

Milk River Project Water Supply and Projected Operations



July 2025



Fresno Reservoir, July 2025

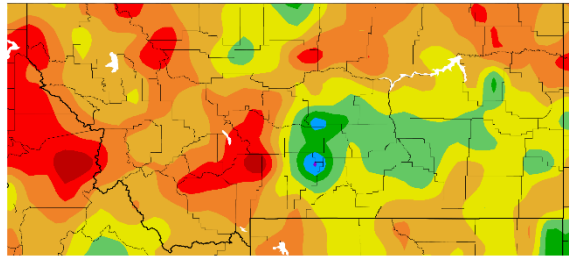
The July monthly operating plan covers actual operations from October 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, and projected operations for July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. The projections are based on forecasted water supply and use.

Median Forecasted Operations	Sherburne	Fresno	Nelson
July Inflow Forecast (kaf)	11	22	6
Percent of Average	60	83	89
July Release Forecast (cfs)	395	94	0
July 31 Elevation Forecast (feet)	4777.8	2553.6	2215.6

Climate Departure from Normal

June 1 through June 30

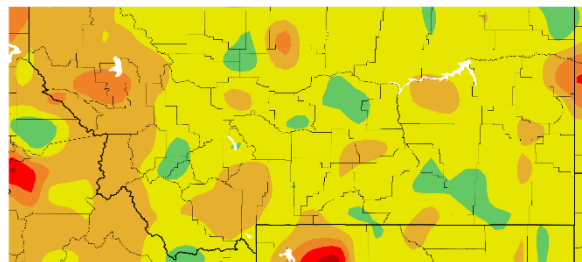
Precipitation



Departure from Normal (inches)

Temperature

Departure from Normal (°F)



HPRCC using provisional data NOAA Regional Climate Centers

CLIMATE SUMMARY

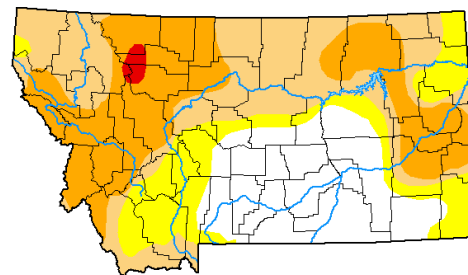
Precipitation was below average, and temperature was above average during June in the St. Mary and Milk River basins.

There is a 40-50% chance that precipitation will be below average during July in the St. Mary and Milk River basins. There is a 50-60% chance that the temperature will be above average during July in both basins.

The drought intensity in the St. Mary and Milk River basins range from moderate to severe.

Montana Drought Monitor Map

June 24, 2025

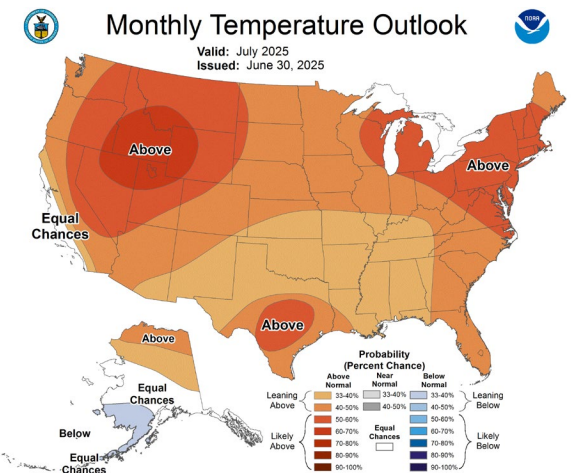
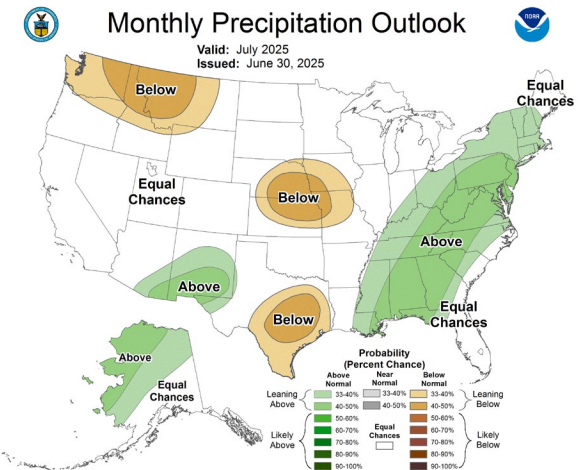


Intensity

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

USDA
NDMC
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

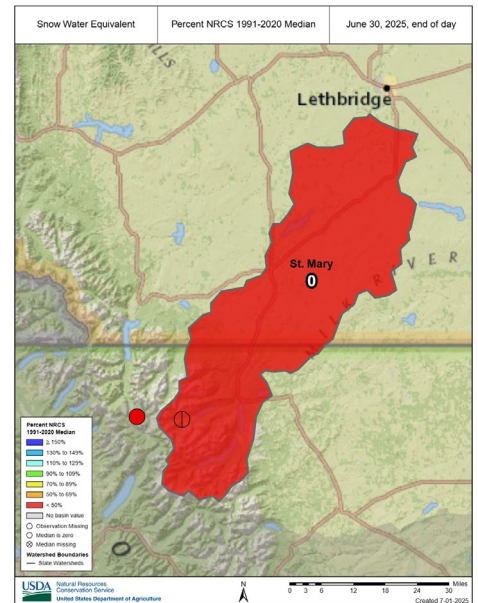
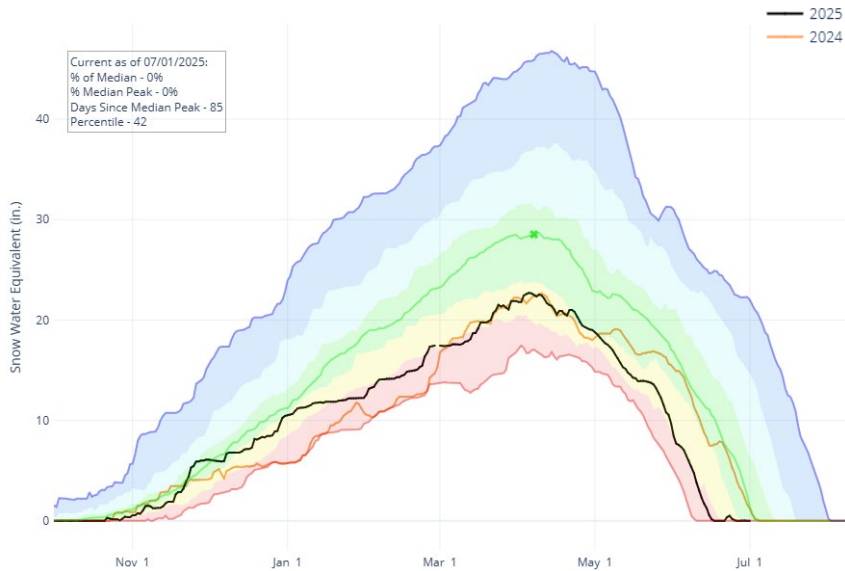
July Climate Outlook



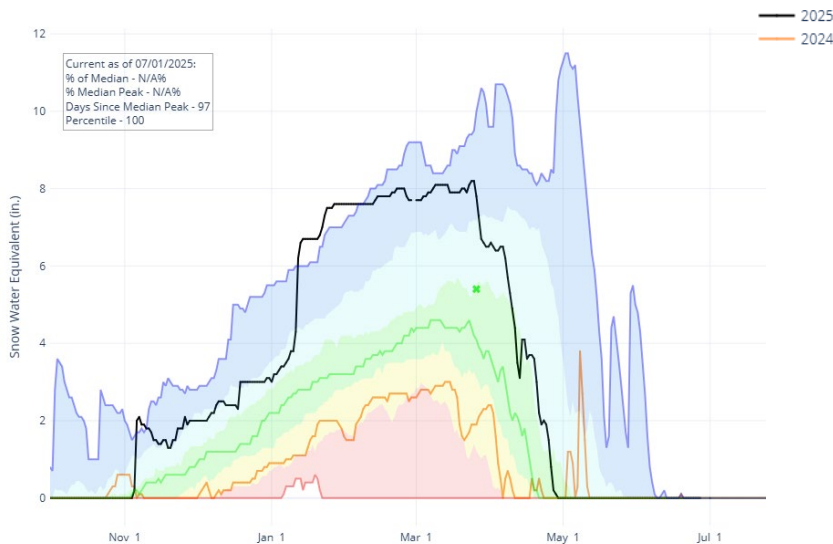
SNOWPACK SUMMARY

The snow water equivalent (SWE) graphs are a composite of SNOTEL sites within the St. Mary and Milk River Basins managed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

