

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:peter.g.j.parsons@odf.oregon.gov)

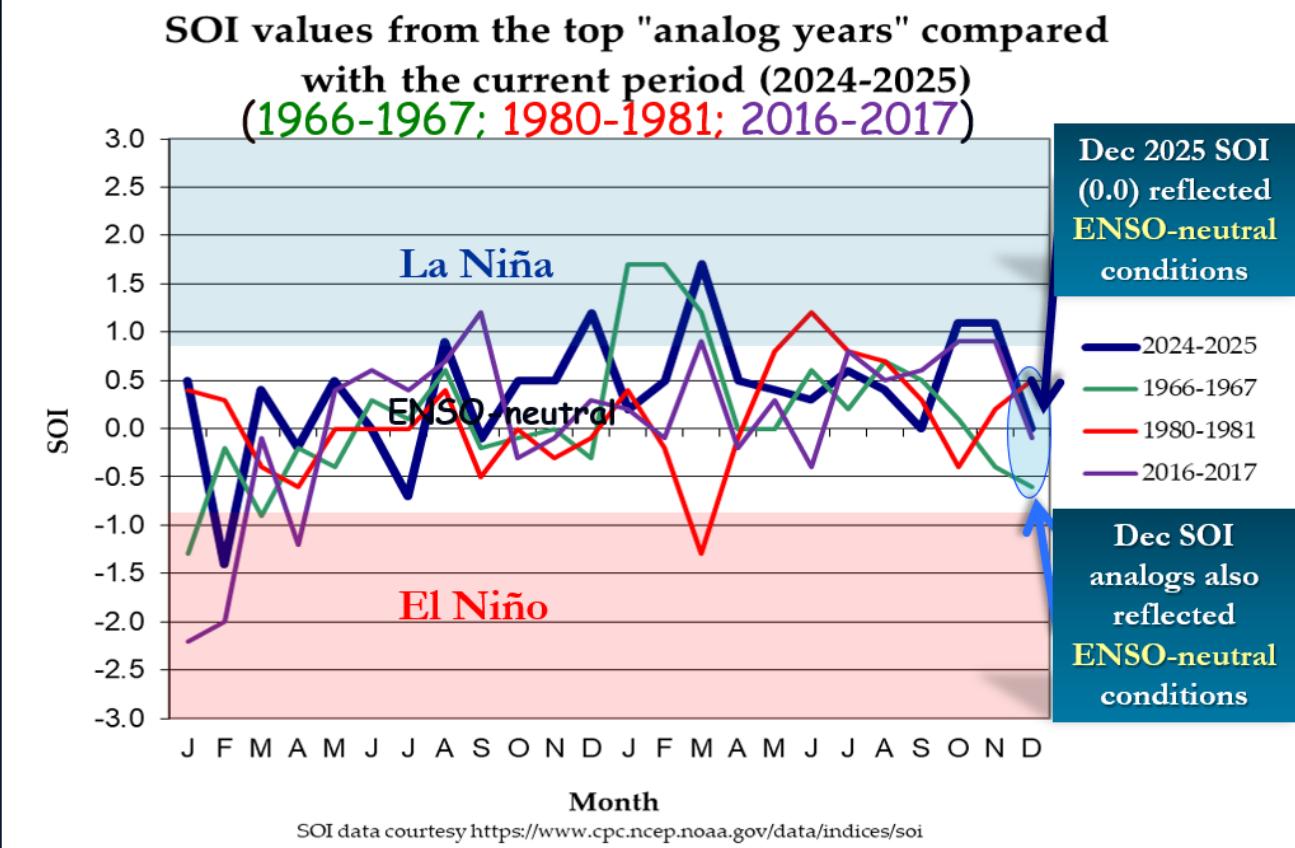
**Analog Years Based on Current  
SOI, ONI and PDO conditions:  
1967-68    1981-82    2017-18**

**2001-02 is/was a runner up**

# Forecast Highlights

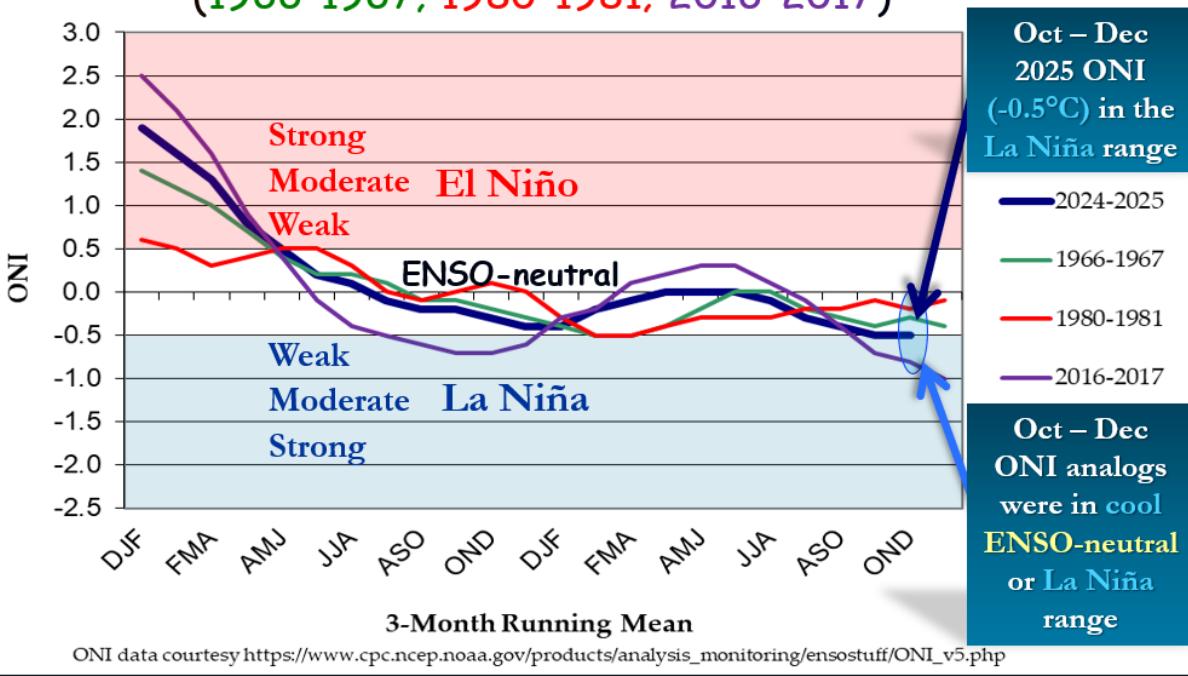
- This forecast is based on weather that occurred during the 1968, 1982, & 2018 analog years. No changes to these years from last month.

## Southern Oscillation Index (SOI)



# Oceanic Niño Index (ONI)

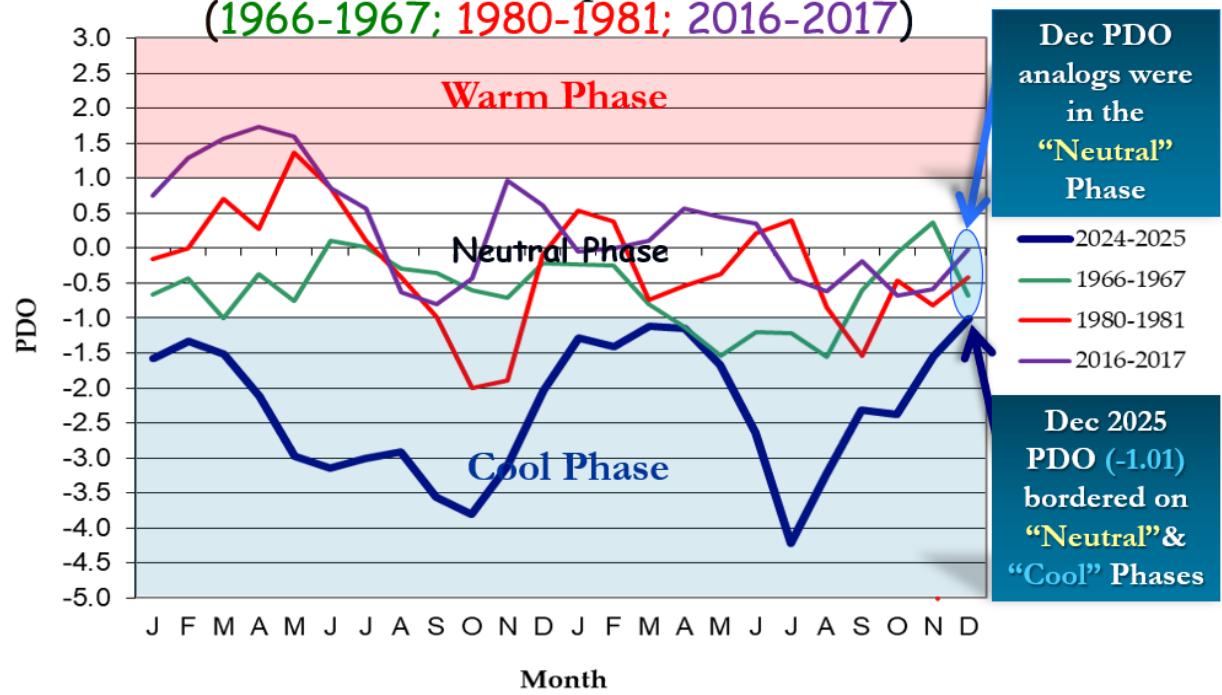
ONI values from the top "analog years" compared with the current period (2024-2025)  
(1966-1967; 1980-1981; 2016-2017)



## North Pacific Ocean

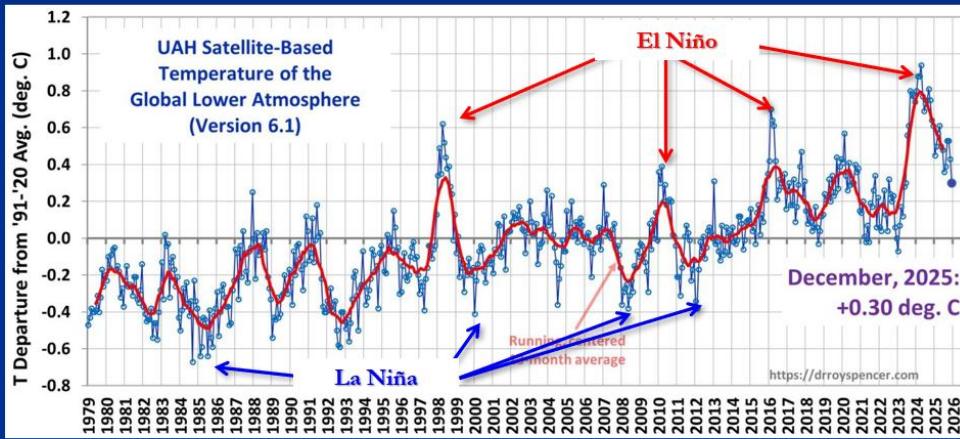
(Poleward of 20°N Latitude)

