USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Idaho Water Supply Outlook Report

March 1, 2026

Hydrologists Pete Youngblood and Ashley Evans taking the March 1 snowpack measurements at the Skitwish Ridge Snow Course in the Coeur D'Alene-St. Joe Basin. (Photo courtesy of Ashley Evans)

Northern Idaho basins have both below normal snowpack and precipitation thus far in Water Year 2026. The Skitwish Ridge Snow Course, pictured above, is currently at 47% of normal as of March 1 despite recent snowstorms. The Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) at this course measured 12 inches, compared to the period-of-record median of 26.8 inches. This low snowpack pattern is ubiquitous throughout much of Idaho, which is in a warm snow drought due to a mild winter that often led to precipitation falling as rain rather than snow. During the month of February, precipitation was near to above normal in most of the state, while the Panhandle and Clearwater basins still received below normal precipitation (85% of normal). These precipitation and snowpack deficits have contributed to multi-year drought in the region and it's likely this winter will be the fourth year in a row with a below normal snowpack in this region.

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

March 1, 2026: Idaho Water Supply Summary

Overview

- Idaho hit a new record low snowpack on February 8 and although recent snowstorms have improved conditions, this year's snowpack is one of the 10 lowest snowpacks on record.
- Recovery to normal snowpack conditions by the typical winter peak in early April is highly unlikely (less than 10% chance) unless record amounts of snow fall in March.
- Lack of a low and substantial mid-elevation snowpack (below ~7,500 feet) will likely lead to earlier melt off and lower natural flow this spring unless April and May are cool and wet.
- Climate outlooks, however, forecast dry and warm spring conditions this year. This summer is expected to be warmer than normal, and likely drier than normal north of the Snake River Plain.
- Water supply conditions will likely be challenging this year, especially for water users that cannot supplement with reservoir storage water or groundwater. We strongly encourage water users to consider the 'drier' 90% and 70% exceedance streamflow forecasts this year rather than only the 50% exceedance forecast, since these forecasted water amounts are more likely to happen.
- Snow drought is prevalent across the entire Columbia River Basin with the majority of snow course and SNOTEL stations reporting below normal conditions. The exceptions are the higher elevation mountainous areas (like the Snake River headwaters) where snowpack conditions are near to above normal.
- One positive is that total water year precipitation is near to above normal throughout Idaho except south of the Snake River Plain which is slightly below normal. Hopefully, this will lead to greater runoff efficiency during the spring runoff period and that more snow melt will make its way into Idaho's rivers and reservoirs.

Weather, climate and drought outlooks

At publication time, weather forecasts predict moderate amounts of precipitation will fall over Idaho during the next 10 days. Freezing levels are expected to fluctuate so it's likely a mixture of rain and snow will fall. Northern Idaho, the Clearwater, and Salmon basins are expected to receive the most precipitation and thankfully, freezing levels next week are expected to remain low enough that the mountains should see snowfall. Please check your local National Weather Service office for more detailed and updated information.

Mid-range weather outlooks by NOAA's Climate Prediction Center favor wetter and cooler than normal conditions through mid-March north of the Snake River Plain. Warmer than

normal temperatures and potentially drier than normal conditions are expected in southern Idaho. This area has had the lowest amounts of precipitation this water year (Fig. 2), and it looks like dry conditions will continue to prevail in that region. Climate outlooks for the spring April through June period predict warmer and drier conditions than normal which suggests that drought conditions will continue. The summer outlook strongly favors above normal temperatures for the July through September period. Drier than normal conditions are also predicted north of the Snake River Plain. The 2026 water year looks like it will be a drier than normal year if these predictions come true.

Nearly all of Idaho is experiencing drought or abnormally dry conditions outside of the central mountains (Wood and Lost basins). Given the low snowpack conditions across much of the state, we expect drought conditions will continue into the spring and potentially worsen if we don't have a typically rainy spring. Nearly 75% of Idaho's precipitation occurs from December 1 through the end of June. Spring precipitation accounts for ~25% of each water year's total and plays a vital role in water supply conditions. Last spring was the 5th driest on record (131 years) and despite a mostly robust snowpack last year, the lack of spring precipitation strained water supplies across the state.

Sixty-three percent of Idaho's land that are experiencing some level of drought (D1 to D3) according to the U.S. drought monitor (USDM). Given the lack of snowpack in all but the highest mountains, the Idaho Drought Advisory Committee believes drought conditions are worse than what is depicted on the USDM map. Unless we receive well above normal snowfall this March and typical amounts of spring precipitation, we expect that drought conditions will degrade further.

Snowpack and Precipitation Conditions

After a prolonged dry spell during January and the first part of February, storms finally brought more precipitation to Idaho after hitting a new record low snowpack on February 8. February precipitation was below normal in the Panhandle and Willow-Blackfoot-Portneuf basins (~85%) and near to above normal elsewhere (Fig. 1). Averaged across the state, snowpack gains were near normal for February, but warmer than normal temperatures continued to thwart accumulating snow in the low and mid-elevation ranges. February marks the fourth consecutive month with above normal temperatures. Normally by this time of year, the snowpack would have accumulated 80% of its typical peak amount, but this year, we're only 60% of the way there.

As of March 1, the statewide snowpack is at the 7th percentile which falls under the severe drought category according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. It's likely the snowpack is even worse than the statewide plot suggests. Although the February statistics haven't been published yet, the November through January time period has been the warmest winter on record (131 years of observations), surpassing the previous record set in 1934. Above normal temperatures often led to precipitation falling as rain rather than snow at low and mid-elevations. When it was cold enough to snow at lower elevations this winter,

subsequent rain-on-snow events quickly melted out the shallow snowpack. These warm winter conditions have led to a large elevation disparity in snowpack conditions. The snowpack above ~7,500 ft. in elevation is near to above normal while at elevations below 7,500 ft, the snowpack is either well below normal or nonexistent.

To get a fuller picture of conditions, snow surveyors manually measure mountain snowpack at the beginning of each month at snow courses, which are typically located at lower elevations than the automated SNOTEL stations. In Idaho, that doubles the amount of snowpack measurements and allows us to better understand what's happening at those lower elevations. Basin-wide snowpack on March 1 (Fig. 3) ranges from the record breaking low in the Owyhee Basin (18% of normal) to 123% of normal in the Big Lost Basin when using both snow course and SNOTEL station data. Water users should be aware that the daily snowpack conditions on the interactive map and the snow accumulation plots only use SNOTEL station data because snow course data is unavailable on a daily basis. In a year like this, it's good to be aware of these nuances because these additional data can shift our perception of how robust each basin's snowpack really is. For example, excluding snow course data, the Boise Basin snowpack looks slightly healthier at 72% of normal versus 57% of normal when using the available snow course data. In basins with a lot of higher elevation mountains, the contrast between only using SNOTEL stations versus including snow courses can be stark. The Wood and Lost basins are a great example of this with the contrast most apparent in the Little Wood Basin (88% versus 121% of normal). The snowpack map in this report uses all available data for March 1. Snowpack versus elevation plots are available for each basin across the West for both the first of the month (includes snow courses) and daily products (only SNOTEL stations). The elevation trend in snowpack is very apparent in the SWE above Milner Dam graph. We urge water users to use all available tools to evaluate conditions in their area of interest. Our watershed reports may be useful for understanding each basin's unique characteristics. Many of Idaho's rivers begin in surrounding states and Canada. If water users are interested in snowpack conditions in our river's headwaters, nearly 400 snowpack measurements were made on March 1 and are available to investigate.

One unique feature of this water year is the contrast between nearly to above normal total water year precipitation conditions (Fig. 2) versus well below normal snowpack conditions (Fig. 3). Total water year precipitation (WYP) is all of the precipitation (rain, snow, sleet, etc) that falls from October 1 to September 30. Total water year precipitation is well above normal in eastern Idaho and north of the Snake River Plain (96 to 142%). The wettest area of the state continues to be the Wood and Lost river basins. WYP is below normal south of the Snake River Plain as of March 1 (79 to 90%). Low WYP conditions along the southern border in combination with a record to near record low snowpack are resulting in low water supply forecasts in that region. In the rest of the state, we're unsure of how the contrast between the high precipitation and low snowpack conditions (except at high elevations) will play out for water supply this irrigation season. We are hopeful that the higher WYP conditions will help buffer the low snow impacts.

Water supply – overview

Idaho is facing challenging water supply conditions this water year due to the lack of low and mid-elevation snowpack. Basins with high elevation mountains like the Big Lost and the Snake River headwaters have more favorable snowpack conditions that the rest of the state, but the impacts from the missing lower elevation snow will likely be felt with reduced natural flow this spring. Unless this spring turns out cooler and wetter than predicted, we expect that the snowpack will likely come off early this year and natural flow will taper sooner than we typically experience. Reservoir storage will likely be an important factor in how the irrigation season goes for many water users. Some basins have near to above normal storage and others do not due to last year's dry spring and warm summer. Basins without a lot of high elevation snowpack to supplement streamflow farther into the growing season will be impacted the most. Northern Idaho will feel the impacts the most from their four consecutive years with a low snowpack. Streamflow in that region was historically low last summer and fall and it's very likely that region will experience those same conditions. Water supply in the Southern Snake River basins is particularly vulnerable this year due to the triple whammy of an extremely low snowpack, below normal total water year precipitation and lack of reservoir storage. Owyhee Basin, while having their worst snowpack on record, will likely fare slightly better than its neighbors thanks to above normal storage from last year's banner snowpack.

Spring precipitation is always the unknown factor when evaluating water supply conditions at this point of the year. While snowpack provides the bulk of Idaho's water, spring precipitation typically contributes 25% to the water year's total. Last year's very dry spring (5th driest in 131 years) made it clear how big of a difference the lack of spring precipitation can have on water supply conditions. Unfortunately, this year's spring is expected to be warmer and drier than normal so we strongly encourage water users to consider the full range of streamflow forecasts issued to reduce their risk. See details below please.

Water supply – streamflow forecasts

This year has been a particularly challenging to forecast streamflow because of the difference between total water year precipitation (Fig. 2) and snowpack conditions (Fig. 3). Forecasts have been carefully reviewed and this unusual combination of conditions has been accounted for. We issue five forecasts for each streamflow forecast point to capture the range of most likely scenarios and we strongly encourage water users to consider the full range of forecasts in their decision process. The forecasts can be visualized using the forecast bar charts, the forecast evolution graphs or the interactive map. The forecast range captures the driest (least amount of water) to the wettest scenario based on historical runoff data. The 90% exceedance forecast is most conservative approach because there's 90% chance there will be that amount of water this season. Please note there is still a 10% chance that the observed seasonal streamflow will be below this amount because of the uncertainty with spring precipitation conditions. Last year, observed streamflow fell below the 90% exceedance amount because of how dry the spring was. Precipitation conditions can be monitored this spring

using our interactive map or via NOAA's many resources. Our report footnote goes into detail about how to interpret forecasts but please reach out if you have any follow up questions to IDBOISE-NRCS-SNOW@usda.gov.

Forecasted seasonal streamflow volumes (Fig. 4) strongly reflect snowpack conditions. Although we urge readers to use the drier scenario 70% and 90% exceedance forecasts given the lack of low and mid-elevation snow, we describe the median 50% exceedance streamflow forecasts here for simplicity. In general, forecasts are significantly below normal along the southern border in the Southern Snake River and Willow-Blackfoot-Portneuf basins. Well below normal streamflow is expected in the Boise, Weiser, Payette, Bear, Henrys Fork-Teton, and Coeur d'Alene-St. Joe basins. Conditions are also well below normal along the Clearwater, Selway, Lochsa, Priest, and Pend Oreille River Rivers. Streamflow is predicted to be near normal in the Snake River headwaters, Salmon, and lower Kootenai basin because of near to above normal snowpack conditions in the headwaters. Well above normal streamflow is forecasted for the Wood and Lost basins (exception is Camas Prairie which is well below normal). Water users also can consult the streamflow forecasts issued by NOAA's Northwest River Forecast Center's seasonal streamflow forecasts. They use a different snowpack and streamflow model process, so it's another data point to consider.

