2023 Snow Update & River Predictions

No signs of an early spring in sight yet... so don't put those skis away.

This talk will be posted and for more information see https://snowweatherandflow.blog/





Time: The meeting starts at 6:30

Speakers: Ron Abramovich

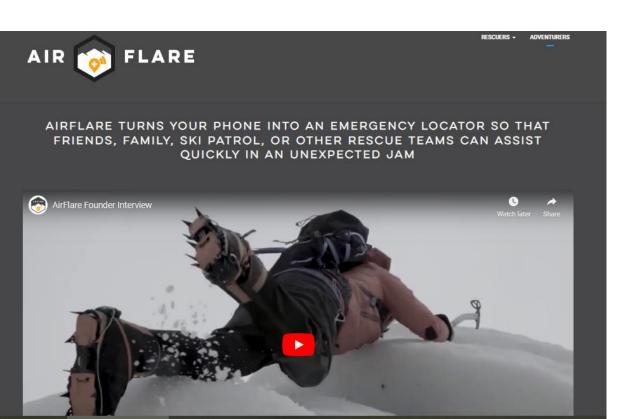
Idaho Whitewater Association

A Non-profit Organization for Idaho Whitewater Enthusiasts

Photo Credit: Christine Riggs Photography



https://airflare.com/



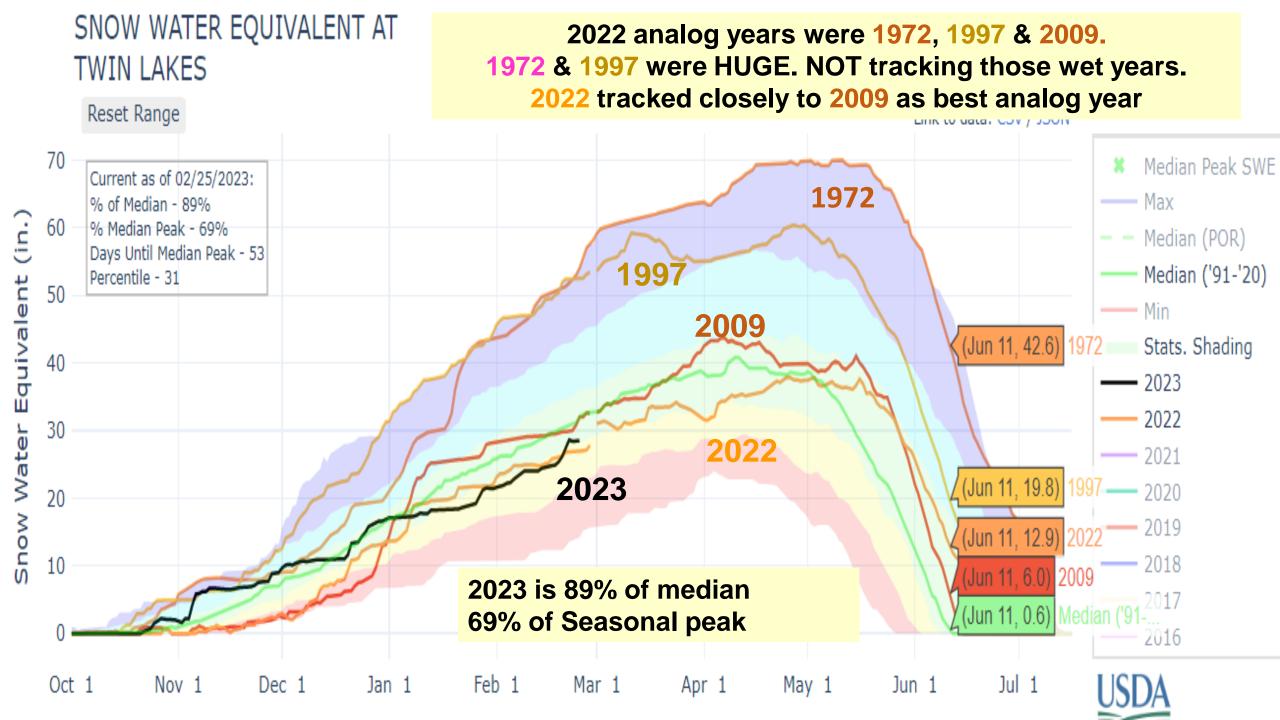


Seasonal Climate Forecast April – June 2022 Issued: March 18, 2022

March 2022 back-to-back La Nina years

Forecast Highlights

- The top 3 analog years (1972, 1997 & 2009) were retained. They have had a remarkable run (since last summer).



Forecast from March 10, 2022 - by Cliff Mass Weather Blog

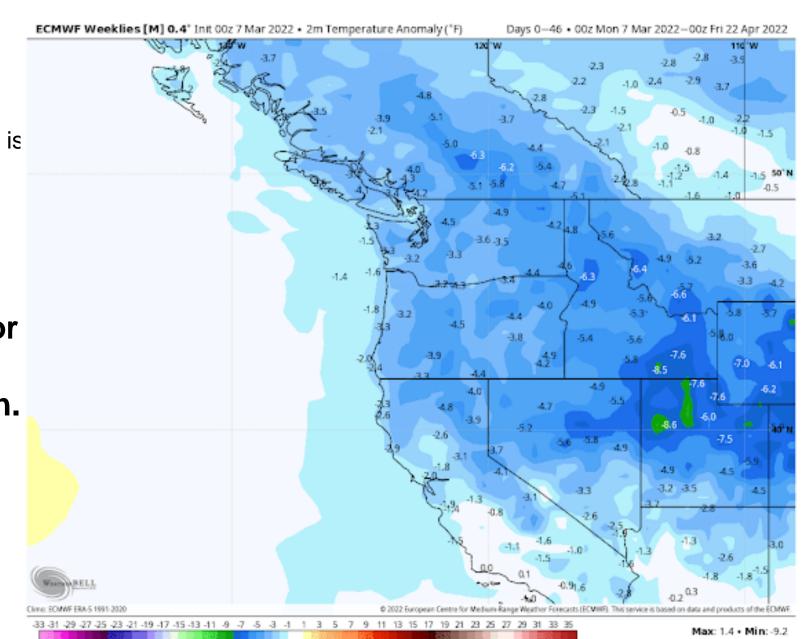
Nearly all forecast models are showing this for the next month or so. A cool, wet spring.

My favorite extended-period forecast model is run by the European Center and shows its long-term (46-day) forecast below (through April 22).

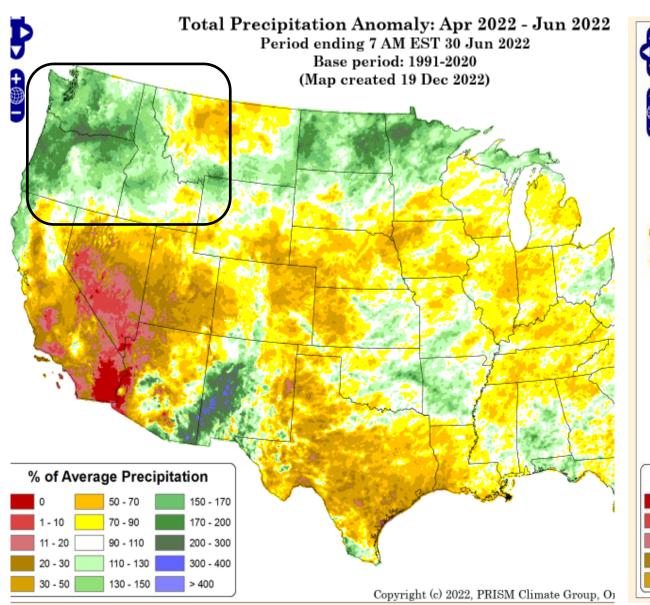
The temperature forecast difference from normal calls for colder temperatures than typical across the entire region. (blue indicates cooler than normal temps)

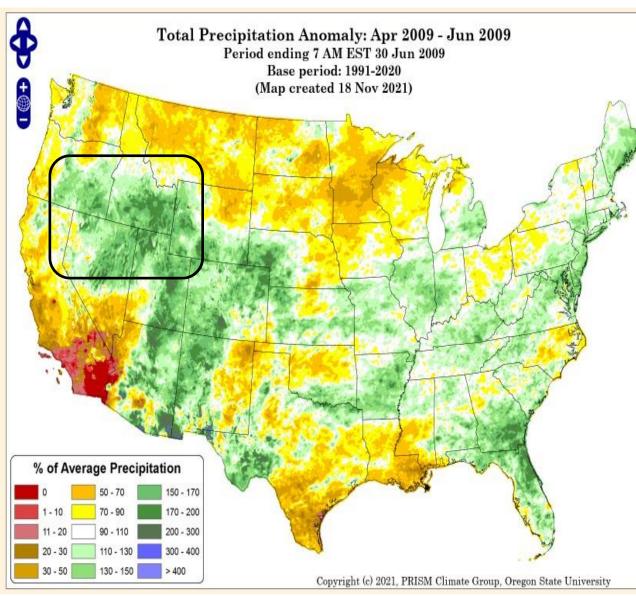
Precipitation for the same period?

Above normal precipitation in PNW.

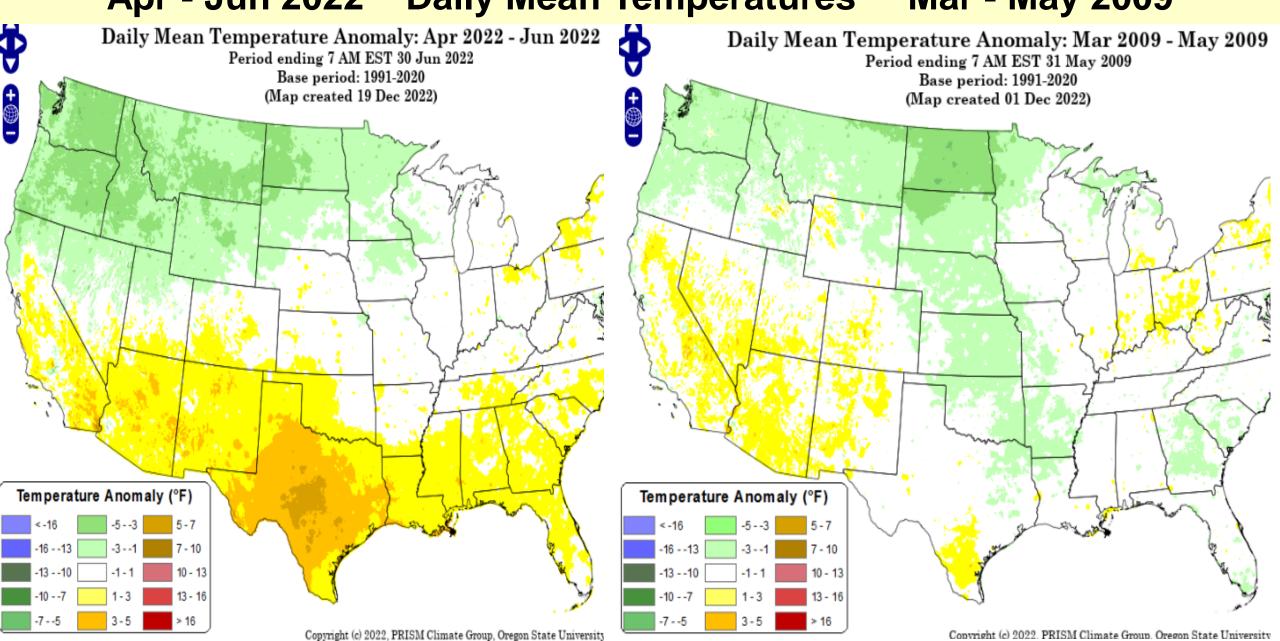


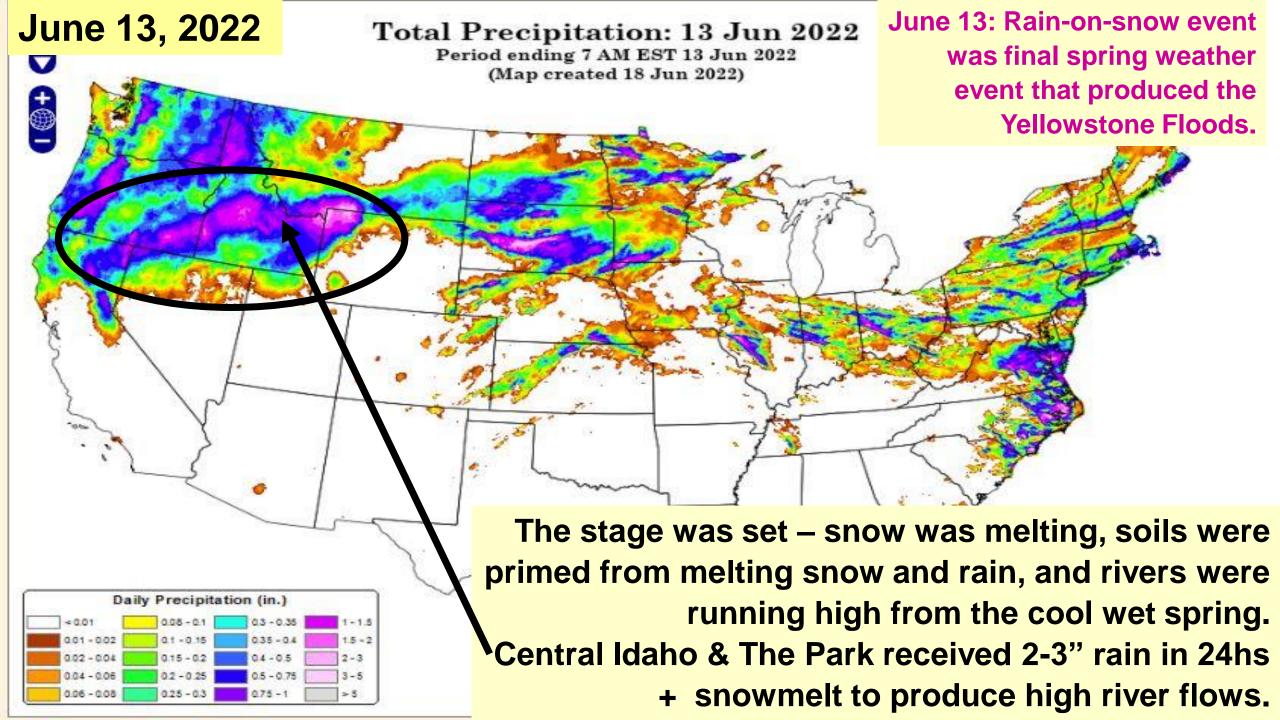
Apr - Jun Precipitation 2022 Compared to 2009





Cold Temps delayed melt and made the rivers pop late! Apr - Jun 2022 Daily Mean Temperatures Mar - May 2009



