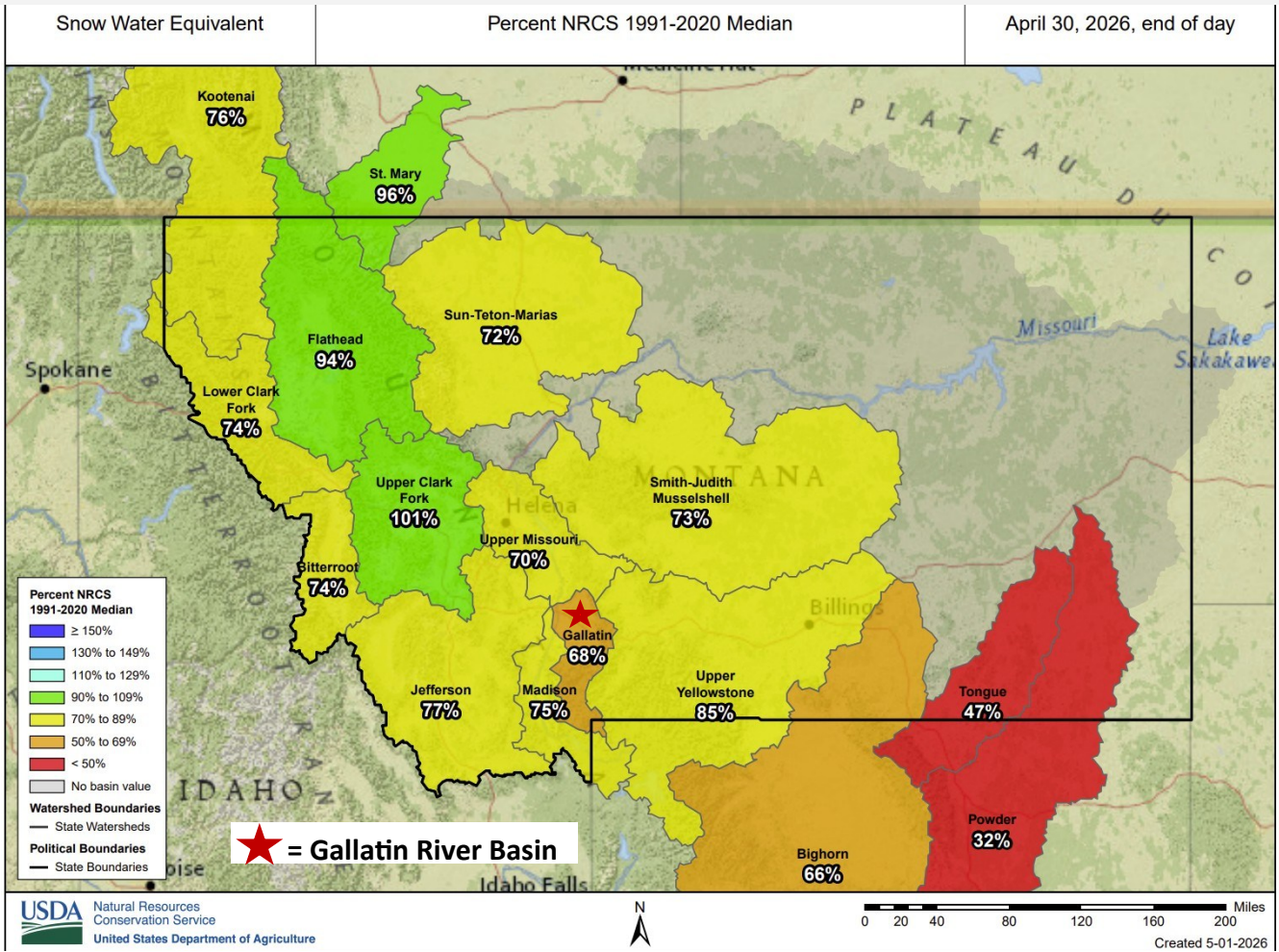


Gallatin Water Supply Outlook

April 2026



SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN GALLATIN



SNOWPACK SUMMARY (Water Year (WY) = October 1st—September 30)

*Data current as of 4/30/2026 and 5/1/2026

We are currently in Water Year 2026 (black line). The Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) was above normal (median, green line) and minimum (red line) within the Gallatin River Basin on April 30th, 2026 at 12.9 inches (a 1.7 increase since last month). Last year, on April 30th, 2025, the SWE was at 19.2 inches (central blue line). Detailed end-of-month SNOTEL site information follows.

