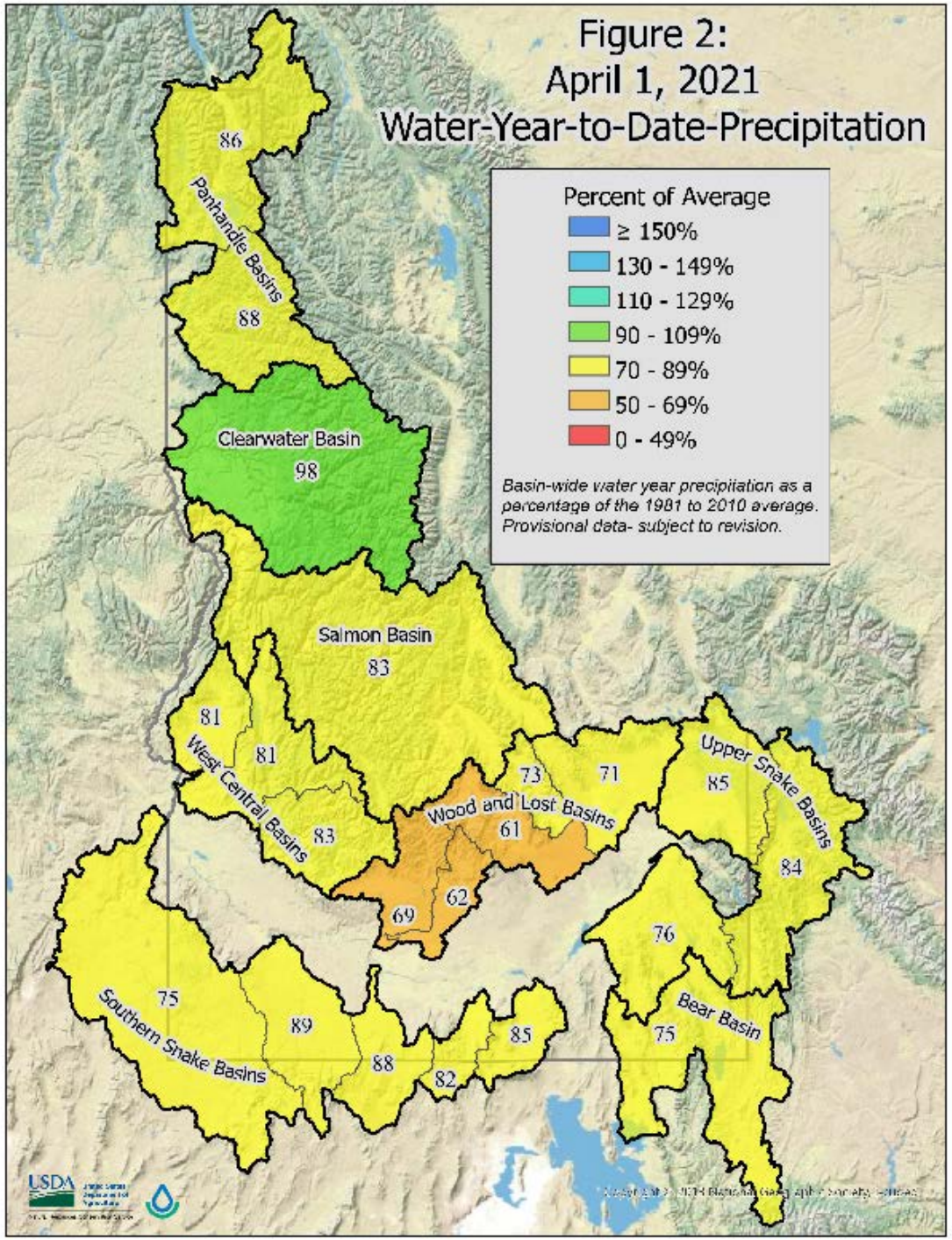
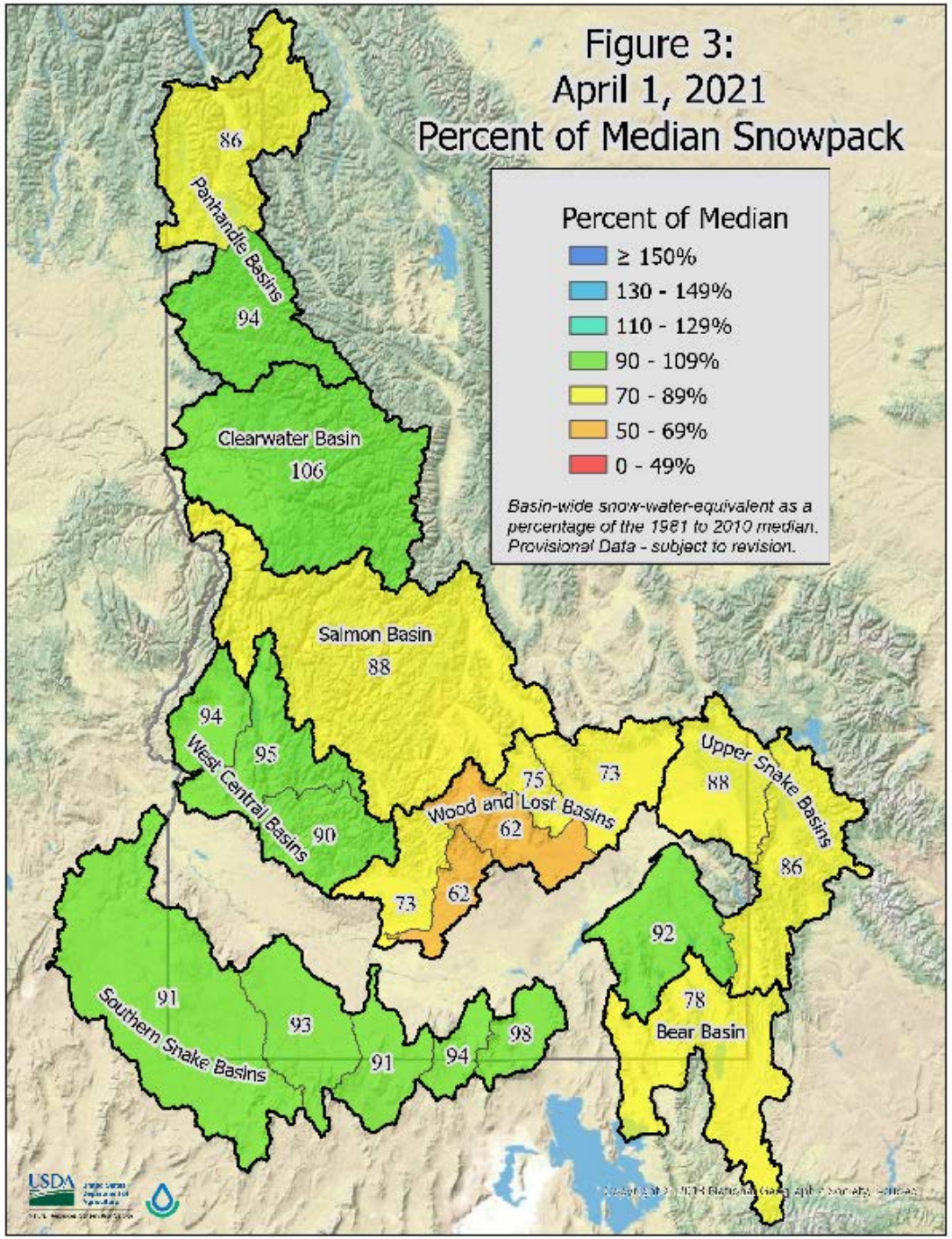
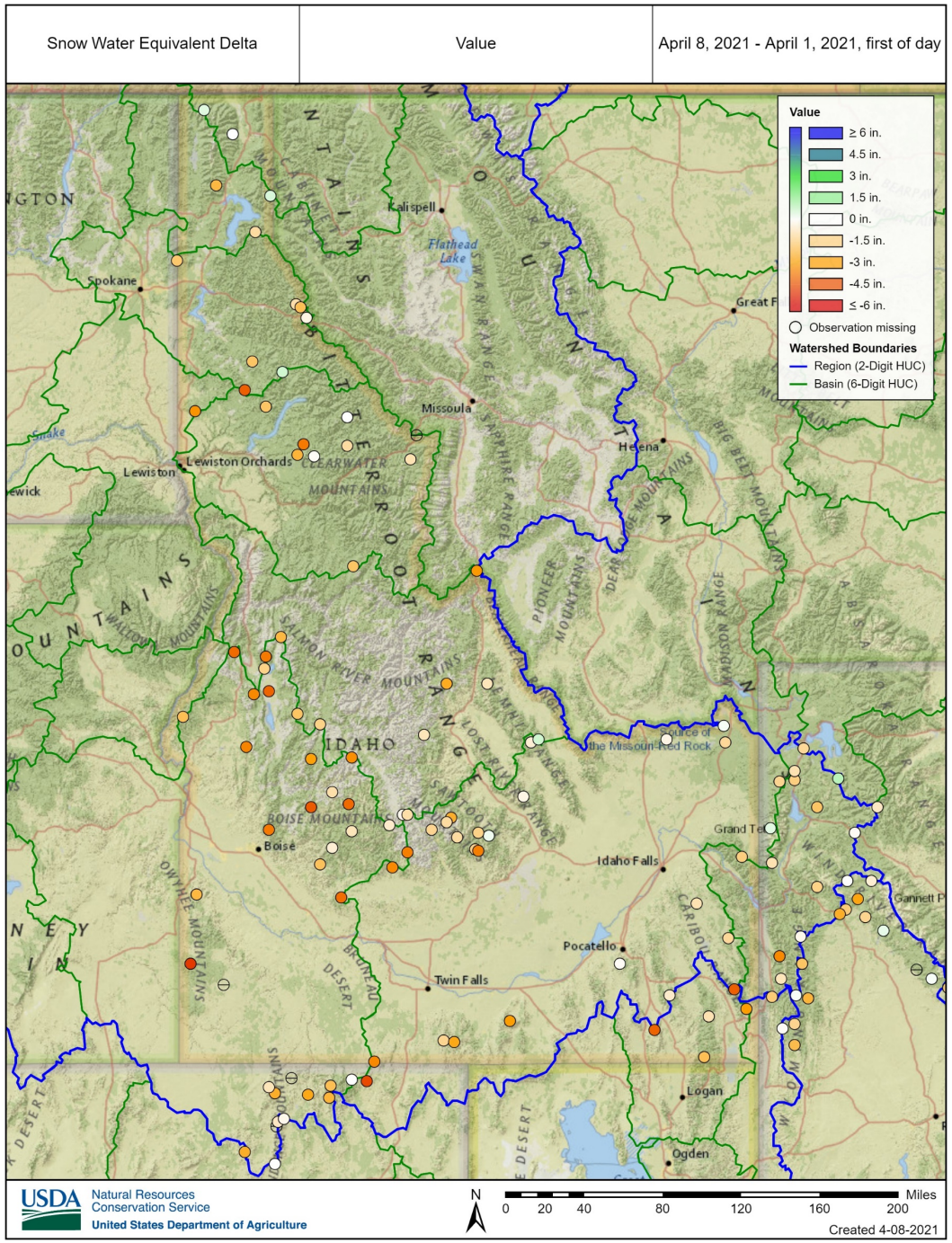
Idaho Water Supply Outlook
April 9, 2021

