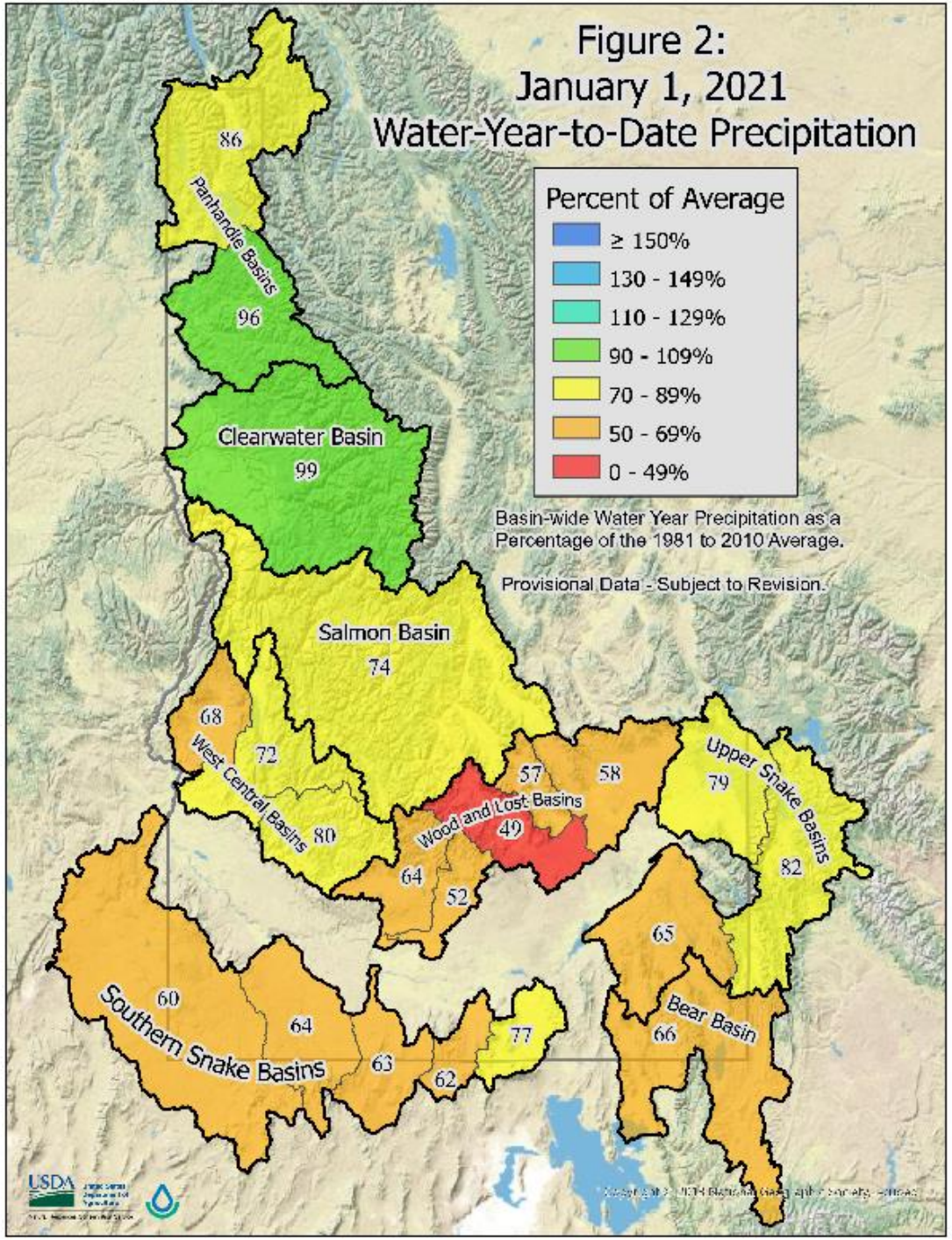
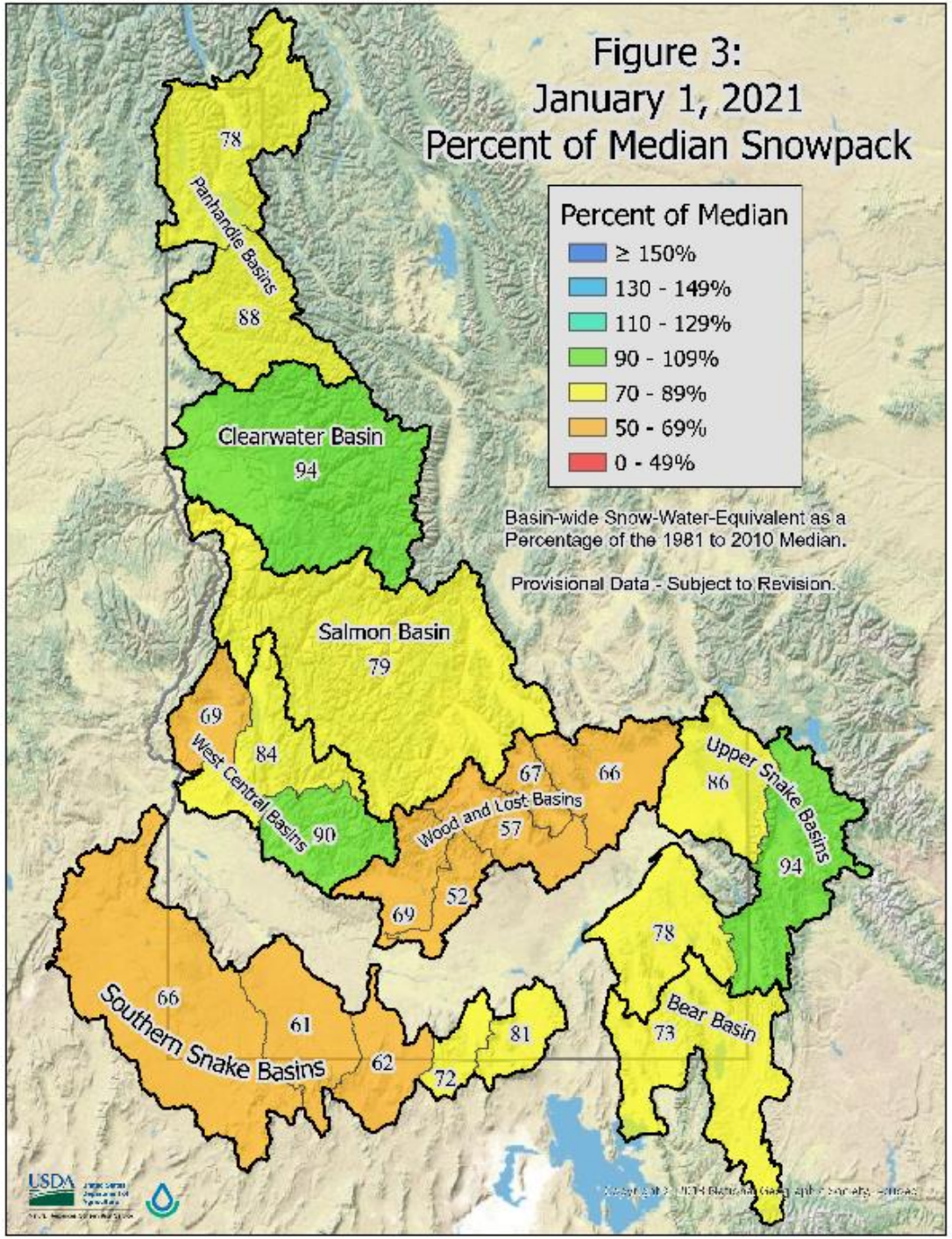
Idaho Water Supply Outlook
January 14, 2021

