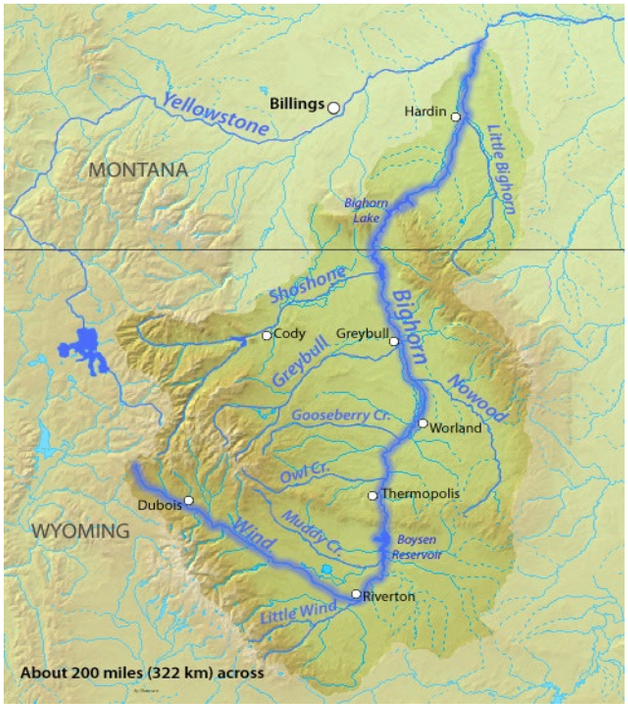
Yellowtail Dam Water Supply and Projected Operations

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

November 2026



Bighorn River Basin Map Source: DEMIS Mapserver

November Operating Range			
Forecast	**Minimum**	**Median**	**Maximum**
Monthly Average Inflow (cfs)	1,240	1,355	1,470
Monthly Average River Release (cfs)	1,565	1,565	1,565
End of November Elevation (feet)	3624.5	3625.4	3626.3

November 2026 Inflow Forecast (kaf)		
November Volume		81
Percent of Average		64
Water Year	**Historical Inflow**	**Rank**
2026	100	24
2025	108	21
2024	176	2
2023	106	22
30 Year Average	125	

