

WY Conditions & Outlooks:

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

May 25, 2023

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



Presentation Outline

- Current Conditions: Overview
 - SWE
 - \circ Streamflow
 - Reservoir Supply
- Outlooks: Temperature & Precipitation
 - Flood Potential
- Highlight of the Month
 - Gauge to Page
- Questions









Extension

Current Conditions

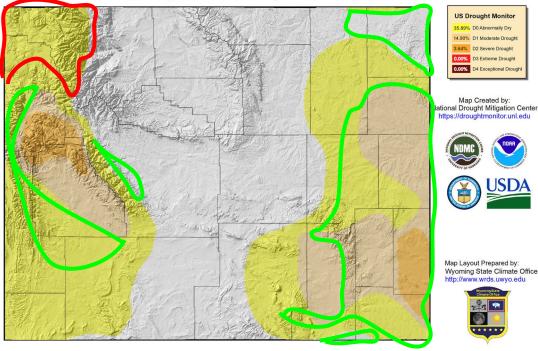


US Drought Monitor for May 23, 2023

(Released Thursday, May 25, 2023) Valid 8 a.m. EDT

USDA

US Drought Monitor for 23 May 2023



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 25 May 2023 http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

Drought Level Percentile >30 None 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

https://youtu.be/45MQ1GB-uTc

Improvements since the last webinar throughout the east and west central parts of the state. Degradation in the northwest where precipitation deficits are beginning to accumulate, impacting soils.

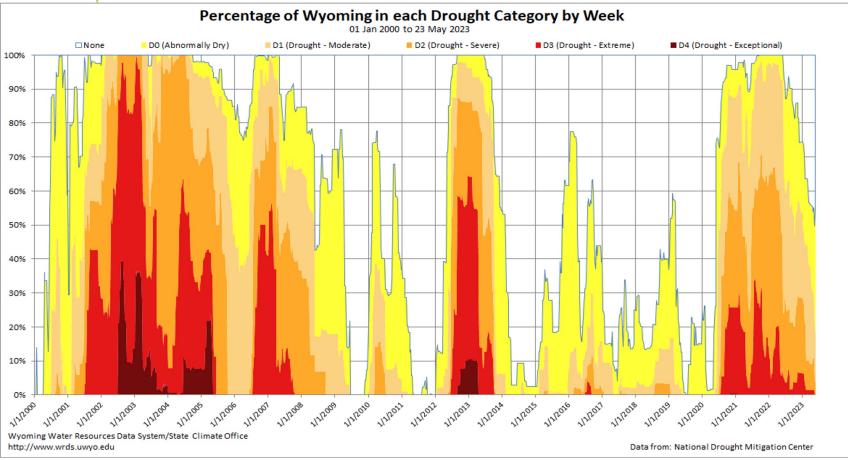


https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu



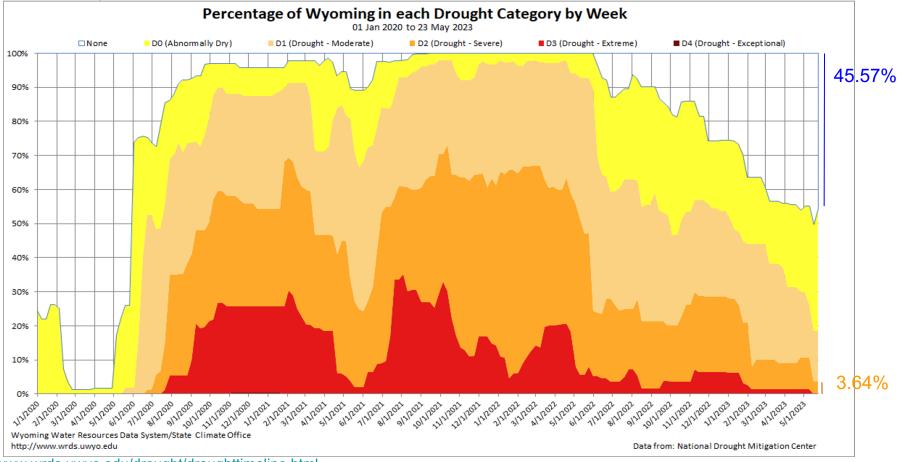
A decrease of 12.77% from the last Webinar

Wyoming Area Affected: 54.43% D0-D4 ; 18.53% D1-D4



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





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



Above Median:

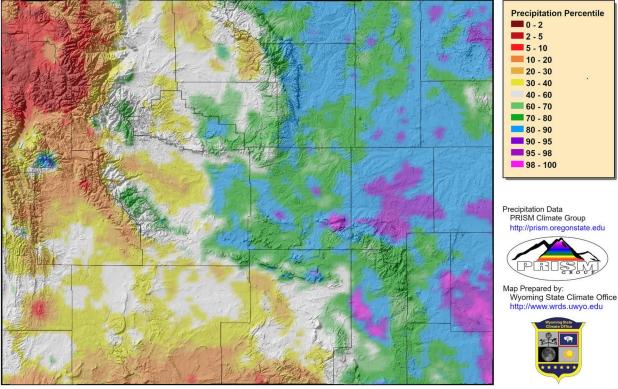
• ~ Eastern Half

Below Median (Areas of Concern):

- Northwest
- Southwest/South Central

14-Day Precipitation Percentile (11 May 2023 to 24 May 2023)

14-Day Precipitation (Percentile) for 11 May 2023 to 24 May 2023



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 25 May 2023 http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu Daily percentiles created from PRISM daily precipitation grids



Above Median:

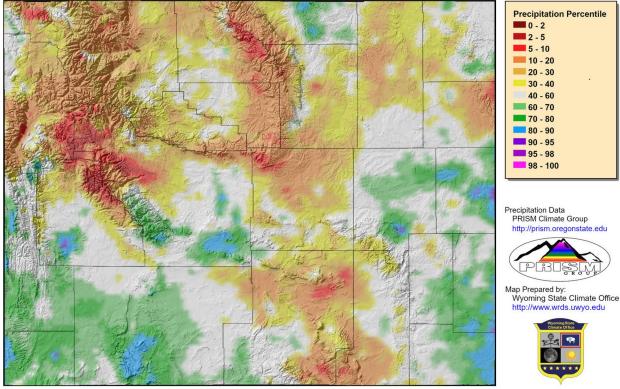
- Southeast
- Southwest

Below Median (Areas of Concern):

- Northern Winds
- Tetons
- Bighorns
- Med Bows, Saratoga Valley
- Weston County

90-Day Precipitation Percentile (23 Feb 2023 to 24 May 2023)

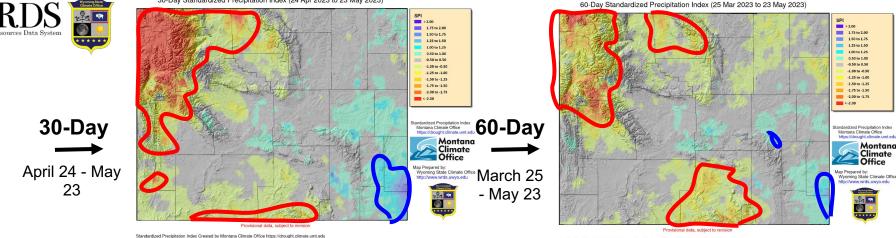
90-Day Precipitation (Percentile) for 23 Feb 2023 to 23 May 2023



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 24 May 2023 http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu Daily percentiles created from PRISM daily precipitation grids