Snowpack Data

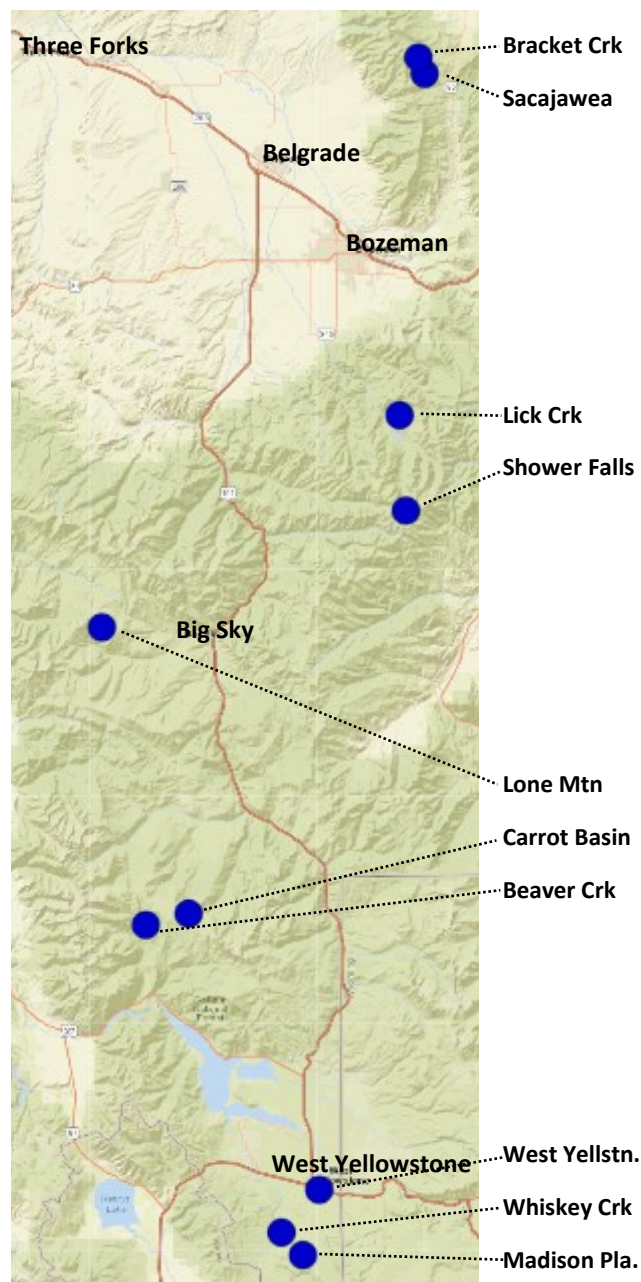
Gallatin River Basin—April 2026

Gallatin Valley Region (Bozeman-Belgrade-Four Corners)					
Station Name	Date	Snow Depth (in)	SWE (in)	SWE % Normal	Normal SWE 1971-2000 (in)
Brackett Creek	April 2025	52	22.0	95	23.1
	April 2026	24	10.3	45	
Sacajawea	April 2025	17	7.6	46	16.7
	April 2026	0	0.2	1	

Hyalite Region (Gallatin Gateway)					
Station Name	Date	Snow Depth (in)	SWE (in)	SWE % Normal	Normal SWE 1971-2000 (in)
Lick Creek	April 2025	31	11.4	87	13.1
	April 2026	3	1.3	10	
Shower Falls	April 2025	69	27.6	110	25.2
	April 2026	59	20.5	81	

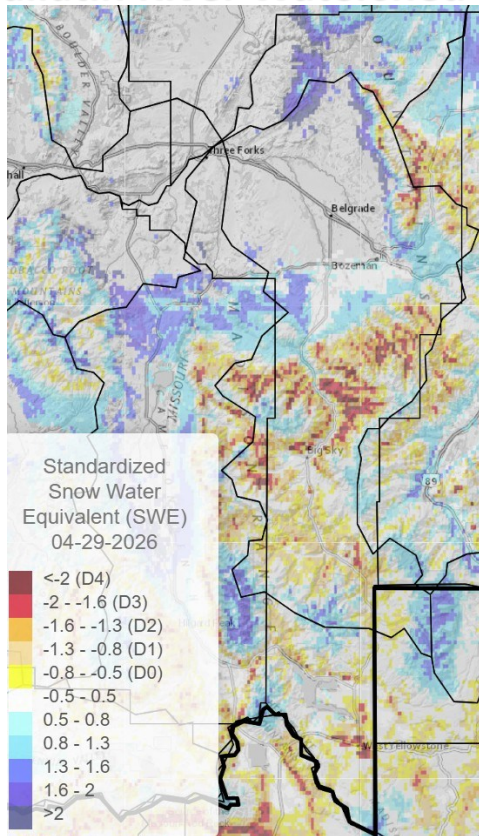
Lee Metcalf Wilderness Region (Big Sky)					
Station Name	Date	Snow Depth (in)	SWE (in)	SWE % Normal	Normal SWE 1971-2000 (in)
Beaver Creek	April 2025	39	14.2	74	19.2
	April 2026	35	12.2	64	
Carrot Basin	April 2025	66	26.7	90	29.8
	April 2026	69	29.1	98	
Lone Mountain	April 2025	51	22.3	112	20.0
	April 2026	41	16.7	84	

West Yellowstone Region					
Station Name	Date	Snow Depth (in)	SWE (in)	SWE % Normal	Normal SWE 1971-2000 (in)
Madison Plateau	April 2025	48	19.5	75	26.1
	April 2026	44	16.8	64	
West Yellowstone	April 2025	0	0.0	0	11.3
	April 2026	0	0.0	0	
Whiskey Creek	April 2025	30	11.6	65	17.8
	April 2026	19	6.9	39	

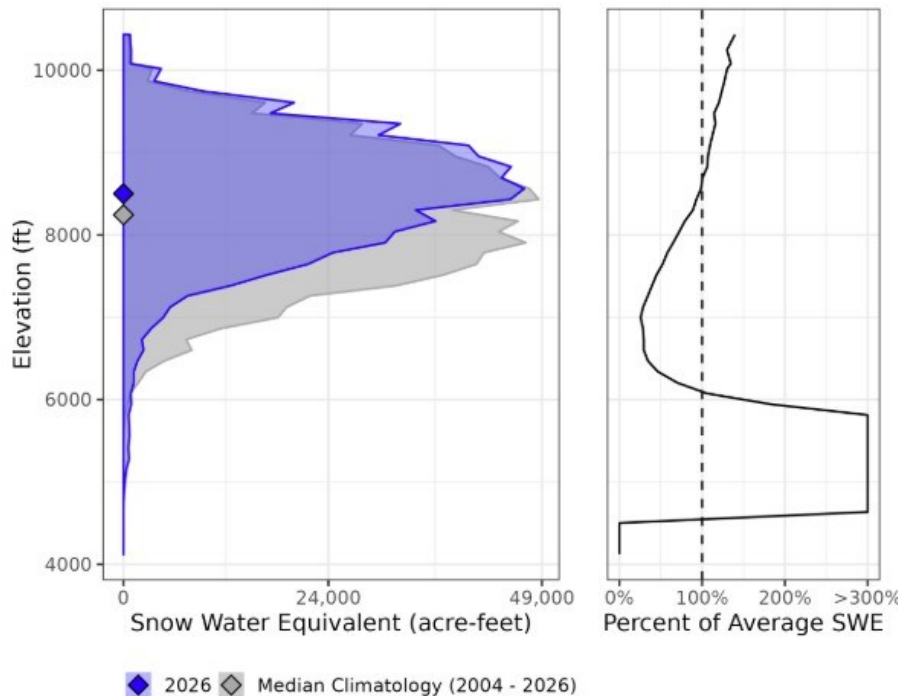


Standardized SWE from SNODAS & Hypsome-SWE

Gallatin River Watershed—April 2026



Hypsme-SWE for Gallatin (HUC8: 10020008)
2026-04-29 (79% of Normal)