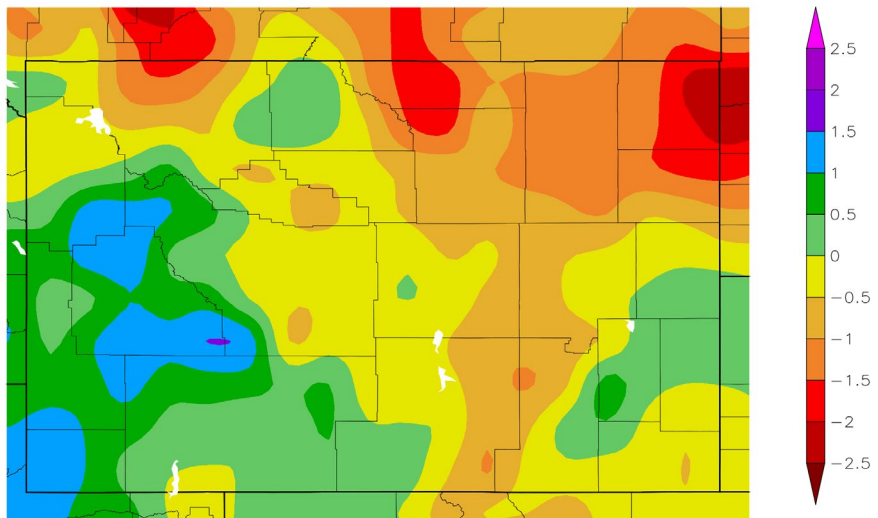


Climate Departure from Normal

October 1 through October 31, 2026

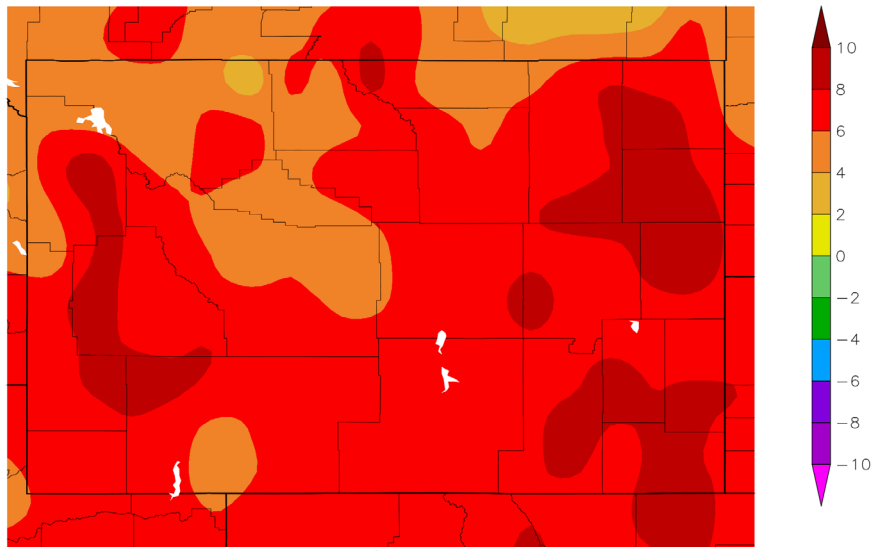
Precipitation

Departure from Normal (inches)



Temperature

Departure from Normal (°F)



HPRCC using provisional data from NOAA Regional Climate Centers

CLIMATE SUMMARY

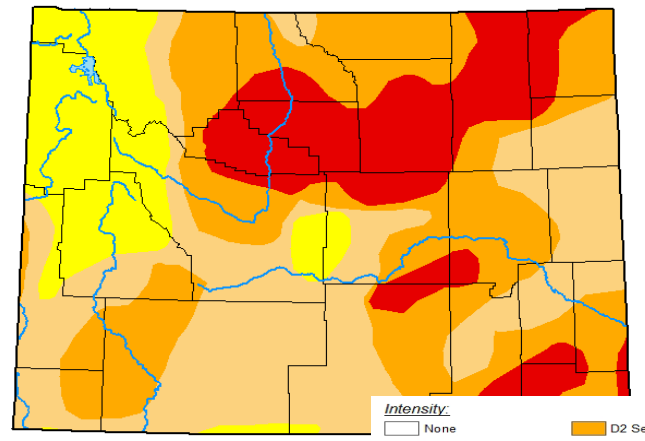
October precipitation across the Bighorn River Basin above Yellowtail Dam was varibale. It was above average in upper portions of the western part of the basin as well as a small portion of the northern part of the basin. It was below average for the rest of the basin. Temperatures for the month were above normal.

Based on the climate outlook for November, there is an equal chance that precipitation will be above, below, or near normal. Temperatures have a 50-60% chance of being above normal.

Drought conditions in the Bighorn River basin range from abnormally dry to extreme.

