

Where's the Snow and Flow Going to Be in 2026 ?

Summary of the 4 Rivers Lottery includes:

- **Analog Years for this winter are:**
1967-68 1981-82 2017-18 2001-02 is/was a runner up
1982 was very wet and is not tracking with this winter's storms track,
except possible in the Selway basin.
- **April 1 Westwide Snowpack for Analog Years Compared to This Year**
- **Idaho Current Snowpack & Water Year to Date Precipitation**
- **Current Snowpack and Water Supply Forecasts for the Selway, MF, Salmon and Hells Canyon with Comparisons to Analog Years Observed Runoff.**

Users should use full range of Streamflow Exceedance Forecasts for possible runoff options for this year as we wait to see what Mother Nature brings us in the 2nd half of winter...

Seasonal Climate Forecast

February – April 2026

Issued: January 16, 2026



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

**Analog Years Based on Current
SOI, ONI and PDO conditions:
1967-68 1981-82 2017-18**

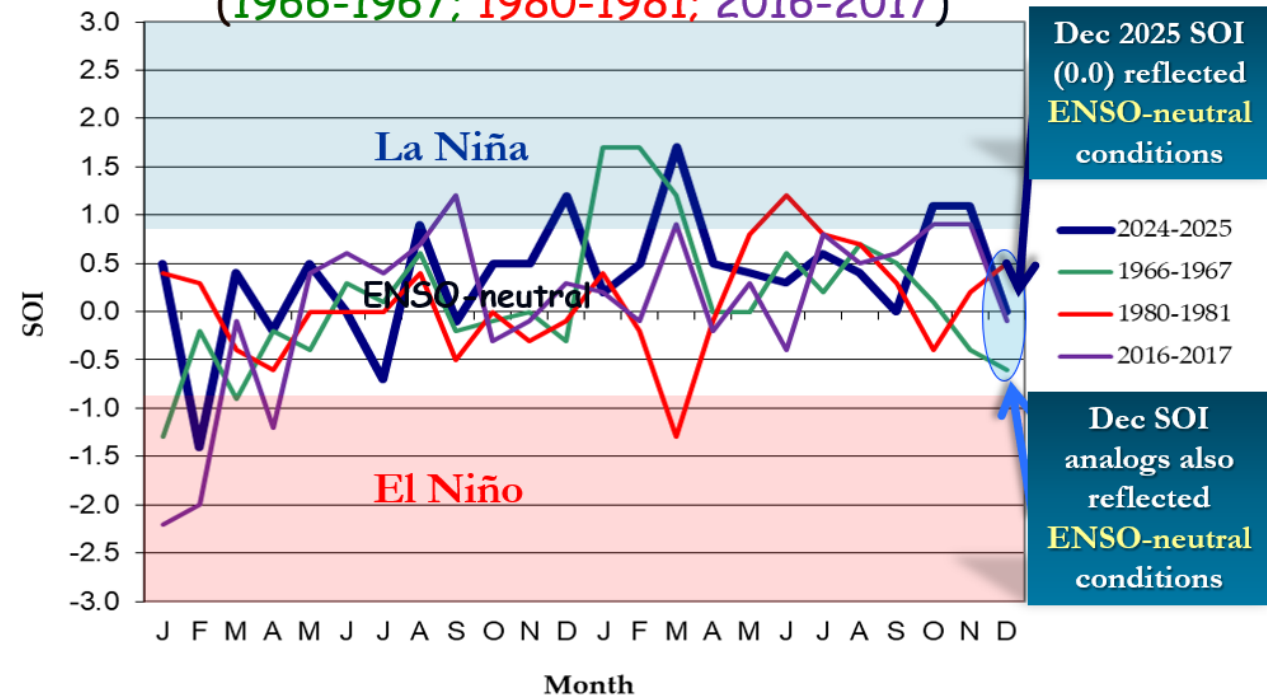
2001-02 is/was a runner up

Forecast Highlights

- This forecast is based on weather that occurred during the 1968, 1982, & 2018 analog years. No changes to these years from last month.

Southern Oscillation Index (SOI)

SOI values from the top "analog years" compared
with the current period (2024-2025)
(1966-1967; 1980-1981; 2016-2017)

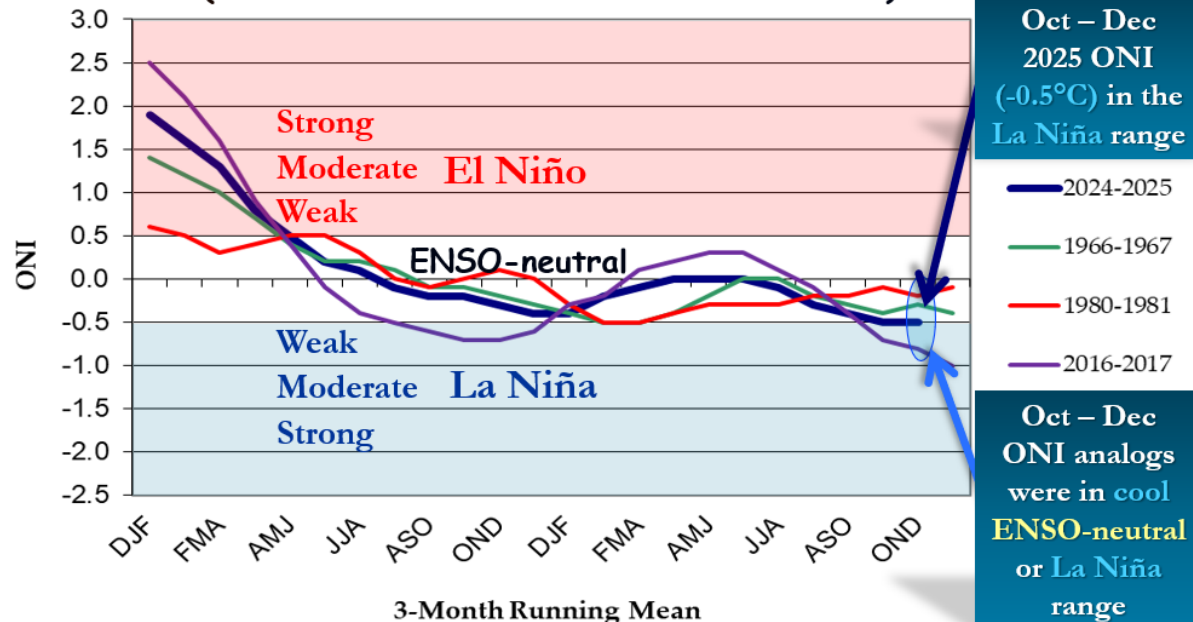


SOI data courtesy <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/data/indices/soi>

Oceanic Niño Index (ONI)

ONI values from the top "analog years"
compared with the current period (2024-2025)

(1966-1967; 1980-1981; 2016-2017)

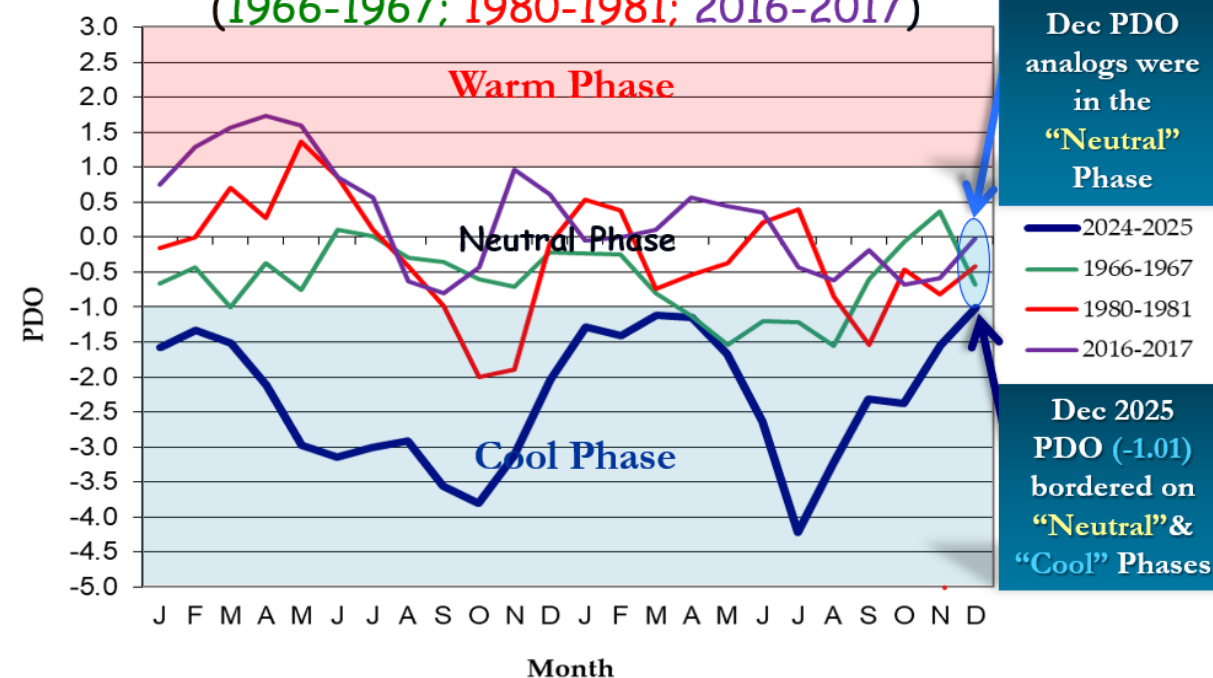


ONI data courtesy https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/ensostuff/ONI_v5.php

North Pacific Ocean

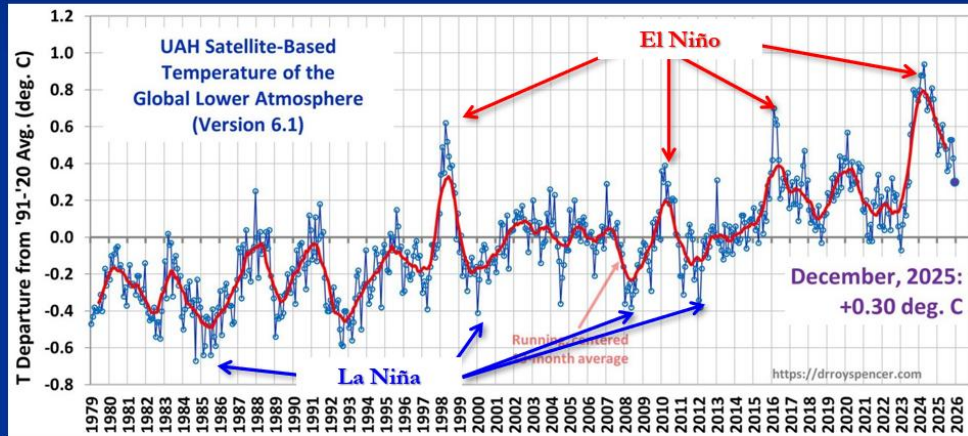
(Poleward of 20°N Latitude)

PDO values from the top "analog years" compared
with the current period (2024-2025)
(1966-1967; 1980-1981; 2016-2017)



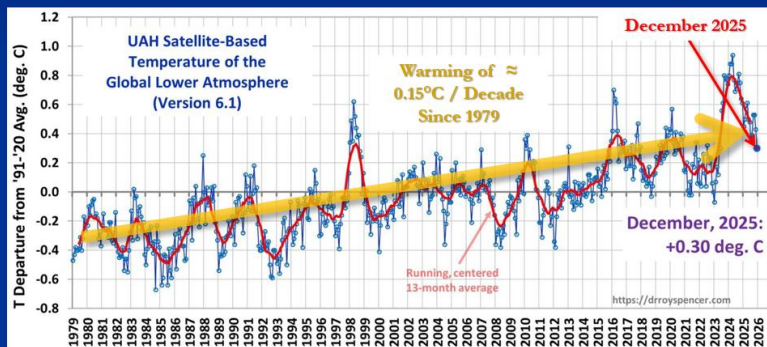
PDO data courtesy <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/pub/data/cmb/ersst/v5/index/ersst.v5.pdo.dat>

El Niño & La Niña Impact Global Temperatures...



