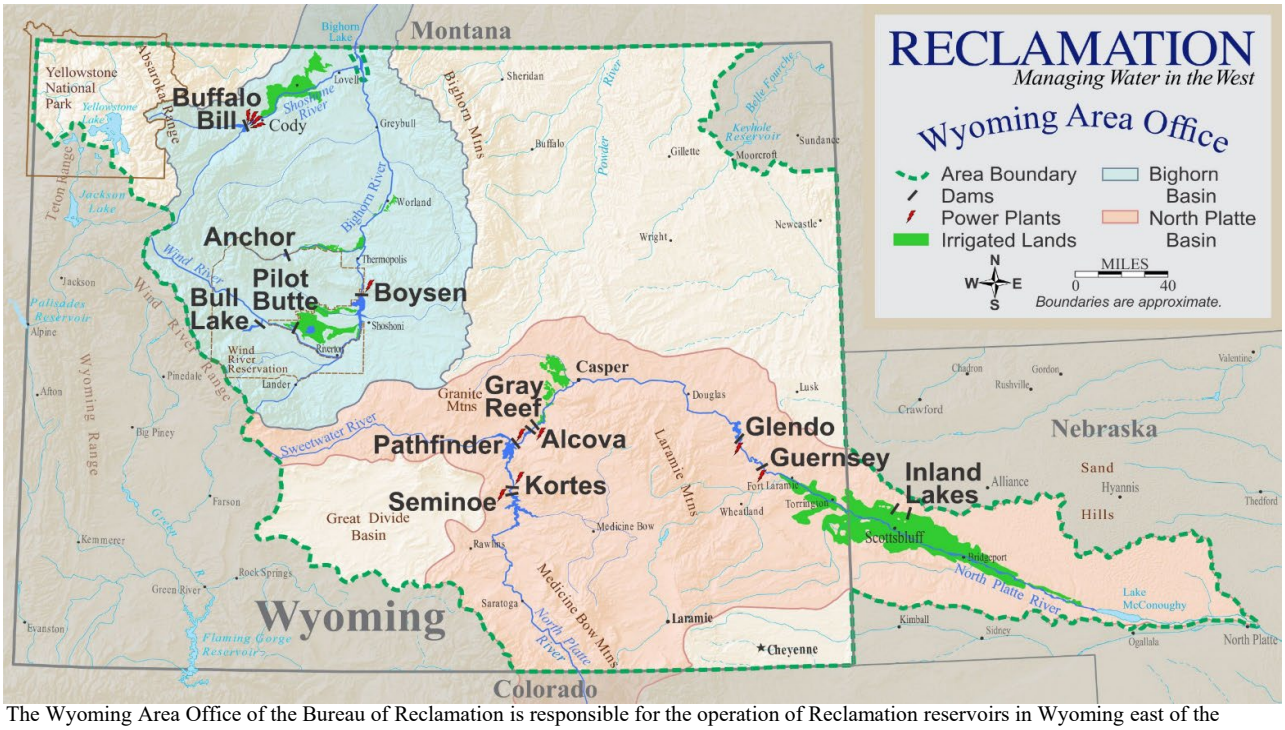
# Bighorn Basin Water Supply and Utilization Report
# Wyoming Area Office
## Report for May 2026




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 May 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