Presented by: Danny Tappa,
NRCS Snow Survey

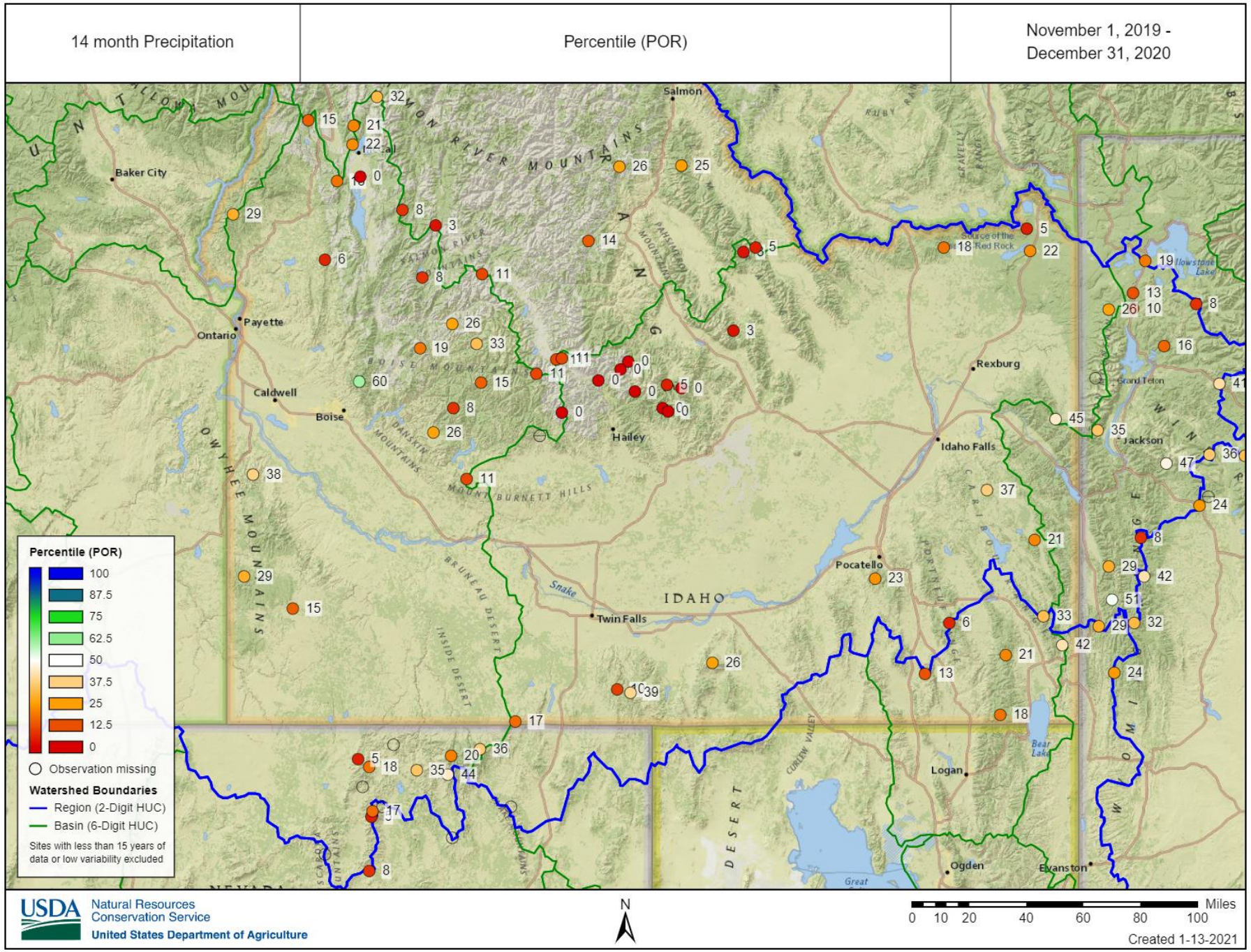


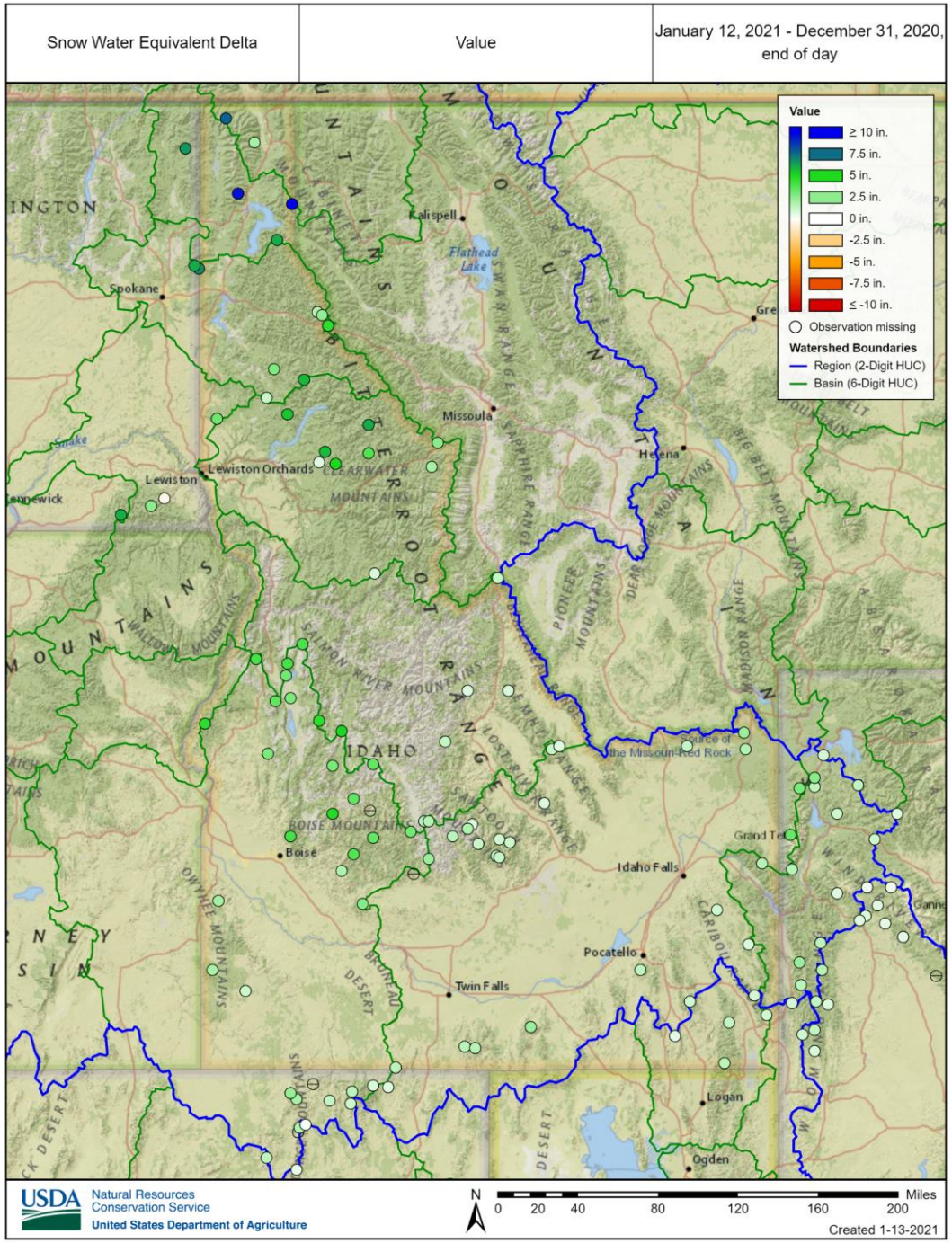
January 1st Conditions



