WY Conditions & Outlooks:

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

January 15, 2026

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

Presentation Outline

- **Current Conditions:** Overview
  - Drought, Temperature, Precipitation, Soil Moisture, and Snow Water Equivalent
  - Streamflows
- **Outlooks:**
  - Temperature & Precipitation
  - Water supply
- **Highlight of the Month:**
  - National Water and Climate Center Interactive Maps
- **Questions**

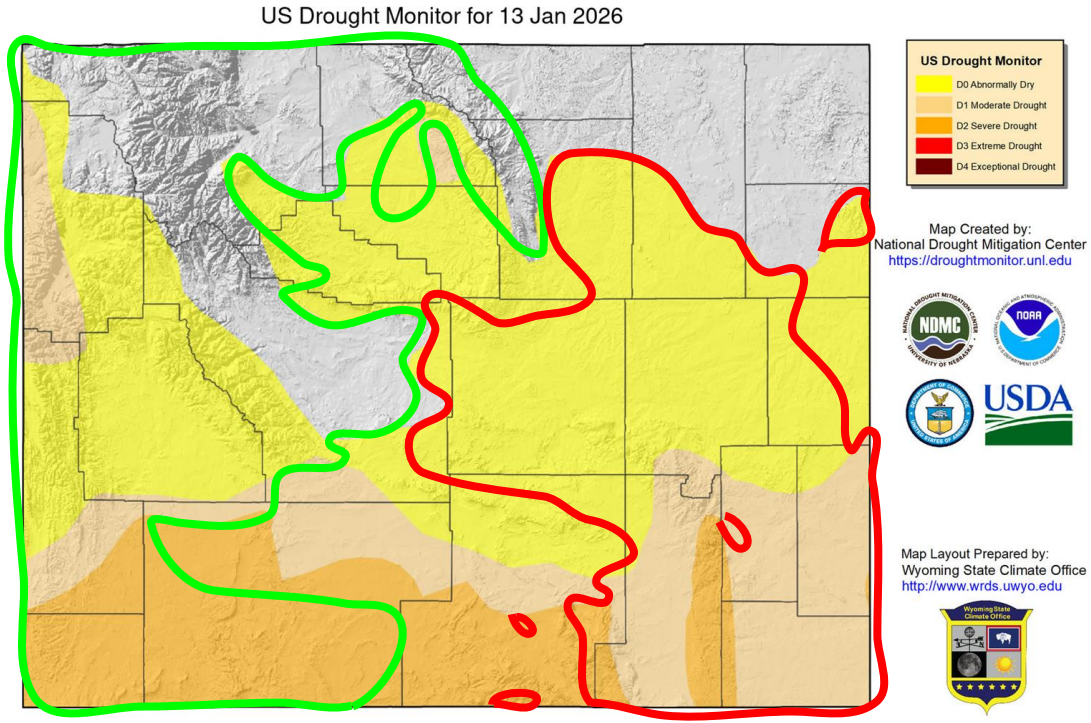
Current Conditions

US Drought Monitor for January 13th, 2026

(Released Thursday, January 15th, 2026)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Level	Percentile
None	>30.01
D0 (Abnormally Dry)	20.01 to 30
D1 (Moderate Drought)	10.01 to 20
D2 (Severe Drought)	5.01 to 10
D3 (Extreme Drought)	2.01 to 5
D4 (Exceptional Drought)	0 to 2



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 15 Jan 2026 08:26 https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

How are Drought categories assigned?
https://youtu.be/45MQ1GB-uTc

Improvements in the west and Degradations in the east up to the far northeast.

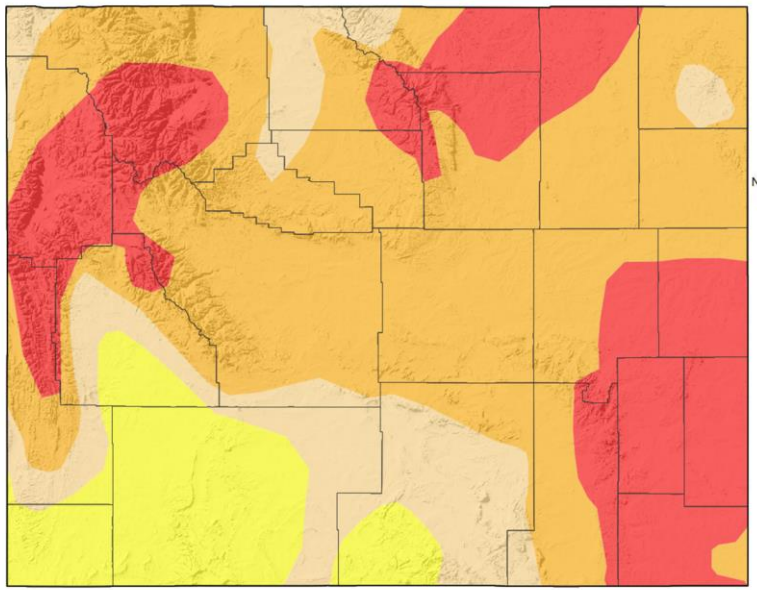
https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu

droughtmonitor.unl.edu

WRDS
Water Resources Data System

One Year Ago

US Drought Monitor for 14 Jan 2025



US Drought Monitor
D0 Abnormally Dry
D1 Moderate Drought
D2 Severe Drought
D3 Extreme Drought
D4 Exceptional Drought

Map Created by:
National Drought Mitigation Center
https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu

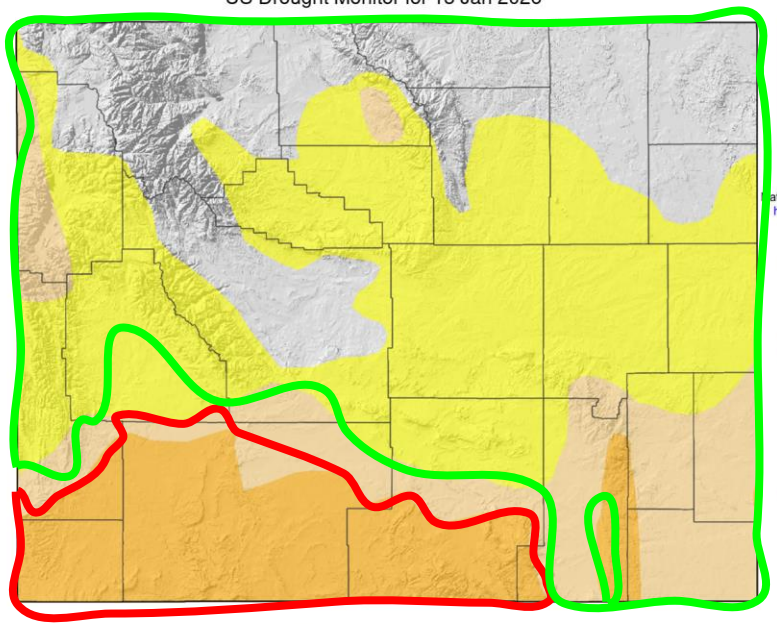
Map Layout Prepared by:
Wyoming State Climate Office
http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

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Map Layout Created 16 Jan 2025 https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

Today

US Drought Monitor for 13 Jan 2026



US Drought Monitor
D0 Abnormally Dry
D1 Moderate Drought
D2 Severe Drought
D3 Extreme Drought
D4 Exceptional Drought

Map Created by:
National Drought Mitigation Center
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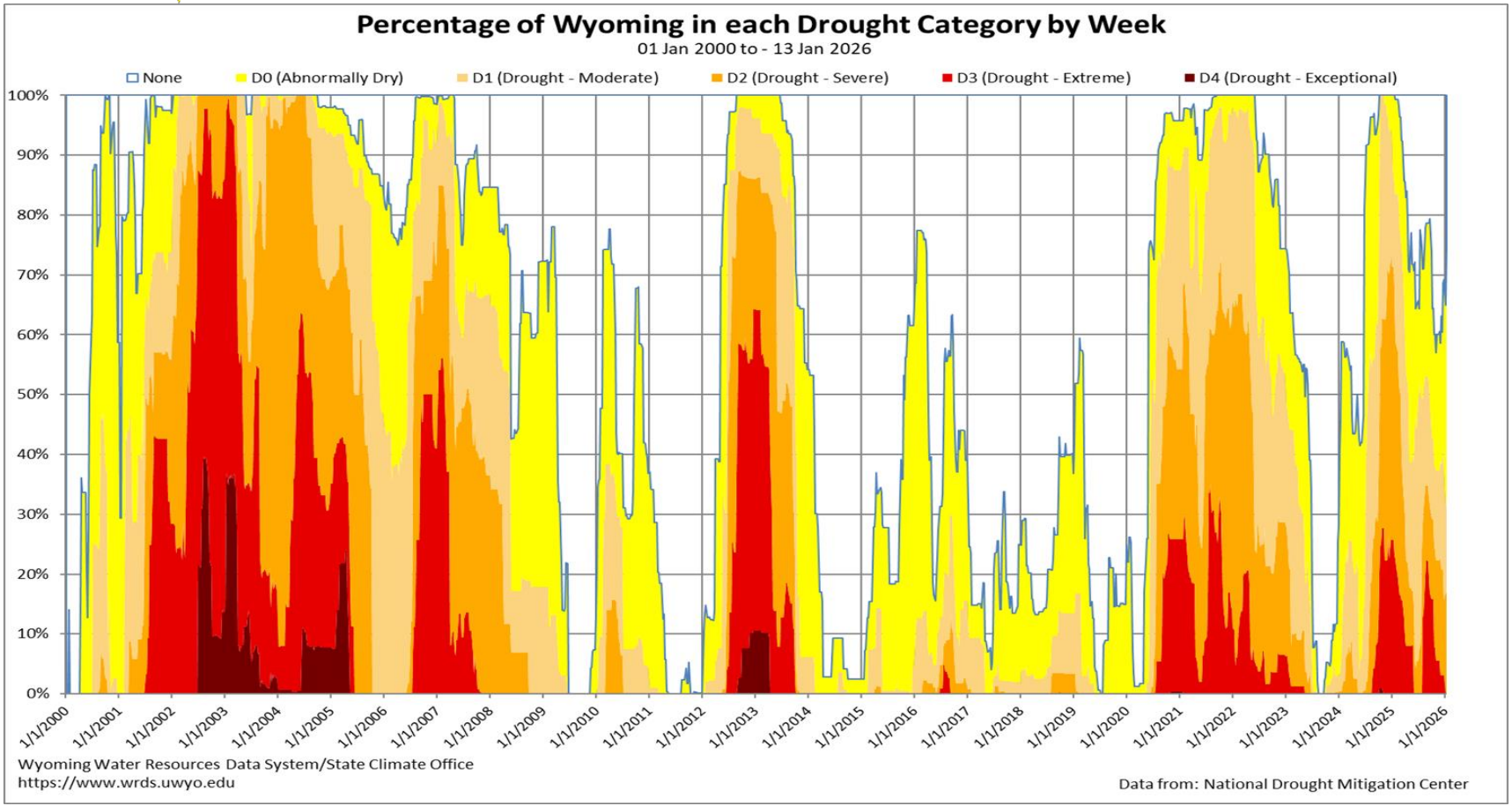
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https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu

