WY Conditions & Outlooks:

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

July 16, 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
  - Wildfire Activity & Outlooks
- **Highlight of the Month:**
  - Colorado River Compact Updates
- **Questions**

Current Conditions

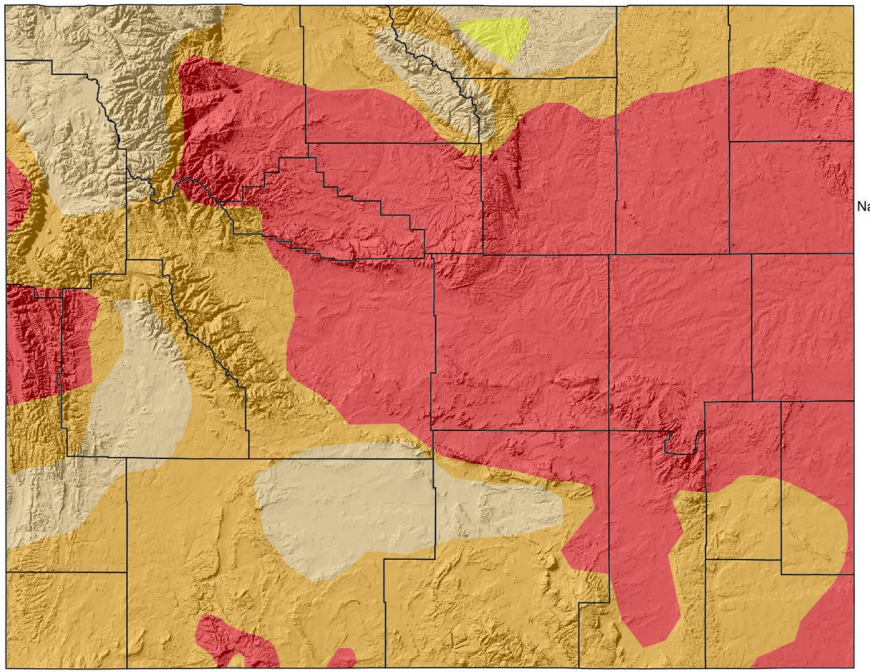
US Drought Monitor for July 14th, 2026

(Released Thursday, July 16th, 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 14 Jul 2026



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 16 Jul 2026 06:35 https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

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

Large areas of Degradation in Albany, Carbon, and Park Counties with some Improvements in central Sheridan County along with small areas in the southeast

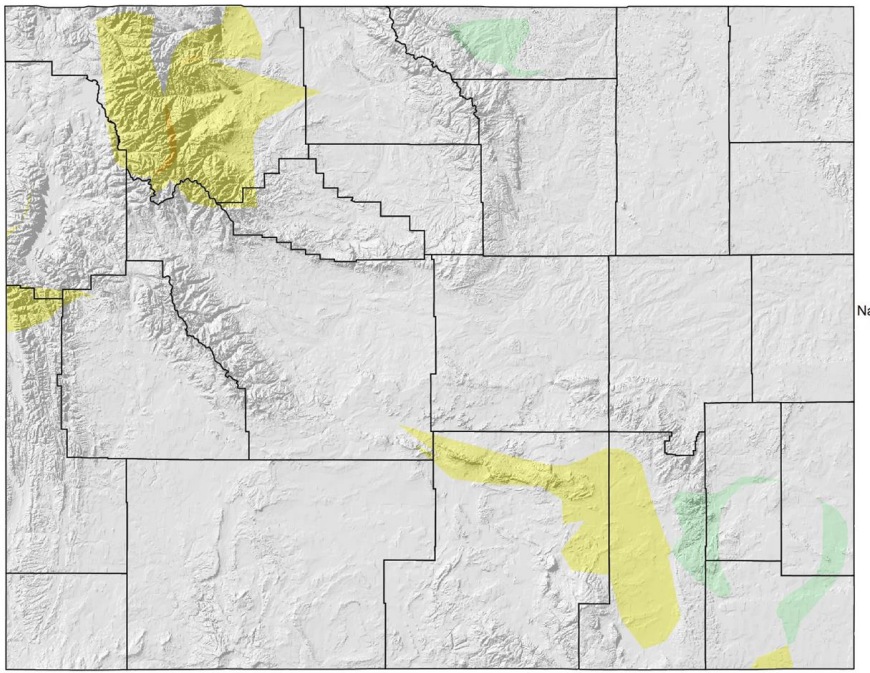
https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu

droughtmonitor.unl.edu

US Drought Monitor Change since Last Webinar 16 Jun 2025 to 14 Jul 2026)

Drought Level	Percentile
None	>30.01
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Map Layout and Comparisons created 16 Jul 2026 06:35 https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

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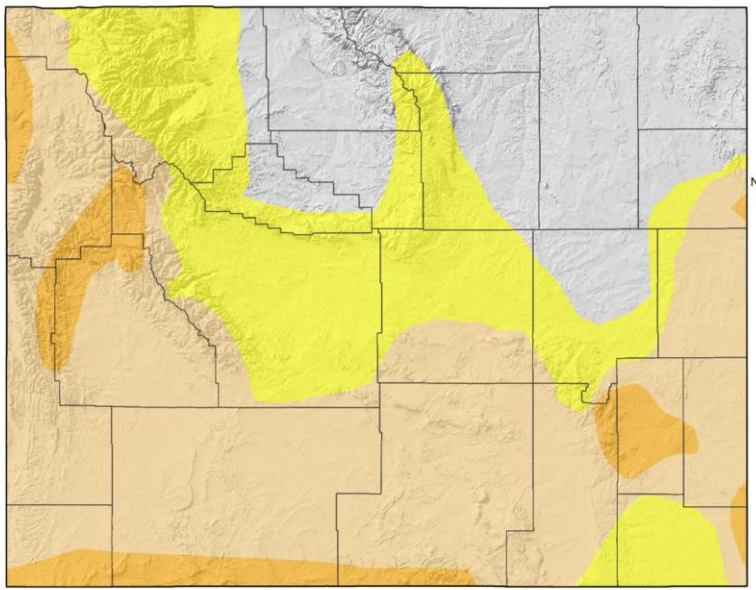
https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu

droughtmonitor.unl.edu

WRDS Water Resources Data System

One Year Ago

US Drought Monitor for 16 Jul 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

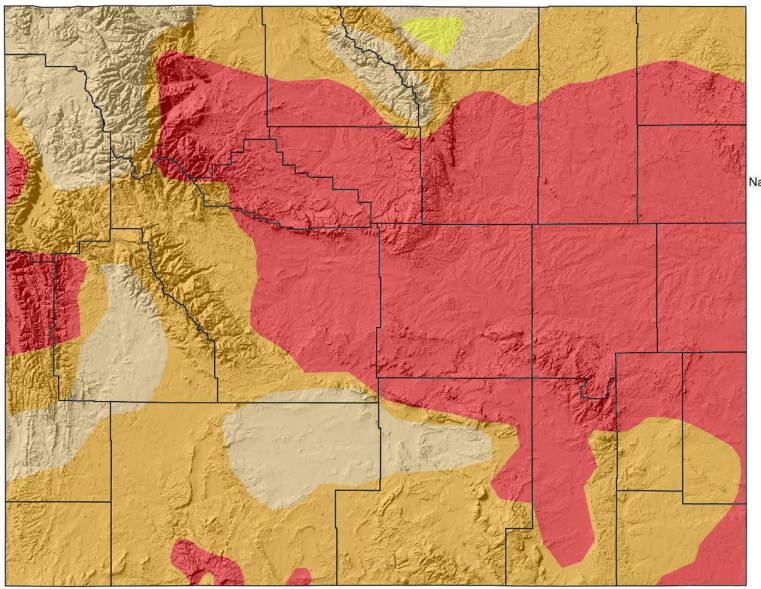
Map Layout Prepared by:
Wyoming State Climate Office
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Map Layout Created 17 Jul 2025 07:56 https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

Today

US Drought Monitor for 14 Jul 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
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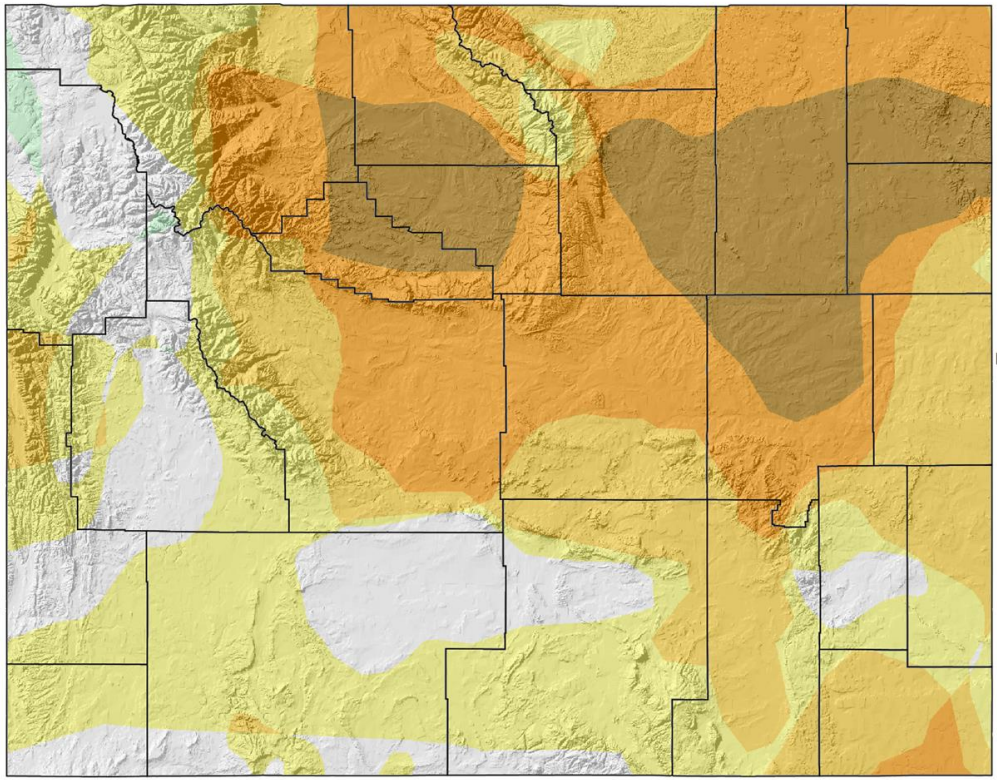
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Map Created 16 Jul 2026 06:35 https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu

droughtmonitor.unl.edu

1-Year US Drought Monitor Change (15 Jul 2025 to 14 Jul 2026)

US Drought Monitor Change from 15 Jul 2025 to 14 Jul 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

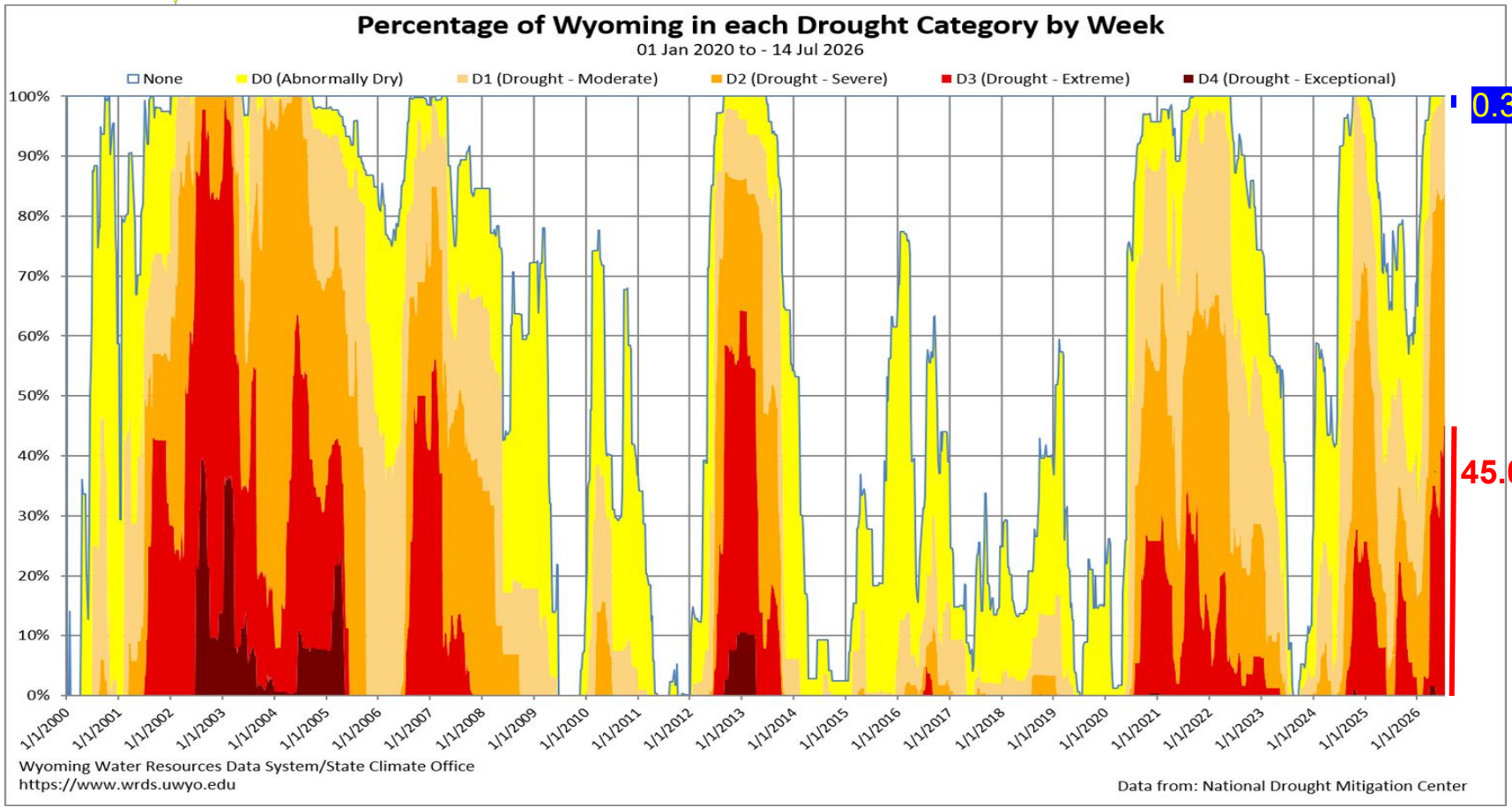
Map Layout and
Class Calculation by:
Wyoming State Climate Office
https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

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Map Layout and Comparisons created 16 Jul 2026 06:35 https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

WRDS
Water Resources Data System

Wyoming Area Affected: 100% D0-D4 ; 99.65% D1-D4



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

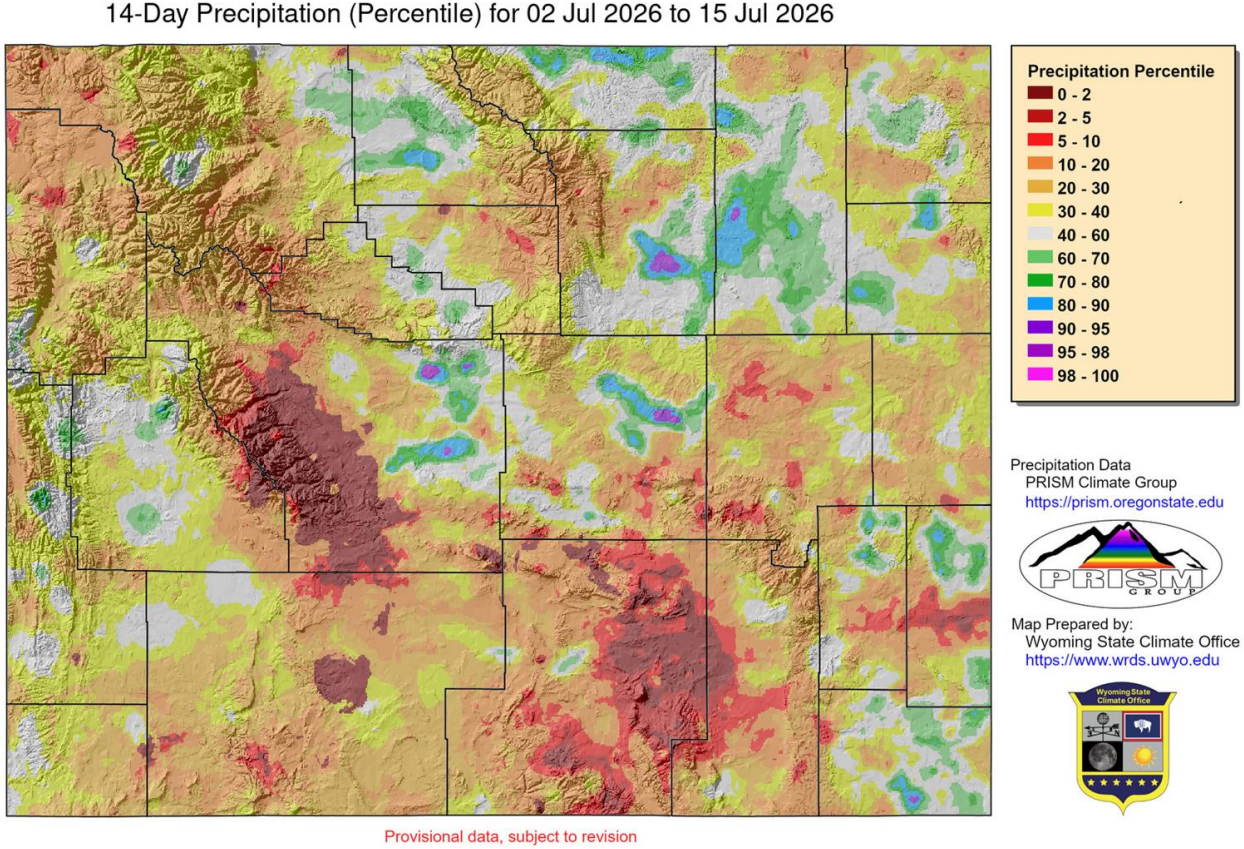
14-Day Precipitation Percentile (02 Jul 2026 to 15 Jul 2026)

Above Median:

- Scattered areas of the Wind/Bighorn
- Areas of northeast
- Southeast

Below Median (*Areas of Concern*):

- West of the Divide
- Bighorns
- Winds
- Eastern Carbon County



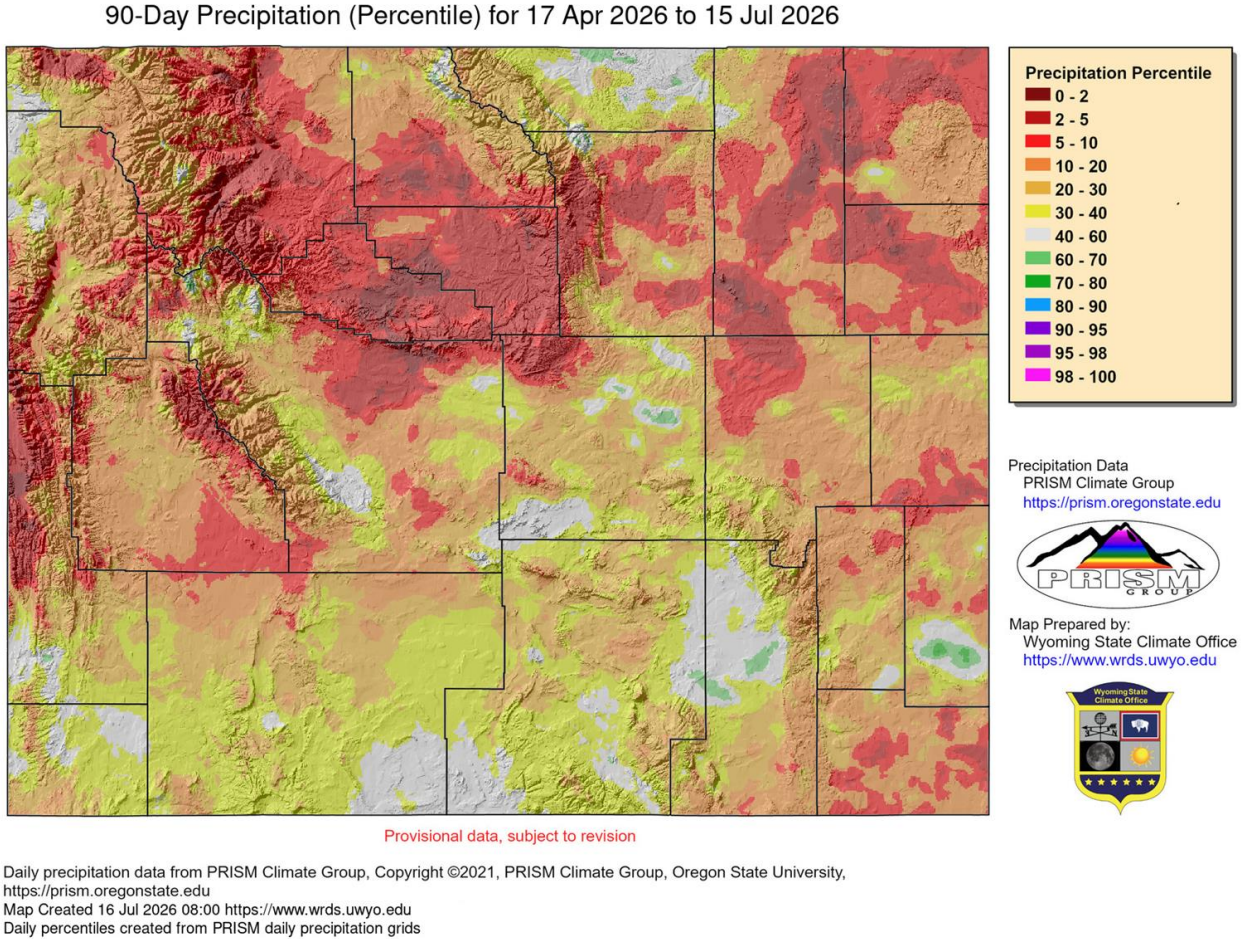
90-Day Precipitation Percentile (17 Apr 2026 to 15 Jun 2026)

