United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Idaho Water Supply Outlook Report

April 1, 2026

Photo courtesy of Kirsten Strough

Hydrologists Erin Whorton and Dave Eiriksson measuring a record low snowpack on March 31 at Mores Creek Summit with exposed vegetation and bare ground visible on all surrounding hillsides.

The Mores Creek Summit Snow Course was first measured in 1933 and has a continuous record of April 1 measurements starting in 1945. This year, only 7 inches of Snow Water Equivalent (SWE), at 21% of normal, was measured, which soundly beat the previous record low of 10 inches set in 1977. Historically, the median peak snowpack at the Mores Creek Summit SNOTEL occurs on April 7, with 31.8 inches of SWE. However, this year's peak was recorded 23 days earlier, on March 15, with only 13 inches (41% of normal). Mores Creek Summit is situated within the Boise River Basin which is currently at 44% of normal, showing the widespread nature of the low snowpack across the 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

April 1, 2026: Idaho Water Supply Summary

Overview

- Idaho's snowpack peaked nearly three weeks early on March 17 at 68% of normal. This year's snowpack is one of the lowest on record since snowpack measurements began in the 1930's.
- The snowpack is rapidly melting even at the highest elevations (~10,000 ft.) due to the record setting heat wave in mid-March. By April 1, 25% of the snowpack had already melted away statewide.
- New records were set this year at sites throughout Idaho for: lowest April 1 snowpack conditions, how early the snowpack peaked, how much melt occurred in the second half of March, and how early some sites melted out completely.
- Early peak streamflow and a quicker drop off of natural flow will pose significant water supply challenges for irrigators unless ample spring precipitation boosts streamflow. Unfortunately, that's unlikely to occur since drier and warmer than normal spring conditions are predicted this year.
- Water supply conditions will likely be challenging across the state 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 occur.

Snowpack and Precipitation Conditions

The winter that never arrived will likely be talked about for years to come. Record low (or tied for lowest) snowpack conditions on April 1 were measured at 64% of the 1,570 snow measurement sites (SNOTEL & snow courses) across the Western United States. Snow drought, defined as conditions below the 20th percentile, were recorded at 80% of the sites. It's very likely that this is the lowest recorded snowpack on April 1 since NRCS began measurements in the early 1930s.

So why are snowpack conditions across the West so bleak? Simply put, it was too warm to snow or keep the snow that fell. Although we will have to wait for the official March numbers to come out later this week, it appears this was the warmest winter since 1895 (1934 held the previous record). All five of the snowpack building months (November to March) were significantly warmer than normal. These warm temperatures worked against snowpack accumulation and retention in several key ways in Idaho:

1. It was often simply too warm to snow except in the highest mountain ranges despite near normal precipitation across most of the state (Fig. 2).

2. Warm weather in between snowstorms melted off the snow that fell in the lower and mid-elevation mountains (below ~7,500 ft.). This kept the snowpack from growing thick enough to withstand periods of warm weather without melting. Thinner snowpacks are easier to melt than thicker snowpacks because they heat up more quickly.
3. These thin snowpack conditions made the snowpack more susceptible to the record-breaking, mid-March heat wave which sent temperatures soaring above 80 degrees in Idaho. This 11-day heat dome warmed the thin snowpack up enough that even the snowpack at high elevation SNOTEL stations (~10,000 ft.) began to melt. After the heat wave, not enough snow fell to counter the widespread melting that occurred during that period and in the second heat wave at the end of March. These very warm conditions during March led the snowpack to peaking several weeks earlier than normal in Idaho and across the West.

Although spring weather is notoriously fickle, and we have gotten significant snow accumulation in April in the past, this type of situation is very unlikely this year with warmer than normal temperatures currently forecasted during the next few weeks. This means that the early snowpack peak and melt we observed in March is likely the seasonal peak as well. This map shows how many days earlier than normal this year's snowpack peaked at. The majority of SNOTEL sites in Idaho's watersheds peaked significantly earlier than normal (3 to 4 weeks early). It's particularly noteworthy that even high-elevation sites like Togwotee Pass (9,590 ft.), located in the Snake River headwaters, peaked 47 days earlier than normal!

March was so warm that not only did the snowpack begin melting off early, but it also started melting rapidly south of the Clearwater Basin. Intermittent, cooler temperatures in northern Idaho slowed down the snowpack melt rate in that region, but the south was a different story. This map shows how unusual the amount of melt was for the second half of March. Sites at the zero percentile are where record melt was recorded. Any site below the 10th percentile also shows where unusually rapid melt-off occurred as well. By April 1, 25% of the snowpack had melted off at the statewide scale; this was three times faster than is typical. Many sites, especially along Idaho's southern border, set new records for how early the snowpack melted out completely. The consequences of early and rapid melt out are described in more detail in the water supply section below.

There are three maps to illustrate snowpack conditions across the state. Figure 3 shows how much snow there is on April 1 compared to the 30-year normal (1991 to 2020 period). Since snowpack peaked and is melting earlier than normal, this map provides a sense of how quickly melt is occurring relative to the 'average' timeframe. Figure 5 shows how this year's peak snowpack compares to the typical peak amount of snow observed in each basin over the entire period of record. This extends the comparison between this year and the historical record back to the early 1980s when SNOTEL stations became more ubiquitous. Please note that the peak snowpack map only uses SNOTEL data. Based on the dismal April 1 snow course data, it's very likely that basin-wide peak snowpack is actually lower than what is depicted on Figure 5. Unfortunately, the timing of the snow course measurements on April 1 don't coincide with this year's March 17 peak, so the two different snowpack measurements cannot be combined readily. Figure 6 shows how much of the snowpack has melted in each basin compared to the peak amount observed this year. This provides information about how much snow is remaining in the mountains on April 1. Additional details on regional conditions can be found in the basin narratives further in this report.

Weather, climate, and drought outlooks

At publication time, weather forecasts predict very little precipitation until Saturday with freezing levels fluctuating as they typically do in the spring. Some snowfall may occur in the higher elevation mountains next week. Chances for snow accumulation in the mountains are highest in northern Idaho since it might be cold enough to snow at times. However, it's unlikely enough snow will fall to change the overall water supply picture in any meaningful way. One benefit, however, is that cooler temperatures may slow down how quickly the snowpack is melting but we'll have to wait and see.

NOAA's Climate Prediction Center mid-range forecasts predict warmer and wetter conditions across Idaho. Additional spring precipitation would be helpful for extending this year's more limited water supply. Looking farther ahead, seasonal forecasts for the April through June period anticipate warmer and drier conditions than normal. Predictions for June through October all suggest a warmer than normal summer. Precipitation trends improved slightly but northern Idaho is still expected to be drier than normal through the end of the water year.

Although no one needs more bad news at this point, it's better to be prepared than caught unaware. Currently, NOAA predicts that El Niño conditions will develop sometime in late summer and persist through the end of December. In the Pacific Northwest, El Niño periods are often warmer and potentially drier than normal. In other words, another warm winter could be in our future. Hopefully, if El Niño arrives on our doorstep, it will break the mold like this year's La Niña did.

All of Idaho is considered to be either abnormally dry or in some level of drought as of April 1, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM). Drought conditions are the most severe in southwest Idaho (Owyhee, Bruneau, Salmon Falls region) and reflect the record low snowpack (Fig. 5) and below normal total water year precipitation conditions (Fig. 2). It's very likely that drought conditions will degrade further in our region as the impacts from this historically low snowpack are felt.

Water supply conditions

This spring and summer, every Idahoan will likely feel the impacts of this year's historically poor snowpack. The consequences of a below normal snowpack, early melt onset, and rapid melt out will be most apparent to anyone who spends time in our state's many creeks, rivers, lakes and reservoirs. Early melt out led to above normal streamflow and above normal reservoir inflows compared to a typical March period. If warm spring conditions continue, many rivers will likely peak and then recede much earlier than normal. Without an ample, high-elevation snowpack to sustain streamflow in the spring and early summer, low streamflow conditions will be observed across Idaho and the Western U.S. This change in peak streamflow timing and early reduction in natural flow will pose many challenges for water users. If spring conditions are as warm and dry as predicted, irrigation demand will exceed natural flow much earlier than normal. This places further strain on water supply if water users are forced to switch to alternative sources of water sooner. For those without access to storage water or groundwater, the lack of natural flow will be very challenging to navigate. Additional ripple effects will likely be felt in places like the Boise Basin, where downstream water users who rely on return flows, could see reductions in their water availability if upstream water users reduce their water usage in order to make it through this irrigation season.

The impacts of record low snowpack and early melt out conditions are already very apparent in southern Idaho and are likely a harbinger for what's in store for most of the West. Streamflow in southern Idaho has already dropped significantly and is not expected to increase (barring any sizeable rain events) since there is very little snow left in the mountains to melt. It is particularly notable that streamflow forecasts for the driest scenario (90% exceedance) in the southern basins are less than the minimum streamflow ever recorded at these sites.

Most streamflow forecasts (Fig. 4) decreased since last month and almost all sites are expected to have significantly less streamflow than is typical, even at the mid-range 50% exceedance forecast. Warm temperatures and rapid snowmelt rates led to significant decreases in forecasts in the Snake Headwaters and in central Idaho. NRCS forecast evolution charts are very useful for visualizing how forecasts have changed throughout this winter. The forecast for the Snake River at Heise clearly shows the negative impacts of the snowpack peaking and melting early; the projected streamflow at Heise decreased by nearly 1 million acre-feet (MAF) since last month. The April 1 forecast predicts there will be ~2.82 MAF observed at Heise (77% of normal) compared to the previous 3.7 MAF (99% normal) forecasted on March 1. The Boise River near Boise forecast dropped significantly with a 28% reduction in anticipated streamflow (250 KAF decrease). Streamflow is forecasted to be 52% of normal on the Boise River at the 50% exceedance level but could be as low as 41% of normal if this spring is drier than normal. NRCS forecast charts are the easiest way to visualize the range of the five forecasts issued at each location.

Although the streamflow forecasts remain below normal in the Salmon River, Clearwater, and Panhandle basins, these forecasts remained similar to last month and even increased slightly in the Clearwater Basin. The mid-March snowstorms boosted snowpack in some locations, and these basins have not been melting as quickly as the rest of the state thanks to slightly cooler temperatures up north. However, this is the fourth consecutive year of drought in northern Idaho. We anticipate that very low streamflow conditions will occur again this year and many impacts from the below normal snowpack will be felt again.

Although spring precipitation could boost streamflow, we don't know what future weather will bring. Given the below normal snowpack conditions, early onset and rapid melt rate of the snowpack, we highly recommend water users consider the 70 and 90% exceedance forecasts in their decision process. These represent the ‘drier’ scenarios and will help water users reduce their risk. Details on how to interpret these forecasts are located in the report footnotes and in last month’s water supply outlook report.

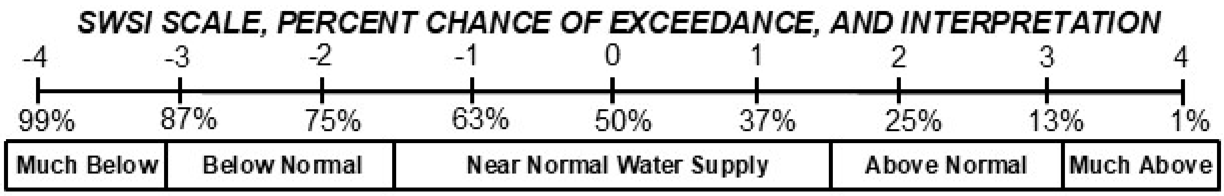
Current streamflow, snowpack, and precipitation data for each basin can be accessed in basin reports or on the

Idaho Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) - April 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
Little Wood River Basin	29	35	64	40	-0.8	-1.4	2008, 2022
Big Lost River Basin	30	125	155	54	0.3	1.0	2016, 2005
Little Lost River Basin	----	27	27	44	-0.5	2.1	2000, 2016
Teton River Basin	----	113	113	12	-3.2	-3.8	1992, 1994
Henrys Fork Basin	217	975	1,192	16	-2.8	-2.7	2001, 2021
Snake River Near Heise	1,541	2,820	4,361	30	-1.7	-1.7	1994, 2021
Oakley Basin	22	6	28	12	-3.2	0.0	2003, 1994
Salmon Falls above Jackpot	----	21	21	7	-3.6	----	2012, 2021
Salmon Falls Creek Basin	25	21	46	4	-3.8	-0.6	1992, 2001
Bruneau Basin	----	58	58	4	-3.8	----	1992, 2021
Owyhee Basin	465	77	542	24	-2.2	-2.2	2021, 2001



"----" = 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.

