United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Idaho Water Supply Outlook Report
January 1, 2026

Justin Byington of the Idaho Snow Survey takes the January 1 Bogus Basin Snow Course measurement which set a new record low. Snowpack at Bogus Basin was at its lowest in the 83 years of continuous measurements at this site.
Photo by Earl Adsley

Water Year 2026 started off warm and wet. Warm temperatures prevented precipitation from falling as snow except at the highest elevations. Until the middle and late December storms arrived, most Idaho basins were at or near a record low snowpack. The mountain snowpack conditions grew to near or above normal conditions in the Salmon, Wood, Lost, and the Snake River above Heise basins. Northern Idaho, West Central, and Southern Snake River basins still remain well below normal, and many sites are at historic lows.

Water Supply Outlook Report

Federal - State – Private Cooperative Snow Surveys

For more water supply and resource management information:

Contact: Your local county Natural Resources Conservation Service Office
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/idaho/snow-survey
Natural Resources Conservation Service Snow Surveys
9173 West Barnes Drive, Suite C
Boise, Idaho 83709-1574 (208) 378-5700 ext. 5

Please contact us by email at: IDBOISE-NRCS-SNOW@usda.gov

How forecasts are made

Most of the annual streamflow in the western United States originates as snowfall that has accumulated in the mountains during the winter and early spring. As the snowpack accumulates, hydrologists estimate the runoff that will occur when the snow melts. Measurements of snow water equivalent at selected manual snow courses and automated SNOTEL sites, along with precipitation, antecedent streamflow are used in computerized statistical and simulation models to produce runoff forecasts. Unless otherwise specified, all forecasts are for flows that would occur naturally without any upstream influences.

Forecasts of any kind are not perfect. Streamflow forecast uncertainty arises from three primary sources: (1) uncertain knowledge of future weather conditions, (2) uncertainty in the forecasting procedure, and (3) errors in the data. The forecast, therefore, must be interpreted not as a single value but rather as a range of values with specific probabilities of occurrence. The middle of the range is expressed by the 50% exceedance probability forecast, for which there is a 50% chance that the actual flow will be above, and a 50% chance that the actual flow will be below, this value. To describe the expected range around this 50% value, four other forecasts are provided, two smaller values (90% and 70% exceedance probability) and two larger values (30%, and 10% exceedance probability). For example, there is a 90% chance that the actual flow will be more than the 90% exceedance probability forecast. The others can be interpreted similarly.

The wider the spread among these values, the more uncertainty is in the forecast. As the season progresses, forecasts become more accurate, primarily because a greater portion of the future weather conditions become known; this is reflected by a narrowing of the range around the 50% exceedance probability forecast. Users should take this uncertainty into consideration when making operational decisions by selecting forecasts corresponding to the level of risk they are willing to assume about the amount of water to be expected. If users anticipate receiving a lesser supply of water, or if they wish to increase their chances of having an adequate supply of water for their operations, they may want to base their decisions on the 90% or 70% exceedance probability forecasts, or something in between. On the other hand, if users are concerned about receiving too much water (for example, threat of flooding), they may want to base their decisions on the 30% or 10% exceedance probability forecasts, or something in between. Regardless of the forecast value users choose for operations, they should be prepared to deal with either more or less water. (Users should remember that even if the 90% exceedance probability forecast is used, there is still a 10% chance of receiving less than this amount.) By using the exceedance probability information, users can easily determine the chances of receiving more or less water.

Starting in 2020, streamflow forecasts with poor prediction skill (jackknife $r^2 < 0.34$) will no longer be issued. This will primarily affect January and June forecasts, with little change anticipated for February, March, April, and May forecasts. For more information, please contact Erin Whorton (erin.whorton@usda.gov)

Frequently Used Acronyms

AF	Acre-Feet
BOR	Bureau of Reclamation
CFS	Cubic-Feet per Second
CPC	Climate Prediction Center
ENSO	El Niño Southern Oscillation
Ft	Feet
KAF	Thousand Acre-Feet
NIDIS	National Integrated Drought Information System
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NSIDC	National Snow and Ice Data Center
NWCC	National Water and Climate Center
NWRFC	Northwest River Forecast Center
MAF	Million Acre-Feet
PNW	Pacific Northwest (Columbia River Basin)
SWE	Snow Water Equivalent
SWSI	Surface Water Supply Index
USDM	United States Drought Monitor
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USGS	United States Geologic Survey
WSOR	Water Supply Outlook Report
WY	Water Year

January 1, 2026: Idaho Water Supply Summary

Overview

The Western U.S. and most of Idaho is in a snow drought thanks to warmer than normal temperatures in November, December and the beginning of January. Even though Idaho received above normal precipitation this winter thus far, with high-temperature records being set everywhere, only the highest mountain ranges have gotten more snow than rain (Fig. 3). The lack of snow negatively impacted ski resort operations across Idaho during the holidays. Multiple rain-on-snow events in the Panhandle led to flooding in December, and if the snowpack doesn't improve up north, that region will enter its fourth consecutive year of drought. The bright spots for a healthy snowpack are in the Wood, Lost and Snake River headwater basins, but even in those basins, the lower valleys are devoid of snow for the first time in many people's memory. Water supply concerns diverge across Idaho depending on each basin's particular combination of reservoir storage and snowpack status. See the water supply section below for details please.

Weather, climate and drought outlooks

At publication time, a period of high pressure across Idaho is expected to continue for at least the next 10 days. NOAA predicts that we'll receive less than 25% of the normal amount of precipitation we typically do in mid to late-January. The CPC also predicts that temperatures will remain warmer than normal. Both factors are not conducive to recovering from this warm snow drought we're currently in.

So "what happened to La Niña and all the snow she's supposed to bring us?" is the question on many people's minds. Currently, oceanic and atmospheric indicators across the equatorial Pacific Ocean reflect weak La Niña conditions. Normally, La Niña brings cooler temperatures and more precipitation to the Pacific Northwest. We have received the precipitation but not the cool temperatures that typically deliver an above normal snowpack. The CPC forecasts that there is a 75% chance that La Niña will transition to ENSO-neutral (i.e. not La Niña or El Niño) conditions by March and then transition to El Niño this summer. The seasonal outlook for the February through April period predicts cooler than normal temperatures in the Panhandle and wetter than normal conditions north of the Snake River Plain. The outlook for the April through June period forecasts warmer and drier conditions across Idaho this spring. Last year, these dry and hot spring conditions lead to rapid snowmelt, reduced runoff from the snowpack and earlier irrigation demand which stressed water supplies.

The U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM) decreased the drought severity category in multiple Idaho counties after several atmospheric rivers brought substantial moisture to the state. Prior to December, 84% of Idaho lands were in drought and now only 53% of Idaho is experiencing moderate to severe drought. Given the near record low snowpack in much of Idaho on January 1, we think the current USDM does not reflect the warm snow drought conditions. If the snowpack continues to lag behind, the long-term accumulated precipitation deficits could have substantial negative impacts on water supply in Idaho. The Panhandle region in northern Idaho has had three consecutive years of drought conditions, a fourth year would be unprecedented. Several streams, like the St. Joe River, set new records for lowest streamflow conditions and many perennial streams on the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation went dry for the first time in many people's memories. The Spokane River, which is fed by snowmelt flowing from Montana into Lake Coeur d'Alene, went dry in late August.

Snowpack

At publication time, the Idaho snowpack is at below normal at 88%. By this time of year, we should be seeing approximately ~50% of our peak annual snowpack that typically reaches its maximum around April 1st instead of 42%. Most of the state has a below normal snowpack, especially south of the Snake River. Some basins, like the Salmon, Wood, Lost, Henrys-Fork Teton, and Snake River headwaters have above normal snowpack conditions within the higher-elevation mountains.

The Idaho snowpack typically begins growing in November and ramps up in December as cold winter temperatures arrive. This year, both November and December were more than six degrees warmer than normal across Idaho. This November was the warmest in the last 131 years in Idaho (since 1895). Although Idaho received well above normal precipitation in December, most of that precipitation fell as rain instead of snow due to the warm temperatures. These conditions lead to a record low snowpack on December 1. By mid-December, snowpack conditions begin to improve as it got cold enough for snow to fall at the higher elevations, but it was still too warm to get snow at the lower and mid-elevation ranges. Many areas would get a little bit of snow, but then either it would melt off completely or a rain-on-snow event would cause widespread melting. The early-December flooding that happened in northern Idaho is a good example of the consequences of rain-on-snow events and of receiving too much rain too quickly.

By January 1, the mountain snowpack in the Wood, Lost, Snake River above Heise, and Salmon basins reached near to above normal conditions (96 to 151%), but the surrounding valleys still lacked snow. Elsewhere in the state, it was still too warm for it to snow, leaving many basins with a well below normal snowpack. The SNOTEL network is positioned to measure the mountain snowpack conditions. Other snow-related products, such as the NSIDC satellite-derived snow extent maps and the SWE maps by the University of Arizona, give more insight into low elevation snowpack conditions.

The Southern Snake River basins have been especially affected by the warm, winter conditions. Snowpack in these areas range from a measly 15% of normal in the Owyhee Basin to 74% farther east in the Raft Basin. Since the snowpack accumulation season is shorter in this region and the snowmelt runoff period typically begins in March, there isn't very much time for these areas to recover. Along the southern border, both the Willow-Blackfoot-Portneuf and Bear River basins also have well below normal snowpacks.

Western Idaho is also experiencing warm snow drought conditions. For example, when Idaho Snow Staff measured the snowpack at the Bogus Basin SNOTEL site on January 1, it was the lowest recorded SWE in its 83-year measurement history. Drier conditions persist as you move east as well. Unfortunately, at report time, a high-pressure system continues to bring warm and dry conditions to the Pacific Northwest. The snow drought will continue in the short-term, but we hope to see winter conditions come back with a vengeance.

Precipitation

*Water Y*ear 2026 (WY2026) started off wet with above normal precipitation across the state in October (102 to 223%). Then we had a warm and dry November. Many basins received less than 50% of their normal precipitation. The Bruneau Basin only got 20% of its typical monthly precipitation! Conditions were thankfully a little wetter in the Little Wood (94%) and in the Panhandle basins in November (96 to 114%). A series of atmospheric rivers in December brought ample rainfall to the region. Idaho basins received 95 to 247% of their normal monthly precipitation that month (Fig. 1). So, the snow drought that emerged wasn't due to lack of precipitation but temperatures that were too warm for the precipitation to fall as snow. This brings us to the unusual situation where total water year precipitation (WYP) is near to above normal (86 to 171%) in all Idaho basins, but the snowpack is abysmally low across large swaths of the state.

Water supply – overview

The CPC outlook for the [April through June] period forecasts warmer and drier conditions across Idaho this spring. This does not bode well for water supply across Idaho, especially for basins with low reservoir carryover. Last year, dry and hot spring conditions lead to the snowpack melting earlier and more rapidly than is typical. The warmer than normal spring temperatures coupled with well below normal spring precipitation ([fifth driest since 1895]) increased irrigation demand earlier than normal. WY2025 was also the [fourth warmest year since 1895]. Dry soil conditions, very little spring rainfall, and rapid snowmelt were a triple whammy for streamflow. [Observed runoff during the usual snowpack melt period (April through July) was less than our 70 to 90% exceedance streamflow forecasts across much of Idaho]. In other words, streamflow was historically low. All of these factors combined hit agricultural producers hard. The reduction of natural flow in many rivers forced many irrigators to use storage water earlier than expected and strained water supply for many water users across the state. Fisheries, hydropower generation, and recreation sectors were all negatively impacted last water year despite the generally good snowpack in WY2025.

These WY2025 conditions lead to a divergence of water supply conditions across Idaho to start this new water year. Water users in basins with low reservoir carryover have less of a buffer to weather a below normal snowpack than those with above average carryover (Upper Snake River versus Treasure Valley water users for example). The one bright spot with the delayed onset of winter is that soil moisture conditions in Idaho have improved dramatically since the fall. Warm temperatures with a lot of rain in December allowed the bare ground to absorb much of the precipitation. We hope the increased soil moisture will lead to higher runoff efficiency this spring (more snowmelt goes directly into the rivers and reservoirs).

Water supply – reservoir conditions

Reservoir storage seems to fall into two camps this water year: well below or well above normal. Let's start with the basins that have above normal storage. The Boise River system has 112% of normal storage (58% of capacity) with ~90 KAF more water than is typical for early January. With 149% of normal December precipitation that mostly fell as rain, the Boise system is filling quickly. The USACE reports that Arrowrock Dam is filling quickly due to high natural inflows. They plan to begin releasing water downstream into Lucky Peak in late January or early February, about one month earlier than normal. Flood Risk Management (FRM) releases are very likely this spring for the Boise System to make room for incoming snowmelt. The timing and amount of these FRM releases will be dependent how much the Boise Basin snowpack builds from here.

Reservoir storage in the Owyhee Basin is 184% of normal thanks to three years with above normal snowpacks that re-filled the Owyhee Reservoir. This year's snowpack in the Owyhee is the lowest in the state and is setting a new historical low record at only 15% of normal. The above normal reservoir carryover will be a blessing for this basin's water users. Other Southern Snake River water users aren't as fortunate. Both Salmon Falls and Goose Creek (Oakley) water users are facing tough water supply conditions with both well below normal storage and snowpack conditions. Bear Lake water users have sufficient reservoir storage and snowpack conditions have improved since January 1, so things are looking a little better in southeast Idaho. In central Idaho, water users in the Big Wood, Little Wood and Big Lost basins are in a slightly better position. Although their low reservoir carryover is concerning, their mountain snowpacks are above normal. Last year, sufficient streamflow was forecasted for these basins because they had near normal snowpacks on April 1, but they only received 57 to 78% of the anticipated runoff (exception Camas Creek near Blaine). This put water users in a tough spot as they navigated having less water than expected. Idaho's Water Resources Research Institute (IWRRI) has excellent tools available to help Big Wood water users navigate these challenges.

As of January 7, BOR reported that the Upper Snake River Reservoir system has 1.95 MAF of storage which is 80% of the typical storage at this time of year. The system is 48% full with ~560 KAF less water than normal. With 146 to 210% of normal precipitation in December, reservoir inflow increased significantly. At publication time, total water year precipitation in the watershed above Milner Dam is 131% of normal and snowpack is 105% of normal. Due to the below normal storage conditions, water users will need a well above normal snowpack to generate enough water to meet demand in the upcoming irrigation season. So far, the high elevation mountains in this region have accumulated snow (above ~ 7,800 ft.), but the lower elevation areas, especially in the Willow-Blackfoot-Portneuf basin have below normal snowpack conditions.