Above Median:

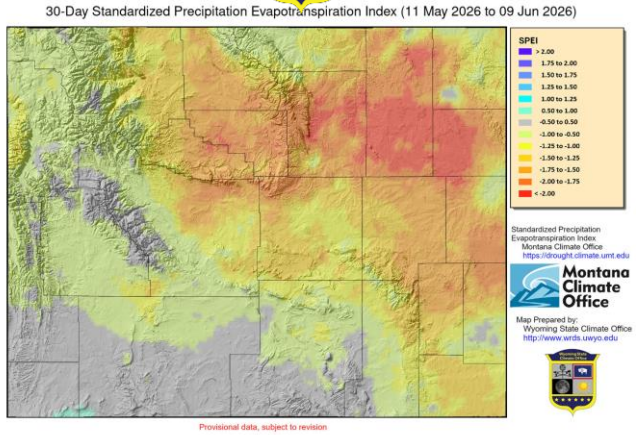
- VERY few scattered areas

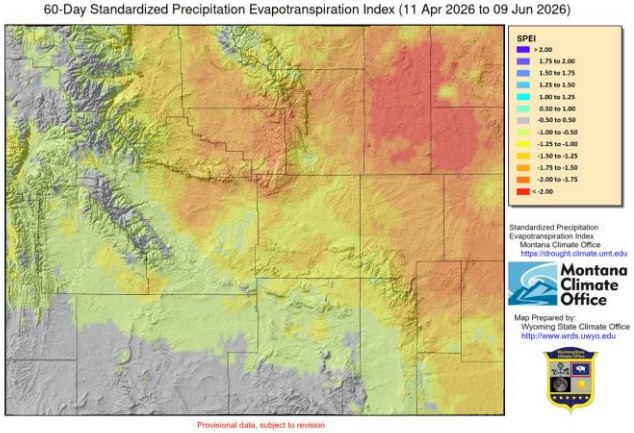
Below Median (*Areas of Concern*):

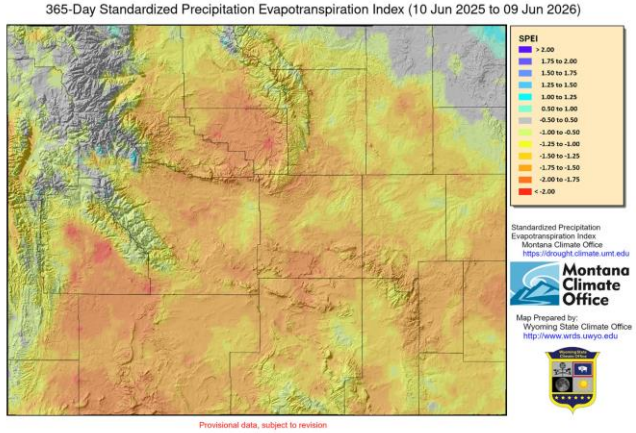
- Most of Wyoming, far south (western) part of Wyoming closer to median



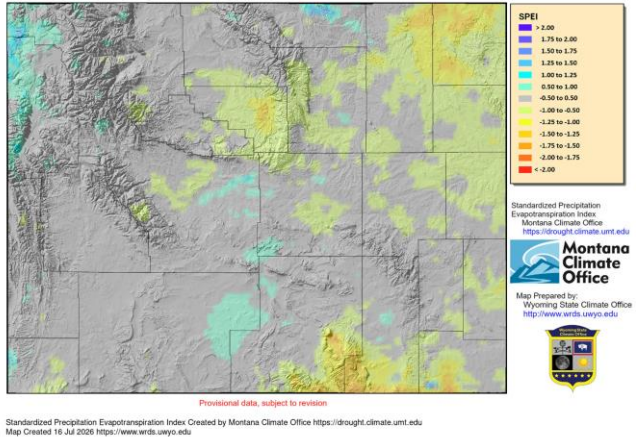
Standardized Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index



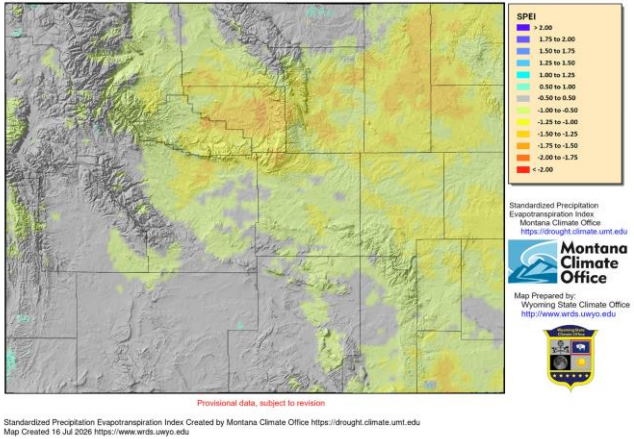




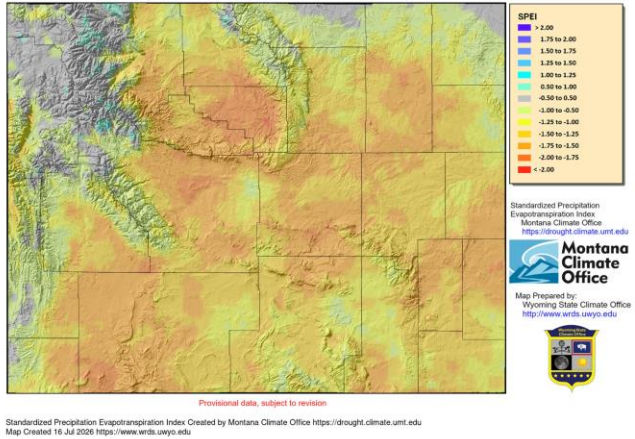
30-Day



60-Day



1-Year

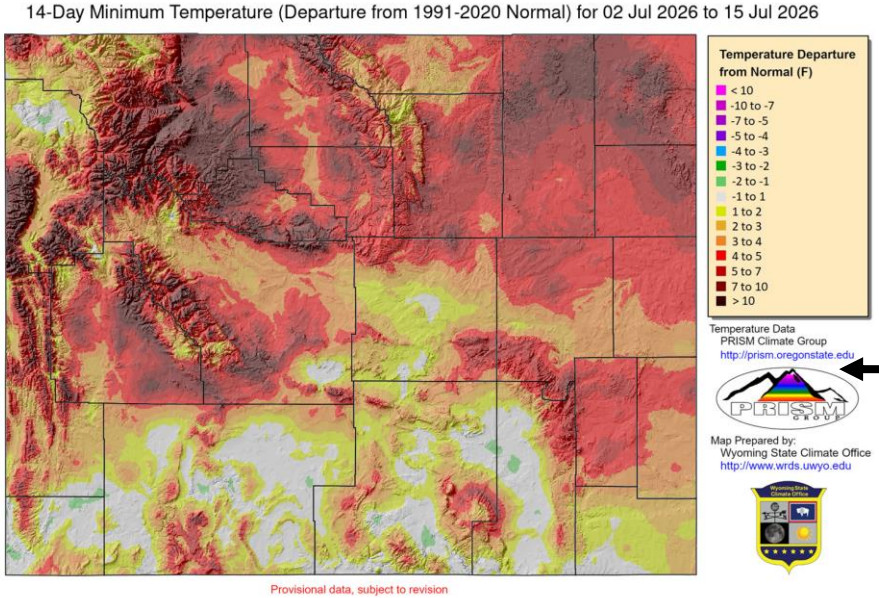


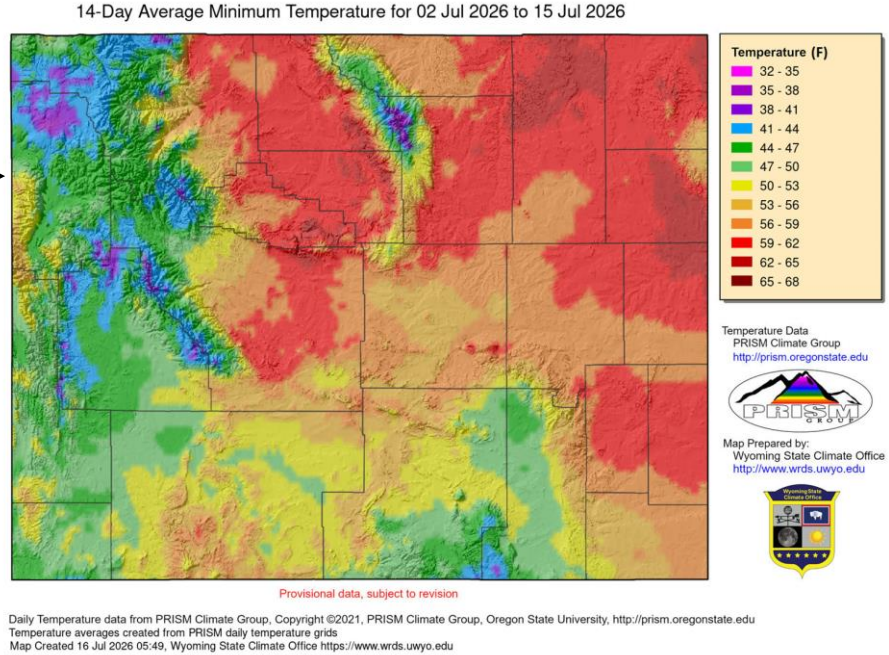
https://drought.climate.umt.edu

WRDS Water Resources Data System

14-Day Average Minimum Temperature (02 Jul to 15 Jul)

- Nighttime lows above freezing
- West, Med Bow/Sierra Madre, Albany Co up to 50F
- Northeast Lows up to 65F



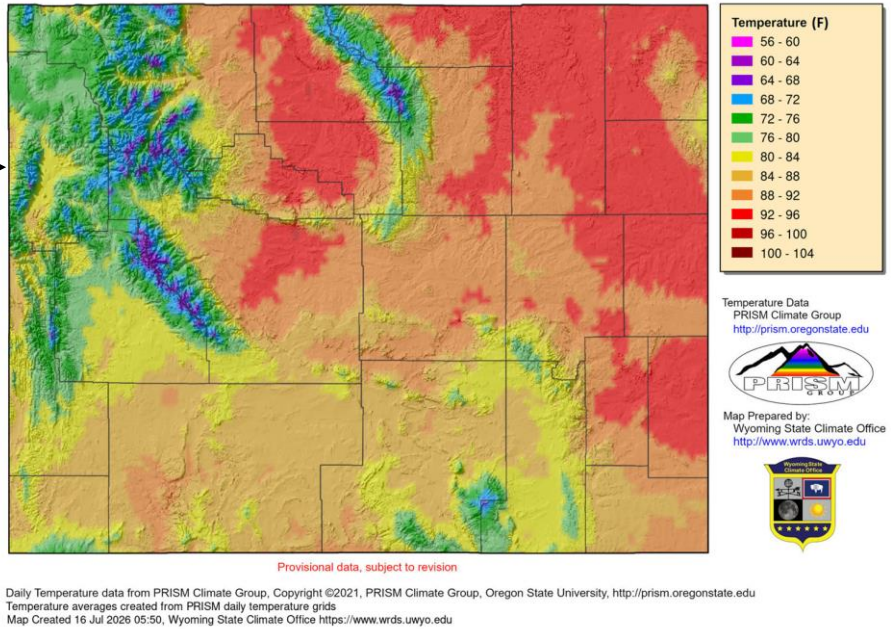


14-Day *Departure from* Normal Average Minimum Temperature

- Greatest departures above normal in the north +7-10F
- East of Laramie Range 2-5F above normal
- South Central and South West near normal

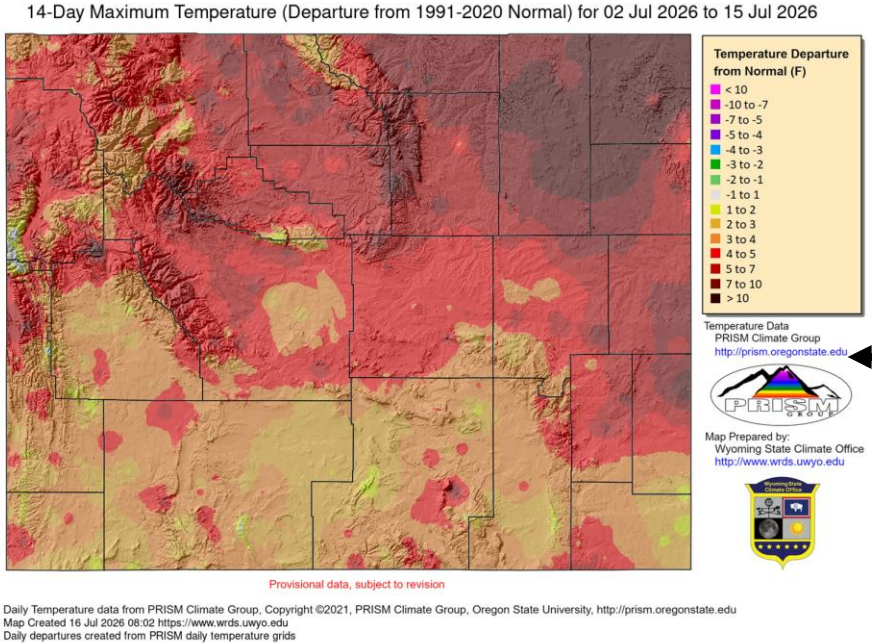
14-Day Average Maximum Temperature (02 Jul to 15 Jul)

- Maximum Temperatures mostly above 60F
- 90s in Wind/Bighorn, much of northeast, Goshen/Platte



14- Day *Departure from* Normal Average Maximum Temperature

- Above normal statewide
- Greatest departures in the northeast >10F above normal
- Smallest departures in the southwest



WRDS
Water Resources Data System

JULY 2026 TEMPERATURE RECORDS SET



216

DAILY MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE RECORDS SET IN JULY

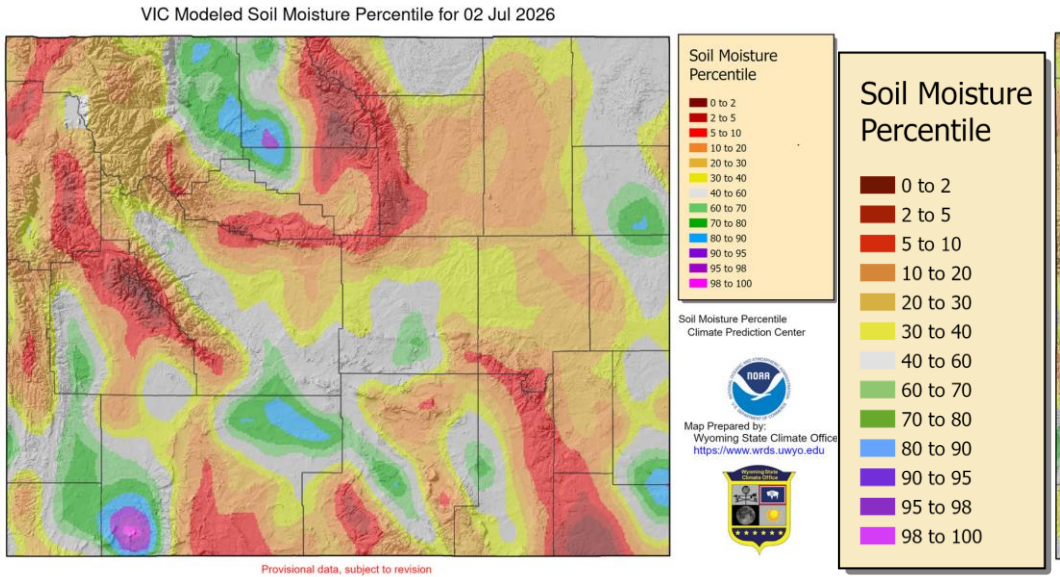


35

DAILY MINIMUM TEMPERATURE RECORDS SET IN JULY

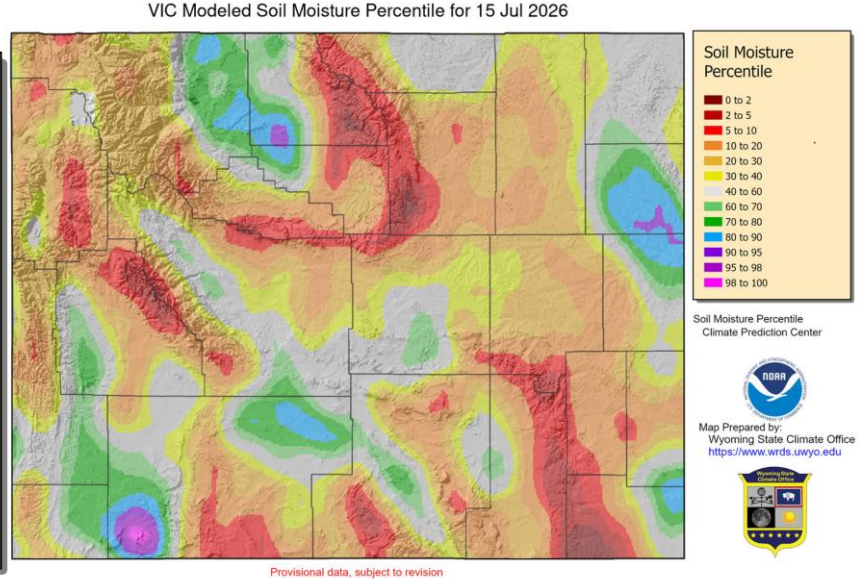
Soil Moisture Percentile

~Two Weeks Ago



VIC (Variable Infiltration Capacity) Modeled Soil Moisture Percentile: https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/Drought/Monitoring/smp.shtml
Map Layout and Comparisons created 03 Jul 2026 07:12 https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

