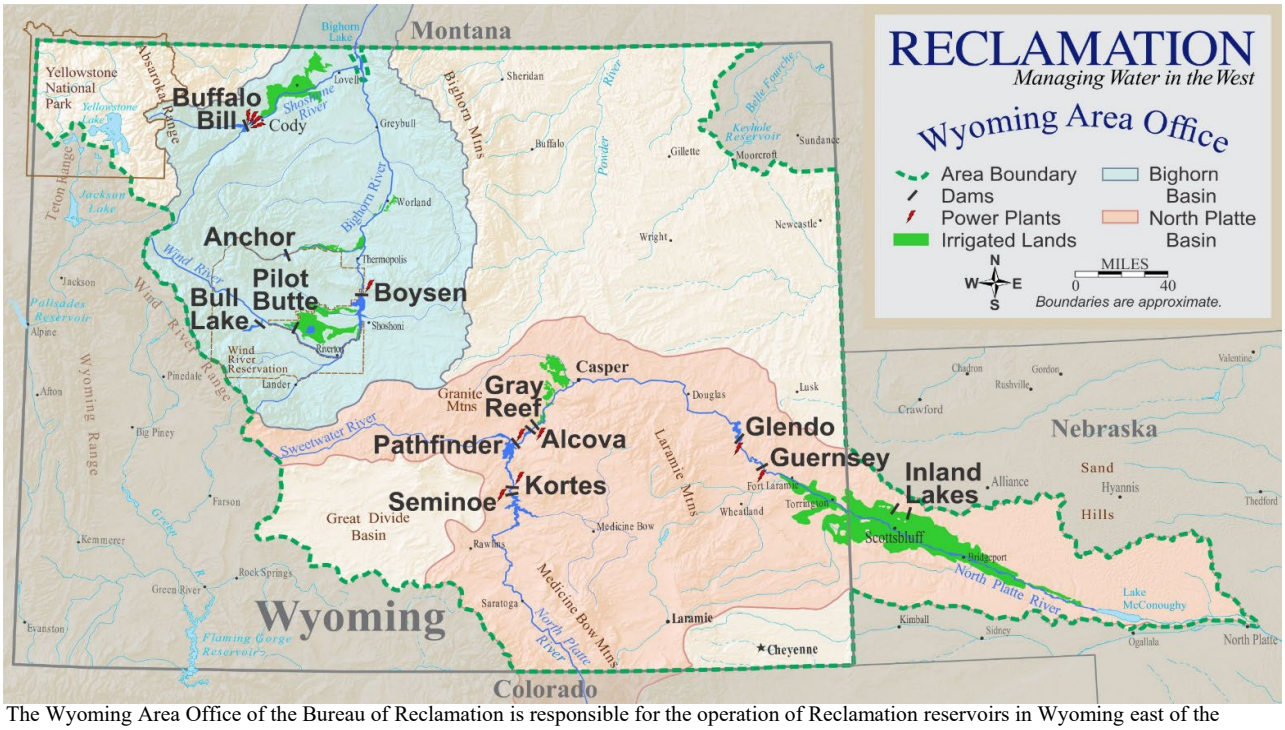
Bighorn Basin Water Supply and Utilization Report
Wyoming Area Office
Report for April 2026



The Wyoming Area Office of the Bureau of Reclamation is responsible for the operation of Reclamation reservoirs in Wyoming east of the Continental Divide except for Keyhole Reservoir. Four off-stream reservoirs in Nebraska commonly referred to as the Inland Lakes also fall withir the Wyoming Area. The North Platte River Basin Reservoirs have a combined storage capacity of 2,800,000 acre-feet. The major reservoirs in the Shoshone and Wind/Bighorn Basins have a combined storage capacity of 1,600,000 acre-feet.

Report for April 2026
WATER SUPPLY AND UTILIZATION REPORT
BIGHORN RIVER BASIN
WYOMING AREA OFFICE

This report concerns the operation of Reclamation facilities in the Shoshone and Wind/Bighorn River Basins.

