

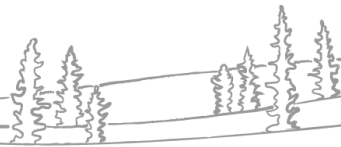


NWT Water Monitoring Bulletin

October 8th, 2025

Bulletin sur la surveillance des eaux des TNO

du 8 octobre 2025



NWT Water Monitoring Bulletins are posted monthly. These bulletins are intended to provide an update of water flow and level data at select NWT Hydrometric Network gauge stations across the Northwest Territories.

Where available, data from river sites are presented as flow (discharge) or water level and data from lake sites are presented as level. The figures in this report represent current conditions for this year, relative to historic minimum and maximum values, extreme values (10th to 90th percentiles) and the average range, which is calculated as the interquartile range.

The NWT Hydrometric Network is a partnership between Government of Northwest Territories – Environment and Climate Change (ECC) and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and is operated by the Water Survey of Canada (ECCC). Both historic and real-time data for all stations are available at https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/index_e.html. All 2024 and 2025 data are considered provisional and may contain values that are later corrected.

Any questions regarding information contained in this Bulletin can be directed to NWTWaters@gov.nt.ca.

Les Bulletins sur la surveillance des eaux aux TNO sont publiés mensuellement. Ces bulletins visent à fournir des mises à jour sur les données concernant l'écoulement et le niveau de l'eau à certaines stations de jaugeage du Réseau hydrométrique des TNO.

Si elles sont disponibles, les données sur les rivières et les fleuves sont présentées sous forme d'écoulement (débit) et celles des lacs sont présentées sous forme de niveau. Dans le présent rapport, les données font état des conditions de cette année et sont comparées aux valeurs

minimales, maximales et extrêmes (10^e au 90^e centile) ainsi qu'à la moyenne (calculée en tant qu'écart interquartile).

Le Réseau hydrométrique des TNO est le fruit d'un partenariat entre le ministère de l'Environnement et du Changement climatique du gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest et Environnement et Changement climatique Canada (ECCC) et est exploité par la Division des relevés hydrologiques du Canada. Vous pouvez consulter les données historiques et les données en temps réel de toutes les stations au <https://eau.ec.gc.ca/index.f.html>. Toutes les données de 2024 et de 2025 sont considérées comme provisoires et peuvent contenir des valeurs qui seront ultérieurement corrigées.

Pour toute question sur le contenu du présent document, écrivez un courriel à l'adresse NWTWaters@gov.nt.ca.

Current status

- This report is our **Monthly Water Monitoring Bulletin**, which provides regular updates on water levels and precipitation in the NWT;
- Water levels and flow rates remain relatively low across most of the NWT.
 - Great Slave Lake water level is currently well below average. The water level has been slowly decreasing since end of April 2025, as is normal.
 - Slave River water level is below average for this time of year.
 - Hay River water level is well below average for this time of year.
 - Liard River water level is well below average for this time of year.
 - Mackenzie River water level, recorded at several stations along the river, is well below average for this time of year.
 - Great Bear Lake remains at its lowest water level recorded for this time of year and flow rates on the Great Bear River are well below average for this time of year.
 - Exceptions to low water levels and flows include:
 - Peel river at Fort McPherson (average)
 - South Nahanni River (average)
 - Some smaller rivers in the Great Slave Lake basin, including:
 - Snare River (average)
 - Lockhart River (above average)
 - Hoarfrost River (above average)
 - Taltson River (average)
- Low water levels are the result of extreme drought conditions that began in the summer of 2022 and have persisted through 2023, 2024 and 2025. Water levels have since shown some recovery, but this has mostly been limited to small rivers and lakes.

- **September precipitation** across the NWT was mostly well below average except at Norman Wells and Inuvik (above average).
- **September temperatures** across the NWT were well above average.
- Water levels on Great Slave Lake and the Mackenzie River are influenced by rainfall received in northern British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and southern NWT.
 - Precipitation in the Mackenzie River has been well below average since the spring.
 - Average precipitation has not been enough to overcome the extreme drought and soil moisture deficit. Several months of above average precipitation is needed to raise water levels.
- Climate forecasts from ECCC show:
 - Precipitation: There is a 40-70% likelihood of above normal precipitation across most of northern and eastern NWT in the next three months (October, November, December), with higher confidence during October.
 - Temperature: The above average warm trend is likely to continue during October. November is predicted to be cooler than average, and December warmer than average (although, lower confidence).

Situation actuelle

- Le présent rapport est notre **Bulletin mensuel sur la surveillance des eaux** qui fournit des mises à jour régulières sur les niveaux d'eau et les précipitations aux TNO.
- Les niveaux d'eau et les débits restent relativement bas dans la majeure partie des TNO.
 - Le niveau d'eau du Grand lac des Esclaves est actuellement bien en dessous de la moyenne. Le niveau d'eau diminue petit à petit depuis la fin d'avril 2025, comme il le fait normalement.
 - Le niveau d'eau de la rivière des Esclaves est inférieur à la moyenne pour cette période de l'année.
 - Le niveau d'eau de la rivière Hay est bien inférieur à la moyenne pour cette période de l'année.
 - Le niveau d'eau de la rivière Liard est bien inférieur à la moyenne pour cette période de l'année.
 - Le niveau d'eau du fleuve Mackenzie, relevé à plusieurs stations le long de son cours, est bien inférieur à la moyenne pour cette période de l'année.
 - Le niveau d'eau du Grand lac de l'Ours demeure le plus bas enregistré à cette période de l'année, et le débit enregistré le long de la rivière Great Bear est bien inférieur à la moyenne pour cette période de l'année.
 - Exceptions aux faibles niveaux d'eau et aux faibles débits :
 - La rivière Peel à la hauteur de Fort McPherson (dans la moyenne).
 - La rivière Nahanni Sud (dans la moyenne).

- De plus petites rivières dans le bassin du Grand lac des Esclaves, notamment :
 - Rivière Snare (dans la moyenne)
 - Rivière Lockhart (supérieurs à la moyenne)
 - Rivière Hoarfrost (supérieurs à la moyenne)
 - Rivière Taltson (dans la moyenne)
- Les faibles niveaux d'eau sont attribuables à une sécheresse extrême qui a commencé à l'été 2022, et qui s'est poursuivie en 2023, 2024 et 2025. Depuis, les niveaux d'eau se sont quelque peu rétablis, mais cela s'est surtout limité aux petites rivières et aux lacs.
- **En septembre, les précipitations** reçues à l'échelle des TNO étaient principalement bien inférieures à la moyenne, sauf à Norman Wells et à Inuvik (au-dessus de la moyenne).
- **En septembre, les températures** ont été généralement bien supérieures à la moyenne sur l'ensemble du territoire.
- Les niveaux d'eau du Grand lac des Esclaves et du fleuve Mackenzie sont influencés par les précipitations reçues dans le nord de la Colombie-Britannique, de l'Alberta et de la Saskatchewan, et dans le sud des TNO.
 - Les précipitations reçues dans le fleuve Mackenzie sont bien inférieures à la moyenne depuis le printemps.
 - Les précipitations moyennes n'ont pas été suffisantes pour surmonter l'extrême sécheresse et le déficit d'humidité du sol. Plusieurs mois de précipitations supérieures à la moyenne sont nécessaires pour faire monter le niveau des eaux.
- Les prévisions climatiques du MECC indiquent ce qui suit :
 - Précipitations : Il y a de 40 à 70 % de probabilité que les précipitations soient supérieures à la normale dans la majeure partie du nord et de l'est des Territoires du Nord-Ouest au cours des trois prochains mois (octobre, novembre, décembre), avec un degré de confiance plus élevé pour le mois d'octobre.
 - Température : La tendance aux températures supérieures à la moyenne devrait se poursuivre en octobre. Le mois de novembre devrait être plus frais que la moyenne, et le mois de décembre plus chaud que la moyenne (mais le degré de confiance en ces prévisions est moins élevé).

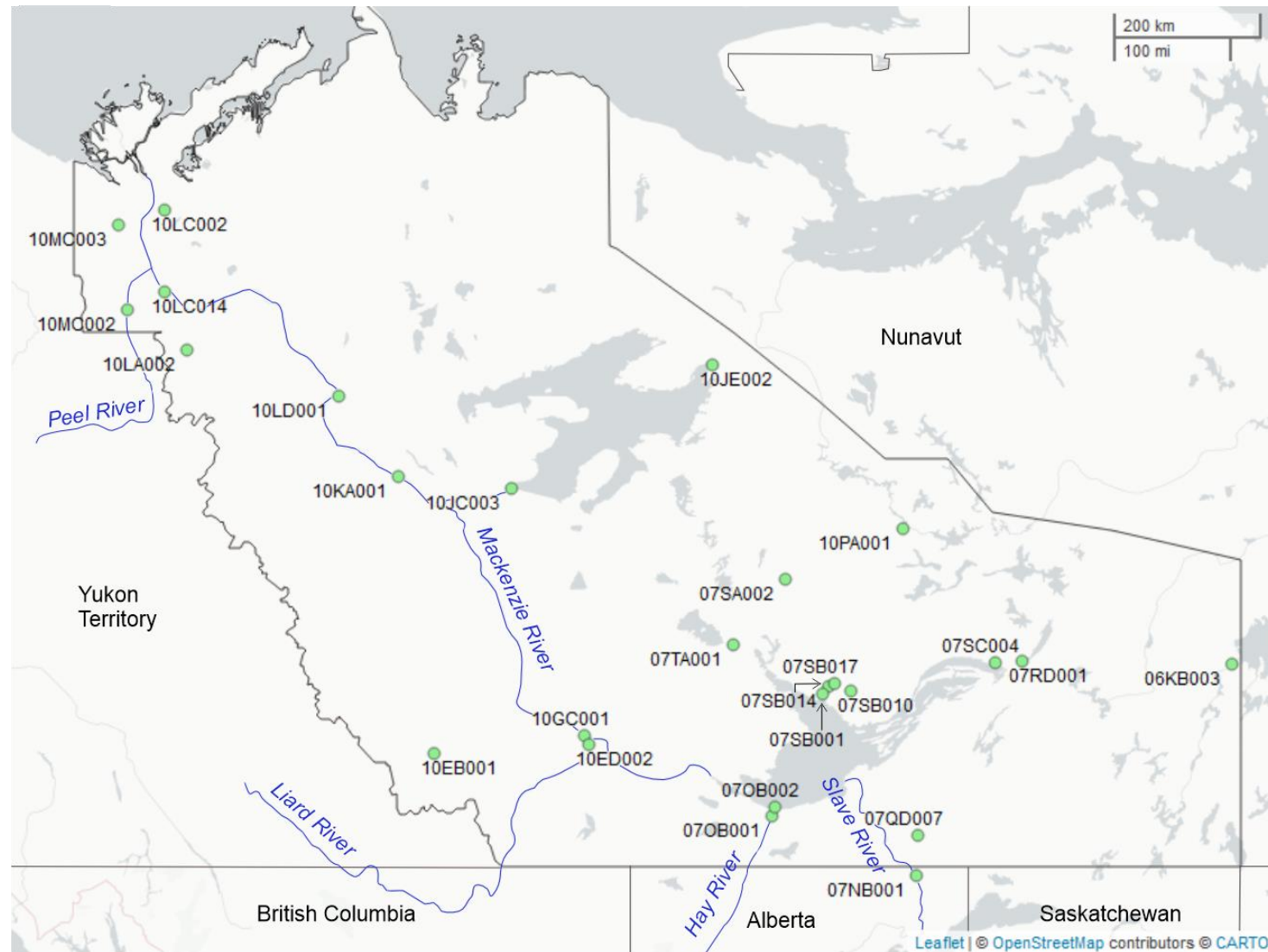
Contents

Current status	2
Situation actuelle.....	3

Contents	4
Hydrometric station map.....	7
Information on interpreting figures.....	8
Water level and flow figures.....	8
Climate figures.....	8
Water level and flow data	9
Slave River at Fitzgerald [07NB001]	9
Hay River near Alberta/NWT Boundary [07OB008].....	9
Hay River near Hay River [07OB001]	10
Taltson River below Hydro Dam [07QD007]	10
Lockhart River at outlet of Artillery Lake [07RD001].....	11
Snare River below Ghost Lake [07SA002]	11
Coppermine River below Desteffany Lake [10PA001].....	12
Great Slave Lake at Yellowknife Bay [07SB001].....	12
Great Slave Lake at Hay River [07OB002]	13
Cameron River below Reid Lake [07SB010]	13
Prosperous Lake near McMeekan Bay [07SB014].....	14
Prelude Lake near Yellowknife [07SB017].....	14
La Martre River below outlet of Lac La Martre [07TA001]	15
South Nahanni River above Virginia Falls [10EB001]	15
Liard River at Fort Liard [10ED001].....	16
Liard River near the mouth [10ED002]	16
Mackenzie River at Fort Simpson [10GC001]	17
Mackenzie River at Norman Wells [10KA001]	17
Great Bear River at outlet of Great Bear Lake [10JC003].....	18
Great Bear Lake at Hornby Bay [10JE002].....	18
Arctic Red River near the mouth [10LA002]	19
Peel River above Fort McPherson [10MC002]	19
Mackenzie River at Arctic Red River [10LC014]	20
Mackenzie River (East Channel) at Inuvik [10LC002]	20
Mackenzie River (Peel Channel) above Aklavik [10MC003].....	21
Climate Data	22
NWT communities.....	22
Slave River basin communities.....	23

Liard River basin communities	24
Fort Smith	25
Hay River	26
Yellowknife.....	27
Fort Simpson	28
Norman Wells	29
Inuvik	30

Hydrometric station map



Above – A map of the hydrometric stations included in this report.

Information on interpreting figures

Water level and flow figures

The light blue line shows water levels/flows from last year (2024), while the dark blue line shows current water levels/flows from 2025. The darkest grey band represents the average range (calculated as the interquartile range, which is the 25th to 75th percentile), the next lightest grey bands represent a wider range of values (10th to 90th percentiles) and the lightest grey bands represent the highest and lowest levels or flows on record. If the dark blue line is within the dark grey band, current conditions can be assumed to be normal.

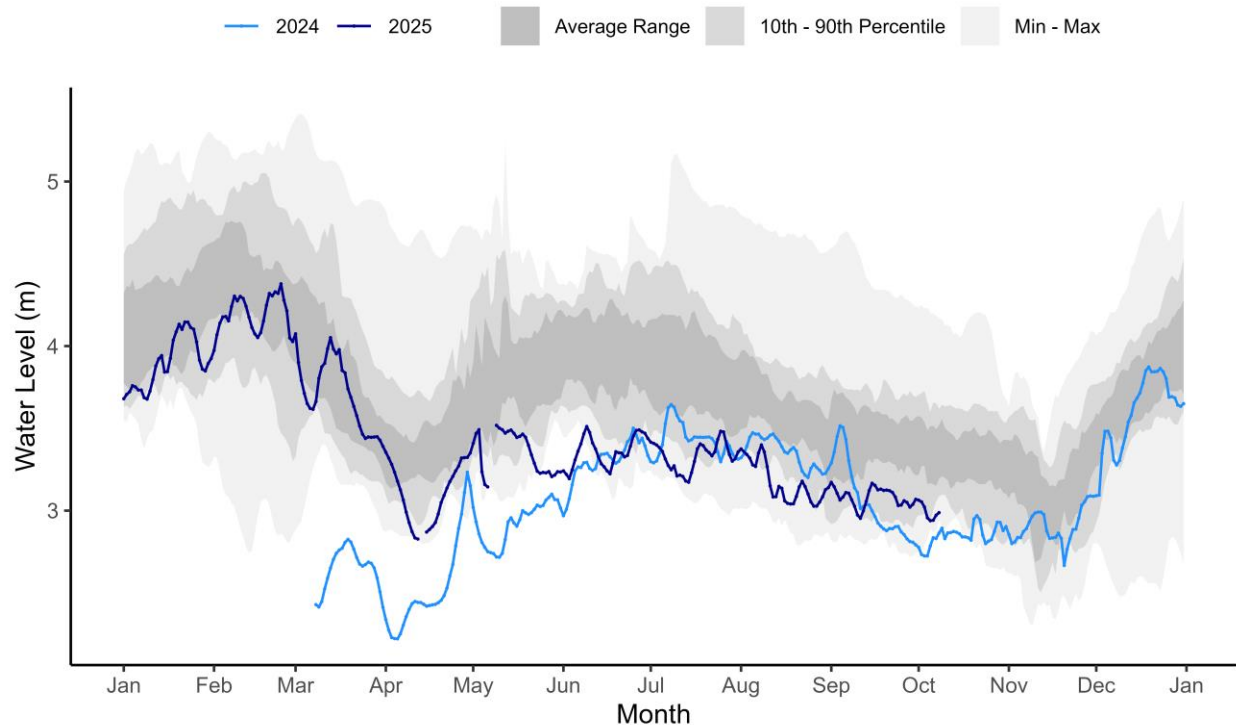
The grey bands are calculated for data prior to 2024. If the line from 2024 or 2025 is above (or below) the grey band, it means that the water level or flow from that year was the highest (or lowest) on record.

