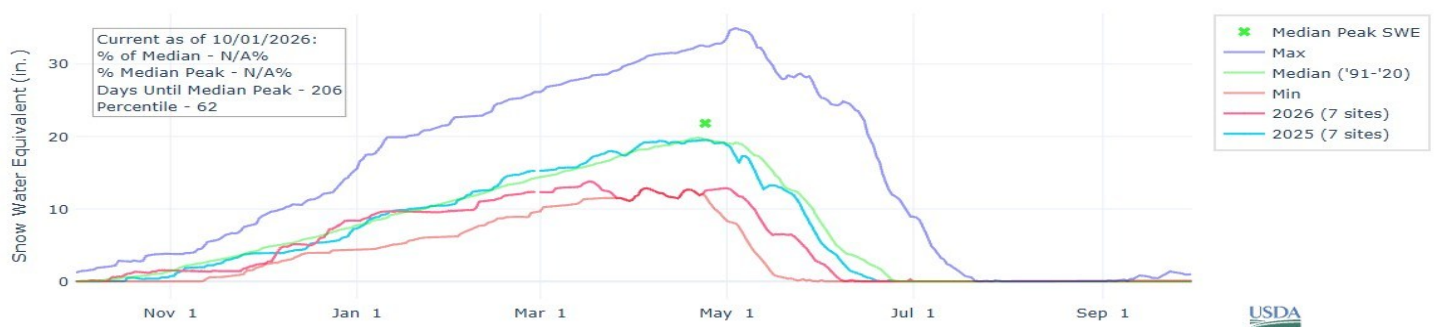


Gallatin Water Supply Outlook

September 2026



SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN GALLATIN



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

*Data current as of 10/1/2026

We have concluded water year 2026 (red line)! The Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) was at slightly above normal (median, green line) within the Gallatin River Basin on September 30th, 2026 at 0.1 inches (a 0.1 increase since last month). Last year, on September 30th 2025, the SWE was at 0.0 inches (central blue line). Detailed end-of-month SNOTEL site information follows.

Snowpack Data

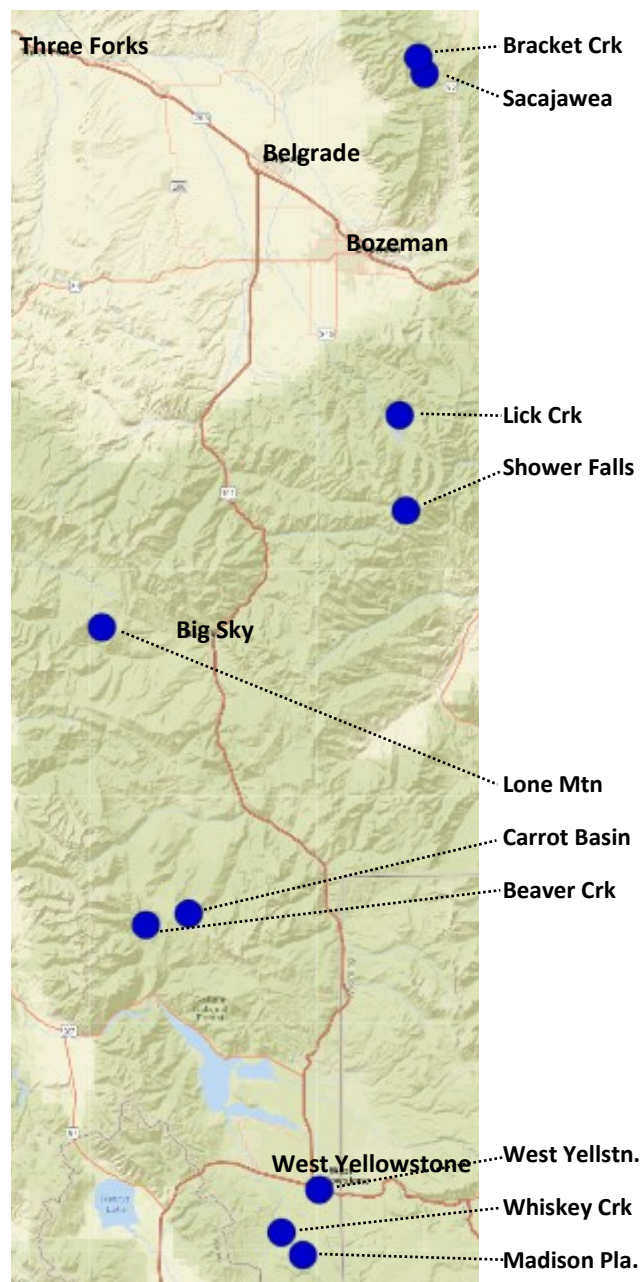
Gallatin River Basin—September 2026

Gallatin Valley Region (Bozeman-Belgrade-Four Corners)					
Station Name	Date	Snow Depth (in)	SWE (in)	SWE % Normal	Normal SWE 1971-2000 (in)
Brackett Creek	Sept. 2025	0	0.0	-	0.0
	Sept. 2026	0	0.1	-	
Sacajawea	Sept. 2025	0	0.0	-	0.0
	Sept. 2026	-	0.0	-	

Hyalite Region (Gallatin Gateway)					
Station Name	Date	Snow Depth (in)	SWE (in)	SWE % Normal	Normal SWE 1971-2000 (in)
Lick Creek	Sept. 2025	0	0.0	-	0.0
	Sept. 2026	0	0.1	-	
Shower Falls	Sept. 2025	0	0.0	-	0.0
	Sept. 2026	0	0.0	-	

