WY Conditions & Outlooks:

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

May 21, 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
  - Reservoir Levels
  - Water Calls & Allocations
- **Outlooks:** Overview
  - Temperature & Precipitation
  - River Flooding & Water Supply
- **Highlight of the Month:**
  Agricultural Stress & Grief Support Resources
- **Questions**

Current Conditions

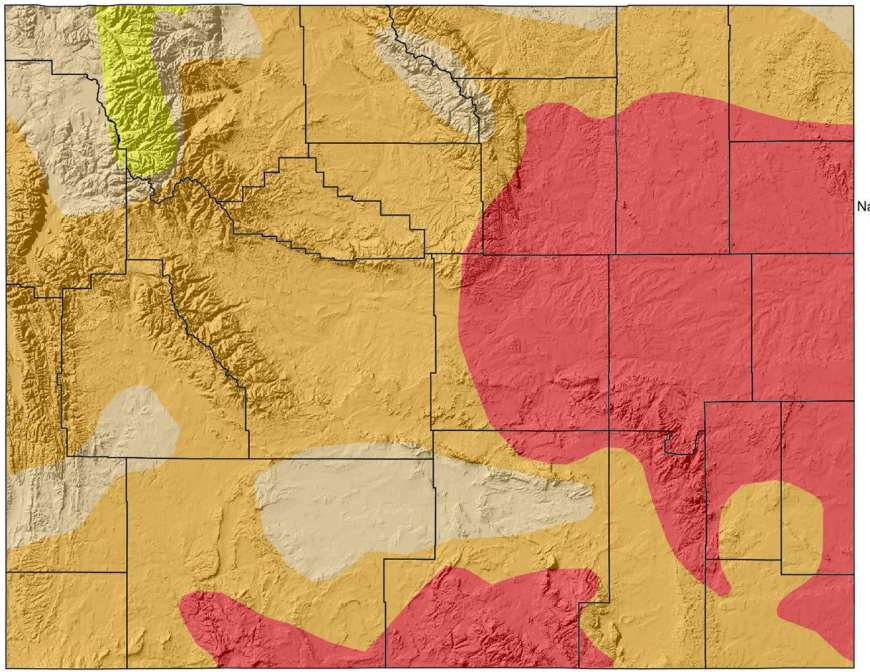
US Drought Monitor for May 19th, 2026

(Released Thursday, May 21st, 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

US Drought Monitor for 19 May 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
https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu

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

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 Created 21 May 2026 06:35 https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

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

Degradations in the west and northeast but Improvements in the southeast thanks to recent snow and rain/snow events.

https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu

droughtmonitor.unl.edu

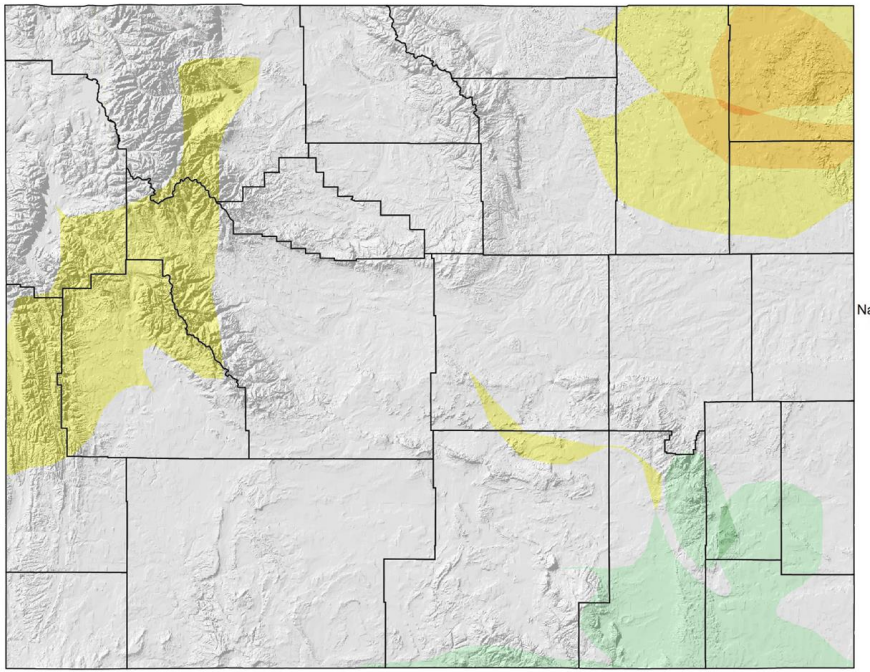
US Drought Monitor Change since Last Webinar (14 Apr 2025 to 19 May 2026)

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
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US Drought Monitor Change from 14 Apr 2026 to 19 May 2026





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

Map Layout and
Class Calculation by:
Wyoming State Climate Office
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Map Layout and Comparisons created 21 May 2026 07:20 https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

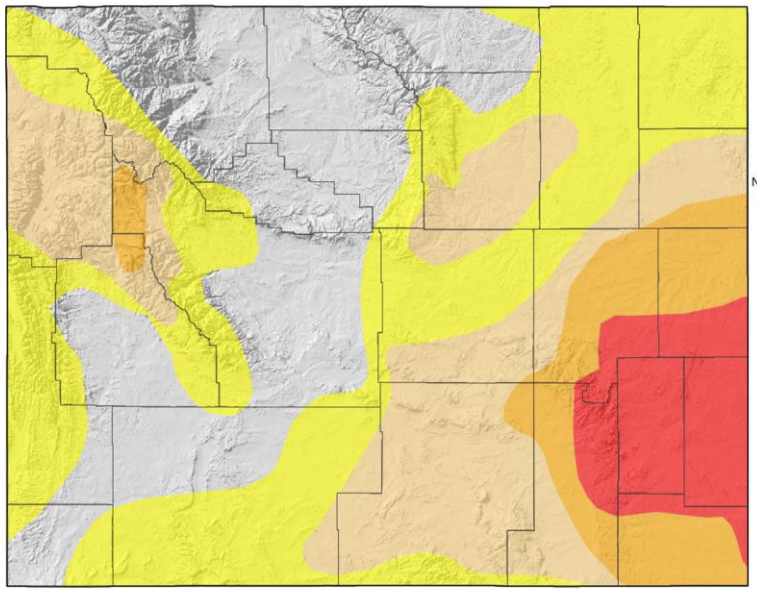
https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu

droughtmonitor.unl.edu

WRDS Water Resources Data System

One Year Ago

US Drought Monitor for 20 May 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

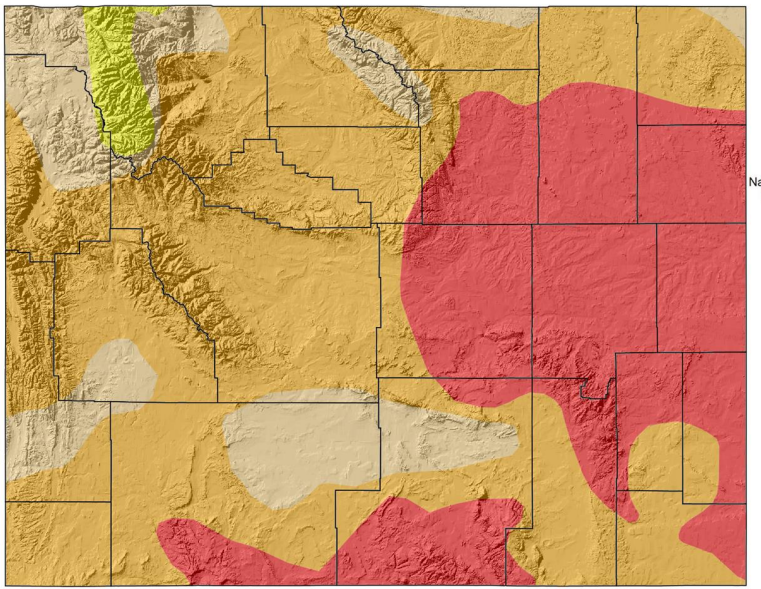
Map Layout Prepared by:
Wyoming State Climate Office
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Map Layout Created 22 May 2025 https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

Today

US Drought Monitor for 19 May 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
https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu

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

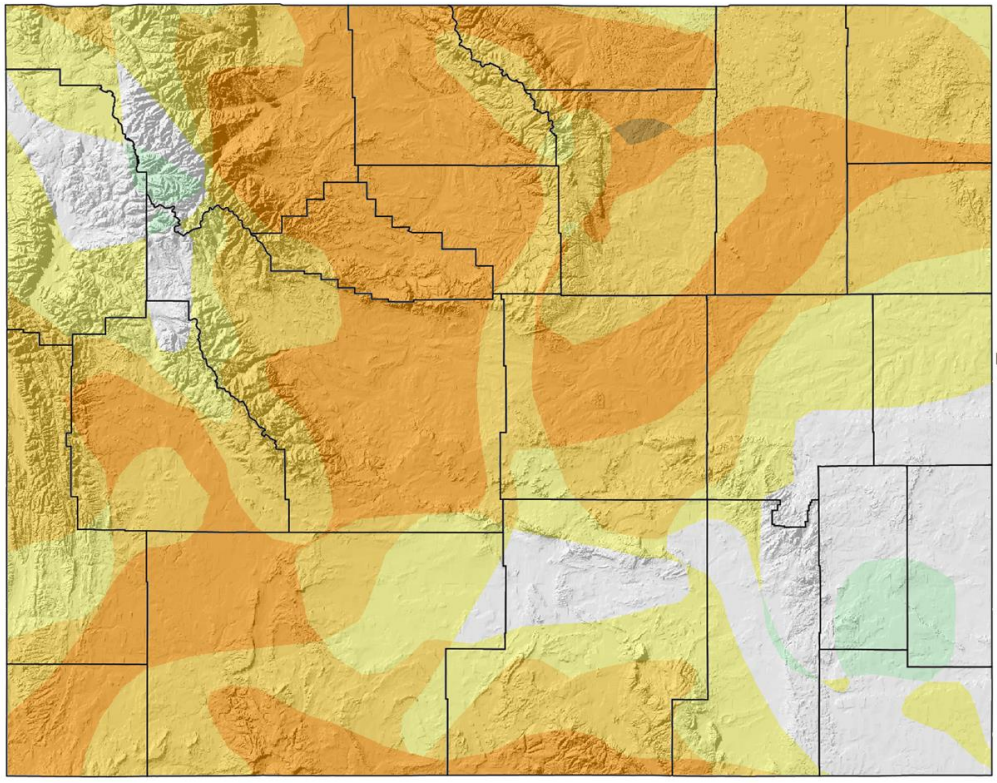
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Map Created 21 May 2026 06:35 https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu

droughtmonitor.unl.edu

1-Year US Drought Monitor Change (20 May 2025 to 19 May 2026)

US Drought Monitor Change from 20 May 2025 to 19 May 2026



US Drought Monitor

- 5-Class Degradation
- 4-Class Degradation
- 3-Class Degradation
- 2-Class Degradation
- 1-Class Degradation
- 1-Class Improvement
- 2-Class Improvement
- 3-Class Improvement
- 4-Class Improvement
- 5-Class Improvement

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

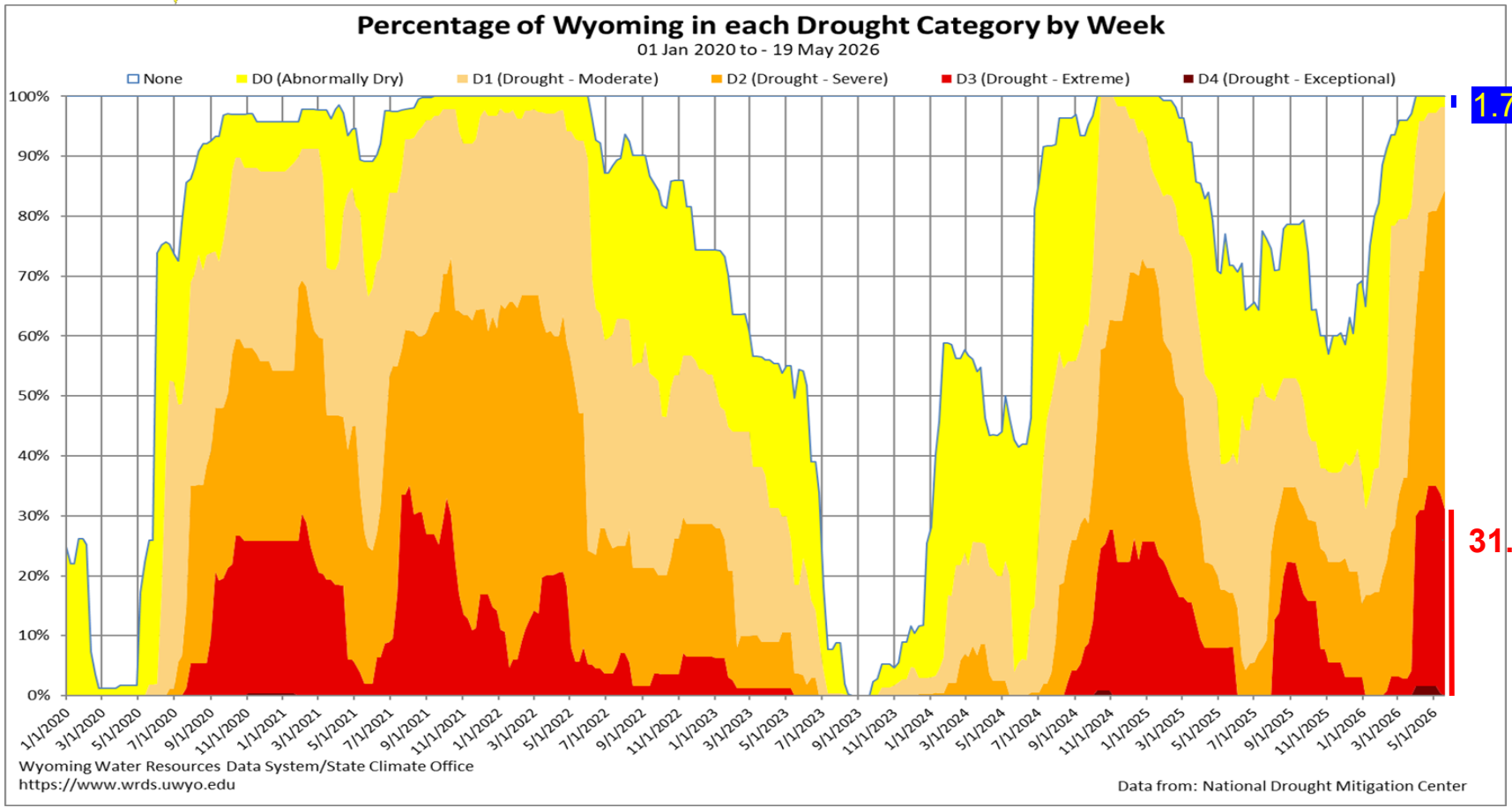
Map Layout and
Class Calculation by:
Wyoming State Climate Office
https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

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Map Layout and Comparisons created 21 May 2026 07:14 https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

WRDS Water Resources Data System

Wyoming Area Affected: 100% D0-D4 ; 98.26% D1-D4



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

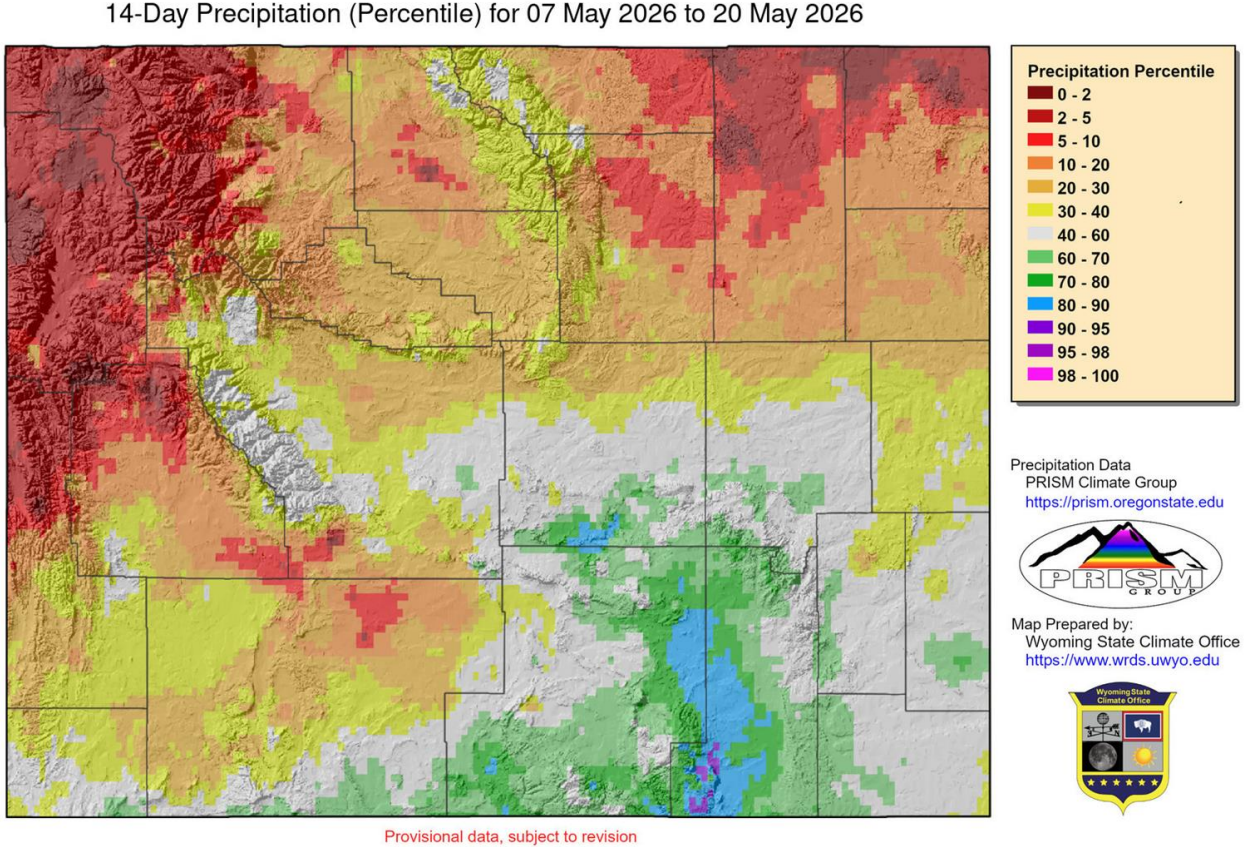
14-Day Precipitation Percentile (07 May 2026 to 20 May 2026)

Above Median:

- Far South
- Carbon and Albany Counties
- Far Southern Natrona County
- Western Laramie County

Below Median (*Areas of Concern*):