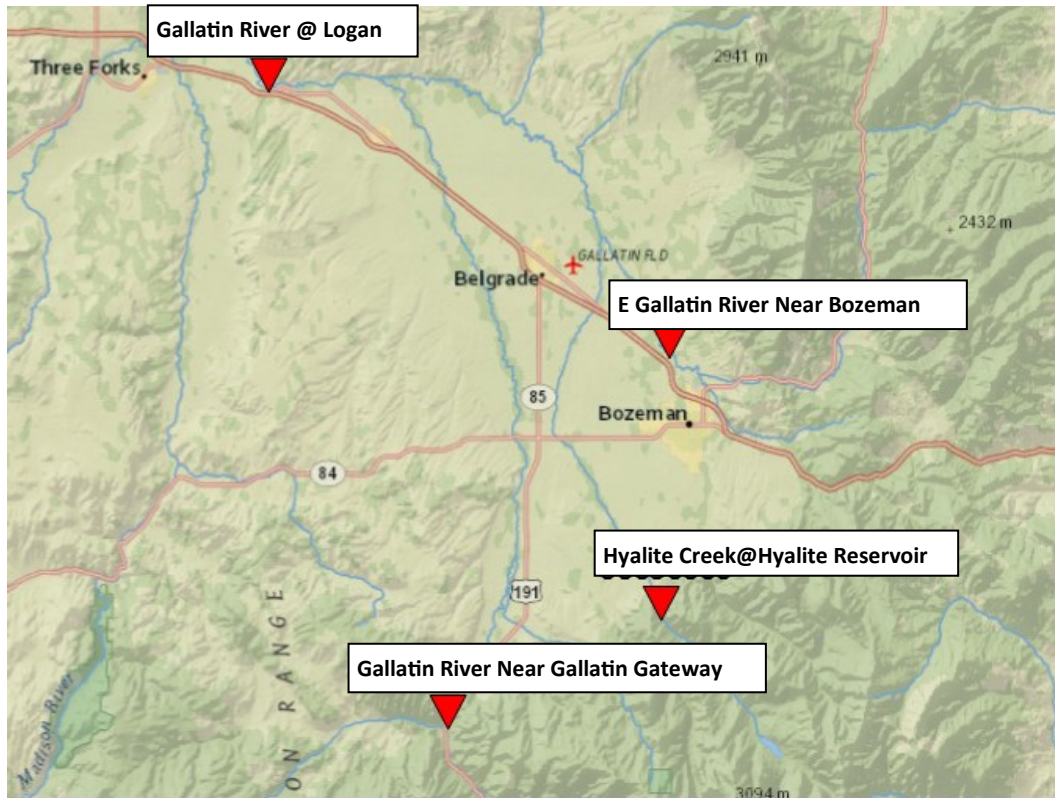
OVERVIEW *Data current as of 4/29/26

Left Map: This data set contains estimates of standardized snow pack anomalies based on the snow water equivalent (SWE) depth from the NOAA National Weather Service's National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center SNOW Data Assimilation System (SNODAS). SNODAS is a modeling and data assimilation system created to provide the best possible estimates of snow cover and associated parameters to support hydrologic modeling and analysis. Negative (red) values represent less than average SWE, while positive (blue) values represent greater than average SWE. Standardization is based on data from 2004-present and computed daily.

Right Graph: Hypsome-SWE represents a method to evaluate the distribution of SWE across watersheds. Hypsome-SWE is loosely based on hypsometry, the area-elevation relationship of a basin. Instead of evaluating the area-elevation relationship, here they evaluate the cumulative SWE and elevation relationship. More specifically, in this module, they compare the median hypsome-SWE curve for April using the SNODAS period of record (2004-present) to the April 2026 SWE distribution. This allows for a rapid assessment of the distribution of SWE within a basin with respect to elevation and allows for easy comparison to the expected distribution given the SNODAS period of record.

Streamflow Data

Gallatin River Basin—April 2026



April 30th 2026 Gallatin Watershed Streamflow					
Station Name	2026 Discharge (cfs)	% Normal	Normal Discharge (cfs)	2025 Discharge (cfs)	Period Of Record (Yrs)
Gallatin at Logan	685	53	1290	1600	109
E Gallatin near Bozeman	138	32	430	677	11
Hyalite Creek at Hyalite Reservoir	20.7	38	53.85	56.9	74
Gallatin near Gallatin Gateway	584	83	702	1020	95

STREAMFLOW SUMMARY *Data current as of 4/30/26

All sites have below normal discharge values.

All sites have discharge values below what they were at this time last year.

[SW Montana river floating season in question thanks to low snowpack | Bozeman Daily Chronicle | March 27th, 2026](#)

