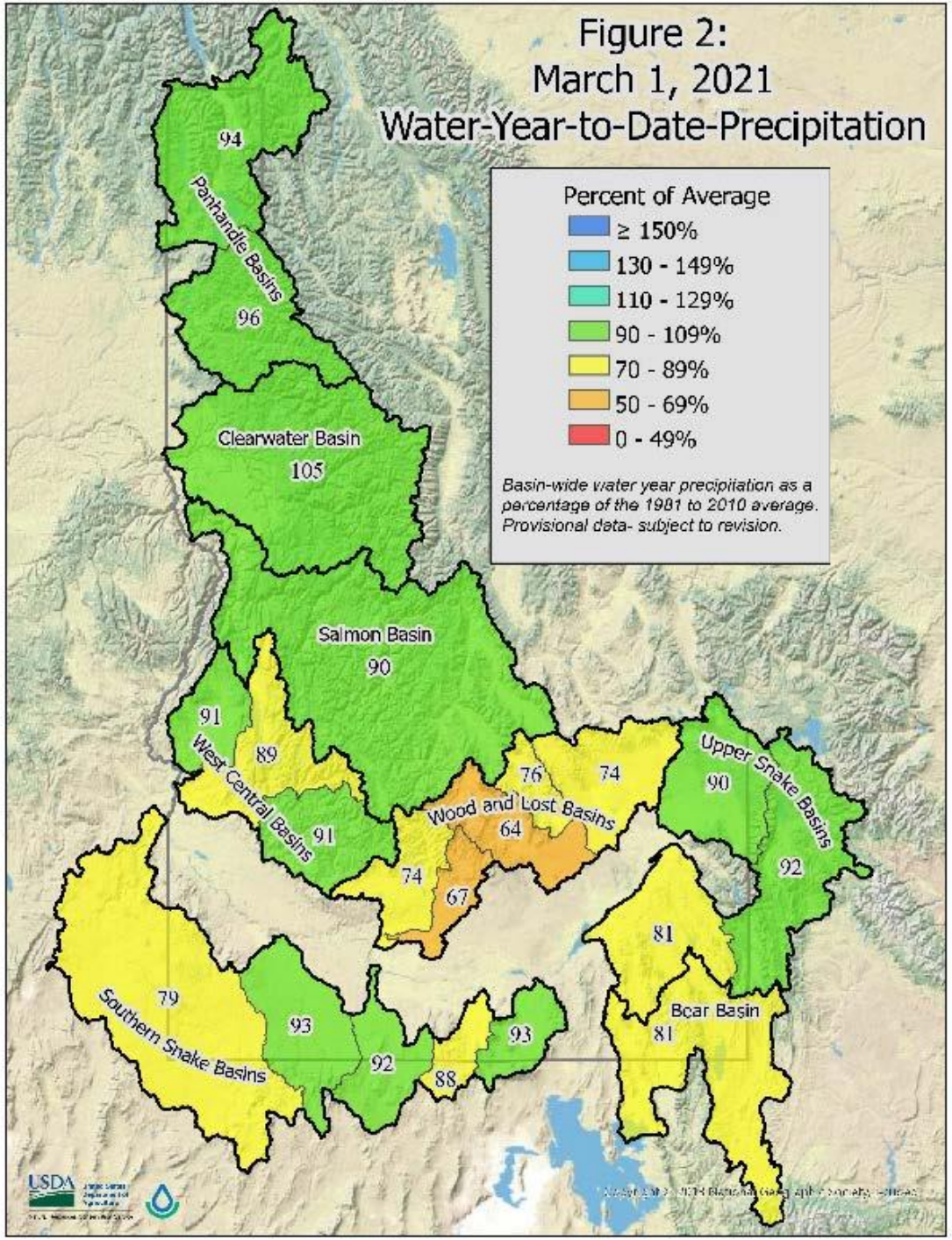
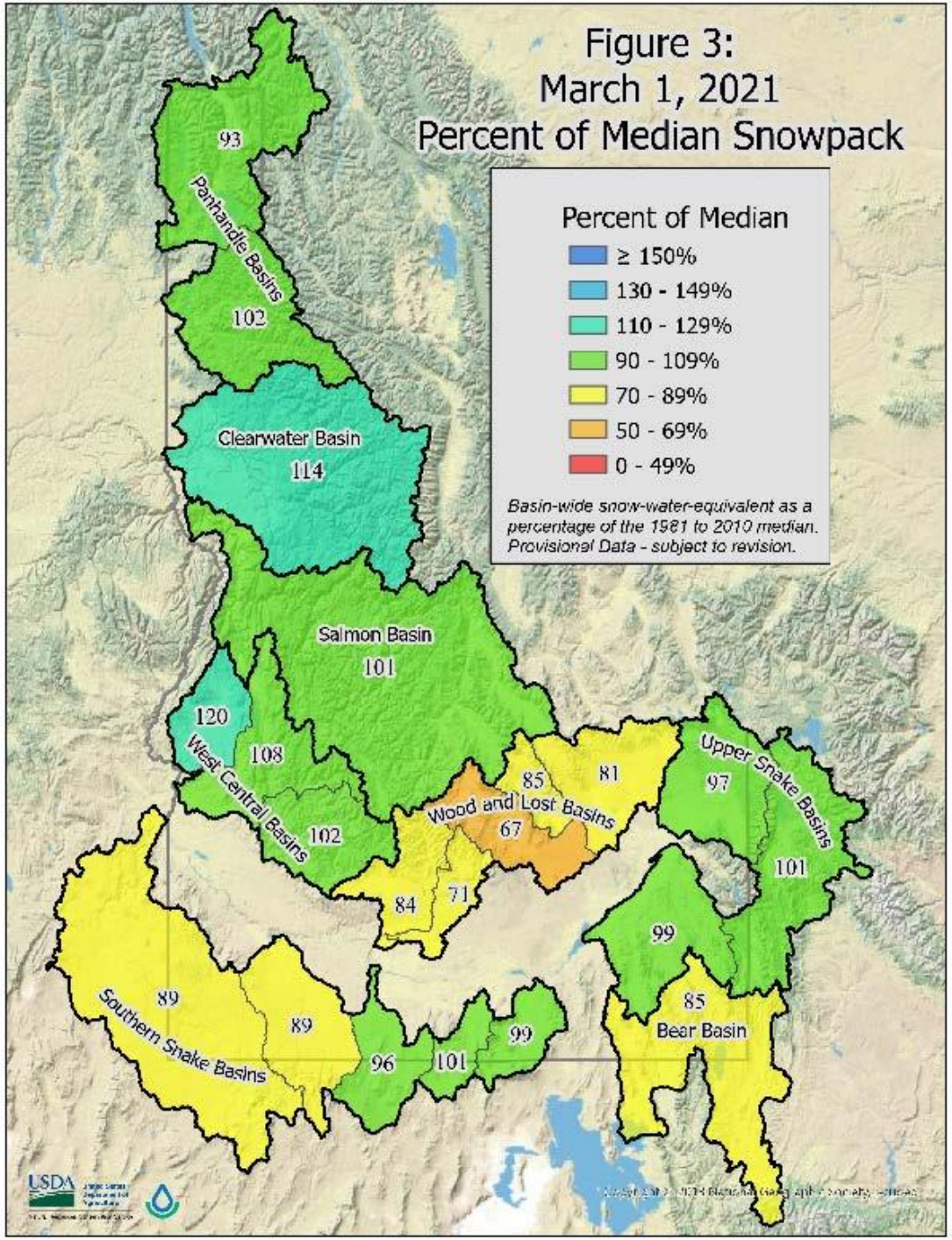
