

North Platte River Water Supply Update EAC/RCC Meeting May 13, 2025

Figure 1 shows reservoir storage conditions for Reclamation reservoirs on the North Platte River as of May 8, 2025 and includes the statistical “expected” 2025 operations compiled from the May operating plan. The term “kaf” used in this report represents 1,000 acre-feet. All averages used in this report are for the period 1995-2024.

As of April 30, 2025, the North Platte total system storage is 1,650 kaf, which is a decrease of 387.9 kaf from the previous year’s storage of 1,817.2 kaf (April 30, 2024). This system storage decrease is attributable to the below average inflows during water year 2024 and 2025. The North Platte Project Irrigation Districts conserved approximately 437.4 kaf of carryover storage at the end of September 2024.

The total system expected inflow for 2025 is estimated to be 952.0 kaf, which is below average inflow conditions (average 1,305.8 kaf, median 1,258.2 kaf). The total Guernsey Reservoir expected outflow for water year 2025 is estimated to be 1,009.7 kaf, which reflects an allocation required for the North Platte Project contractors. The total Guernsey Reservoir outflow for water year 2024 was 1,131.9 kaf. The projected total system storage on September 30, 2025 is 985 kaf; 61% of average (1,513.5 kaf); or 35% of the total conservation capacity of the system (2,815.9 kaf).

Figure 2 and Figure 3 provide snow water equivalent (SWE) information expressed in inches of water for the upper and lower North Platte River basins compared to both last year and average. Figure 4 is the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) statewide SWE map in percent of median. The upper North Platte is 73%, Sweetwater is 108% and Lower North Platte is 56% of median for May 8, 2025. Total forecast April through July, calculated on May 01, 2025, inflow to the system is 362 kaf which is 38% of average (961 kaf).

Table 1 shows the actual October through April operations with projected May through September inflows based on the expected inflow conditions. The operating plans are updated monthly to reflect changing inflow conditions. This report focuses on the information associated with the May most probable operating plan. Table 2 shows the May 1 forecast of April-July inflow for water year 2025.

Table 1 also includes the accompanying information for the 30-year average (1995-2024) for comparison. Based on the May expected North Platte River Operating Plan, the North Platte Pathfinder ownership is estimated to reach a maximum ownership content of 781.5 kaf (73% of full) by the end of June. This would indicate that the Pathfinder Irrigation, Wyoming, and Environmental accounts may not fill. Releases from Guernsey Reservoir will be in response to demands, and a nearly full water supply is expected to be available for irrigation.

Reclamation will continue to update the North Platte River operating plans on a monthly basis in response to changing inflow conditions. Reclamation will prepare forecasts of the snowmelt runoff continuing through June 1. The projected operations outlined above are subject to change in response to fluctuating conditions. For additional information regarding current reservoir contents and releases, please visit our website https://www.usbr.gov/gp/lakes_reservoirs/index.html and <https://www.usbr.gov/gp/hydromet/>.