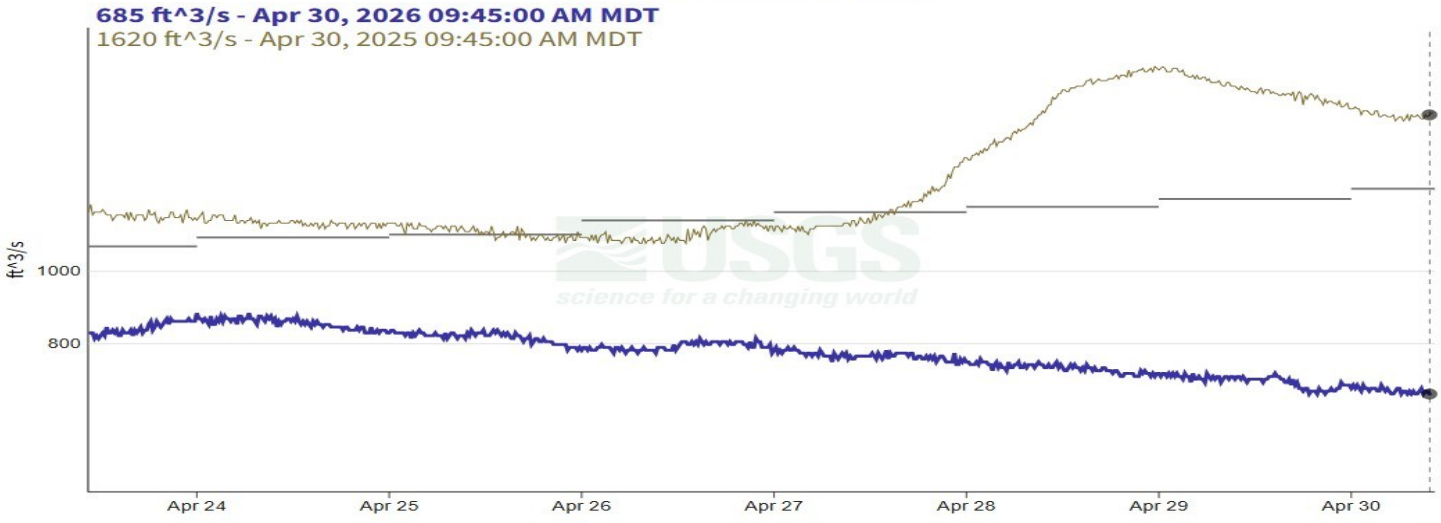
Streamflow Data

Gallatin River Basin—April 2026

Gallatin River at Logan MT - USGS-06052500

[Subscribe to WaterAlert](#)

April 23, 2026 - April 30, 2026
Discharge, cubic feet per second



IMPORTANT Data may be [provisional](#)

[Hide legend ^](#)

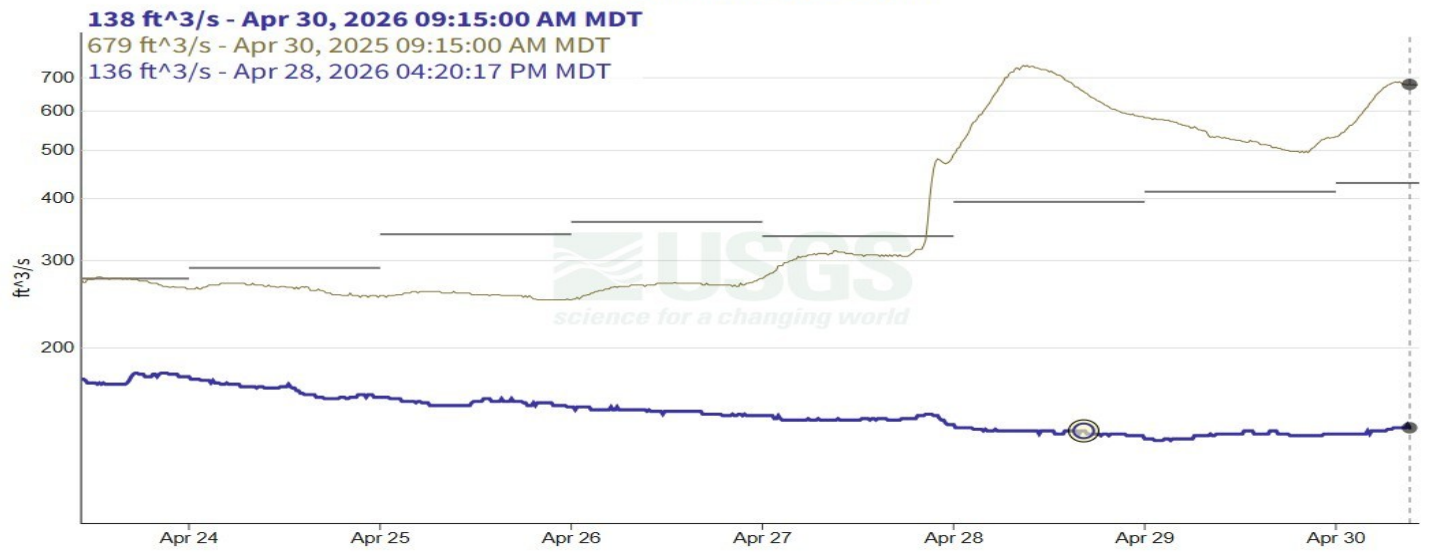
Discharge, cubic feet per second
This year
— Recorded
Prior year
— Recorded
⊙ Selected field measurement : No data in time span
— Median 1893 - 2026

Discharge data is below normal.

E Gallatin River at Bozeman MT - USGS-06048650

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April 23, 2026 - April 30, 2026
Discharge, cubic feet per second



IMPORTANT Data may be [provisional](#)

[Hide legend ^](#)

Discharge, cubic feet per second
This year
— Recorded
Prior year
— Recorded
⊙ Selected field measurement
— Median 2014 - 2026

Discharge data is below normal.

