Blackfoot Water Supply Report

January 9, 2026

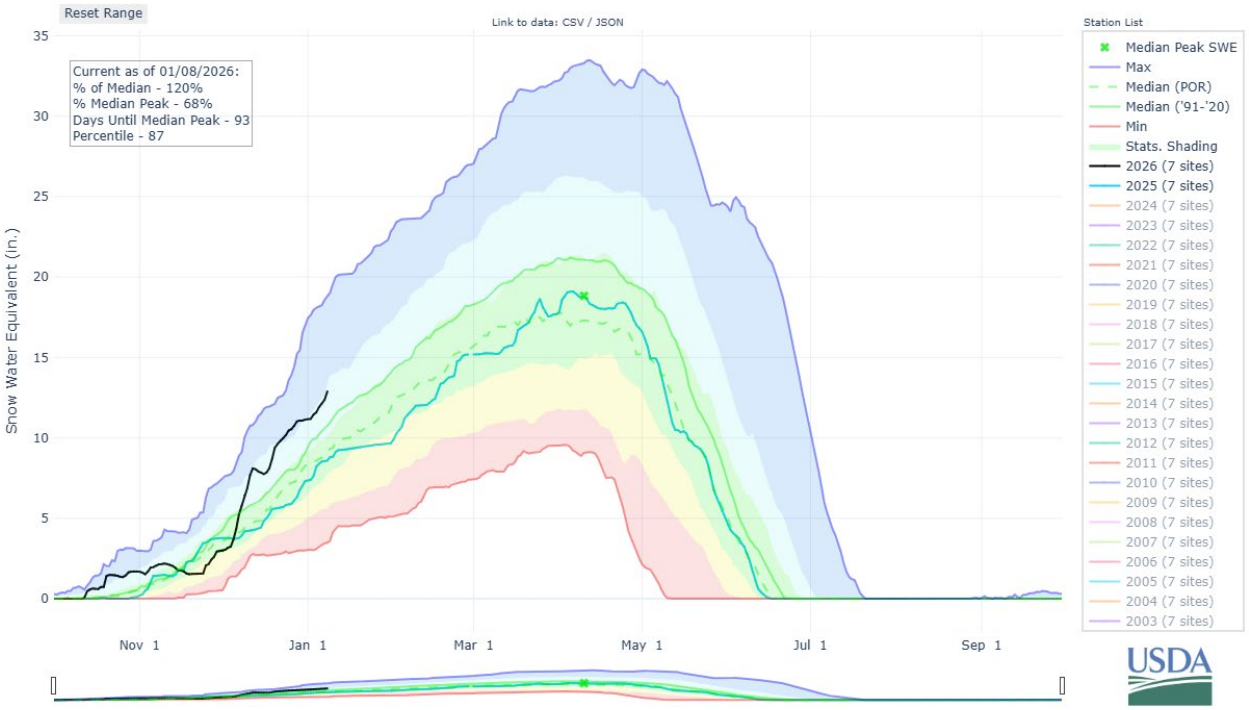
Montana Water Supply Report data as of January 1, 2026 (from NRCS):
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/..../montana/montana-snow-survey/water-supply-outlook-reports-montana

