

Milk River Project Water Supply and Projected Operations



June 2025



Fresno Reservoir, June 2025

The June monthly operating plan covers actual operations from October 1, 2024, through May 31, 2025, and projected operations for June 1, 2025, through May 31, 2026. The projections are based on forecasted water supply and use.

Median Forecasted Operations	Sherburne	Fresno	Nelson
June Inflow Forecast (kaf)	26	1	0
Percent of Average	65	2	-
June Release Forecast (cfs)	350	350	175
June 30 Elevation Forecast (feet)	4788.0	2541.2	2213.2

June-July Forecast	Sherburne
Inflow Forecast	37
Percent of Average	64

May 1 through May 31



Temperature



CLIMATE SUMMARY

There is a 33-40% chance that precipitation will be below average during June in the St. Mary and Milk River basins. There is a 40-50% chance that the temperature will be above average during June in both basins.

June Climate Outlook

Monthly Precipitation Outlook

Valid: June 2025
Issued: May 31, 2025

Below

Above

Equal Chances

Probability (Percent Chance)

Above	Normal	Below
33-40%	33-40%	33-40%
40-50%	40-50%	40-50%
50-60%	50-60%	50-60%
60-70%	60-70%	60-70%
70-80%	70-80%	70-80%
80-90%	80-90%	80-90%
90-100%	90-100%	90-100%

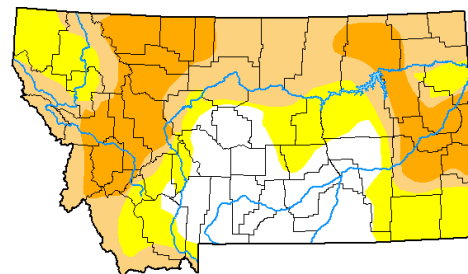
Leaning Above

Equal Chances

Leaning Below

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May 27, 2025



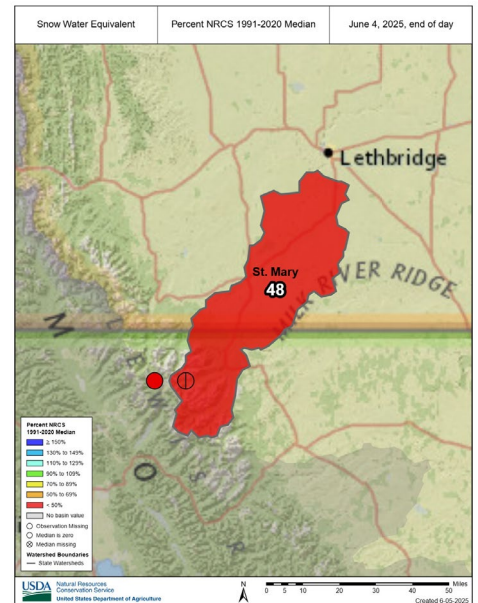
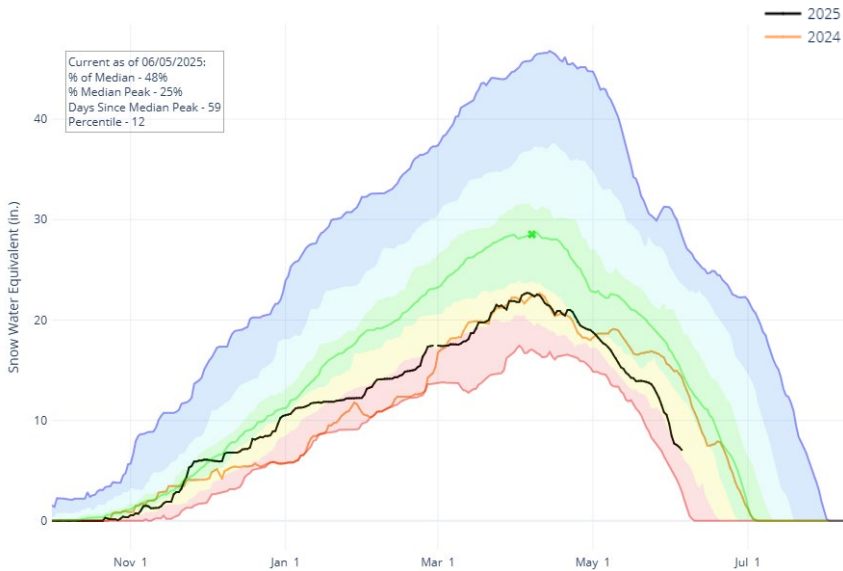
 None	 D2 Severe Drought
 D0 Abnormally Dry	 D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought



