STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
PO Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600 • 360-407-6000

Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC)

Monday, August 11, 2025, 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Zoom: Click to join. (Call-in: 253.205.0468; Meeting ID: 876 1551 6506; Passcode: 676572)

Time a.m.	Topic	Lead
9:00 – 9:05	**Greetings and introductions** *Start the meeting*	**Heather Clements**, Web Coordinator, WRP
9:05 – 9:10	**Water Resources Program updates** *Information sharing*	**Ria Berns,** Program Manager, WRP
9:10 – 9:25	**Legal updates** *Information sharing*	**Stephen North,** ATG
9:25 – 9:35	**Rulemaking updates** *Information sharing*	**Danielle Gallatin,** Rule Development Lead, WRP
9:35– 9:55	**Policy updates** *Information sharing*	**Lola Flores,** Policy Program Manager **Samantha Long**, Dam Safety Manager
9:55 – 10:15	**Water Resources Program Implementation Plan Updates** *Information sharing*	**Lisa Reymann,** Program Planner, WRP
10:15 – 10:20	**Closing Q&A** *End of meeting*	**Heather Clements**, Web Coordinator, WRP

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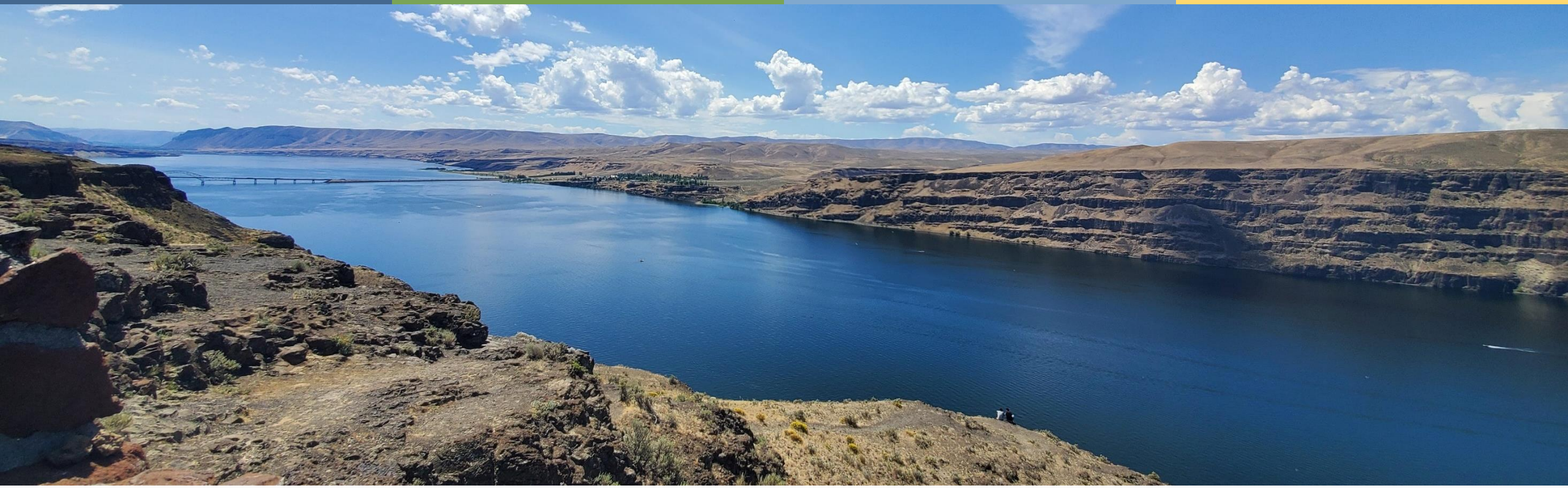
Committee Purpose

The Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) is a forum for issues related to water resources management in Washington state.

This membership represents state agencies, local governments, water utilities, tribes, environmental groups, consultants, law firms, and other water stakeholders. Typical discussion topics include rules, policies, legislation, budget development, and litigation. The group was established in 1996.

Resources

WRAC Website: Water Resources Advisory Committee - WA State Department of Ecology



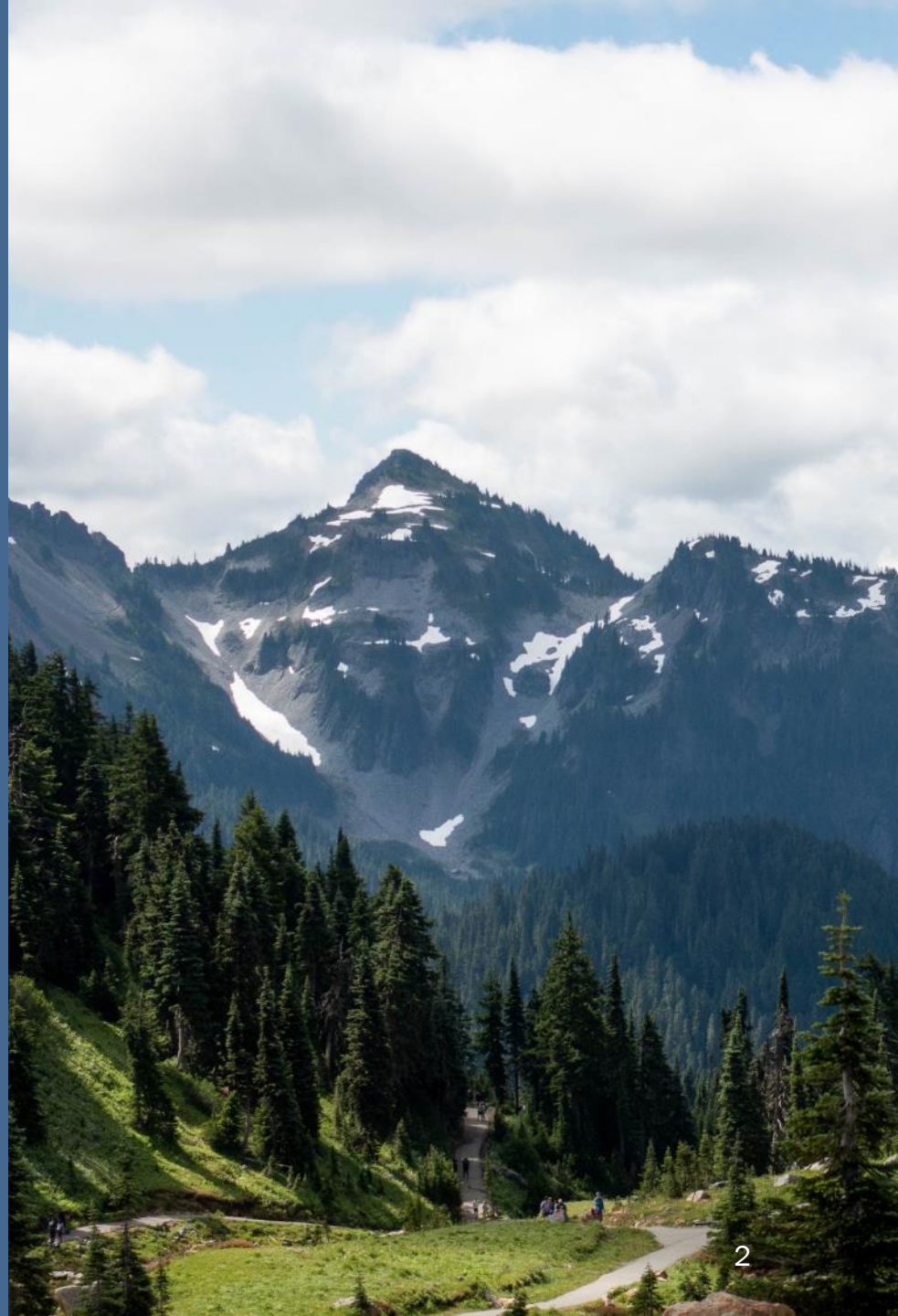
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Water Supply Availability Committee

August 14, 2025

Water Resources Program

Recording!



Agenda

Time	Agenda item	Responsible
10:00 a.m.	Welcome and agenda Recap: Drought declaration process and implications	Caroline Mellor, Ecology
10:10 a.m.	Regional Climate Setting / ENSO	Karin Bumbaco, WSCO
10:25 a.m.	Mountain conditions	Matt Warbritton
10:40 a.m.	Streamflow and Groundwater	Nick Sutfin. USGS
10:55 a.m.	Yakima Project Update	~~Teresa Hauser, BOR~~
11:00 a.m.	Water Supply Forecasts	Amy Burke, NWRFC
11:15 a.m.	Discussion: What water supply concerns do folks have for Water Year 2025?	All participants Ecology facilitates
11:25 a.m.	Wrap-up and next steps	Ecology

Committee Role

WSAC provides an important consultative and advisory role to Ecology related to:

- Current and forecasted water supply conditions;
- Whether the hydrologic drought threshold has been met or is likely to be met.

Meeting Objectives

- Share pertinent info and assess water supply conditions in Washington state as summer and the Water Year 2025 near to a end.

Drought Emergency Declaration

On June 5, 2025, Ecology issued a drought emergency declaration **in the North and Central Cascade Mountains and parts of the Puget Sound area**, due to low snowpack, early and rapid snowmelt and a dry April and May.

This served as an expansion of the April 8, 2025, drought declaration for **the Yakima Basin watersheds.**

*The utilities of Everett, Seattle and Tacoma do not expect issues for their customers.

See: https://ecology.wa.gov/water-shorelines/water-supply/water-availability/statewide-conditions/drought-response

Drought Conditions

Drought conditions - two requirements:

1. **Hydrologic threshold** – An area is receiving, or is projected to receive, less than seventy-five percent of normal water supply.
2. **Hardship threshold** – Water users and the environment are or are expected to experience undue hardship.

This Committee advises on the hydrologic threshold.

See: RCW 43.83B.405 and WAC 173-166-050.

Water Supply Factors

Water year to date

- Snowpack
- Precipitation
- Temperature
- Soil moisture

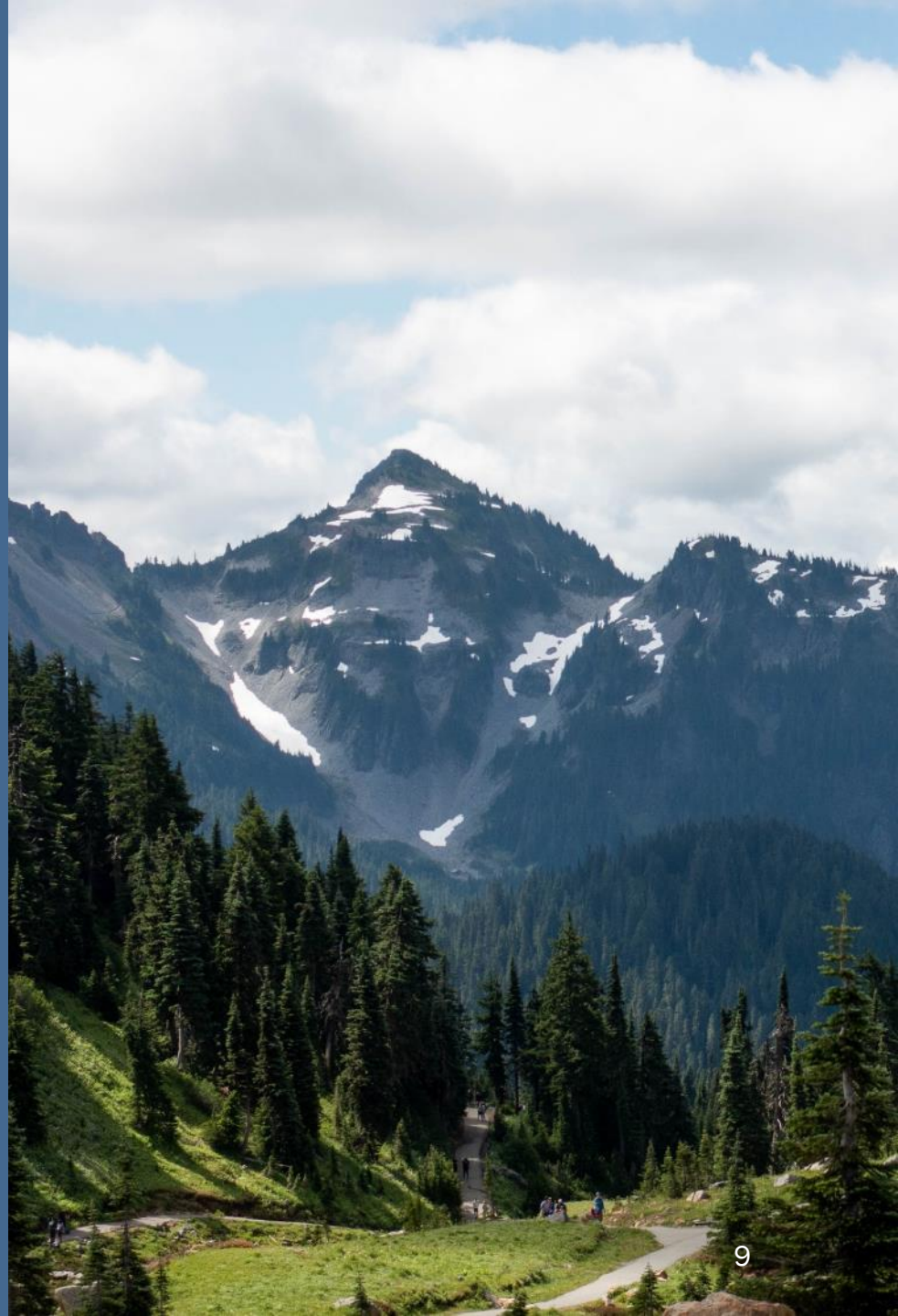
Forecasts

- Streamflow
- Precipitation
- Temperature
- Soil moisture

Hydrologic threshold for drought was met in 2025

Rimrock Reservoir, November 2024

Implications of a Drought Declaration



What Does a Declaration Do?

Provides Ecology with the authority to:

1. Expedite emergency water transfer applications.
2. Establish a grant program to mitigate hardships to water users and the environment.

Drought Response Funding

Grants to governmental entities:

- Federally recognized Tribes
- Counties, cities, and towns
- Water and sewer districts
- Public utility districts
- Port districts
- Conservation districts
- Irrigation districts
- Watershed management partnerships

Drought response grants - Washington State Department of Ecology

Additional Implications

State agencies – Ecology can enter into interagency agreements to fund drought response efforts

- Examples: DOH, DFW, SCC, AGR

Eligibility for federal drought funding

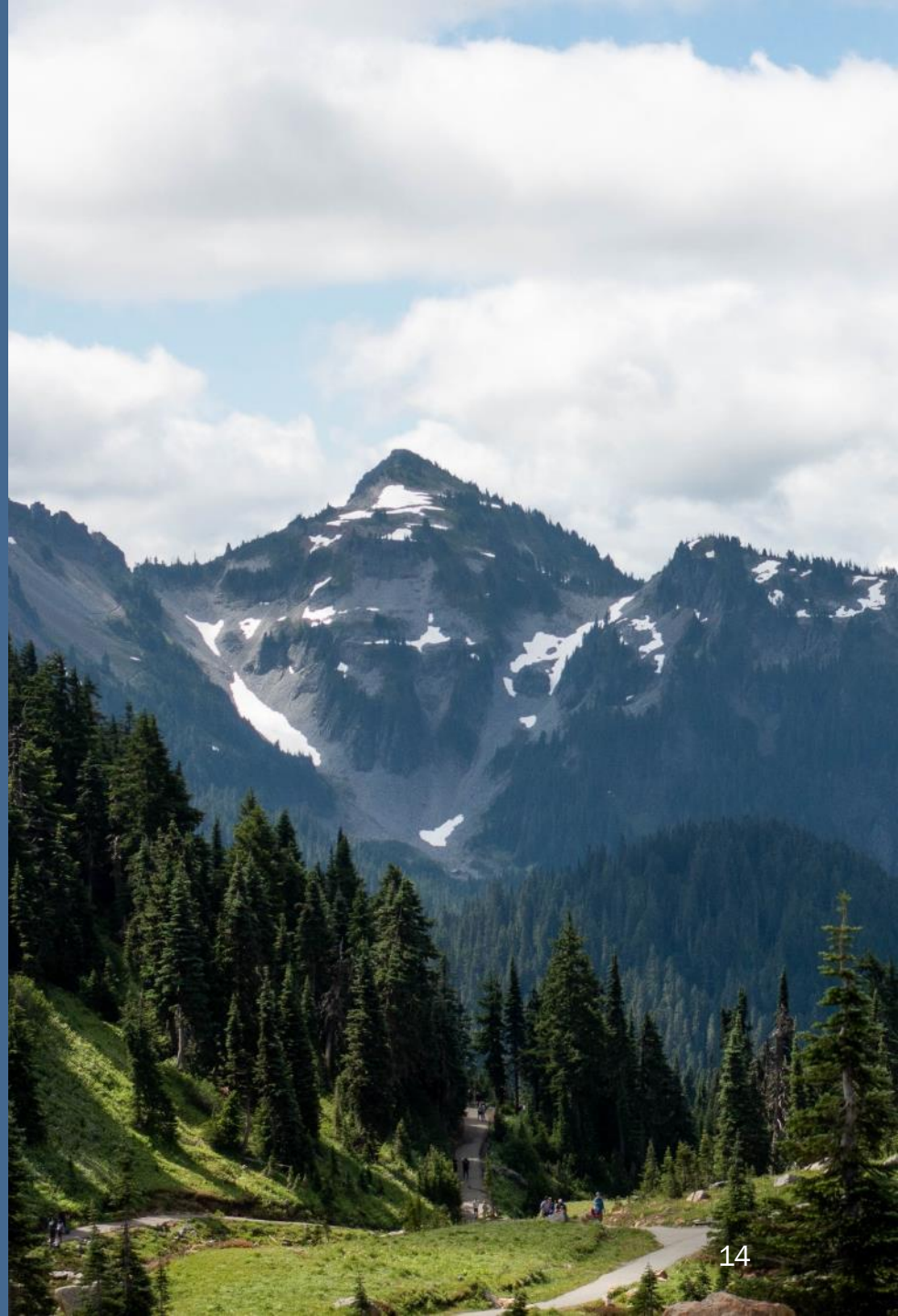
Important communications tool

Example Drought Response Grant Projects

Agriculture or livestock	• Purchasing or leasing water or water rights • Replacing intakes, pumps, and related accessories
Public water supply	• Transporting emergency water supplies • Implementing water conservation strategies
Fisheries and wildlife	• Eliminating migration barriers • Modifying stream channels adjacent to a hatchery

See: 2025 Drought Emergency Response Grant Funding Guidance (wa.gov)

Presenters



Discussion Question

For all meeting attendees:

What concerns do folks have for Water Year 2025?

Drought Info

- Drought website: Drought Response
  - Declaration: Order of Determination by the Director
  - Press release: June 5 - Drought - Washington State Department of Ecology
- Water Supply Availability Committee (WSAC) website
- Recent Ecology drought blogs:
  - I thought this was called summer?
  - July Update (Federal vs state)

Thank you

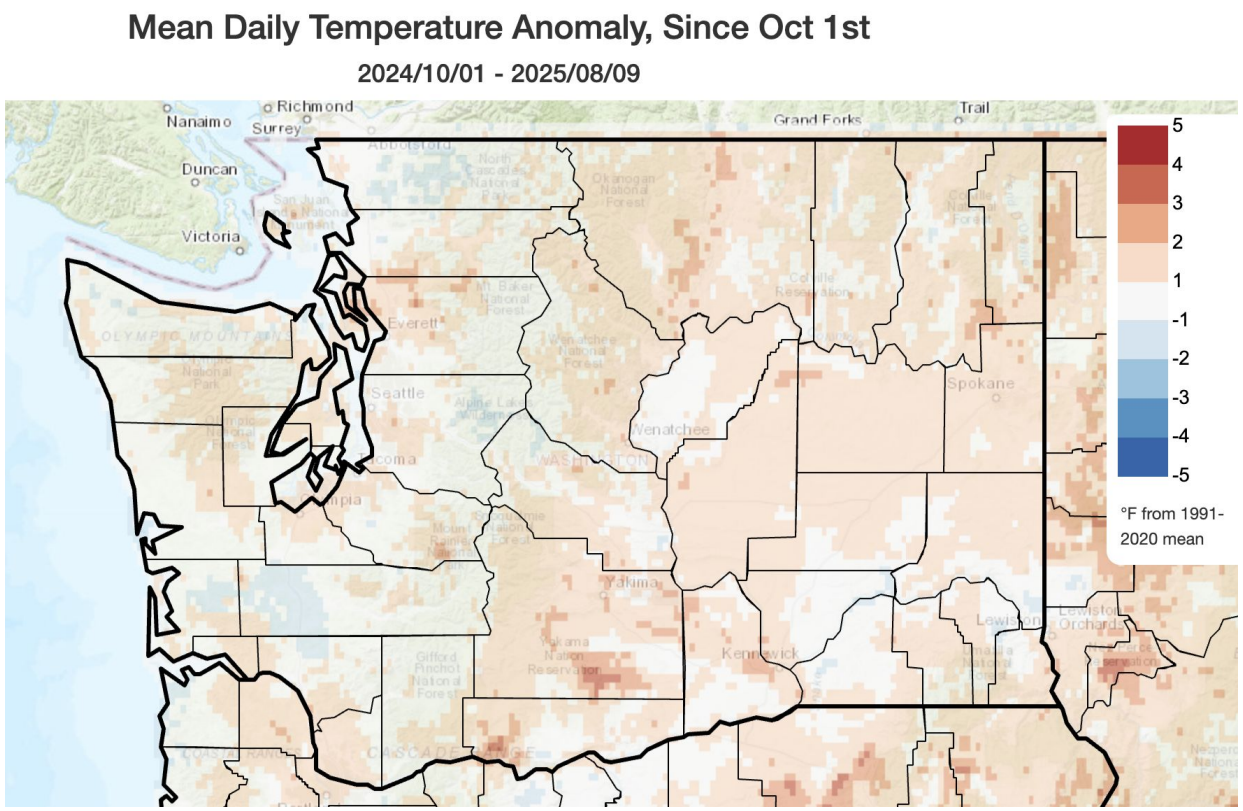
Contact: WSAC Committee Chair
Caroline Mellor
Statewide Drought Lead
Caroline.Mellor@ecy.wa.gov

Current Conditions and Seasonal Outlook

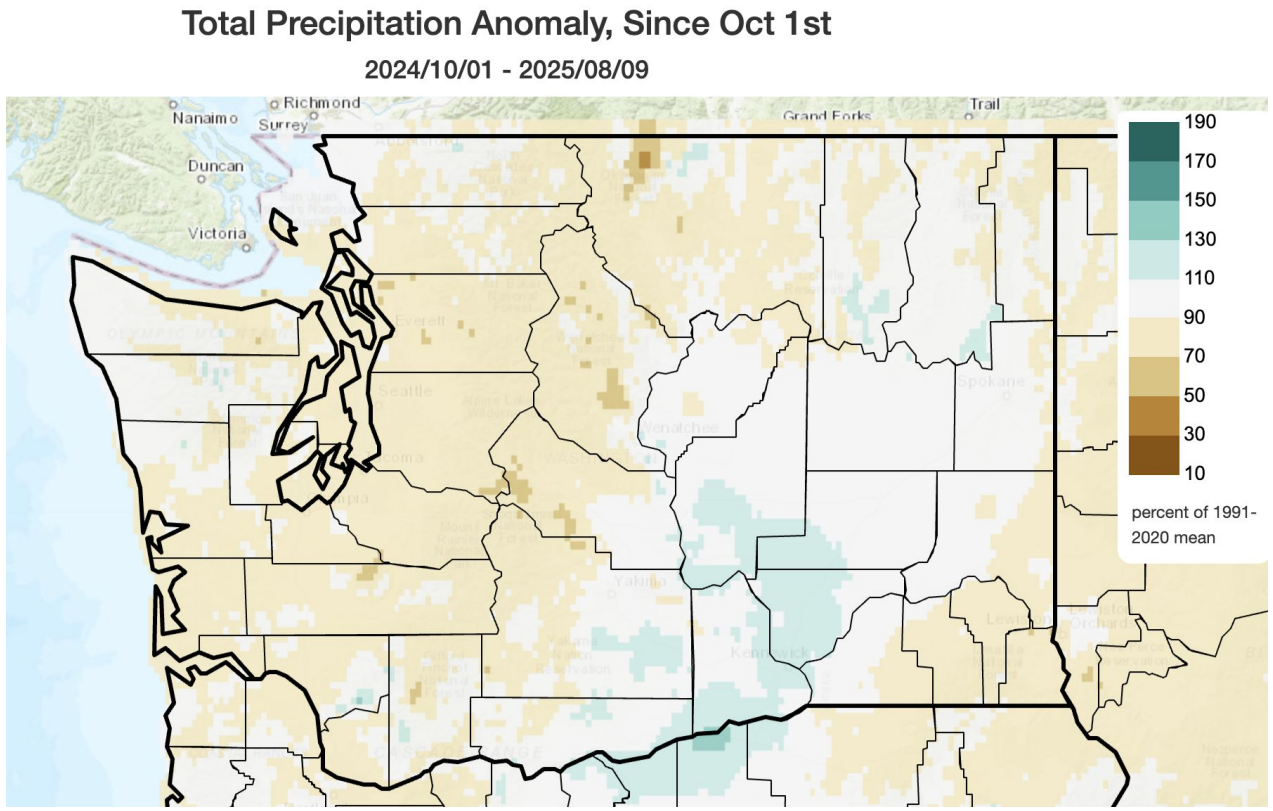
Karin Bumbaco
Washington State Climate Office
Climate Impacts Group
University of Washington
August 14, 2025

Water Year 2025

Temperature



Precipitation



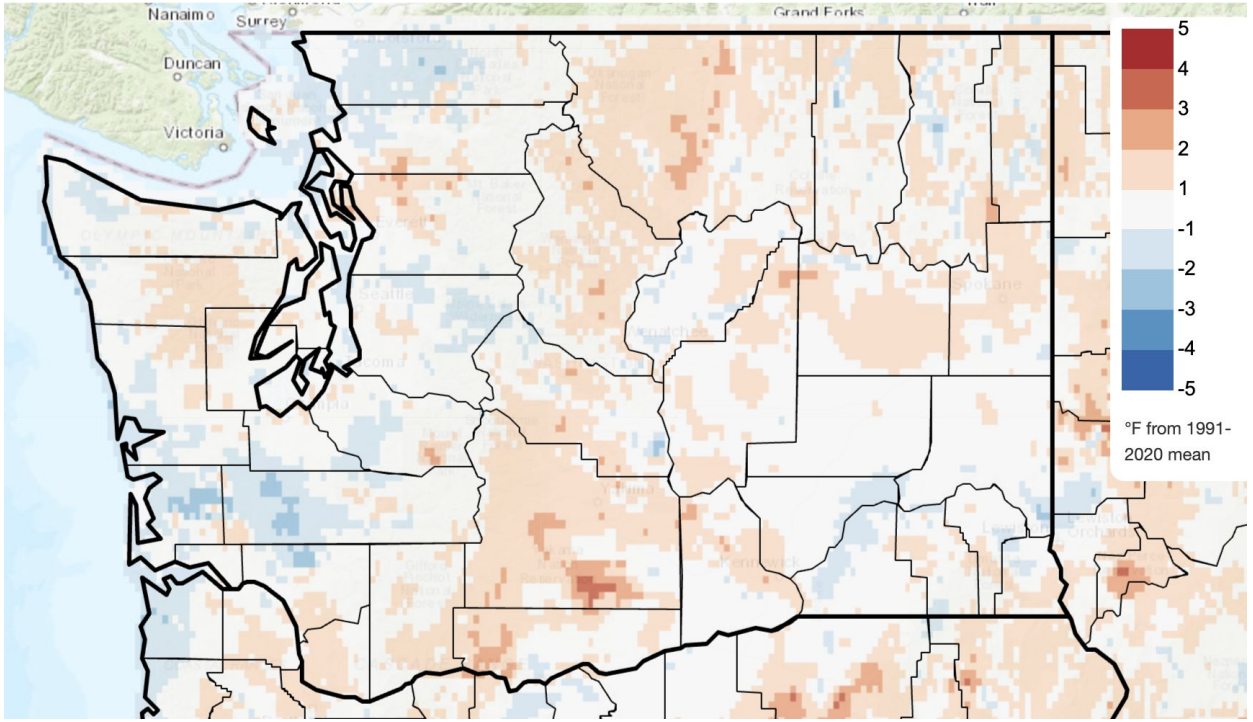
Climate Toolbox

- Averaged statewide, Oct-Jul temperatures were above normal (+1.2°F), tying 1941 and 2024 as the 11th warmest on record*
- Averaged statewide, Oct-Jul precipitation was below normal (87% of normal), ranking as the 33rd driest

