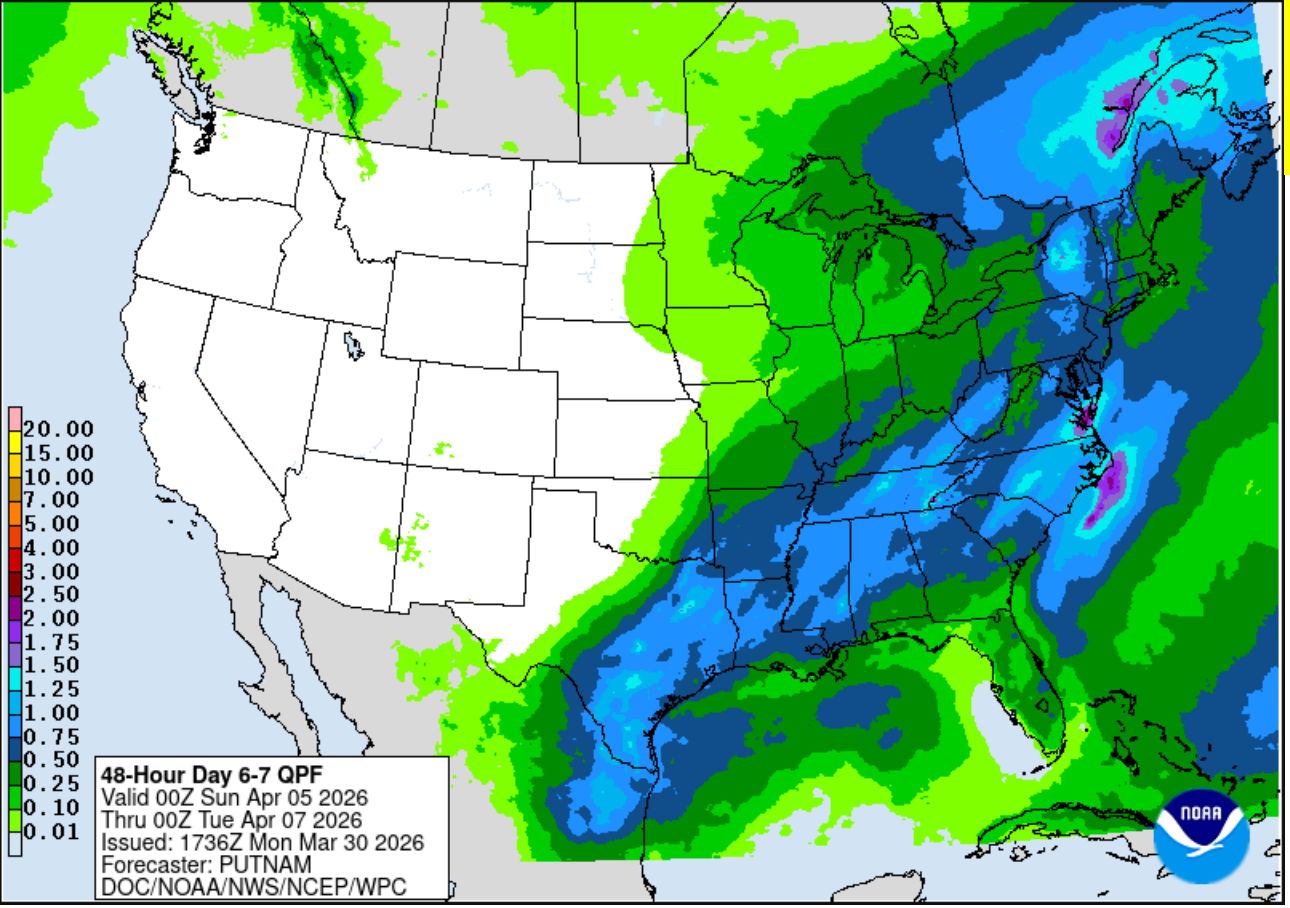
April 1, 2026 Update
Where's the Remaining Snow ?

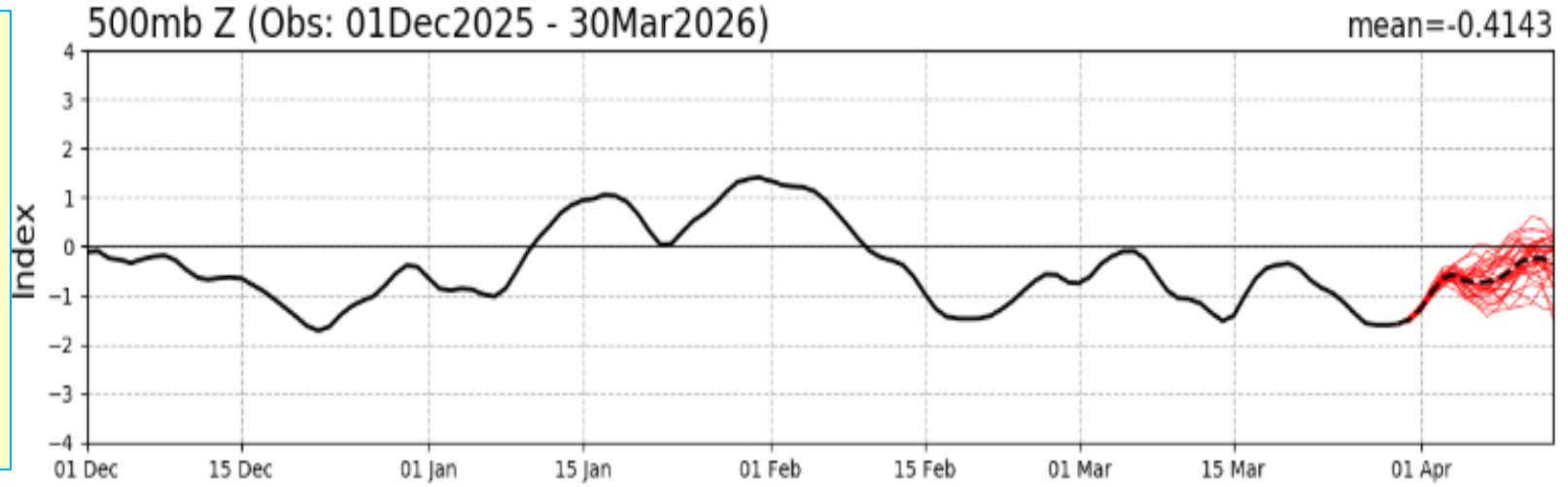


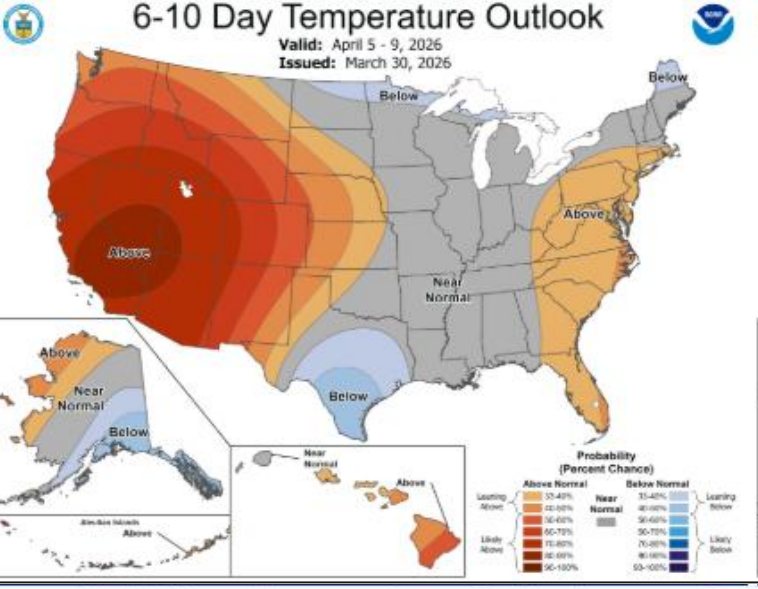
First a Weather Update:
More of the same after this week's snowstorm !

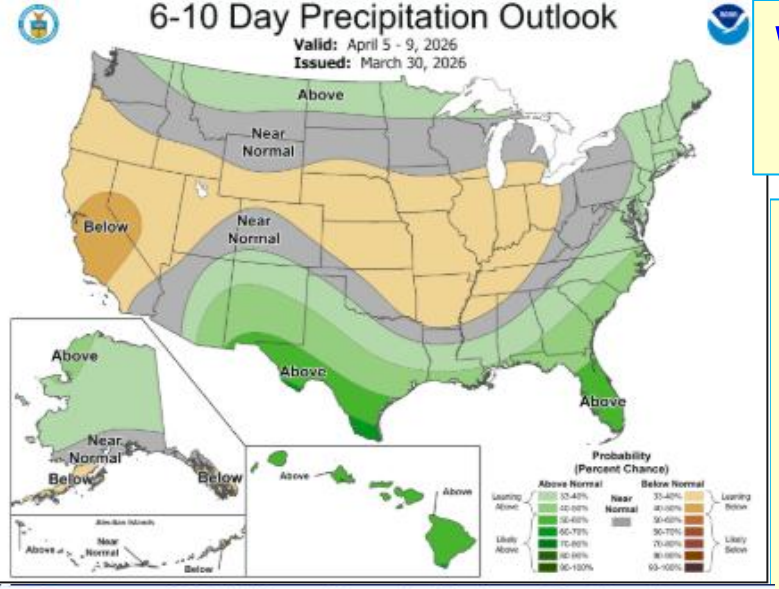
Apr 5-7 Total Precip
Hello Sunshine follows this winter's season ending snowstorm.

PNA is tracking towards zero. Negative trend typically means weather likely in PNW.