Wyoming Drought Monitor Map

October 27, 2026

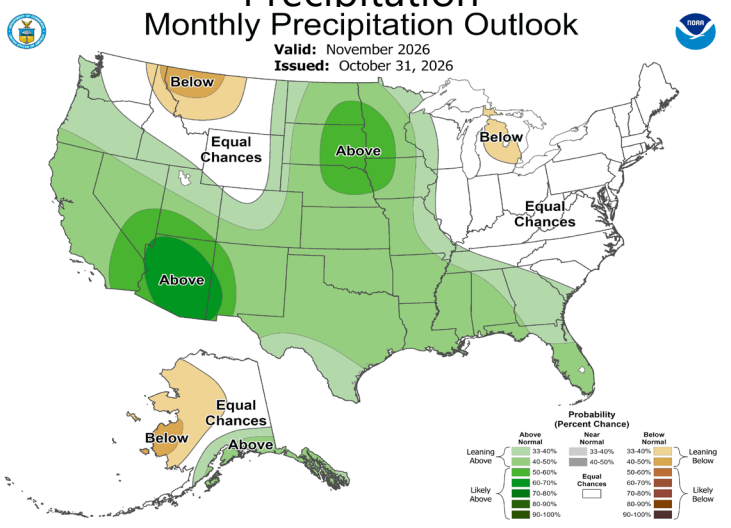




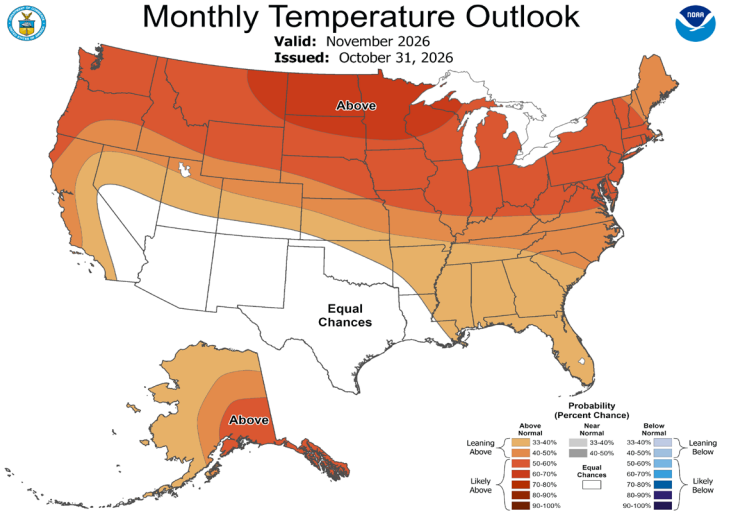
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

November Climate Outlook

Precipitation



Temperature

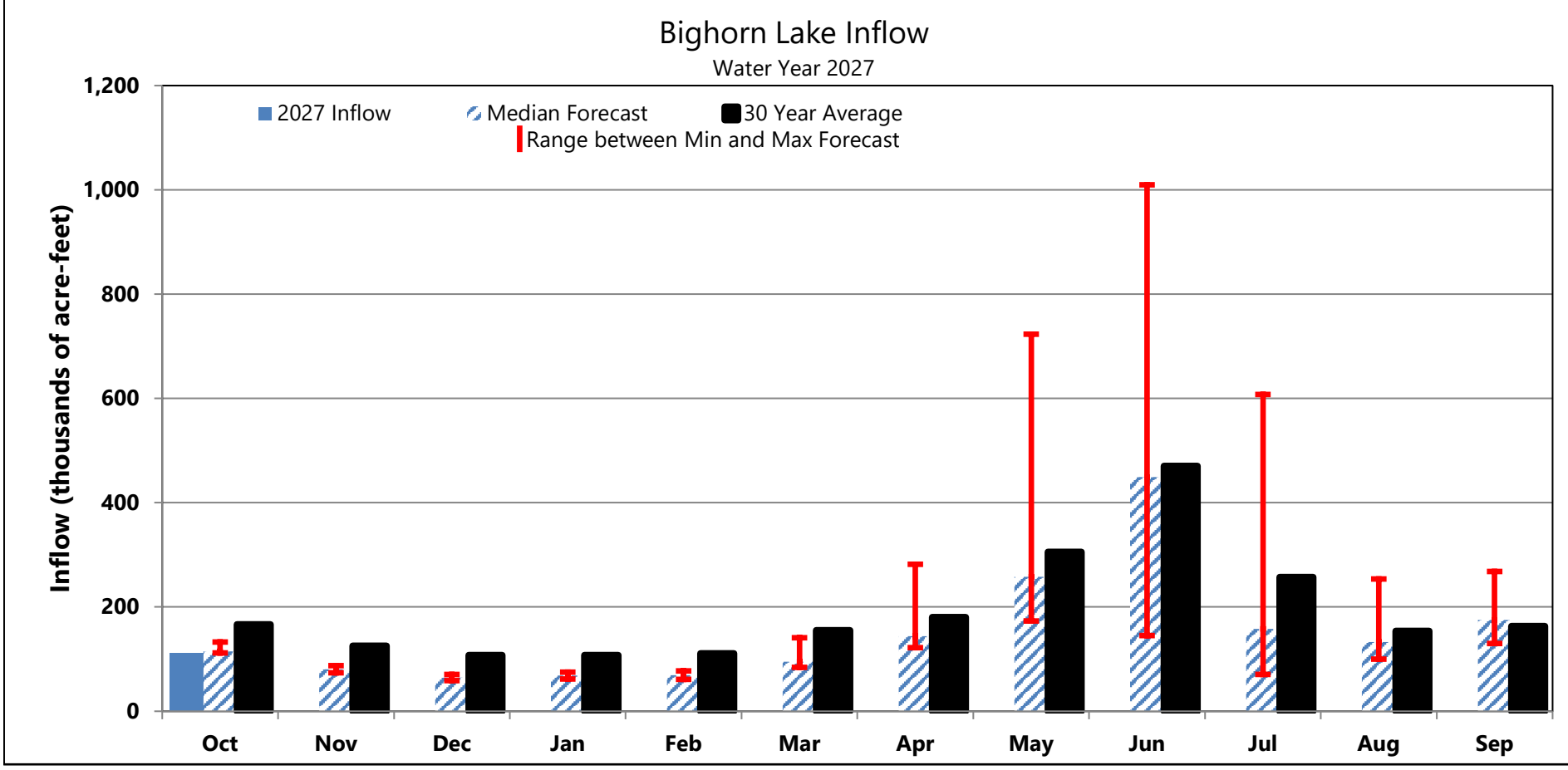


FORECAST SUMMARY

NRCS SNOTEL data, streamflow data, climate data, and planned releases from Boysen and Buffalo Bill Reservoirs are used to compute an inflow forecast for Bighorn Lake. Actual October inflows were less than the minimum inflow forecast.