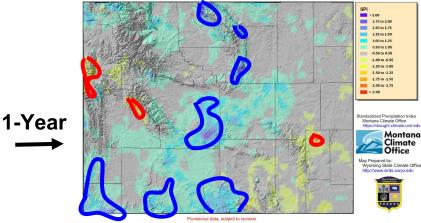
Standardized Precipitation Index Created by Montana Climate Office https://drought.climate.umt.edu Map Created 25 May 2023 http://www.wrds.uwvo.edu



30-Day Standardized Precipitation Index (24 Apr 2023 to 23 May 2023)

Short term: Northwest, West, Southcentral, **Bighorn Basin**, Southwest Long term: Southwest, central Areas of Winds/Tetons, Southeast

Map Created 25 May 2023 http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu



365-Day Standardized Precipitation Index (24 May 2022 to 23 May 2023)

Standardized Precipitation Index Created by Montana Climate Office https://drought.climate.umt.edu Man Created 25 May 2023 http://www.wrds.uwvo.edu

https://drought.climate.umt.edu

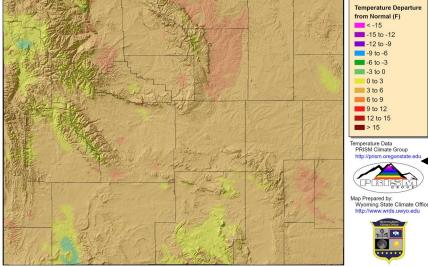


14-Day Average Minimum

Temperature (11 May to 24 May)

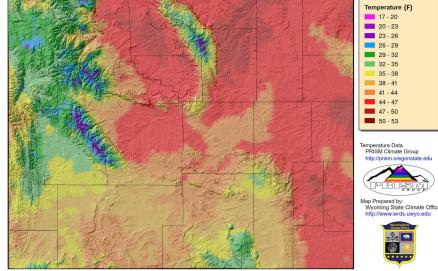
- High elevation mins still below freezing
- East and Low Elev Central/N-Central 40F+
- S Central/Southwest 35-40F

14-Day Average Minimum Temperature (Departure from 1991-2020 Average) for 11 May 2023 to 24 May 2023



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 25 May 2023 http://www.wds.uwyo.edu Temperature averages created from PRISM daily tempWarature grids 14-Day Average Minimum Temperature for 11 May 2023 to 24 May 2023





Daily Temperature data from PRISM Climate Group, Copyright ©2021, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University, http://prism.oregonstate.edu Map Created 25 May 2023 http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu Temperature averaces created from PRISM daily temoWarature orids

14-Day Departure from Normal

Average Minimum Temperature

- Mostly above normal with a few 0-3F below average in areas in Sweetwater Co and Northwest
- Parts Platte/Gosh/Campbell/Shr Co 6-9F above

average

• Few parts of South and NW up to 3F above avg

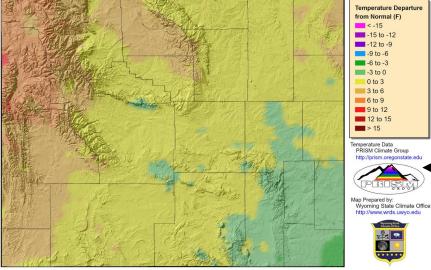


14-Day Average Maximum

Temperature (11 May to 24 May)

- Highs now above 32F statewide
- Bighorn Basin warmest, up to 75F avg

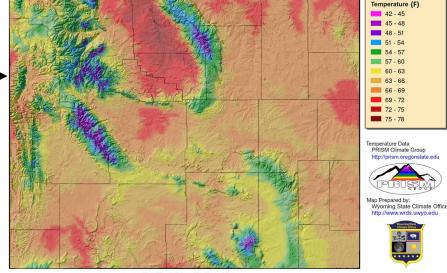
14-Day Average Maximum Temperature (Departure from 1991-2020 Average) for 11 May 2023 to 24 May 2023



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 25 May 2023 http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu Temperature averages created from PRISM daily tempWYerature grids

14-Day Average Maximum Temperature for 11 May 2023 to 24 May 2023



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Daily Temperature data from PRISM Climate Group, Copyright @2021, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University, http://prism.oregonstate.edu Map Created 25 May 2023 http://www.wrds.uwvo.edu Temperature averages created from PRISM daily tempWYerature grids

14- Day *Departure from* Normal

Average Maximum

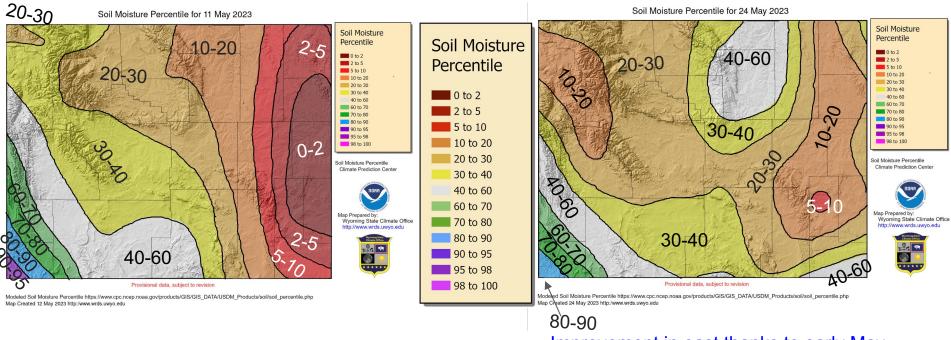
- West/BH Basin 3-9F above Tremperature Southwest 0-3F below average
- Far southwest, spots up to 6F below average
- Remainder 0-3F above average



Soil Moisture Percentile

Two Weeks Ago

24 May 2023



http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu/Soil/Current_SoilMoisture_Ptile.html

Improvement in east thanks to early May precipitation, but Worsening west and central Wyoming



Snow

May 25, 2023

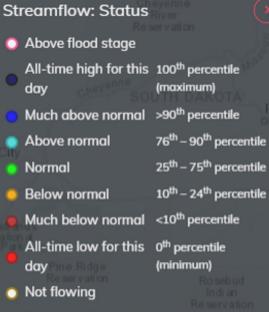
South Platte 09 Apr 2023 6.0 11 -1.2 83% 29 Mar IMG 7.2 IMG 0.0 26 Apr IMG Cheyenne 07 Apr 2023 9.2 5 1.7 123% 02 Apr IMG 7.5 IMG 0.0 30 Apr IMG Lower North Platte 09 Apr 2023 14.7 -6 1.9 115% 15 Apr IMG 12.8 IMG 0.2 29 May IMG Tongue 09 Apr 2023 12.8 -23 -0.6 96% 02 May IMG 13.4 IMG 0.7 09 Jun IMG Powder 08 Apr 2023 11.6 -9 1.0 109% 17 Apr IMG 10.6 IMG 1.1 08 Jun IMG Bighorn 09 Apr 2023 17.3 -11 1.4 109% 19 Apr IMG 15.9 IMG 4.0 12 Jun IMG Lower Green 09 Apr 2023 15.6 6 1.6 111% 22 Apr IMG 13.6 IMG 4.4 12 Jun IMG Wind 28 Apr 2023 18.1 -15 0.0 100% 24 Apr IMG 18.1 IMG	Peak 1	Peak Snow Water Equivalent Dates and Totals by Basin With Meltout Dates 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. 1 2 3 4 Click Colspan Headers to Gort 7 8 9 10								
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	Little Snake	09 Apr 2023	32.1	3	11.6	157%	06 Apr IMG	20.5 IMG	13.4	19 Jun IMG
Madison 09 Apr 2023 29.4 -6 5.6 124% 15 Apr IMG 23.8 IMG 19.6 24 Jun IMG	Upper North Platte	09 Apr 2023	29.2	-7	4.8	120%	16 Apr IMG	24.4 IMG	14.2	26 Jun IMG
	Madison	09 Apr 2023	29.4	-6	5.6	124%	15 Apr IMG	23.8 IMG	19.6	24 Jun IMG