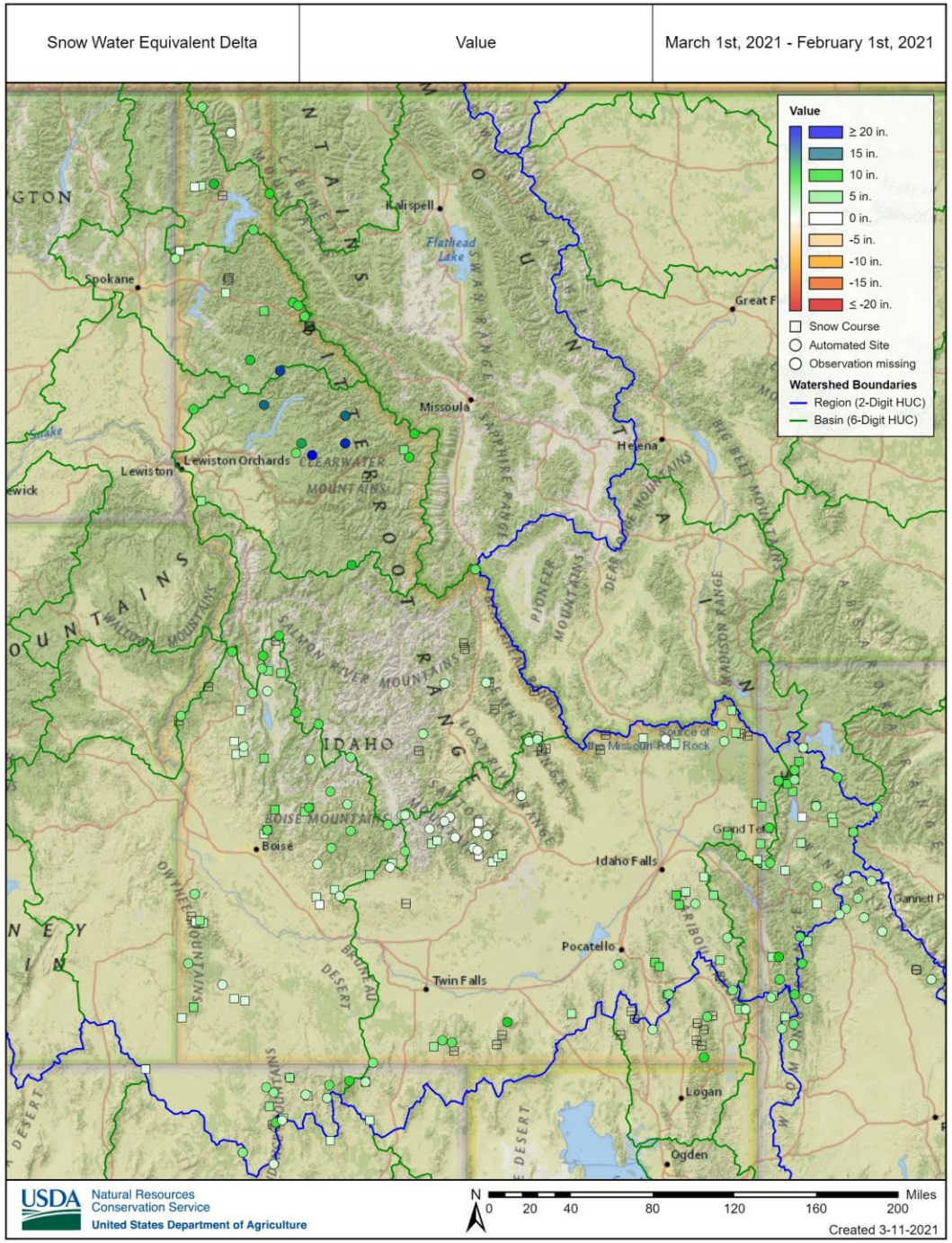
Idaho Water Supply Outlook
March 12, 2021