droughtmonitor.unl.edu

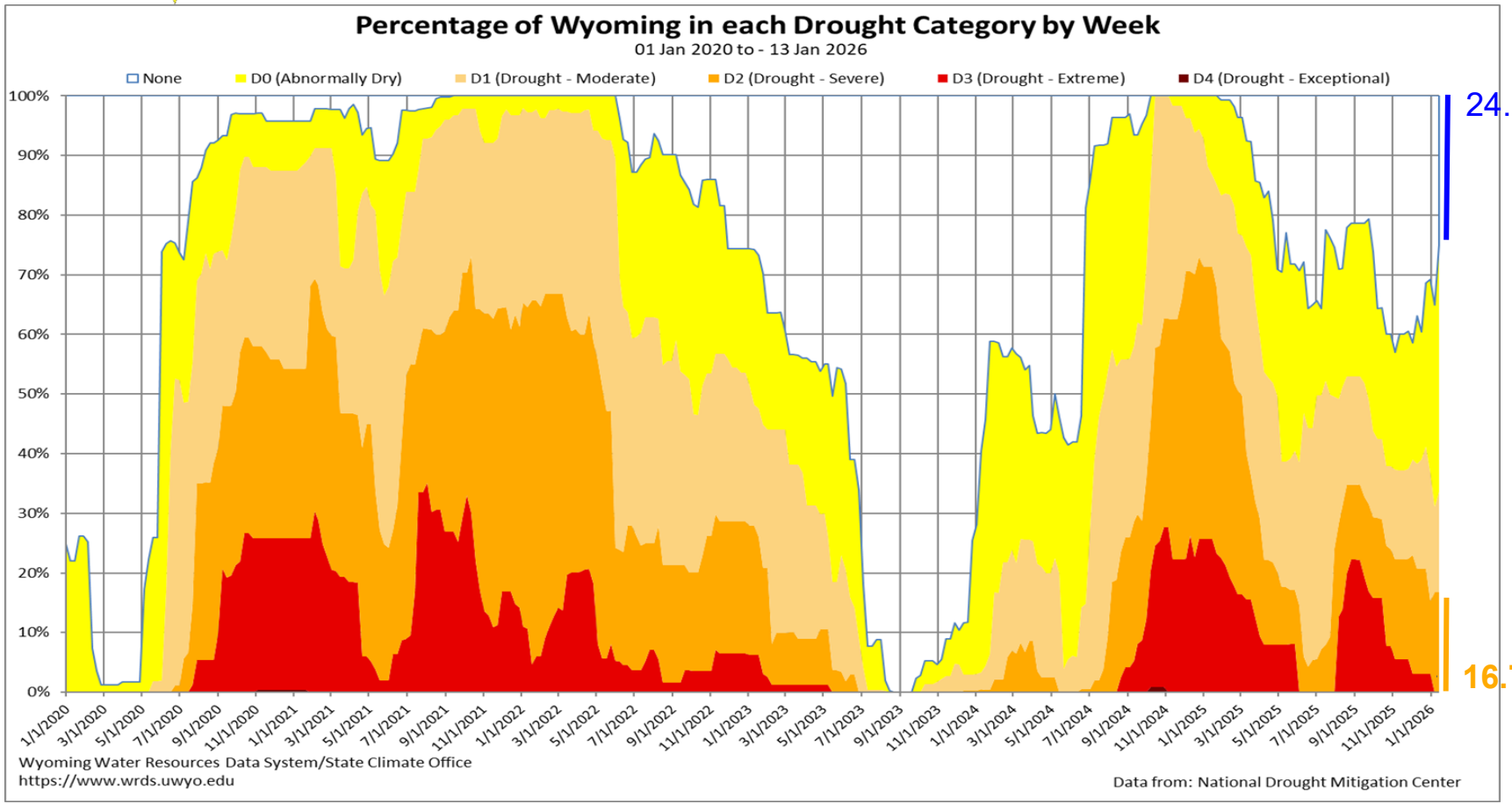
WRDS Water Resources Data System

Wyoming Area Affected: 75.14% D0-D4 ; 33.61% D1-D4



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

WRDS
Water Resources Data System



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

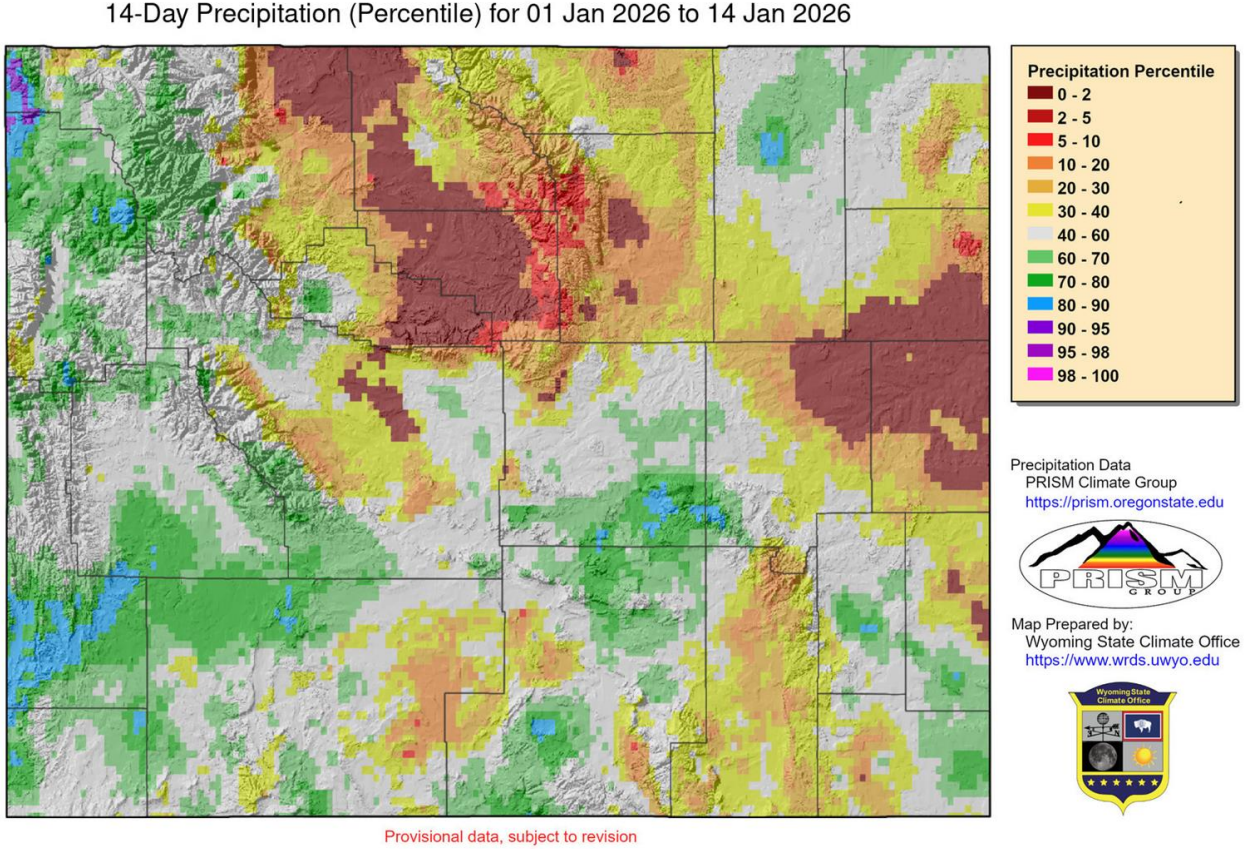
14-Day Precipitation Percentile (01 Jan 2026 to 14 Jan 2026)

Above Median:

- Areas of the west
- Southern Natrona & parts of Carbon Counties

Below Median (*Areas of Concern*):

- Northcentral WY
- Eastern WY



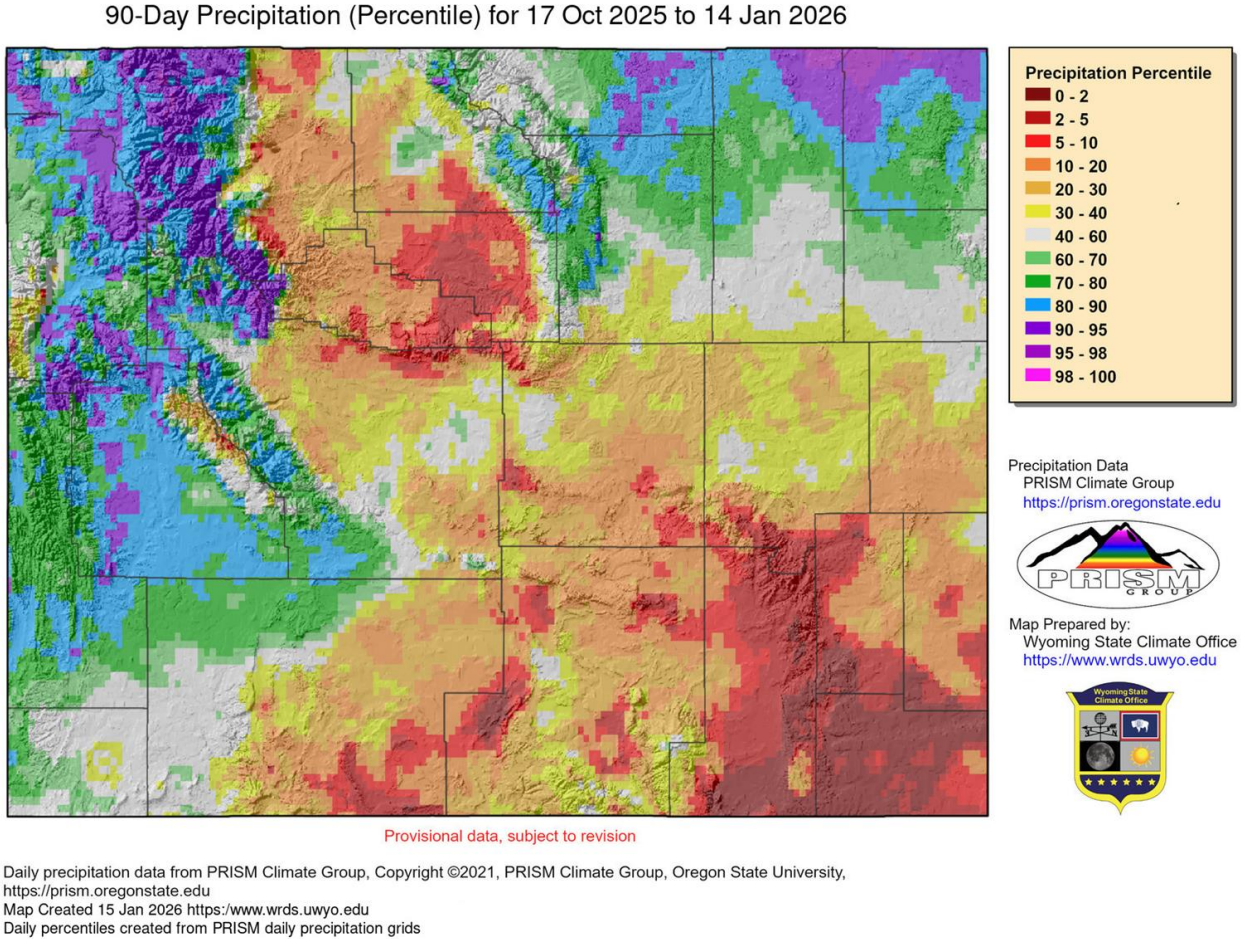
90-Day Precipitation Percentile (17 Oct 2025 to 14 Jan 2026)

Above Median:

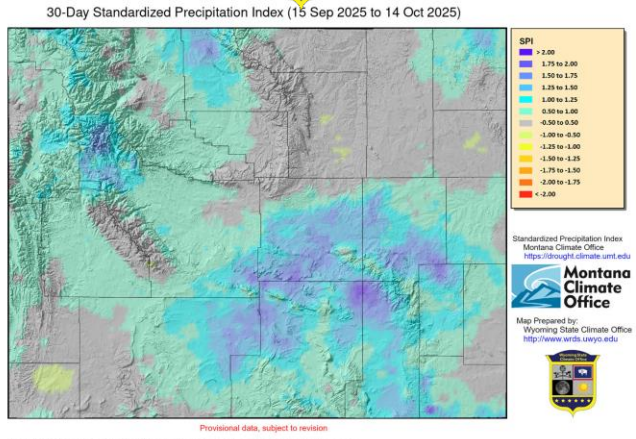
- West/Northwest
- Northeast

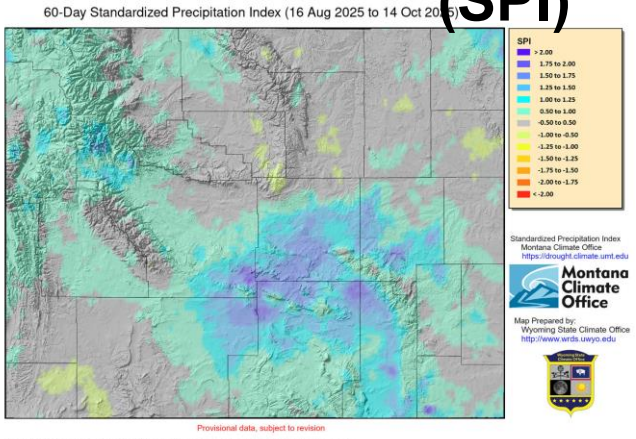
Below Median (*Areas of Concern*):

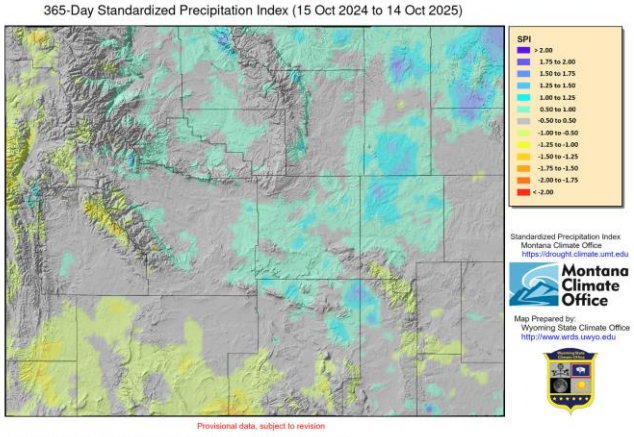
- Southeast/Southcentral Wyoming
- Bighorn Basin
- Wind River Basin



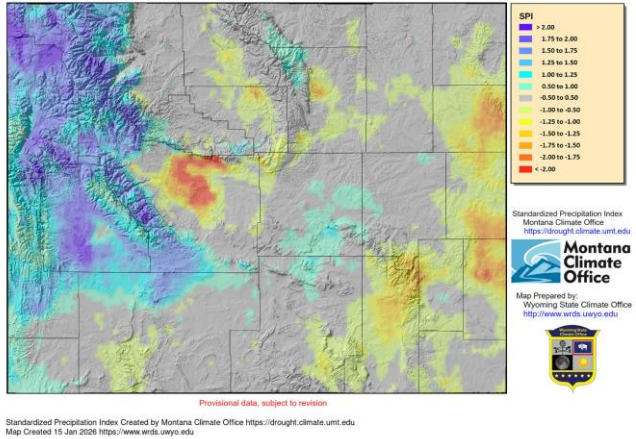
Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI)