- North
- West-Central



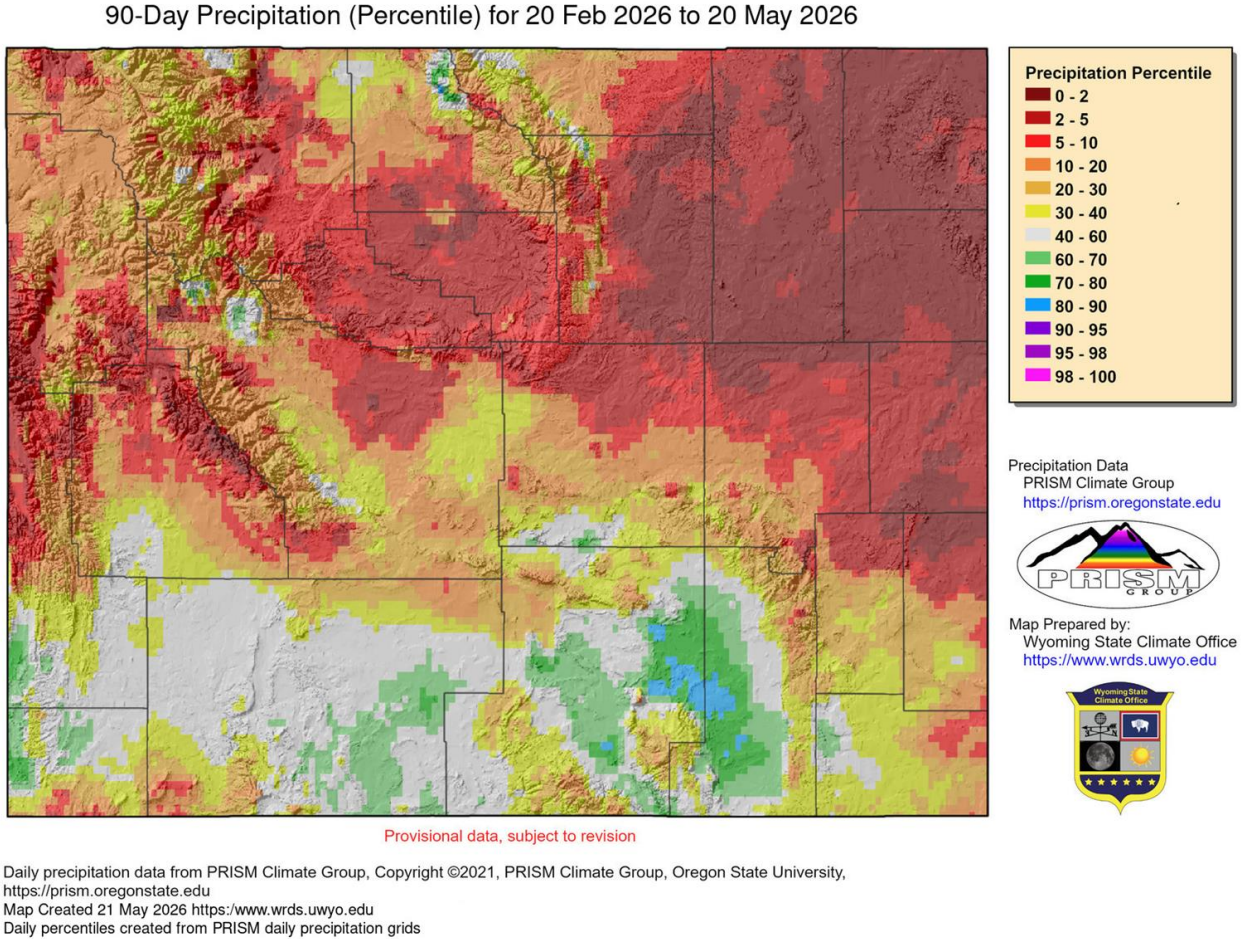
90-Day Precipitation Percentile (20 Feb 2026 to 20 May 2026)

Above Median:

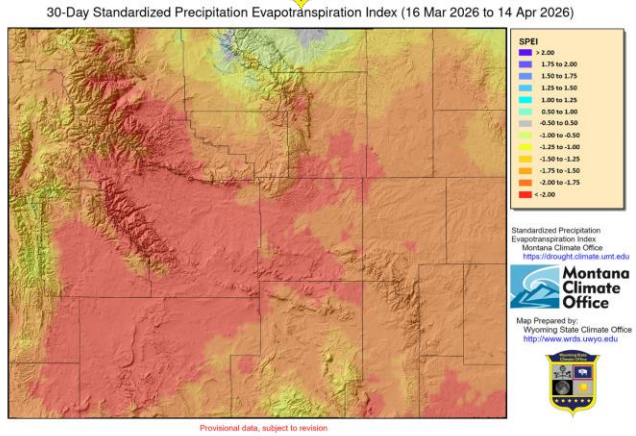
- Albany and Carbon Counties

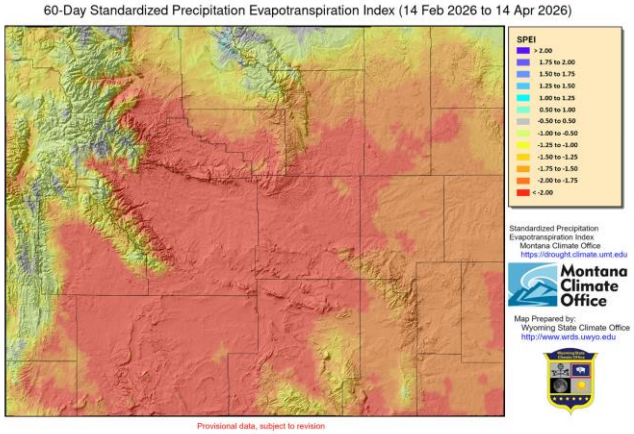
Below Median (*Areas of Concern*):

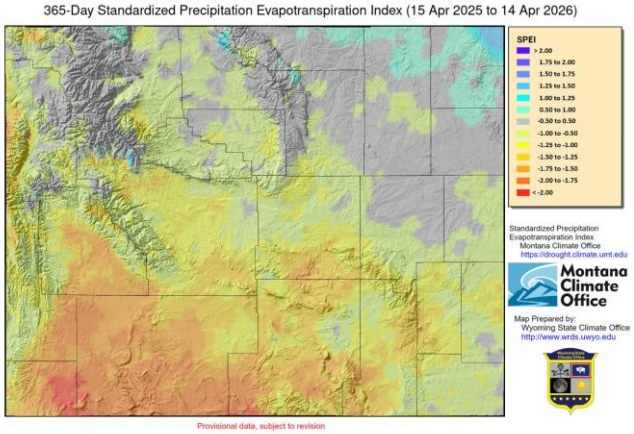
- Northern two-thirds of WY
- Far Southwest WY
- Far Eastern WY



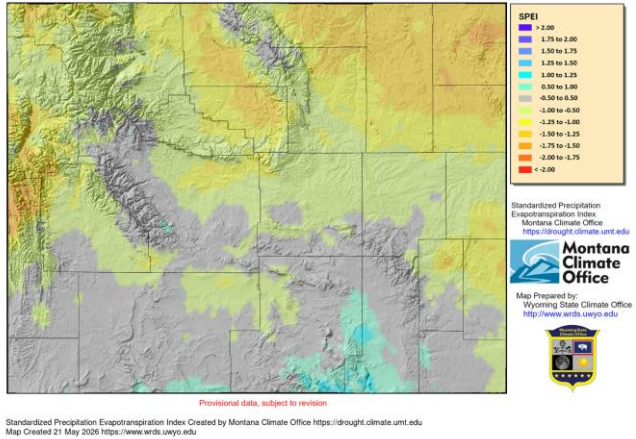
Standardized Precipitation Evapotransipration Index



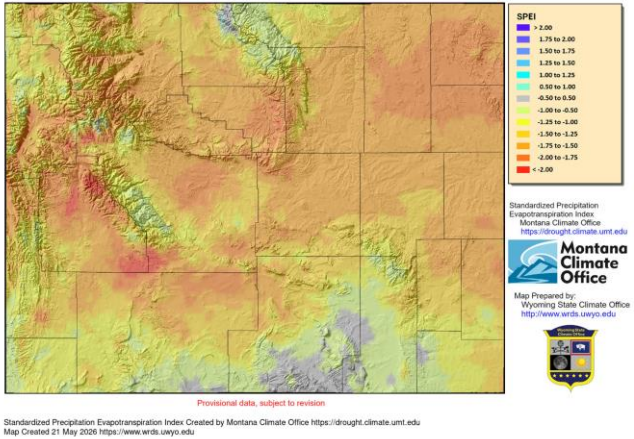




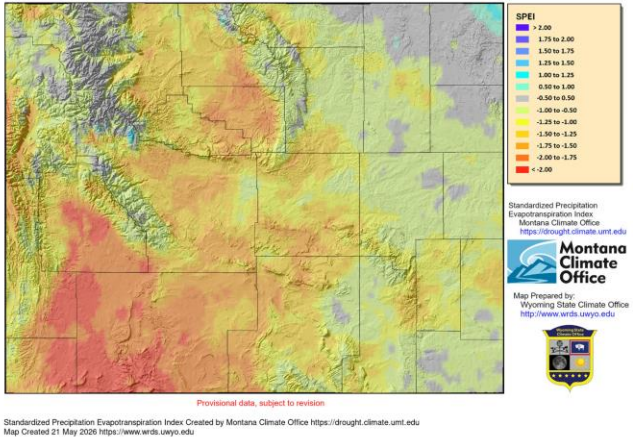
30-Day



60-Day



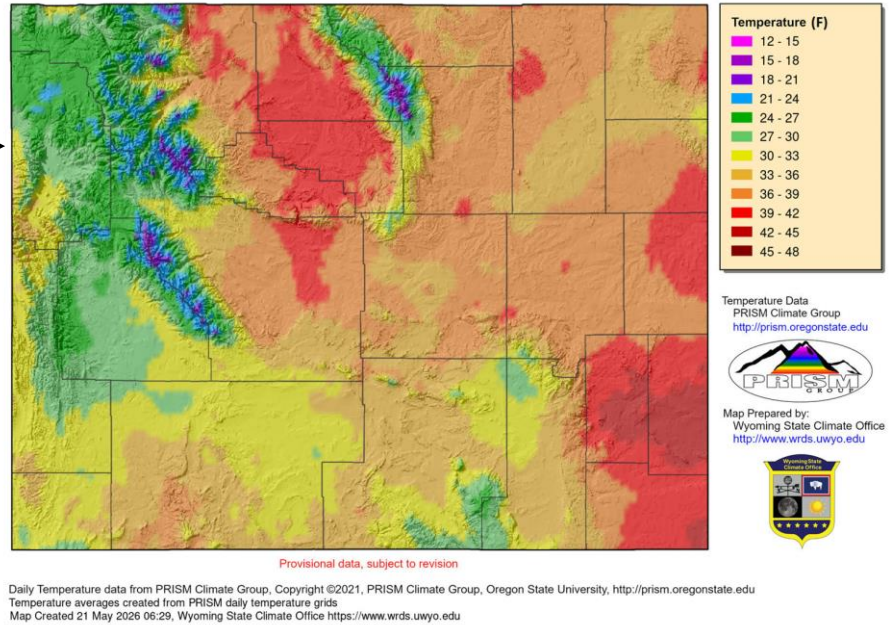
1-Year

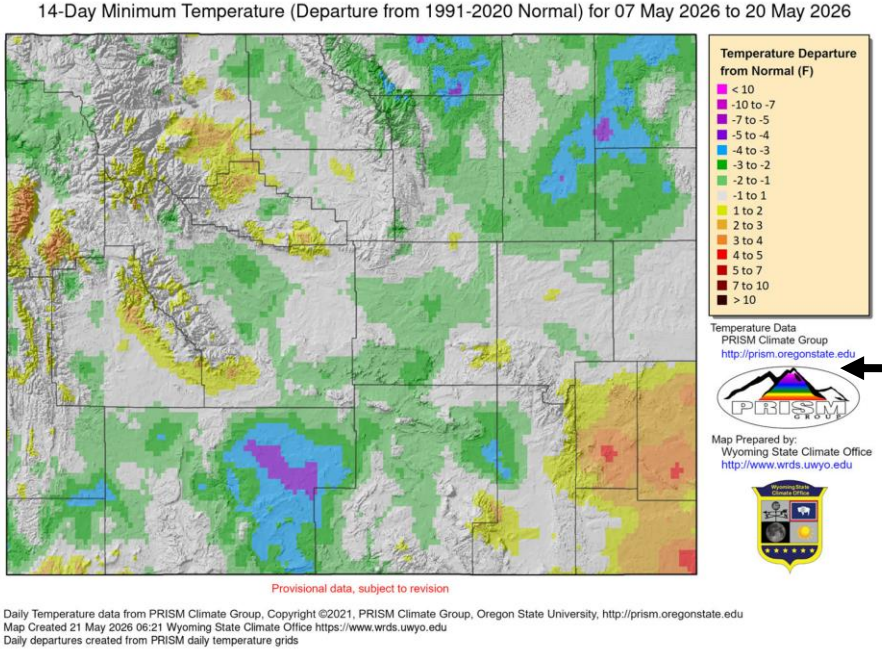


https://drought.climate.umt.edu

14-Day Average Minimum Temperature (07 May to 20 May)

- Nighttime lows mostly above freezing except high elevations and Sublette County
- Parts BH Basin and far Southeast in Low to Mid-40s





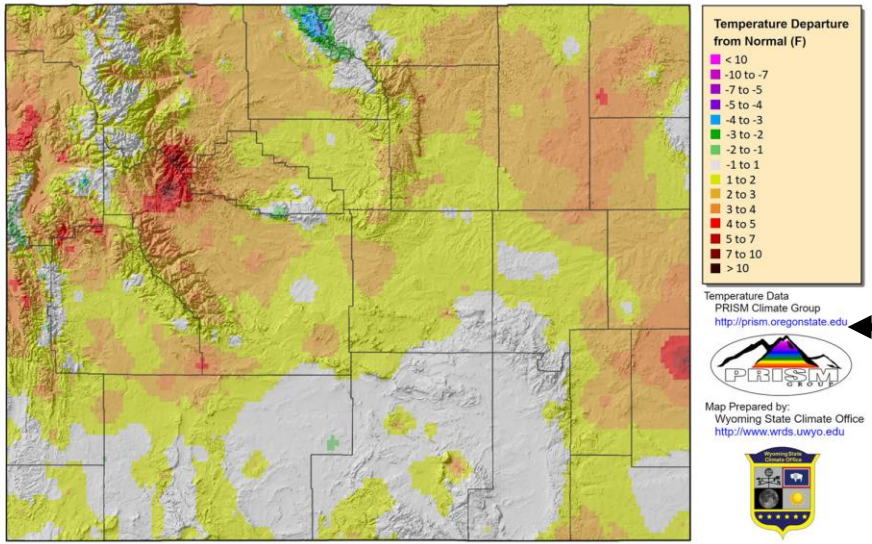
14-Day *Departure from* Normal Average Minimum Temperature

- Southeast and Tetons up to 4F above Normal
- Northeast and Eastern Sweetwater County 3-5F+ below Normal
- Remainder of WY within +/-2F of Normal

14-Day Average Maximum Temperature (07 May to 20 May)

- Well above 32F statewide
- Wind/BH Basins and Eastern Plains
  Mid-60s to Low-70s

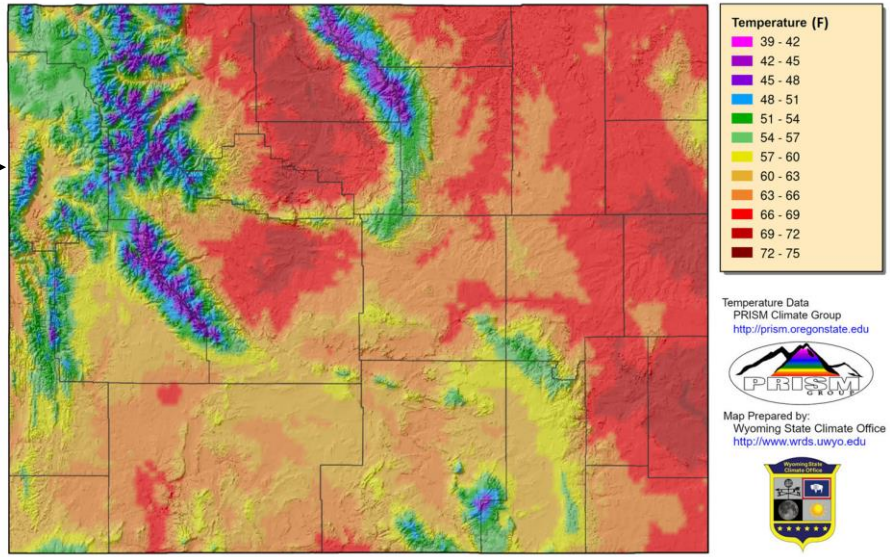
14-Day Maximum Temperature (Departure from 1991-2020 Normal) for 07 May 2026 to 20 May 2026



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 21 May 2026 06:16 Wyoming State Climate Office https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu
Daily departures created from PRISM daily temperature grids

14-Day Average Maxmimum Temperature for 07 May 2026 to 20 May 2026



Provisional data, subject to revision

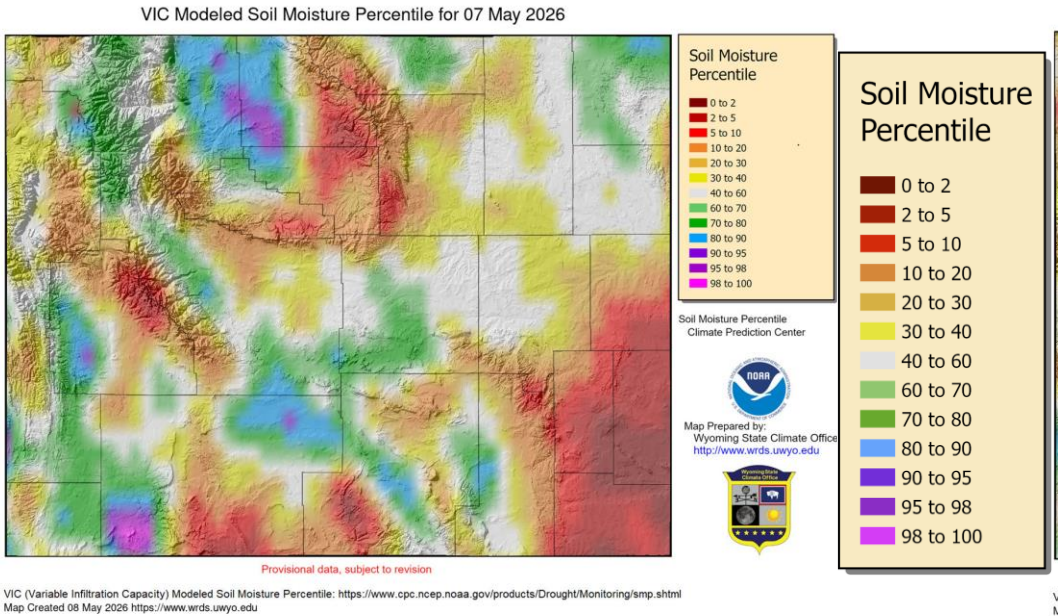
Daily Temperature data from PRISM Climate Group, Copyright ©2021, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University, http://prism.oregonstate.edu
Temperature averages created from PRISM daily temperature grids
Map Created 21 May 2026 06:30, Wyoming State Climate Office https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

14- Day *Departure from* Normal Average Maximum Temperature

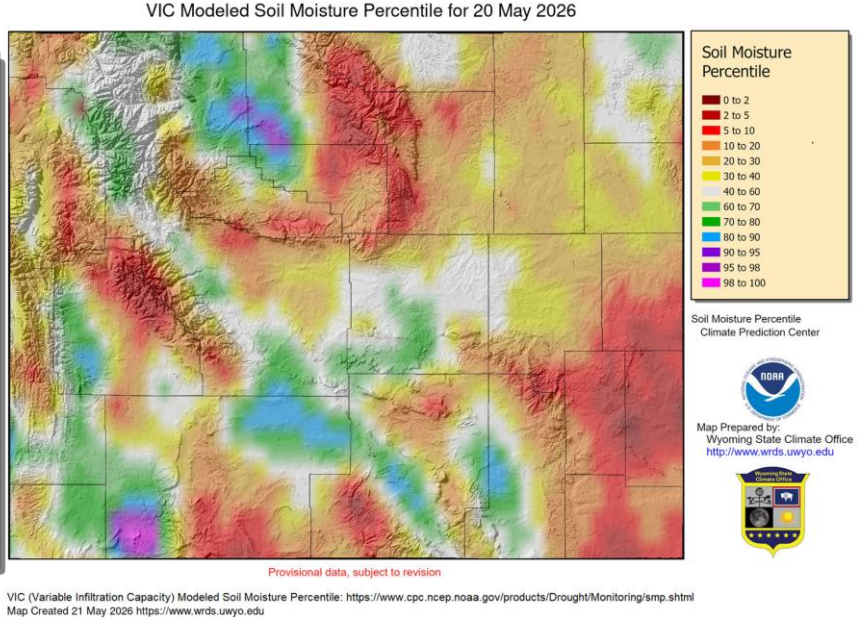
- Scattered areas 4F or more above Normal
- Much of state, especially northern ⅔, up to 3F above Normal
- Northern Bighorns up to 4F <u>below</u> Normal

Soil Moisture Percentile

~Two Weeks Ago



20 May 2026

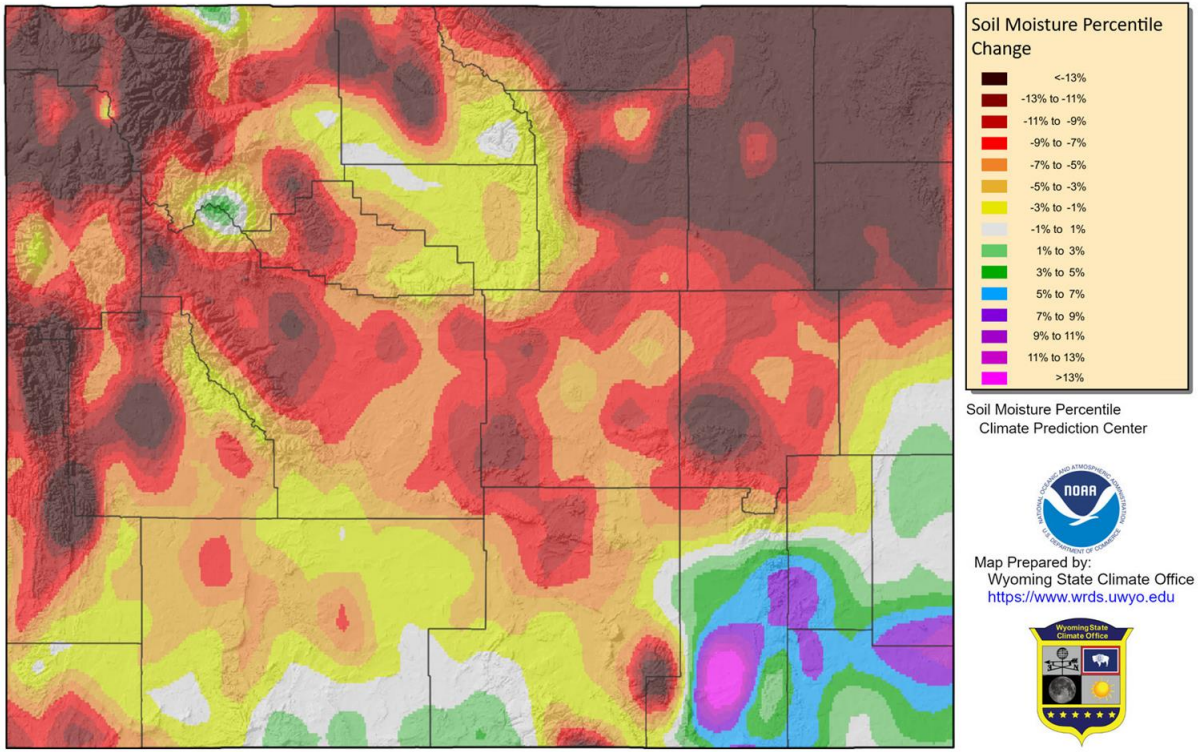


Degradations in much of the state, especially the northeast and west. Improvement in the southeast.