Presented by: Danny Tappa,
NRCS Snow Survey



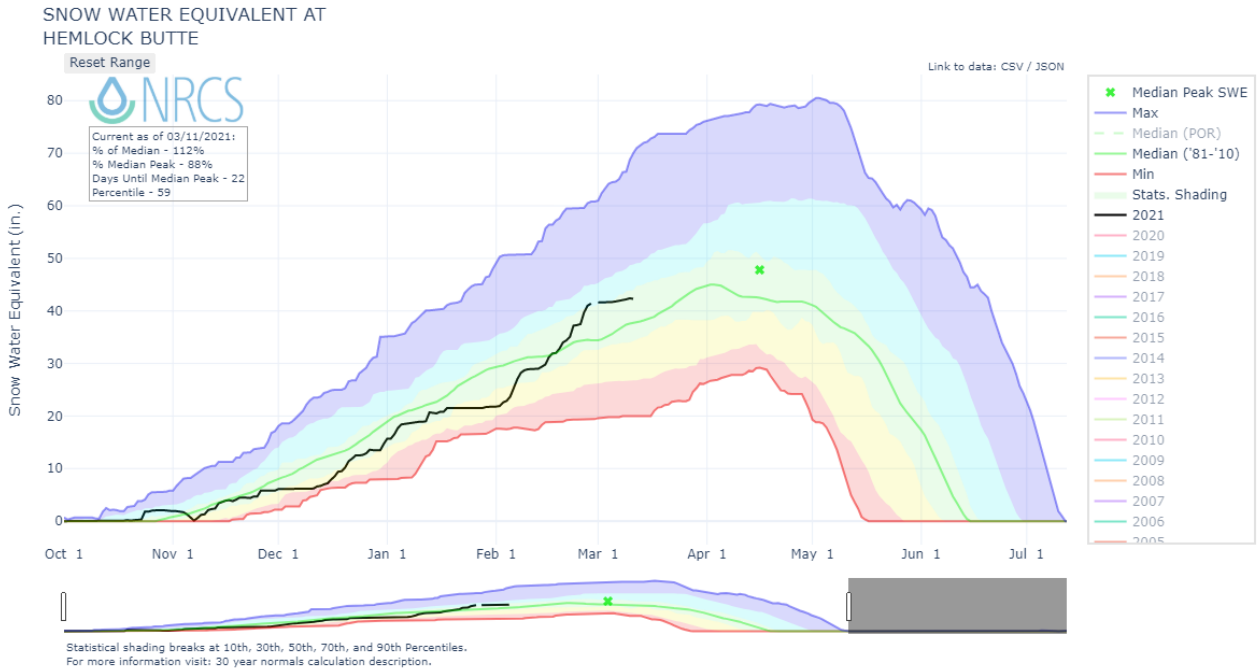
March 1
Conditions



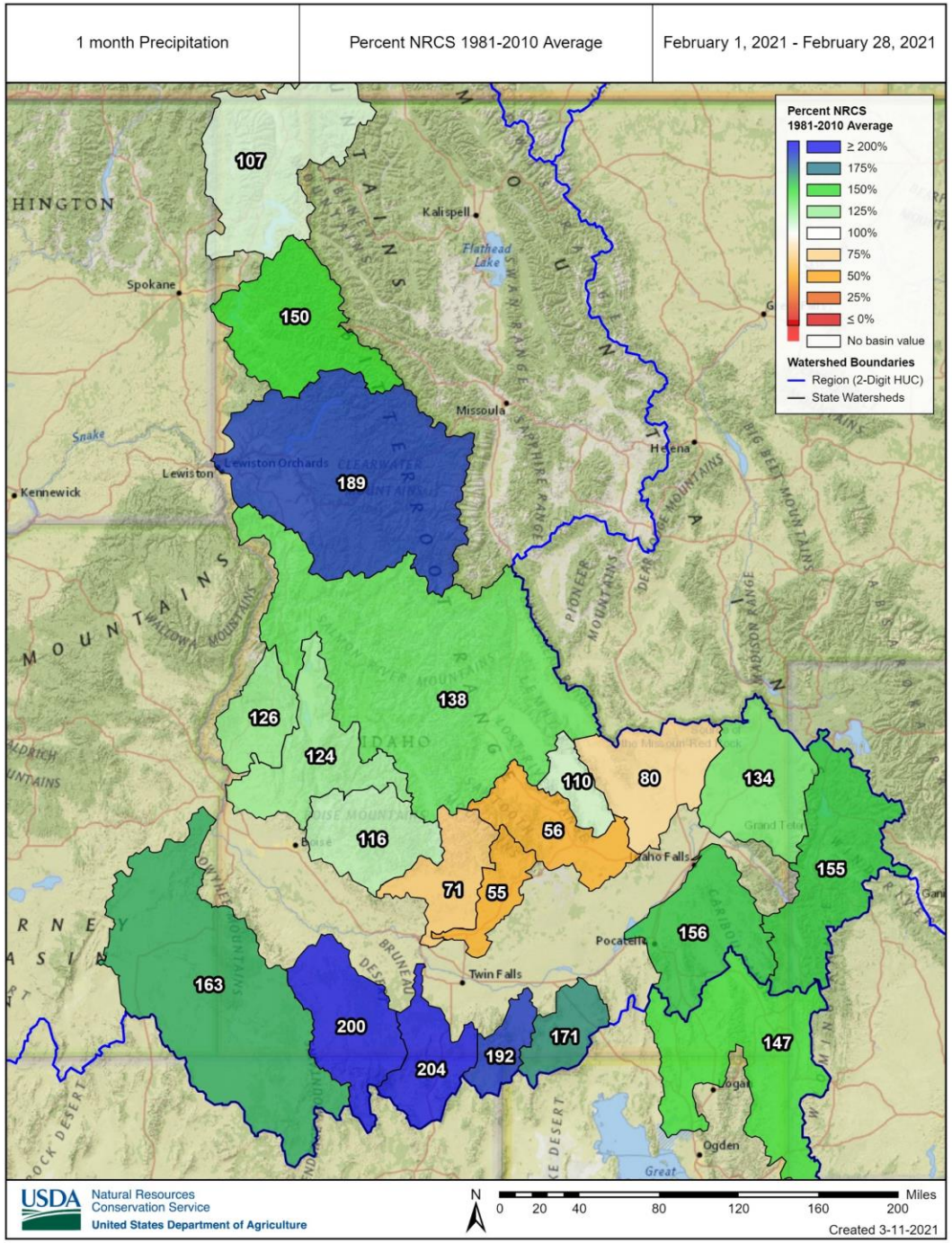


SWE Increases during February

- 3 to 10” in Pend Orielle & Coeur d’Alene
- 5 to 20” in Clearwater
- 2 to 10” in Salmon, West-Central, Southern & Upper Snake
- 1 to 3” in Wood & Lost

