

# WY Conditions & Outlooks:

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

## April 28, 2022

The University of Wyoming is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.



## **Presentation Outline**

- Current Conditions: Overview
  - Snow Water Equivalent (SWE)
  - Streamflow
  - Reservoir Supply
  - Water Calls and Allocations
- **Outlooks:** Temperature & Precipitation
  - Fuels' Status & Wildland Fire Outlook
- Questions



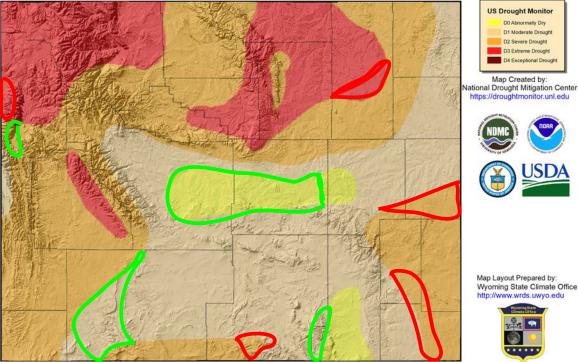
## **Current Conditions**



#### US Drought Monitor for April 26, 2022

(Released Thursday, April 28, 2022) Valid 8 a.m. EDT

US Drought Monitor for 26 Apr 2022



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

Map Layout Created 28 Apr 2022 http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

https://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 and degradations in the last month. Recent precipitation is starting to erode some of the areas but longer term dryness is filling in others.



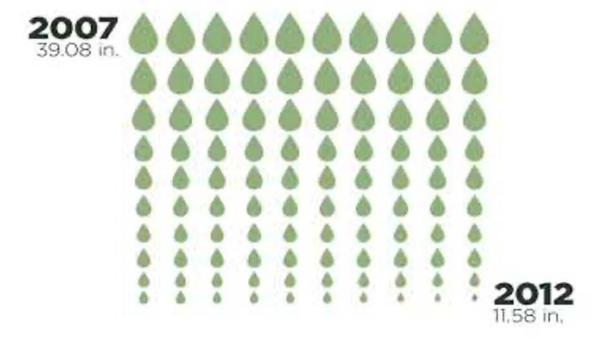
Map Layout Prepared by: Wyoming State Climate Office http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu



#### How the US Drought Monitor is Formed







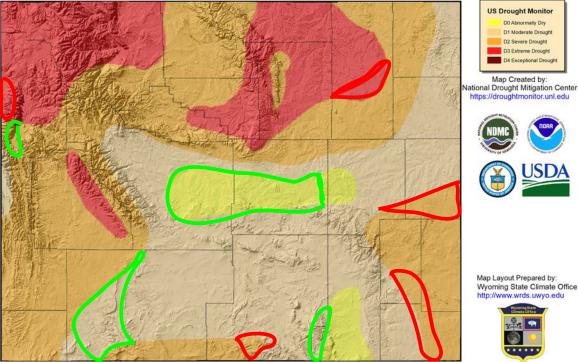




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Improvements and degradations in the last month. Recent precipitation is starting to erode some of the areas but longer term dryness is filling in others.



Map Layout Prepared by: Wyoming State Climate Office http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu



#### **Above Median:**

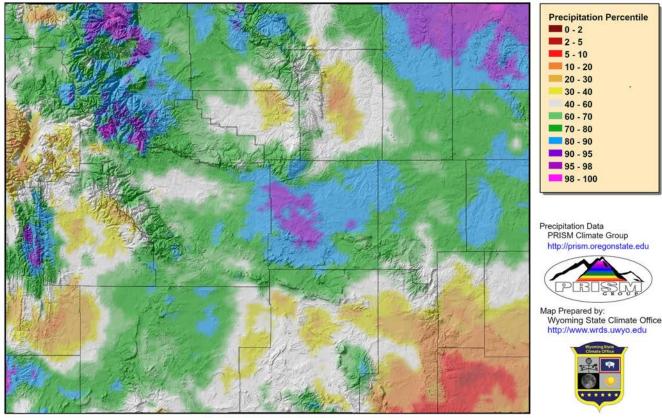
• Much of Wyoming

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

- Southeast
- Scattered other pockets

#### 14-Day Precipitation Percentile (14 Apr 2022 to 27 Apr 2022)

14-Day Precipitation (Percentile) for 14 Apr 2022 to 27 Apr 2022



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 28 Apr 2022 http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu Daily percentiles created from PRISM daily precipitation grids



#### **Above Median:**

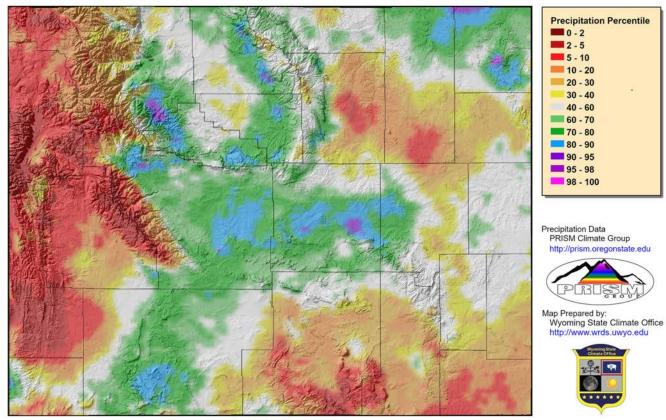
- Bighorn Basin Edges
- Southeast Park County
- Western Hot Springs County
- Sweetwater County
- Natrona County
- Fremont County
- Northeast

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

- Higher elevation west
- Southeast/South Central
- Johnson County
- Southern Campbell County

#### 90-Day Precipitation Percentile (28 Jan 2022 to 27 Apr 2022)

90-Day Precipitation (Percentile) for 28 Jan 2022 to 27 Apr 2022



Provisional data, subject to revision

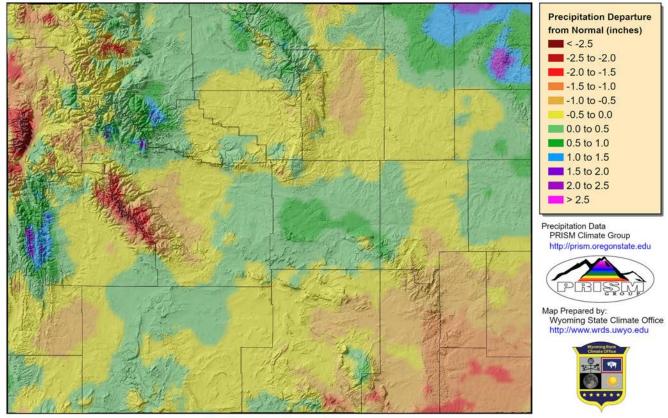
Daily precipitation data from PRISM Climate Group, Copyright ©2021, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University, http://prism.oregonstate.edu Map Created 28 Apr 2022 http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu Daily percentiles created from PRISM daily precipitation grids



#### **30-Day Precipitation (Departure from Average)**

(29 Mar 2022 to 27 Apr 2022)

30-Day Precipitation (Departure from 1991-2020 Average) for 29 Mar 2022 to 27 Apr 2022



Provisional data, subject to revision

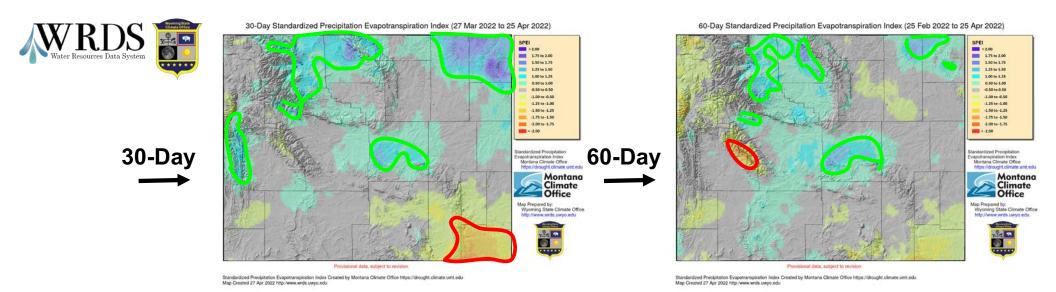
Monthly and Normal precipitation data from PRISM Climate Group, Copyright ©2021, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University, http://prism.oregonstate.edu Map Created 28 Apr 2022 http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu Precipitation totals created from PRISM daily precipitation grids

#### Below Average (Areas of Concern):

• Higher Elevations, Southeast

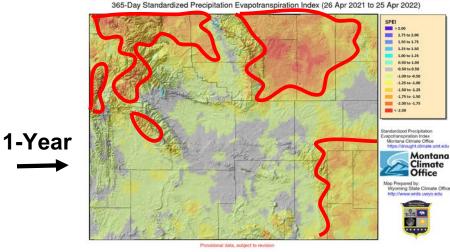
#### Above Average:

- Northeast
- Central
- Northern Bighorn Basin



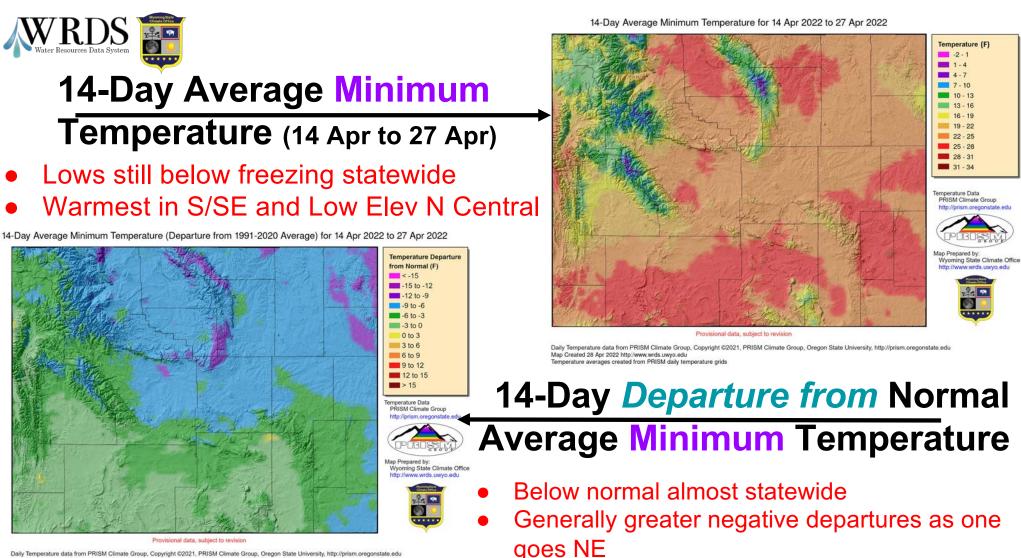
## Standardized Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index (SPEI)

Shorter-term wetness, longer-term dryness with areas of emerging in southeast.



