



Northwest River Forecast Center

# May 2026 Idaho Water Supply Meeting

## NWRFC Natural Water Supply Forecasts

May 20, 2026

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## Key Points - May 20 , 2026

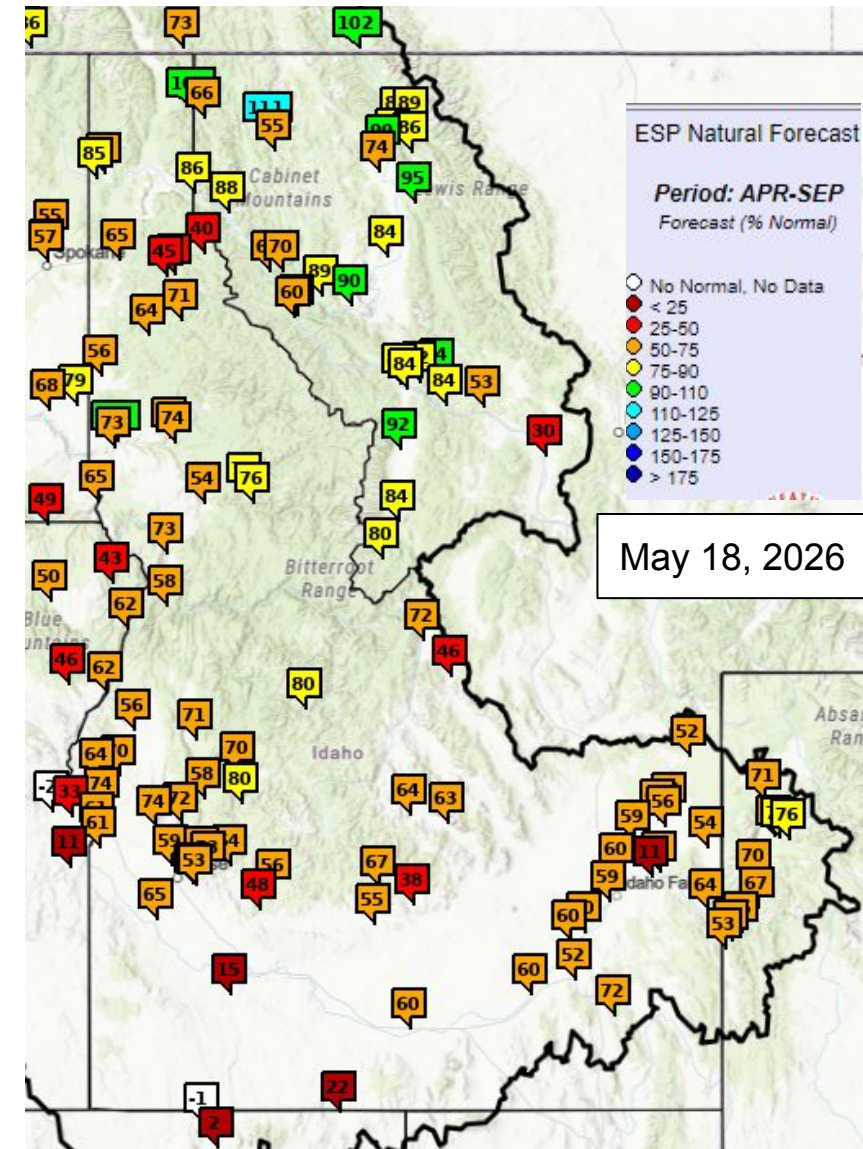
- **Apr-Sep natural water supply forecasts have mostly decreased since last month, and are generally below normal**
  - Many forecasts less than the 10th percentile
  - Some forecasts near or at historical record low volumes
- Water year to date **precipitation** is near normal
- Water year to date **air temperatures** have been above normal
- Water year to date **observed runoff** is above normal in northern ID, with normal to below normal in southern ID
- Seasonal peak **snowpack** was well below normal, except for in the highest elevations
- 10-day weather forecast calls for **below** normal precipitation



# 2026 Natural Water Supply Forecasts (May. 18)

## % Normal Apr - Sep

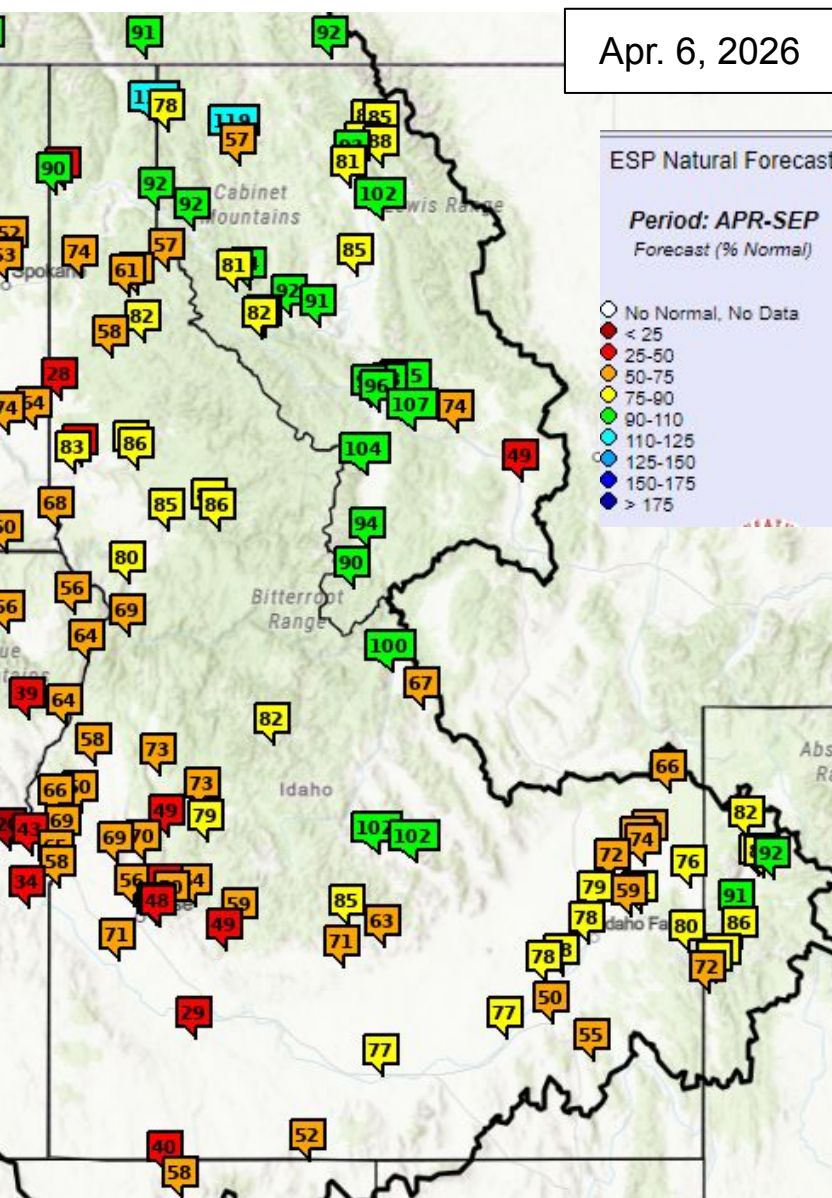
<u>Snake River Basin</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Change*</u>	<u>% of Median</u>
Island Park	52 (r)	-14	56
Snake near Heise	61	-20	63
American Falls	60	-17	62
Lucky Peak	53	+5	57
Owyhee	11 (r)	-23	14
Payette nr Horseshoe Bend	72	+2	77
Dworshak	74	-8	76
Palouse near Potlatch	56	+28	64
Lower Granite	68	-6	70
<u>North Idaho Basins</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Change*</u>	<u>% of Median</u>
Coeur D'Alene at Cataldo	45	-16	45
St. Joe at Calder	71	-11	73