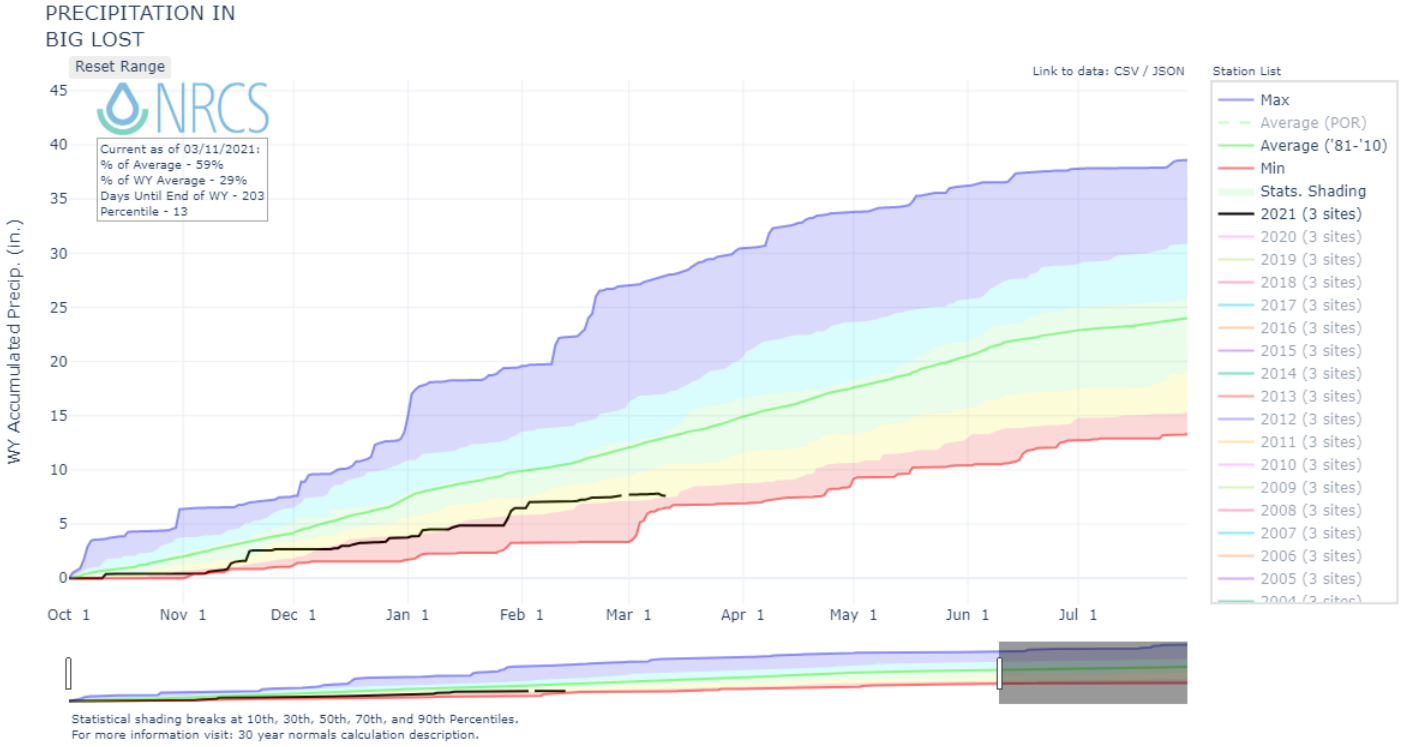


February Monthly Precipitation



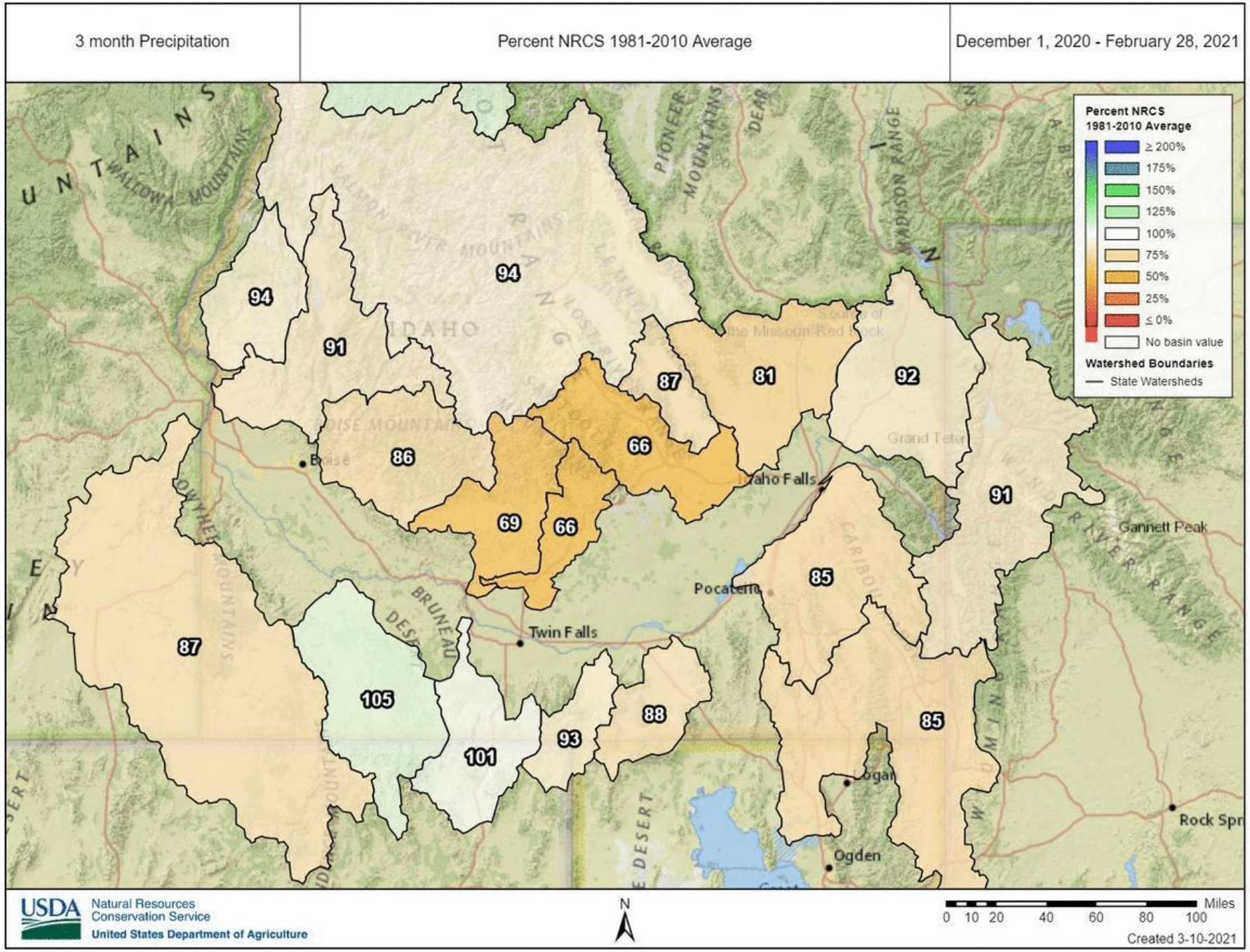
- Above normal monthly precipitation for all mountain areas, except the **Wood & Lost basins where drought conditions persist**

- Wood & Lost: Record low (SNOTEL era) total precipitation continues since beginning of WY2019