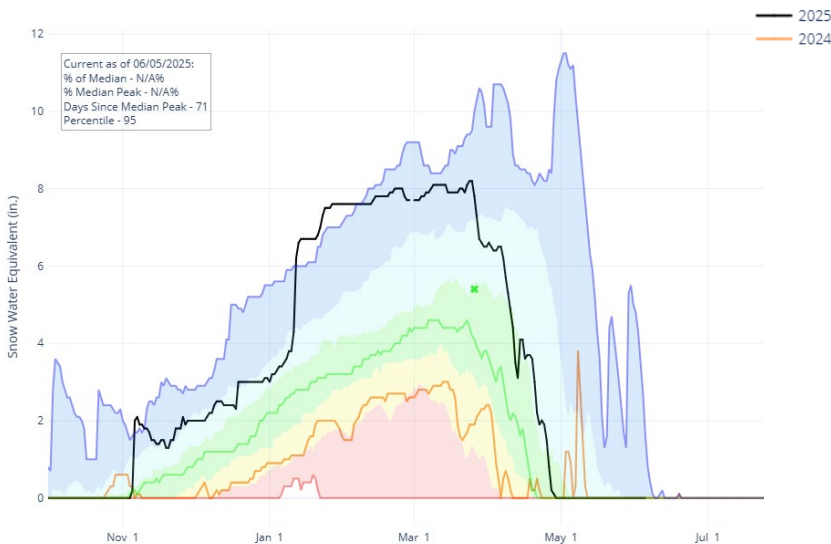
SNOWPACK SUMMARY

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

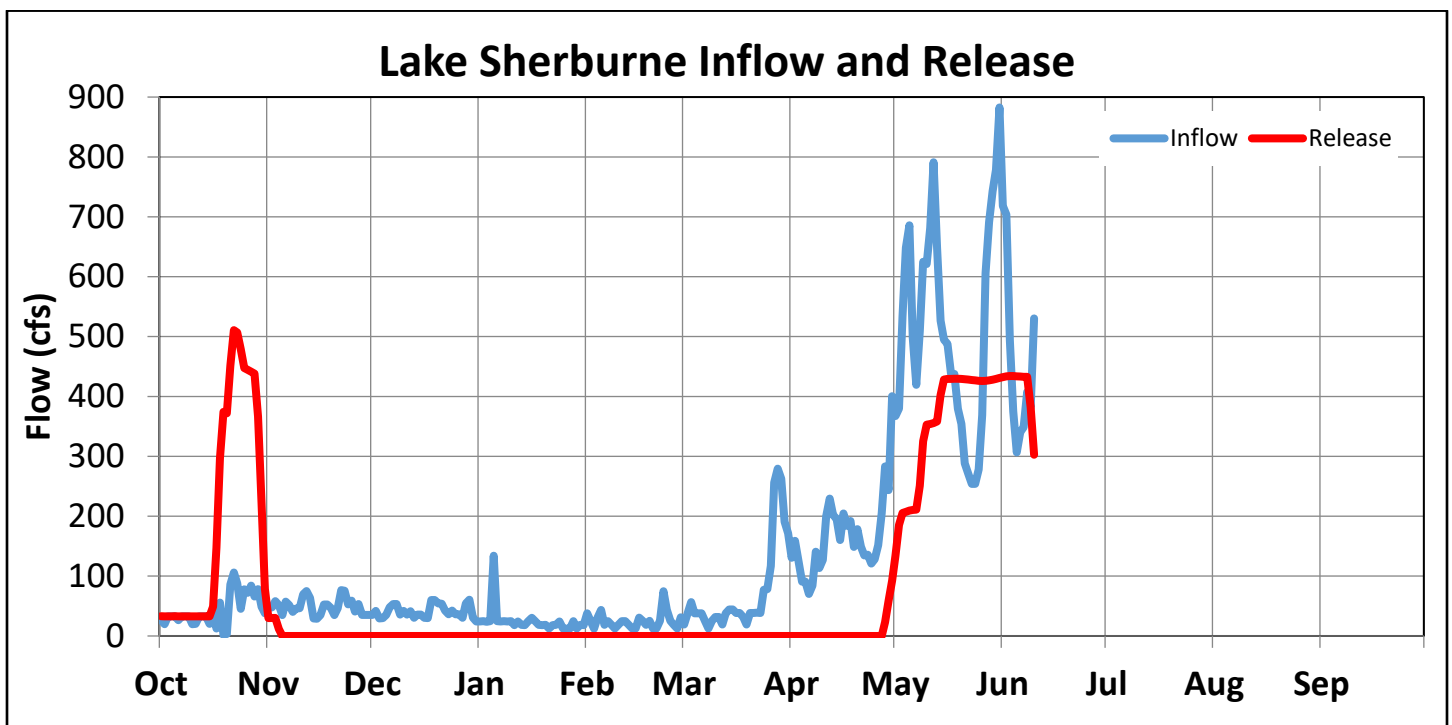
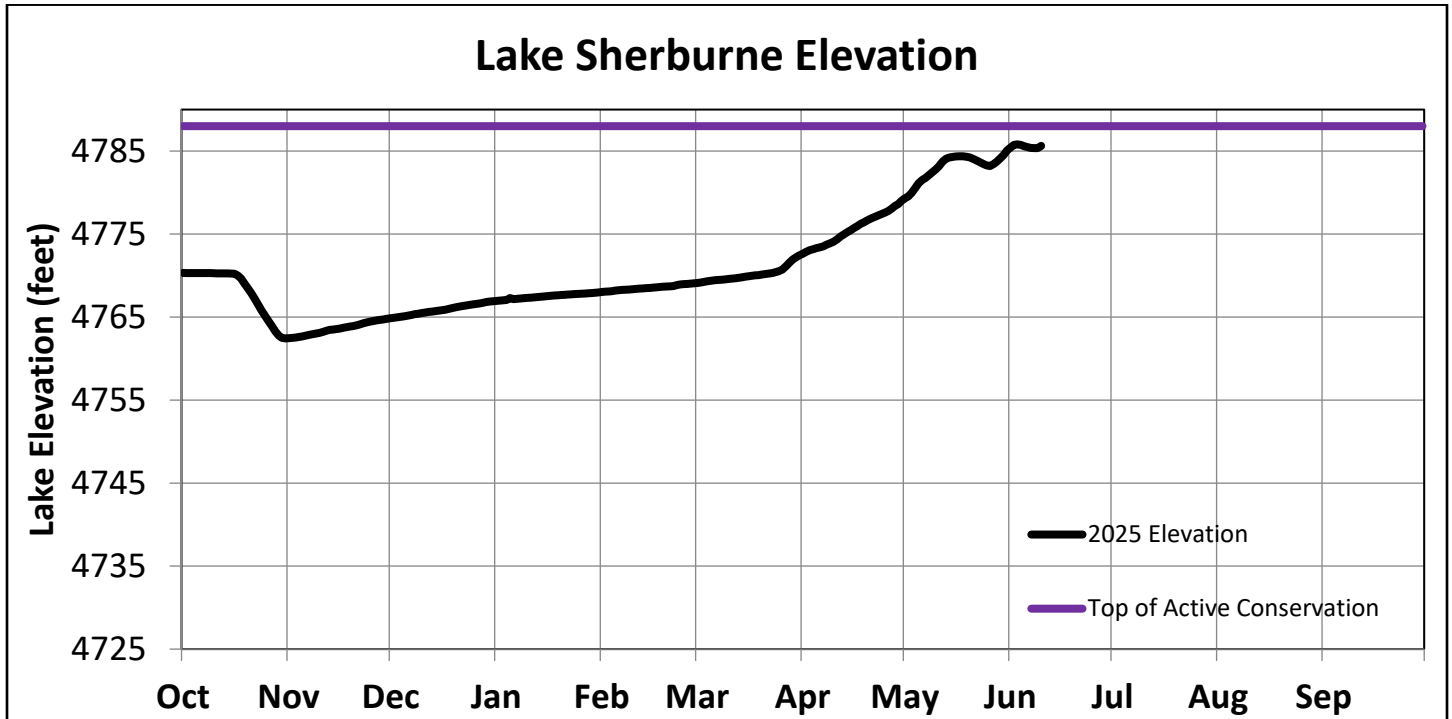
June 1 Elevation and Storage

	Elevation (feet)	Storage (acre-feet)	Percent of Average	Percent Full
Sherburne Reservoir	4785.08	61,205	164	93
Fresno Reservoir	2554.69	27,351	40	30
Nelson Reservoir	2216.68	59,302	93	75