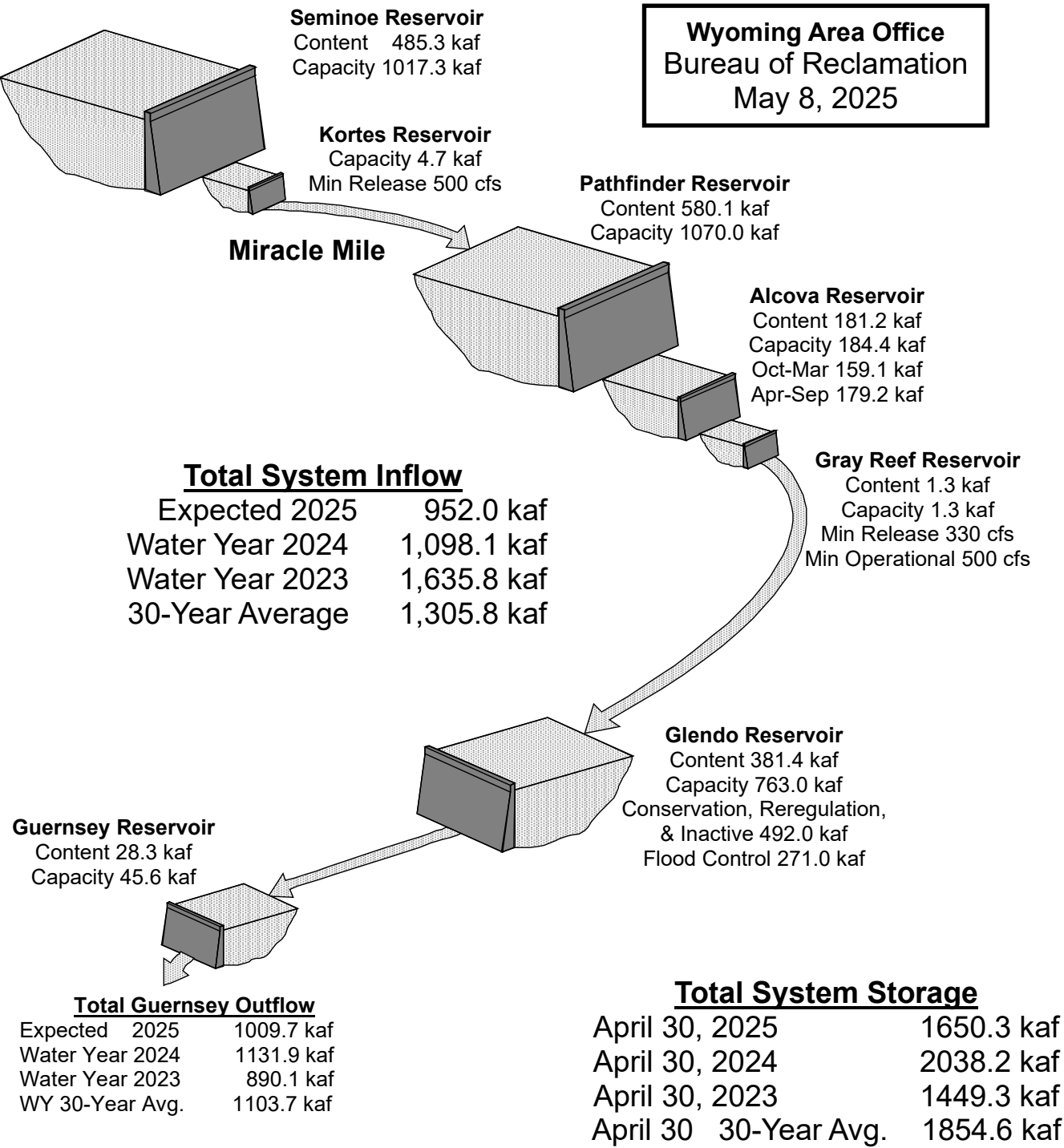
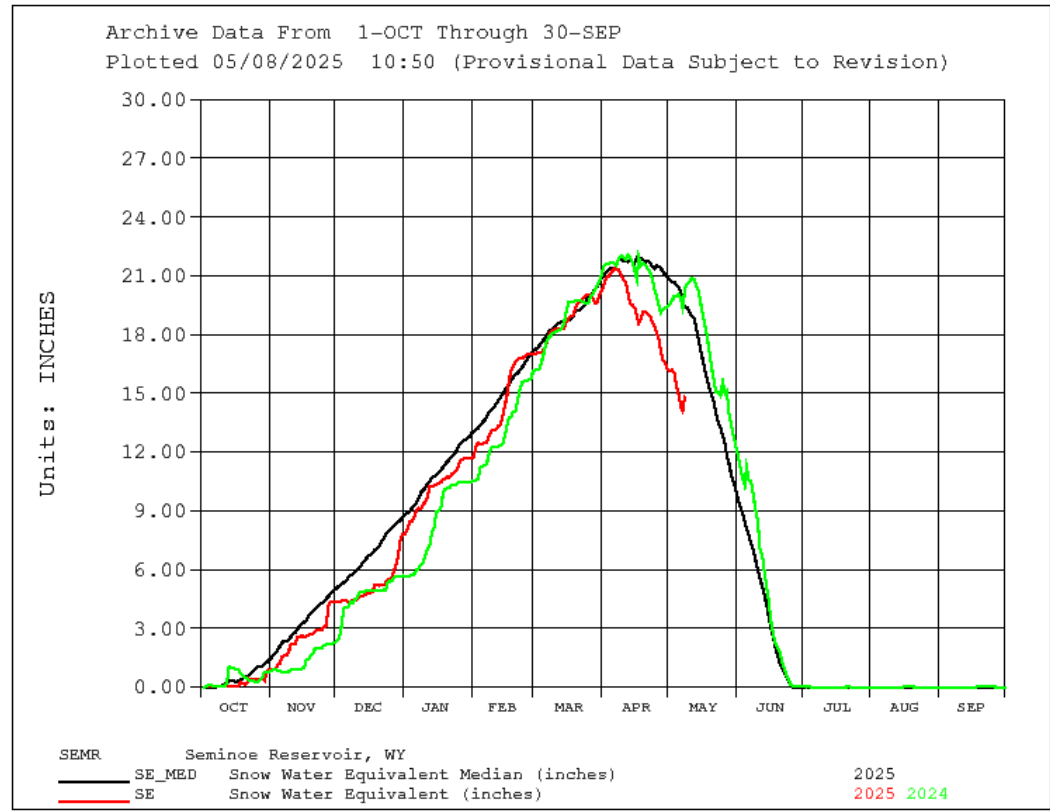