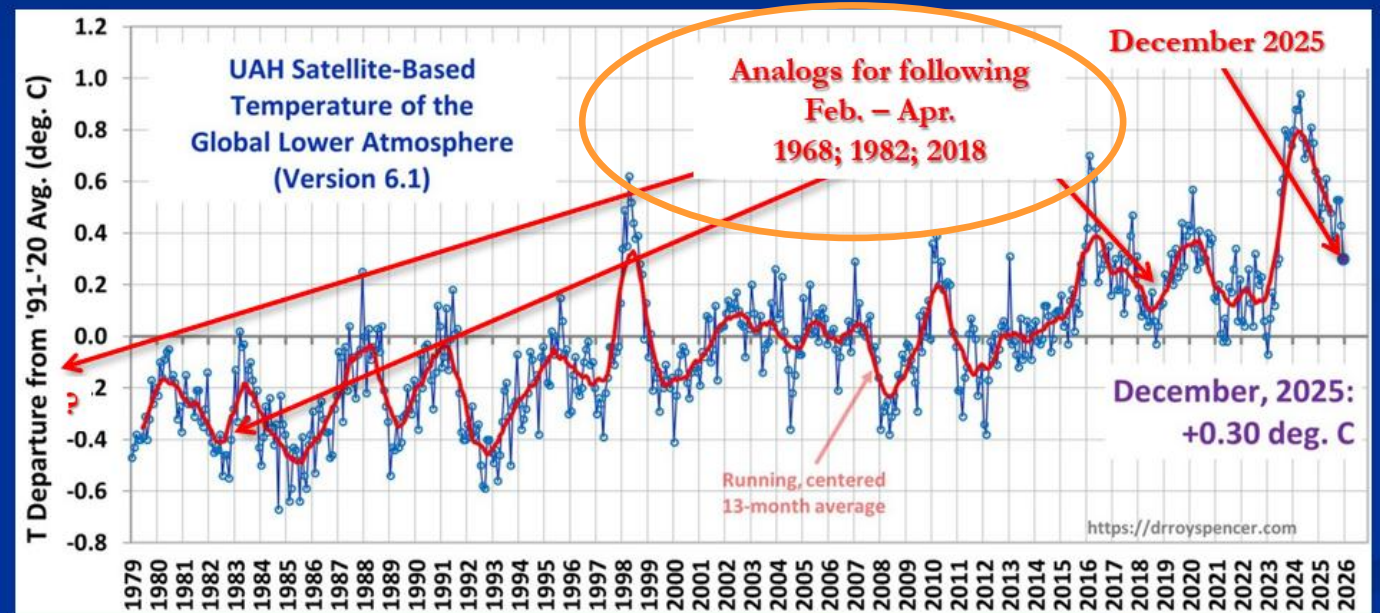
Courtesy: <http://www.drroyspencer.com/latest-global-temperatures/>

Global Temperature Changes Increase Error in Analog Forecasts!



Courtesy: <http://www.drroyspencer.com/latest-global-temperatures/>

Using ENSO Signal To Find Analog Years



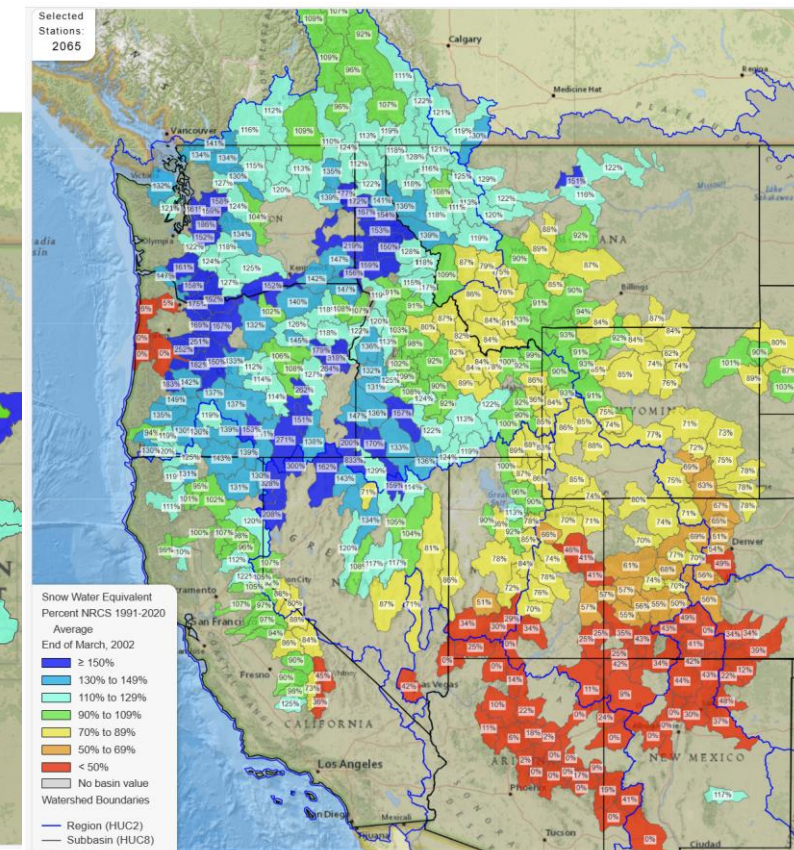
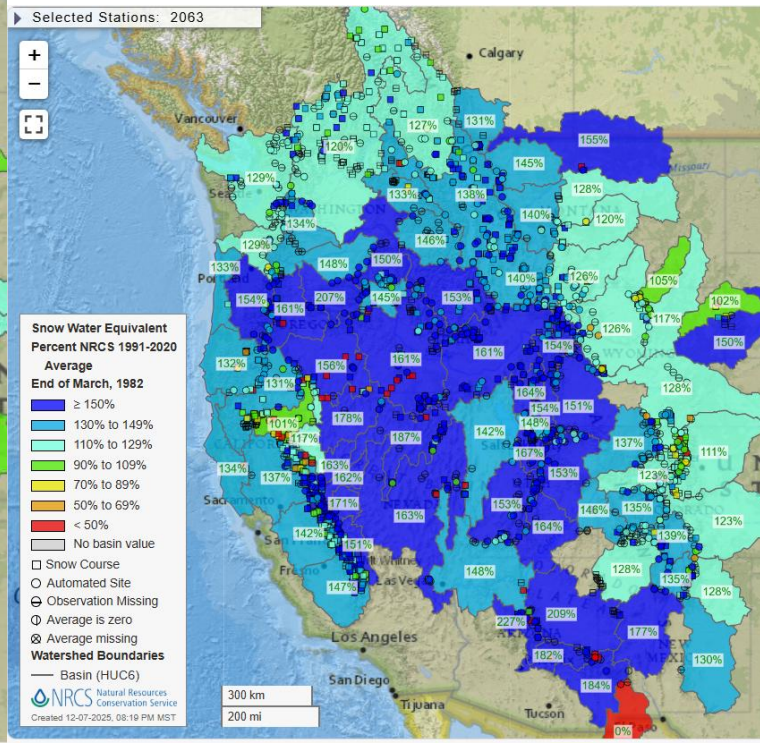
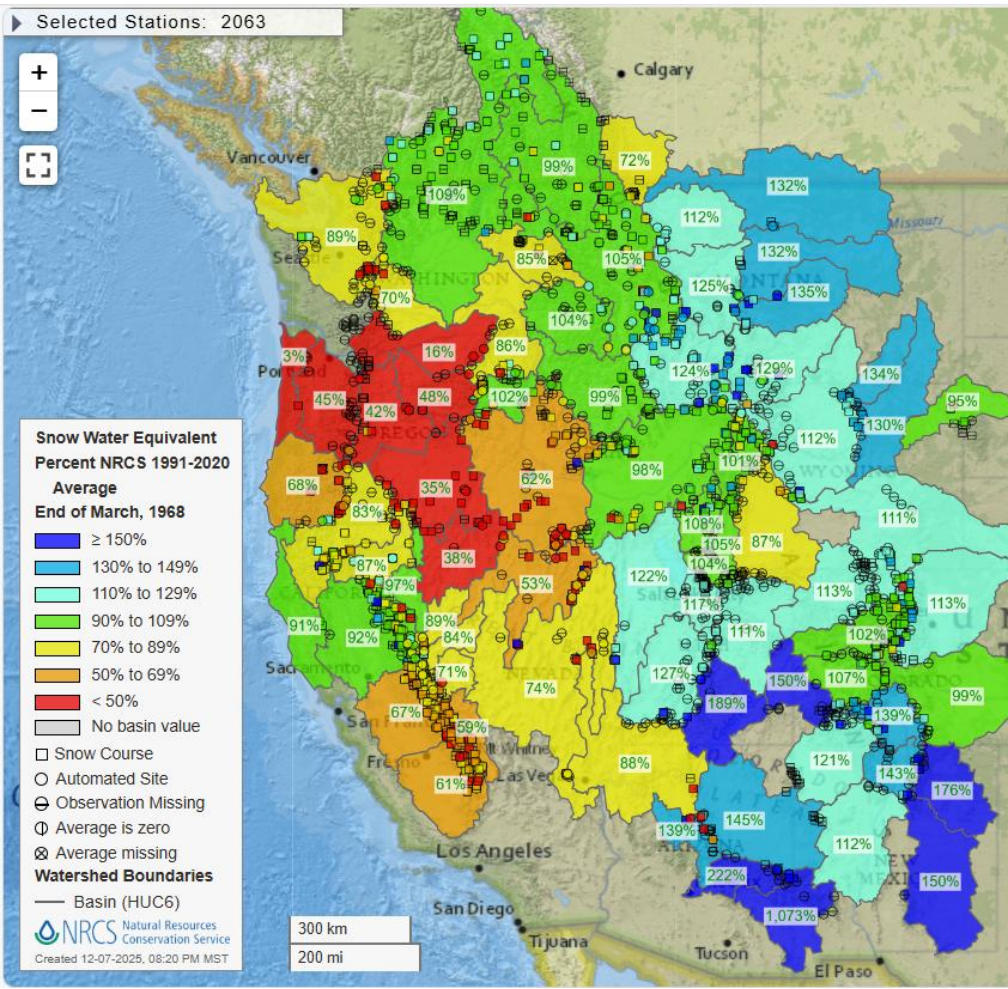
Courtesy: <http://www.drroyspencer.com/latest-global-temperatures/>

April 1 Westside Snowpack % of Average for Analog Years Based on SNOTEL & Snow Course

