



Northwest River Forecast Center

# January 2026 Idaho Water Supply Meeting

## NWRFC Water Supply Forecasts

January 15, 2026

Brad Gillies, senior hydrologist

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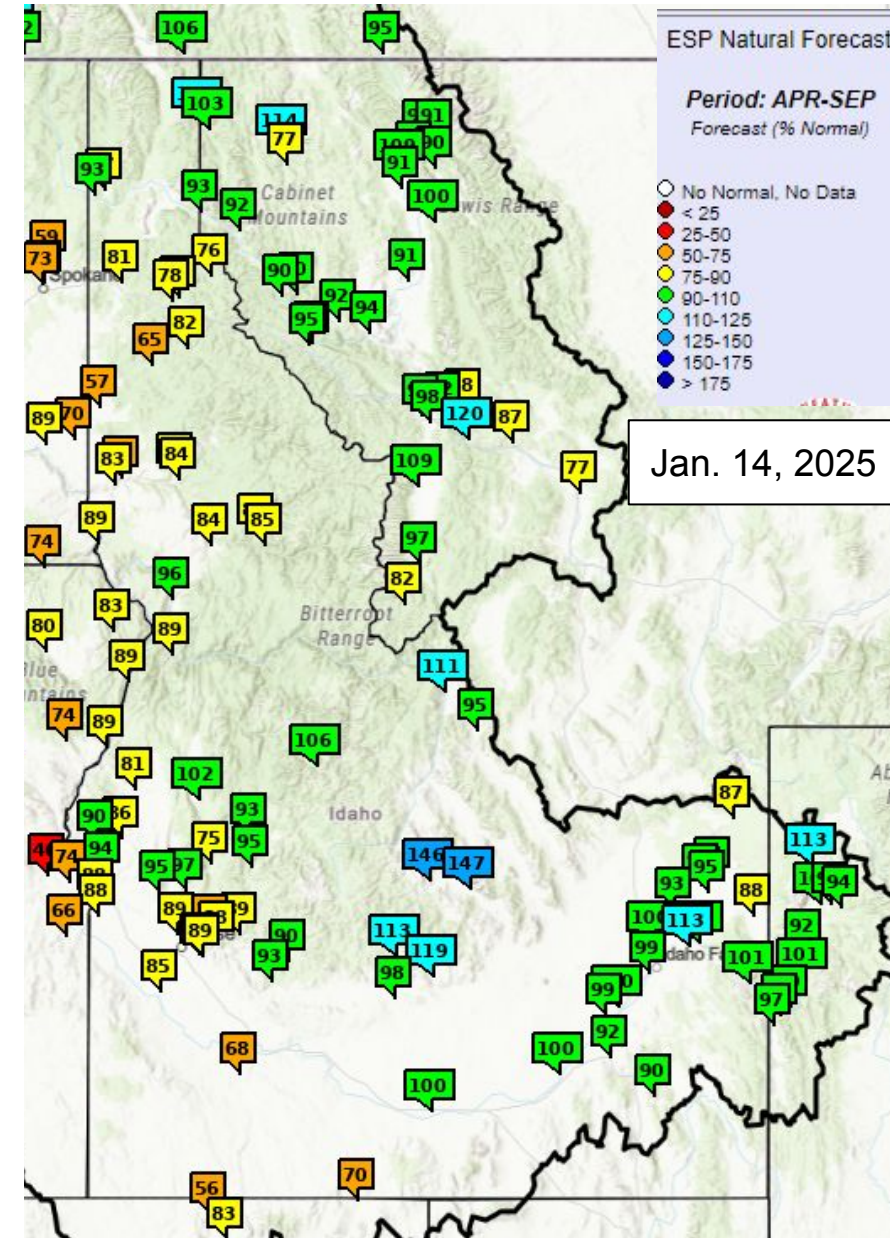
- **Apr-Sep water supply forecasts are generally near normal to below normal**
- Water year to date **precipitation** is above normal
- Water year to date **air temperatures** have been above normal
- Water year to date **observed runoff** is normal to above normal.
- Current snowpack at high elevations ( $> \sim 7000$  ft) generally normal to above normal
- Current snowpack at mid-to-low elevations ( $< \sim 7000$  ft) generally below normal
- 10-day weather forecast calls for well below normal precipitation