October Forecast Review

	Median Forecast (kaf)	Actual (kaf)	Difference (kaf)	Actual (% of Avg)
October Inflow	114.6	111.5	(3.1)	67

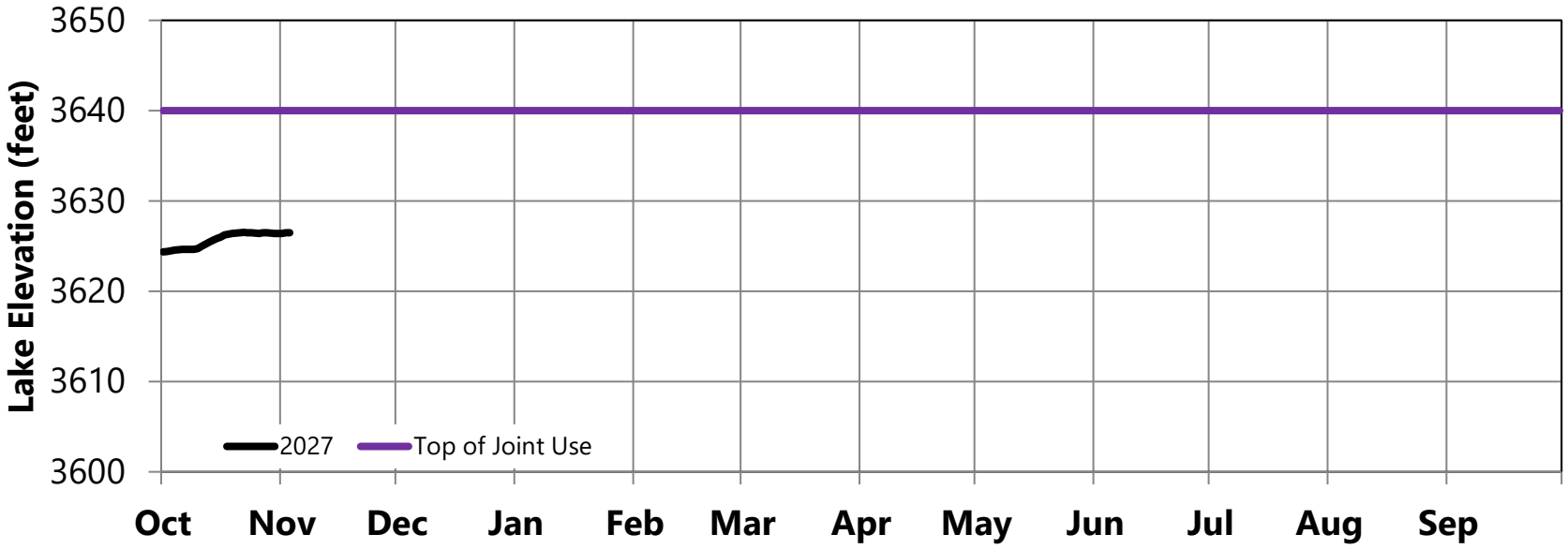


OPERATIONS REVIEW (October 1, 2026 through October 31, 2026)

Releases to the Bighorn River were decreased to 1,570 cfs during October based on actual September inflows, forecasted inflows, and the operating criteria. The elevation of Bighorn Lake increased by 2.1 feet during October.

November 1 Storage Conditions

	Elevation feet	Storage acre-feet	Percent of Average	Percent Full
Bighorn Lake	3626.4	864,792	97	86
Buffalo Bill	5358.8	392,537	91	61
Boysen	4712.5	528,361	94	71