Reclamation defines a water year as the time period of October 1 through September 30. Water year is abbreviated in this report as W. Yr.

Other organizations furnished information for the Water Supply and Utilization Report. Their cooperation is greatly appreciated.

This report is available on the Internet and can be accessed by following these steps:

1. **Log on to the Great Plains Home Page at http://www.usbr.gov/gp**
2. **Select Water Operations.**
3. **Select Water Management Information.**
4. **Select Water Supply Report.**
5. **Under Bighorn Basin, select the current report or reports from the previous 12 months**.

BIGHORN RIVER BASIN RESERVOIR INFLOW

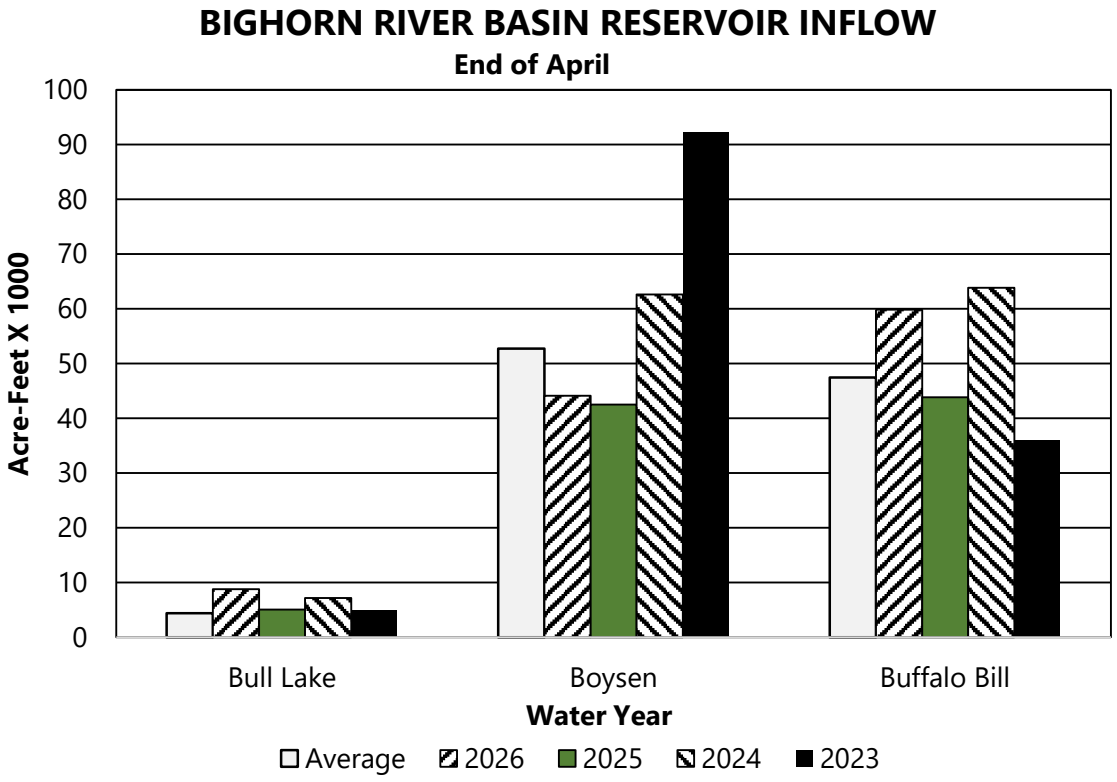
End of April Inflow and Historical Inflows, values in 1,000 acre-feet

Reservoir	W. Yr. 2026	30 Yr. Avg.	30 Yr. Med.	% of Med.	W. Yr. 2025	W. Yr. 2024	W. Yr. 2023
Bull Lake	8.8	4.4	3.9	226%	5.1	7.2	4.9
Boysen	44.1	52.7	46.9	94%	42.5	62.6	92.3
Buffalo Bill	59.8	47.4	42.4	141%	43.8	63.9	36.0

30 year average (Avg.) and medians (Med.) are based on the 1996- 2025 period.

