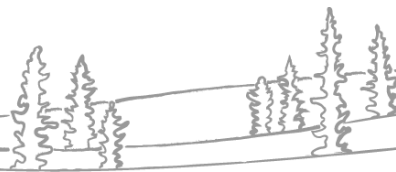




NWT Water Monitoring Bulletin – September 15th, 2025

Bulletin sur la surveillance des eaux des TNO du 15 septembre 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.

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 and has been slowly decreasing since end of April 2025, as is normal for this time of year.
 - 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:
 - South Nahanni River (average)
 - Some smaller rivers in the Great Slave Lake basin, including:
 - Snare River (average)
 - Lockhart River (average)
 - Hoarfrost River (above average)
 - Taltson River (above average)
- Low water levels are the result of extreme drought conditions that began in the summer of 2022 and have persisted through 2023 and 2024. Water levels have since shown some recovery, but this has mostly been limited to small rivers and lakes.
- **August precipitation** across the NWT was mostly well below average.
- **August temperatures** across the NWT were mostly well above average.
- Water levels on Great Slave Lake and the Mackenzie River for this coming fall will be impacted by rainfall amounts in upstream basins, particularly in northern Alberta and British Columbia.
 - So far this year, cumulative rainfall in these areas – as observed at the communities of High Level, Peace River, Fort Chipewyan, Fort Nelson and Fort St John – has been below to well-below average.
- Climate forecasts from ECCC show a high likelihood (70–90%) of warmer-than-normal temperatures across most of the NWT in September, with lower confidence

(~40%) for October. For precipitation, September forecasts indicate a 50% chance of above-average amounts in central NWT and stronger confidence for above-average precipitation across the Inuvialuit Settlement Region.

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.

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 bien inférieur à la moyenne et baisse lentement depuis la fin du mois d'avril 2025, ce qui est normal pour cette période de l'année.
 - 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.

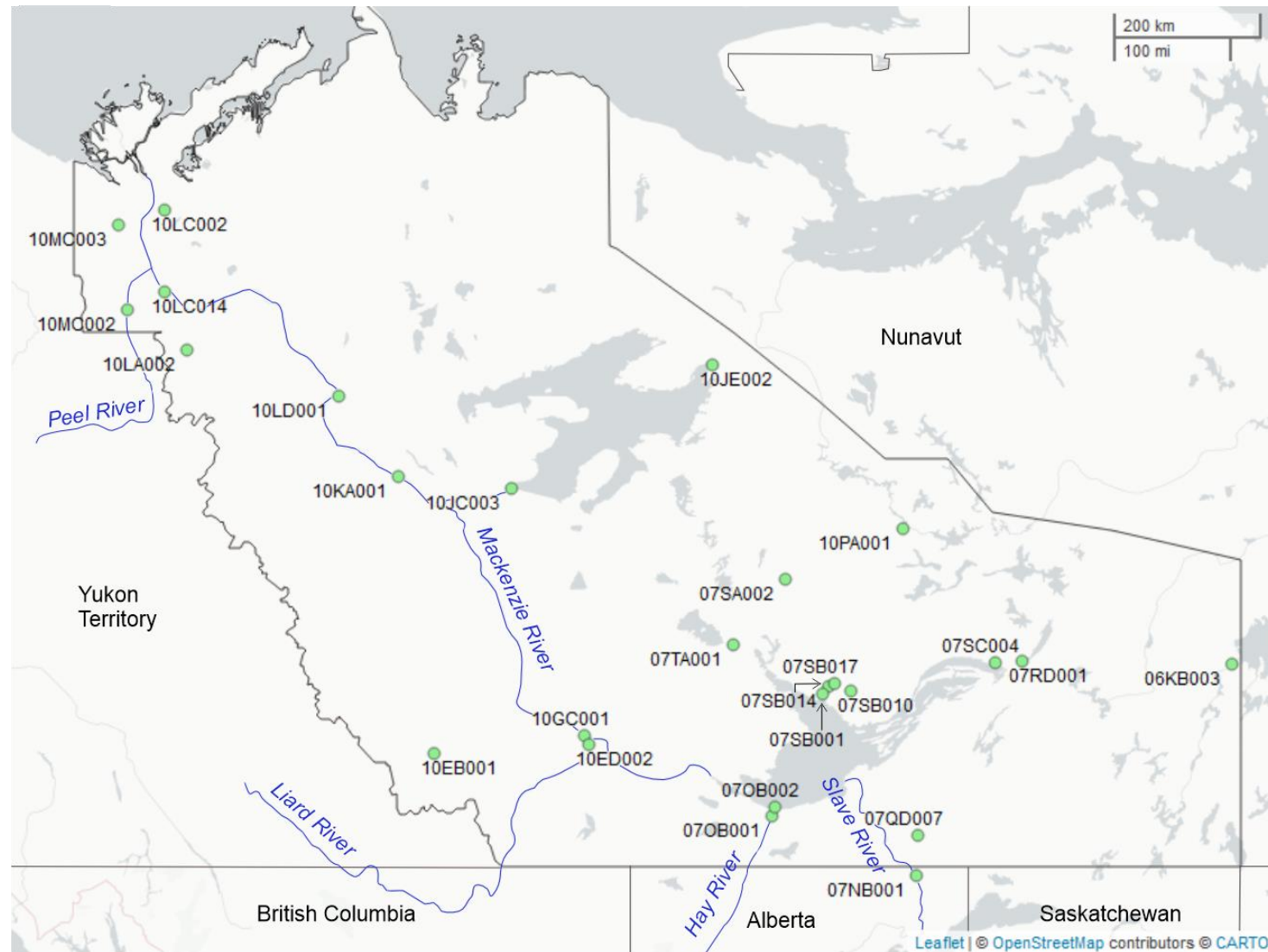
- Le niveau d'eau du Grand lac de l'Ours demeure le plus bas enregistré à cette période de l'année, et le débit enregistré le long de la rivière Great Bear est bien inférieur à la moyenne pour cette période de l'année.
- Exceptions aux faibles niveaux d'eau et aux faibles débits :
 - Rivière Nahanni Sud (correspondent à la normale)
 - De plus petites rivières dans le bassin du Grand lac des Esclaves, notamment :
 - Rivière Snare (correspondent à la normale)
 - Rivière Lockhart (correspondent à la normale)
 - Rivière Hoarfrost (supérieurs à la normale)
 - Rivière Taltson (supérieurs à la normale)
- 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 et 2024. Depuis, les niveaux d'eau se sont quelque peu rétablis, mais cela s'est surtout limité aux petites rivières et aux lacs.
- **Les précipitations en août** à l'échelle des TNO ont été généralement bien inférieures à la moyenne.
- **Les températures en août** à l'échelle des TNO ont été généralement bien supérieures à la moyenne.
- Pour l'automne, les niveaux d'eau du Grand lac des Esclaves et du fleuve Mackenzie seront influencés par les précipitations tombées dans les bassins en amont, particulièrement ceux du nord de l'Alberta et de la Colombie-Britannique.
 - Jusqu'à présent cette année, les précipitations cumulées dans ces secteurs – comme celles observées dans les collectivités de High Level, de Peace River, de Fort Chipewyan, de Fort Nelson et de Fort St. John – ont été inférieures à la moyenne, voire bien inférieures.
- Les prévisions climatiques du MECC indiquent une forte probabilité (de 70 à 90 %) de températures supérieures à la normale saisonnière dans la majeure partie des TNO en septembre, avec un degré de confiance moindre (environ 40 %) pour le mois d'octobre. En ce qui concerne les précipitations, les prévisions pour septembre indiquent une probabilité de 50 % de quantités supérieures à la moyenne dans le centre des TNO et un degré de confiance plus élevé pour des précipitations supérieures à la moyenne à l'échelle de la région désignée des Inuvialuits.

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Hydrometric station map



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

Information on interpreting figures

Water level and flow figures

Note: Additional grey bands have been added to represent the 10th and 90th percentiles.

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.

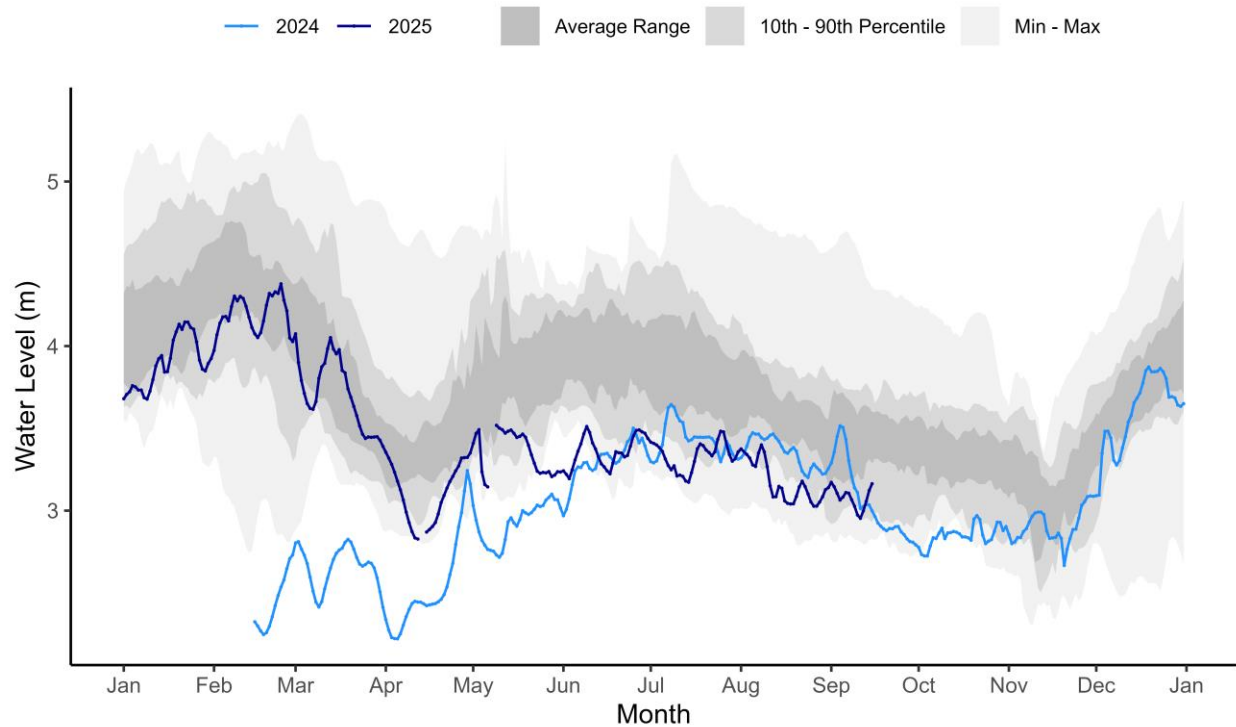
Note: The grey bands are calculated for data prior to 2024. If the line from 2024 or 2025 is above (or below) the grey band, it means that the water level or flow from that year was the highest (or lowest) on record.

Climate figures

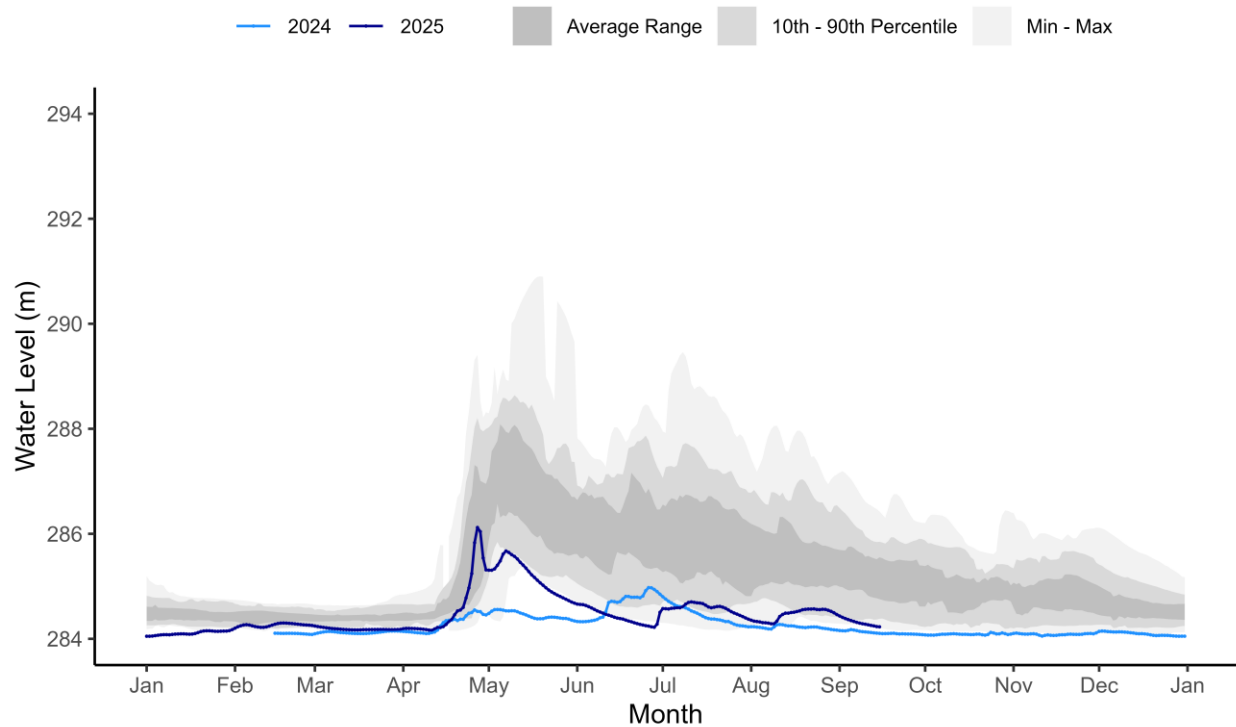
Monthly air temperature and precipitation data are displayed for six communities in the NWT (Fort Smith, Hay River, Yellowknife, Fort Simpson, Norman Wells, and Inuvik) and presented as box and whisker plots. The box in each plot represents the average range (calculated as the interquartile range) for 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

