WY Conditions & Outlooks:

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

October 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
  - Reservoir Levels
- **Outlooks:** Overview
  - Temperature & Precipitation
- **Highlight of the Month:**
  - Grazing Decisions During Drought - Bureau of Land Management
- **Questions**

Current Conditions

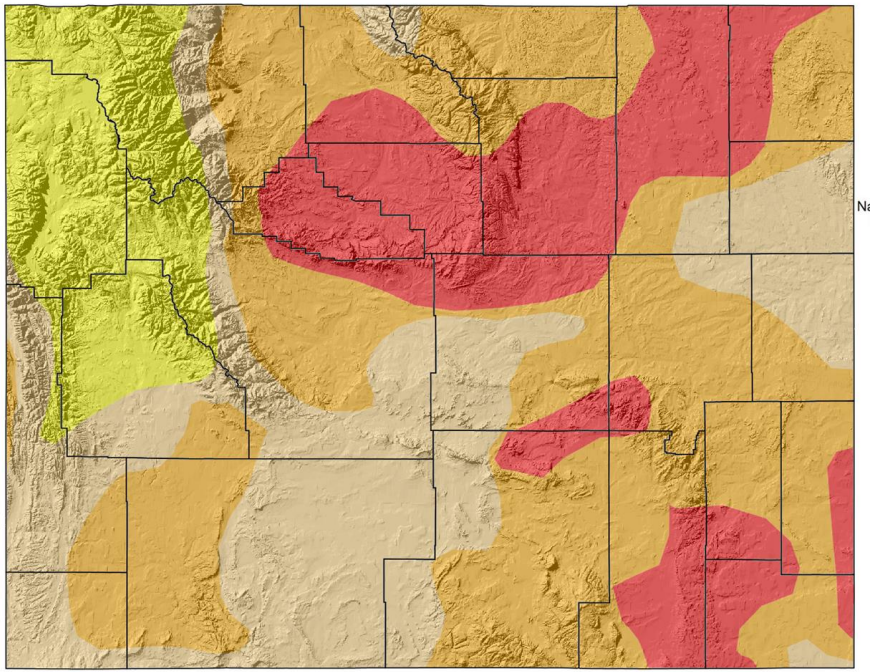
US Drought Monitor for October 13th, 2026

(Released Thursday, Oct 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

US Drought Monitor for 13 Oct 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 15 Oct 2026 06:35 https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

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

Some Degradation in the northern Bighorns but larger areas of Improvement in many areas, especially the northwest and northeast.

https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu

droughtmonitor.unl.edu

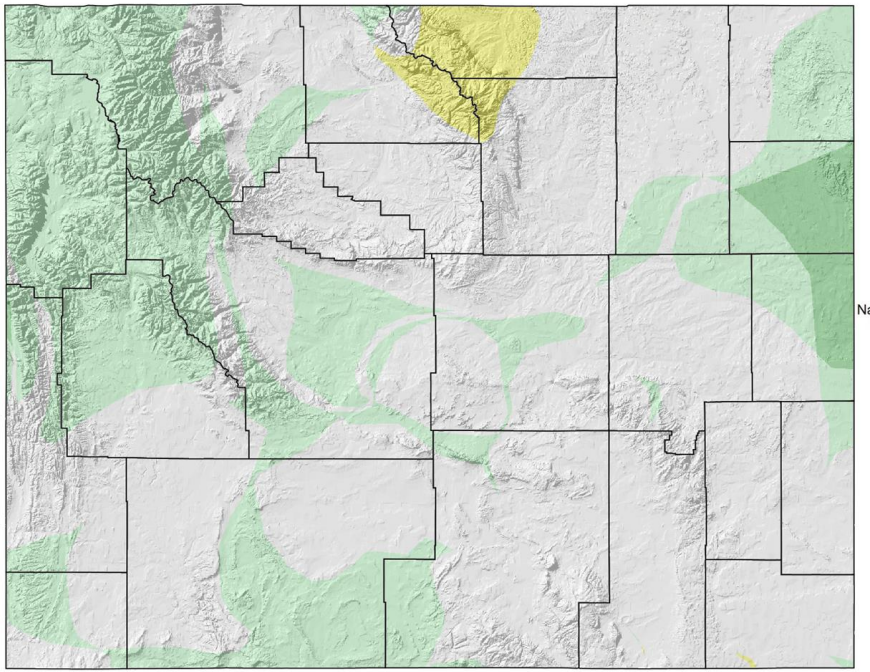
US Drought Monitor Change since Last Webinar 15 Sep 2026 to 13 Oct 2026)

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Some Degradation in the northern Bighorns but larger areas of Improvement in many areas, especially the northwest and northeast.

US Drought Monitor Change from 15 Sep 2026 to 13 Oct 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 15 Oct 2026 06:35 https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

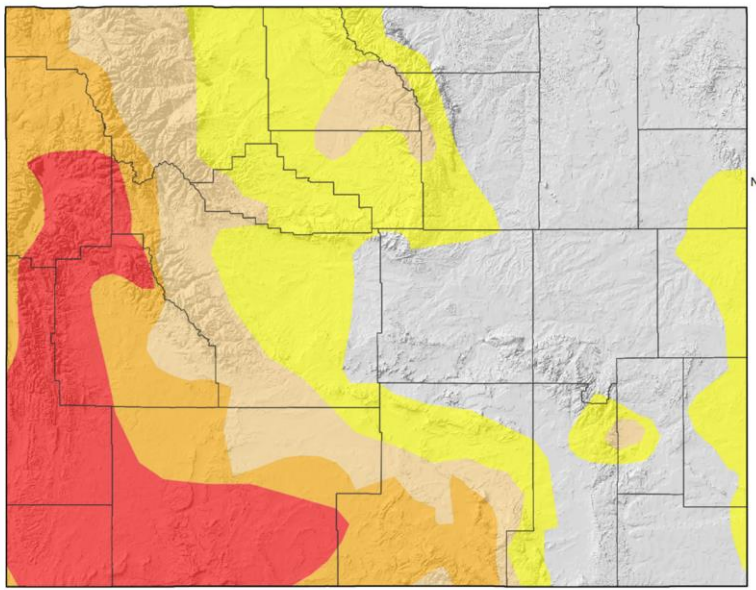
https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu

droughtmonitor.unl.edu

WRDS Water Resources Data System

One Year Ago

US Drought Monitor for 14 Oct 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

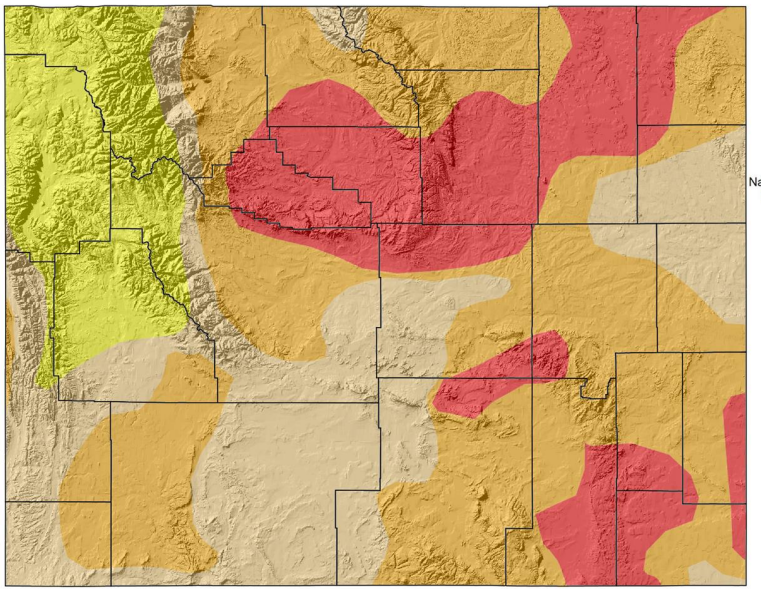
Map Layout Prepared by:
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Map Layout Created 16 Oct 2025 20:00 https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

Today

US Drought Monitor for 13 Oct 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:
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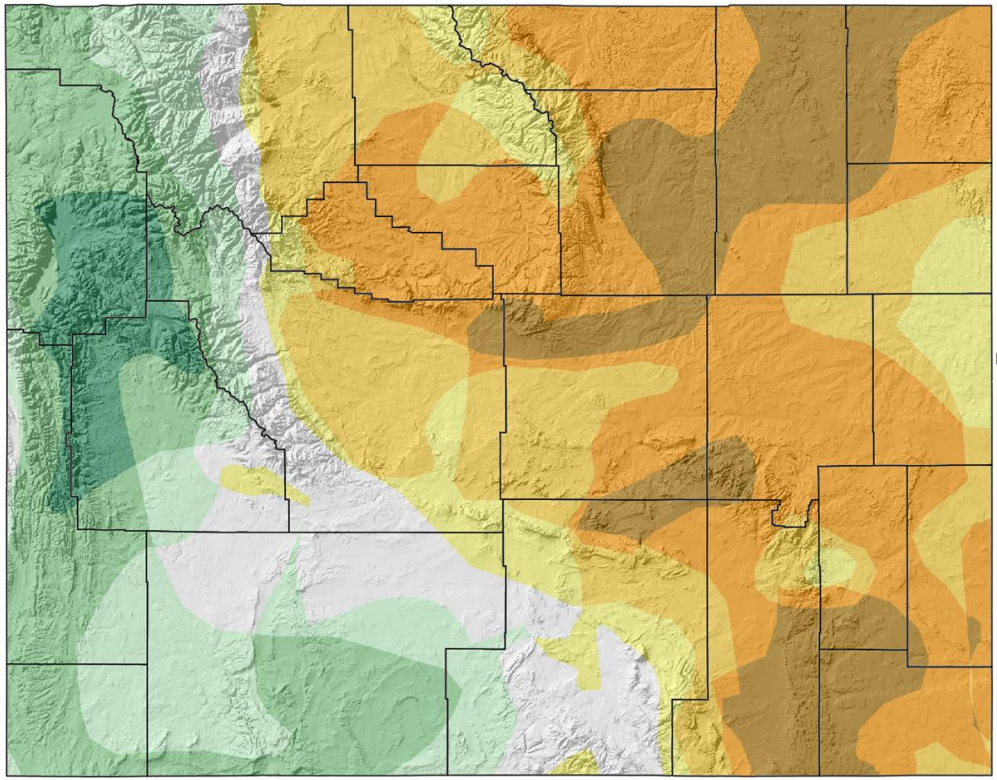
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Map Created 15 Oct 2026 06:35 https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu

droughtmonitor.unl.edu

1-Year US Drought Monitor Change (16 Sep 2025 to 13 Oct 2026)

US Drought Monitor Change from 14 Oct 2025 to 13 Oct 2026



US Drought Monitor
- 5-Class Degradation
- 4-Class Degradation
- 3-Class Degradation
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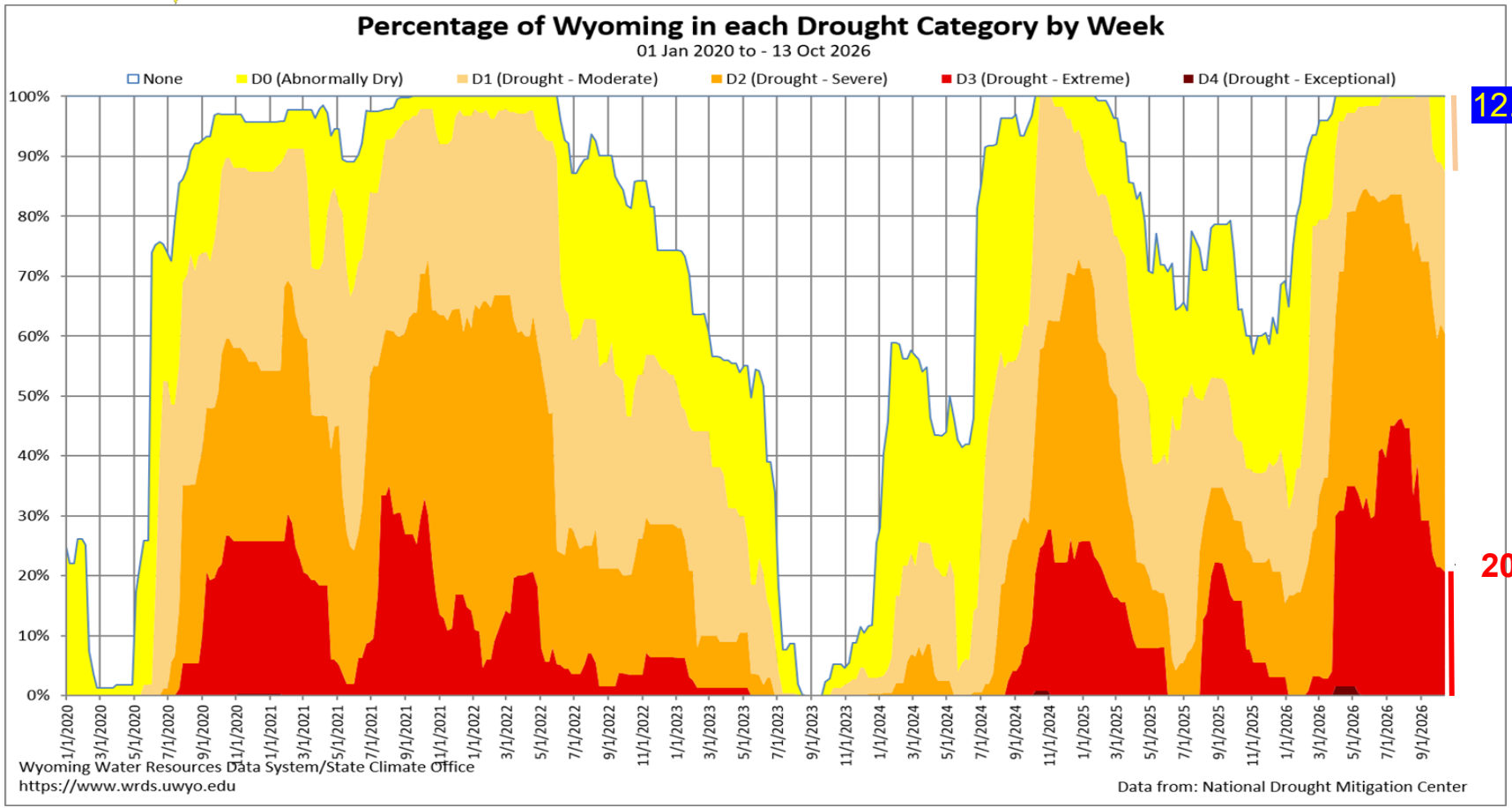
Map Layout and
Class Calculation by:
Wyoming State Climate Office
https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

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Map Layout and Comparisons created 15 Oct 2026 06:35 https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

WRDS Water Resources Data System

Wyoming Area Affected: 100% D0-D4 ; 87.43% D1-D4

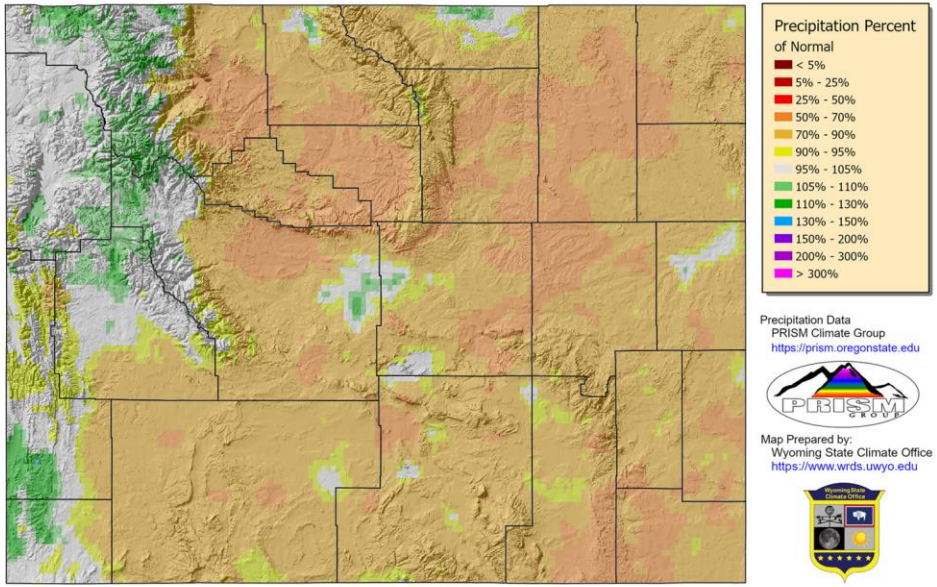


https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu/drought/droughttimeline.html

One Year Precipitation (01 Oct 2025 to 30 Sep 2026)

Percent of Normal

365-Day Precipitation (Percent of 1991-2020 Normal) for 01 Oct 2025 to 30 Sep 2026

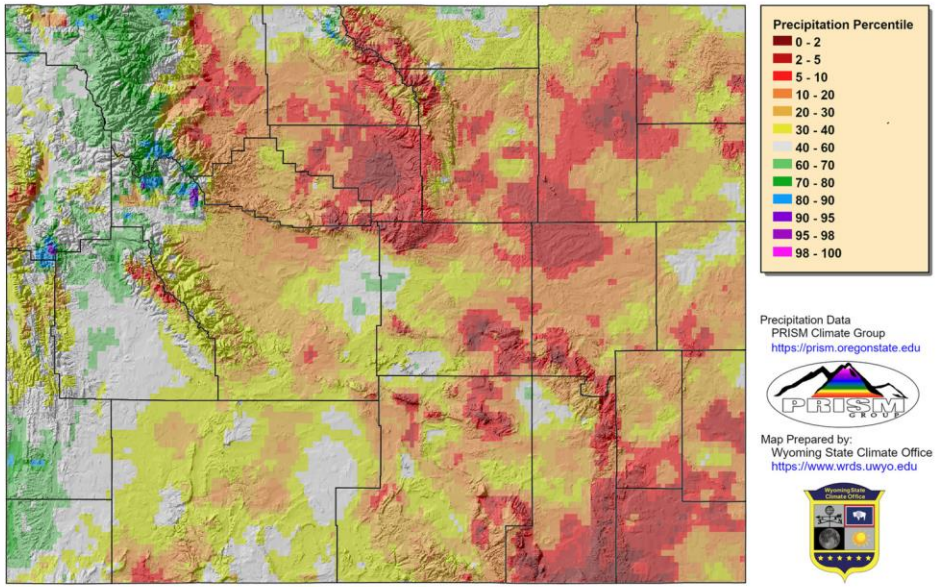


Provisional data, subject to revision

Monthly and Normal precipitation data from PRISM Climate Group, Copyright ©2024, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University, https://prism.oregonstate.edu
Map Created 01 Oct 2026 05:55 https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu
Daily percentages created from PRISM daily precipitation grids