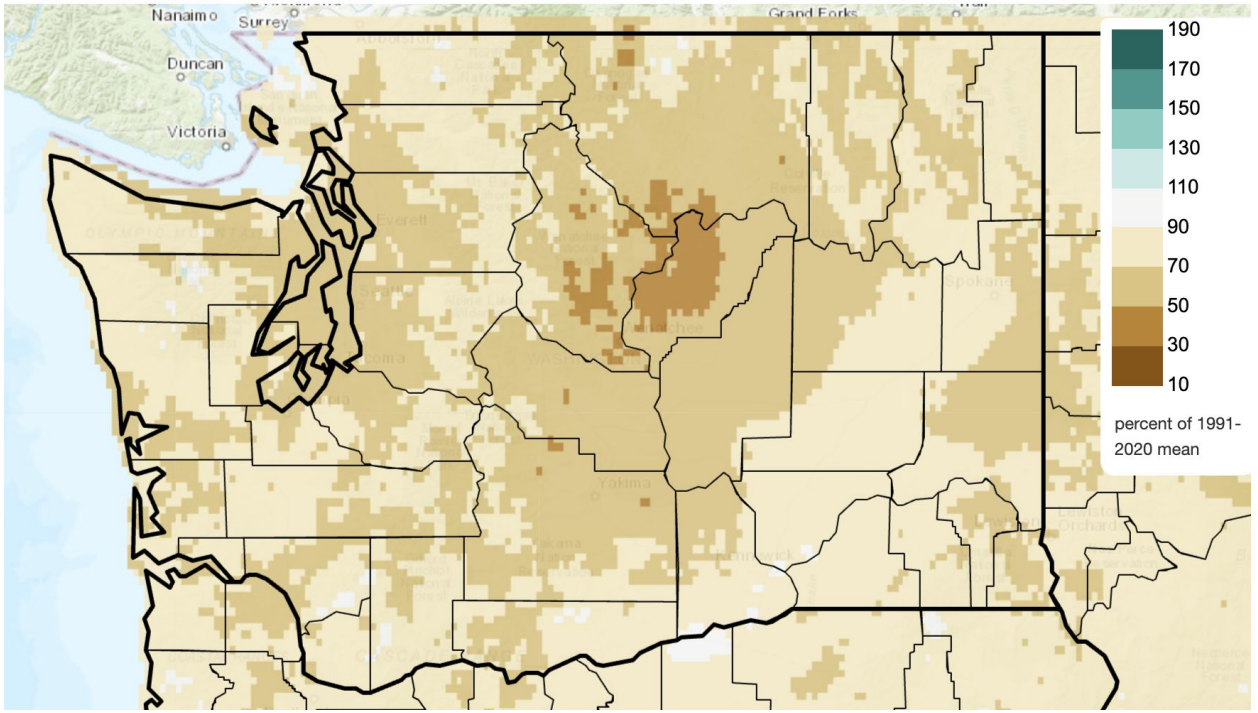
*Records since 1895; Normal is

Since January 1

Temperature



Precipitation



Climate Toolbox

- Averaged statewide, Jan-Jul temperatures were near-normal (+0.6°F)*
- Averaged statewide, Jan-Jul precipitation was below normal (70% of normal), ranking as the 7th driest* (-7.15”)

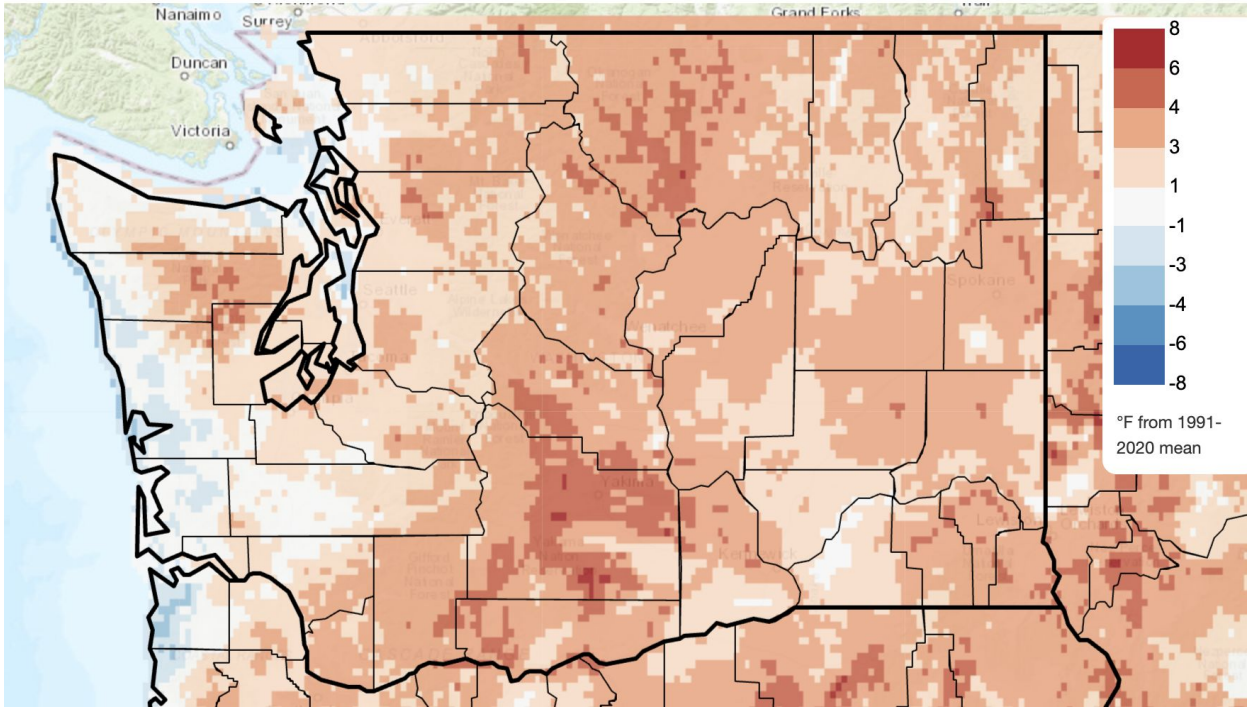
*Records since 1895; Normal is

July 2025

Temperature

Mean Daily Temperature Anomaly, Last Full Month

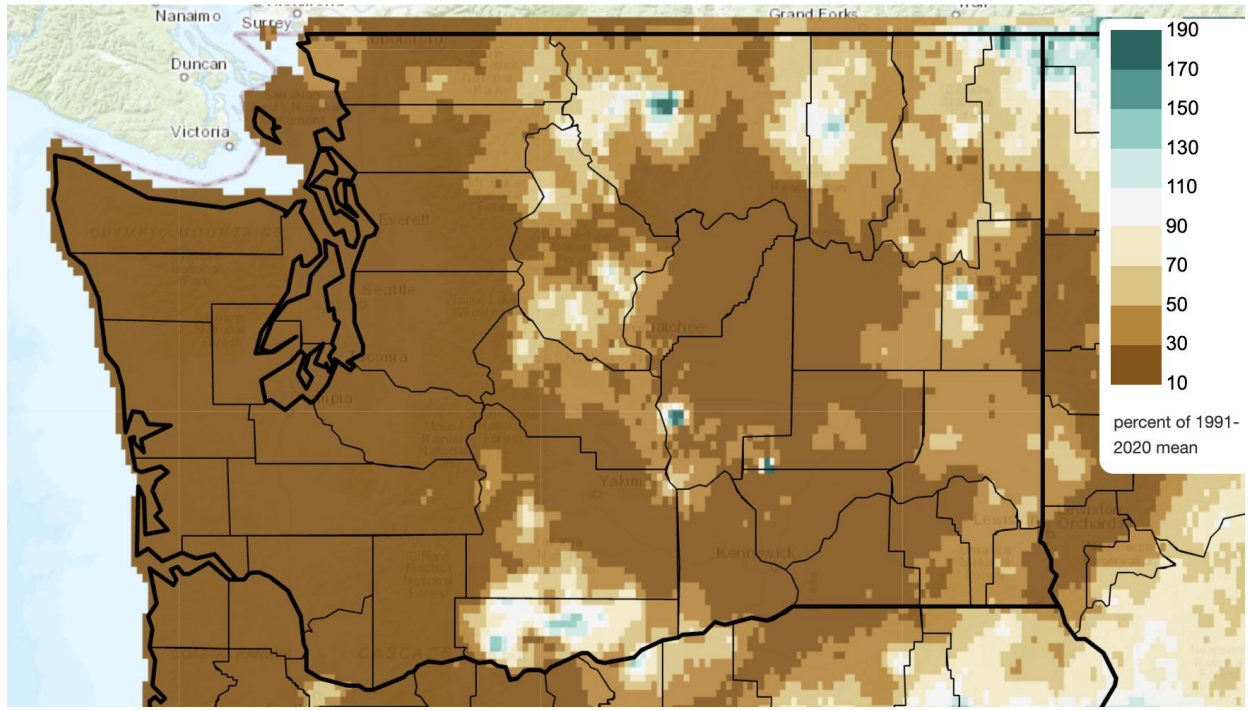
2025/07/01 - 2025/07/31



Precipitation

Total Precipitation Anomaly, Last Full Month

2025/07/01 - 2025/07/31

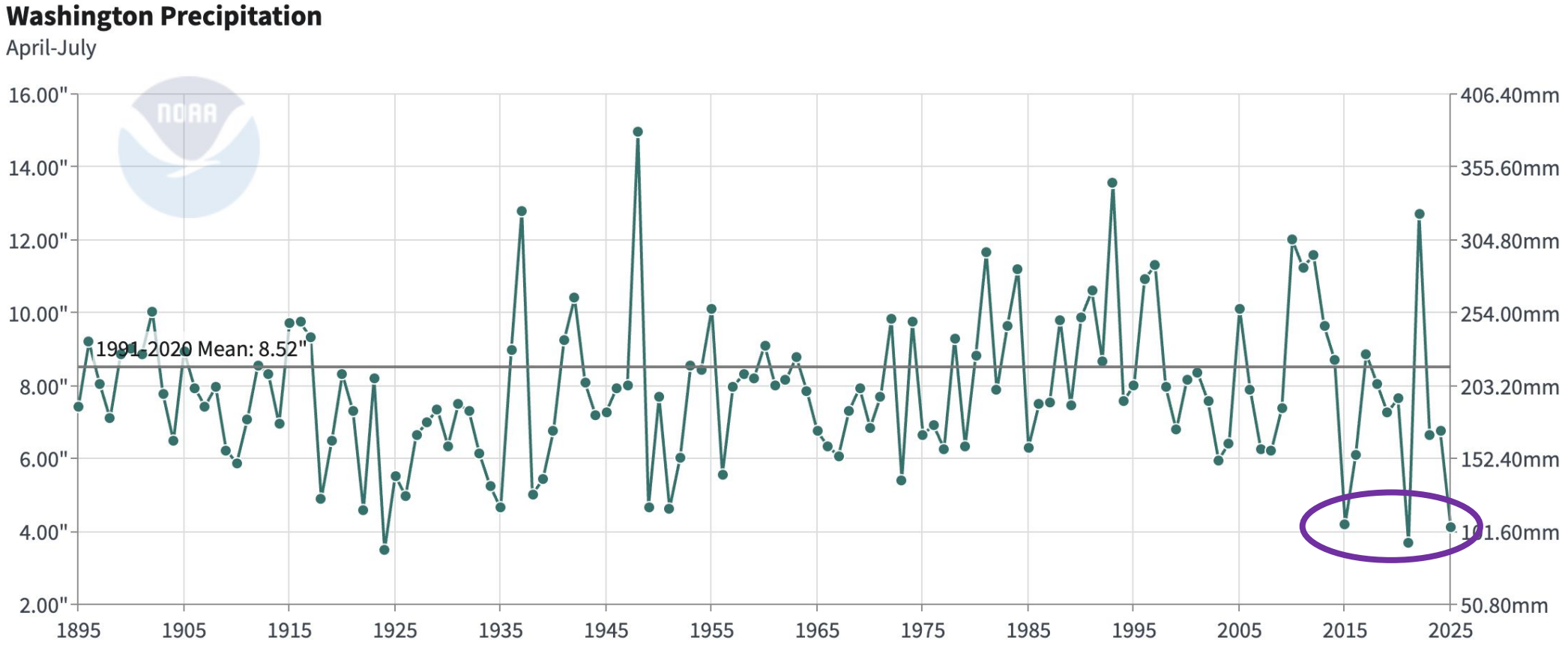


Climate Toolbox

- Averaged statewide, July temperatures ranked as the 12th warmest (+2.2°F) on record*
- Averaged statewide, July precipitation ranked as the 22nd driest on record*, with 33% of normal precipitation (-0.54”)

*Records since 1895; Normal is

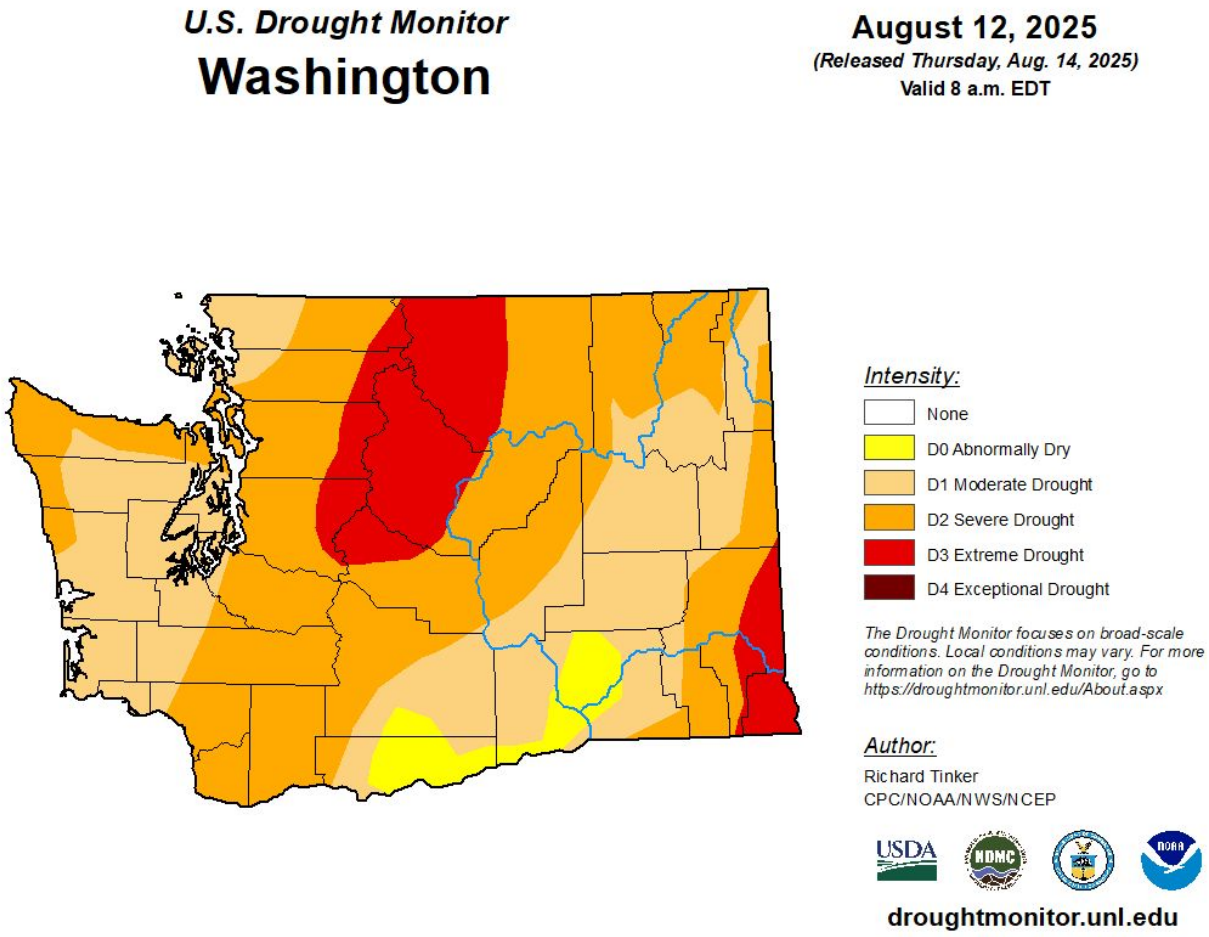
April-July 2025

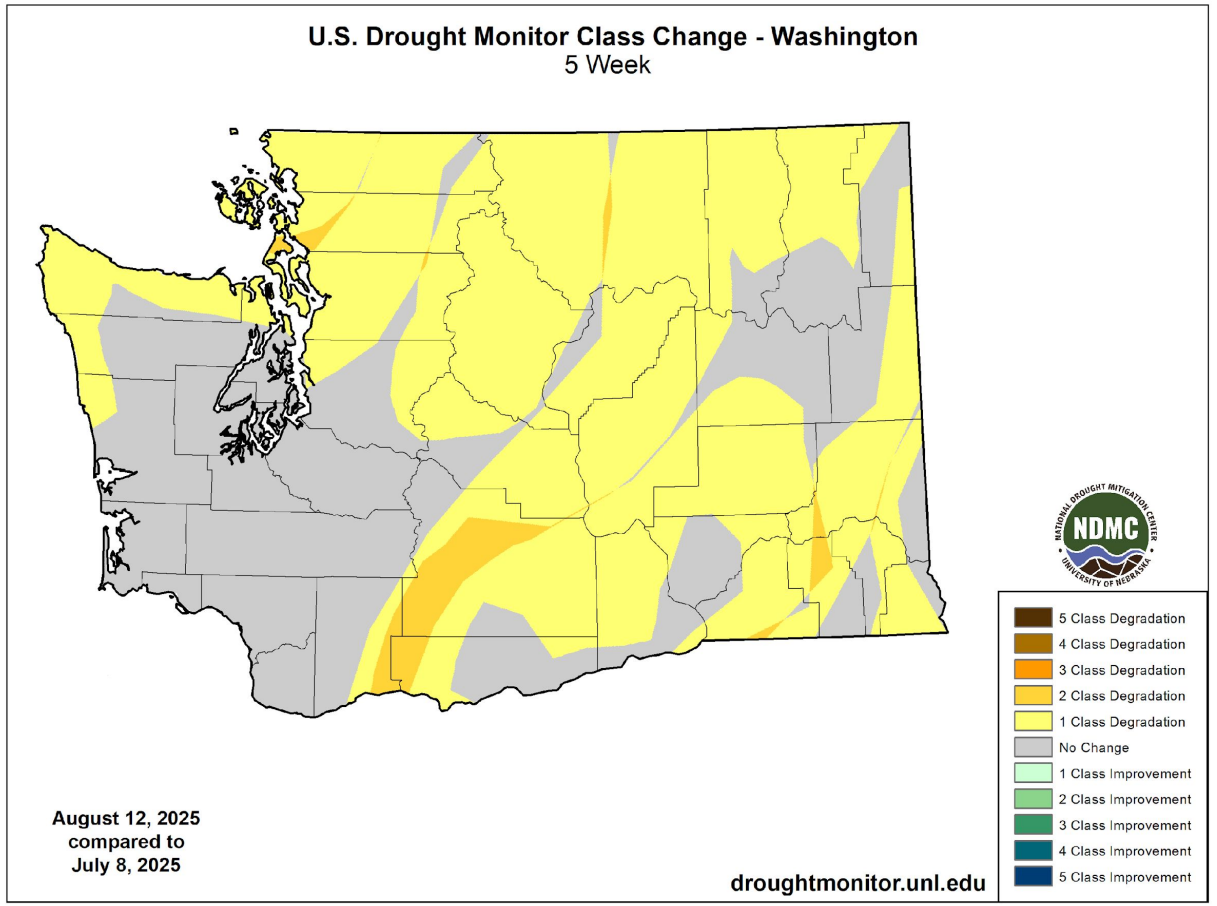


- Averaged statewide, Apr-Jul temperatures tied as the 6th warmest (+1.9°F) on record*
- Averaged statewide, Apr-Jul precipitation ranked as the 3rd driest on record*, with 41% of normal precipitation (-4.39”)

*Records since 1895; Normal is

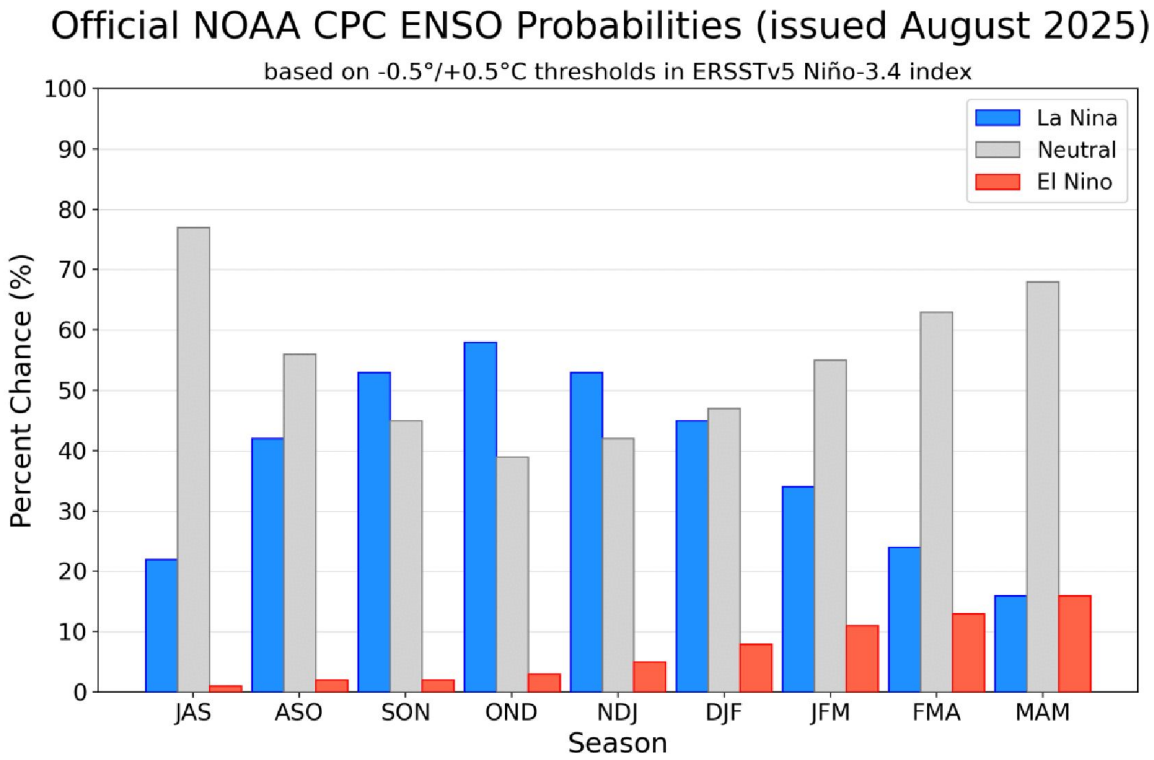
U.S. Drought Monitor





Current Status: Neutral

La Niña Watch



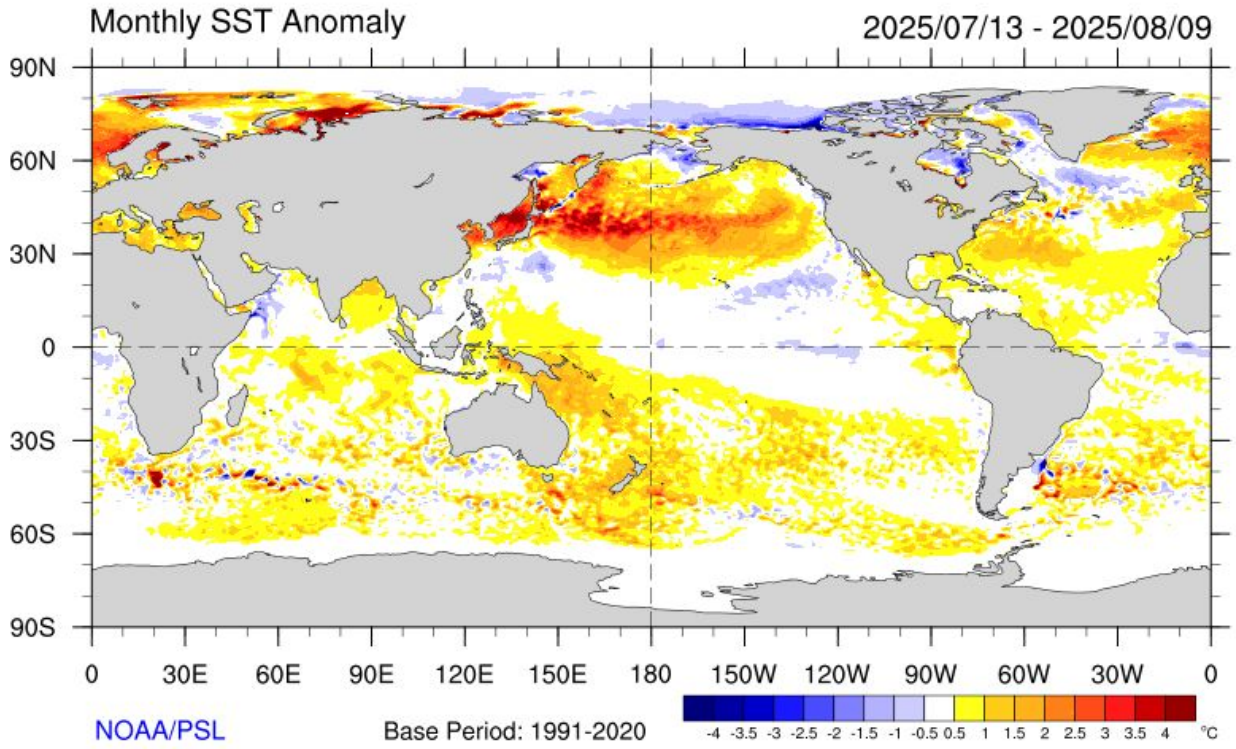
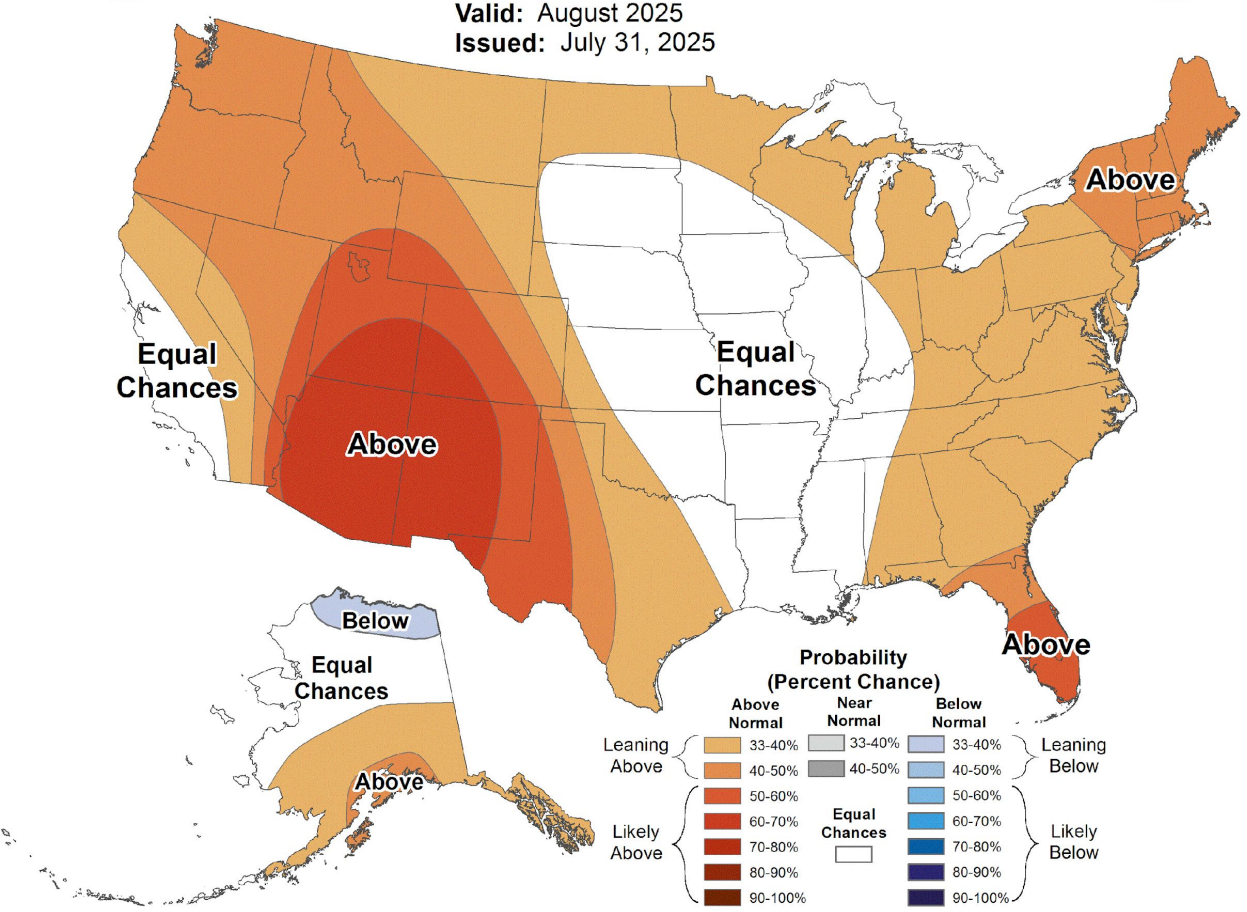


Figure 7. Official ENSO probabilities for the Niño 3.4 sea surface temperature index (5°N-5°S, 120°W-170°W). Figure updated 14 August 2025.

