

Milk River Project Water Supply and Projected Operations



November 2025



Fresno Dam, October 2025

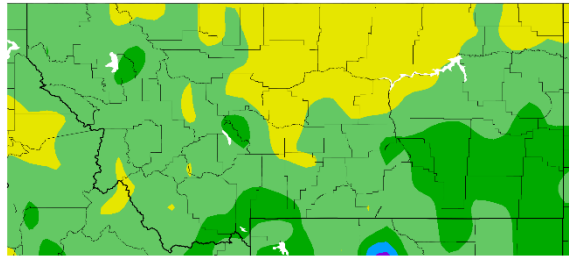
The November monthly operating plan covers actual operations from October 1, 2025, through October 31, 2025, and projected operations for November 1, 2025, through October 31, 2026. The projections are based on forecasted water supply and use.

Median Forecasted Operations	Sherburne	Fresno	Nelson
November Inflow Forecast (kaf)	4	1	-2
Percent of Average	49	19	-
November Release Forecast (cfs)	0	40	0
November 30 Elevation Forecast (feet)	4768.1	2557.1	2215.9

Climate Departure from Normal

October 1 through October 31

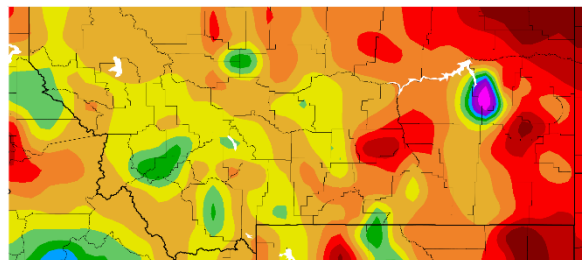
Precipitation



Departure from Normal (inches)

Temperature

Departure from Normal (°F)



HPRCC using provisional data NOAA Regional Climate Centers

CLIMATE SUMMARY

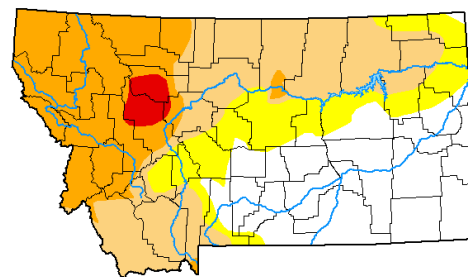
Precipitation was near average in the St. Mary basin and below average in the Milk River basin during October. Temperature was above average during October in both basins.

There is a 33-40% chance that precipitation will be above average during November in the St. Mary and Upper Milk River basins. There is an equal chance that precipitation will be above, below, or near average during November in the lower Milk River basin. There is a 40-50% chance that the temperature will be above average during November in both basins.

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

Montana Drought Monitor Map

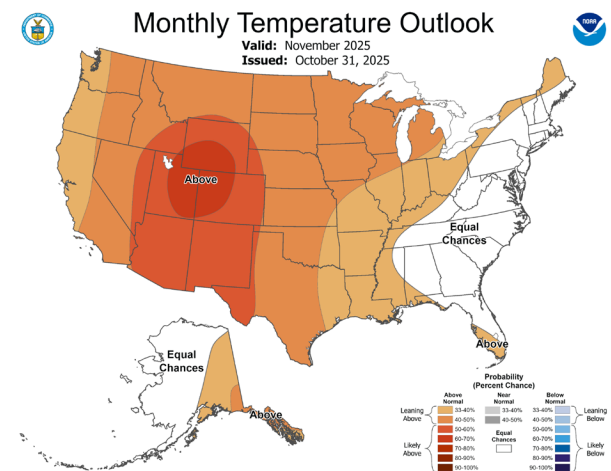
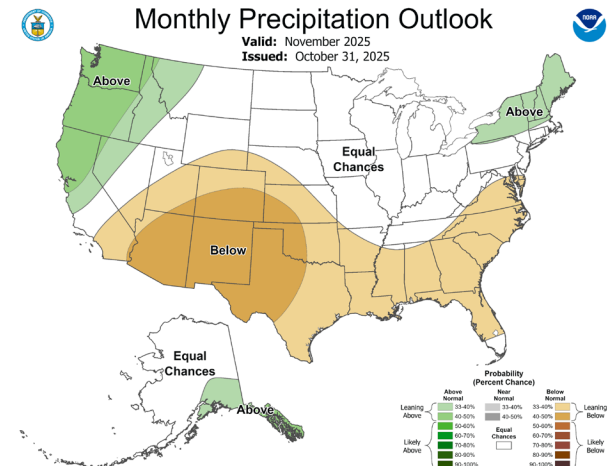
October 28, 2025



