

Milk River Project Water Supply and Projected Operations



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

June 2026



Fresno Dam, June 2026

The June monthly operating plan covers actual operations from October 1, 2025, through May 31, 2026, and projected operations for June 1, 2026, through May 31, 2027. The projections are based on forecasted water supply and use.

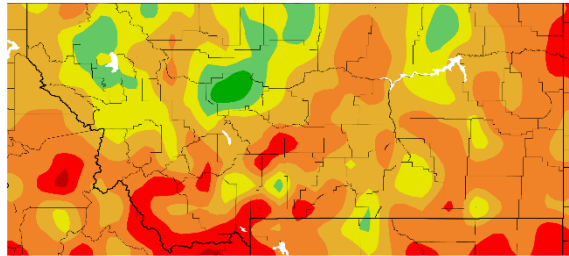
Median Forecasted Operations	Sherburne	Fresno	Nelson
June Inflow Forecast (kaf)	27	42	6
Percent of Average	70	91	65
June Release Forecast (cfs)	323	829	144
June 30 Elevation Forecast (feet)	4788.0	2555.3	2210.1

June-July Forecast	Sherburne
Inflow Forecast	41
Percent of Average	72

Climate Departure from Normal

May 1 through May 31

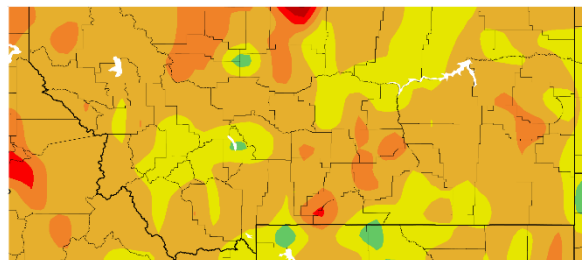
Precipitation



Departure from Normal (inches)

Temperature

Departure from Normal (°F)



HPRCC using provisional data NOAA Regional Climate Centers

CLIMATE SUMMARY

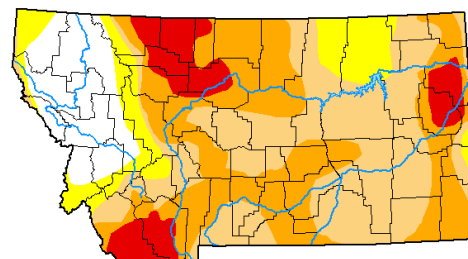
In May, precipitation in the St. Mary basin and Milk River basin was below average. There were a few small, isolated areas of above average precipitation in both basins. Temperature was above average in both basins.

In June, there is a 33-40 percent chance that precipitation will be below average in the St. Mary basin and upper Milk River basin. There is an equal chance that precipitation will be above, below, or near average in the lower Milk River basin. There is a 60-70 percent chance that temperature will be above average in both basins.

The drought intensity in the St. Mary and Milk River basins ranges from none to extreme.

Montana Drought Monitor Map

May 26, 2026

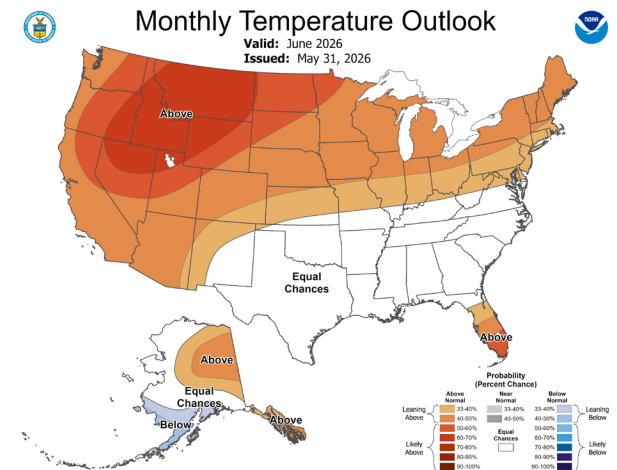
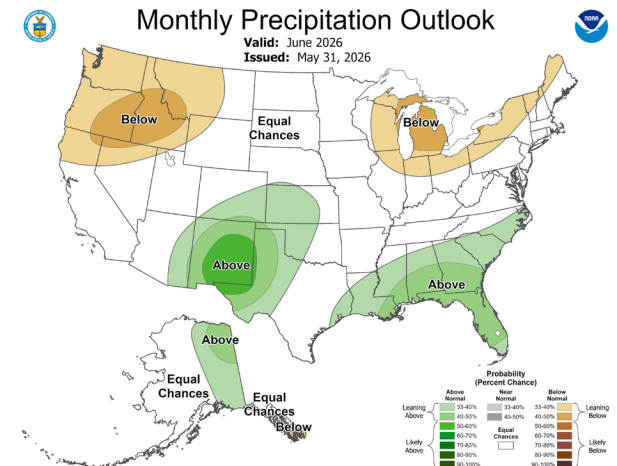


Intensity

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

USDA NDMC droughtmonitor.unl.edu

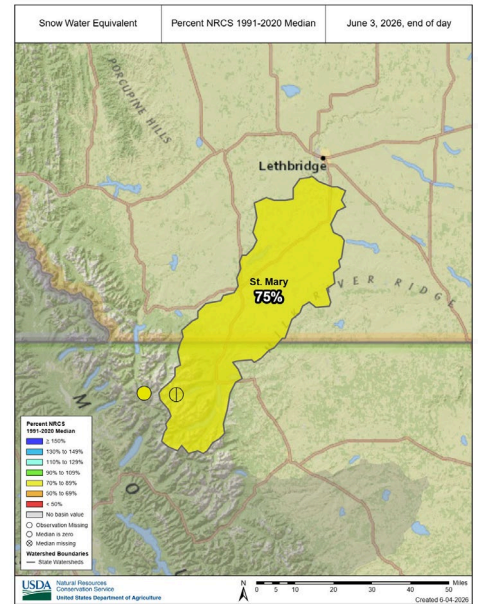
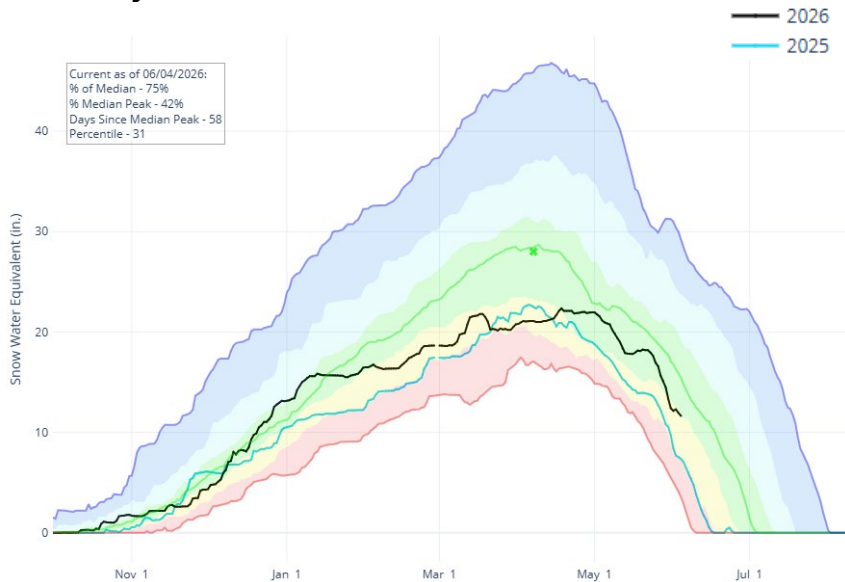
June Climate Outlook