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

2-Week Soil Moisture Percentile Change

2-Week VIC Modeled Soil Moisture Percentile Change from 07 May 2026 to 20 May 2026



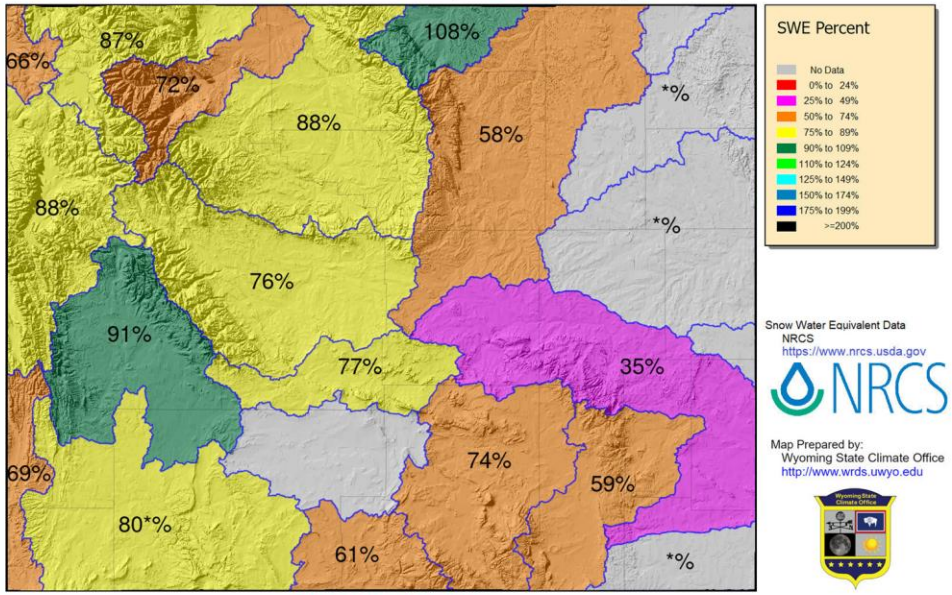
Provisional data, subject to revision

VIC (Variable Infiltration Capacity) Modeled Soil Moisture Percentile: https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/Drought/Monitoring/smp.shtml
Map Layout and Comparisons created 21 May 2026 08:15 https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

Snow Water Equivalent by Basin

One Year Ago

Snow Water Equivalent Percent of Median (1991-2020) 21 May 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

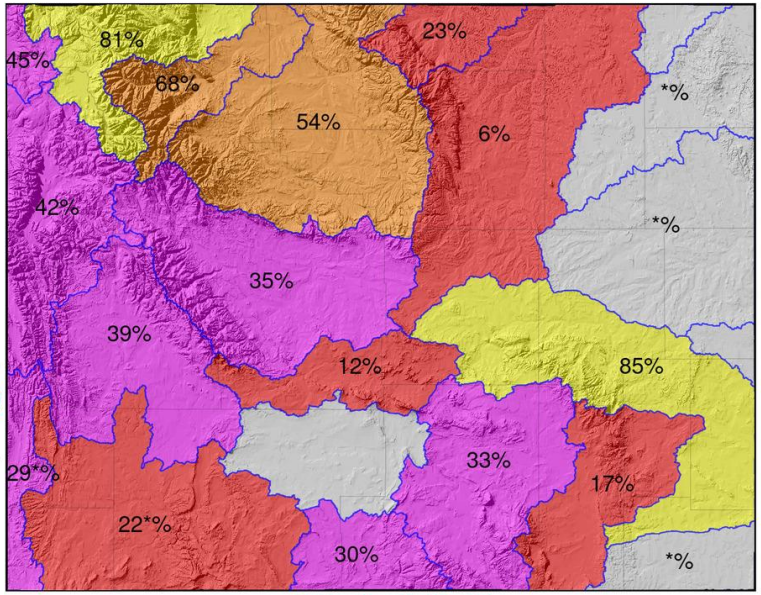
Provisional data, subject to revision

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 21 May 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.

21 May 2026

Snow Water Equivalent Percent of Median (1991-2020) 21 May 2026



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- 50% to 74%
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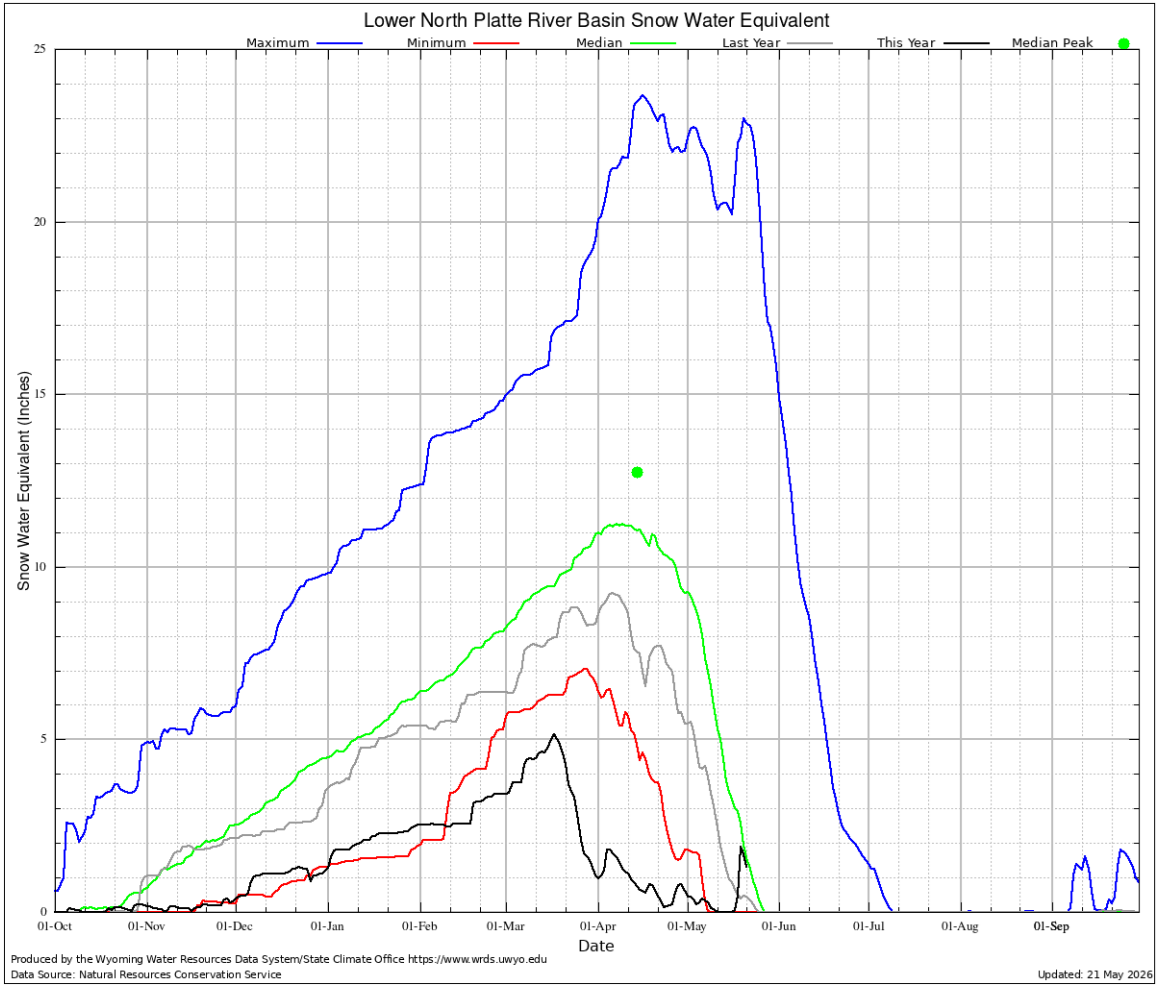
Map Prepared by:
Wyoming State Climate Office
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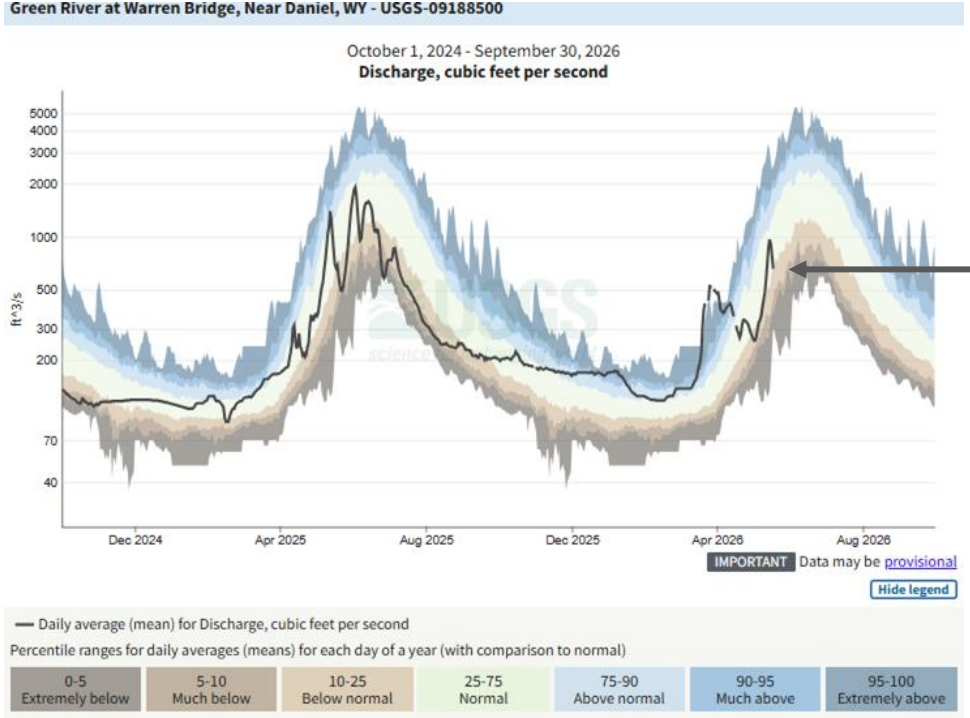
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Snow Water Equivalent Lower North Platte Basin

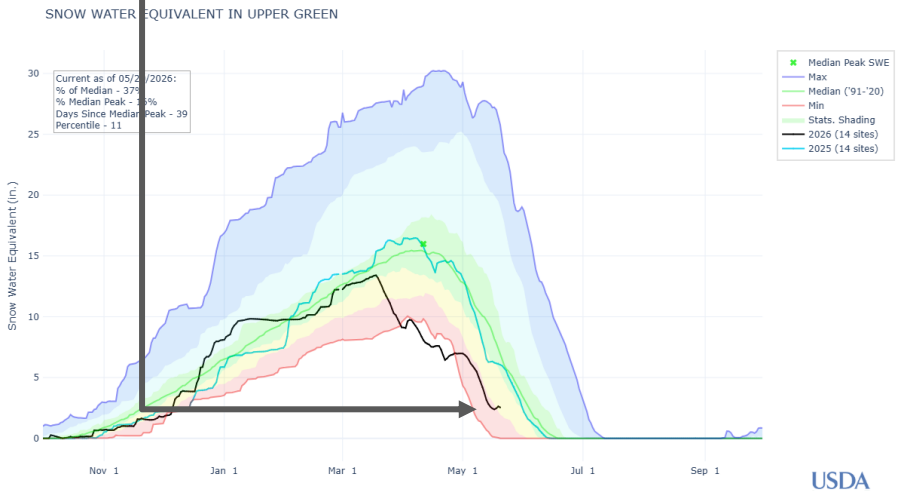


Where Are We in the Water Year?



Runoff

- April - July = Majority of annual water supply
- Past Peak???



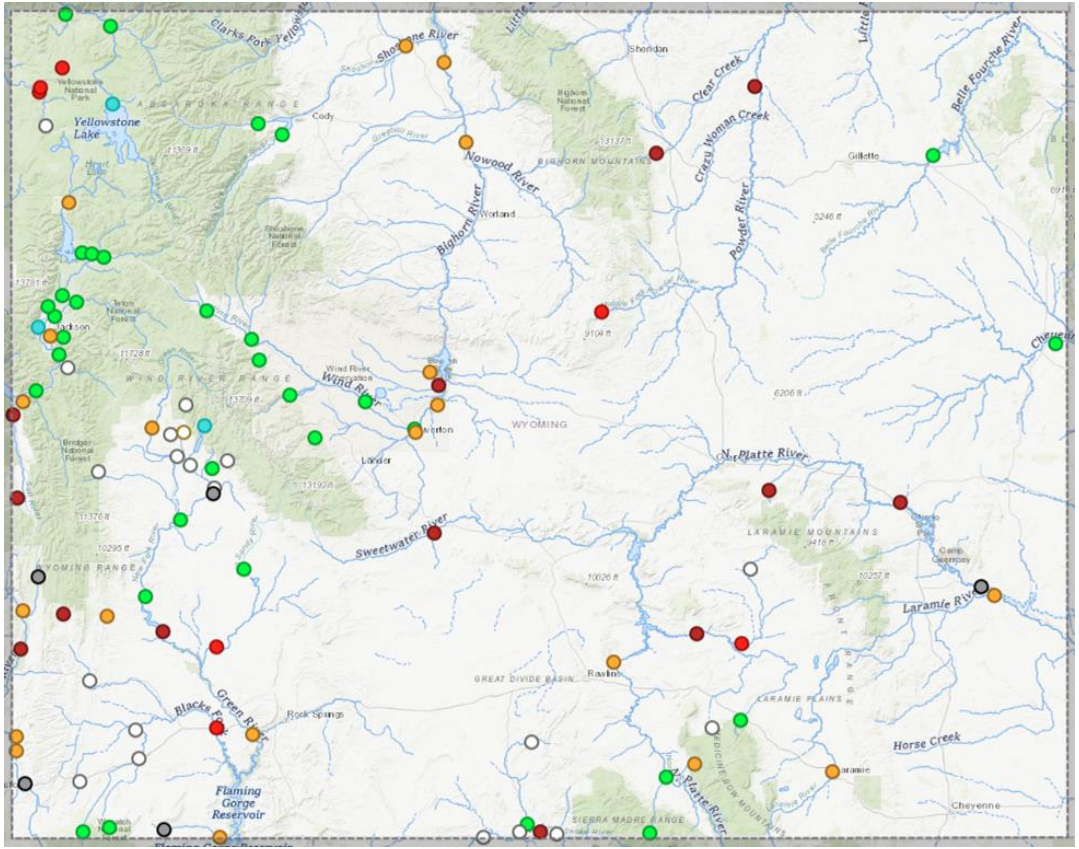
https://waterdata.usgs.gov/

https://nwcc-apps.sc.egov.usda.gov/

Current Streamflow Conditions

Streamflow Status

Streamflow: Status	
Above flood stage	
All-time high for this day	100th percentile (maximum)
Much above normal	>90th percentile
Above normal	76th – 90th percentile
Normal	25th – 75th percentile
Below normal	10th – 24th percentile
Much below normal	<10th percentile
All-time low for this day	0th percentile (minimum)
Not flowing	
Not ranked	
Measurement flag	
Recent measurement unavailable	