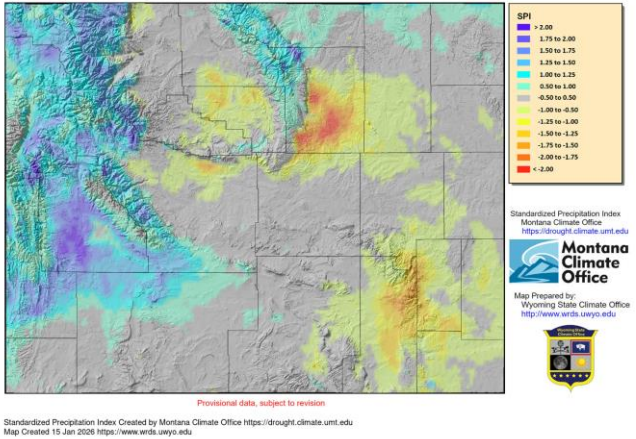




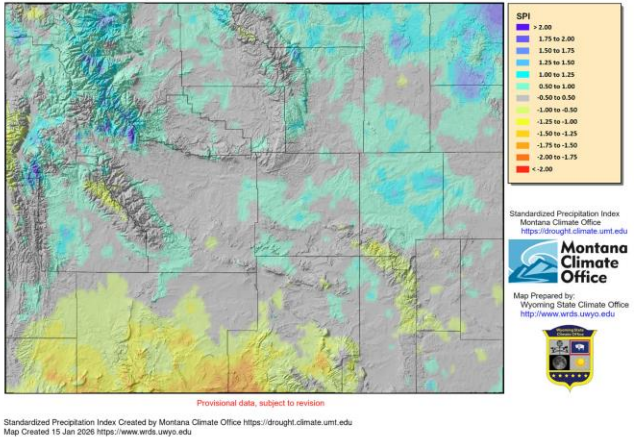
30-Day



60-Day



1-Year

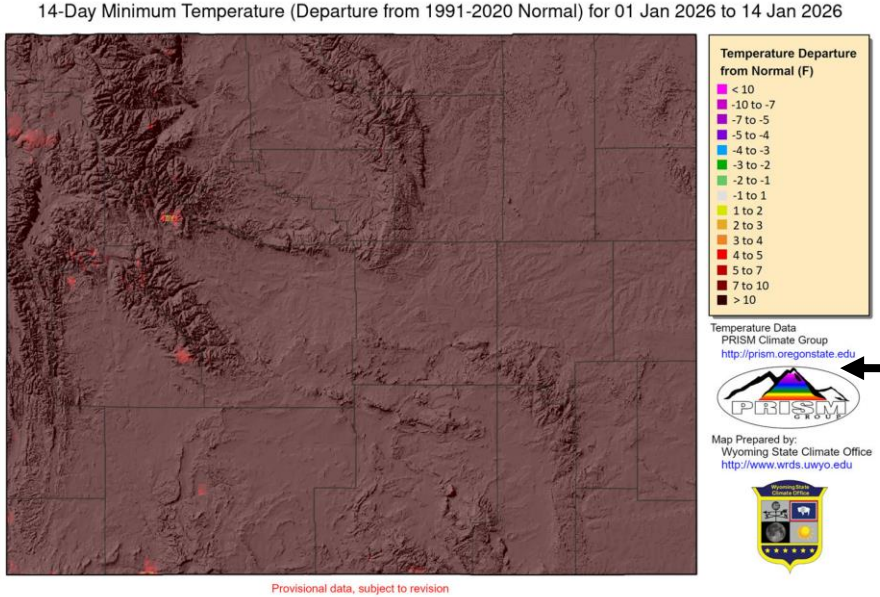


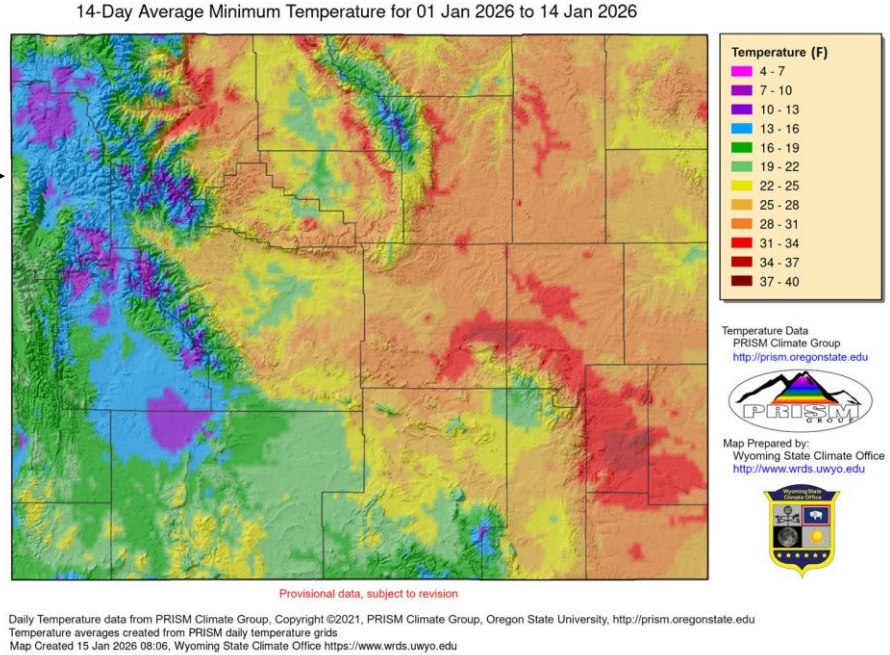
https://drought.climate.umt.edu

WRDS Water Resources Data System

14-Day Average Minimum Temperature (01 Jan to 14 Jan)

- Nighttime lows now generally less than 20F west of divide
- Few areas with lows just above freezing such as parts of Platte and Natrona/Converse County.





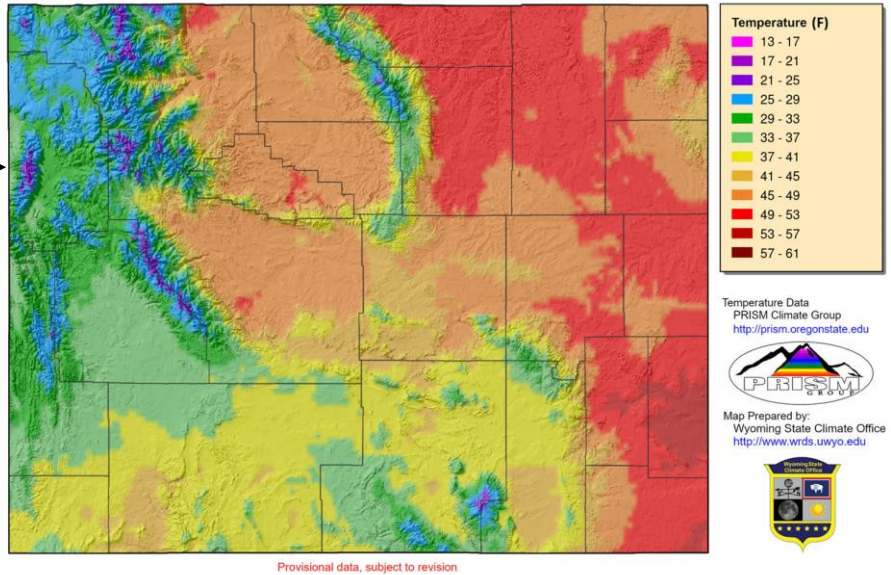
14-Day *Departure from* Normal Average Minimum Temperature

- Above normal
- +10F above normal
- Few small areas a little less

14-Day Average Maximum Temperature (01 Jan to 14 Jan)

- Max Temps in high teens to ~32F in high elevation areas
- Eastern Plains upper 40s or more
- Southwestern ⅔ of WY in the 30s

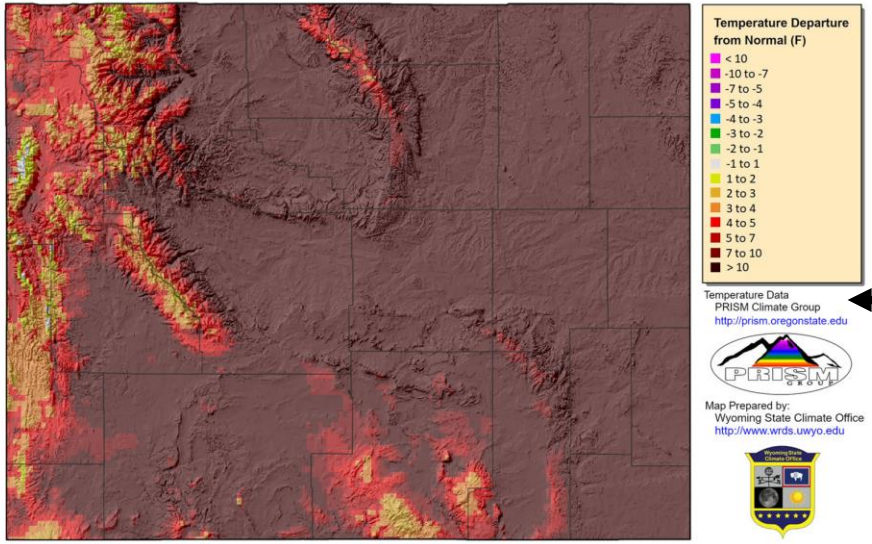
14-Day Average Maxmimum Temperature for 01 Jan 2026 to 14 Jan 2026



Provisional data, subject to revision

Daily Temperature data from PRISM Climate Group, Copyright ©2021, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University, http://prism.oregonstate.edu
Temperature averages created from PRISM daily temperature grids
Map Created 15 Jan 2026 08:08, Wyoming State Climate Office https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

14-Day Maximum Temperature (Departure from 1991-2020 Normal) for 01 Jan 2026 to 14 Jan 2026



Provisional data, subject to revision

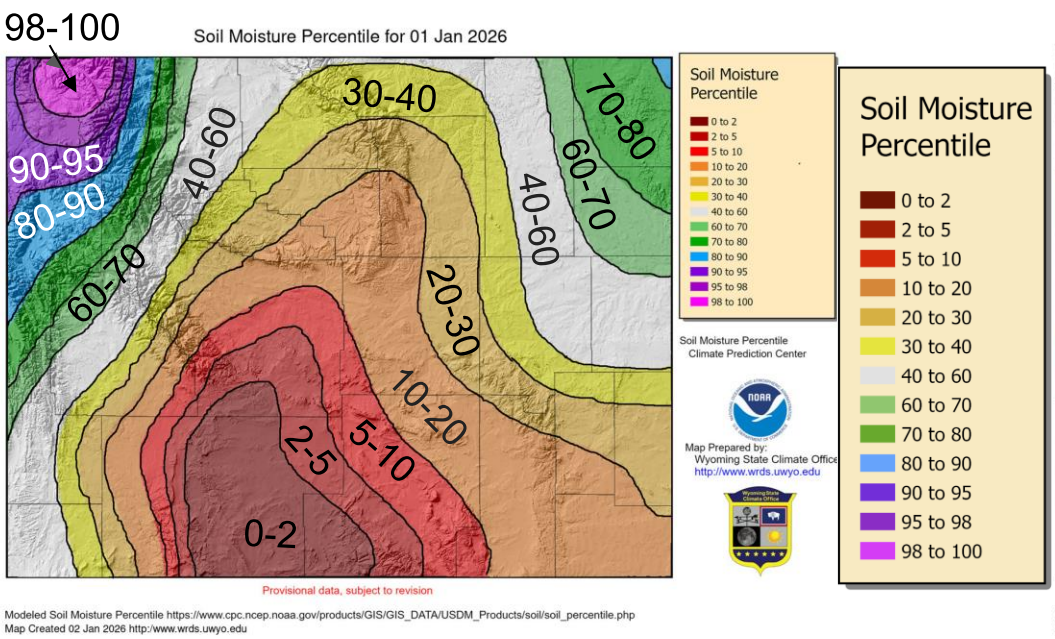
Daily Temperature data from PRISM Climate Group, Copyright ©2021, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University, http://prism.oregonstate.edu
Map Created 15 Jan 2026 07:53 Wyoming State Climate Office https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu
Daily departures created from PRISM daily temperature grids

14- Day *Departure from* Normal Average Maximum Temperature

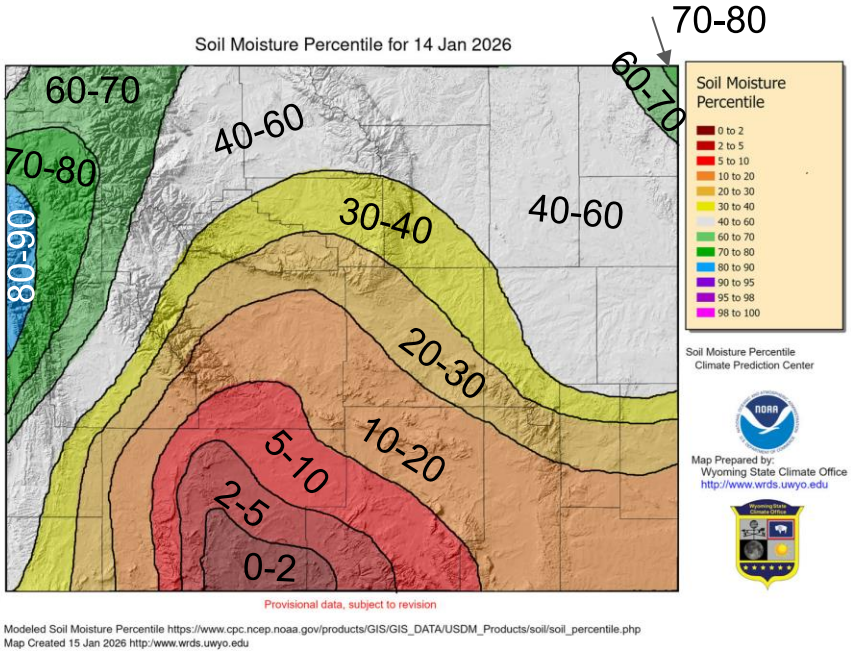
- Departures were the smallest in the mountainous areas
- Much of the state more than10F above average