Presented by: Danny Tappa,
NRCS Snow Survey



April 1
Conditions





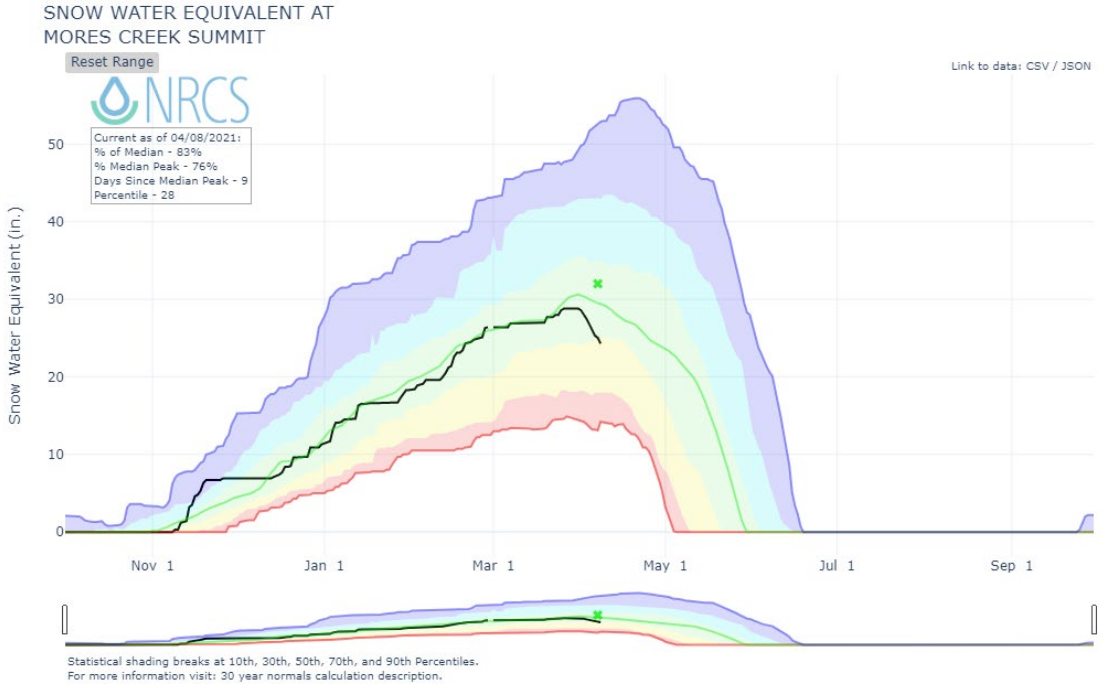
SWE changes during March

North of Salmon-Clearwater Divide

- -5” to +2” below 4,500 ft
- 0” to +8” above 4,500 ft

South of Salmon-Clearwater Divide

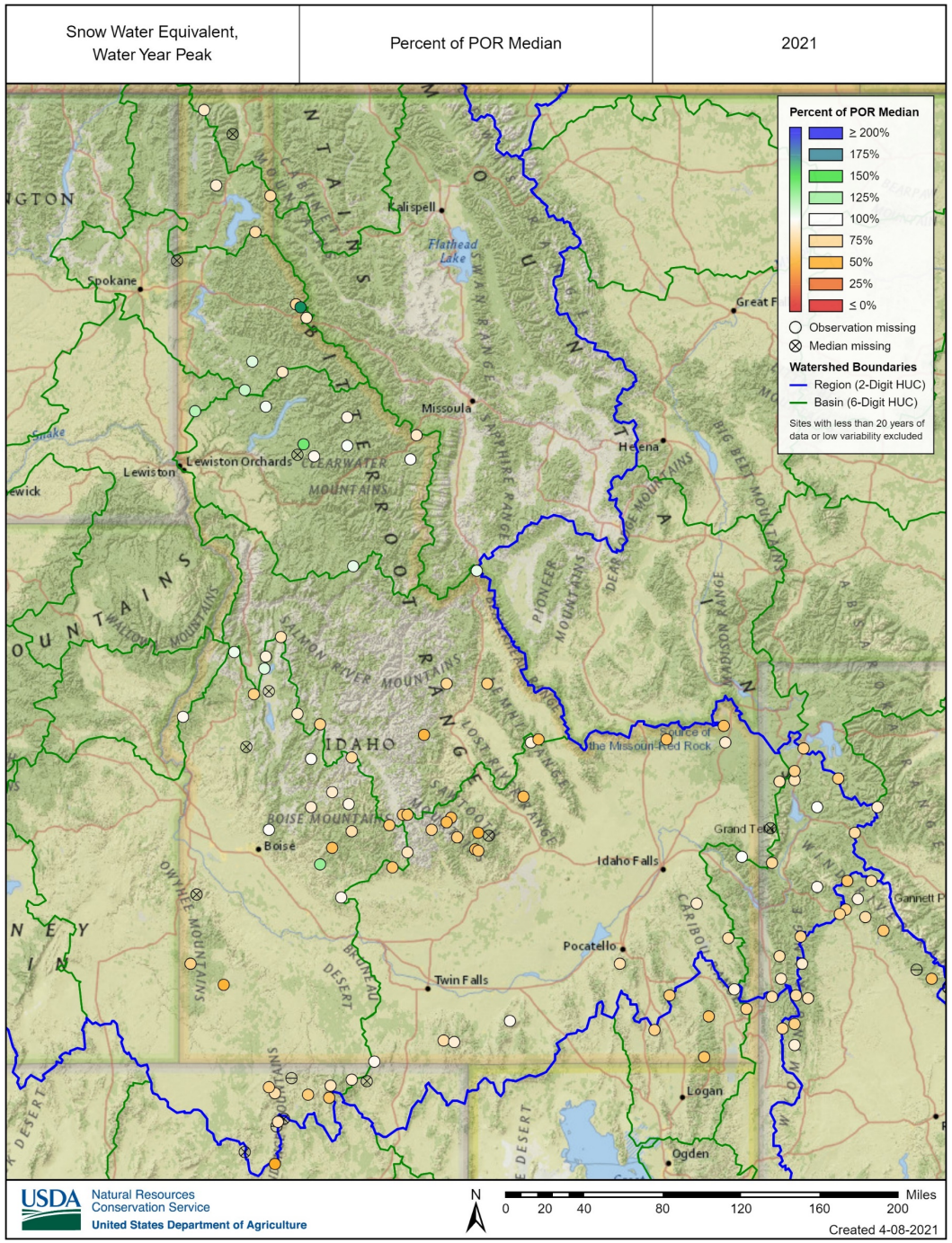
- -8” to +2” below 6,500 ft
- 0” to +4” above 6,500 ft