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



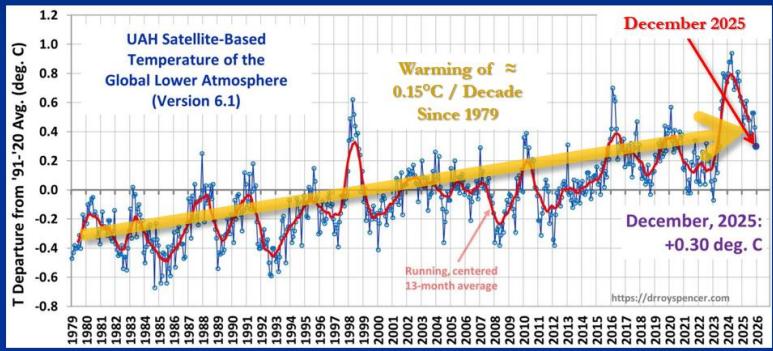
PDO data courtesy <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/pub/data/cmb/ersst/v5/index/ersst.v5.pdo.dat>

# El Niño & La Niña Impact Global Temperatures...



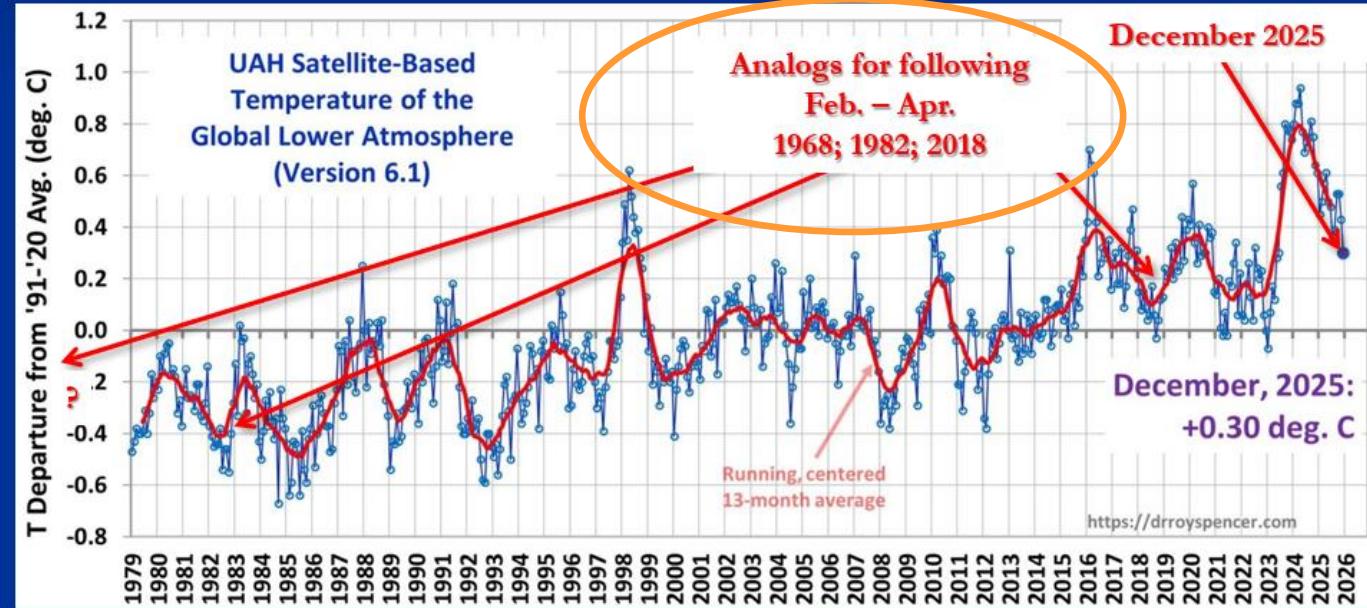
Courtesy: <http://www.drroyspencer.com/latest-global-temperatures/>

## Global Temperature Changes Increase Error in Analog Forecasts!



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

## Using ENSO Signal To Find Analog Years

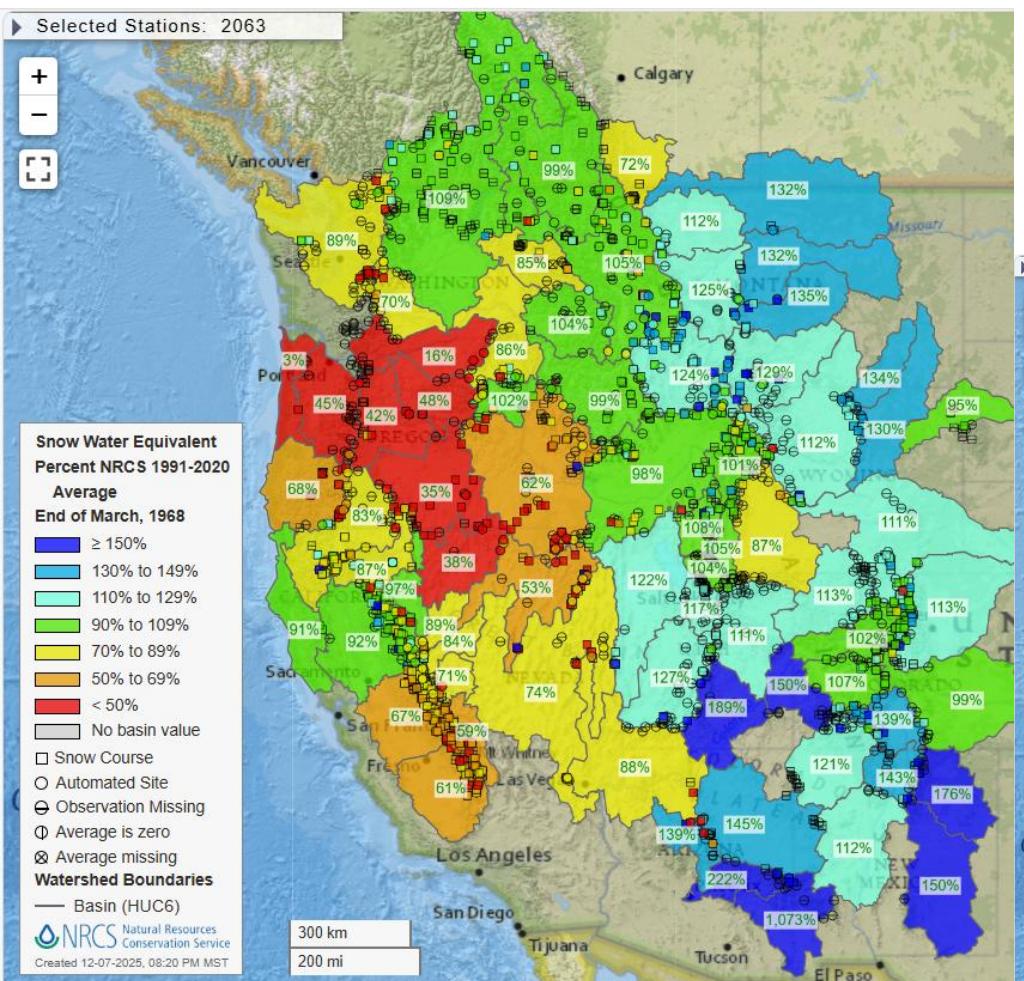


Courtesy: <http://www.drroyspencer.com/latest-global-temperatures/>

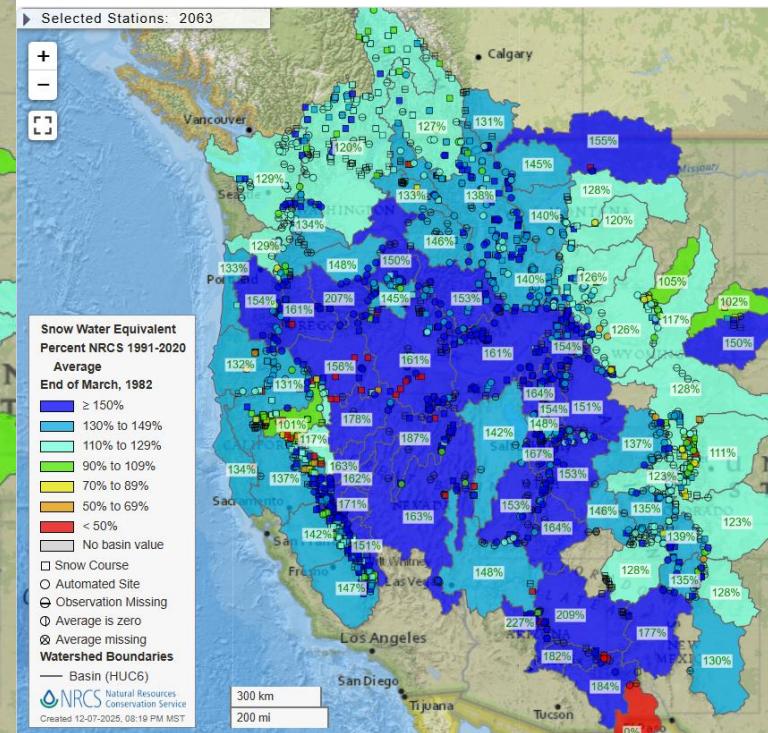
# April 1 Westside Snowpack % of Average for Analog Years