Soil Moisture Percentile

~Two Weeks Ago



14 Jan 2026



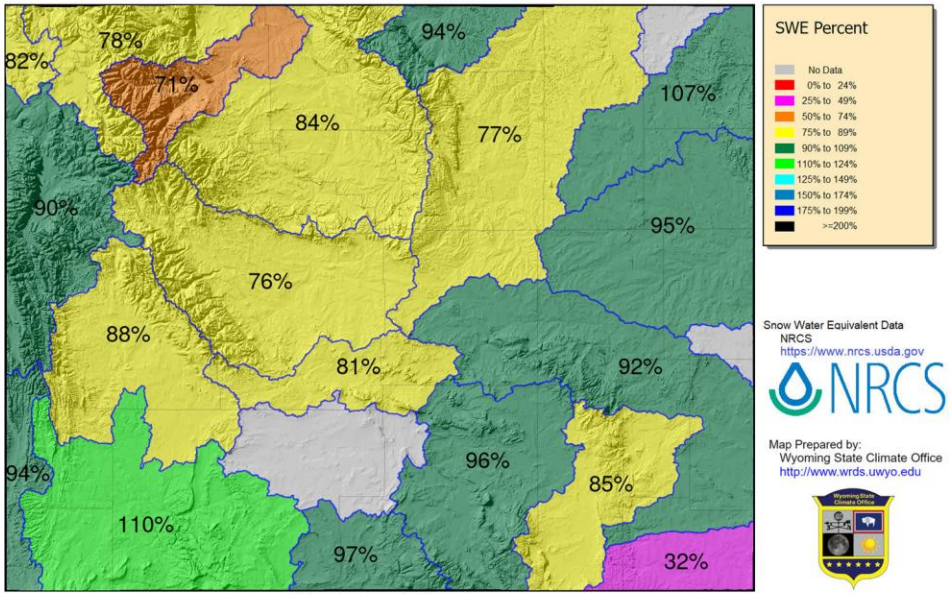
https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu/Soil/Current_SoilMoisture_Ptile.html

Improvements in the central part of the state but degradations in the northwest and northeast though still at or above median.

Snow Water Equivalent by Basin

One Year Ago

Snow Water Equivalent Percent of Median (1991-2020) 15 Jan 2025



SWE Percent

- No Data
- 0% to 24%
- 25% to 49%
- 50% to 74%
- 75% to 89%
- 90% to 109%
- 110% to 124%
- 125% to 149%
- 150% to 174%
- 175% to 199%
- >=200%

Snow Water Equivalent Data
NRCS
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov

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

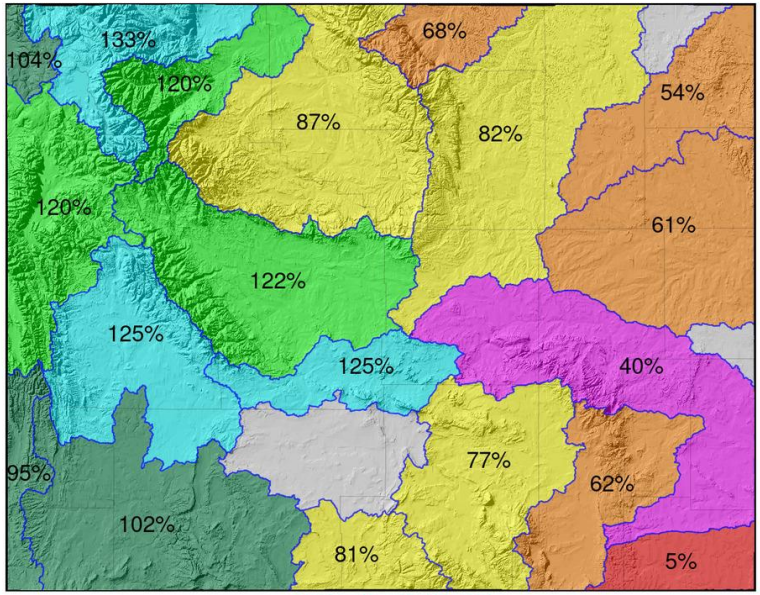
Provisional data, subject to revision

Basin Snow Water Equivalent Data from Natural Resources Conservation Service Water and Climate Center https://www.nrcs.usda.gov
Map created by Wyoming State Climate Office 15 Jan 2025

* Percentages denoted by an asterisk represent data that may not provide a valid measure of conditions. This is most usually seen near the end of the snow season where normal values may be very low or the melt out curve is so steep that a slight variation in days may result in abnormally high or low percentages.

15 Jan 2026

Snow Water Equivalent Percent of Median (1991-2020) 15 Jan 2026



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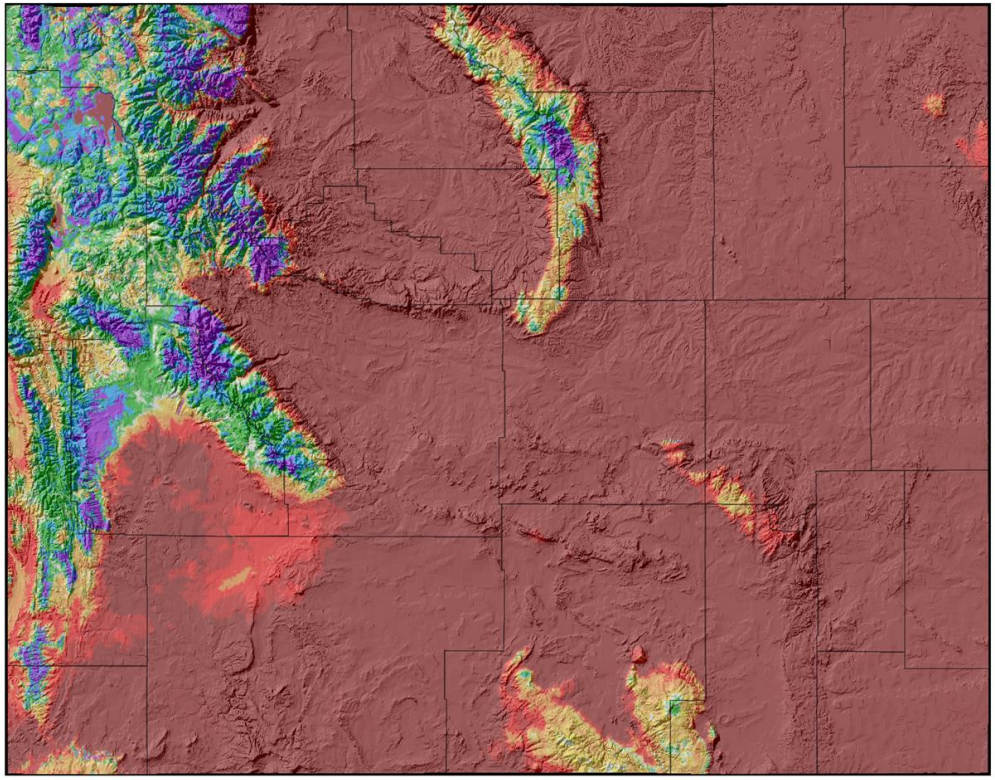
Provisional data, subject to revision

Basin Snow Water Equivalent Data from Natural Resources Conservation Service Water and Climate Center https://www.nrcs.usda.gov
Map created by Wyoming State Climate Office 15 Jan 2026

* Percentages denoted by an asterisk represent data that may not provide a valid measure of conditions. This is most usually seen near the end of the snow season where normal values may be very low or the melt out curve is so steep that a slight variation in days may result in abnormally high or low percentages.

Snow Water Equivalent

Snow Water Equivalent Percent of Average (2004-2020) for 15 Jan 2026



Snow Water Equivalent
NOHRSC
https://doi.org/10.7265/N5TB14TC

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

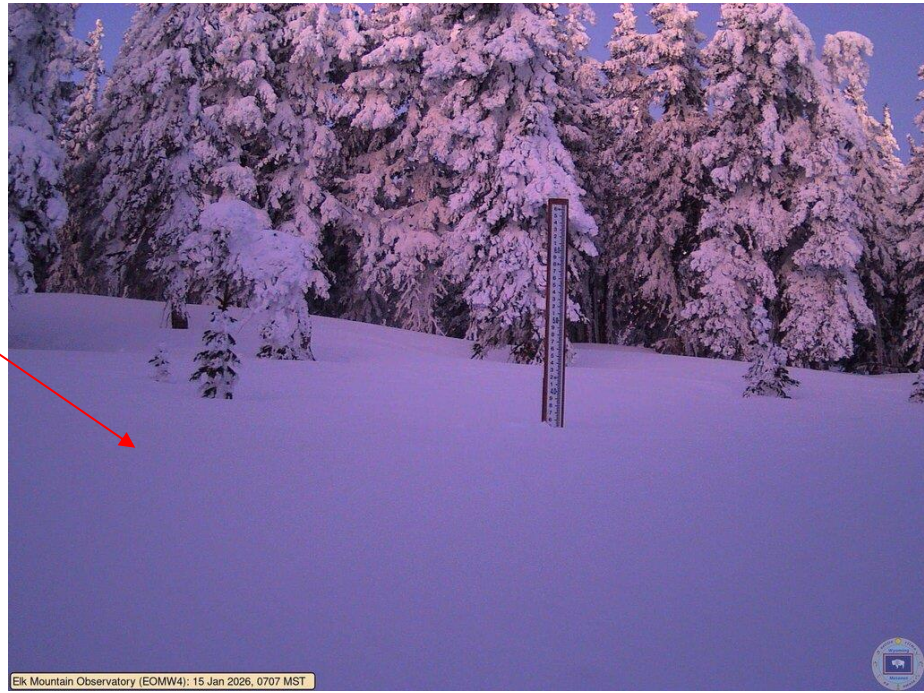
Provisional data, subject to revision

Modelled Snow Water Equivalent from National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center. 2004. Snow Data Assimilation System (SNODAS) Data Products at NSIDC, Version 1. Boulder, Colorado USA. NSIDC: National Snow and Ice Data Center.
doi: https://doi.org/10.7265/N5TB14TC.
Daily Percentiles and Percentages created by Wyoming State Climate Office
Map created 15 Jan 2026