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



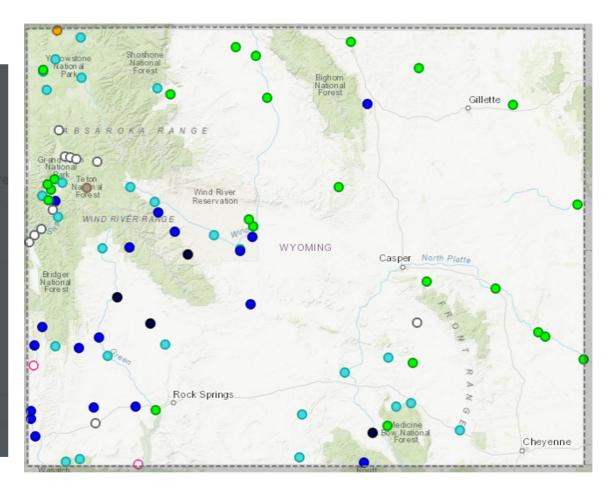
Current Streamflow Conditions (May 25, 2023)

Streamflow Status

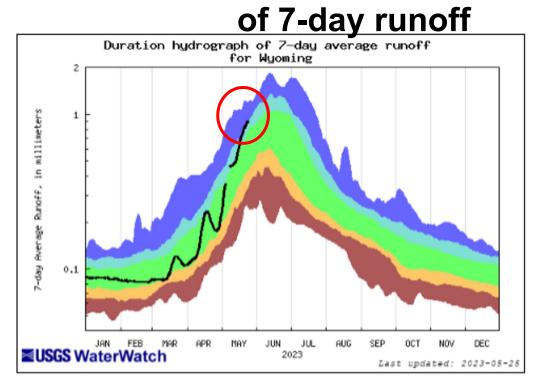


- Not ranked
- Measurement flag
- Recent measurement unavailable

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



Science for a changing world WY Duration Hydrograph



E	xplana	tion - Pe	ercentile	e classes	
lowest- 10th percentile	10-24	25-75	76-90	90th percentile	
Muchbelow	Below	Normal	Above	Much above	Runoff

Spring Streamflow

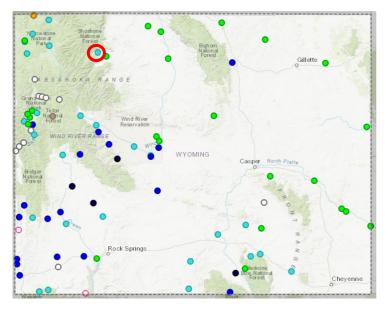
- Nearing the peak
- Mountain snowpack and spring rains driving flow.
- Abundant water supply- Normal & above

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

https://waterdata.usgs.gov/



Select WY Streamflows

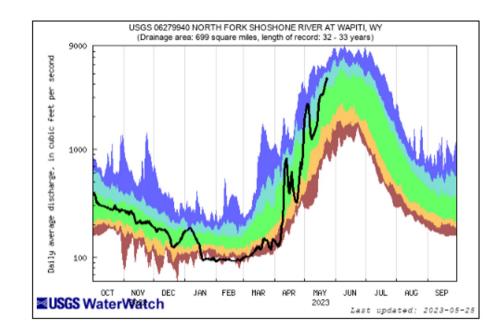


https://dashboard.waterdata.usgs.gov/

https://waterdata.usgs.gov/

North Fork Shoshone River, WY

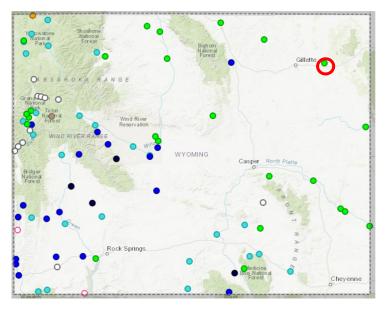
Last updated May 25, 2023



	E	xplana	tion - Pe	ercentile	classes	8	
							_
lowest- 10th percentile	5	10-24	25-75	76-90	95	5 90th percentile -highest	
Much below Normal		Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much a	ich above normal	



Select WY Streamflows

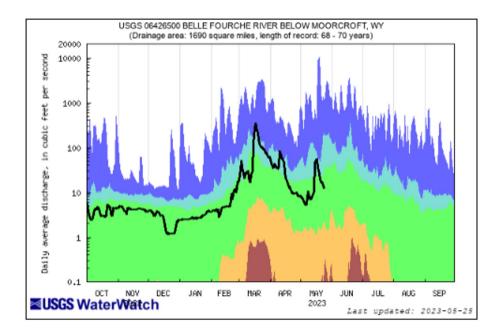


https://dashboard.waterdata.usgs.gov/

https://waterdata.usgs.gov/

Belle Fourche below Moorcroft, WY

Last updated May 25, 2023



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



North Platte River ab Seminoe Reservoir, WY

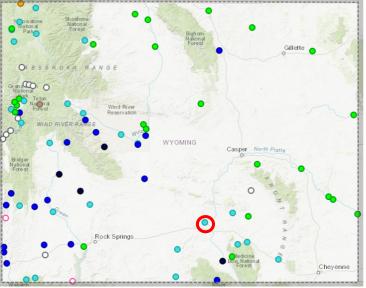
Last updated May 25, 2023

USGS 06630000 N PLATTE RIV AB SEMINOE RESERVOIR, NR SINCLAIR, WY (Drainage area: 4175 square miles, length of record: 82 - 83 years) 20000 second 10000 feet cubic S 1000 83 dischar ŝ Daily aver 100 NOV DEC OCT JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG USGS WaterWatch 2023 Last updated: 2023-05-25

	E	xplana	tion - Pe	ercentile	classes	3	
							_
lowest- 10th percentile	5	10-24	25-75	76-90	95	5 90th percentile -highest	
Much below Normal		Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much a	Much above normal	

SEP

Select WY Streamflows

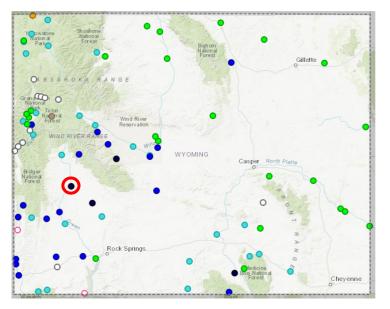


https://dashboard.waterdata.usgs.gov/

https://waterdata.usgs.gov/



Select WY Streamflows

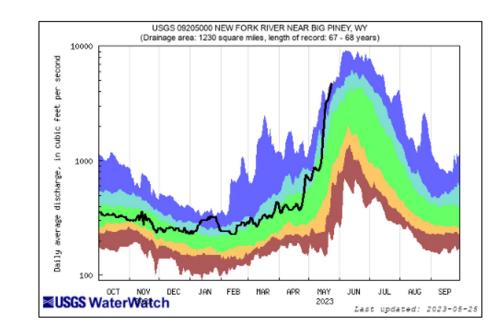


https://dashboard.waterdata.usgs.gov/

https://waterdata.usgs.gov/

New Fork River near Big Piney, WY

Last updated May 25, 2023



	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	110%



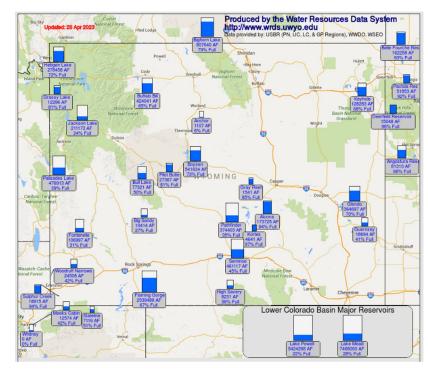
Produced by the Water Resources Data System http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu Data provided by: USBR (PN, UC, LC, & GP Regions), WWDQ, WSEO Custer 808903 AF 80% Full Powell National Forest 3497 AF Grassland 15260 AF 439398 AF 912796 AF Caribou-National Scottebluff Rock Spring Medicine B ional Forest Cheyenne 100 23135 AF Lower Colorado Basin Major Reservoirs Lake Mead 903000 AF 30% Full