St. Mary River Basin



Milk River Basin



NRCS Montana Snow Survey Website:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/mt/snow/>

Statistical shading breaks at 10th, 30th, 50th, 70th, and 90th Percentiles
Normal ('91-'20) – Official median calculated from 1991-2020 data
Normal (POR) – Unofficial mean calculated from Period of Record data

OPERATIONS REVIEW

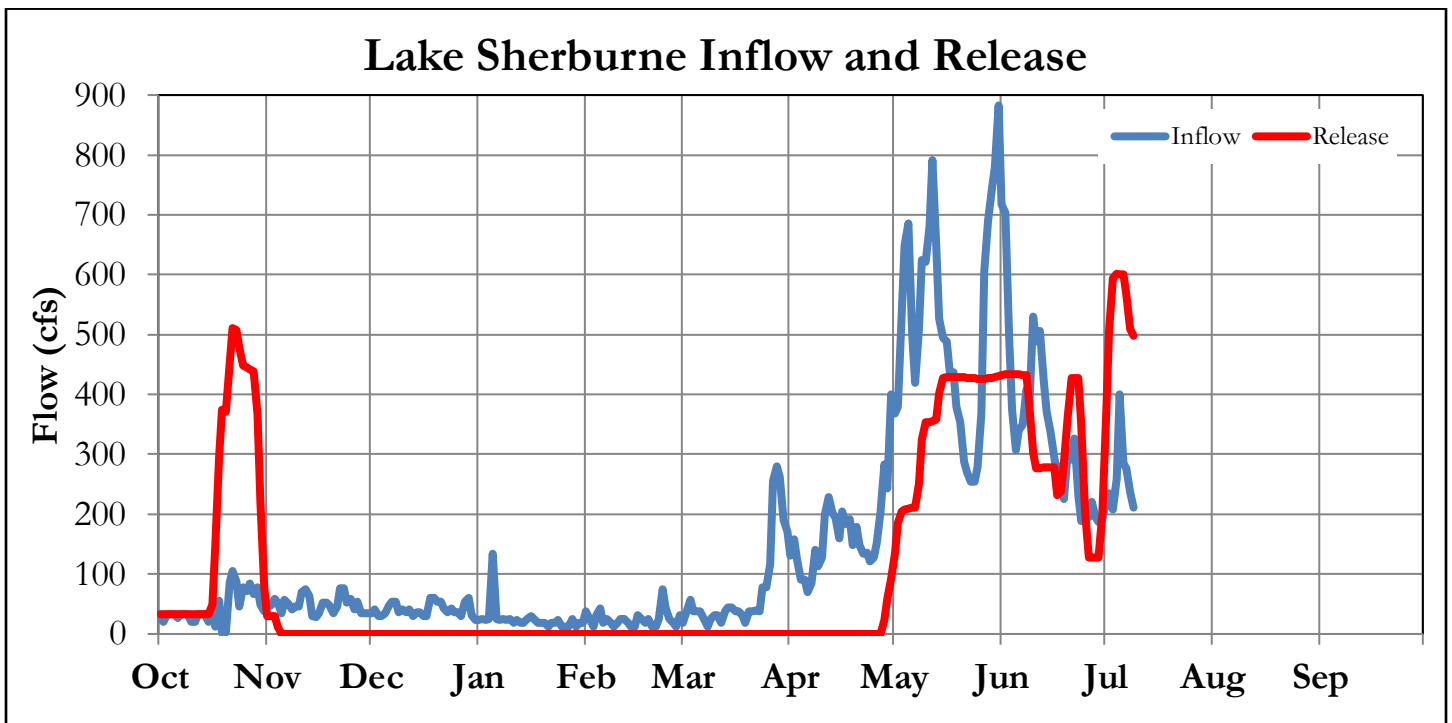
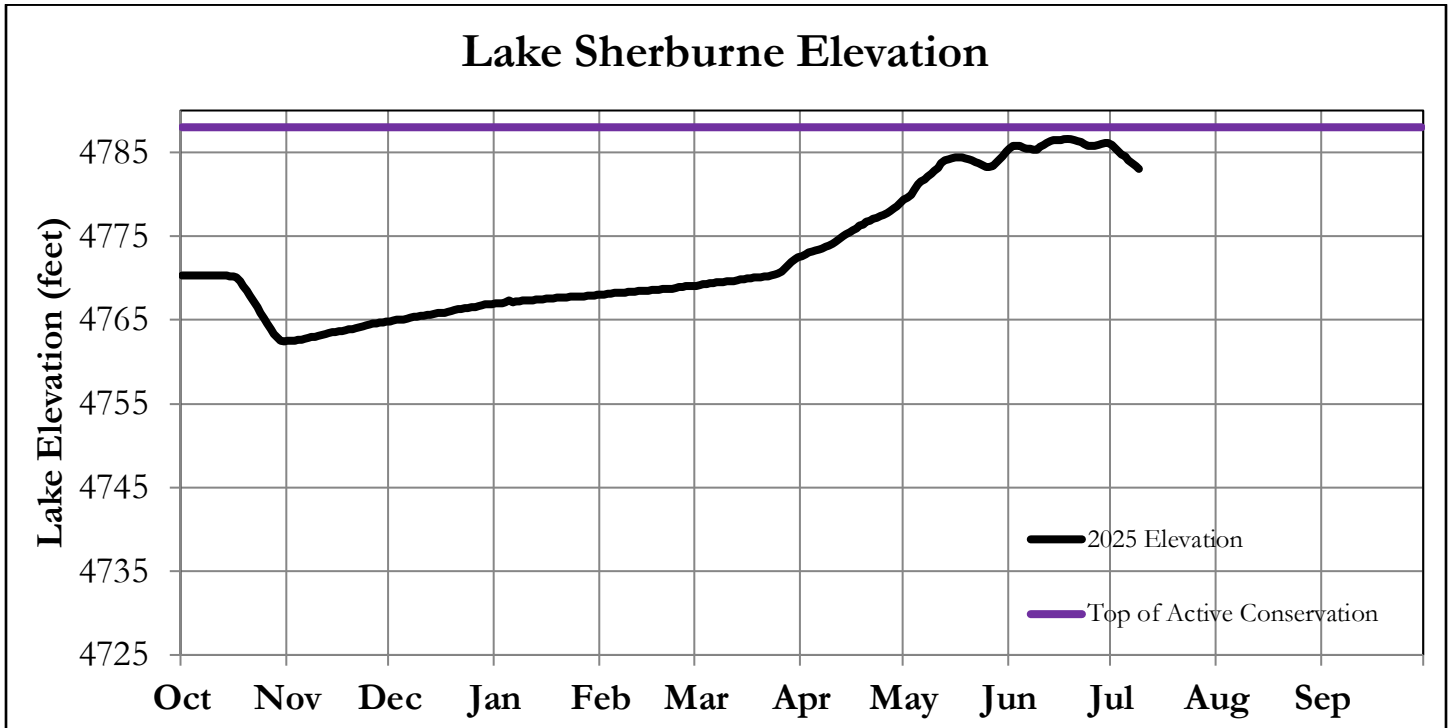
July 1 Elevation and Storage

	Elevation (feet)	Storage (acre-feet)	Percent of Average	Percent Full
Sherburne Reservoir	4786.08	62,880	106	95
Fresno Reservoir	2542.33	8,686	12	9
Nelson Reservoir	2214.40	51,204	80	65