SNOWPACK SUMMARY

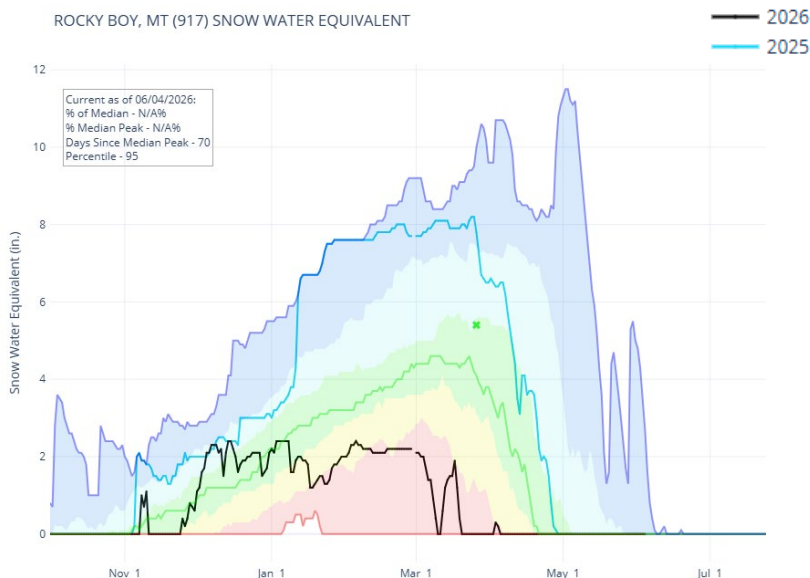
The snow water equivalent (SWE) graphs are a composite of SNOTEL sites within the St. Mary and Milk River Basins managed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

St. Mary River Basin



Milk River Basin

ROCKY BOY, MT (917) SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT



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

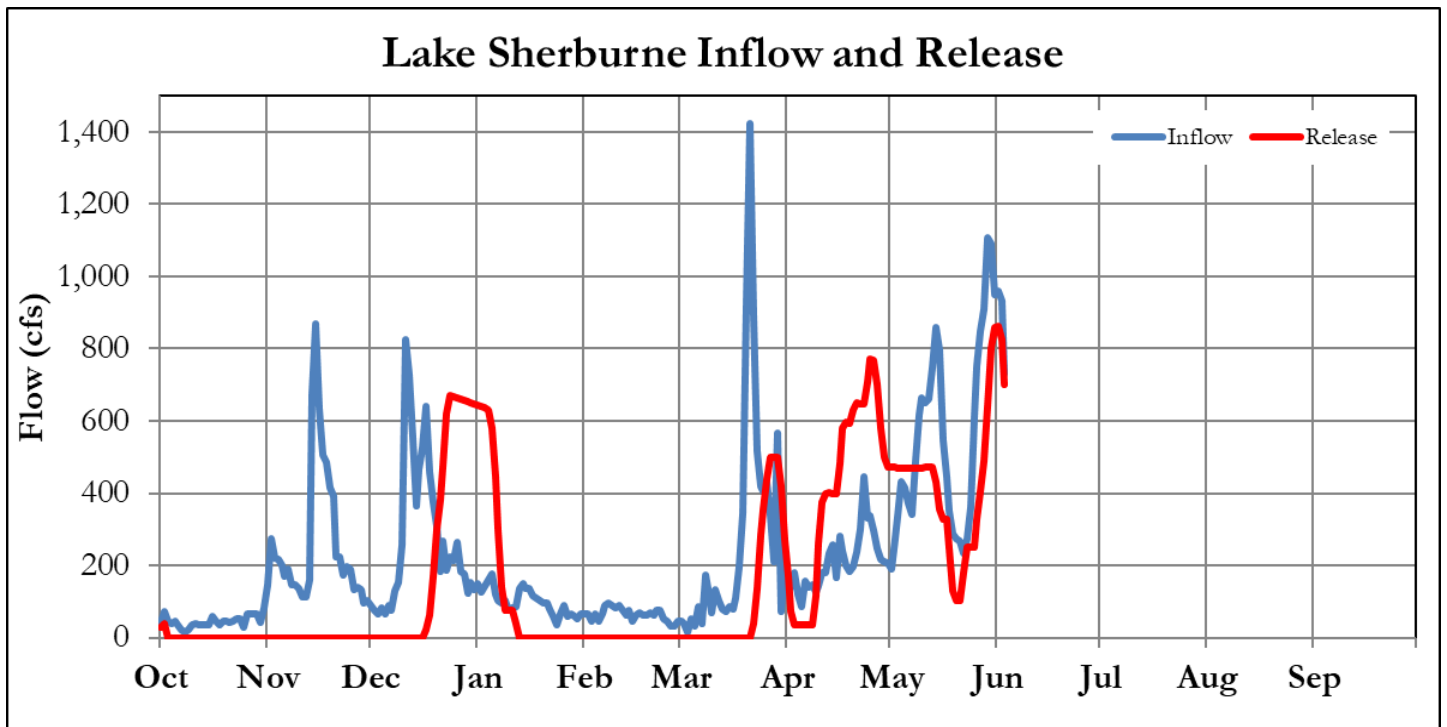
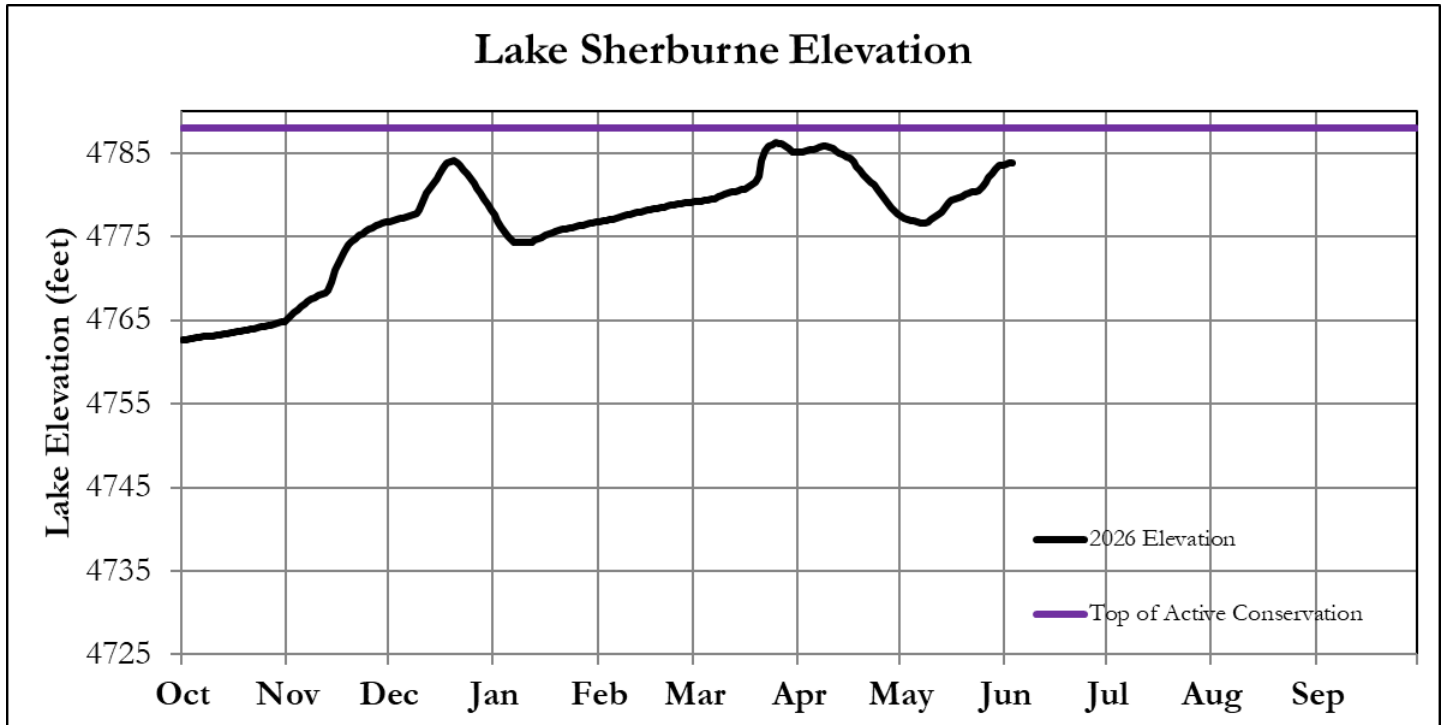
June 1 Elevation and Storage

	Elevation (feet)	Storage (acre-feet)	Percent of Average	Percent Full
Sherburne Reservoir	4783.60	58,764	155	89
Fresno Reservoir	2558.89	35,582	53	39
Nelson Reservoir	2212.53	45,195	71	57