Water levels are relative to the gauge's local reference elevation and do not represent actual river depth.

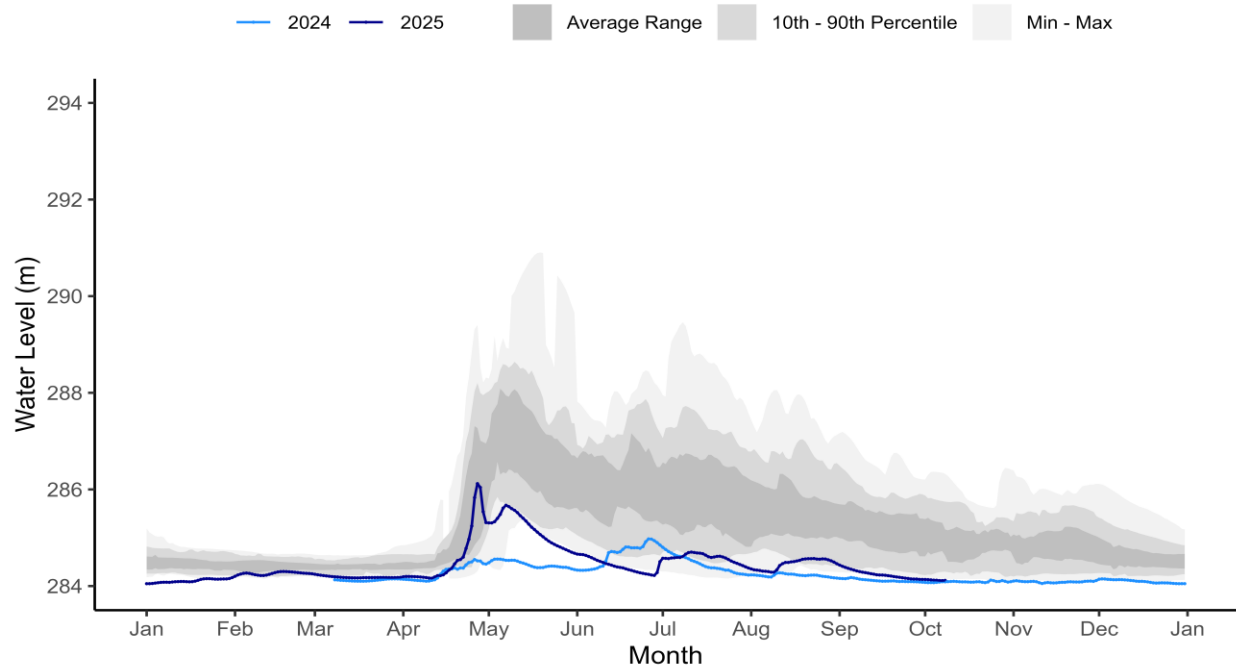
Climate figures

Monthly air temperature and precipitation data are displayed for six communities in the NWT (Fort Smith, Hay River, Yellowknife, Fort Simpson, Norman Wells, and Inuvik) and presented as box and whisker plots. The box in each plot represents the average range (calculated as the interquartile range) for each month, and the whiskers are the vertical black lines that represent the extreme values (10th to 90th percentiles). Each grey dot is the value from a previous year, beginning in 1950. The red or blue dots represent the values for the current year. These data are primarily acquired and managed by Environment and Climate Change Canada, but in some cases 2025 values have been infilled with GNWT climate station data when ECCC data are unavailable.

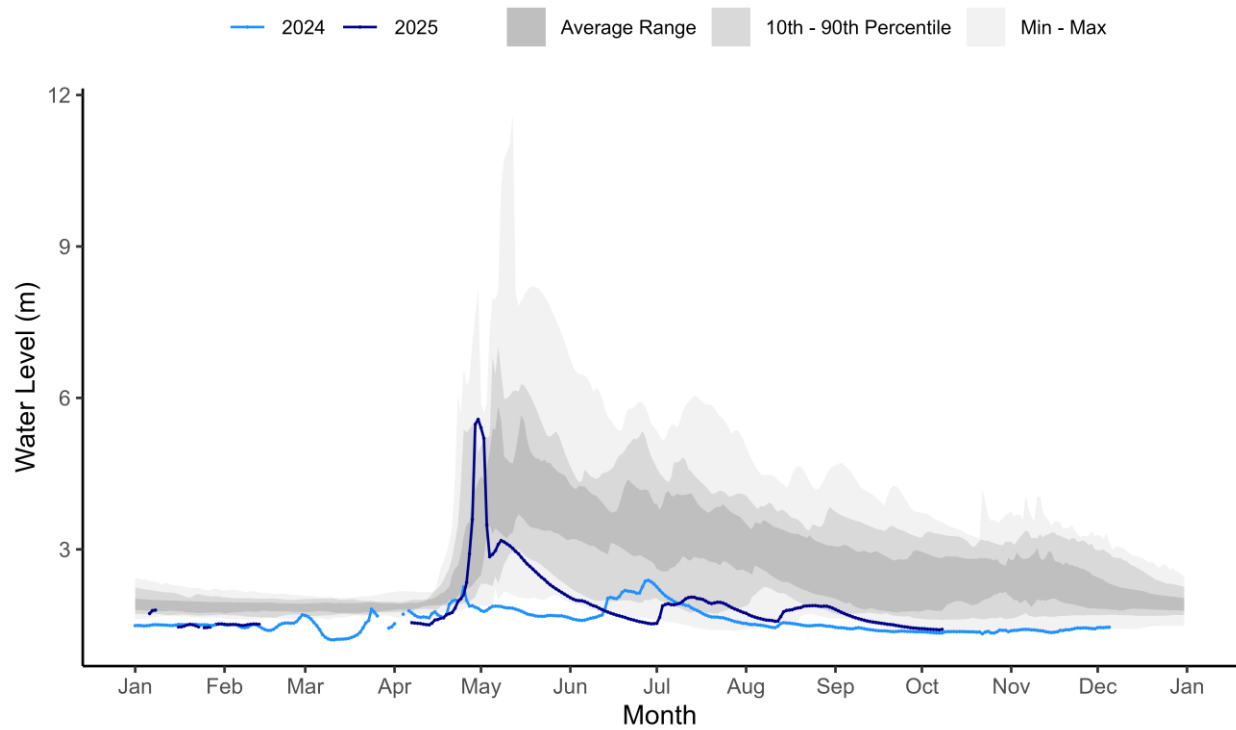
Water level and flow data Slave River at Fitzgerald [07NB001]



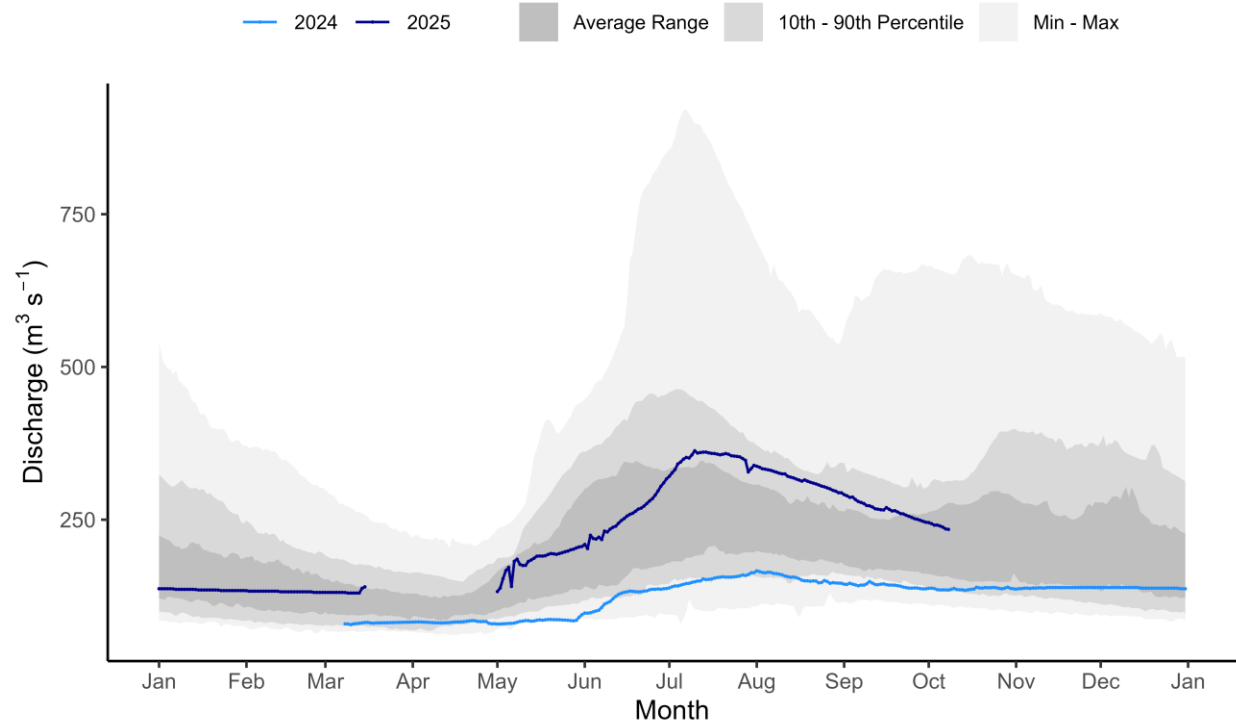
Hay River near Alberta/NWT Boundary [07OB008]



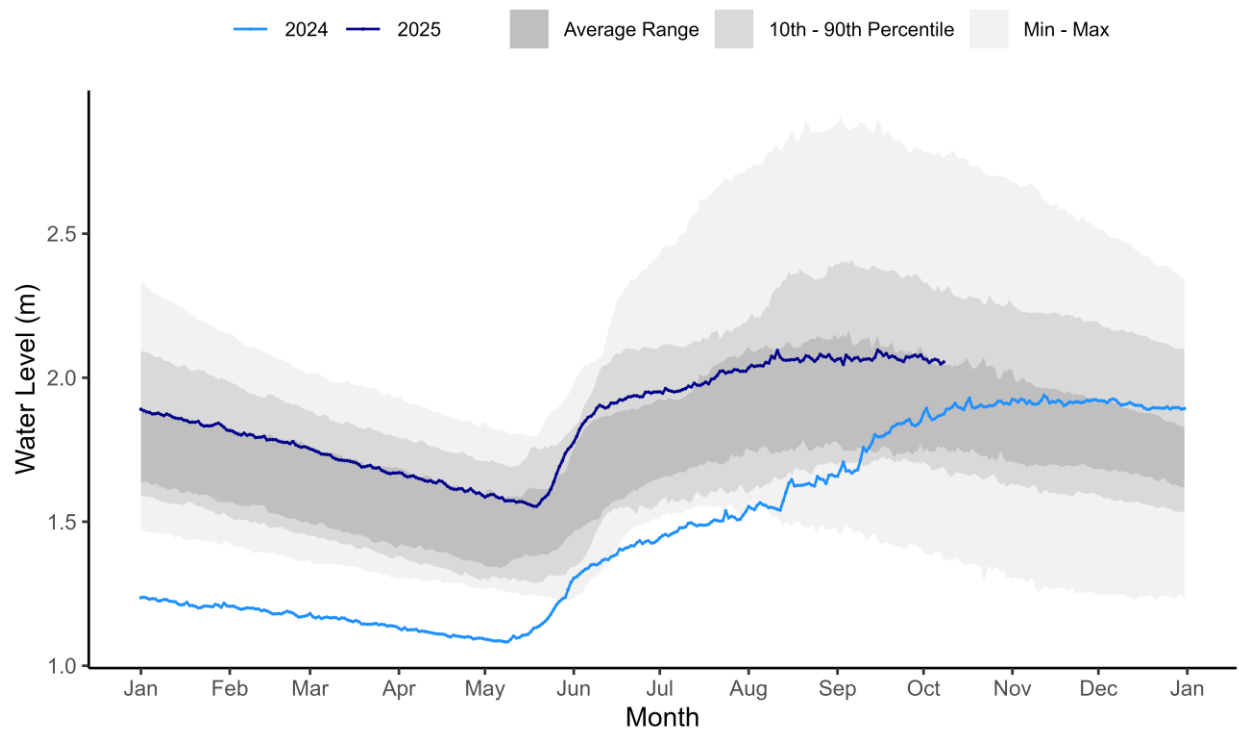
Hay River near Hay River [07OB001]



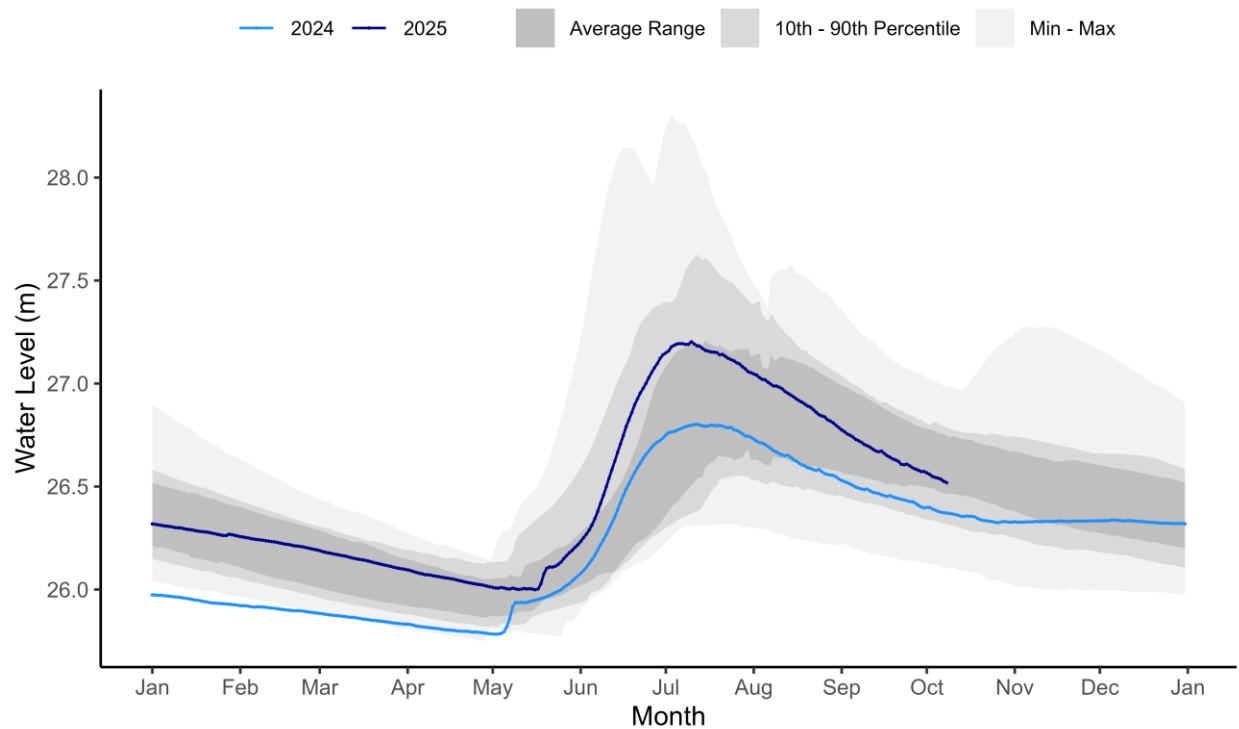
Taltson River below Hydro Dam [07QD007]



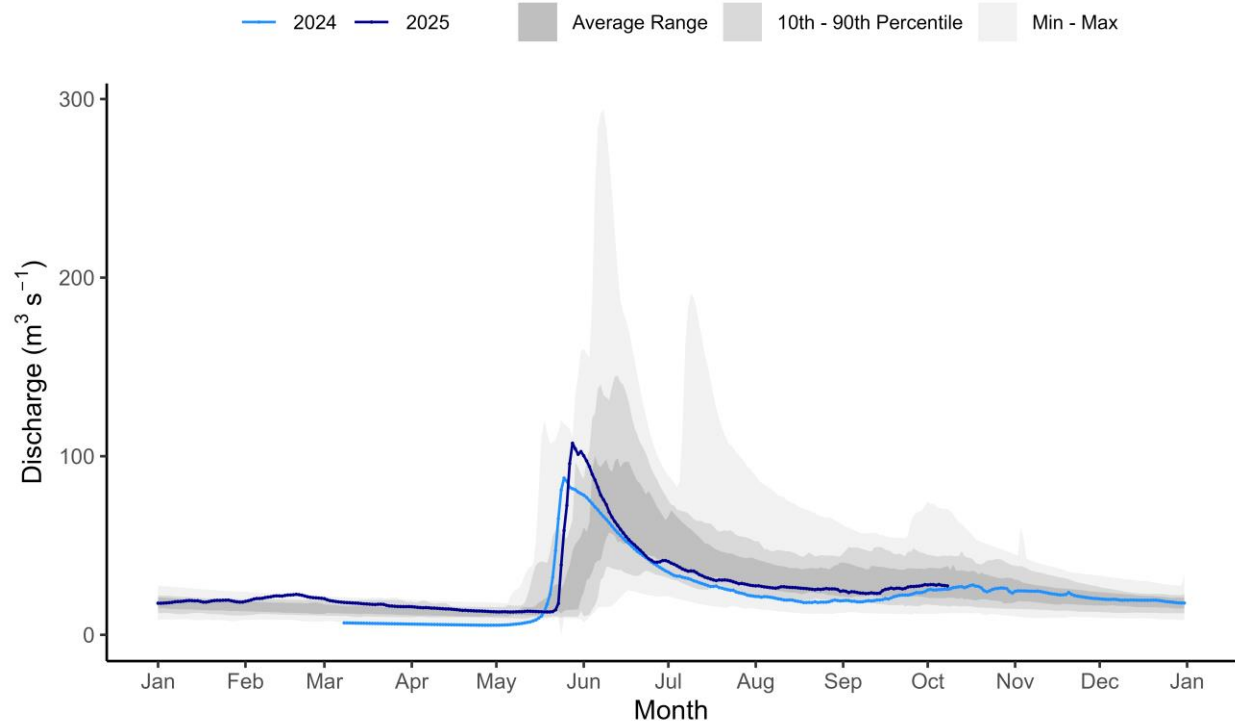
Lockhart River at outlet of Artillery Lake [07RD001]