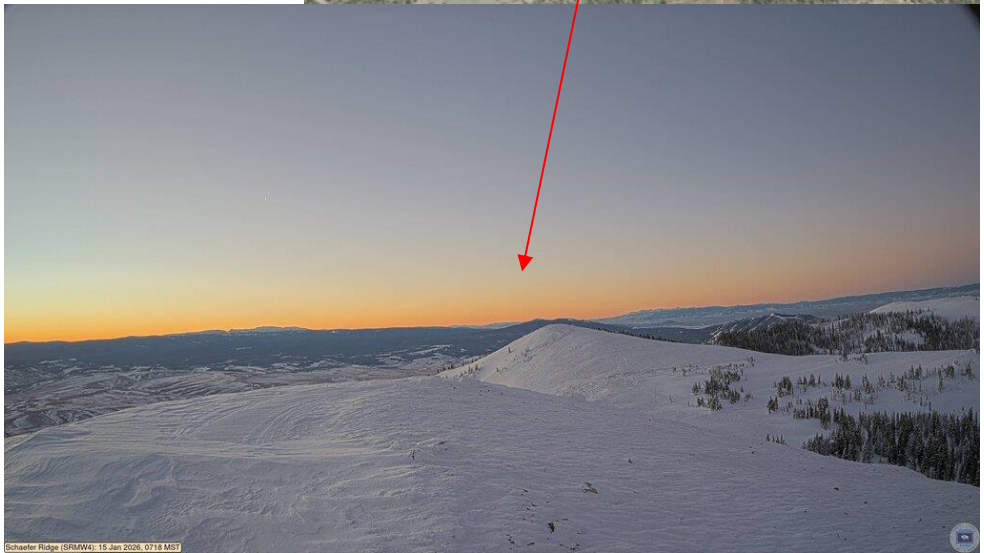
Snow - Elk Mountain



Looking South



10,850ft Looking West

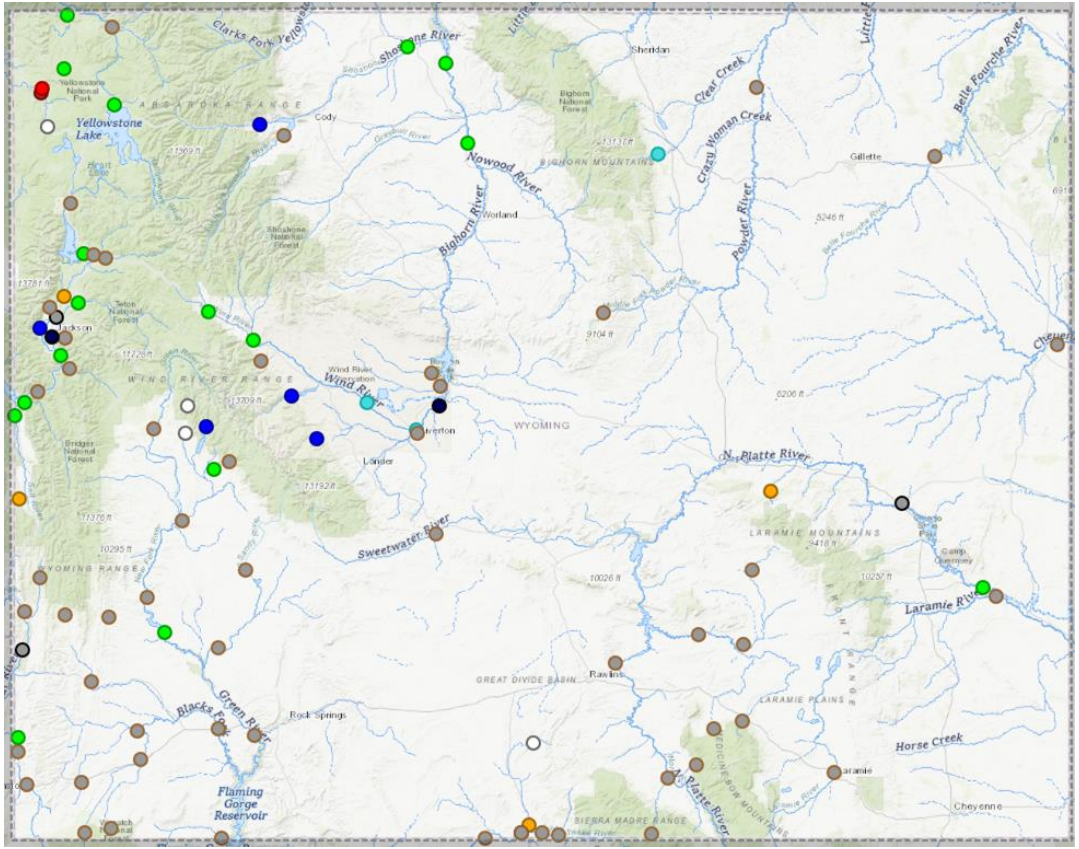


11,045ft

Current Streamflow Conditions

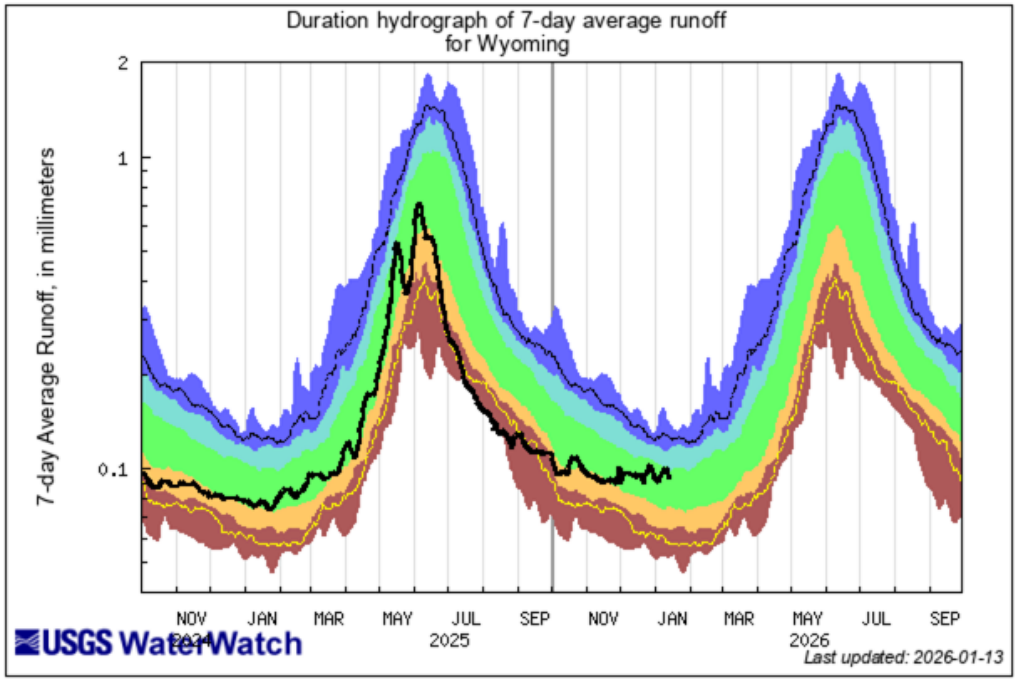
Streamflow Status



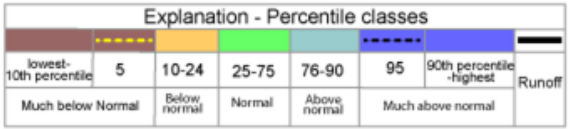


https://dashboard.waterdata.usgs.gov/

Where Are We In The Water Year?



- Winter baseflow.
- Generally times of stable flow.

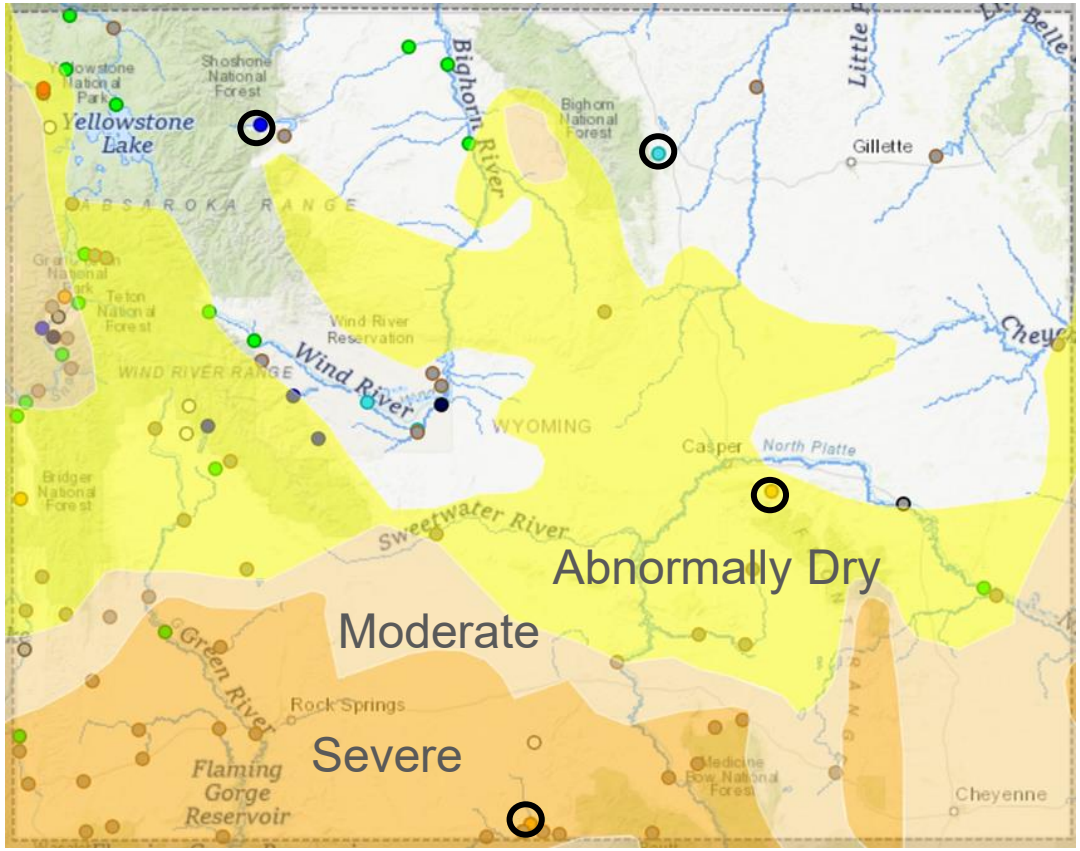


https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/

Current Streamflow and Drought Conditions

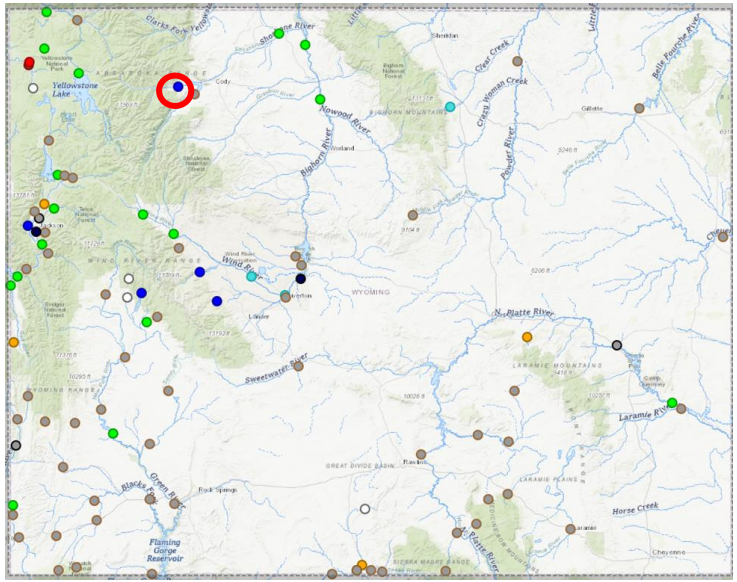
Streamflow Status





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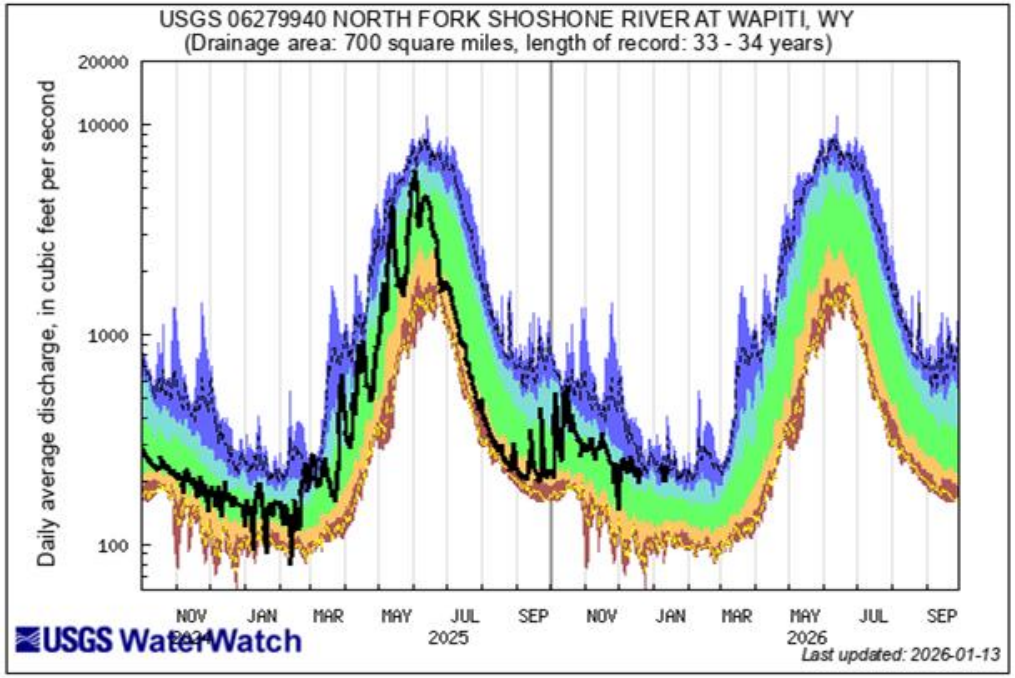
Select WY Streamflows

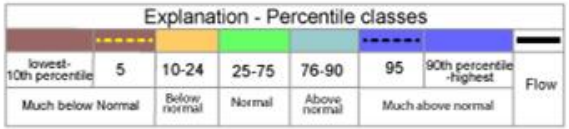


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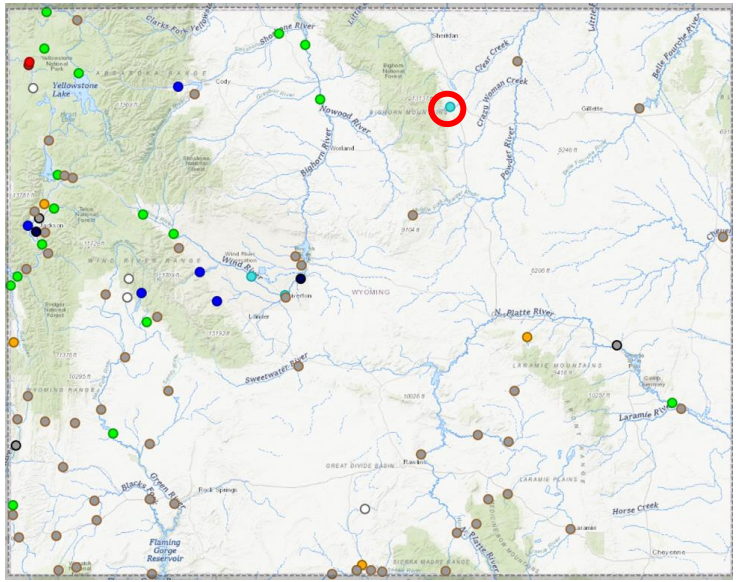
https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/