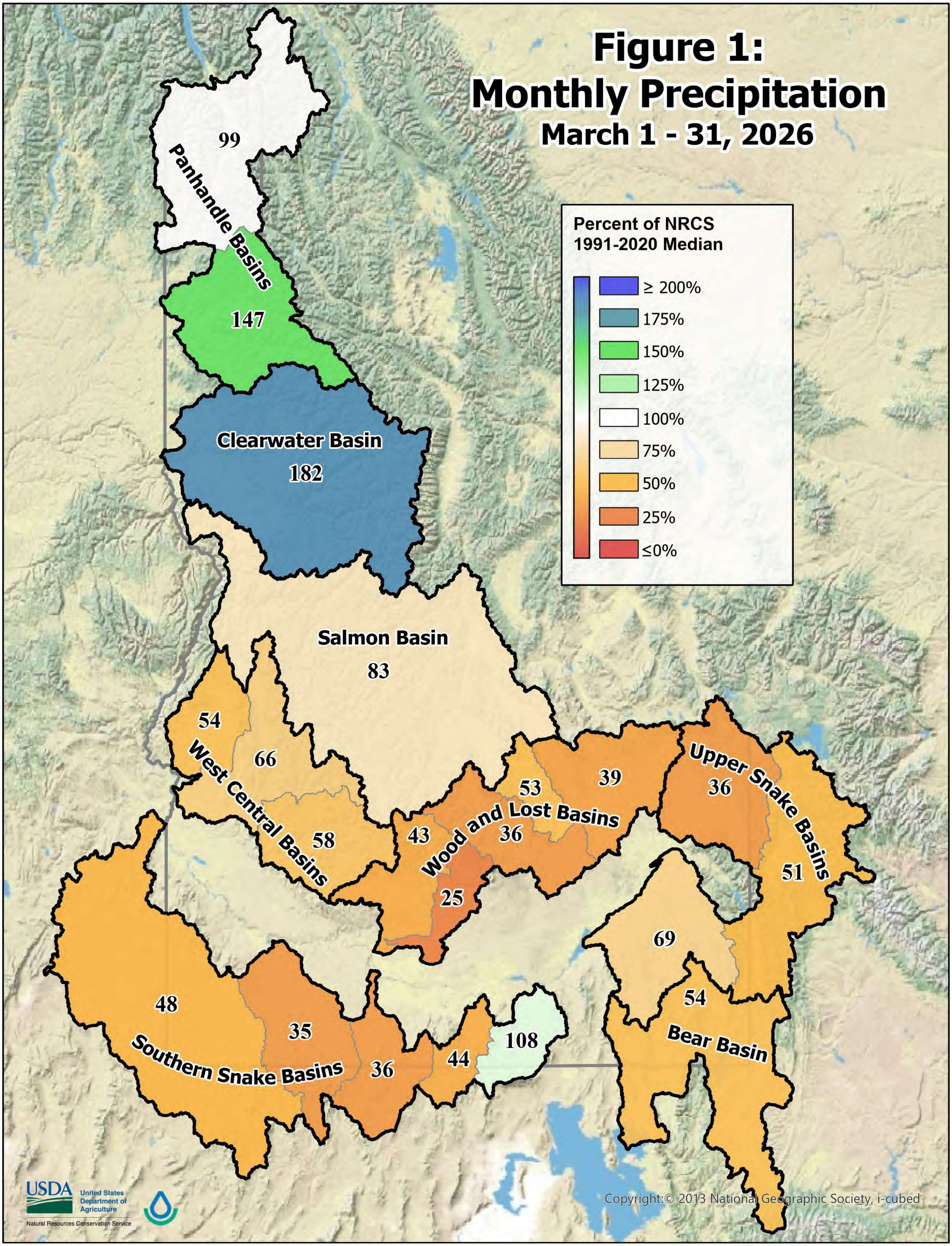


Figure 1:
Monthly Precipitation
March 1 - 31, 2026
Percent of NRCS
1991-2020 Median
≥ 200%
175%
150%
125%
100%
75%
50%
25%
≤0%
Panhandle Basins
99
147
Clearwater Basin
182
Salmon Basin
83
West Central Basins
54
66
58
Wood and Lost Basins
53
39
43
36
25
Upper Snake Basins
36
51
69
54
Bear Basin
Southern Snake Basins
48
35
36
44
108
USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
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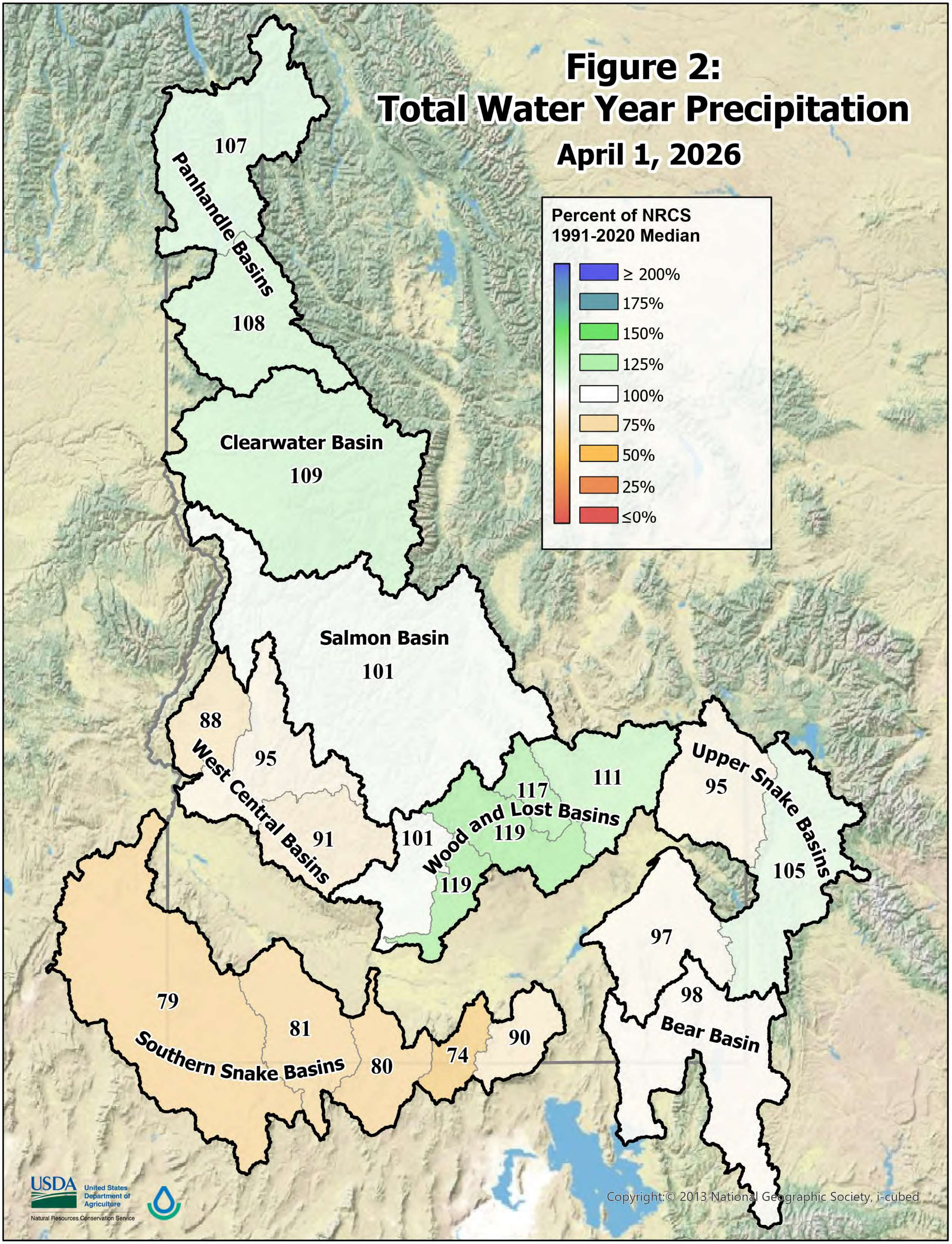
Figure 2:
Total Water Year Precipitation
April 1, 2026
Percent of NRCS
1991-2020 Median
≥ 200%
175%
150%
125%
100%
75%
50%
25%
≤0%
Panhandle Basins
107
108
Clearwater Basin
109
Salmon Basin
101
West Central Basins
88
95
91
Wood and Lost Basins
101
117
111
119
119
Upper Snake Basins
95
105
97
Bear Basin
98
Southern Snake Basins
79
81
80
74
90
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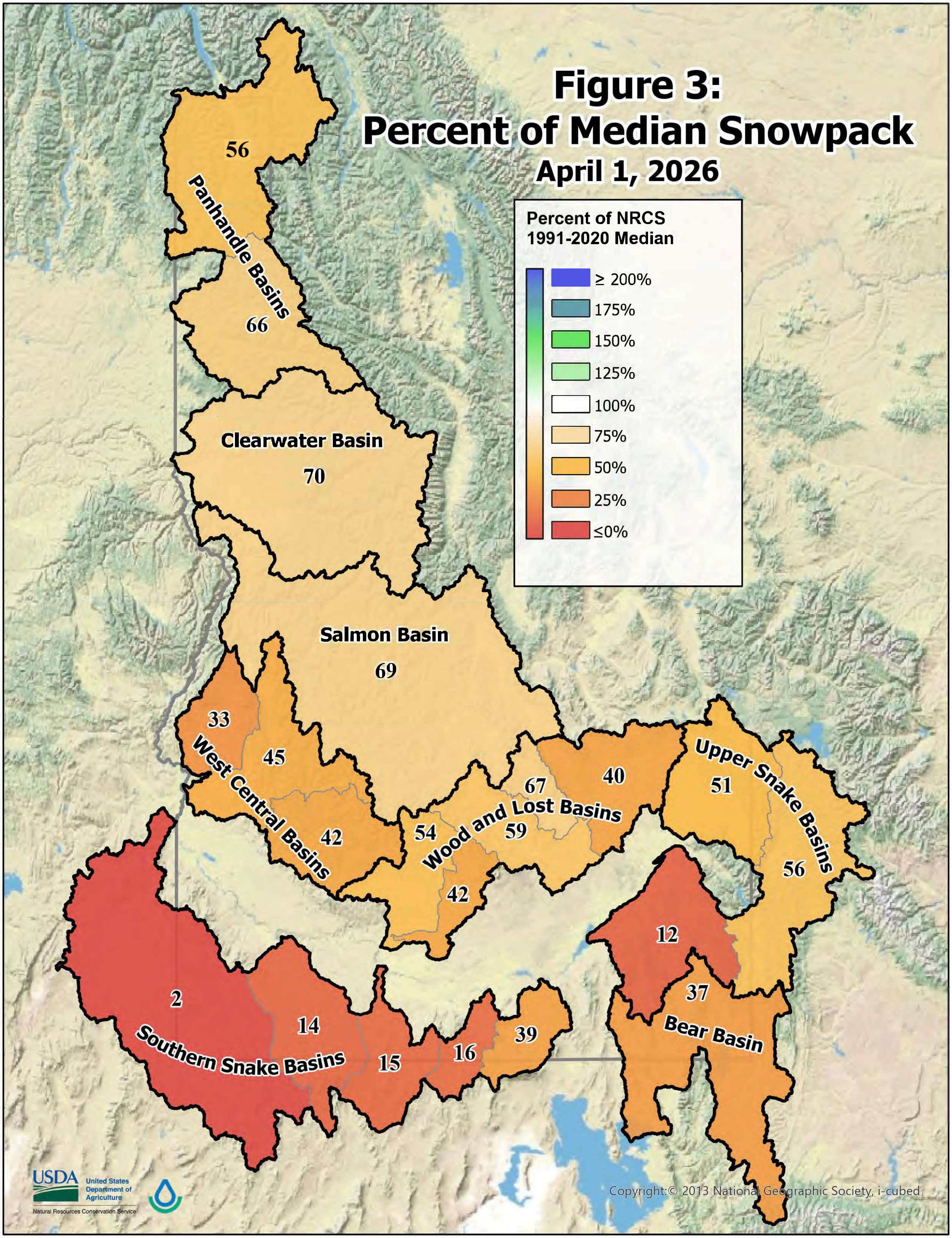
Figure 3:
Percent of Median Snowpack
April 1, 2026
Percent of NRCS
1991-2020 Median
≥ 200%
175%
150%
125%
100%
75%
50%
25%
≤0%
Panhandle Basins
56
66
Clearwater Basin
70
Salmon Basin
69
West Central Basins
33
45
42
Wood and Lost Basins
67
40
54
59
42
Upper Snake Basins
51
56
Bear Basin
12
37
Southern Snake Basins
2
14
15
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39
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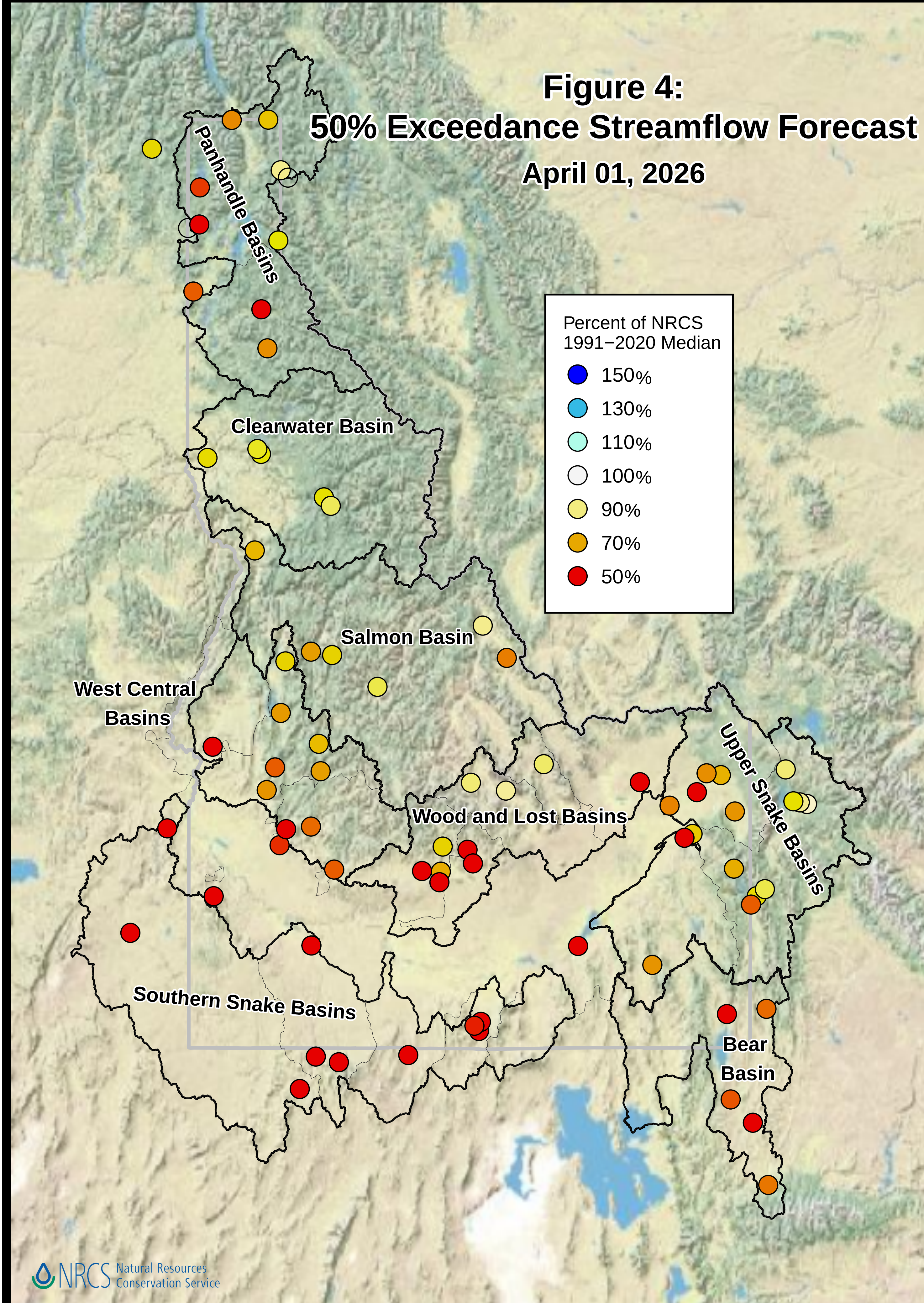
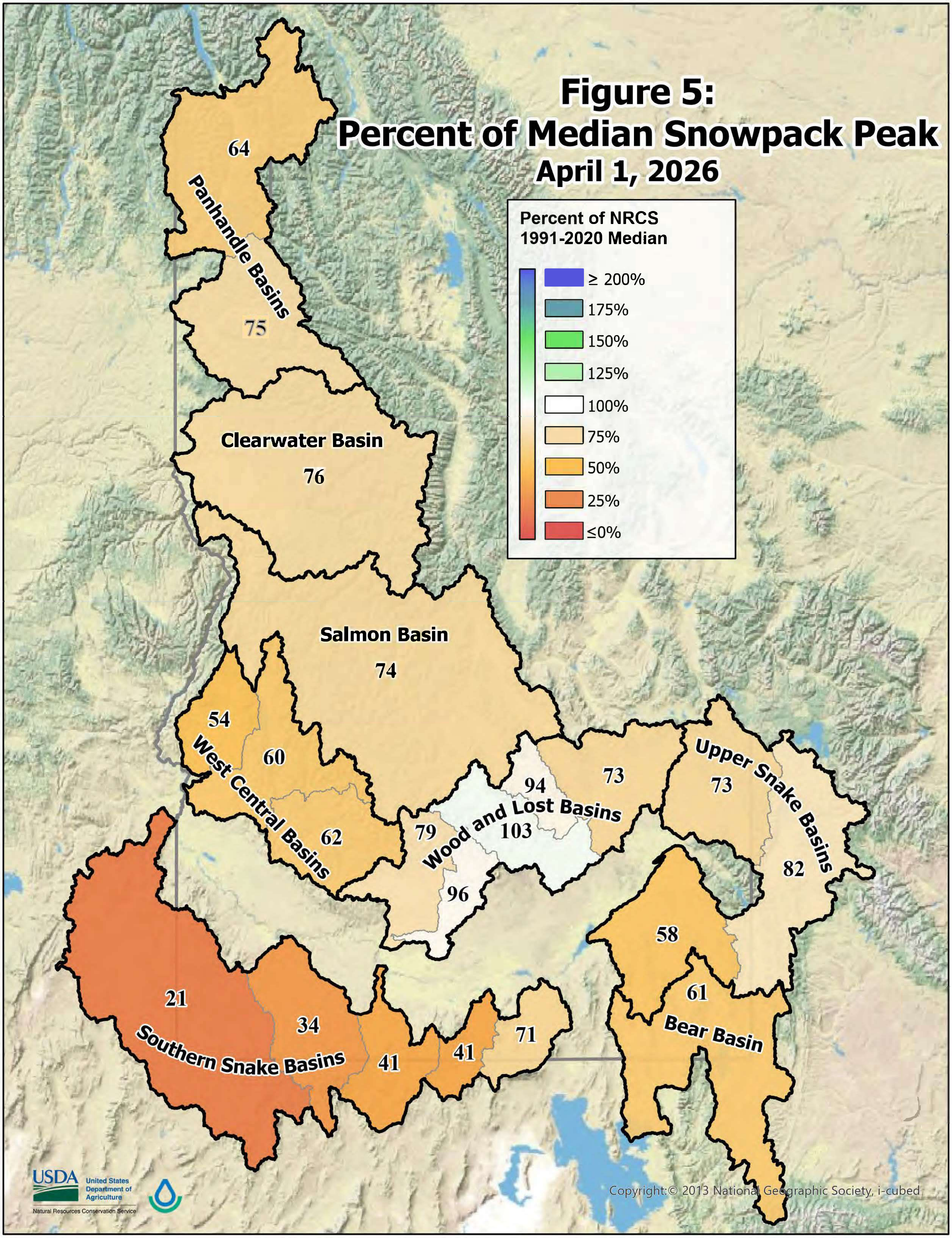