Percentile

365-Day Precipitation (Percentile) for 01 Oct 2025 to 30 Sep 2026



Provisional data, subject to revision

Daily precipitation data from PRISM Climate Group, Copyright ©2021, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University, https://prism.oregonstate.edu
Map Created 01 Oct 2026 05:53 https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu
Daily percentiles created from PRISM daily precipitation grids

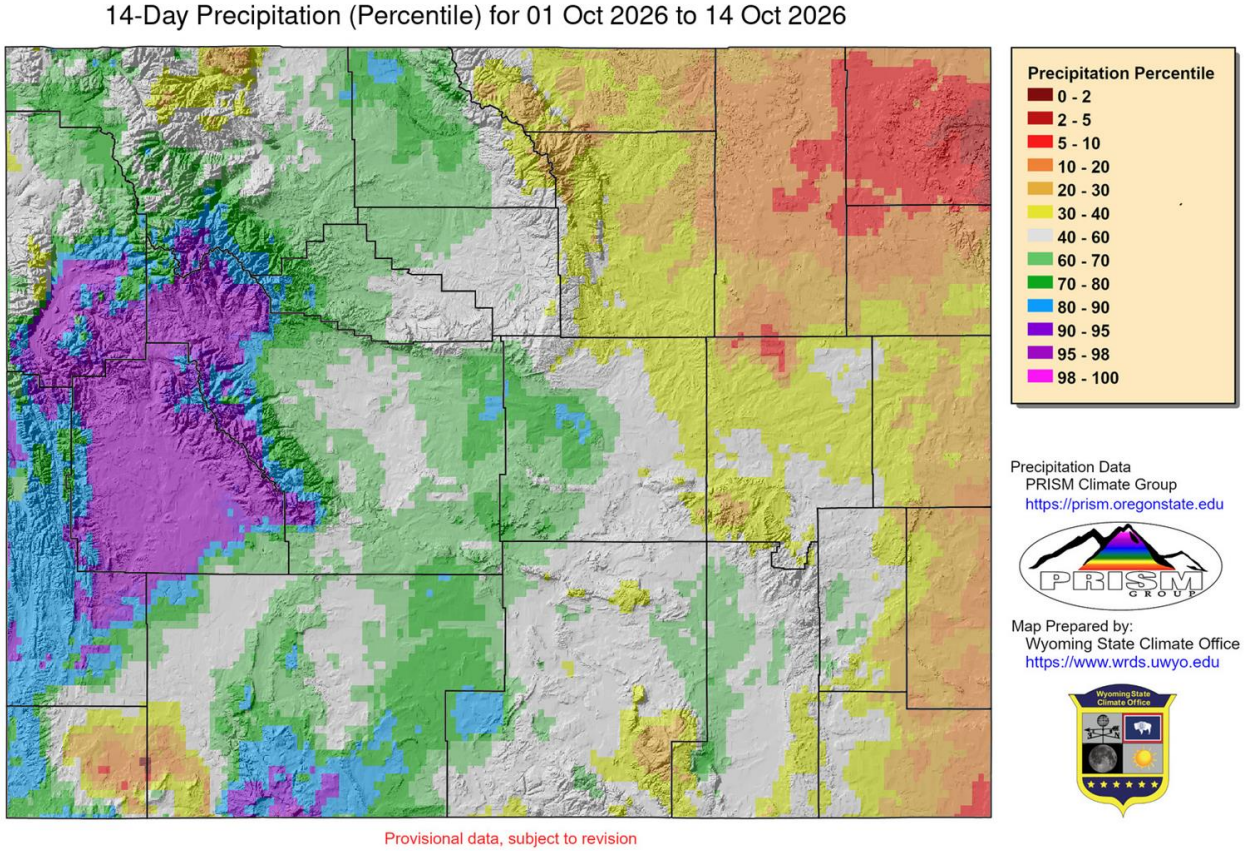
14-Day Precipitation Percentile (01 Oct 2026 to 14 Oct 2026)

Above Median:

- West Central WY

Below Median (*Areas of Concern*):

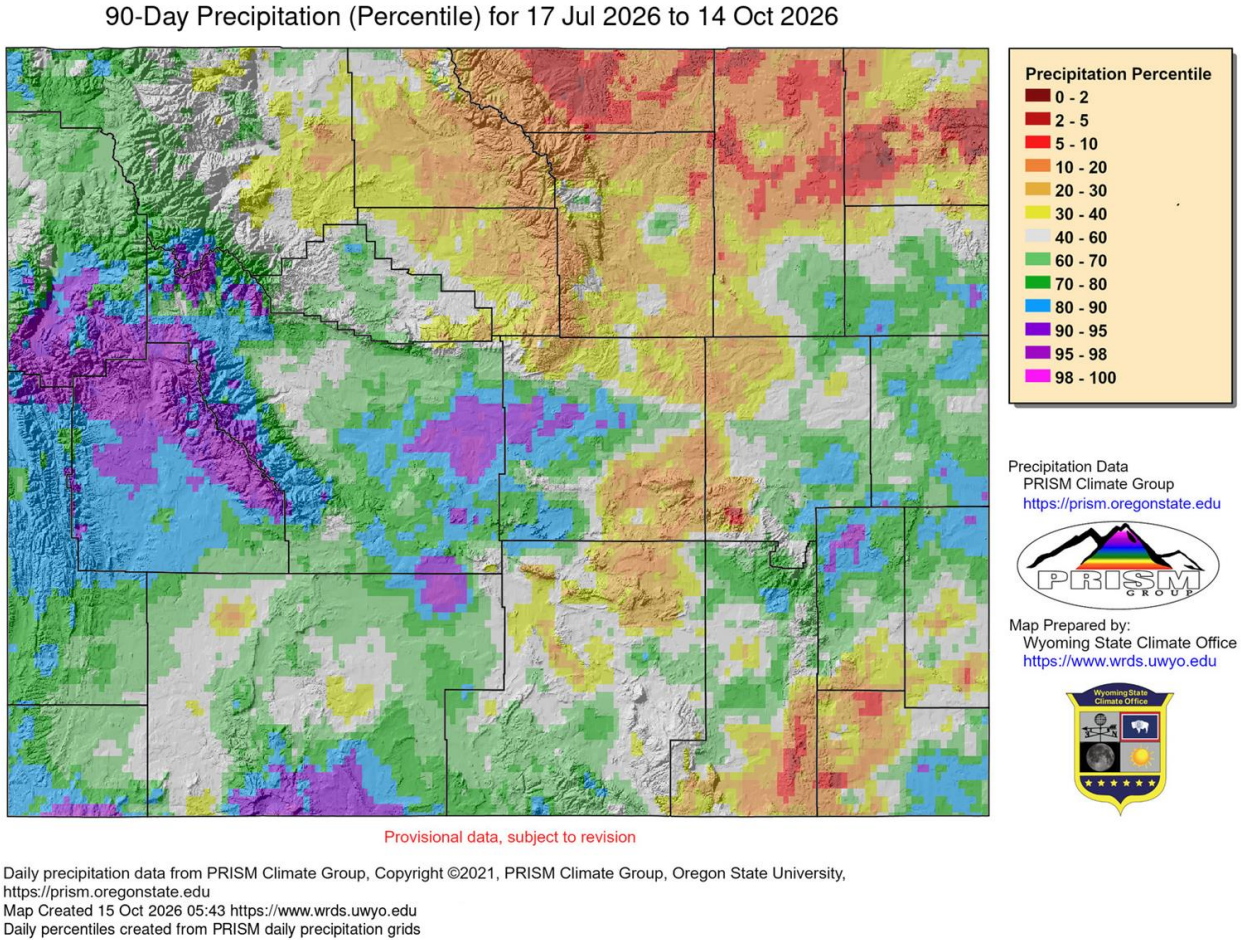
- Northeast Wyoming
- Far Eastern Wyoming
- Eastern Uinta area



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

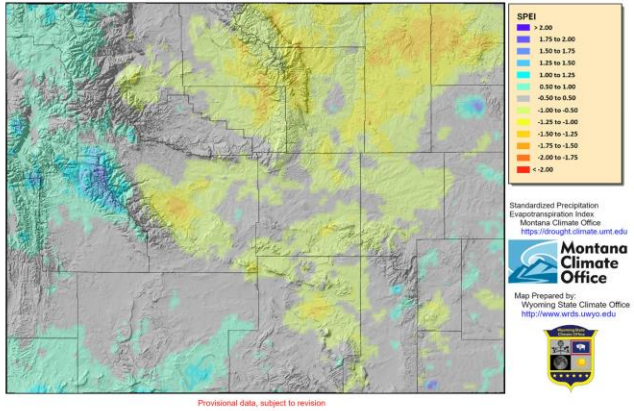
Above Median:
- Especially West Central
- Central, East Central, Southwest

Below Median (*Areas of Concern*):
- Northcentral and Northeast
- Southern Laramie Range



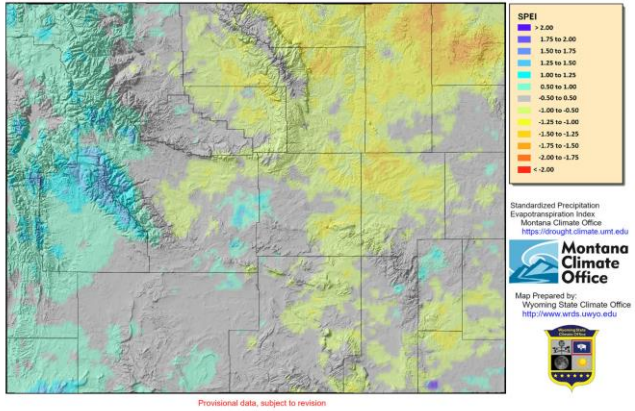
Standardized Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index

30-Day Standardized Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index (15 Aug 2026 to 13 Sep 2026)



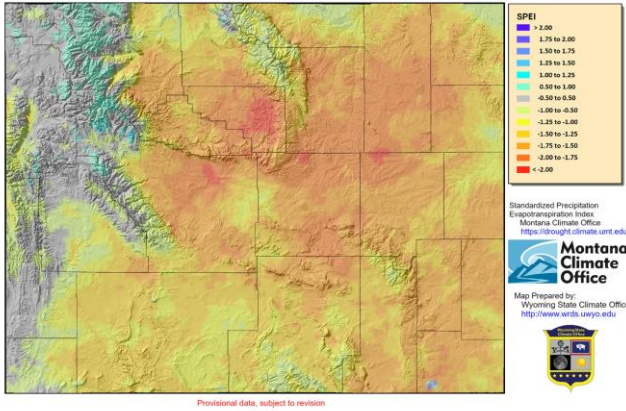
Standardized Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index Created by Montana Climate Office https://drought.climate.umt.edu
Map Created 15 Sep 2026 https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

60-Day Standardized Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index (16 Jul 2026 to 13 Sep 2026)



Standardized Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index Created by Montana Climate Office https://drought.climate.umt.edu
Map Created 15 Sep 2026 https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

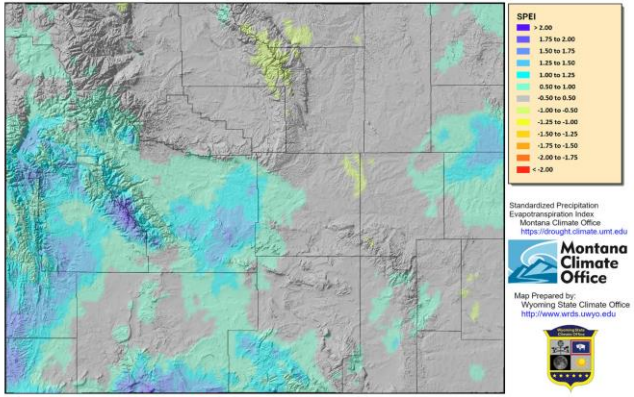
365-Day Standardized Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index (14 Sep 2025 to 13 Sep 2026)



Standardized Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index Created by Montana Climate Office https://drought.climate.umt.edu
Map Created 15 Sep 2026 https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

30-Day

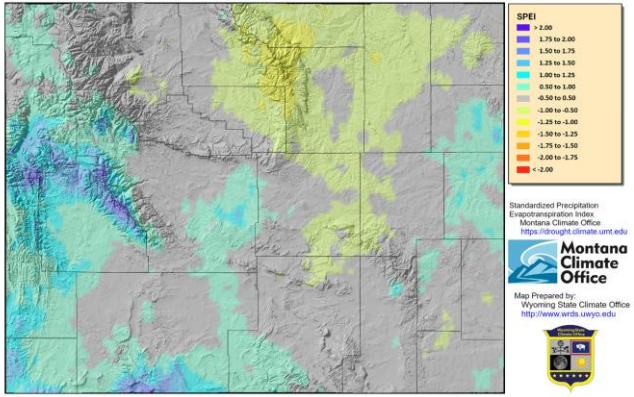
30-Day Standardized Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index (14 Sep 2026 to 13 Oct 2026)



Standardized Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index Created by Montana Climate Office https://drought.climate.umt.edu
Map Created 15 Oct 2026 https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

60-Day

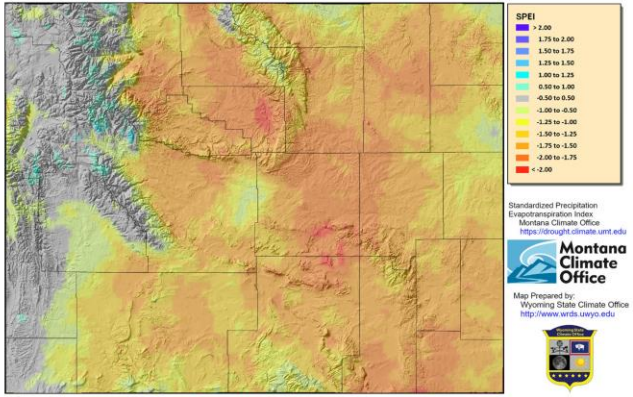
60-Day Standardized Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index (15 Aug 2026 to 13 Oct 2026)



Standardized Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index Created by Montana Climate Office https://drought.climate.umt.edu
Map Created 15 Oct 2026 https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

1-Year

365-Day Standardized Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index (14 Oct 2025 to 13 Oct 2026)



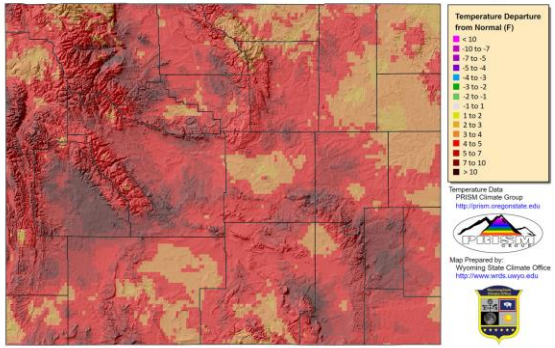
Standardized Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index Created by Montana Climate Office https://drought.climate.umt.edu
Map Created 15 Oct 2026 https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

https://drought.climate.umt.edu

Temperature Departures from Normal (01 Oct 2025 to 30 Sep 2026)

Minimum Temperature

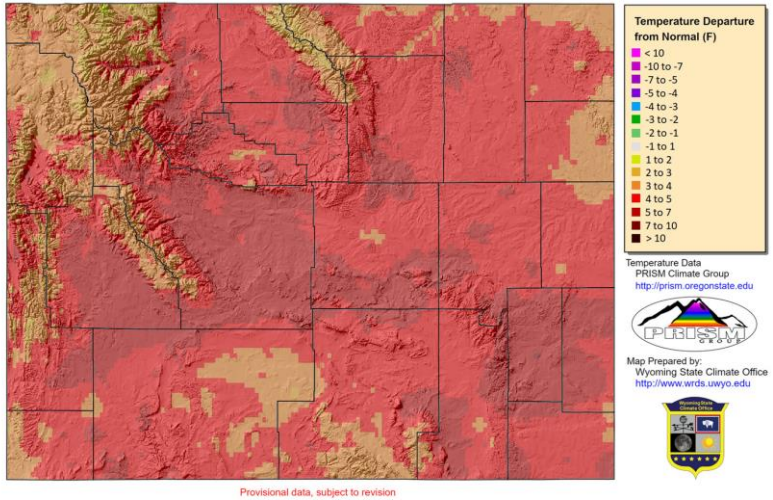
365-Day Minimum Temperature (Departure from 1991-2020 Normal) for 01 Oct 2025 to 30 Sep 2026



Daily Temperature data from PRISM Climate Group, Copyright ©2021, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University, http://prism.oregonstate.edu
Map Created 01 Oct 2026 05:57 https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu
Daily departures created from PRISM daily temperature grids

Mean Temperature

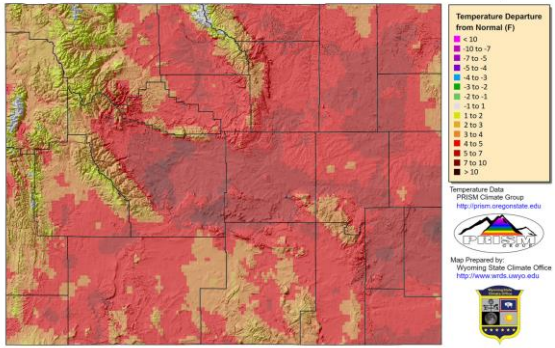
365-Day Mean Temperature (Departure from 1991-2020 Normal) for 01 Oct 2025 to 30 Sep 2026