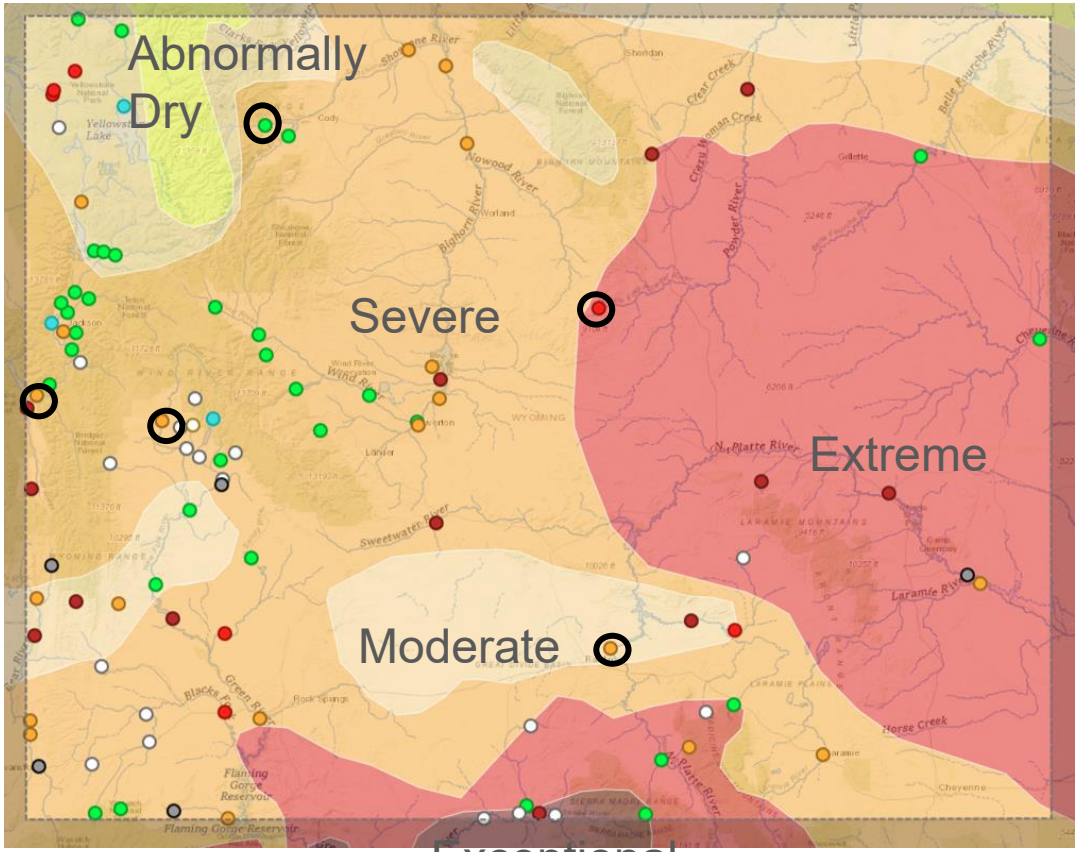


https://dashboard.waterdata.usgs.gov/

Current Streamflow and Drought Conditions

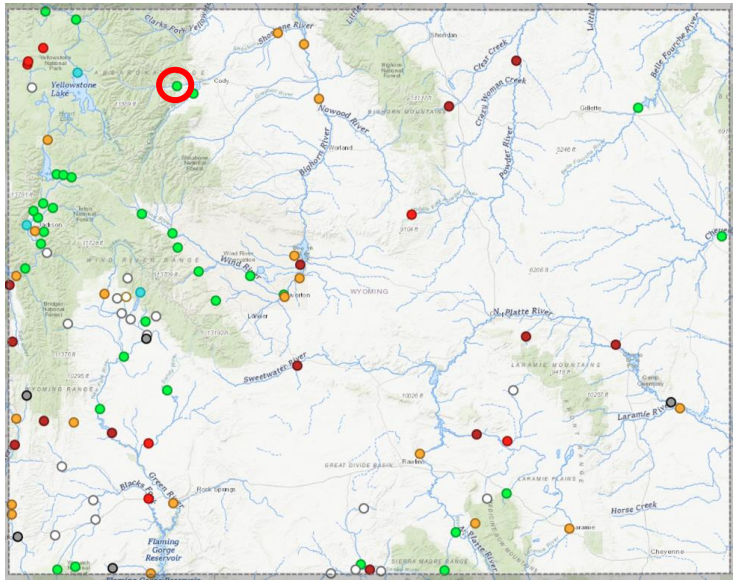
Streamflow Status





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

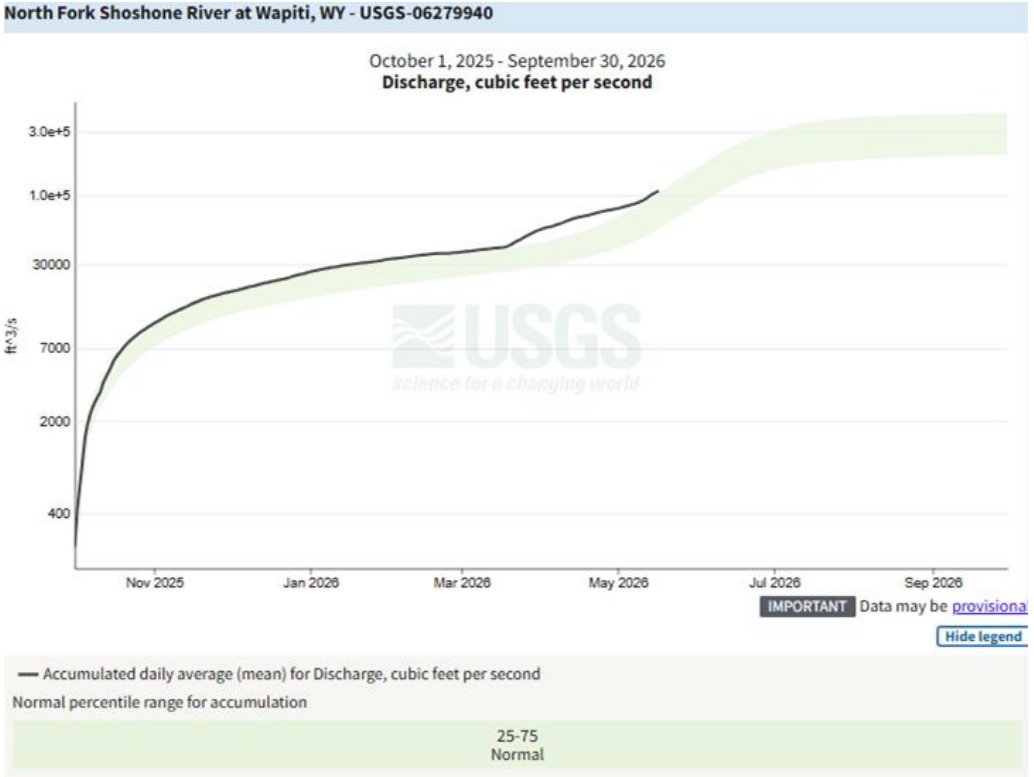
Select WY Streamflows



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

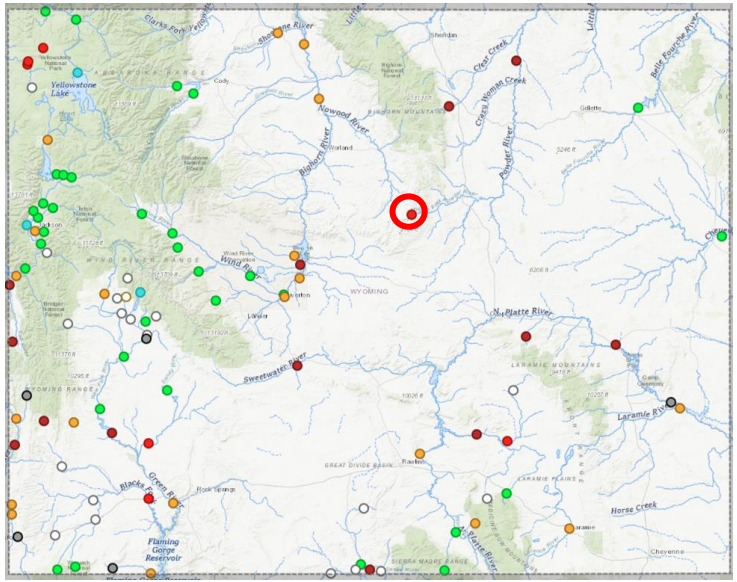
https://waterdata.usgs.gov/

North Fork Shoshone River, at Wapiti, WY



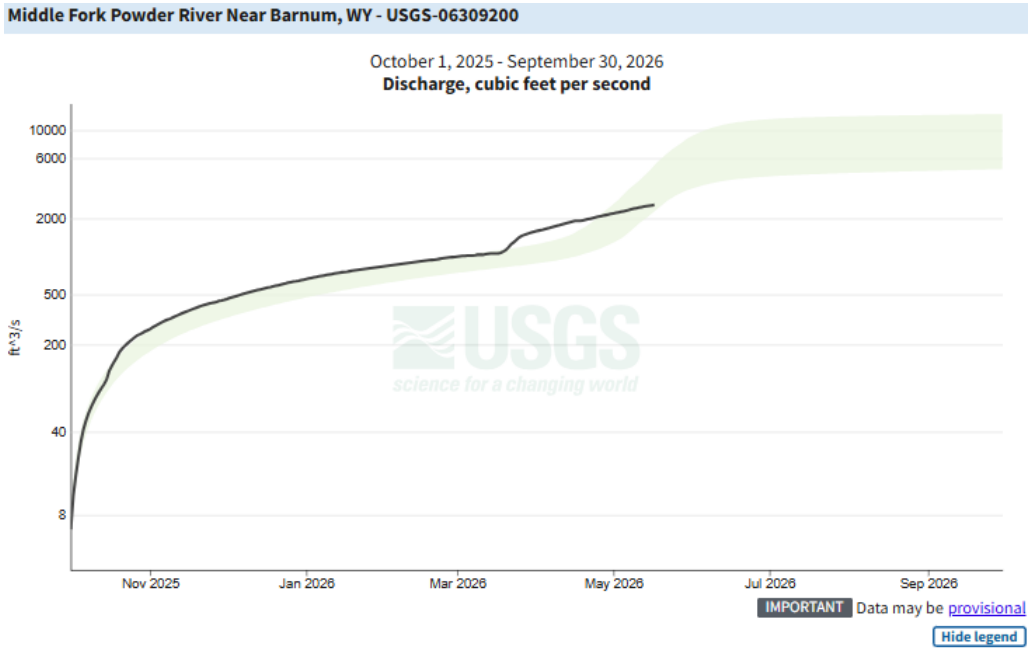
Middle Fork Powder River near Barnum, WY