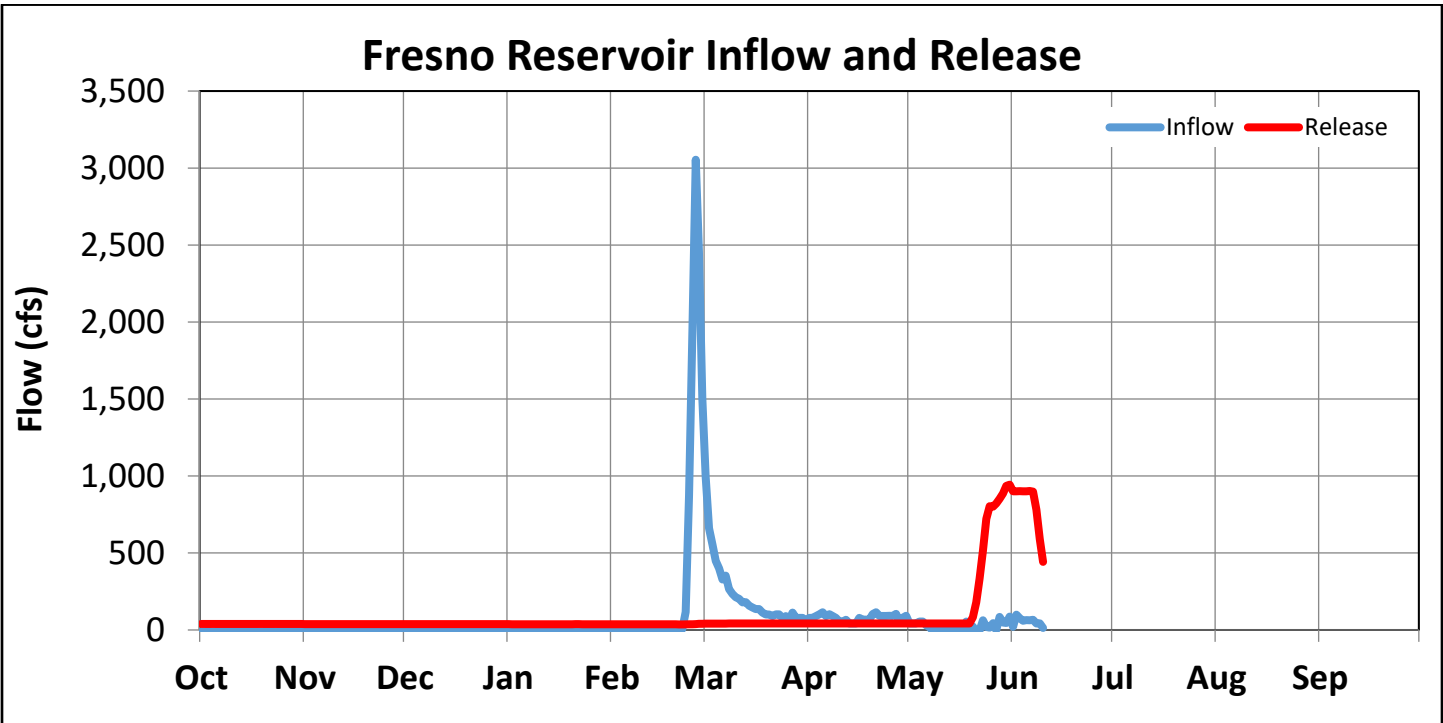
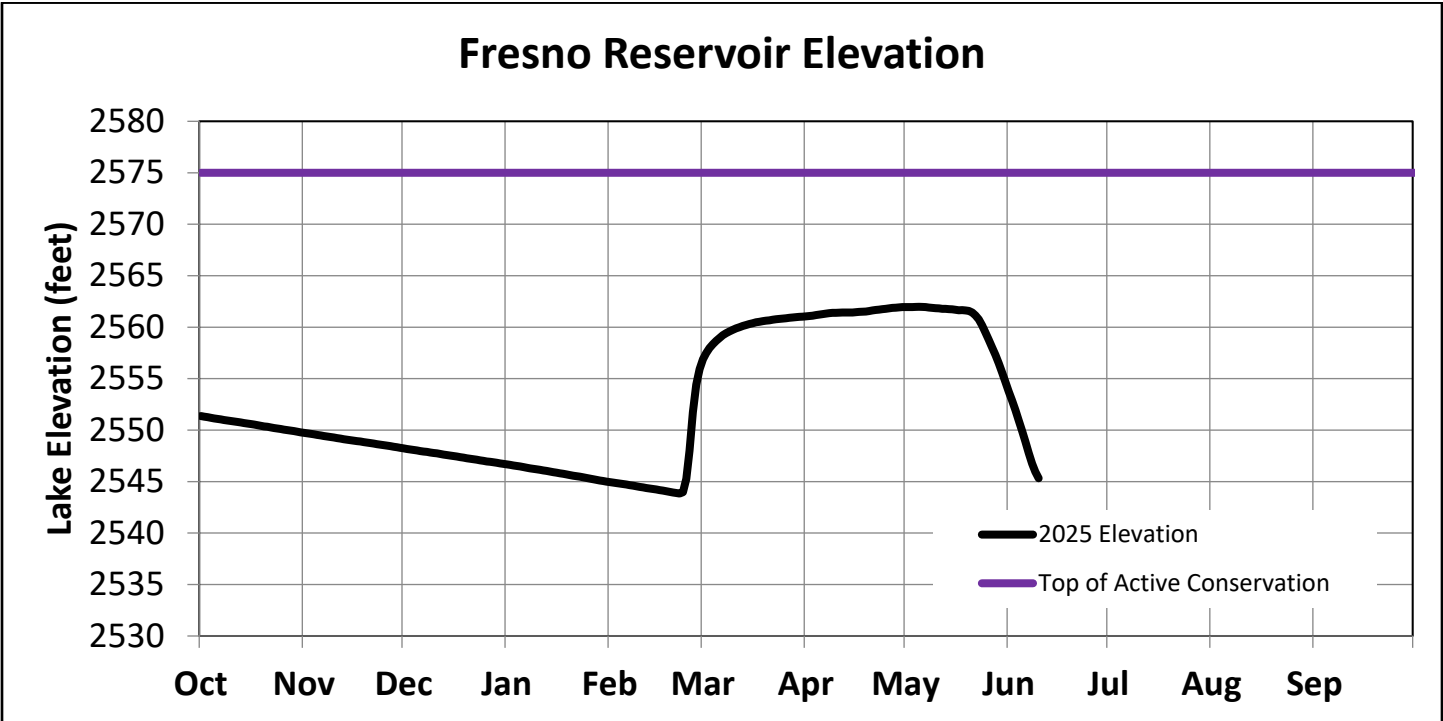
Past Inflows (1,000's of acre-feet)

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
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