Water supply – streamflow forecasts

Announcements

- Starting in WY2024, NWCC began transitioning NRCS water supply forecast modeling from a single model principal component regression system (Viper) to Persephone/M4. This is a state-of-the-art, multi-model system that uses six independent statistical and machine learning methods to forecast streamflow across the Western U.S. This water year, all streamflow volume forecasts will be sourced and published from the new modeling system.

- NWCC will also now generate weekly guidance forecasts for a subset of priority forecast points. More forecast points will be added as time allows. Please email erin.whorton@usda.gov if weekly guidance forecasts would be useful for your operations. Where available, guidance forecasts will be published on the 1st, 9th, 16th and 23rd of each month. Similar modeling techniques and water supply predictors used in the monthly operational forecasts, like SWE and total water year precipitation, are also used to generate these guidance forecasts. While NWCC forecasters will monitor guidance forecasts and may make minor adjustments, they will not be reviewed or adjusted in the same way as the official first of month forecasts. This means guidance forecast may not match first of month forecasts. However, differences will be small and apparent when visualizing them in the Forecast Evolution Plot tool. Despite these differences, guidance forecasts will still serve as an important tracker of forecast trends.

NRCS only publishes streamflow forecasts at locations where model confidence is high. Due to the large uncertainty in early season forecasts, very few forecasts are issued in January. Streamflow was especially difficult to forecast this water year. With above normal total water year precipitation conditions but a mostly below normal snowpack, the forecasts skewed higher than one might expect. Despite being 'higher skill' forecasts, please keep in mind that these January forecasts still have a large amount of uncertainty because there is a lot of time for snowpack and seasonal conditions to change. Five forecasts are made for each forecast point so that water users can see the lowest to highest amount of water that is possibly expected for their area of interest. There are two useful tools to help visualize the spread of the seasonal streamflow forecasts: forecast basin 'bar' charts and the forecast evolution tool. The greater the difference between the 90% exceedance forecast (least amount of water expected) to the 10% exceedance (most amount of water anticipated) gives a good indication of the uncertainty in the modeling results. The larger the spread (difference) between these values, the more uncertainty there is in the result. Proceed accordingly.

For the April through July forecast period, streamflow forecasts are near to below normal in the Henrys Fork-Teton (78 to 103%). Above normal total WYP (118%) in that basin is being tempered by below normal snowpack (82%) and below normal November streamflow (accounts for groundwater lag times). The Snake River at Heise forecast predicts above normal runoff (162%). If above normal total WYP and snowpack conditions continue, this bodes well for making up for the below normal reservoir storage. In the Southern Snake River basins, forecasts are below normal (~90%) and are being boosted by the near normal WYP conditions (86 to 101%) despite the well below normal snowpack (15 to 74%). If the very low snowpack conditions continue, we highly encourage water users to consider the 70 and 90% exceedance forecasts over the 50% exceedance forecast, especially if there is a drier than normal spring like last water year. Forecasts in northern Idaho are likely higher than the low snowpack conditions would suggest. The higher elevation headwaters for the Pend Oreille and Kootenai rivers have a few pockets of near to above normal SWE so that's shifting those forecasts higher (72 to 125%). We urge water users to look towards the drier range of our forecasts (70 or 90% exceedance) for the Spokane and Priest rivers since the large uncertainty in the streamflow models and high total WYP are suggesting greater streamflow volumes than we think the snowpack conditions support.

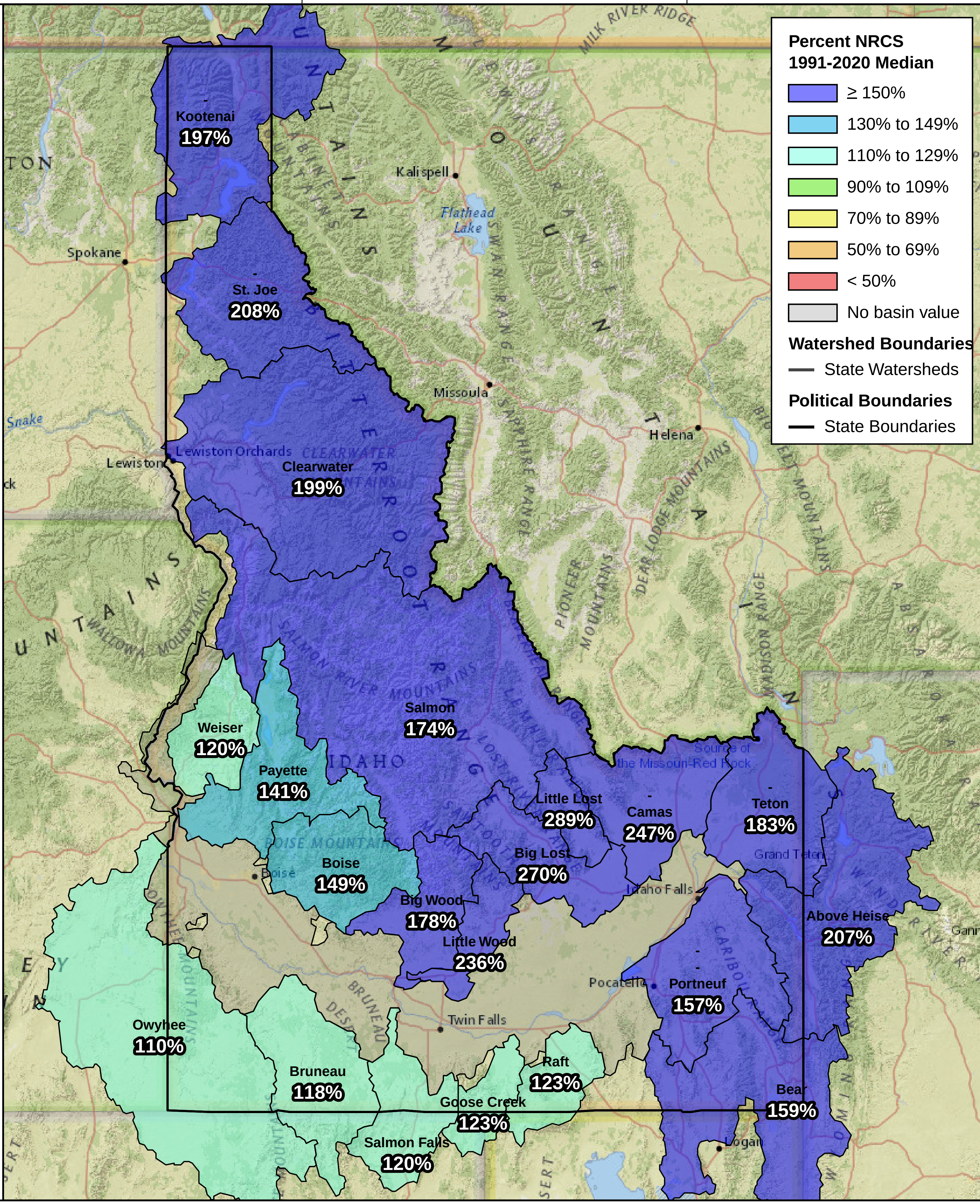
Streamflow, snowpack, and precipitation data for each basin can be accessed in basin reports or on the NRCS interactive map.

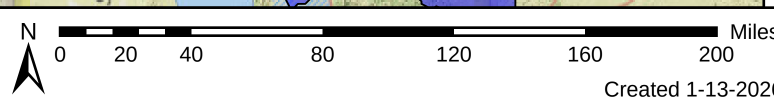
Note to readers:

Due to a few technical issues with the code that we use to generate the water supply outlook report (WSOR) figures; we were unable to generate some of the maps and figures we typically present. We will upload a 'normal' January WSOR to the NRCS Idaho Snow Survey webpage as soon as we can resolve the issues.

We've decided to include basin-wide SWE (snow water equivalent) figures for one basin within the regional group (e.g. Boise Basin for the Central West group). For specific basin SWE and precipitation plots, please see our Idaho basin page. Please see the NRCS interactive map for current statewide snowpack and precipitation conditions. Basin reports with individual SNOTEL site SWE and precipitation data, streamflow forecasts and reservoir conditions can be generated using this NRCS basin report tool.

1 month Precipitation	Figure 1: December Precipitation Percent NRCS 1991-2020 Median	December 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025





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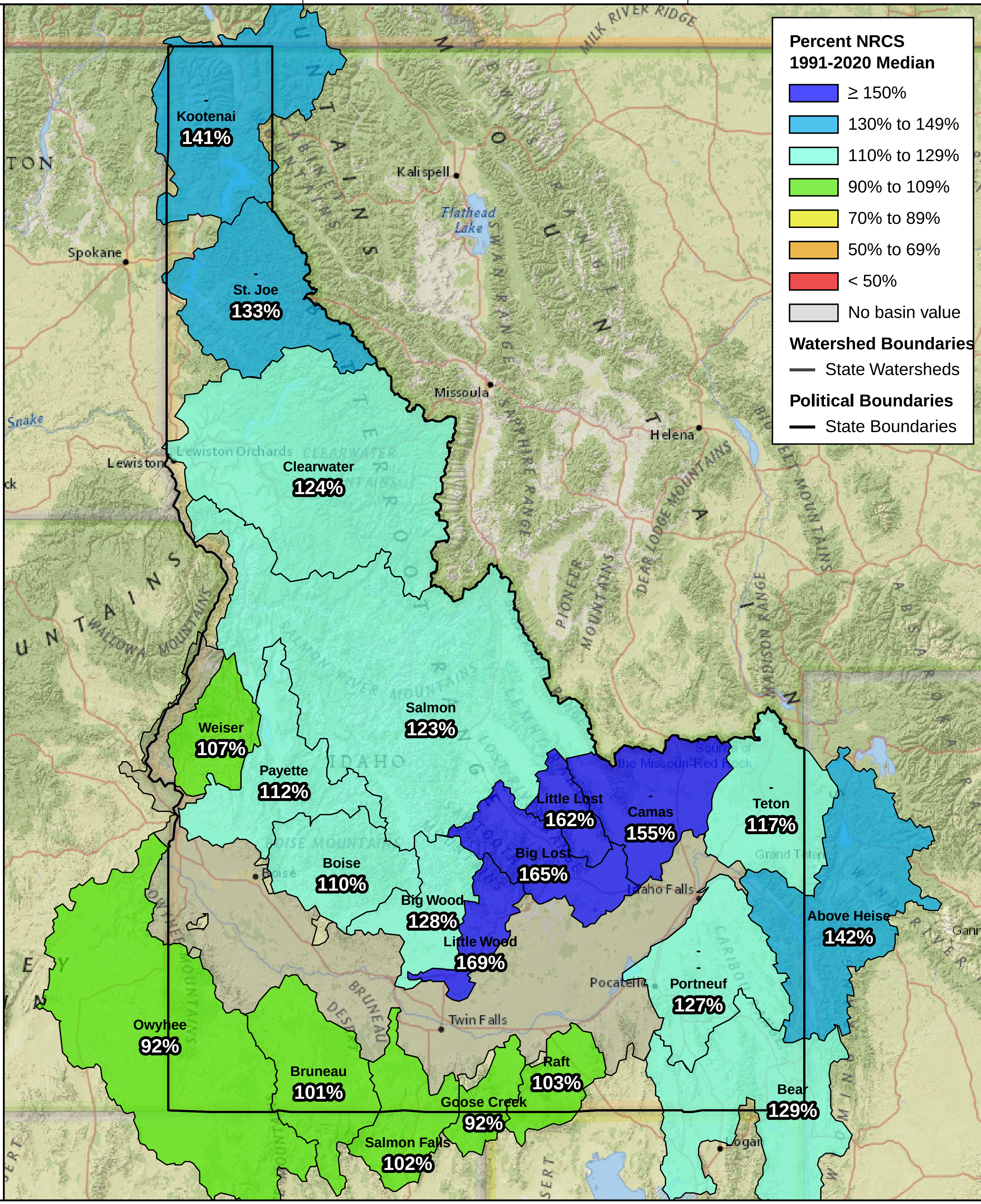
Created 1-13-2026

Water Year to Date Precipitation	Figure 2: Total Water Year Precipitation Percent NRCS 1991-2020 Median	October 1, 2025 - January 1, 2026