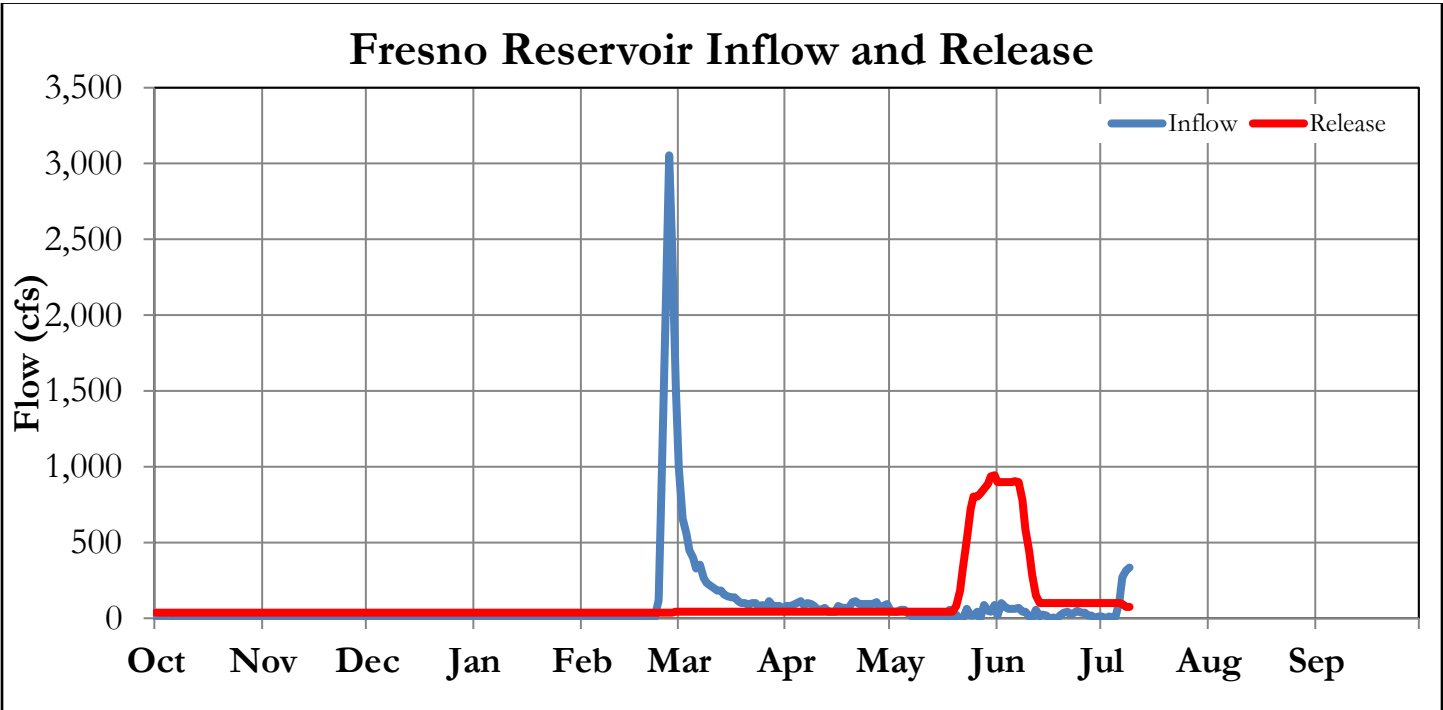
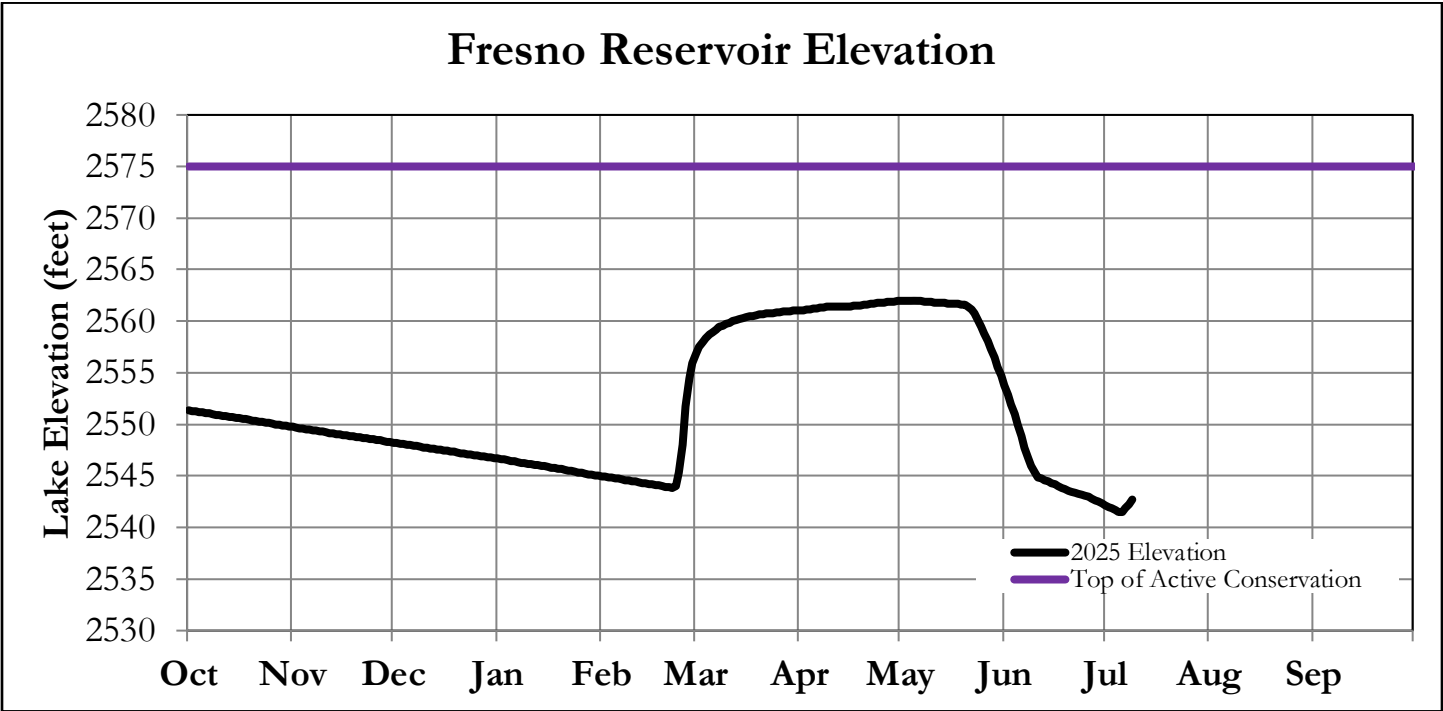
Past Inflows (1,000's of acre-feet)

Month	Sherburne Reservoir		Fresno Reservoir	
	Inflow	% of Average	Inflow	% of Average
Water Year 2025				
October	2.6	40	-0.3	-
November	2.9	37	0.0	-
December	2.5	62	0.1	6
January	1.5	53	0.0	-
February	1.4	56	19.9	456
March	4.4	117	13.6	67
April	9.9	102	4.8	14
May	31.6	101	1.6	4
June	20.5	52	1.9	4
Water Year 2024				
October	5.2	78	1.9	29
November	6.5	84	2.0	68
December	8.4	216	1.3	75
January	3.4	124	0.3	23
February	4.9	205	3.7	86
March	3.7	97	10.6	47
April	10.5	107	17.2	51
May	26.6	85	60.1	144
June	29.3	74	20.6	42
July	16.2	89	-5.9	-
August	7.8	94	-0.1	-
September	3.7	69	1.0	5