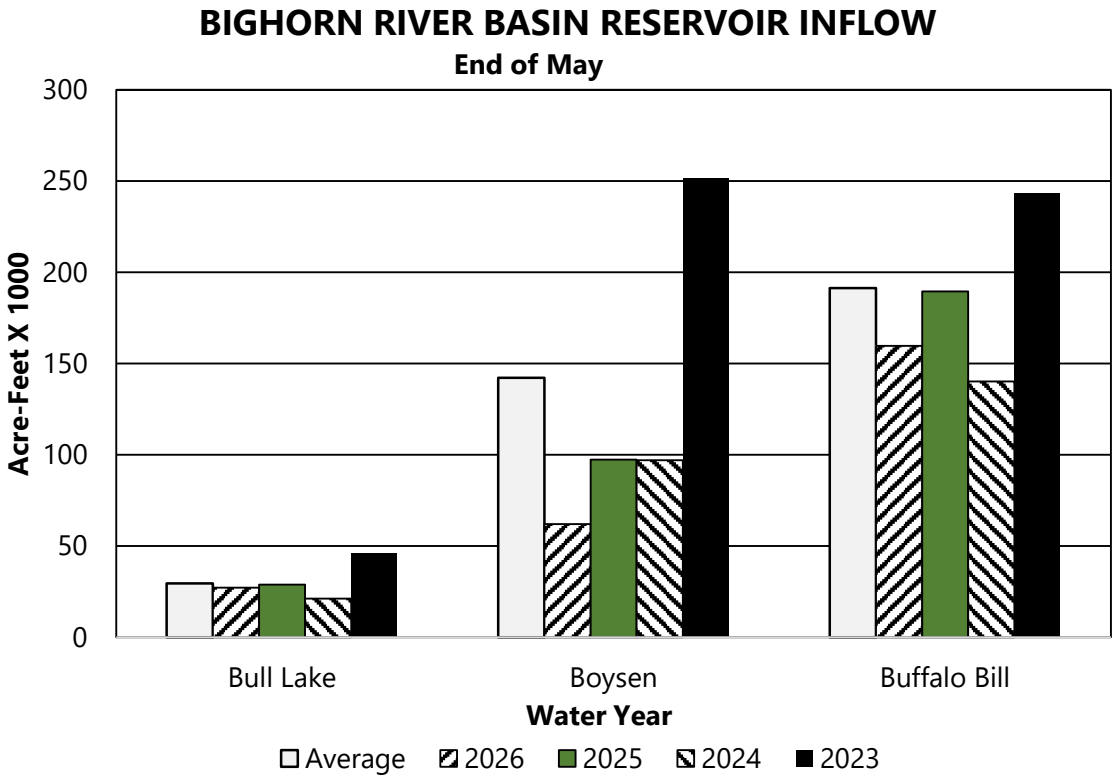
End of May Inflow and Historical Inflows, values in 1,000 acre-feet

| Reservoir | W. Yr. 2026 | 30 Yr. Avg. | 30 Yr. Med. | % of Med. | W. Yr. 2025 | W. Yr. 2024 | W. Yr. 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Bull Lake** | 27.2 | 29.6 | 28.8 | 94% | 28.9 | 21.2 | 46.2 |
| **Boysen** | 62.0 | 142.2 | 104.2 | 59% | 97.3 | 97.0 | 251.6 |
| **Buffalo Bill** | 159.7 | 191.3 | 179.4 | 89% | 189.5 | 140.2 | 243.2 |

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

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

| Reservoir | W. Yr. 2026 | 30 Yr. Avg. | 30 Yr. Med. | % of Med. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Bull Lake** | 59.7 | 52.4 | 113.9 | 52% |
| **Boysen** | 344.4 | 471.2 | 73.1 | 471% |
| **Buffalo Bill** | 390.5 | 362.1 | 107.8 | 362% |



## BIGHORN RIVER BASIN RESERVOIR OUTFLOW

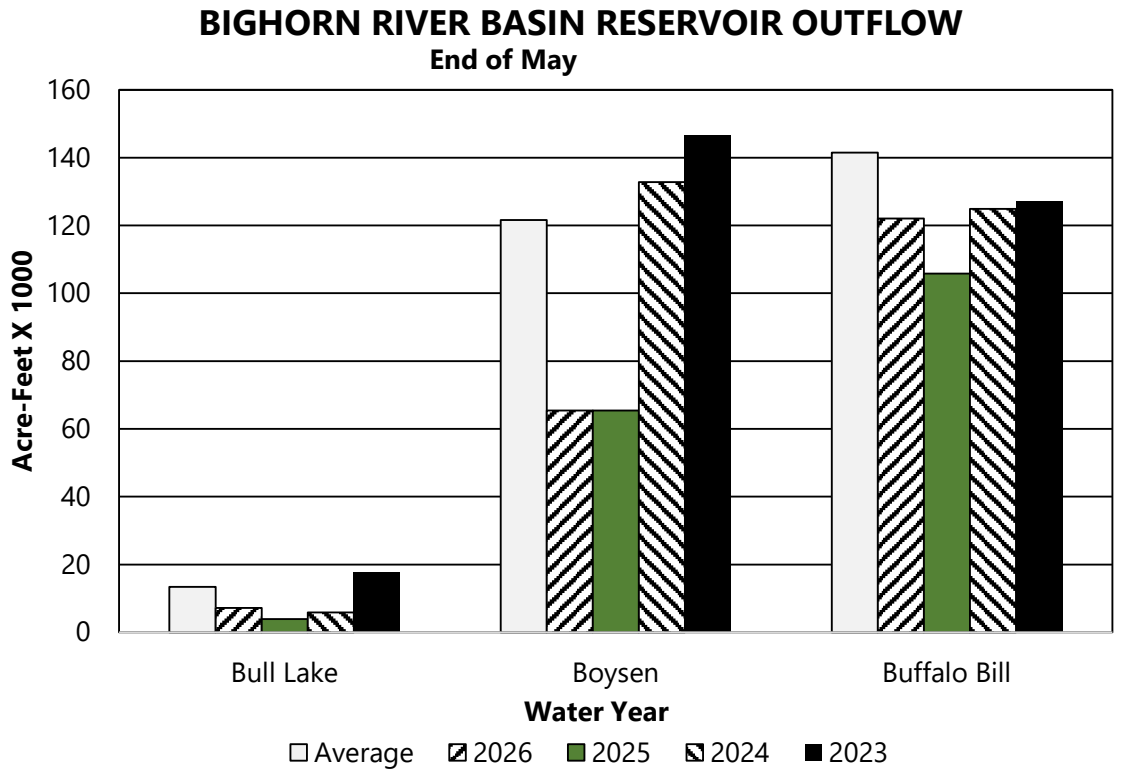
End of May Outflow and Historical Outflows, values in 1,000 acre-feet