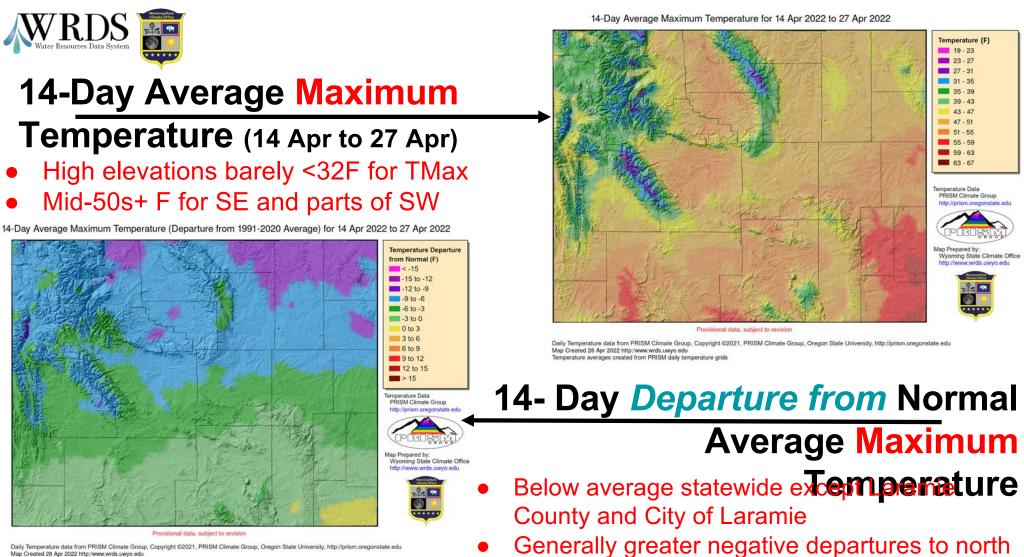
Standardized Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index Created by Montana Climate Office https://drought.climate.umt.edu Map Created 27 Apr 2022 http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

https://drought.climate.umt.edu



Daily Temperature data from PRISM Climate Group, Copyright ©2021, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University, http://prism.oregonstate.edu Map Created 28 Apr 2022 http://www.wrds.uwvo.edu

Temperature averages created from PRISM daily temperature grids



Map Created 28 Apr 2022 http://www.wrds.uwvo.edu Temperature averages created from PRISM daily temperature grids



#### 30-Day Average Mean Temperature (Departure from Average)

(29 Mar 2022 to 27 Apr 2022)

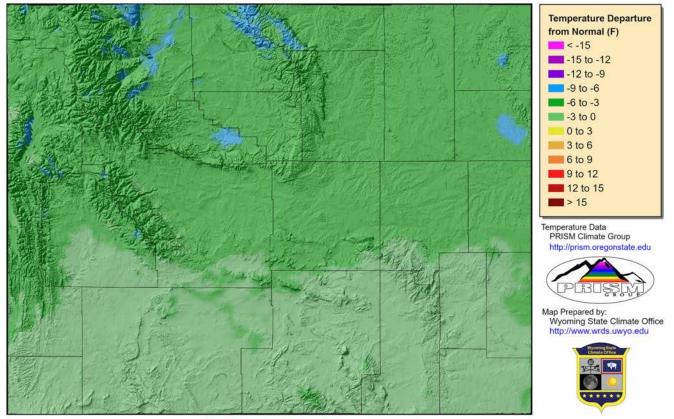
30-Day Average Mean Temperature (Departure from 1991-2020 Average) for 29 Mar 2022 to 27 Apr 2022

#### Above Average:

• None

#### **Below Average:**

- Northern 3F to 6F below
- Southern 0F to 3F below



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 28 Apr 2022 http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu Temperature averages created from PRISM daily temperature grids



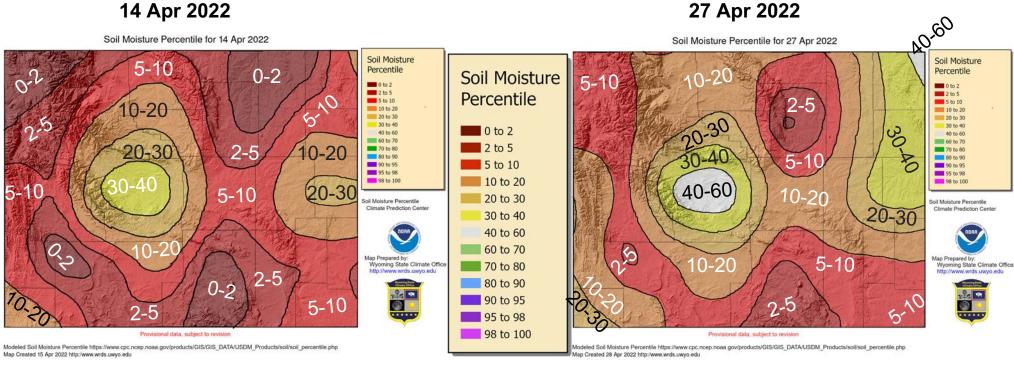
0-2

2-5

10

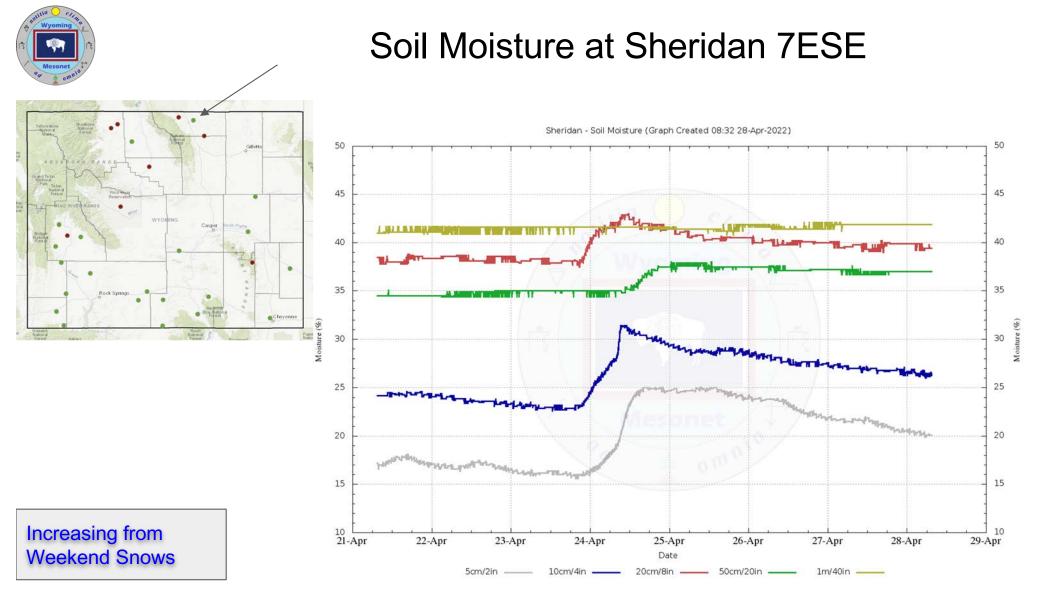
### **Soil Moisture Percentile**

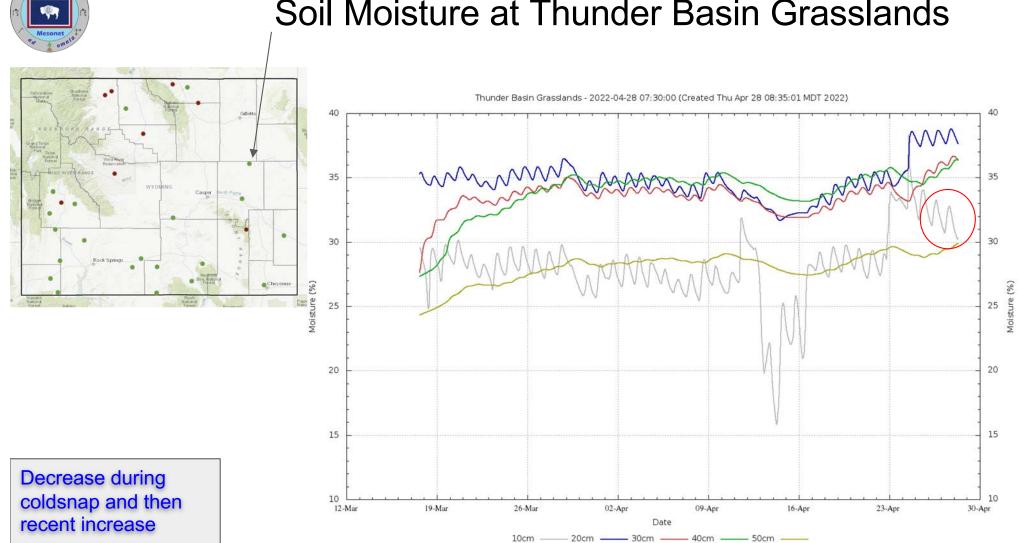
#### **Two Weeks Ago** 14 Apr 2022



Improvements statewide.

http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu/Soil/Current\_SoilMoisture\_Ptile.html