End of April Accumulated Water Year Inflows in 1,000 acre-feet

Reservoir	W. Yr. 2026	30 Yr. Avg.	30 Yr. Med.	% of Med.
Bull Lake	32.5	22.8	20.9	155%
Boysen	282.5	329.0	321.3	88%
Buffalo Bill	230.8	170.8	153.7	150%



BIGHORN RIVER BASIN RESERVOIR OUTFLOW

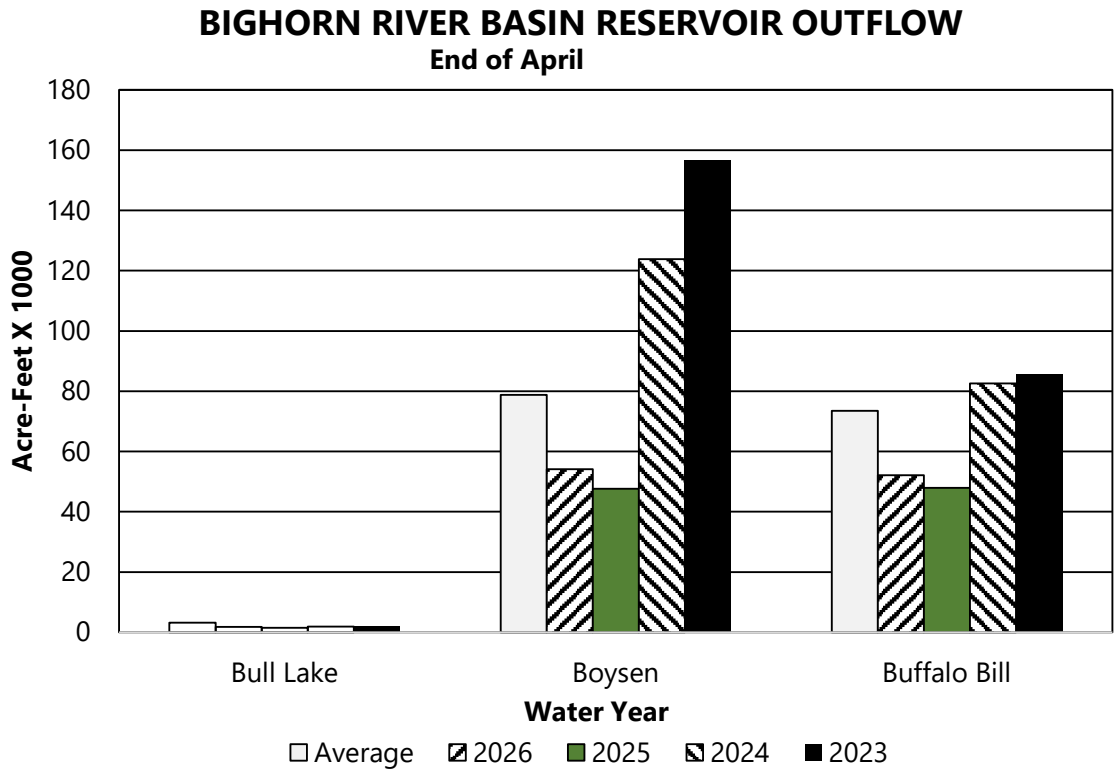
End of April Outflow and Historical Outflows, values in 1,000 acre-feet

Reservoir	W. Yr. 2026	30 Yr. Avg.	30 Yr. Med.	% of Med.	W. Yr. 2025	W. Yr. 2024	W. Yr. 2023
Bull Lake	1.8	3.2	2.2	82%	1.5	1.9	2.2
Boysen	54.1	78.8	58.0	93%	47.7	123.8	156.7
Buffalo Bill	52.2	73.5	52.9	99%	47.9	82.5	85.7

30 year average (Avg.) and medians (Med.) are based on the 1996- 2025 period.