Drought Conditions Persist for Wood & Lost Basins

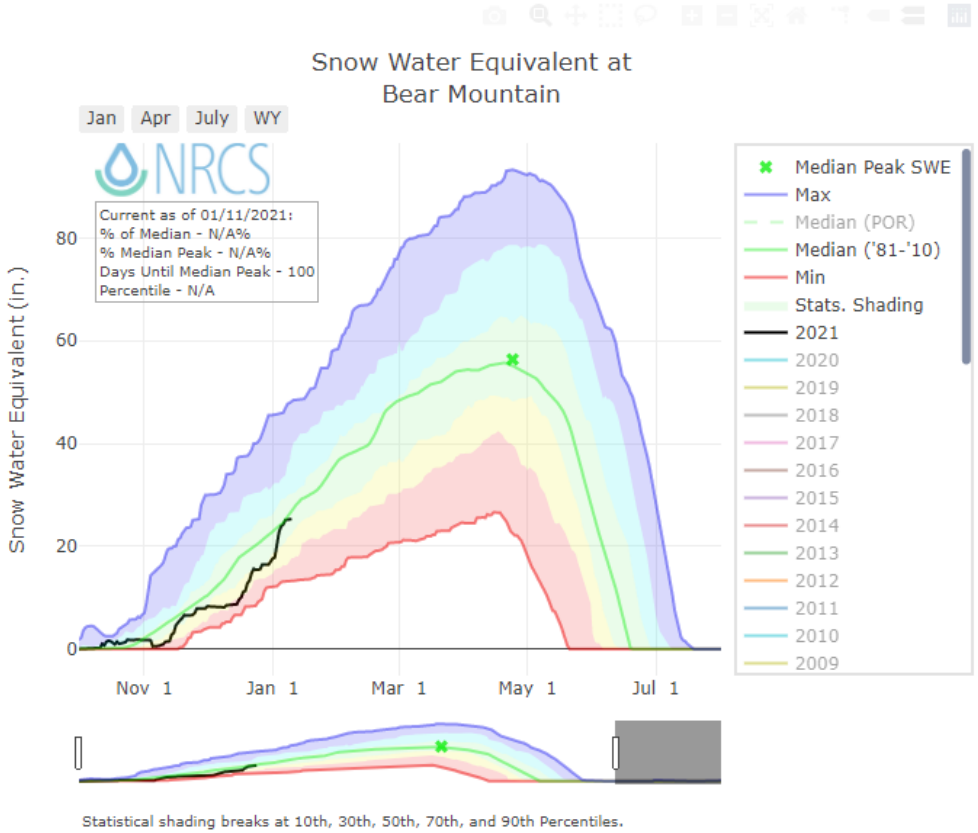
- Record low (SNOTEL era) total mountain precipitation since November 2019.