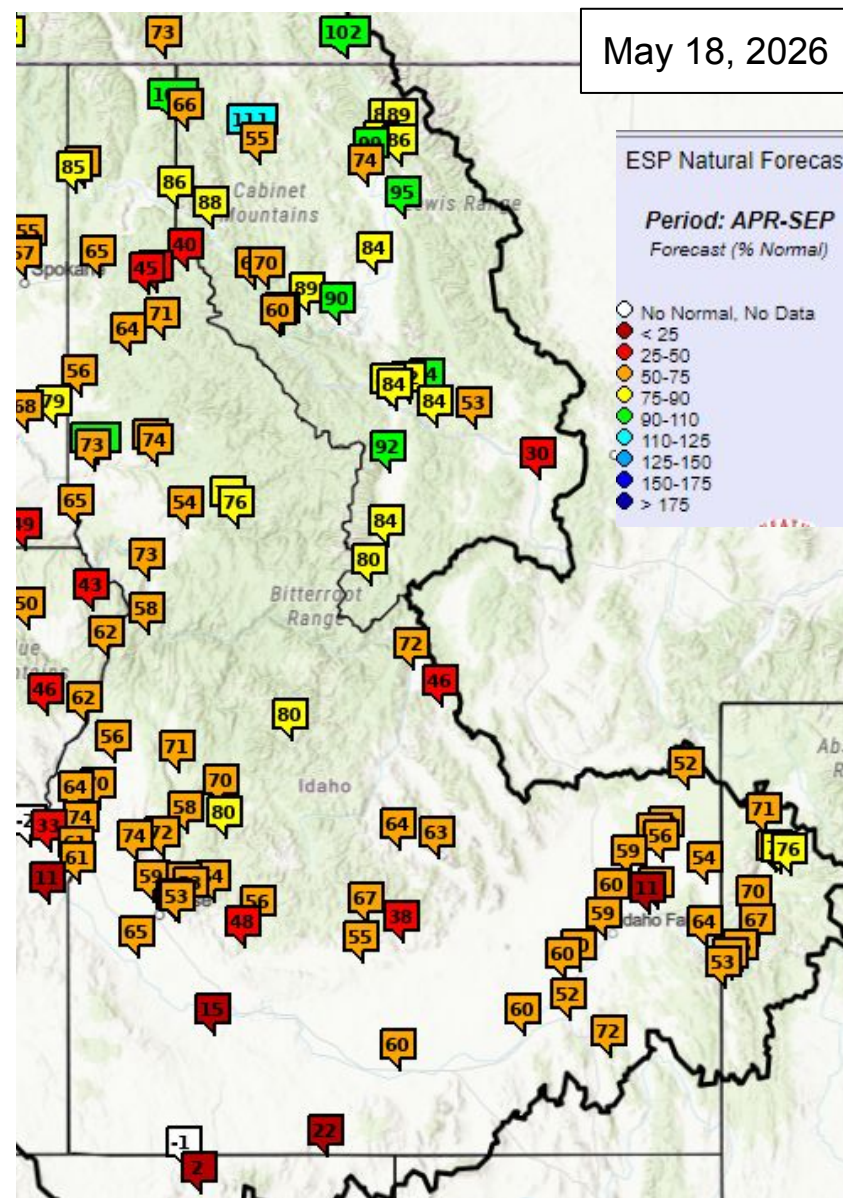


# 2026 Natural Water Supply Forecasts

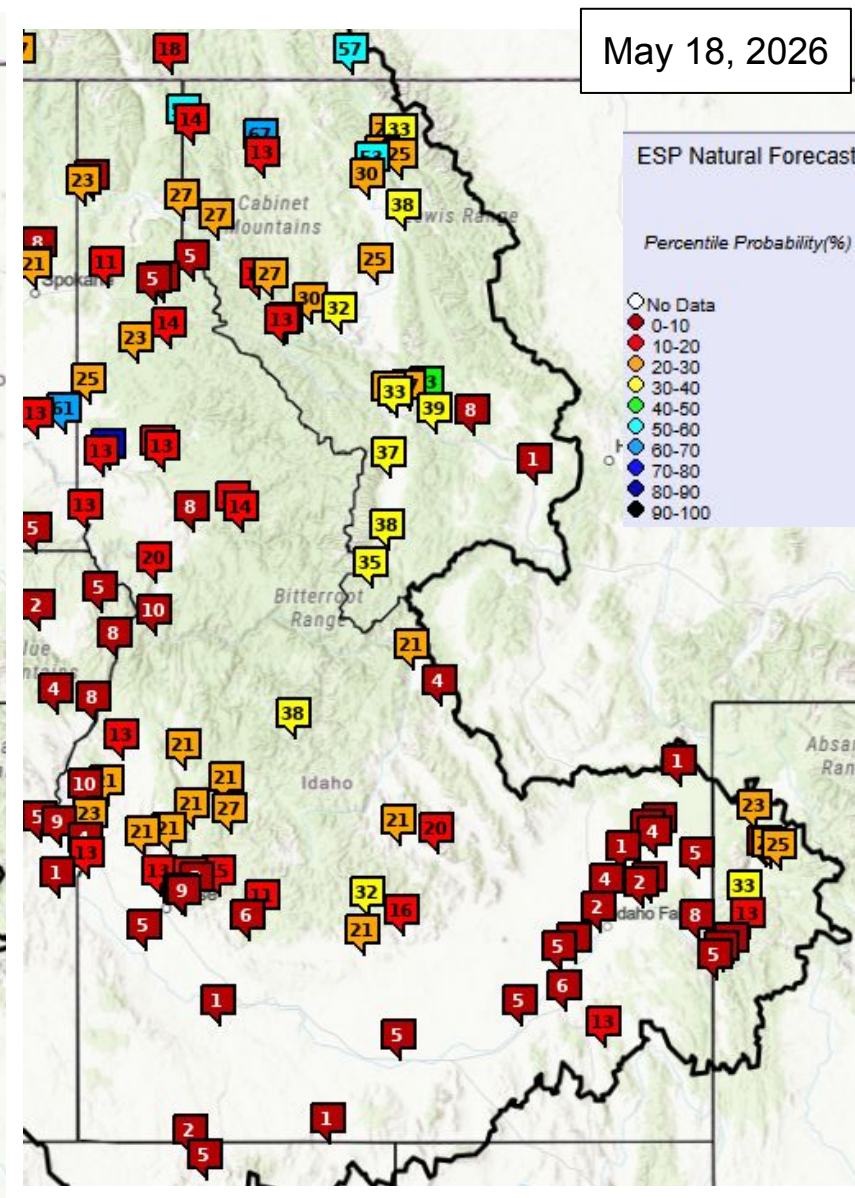
Apr-Sep % of Average



Apr-Sep % of Average

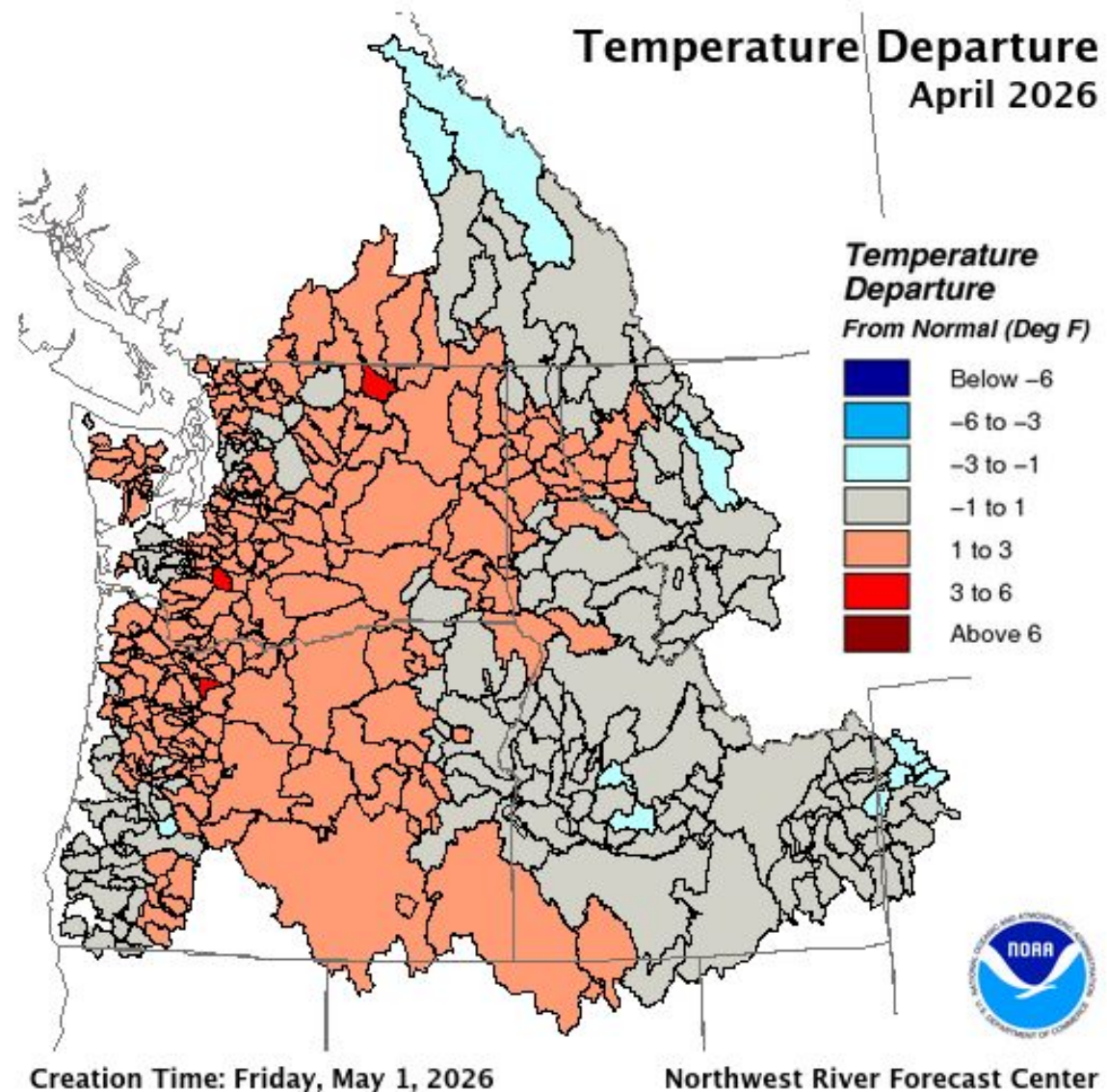
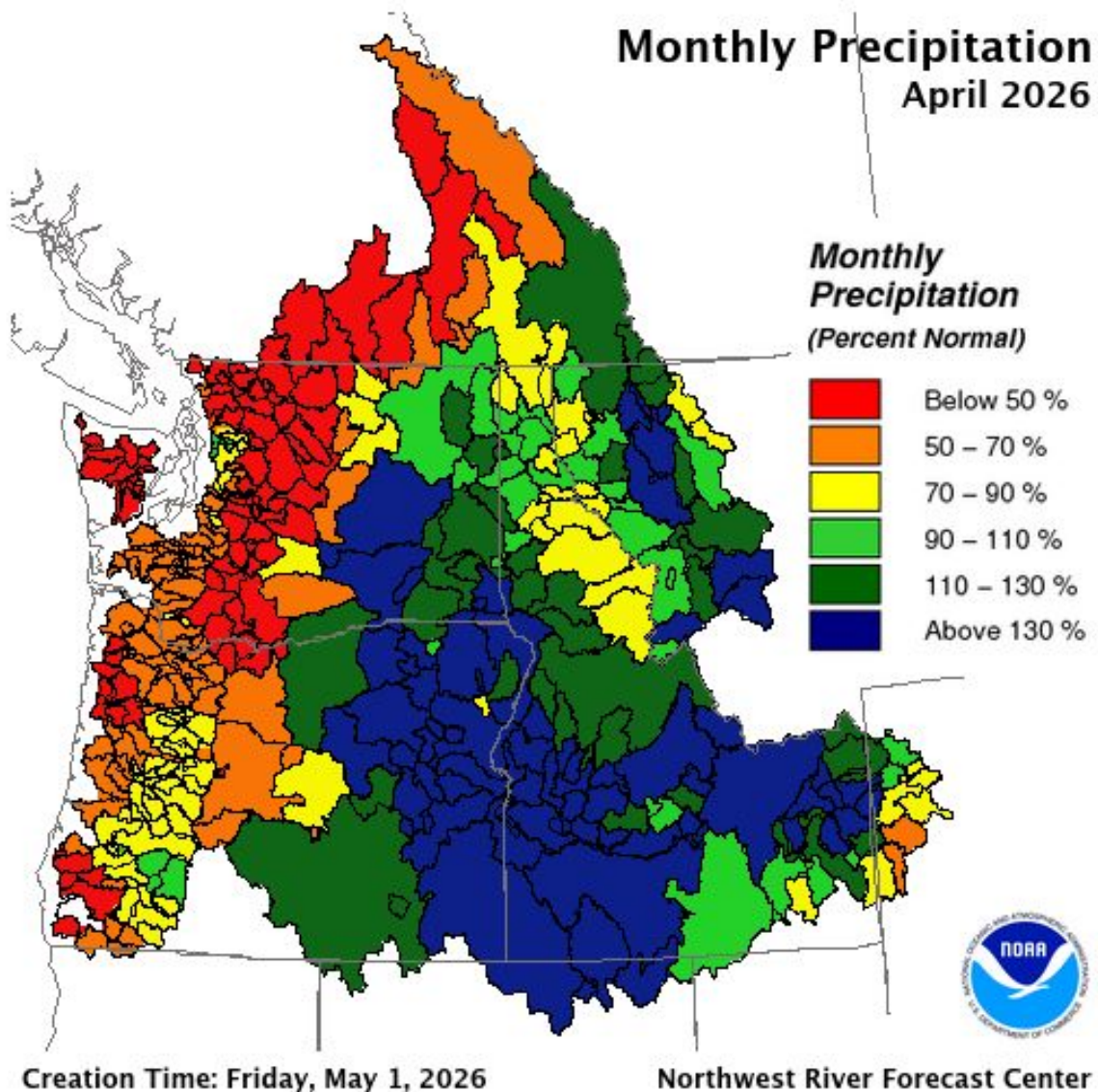