15 Jul 2026



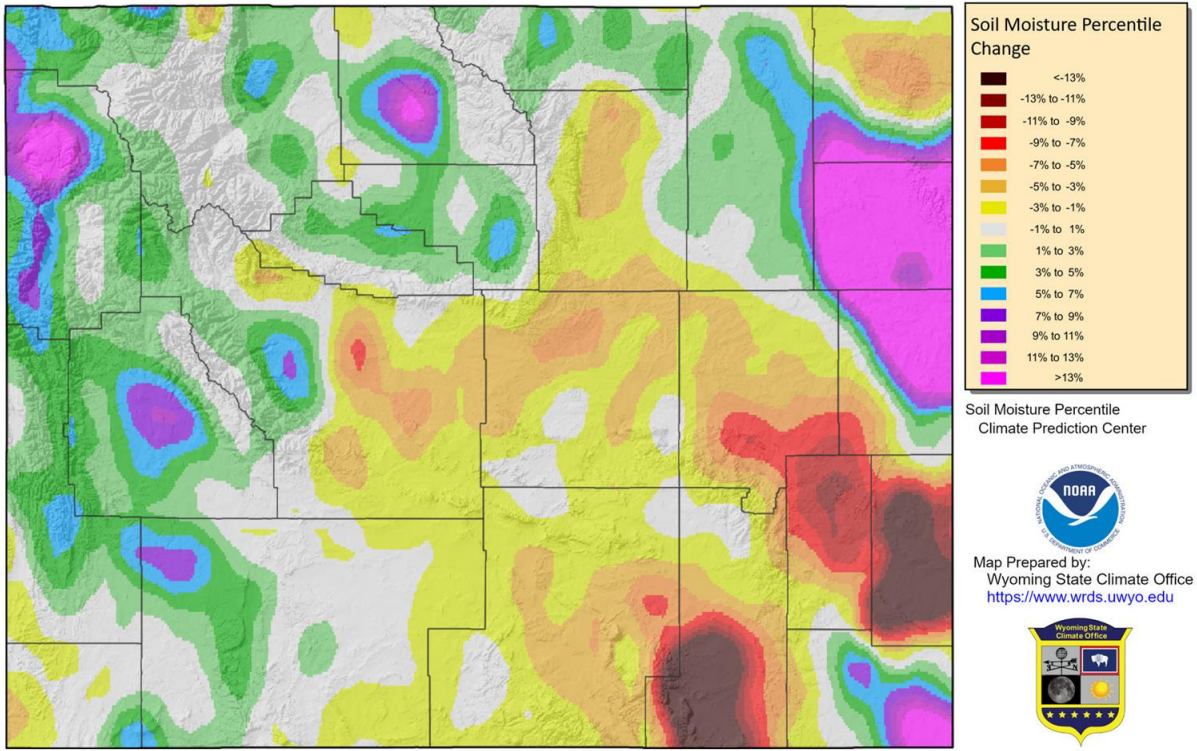
VIC (Variable Infiltration Capacity) Modeled Soil Moisture Percentile: https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/Drought/Monitoring/smp.shtml
Map Layout and Comparisons created 16 Jul 2026 07:12 https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

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

Degradations in central Wyoming and the southeast.
Improvement in the northeast, parts of the west, and Bighorn Basin

2-Week Soil Moisture Percentile Change

2-Week VIC Modeled Soil Moisture Percentile Change from 01 Jul 2026 to 15 Jul 2026



Soil Moisture Percentile
Climate Prediction Center

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

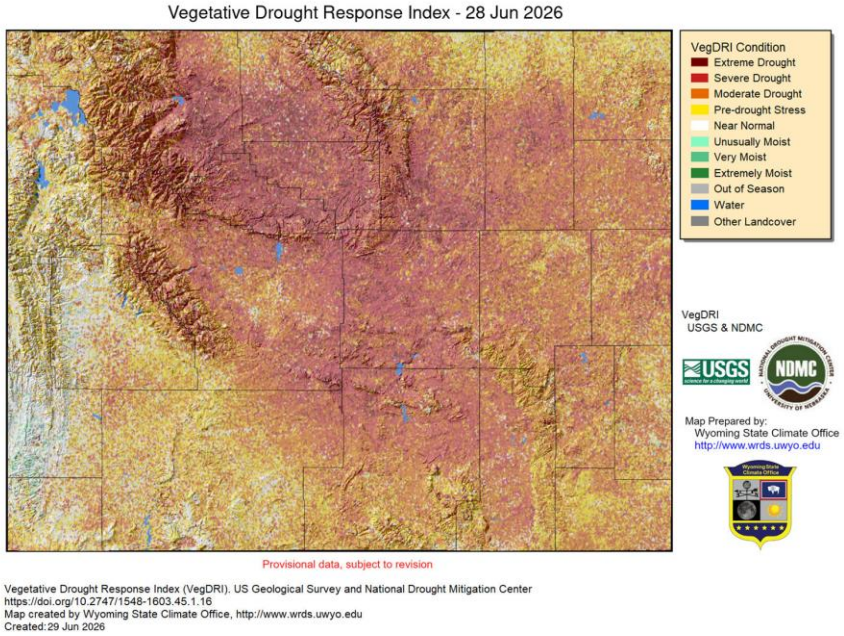
Provisional data, subject to revision

VIC (Variable Infiltration Capacity) Modeled Soil Moisture Percentile: https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/Drought/Monitoring/smp.shtml
Map Layout and Comparisons created 16 Jul 2026 07:12 https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

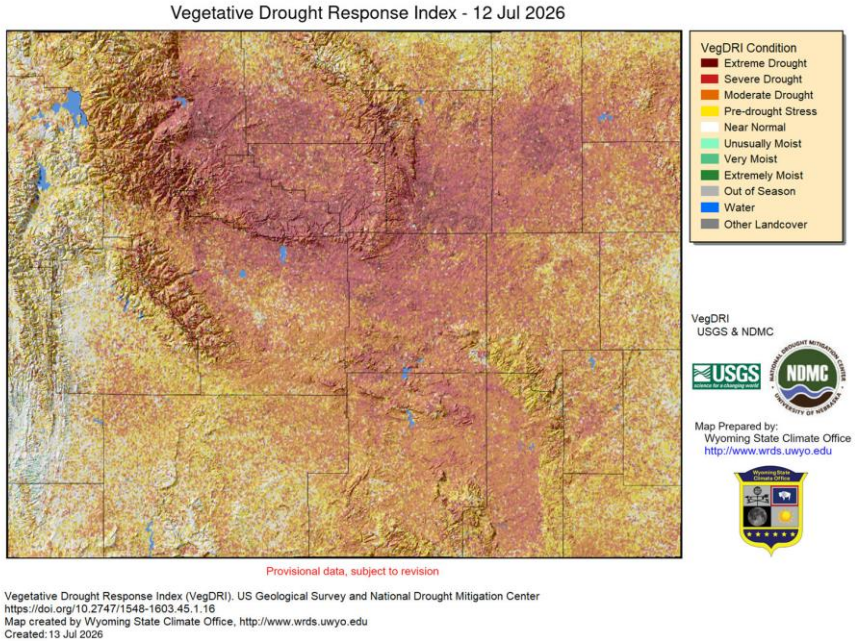
Degradations in central Wyoming and the southeast. Improvement in the northeast, parts of the west, and Bighorn Basin

Vegetative Drought Response Index

~Two Weeks Ago



12 Jul 2026



https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu/drought/VegDRI-Current.html

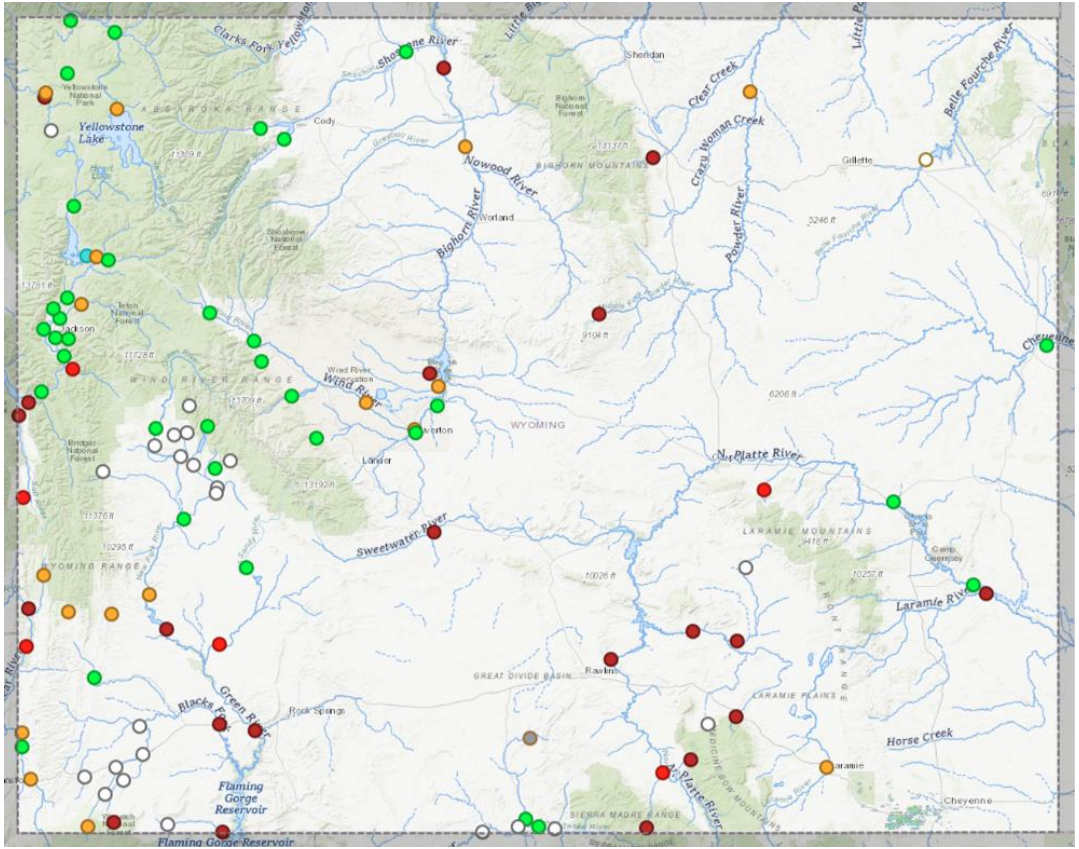
Improvements in a few areas, most notably in southern central part of the state.

Current Streamflow Conditions

Streamflow Status

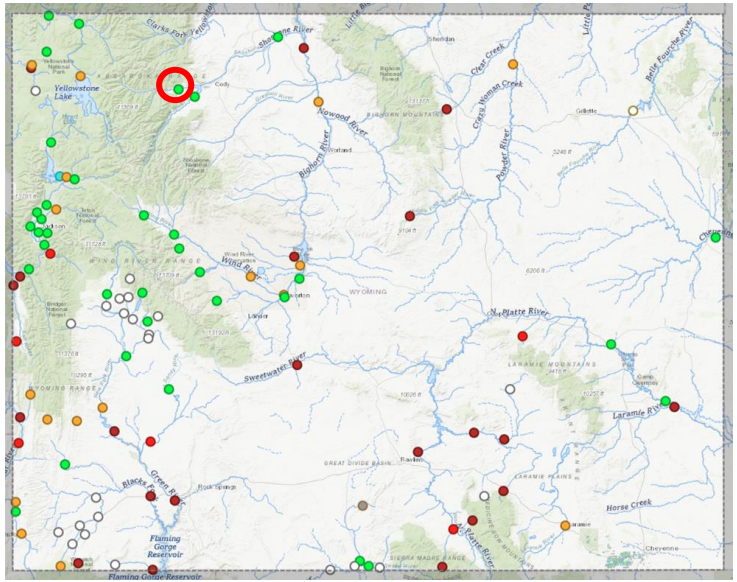
Streamflow: Status

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/

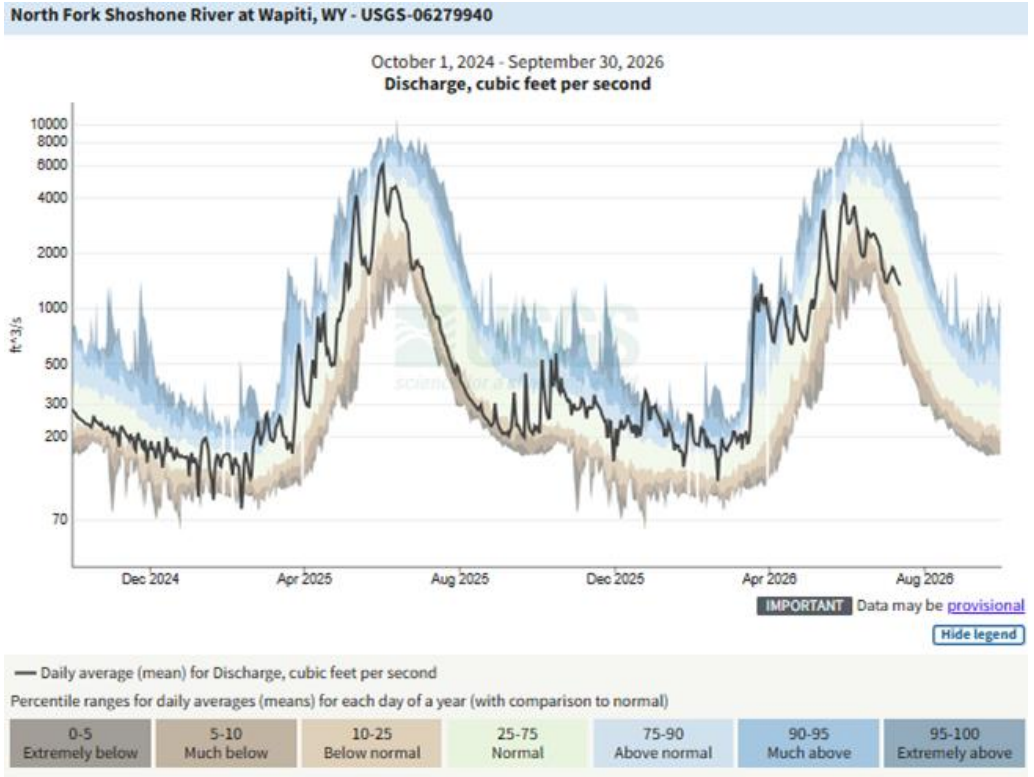
Select WY Streamflows



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

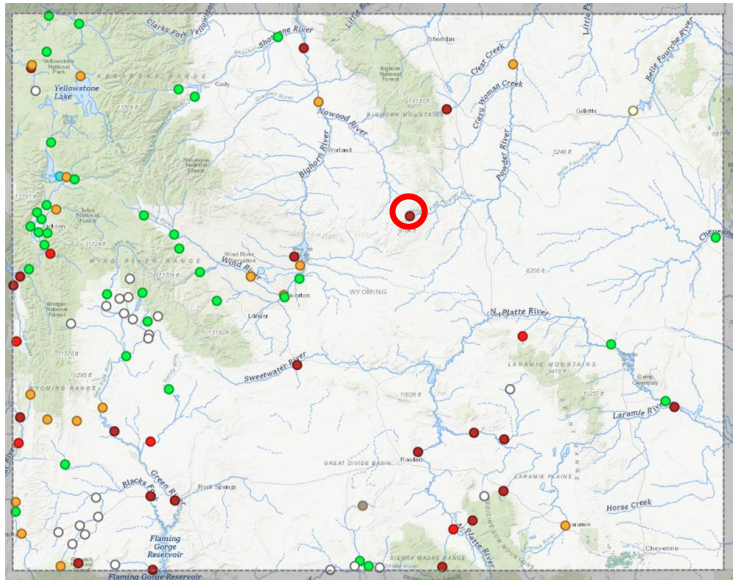
https://waterdata.usgs.gov/

North Fork Shoshone River, at Wapiti, WY



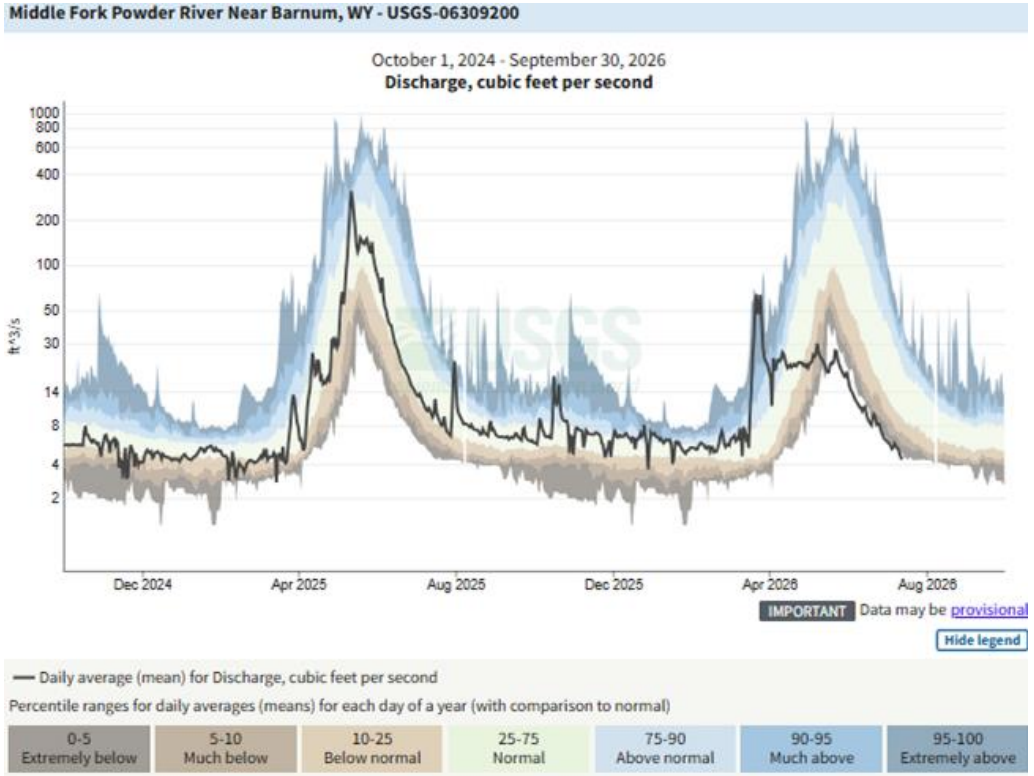
Middle Fork Powder River near Barnum, WY