April 1 1968 Snowpack

April 1 1982

April 1 2002



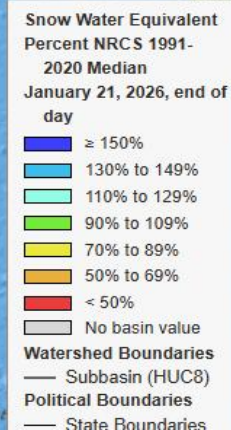
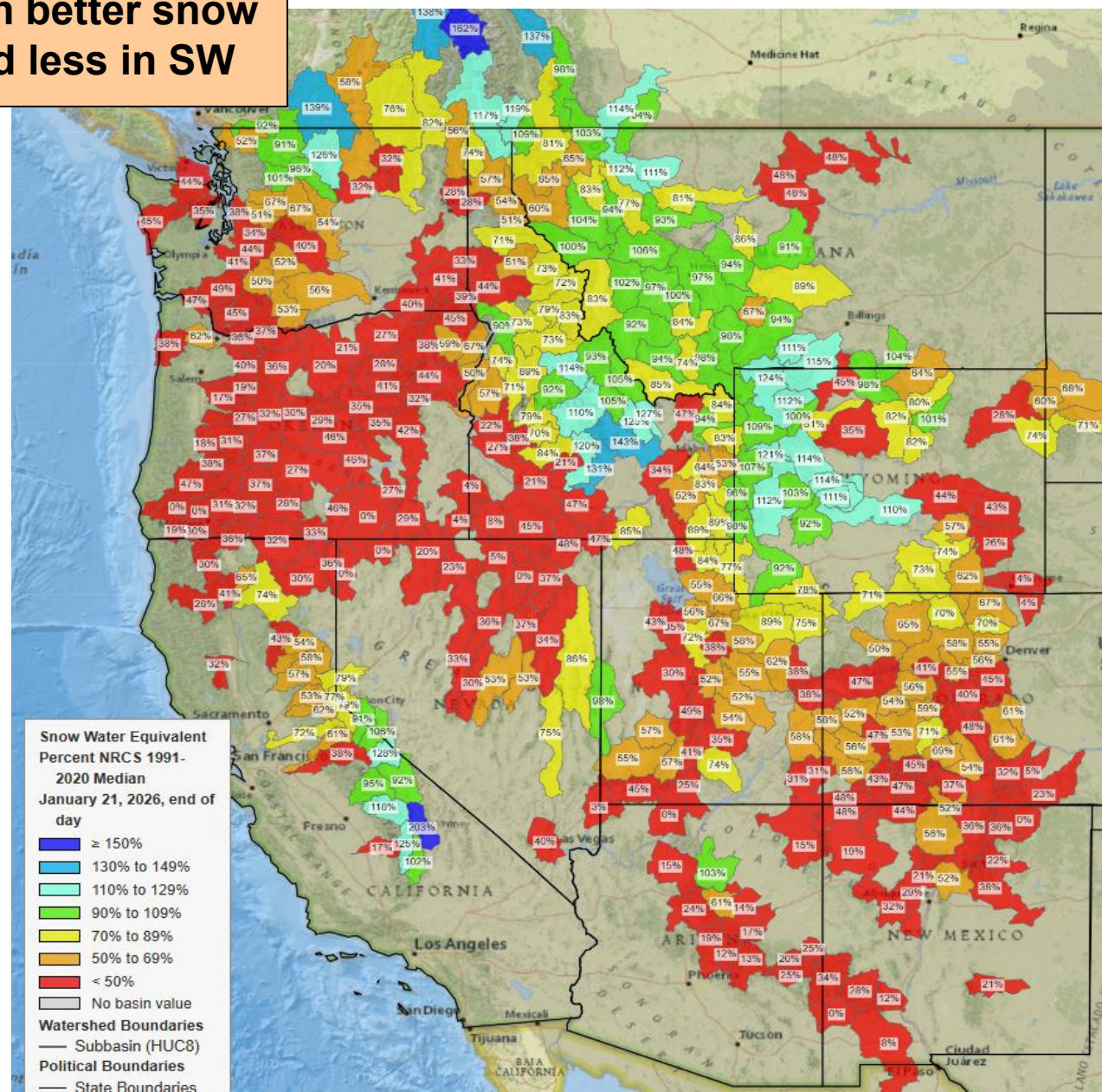
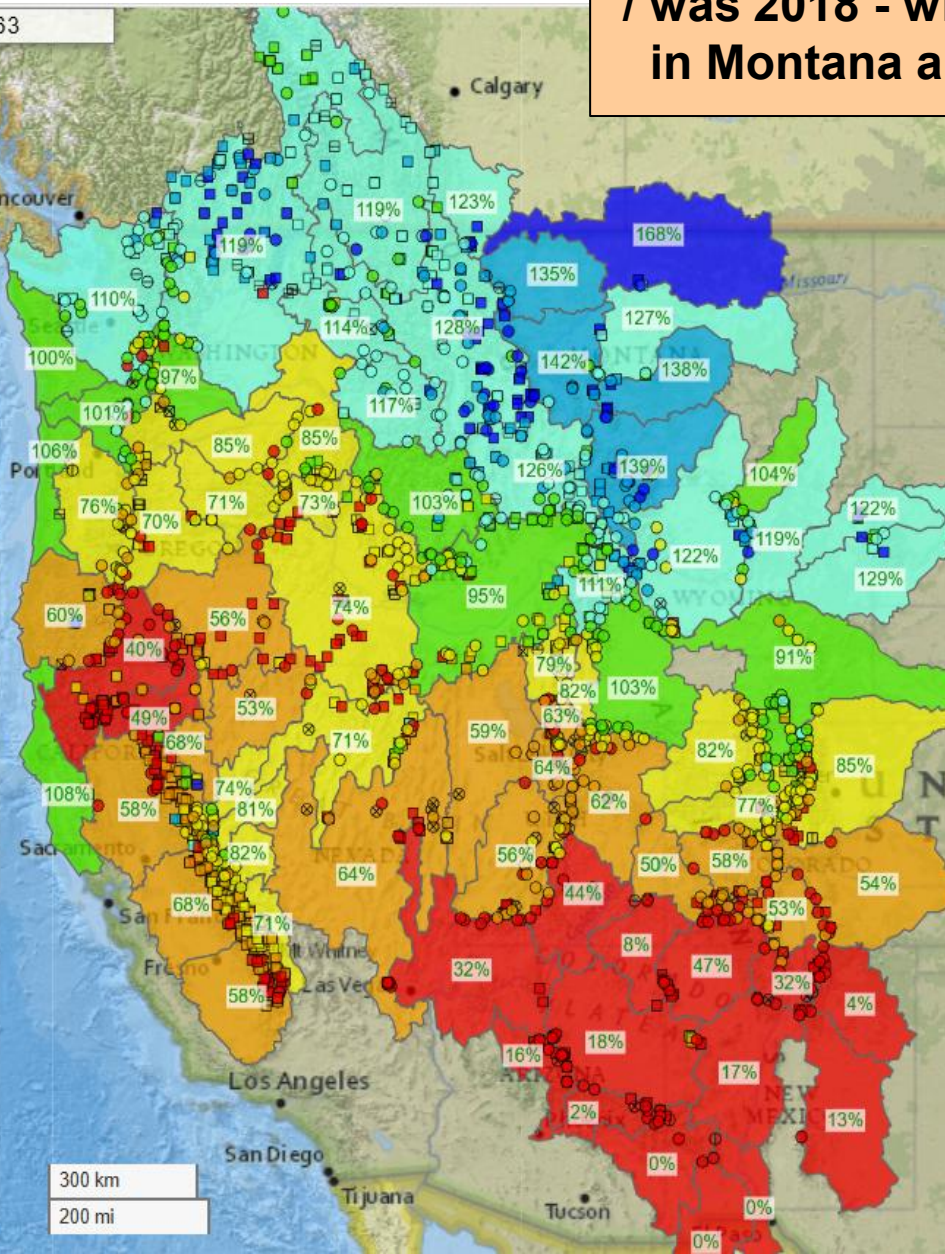
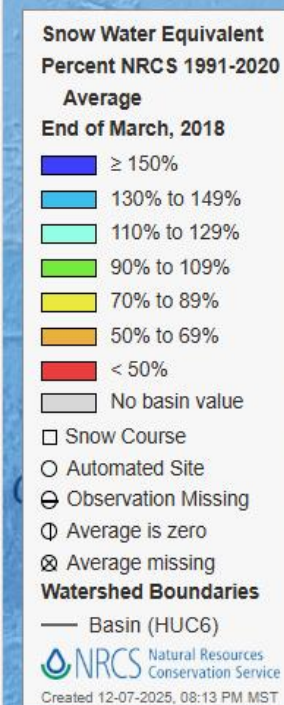
April 1 Westside Snowpack % of Average for Analog Year and this Year

April 1 2018 Snowpack

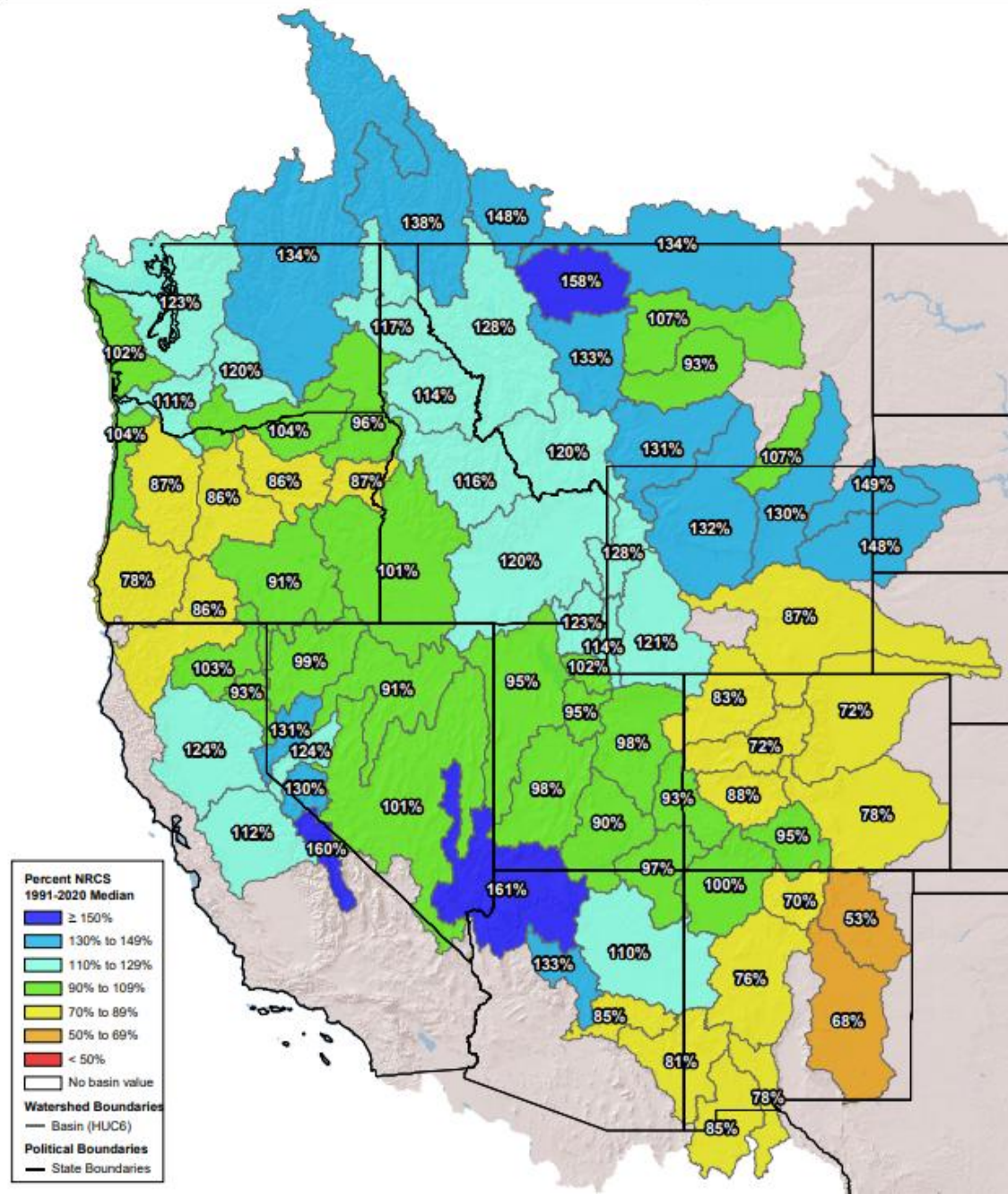
Best matching Analog Year is / was 2018 - with better snow in Montana and less in SW

Jan 22, 2026 Snowpack

Selected Stations: 2063



Water Year to Date Precipitation	Westwide SNOTEL Percent NRCS 1991-2020 Median	October 1, 2025 - January 21, 2026
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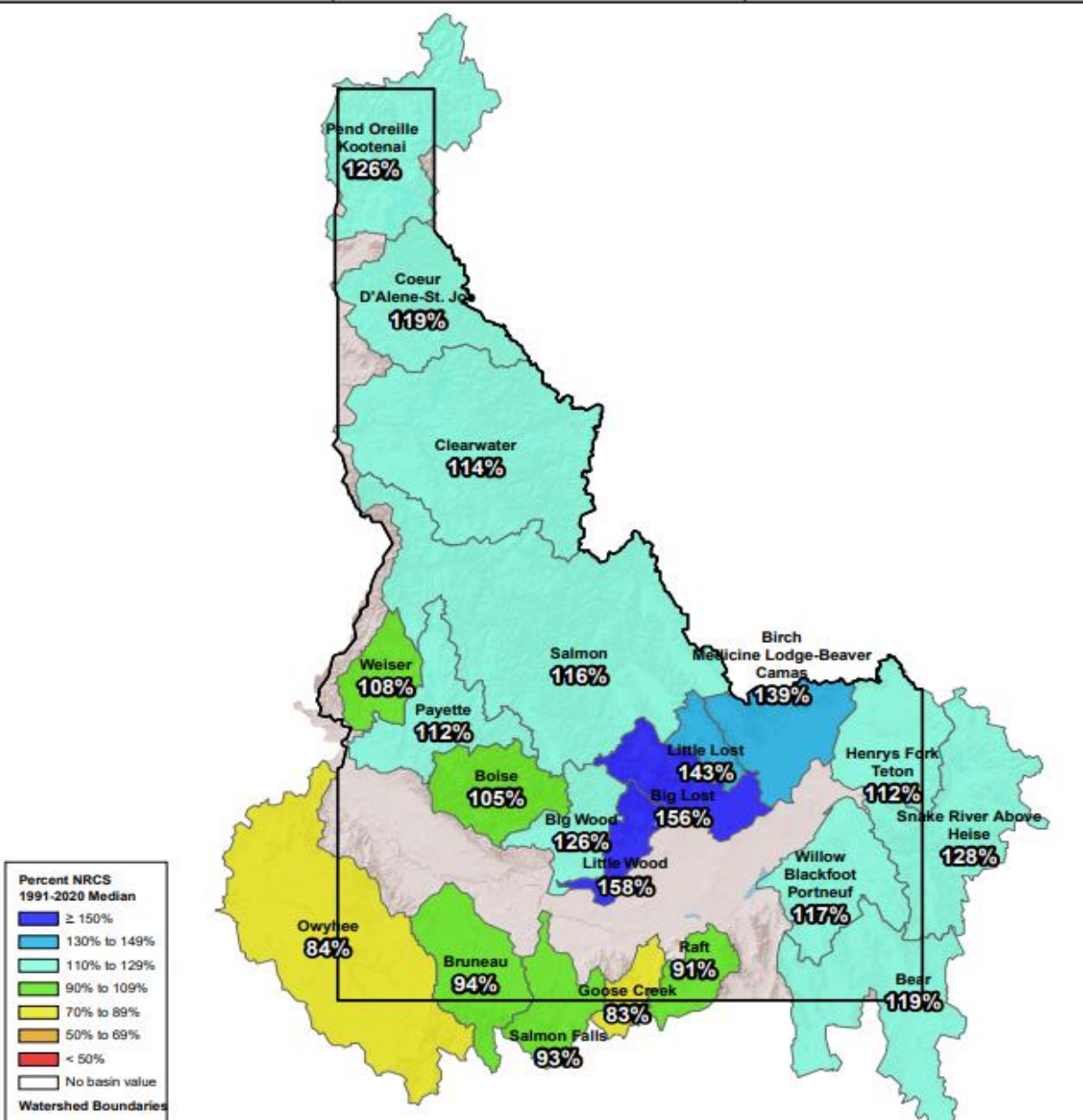
Westwide Water Year to Date Precipitation Oct 1 - Jan 21, 2026