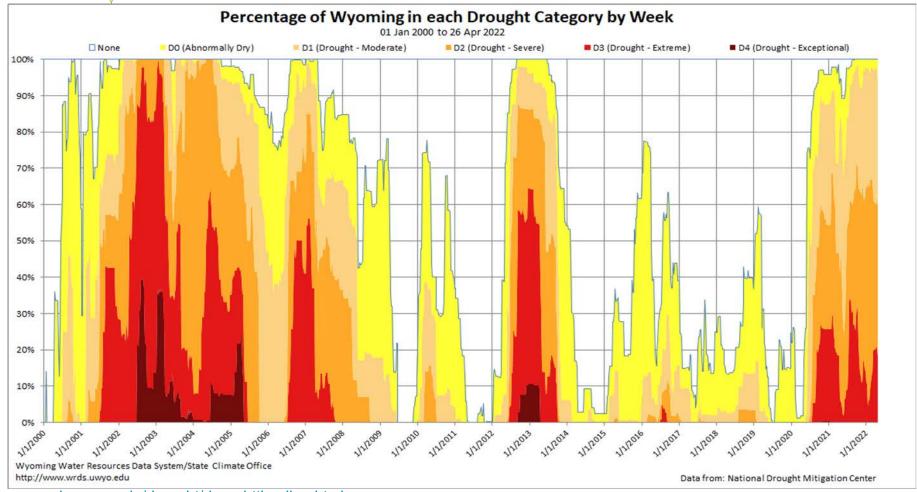


### Soil Moisture at Thunder Basin Grasslands



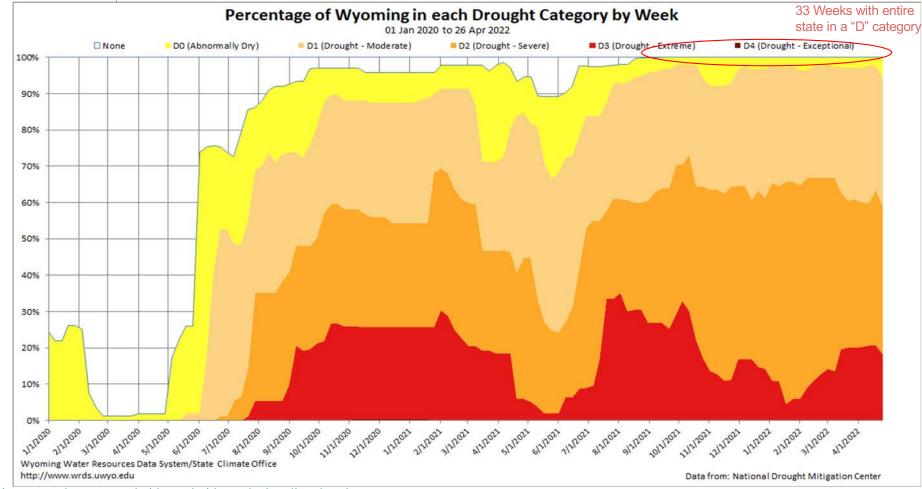
#### A decrease of 3.03% from last month

#### Wyoming Area Affected: 100% D0-D4 ; 94.14% D1-D4



http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu/drought/droughttimeline.html





http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu/drought/droughttimeline.html



http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu/Snow/BasinPeakSWE.html

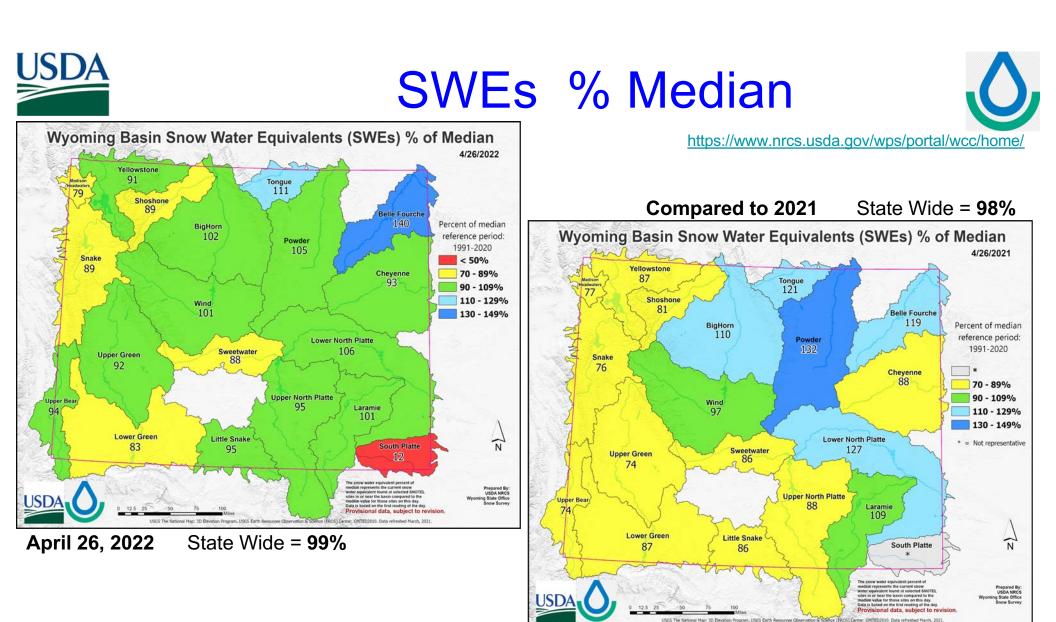


#### Peak Snow Water Equivalent Dates and Totals by Basin

This year's "to-date" peak snow water equivalent (SWE) compared to median. **Red** indicates **earlier** peak date or **lower** SWE compared to median **Blue** indicates **later** peak date or **higher** SWE compared to median

Basin	This Year Peak Date	This Year Peak SWE (inches)	Days Difference	Difference SWE (inches)		Median Peak Date	Median Peak SWE (inches)
Belle Fourche	18 Mar 2022	4.2	-16	-2.9	59%	03 Apr	7.1
Bighorn	26 Apr 2022	12.5	6	-1.5	89%	20 Apr	14.0
Cheyenne	15 Mar 2022	4.5	-19	-3.1	59%	03 Apr	7.6
Missouri Headwaters	25 Apr 2022	14.1	7	-3.4	81%	18 Apr	17.5
North Platte	19 Apr 2022	18.6	3	-3.2	85%	16 Apr	21.8
Powder	26 Apr 2022	9.2	9	-1.8	84%	17 Apr	11.0
Snake	25 Apr 2022	17.0	13	-3.6	83%	12 Apr	20.6
Tongue	26 Apr 2022	12.2	-6	-1.4	90%	02 May	13.6
South Platte	19 Apr 2022	13.2	-7	-3.2	80%	26 Apr	16.4
Upper Bear	18 Apr 2022	13.6	6	-4.2	76%	12 Apr	17.8
Upper Green	18 Apr 2022	11.5	.7	-3.0	79%	11 Apr	14.5
Upper Snake	23 Mar 2022	13.2	-14	-4.4	75%	06 Apr	17.6
Upper Yellowstone	24 Apr 2022	15.8	0	-3.6	81%	24 Apr	19.4
White-Yampa	18 Apr 2022	17.8	9	-3.2	85%	09 Apr	21.0

Data from Natural Resources Conservation Service SnoTel Network





Dec 1

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May 1

Jun 1

Jul 1

USDA

## SWEs for Select Basins



Station List

Arr 1

May 1

Jun 1

Jul 1

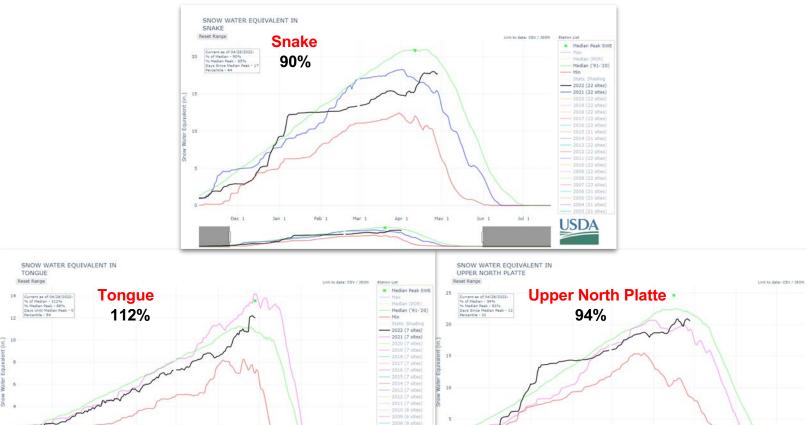
Median Peak SWE

Median ('91-'20)

------ 2022 (19 sites)

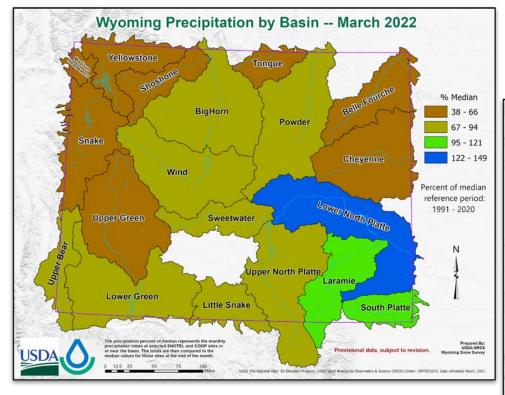
USDA

- 2021 (19 sites)



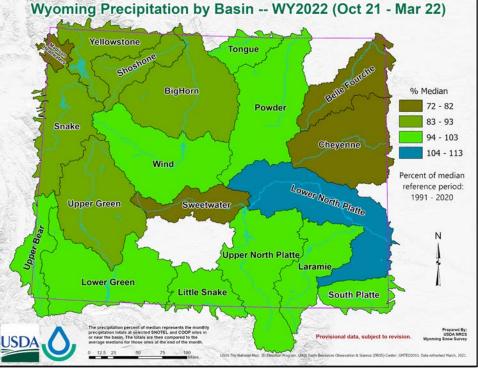


## **Basin Precipitation**



March 2022





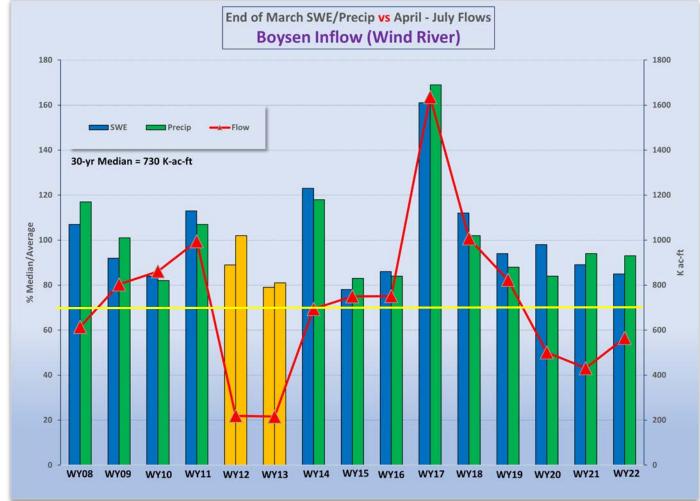




#### **Reservoir Storages Reservoir Storage by Basin** Note: All percentages are based April 1, 2022 on 1991 - 2020 medians 120% 100% 80% 60% 40% 20% BIGHORNBASIN SHOHOMERSIN 0% UPPER NORTH PARTY BASIN LOWERDORTHRATEBESH UPPER GREEN BASIN BELLEPOIRCHEBISIN LARAME RUER BASIN UTIE SHARE ASIN LOWERGREINBASIN SNAKEBASIN WIND BASIN TONGUEBASIN CHEEEME BASIN UPPERBEARDESIN ALL BASINS Current % Capacity Last Year's % Capacity Current % Median Last Year's % Median