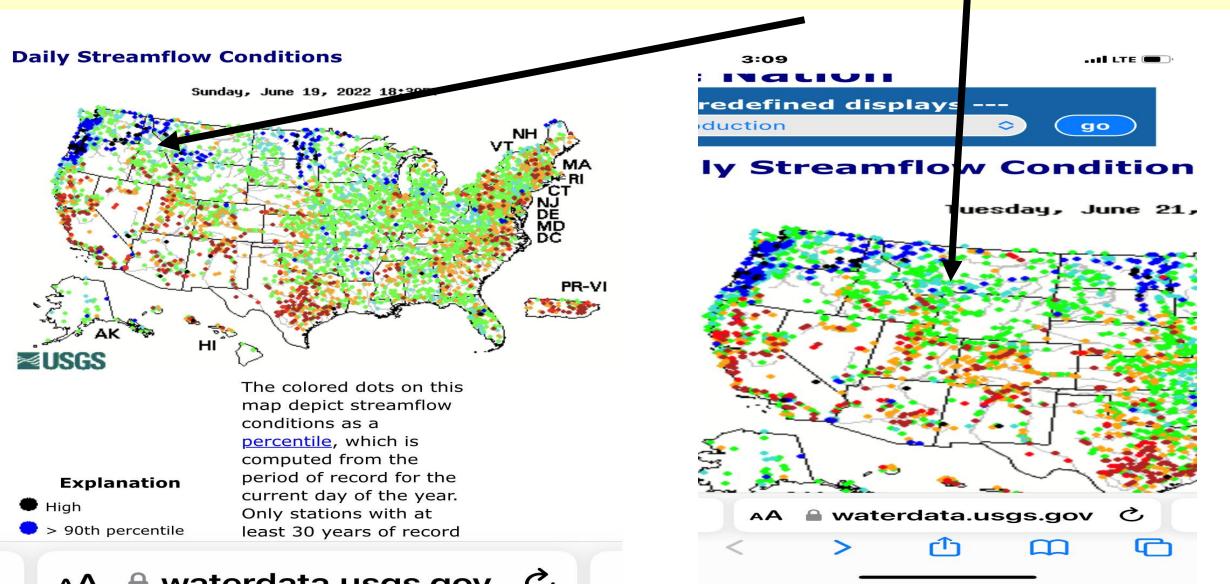


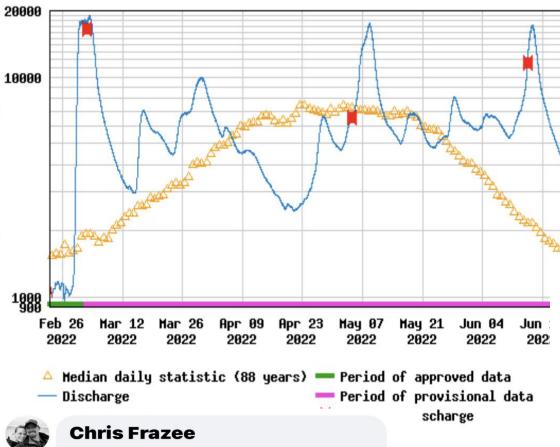
June 2022 Yellowstone Floods

What Happens on the Continental Divide in Yellowstone National Park, does not stay there.

One creek flows into and another, and another... After the rain-on-snow runoff event, you could follow the runoff ways down both sides of Continental Divide to Besific & Atlantic access







Chris Frazee
Confluence of the Clearwater
and Snake this morning
185,000 cfs combined

second

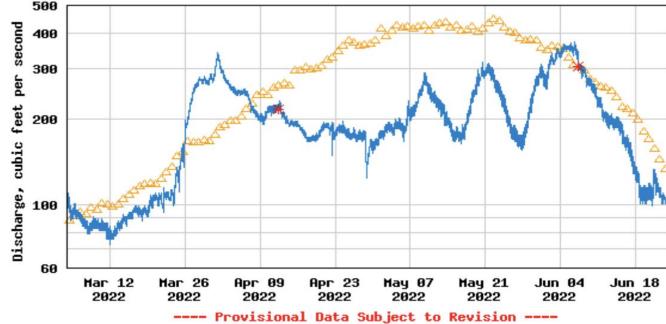
Discharge,



From the Coeur d'Alene to Salmon Falls – each river had an earlier peak and late peak & near record high flows in the Clearwater!

* A wild winter with a wild runoff season ending, similar to 2009!

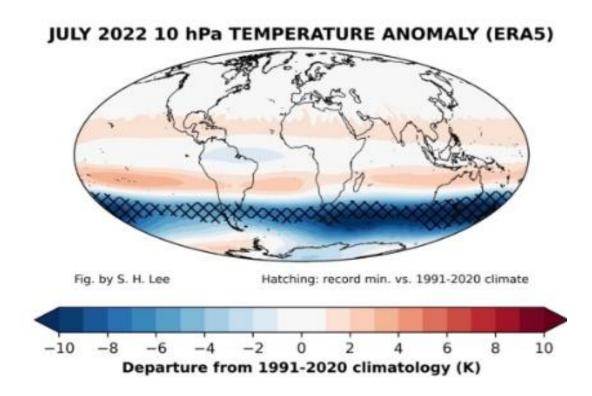
USGS 13105000 SALHON FALLS CREEK NR SAN JACINTO NV



△ Median daily statistic (107 years) * Measured discharge
— Discharge

Jan 15, 2022 - Hunga Tonga Volcano exploded below & above the ocean putting a large amount of water vapor that is still circulating the southern hemisphere atmosphere.

Key is under the relationship between the southern & northern atmospheres and impacts on coming winter.



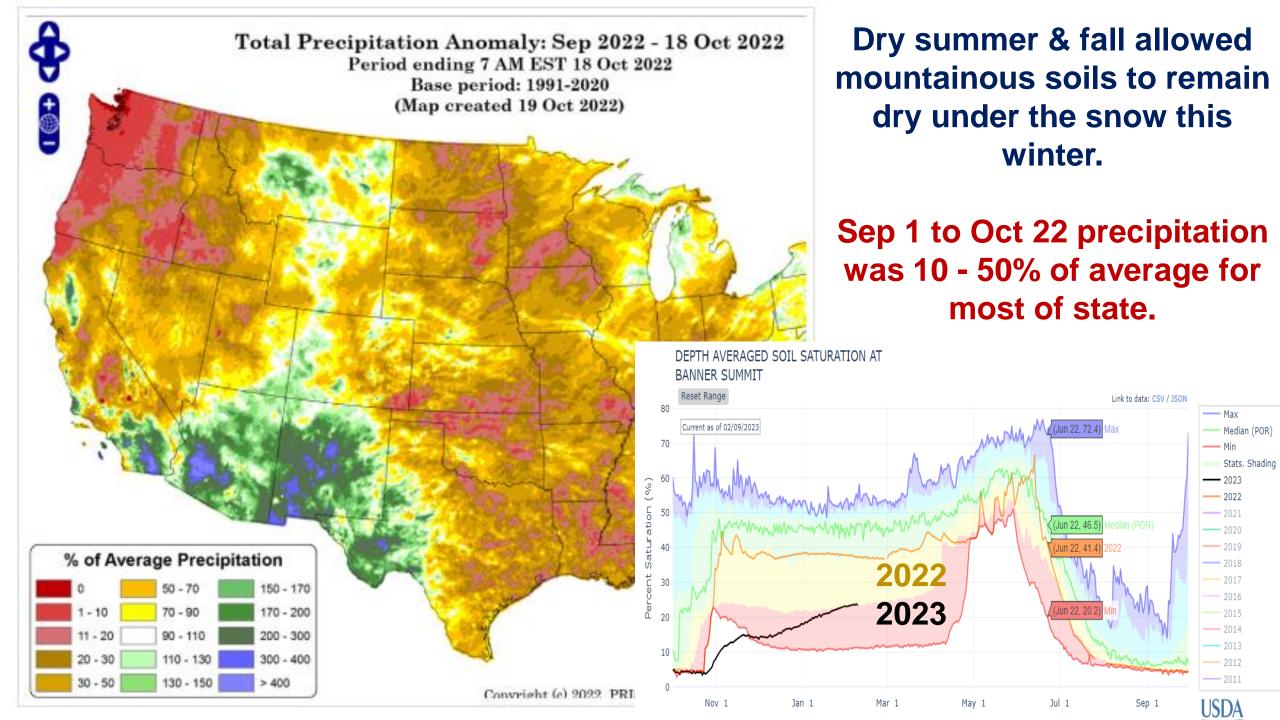
Events influencing this winter

SEVERE WEATHER EUROPE

A significant cooling event continues in the Stratosphere due to the large Water Vapor cloud, but can it impact the upcoming Winter Season?

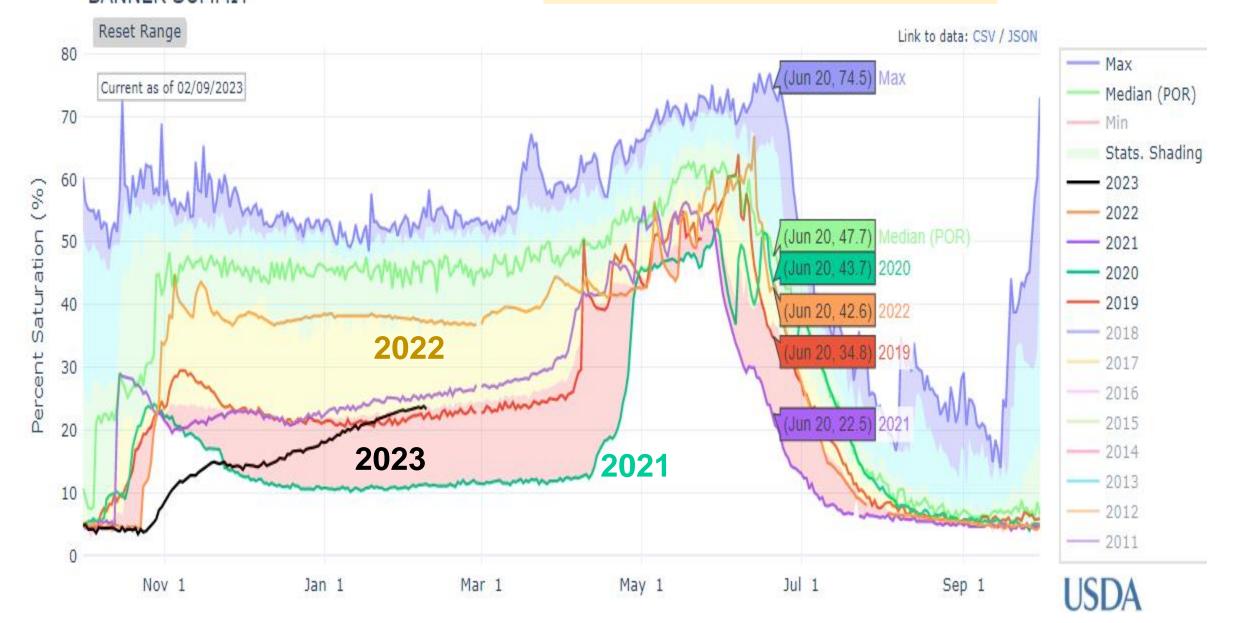
By Andrej Flis
Published: 14/11/2022
Global weather

So the main takeaway is that a large water vapor "cloud" circles the globe in the stratosphere. As you will find out, it has a strong cooling effect and is likely to impact the global weather in some way over the coming months and years.



DEPTH AVERAGED SOIL SATURATION AT BANNER SUMMIT

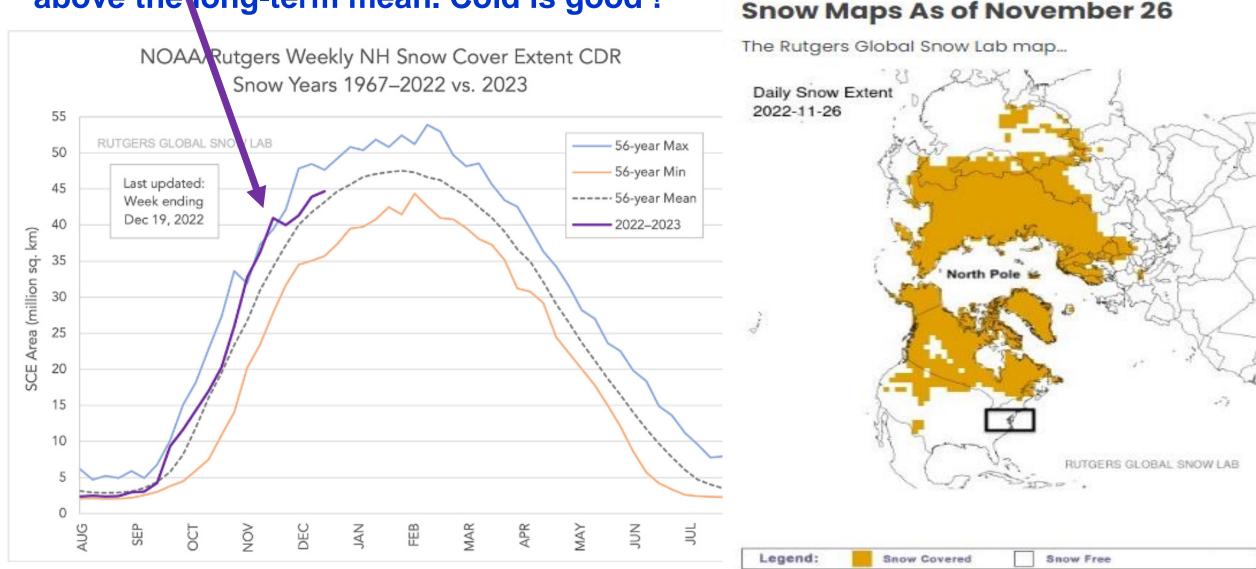
2023 soil moisture – better than 2021 & less than 2022.



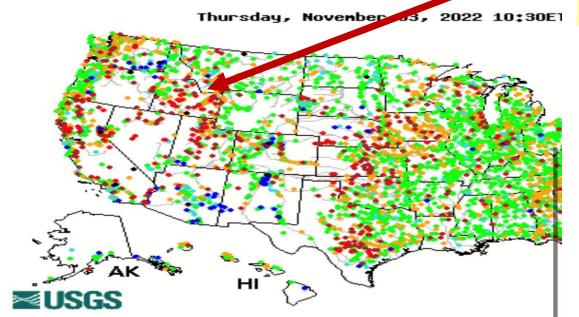
Fall 2022 – a good Siberian snow cover in Oct/Nov influences jet stream across the US/Can border from PNW to Great Lakes region and Europe.

Record high snow cover in November since records start in 1967 and remained

above the long-term mean. Cold is good!