Climate Prediction Center: **August** Outlook

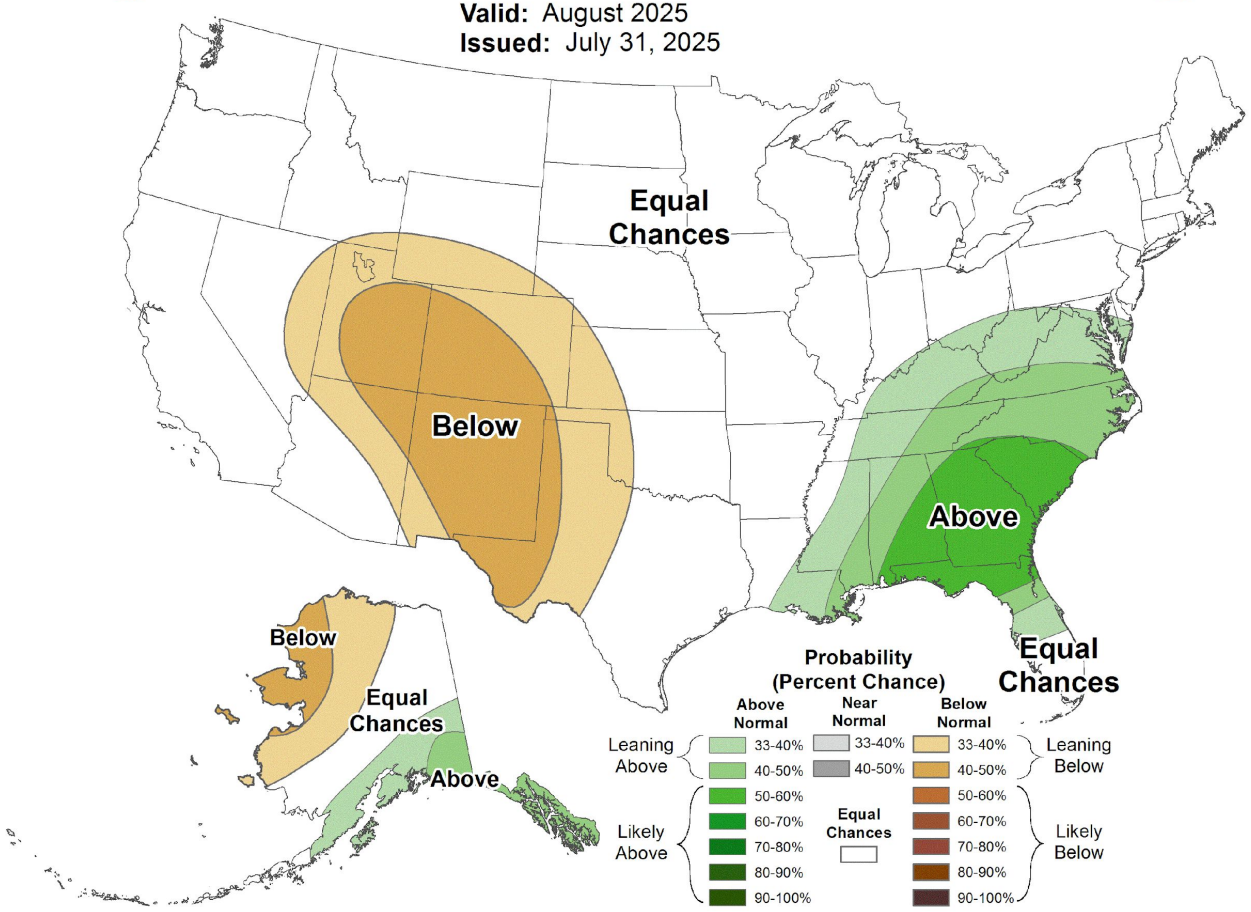
Monthly Temperature Outlook

Valid: August 2025
Issued: July 31, 2025

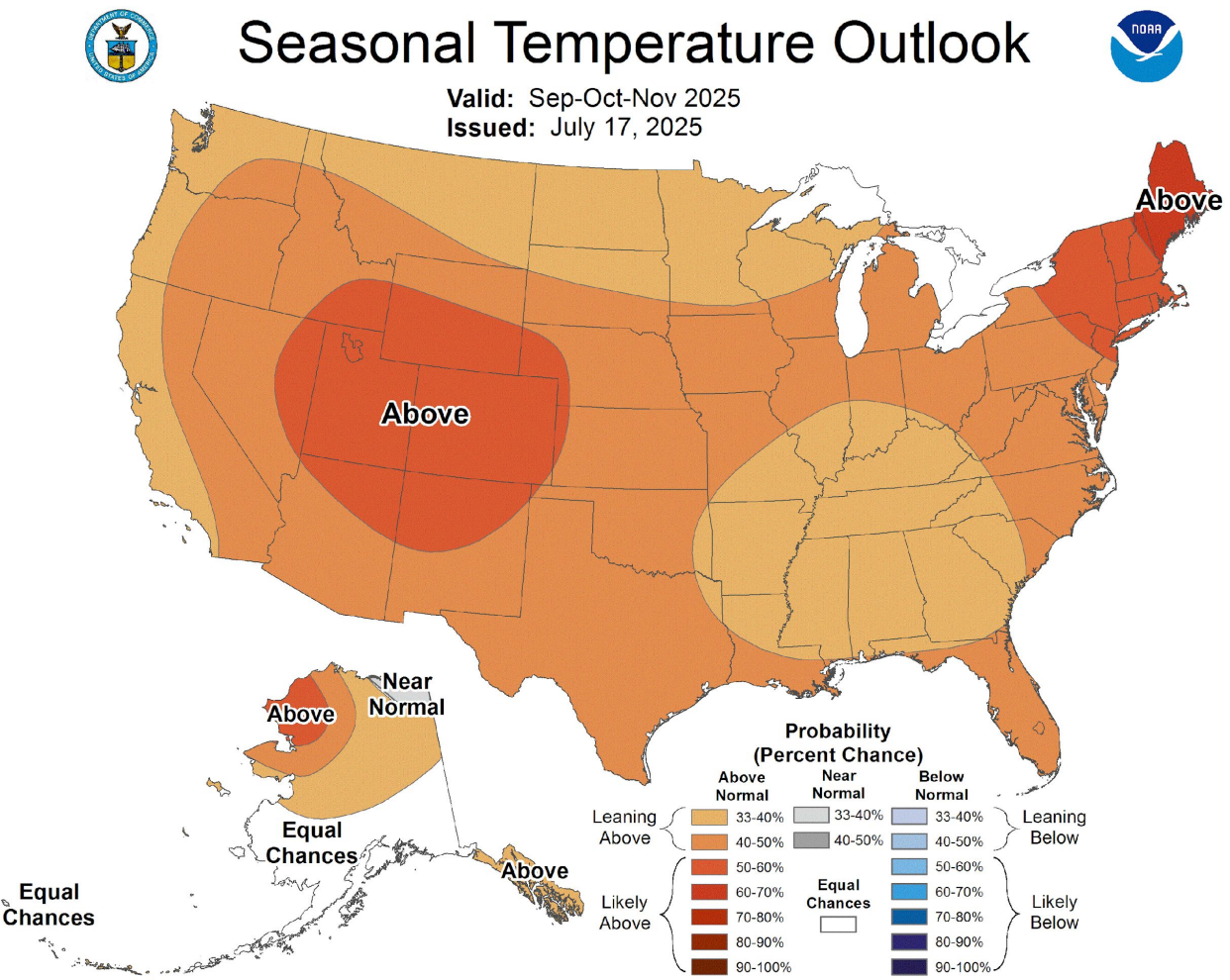


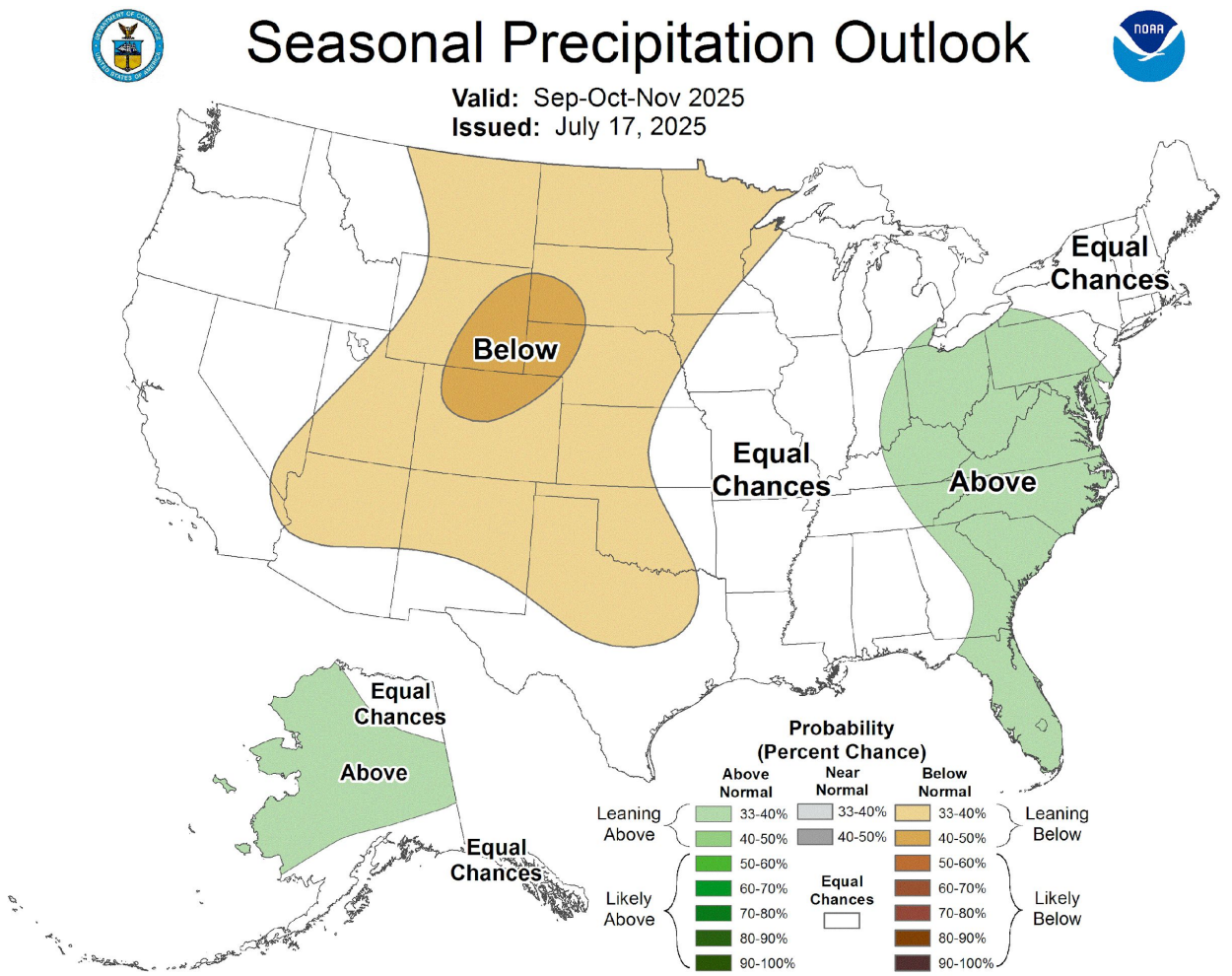
Monthly Precipitation Outlook

Valid: August 2025
Issued: July 31, 2025



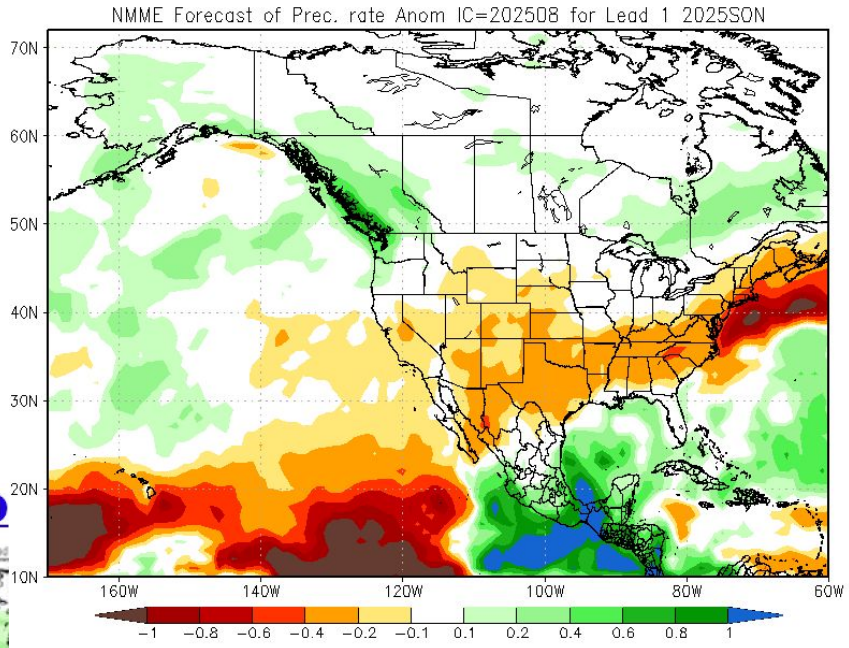
Climate Prediction Center Outlook: **Sept-Nov**



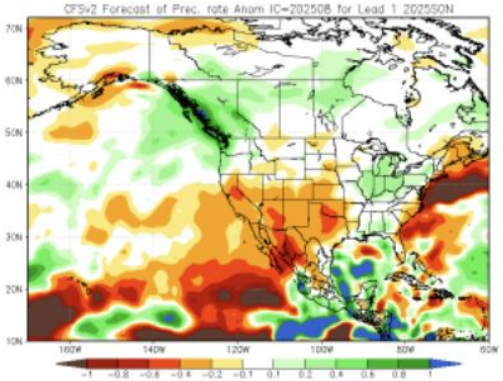


Oct-Dec: Uncertain on temperatures; higher odds of above normal precipitation

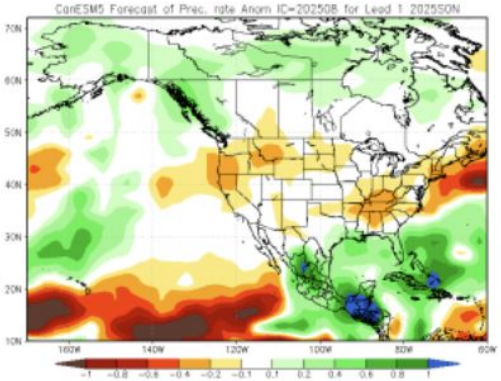
National Multi-Model Ensemble: **SON** Precipitation



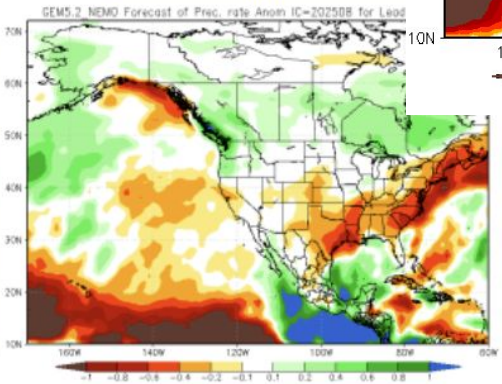
NCEP_CFSv2



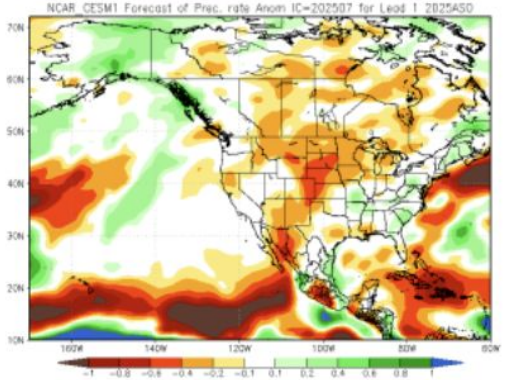
CanESM5



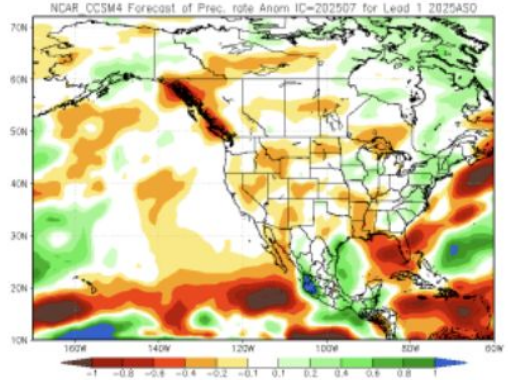
GEM5.2_NEMO



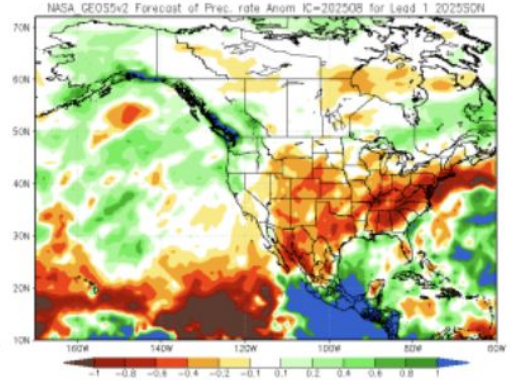
NCAR_CESM1



NCAR_CCSM4



NASA_GEOS5v2



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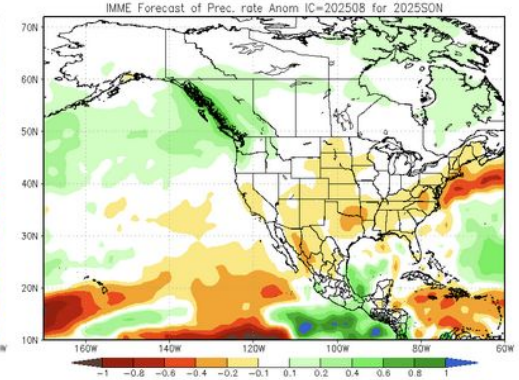
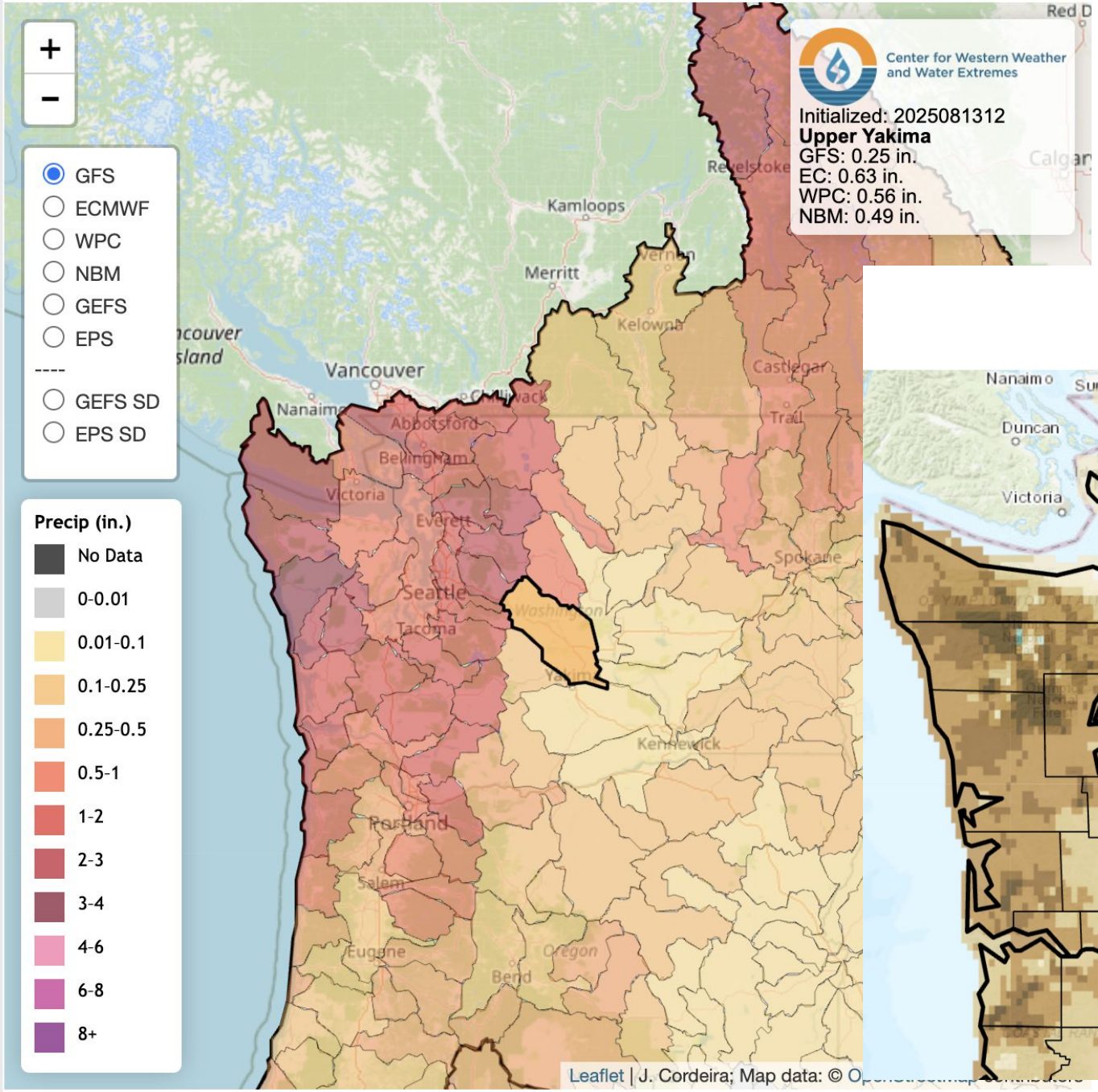
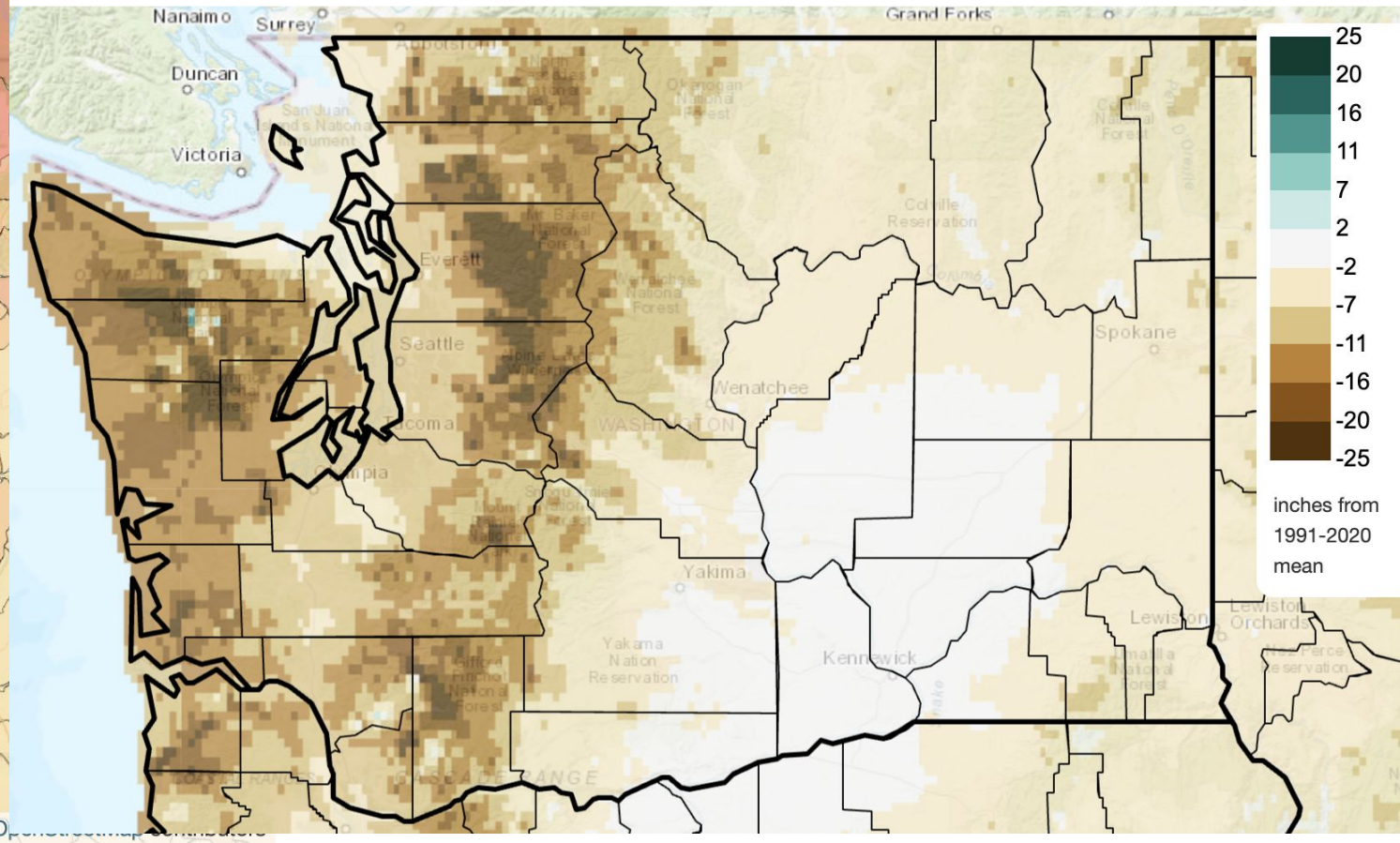