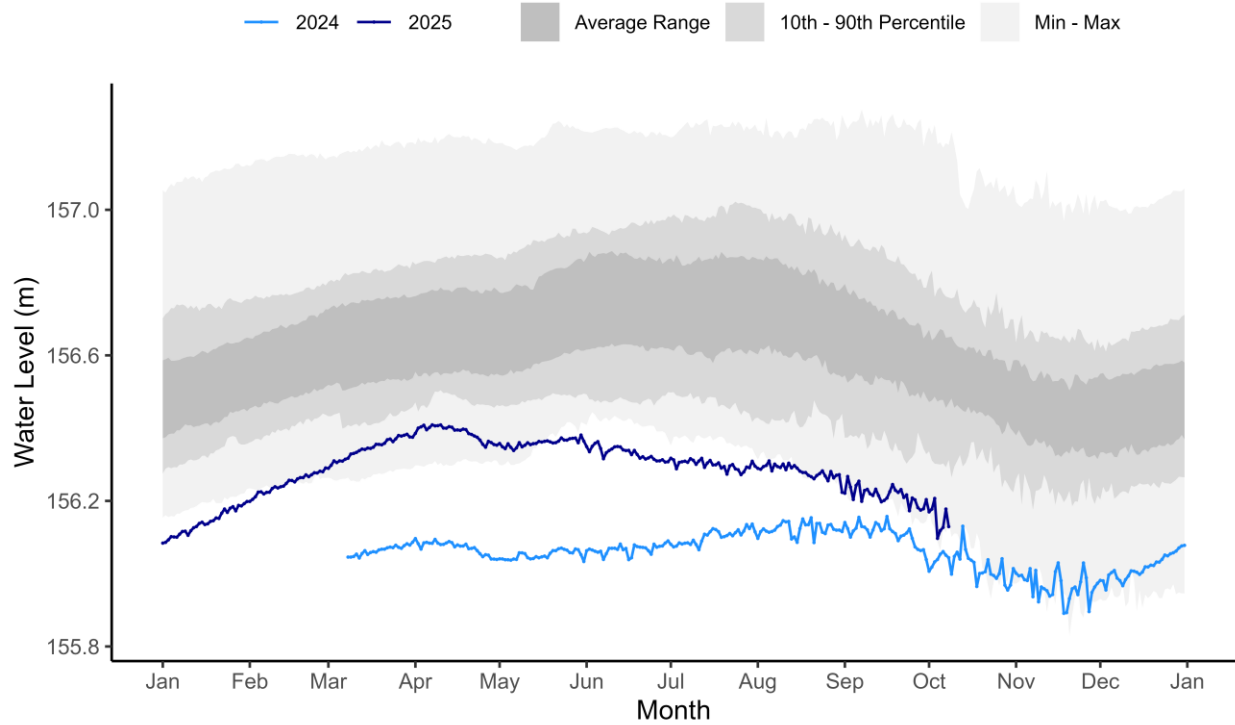
Snare River below Ghost Lake [07SA002]



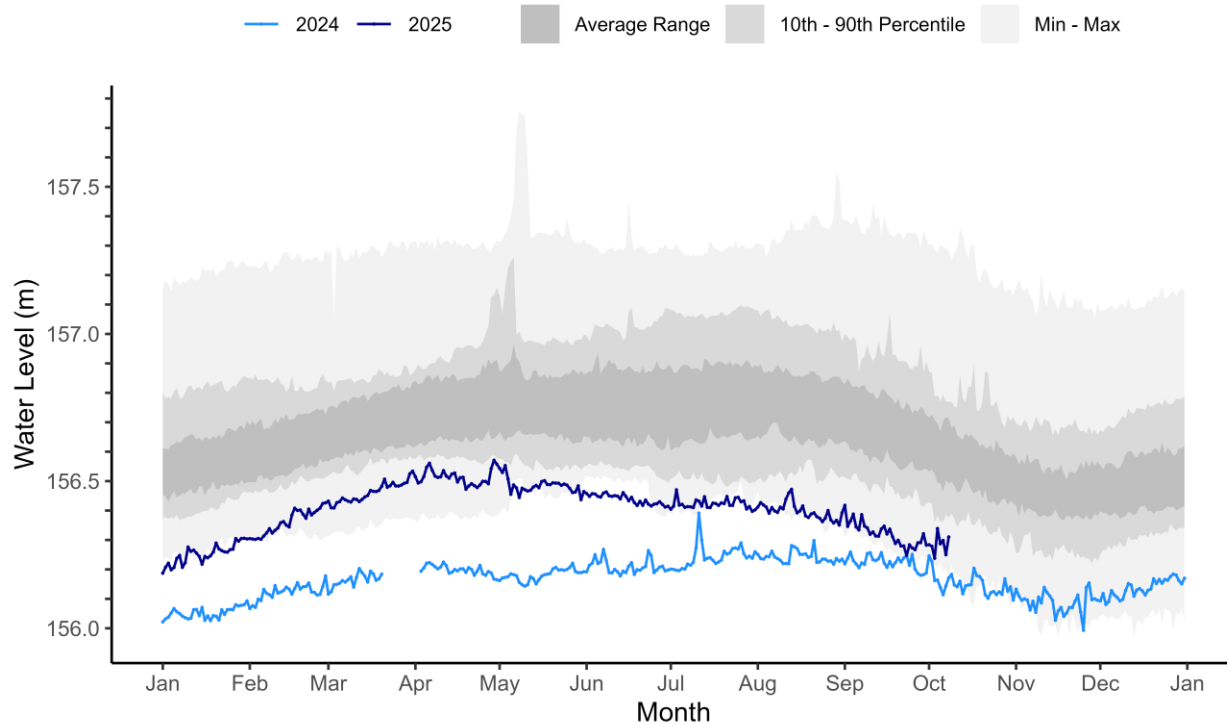
Coppermine River below Desteffany Lake [10PA001]



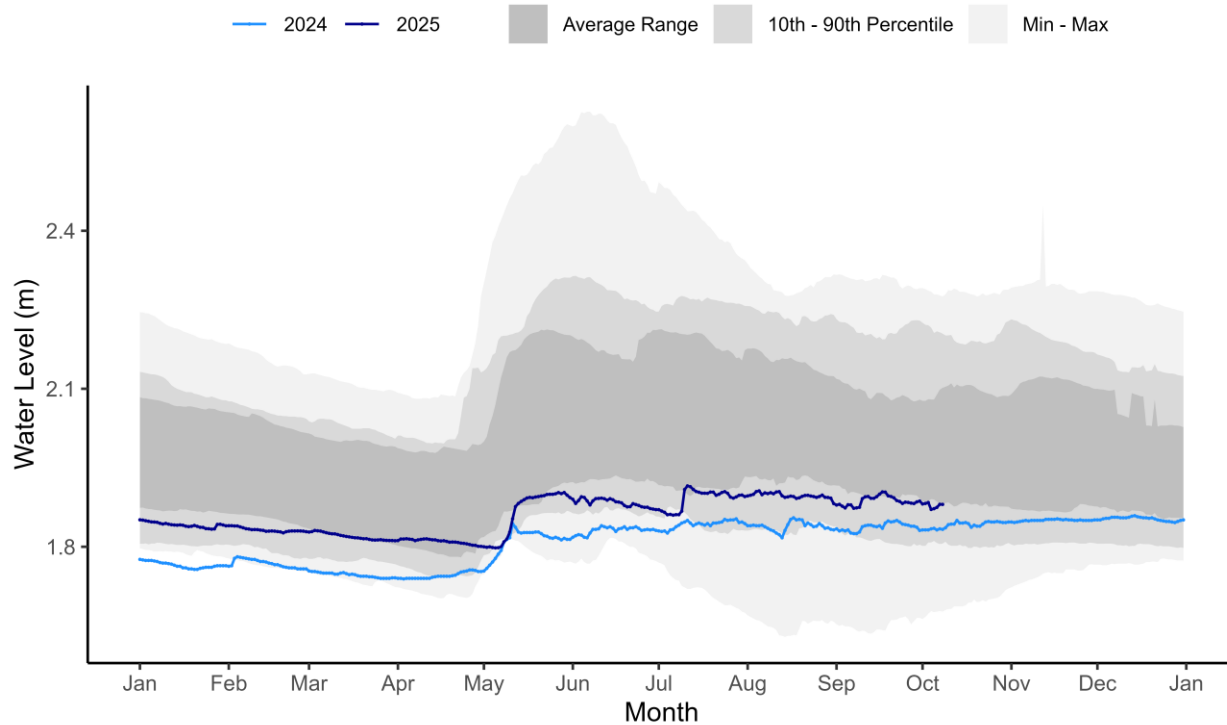
Great Slave Lake at Yellowknife Bay [07SB001]



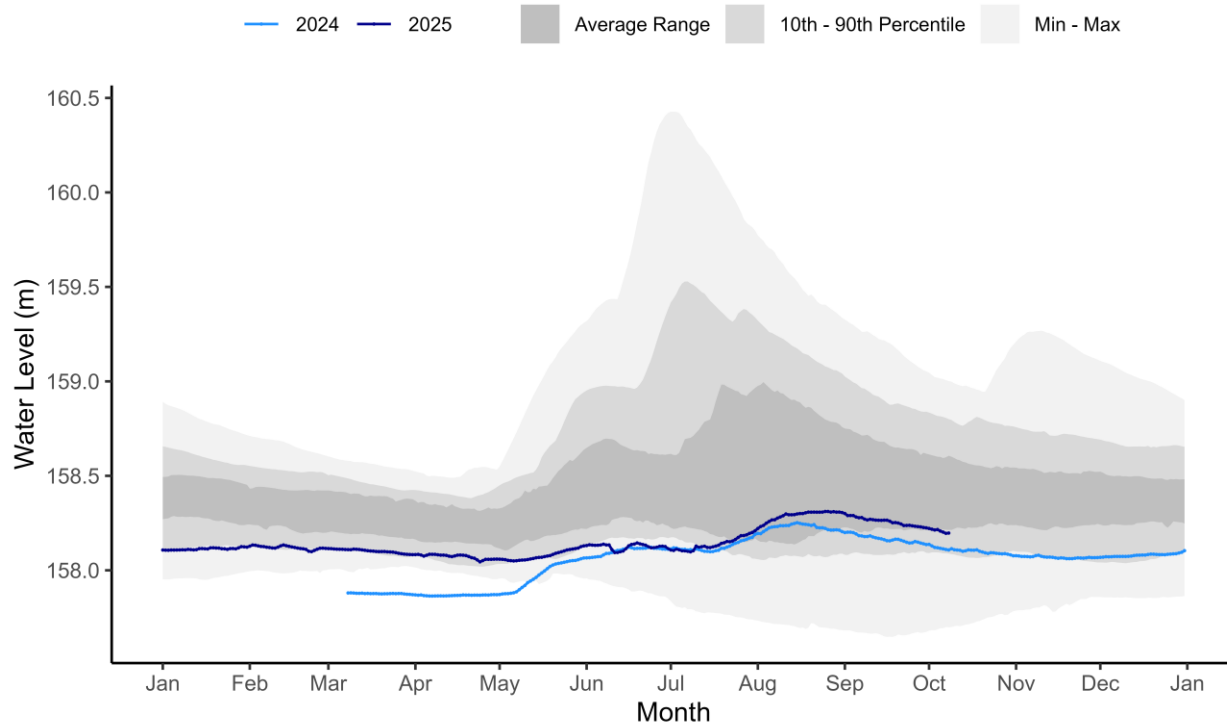
Great Slave Lake at Hay River [07OB002]



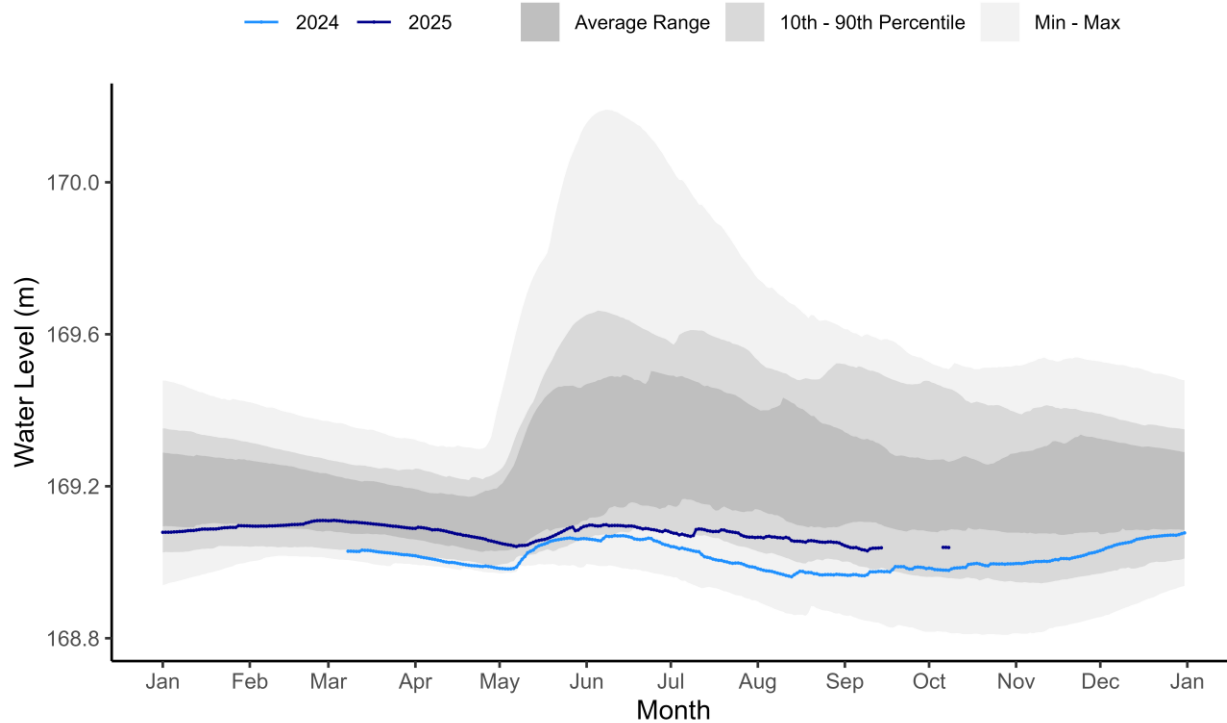
Cameron River below Reid Lake [07SB010]