## Based on SNOTEL & Snow Course

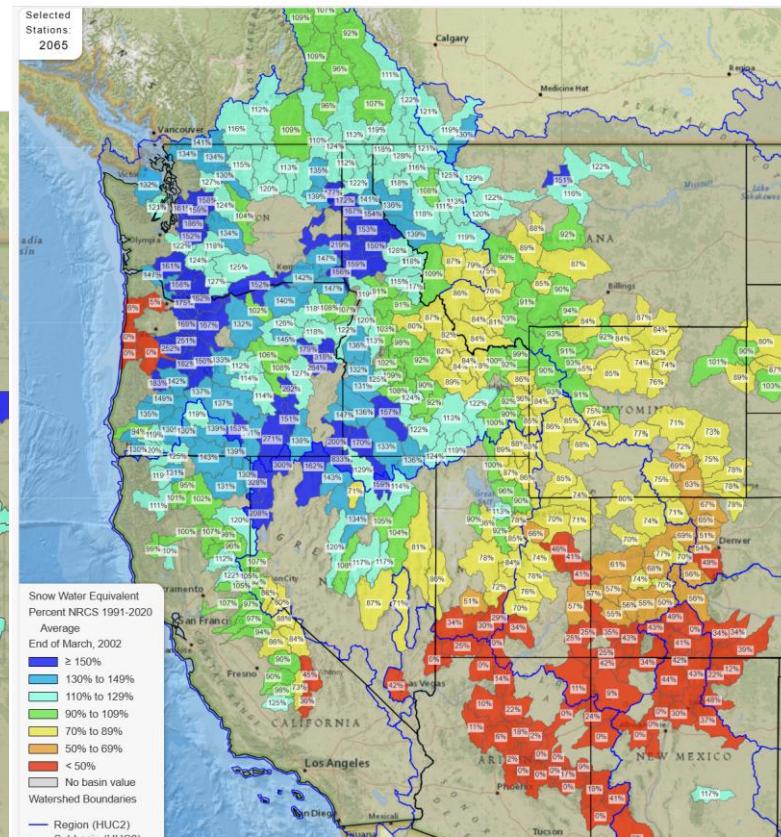
April 1 1968 Snowpack



April 1 1982

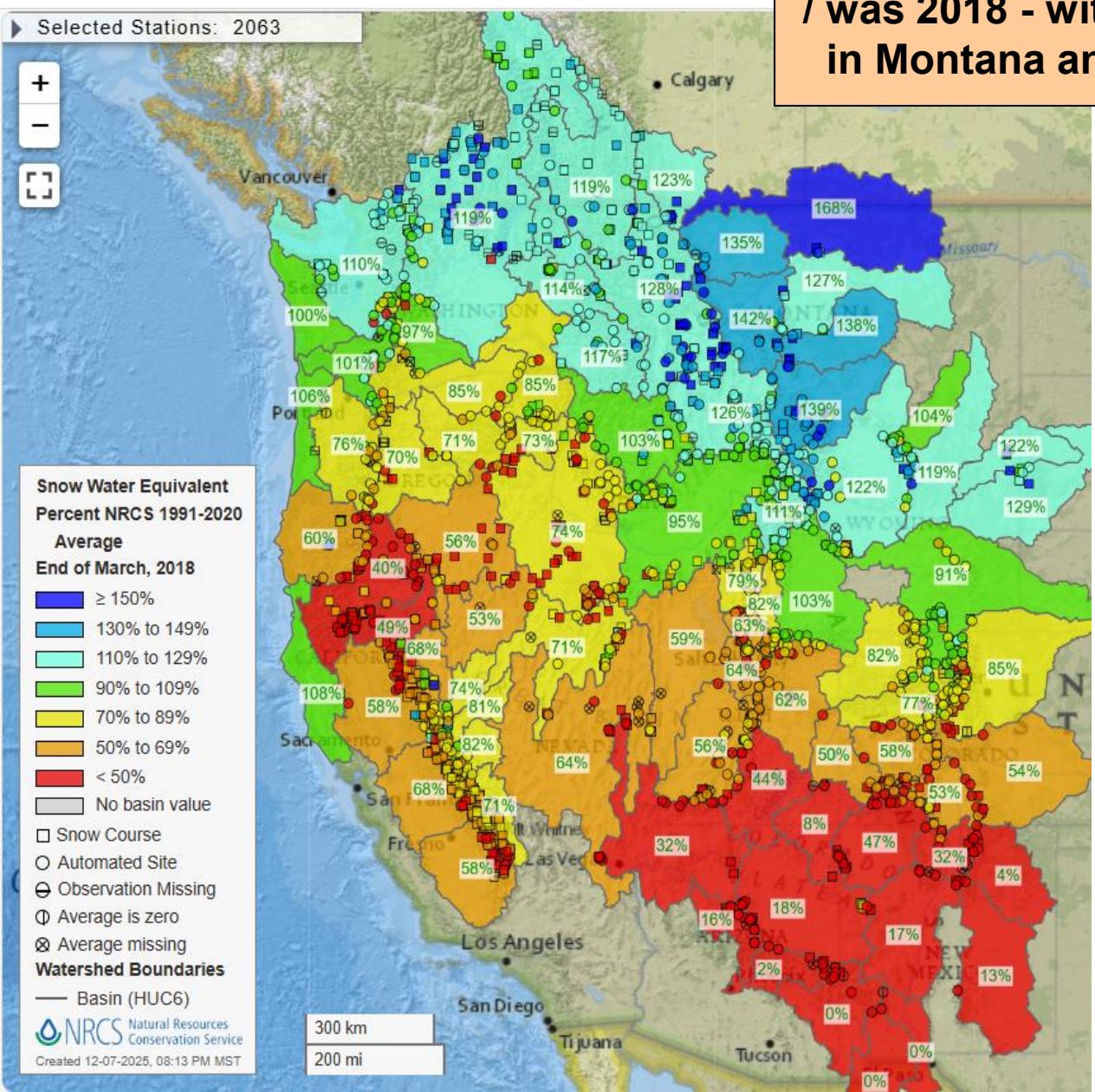


April 1 2002



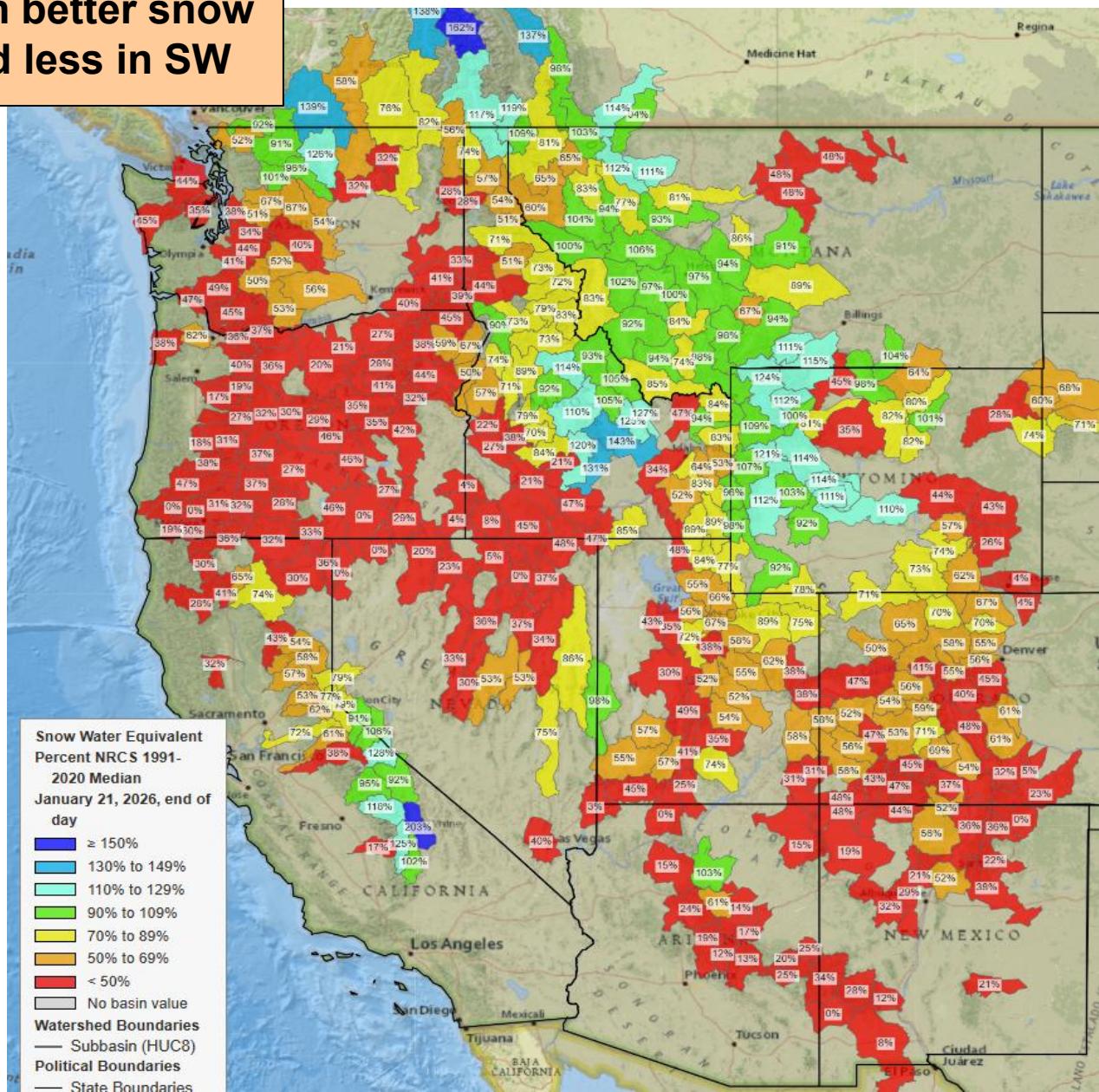
# April 1 Westside Snowpack % of Average for Analog Year and this Year