Apr-Sep Percentile



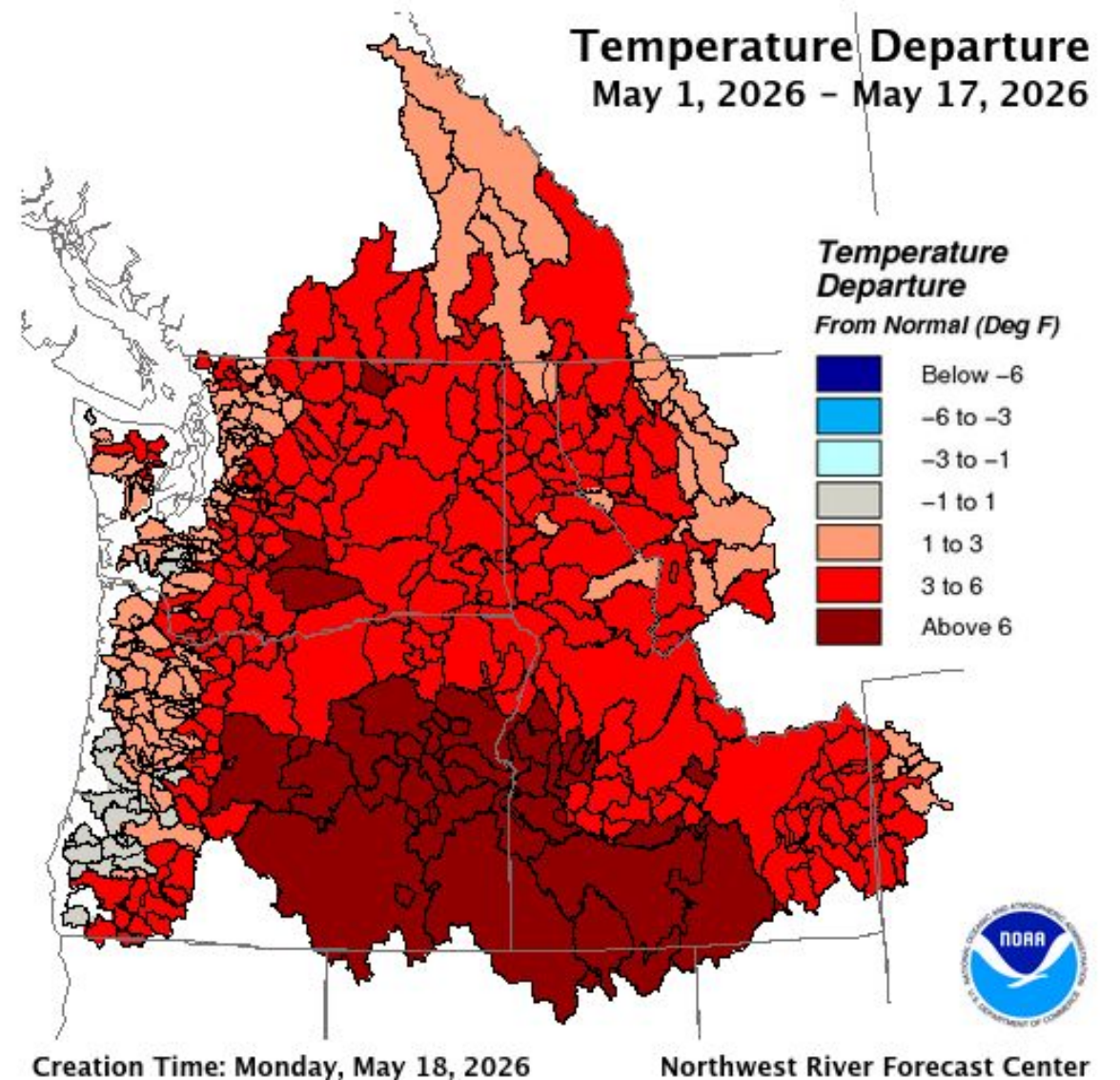
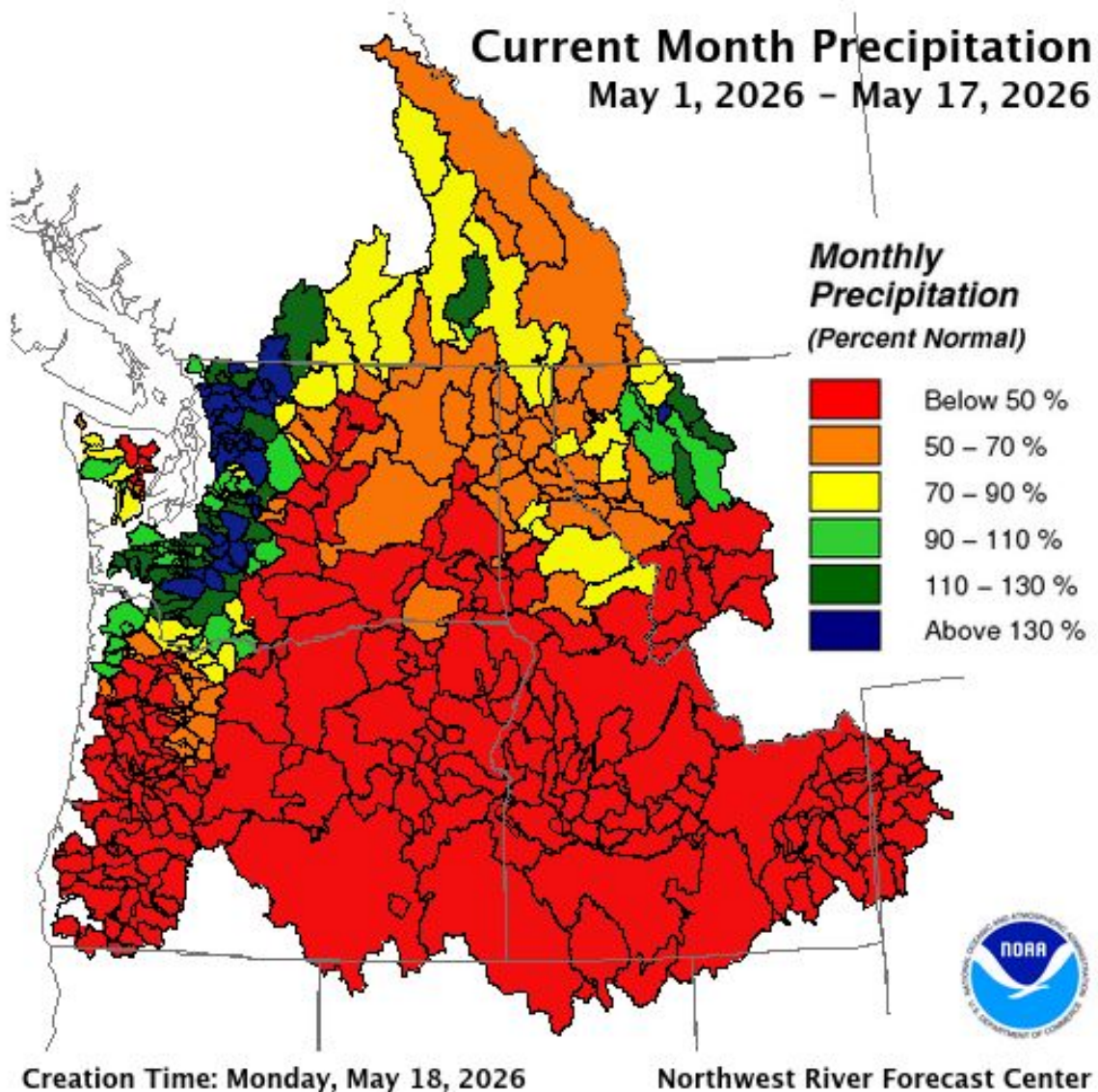