Select WY Streamflows

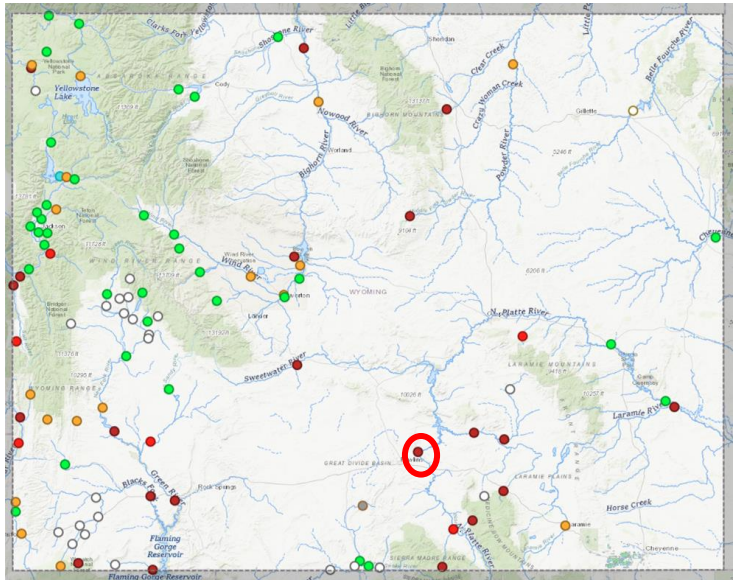


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https://waterdata.usgs.gov/



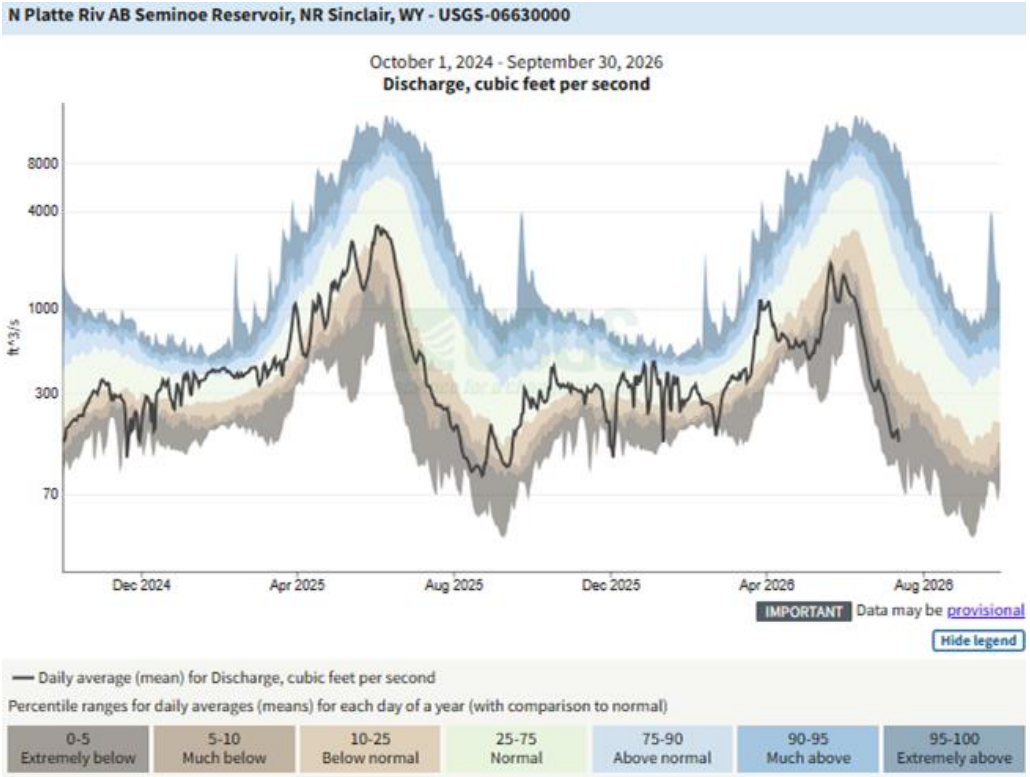
Select WY Streamflows



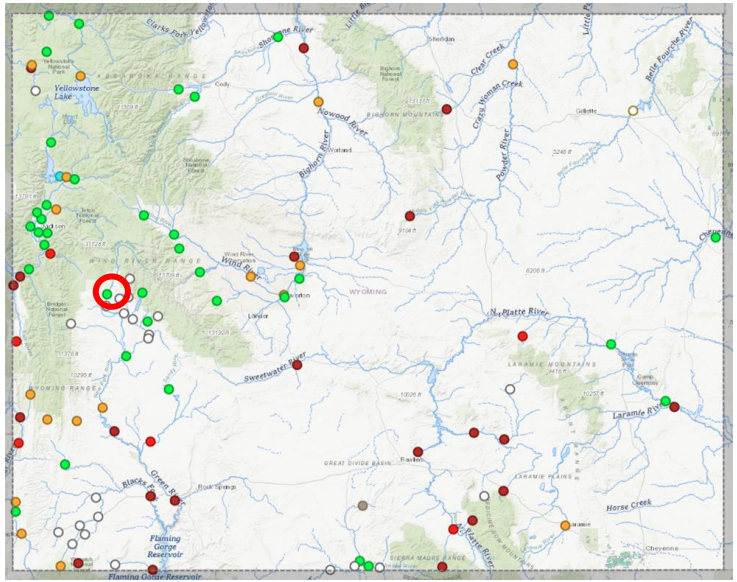
https://dashboard.waterdata.usgs.gov/

https://waterdata.usgs.gov/

North Platte River, ab Seminoe Res, near Sinclair WY



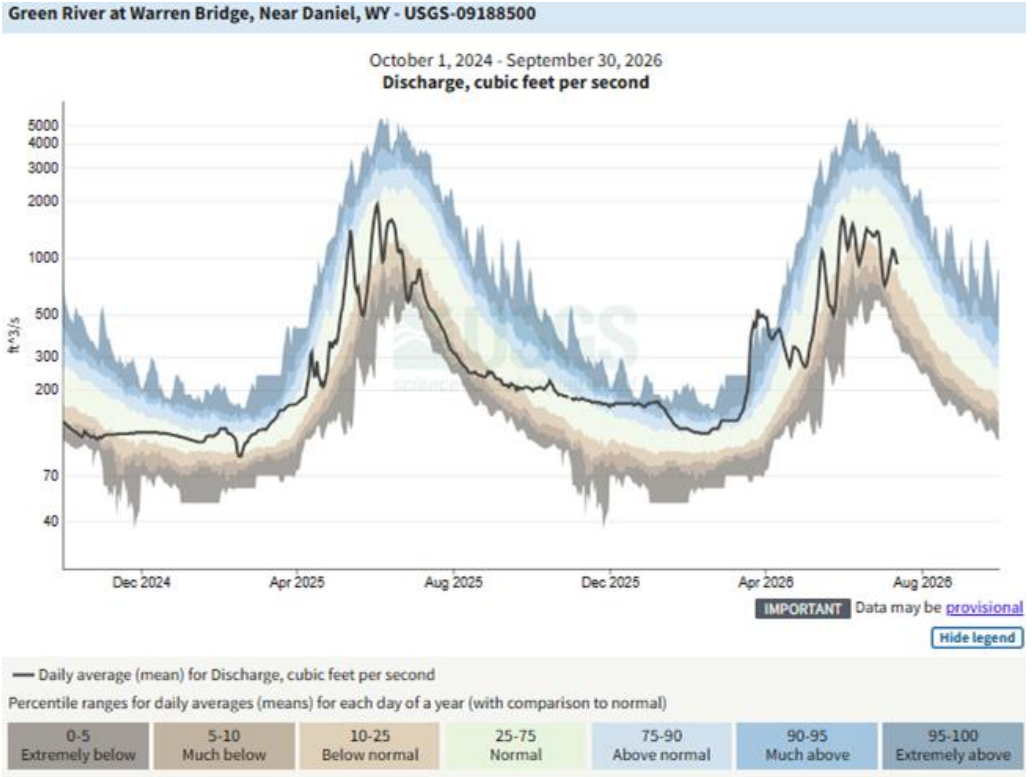
Select WY Streamflows



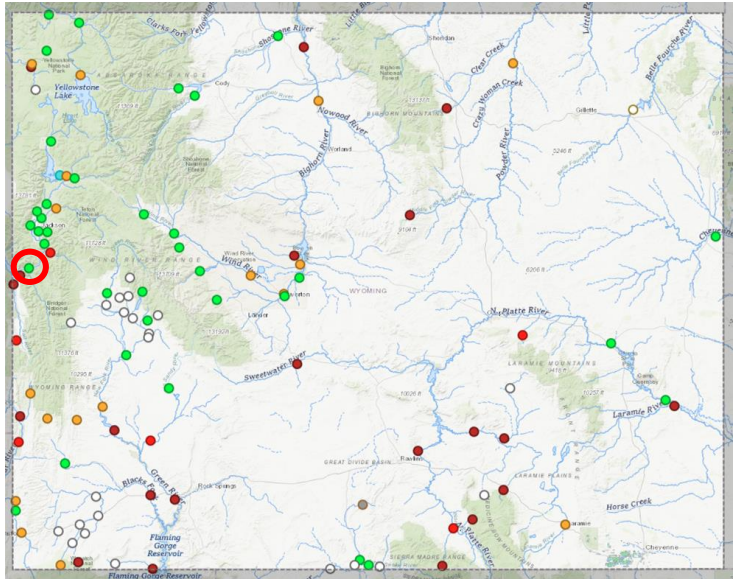
https://dashboard.waterdata.usgs.gov/

https://waterdata.usgs.gov/

Green River at Warren Bridge, near Daniel, WY



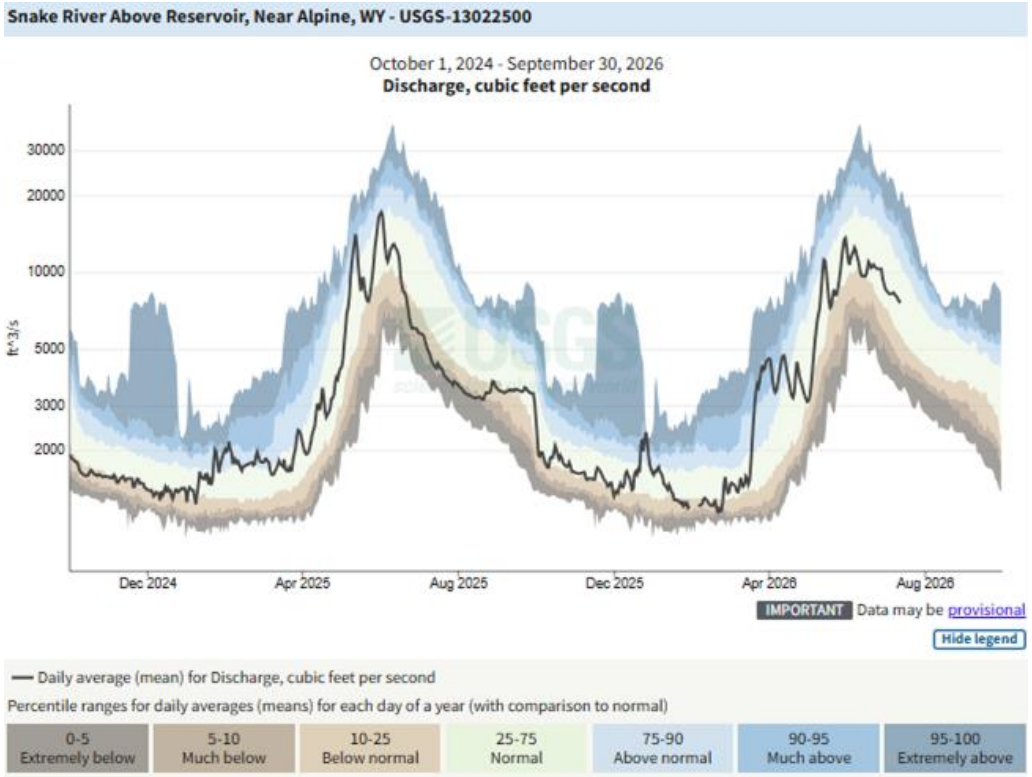
Select WY Streamflows



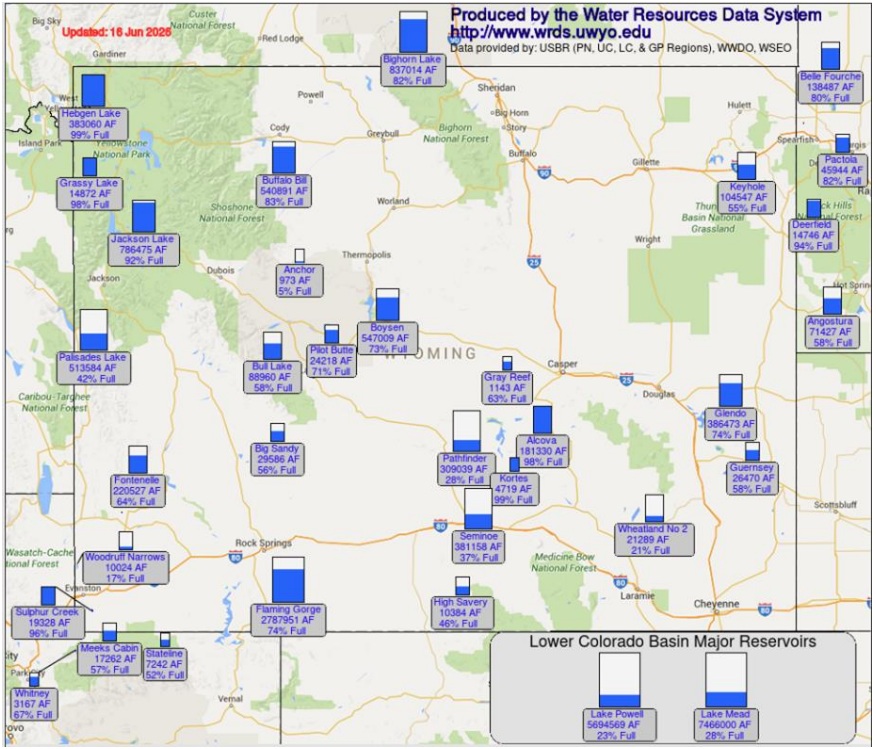
https://dashboard.waterdata.usgs.gov/

https://waterdata.usgs.gov/

Snake River above Reservoir, near Alpine, WY



Wyoming Reservoirs



Reservoir Storage

- Increases: Buffalo Bill, Fontenelle

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

WY SEO Divisions and Superintendents

Contact information for calls and administration

Division 3

Joshua Fredrickson, 856-0747

Division 2

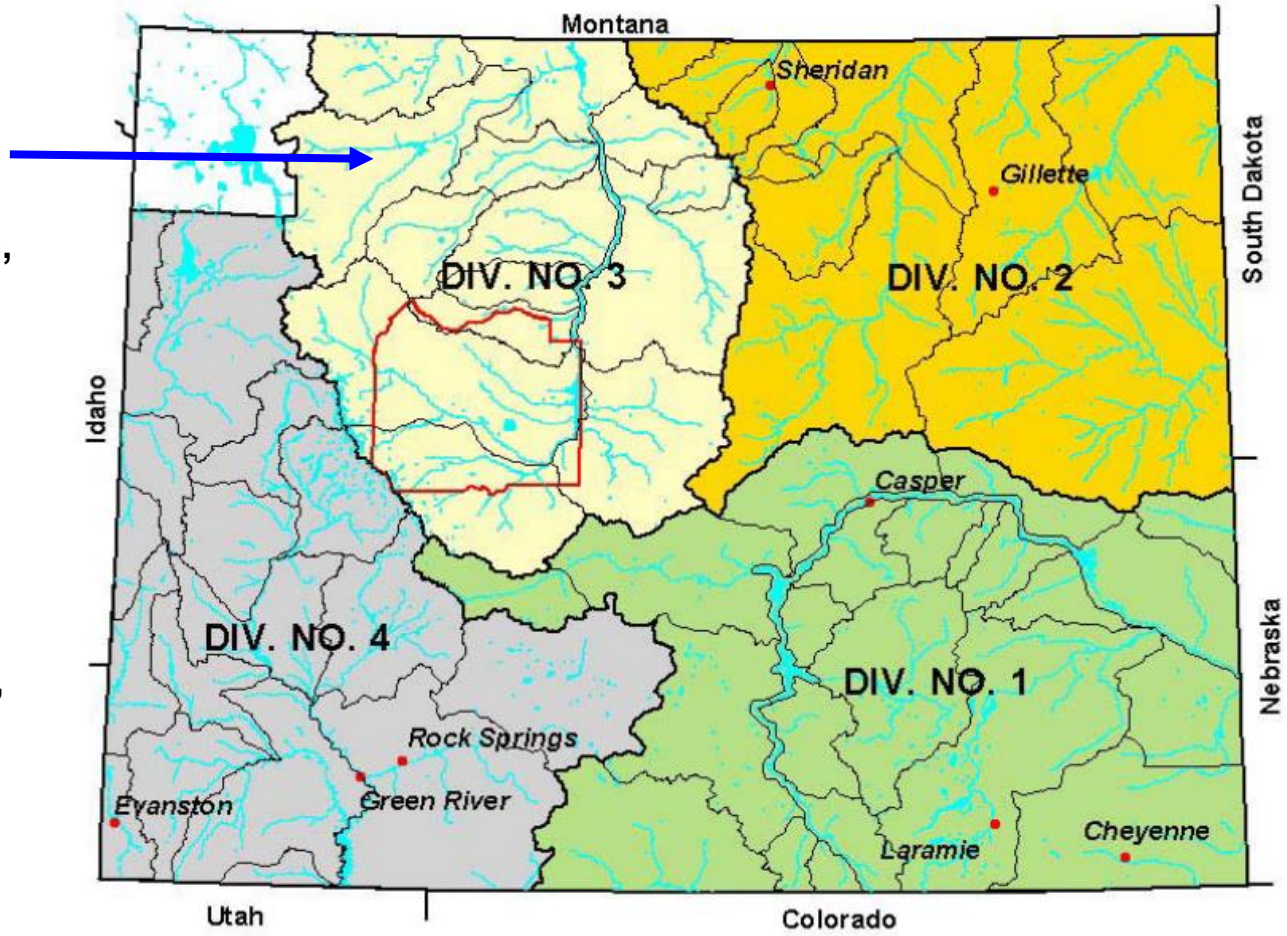
David Schroeder, 674-7012

Division 4

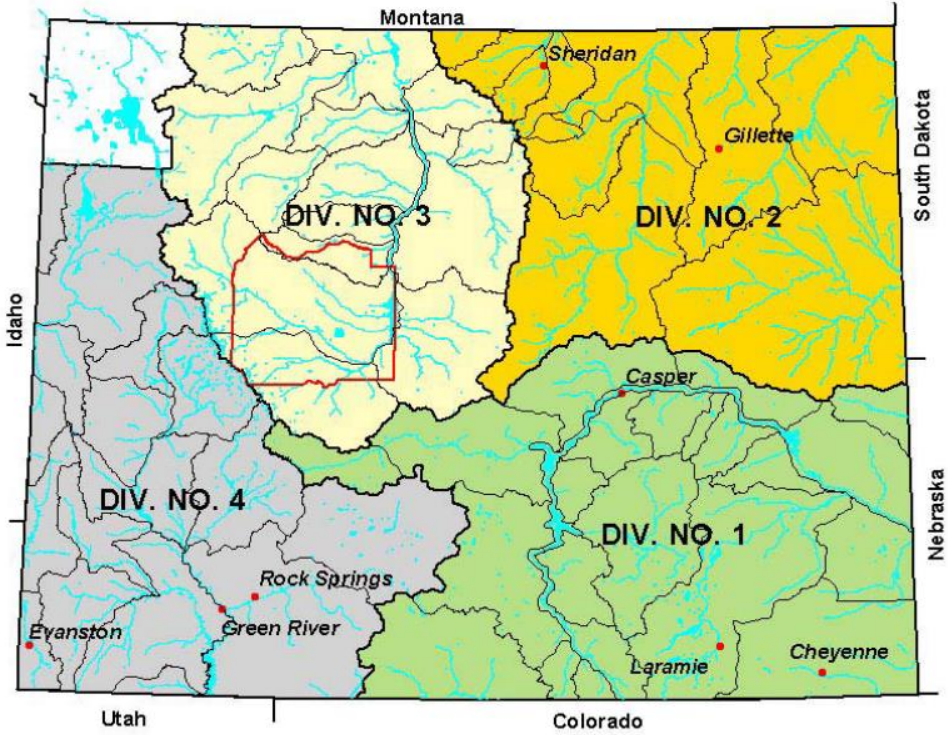
Kevin Payne, 279-3441

Division 1

Josh DeBerard, 532-1272



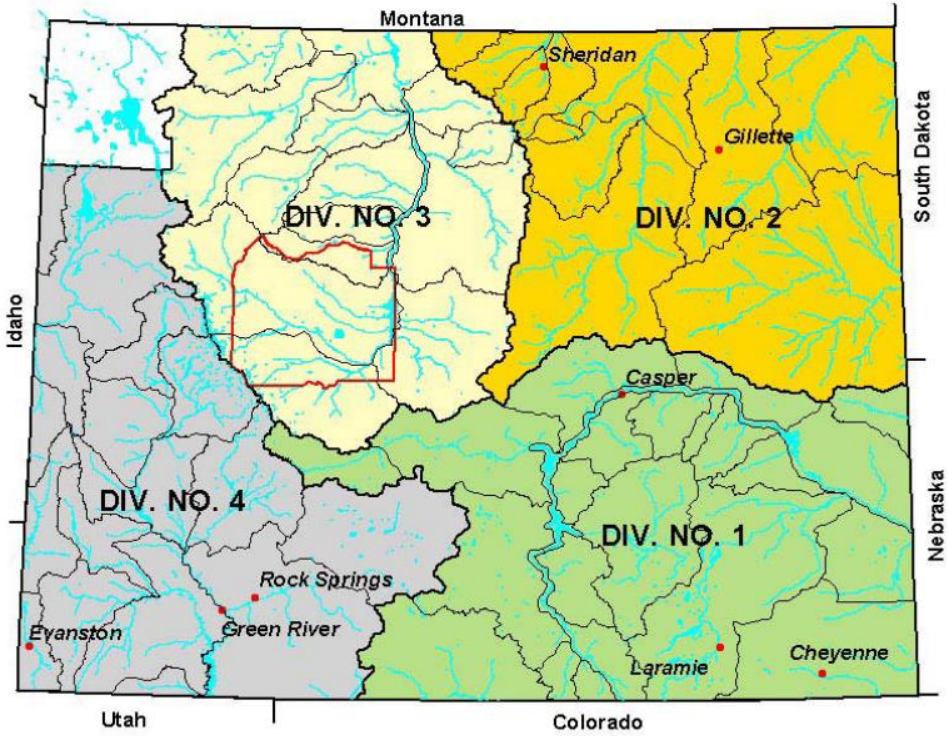
WY SEO Divisions and Superintendents



<u>Division 1:</u>

South Spring Creek: District 6, 1880

WY SEO Divisions and Superintendents

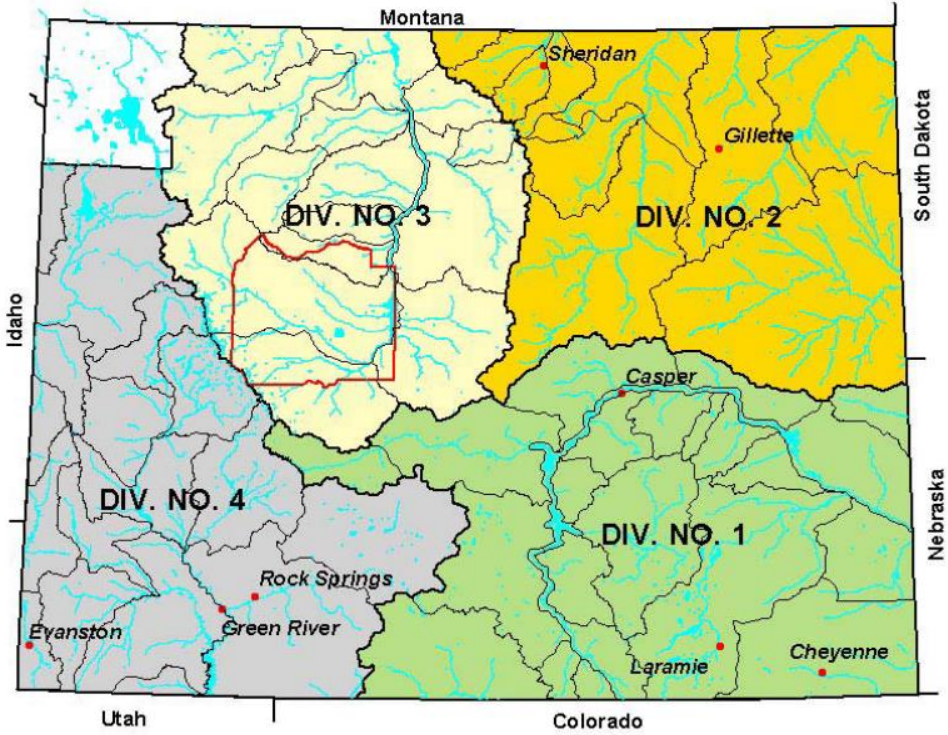


<u>Division 2:</u>

Powder River: District 8, 2/21/1902

Big Goose Creek: District 4, June 1884 & October 1886

WY SEO Divisions and Superintendents

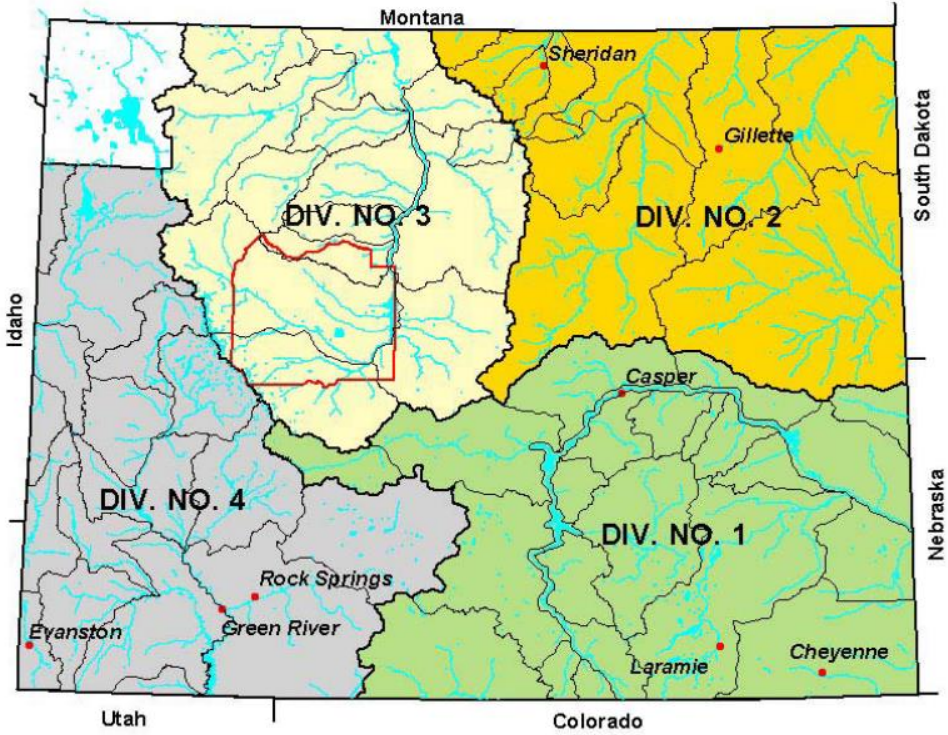


Division 3:

Shell Creek: District 7, 11/18/1892

Cottonwood Creek: District 14, 11/11/1904