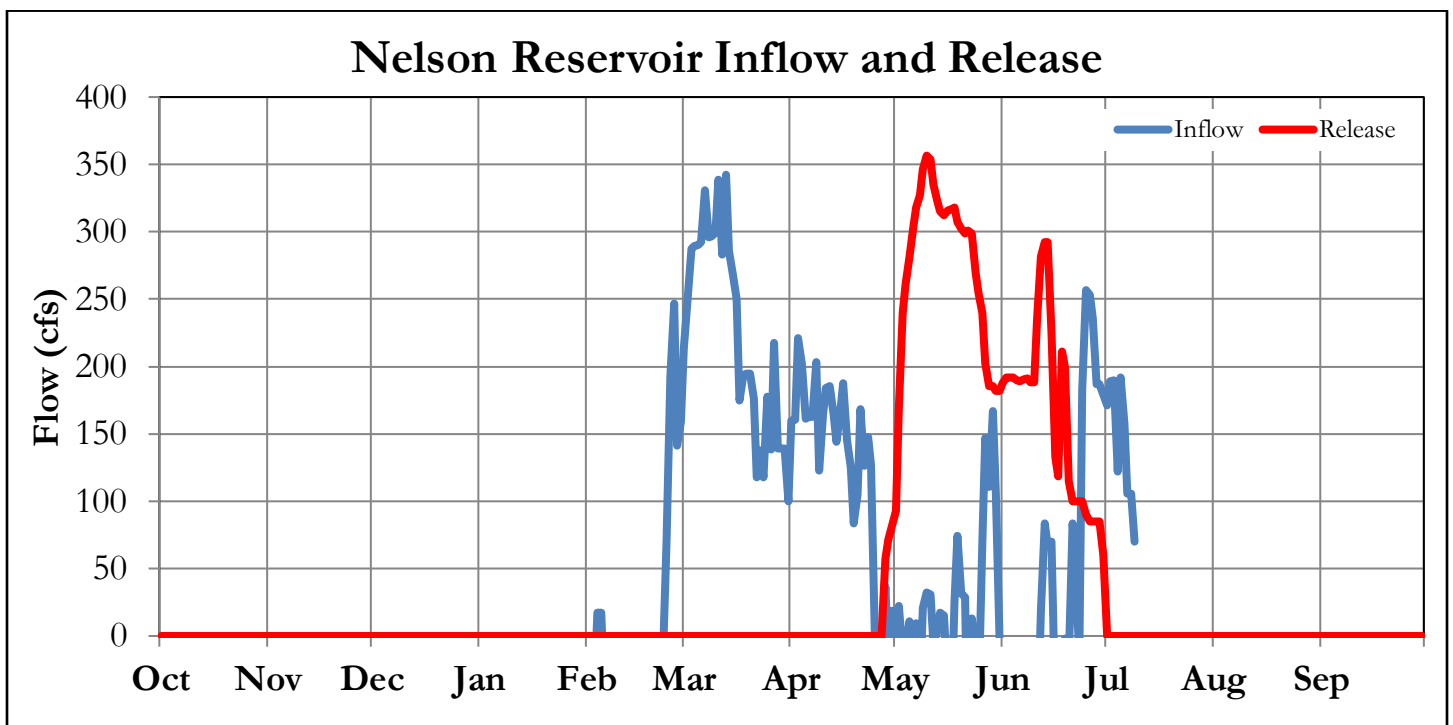
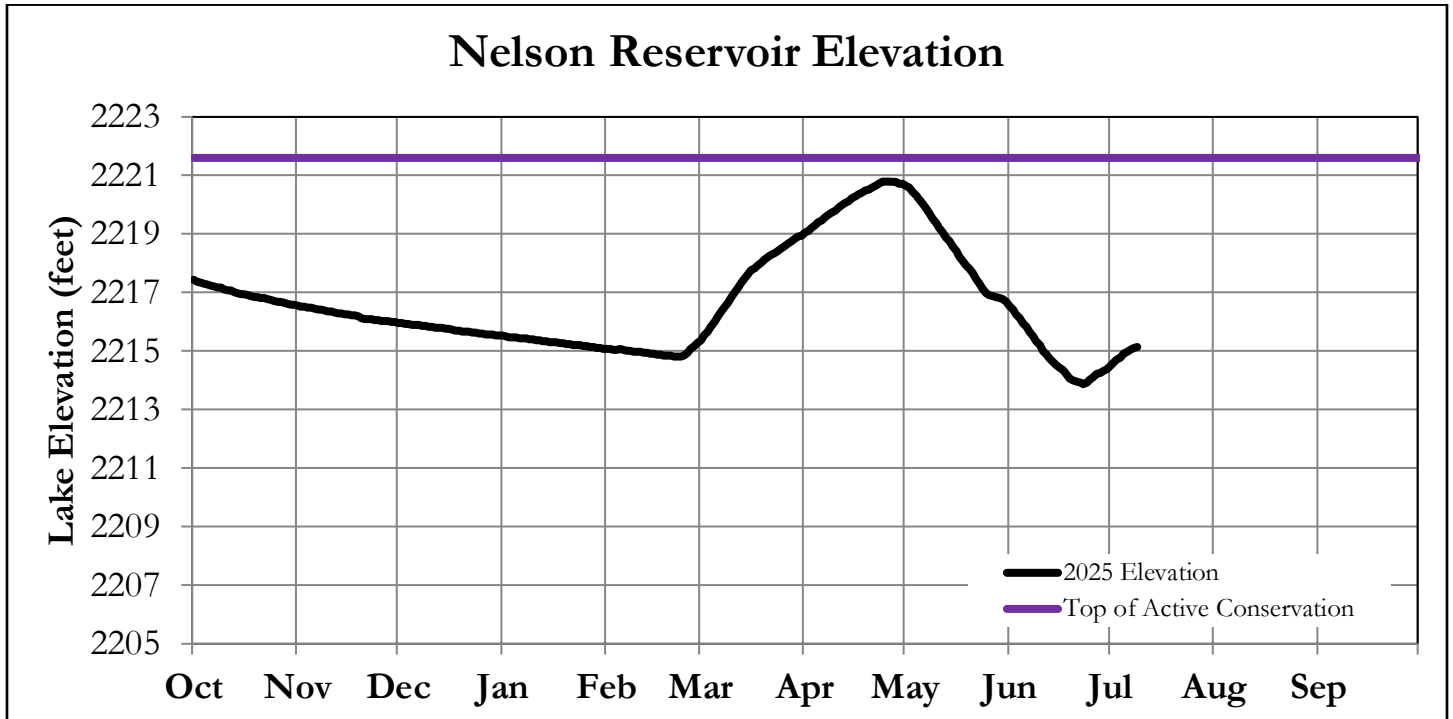
OPERATIONS REVIEW: LAKE SHERBURNE



OPERATIONS REVIEW: FRESNO RESERVOIR



OPERATIONS REVIEW: NELSON RESERVOIR



OPERATIONS OUTLOOK (July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026)