Figure 1. North Platte River System, Seminoe Reservoir to Guernsey Reservoir
Total System Conservation Capacity 2815.9 kaf

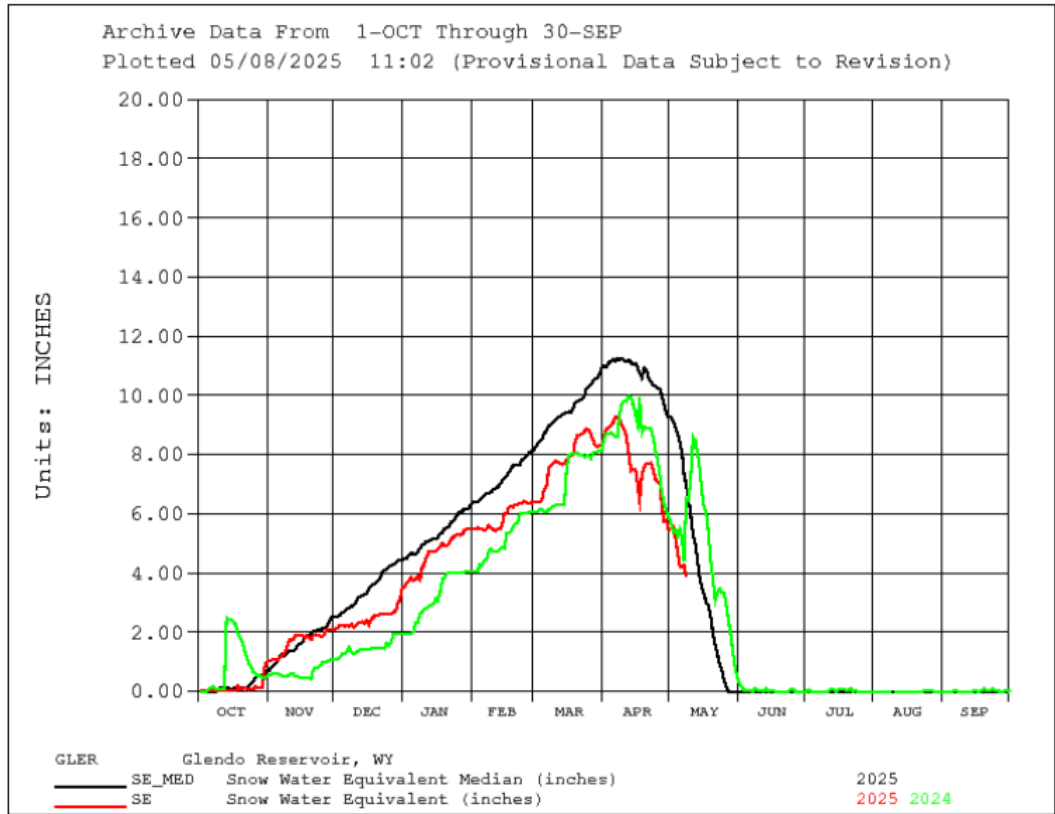
Figure 2. Basin above Seminole Reservoir Snow Water Equivalent vs. April-July