Daily Streamflow Conditions



Explanation

High

> 90th percentile

76th - 90th percentile

25th - 75th percentile

10th - 24th percentile

< 10th percentile</p>

LOW

O Not ranked

The colored dots on this map depict streamflow conditions as a percentile, which is computed from the period of record for the current day of the year. Only stations with at least 30 years of record are used.

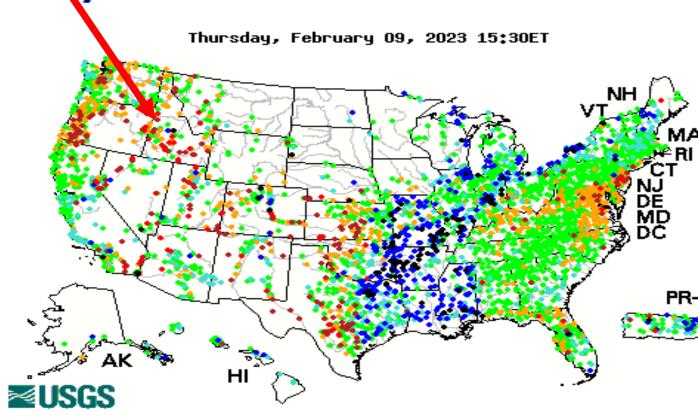
The **gray circles** indicate other stations that were not ranked in percentiles either because they have fewer than 30 years of record or because they

Nov 3 - many rivers near record low flows

Jan 1 - some rivers increased to near avg

Feb 9 - result of cold temps & snow not melting.

Dally Streamflow Conditions



Explanation

- High
- > 90th percentile
- 76th 90th percentile
- 25th 75th percentile

The colored dots on this map depict s conditions as a <u>percentile</u>, which is continuously the period of record for the current do Only stations with at least 30 years of used.

The **gray circles** indicate other station

Released Jan 19, 2023
Pete Parson's 2023 analog years based on current ocean & atmosphere conditions

Seasonal Climate Forecast February – April 2023

Issued: January 19, 2023

NOAA's Climate Prediction Center (CPC) predicts La Niña will continue to weaken and transition to ENSO-neutral this spring.

This is the third consecutive winter with La Niña.

There has been no recorded occurrence of 4 consecutive winters with La Niña (dating back to 1950).

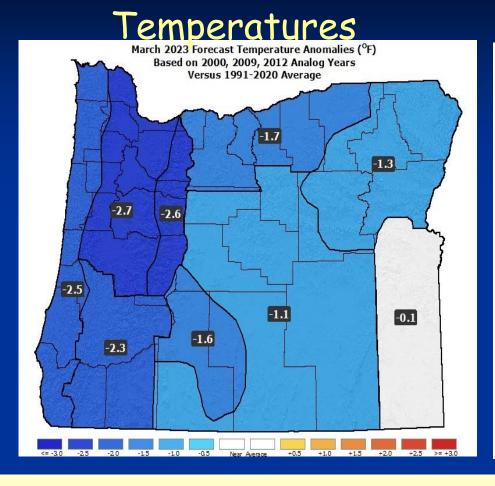
Contact: ODF Lead Meteorologist Pete Parsons 503-945-7448 or peter.gj.parsons@odf.oregon.gov

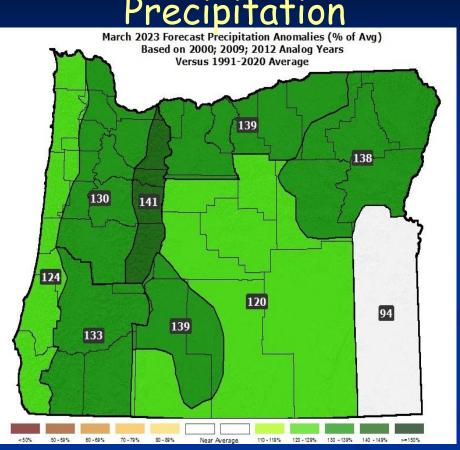
Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) - Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) Production support: Diana Walker; Andy Zimmerman; Julie Waters; Kristin Cody

Forecast Highlights

- La Niña is expected to transition to ENSO-Neutral this spring but expect continued highly anomalous weather to continue.
- Large month-to-month "swings" can "balance out" over a 3-month period.
- Weather records from 2000, 2009, & 2012 were used to generate the forecast charts, but 1957 & 1972 were also considered. The more-recent years were given priority to minimize climate-change bias...see next chart.
- Big swings in monthly temperatures likely, but the 3-month period should be close to average. Good chance of cold snap in early February.
- Precipitation should be near or slightly above average, with March having the best chances for above-average rain and mountain snow.

March 2023 Forecast





- All 3 of the top analog years had generally below-average temperatures.
- The 2000 analog was a drier than average, but 2009 and 2012 were stormy with ample mountain snow & at least one episode of wet snow in the western valleys.

Seasonal Climate Forecast March – May 2023

Issued: February 16, 2023



ODA production support: Diana Walker; Andy Zimmerman; Jenn Ambrose ODF production support: Julie Waters; Kristin Cody

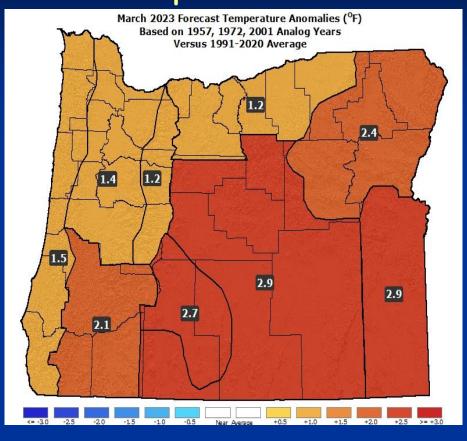
Forecast Highlights

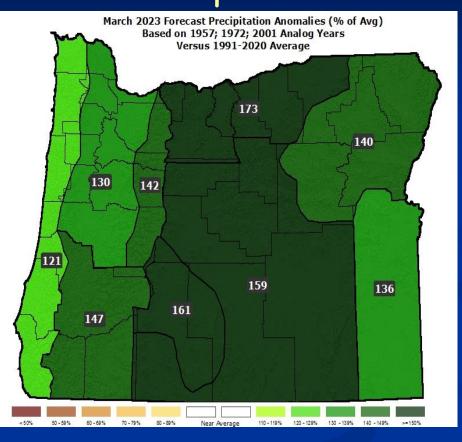
- La Niña should transition to ENSO-neutral this spring. Look for highly anomalous weather, but large departures from average are not expected for the 3-month period.
- The analog years (1957, 1972, & 2001) were updated from last month. They have been performing well, despite the climate-change bias of using dated analogs...see next chart.
- Big swings in monthly temperatures likely, but the 3-month period should be close to average. Watch for quite-stormy periods in April.
- Precipitation should be near or slightly above average, with March having the best chances for above-average rain and mountain snow.

March 2023 Forecast

Temperatures

Precipitation



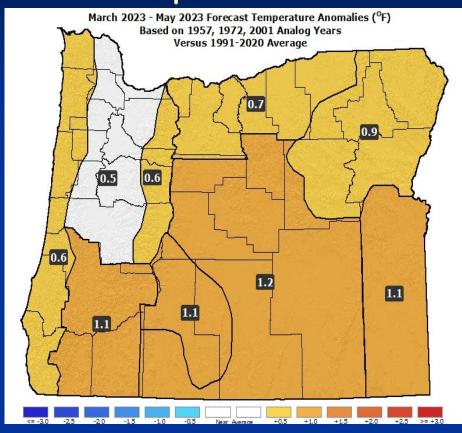


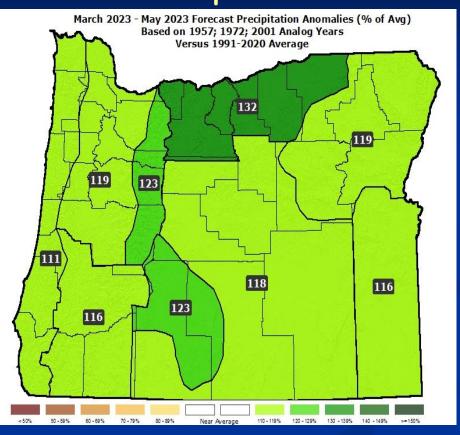
- Fair analog consensus for warmer-than-average temperatures.
- 1957 and 1972 analogs had above-average precipitation and mountain snowpacks at the end of the month...countering a much-drier 2001.

March – May 2023 Forecast

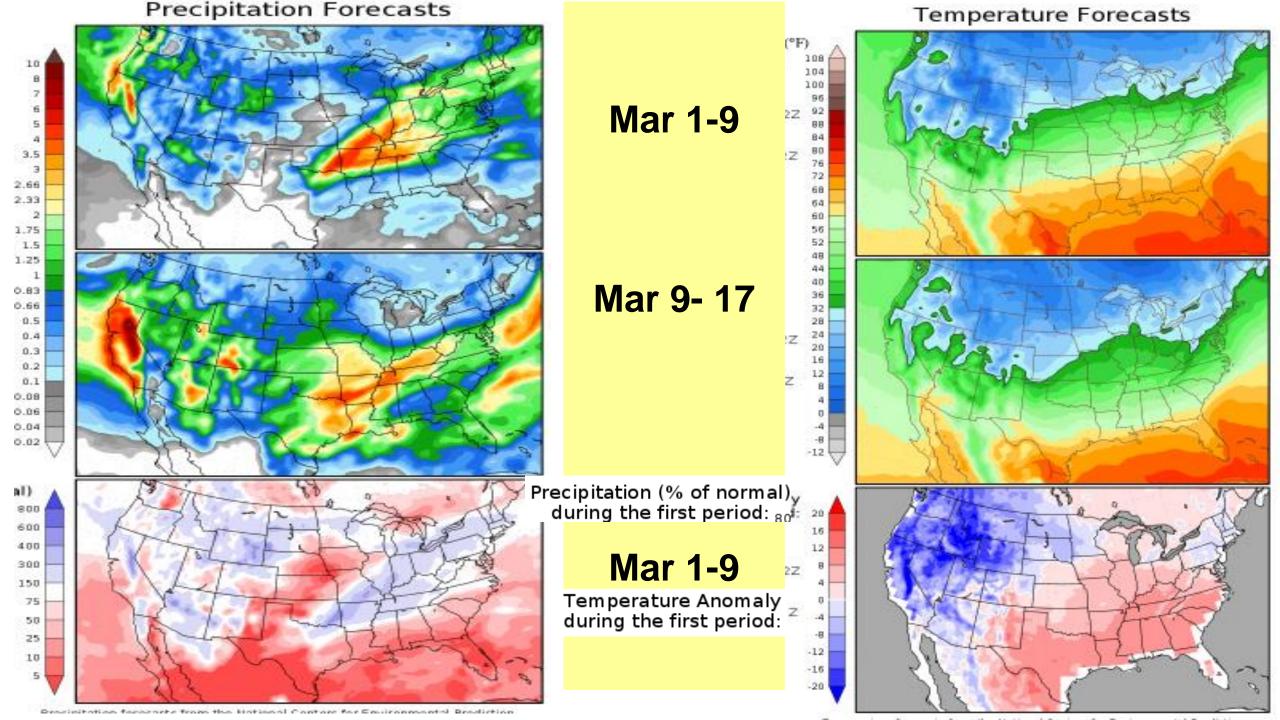
Temperatures

Precipitation



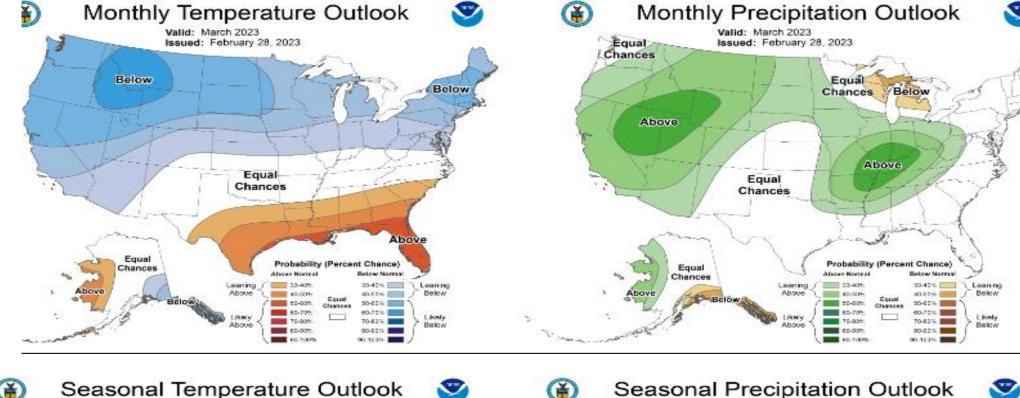


■ The 3-month period may not reflect the large monthly variations expected in both temperature and precipitation.



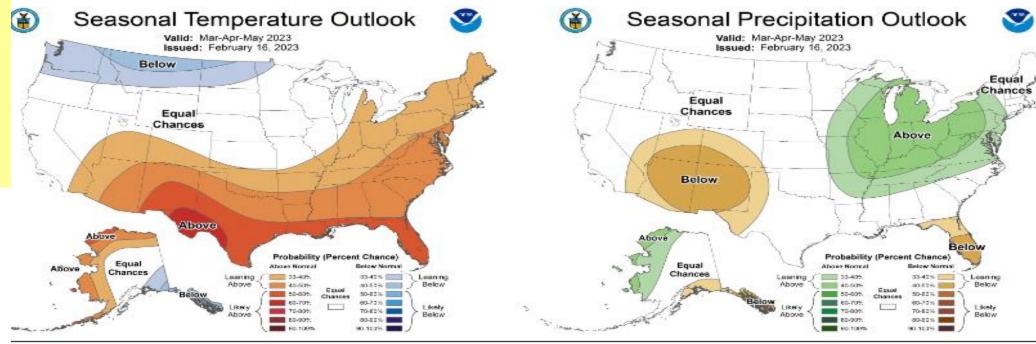
March Outlook

Temp & Precip





Temp & Precip



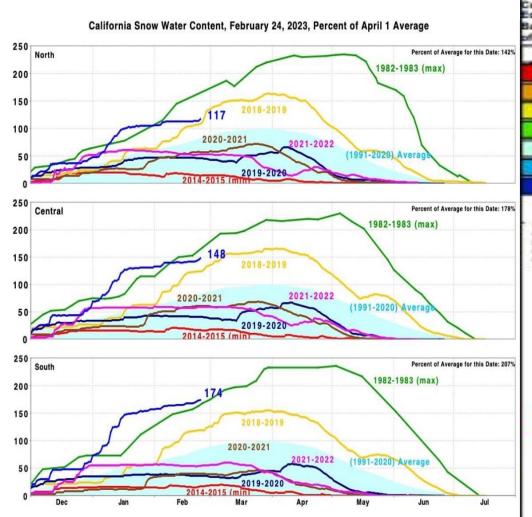
This means more days like this...