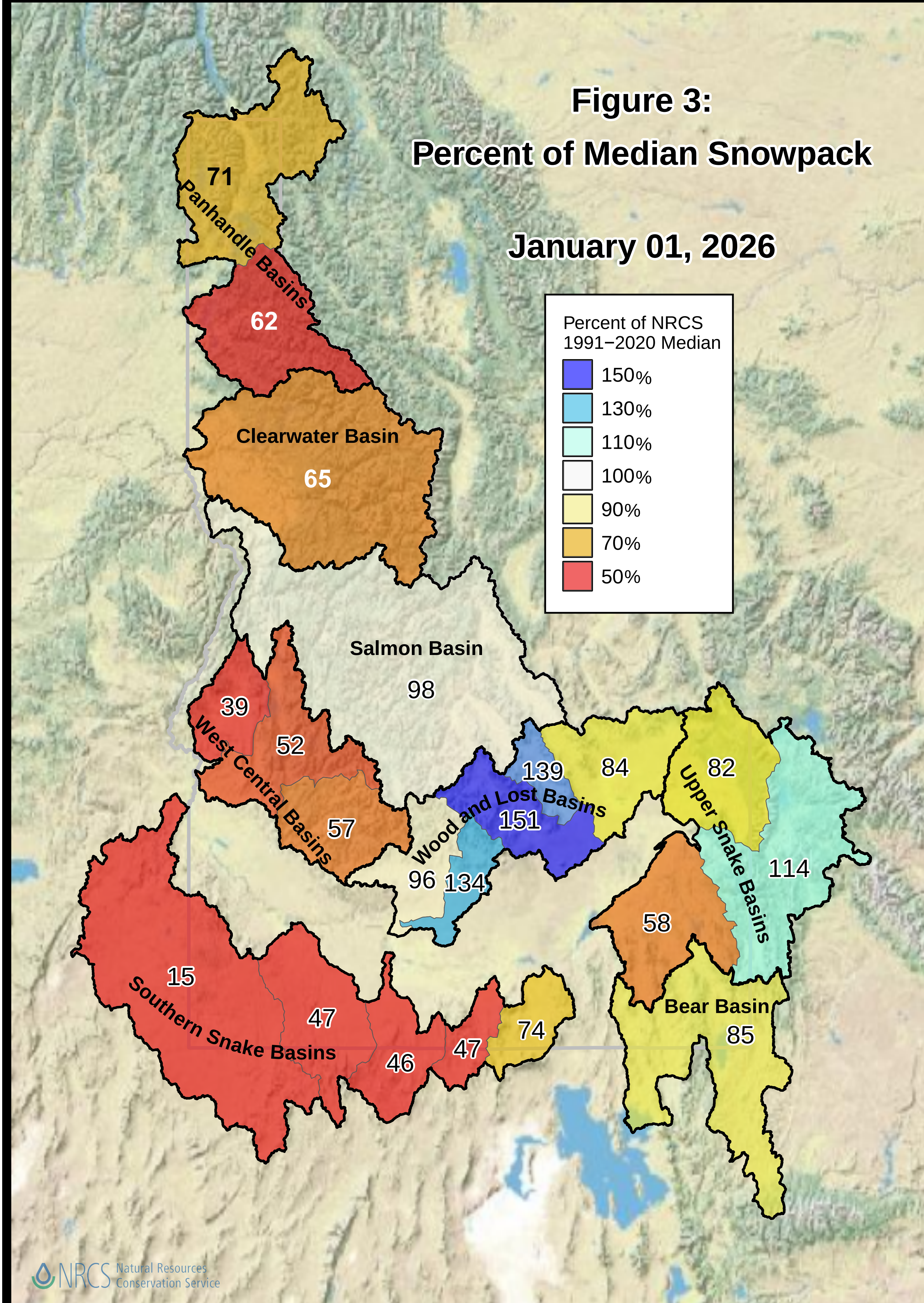


Figure 3:
Percent of Median Snowpack
January 01, 2026
Percent of NRCS
1991−2020 Median
150%
130%
110%
100%
90%
70%
50%
Panhandle Basins
71
62
Clearwater Basin
65
Salmon Basin
98
West Central Basins
39
52
57
Wood and Lost Basins
139
84
151
96
134
Upper Snake Basins
82
114
58
Bear Basin
85
Southern Snake Basins
15
47
46
47
74
NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

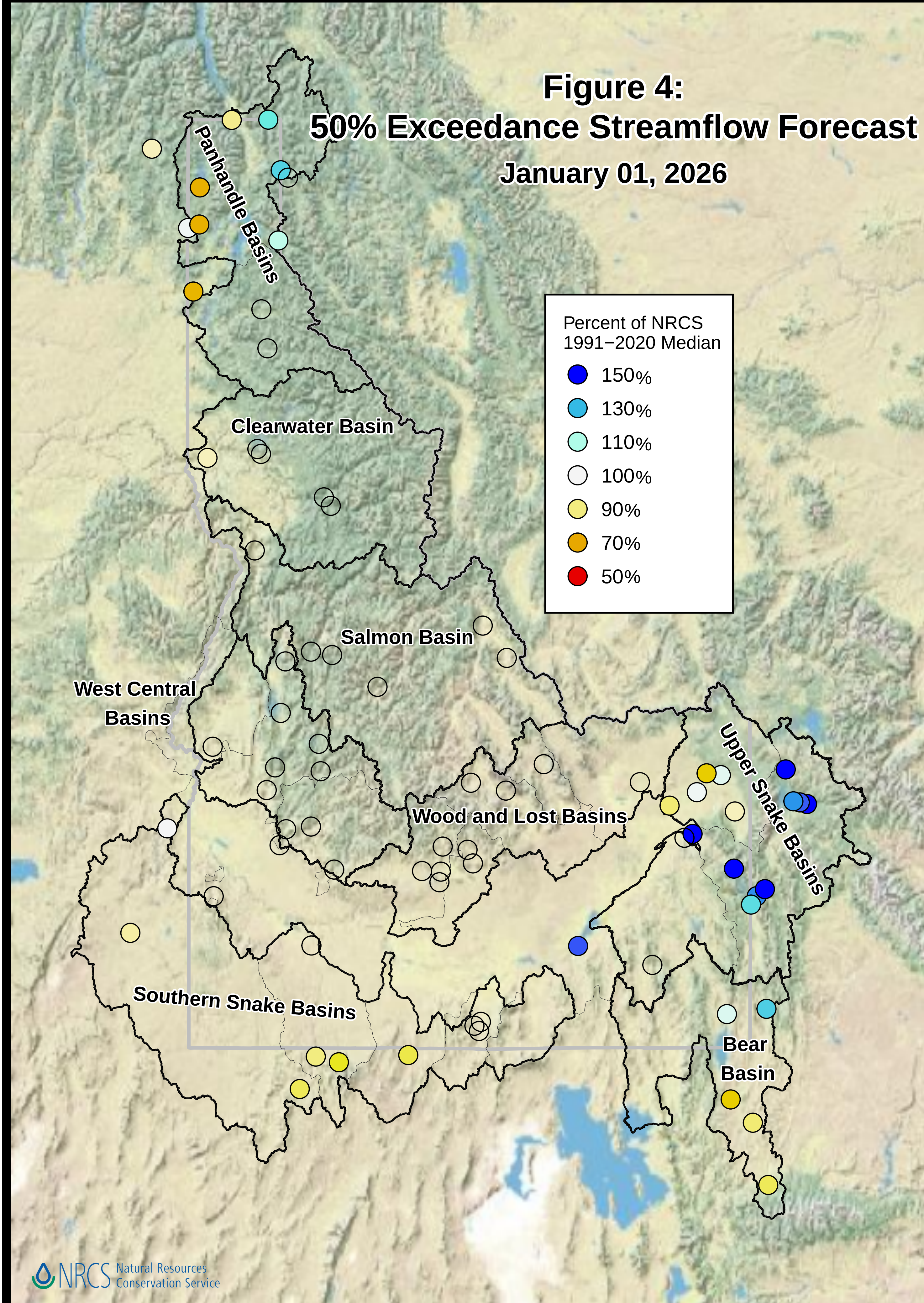
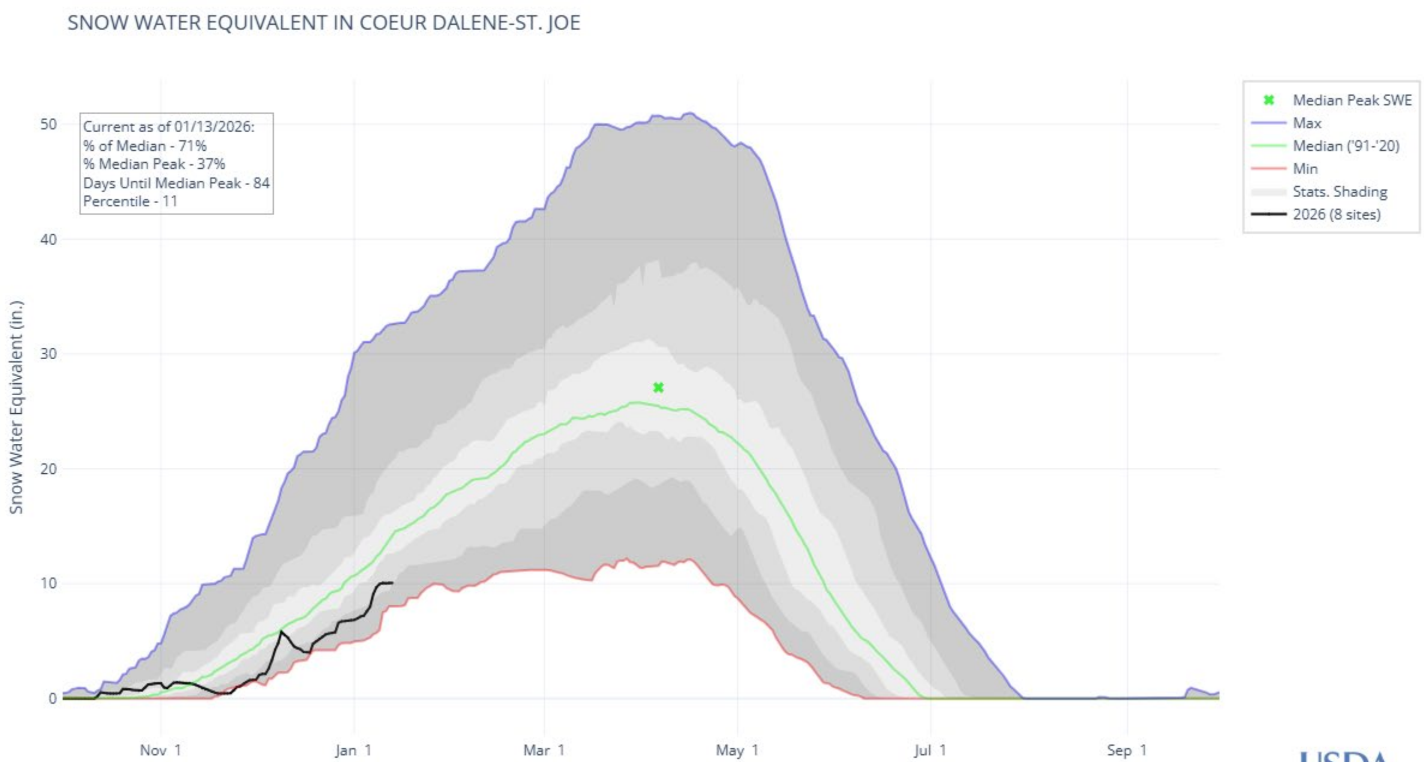


Figure 4:
50% Exceedance Streamflow Forecast
January 01, 2026
Percent of NRCS
1991−2020 Median
150%
130%
110%
100%
90%
70%
50%
Panhandle Basins
Clearwater Basin
Salmon Basin
West Central
Basins
Wood and Lost Basins
Upper Snake Basins
Southern Snake Basins
Bear
Basin
NRCS Natural Resources
Conservation Service

Panhandle Basins

January 1, 2026



WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

The Idaho Panhandle was off to a strong start with a well above normal November 1 snowpack, but things quickly changed with above normal temperatures through the end of December. These warm temperatures coupled with ~200% of normal precipitation in December (Fig. 1) brought an abnormal amount of rain to the region – even at some of the area's highest elevations. This led to significant snowmelt across both the Coeur d'Alene-St. Joe and Pend Orielle-Kootenai basins, and significant flooding, particularly on the Coeur d'Alene River. This snowmelt not only led to flooding, but also new records for observed streamflow volume in Priest River, Coeur d'Alene River, and Boundary Creek in December. All of that water running through our rivers is typically stored in the mountains until springtime as snow. These warm temperatures were a massive hit to the Panhandle snowpack which now sits at ~60 to 70% of normal (Fig. 3). Although total water year precipitation is well above normal at ~130 to 140% (Fig. 2), concerns are quickly growing about the snow drought (when SNOTEL SWE percentiles are below 20) if warm conditions persist. If the mountains are lacking an adequate snowpack come springtime, then the multi-year, severe drought conditions will likely continue across the Panhandle without above normal spring precipitation. It is still early enough in the season for conditions to improve, so please keep up the snow dances, or perhaps more appropriate, below-freezing dances.

Reservoir storage in the Panhandle lakes is above normal: Coeur d'Alene is 259% of normal (77% of capacity), Pend Oreille is 132% of normal (52% of capacity), and Priest Lake is 151% of normal (70% of capacity). Streamflow forecasts for April through July are ~70 to 125% of normal at the 50%

exceedance level in the Panhandle basins. The headwaters of the Pend Oreille and Kootenai rivers in Montana have high-elevation pockets with near to above normal snowpack conditions. This is driving the streamflow forecasts to be higher than expected given the near record low snowpack conditions. In the Priest River and Spokane River basins, the forecasts may not look as low as you might expect because these forecasts have larger modeling errors early in the season, which push the forecasted streamflow volumes closer to the median. Some streamflow forecast points are unavailable in January due to the high model errors with early season forecasts.

Panhandle Basins Streamflow Forecasts - January 01, 2026

		Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment <=== Drier ===== Projected Volume ===== Wetter ===>						
Forecast Point	Forecast Period	90% (KAF)	70% (KAF)	50% (KAF)	% Median	30% (KAF)	10% (KAF)	30yr Med (KAF)
Kootenai R at Leonia 1 & 2	APR-JUL	5,780	7,310	8,320	125	9,610	14,000	6,680
	APR-SEP	6,450	7,990	9,040	120	10,500	16,200	7,560
Moyie R at Eastport	APR-JUL	295	370	450	120	575	925	375
	APR-SEP	285	355	430	110	555	995	390
Boundary Ck nr Porthill	APR-JUL	79	93	108	91	129	188	119
	APR-SEP	83	101	114	92	127	145	124
Clark Fork R bl Cabinet Gorge Dam 2	APR-JUL	8,070	9,550	10,800	108	12,100	14,400	9,980
	APR-SEP	8,820	10,400	11,800	108	13,300	15,900	10,900
Priest R Outflow NR Coolin	APR-JUL	385	445	495	72	560	680	690
	APR-SEP	420	485	545	75	615	740	725
Priest R nr Priest River 2	APR-JUL	460	535	605	72	705	980	840
	APR-SEP	500	580	660	75	770	1,030	880
Pend Oreille R at Newport WA 2	APR-JUL	8,810	10,500	11,800	101	13,300	15,700	11,700
	APR-SEP	9,780	11,500	12,900	102	14,700	17,800	12,600
Pend Oreille R bl Box Canyon	APR-JUL	8,500	9,900	11,100	95	12,500	15,200	11,700
	APR-SEP	9,320	10,900	12,200	96	13,800	17,000	12,700
Spokane R nr Post Falls 2	APR-JUL	1,140	1,510	1,840	73	2,230	2,940	2,510
	APR-SEP	1,240	1,640	1,980	77	2,380	3,100	2,570

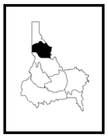
Normals based on 1991-2020 reference period: streamflow, snowpack, precipitation, & reservoir normals are medians.