Overview

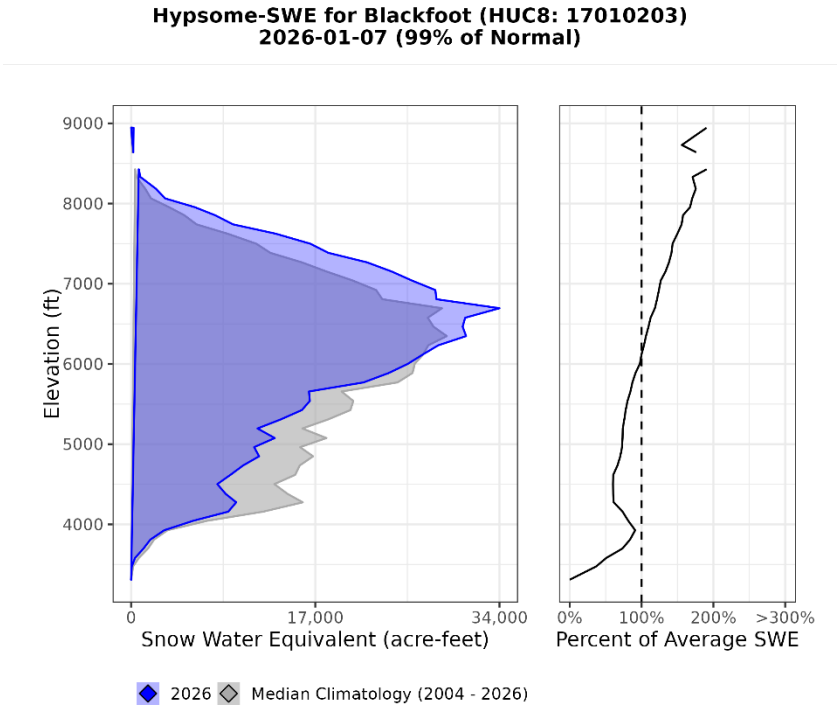
The 2026 Water Year, which began on October 1, 2025, can be characterized as wet and warm thus far. Most of Montana, but especially the mountain west and southeast, has seen well above normal precipitation accumulations over the past three months. In the Blackfoot, four of seven SNOTEL sites have recorded record high precipitation accumulations since the beginning of the Water Year. At the same time, we've also experienced much above normal temperatures across the State as well, leading to a distinct elevational gradient in snowpack accumulation as the precipitation came as rain rather than snow in all but the higher elevations. The result is average to slightly above average snowpack conditions despite the well above normal and even record-breaking precipitation in some locations. Surplus snow accumulation in higher elevations is largely making up for deficits in the low and mid elevations. Overall, we are starting January in a better position in the Blackfoot than we have been in several years (compare 104% this January to 71% last year and 31% the year prior).

Short-term climate predictions out to one month indicate equal chances for above or below average temperatures for January while favoring above average precipitation. The three-month outlook, calls for above average precipitation and below average temperatures from January through March. Water supply forecasts won't be available until March.

Blackfoot River Basin Snow Water Equivalent

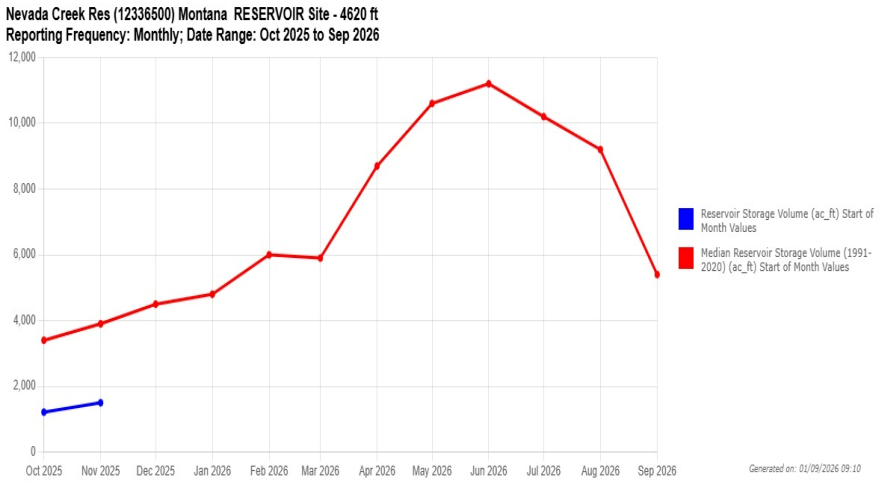


Black line: 2026 Water Year Green line: 30-year median Blue line: 2025 Water Year

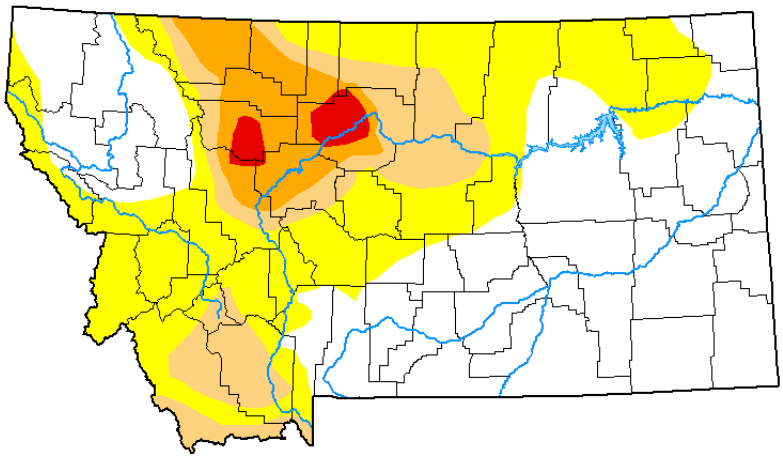


Reservoir Storage

Current storage values for Nevada Creek reservoir are not available. In November, the reservoir was reported to be at 38% of medium storage volume.