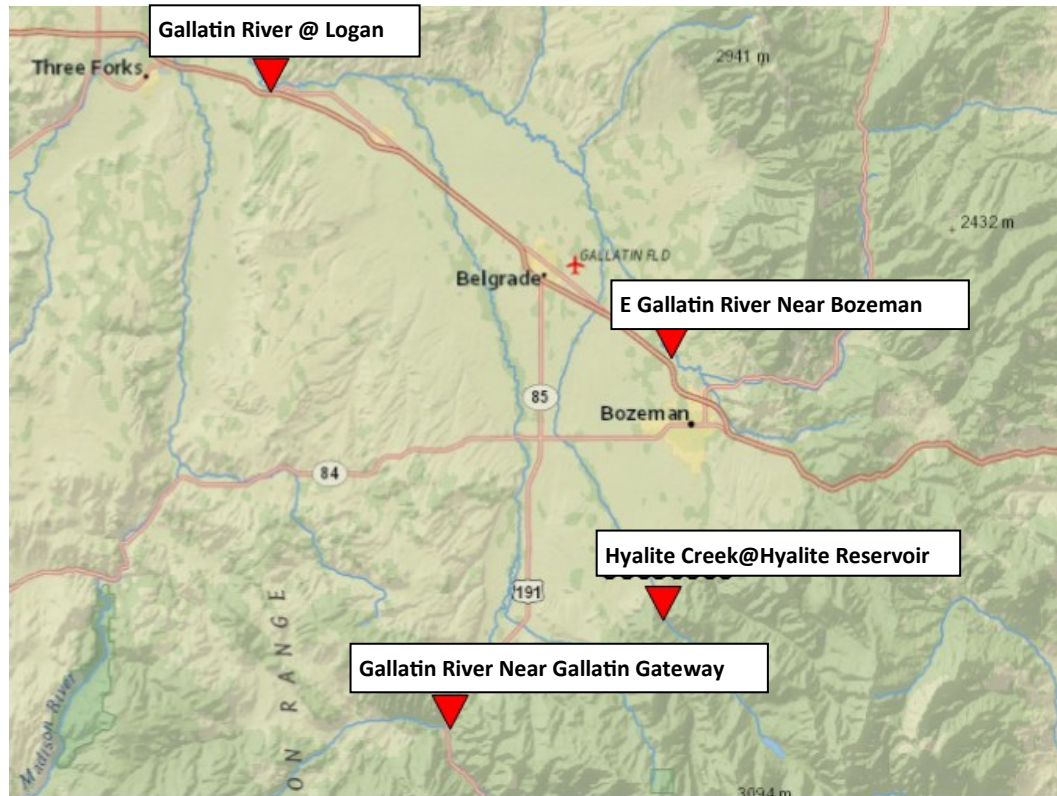
Lee Metcalf Wilderness Region (Big Sky)					
Station Name	Date	Snow Depth (in)	SWE (in)	SWE % Normal	Normal SWE 1971-2000 (in)
Beaver Creek	Sept. 2025	0	0.0	0	0.1
	Sept. 2026	1	0.1	100	
Carrot Basin	Sept. 2025	0	0.0	0	0.1
	Sept. 2026	1	0.0	0	
Lone Mountain	Sept. 2025	0	0.0	-	0.0
	Sept. 2026	0	0.1	-	

West Yellowstone Region					
Station Name	Date	Snow Depth (in)	SWE (in)	SWE % Normal	Normal SWE 1971-2000 (in)
Madison Plateau	Sept. 2025	0	0.0	-	0.0
	Sept. 2026	0	0.0	-	
West Yellowstone	Sept. 2025	0	0.0	-	0.0
	Sept. 2026	0	0.4	-	
Whiskey Creek	Sept. 2025	0	0.0	-	0.0
	Sept. 2026	0	0.1	-	



Streamflow Data

Gallatin River Basin—September 2026



September 31st 2026 Gallatin Watershed Streamflow					
Station Name	2026 Discharge (cfs)	% Normal	Normal Discharge (cfs)	2025 Discharge (cfs)	Period Of Record (Yrs)
Gallatin at Logan	460	74	624	462	111
E Gallatin near Bozeman	55.8	98	56.7	52.8	11
Hyalite Creek at Hyalite Reservoir	36.2	94	38.5	31.3	78
Gallatin near Gallatin Gateway	350	80	437.5	376	96

STREAMFLOW SUMMARY *Data current as of 10/1/26

All sites had below normal discharge values, but the E Gallatin near Bozeman and Hyalite Creek sites had a discharge value just slightly below normal.

