

# Blackfoot Water Supply Report

## February 7, 2023

**Montana Water Supply Report data as of February 1, 2023 (from NRCS):**

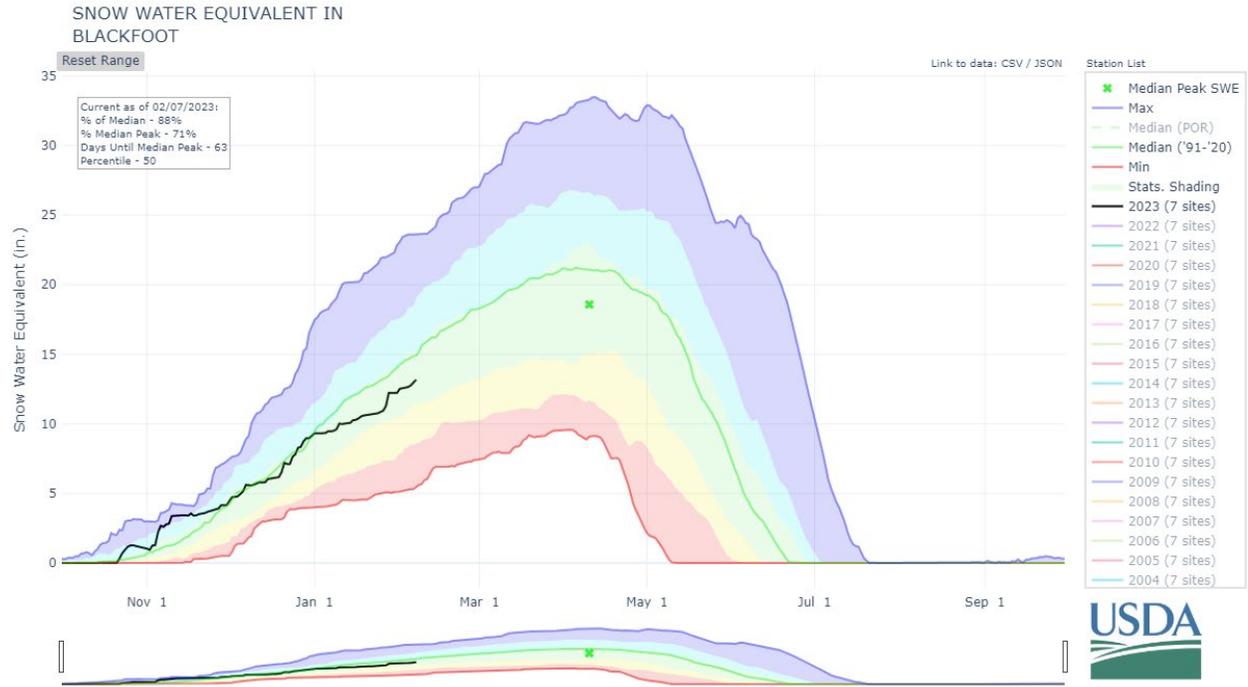
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/wcc/home/quicklinks/states/montana/waterSupply/>

### **Overview**

The month of January brought largely below average precipitation across much of Montana including the Blackfoot sub-basin. Despite a significant snow event at the end of the month, the Blackfoot only received 68% of its normal precipitation for the month of January, normally an important month for snow accumulation in this region. This year's January dry spell is very similar to what happened last year when we also had a largely dry January. Fortunately, active October through December months buffered us somewhat this year so that we currently have 88% of normal snowpack. Temperatures during January were a roller-coaster bouncing between well above to well below normal at different points during the month.

The next two months will be critical in predicting the water supply outlook this year. We will need to have an active couple of months to remain on track for a normal year, and we'll need well above normal precipitation or some large storms to push us into above normal conditions. According to NOAA's Climate Prediction Center (CPC), the next week has potential for near normal temperatures and below normal precipitation. All other forecasts including the three-month outlook, continue to predict below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation through April 2023. Bottom line: we slipped a little in January in terms of precipitation but there is still time to recover over the next couple of months.