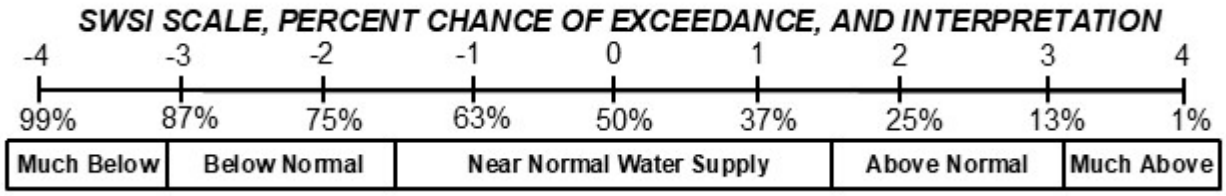
Current streamflow, snowpack, and precipitation data for each basin can be accessed in basin reports or on the NRCS interactive map.

Idaho Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) - March 01, 2026

The Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) is a predictive indicator of surface water availability within a watershed for the spring and summer water use season. The index is calculated by combining pre-runoff reservoir storage (carryover) with forecasts of spring and summer streamflow. SWSI values are scaled from +4.0 (abundant supply) to -4.0 (extremely dry), with a value of zero indicating a median water supply as compared to historical occurrences. The SWSI analysis period is from 1991 to present.

SWSI values provide a more comprehensive outlook of water availability by combining streamflow forecasts and reservoir storage where appropriate. The SWSI index allows comparison of water availability between basins for drought or flood severity analysis. Threshold SWSI values have been determined for some basins to indicate the potential for agricultural irrigation water shortages.

Basin or Region	Reservoir Storage (KAF)	50% Exceedance Forecast (KAF)	Storage + Forecast (KAF)	Percentile	SWSI Value	Water Supply Threshold SWSI Value	Similar SWSI Value Years
Northern Panhandle Region	----	516	516	54	0.3	----	2007, 1998
Spokane River Basin	146	1,610	1,756	26	-2.0	----	2021, 2016
Clearwater River Basin	2,889	5,360	8,249	24	-2.2	----	2005, 2010
Salmon River Basin	----	5,800	5,800	46	-0.3	----	2016, 2010
Weiser River Basin	----	240	240	24	-2.2	----	1991, 2004
Payette River Basin	672	1,300	1,972	43	-0.6	----	2016, 2000
Boise River Basin	726	900	1,626	38	-1.0	-2.0	2002, 2003
Big Wood above Hailey	----	265	265	66	1.3	-2.7	2009, 2012
Big Wood River Basin	42	189	231	52	0.2	0.6	2016, 2009
Camas Creek Near Blaine	----	19	19	28	-1.8	----	2014, 2022
Little Wood River Basin	22	83	105	61	0.9	-1.4	2009, 2012
Big Lost River Basin	24	162	186	62	1.0	1.0	2012, 2009
Little Lost River Basin	----	35	35	62	1.0	2.1	2012, 1996
Teton River Basin	----	155	155	40	-0.8	-3.8	2004, 2015
Henrys Fork Basin	201	1,215	1,416	38	-1.0	-2.7	2003, 2004
Snake River Near Heise	1,316	3,700	5,016	52	0.2	-1.5	2000, 2015
Oakley Basin	19	12	32	16	-2.8	0.1	2022, 2025
Salmon Falls above Jackpot	----	37	37	18	-2.7	----	2012, 2018
Salmon Falls Creek Basin	20	37	57	10	-3.3	-0.6	2003, 2014
Bruneau Basin	----	114	114	28	-1.8	----	2013, 2000
Owyhee Basin	441	155	596	32	-1.5	-2.2	2002, 2004
Bear River Basin	765	94	859	66	1.3	-3.6	2021, 2025



"----" = Not Available / Not Applicable; Note: The Percent Chance of Exceedance is an indicator of how often a range of SWSI values might be expected to occur. Each SWSI unit represents about 12% of the historical occurrences. As an example of interpreting the above scale, the SWSI can be expected to be greater than -3.0, 87% of the time and less than -3.0, 13% of the time. Half the time, the SWSI will be below and half the time above a value of zero. The interval between -1.5 and +1.5 described as "Near Normal Water Supply" represents three SWSI units and would be expected to occur about one-third (36%) of the time.

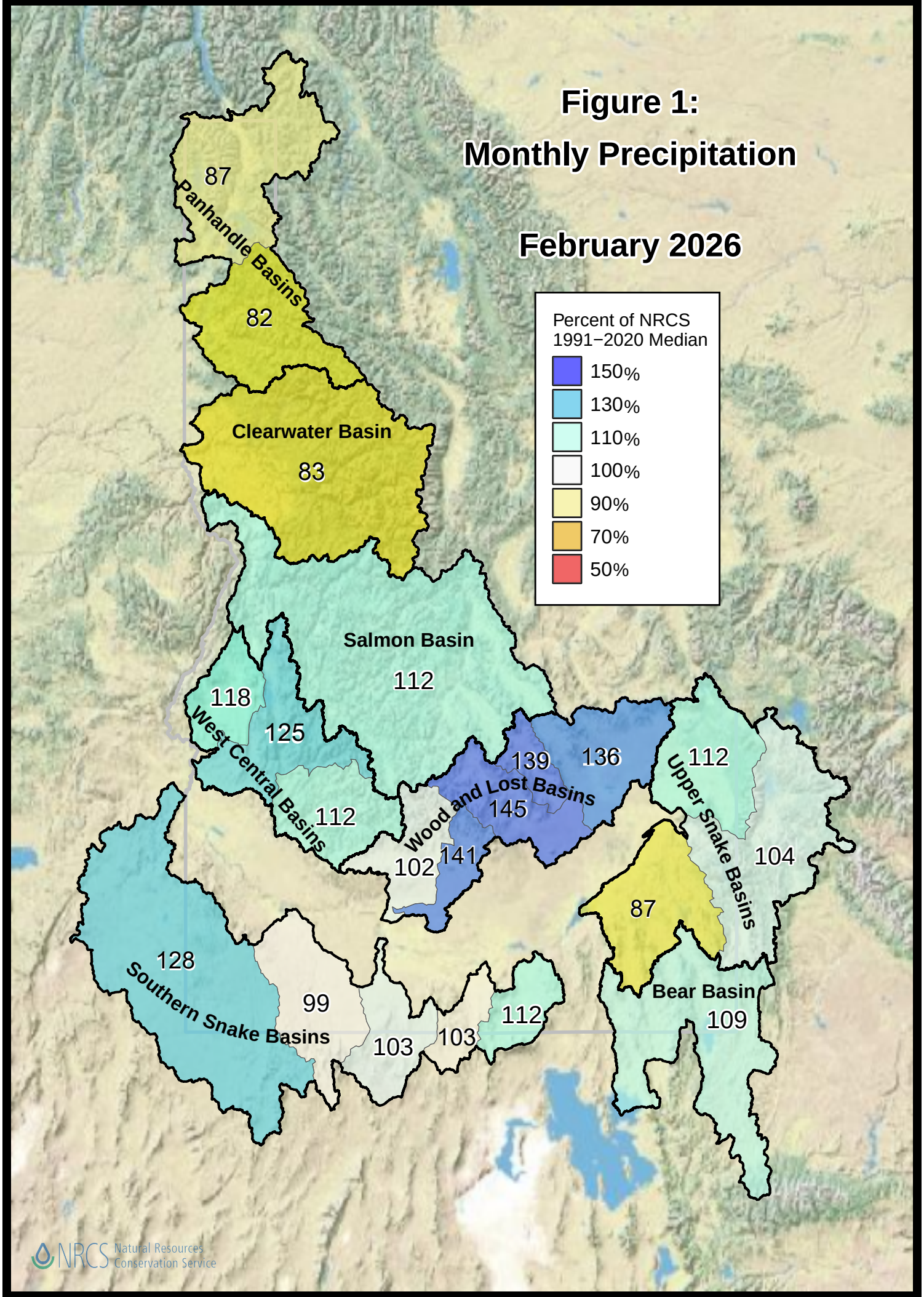


Figure 1:
Monthly Precipitation
February 2026
Percent of NRCS
1991−2020 Median
150%
130%
110%
100%
90%
70%
50%
87
Panhandle Basins
82
Clearwater Basin
83
Salmon Basin
112
118
125
West Central Basins
112
139
136
Wood and Lost Basins
145
141
102
112
Upper Snake Basins
104
87
128
Southern Snake Basins
99
103
103
112
Bear Basin
109
NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

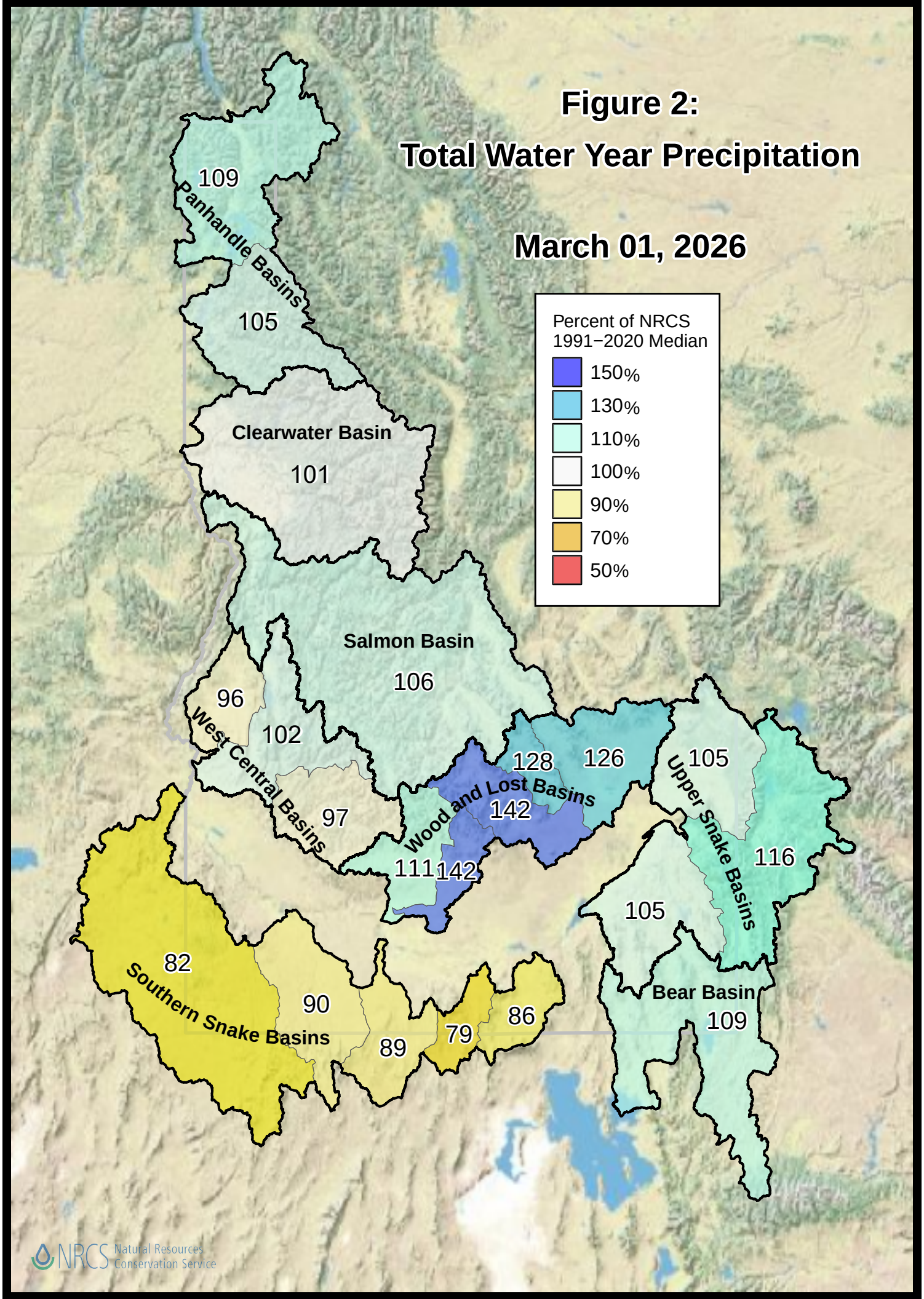


Figure 2:
Total Water Year Precipitation
March 01, 2026
Percent of NRCS
1991−2020 Median
150%
130%
110%
100%
90%
70%
50%
109
Panhandle Basins
105
Clearwater Basin
101
Salmon Basin
106
96
102
West Central Basins
97
128
126
105
Wood and Lost Basins
142
Upper Snake Basins
116
111
142
105
82
Southern Snake Basins
90
89
79
86
Bear Basin
109
NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