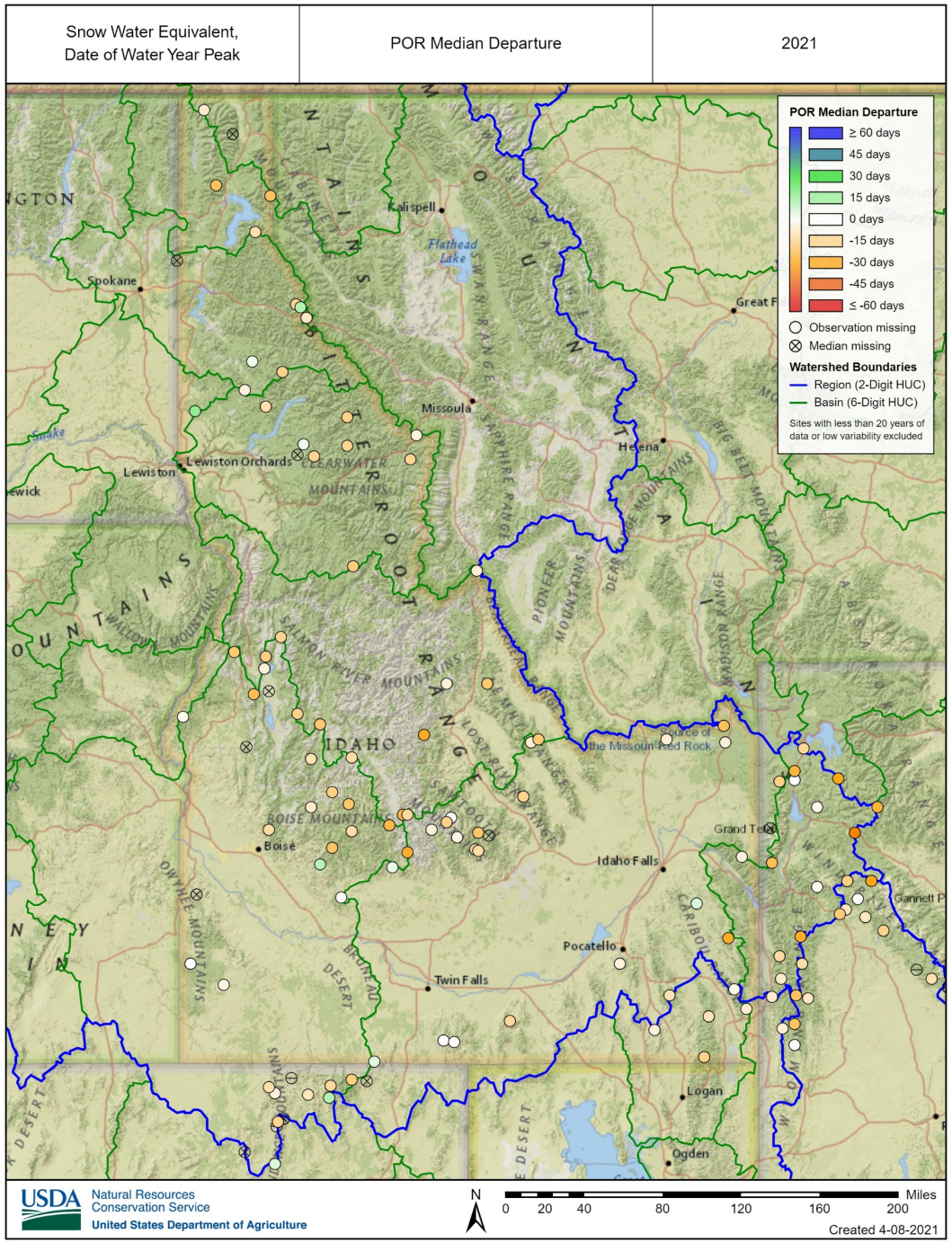


WY2021 Peak SWE

← % normal

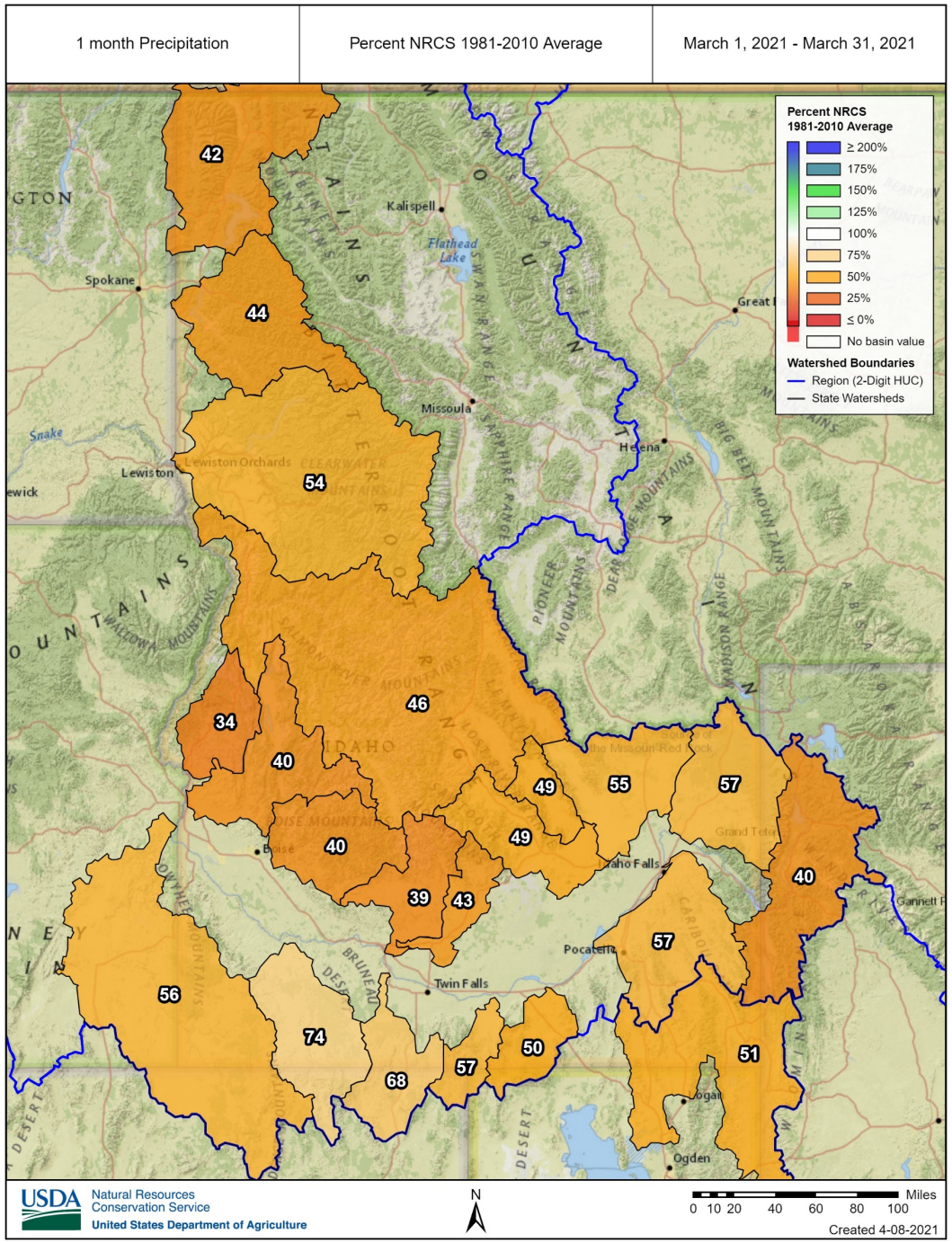
Date →

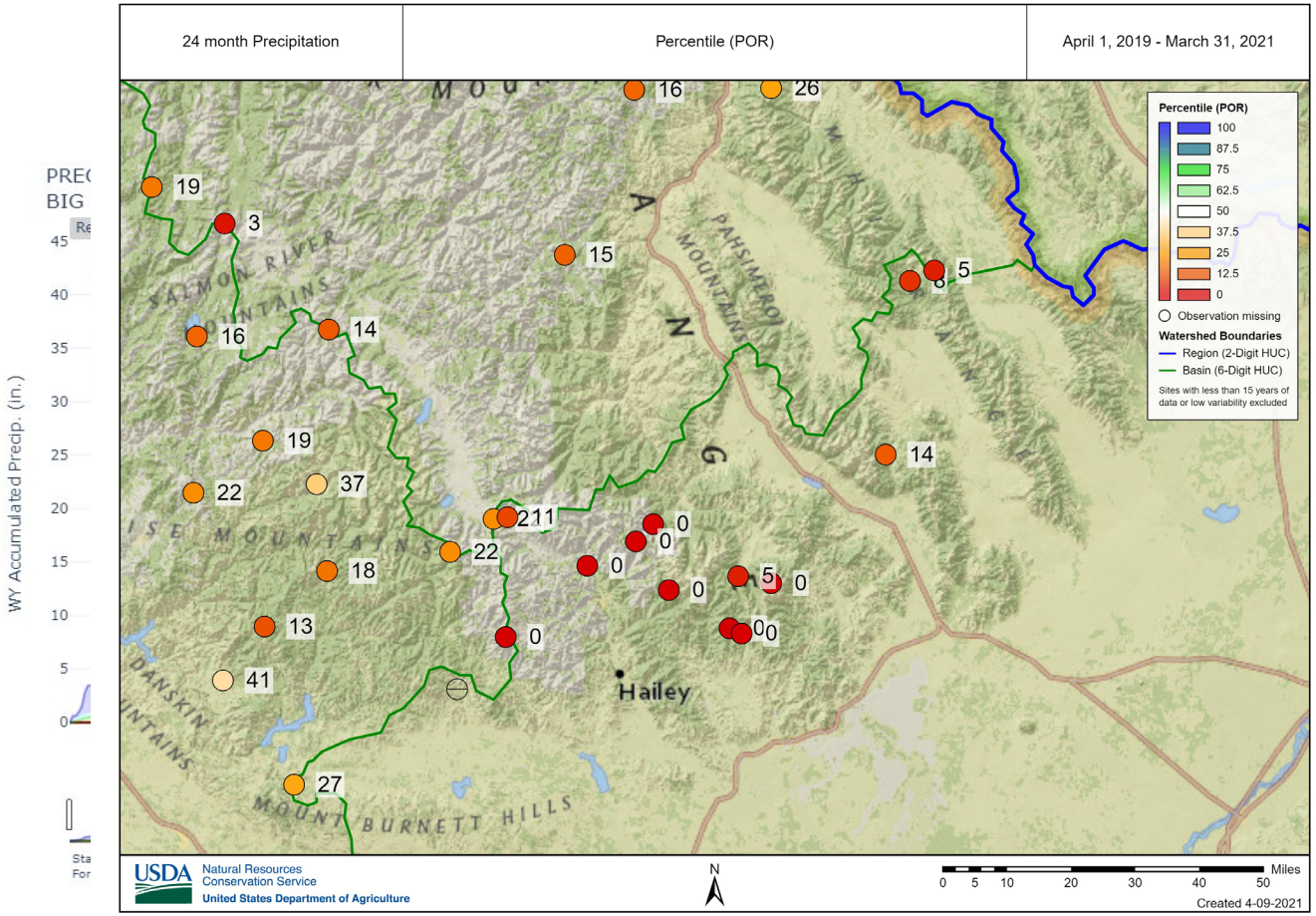




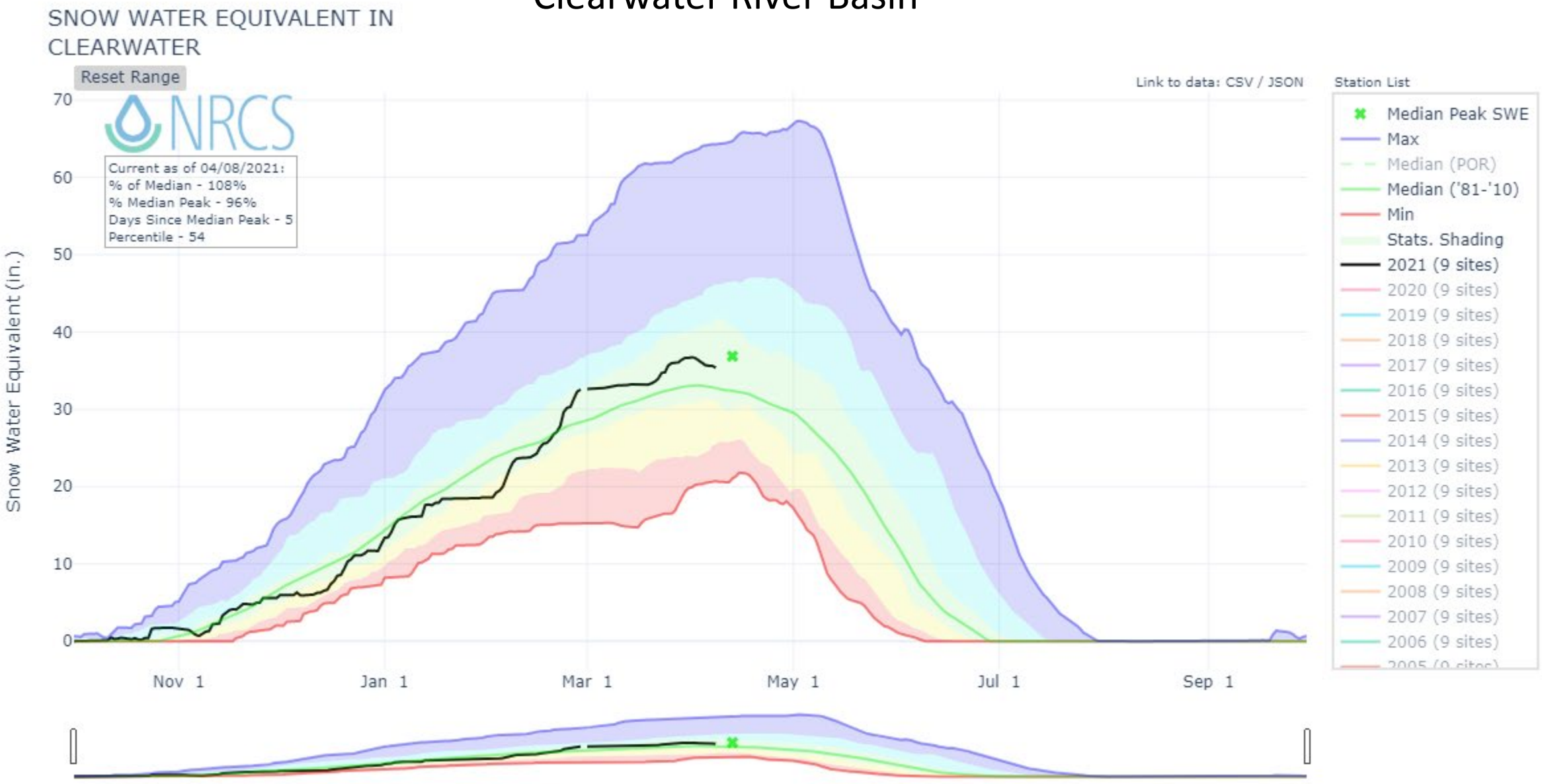
March Monthly Precipitation

- Statewide: below normal precipitation during March
- Wood & Lost: Record low (SNOTEL era) total precipitation continues since April of WY2019