This winter need to watch Water Year to Date Precip as much of the West is above normal because warm Fall/Winter Temps allowed much of this moisture to fall as rain rather than snow.

Ahhh, still dreaming if all this moisture would have fallen as snow and we would be today...

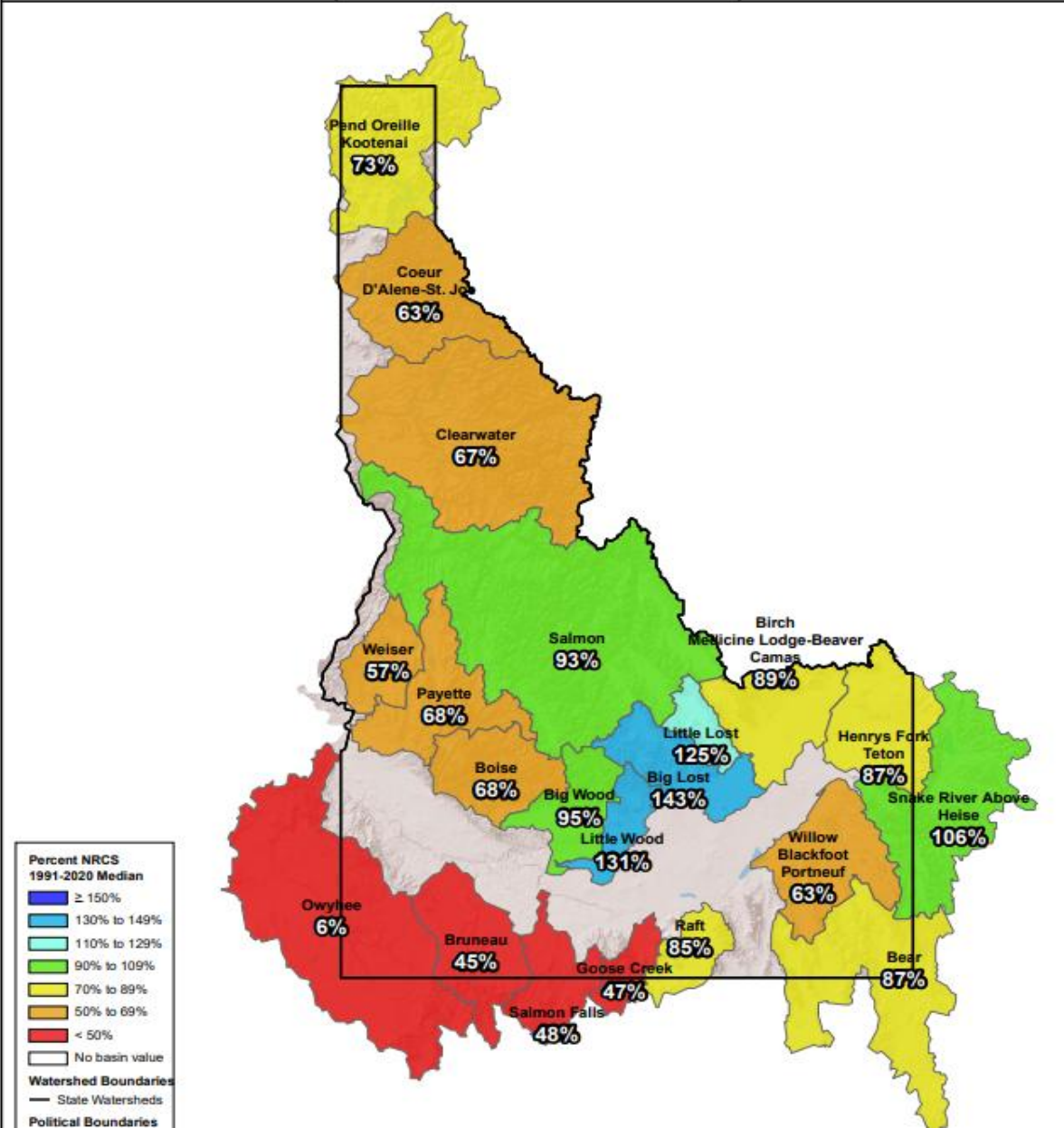
Idaho Water Year to Date Precipitation Oct 1 – Jan 21

Water Year to Date Precipitation	Idaho SNOTEL Percent NRCS 1991-2020 Median	October 1, 2025 - January 21, 2026
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Snowpack Jan 21, 2026

Snow Water Equivalent	Idaho SNOTEL Percent NRCS 1991-2020 Median	January 21, 2026, end of day
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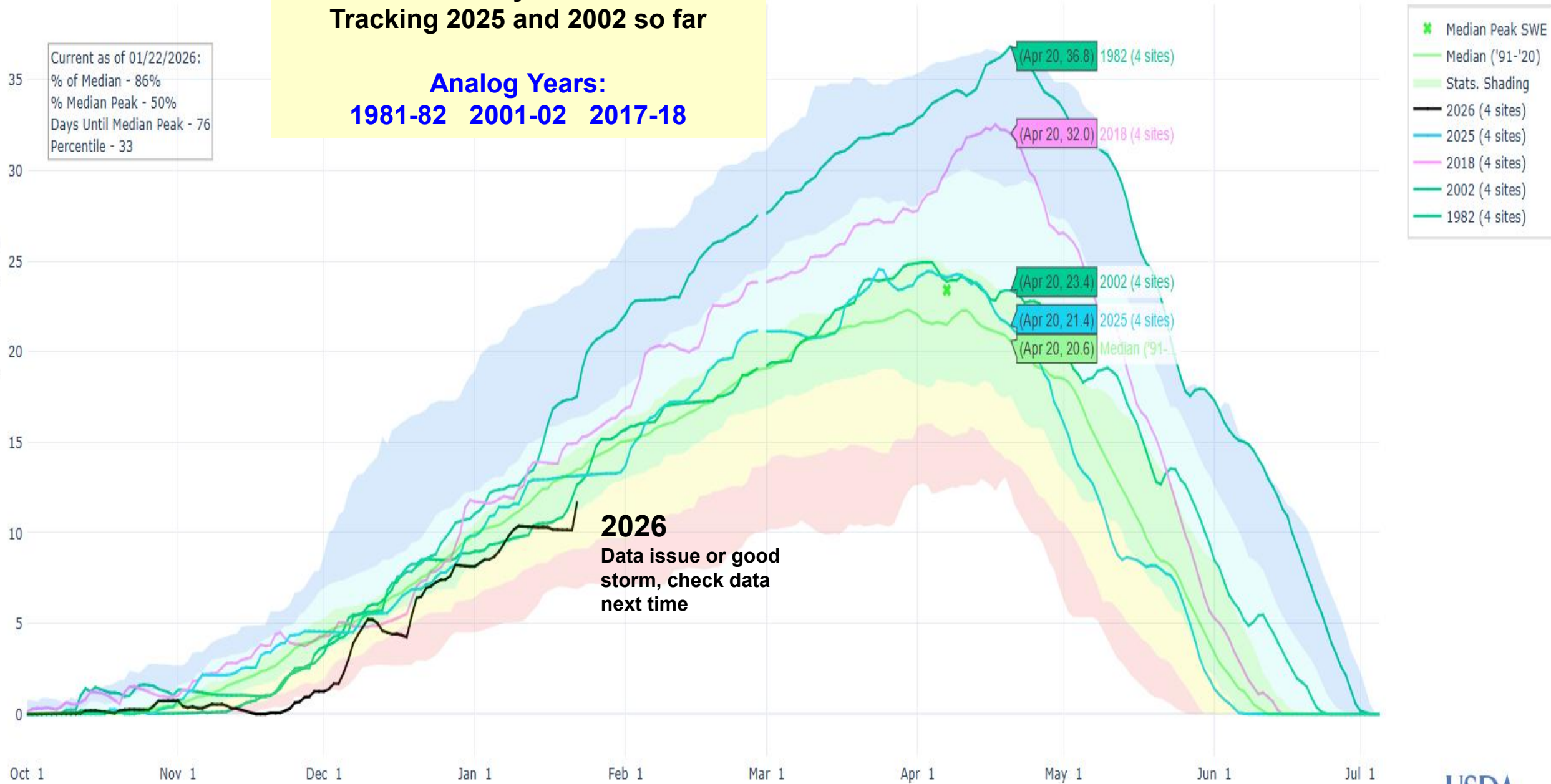
SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN SELWAY

**SWE Selway Basin 86%
Tracking 2025 and 2002 so far**

**Analog Years:
1981-82 2001-02 2017-18**

Current as of 01/22/2026:
% of Median - 86%
% Median Peak - 50%
Days Until Median Peak - 76
Percentile - 33

Snow Water Equivalent (in.)



**Water Year to Date Precip
Selway Basin 115%
Better than analog years so far,
maybe data issue**

**Analog Years:
1981-82 2001-02 2017-18**

Current as of 01/22/2026:
% of Median - 115%
% of WY Median - 48%
Days Until End of WY - 252
Percentile - 84

Median ('91-'20)
Stats. Shading
2026 (4 sites)
2025 (4 sites)
2018 (4 sites)
2002 (4 sites)
1982 (4 sites)

Precipitation Accumulation (in.)