# Blackfoot River Basin Snow Water Equivalent



**Black line: 2022/2023 Water Year**

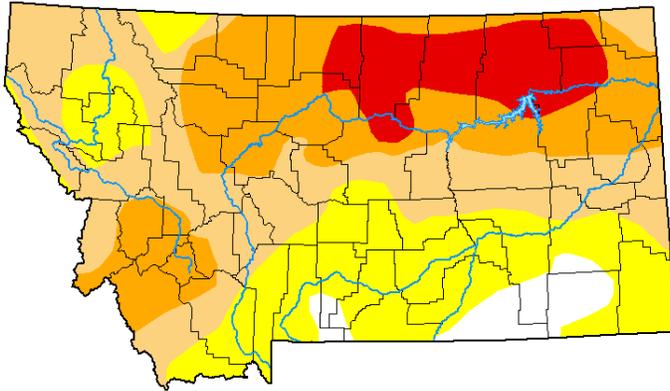
**Green line: 30-year median**

## Reservoir Storage

Reservoir storage has not changed much in the last month, remaining slightly below normal for this time of year in Western Montana reservoirs. Nevada Creek Reservoir is currently at 38% capacity, 2% below the level it was at this time last year.

Upper Clark Fork	Current (KAF)	Last Year (KAF)	Median (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)	Current % Capacity	Last Year % Capacity	Median % Capacity	Current % Median	Last Year % Median
Nevada Creek Res	4.7	5.1	6.0	12.6	38%	40%	48%	79%	85%
Georgetown Lake	27.2	26.6	28.3	31.0	88%	86%	91%	96%	94%
Lower Willow Creek Reservoir				4.9					
East Fork Rock Creek Res	7.9	8.0	8.0	16.0	49%	50%	50%	98%	100%
Silver Lake									
<b>Basin Index</b>					<b>67%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>94%</b>
# of reservoirs					3	3	3	3	3

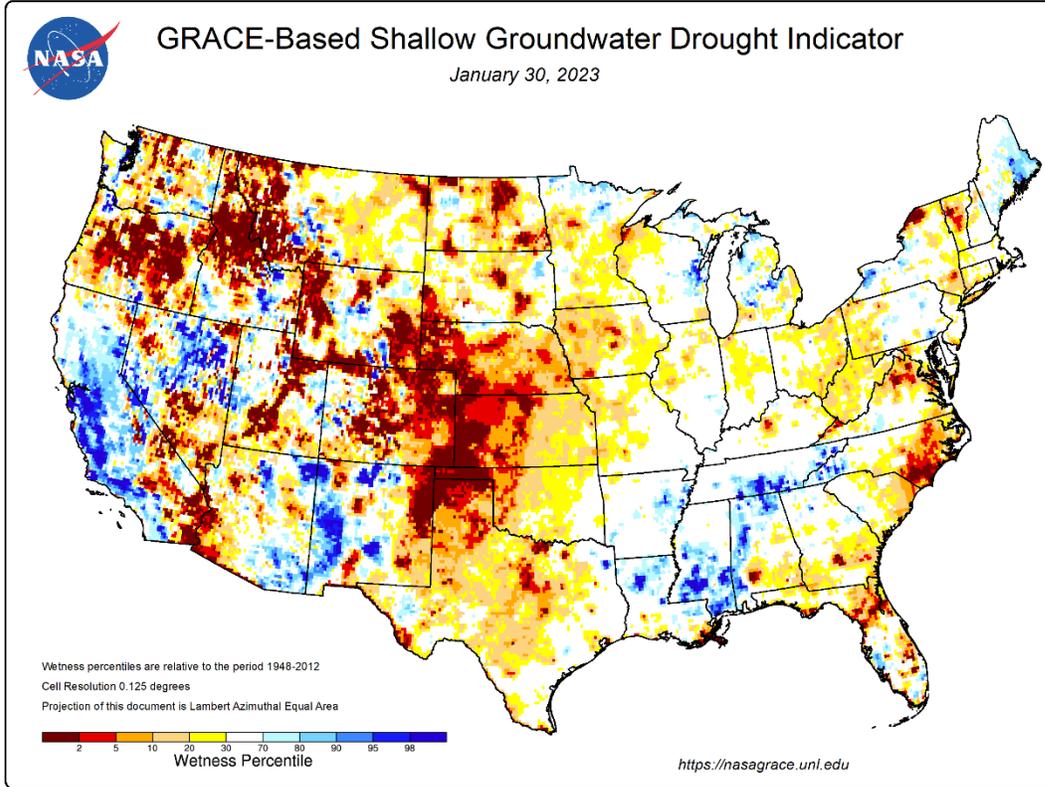
## Montana Drought Monitor – Feb. 2, 2023