End of April Accumulated Water Year Outflows in 1,000 acre-feet.

Reservoir	W. Yr. 2026	30 Yr. Avg.	30 Yr. Med.	% of Med.
Bull Lake	12.9	19.7	13.8	93%
Boysen	272.2	379.4	363.9	75%
Buffalo Bill	147.0	219.4	213.3	69%

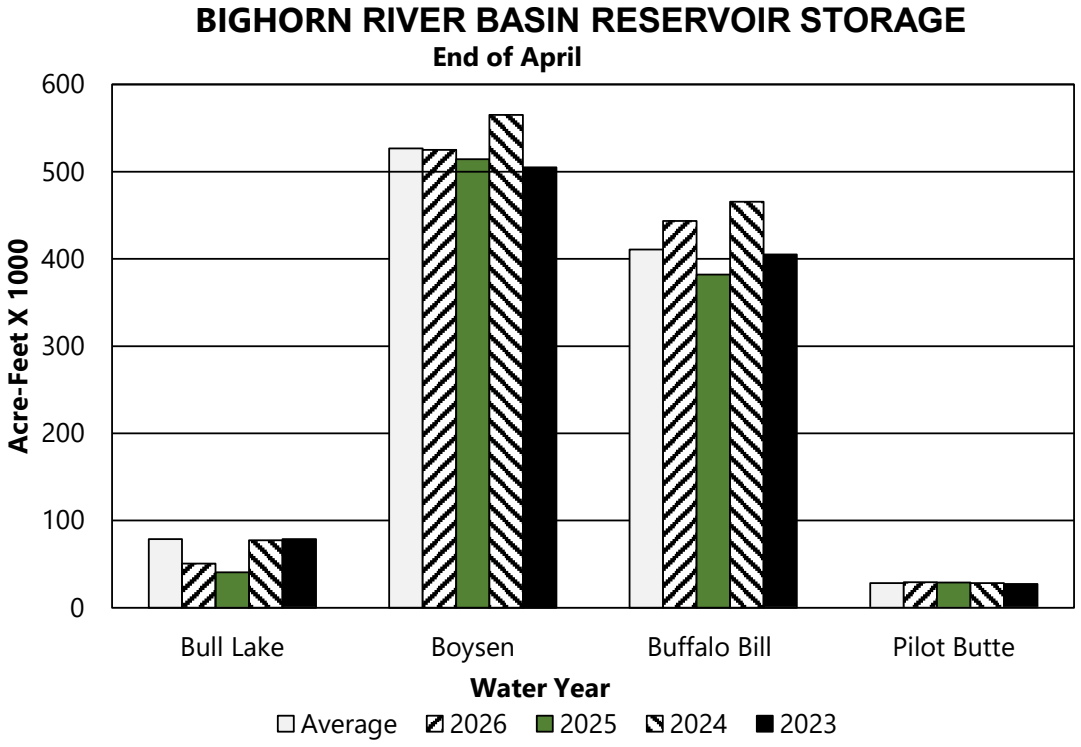


BIGHORN RIVER BASIN RESERVOIR STORAGE

End of April Storage, Historical Storage, and Storage Capacity in 1,000 acre-feet.

Reservoir	W. Yr. 2026	30 Yr. Avg.	30 Yr. Med.	% of Med.	W. Yr. 2025	W. Yr. 2024	W. Yr. 2023	Total Conservation Storage Capacity	Percent of Capacity
Bull Lake	50.6	78.9	81.0	62%	40.7	77.5	78.6	152.5	33%
Boysen	525.0	526.6	531.2	99%	514.2	564.9	504.8	741.6	71%
Buffalo Bill	443.6	410.8	409.3	108%	382.0	465.7	405.2	646.6	69%
Pilot Butte	29.2	28.4	29.1	100%	28.9	28.3	27.3	33.7	87%

30 year average (Avg.) and medians (Med.) are based on the 1996- 2025 period.