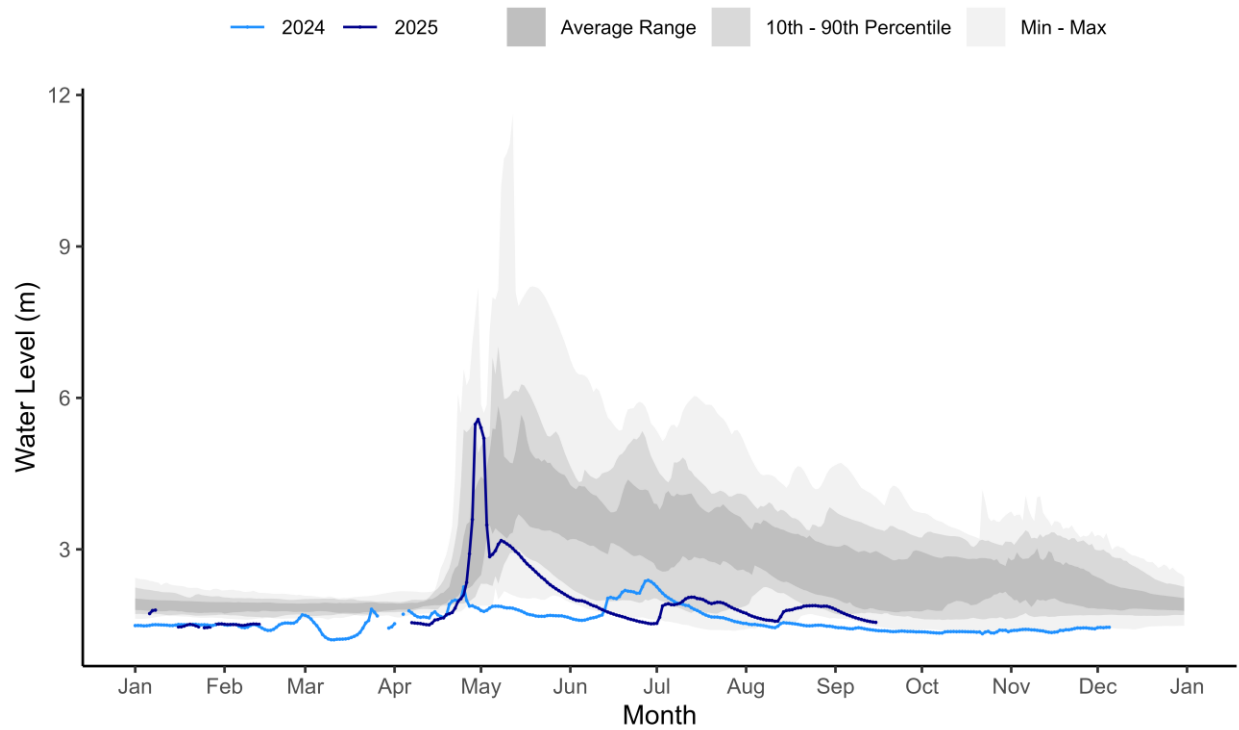
Slave River at Fitzgerald [07NB001]



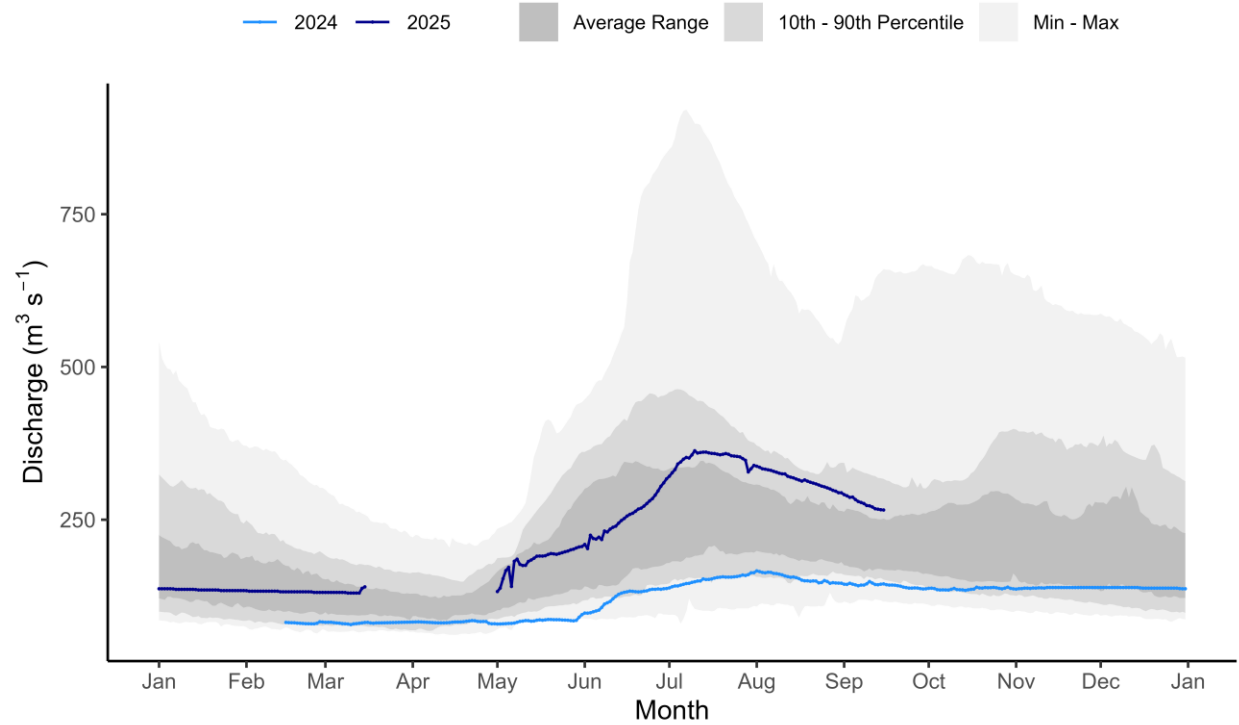
Hay River near Alberta/NWT Boundary [07OB008]



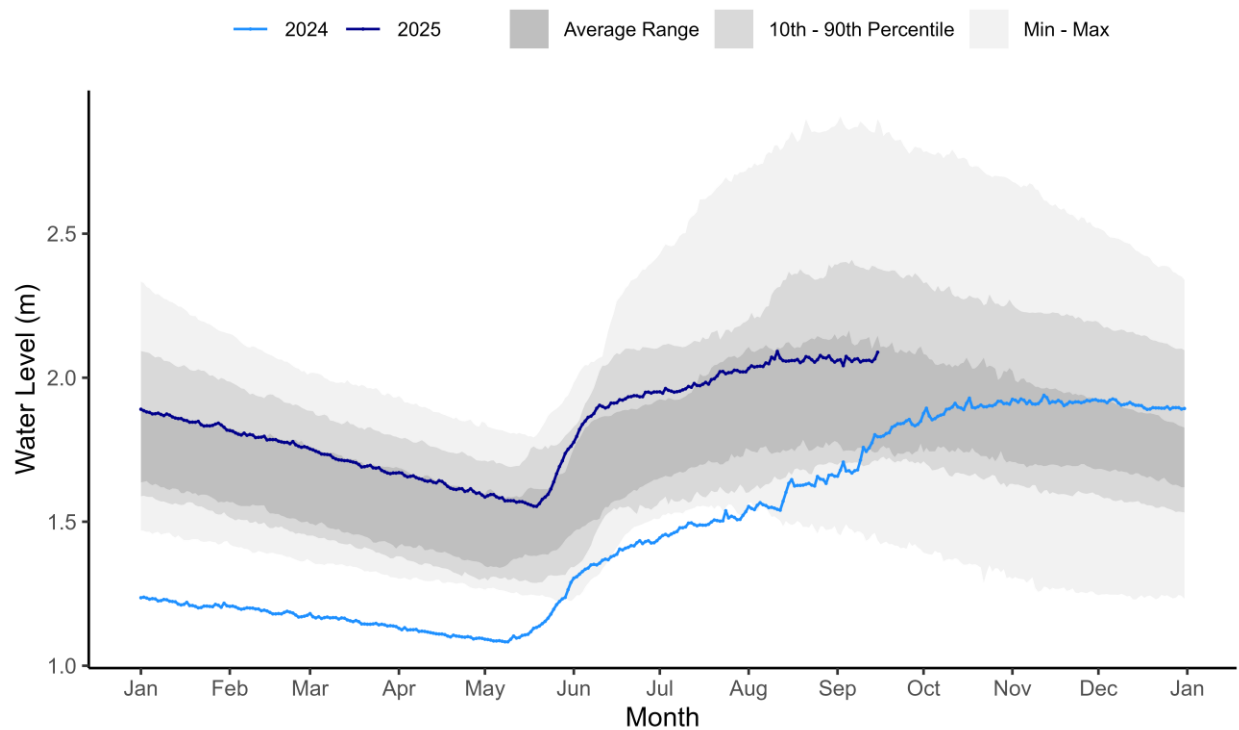
Hay River near Hay River [07OB001]



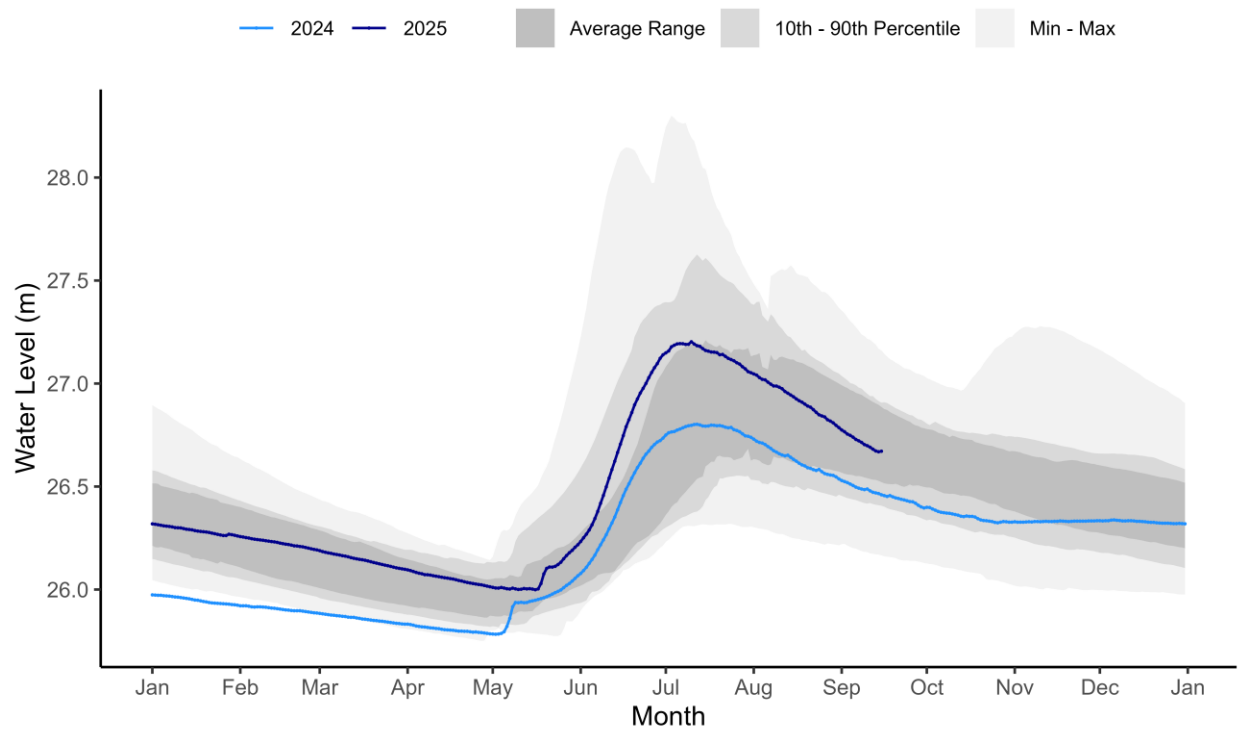
Taltson River below Hydro Dam [07QD007]



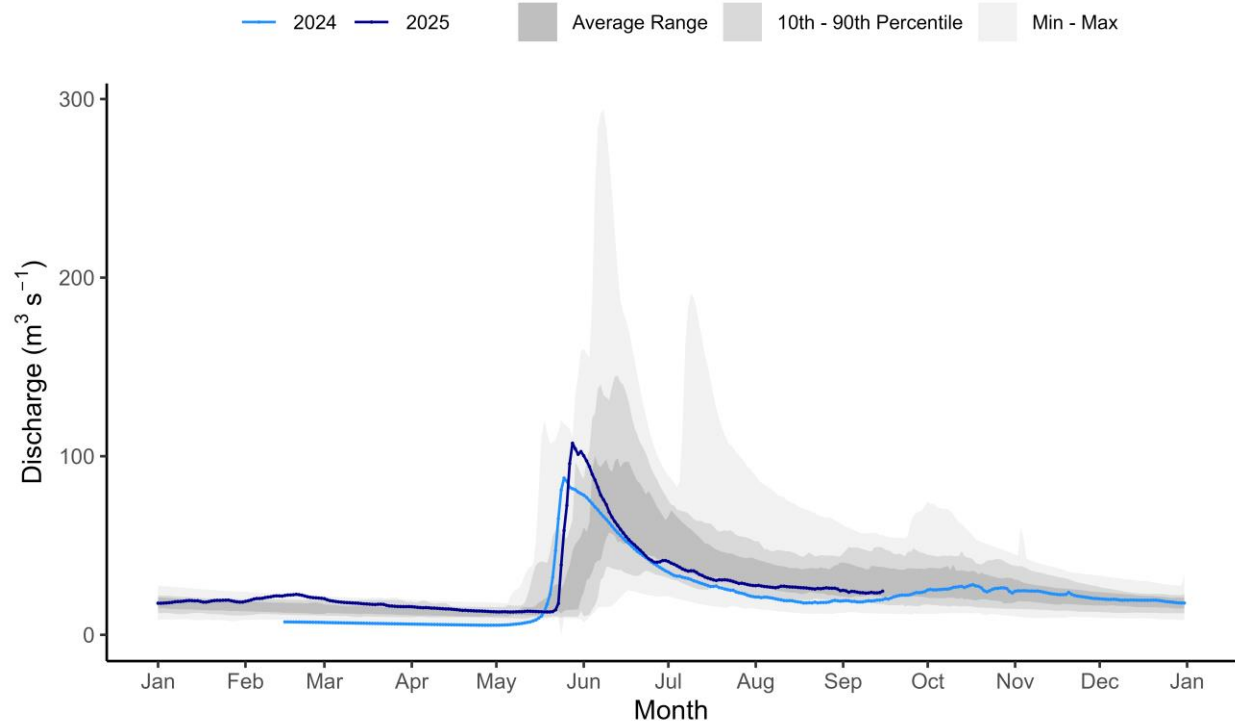
Lockhart River at outlet of Artillery Lake [07RD001]



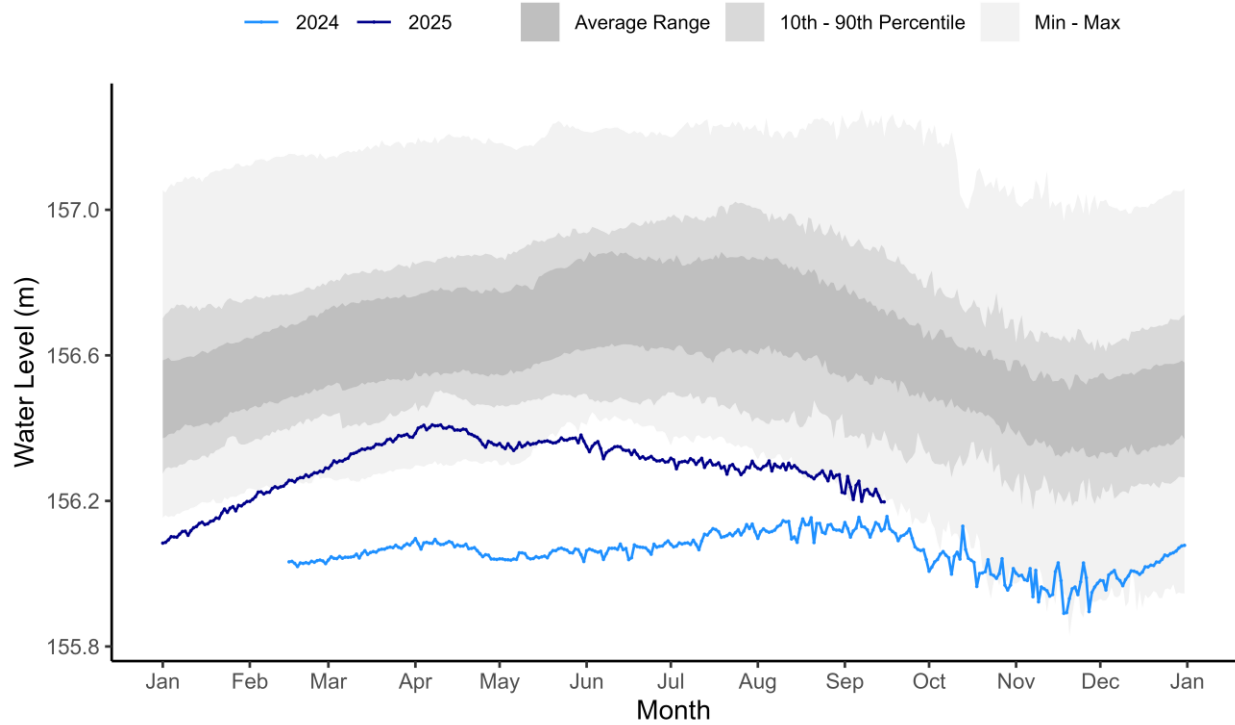
Snare River below Ghost Lake [07SA002]