Median Inflow Conditions

Sherburne Reservoir		Initial Content	62,880	acre-feet									
		Elevation	4786.08	feet									
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Sherburne Inflow (kaf)	11.1	6.4	3.9	4.5	3.9	3.3	2.9	2.8	3.2	9.5	32.9	39.3	123.7
Sherburne Release (kaf)	24.3	15.4	21.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.3	36.7	15.9	3.4	120.4
Sherburne Release (cfs)	395	250	360	0	0	0	0	0	54	617	259	57	
Net Content Change (kaf)	-13.2	-9.0	-17.5	4.5	3.9	3.3	2.9	2.8	-0.1	-27.2	17.0	35.9	3.3
End of Month Content (kaf)	49.7	40.7	23.2	27.7	31.6	34.9	37.8	40.6	40.5	13.3	30.3	66.2	
End of Month Elevation (feet)	4777.8	4771.5	4756.5	4760.7	4764.1	4766.9	4769.3	4771.4	4771.4	4746.0	4763.0	4788.0	
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
St. Mary River Runoff (kaf)	56.9	25.3	16.7	11.9	7.4	6.0	7.2	6.1	8.7	24.5	95.5	135.0	401.2
Natural Flow at Boundary (kaf)	68.0	31.7	20.6	16.4	11.3	9.3	10.1	8.9	11.9	34.0	128.4	174.3	524.9
St. Mary Canal Diversion (cfs)	600	250	0	0	0	0	0	0	99	600	600	600	
St. Mary Canal Diversion (kaf)	36.9	15.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.1	35.7	36.9	35.7	166.7
Fresno Reservoir		Initial Content	8,686	acre-feet									
		Elevation	2542.33	feet									
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Milk River Runoff (kaf)	0.3	0.1	0.6	2.0	0.5	0.2	0.6	3.3	14.5	15.1	7.3	5.0	49.5
From St. Mary Canal (kaf)	22.1	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	28.6	31.4	26.8	128.9
Fresno Inflow (kaf)	22.4	20.1	0.6	2.0	0.5	0.2	0.6	3.3	14.5	43.7	38.7	31.8	178.4
Fresno Release (kaf)	6.1	6.1	6.0	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.2	2.5	2.4	28.4	46.3	109.9
Fresno Release (cfs)	99	99	101	41	40	41	41	40	41	40	462	778	
Net Content Change (kaf)	16.3	14.0	-5.4	-0.5	-1.9	-2.3	-1.9	1.1	12.0	41.3	10.3	-14.5	68.5
End of Month Content (kaf)	25.0	39.0	33.6	33.1	31.2	28.9	27.0	28.1	40.1	81.4	91.7	77.2	
End of Month Elevation (feet)	2553.4	2560.3	2557.8	2557.6	2556.7	2555.5	2554.5	2555.1	2560.8	2572.9	2575.0	2572.0	
Irrigation Allotment (ft/ac)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.50	0.75
Irrigation Delivery (kaf)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	23.2	46.3	69.5
FBIIP Demand (kaf)	1.0	3.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.0
Fresno to Dodson Gain (kaf)	3.8	0.7	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.4	18.2	12.6	16.4	69.6
Bowdoin Demand (kaf)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	1.5	0.0	3.5
Transfer to Nelson (kaf)	6.5	3.2	3.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.0	17.0	12.0	15.0	72.9
Nelson Reservoir		Initial Content	51,204	acre-feet									
		Elevation	2214.40	feet									
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Delivery to Nelson (kaf)	5.9	2.9	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.4	15.3	10.8	13.5	65.7
Net Content Change (kaf)	4.1	1.1	1.1	-1.8	-1.8	-1.8	-1.8	-1.7	12.6	13.5	2.9	0.4	26.8
End of Month Content (kaf)	55.3	56.4	57.5	55.7	53.9	52.1	50.3	48.6	61.2	74.7	77.6	78.0	
End of Month Elevation (feet)	2215.6	2215.9	2216.2	2215.7	2215.2	2214.7	2214.1	2213.6	2217.2	2220.6	2221.3	2221.4	
Total Release (kaf)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.1	11.3	17.4

OPERATIONS OUTLOOK (July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026)

Minimum Inflow Conditions