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



November Climate Outlook



OPERATIONS REVIEW

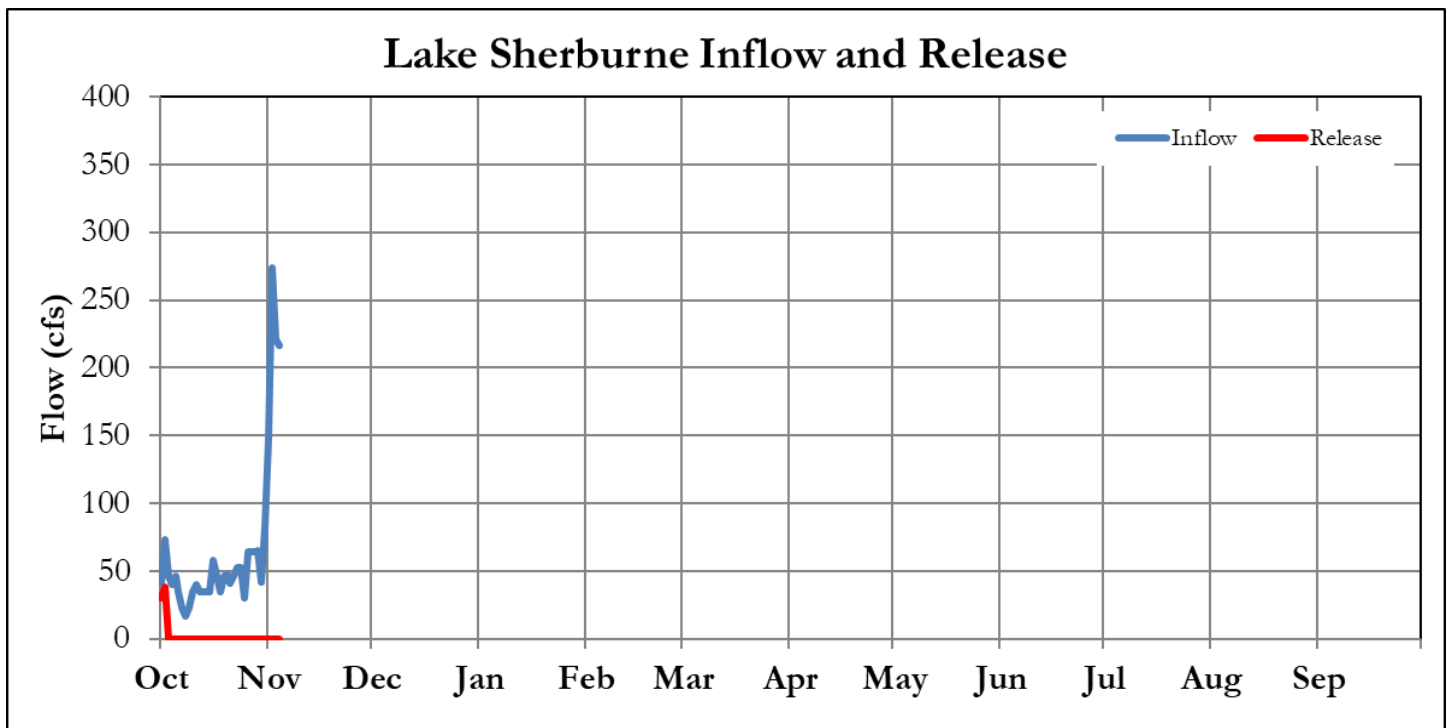
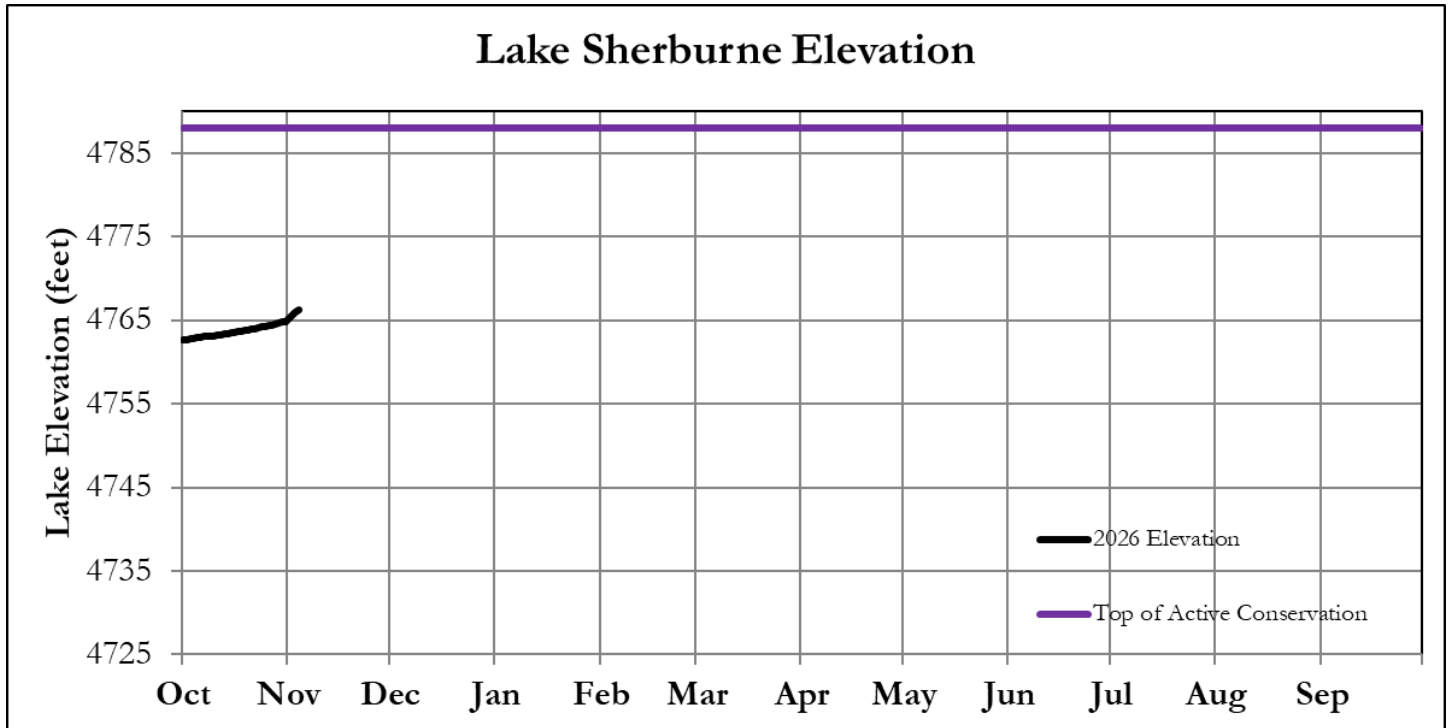
November 1 Elevation and Storage

	Elevation (feet)	Storage (acre-feet)	Percent of Average	Percent Full
Sherburne Reservoir	4764.89	32,520	163	49
Fresno Reservoir	2557.98	33,620	82	37
Nelson Reservoir	2216.38	58,198	101	74

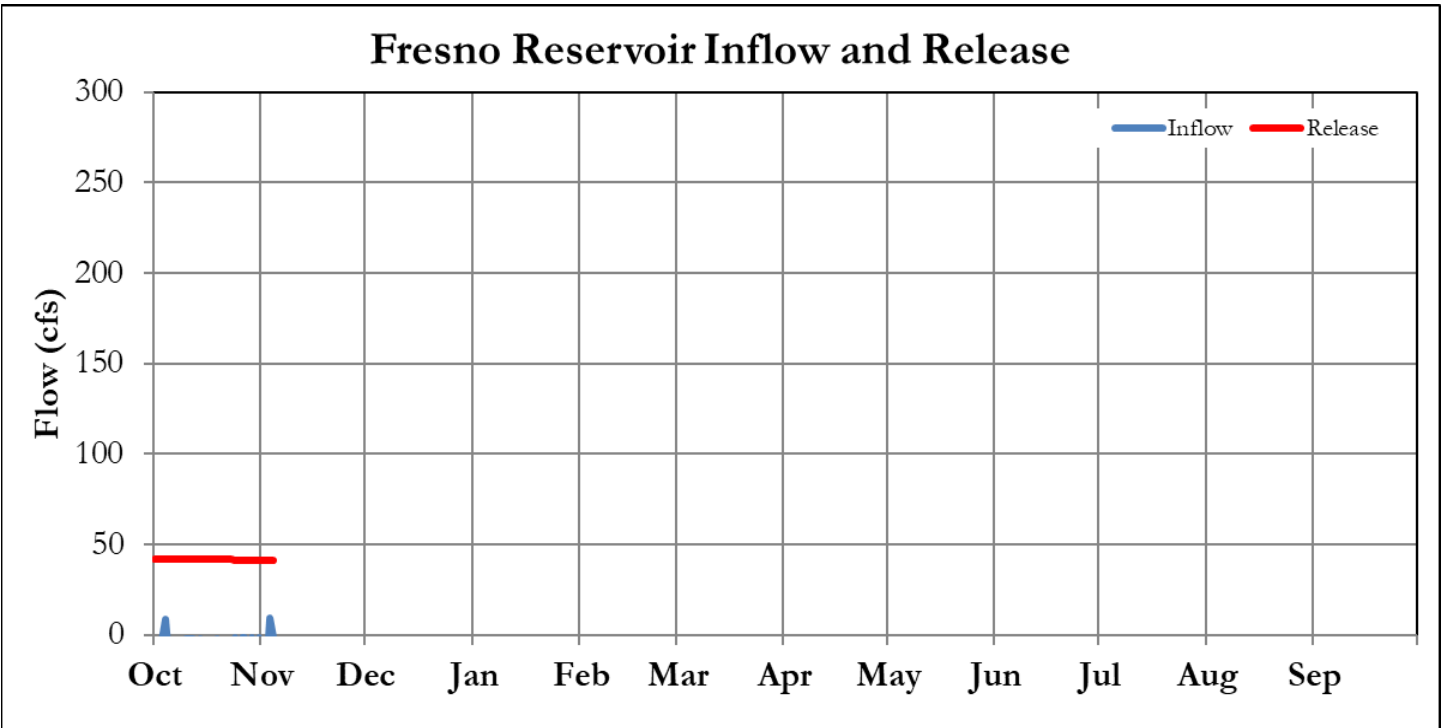
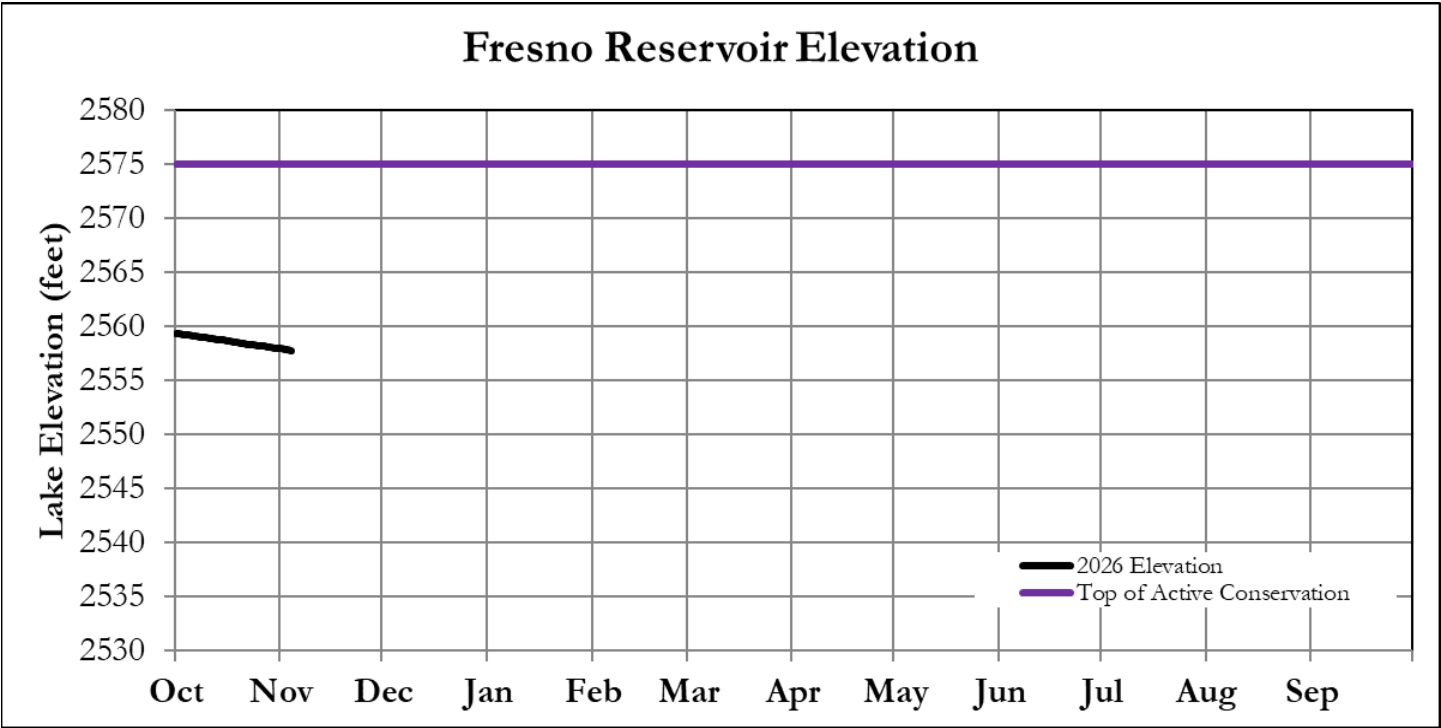
Past Inflows (1,000's of acre-feet)