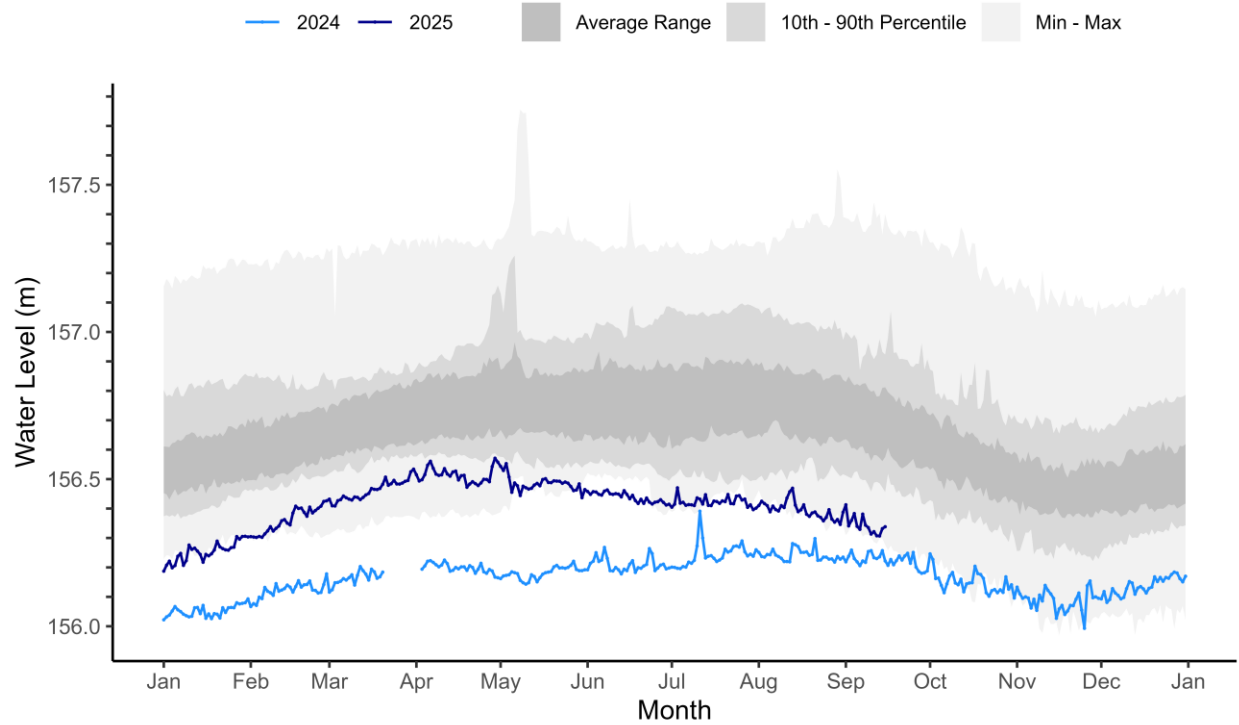
Coppermine River below Desteffany Lake [10PA001]



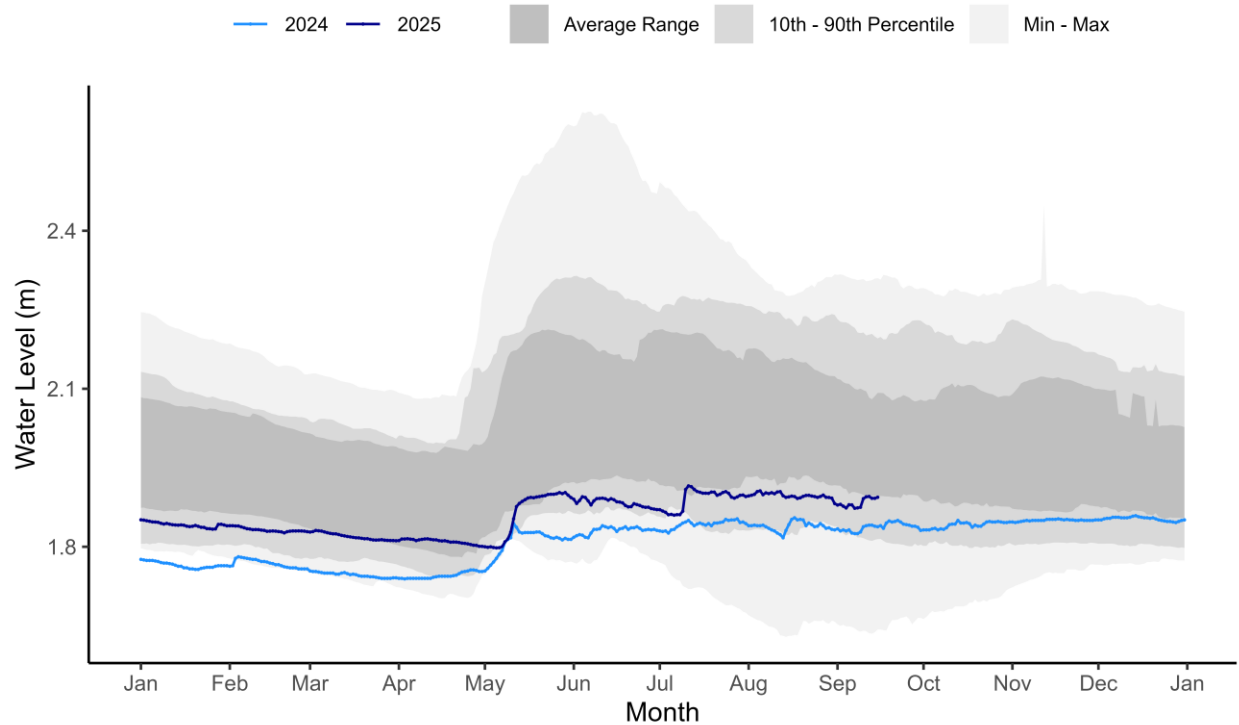
Great Slave Lake at Yellowknife Bay [07SB001]



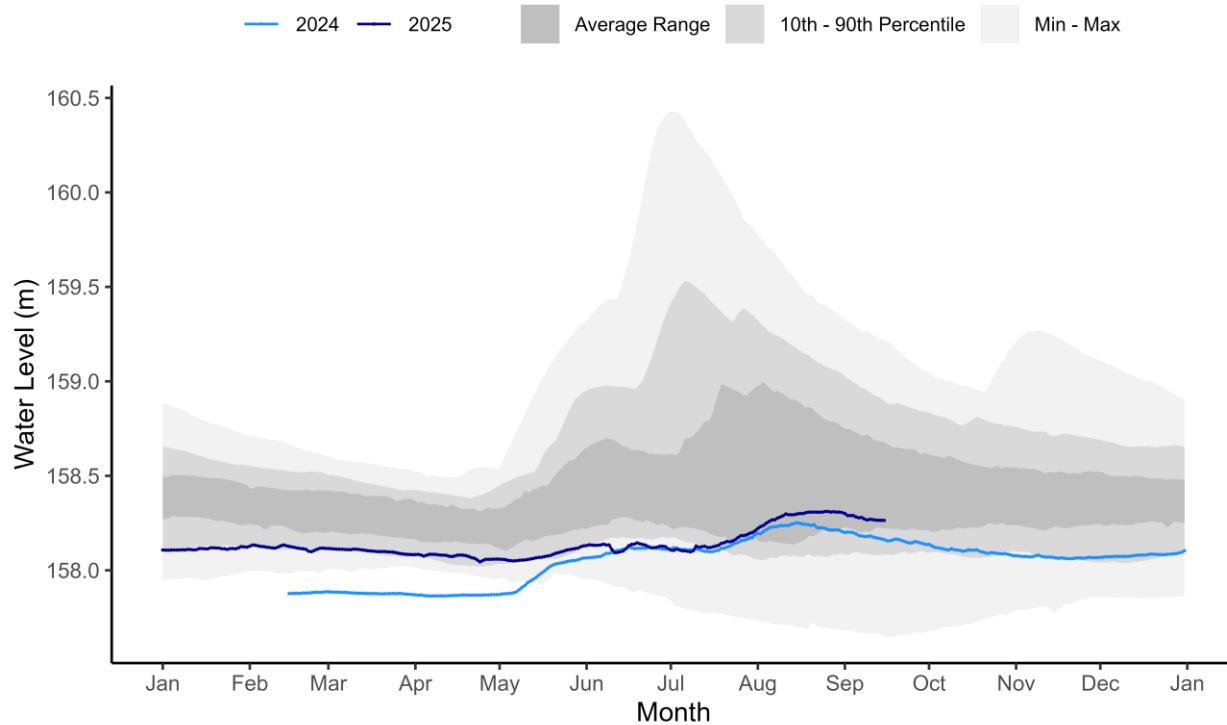
Great Slave Lake at Hay River [07OB002]



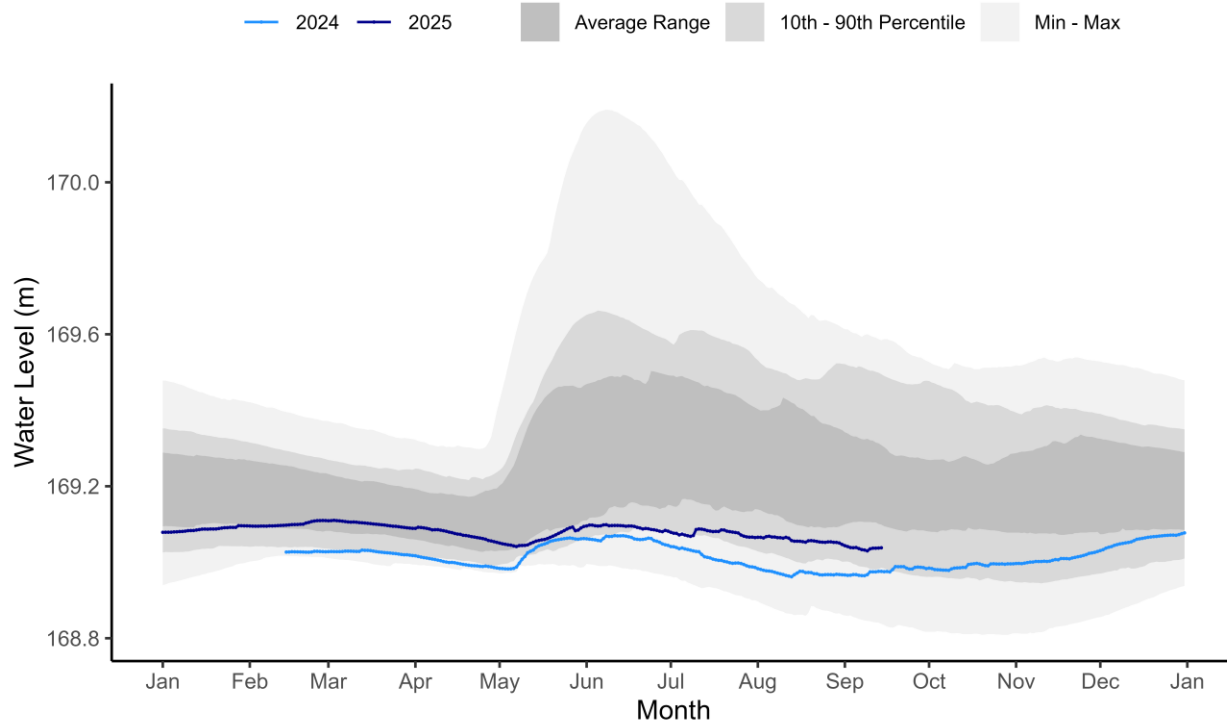
Cameron River below Reid Lake [07SB010]



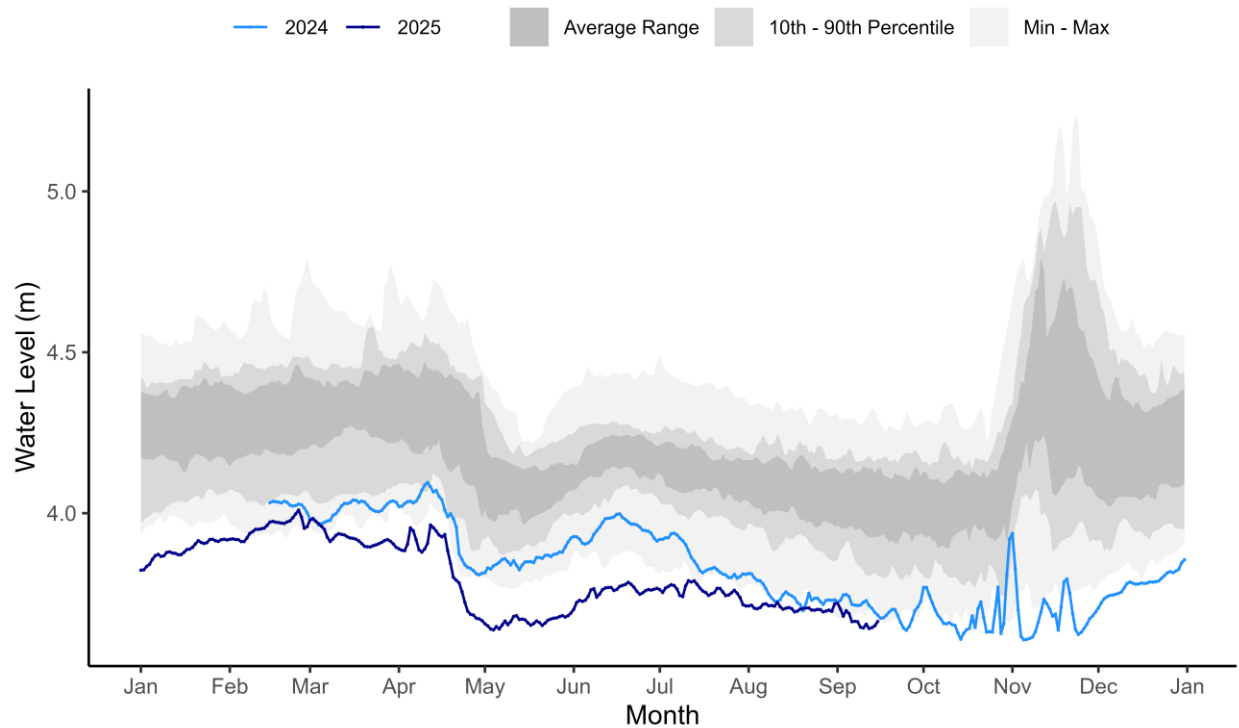
Prosperous Lake near McMeekan Bay [07SB014]



