

Blackfoot Water Supply Report

January 10, 2023

Montana Water Supply Report data as of January 9, 2023 (from NRCS):

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

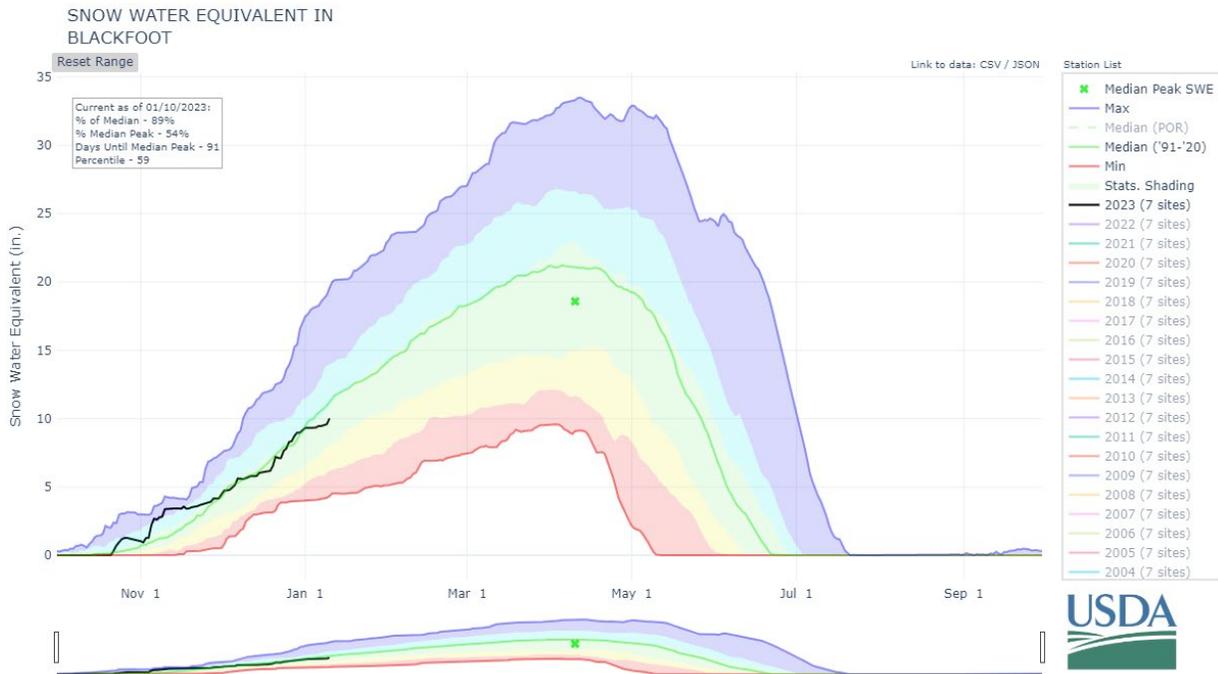
Overview

The 2023 Water Year began on October 1, 2022. Since then, most of the State has received normal to above normal precipitation. Cool and wet November and December months got the snowpack across the State off to a normal to slightly above normal start coming into the new year. In the Blackfoot sub-basin, precipitation and snowpack are slightly below normal for this time of year. As of January 1, the Blackfoot has received 95% of its normal precipitation and snowpack according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) SNOTEL network. This is up slightly compared to January 1 last year. Overall, snowpack across the State is coming into the year with a great start with all major river basins reporting at least normal conditions and many are well above normal.

It is early yet in the snow year and much can change over the next weeks and months. Typically in Montana, snowpack on January 1 is only 35-40% of what will accumulate by peak accumulation in April or early May. Already this month in the Blackfoot, we've seen snowpack fall from 95% on January 1 to 89% by January 9. The bottom line: while we are off to a good start, continued snowfall over the next couple of months will be necessary to ensure normal spring snowpack.

According to NOAA's Climate Prediction Center (CPC), the next week has potential for warmer than normal temperatures and above normal precipitation. The 8-14 day forecast calls for increased chances of near normal temperatures and near to above normal precipitation. The three-month outlook, continues to show increasing chances for normal to below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation through March 2023.