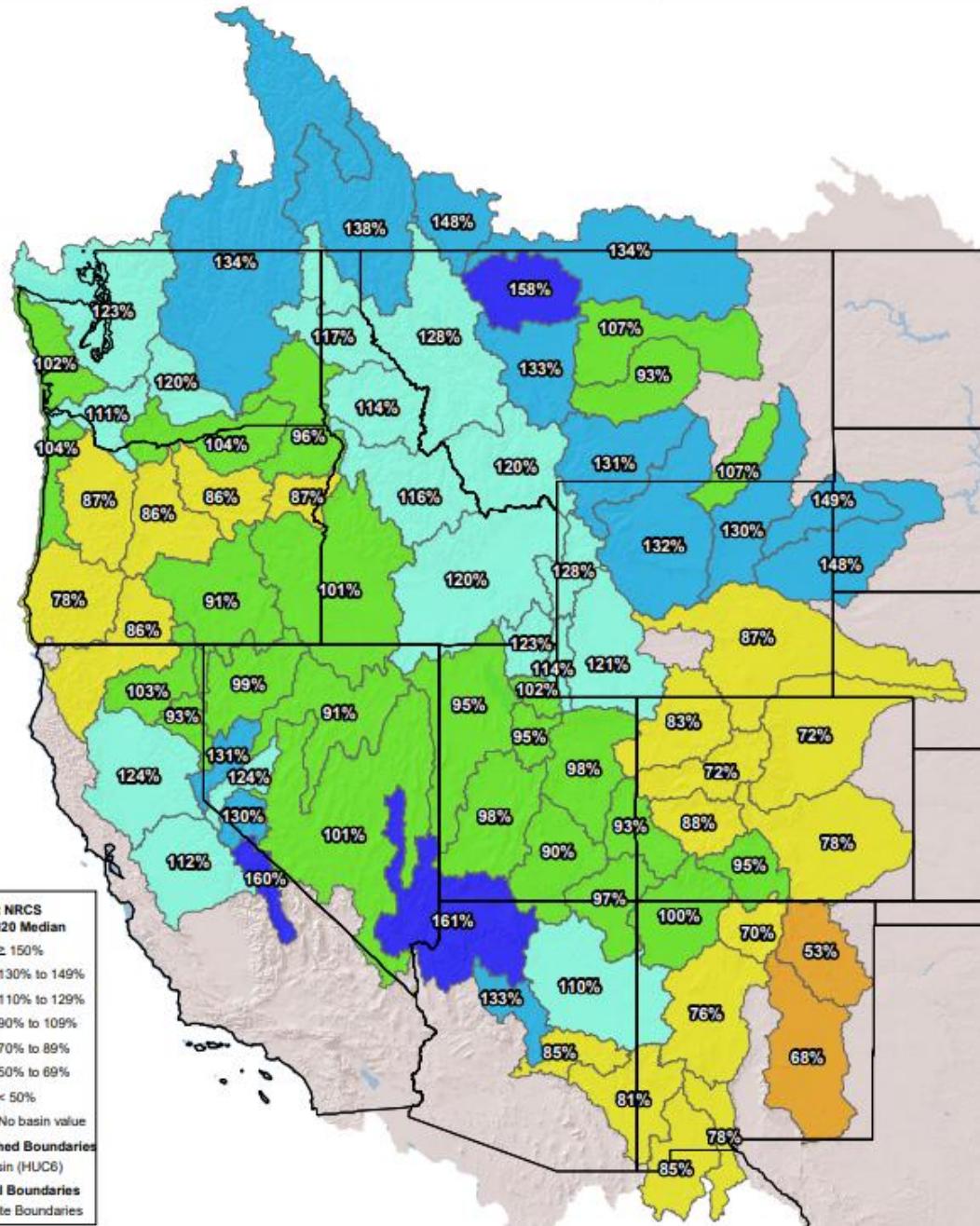
## April 1 2018 Snowpack



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

## Jan 22, 2026 Snowpack





## 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.

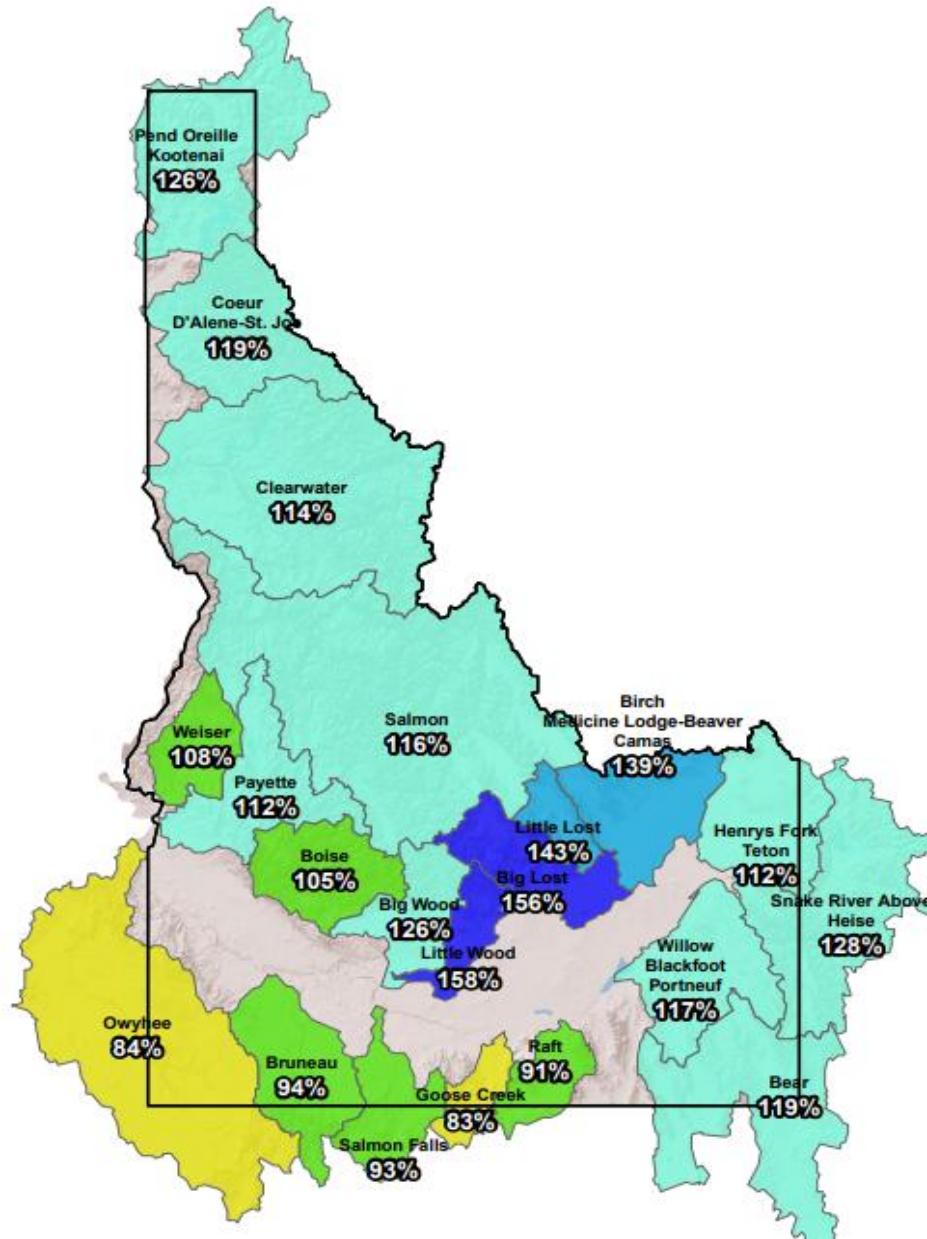
Ahhh, still dreaming if all this moisture would have fallen as snow and we would be today...

## Idaho

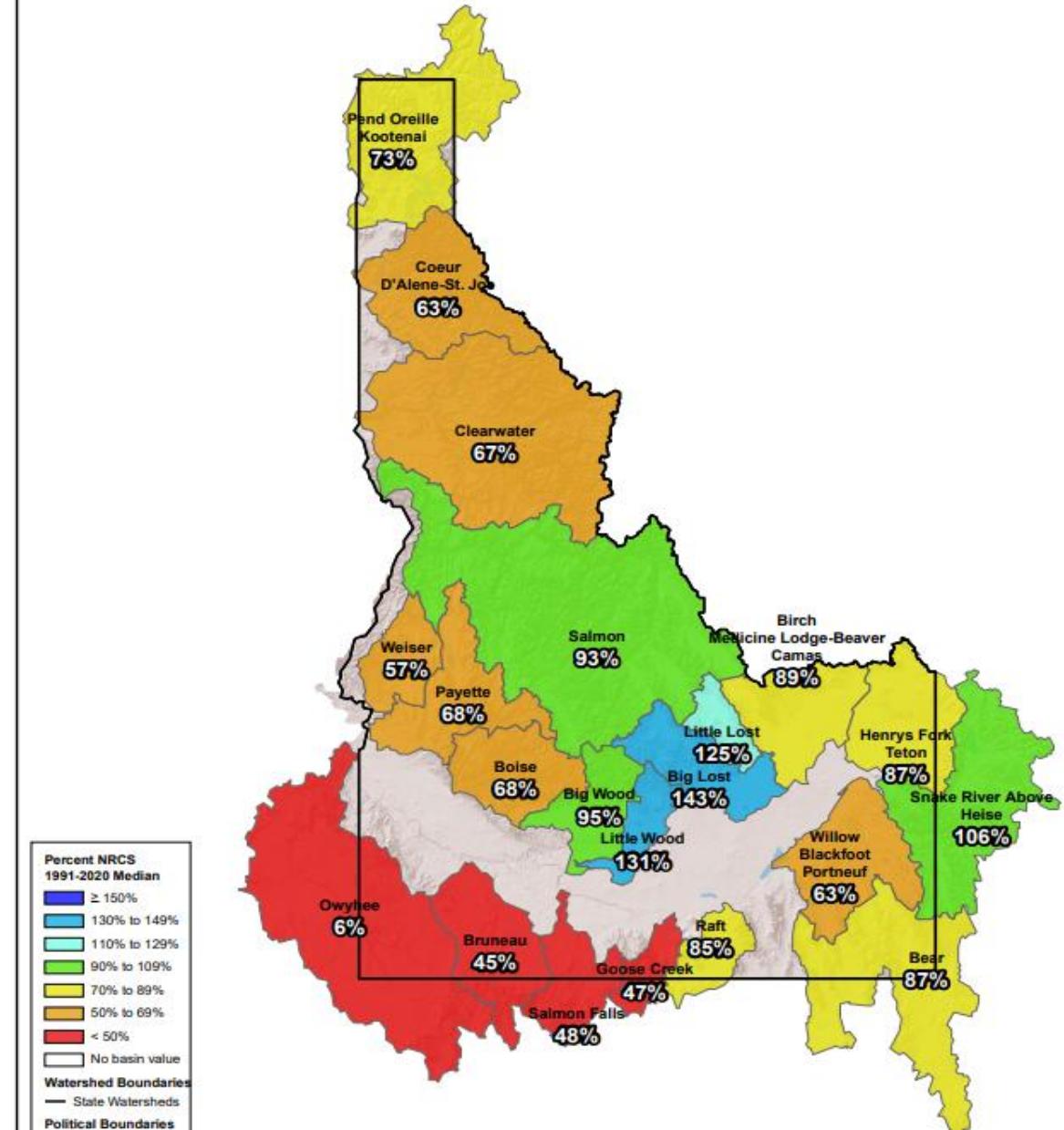
## Water Year to Date Precipitation Oct 1 – Jan 21

## Snowpack Jan 21, 2026

Water Year to Date Precipitation	Idaho SNOTEL Percent NRCS 1991-2020 Median	October 1, 2025 - January 21, 2026
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Snow Water Equivalent	Idaho SNOTEL Percent NRCS 1991-2020 Median	January 21, 2026, end of day
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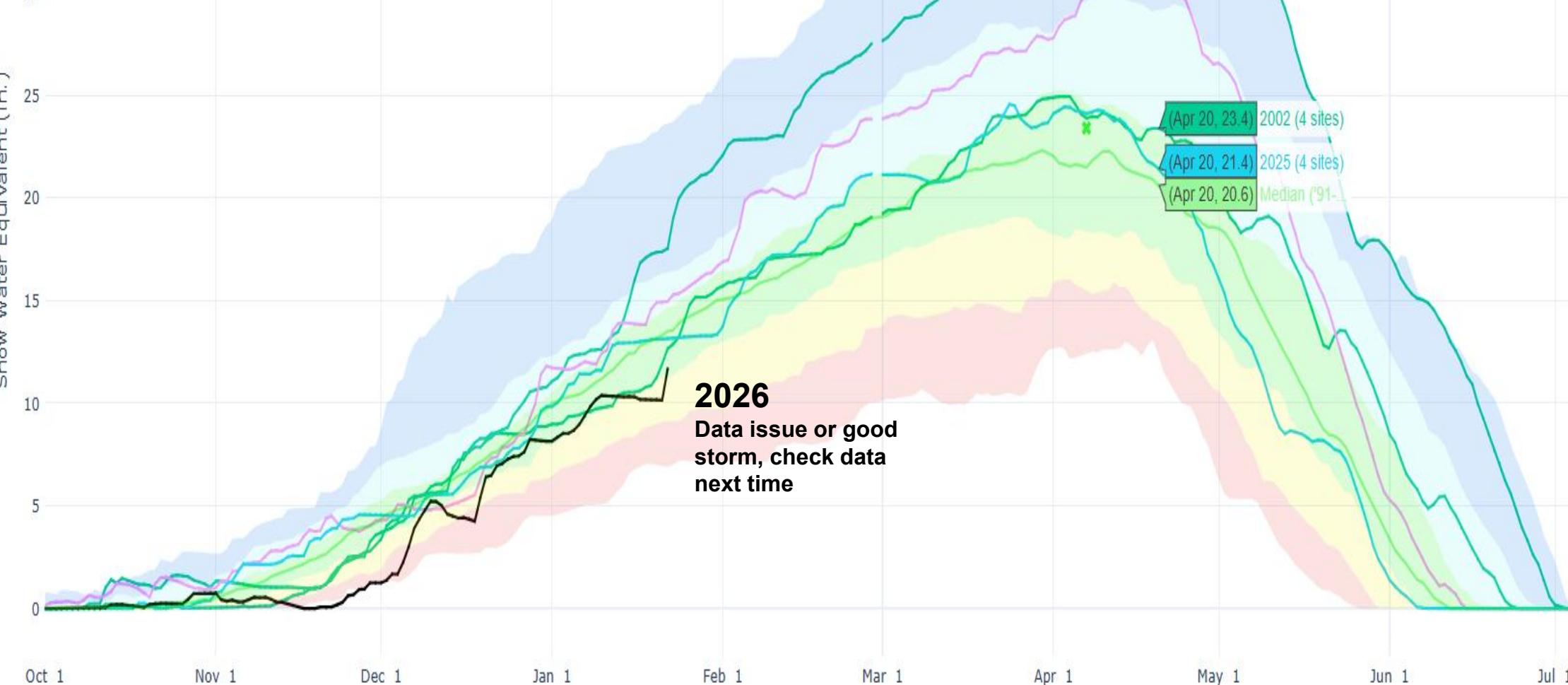