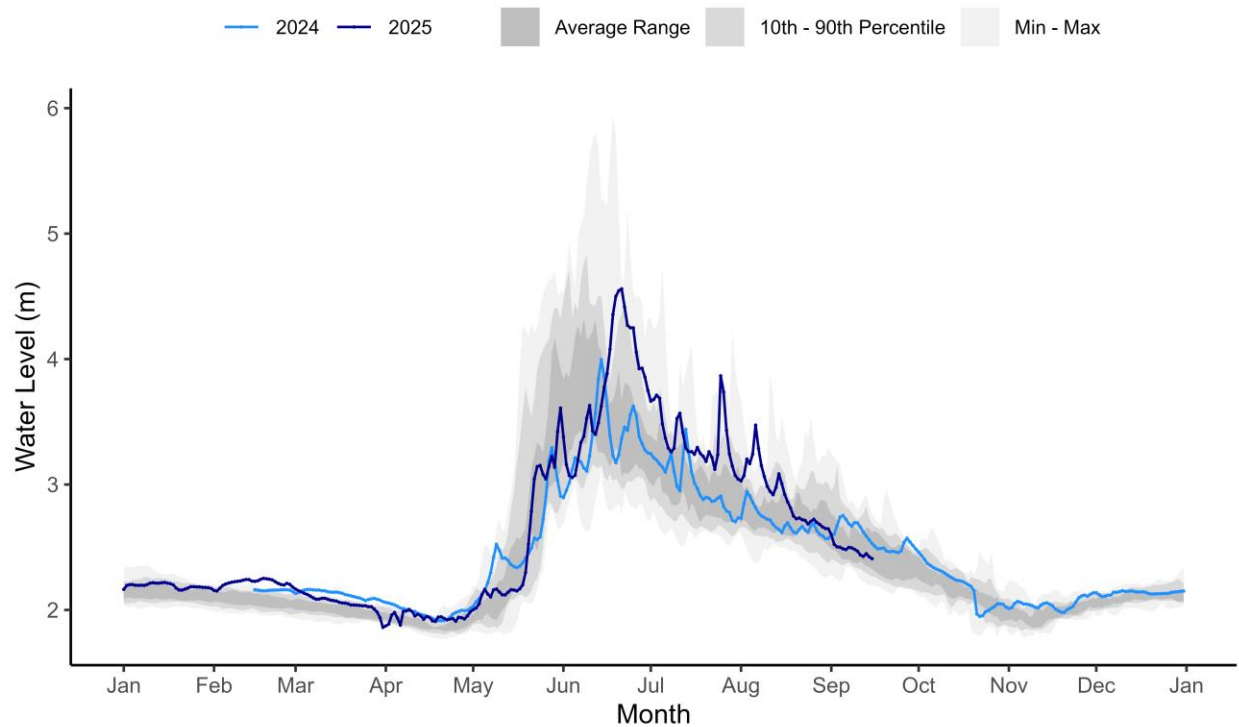
Prelude Lake near Yellowknife [07SB017]



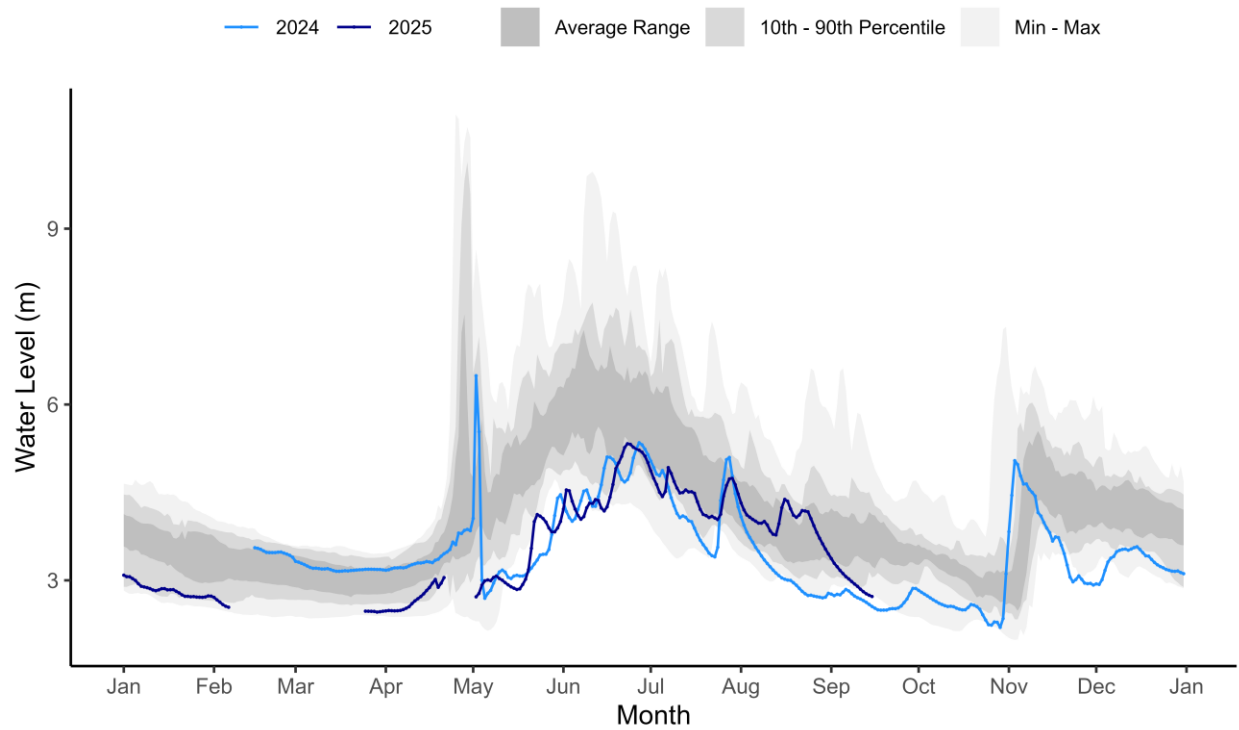
La Martre River below outlet of Lac La Martre [07TA001]



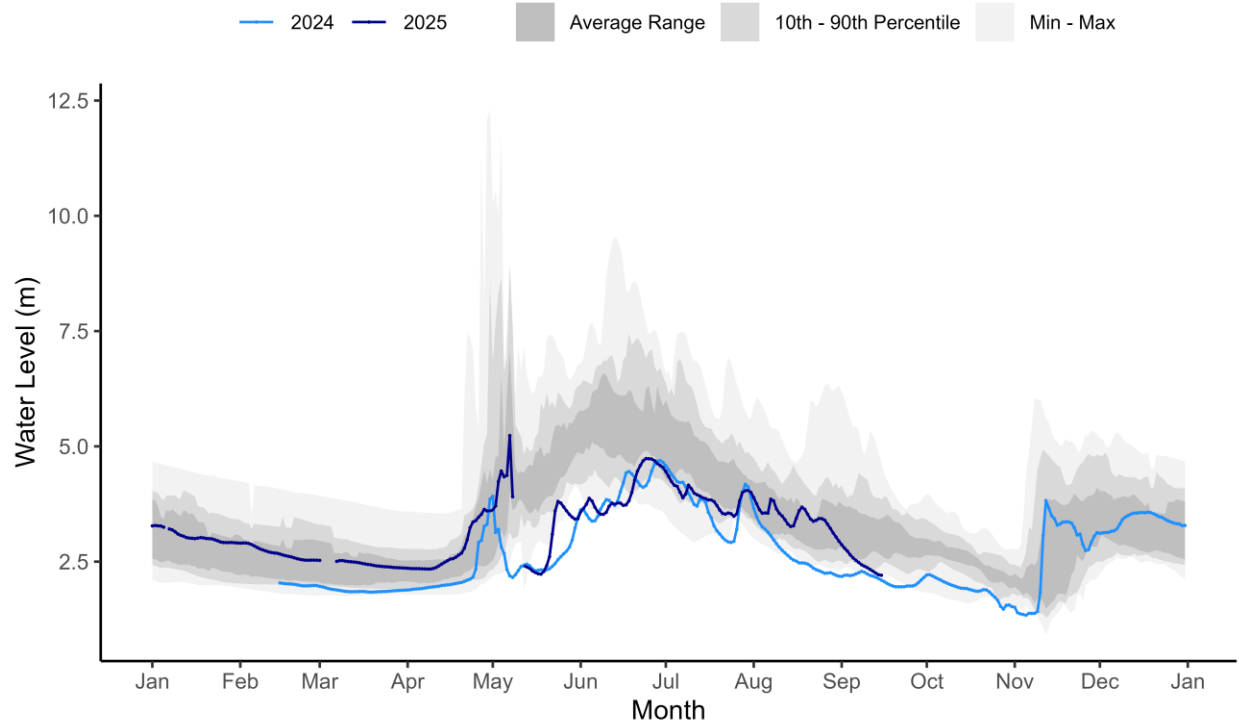
South Nahanni River above Virginia Falls [10EB001]



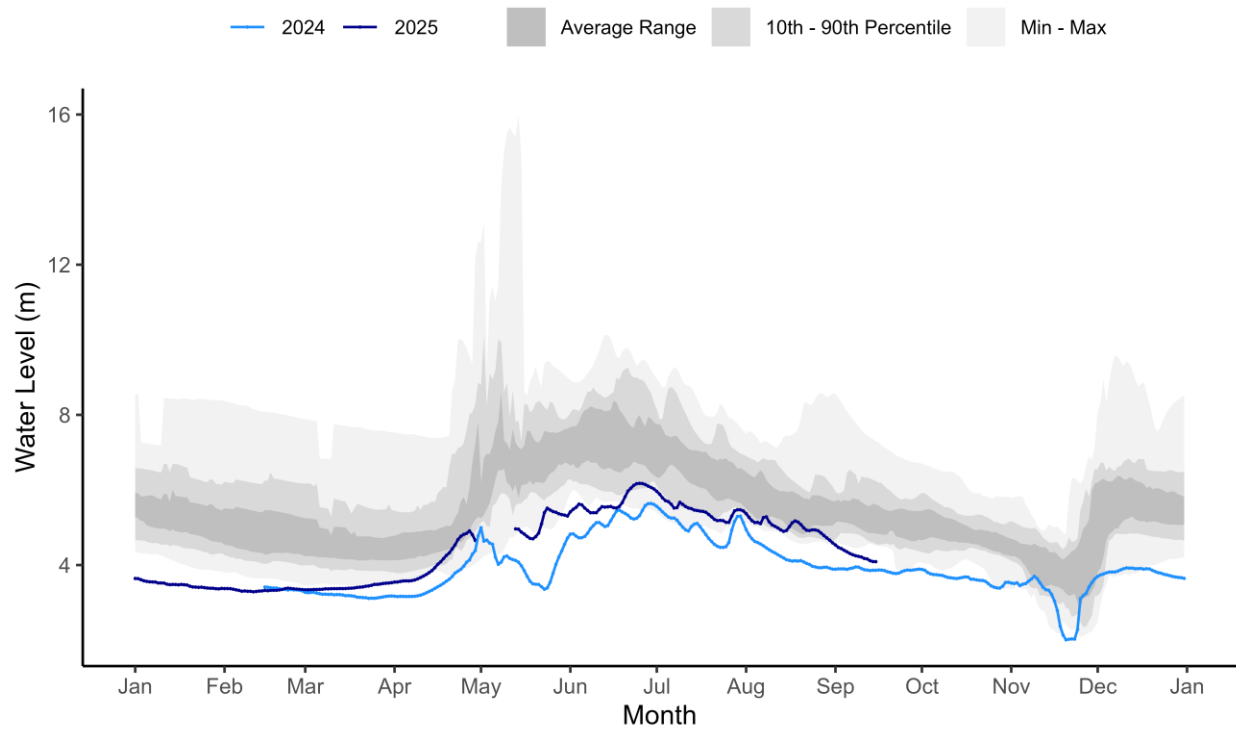
Liard River at Fort Liard [10ED001]



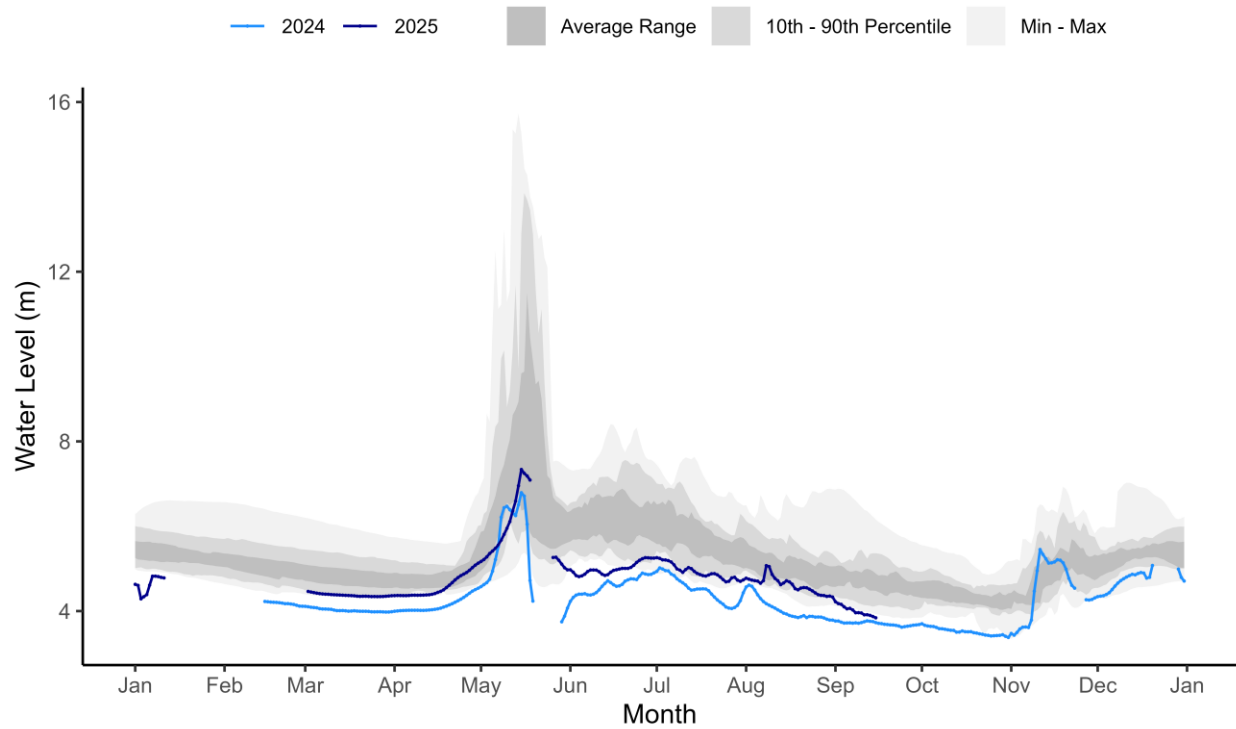
Liard River near the mouth [10ED002]