Streamflow Data

Gallatin River Basin—April 2026

Hyalite C at Hyalite R S nr Bozeman MT - USGS-06050000

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IMPORTANT Data may be [provisional](#)

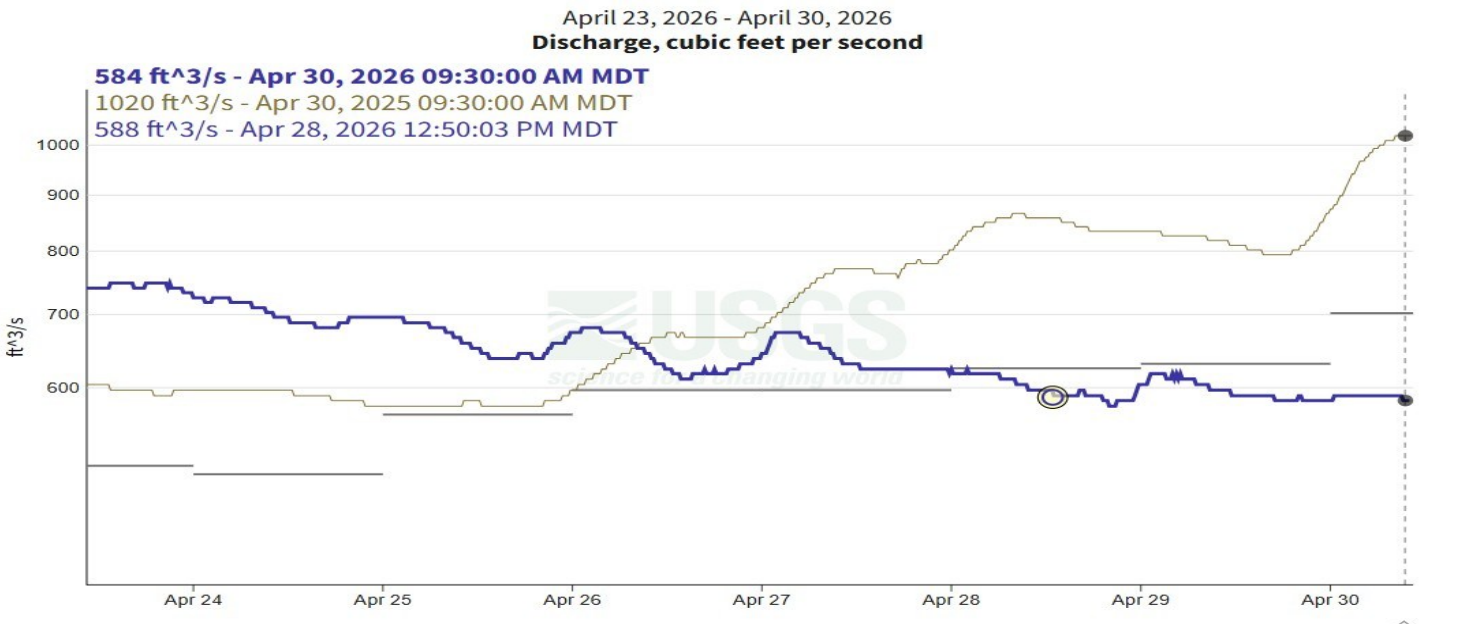
[Hide legend](#)

- Discharge, cubic feet per second
- This year
- Recorded
- Prior year
- Recorded
- Selected field measurement
- Median 1895 - 2026

Discharge data is below normal.

Gallatin River near Gallatin Gateway, MT - USGS-06043500

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IMPORTANT Data may be [provisional](#)

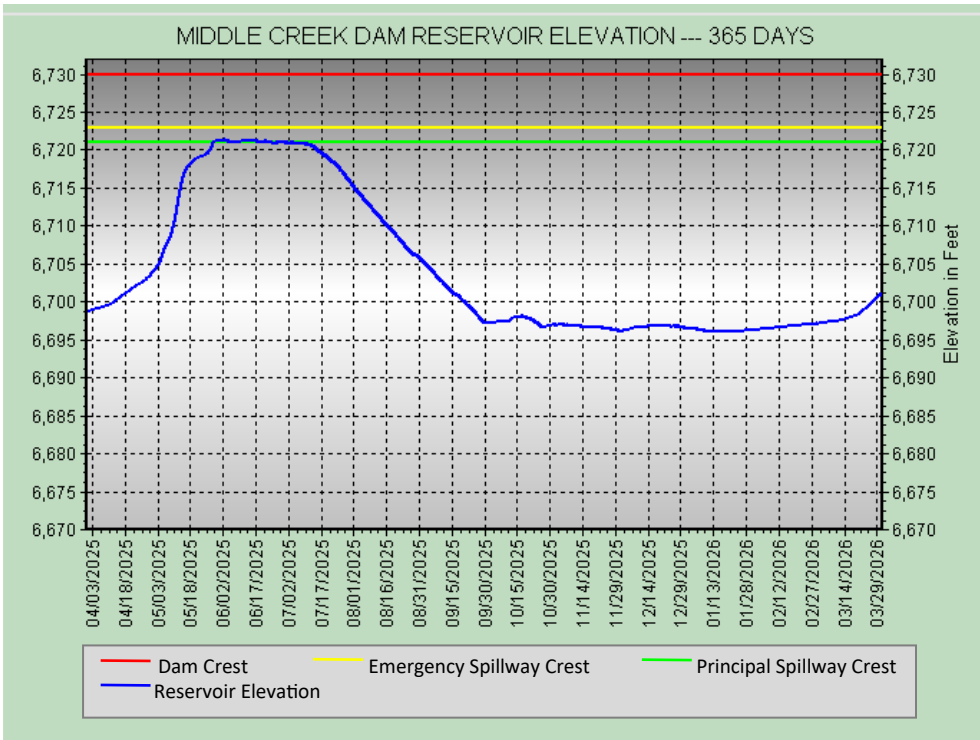
[Hide legend](#)

- Discharge, cubic feet per second
- This year
- Recorded
- Prior year
- Recorded
- Selected field measurement
- Median 1889 - 2026

Discharge data is below normal.