10-day Model Precipitation Forecasts



Total Precipitation Anomaly, Since Jan 1st

2025/01/01 - 2025/08/12



Summary

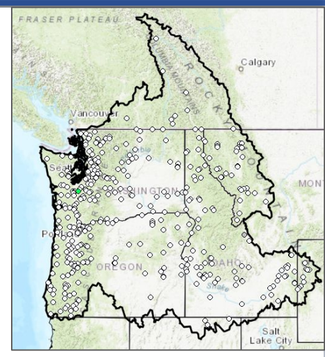
- Averaged statewide, water year temperatures have been above normal (11th warmest) and precipitation has been below normal (33rd driest)
- Drier than normal conditions have been more widespread across the state since January
  - Jan-Jul: 7th driest on record
  - Apr-Jul: 3rd driest on record
- La Niña Watch issued this morning: slightly higher chances of a weak La Niña SON through NDJ
- Some indications of above normal precipitation for Sept-Oct-Nov, but more agreement on above normal precipitation for Oct-Nov-Dec

NWS

Aug 2025 Washington Water Supply

Amy Burke, Sr Hydrologist - Northwest River Forecast Center
NWRFC.watersupply@noaa.gov

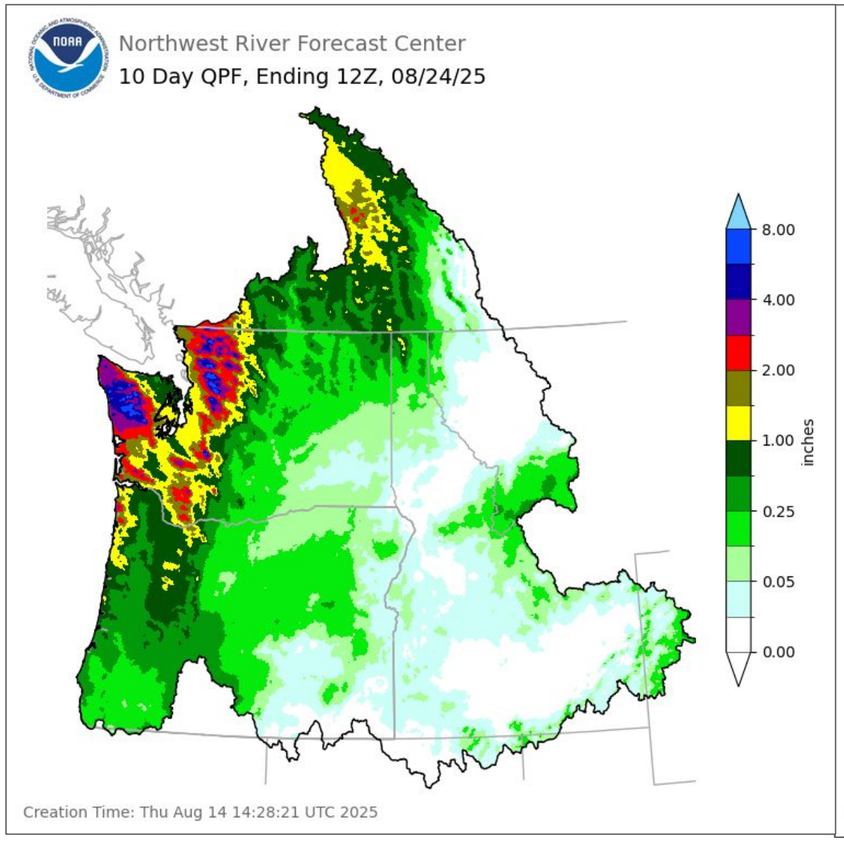
Brent Bower, Sr Service Hydrologist Seattle
Tanja Fransen, Meteorologist In Charge Portland
Charlotte Dewey, Warning Coordination Meteorologist Spokane
George Perry, Service Hydrologist Pendleton Pendleton

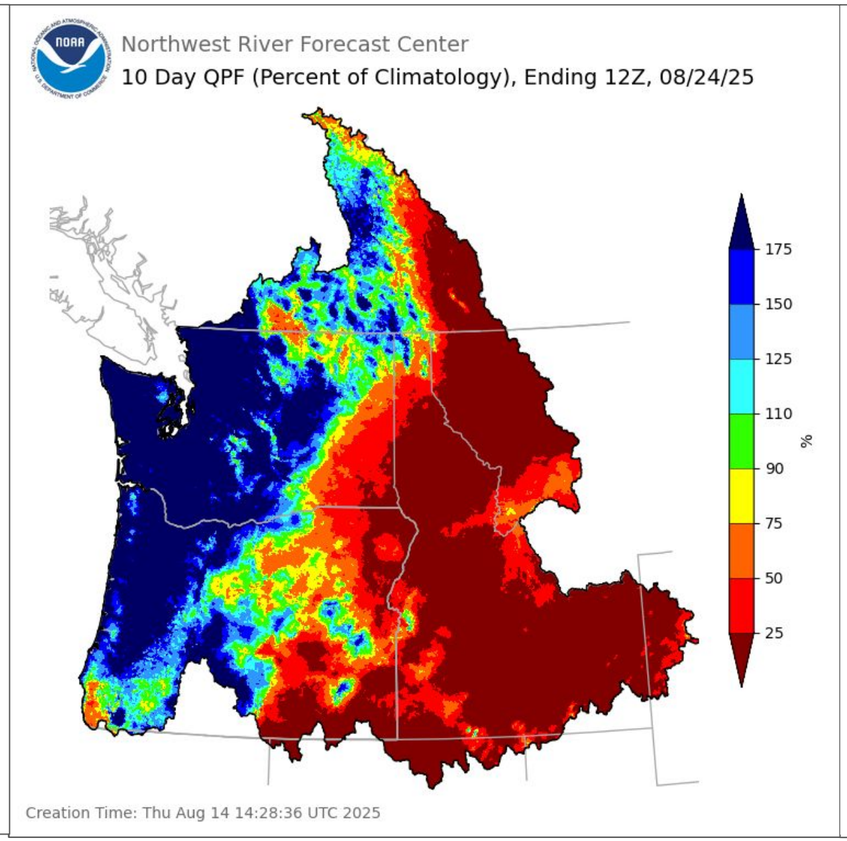


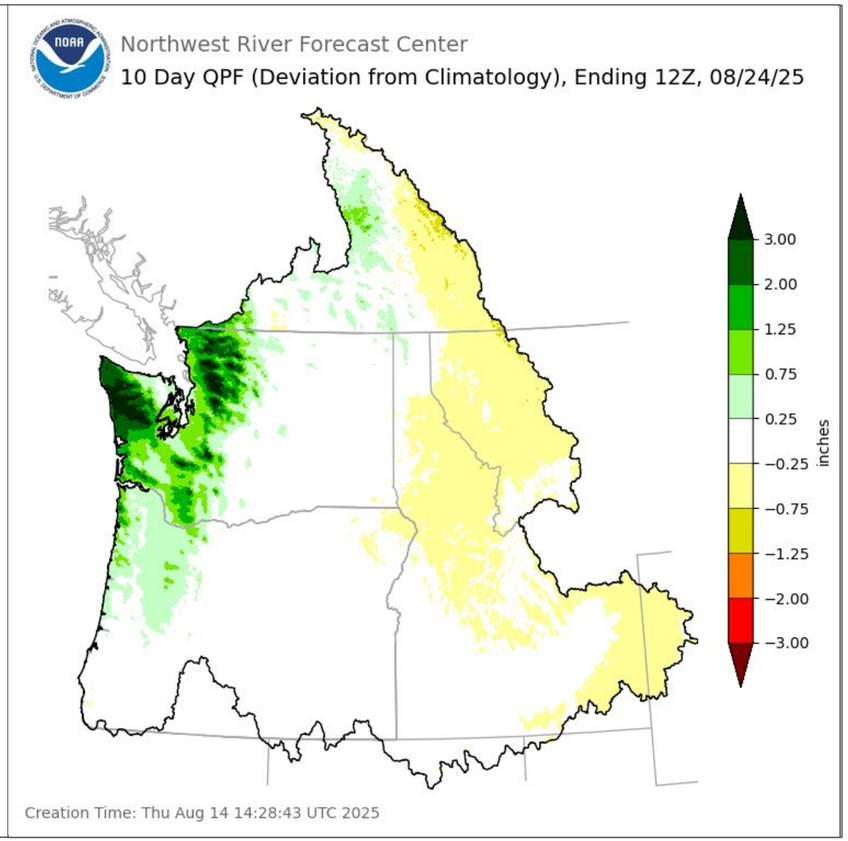
Washington State - Areas of Responsibility

- Northwest Washington - NWS Seattle - nws.seattle@noaa.gov
- Southwest Washington - NWS Portland - nws.portland@noaa.gov
- Northeast Washington - NWS Spokane - nws.spokane@noaa.gov
- Southeast Washington - NWS Pendleton - pdt.operations@noaa.gov

10 Day Precipitation Forecast used in ESP10



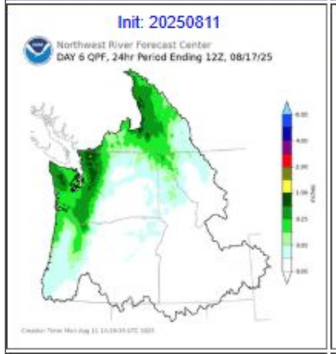
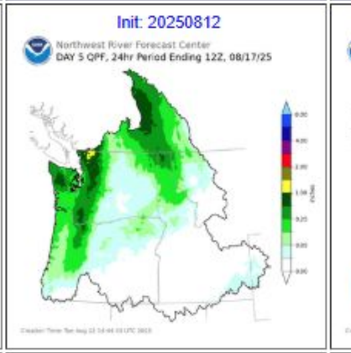
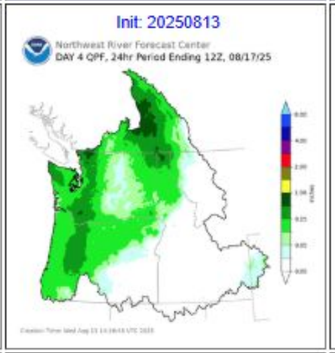
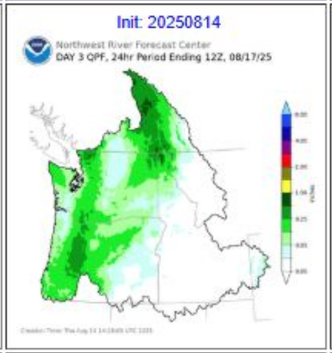
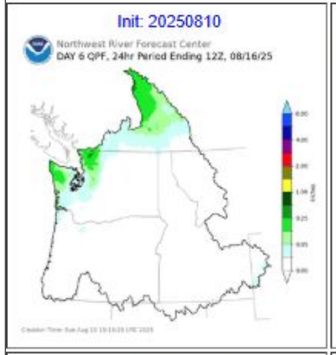
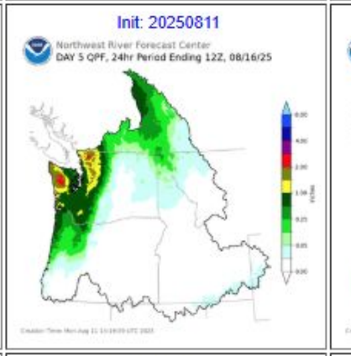
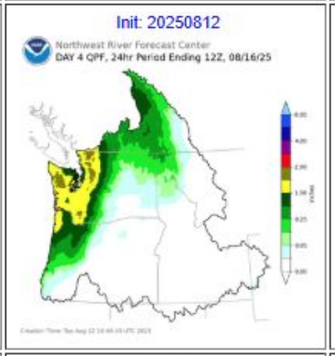
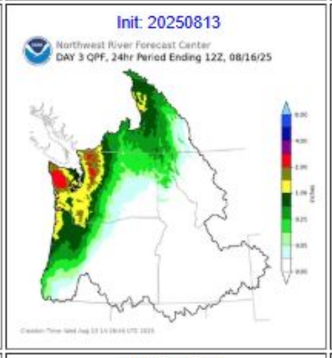
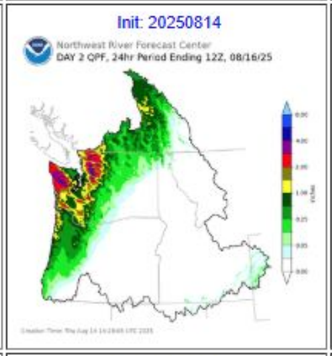
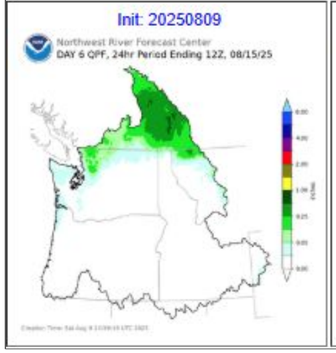
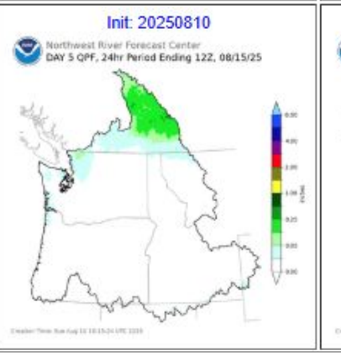
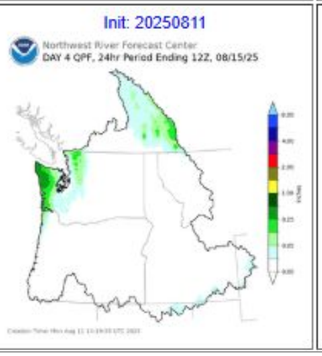
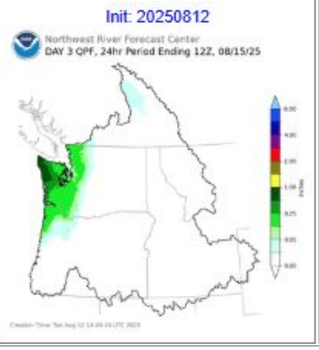
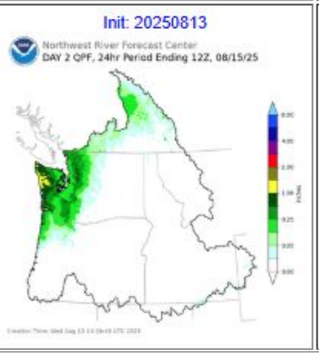
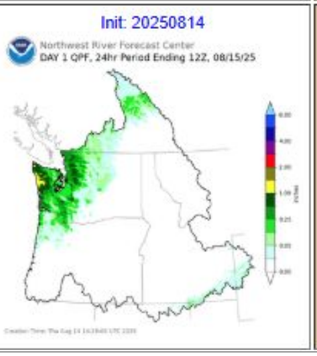




Quantitative Precipitation Forecast (QPF) Sources:

- 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).

Precipitation Forecast used in ESP10

	24hr QPF: 6 Day Lead Time	24hr QPF: 5 Day Lead Time	24hr QPF: 4 Day Lead Time	24hr QPF: 3 Day Lead Time	24hr QPF: 2 Day Lead Time	24hr QPF: 1 Day Lead Time	24hr QPE
Forecast for Saturday	Init: 20250811 	Init: 20250812 	Init: 20250813 	Init: 20250814 	Init: 20250815	Init: 20250816	Observation - NA
Forecast for Friday	Init: 20250810 	Init: 20250811 	Init: 20250812 	Init: 20250813 	Init: 20250814 	Init: 20250815	Observation - NA
Forecast for Thursday	Init: 20250809 	Init: 20250810 	Init: 20250811 	Init: 20250812 	Init: 20250813 	Init: 20250814 	Observation - NA

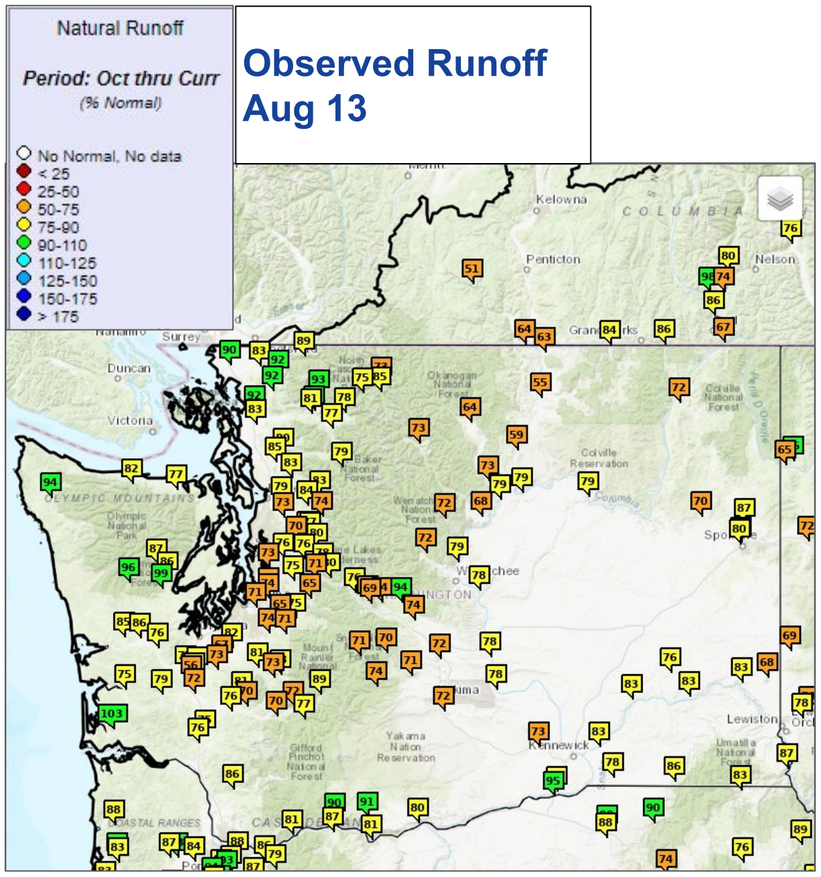
Quantitative Precipitation Forecast (QPF) Sources:

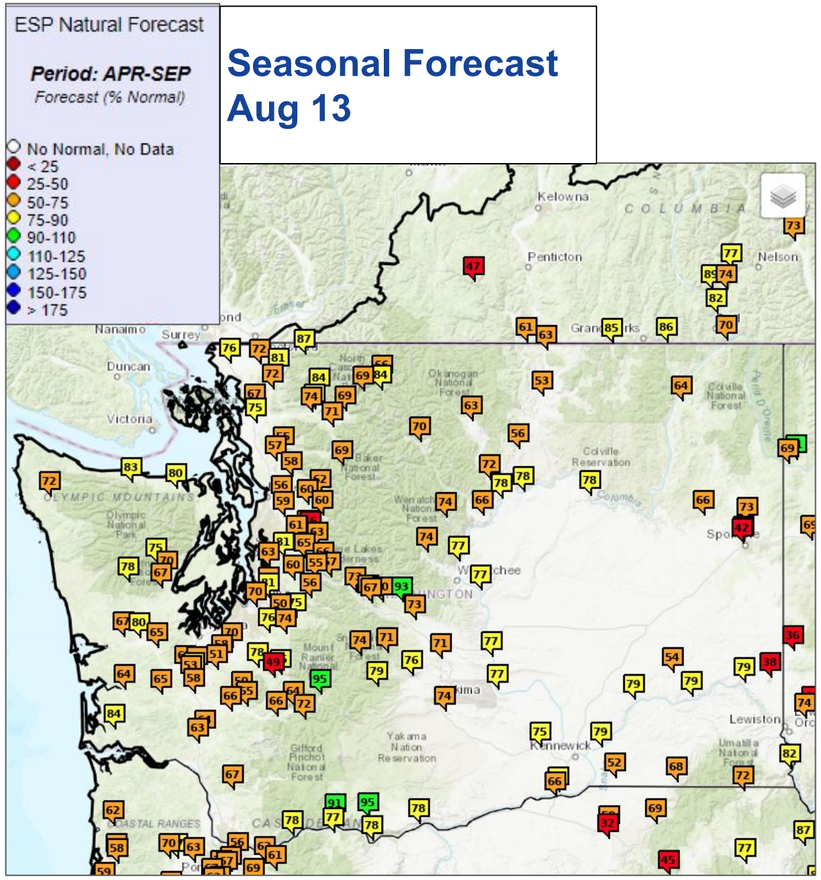
Days 1 - 2 NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) in the US, WPC in BC.

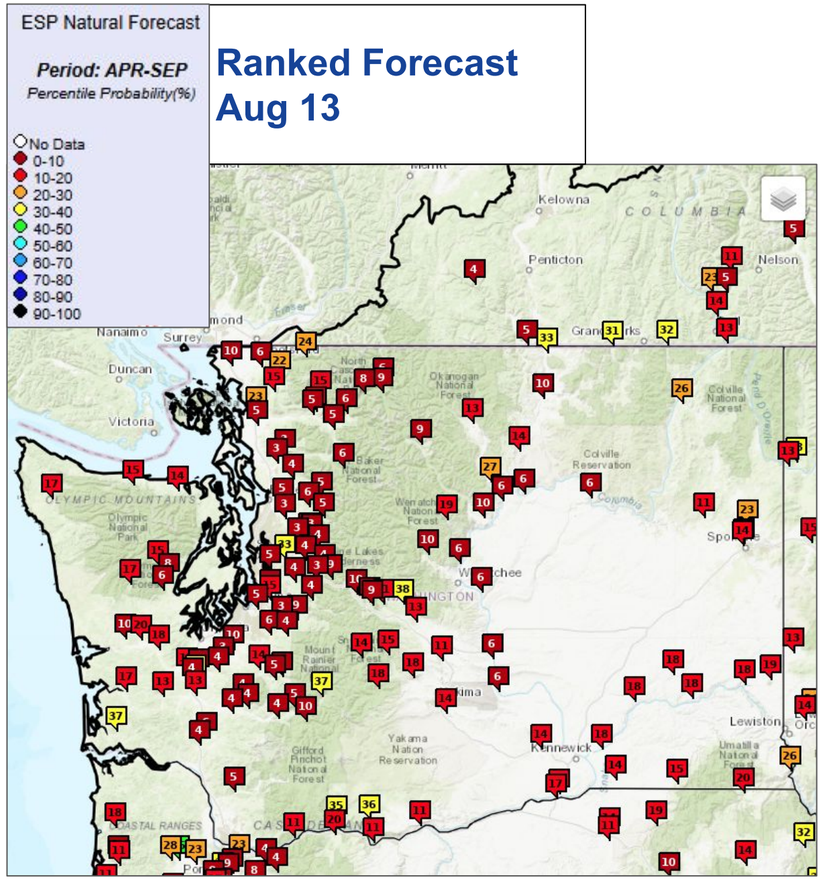
Days 3 - 7 NWS Weather Prediction Center (WPC).

Days 8 - 10 NWS National Blend of Models (NBM).