Blackfoot River Basin Snow Water Equivalent



Black line: 2022/2023 Water Year

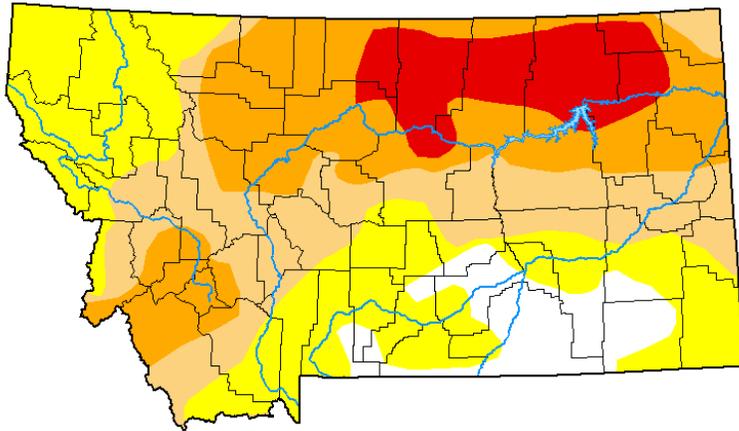
Green line: 30-year median

Reservoir Storage

Reservoir storage is currently slightly below normal for this time of year in Western Montana reservoirs. Nevada Creek Reservoir is currently at 34% 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
Georgetown Lake	26.6	25.9	28.3	31.0	86%	83%	91%	94%	91%
East Fork Rock Creek Res	7.4	7.4	7.6	16.0	46%	46%	47%	97%	97%
Nevada Creek Res	4.3	4.6	5.5	12.6	34%	36%	44%	79%	84%
Silver Lake									
Lower Willow Creek Reservoir				4.9					
Basin Index					64%	63%	69%	93%	91%
# of reservoirs					3	3	3	3	3