PNA Index: Observed & GEFS Forecasts



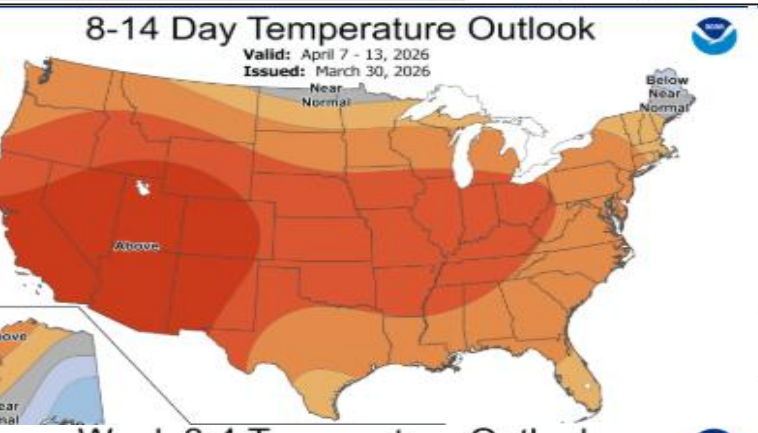


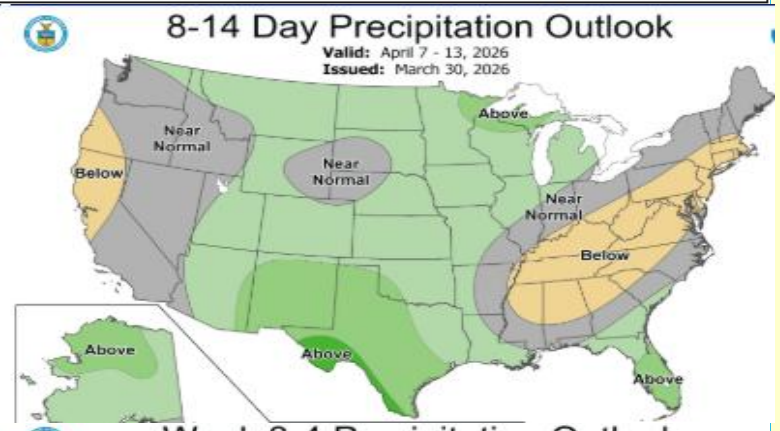


What you see is what we get until the pattern changes, again…

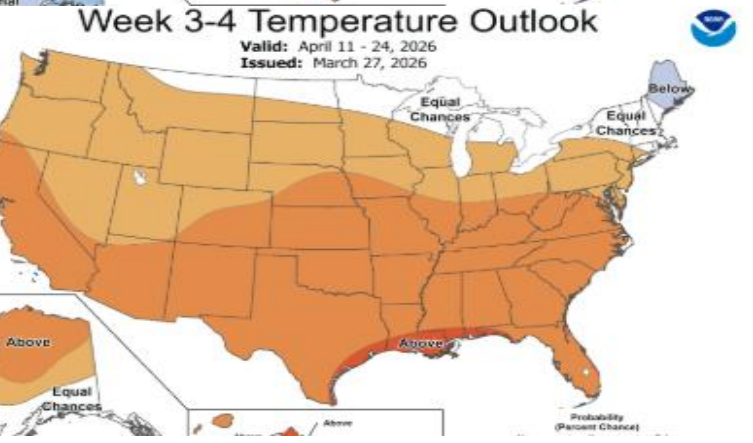
NWS Temp & Precip OutlookS

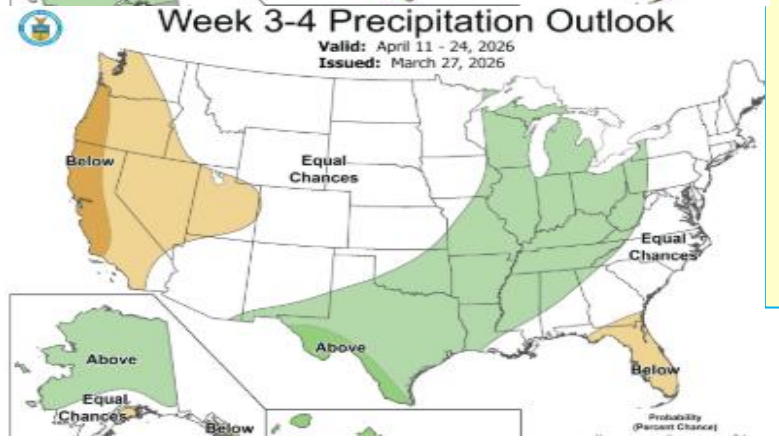
Apr 5-9





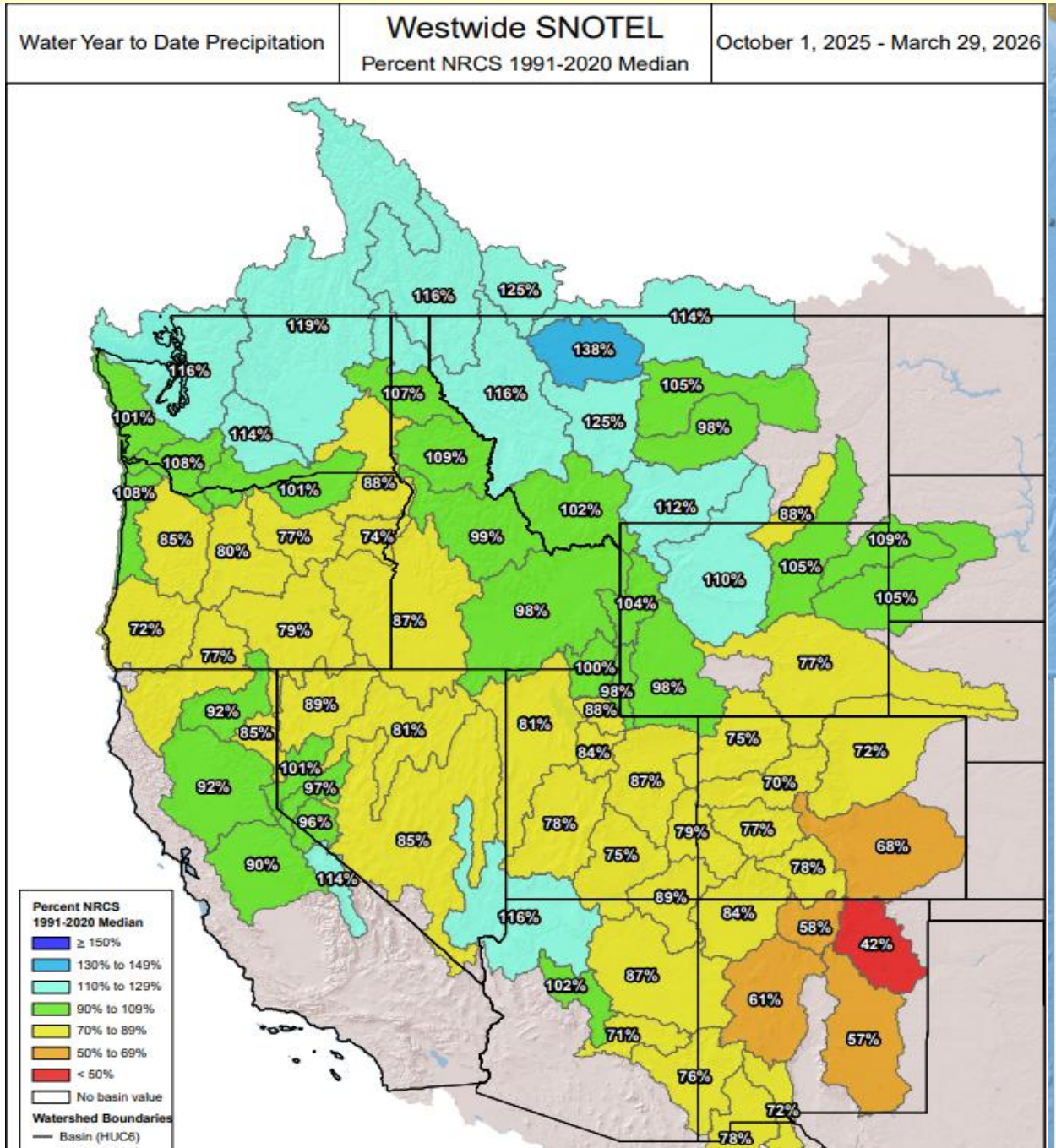
Apr 7-11



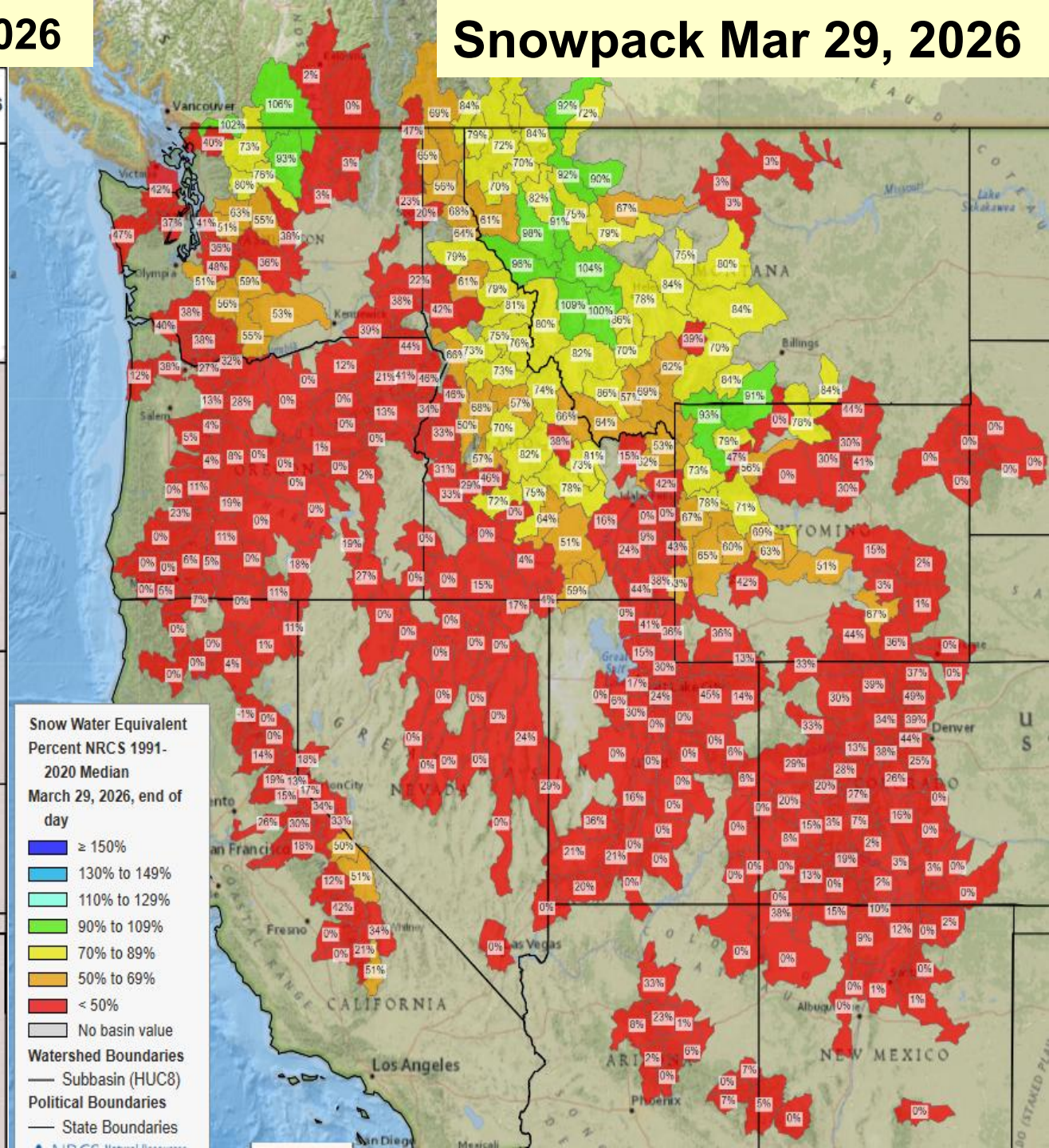


Apr 11-24

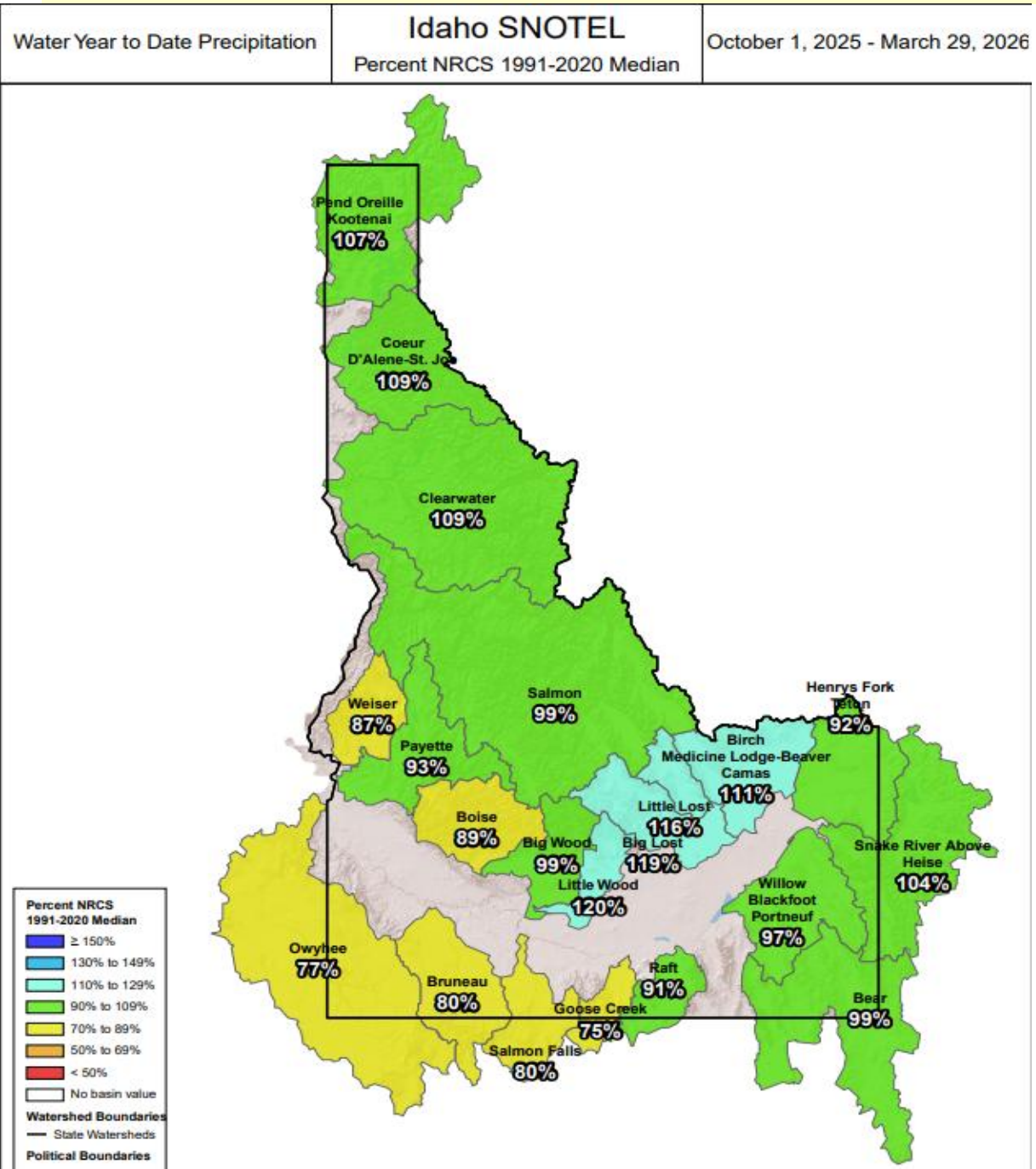
Water Year to Date Precipitation Oct 1-Mar 29, 2026

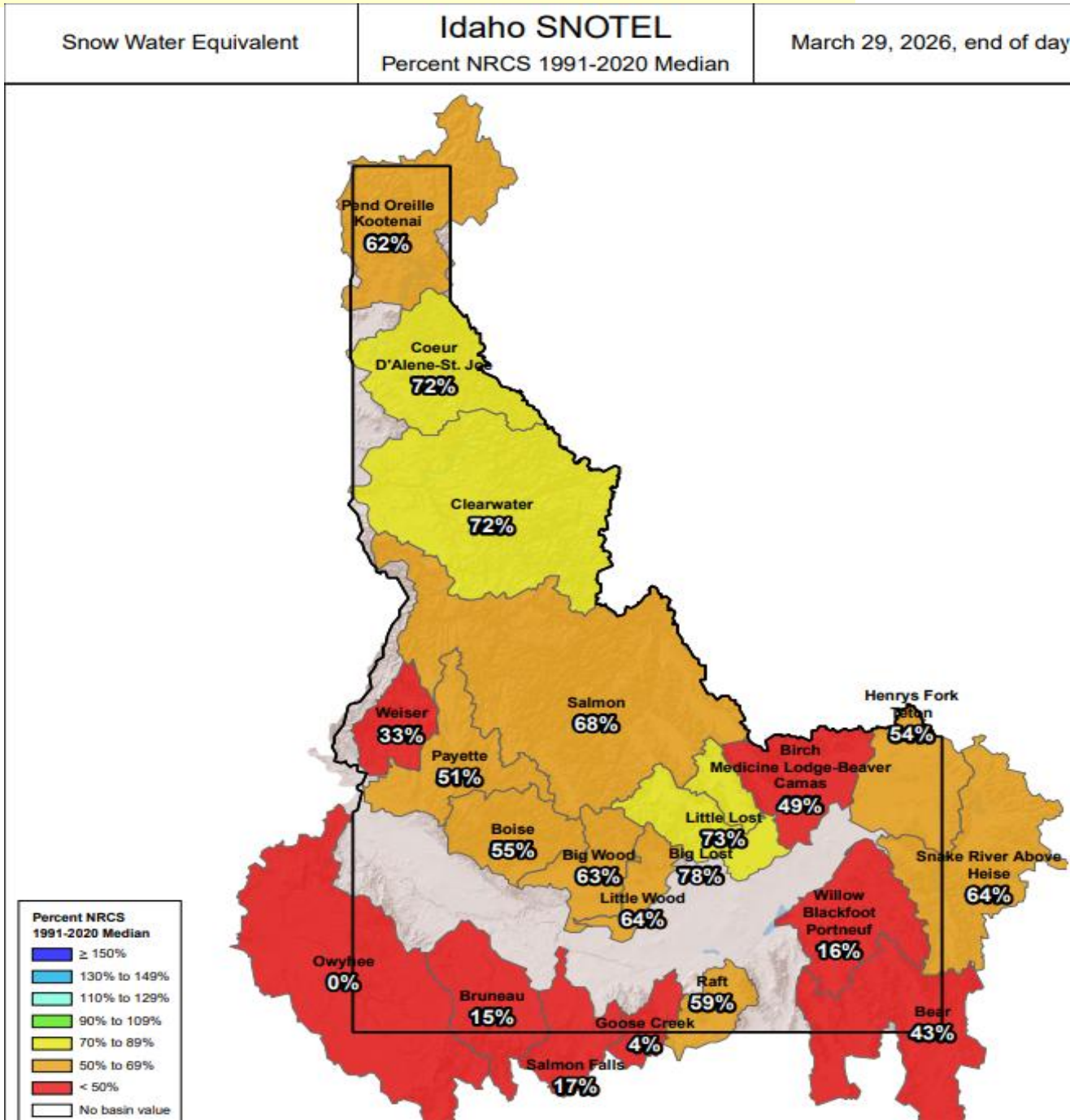


Snowpack Mar 29, 2026



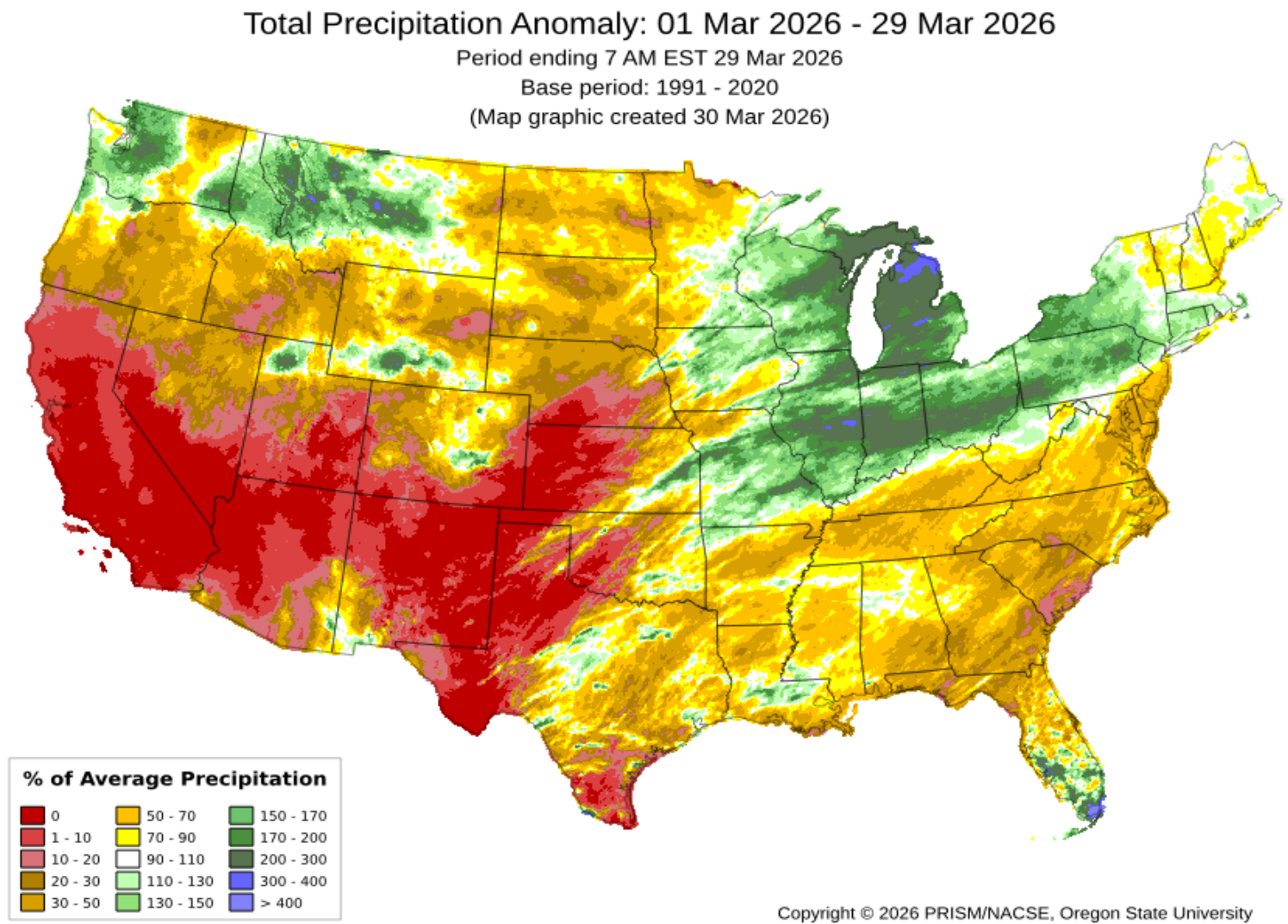
Water Year to Date Precipitation Oct 1 - Mar 29 Idaho Snowpack Mar 29, 2026





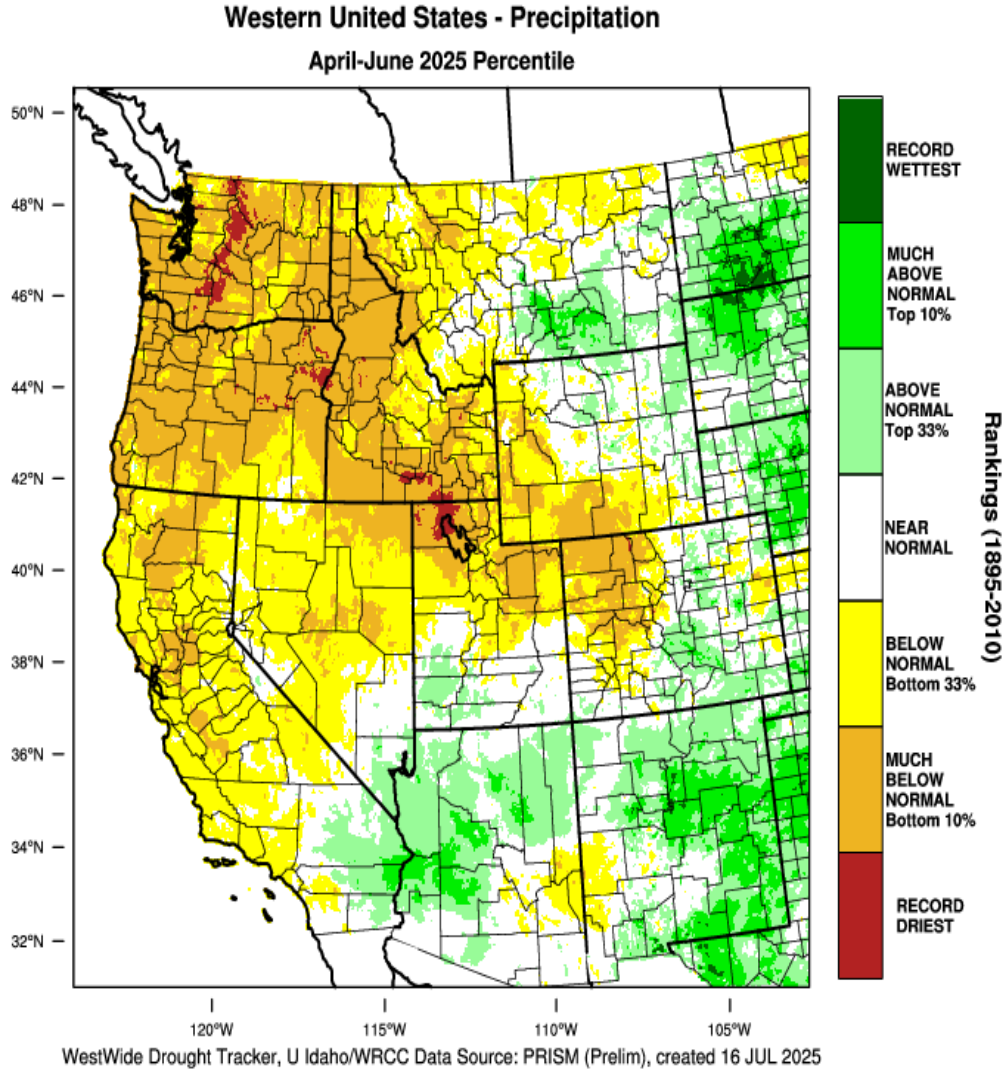
March 2026 Precipitation

This map really shows Idaho's March winners and losers – with only a couple of March days remaining for precip to fall, the Clearwater will receive about 175% of Avg precip while southern Idaho basins are 10-50% of Avg.