BIGHORN RIVER BASIN RESERVOIR GENERATION

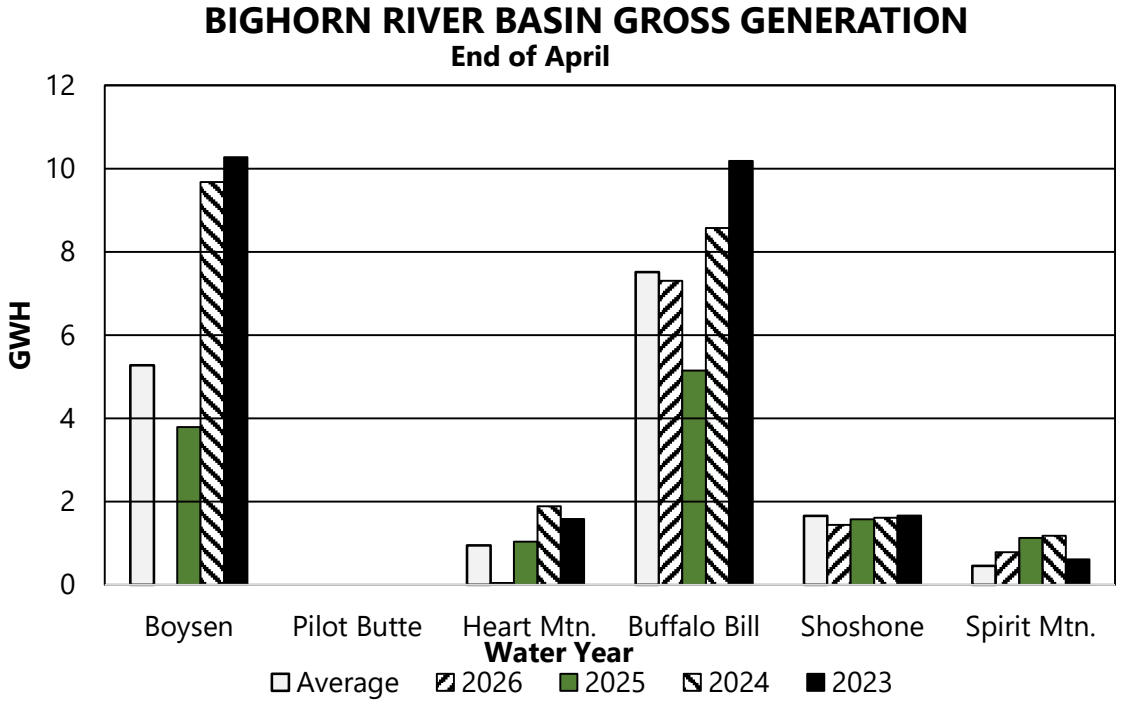
End of April Gross Generation and Historical Generation in giga-watt hours (GWH).

Reservoir	W. Yr. 2026	30 Yr. Avg.	30 Yr. Med.	% of Med.	W. Yr. 2025	W. Yr. 2024	W. Yr. 2023
Boysen	0.0	5.3	4.4	0%	3.8	9.7	10.3
Pilot Butte	0.0	0.0	0.0	NA	0.0	0.0	0.0
Heart Mtn.	0.0	1.0	0.4	10%	1.0	1.9	1.6
Buffalo Bill	7.3	7.5	7.1	103%	5.1	8.6	10.2
Shoshone	1.4	1.7	1.6	87%	1.6	1.6	1.7
Spirit Mtn.	0.8	0.5	0.4	189%	1.1	1.2	0.6

The 30 year average (Avg.) and medians (Med.) are based on the 1996- 2025 period.
Pilot Butte Powerplant is currently in "mothballed" status and does not generate electricity.

End of April Accumulated Gross Generation Water Year in GWH.