Daily Temperature data from PRISM Climate Group, Copyright ©2021, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University, http://prism.oregonstate.edu
Map Created 01 Oct 2026 05:55 https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu
Daily departures created from PRISM daily temperature grids

Maximum Temperature

365-Day Maximum Temperature (Departure from 1991-2020 Normal) for 01 Oct 2025 to 30 Sep 2026

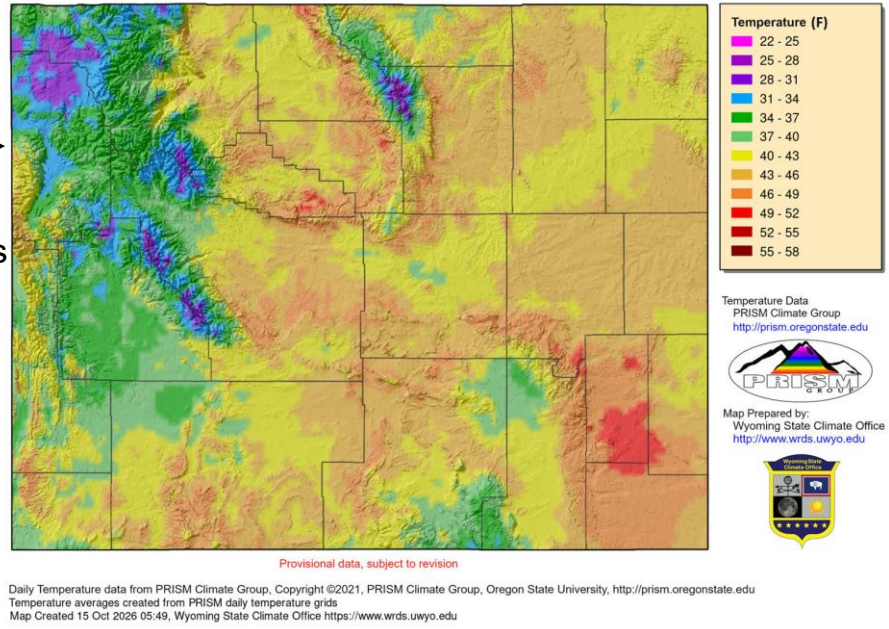


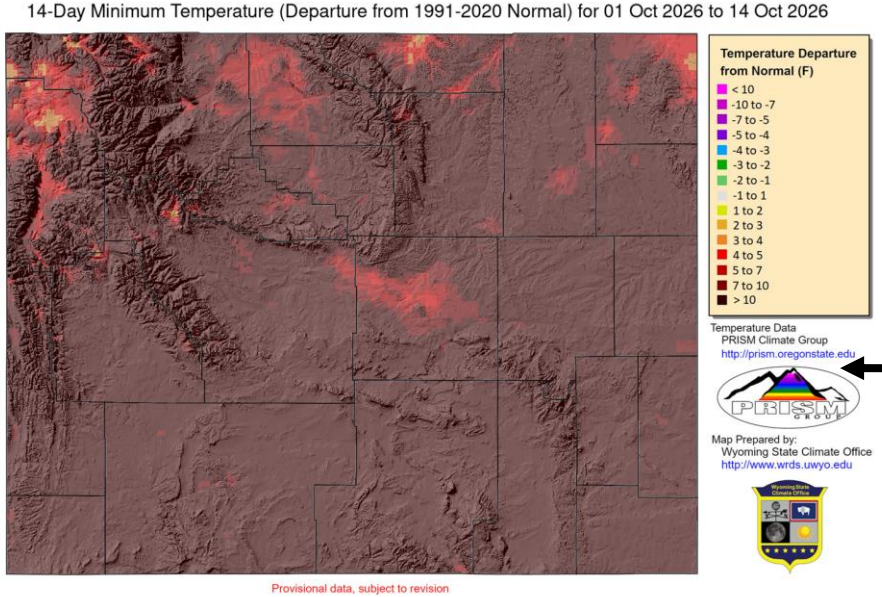
Daily Temperature data from PRISM Climate Group, Copyright ©2021, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University, http://prism.oregonstate.edu
Map Created 01 Oct 2026 05:56 https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu
Daily departures created from PRISM daily temperature grids

WRDS Water Resources Data System

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

- Nighttime lows dipping below freezing in the NW and Bighorns
- Southern Platte County high 40s low 50s.





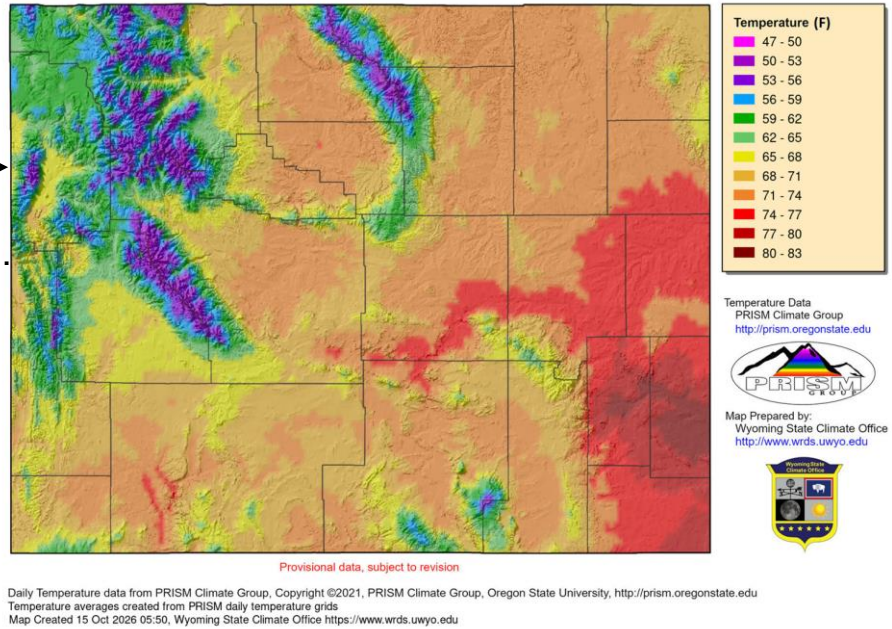
14-Day *Departure from* Normal Average Minimum Temperature

- Well above normal across Wyoming
- Northern half with some areas of lower, but still very significant, departures from normal.
- Yellowstone Plateau least departure (still 3-5F above)

WRDS Water Resources Data System

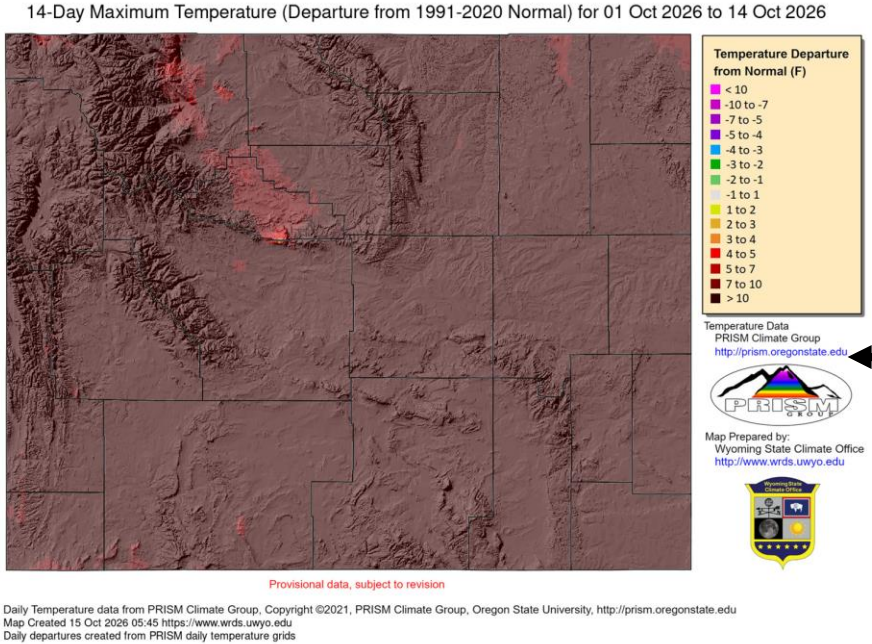
14-Day Average Maximum Temperature (01 Oct to 14 Oct)

- E Plains and Low Elevations in mid 70s to even low 80s.
- Mountains Mid 60s and lower.
- 65F to 75F for most of the remainder of Wyoming



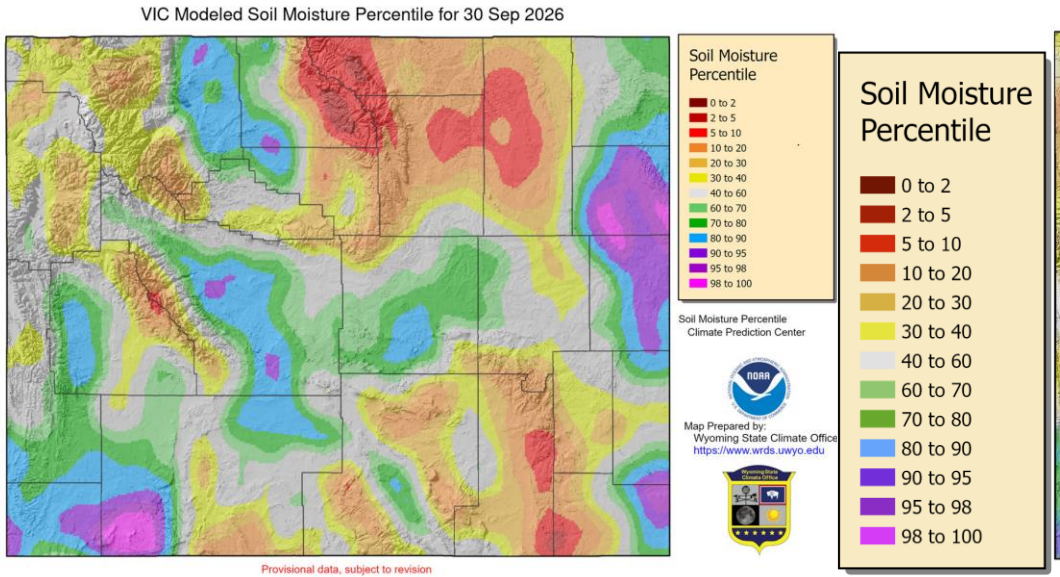
14- Day *Departure from* Normal Average Maximum Temperature

- Most of Wyoming > 10F above normal
- Western edges of Bighorn Basin 5F to 10F above normal.



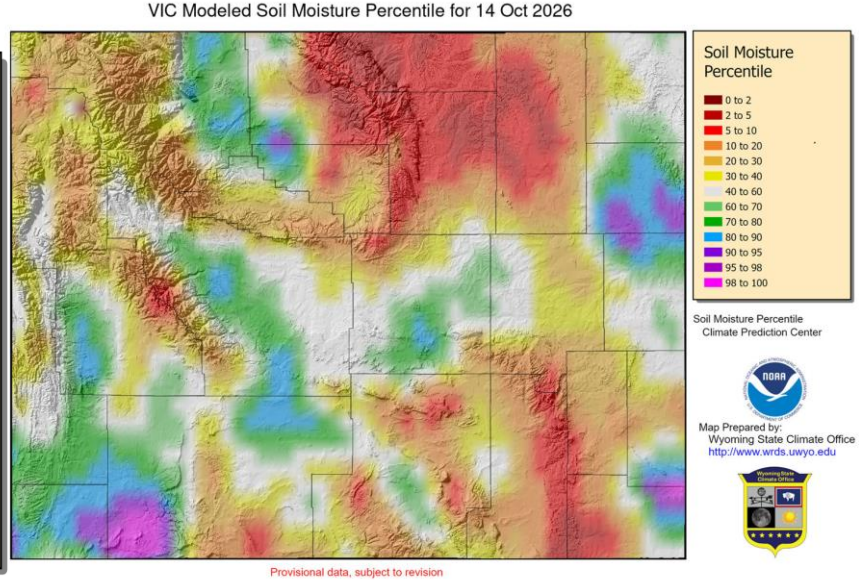
Soil Moisture Percentile

~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 01 Oct 2026 07:12 https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

14 Oct 2026



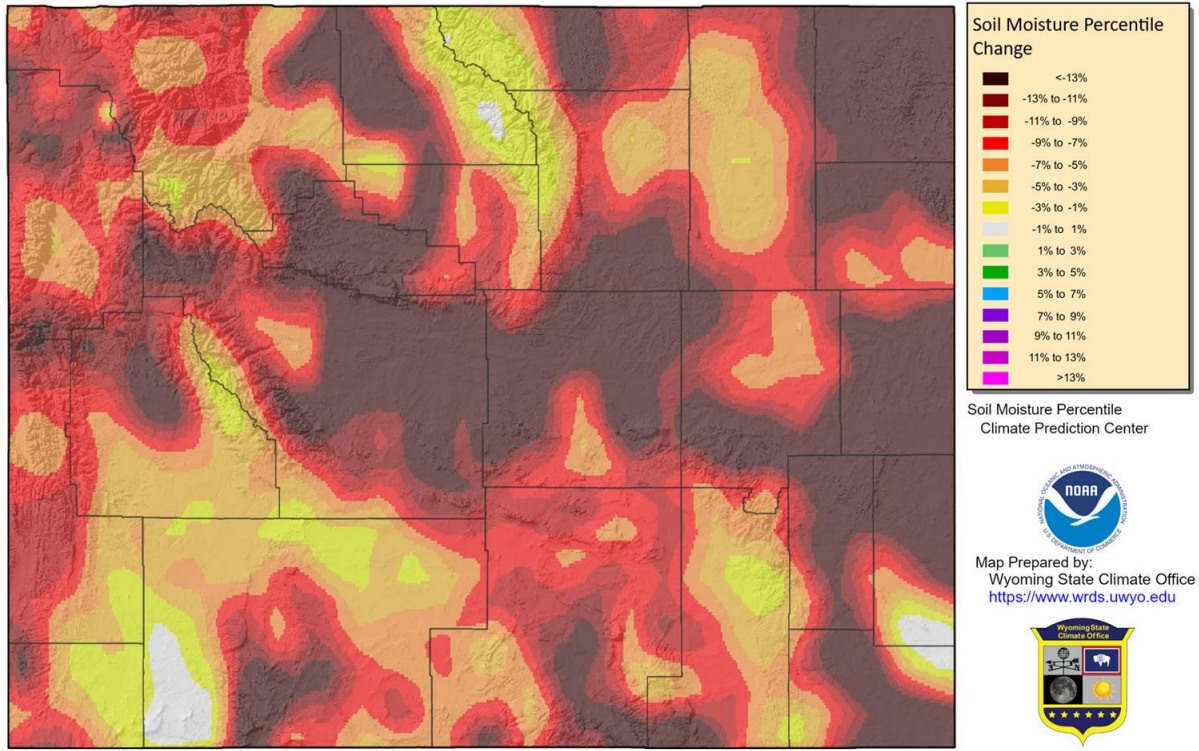
VIC (Variable Infiltration Capacity) Modeled Soil Moisture Percentile: https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/Drought/Monitoring/smp.shtml
Map Created 15 Oct 2026 https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

Degradations in far East Wyoming and the Northeastern two-thirds. Improvement in the West and Southwest

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 30 Sep 2026 to 14 Oct 2026



Soil Moisture Percentile
Climate Prediction Center

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

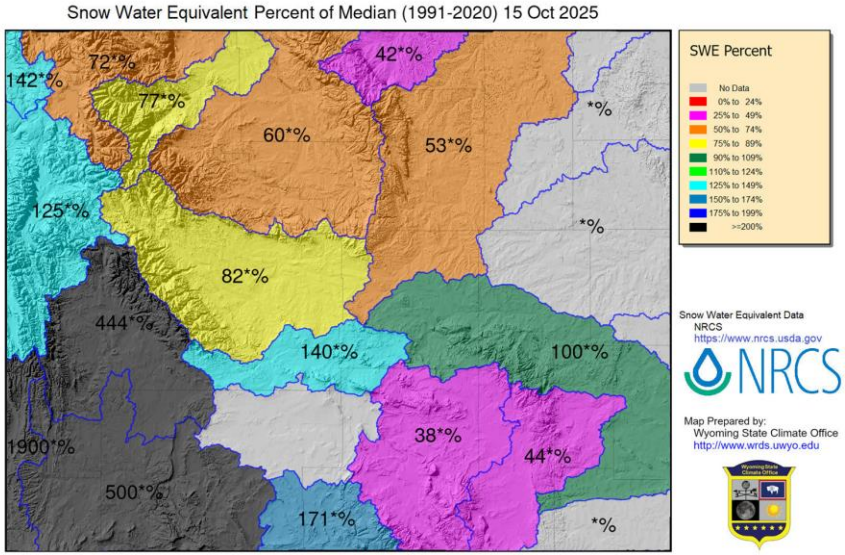
Provisional data, subject to revision

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Map Layout and Comparisons created 15 Oct 2026 07:12 https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

Degradations in far northeast and south central Albany County. Improvements in much of the rest of Wyoming.