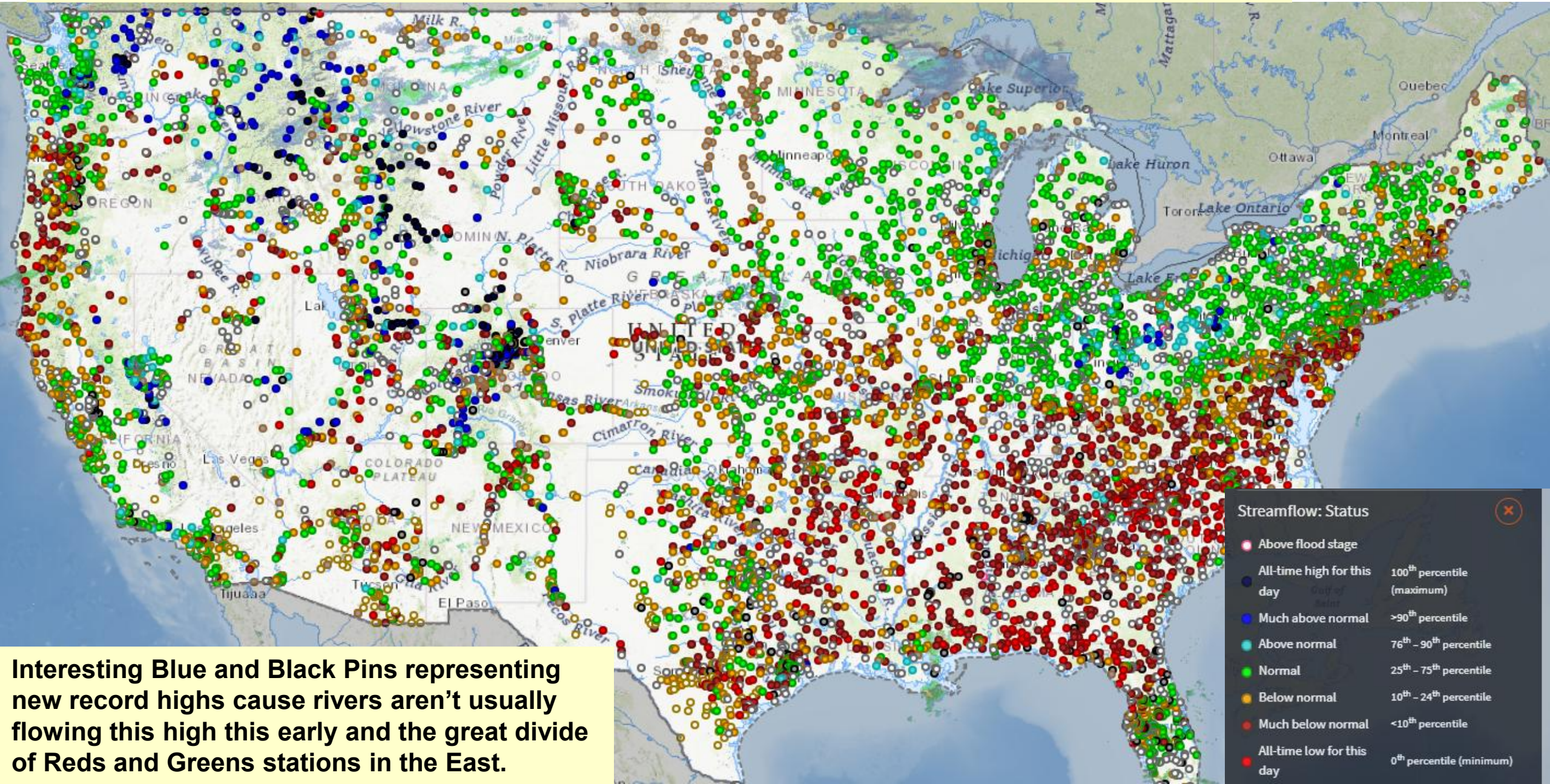
Apr-Jun 2025 Precipitation

Remember last year when it stopped snowing and raining for nearly 90 days and nights – this is the last thing we need this spring.



Snapshot of Current River Flow for Mar 30, 2026

Red Much Below or Record Low --- Blue Much Above Avg --- Black Record High



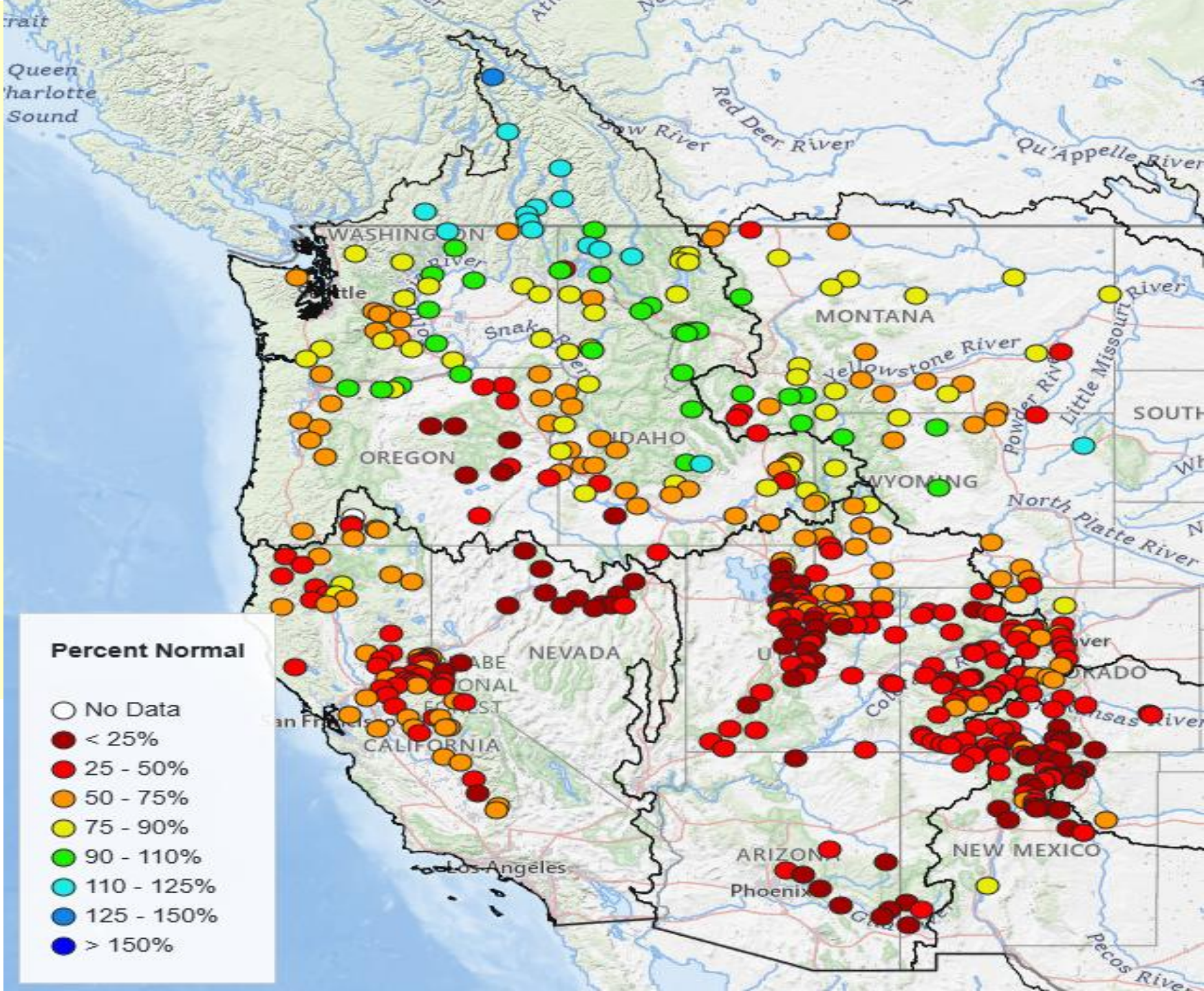
Interesting Blue and Black Pins representing new record highs cause rivers aren't usually flowing this high this early and the great divide of Reds and Greens stations in the East.

How Low Can We Go?

NWS March 30, 2026
Apr-Sep
Water Supply Volume
Streamflow Forecasts

% of Normal

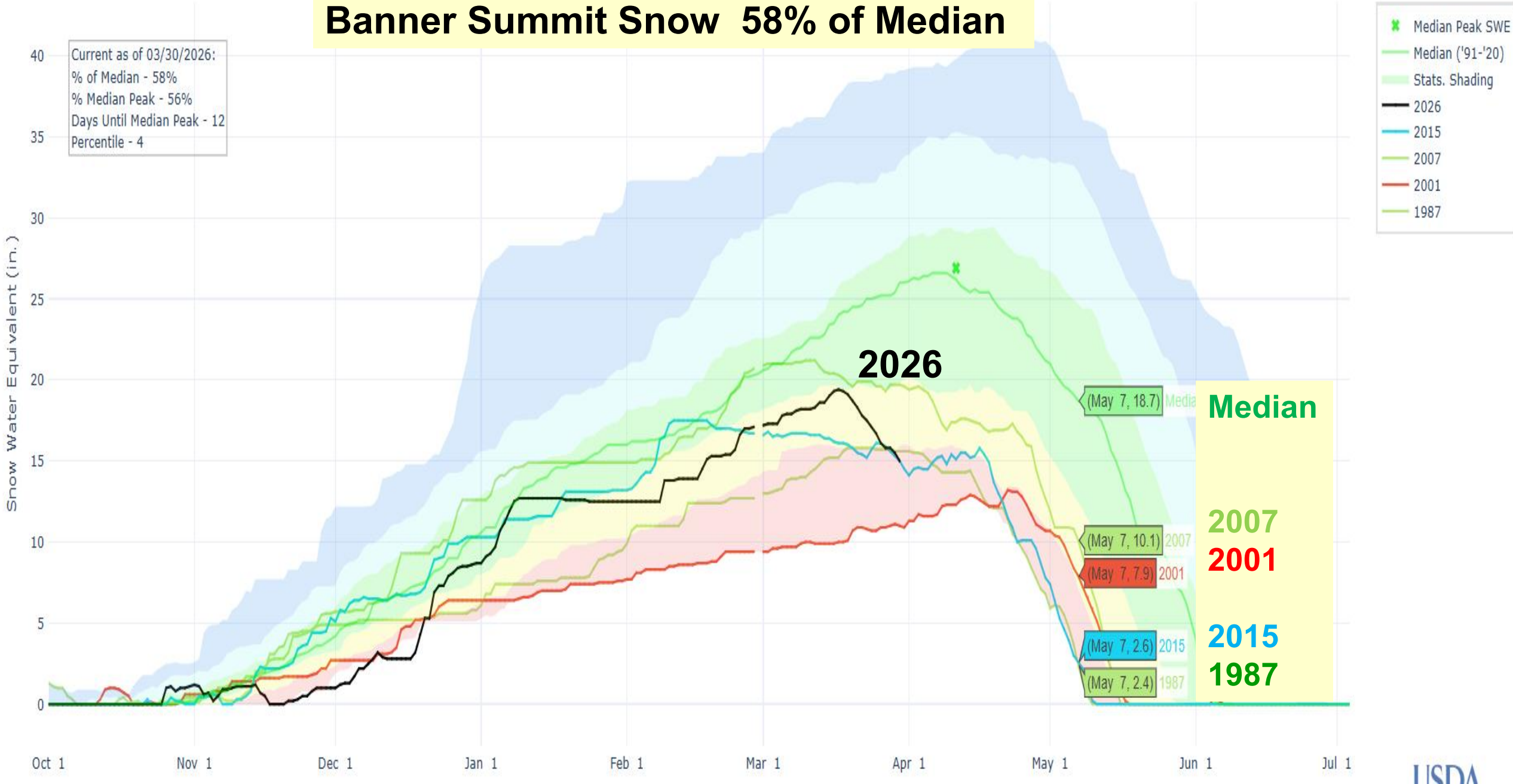
Note dark red is less than 25% of Normal