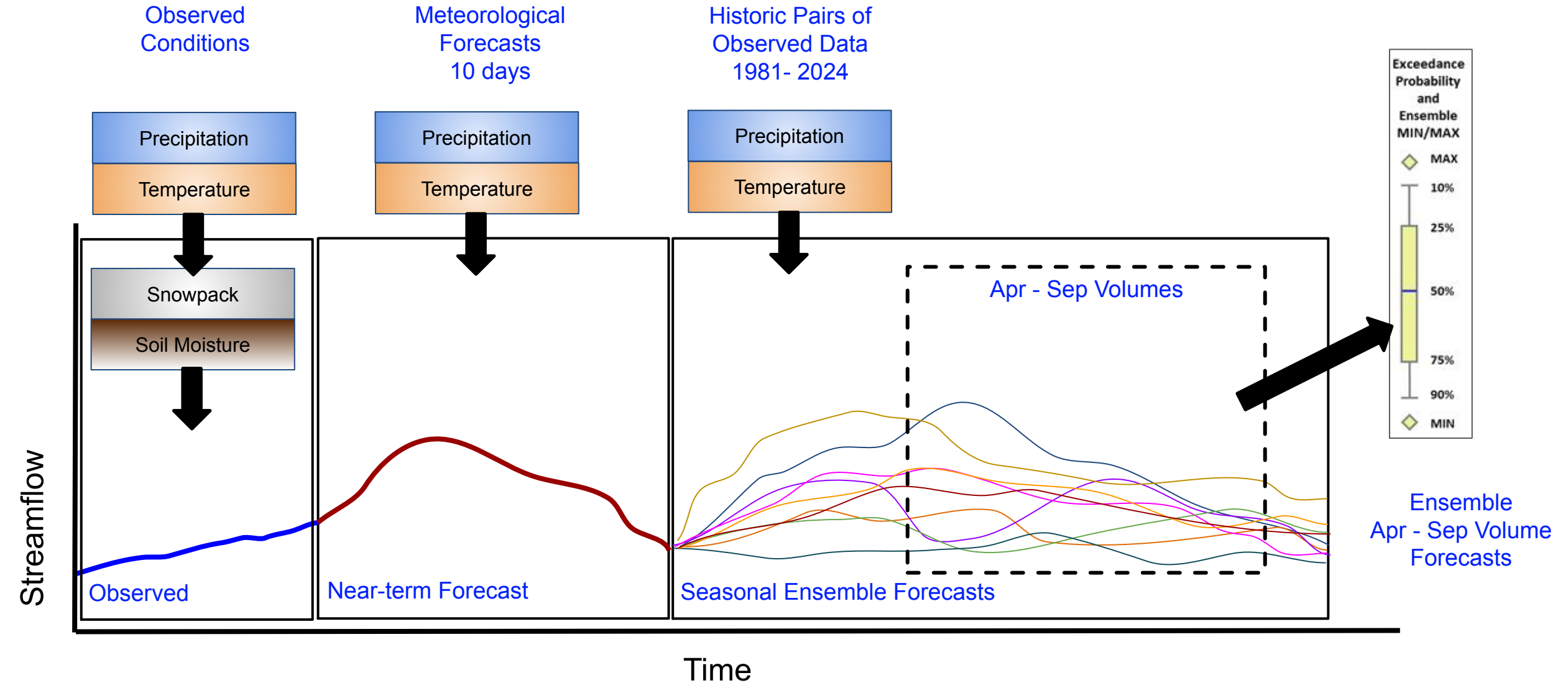
# 2026 Water Supply Forecasts (Jan. 14)

## % Normal Apr - Sep

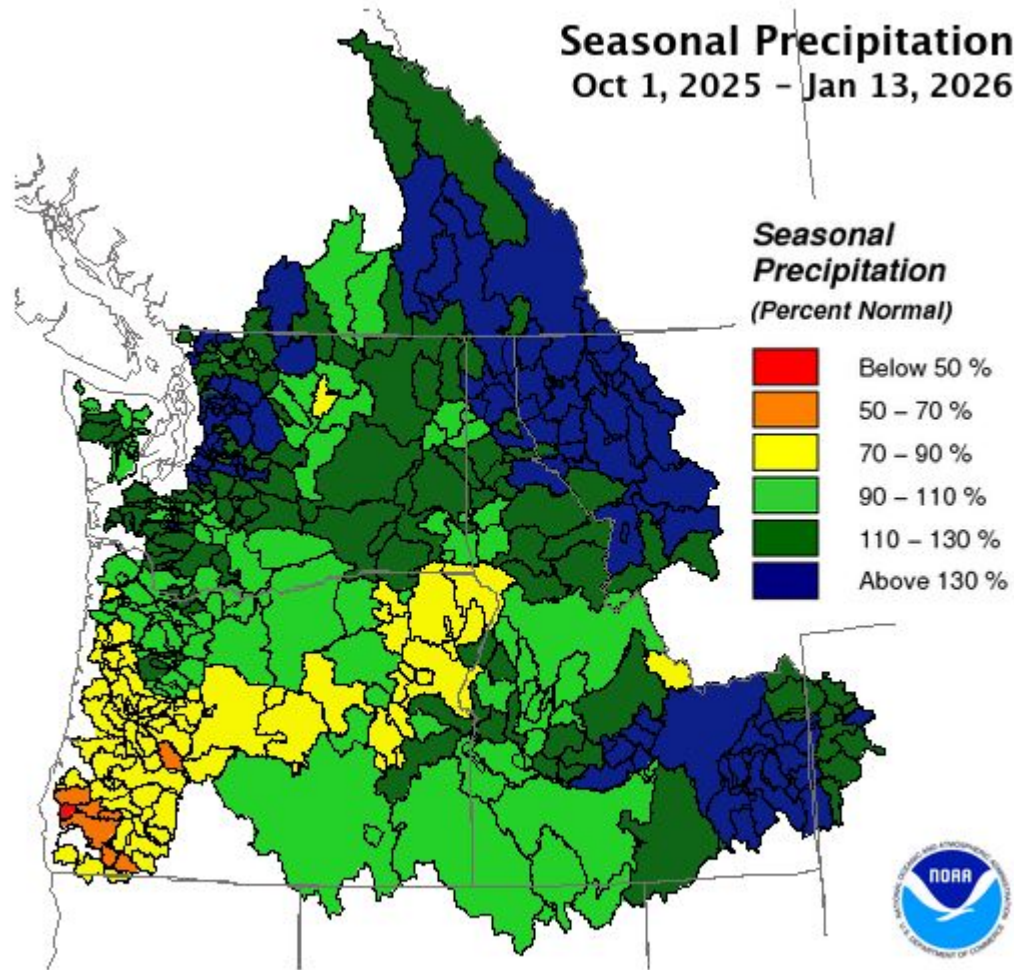
<u><b>Snake River Basin</b></u>	<u><b>% of Average</b></u>	<u><b>% of Median</b></u>
Island Park	87	94
Snake near Heise	101	105
American Falls	100	104
Lucky Peak	89	95
Owyhee	66	86
Payette nr Horseshoe Bend	97	104
Dworshak	80	82
Palouse near Potlatch	57	65
Lower Granite	89	91
<u><b>North Idaho Basins</b></u>	<u><b>% of Average</b></u>	<u><b>% of Median</b></u>
Coeur D'Alene at Cataldo	78	77
St. Joe at Calder	82	84