Figure 4:
50% Exceedance Streamflow Forecast
April 01, 2026
Percent of NRCS
1991−2020 Median
150%
130%
110%
100%
90%
70%
50%
Panhandle Basins
Clearwater Basin
Salmon Basin
West Central
Basins
Wood and Lost Basins
Upper Snake Basins
Southern Snake Basins
Bear
Basin
NRCS Natural Resources
Conservation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

Figure 5:
Percent of Median Snowpack Peak
April 1, 2026



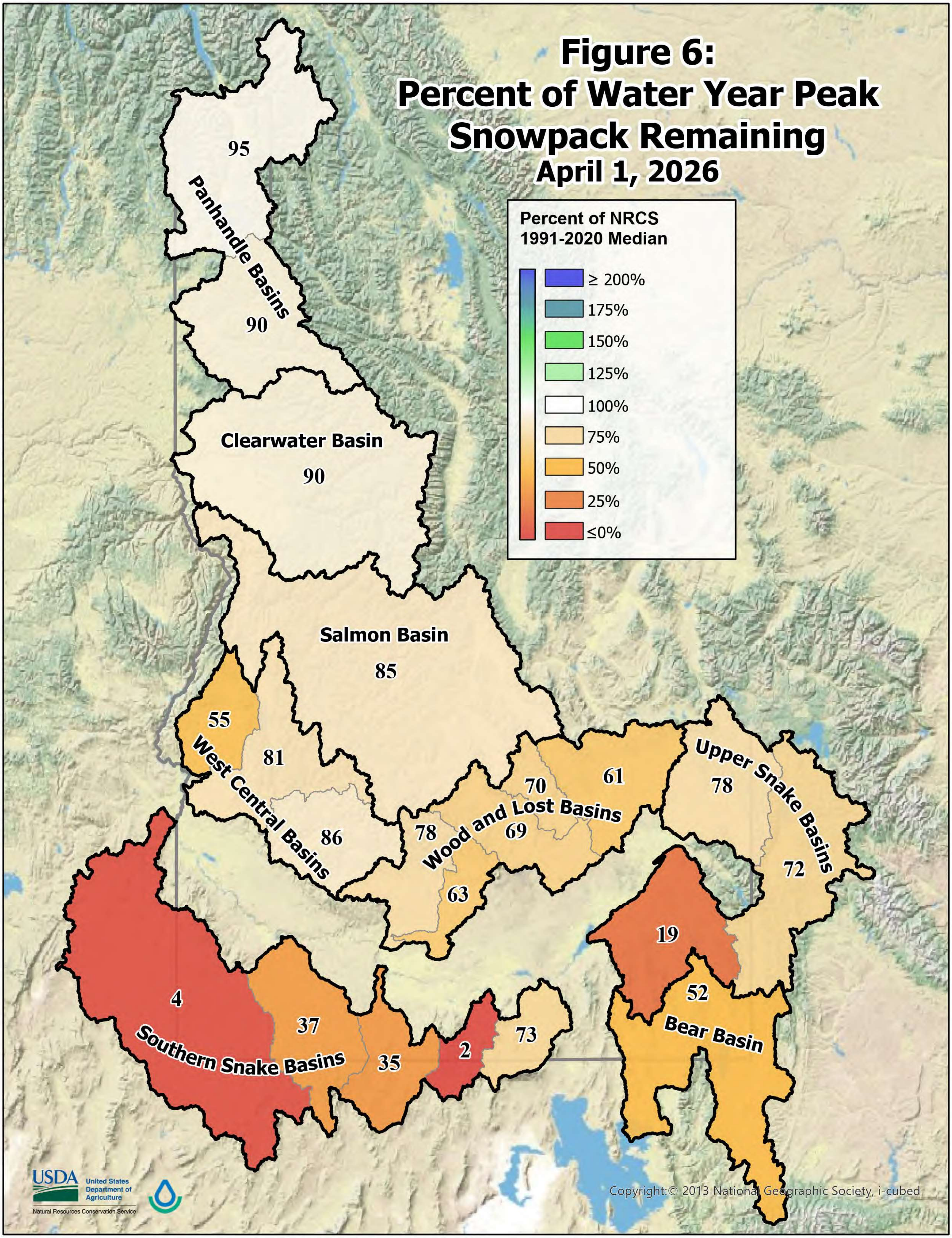


Figure 6:
Percent of Water Year Peak
Snowpack Remaining
April 1, 2026
Percent of NRCS
1991-2020 Median
≥ 200%
175%
150%
125%
100%
75%
50%
25%
≤0%
95
Panhandle Basins
90
Clearwater Basin
90
Salmon Basin
85
55
81
West Central Basins
86
70
61
Wood and Lost Basins
78
69
63
Upper Snake Basins
78
72
19
52
Bear Basin
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Southern Snake Basins
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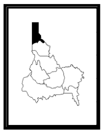
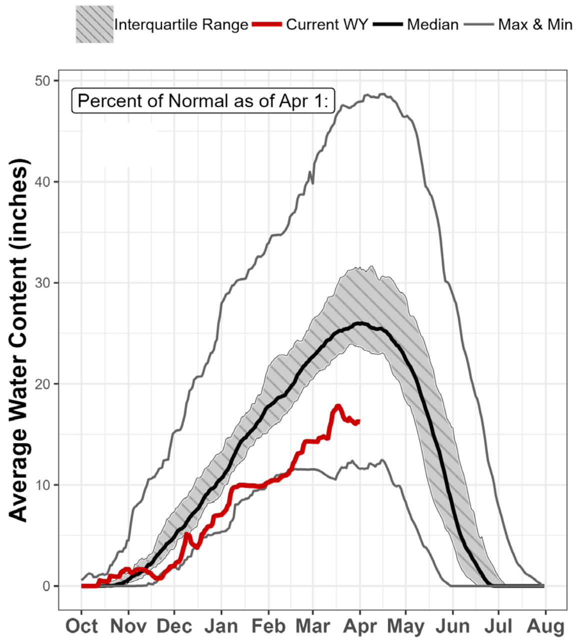


