



AGENDA

IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Upper Snake River Advisory Committee Meeting No. 12-25

Thursday, December 11, 2025

10:00 a.m. (MST)

Brad Little
Governor

Jeff Raybould
Chairman
St. Anthony
At Large

Jo Ann Cole-Hansen
Vice Chair
Lewiston
At Large

Dean Stevenson
Secretary
Paul
District 3

Dale Van Stone
Hope
District 1

Albert Barker
Boise
District 2

Brian Olmstead
Twin Falls
At Large

Marcus Gibbs
Grace
District 4

Patrick McMahon
Sun Valley
At Large

Meeting Location(s):

BOISE
Water Center
Conf. Room 602B
322 E. Front St.

IDAHO FALLS
Eastern Regional Office
Main Conference Room
900 N. Skyline Dr.

or

VIDEO conference via Zoom is available upon following the Zoom link login process, contact Neal.Farmer@idwr.idaho.gov for questions or issues in advance of the meeting start time.

-
1. Introductions and Attendance
 2. Weather Forecast (NOAA)
 3. Snow Pack / Streamflow Forecasts (NRCS)
 4. Water Supply / Operations Update (USBR)
 5. Idaho Power Company
 6. Water District 01 Briefing
 7. IWRB Managed Recharge Operations
 8. New Business
 9. Adjourn

Committee Member: Brian Olmstead

Americans with Disabilities

The meeting will be held in person and online. If you require special accommodations to attend, participate in, or understand the meeting, please make advance arrangements by contacting Department staff by email Wesley.hipke@idwr.idaho.gov or by phone at (208) 287-4800.

Snowpack Update

*Upper Snake River Advisory Committee
December 11, 2025*



Presented by Erin Whorton

December 12, 2024



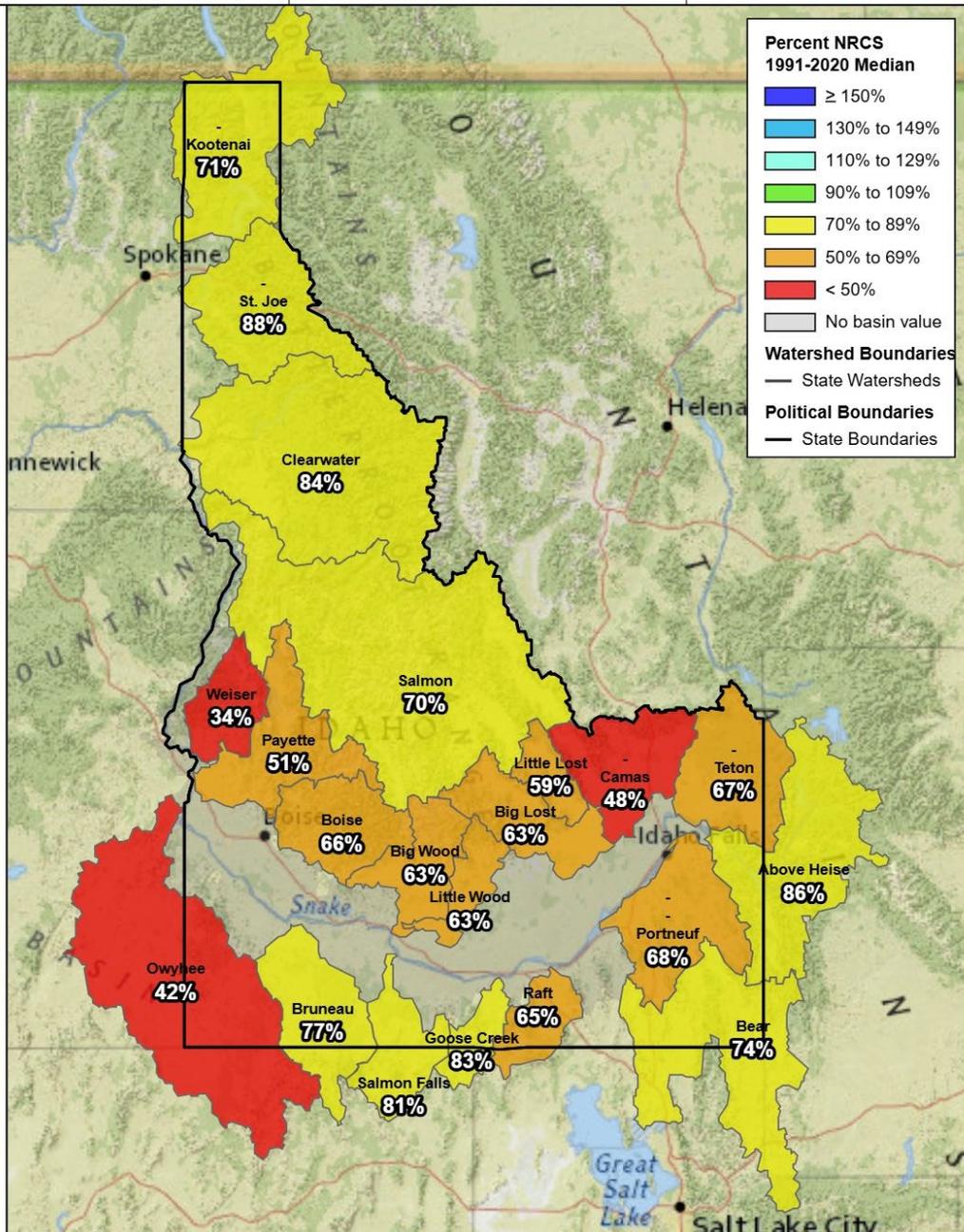
Presented by Erin Whorton



Snow Water Equivalent

Percent NRCS 1991-2020 Median

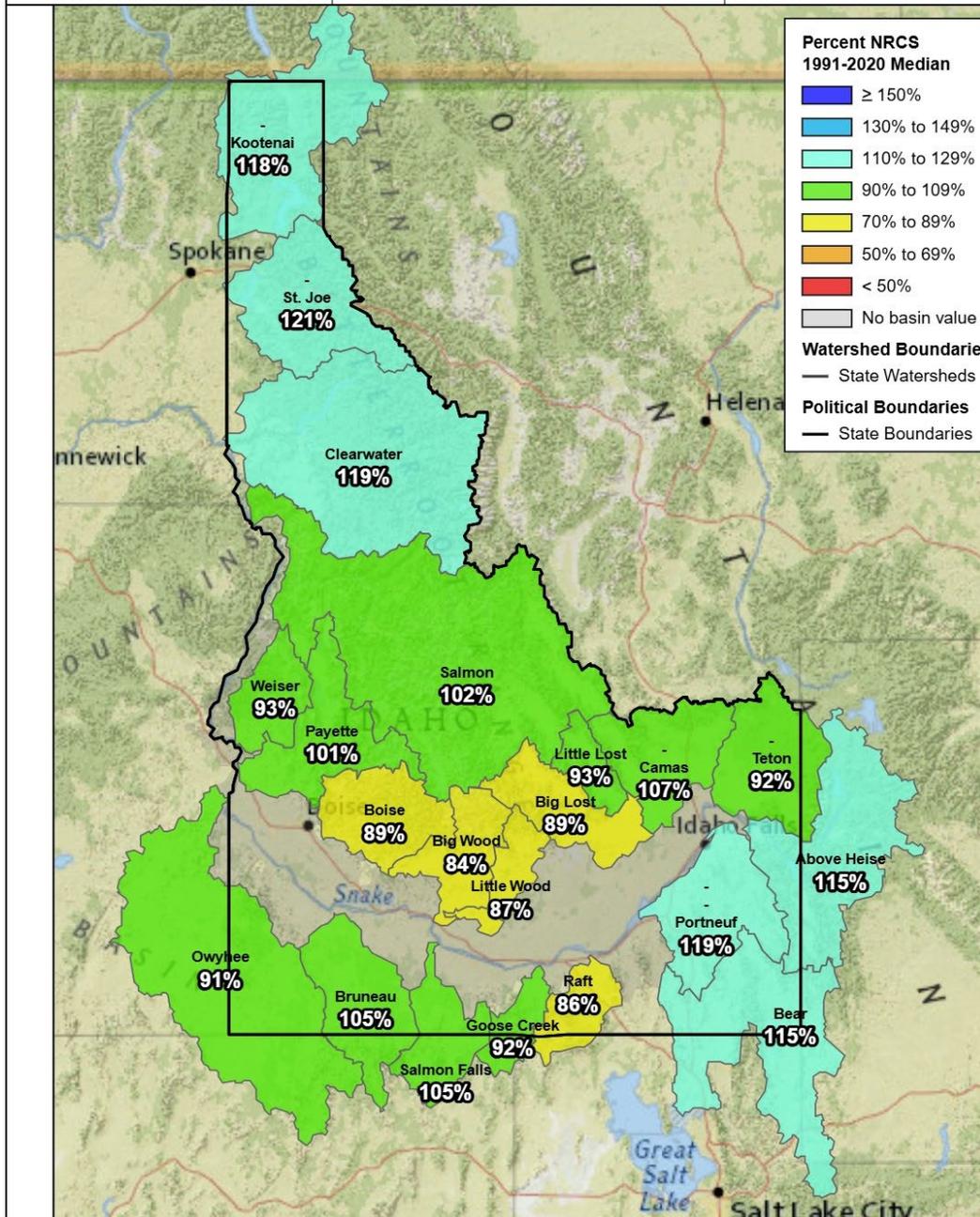
December 9, 2025, end of day



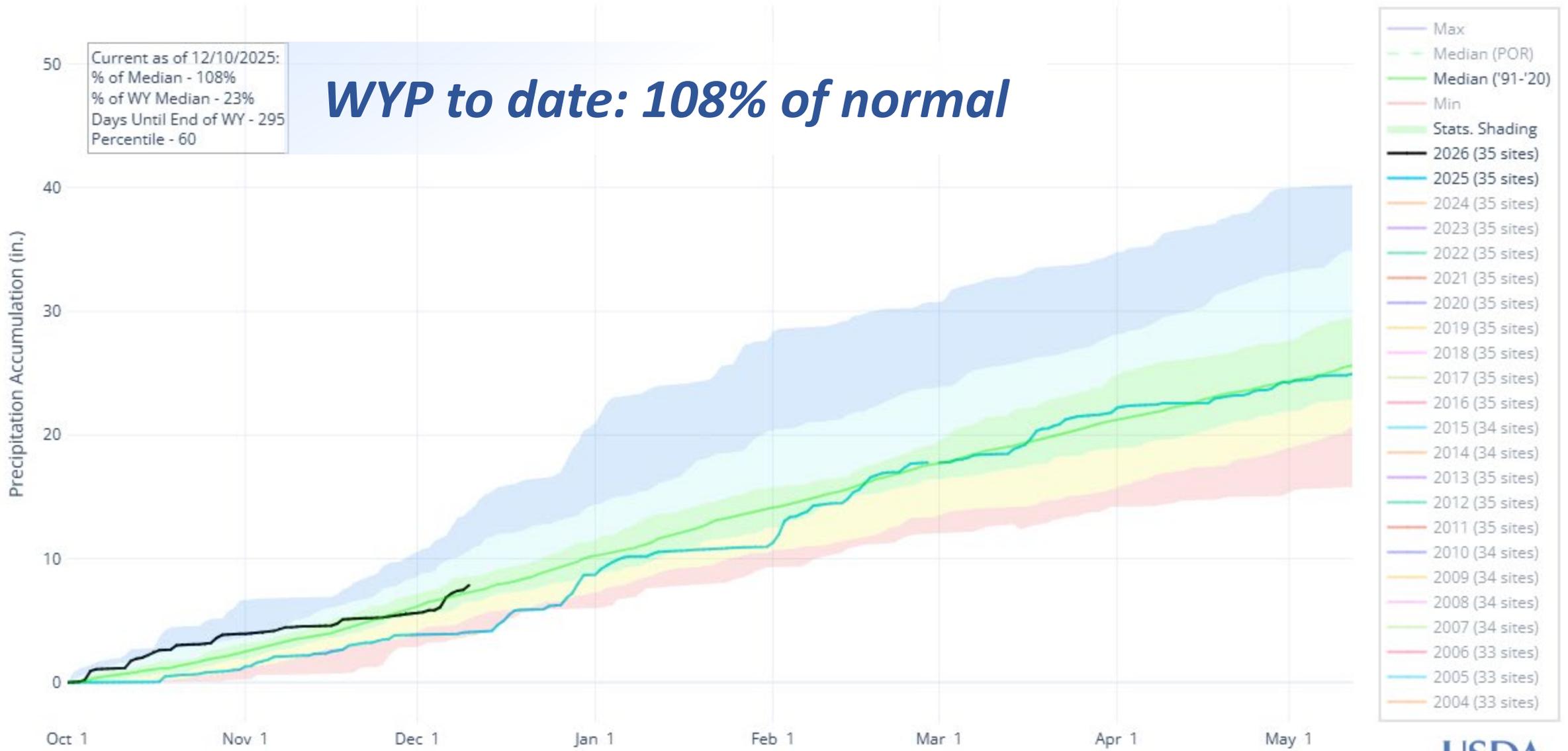
Water Year to Date Precipitation

Percent NRCS 1991-2020 Median

October 1, 2025 - December 9, 2025



Total Water Year Precipitation Above Milner



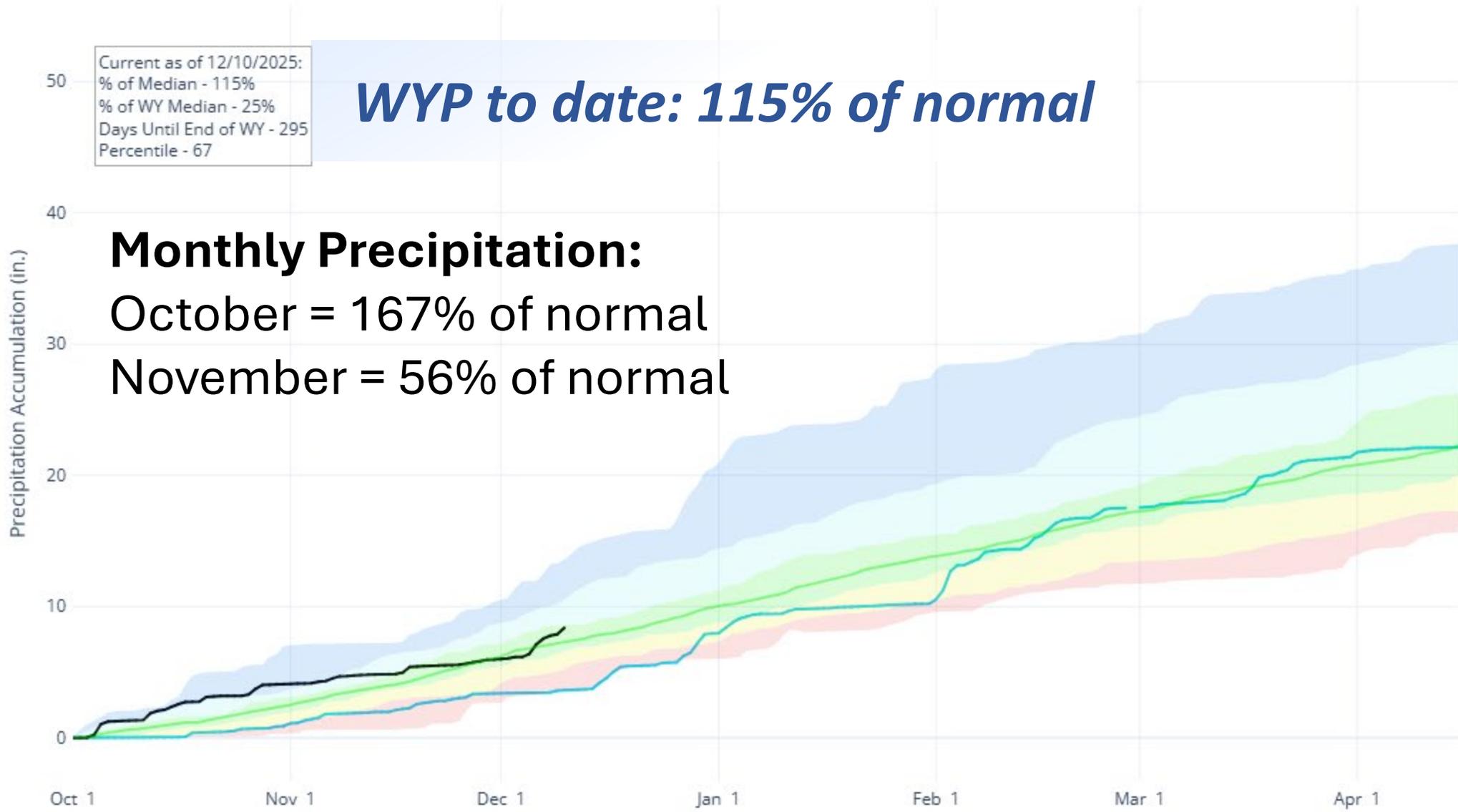
Total Water Year Precipitation Above Heise

Current as of 12/10/2025:
% of Median - 115%
% of WY Median - 25%
Days Until End of WY - 295
Percentile - 67

WYP to date: 115% of normal

- Median ('91-'20)
- Stats. Shading
- 2026 (22 sites)
- 2025 (22 sites)

Monthly Precipitation:
October = 167% of normal
November = 56% of normal



Where is all the snow?