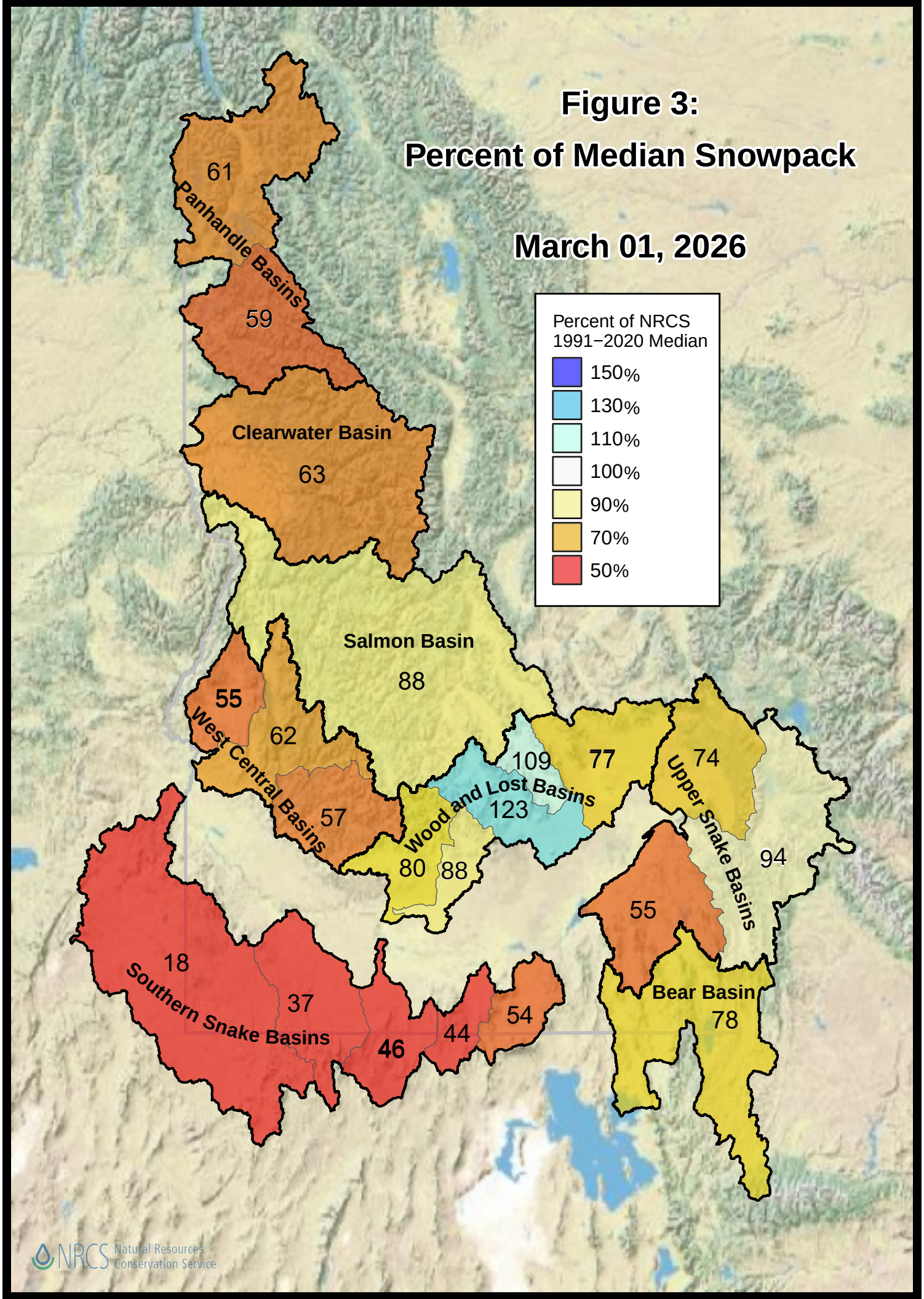
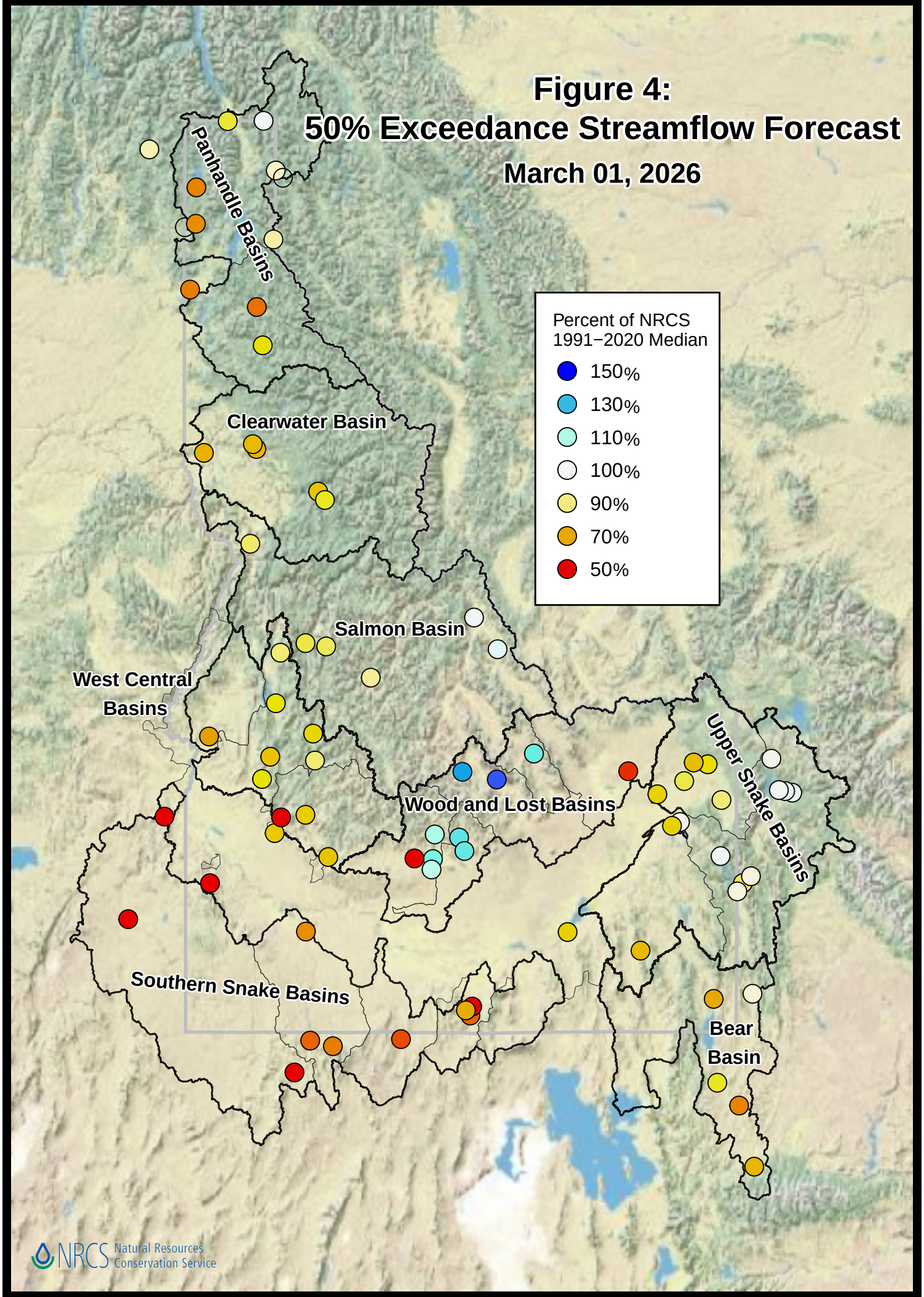


Figure 3:
Percent of Median Snowpack
March 01, 2026
Percent of NRCS
1991−2020 Median
150%
130%
110%
100%
90%
70%
50%
61
Panhandle Basins
59
Clearwater Basin
63
Salmon Basin
88
55
West Central Basins
62
57
109
77
74
Upper Snake Basins
Wood and Lost Basins
123
80
88
94
55
18
Southern Snake Basins
37
46
44
54
Bear Basin
78
NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

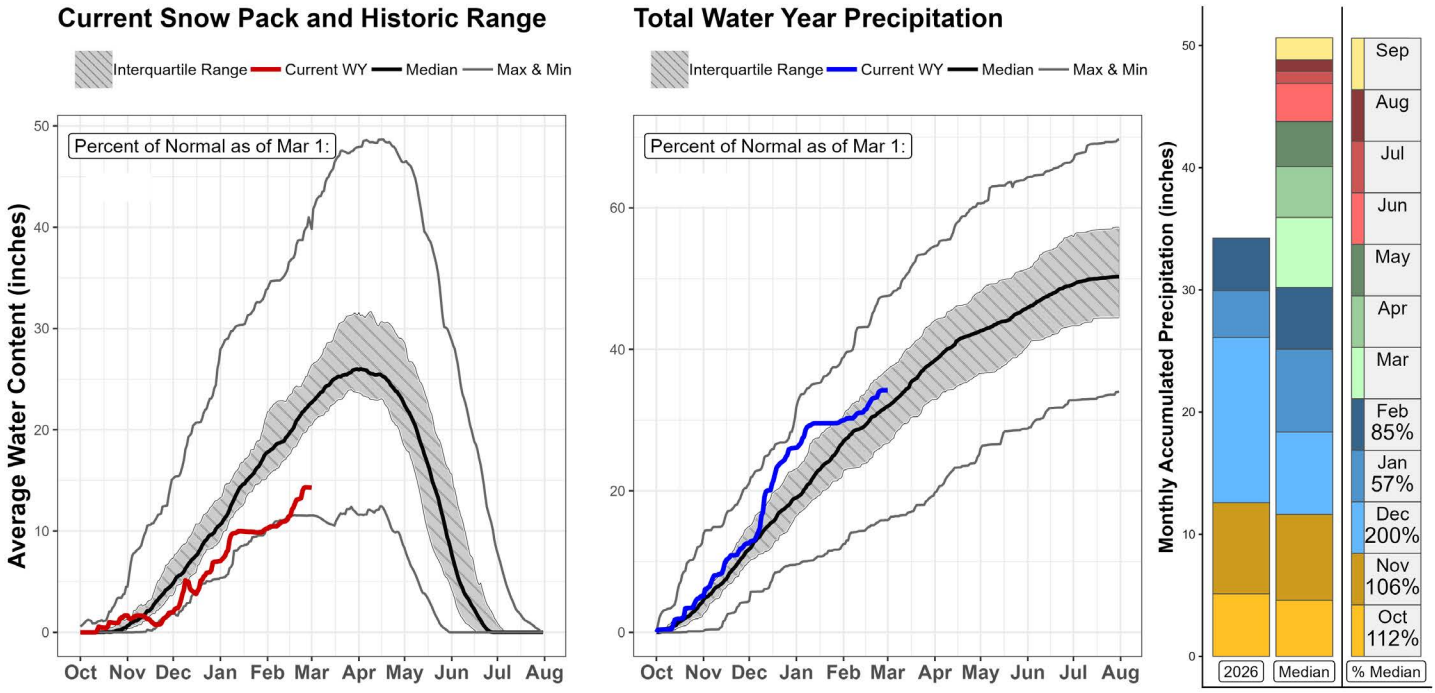
Figure 4:
50% Exceedance Streamflow Forecast
March 01, 2026



NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

Panhandle Basins

March 1, 2026



WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

Although there was below normal precipitation during February (~80 to 90% of normal) (Fig. 1), the Panhandle's snowpack saw some minor gains that helped lift most snow measurement sites away from record low conditions. However, the area's snowpack is still well below normal at only ~60% (Fig. 3), and there are still three sites that are at or near record low. Despite below normal precipitation in January and February, the wet December bolstered total water year precipitation which still ranges from ~105 to 109% of normal (Fig. 2). Even though total water year precipitation is near normal, the lack of snow, especially at the lower and mid-elevation bands, is why this region remains in moderate to severe drought. This is the fourth year with below normal snowpack and drought conditions, which is unprecedented for this area. With only one month left in the typical snow accumulation season, it is extremely unlikely that we'll reach a normal snowpack unless the area receives record high amounts of snow.