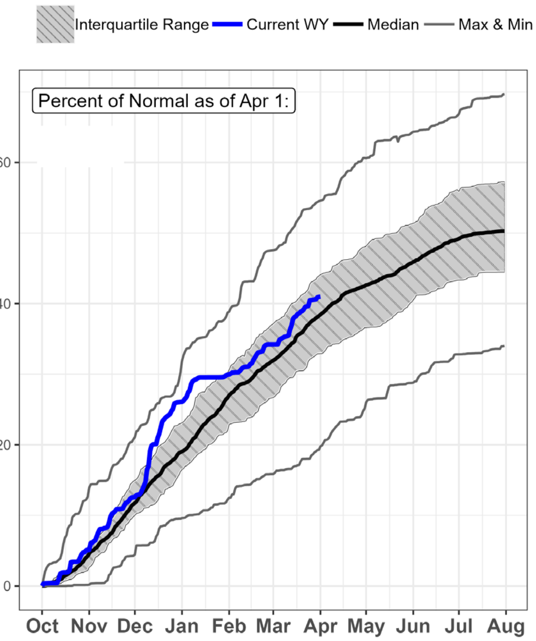
Panhandle Basins

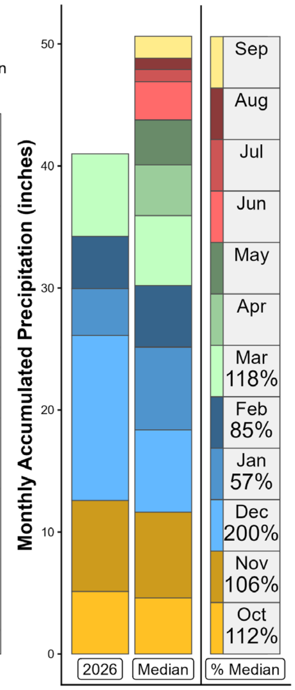
April 1, 2026

Current Snow Pack and Historic Range



Total Water Year Precipitation





WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

The Pend Oreille-Kootenai Basin received ~100% of normal precipitation in March and thanks to a mid-March storm, the Coeur d'Alene–St. Joe Basin received ~145% of normal precipitation (Fig. 1). This mid-March storm was cold enough to bring mostly snow to the Coeur d'Alene–St. Joe Basin and provided a boost to this year's snowpack, but it was not enough to overcome the deficit. As of April 1, the snowpack in the Pend Oreille-Kootenai Basin was 56% of normal and only 66% of normal in the Coeur d'Alene–St. Joe Basin (Fig. 3). Although this was an improvement, the low-elevation snowpack across the region is still well below normal and ranges between ~25 to 50% below 4,500 ft. This is significant because although roughly 80% of the Coeur d'Alene–St. Joe Basin lies below 4,500 ft., many SNOTEL stations are located above this elevation, meaning current conditions may be worse than suggested by the basin-wide snow index shown in Figure 3. Well above normal air temperatures all winter were the primary driver of the low snowpack conditions despite total water year precipitation ranging between 106 to 108% of normal (Fig. 2). As of April 1, the Panhandle basins only reached ~70% of their typical median peak snowpack (Fig. 5) and it's unlikely that any more significant snow accumulation will occur with the warm, wet spring weather. This means that the Coeur d'Alene–St. Joe Basin peaked 19 days earlier than normal and the Pend Oreille-Kootenai Basin peaked nearly a month early. Notably, unlike basins elsewhere in the state, the Panhandle basins haven't yet seen significant melt this season due to cooler temperatures up north.

Reservoir storage in the Panhandle lakes is near to above normal: Coeur d'Alene is 151% of normal (97% full), Pend Oreille is 114% of normal (55% full), and Priest Lake is 156% of normal (84% full). Streamflow forecasts for April through July are 48 to 91% 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 - April 01, 2026

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	90% (KAF)	70% (KAF)	50% (KAF)	% Median	30% (KAF)	10% (KAF)	30yr Med (KAF)
		Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment <=== Drier ===== Projected Volume ===== Wetter ===>						
Kootenai R at Leonia 1 & 2	APR-JUL	4,990	5,730	6,100	91	6,500	7,360	6,680
	APR-SEP	5,640	6,410	6,800	90	7,210	8,160	7,560
Clark Fork R bl Cabinet Gorge Dam 2	APR-JUL	6,550	7,600	8,330	83	9,060	10,100	9,980
	APR-SEP	7,270	8,400	9,190	84	9,980	11,100	10,900

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%

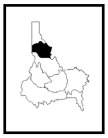
2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions

Reservoir Storage (KAF): April 01, 2026

Reservoir Name	Current (KAF)	2025	Median (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)
Hungry Horse Lake	3,103.3	2,447.3	2,357.0	3,451.0
Flathead Lake	1,174.4	985.8	739.1	1,791.0
Lake Pend Oreille	862.3	655.7	755.3	1,561.3
Priest Lake	100.7	83.2	64.4	119.3
Lake Coeur d' Alene	231.6	266.6	153.8	238.5

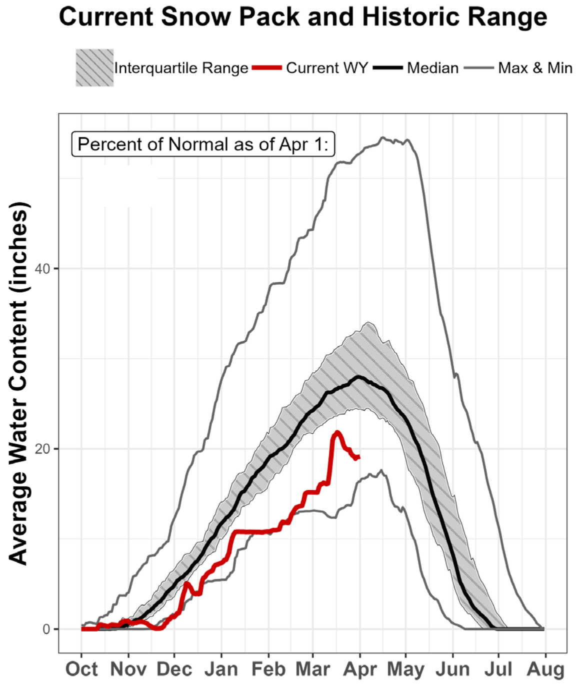
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - April 01, 2026

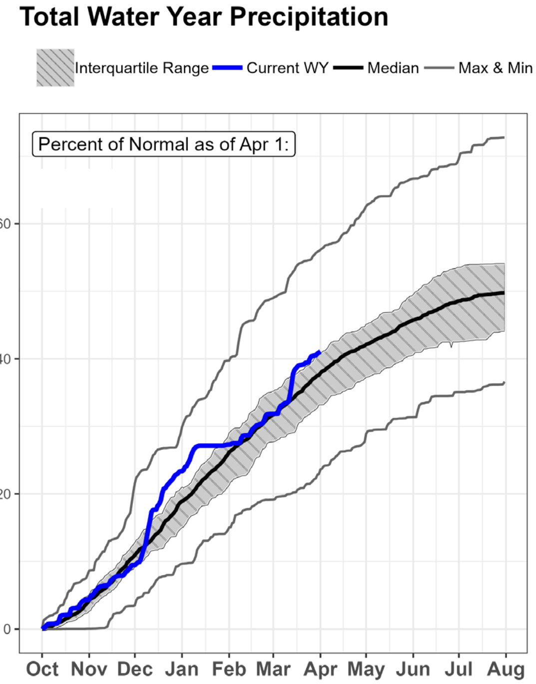
Basin Name	# of Sites	% of Median 2026	% of Median 2025
Pend Oreille-Kootenai	**17**	**55**	**99**
Moyie	1	81	82
Lower Kootenai	2	70	90
Priest	8	54	106
Pend Oreille Lake	6	53	101
Rathdrum	2	20	111
Coeur D'Alene-St. Joe	**12**	**60**	**89**
Coeur D'Alene	7	54	86
St. Joe	5	65	92
Palouse	2	21	82

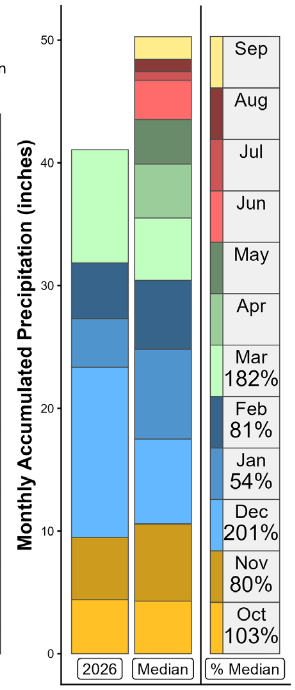


Clearwater River Basin

April 1, 2026







WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

The Clearwater Basin experienced a relatively wet month, with its largest snowfall of the season occurring in mid-March. This storm averaged approximately 27 inches of snow (~5.8 inches of SWE) across the basin. Crater Meadows SNOTEL recorded a whopping 40 inches of snow during this storm! The basin also experienced multiple, smaller precipitation events throughout the month. March precipitation was 182% of normal in the Clearwater Basin (Fig. 1) which increased total water year precipitation from 101% to 109% of normal (Fig. 2). However, due to abnormally warm temperatures this winter, the snowpack peaked at only 76% of normal (Fig. 5) on March 17, about 24 days earlier than normal. As of April 1, the data from both snow courses and the automated SNOTEL stations shows that the basin wide snowpack was at 70% of normal (Fig. 3). Fortunately, temperatures have stayed cooler in northern Idaho compared to the majority of the West and melt out in the Clearwater Basin is not proceeding as quickly as it is elsewhere.

The Dworshak Reservoir is 88% full, which is 128% of normal on April 1. Inflows into Dworshak Reservoir were above normal this winter and currently, the Army Corps of Engineers is conducting flood risk management operations at Dworshak to ensure safe refill as the remaining snowpack melts. The 50% exceedance streamflow forecasts in the Clearwater Basin range between 81 to 87% 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 - April 01, 2026

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	90% (KAF)	70% (KAF)	50% (KAF)	% Median	30% (KAF)	10% (KAF)	30yr Med (KAF)
		Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment <=== Drier ===== Projected Volume ===== Wetter ===>						
Selway R nr Lowell	APR-JUL	1,480	1,620	1,710	87	1,810	1,970	1,960
	APR-SEP	1,520	1,660	1,760	86	1,870	2,030	2,050
Lochsa R nr Lowell	APR-JUL	1,020	1,110	1,170	82	1,240	1,340	1,430
	APR-SEP	1,080	1,180	1,250	83	1,330	1,440	1,500
Clearwater R at Orofino	APR-JUL	3,060	3,390	3,630	83	3,900	4,330	4,380
	APR-SEP	3,130	3,440	3,670	80	3,930	4,330	4,570
Dworshak Reservoir Inflow 2	APR-JUL	1,650	1,850	2,000	84	2,160	2,400	2,370
	APR-SEP	1,680	1,880	2,030	79	2,190	2,440	2,560
Clearwater R at Spalding 2	APR-JUL	4,540	5,090	5,500	81	5,920	6,570	6,820
	APR-SEP	4,840	5,430	5,860	80	6,310	7,000	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): April 01, 2026

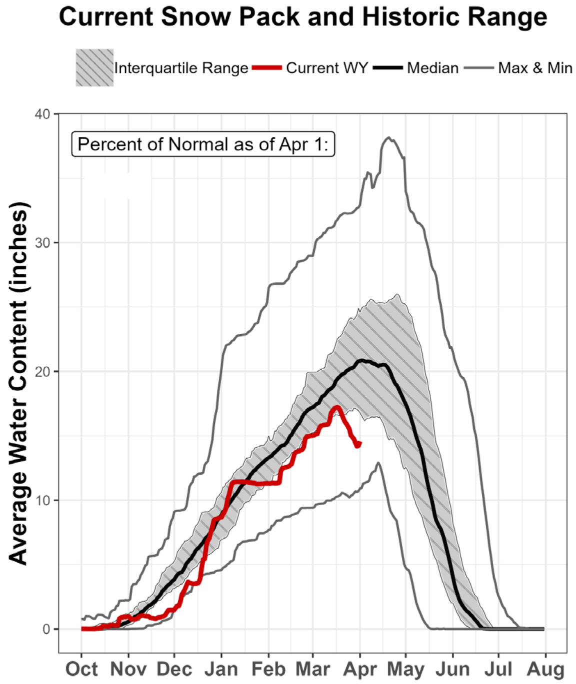
Reservoir Name	Current (KAF)	2025	Median (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)
Dworshak Reservoir	3,045.4	2,667.7	2,380	3,468