Month	Sherburne Reservoir		Fresno Reservoir	
	Inflow	% of Average	Inflow	% of Average
Water Year 2026				
October	2.8	41	-0.6	-
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

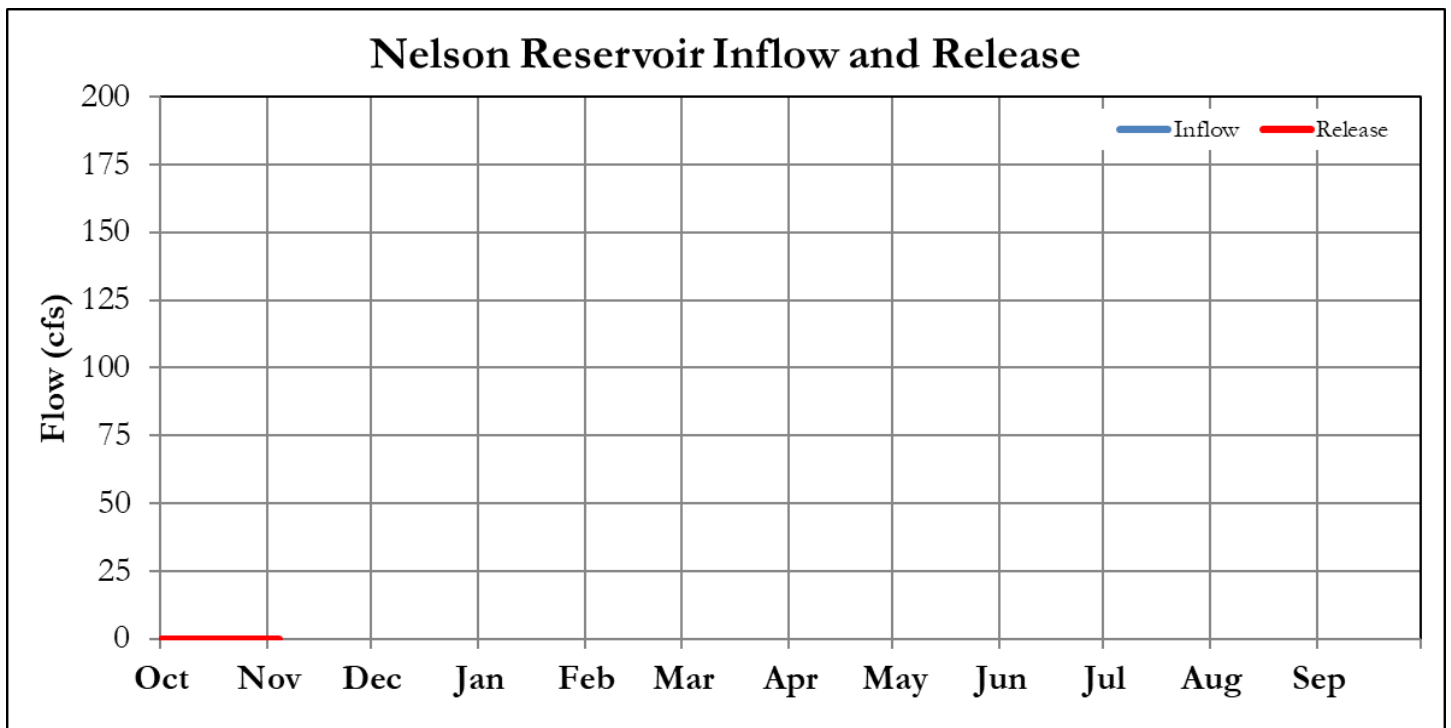
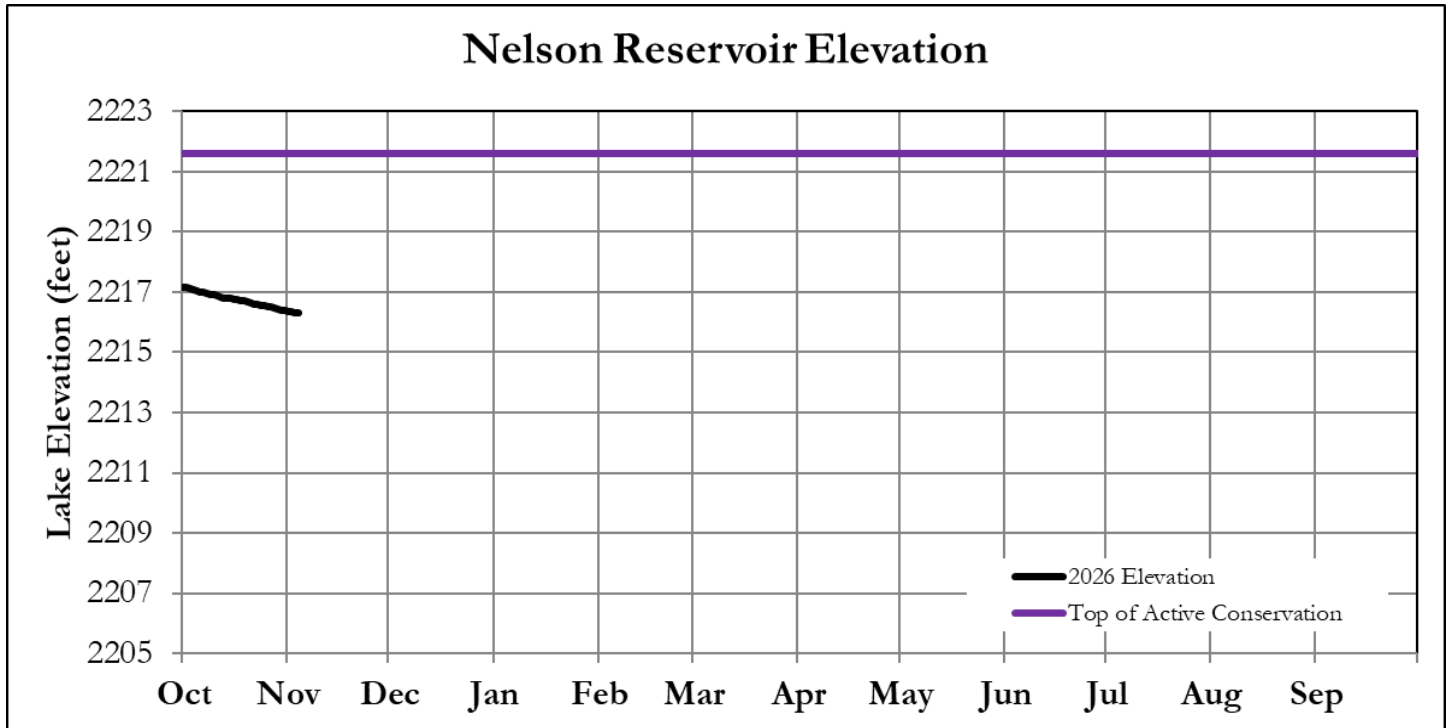
OPERATIONS REVIEW: LAKE SHERBURNE