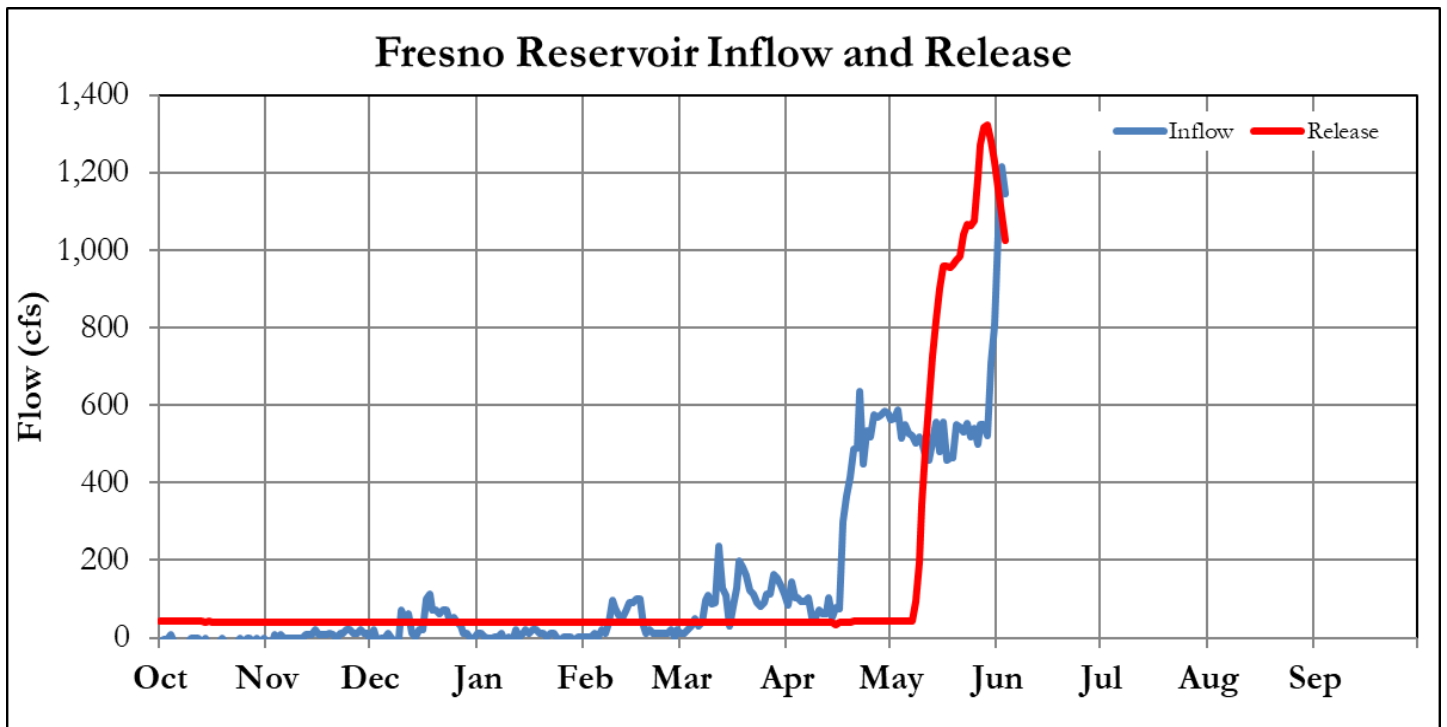
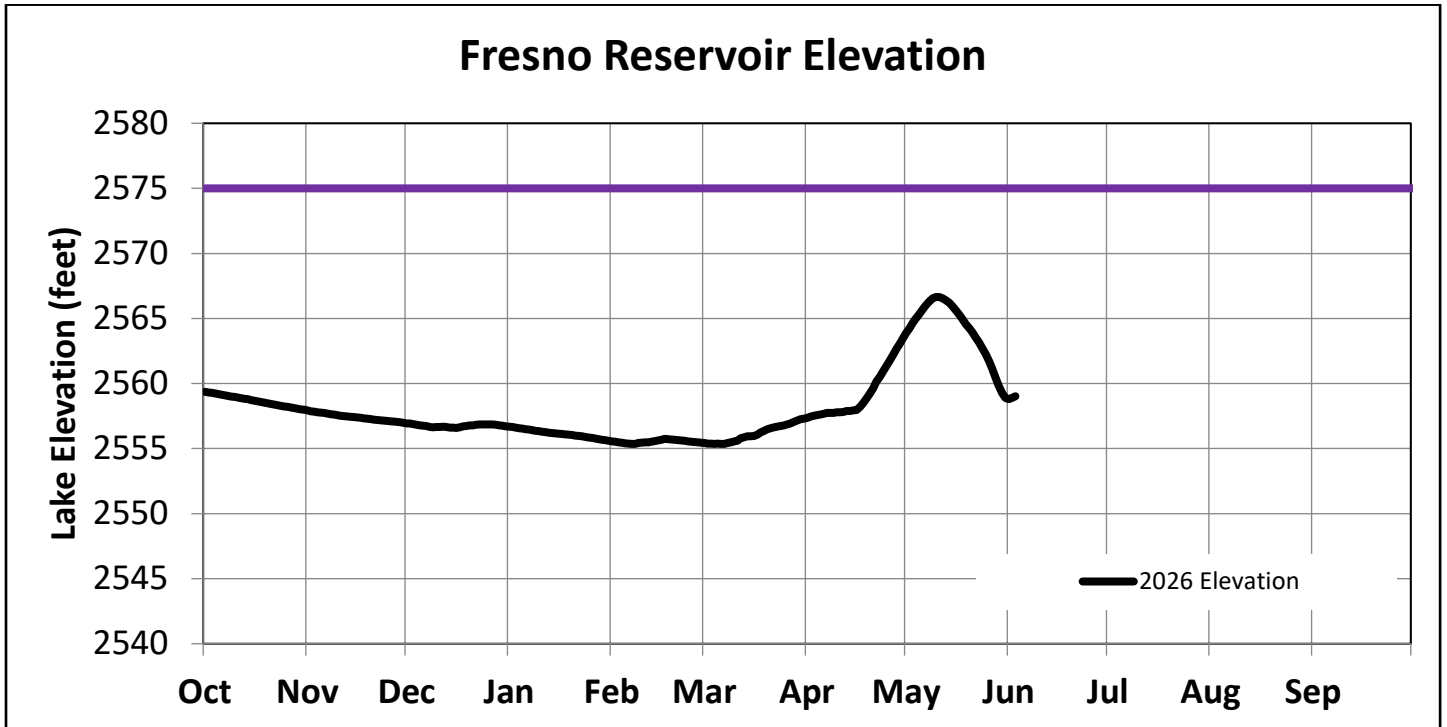
Past Inflows (1,000's of acre-feet)

Month	Sherburne Reservoir		Fresno Reservoir	
	Inflow	% of Average	Inflow	% of Average
Water Year 2026				
October	2.8	41	-0.6	-
November	15.5	198	0.4	15
December	16.7	411	2.0	129
January	6.2	226	0.3	27
February	3.6	155	2.0	40
March	16.4	444	6.2	31
April	12.6	128	16.7	50
May	34.0	108	33.0	82
Water Year 2025				
October	2.6	40	-0.3	-
November	2.9	37	0.0	-
December	2.5	62	0.1	6
January	1.3	44	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
July	14.8	80	14.9	55
August	6.2	73	24.9	90
September	1.5	28	0.7	4