North Fork Shoshone River, at Wapiti, WY





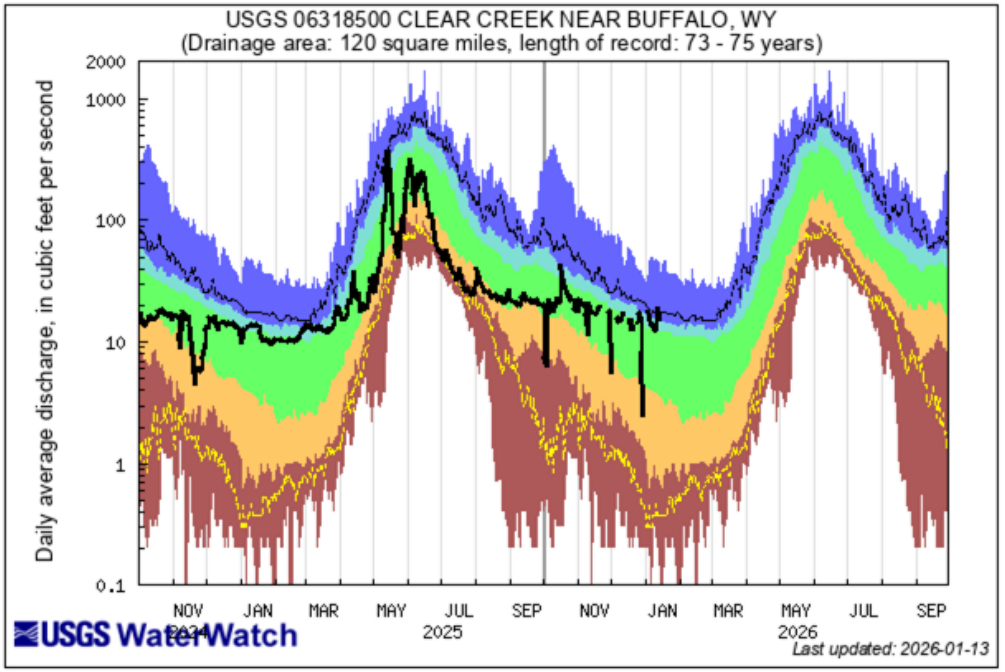
Select WY Streamflows

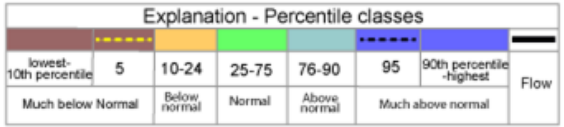


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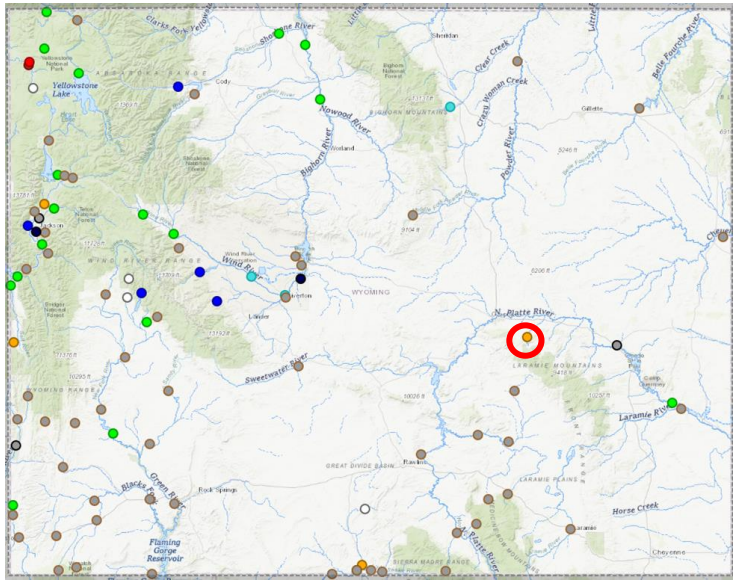
https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/

Clear Creek, near Buffalo, WY





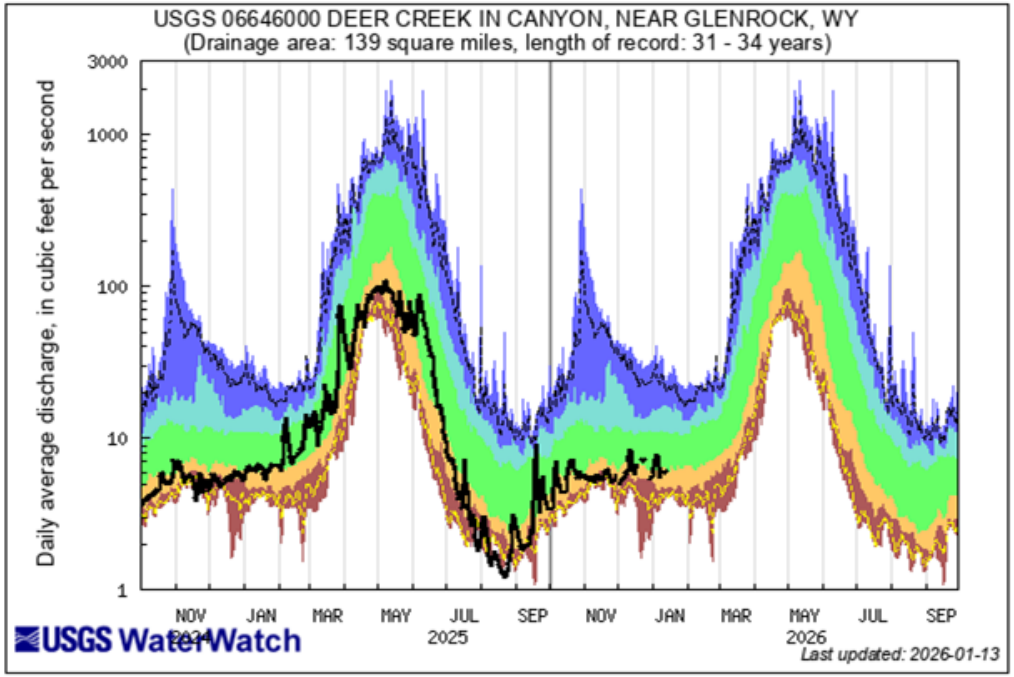
Select WY Streamflows



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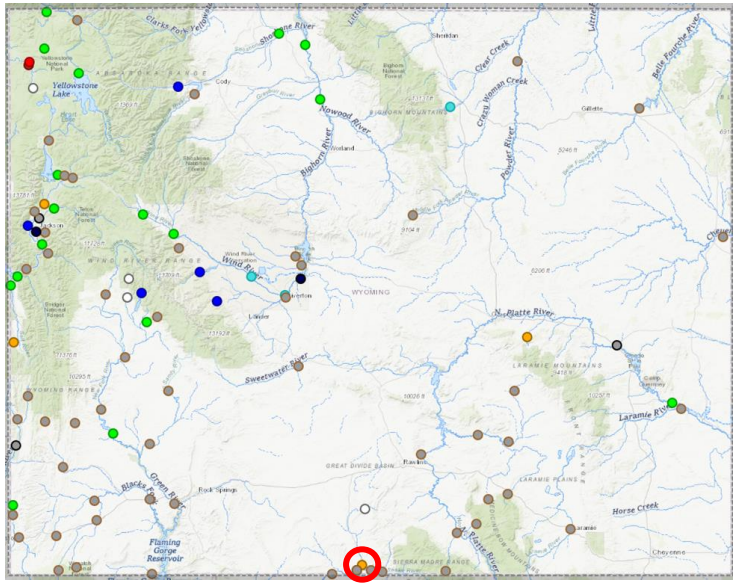
https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/

Deer Creek in Canyon, near Glenrock, WY



Explanation - Percentile classes							
lowest-10th percentile	5	10-24	25-75	76-90	95	90th percentile -highest	Flow
Much below Normal		Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

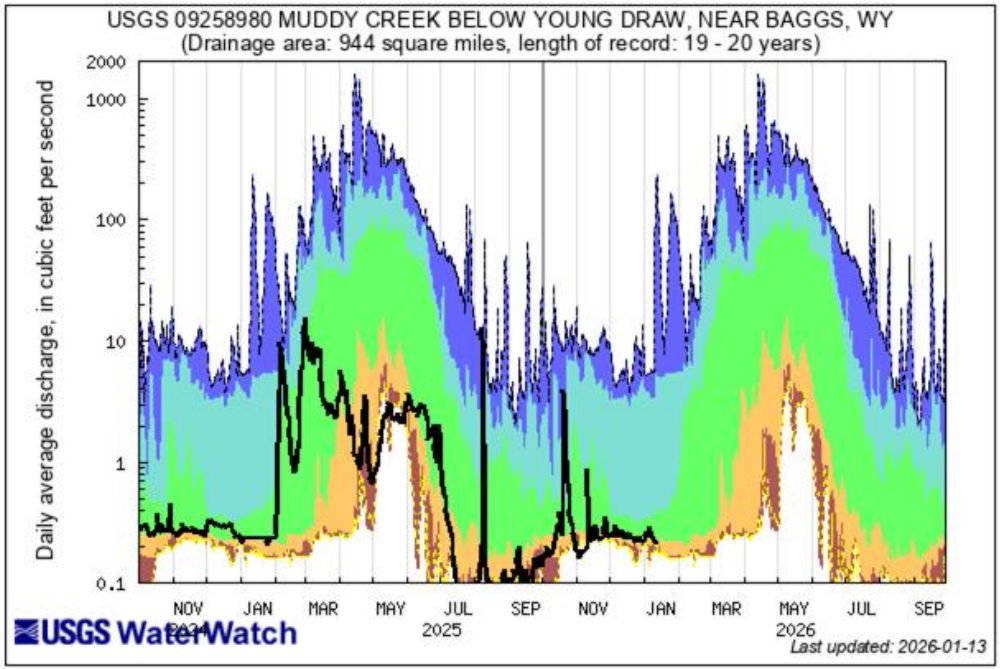
Select WY Streamflows

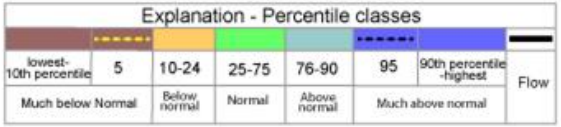


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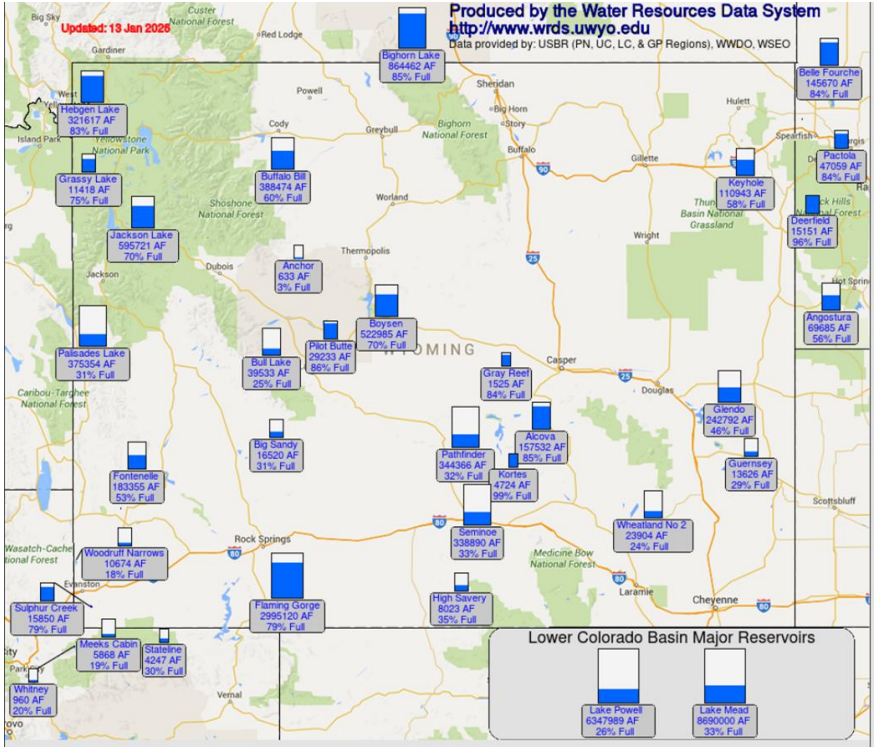
https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/