BANNER SUMMIT, ID (312) SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT

How Did We Get Here? Snow

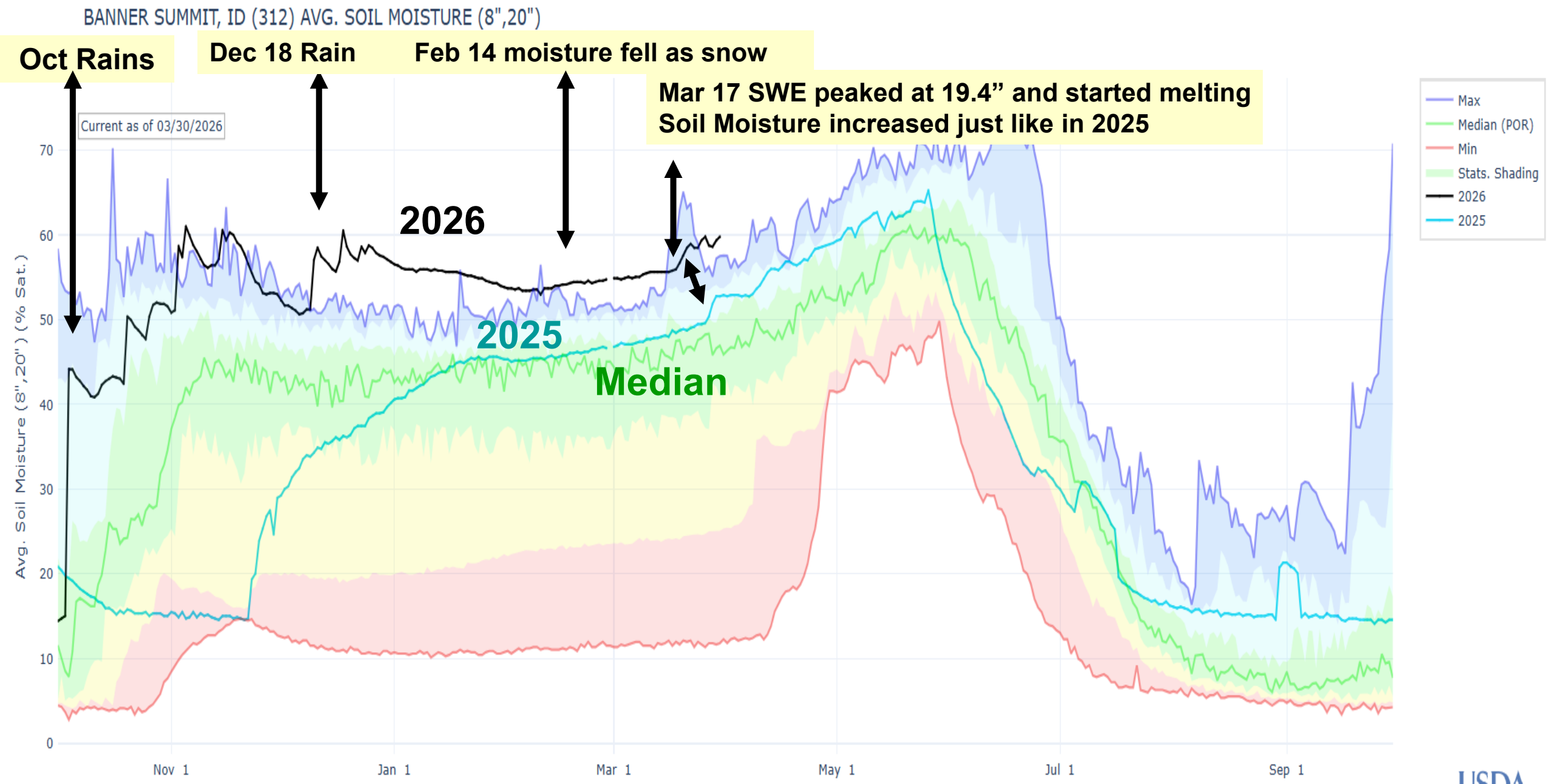
Banner Summit Snow 58% of Median



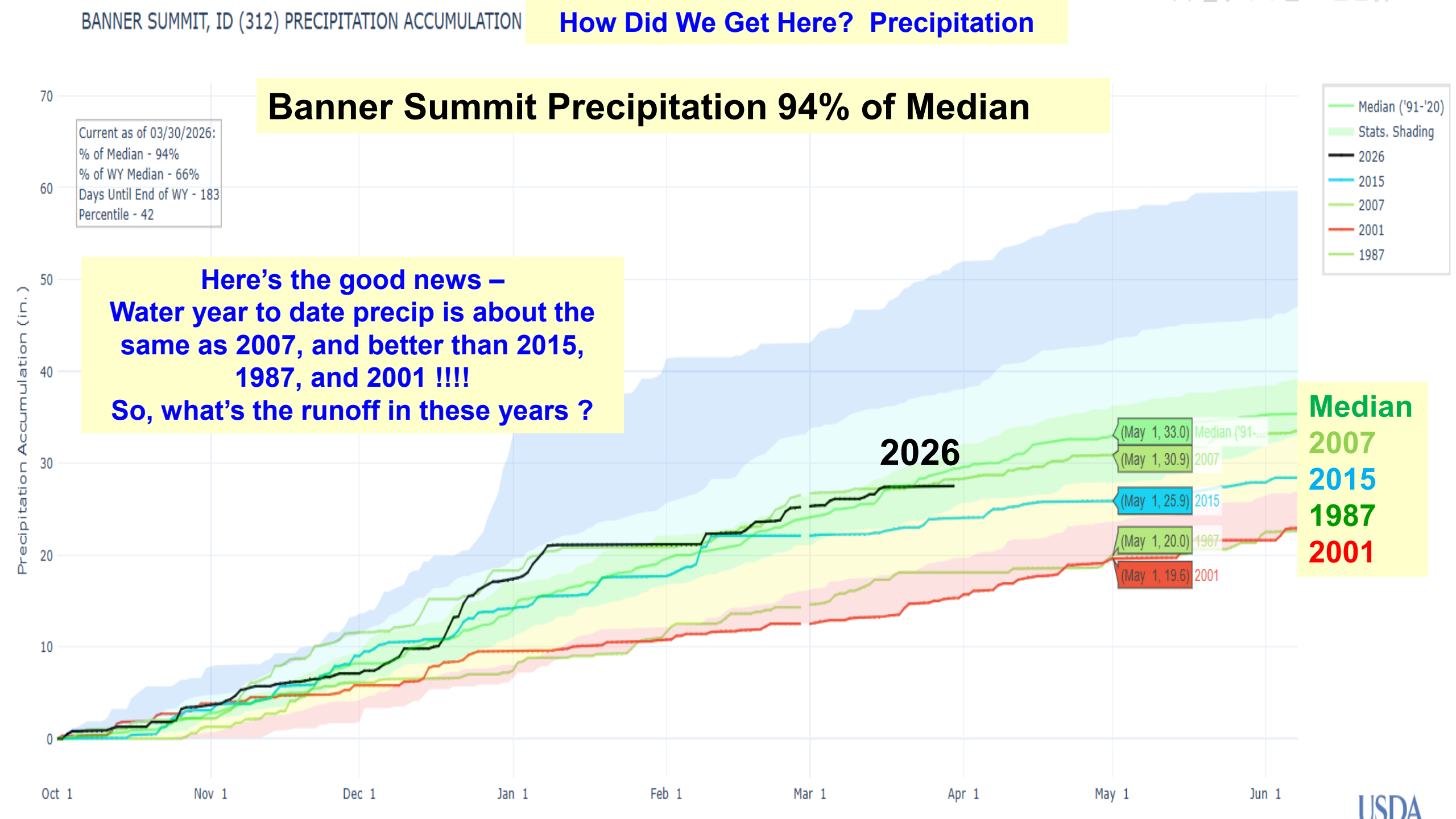
USDA

How Did We Get Here? Soil Moisture

October rains increased soil moisture in mountains around Banner Summit. Good for improving spring runoff conditions.

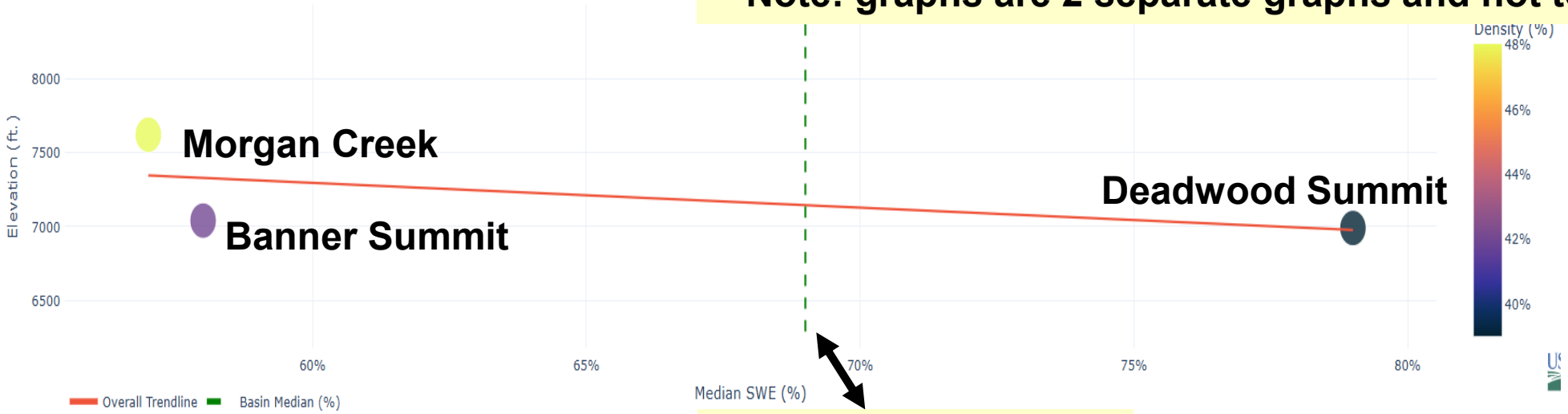


How Did We Get Here? Precipitation



Where's the snow by elevation in the Salmon Basin - Mar 30, 2026

Note: graphs are 2 separate graphs and not to scale by Median %



Morgan Creek

Banner Summit

Deadwood Summit

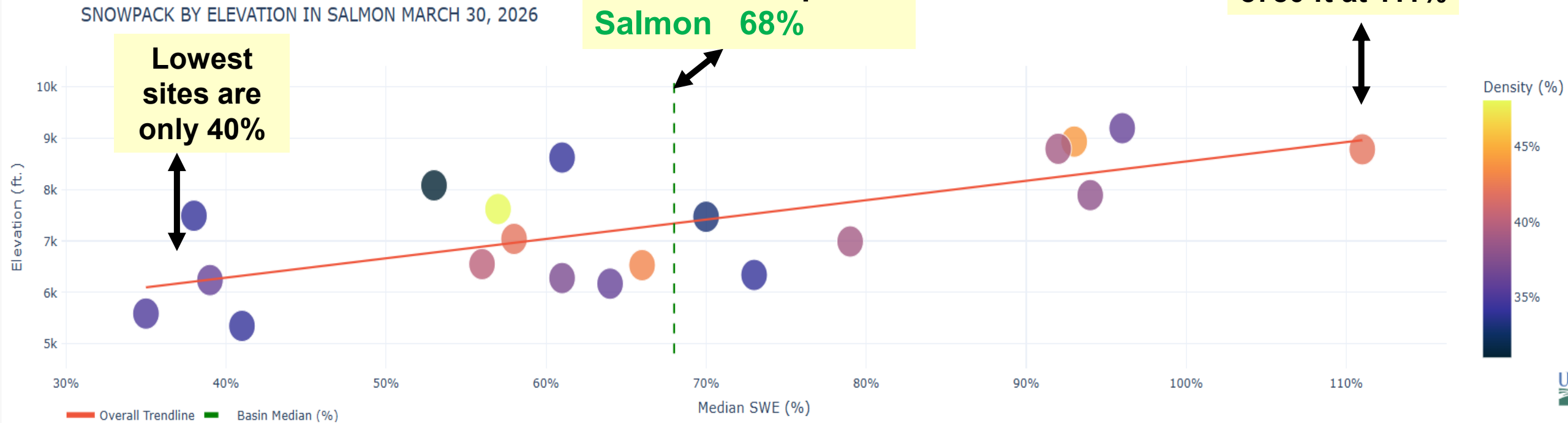
MF Salmon 69%

Overall Snowpack:

Salmon 68%

Mill Creek is 8780 ft at 111%

Lowest sites are only 40%



Snow2Flow - Banner Summit & MF Salmon River

MF SALMON RIVER AND BANNER SUMMIT SNOTEL SITE
Discharge Data Years used in analysis: 1981, 1999 - 2016
Gage Height Data Years used in analysis: 1982 -1984, 1986, 1988 -1998

Using combined DISCHARGE and GAGE HEIGHT years, on average, peak streamflow for the MF Salmon at MF Lodge near Yellow Pine Idaho occurs when Banner Summit SNOTEL is between **66 and 90%** melted.

Summary of combined DISCHARGE and GAGE HEIGHT years categorized by max SWE magnitude.

Max SWE Category	Max SWE Magnitude (inches)	Number of Years in Analysis	**Average percent melted at time of peak streamflow**
Below average	<21	9	**90**
Average	20 – 31	16	**61**
Above average	>30	9	**66**

Note - this analysis uses all years available and did not eliminate potential non-snowmelt peaks

Using DISCHARGE ONLY years, on average, peak streamflow for the MF Salmon at MF Lodge near Yellow Pine Idaho occurs when Banner Summit SNOTEL is between **64 and 81%** melted.

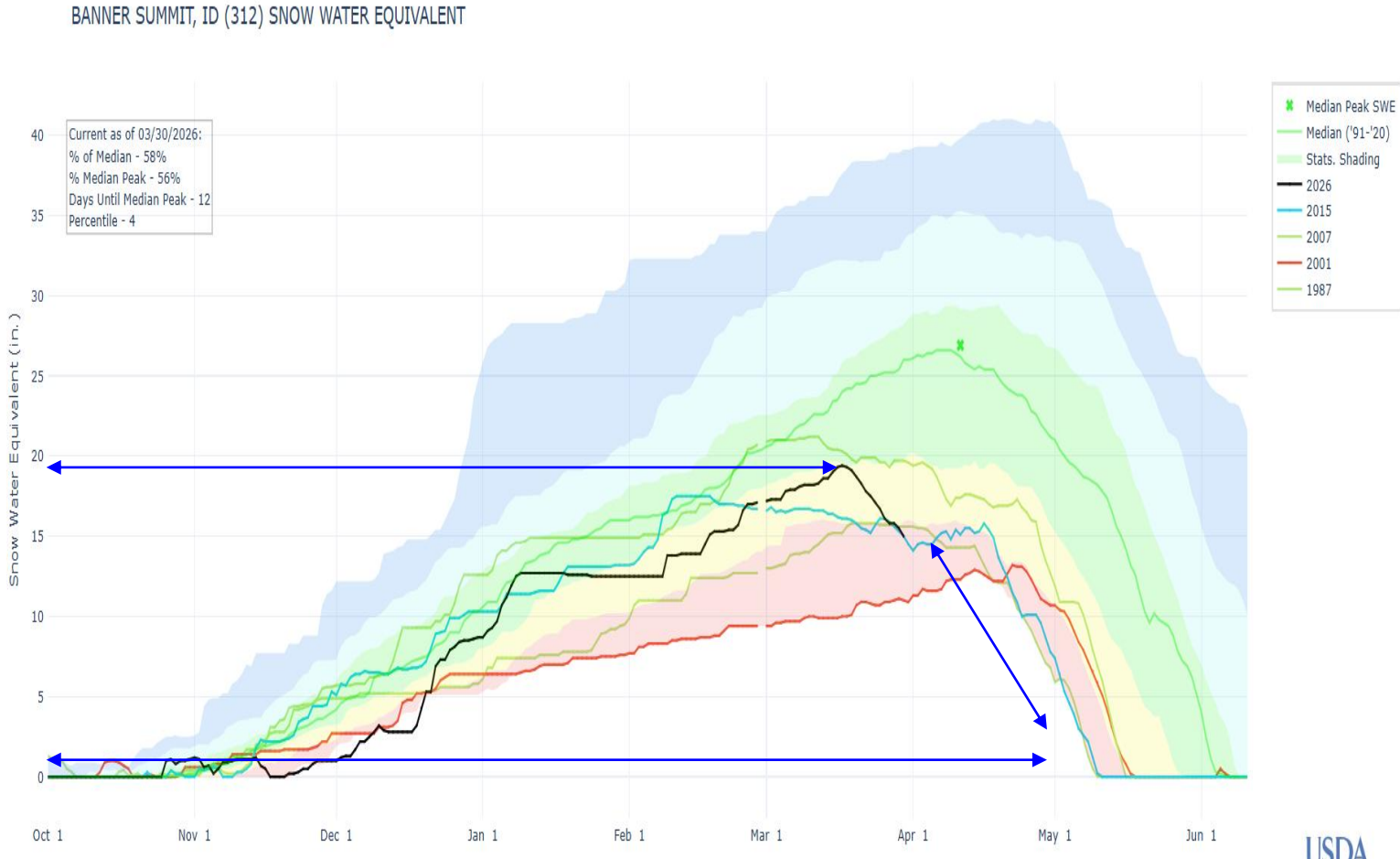
Snowmelt Snow2Flow Projection was correct for 2024 & 2023, and 4 days early for 2025.

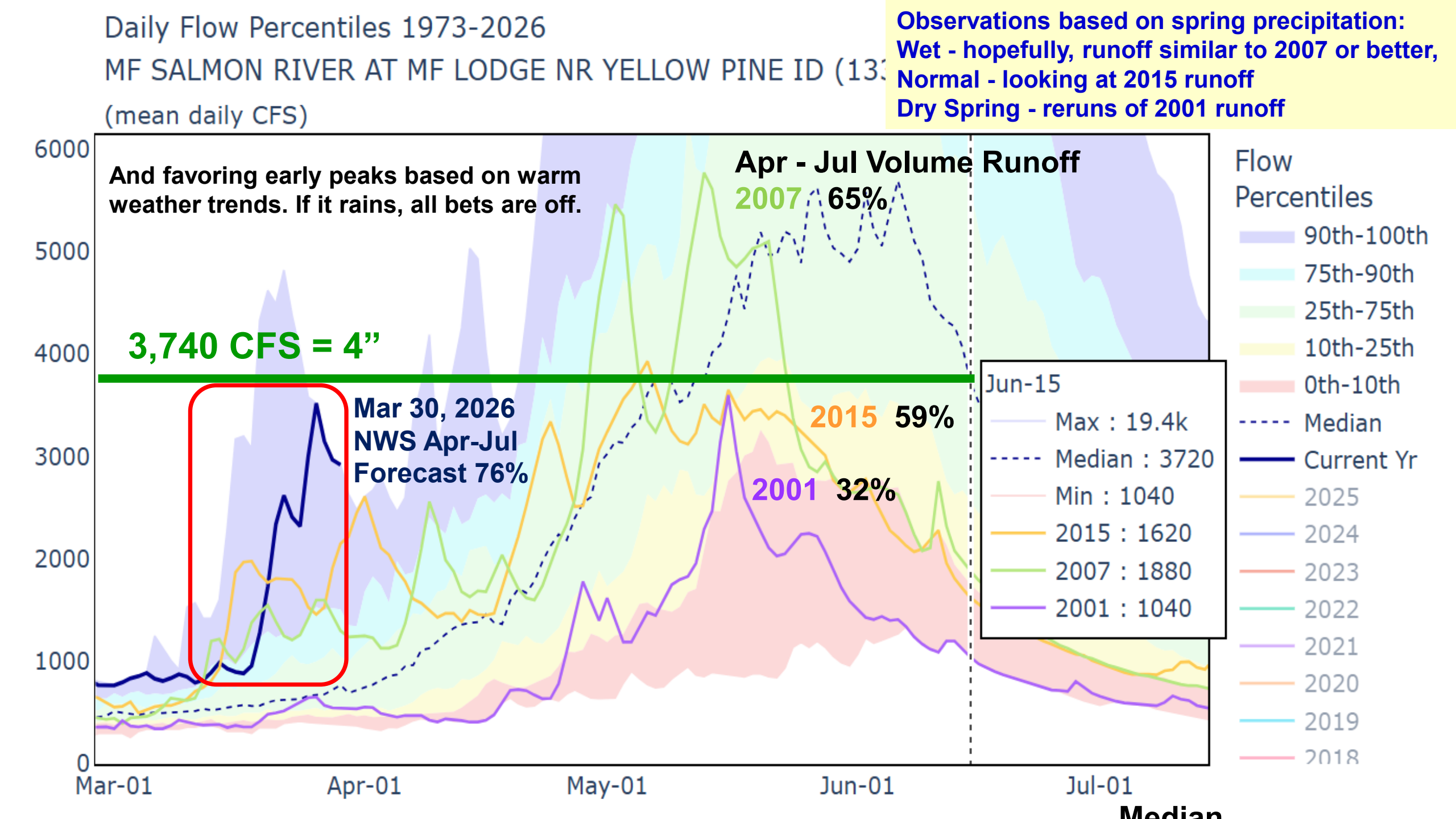
This week's storm will stop melt, add 1-2" of SWE to the pack, and push melt out a bit which is needed.

Often, we can learn from the Owhyee River runoff by watching the spring runoff to get a feel how other central/southern Idaho rivers may behave. Keep reading to see the Owyhee was a no peak this year and don't be surprised if early peaks happens elsewhere.