# April 2026 Precipitation and Air Temperature



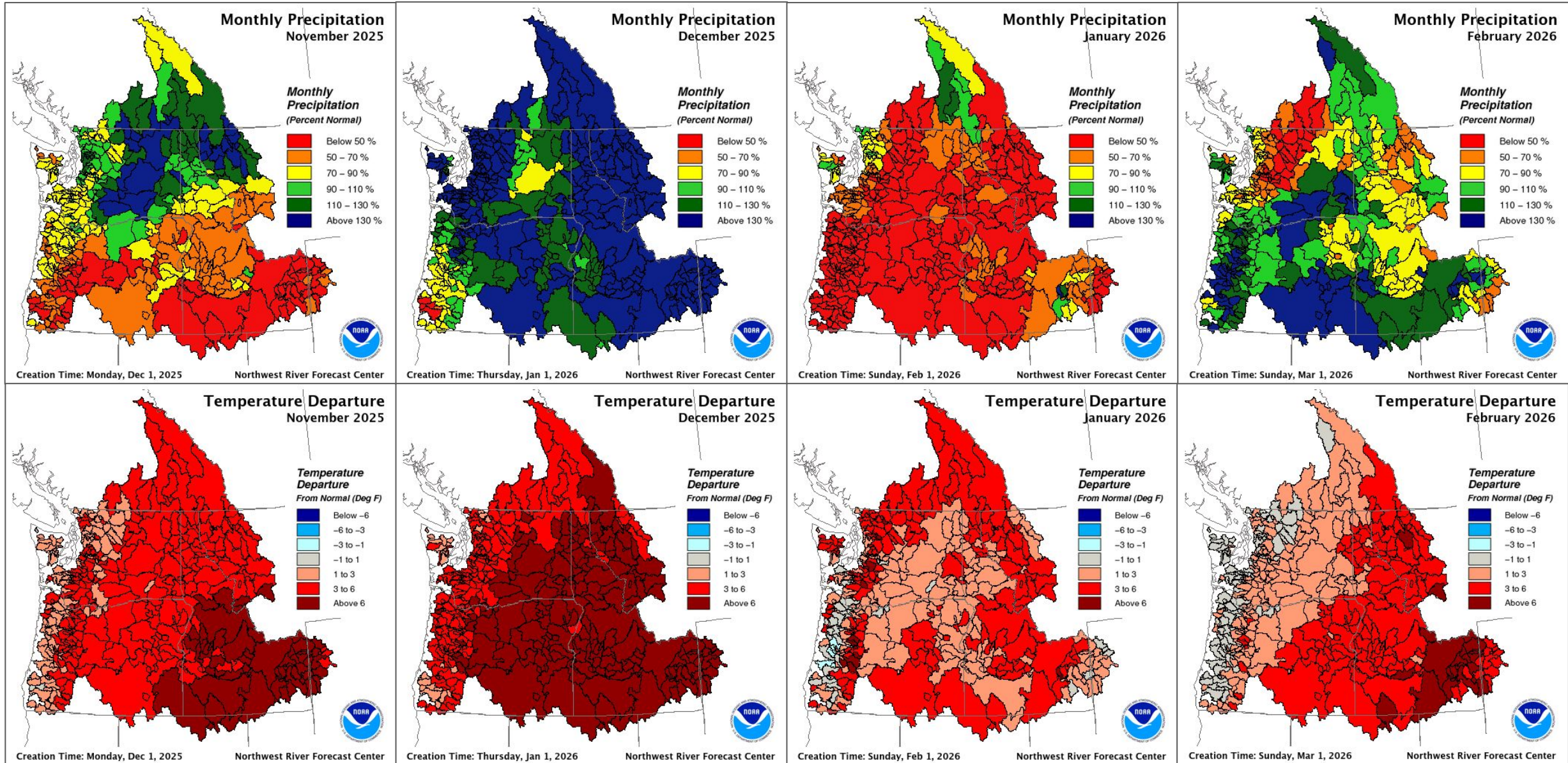


# So far in May 2026: Precipitation and Air Temperature



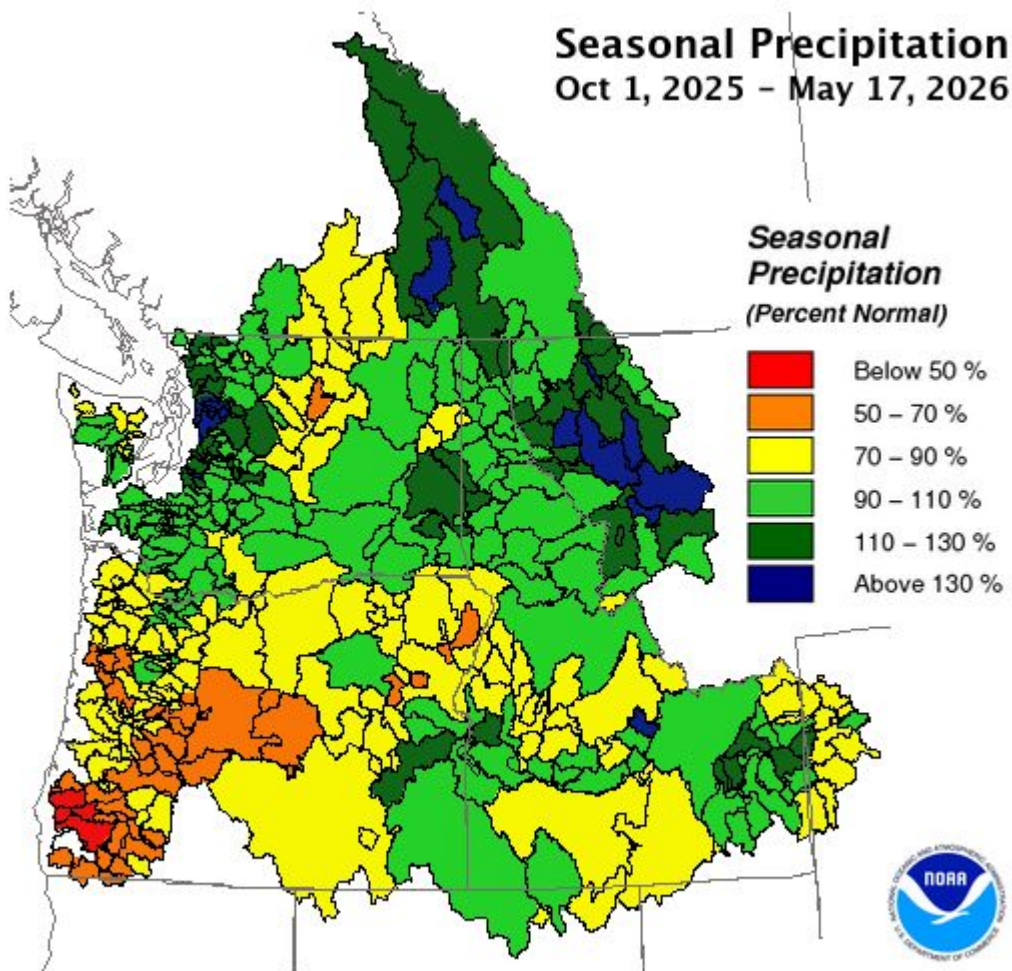


# WY 2026 Precipitation and Air Temperature, Nov. - Feb.





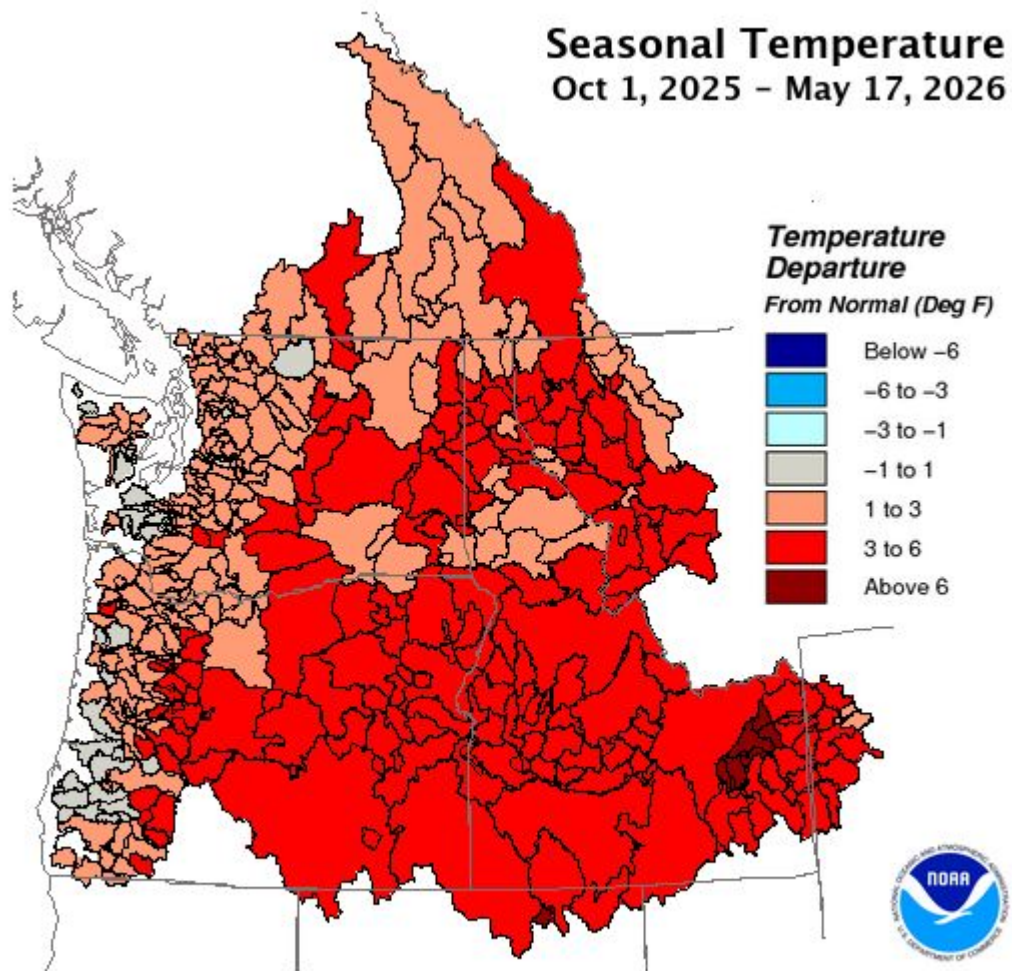
# WY 2026 Precipitation and Air Temperature to Date



Creation Time: Monday, May 18, 2026

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Division	% of Normal
Snake abv American Falls	90
Snake abv Hells Canyon Dam	92
Snake abv Ice Harbor Dam	92



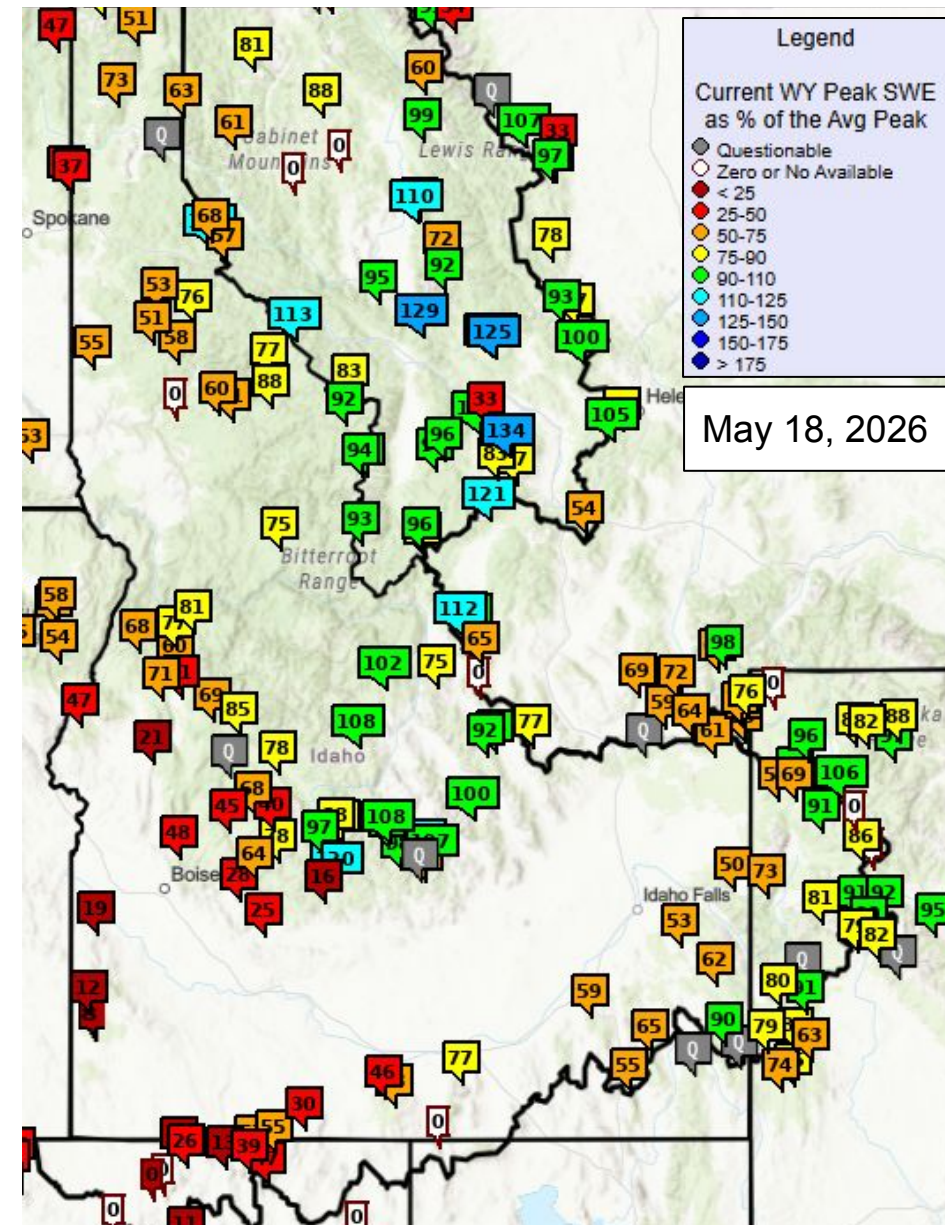
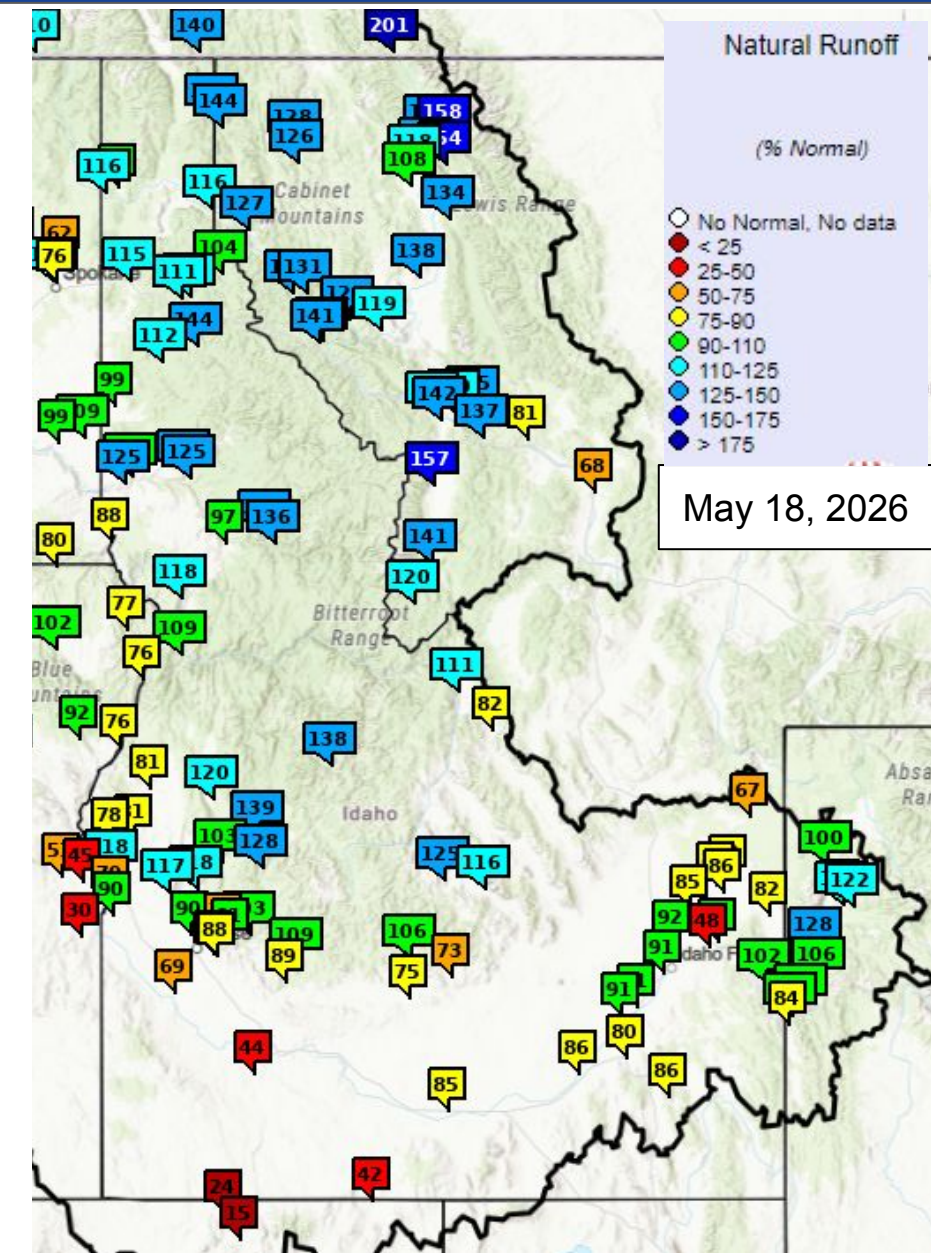
Creation Time: Monday, May 18, 2026