Snow Water Equivalent

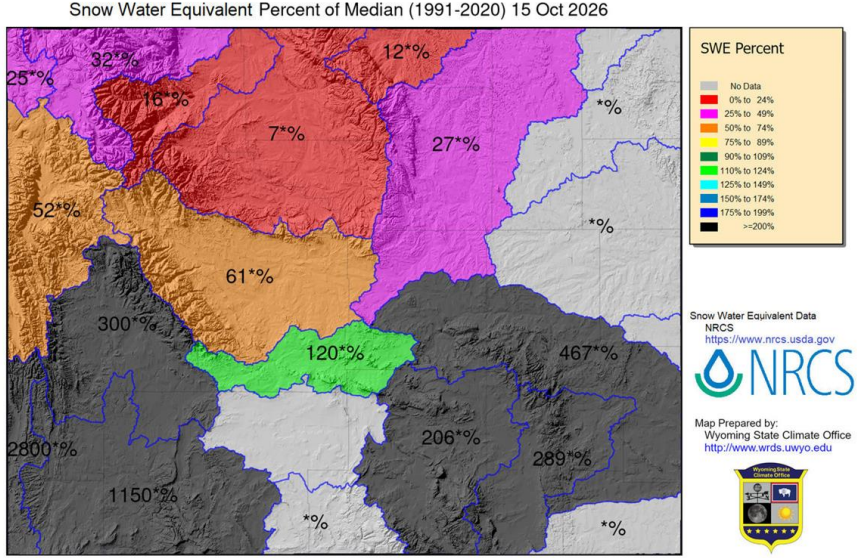
One Year Ago



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 Oct 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 Oct 2026



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 Oct 2026

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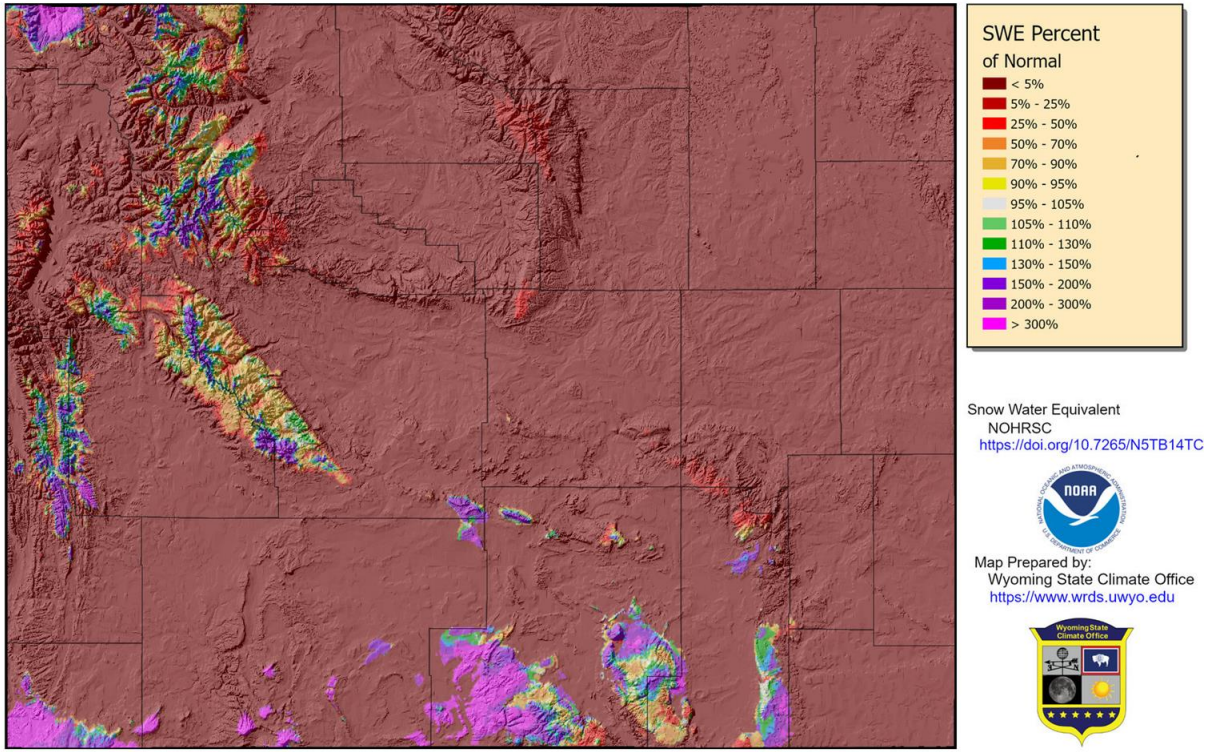
https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu/wrds/nrcs/snowmap/snowmap.html

Below median in north, above median in south, all basins have asterisks (*not necessarily a valid measure of conditions*)

Snow Water Equivalent Percent of Average

https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu/Snow/SWE-Prcnt-Current.html

Snow Water Equivalent Percent of Average (2004-2026 Period) for 15 Oct 2026



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

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

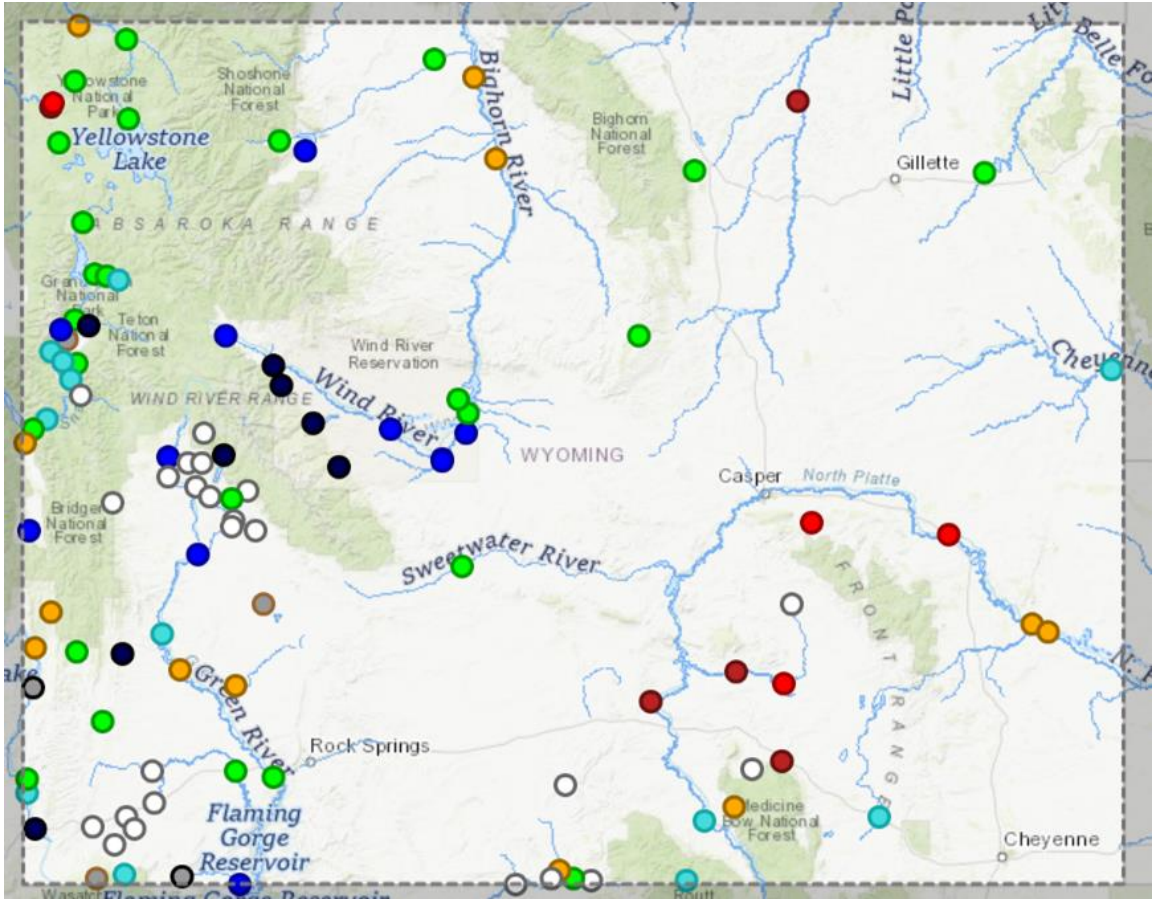
Provisional data, subject to revision

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: https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