# NWRFC Forecast Technique



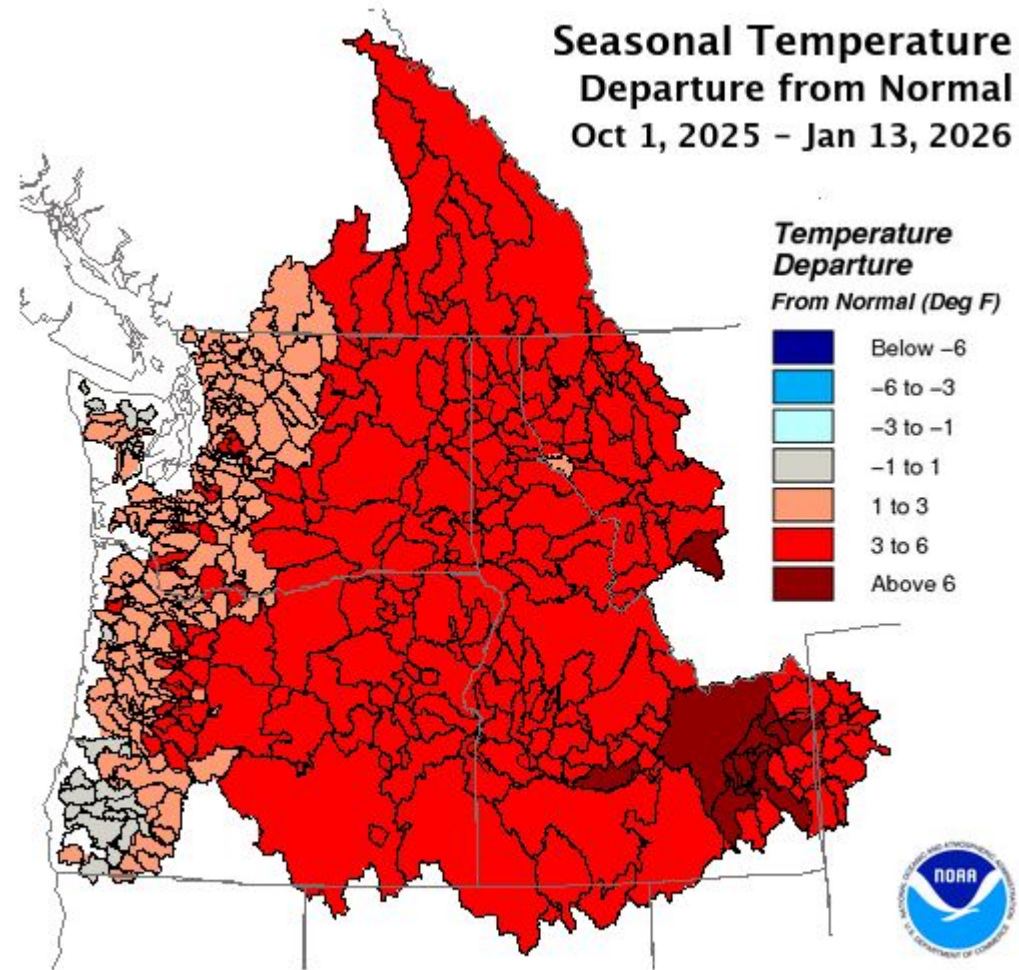
# WY 2026 Precipitation and Air Temperature to Date



Creation Time: Wednesday, Jan 14, 2026

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Division	% of Normal
Snake abv American Falls	130
Snake abv Hells Canyon Dam	116
Snake abv Ice Harbor Dam	112