1) 90% and 10% exceedance probabilities are actually 95% and 5%

2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions

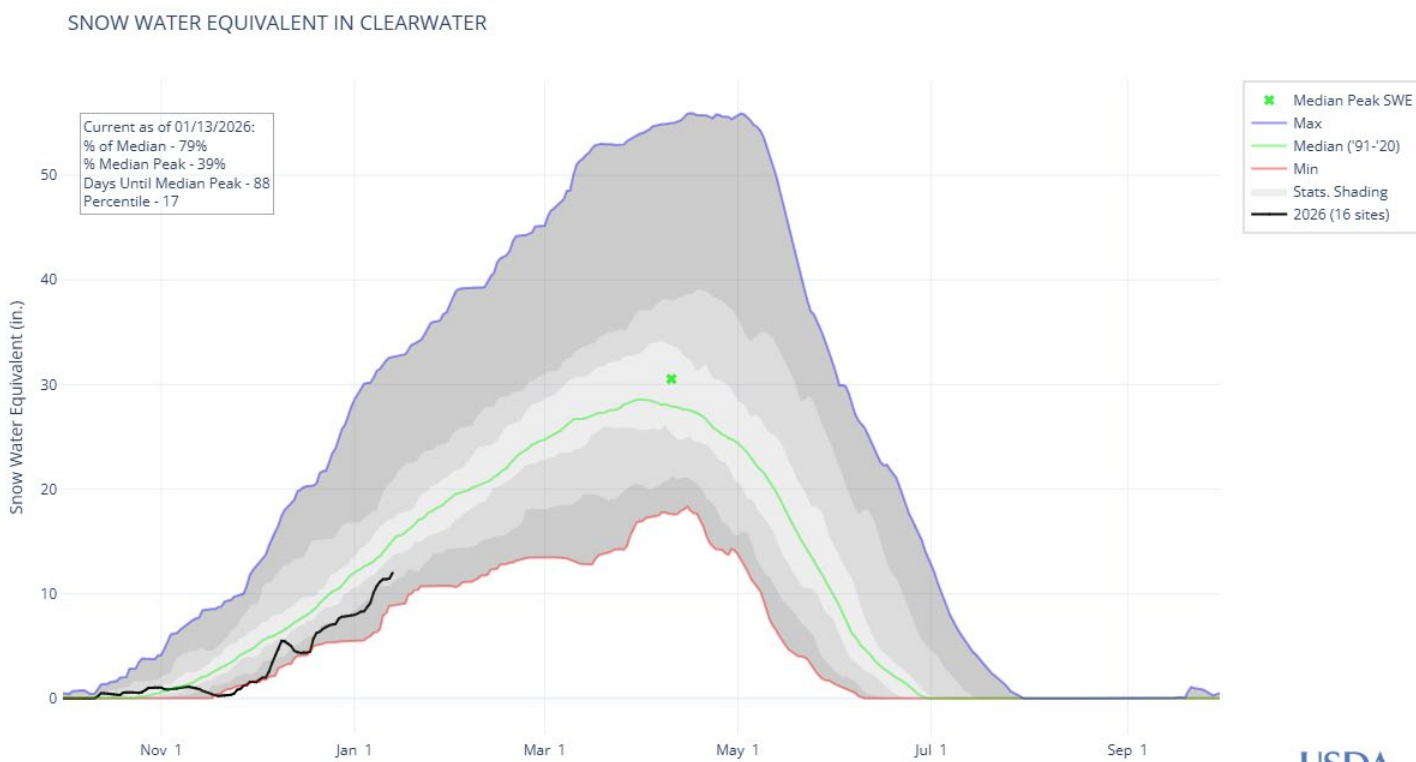
Reservoir Storage (KAF): January 01, 2026				
Reservoir Name	Current (KAF)	2025	Median (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)
Hungry Horse Lake	3,175.7	2,667.3	2,870.0	3,451.0
Lake Pend Oreille	816.4	579.6	620.0	1,561.3
Priest Lake	83.9	58.7	55.6	119.3
Lake Coeur d' Alene	183.6	97.9	70.8	238.5
Flathead Lake		1,297.7	1,181.0	1,791.0

Watershed Snowpack Analysis - January 01, 2026			
	# of	% of Median	
Basin Name	Sites	2026	2025
Pend Oreille-Kootenai	**13**	**69**	**130**
Moyie	1	131	113
Lower Kootenai	2	81	133
Priest	6	68	139
Pend Oreille Lake	5	62	131
Rathdrum	2	20	136
Coeur D'Alene-St. Joe	**8**	**49**	**107**
Coeur D'Alene	5	49	106
St. Joe	3	50	108
Palouse	2	27	85



Clearwater River Basin

January 1, 2026



WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

The snowpack started the year off with record low conditions in November. The large SWE gains we saw in early December where unfortunately lost by December 18. Despite ~200% of normal precipitation in December, rain-on-snow events caused a widespread loss of snow during mid-December. Even at the highest elevations in the basin, SNOTEL sites like Cool Creek, lost snow. The above normal precipitation in December brought total water year precipitation to ~125% of normal (Fig. 2). Since December 18, snowpack has been accumulating but is still only 65% of normal as of January 1 (Fig. 3). Total streamflow volume across the basin was well above normal in December. These early winter melt events leading to rare flood risk management releases at Dworshak Reservoir to maintain the necessary flood control space to accommodate spring snowmelt.

Dworshak Reservoir is at 80% capacity, which is 119% of normal. The January 1 winter pool elevation is the highest it has been since 1980. The 50% exceedance streamflow forecast for the Clearwater River at Spalding is 95% of normal for the April through July forecast period. Most streamflow forecast points are unavailable in January due to the high model uncertainty in the early season forecasts but will become available in February. While the snowpack is in bad shape on January 1, it is still early in the accumulation season for conditions to evolve. NOAA's 8-to-14 Day Outlook predicts increased probability for near normal precipitation and warmer than normal temperatures. This unfortunately suggests there's a strong possibility of more rain to come.

Clearwater Basin Streamflow Forecasts - January 01, 2026

		Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment <=== Drier ===== Projected Volume ===== Wetter ===>						
Forecast Point	**Forecast Period**	**90% (KAF)**	**70% (KAF)**	**50% (KAF)**	**% Median**	**30% (KAF)**	**10% (KAF)**	**30yr Med (KAF)**
Clearwater R at Spalding 2	APR-JUL	4,790	5,690	6,500	95	7,530	9,640	6,820
	APR-SEP	4,990	5,880	6,700	92	7,760	10,000	7,290

Normals based on 1991-2020 reference period: streamflow, snowpack, precipitation, & reservoir normals are medians.

1) 90% and 10% exceedance probabilities are actually 95% and 5%

2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions

Reservoir Storage (KAF): January 01, 2026

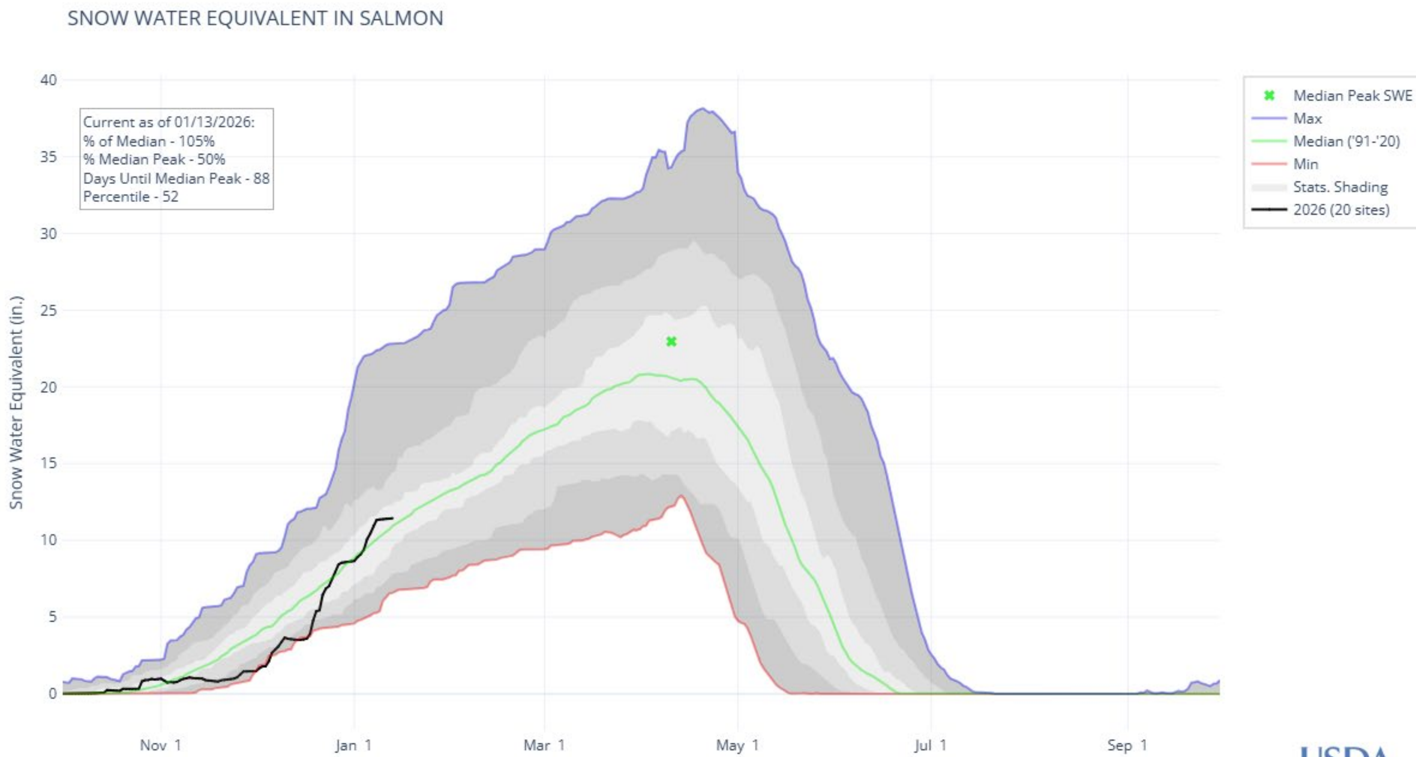
Reservoir Name	Current (KAF)	2025	Median (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)
Dworshak Reservoir	2,758.6	2,233	2,316	3,468

Watershed Snowpack Analysis - January 01, 2026

Basin Name	# of Sites	% of Median 2026	% of Median 2025
Clearwater	**16**	**60**	**102**
North Fork Clearwater	6	55	114
Lochsa	2	78	86
Selway	4	82	98
South Fork Clearwater	1	77	84

Salmon River Basin

January 1, 2026



WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

Water Year 2026 began strong with October precipitation at 133% of normal; it was significantly wetter than the start of the previous water year, which only had 56% of normal precipitation. November was relatively dry with 60% of normal precipitation and had well above normal temperatures that impeded early snowpack development. A series of atmospheric rivers in December brought significant precipitation, driving the monthly total precipitation to 172% of normal (Fig. 1). This resulted in many sites with their 2nd highest monthly precipitation on record. Overall, total water year precipitation is 123% of normal in the Salmon River Basin as of January 1 (Fig. 2). By mid-December, the snow started flying again, and the snowpack recovered from the record lows observed at many SNOTEL stations on December 1 to near normal conditions. The snowpack on January 1 is now at 96% of normal (Fig. 3).

There are no reservoirs in the Salmon River Basin. Streamflow forecasts are not published for the Salmon Basin in January due to the high model uncertainty associated with early season snowpack conditions. They will be available in the February 1 report. For insights into future conditions, NOAA's 8-to-14 Day Outlook predicts increased chances for above normal temperatures and equal chances for above or below normal precipitation.

Salmon Basin Streamflow Forecasts - January 01, 2026

		Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment <=== Drier ===== Projected Volume ===== Wetter ===>						
Forecast Point	Forecast Period	90% (KAF)	70% (KAF)	50% (KAF)	% Median	30% (KAF)	10% (KAF)	30yr Med (KAF)

Normals based on 1991-2020 reference period: streamflow, snowpack, precipitation, & reservoir normals are medians.

1) 90% and 10% exceedance probabilities are actually 95% and 5%

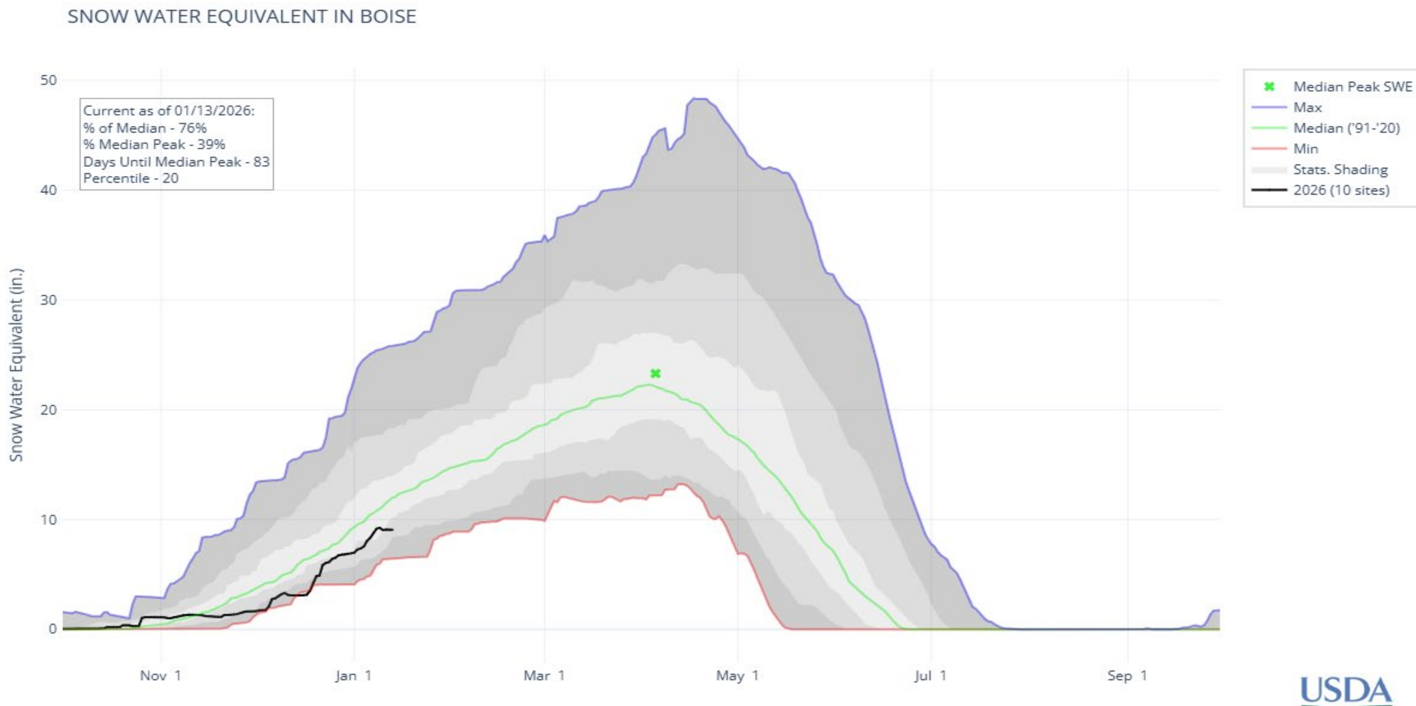
2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions

Reservoir Storage (KAF): January 01, 2026				
Reservoir Name	Current (KAF)	2025	Median (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)

Watershed Snowpack Analysis - January 01, 2026			
	# of	% of Median	
Basin Name	Sites	2026	2025
Salmon	**20**	**98**	**111**
Lemhi	3	124	84
Salmon ab Salmon	7	123	100
Middle Fork Salmon	3	96	120
South Fork Salmon	3	81	126
Little Salmon	4	66	153
Lower-Middle Salmon	4	93	109

West Central Basins

January 1, 2026



WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

Water year 2025 ended on September 30, 2025, with ~100% of normal precipitation in the West Central basins (Weiser, Payette, Boise). Near normal precipitation continued into the new water year. However, the abnormally high temperatures across Idaho this fall and winter led to most of the precipitation falling as rain rather than snow. This left SWE levels near record lows. Although monthly precipitation in December was ~120 to 150% of normal (Fig. 1) and total water year precipitation ranges from ~105 to 115% of normal on January 1 (Fig. 2), the snowpack is very low at only ~40 to 60% of normal (Fig. 3). Multiple SNOTEL sites had their lowest recorded January 1 SWE (snow water equivalent) levels in ~45 years of observation. The snow course at Bogus Basin, had the lowest recorded SWE level on January 1 in its 83-year history of continuous measurements! The record low snowpack is due to the well above normal warm temperatures observed across the Pacific Northwest. Sites at over ~6,500 ft. are far closer to normal snowpack conditions than sites below this elevation. These basins will need significant snow accumulation to catch up to normal values. Medium range outlooks show near normal precipitation and above normal temperatures are expected, thus it's unlikely we'll see the snowpack accumulate until colder, wetter conditions return.

Combined reservoir storage in the Boise system (Anderson Ranch, Arrowrock and Lucky Peak combined) is ~110% of normal (58% capacity). Reservoir storage in the Payette Basin is 110% of normal and storage in the Weiser Basin is ~75% of normal. Due to high uncertainty with early season forecasts, no streamflow forecasts are available for January in the West Central basins. Forecasts will be available in the February 1 report.

West Central Basins Streamflow Forecasts - January 01, 2026

		Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment <=== Drier ===== Projected Volume ===== Wetter ===>						
Forecast Point	Forecast Period	90% (KAF)	70% (KAF)	50% (KAF)	% Median	30% (KAF)	10% (KAF)	30yr Med (KAF)

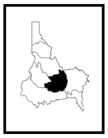
Normals based on 1991-2020 reference period: streamflow, snowpack, precipitation, & reservoir normals are medians.

1) 90% and 10% exceedance probabilities are actually 95% and 5%

2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions

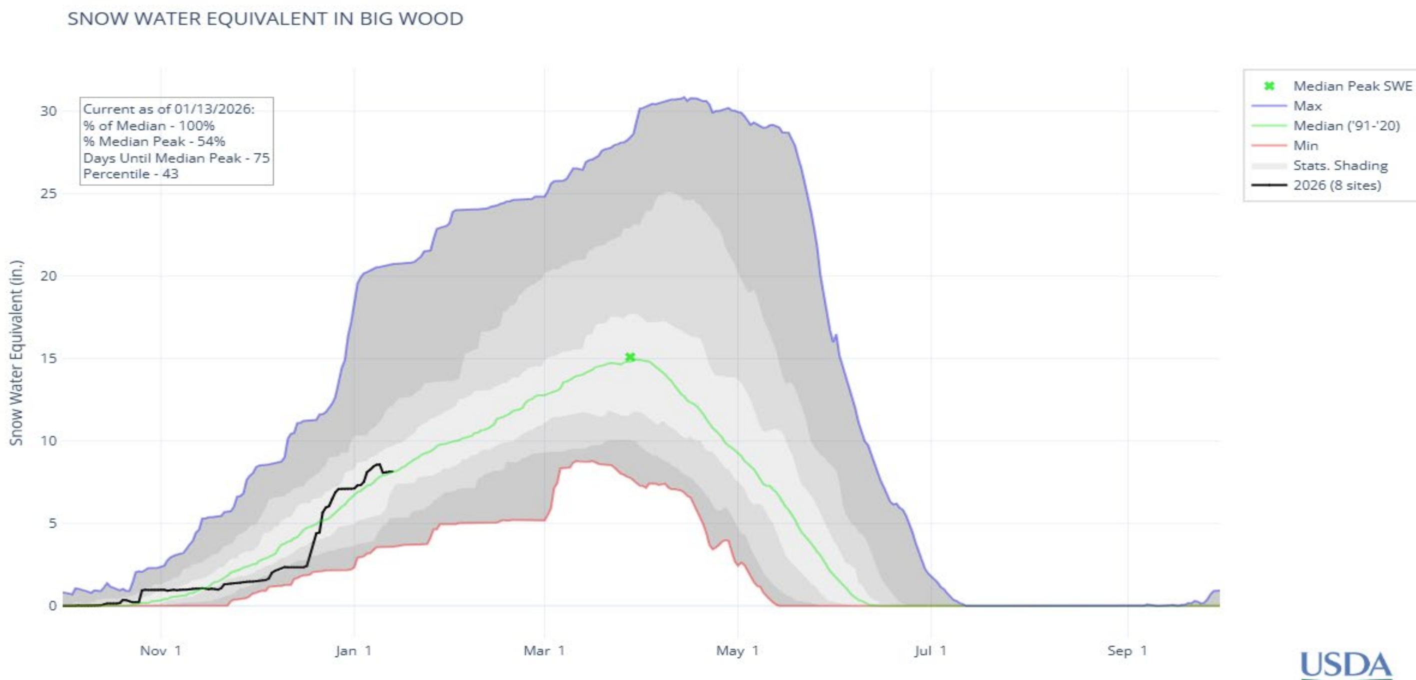
Reservoir Storage (KAF): January 01, 2026				
Reservoir Name	Current (KAF)	2025	Median (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)
Anderson Ranch Reservoir	299.3	306.5	270.8	450.2
Arrowrock Reservoir	206.7	114.8	169.1	272.2
Lucky Peak Reservoir	84.8	82.3	89.5	293.2
Boise River System Total	**590.8**	**503.6**	**529.4**	**1,015.6**
Deadwood Reservoir	95.1	75.4	90.9	161.9
Cascade Reservoir	498.9	446.9	453.0	693.2
Payette River System Total	**594.1**	**522.3**	**543.9**	**855.1**
Lake Lowell	112.4	104.8	97.9	165.2
Mann Creek Reservoir	1.2	2.3	1.6	11.1

Watershed Snowpack Analysis - January 01, 2026			
Basin Name	# of Sites	% of Median 2026	% of Median 2025
Boise	**18**	**57**	**132**
Mores	6	22	145
North and Middle Fork Boise	6	69	129
South Fork Boise	9	83	124
Canyon	2	12	199
Payette	**19**	**52**	**135**
North Fork Payette	9	60	138
South Fork Payette	4	76	122
Weiser	**8**	**39**	**153**
Mann	1	38	200



Wood & Lost River Basins

January 1, 2026



WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

Water Year 2026 in the Wood and Lost River basins began much like the rest of the state, with above normal air temperatures and precipitation, but an early season snowpack that's below normal. December precipitation (Fig. 1) was very high, ranging from 178 to 272% of normal. By January 1, total water year precipitation (Fig. 2) remained well above normal and ranged from 131 to 171% across these basins. In mid-December, a significant storm brought enough snowfall to raise the snowpack above the 30-year median by January 1. SWE now ranges from 96 to 151% of median (Fig. 3). Following this event, the Wood and Lost River basins were the only watersheds besides the Snake River headwaters with an above normal January 1 snowpack. These basins stood out from the rest of the state because they have Idaho's highest mountain ranges, which kept snow accumulation largely unaffected by the above average temperatures that produced rain at lower elevations elsewhere in the state. This elevation effect was particularly noticeable at the Smiley Mountain SNOTEL, located at 9,540 ft. in the Pioneer Mountains. As of January 1, Smiley Mountain was the only station in the entire SNOTEL network to achieve a period of record maximum SWE measurement!

Magic Reservoir and Little Wood Reservoir storage are below normal for this time of year at 61% and 98% of normal respectively (14% and 45% capacity). Mackay Reservoir storage is 67% of normal (35% capacity). Note that due to the large uncertainty associated with early season forecasts, no streamflow forecasts are available for January in the Wood and Lost River basins. Forecasts will be available in the February 1 report.

Wood and Lost Basins Streamflow Forecasts - January 01, 2026

		Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment <=== Drier ===== Projected Volume ===== Wetter ===>						
Forecast Point	Forecast Period	90% (KAF)	70% (KAF)	50% (KAF)	% Median	30% (KAF)	10% (KAF)	30yr Med (KAF)

Normals based on 1991-2020 reference period: streamflow, snowpack, precipitation, & reservoir normals are medians.

1) 90% and 10% exceedance probabilities are actually 95% and 5%

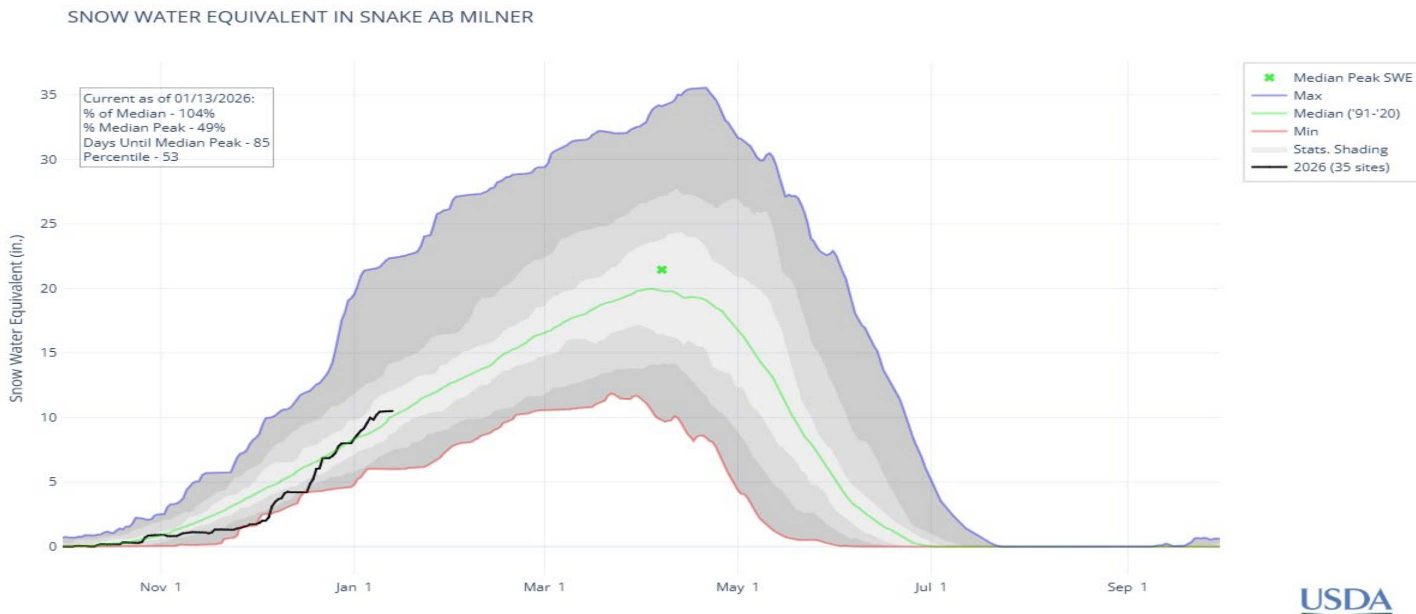
2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions

Reservoir Storage (KAF): January 01, 2026				
Reservoir Name	Current (KAF)	2025	Median (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)
Mackay Reservoir	15.6	18.7	23.4	44.4
Little Wood Reservoir	13.6	12.6	13.9	30.0
Magic Reservoir	27.1	59.1	44.8	191.5

Watershed Snowpack Analysis - January 01, 2026			
	# of	% of Median	
Basin Name	Sites	2026	2025
Big Wood	**12**	**96**	**109**
Big Wood ab Hailey	8	123	95
Camas	4	25	144
Little Wood	**4**	**134**	**79**
Little Wood ab Resv	4	134	79
Big Lost	**6**	**151**	**82**
Big Lost ab Mackay	5	154	84
Fish			
Little Lost	**3**	**139**	**85**
Birch-Medicine Lodge-Beaver-Camas	**6**	**84**	**101**
Birch-Medicine Lodge	2	138	81
Camas-Beaver	4	46	115

Upper Snake River Basins

January 1, 2026



WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

Water Year 2026 in the Upper Snake began with well above normal precipitation by January 1 despite a dry November (39 to 56%). December precipitation was well above normal in all three basins, ranging from 146% in the Willow-Blackfoot-Portneuf to 210% in the Snake River above Heise (Fig. 1). Total water year precipitation ranges from 118 to 142% (Fig. 2). Snowpack was near a record low after the dry November, and only small amounts of snow fell by mid-December. Snowpack improved significantly since a series of storms began December 17. The Henrys Fork-Teton snowpack increased from 61 to 82% of normal, and Snake River above Heise increased from 76 to 114% of normal (Fig. 3). The below normal Willow-Blackfoot-Portneuf snowpack conditions are more in line with the Southern Snake River basins. They only saw a marginal increase from 48 to 58% of normal by the end of December (Fig. 3). It is important to remember there are nearly 100 days left until the median peak SWE date in this region, which leaves ample time to accumulate more snow. NOAA's 8-to-14 Day Outlook predicts increased chances of above normal temperatures and near normal precipitation.