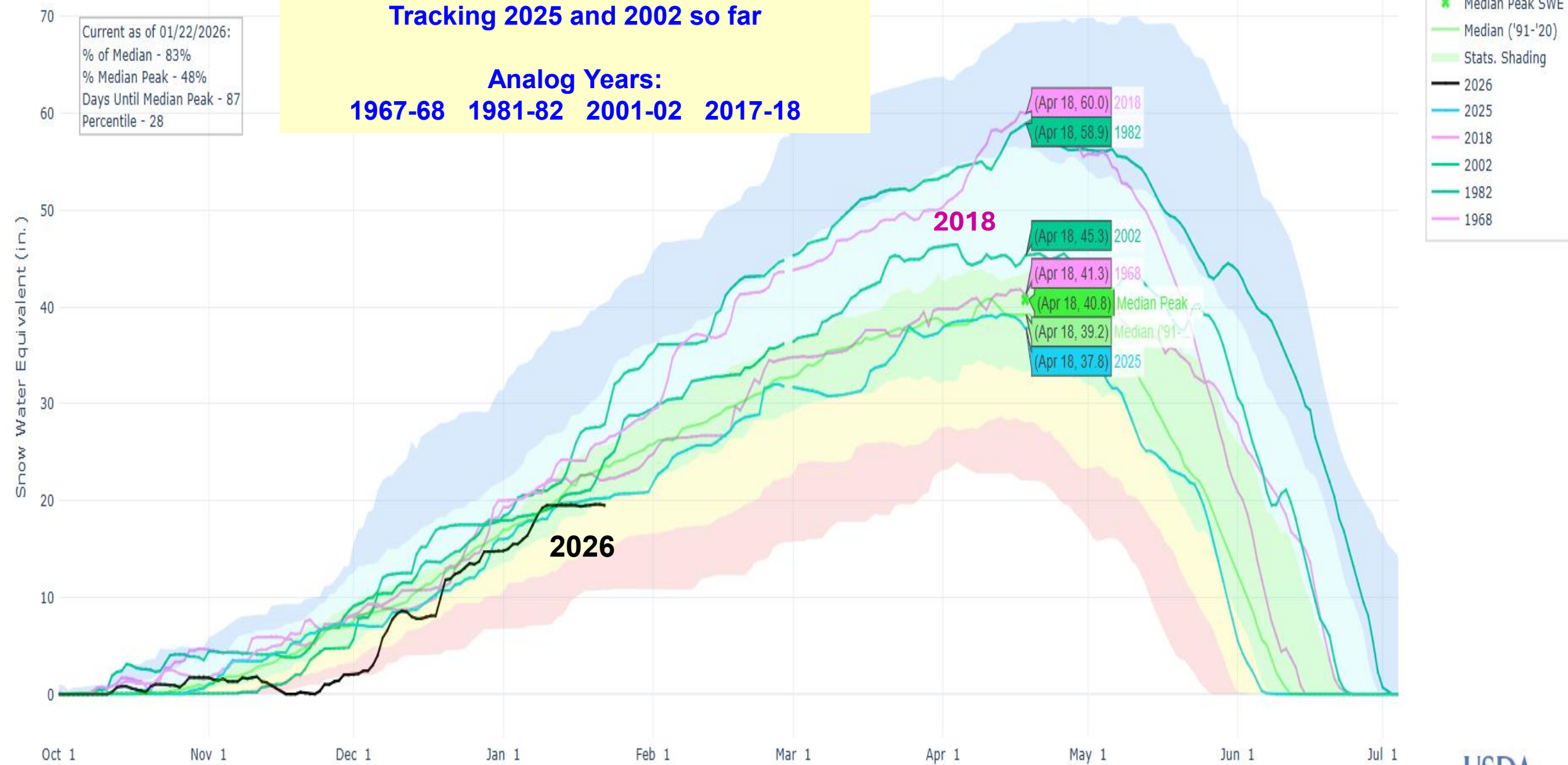
Oct 1 Nov 1 Dec 1 Jan 1 Feb 1 Mar 1 Apr 1 May 1 Jun 1

Twin Lakes SWE in Selway River headwaters Tracking 2025 and 2002 so far

Analog Years:

1967-68 1981-82 2001-02 2017-18

Current as of 01/22/2026:
% of Median - 83%
% Median Peak - 48%
Days Until Median Peak - 87
Percentile - 28



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Map Overlays

- ☒ NWRFC Boundary
- ☐ NWRFC Basins
- ☐ NWS HSAs
- ☐ Counties
- ☐ States

ESP Natural Forecast

- ☐ Natural Status
- ☒ Natural % of Normal
- ☐ Rank (ASC)
- ☐ Rank (DESC)
- ☐ Exceedance (%)
- ☐ Percentile (%)

Natural Runoff

- ☐ Runoff Status
- ☐ Runoff % of Normal

ESP Natural Forecast

Period: APR-SEP
Forecast (% Normal)

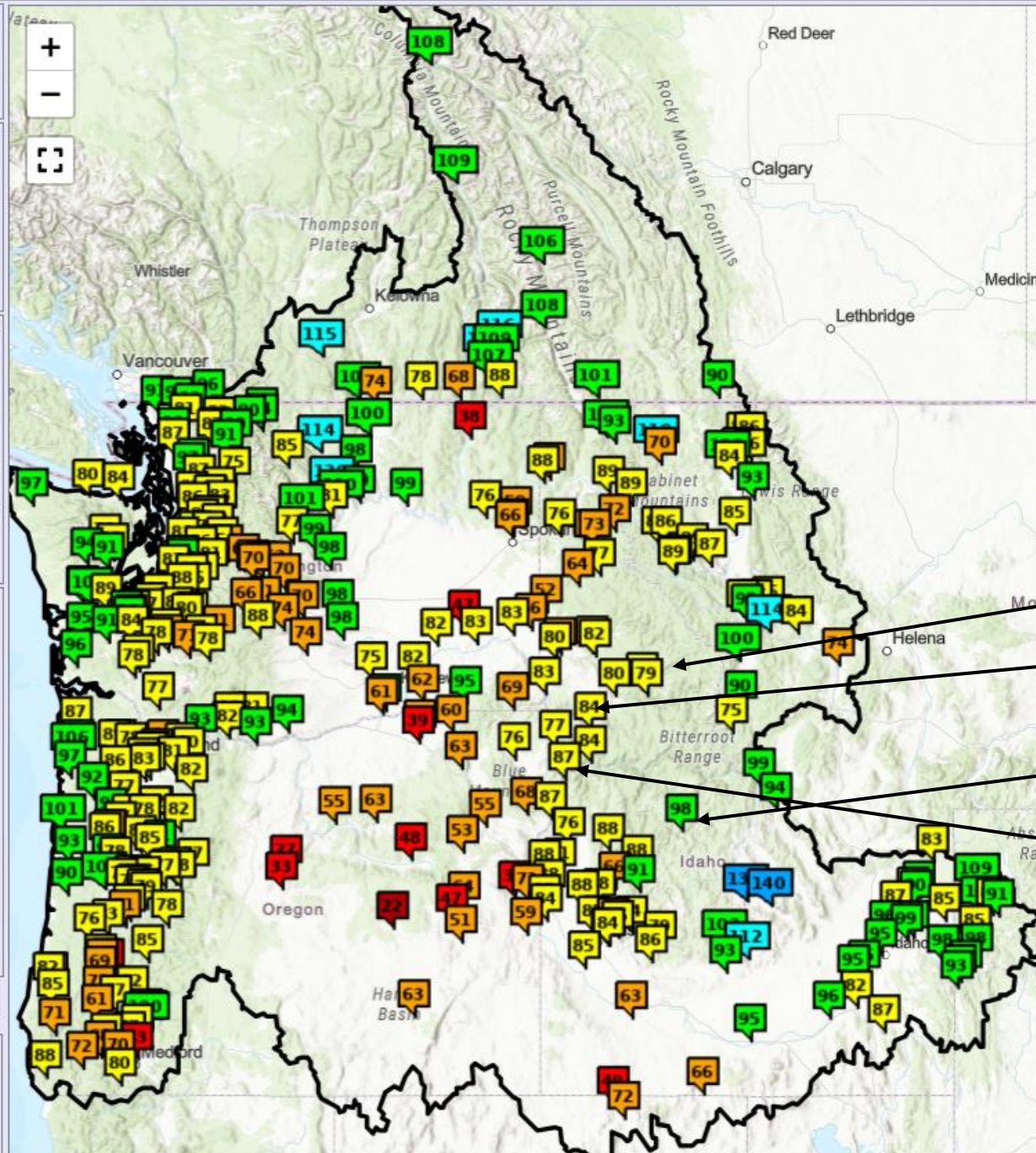
- ☐ No Normal, No Data
- ☐ < 25
- ☐ 25-50
- ☐ 50-75
- ☐ 75-90
- ☐ 90-110
- ☐ 110-125
- ☐ 125-150
- ☐ 150-175
- ☐ > 175



Stations Displayed: 356

Natural Links

- [Forecast Listing](#)
- [Forecast Report](#)
- [Forecast Report CSV](#)
- [Point Metadata CSV](#)



NWS Water Supply Forecasts Jan 22, 2026 Apr-Sep Period % of Normal

Selway River 79%

Salmon at White Bird 84%

MF Salmon River 98%

Snake River Hells Canyon 87%

SELWAY - NEAR LOWELL (SEL11) Forecasts for Water Year 2026

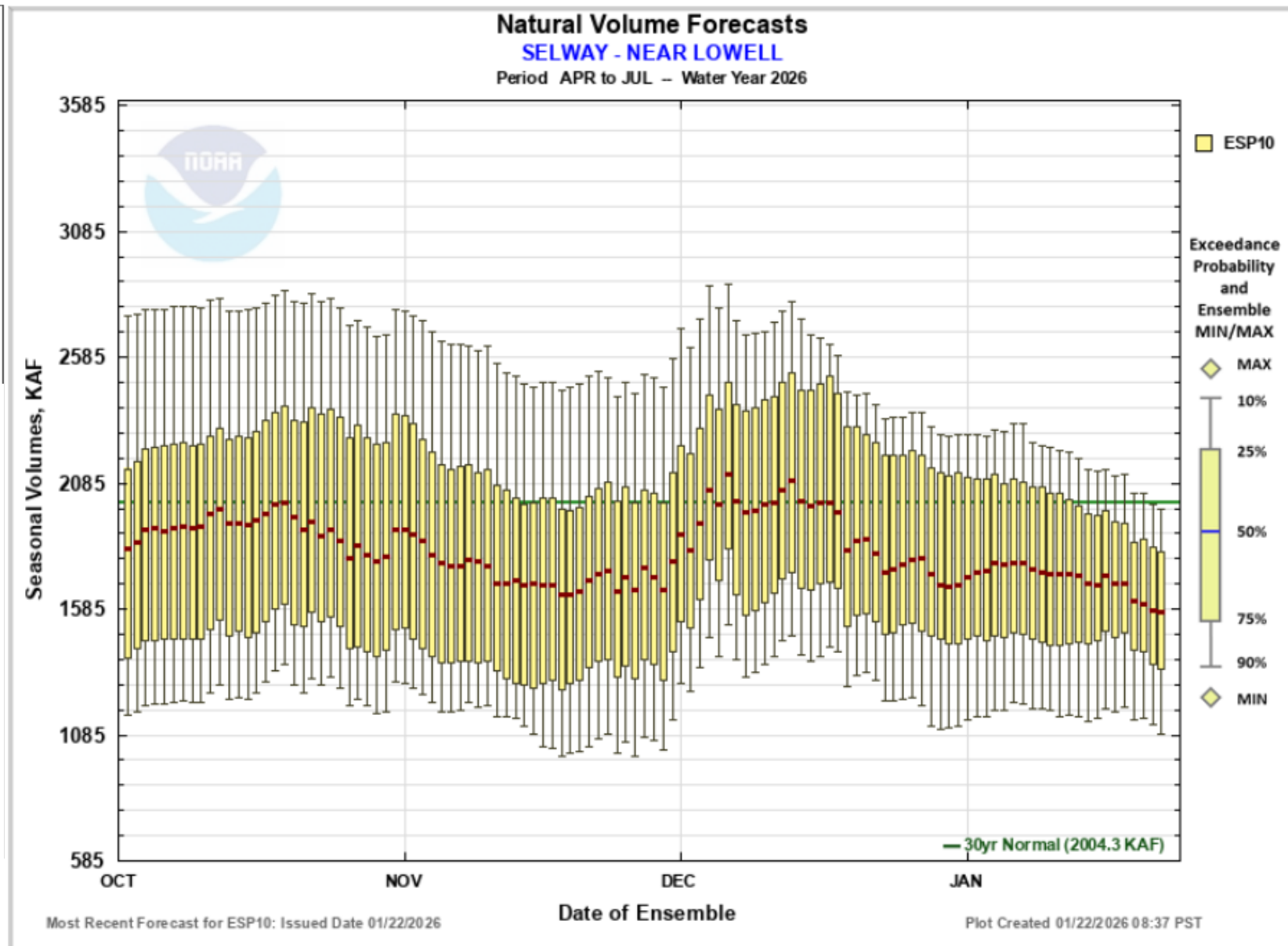
Natural Forecast

ESP with 10 Days QPF Ensemble: 2026-01-22 Issued: 2026-01-22

Forecast Period	Forecasts Are in KAF				30 Year Average (1991-2020)
	90 %	50 %	% Average	10 %	
APR-SEP	1156	1660	79	2086	2099
APR-JUL	1085	1574	79	1981	2004
JAN-SEP	1701	2103	85	2595	2464
JAN-JUL	1624	2019	85	2504	2369
OCT-SEP	2120	2522	94	3014	2694

Apr-Jul % of Average

2026	79% Forecast
2025	81% Observed
2018	133% Observed
2002	107% Observed
1982	138% Observed
1968	94% Observed