OPERATIONS REVIEW: FRESNO RESERVOIR



OPERATIONS REVIEW: NELSON RESERVOIR



OPERATIONS OUTLOOK (November 1, 2025 through October 31, 2026)

Median Inflow Conditions

Sherburne Reservoir		Initial Content	32,520	acre-feet									
		Elevation	4764.89	feet									
	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Total
Sherburne Inflow (kaf)	3.9	3.3	2.3	2.1	3.1	9.5	32.9	39.3	17.5	8.6	7.2	6.8	136.5
Sherburne Release (kaf)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.7	36.7	15.9	6.4	17.5	35.3	36.3	4.6	156.4
Sherburne Release (cfs)	0	0	0	0	60	617	259	108	285	574	610	75	
Net Content Change (kaf)	3.9	3.3	2.3	2.1	-0.6	-27.2	17.0	32.9	0.0	-26.7	-29.1	2.2	-19.9
End of Month Content (kaf)	36.4	39.7	42.0	44.1	43.5	16.3	33.3	66.2	66.2	39.5	10.4	12.6	
End of Month Elevation (feet)	4768.1	4770.8	4772.5	4774.0	4773.6	4749.4	4765.6	4788.0	4788.0	4770.6	4742.5	4745.2	
	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Total
St. Mary River Runoff (kaf)	7.4	6.0	5.7	5.7	7.9	24.5	95.5	135.0	80.6	32.3	19.0	18.7	438.3
Natural Flow at Boundary (kaf)	11.3	9.3	8.0	7.8	11.0	34.0	128.4	174.3	98.1	40.9	26.2	25.5	574.8
St. Mary Canal Diversion (cfs)	0	0	0	0	99	600	600	600	600	600	600	99	
St. Mary Canal Diversion (kaf)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.1	35.7	36.9	35.7	36.9	36.9	35.7	6.1	230.0
Fresno Reservoir		Initial Content	33,620	acre-feet									
		Elevation	2557.98	feet									
	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Total
Milk River Runoff (kaf)	0.5	0.2	0.7	2.8	12.0	15.1	7.3	5.0	0.4	0.6	2.8	4.2	51.6
From St. Mary Canal (kaf)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	26.8	29.5	28.6	29.5	29.5	28.6	15.3	187.8
Fresno Inflow (kaf)	0.5	0.2	0.7	2.8	12.0	41.9	36.8	33.6	29.9	30.1	31.4	19.5	239.4
Fresno Release (kaf)	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.2	2.5	2.4	28.6	46.3	61.2	61.6	6.0	2.5	220.7
Fresno Release (cfs)	40	41	41	40	41	40	465	778	995	1002	101	41	
Net Content Change (kaf)	-1.9	-2.3	-1.8	0.6	9.5	39.5	8.2	-12.7	-31.3	-31.5	25.4	17.0	18.7
End of Month Content (kaf)	31.7	29.4	27.6	28.2	37.7	77.2	85.4	72.7	41.4	9.9	35.3	52.3	
End of Month Elevation (feet)	2557.1	2555.9	2555.0	2555.3	2559.8	2573.1	2575.0	2572.0	2561.4	2543.3	2558.8	2565.6	
Irrigation Allotment (ft/ac)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.50	0.65	0.60	0.00	0.00	2.00
Irrigation Delivery (kaf)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	23.2	46.3	60.2	55.6	0.0	0.0	185.3
FBIIP Demand (kaf)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	6.0	6.0	0.0	13.0
Fresno to Dodson Gain (kaf)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.4	18.2	12.6	16.4	6.8	2.0	5.4	2.0	80.8
Bowdoin Demand (kaf)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.5
Transfer to Nelson (kaf)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.0	18.0	10.0	16.4	6.8	2.0	5.4	2.0	77.6
Nelson Reservoir		Initial Content	58,198	acre-feet									
		Elevation	2216.38	feet									
	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Total
Delivery to Nelson (kaf)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.3	16.2	9.0	14.8	6.1	1.8	4.9	1.8	69.9
Net Content Change (kaf)	-1.8	-1.8	-1.8	-1.7	13.5	14.4	0.0	0.0	-10.2	-13.4	3.1	0.0	0.3
End of Month Content (kaf)	56.4	54.6	52.8	51.1	64.6	79.0	79.0	79.0	68.8	55.4	58.5	58.5	
End of Month Elevation (feet)	2215.9	2215.4	2214.9	2214.4	2218.1	2221.6	2221.6	2221.6	2219.2	2215.6	2216.5	2216.5	
Total Release (kaf)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.2	13.0	14.5	13.4	0.0	0.0	48.1

OPERATIONS OUTLOOK (November 1, 2025 through October 31, 2026)