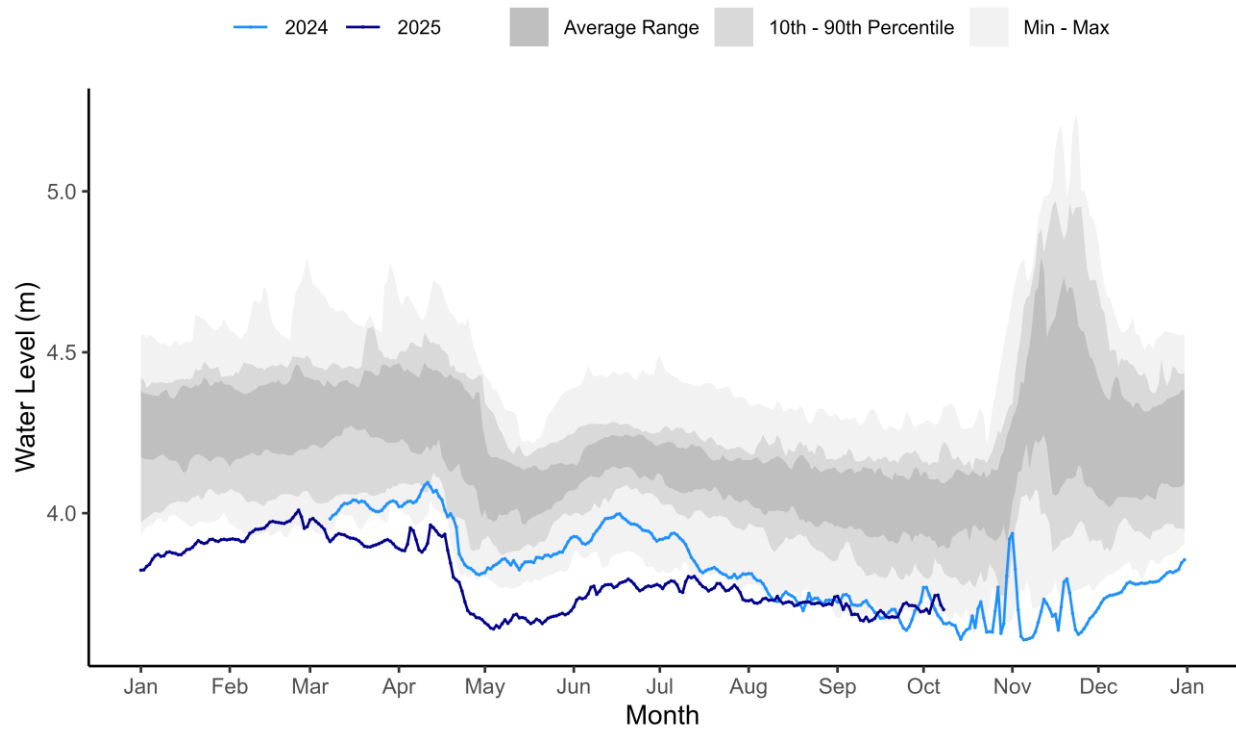
Prosperous Lake near McMeekan Bay [07SB014]



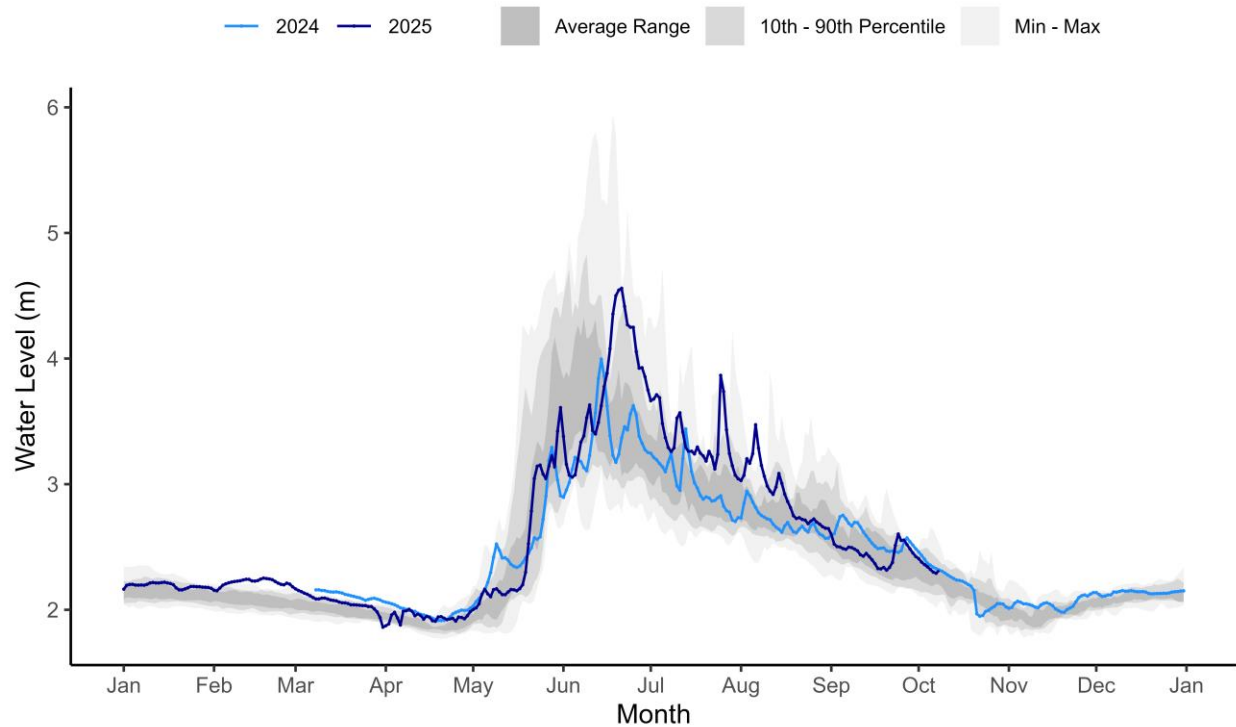
Prelude Lake near Yellowknife [07SB017]



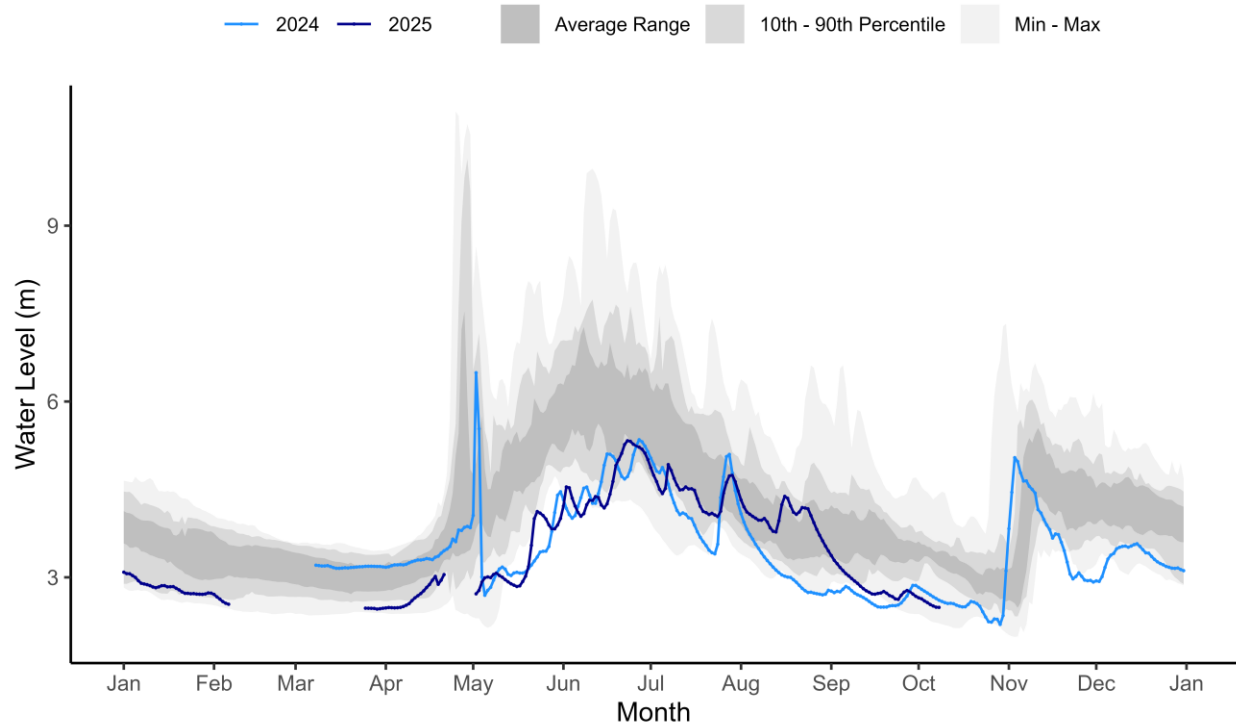
La Martre River below outlet of Lac La Martre [07TA001]



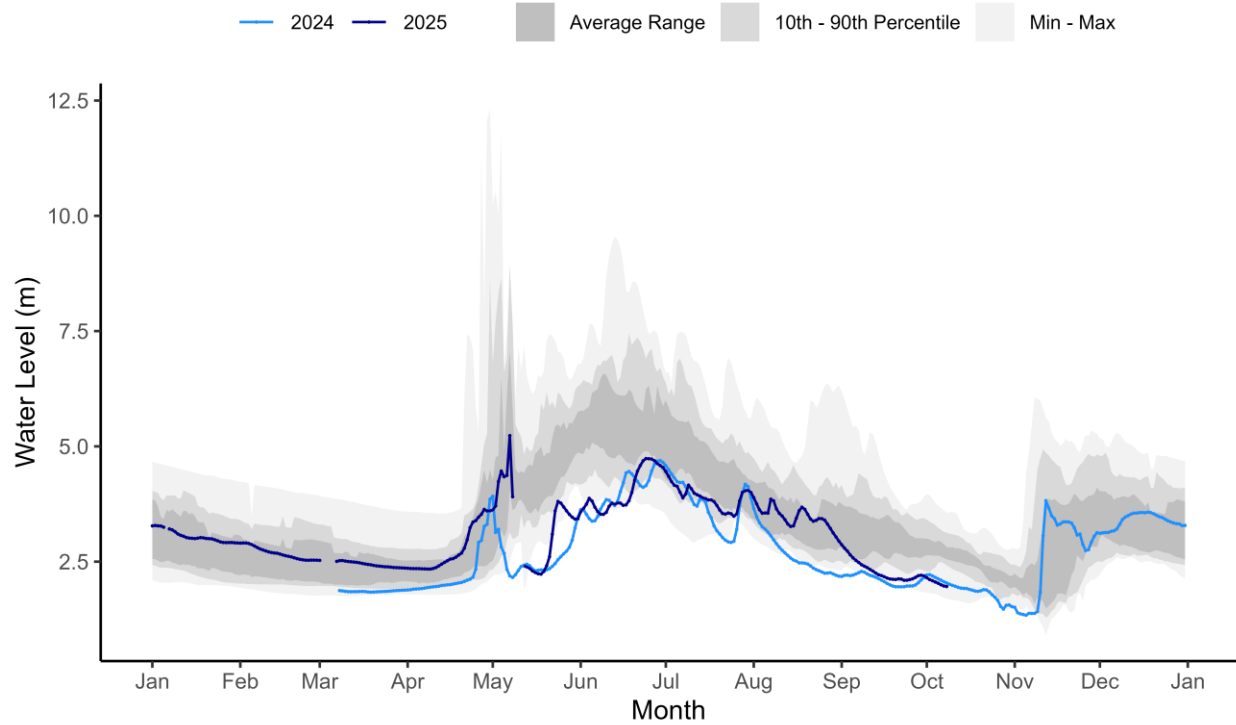
South Nahanni River above Virginia Falls [10EB001]



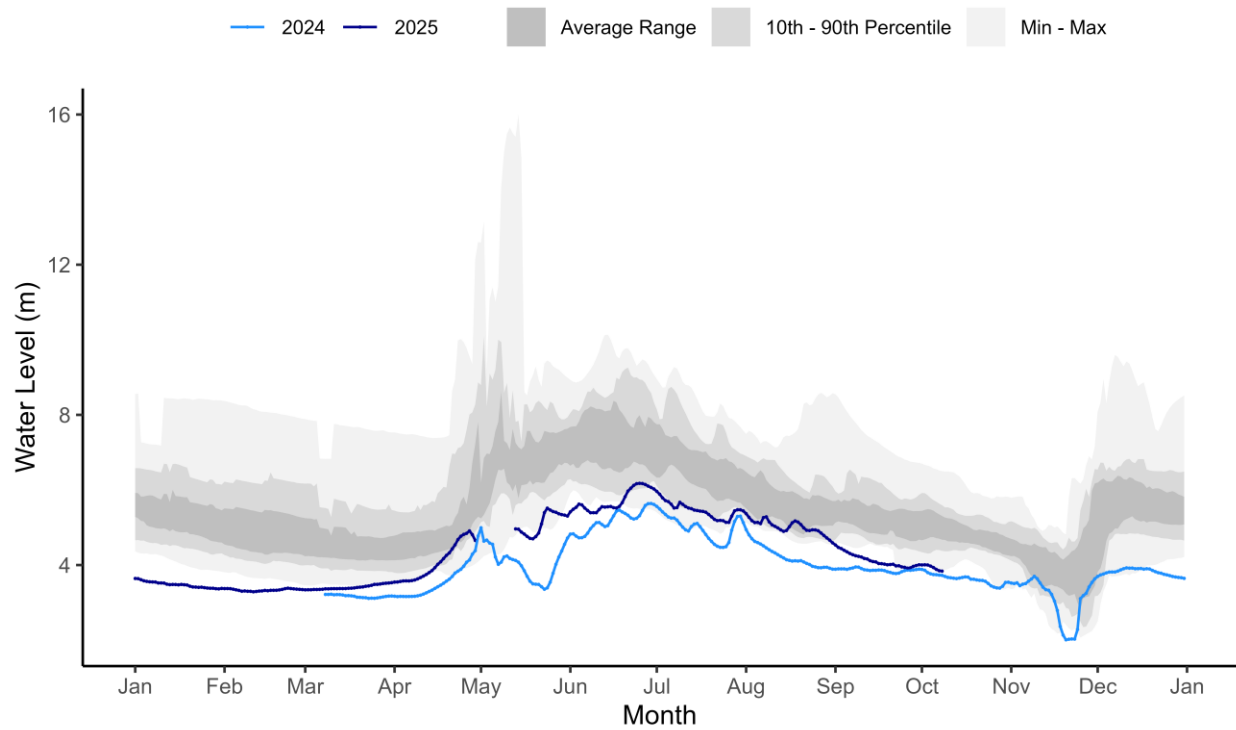
Liard River at Fort Liard [10ED001]



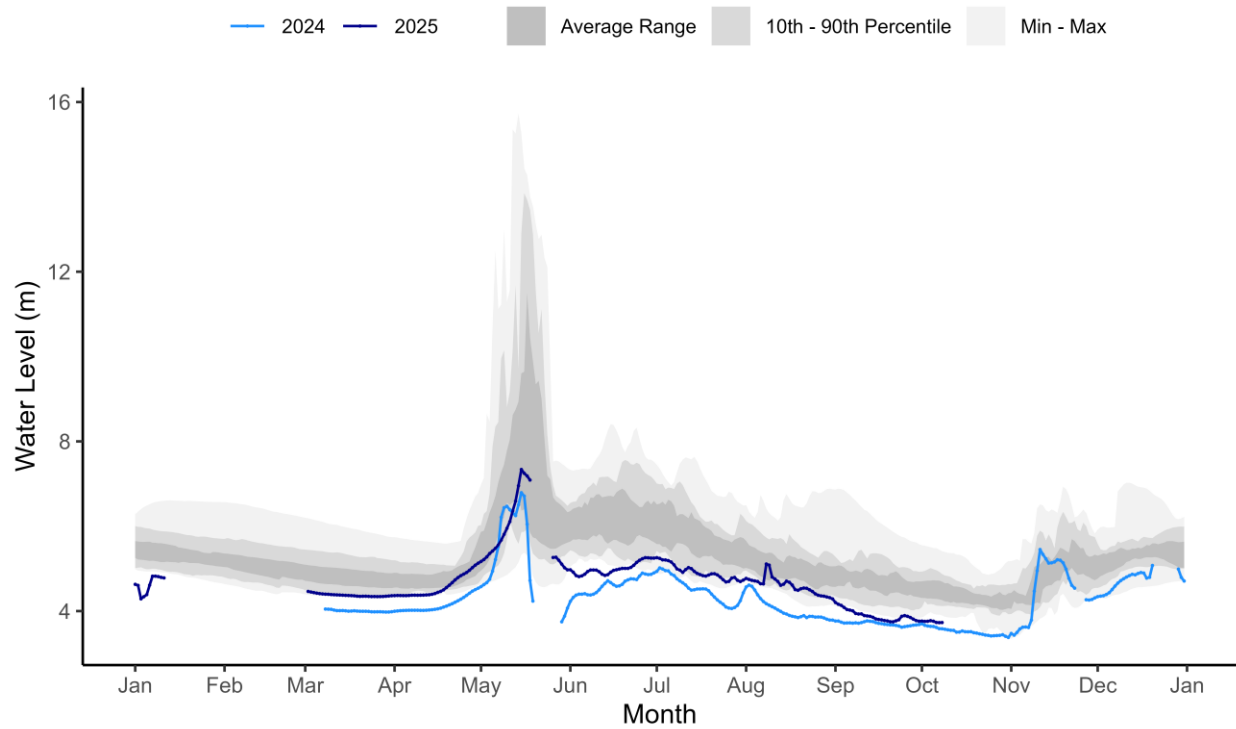
Liard River near the mouth [10ED002]