http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu/surface_water/teacups.html

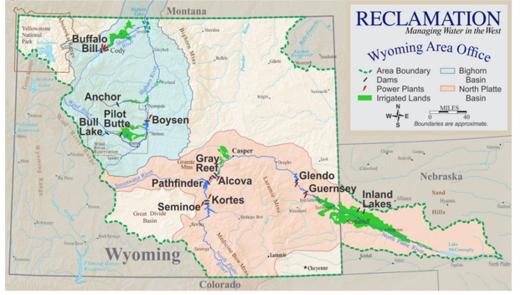
May 25, 2023

- Increases in most reservoirs.
- Most are not full

April 20, 2023



RECLAMATION Current Reservoir Conditions: Bighorn System



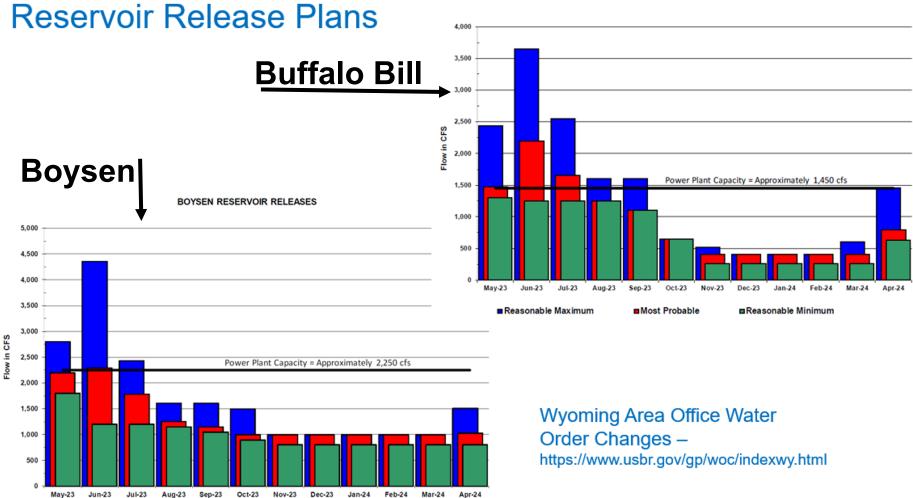
As of May 23, Bighorn System: 72% of Full, 110% of Average

Reservoir	Content	Capacity	<u>% of Full</u>	% of Avg
Bull Lake	95,750	152,500	63%	113%
Buffalo Bill	467,944	646,600	72%	115%
Boysen	550,914	741,600	74%	105%

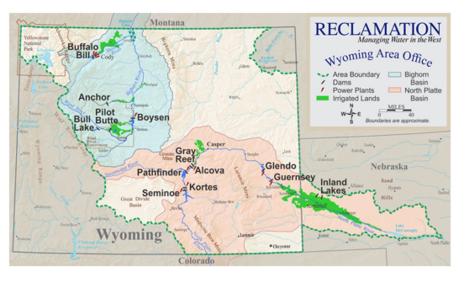


— BUREAU OF — RECLAMATION	BUFFALO BILL RESERVOIR (BBR) Top 644126 af, 5393.5 ft Current 467944 af, 5370.0 ft To fill 176182 af, 23.5 ft Computed Inflow 6285 cfs Total Outflow 2097 cfs	1800 cfs
Forecast May – July Run	off:	BOYSEN RESERVOIR
Buffalo Bill: 664,000 AF 9		Top 741594 af, 4725.0 ft Current 550914 af, 4714.0 ft
Boysen: 608,000 AF 109	% of average 800	To fill 190680 af, 11.0 ft Computed Inflow 6387 cfs Total Outflow 1781 cfs
		3000 cfs
	BULL LAKE (BLR) Top 152459 af, 5805.0 Current 95751 af, 5785.5 To fill 56708 af, 19.5 Computed Inflow 1165 o Total Outflow 615 o	ft ft fs

BUFFALO BILL RESERVOIR RELEASES



RECLAMATION Current Reservoir Conditions: North Platte System

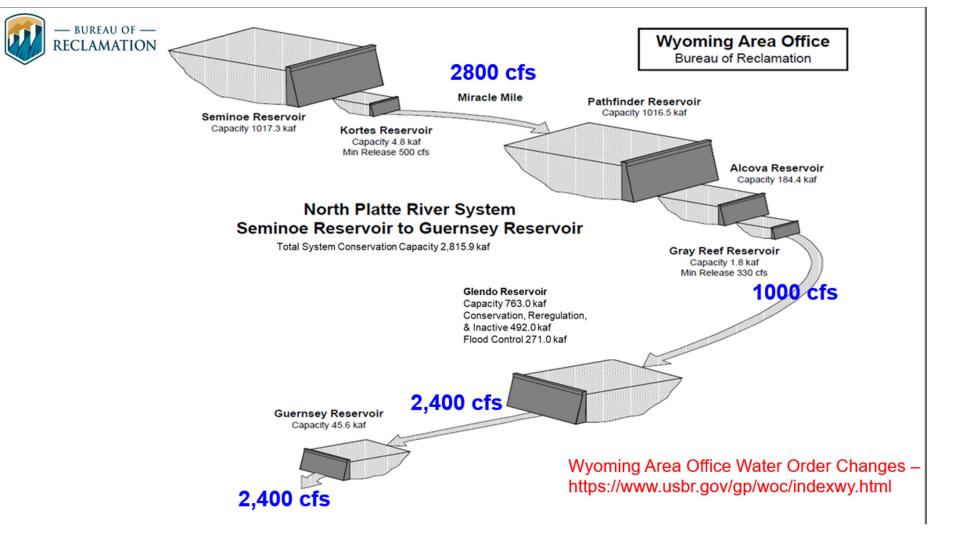


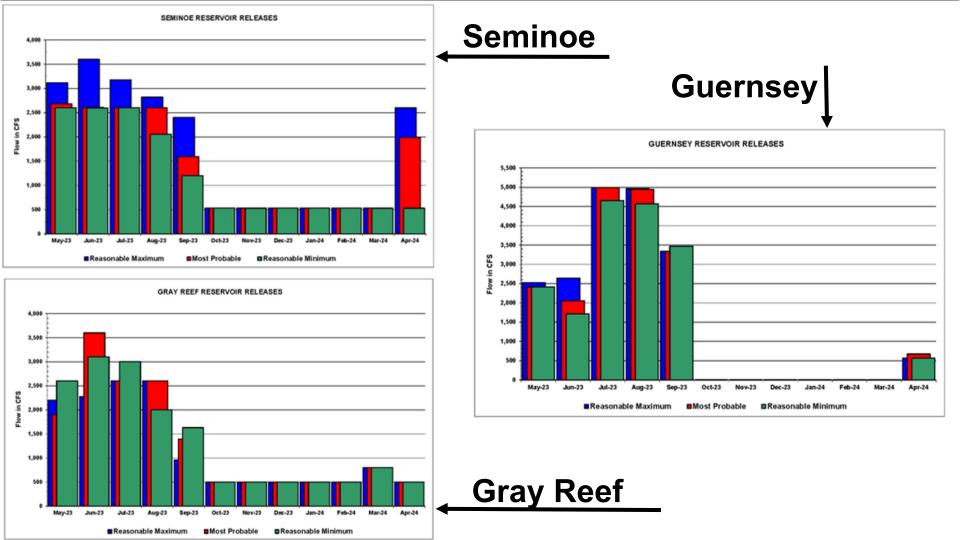
Forecast April – July Runoff:

Forecast Point	Runoff (AF)	<u>% of Avg</u>
Seminoe	1,000,000	139
Sweetwater above Pathfinder	70,000	131
Alcova to Glendo	110,000	76

As of May 23, North Platte System: 45% of Full, 93% of Average

<u>Reservoir</u>	Content (AF) Capacity	% of Full	<u>% of Avg</u>
Seminoe	631,666	1,017,300	62%	107%
Pathfinder	511,311	1,070,000	48%	77%
Glendo	452,181	492,000	92%	97%







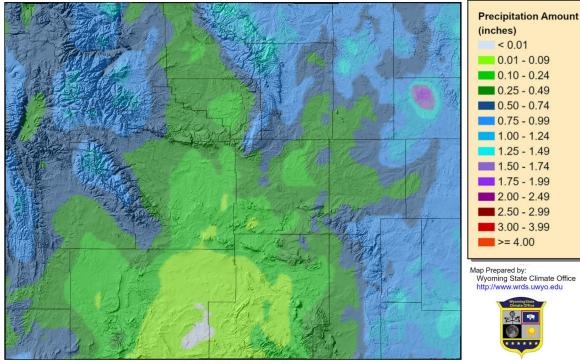
Forecasts & Outlooks

SITV



7-Day Total Precipitation Forecast Through 6/1/23

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast 25 May 2023

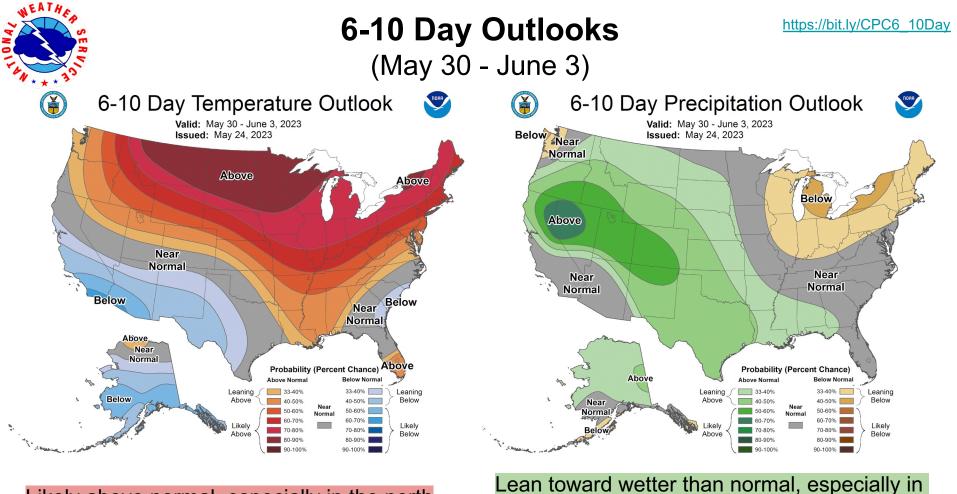


Provisional data, subject to revision

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 25 May 2023 http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

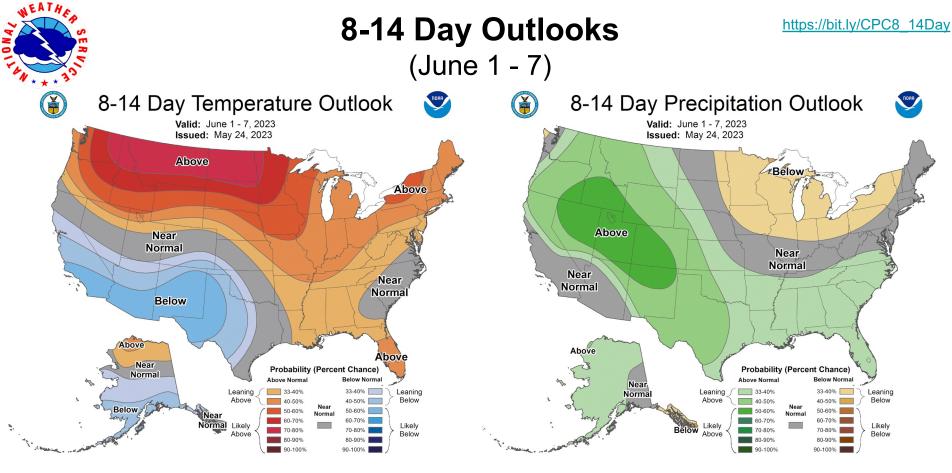
- Wet period, but mostly convective, not stratiform
 - Some locations could miss out on precipitation, despite map showing smoothed appearance
- Numerous afternoon & evening showers & thunderstorms through the weekend
- More isolated showers continue during the first half of next week
- Wettest in mountains and eastern WY

https://bit.ly/7_dayQPForecast



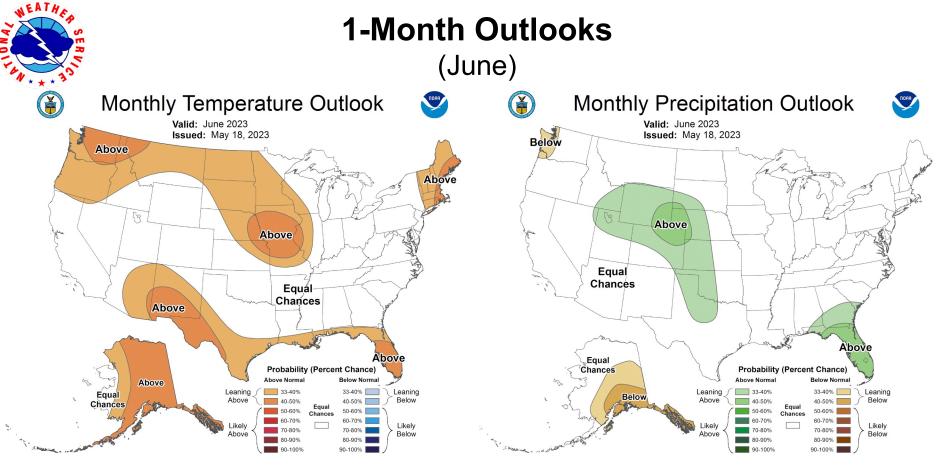
Likely above normal, especially in the north