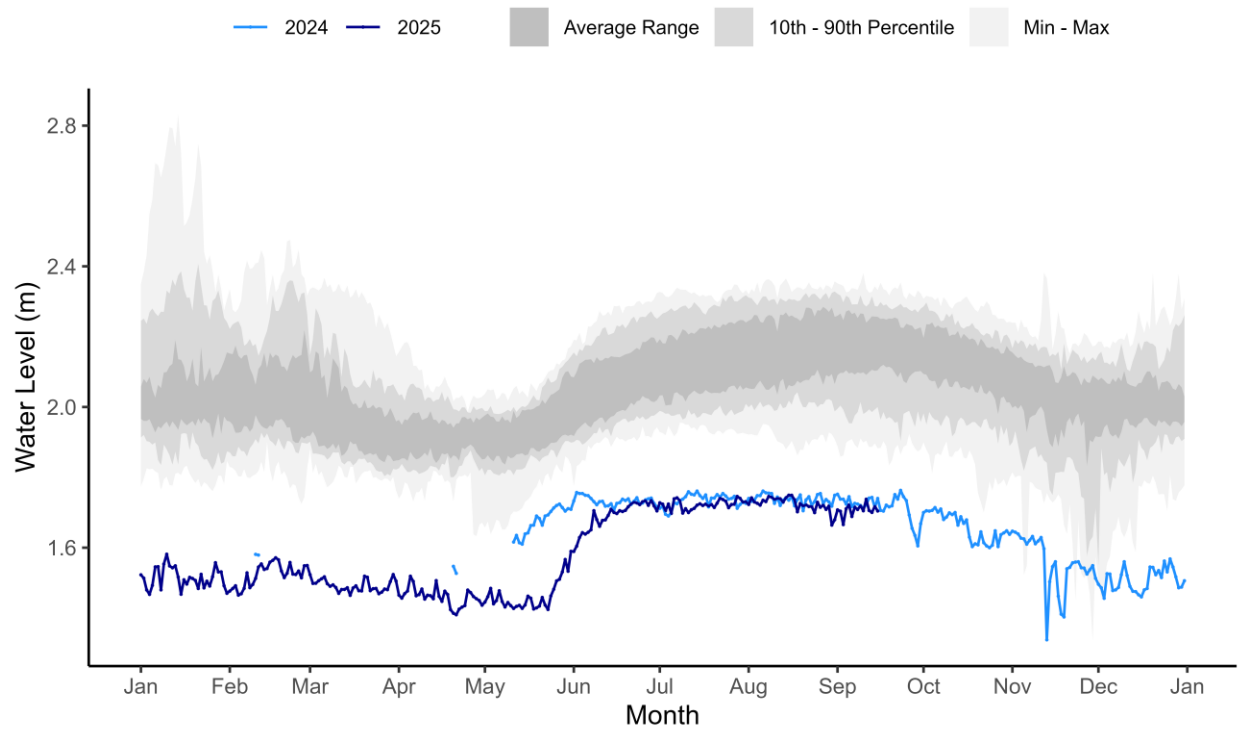
Mackenzie River at Fort Simpson [10GC001]



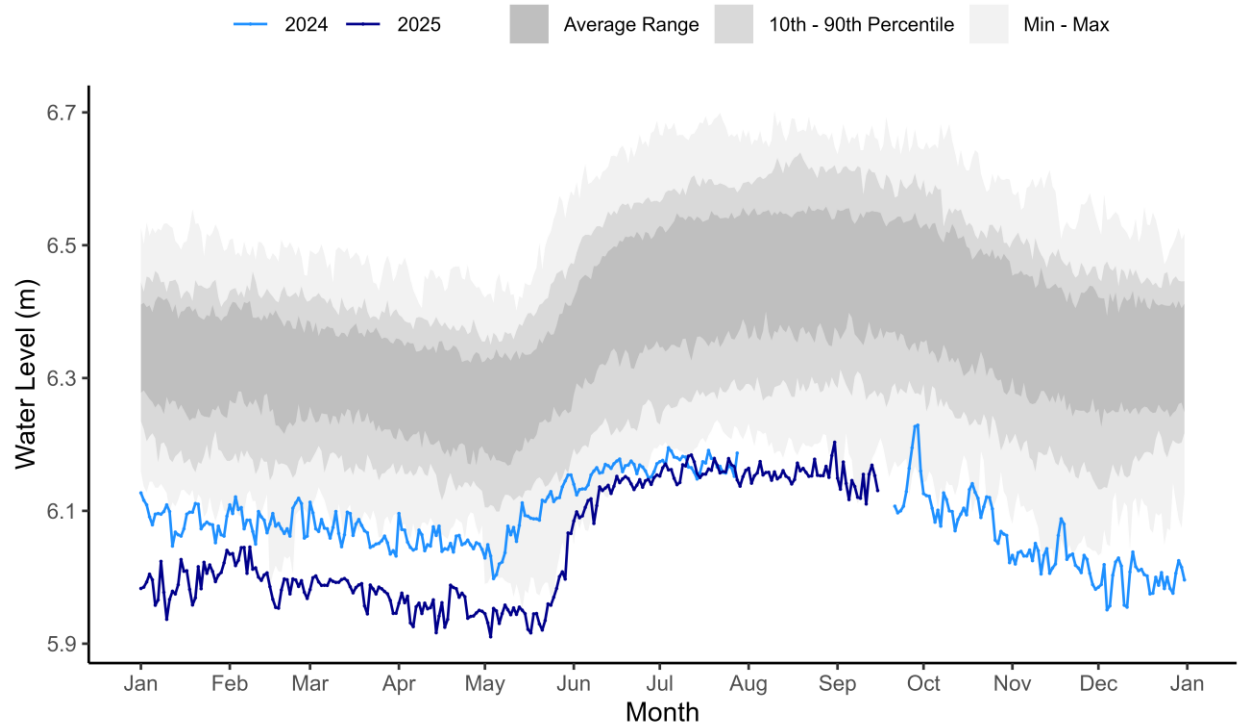
Mackenzie River at Norman Wells [10KA001]



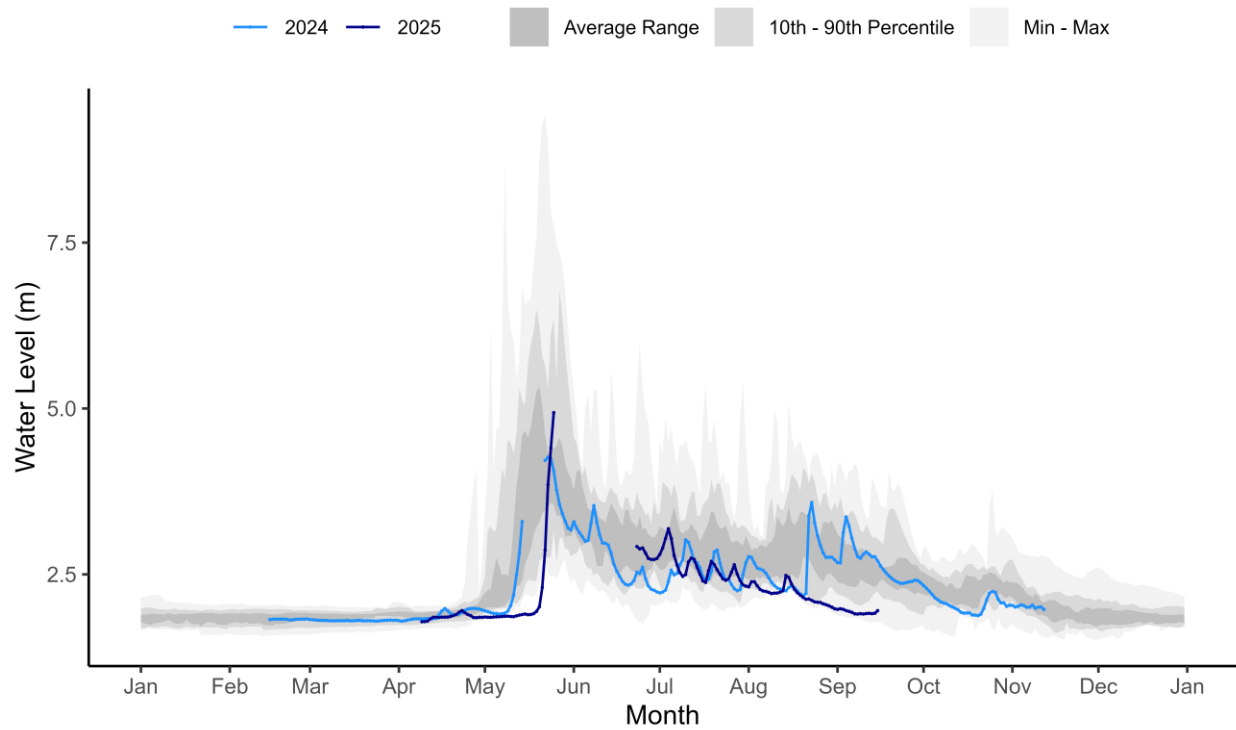
Great Bear River at outlet of Great Bear Lake [10JC003]



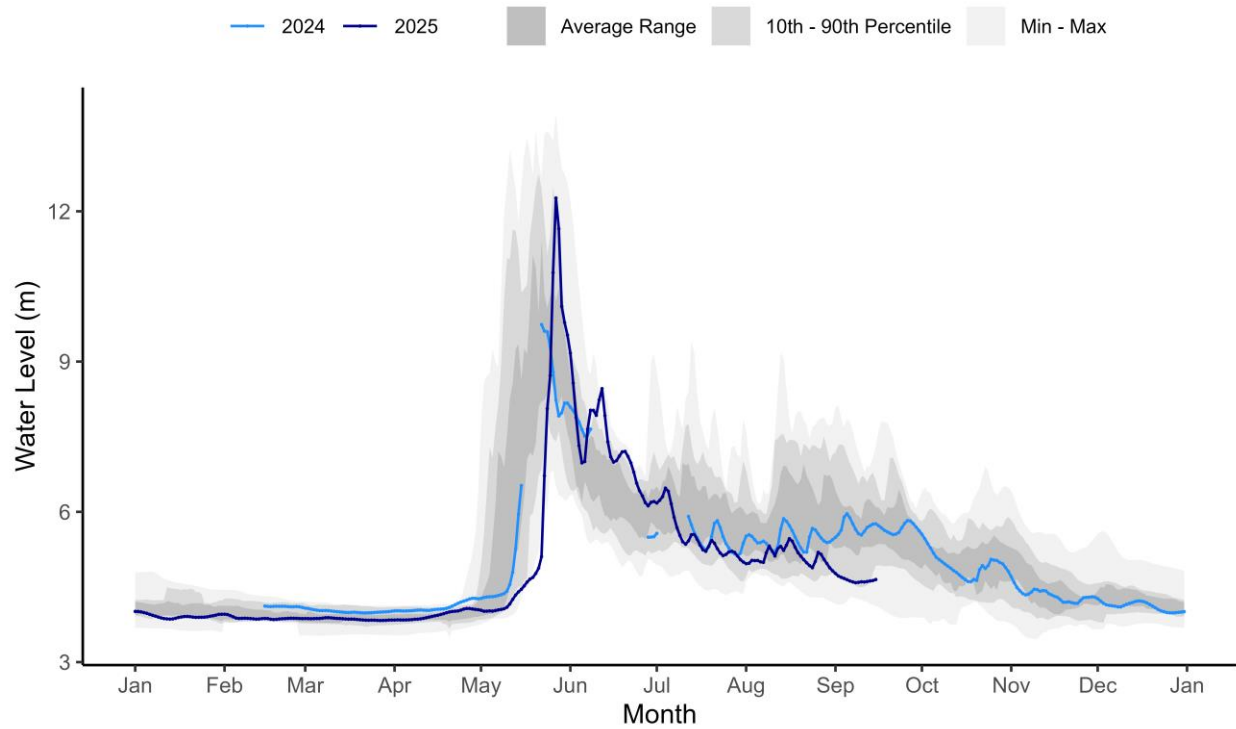
Great Bear Lake at Hornby Bay [10JE002]



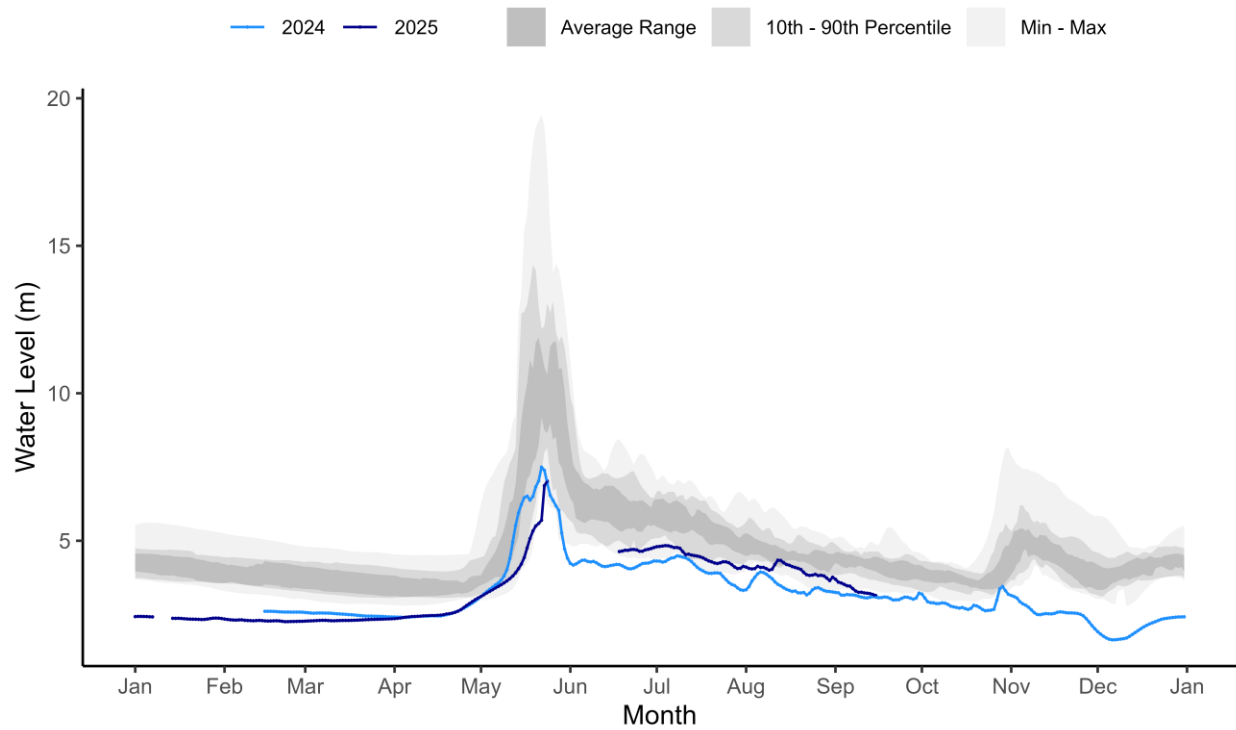
Arctic Red River near the mouth [10LA002]