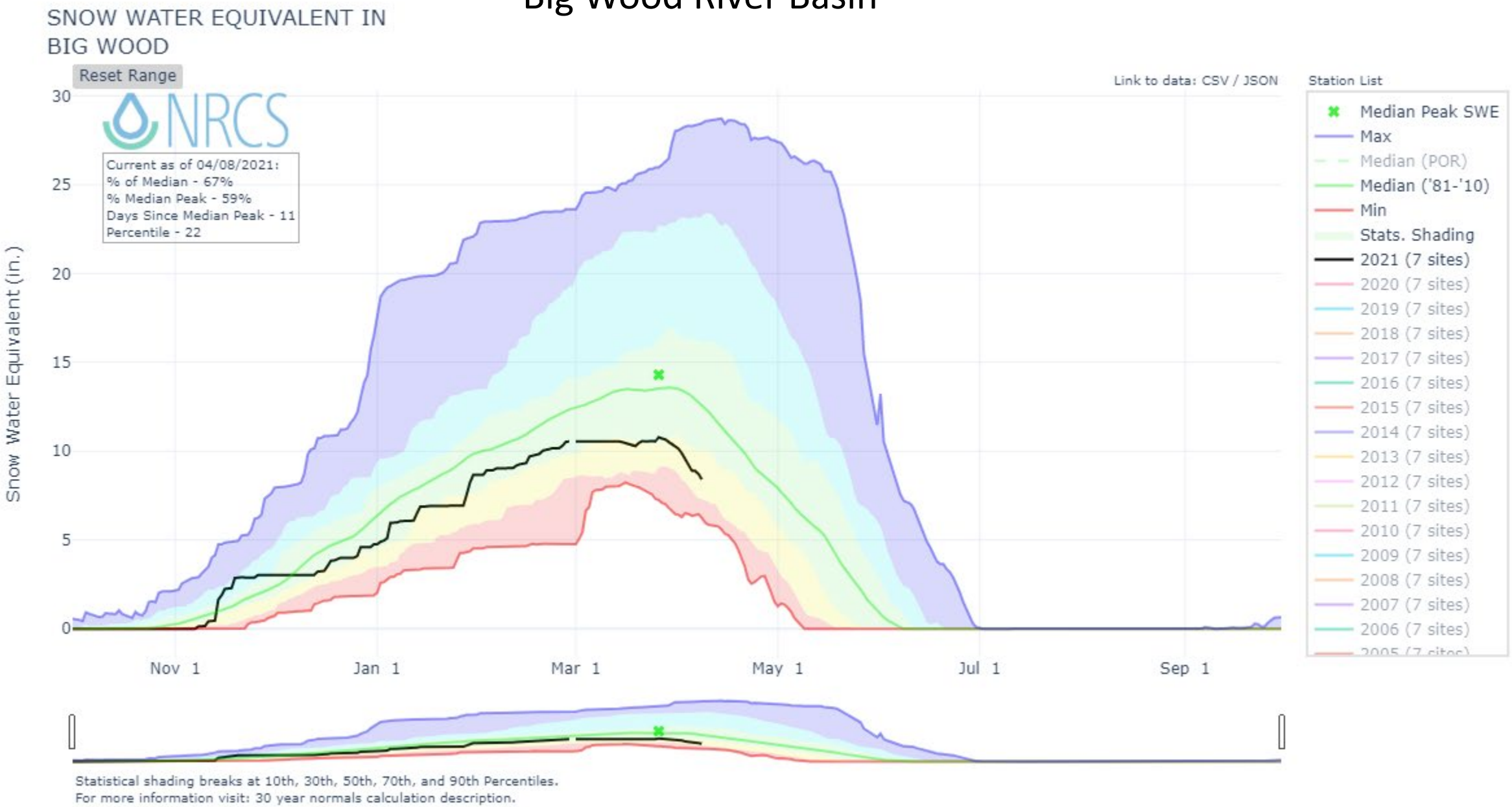




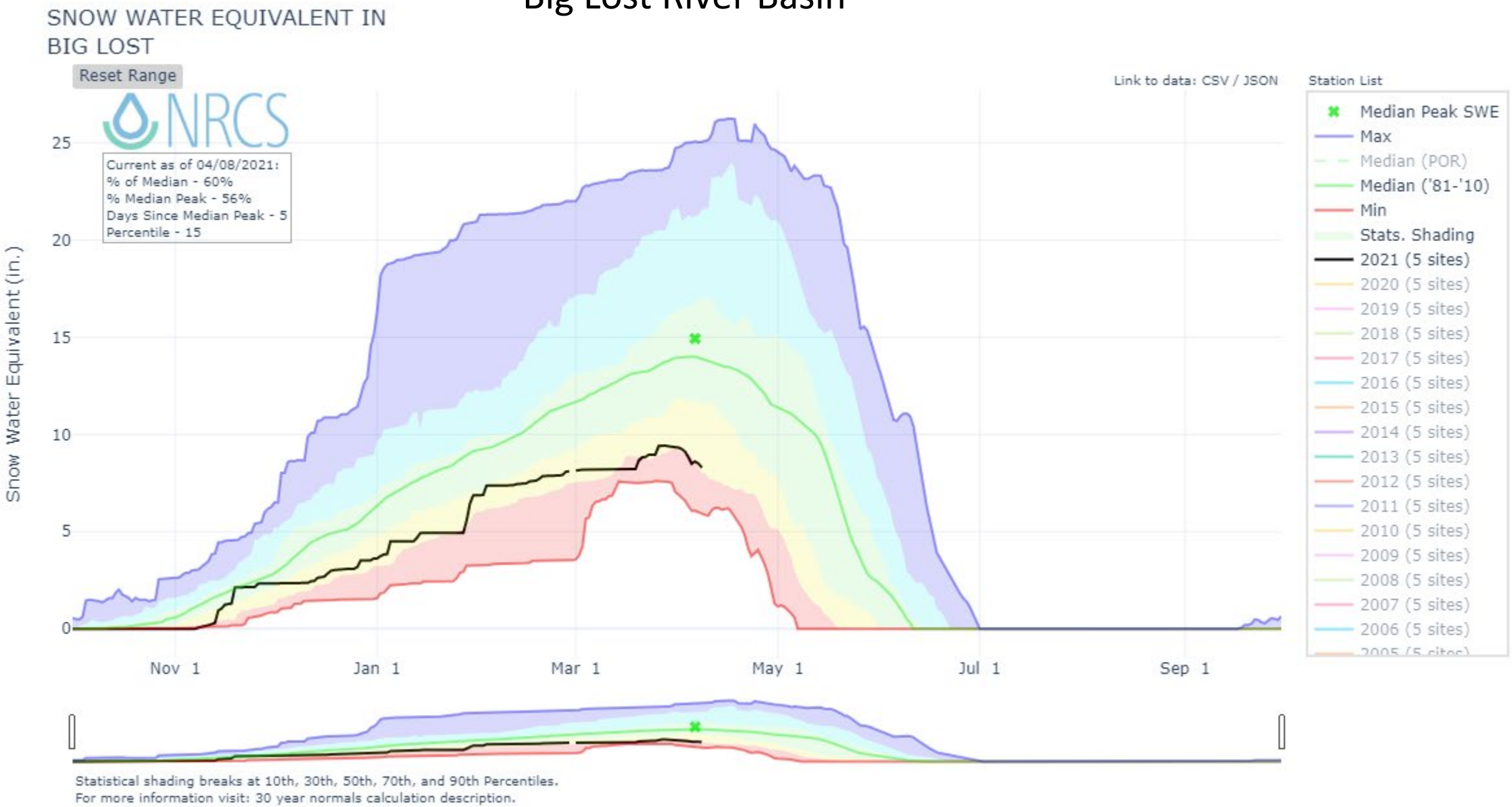
Clearwater River Basin



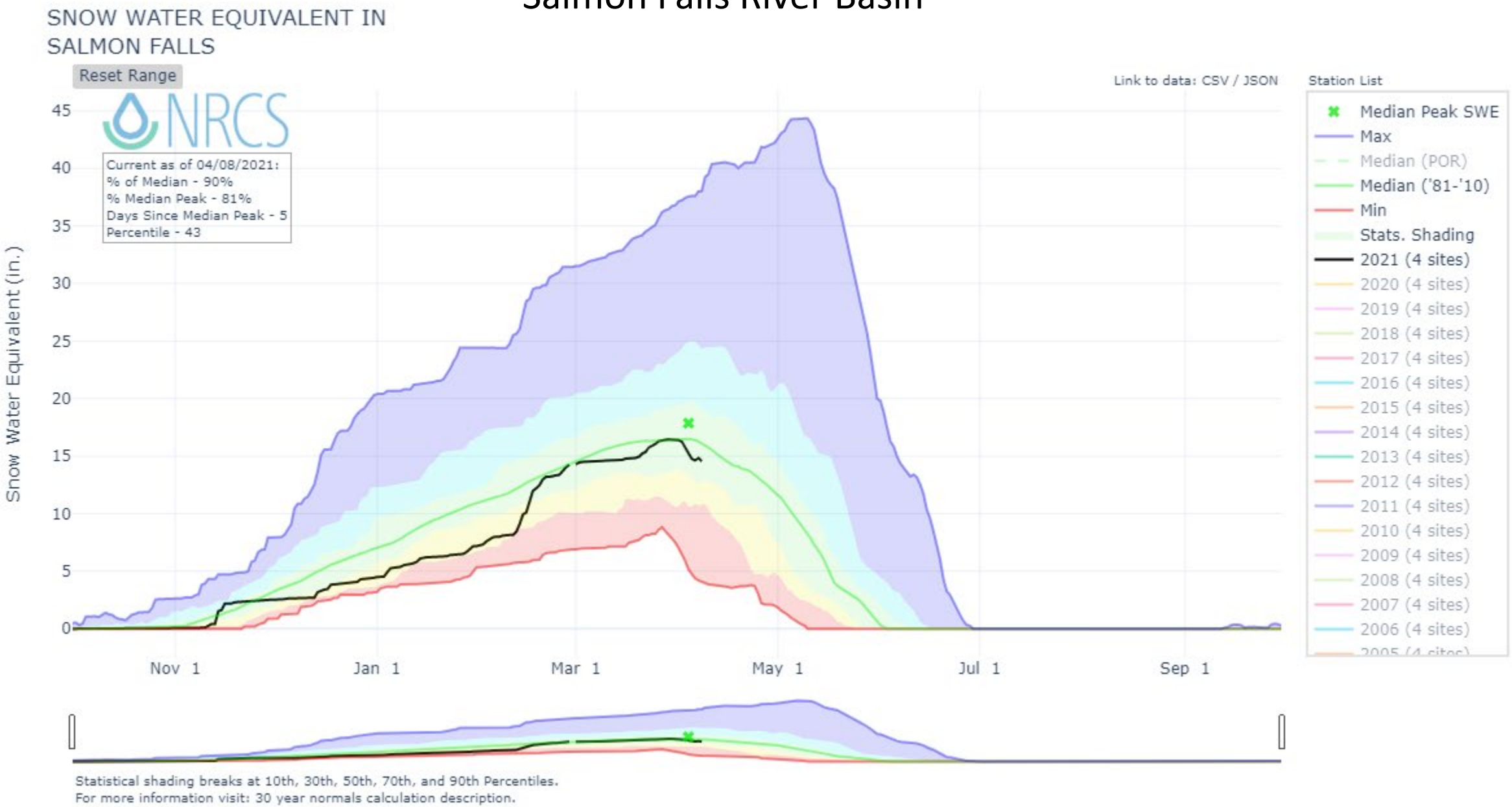
Big Wood River Basin



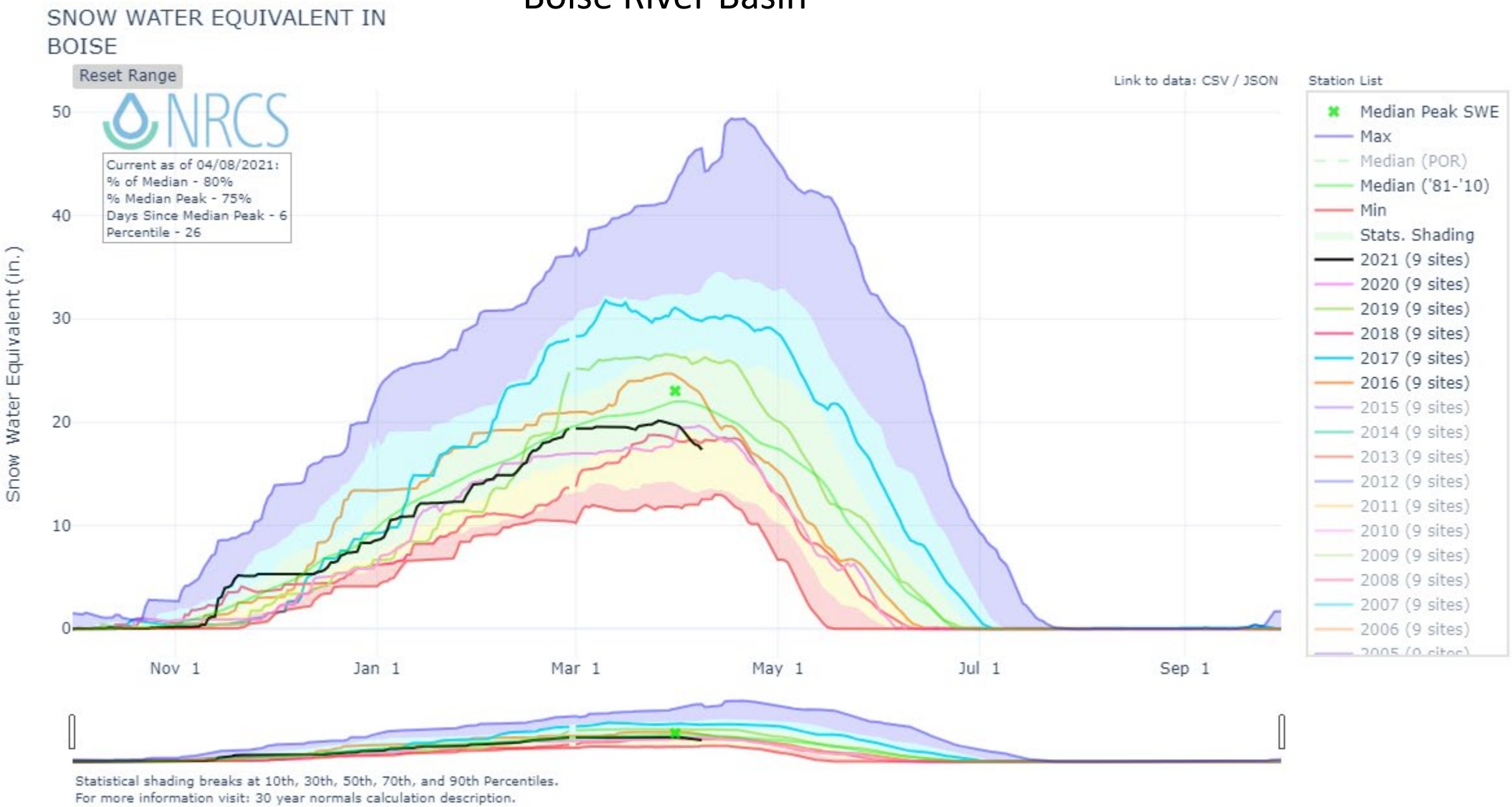