Conditions across western U.S. ski resorts in December

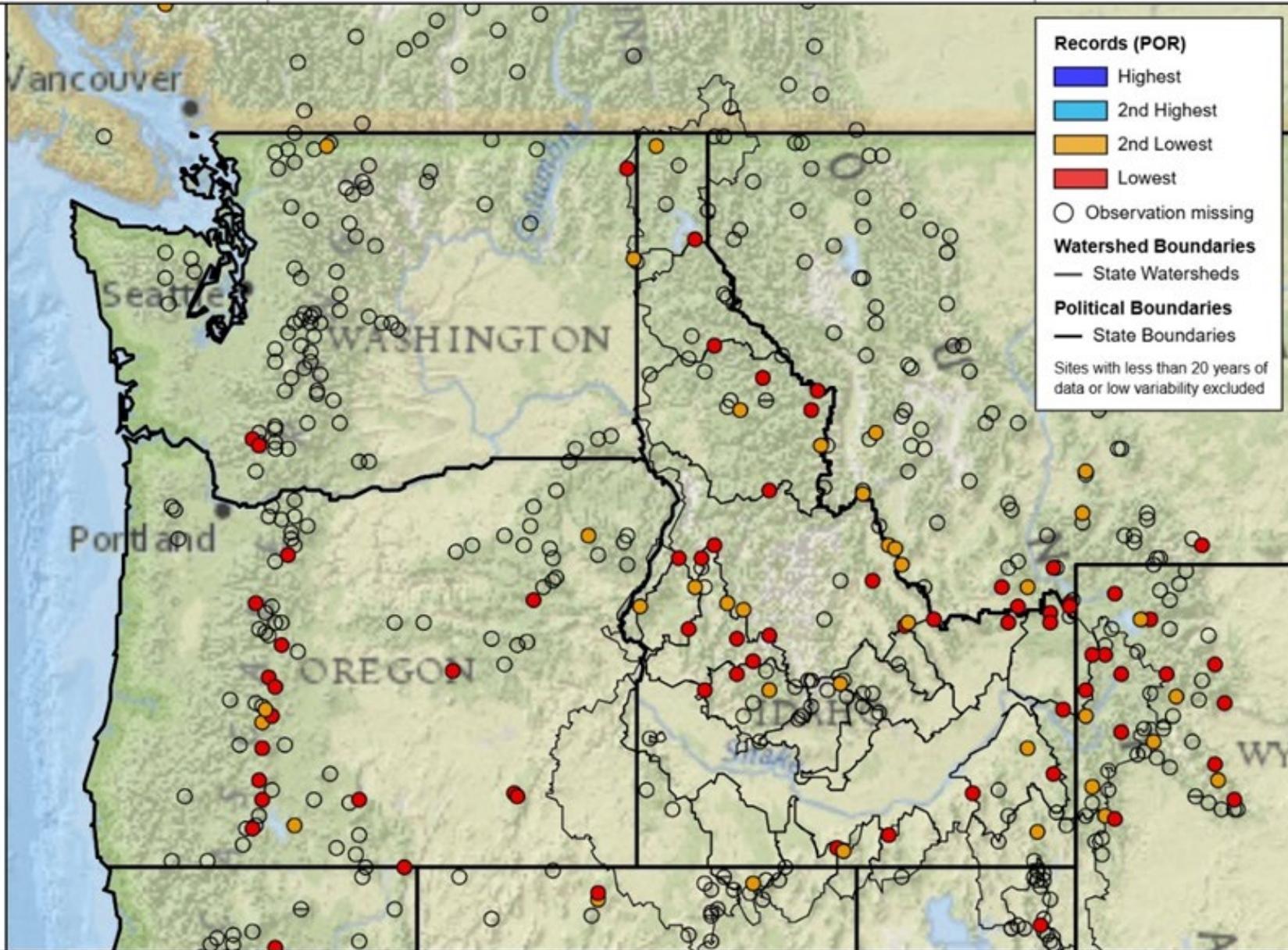


Snow Water Equivalent

Record low snowpack on December 1

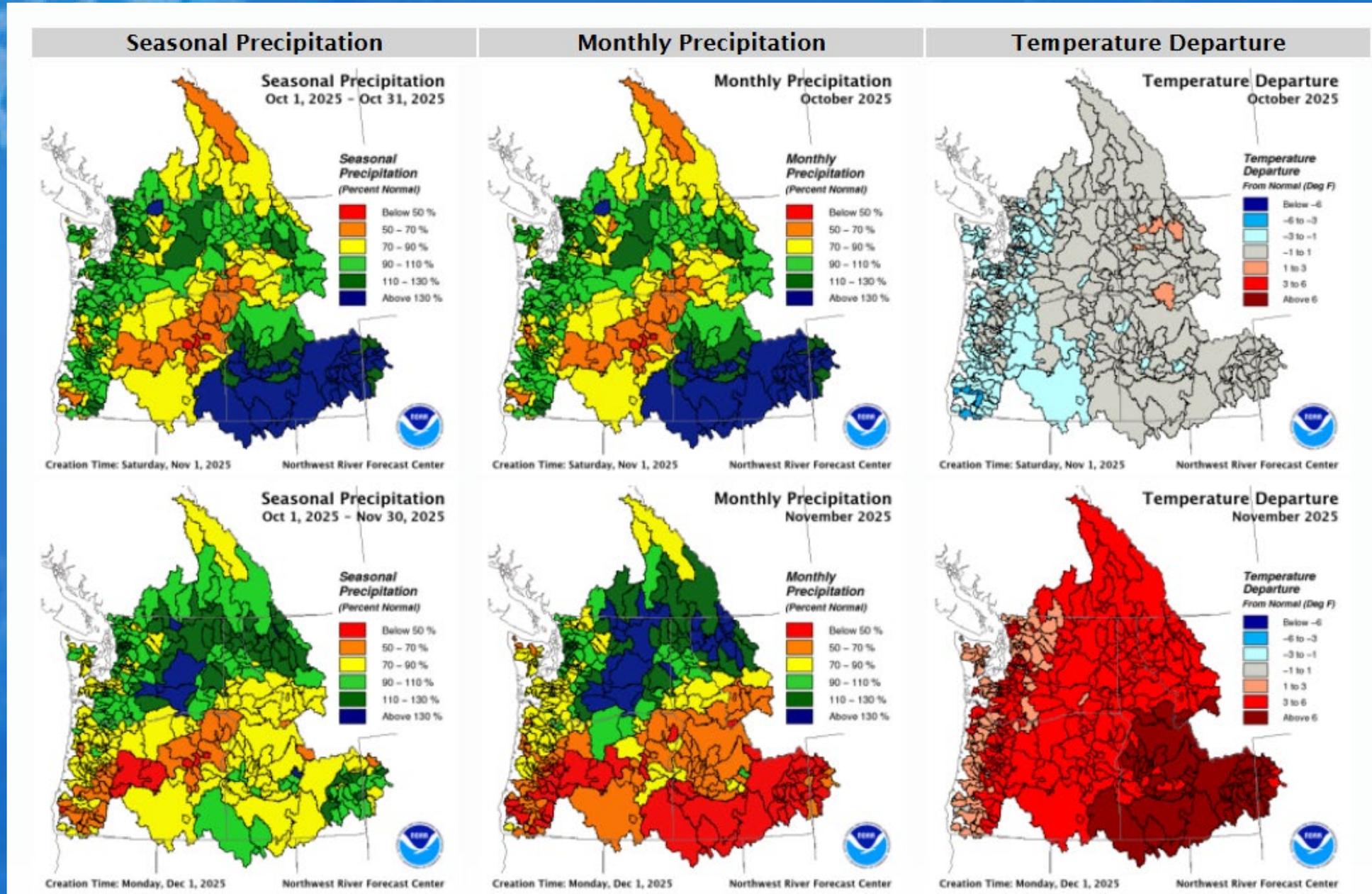
December 1, 2025, end of day

Records (POR)





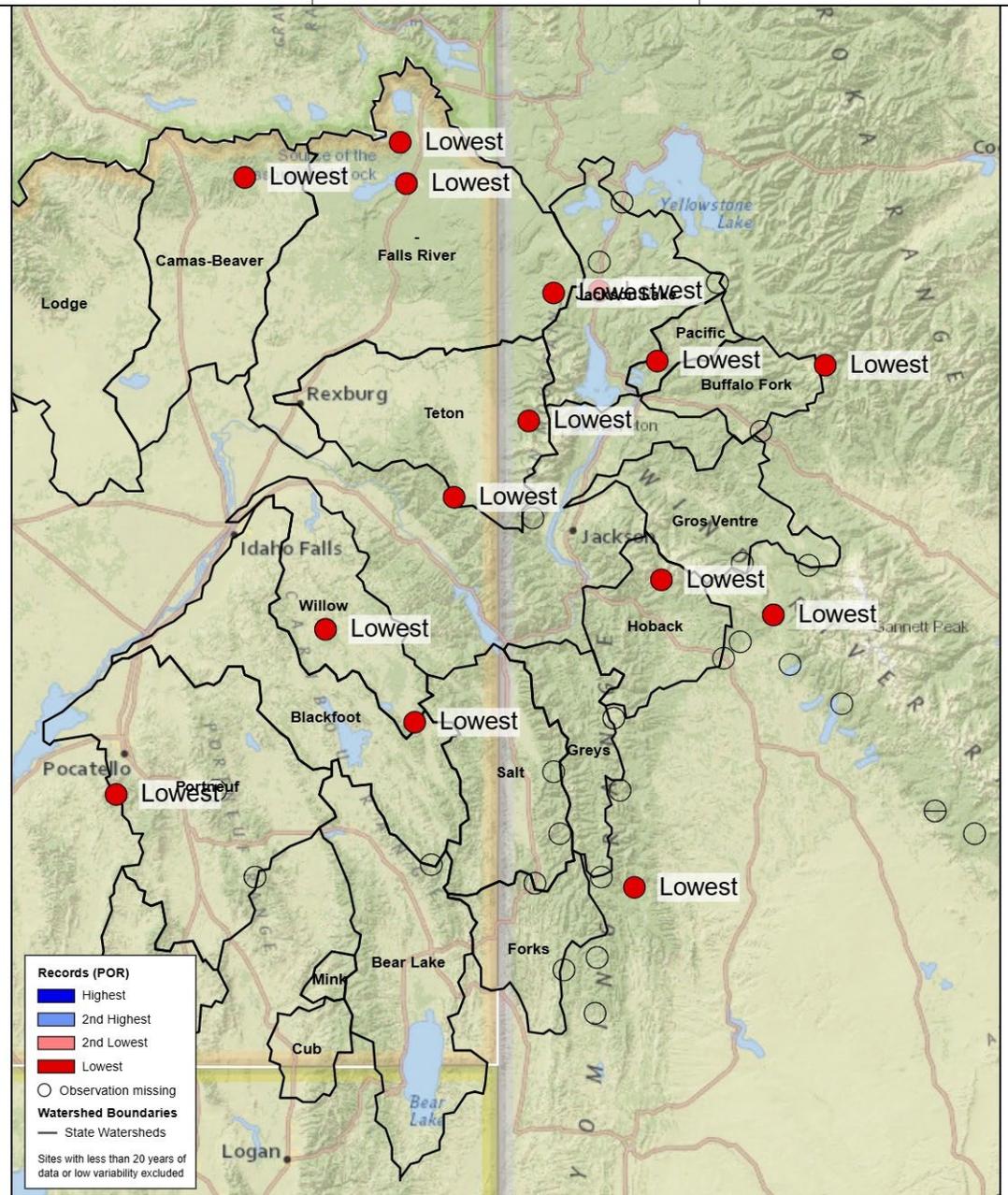
Why is water year precip near normal but the snowpack is so low?



Snow Water Equivalent

Records (POR)

December 1, 2025, first of day

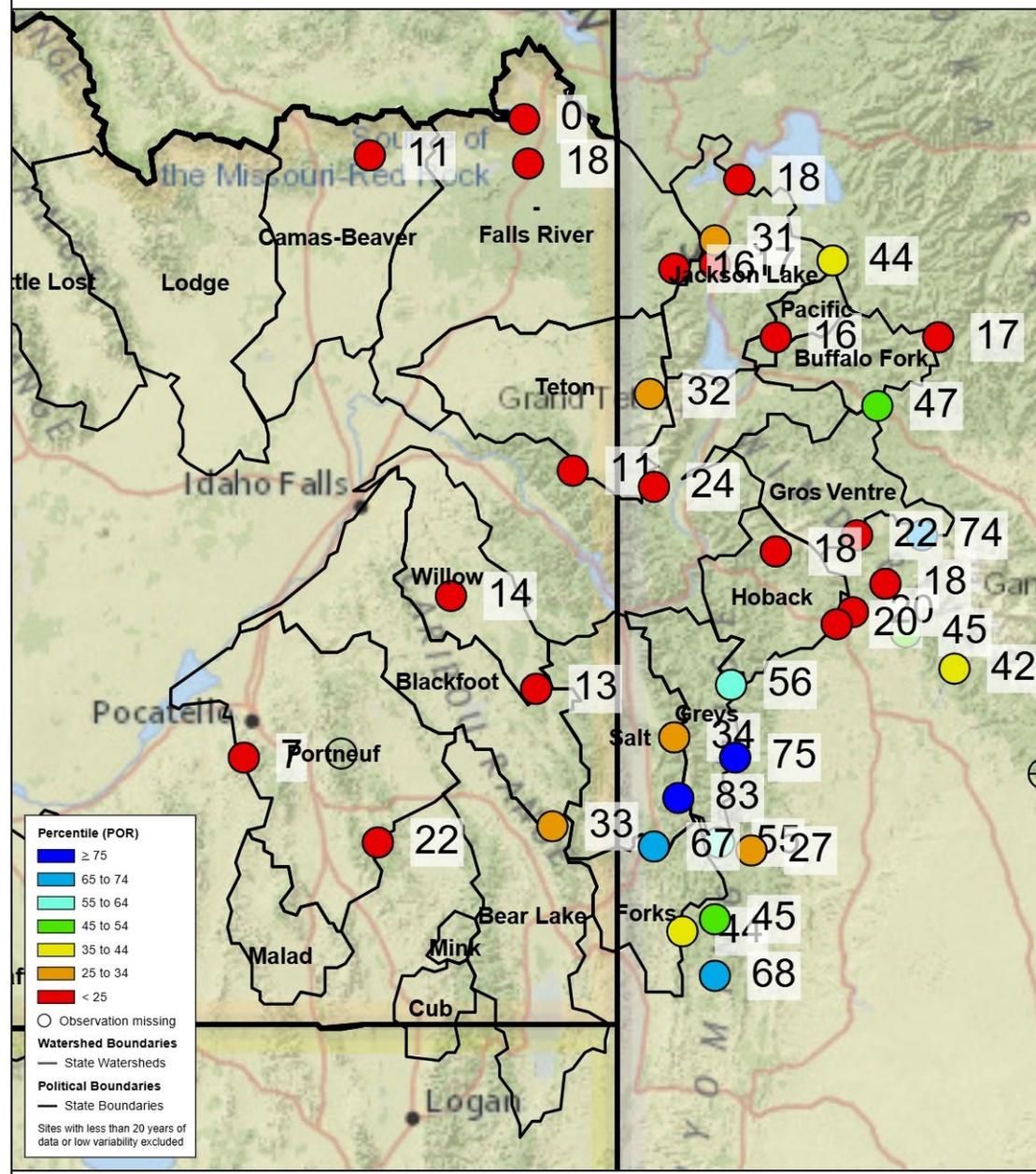


Snow Water Equivalent

SWE station percentile

Percentile (POR)

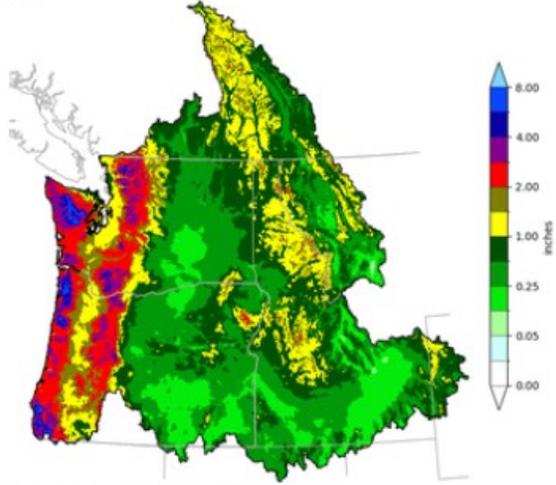
December 11, 2025, first of day



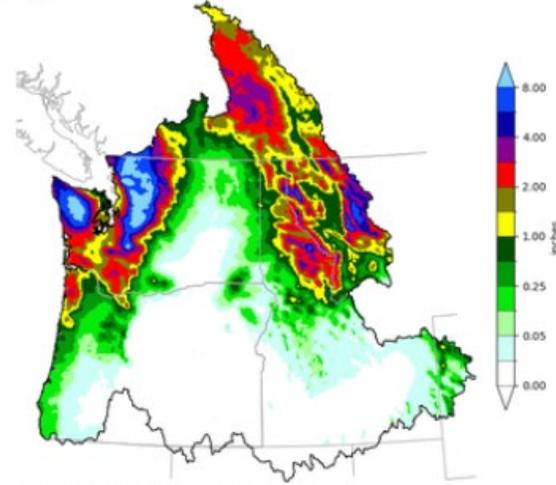
How will the snowpack develop over the next 5 to 10 days?