Reservoir storage in the Panhandle lakes is near to above normal: Coeur d'Alene is 144% of normal (61% full), Pend Oreille is 99% of normal (43% full), and Priest Lake is 118% of normal (55% full). Streamflow forecasts for April through July are ~60 to 101% of normal at the 50% exceedance level in the Panhandle basins. Given the lack of low and mid-elevation snow, we urge water users to consider the 70 and 90% exceedance forecasts issued at each point rather than only the 50% exceedance forecast.

Panhandle Basins Streamflow Forecasts - March 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	4,950	5,940	6,420	96	6,920	8,030	6,680
	APR-SEP	5,770	6,820	7,350	97	7,900	9,090	7,560
Moyie R at Eastport	APR-JUL	295	340	380	101	420	490	375
	APR-SEP	320	370	410	105	450	515	390
Boundary Ck nr Porthill	APR-JUL	78	91	101	85	111	127	119
	APR-SEP	82	96	106	85	116	132	124
Clark Fork R bl Cabinet Gorge Dam 2	APR-JUL	7,380	8,480	9,330	93	10,300	11,700	9,980
	APR-SEP	8,170	9,410	10,400	95	11,400	13,000	10,900
Priest R Outflow NR Coolin	APR-JUL	355	400	435	63	485	555	690
	APR-SEP	375	420	460	63	510	585	725
Priest R nr Priest River 2	APR-JUL	400	485	550	65	640	765	840
	APR-SEP	455	540	610	69	700	830	880
Pend Oreille R bl Box Canyon	APR-JUL	8,760	10,000	11,000	94	12,100	13,800	11,700
	APR-SEP	9,470	10,800	11,800	93	13,000	15,000	12,700
NF Coeur dAlene R at Enaville	APR-JUL	285	365	430	60	525	660	715
	APR-SEP	310	400	475	63	570	710	750
St. Joe R at Calder 2	APR-JUL	650	770	865	82	975	1,140	1,050
	APR-SEP	695	830	930	83	1,040	1,210	1,120
Spokane R nr Post Falls 2	APR-JUL	975	1,300	1,550	62	1,830	2,270	2,510
	APR-SEP	1,080	1,380	1,610	63	1,880	2,320	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): March 01, 2026

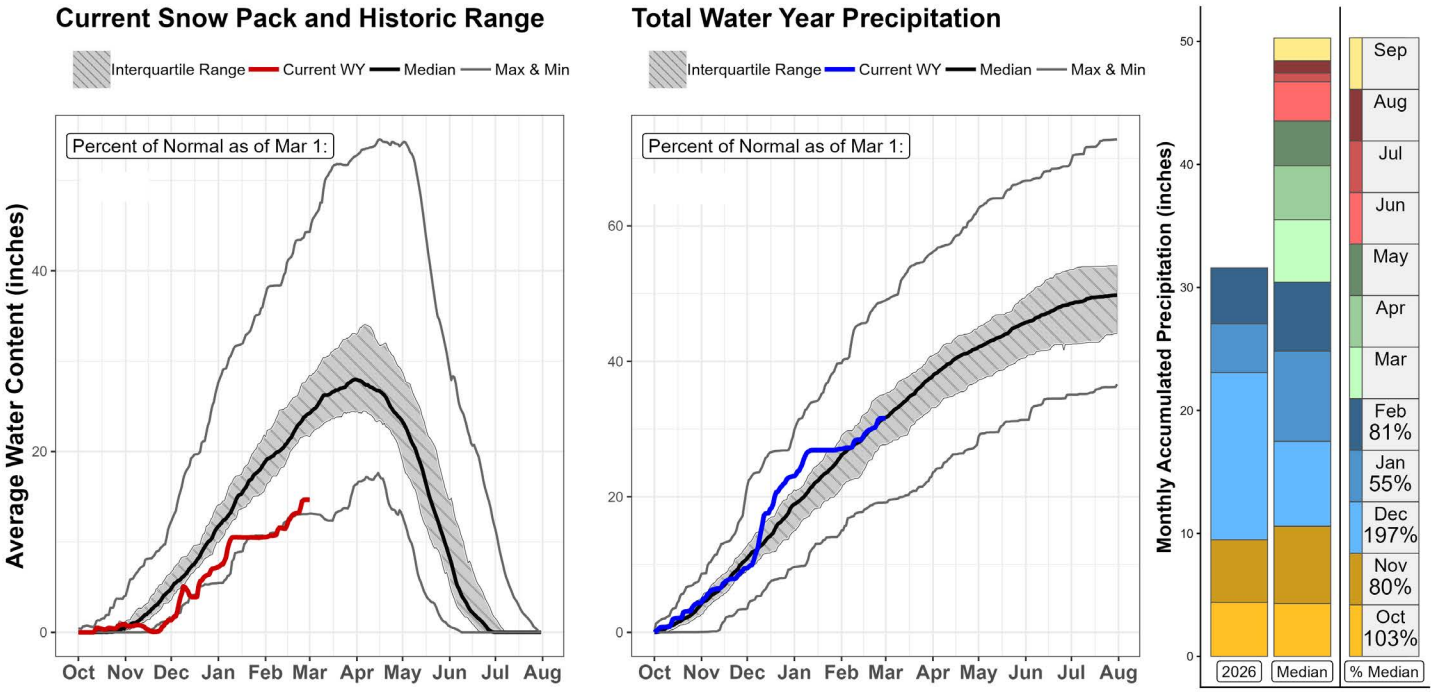
Reservoir Name	Current (KAF)	2025	Median (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)
Hungry Horse Lake	2,951.4	2,401.1	2,474.0	3,451.0
Flathead Lake	1,214.7	853.4	784.5	1,791.0
Lake Pend Oreille	675.3	560.5	682.0	1,561.3
Priest Lake	65.7	61.7	55.8	119.3
Lake Coeur d' Alene	145.5	135.0	101.2	238.5

Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 01, 2026

Basin Name	# of Sites	% of Median 2026	% of Median 2025
Pend Oreille-Kootenai	**16**	**60**	**96**
Moyie	1	99	88
Lower Kootenai	2	80	98
Priest	8	61	102
Pend Oreille Lake	6	55	94
Rathdrum	2	34	104
Coeur D'Alene-St. Joe	**11**	**54**	**84**
Coeur D'Alene	7	49	82
St. Joe	4	59	86
Palouse	2	34	79

Clearwater River Basin

March 1, 2026



WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

The previous month's dry streak finally came to an end in mid-February as the atmospheric high-pressure ridge broke down and we observed a shift into a more active weather pattern. This brought several rounds of precipitation to the Clearwater during the latter half of the month. Even with the dry start to the month, February precipitation was 83% of normal in the Clearwater Basin (Fig. 1). Since last month, total water year precipitation decreased slightly from 105% to 101% of normal (Fig. 2), putting us right on track for this time of year. However, snowpack conditions do not reflect the near normal precipitation thus far this water year. Warmer than normal temperatures all winter, significant rain-on-snow events, and virtually no precipitation in January has left the snowpack at only 63% of normal (Fig. 3). NOAA's 8- to 14-day outlook predicts near normal temperatures and above normal precipitation in the Clearwater Basin, which bodes well for boosting our snowpack during this last month in the snow accumulation season.

The Dworshak Reservoir is 83% full, which is 126% of normal on March 1. The 50% exceedance streamflow forecasts in the Clearwater Basin range between 72 and 84% of normal for the April through July forecast period (Fig. 4). Given the lack of low and mid-elevation snow, we urge water users to consider the 70 and 90% exceedance forecasts issued at each point rather than only the 50% exceedance forecast.

Clearwater Basin Streamflow Forecasts - March 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)**
Selway R nr Lowell	APR-JUL	1,340	1,510	1,650	84	1,790	2,010	1,960
	APR-SEP	1,380	1,560	1,690	82	1,840	2,060	2,050
Lochsa R nr Lowell	APR-JUL	905	1,000	1,080	76	1,160	1,300	1,430
	APR-SEP	980	1,110	1,200	80	1,300	1,450	1,500
Clearwater R at Orofino	APR-JUL	2,560	2,920	3,200	73	3,520	4,040	4,380
	APR-SEP	2,810	3,220	3,540	77	3,880	4,420	4,570
Dworshak Reservoir Inflow 2	APR-JUL	1,330	1,570	1,750	74	1,950	2,260	2,370
	APR-SEP	1,440	1,680	1,870	73	2,070	2,380	2,560
Clearwater R at Spalding 2	APR-JUL	3,910	4,470	4,900	72	5,380	6,160	6,820
	APR-SEP	4,190	4,860	5,360	74	5,900	6,740	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): March 01, 2026

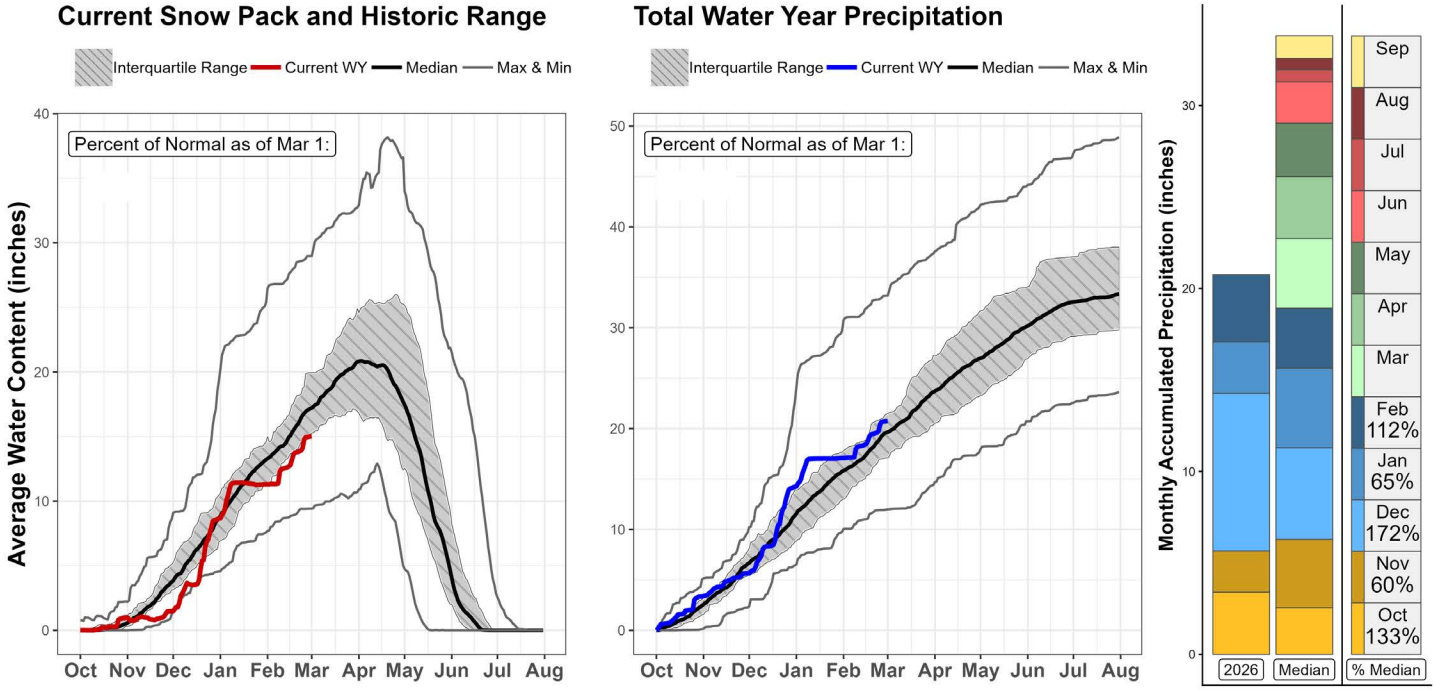
Reservoir Name	Current (KAF)	2025	Median (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)
Dworshak Reservoir	2,889	2,352	2,299	3,468

Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 01, 2026

Basin Name	# of Sites	% of Median 2026	% of Median 2025
Clearwater	**17**	**60**	**96**
North Fork Clearwater	6	58	96
Lochsa	3	73	85
Selway	4	72	111
South Fork Clearwater	1	68	114

Salmon River Basin

March 1, 2026



WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

Unlike the northern half of the state, the Salmon River Basin received above normal precipitation (112%) in February (Fig. 1). The wetter than normal February helped bolster the total water year precipitation which is now ~105% of normal (Fig. 2). Despite the wet February, snowpack is still below normal at ~85%, but it is one of the few basins in the state that doesn't have any snow measurement sites setting record lows. With only one month left in the snow accumulation season, the Salmon Basin will need to receive near record high amounts of snow to reach its typical seasonal peak. NOAA's Climate Prediction Center's 30-day outlook does not favor above normal precipitation conditions which suggests it's unlikely that this basin's snowpack will reach its typical seasonal peak by mid-April.