Big Lost River Basin

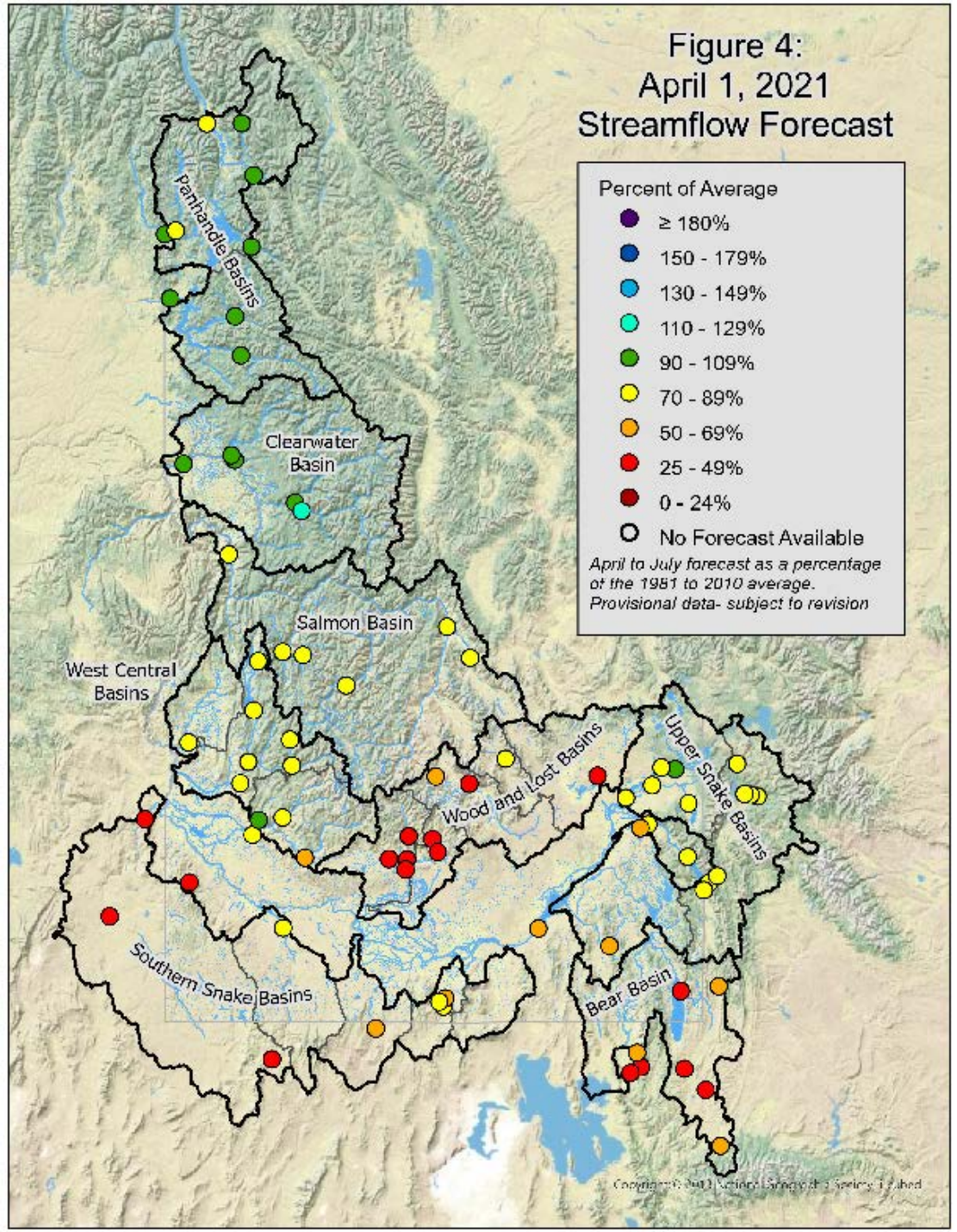


Salmon Falls River Basin



Boise River Basin



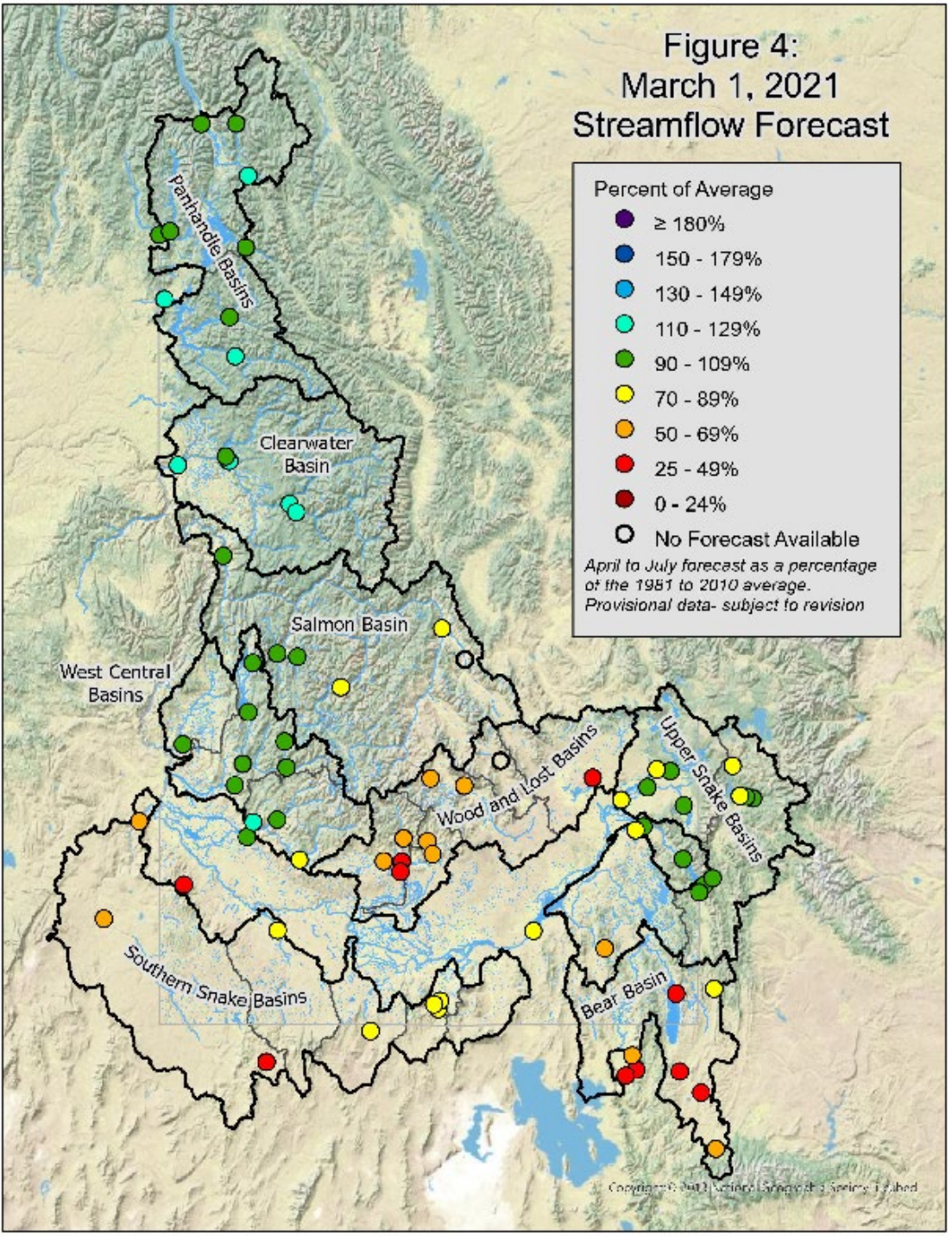


April 1 50% Streamflow Forecasts

Notables (% of average):