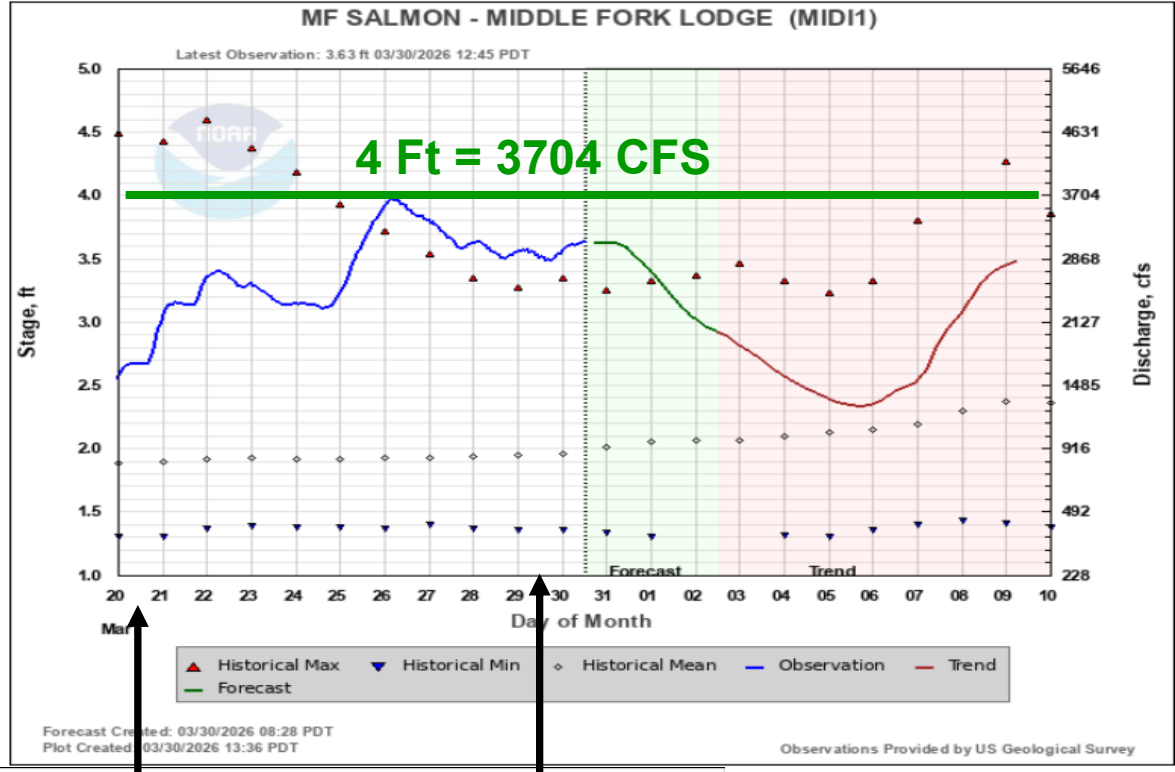
MF Salmon River Snowmelt Peak occurs when Banner is about 90% melted when peak SWE is <20"

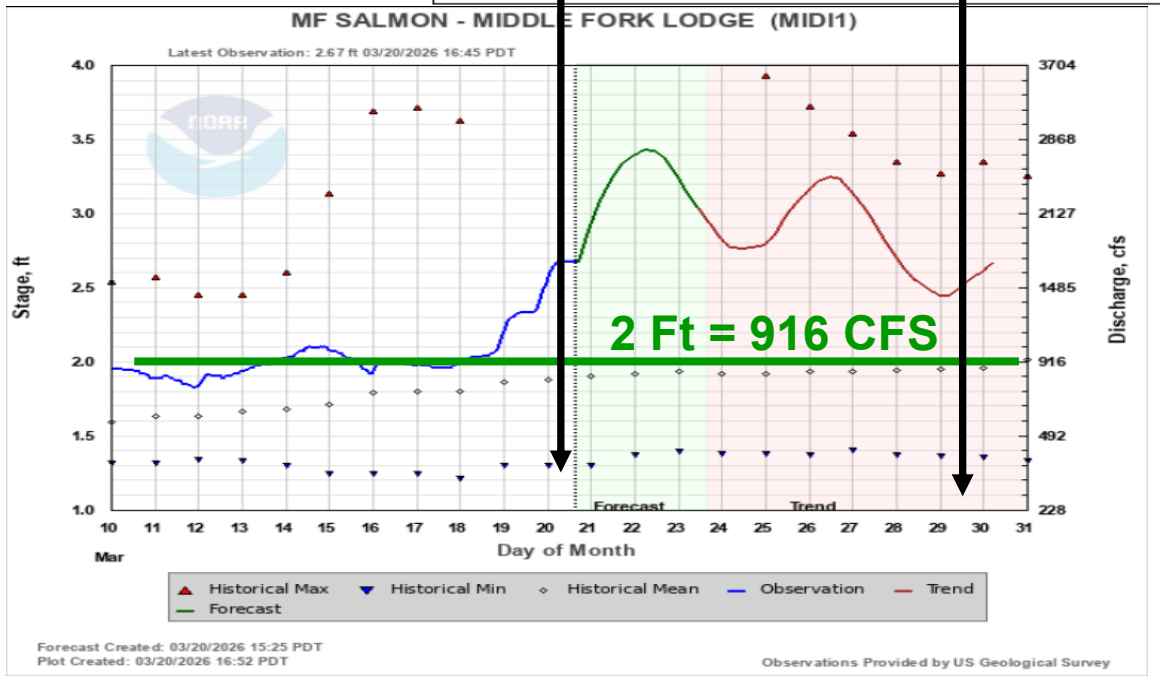
So far… 2026 Banner Summit peak SWE is/was 19.4" on Mar 17. That means snowmelt peak flow may occur when 2" of SWE remains without another SWE peak. Future weather will drive melt rates and determine when the snowmelt peak occurs. Rain will produce multiple peaks.

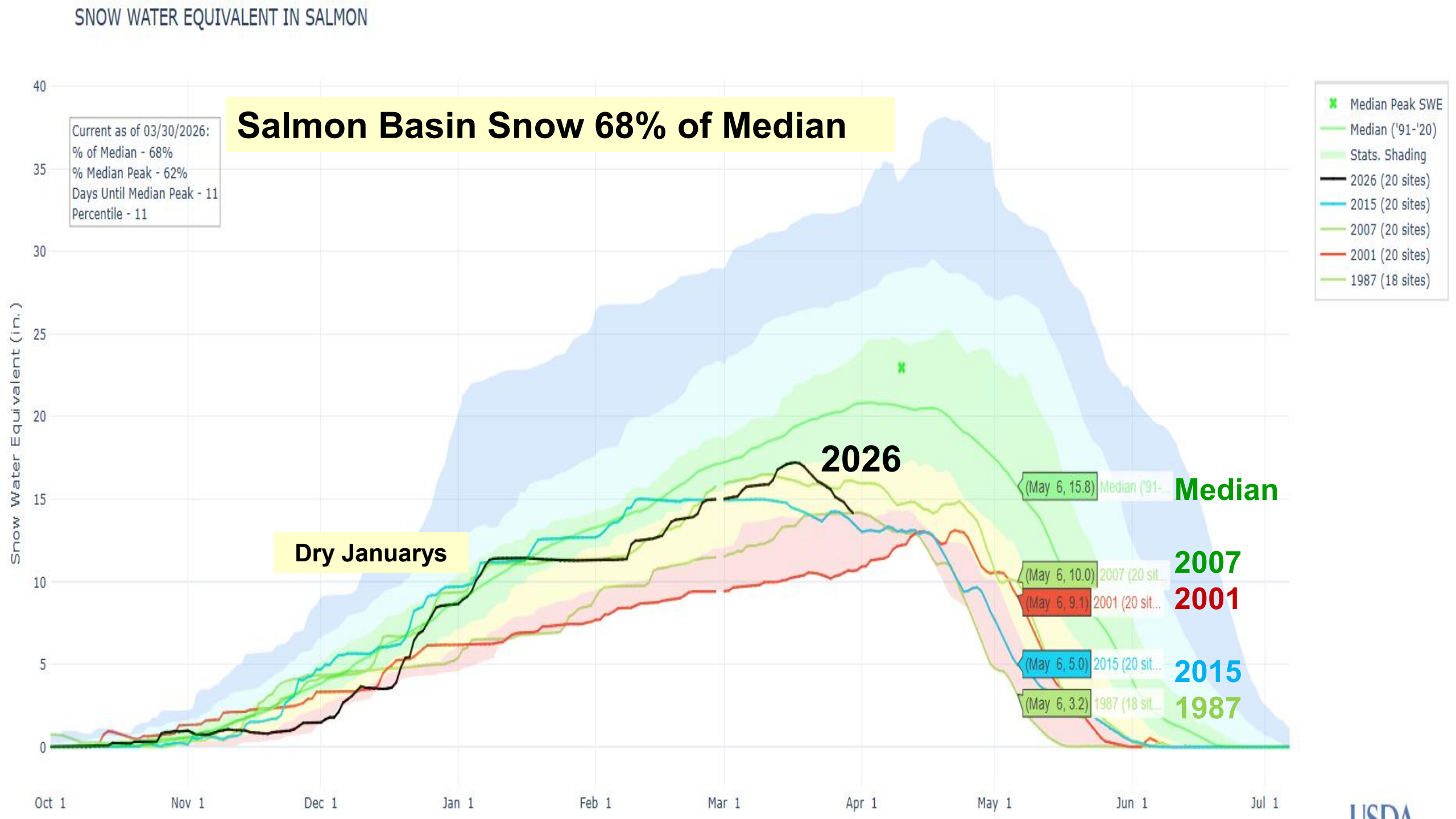


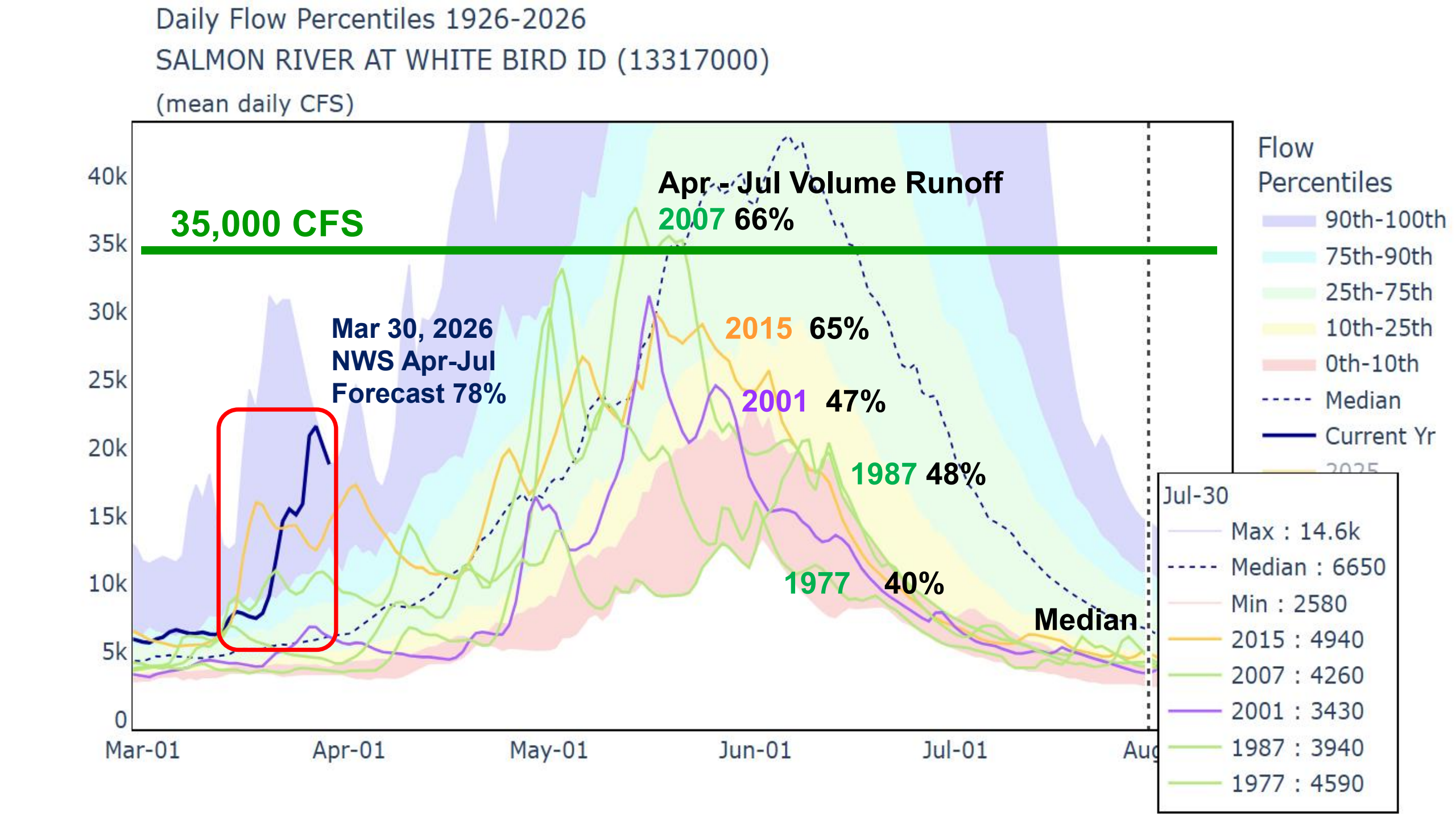

Daily Flow Percentiles 1973-2026
MF SALMON RIVER AT MF LODGE NR YELLOW PINE ID (13
(mean daily CFS)
Observations based on spring precipitation:
Wet - hopefully, runoff similar to 2007 or better,
Normal - looking at 2015 runoff
Dry Spring - reruns of 2001 runoff
And favoring early peaks based on warm weather trends. If it rains, all bets are off.
Apr - Jul Volume Runoff
2007 65%
3,740 CFS = 4”
Mar 30, 2026
NWS Apr-Jul
Forecast 76%
2015 59%
2001 32%
Jun-15
Max : 19.4k
Median : 3720
Min : 1040
2015 : 1620
2007 : 1880
2001 : 1040
Flow Percentiles
90th-100th
75th-90th
25th-75th
10th-25th
0th-10th
Median
Current Yr
2025
2024
2023
2022
2021
2020
2019
2018
6000
5000
4000
3000
2000
1000
0
Mar-01
Apr-01
May-01
Jun-01
Jul-01
Median

MF Salmon River Forecast & Trend for Mar 30 and Mar 20 to see future trends and how model preformed last week.



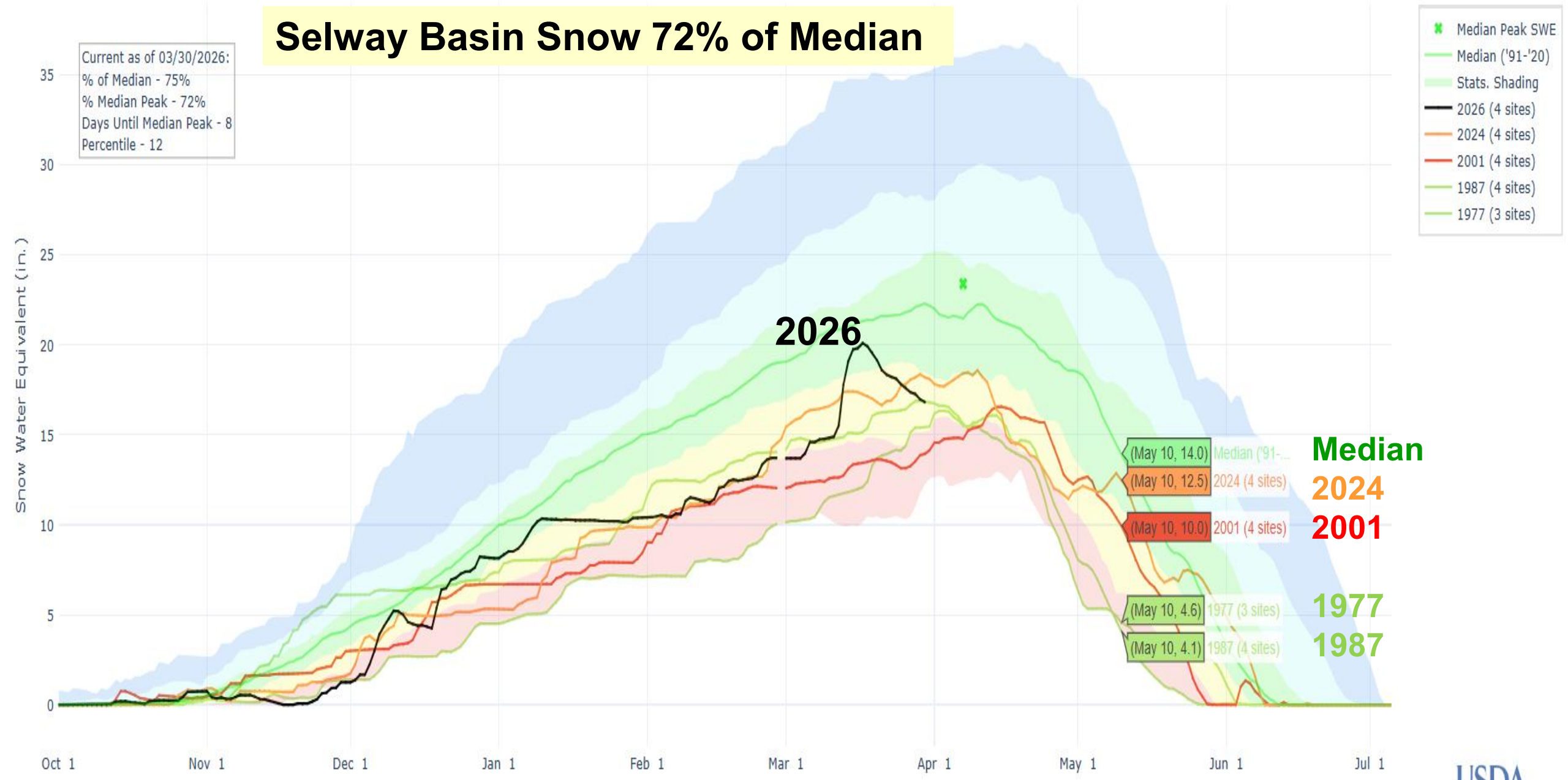



SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN SALMON
Salmon Basin Snow 68% of Median
Current as of 03/30/2026:
% of Median - 68%
% Median Peak - 62%
Days Until Median Peak - 11
Percentile - 11
Median Peak SWE
Median ('91-'20)
Stats. Shading
2026 (20 sites)
2015 (20 sites)
2007 (20 sites)
2001 (20 sites)
1987 (18 sites)
Snow Water Equivalent (in.)
40
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
Oct 1
Nov 1
Dec 1
Jan 1
Feb 1
Mar 1
Apr 1
May 1
Jun 1
Jul 1
2026
Dry Januarys
(May 6, 15.8) Median ('91-...
Median
(May 6, 10.0) 2007 (20 sit...
2007
(May 6, 9.1) 2001 (20 sit...
2001
(May 6, 5.0) 2015 (20 sit...
2015
(May 6, 3.2) 1987 (18 sit...
1987