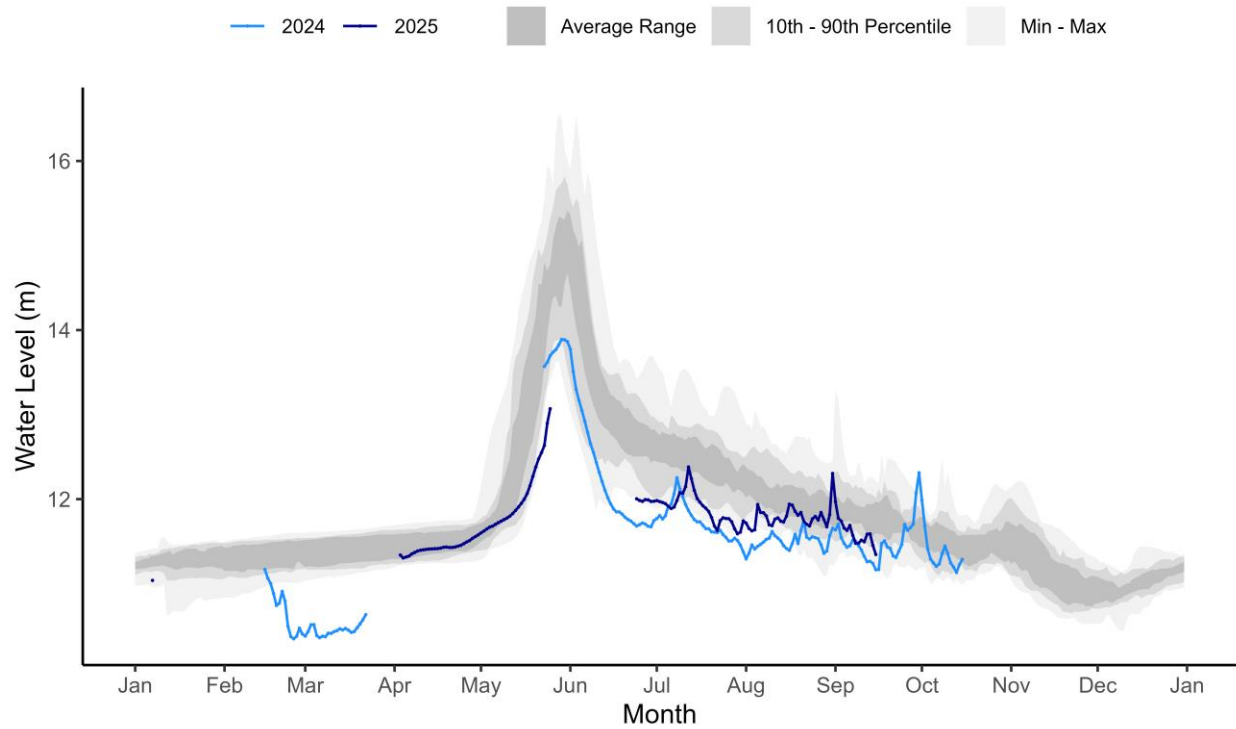
Peel River above Fort McPherson [10MC002]



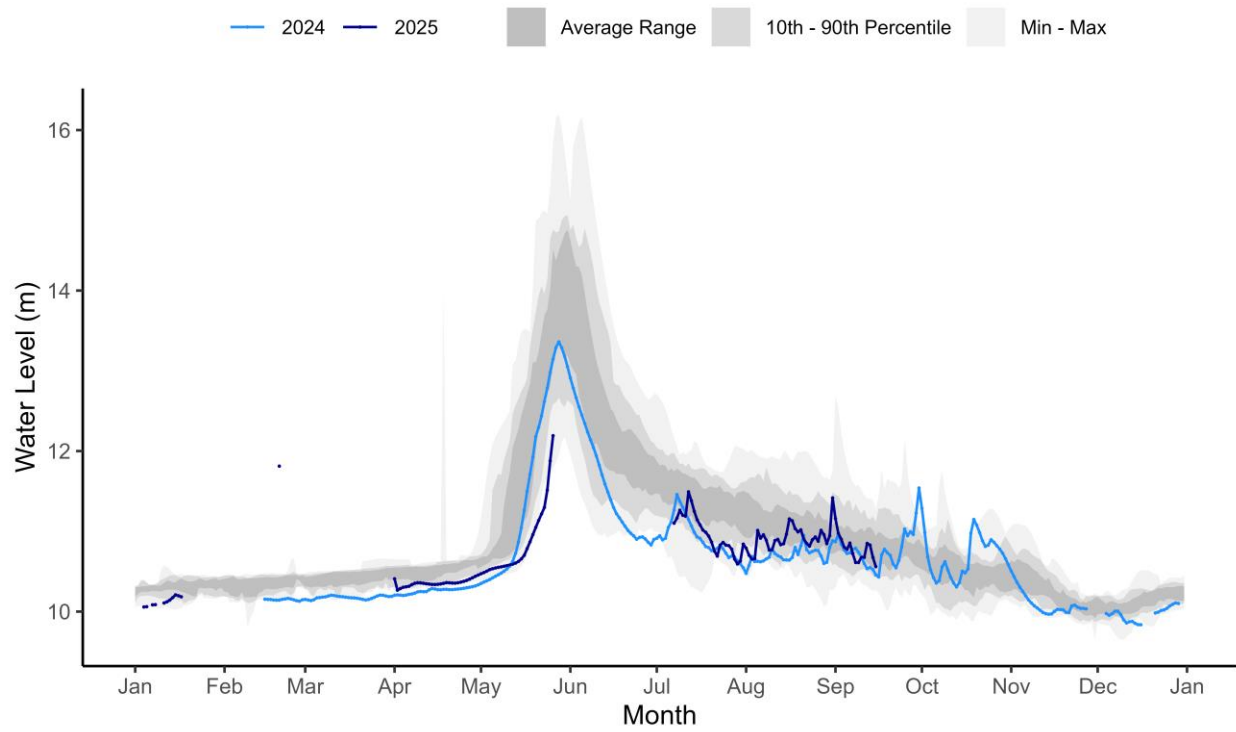
Mackenzie River at Arctic Red River [10LC014]



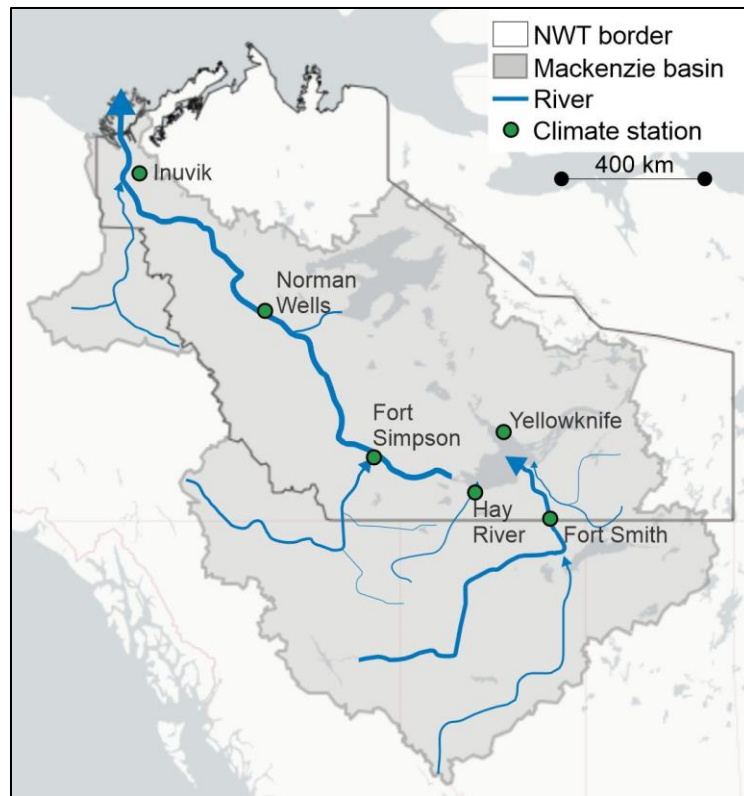
Mackenzie River (East Channel) at Inuvik [10LC002]



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

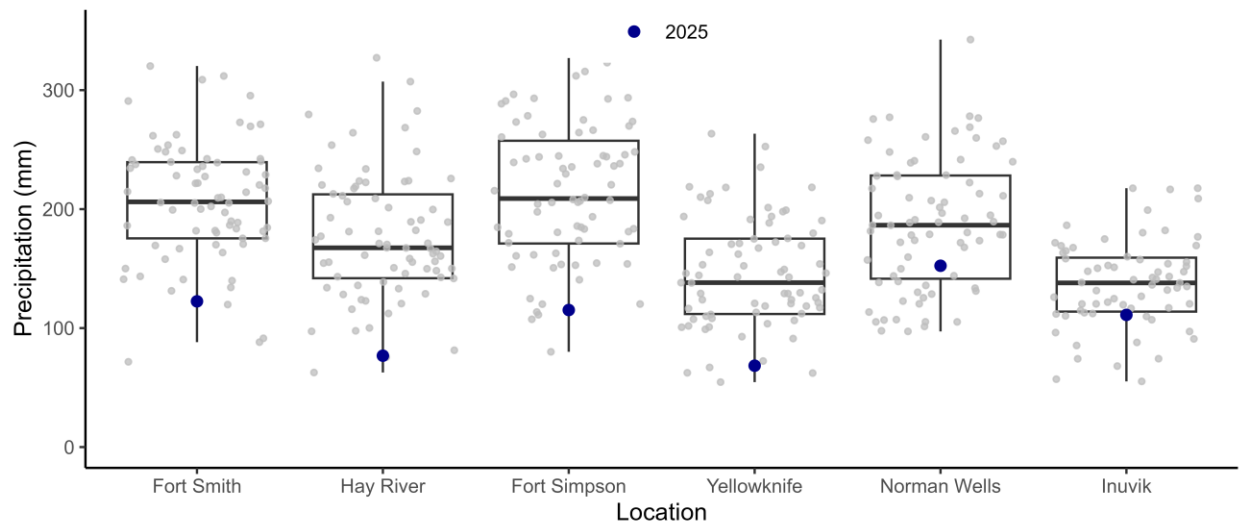


Climate Data NWT communities



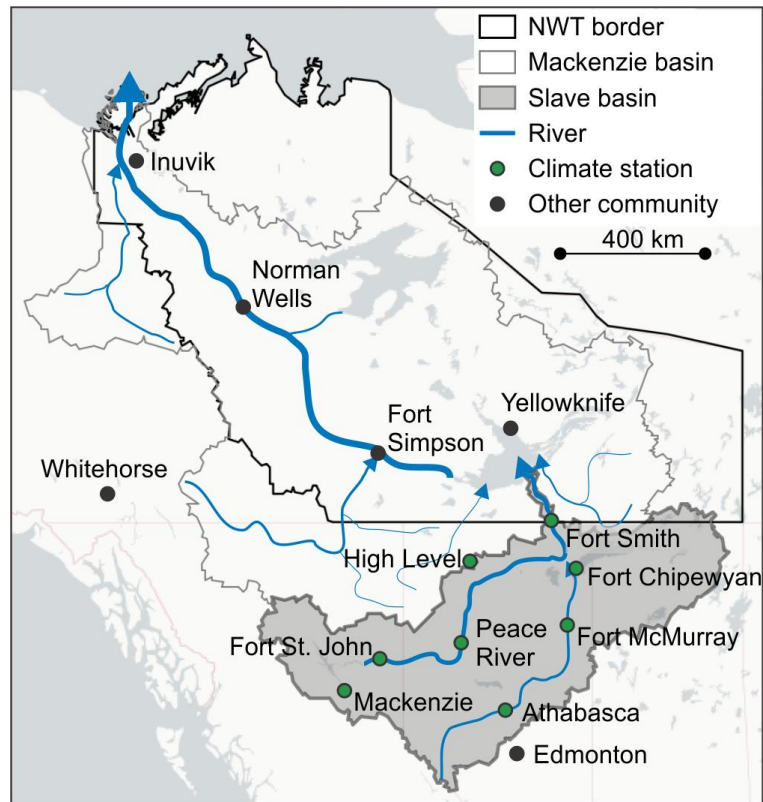
Cumulative precipitation for select NWT communities

April 1st 2025 to September 15th 2025



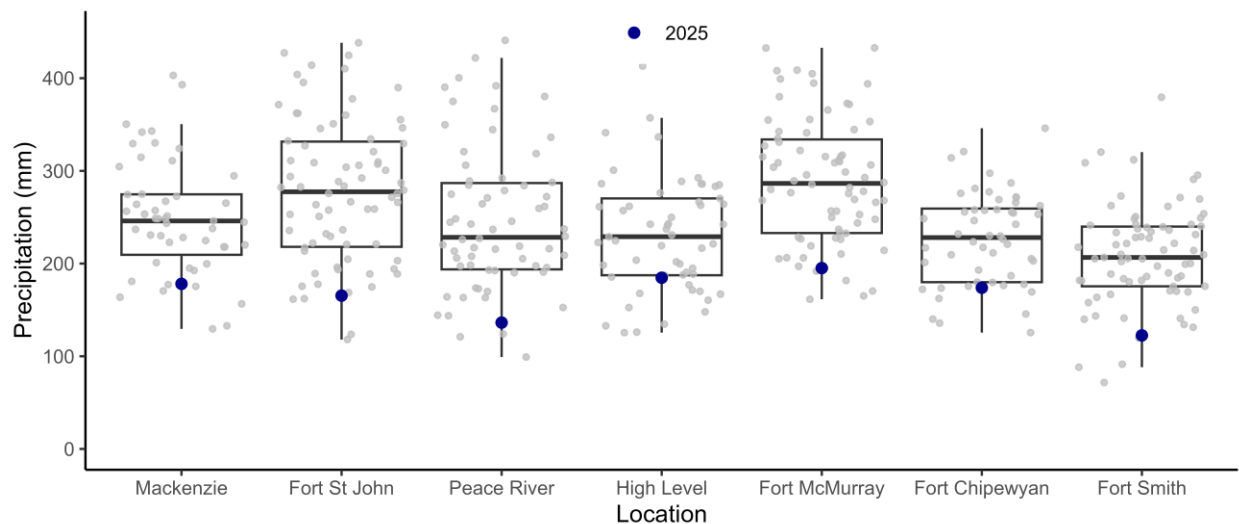
This figure shows total precipitation (rain and snow) that has fallen in select communities across the NWT from the start of April until September 15th. The blue dot is the current year, and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present. See the map above for geographical context.

Slave River basin communities



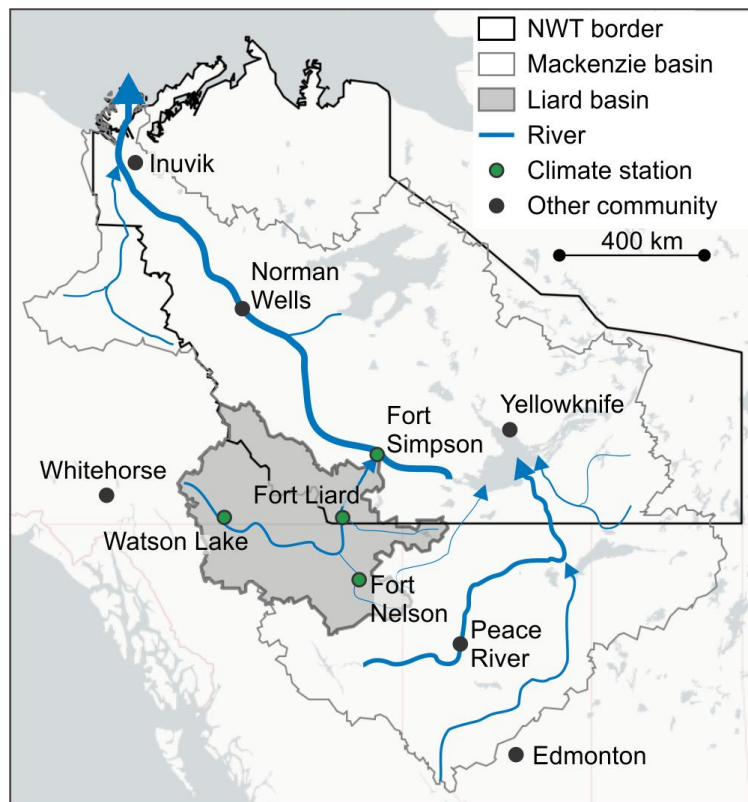
Cumulative precipitation for AB/BC/NWT communities in the Slave River basin

April 1st 2025 to September 15th 2025



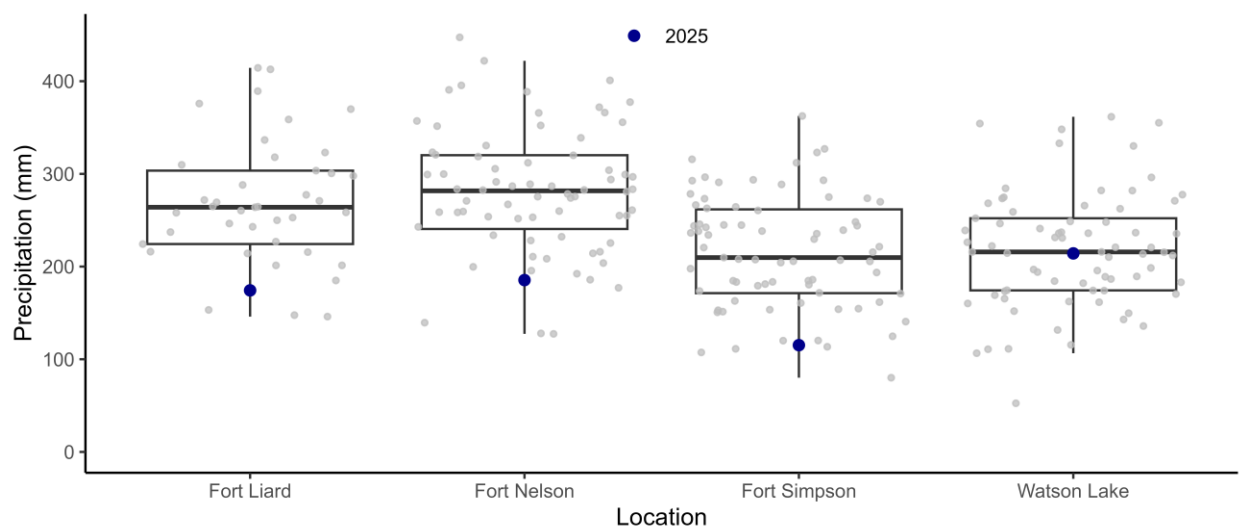
This figure shows total precipitation (rain and snow) that has fallen in select communities in the Slave River basin from the start of April until September 15th. The blue dot is the current year, and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present. See the map above for geographical context.