Select WY Streamflows

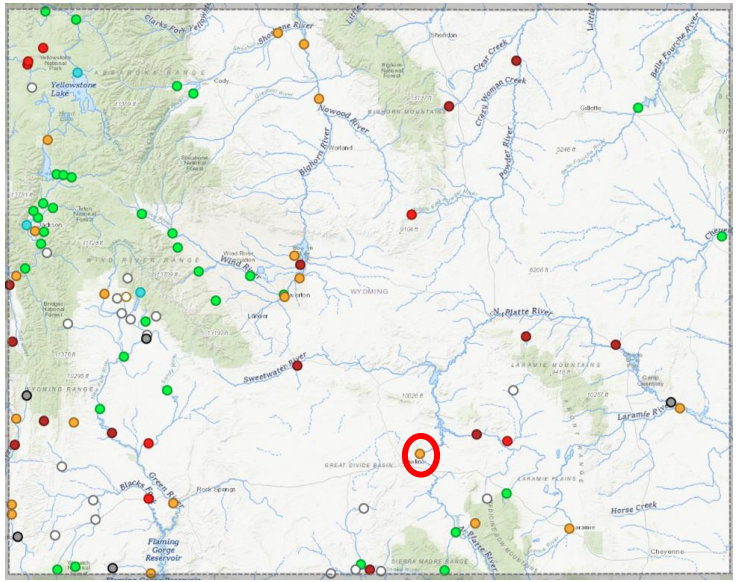


https://dashboard.waterdata.usgs.gov/

https://waterdata.usgs.gov/



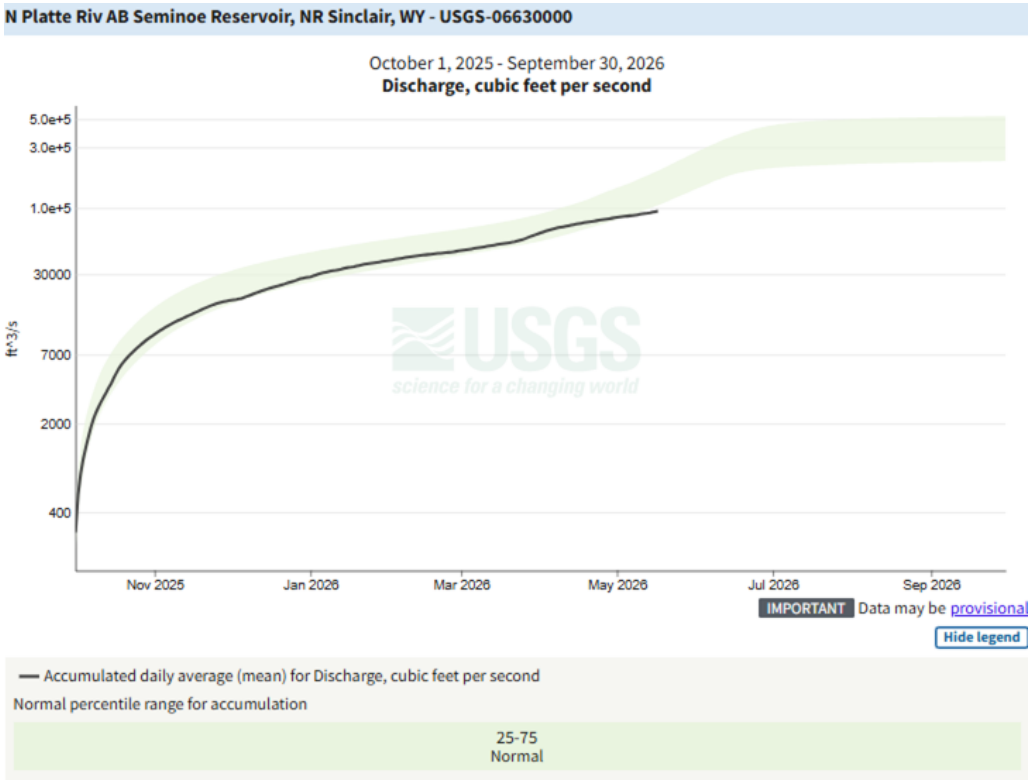
Select WY Streamflows



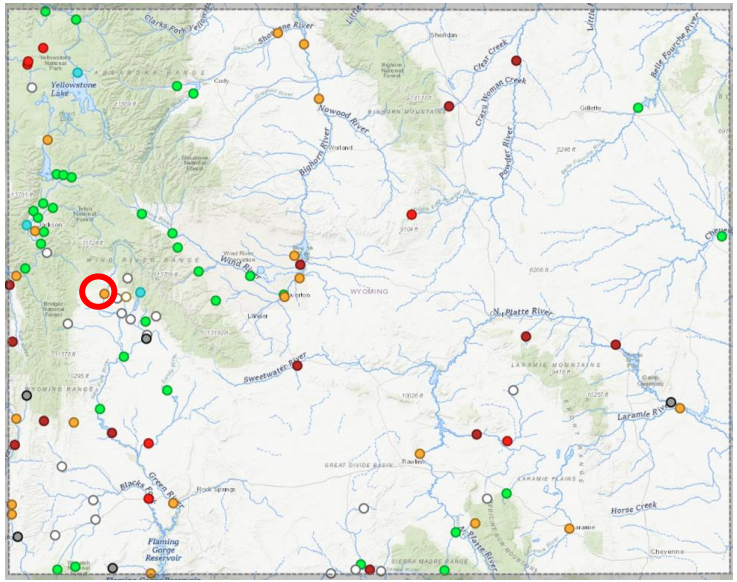
https://dashboard.waterdata.usgs.gov/

https://waterdata.usgs.gov/

North Platte River, ab Seminoe Res, nr Sinclair WY



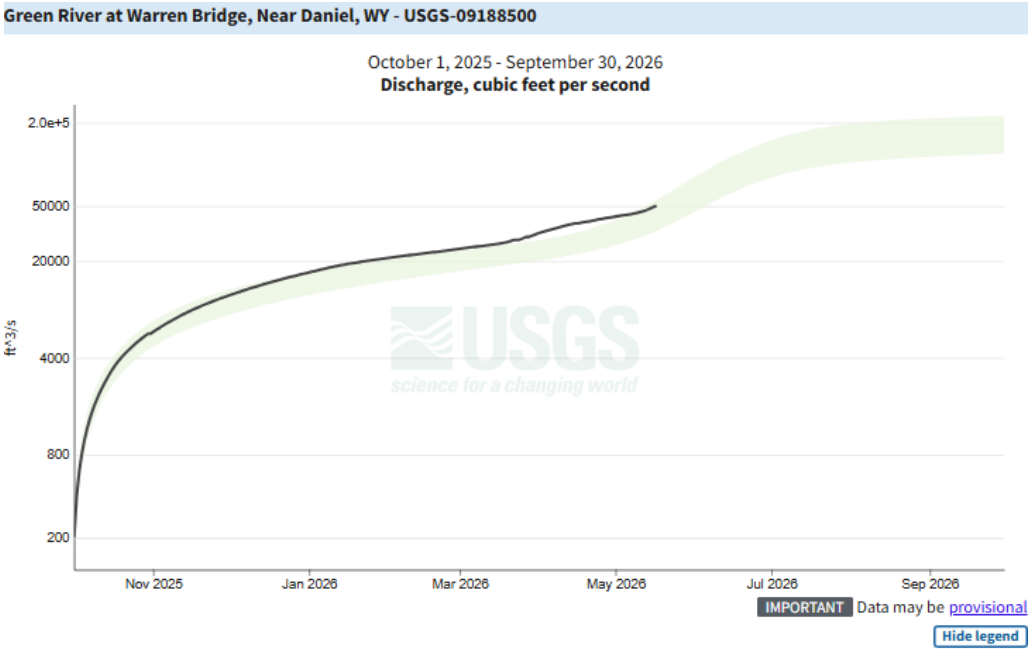
Select WY Streamflows



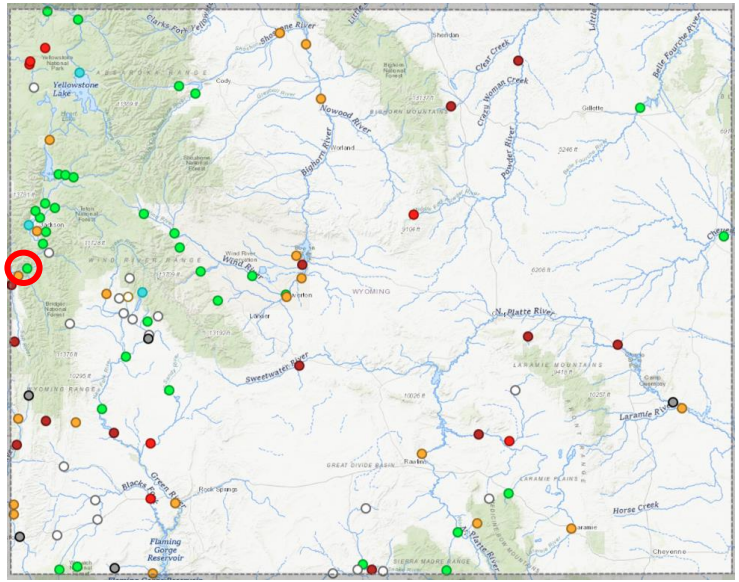
https://dashboard.waterdata.usgs.gov/

https://waterdata.usgs.gov/

Green River at Warren Bridge, Near Daniel, WY



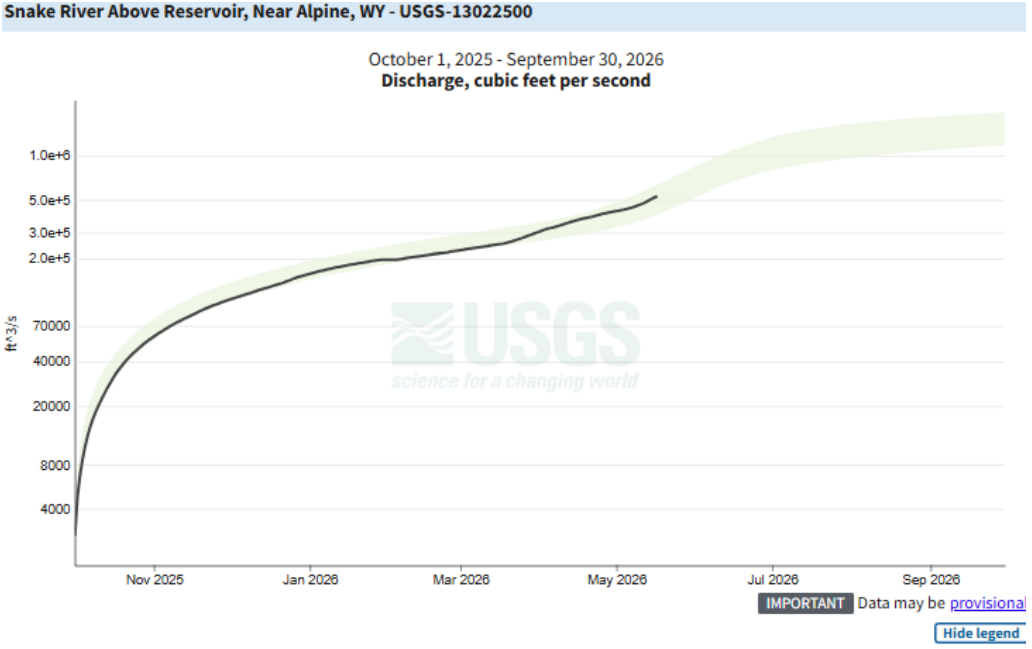
Select WY Streamflows



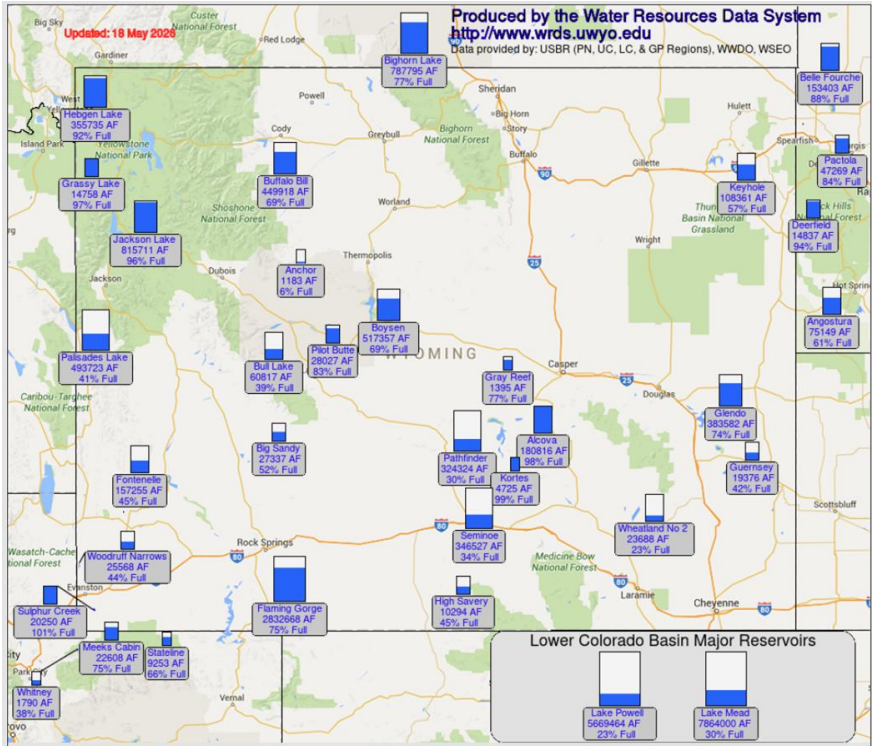
https://dashboard.waterdata.usgs.gov/

https://waterdata.usgs.gov/

Snake River above Reservoir, Near Alpine, WY



Wyoming Reservoirs



Reservoir Storage

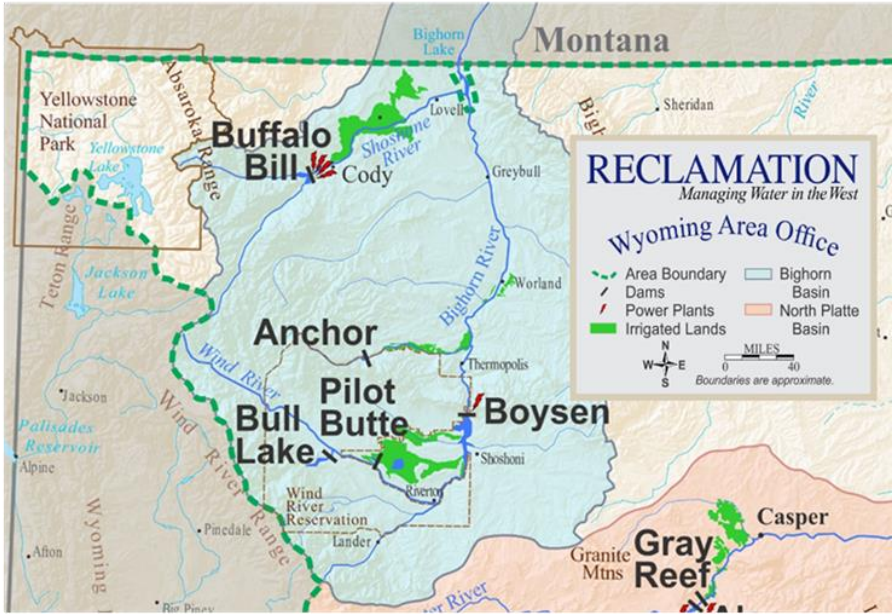
- Generally minor decreases

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

Current Reservoir Conditions

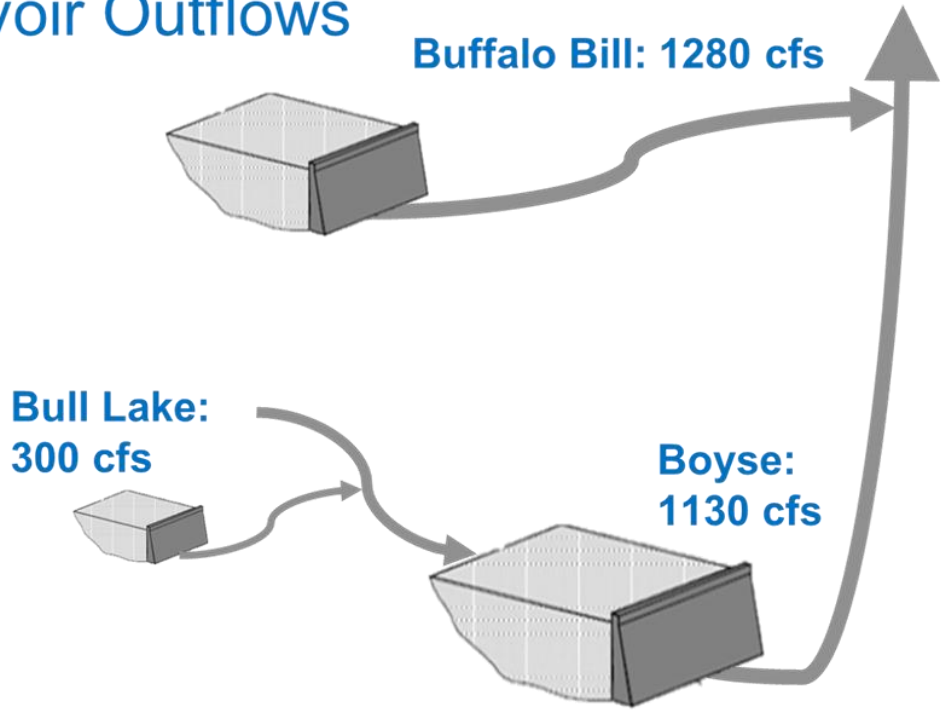
Bighorn System (May 19th):

Reservoir	Content	Capacity	% of Full	% of Avg
Bull Lake	61,956	152,500	41%	74%
Buffalo Bill	450,366	646,600	70%	110%
Boysen	517,498	741,600	70%	98%



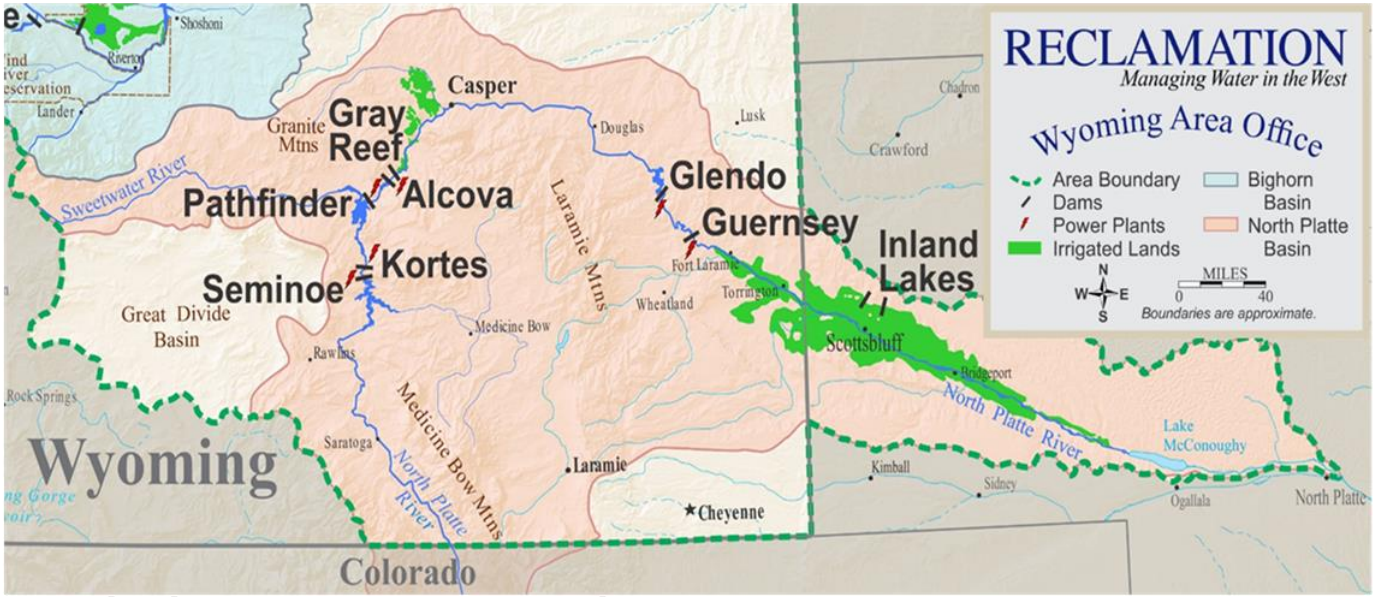
Current Reservoir Outflows





Wyoming Area Office Water Order Changes – https://www.usbr.gov/gp/woc/indexwy.html

Current Reservoir Conditions: North Platte System

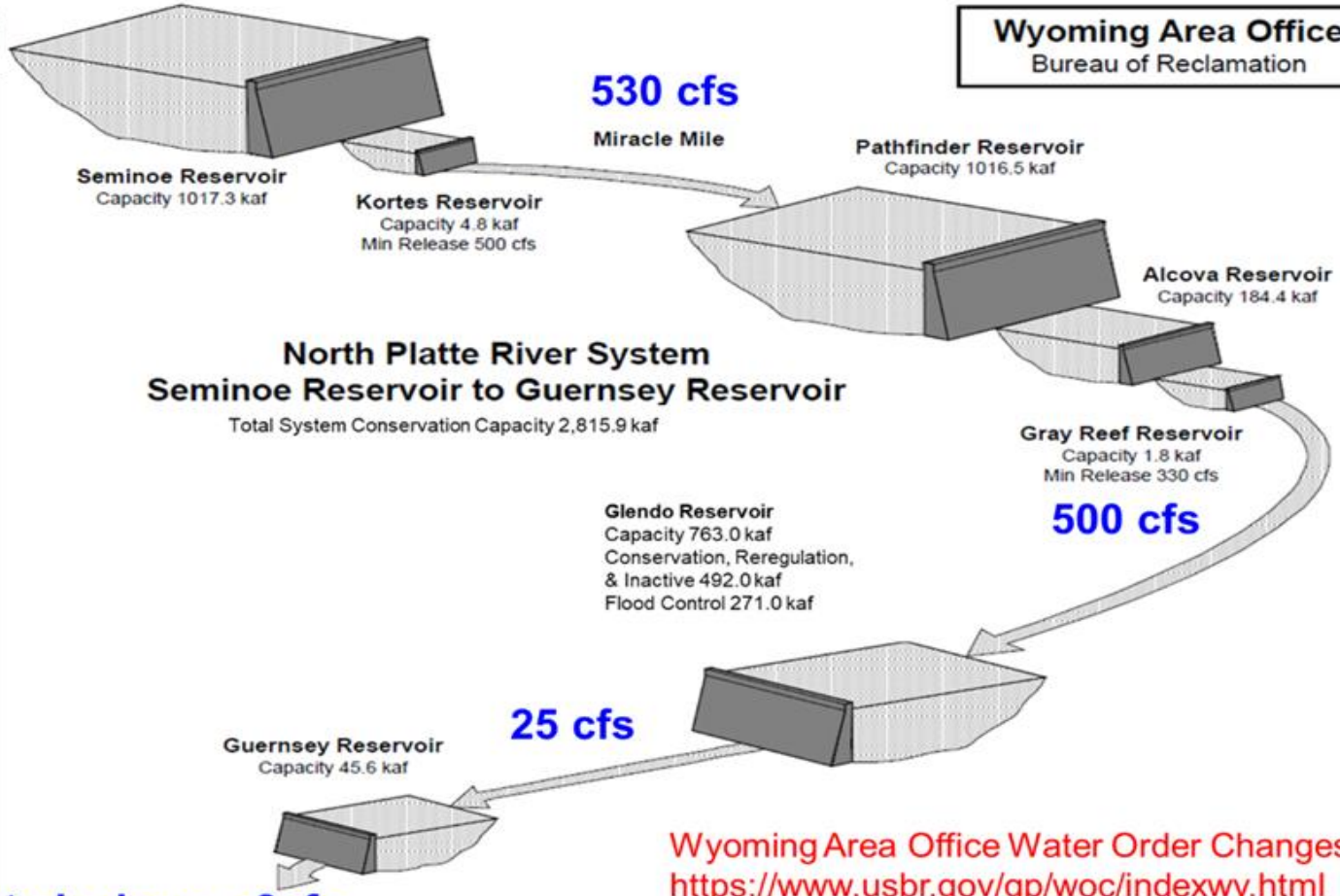


North Platte System (May 19th):

Reservoir	Content	Capacity	% of Full	% of Avg
Seminoe	351,005	1,017,300	35%	60%
Pathfinder	325,535	1,070,000	30%	48%
Glendo	385,874	492,000	78%	83%

— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Wyoming Area Office
Bureau of Reclamation



Wyoming Area Office Water Order Changes –
https://www.usbr.gov/gp/woc/indexwy.html

Gate leakage ~3cfs

WY SEO Divisions and Superintendents

Contact information for calls and administration

Division 3

Joshua Fredrickson, 856-0747

Division 2

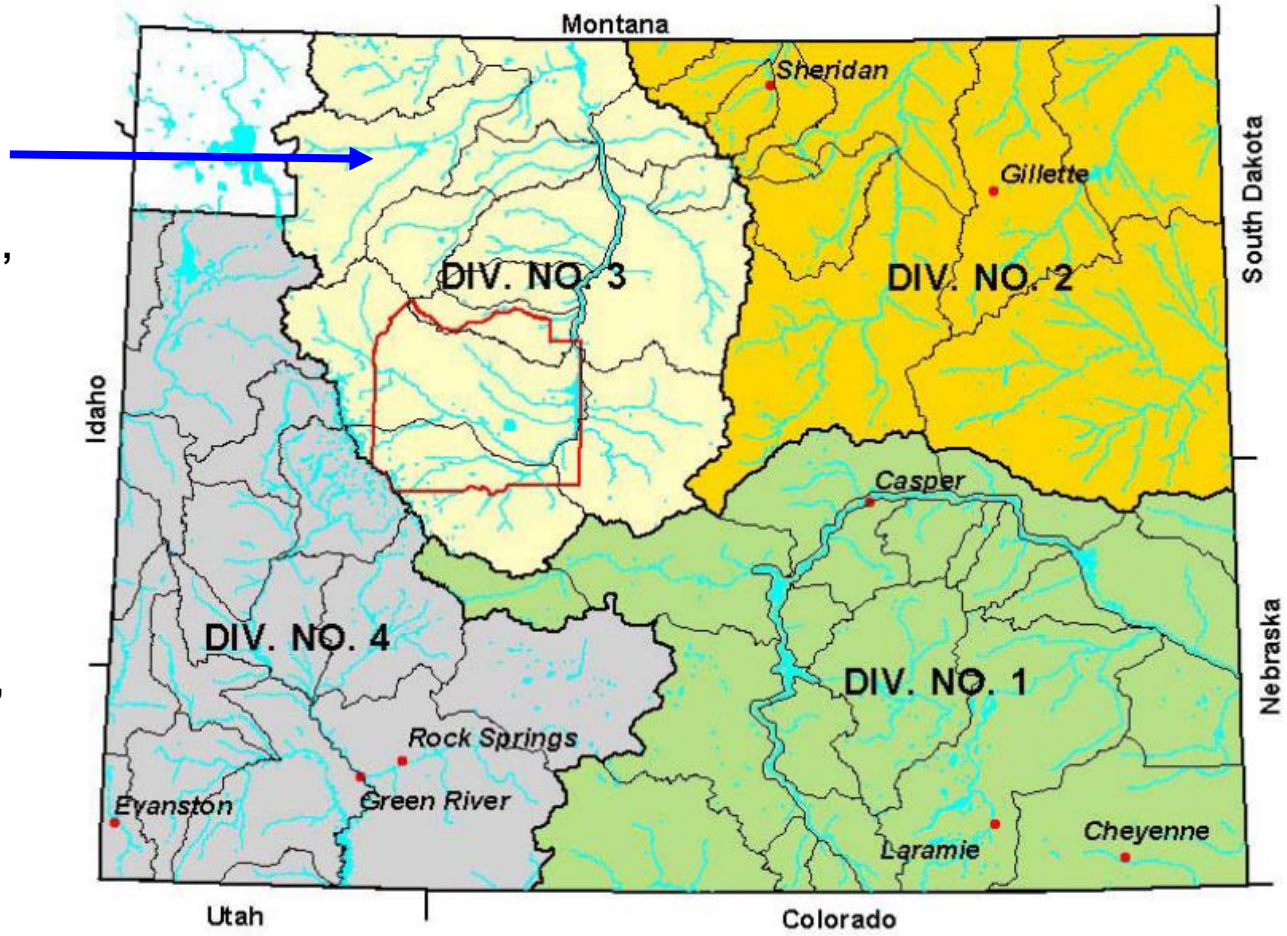
David Schroeder, 674-7012

Division 4

Kevin Payne, 279-3441

Division 1

Josh DeBerard, 532-1272



WY SEO Divisions and Superintendents



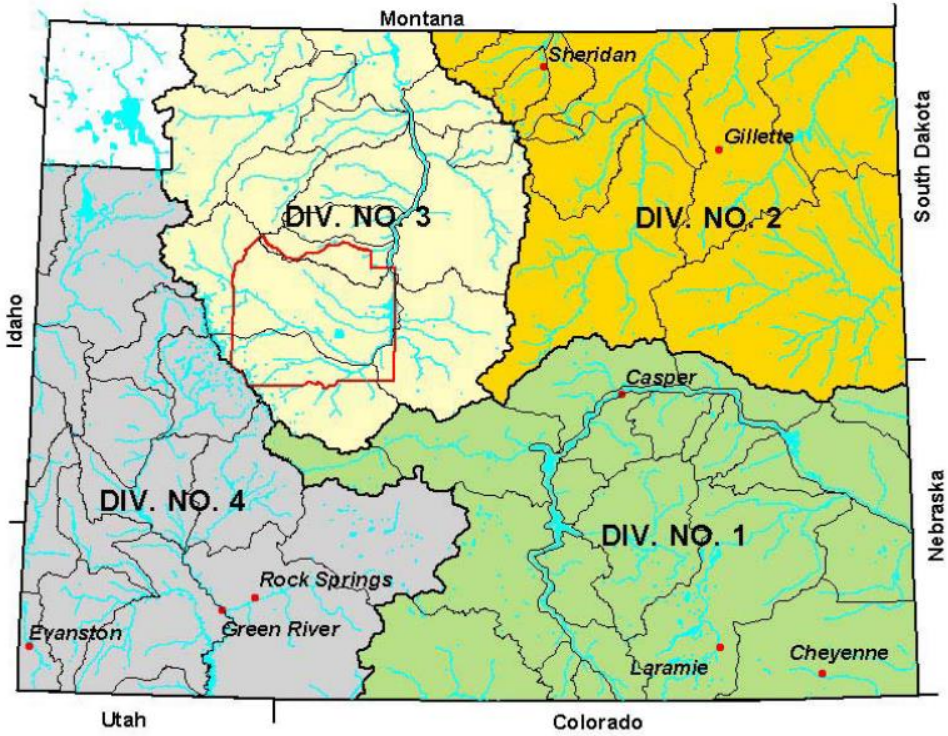
Division 1:

Priority Administration on the North Platte River and tributaries - **LIFTED May 1, 2026**

Above Pathfinder Sub Basin:
December 6, 1904
Between Pathfinder to Guernsey Reservoirs:
December 6, 1904