WY SEO Divisions and Superintendents

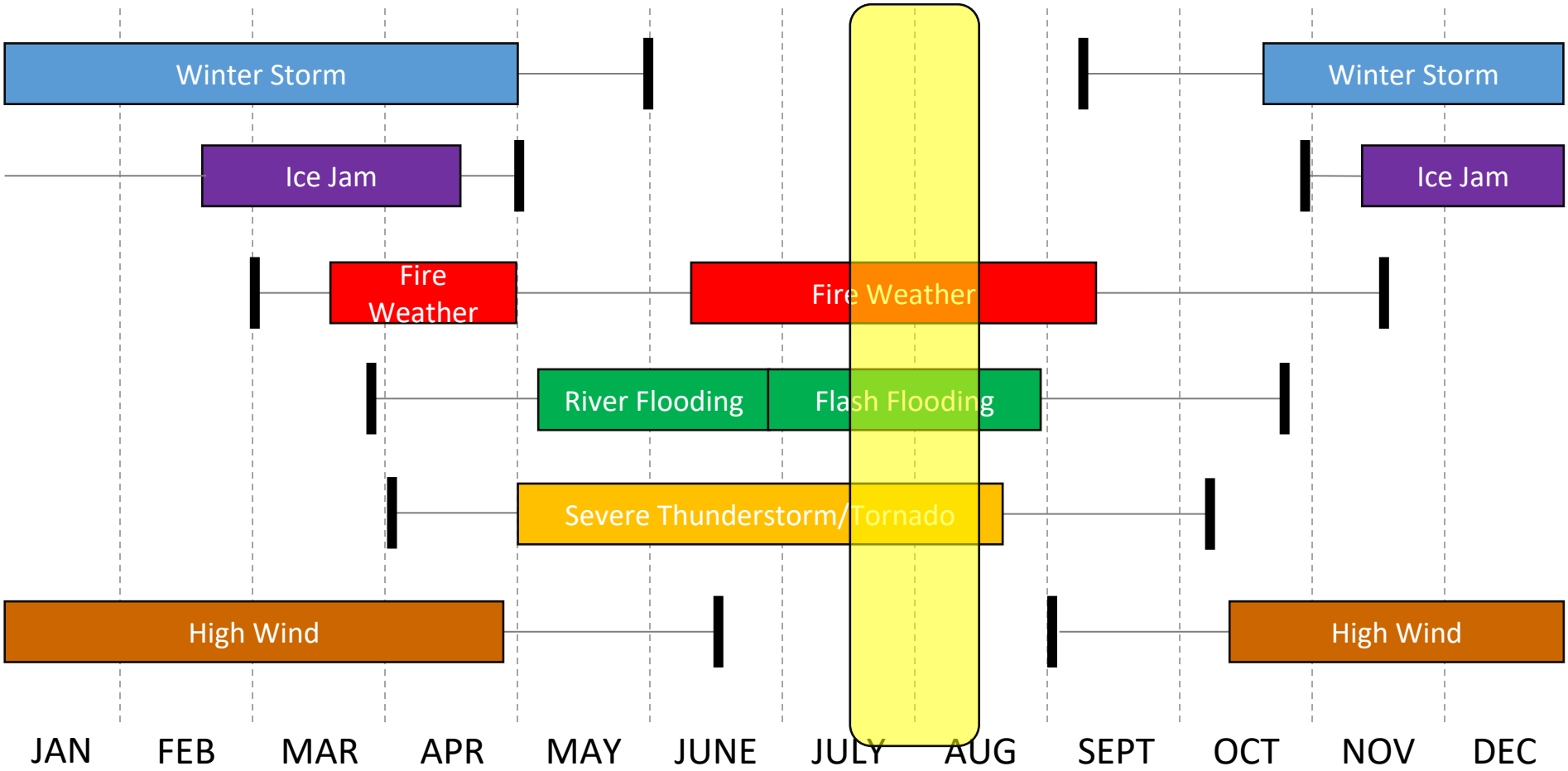


<u>Division 4:</u>

No New Regulation since 6/6/2026

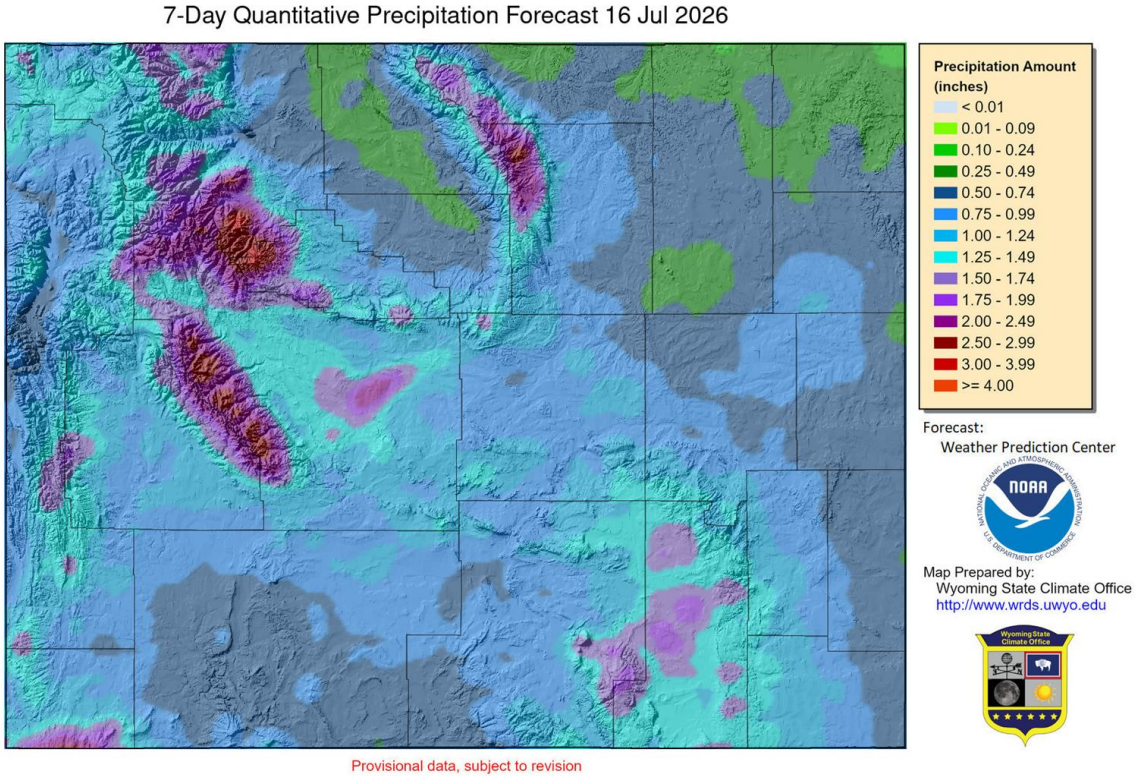
Weather Info & Forecasts

NWS Wyoming - Typical Hazard Calendar



7-Day Total Precipitation Forecast

July 16 - July 23



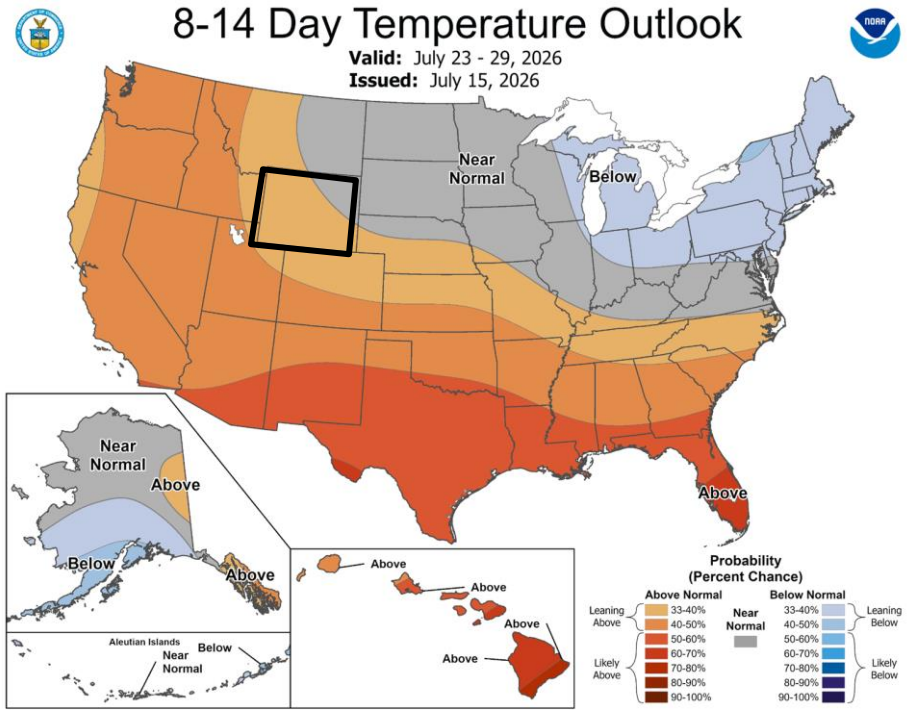
The Quantitative Precipitation Forecast shows the liquid amount of forecasted precipitation over the next 7 days
The Forecast is created by the National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center
Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Weather Service, National Centers for Environmental Prediction,
and Weather Prediction Center - https://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov
Map Layout Created 16 Jul 2026 https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

- Flow from the southwest will bring in widespread monsoonal moisture
- Numerous thunderstorms and rain showers over the region
  - Heaviest amounts across the west
  - Rainfall estimates are in the 2 to 3 inch range

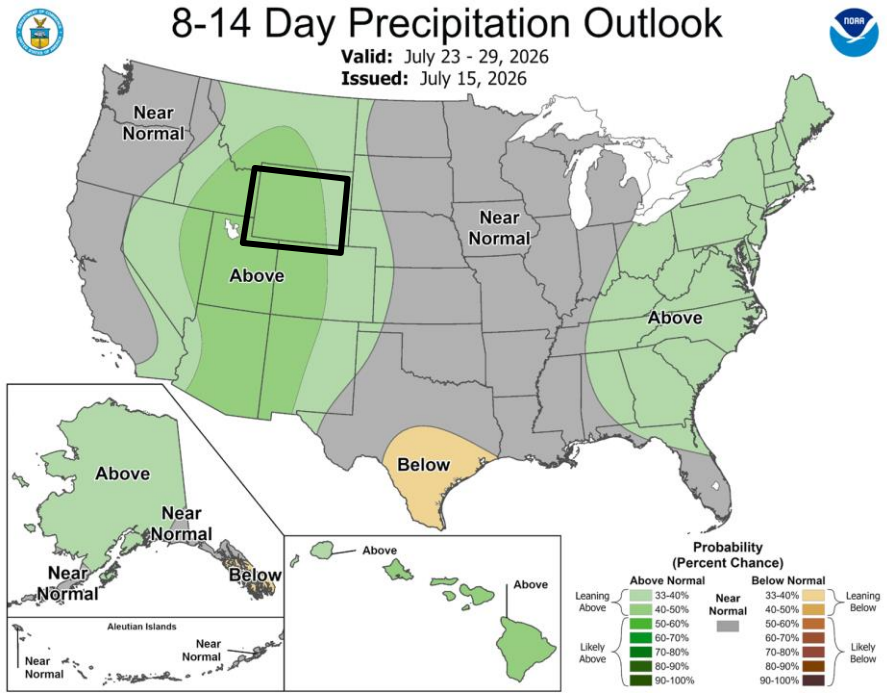
https://bit.ly/7_dayQPForecast

8-14 Day Outlook
(Jul 23 - Jul 29)

https://bit.ly/CPC8_14Day



- Lean toward warmer than average except the northeast corner which is showing near normal
- **Interactive Version:** cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/814day/interactive/index.php

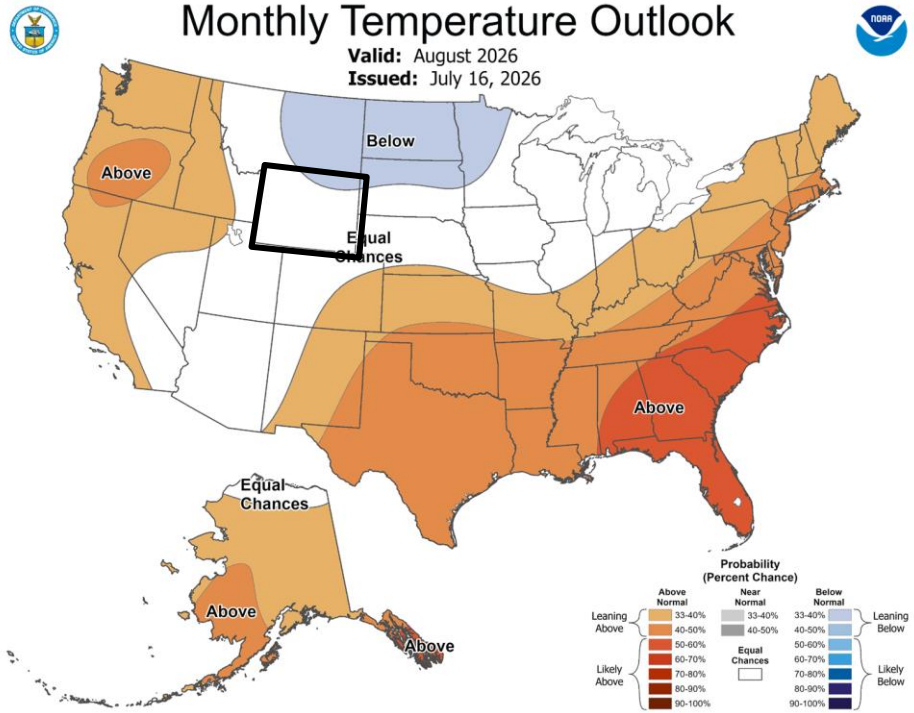


- Leaning toward wetter than normal

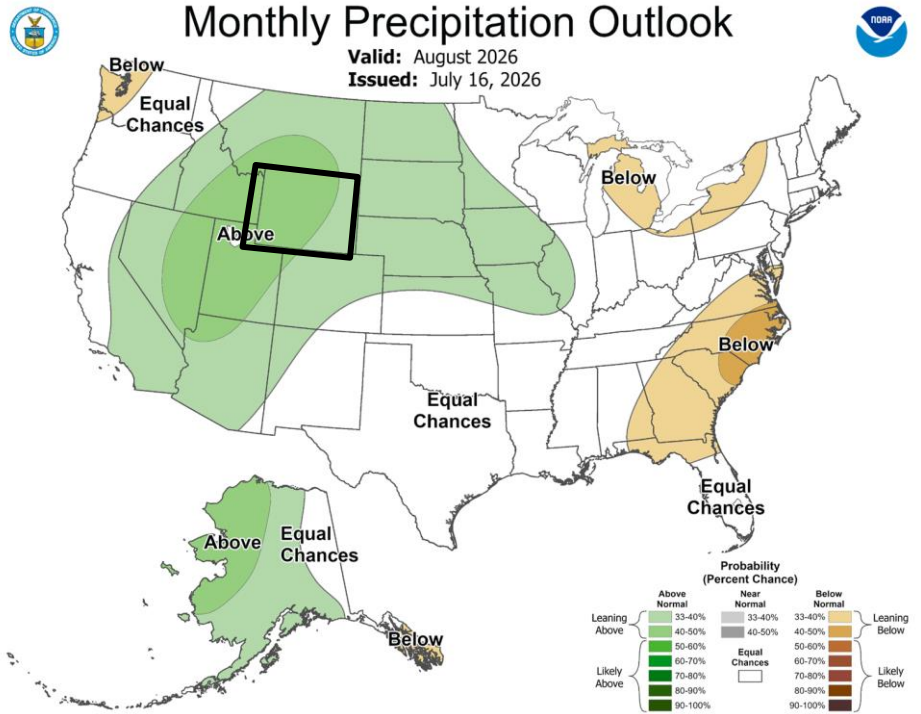
1 Month Outlook

(August)

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



- Primarily showing equal chances of below, at or above normal so climatology is the best forecast.
- Sliver in the northeast leaning to below