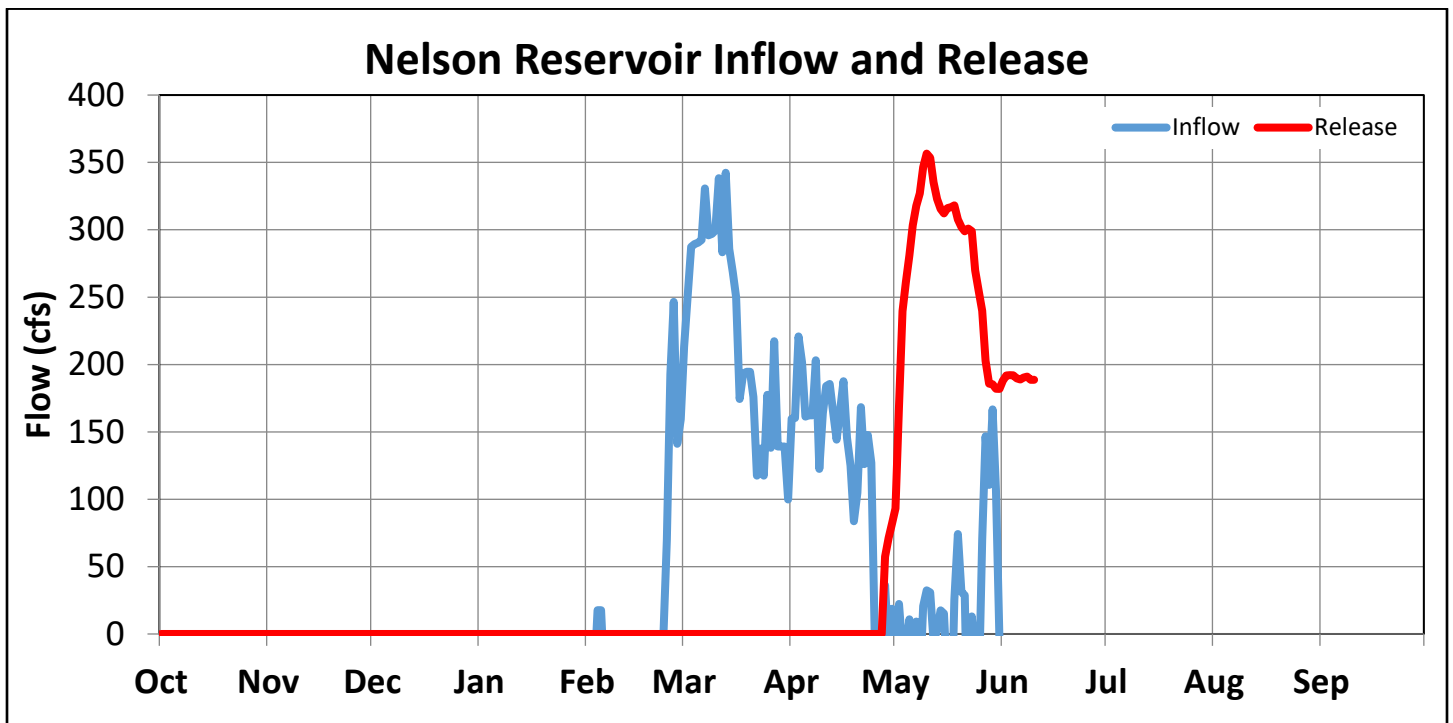
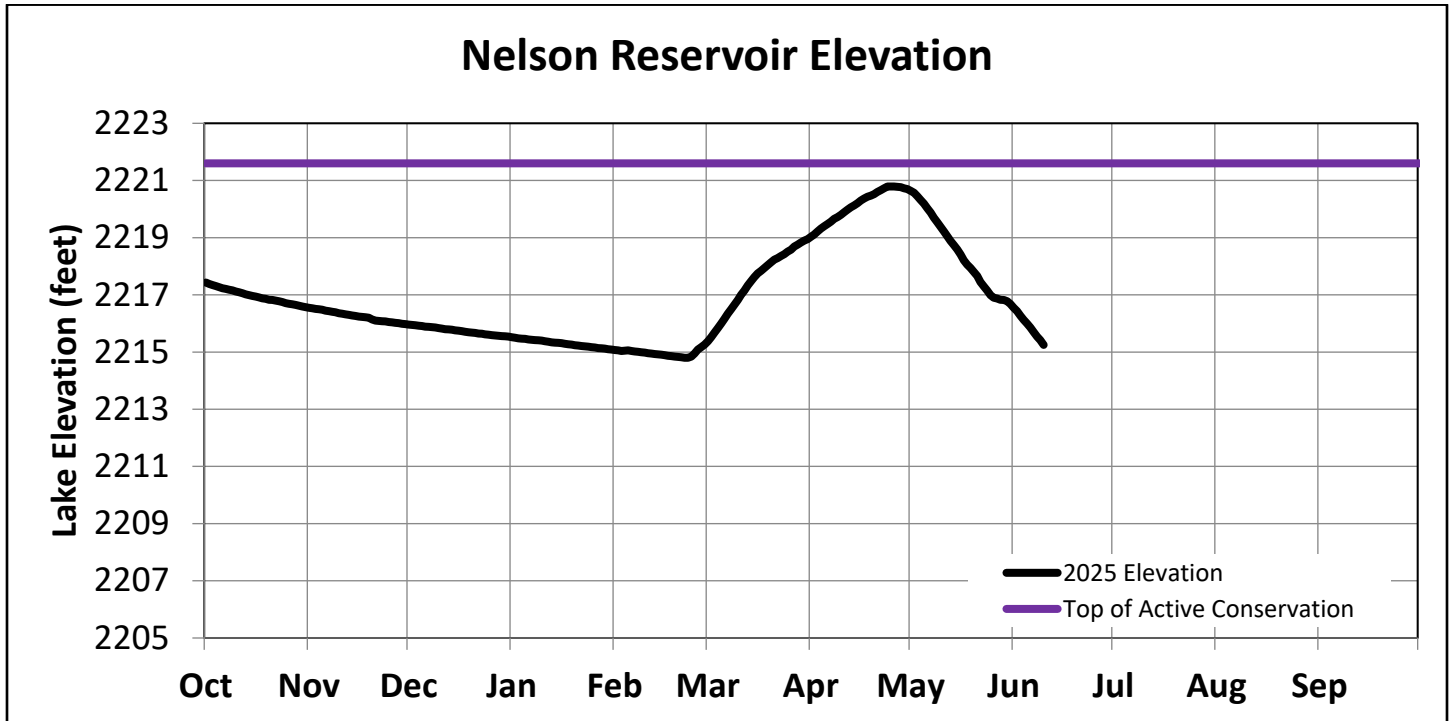
OPERATIONS REVIEW: LAKE SHERBURNE



OPERATIONS REVIEW: FRESNO RESERVOIR



OPERATIONS REVIEW: NELSON RESERVOIR



OPERATIONS OUTLOOK (June 1, 2025 through May 31, 2026)

Median Inflow Conditions

Sherburne Reservoir		Initial Content	61,205	acre-feet									
		Elevation	4785.08	feet									
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
Sherburne Inflow (kaf)	25.8	11.1	6.4	3.9	4.5	3.9	3.3	2.9	2.8	3.2	9.5	29.8	107.1
Sherburne Release (kaf)	20.8	15.1	26.2	22.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.3	36.7	12.8	137.8
Sherburne Release (cfs)	350	246	426	385	0	0	0	0	0	54	617	208	
Net Content Change (kaf)	5.0	-4.0	-19.8	-19.0	4.5	3.9	3.3	2.9	2.8	-0.1	-27.2	17.0	-30.7
End of Month Content (kaf)	66.2	62.2	42.4	23.4	27.9	31.8	35.1	38.0	40.8	40.7	13.5	30.5	
End of Month Elevation (feet)	4788.0	4785.7	4772.8	4756.7	4760.8	4764.3	4767.1	4769.4	4771.6	4771.5	4746.2	4763.2	
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
St. Mary River Runoff (kaf)	101.2	56.9	25.3	16.7	11.9	7.4	6.0	7.2	6.1	8.7	24.5	98.6	370.5
Natural Flow at Boundary (kaf)	127.0	68.0	31.7	20.6	16.4	11.3	9.3	10.1	8.9	11.9	34.0	128.4	477.6
St. Mary Canal Diversion (cfs)	0	450	450	0	0	0	0	0	0	99	600	600	
St. Mary Canal Diversion (kaf)	0.0	27.7	27.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.1	35.7	36.9	134.1
Fresno Reservoir		Initial Content	27,351	acre-feet									
		Elevation	2554.69	feet									
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
Milk River Runoff (kaf)	0.8	0.3	0.1	0.6	2.0	0.5	0.2	0.6	3.3	14.5	15.1	3.8	41.8
From St. Mary Canal (kaf)	0.0	11.1	30.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.3	31.4	87.3
Fresno Inflow (kaf)	0.8	11.4	30.6	0.6	2.0	0.5	0.2	0.6	3.3	14.5	29.4	35.2	129.1
Fresno Release (kaf)	20.8	6.1	6.1	6.0	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.2	2.5	2.4	23.2	79.2
Fresno Release (cfs)	350	99	99	101	41	40	41	41	40	41	40	377	
Net Content Change (kaf)	-20.0	5.3	24.5	-5.4	-0.5	-1.9	-2.3	-1.9	1.1	12.0	27.0	12.0	49.9
End of Month Content (kaf)	7.4	12.7	37.2	31.8	31.3	29.4	27.1	25.2	26.3	38.3	65.3	77.3	
End of Month Elevation (feet)	2541.2	2545.6	2559.5	2557.0	2556.7	2555.8	2554.6	2553.5	2554.1	2560.0	2569.0	2572.1	
Irrigation Allotment (ft/ac)	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.45
Irrigation Delivery (kaf)	18.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	23.2	41.7
FBIIP Demand (kaf)	0.0	1.0	3.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.0
Fresno to Dodson Gain (kaf)	7.1	3.8	0.7	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.4	18.2	11.1	58.8
Bowdoin Demand (kaf)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	2.0
Transfer to Nelson (kaf)	0.0	3.2	3.2	3.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.0	17.0	10.0	51.6
Nelson Reservoir		Initial Content	59,302	acre-feet									
		Elevation	2216.68	feet									
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
Delivery to Nelson (kaf)	0.0	2.9	2.9	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.5	15.3	9.0	46.5
Net Content Change (kaf)	-12.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	-1.8	-1.8	-1.8	-1.8	-1.7	11.7	13.5	-5.1	2.3
End of Month Content (kaf)	47.1	48.2	49.3	50.4	48.6	46.8	45.0	43.2	41.5	53.2	66.7	61.6	
End of Month Elevation (feet)	2213.2	2213.5	2213.8	2214.2	2213.6	2213.1	2212.5	2211.9	2211.2	2215.0	2218.6	2217.3	
Total Release (kaf)	10.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.3	22.7