5 Day Forecast Precipitation: Volume Analysis

Northwest River Forecast Center
5 Day Precipitation Climatology, Ending 12Z, 12/15/25

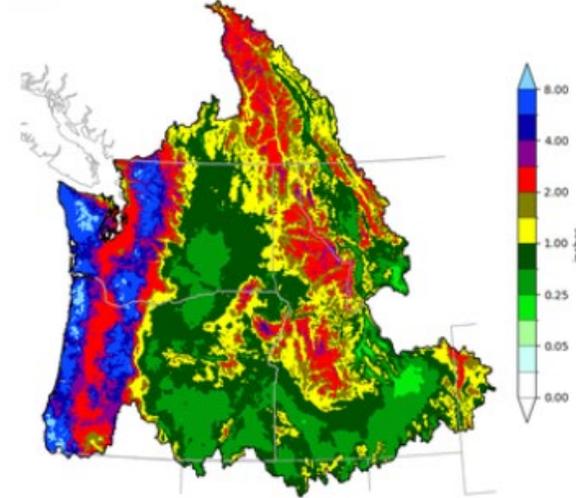


Northwest River Forecast Center
5 Day QPF, Ending 12Z, 12/15/25

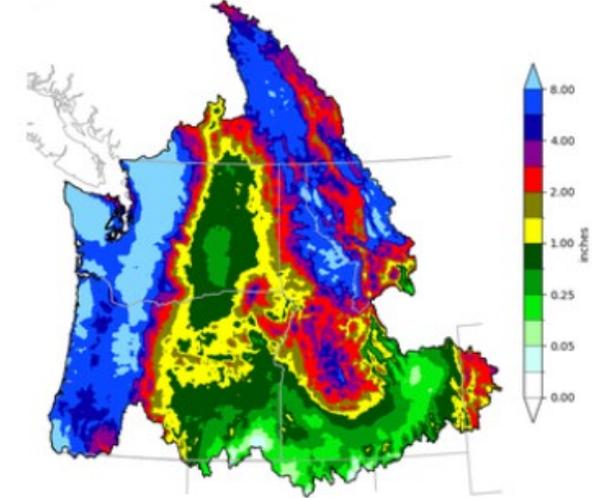


10 Day Forecast Precipitation: Volume Analysis

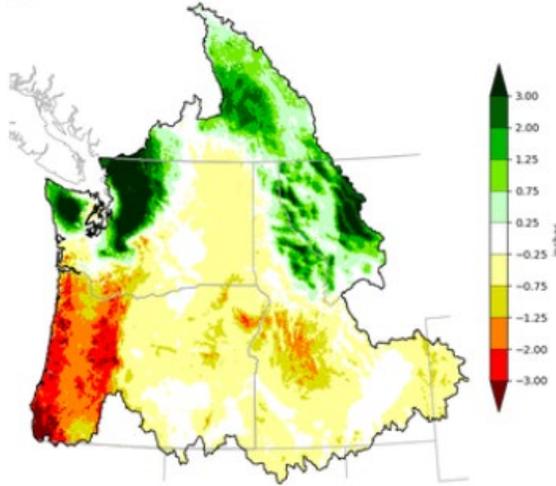
Northwest River Forecast Center
10 Day Precipitation Climatology, Ending 12Z, 12/20/25



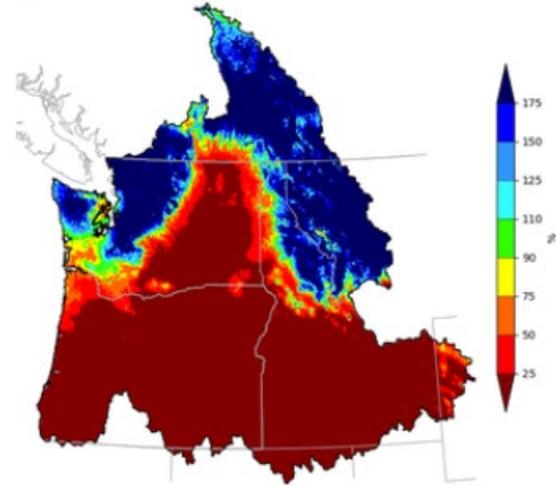
Northwest River Forecast Center
10 Day QPF, Ending 12Z, 12/20/25



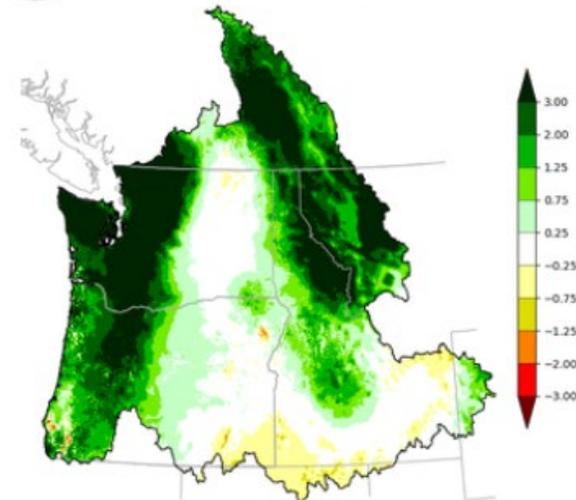
Northwest River Forecast Center
5 Day QPF (Deviation from Climatology), Ending 12Z, 12/15/25



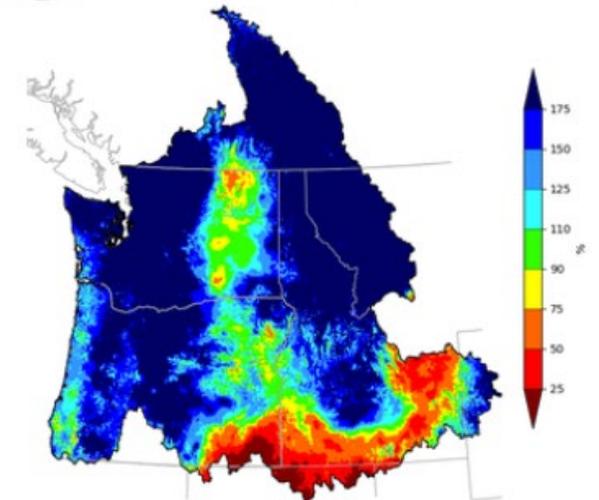
Northwest River Forecast Center
5 Day QPF (Percent of Climatology), Ending 12Z, 12/15/25



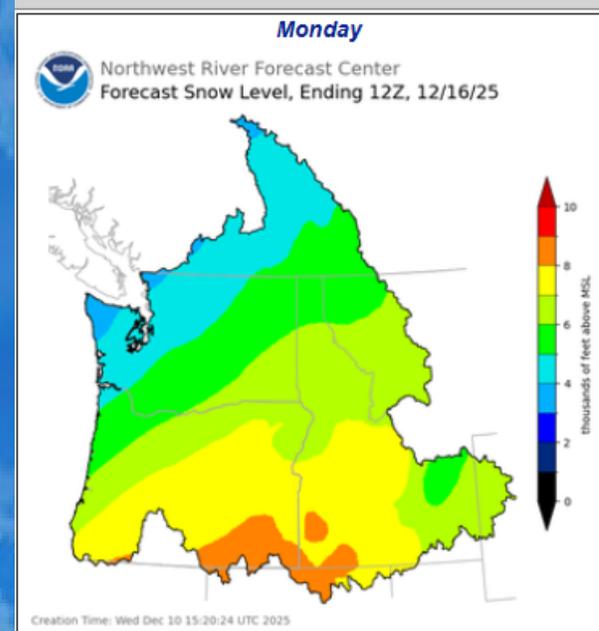
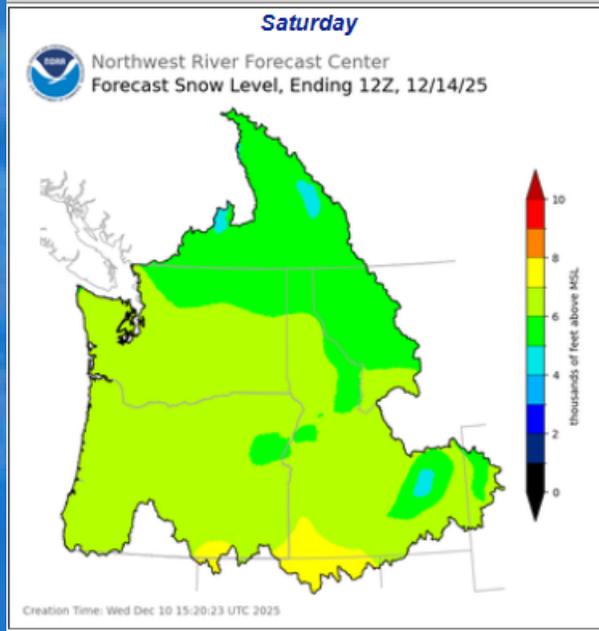
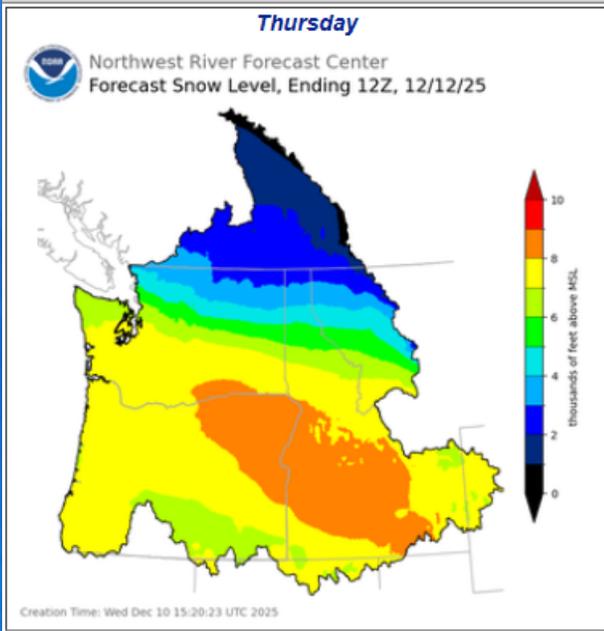
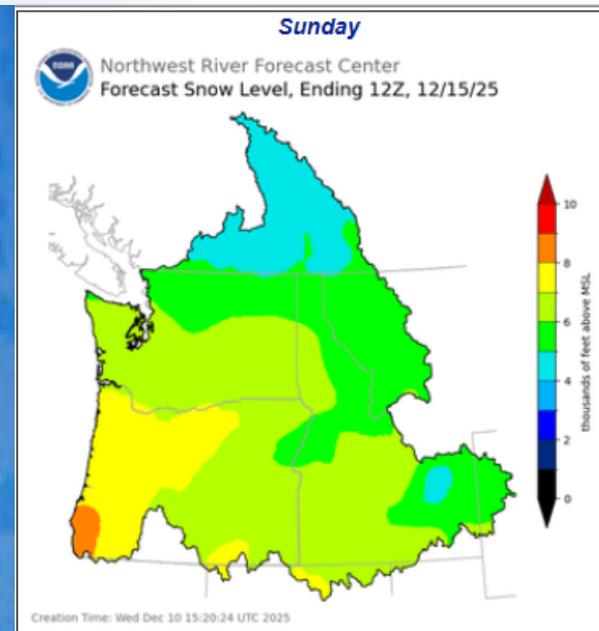
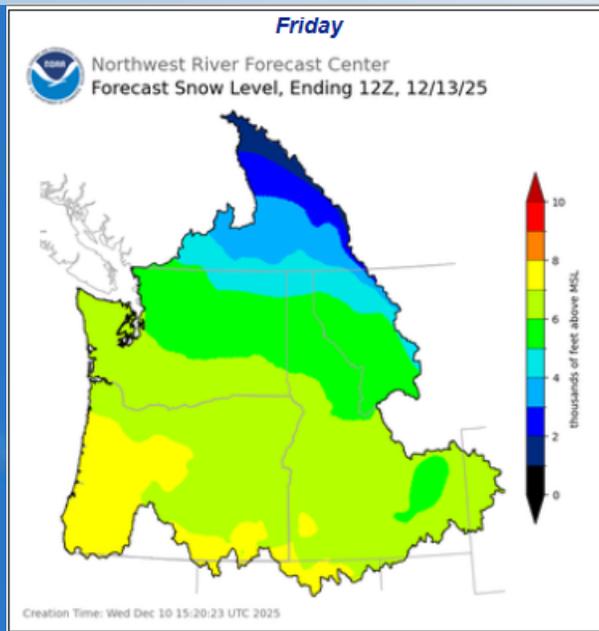
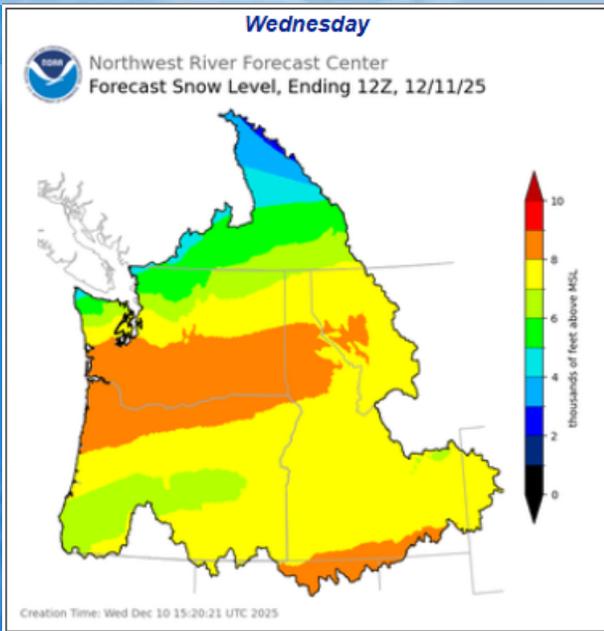
Northwest River Forecast Center
10 Day QPF (Deviation from Climatology), Ending 12Z, 12/20/25



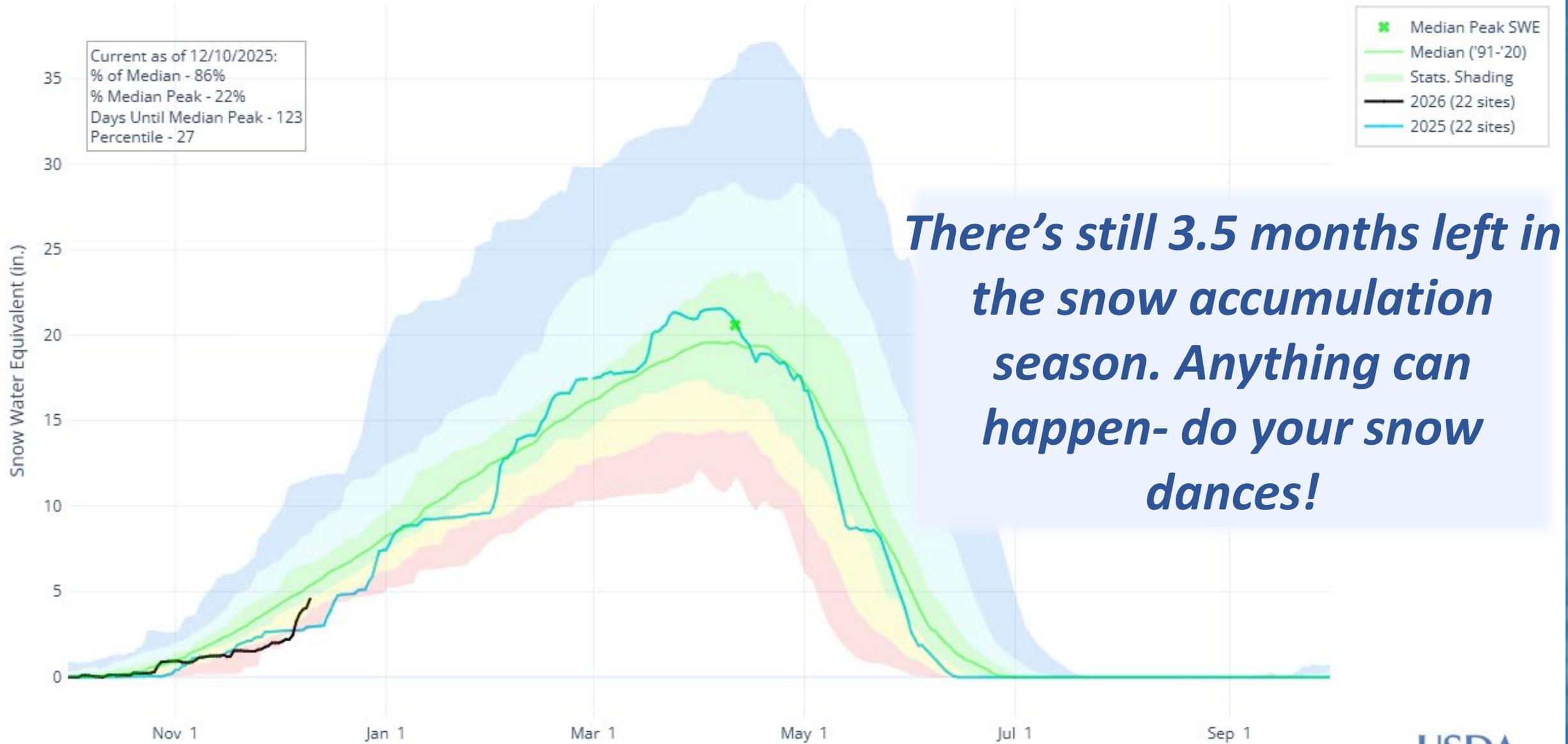
Northwest River Forecast Center
10 Day QPF (Percent of Climatology), Ending 12Z, 12/20/25