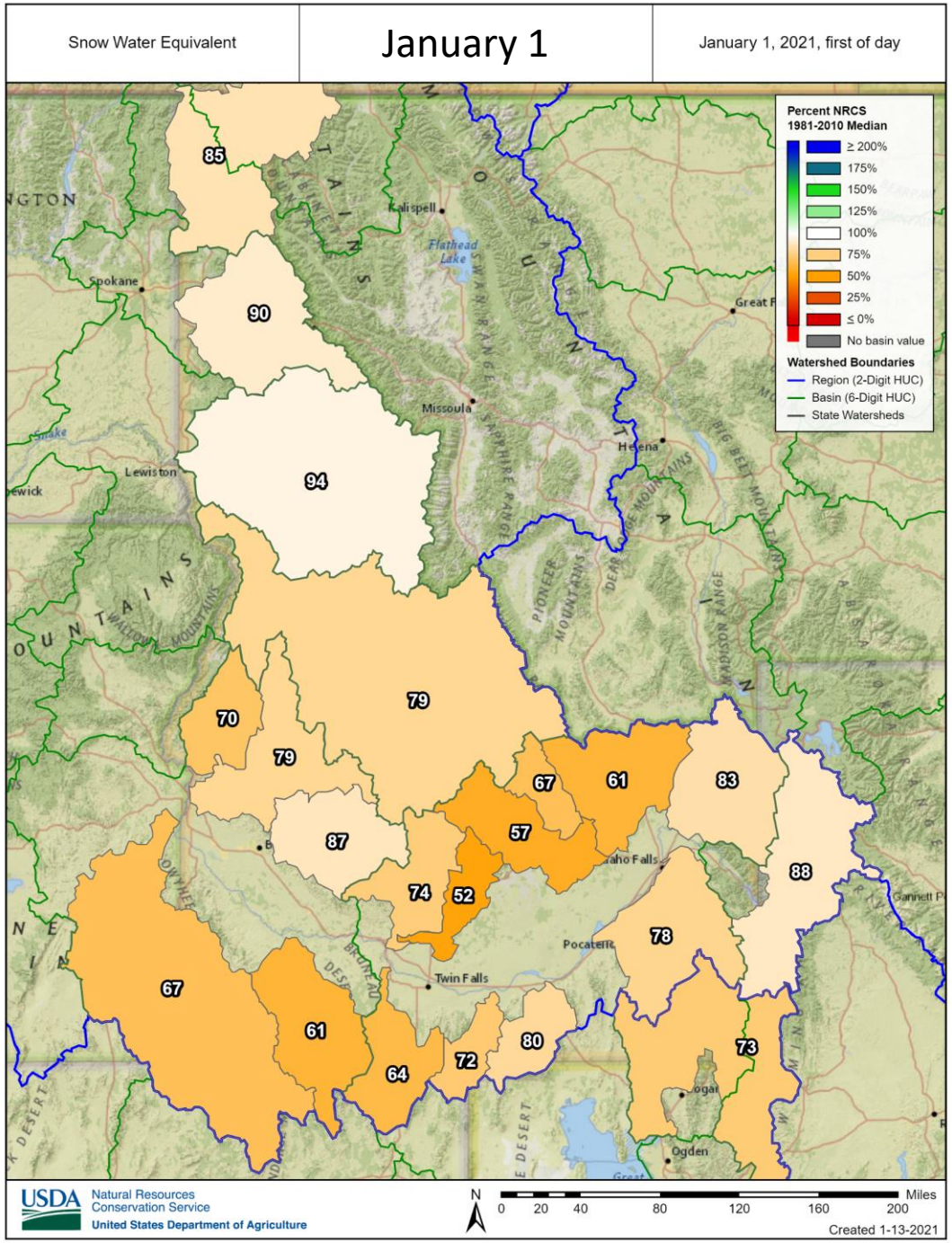




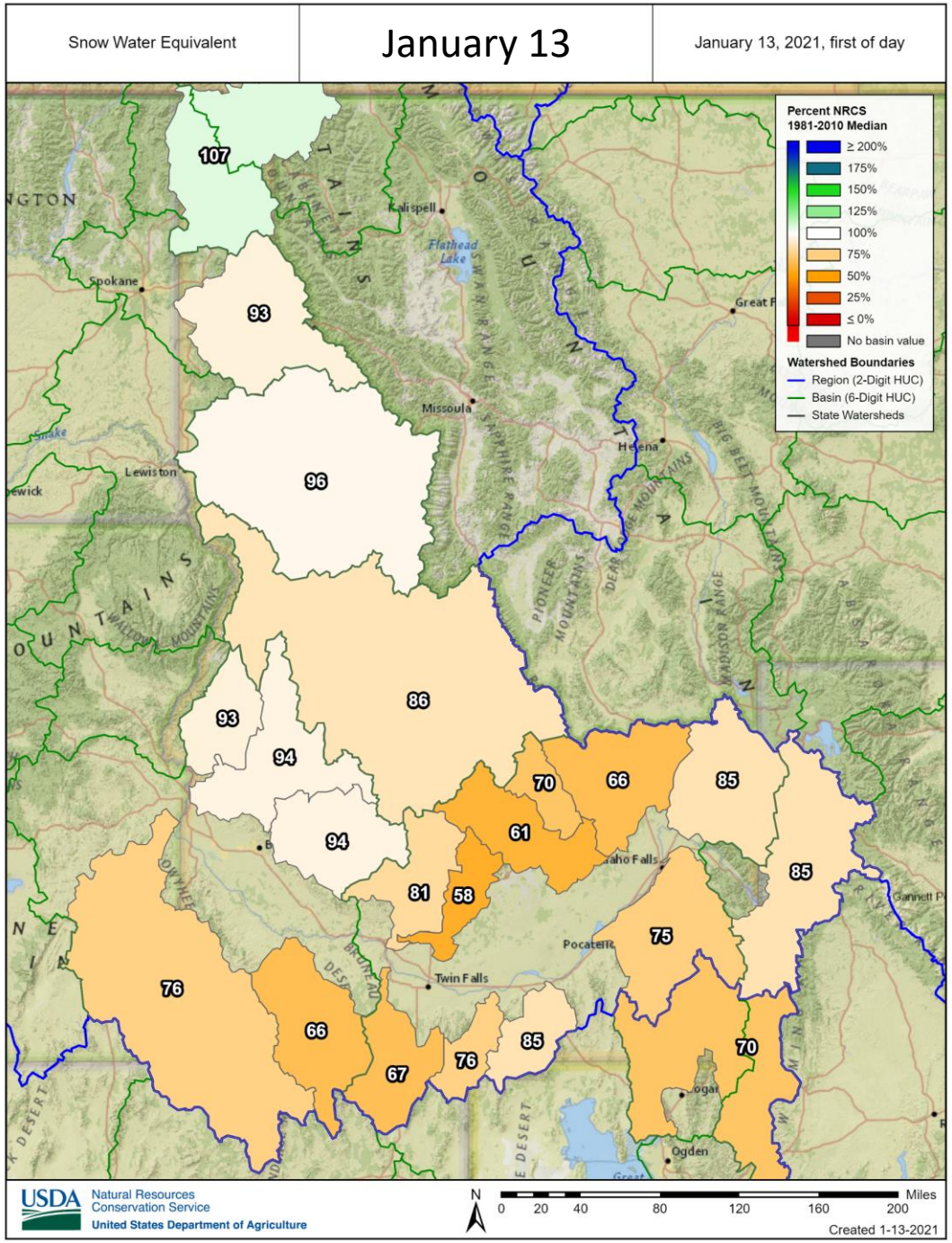
SWE Increases since January 1

- 6 to 10” in Pend Orielle & Kootenai
- 2 to 6” in Coeur d’Alene & Clearwater
- 2 to 5” in West-Central basins
- 1 to 3” in Wood-Lost, Upper Snake, Bear, and Southern Snake