Liard River basin communities



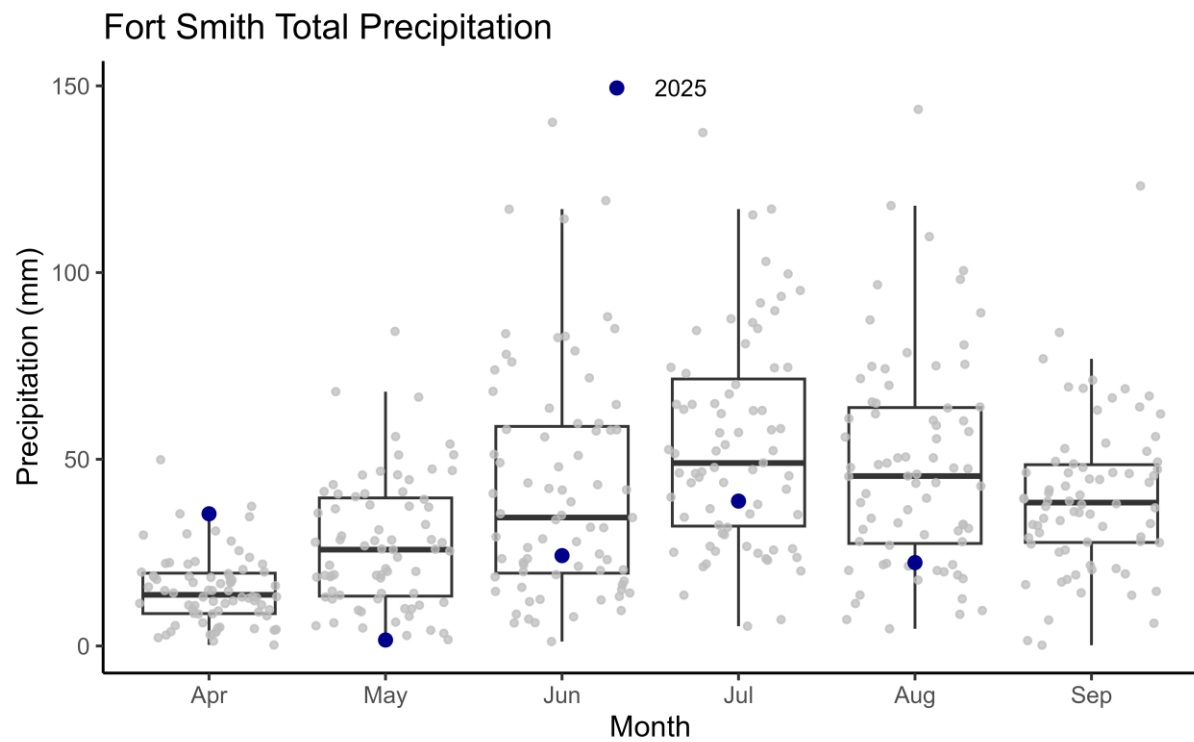
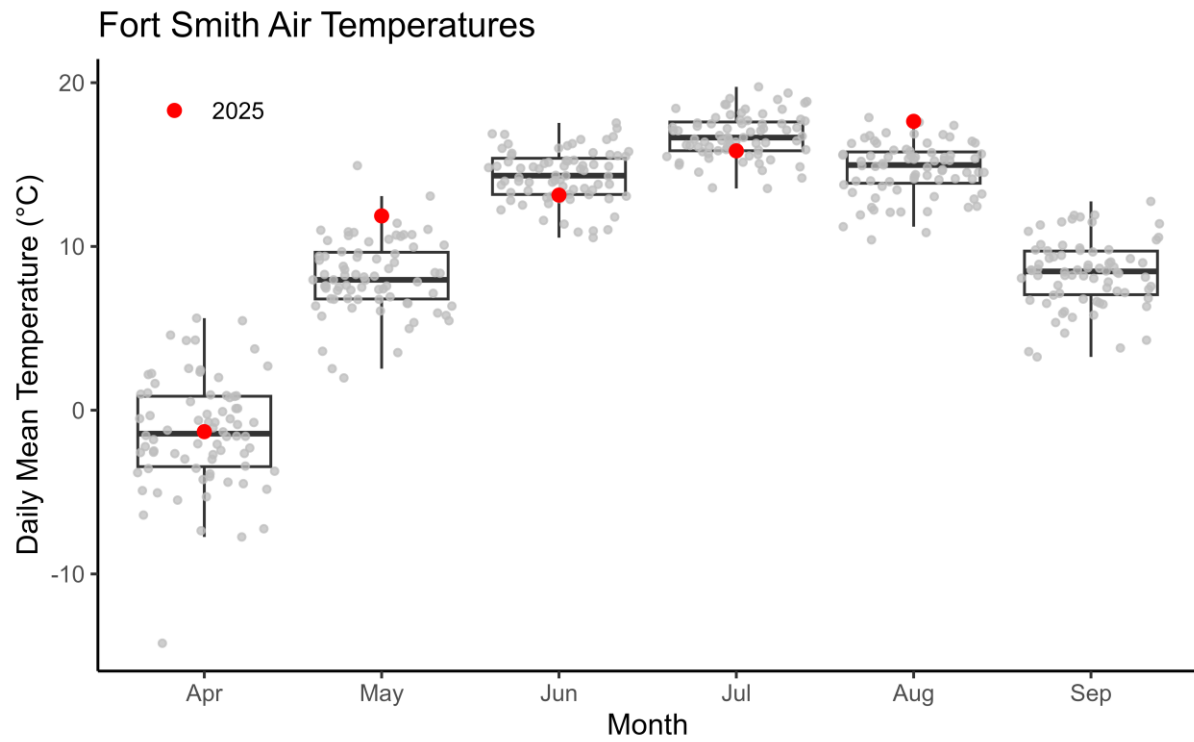
Cumulative precipitation for BC/NWT/YT communities in the Liard River basin

April 1st 2025 to September 15th 2025



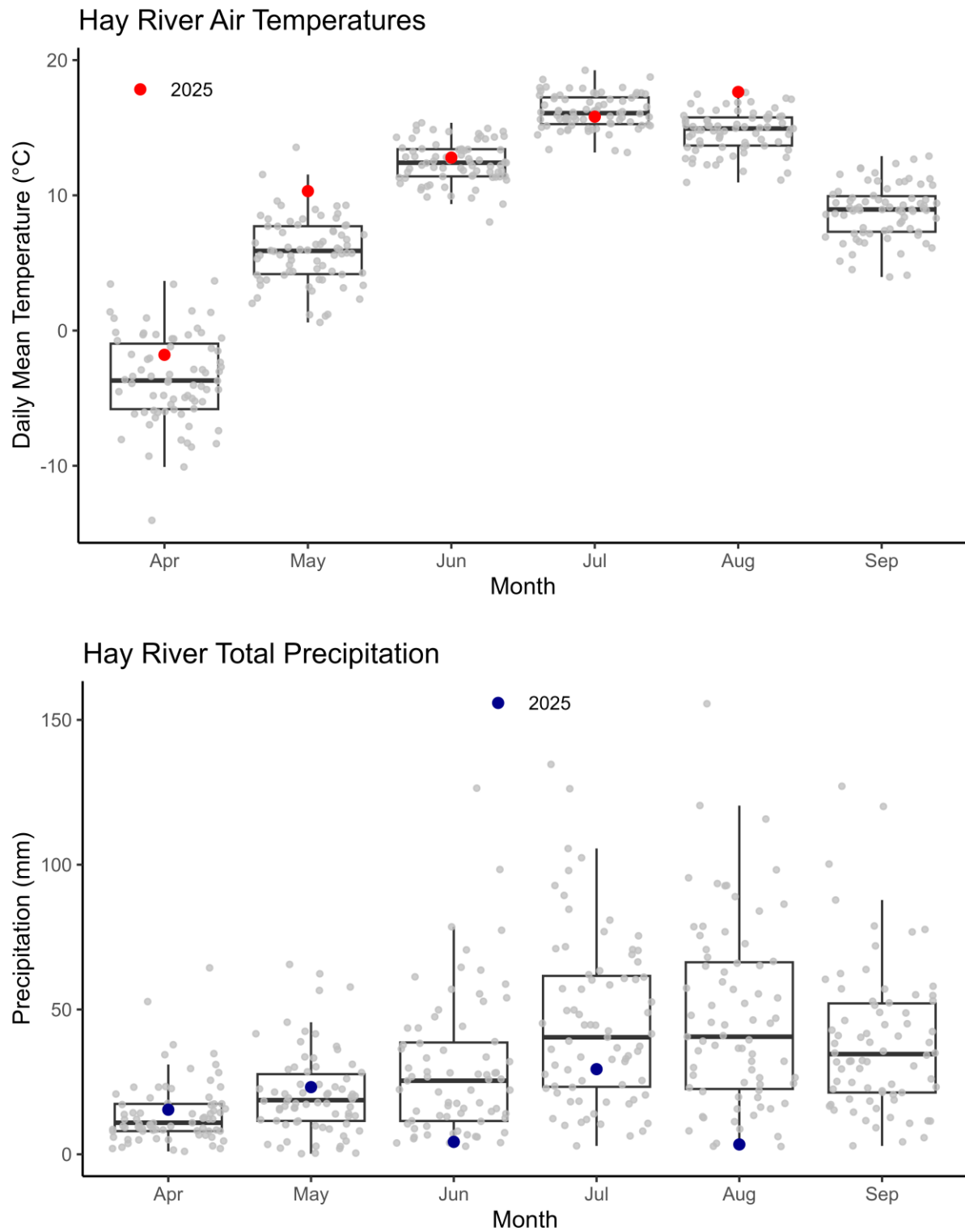
This figure shows total precipitation (rain and snow) that has fallen in select communities in the Liard River basin from the start of April until September 15th. The blue dot is the current year, and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present. See the map above for geographical context.

Fort Smith



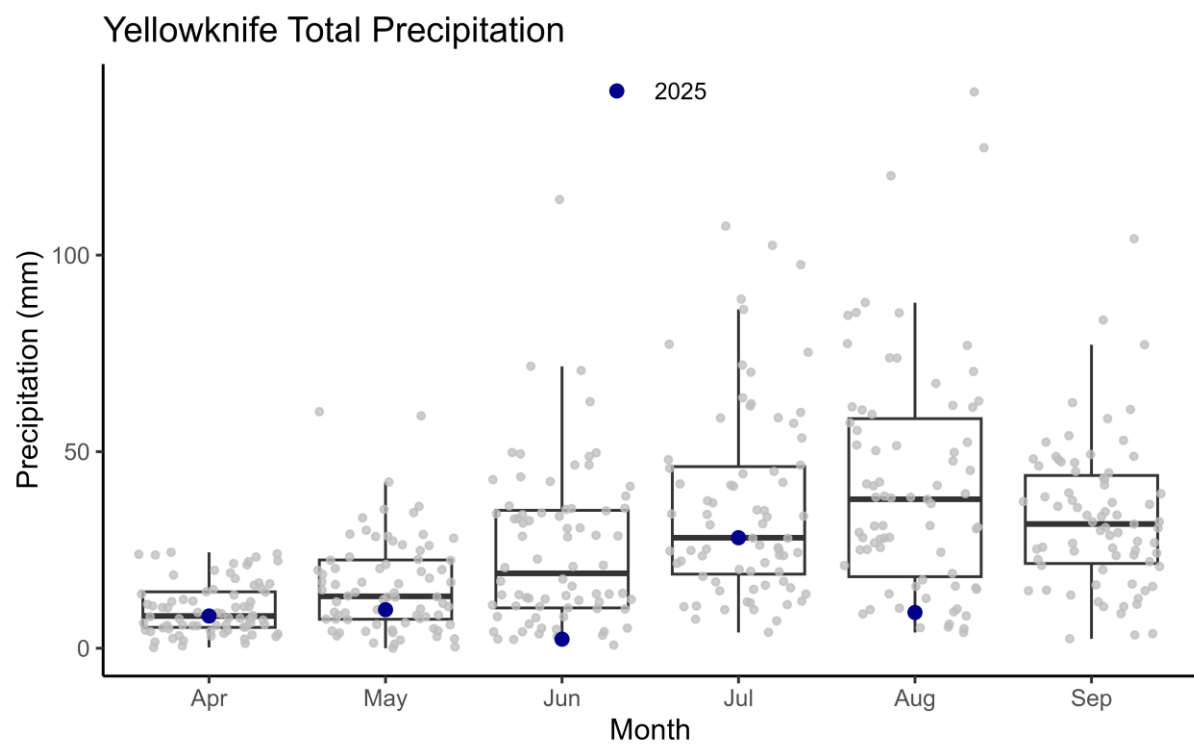
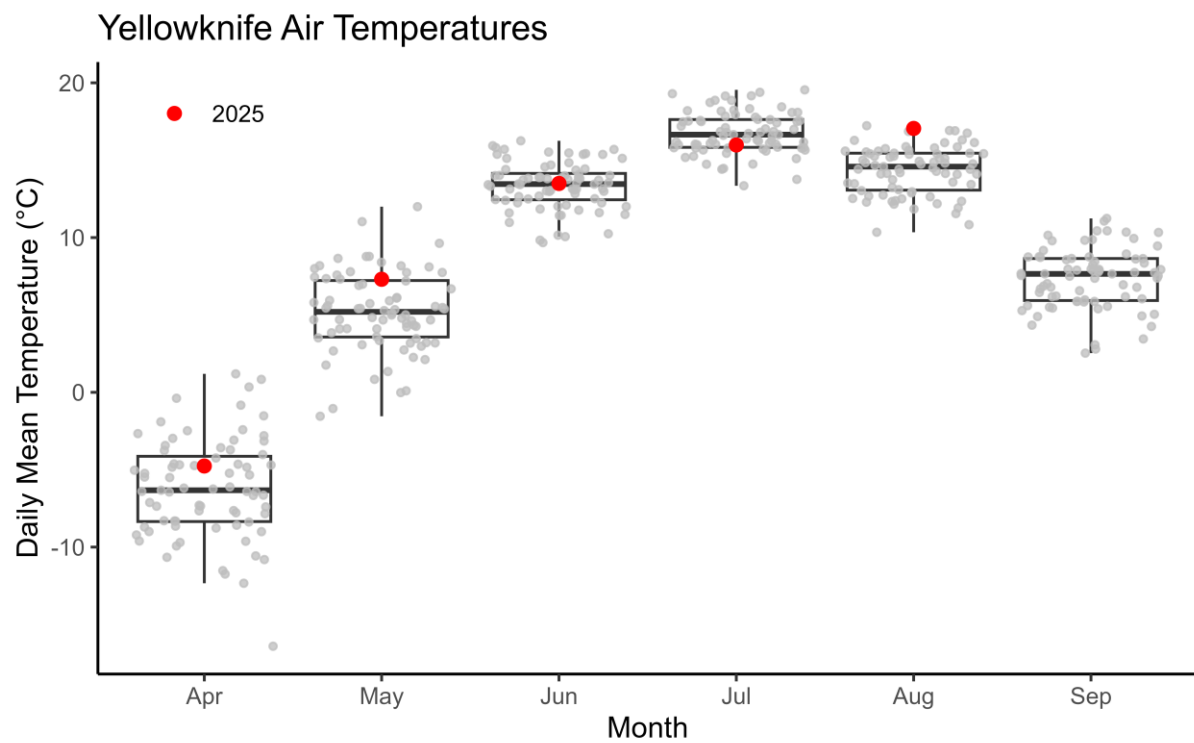
This figure shows mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for spring and summer 2025.