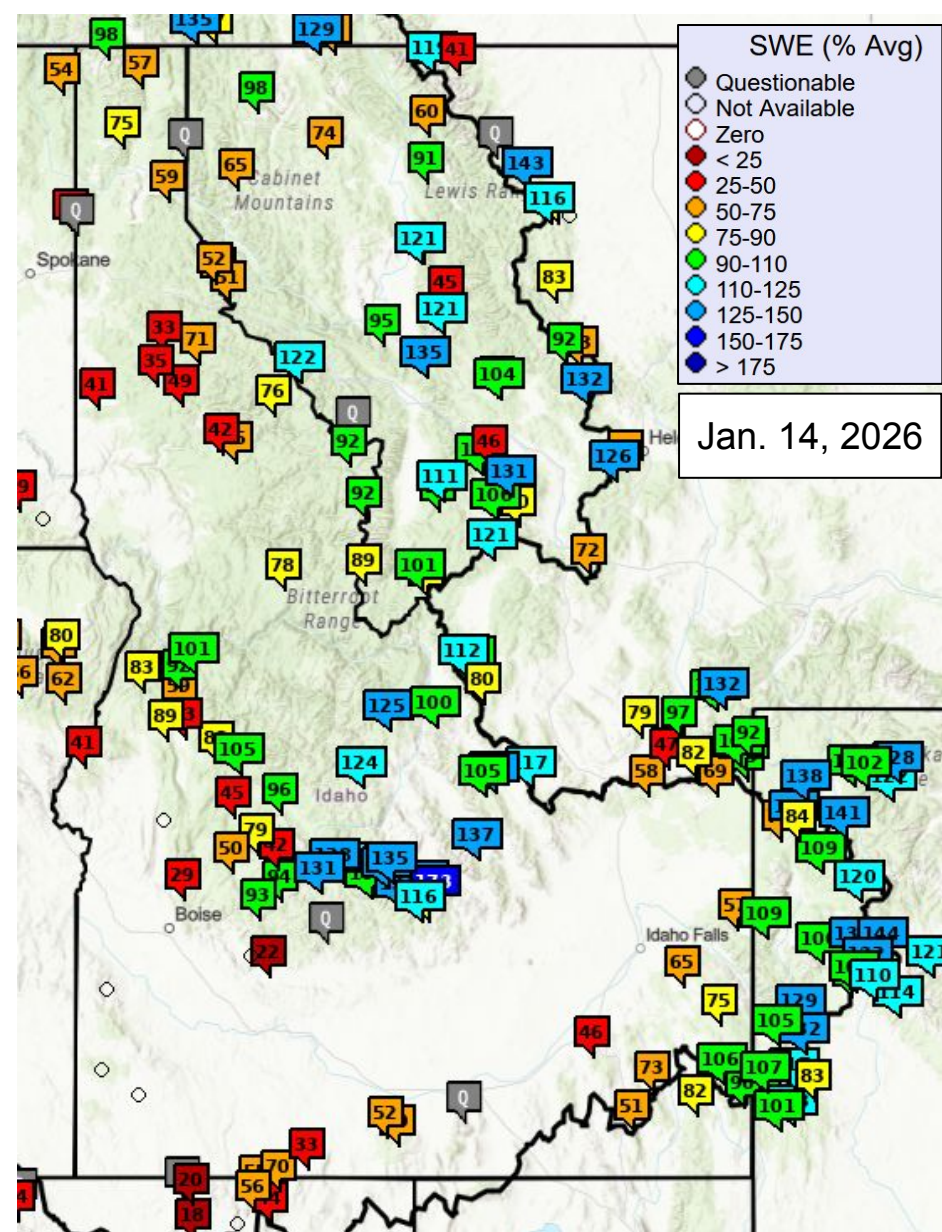
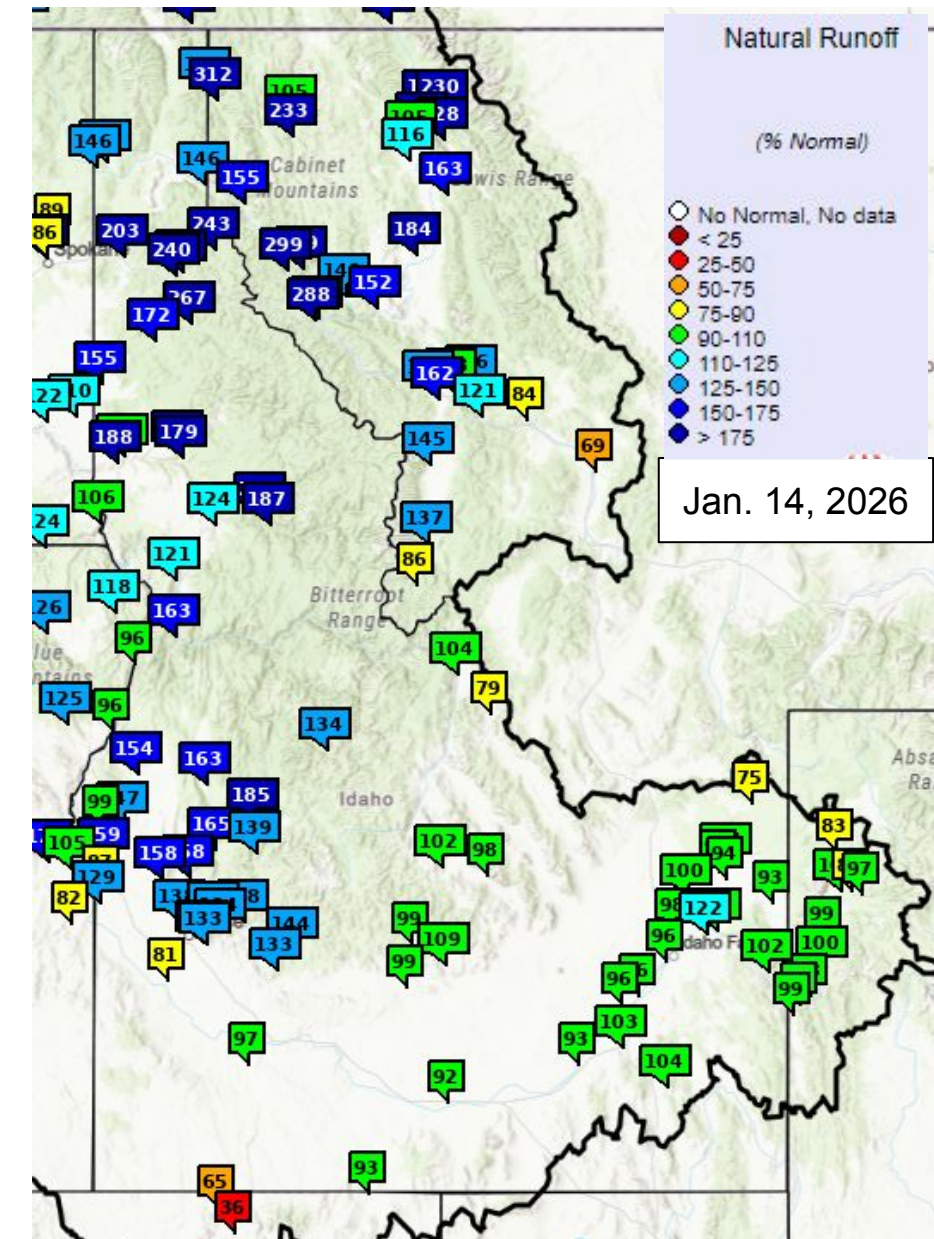
Creation Time: Wednesday, Jan 14, 2026