OPERATIONS OUTLOOK (June 1, 2025 through May 31, 2026)

Minimum Inflow Conditions

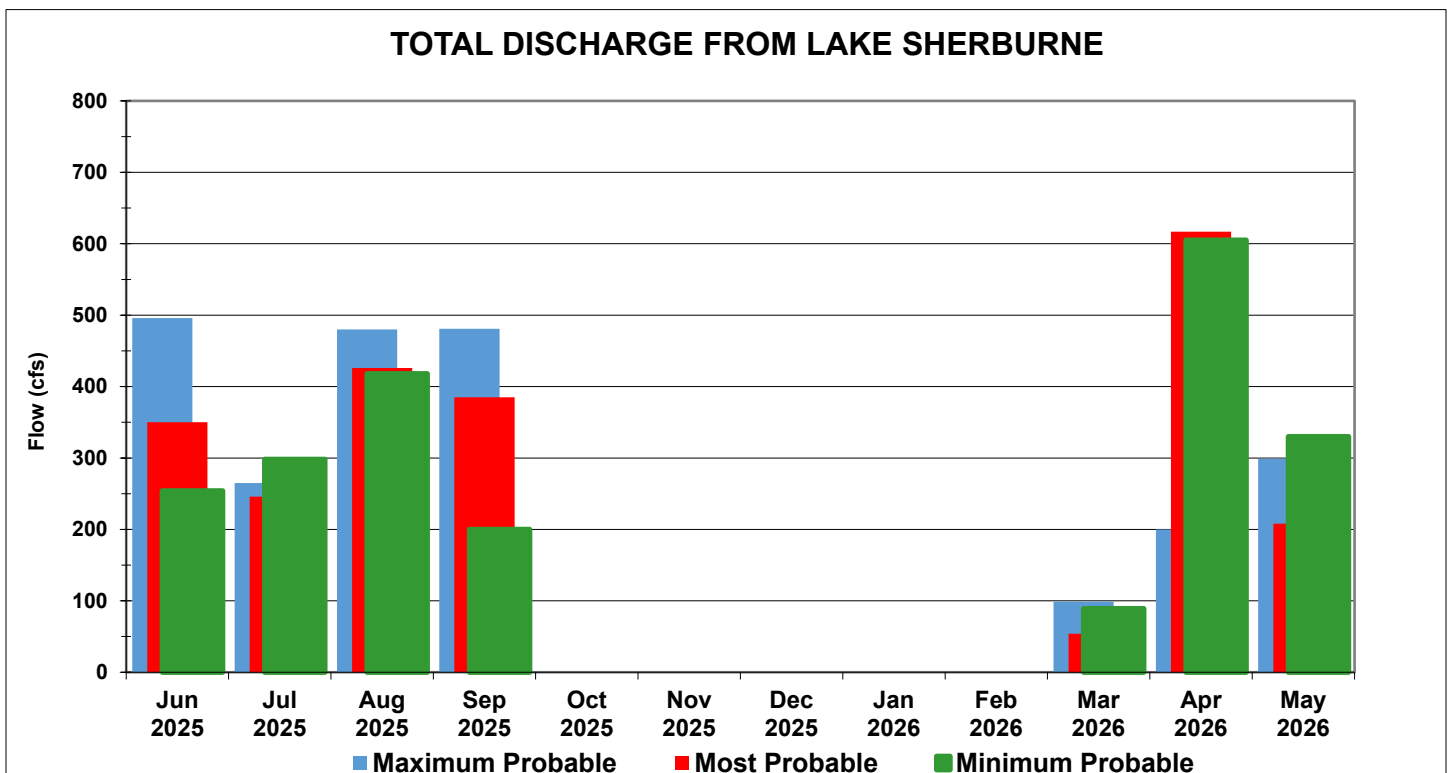
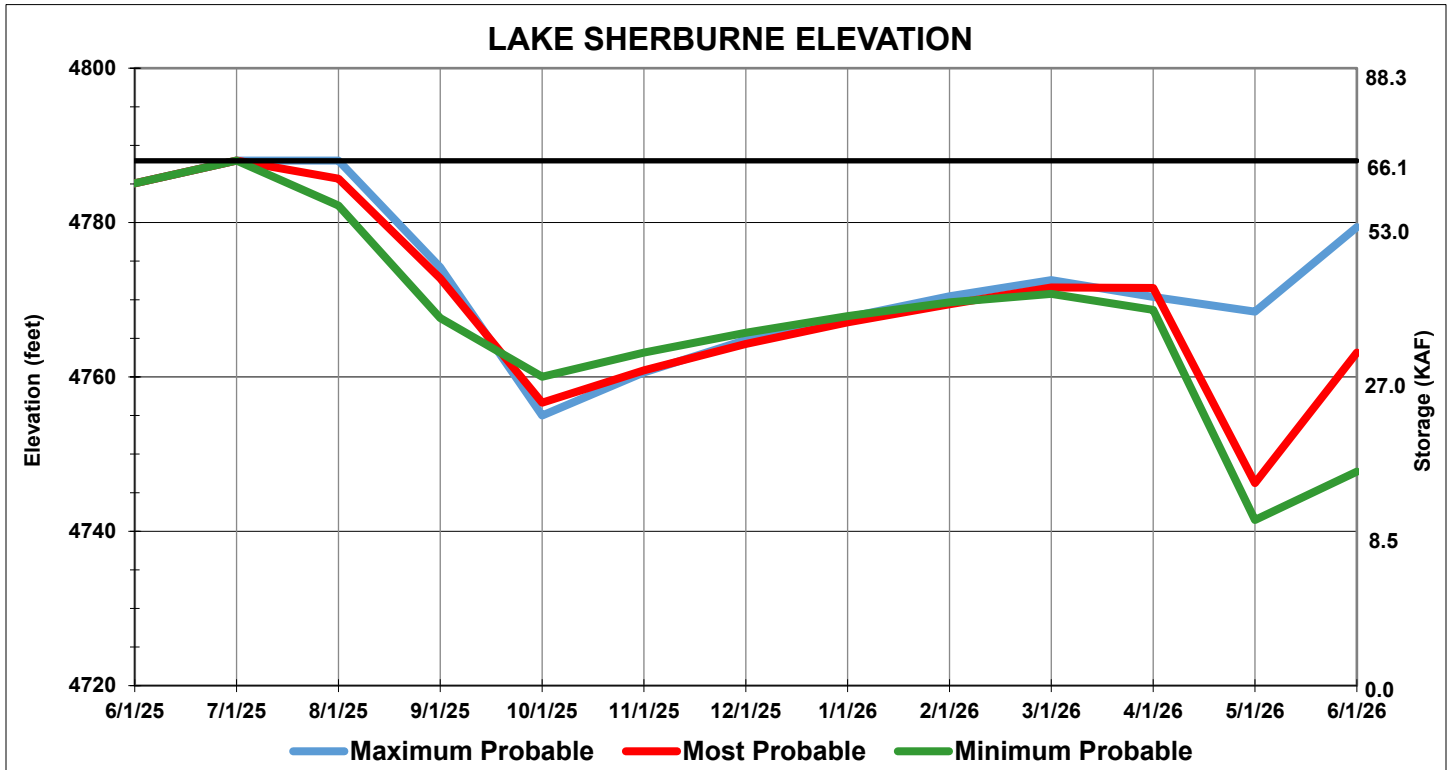
Sherburne Reservoir		Initial Content	61,205	acre-feet									
		Elevation	4785.08	feet									
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
Sherburne Inflow (kaf)	20.1	8.6	5.0	3.1	3.5	3.0	2.6	2.2	1.4	2.9	8.5	25.5	86.4
Sherburne Release (kaf)	15.1	18.3	25.7	11.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.5	36.0	20.3	132.8
Sherburne Release (cfs)	254	298	418	200	0	0	0	0	0	89	605	330	
Net Content Change (kaf)	5.0	-9.7	-20.7	-8.8	3.5	3.0	2.6	2.2	1.4	-2.6	-27.5	5.2	-46.4
End of Month Content (kaf)	66.2	56.5	35.8	27.0	30.5	33.5	36.1	38.3	39.7	37.1	9.6	14.8	
End of Month Elevation (feet)	4788.0	4782.2	4767.6	4760.0	4763.2	4765.7	4767.9	4769.7	4770.8	4768.7	4741.5	4747.7	
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
St. Mary River Runoff (kaf)	88.5	47.9	23.1	15.3	9.4	5.7	5.5	4.0	4.6	4.1	7.4	67.8	283.3
Natural Flow at Boundary (kaf)	108.6	56.5	28.1	18.4	12.9	8.7	8.1	6.2	6.0	7.0	15.9	93.3	369.7
St. Mary Canal Diversion (cfs)	0	450	450	0	0	0	0	0	0	99	550	600	
St. Mary Canal Diversion (kaf)	0.0	27.7	27.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.1	32.7	36.9	131.1
Fresno Reservoir		Initial Content	27,351	acre-feet									
		Elevation	2554.69	feet									
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
Milk River Runoff (kaf)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.7	4.7	3.5	2.0	11.2
From St. Mary Canal (kaf)	0.0	11.1	30.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.1	31.4	86.1
Fresno Inflow (kaf)	0.0	11.1	30.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.7	4.7	16.6	33.4	97.3
Fresno Release (kaf)	20.8	6.1	6.1	6.0	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.2	2.5	2.4	23.2	79.2
Fresno Release (cfs)	350	99	99	101	41	40	41	41	40	41	40	377	
Net Content Change (kaf)	-20.8	5.0	24.4	-6.0	-2.5	-2.4	-2.5	-2.2	-1.5	2.2	14.2	10.2	18.1
End of Month Content (kaf)	6.6	11.6	36.0	30.0	27.5	25.1	22.6	20.4	18.9	21.1	35.3	45.5	
End of Month Elevation (feet)	2540.4	2544.8	2559.0	2556.1	2554.8	2553.5	2552.1	2550.8	2549.9	2551.2	2558.6	2563.0	
Irrigation Allotment (ft/ac)	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.45
Irrigation Delivery (kaf)	18.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	23.2	41.7
FBIIP Demand (kaf)	0.0	1.0	3.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.0
Fresno to Dodson Gain (kaf)	1.1	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.7	9.1	5.0	24.8
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)	0.0	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.0	9.0	5.0	26.5
Nelson Reservoir		Initial Content	59,302	acre-feet									
		Elevation	2216.68	feet									
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
Delivery to Nelson (kaf)	0.0	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.2	8.1	4.5	24.0
Net Content Change (kaf)	-12.2	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-1.8	-1.8	-1.8	-1.8	-1.7	5.4	6.3	-4.2	-14.8
End of Month Content (kaf)	47.1	46.7	46.3	45.9	44.1	42.3	40.5	38.7	37.0	42.4	48.7	44.5	
End of Month Elevation (feet)	2213.2	2213.0	2212.9	2212.8	2212.2	2211.5	2210.9	2210.2	2209.5	2211.6	2213.6	2212.3	
Total Release (kaf)	10.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.9	17.3