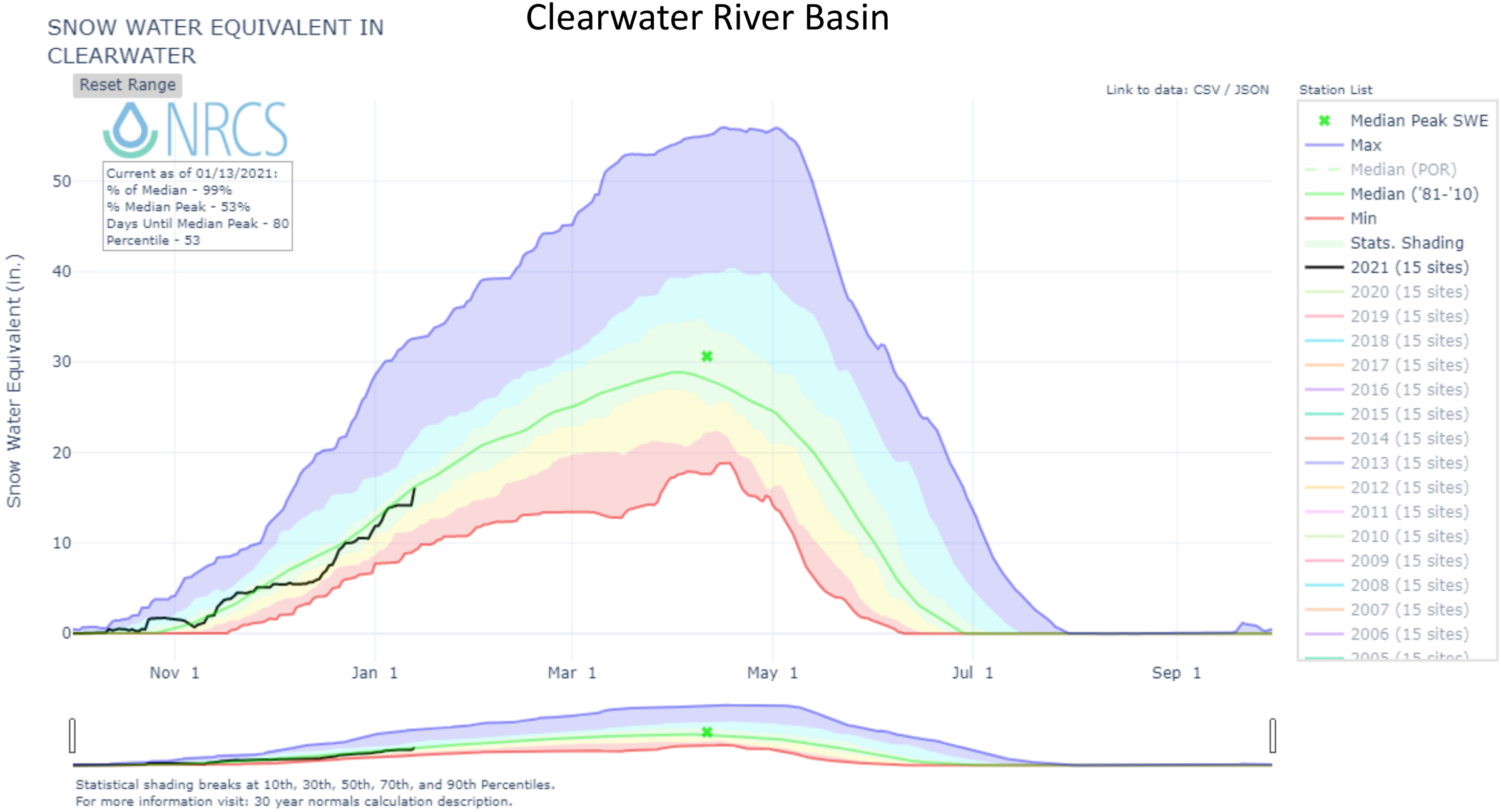




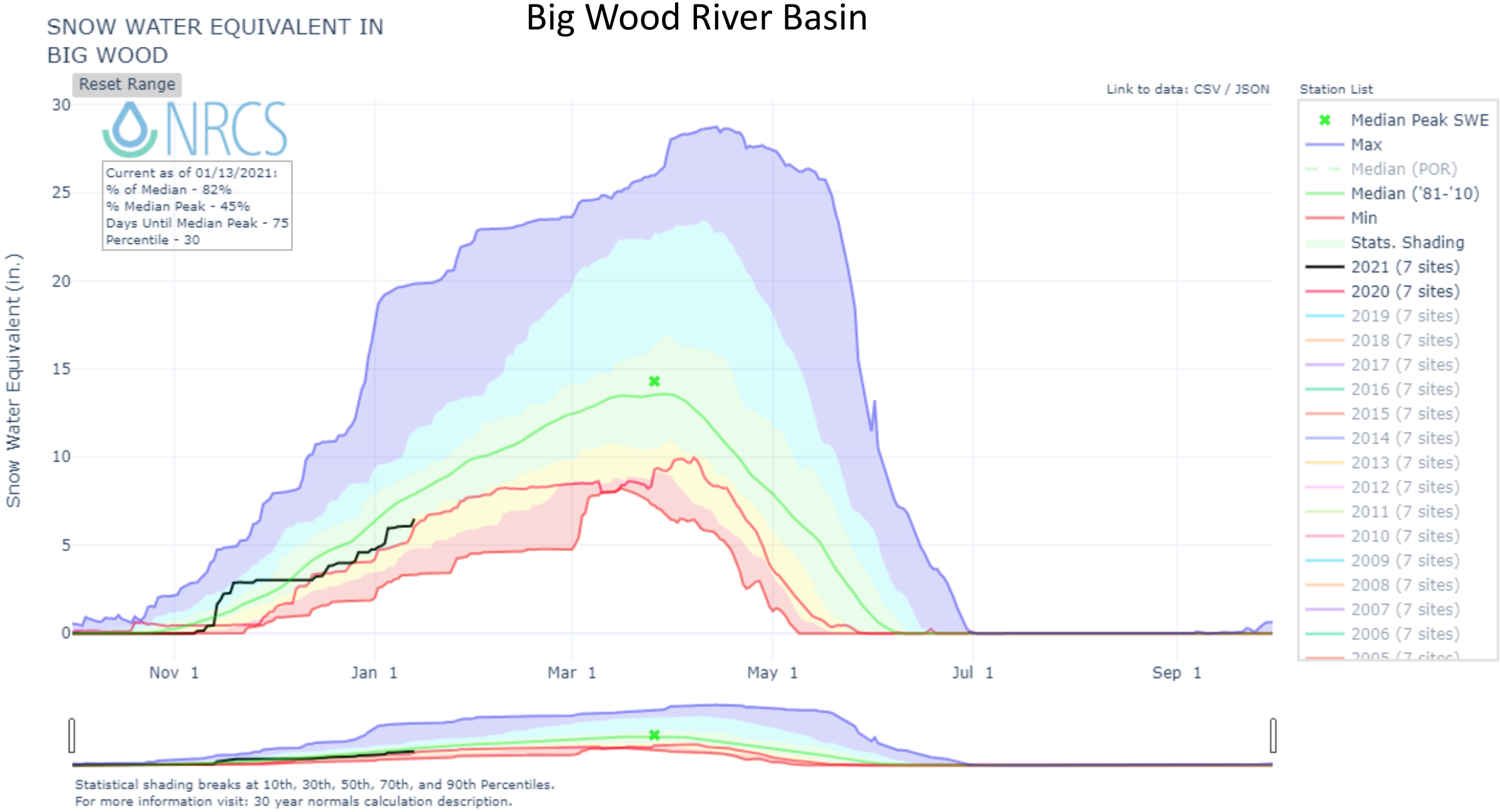
January 1 VS. Current Snowpack



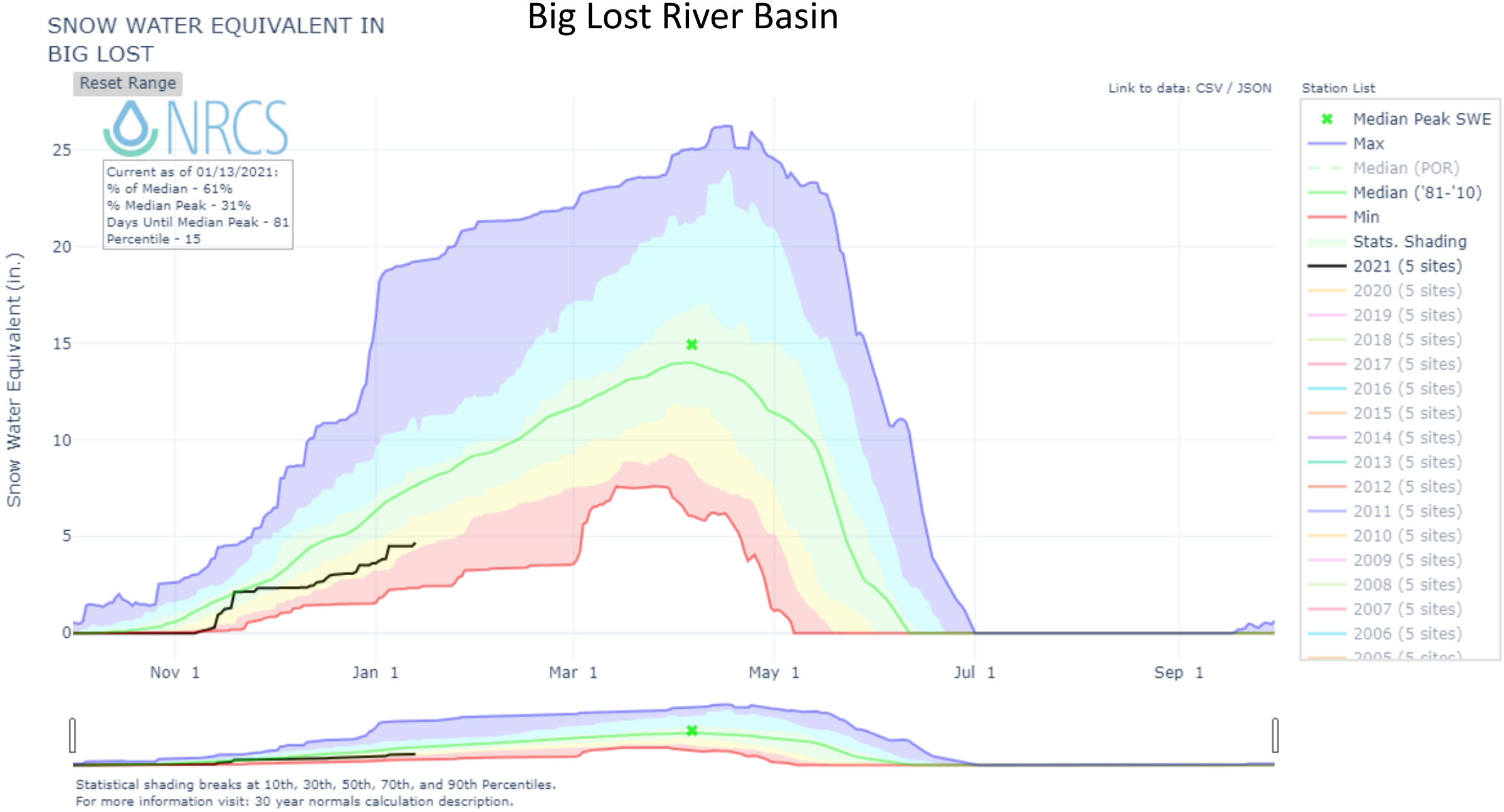