Water Year	April-July SEMR Inflow (acre-Feet)
2025*	361,700
2024	575,800
30-Year Mean	718,199

* Forecast value

Figure 3. Alcova to Glendo Reach Snow Water Equivalent vs. April – July



Water Year	April-July GLER Inflow (acre-Feet)
2025*	56,800
2024	149,200
30-Year Mean	145,665

* Forecast value

Figure 4. Snow Water Equivalent Percentage by Basin for the State of

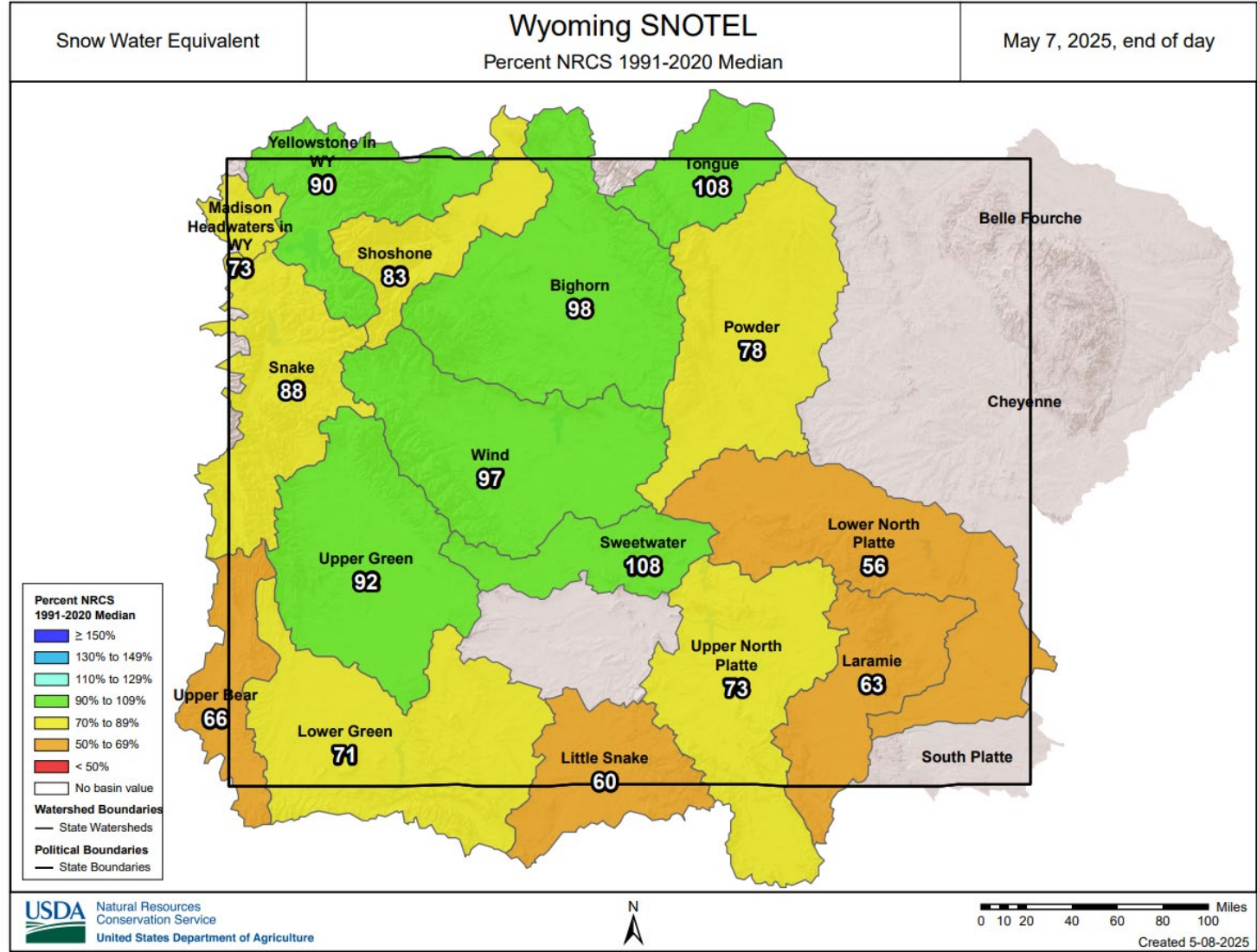


Table 1. North Platte River System Operating Plan - May Update for Water Year 2025

Projected Total System Inflow										1000 x acre-feet			
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
Most Probable #	13.789	18.6	23.0	22.4	26.4	43.4	61.7	146.4	110.4	43.2	33.5	18.9	561.7
Average 1995-2024	43.8	43.5	38.3	43.7	46.7	85.6	166.0	348.9	342.3	104.0	35.2	32.9	1,330.9
Most Probable % of Avg.	32%	43%	60%	51%	57%	51%	37%	42%	32%	42%	95%	57%	42%

Projected Guernsey Reservoir Outflow										1000 x acre-feet			
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
Most Probable #	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	31.5	90.6	114.2	281.9	279.7	211.2	1,009.7
Average 1995-2024	2.1	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6	12.7	48.5	141.2	182.6	310.3	283.9	120.4	1,103.7
Most Probable % of Avg.	9%	15%	14%	12%	13%	1%	65%	64%	63%	91%	99%	175%	91%