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Division	Departure (deg F)
Snake abv American Falls	5.8
Snake abv Hells Canyon Dam	5.3
Snake abv Ice Harbor Dam	5.1

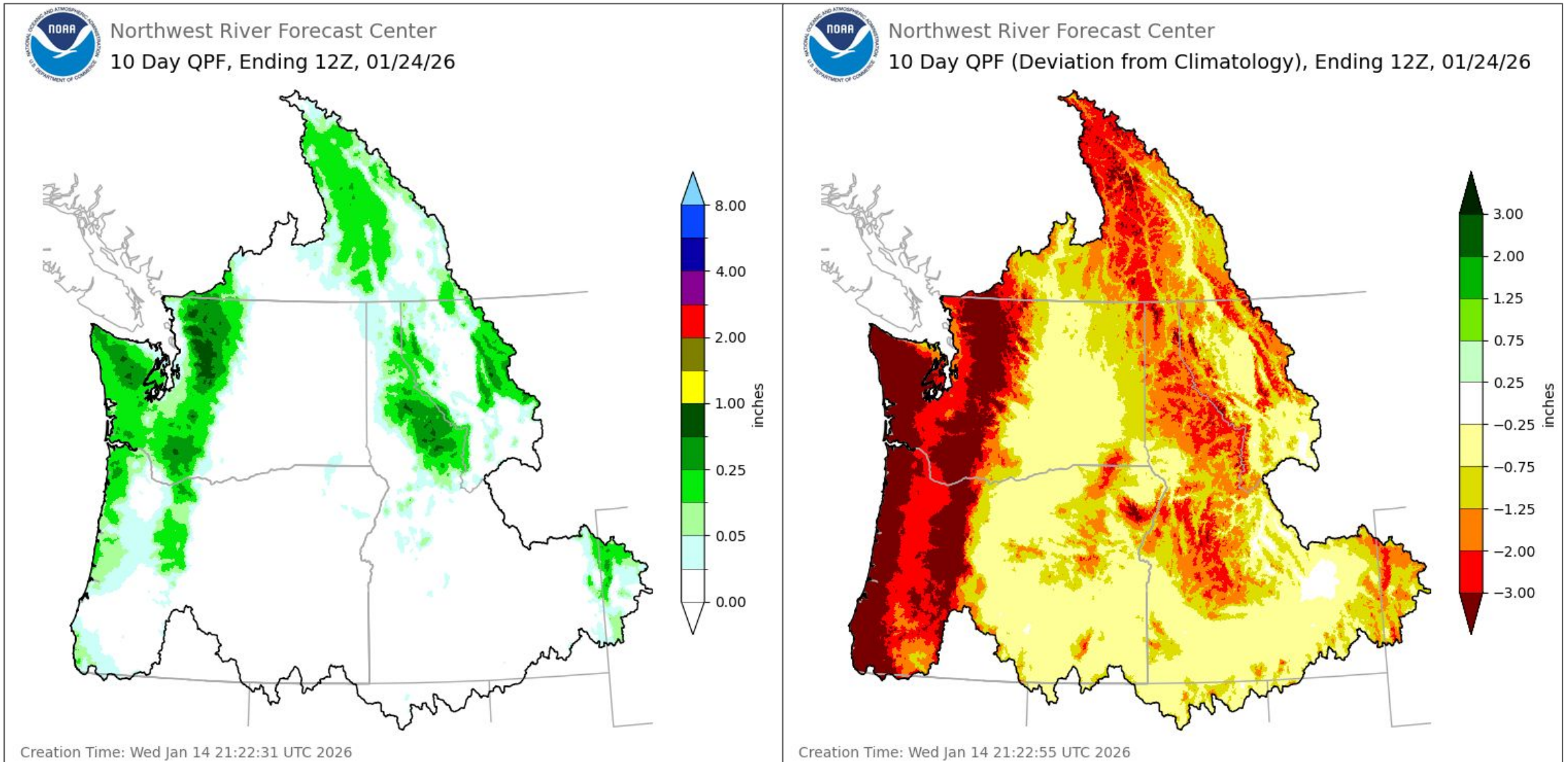


# WY 2026 Runoff and Snowpack to Date





# 10 Day Precipitation Forecast used in ESP10 (Jan. 14)



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 Water Supply Forecast - Jan. 14 , 2026

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

### Natural Forecast

ESP with 10 Days QPF Ensemble: 2026-01-14 Issued: 2026-01-14