Warm temperatures: mostly rain except at the highest elevations

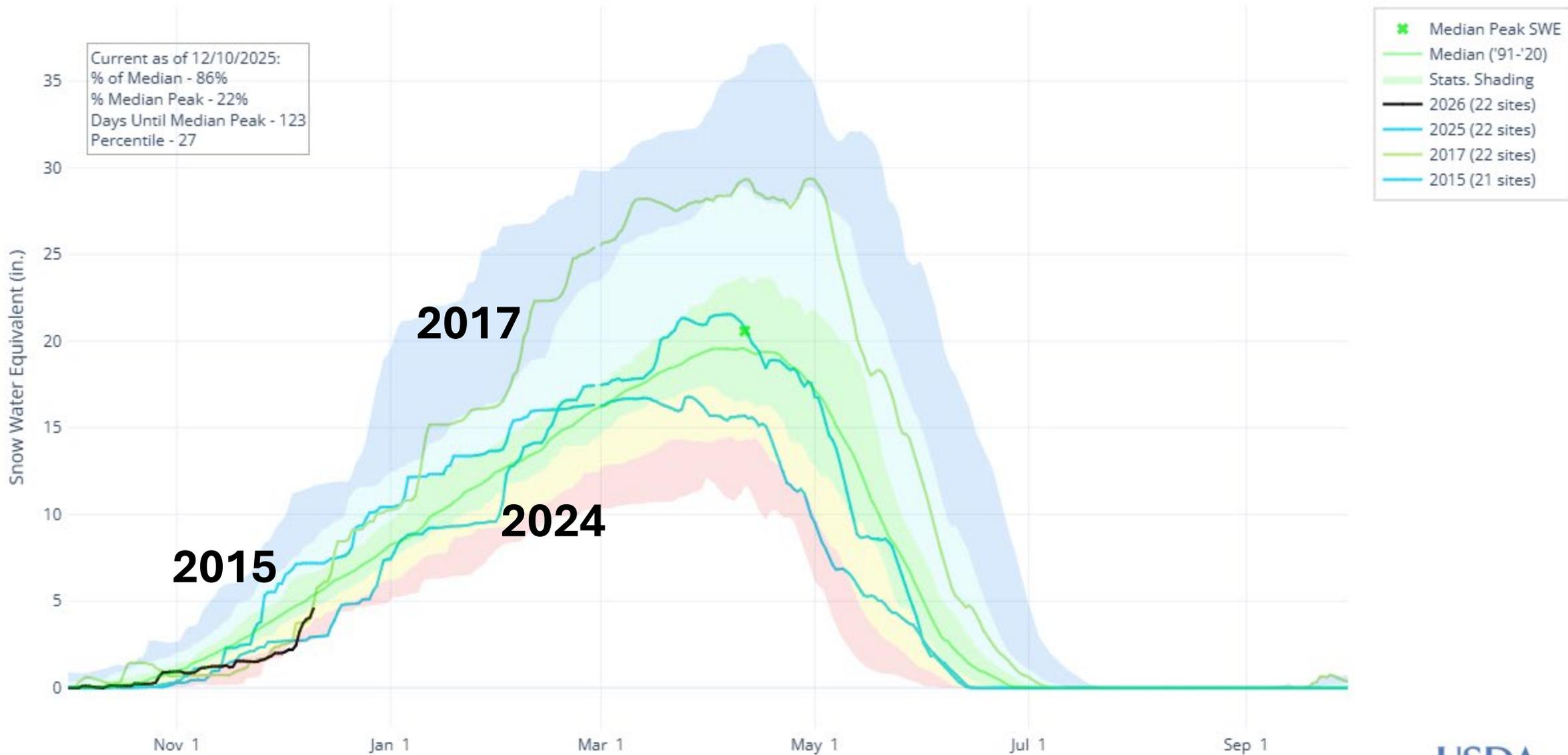


SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN SNAKE RIVER ABOVE HEISE



There's still 3.5 months left in the snow accumulation season. Anything can happen- do your snow dances!

SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN SNAKE RIVER ABOVE HEISE



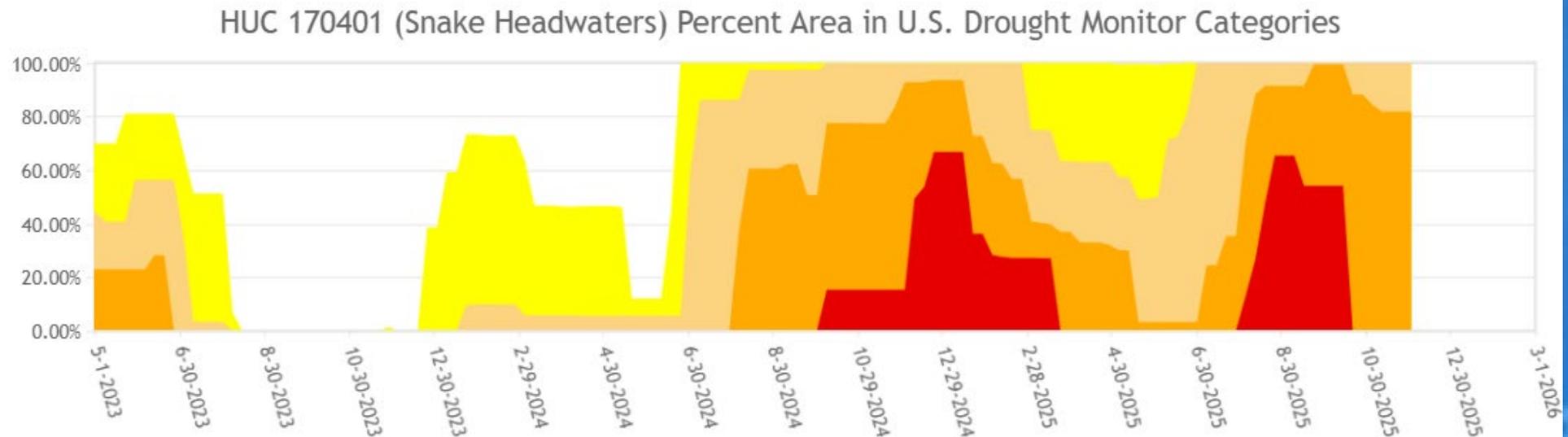


So is there any good news about the majority of the precipitation falling as rain rather than snow...?

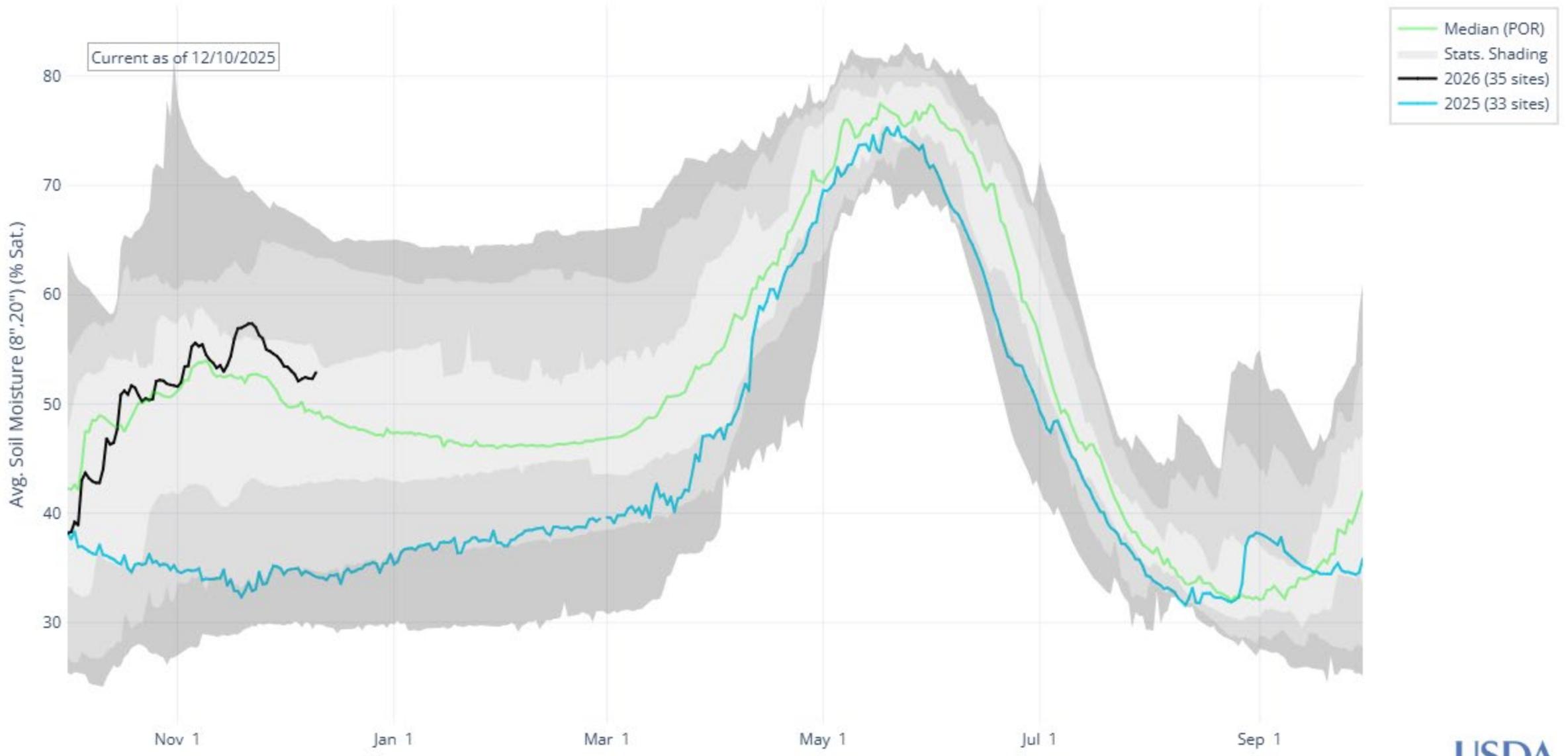
YES- there is an upside to all the rain!!

Benefits of receiving rain include:

- More precipitation is helping overcome VERY DRY antecedent conditions (spring to through fall)
 - Upper Snake region is in D1 to D2-severe drought category
 - Soil moisture can increase with rain that falls on bare, non-frozen ground



Average soil moisture at 8" and 20" in Upper Snake

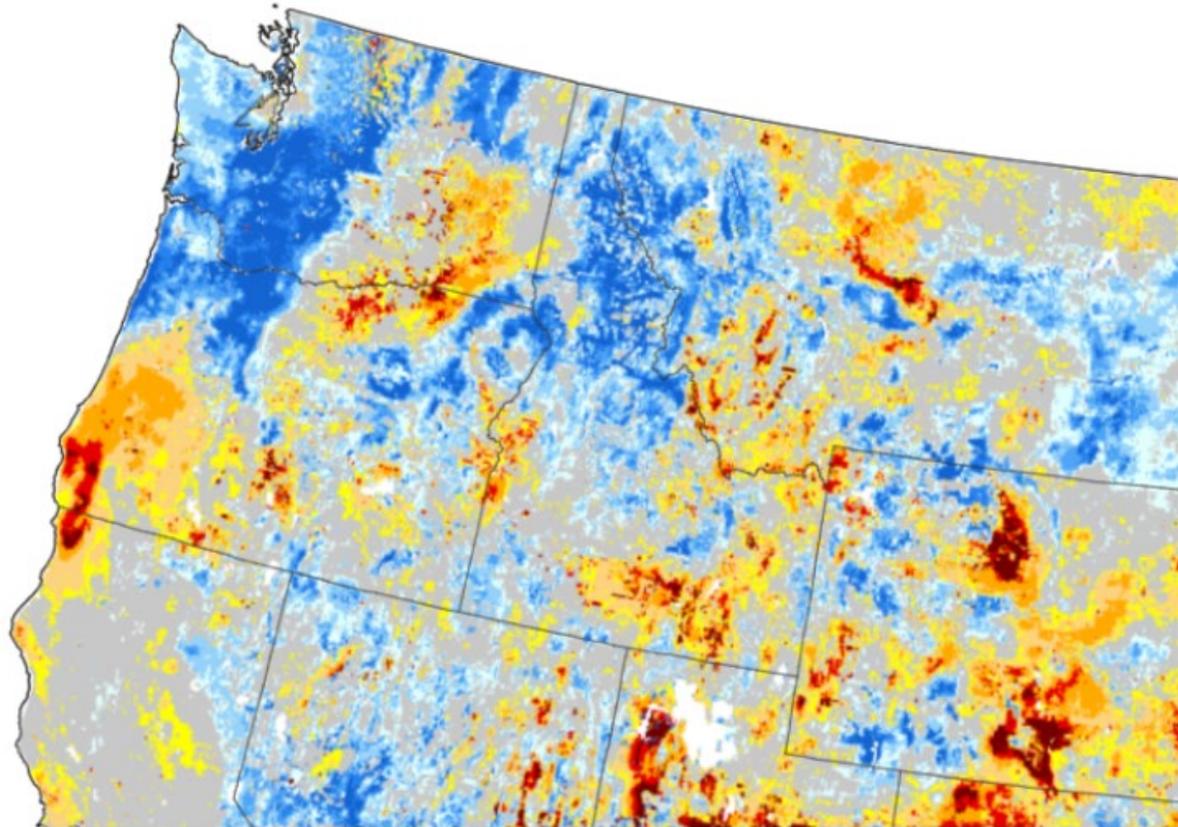


0-100 cm Soil Moisture Percentile

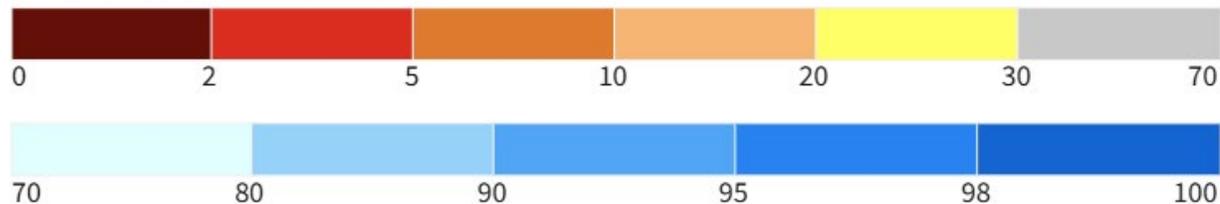


Averaged soil moisture at the 'root zone' (3-feet depth)

- Red/orange hues = drier soils
- Greens/blues = wetter soils
- This map shows the **moisture content of the top 1 meter of soil** compared to historical conditions from 1981–2013, based on NASA's Short-term Prediction and Transition Center – Land Information System (SPoRT-LIS).
- <https://www.drought.gov/indicators/soil-moisture-product-dashboard>