| Reservoir | W. Yr. 2026 | 30 Yr. Avg. | 30 Yr. Med. | % of Med. | W. Yr. 2025 | W. Yr. 2024 | W. Yr. 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Bull Lake** | 7.2 | 13.4 | 12.1 | 59% | 3.9 | 5.8 | 17.7 |
| **Boysen** | 65.4 | 121.6 | 113.6 | 58% | 65.4 | 132.8 | 146.7 |
| **Buffalo Bill** | 122.1 | 141.5 | 116.7 | 105% | 105.8 | 124.9 | 127.0 |

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

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

| Reservoir | W. Yr. 2026 | 30 Yr. Avg. | 30 Yr. Med. | % of Med. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bull Lake | 20.1 | 33.1 | 28.9 | 70% |
| Boysen | 337.7 | 501.0 | 470.6 | 72% |
| Buffalo Bill | 269.1 | 360.8 | 332.1 | 81% |

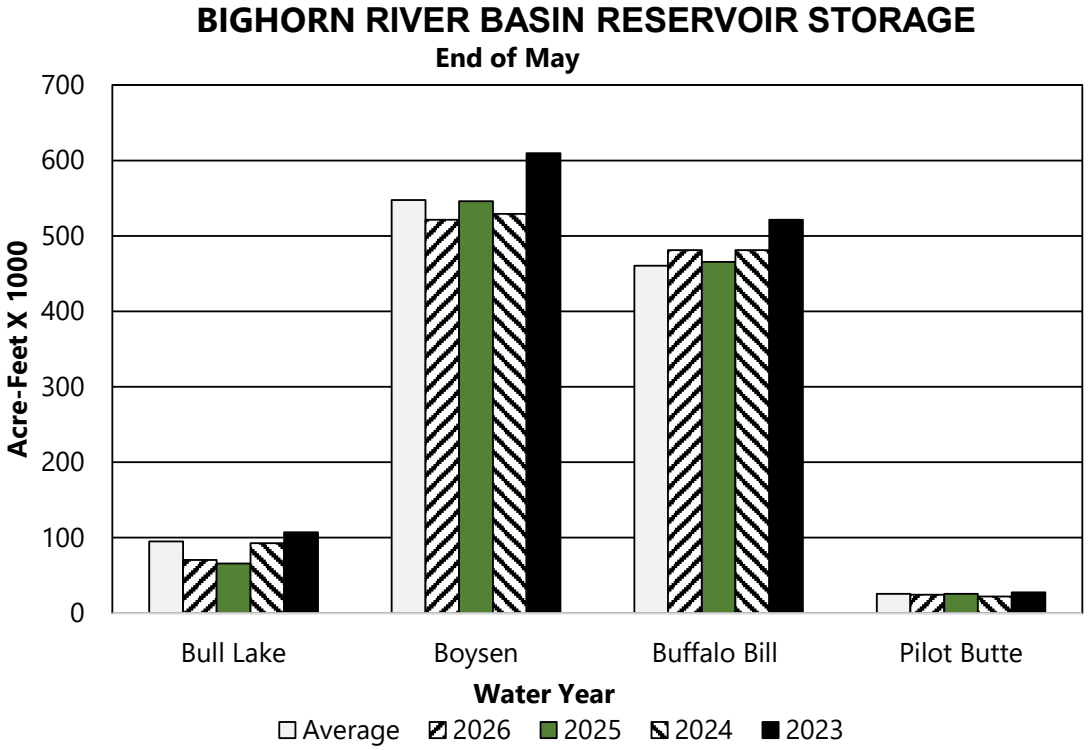


## BIGHORN RIVER BASIN RESERVOIR STORAGE

End of May 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** | 70.6 | 95.0 | 98.6 | 72% | 65.7 | 92.8 | 107.1 | 152.5 | 46% |
| **Boysen** | 521.5 | 547.6 | 547.6 | 95% | 546.1 | 529.1 | 609.7 | 741.6 | 70% |