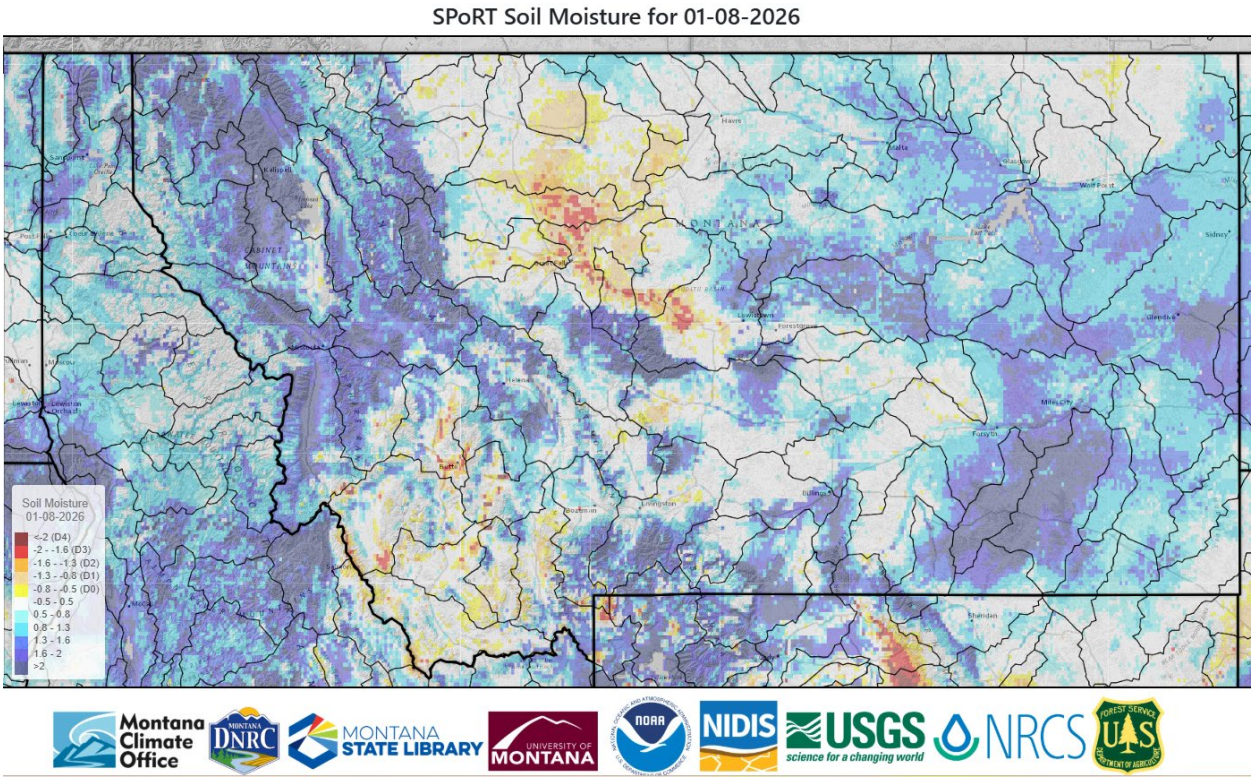
Montana Drought Monitor – January 8, 2026