Muddy Creek, near Baggs, WY





Wyoming Reservoirs



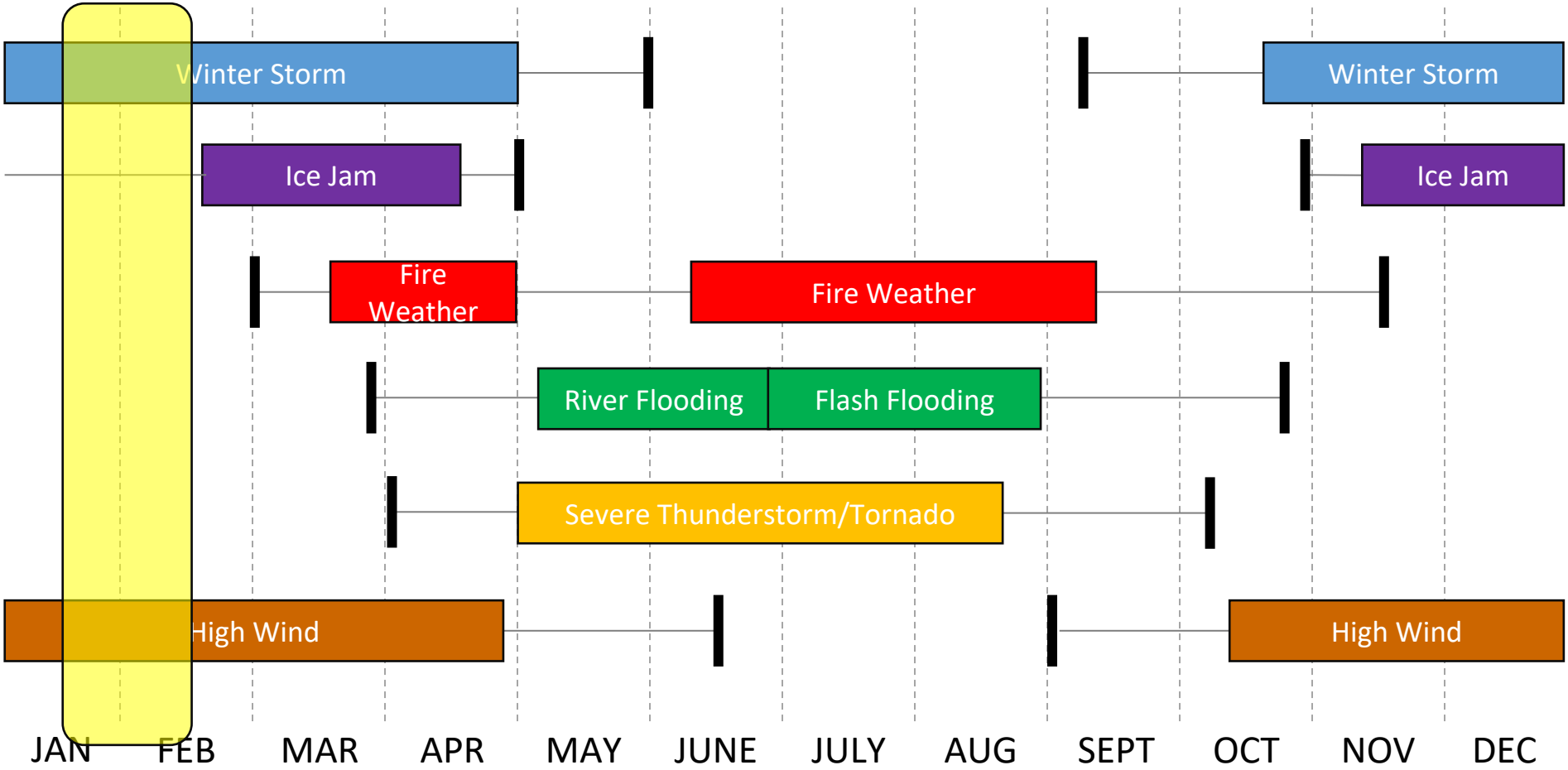
Reservoir Storage

- Mostly minor changes since mid-Sept
- Large decrease in Fontenelle
- Large increase at Palisades

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

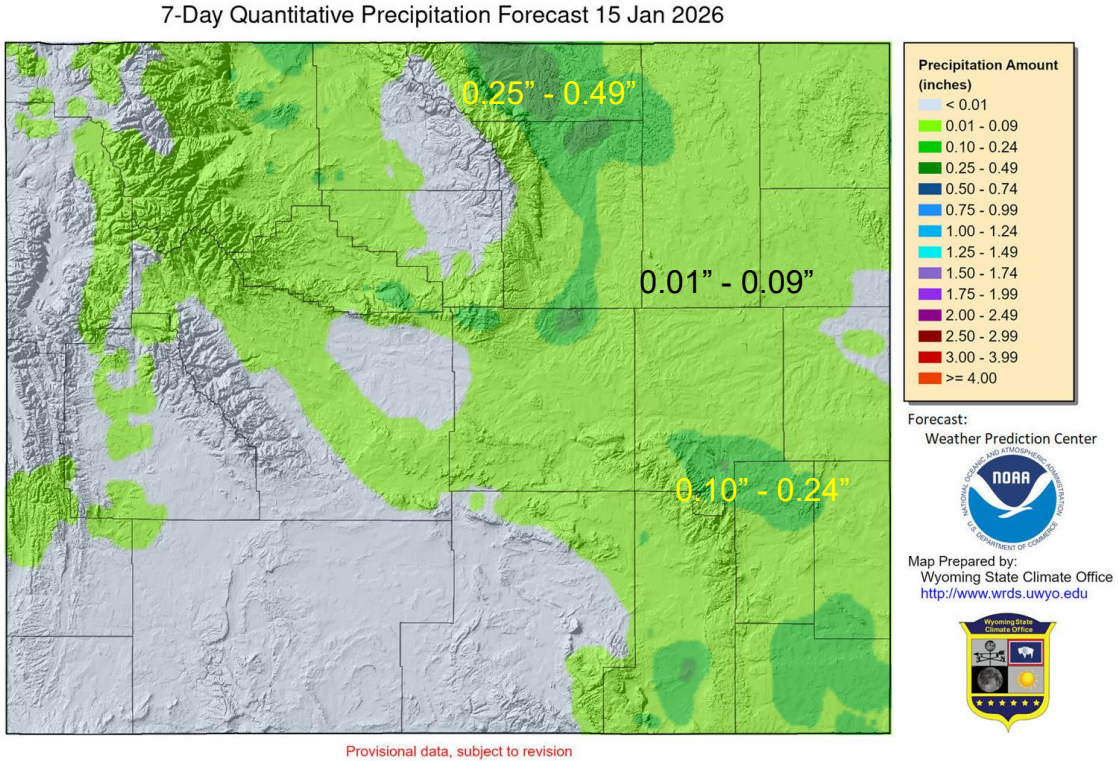
Weather Info & Forecasts

NWS Wyoming - Typical Hazard Calendar



7-Day Total Precipitation Forecast

(Jan 15 - Jan 22)



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 15 Jan 2026 https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

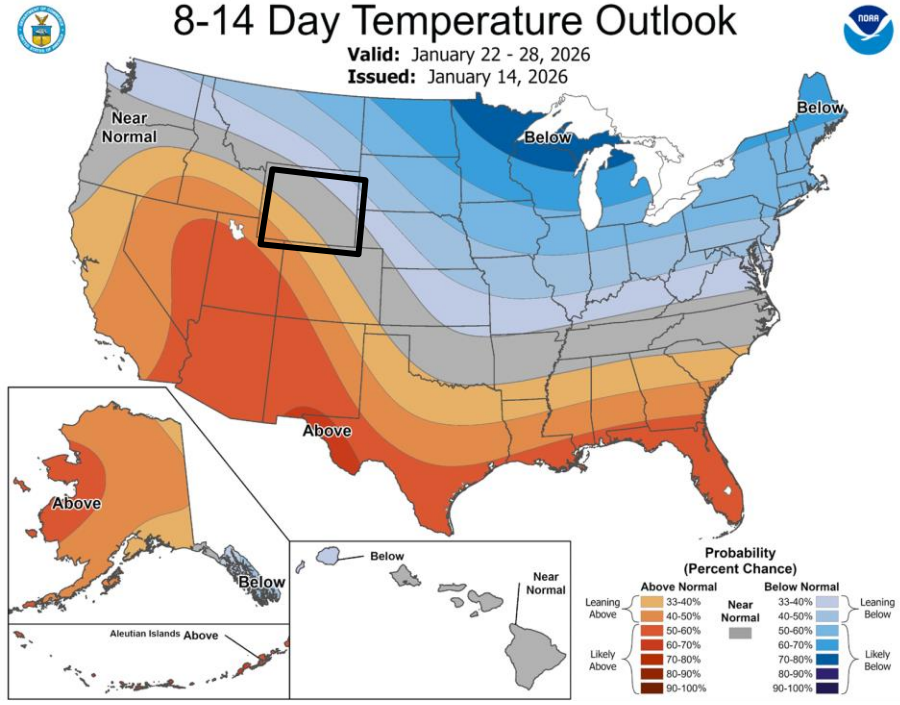
- Rain and high elevation snow (above 7,000 feet) this evening and overnight
- Next chance of rain or snow isn’t until Jan 22nd for the northwest and west

https://bit.ly/7_dayQPForecast

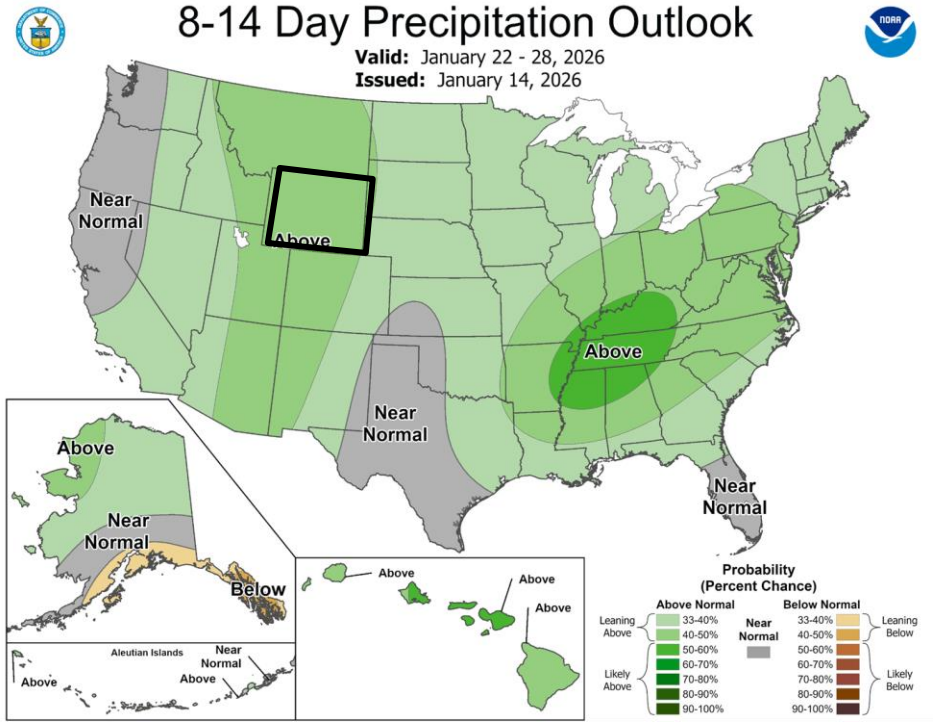
8-14 Day Outlooks

(Jan 22 - Jan 28)

https://bit.ly/CPC8_14Day



- Below normal in the southwest to Near normal in the center and Below normal in the northeast.
- Interactive Version: cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/814day/interactive/index.php

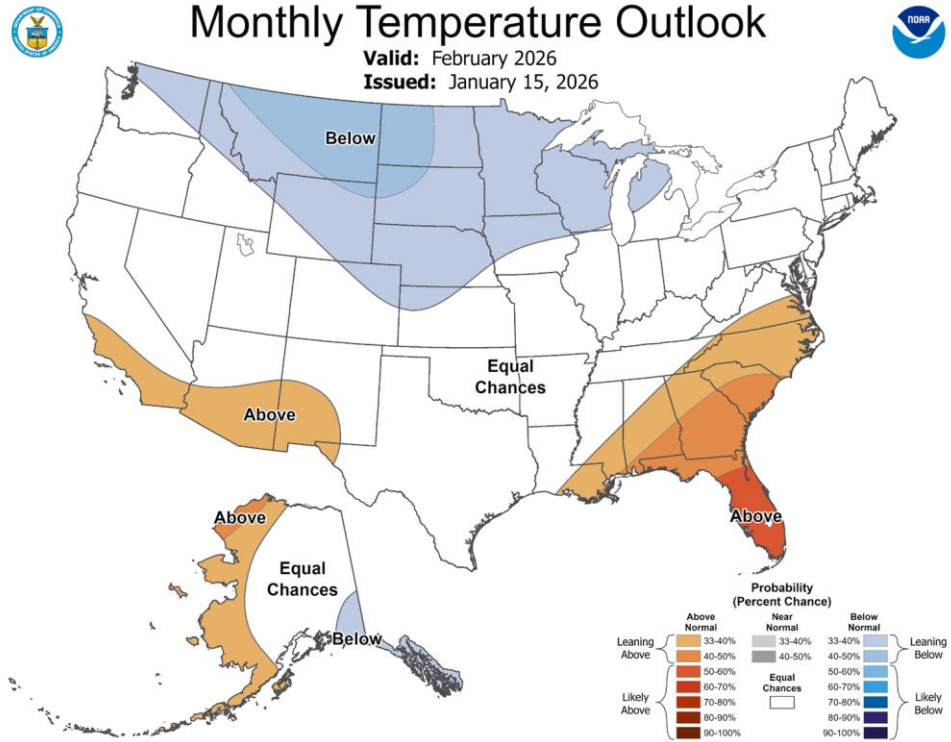


- Leaning towards wetter than normal for the state

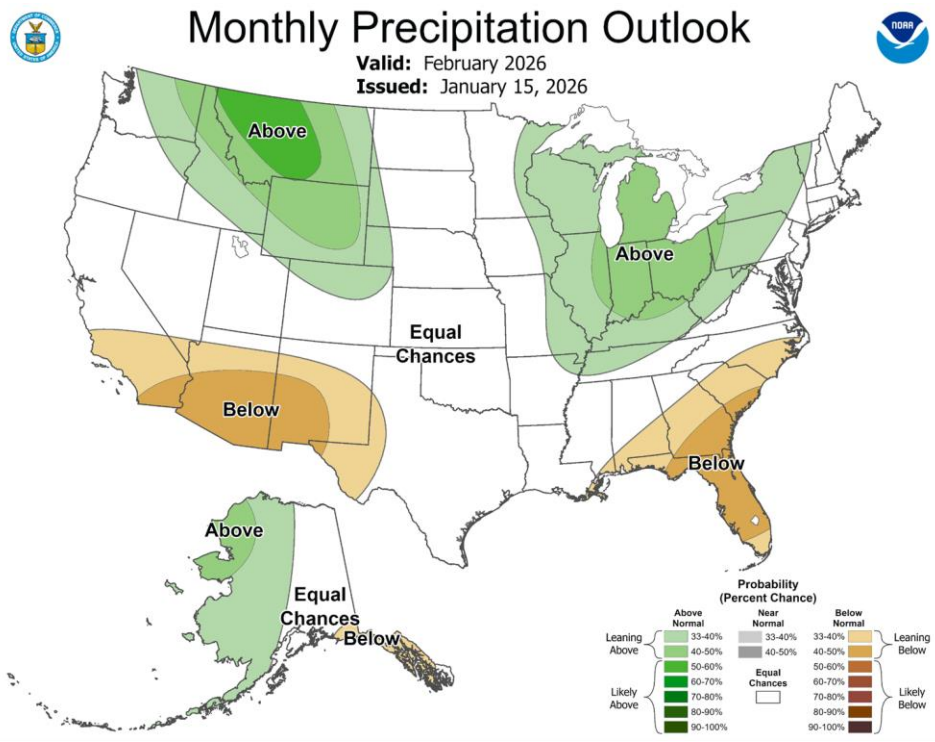
1-Month Outlooks

(February)

cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/30day/



- Lean toward below normal for most of the state
- Equal chances for the southwest with climatology as the best forecast