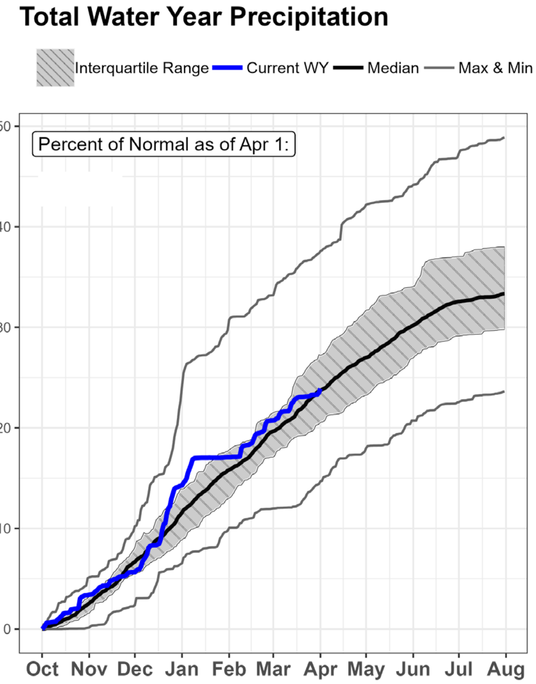
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - April 01, 2026

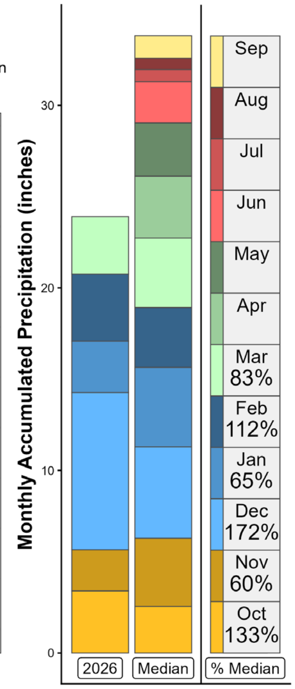
Basin Name	# of Sites	% of Median 2026	% of Median 2025
Clearwater	**17**	**66**	**97**
North Fork Clearwater	6	69	97
Lochsa	3	71	84
Selway	4	78	109
South Fork Clearwater	1	75	110

Salmon River Basin

April 1, 2026







WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

The Salmon River Basin received 83% of normal precipitation during the month of March (Fig. 1). There were multiple precipitation events during the first half of the month followed by dry conditions the latter half. Total water year precipitation has remained near normal since mid-February and is at 101% of normal as of April 1 (Fig. 2). Although total water year precipitation is near normal, due to an unseasonably warm winter, the snowpack is well below normal at 70% on April 1 (Fig.3). However, snowpack conditions in the Salmon Basin are in much better shape compared to the southern half of the state, where many record lows are being set. Abnormally warm temperatures in mid-March initiated snowpack melt well before the typical April 10 median peak snowpack date. With NOAA's 8- to 14-day Outlook, predicting above normal temperatures and near to below normal precipitation, it's unlikely the snowpack will improve further this year. If warm spring conditions continue, it's likely the Salmon Basin snowpack peaked at 75% of its normal peak SWE on March 17, nearly a month earlier than normal.

There are no reservoirs in the Salmon Basin. The 50% exceedance streamflow forecasts for April through July are 68 to 79% of normal in the western Salmon River Basin, and 62 to 91% of normal in the eastern Salmon River Basin (Fig. 4). Given the lack of low and mid-elevation snow, we strongly 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 - April 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	580	665	725	91	795	905	800
	APR-SEP	685	785	860	93	945	1,080	920
Lemhi R nr Lemhi	APR-JUL	25	35	42	62	51	65	68
	APR-SEP	37	49	59	72	70	86	82
MF Salmon R at MF Lodge	APR-JUL	530	605	665	86	720	810	775
	APR-SEP	600	680	735	86	795	880	850
SF Salmon R nr Krassel Ranger Station	APR-JUL	148	177	197	68	220	250	290
	APR-SEP	164	194	215	69	235	270	310
Johnson Ck at Yellow Pine	APR-JUL	129	150	165	79	180	205	210
	APR-SEP	143	166	182	83	200	225	220
Salmon R at White Bird	APR-JUL	3,640	4,050	4,350	73	4,650	5,100	5,940
	APR-SEP	3,900	4,350	4,670	71	5,000	5,500	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%

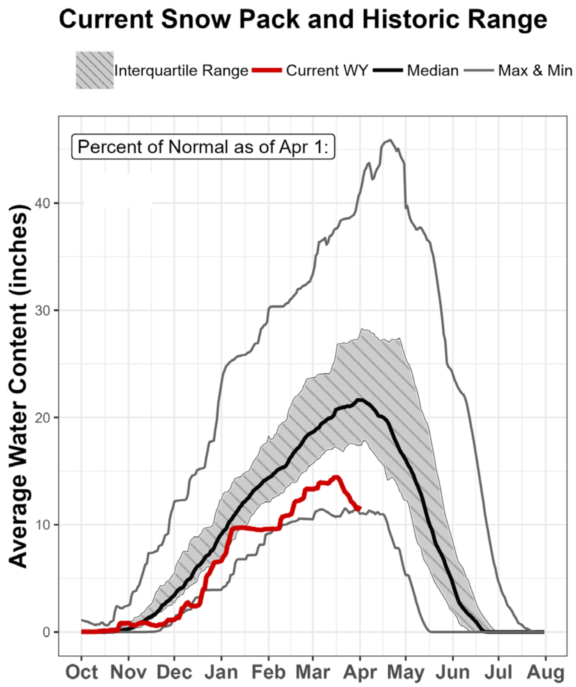
2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions

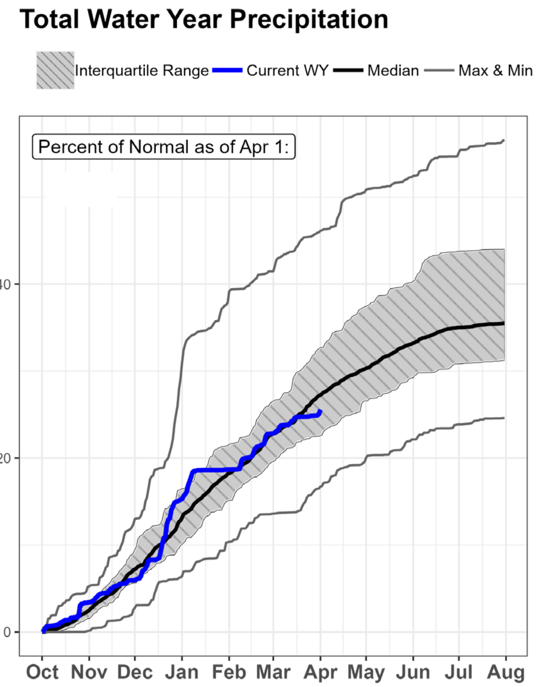
Reservoir Storage (KAF): April 01, 2026				
Reservoir Name	Current (KAF)	2025	Median (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)

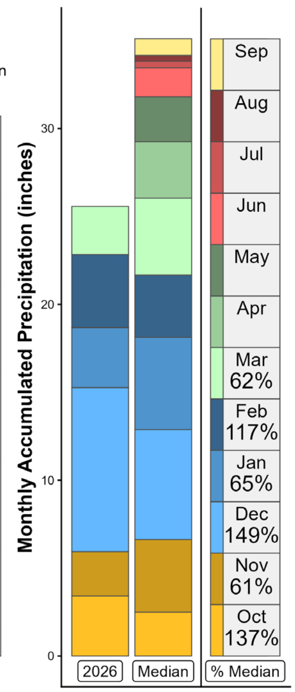
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - April 01, 2026			
		% of Median	
Basin Name	# of Sites	2026	2025
Salmon	**28**	**69**	**114**
Lemhi	7	57	98
Salmon ab Salmon	10	79	107
Middle Fork Salmon	3	72	122
South Fork Salmon	3	71	130
Little Salmon	4	46	134
Lower-Middle Salmon	5	69	117

West Central Basins

April 1, 2026







WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

March delivered well below normal precipitation in the Weiser, Payette, and Boise river basins. Monthly precipitation ranged between 54% of normal in the Weiser Basin and 66% of normal in the Payette Basin (Fig. 1). Despite the disappointing March precipitation, the water year precipitation across the region remains near normal, ranging from 88% in the Weiser Basin to 95% of normal in the Payette Basin (Fig. 2).

Even with near normal water year precipitation, snowpack in the West Central basins remains well below normal. The April 1 snowpack is only 33 to 45% normal (Fig. 3). The low snowpack conditions reflect the influence of warmer than normal winter temperatures, which shifted precipitation from snow to rain thus limiting snowpack accumulation. Then, a record-breaking, mid-March heat spell caused the already reduced snowpack to peak and begin melting roughly 15 to 20 days earlier than normal. These factors have resulted in many record low April 1 SWE measurements across the West Central basins. Particularly striking is the record low observed at the Mores Creek Summit snow course this winter. This site was first measured in 1933 and has a continuous record of April 1 measurements starting in 1945. This year, only 7 inches of SWE (21% of normal) was measured, which soundly beat the previous record low of 10 inches set in 1977. For comparison, the period of record April 1 median SWE is 32.6 inches at Mores Creek Summit!

As of April 1, combined reservoir storage in the Boise System (Anderson Ranch, Arrowrock, and Lucky Peak) is 127% of normal (86% full). With the March heat wave rapidly melting the remaining snowpack, this system is filling fast. Whether it fills fully will depend on how much irrigation demand there is as natural flow declines. Reservoir storage in the Payette Basin is 126% of normal, while storage in the Weiser Basin is 72% of normal. Streamflow forecasts for the West Central basins are 29 to 79% of normal for the 50% exceedance forecast (Fig 4). Given the lack of low and mid-elevation snow, we strongly 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 - April 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	285.0	325	355	59	385	430	600
	APR-SEP	325.0	375	410	64	445	500	645
SF Boise R at Anderson Ranch Dam 2	APR-JUL	183.0	215	240	57	265	305	420
	APR-SEP	199.0	235	260	58	285	330	450
Mores Ck nr Arrowrock Dam	APR-JUL	10.4	20	28	29	36	50	96
	APR-SEP	11.1	22	30	30	39	53	100
Boise R nr Boise 2	APR-JUL	460.0	535	590	52	650	740	1,130
	APR-SEP	510.0	590	650	53	710	805	1,220
SF Payette R at Lowman	APR-JUL	240.0	265	280	68	300	330	410
	APR-SEP	270.0	295	315	69	340	370	455
Deadwood Reservoir Inflow 2	APR-JUL	74.0	84	92	74	100	112	124
	APR-SEP	83.0	95	103	76	113	127	136
Lake Fork Payette R nr McCall	APR-JUL	52.0	59	64	79	69	76	81
	APR-SEP	53.0	61	66	80	71	79	83
NF Payette R at Cascade 2	APR-JUL	235.0	285	320	67	355	400	480
	APR-SEP	220.0	275	315	64	355	410	490
NF Payette R nr Banks 2	APR-JUL	225.0	295	340	57	385	455	595
	APR-SEP	255.0	325	375	61	425	500	610
Payette R nr Horseshoe Bend 2	APR-JUL	730.0	855	950	66	1,050	1,190	1,430
	APR-SEP	780.0	920	1,020	67	1,120	1,280	1,530
Weiser R nr Weiser	APR-JUL	54.0	93	123	36	156	205	340
	APR-SEP	57.0	106	142	38	181	240	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%

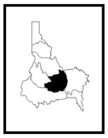
2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions

Reservoir Storage (KAF): April 01, 2026

Reservoir Name	Current (KAF)	2025	Median (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)
Anderson Ranch Reservoir	355.2	329.5	282.5	450.2
Arrowrock Reservoir	251.3	123.6	221.3	272.2
Lucky Peak Reservoir	260.4	196.5	177.4	293.2
Boise River System Total	**867.0**	**649.6**	**681.2**	**1,015.6**
Deadwood Reservoir	123.9	86.7	91.3	161.9
Cascade Reservoir	610.3	455.8	493.5	693.2
Payette River System Total	**734.2**	**542.5**	**584.8**	**855.1**
Lake Lowell	109.4	130.9	118.1	165.2
Mann Creek Reservoir	5.9	8.7	8.2	11.1