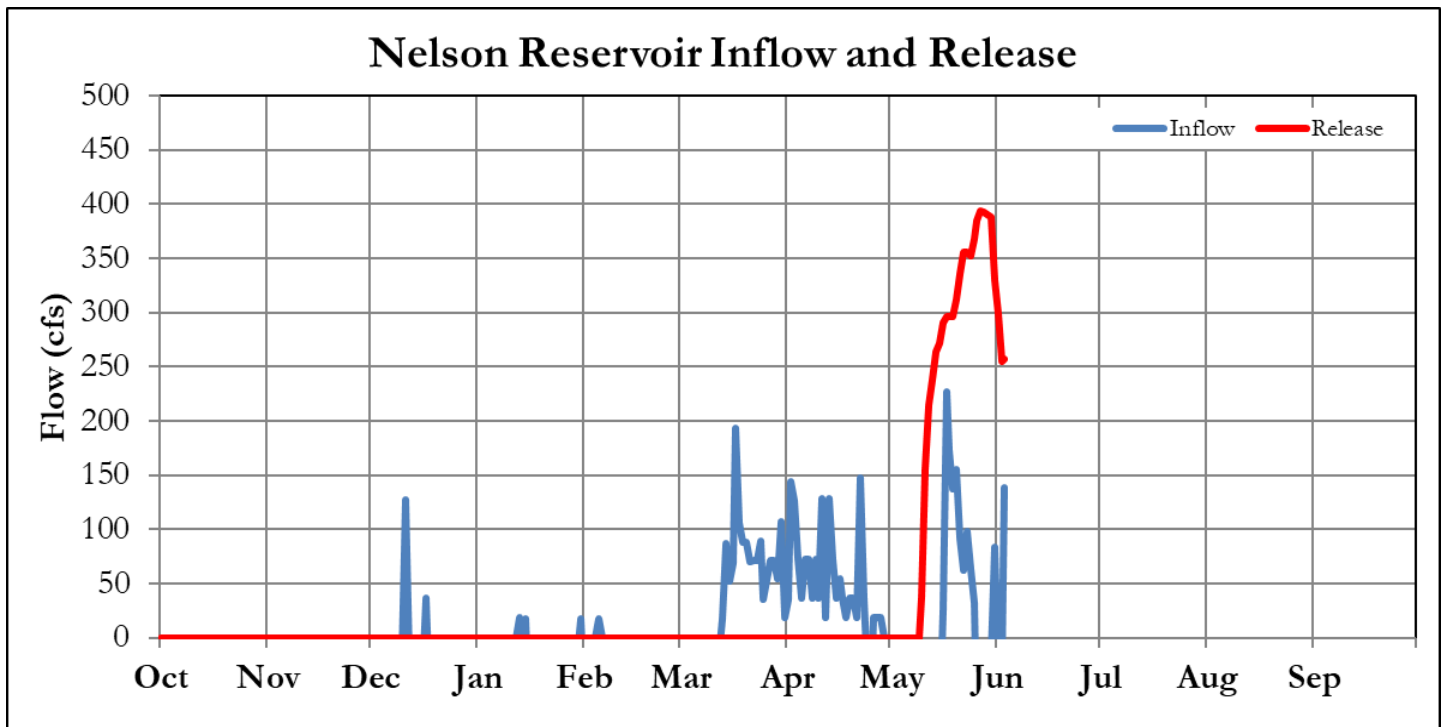
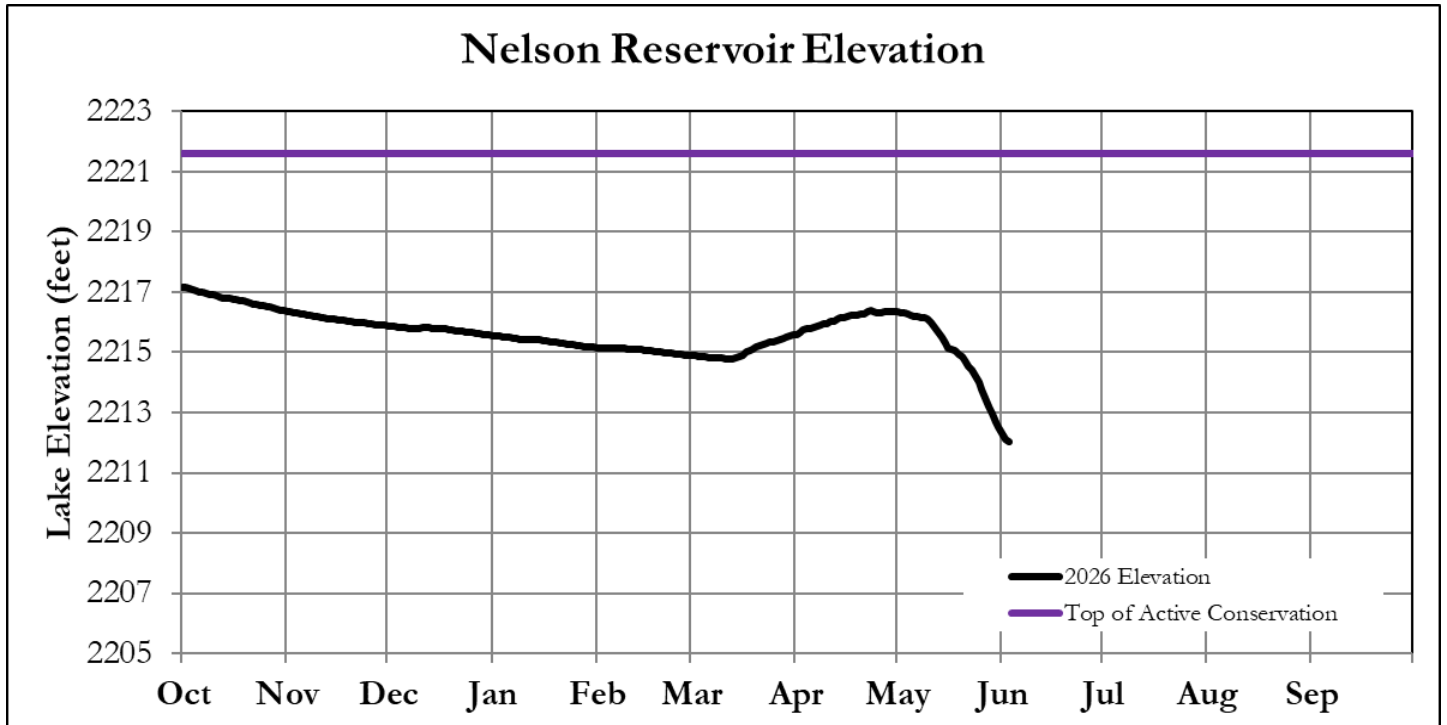
OPERATIONS REVIEW: LAKE SHERBURNE



OPERATIONS REVIEW: FRESNO RESERVOIR



OPERATIONS REVIEW: NELSON RESERVOIR



OPERATIONS OUTLOOK (June 1, 2026 through May 31, 2027)