### Drought Intensities

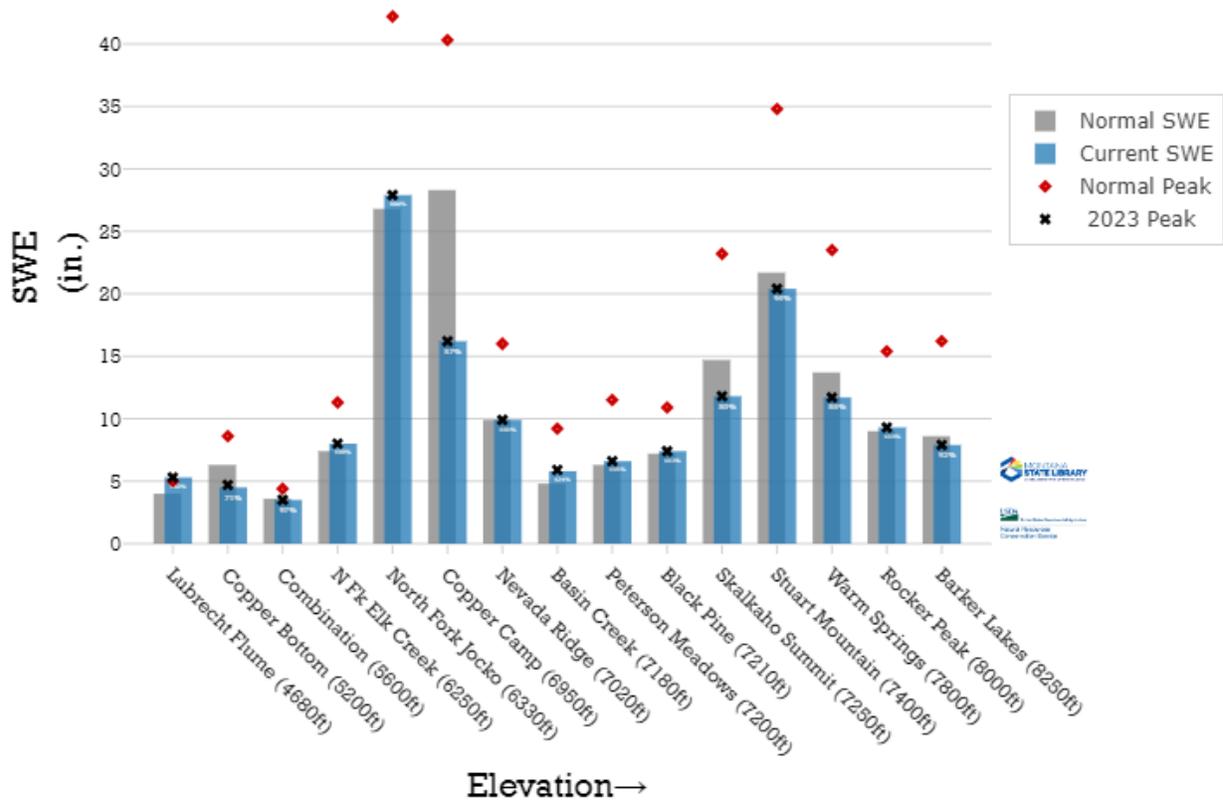
- None: No Drought
- D0: Abnormally Dry
- D1: Moderate Drought
- D2: Severe Drought
- D3: Extreme Drought
- D4: Exceptional Drought