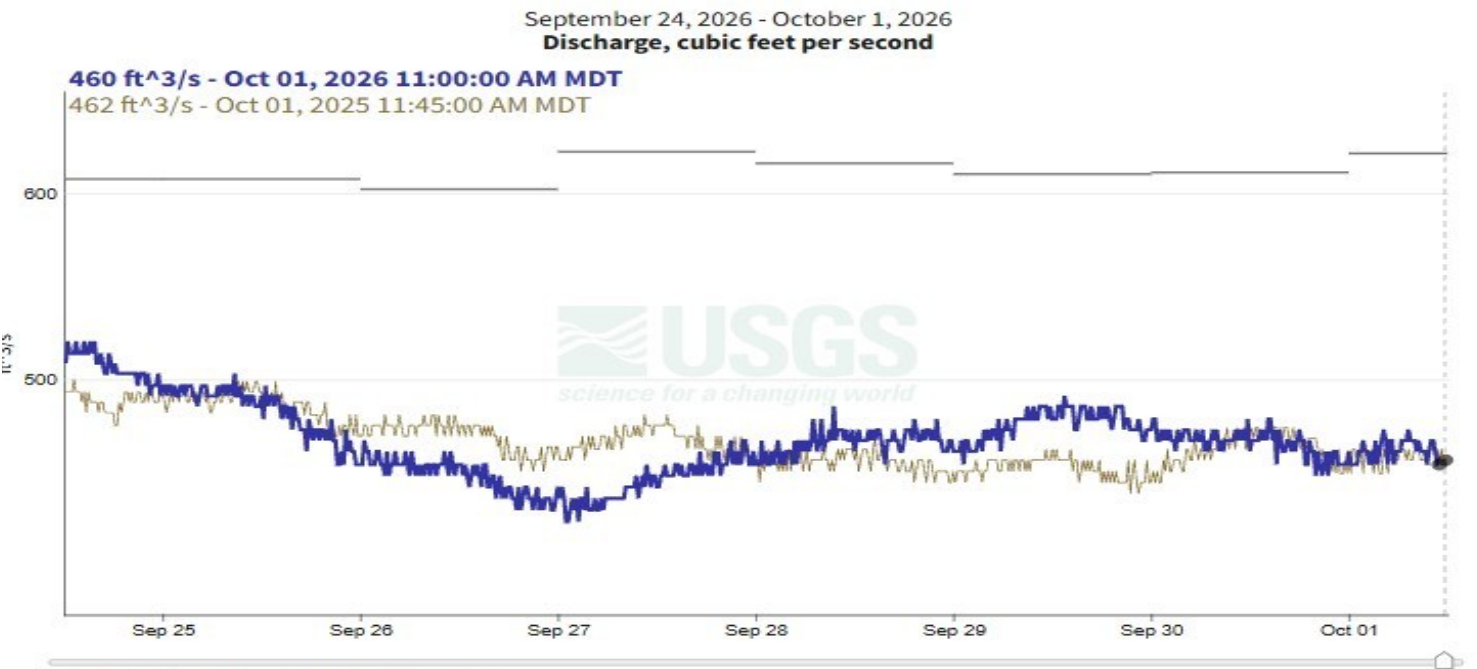
The Gallatin at Logan and Gallatin near Gallatin Gateway sites had discharge values below what they were last year. The Gallatin near Bozeman and Hyalite Creek sites had a discharge value just above the value for this time last year.

Streamflow Data

Gallatin River Basin—September 2026

Gallatin River at Logan MT - USGS-06052500

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IMPORTANT Graph contains [provisional](#) data

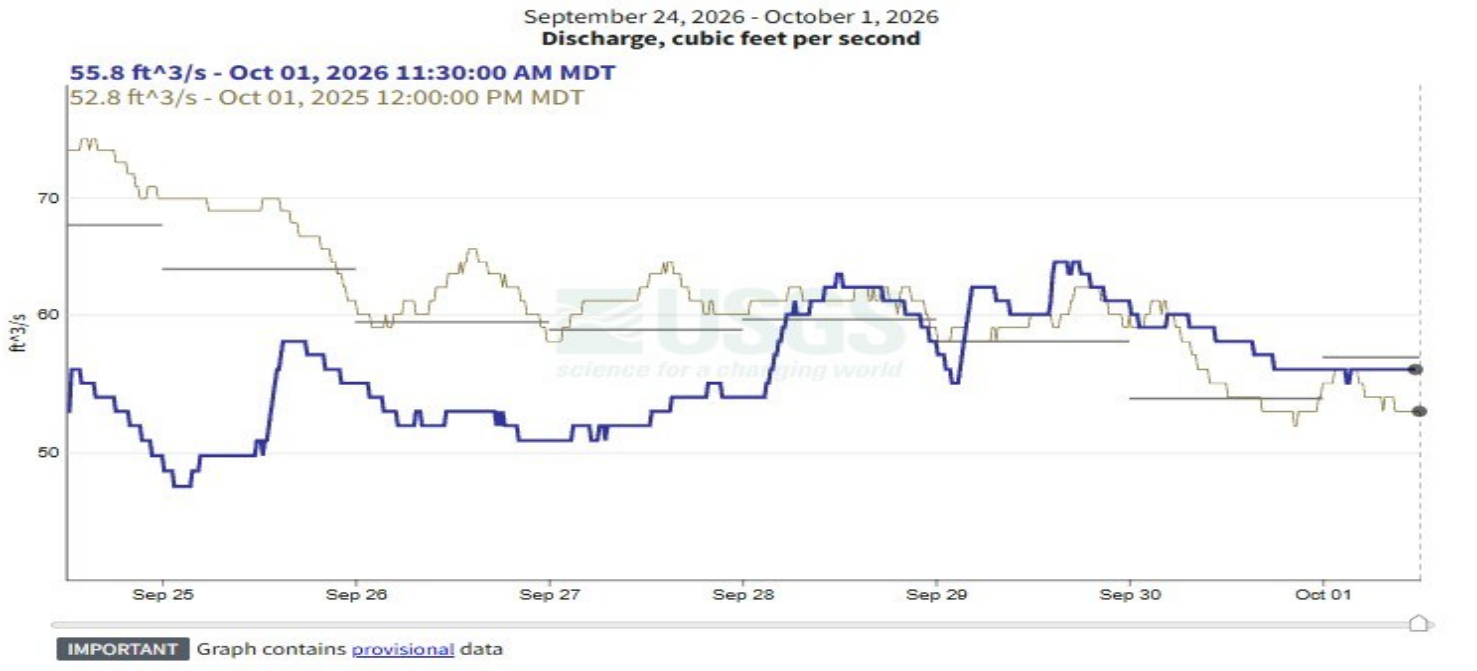
[Hide legend ^](#)

Discharge, cubic feet per second
This year
— Recorded
Prior year
— Recorded
— Median 1893 - 2026

Discharge data is below normal.