| **Buffalo Bill** | 481.3 | 460.6 | 479.2 | 100% | 465.6 | 481.0 | 521.4 | 646.6 | 74% |
| **Pilot Butte** | 24.4 | 25.4 | 26.0 | 94% | 25.6 | 22.0 | 27.7 | 33.7 | 72% |

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



## BIGHORN RIVER BASIN RESERVOIR GENERATION

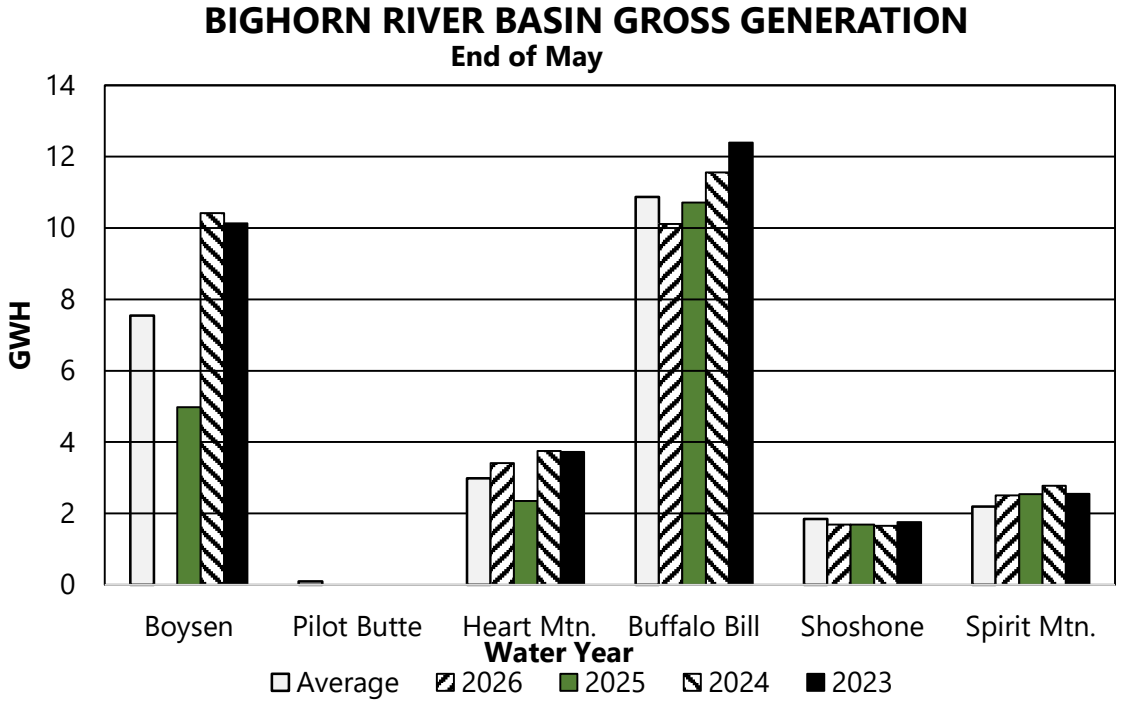
End of May Gross Generation and Historical Generation in giga-watt hours (GWH).

| Reservoir | W. Yr. 2026 | 30 Yr. Avg. | 30 Yr. Med. | % of Med. | W. Yr. 2025 | W. Yr. 2024 | W. Yr. 2023 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Boysen** | 0.0 | 7.5 | 8.2 | 0% | 5.0 | 10.4 | 10.1 |
| **Pilot Butte** | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.0 | NA | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| **Heart Mtn.** | 3.4 | 3.0 | 3.4 | 100% | 2.4 | 3.7 | 3.7 |
| **Buffalo Bill** | 10.1 | 10.9 | 11.1 | 91% | 10.7 | 11.6 | 12.4 |
| **Shoshone** | 1.7 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 92% | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.8 |
| **Spirit Mtn.** | 2.5 | 2.2 | 2.4 | 107% | 2.5 | 2.8 | 2.6 |