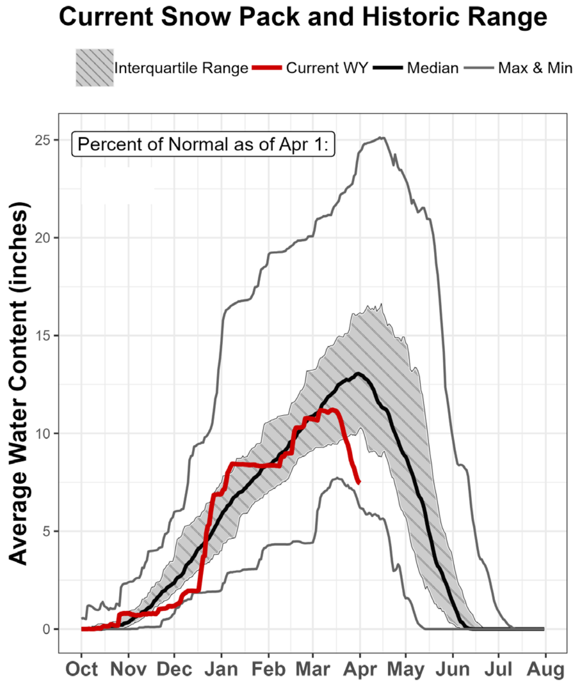
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - April 01, 2026

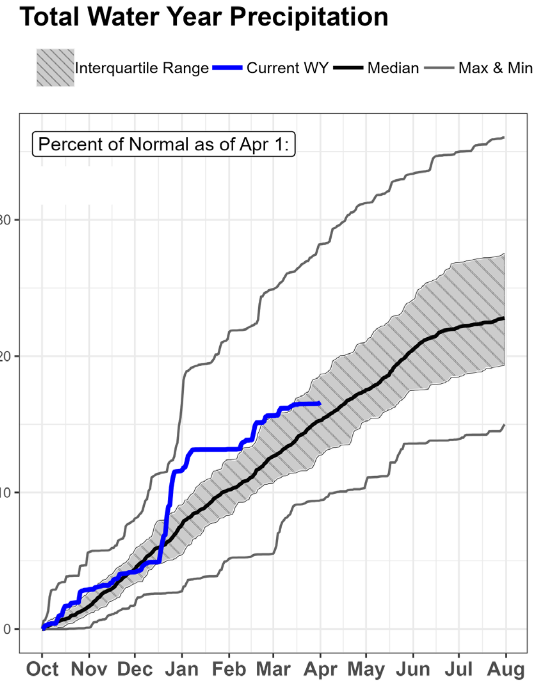
Basin Name	# of Sites	% of Median 2026	2025
Boise	**18**	**42**	**126**
Mores	6	22	127
North and Middle Fork Boise	6	42	121
South Fork Boise	9	61	123
Canyon	2	0	206
Payette	**19**	**47**	**133**
North Fork Payette	9	47	137
South Fork Payette	4	61	123
Weiser	**10**	**33**	**145**
Mann	2	19	167

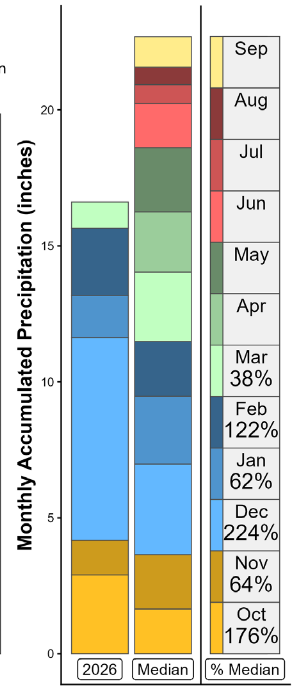


Wood & Lost River Basins

April 1, 2026







WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

March delivered well below normal precipitation in the Wood, Lost, and Birch-Medicine Lodge basins. Monthly precipitation ranged from 25% of normal in the Little Wood Basin to 53% of normal in the Little Lost Basin (Fig. 1). Despite the disappointing March precipitation, the total water year precipitation remains above normal across the Wood and Lost River basins, ranging from 101% of normal in the Big Wood Basin to 119% of normal in the Little Wood and Big Lost basins (Fig. 2).

Snowpack conditions are well below normal across the region, ranging from 42% of normal in the Little Wood to 67% of normal in the Little Lost on April 1 (Fig. 3). Despite being the lone bright spot in the state for most of the snow accumulation season, conditions in the Wood and Lost River basins now look like the rest of the state – well below normal. A very warm March caused SWE to peak early and begin melting between March 6 and March 14 in all of these basins. This is 14 to 30 days earlier than the historical median and led to a complete melt-out at many low elevation sites on or before April 1. The only sites in the Wood and Lost River basins that are not currently recording record low SWE are located above about 7,800 ft. (i.e. Smiley Mountain, Bear Canyon, Lost Wood Divide, Galena Summit, and Vienna Mine).

Magic and Mackay reservoirs have below normal storage as of April 1. They're at 81 and 91% of normal respectively (35 and 67% full). The Little Wood Reservoir is slightly above normal at 131% (96% full). Streamflow forecasts for the Wood and Lost basins are mostly below normal, ranging from ~9 to 92% of normal for the 50% exceedance forecast (Fig 4.). Given the lack of low and mid-elevation snow, we strongly 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 - April 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	0.7	2.0	5.8	34	8.1	13.9	17.3
Little Lost R bl Wet Ck nr Howe	APR-JUL	16.8	19.7	22.0	88	25.0	29.0	25.0
	APR-SEP	20.0	24.0	27.0	93	30.0	35.0	29.0
Big Lost R at Howell Ranch	APR-JUL	98.0	116.0	129.0	89	145.0	172.0	145.0
	APR-SEP	108.0	126.0	140.0	88	156.0	183.0	159.0
Big Lost R bl Mackay Reservoir	APR-JUL	67.0	83.0	96.0	92	112.0	137.0	104.0
	APR-SEP	93.0	110.0	125.0	98	142.0	172.0	127.0
Big Wood R at Hailey	APR-JUL	126.0	148.0	165.0	79	184.0	215.0	210.0
	APR-SEP	143.0	166.0	185.0	80	205.0	240.0	230.0
Big Wood R ab Magic Reservoir	APR-JUL	55.0	78.0	98.0	71	121.0	163.0	139.0
	APR-SEP	60.0	87.0	110.0	75	137.0	185.0	146.0
Camas Ck nr Blaine	APR-JUL	1.3	2.5	4.0	9	5.4	9.1	45.0
	APR-SEP	2.1	4.2	6.0	13	9.0	11.0	46.0
Big Wood R bl Magic Dam 2	APR-JUL	32.0	50.0	66.0	38	84.0	116.0	172.0
	APR-SEP	30.0	47.0	62.0	34	79.0	109.0	182.0
Little Wood R ab High Five Ck	APR-JUL	12.2	16.6	20.0	38	24.0	31.0	52.0
	APR-SEP	19.8	25.0	29.0	52	34.0	42.0	56.0
Little Wood R nr Carey 2	APR-JUL	17.0	22.0	26.0	48	30.0	38.0	54.0
	APR-SEP	24.0	30.0	35.0	60	41.0	50.0	58.0

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%

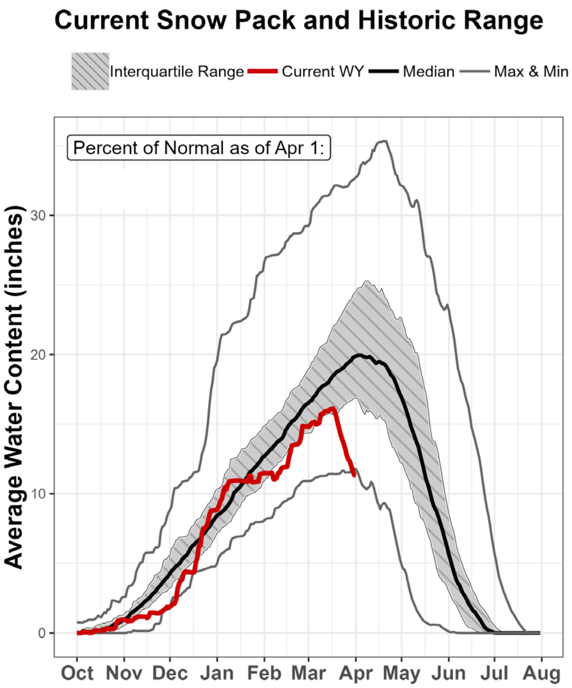
2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions

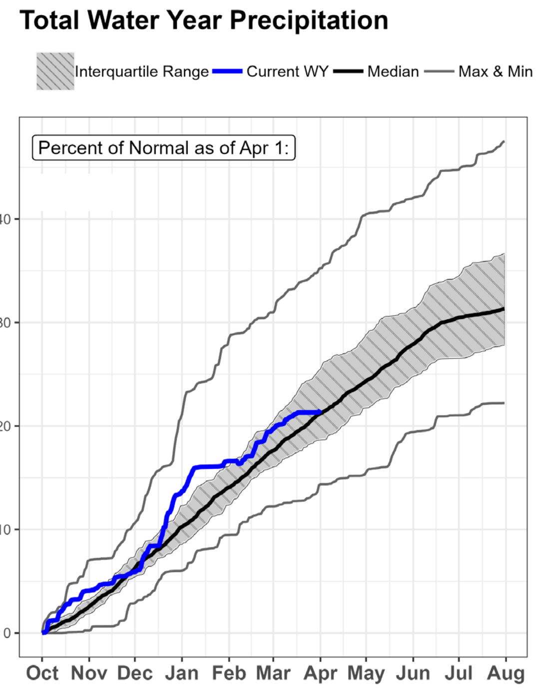
Reservoir Storage (KAF): April 01, 2026				
Reservoir Name	**Current (KAF)**	**2025**	**Median (KAF)**	**Capacity (KAF)**
Mackay Reservoir	29.9	30.4	32.8	44.4
Little Wood Reservoir	28.9	21.1	22.1	30.0
Magic Reservoir	66.2	73.4	81.4	191.5

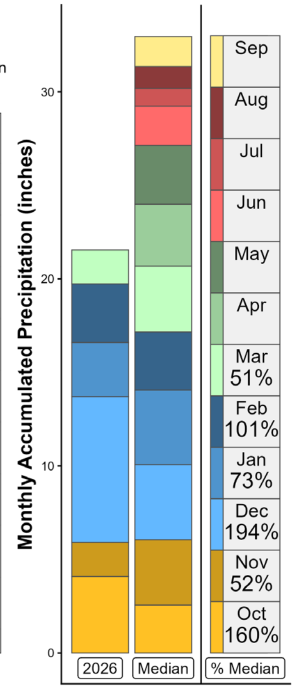
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - April 01, 2026			
		% of Median	
Basin Name	**# of Sites**	**2026**	**2025**
Big Wood	**12**	**54**	**111**
Big Wood ab Hailey	8	74	107
Camas	4	0	122
Little Wood	**8**	**42**	**90**
Little Wood ab Resv	5	59	92
Big Lost	**7**	**59**	**97**
Big Lost ab Mackay	5	68	102
Fish	3	0	85
Little Lost	**5**	**67**	**86**
Birch-Medicine Lodge-Beaver-Camas	**10**	**40**	**76**
Birch-Medicine Lodge	6	56	78
Camas-Beaver	4	19	73

Upper Snake River Basins

April 1, 2026







WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

March conditions in the Upper Snake River basins were drier and warmer than normal with monthly precipitation ranging from 36 to 69% of normal (Fig. 1). As of April 1, total water year precipitation is 95% of normal in the Henrys Fork-Teton, 97% for the Willow-Blackfoot-Portneuf, and 105% for the Snake River above Heise basins (Fig. 2). There was a ~10% decrease in total water year precipitation levels throughout the Upper Snake River basins due to these dry March conditions. As of April 1, snowpack in the Upper Snake River basins is 51% of normal in the Henrys Fork-Teton, 56% in Snake River above Heise, and 12% of normal in the Willow-Blackfoot-Portneuf (Fig. 3). Low snowpack conditions and warmer than normal temperatures led to melt beginning at all elevations and at all but a few sites. Peak SWE was well below normal, with basins only reaching 58 to 80% of median peak SWE (Fig. 5). This year's peak snowpack occurred from 17 to 47 days earlier than normal at Upper Snake SNOTEL sites. Early melt has led to a significant portion of measurement sites reaching record low levels as of April 1. NOAA's 30-day outlook predicts above normal temperatures in this region, which suggest any meaningful snowpack accumulation will happen in early April is unlikely.