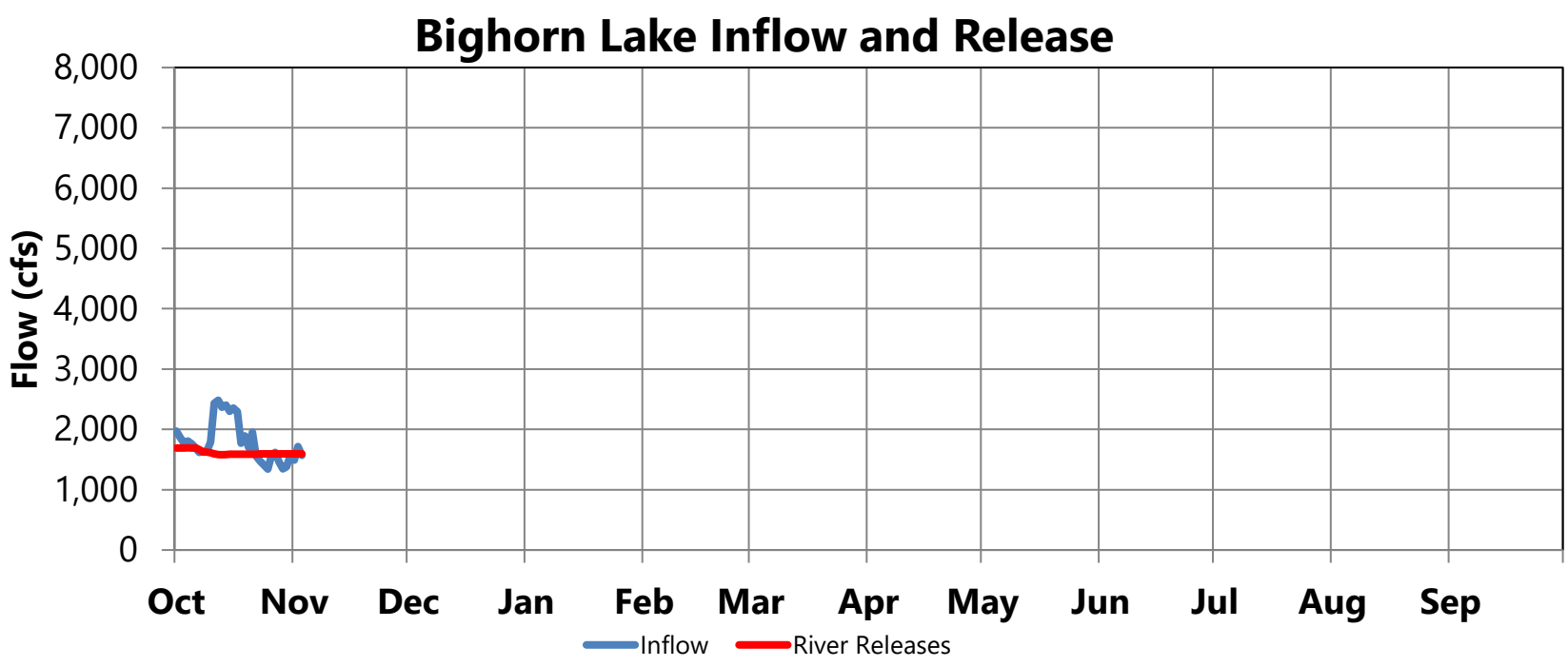


Average October Inflow

	Monthly Avg cfs	Percent of Average
Bighorn Lake	1,815	67
Buffalo Bill	435	87
Boysen	1,025	112

Average October Release

	Monthly Avg cfs	Percent of Average
Bighorn River	1,615	63
Buffalo Bill Total Release	915	122
Boysen Release	480	56



OPERATIONS OUTLOOK (November 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027)

During November, releases to the Bighorn River will decrease to 1,560 cfs. No additional release changes are expected during November unless there becomes unusually high or low inflow. The next Bighorn Lake storage target used for setting releases from Yellowtail Dam are an end of March 2027 storage target of 3617 feet.

Median Inflow Conditions

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Boysen Release (cfs)	400	400	400	400	447
Buffalo Bill Release (cfs)	203	203	203	203	203
Tributary Gain (cfs)	751	449	511	645	890
Monthly Inflow (cfs)	1,354	1,052	1,114	1,248	1,540
Monthly Inflow (kaf)	80.6	64.7	68.5	69.3	94.7
Monthly Release (kaf)	93.0	95.9	95.9	86.6	126.7
Afterbay Release (cfs)	1,563	1,560	1,560	1,560	2,061
River Release (cfs)	1,563	1,560	1,560	1,560	2,061
End-of-Month Content (kaf)	856.5	829.6	806.5	793.0	765.3
End-of-Month Elevation (feet)	3625.4	3621.9	3618.5	3616.4	3611.8