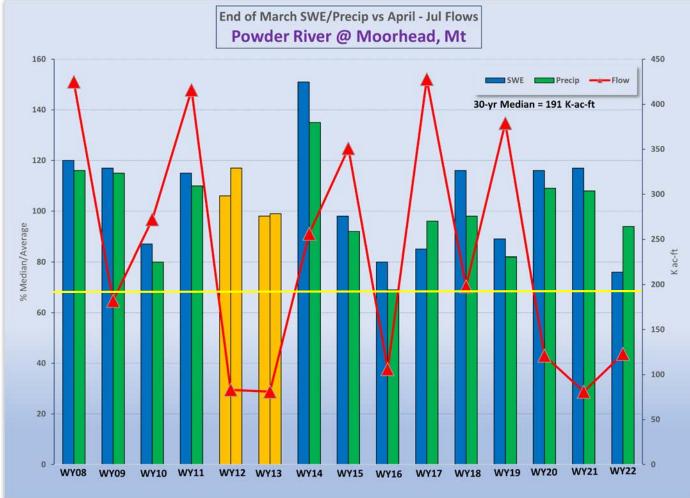






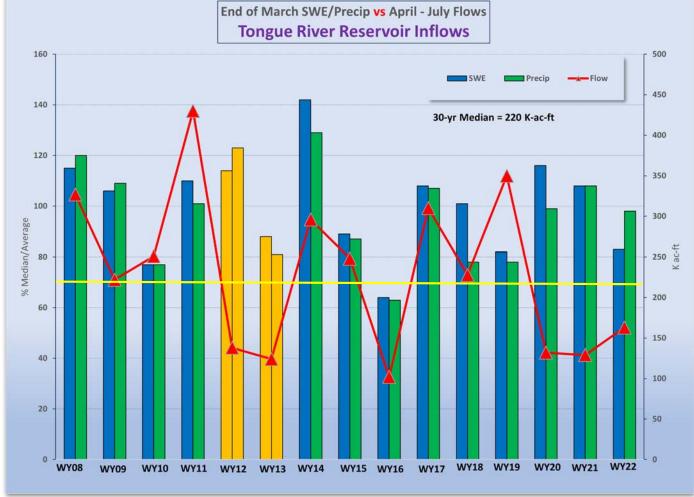
## SWEs/Precip vs Flows (Apr-Jul)







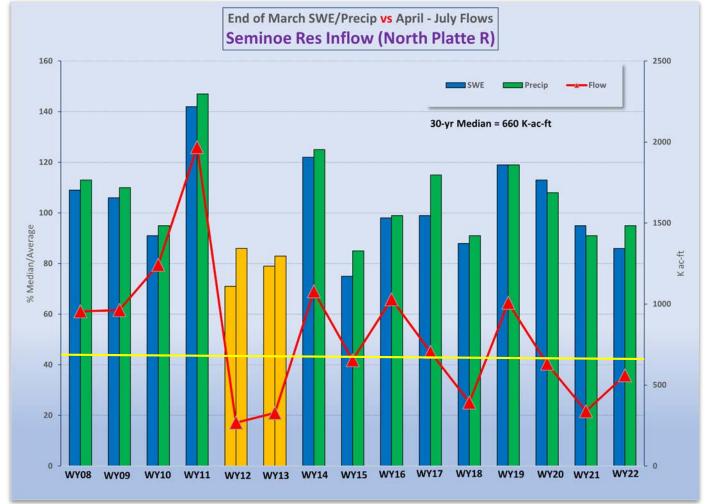






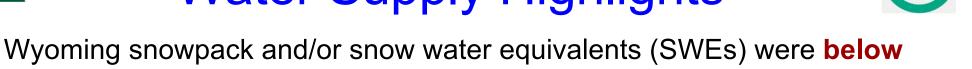
## SWEs/Precip vs Flows (Apr-Jul)







# Water Supply Highlights



- median by late March.
- Precipitation totals across Wyoming for March were below median. Water year precipitation totals continued to be <u>slightly</u> below median.
- Overall reservoir storages for late March continue to be **below** median.
- Stream flow snowmelt volumes during April through July across Wyoming are forecasted to be generally **below** median.

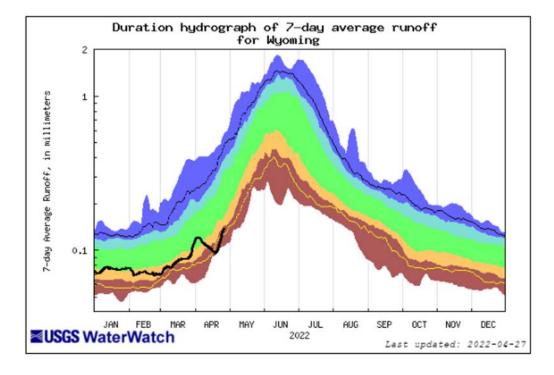


#### Water Supply Outlook Wyoming Water Supply Outlook Valid: APR - JUL April 1, 2022 123 163 Weston 755 Grey indance () Gillette 130 orland Sunshin Newcastle 11.1 Water Supply Points % Median 91 - 100 245 Casn 75 - 90 <75 Rawlins Rock Springs Saraton Prepared By: USDA NRCS N 230 Cheyenne Badds 12 120 Miler 15 30 60 Note: RED numbers refer to Volume in thousands (K) of ac-ft. USDA Forecasted volumes represent full natural flow and do not take One ac-ft is the volume necessary to cover 1 acre at a depth of 1 foot. 1 ac-ft is roughly equal to 326,000 gallons of water. into account diversions due to to irrigation and other water management practices





### WY Streamflow Overview (April 28, 2022)



	E	xplana	tion - Pe	ercentile	classe	S	
							_
lowest- 10th percentile	5	10-24	25-75	76-90	95	90th percentile -highest	Runof
Much below Normal		Below N	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		Runos

https://waterdata.usgs.gov/

- Coming out of winter baseflow
- Early stages of runoff
- Runoff (mountain snowpack) should be in full swing by mid-May

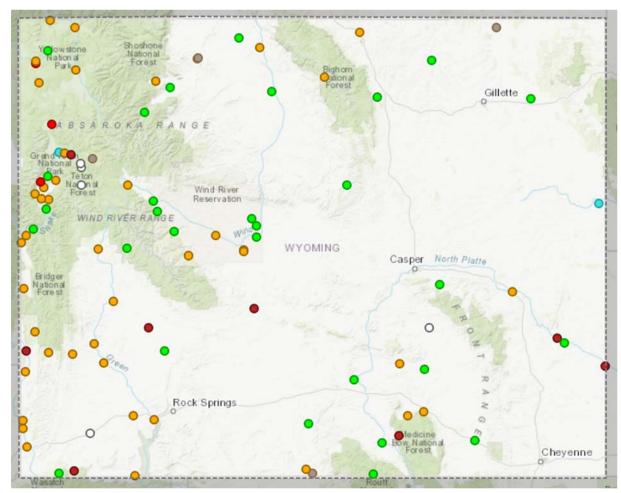


## Current Streamflow Conditions (April 28, 2022)

#### Streamflow Status



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

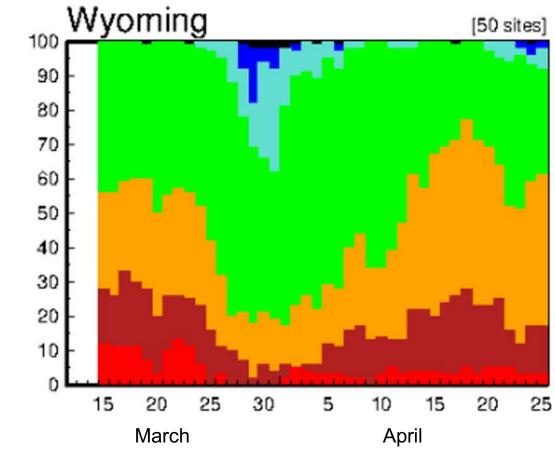




Percentage of stream gages

### Daily Streamflow Trends (Apr 28)

### Last 45 Days



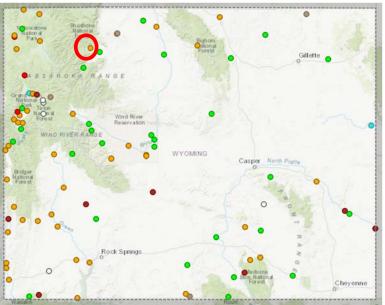
- Approx <sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> of sites reporting
- Runoff/precipitation late March

		Explan	ation - F	Percent	ile classe	s	
•	•	•	•			٠	0
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90		Not conker
Much below normal	Below normal		Above	Much above normal	High	Not-ranked	

https://waterwatch.usgs.gov



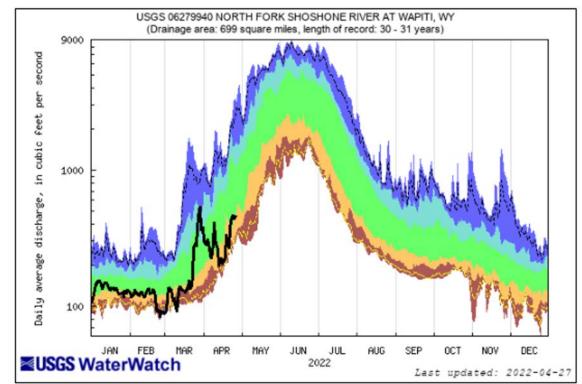
## Select WY Streamflows



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

https://waterdata.usgs.gov/

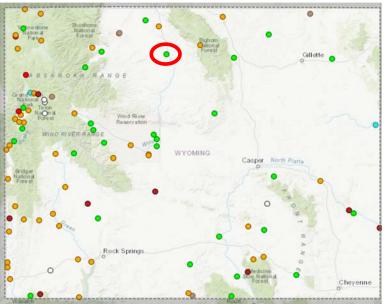
#### North Fork Shoshone River at Wapiti, WY Last updated Apr 28,2022