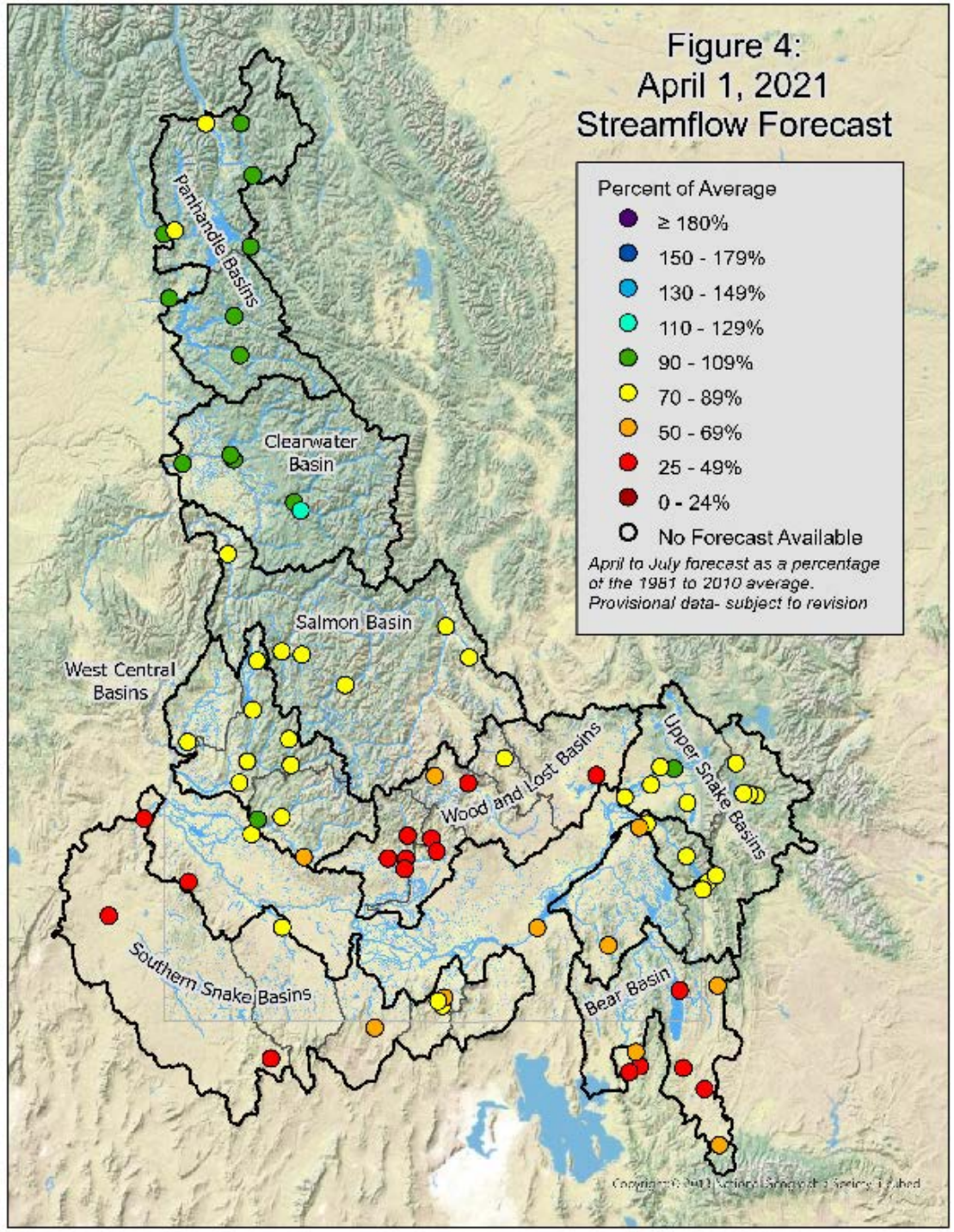
- NF Clearwater: 100%
- MF Salmon: 75%
- Payette nr Horseshoe Bend: 81%
- Boise R nr Boise: 79%
- Big Wood at Hailey: 47%
- Snake River nr Heise: 81%
- Oakley Reservoir inflow: 68%