The Upper Snake reservoir system above Milner Dam is currently 80% of normal (46% capacity). Combined storage for the Jackson and Palisades is 78% of normal (50% capacity). Median streamflow forecasts range from 78 to 104% in the Henrys Fork-Teton, and 123 to 161% in the Snake River above Heise for the April to July runoff period (Fig. 4). Median forecasts are slightly lower than normal in the Henrys Fork-Teton due to low November streamflow, and well higher than normal in the Snake River above Heise driven by above median total precipitation combined with the above median snowpack. Conditions can evolve rapidly during the early winter months so continue to monitor daily conditions and subsequent water supply reports.

Upper Snake Basins Streamflow Forecasts - January 01, 2026

		Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment <=== Drier ===== Projected Volume ===== Wetter ===>						
Forecast Point	**Forecast Period**	**90% (KAF)**	**70% (KAF)**	**50% (KAF)**	**% Median**	**30% (KAF)**	**10% (KAF)**	**30yr Med (KAF)**
Snake R at Flagg Ranch	APR-JUL	495	605	710	153	845	1,130	465
	APR-SEP	550	670	785	155	935	1,260	505
Snake R nr Moran 2	APR-JUL	785	905	990	136	1,080	1,200	730
	APR-SEP	980	1,110	1,200	148	1,280	1,410	810
Pacific Ck at Moran	APR-JUL	147	185	220	143	260	340	154
	APR-SEP	151	193	235	147	300	465	160
Buffalo Fk ab Lava Ck nr Moran	APR-JUL	375	415	445	156	475	520	285
	APR-SEP	400	450	485	156	520	570	310
Snake R ab Reservoir nr Alpine 2	APR-JUL	2,310	2,870	3,440	161	4,250	6,300	2,140
	APR-SEP	2,640	3,200	3,740	154	4,470	6,110	2,430
Greys R ab Reservoir nr Alpine	APR-JUL	350	400	430	137	465	515	315
	APR-SEP	350	410	455	125	495	555	365
Salt R ab Reservoir nr Etna	APR-JUL	260	330	375	123	425	490	305
	APR-SEP	355	435	490	129	545	620	380
Snake R nr Irwin 2	APR-JUL	3,710	4,180	4,510	154	4,840	5,320	2,930
	APR-SEP	4,110	4,690	5,080	149	5,480	6,050	3,420
Snake R nr Heise 2	APR-JUL	4,270	4,750	5,080	162	5,410	5,890	3,130
	APR-SEP	4,450	5,020	5,420	148	5,810	6,380	3,660
Henrys Fk nr Ashton 2	APR-JUL	320	345	370	78	395	450	475
	APR-SEP	450	500	500	79	500	585	630
Falls R nr Ashton 2	APR-JUL	325	370	405	103	435	485	395
	APR-SEP	400	455	495	104	535	590	475
Teton R nr Driggs	APR-JUL	90	118	138	95	158	186	146
	APR-SEP	121	157	182	102	205	245	178
Teton R nr St Anthony	APR-JUL	250	315	360	101	405	470	355
	APR-SEP	290	360	410	96	465	535	425
Henrys Fk nr Rexburg 2	APR-JUL	770	950	1,080	89	1,200	1,380	1,210
	APR-SEP	1,030	1,260	1,420	90	1,590	1,820	1,580
Snake R at Neeley 2	APR-JUL	1,990	2,860	3,450	144	4,050	4,920	2,390
	APR-SEP	1,890	2,860	3,530	150	4,210	5,180	2,360

Normals based on 1991-2020 reference period: streamflow, snowpack, precipitation, & reservoir normals are medians.

1) 90% and 10% exceedance probabilities are actually 95% and 5%

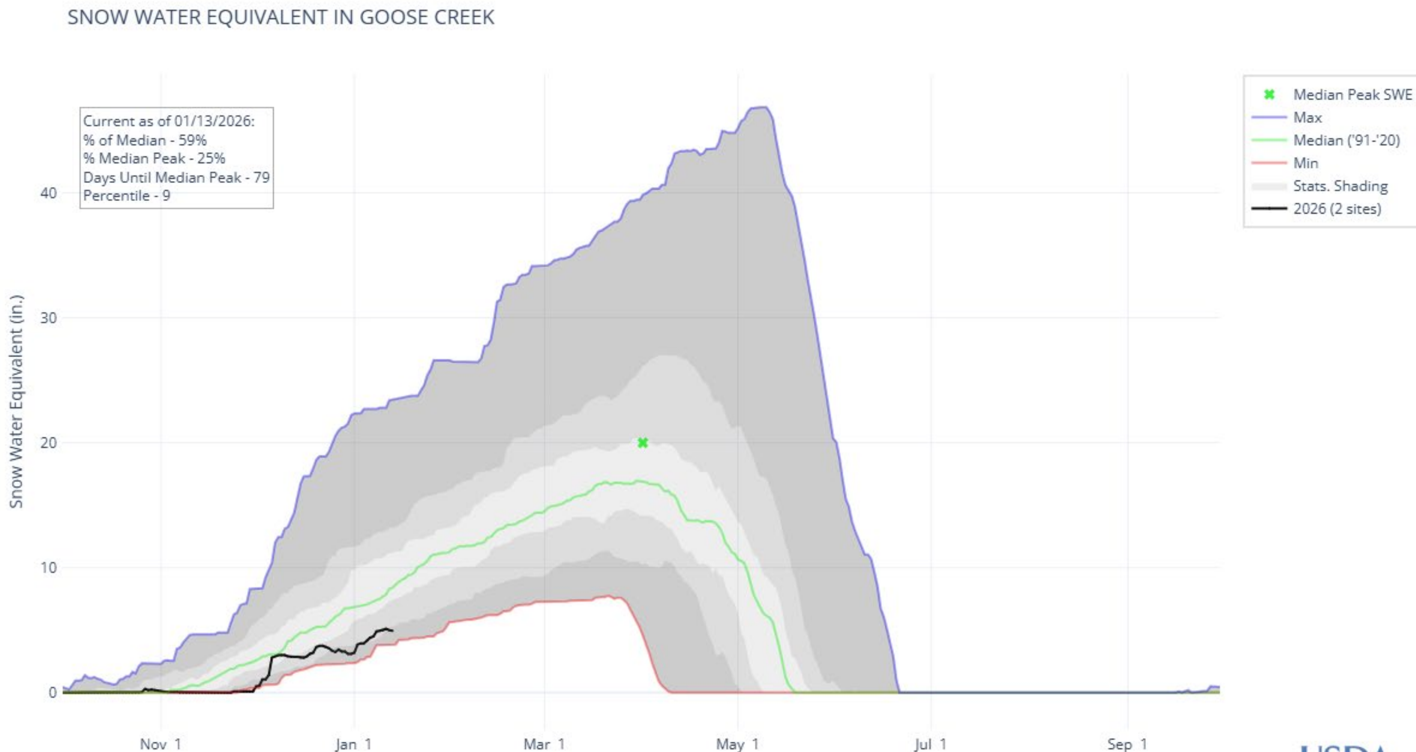
2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions

Reservoir Storage (KAF): January 01, 2026				
Reservoir Name	**Current (KAF)**	**2025**	**Median (KAF)**	**Capacity (KAF)**
Jackson Lake	586.2	649.6	615.6	847.0
Palisades Reservoir	530.8	827.3	811.1	1,400.0
Snake River Above Heise Total	**1,117.0**	**1,476.9**	**1,426.7**	**2,247.0**
Henrys Lake	81.8	79.9	84.0	90.4
Island Park Reservoir	87.3	103.8	99.3	135.2
Grassy Lake	11.1	10.8	12.5	15.2
Henrys Fork-Teton Total	**180.2**	**194.5**	**195.8**	**240.8**
Ririe Reservoir	45.3	46.5	39.3	80.5
American Falls Reservoir	743.2	907.8	909.3	1,672.6
Upper Snake River System Total	**2,085.7**	**2,887.4**	**2,744.2**	**4,577.9**
Blackfoot Reservoir		261.7	173.1	337.0

Watershed Snowpack Analysis - January 01, 2026			
		% of Median	
Basin Name	**# of Sites**	**2026**	**2025**
Henrys Fork-Teton	**11**	**82**	**89**
Henrys Fork-Falls River	7	79	88
Teton	4	86	90
Snake River Above Heise	**26**	**114**	**89**
Snake ab Jackson Lake	9	106	83
Pacific	3	126	84
Buffalo Fork	2	132	62
Gros Ventre	3	132	75
Hoback	4	123	95
Greys	5	131	104
Salt	4	103	109
Willow-Blackfoot-Portneuf	**6**	**58**	**127**
Willow	2	62	113
Blackfoot	2	86	129
Portneuf	3	42	130

Southern Snake Basins

January 1, 2026



WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

Water Year 2026 started out warm and wet in the Southern Snake River basins. In October, a significant amount of rain fell with 132% to 223% of normal monthly precipitation. November had record low precipitation, but it picked back up in December. These basins received 95 to 123% of normal precipitation in December (Fig. 1). Total water year precipitation is slightly below to near normal across these basins and ranges from 86 to 101% on January 1 (Fig. 2). Warmer temperatures lead to more precipitation falling as rain than snow, which resulted in a well below normal snowpack to start off this winter. As of January 1, snowpack ranges from 15% of normal in the Owyhee Basin, ~45% in the Bruneau, Salmon Falls, and Goose Creek basins, and 74% in the Raft Basin (Fig. 3). In the Southern Snake basins, there appears to be an elevation-dependance in the SNOTEL snowpack data. At higher than ~7,000 ft the snowpack starts to build. Lower than ~7,000 ft., the snowpack hasn't stuck around due to melting from warmer than normal temperatures and frequent rain-on-snow events.

As we consider future conditions, the NRCS snowpack projections are a useful tool for exploring how this year's snowpack could develop using previously observed precipitation data. Within this range of outcomes, the 50% projection represents what would happen under normal precipitation conditions and the 70% projection is considered to be slightly above normal precipitation. If conditions improve, the 50% projection for the Owyhee, Bruneau, Salmon Falls, and Goose Creek snowpack will fall below normal, while the Raft Basin would end up near normal. To reach near normal snowpack conditions by their typical peak SWE date, most of these basins will need well above normal snowfall (much cooler temperatures combined with above average precipitation) over the next few months. NOAA's Official 8-to-14 Day Outlook predicts that the Southern Snake basins are leaning towards above average temperatures and near normal precipitation. This doesn't fare well for building a snowpack heading into February. For many of these basins, February is typically the last month to accumulate more snow before spring melt begins in March, so cooler and wetter conditions next month are essential for a normal runoff season.

On January 1, reservoir storage in the Southern Snake River basins is: Owyhee is 188% of normal (56% capacity), Wildhorse is 156% of normal (63% capacity), Oakley is 76% of normal (17% capacity), and Salmon Falls is 45% of normal (8% capacity). At this time last year, reservoir storage was much higher than this year (~75% to 209% of normal). The basins with below normal carryover will need above normal snowpacks to meet water supply demands in the upcoming irrigation season. Streamflow forecasts for the Southern Snake River basins are ~90% of normal in the Owyhee and Bruneau basins for the April to July period, and 86% of normal for the March to July period in the Salmon Falls Basin. Some streamflow forecast points are unavailable in January due to high model uncertainty in early season forecasts. Conditions can evolve rapidly during the early winter months, so continue to monitor daily conditions and subsequent water supply reports.

Southern Snake Basins Streamflow Forecasts - January 01, 2026

		Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment <=== Drier ===== Projected Volume ===== Wetter ===>						
Forecast Point	**Forecast Period**	**90% (KAF)**	**70% (KAF)**	**50% (KAF)**	**% Median**	**30% (KAF)**	**10% (KAF)**	**30yr Med (KAF)**
Salmon Falls Ck nr San Jacinto	MAR-JUL	31.0	43.0	55.0	86	71.0	108	64.0
	MAR-SEP	35.0	47.0	58.0	88	73.0	102	66.0
Bruneau R at Rowland	APR-JUL	21.0	31.0	43.0	90	62.0	80	48.0
	APR-SEP	22.0	33.0	44.0	90	60.0	94	49.0
Jarbidge River Below Jarbidge	APR-JUL	12.0	14.5	16.5	84	18.7	22	19.6
	APR-SEP	12.6	15.0	17.0	85	19.2	23	20.0
Owyhee R nr Gold Ck 2	MAR-JUL	4.7	9.3	15.5	70	27.0	35	22.0
	APR-JUL	1.5	8.3	15.0	87	22.0	31	17.2
Owyhee R nr Rome	FEB-JUL	124.0	194.0	275.0	73	415.0	605	375.0
	FEB-SEP	130.0	215.0	305.0	78	435.0	725	390.0
	APR-JUL	60.0	115.0	190.0	93	330.0	495	205.0
	APR-SEP	73.0	130.0	205.0	93	345.0	505	220.0
Owyhee R bl Owyhee Dam 2	FEB-JUL	200.0	305.0	420.0	100	580.0	970	420.0
	FEB-SEP	190.0	260.0	335.0	74	440.0	710	450.0
	APR-JUL	89.0	140.0	210.0	89	360.0	475	235.0
	APR-SEP	82.0	136.0	235.0	89	335.0	480	265.0

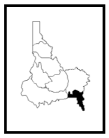
Normals based on 1991-2020 reference period: streamflow, snowpack, precipitation, & reservoir normals are medians.