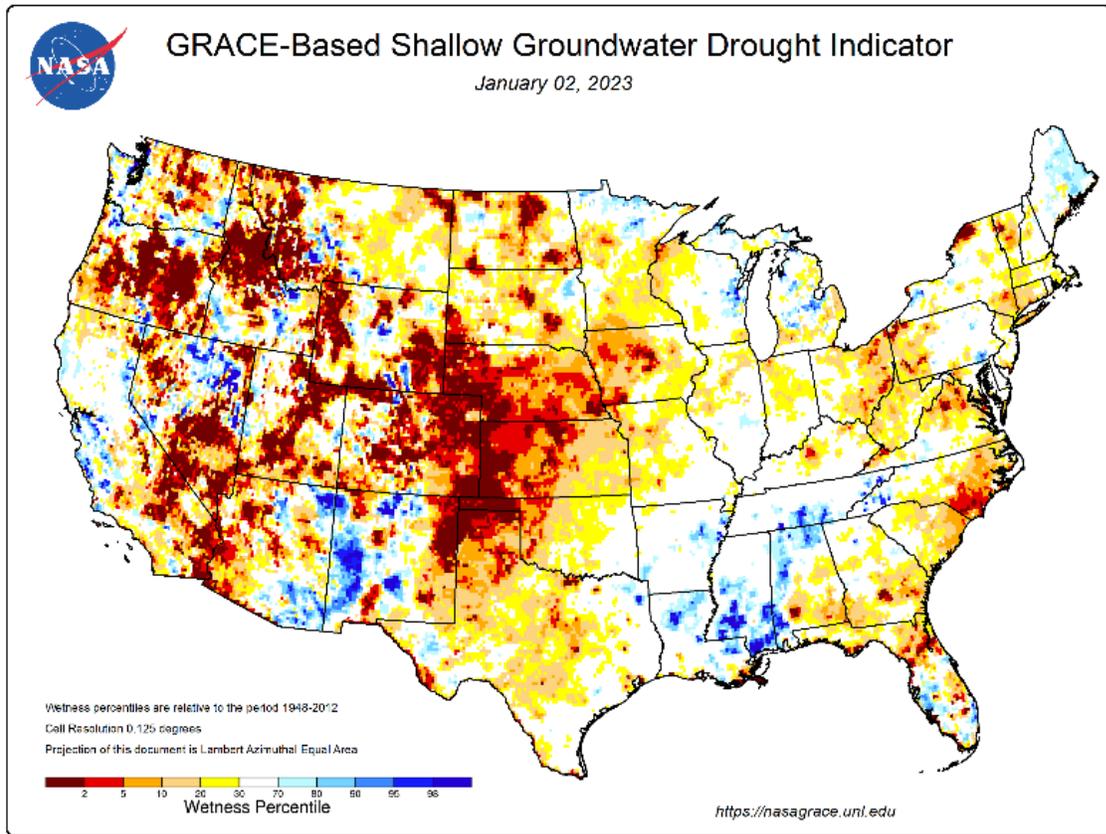
Montana Drought Monitor – Jan. 5, 2023



Drought Intensities

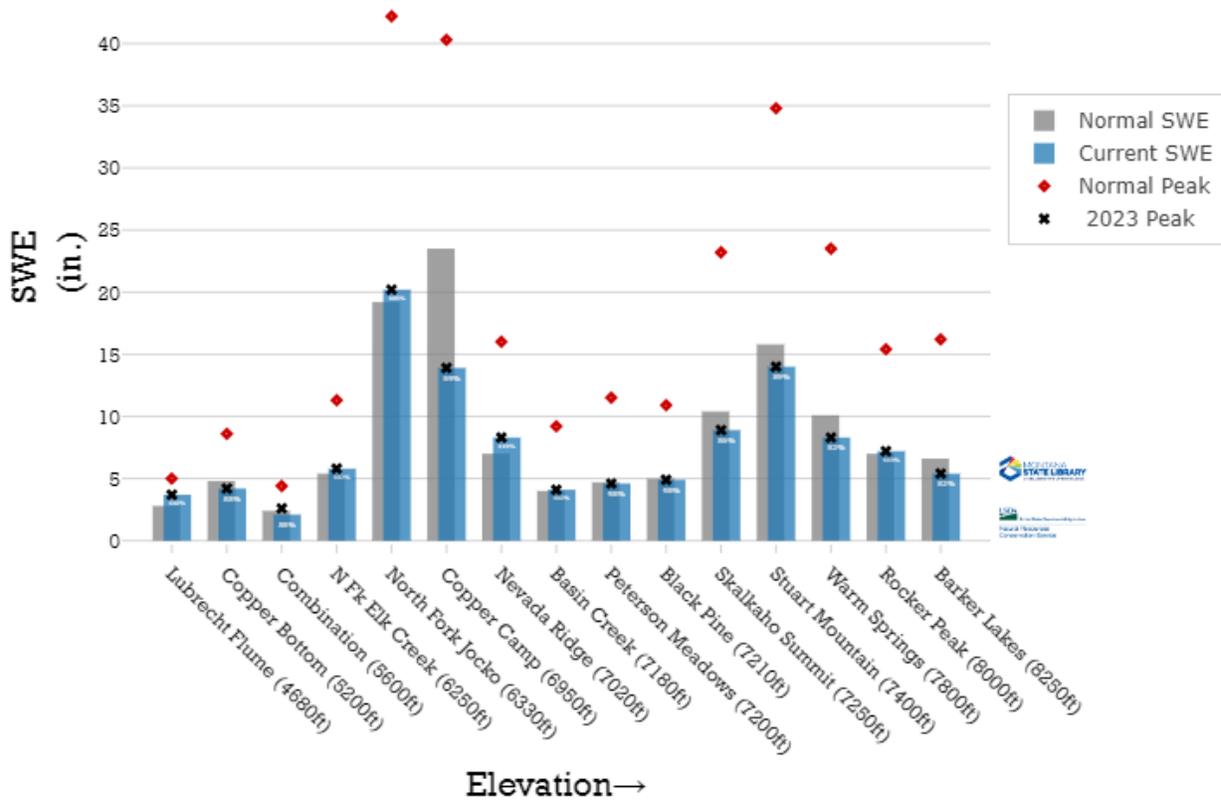
- None: No Drought
- D0: Abnormally Dry
- D1: Moderate Drought
- D2: Severe Drought
- D3: Extreme Drought
- D4: Exceptional Drought