Hay River



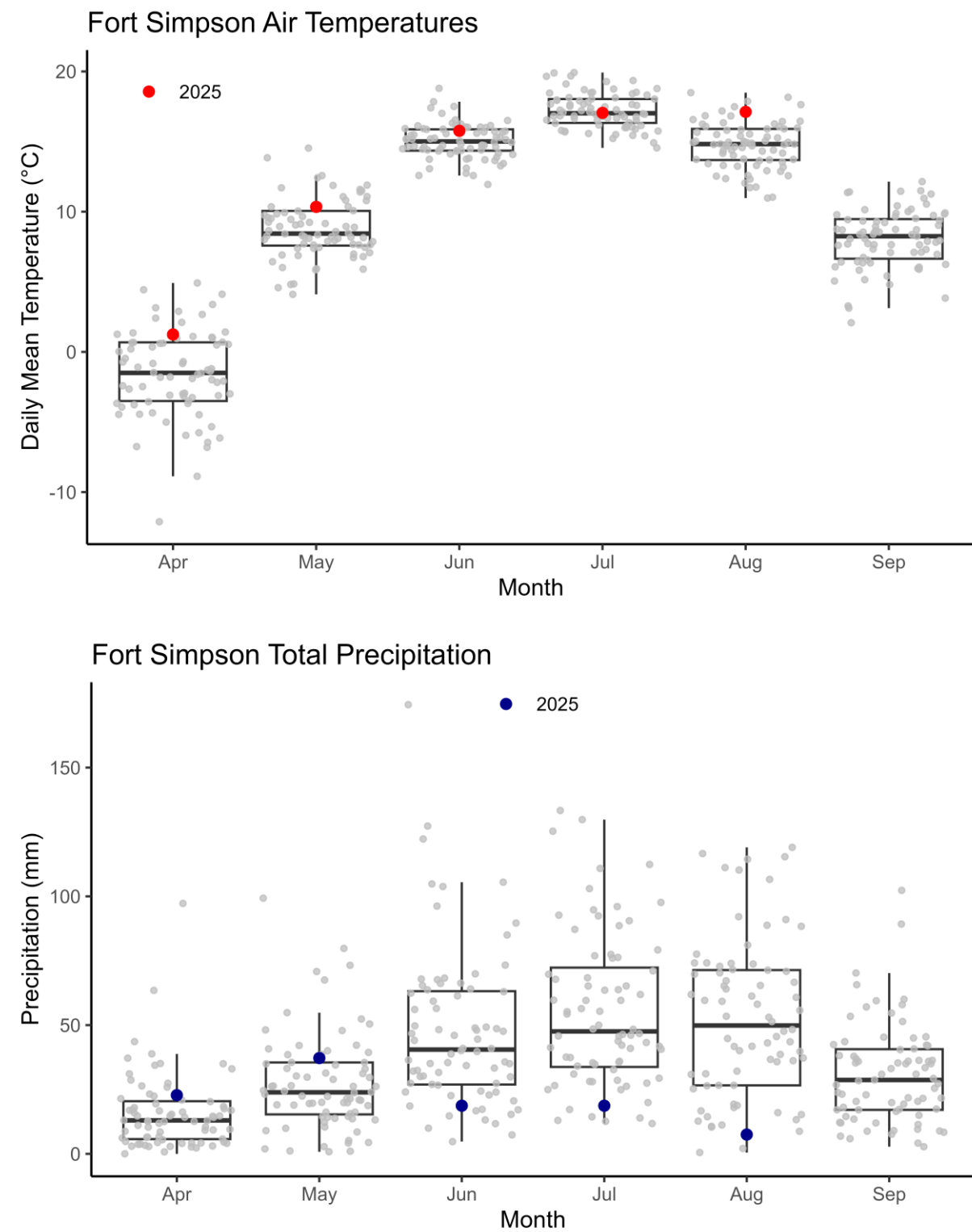
This figure shows mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for spring and summer 2025.

Yellowknife



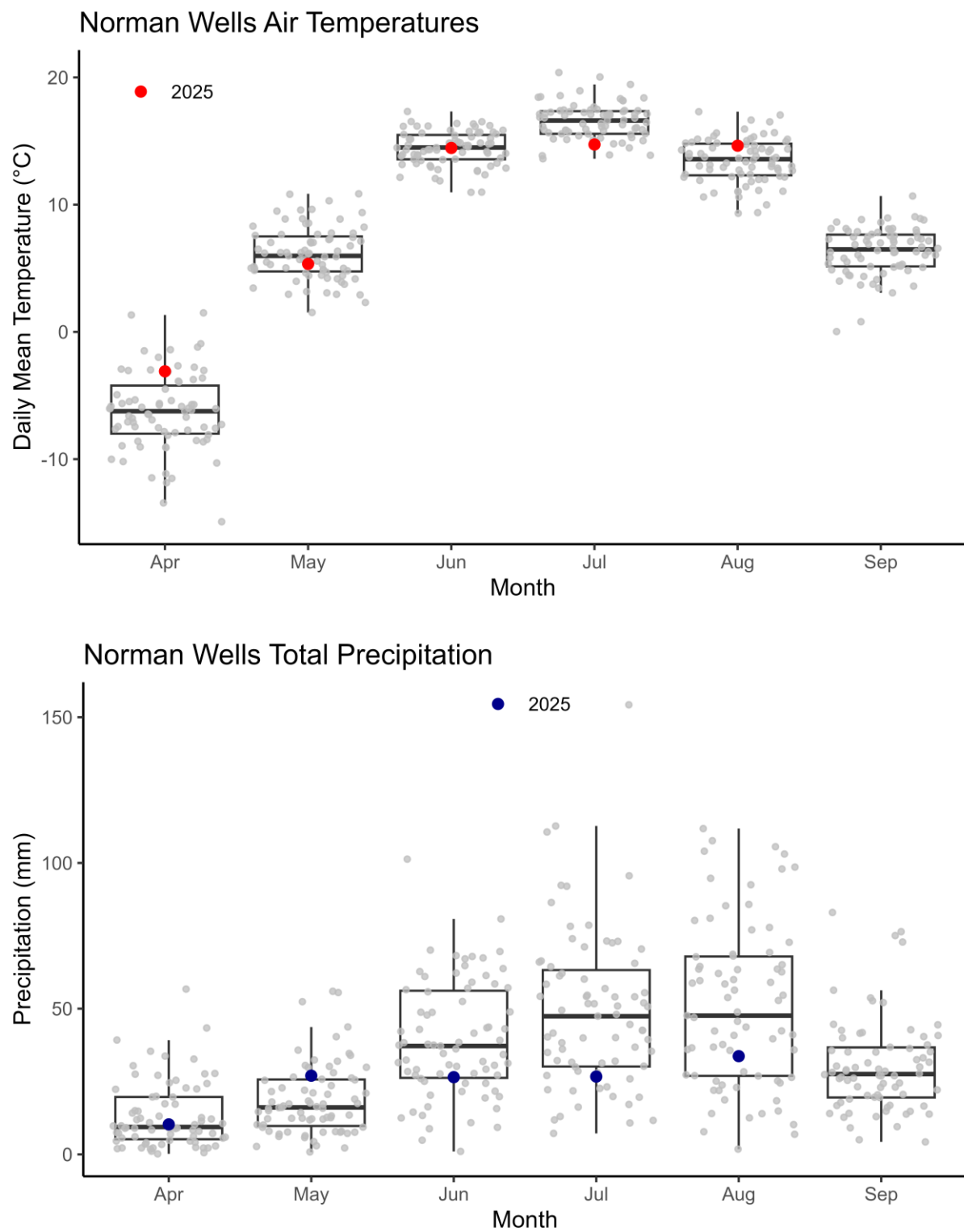
This figure shows mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for spring and summer 2025.

Fort Simpson



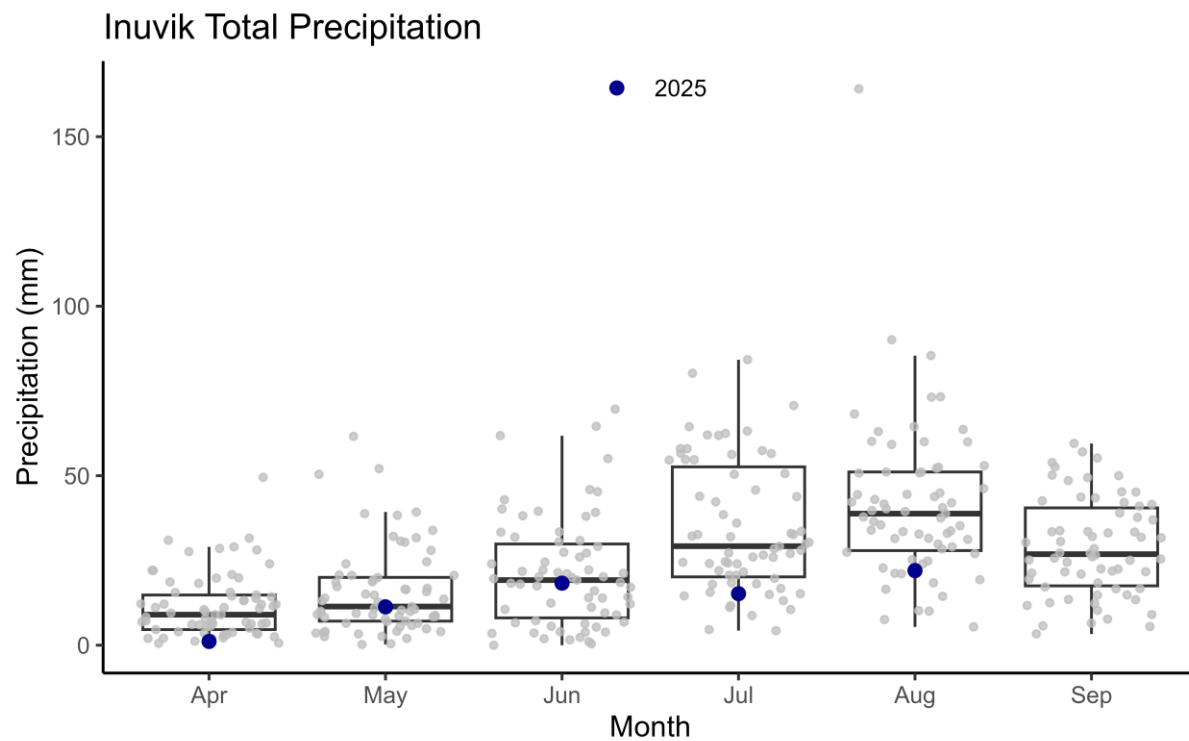
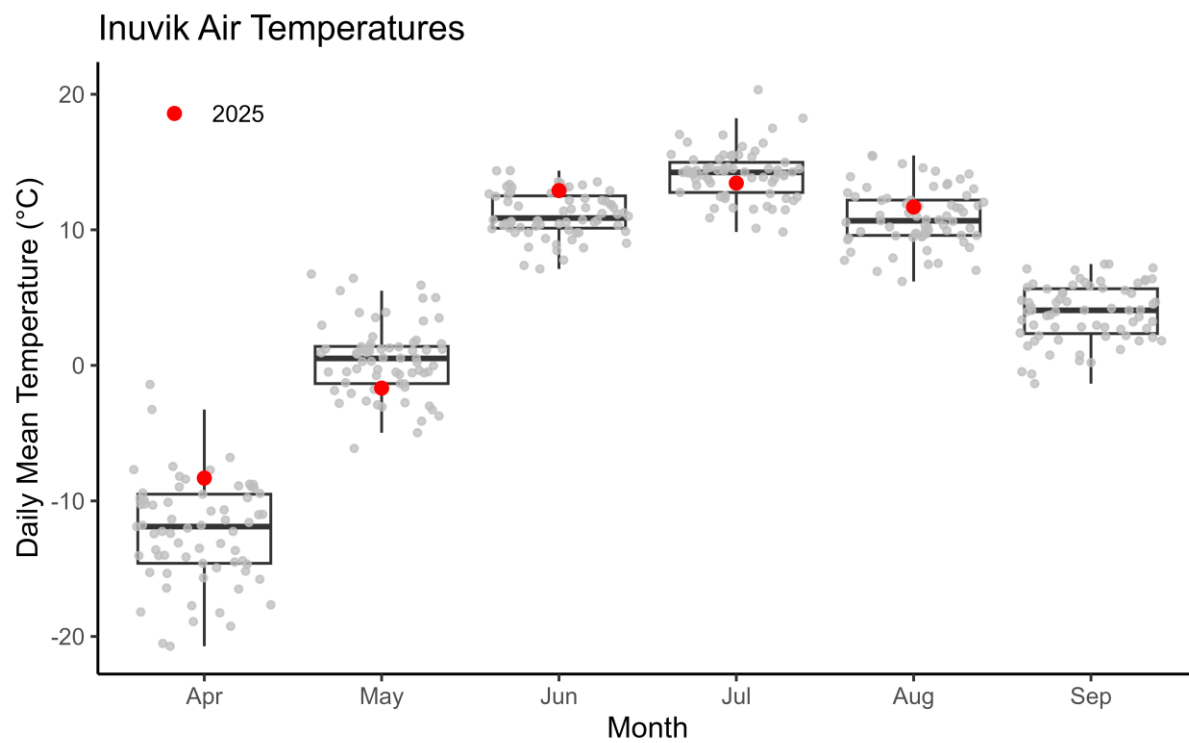
This figure shows mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for spring and summer 2025.

Norman Wells



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

Inuvik



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