High inflows due to significant early snowmelt have led to above normal reservoir storage. The Upper Snake Reservoir System is currently 101% of normal (73% full) and combined storage for the Jackson and Palisades reservoirs is 108% of normal (69% full). Forecasts decreased from March 1 forecasts due to warm temperatures and rapid snowmelt. The 50% exceedance streamflow forecasts range from 47 to 72% in the Henrys Fork-Teton Basin, and 57 to 96% in the Snake River above Heise for the April to July runoff period. Willow Creek near Ririe forecast is 22% of normal, and Portneuf River near Topaz is 66% for the April to July runoff period (Fig. 4). Given the lack of snow at the lower and mid-elevations, we strongly 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 - April 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	350.0	385.0	415.0	89	445	495	465
	APR-SEP	370.0	415.0	445.0	88	475	530	505
Snake R nr Moran 2	APR-JUL	510.0	560.0	600.0	82	640	705	730
	APR-SEP	585.0	635.0	675.0	83	715	780	810
Pacific Ck at Moran	APR-JUL	107.0	126.0	140.0	91	156	181	154
	APR-SEP	112.0	130.0	145.0	91	161	187	160
Buffalo Fk ab Lava Ck nr Moran	APR-JUL	235.0	260.0	275.0	96	295	325	285
	APR-SEP	255.0	280.0	300.0	97	320	355	310
Snake R ab Reservoir nr Alpine 2	APR-JUL	1,580.0	1,730.0	1,830.0	86	1,950	2,130	2,140
	APR-SEP	1,680.0	1,830.0	1,940.0	80	2,060	2,250	2,430
Greys R ab Reservoir nr Alpine	APR-JUL	215.0	240.0	255.0	81	280	310	315
	APR-SEP	225.0	250.0	270.0	74	290	320	365
Salt R ab Reservoir nr Etna	APR-JUL	127.0	153.0	173.0	57	195	230	305
	APR-SEP	185.0	215.0	235.0	62	260	300	380
Snake R nr Irwin 2	APR-JUL	1,740.0	1,940.0	2,080.0	71	2,240	2,490	2,930
	APR-SEP	2,120.0	2,330.0	2,490.0	73	2,660	2,930	3,420
Snake R nr Heise 2	APR-JUL	2,070.0	2,260.0	2,410.0	77	2,570	2,810	3,130
	APR-SEP	2,440.0	2,660.0	2,820.0	77	3,000	3,280	3,660
Henrys Fk nr Ashton 2	APR-JUL	285.0	300.0	310.0	65	325	345	475
	APR-SEP	390.0	415.0	430.0	68	450	480	630
Falls R nr Ashton 2	APR-JUL	245.0	265.0	285.0	72	300	325	395
	APR-SEP	290.0	315.0	335.0	71	355	385	475
Teton R nr Driggs	APR-JUL	75.0	87.0	97.0	66	108	125	146
	APR-SEP	85.0	101.0	113.0	63	127	148	178
Teton R nr St Anthony	APR-JUL	128.0	149.0	166.0	47	184	210	355
	APR-SEP	162.0	189.0	210.0	49	230	265	425
Henrys Fk nr Rexburg 2	APR-JUL	640.0	710.0	760.0	63	815	905	1,210
	APR-SEP	825.0	905.0	965.0	61	1,030	1,140	1,580
Willow Ck nr Ririe 2	APR-JUL	2.2	5.4	8.7	22	13	21	40
Portneuf R at Topaz	APR-JUL	26.0	30.0	33.0	66	36	41	50
	APR-SEP	34.0	38.0	42.0	65	46	53	65
Snake R at Neeley 2	APR-JUL	245.0	435.0	600.0	25	795	1,140	2,390
	APR-SEP	320.0	550.0	750.0	32	990	1,410	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%

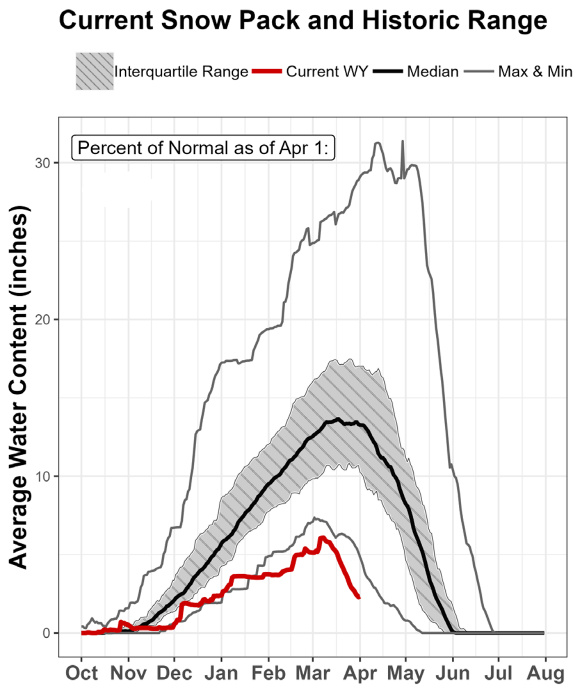
2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions

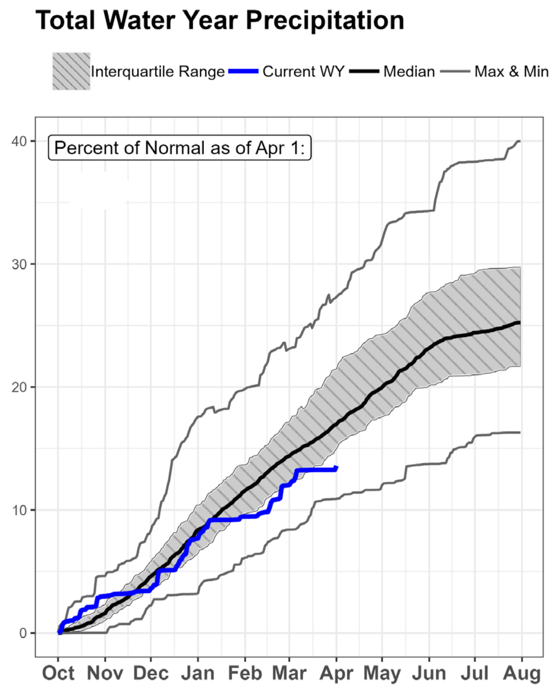
Reservoir Storage (KAF): April 01, 2026				
Reservoir Name	**Current (KAF)**	**2025**	**Median (KAF)**	**Capacity (KAF)**
Jackson Lake	650.8	645.0	627.0	847.0
Palisades Reservoir	890.5	1,094.6	803.3	1,400.0
Snake River Above Heise Total	**1,541.3**	**1,739.6**	**1,430.3**	**2,247.0**
Henrys Lake	86.2	85.0	85.0	90.4
Island Park Reservoir	118.2	123.5	109.3	135.2
Grassy Lake	12.7	11.9	13.2	15.2
Henrys Fork-Teton Total	**217.1**	**220.3**	**207.5**	**240.8**
Ririe Reservoir	56.7	57.3	48.7	80.5
American Falls Reservoir	1,370.3	1,602.9	1,498.0	1,672.6
Upper Snake River System Total	**3,185.4**	**3,910.3**	**3,383.1**	**4,577.9**
Blackfoot Reservoir		290.3	198.6	337.0

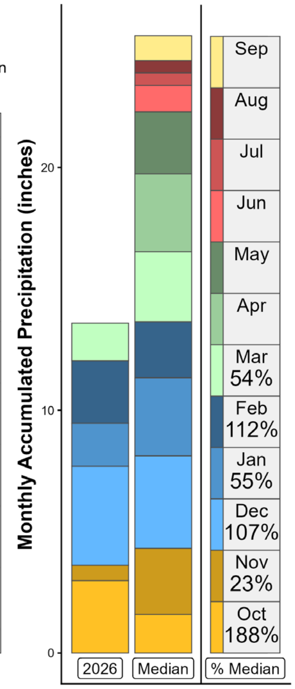
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - April 01, 2026			
		% of Median	
Basin Name	**# of Sites**	**2026**	**2025**
Henrys Fork-Teton	**19**	**49**	**99**
Henrys Fork-Falls River	13	47	97
Teton	9	52	102
Snake River Above Heise	**38**	**58**	**106**
Snake ab Jackson Lake	13	60	97
Pacific	4	79	103
Buffalo Fork	5	72	107
Gros Ventre	5	78	105
Hoback	5	53	112
Greys	5	74	118
Salt	6	32	120
Willow-Blackfoot-Portneuf	**17**	**12**	**121**
Willow	7	12	129
Blackfoot	6	12	124
Portneuf	7	15	114

Southern Snake Basins

April 1, 2026







WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

March was warm and dry in the Southern Snake River basins, with very little precipitation falling throughout the month. The Owyhee, Bruneau, Salmon Falls, and Goose Creek basins only received 35 to 48% of their normal monthly precipitation in March, while the Raft Basin received 108% of its normal precipitation (Fig. 1). This region remains the driest portion of the state with below normal total water year precipitation conditions, ranging from ~80 to 90% of normal (Fig. 2).

The Raft Basin stood out last month when a storm dumped a whopping 5.2 inches of precipitation across the basin on March 5. Howell Canyon SNOTEL site recorded 37 inches of snow (~3 feet) in only 24 hours; this meant there was a 40% (5.7 inches total) increase in the amount of SWE at this site. As impressive as this storm was, the record-breaking heat wave in mid-March melted this snow so rapidly that the Raft Basin snowpack hit record low conditions by March 20. The Raft Basin snowpack peaked at 71% on March 8, five weeks earlier than normal. As of April 1, only 73% of the snowpack remains in this basin (Fig. 6). This trend of the snowpack peaking earlier than normal and melting rapidly was observed in all the Southern Snake basins. The Owyhee Basin set a significant new, record low snowpack this water year and peaked at only 21% of normal (Fig. 5); the lowest in the entire state. Melt out in Owyhee and neighboring basins began about three weeks earlier than normal this year. The rest of the basins' peak snowpack levels and peak snowpack date are, respectively: Bruneau (34% at 25 days earlier), Salmon Falls (41% at 28 days earlier), and Goose Creek (41% at 26 days earlier).

As of April 1, the SNOTEL and snow course snowpack data show that all but a few sites completely melted out during the month of March. The locations still holding snow are likely on north facing slopes or those that are shaded by dense forest. These include Pole Creek R.S, George Creek, and Howell Canyon SNOTEL stations, and Boy Scout Camp and Logger Springs snow courses. These sites are between 7,700 to 8,700 ft. NOAA's Official 30-Day Outlook forecasts a greater chance for above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation during April. Storms are rolling through the basin at publication time that may lead to some minor SWE gains, but it’s very likely that the snow accumulation season for these basins has ended.

As of April 1, reservoir storage in Lake Owyhee is 101% of normal (65% full), Wildhorse is 144% of normal (67% full), Oakley is 84% of normal (29% full) and Salmon Falls is 55% of normal (13% full). Streamflow forecasts for the Southern Snake River basins for their primary runoff period are well below average, ranging from 9 to 51% of normal (Fig. 4). According to the USGS current streamflow map, several locations such as Goose Creek AB Trapper Creek NR Oakley, ID and Bruneau RV at Rowland, NV are currently experiencing extremely low flow levels. With the snowpack almost melted, these rivers are now dependent on spring precipitation to boost their flows. The early onset of the melt season, limited remaining high elevation snowpack, and below normal total water year precipitation have created significant water supply challenges for this irrigation season. In particular, Salmon Falls and Goose Creek basins will face additional hurdles with well below normal reservoir storage compared to the Owyhee Basin, which had good reservoir carryover this year.