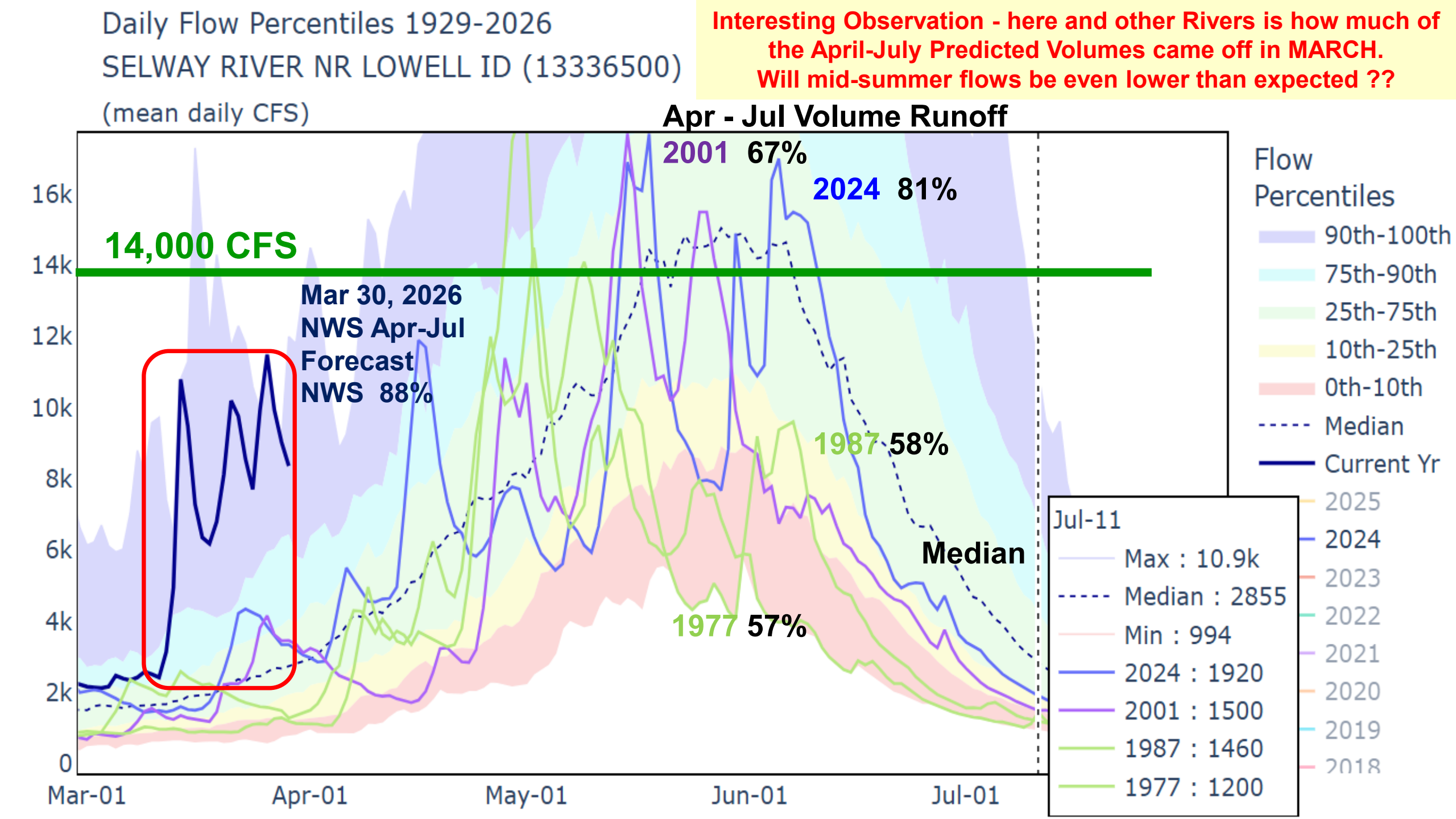

Daily Flow Percentiles 1926-2026
SALMON RIVER AT WHITE BIRD ID (13317000)
(mean daily CFS)
40k
35k
30k
25k
20k
15k
10k
5k
0
Mar-01
Apr-01
May-01
Jun-01
Jul-01
35,000 CFS
Apr - Jul Volume Runoff
2007 66%
2015 65%
2001 47%
1987 48%
1977 40%
Median
Mar 30, 2026
NWS Apr-Jul
Forecast 78%
Flow
Percentiles
90th-100th
75th-90th
25th-75th
10th-25th
0th-10th
Median
Current Yr
Jul-30
Max : 14.6k
Median : 6650
Min : 2580
2015 : 4940
2007 : 4260
2001 : 3430
1987 : 3940
1977 : 4590

SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN SELWAY

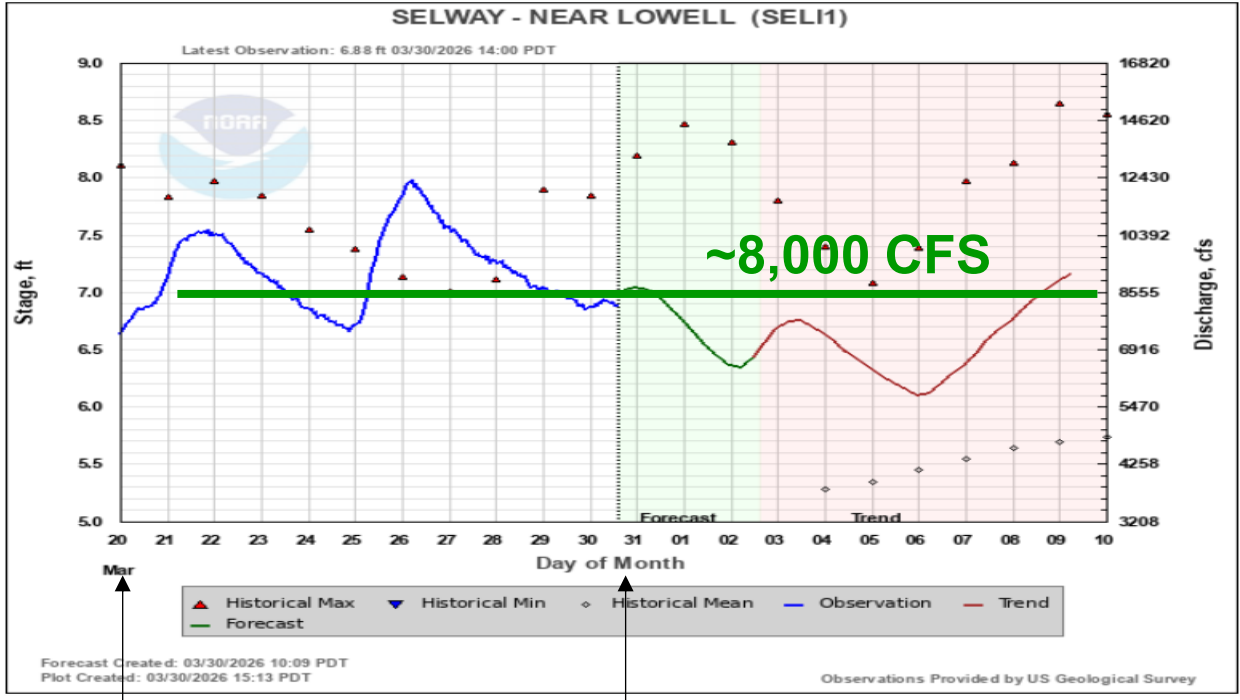
Selway Basin Snow 72% of Median

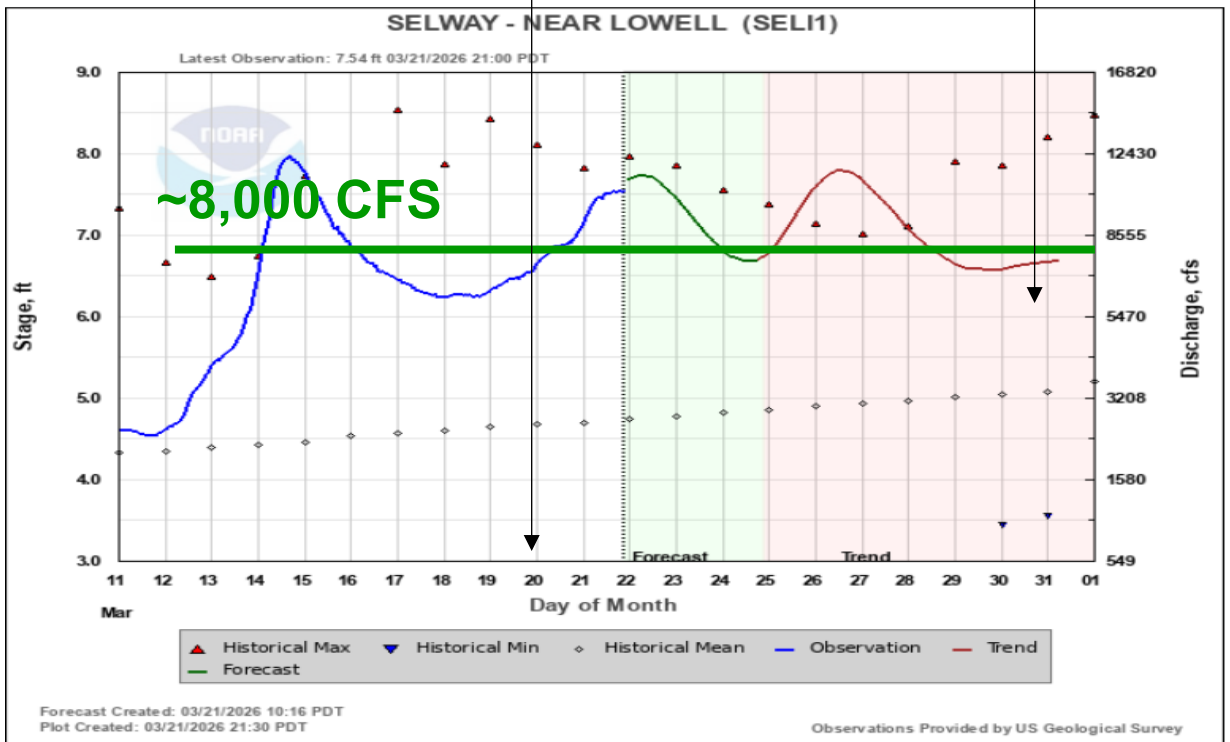


USDA


Daily Flow Percentiles 1929-2026
SELWAY RIVER NR LOWELL ID (13336500)
(mean daily CFS)
Interesting Observation - here and other Rivers is how much of the April-July Predicted Volumes came off in MARCH.
Will mid-summer flows be even lower than expected ??
Apr - Jul Volume Runoff
2001 67%
2024 81%
14,000 CFS
Mar 30, 2026
NWS Apr-Jul
Forecast
NWS 88%
1987 58%
Median
1977 57%
16k
14k
12k
10k
8k
6k
4k
2k
0
Mar-01
Apr-01
May-01
Jun-01
Jul-01
Flow Percentiles
90th-100th
75th-90th
25th-75th
10th-25th
0th-10th
Median
Current Yr
2025
2024
2023
2022
2021
2020
2019
2018
Jul-11
Max : 10.9k
Median : 2855
Min : 994
2024 : 1920
2001 : 1500
1987 : 1460
1977 : 1200

Selway River





GRAND TARGHEE, WY (1082) SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT

TETON RIVER AND GRAND TARGHEE SNOTEL SITE

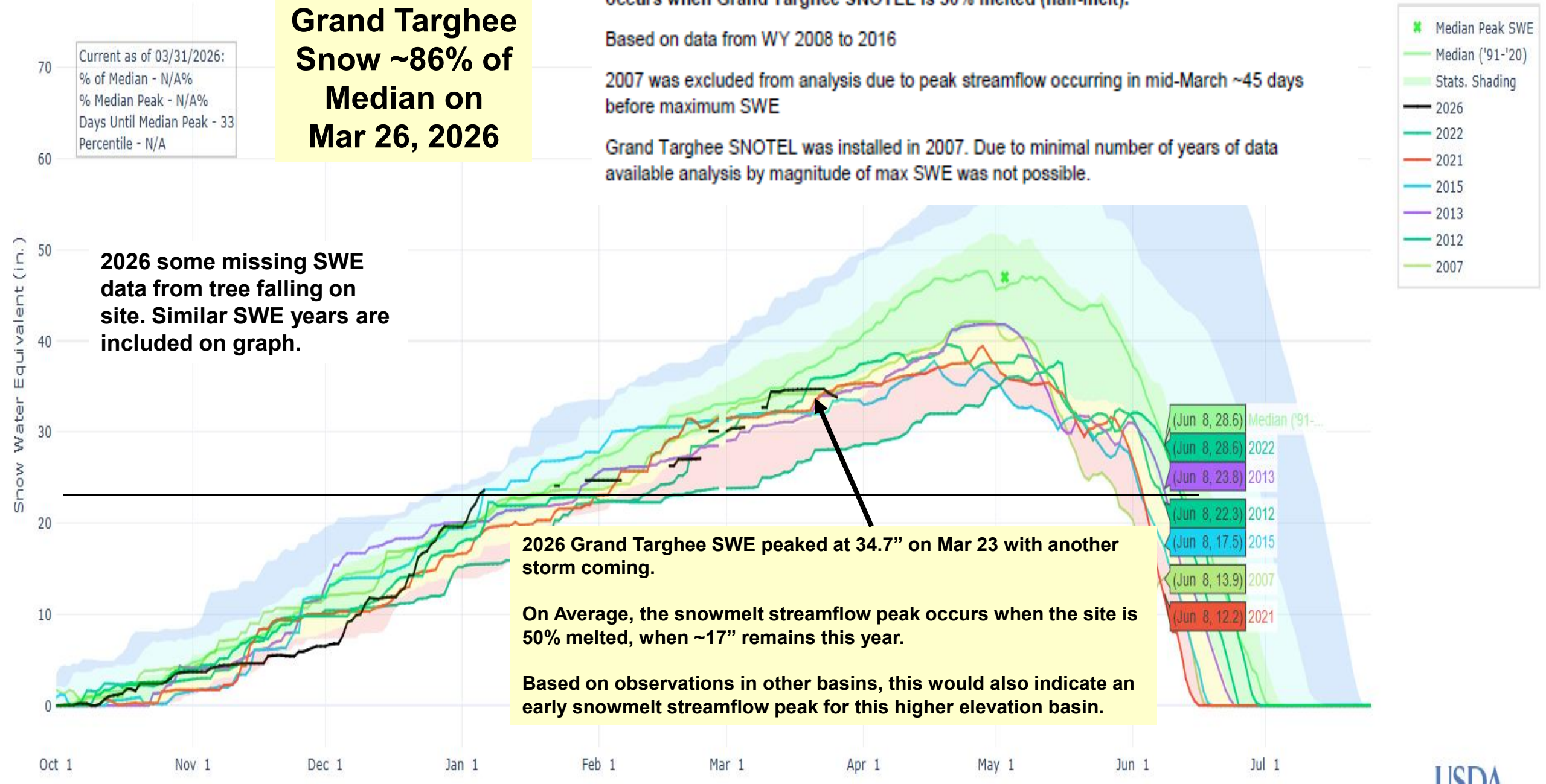
On average, peak streamflow for the Teton River above Leigh Creek near Driggs, Idaho occurs when Grand Targhee SNOTEL is 50% melted (half-melt).

Based on data from WY 2008 to 2016

2007 was excluded from analysis due to peak streamflow occurring in mid-March ~45 days before maximum SWE

Grand Targhee SNOTEL was installed in 2007. Due to minimal number of years of data available analysis by magnitude of max SWE was not possible.