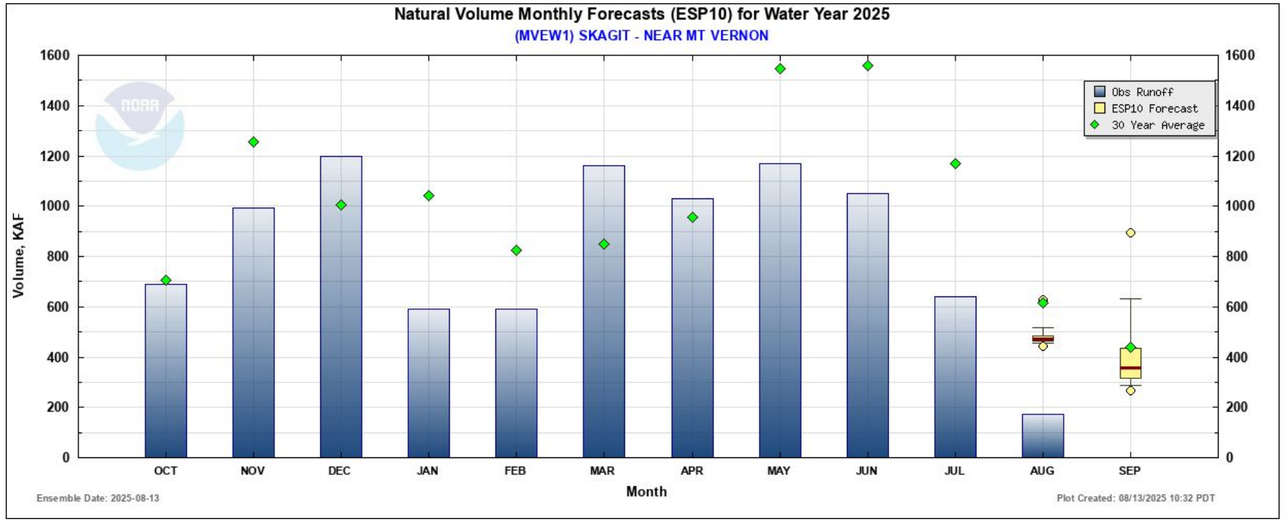
WY Runoff and Apr - Sep Forecasts

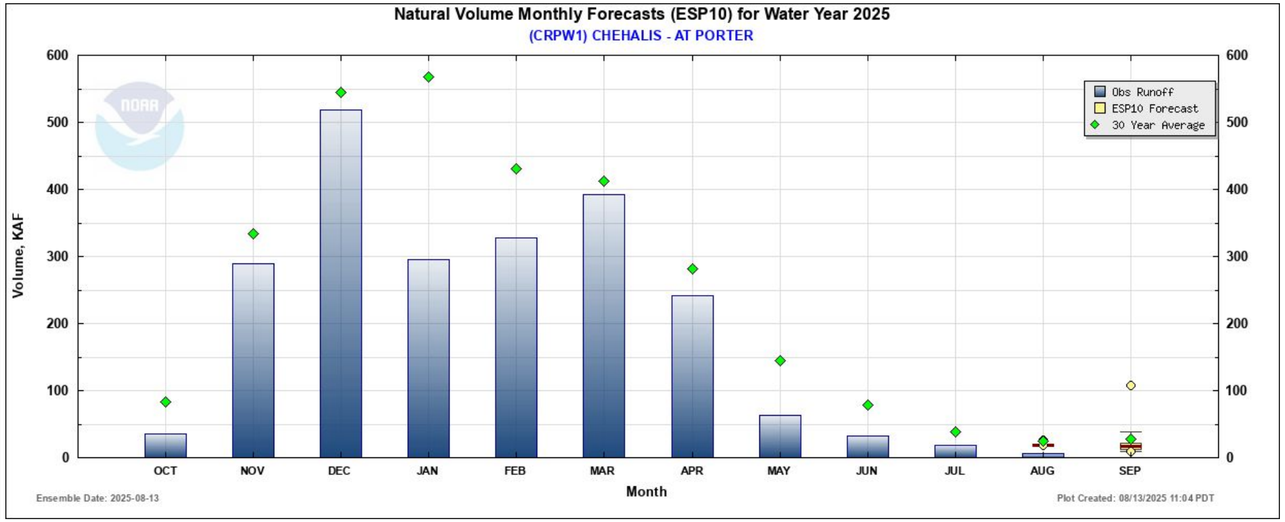






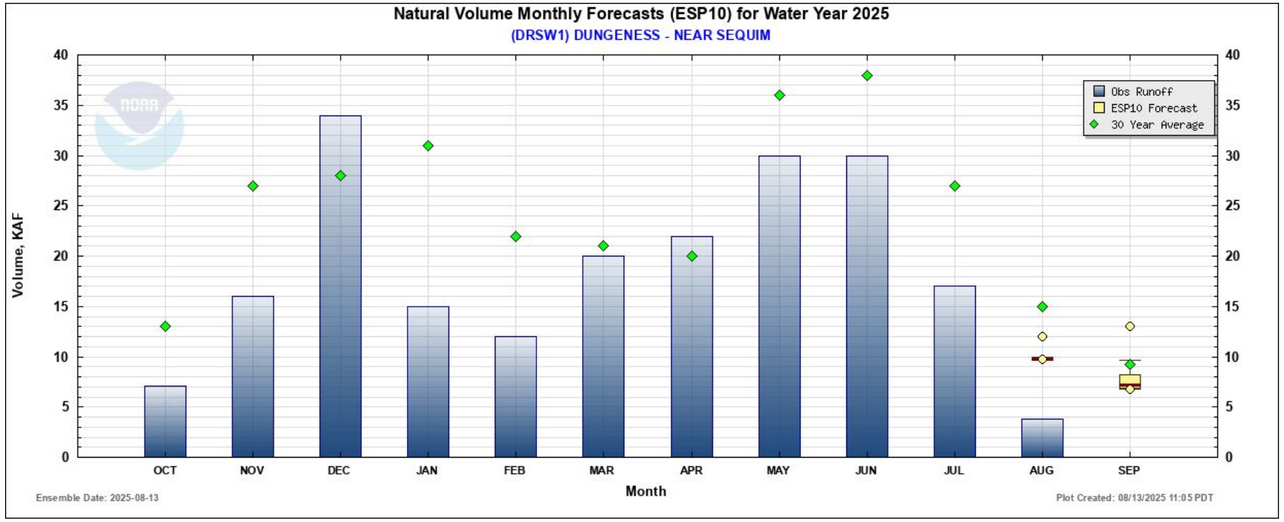
West Side Forecasts



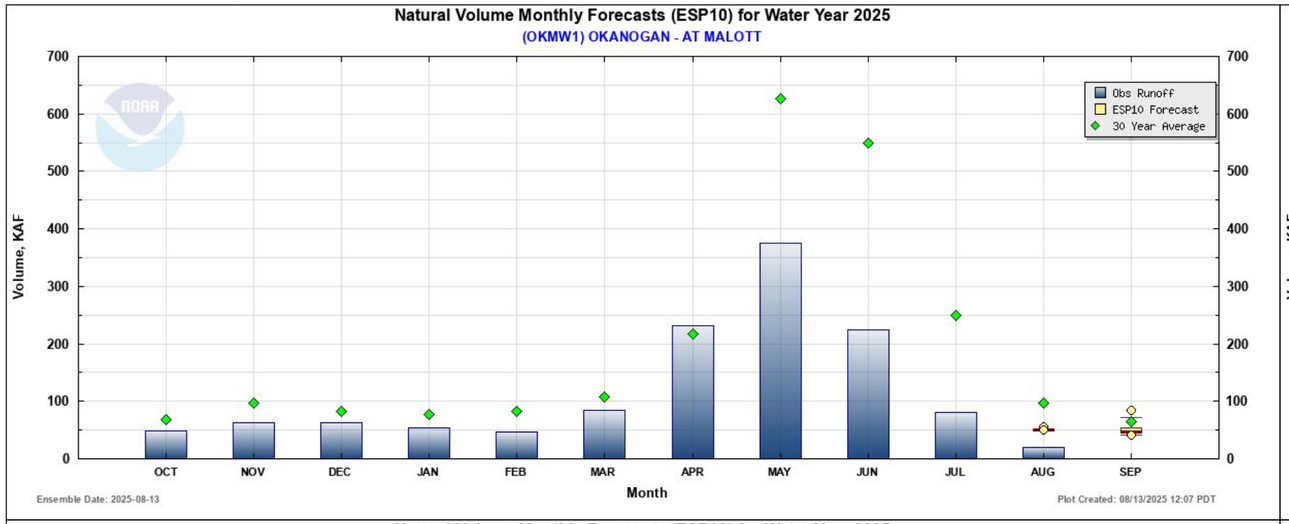


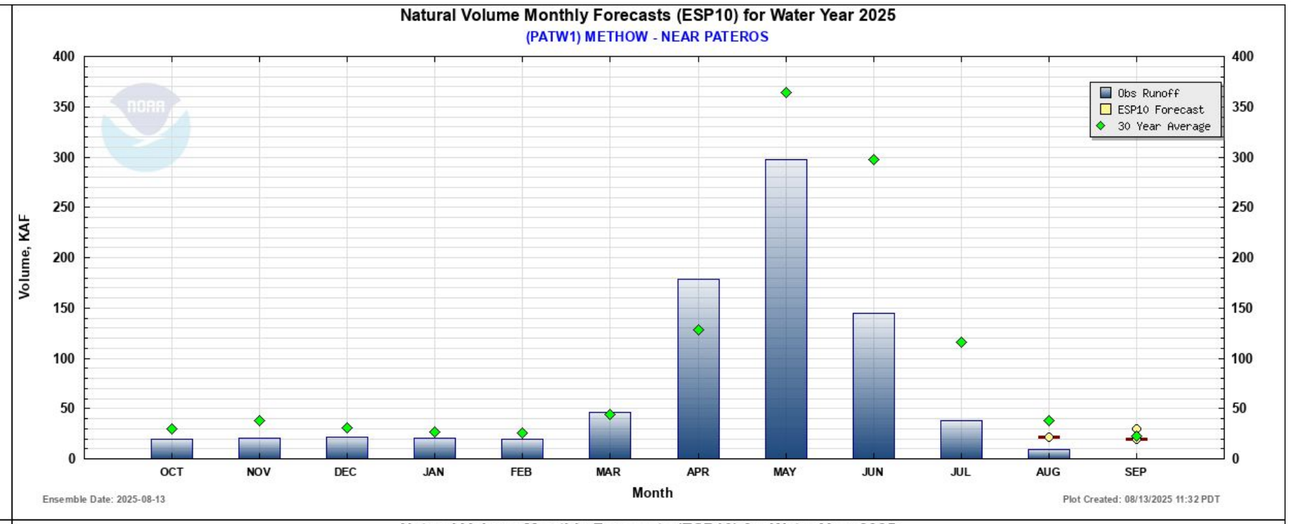
Monthly runoff has been below normal since May.

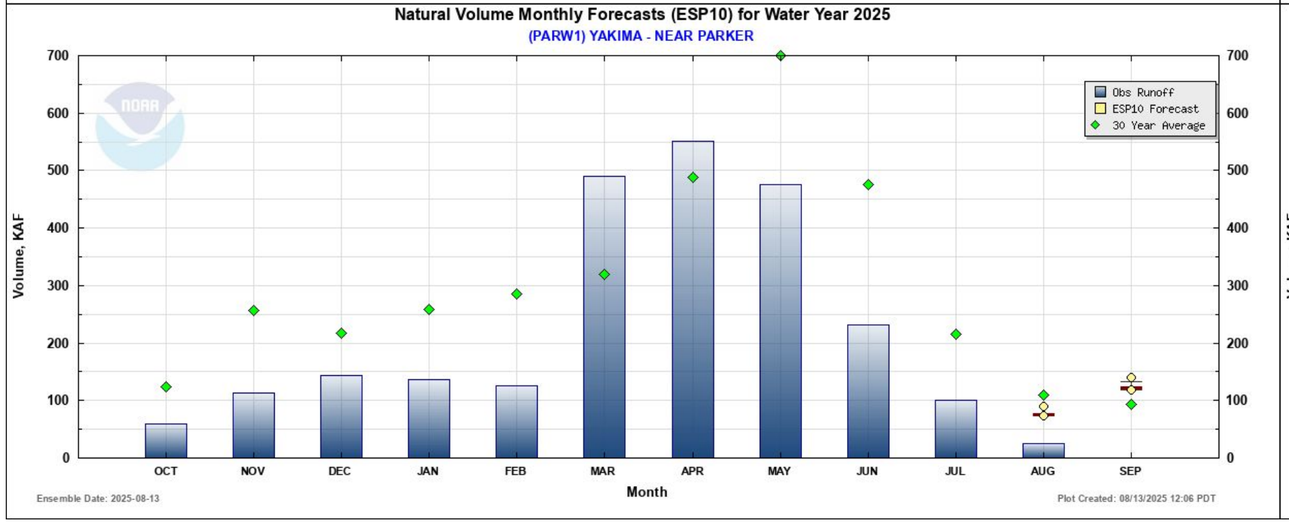
The low runoff trend is expected to continue.

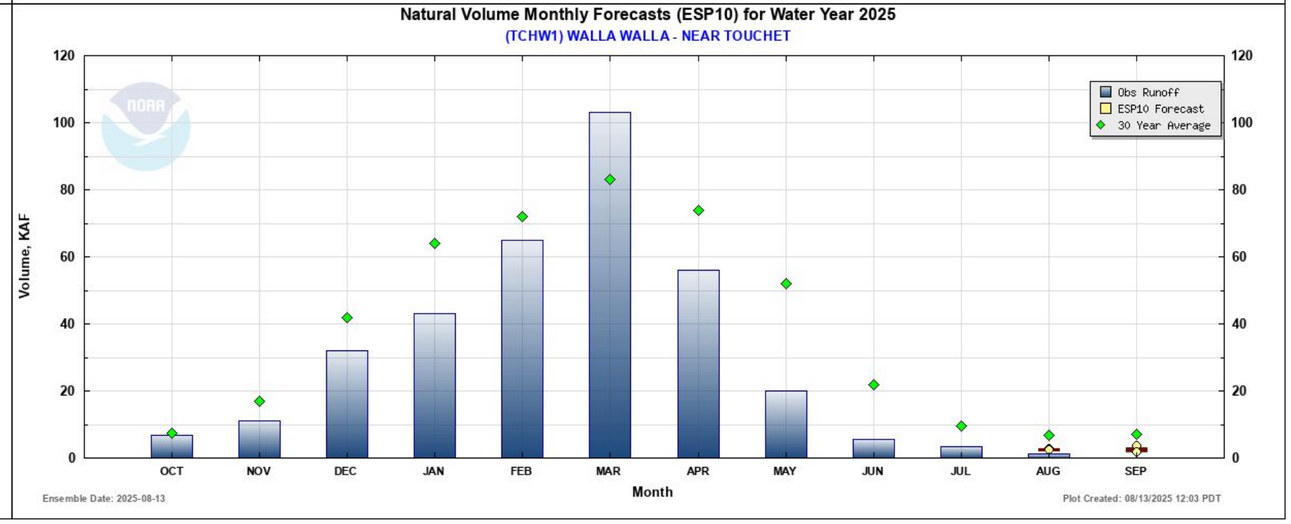


East Side Forecasts



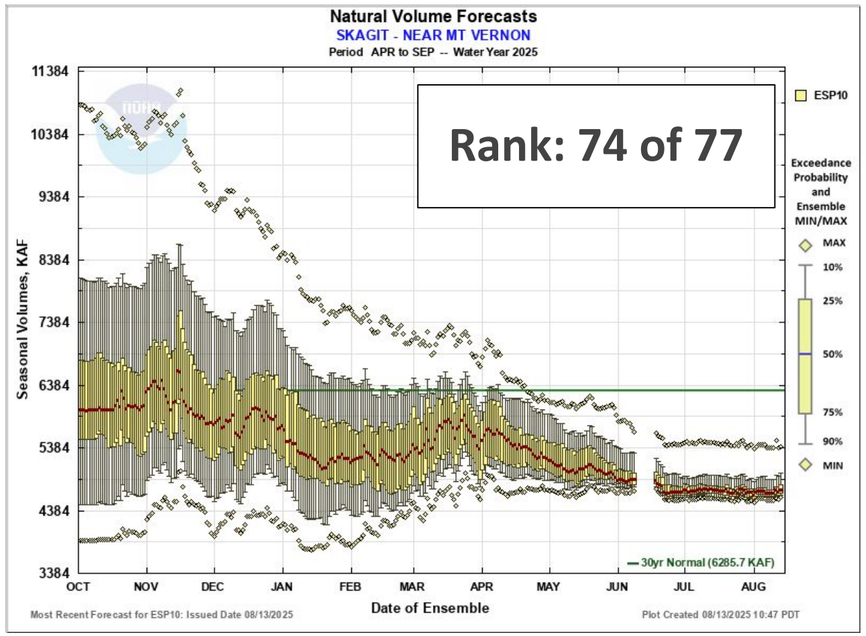


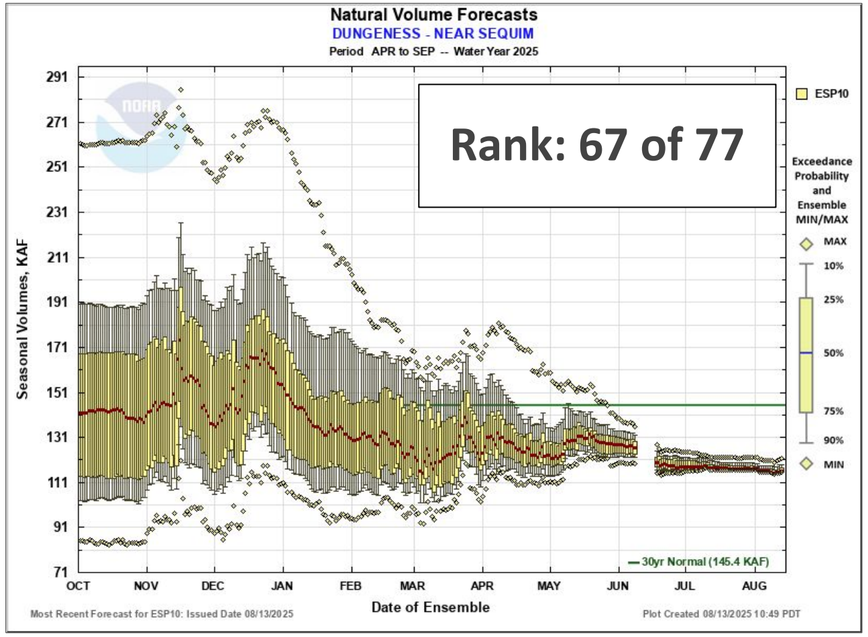


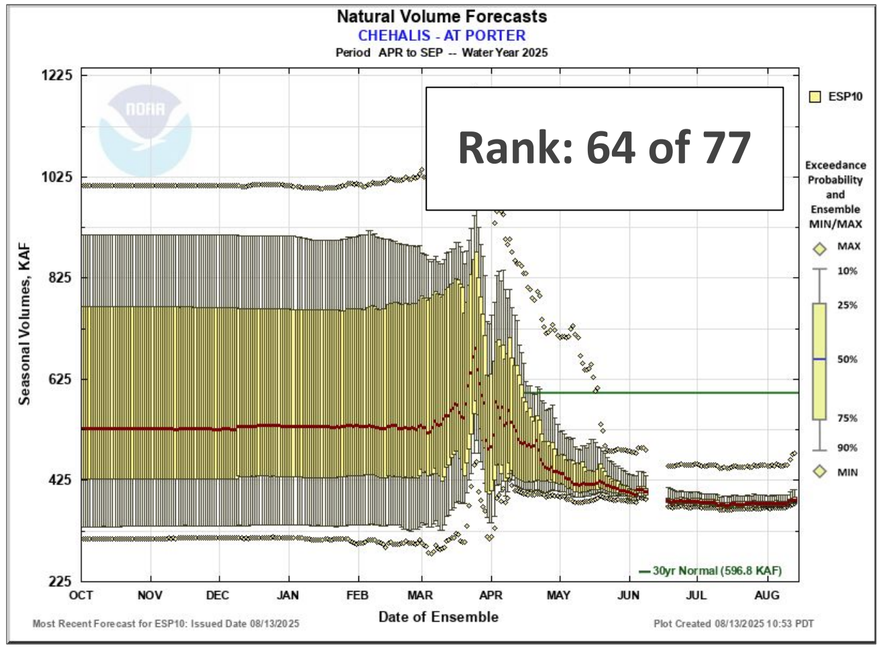


Monthly runoff has been below normal since May.

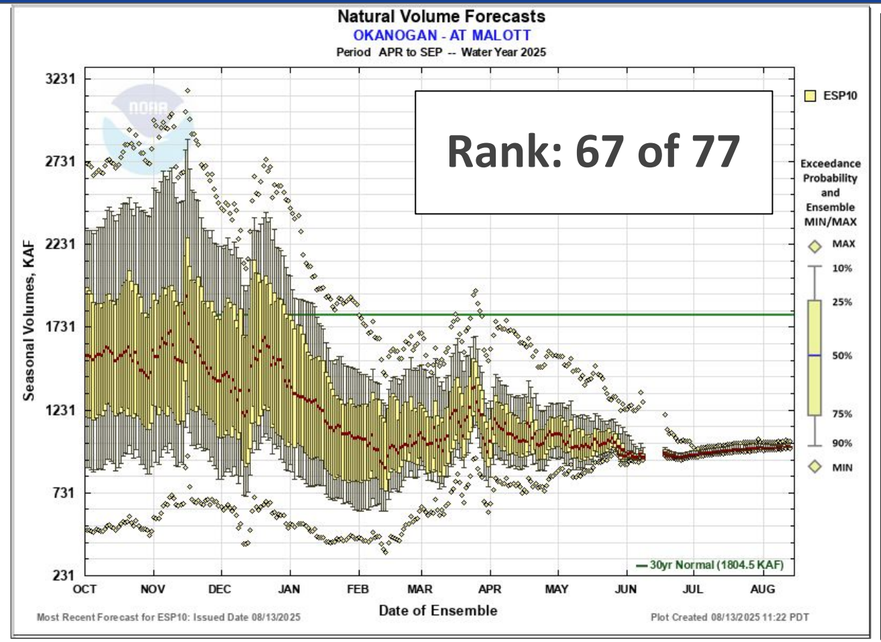
Apr - Sep Forecasts: West Side

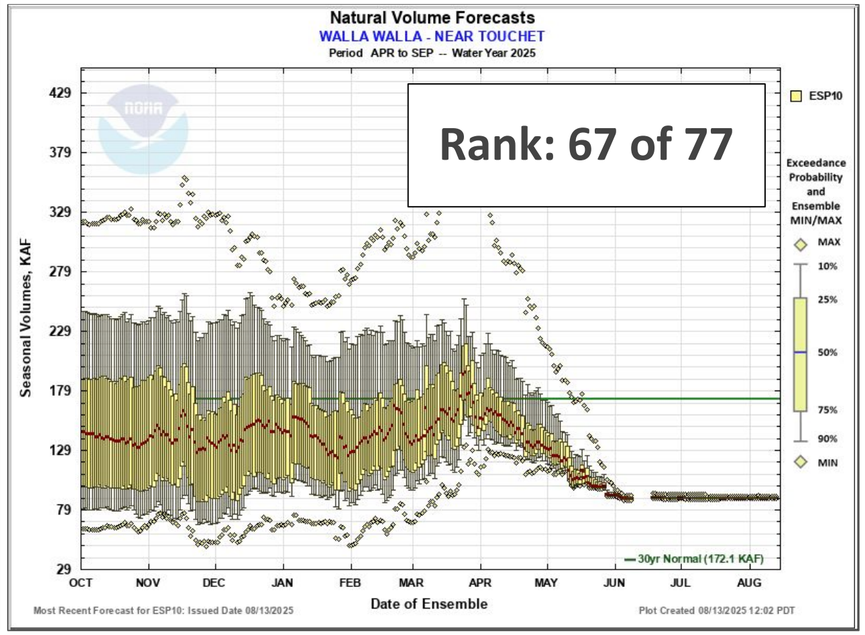


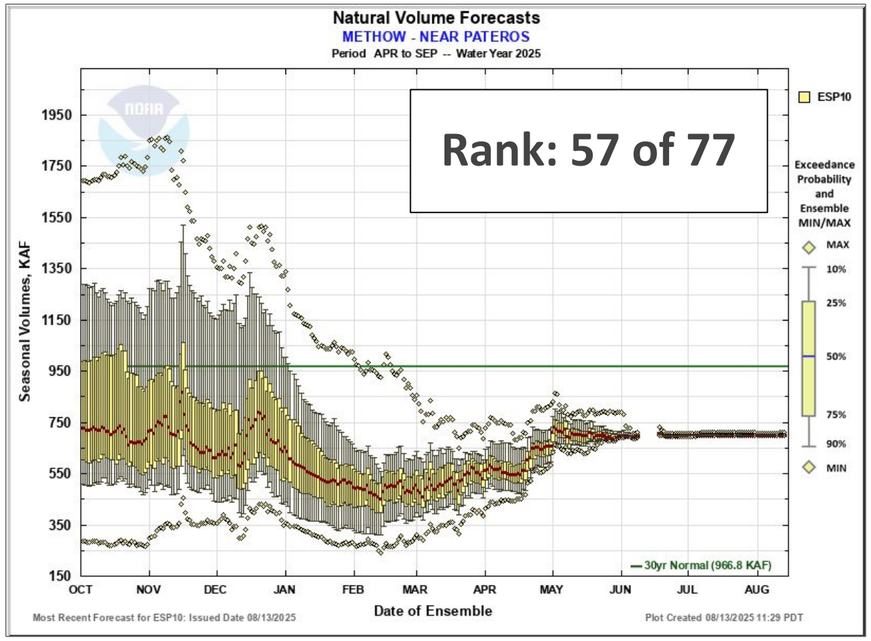


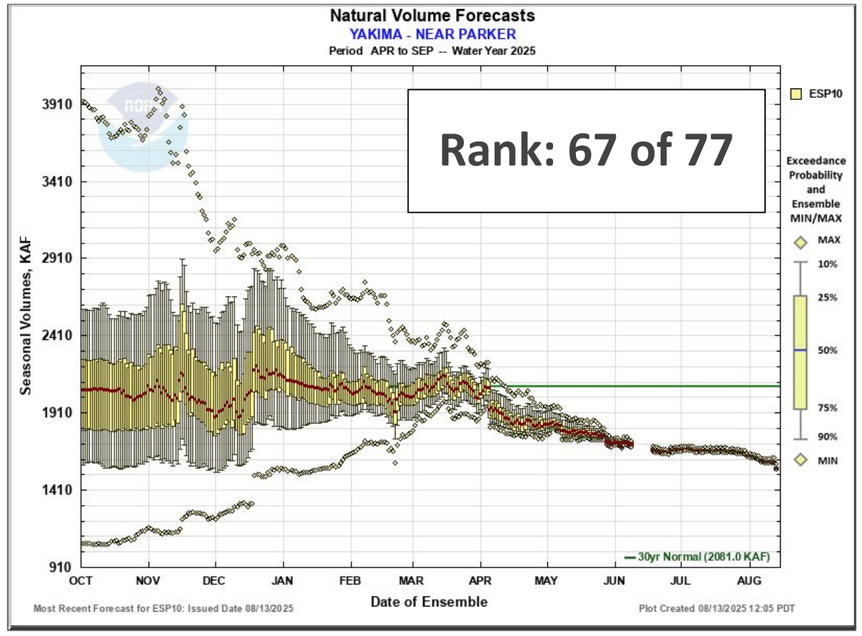


Apr - Sep Forecasts: East Side







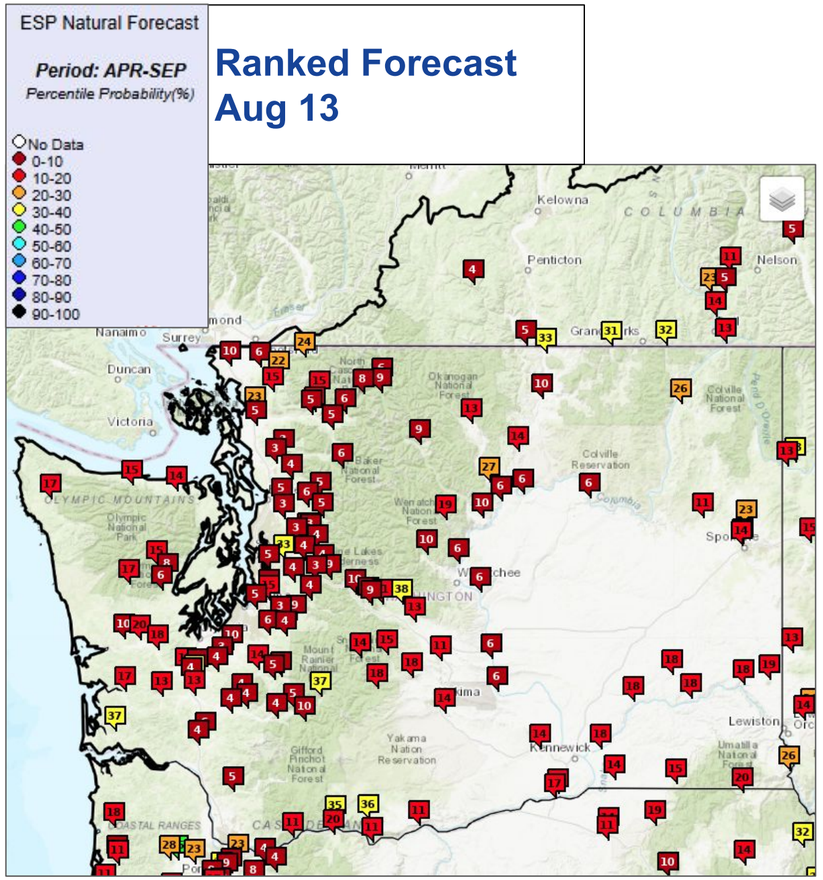


Takeaways

Monthly runoff since May has been below normal and that low trend is expected to continue.

Incoming precipitation for the next 10 days is projected to be higher than normal. That is dominated by the storm expected to hit the 15th - 17th.

Apr-Sep river forecasts are significantly lower than normal with very low percentiles.