Minimum Inflow Conditions

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Boysen Release (cfs)	400	400	400	400	400
Buffalo Bill Release (cfs)	203	203	203	203	203
Tributary Gain (cfs)	637	353	403	499	766
Monthly Inflow (cfs)	1,240	956	1,006	1,102	1,369
Monthly Inflow (kaf)	73.8	58.8	61.9	61.2	84.2
Monthly Release (kaf)	93.0	92.2	92.2	83.3	92.2
Afterbay Release (cfs)	1,563	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
River Release (cfs)	1,563	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
End-of-Month Content (kaf)	849.7	820.6	794.6	776.3	772.6
End-of-Month Elevation (feet)	3624.5	3620.6	3616.6	3613.7	3613.0

Maximum Inflow Conditions

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Boysen Release (cfs)	400	400	400	400	1,078
Buffalo Bill Release (cfs)	203	203	203	203	203
Tributary Gain (cfs)	867	545	616	790	1,012
Monthly Inflow (cfs)	1,470	1,148	1,219	1,394	2,293
Monthly Inflow (kaf)	87.5	70.6	75.0	77.4	141.0
Monthly Release (kaf)	93.0	99.6	103.3	96.6	189.7
Afterbay Release (cfs)	1,563	1,620	1,680	1,740	3,085
River Release (cfs)	1,563	1,620	1,680	1,740	3,085
End-of-Month Content (kaf)	863.4	838.7	814.7	799.4	754.9
End-of-Month Elevation (feet)	3626.3	3623.1	3619.7	3617.4	3609.9

OPERATIONS OUTLOOK (November 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027)

There is approximately 70 cfs of gain between Yellowtail Dam and Yellowtail Afterbay Dam from springs flowing into Yellowtail Afterbay. Total release from Yellowtail Dam is 70 cfs less than total release from Yellowtail Afterbay Dam. Unit 2 will be out of service for scheduled maintenance through November 9. Units 3 and 4 will be out of service for scheduled maintenance from November 10 through December 21.

Irrigation Demands Outlook

Bighorn Canal (cfs)

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Median Forecast	0	0	0	0	0
Minimum Forecast	0	0	0	0	0
Maximum Forecast	0	0	0	0	0

Power Generation Outlook

Current Number of Units Available: 3 of 4
Approximate Yellowtail Powerplant Turbine Capacity: 6,150 cfs
Approximate Yellowtail Powerplant Scheduled Generation Limit: 4,100 cfs

Yellowtail Powerplant Release (cfs)

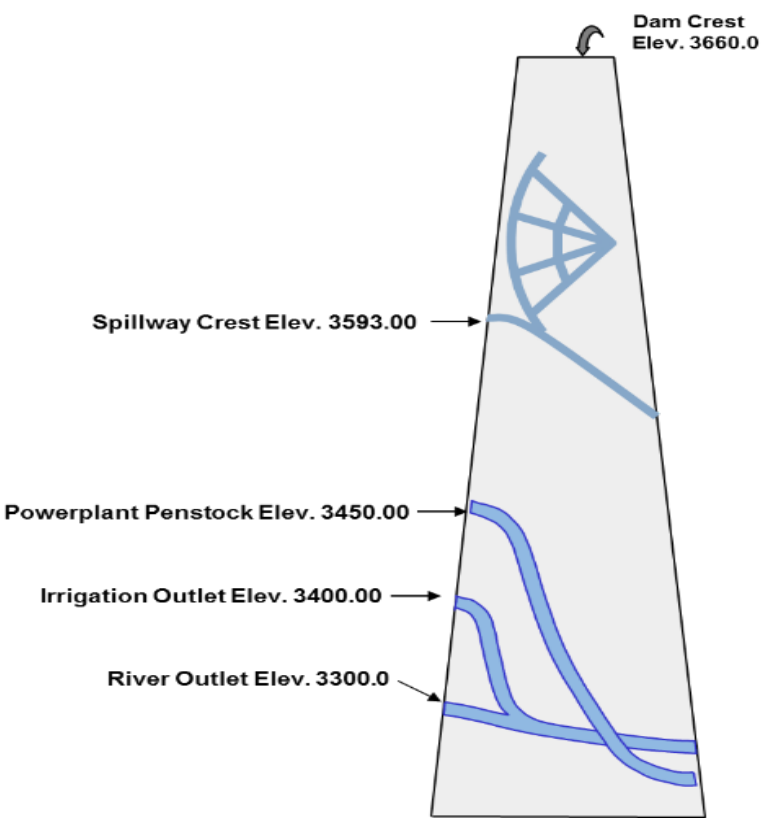
	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Median Forecast	1,493	1,490	1,490	1,490	1,991
Minimum Forecast	1,493	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430
Maximum Forecast	1,493	1,550	1,610	1,670	3,015