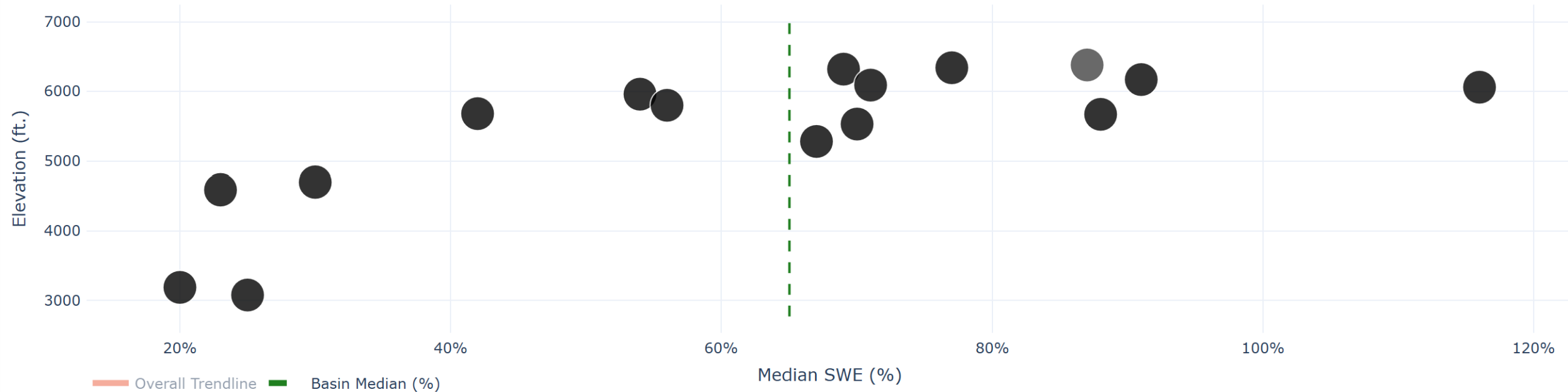
SNOWPACK BY ELEVATION IN SELWAY JANUARY 23, 2026

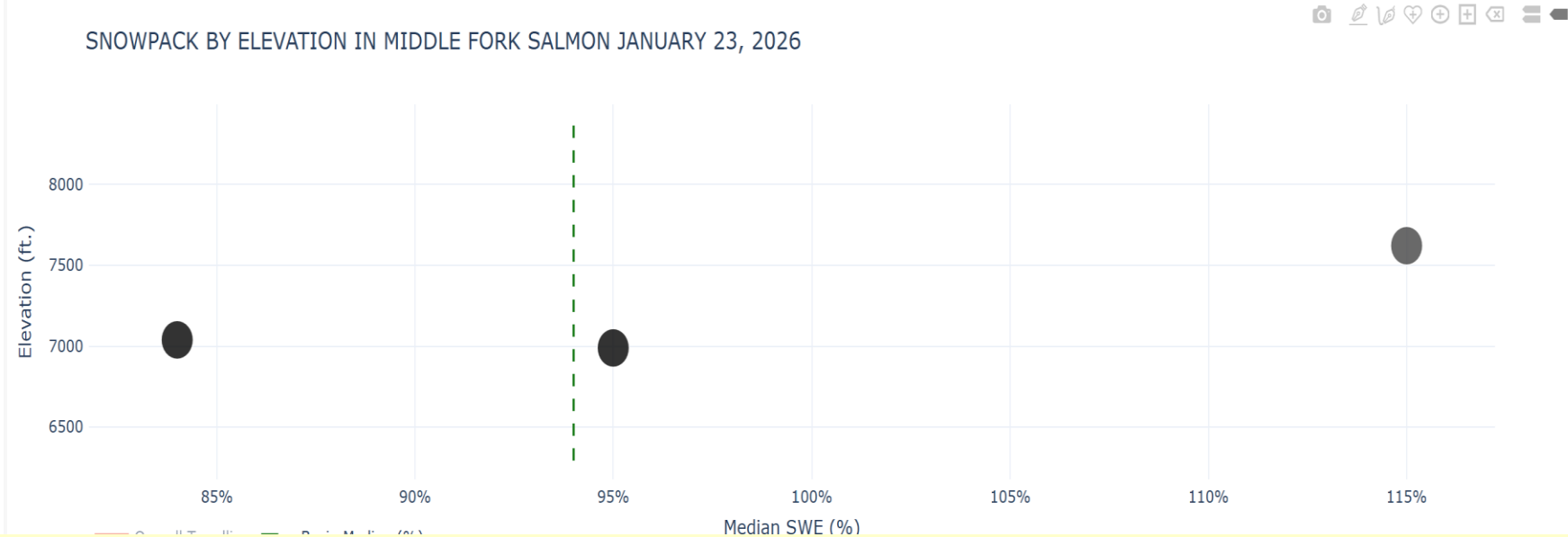


Below Clearwater Basin Jan 1 Snowpack vs. Elevation 65%

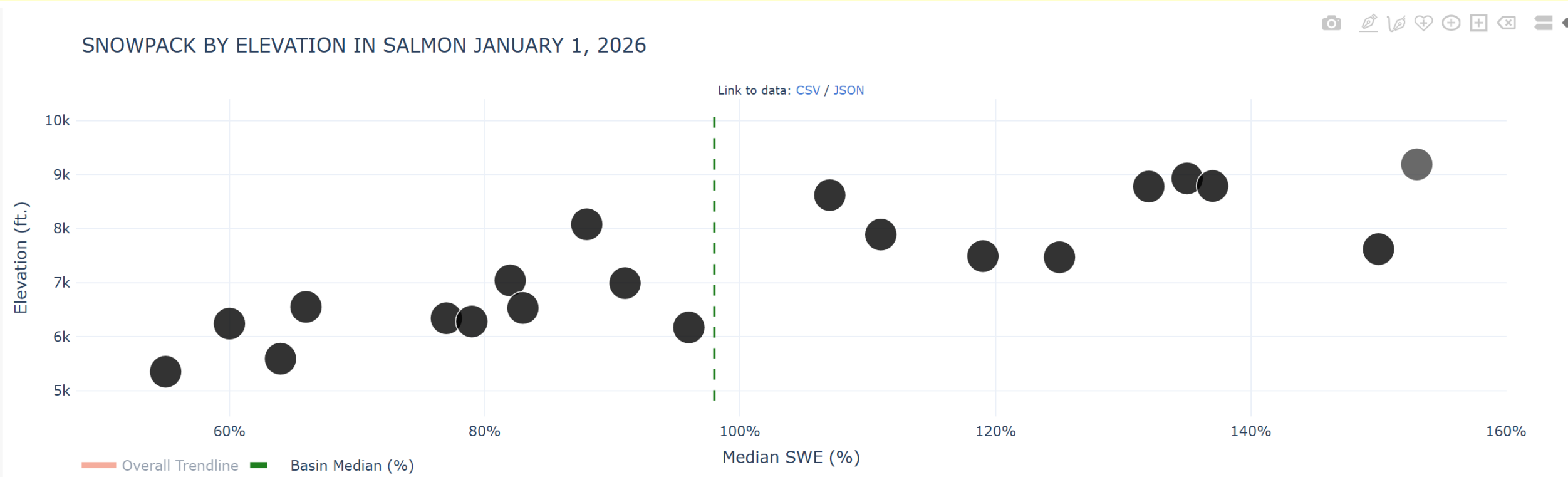
Above Selway Jan 23 Snowpack vs Elevation 80%

SNOWPACK BY ELEVATION IN CLEARWATER JANUARY 1, 2026





Below Salmon Basin Jan1 Snowpack vs. Elevation 98% **Above MF Jan 23 Snowpack vs Elevation 94%**



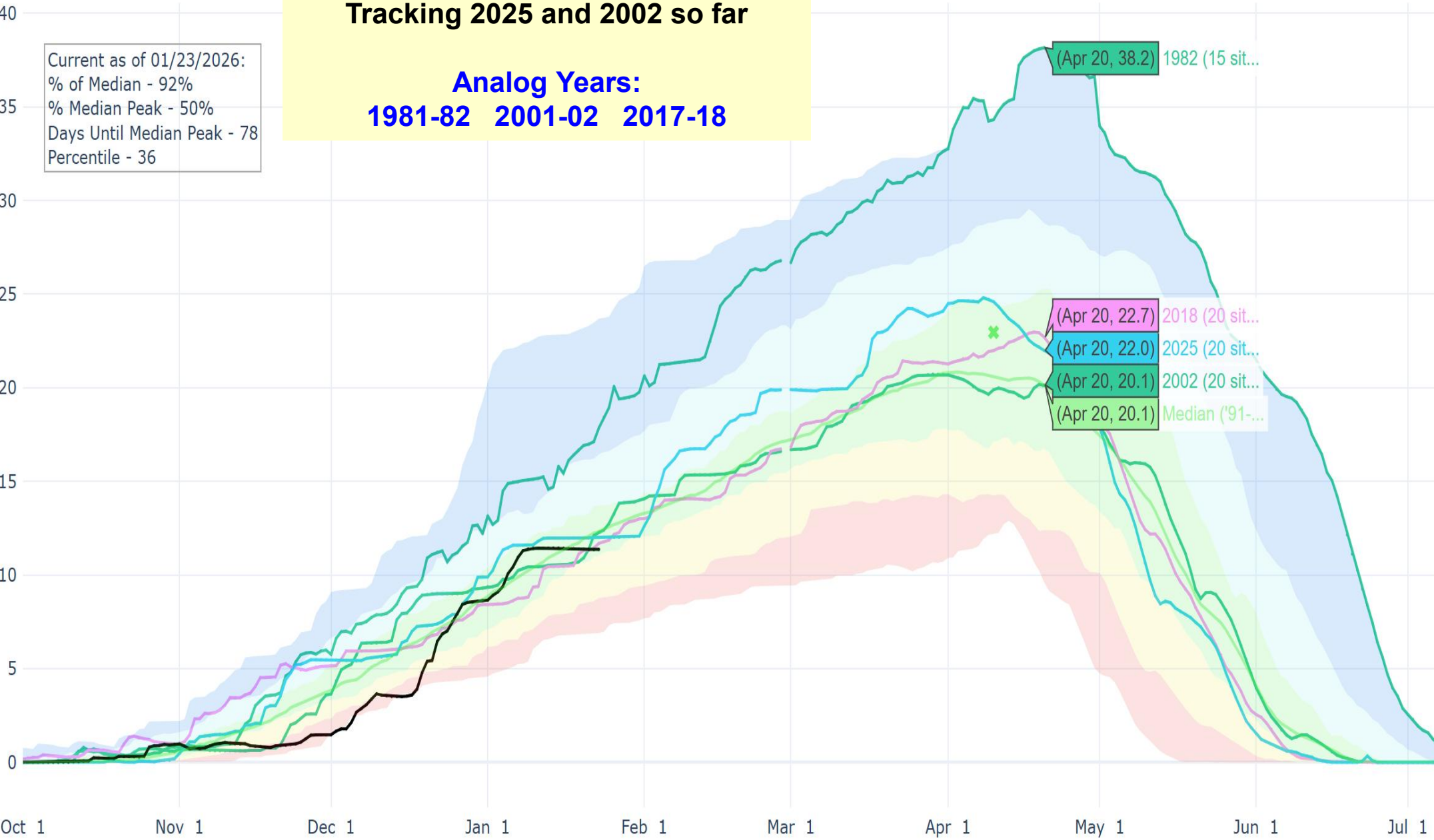
SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN SALMON

SWE Salmon Basin 92%
Tracking 2025 and 2002 so far

Analog Years:
1981-82 2001-02 2017-18

Current as of 01/23/2026:
% of Median - 92%
% Median Peak - 50%
Days Until Median Peak - 78
Percentile - 36

Snow Water Equivalent (in.)



- * Median Peak SWE
- Median ('91-'20)
- Stats. Shading
- 2026 (20 sites)
- 2025 (20 sites)
- 2018 (20 sites)
- 2002 (20 sites)
- 1982 (15 sites)

(Apr 20, 38.2) 1982 (15 sit...

(Apr 20, 22.7) 2018 (20 sit...

(Apr 20, 22.0) 2025 (20 sit...

(Apr 20, 20.1) 2002 (20 sit...