There are no reservoirs in the Salmon Basin. The 50% exceedance streamflow forecasts for April through July are ~86 to 88% of normal in the western Salmon River Basin, and ~92 to 103% of normal in the eastern Salmon River Basin (Fig. 4). Given the lack of low and mid-elevation snow, we urge water users to consider the 70 and 90% exceedance forecasts issued at each point rather than only the 50% exceedance forecast.

Salmon Basin Streamflow Forecasts - March 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 R at Salmon	APR-JUL	575	705	810	101	910	1,050	800
	APR-SEP	655	800	920	100	1,030	1,190	920
Lemhi R nr Lemhi	APR-JUL	46	59	70	103	82	100	68
	APR-SEP	51	69	83	101	98	121	82
MF Salmon R at MF Lodge	APR-JUL	485	620	715	92	810	940	775
	APR-SEP	580	690	775	91	870	1,030	850
SF Salmon R nr Krassel Ranger Station	APR-JUL	172	215	250	86	285	350	290
	APR-SEP	184	230	260	84	300	360	310
Johnson Ck at Yellow Pine	APR-JUL	129	159	183	87	210	250	210
	APR-SEP	139	171	196	89	225	270	220
Salmon R at White Bird	APR-JUL	4,000	4,670	5,200	88	5,780	6,720	5,940
	APR-SEP	4,460	5,200	5,800	88	6,480	7,620	6,600

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): March 01, 2026

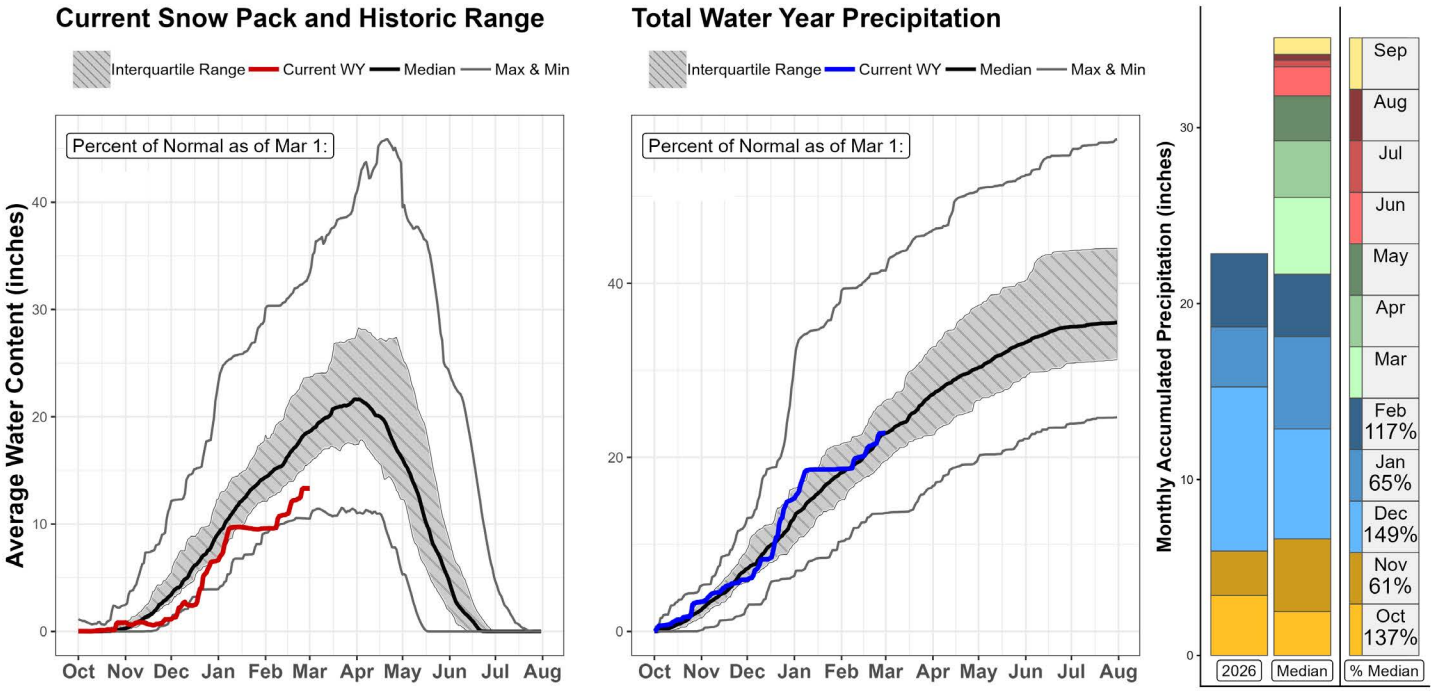
Reservoir Name	Current (KAF)	2025	Median (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)

Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 01, 2026

Basin Name	# of Sites	% of Median 2026	% of Median 2025
Salmon	**26**	**88**	**114**
Lemhi	7	100	101
Salmon ab Salmon	9	99	111
Middle Fork Salmon	3	90	122
South Fork Salmon	3	83	124
Little Salmon	4	76	130
Lower-Middle Salmon	5	82	116

West Central Basins

March 1, 2026



WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

February precipitation rallied back from very dry January conditions and was above normal in the West Central basins. The Boise Basin received 112% of its normal monthly precipitation, the Payette Basin received 125%, and the Weiser Basin received 118% of its normal monthly precipitation (Fig. 1). As a result, the total water year precipitation remained at near normal conditions on March 1 (Fig. 2). Despite the promising amounts of precipitation in February, there were minimal improvement in snowpack conditions since February 1 due to abnormally warm weather that led to more precipitation falling as rain rather than snow. The snowpack remains well below normal at approximately 60% in the Boise, Payette, and Weiser basins (Fig. 3). Stations located above ~7,000 ft. are the lone bright spot in this region, with the snowpack at sites like Vienna Mine (8,930 ft.) and Deadwood Summit (6,990 ft.) at or near normal levels. Unfortunately, record low snowpack measurements were observed at many lower elevation sites across all basins. Notable new record lows were set at SNOTEL sites like Bogus Basin, Bear Saddle, and Cozy Cove – all of which have records dating back to the early 1980's. Even more striking are the snow course measurements at Bogus Basin and Morse Creek Summit. These sites have 84 and 89 years of continuous March 1 measurements respectively and are currently only outdone by 1977 for the lowest March 1 snowpack level ever measured by the Snow Survey. Here's hoping for a snowy March! However, even with above normal March and April snowfall, it is increasingly unlikely that these basins will reach median snowpack levels.

As of March 1, combined reservoir storage in the Boise System (Anderson Ranch, Arrowrock, and Lucky Peak) is 119% of normal. Reservoir storage in the Payette Basin is 121% of normal, while storage in the Weiser Basin is 76% of normal. Streamflow forecasts for the West Central basins are 46 to 89% of normal for the 50% exceedance forecast. Given the lack of low and mid-elevation snow, we urge water users to consider the 70 and 90% exceedance forecasts issued at each point rather than only the 50% exceedance forecast.

West Central Basins Streamflow Forecasts - March 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)**
Boise R nr Twin Springs	APR-JUL	350	420	470	78	530	620	600
	APR-SEP	355	425	480	74	540	645	645
SF Boise R at Anderson Ranch Dam 2	APR-JUL	215	275	320	76	375	465	420
	APR-SEP	245	305	355	79	410	500	450
Mores Ck nr Arrowrock Dam	APR-JUL	21	34	44	46	56	77	96
	APR-SEP	26	40	52	52	65	88	100
Boise R nr Boise 2	APR-JUL	630	760	875	77	1,010	1,250	1,130
	APR-SEP	665	795	900	74	1,020	1,240	1,220
SF Payette R at Lowman	APR-JUL	280	325	365	89	410	480	410
	APR-SEP	300	350	385	85	425	495	455
Deadwood Reservoir Inflow 2	APR-JUL	70	86	99	80	113	136	124
	APR-SEP	80	98	112	82	128	153	136
Lake Fork Payette R nr McCall	APR-JUL	56	65	72	89	80	91	81
	APR-SEP	56	66	74	89	83	98	83
NF Payette R at Cascade 2	APR-JUL	280	350	400	83	460	555	480
	APR-SEP	280	355	410	84	475	575	490
NF Payette R nr Banks 2	APR-JUL	300	380	450	76	530	660	595
	APR-SEP	350	450	530	87	615	760	610
Payette R nr Horseshoe Bend 2	APR-JUL	855	1,030	1,180	83	1,350	1,630	1,430
	APR-SEP	935	1,140	1,300	85	1,480	1,780	1,530
Weiser R nr Weiser	MAR-JUL	200	275	335	70	405	515	480
	APR-JUL	125	183	230	68	285	375	340
	APR-SEP	124	189	240	65	295	380	370

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): March 01, 2026

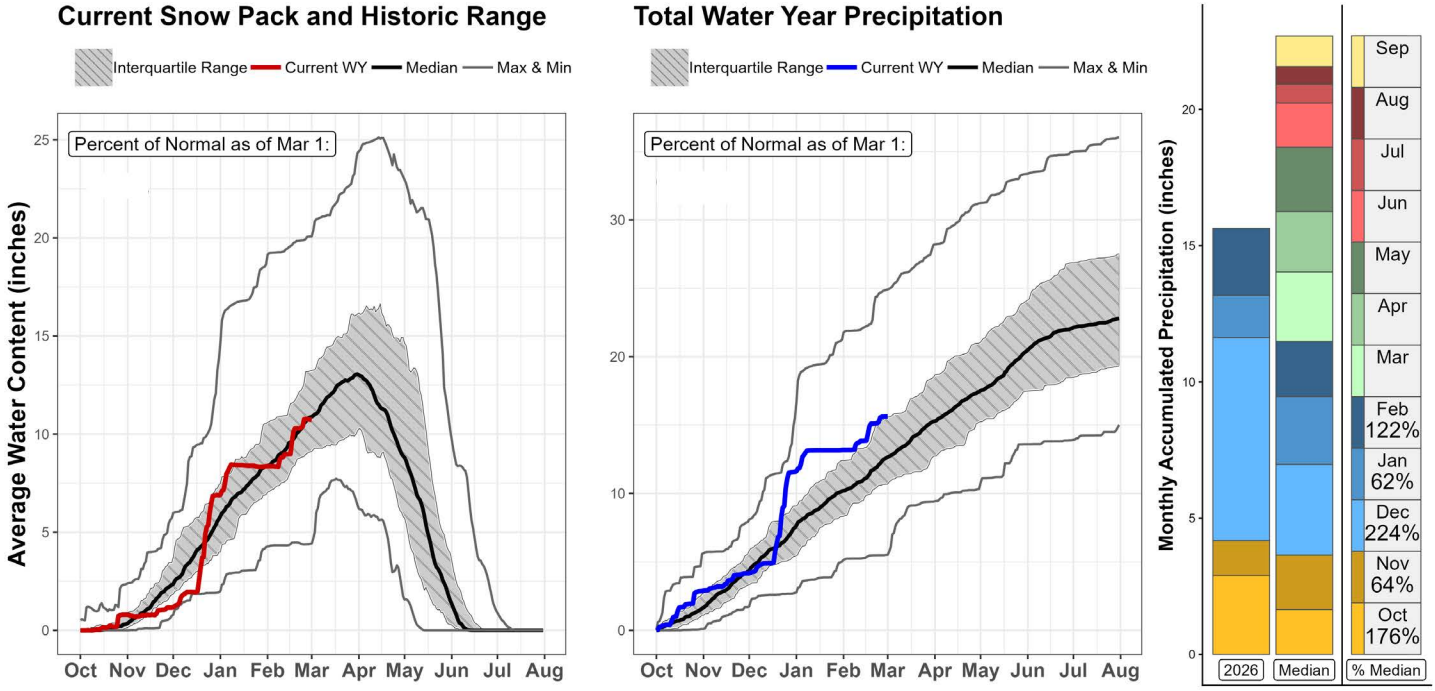
Reservoir Name	Current (KAF)	2025	Median (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)
Anderson Ranch Reservoir	317.0	306.2	271.4	450.2
Arrowrock Reservoir	248.3	196.5	224.3	272.2
Lucky Peak Reservoir	160.5	102.9	115.3	293.2
Boise River System Total	**725.8**	**605.6**	**611.0**	**1,015.6**
Deadwood Reservoir	109.7	83.4	91.1	161.9
Cascade Reservoir	562.0	478.9	464.2	693.2
Payette River System Total	**671.7**	**562.3**	**555.3**	**855.1**
Lake Lowell	111.1	105.3	98.2	165.2
Mann Creek Reservoir	3.2	5.0	4.2	11.1

Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 01, 2026

Basin Name	# of Sites	% of Median 2026	% of Median 2025
Boise	**18**	**57**	**129**
Mores	6	39	133
North and Middle Fork Boise	6	63	126
South Fork Boise	9	74	122
Canyon	2	12	159
Payette	**17**	**64**	**132**
North Fork Payette	8	70	128
South Fork Payette	4	77	125
Weiser	**6**	**55**	**141**
Mann	2	45	162

Wood & Lost River Basins

March 1, 2026



WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

Following a very dry January, February delivered above normal precipitation in the Wood, Lost, and Birch-Medicine Lodge basins. Monthly precipitation ranged from 102% of normal in the Big Wood Basin to 145% of normal in the Big Lost Basin (Fig. 1). As a result, the total water year precipitation remains above normal, ranging from approximately 111% above normal in the Big Wood Basin to 142% of normal in the Little Wood and Big Lost basins (Fig. 2).

Snowpack conditions vary widely, from below normal in the Big Wood Basin (80%) to above normal in the Big Lost Basin (123%) (Fig. 3). As of March 1, the Big Lost and Little Lost River basins are the only watersheds in Idaho reporting an above normal snowpack. A notable feature of this year's snowpack is the sharp contrast between low and high elevation snowpack conditions. In the Wood and Lost River basins, SWE is below normal at elevations under about 7,000 ft. and above normal at higher elevations. Interestingly, the Big and Little Lost basins, which have the highest percent of normal snowpack in the state, are also the only basins in the state with no measurement sites below 7,000 ft. This highlights the importance of our manual snow course measurements which are typically located at lower elevations than the automated SNOTEL stations. In the Little Wood Basin, excluding snow course measurements from our basin wide calculations shows the basin has 121% of normal SWE. Including snow courses into the basin-wide average decreases it to just 88% of normal. This drop in basin-wide SWE is driven by sites like the Telfer Ranch Snow Course, located at 5,830 ft. in the northeastern corner of the Little Wood Basin. This site is currently snow free. Under normal conditions, Telfer Ranch would hold about 6.8 inches of SWE and 23 inches of snow depth on March 1.

Magic and Mackay reservoirs have below normal storage as of February 1. They're at 68 and 77% of normal respectively (22 and 55% full). The Little Wood Reservoir is slightly above normal at 136%

(73% full). Streamflow forecasts for the Wood and Lost basins are mostly above normal, ranging from ~108 to 144% of normal for the 50% exceedance forecast. Only Camas Creek near Blaine and Camas Creek at Camas have a 50% exceedance forecast below 100% (32 and 52% respectively). Given the lack of low and mid-elevation snow, we urge water users to consider the 70 and 90% exceedance forecasts issued at each point rather than only the 50% exceedance forecast.

Wood and Lost Basins Streamflow Forecasts - March 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)**
Camas Ck at Camas	APR-JUL	0.8	2.1	9	52	15.9	26	17.3
Little Lost R bl Wet Ck nr Howe	APR-JUL	19.5	25.0	30	120	34.0	40	25.0
	APR-SEP	23.0	30.0	35	121	40.0	47	29.0
Big Lost R at Howell Ranch	APR-JUL	118.0	154.0	194	134	220.0	250	145.0
	APR-SEP	146.0	186.0	220	138	245.0	280	159.0
Big Lost R bl Mackay Reservoir	APR-JUL	99.0	129.0	150	144	171.0	200	104.0
	APR-SEP	98.0	129.0	162	128	185.0	220	127.0
Big Wood R at Hailey	APR-JUL	148.0	192.0	230	110	275.0	365	210.0
	APR-SEP	171.0	220.0	265	115	320.0	395	230.0
Big Wood R ab Magic Reservoir	APR-JUL	73.0	112.0	161	116	235.0	265	139.0
	APR-SEP	74.0	121.0	170	116	210.0	265	146.0
Camas Ck nr Blaine	MAR-JUL	6.4	10.0	17	32	35.0	62	53.0
	MAR-SEP	5.7	12.3	19	36	28.0	45	53.0
Big Wood R bl Magic Dam 2	APR-JUL	91.0	139.0	186	108	245.0	370	172.0
	APR-SEP	96.0	143.0	189	104	250.0	370	182.0
Little Wood R ab High Five Ck	MAR-JUL	41.0	56.0	71	122	89.0	123	58.0
	MAR-SEP	43.0	60.0	75	121	94.0	127	62.0
Little Wood R nr Carey 2	MAR-JUL	42.0	58.0	74	121	98.0	160	61.0
	MAR-SEP	47.0	66.0	83	128	105.0	149	65.0

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): March 01, 2026

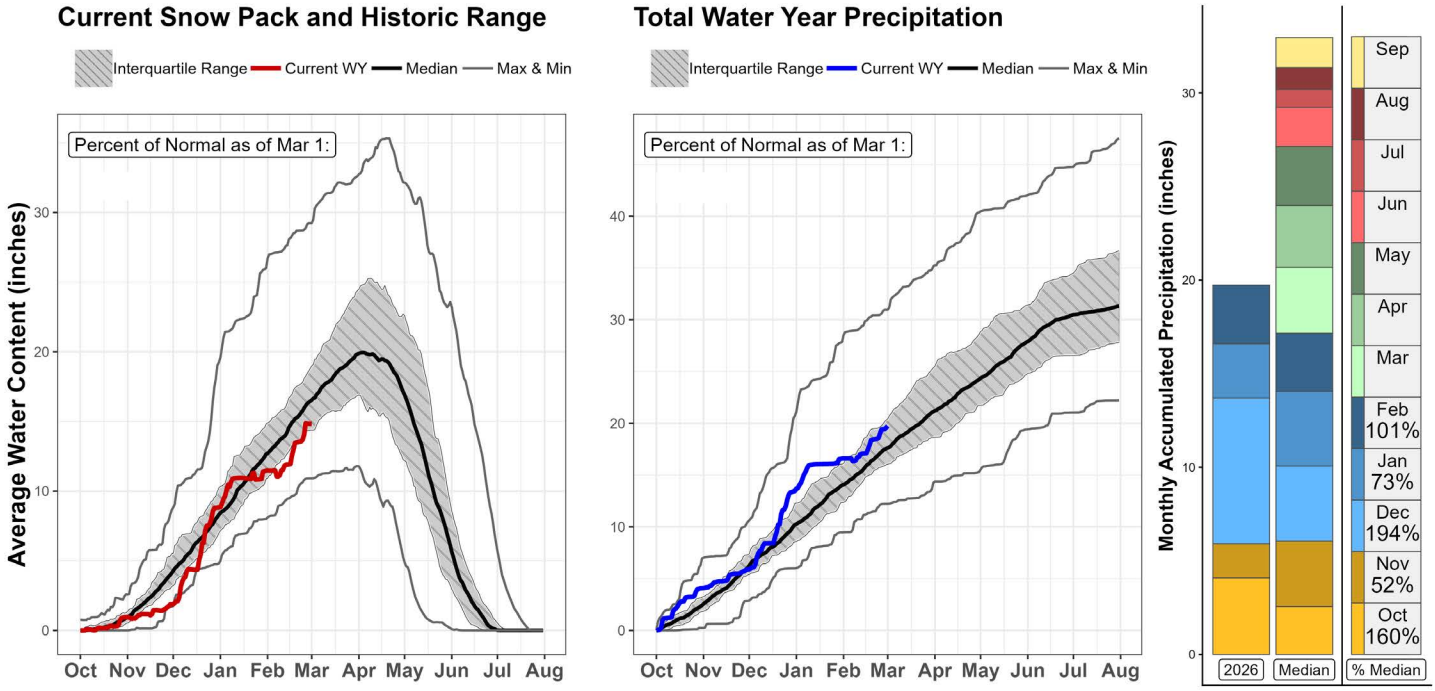
Reservoir Name	Current (KAF)	2025	Median (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)
Mackay Reservoir	24.4	27.2	31.6	44.4
Little Wood Reservoir	22.0	17.5	16.1	30.0
Magic Reservoir	41.7	67.2	61.6	191.5

Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 01, 2026

Basin Name	# of Sites	% of Median 2026	% of Median 2025
Big Wood	**10**	**80**	**117**
Big Wood ab Hailey	6	111	113
Camas	4	28	124
Little Wood	**8**	**88**	**97**
Little Wood ab Resv	5	110	107
Big Lost	**7**	**123**	**99**
Big Lost ab Mackay	5	130	108
Fish	3	47	78
Little Lost	**5**	**109**	**88**
Birch-Medicine Lodge-Beaver-Camas	**10**	**77**	**80**
Birch-Medicine Lodge	6	90	80
Camas-Beaver	4	61	81

Upper Snake River Basins

March 1, 2026



WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

Dry January conditions continued until February 10, when a series of storms brought precipitation consistently through the end of the month in the Henrys Fork-Teton and Snake River above Heise basins. The storms mostly missed the Willow-Blackfoot-Portneuf Basin until February 18. February precipitation ranged from 90 to 112% of normal (Fig. 1). As of March 1, total water year precipitation is 105% of normal for both the Henrys Fork-Teton and Willow-Blackfoot-Portneuf, and 116% for the Snake River above Heise (Fig. 2). While total water year precipitation remains above normal, February was the second month in a row with a decrease in these levels. Snowpack in the Upper Snake River basins is 74% of normal in the Henrys Fork-Teton, 91% in Snake River above Heise, and 55% of normal in the Willow-Blackfoot-Portneuf (Fig. 3). There is a clear difference in snowpack conditions above and below 8,000 ft. Many of the sites above this elevation band have snowpacks near to well above normal while below it, the snowpack is well below normal or completely absent. Henrys Fork-Teton and Snake River above Heise both have approximately 40 days and Willow-Blackfoot-Portneuf has less than 30 days until their SWE normally peaks, marking the end of the normal snow accumulation season. NOAA's 30-day outlook predicts above normal temperatures in this region, but the models don't favor any precipitation trend.

The Upper Snake Reservoir System is currently 91% of normal (62% full) and combined storage for the Jackson and Palisades reservoirs is 88% of normal (59% full). The 50% exceedance streamflow forecasts range from 75 to 89% in the Henrys Fork-Teton and 87 to 102% in the Snake River above Heise Basin for the April to July runoff period. Willow Creek near Ririe is 79%, and Portneuf River near Topaz is 74% for the March to July runoff period (Fig. 4). Given the lack of snow at the lower and mid-elevations, we urge water users to consider the 70% and 90% exceedance forecasts issued at each forecast point rather than just the 50% exceedance forecast.