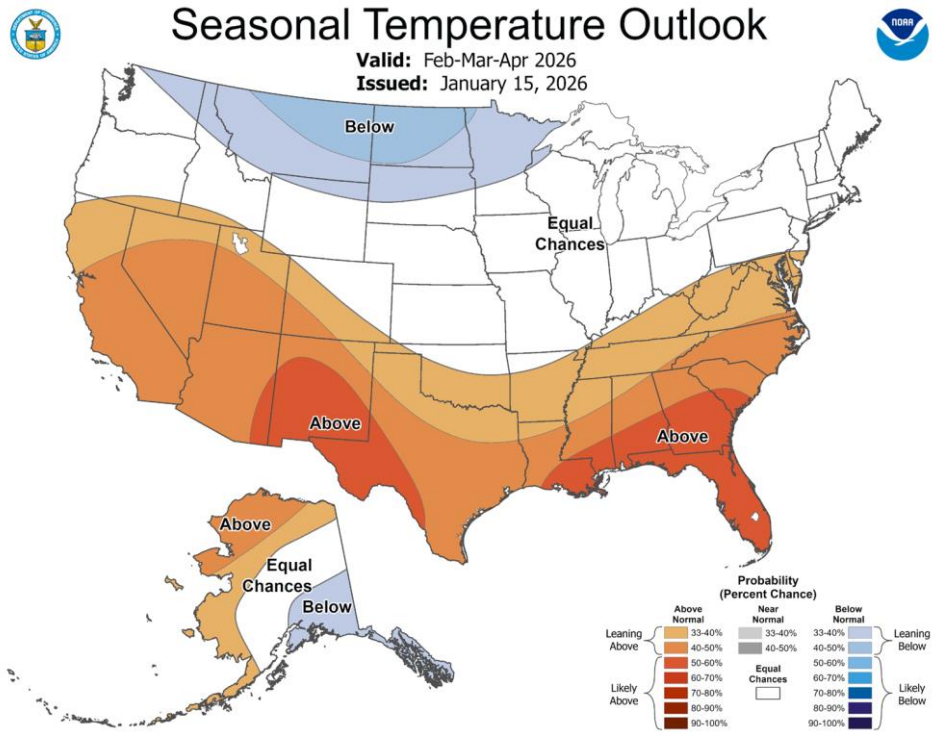


- Chances are leaning toward above normal precipitation

3 Month Outlook

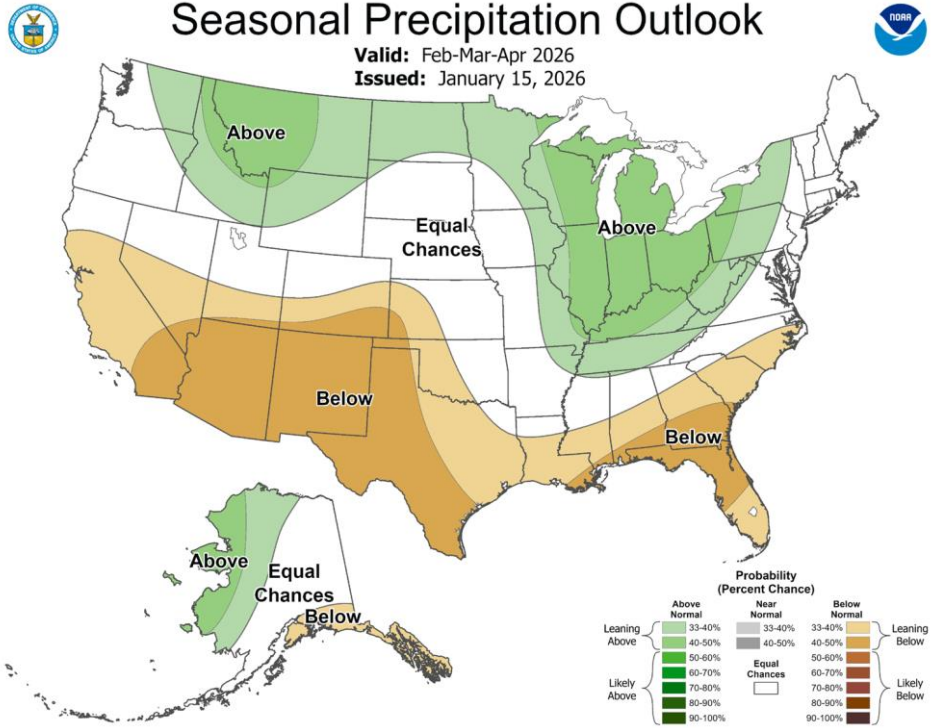
https://bit.ly/CPC_Seasonal

(Feb-Mar-Apr)



- Equal chances for a majority of the state with climatology the best forecast
- Tiny slivers of above and below normal

(Feb-Mar-Apr)

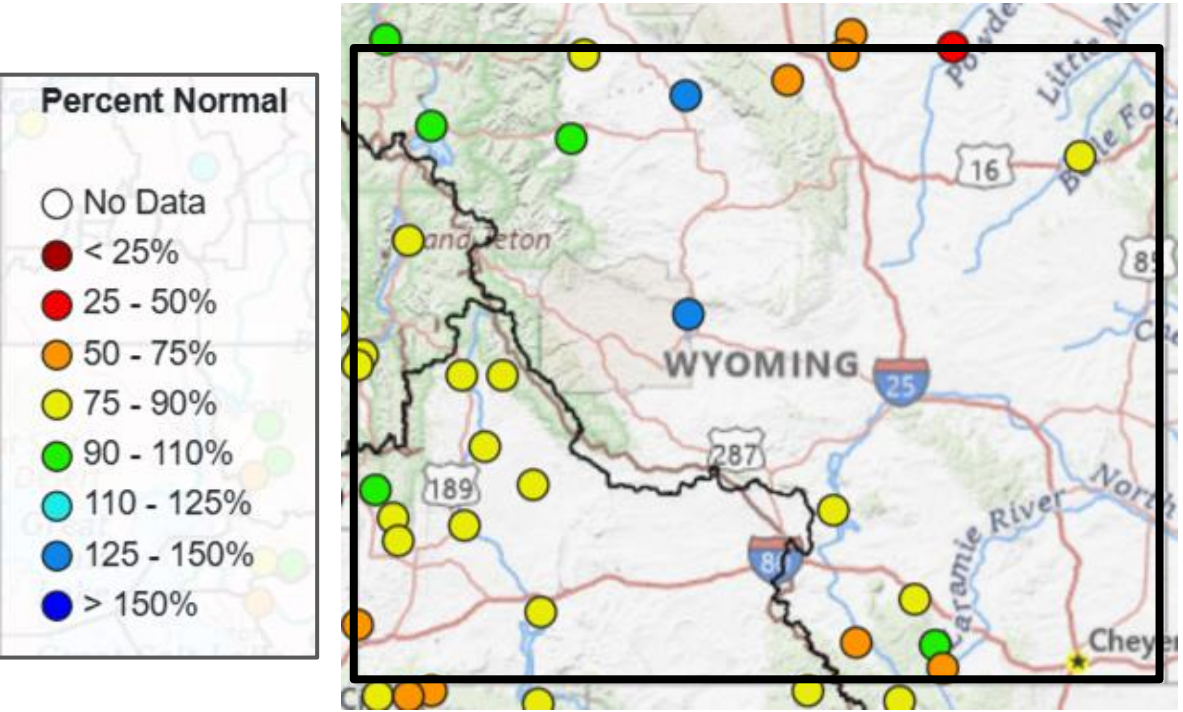


- Leaning toward above normal for the northwest
- Climatology is the best forecast with equal chances across the southeast

Water Supply Outlook

Wyoming Water Supply Outlook

Valid April-September



https://www.cbrfc.noaa.gov/wsup/graph/west/map/esp_map.html

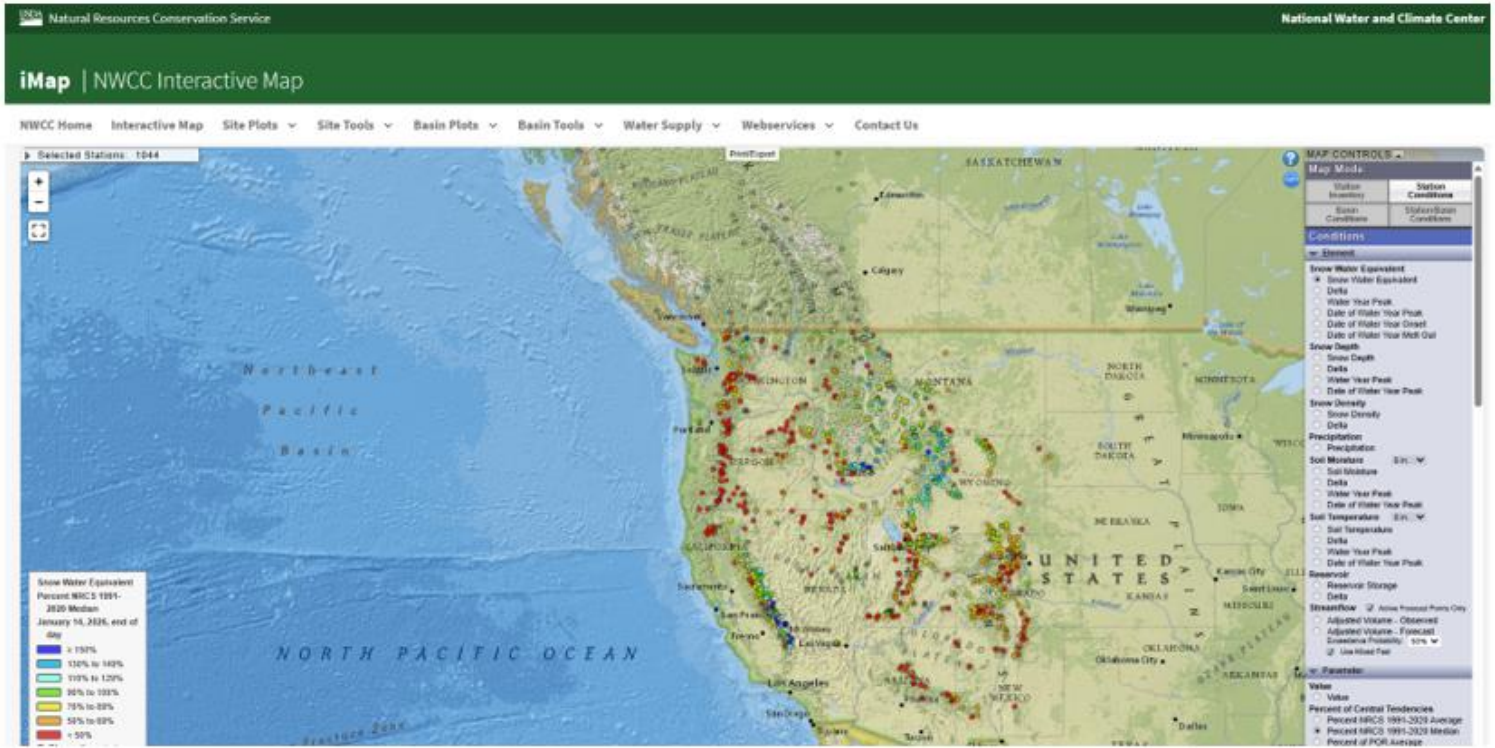
April thru September runoff volumes below normal, to near normal.

This graphic depicts the NWS water supply outlook locations, colored by the percent of April-thru-September volumetric normal. Many Wyoming stations are projected to see lower-than-normal volumes (yellows, oranges), with some stations primarily in the Bighorn Basin forecasting near normal (greens and blues).

Forecast valid January 2026.

**Please note that the Colorado River basin colors reflect April-thru-July percent-of-normals.*

Highlight of the Month:
National Water and Climate Center Interactive Maps



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Wyoming

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Access this tool HERE.

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Thank you!

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

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