0-100 cm Soil Moisture Percentile

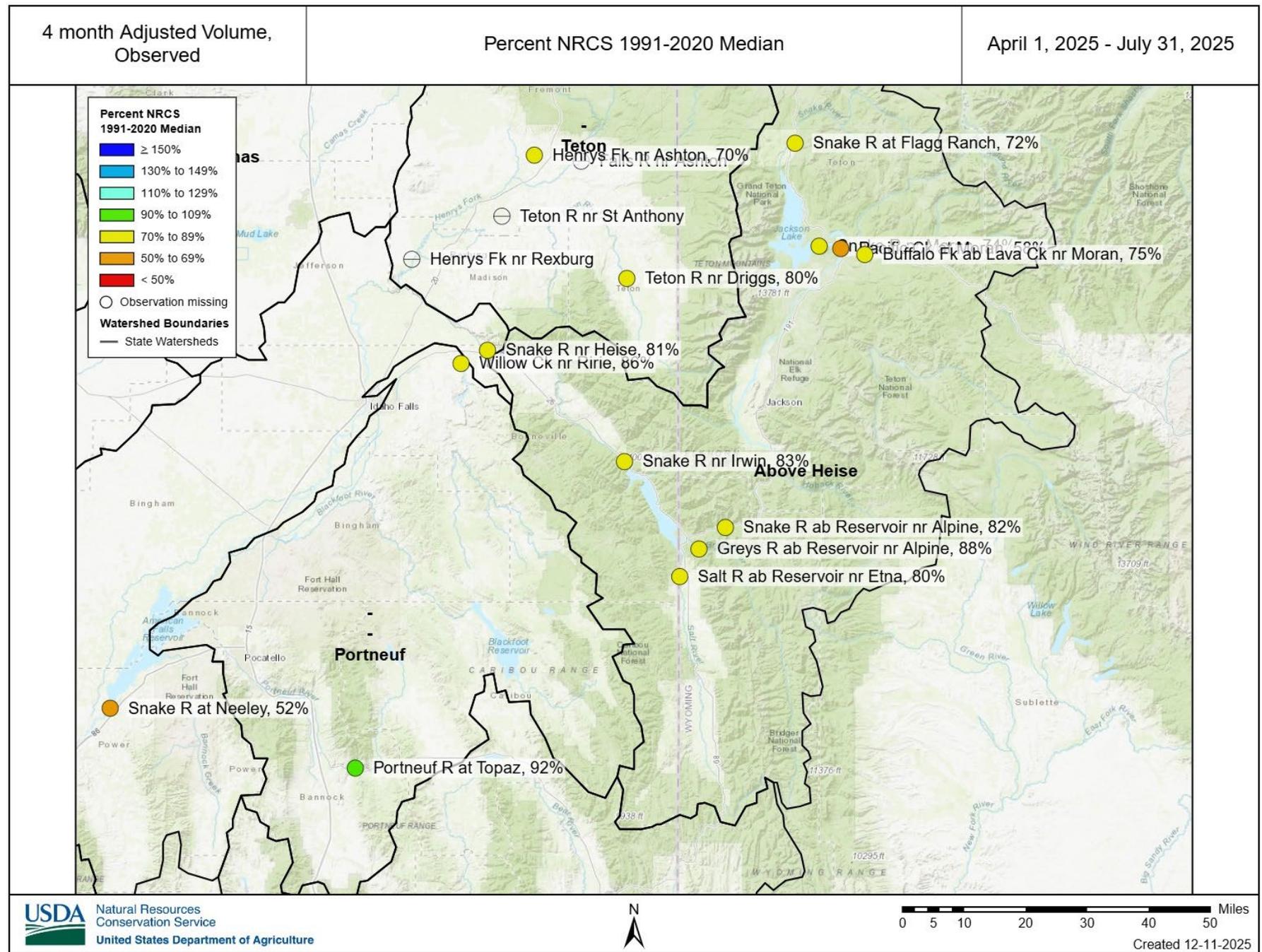


Source(s): NASA
Data Valid: 12/10/25

Drought.gov

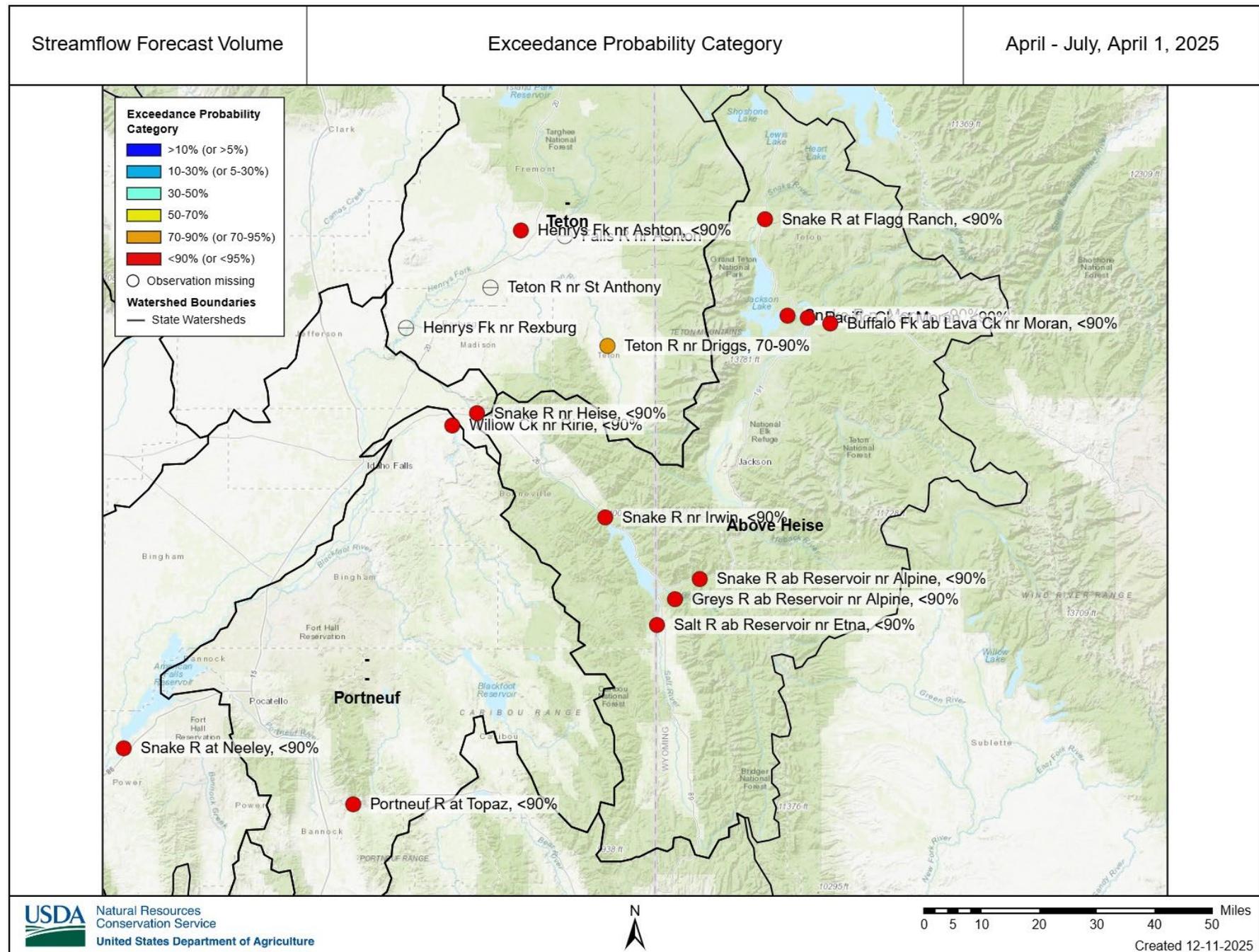
Observed streamflow runoff in 2025 compared to 30-year median runoff for the April – July period

- *81% of normal streamflow observed at Heise in WY2025 (112% forecast for April 1)*
- *2,544 KAF observed vs. 3,490 forecasted*



What forecast exceedance probability did the observed streamflow fall into in the 2025 Water Year?

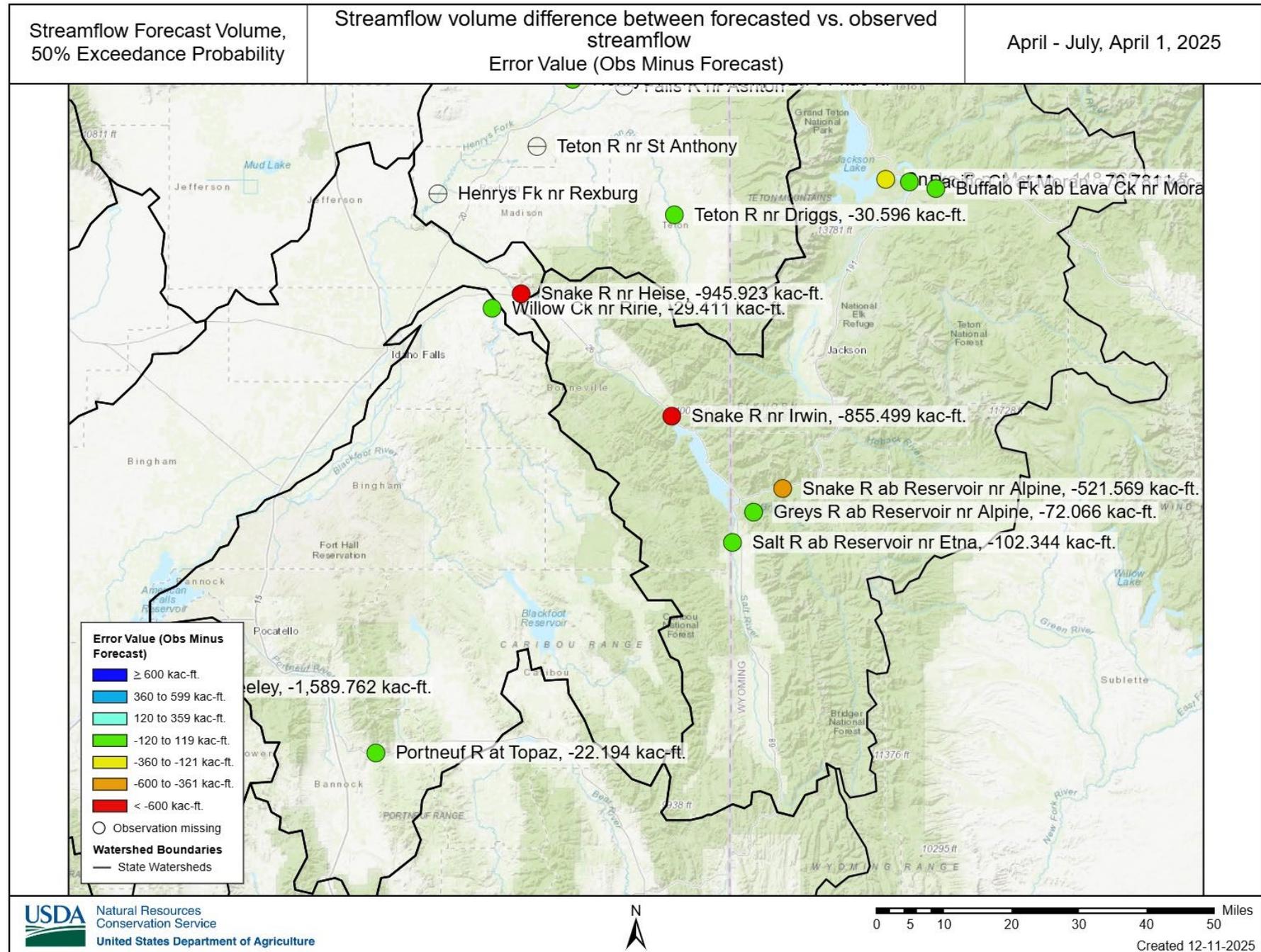
- Most fell in ~90% category
- i.e there was a 90% chance that streamflow would have exceeded that volume



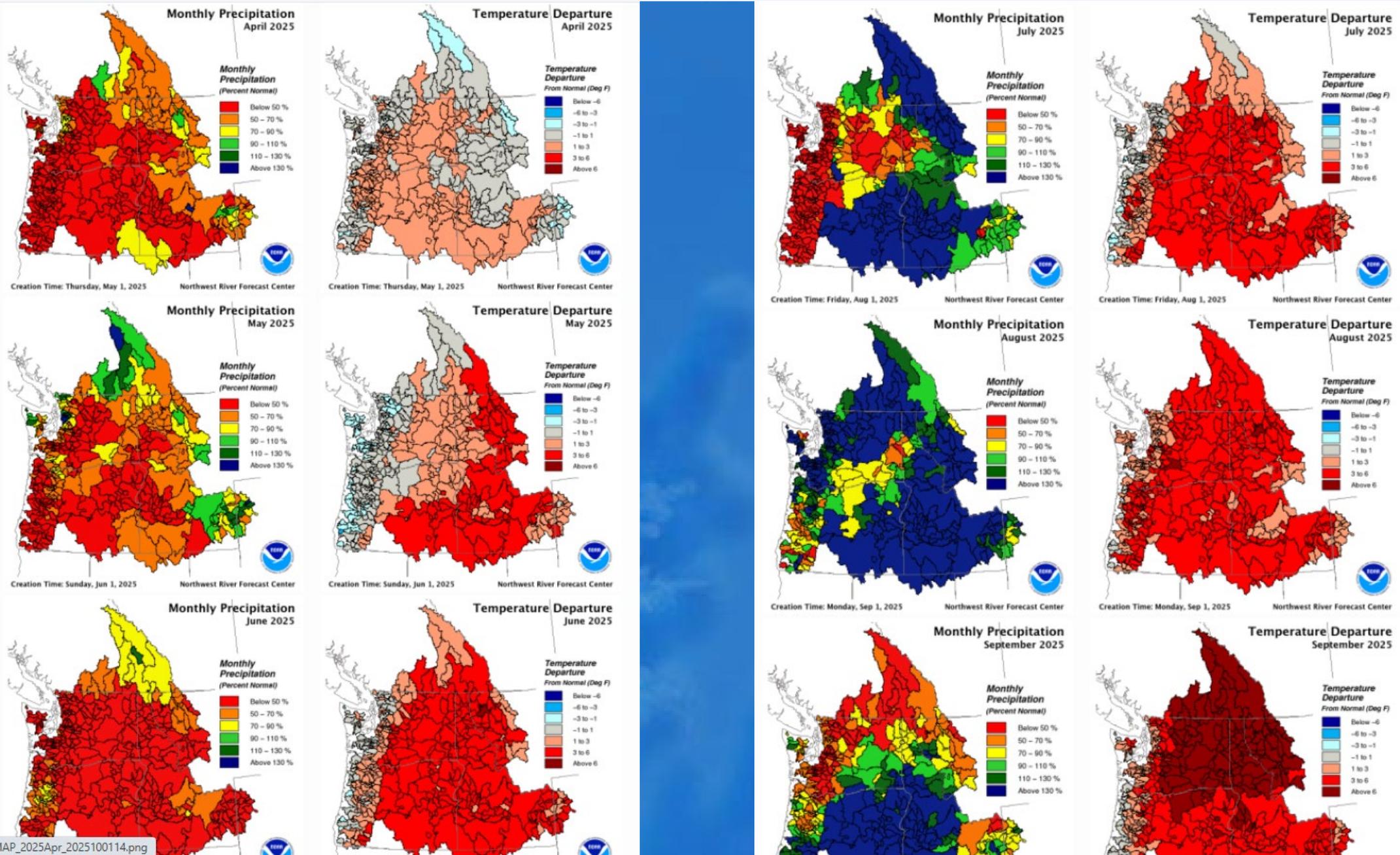
Streamflow volume difference between observed vs. forecasted

How much less water did we get than predicted on April 1?