E Gallatin River at Bozeman MT - USGS-06048650

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IMPORTANT Graph contains [provisional](#) data

[Hide legend ^](#)

Discharge, cubic feet per second
This year
— Recorded
Prior year
— Recorded
— Median 2014 - 2026

Discharge data is below normal.

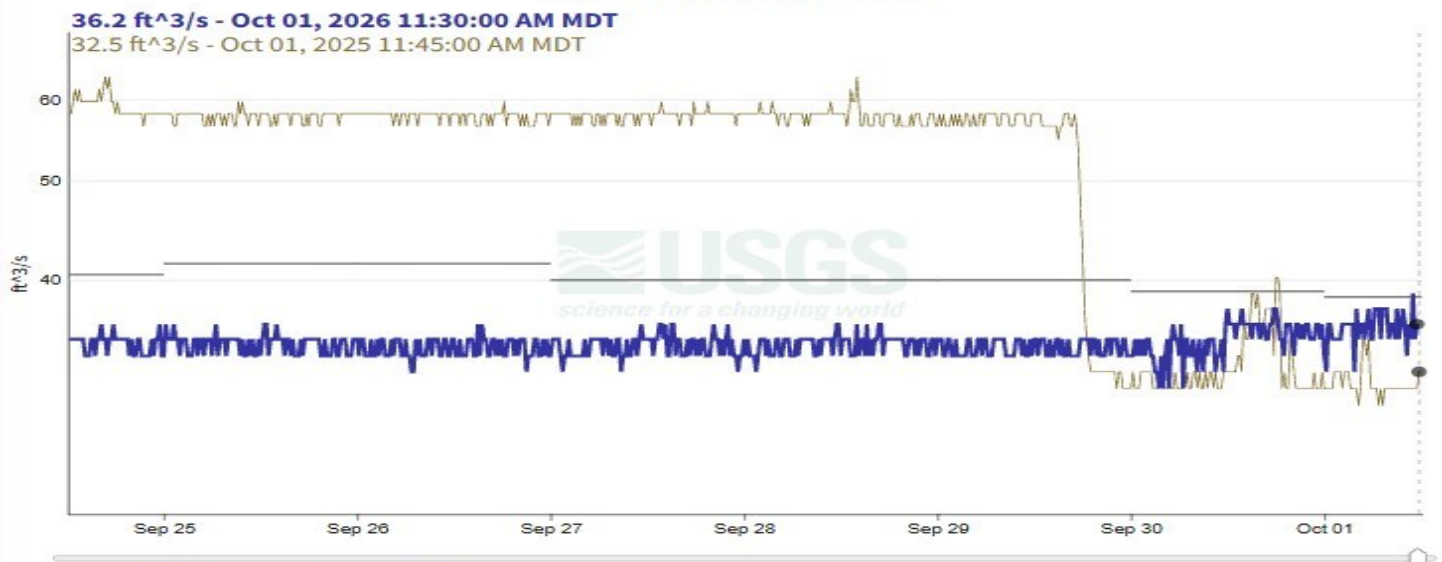
Streamflow Data

Gallatin River Basin—September 2026

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

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September 24, 2026 - October 1, 2026
Discharge, cubic feet per second