For questions contact:
Michelle Hubbard, 777-7641
Josh DeBerard, 532-1272

WY SEO Divisions and Superintendents

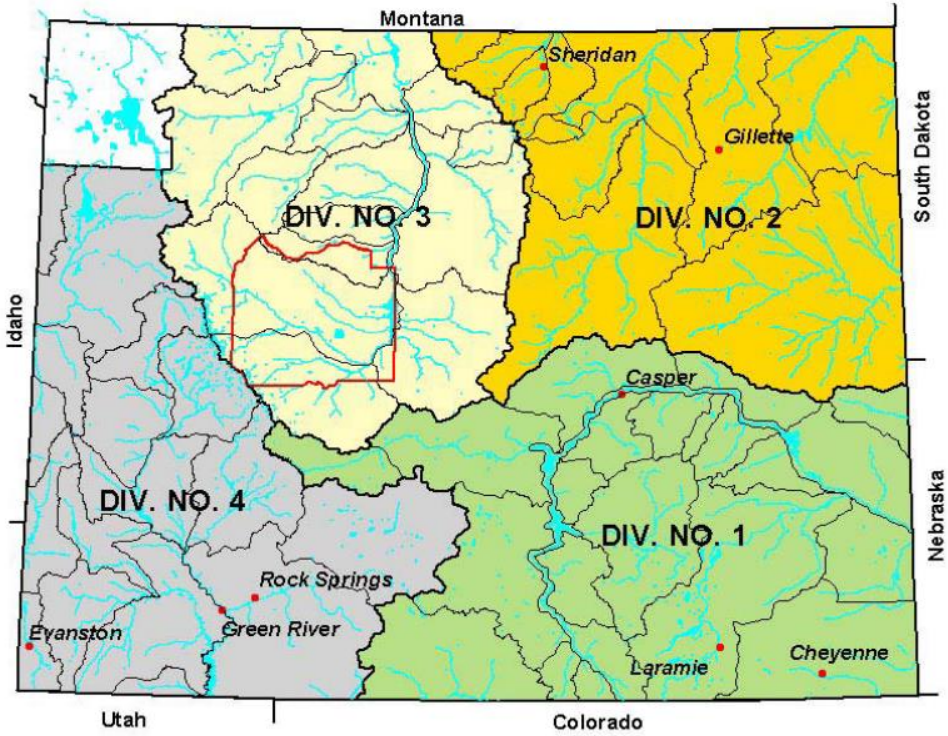


<u>Division 1:</u>

Horse Creek: District 2, November 1891

Laramie River: District 4A, May 1883

WY SEO Divisions and Superintendents



<u>Division 2:</u>

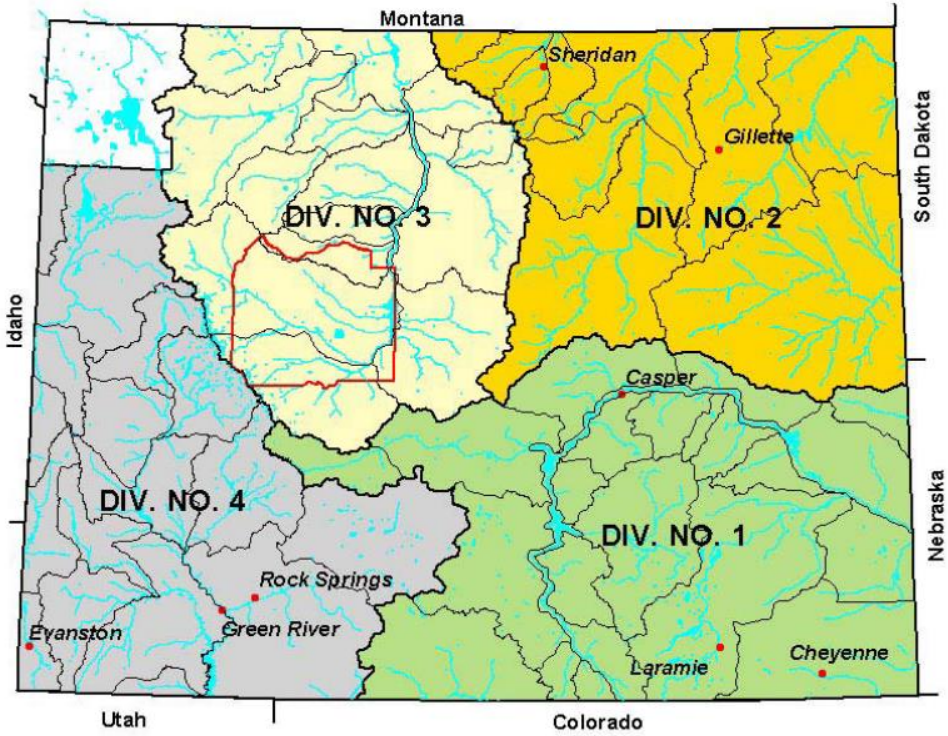
Tongue River Priority Administration: 1950

French Creek: District 3, June 1884

Rock Creek: District 3, June 1883

Clear Creek: District 2, July 1884

WY SEO Divisions and Superintendents



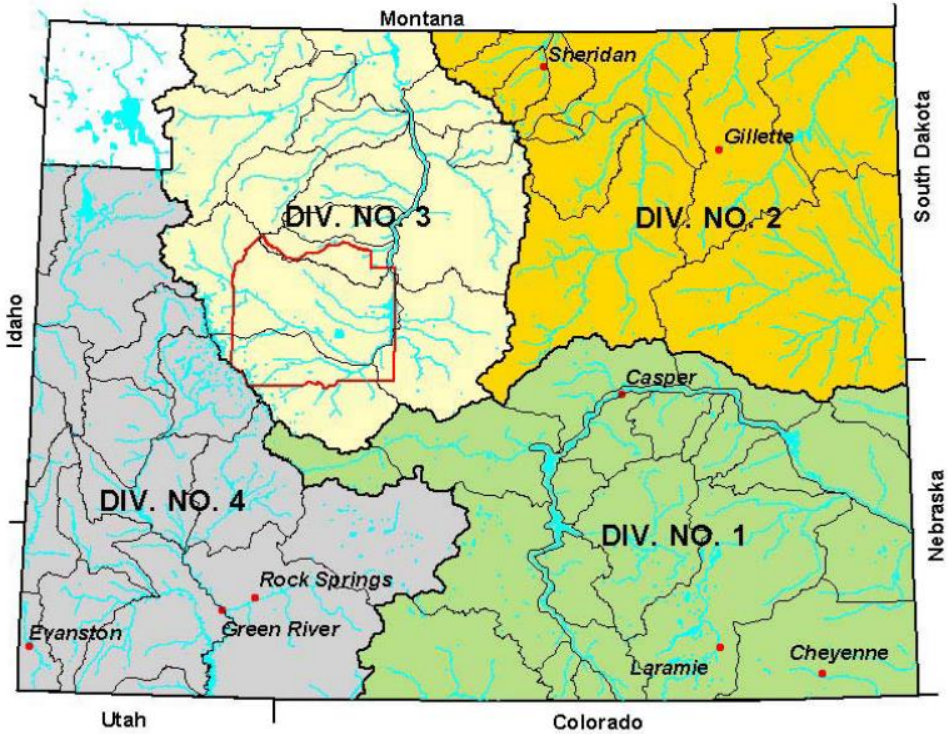
<u>Division 3:</u>

Bennett - Little Rock Creek: District 10, May 1900

Greybull River: District 8, May 1888

Dry Creek: District 8, November 1903

WY SEO Divisions and Superintendents



Division 4:

Fish Creek Ditch: District 10, June 1889

Bear River Central Division: District 2

Midmerrmac Ditch: District 10, 1886

Peoples Canal: District 14, September 1889

Smiths Fork: District 3, 1895

Spencer/Cottonwood: District 10, August 1899

Bear Canal: District 4, 1874

Orson Strong Ditch: District 3, December 1896

Bear River Upper Division: District 2

B. Q. East Canal: District 2, 1878











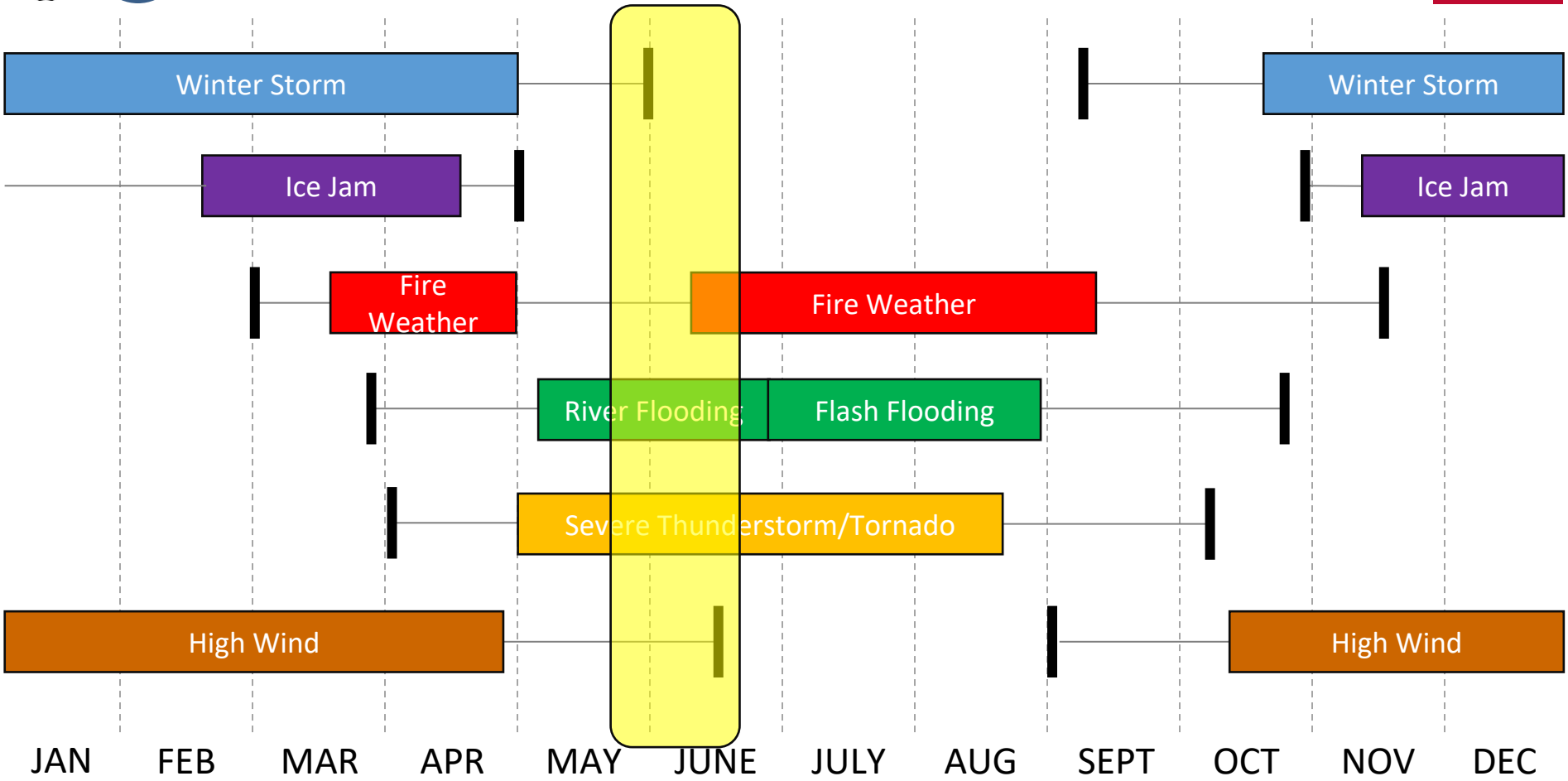




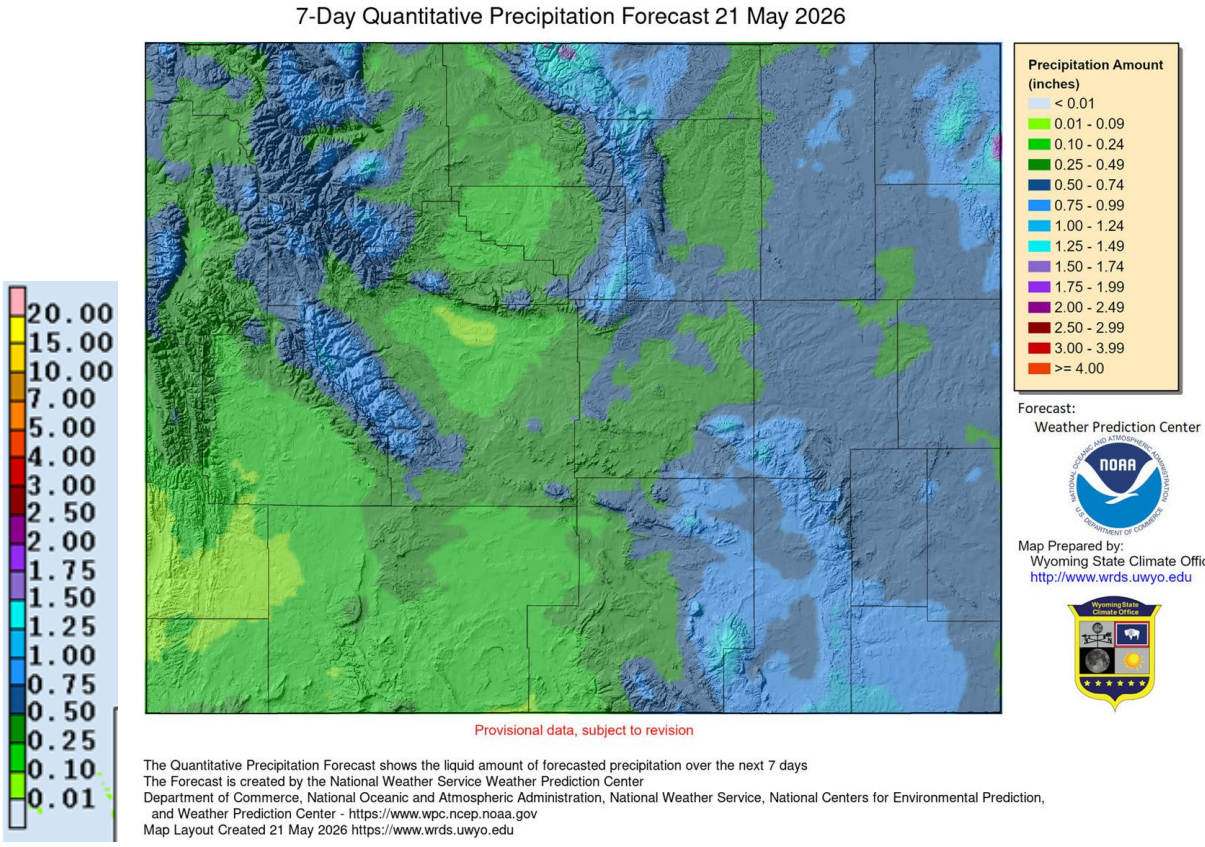



Weather Info & Forecasts

NWS Wyoming - Typical Hazard Calendar



7-Day Total Precipitation Forecast
(beginning May 21)



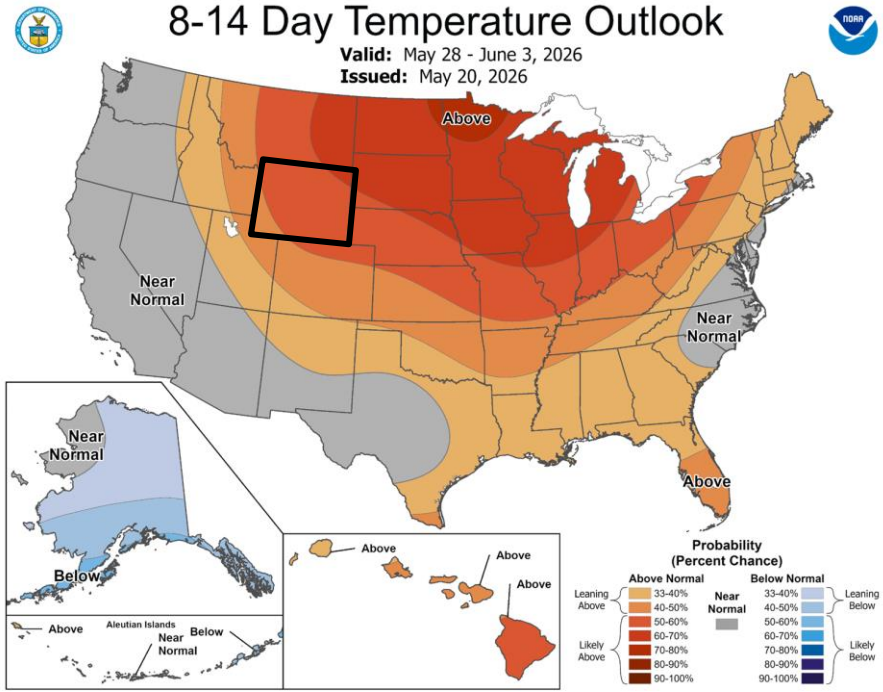
- Periodic showers & thunderstorms over the eastern plains
- Another round of mountain snow, especially Wind River, Bighorn & Snowy
- More hit & miss moisture in the southwest

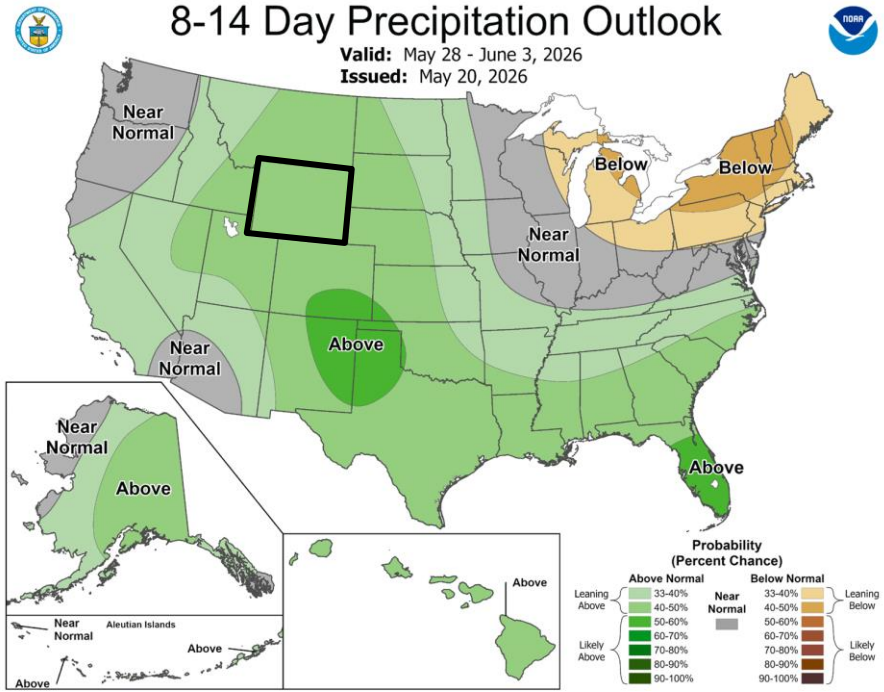
https://bit.ly/7_dayQPForecast

8-14 Day Outlook

(May 28 - June 3)

https://bit.ly/CPC8_14Day





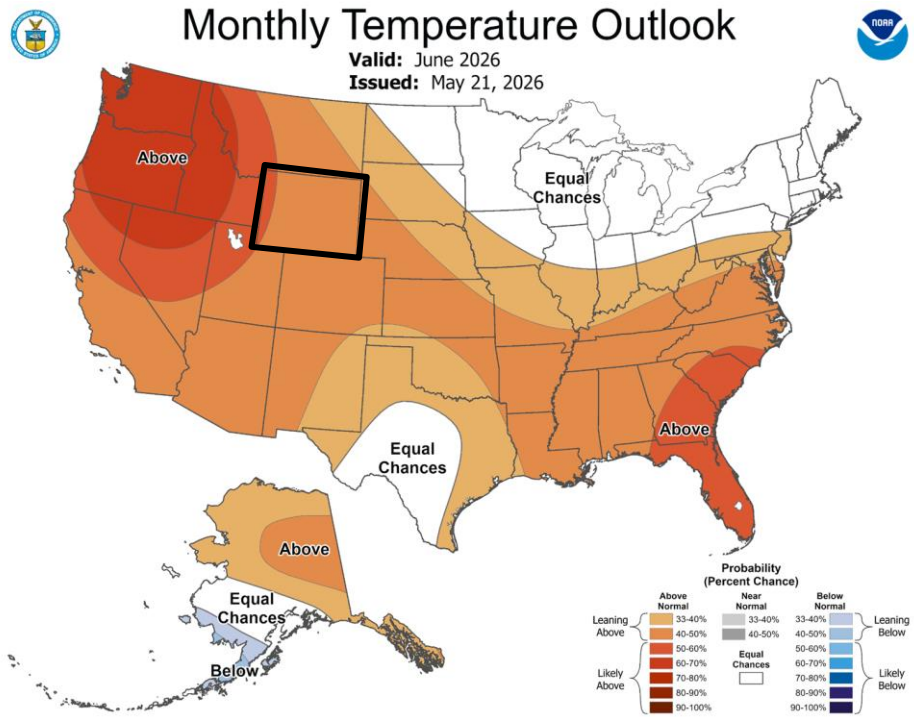
- Warmer than normal temps likely to round out May
- **Interactive Version:** cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/814day/interactive/index.php

- Leaning wetter than normal statewide

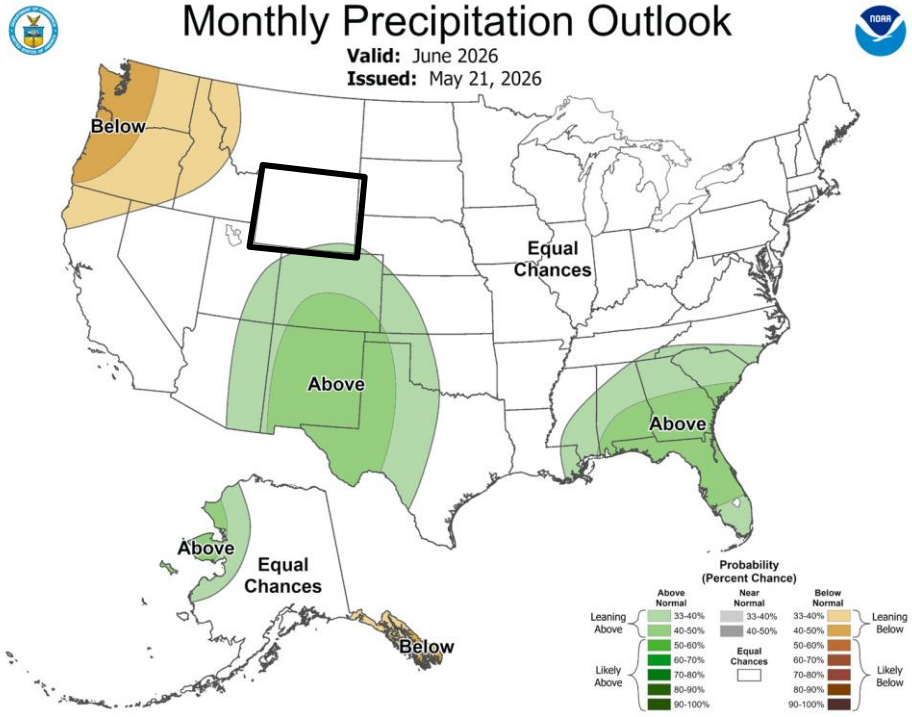
1 Month Outlook

(June)