Current Streamflow Conditions

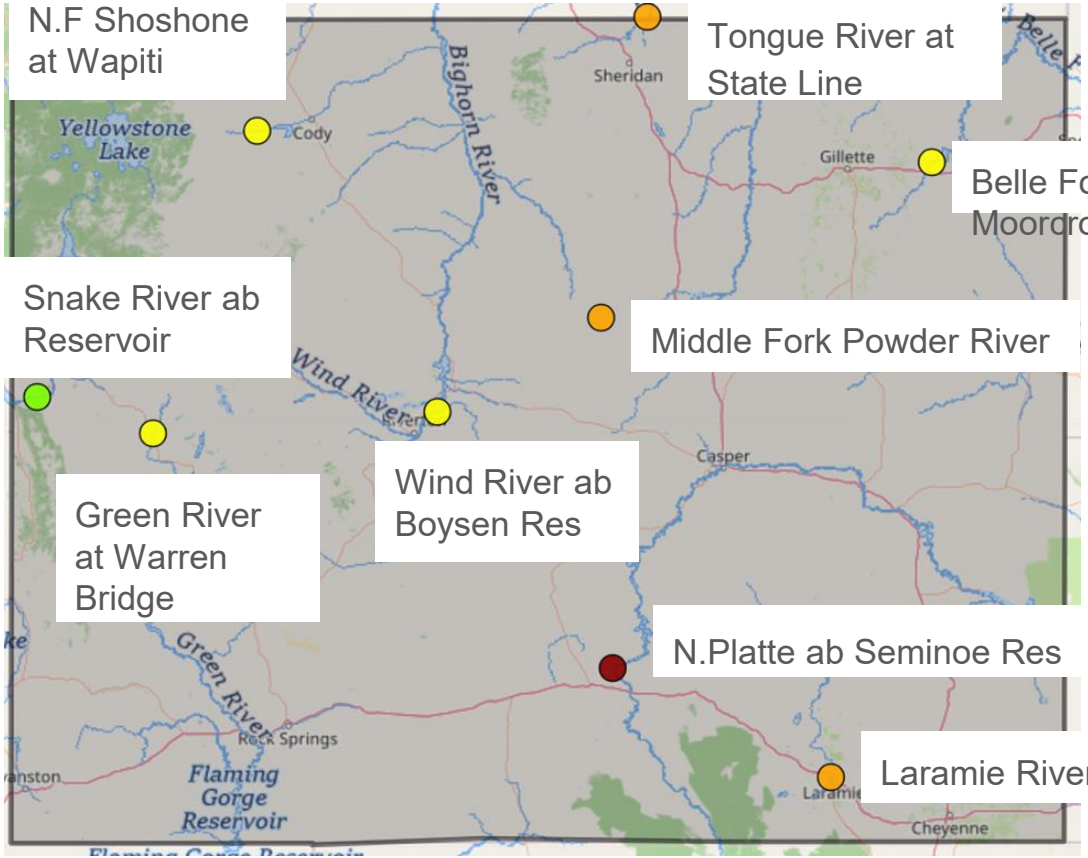
Streamflow Status

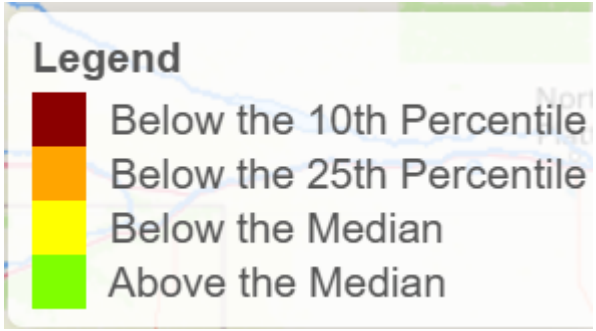




https://dashboard.waterdata.usgs.gov/

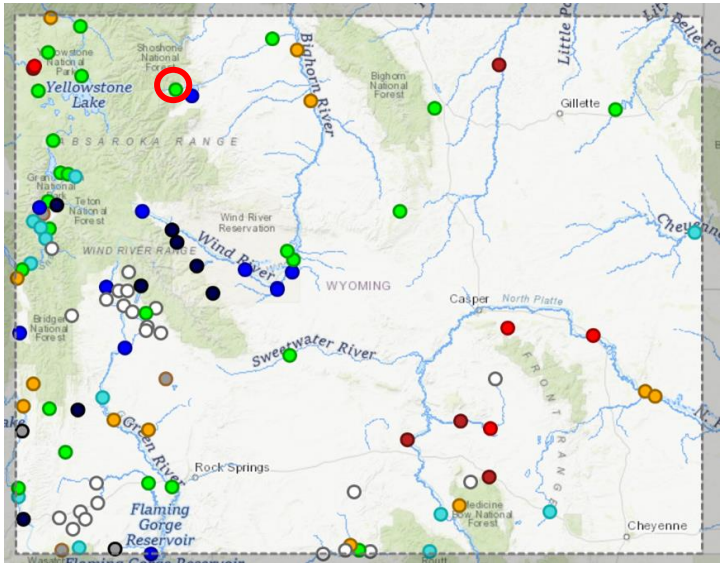
2026 Water Year Statistics





https://waterdata.usgs.gov/

Select WY Streamflows

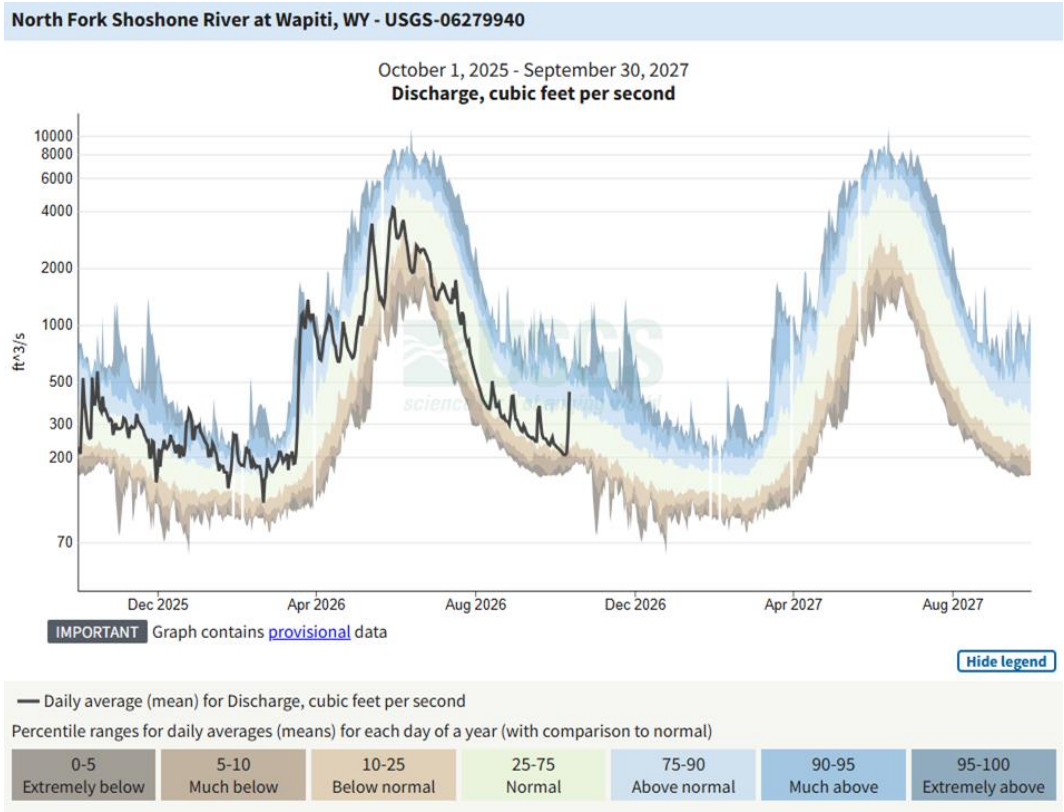


https://dashboard.waterdata.usgs.gov/

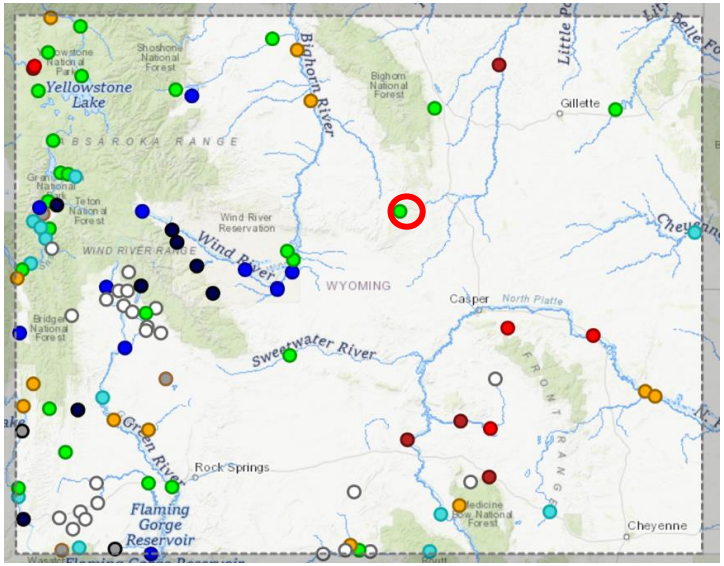
https://waterdata.usgs.gov/

North Fork Shoshone River, at Wapiti, WY

36 years of data



Select WY Streamflows

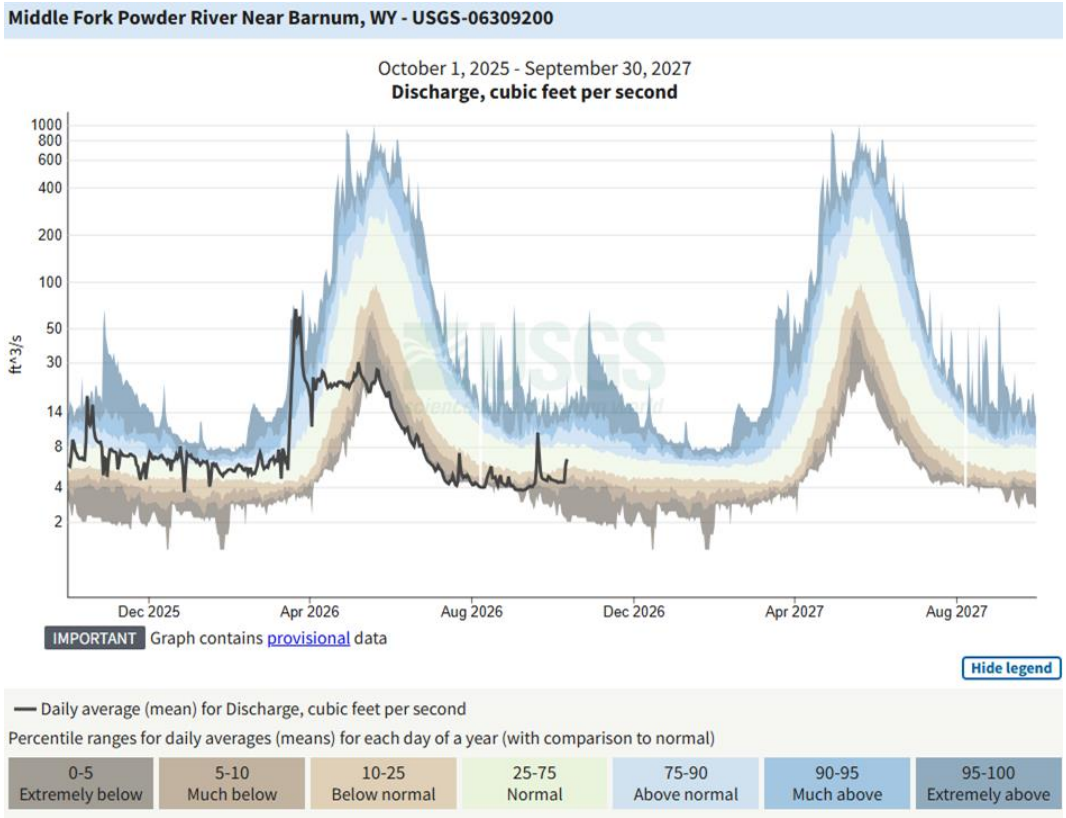


https://dashboard.waterdata.usgs.gov/

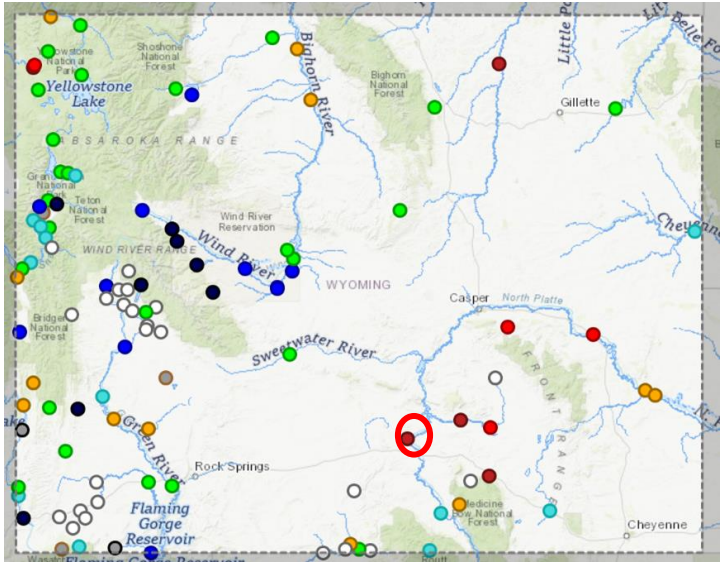
https://waterdata.usgs.gov/

Middle Fork Powder River near Barnum, WY

64 years of data



Select WY Streamflows

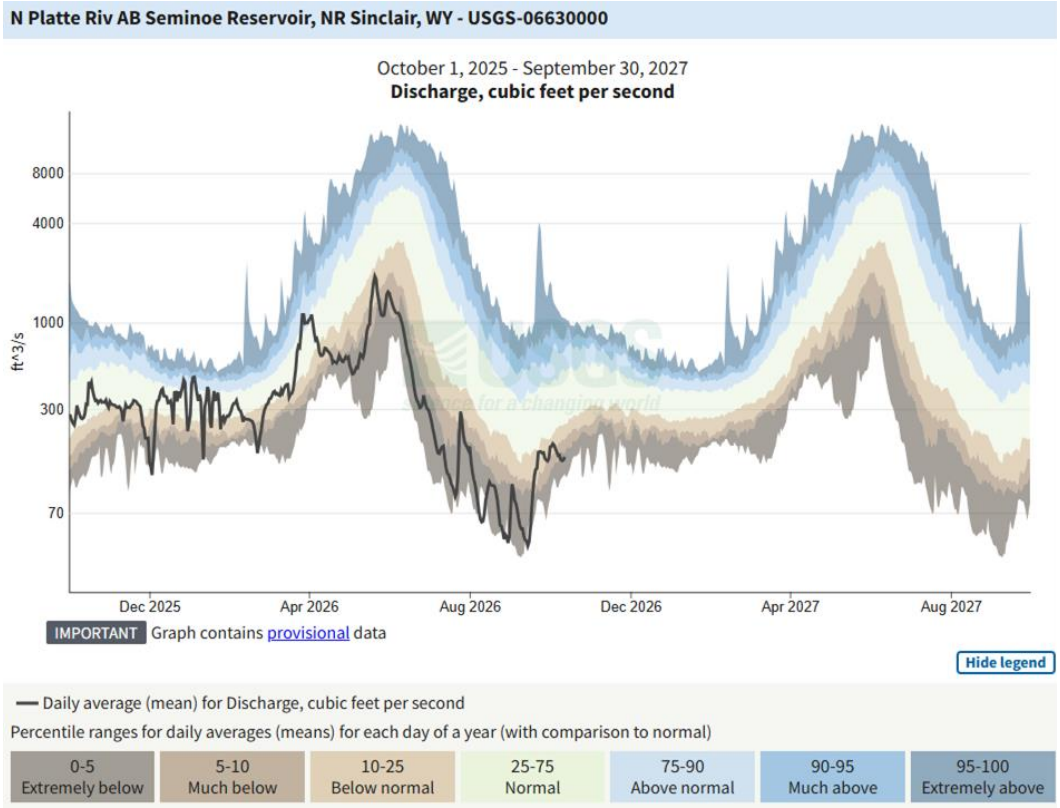


https://dashboard.waterdata.usgs.gov/

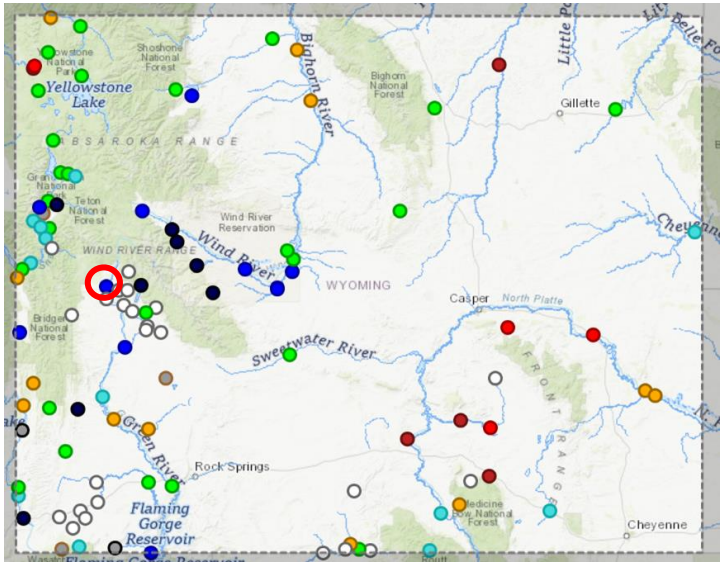
https://waterdata.usgs.gov/

North Platte River, ab Seminoe Res, near Sinclair WY

87 years of data



Select WY Streamflows

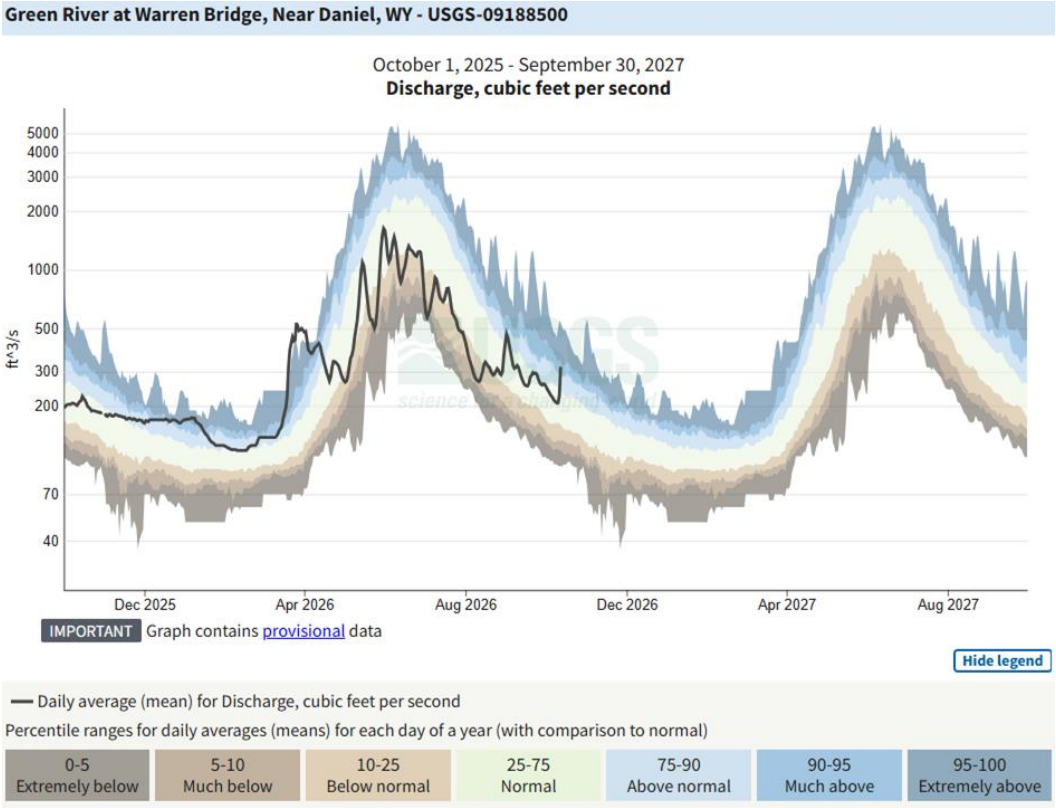


https://dashboard.waterdata.usgs.gov/

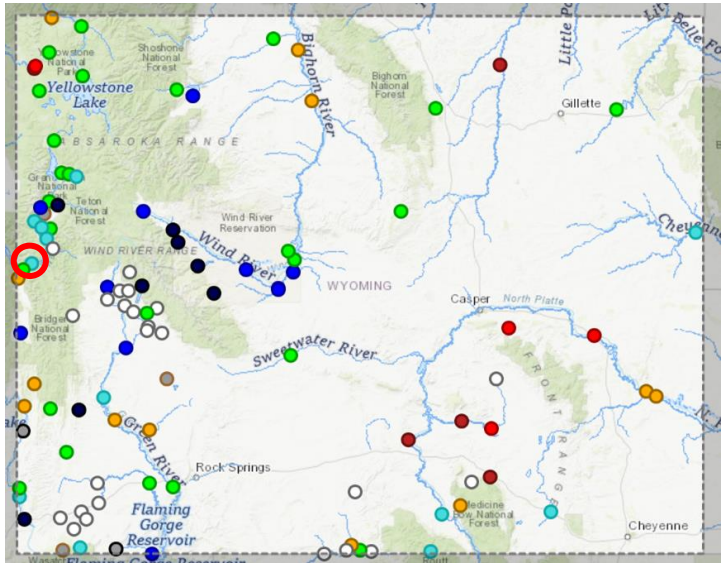
https://waterdata.usgs.gov/

Green River at Warren Bridge, near Daniel, WY

93 years of data



Select WY Streamflows

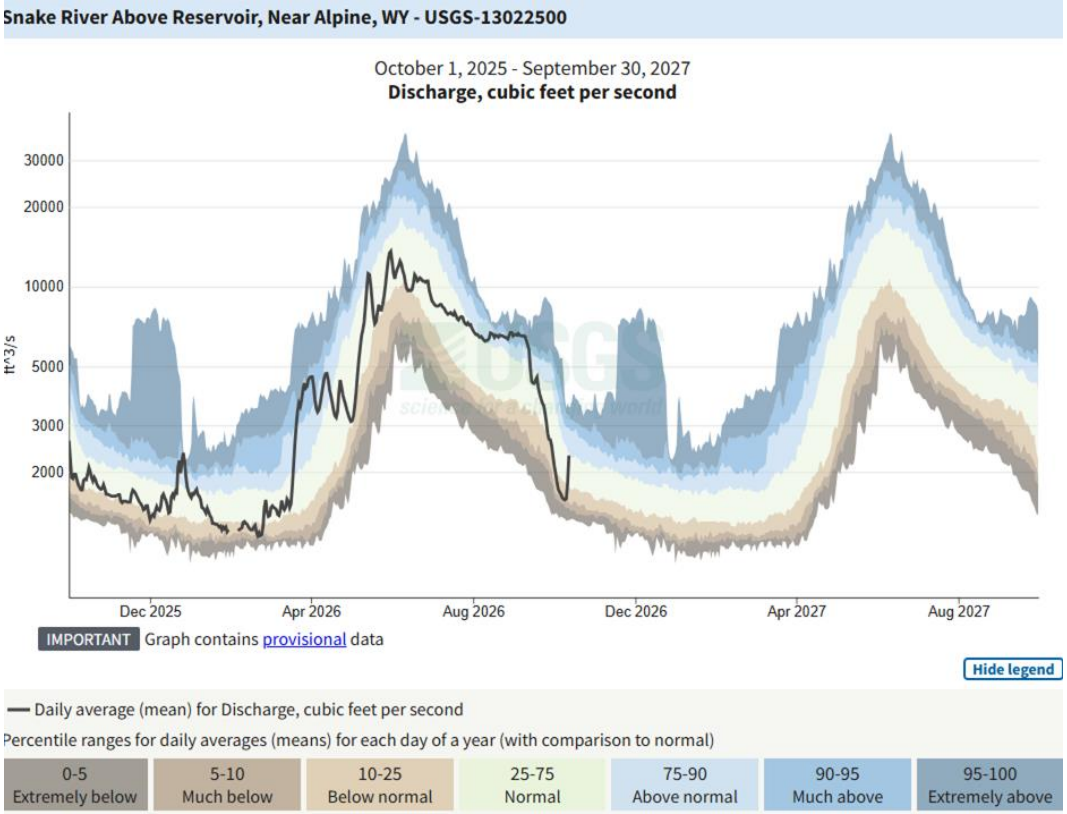


https://dashboard.waterdata.usgs.gov/

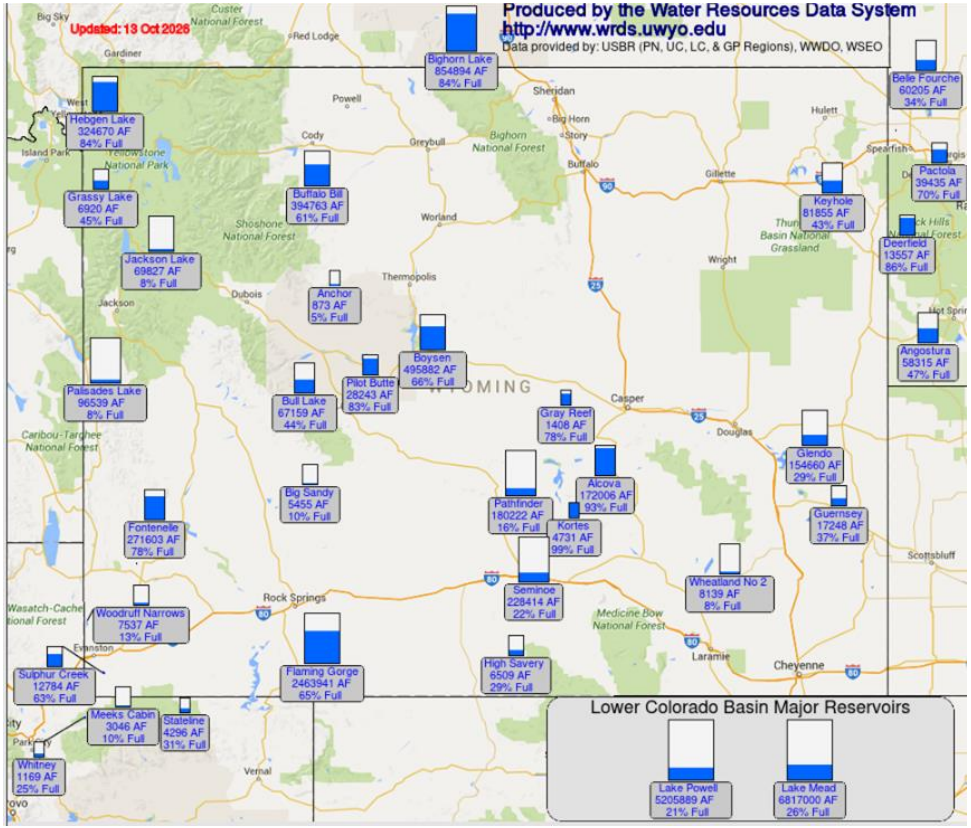
https://waterdata.usgs.gov/

Snake River above Reservoir, near Alpine, WY