Median Inflow Conditions

Sherburne Reservoir		Initial Content	58,764	acre-feet									
		Elevation	4783.60	feet									
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
Sherburne Inflow (kaf)	26.6	14.3	6.3	3.8	4.4	3.9	3.2	2.1	1.3	2.9	8.5	24.7	102.0
Sherburne Release (kaf)	19.2	20.7	34.2	27.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.6	24.6	149.1
Sherburne Release (cfs)	323	337	556	467	0	0	0	0	0	0	380	400	
Net Content Change (kaf)	7.4	-6.4	-27.9	-24.0	4.4	3.9	3.2	2.1	1.3	2.9	-14.1	0.1	-47.1
End of Month Content (kaf)	66.2	59.8	31.9	7.9	12.3	16.2	19.4	21.5	22.8	25.7	11.6	11.7	
End of Month Elevation (feet)	4788.0	4784.2	4764.4	4739.2	4744.8	4749.3	4752.7	4754.8	4756.1	4758.8	4744.0	4744.1	
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
St. Mary River Runoff (kaf)	121.8	67.3	29.5	19.3	16.1	10.6	7.6	6.5	6.5	7.1	18.3	89.9	400.5
Natural Flow at Boundary (kaf)	148.4	81.6	35.8	23.1	20.5	14.5	10.8	8.6	7.8	10.0	26.8	114.6	502.5
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
St. Mary Canal Diversion (cfs)	600	600	600	501	0	0	0	0	0	0	350	600	
St. Mary Canal Diversion (kaf)	35.7	36.9	36.9	29.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.8	36.9	197.0
Fresno Reservoir		Initial Content	35,582	acre-feet									
		Elevation	2558.89	feet									
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
Milk River Runoff (kaf)	13.4	0.2	0.2	1.4	2.8	1.6	0.9	0.9	2.3	8.4	7.8	3.5	43.4
From St. Mary Canal (kaf)	28.6	29.5	29.5	23.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.2	29.5	147.1
Fresno Inflow (kaf)	42.0	29.7	29.7	25.2	2.8	1.6	0.9	0.9	2.3	8.4	14.0	33.0	190.5
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
Fresno Release (kaf)	49.3	42.5	4.2	2.4	16.2	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.2	2.5	2.4	23.2	152.3
Fresno Release (cfs)	829	691	68	40	263	40	41	41	40	41	40	377	
Net Content Change (kaf)	-7.3	-12.8	25.5	22.8	-13.4	-0.8	-1.6	-1.6	0.1	5.9	11.6	9.8	38.2
End of Month Content (kaf)	28.3	15.5	41.0	63.8	50.4	49.6	48.0	46.4	46.5	52.4	64.0	73.8	
End of Month Elevation (feet)	2555.3	2547.7	2561.3	2569.4	2565.0	2564.7	2564.1	2563.5	2563.5	2565.7	2569.5	2572.3	
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
Irrigation Allotment (ft/ac)	0.50	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	1.15
Irrigation Delivery (kaf)	46.3	37.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	23.2	106.6
FBIIP Demand (kaf)	0.0	1.5	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.5
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
Fresno to Dodson Gain (kaf)	4.0	3.1	0.3	0.2	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.4	18.2	3.0	47.0
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)	7.0	7.0	0.0	0.0	17.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.4	16.2	3.0	67.6
Nelson Reservoir		Initial Content	45,195	acre-feet									
		Elevation	2212.53	feet									
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
Delivery to Nelson (kaf)	6.3	6.3	0.0	0.0	15.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.7	14.6	2.7	60.9
Net Content Change (kaf)	-6.7	-4.4	-1.8	-1.8	13.5	-1.8	-1.8	-1.8	-1.7	13.9	12.8	-4.7	13.7
End of Month Content (kaf)	38.5	34.1	32.3	30.5	44.0	42.2	40.4	38.6	36.9	50.8	63.6	58.9	
End of Month Elevation (feet)	2210.1	2208.2	2207.4	2206.6	2212.1	2211.5	2210.8	2210.1	2209.4	2214.3	2217.8	2216.6	
Total Release (kaf)	11.2	8.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.6	25.7

OPERATIONS OUTLOOK (June 1, 2026 through May 31, 2027)