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



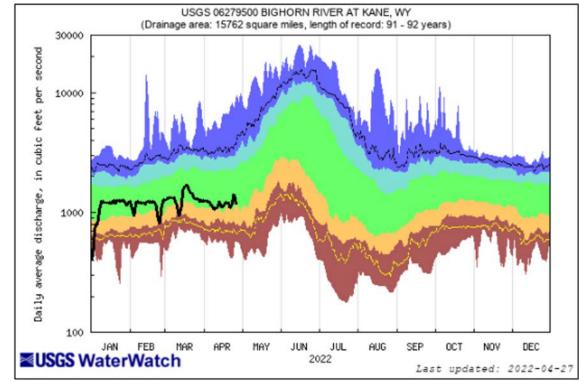
## Select WY Streamflows



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

https://waterdata.usgs.gov/

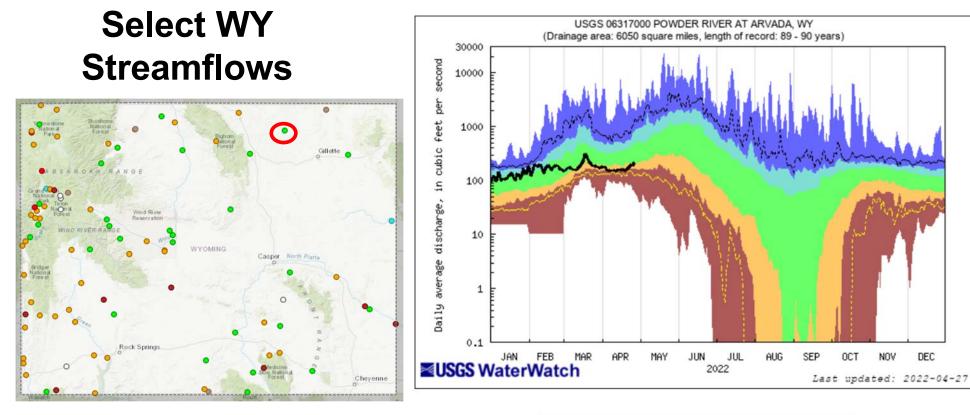
#### Bighorn River at Kane, WY Last updated Apr 28, 2022



	E	xplana	tion - Pe	ercentile	classes	S	
							_
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	Flow



#### Power River at Arvada, WY Last updated Apr 28, 2022



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

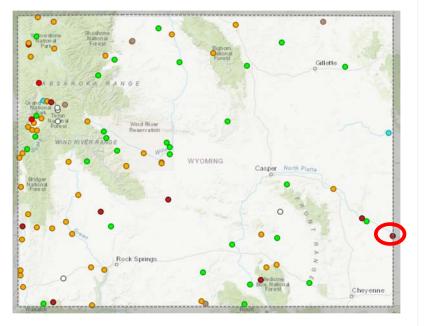
https://waterdata.usgs.gov/

	E	xplana	tion - Pe	ercentile	classes	5	
							_
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	FIOW



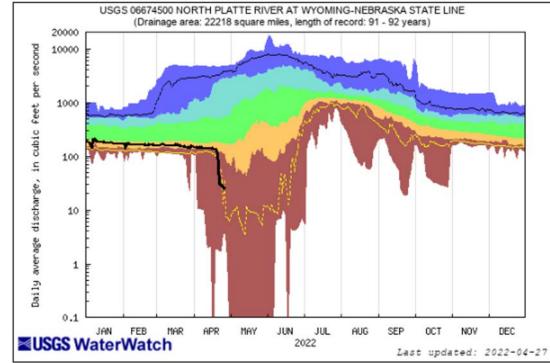
#### North Platte River at WY-NE State Line, WY Last updated Apr 28, 2022

## Select WY Streamflows



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

https://waterdata.usgs.gov/



	E	xplana	tion - Pe	ercentile	classe	S	
							_
lowest- 10th percentile	5	10-24	25-75	76-90	95	90th percentile -highest	Flow
Much below Normal		Below normal	Normal	Above	Much above normal		FIOW



## Select WY Streamflows

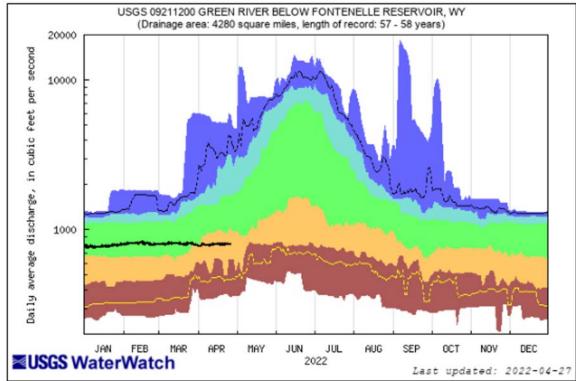
# Winner Bistonal Bistonal Bistonal A B S A R O KA R A N B E Gillette Minoral Mind River NUD RIVER RANDE Wind NUD RIVER RANDE Wind Rock Springs Bistonal Rock Springs Bistonal Diversion Bistonal Rock Springs Diversion Diversion

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

https://waterdata.usgs.gov/

## Green River below Fontenelle Reservoir, WY

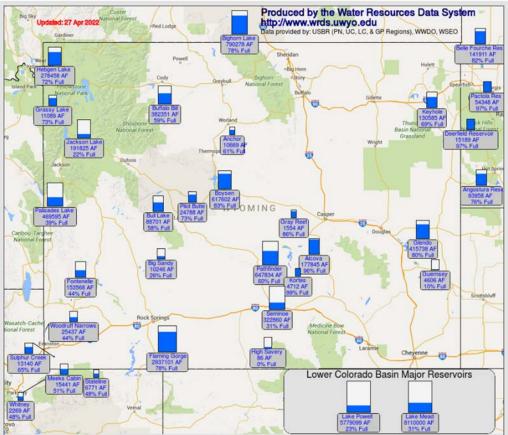
Last updated Apr 28, 2022



	E	xplana	tion - Pe	ercentile	classes	5	
							_
lowest- 10th percentile	5	10-24	25-75	76-90	95	90th percentile -highest	Flov
Much below	Normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much a	bove normal	1.04



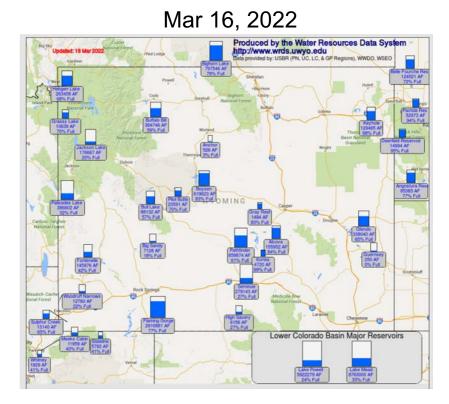
## Apr 28, 2022



http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu/surface\_water/teacups.html

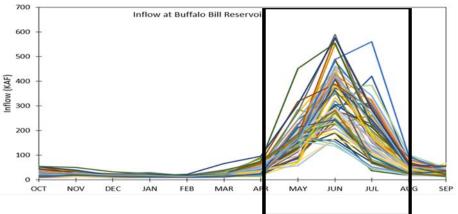
## **Compared to March**

- No significant changes
- Slight increases



# RECLAMATION Current Reservoir Conditions: Bighorn System





•April through July

•~80% of Annual Runoff Occurs at Buffalo Bill

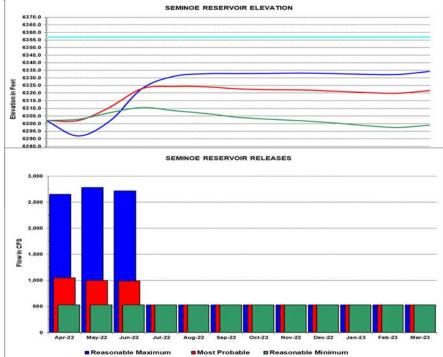
#### •~75% of Annual Runoff Occurs at Seminoe

•~60% of Annual Runoff Occurs at Boysen

### As of April 27, Bighorn System: 71% of Full, 105% of Average

<u>Reservoir</u>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<u>% of Full</u>	% of Avg
Bull Lake	88,700	152,500	58%	113%
Buffalo Bill	380,600	646,600	59%	96%
Boysen	617,300	741,600	83%	
116%				