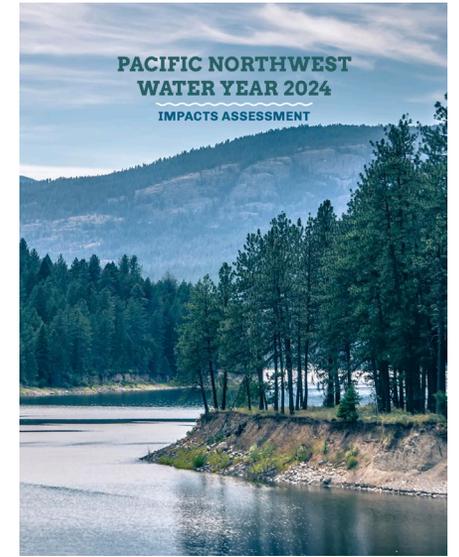
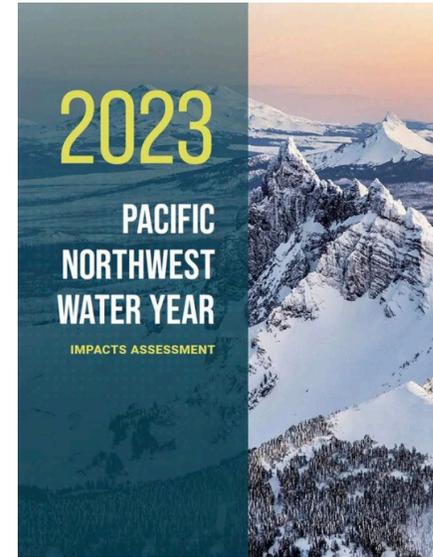
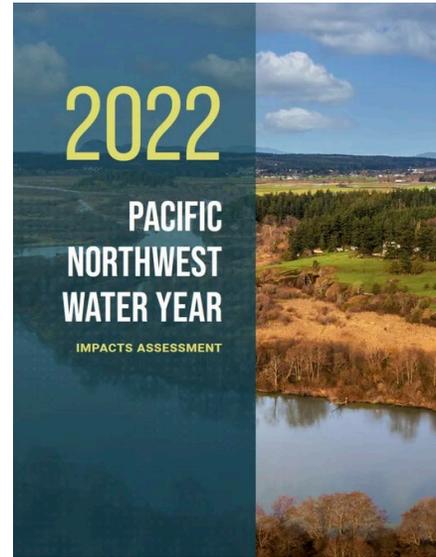
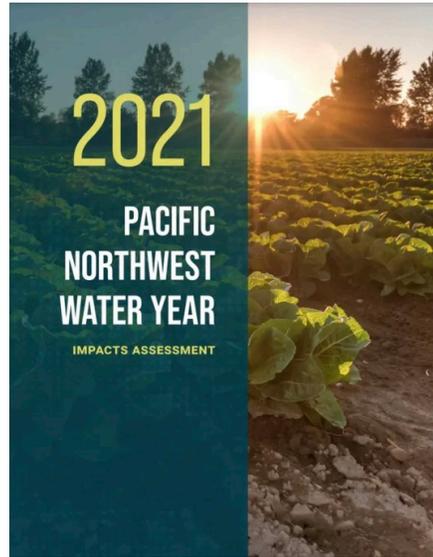
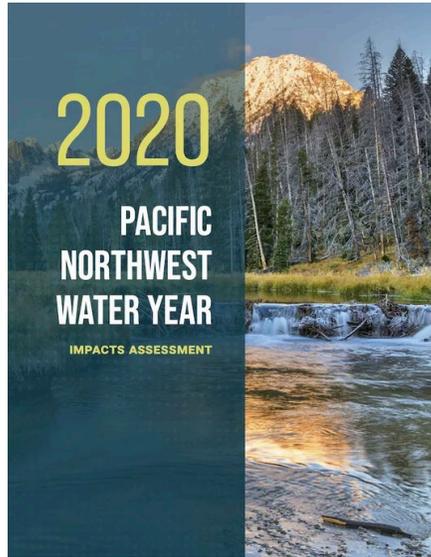
*-945 KAF at Heise!
37% less water*



Why did we get so much less water than forecasted?



PNW Water Year 2025 Impacts Survey



2025

Your Input Here

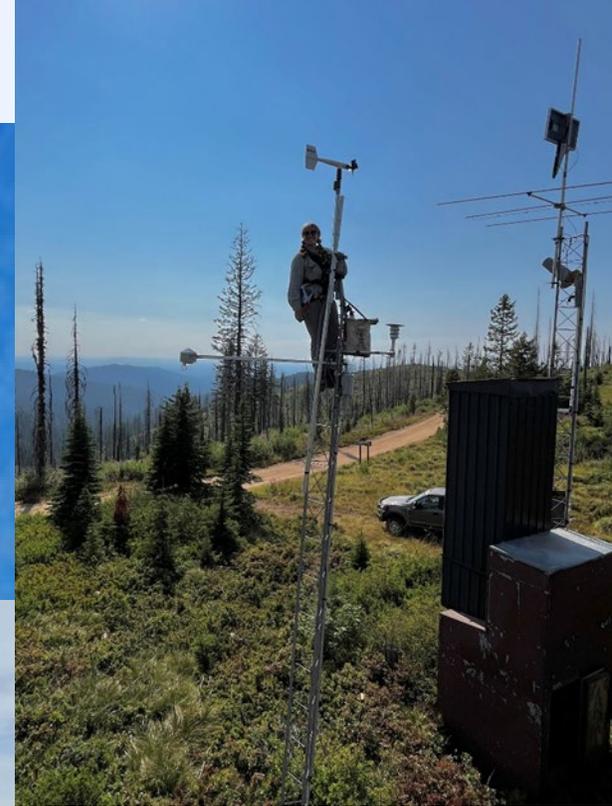
Take the
**PNW Water Year
2025 Impacts Survey!**

(Open through December 15)

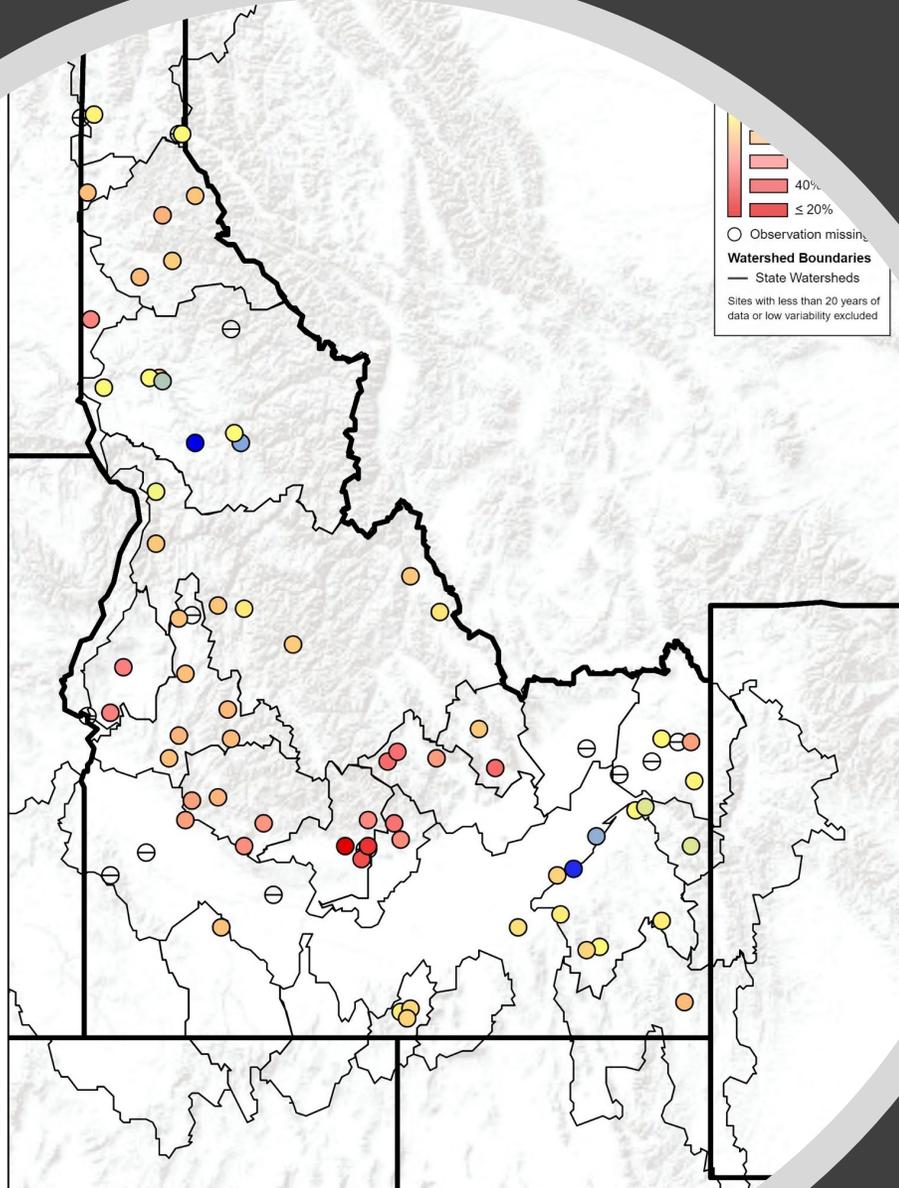


Staffing update for Idaho Snow Survey

- **Patrick Kormos** – Supervisor
- **Dave Eiriksson** – Data Collection Officer
- **Ashley Evans** – Hydrologist (Coeur d'Alene)
- **Eva Hafner** – Hydrologist (Boise)



Thank you!



<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/idaho/snow-survey>



Erin Whorton



erin.whorton@usda.gov



208-685-6983





— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

December 2025 Upper Snake Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: December 11, 2025

Presenter: Brian Stevens



Current Conditions

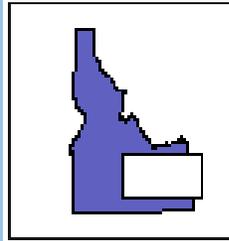
1.54 MAF in storage

38% full

73% of 91'-20' Median

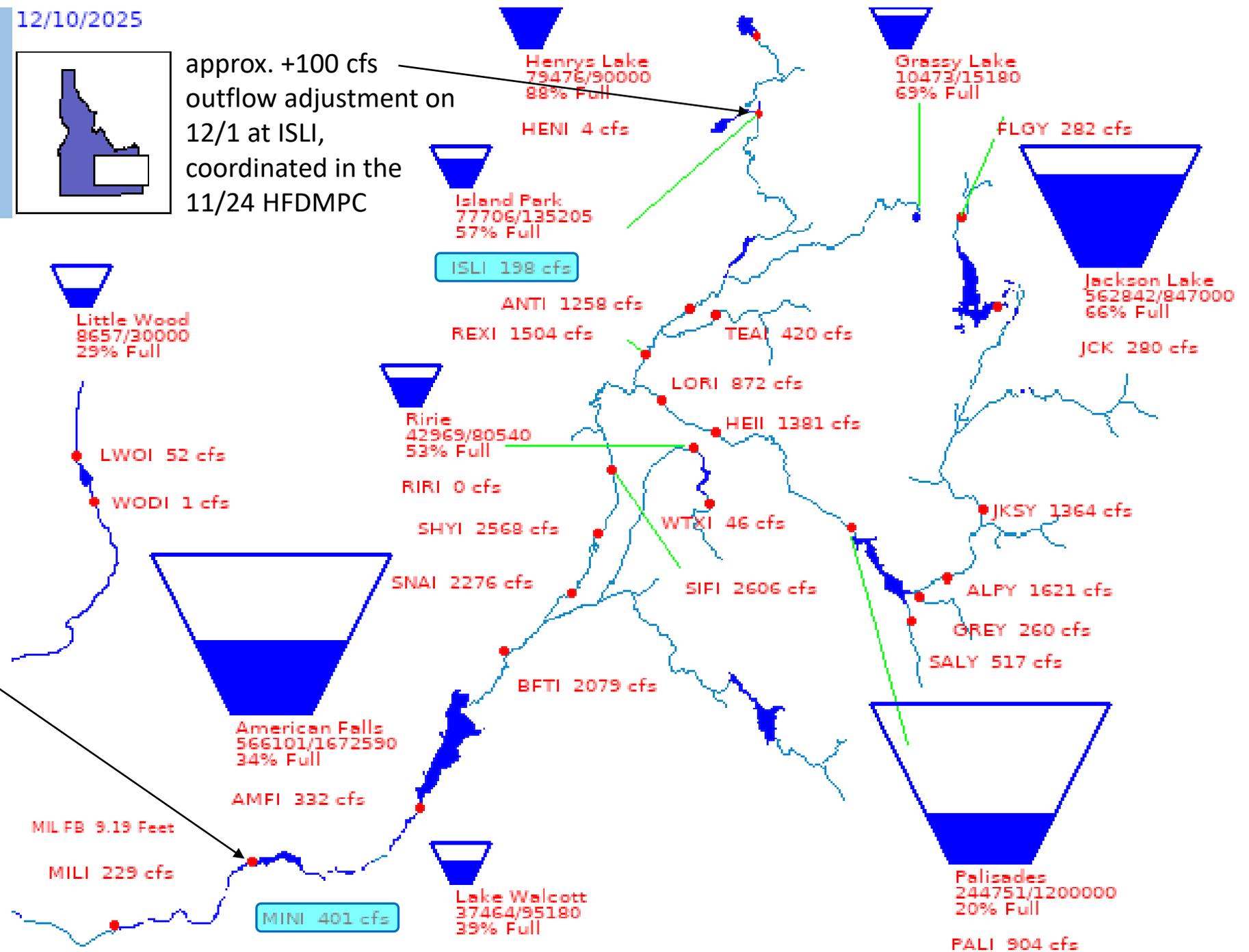
626 KAF lower than last year

12/10/2025



approx. +100 cfs
outflow adjustment on
12/1 at ISLI,
coordinated in the
11/24 HFDMP

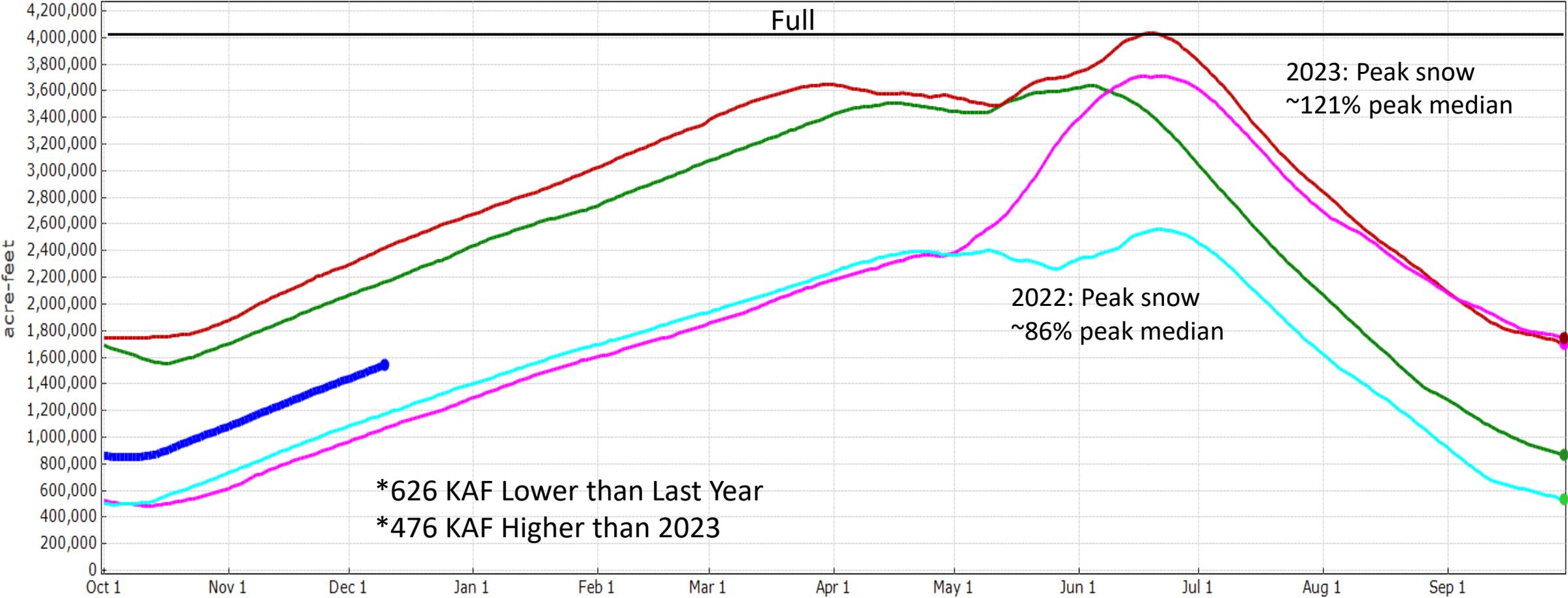
approx. +50 cfs outflow
adjustment on 12/10 at MINI
given the 12/10 USGS
measurement, same discharge
target of 425 cfs



