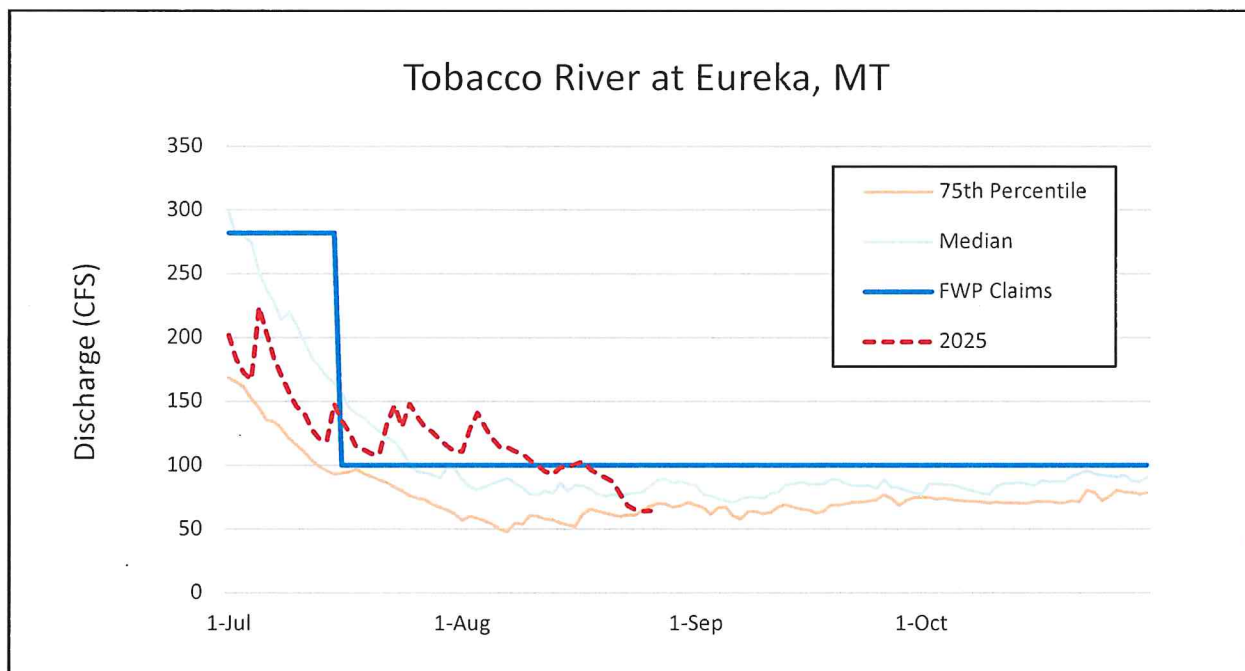




**MEMORANDUM**

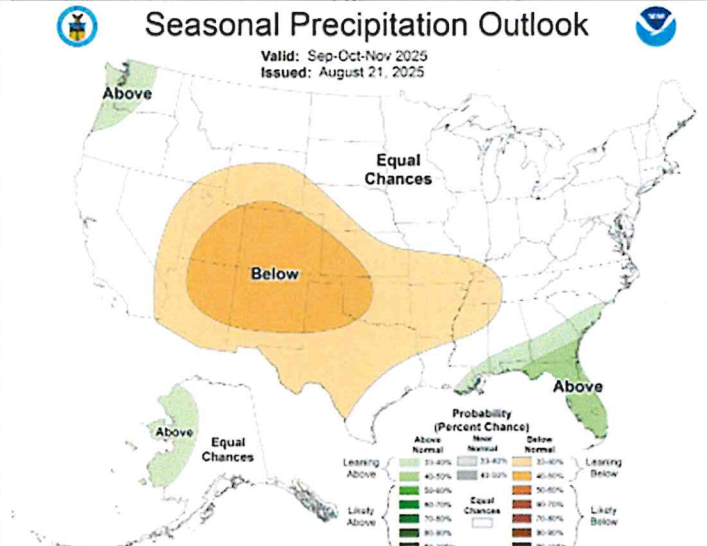
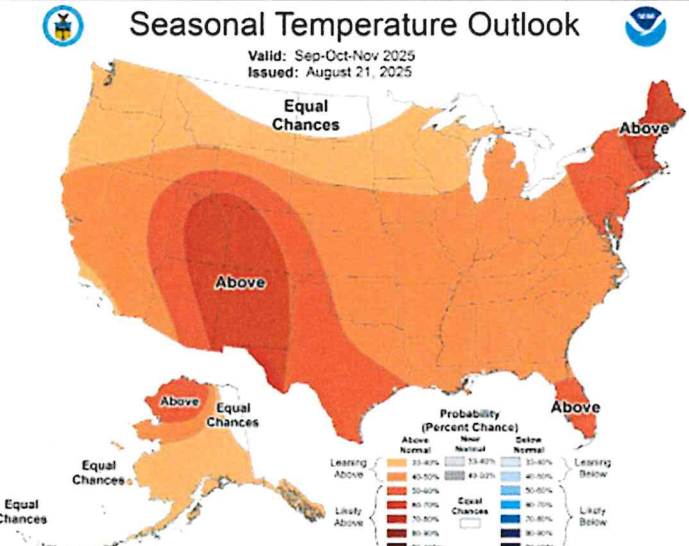
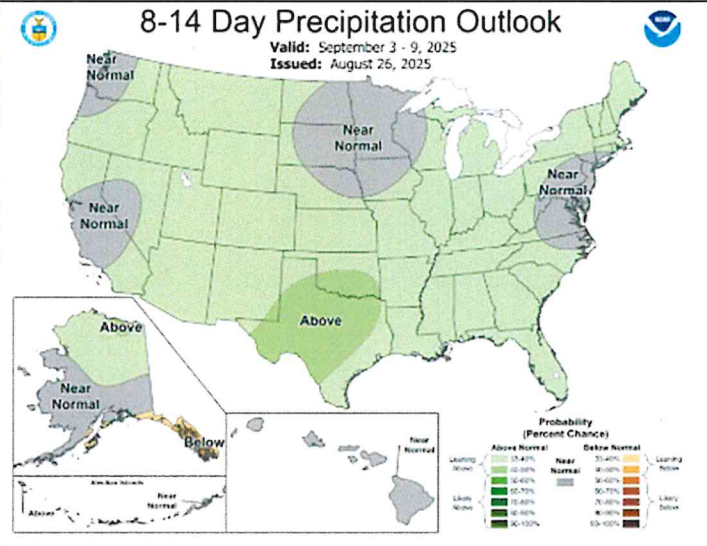
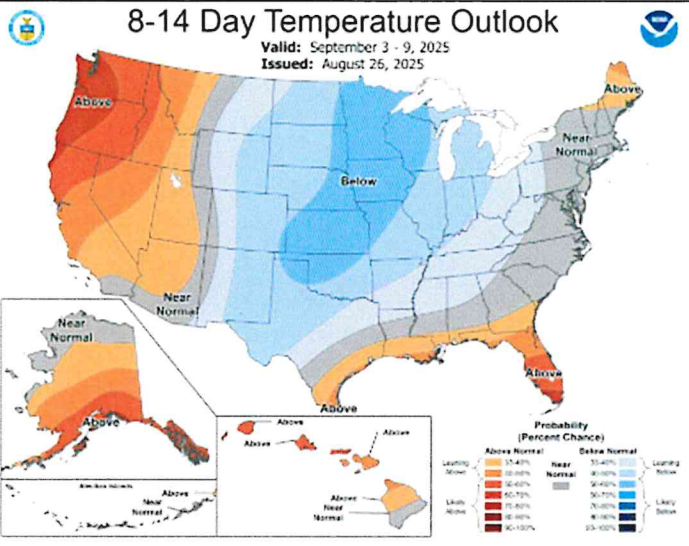
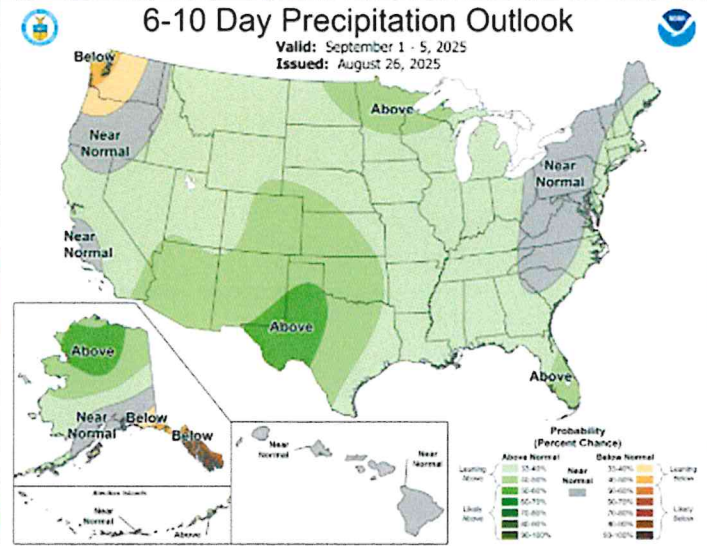
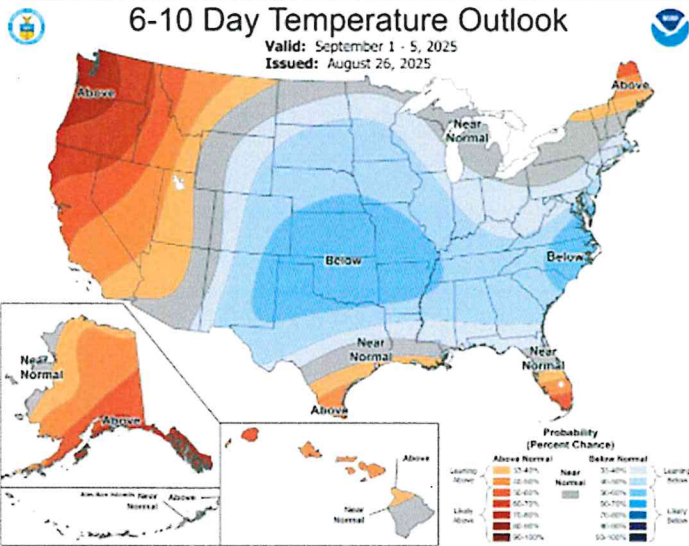
To: Bill Schenk, Adam Strainer  
 C: Ken McDonald, Leo Rosenthal, Mike Hensler, Andy Brummond, Stephen Begley  
 From: Amy Groen, FWP Water Program  
 Brian Stephens, Kootenai Fisheries Management Biologist  
 Date: August 29, 2025  
 Subject: Tobacco River – Call on Junior Water Rights