74 years of data



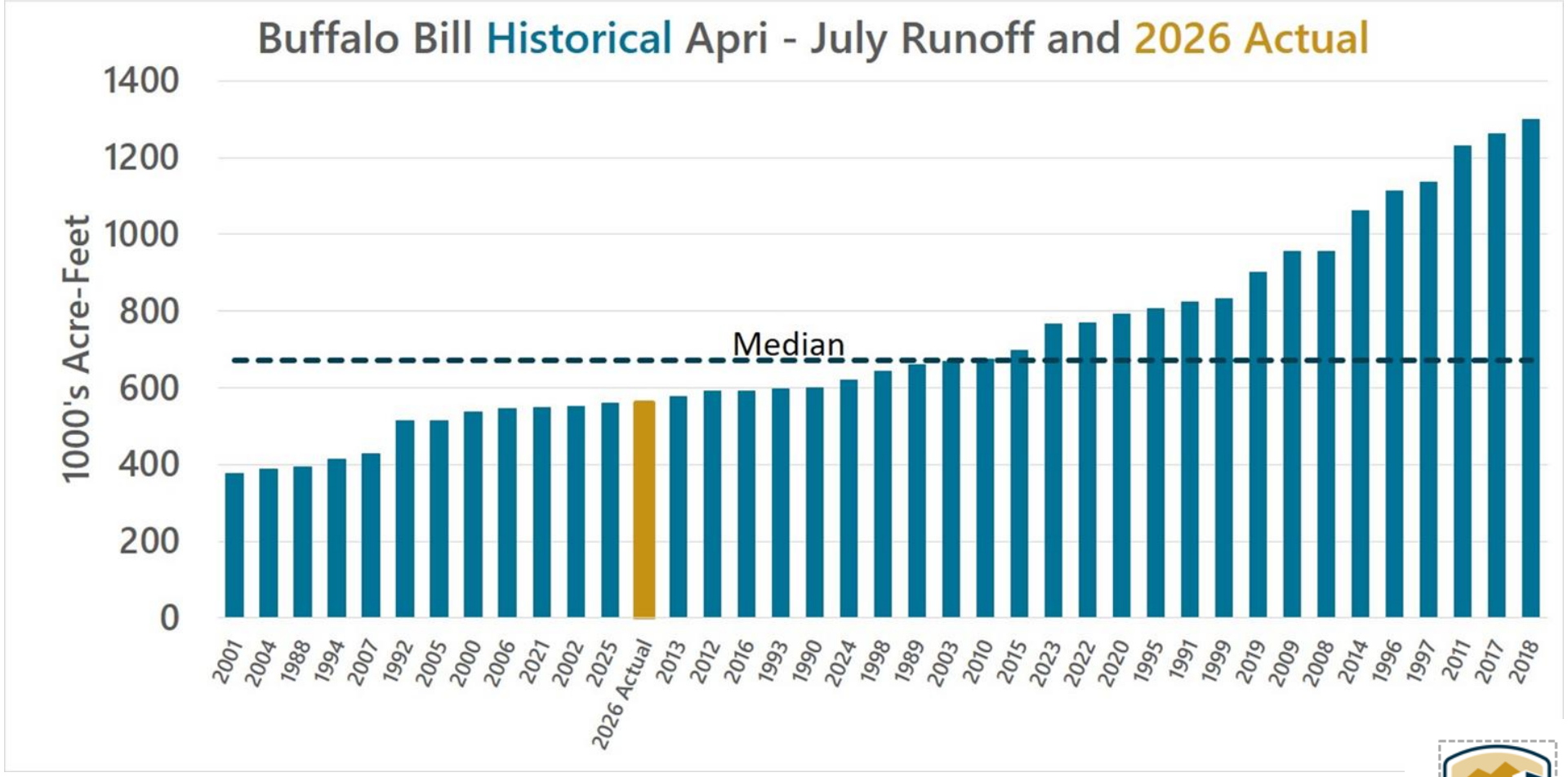
Wyoming Reservoirs

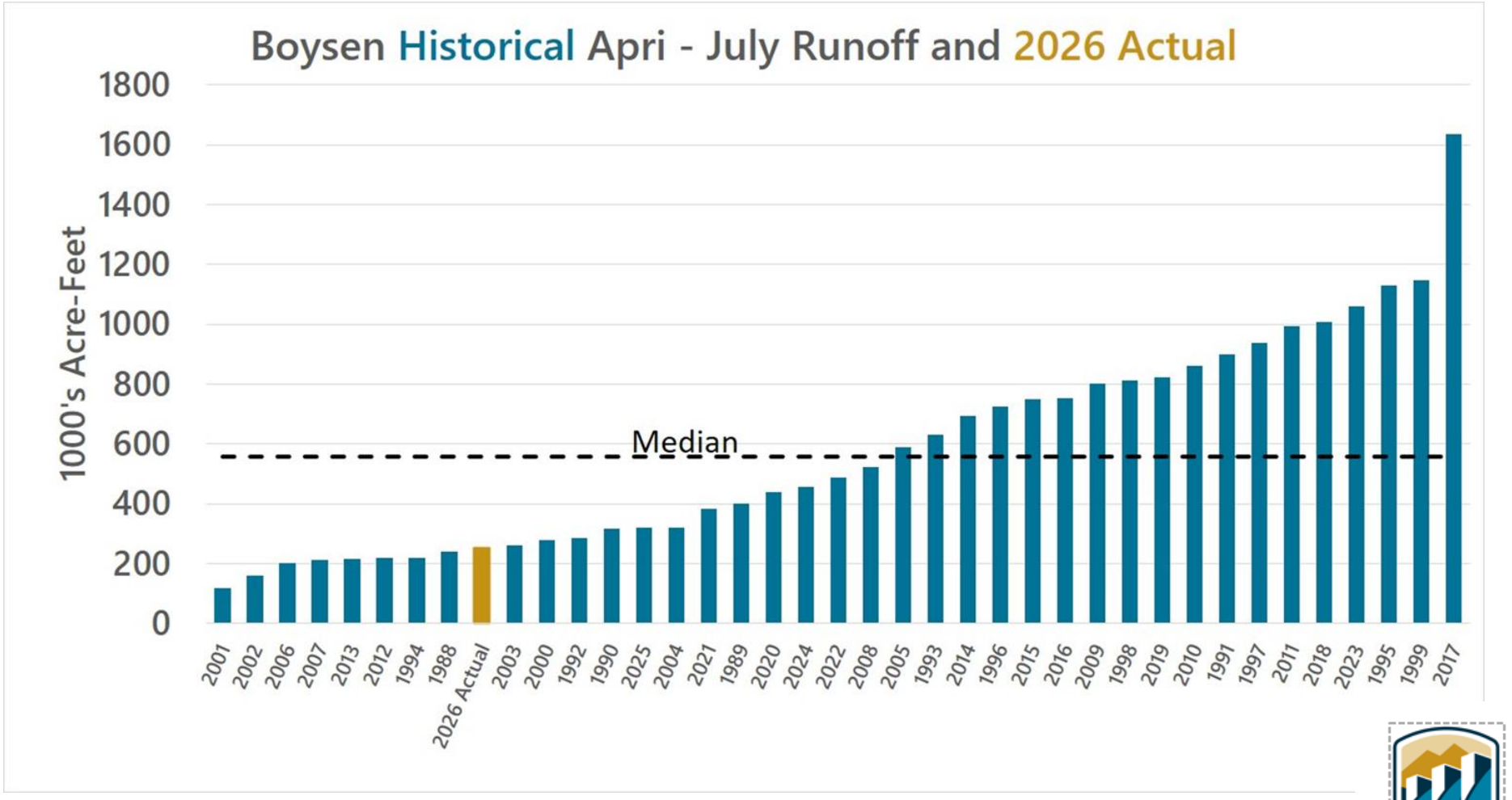


Reservoir Storage

- Minor changes in storage
- Except Buffalo Bill

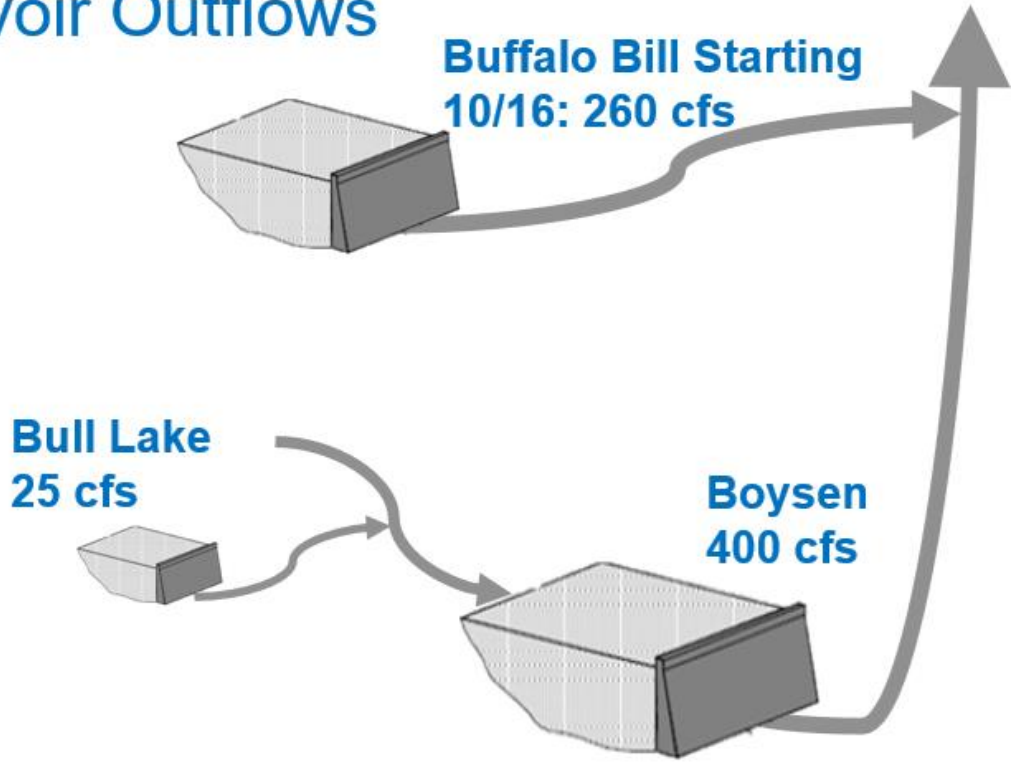
https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu/surface_water/teacups.html

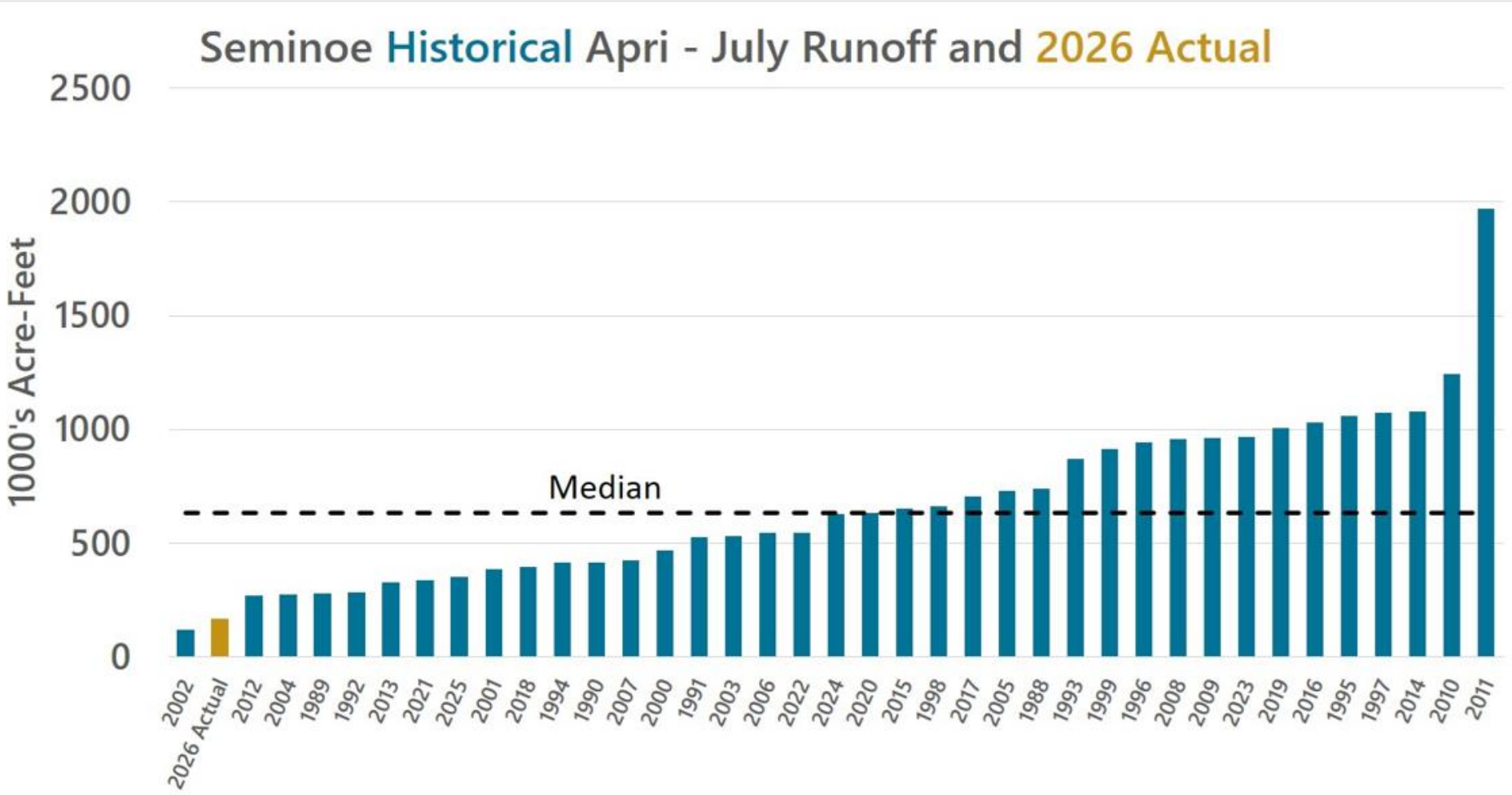

Buffalo Bill Historical Apri - July Runoff and 2026 Actual
1000's Acre-Feet
1400
1200
1000
800
600
400
200
0
Median
2001
2004
1988
1994
2007
1992
2005
2000
2006
2021
2002
2025
2026 Actual
2013
2012
2016
1993
1990
2024
1998
1989
2003
2010
2015
2023
2022
2020
1995
1991
1999
2019
2009
2008
2014
1996
1997
2011
2017
2018


Boysen Historical Apri - July Runoff and 2026 Actual
1000's Acre-Feet
1800
1600
1400
1200
1000
800
600
400
200
0
Median
2001
2002
2006
2007
2013
2012
1994
1988
2026 Actual
2003
2000
1992
1990
2025
2004
2021
1989
2020
2024
2022
2008
2005
1993
2014
1996
2015
2016
2009
1998
2019
2010
1991
1997
2011
2018
2023
1995
1999
2017

Current Reservoir Outflows






Seminoe Historical Apri - July Runoff and 2026 Actual
1000's Acre-Feet
2500
2000
1500
1000
500
0
Median
2002
2026 Actual
2012
2004
1989
1992
2013
2021
2025
2001
2018
1994
1990
2007
2000
1991
2003
2006
2022
2024
2020
2015
1998
2017
2005
1988
1993
1999
1996
2008
2009
2023
2019
2016
1995
1997
2014
2010
2011

Current Reservoir Conditions: North Platte System

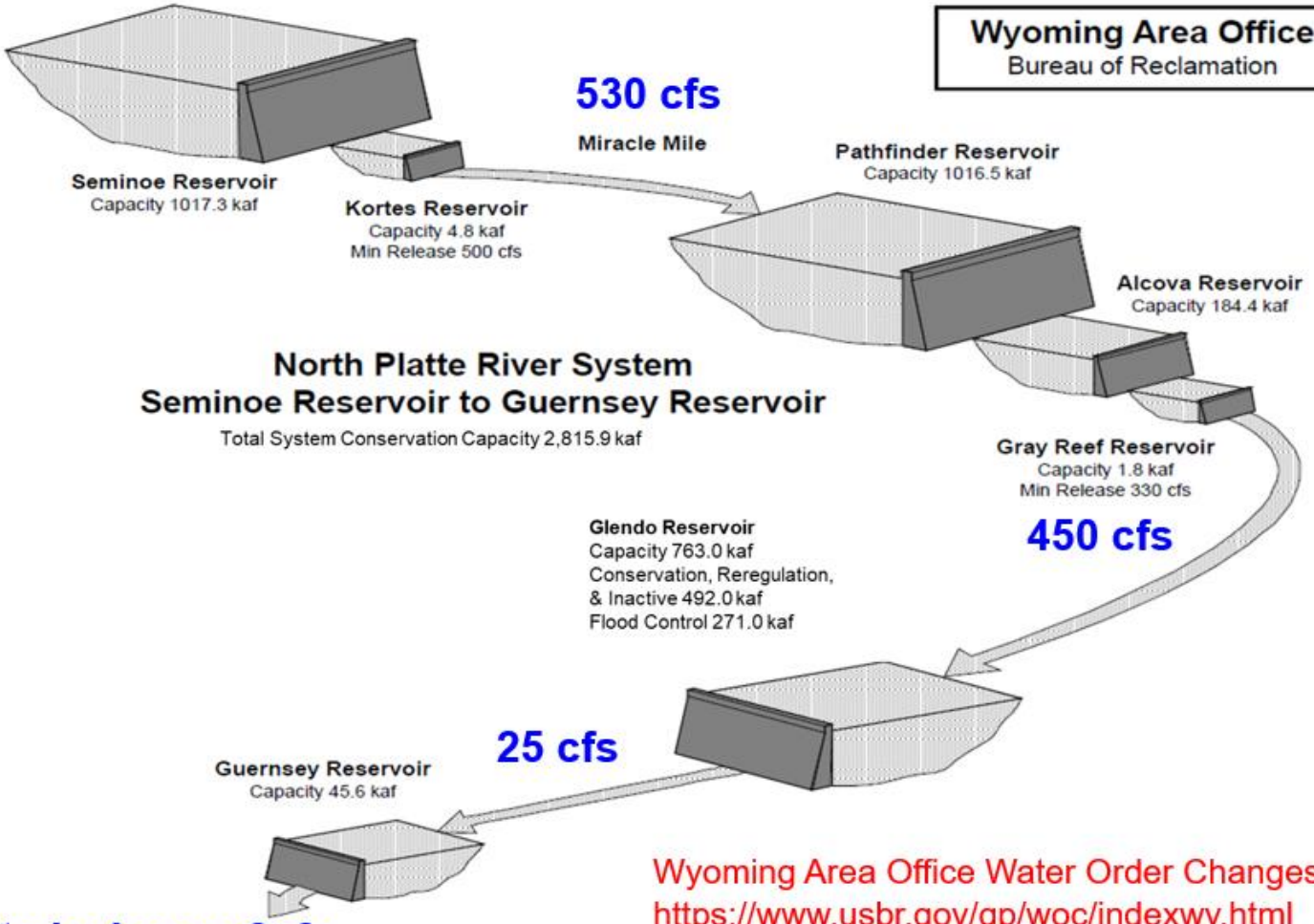


North Platte System (Oct 13th):