Streamflow Forecasts



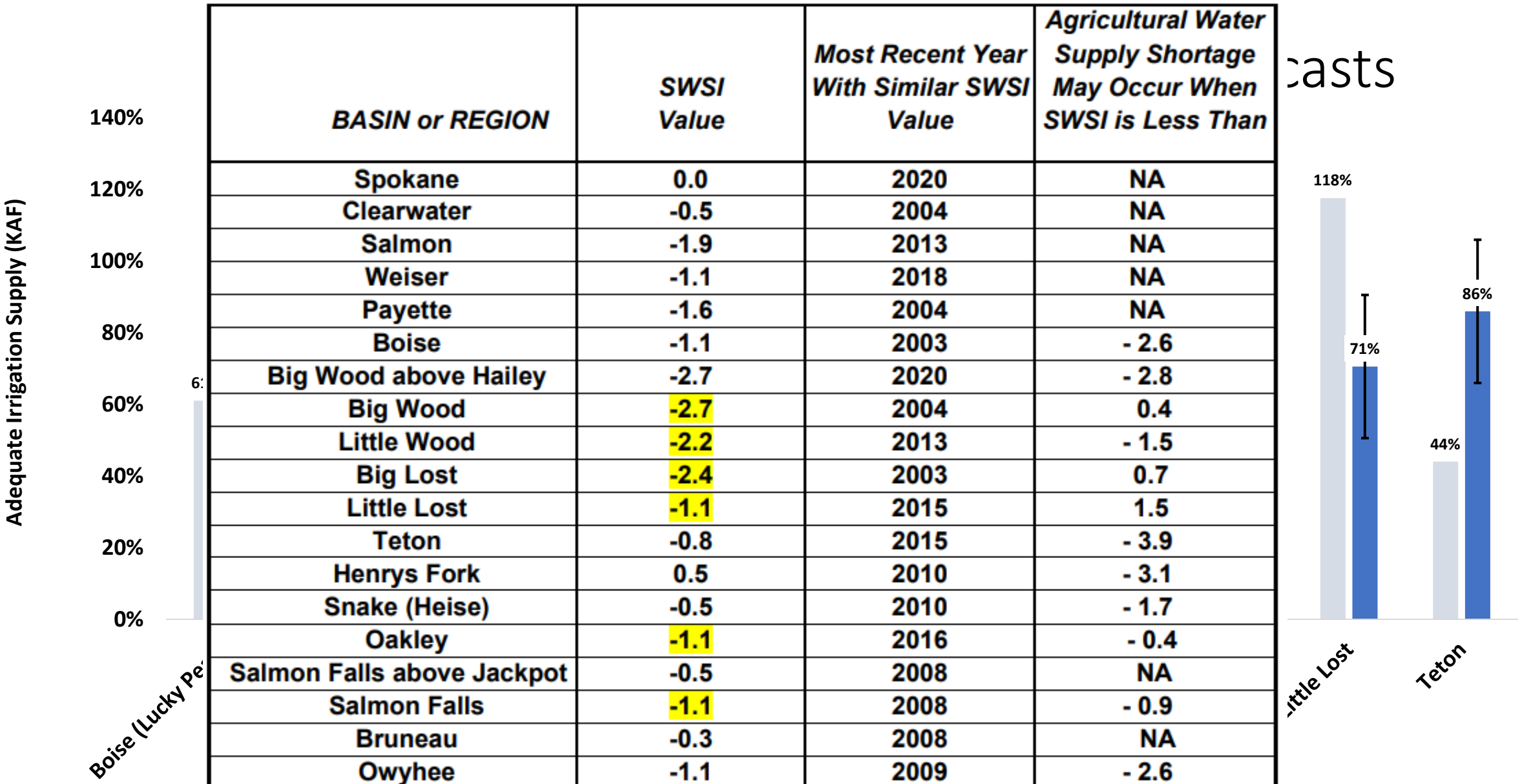
← March 1

April 1 →



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	0.0	2020	NA
Clearwater	-0.5	2004	NA
Salmon	-1.9	2013	NA
Weiser	-1.1	2018	NA
Payette	-1.6	2004	NA
Boise	-1.1	2003	- 2.6
Big Wood above Hailey	-2.7	2020	- 2.8
Big Wood	-2.7	2004	0.4
Little Wood	-2.2	2013	- 1.5
Big Lost	-2.4	2003	0.7
Little Lost	-1.1	2015	1.5
Teton	-0.8	2015	- 3.9
Henrys Fork	0.5	2010	- 3.1
Snake (Heise)	-0.5	2010	- 1.7
Oakley	-1.1	2016	- 0.4
Salmon Falls above Jackpot	-0.5	2008	NA
Salmon Falls	-1.1	2008	- 0.9
Bruneau	-0.3	2008	NA
Owyhee	-1.1	2009	- 2.6
Bear River	1.3	2013	- 3.6



USDA

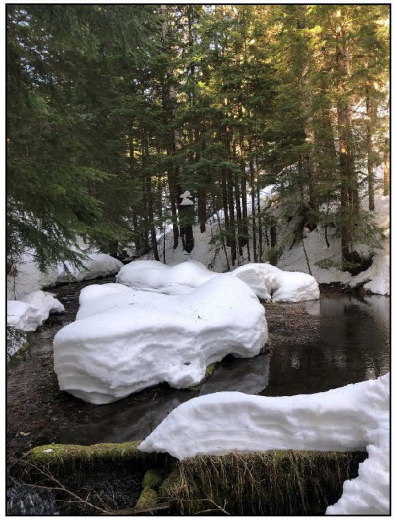
NRCS
Natural Resources Conservation Service

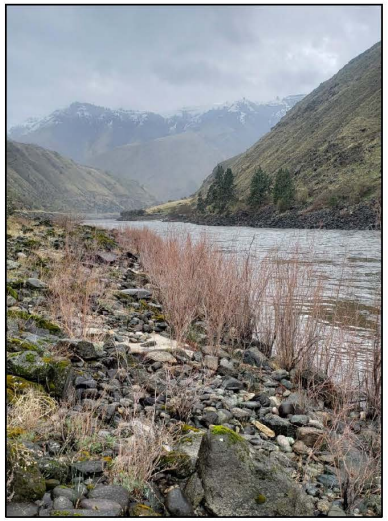
USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Idaho Water Supply Outlook Report

April 1, 2021





Coeur d'Alene Basin (left) and Salmon River downstream of Riggins (right).
Photos taken by Peter Youngblood and Danny Tappa, March 2021.

Welcome, Spring of 2021! The first half of March was extremely dry over nearly all of Idaho. Although some snow fell in the mountains in late March, Idaho's snowpack is beginning to melt as the calendar turns to April. In most basins across the state, the peak snowpack volume has likely already occurred and was generally several days earlier than normal. Despite the dry end to winter, most reservoirs are expected to fill, with some exceptions in the Wood and Lost basins.

Contact Information:

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