Grand Targhee Snow ~86% of Median on Mar 26, 2026

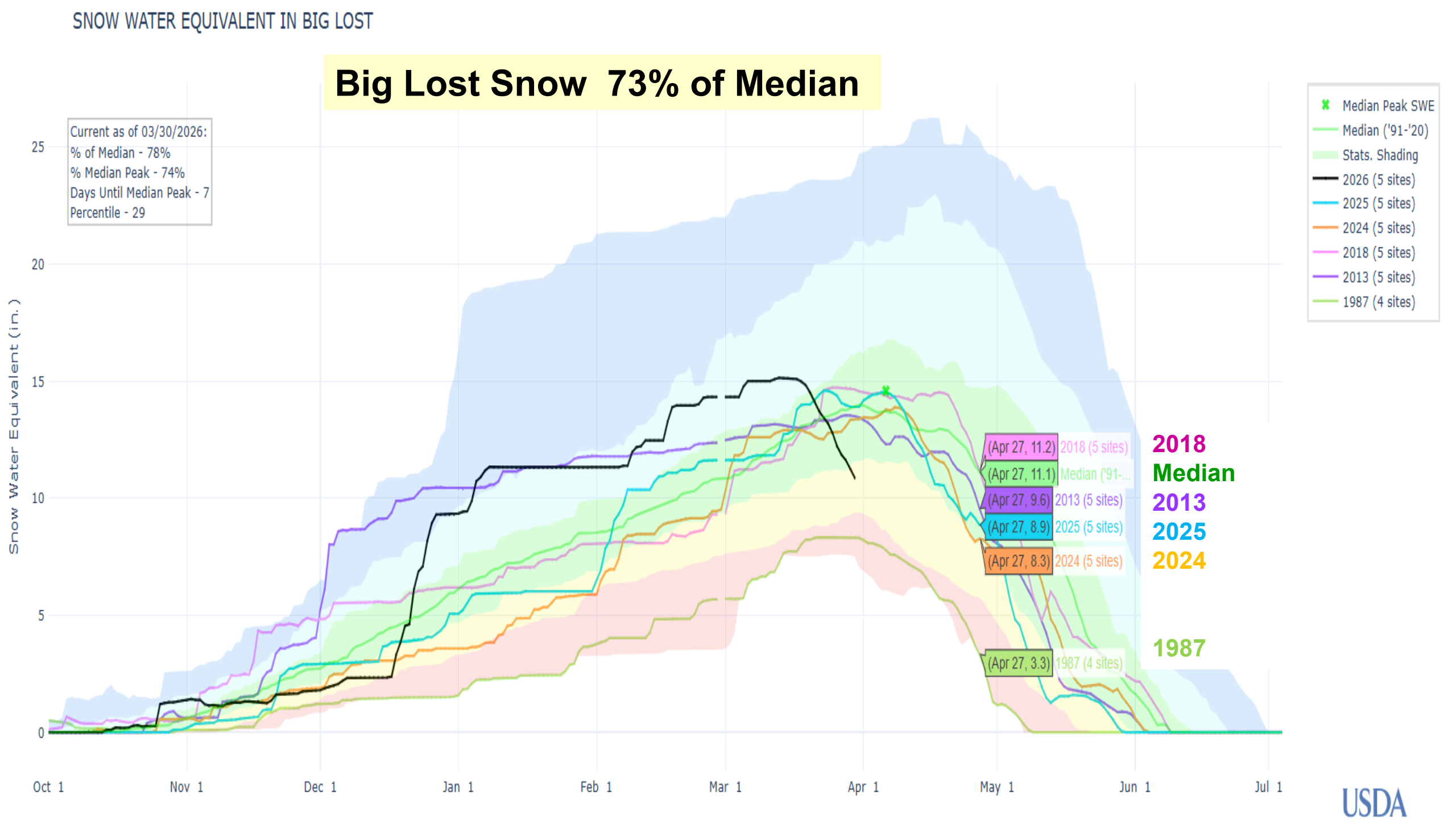


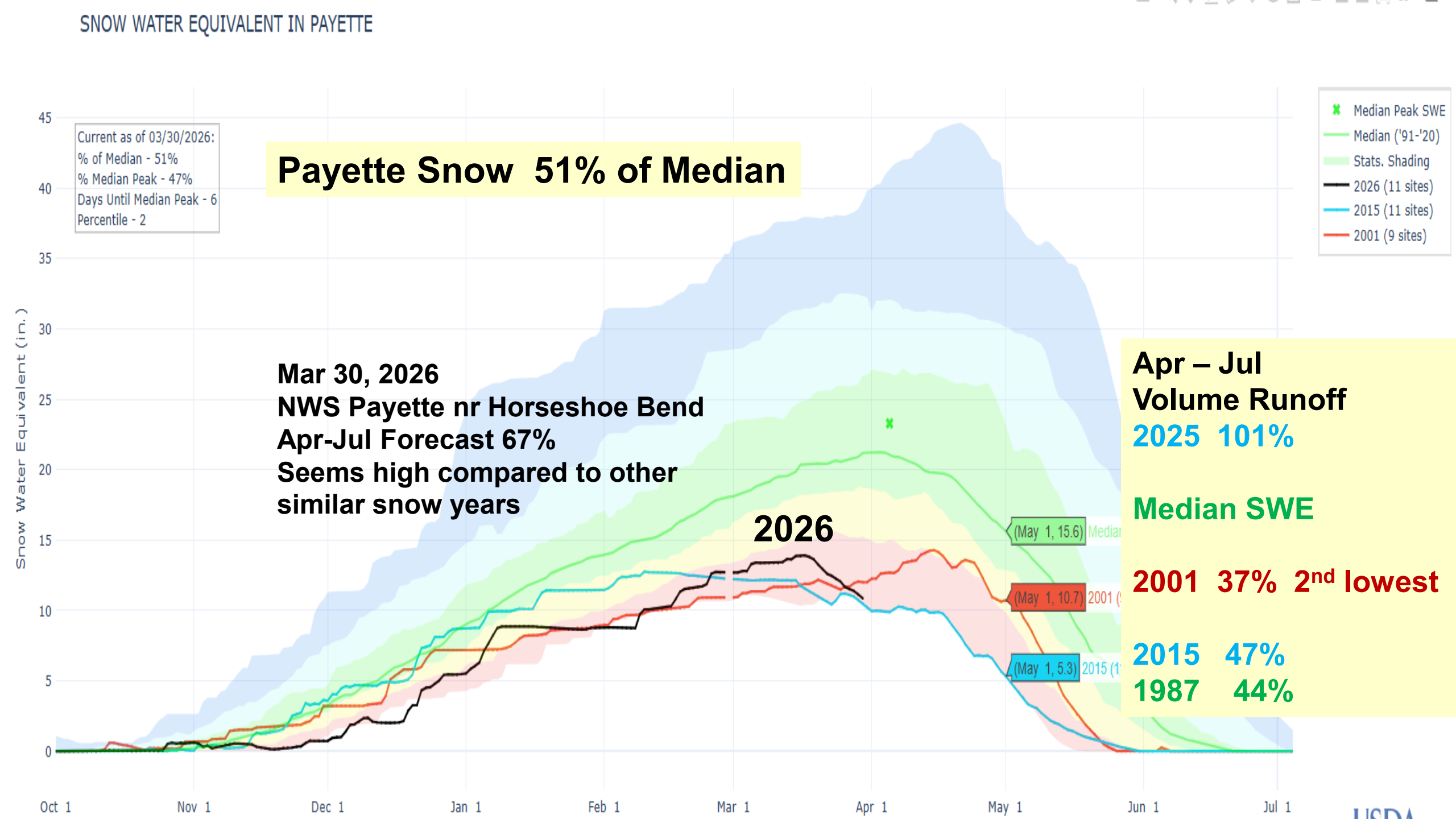
2026 some missing SWE data from tree falling on site. Similar SWE years are included on graph.

2026 Grand Targhee SWE peaked at 34.7” on Mar 23 with another storm coming.

On Average, the snowmelt streamflow peak occurs when the site is 50% melted, when ~17” remains this year.

Based on observations in other basins, this would also indicate an early snowmelt streamflow peak for this higher elevation basin.


SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN BIG LOST
Big Lost Snow 73% of Median
Current as of 03/30/2026:
% of Median - 78%
% Median Peak - 74%
Days Until Median Peak - 7
Percentile - 29
Median Peak SWE
Median ('91-'20)
Stats. Shading
2026 (5 sites)
2025 (5 sites)
2024 (5 sites)
2018 (5 sites)
2013 (5 sites)
1987 (4 sites)
Snow Water Equivalent (in.)
25
20
15
10
5
0
Oct 1
Nov 1
Dec 1
Jan 1
Feb 1
Mar 1
Apr 1
May 1
Jun 1
Jul 1
(Apr 27, 11.2) 2018 (5 sites)
(Apr 27, 11.1) Median ('91-...
(Apr 27, 9.6) 2013 (5 sites)
(Apr 27, 8.9) 2025 (5 sites)
(Apr 27, 8.3) 2024 (5 sites)
(Apr 27, 3.3) 1987 (4 sites)
2018
Median
2013
2025
2024
1987
USDA


SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN PAYETTE
Current as of 03/30/2026:
% of Median - 51%
% Median Peak - 47%
Days Until Median Peak - 6
Percentile - 2
Payette Snow 51% of Median
Median Peak SWE
Median ('91-'20)
Stats. Shading
2026 (11 sites)
2015 (11 sites)
2001 (9 sites)
Snow Water Equivalent (in.)
45
40
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
Mar 30, 2026
NWS Payette nr Horseshoe Bend
Apr-Jul Forecast 67%
Seems high compared to other
similar snow years
2026
(May 1, 15.6)
(May 1, 10.7) 2001
(May 1, 5.3) 2015
Apr – Jul
Volume Runoff
2025 101%
Median SWE
2001 37% 2nd lowest
2015 47%
1987 44%
Oct 1
Nov 1
Dec 1
Jan 1
Feb 1
Mar 1
Apr 1
May 1
Jun 1
Jul 1

PHILLIPS BENCH, WY (689) SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT

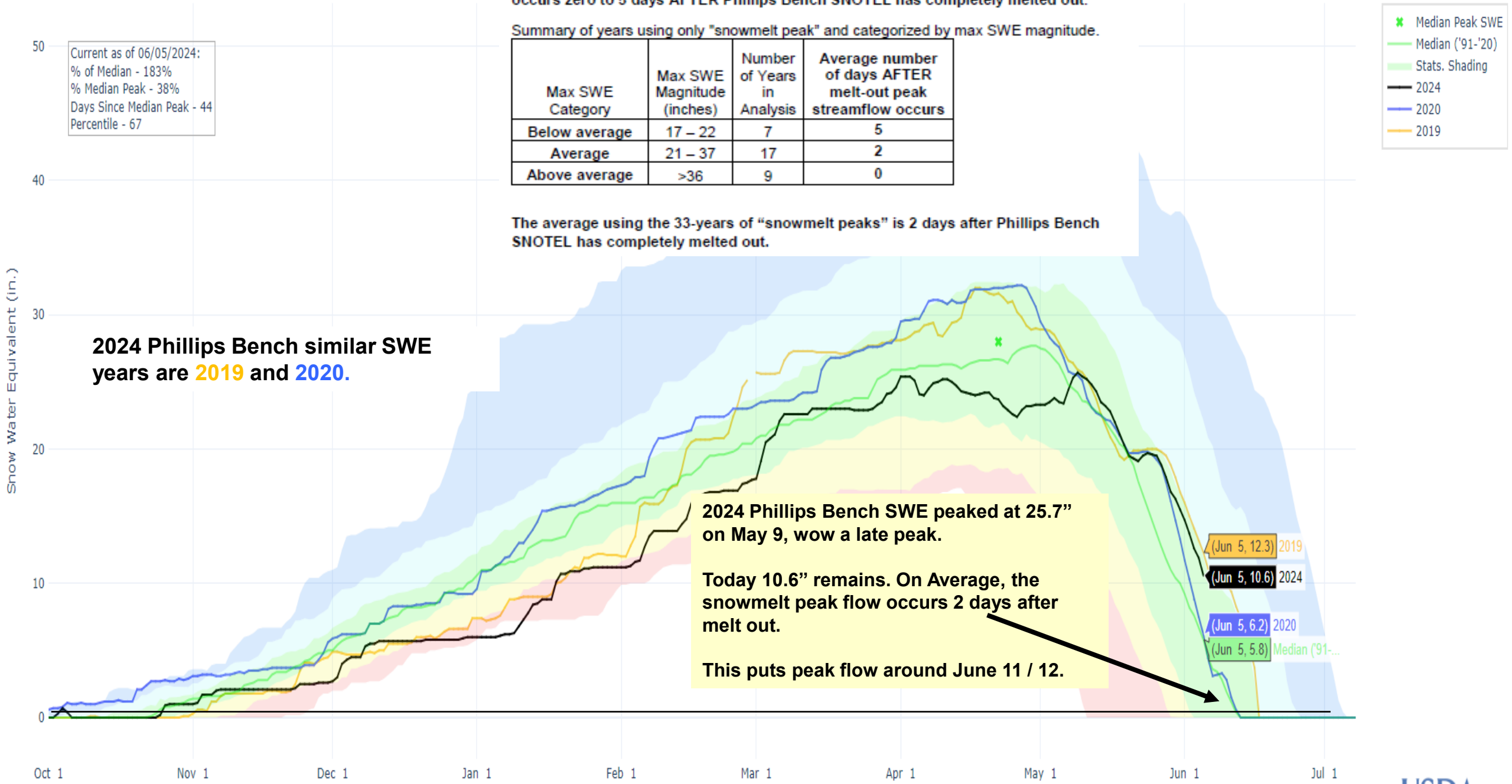
TETON RIVER AND PHILLIPS BENCH SNOTEL SITE

On average, peak streamflow for the Teton River above Leigh Creek near Driggs, Idaho occurs zero to 5 days AFTER Phillips Bench SNOTEL has completely melted out.

Summary of years using only "snowmelt peak" and categorized by max SWE magnitude.

Max SWE Category	Max SWE Magnitude (inches)	Number of Years in Analysis	Average number of days AFTER melt-out peak streamflow occurs
Below average	17 – 22	7	5
Average	21 – 37	17	2
Above average	>36	9	0

The average using the 33-years of "snowmelt peaks" is 2 days after Phillips Bench SNOTEL has completely melted out.