IMPORTANT Graph contains [provisional](#) data

[Hide legend](#) ^

Discharge, cubic feet per second

This year

— Recorded

Prior year

— Recorded

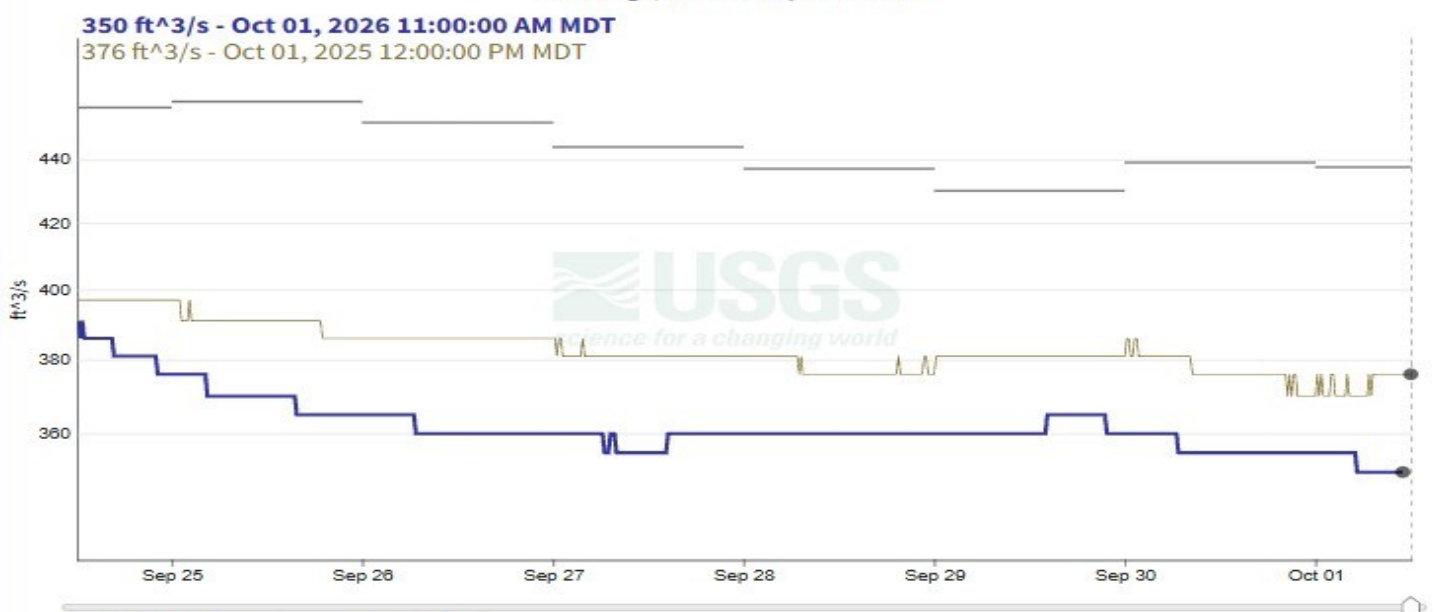
— Median 1895 - 2026

Discharge data is below normal.

Gallatin River near Gallatin Gateway, MT - USGS-06043500

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September 24, 2026 - October 1, 2026
Discharge, cubic feet per second



IMPORTANT Graph contains [provisional](#) data

[Hide legend](#) ^

Discharge, cubic feet per second

This year

— Recorded

Prior year

— Recorded

— Median 1895 - 2026

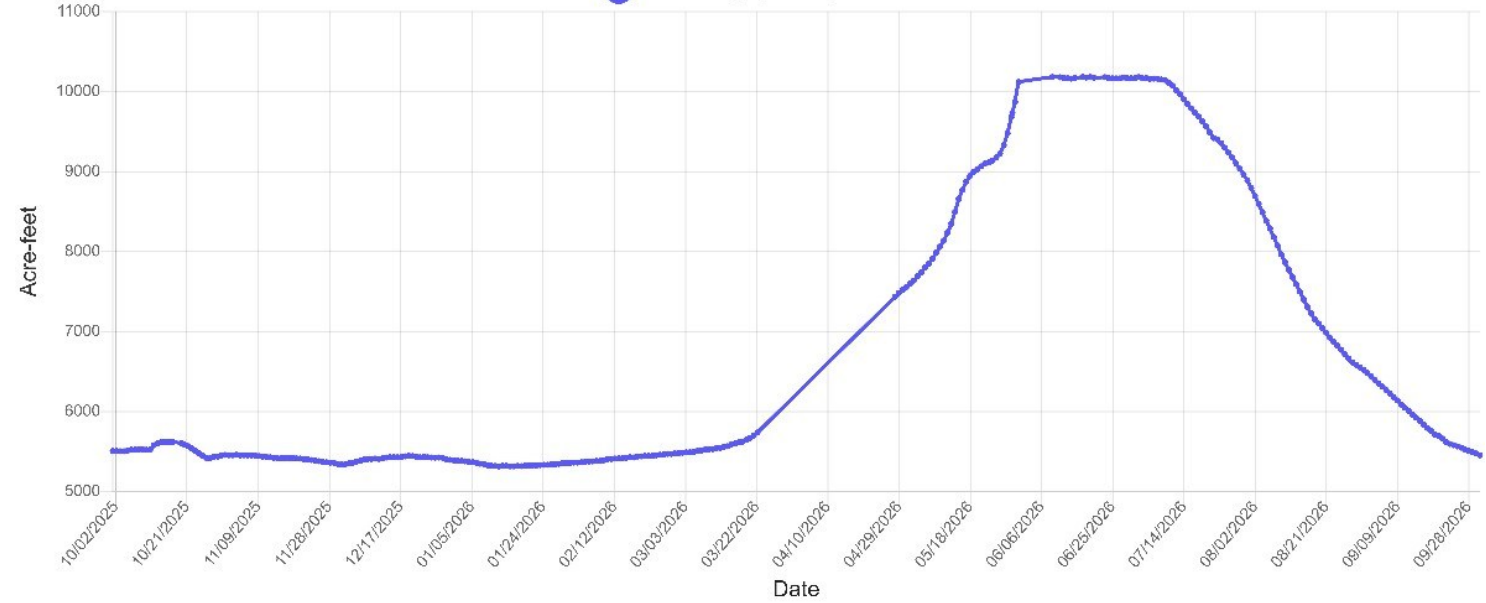
Discharge data is below normal.

Water Storage Data

Middle Creek Dam, Hyalite Reservoir—September 2026

Middle Creek Reservoir
41H 01900

Total Storage (acre-ft.)



County	Lat/Lon	Spillway Elevation
Gallatin	45.488, -110.975	6721.0 ft.

Most Recent Readings		
Sensor	Value	Time
Storage	5454.90 Acre-ft	9/30/2026, 10:00 PM
Elevation	6696.97 ft	9/30/2026, 10:00 PM
Temperature	No Data	No Data