Yellowtail Powerplant Generation (gwh)

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Median Forecast	33	34	34	30	45
Minimum Forecast	33	32	32	29	32
Maximum Forecast	33	35	36	34	68

Yellowtail Spill (cfs)

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Median Forecast	0	0	0	0	0
Minimum Forecast	0	0	0	0	0
Maximum Forecast	0	0	0	0	0

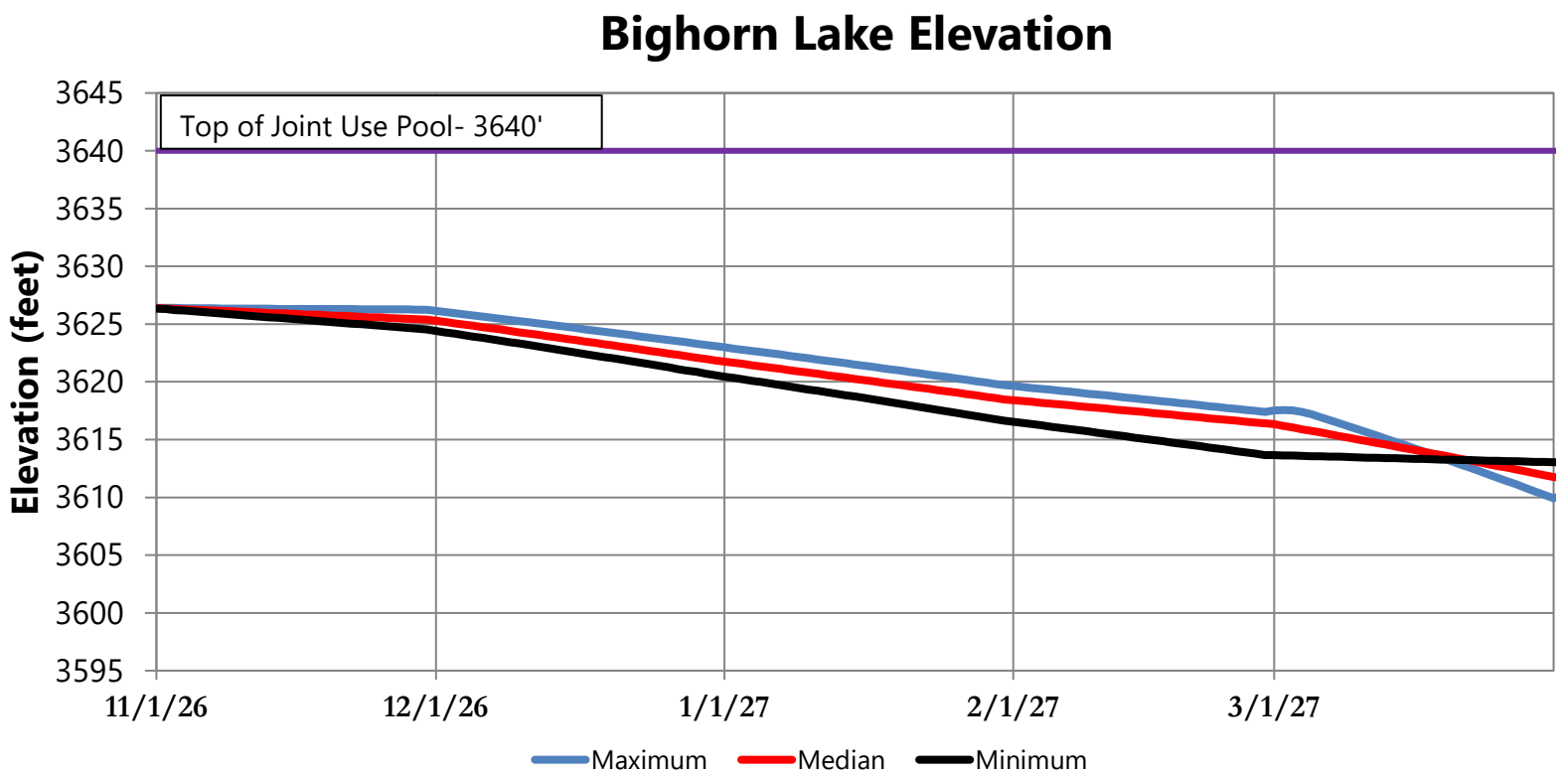


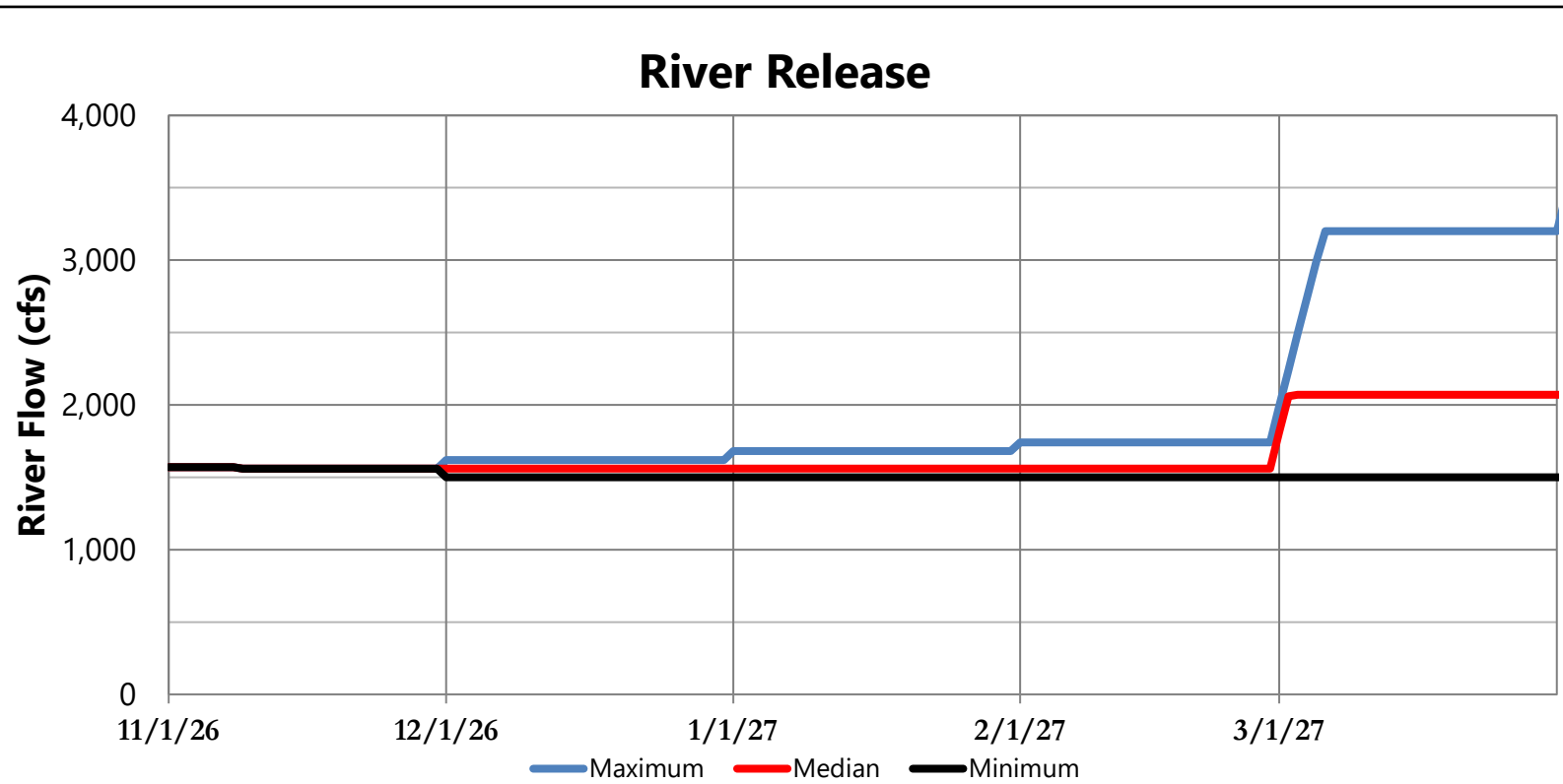
Release Outlook by Outlet

Yellowtail Powerplant bypass releases are not expected through the end of March 2027.

OPERATIONS OUTLOOK (November 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027)

Projected elevations and the range of river releases are based on the median, minimum, and maximum inflow forecasts. End-of-month elevations and river releases vary based on the difference between forecasted inflow scenarios.





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Monthly Operating Plans, Current Conditions, Snowpack and Other Water Management Information
https://www.usbr.gov/gp/lakes_reservoirs/wareprts/main_menu.html