Forecast Period	Forecasts Are in KAF				30 Year Average (1991-2020)
	90 %	50 %	% Average	10 %	
APR-SEP	4606	6167	100	7675	6167
APR-JUL	3896	5229	99	6513	5266
JAN-SEP	5719	7159	100	8712	7190
JAN-JUL	5013	6272	100	7563	6289
OCT-SEP	6700	8140	98	9693	8275

### Experimental

HEFS with 15 days EQPF Ensemble: 2026-01-14 Issued: 2026-01-14

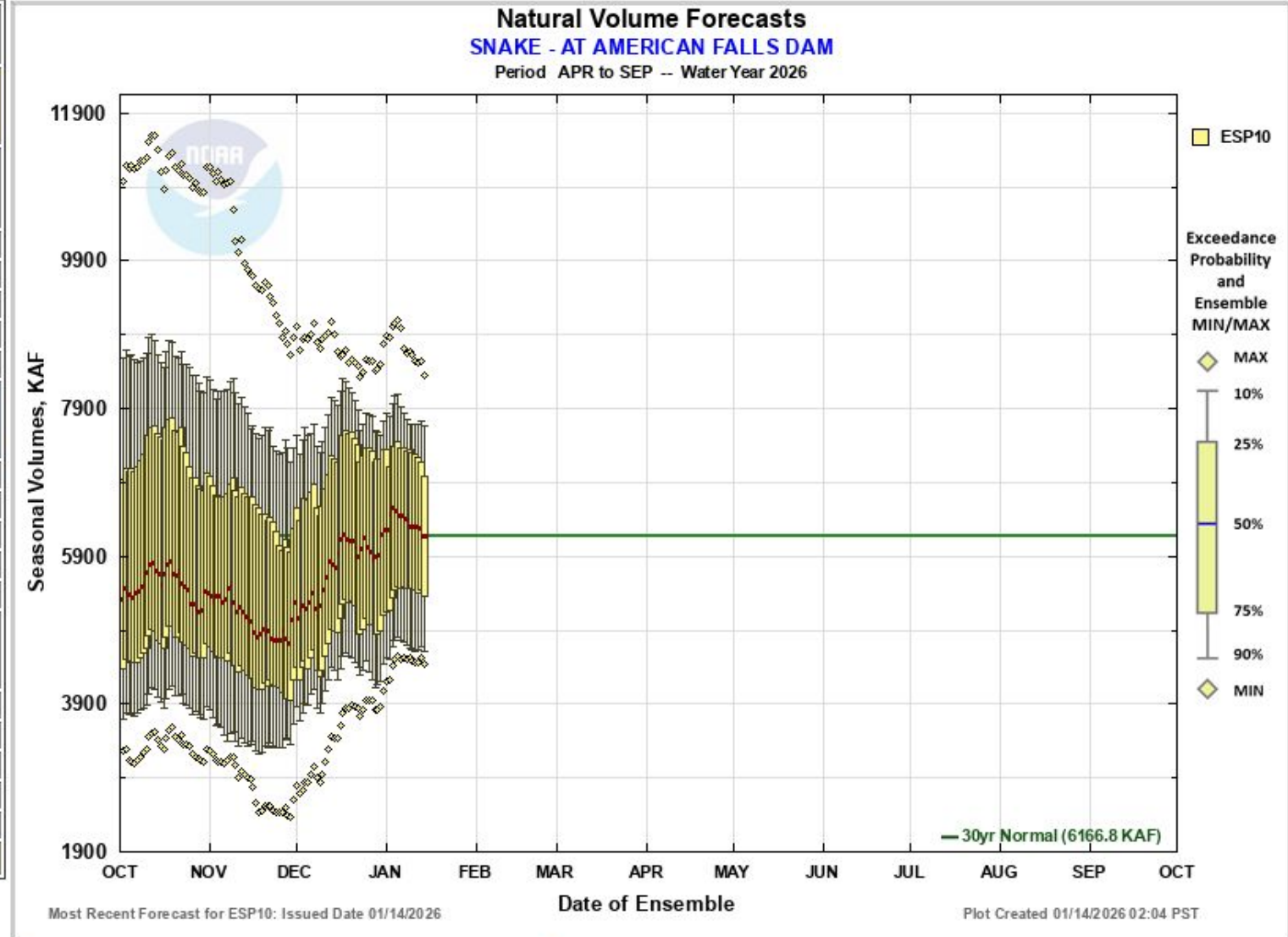
APR-SEP	4621	6330	103	7710	6167
APR-JUL	3932	5313	101	6545	5266
JAN-SEP	5742	7337	102	8854	7190
JAN-JUL	5032	6423	102	7767	6289
OCT-SEP	6723	8318	101	9835	8275