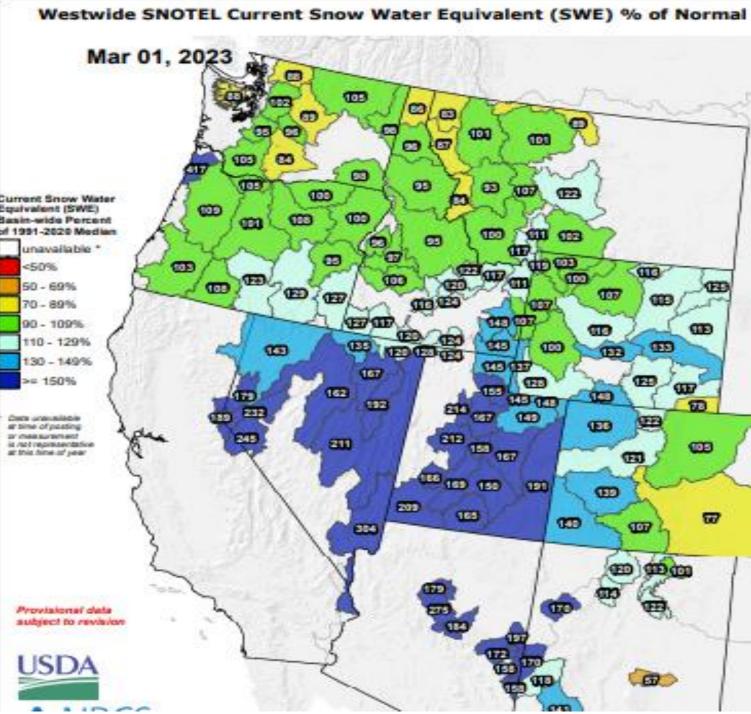
Cold is good.



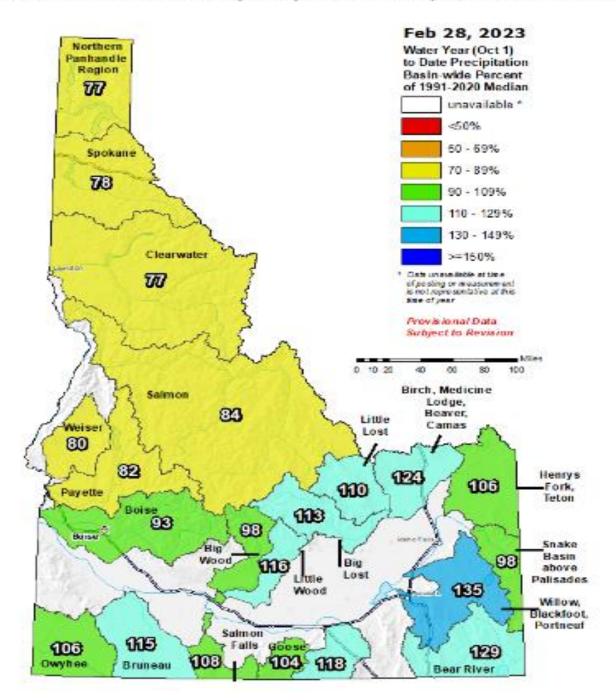
Current Conditions

CA Snow is 117, 148 & 174% of seasonal peak for North, Central and South basins



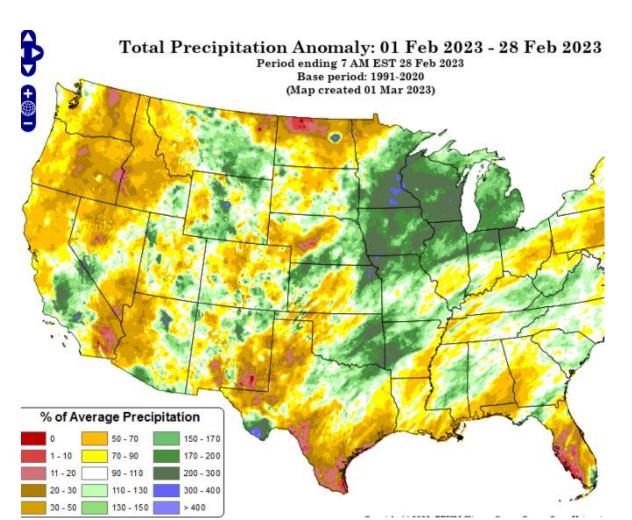


Idaho SNOTEL Water Year (Oct 1) to Date Precipitation % of Normal

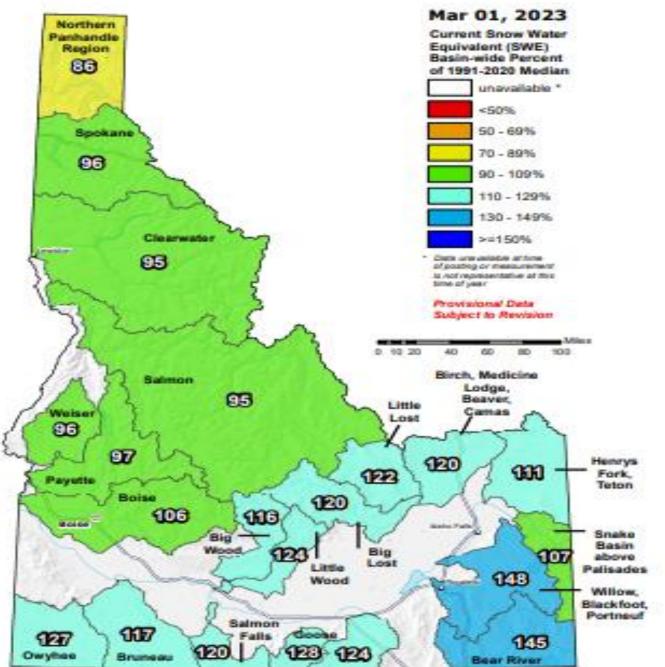


Water Year to Date Precip - below normal north - above in SE Idaho.

Feb precip below normal except in SE



Idaho SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) % of Normal



Mar 1, 2023 Snowpacks range from 85% in Panhandle to 145% in Bear **River Median** Snow is 67 to 110% of seasonal peak that occur in late March to early April.

Let's get started!



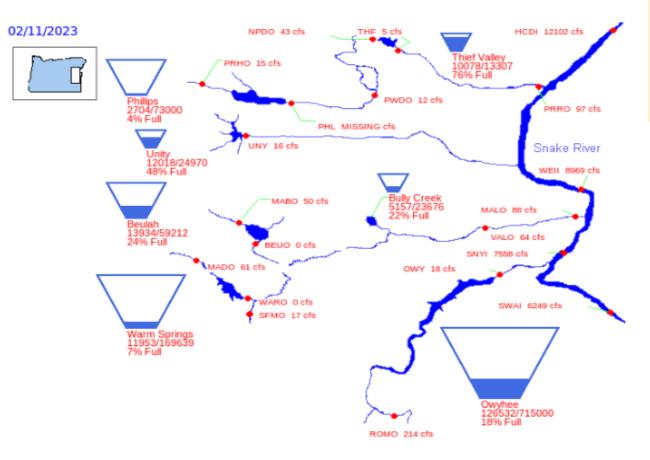
13266000: Weiser R near Weiser, ID 2009 Feb-Sep volume was 66%, 438.8 KAF, Average is 660.9 KAF 5,000 10-25-75-90 Only a few 2023 Apr-Sep volumes could be 4,500 rivers had an Estimated near 70% of average, similar to increase SimilarYr 2022 and 2009 unless it rains, 4,000 since last fall. Last Yr then near normal like 2012. Projected 3,500 Daily CFS Current 3,000 Median Max-Min 2,500 2023 Updated Mean 2,000 25-Feb-23 Similar Year 1,500 2009 1,000 **Record low** 500 2022 due to cold



Owyhee March 2022 – flows increased from 2000 to 6000 cfs, sunny and warm, temps were in the 70s and no wind something that doesn't happen that often! From Steve Stuebner



US Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Region Major Storage Reservoirs in Southeastern Oregon

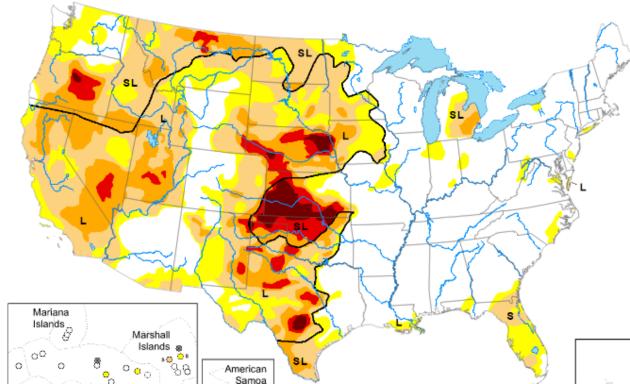


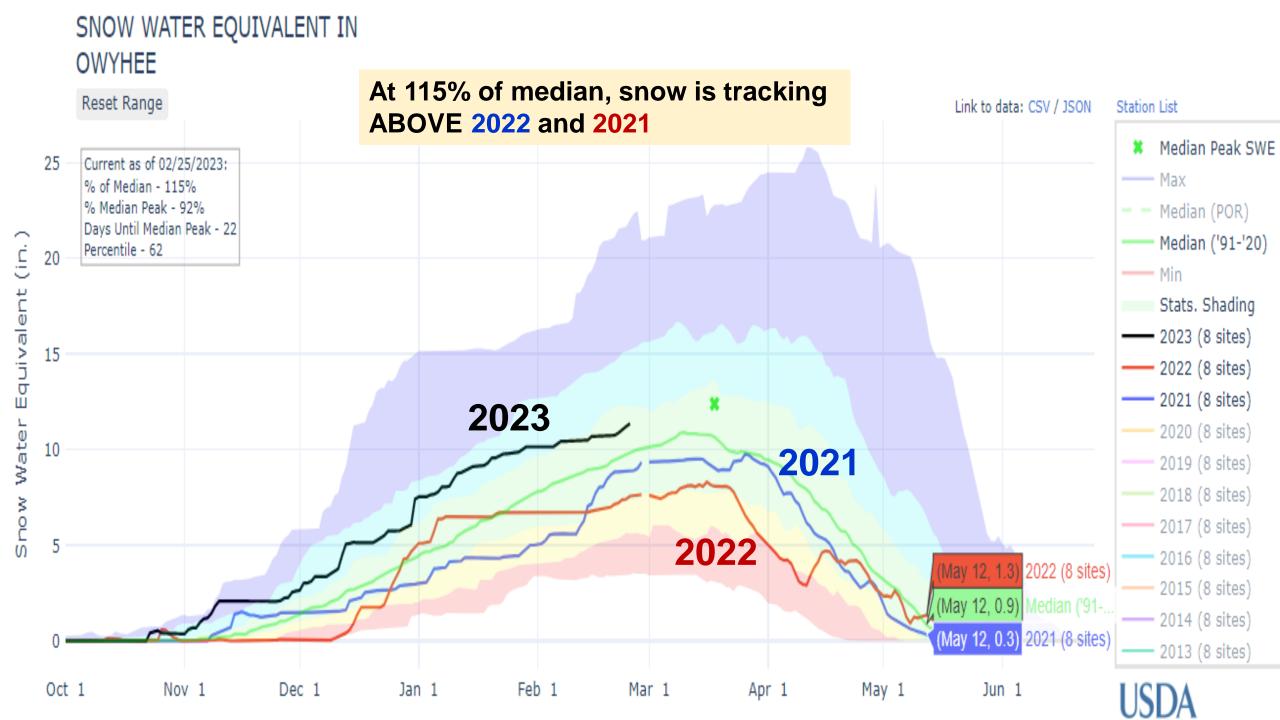
Low Reservoirs displaying signs of previous drought years.