BUREAU OF ----**Current Reservoir Conditions: North Platte System** RECLAMATION



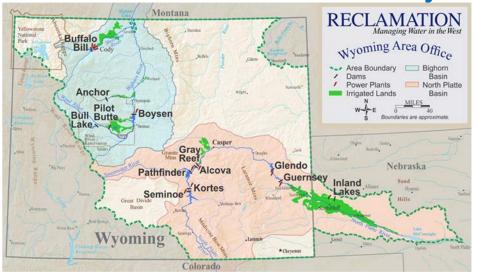
#### April 1, 2022 Forecast

Estim	ated	April - Ju	iy inflow
	-		a second second second

• [	Mini	imum:	200	,000	acre-	feet	

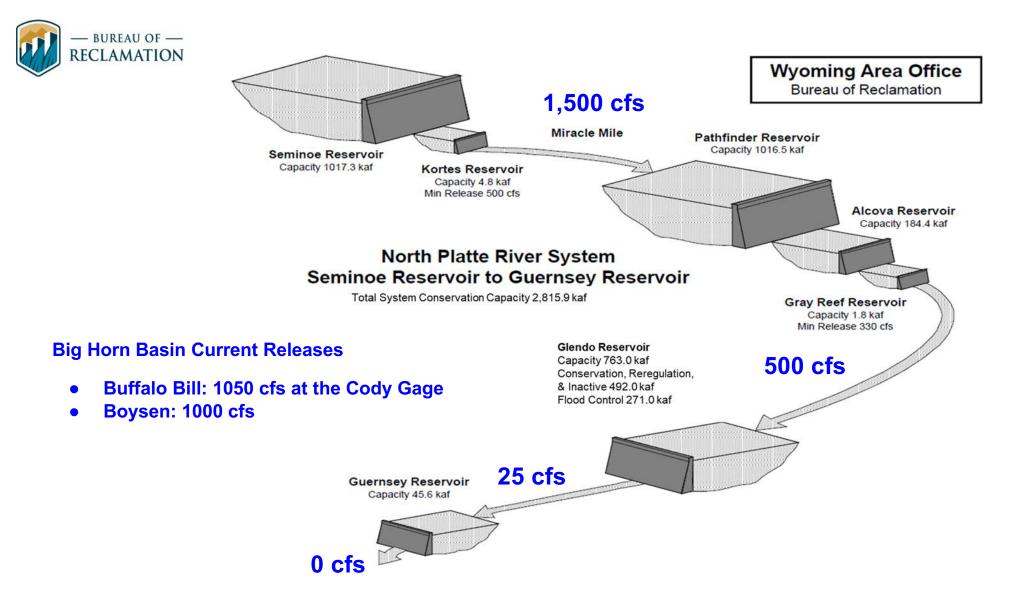
•	Expected:	450,000 acre-feet	

Maximum: 850,000 acre-feet

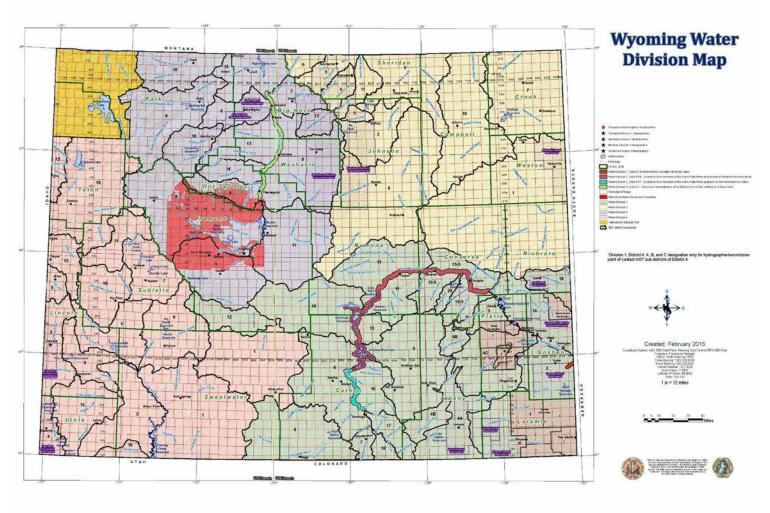


## As of April 26, North Platte System: 57% of Full, 89% of Average

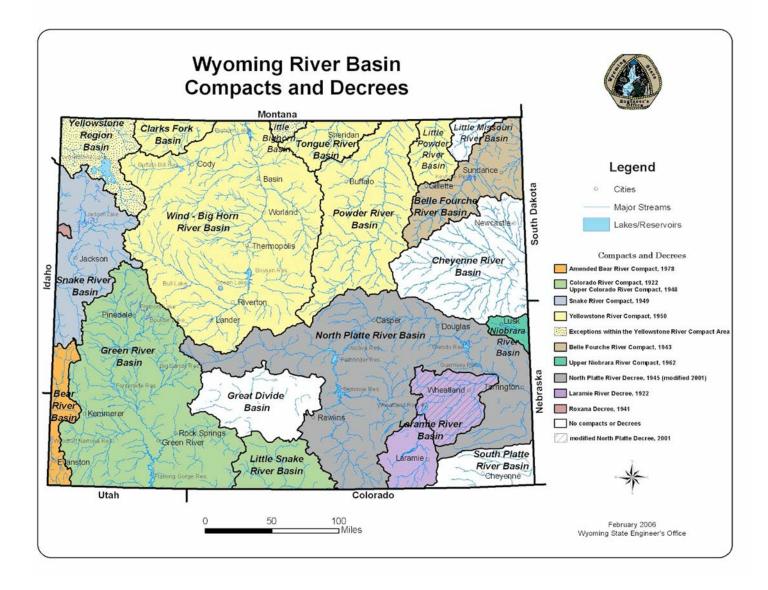
Reservoir	<u>Content</u>	<b>Capacity</b>	<u>% of Full</u>
<u>% of Avg</u>			
Seminoe	322,900	1,017,300	32%
61%			
Pathfinder	647,800	1,070,000	61%













<u>Division 1</u> North Platte River Decree North Platte River Basin

- 1. April 5, 2022 Call by BOR to fill Inland Lakes account
- 2. April 7, 2022 SE validated call to fill Inland Lakes account
- 3. April 8, 2022 Regulation in the basin begins (priority date of December 6, 1904)
  - a. Municipalities and Industries are to record diversions and work on finding replacement water for April 8th-30th time frame (TWUA or Pathfinder Mod account)
  - b. Irrigators regulated to December 6, 1904
- 4. Nearly constant outreach occurring with water users



Division 2

Yellowstone River Compact

- Tongue River Basin
  - 1. April 1, 2022 Call from Montana to fill Tongue River Reservoir
  - 2. Wyoming monitoring Post January 1,1950 rights
    - a. Diversions for irrigation
    - b. Reservoir storage
    - c. Domestic rights to  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre
  - 3. Meeting with public and our Montana counterparts to monitor and discuss changing hydrology



## Division 3

- 1. Owl Creek 1888
- 2. Gooseberry Creek 12/21/1906

## Division 4

1. None at this time



## **Contact Information for Calls/Administration**

## Division 1 Superintendent–Cory Rinehart, 532-2248

## Division 2 Superintendent–David Schroeder, 674-7012

Division 3 Superintendent-Joshua Fredrickson, 856-0747

Division 4 Superintendent–Kevin Payne, 279-3441



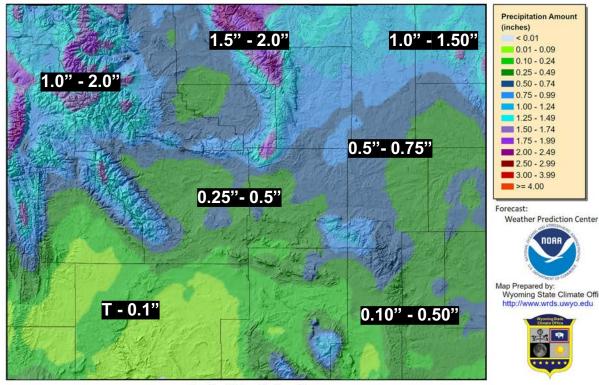
# **Forecasts & Outlooks**



# **7-Day Total Precipitation Forecast**

Apr 28 - May 4

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast 28 Apr 2022



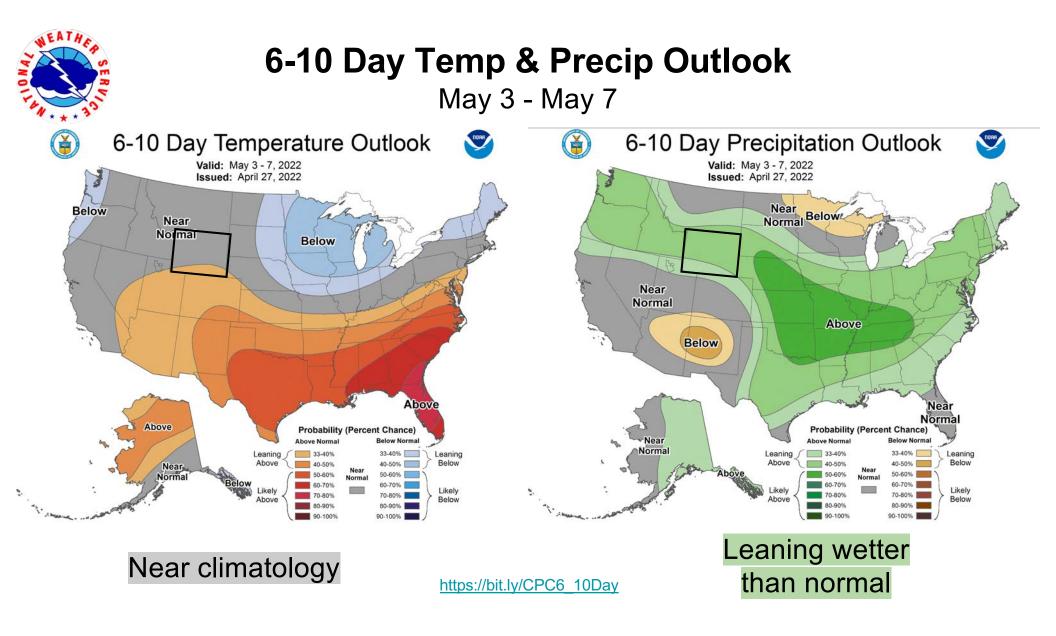
Provisional data, subject to revision

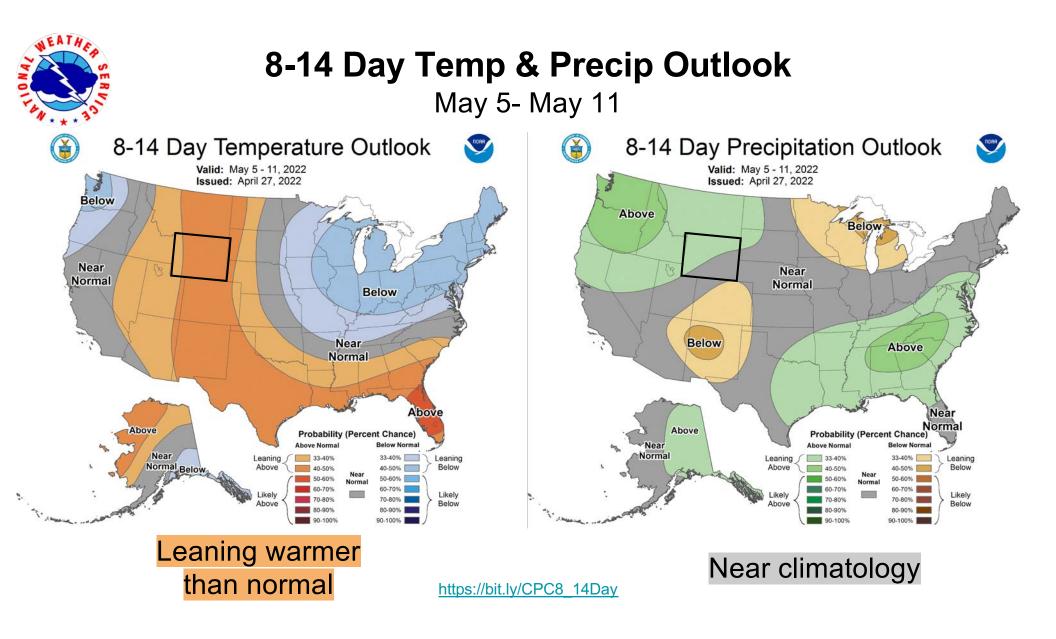
The Quantitative Precipitation Forecast shows the liquid amount of forecasted precipitation over the next 7 days The Forecast is created by the National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Weather Service, National Centers for Environmental Prediction, and Weather Prediction Center - https://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov Map Layout Created 28 Apr 2022 http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