1) 90% and 10% exceedance probabilities are actually 95% and 5%

2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions

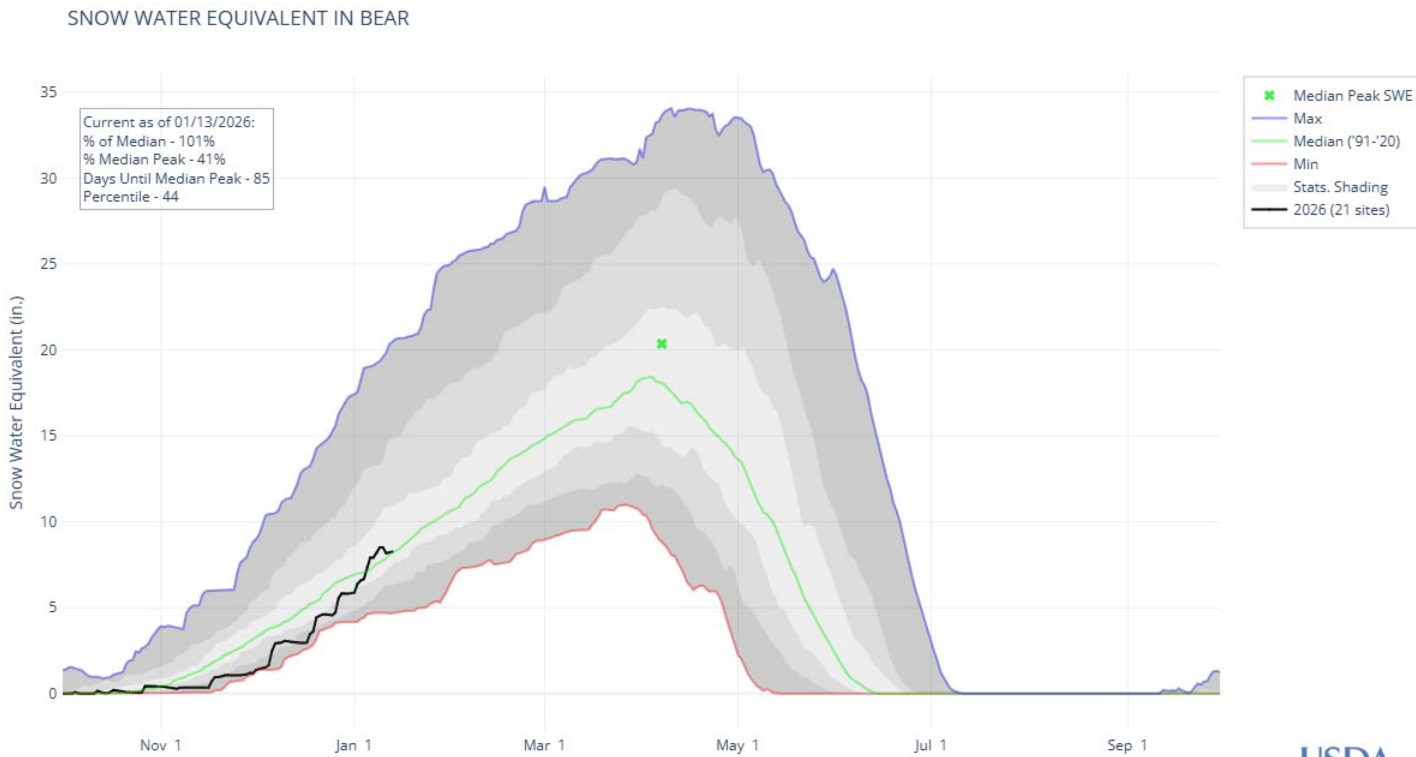
Reservoir Storage (KAF): January 01, 2026				
Reservoir Name	**Current (KAF)**	**2025**	**Median (KAF)**	**Capacity (KAF)**
Oakley Reservoir	12.8	28.4	16.8	75.6
Salmon Falls Reservoir	14.5	23.9	32.3	182.6
Wild Horse Reservoir	45.3	49.3	29.1	71.5
Lake Owyhee	402.4	459.2	213.9	715.0
Brownlee Reservoir	1,327.8	1,327.7	1,313.0	1,420.0

Watershed Snowpack Analysis - January 01, 2026			
	# of	**% of Median**	
Basin Name	**Sites**	**2026**	**2025**
Raft	**2**	**74**	**116**
Goose Creek	**2**	**47**	**146**
Salmon Falls	**5**	**46**	**130**
Bruneau	**5**	**47**	**131**
Owyhee	**8**	**15**	**139**
Upper Owyhee	5	10	153
Reynolds	6	13	



Bear River Basin

January 1, 2026



WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

Water Year 2026 started off with variable precipitation amounts in the Bear River Basin. This basin received well above normal precipitation at 149% during October, then only 73% of normal in the month of November. Wetter conditions returned in December resulting in monthly precipitation of 158% of normal (Fig. 1). As of January 1, total water year precipitation is 126% of normal (Fig. 2). Due to above normal temperatures across much of the West and a lot of precipitation falling as rain rather than snow, Water Year 2026 has not had a good start to the snowpack accumulation season. As of January 1, the Bear River Basin has a below normal snowpack at 85% (Fig. 3). NOAA's 8 - 14 Day Outlook predicts that this basin may experience above normal temperatures and near normal precipitation for the remainder of January. This means that the snowpack is unlikely to accumulate more snow during this time period.

Bear Lake Reservoir storage for January 1 is 161% of normal (56% capacity). Streamflow forecasts in the region range from ~80 to 126% for the April to July period. Some streamflow forecast points are unavailable in January due to high model uncertainty in early season forecasts. Conditions can evolve rapidly during the early winter months, so continue to monitor daily conditions and subsequent water supply reports.

Bear Basin Streamflow Forecasts - January 01, 2026

		Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment <=== Drier ===== Projected Volume ===== Wetter ===>						
Forecast Point	Forecast Period	90% (KAF)	70% (KAF)	50% (KAF)	% Median	30% (KAF)	10% (KAF)	30yr Med (KAF)
Bear R nr UT-WY State Line	APR-JUL	46.0	71.0	88.0	87	105	130.0	101.0
	APR-SEP	54.0	81.0	99.0	87	117	144.0	114.0
Bear R ab Resv nr Woodruff	APR-JUL	26.0	60.0	82.0	89	110	151.0	92.0
	APR-SEP	30.0	61.0	87.0	88	117	161.0	99.0
Big Ck nr Randolph	APR-JUL	0.9	1.5	2.5	78	4	6.4	3.2
Smiths Fk nr Border	APR-JUL	73.0	93.0	108.0	126	123	143.0	86.0
	APR-SEP	78.0	100.0	115.0	115	130	152.0	100.0
Bear R bl Stewart Dam 2	APR-JUL	12.0	72.0	120.0	104	180	265.0	115.0
	APR-SEP	18.0	80.0	125.0	102	195	295.0	122.0

Normals based on 1991-2020 reference period: streamflow, snowpack, precipitation, & reservoir normals are medians.

1) 90% and 10% exceedance probabilities are actually 95% and 5%

2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions

Reservoir Storage (KAF): January 01, 2026

Reservoir Name	Current (KAF)	2025	Median (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)
Bear Lake	735.0	873.0	456.5	1,302.0
Woodruff Creek	2.7	1.6	2.0	4.0
Woodruff Narrows Reservoir	10.5	29.1	33.4	57.3

Watershed Snowpack Analysis - January 01, 2026

Basin Name	# of Sites	% of Median 2026	2025
Bear	**20**	**85**	**104**
Smiths-Thomas Forks	4	109	93
Bear Lake	6	86	108
Mink			
Cub	1	98	104
Malad	1	25	127

Streamflow Adjustment List for All Forecasts Published in Idaho Water Supply Outlook Report: Streamflow forecasts are projections of runoff volumes that would occur without influences from upstream reservoirs or diversions. These values are referred to as natural, unregulated or adjusted flows. To make these adjustments, changes in reservoir storage, diversions, and inter-basin transfers are added or subtracted from the observed (actual) streamflow volumes. The following list documents the adjustments made for each forecast point. **(Revised Dec. 2018).**

Panhandle Region

Kootenai R at Leonia, MT (2)
+ Lake Koocanusa storage change

Moyie R at Eastport – no corrections

Boundary Ck nr Porthill – no corrections

Clark Fork R bl Cabinet Gorge (2)
+ Hungry Horse storage change
+ Flathead Lake storage change
+ Noxon Res storage change
Whitehorse Rapid gage used create longer term record

Pend Oreille Lake Inflow (2)
+ Pend Oreille R at Newport, WA
+ Hungry Horse Res storage change
+ Flathead Lake storage change
+ Noxon Res storage change
+ Lake Pend Oreille storage change
+ Priest Lake storage change

Priest R nr Priest R (2)
+ Priest Lake storage change

NF Coeur d' Alene R at Enaville - no corrections

St. Joe R at Calder- no corrections

Spokane R nr Post Falls (2)
+ Lake Coeur d' Alene storage change

Spokane R at Long Lake, WA (2)
+ Lake Coeur d' Alene storage change
+ Long Lake, WA storage change

Clearwater River Basin

Selway R nr Lowell - no corrections

Lochsa R nr Lowell - no corrections

Dworshak Res Inflow (2)
+ Clearwater R nr Peck
- Clearwater R at Orofino
+ Dworshak Res storage change

Clearwater R at Orofino - no corrections

Clearwater R at Spalding (2)
+ Dworshak Res storage change

Salmon River Basin

Salmon R at Salmon - no corrections

Lemhi R nr Lemhi – no corrections

MF Salmon R at MF Lodge – no corrections
SF Salmon gage used to create longer term record

SF Salmon R nr Krassel Ranger Station – no corrections

Johnson Creek at Yellow pine – no corrections

Salmon R at White Bird - no corrections

West Central Basins

Boise R nr Twin Springs - no corrections

SF Boise R at Anderson Ranch Dam (2)
+ Anderson Ranch Res storage change

Mores Ck nr Arrowrock Dam – no corrections

Boise R nr Boise (2)
+ Anderson Ranch Res storage change
+ Arrowrock Res storage change
+ Lucky Peak Res storage change

SF Payette R at Lowman - no corrections

Deadwood Res Inflow (2)
+ Deadwood R bl Deadwood Res nr Lowman
+ Deadwood Res storage change

Lake Fork Payette R nr McCall – no corrections

NF Payette R at Cascade (2)
+ Payette Lake storage change
+ Cascade Res storage change

NF Payette R nr Banks (2)
+ Payette Lake storage change
+ Cascade Res storage change

Payette R nr Horseshoe Bend (2)
+ Deadwood Res storage change
+ Payette Lake storage change
+ Cascade Res storage change

Weiser R nr Weiser - no corrections

Wood and Lost Basins

Little Lost R bl Wet Ck nr Howe - no corrections

Big Lost R at Howell Ranch - no corrections

Big Lost R bl Mackay Res nr Mackay (2)
+ Mackay Res storage change

Little Wood R ab High Five Ck – no corrections

Little Wood R nr Carey (2)
+ Little Wood Res storage change

Big Wood R at Hailey - no corrections

Big Wood R ab Magic Res (2)
+ Big Wood R nr Bellevue (1912-1996)
+ Big Wood R at Stanton Crossing nr Bellevue (1997 to present)
+ Willow Ck (1997 to present)

Camas Ck nr Blaine – no corrections

Magic Res Inflow (2)
+ Big Wood R bl Magic Dam
+ Magic Res storage change

Upper Snake River Basin

Falls R nr Ashton (2)
+ Grassy Lake storage change
+ Diversions from Falls R ab nr Ashton

Henrys Fork nr Ashton (2)
+ Henrys Lake storage change
+ Island Park Res storage change

Teton R nr Driggs - no corrections

Teton R nr St. Anthony (2)
- Cross Cut Canal into Teton R
+ Sum of Diversions for Teton R ab St. Anthony
+ Teton Dam for water year 1976 only

Henrys Fork nr Rexburg (2)
+ Henrys Lake storage change
+ Island Park Res storage change
+ Grassy Lake storage change
+ 3 Diversions from Falls R ab Ashton-Chester
+ 6 Diversions from Falls R abv Ashton
+ 7 Diversions from Henrys Fk btw Ashton to St. Anthony
+ 21 Diversions from Henrys Fk btw St. Anthony to Rexburg
Snake R nr Flagg Ranch, WY – no corrections
Snake R nr Moran, WY (2)
+ Jackson Lake storage change
Pacific Ck at Moran, WY - no corrections
Buffalo Fork ab Lava nr Moran, WY - no corrections
Snake R ab Res nr Alpine, WY (2)
+ Jackson Lake storage change
Greys R nr Alpine, WY - no corrections
Salt R nr Etna, WY - no corrections
Palisades Res Inflow (2)
+ Snake R nr Irwin
+ Jackson Lake storage change
+ Palisades Res storage change
Snake R nr Heise (2)
+ Jackson Lake storage change
+ Palisades Res storage change
Ririe Res Inflow (2)
+ Willow Ck nr Ririe
+ Ririe Res storage change

The forecasted natural volume for Willow Creek nr Ririe does not include Grays Lake water diverted from Willow Creek drainage through the Clarks Cut diversion and into Blackfoot Reservoir.

Blackfoot R ab Res nr Henry (2)
+ Blackfoot Res storage change

The forecasted Blackfoot Reservoir Inflow includes Grays Lake water diverted from the Willow Creek drainage through the Clarks Cut diversion and into Blackfoot Reservoir.