Minimum Inflow Conditions

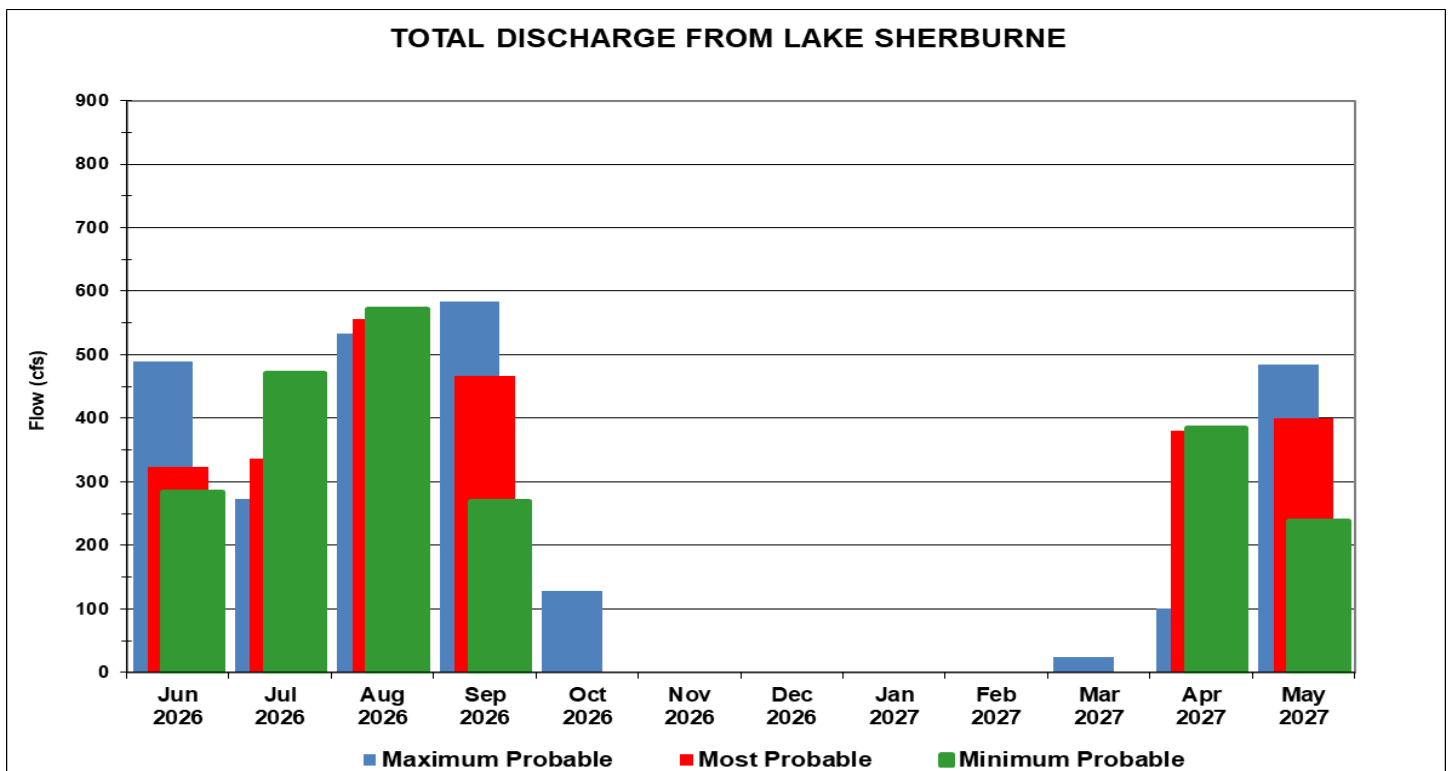
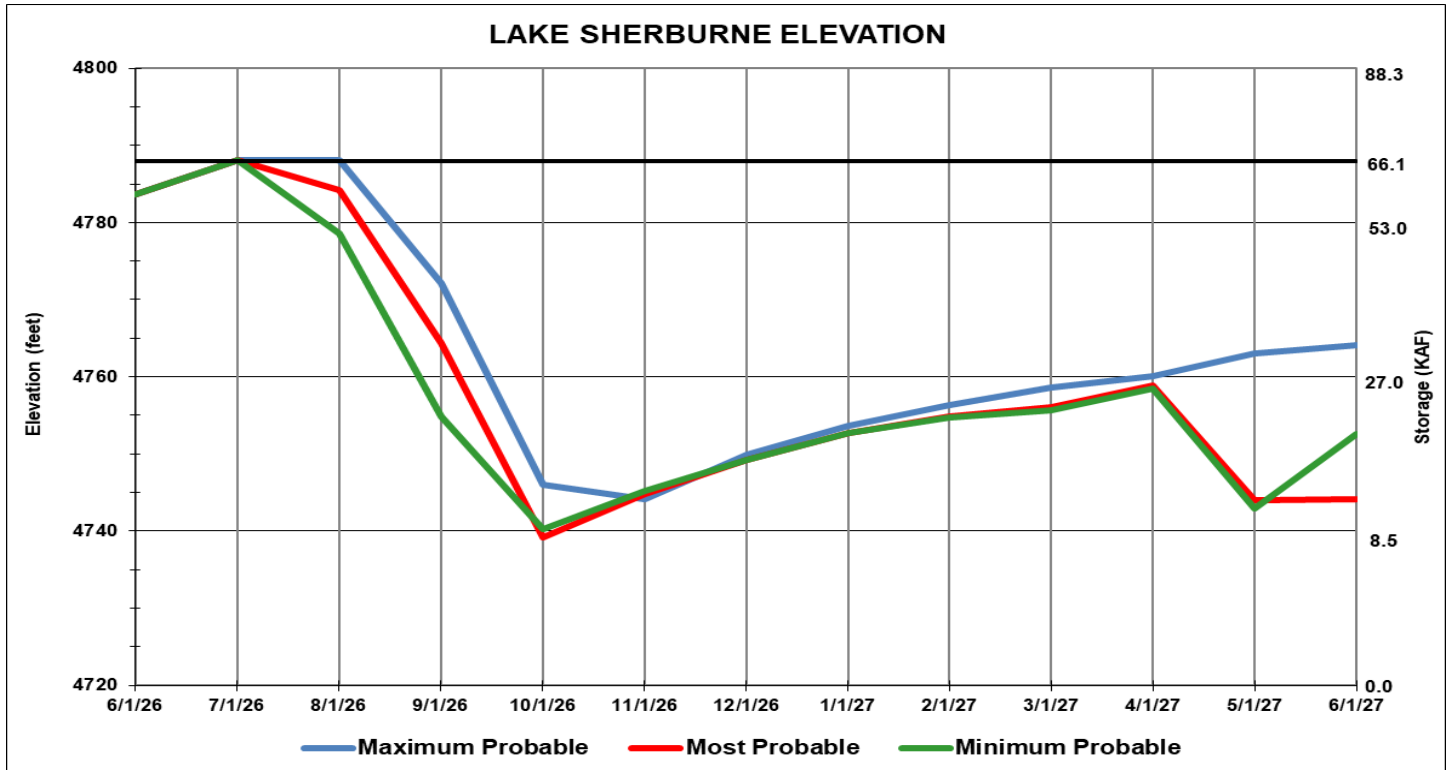
Sherburne Reservoir		Initial Content	58,764	acre-feet									
		Elevation	4783.60	feet									
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
Sherburne Inflow (kaf)	24.3	13.7	5.9	3.1	3.9	3.6	3.2	2.0	1.0	2.9	8.3	23.3	95.2
Sherburne Release (kaf)	16.9	29.0	35.2	16.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.9	14.7	134.7
Sherburne Release (cfs)	284	472	572	269	0	0	0	0	0	0	385	239	
Net Content Change (kaf)	7.4	-15.3	-29.3	-12.9	3.9	3.6	3.2	2.0	1.0	2.9	-14.6	8.6	-39.5
End of Month Content (kaf)	66.2	50.9	21.6	8.7	12.6	16.2	19.4	21.4	22.4	25.3	10.7	19.3	
End of Month Elevation (feet)	4788.0	4778.6	4754.9	4740.3	4745.2	4749.3	4752.7	4754.7	4755.7	4758.5	4742.9	4752.6	
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
St. Mary River Runoff (kaf)	95.9	50.1	24.5	16.7	11.2	6.8	5.7	4.9	5.5	4.9	10.8	76.2	313.2
Natural Flow at Boundary (kaf)	120.2	63.8	30.4	19.8	15.1	10.4	8.9	6.9	6.5	7.8	19.1	99.5	408.4
St. Mary Canal Diversion (cfs)	600	600	600	301	0	0	0	0	0	0	350	600	
St. Mary Canal Diversion (kaf)	35.7	36.9	36.9	17.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.8	36.9	185.1
Fresno Reservoir		Initial Content	35,582	acre-feet									
		Elevation	2558.89	feet									
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
Milk River Runoff (kaf)	12.3	0.0	0.1	0.8	2.1	0.7	0.3	0.4	1.0	5.4	4.4	1.7	29.2
From St. Mary Canal (kaf)	26.8	27.7	27.7	23.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.2	27.7	139.4
Fresno Inflow (kaf)	39.1	27.7	27.8	24.1	2.1	0.7	0.3	0.4	1.0	5.4	10.6	29.4	168.6
Fresno Release (kaf)	47.3	6.9	6.9	15.0	22.0	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.2	2.5	2.4	23.2	135.8
Fresno Release (cfs)	795	112	112	252	358	40	41	41	40	41	40	377	
Net Content Change (kaf)	-8.2	20.8	20.9	9.1	-19.9	-1.7	-2.2	-2.1	-1.2	2.9	8.2	6.2	32.8
End of Month Content (kaf)	27.4	48.2	69.1	78.2	58.3	56.6	54.4	52.3	51.1	54.0	62.2	68.4	
End of Month Elevation (feet)	2554.9	2564.2	2571.0	2573.4	2567.7	2567.1	2566.4	2565.6	2565.2	2566.2	2568.9	2570.8	
Irrigation Allotment (ft/ac)	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.75
Irrigation Delivery (kaf)	46.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	23.2	69.5
FBIIP Demand (kaf)	0.0	2.0	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.5
Fresno to Dodson Gain (kaf)	3.0	0.8	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.7	9.1	1.6	23.6
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)	4.0	0.0	0.0	15.0	22.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.7	9.1	1.6	60.4
Nelson Reservoir		Initial Content	45,195	acre-feet									
		Elevation	2212.53	feet									
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
Delivery to Nelson (kaf)	3.6	0.0	0.0	13.5	19.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.8	8.2	1.4	54.3
Net Content Change (kaf)	-12.1	-1.8	-1.8	11.7	18.0	-1.8	-1.8	-1.8	-1.7	6.0	6.4	-7.3	12.0
End of Month Content (kaf)	33.1	31.3	29.5	41.2	59.2	57.4	55.6	53.8	52.1	58.1	64.5	57.2	
End of Month Elevation (feet)	2207.8	2207.0	2206.2	2211.1	2216.7	2216.2	2215.7	2215.2	2214.7	2216.4	2218.1	2216.1	
Total Release (kaf)	13.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.9	20.8

OPERATIONS OUTLOOK (June 1, 2026 through May 31, 2027)