## National Root Zone Soil Moisture – Jan. 30, 2023



**Montana SNOTEL Snow Water Equivalent (SWE): February 7, 2023**

**UpperClark  
Snow Water Equivalent  
2023-02-07**



**February 7, 2023 USGS Real Time Stream Flow Conditions**

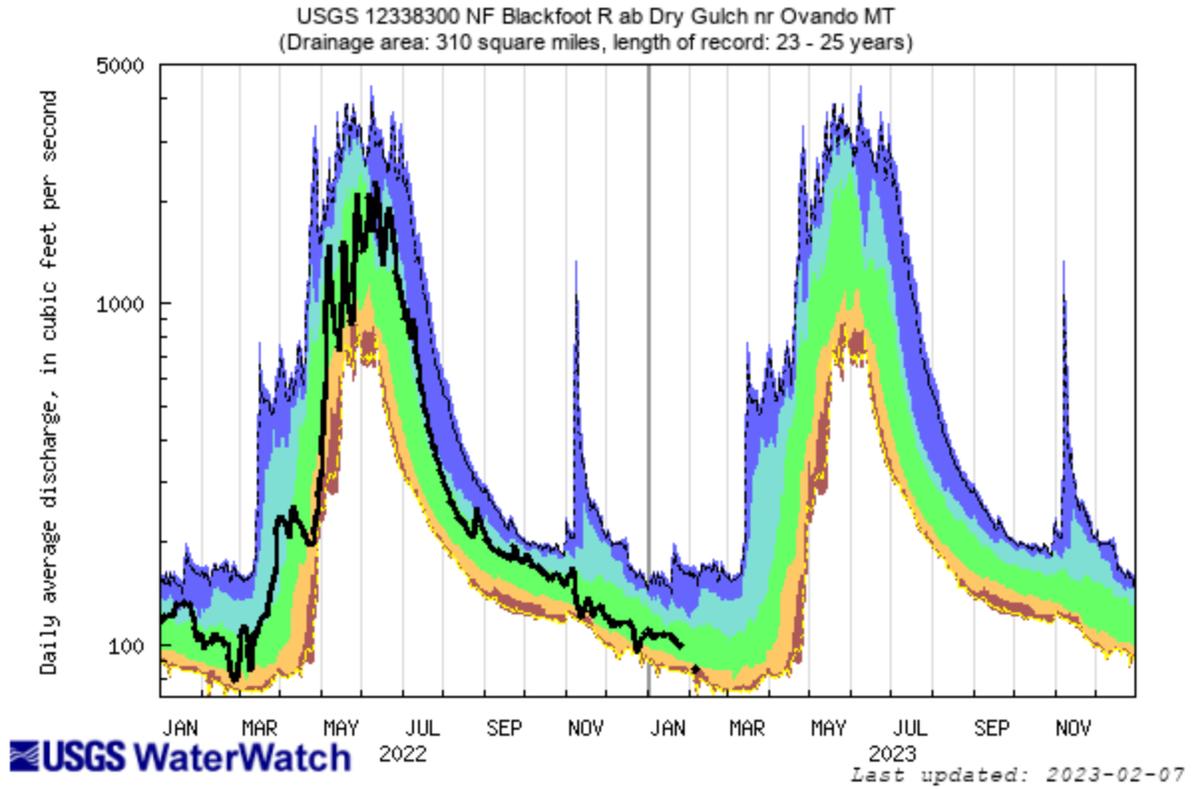
**Nevada Creek above Reservoir**

NO READING DUE TO ICE

**North Fork Blackfoot**

**Discharge, cubic feet per second**

Most recent instantaneous value: 87.3 on 2/7/2023 at 08:00 MST



**Blackfoot River at Bonner**

NO READING DUE TO ICE

**Blackfoot River above Nevada Creek**

NO READING DUE TO ICE

# Three-Month Outlook: February 2023

From  
National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center  
<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>

Higher chance for below normal temperatures for February through April.

Higher chance for above average precipitation for February through April.