Northwest River Forecast Center

Division	Departure (deg F)
Snake abv American Falls	+5
Snake abv Hells Canyon Dam	+4.7
Snake abv Ice Harbor Dam	+4.4

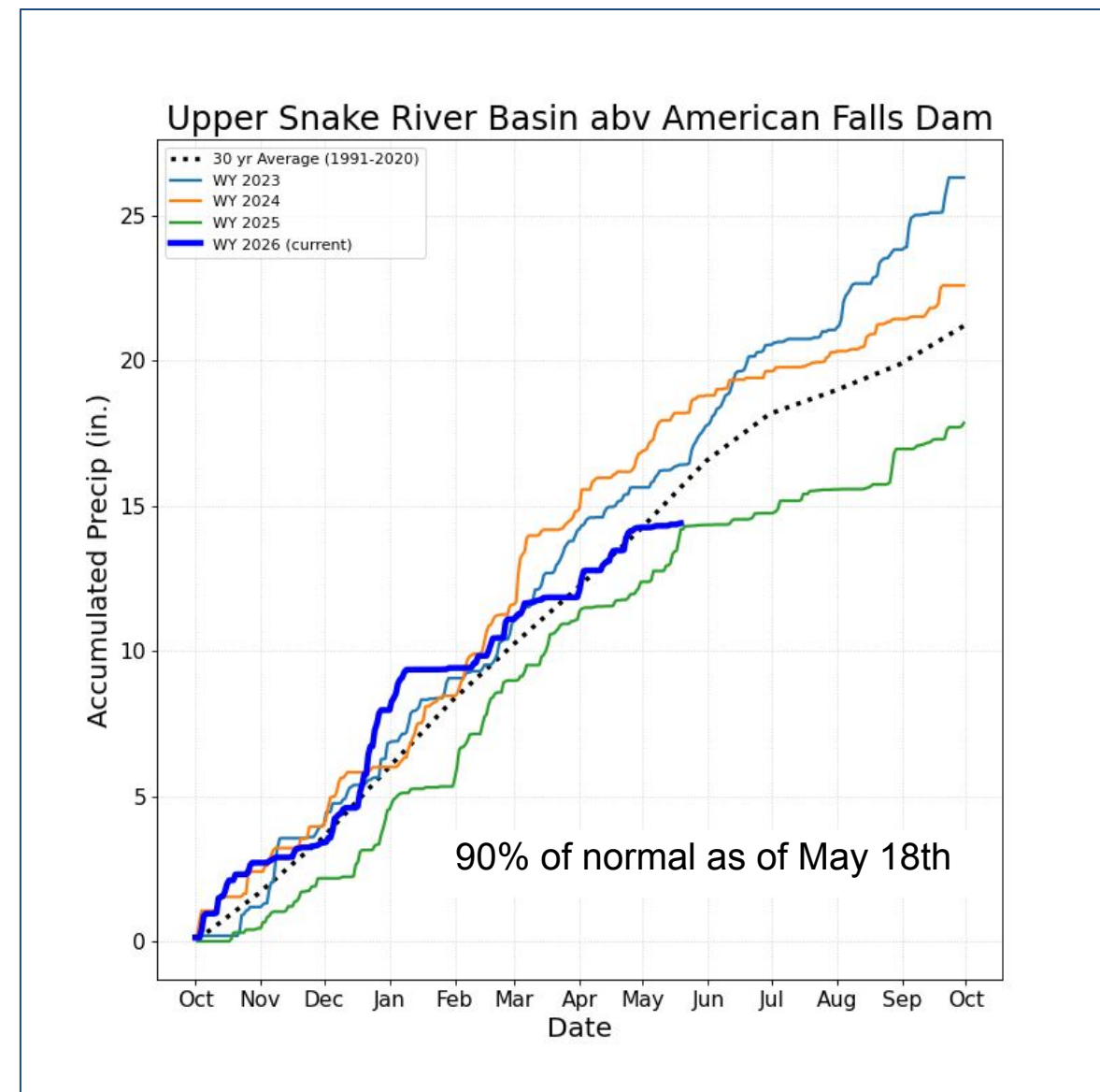
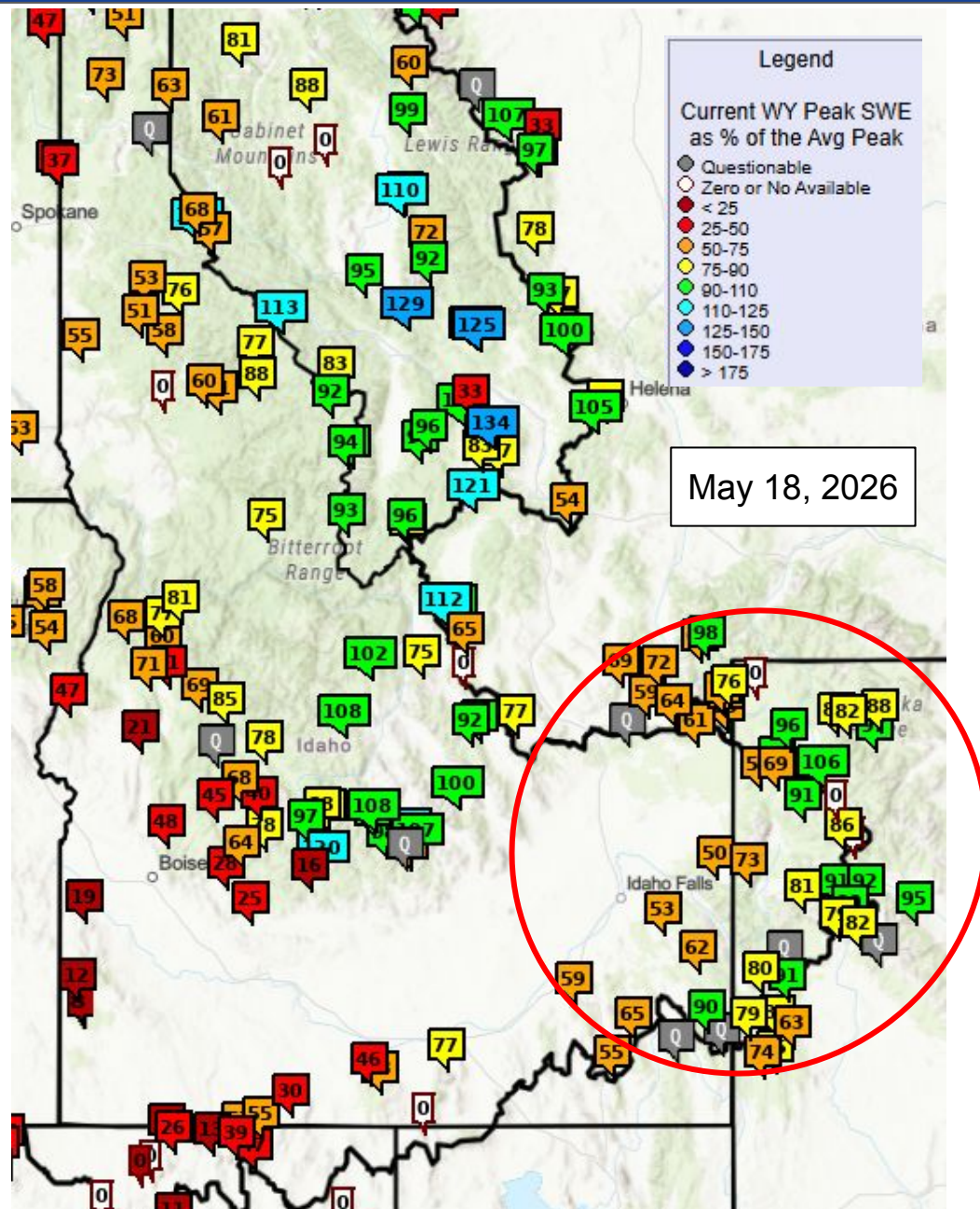


# WY 2026 Runoff and Peak Snowpack to Date (May 18)





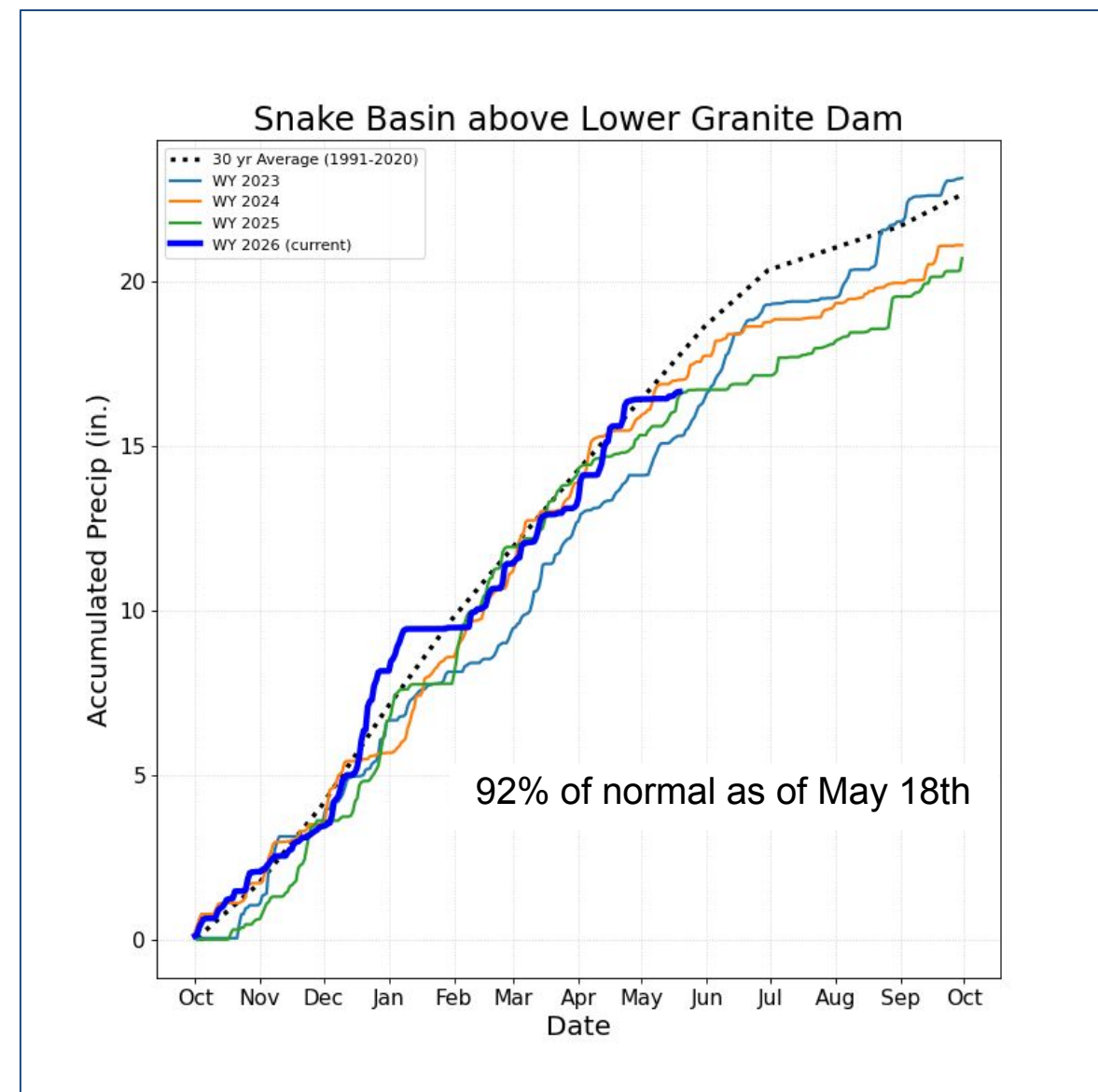
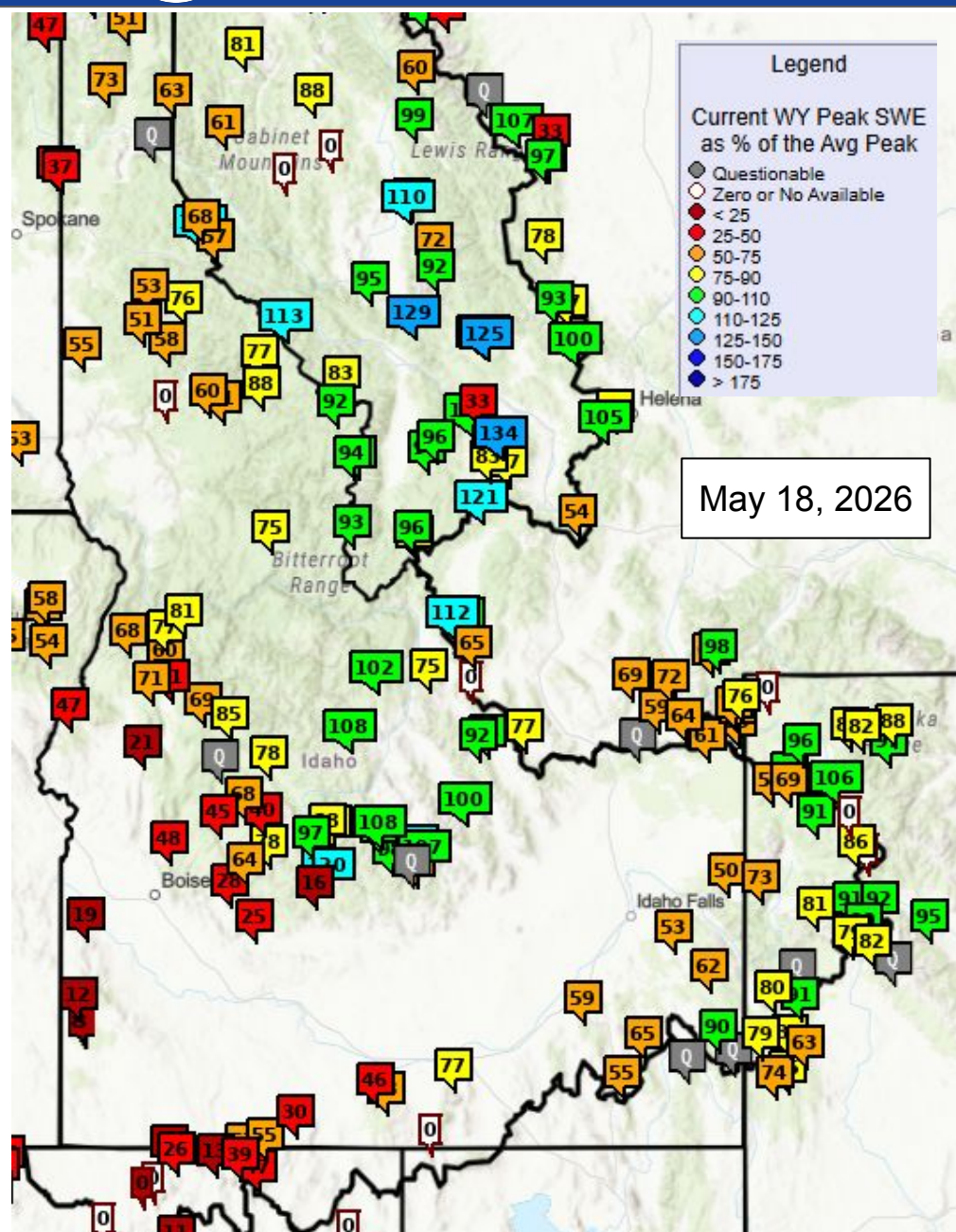
# WY 2026 Peak Snowpack and Precipitation - Upper Snake