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program

Washington
Water Supply Availability Committee

August 2025

Matt Warbritton
Supervisory Hydrologist
USDA NRCS SSWSF
Portland Data Collection Office
matt.warbritton@usda.gov
503-307-2829

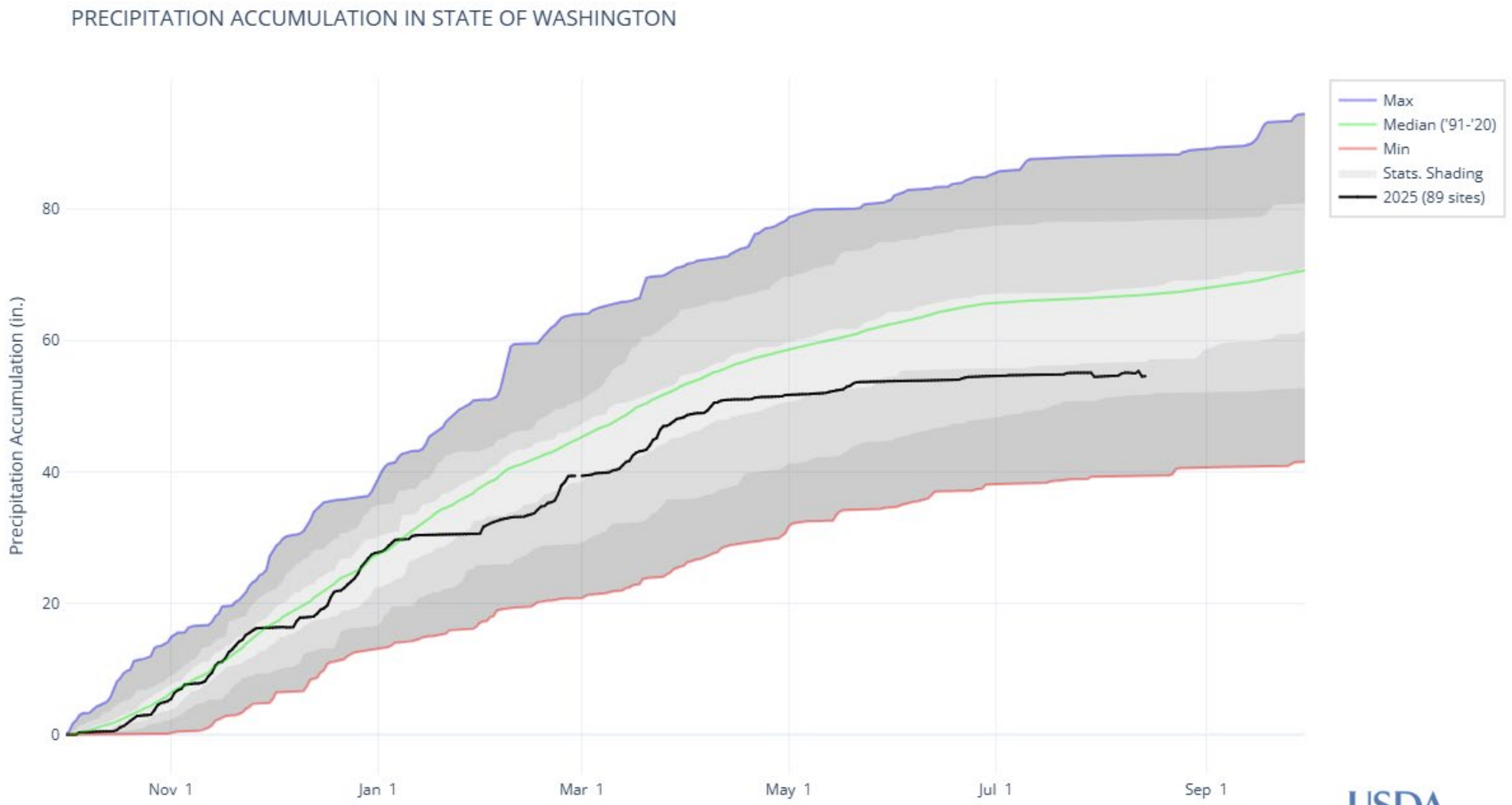
USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Precipitation Conditions

Statewide WYTD Precipitation

United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

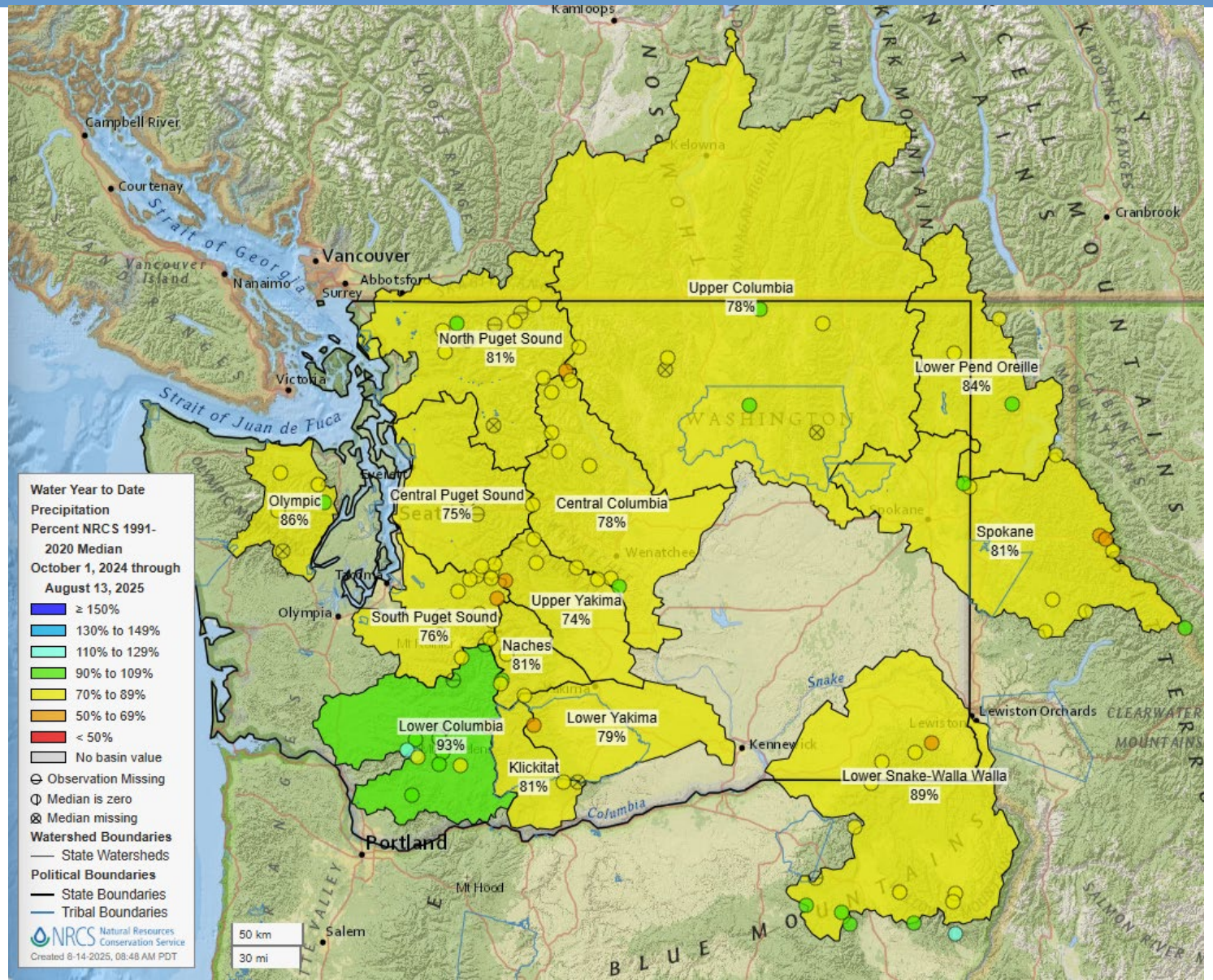


WYTD Precipitation

% of Normal

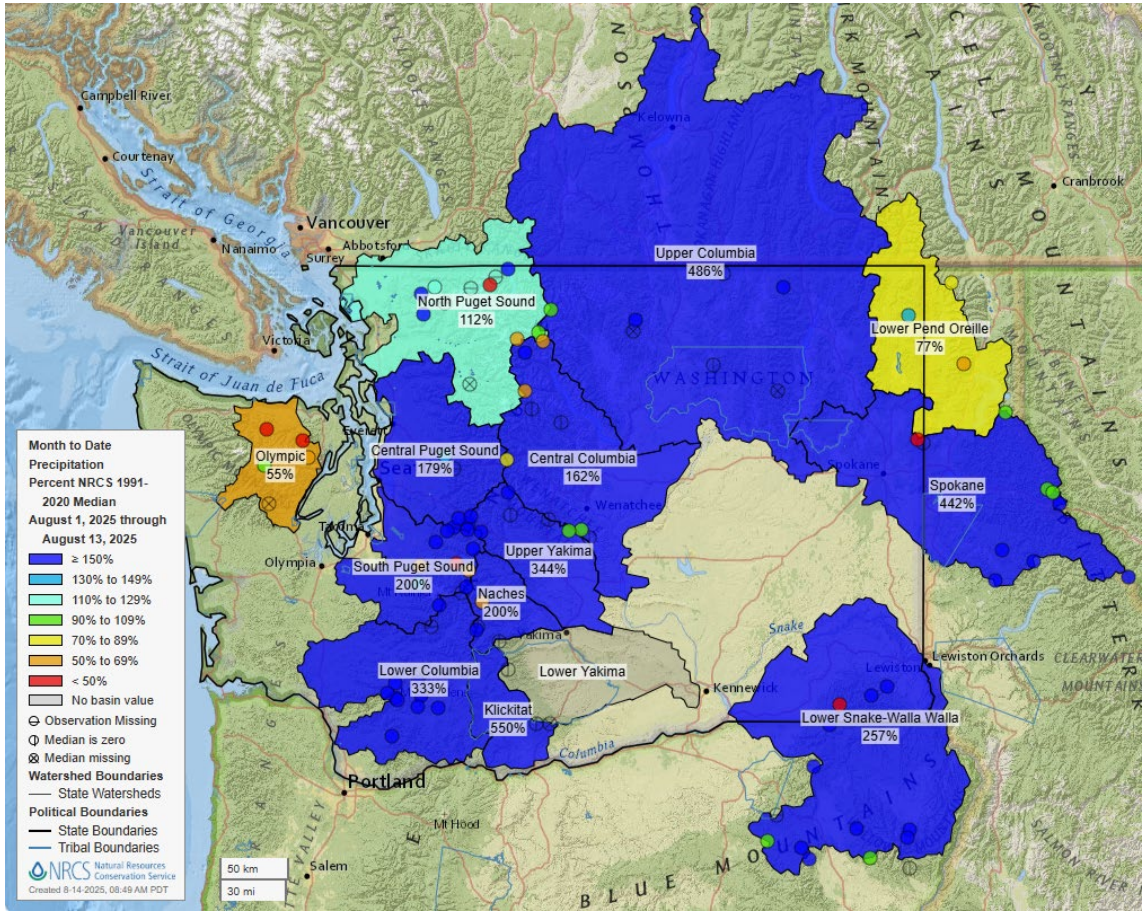
United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service



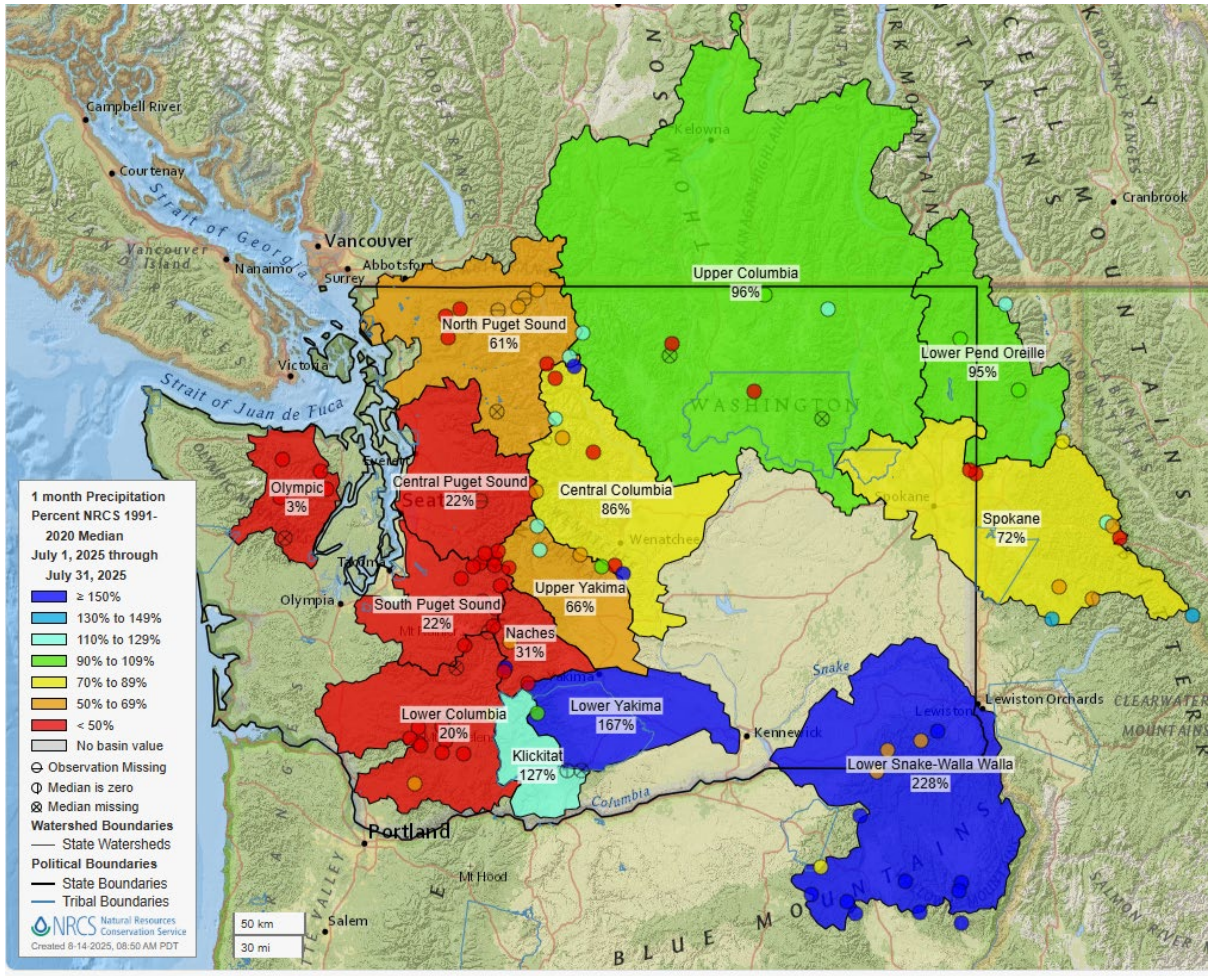
Precipitation

United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service



August month-to-date

July



Precipitation

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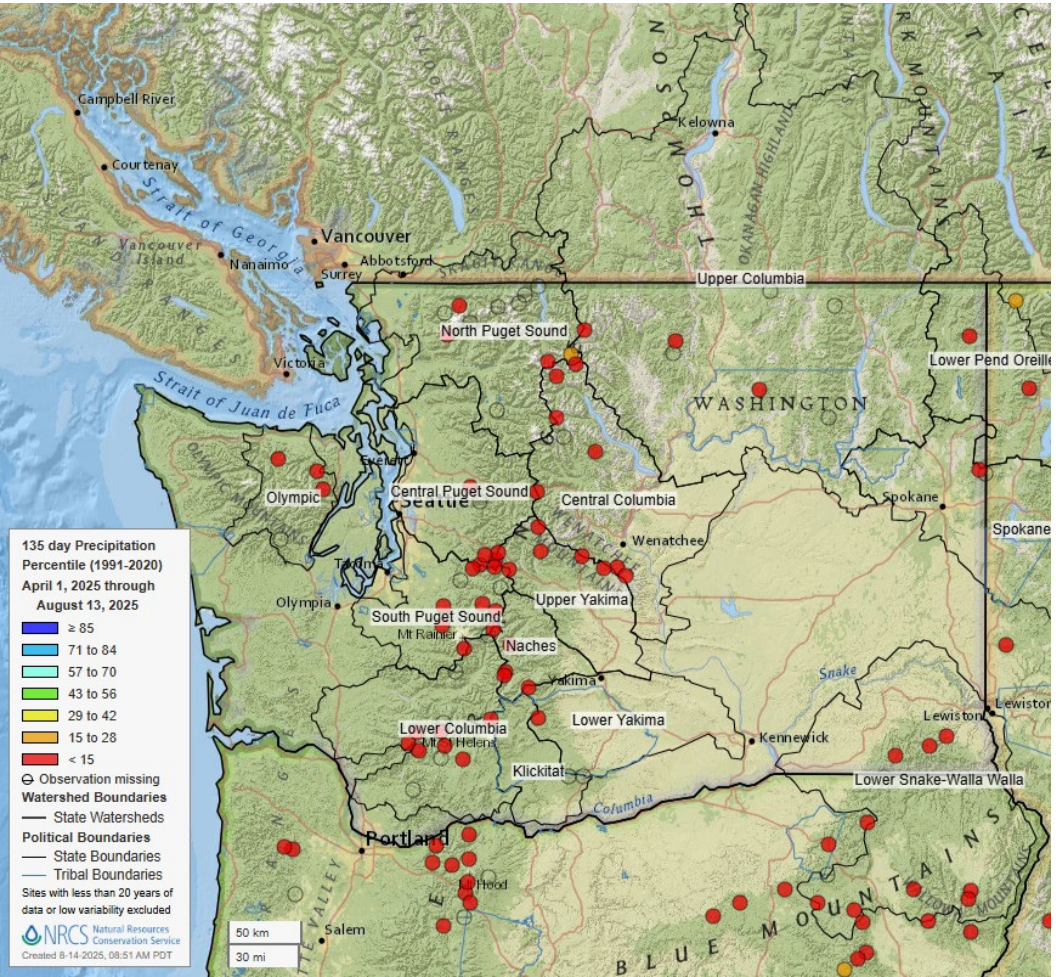
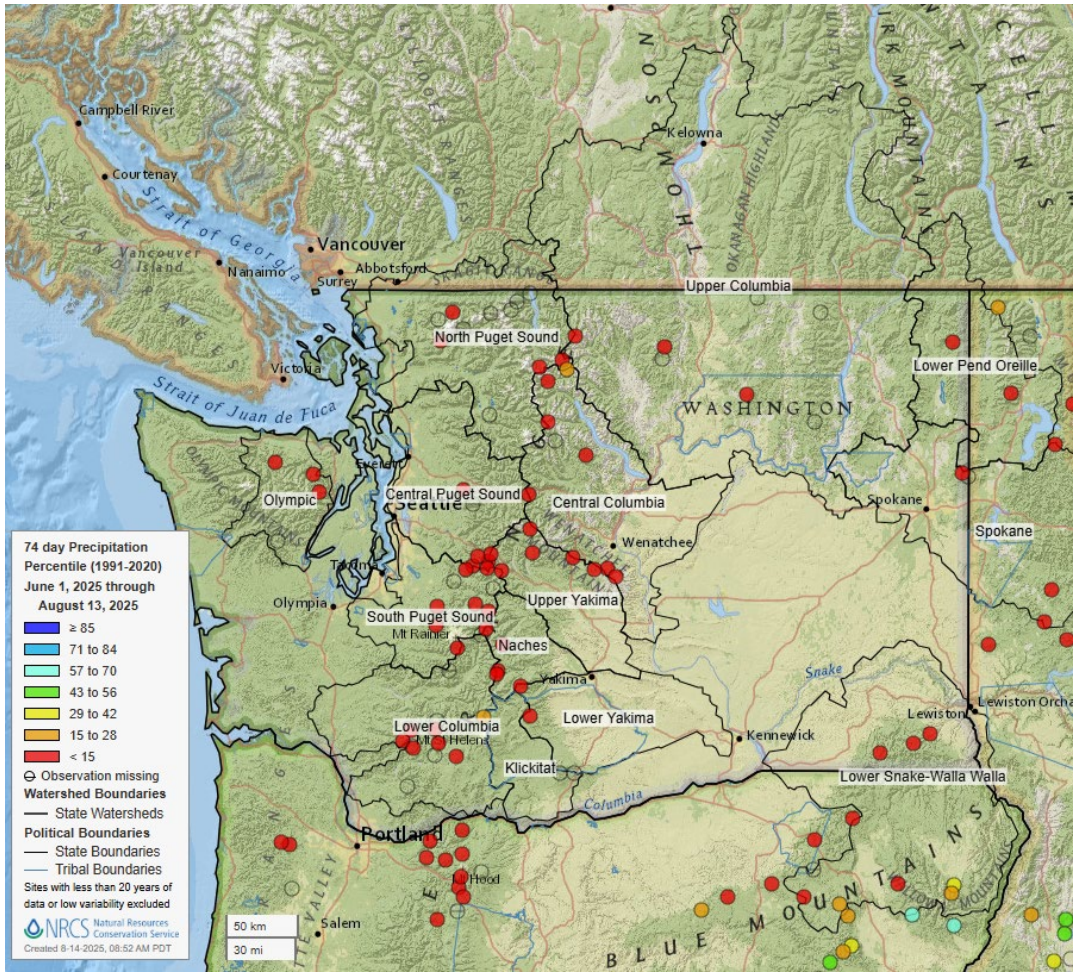
Apr 1 to date percentile (1991-2020)



Jun 1 to date percentile (1991-2020)



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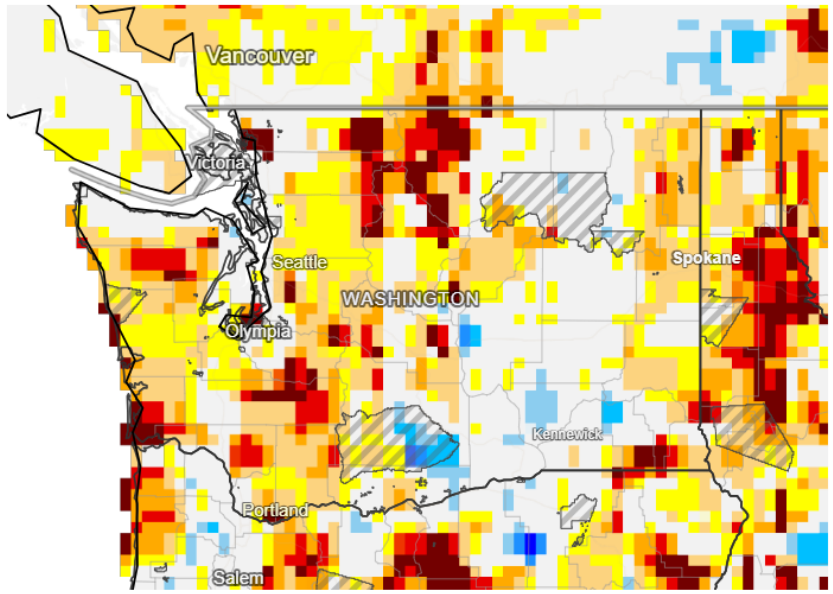
Soil Moisture

Soil Moisture

NASA GRACE and SPoRT-LiS, Topofire

United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Root Zone



Root Zone Soil Moisture: Wetness Percentile

0 2 5 10 20 30 70

30 70 80 90 95 98 100

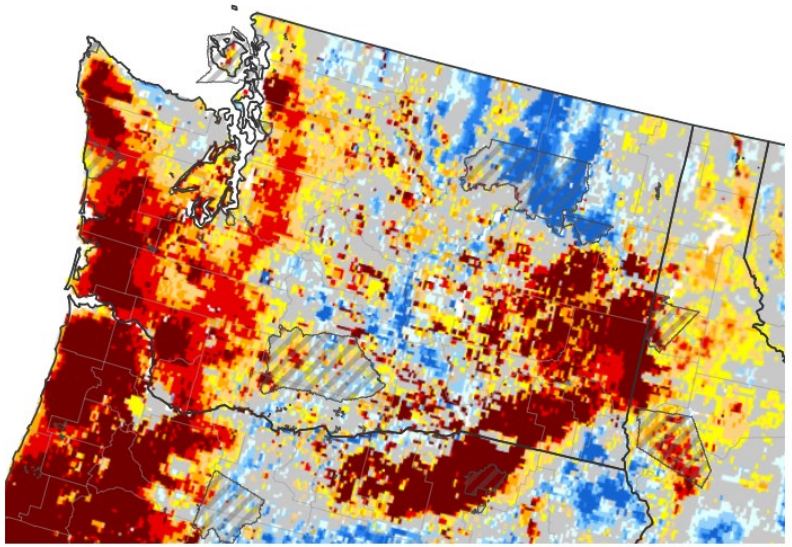
Tribal Nations

Tribal Nation Boundaries

Last Updated: 08/09/25

Drought.gov

0–100 cm Soil Moisture Percentile



0–100 cm Soil Moisture Percentile

0 2 5 10 20 30 70

70 80 90 95 98 100

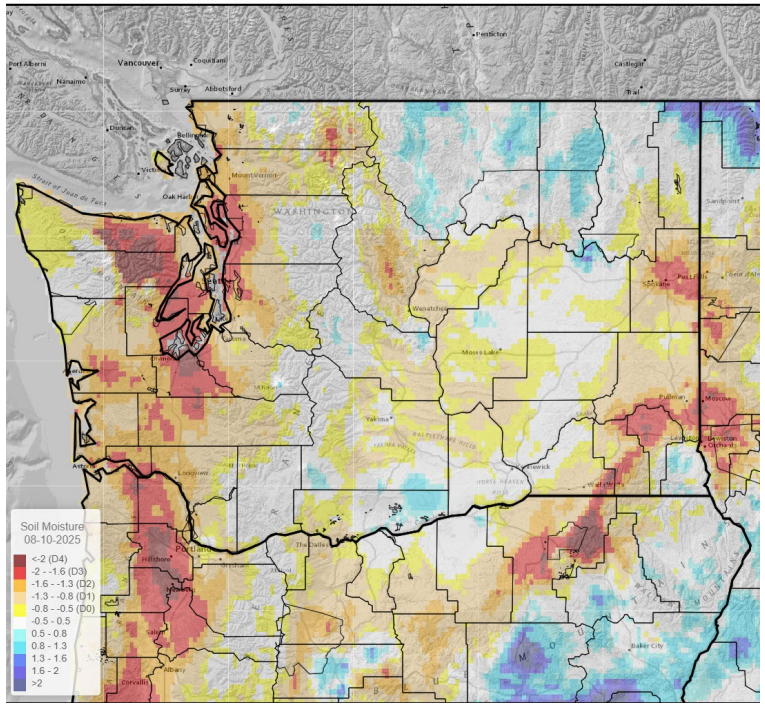
Tribal Nations

Tribal Nation Boundaries

Source(s): NASA
Data Valid: 08/13/25

Drought.gov

Topofire Soil Moisture for 08-10-2025



Soil Moisture

SNOTEL Data

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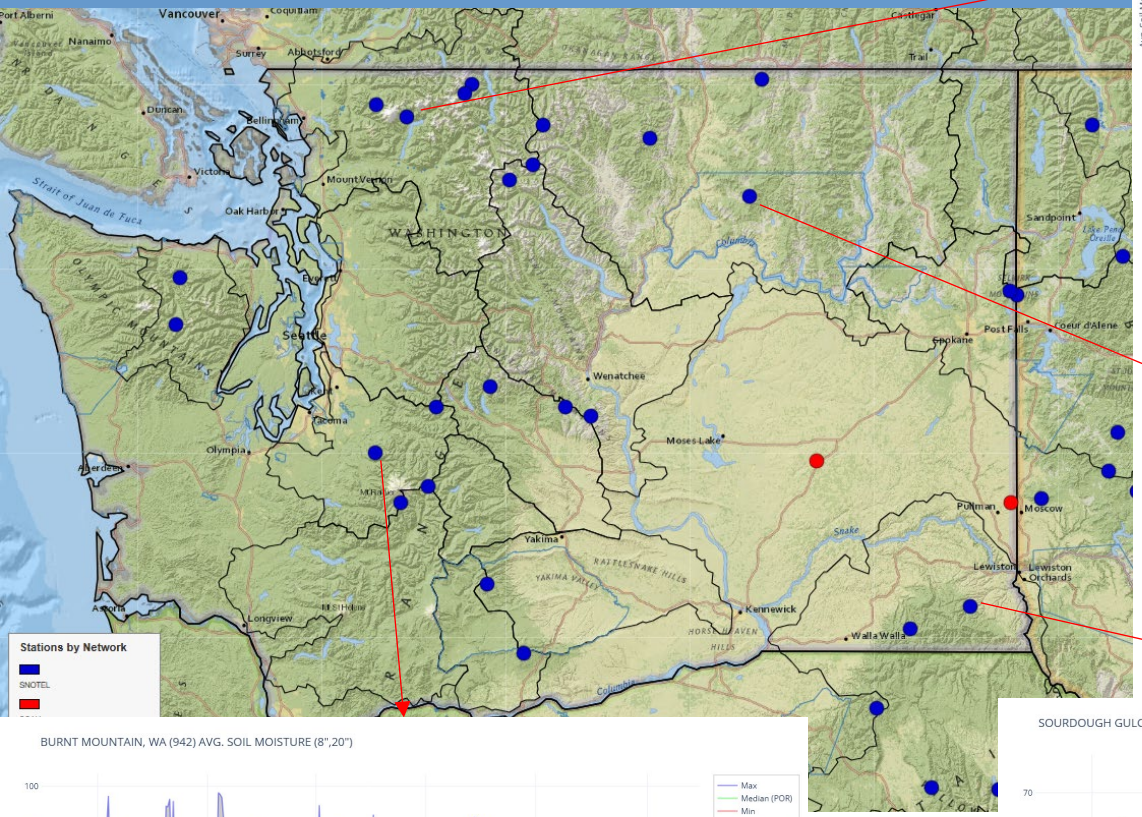
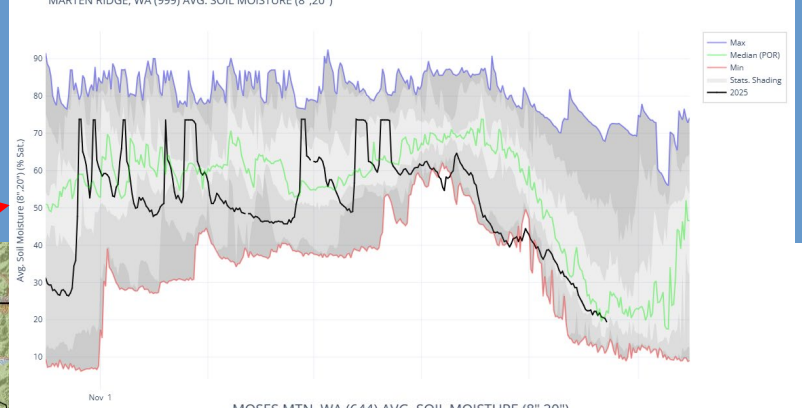
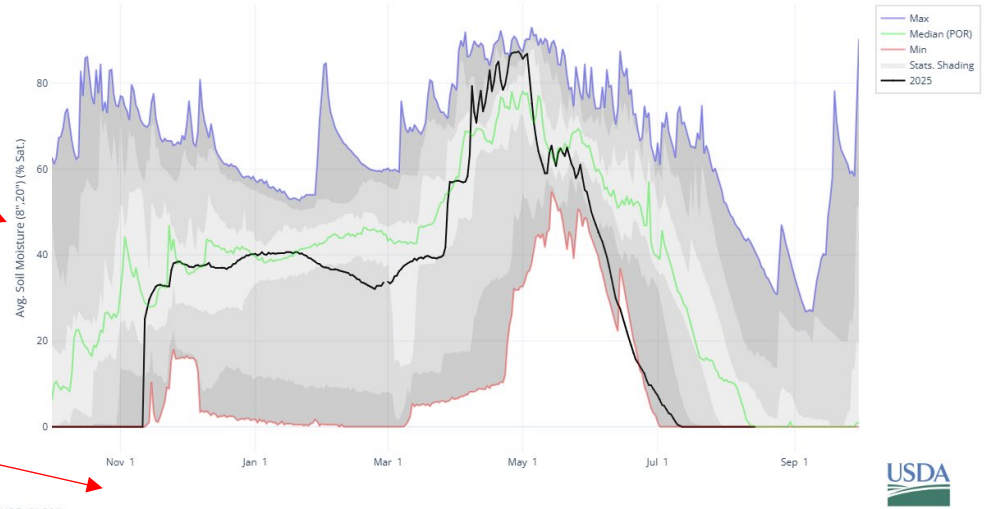
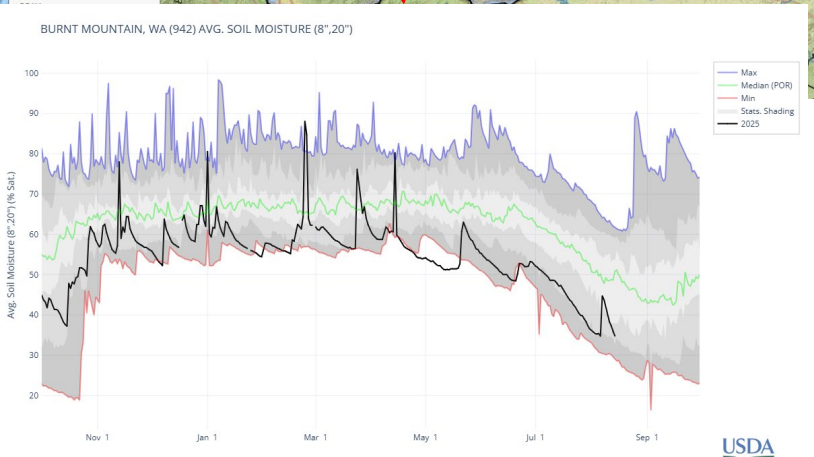
Natural Resources Conservation Service