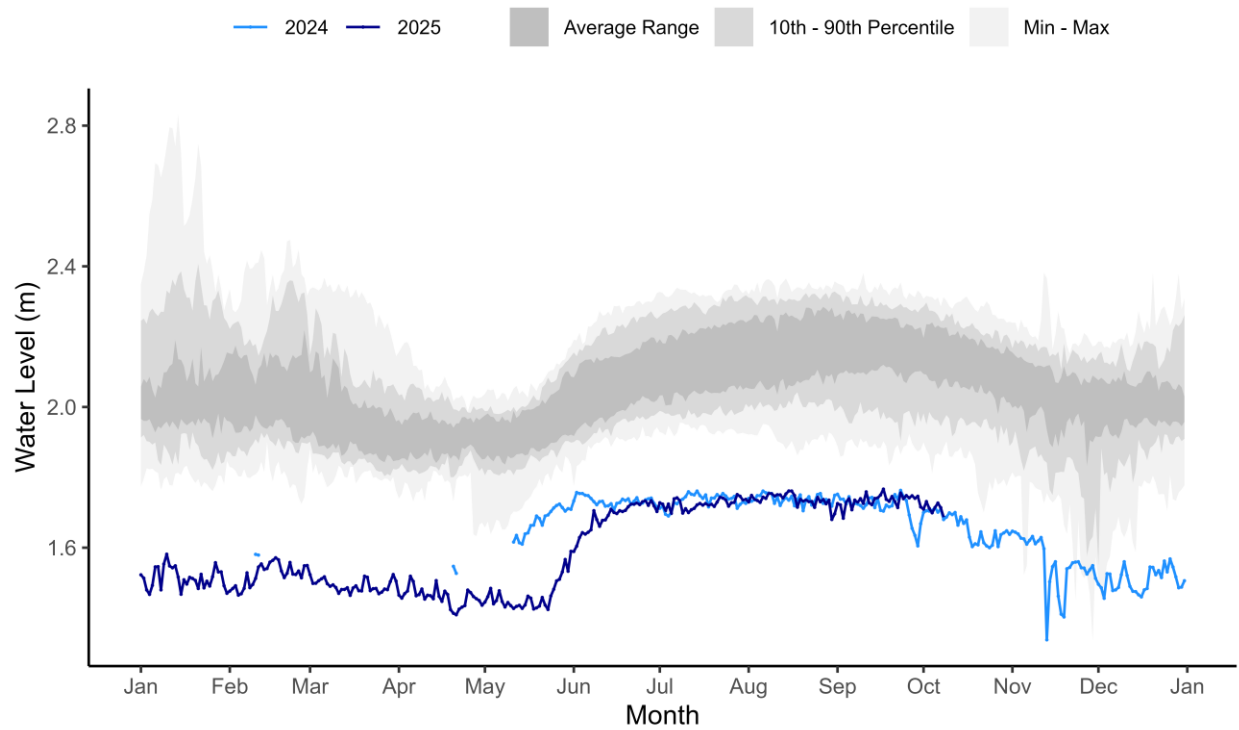
Mackenzie River at Fort Simpson [10GC001]



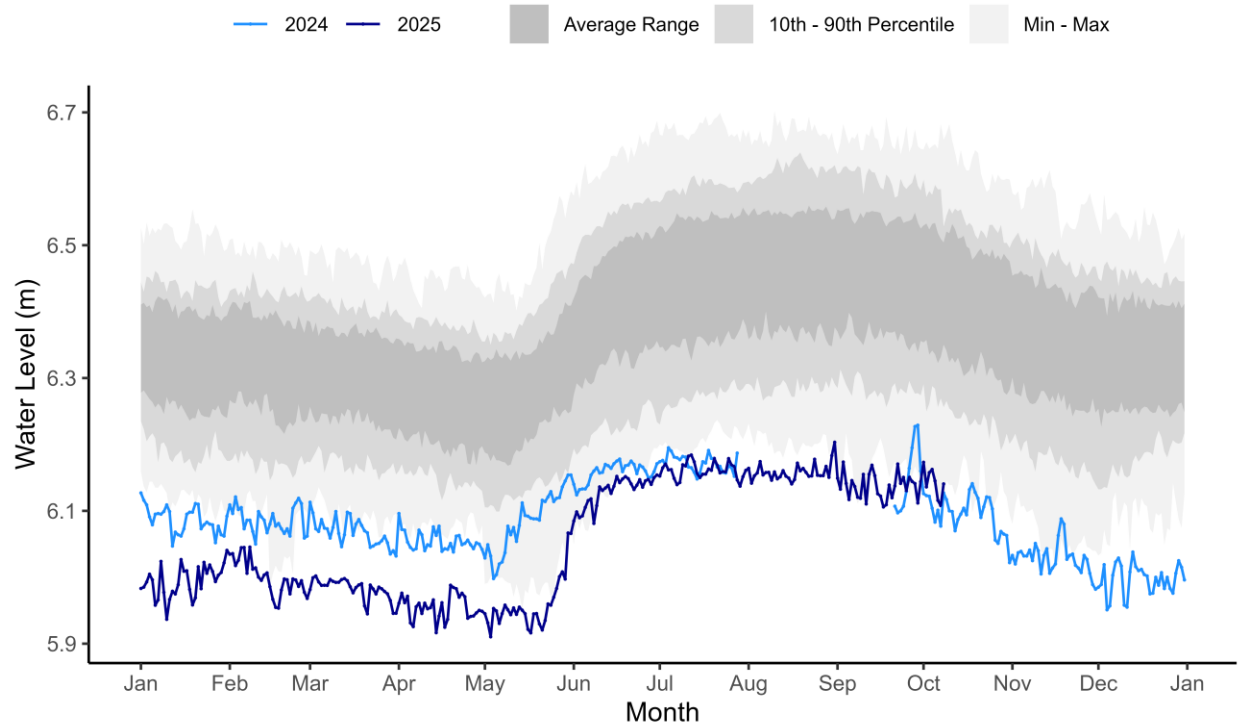
Mackenzie River at Norman Wells [10KA001]



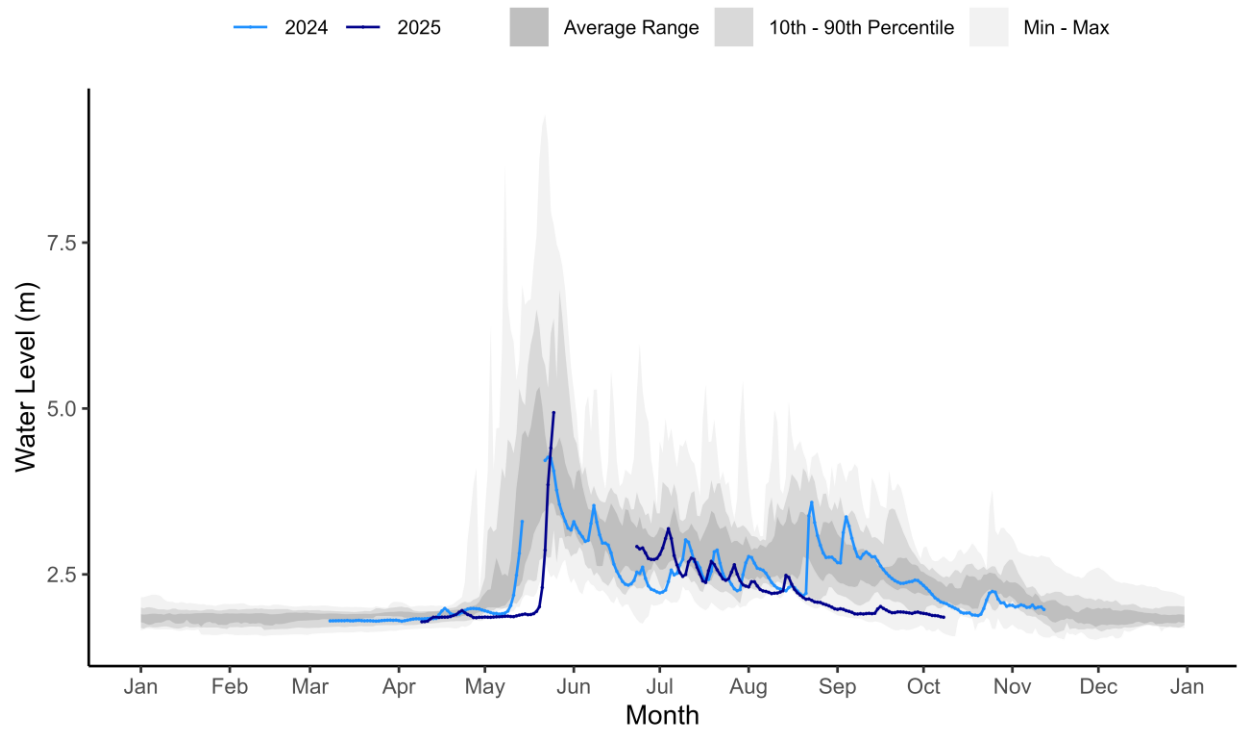
Great Bear River at outlet of Great Bear Lake [10JC003]



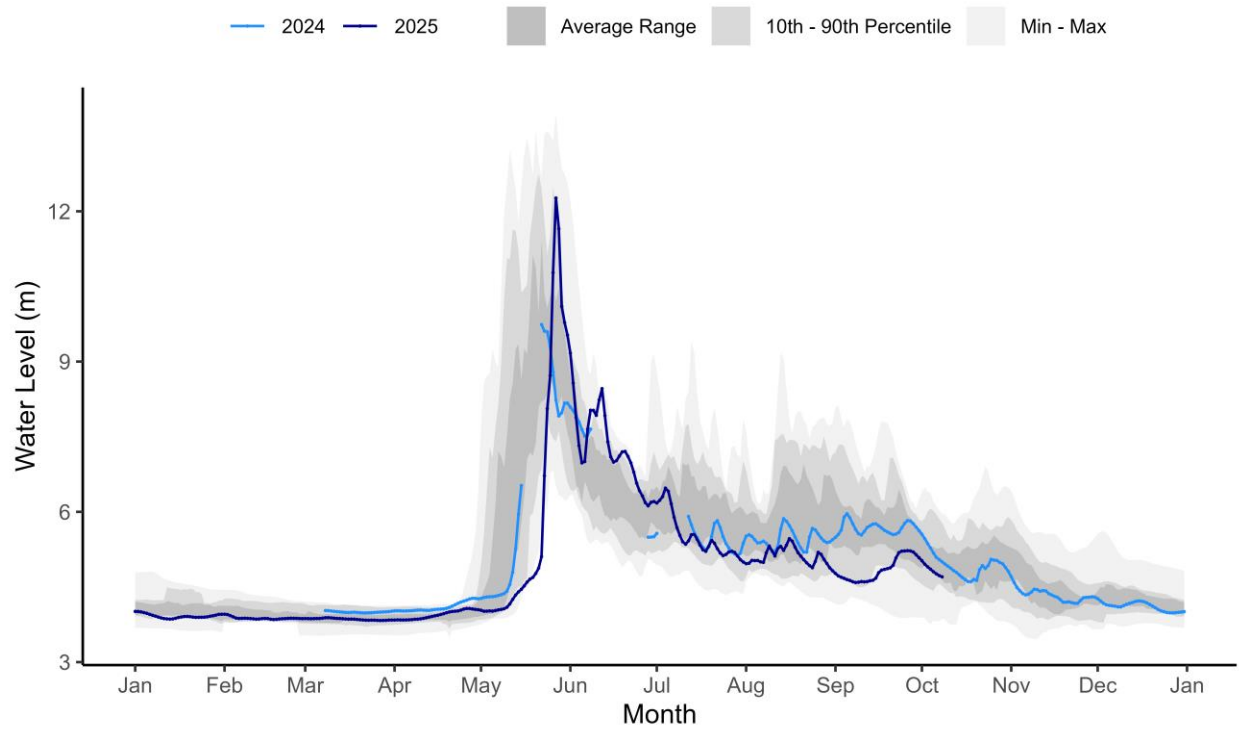
Great Bear Lake at Hornby Bay [10JE002]



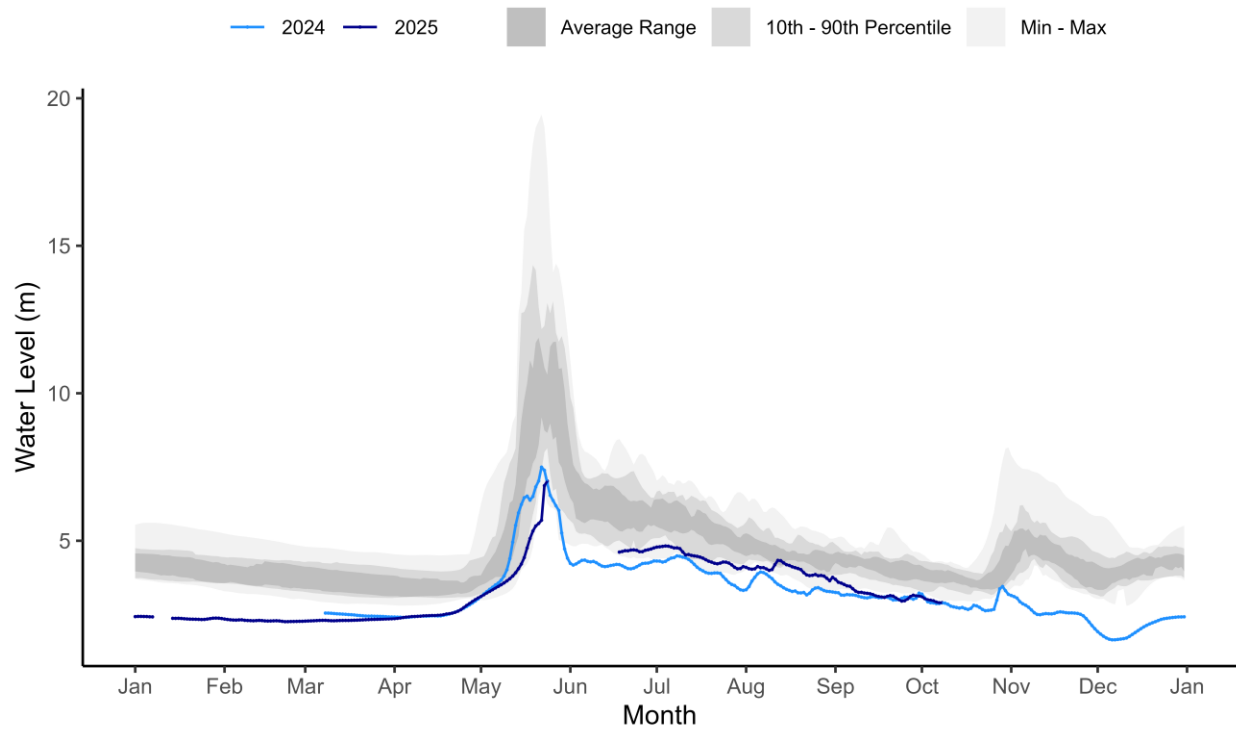
Arctic Red River near the mouth [10LA002]



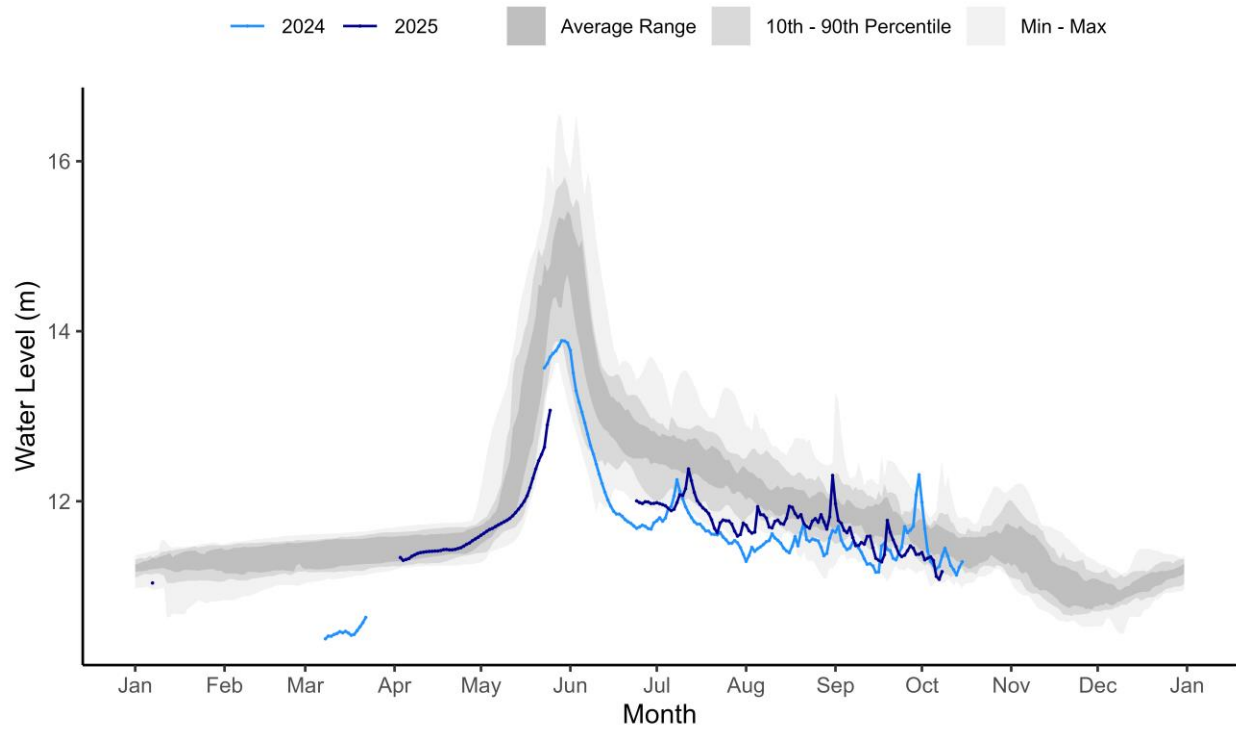
Peel River above Fort McPherson [10MC002]