Powerplant	W. Yr. 2026	30 Yr. Avg.	30 Yr. Med.	% of Med.
Boysen	8.1	26.8	28.8	28%
Pilot Butte	0	0.2	0.0	NA
Heart Mtn.	1.4	2.2	1.8	78%
Buffalo Bill	10.0	21.5	19.0	53%
Shoshone	8.6	10.4	10.6	81%
Spirit Mtn.	2.0	1.7	1.7	117%



BIGHORN SNOWPACK WATER CONTENT

April 1st Snow Water Equivalent — SWE in inches

WATERSHED	W. Yr. 2026	30 Yr. Median	% of Median	W. Yr. 2025	W. Yr. 2024	W. Yr. 2023
Bull Lake Reservoir	5.4	12.4	44%	12.7	12.8	12.4
Boysen Reservoir	7.2	14.1	51%	14.2	13.9	13.7
Buffalo Bill Reservoir	12.8	18.0	71%	18.0	16.1	17.8

Boysen Reservoir Watershed

SWE in inches

Snotel Stations (Elevation)	Water Content	30 Yr. Median
Burroughs Creek (8,750)	0	12.9
Hobbs Park (10,100)	11.4	16.8
Kirwin (9,800)	10.2	11.6
Little Warm (9,620)	4.9	9
Togwotee Pass (9,580)	21.8	25.4
Townsend Creek (8,700)	1	9
Younts Peak (8,350)	1.4	14.1
Watershed Average	**7.2**	**14.1**

Buffalo Bill Reservoir Watershed

SWE in inches

Snotel Stations (Elevation)	Water Content	30 Yr. Median
Blackwater (9,780)	25.6	25.7
Evening Star (9,200)	28.2	27.5
Marquette (8,760)	0.2	8.0
Sylvan Lake (8,420)	12.4	20.2
Sylvan Road (8,120)	0.0	5.0
Togwotee Pass (9,580)	21.8	25.4
Younts Peak (8,350)	1.4	14.1
Watershed Average	**12.8**	**18.0**

Bull Lake Reservoir Watershed

SWE in inches

Snotel Stations (Elevation)	Water Content	30 Yr. Median
Elkhart Park (8,400)	0.0	11.4
Hobbs Park (10,100)	11.4	16.8
Little Warm (9,620)	4.9	9
Watershed Average	**5.4**	**12.4**

SWE (Snow Water Content is the amount of water in the snowpack expressed in inches).
Median for the 1991-2020 period.

APRIL BIGHORN WATER SUPPLY FORECAST

May through July Forecast and Historical Runoff Volumes KAF

Forecast Points	Forecast Reasonable Minimum	Forecast Expected	Forecast Reasonable Maximum	30 Yr. May - July Avg.	30 Yr. April- July Med.	Expected % of Med.	Actual May- July Runoff 2023	Actual May- July Runoff 2024	Actual May - July Runoff 2025
Bull Lake Reservoir	80	100	130	144	139	72	182	120	99
Wind River above Bull Lake Creek	160	200	390	441	403	50	494	315	229
Boysen Reservoir	90	160	450	606	556	29	966	394	278
Buffalo Bill Reservoir	350	450	730	753	671	67	729	555	515

The probability is estimated to be 9 chances in 10 that the actual volume will fall between the reasonable minimum and reasonable maximum. Average (Avg.) and median (Med.) is based on the 1996-2025 period.

Exceedance Forecast:

Forecast Points	90%	70%	50%	% of Med.	30%	10%	30 Yr. May- July Med.
Bull Lake Reservoir	80	92	**100**	**72**	112	130	139
Wind River above Bull Lake Creek	160	184	**200**	**50**	278	390	403
Boysen Reservoir	90	131	**160**	**29**	279	450	556
Buffalo Bill Reservoir	350	409	**450**	**67**	565	730	671

Average (Avg.) and median (Med.) is based on the 1996-2025 period.