Owyhee Reservoir 18% Full

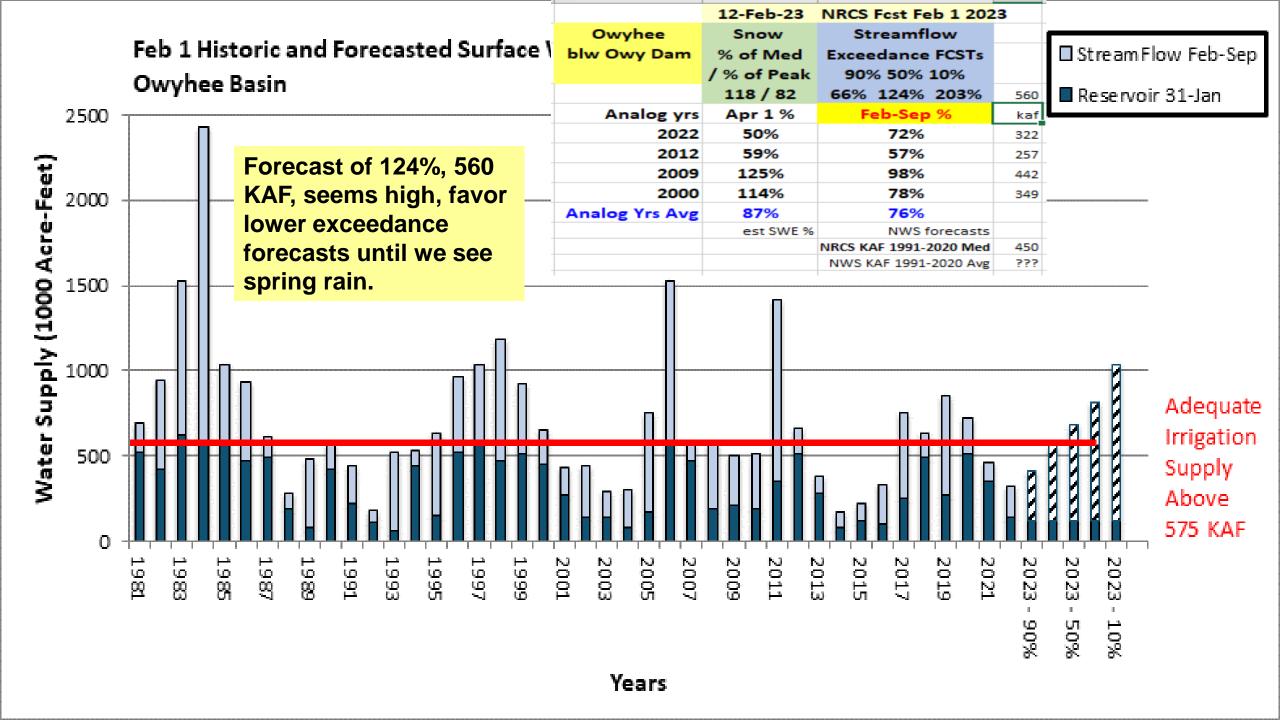
Map released: February 23, 2023

Data valid: February 21, 2023

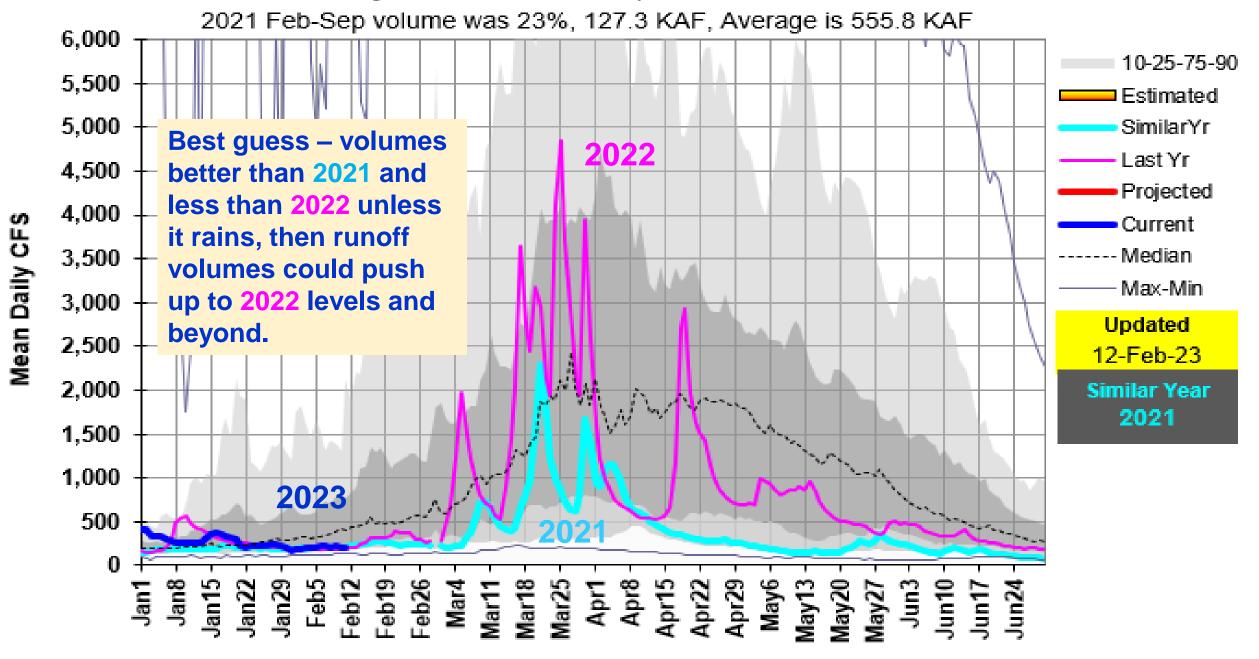




DEPTH AVERAGED SOIL SATURATION AT SOUTH MTN. Soil moisture is better than 2021 and less than 2022. Reset Range Link to data: CSV / JSON — Max Current as of 02/12/2023 Median (POR) —— Min 80 Percent Saturation (%) Stats. Shading 2022 2023 2022 60 2023 (Jul 2, 53.5) 2022 ____ 2020 (Jul 2, 47.2) Median (POR) 2021 2019 (Jul 2, 37.9) 2021 40 ____ 2018 ____ 2017 2016 20 2015 2014 Nov 1 Jul 1 Sep 1 Jan 1 Mar 1 May 1



13181000: Owyhee R near Rome, OR



SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT AT MUD FLAT Reset Range Link to data: CSV / JSON Median Peak SWE % of Median - 82% Median (POR) Median ('91-'20) Stats, Shading 2023 2022 2023 2021 2017 202

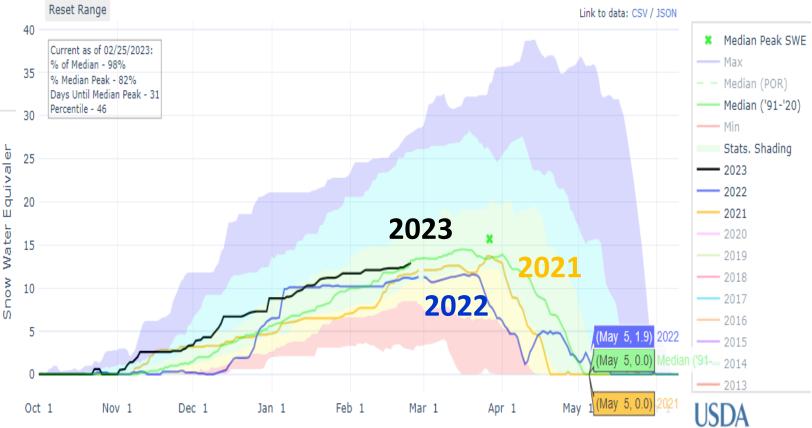
Basin is ready to flow: Cold temps has kept all snow in place. When warm temps arrive, it could melt fast producing rapid flow increases like last year. Adding rain, will extend high water season.

From Kara Ferguson BSU Thesis

Owyhee River snowmelt peak occurs when:

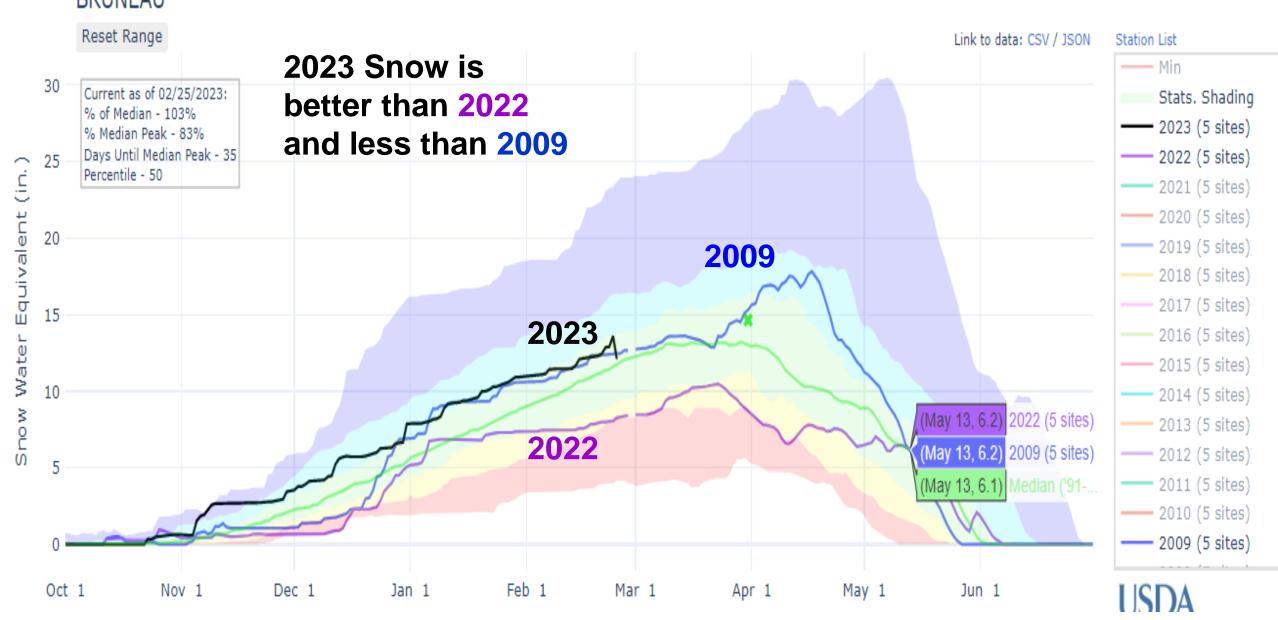
- Mud Flat is ~15% melted (canopy changed) and / or
- South Mnt is ~30% melted (BETTER to USE)



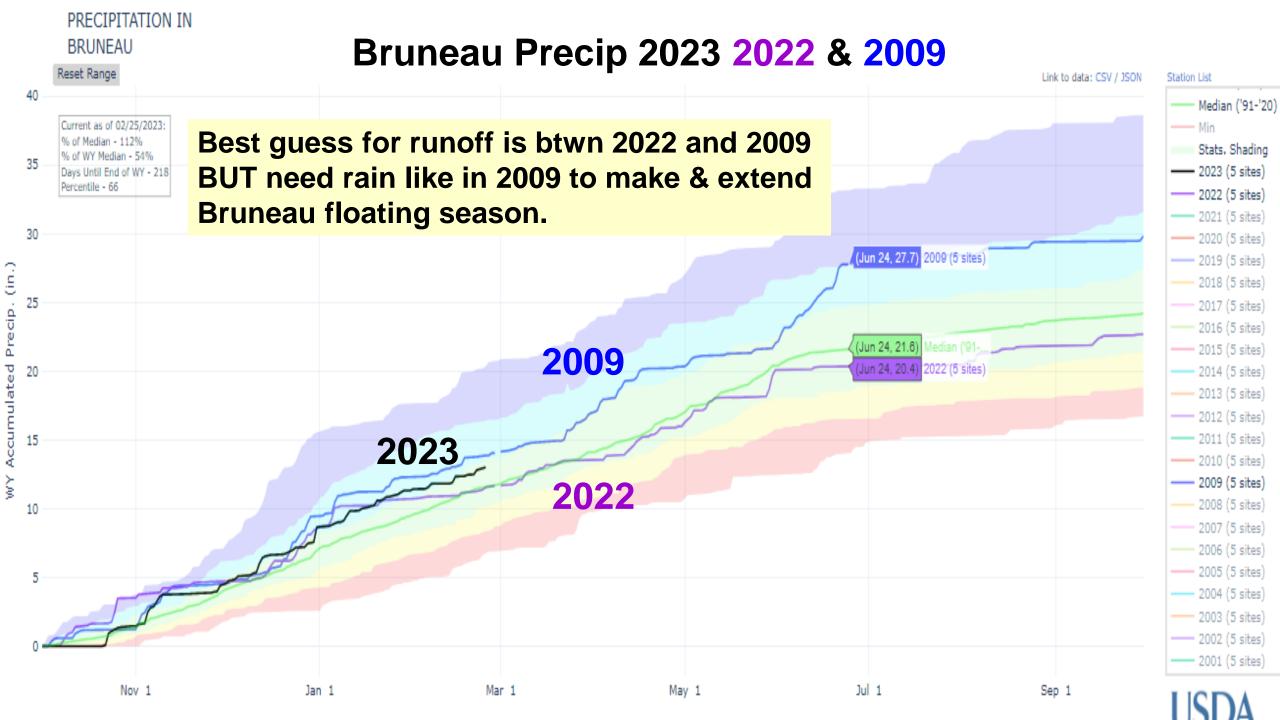


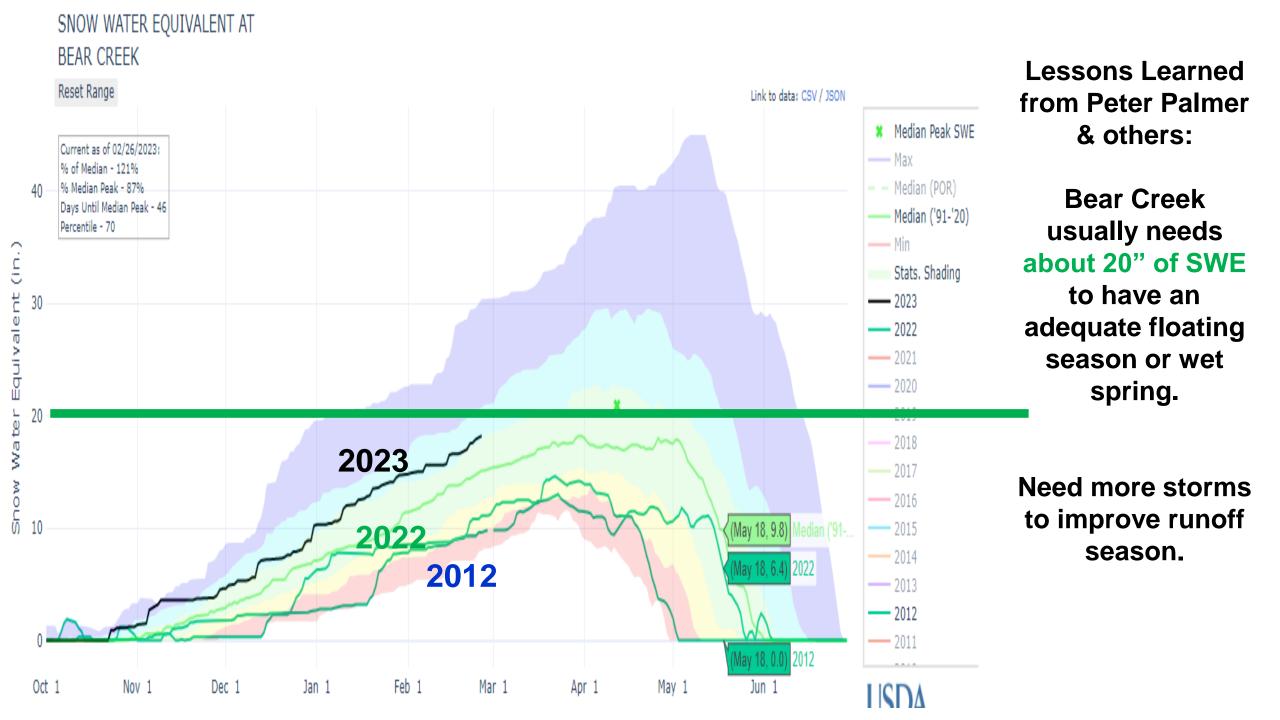
SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN BRUNEAU