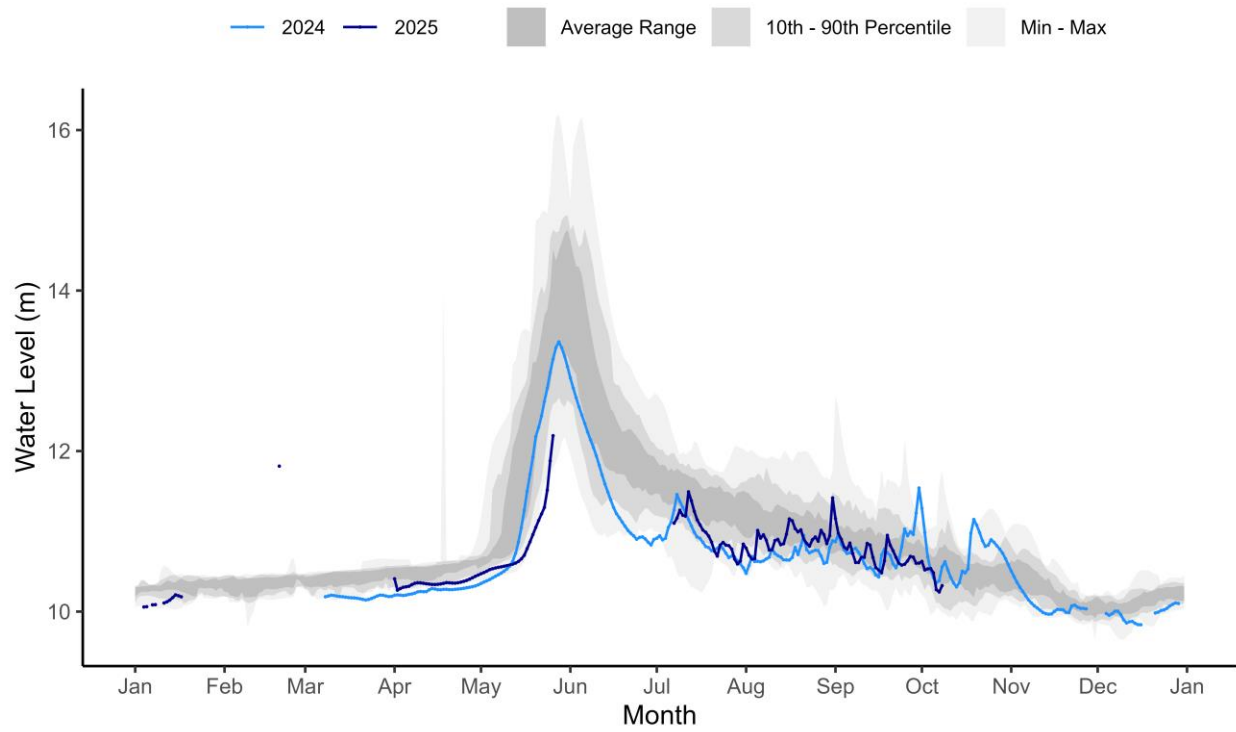
Mackenzie River at Arctic Red River [10LC014]



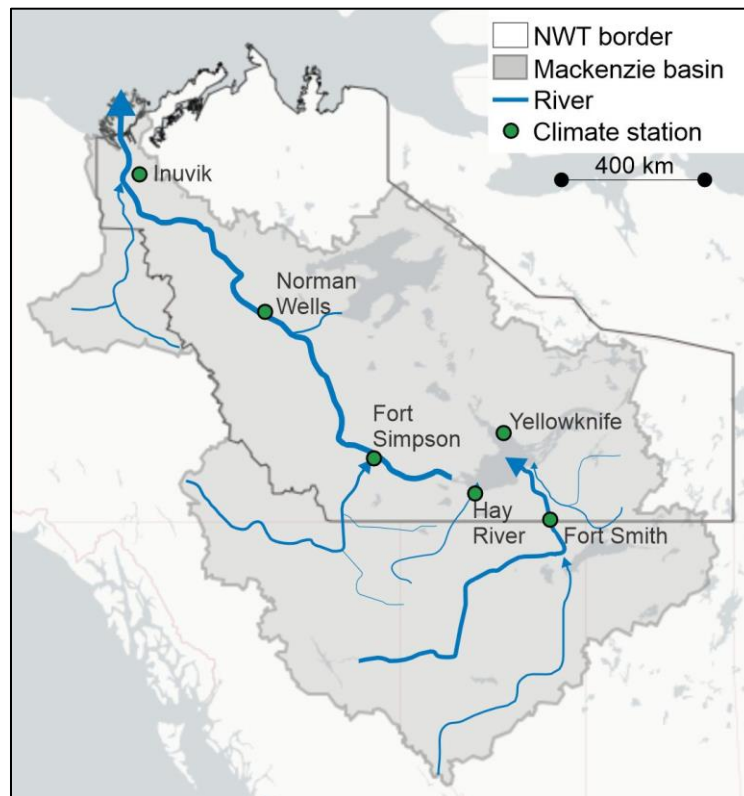
Mackenzie River (East Channel) at Inuvik [10LC002]



Mackenzie River (Peel Channel) above Aklavik [10MC003]

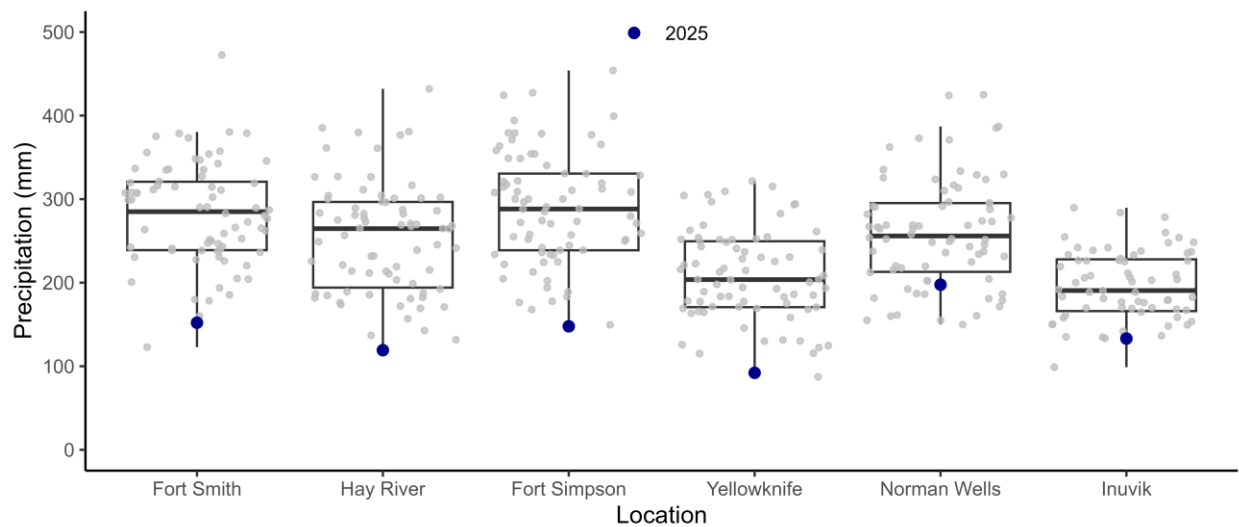


Climate Data NWT communities



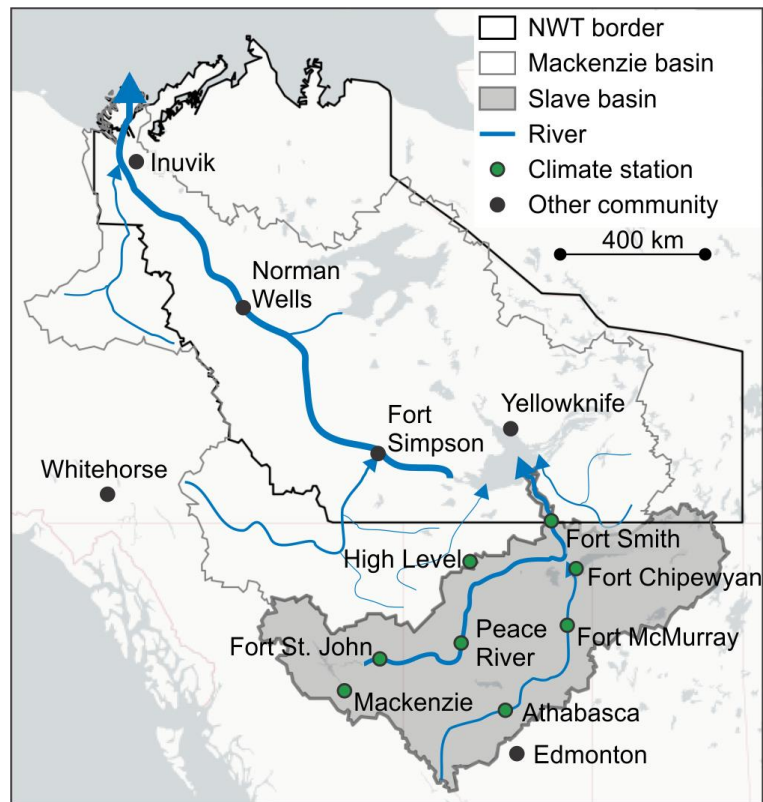
Cumulative precipitation for select NWT communities

April 1st 2025 to Oct 8nd 2025



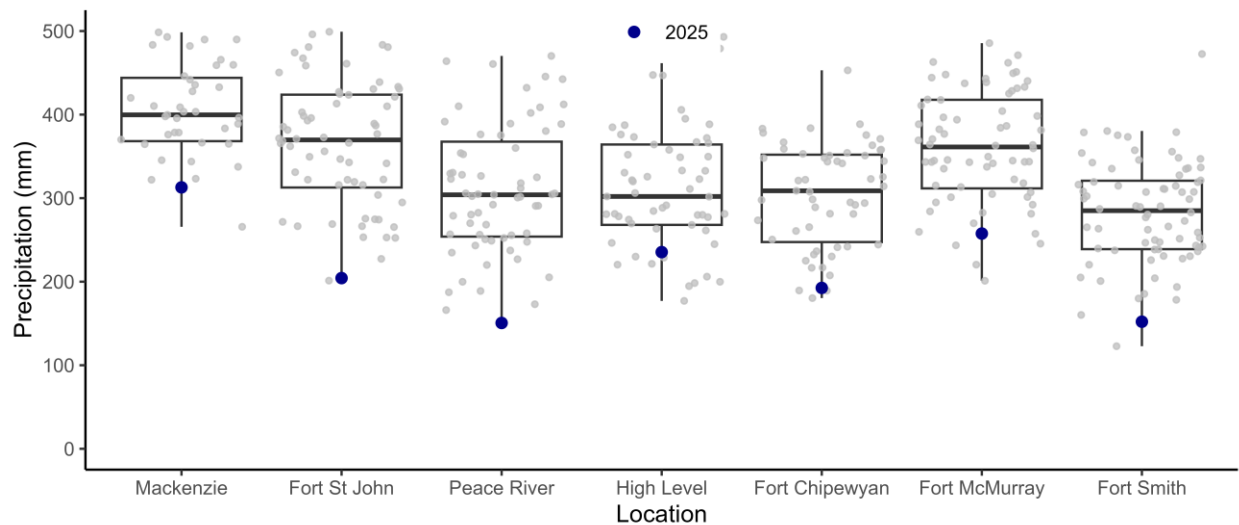
This figure shows total precipitation (rain and snow) that has fallen in select communities across the NWT from the start of April until October 8th. The blue dot is the current year, and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present. See the map above for geographical context.

Slave River basin communities



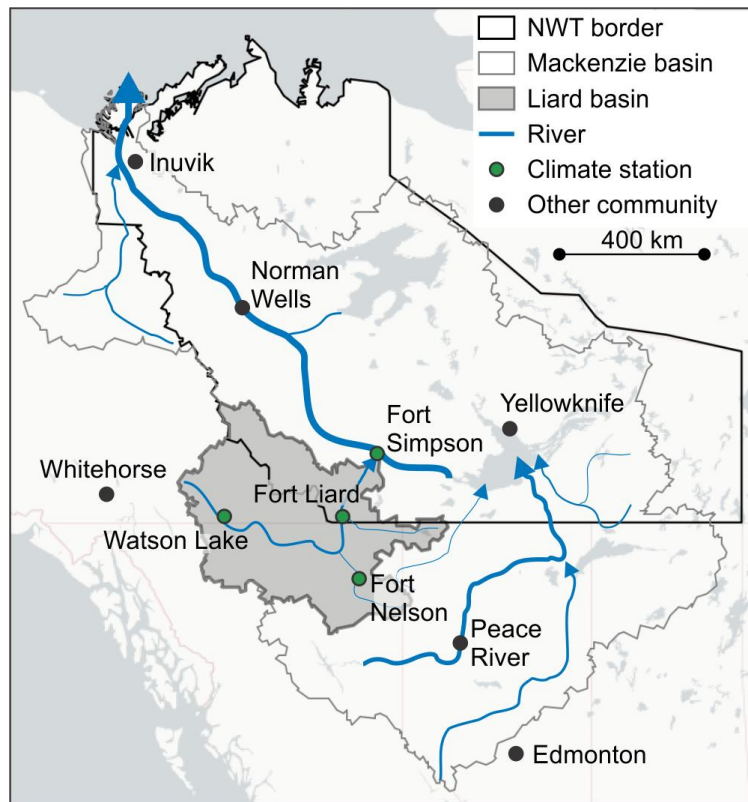
Cumulative precipitation for AB/BC/NWT communities in the Slave River basin

April 1st 2025 to Oct 8nd 2025



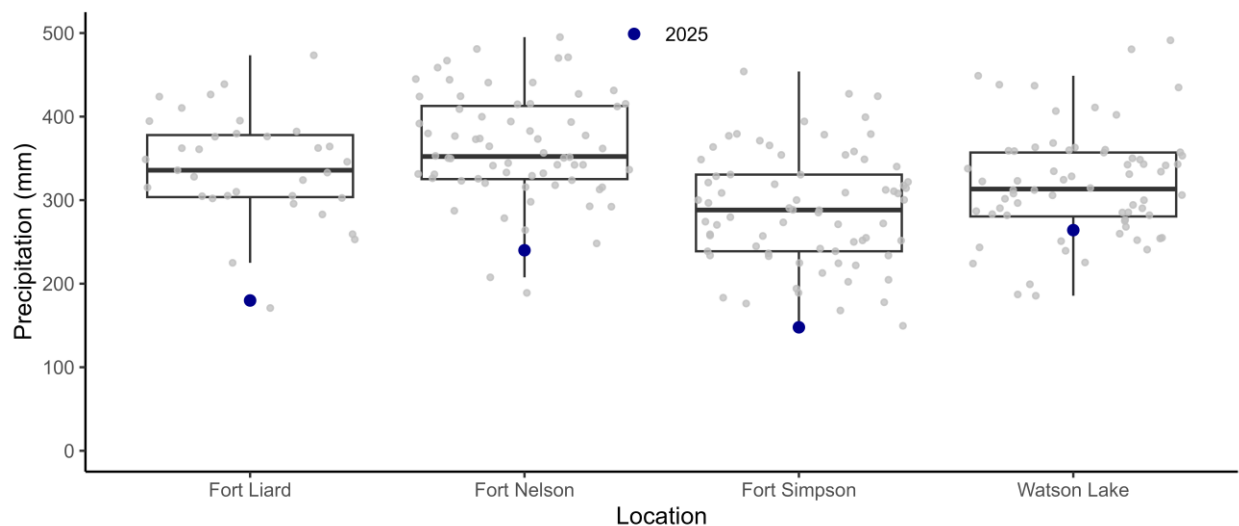
This figure shows total precipitation (rain and snow) that has fallen in select communities in the Slave River basin from the start of April until October 8th. The blue dot is the current year, and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present. See the map above for geographical context.

