

Hydrologic Forecast Tenmile Creek

CONDITIONS 06/07/2020

Lewis & Clark County Water Quality Protection District

SUMMARY

Tenmile Creek reached nearly 300 CFS on May 21st in response to precipitation throughout the region, and has been dropping steady since. The past week's high temperatures have accelerated snow-loss at higher elevations and regional Snotel stations are reporting very little snow remaining below 8,000'. Precipitation is expected for the early part of the week, which could cause local streams to rise and create short-term flooding conditions, particularly in low areas and areas of poor drainage.

Residents should keep track of weather patterns for increasing temperature and precipitation events, particularly thunderstorms, which could change streamflows quickly, causing small creeks such as Tenmile Creek and Silver Creek to rise rapidly.

The following data and information are used to evaluate hydrologic conditions in the Tenmile Creek drainage.

1. **Streamflow** measured at Williams St USGS Stream Gauging Station west of the city of Helena.
<https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/06063000>
 2. **Snowpack** snow water equivalent (SWE) at the SNOTEL Stations Frohner Meadows, Rocker Peak, Nevada Ridge.
<https://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/snow/snowplot.cgi?FRHM8>
<https://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/snow/snowplot.cgi?RKPM8>
<https://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/snow/snowplot.cgi?NVRM8>
 3. Short-term Helena 5-day weather (**precipitation and temperature**) projection from the National Weather Service.
<https://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?lat=46.5924&lon=-112.0403#.XpoTqkZKjBQ>
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1. STREAMFLOW

Streamflow on Tenmile Creek over the past 30 days is shown below. Since the May 21st precipitation peak, Tenmile Creek has been dropping steadily. The recent June 7th peak is from recent weekend precipitation/thunderstorms.

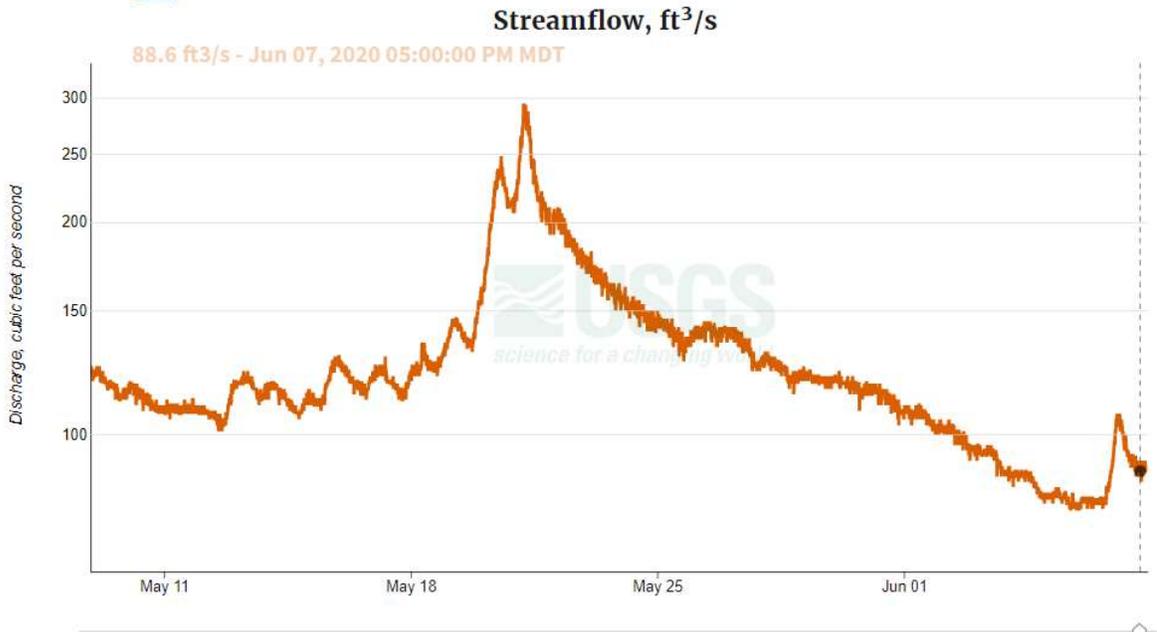
Tenmile Creek near Helena MT



IMPORTANT [Classic Page](#)

Monitoring location 06063000 is associated with a STREAM in LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY, MONTANA. Current conditions of DISCHARGE and GAGE HEIGHT are available. Water data back to 1908 are available online.

7 days 30 days 1 year Custom



2. SNOWPACK (SWE)

SWE at Frohner Meadows (6,480'), Rocker Peak (8,000'), and Nevada Ridge (6,000') is gone. The warm weather over the past week has depleted snowpack below 8,000'.

3. WEATHER

Monday through next Friday... Rainfall and snow at higher elevations above 5,500' is expected for the early part of the week, with up to 1.5" of rain forecast for the Great Falls area. After this initial precipitation event, expect generally improving conditions, but still below seasonal average temperatures.