Minimum Inflow Conditions

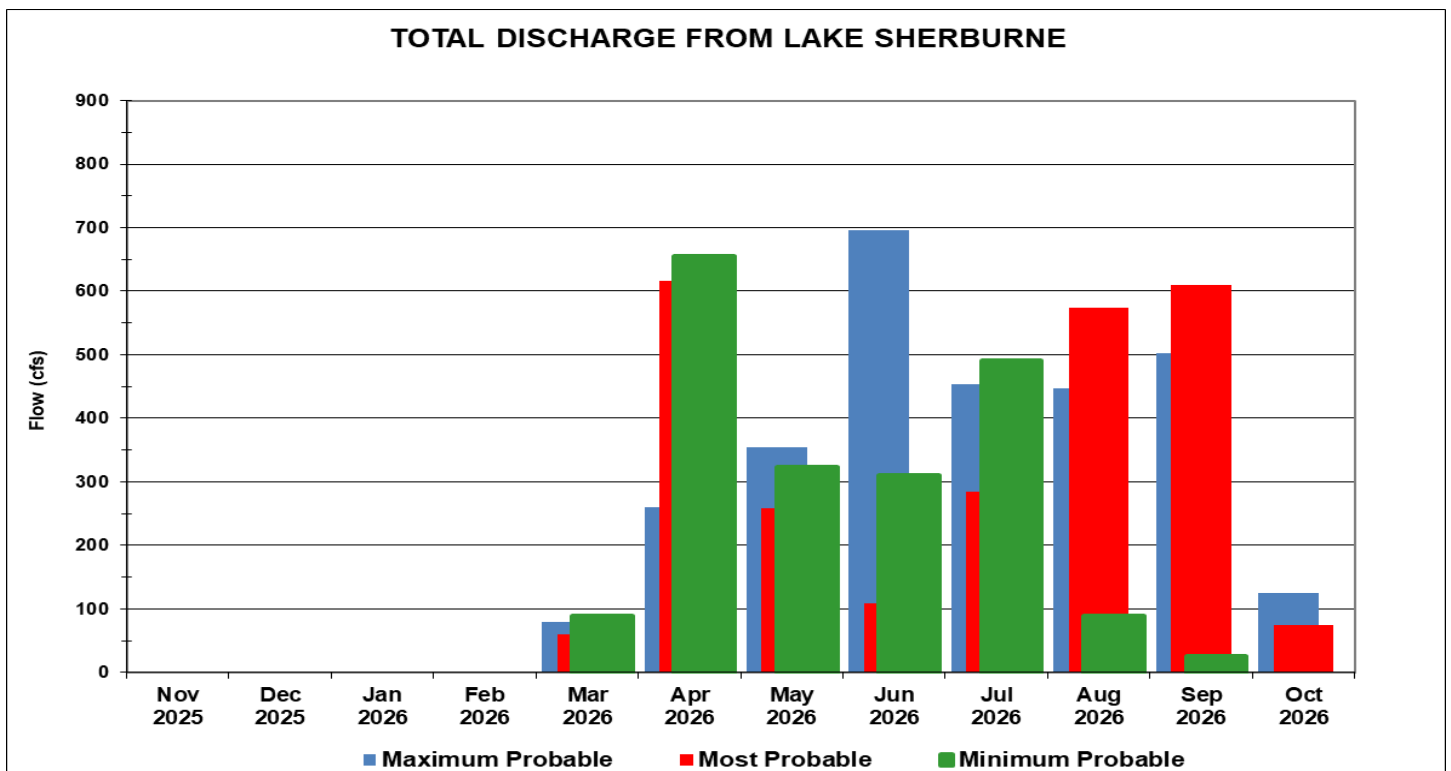
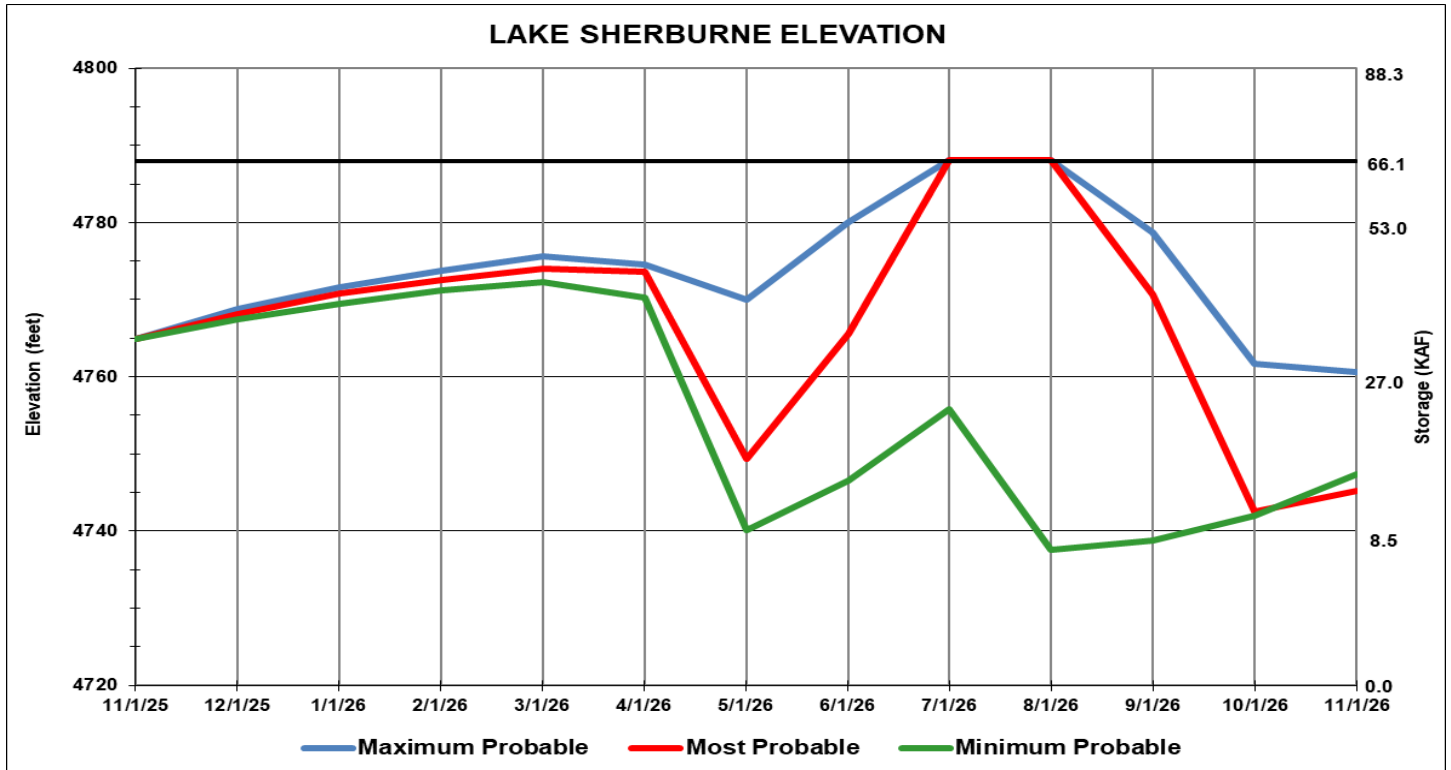
Sherburne Reservoir		Initial Content	32,520	acre-feet									
		Elevation	4764.89	feet									
	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Total
Sherburne Inflow (kaf)	3.0	2.6	2.2	1.4	2.9	8.5	25.1	27.2	14.4	6.4	3.9	4.5	102.1
Sherburne Release (kaf)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.5	39.0	19.9	18.5	30.2	5.5	1.5	0.0	120.1
Sherburne Release (cfs)	0	0	0	0	89	655	324	311	491	89	25	0	
Net Content Change (kaf)	3.0	2.6	2.2	1.4	-2.6	-30.5	5.2	8.7	-15.8	0.9	2.4	4.5	-18.0
End of Month Content (kaf)	35.5	38.1	40.3	41.7	39.1	8.6	13.8	22.5	6.7	7.6	10.0	14.5	
End of Month Elevation (feet)	4767.4	4769.5	4771.2	4772.3	4770.3	4740.1	4746.6	4755.8	4737.5	4738.8	4742.0	4747.4	
	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Total
St. Mary River Runoff (kaf)	5.7	5.5	4.0	4.6	4.1	7.4	68.2	81.5	42.1	21.7	14.5	8.4	267.7
Natural Flow at Boundary (kaf)	8.7	8.1	6.2	6.0	7.0	15.9	93.3	108.7	56.5	28.1	18.4	12.9	369.8
St. Mary Canal Diversion (cfs)	0	0	0	0	99	600	600	600	550	99	0	0	
St. Mary Canal Diversion (kaf)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.1	35.7	36.9	35.7	33.8	6.1	0.0	0.0	154.3
Fresno Reservoir		Initial Content	33,620	acre-feet									
		Elevation	2557.98	feet									
	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Total
Milk River Runoff (kaf)	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.7	4.7	3.5	1.3	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.6	2.0	14.3
From St. Mary Canal (kaf)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.0	27.7	26.8	25.3	9.1	0.0	0.0	113.9
Fresno Inflow (kaf)	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.7	4.7	28.5	29.0	28.0	25.3	9.1	0.6	2.0	128.2
Fresno Release (kaf)	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.2	2.5	2.4	23.2	46.3	42.7	6.0	6.0	2.5	141.2
Fresno Release (cfs)	40	41	41	40	41	40	377	778	694	98	101	41	
Net Content Change (kaf)	-2.4	-2.5	-2.2	-1.5	2.2	26.1	5.8	-18.3	-17.4	3.1	-5.4	-0.5	-13.0
End of Month Content (kaf)	31.2	28.7	26.5	25.0	27.2	53.3	59.1	40.8	23.4	26.5	21.1	20.6	
End of Month Elevation (feet)	2556.8	2555.5	2554.4	2553.6	2554.8	2566.0	2568.0	2561.2	2552.7	2554.4	2551.3	2551.0	
Irrigation Allotment (ft/ac)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.50	0.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.20
Irrigation Delivery (kaf)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	23.2	46.3	41.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	111.2
FBIIP Demand (kaf)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	6.0	6.0	0.0	13.0
Fresno to Dodson Gain (kaf)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.7	9.1	6.3	8.2	3.4	1.0	2.7	0.0	39.4
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	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.7	9.1	6.3	8.2	3.4	1.0	2.7	0.0	39.4
Nelson Reservoir		Initial Content	58,198	acre-feet									
		Elevation	2216.38	feet									
	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Total
Delivery to Nelson (kaf)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.8	8.2	5.7	7.4	3.1	0.9	2.4	0.0	35.5
Net Content Change (kaf)	-1.8	-1.8	-1.8	-1.7	6.0	6.4	-3.5	-8.3	-11.2	-0.9	0.6	-1.8	-19.8
End of Month Content (kaf)	56.4	54.6	52.8	51.1	57.1	63.5	60.0	51.7	40.5	39.6	40.2	38.4	
End of Month Elevation (feet)	2215.9	2215.4	2214.9	2214.4	2216.1	2217.8	2216.9	2214.6	2210.9	2210.5	2210.7	2210.0	
Total Release (kaf)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.4	13.9	12.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	33.8