### Reference

ESP with 0 Days QPF Ensemble: 2026-01-14 Issued: 2026-01-14

APR-SEP	4791	6615	107	8145	6167
APR-JUL	4055	5639	107	6959	5266
JAN-SEP	5921	7643	106	9223	7190
JAN-JUL	5172	6668	106	8063	6289
OCT-SEP	6901	8624	104	10204	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 Water Supply Forecast - Jan. 14 , 2026

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

### Natural Forecast

ESP with 10 Days QPF Ensemble: 2026-01-14 Issued: 2026-01-14

Forecast Period	Forecasts Are in KAF				30 Year Average (1991-2020)
	90 %	50 %	% Average	10 %	
APR-SEP	15380	21285	89	25295	23929
APR-JUL	13213	18699	87	22710	21589
APR-AUG	14303	20087	88	23984	22827
JAN-SEP	23076	28630	91	36009	31446
JAN-JUL	21021	26274	90	33505	29106
OCT-SEP	28457	34011	95	41389	35973

### Experimental

HEFS with 15 days EQPF Ensemble: 2026-01-14 Issued: 2026-01-14

APR-SEP	15315	21553	90	26102	23929
APR-JUL	13145	19140	89	23384	21589
APR-AUG	14239	20428	89	24858	22827
JAN-SEP	23236	29229	93	37753	31446
JAN-JUL	21179	26885	92	34987	29106
OCT-SEP	28617	34610	96	43134	35973

### Reference

ESP with 0 Days QPF Ensemble: 2026-01-14 Issued: 2026-01-14

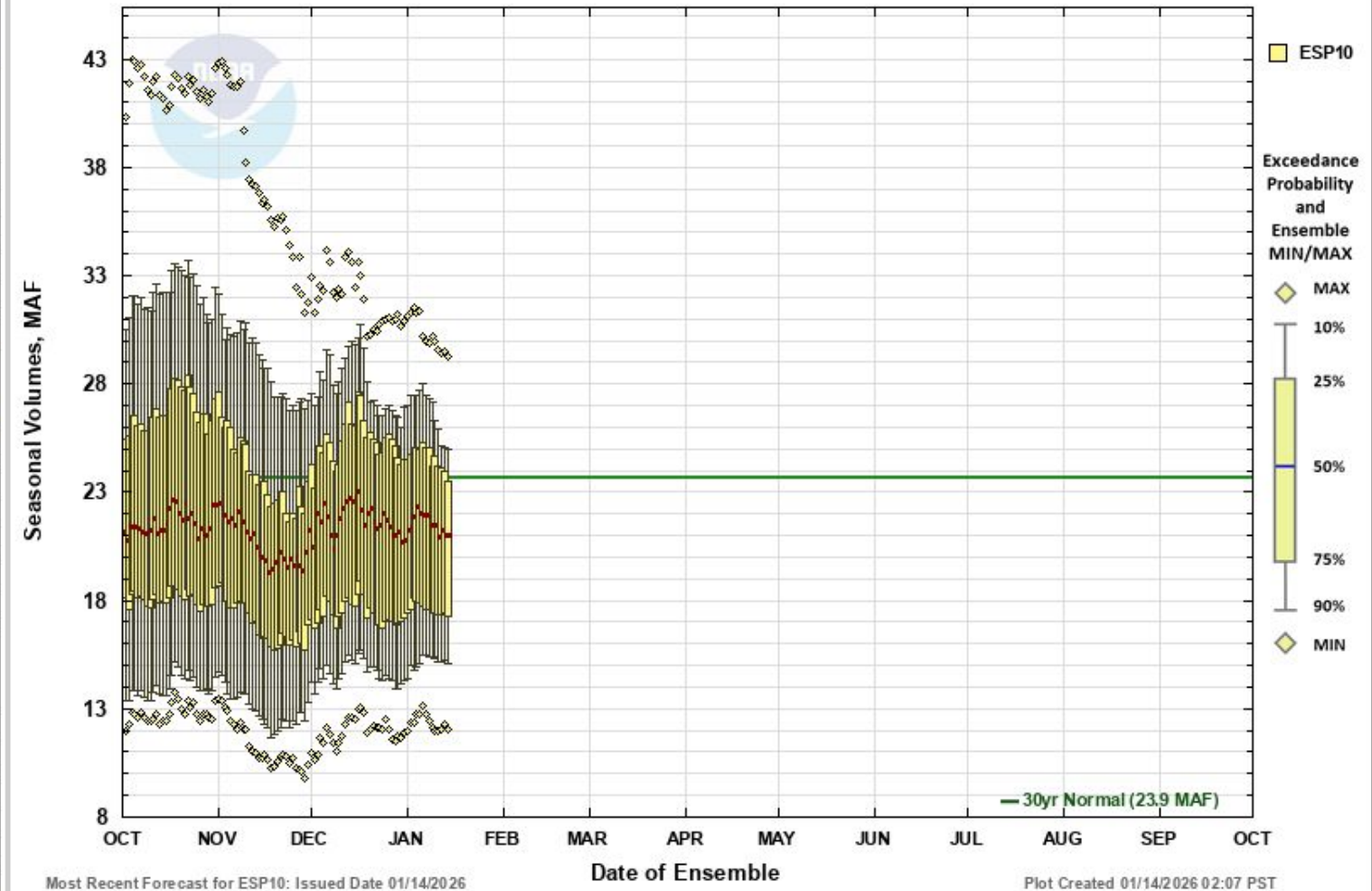
APR-SEP	15766	23123	97	28463	23929
APR-JUL	13582	20676	96	25617	21589
APR-AUG	14683	21993	96	27172	22827
JAN-SEP	23716	30832	98	40592	31446
JAN-JUL	21642	28595	98	37832	29106
OCT-SEP	29097	36213	101	45973	35973