Bruneau Snow Water Equivalent

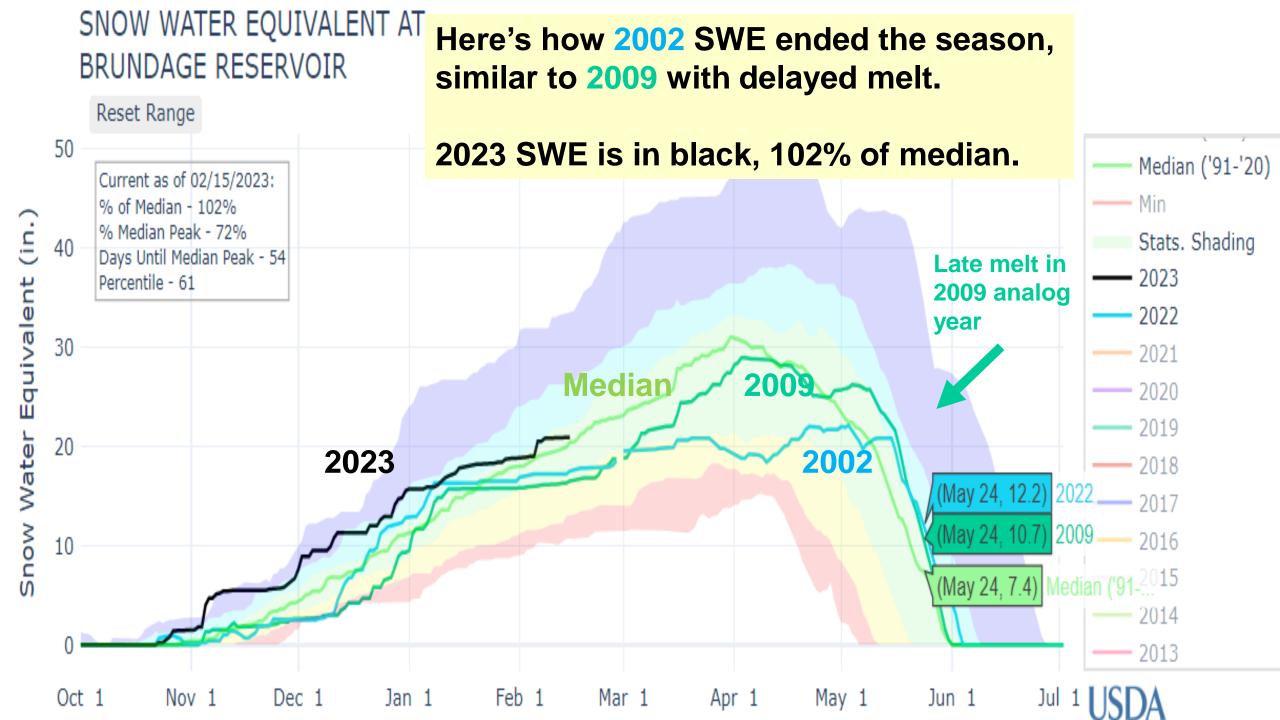


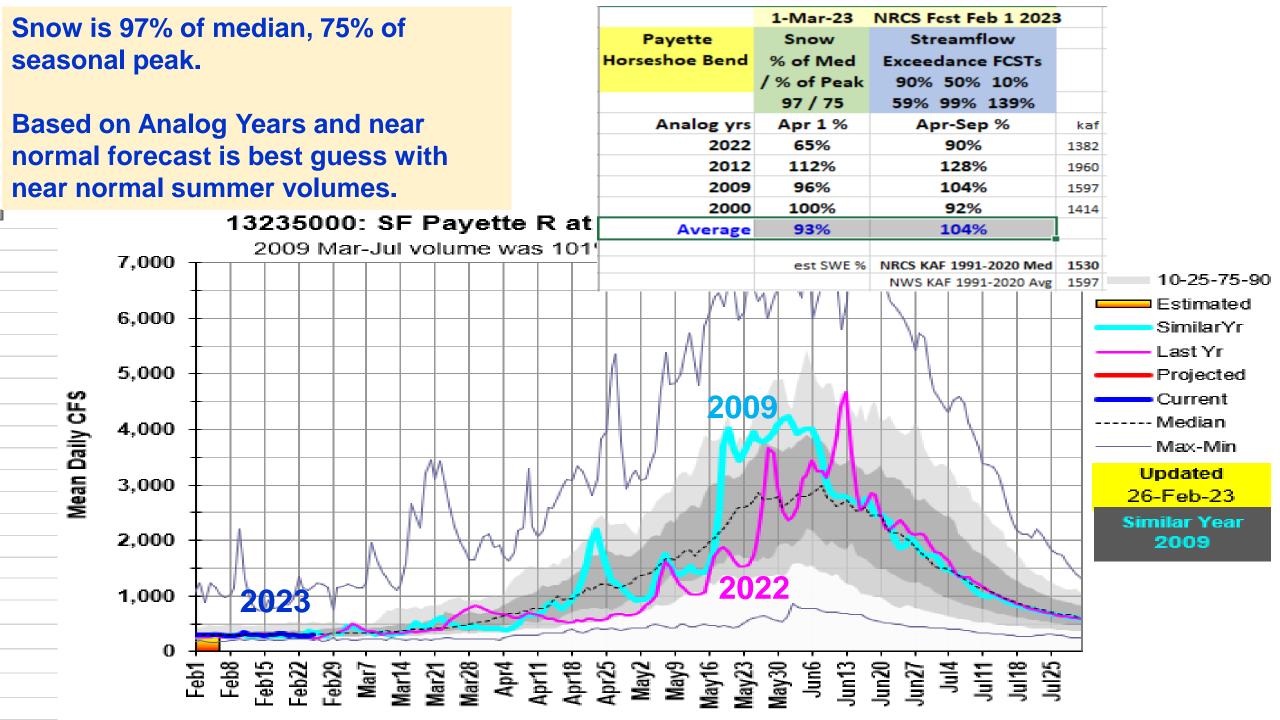
13168500: Bruneau R near Hot Spring, ID 2009 Mar-Jul volume was 97%, 211.4 KAF, Average is 217.2 KAF 1,600 2009 runoff 211 KAF, near Avg 10-25-75-90 2023 Feb 1 Forecast 200 KAF Estimated 1,400 **2022 runoff 140 KAF** SimilarYr Last Yr Best guess btwn 2022 and 2009 1,200 Projected Current 1,000 Median Daily Max-Min 800 Updated Mean 25-Feb-23 600 2009 Similar Year 2009 400 2023 200 May30 June Jun13 Jun20 Mar14 Mar28 Mar7 Арг4 Jun 27 Mar21



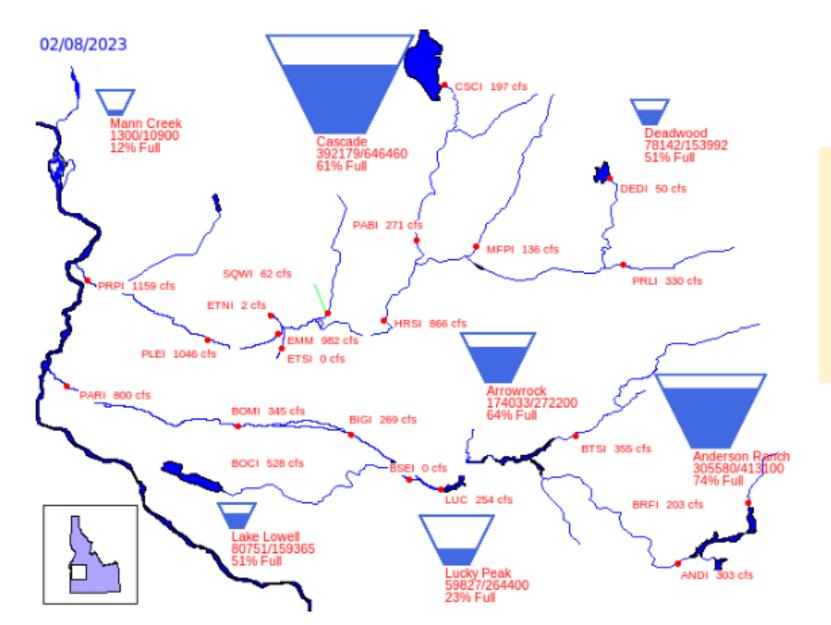








Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Region Major Storage Reservoirs in the Boise & Payette River Basins



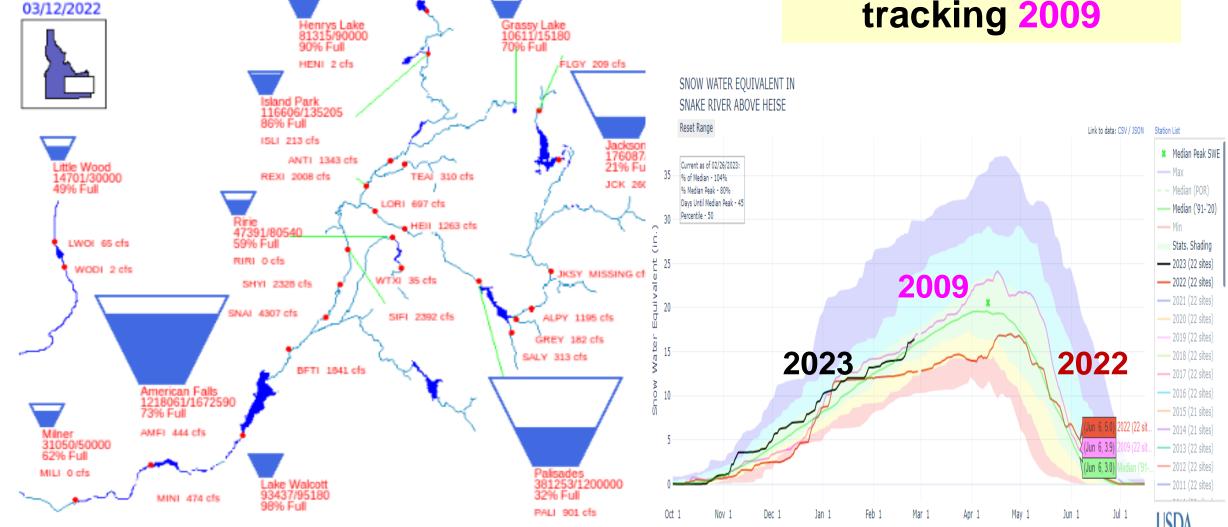
Reservoir Systems

Payette 59% Full

Boise 57% Full

Upper Snake is 51% of capacity

Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Region Major Storage Reservoirs in the Upper Snake River Basin Snow is 104% of normal, 80% of seasonal peak, better than 2022 and tracking 2009