## SWE Selway Basin 86%

### Tracking 2025 and 2002 so far

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

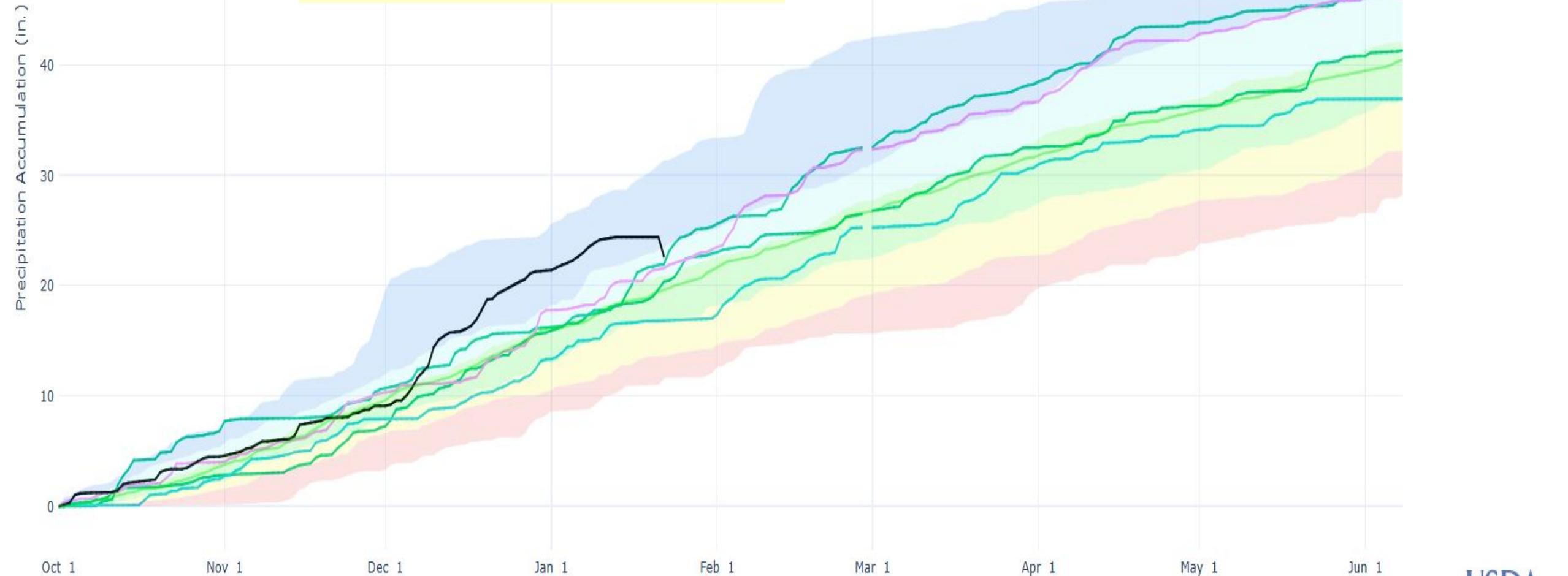
Analog Years:  
**1981-82 2001-02 2017-18**

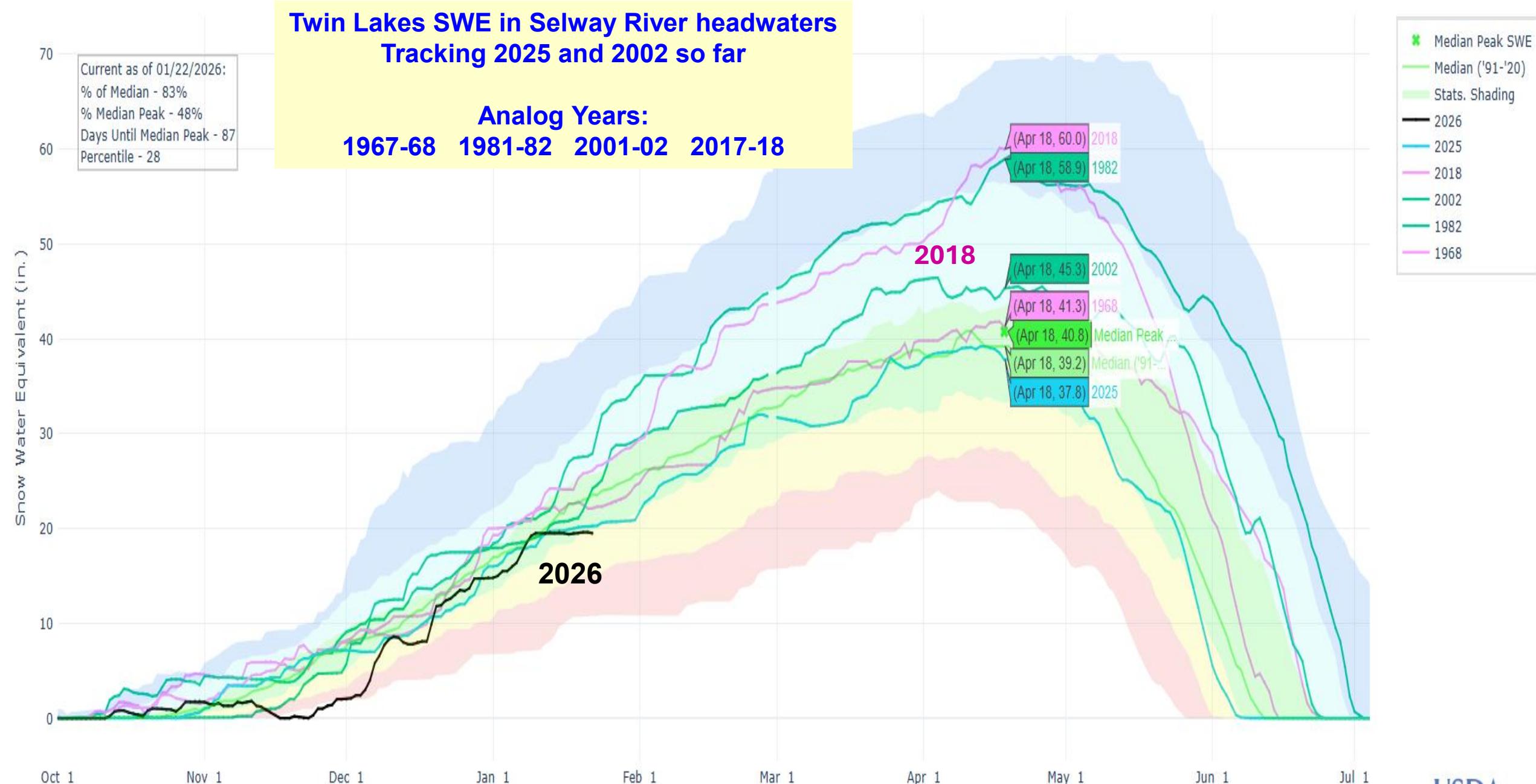


Current as of 01/22/2026:  
% of Median - 115%  
% of WY Median - 48%  
Days Until End of WY - 252  
Percentile - 84

**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**





Search

Enter NWS ID:

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Map Overlays

NWRFC Boundary  
 NWRFC Basins  
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 Counties  
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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)

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



Stations Displayed: 356

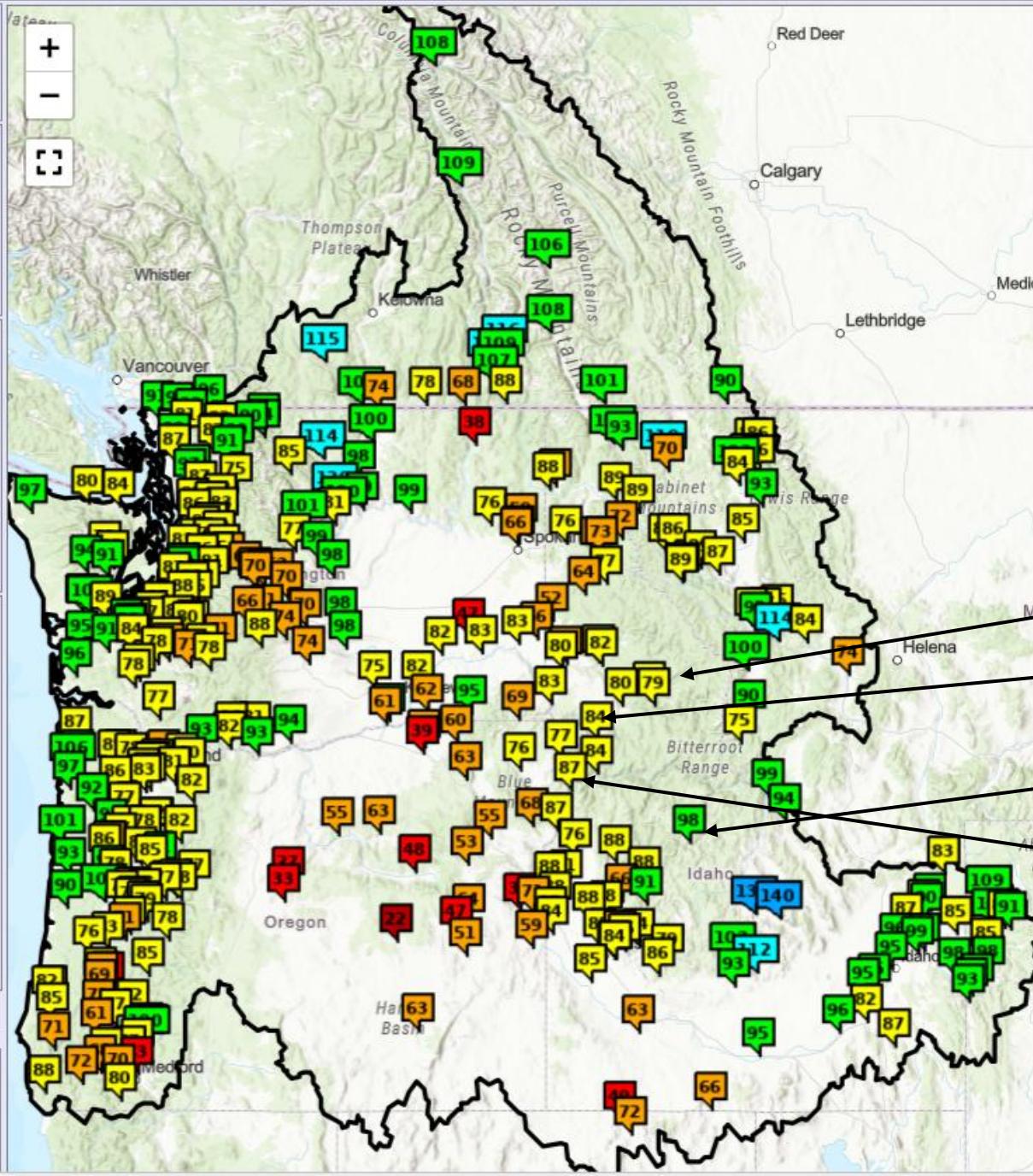
Natural Links

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 (SELI1)**  
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