Clearwater River Basin



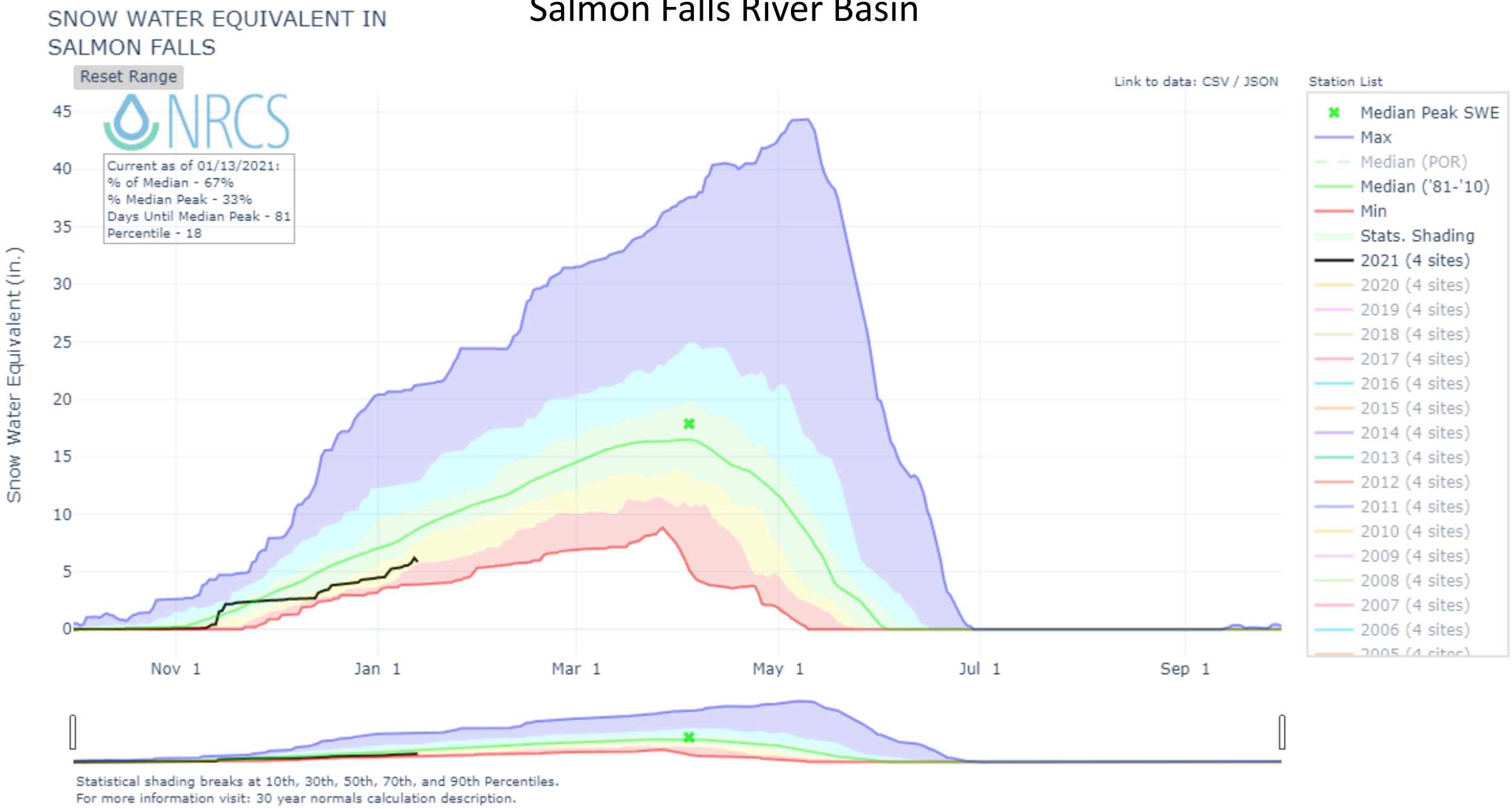
Big Wood River Basin



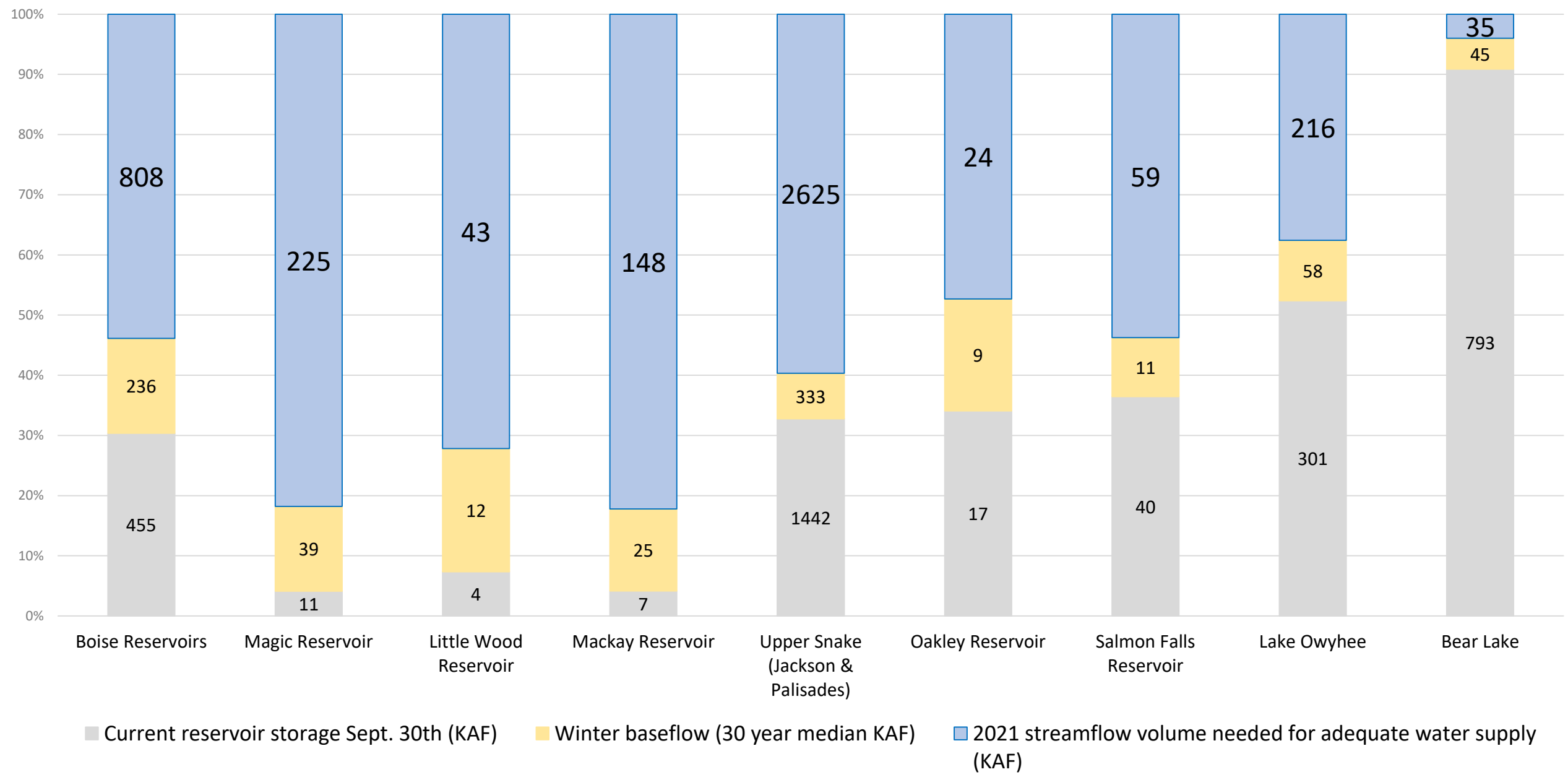
Big Lost River Basin



Salmon Falls River Basin