Snow data from NRCS, BC Hydro, and Alberta Environment and Parks.  
Precip averages from PRISM OSU and PCIC.



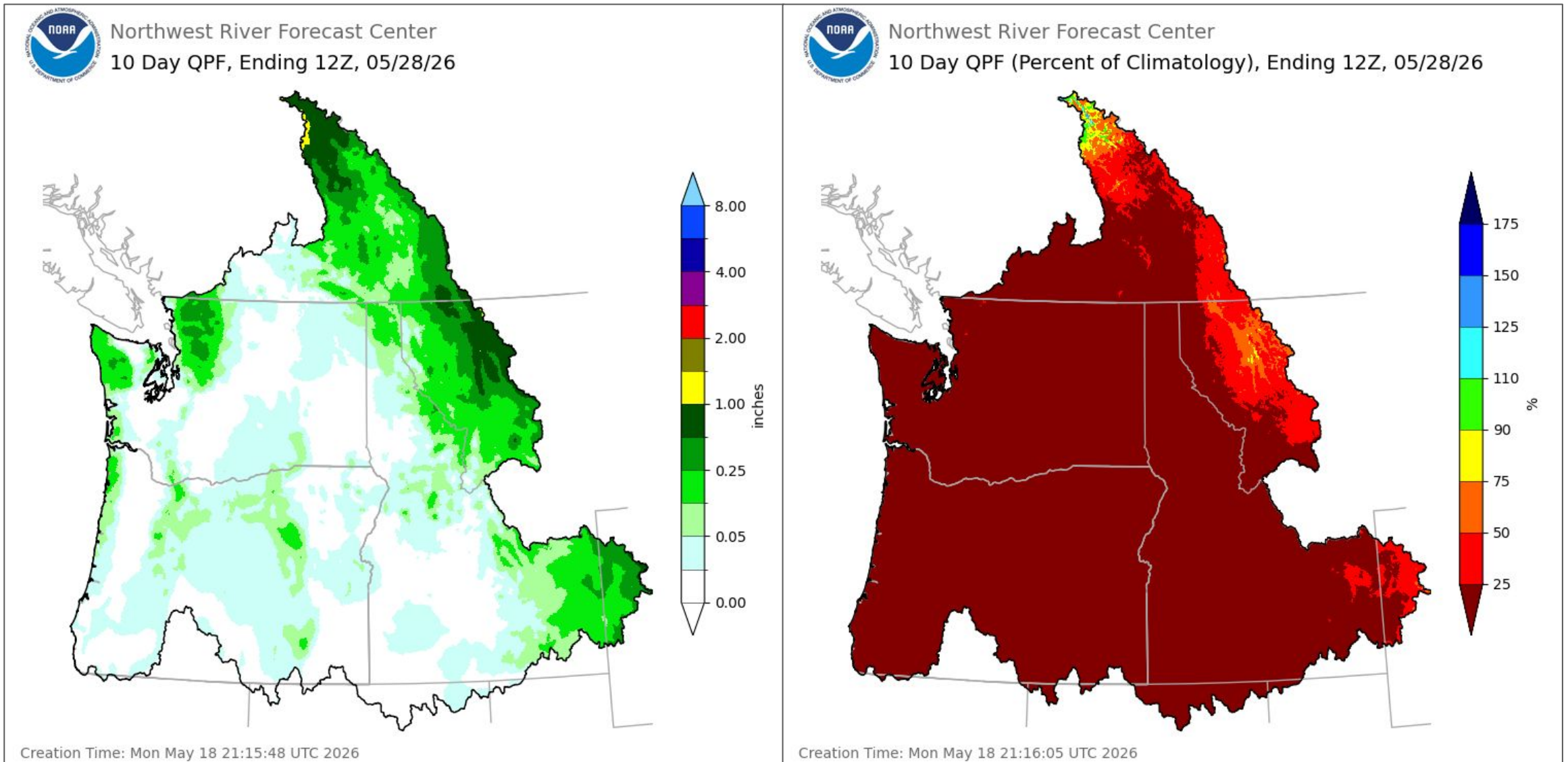
# WY 2026 Peak Snowpack and Precipitation - Snake



Snow data from NRCS, BC Hydro, and Alberta Environment and Parks.  
Precip averages from PRISM OSU and PCIC.



# 10 Day Precipitation Forecast used in ESP10 (May 18)



Quantitative Precipitation Forecast (QPF) Sources  
 Days 1 - 2 NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) in the US, WPC in BC  
 Days 3 - 7 NWS Weather Prediction Center (WPC)  
 Days 8 - 10 NWS National Blend of Models (NBM)



# ESP10 Natural Water Supply Forecast - May 18 , 2026

## SNAKE - AT AMERICAN FALLS DAM (AMFI1) Forecasts for Water Year 2026

### Natural Forecast

ESP with 10 Days QPF Ensemble: 2026-05-18 Issued: 2026-05-18

Forecast Period	Forecasts Are in KAF				30 Year Average (1991-2020)
	90 %	50 %	% Average	10 %	
APR-SEP	3529	3683	60	4116	6167
APR-JUL	2922	3031	58	3388	5266
JAN-SEP	4546	4700	65	5134	7190
JAN-JUL	3940	4049	64	4405	6289
OCT-SEP	5527	5681	69	6115	8275

### Experimental

HEFS with 15 days EQPF Ensemble: 2026-05-18 Issued: 2026-05-18

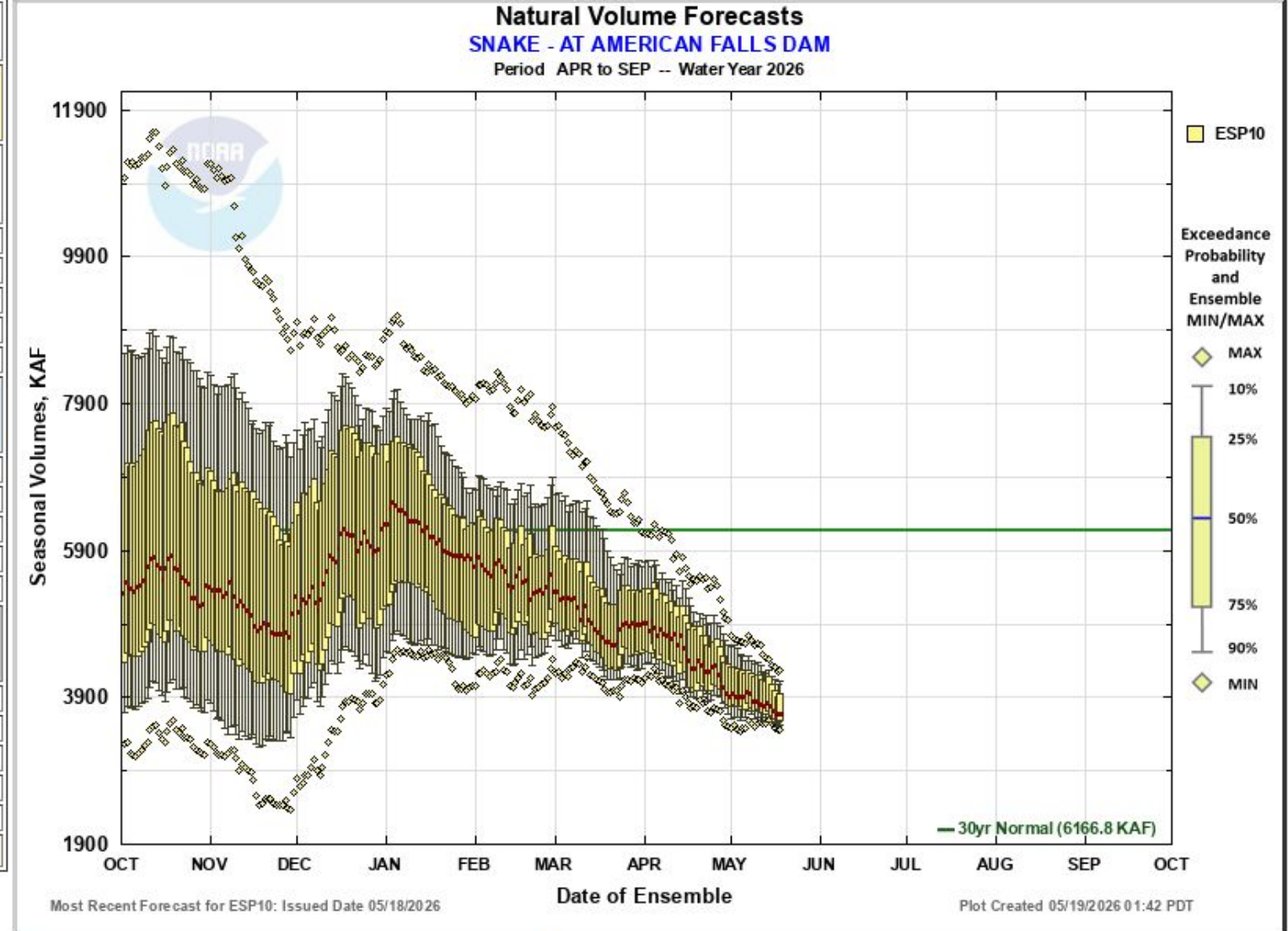
APR-SEP	3567	3711	60	4143	6167
APR-JUL	2947	3053	58	3439	5266
JAN-SEP	4585	4729	66	5160	7190
JAN-JUL	3964	4071	65	4457	6289
OCT-SEP	5566	5710	69	6141	8275

### Reference

ESP with 0 Days QPF Ensemble: 2026-05-18 Issued: 2026-05-18

APR-SEP	3602	3875	63	4341	6167
APR-JUL	2977	3173	60	3604	5266
JAN-SEP	4620	4893	68	5359	7190
JAN-JUL	3995	4191	67	4622	6289
OCT-SEP	5601	5874	71	6340	8275

Move the mouse over the desired "Forecast Period" to display a graph.