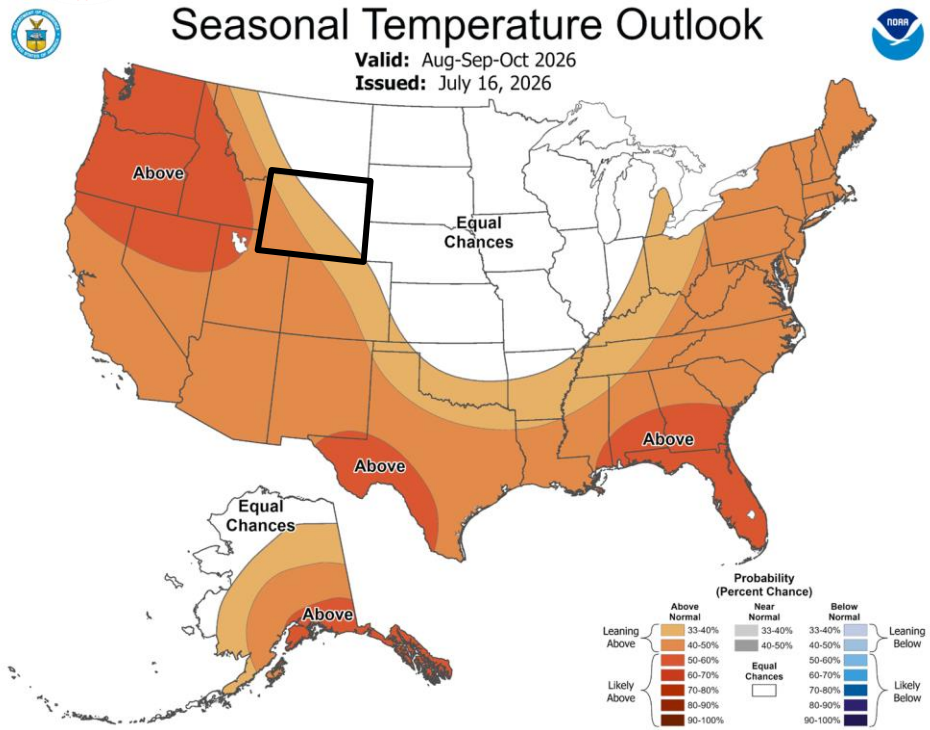


- Leaning toward wetter than normal (more robust monsoon possible)

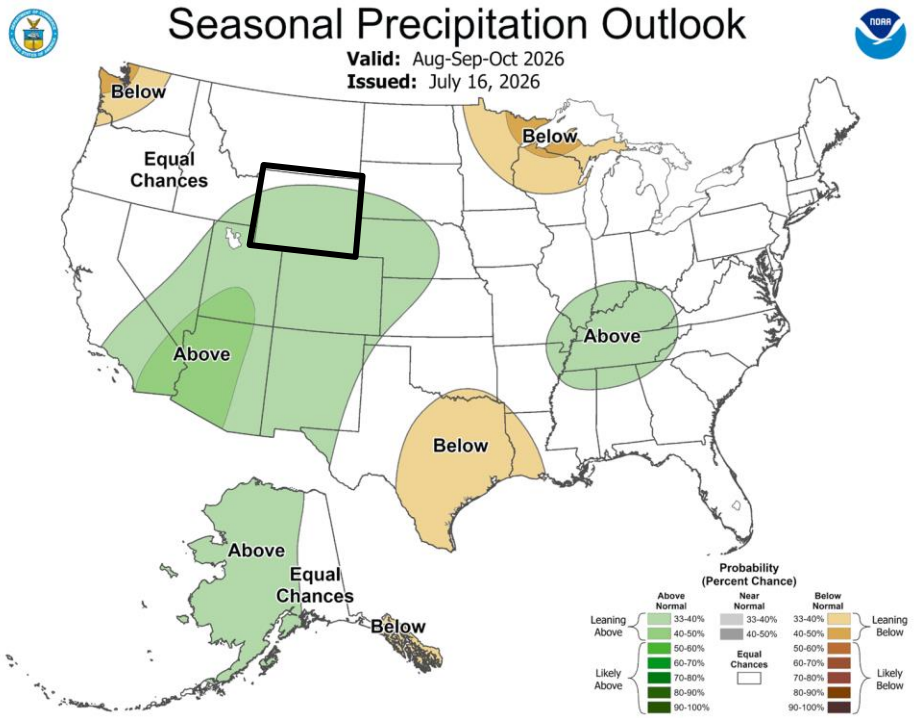
3 Month Outlook

(Aug, Sep & Oct)

https://bit.ly/CPC_Seasonal



- Lean toward warmer than normal across the southwest half
- Equal chances of below, at or above normal for the northeast half. Climatology is the best forecast



- Lean toward wetter except a small sliver across the north. (more robust monsoon possible)

Wildfire Activity & Outlooks

Wildland Fire Potential and Outlook

- **Fuel Moisture Content**
  - A key contributor to fire behavior along with weather and topography. Measures the amount of water in a fuel, expressed in a percentage of the dry weight.
  - Dead Fuels-1-hr, 10-hr, 100-hr, 1000-hr
  - Live fuels
- **Fuel loading**
  - Amount of fuel available to burn
  - Live and dead fuels
- **Energy Release Component - ERC**
  - Index that measures heat per unit (in BTUs). ERC's increase with drier fuel conditions and reflect both the energy available from both live and dead fuels, serving as an indicator of potential fire danger and intensity.

Wildland Fire Potential and Outlook

Understanding Fuel Moisture Time-Lag Classes (Dead Fuels)

What the “Hours” Actually Mean

- Time-lag = how long it takes a dead fuel to adjust **63%** toward the surrounding air’s moisture.

Fuel Classes

1-Hour Fuels

- Tiny fuels: grasses, leaves, twigs < ¼".
- Adjust 63% in **1 hour** → respond instantly to humidity & wind.

10-Hour Fuels

- Small sticks ¼–1".
- Adjust 63% in **10 hours** → respond over a day/night cycle.

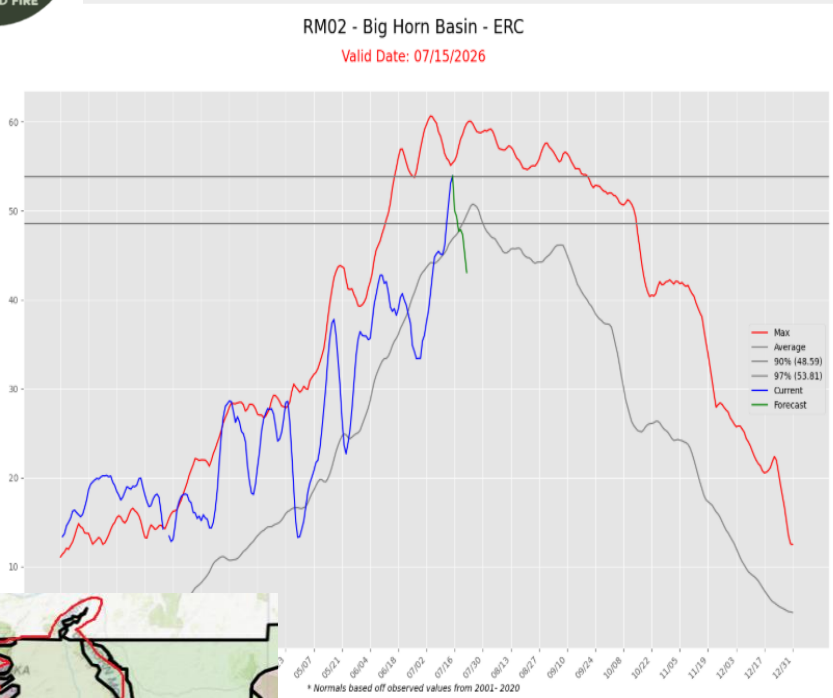
100-Hour Fuels

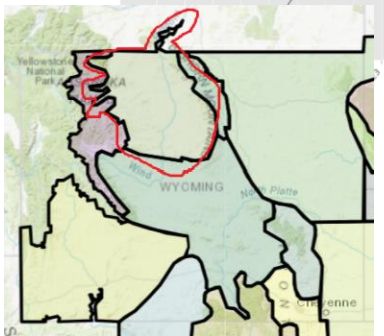
- Branches 1–3".
- Adjust 63% in **100 hours** (~4 days) → reflect multi-day drying trends.

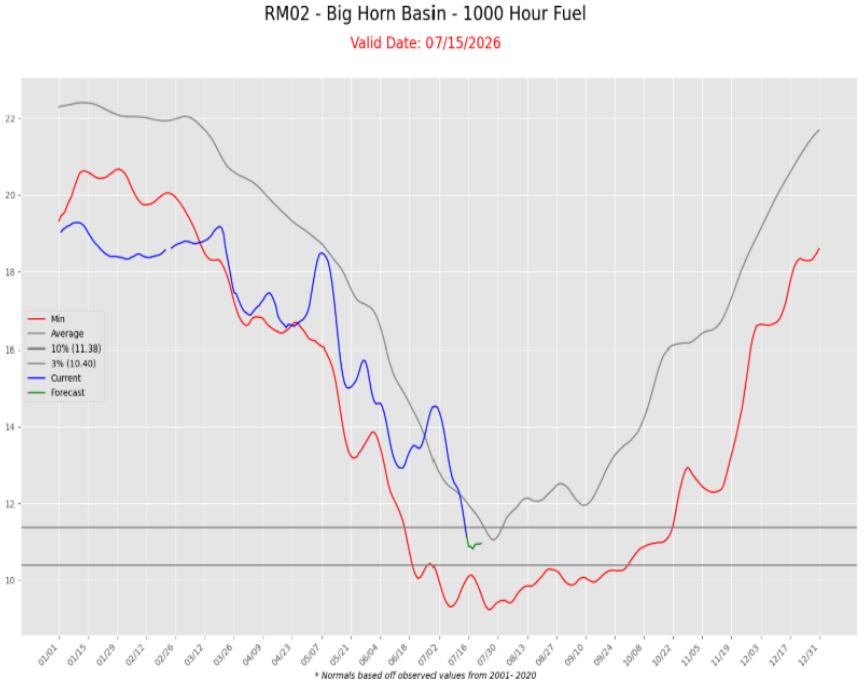
1000-Hour Fuels

- Logs > 3".
- Adjust 63% in **1000 hours** (~41 days) → tied to long-term drought & seasonal moisture.

Wildland Fire Potential and Outlook



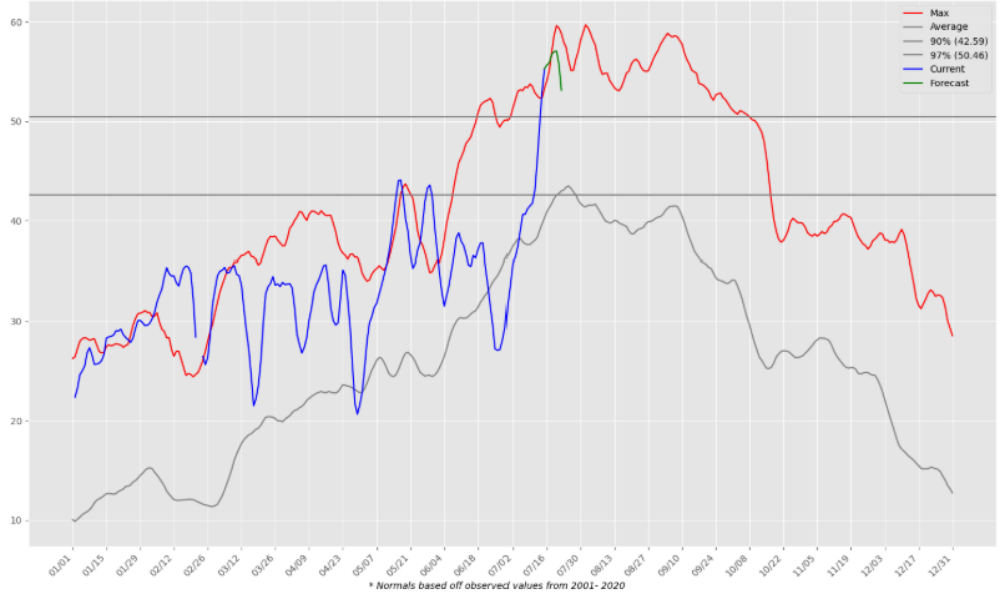




Wildland Fire Potential and Outlook

RM04 - Powder River Basin - ERC

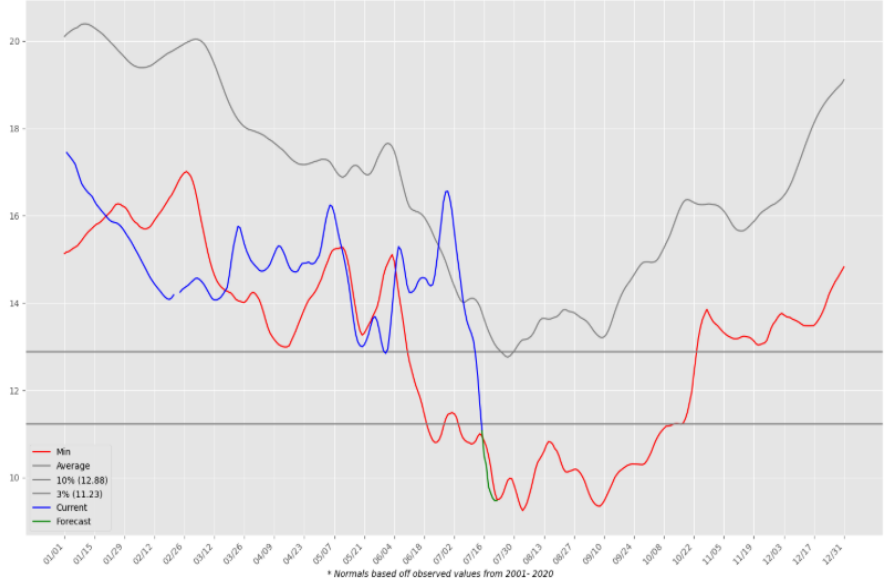
Valid Date: 07/15/2026



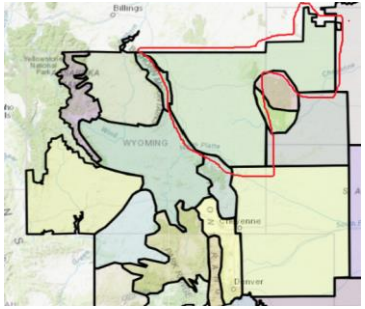
** Normals based off observed values from 2001- 2020*

RM04 - Powder River Basin - 1000 Hour Fuel

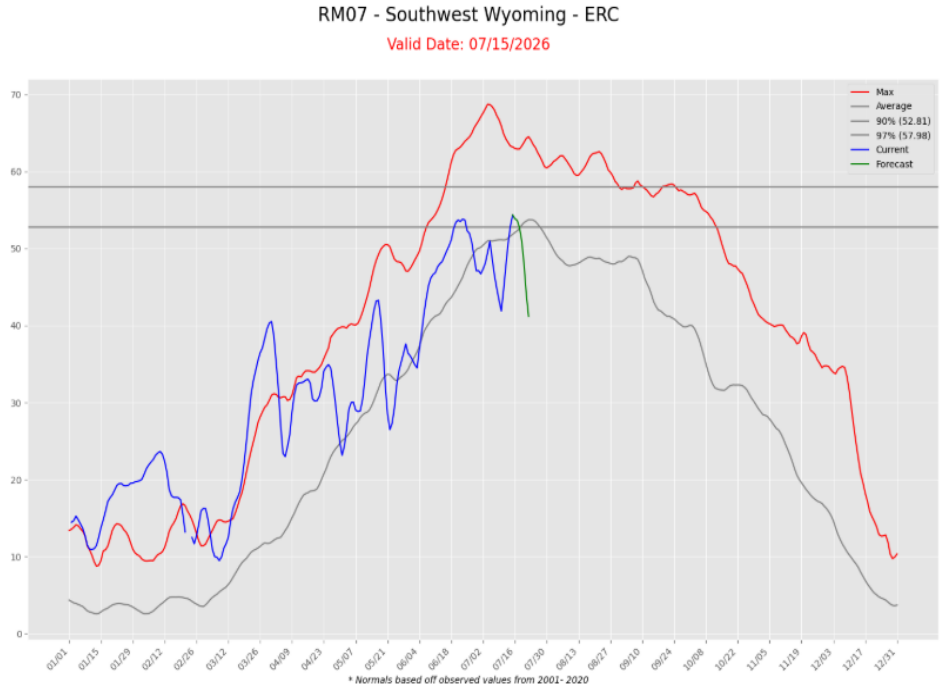
Valid Date: 07/15/2026

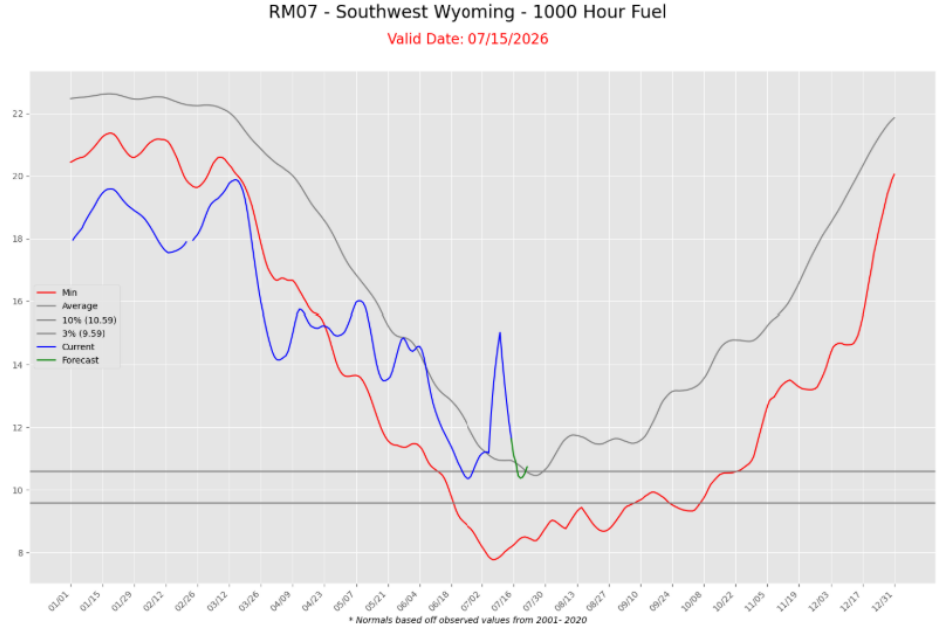


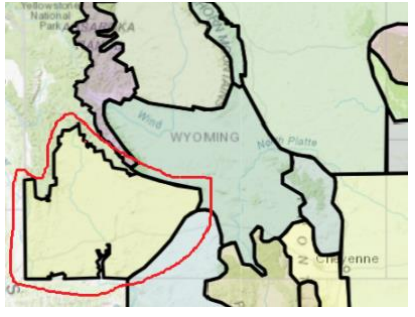
** Normals based off observed values from 2001- 2020*