southwest

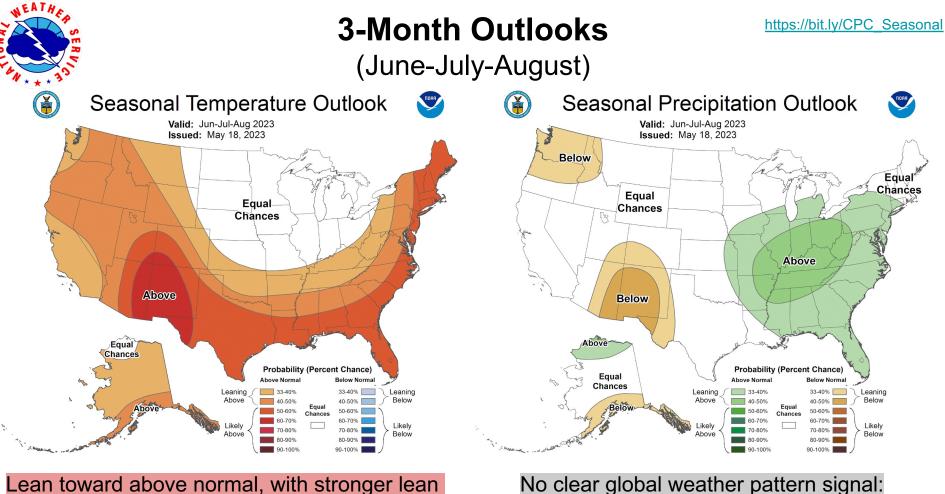


Above normal remains most likely, with strongest signal in the north

Wetter than normal remains most likely, with strongest signal in southwest



No clear global weather pattern signal: Near climatology is best forecast Slight lean toward wetter than normal, with strongest lean in southeast

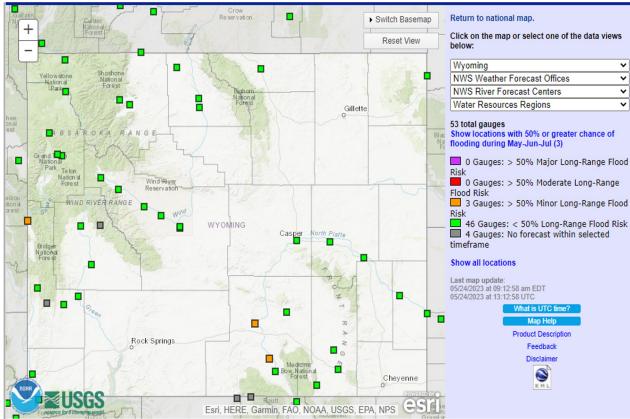


in southwest

No clear global weather pattern signal: Near climatology is best forecast



National Weather Service May-June-July Flood Potential



Current flooding along North Platte River, Salt River, and Bear River.

Other rivers of some concern:

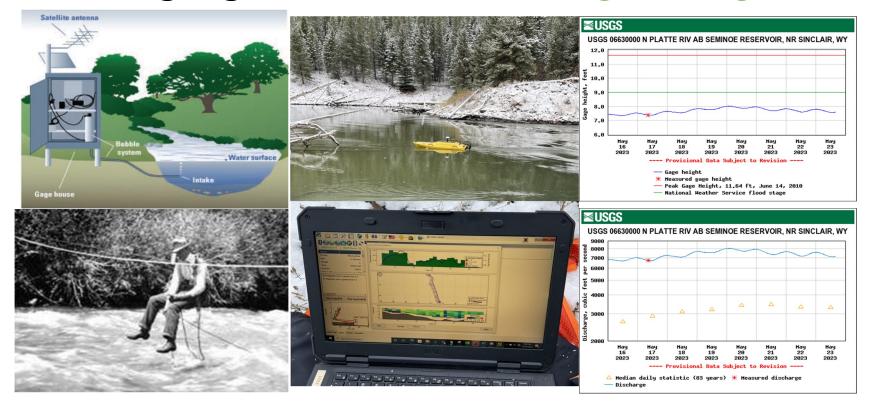
- Green River
- Encampment River
- Wind River
- Pacific Creek

More information available on RFC pages [cbrfc.noaa.gov; nwrfc.noaa.gov; weather.gov/mbrfc]

NWS Long Range River Flood Outlooks: https://bit.ly/3AgAyy0

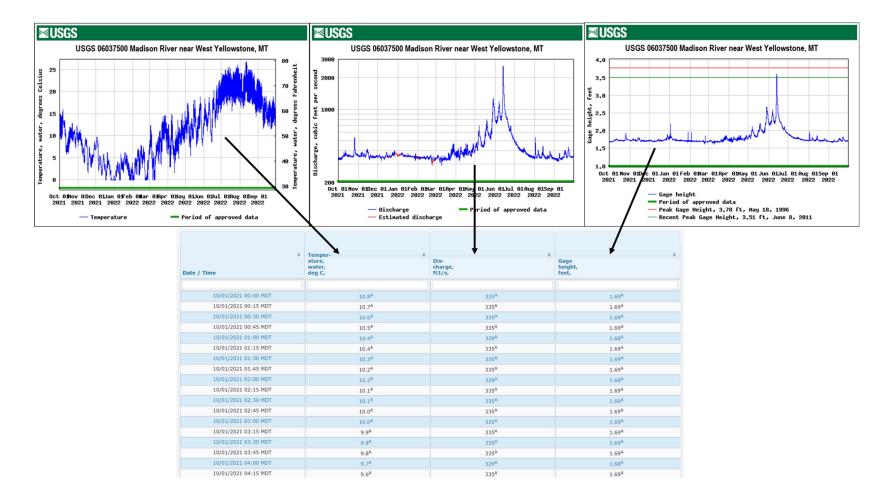


Highlight of the Month ... Gage to Page



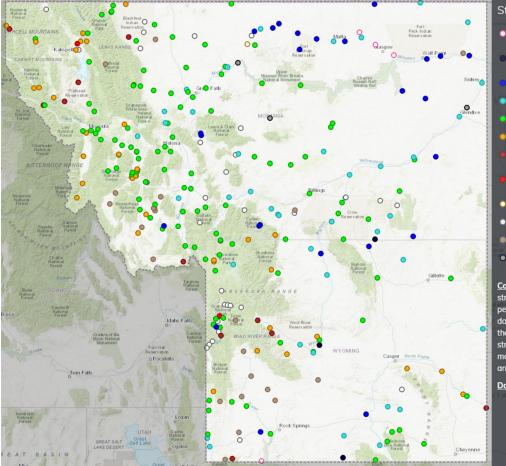


Current Data Product





Current WY-MT Data Collection



St	reamflow: Status		
•	Above flood stage		
•	All-time high for this day	100 th percentile (maximum)	
	Much above normal	>90 th percentile	
•	Above normal	76 th – 90 th percent	ile
	Normal	25 th – 75 th percent	ile
	Below normal	10 th – 24 th percent	ile
	Much below normal	<10 th percentile	
	All-time low for this day	0 th percentile (minimum)	
•	Not flowing		
•	Not ranked		

Measurement flag

Recent measurement unavailable

<u>Comments</u>: Marker color indicates the current streamflow condition. Categories are based on the percentile of existing streamflow records on this day-of-the-year. A streamgage is not ranked when there is less than 10 years of record or a current streamflow value is unavailable. Flood stages are maintained by the National Weather Service (NWS) and are not established for all USGS streamgages.

Data Source: USGS Water Data for the Nation

Click streamflow stations to access real-time data, timeseries graphs, and station information.