☒ Max Scale ☐ Scale To Data ☐ Scale To Last 45 Days ☒ Show Min/Max Ensemble Volume ☐ Show Tooltips Help



# ESP10 Natural Water Supply Forecast - May 18 , 2026

## BOISE - LUCKY PEAK DAM (LUC1) Forecasts for Water Year 2026

### Natural Forecast

ESP with 10 Days QPF Ensemble: 2026-05-18 Issued: 2026-05-18

Forecast Period	Forecasts Are in KAF				30 Year Average (1991-2020)
	90 %	50 %	% Average	10 %	
APR-SEP	688	701	53	766	1326
APR-JUL	623	631	51	693	1230
JAN-SEP	1009	1022	62	1087	1643
JAN-JUL	944	952	62	1014	1547
OCT-SEP	1231	1243	68	1308	1816

### Experimental

HEFS with 15 days EQPF Ensemble: 2026-05-18 Issued: 2026-05-18

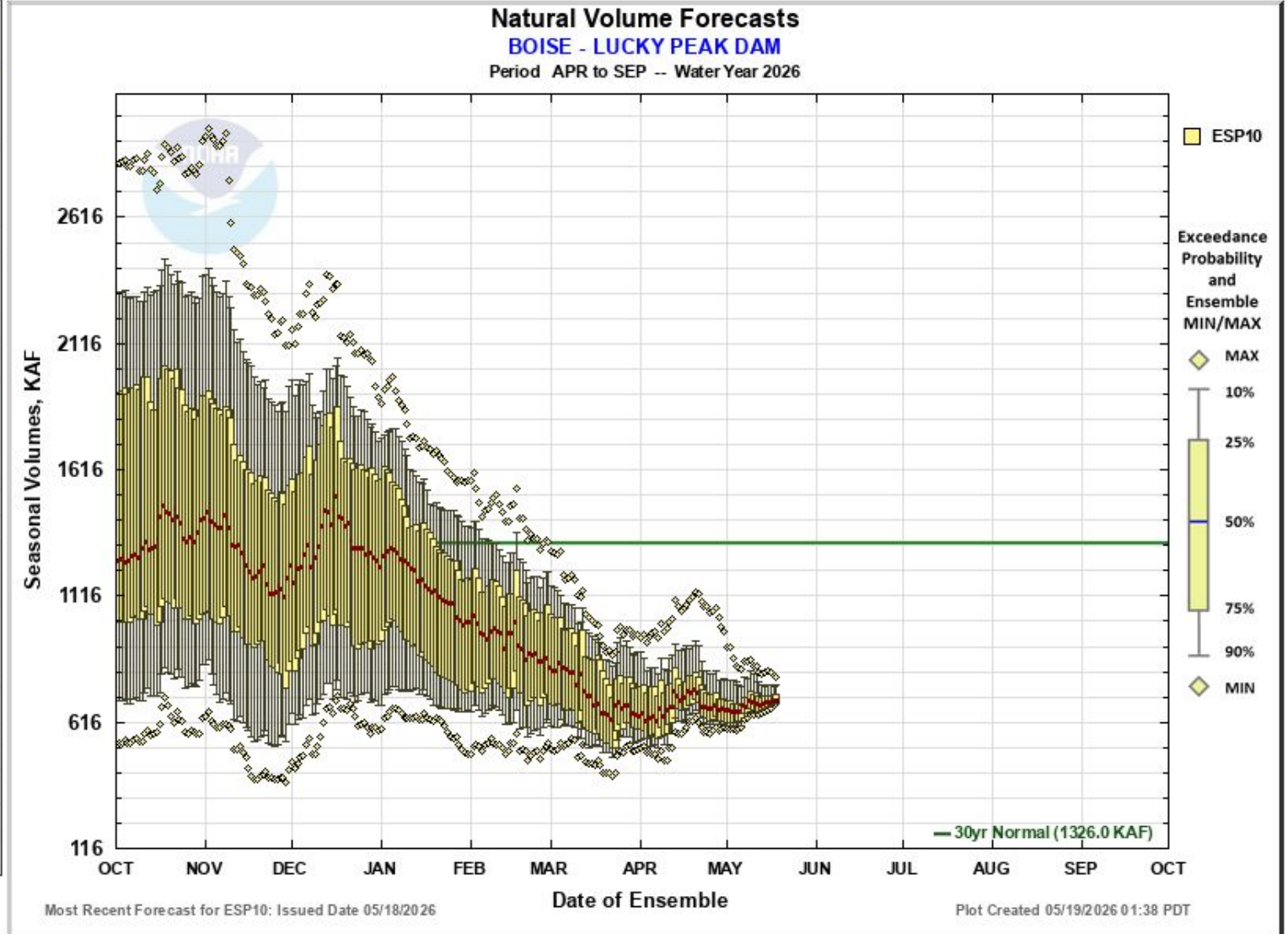
APR-SEP	689	701	53	762	1326
APR-JUL	623	630	51	689	1230
JAN-SEP	1010	1022	62	1083	1643
JAN-JUL	944	951	62	1010	1547
OCT-SEP	1231	1243	68	1304	1816

### Reference

ESP with 0 Days QPF Ensemble: 2026-05-18 Issued: 2026-05-18

APR-SEP	695	731	55	833	1326
APR-JUL	626	662	54	752	1230
JAN-SEP	1016	1052	64	1154	1643
JAN-JUL	947	983	64	1073	1547
OCT-SEP	1237	1274	70	1375	1816

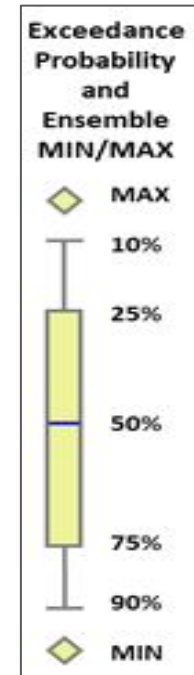
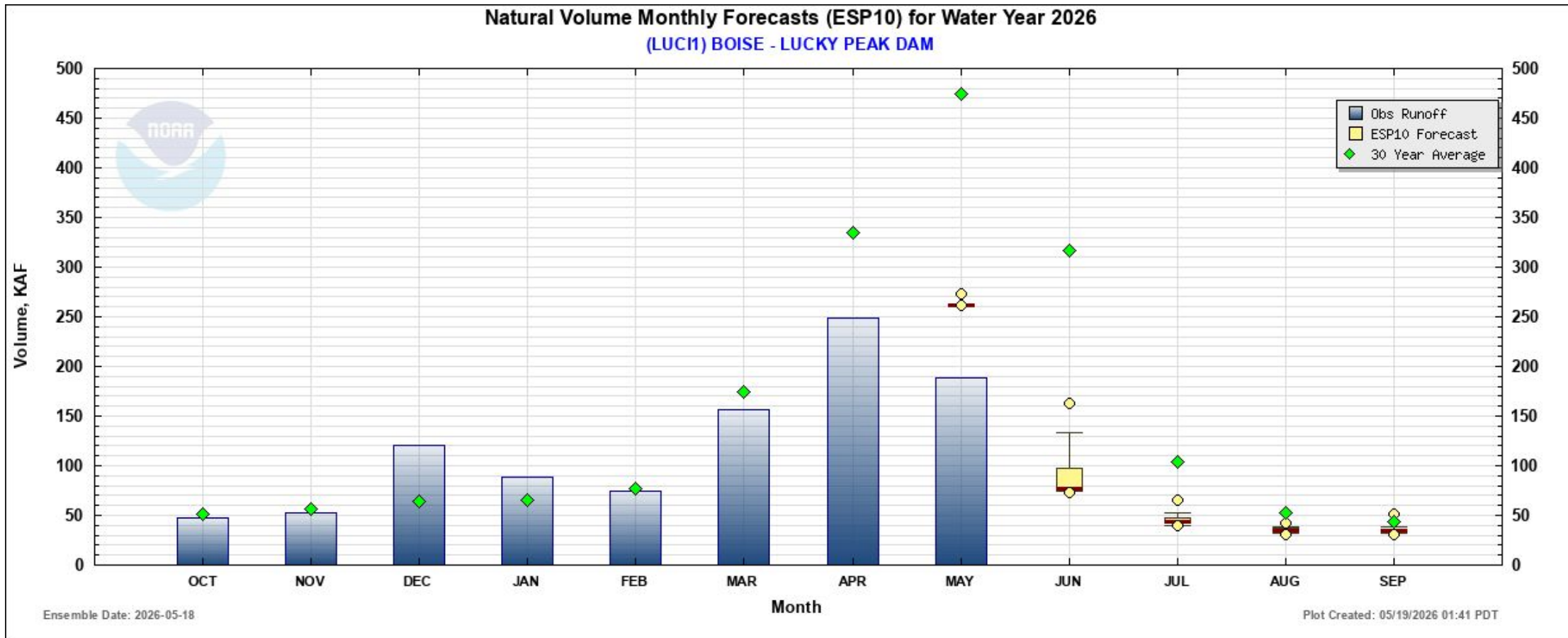
Move the mouse over the desired "Forecast Period" to display a graph.