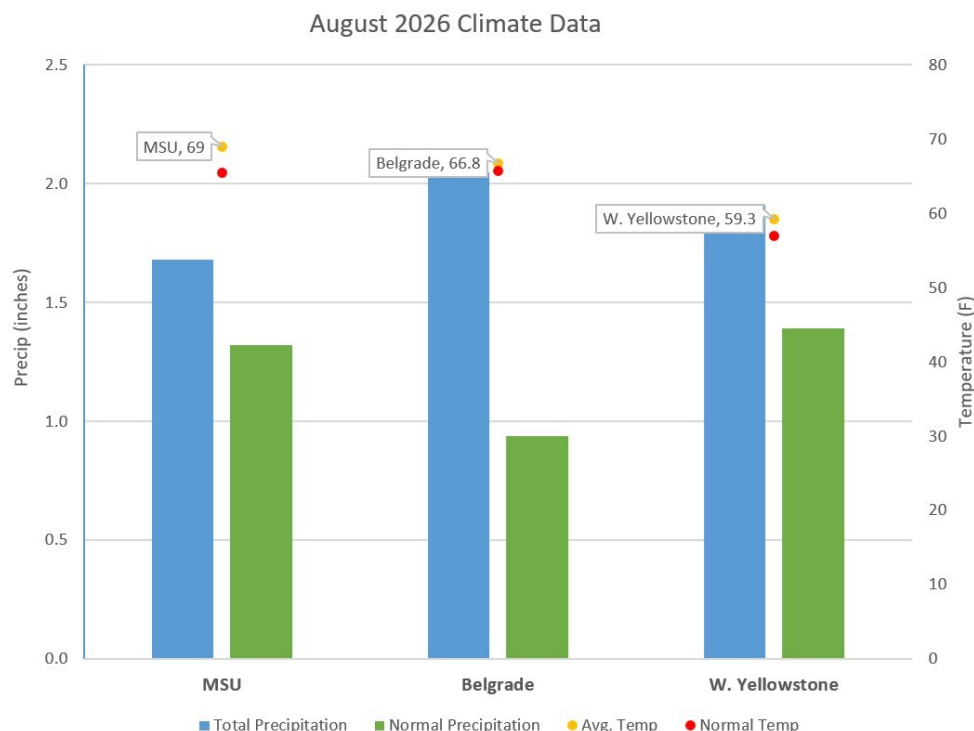
Period of Record
06/02/1984 - 09/30/2026

RESERVOIR SUMMARY *Data current as of 10/1/26

Middle Creek Dam Reservoir elevation is 6,696.97 ft, which is 24.03 ft below the principal spillway crest (6,721 ft). The reservoir elevation has decreased by 6.5 ft since September 1st, 2026 (date of last relevant WSO report). Reservoir volume is 5,454.90 acre-ft, which is 1,023.83 acre-ft less than on September 1st, 2026.

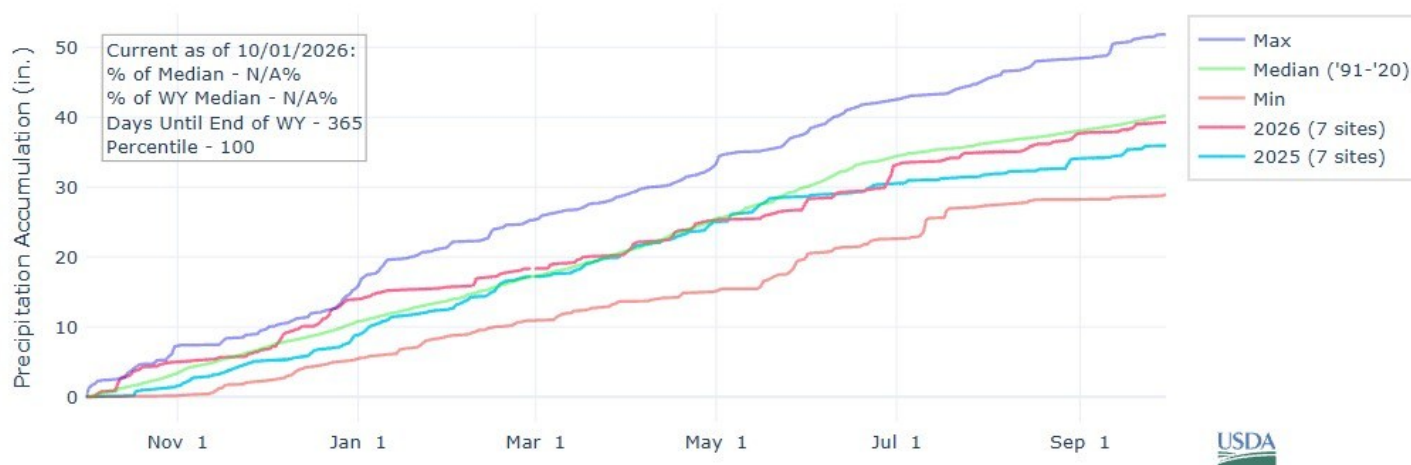
Climate Data

Gallatin County—September 2026



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

PRECIPITATION ACCUMULATION IN GALLATIN



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

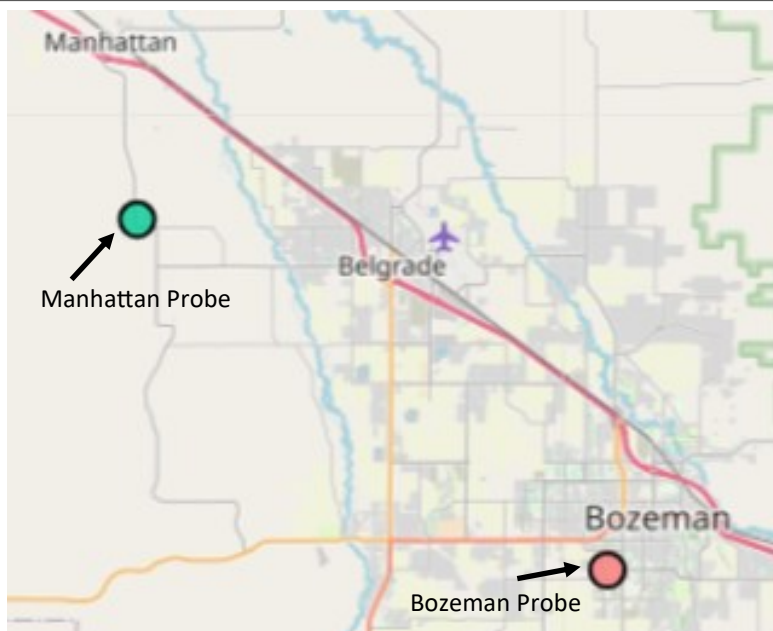
*Data is current as of 10/1/2026

Average temperatures have decreased at all sites since August 2025. All sites have had above normal temperatures for this time of year. The MSU site experienced above normal precipitation, while the Belgrade and West Yellowstone sites experienced below normal precipitation in September 2026 (ACIS graph).