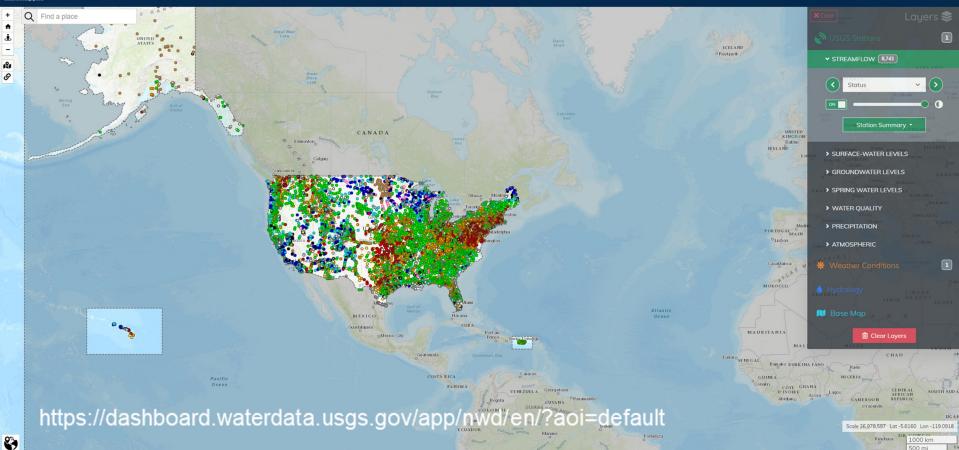
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Feeding into a Larger Data Deliverable - Dashboard

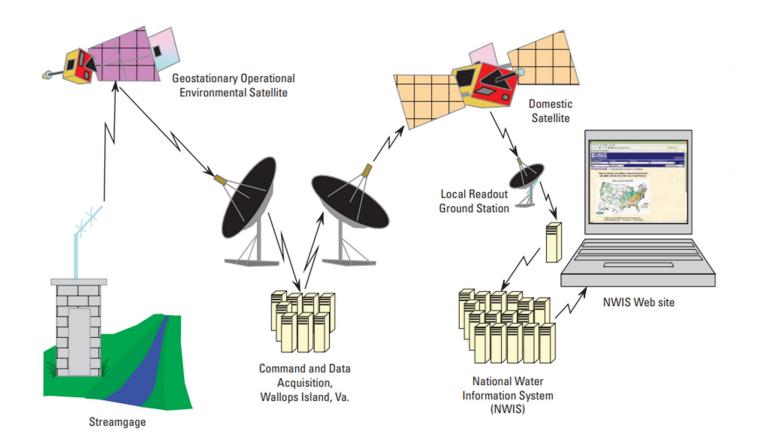
Overview ≥Layers 2 🗄 Legend 3 ‡ Tools

USGS National Water Dashboard



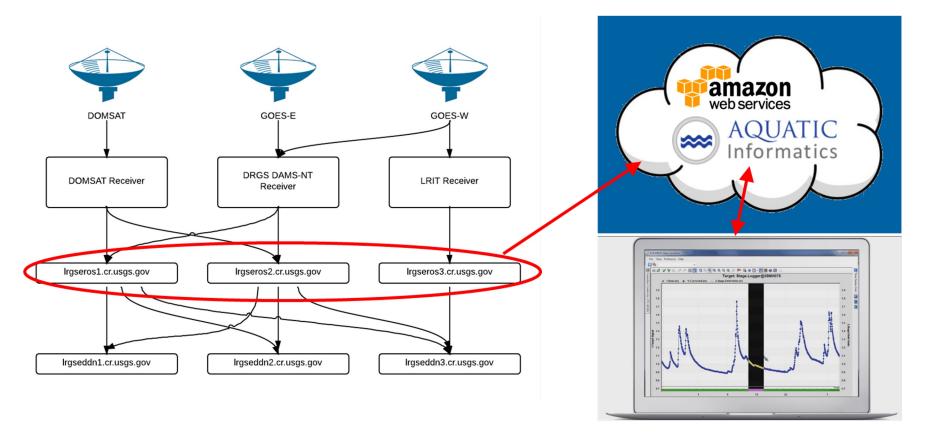


But How Do We Get the Data to the Users





But How Do We Get the Data to the Users



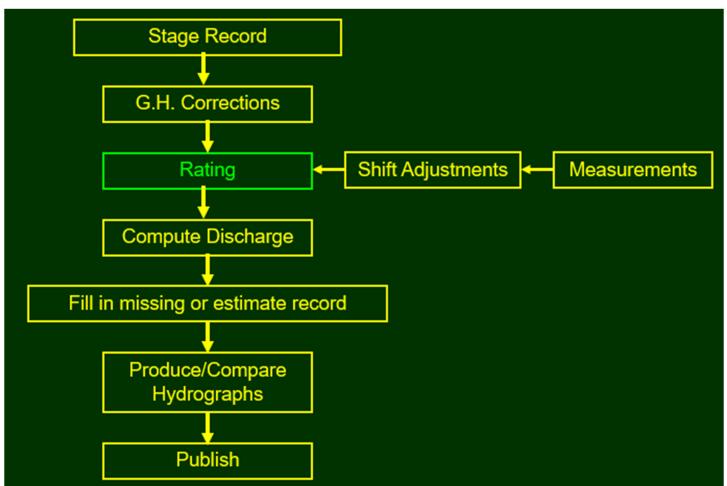




- 💥 Measured gage height
- Peak Gage Height, 11.64 ft, June 14, 2010
- National Heather Service flood stage



Data Processing Overview

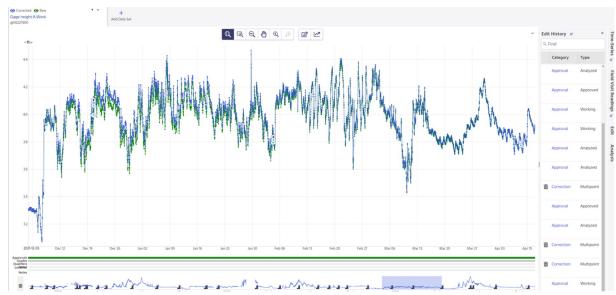




Stage Record

Review/Edit GH record in DRT

- Data gaps
- Delete erroneous data
- Apply gage-height corrections
- Document findings



Streamflow Measurement Method Improvements

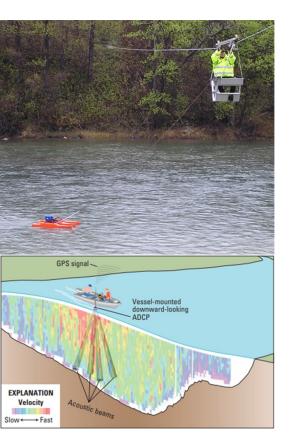
Traditional Methods

Newer Hydroacoustic Methods



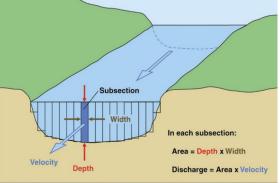


Streamflow Measurement



- A streamflow measurement is calculated from field determinations of stream width, depth, and velocity.
- Stream discharge is a volume of water moving past a point at given period of time. Typically, cubic feet per second (cfs).