Fisheries and Water Program staff have monitored flows on the Tobacco River and consulted on river conditions and potential merits of placing call on junior water users. We jointly recommend that FWP make call on the Tobacco River as streamflow on that source has dropped well below FWP’s instream flow right of 100 cfs. The hydrograph below shows that flow is near the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile exceedance flow (level met or exceeded 3 out of 4 years) for the USGS gage in Eureka, MT. We anticipate seasonal flow trends to continue throughout the remainder of the year; thus, it is highly likely that flows will not reach or exceed 100 cfs until later in the year and only with the arrival of significant precipitation events.



The 6-10 Day, 8-14 Day and Seasonal Temperature Outlooks lean towards above average temperature (graphics attached). The precipitation outlook through September 9<sup>th</sup> is leaning above normal with equal chances of above and below normal rainfall through November. Given expected weather conditions and high demand for irrigation water, streamflow is not expected to again meet FWP’s instream flow rights into the fall without some assistance from large and consistent precipitation events.

# Climate Outlook



A review of DNRC's water rights database includes a list of 60 junior water rights, excluding instream flow rights, stock directly from the source, and domestic rights without irrigation. Each of the water rights was reviewed to determine if cessation of water use would likely result in additional flow reaching the Tobacco River. The result of that review is summarized as follows:

Purpose	Call	No Call	Total Called Flow Rate
Irrigation	41	0	28.47 cfs
Fish & Wildlife/Fishery	17	2	11.88 cfs
Lawn & Garden	2	1	0.11 cfs
Industrial	0	1	N/A
Power	0	5	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>40.46 cfs</b>

The following map shows the location of all junior water rights.