Liard River basin communities



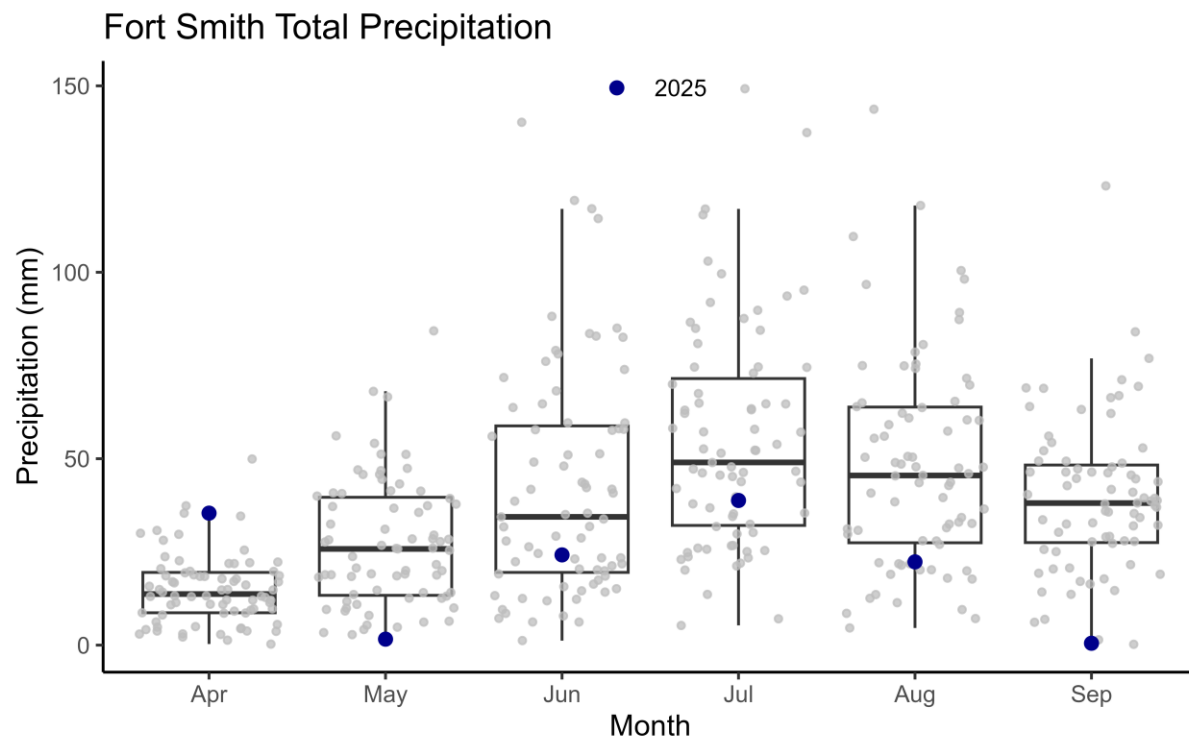
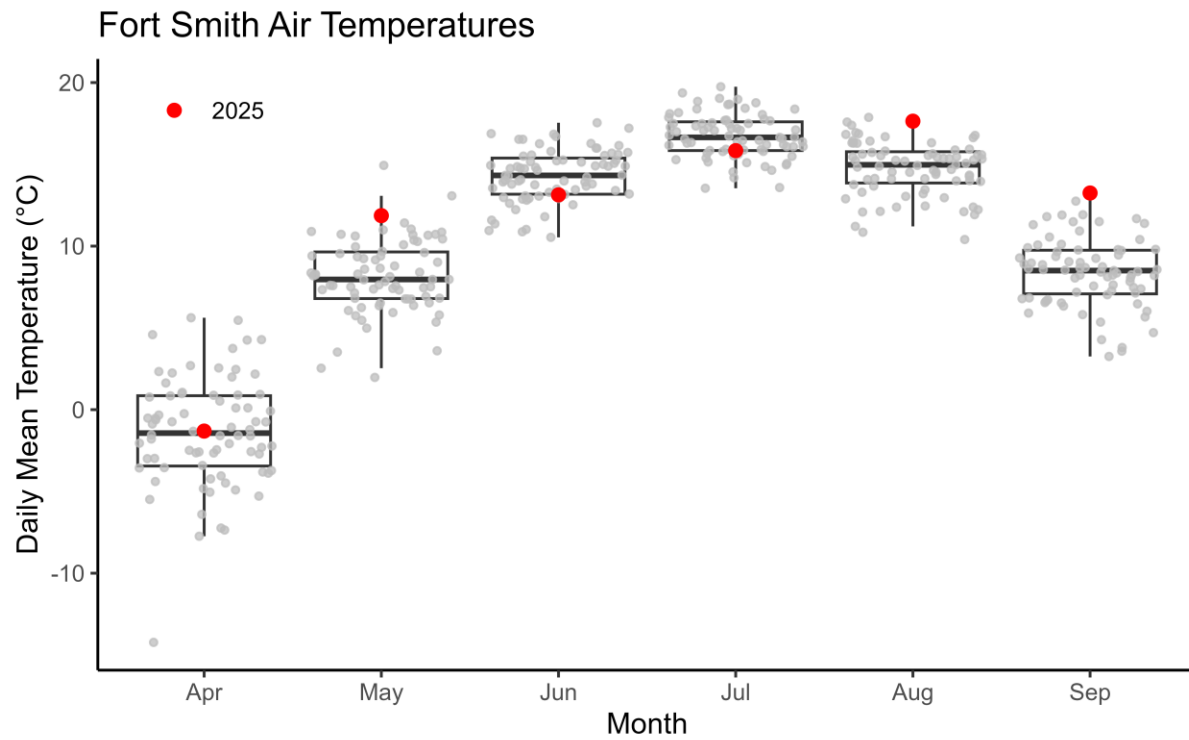
Cumulative precipitation for BC/NWT communities in the Liard River basin

April 1st 2025 to Oct 8nd 2025



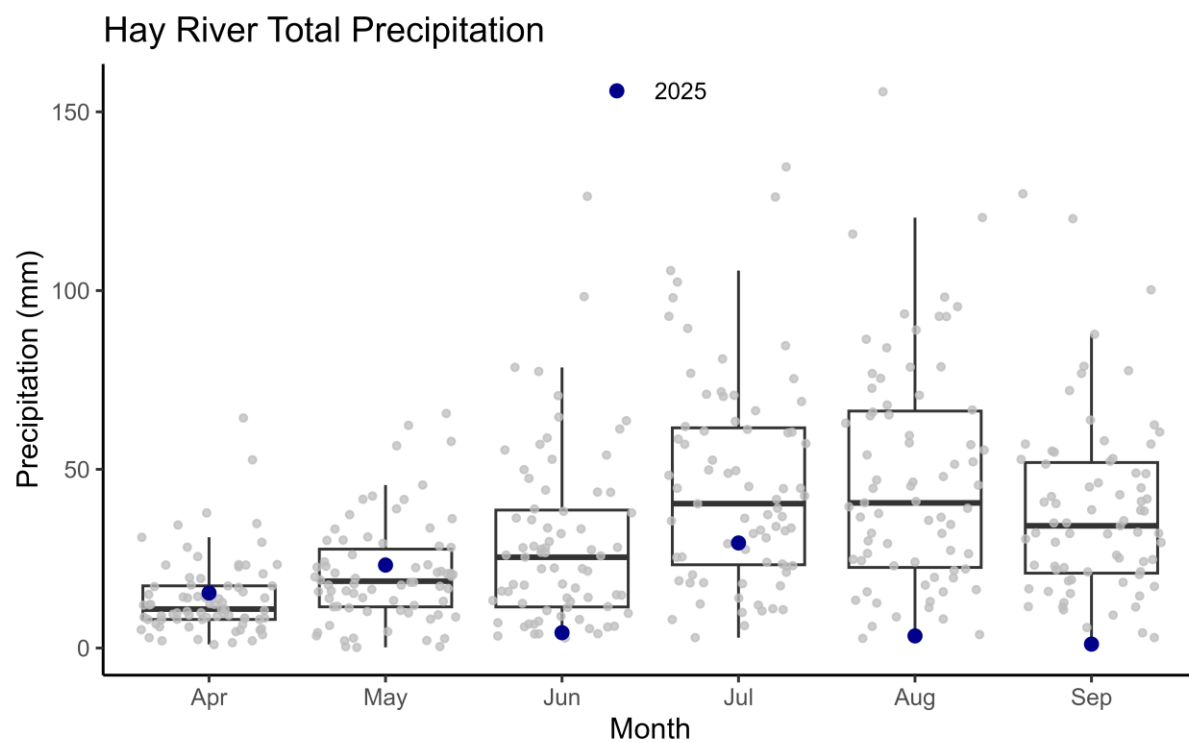
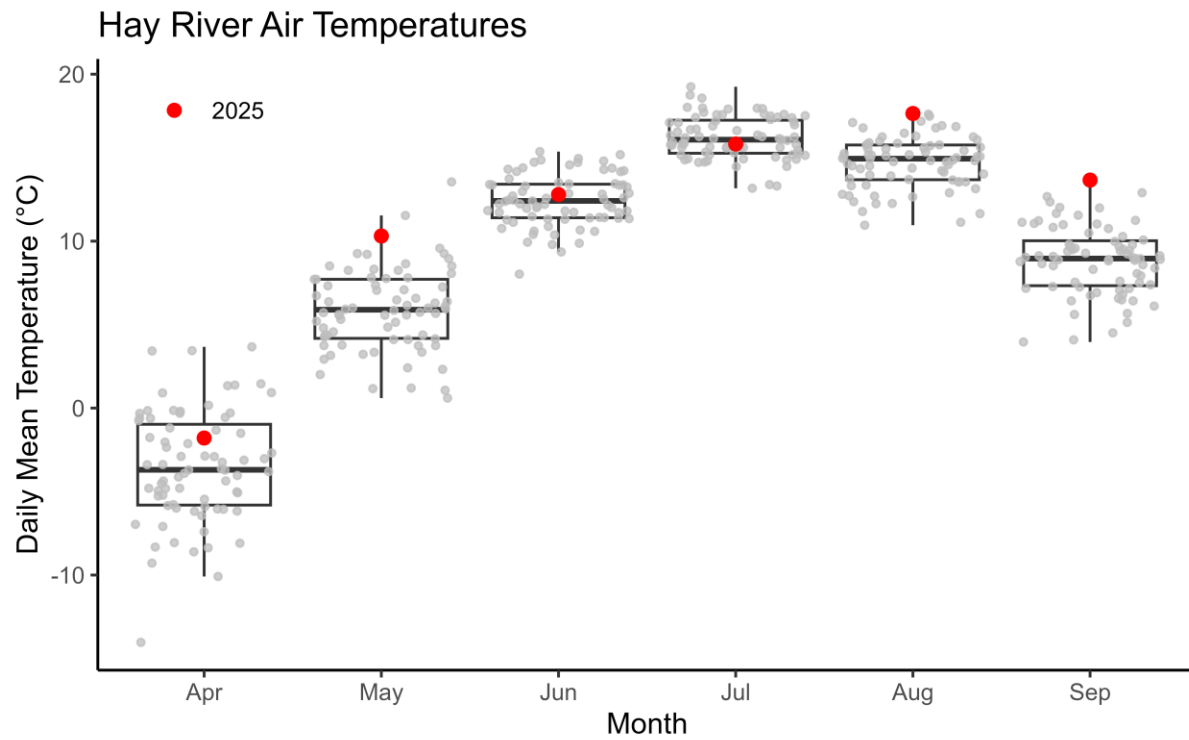
This figure shows total precipitation (rain and snow) that has fallen in select communities in the Liard River basin from the start of April until October 8th. The blue dot is the current year, and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present. See the map above for geographical context.

Fort Smith



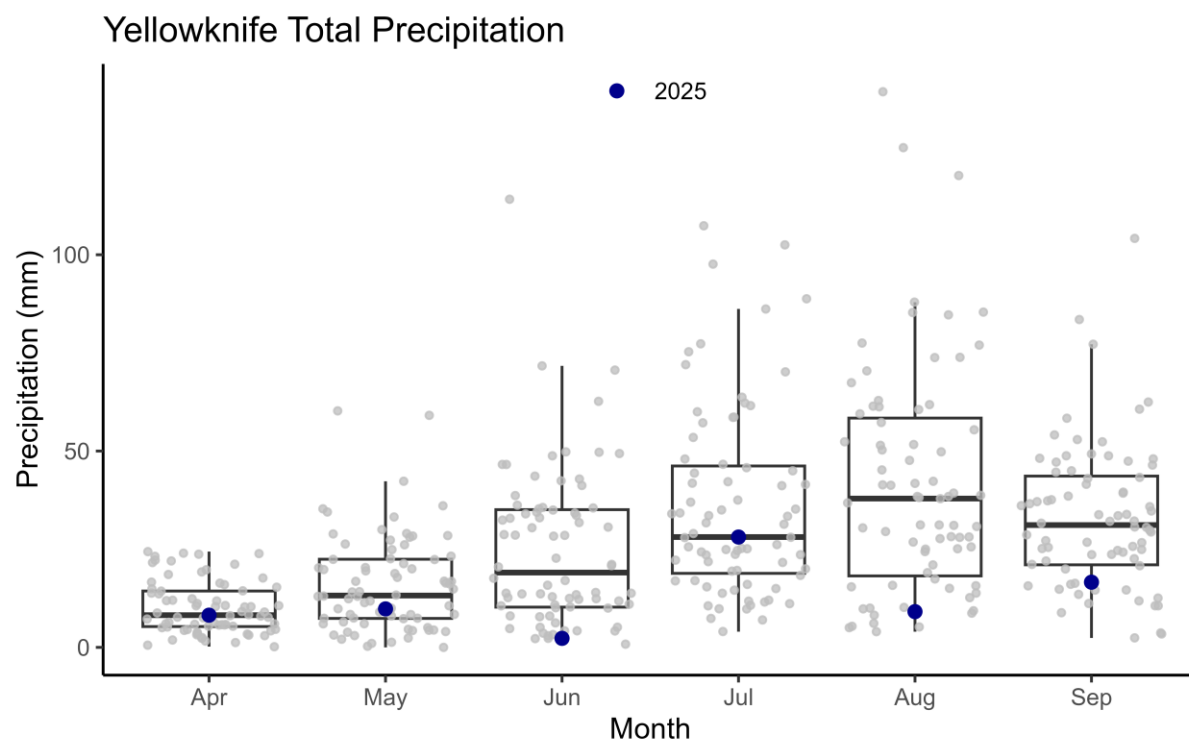
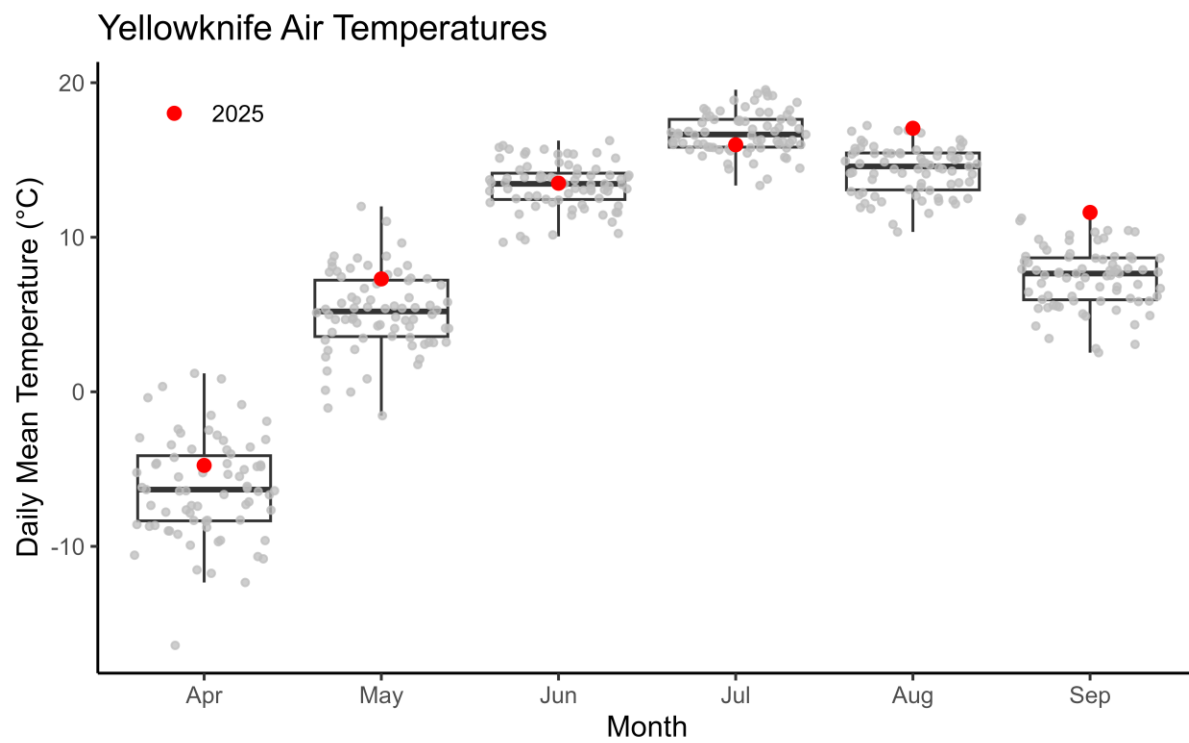
This figure shows mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for 2025.

