

St. Mary Canal Operations – 2022 Start-up

We just received confirmation that the St Mary Diversion to the Milk River will start next week. If the weather stays fair and there are no major complications from infrastructure, we will likely see some increased flow on the North Fork Milk River by Mid week and augmented flow at the Town of Milk River by the end of the week (March 20). The current USBR schedule looks to ramp up the diversion over two weeks, so hopefully we will not see significant erosion from ice as we move to bank full conditions.

Just a caution, conditions can change quickly and we will forward any additional information or changes as they occur. If you are out and see problems with ice jam, significant erosion, debris or fencing within the river please take pictures, and let us know. If there is a emergency situation that could affect the environment, call the Environmental Response Line, 24 hours a day, seven days a week: 1 800 222-6514

CURRENT RESERVOIR AND CANAL CONDITIONS

Elevation: 4781.19 feet; Storage: 54,887 acre-feet; River Outlet Works Release: 0 cfs; Inflow: 65 cfs; Canal Diversion: 0 cfs

LAKE SHERBURNE RELEASE AND ST MARY CANAL DIVERSION CHANGES

On Monday, March 14, 2022:

Increase release from Lake Sherburne to 25 cfs

Maintain diversion to the St. Mary Canal at 0 cfs

On Tuesday, March 15, 2022:

Increase release from Lake Sherburne to 50 cfs

Increase diversion to the St. Mary Canal to 50 cfs

On Wednesday, March 16, 2022:

Increase release from Lake Sherburne to 100 cfs

Increase diversion to the St. Mary Canal to 100 cfs

On Thursday, March 17, 2022:

Increase release from Lake Sherburne to 200 cfs

Increase diversion to the St. Mary Canal to 150 cfs

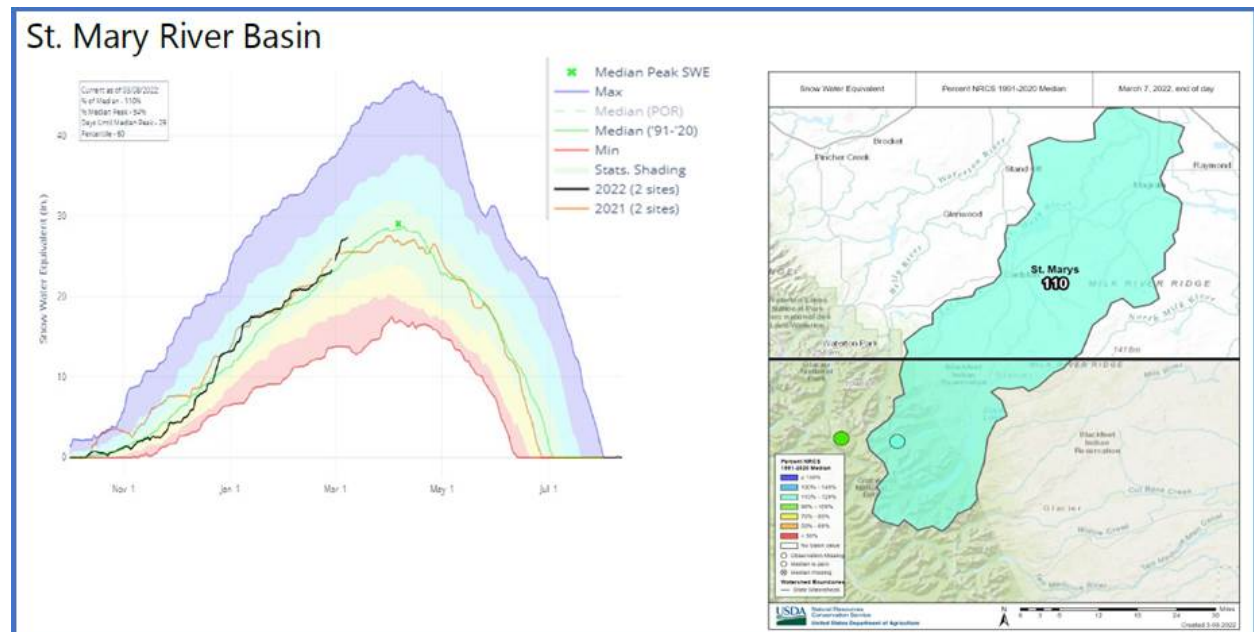
On Friday, March 18, 2022:

Maintain release from Lake Sherburne at 200 cfs

Increase diversion to the St. Mary Canal to 200 cfs

March 1 Elevation and Storage				
	Elevation (feet)	Storage (acre-feet)	Percent of Average	Percent Full
Sherburne Reservoir	4780.10	53,176	164	80
Fresno Reservoir	2556.34	30,539	75	33
Nelson Reservoir	2211.37	41,840	82	53

Current storage at the Sherburne Reservoir is well above average, largely contributed by large storm event runoff from Nov and Dec 2021



Snow pack data has us at ~110% of average (1991-2000) data, with average to above average snow-water equivalent. The peak snow pack is generally achieved near the end of March, and US forecasters anticipate a below average (75%) level of precipitation for the basin over this month which may result in the snow pack ending the season at average or slightly below.