We have concluded Water Year 2026 (red line). The total accrued precipitation for the Gallatin River Basin as of September 30th, 2026 is just below normal (median, green line) at 39.3 inches (USDA graph). The total accrued precipitation for WY 2025 on September 30th, 2025 was 35.9 inches (central blue line).

Soil Moisture Data

Mesonet Stations—September 2026



Manhattan Soil Probe Depth (in)	Soil Temp (°F)	Soil Water Content (%)
8" - Surface	54.68	17.2
20" - Shallow rooting	55.58	7.6
36" - Deep Rooting	55.58	16.3

Bozeman Soil Probe Depth (in)	Soil Temp (°F)	Soil Water Content (%)
4" - Surface	55.31	13.0
8" - Shallow rooting	55.31	14.1
20" - Deep Rooting	55.94	16.9

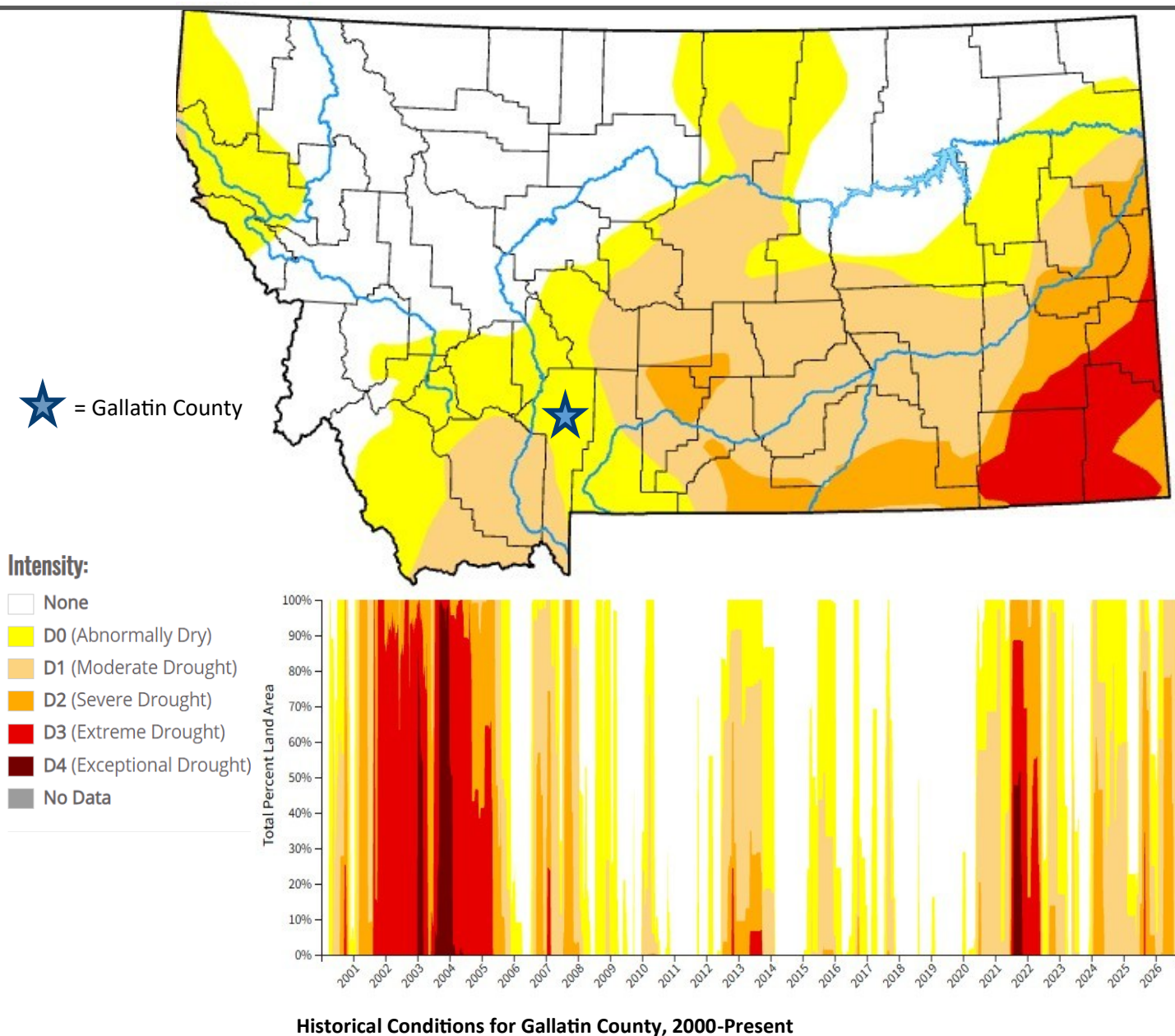
SOIL MOISTURE SUMMARY *Data current as of 10/1/26

Since August 2026, at the Manhattan station the soil temperature has decreased at the surface while increasing at 20" and 36" depths. Soil Water Content has remained stable at all depths.