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



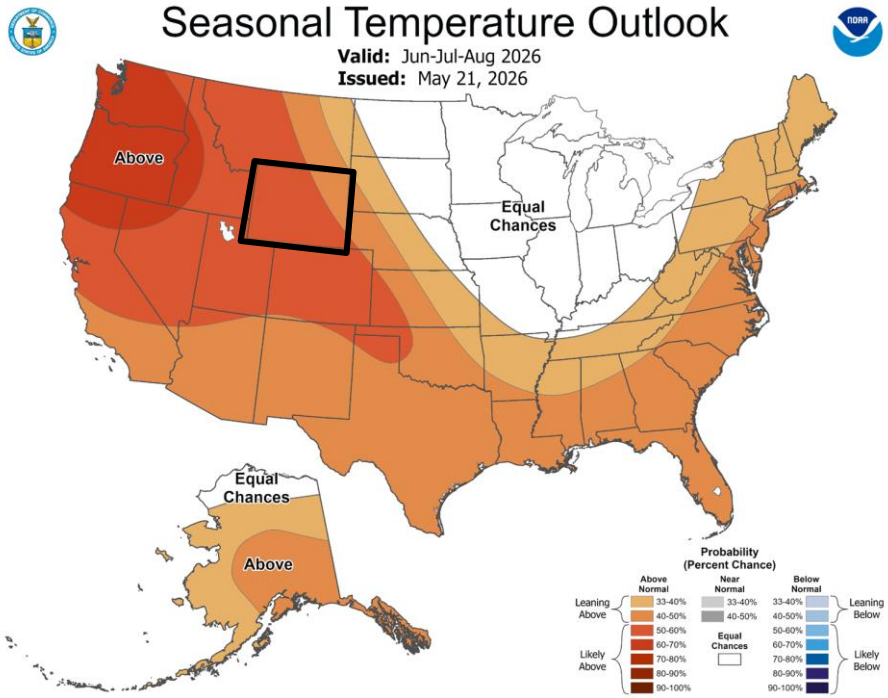
- Leaning warmer than normal, especially far west



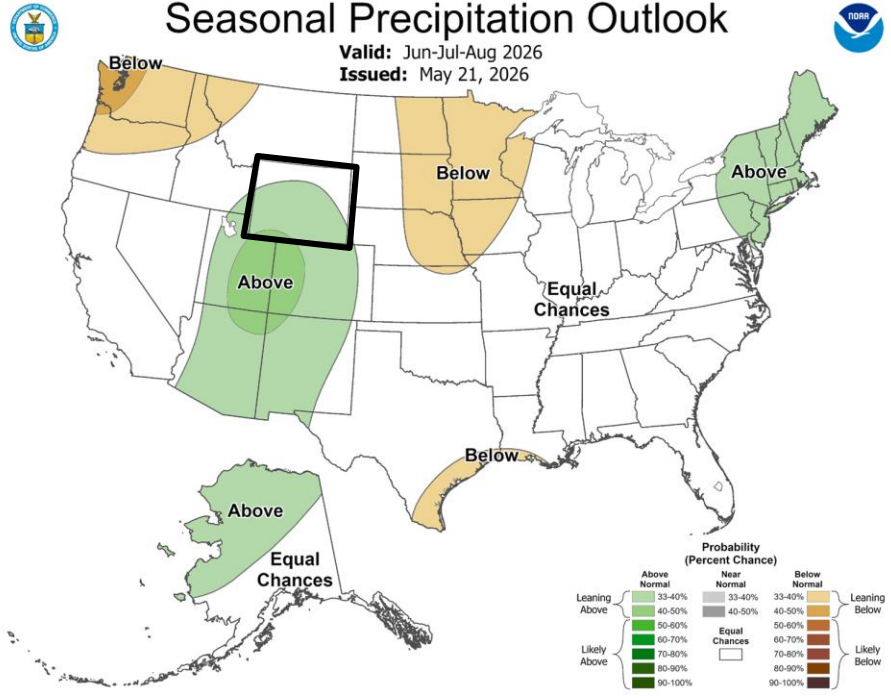
- No clear signal precip-wise (equal chances of below, near, above normal)

3 Month Outlook
(June - July - August)

https://bit.ly/CPC_Seasonal



- Warmer than normal temps likely, especially west & central

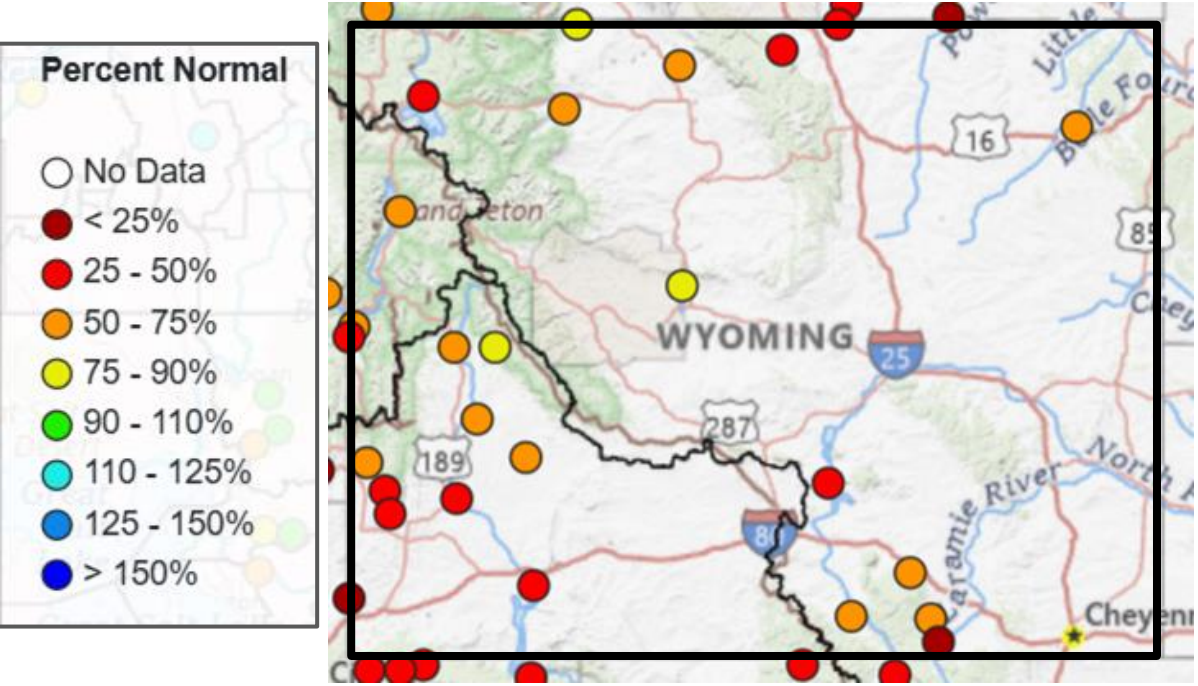


- Leaning wetter than normal, mainly central & south → monsoon activity

River Flooding & Water Supply Outlook

Wyoming Water Supply Outlook

Valid April-September



April thru September runoff volumes below normal.

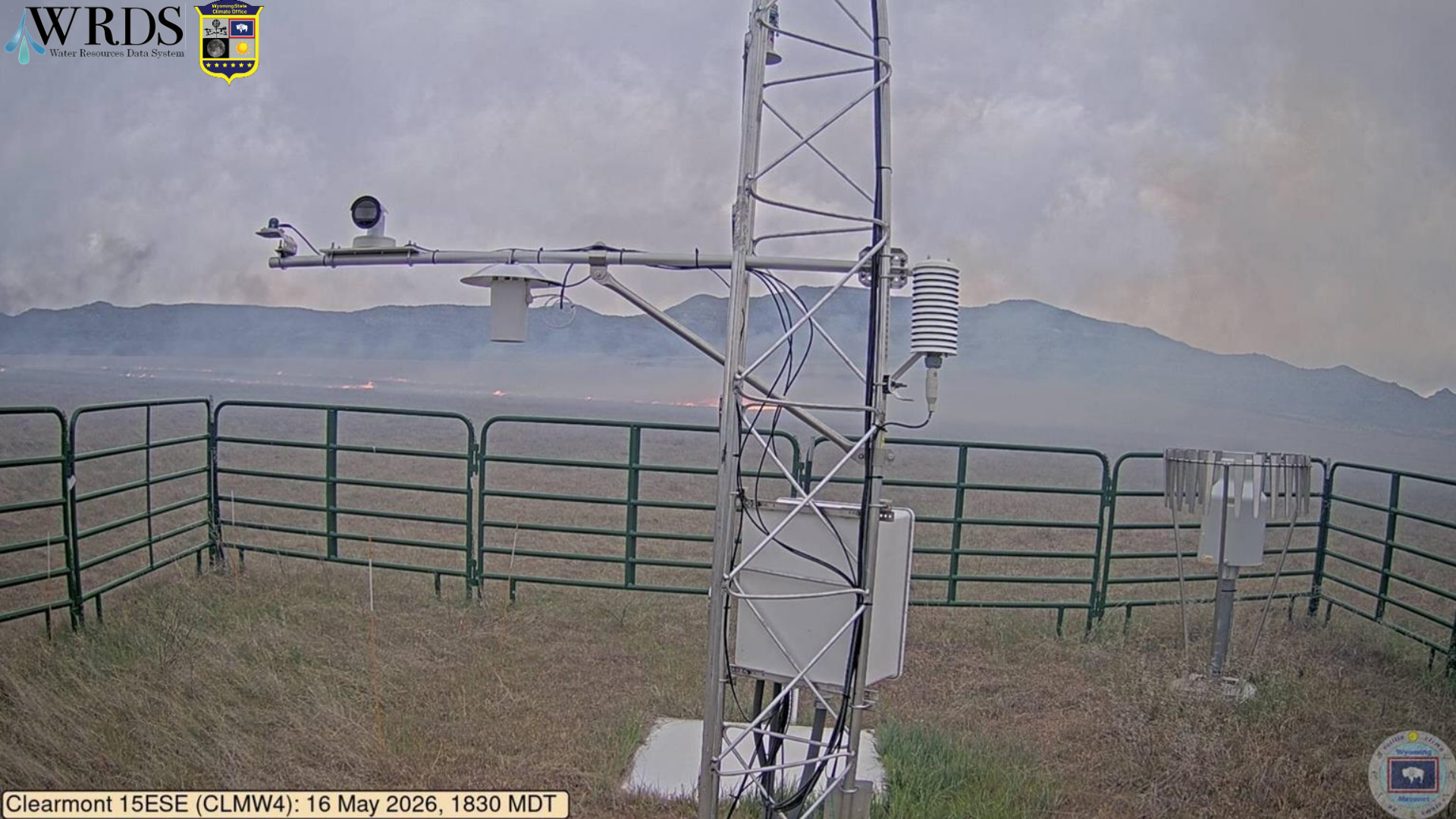
This graphic depicts the NWS water supply outlook locations, colored by the percent of April-thru-September volumetric normal. Most Wyoming stations are projected to see lower-than-normal volumes (yellows, oranges, reds).

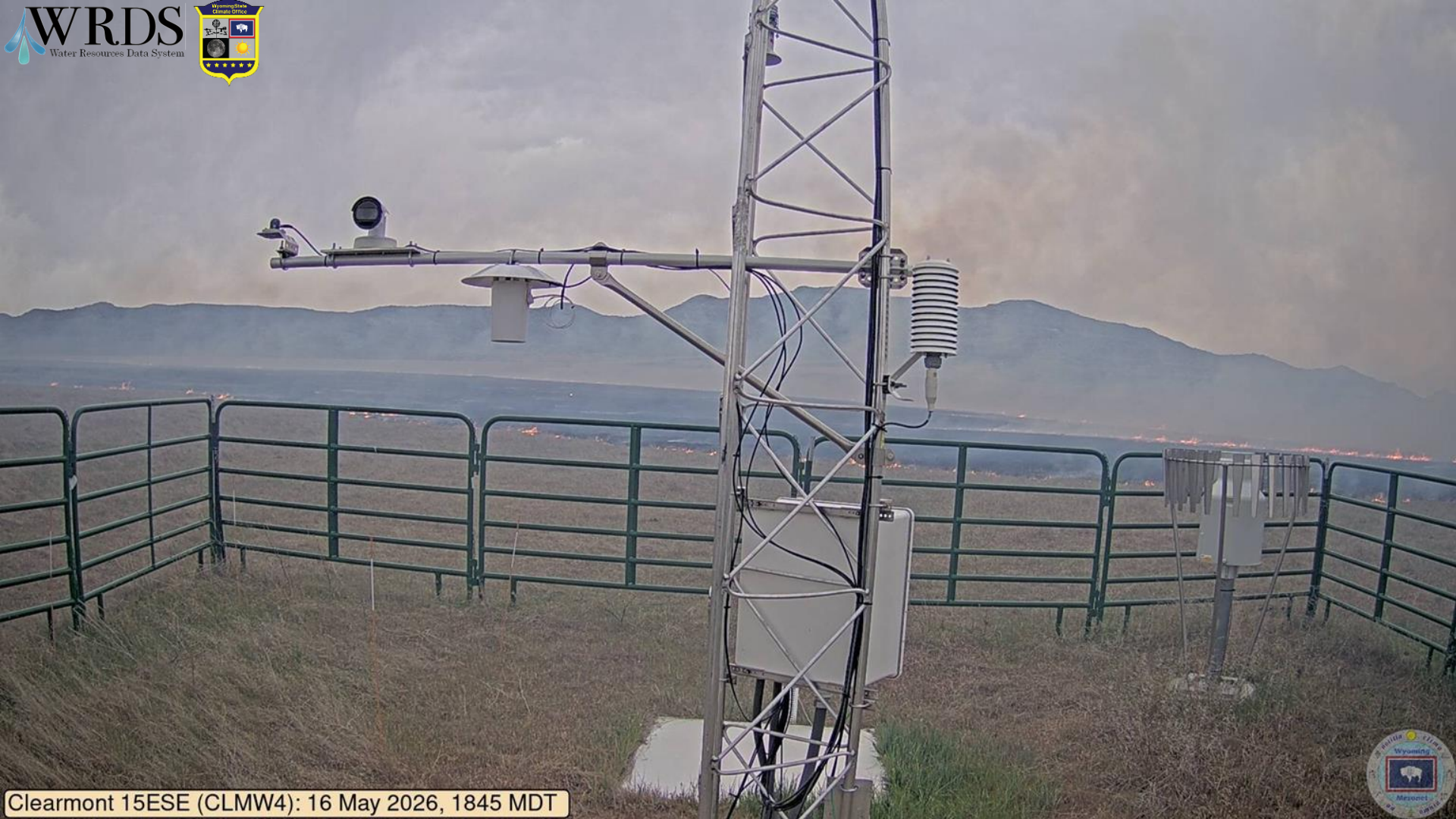
Unofficial forecast valid 21 May 2026.

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

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

Wildfire Activity & Outlooks


WRDS
Water Resources Data System
Wyoming State Climate Office
Clearmont 15ESE (CLMW4): 16 May 2026, 1830 MDT

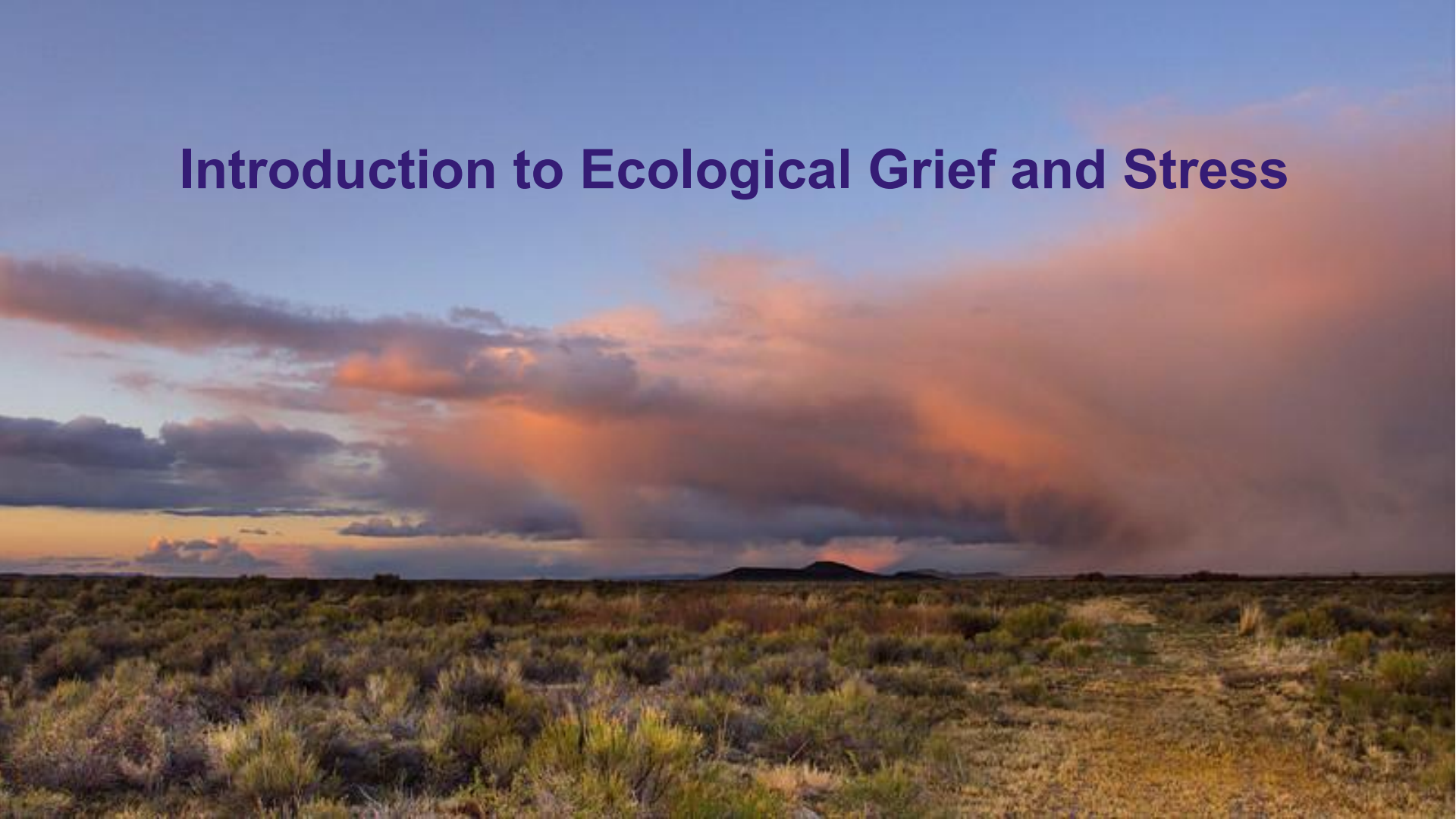

WRDS
Water Resources Data System
Wyoming State Climate Office
Clearmont 15ESE (CLMW4): 16 May 2026, 1845 MDT


WRDS
Water Resources Data System
Wyoming State Climate Office
Clearmont 15ESE (CLMW4): 16 May 2026, 1915 MDT

Highlight of the Month:

Agricultural Stress & Grief Support Resources

Introduction to Ecological Grief and Stress





What changes have you noticed on your farm, ranch or property that have been caused by ecological changes or extreme weather?