Upper Snake Basins Streamflow Forecasts - March 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	370.0	420	460	99	510	605	465
	APR-SEP	395.0	450	495	98	550	650	505
Snake R nr Moran 2	APR-JUL	595.0	670	735	101	810	950	730
	APR-SEP	655.0	740	810	100	895	1,050	810
Pacific Ck at Moran	APR-JUL	117.0	138	157	102	179	220	154
	APR-SEP	122.0	145	164	102	188	230	160
Buffalo Fk ab Lava Ck nr Moran	APR-JUL	235.0	265	290	102	320	370	285
	APR-SEP	255.0	290	320	103	355	410	310
Snake R ab Reservoir nr Alpine 2	APR-JUL	1,730.0	1,930	2,100	98	2,290	2,610	2,140
	APR-SEP	1,970.0	2,210	2,400	99	2,620	2,980	2,430
Greys R ab Reservoir nr Alpine	APR-JUL	225.0	255	275	87	300	340	315
	APR-SEP	260.0	295	320	88	350	395	365
Salt R ab Reservoir nr Etna	APR-JUL	210.0	260	300	98	350	440	305
	APR-SEP	270.0	330	385	101	450	580	380
Snake R nr Irwin 2	APR-JUL	2,390.0	2,710	2,970	101	3,270	3,770	2,930
	APR-SEP	2,740.0	3,120	3,430	100	3,780	4,360	3,420
Snake R nr Heise 2	APR-JUL	2,530.0	2,850	3,100	99	3,380	3,860	3,130
	APR-SEP	3,030.0	3,400	3,700	101	4,030	4,590	3,660
Henrys Fk nr Ashton 2	APR-JUL	305.0	335	355	75	380	420	475
	APR-SEP	430.0	460	485	77	510	555	630
Falls R nr Ashton 2	APR-JUL	275.0	305	325	82	350	385	395
	APR-SEP	320.0	355	380	80	405	450	475
Teton R nr Driggs	APR-JUL	95.0	114	130	89	149	186	146
	APR-SEP	113.0	136	155	87	176	215	178
Teton R nr St Anthony	APR-JUL	235.0	275	305	86	340	400	355
	APR-SEP	270.0	315	350	82	390	460	425
Henrys Fk nr Rexburg 2	APR-JUL	795.0	885	960	79	1,040	1,170	1,210
	APR-SEP	1,080.0	1,190	1,280	81	1,380	1,550	1,580
Willow Ck nr Ririe 2	MAR-JUL	15.1	25	34	79	45	65	43
Portneuf R at Topaz	MAR-JUL	38.0	42	45	74	49	55	61
	MAR-SEP	51.0	56	61	81	67	77	75
Snake R at Neeley 2	APR-JUL	950.0	1,440	1,880	79	2,410	3,370	2,390
	APR-SEP	965.0	1,490	1,950	83	2,510	3,520	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): March 01, 2026

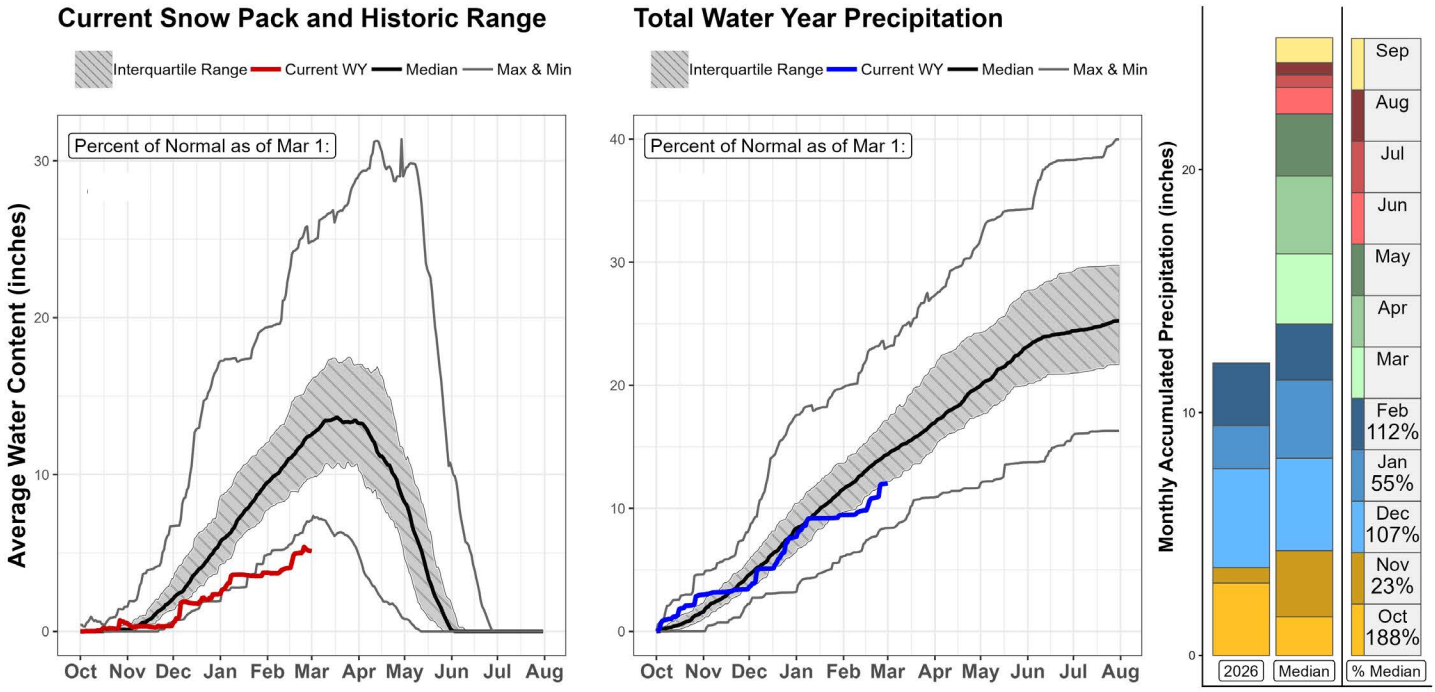
Reservoir Name	Current (KAF)	2025	Median (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)
Jackson Lake	613.8	649.6	626.4	847.0
Palisades Reservoir	702.0	988.6	875.1	1,400.0
Snake River Above Heise Total	**1,315.8**	**1,638.2**	**1,501.5**	**2,247.0**
Henrys Lake	84.7	83.4	85.1	90.4
Island Park Reservoir	104.2	113.7	109.1	135.2
Grassy Lake	12.0	11.6	12.9	15.2
Henrys Fork-Teton Total	**201.0**	**208.6**	**207.1**	**240.8**
Ririe Reservoir	50.7	52.6	44.8	80.5
Blackfoot Reservoir	238.8	278.5	187.8	337.0
American Falls Reservoir	1,183.9	1,368.8	1,317.0	1,672.6
Upper Snake River System Total	**2,990.3**	**3,546.7**	**3,258.2**	**4,577.9**

Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 01, 2026

Basin Name	# of Sites	% of Median 2026	% of Median 2025
Henrys Fork-Teton	**19**	**74**	**100**
Henrys Fork-Falls River	12	71	97
Teton	9	76	107
Snake River Above Heise	**30**	**94**	**108**
Snake ab Jackson Lake	10	90	100
Pacific	3	108	102
Buffalo Fork	4	100	102
Gros Ventre	4	107	107
Hoback	4	95	109
Greys	5	96	116
Salt	4	85	118
Willow-Blackfoot-Portneuf	**14**	**55**	**122**
Willow	7	53	129
Blackfoot	5	60	135
Portneuf	5	52	111

Southern Snake Basins

March 1, 2026



WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

During February, the Southern Snake River basins received near to above normal precipitation, ranging from approximately 100 to 125% of normal (Fig. 1). However, total water year precipitation as of March 1 remains below average, ranging from approximately 80 to 90% of normal (Fig. 2). Frequent above freezing temperatures led to more precipitation falling as rain rather than snow. This limited the formation of a low and mid-elevation snowpack. As April approaches, the Southern Snake River basins are beginning to show signs of spring melting, particularly in the Owyhee Basin. This warm and mild winter resulted in a shallow snowpack that melted out early at several SNOTEL stations following February's snowstorms. As of March 1, snowpack conditions in the Southern Snake River basins are substantially below normal and range from 18% of normal in the Owyhee Basin to 54% of normal in the Raft Basin (Fig. 3). The typical runoff season for these basins starts in mid-March to early April. NOAA's 8- to 14-day outlook for mid-March predicts likely below normal precipitation and above normal temperatures, which will further reduce the snowpack at lower elevations. Meanwhile, higher elevation snow may linger until the usual runoff period begins in late March and early April. If the current pattern of warm, dry weather continues, the SWE projection plots (Owyhee, Bruneau, Salmon Falls, Goose Creek, Raft) indicate this winter will finish with record low to well below normal snowpack conditions in all of the Southern Snake River basins.

As of March 1, reservoir storage in Lake Owyhee is 145% of normal (62% full), Wildhorse is 156% of normal (69% full), Oakley is 83% of normal (26% full) and Salmon Falls is 54% of normal (11% full). Streamflow forecasts for the Southern Snake River basins for their primary period are approximately 15 to 70% of normal (Fig 4). Given the lack of low and mid-elevation snow, we urge water users to consider the 70 and 90% exceedance range of forecasts issued at each point rather than just the 50% exceedance forecast.

Southern Snake Basins Streamflow Forecasts - March 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)**
Goose Ck ab Trapper Ck nr Oakley	MAR-JUL	3.9	7.2	9.8	58	12.6	17.1	16.9
	MAR-SEP	3.9	7.0	9.6	55	12.4	17.0	17.3
Trapper Ck nr Oakley	MAR-JUL	2.8	3.2	3.5	71	3.9	4.4	4.9
	MAR-SEP	3.9	4.3	4.6	77	4.9	5.4	6.0
Oakley Reservoir Inflow	MAR-JUL	5.6	8.5	10.8	49	13.5	17.8	22.0
	MAR-SEP	5.5	9.4	12.5	52	15.8	21.0	24.0
Salmon Falls Ck nr San Jacinto	MAR-JUL	20.0	28.0	35.0	55	43.0	57.0	64.0
	MAR-SEP	24.0	31.0	37.0	56	44.0	55.0	66.0
Bruneau R at Rowland	APR-JUL	14.1	22.0	28.0	58	36.0	48.0	48.0
	APR-SEP	16.3	24.0	30.0	61	38.0	51.0	49.0
Jarbidge River Below Jarbidge	APR-JUL	10.1	11.2	12.2	62	13.4	15.6	19.6
	APR-SEP	10.9	12.4	13.6	68	15.1	17.8	20.0
Bruneau R nr Hot Spring	MAR-JUL	68.0	92.0	112.0	65	135.0	174.0	173.0
	MAR-SEP	70.0	94.0	114.0	64	137.0	177.0	179.0
Reynolds Ck at Tollgate	MAR-JUL	0.2	0.7	1.3	17	1.9	3.1	7.3
	MAR-SEP	0.3	1.0	1.5	21	2.3	3.5	7.4
Owyhee R nr Gold Ck 2	MAR-JUL	2.8	5.7	8.5	39	12.0	18.5	22.0
	APR-JUL	0.1	1.8	4.1	24	10.0	18.5	17.2
Owyhee R nr Rome	MAR-JUL	19.4	43.0	66.0	19	97.0	154.0	355.0
	MAR-SEP	29.0	60.0	91.0	25	129.0	198.0	370.0
	APR-JUL	7.7	36.0	69.0	34	115.0	205.0	205.0
	APR-SEP	7.8	39.0	76.0	35	124.0	215.0	220.0
Owyhee R bl Owyhee Dam 2	MAR-JUL	31.0	67.0	102.0	26	146.0	225.0	390.0
	MAR-SEP	67.0	114.0	155.0	37	205.0	295.0	420.0
	APR-JUL	43.0	94.0	142.0	60	200.0	300.0	235.0
	APR-SEP	45.0	98.0	147.0	55	205.0	305.0	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): March 01, 2026