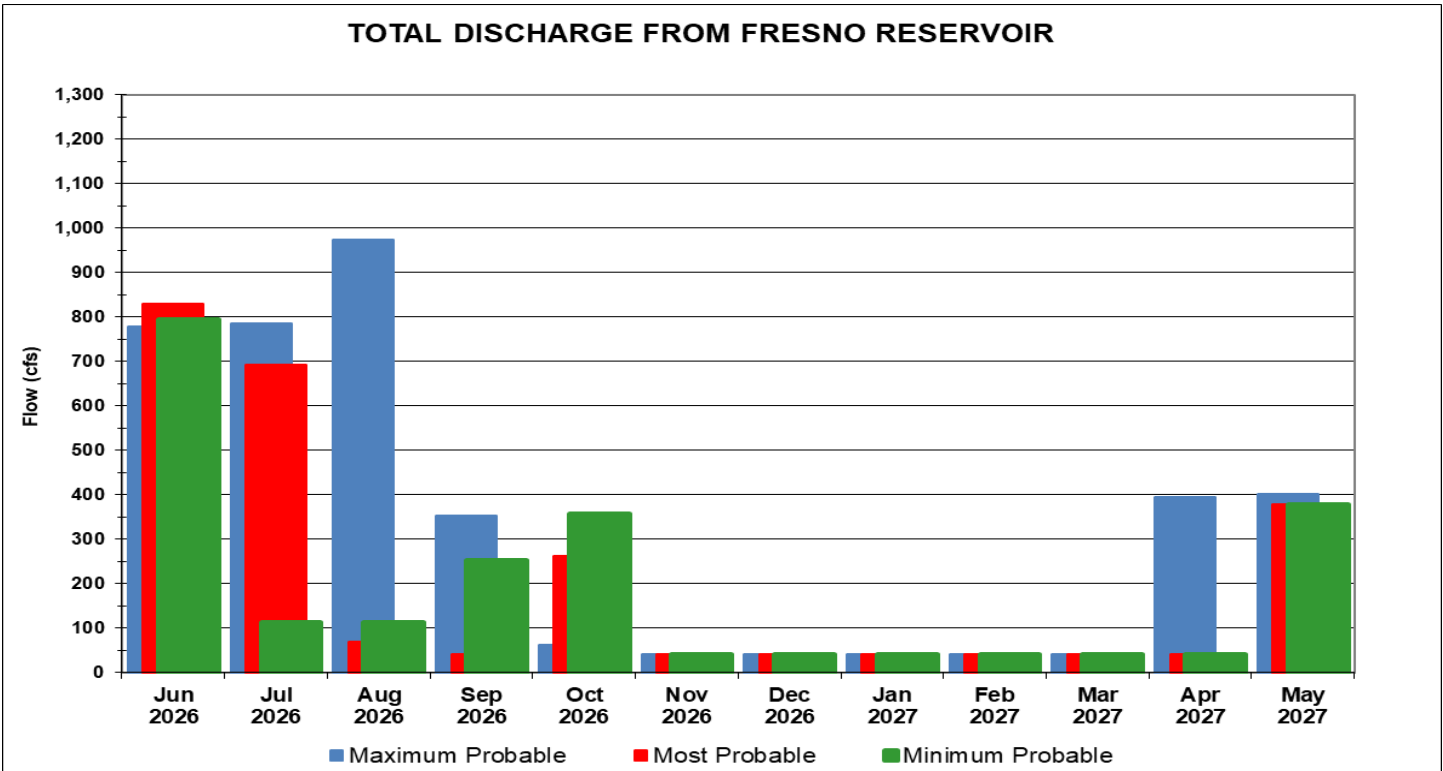
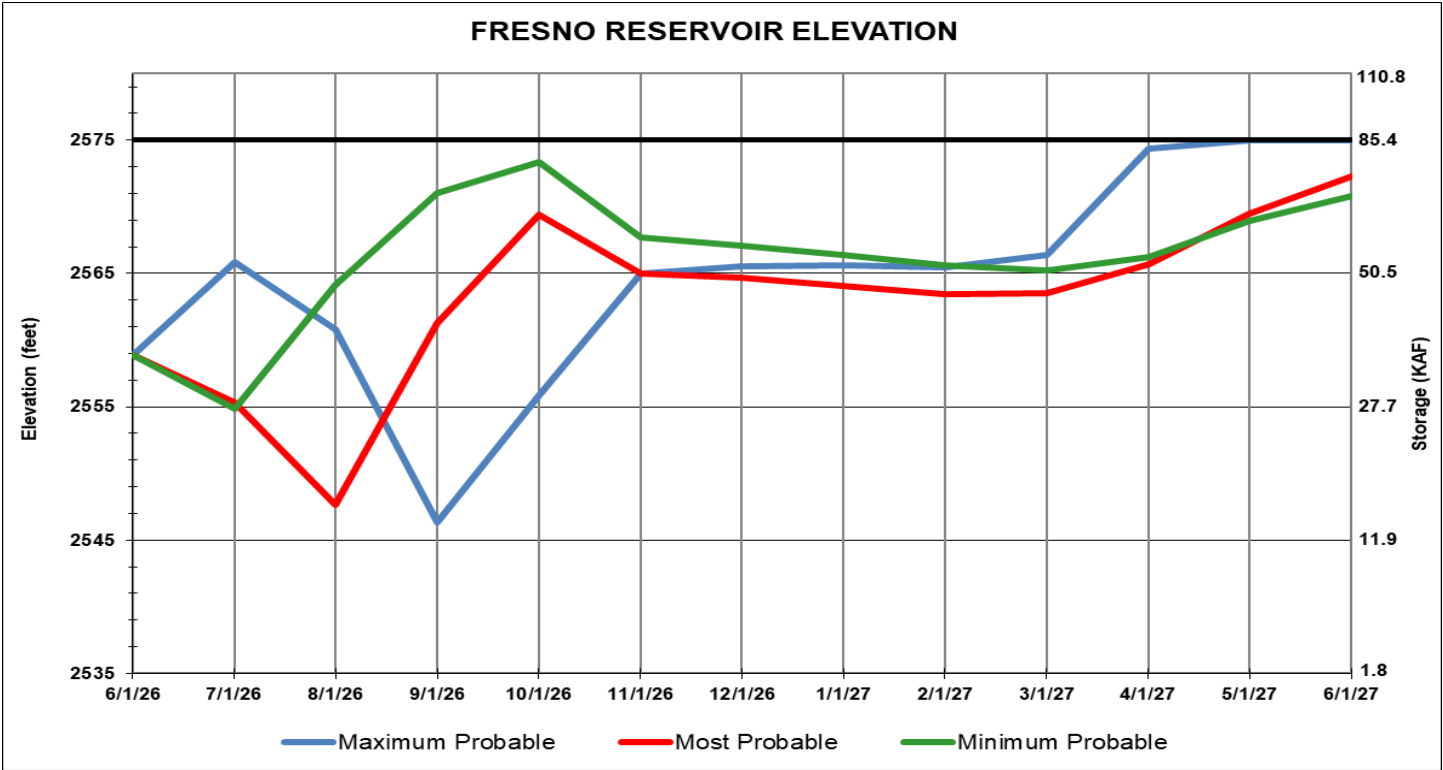
Maximum Inflow Conditions

Sherburne Reservoir		Initial Content		58,764 acre-feet									
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
Sherburne Inflow (kaf)	36.5	16.8	8.1	6.5	6.3	5.0	3.6	2.7	2.5	3.1	9.2	31.1	131.4
Sherburne Release (kaf)	29.1	16.8	32.8	34.7	7.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.5	6.0	29.8	158.6
Sherburne Release (cfs)	489	273	533	583	128	0	0	0	0	24	101	485	
Net Content Change (kaf)	7.4	0.0	-24.7	-28.2	-1.6	5.0	3.6	2.7	2.5	1.6	3.2	1.3	-27.2
End of Month Content (kaf)	66.2	66.2	41.5	13.3	11.7	16.7	20.3	23.0	25.5	27.1	30.3	31.6	
End of Month Elevation (feet)	4788.0	4788.0	4772.1	4746.0	4744.1	4749.8	4753.6	4756.3	4758.6	4760.1	4763.0	4764.1	
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
St. Mary River Runoff (kaf)	154.8	91.9	36.9	23.4	24.0	17.5	11.1	9.0	7.9	11.1	28.6	107.1	523.3
Natural Flow at Boundary (kaf)	191.3	108.7	45.0	29.9	30.3	22.5	14.7	11.7	10.4	14.2	37.8	138.2	654.7
St. Mary Canal Diversion (cfs)	600	600	600	600	150	0	0	0	0	0	0	325	
St. Mary Canal Diversion (kaf)	35.7	36.9	36.9	35.7	9.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	174.4
Fresno Reservoir		Initial Content		35,582 acre-feet									
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
Milk River Runoff (kaf)	33.4	3.9	2.1	6.3	6.6	3.9	2.8	2.0	5.0	30.6	26.2	18.7	141.5
From St. Mary Canal (kaf)	30.3	31.4	31.4	30.3	18.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.0	147.8
Fresno Inflow (kaf)	63.7	35.3	33.5	36.6	25.0	3.9	2.8	2.0	5.0	30.6	26.2	24.7	289.3
Fresno Release (kaf)	46.3	48.3	59.8	21.0	3.8	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.2	2.5	23.5	24.7	239.5
Fresno Release (cfs)	778	786	973	353	62	40	41	41	40	41	395	402	
Net Content Change (kaf)	17.4	-13.0	-26.3	15.6	21.2	1.5	0.3	-0.5	2.8	28.1	2.7	0.0	49.8
End of Month Content (kaf)	53.0	40.0	13.7	29.3	50.5	52.0	52.3	51.8	54.6	82.7	85.4	85.4	
End of Month Elevation (feet)	2565.9	2560.8	2546.4	2555.9	2565.0	2565.5	2565.6	2565.5	2566.4	2574.4	2575.0	2575.0	
Irrigation Allotment (ft/ac)	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	1.95
Irrigation Delivery (kaf)	46.3	46.3	46.3	18.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	23.2	180.6
FBIIP Demand (kaf)	0.0	0.0	2.5	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0
Fresno to Dodson Gain (kaf)	12.0	12.0	3.0	7.0	5.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.6	23.7	16.4	101.9
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)	12.0	14.0	14.0	7.0	9.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	20.0	16.4	102.4
Nelson Reservoir		Initial Content		45,195 acre-feet									
	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Total
Delivery to Nelson (kaf)	10.8	12.6	12.6	6.3	8.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.0	18.0	14.8	92.2
Net Content Change (kaf)	-5.3	-3.1	-3.1	-1.1	6.3	-1.8	-1.8	-1.8	-1.7	7.2	16.2	7.6	17.6
End of Month Content (kaf)	39.9	36.8	33.7	32.6	38.9	37.1	35.3	33.5	31.8	39.0	55.2	62.8	
End of Month Elevation (feet)	2210.6	2209.4	2208.1	2207.6	2210.2	2209.5	2208.7	2208.0	2207.2	2210.3	2215.6	2217.6	
Total Release (kaf)	14.3	13.9	13.9	5.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.4	53.1