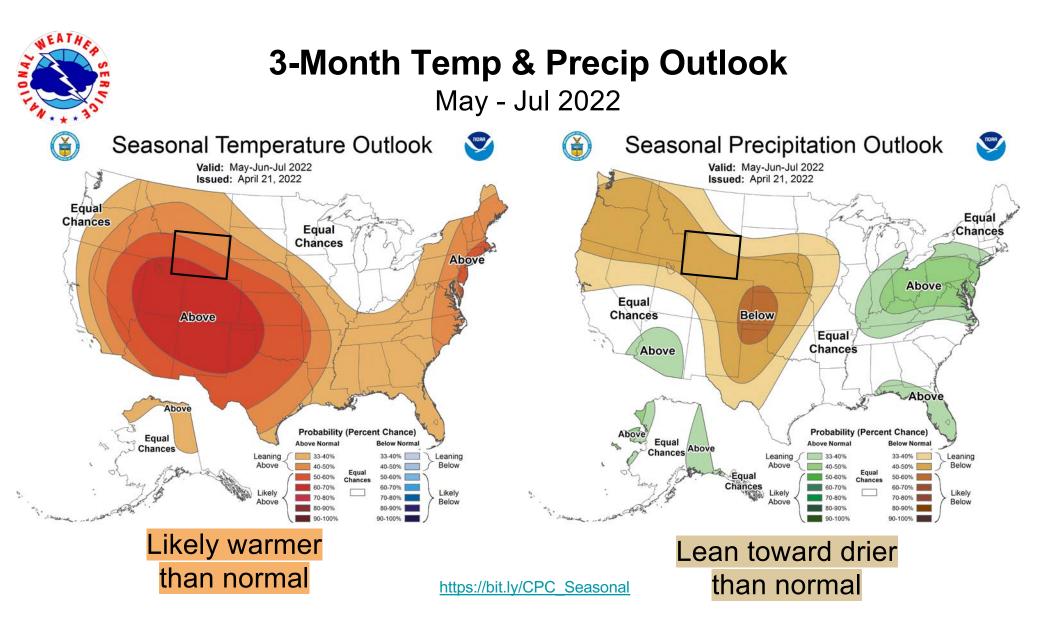
- Wet & active pattern.
- Several opportunities for precipitation:
  - Thurs PM Sat AM
  - Sun PM Mon AM
  - Tue Wed
- Highest amounts of moisture across northern half.
- Fairly dry in southwest and south central.

Note: Forecast includes "Snow Water Equivalent" ≈ Rain + Melted Snow

https://bit.ly/7\_dayQPForecast



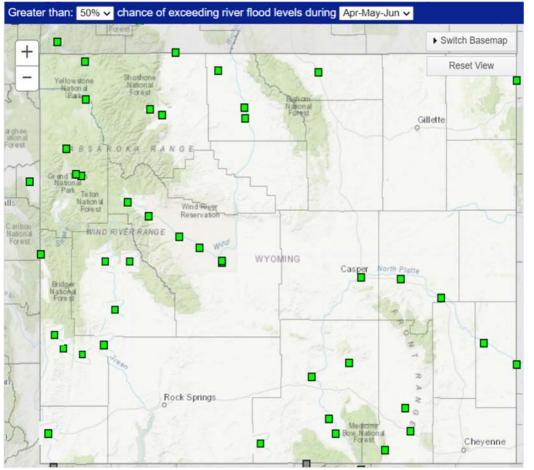






# Wyoming Flood Potential

April - June 2022



- Chances for river flooding is low through mid June.
- This graphic depicts the NWS river forecast locations, colored by the highest flood category expected during the next 90 days (greater than 50% chance).
- All Wyoming river forecast points are projected to stay below minor flood stage.

Note: River ice action is not accounted for.

water.weather.gov/ahps/long\_range.php



# **Fuel Moistures and Energy Release Component**

**Energy Release Component (ERC)** is a number related to the available energy (BTU) per unit area (square foot) within the flaming front at the head of a fire. It may also be considered a composite fuel moisture value as it reflects the contribution that all live and dead fuels have to potential fire intensity.

**1000-Hour Fuel Moisture (1000-hr FM)** represents the modeled moisture content in dead fuels in the 3 to 8 inch diameter class and the layer of the forest floor about four inches below the surface. The 1000-hr FM value is based on a running 7-day computed average using length of day, daily temperature and relative humidity extremes (maximum and minimum values) and the 24-hour precipitation duration values.

100-Hour Fuel Moisture (100-hr FM) 1" to 3" Dead Fuels

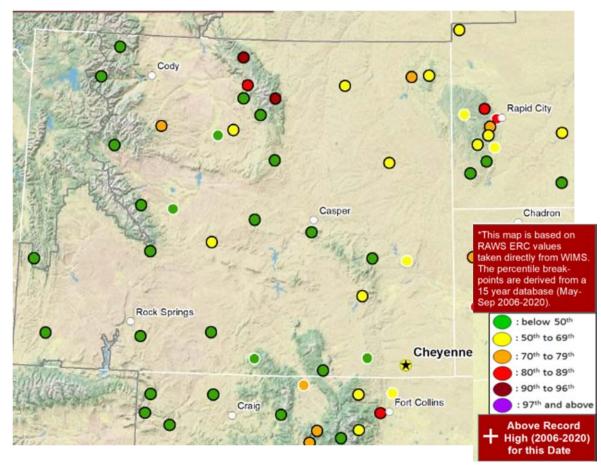
10-Hour Fuel Moisture (10-hr FM) 1/4" to 1" Dead Fuels

1-Hour Fuel Moisture (1-hr FM) 0" to 1/4" Dead Fuels

Live Fuel Moisture- Fuels transition from dormancy to green-up in the spring and early summer, then back to dormancy in the fall.



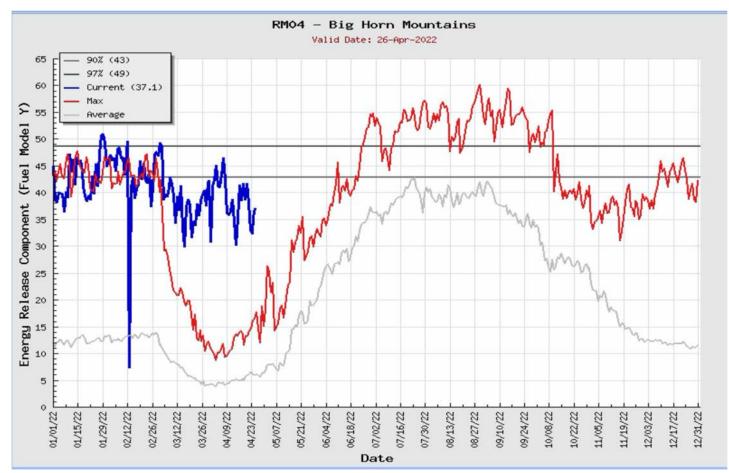
**Current Status** 



- Values are relative to this date in history.
- Although some areas show 90th to 96th percentile, late April is not typical "fire season" in Wyoming

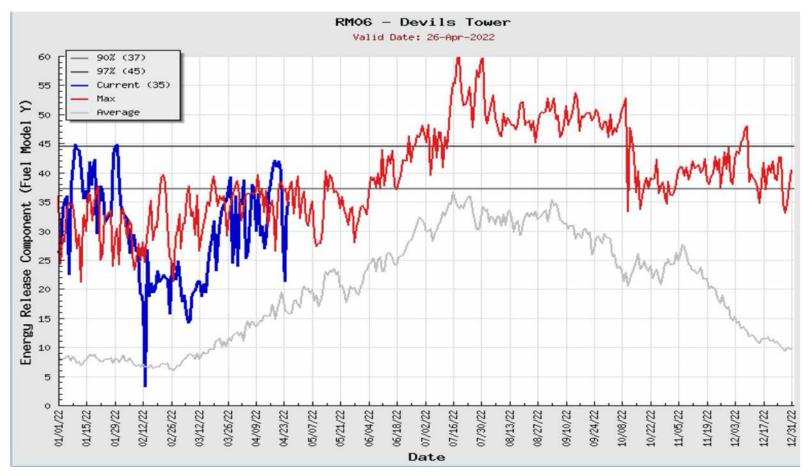


Current Status: Big Horn Mountains (valid 04/26/22)



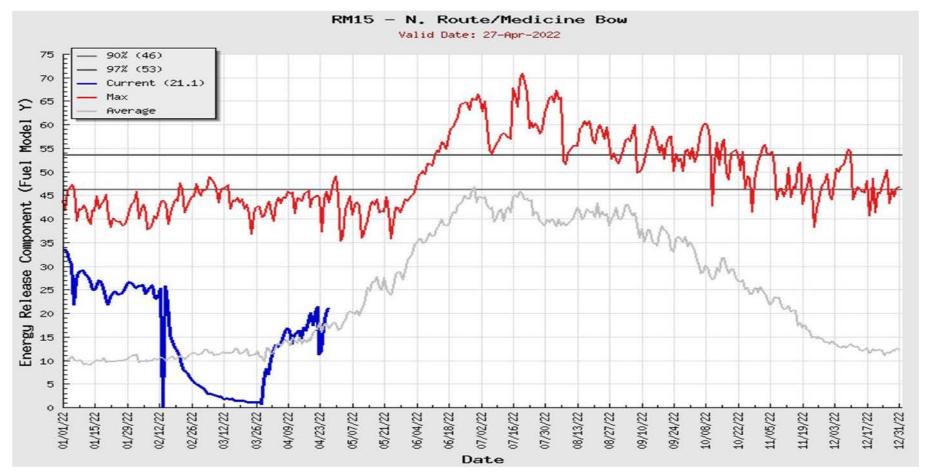


Current Status: Devils Tower (valid 04/26/22)