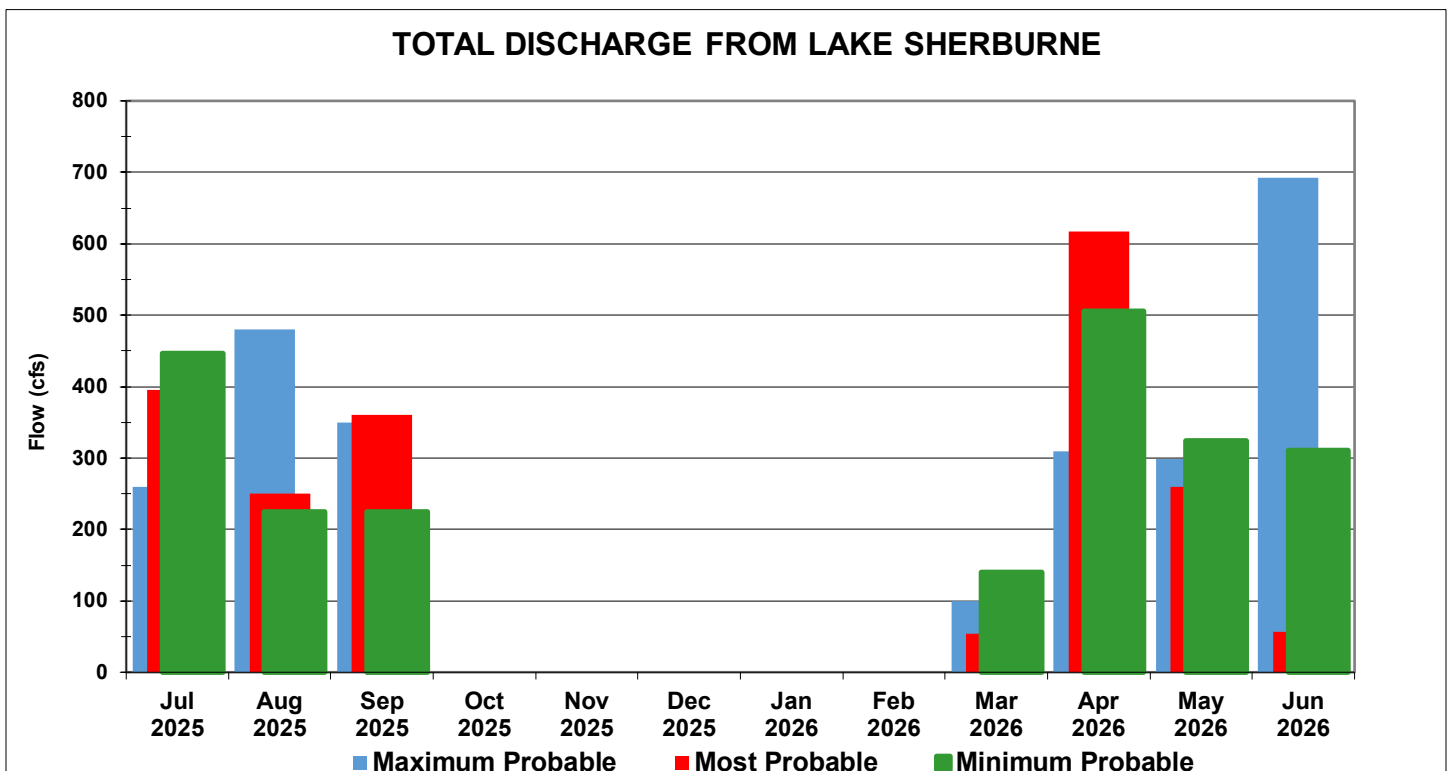
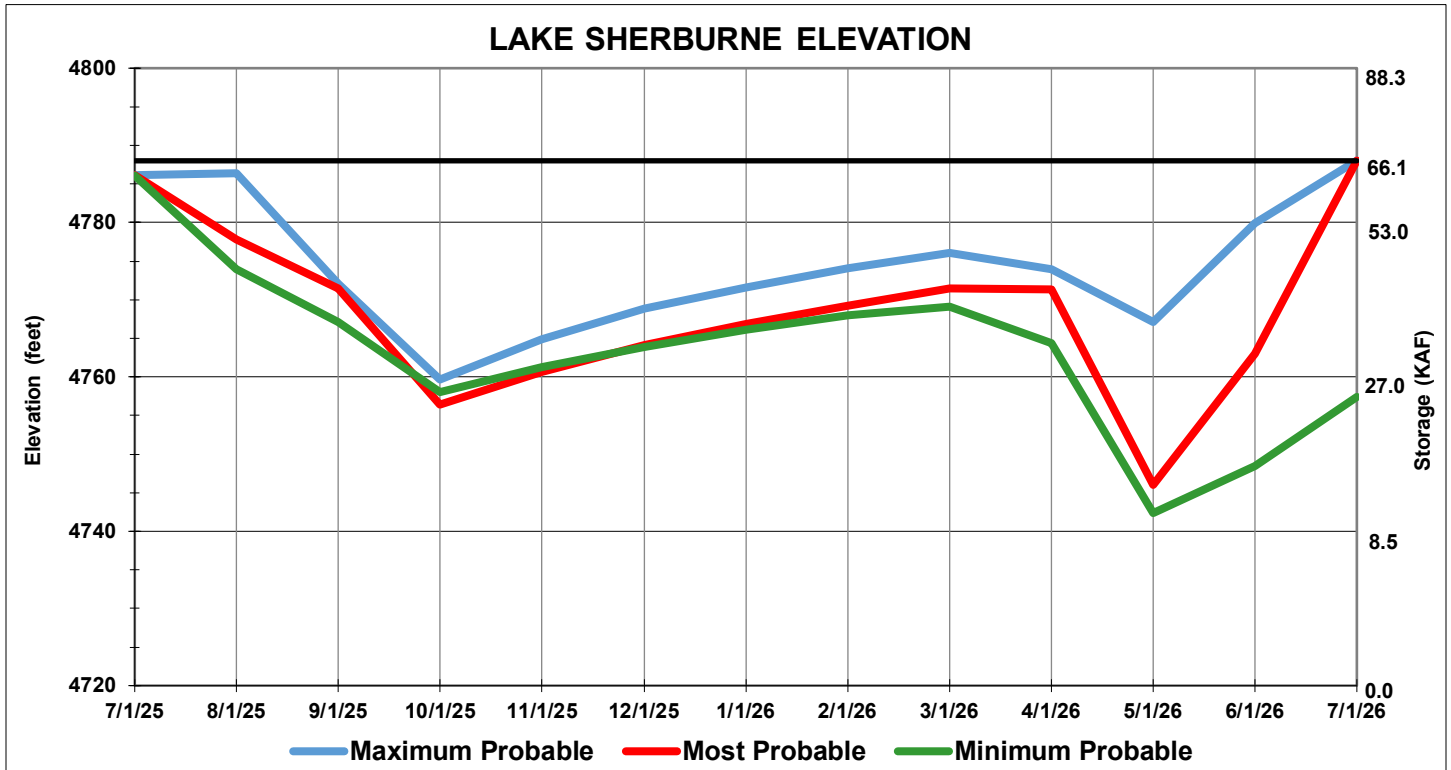
Sherburne Reservoir		Initial Content	62,880	acre-feet									
		Elevation	4786.08	feet									
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Sherburne Inflow (kaf)	8.6	5.0	3.1	3.5	3.0	2.6	2.2	1.4	2.9	8.5	25.1	27.2	93.1
Sherburne Release (kaf)	27.5	13.8	13.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.6	30.1	19.9	18.5	131.8
Sherburne Release (cfs)	447	224	225	0	0	0	0	0	140	506	324	311	
Net Content Change (kaf)	-18.9	-8.8	-10.3	3.5	3.0	2.6	2.2	1.4	-5.7	-21.6	5.2	8.7	-38.7
End of Month Content (kaf)	44.0	35.2	24.9	28.4	31.4	34.0	36.2	37.6	31.9	10.3	15.5	24.2	
End of Month Elevation (feet)	4773.9	4767.1	4758.1	4761.3	4763.9	4766.1	4768.0	4769.1	4764.4	4742.4	4748.5	4757.4	
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
St. Mary River Runoff (kaf)	47.9	23.1	15.3	9.4	5.7	5.5	4.0	4.6	4.1	7.4	68.2	81.5	276.7
Natural Flow at Boundary (kaf)	56.5	28.1	18.4	12.9	8.7	8.1	6.2	6.0	7.0	15.9	93.3	108.7	369.8
St. Mary Canal Diversion (cfs)	600	250	0	0	0	0	0	0	150	450	600	600	
St. Mary Canal Diversion (kaf)	36.9	15.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.2	26.8	36.9	35.7	160.9
Fresno Reservoir		Initial Content	8,686	acre-feet									
		Elevation	2542.33	feet									
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Milk River Runoff (kaf)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.7	4.7	3.5	1.3	1.2	11.7
From St. Mary Canal (kaf)	22.1	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	18.8	31.4	26.8	119.1
Fresno Inflow (kaf)	22.1	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.7	4.7	22.3	32.7	28.0	130.8
Fresno Release (kaf)	6.1	6.1	6.0	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.2	2.5	2.4	46.3	23.2	104.7
Fresno Release (cfs)	99	99	101	41	40	41	41	40	41	40	753	390	
Net Content Change (kaf)	16.0	13.9	-6.0	-2.5	-2.4	-2.5	-2.2	-1.5	2.2	19.9	-13.6	4.8	26.1
End of Month Content (kaf)	24.7	38.6	32.6	30.1	27.7	25.2	23.0	21.5	23.7	43.6	30.0	34.8	
End of Month Elevation (feet)	2553.3	2560.1	2557.4	2556.1	2554.9	2553.5	2552.3	2551.4	2552.7	2562.2	2556.1	2558.4	
Irrigation Allotment (ft/ac)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.25	0.75
Irrigation Delivery (kaf)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	46.3	23.2	69.5
FBIIP Demand (kaf)	1.0	3.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.0
Fresno to Dodson Gain (kaf)	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.7	9.1	6.3	8.2	33.2
Bowdoin Demand (kaf)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Transfer to Nelson (kaf)	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.0	9.0	6.0	7.0	34.5
Nelson Reservoir		Initial Content	51,204	acre-feet									
		Elevation	2214.40	feet									
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Delivery to Nelson (kaf)	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.2	8.1	5.4	6.3	31.2
Net Content Change (kaf)	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-1.8	-1.8	-1.8	-1.8	-1.7	5.4	6.3	-10.0	-2.6	-11.0
End of Month Content (kaf)	50.8	50.4	50.0	48.2	46.4	44.6	42.8	41.1	46.5	52.8	42.8	40.2	
End of Month Elevation (feet)	2214.3	2214.2	2214.0	2213.5	2212.9	2212.3	2211.7	2211.1	2213.0	2214.9	2211.7	2210.7	
Total Release (kaf)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.6	7.1	20.7