Reservoir	Content	Capacity	% of Full	% of Avg
Seminoe	227,760	1,017,300	22%	37%
Pathfinder	181,033	1,070,000	17%	32%
Glendo	155,961	492,000	93%	102%

— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Wyoming Area Office
Bureau of Reclamation



North Platte River System
Seminoe Reservoir to Guernsey Reservoir

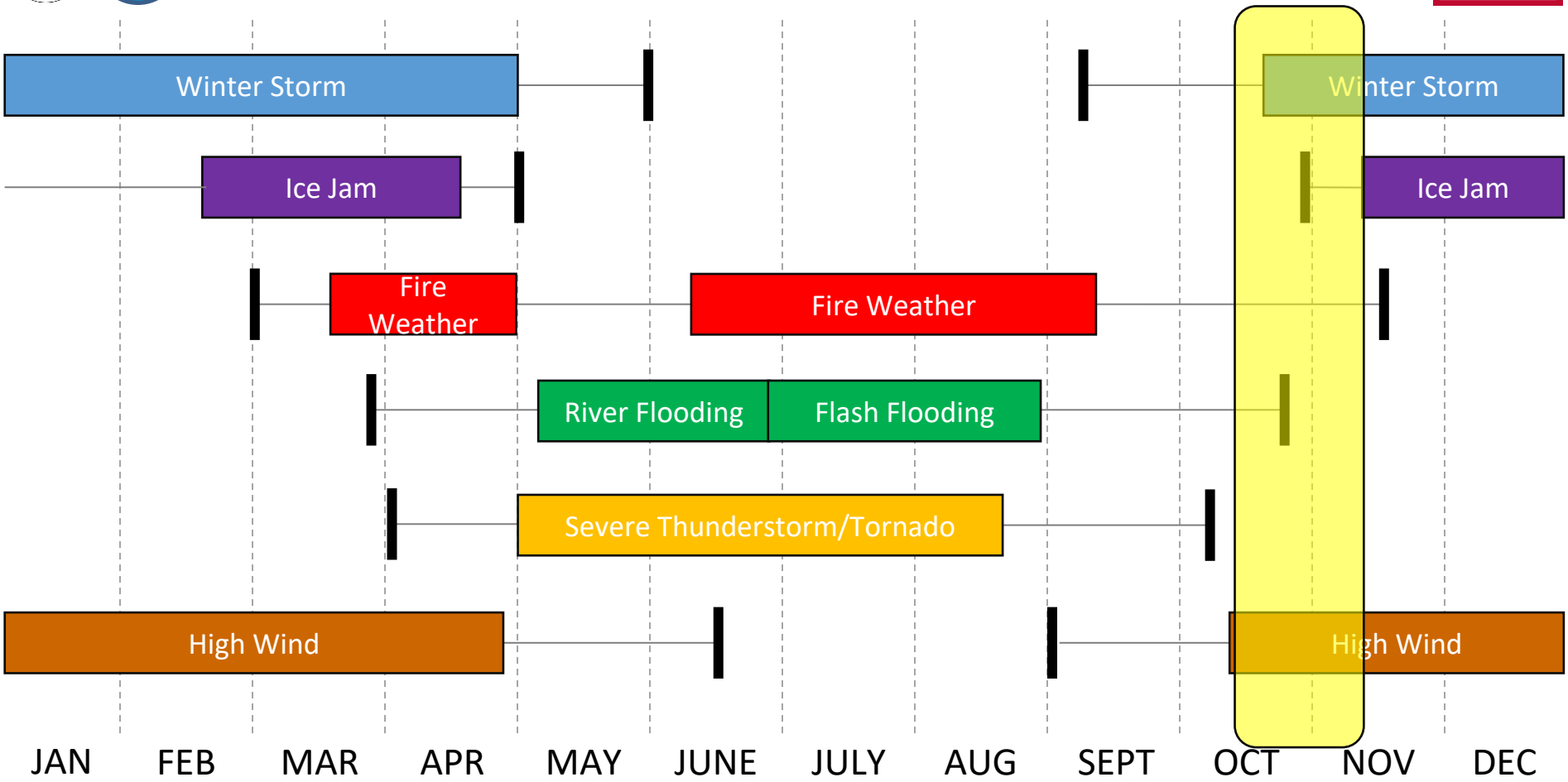
Total System Conservation Capacity 2,815.9 kaf

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

Gate leakage ~3cfs

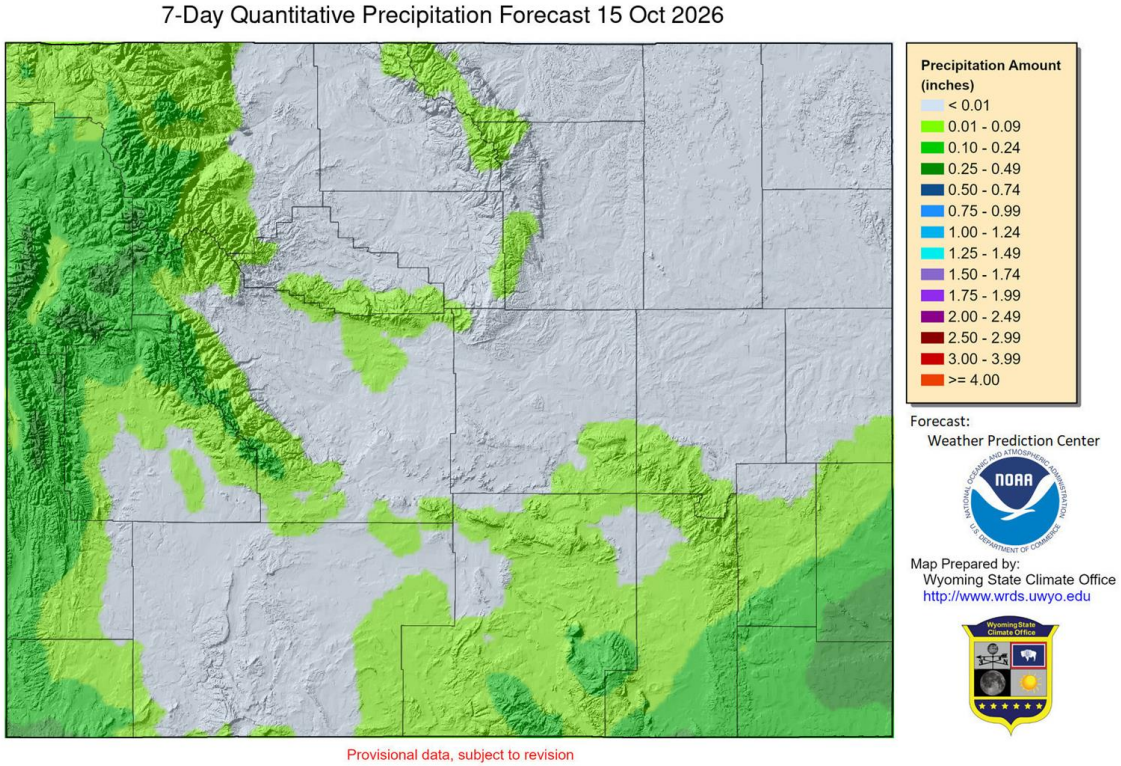
Weather Info & Forecasts

NWS Wyoming - Typical Hazard Calendar



7-Day Total Precipitation Forecast

Through October 22nd



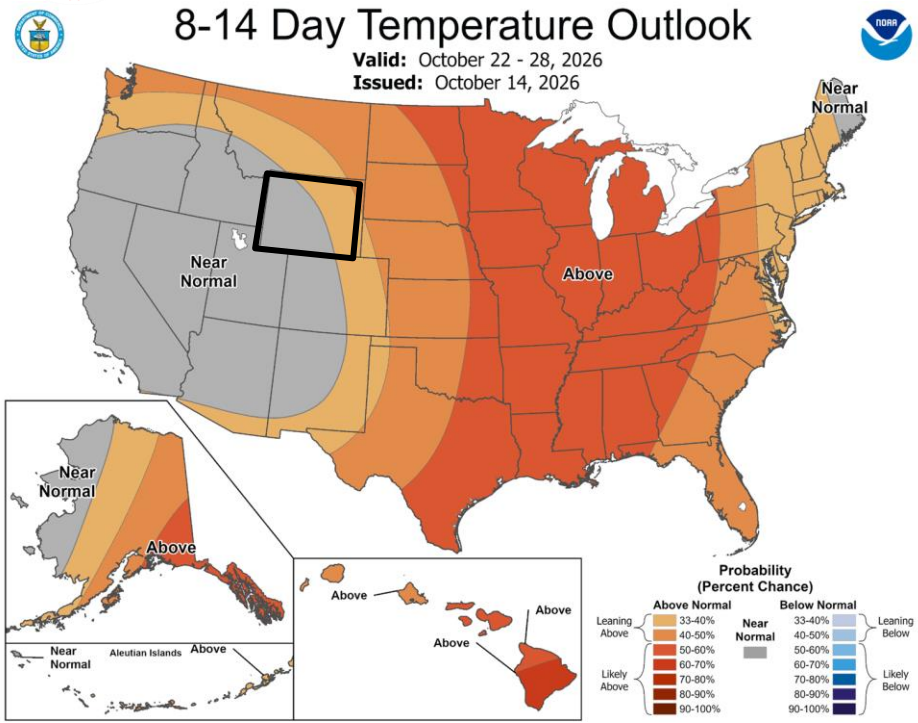
The Quantitative Precipitation Forecast shows the liquid amount of forecasted precipitation over the next 7 days
The Forecast is created by the National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center
Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Weather Service, National Centers for Environmental Prediction, and Weather Prediction Center - https://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov
Map Layout Created 15 Oct 2026 https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu

- Most of the precipitation won't arrive until Tuesday, Day 6, with a front moving in from the west.
- Higher moisture total potential in the western ranges and the southeast but less than ½ inch expected anywhere.
- There will be snow in the higher elevation mountains

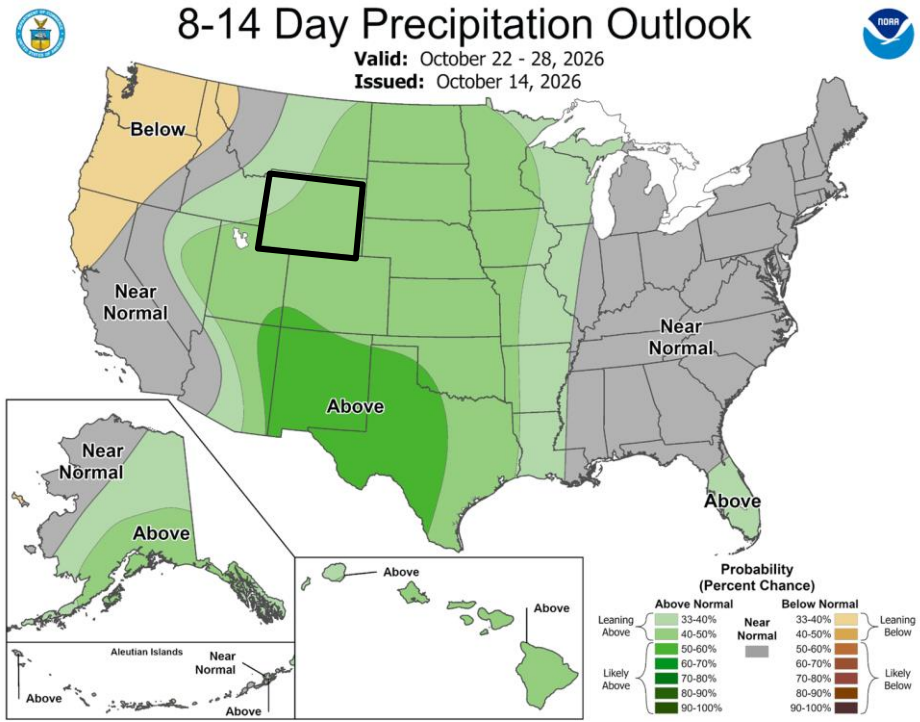
https://bit.ly/7_dayQPForecast

8-14 Day Outlook
(Oct 22-28)

https://bit.ly/CPC8_14Day



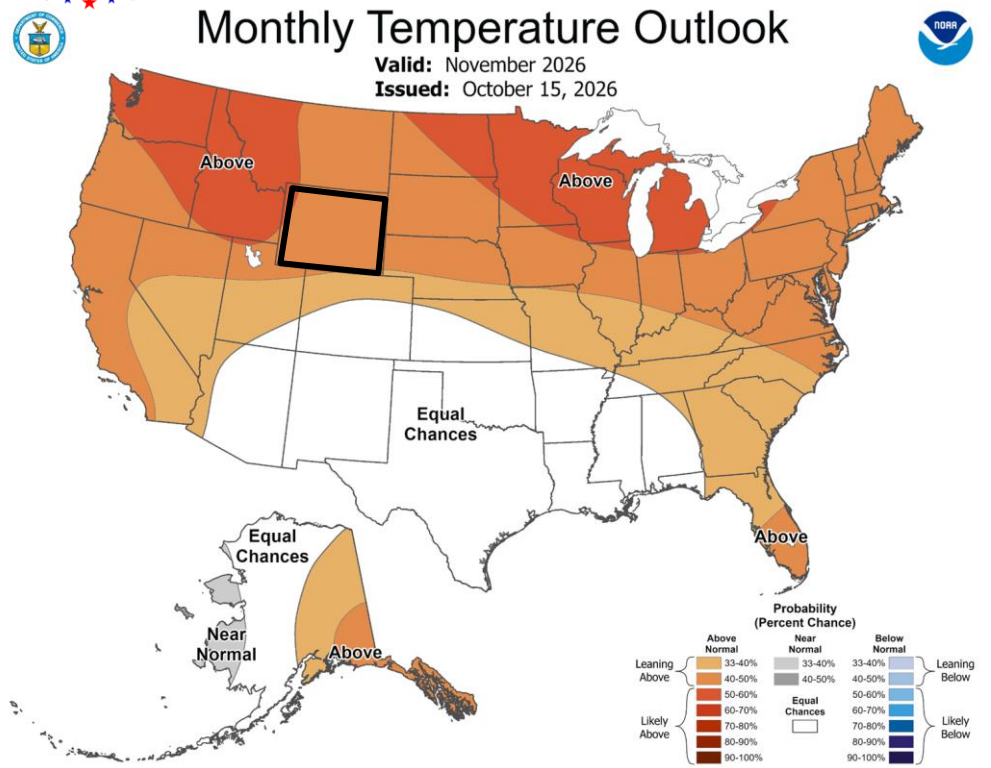
- Leaning warmer than normal in the east
- Near normal in the west
- **Interactive Version:** cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/814day/interactive/index.php

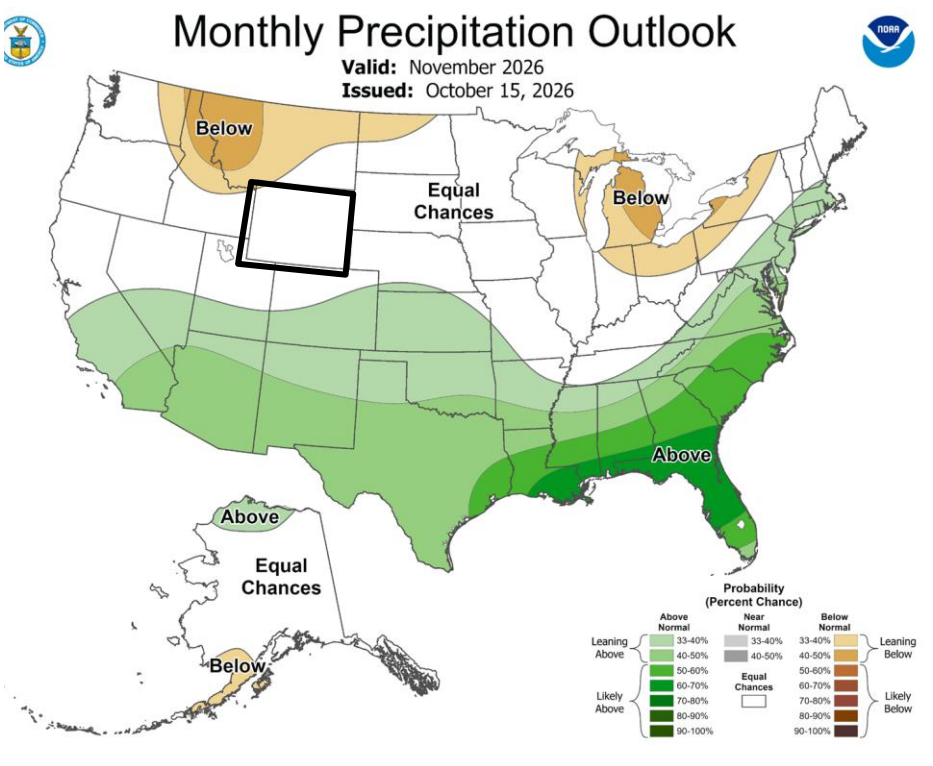


- Leaning wetter than normal statewide (40-50%) with a small part in the northwest 33-40%