OPERATIONS OUTLOOK (November 1, 2025 through October 31, 2026)

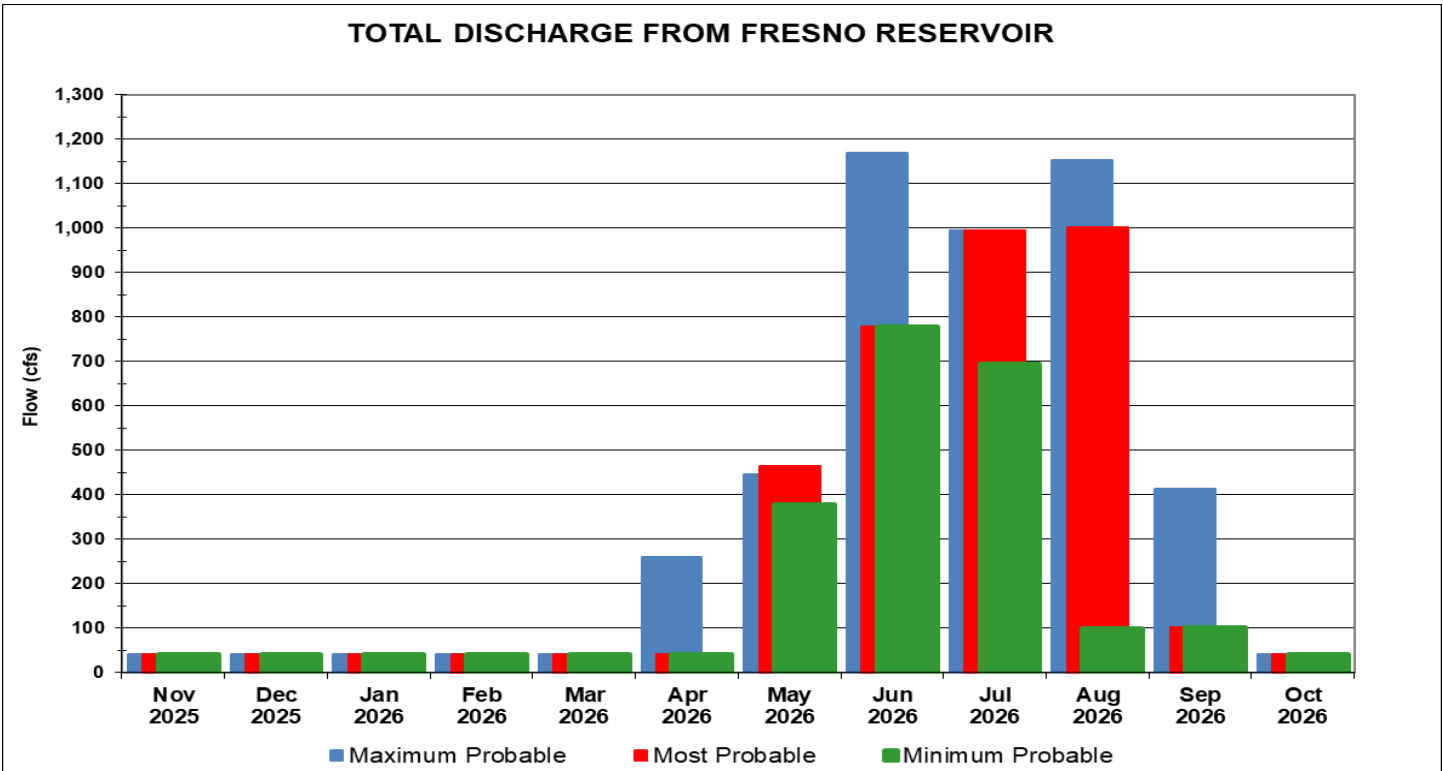
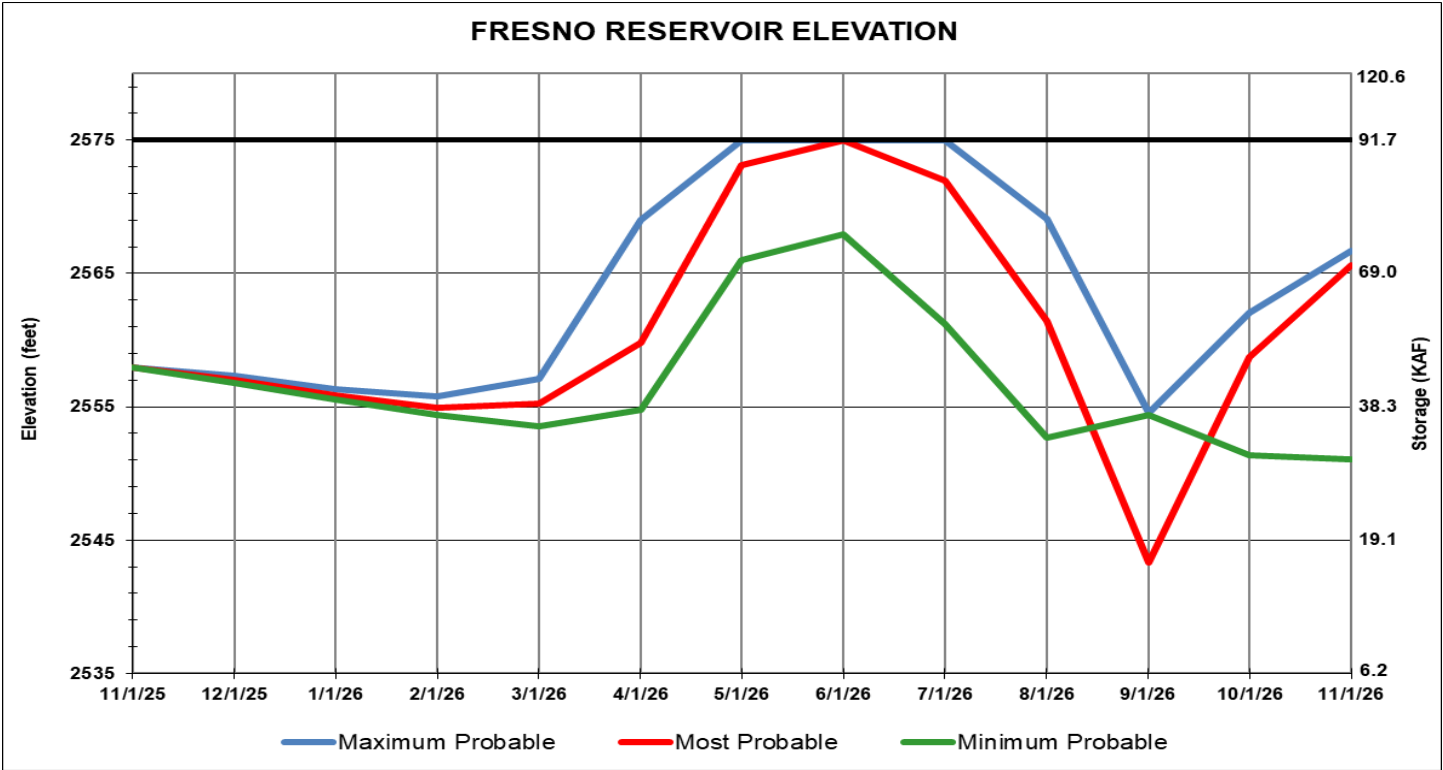
Maximum Inflow Conditions