Water Storage Data

Middle Creek Dam, Hyalite Reservoir—April 2026



TIME OF LAST READING	4/30/2026 9:00 AM	REFERENCE INFORMATION	FT (MSL)	AC-FT
RESERVOIR ELEVATION	6,709.2 FT	DAM CREST	6730	12,790
RESERVOIR VOLUME	7,530 AF	EMERGENCY SPILLWAY CREST	6723	10,707
		PRINCIPAL SPILLWAY CREST	6721	10,184
		LOWEST USEABLE ELEVATION	6637	0

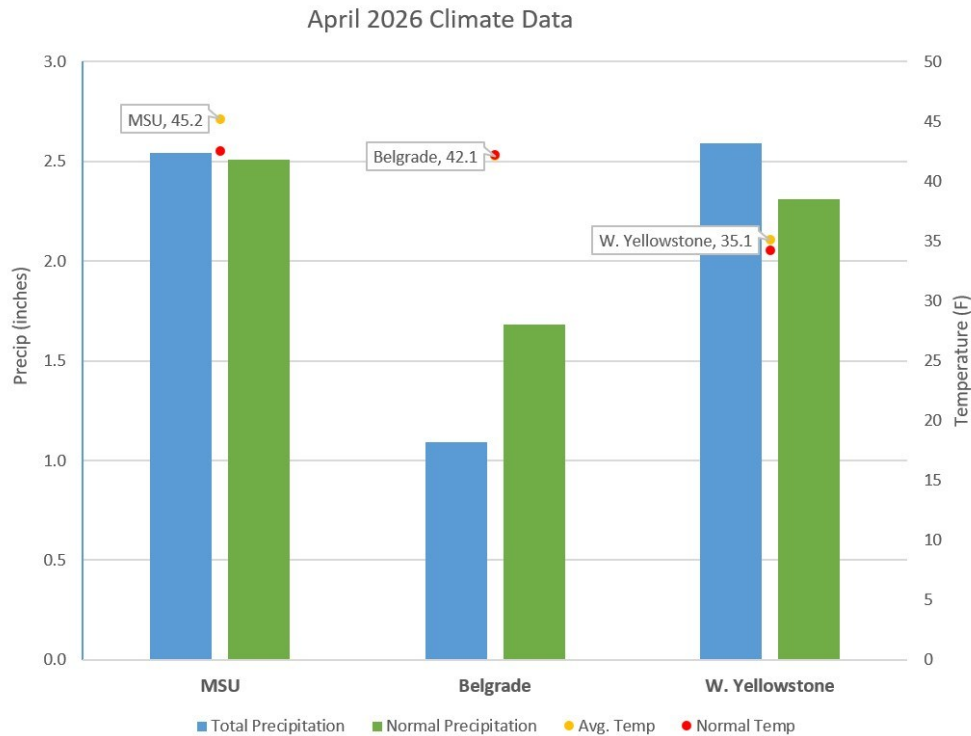
*** PROVISIONAL DATA SUBJECT TO REVISION ***

RESERVOIR SUMMARY *Data current as of 4/30/26

Middle Creek Dam Reservoir elevation is 6,709.2 ft, which is 11.8 ft below the principal spillway crest (6,721 ft). The reservoir elevation has increased by 8.0 ft since March 31st, 2026 (date of last relevant WSO report). Reservoir volume is 7,530 acre-ft, which is 1,421 acre-ft more than on March 31st, 2026.

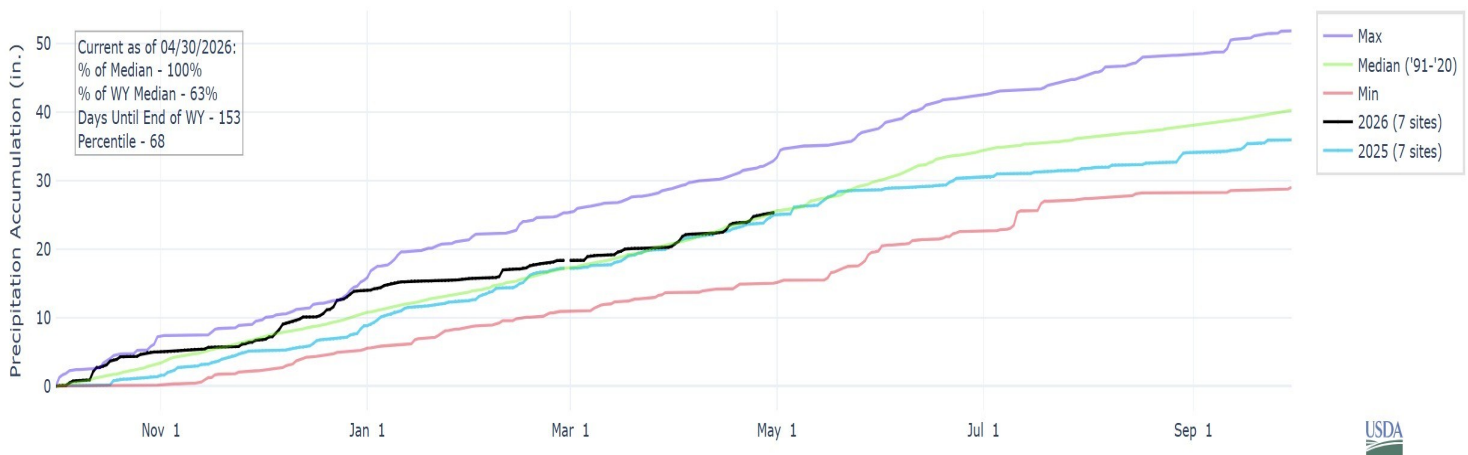
Climate Data

Gallatin County—April 2026



Above graph depicting ACIS climate data representing the entire month of April 2026.

PRECIPITATION ACCUMULATION IN GALLATIN



TEMP & PRECIP SUMMARY (Water Year (WY) = October 1st—September 30)

*Data is current as of 5/1/2026 and 4/30/26

Average temperatures have remained in the low to mid 40s at the MSU and Belgrade sites, while increasing at the West Yellowstone site since March 2025. All sites have had above normal temperatures for this time of year. MSU and West Yellowstone sites experienced above average precipitation in April 2026, while Belgrade experienced below average precipitation. (ACIS graph).

We are currently in Water Year 2026 (black line). The total accrued precipitation for the Gallatin River Basin as of April 30th, 2026 is just below normal (median, green line) at 25.3 inches (USDA graph). The total accrued precipitation for WY 2025 on April 30th, 2025 was 25.0 inches (central blue line).