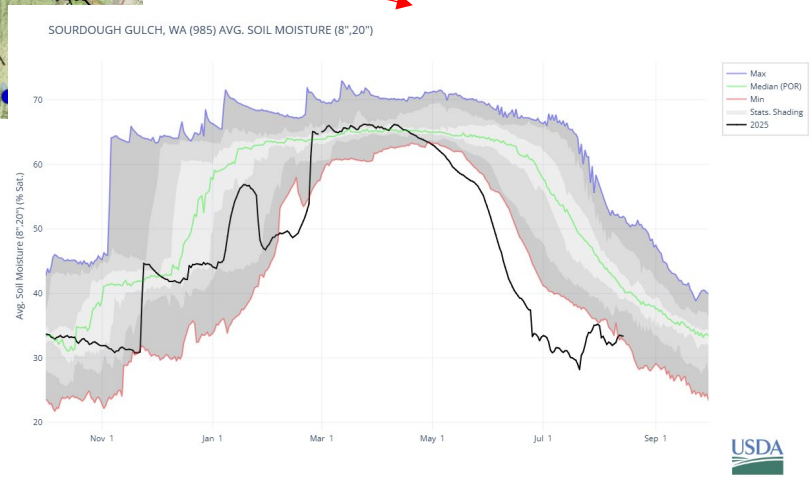




USDA



USDA



USDA

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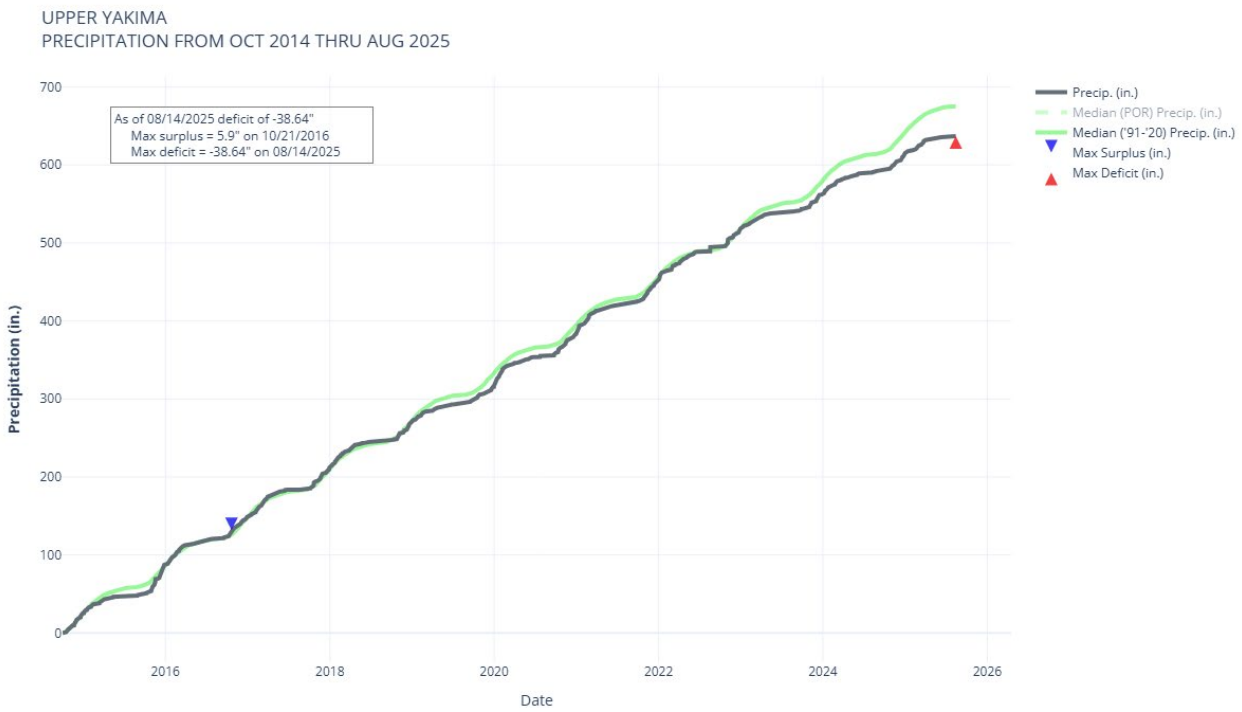
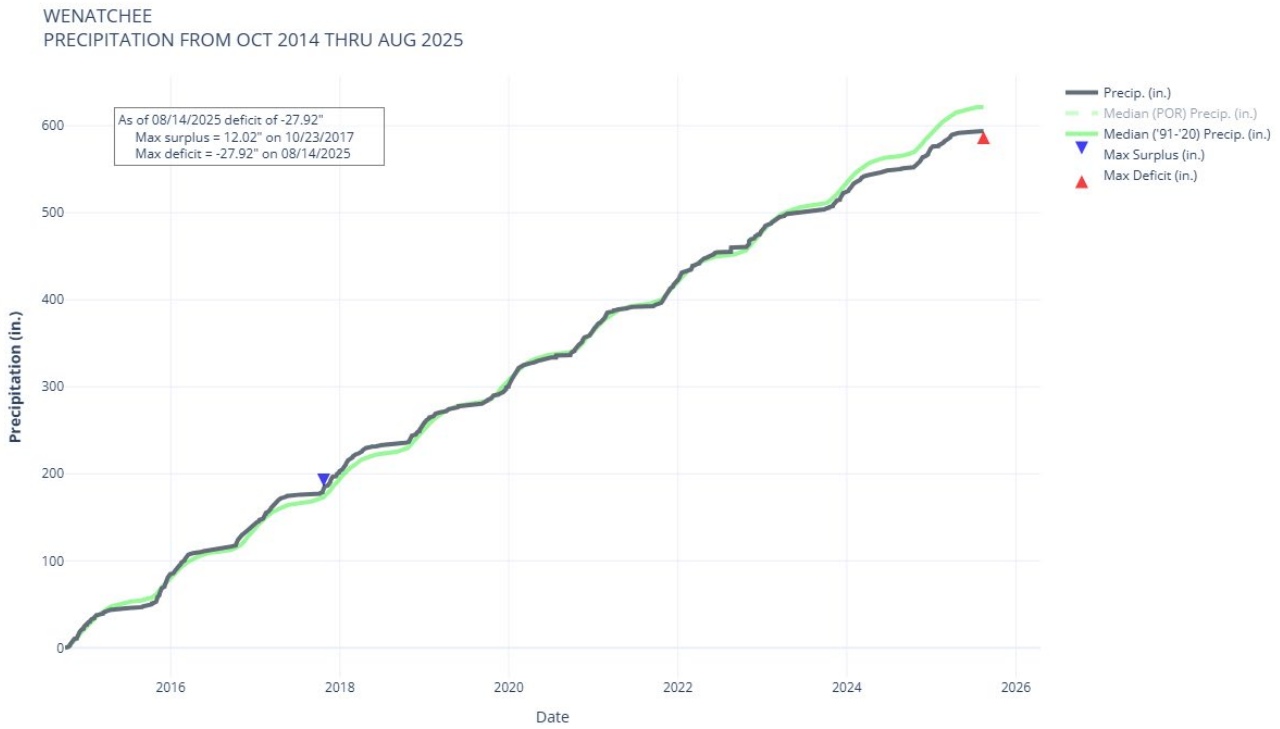
Compounding Deficits

Multi-year precipitation deficits

United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service





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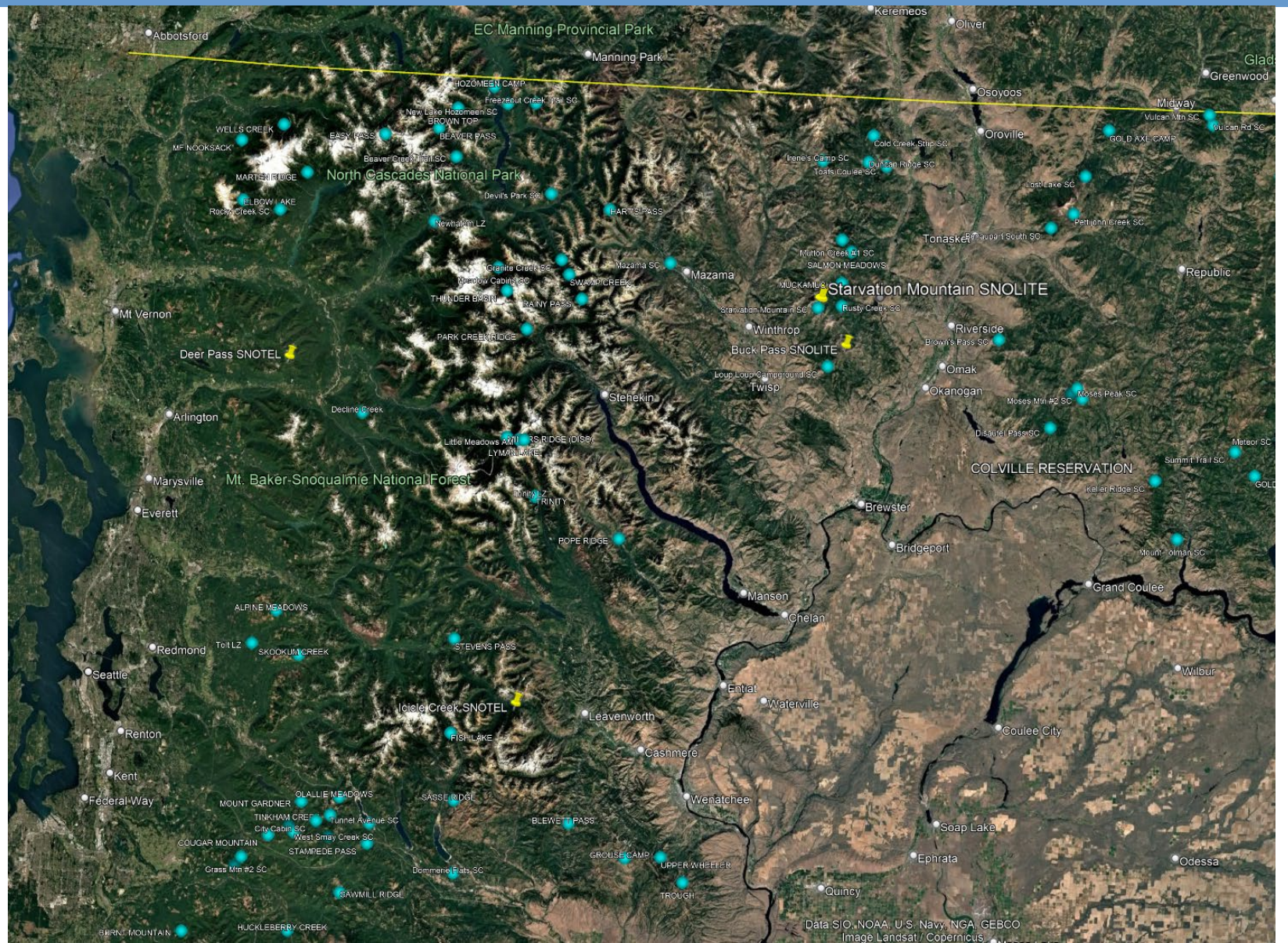
Operational Update

Expected new monitoring sites - 2025

USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service



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Natural Resources Conservation Service

Thank you!

Matt Warbritton
Supervisory Hydrologist
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Washington Snow Survey and Water Supply Program Website

USGS
science for a changing world

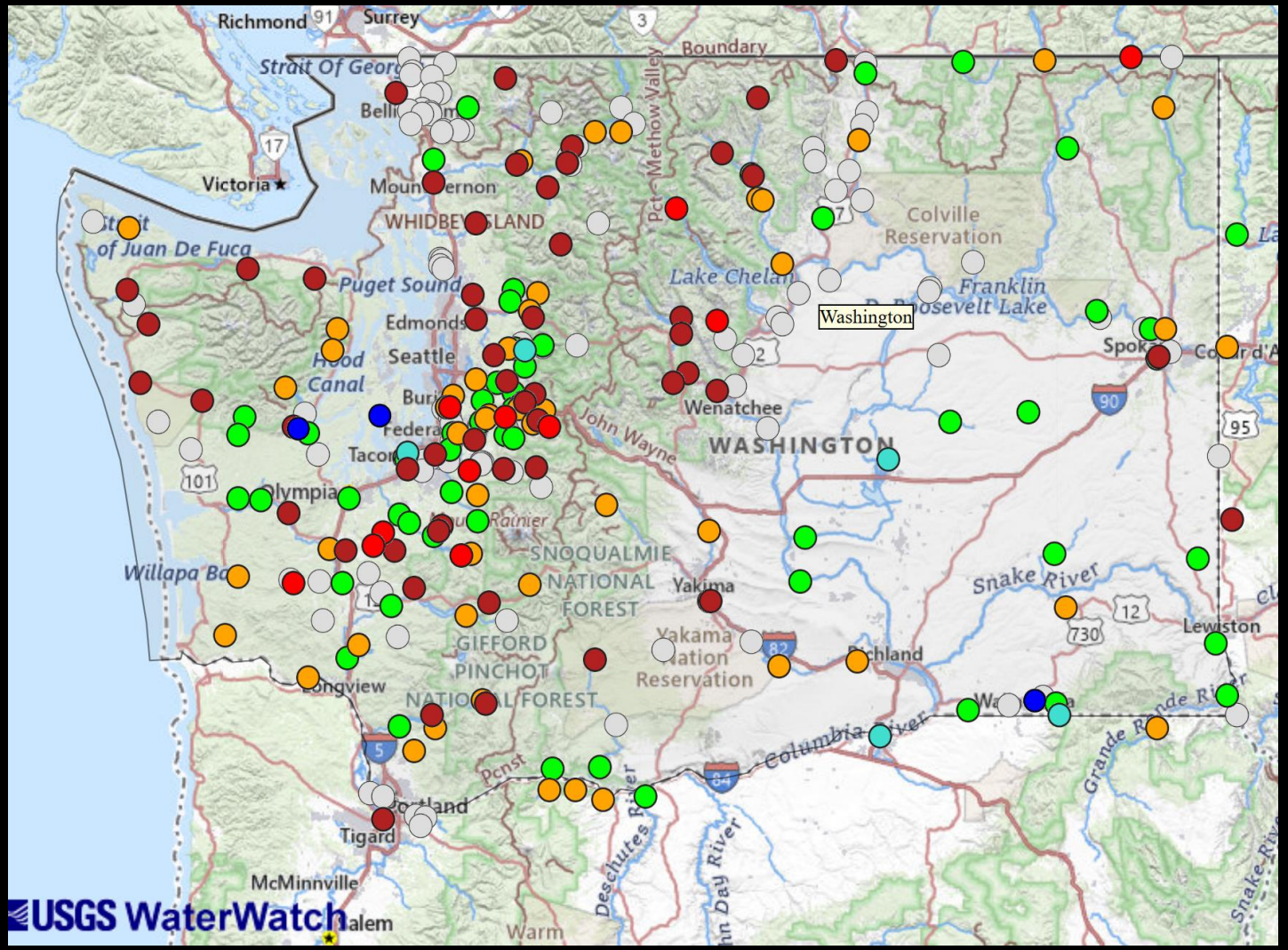
Streamflow & Groundwater Conditions in Washington State as of 13 August 2025

Presented on 14 August 2025
to the Washington Water
Supply Availability Committee
by Nicholas Sutfin,
nsutfin@usgs.gov
USGS Washington Water
Science Center

Photo by Caitlin Johnson: Will Wright floating a solar panel across the NF Tolt River with a boogie board.

7-day Average Streamflow

Conditions as of 13 August 2025



https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/index.php?id=pa07d&sid=w__gmap&r=wa

Preliminary Information- Subject to Revision. Not for Citation or Distribution.

WaterWatch is scheduled to be discontinued in 2026

Explanation - Percentile classes							
Record Low	<10 Much below normal	10-24 Below normal	25-75 Normal	76-90 Above normal	>90 Much above normal	Record High	Not-ranked

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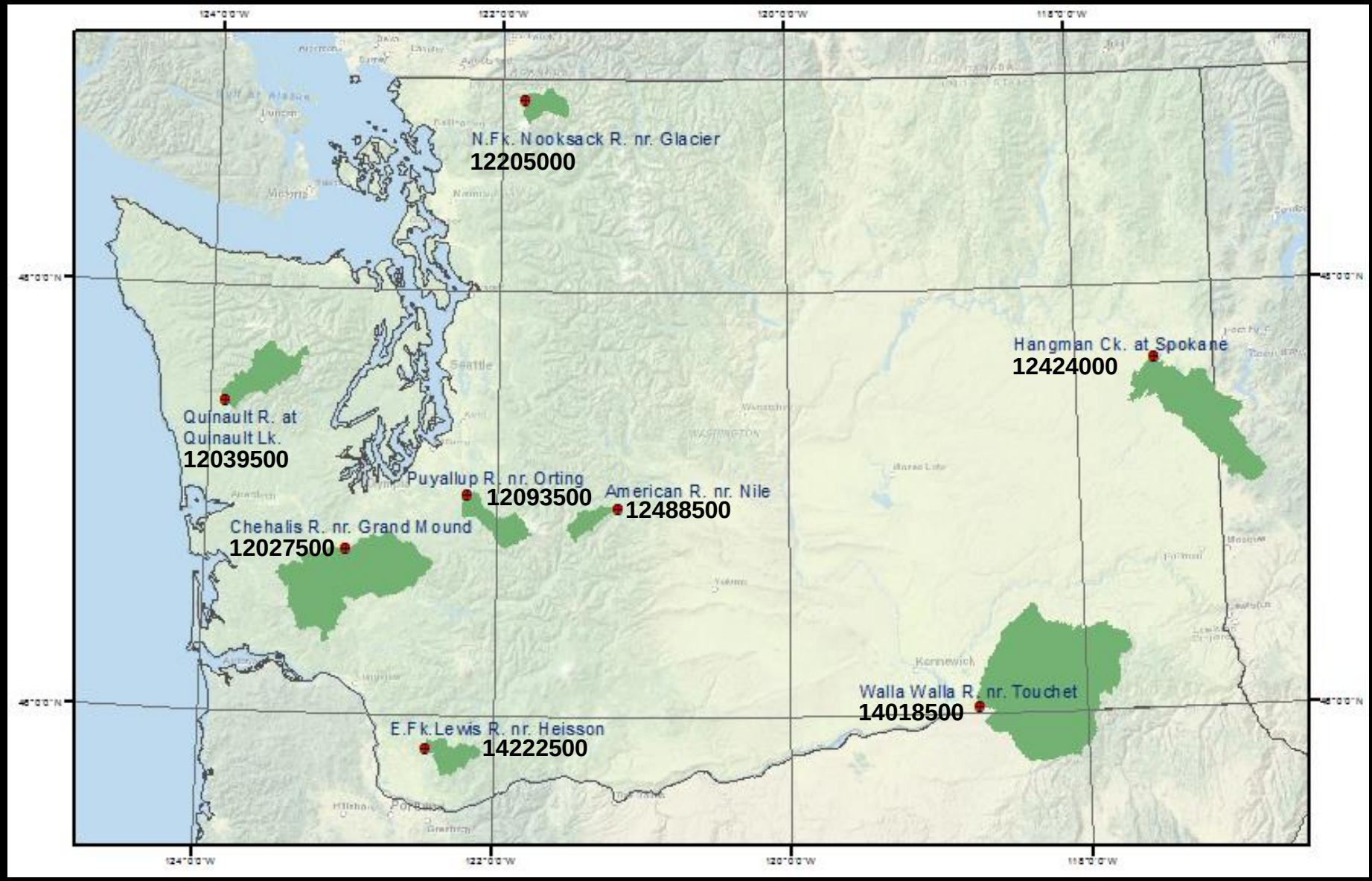
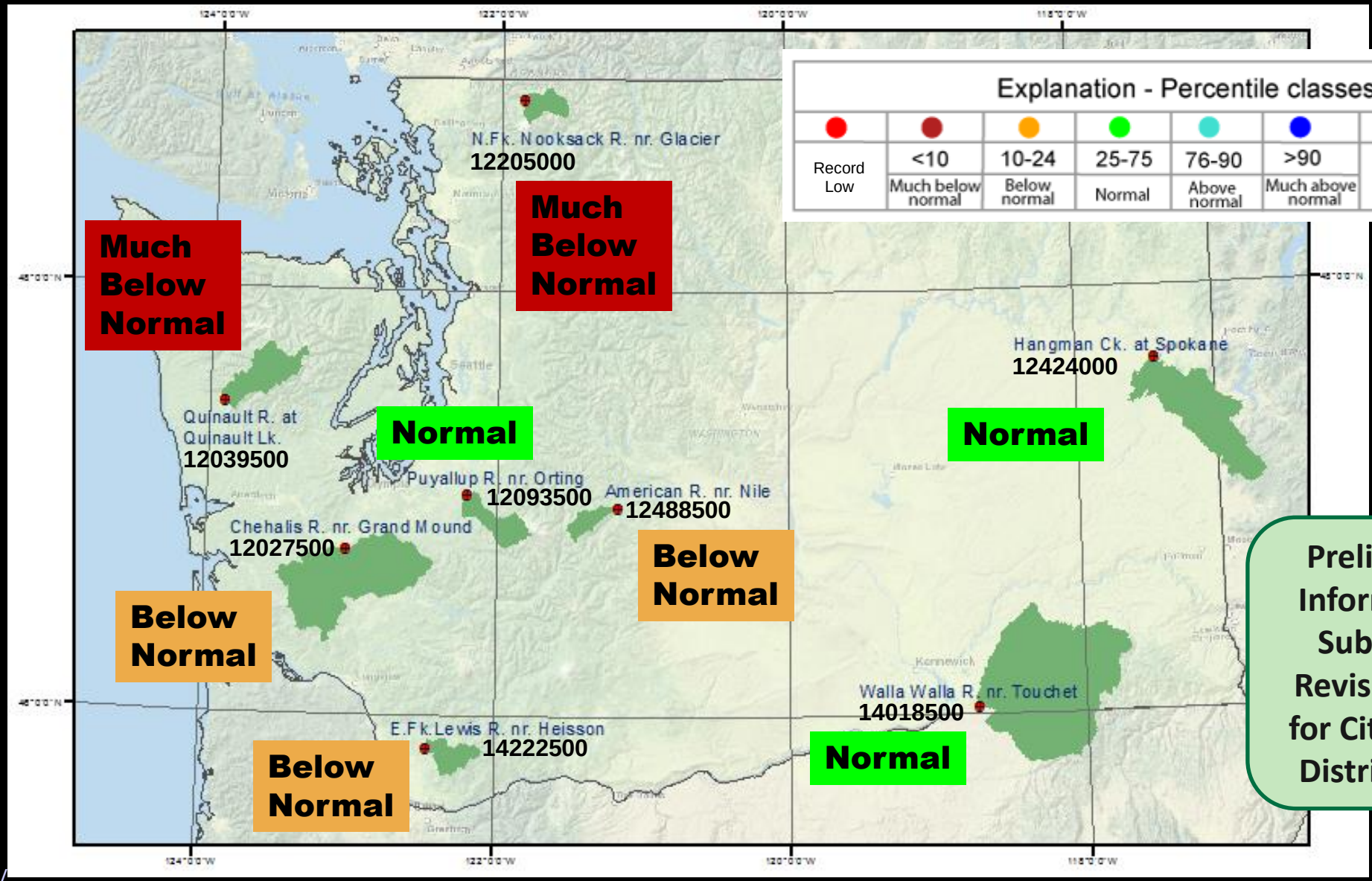
Index Gaging Stations

(Stations that measure natural or near-natural streamflow)