National Root Zone Soil Moisture – Jan. 2, 2023



Montana SNOTEL Snow Water Equivalent (SWE): January 10, 2023

**UpperClark
Snow Water Equivalent
2023-01-10**



January 10, 2023 USGS Real Time Stream Flow Conditions

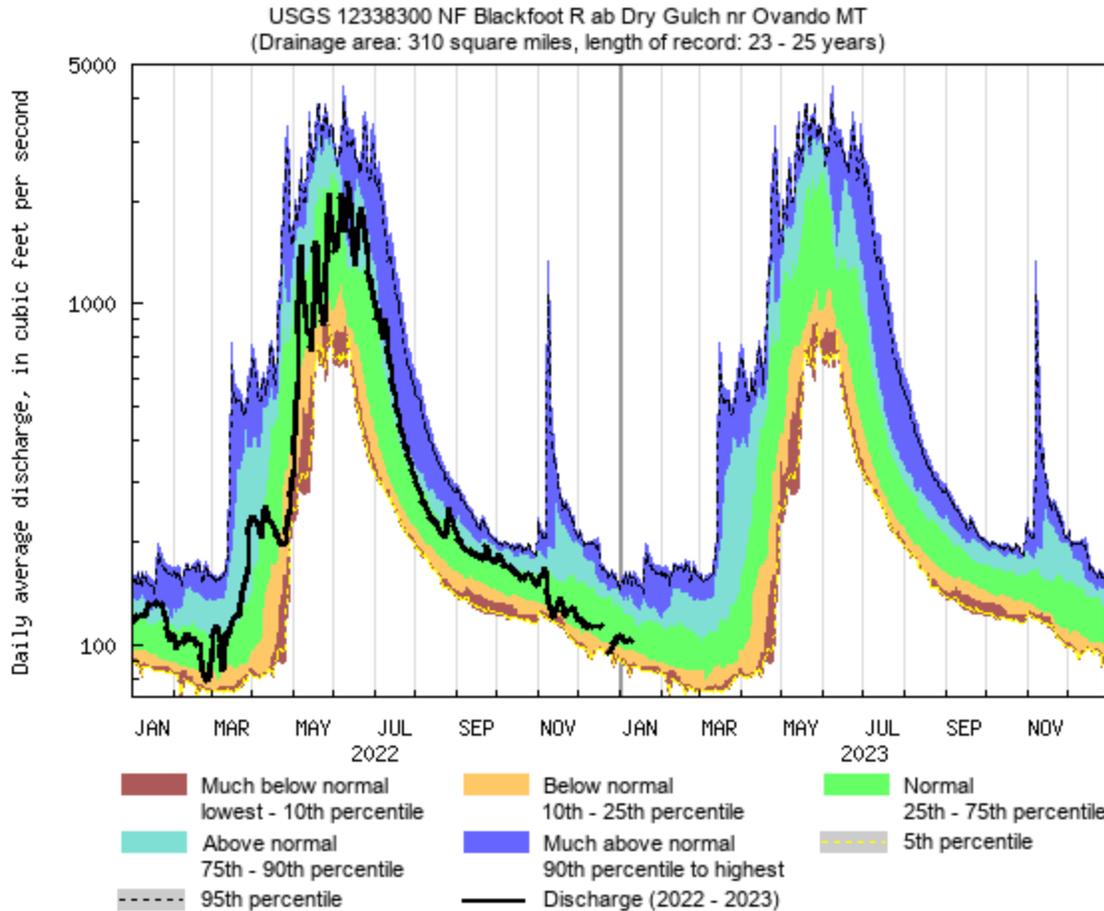
Nevada Creek above Reservoir

NO READING DUE TO ICE

North Fork Blackfoot

Discharge, cubic feet per second

Most recent instantaneous value: 104 on 1/10/2023 at 09:00 MST



Last updated: 2023-01-10

Blackfoot River at Bonner

NO READING DUE TO ICE

Blackfoot River above Nevada Creek

NO READING DUE TO ICE

Three-Month Outlook: January 2023

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

Leaning towards normal to below normal temperatures from January through March.

Higher chance for above average precipitation for January through March.