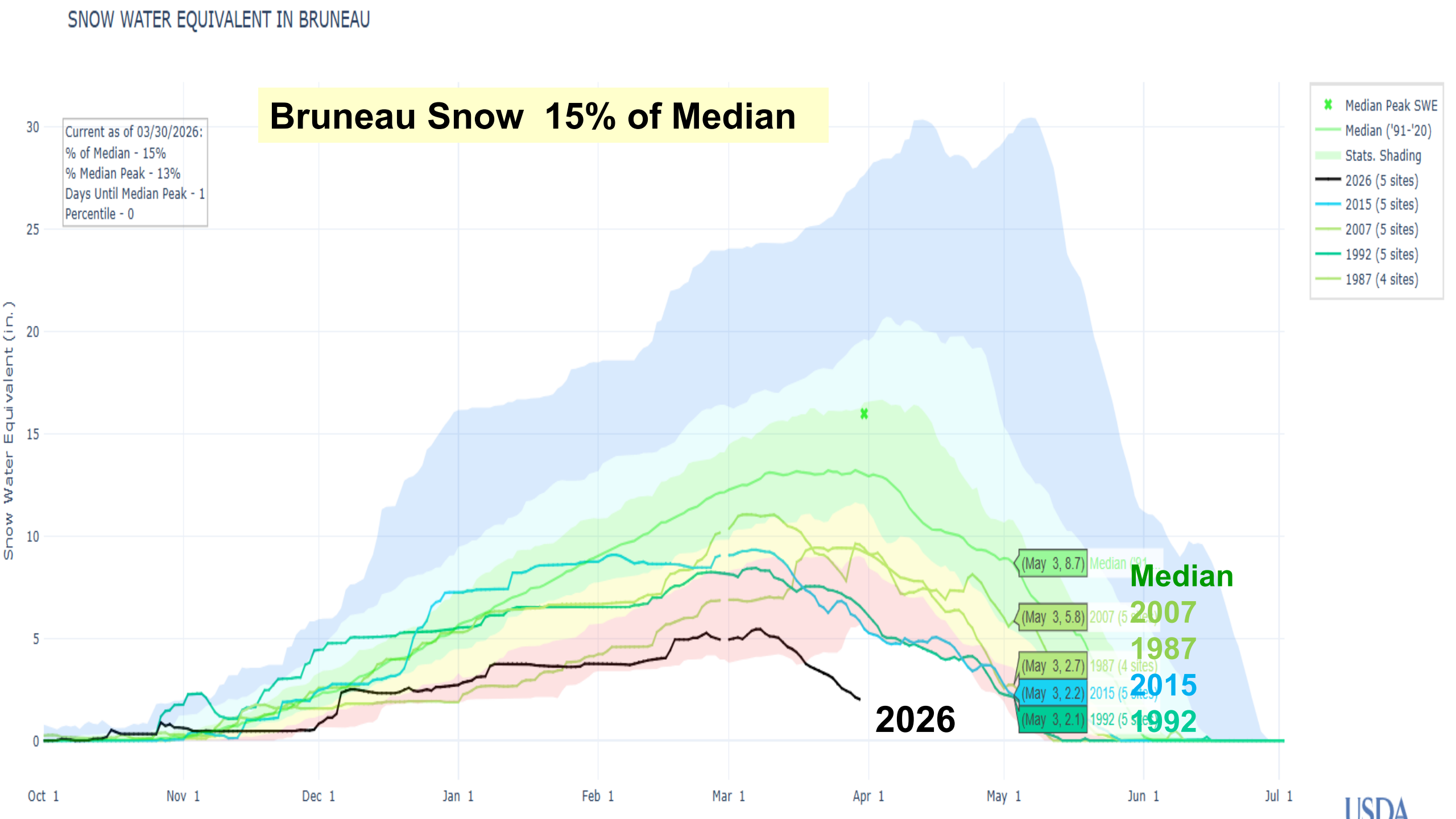


2024 Phillips Bench similar SWE years are 2019 and 2020.

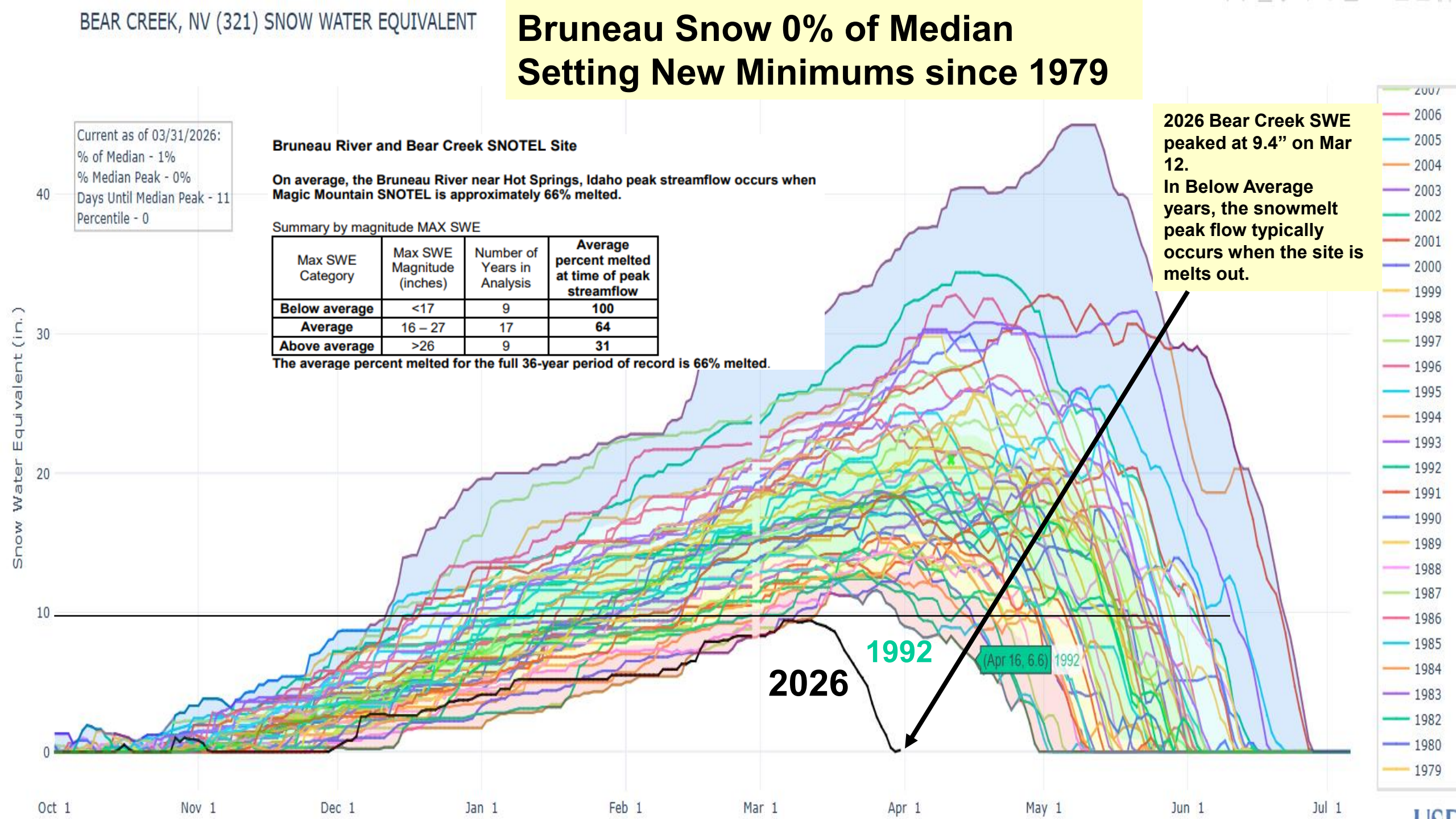
2024 Phillips Bench SWE peaked at 25.7" on May 9, wow a late peak.

Today 10.6" remains. On Average, the snowmelt peak flow occurs 2 days after melt out.

This puts peak flow around June 11 / 12.


SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN BRUNEAU
Bruneau Snow 15% of Median
Current as of 03/30/2026:
% of Median - 15%
% Median Peak - 13%
Days Until Median Peak - 1
Percentile - 0
Median Peak SWE
Median ('91-'20)
Stats. Shading
2026 (5 sites)
2015 (5 sites)
2007 (5 sites)
1992 (5 sites)
1987 (4 sites)
Snow Water Equivalent (in.)
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
Oct 1
Nov 1
Dec 1
Jan 1
Feb 1
Mar 1
Apr 1
May 1
Jun 1
Jul 1
(May 3, 8.7) Median ('91
(May 3, 5.8) 2007 (5 sites)
(May 3, 2.7) 1987 (4 sites)
(May 3, 2.2) 2015 (5 sites)
(May 3, 2.1) 1992 (5 sites)
Median
2007
1987
2015
1992
2026
USDA

Bruneau Snow 0% of Median Setting New Minimums since 1979



Daily Flow Percentiles 1943-2026

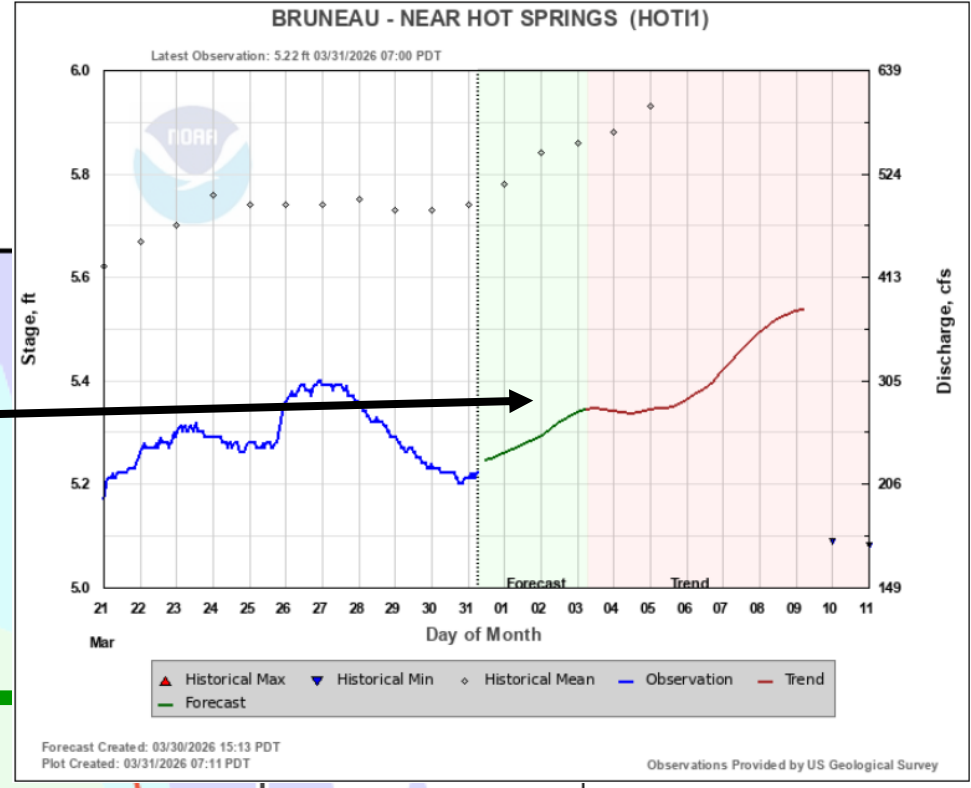
BRUNEAU RIVER NR HOT SPRING ID (13168500)

(mean daily CFS)

Was that the snowmelt peak we just saw or will flow gradual increase as Forecast/Trend shows ??

1000 CFS

Mar 31, 2026 Bruneau River NWS Apr-Jul Forecast 23%



1600 1400 1200 1000 800 600 400 200 0

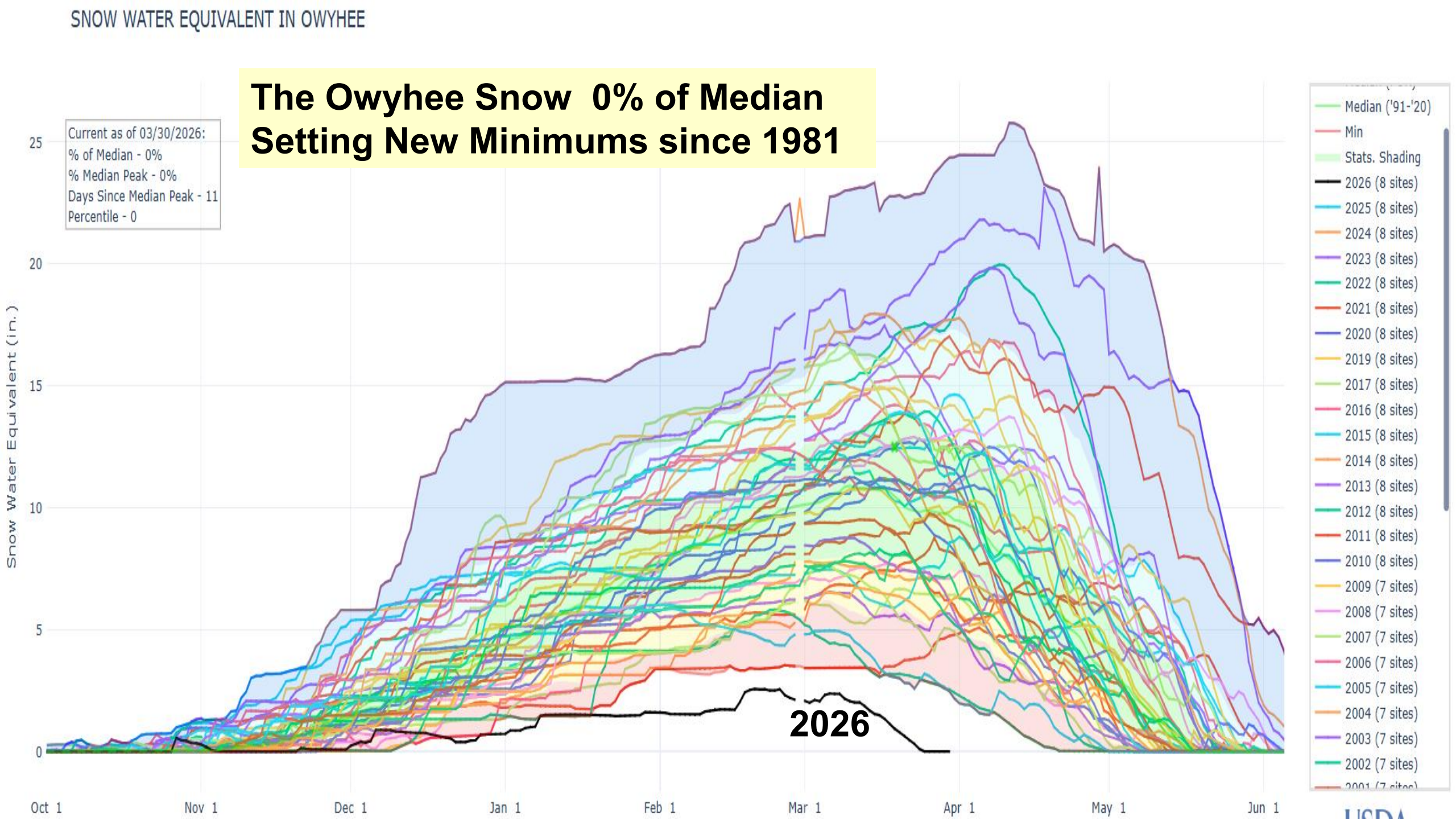
Mar-01 Apr-01 May-01 Jun-01 Jul-01

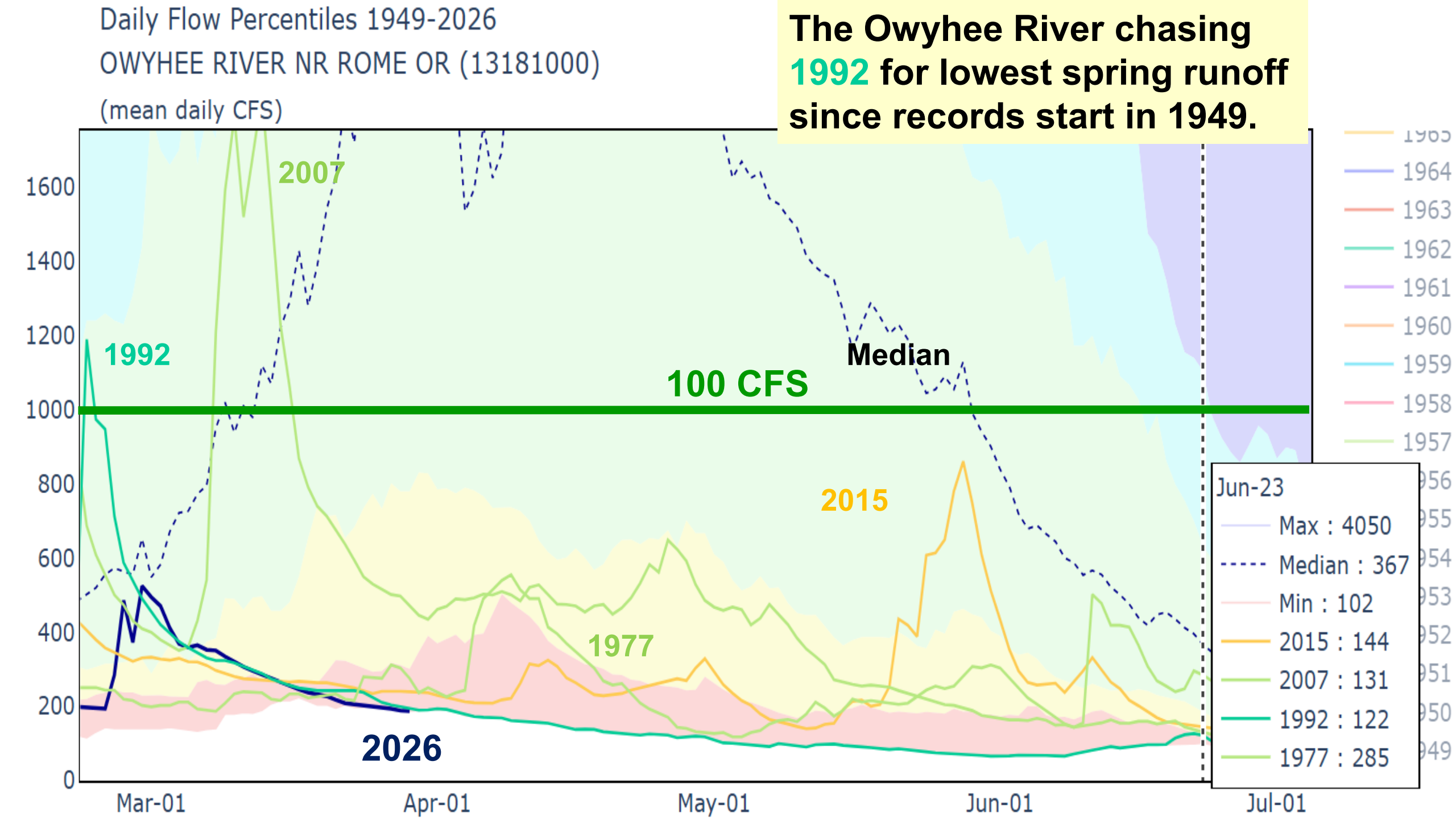
Current Yr
2025
2024

Jul-11
Max : 1270
Median
Min :
2015
1992
1977
1963

Apr-Jul Volume Runoff

2015	50%
1992	22%
1977	51%
1963	131%


SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN OWYHEE
The Owyhee Snow 0% of Median
Setting New Minimums since 1981
Current as of 03/30/2026:
% of Median - 0%
% Median Peak - 0%
Days Since Median Peak - 11
Percentile - 0
Snow Water Equivalent (in.)
25
20
15
10
5
0
Oct 1
Nov 1
Dec 1
Jan 1
Feb 1
Mar 1
Apr 1
May 1
Jun 1
2026
Median ('91-'20)
Min
Stats. Shading
2026 (8 sites)
2025 (8 sites)
2024 (8 sites)
2023 (8 sites)
2022 (8 sites)
2021 (8 sites)
2020 (8 sites)
2019 (8 sites)
2017 (8 sites)
2016 (8 sites)
2015 (8 sites)
2014 (8 sites)
2013 (8 sites)
2012 (8 sites)
2011 (8 sites)
2010 (8 sites)
2009 (7 sites)
2008 (7 sites)
2007 (7 sites)
2006 (7 sites)
2005 (7 sites)
2004 (7 sites)
2003 (7 sites)
2002 (7 sites)


Daily Flow Percentiles 1949-2026
OWYHEE RIVER NR ROME OR (13181000)
(mean daily CFS)
The Owyhee River chasing 1992 for lowest spring runoff since records start in 1949.
2007
1992
Median
100 CFS
2015
1977
2026
1600
1400
1200
1000
800
600
400
200
0
Mar-01
Apr-01
May-01
Jun-01
Jul-01
1965
1964
1963
1962
1961
1960
1959
1958
1957
956
955
954
953
952
951
950
949
Jun-23
Max : 4050
Median : 367
Min : 102
2015 : 144
2007 : 131
1992 : 122
1977 : 285


Plug & Play
Have the Raft Ready when
your River is Running.