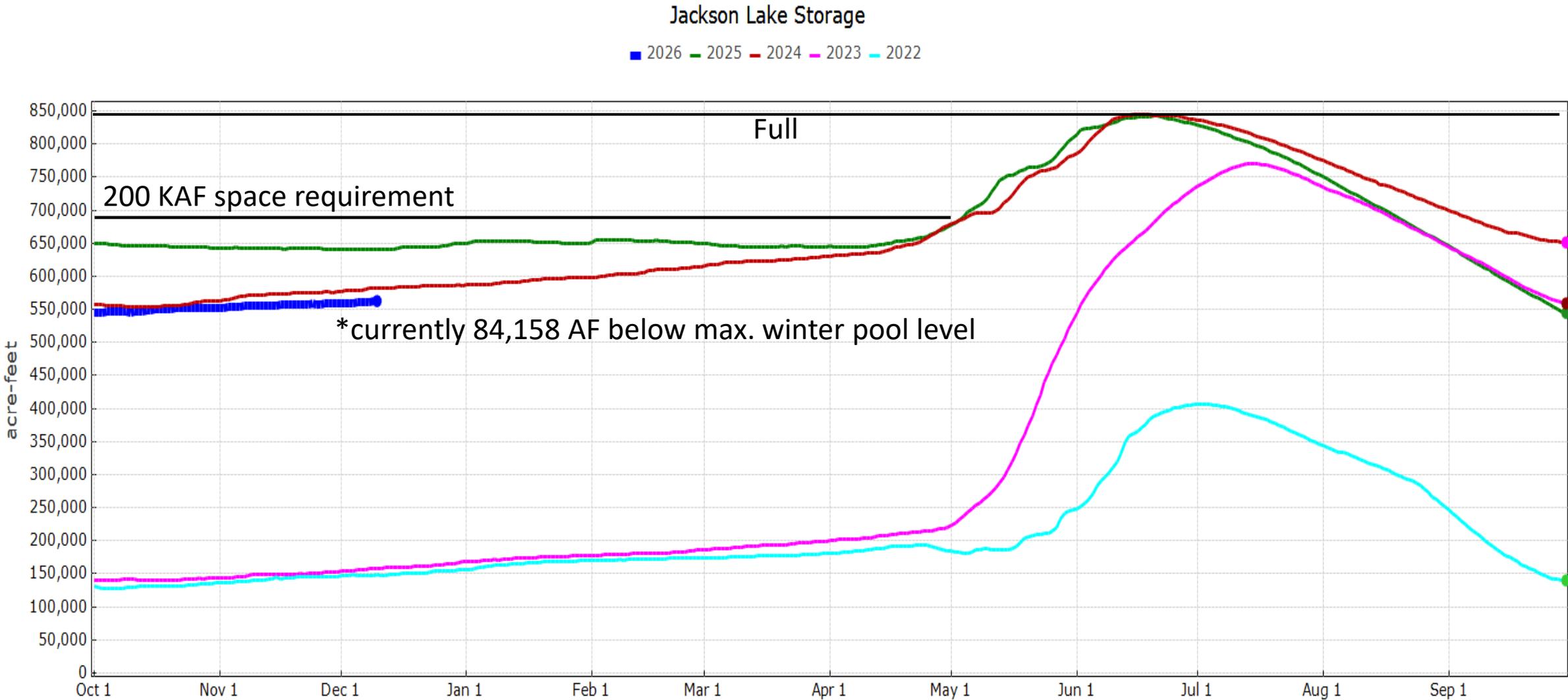
System Outlook

Upper Snake Federal Reservoir System Storage (SNASYS)

■ 2026 ■ 2025 ■ 2024 ■ 2023 ■ 2022



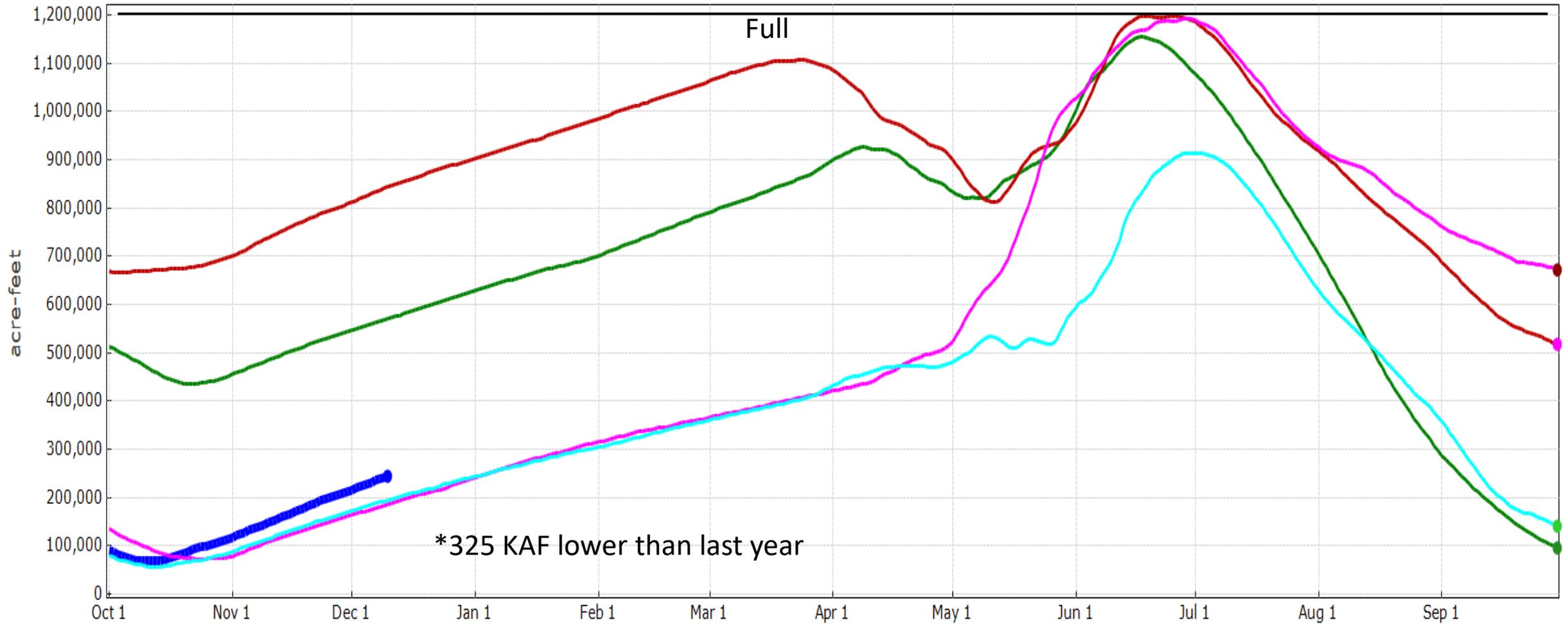
Jackson Lake Outlook



Palisades Outlook

Palisades Reservoir Storage

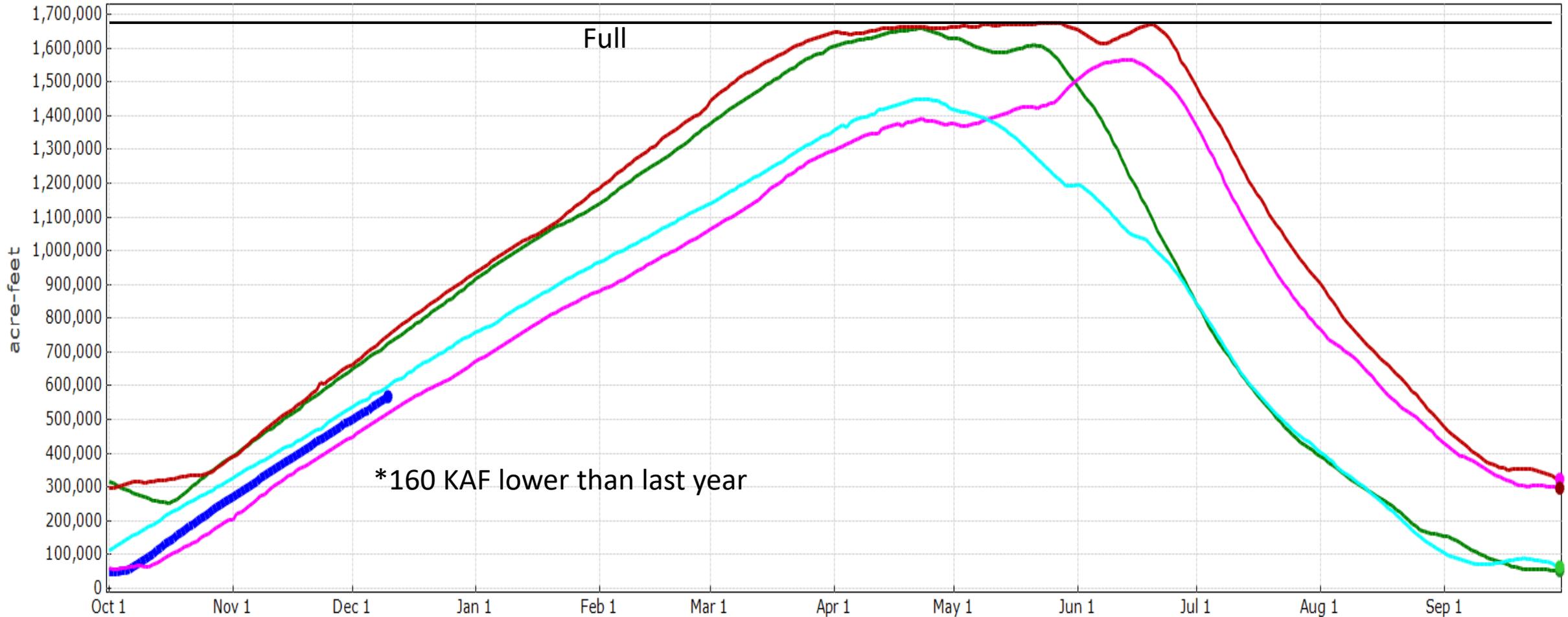
■ 2026 ■ 2025 ■ 2024 ■ 2023 ■ 2022



American Falls Outlook

American Falls Reservoir Storage

■ 2026 ■ 2025 ■ 2024 ■ 2023 ■ 2022



For More Information

Snake River Area Office

Ryan Alcorn - Area Manager
208-292-9353, ralcorn@usbr.gov

Upper Snake Field Office

Mike Hilliard – Assistant Area Manager
208-677-6901, mhilliard@usbr.gov

Brian Stevens – Water Operations Supervisory Civil Engineer
208-260-1935, bstevens@usbr.gov

Jeremy Dalling - Water Operations Civil Engineer
208-670-0761, jdalling@usbr.gov

Snake River Operations Web Sites

Upper Snake water information site -

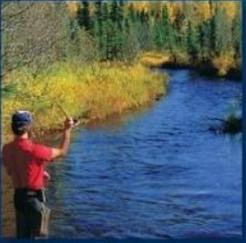
<http://www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/uppersnake/index.html>

USBR HydroMet - <http://www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/>

Northwest River Forecast Center - <http://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/rfc/>

NRCS SNOTEL Data - <http://www.id.nrcs.usda.gov/snow/>





IWRB Managed Recharge Program

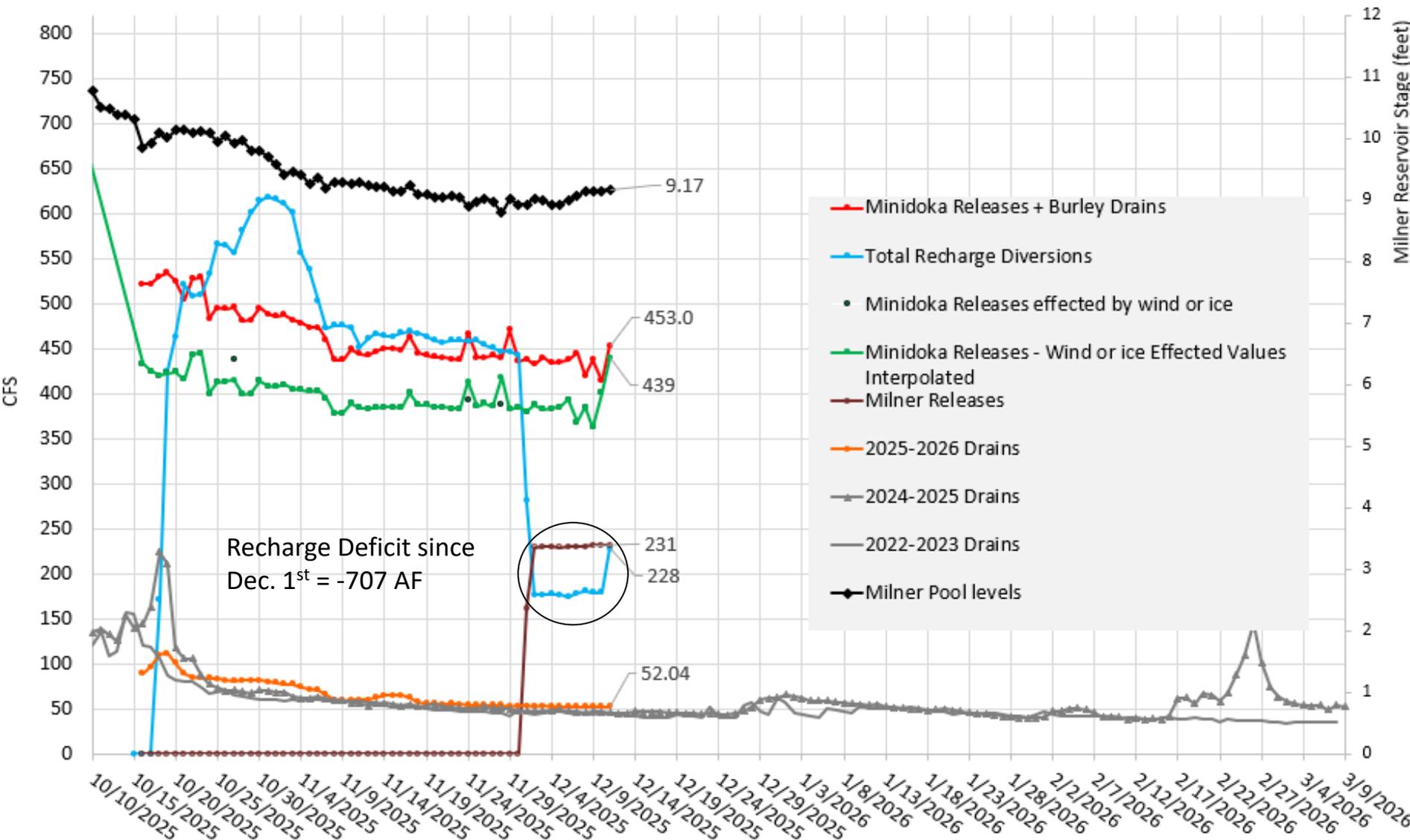
Upper Snake River Advisory Committee Meeting

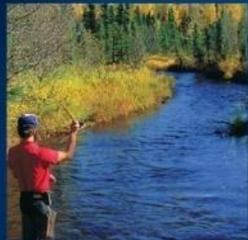
Neal Farmer

Neal.Farmer@idwr.idaho.gov
Recharge Program

December 11th, 2025

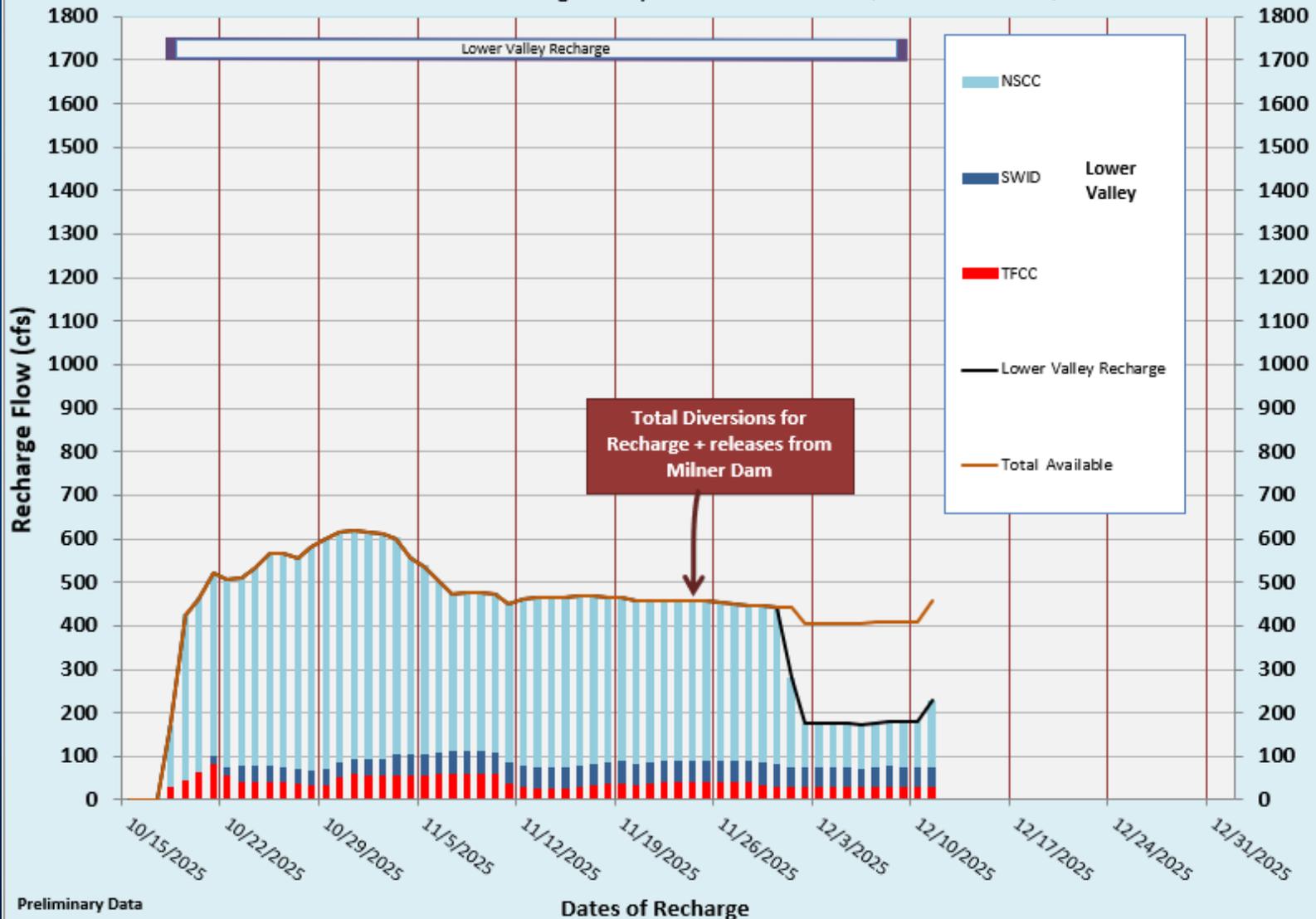
Milner Reservoir Water Budget (provisional)