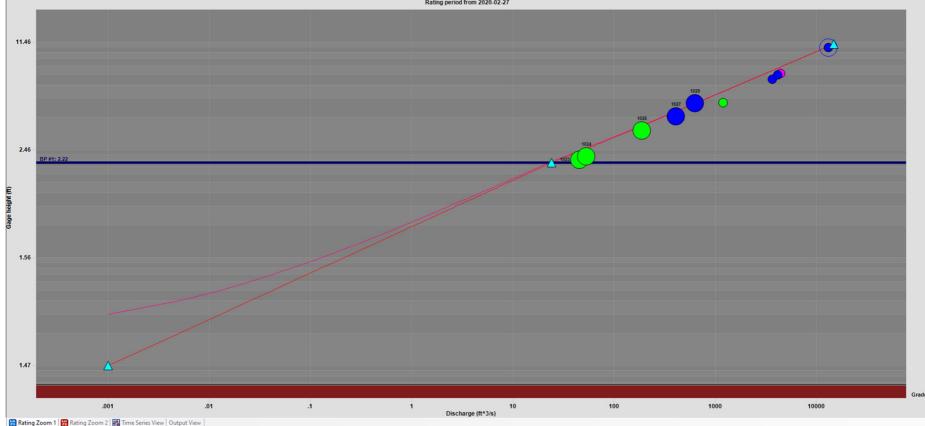




An Example of a Stage-Discharge Relation

Also Known as a "Rating Model"

06135000 - Milk River at Eastern Crossing of Int Bndry - DD: 1 Rating: 7.0 Rating period from 2020-02-27

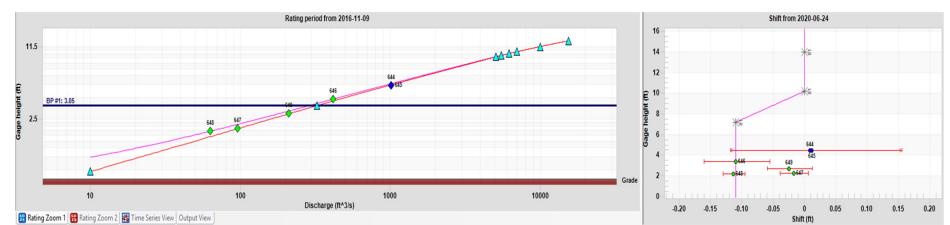




Current Data Product





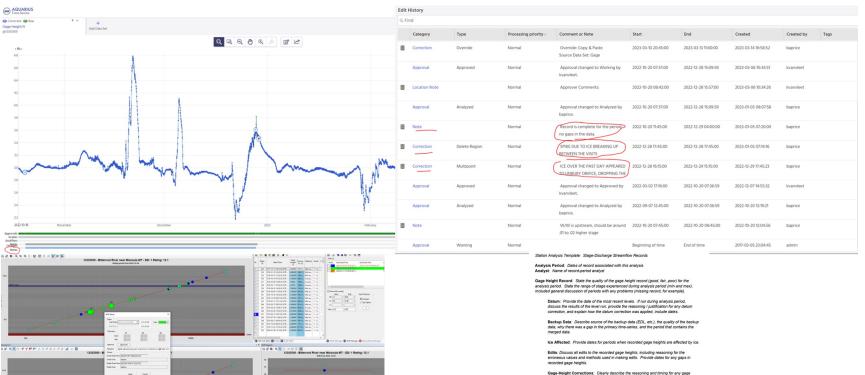




Antere Desert 1 1 Antere Desert 2 100 Terrs

Discharge (\$125)

Record Analyzation and Approval



Gage-Height Corrections: Clearly describe the reasoning and timing for any gage height corrections. Blanket statements for small instrument drift (≤ 0.03 ft) can be provided. Larger corrections need detailed discussion.

Other Corrections: Provide the reasoning and application period for any fushing, page, or developed morefrank. Provide their period of applications are other types of corrections that were developed their period of applicationality, and why they were deemed necessary for the analysis period. (Note: corrections that were your dese such as development or corrections require a well defined initiation that built good rided coloravirulions of the reference applications to should be referenced and properly stored in supporting plots/analyses/discussions should be referenced and properly stored in accordance with VPO policy).

Peak Stage: Phote the maximum recorded peak stage value, and the independent peak stage value (including assessed) uncertainty of the independent peak stage value and the hype of independent peak stage device used). The results of the verification procedure should be described, including which peak stage value was determined to be the valit maximum stage for the analysis period (See OSW TM 14.00). Finally, indicate how this peak value nelates to the provide calculate value.



New Data Retrieval-15-minute Interval

🙀 LinkComm		- 0	× 😡	LinkComm - "Yellov	vstone R. @ Intake" (XLink 100 -	10.13.2.125:3001)			- • ×
■ LinkComm			=	LinkCor	Cell Diagnostics			×	In-sync Disconnect
Stations (4) New Station test Yellowstone R. @ Intake	Station type: XLink 100 V Connect Vork. Offine			WFi WFi alway WFi security en WFi passph	Cell signal: 4/4 hars at 2023/04/20 22:14:23 SIM status: SIM 0K Last cellsrered at 2023/04/19 22:44:04 IMST: 53194005744718 22:44:04 IMST: 3119405744718 SIM ICCID: 8914800006848455197 Phone Number: +1406584423 Cell IF: 10.13.2.128				A Jifference TC time or Celular sization.
06120500	Hendon Settings Connect type: TCP/IP ▼ Host: 10.13.2.125 IP port: 3001 COM port: COM1 ▼ ✓ Get setup on connect ✓ Get recent data on connect s	User name Password: Station name: Update Station Names	_	- Logong Log dały values:	Cell signal strength:	51.15.05	36:15:24 Ids	36:15:44	
				Dashboard	Measurements	Stop Update	Send SMS	Other Setup	Jiegnostics
0			15 15 15	15.03 ft - Apr 2	Intake April 1	r Fish Bypa: MT - 063284 3,2023 - April 20, 2023 age height, ft 9	195		



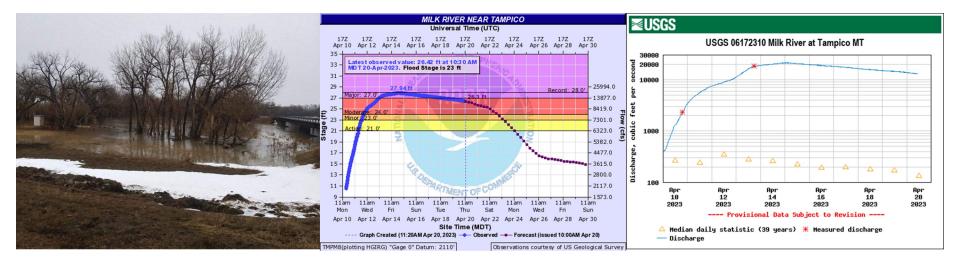
What Comes with a USGS Streamgage

• Quality assurance/Quality Control

- The Data Program is reviewed on a 3-year cycle (internally on an annual basis).
- Continuity
 - All USGS data collection activities operate under the same guidelines.
- Archived and Publicly Available Data
 - All data is archived and accessible on the USGS web page.
- Accurate and continuous data
 - Current monitored data is available on the USGS web page (updated each hour or less)
- Cooperative approach with State and Local entities



The NWS...



Great advocates for the USGS Streamgaging Program









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Windy Kelley UW Extension & USDA Northern Plains Climate Hub wkelley1@uwyo.edu

Aaron Fiaschetti

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Paul Miller

CO Basin River Forecast Center paul.miller@noaa.gov

Get Involved!

Submit a Condition Monitoring Observer Report



Liz Cresto Bureau of Reclamation ecresto@usbr.gov

Scott Whiteman

USGS whiteman@usgs.gov

Thank you!

The WY 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 WY weekly – and communicate this info to the U.S. Drought Monitor & others. Learn more at:

https://drought.wyo.gov