Wildland Fire Potential and Outlook

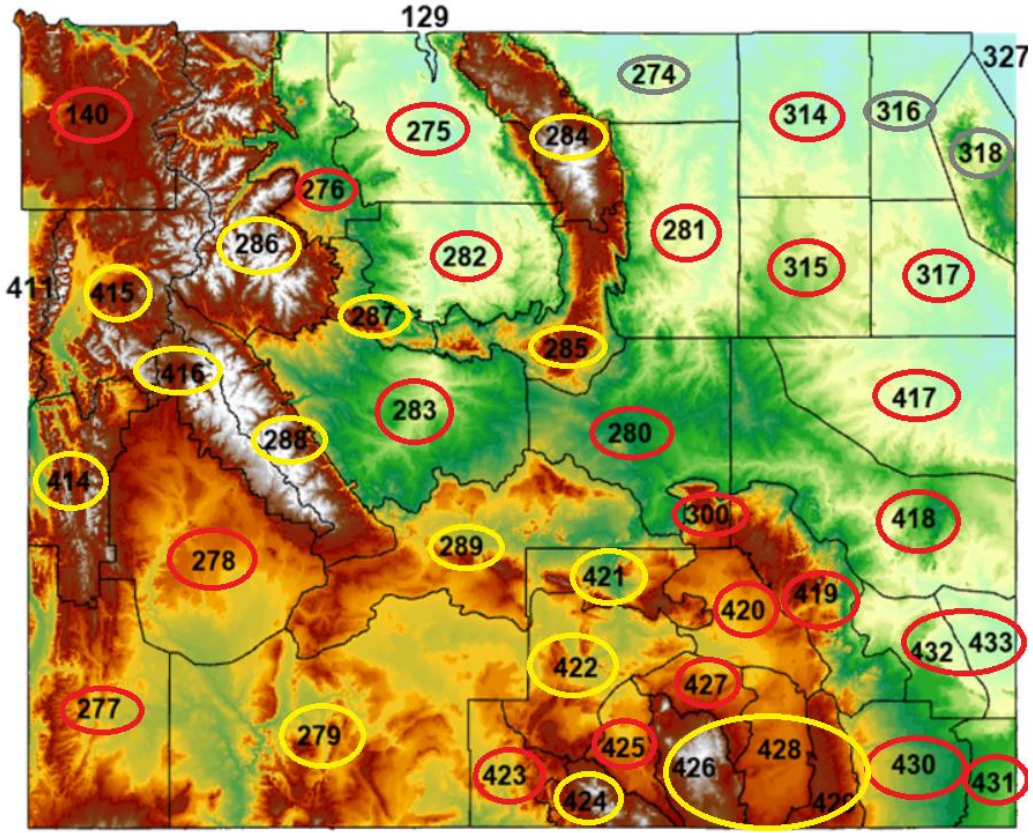




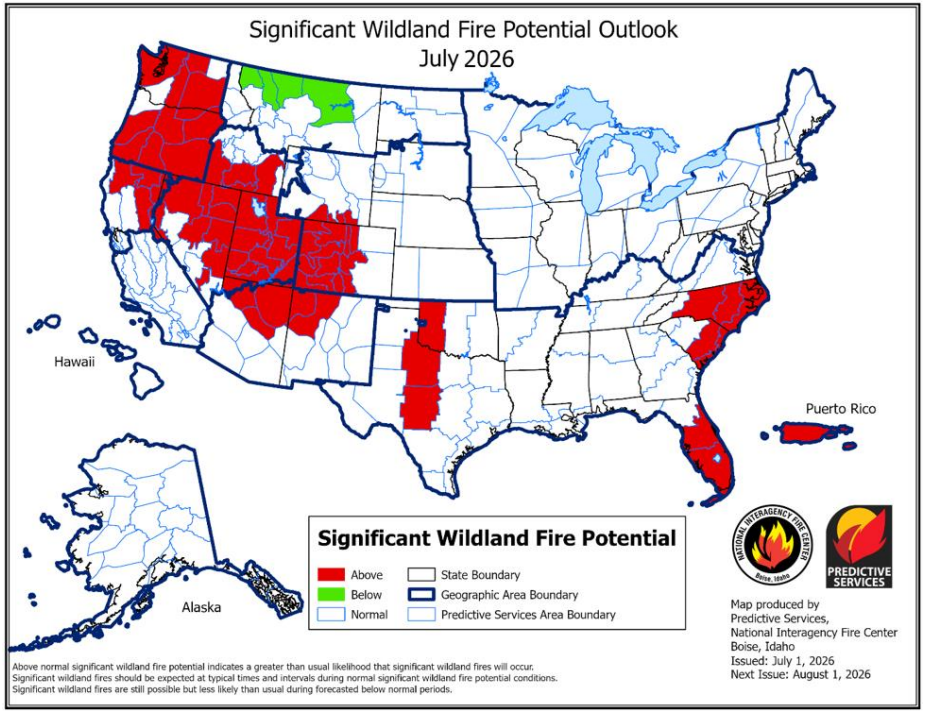


Wildland Fire Potential and Outlook

Live Fuel Moisture Conditions



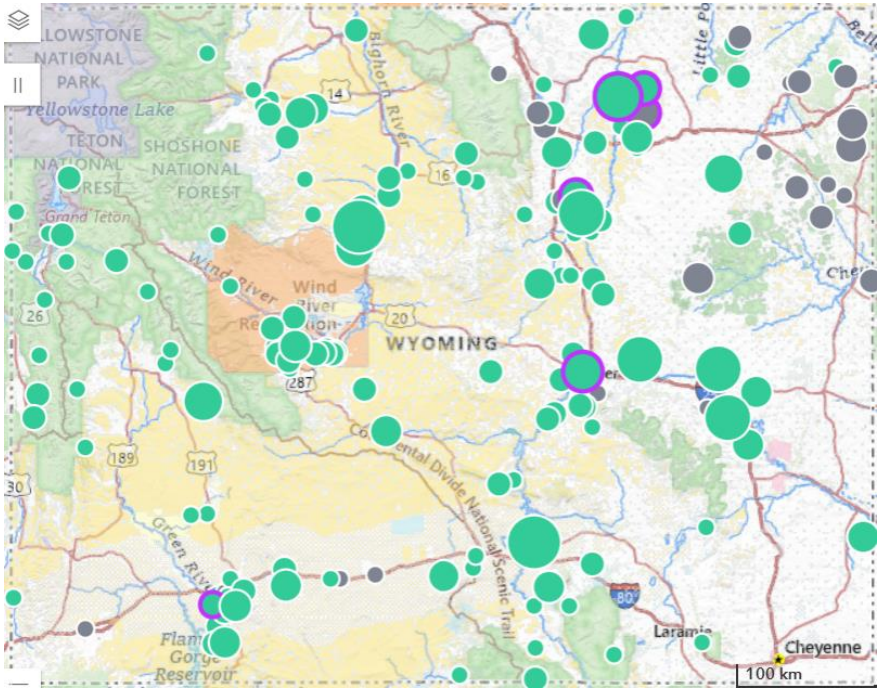
Wildland Fire Potential and Outlook



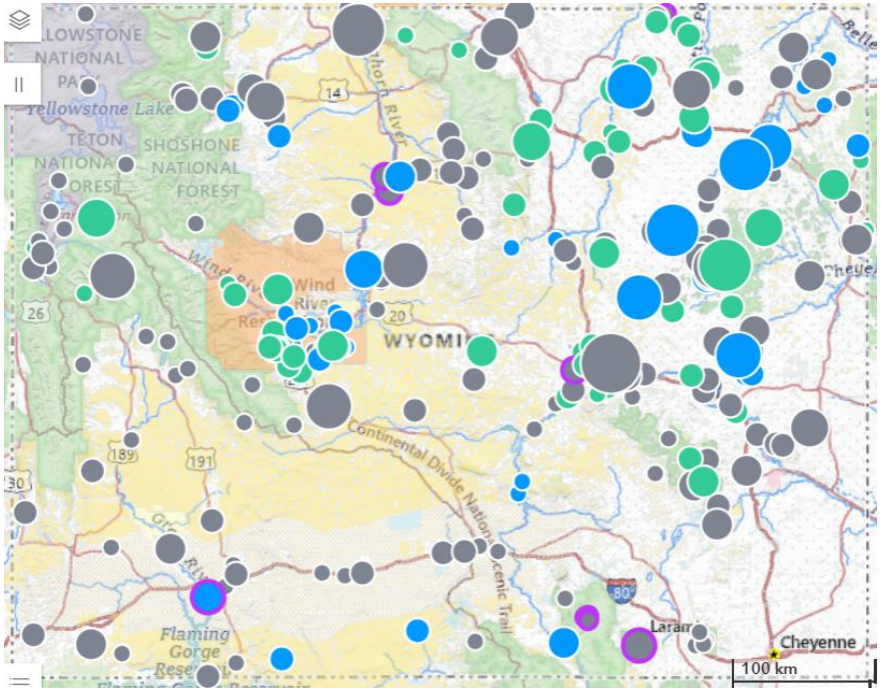


Wildfire Activity

Wildfire activity 2025 vs 2026 to Jan 1-July 16



2025



2026

https://inform.firenet.gov/inspector/incidents

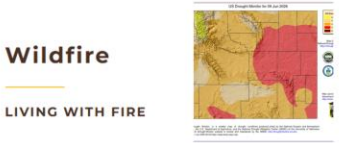


Wildfire Recovery & Drought Resources

Recognizing the urgent need for resources to address ongoing Wildfire & Drought Recovery and to provide essential relief to affected communities, the Wyoming Grants Management Office (GMO) continues to research federal and state funding that could potentially be leveraged for wildfire planning, response, recovery, and mitigation efforts. The GMO works closely with state and federal partners who administer funding to increase awareness of and access to critical disaster recovery resources.

https://sbd.wyo.gov/wildfire-recovery-resources

Wildfire & Drought Partner Resources



Wildfire Webpage

Hosted by the University of Wyoming

Wyoming Drought Website

Hosted by State of Wyoming and Partners



Emergency Hay Assistance

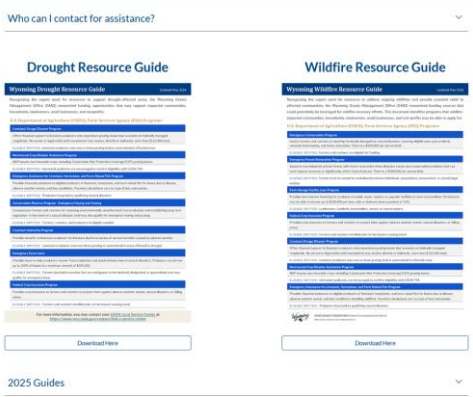
Hosted by the University of Wyoming Extension



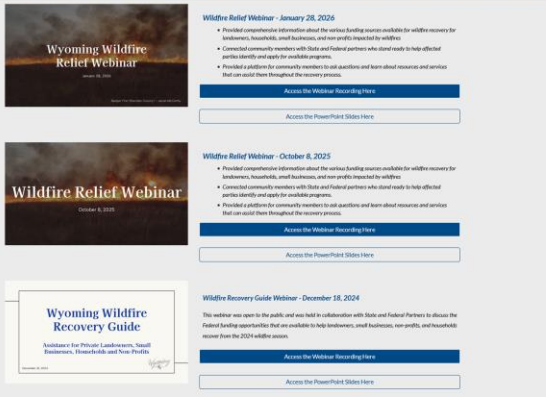
Fire Loss Policy

Hosted by the Office of State Lands & Investments

Guides and Resources



Wildfire Webinars



Highlight of the Month:

Colorado River Compact Updates

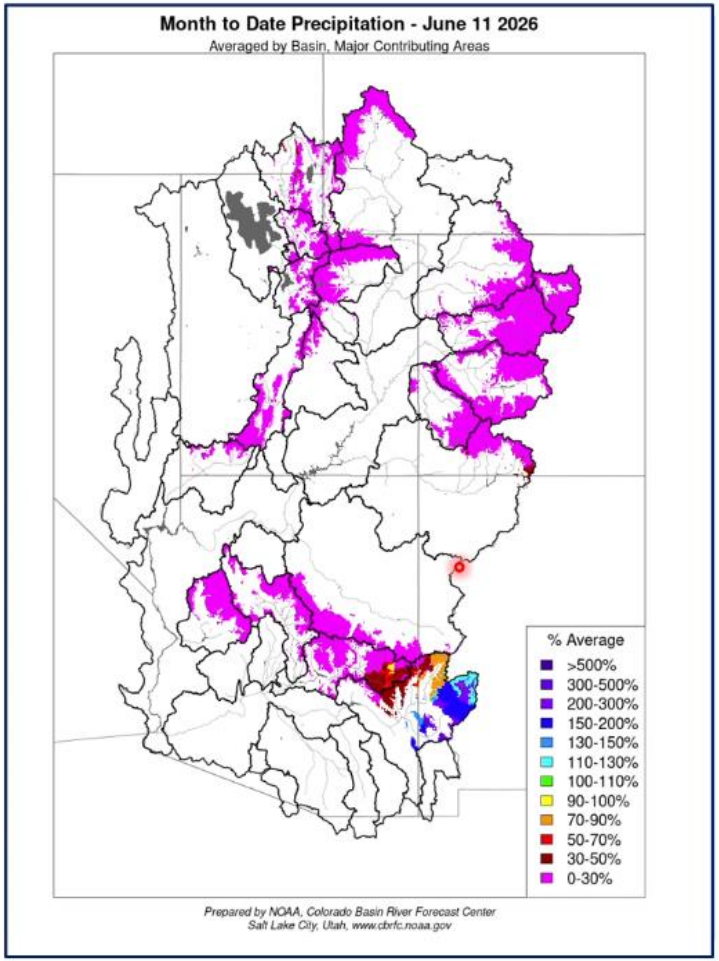
- **Colorado River Compact – 1922**
  - Upper Basin – 7.5 million acre-feet (MAF)
  - Lower Basin – 7.5 MAF
    (plus 1 million acre-feet from tributaries)
  - Apportions “beneficial consumptive use”

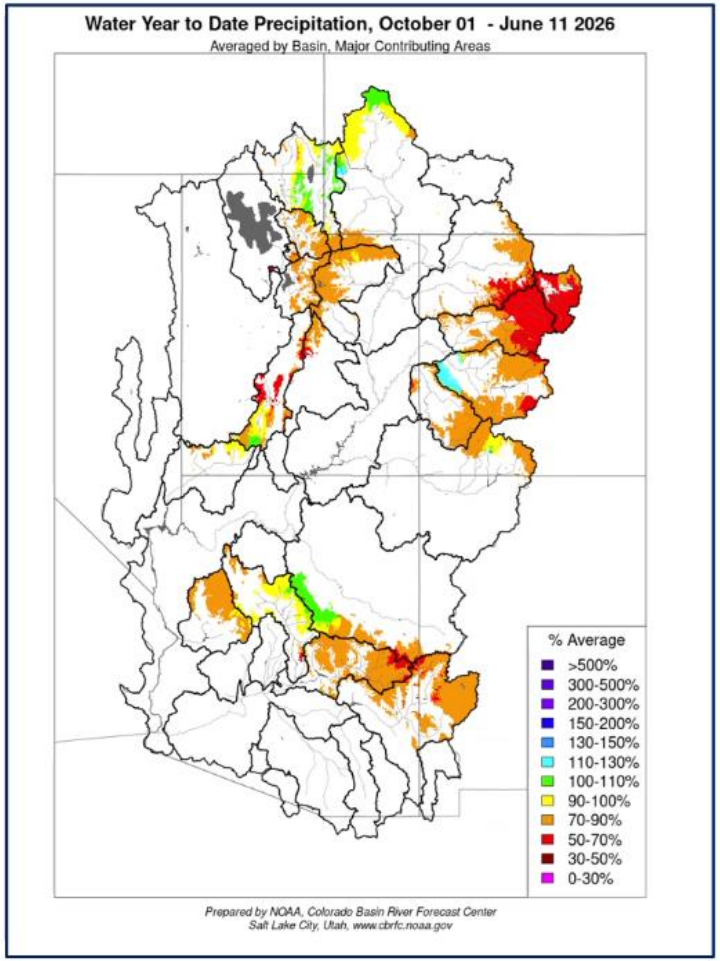
- **Mexican Water Treaty – 1944**
  - Allocates 1.5 MAF to Mexico

- **Upper Colorado River Basin Compact – 1948**
  - Arizona – 50,000 AF
  - Remainder of 7.5 MAF apportioned between the Upper Division States:
    - Colorado – 51.75%
    - New Mexico – 11.25%
    - Utah – 23%
    - Wyoming – 14%
  - Created the Upper Colorado River Commission

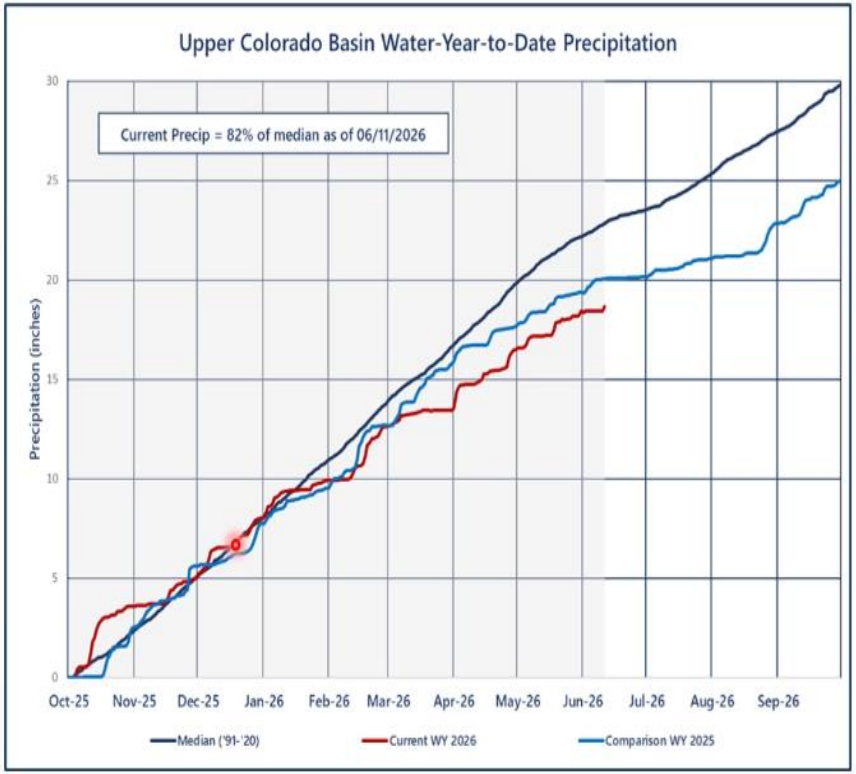
- **Arizona v. California Decree – 1964**
  - Arizona – 2.8 MAF
  - California – 4.4 MAF
  - Nevada – 300,000 AF

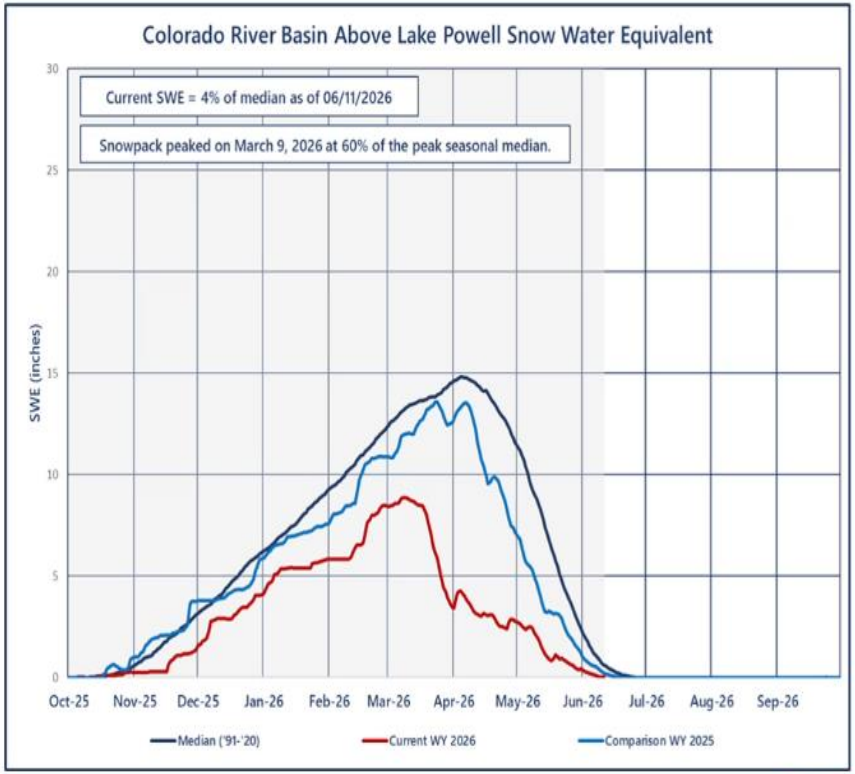



Month to Date Precipitation - June 11 2026
Averaged by Basin, Major Contributing Areas
% Average
>500%
300-500%
200-300%
150-200%
130-150%
110-130%
100-110%
90-100%
70-90%
50-70%
30-50%
0-30%
Prepared by NOAA, Colorado Basin River Forecast Center
Salt Lake City, Utah, www.cbrfc.noaa.gov


Water Year to Date Precipitation, October 01 - June 11 2026
Averaged by Basin, Major Contributing Areas
% Average
>500%
300-500%
200-300%
150-200%
130-150%
110-130%
100-110%
90-100%
70-90%
50-70%
30-50%
0-30%
Prepared by NOAA, Colorado Basin River Forecast Center
Salt Lake City, Utah, www.cbrfc.noaa.gov

Upper Colorado Precipitation and SWE[1]





[1]*Statistics are based on the 30-year period of record from 1991-2020.*

Most Probable June Forecast
Water Year 2026

April – July 2026
Forecasted Unregulated Inflow

as of June 3, 2026

Reservoir	Inflow (kaf)	Change from May	Percent of Avg[1]
Fontenelle	330	-25	45
Flaming Gorge	350	-30	36
Blue Mesa	150	-20	24
Navajo	158	-10	25
Powell	950	150	15