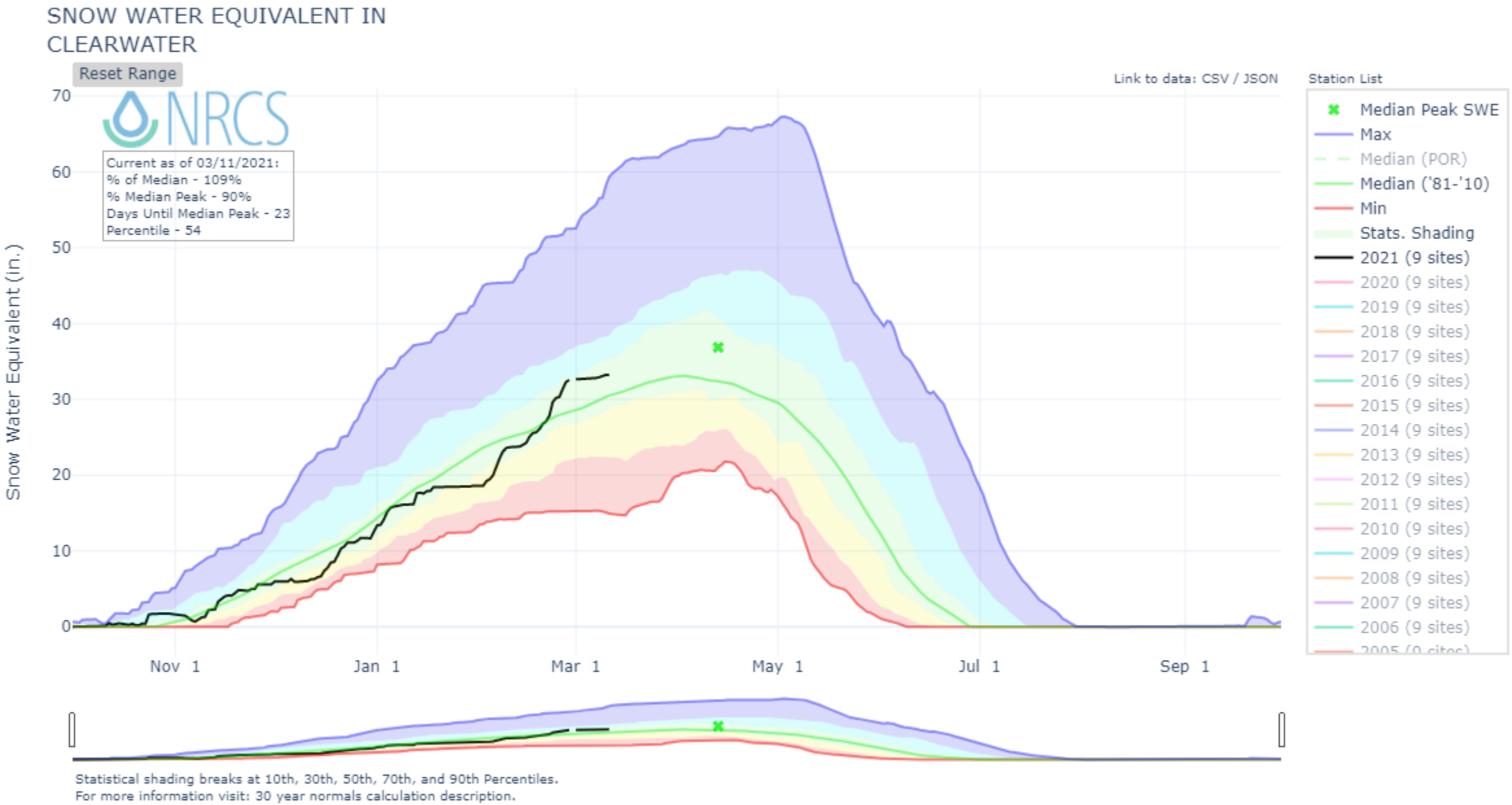


Wood & Lost Drought

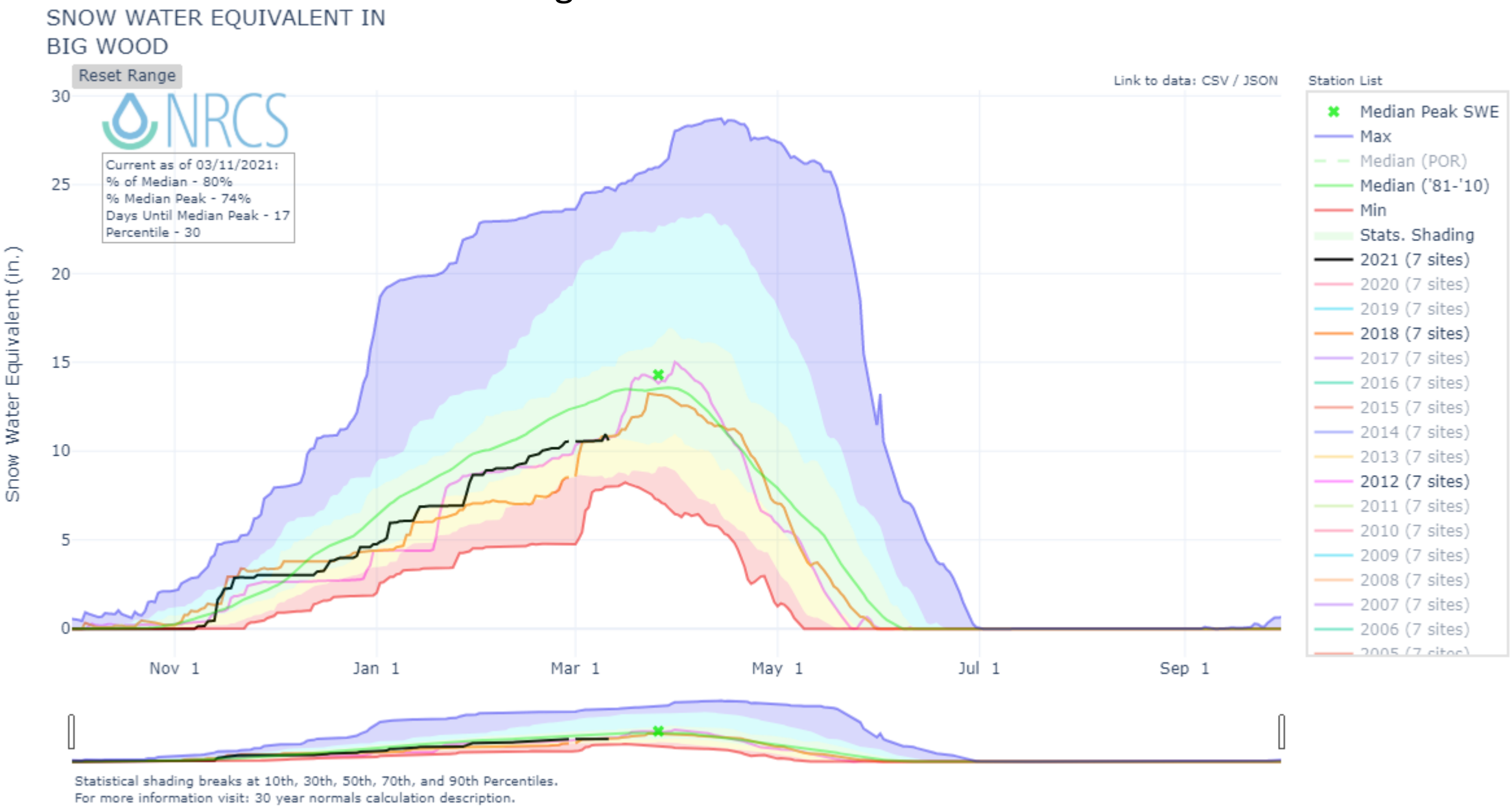
- Seasonal precipitation has been below normal since Spring of 2019 (March-June)