Soil Moisture Data

Mesonet Stations—April 2026



Manhattan Soil Probe Depth (in)	Soil Temp (°F)	Soil Water Content (%)
8" - Surface	46.58	28.20
20" - Shallow rooting	45.68	8.20
36" - Deep Rooting	44.60	19.10

Bozeman Soil Probe Depth (in)	Soil Temp (°F)	Soil Water Content (%)
4" - Surface	44.42	20.15
8" - Shallow rooting	43.61	27.55
20" - Deep Rooting	44.69	28.05

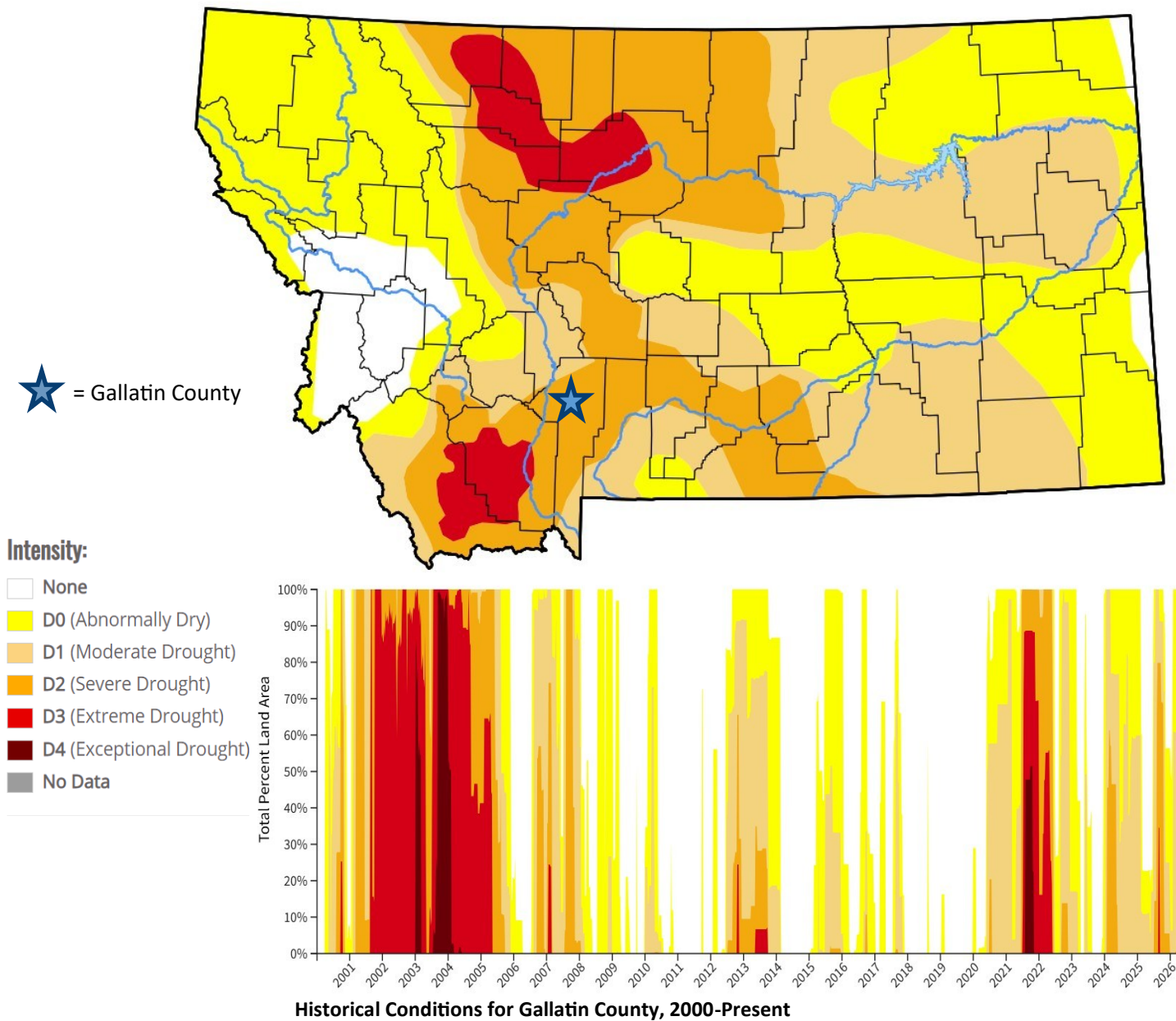
SOIL MOISTURE SUMMARY *Data current as of 4/30/26

Since March 2025, at the Manhattan and Bozeman stations the soil temperature increased at all depths.

The soil water content at the Manhattan station has increased at 8" and 20", while remaining the same at 36". At the Bozeman station, soil water content increased at 8" and 20", while decreasing at 4".

