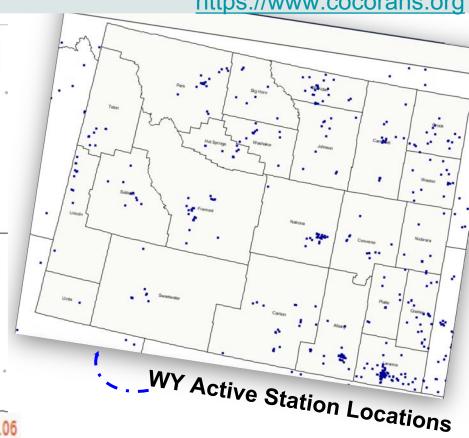
CacaRaths

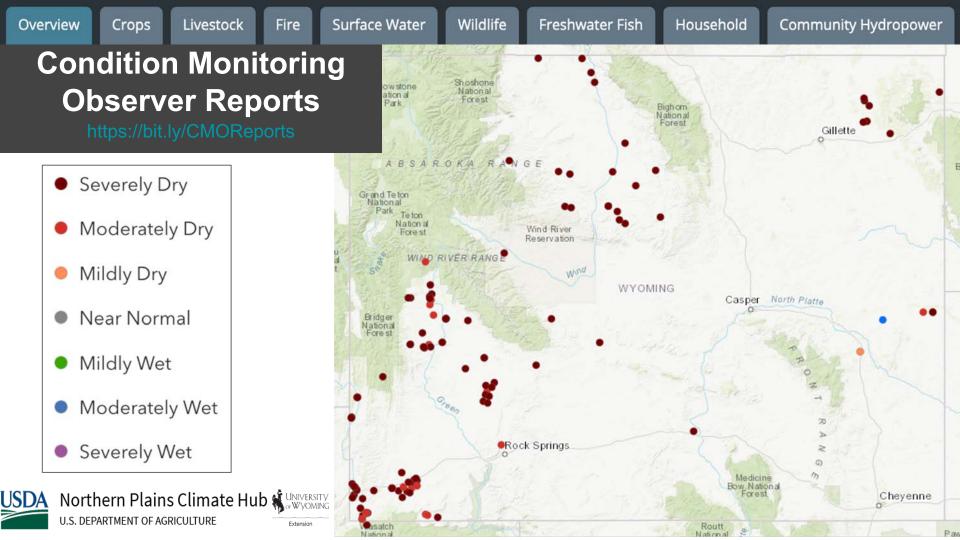
CoCoRaHS Mapping System

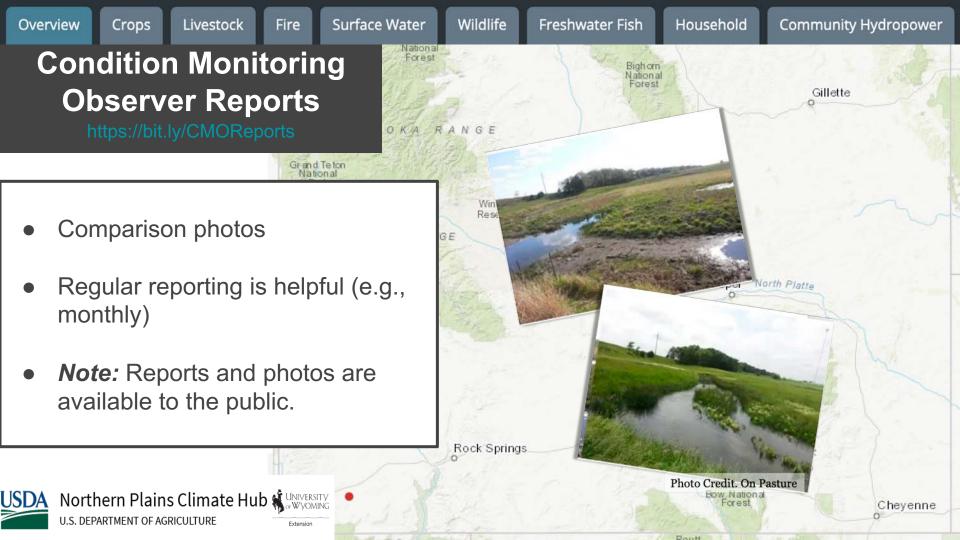
https://www.cocorahs.org

## September 16, 2021:























Extension

#### **Tony Bergantino**

WRDS & State Climate Office antonius@uwyo.edu

#### Tom Frieders

National Weather Service Billings tom.frieders@noaa.gov

#### **Brian Loving**

USGS bloving@usgs.gov

#### Eric Chapman

BLM echapman@blm.gov

#### **Kelsee Hurshman**

WY Dept. of Environmental Quality kelsee.hurshman1@wyo.gov

#### Windy Kelley

USDA NPCH & UW-Extension wkelley1@uwyo.edu

#### WY Drought Info & Resources

https://drought.wyo.gov

WYDEQ: Harmful Cyanobacterial Blooms

https://www.wyohcbs.org/

**WGFD: Fire Restriction Tracker** 

https://bit.ly/wgfd\_fireban

#### **CoCoRaHS**

https://www.cocorahs.org

Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMOR)

https://bit.ly/CMOReports

## Thank you! Questions?