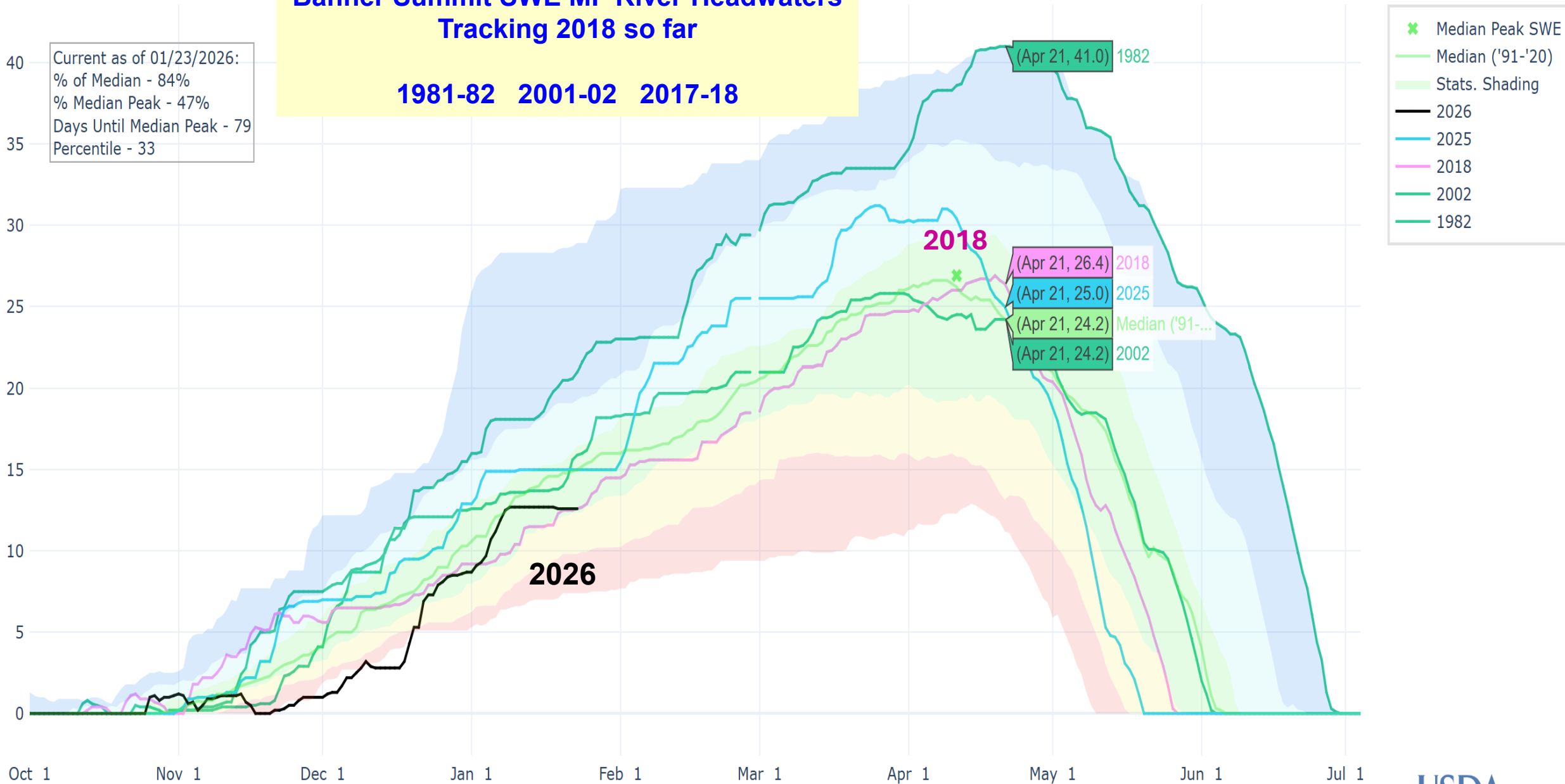
(Apr 20, 20.1) Median ('91-...

**Banner Summit SWE MF River Headwaters
Tracking 2018 so far**

1981-82 2001-02 2017-18

Current as of 01/23/2026:
% of Median - 84%
% Median Peak - 47%
Days Until Median Peak - 79
Percentile - 33

Snow Water Equivalent (in.)



MF SALMON - MIDDLE FORK LODGE (MIDI1)
Forecasts for Water Year 2026

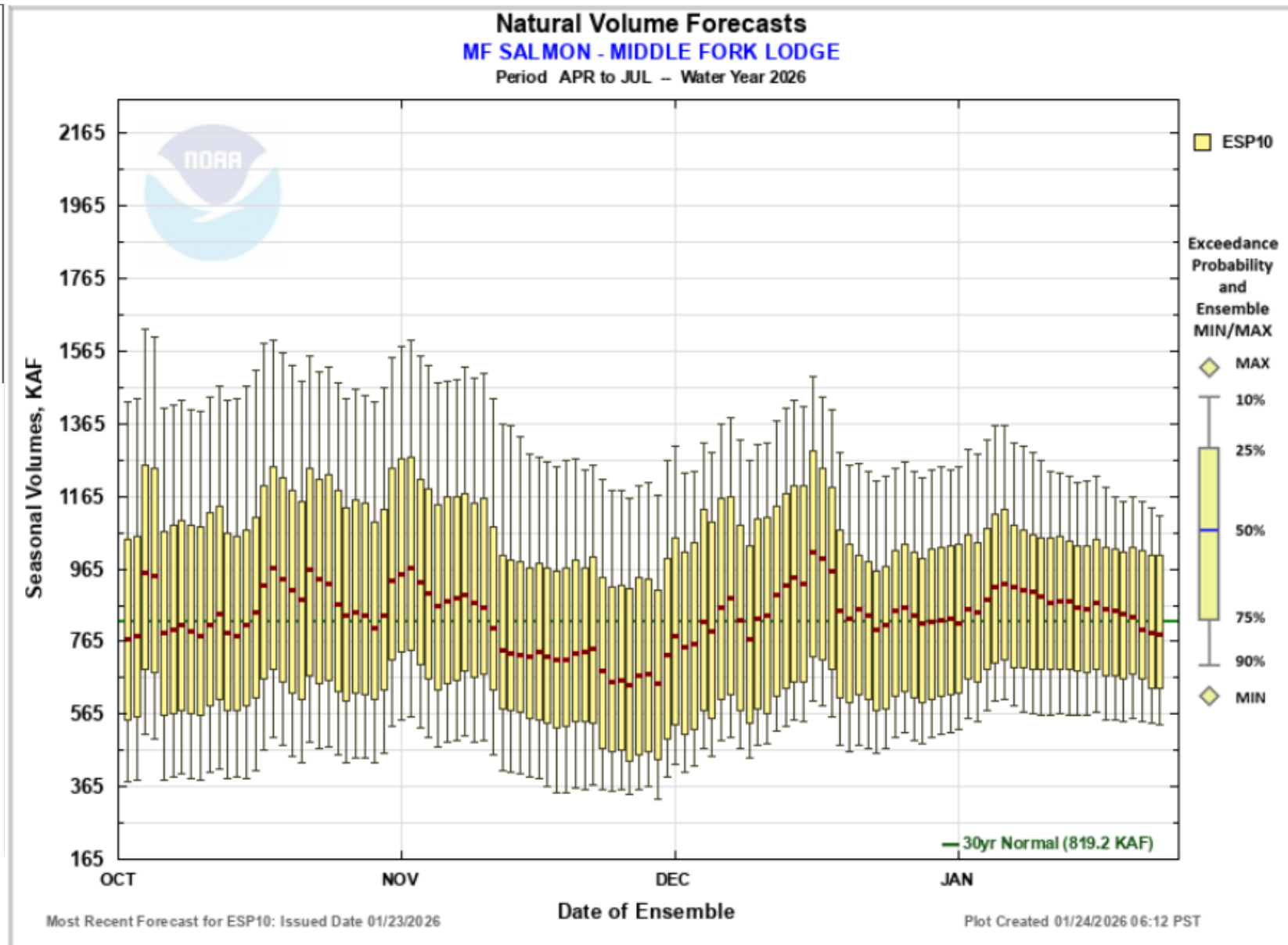
Natural Forecast

ESP with 10 Days QPF Ensemble: 2026-01-23 Issued: 2026-01-23

Forecast Period	Forecasts Are in KAF				30 Year Average (1991-2020)
	90 %	50 %	% Average	10 %	
APR-SEP	613	881	97	1224	905
APR-JUL	538	786	96	1112	819
JAN-SEP	785	1022	101	1388	1012
JAN-JUL	707	931	101	1276	926
OCT-SEP	930	1167	104	1533	1122

Apr-Jul % of Average

2026 **96% Forecast**
2025 **88% Observed**
2018 **114% Observed**
2002 **71% Observed**
1982 **193% Observed**
1968 **55% Observed**



SALMON - AT WHITEBIRD (WHB1) **Forecasts for Water Year 2026**

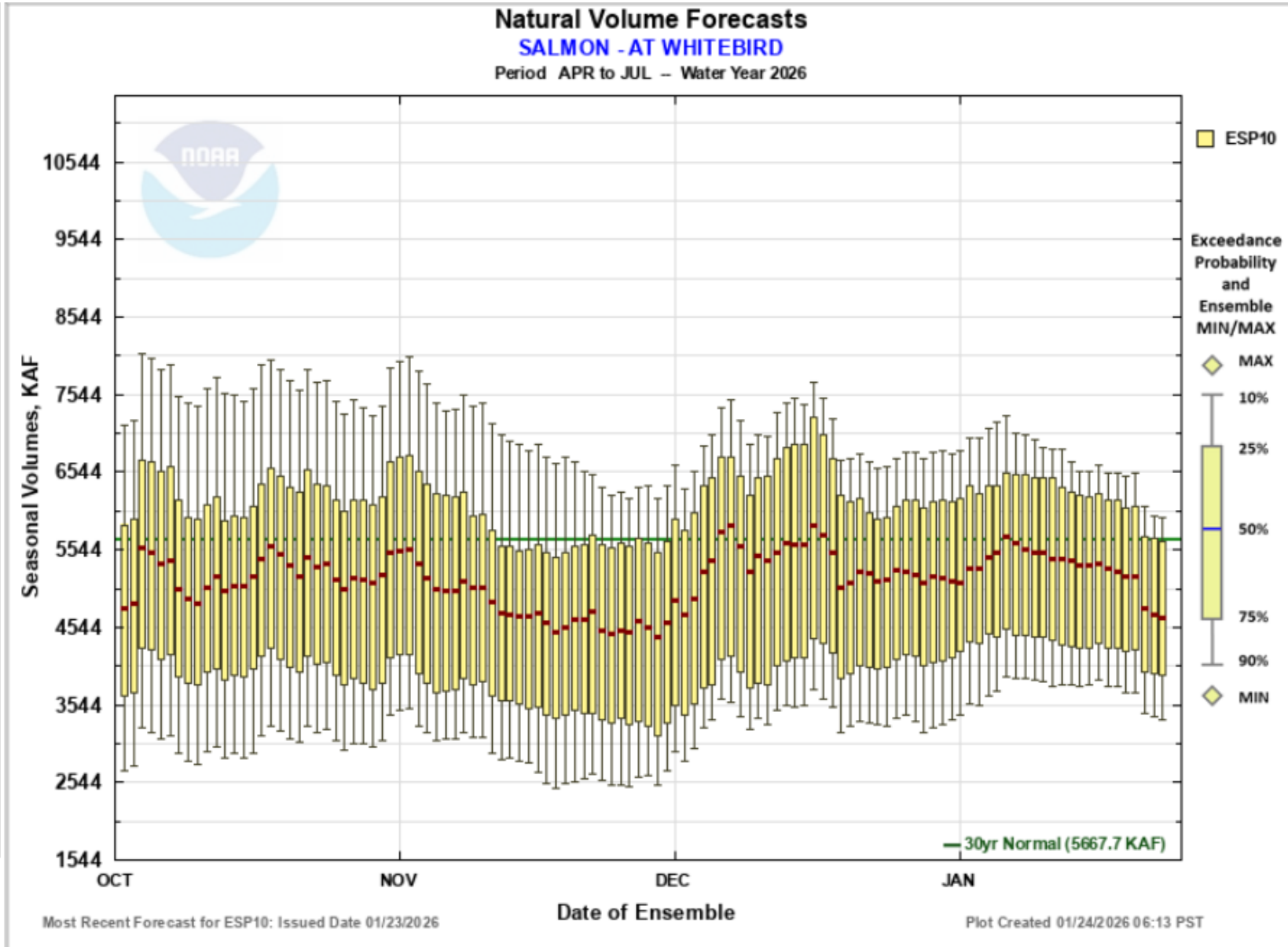
Natural Forecast

ESP with 10 Days QPF Ensemble: 2026-01-23 Issued: 2026-01-23

Forecast Period	Forecasts Are in KAF				30 Year Average (1991-2020)
	90 %	50 %	% Average	10 %	
APR-SEP	3852	5241	84	6722	6264
APR-JUL	3357	4663	82	5964	5668
JAN-SEP	4925	6131	85	7661	7197
JAN-JUL	4418	5549	84	6896	6601
OCT-SEP	5938	7144	89	8674	8058