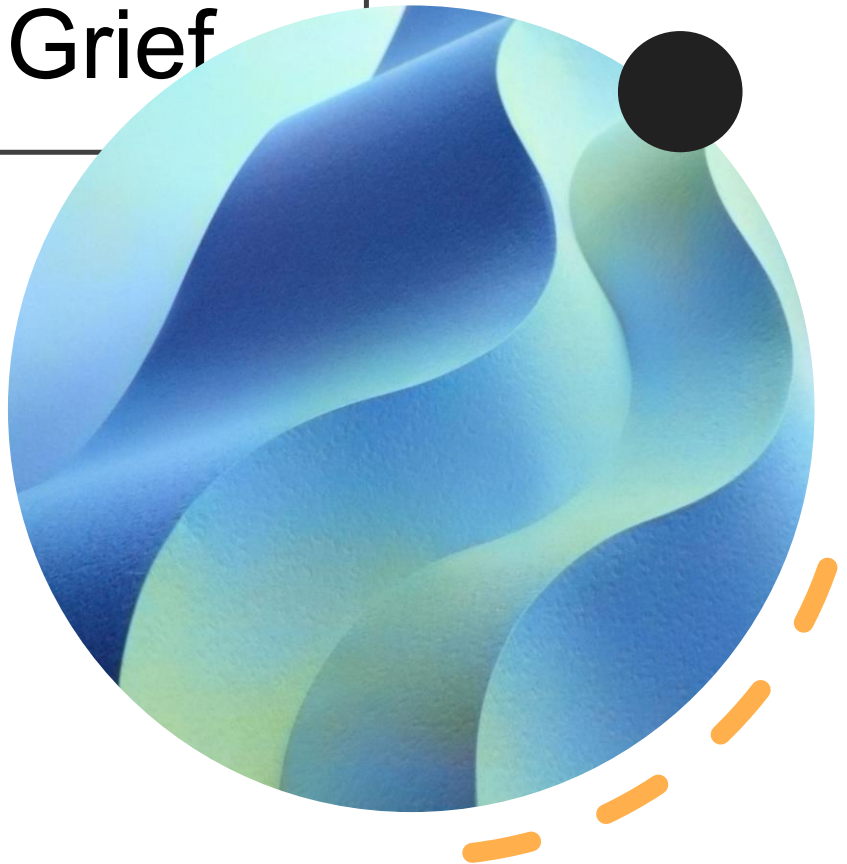
- What is Ecological Stress?
- What is Ecological Grief?



Photo by Diane

5 Types of Ecological Grief

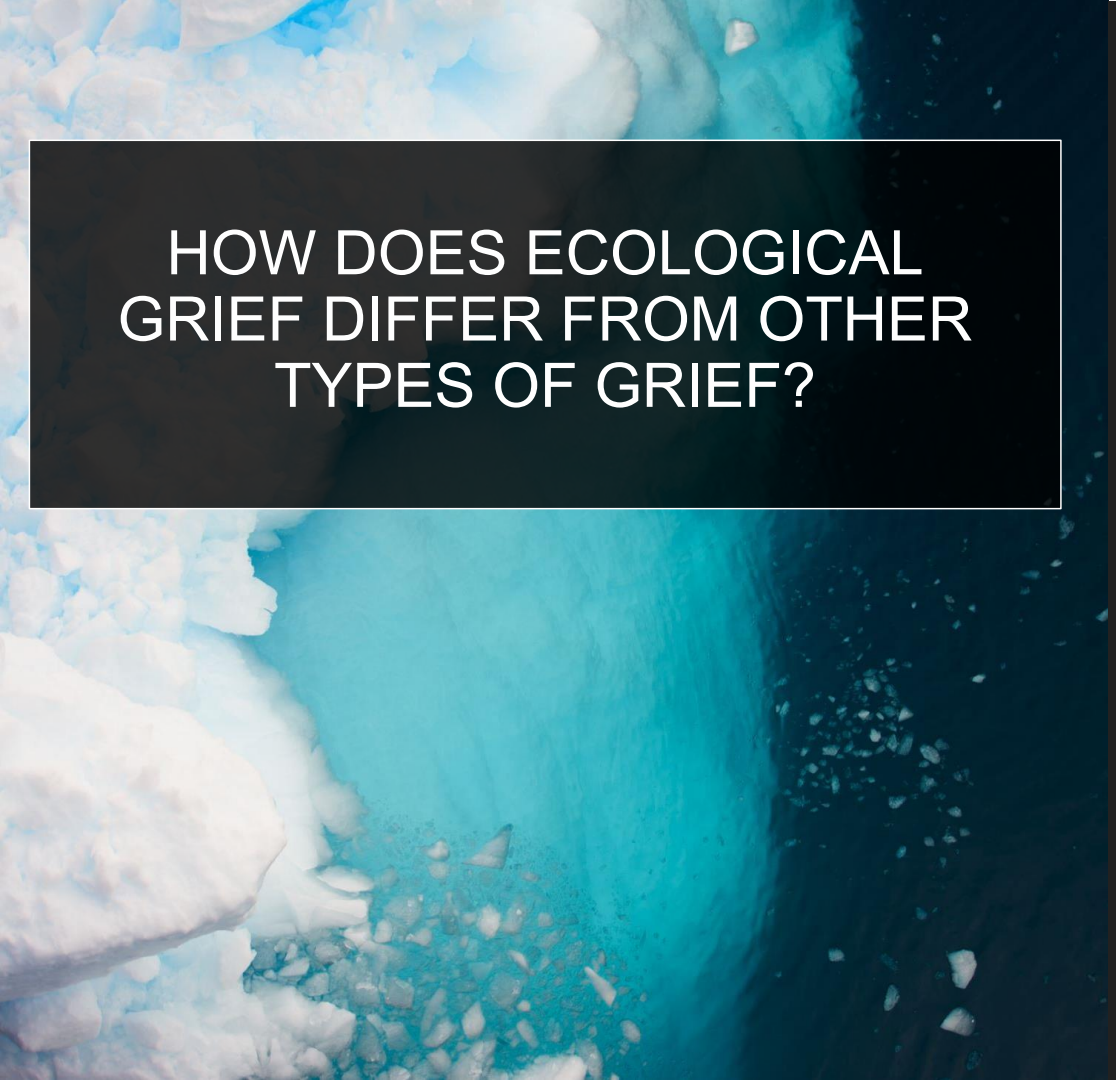
- Slow-onset changes
- Acute disasters
- Vicarious grief
- Anticipatory grief
- Secondary grief



From Canadian Climate Institute

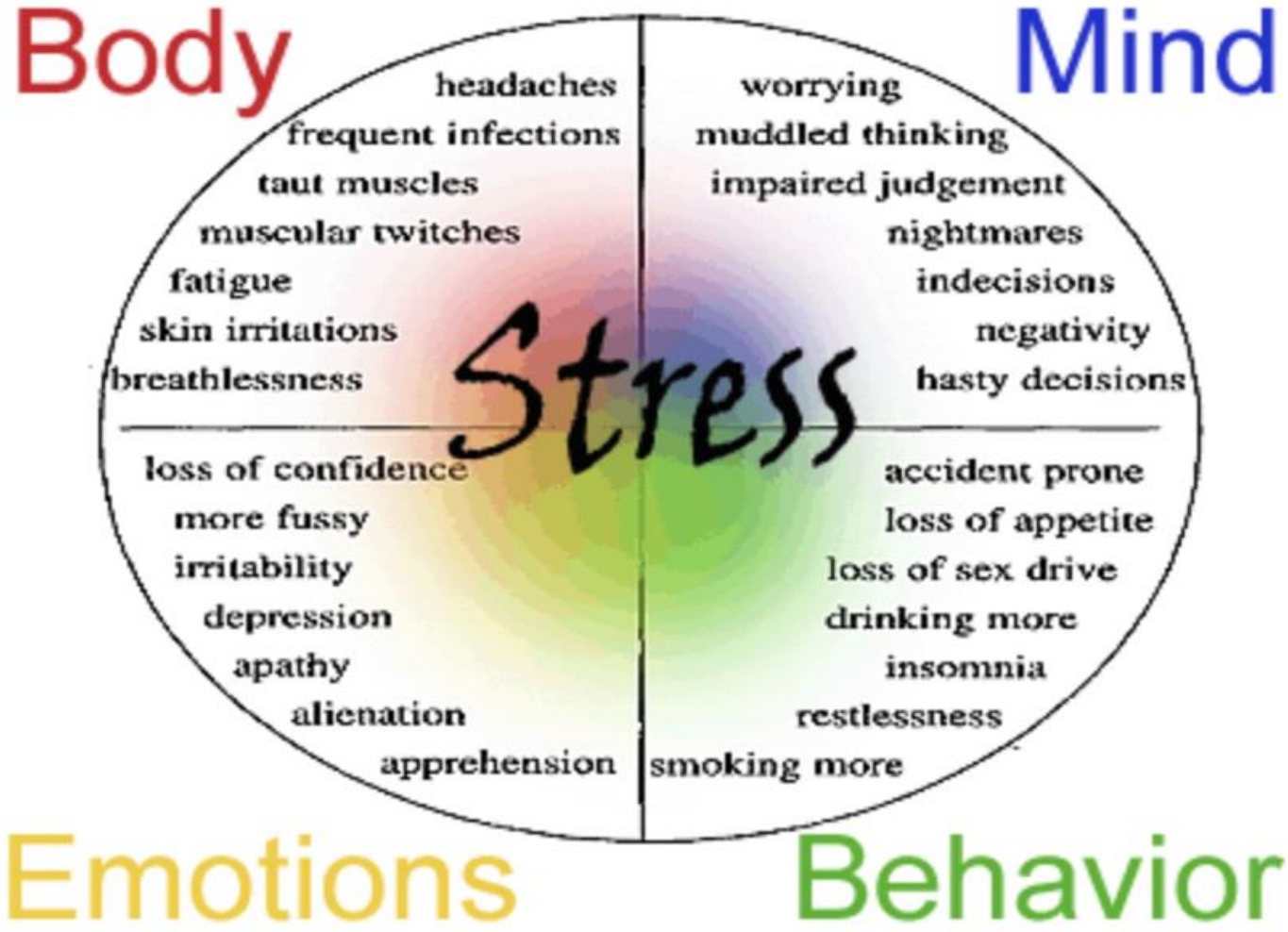
Lucy’s Vicarious Grief

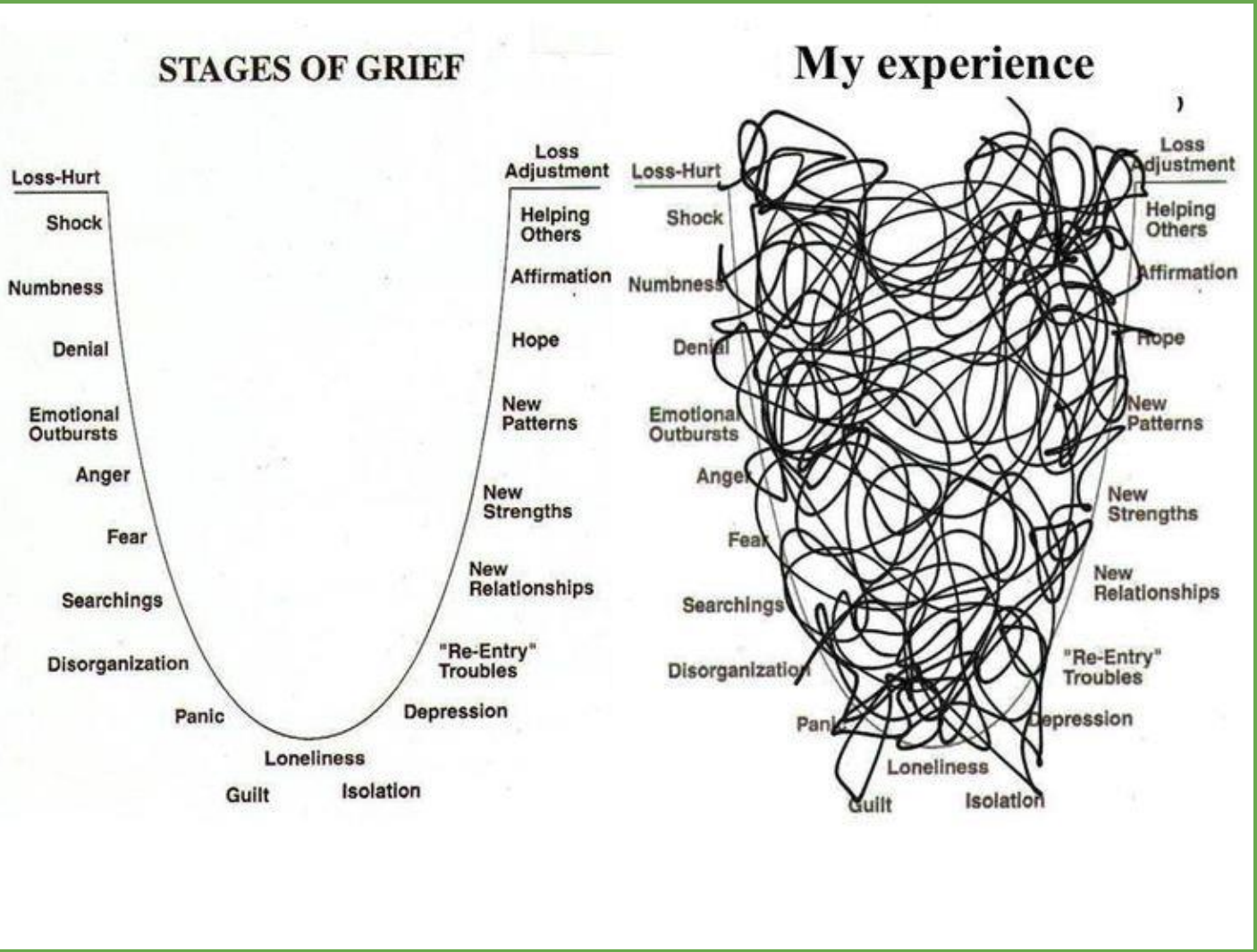




HOW DOES ECOLOGICAL GRIEF DIFFER FROM OTHER TYPES OF GRIEF?

- Overwhelming!
- Complicated!
- Disenfranchised!


Body
Mind
headaches
frequent infections
taut muscles
muscular twitches
fatigue
skin irritations
breathlessness
worrying
muddled thinking
impaired judgement
nightmares
indecisions
negativity
hasty decisions
Stress
loss of confidence
more fussy
irritability
depression
apathy
alienation
apprehension
accident prone
loss of appetite
loss of sex drive
drinking more
insomnia
restlessness
smoking more
Emotions
Behavior


STAGES OF GRIEF
Loss-Hurt
Shock
Numbness
Denial
Emotional Outbursts
Anger
Fear
Searchings
Disorganization
Panic
Loneliness
Guilt
Isolation
Depression
"Re-Entry" Troubles
New Relationships
New Strengths
New Patterns
Hope
Affirmation
Helping Others
Loss Adjustment
My experience
Loss-Hurt
Shock
Numbness
Denial
Emotional Outbursts
Anger
Fear
Searchings
Disorganization
Panic
Loneliness
Guilt
Isolation
Depression
"Re-Entry" Troubles
New Relationships
New Strengths
New Patterns
Hope
Affirmation
Helping Others
Loss Adjustment

Which of the four quadrants to you identify with the most?

- Anger
- Sadness
- Positivity
- Fear



Credit: Climate Psychology Alliance North

WHY ARE ECOLOGICAL STRESS AND GRIEF MORE COMPLEX FOR PRODUCERS?

- Front row view to changes
- Affects livelihood
- Agrarian imperative
- Less likely to seek mental health support





Suppressing negative emotions impacts…

- short term memory
- problem solving
- decision-making
- brainstorming innovative ideas
- physical health

What helps?





Shared Language

Talking

Building Community

Seeking out “States of Resilience”

How can producers do this?

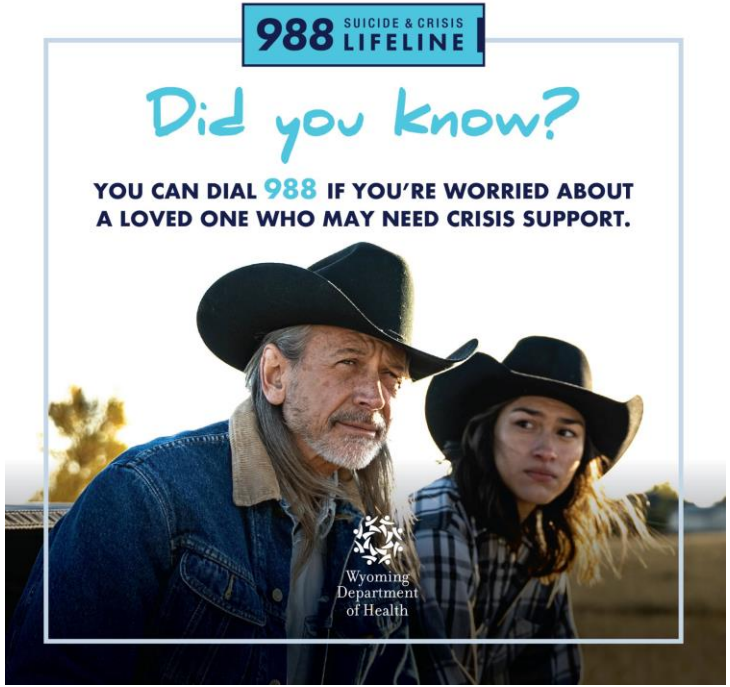




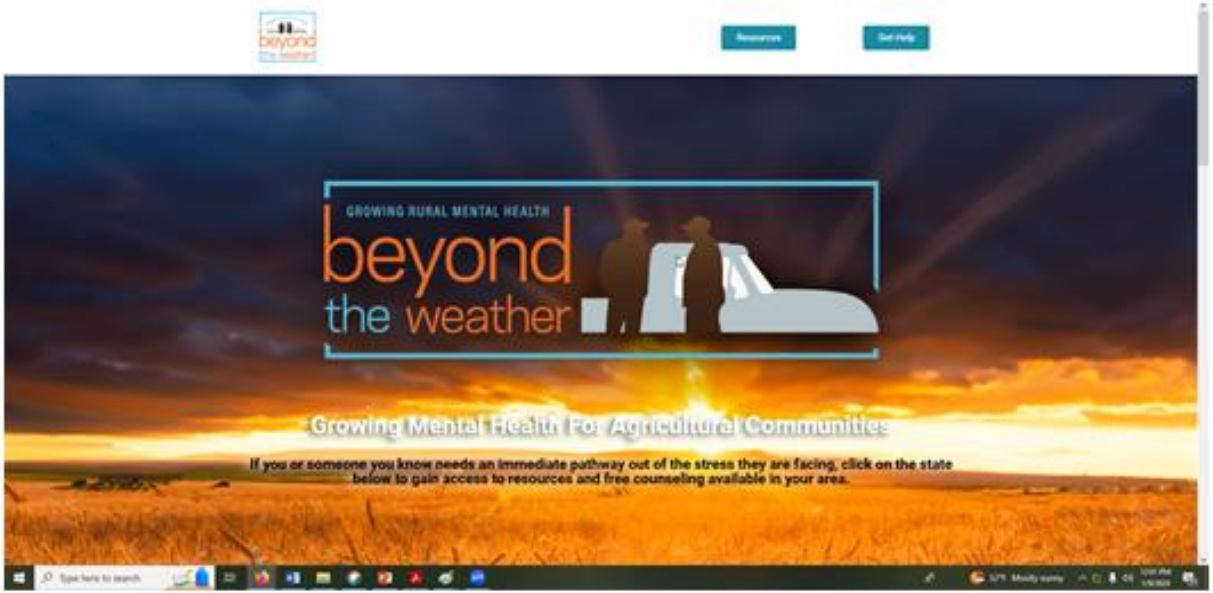
What activity helps you find a "state of resilience"?

Resources in Wyoming





Beyond the Weather



No More Empty Saddles

Nmemptysaddles.com



Ag Stress Roundtable

- Open to anyone
- Share resources
- Meet quarterly(ish)
- Contact Lucy (lucy.Pauley@wyo.gov)

For more information:

Lucy Pauley
Wyoming Agriculture & Natural Resources Mediation Program
(307) 777-8788
lucy.pauley@wyo.gov

WILDFIRE WEBINAR SERIES

University of Wyoming Extension
Thursday 6-7:30 pm April 30 - June 4

Schedule, speakers, and registration available at:
https://wyoextension.org/wrir/wildfire-webinar/



SCAN ME

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USGS
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Lucy Pauley
Wyoming Dept of Agriculture
lucy.pauley@wyo.gov

Joe Duncan
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Callie Surber
UW Extension
csurber@uwyo.edu

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!

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