Southern Snake Basins Streamflow Forecasts - April 01, 2026

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	90% (KAF)	70% (KAF)	50% (KAF)	% Median	30% (KAF)	10% (KAF)	30yr Med (KAF)
		Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment <=== Drier ===== Projected Volume ===== Wetter ===>						
Goose Ck ab Trapper Ck nr Oakley	APR-JUL	0.5	2.1	3.6	27	5.4	8.4	13.4
	APR-SEP	1.1	3.2	5.1	36	7.4	11.1	14.0
Trapper Ck nr Oakley	APR-JUL	1.4	1.8	2.1	51	2.4	2.8	4.1
	APR-SEP	2.3	2.7	3.1	61	3.4	3.9	5.1
Oakley Reservoir Inflow	APR-JUL	1.2	3.4	5.3	30	7.5	11.1	17.5
	APR-SEP	1.5	3.6	6.3	33	7.7	12.2	19.1
Salmon Falls Ck nr San Jacinto	APR-JUL	7.7	12.4	16.3	29	21.0	29.0	56.0
	APR-SEP	11.1	16.6	21.0	36	26.0	35.0	58.0
Bruneau R at Rowland	APR-JUL	1.6	5.0	8.0	17	11.7	17.8	48.0
	APR-SEP	3.7	8.2	12.1	25	16.4	24.0	49.0
Jarbidge River Below Jarbidge	APR-JUL	7.3	8.3	9.1	46	10.0	11.5	19.6
	APR-SEP	7.3	8.5	9.5	48	10.6	12.5	20.0
Bruneau R nr Hot Spring	APR-JUL	27.0	45.0	59.0	38	75.0	101.0	157.0
	APR-SEP	26.0	44.0	58.0	36	74.0	99.0	163.0
Reynolds Ck at Tollgate	APR-JUL	0.1	0.3	0.6	9	0.9	1.5	6.4
	APR-SEP	0.2	0.5	0.8	12	1.1	1.7	6.4
Owyhee R nr Gold Ck 2	APR-JUL	0.0	0.7	3.9	23	7.1	11.8	17.2
Owyhee R nr Rome	APR-JUL	14.8	25.0	36.0	18	48.0	72.0	205.0
	APR-SEP	15.5	27.0	37.0	17	50.0	75.0	220.0
Owyhee R bl Owyhee Dam 2	APR-JUL	19.9	34.0	47.0	20	62.0	91.0	235.0
	APR-SEP	41.0	60.0	77.0	29	98.0	133.0	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%

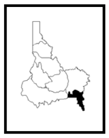
2) Forecasts are for unimpaired flows. Actual flow will be dependent on management of upstream reservoirs and diversions

Reservoir Storage (KAF): April 01, 2026

Reservoir Name	Current (KAF)	2025	Median (KAF)	Capacity (KAF)
Oakley Reservoir	22.3	36.6	26.6	75.6
Salmon Falls Reservoir	24.6	38.0	44.7	182.6
Wild Horse Reservoir	47.8	61.7	33.3	71.5
Lake Owyhee	464.7	692.0	460.0	715.0
Brownlee Reservoir	1,023.3	1,045.2	1,123.0	1,420.0

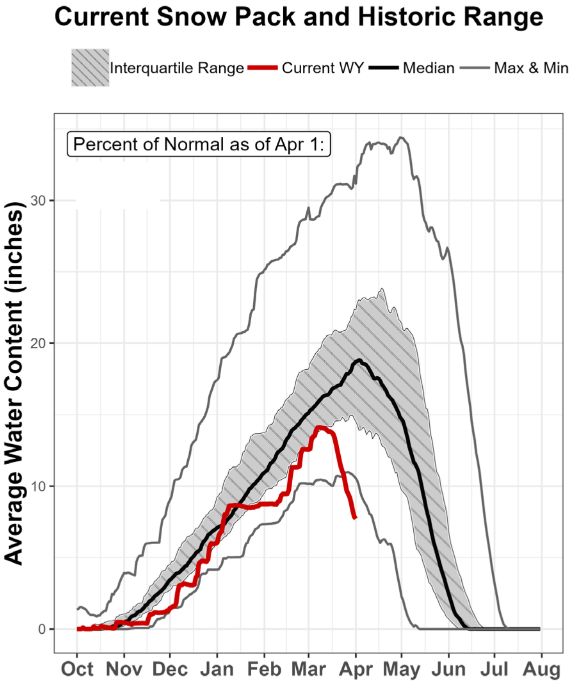
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - April 01, 2026

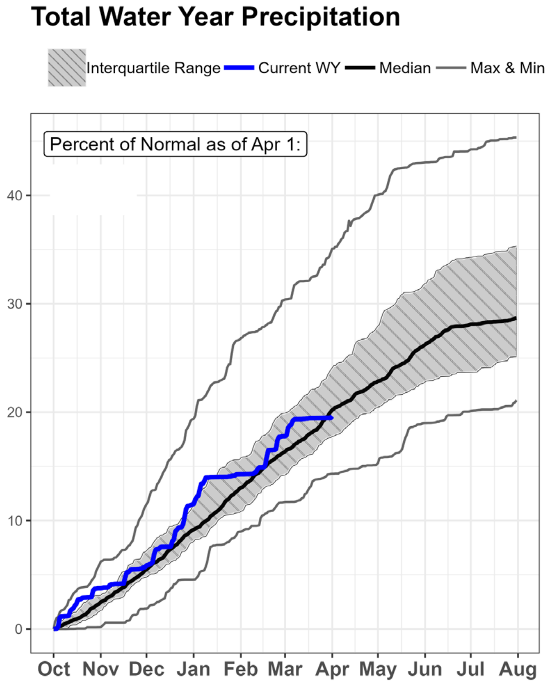
Basin Name	# of Sites	% of Median 2026	% of Median 2025
Raft	**6**	**39**	**104**
Goose Creek	**6**	**16**	**110**
Salmon Falls	**6**	**15**	**126**
Bruneau	**8**	**14**	**119**
Owyhee	**11**	**1**	**133**
Upper Owyhee	9	1	134
Reynolds	6	5	126

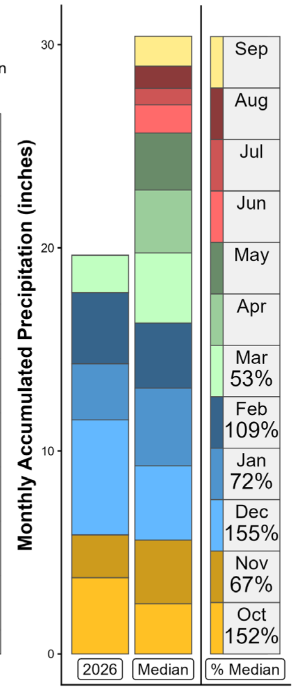


Bear River Basin

April 1, 2026







WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

March was warm and dry largely due to a high-pressure system that caused a record-breaking heat wave across the West. This led to reduced cloud cover and storm activity, allowing daytime temperatures to climb well above the seasonal norm. As a result, the Bear River Basin only received 54% of its normal monthly March precipitation. However, total water year precipitation is still 98% of normal. The heat wave accelerated snowmelt across the basin and prevented further snowpack accumulation, even after some early March storms. The Bear River Basin snowpack peaked at 68% of normal on March 7 (Fig. 5), a full month ahead of its average April 7 peak date. Lower and mid-elevation areas lost their snow cover early, which left only the highest elevation sites with a lingering snowpack (shaded, north-facing slopes or protected by a dense forest canopy). In a typical spring fashion, a series of cold storms brought some more snow to high elevation sites across the basin the first week of April. Looking ahead, NOAA's Official 30-Day Outlook forecasts it's likely that April will be warmer than normal. If warm conditions persist, the snowpack will continue to melt rapidly with any rain-on-snow events further speeding up this process. As a result, the Bear River Basin snowpack is likely to experience its earliest melt out on record.

As of April 1, Bear Lake reservoir storage remains well above normal at 155% (61% full). A full storage allocation is expected this year. The April 1 streamflow forecasts in the Bear River Basin are 32 to 61% of normal for the April to July runoff period (Fig. 4). Given the lack of low and mid-elevation snow, we strongly urge water users to consider the 70 and 90% exceedance range of forecasts issued rather than just the 50% exceedance forecast.

Bear Basin Streamflow Forecasts - April 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	50.0	57.0	62.0	61	71.0	84.0	101.0
	APR-SEP	52.0	63.0	68.0	60	78.0	92.0	114.0
Bear R ab Resv nr Woodruff	APR-JUL	13.9	28.0	41.0	45	55.0	82.0	92.0
	APR-SEP	14.0	31.0	46.0	46	64.0	90.0	99.0
Big Ck nr Randolph	APR-JUL	0.4	1.1	1.8	56	2.4	3.6	3.2
Smiths Fk nr Border	APR-JUL	41.0	46.0	51.0	59	58.0	69.0	86.0
	APR-SEP	51.0	57.0	62.0	62	71.0	83.0	100.0
Bear R bl Stewart Dam 2	APR-JUL	5.0	21.0	37.0	32	72.0	122.0	115.0
	APR-SEP	7.0	22.0	40.0	33	75.0	125.0	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): April 01, 2026				
Reservoir Name	**Current (KAF)**	**2025**	**Median (KAF)**	**Capacity (KAF)**
Bear Lake	790.7	948.4	510.6	1,302.0
Woodruff Creek	4.0	2.3	3.8	4.0
Woodruff Narrows Reservoir	18.0	43.7	49.8	57.3

Watershed Snowpack Analysis - April 01, 2026			
	# of	**% of Median**	
Basin Name	**Sites**	**2026**	**2025**
Bear	**26**	**40**	**107**
Smiths-Thomas Forks	5	50	111
Bear Lake	11	34	107
Mink	1	0	115
Cub	2	43	112
Malad	3	21	104

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.

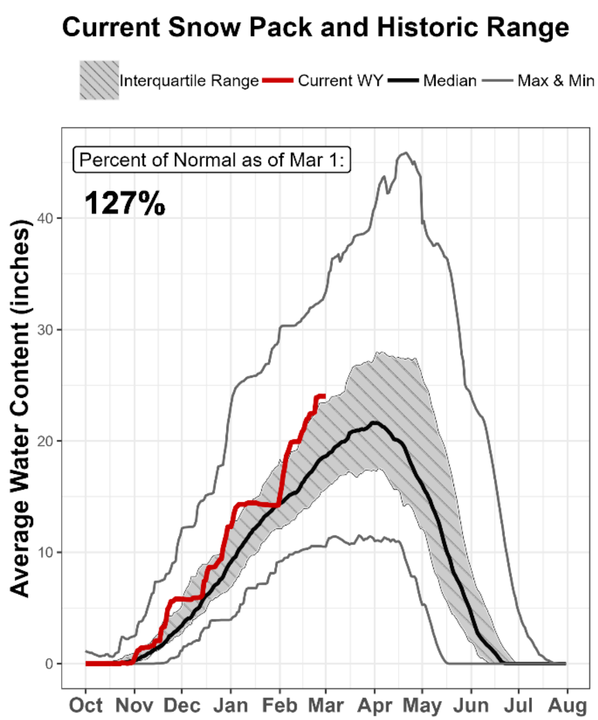
Alternatively, if users determine the risk of using the 30 percent exceedance forecast is too great, then they might plan on receiving 850 KAF (from the 10 percent exceedance forecast). There is a 10% chance of receiving more than 850 KAF. Users could also choose a volume in between any of these values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

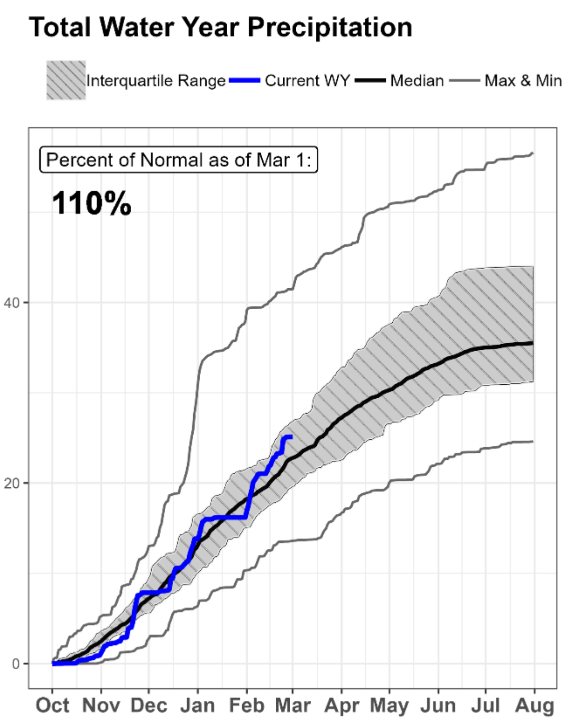
		Forecast Exceedance Probabilities for Risk Assessment <=== Drier ===== Projected Volume ===== Wetter ===>						
Forecast Point	Forecast Period	90% (KAF)	70% (KAF)	50% (KAF)	% Median	30% (KAF)	10% (KAF)	30yr Med (KAF)
Boise R nr Twin Springs	APR-JUL	465	550	635	106	710	825	600
	APR-SEP	520	605	675	105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

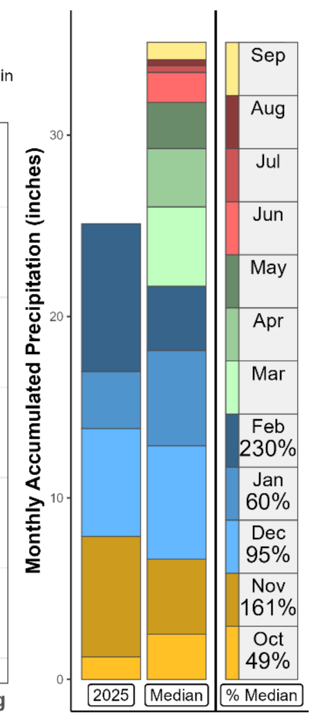
Interpreting Snowpack & Precipitation Plots

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.