Sherburne Reservoir		Initial Content	32,520	acre-feet									
		Elevation	4764.89	feet									
	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Total
Sherburne Inflow (kaf)	4.8	3.5	2.9	2.8	3.2	9.5	36.1	54.5	27.9	12.3	7.8	6.4	171.7
Sherburne Release (kaf)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.9	15.5	21.8	41.4	27.9	27.5	29.9	7.7	176.6
Sherburne Release (cfs)	0	0	0	0	80	260	355	696	454	447	502	125	
Net Content Change (kaf)	4.8	3.5	2.9	2.8	-1.7	-6.0	14.3	13.1	0.0	-15.2	-22.1	-1.3	-4.9
End of Month Content (kaf)	37.3	40.8	43.7	46.5	44.8	38.8	53.1	66.2	66.2	51.0	28.9	27.6	
End of Month Elevation (feet)	4768.9	4771.6	4773.7	4775.7	4774.5	4770.1	4780.1	4788.0	4788.0	4778.7	4761.7	4760.6	
	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Total
St. Mary River Runoff (kaf)	12.8	8.7	9.0	10.1	18.2	46.1	147.5	215.6	130.5	51.7	39.3	46.3	735.8
Natural Flow at Boundary (kaf)	17.6	12.2	11.9	12.9	21.4	55.6	183.6	270.1	158.4	64.0	47.1	52.7	907.5
St. Mary Canal Diversion (cfs)	0	0	0	0	0	0	99	600	600	600	600	99	
St. Mary Canal Diversion (kaf)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.1	35.7	36.9	36.9	35.7	6.1	157.4
Fresno Reservoir		Initial Content	33,620	acre-feet									
		Elevation	2557.98	feet									
	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Total
Milk River Runoff (kaf)	1.0	0.6	1.3	4.9	33.1	38.5	27.4	39.2	7.0	3.7	10.3	9.4	176.4
From St. Mary Canal (kaf)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30.3	31.4	31.4	30.3	5.5	128.9
Fresno Inflow (kaf)	1.0	0.6	1.3	4.9	33.1	38.5	27.4	69.5	38.4	35.1	40.6	14.9	305.3
Fresno Release (kaf)	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.2	2.5	15.5	27.4	69.5	61.2	70.9	24.5	2.5	283.6
Fresno Release (cfs)	40	41	41	40	41	260	446	1168	995	1153	412	41	
Net Content Change (kaf)	-1.4	-1.9	-1.2	2.7	30.6	23.0	0.0	0.0	-22.8	-35.8	16.1	12.4	21.7
End of Month Content (kaf)	32.2	30.3	29.1	31.8	62.4	85.4	85.4	85.4	62.6	26.8	42.9	55.3	
End of Month Elevation (feet)	2557.3	2556.4	2555.8	2557.1	2569.0	2575.0	2575.0	2575.0	2569.1	2554.5	2562.1	2566.7	
Irrigation Allotment (ft/ac)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.50	0.65	0.70	0.20	0.00	2.30
Irrigation Delivery (kaf)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	23.2	46.3	60.2	64.9	18.5	0.0	213.1
FBIIP Demand (kaf)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	6.0	6.0	0.0	13.0
Fresno to Dodson Gain (kaf)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.6	23.7	16.4	21.3	12.0	3.0	7.0	5.2	111.2
Bowdoin Demand (kaf)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.5
Transfer to Nelson (kaf)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.0	20.0	15.0	17.9	5.0	2.4	7.0	5.2	87.5
Nelson Reservoir		Initial Content	58,198	acre-feet									
		Elevation	2216.38	feet									
	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Total
Delivery to Nelson (kaf)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.5	18.0	13.5	16.1	4.5	2.2	6.3	4.7	78.8
Net Content Change (kaf)	-1.8	-1.8	-1.8	-1.7	11.7	16.2	0.0	0.0	-9.2	-18.4	-1.1	2.9	-5.0
End of Month Content (kaf)	56.4	54.6	52.8	51.1	62.8	79.0	79.0	79.0	69.8	51.4	50.3	53.2	
End of Month Elevation (feet)	2215.9	2215.4	2214.9	2214.4	2217.6	2221.6	2221.6	2221.6	2219.4	2214.5	2214.1	2215.0	
Total Release (kaf)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.7	14.3	11.9	18.8	5.6	0.0	62.3