OPERATIONS OUTLOOK (June 1, 2025 through May 31, 2026)

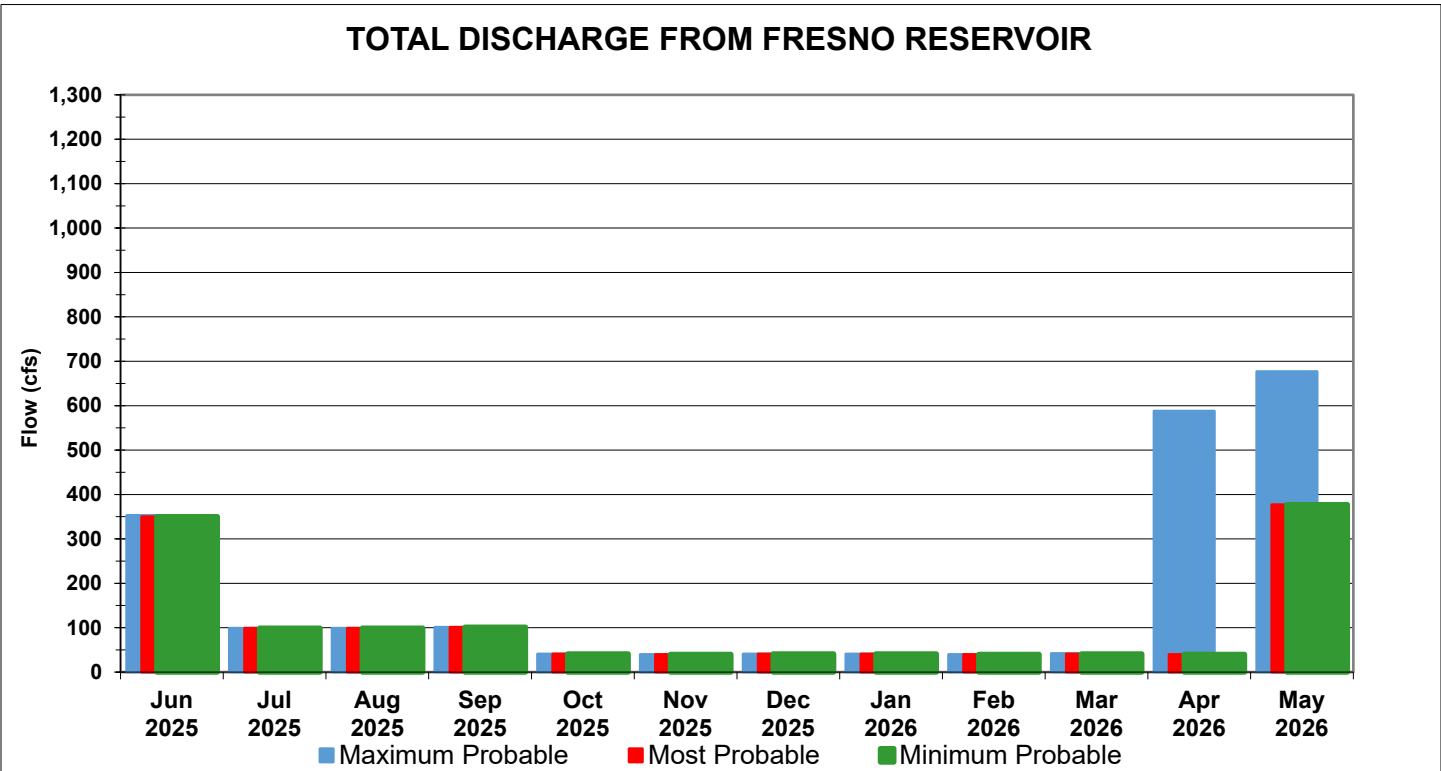
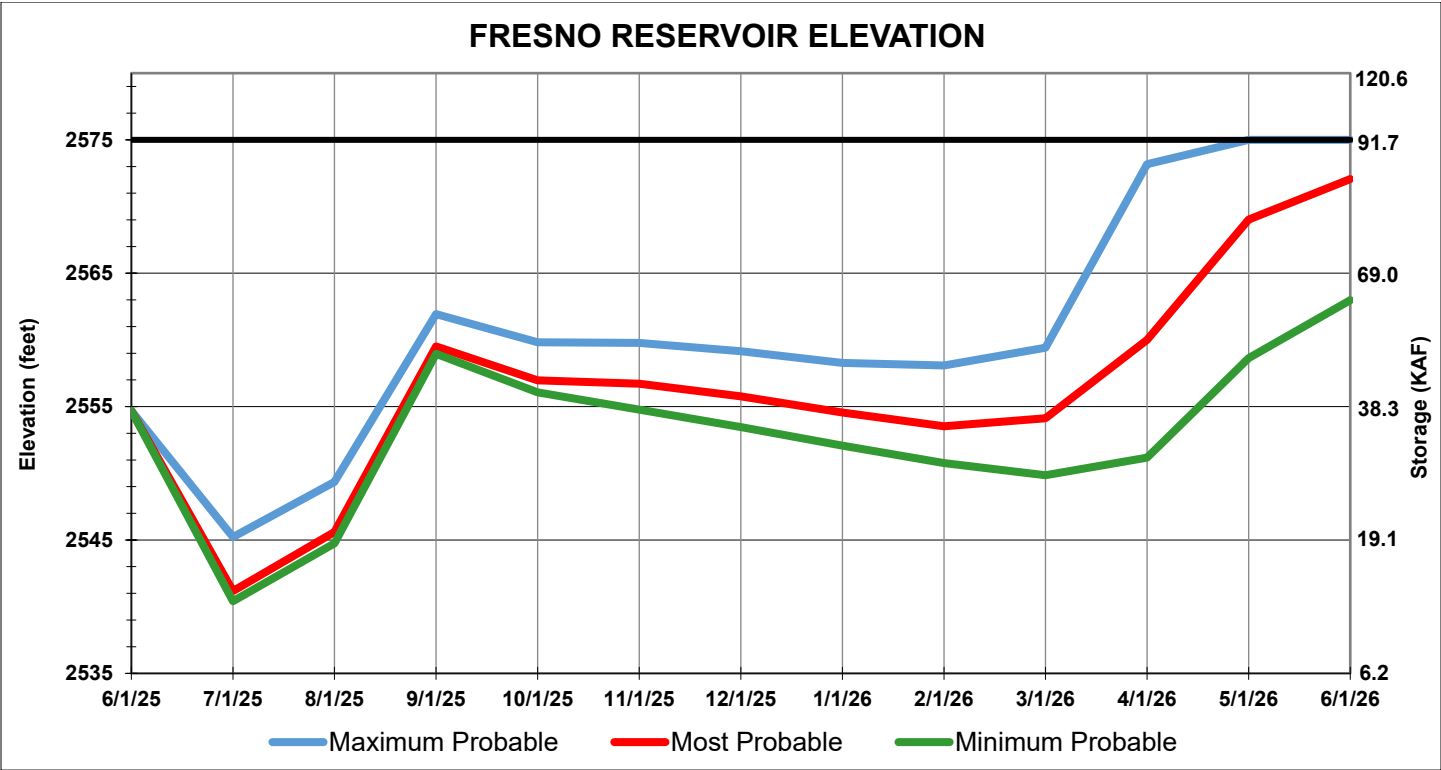
Maximum Inflow Conditions

Sherburne Reservoir		Initial Content	61,205	acre-feet									
		Elevation	4785.08	feet									
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
Sherburne Inflow (kaf)	34.5	16.3	7.7	5.9	5.9	4.8	3.5	3.4	2.8	3.2	9.5	33.7	131.2
Sherburne Release (kaf)	29.5	16.3	29.5	28.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.1	11.9	18.4	140.3
Sherburne Release (cfs)	496	265	480	481	0	0	0	0	0	99	200	299	
Net Content Change (kaf)	5.0	0.0	-21.8	-22.7	5.9	4.8	3.5	3.4	2.8	-2.9	-2.4	15.3	-9.1
End of Month Content (kaf)	66.2	66.2	44.4	21.7	27.6	32.4	35.9	39.3	42.1	39.2	36.8	52.1	
End of Month Elevation (feet)	4788.0	4788.0	4774.2	4755.0	4760.6	4764.8	4767.7	4770.4	4772.6	4770.4	4768.5	4779.4	
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
St. Mary River Runoff (kaf)	135.3	78.9	32.3	19.8	18.7	12.8	8.7	15.8	14.4	21.7	46.1	149.9	554.4
Natural Flow at Boundary (kaf)	169.8	95.2	40.0	25.7	24.6	17.6	12.2	19.2	17.2	24.9	55.6	183.6	685.6
St. Mary Canal Diversion (cfs)	0	450	450	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200	600	
St. Mary Canal Diversion (kaf)	0.0	27.7	27.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.9	36.9	104.2
Fresno Reservoir		Initial Content	27,351	acre-feet									
		Elevation	2554.69	feet									
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
Milk River Runoff (kaf)	5.8	0.9	0.4	1.0	2.4	1.0	0.6	2.1	5.1	48.4	38.5	8.4	114.6
From St. Mary Canal (kaf)	0.0	11.1	30.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.4	33.2	80.2
Fresno Inflow (kaf)	5.8	12.0	30.9	1.0	2.4	1.0	0.6	2.1	5.1	48.4	43.9	41.6	194.8