OPERATIONS OUTLOOK (July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026)

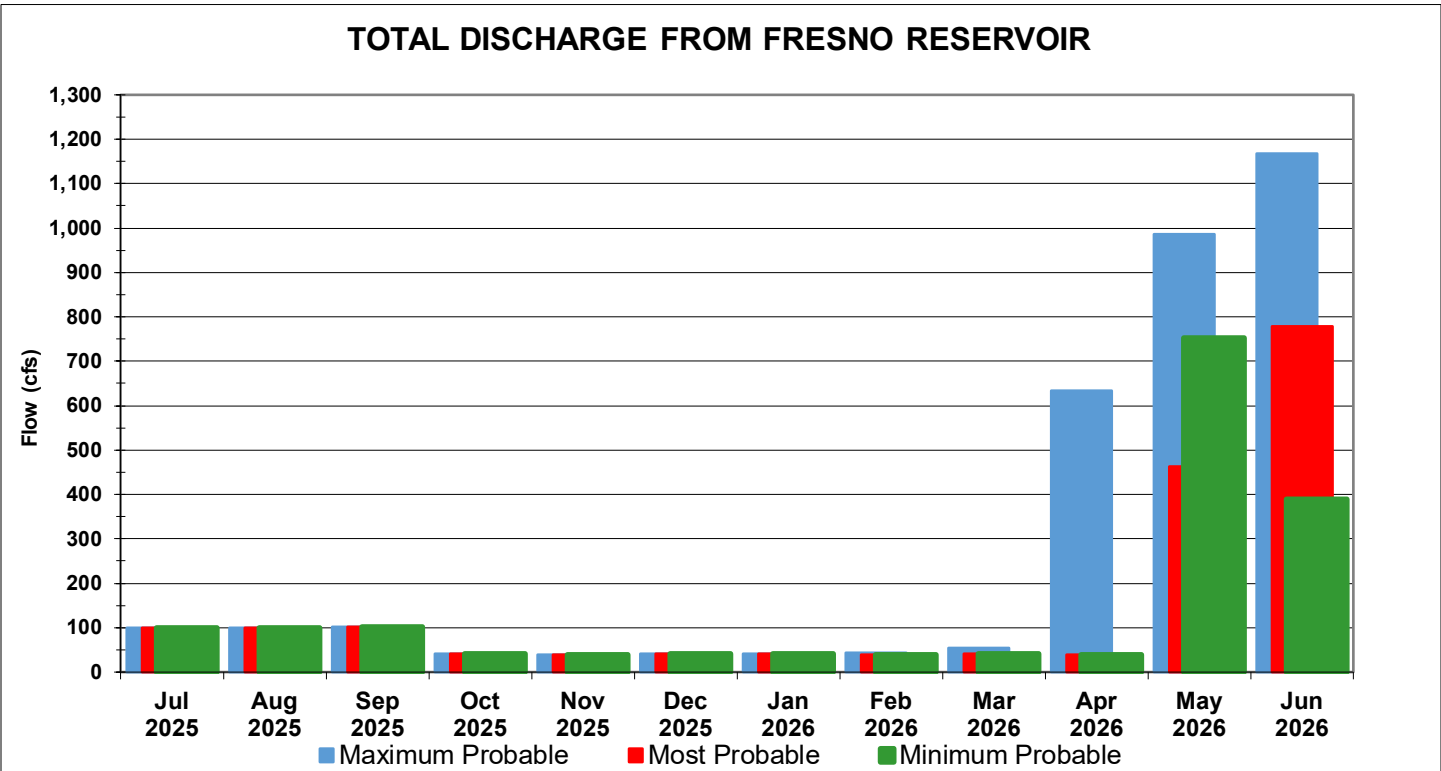
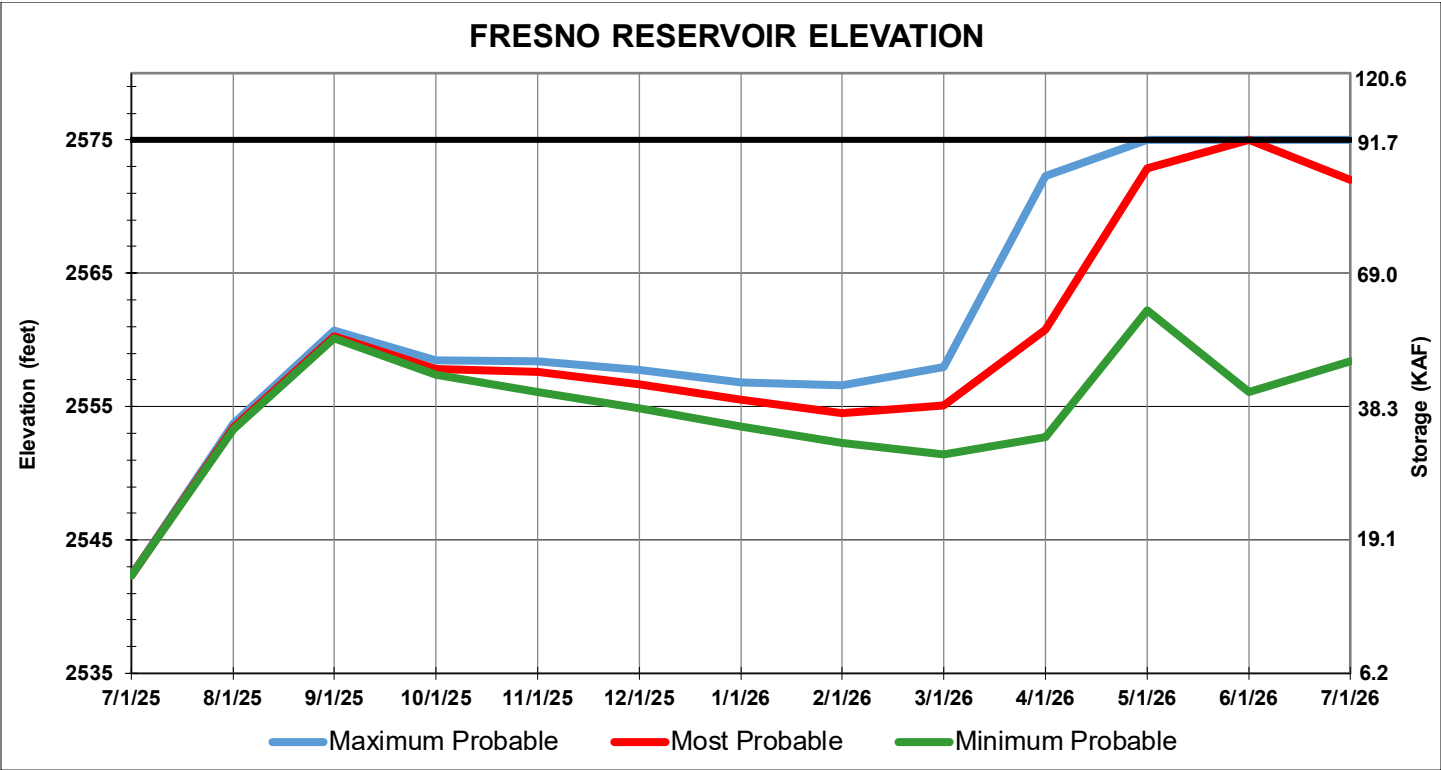
Maximum Inflow Conditions

Sherburne Reservoir	Initial Content		62,880	acre-feet									
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Sherburne Inflow (kaf)	16.3	7.7	5.9	5.9	4.8	3.5	3.4	2.8	3.2	9.5	36.1	54.5	153.6
Sherburne Release (kaf)	15.9	29.5	20.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.1	18.4	18.4	41.2	150.3
Sherburne Release (cfs)	259	480	350	0	0	0	0	0	99	309	299	692	
Net Content Change (kaf)	0.4	-21.8	-14.9	5.9	4.8	3.5	3.4	2.8	-2.9	-8.9	17.7	13.3	3.3
End of Month Content (kaf)	63.3	41.5	26.6	32.5	37.3	40.8	44.2	47.0	44.1	35.2	52.9	66.2	
End of Month Elevation (feet)	4786.3	4772.1	4759.7	4764.9	4768.9	4771.6	4774.1	4776.0	4774.0	4767.1	4779.9	4788.0	
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
St. Mary River Runoff (kaf)	78.9	32.3	19.8	18.7	12.8	8.7	15.8	14.4	21.7	46.1	147.5	215.6	632.3
Natural Flow at Boundary (kaf)	95.2	40.0	25.7	24.6	17.6	12.2	19.2	17.2	24.9	55.6	183.6	270.1	785.9
St. Mary Canal Diversion (cfs)	600	250	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	450	600	600	
St. Mary Canal Diversion (kaf)	36.9	15.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	26.8	36.9	35.7	151.7
Fresno Reservoir	Initial Content		8,686	acre-feet									
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Milk River Runoff (kaf)	0.9	0.4	1.0	2.4	1.0	0.6	2.1	5.1	48.4	38.5	27.4	39.2	167.0
From St. Mary Canal (kaf)	22.1	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.1	33.2	30.3	117.7
Fresno Inflow (kaf)	23.0	20.4	1.0	2.4	1.0	0.6	2.1	5.1	48.4	50.6	60.6	69.5	284.7
Fresno Release (kaf)	6.1	6.1	6.0	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.4	3.4	37.7	60.6	69.5	201.7
Fresno Release (cfs)	99	99	101	41	40	41	41	43	55	634	986	1168	
Net Content Change (kaf)	16.9	14.3	-5.0	-0.1	-1.4	-1.9	-0.4	2.7	45.0	12.9	0.0	0.0	83.0
End of Month Content (kaf)	25.6	39.9	34.9	34.8	33.4	31.5	31.1	33.8	78.8	91.7	91.7	91.7	
End of Month Elevation (feet)	2553.8	2560.7	2558.5	2558.4	2557.7	2556.8	2556.6	2557.9	2572.3	2575.0	2575.0	2575.0	
Irrigation Allotment (ft/ac)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.50	0.75
Irrigation Delivery (kaf)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	23.2	46.3	69.5
FBIIP Demand (kaf)	1.0	3.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.0
Fresno to Dodson Gain (kaf)	9.6	2.4	5.6	4.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.6	23.7	16.4	21.3	105.8
Bowdoin Demand (kaf)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	1.5	0.0	3.5
Transfer to Nelson (kaf)	5.0	5.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.0	20.0	15.0	17.9	82.9
Nelson Reservoir	Initial Content		51,204	acre-feet									
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Delivery to Nelson (kaf)	4.5	4.5	4.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.5	18.0	13.5	16.1	74.6
Net Content Change (kaf)	2.7	2.7	2.7	-1.8	-1.8	-1.8	-1.8	-1.7	11.7	16.2	0.7	0.0	27.8
End of Month Content (kaf)	53.9	56.6	59.3	57.5	55.7	53.9	52.1	50.4	62.1	78.3	79.0	79.0	
End of Month Elevation (feet)	2215.2	2215.9	2216.7	2216.2	2215.7	2215.2	2214.7	2214.2	2217.4	2221.5	2221.6	2221.6	
Total Release (kaf)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.0	14.3	25.3