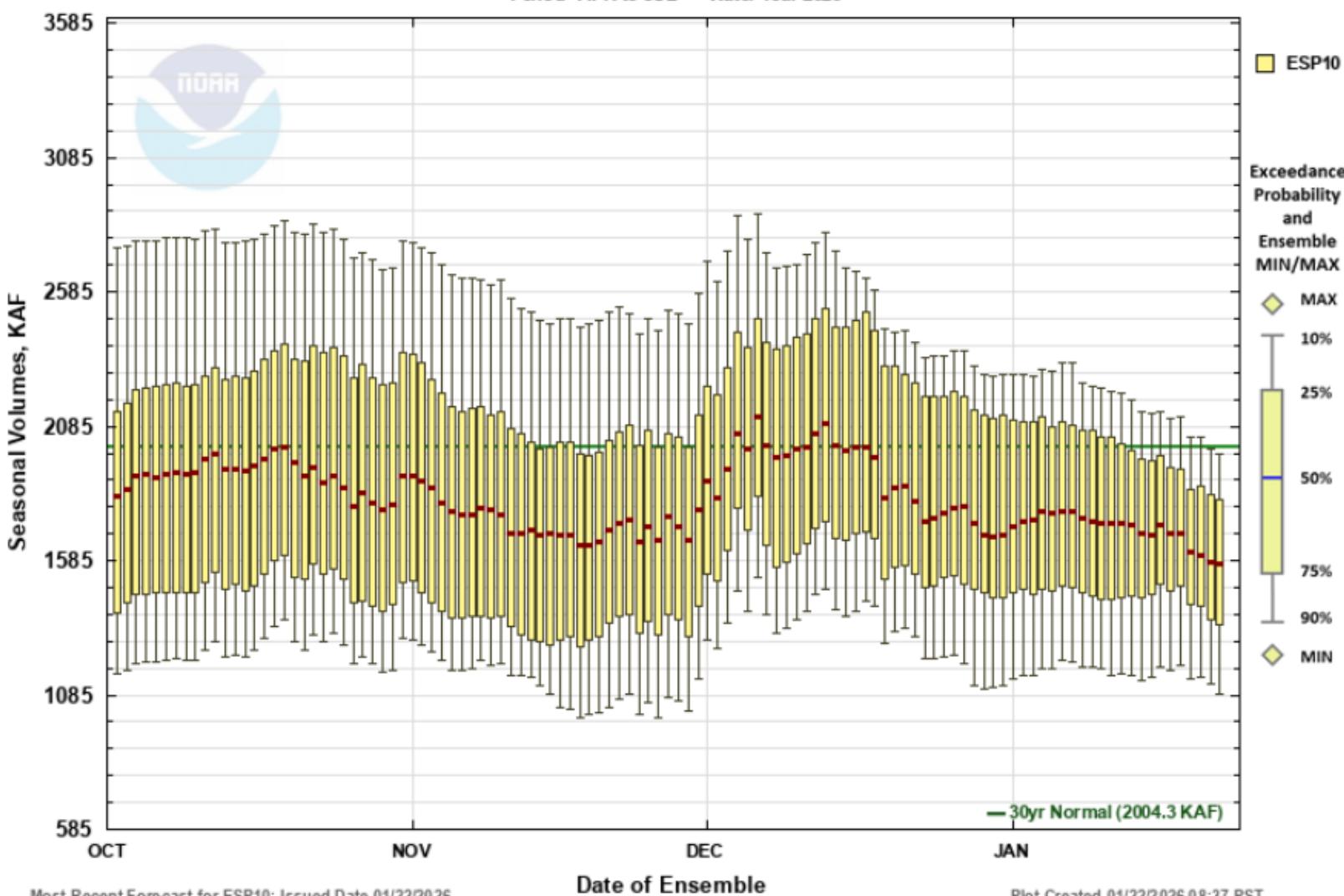
**Apr-Jul % of Average**

<b>2026</b>	<b>79% Forecast</b>
<b>2025</b>	<b>81% Observed</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>133% Observed</b>
<b>2002</b>	<b>107% Observed</b>
<b>1982</b>	<b>138% Observed</b>
<b>1968</b>	<b>94% Observed</b>

**Natural Volume Forecasts**

**SELWAY - NEAR LOWELL**

Period APR to JUL – Water Year 2026



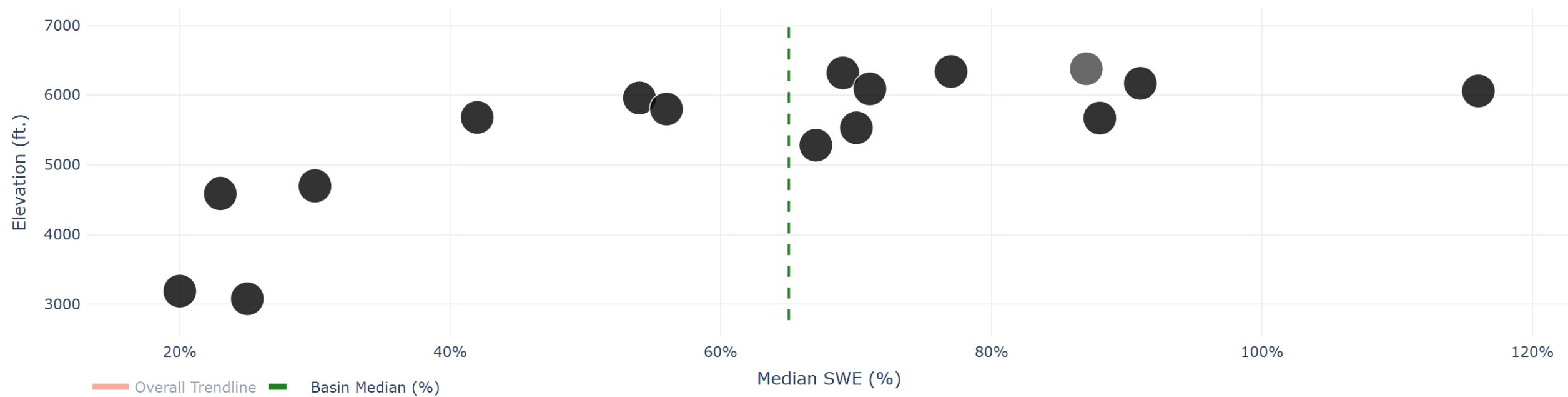
# SNOWPACK BY ELEVATION IN SELWAY JANUARY 23, 2026



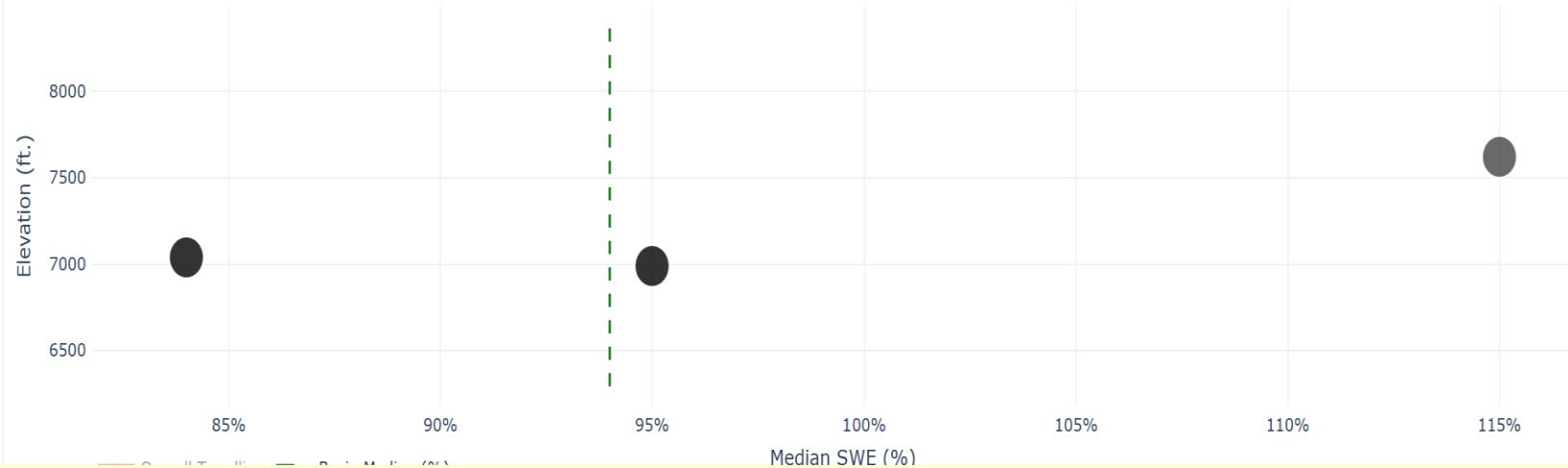
## Below Clearwater Basin Jan 1 Snowpack vs. Elevation 65%