Fresno Release (kaf)	21.0	6.1	6.1	6.0	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.2	2.6	35.0	41.6	130.5
Fresno Release (cfs)	353	99	99	101	41	40	41	41	40	42	588	677	
Net Content Change (kaf)	-15.2	5.9	24.8	-5.0	-0.1	-1.4	-1.9	-0.4	2.9	45.8	8.9	0.0	64.3
End of Month Content (kaf)	12.2	18.1	42.9	37.9	37.8	36.4	34.5	34.1	37.0	82.8	91.7	91.7	
End of Month Elevation (feet)	2545.2	2549.4	2561.9	2559.8	2559.8	2559.2	2558.3	2558.1	2559.4	2573.2	2575.0	2575.0	
Irrigation Allotment (ft/ac)	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.45
Irrigation Delivery (kaf)	18.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	23.2	41.7
FBIIP Demand (kaf)	0.0	1.0	3.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.0
Fresno to Dodson Gain (kaf)	17.0	9.6	2.4	5.6	4.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.6	23.7	13.1	98.2
Bowdoin Demand (kaf)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	2.0
Transfer to Nelson (kaf)	0.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.0	20.0	15.0	65.0
Nelson Reservoir		Initial Content	59,302	acre-feet									
		Elevation	2216.68	feet									
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
Delivery to Nelson (kaf)	0.0	4.5	4.5	4.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.5	18.0	13.5	58.5
Net Content Change (kaf)	-12.2	2.7	2.7	2.7	-1.8	-1.8	-1.8	-1.8	-1.7	11.7	16.2	-0.6	14.3
End of Month Content (kaf)	47.1	49.8	52.5	55.2	53.4	51.6	49.8	48.0	46.3	58.0	74.2	73.6	
End of Month Elevation (feet)	2213.2	2214.0	2214.8	2215.6	2215.0	2214.5	2214.0	2213.4	2212.9	2216.3	2220.5	2220.3	
Total Release (kaf)	10.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.3	22.7