IWRB Natural Flow Recharge - 2025/2026 Season

Total Volume of Recharge = **47,245 AF** October 18, 2025 - Dec. 11, 2025



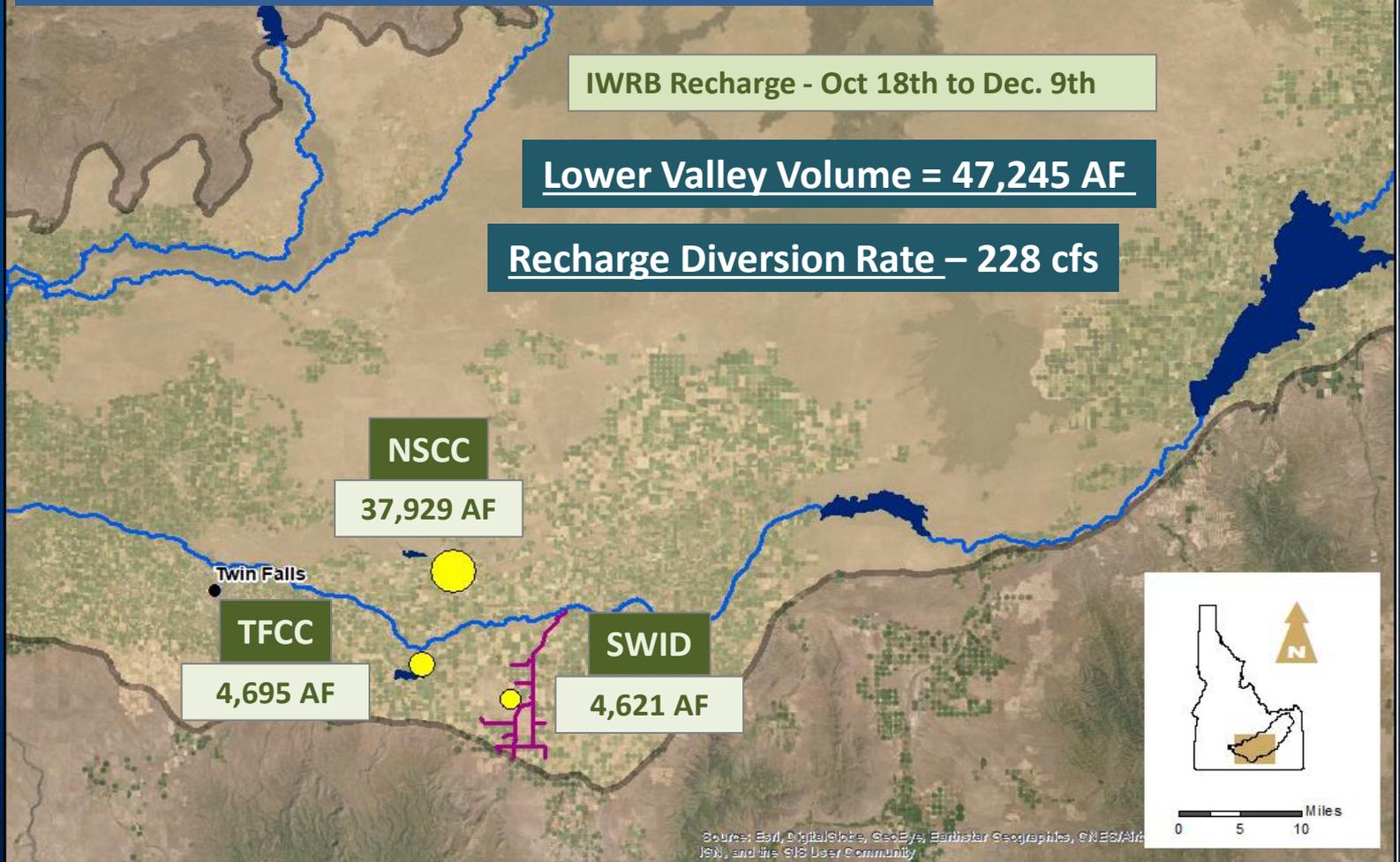
Preliminary Data

Total Natural Flow Water Recharged 2025-2026 Season 47,245 AF

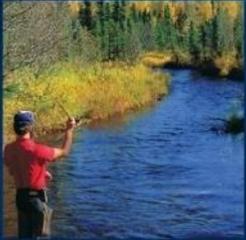
IWRB Recharge - Oct 18th to Dec. 9th

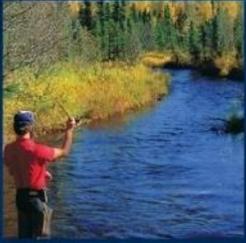
Lower Valley Volume = 47,245 AF

Recharge Diversion Rate – 228 cfs



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community





Hydromet is now reporting accurate diversion flow rate data for **Southwest Irrigation District (SWID)**

https://www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/instant_graph.html?cbtt=swii&pcode=qp

Reclamation / Columbia-Pacific Northwest Region / Hydromet / General Information

CPN REGION

- Home
- About Us
- Employment
- Columbia-Cascades Area Office
- Grand Coulee Dam
- Snake River Area Office
- Contracting Opportunities
- Programs & Activities
- Environmental Documents
- Water Operations
- AgriMet

Hydromet

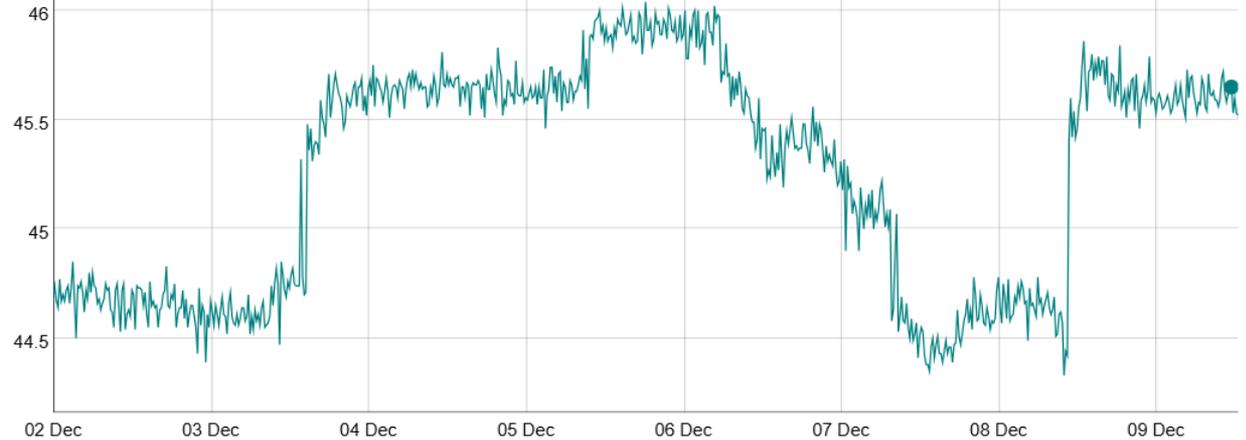
- Reservoir Storage
- Boat Ramps
- Current Data
- Historical Data

- Recreation
- Site Index
- Contact Us

Instant Graph

SWII QP

2025/12/09 11:30: **SWII QP** : 45.65



[View Graph Data](#)

PROVISIONAL DATA - Subject to change

[About Us](#) | [Disclaimer](#)

Last Updated: 07/23/2025

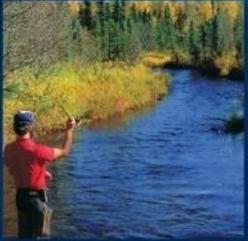
2025/12/10 14:00:
MINI Q : 393.34

USGS Flow Measurement on 12-10-25 = 393 CFS out of Minidoka Dam from Hydromet value of 439 CFS.
USGS also made a flow measurement on 10-22-25.



Water Year Graph
PROVISIONAL DATA - Subject to change





Questions?



AGENDA

IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Upper Snake River Advisory Committee Meeting No. 12-25

Thursday, December 11, 2025

10:00 a.m. (MST)

Brad Little
Governor

Jeff Raybould
Chairman
St. Anthony
At Large

Jo Ann Cole-Hansen
Vice Chair
Lewiston
At Large

Dean Stevenson
Secretary
Paul
District 3

Dale Van Stone
Hope
District 1

Albert Barker
Boise
District 2

Brian Olmstead
Twin Falls
At Large

Marcus Gibbs
Grace
District 4

Patrick McMahon
Sun Valley
At Large

Meeting Location(s):

BOISE
Water Center
Conf. Room 602B
322 E. Front St.

IDAHO FALLS
Eastern Regional Office
Main Conference Room
900 N. Skyline Dr.

or

VIDEO conference via Zoom is available upon following the Zoom link login process, contact Neal.Farmer@idwr.idaho.gov for questions or issues in advance of the meeting start time.

-
1. Introductions and Attendance
 2. Weather Forecast (NOAA)
 - a. Tim Axford provided a summary of the weather so far for the 2026 water year for the upper Snake River. He also provided and weather forecast for the remaining portion of the 2026 water year.
 3. Snow Pack / Streamflow Forecasts (NRCS)
 - a. Erin Whorton provided a summary of the current precipitation and snowpack. She also provided a forecast of the anticipated snowpack increase over the next ten days. Erin provide a summary of soil moisture conditions and described its potential impact on spring runoff.
 4. Water Supply / Operations Update (USBR)
 - a. Brian Stevens provided an update on the current reservoir storage and river operations in the Snake River system. He also provided an update on the operations outlook.

5. Idaho Power Company

- a. John Hildreth provided an update on Upper Snake River and Hells Canyon operations for power generation and fall Chinook spawning.

6. Water District 01 Briefing

- a. Craig Chandler provided a recap of diversions, weather conditions, and reach gains during the 2025 irrigation season. He provided information on reservoir storage use and the reservoir storage carryover. Craig described the IWRB diversion of natural flow for recharge below Minidoka Dam.

7. IWRB Managed Recharge Operations

- a. Neal Farmer provided a recap of the recharge that has occurred so far during the 2025-2026 recharge season in the Lower Basin.

8. New Business

- a. Erin Whorton proposed having this Snake River Operations meeting year-round to facilitate feedback in the summer on how the water supply is pressing during the irrigation season. Wes Hipke will seek guidance from the Idaho Water Resource Board and report back to this group.
- b. Erin Whorton proposed collecting Lidar data during the snow accumulation season to provide a snapshot of what Snow Water Equivalent is on the ground.

9. Adjourn

Committee Member: Brian Olmstead

Name (original name)	Join time	Leave time	Duration (minutes)	Guest	Recording disclaimer response
Wesley Hipke, IDWR	12/11/2025 9:45	12/11/2025 11:16	91	No	OK
B Room	12/11/2025 9:45	12/11/2025 11:16	91	Yes	OK
Erin Whorton	12/11/2025 9:45	12/11/2025 9:47	2	Yes	No Response
Wesley Hipke, IDWR	12/11/2025 9:46	12/11/2025 11:16	90	No	OK
Erin Whorton	12/11/2025 9:47	12/11/2025 10:04	18	Yes	No Response
Matt Anders	12/11/2025 9:49	12/11/2025 9:50	2	Yes	No Response

Matt Anders	12/11/2025 9:50	12/11/2025 11:16	86	Yes	OK
Tim Axford - NWS Pocatello	12/11/2025 9:53	12/11/2025 9:58	6	Yes	No Response
Justin Temple	12/11/2025 9:55	12/11/2025 9:58	4	Yes	No Response
Keith Esplin	12/11/2025 9:57	12/11/2025 9:59	2	Yes	No Response
Brian Stevens	12/11/2025 9:57	12/11/2025 9:58	1	Yes	No Response
Brian Patton	12/11/2025 9:58	12/11/2025 9:58	1	Yes	No Response
Christina Morrisett	12/11/2025 9:58	12/11/2025 9:58	1	Yes	No Response
Tim Axford - NWS Pocatello	12/11/2025 9:58	12/11/2025 11:16	78	Yes	No Response
Justin Temple	12/11/2025 9:58	12/11/2025 10:57	59	Yes	No Response
Brian Stevens	12/11/2025 9:58	12/11/2025 11:16	78	Yes	OK
Brian Patton	12/11/2025 9:58	12/11/2025 11:16	78	Yes	OK
Christina Morrisett	12/11/2025 9:58	12/11/2025 11:15	77	Yes	OK
Keith Esplin	12/11/2025 9:59	12/11/2025 11:15	77	Yes	OK
Mackenzie Kienholz (IDWR)	12/11/2025 9:59	12/11/2025 9:59	1	Yes	No Response
Mackenzie Kienholz (IDWR)	12/11/2025 9:59	12/11/2025 11:04	65	Yes	No Response
Jeff VanOrden	12/11/2025 10:01	12/11/2025 10:01	1	Yes	No Response
Jeff VanOrden	12/11/2025 10:01	12/11/2025 11:15	74	Yes	OK
Josh Morell	12/11/2025 10:01	12/11/2025 10:02	1	Yes	No Response
Josh Morell	12/11/2025 10:02	12/11/2025 11:16	74	Yes	OK
John Hildreth	12/11/2025 10:02	12/11/2025 10:02	1	Yes	No Response
John Hildreth	12/11/2025 10:02	12/11/2025 11:15	74	Yes	OK
Jeff Raybould	12/11/2025 10:03	12/11/2025 10:04	2	Yes	No Response
Jeff Raybould	12/11/2025 10:04	12/11/2025 11:15	72	Yes	OK
Erin Whorton	12/11/2025 10:04	12/11/2025 11:12	68	Yes	OK
Alan Kelsch	12/11/2025 10:05	12/11/2025 10:05	1	Yes	No Response
Alan Kelsch	12/11/2025 10:05	12/11/2025 11:02	58	Yes	OK
Frank Gariglio	12/11/2025 10:06	12/11/2025 10:06	1	Yes	No Response
Frank Gariglio	12/11/2025 10:06	12/11/2025 10:54	48	Yes	OK
lyle swank	12/11/2025 10:07	12/11/2025 10:07	1	Yes	No Response
Ann Yribar	12/11/2025 10:07	12/11/2025 10:07	1	Yes	No Response
lyle swank	12/11/2025 10:07	12/11/2025 11:16	69	Yes	OK
Ann Yribar	12/11/2025 10:07	12/11/2025 11:16	69	Yes	OK
Geisler, Ethan	12/11/2025 10:24	12/11/2025 10:24	1	Yes	No Response
Geisler, Ethan	12/11/2025 10:24	12/11/2025 11:16	52	Yes	OK
12082601935	12/11/2025 10:27	12/11/2025 11:16	49	Yes	No Response
Henry Dahl	12/11/2025 10:31	12/11/2025 10:31	1	Yes	No Response
Henry Dahl	12/11/2025 10:31	12/11/2025 11:15	45	Yes	OK
Steve Stuebner	12/11/2025 10:32	12/11/2025 10:32	1	Yes	No Response
Steve Stuebner	12/11/2025 10:32	12/11/2025 11:10	38	Yes	OK
Caitlyn Swanson	12/11/2025 10:33	12/11/2025 10:33	1	Yes	No Response
Caitlyn Swanson	12/11/2025 10:33	12/11/2025 11:16	43	Yes	OK
Mackenzie Kienholz	12/11/2025 11:04	12/11/2025 11:06	3	Yes	No Response
Mackenzie Kienholz	12/11/2025 11:06	12/11/2025 11:16	10	Yes	No Response
Erin Whorton	12/11/2025 11:12	12/11/2025 11:16	4	Yes	No Response

Americans with Disabilities

The meeting will be held in person and online. If you require special accommodations to attend, participate in, or understand the meeting, please make advance arrangements by contacting Department staff by email Wesley.hipke@idwr.idaho.gov or by phone at (208) 287-4800.