Water Year 2026
Unregulated Inflow Forecast

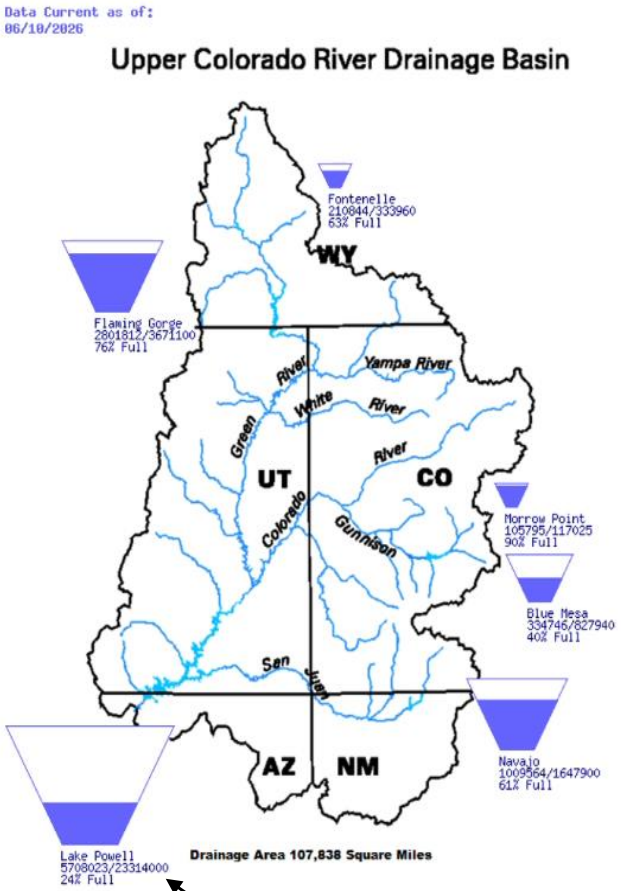
as of June 3, 2026

Reservoir	Inflow (kaf)	Change from May	Percent of Avg[1]
Fontenelle	613	-28	57
Flaming Gorge	658	-38	47
Blue Mesa	384	-23	42
Navajo	529	-51	58
Powell	3,401	130	35

[1]Water year statistics are based on the 30-year period from 1991-2020

Upper Basin Storage
(as of June 10, 2026)

Reservoir	Percent Current Live Storage	Current Live Storage (maf)	Live Storage Capacity (maf)	Elevation (feet)
Fontenelle	63	0.21	0.33	6,488.86
Flaming Gorge	76	2.80	3.67	6,016.76
Blue Mesa	40	0.33	0.83	7,454.53
Navajo	61	1.01	1.65	6,035.05
Lake Powell	24	5.71	23.31	3,527.81
UC System Storage	34	10.19	29.93	
Total System Storage	34	20.01	58.48	

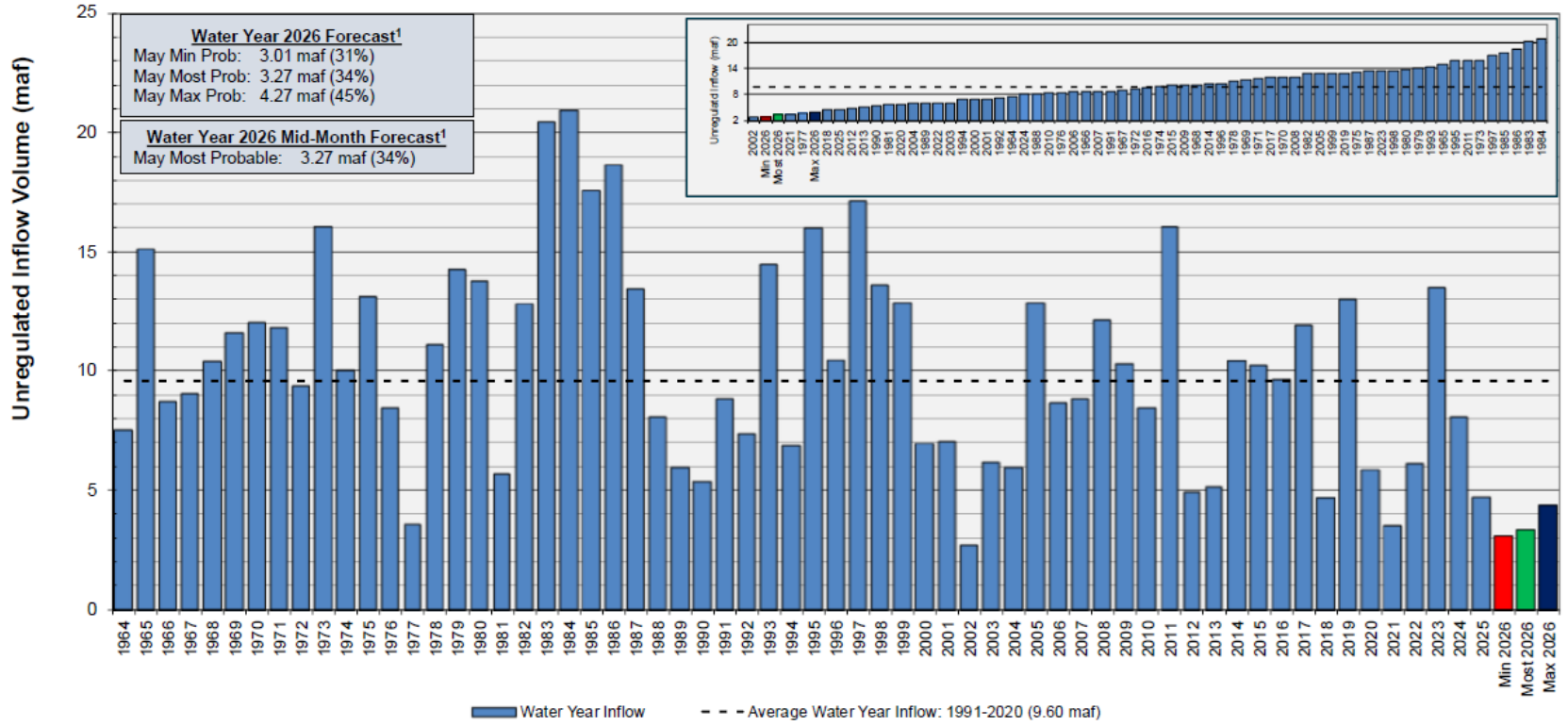


Only about 1.5 MAF above 3,500’

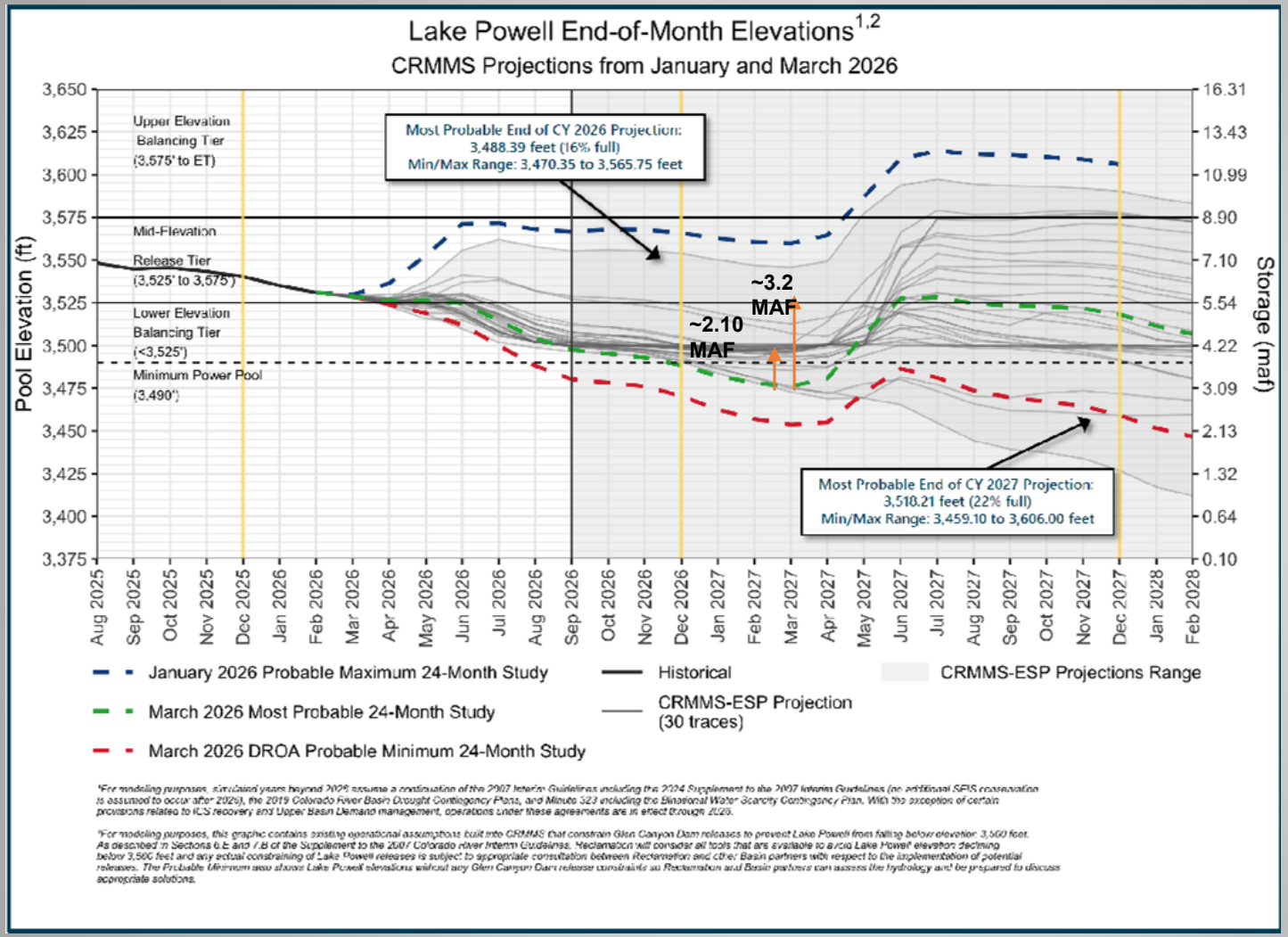
Lake Powell Water Year Unregulated Inflow

as of May 18, 2026

Comparison with History



[1]*Water Year statistics are based on the 30-year period of record from 1991-2020.*



[1] For modeling purposes, simulated years beyond 2026 assume a continuation of the 2007 Interim Guidelines including the 2024 Supplement to the 2007 Interim Guidelines (no additional SPIS conservation is assumed to occur after 2026), the 2019 Colorado River Basin Drought Contingency Plans, and Minute 323 including the Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan. With the exception of certain provisions related to ICS recovery and Upper Basin Demand management, operations under these agreements are in effect through 2026.

[2] For modeling purposes, this graphic contains existing operational assumptions built into CRMMS that constrain Glen Canyon Dam releases to prevent Lake Powell from falling below elevation 3,500 feet. As described in Sections 6.E and 7.B of the Supplement to the 2007 Colorado River Interim Guidelines, Reclamation will consider all tools that are available to avoid Lake Powell elevation declining below 3,500 feet and any actual constraining of Lake Powell releases is subject to appropriate consultation between Reclamation and other Basin partners with respect to the implementation of potential releases. The Probable Minimum also shows Lake Powell elevations without any Glen Canyon Dam release constraints so Reclamation and Basin partners can assess the hydrology and be prepared to discuss appropriate solutions.

The decline in inflow from March to April increased the “hole” to get to 3,500’ to ~2.1 maf

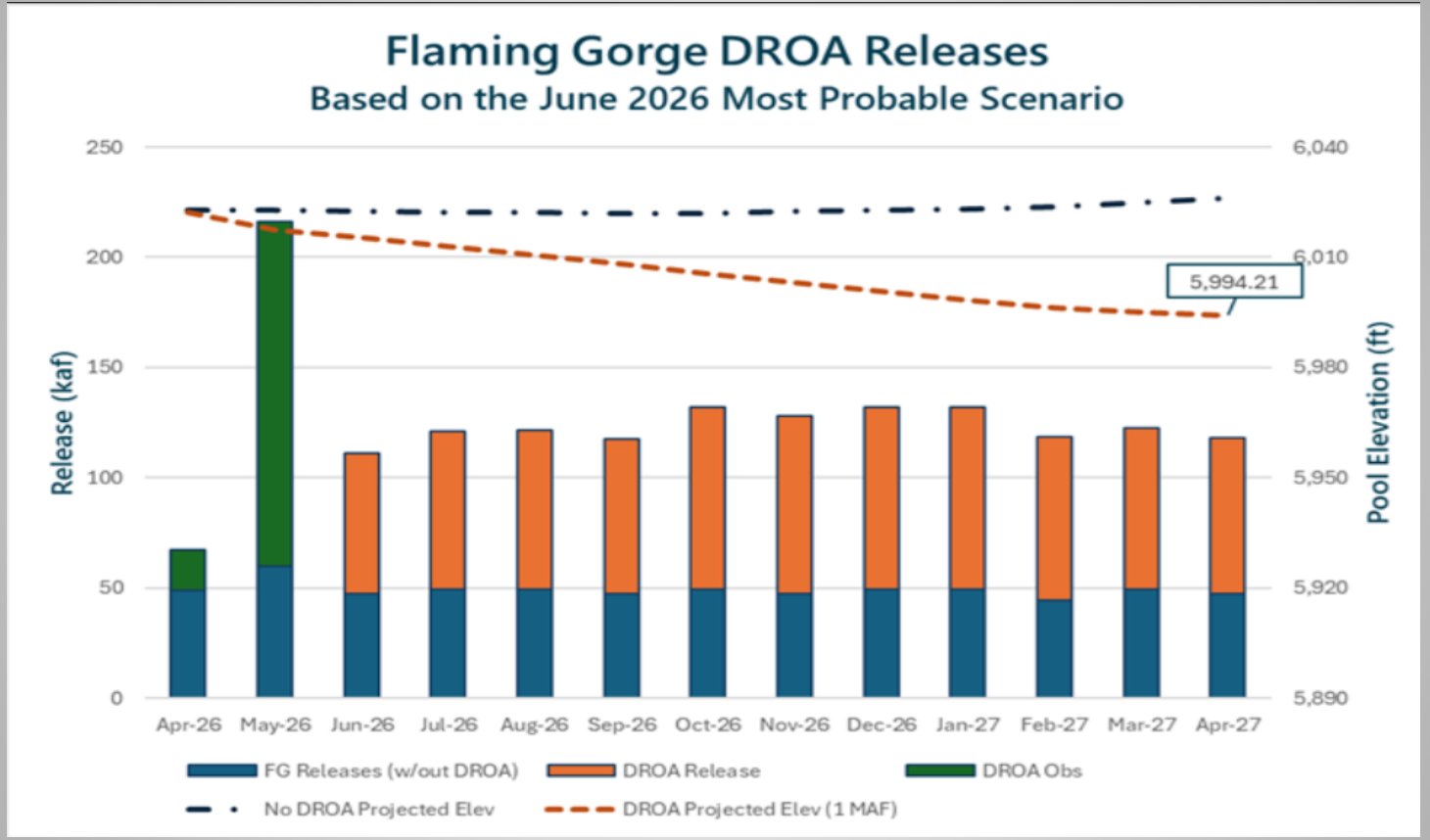
DROA releases alone were insufficient to protect 3,500’

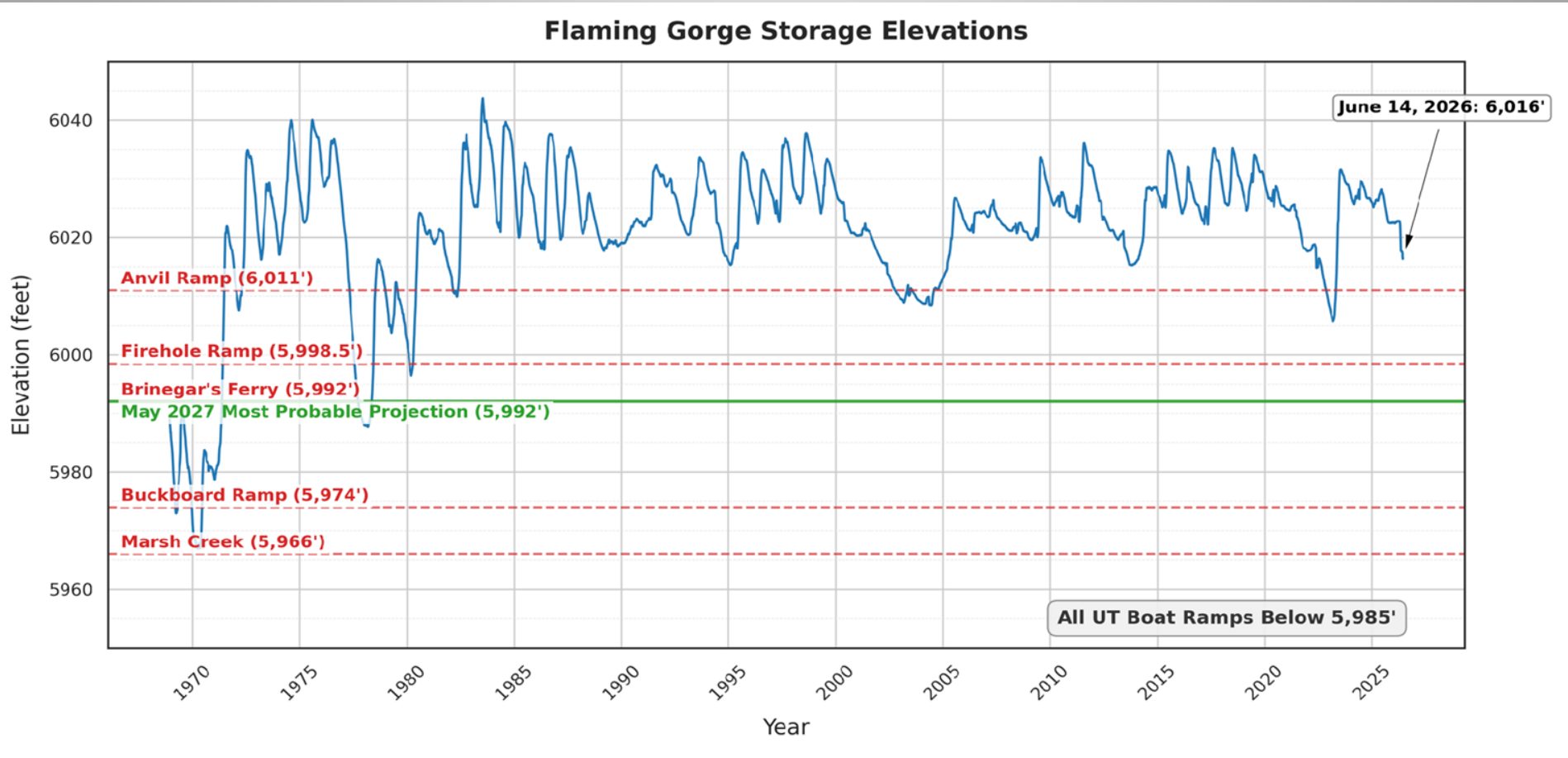
Additional actions per 6.E were necessary

2026 Drought Response Actions

- Additional storage releases from the Upstream Initial Units under DROA:
  - Flaming Gorge: Release about 660,000 acre-feet to about 1 million acre-feet of additional water between April 2026 and May 2027 (DROA Year)
  - Blue Mesa (Aspinall Unit): No uncontracted water available; will reevaluate in water year 2027
  - Navajo Reservoir: No uncontracted water available; will reevaluate in water year 2027

- Section 6(E) of the 2024 SEIS Record of Decision
  - Reclamation will consider all tools that are available during the interim period to avoid Lake Powell elevation declining below 3,500 feet.
  - "the Secretary shall begin planning to reduce releases, as needed, to not less than 6.0 maf from Lake Powell in the Water Year to maintain an elevation of 3,500 feet."
  - The 2026 Lake Powell release was set at 7.48 maf by the 2007 Interim Guidelines.
  - On April 23, Reclamation reduced Lake Powell releases to 6 maf.


Flaming Gorge DROA Releases
Based on the June 2026 Most Probable Scenario
Release (kaf)
Pool Elevation (ft)
250
200
150
100
50
0
6,040
6,010
5,980
5,950
5,920
5,890
5,994.21
Apr-26
May-26
Jun-26
Jul-26
Aug-26
Sep-26
Oct-26
Nov-26
Dec-26
Jan-27
Feb-27
Mar-27
Apr-27
FG Releases (w/out DROA)
DROA Release
DROA Obs
No DROA Projected Elev
DROA Projected Elev (1 MAF)


Flaming Gorge Storage Elevations
June 14, 2026: 6,016'
Anvil Ramp (6,011')
Firehole Ramp (5,998.5')
Brinegar's Ferry (5,992')
May 2027 Most Probable Projection (5,992')
Buckboard Ramp (5,974')
Marsh Creek (5,966')
All UT Boat Ramps Below 5,985'
Elevation (feet)
6040
6020
6000
5980
5960
1970
1975
1980
1985
1990
1995
2000
2005
2010
2015
2020
2025
Year

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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!

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