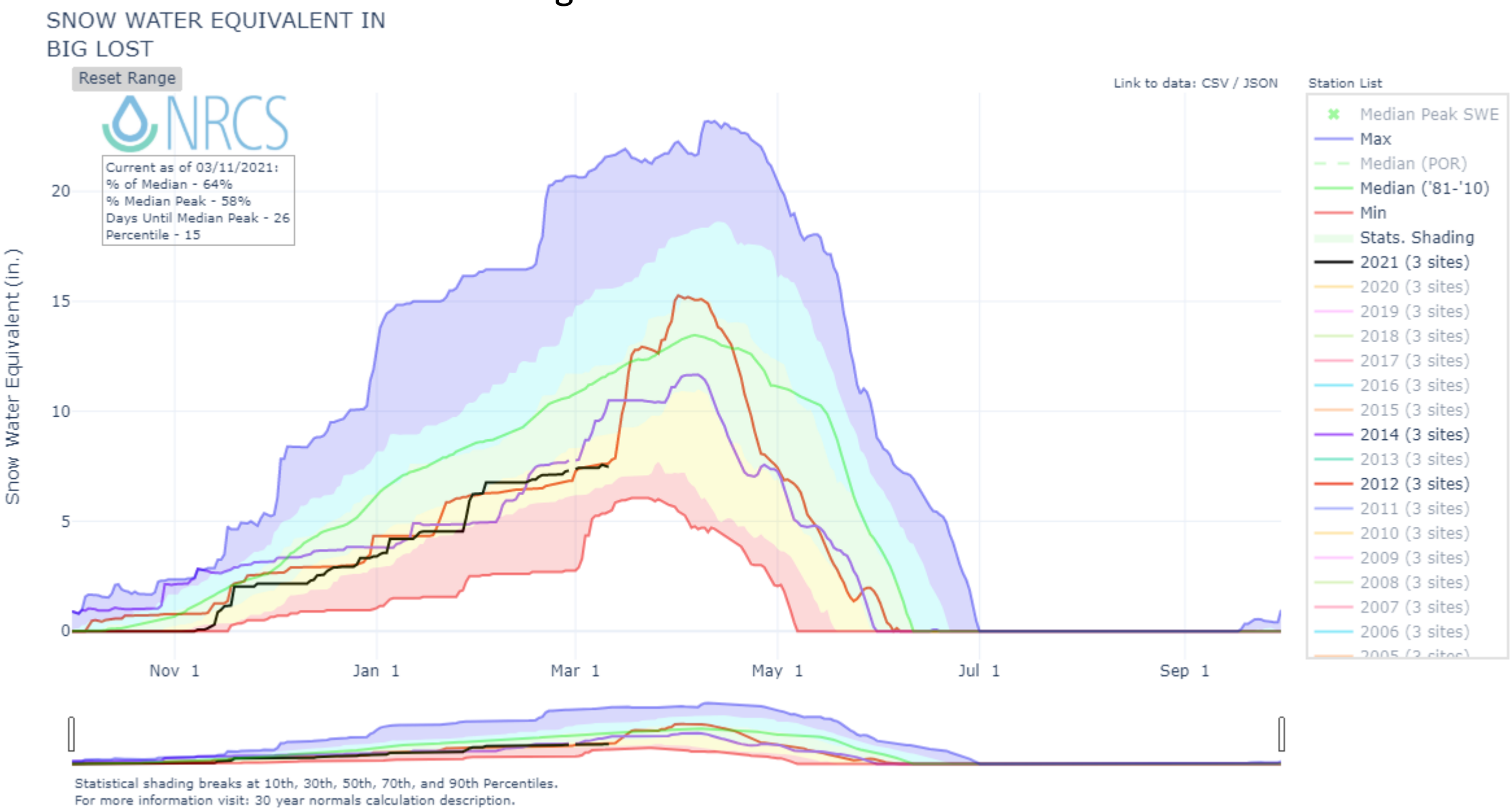
Clearwater River Basin



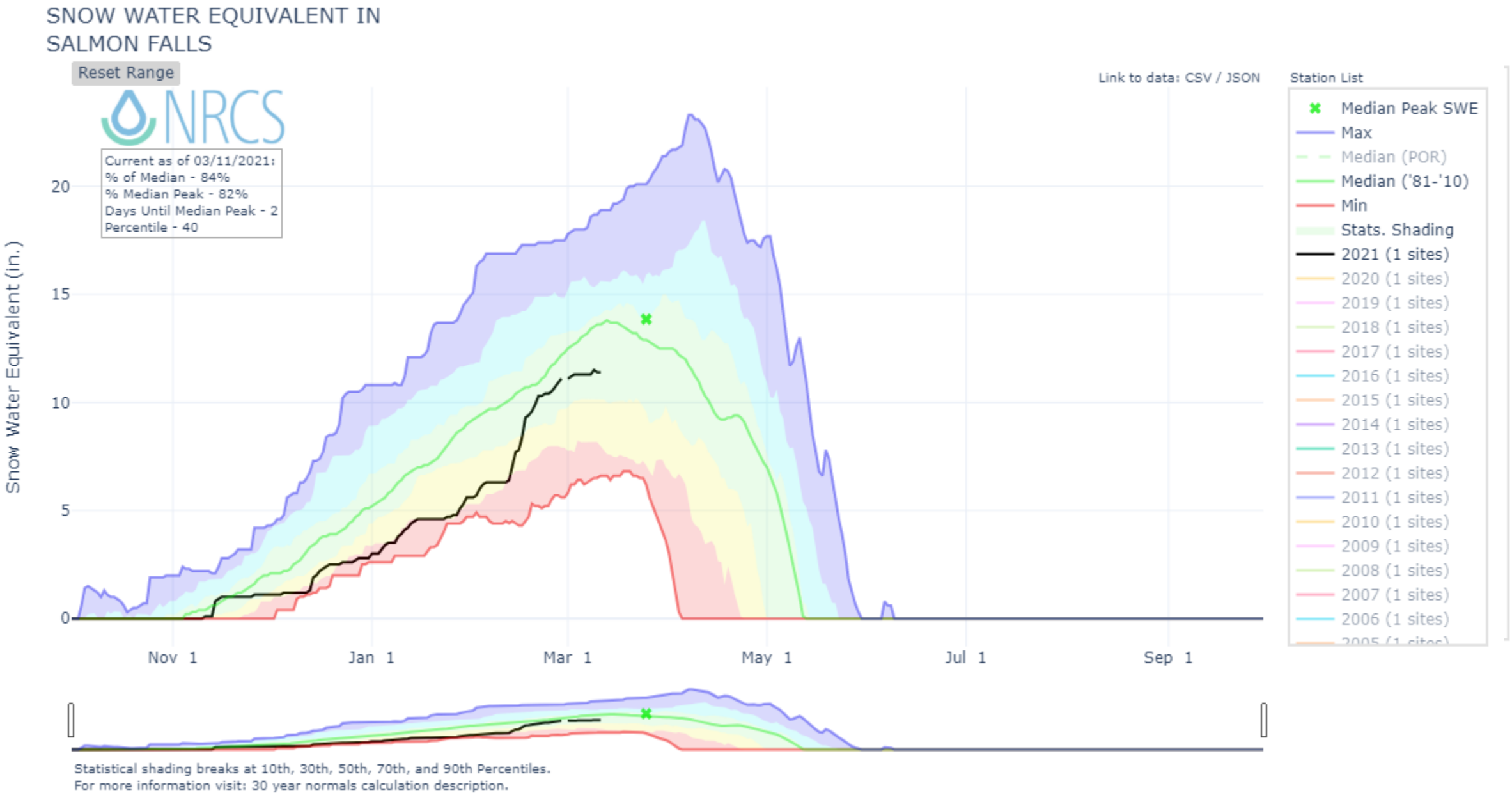
Big Wood River Basin



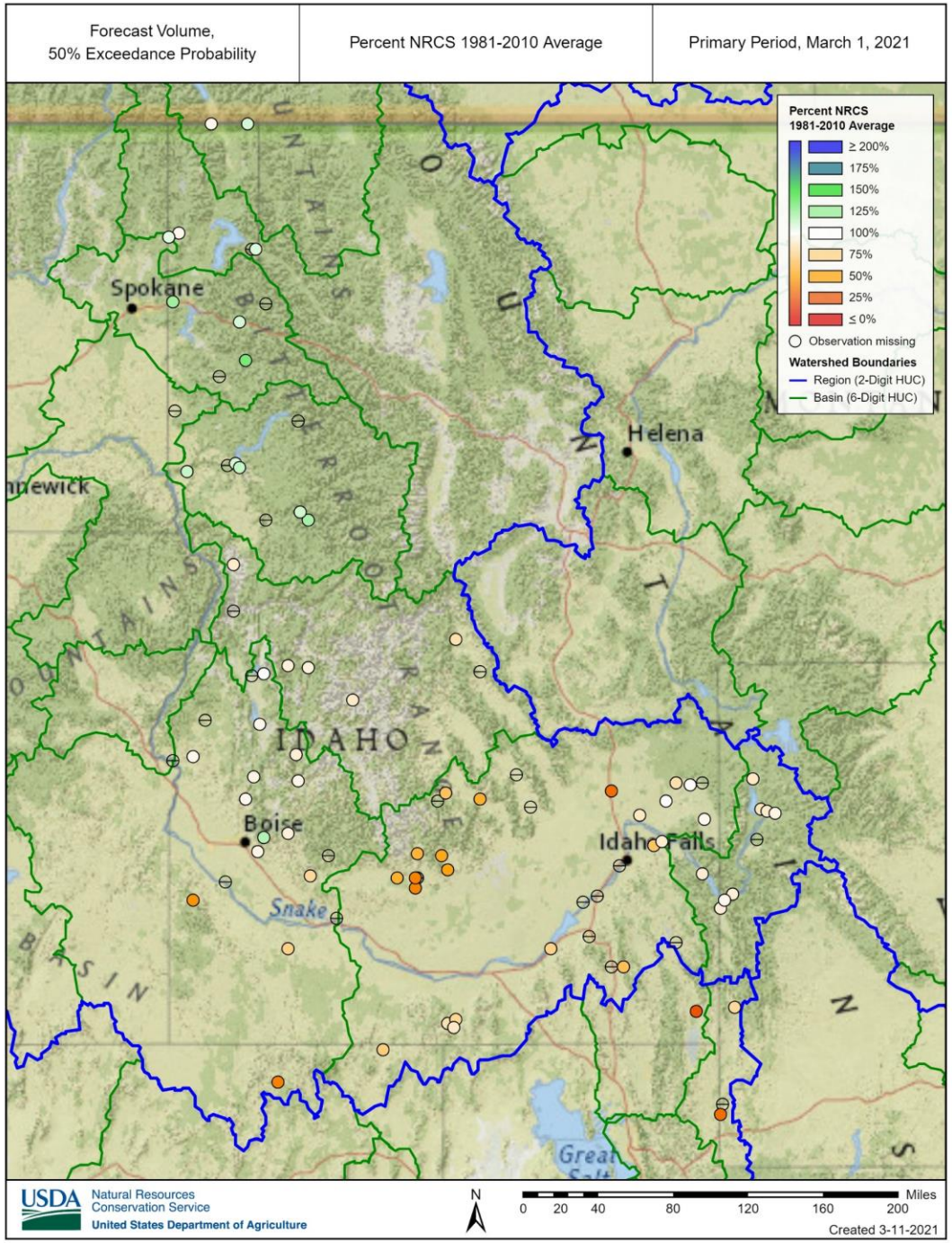