Portneuf R at Topaz - no corrections
American Falls Res Inflow (2)
+ Snake R at Neeley
+ Jackson Lake storage change
+ Palisades Res storage change
+ American Falls storage change
+ Teton Dam for water year 1976 only

Southside Snake River Basins

Goose Ck nr Oakley - no adjustments
Trapper Ck nr Oakley - no adjustments
Oakley Res Inflow - *flow does not include* Birch Creek
+ Goose Ck
+ Trapper Ck
Salmon Falls Ck nr San Jacinto, NV - no corrections
Bruneau R nr Hot Springs - no corrections
Reynolds Ck at Tollgate - no corrections
Owyhee R nr Gold Ck, NV (2)
+ Wildhorse Res storage change
Owyhee R nr Rome, OR – no Corrections
Owyhee Res Inflow (2)
+ Owyhee R bl Owyhee Dam, OR
+ Lake Owyhee storage change
+ Diversions to North and South Canals

Bear River Basin

Bear R nr UT-WY Stateline, UT- no corrections
Bear R abv Res nr Woodruff, UT- no corrections
Big Ck nr Randolph, UT - no corrections
Smiths Fork nr Border, WY - no corrections
Bear R bl Stewart Dam (2)
+ Bear R bl Stewart Dam
+ Rainbow Inlet Canal
Little Bear R at Paradise, UT - no corrections
Logan R nr Logan, UT - no corrections
Blacksmith Fk nr Hyrum, UT - no corrections

Reservoir Capacity Definitions (Units in 1,000 Acre-Feet, KAF)
Different agencies use various definitions when reporting reservoir capacity and contents. Reservoir storage terms include dead, inactive, active, and surcharge storage. This table lists the volumes for each reservoir, and defines the storage volumes NRCS uses when reporting capacity and current reservoir storage. In most cases, NRCS reports usable storage which includes active and/or inactive storage. **(Revised Feb. 2015)**

Basin- Lake or Reservoir	Dead Storage	Inactive Storage	Active Storage	Surcharge Storage	NRCS Capacity	NRCS Capacity Includes
Panhandle Region						
Hungry Horse	39.73	---	**3451.00**	---	**3451.0**	Active
Flathead Lake	Unknown	---	**1791.00**	---	**1791.0**	Active
Noxon	Unknown	---	**335.00**	---	**335.0**	Active
Lake Pend Oreille	**406.20**	**112.40**	**1042.70**	---	**1561.3**	Dead + Inactive + Active
Lake Coeur d'Alene	Unknown	13.50	**225.00**	---	**238.5**	Inactive + Active
Priest Lake	**20.00**	**28.00**	**71.30**	---	**119.3**	Dead + Inactive + Active
Clearwater Basin						
Dworshak	Unknown	**1452.00**	**2016.00**	---	**3468.0**	Inactive + Active
West Central Basins						
Anderson Ranch	24.90	**37.00**	**413.10**	---	450.1	Inactive + Active
Arrowrock	Unknown	---	**272.20**	---	**272.2**	Active
Lucky Peak	Unknown	**28.80**	**264.40**	13.80	**293.2**	Inactive + Active
Lake Lowell	7.90	**5.80**	**159.40**	---	165.2	Inactive + Active
Deadwood	Unknown	---	**161.90**	---	**161.9**	Active
Cascade	Unknown	**46.70**	**646.50**	---	**693.2**	Inactive + Active
Mann Creek	1.61	0.24	**11.10**	---	**11.1**	Active
Wood and Lost Basins						
Mackay	0.13	---	**44.37**	---	**44.4**	Active
Little Wood	Unknown	---	**30.00**	---	**30.0**	Active
Magic	Unknown	---	**191.50**	---	**191.5**	Active
Upper Snake Basin						
Jackson Lake	Unknown	---	**847.00**	---	**847.0**	Active
Palisades	44.10	**155.50**	**1200.00**	---	**1400.0**	Dead +Inactive +Active
Henrys Lake	Unknown	---	**90.40**	---	**90.4**	Active
Island Park	0.40	---	**127.30**	**7.90**	**135.2**	Active + Surcharge
Grassy Lake	Unknown	---	**15.18**	---	**15.2**	Active
Ririe	4.00	6.00	**80.54**	10.00	**80.5**	Active
Blackfoot	0.00	---	**333.50**	3.50	**333.50**	Active (rev. 2/1/2015)
American Falls	Unknown	---	**1672.60**	---	**1672.6**	Active
Southside Snake Basins						
Oakley	0.00	---	**75.60**	---	**75.6**	Active
Salmon Falls	48.00	**5.00**	**182.65**	---	**182.6**	Active
Wild Horse	Unknown	---	**71.50**	---	**71.5**	Active
Lake Owyhee	406.83	---	**715.00**	---	**715.0**	Active
Brownlee	0.45	**444.70**	**975.30**	---	**1420.0**	Inactive + Active
Bear River Basin						
Bear Lake	5000.00	119.00	**1302.00**	---	**1302.0**	Active:
Capacity does not include 119 KAF that can be used, historic values below this level are rounded to zero						
Montpelier	**0.21**	---	**3.84**	---	**4.0**	Dead + Active

Interpreting Water Supply Forecasts

Each month, five forecasts are issued for each forecast point and each forecast period. Unless otherwise specified, all streamflow forecasts are for streamflow volumes that would occur naturally without any upstream influences. Water users need to know what the different forecasts represent if they are to use the information correctly when making operational decisions. The following is an explanation of each of the forecasts.

90 Percent Chance of Exceedance Forecast. There is a 90 percent chance that the actual streamflow volume will exceed this forecast value, and there is a 10 percent chance that the actual streamflow volume will be less than this forecast value.

70 Percent Chance of Exceedance Forecast. There is a 70 percent chance that the actual streamflow volume will exceed this forecast value, and there is a 30 percent chance that the actual streamflow volume will be less than this forecast value.

50 Percent Chance of Exceedance Forecast. There is a 50 percent chance that the actual streamflow volume will exceed this forecast value, and there is a 50 percent chance that the actual streamflow volume will be less than this forecast value. Generally, this forecast is the middle of the range of possible streamflow volumes that can be produced given current conditions.

30 Percent Chance of Exceedance Forecast. There is a 30 percent chance that the actual streamflow volume will exceed this forecast value, and there is a 70 percent chance that the actual streamflow volume will be less than this forecast value.

10 Percent Chance of Exceedance Forecast. There is a 10 percent chance that the actual streamflow volume will exceed this forecast value, and there is a 90 percent chance that the actual streamflow volume will be less than this forecast value.

> *Note: There is still a 20 percent chance that actual streamflow volumes will fall either below the 90 percent exceedance forecast or above the 10 percent exceedance forecast.

These forecasts represent the uncertainty inherent in making streamflow predictions. This uncertainty may include sources such as: unknown future weather conditions, uncertainties associated with the various prediction methodologies, and the spatial coverage of the data network in a given basin.

30-Year Median. The 30-year median streamflow for each forecast period is provided for comparison. The median is based on data from 1991-2020. The % Median. column compares the 50% chance of exceedance forecast to the 30-year median streamflow; values above 100% denote when the 50% chance of exceedance forecast would be greater than the 30-year median streamflow.

AF - Acre-feet, forecasted volume of water are typically in thousands of acre-feet (KAF).

These forecasts are given to users to help make risk-based decisions. Users can select the forecast corresponding to the level of risk they are willing to accept in order to minimize the negative impacts of having more or less water than planned for.

To Decrease the Chance of Having Less Water than Planned for
A user might determine that making decisions based on a 50 percent chance of exceedance forecast is too much risk to take (there is still a 50% chance that the user will receive less than this amount). To reduce the risk of having less water than planned for, users can base their operational decisions on one of the forecasts with a greater chance of being exceeded such as the 90 or 70 percent exceedance forecasts.

To Decrease the Chance of Having More Water than Planned for
A user might determine that making decisions based on a 50 percent chance of exceedance forecast is too much risk to take (there is still a 50% chance that the user will receive more than this amount). To reduce the risk of having more water than planned for, users can base their operational decisions on one of the forecasts with a lesser chance of being exceeded such as the 30 or 10 percent exceedance forecasts.

<u>**Forecast use example:**</u>

Using the 50 Percent Exceedance Forecast. Using the example forecasts shown on the next page, there is a 50% chance that actual streamflow volume at the Boise River near Twin Springs will be less than 675 KAF between April 1 and Sept. 30. There is also a 50% chance that actual streamflow volume will be greater than 675 KAF.

Using the 90 and 70 Percent Exceedance Forecasts. If an unexpected shortage of water could cause problems (such as irrigated agriculture), users might want to plan on receiving 605 KAF during April 1 through September 30 (from the 70 percent exceedance forecast). There is a 30% chance of receiving *less* than 605 KAF.

Alternatively, if users determine the risk of using the 70 percent exceedance forecast is too great, then they might plan on receiving 520 KAF (from the **90** percent exceedance forecast). There is 10% chance of receiving less than 520 KAF.

Using the 30 or 10 Percent Exceedance Forecasts. If an unexpected excess of water could cause problems (such as operating a flood control reservoir), users might plan on receiving 750 KAF between April 1 and Sept. 30 (from the 30 percent exceedance forecast). There is a 30% chance of receiving *more* than 750 KAF.

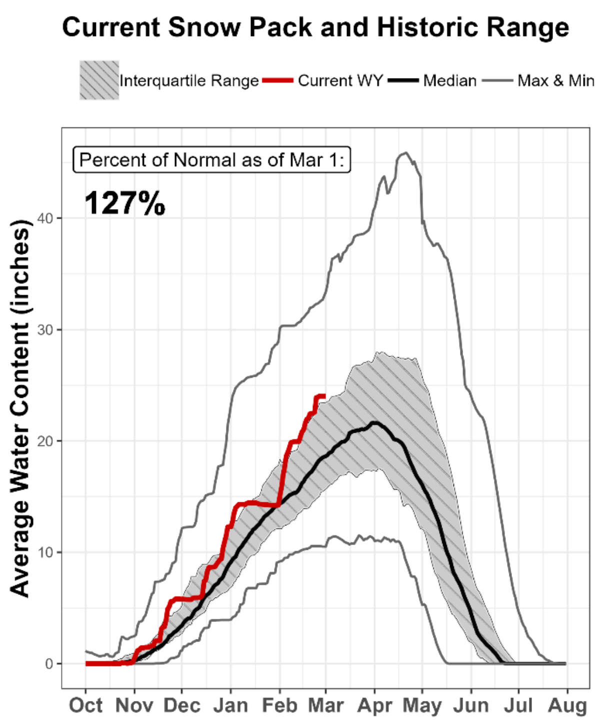
Alternatively, if users determine the risk of using the 30 percent exceedance forecast is too great, then they might plan on receiving 850 KAF (from the 10 percent exceedance forecast). There is a 10% chance of receiving more than 850 KAF. Users could also choose a volume in between any of these values to reflect their desired risk level.

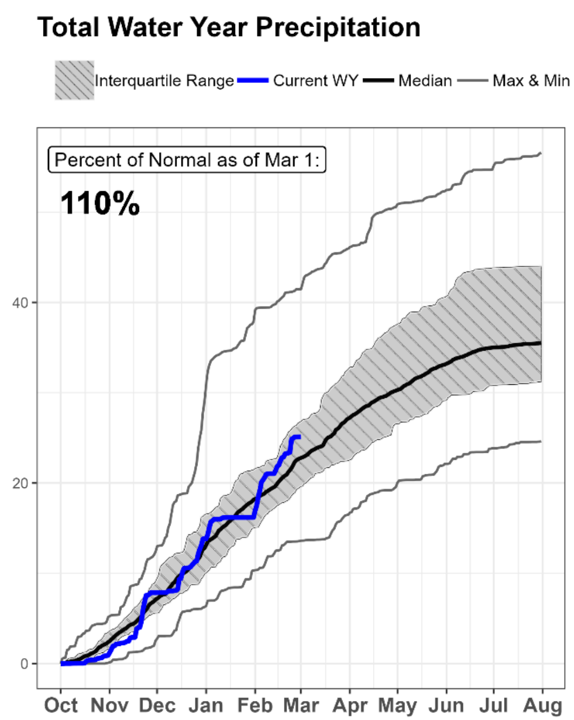
		Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment <=== Drier ===== Projected Volume ===== Wetter ===>						
Forecast Point	Forecast Period	90% (KAF)	70% (KAF)	50% (KAF)	% Median	30% (KAF)	10% (KAF)	30yr Med (KAF)
Boise R nr Twin Springs	APR-JUL	465	550	635	106	710	825	600
	APR-SEP	520	605	675	105	750	850	645

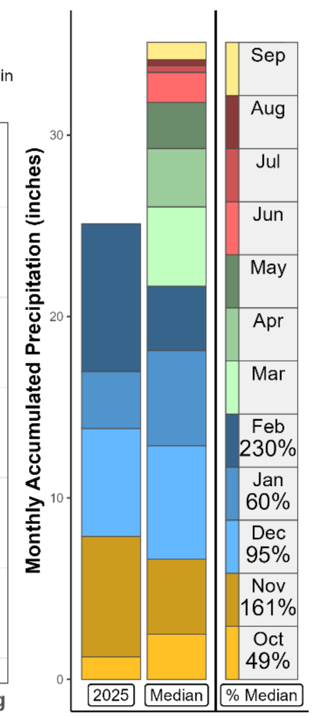
Interpreting Snowpack & Precipitation Plots

Basin snowpack plots represent snow water equivalent indices using the average daily SNOTEL data[1] from several sites in or near individual basins. The solid red line, which represents the current water year snowpack water content, can be compared to the normal black line (Median) which is considered "normal", as well as the SNOTEL observed historical snowpack range for each basin. This allows users to gather important information about the current year's snowpack as well as the historical variability of snowpack in each basin.

The gray shaded area represents the interquartile range which is the 25th to 75th percentiles of the historical daily snowpack data for each basin for its period of record. Percentiles depict the value of the average snowpack below which the given percent of historical years fall. For example, the top part of the interquartile range (75th percentile) indicates that the snowpack index has







been below this line for 75 percent of the period of record, whereas the reverse is true for the lower part of the interquartile range (25th percentile). This means 50 percent of the time the snowpack index is within the interquartile range (gray area) during the period of record. The maximum and minimum gray lines indicate the maximum and minimum amounts of snow that have been measured across the SNOTEL stations in the basin group on that date.

The basin total water year precipitation plots are similar to the snowpack plots. The blue line represents the current water year, and the black line represents the 30-year median for the basin group which is considered 'normal' for that area. Total water year precipitation is all of the of precipitation that has fallen since the start of the water year on October 1. It includes both rain and snow and all other forms of precipitation. It is a useful metric for evaluating how wet or dry a basin is each year. The gray shaded area represents the interquartile range, and the maximum and minimum lines represent the maximum and minimum amount of precipitation recorded in the basin during the period of record. The monthly accumulated precipitation plot represents how much precipitation has fallen each month compared to the 30-year median. Each month is denoted by a separate color and the monthly precipitation total in that basin is listed as a percent of normal precipitation adjacent to the graph.

[1] All data used for these plots come from daily SNOTEL data only and does not include snow course data (collected monthly), whereas the official basin snowpack percent of normal includes both SNOTEL and snow course data, potentially leading to slight discrepancies between plots and official basin percent of normal.

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This publication is dedicated to the people, agencies and organizations utilizing this data, information and forecasts for short and long term water management, planning, preparation, recreation and otherwise, for the enhancement of the economy and enrichment of livelihoods.