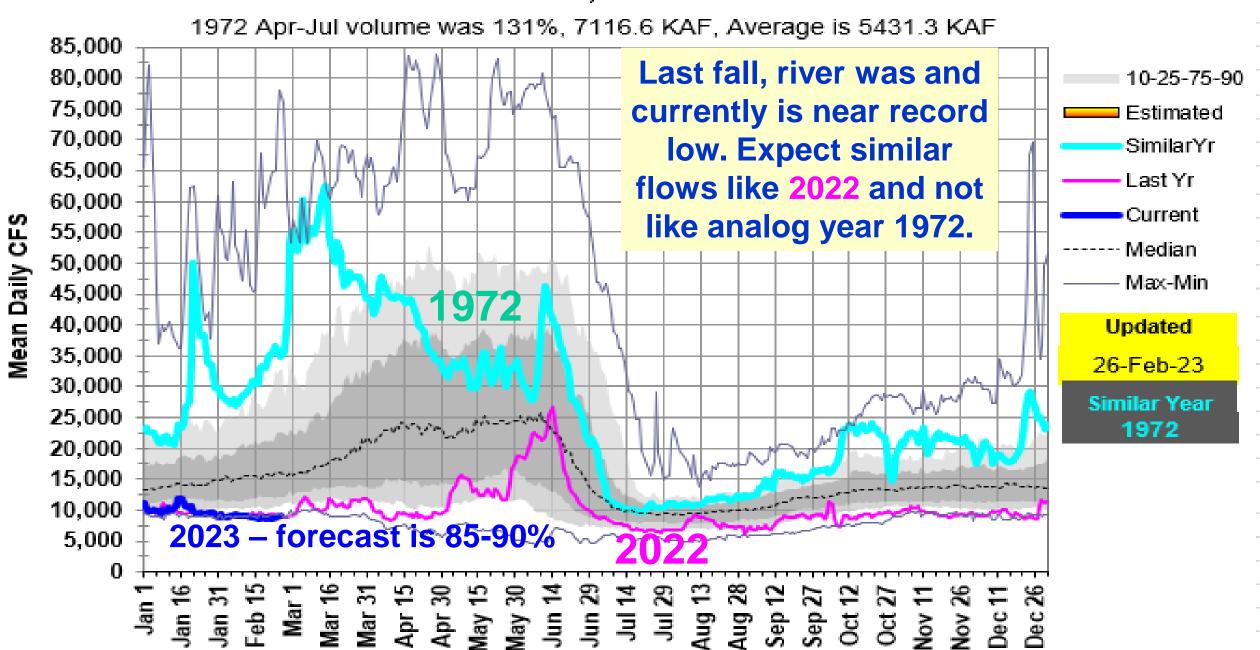




Moving into Hells Canyon... **Volume Forecast is** about 85-90% of median



13269000: Snake R at Weiser, ID

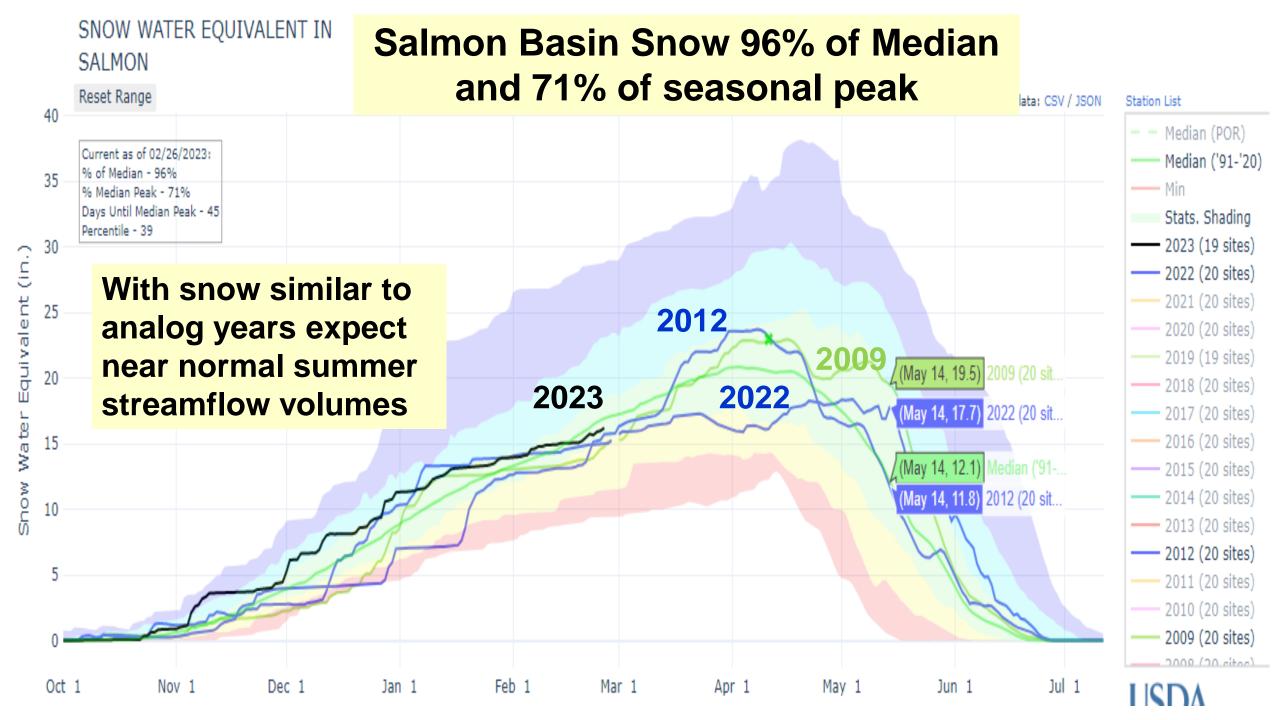




The Salmon

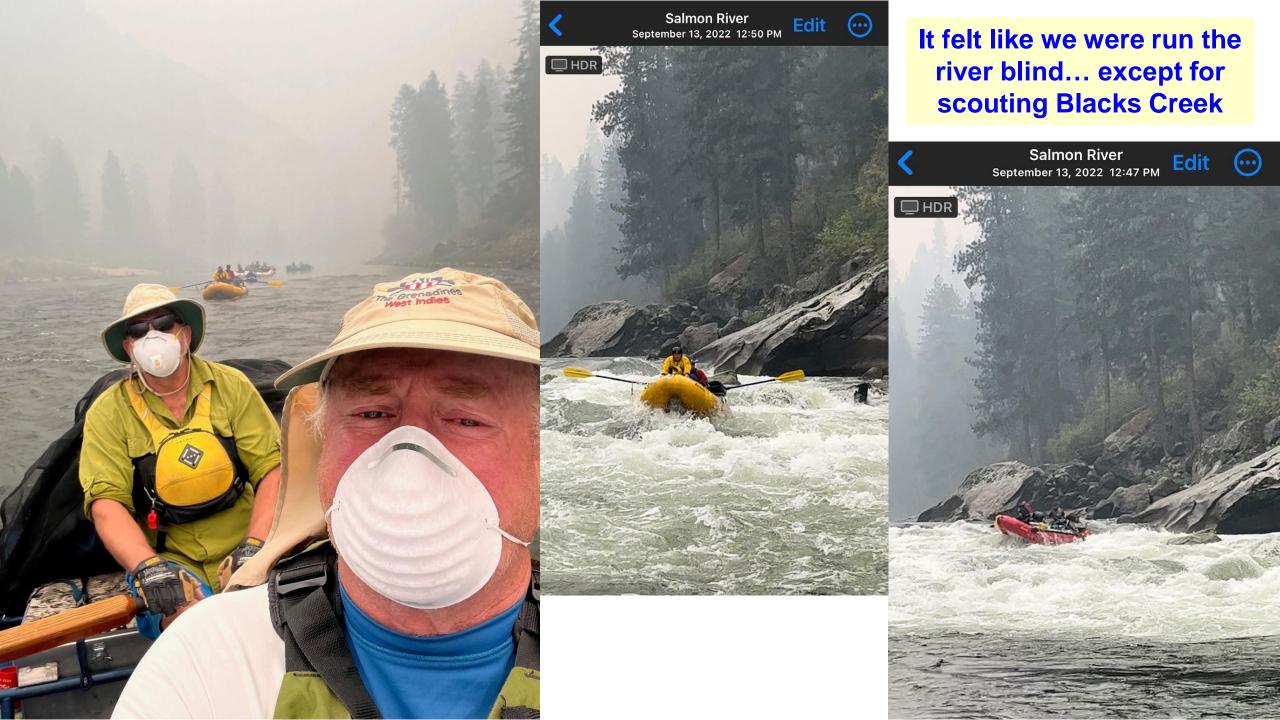
Don't let a little smoke on the water keep you home...

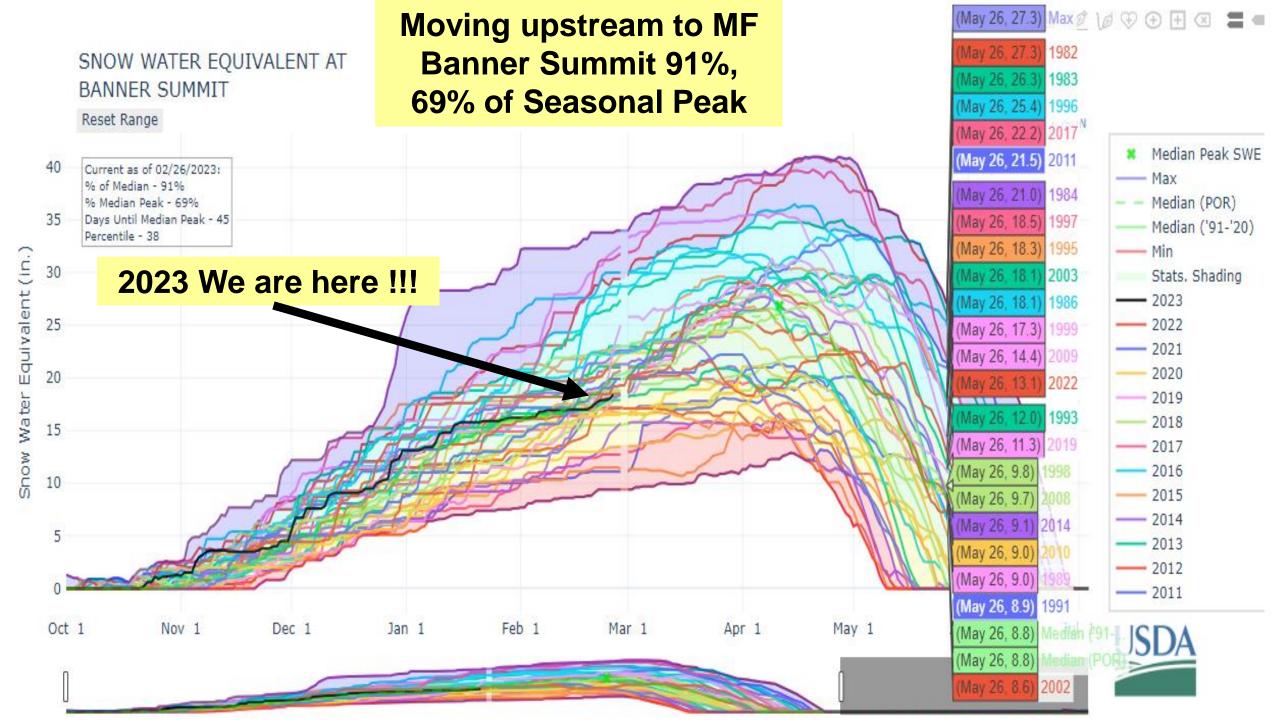
Sept 12, 2022 2:12pm Day 1

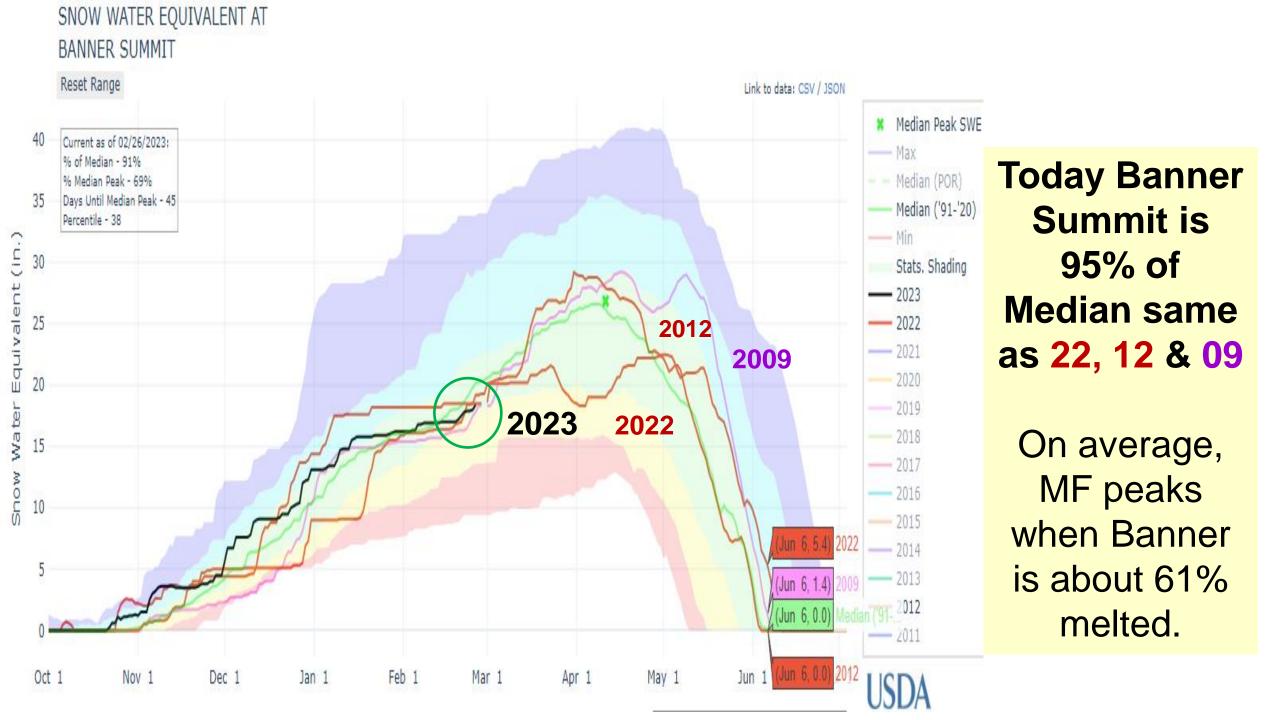


13317000: Salmon R at White Bird, ID

2009 Apr-Jul volume was 114%, 6545.3 KAF, Average is 5731.9 KAF 100,000 26-Feb-23 NRCS Fcst Feb 1 2023 10-25-75-90 Salmon River Streamflow Snow 90,000 % of Med Exceedance FCSTs at White Bird Estimated / % of Peak 90% 50% 10% SimilarYr 96 / 71 52% 88% 116% 5800 80,000 2009 Analog yrs Apr-Sep Volume% Apr 1 % kaf Last Yr 76% 2022 91% 6025 Projected 70,000 2012 107% 114% 7081 2009 108% 109% 7168 Current S 2000 102% 74% 4858 60,000 Median **Analog Yrs Avg** 100% 95% Daily Max-Min 50,000 est SWE % Updated NRCS KAF 1991-2020 Med 6600 Mean 6158 NWS KAF 1991-2020 Avg 40,000 26-Feb-23 Similar Year 30,000 2009 20,000 10,000 eb12

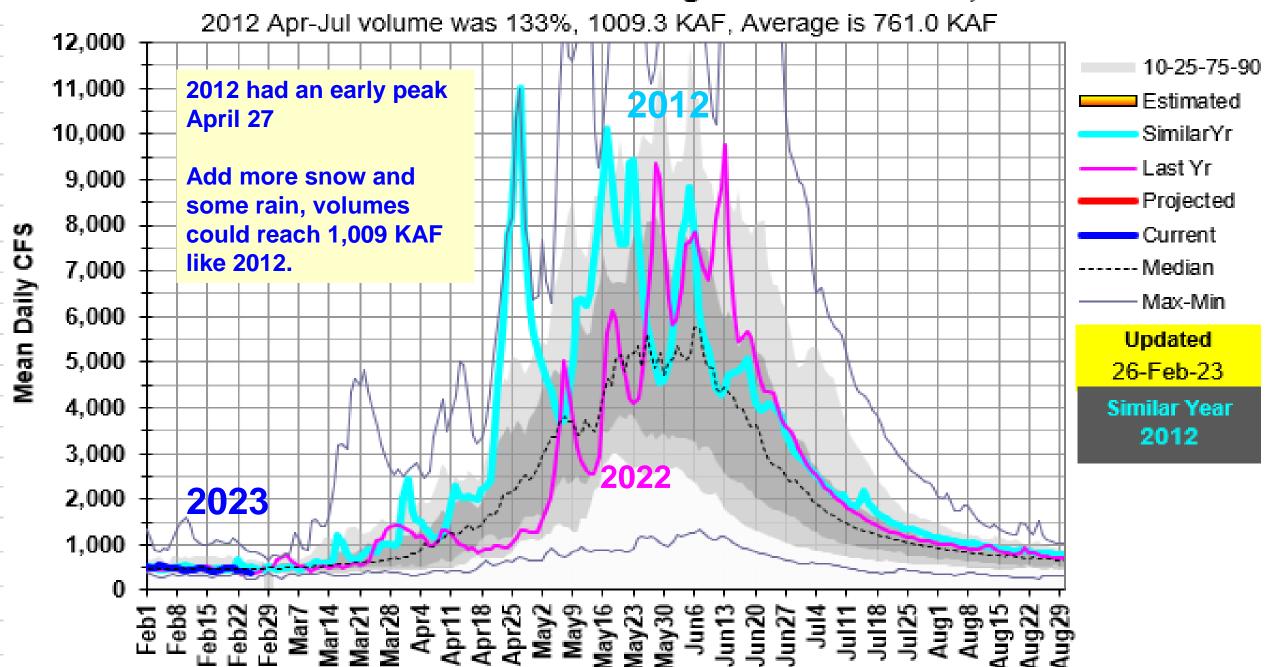


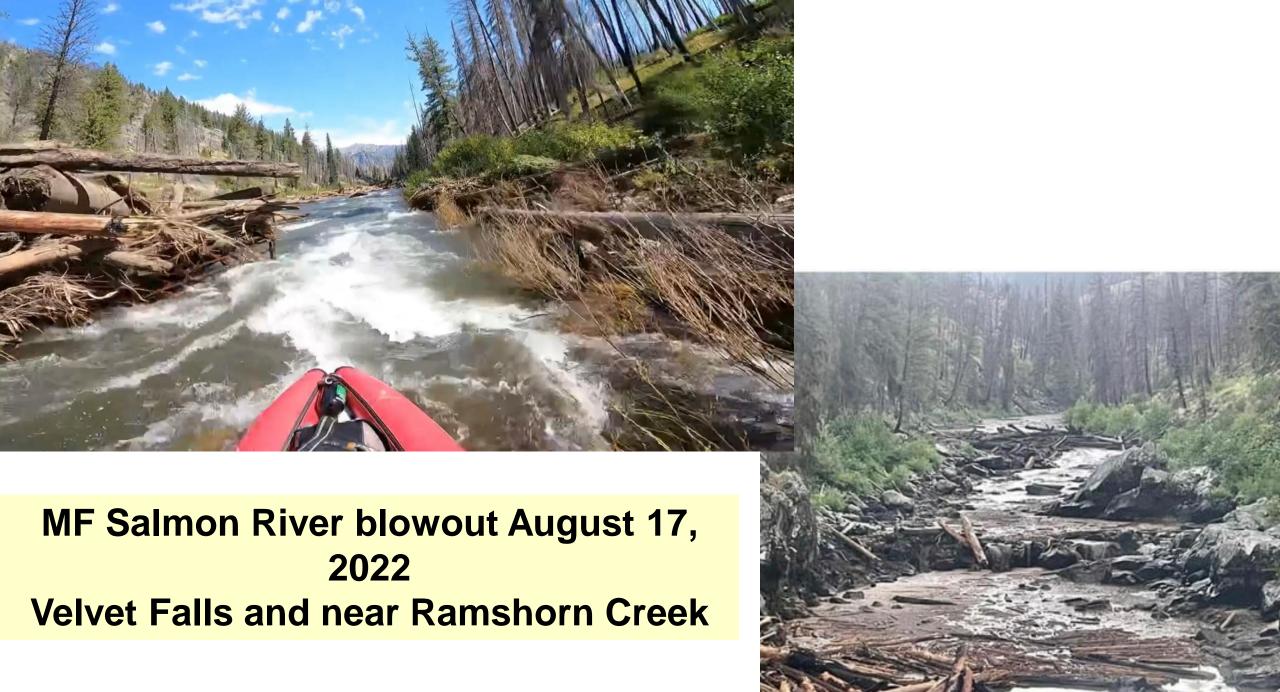




13309220: MF Salmon R at MF Lodge near Yellow Pine, ID 2009 Apr-Jul volume was 111%, 841.1 KAF, Average is 761.0 KAF 12,000 10-25-75-90 2023 Feb 1 forecast is for 11,000 ■ Estimated 700 KAF, 90% of median 76 10,000 SimilarYr Last Yr Flows could be similar to 9,000 **2022** and **2009** with rain or Projected 8,000 cool temps. Daily CFS Current Median 7,000 Max-Min 6,000 Updated Mean 5,000 26-Feb-23 4.000 Similar Year 2009 3,000 2022 **2023** 2,000 1,000 un 20