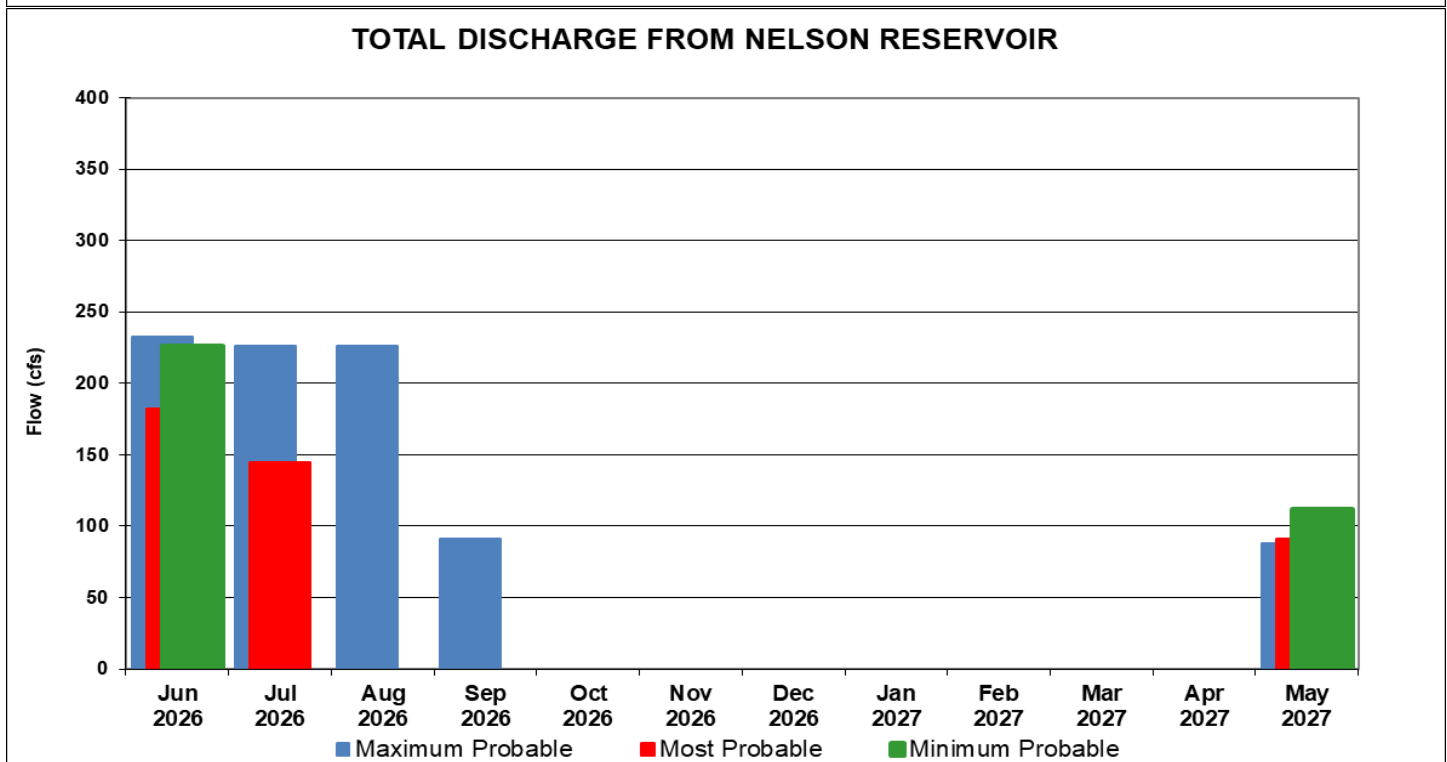
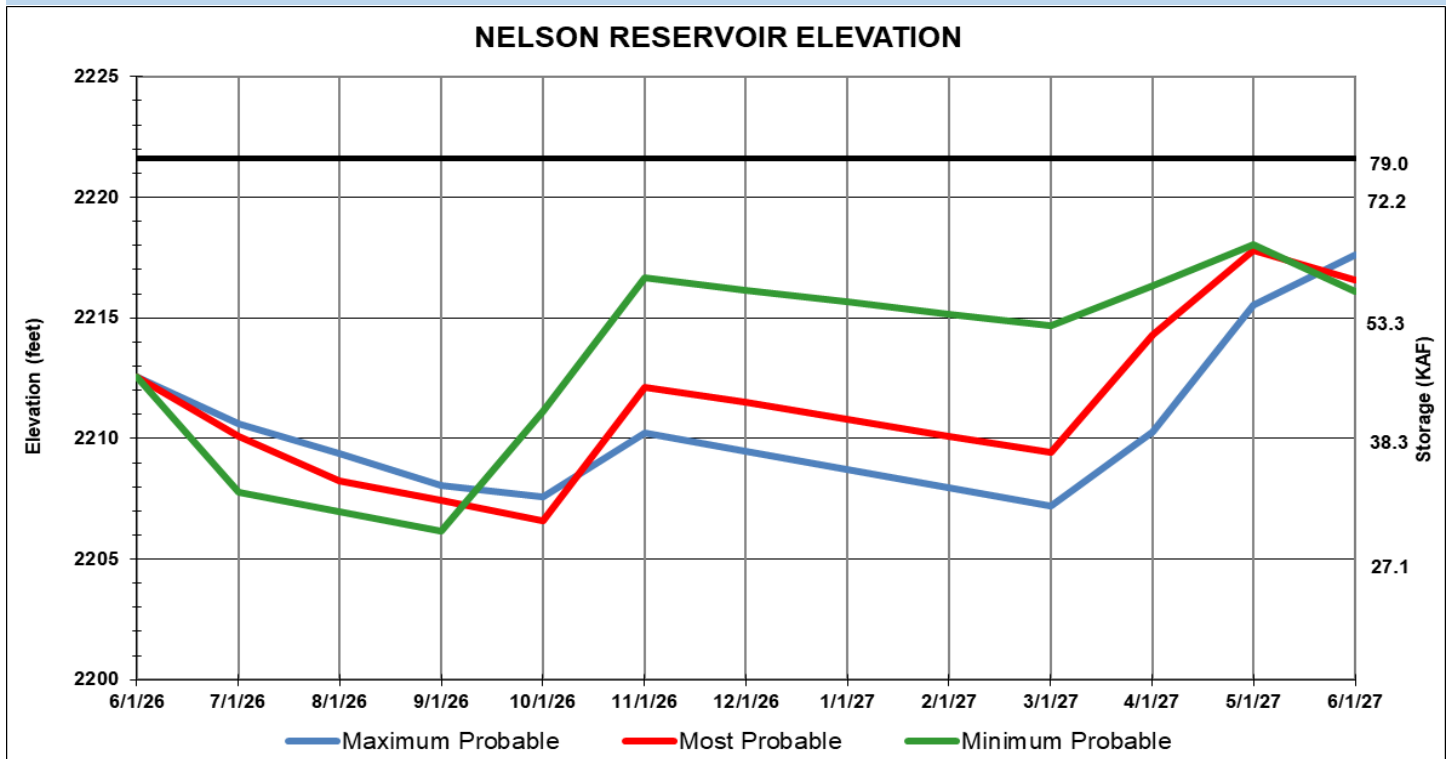
OPERATIONS OUTLOOK: LAKE SHERBURNE



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 2026