## Above Selway Jan 23 Snowpack vs Elevation 80%

### SNOWPACK BY ELEVATION IN CLEARWATER JANUARY 1, 2026



SNOWPACK BY ELEVATION IN MIDDLE FORK SALMON JANUARY 23, 2026



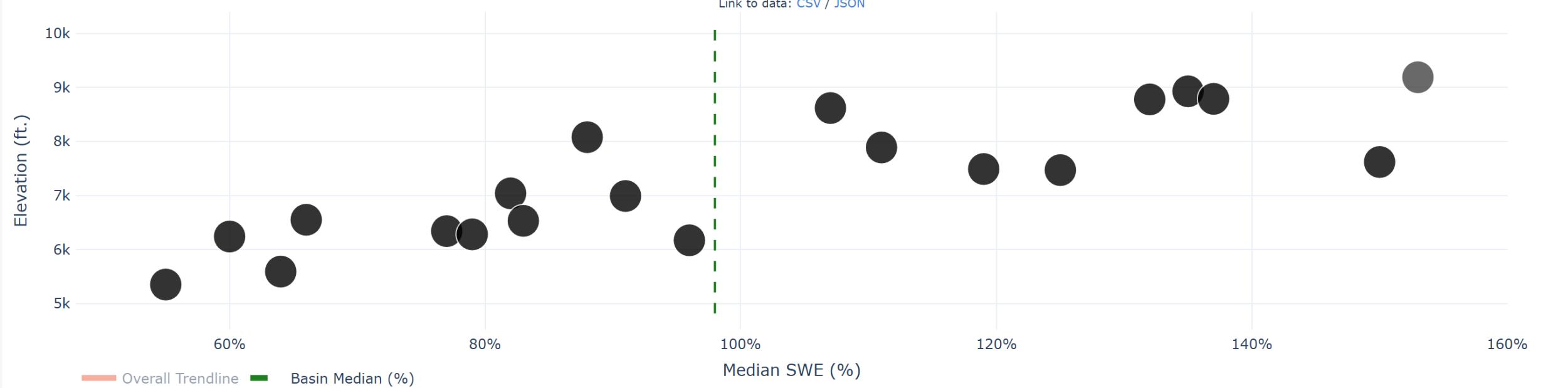
**Below Salmon Basin Jan1 Snowpack vs. Elevation 98%**

**Above MF Jan 23 Snowpack vs Elevation 94%**



SNOWPACK BY ELEVATION IN SALMON JANUARY 1, 2026

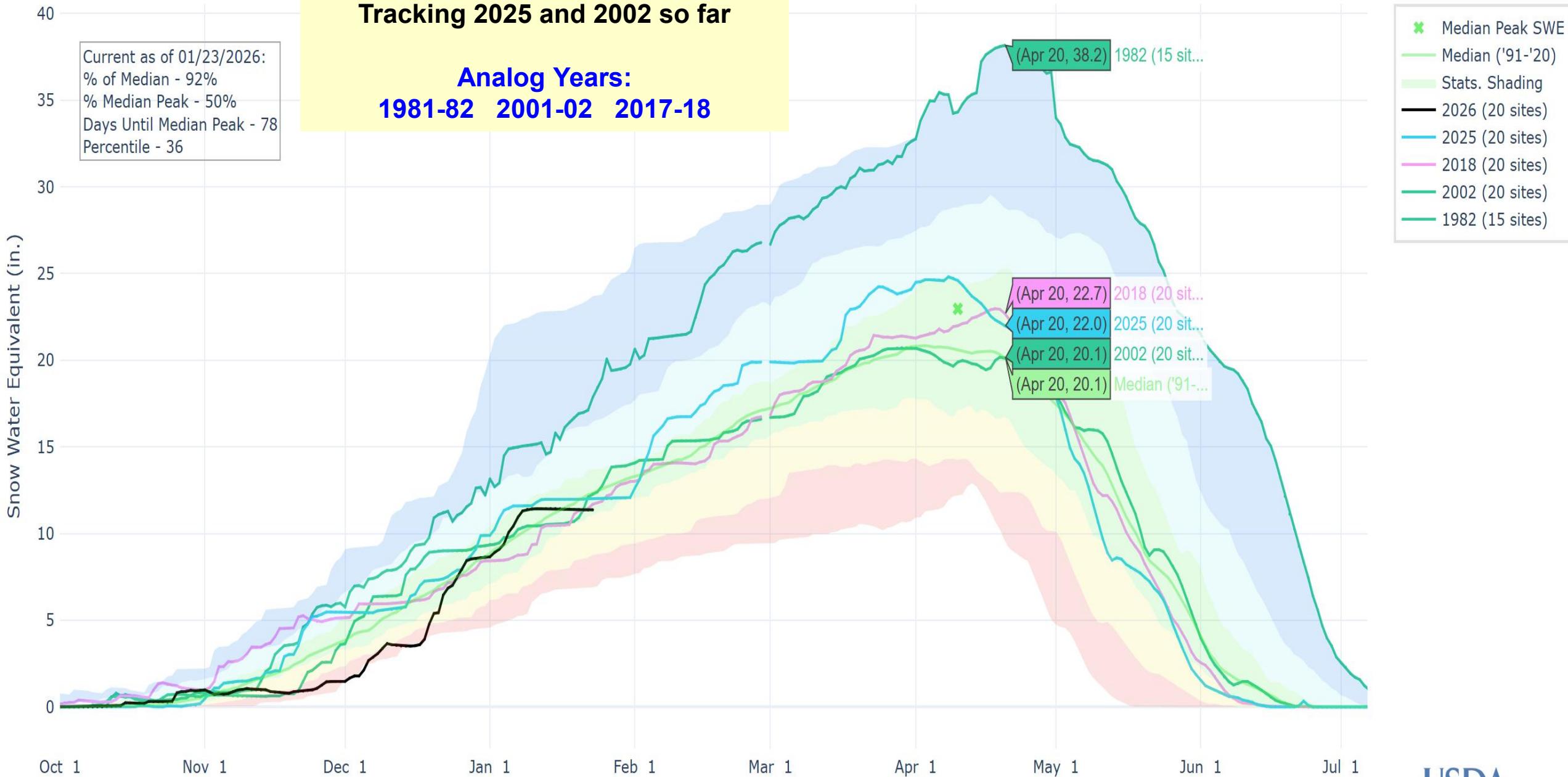
Link to data: [CSV](#) / [JSON](#)



## SWE Salmon Basin 92% Tracking 2025 and 2002 so far

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

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

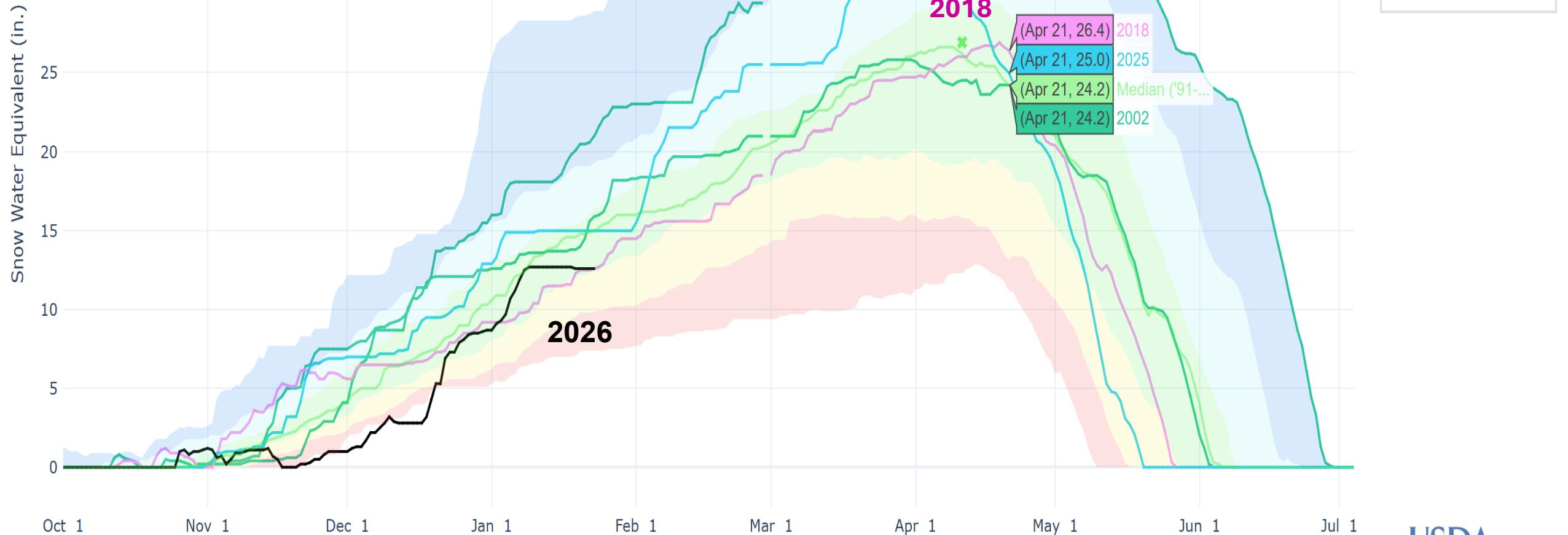


## Banner Summit SWE MF River Headwaters

### Tracking 2018 so far

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

1981-82 2001-02 2017-18



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

**Natural Forecast**

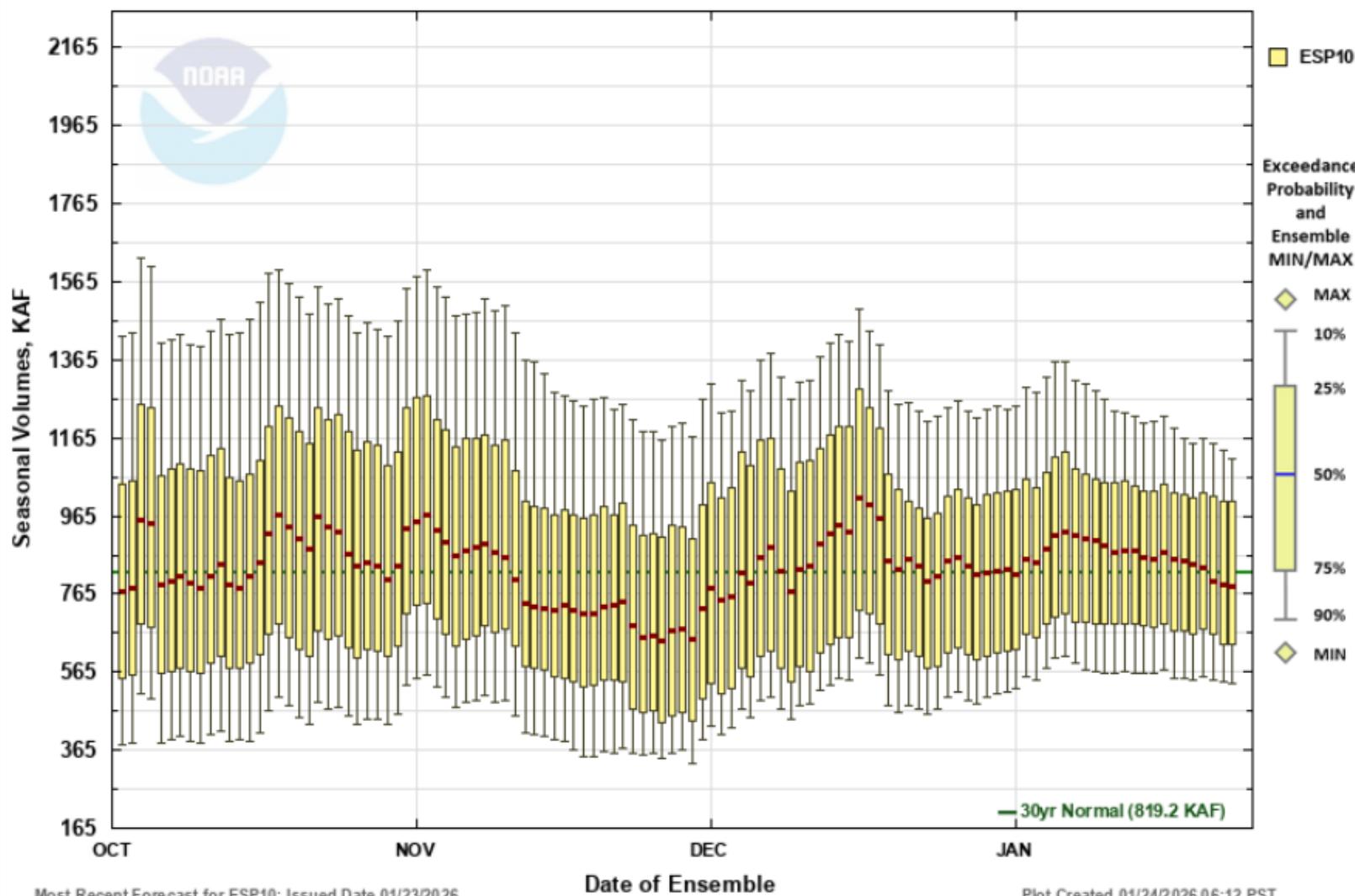
ESP with 10 Days QPF Ensemble: 2026-01-23 Issued: 2026-01-23