Drought Index Data

Gallatin County— April 2026



DROUGHT INDEX SUMMARY *Data is current as of 4/30/26

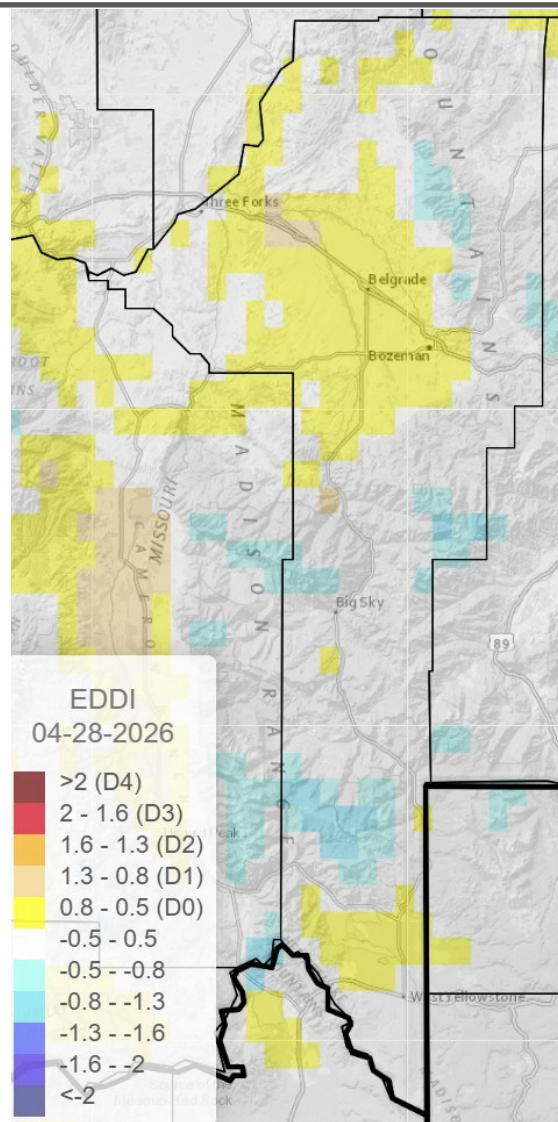
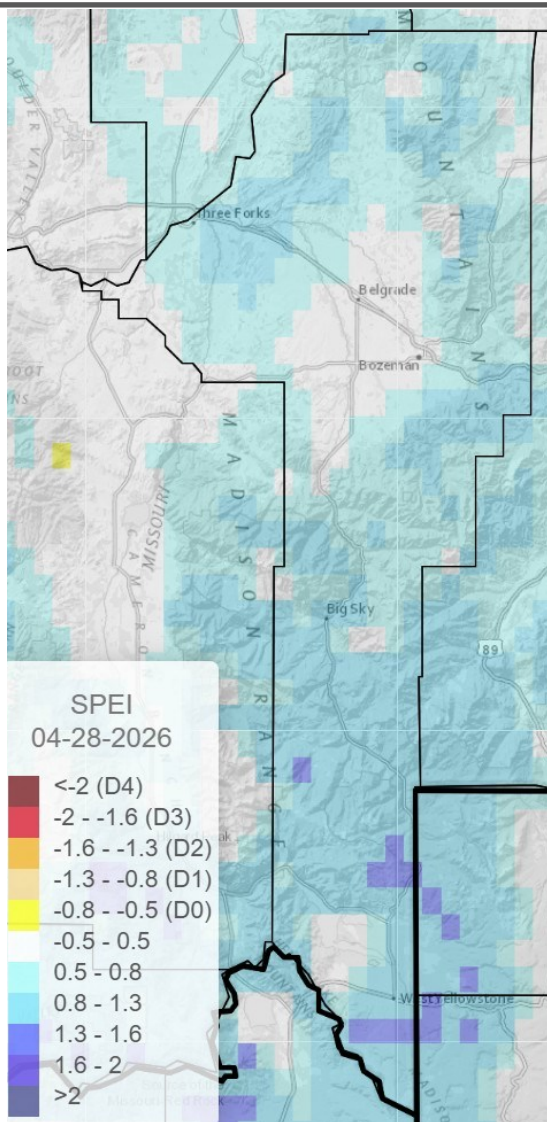
21.90% of Gallatin County is experiencing Moderate Drought conditions. Impacts include feeding livestock supplemental hay, crops are stressed, and growth is poor. Fire restrictions may be implemented.

78.10% of Gallatin County is experiencing Severe Drought conditions at this time. Impacts include lower hay and crop yields, lower hay quality, non-existent subsoil moisture, high danger and fire count, poor air quality, low to dry livestock ponds, and stressed water wells.

Help ground truth information with the MT Drought Impact Reporter! Submit reports anytime of year, wet or dry! <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/9256e9943a964af5ad7e0280e1407712>

Standardized Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index

Evaporative Demand Drought Index



SPEI & EDDI Overview *Data is current as of 4/28/26

The maps above show the current Standardized Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index (SPEI, Left) and Evaporative Demand Drought Index (EDDI, Right) for April 2026.

SPEI takes into account both precipitation and potential evapotranspiration to describe the wetness (positive blue values) or dryness (negative red values) of a time period. SPEI has been calculated for April 2026 to represent drought impacts on hydrological conditions for the past 30 days. SPEI incorporates the important effect of atmospheric demand on drought.

EDDI has examined how deviated from normal the atmospheric evaporative demand is for Gallatin County in April 2026. EDDI is an experimental drought monitoring and early warning guidance tool. EDDI can offer early warning of agricultural drought, hydrologic drought, and fire-weather risk. Positive (red) values represent dryness categories, while negative (blue) values represent wetness categories.

Gallatin County Water Supply Outlook

Source Information & Helpful Links

Gallatin Conservation District:

- [Archive of Water Supply Outlook Reports](#)
- [Living by the Water](#)
- [310 Permit Forms & Info](#)

Snowpack:

- [USDA / NRCS Interactive Map](#)
- [Montana Snow Survey Homepage](#)
- [NRCS / NWCC National Water & Climate Center](#)
- [Standardized Snow Water Equivalent \(SWE from SNODAS & Hypsometric –SWE](#)

Streamflow:

- [USGS Real Time Streamflow](#)
- [State of Montana Gaging Stations](#)
- [DNRC Water Right Query System](#)

Water Storage:

- [DNRC Water Projects—Middle Creek Real Time Data](#)
- [Middle Creek Early Warning System](#)
- [BOR—Montana Lakes and Reservoirs](#)

Climate:

- [ACIS Database](#)
- [NRCS Montana Current Conditions](#)
- [Montana Snow Survey Homepage](#)
- [US Climate Data](#)

Soil Moisture:

- [Montana Mesonet](#)
- [DNRC Drought Status by County](#)

Drought:

- [US Drought Portal](#)
- [US Drought Monitor](#)

SPEI & EDDI:

[Standardized Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index](#)
[Evaporative Demand Drought Index](#)

Helpful Partner Websites:

- [Department of Natural Resources & Conservation](#)
- [Gallatin County MSU Extension Office](#)
- [Gallatin Local Water Quality District](#)
- [Gallatin River Task Force](#)
- [Gallatin Watershed Council](#)
- [Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks](#)
- [Montana Natural Resource Conservation Services](#)
- [Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators](#)