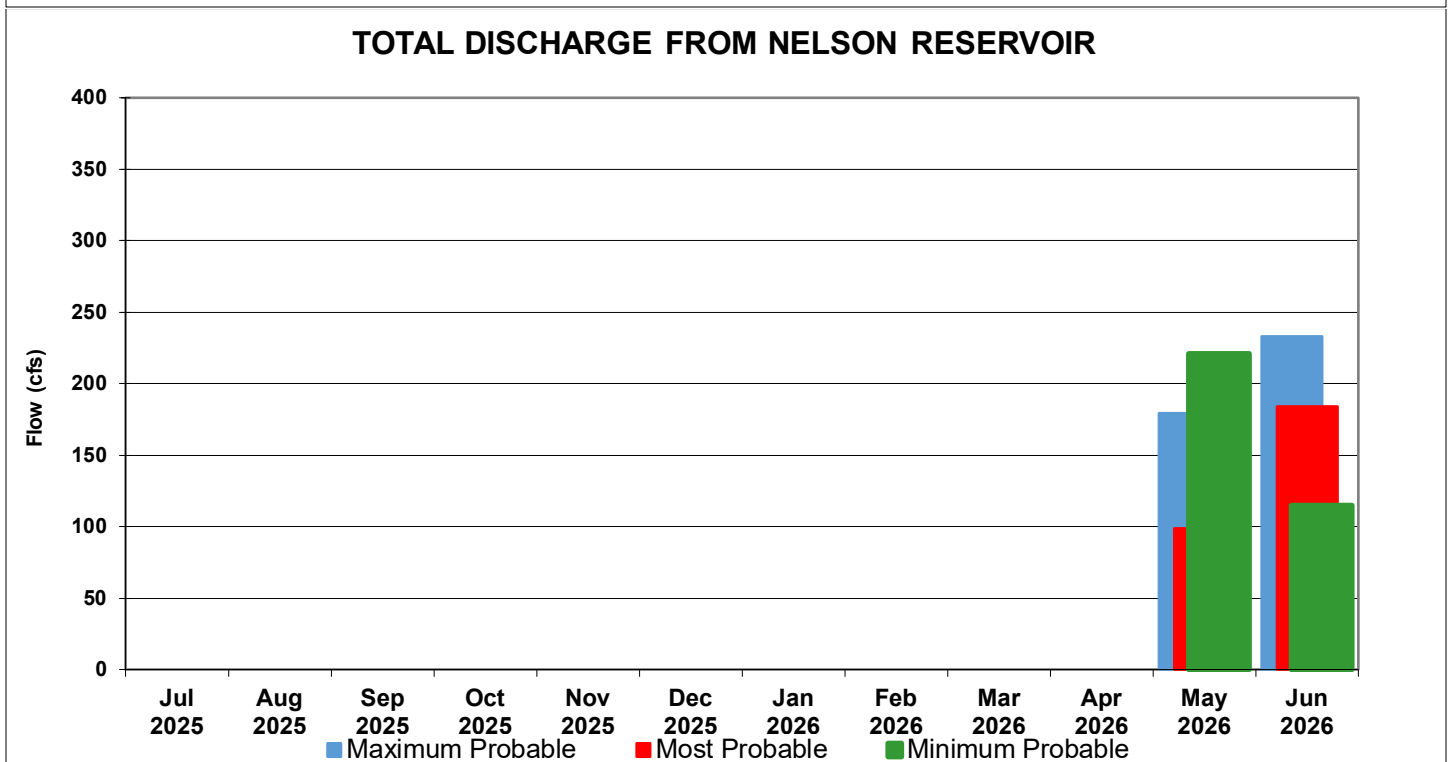
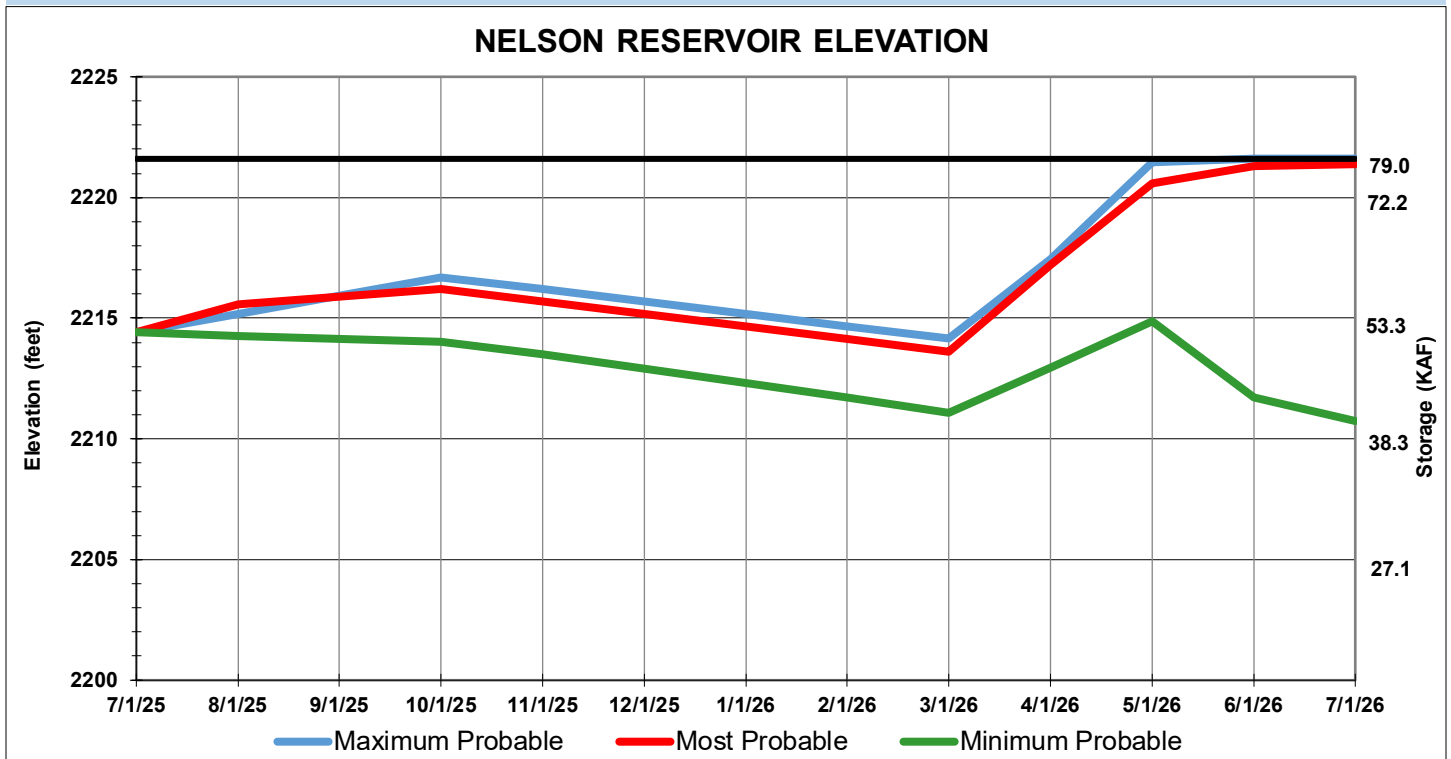
OPERATIONS OUTLOOK: LAKE SHERBURNE



OPERATIONS OUTLOOK: FRESNO RESERVOIR



OPERATIONS OUTLOOK: NELSON RESERVOIR



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Monthly Operating Plans, Current Conditions, Snowpack, and Other Water Management Information
https://www.usbr.gov/gp/lakes_reservoirs/wareprts/main_menu.html

Milk River Project Water Supply and Projected Operations

July 2025