13309220: MF Salmon R at MF Lodge near Yellow Pine, ID

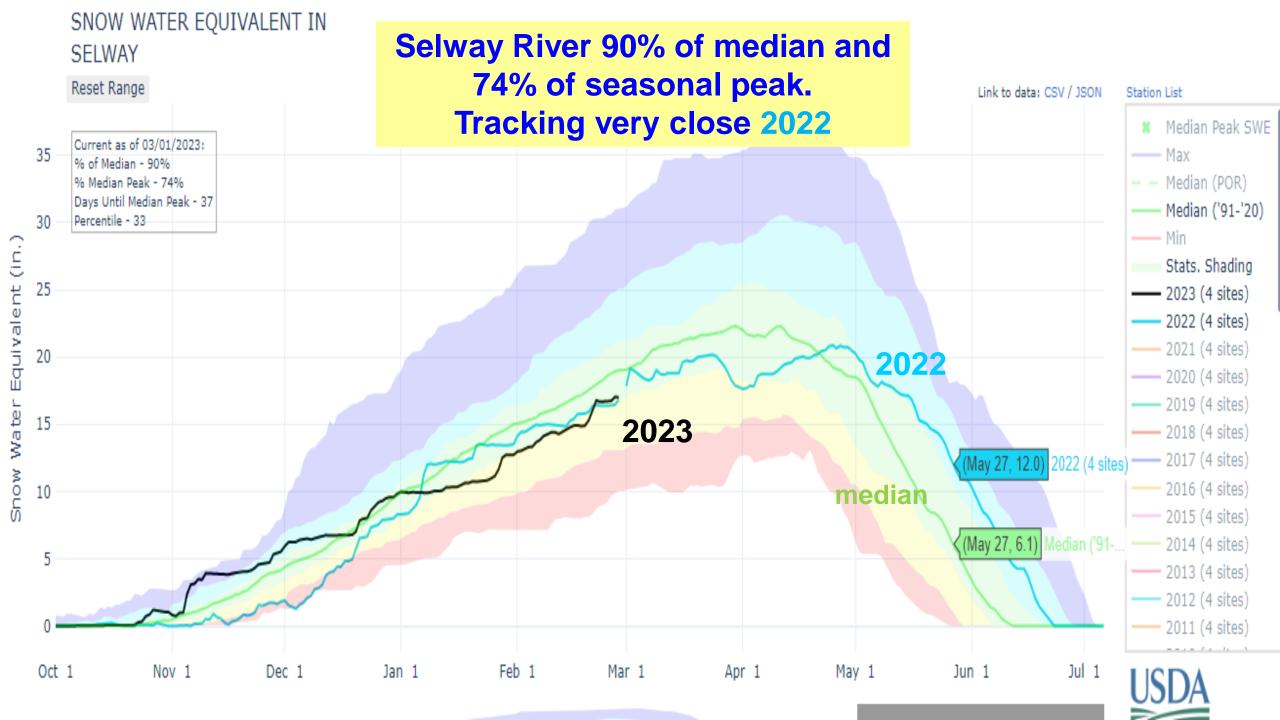


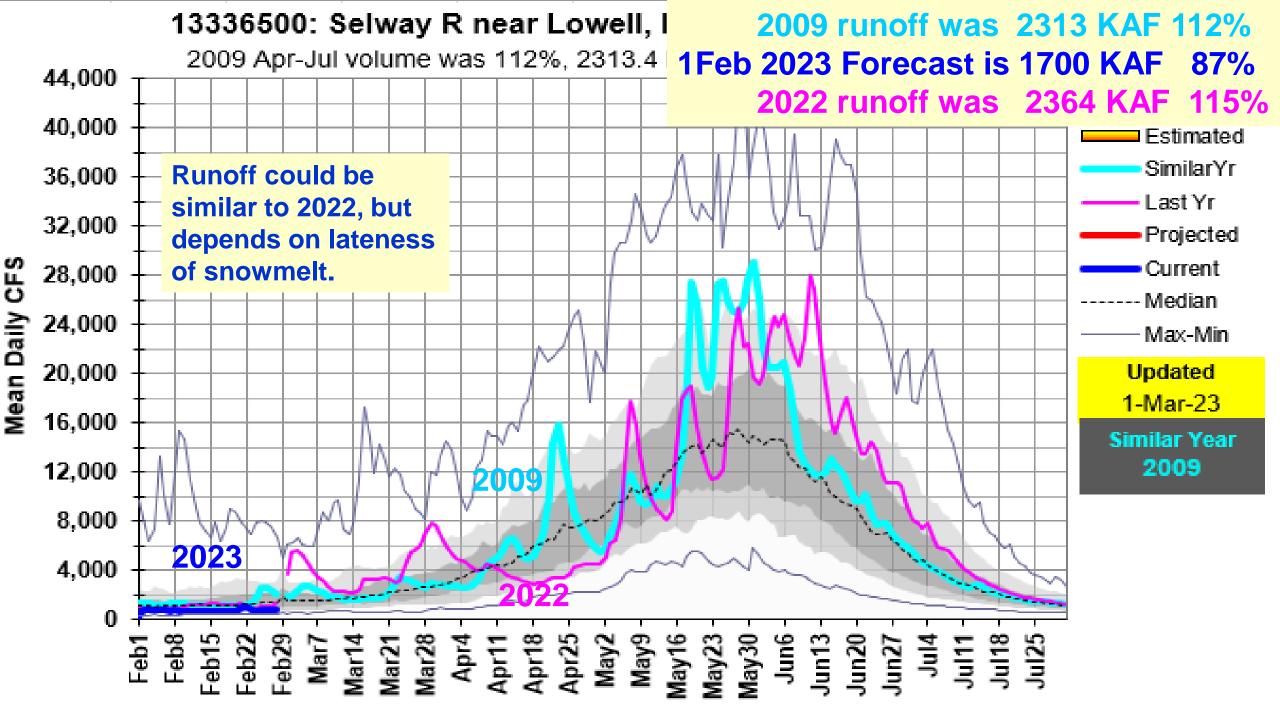


Selway & Lochsa Rivers

Selway Falls June 14, 2022 about 20,000 CFS **Selway Falls May 19, 2006 30,000 CFS**



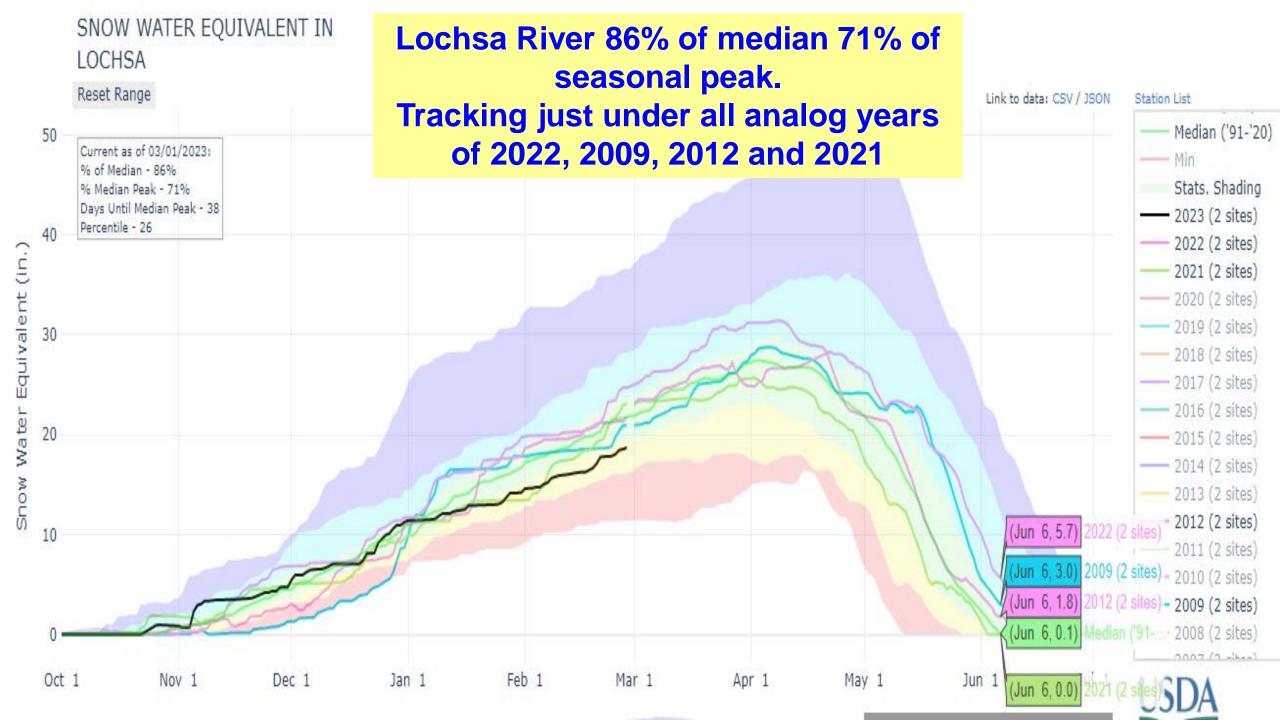


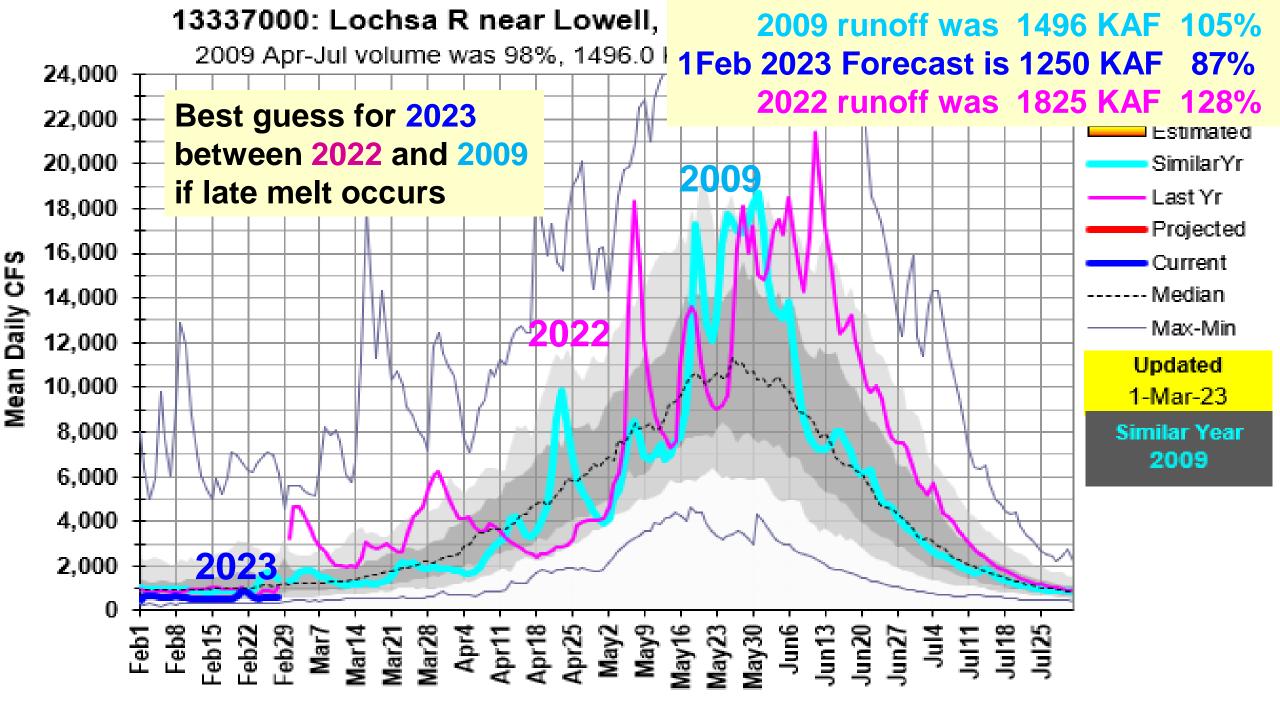




Fish Creek
below Lochsa
put-in June
14, 2022









Kayaking Lochsa June 14, 2022 at about 16,000 2023 Lochsa peak flow and date is...



13337000: Lochsa R near Lowell, ID 2009 Apr-Jul volume was 98%, 1496.0 KAF, Average is 1530.0 KAF 24,000 2022 Peak projection was 10-25-75-90 - Monday May 31! Peak was June 22,000 Estimated 11 at 21,400 cfs - Had four peaks 20,000 2009 SimilarYr Last Yr 18,000 Projected 16,000 Daily CFS Current Median 14,000 Max-Min 12,000 Updated 2023 Peak Flow Mean 10,000 1-Mar-23 **Projection for Monday May 29!** 8,000 Similar Year Roughly 16,123 CFS 2009 6,000 4,000 2023 2,000 May30 9unf Feb8 Feb22 Jun13 Mar14 Mar28 Apr4 Apr11 Apr18 Apr25 May2 May9 Jun 20 Jul4 Jun 27 Mar21 Mar