1 Month Outlook
(November)

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



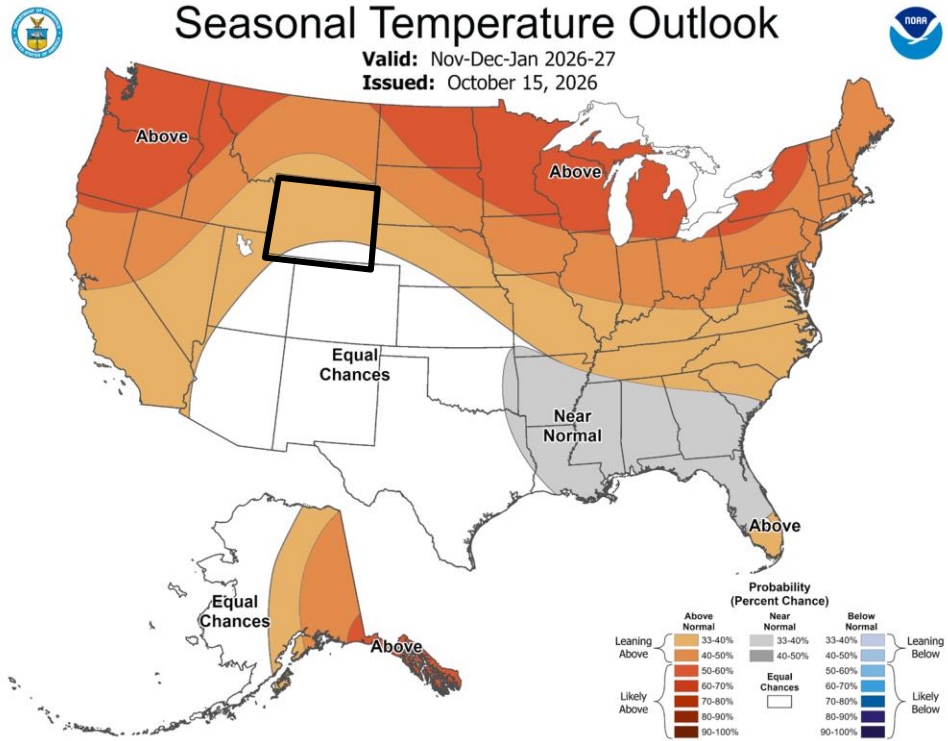


- Leaning to above normal (40-50%)

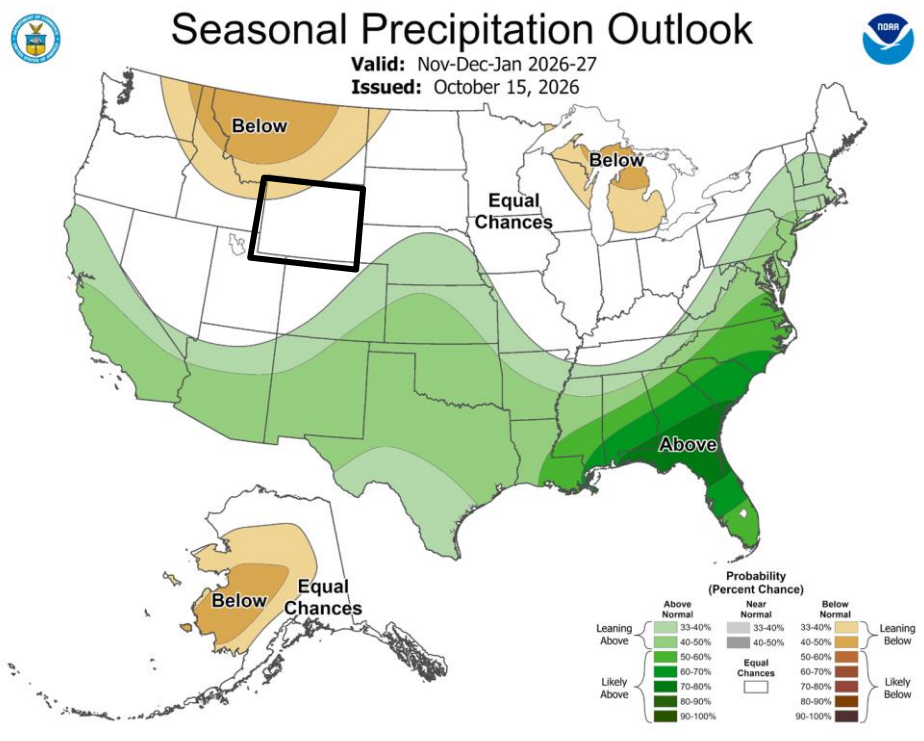
- Showing equal chances of above, below, or at normal. Climatology is the best forecast

3 Month Outlook
(Nov - Dec - Jan)

https://bit.ly/CPC_Seasonal



- Slight lean toward warmer than normal statewide



- Slight lean toward drier than normal extreme northwest
- Equal chances elsewhere

WY Conditions and Outlook Webinar
October 2026



Rock Springs Field Office
280 Highway 191N
Rock Springs, WY

(Pre-Drought)

September to Late October

- I begin using tools such as NOAA Palmer drought index, National Integrated Drought Information System, Water Resources Data System & State Climate Office, and local climate data to evaluate percent soil moisture before winter freezing temperatures arrive to capture and hold water for upcoming spring.

November to February

- I use same tools to monitor temperature and snow load to see how far off average the resource area is. Field observations and tools such as Wyoming transportation cameras are used. For winter sheep grazing, I will be in close communication with the grazing operator to find out where grazing is occurring, which is often dictated by snow availability. In these cases, grazing operators are a reliable source for on the ground information for current conditions impacting livestock distribution. If drought is looking likely, permittees that begin grazing in the spring will be notified that drought conditions are developing.

March

- At this time, I will contact permittees to gauge how they feel the current state of drought is going to impact their grazing operations. I then inform the operator if there is minimal improvement by April, to start preparing contingency plans to discuss with me.

(Pre-Drought Moving Into Drought)

April – May

- Prior to this time, I will have visited the allotments most affected by drought conditions. I will then contact the permittee(s) to notify them of allotment conditions. At this time, I will discuss any contingency plans with permittee(s) i.e. (turn out dates, pasture move dates, percent non-use, water hauling locations etc.). ***These options are analyzed with consideration with the livestock operator's constraints.***

June – September

- I will actively monitor allotment rangeland conditions via livestock forage utilization and water availability based on the contingency plans that were set in place in April/May. I will inform the grazing operator if utilization levels and or range conditions have surpassed the allowable objectives dictated by the Allotment Management Plan. When this happens, livestock will move pastures early or leave an allotment early.
- **If the current grazing seasons drought is severe, I will inform the grazing operator(s) that the next years grazing season will potentially be affected if climatic conditions do not improve.**

(Drought)

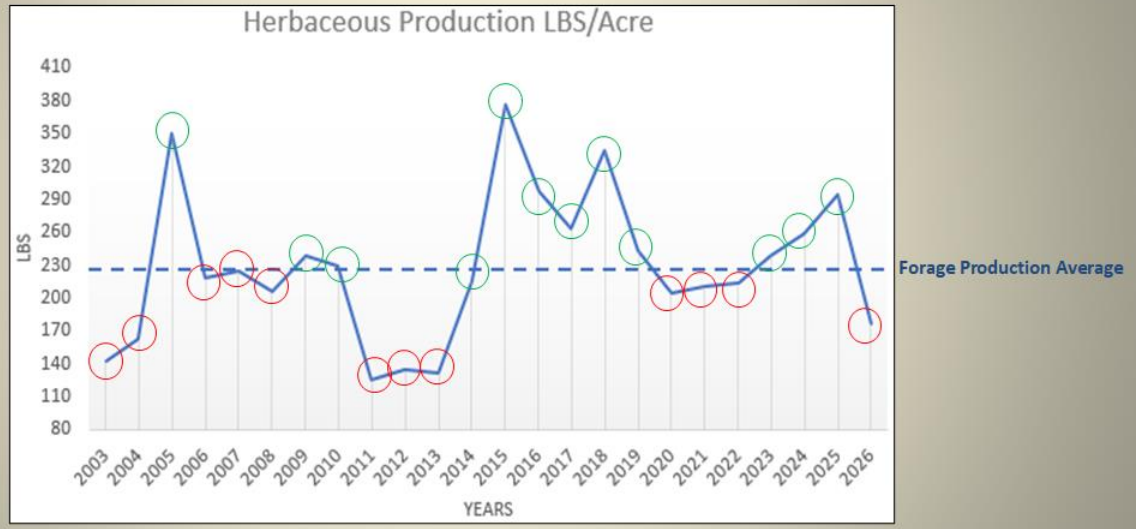
November to March

- I begin analyzing forage data (livestock utilization and plant conditions) to see how the land reacted to the previous grazing season intensities. This data will be used in conjunction with sources such as National Integrated Drought Information System and long-term forecasts to hypothesize how well the rangelands will recover.

April

- At this time, I will contact the permittees whose allotments were most impacted from the previous years drought to inform them that the allotment will need rest from livestock grazing. A meeting will be held with the grazing operator, state land agencies and all interested public to discuss reasons for BLM's recommendation.
- During the meeting, supporting evidence will include but is not limited to (previous years utilization data, forage production, future climate forecast predictions etc.)
- **The goal of this meeting is to determine how to properly manage grazing in the allotment while drought conditions persist. This could include voluntary non-use, adjusted turn-out, go-home dates, adjusted stocking rates, or other management strategies**

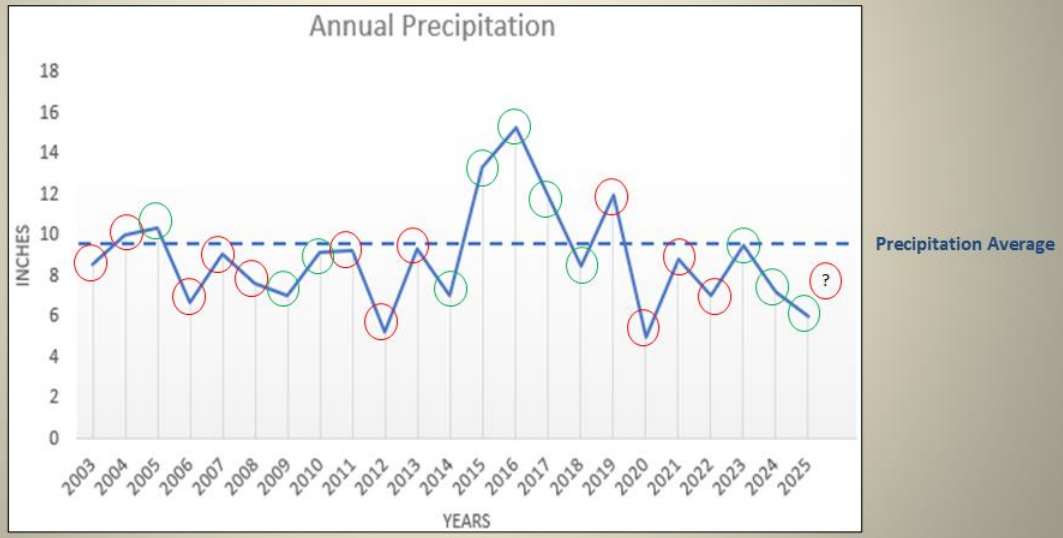
Average Herbaceous Forage Production (Rock Springs) from 2003-2026



Above Average

Below Average

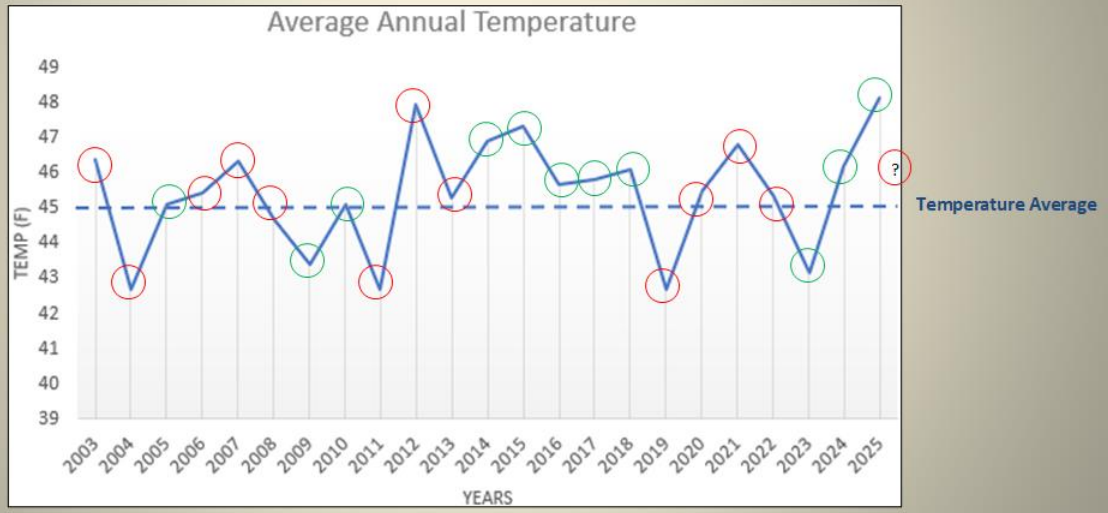
Average Herbaceous Forage Production (Rock Springs) Compared to Precipitation from 2003-2026



Above Average Herbaceous Production

Below Average Herbaceous Production

Average Herbaceous Forage Production (Rock Springs) Compared to Temperature from 2003-2026



Above Average Herbaceous Production

Below Average Herbaceous Production

How Below Average Herbaceous Production Years Compare to Previous La Nina and El Nino

2002-2003 **(above average annual temperature, near average precipitation and below average forage production)**
Dormant Season: (Sep – Mar) = La Nina → Neutral
Growing Season: (Apr – Aug) = El Nino

2003-2004 **(below average annual temperature, below average precipitation and below average forage production)**
Dormant Season: (Sep – Mar) = Neutral → El Nino
Growing Season: (Apr – Aug) = Neutral

2005-2006 **(above average annual temperature, below average precipitation and below average forage production)**
Dormant Season: (Sep – Mar) = La Nina → Neutral
Growing Season: (Apr – Aug) = La Nina

2006-2007 **(above average annual temperature, below average precipitation and below average forage production)**
Dormant Season: (Sep – Mar) = Neutral → La Nina
Growing Season: (Apr – Aug) = El Nino → Neutral

2007-2008 **(above average annual temperature, below average precipitation and below average forage production)**
Dormant Season: (Sep – Mar) = La Nina
Growing Season: (Apr – Aug) = La Nina → Neutral

How Below Average Herbaceous Production Years Compare to Previous La Nina and El Nino

2010-2011 **(below average annual temperature, below average precipitation and below average forage production)**
Dormant Season: (Sep – Mar) = La Nina
Growing Season: (Apr – Aug) = La Nina → Neutral

2011-2012 **(near average annual temperature, below average precipitation and below average forage production)**
Dormant Season: (Sep – Mar) = La Nina
Growing Season: (Apr – Aug) = La Nina → Neutral

2012-2013 **(above average annual temperature, below average precipitation and below average forage production)**
Dormant Season: (Sep – Mar) = Neutral
Growing Season: (Apr – Aug) = Neutral

2019-2020 **(below average annual temperature, below average precipitation and below average forage production)**
Dormant Season: (Sep – Mar) = Neutral
Growing Season: (Apr – Aug) = Neutral → La Nina

2020-2021 **(above average annual temperature, below average precipitation and below average forage production)**
Dormant Season: (Sep – Mar) = La Nina
Growing Season: (Apr – Aug) = La Nina

How Below Average Herbaceous Production Years Compare to Previous La Nina and El Nino

2021-2022 **(above average annual temperature, below average precipitation and below average forage production)**
Dormant Season: (Sep – Mar) = La Nina
Growing Season: (Apr – Aug) = La Nina

2025-2026 **(above average annual temperature, BELOW average precipitation and below average forage production)**
Dormant Season: (Sep – Mar) = La Nina
Growing Season: (Apr – Aug) = Neutral

2026-2027
Dormant Season: (Sep – Mar) = (El Nino????)
Growing Season: (Apr – Aug) = (????)

Note: Since 2003 to present, years of below annual forage production has been contributed to years in a LA Nina state. In addition, during years of La Nina, 60% of time annual temperature is above average and 80% of time annual precipitation is below average.

BLM RSFO Management Action for 2026-2027 Grazing Season

Currently, the RSFO works on the premise of relying on accurate and sound data when making management decisions. This is done to limit harmful impacts towards the livestock industry.

Due to the high uncertainty of future climatic conditions, BLM is approaching livestock management on a case-by-case basis. Until a better understanding of what is to be expected the 2026 - 2027 winter and following 2027 spring, BLM is not anticipated to make any changes to livestock grazing operations based on climate alone. However, actions can be taken if BLM notes areas of unacceptable utilization or rangeland degradation.

BLM Resources for Addressing Drought

Sustaining Public Lands and Resources during Drought Conditions (all programs)
https://www.blm.gov/about/how-we-manage/adaptive-management/drought-management

Livestock Grazing

IM 2024-034
https://www.blm.gov/policy/im-2024-034

IM 2013-094
https://www.blm.gov/policy/im-2013-094

November Webinar

DATE CHANGE

Thursday, Nov. 12th 1-2 pm MT

Tony Bergantino
WRDS & State Climate Office
antonius@uwyo.edu

Geri Swanson
National Weather Service
geri.swanson@noaa.gov

Aaron Fiaschetti
USGS
afiaschetti@usgs.gov

Shawn James
Bureau of Land Management
sjames@blm.gov

Liz Cresto
Bureau of Reclamation
ecresto@usbr.gov

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!

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