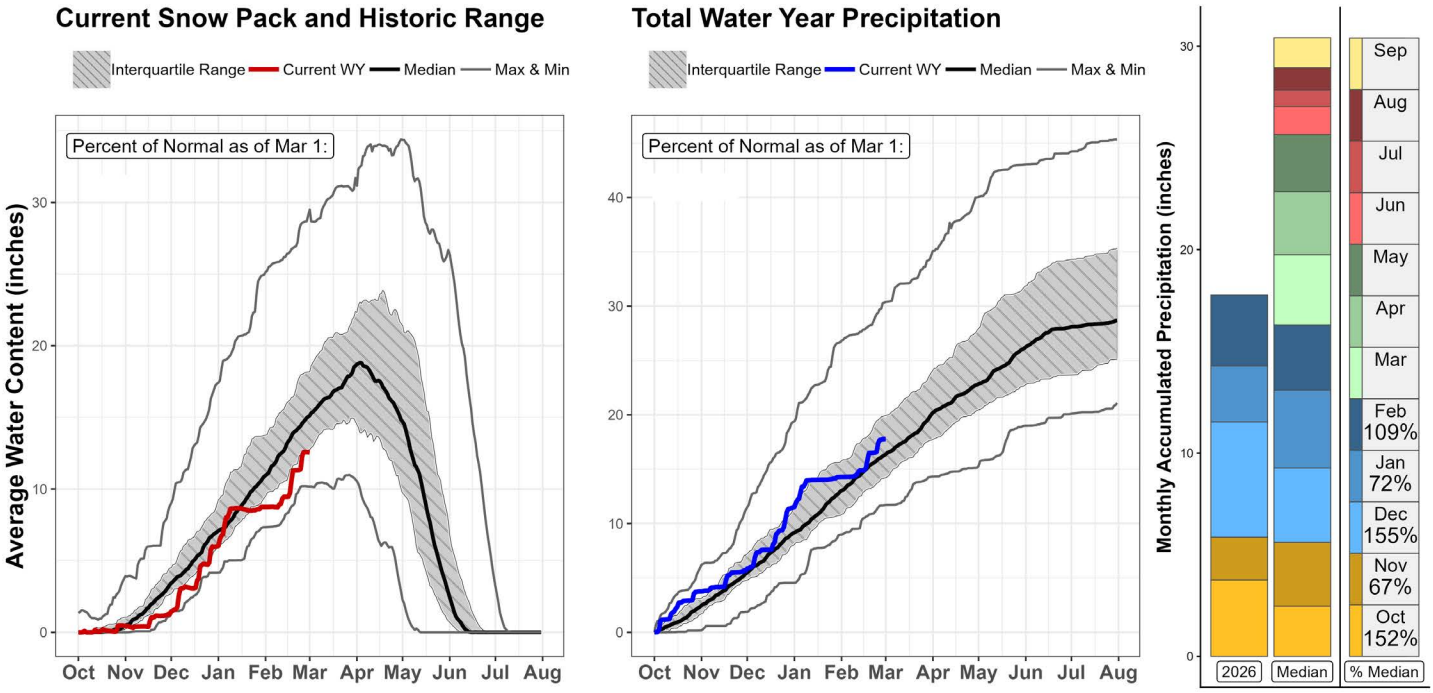
Reservoir Name	Current (KAF)	2025	Median (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)
Oakley Reservoir	19.3	33.5	23.2	75.6
Salmon Falls Reservoir	19.9	30.9	37.0	182.6
Wild Horse Reservoir	49.3	52.9	31.6	71.5
Lake Owyhee	441.4	632.8	304.5	715.0
Brownlee Reservoir	1,025.1	1,005.3	1,109.0	1,420.0

Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 01, 2026

Basin Name	# of Sites	% of Median 2026	% of Median 2025
Raft	**6**	**54**	**99**
Goose Creek	**6**	**44**	**104**
Salmon Falls	**6**	**46**	**116**
Bruneau	**8**	**37**	**109**
Owyhee	**15**	**17**	**119**
Upper Owyhee	13	13	123
Reynolds	6	28	143

Bear River Basin

March 1, 2026



WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

During February, the Bear River Basin experienced near normal precipitation, receiving 109% of their normal monthly amount (Fig. 1). This resulted in total water year precipitation remaining at 109% of normal on March 1 (Fig. 2). Although precipitation remains near normal, this hasn't translated into favorable snowpack conditions. As of March 1, the snowpack is only 78% of normal (Fig. 3). Similar to the Southern Snake River basins to the west, several rain-on-snow events and periods with above freezing temperatures impeded low and mid-elevation snowpack development. NOAA's 8- to 14- day outlook forecasts above normal temperatures and near normal precipitation for mid-March. The projected SWE plot, which uses historic snow accumulation data, indicates the Bear River Basin would require slightly above normal snow accumulation (between the 70th and 90th percentile) to reach median snowpack conditions by its typical peak in early April. Given the forecasted temperature and precipitation trends for this area, it appears unlikely this will happen. Instead, the basin will likely finish the winter with a below normal snowpack.

As of March 1, Bear Lake reservoir storage remains well above normal at 158% (59% full). This value remains consistent with the previous months at ~160% of normal reservoir storage. The March 1 streamflow forecasts in the Bear River Basin are 63 to 97% of normal for the primary runoff period (Fig. 4). Given the lack of low and mid-elevation snow, we urge water users to consider the 70 and 90% exceedance range of forecasts issued at each point rather than just the 50% exceedance forecast.

Bear Basin Streamflow Forecasts - March 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	51.0	64.0	74.0	73	86.0	102.0	101.0
	APR-SEP	60.0	75.0	86.0	75	98.0	116.0	114.0
Bear R ab Resv nr Woodruff	APR-JUL	27.0	42.0	58.0	63	73.0	98.0	92.0
	APR-SEP	31.0	46.0	60.0	61	76.0	102.0	99.0
Big Ck nr Randolph	APR-JUL	0.9	1.7	2.7	84	3.7	5.1	3.2
Smiths Fk nr Border	APR-JUL	60.0	74.0	83.0	97	92.0	106.0	86.0
	APR-SEP	71.0	87.0	98.0	98	109.0	124.0	100.0
Bear R bl Stewart Dam 2	APR-JUL	27.0	52.0	80.0	70	119.0	176.0	115.0
	APR-SEP	31.0	62.0	94.0	77	139.0	205.0	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): March 01, 2026

Reservoir Name	Current (KAF)	2025	Median (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)
Bear Lake	764.8	906.1	482.9	1,302.0
Woodruff Creek	3.4	2.1	2.4	4.0
Woodruff Narrows Reservoir	13.2	39.7	38.4	57.3

Watershed Snowpack Analysis - March 01, 2026

Basin Name	# of Sites	% of Median 2026	% of Median 2025
Bear	**26**	**78**	**107**
Smiths-Thomas Forks	4	90	116
Bear Lake	11	76	110
Mink	2	54	103
Cub	2	74	107
Malad	3	47	93

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.

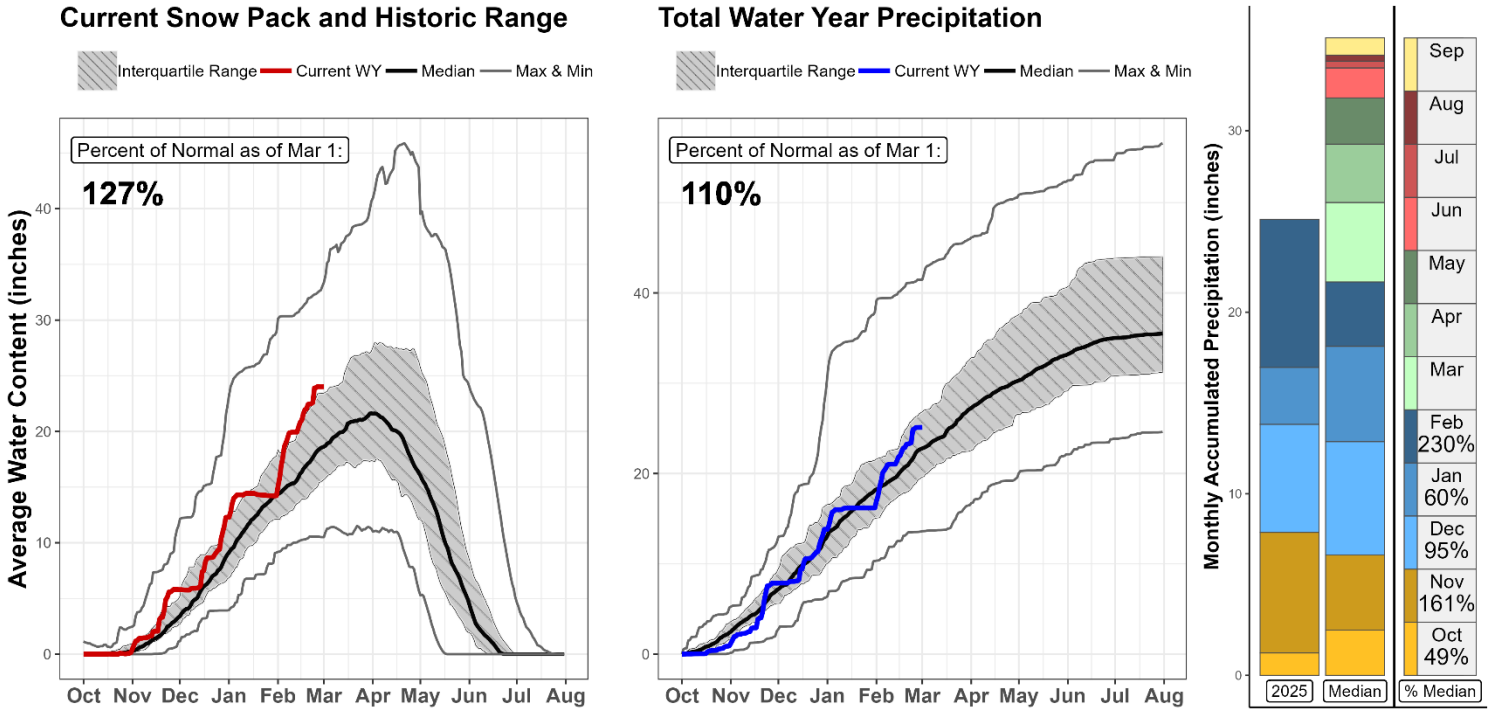
Alternatively, if users determine the risk of using the 30 percent exceedance forecast is too great, then they might plan on receiving 850 KAF (from the 10 percent exceedance forecast). There is a 10% chance of receiving more than 850 KAF. Users could also choose a volume in between any of these values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

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
9173 West Barnes Drive, Suite C
Boise ID 83709-1574

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Issued by
Aubrey Bettencourt, Chief
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Washington, DC

Released by
Jerome Faulkner, Acting State Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Boise, Idaho

Report Created by
Idaho Snow Survey Staff
Natural Resources Conservation Service Boise, Idaho
Email: idboise-nrcs-snow@usda.gov

Erin Whorton, Water Supply Specialist (WSS)
Email: erin.whorton@usda.gov
(o) 208-685-6983 (c) 208-510-7294

Patrick Kormos, Supervisor
David Eiriksson, Data Collection Officer
Earl Adsley, Hydrologist
Peter Youngblood, Hydrologist, Coeur d'Alene, ID
Ashley Evans, Hydrologist, Coeur d'Alene, ID
Eva Hafner, Hydrologist
Justin Byington, Electronics Technician

Forecasts Provided by
Forecast Hydrologist Staff
NRCS, National Water and Climate Center Portland, Oregon

Julie Koeberle, Forecast Hydrologist
Columbia Basin minus Kootenai, Pend Oreille and Lower Columbia/Willamette
Email: julie.koeberle@usda.gov

Lexi Landers, Forecast Hydrologist
Kootenai, Pend Oreille, Spokane
Email: lexi.landers@usda.gov

Numerous agencies and groups provide funding and/or support for the collection, operation and maintenance of the Cooperative Idaho Snow Survey program. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!

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.