Since August 2026, at the Bozeman station the soil temperature has decreased at all depths. Soil water content has increased at all depths.

Drought Index Data

Gallatin County— September 2026



DROUGHT INDEX SUMMARY *Data is current as of 10/01/2026

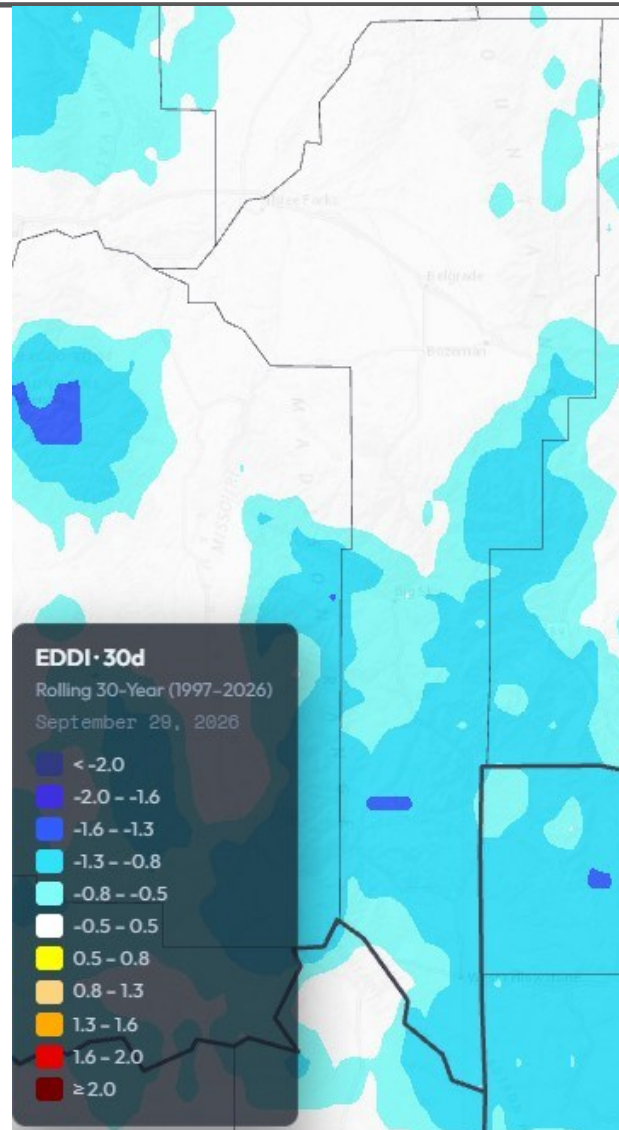
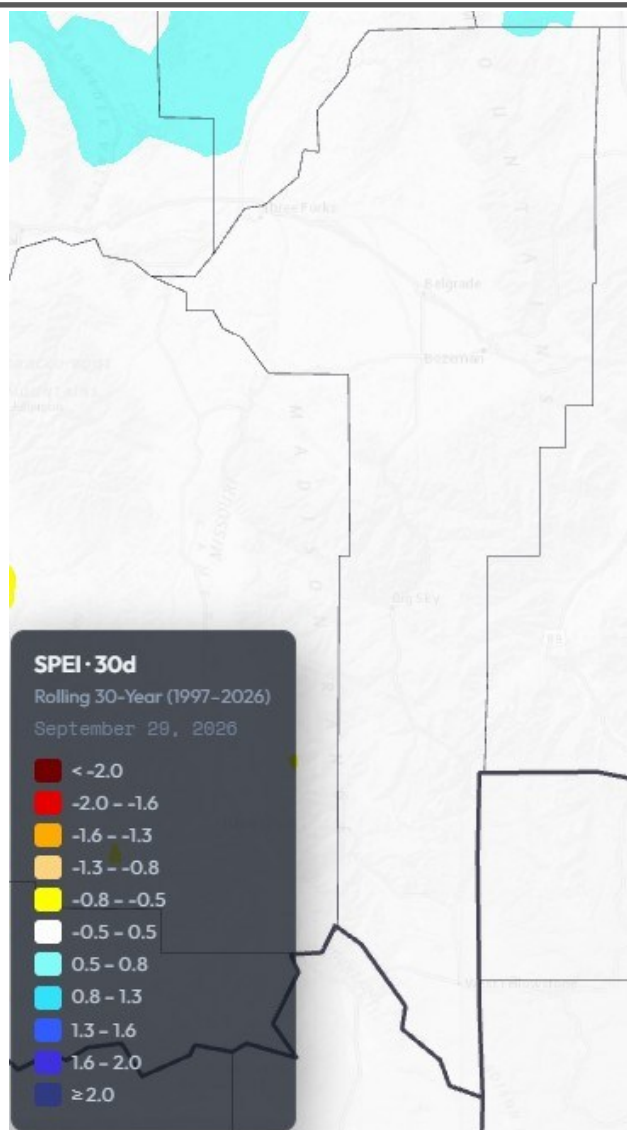
72.56% of Gallatin County is experiencing abnormally dry drought conditions. Impacts include low soil moisture contributing to poor crop germination and dry pastures, increased fire danger, and low streamflow with impacts to recreational fishing.

27.44% 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.

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 9/29/26

The maps above show the current Standardized Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index (SPEI, Left) and Evaporative Demand Drought Index (EDDI, Right) for September 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 September 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 September 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](#)