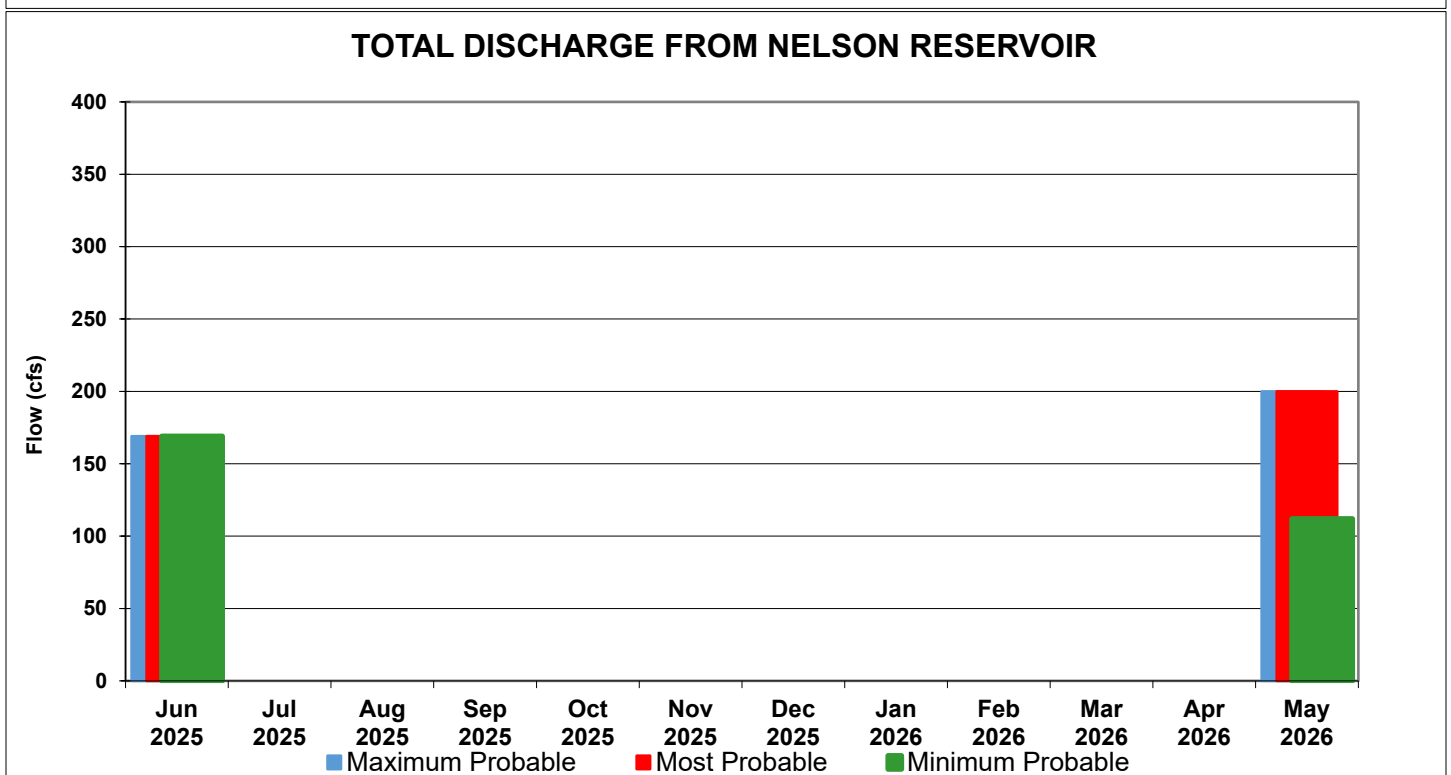
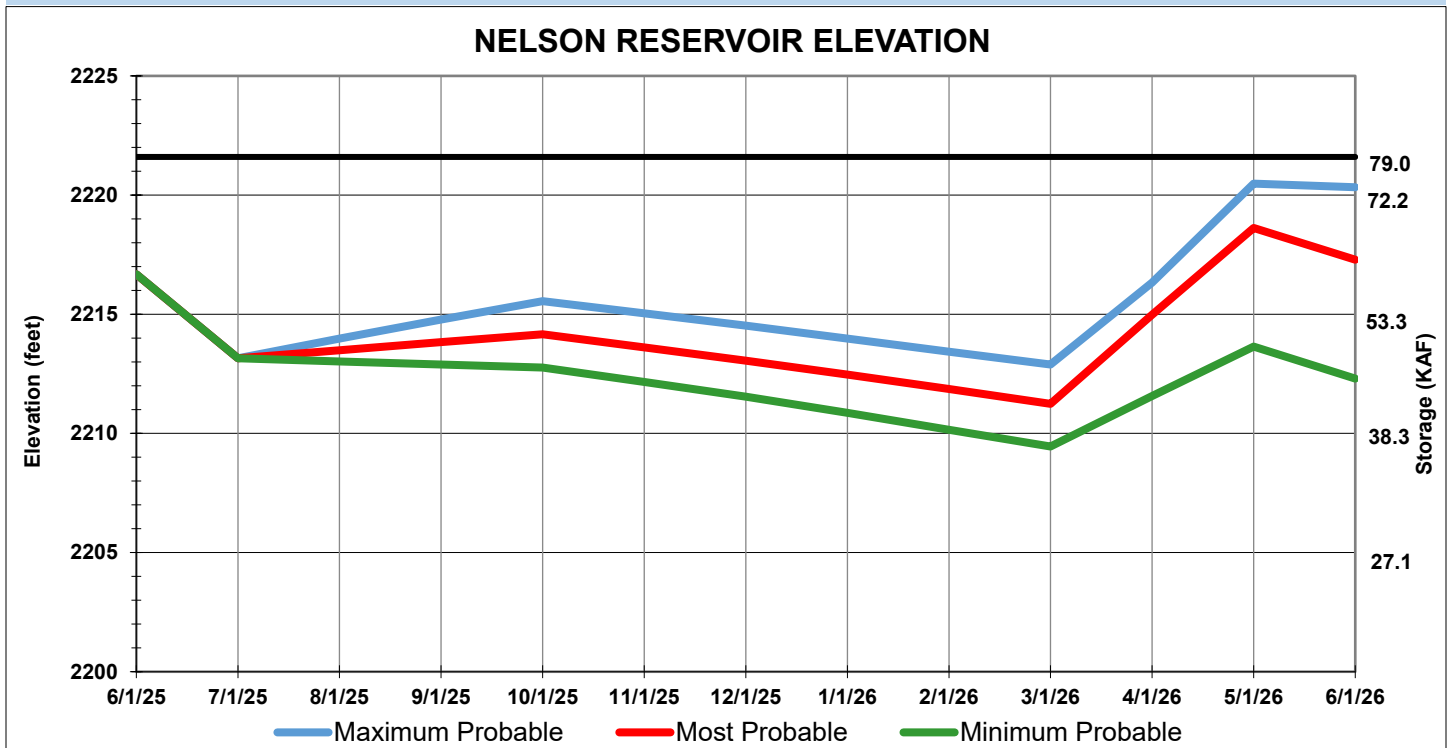
OPERATIONS OUTLOOK: LAKE SHERBURNE



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

June 2025