Projected Total System End-of-Month Storage										1000 x acre-feet			
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	
Most Probable #	1,431.5	1,458.6	1,489.3	1,516.9	1,552.7	1,614.6	1,650.3	1,741.7	1,731.9	1,459.5	1,183.5	984.1	
Average 1995-2024	1,532.0	1,572.7	1,607.9	1,647.5	1,690.1	1,754.6	1,854.6	2,031.4	2,147.0	1,898.6	1,618.8	1,513.5	
Most Probable % of Avg.	93%	93%	93%	92%	92%	92%	89%	86%	81%	77%	73%	65%	

Forecast 2025 ending percent of total system capacity 35%

Actual data in the October through March Columns. Most Probable data in the April through September columns.

Table 2. North Platte River Basin Forecast Water Year 2025

(1000 acre-feet)

Forecast Points	May 1, 2025 Forecast of April-July Runoff			30 Yr. April-July Runoff Med. ²	Expected % of Med.	Comparative Actual April - July Runoff			
	Reasonable Maximum ¹	Expected	Reasonable Minimum ¹			W. Yr. 2024	W. Yr. 2023	W. Yr. 2022	W. Yr. 2021
Seminole Reservoir	562	362	262	568	64	630	969	547	339
Sweetwater River Above Pathfinder Reservoir	67	47	27	44	107	46	112	17	17
Alcova to Glendo	117	57	32	133	43	98	227	81	110

¹ The probability is estimated to be 9 chances in 10 that the actual volume will fall between the reasonable minimum and reasonable maximum.

² Median is based on the 1995-2024 period.