Hay River



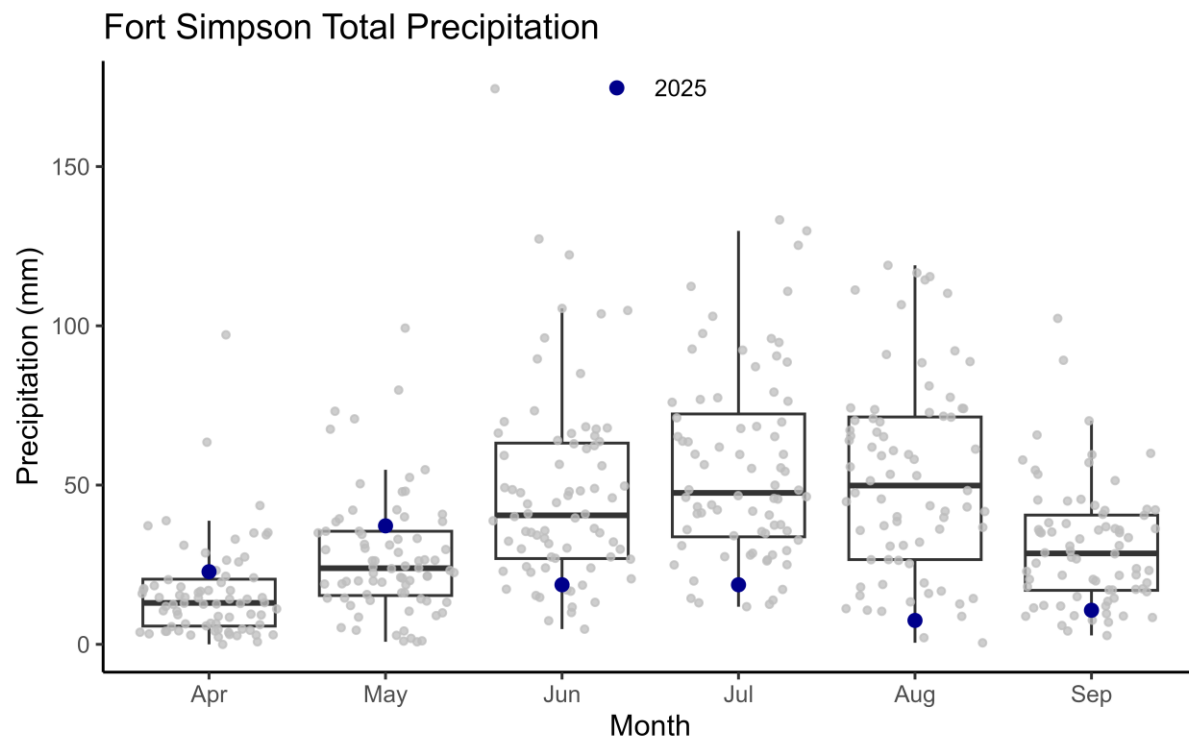
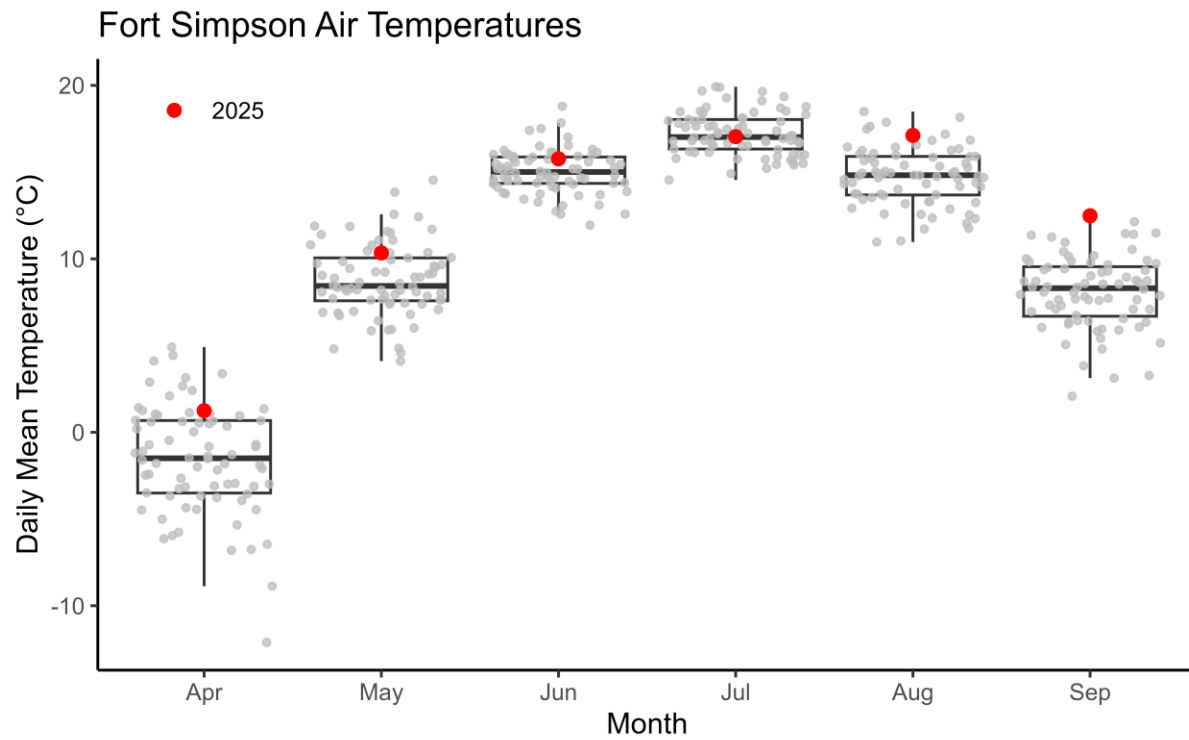
This figure shows mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for 2025.

Yellowknife



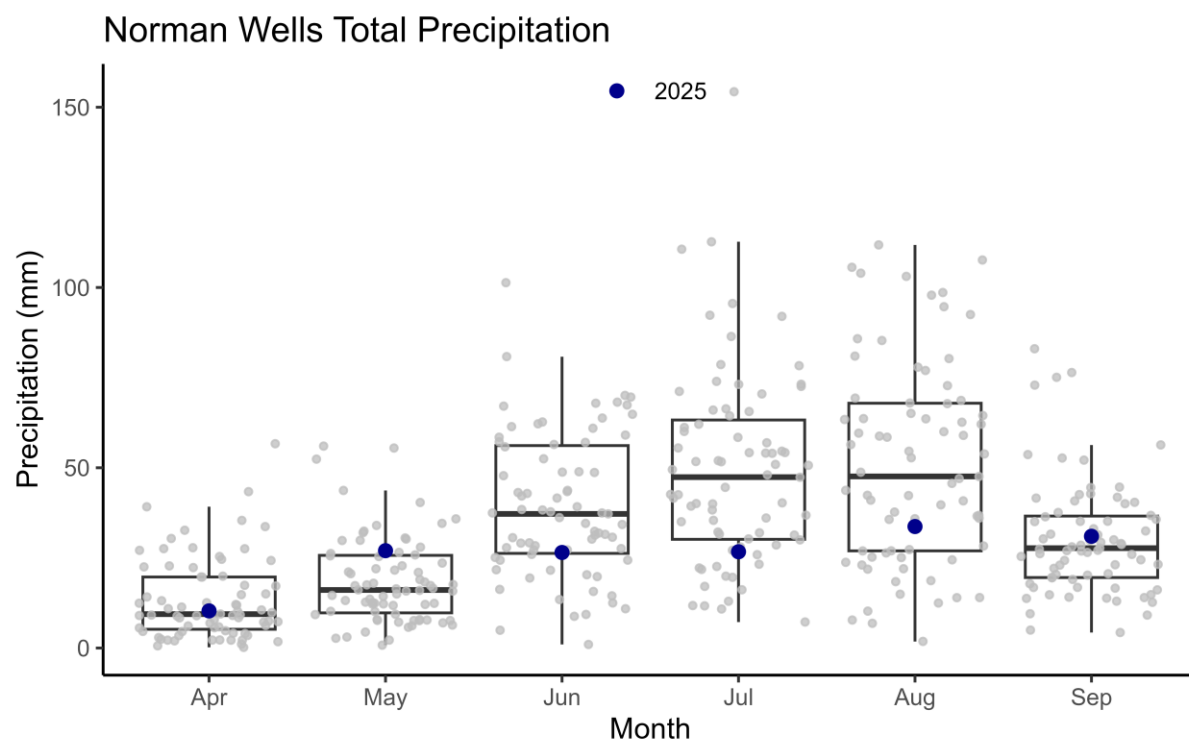
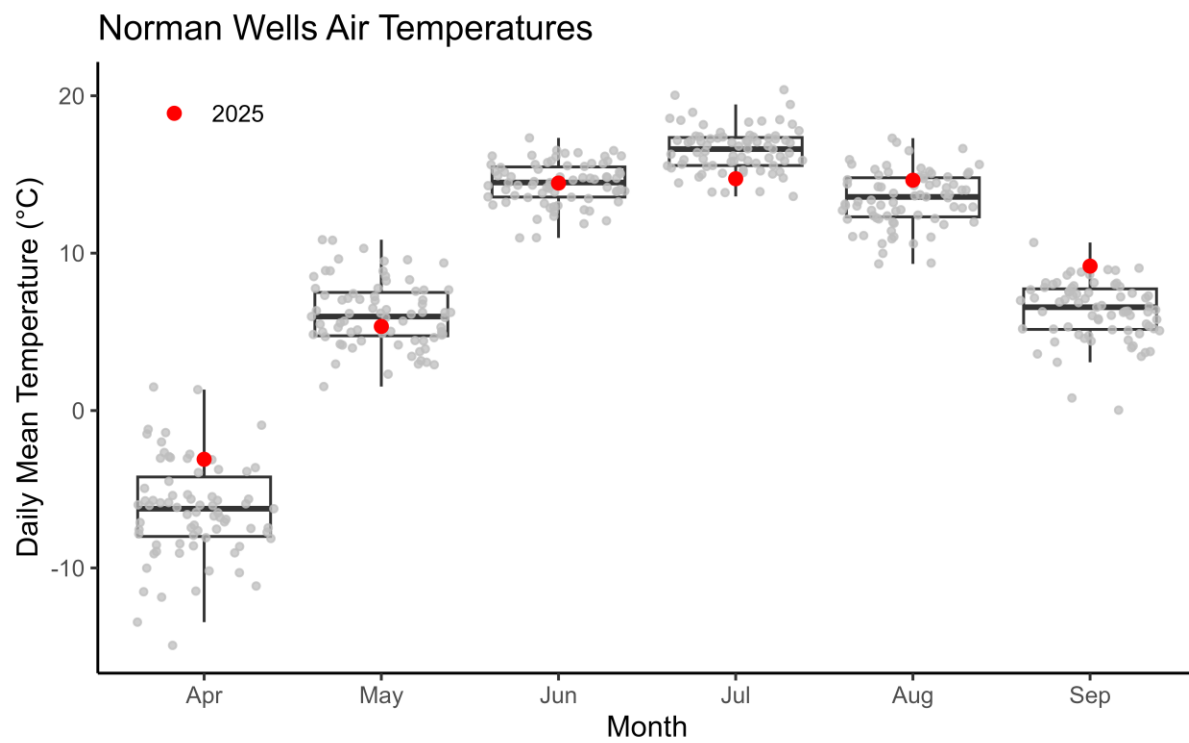
This figure shows mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for 2025.

Fort Simpson



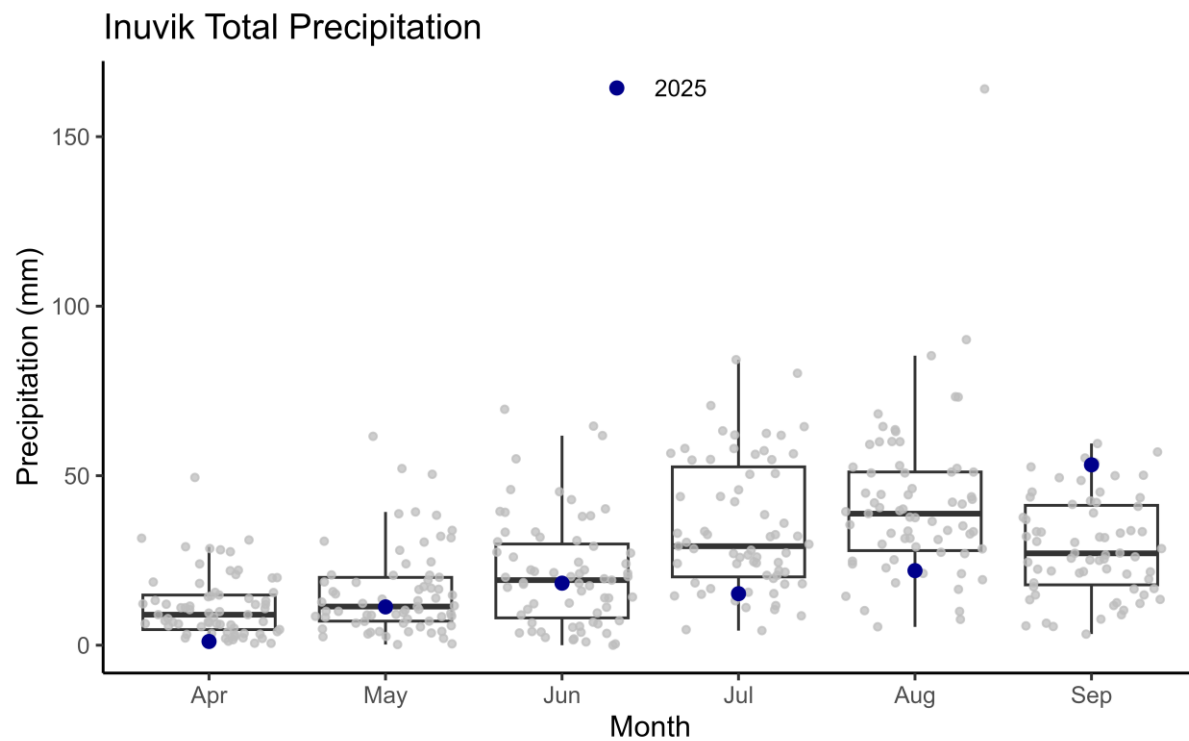
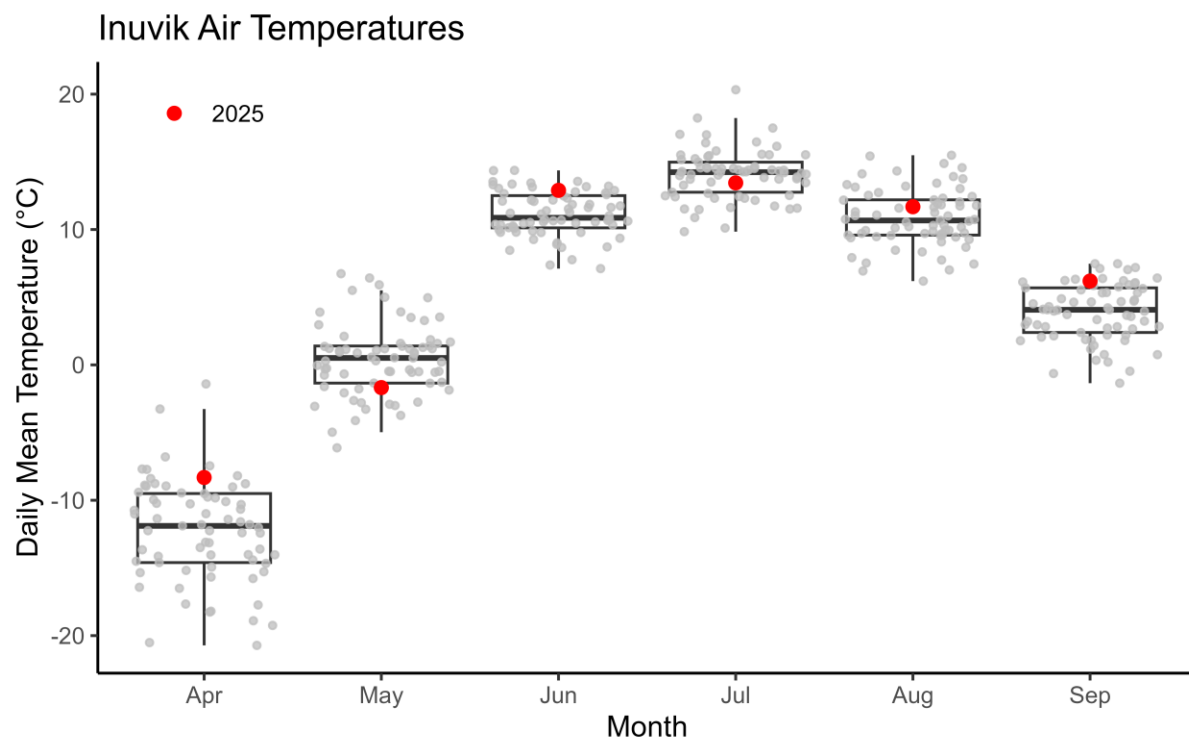
This figure shows mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for 2025.

Norman Wells



This figure shows mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for 2025.

Inuvik



This figure shows mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for 2025.