**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 May Accumulated Gross Generation Water Year in GWH.

| Powerplant | W. Yr. 2026 | 30 Yr. Avg. | 30 Yr. Med. | % of Med. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Boysen** | 8.1 | 34.3 | 37.5 | 22% |
| **Pilot Butte** | 0 | 0.3 | 0.0 | NA |
| **Heart Mtn.** | 4.8 | 5.2 | 5.3 | 92% |
| **Buffalo Bill** | 20.1 | 32.3 | 29.6 | 68% |
| **Shoshone** | 10.2 | 12.2 | 12.4 | 83% |
| **Spirit Mtn.** | 4.5 | 3.9 | 3.8 | 118% |



# BIGHORN SNOWPACK WATER CONTENT

June 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 | 0.0 | 1.8 | 0% | 1.3 | 5.1 | 2.0 |
| Boysen Reservoir | 1.1 | 3.5 | 32% | 1.7 | 4.4 | 1.9 |
| Buffalo Bill Reservoir | 4.5 | 8.7 | 51% | 4.4 | 8.8 | 3.6 |

**Boysen Reservoir Watershed**

SWE in inches

| Snotel Stations (Elevation) | Water Content | 30 Yr. Median |
|---|---|---|
| Burroughs Creek (8,750) | 0 | 0 |
| Hobbs Park (10,100) | 0 | 5.4 |
| Kirwin (9,800) | 0 | 0.4 |
| Little Warm (9,620) | 0 | 0 |
| Togwotee Pass (9,580) | 7.7 | 18.5 |
| Townsend Creek (8,700) | 0 | 0 |
| Younts Peak (8,350) | 0 | 0 |
| **Watershed Average** | **1.1** | **3.5** |

**Buffalo Bill Reservoir Watershed**

SWE in inches

| Snotel Stations (Elevation) | Water Content | 30 Yr. Median |
|---|---|---|
| Blackwater (9,780) | 13.2 | 19.6 |
| Evening Star (9,200) | 10.4 | 17.9 |
| Marquette (8,760) | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Sylvan Lake (8,420) | 0.0 | 4.9 |
| Sylvan Road (8,120) | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Togwotee Pass (9,580) | 7.7 | 18.5 |
| Younts Peak (8,350) | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| **Watershed Average** | **4.5** | **8.7** |

**Bull Lake Reservoir Watershed**

SWE in inches

| Snotel Stations (Elevation) | Water Content | 30 Yr. Median |
|---|---|---|
| Elkhart Park (8,400) | 0.0 | 0 |
| Hobbs Park (10,100) | 0 | 5.4 |
| Little Warm (9,620) | 0 | 0 |
| **Watershed Average** | **0.0** | **1.8** |

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

## JUNE BIGHORN WATER SUPPLY FORECAST

June through July Forecast and Historical Runoff Volumes KAF

| Forecast Points | Forecast Reasonable Minimum | Forecast Expected | Forecast Reasonable Maximum | 30 Yr. June - July Avg. | 30 Yr. June- July Med. | Expected % of Med. | Actual June- July Runoff 2023 | Actual June- July Runoff 2024 | Actual June - July Runoff 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Bull Lake Reservoir** | 60 | 80 | 95 | 110 | 105 | 76 | 136 | 99 | 70 |
| **Wind River above Bull Lake Creek** | 100 | 170 | 250 | 321 | 280 | 61 | 372 | 245 | 159 |
| **Boysen Reservoir** | 80 | 150 | 320 | 411 | 364 | 41 | 714 | 297 | 181 |
| **Buffalo Bill Reservoir** | 280 | 350 | 500 | 514 | 462 | 76 | 486 | 415 | 325 |

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. June- July Med. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Bull Lake Reservoir** | 60 | 72 | **80** | **76** | 86 | 95 | 105 |
| **Wind River above Bull Lake Creek** | 100 | 141 | **170** | **61** | 203 | 250 | 280 |
| **Boysen Reservoir** | 80 | 121 | **150** | **41** | 220 | 320 | 364 |
| **Buffalo Bill Reservoir** | 280 | 321 | **350** | **76** | 411 | 500 | 462 |

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