Big Lost River Basin



Salmon Falls River Basin



March 1 50% Streamflow Forecasts

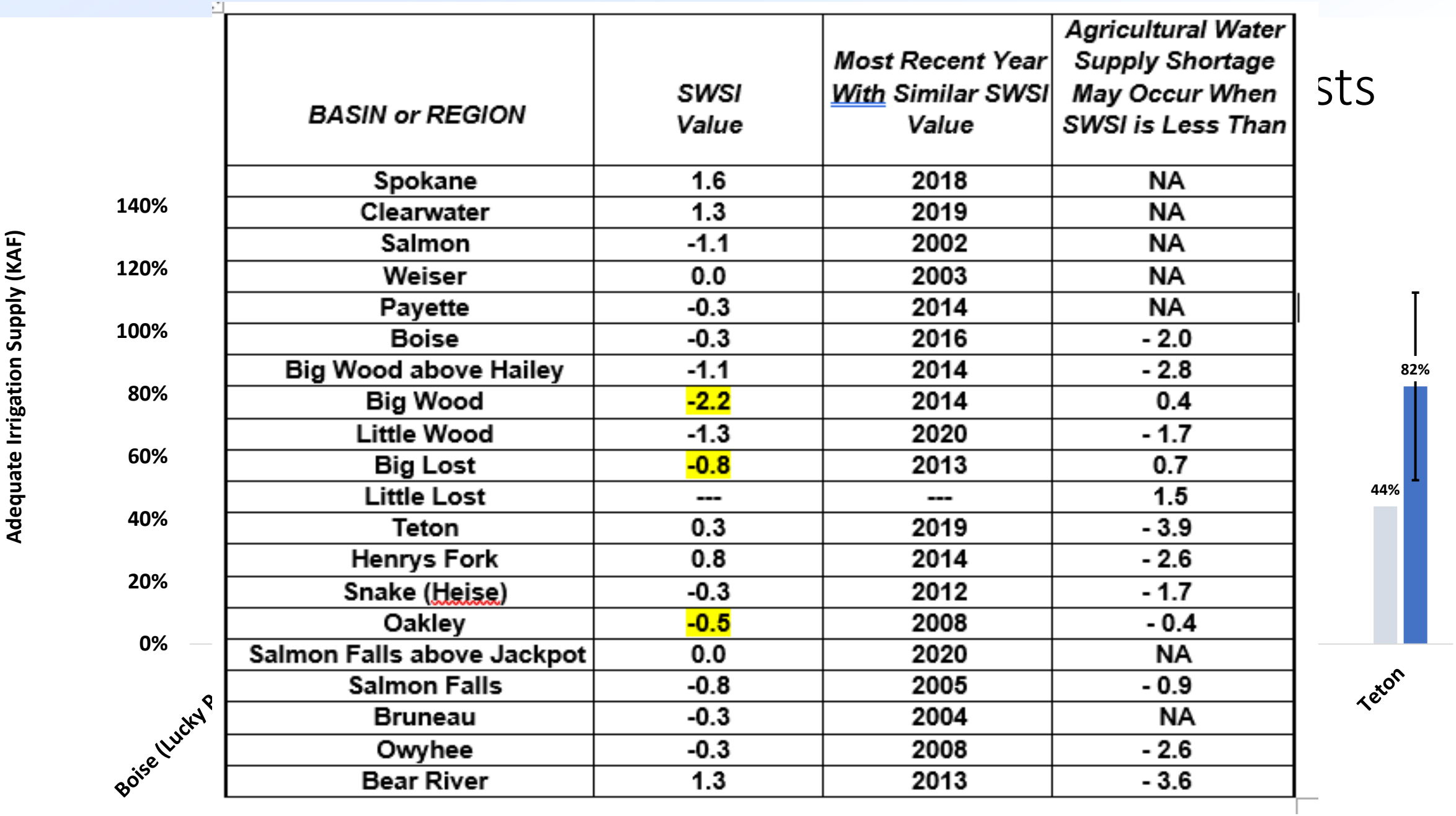


Notables (% of average):