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**

<b>2026</b>	<b>96% Forecast</b>
<b>2025</b>	<b>88% Observed</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>114% Observed</b>
<b>2002</b>	<b>71% Observed</b>
<b>1982</b>	<b>193% Observed</b>
<b>1968</b>	<b>55% Observed</b>

**Natural Volume Forecasts**  
**MF SALMON - MIDDLE FORK LODGE**  
Period APR to JUL – Water Year 2026



**SALMON - AT WHITEBIRD (WHBI1)**  
Forecasts for Water Year 2026

**Natural Forecast**

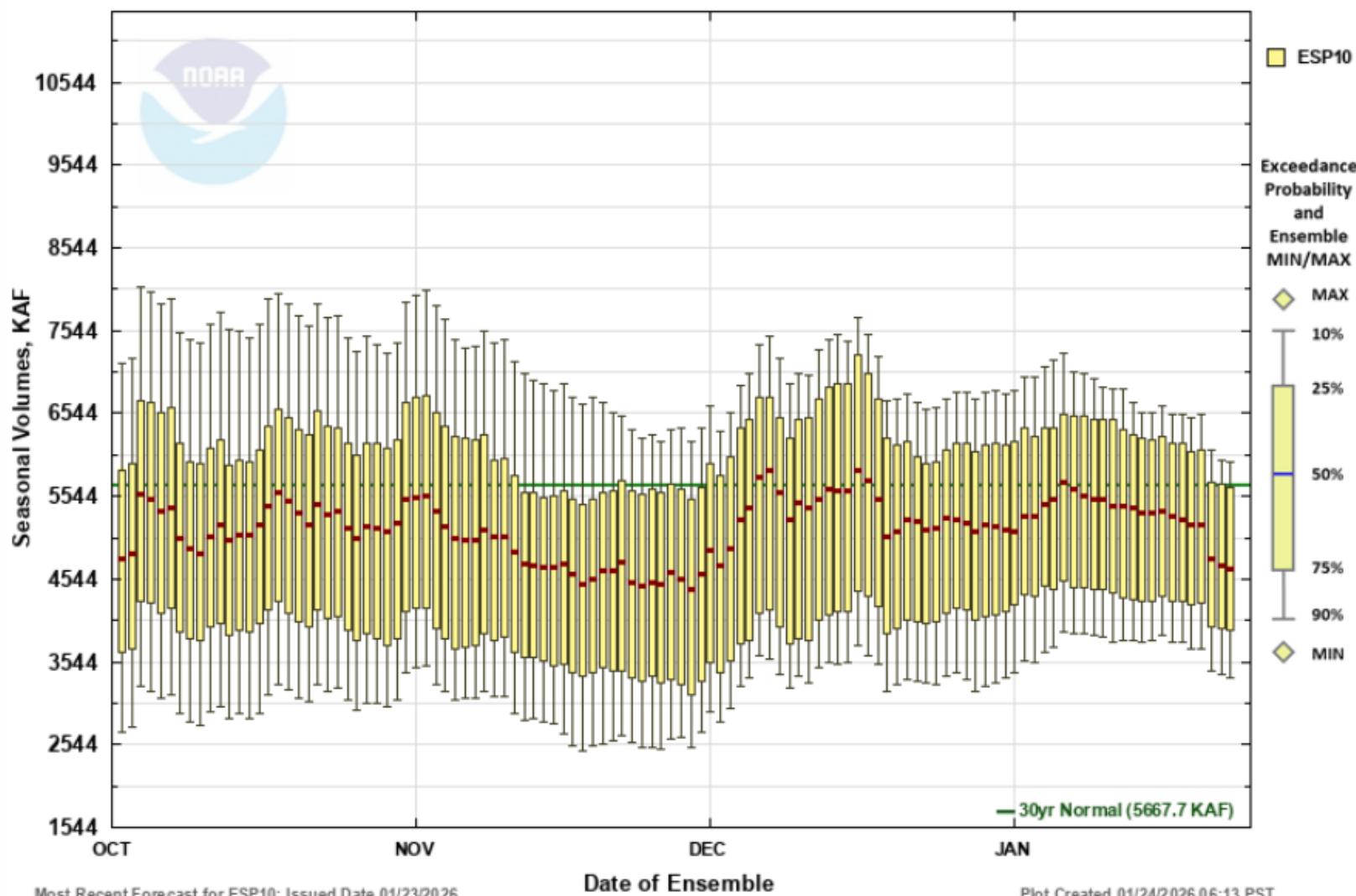
ESP with 10 Days QPF Ensemble: 2026-01-23 Issued: 2026-01-23

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**

<b>2026</b>	<b>84% Forecast</b>
<b>2025</b>	<b>84% Observed</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>119% Observed</b>
<b>2002</b>	<b>82% Observed</b>
<b>1982</b>	<b>161% Observed</b>
<b>1968</b>	<b>87% Observed</b>

**Natural Volume Forecasts**  
**SALMON - AT WHITEBIRD**  
Period APR to JUL – Water Year 2026



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- Counties
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- Natural Status
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- Percentile (%)

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NOAA NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Stations Displayed: 149

Natural Links

Forecast Listing

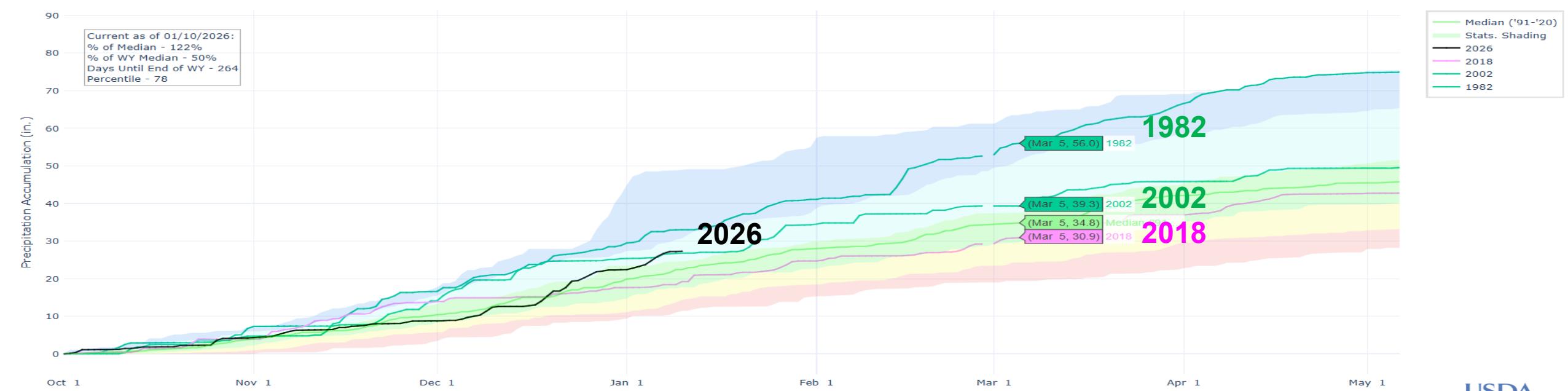
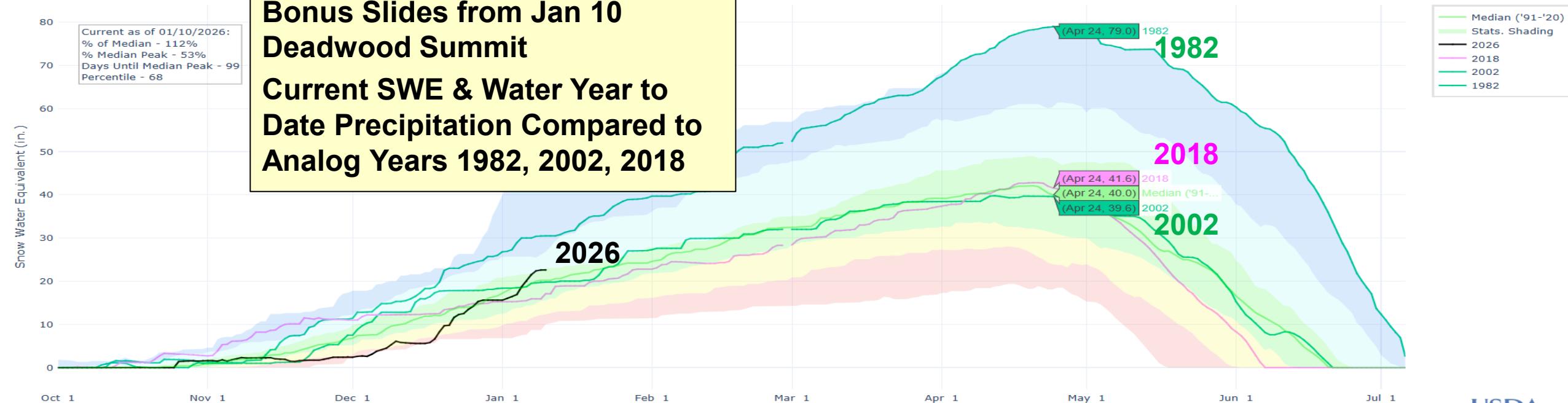
Forecast Report

Forecast Report CSV

Point Metadata CSV

# 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 - 21%  
 % Median Peak - 9%  
 Days Until Median Peak - 69  
 Percentile - 0

## Bonus Slides from Jan 10 Owyhee Basin

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

Median ('91-'20)  
 Stats. Shading  
 2026 (8 sites)  
 2018 (8 sites)  
 2002 (7 sites)  
 1982 (7 sites)