☒ Max Scale 
 ☐ Scale To Data 
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 ☐ Show Tooltips Help



# ESP10 Natural Water Supply Forecast - May 18 , 2026







# ESP10 Natural Water Supply Forecast - May 18 , 2026

## SNAKE - LOWER GRANITE DAM (LGDW1) Forecasts for Water Year 2026

### Natural Forecast

ESP with 10 Days QPF Ensemble: 2026-05-18 Issued: 2026-05-18

Forecast Period	Forecasts Are in KAF				30 Year Average (1991-2020)
	90 %	50 %	% Average	10 %	
APR-SEP	15704	16342	68	17532	23929
APR-JUL	13665	14225	66	15407	21589
APR-AUG	14678	15227	67	16492	22827
JAN-SEP	23576	24214	77	25404	31446
JAN-JUL	21537	22097	76	23279	29106
OCT-SEP	28957	29595	82	30785	35973

### Experimental

HEFS with 15 days EQPF Ensemble: 2026-05-18 Issued: 2026-05-18

APR-SEP	15719	16358	68	17518	23929
APR-JUL	13695	14228	66	15397	21589
APR-AUG	14690	15223	67	16478	22827
JAN-SEP	23591	24230	77	25390	31446
JAN-JUL	21567	22100	76	23269	29106
OCT-SEP	28971	29610	82	30771	35973

### Reference

ESP with 0 Days QPF Ensemble: 2026-05-18 Issued: 2026-05-18

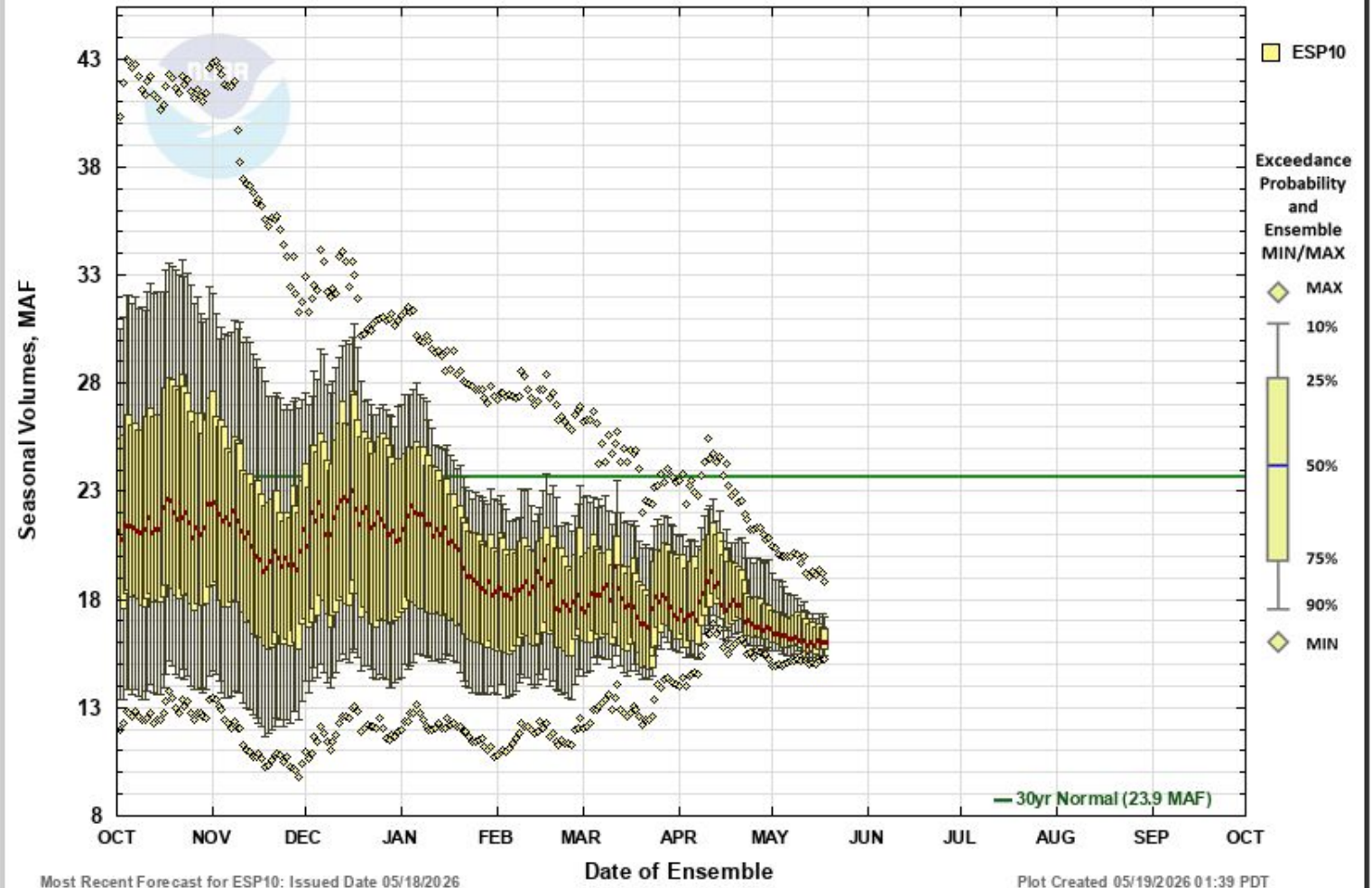
APR-SEP	16202	16994	71	19205	23929
APR-JUL	14104	14913	69	16870	21589
APR-AUG	15121	15942	70	18029	22827
JAN-SEP	24074	24866	79	27077	31446
JAN-JUL	21976	22785	78	24742	29106
OCT-SEP	29454	30247	84	32457	35973

Move the mouse over the desired "Forecast Period" to display a graph.

## Natural Volume Forecasts

### SNAKE - LOWER GRANITE DAM

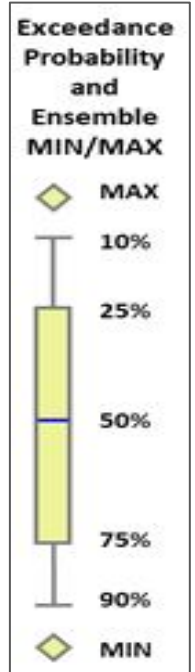
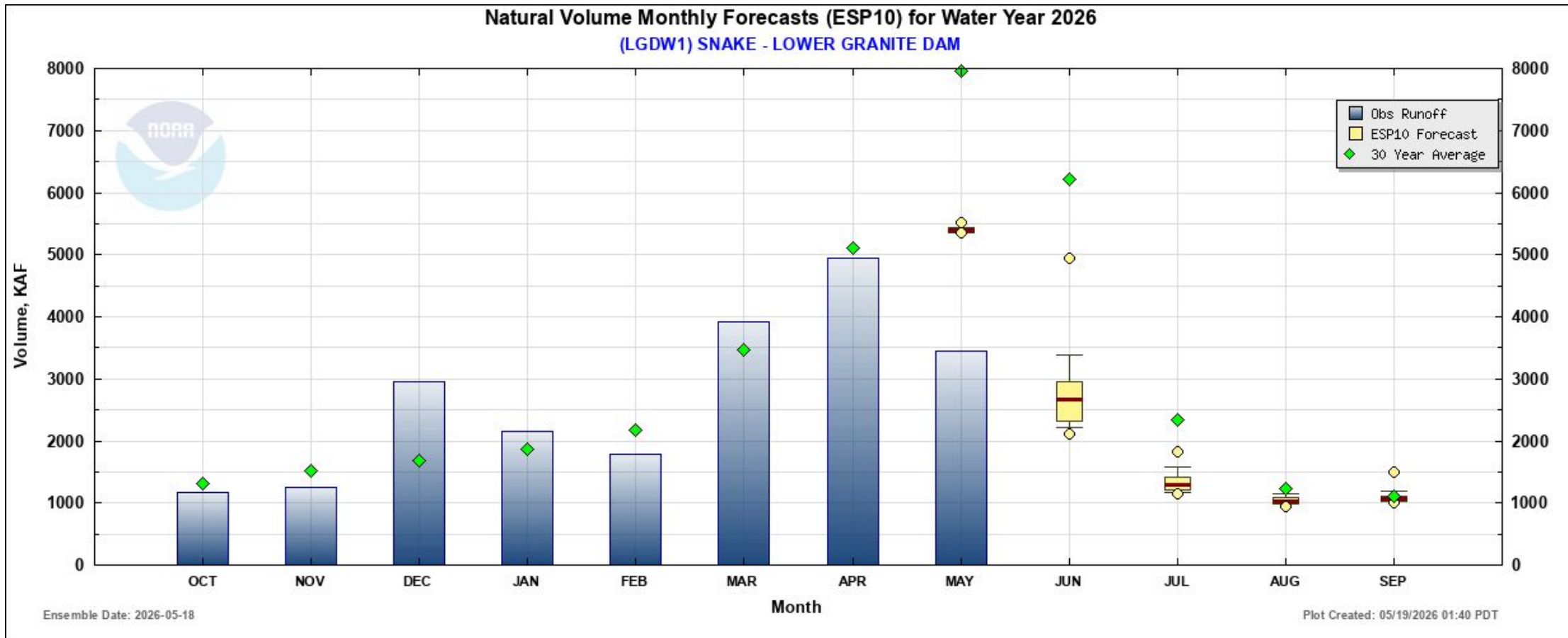
Period APR to SEP -- Water Year 2026



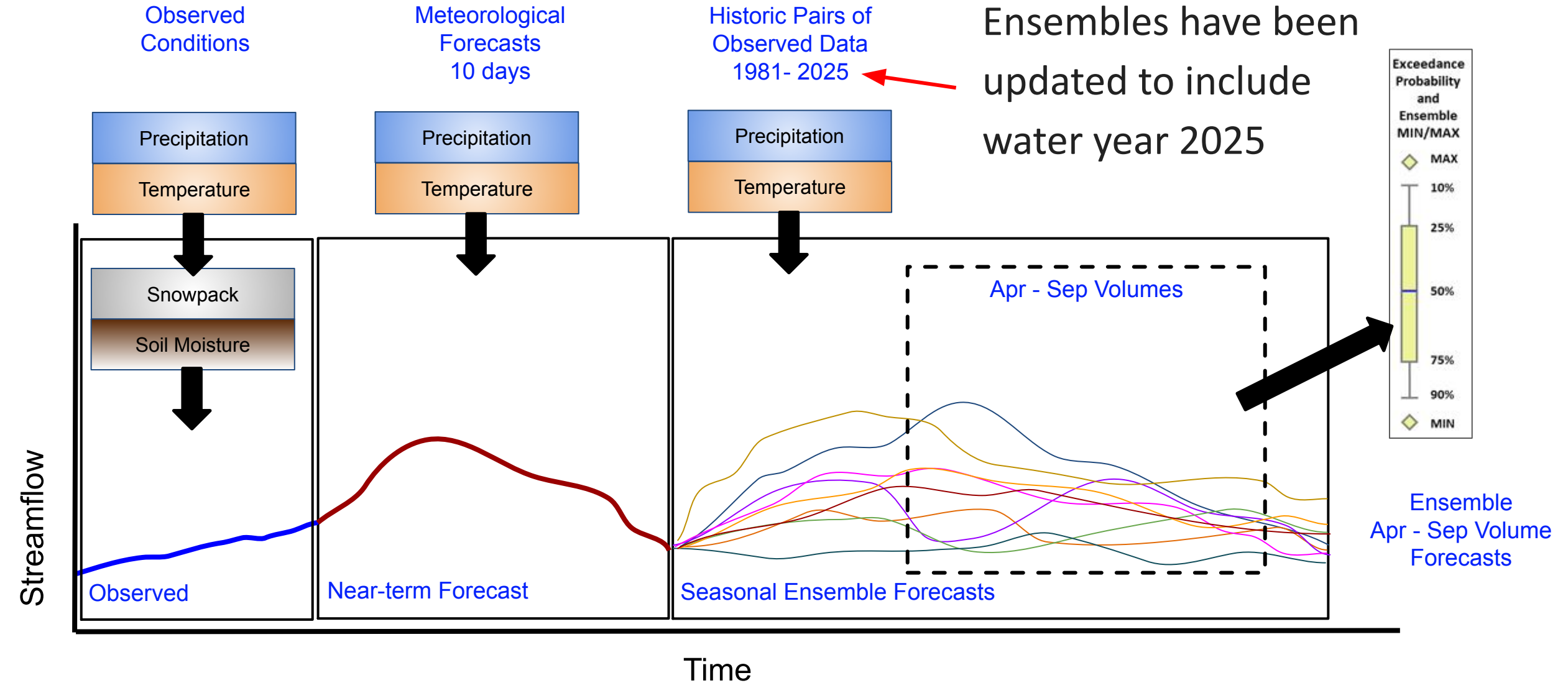
☒ Max Scale ☐ Scale To Data ☐ Scale To Last 45 Days ☒ Show Min/Max Ensemble Volume ☐ Show Tooltips Help

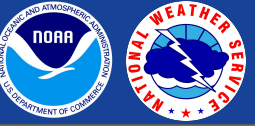


# ESP10 Natural Water Supply Forecast - May 18 , 2026









## Questions ?

Email: [NWRFC.watersupply@noaa.gov](mailto:NWRFC.watersupply@noaa.gov)

Website: <https://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/rfc/>