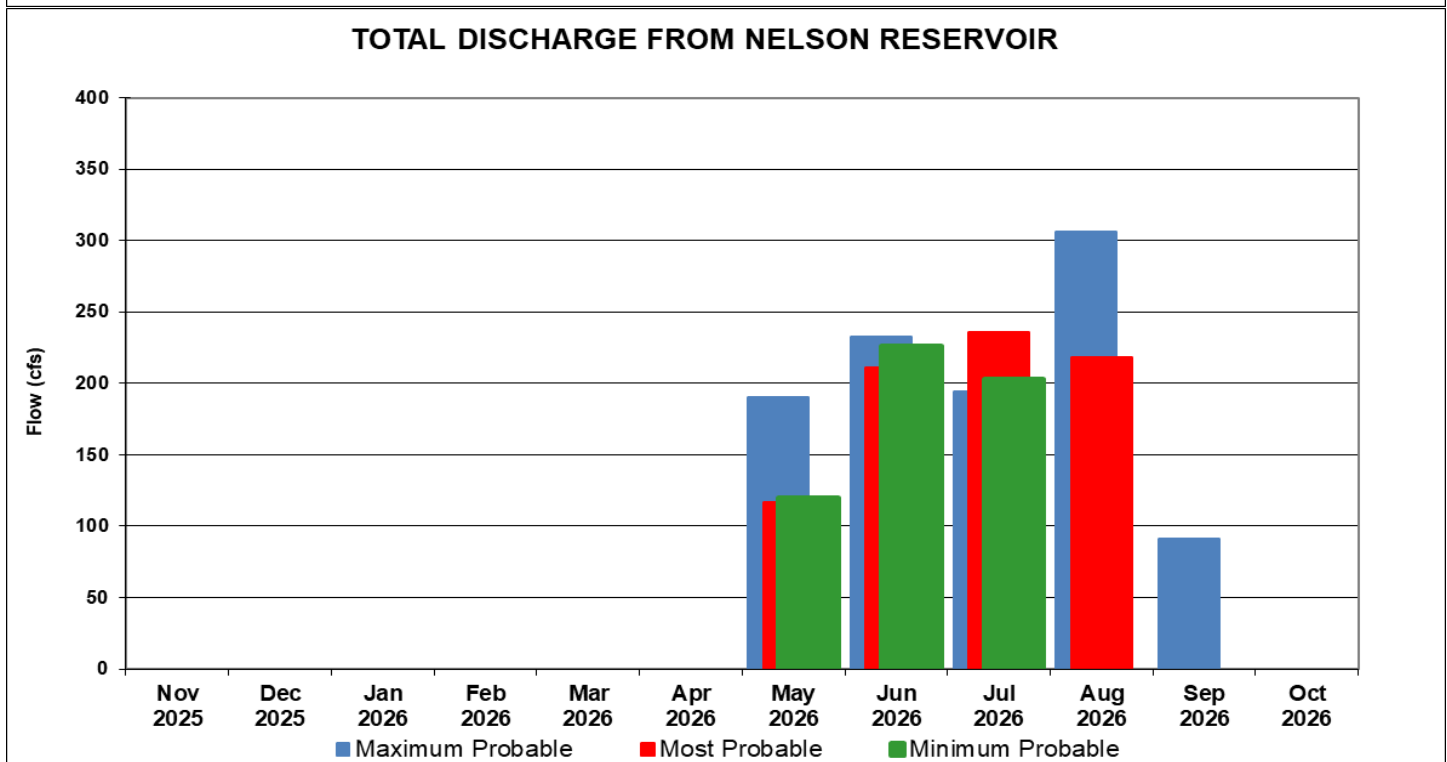
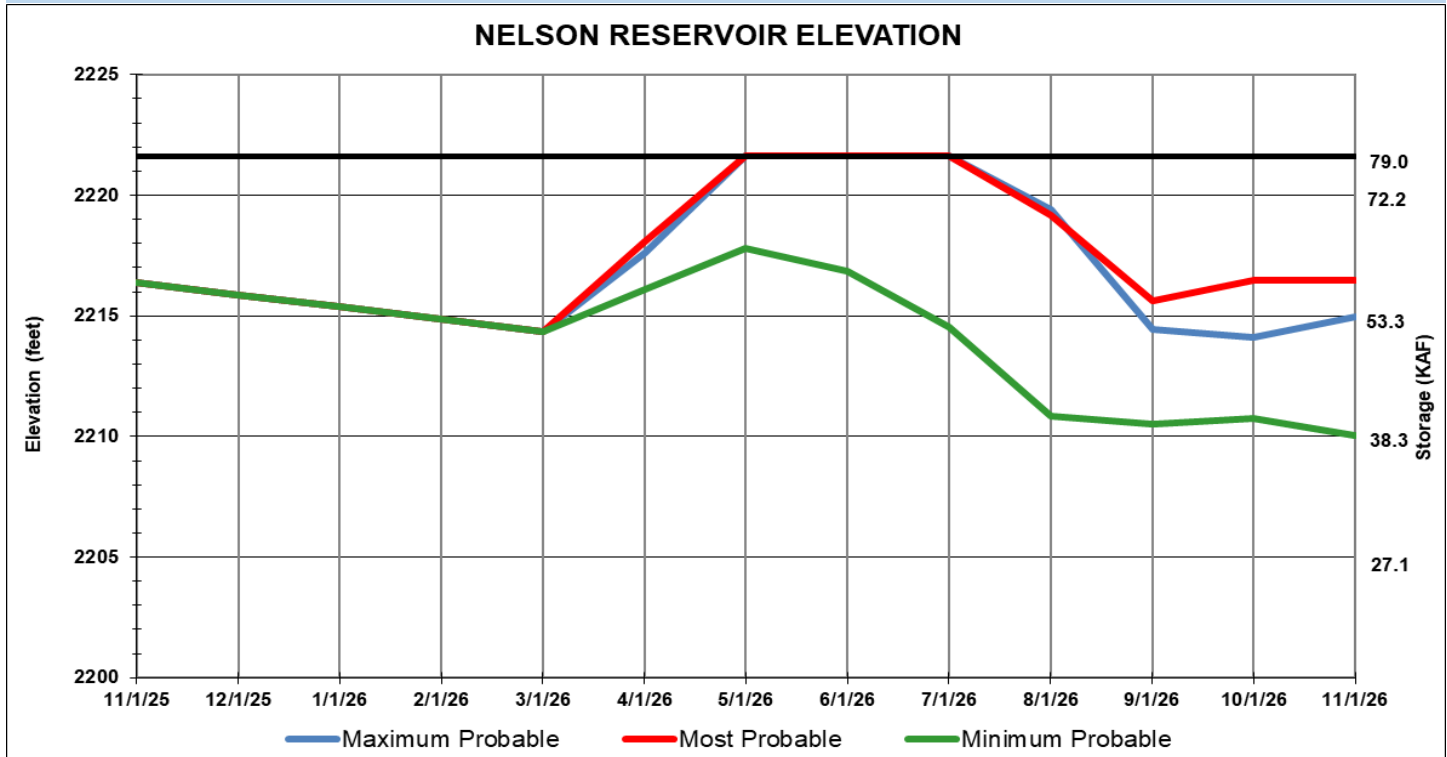
OPERATIONS OUTLOOK: LAKE SHERBURNE



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

November 2025