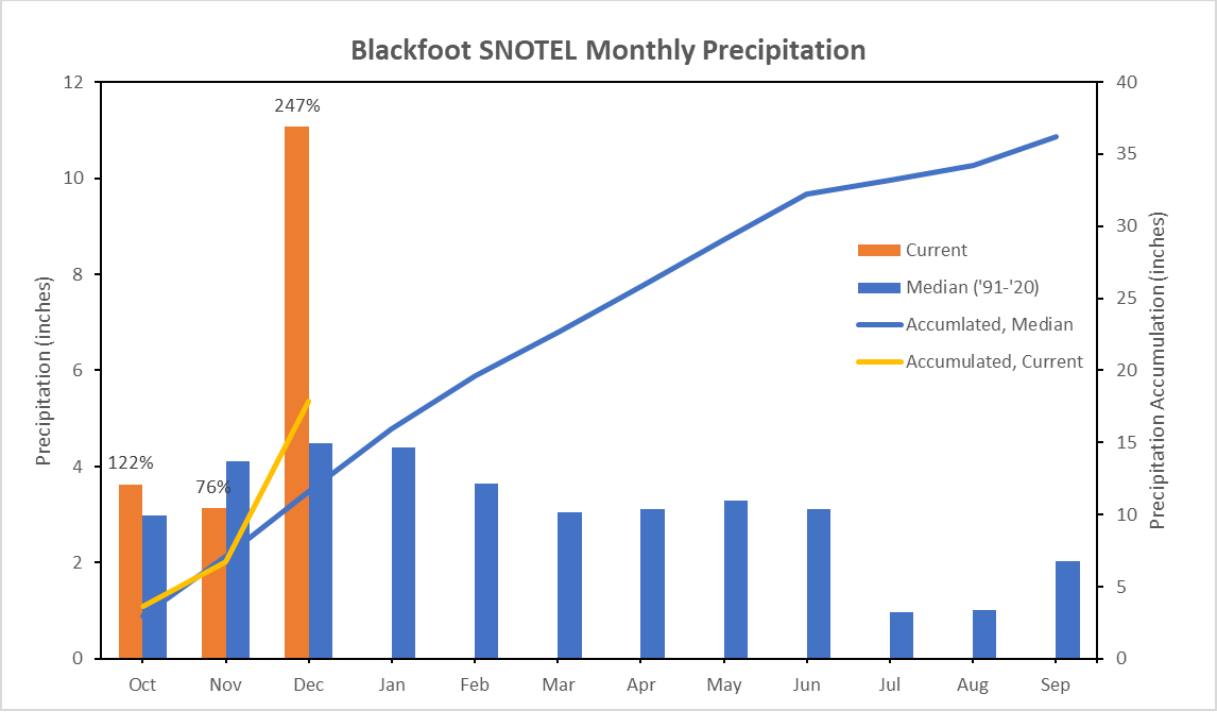
Drought Intensities

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

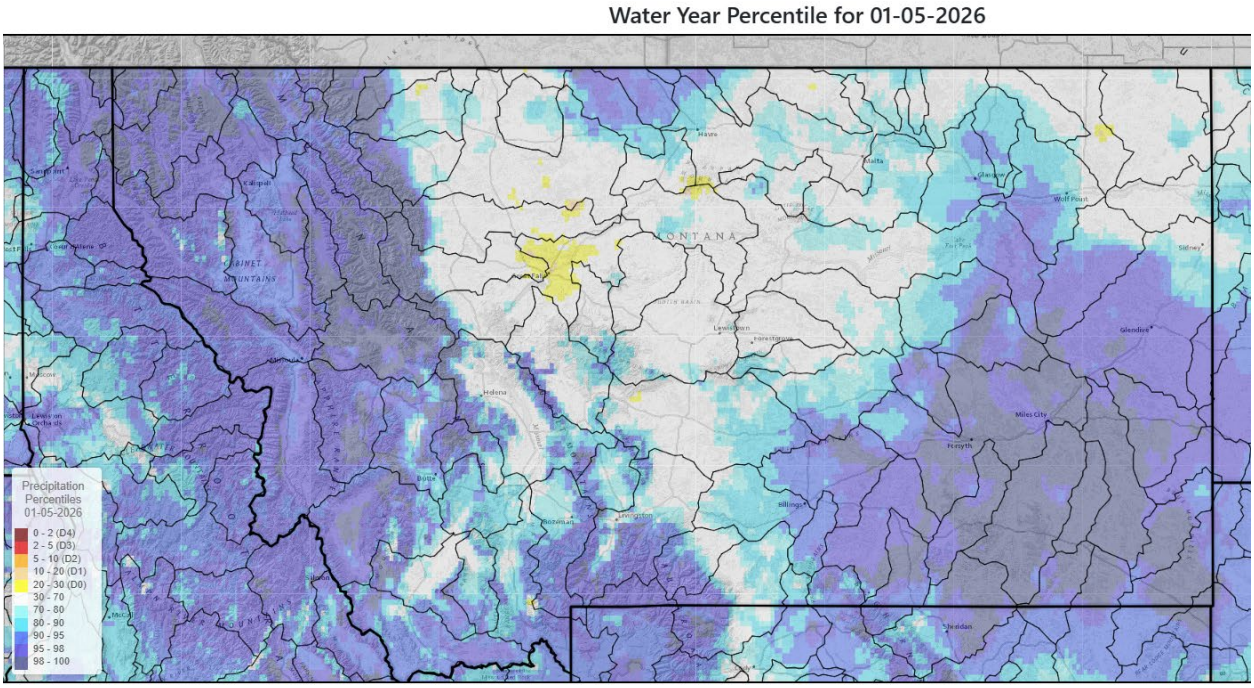
Soil Moisture



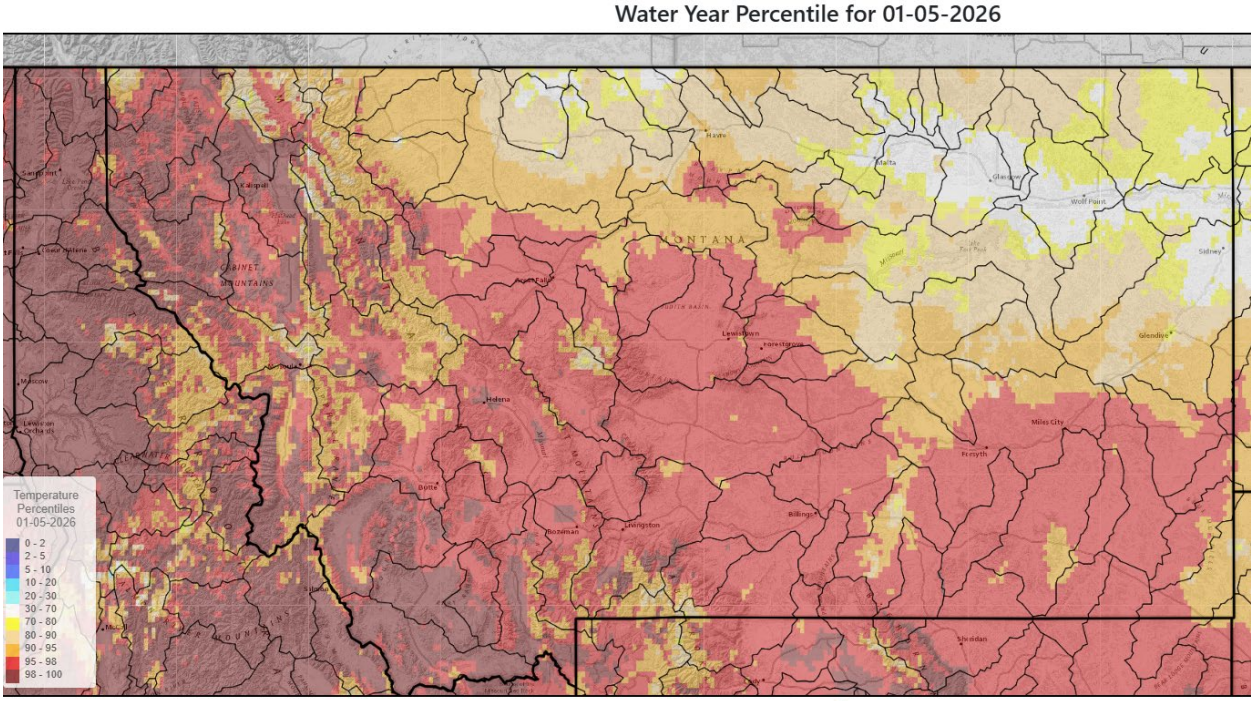
Blackfoot SNOTEL Precipitation: January 1, 2026



Montana Water Year Precipitation Percentiles



Montana Water Year Temperature Percentiles



January 9, 2026 Real Time Stream Flow Conditions

Nevada Creek above Reservoir

Discharge, cubic feet per second

Most recent instantaneous value: 15.83 cfs on 01/09/2026 at 10:00 MST

Blackfoot River above Nevada Creek

Discharge, cubic feet per second

Most recent instantaneous value: 147 cfs on 01/09/2026 at 10:45 MST

North Fork Blackfoot

Discharge, cubic feet per second

Most recent instantaneous value: 226 cfs on 01/09/2026 at 11:00 MST

Blackfoot River at Bonner

Discharge, cubic feet per second

Most recent instantaneous value: 1060 cfs on 01/09/2026 at 10:30 MST

Streamflow Forecast:

Insufficient data exists to forecast streamflow currently. Forecasts will become available beginning in March.

Three-Month Climate Outlook: January 2026

National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center

http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/

Below normal temperatures for January through March are favored.

Above normal precipitation is favored for January through March.