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

## Natural Volume Forecasts

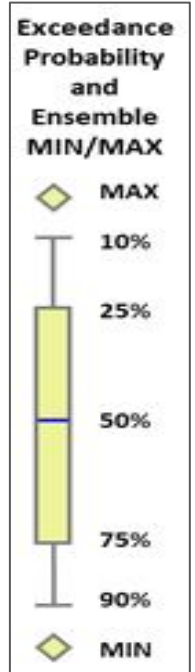
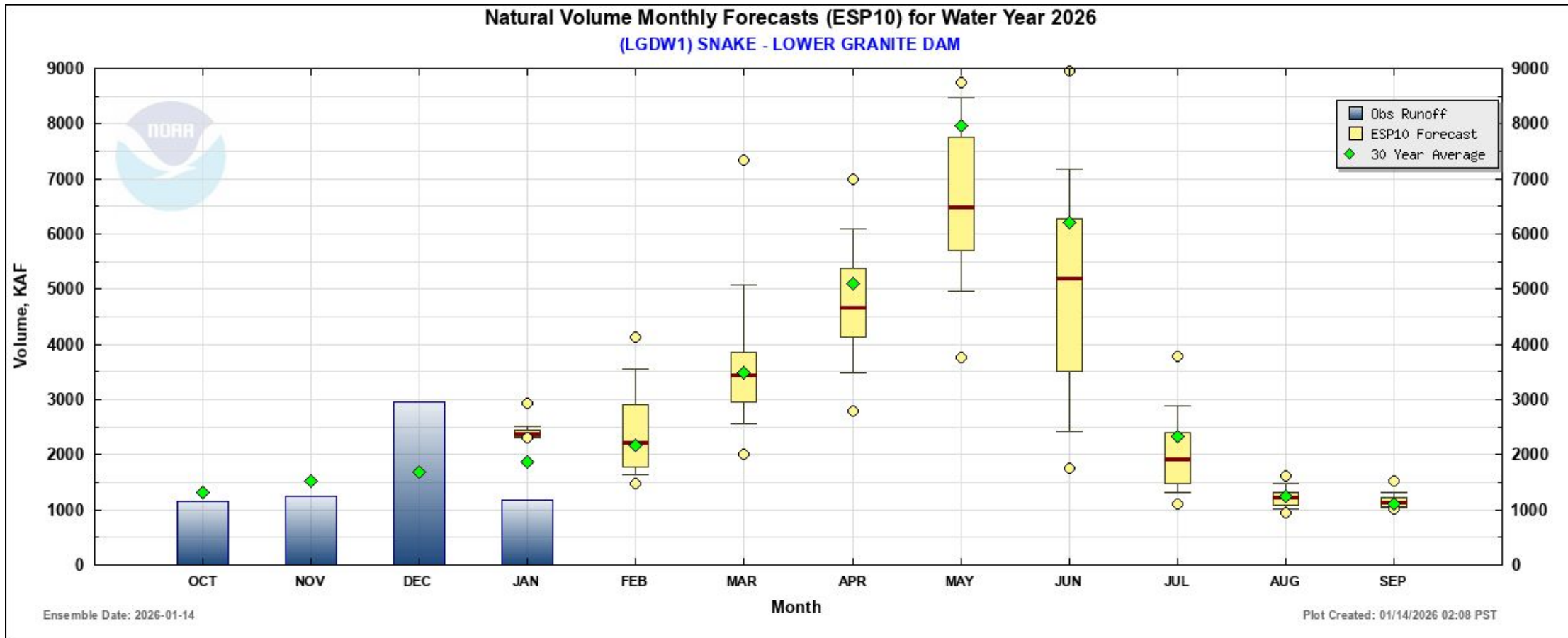
### SNAKE - LOWER GRANITE DAM

Period APR to SEP -- Water Year 2026

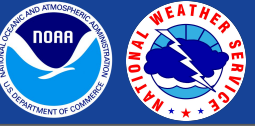


☒ Max Scale
 ☐ Scale To Data
 ☐ Scale To Last 45 Days
 ☒ Show Min/Max Ensemble Volume
 ☐ Show Tooltips Help

# ESP10 Water Supply Forecast - Jan. 14 , 2026







## Questions ?

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

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