- NF Clearwater: 109%
- MF Salmon: 89%
- Payette nr Horseshoe Bend: 97%
- Boise R nr Boise: 95%
- Snake River nr Heise: 91%

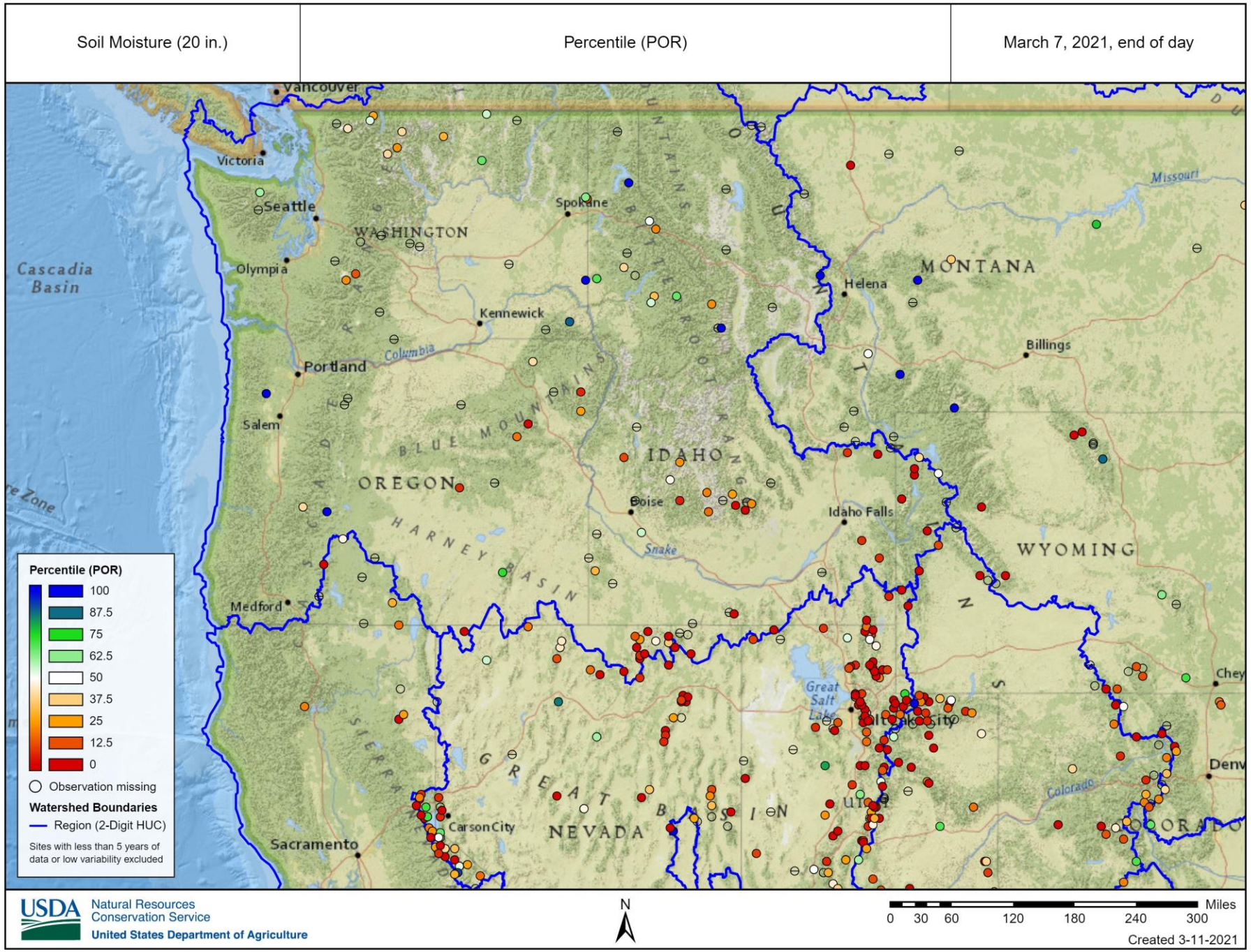
2021 Streamflow needed for adequate water supply (KAF)

BASIN or REGION	SWSI Value	Most Recent Year With Similar SWSI Value	Agricultural Water Supply Shortage May Occur When SWSI is Less Than
Spokane	1.6	2018	NA
Clearwater	1.3	2019	NA
Salmon	-1.1	2002	NA
Weiser	0.0	2003	NA
Payette	-0.3	2014	NA
Boise	-0.3	2016	- 2.0
Big Wood above Hailey	-1.1	2014	- 2.8
Big Wood	-2.2	2014	0.4
Little Wood	-1.3	2020	- 1.7
Big Lost	-0.8	2013	0.7
Little Lost	---	---	1.5
Teton	0.3	2019	- 3.9
Henrys Fork	0.8	2014	- 2.6
Snake (Heise)	-0.3	2012	- 1.7
Oakley	-0.5	2008	- 0.4
Salmon Falls above Jackpot	0.0	2020	NA
Salmon Falls	-0.8	2005	- 0.9
Bruneau	-0.3	2004	NA
Owyhee	-0.3	2008	- 2.6
Bear River	1.3	2013	- 3.6



- Record* low soil moisture throughout southern half of Idaho & Upper Snake

*period of record is less than 20 years in most cases



State of the SNOTEL Network

- Trinity Mountain SWE
- Humboldt Gulch SWE
- Gros Ventre SWE

USDA

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Idaho Water Supply Outlook Report

March 1, 2021

Northern Idaho Mountains near Lookout Pass Ski Area
Photo taken by Peter Youngblood, February 20, 2021

Cloudy days and frequent snowfall occurred throughout February over much of Idaho's mountains. In some areas, particularly in northern Idaho, record increases in snow water content for the month were observed! Most of Idaho now holds a normal to above normal snowpack, which bodes well for water supplies. Continue reading the full report for in-depth details and learn which areas we still have concerns about (*hint: déjà vu*).

NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

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