2021 Streamflow needed for adequate water supply (KAF)



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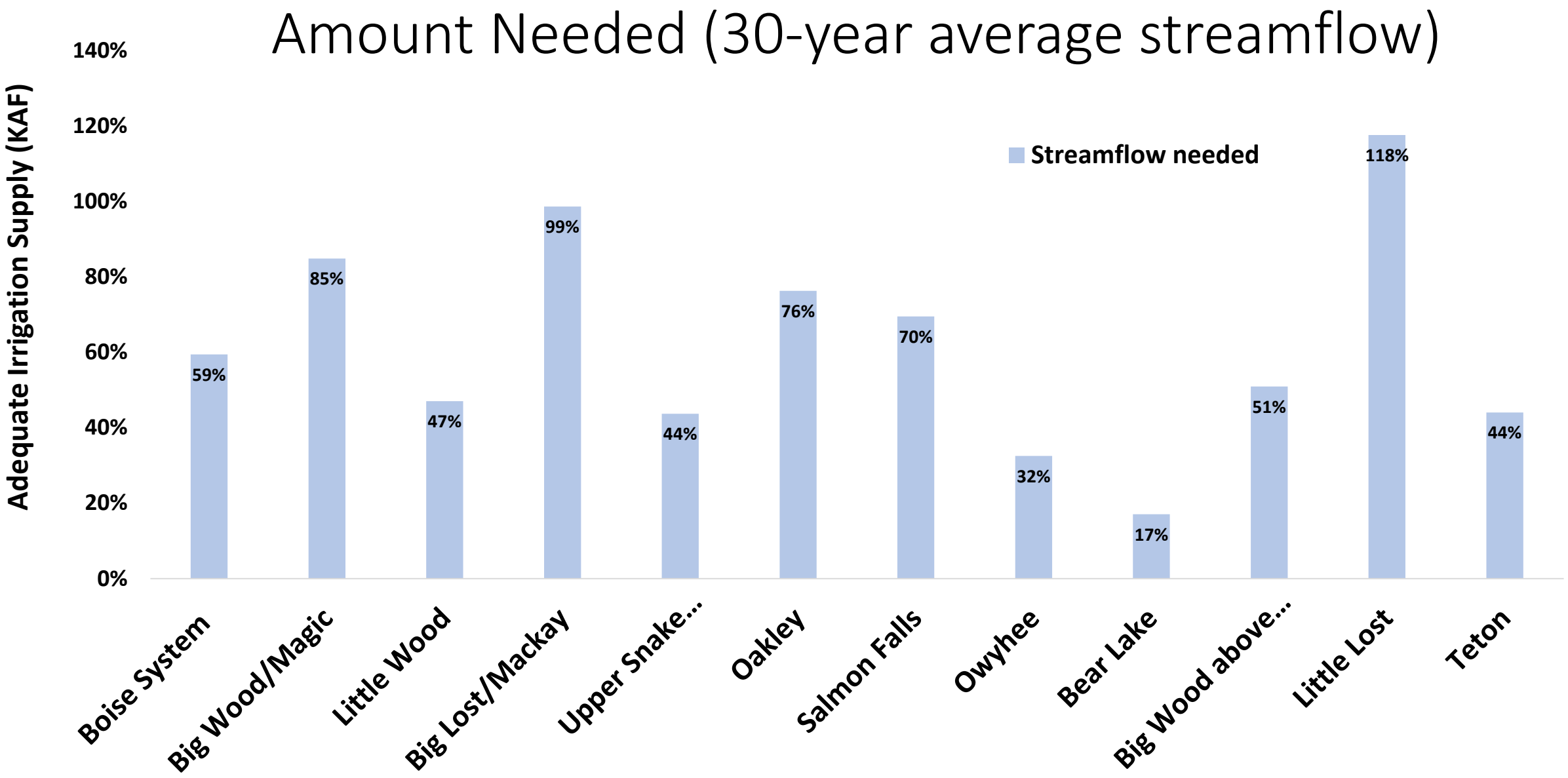