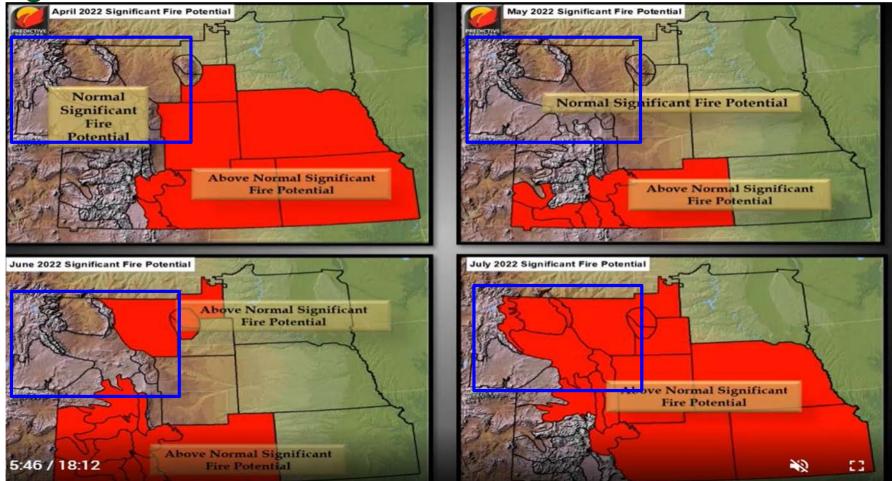


Current Status: N. Route / Medicine Bow (valid 04/27/22)





## **Seasonal Outlooks**





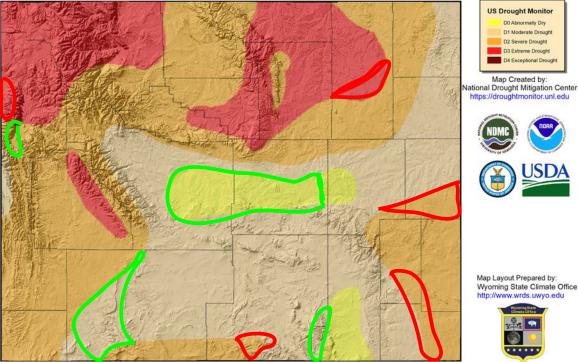
# How to get involved ...



#### US Drought Monitor for April 26, 2022

(Released Thursday, April 28, 2022) Valid 8 a.m. EDT

US Drought Monitor for 26 Apr 2022



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

Map Layout Created 28 Apr 2022 http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

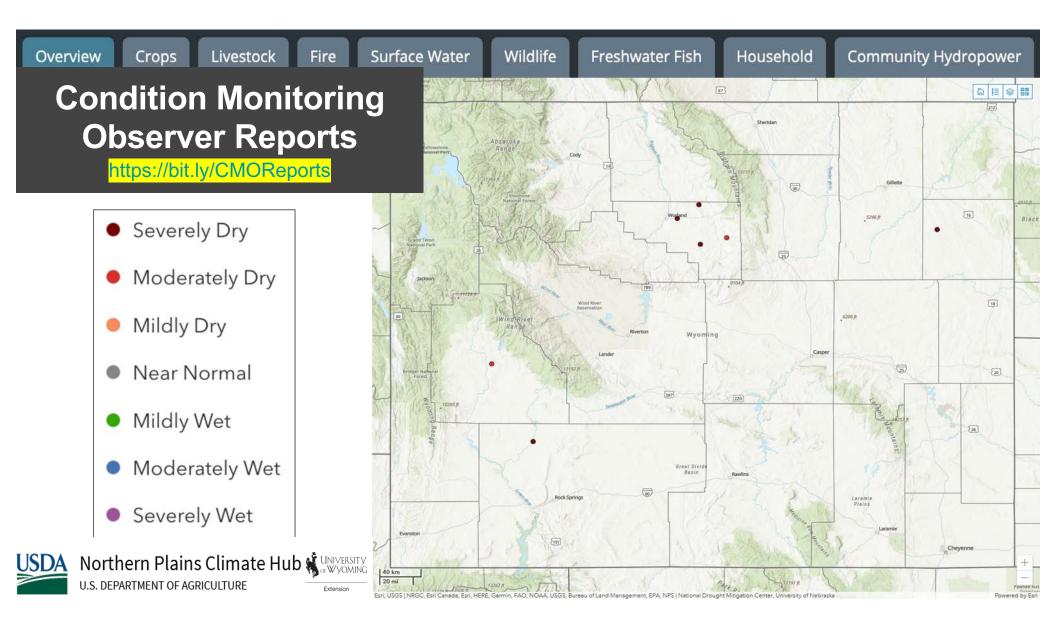
https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu

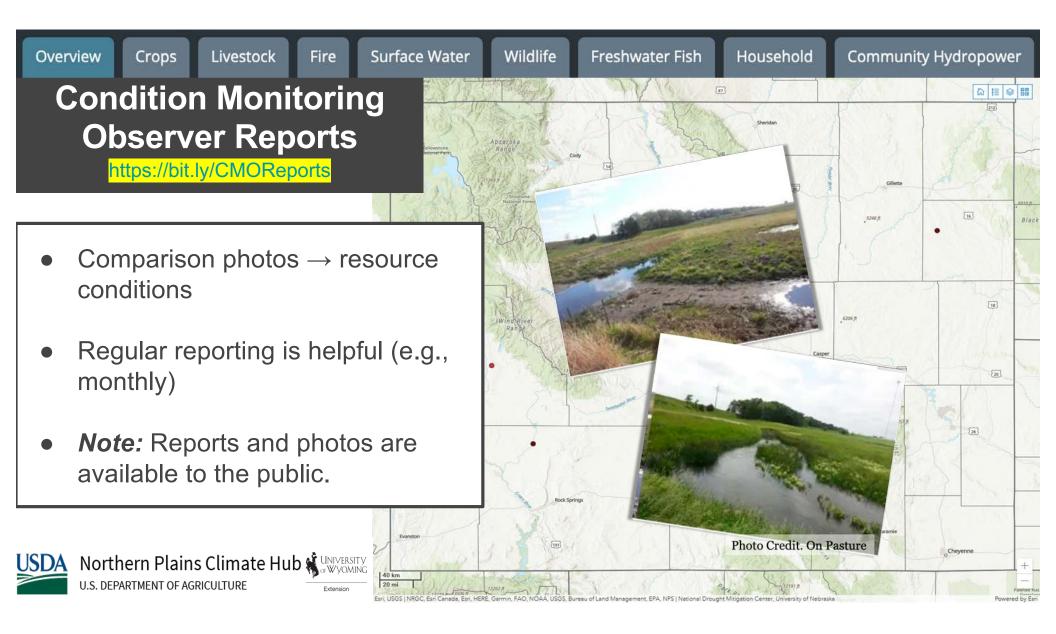
Drought Level	Percentile
None	>30
D0 (Abnormally Dry)	21 to 30
D1 (Moderate Drought)	11 to 20
D2 (Severe Drought)	6 to 10
D3 (Extreme Drought)	3 to 5
D4 (Exceptional Drought)	0 to 2

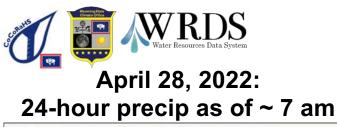
Improvements and degradations in the last month. Recent precipitation is starting to erode some of the areas but longer term dryness is filling in others.



Map Layout Prepared by: Wyoming State Climate Office http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu





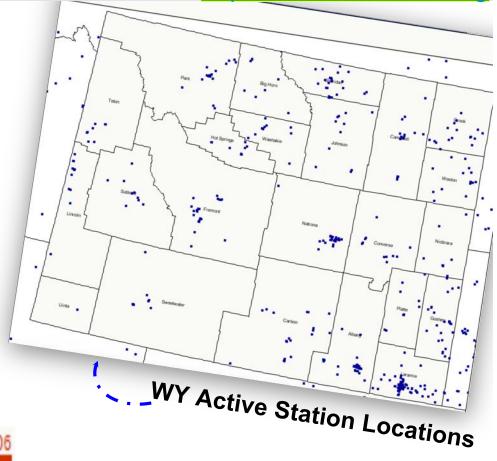


#### Daily Precipitation (inches x.xx), for the 24 hour period ending ~7:00 am 0.01 - 0.02 0.03 - 0.04 0.05 - 0.09 0.10 - 0.20 0.21 - 0.29 0.30 - 0.31 Wyoming 4/28/2022 Steridan Campbel Niobrara Converse . Lincol Uinta Lacamie 3 .. 0.01 - 0.02 0.02 - 0.03 0.03 - 0.04 0.04 0.01 - 0.01 0.05 - 0.06Trace

CoRaHS

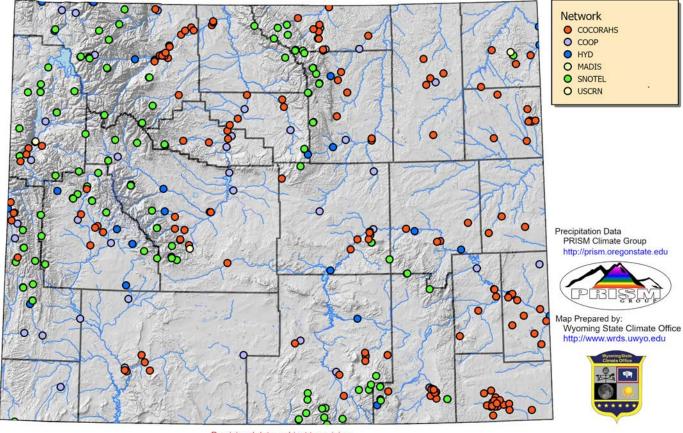
# CoCoRaHS Mapping System

https://www.cocorahs.org





Stations used for Precipitation Grids 12 Apr 2022



Provisional data, subject to revision

Stations used by PRISM Climate Group for Precipitation Grids of 12 Apr 2022, Copyright ©2022, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University, http://prism.oregonstate.edu Map created 25 Apr 2022

https://www.cocorahs.org









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antonius@uwyo.edu Jim Fahey USDA NRCS james.fahey@usda.gov	nnielsen@usbr.gov Jeff Cowley State Engineer's Office jeff.cowley@wyo.gov		
Aaron Fiaschetti USGS afiaschetti@usgs.gov	Lance VandenBoogart National Weather Service Riverton lance.vandenboogart@noaa.gov	The Wyoming Conditions Monitoring Team (WCMT) organized and hosted this webinar. The WCMT is a collaborative effort of state, federal, tribal, and university partners that monitor conditions & impacts throughout the state on a weekly basis – and communicate this information to the U.S. Drought Monitor among others. Learn more at: https://drought.wyo.gov	

# **Thank you! Questions?**