Apr-Jul % of Average

2026	84% Forecast
2025	84% Observed
2018	119% Observed
2002	82% Observed
1982	161% Observed
1968	87% Observed



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ESP Natural Forecast

- ☐ Natural Status
- ☒ Natural % of Normal
- ☐ Rank (ASC)
- ☐ Rank (DESC)
- ☐ Exceedance (%)
- ☐ Percentile (%)

Natural Runoff

- ☐ Runoff Status
- ☐ Runoff % of Normal

ESP Natural Forecast

Period: APR-SEP
Forecast (% Normal)

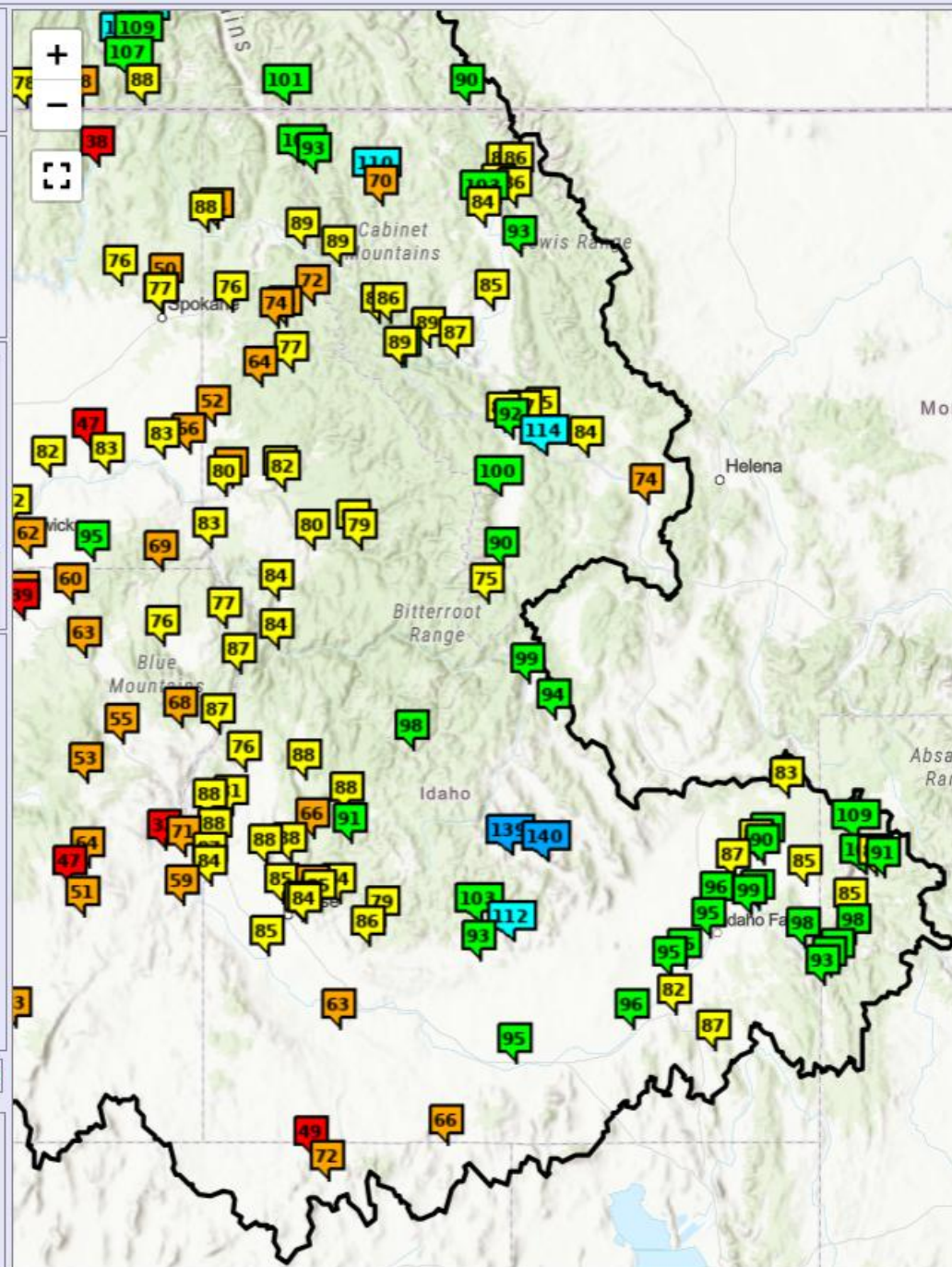
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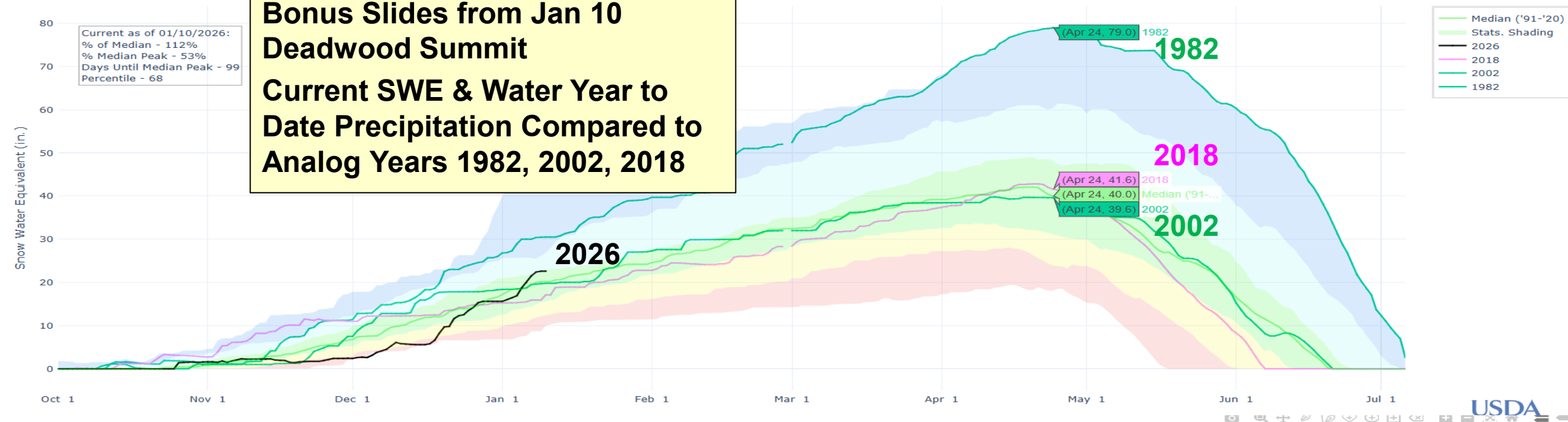
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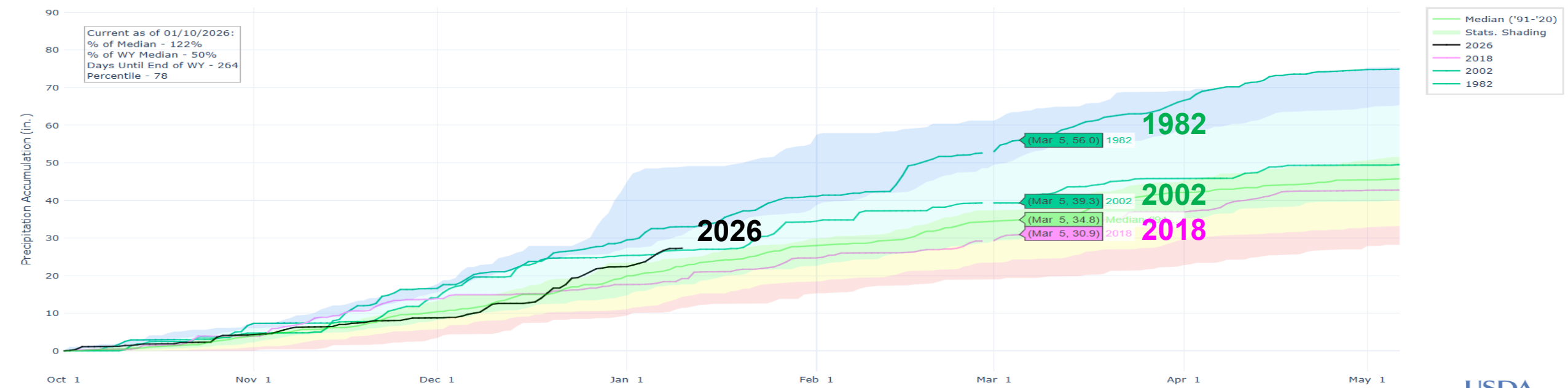


Bonus Slides from Jan 10
Deadwood Summit
Current SWE & Water Year to
Date Precipitation Compared to
Analog Years 1982, 2002, 2018

Current as of 01/10/2026:
% of Median - 112%
% Median Peak - 53%
Days Until Median Peak - 99
Percentile - 68



DEADWOOD SUMMIT, ID (439) PRECIPITATION ACCUMULATION



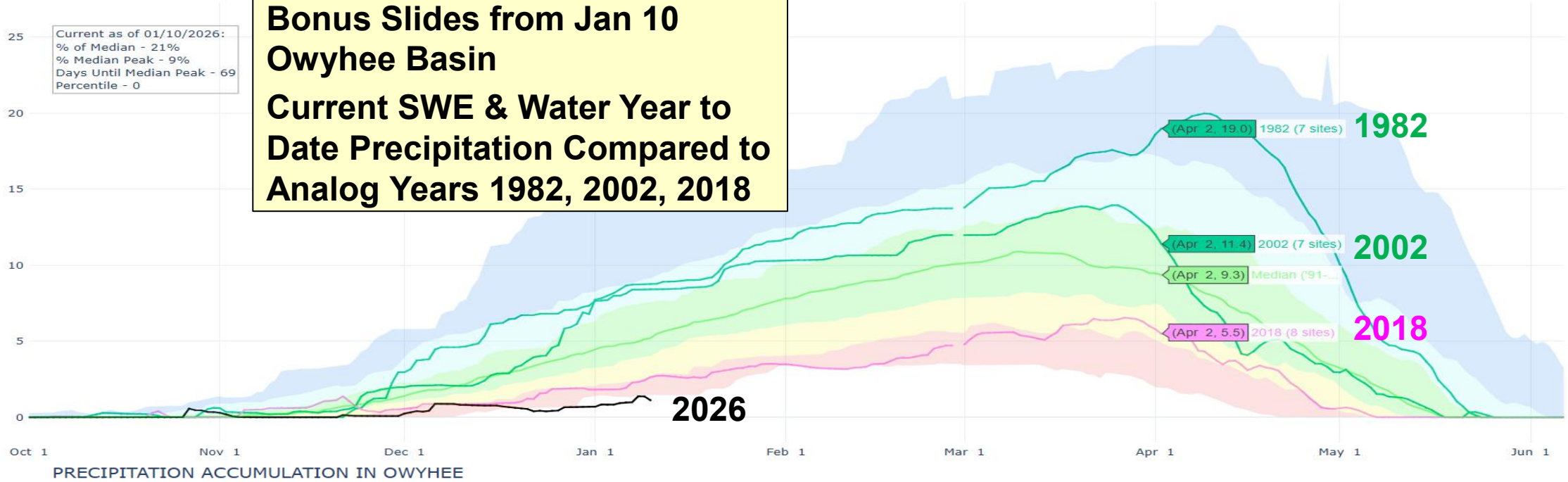
Bonus Slides from Jan 10

Owyhee Basin

Current SWE & Water Year to Date Precipitation Compared to Analog Years 1982, 2002, 2018

Current as of 01/10/2026:
 % of Median - 21%
 % Median Peak - 9%
 Days Until Median Peak - 69
 Percentile - 0

Snow Water Equivalent (in.)



Current as of 01/10/2026:
 % of Median - 94%
 % of WY Median - 33%
 Days Until End of WY - 264
 Percentile - 42

Precipitation Accumulation (in.)