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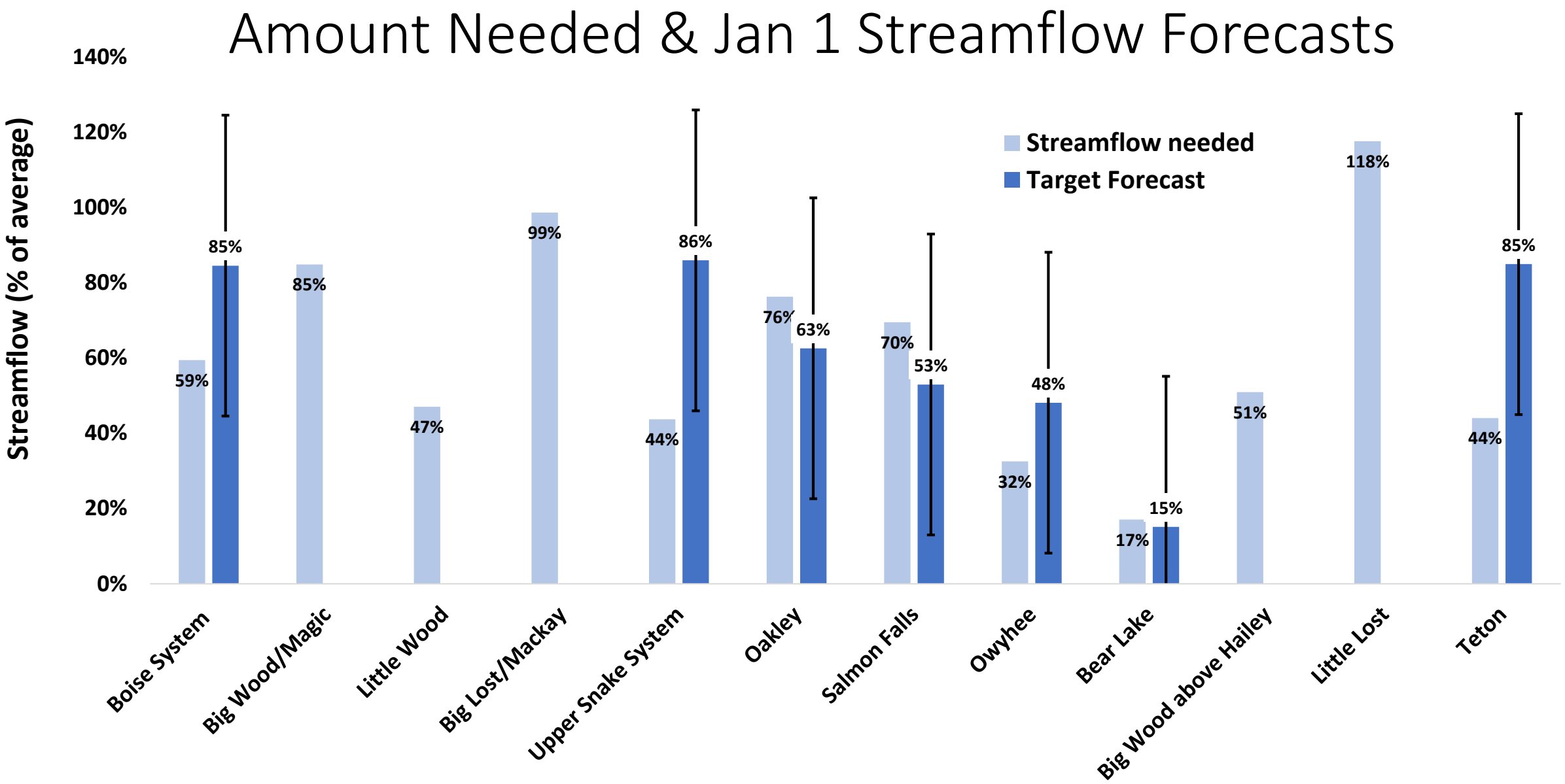
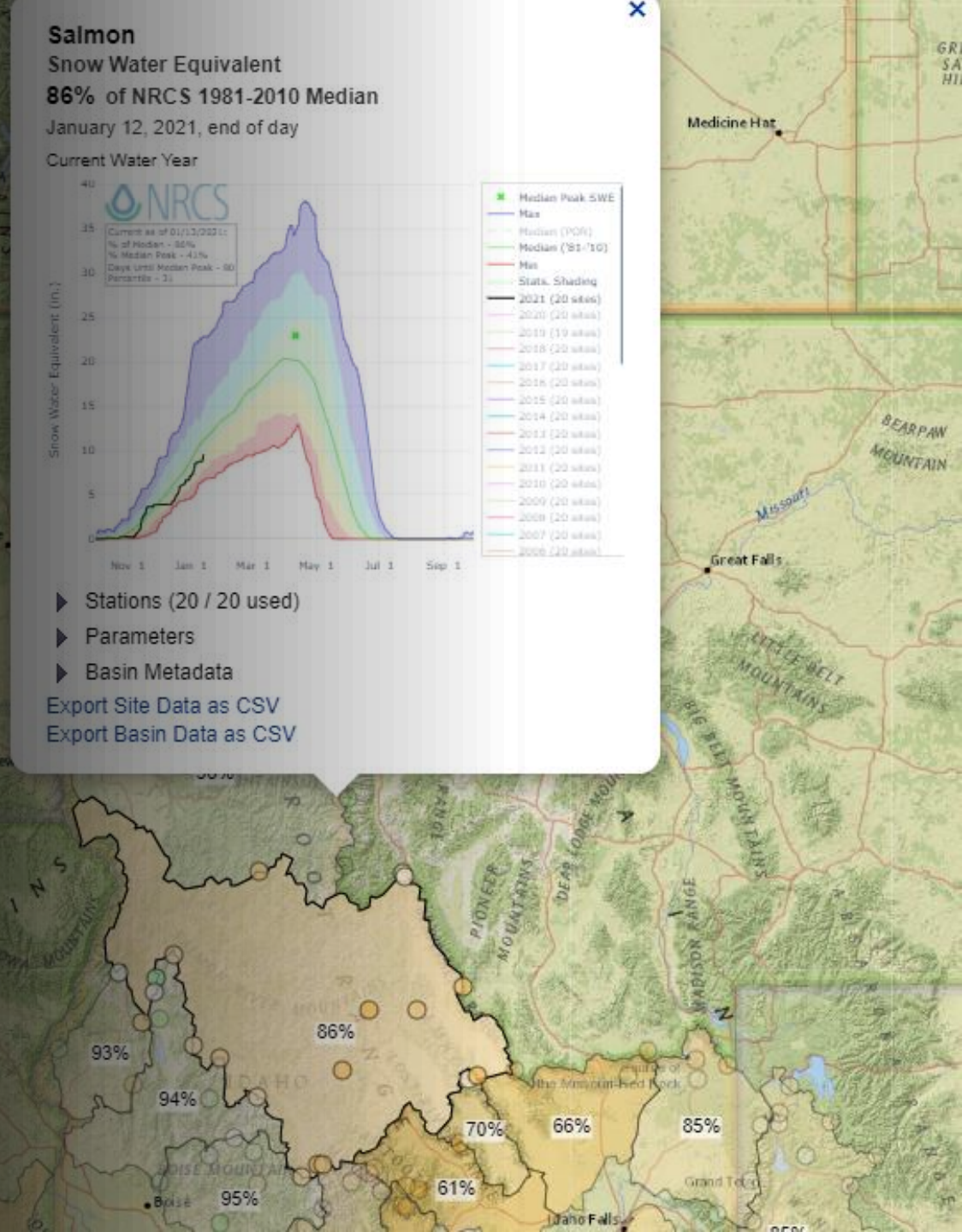


New IMAP Features

- AWS Snow & Precip plots now linked to basins and individual SNOTEL stations
- ‘Sub-basin’ and ‘major-basin’ option now available



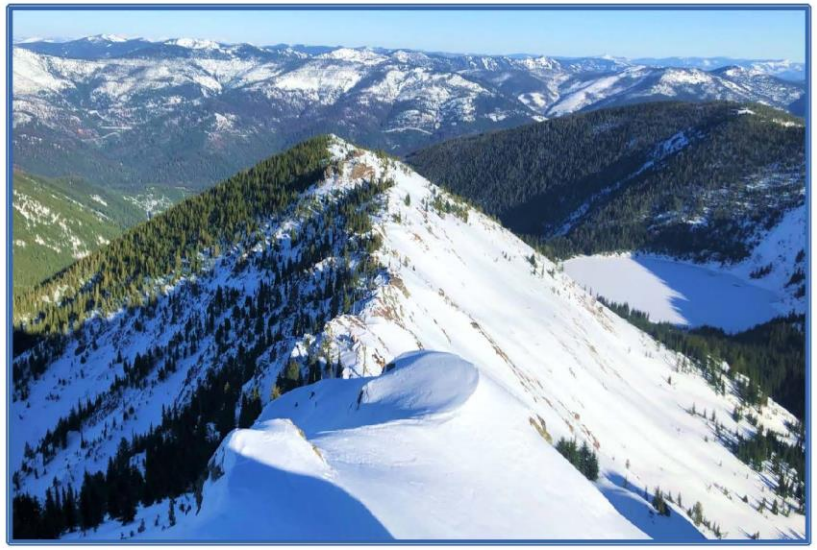
USDA

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Idaho Water Supply Outlook Report

January 1, 2021



At 6,838 feet, Stevens Peak is the highest mountain in the Bitterroot Range along the Idaho-Montana divide. *Photo taken by Peter Youngblood, December 6, 2020*

Water-year 2021 started off slowly across Idaho, except in high elevation areas within the Panhandle basins as seen near Mullan, Idaho at the popular hike to Stevens Peak. October 1 is generally the start of the climatological wet season in the Intermountain West and marks the start of each water-year. Typically, the combination of precipitation and sustained sub-freezing daily temperatures align in November to start the seasonal snowpack building process across Idaho's mountains, but can start as early as September in the highest elevations. Our "wet season", beginning in Autumn and lasting through approximately May, builds the mountain snowpack reservoir that is critical to delivering water supply security through the West's subsequent hot and dry summer months.

NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

Contact Information:

Idaho Snow Survey – NRCS

Danny Tappa

Daniel.tappa@usda.gov

208-789-6992