Index Gaging Stations

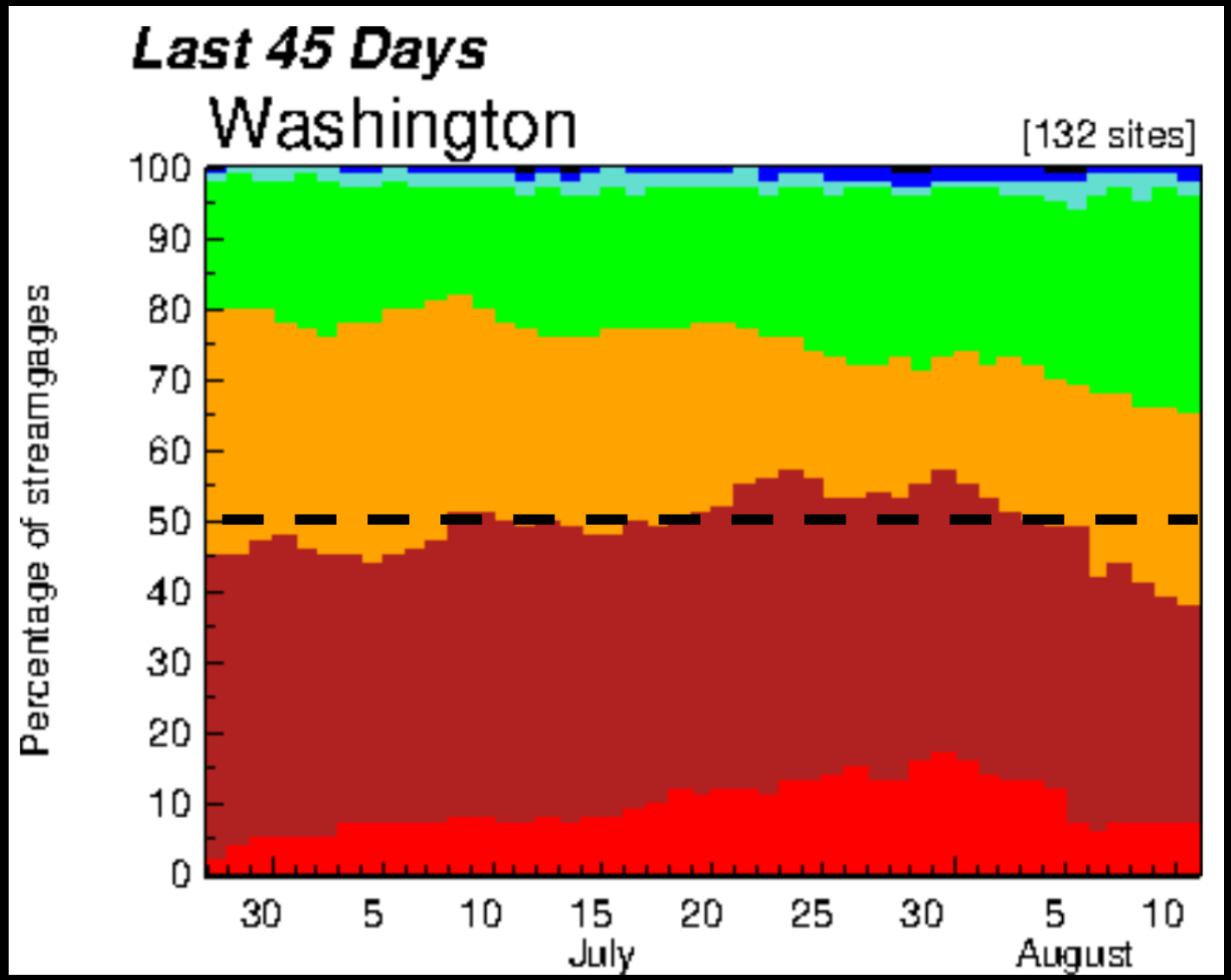
7-day average streamflow as of 13 August 2025



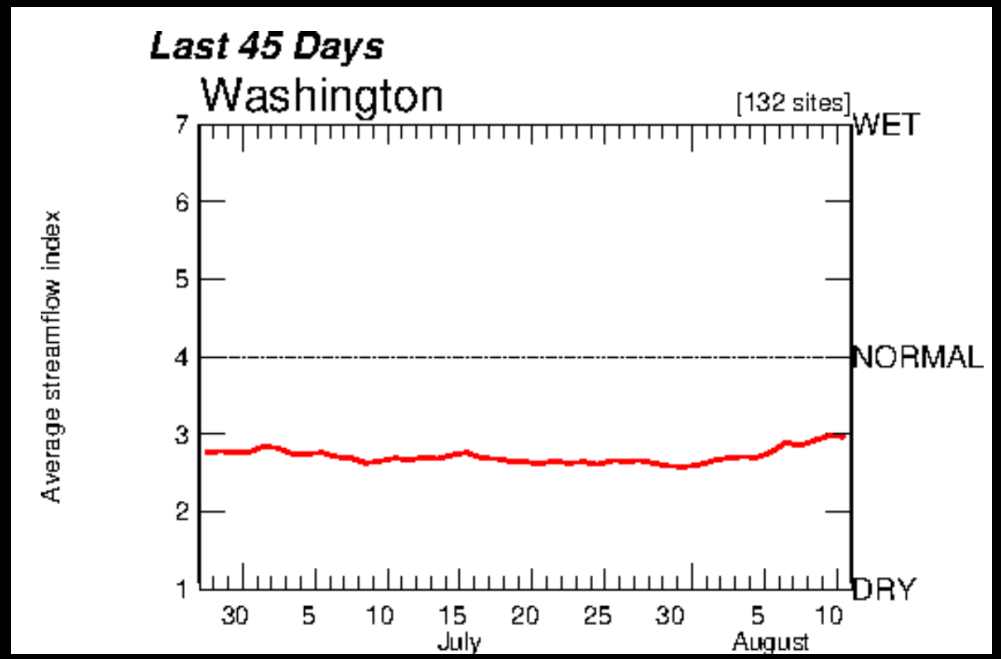
https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/

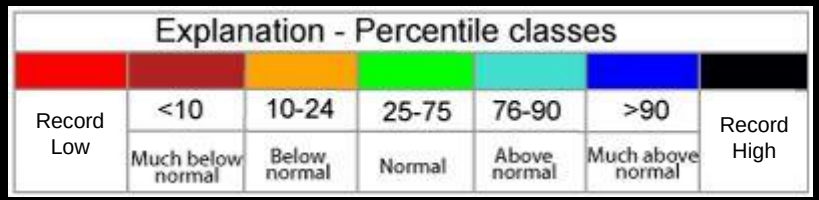
7-day average streamflow

Most USGS stream gages **below normal** as of 13 August 2025



Preliminary Information-Subject to Revision.
Not for Citation or Distribution.

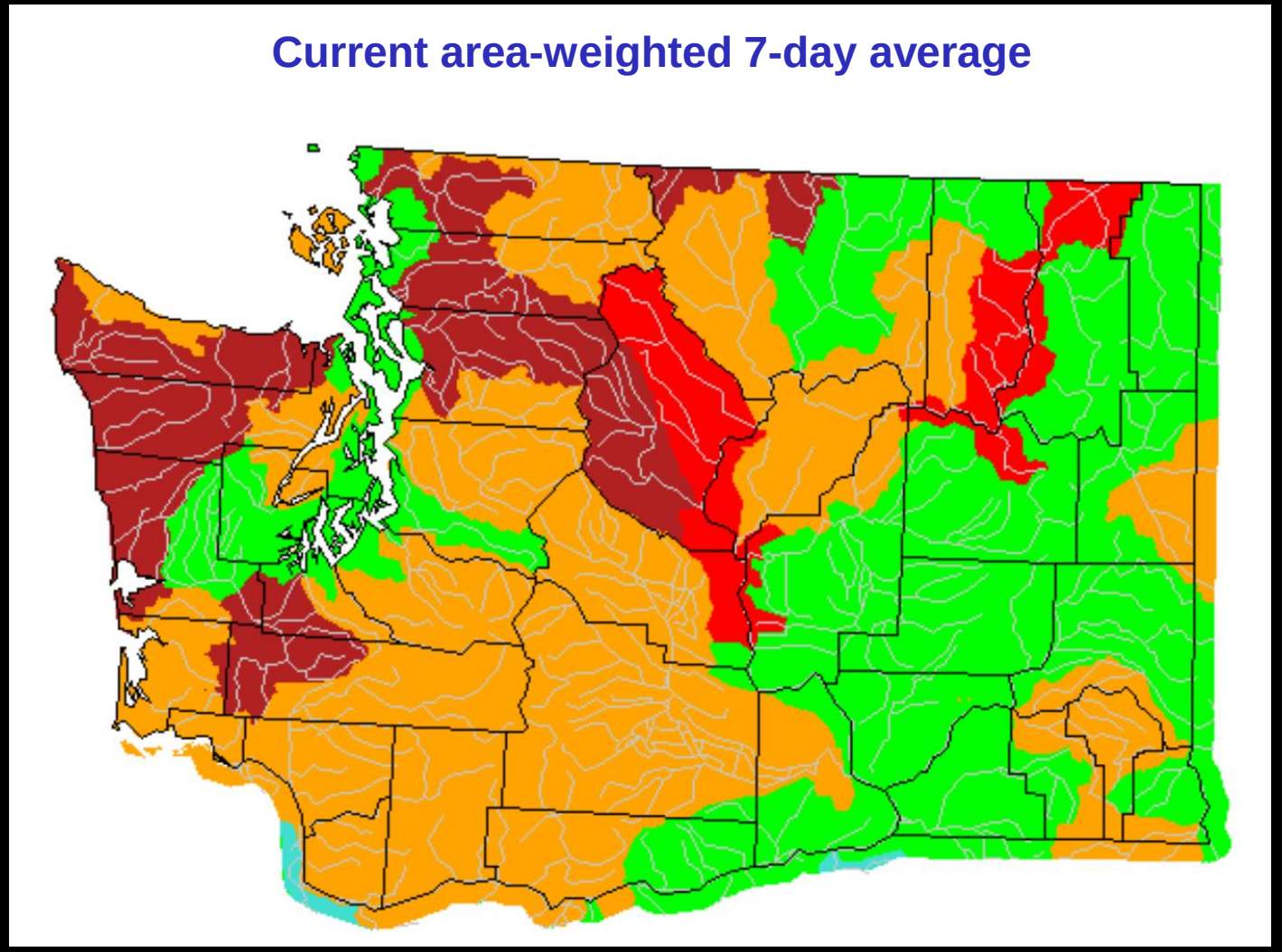




https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/

Average streamflow
compared to historical streamflow

Current area-weighted 7-day average



Explanation - Percentile classes						
Record Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	Record High
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal	

Preliminary Information- Subject to Revision. Not for Citation or Distribution.

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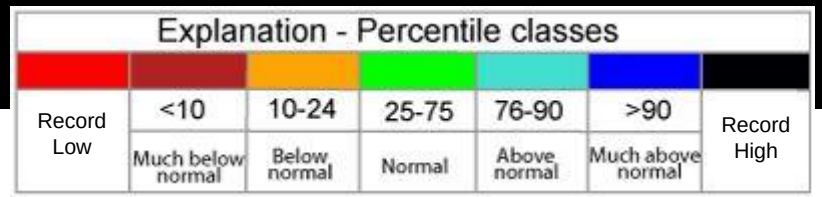
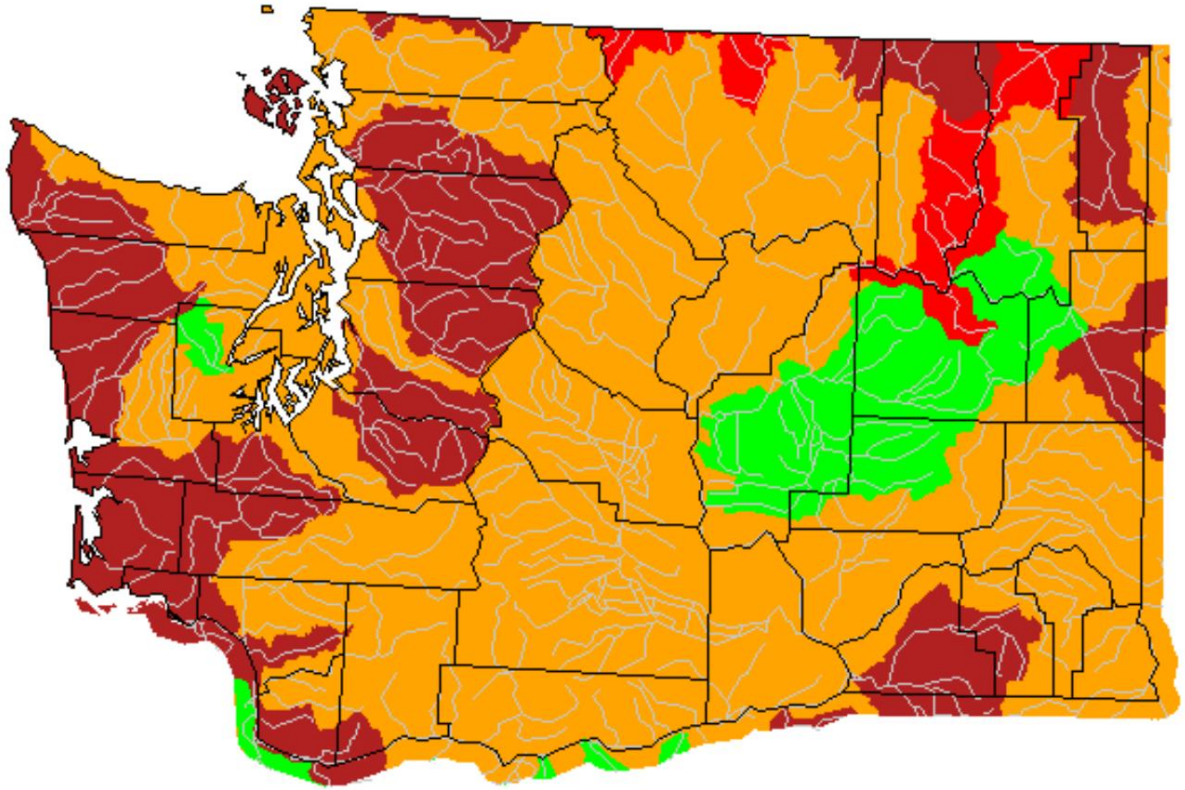
Monthly average streamflow

compared to historical streamflow

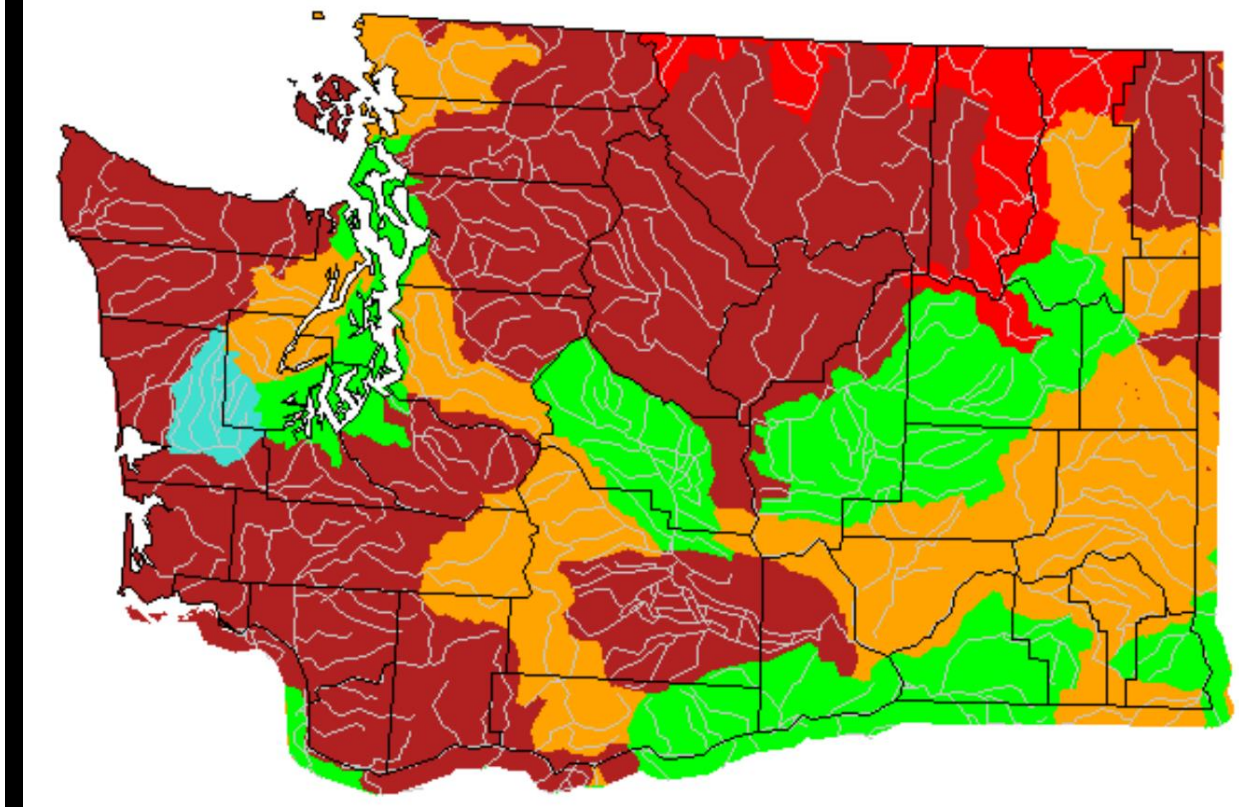
USGS science for a changing world



June 2025



July 2025



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https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/

Monthly average streamflow

compared to historical streamflow

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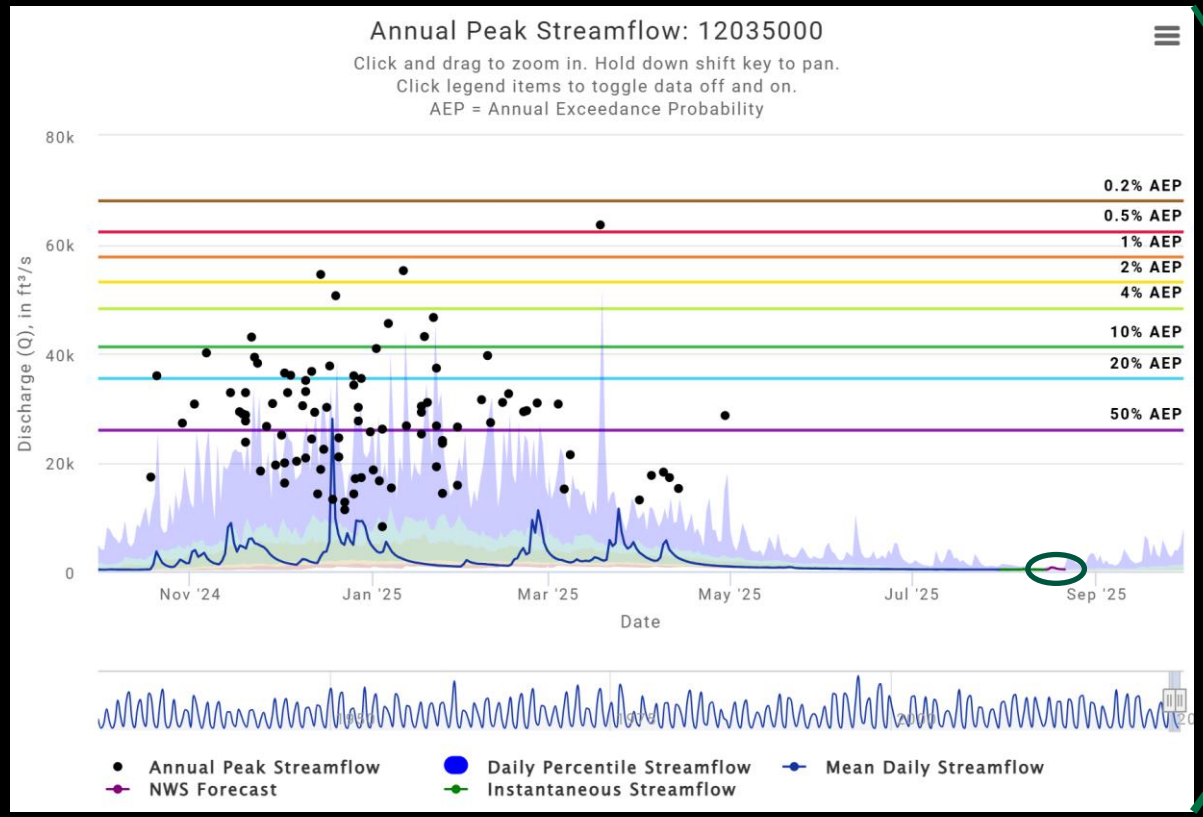
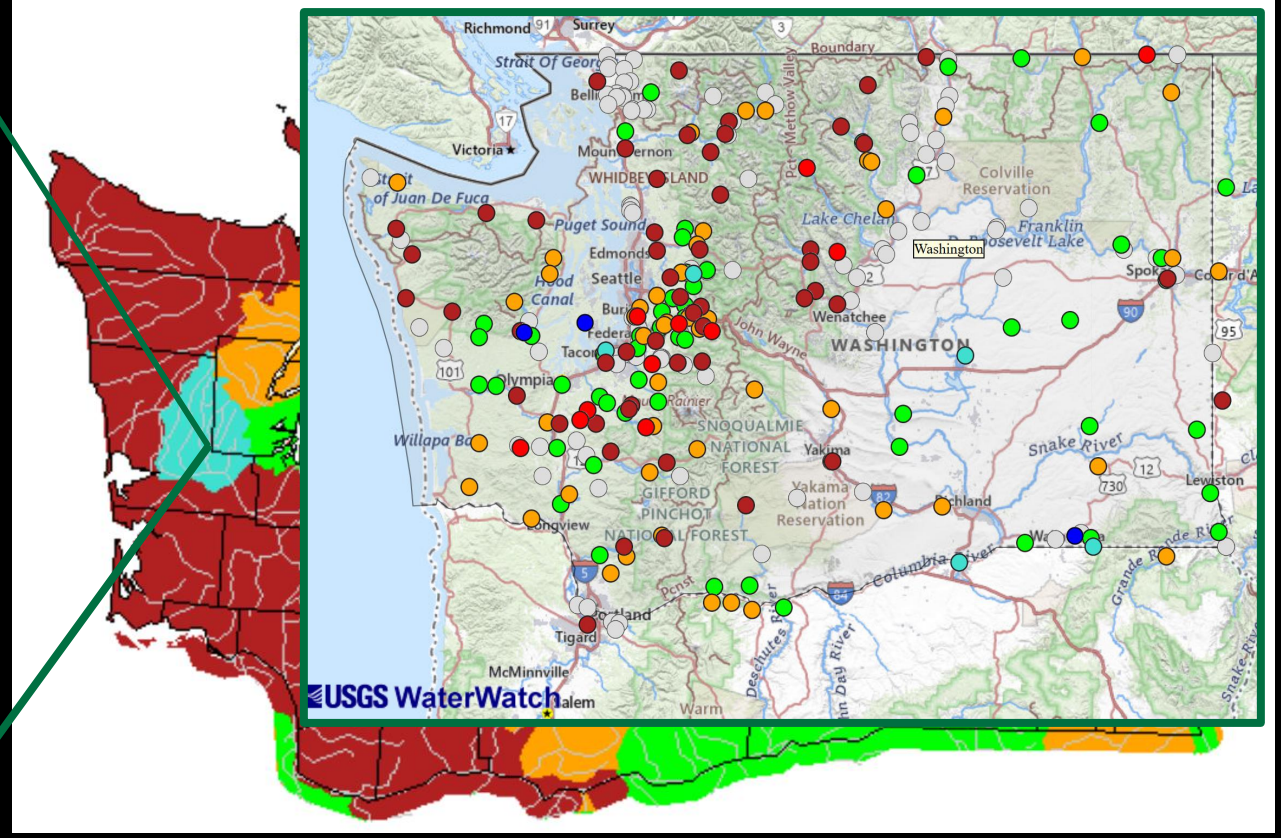


July 2025



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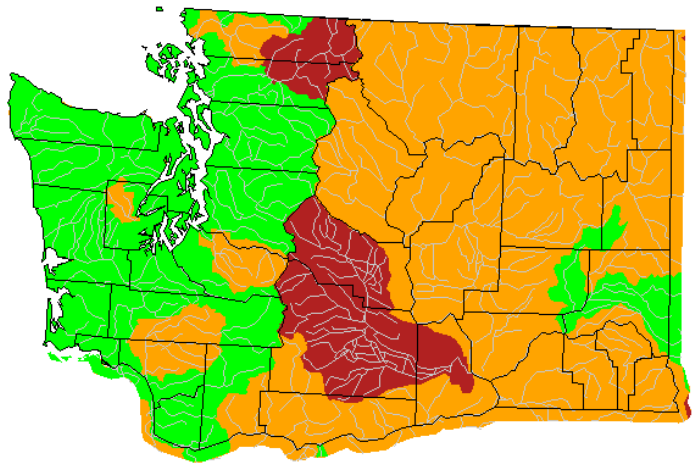
https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/

USGS
science for a changing world

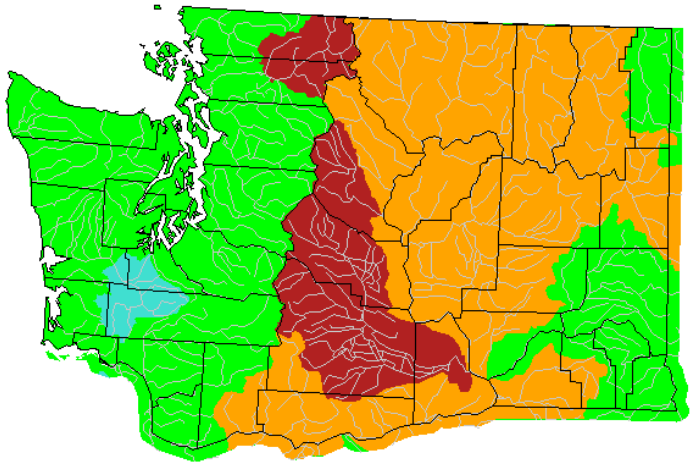
Monthly average streamflow

compared to historical streamflow

July 2001



July 2005



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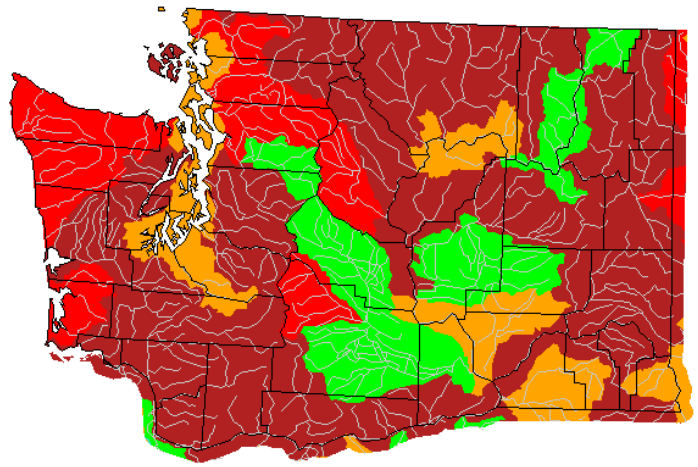
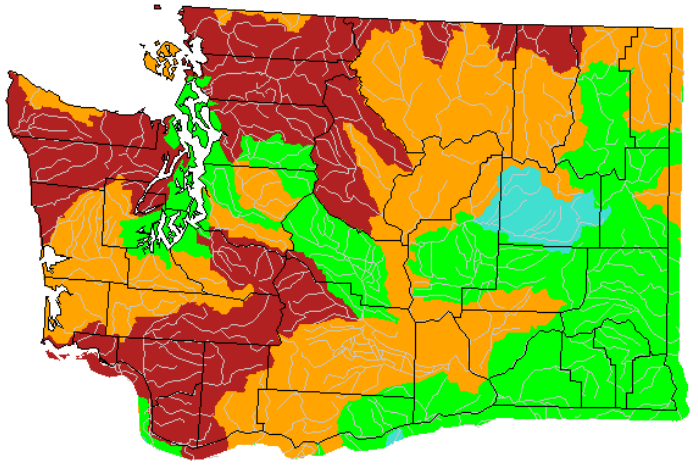
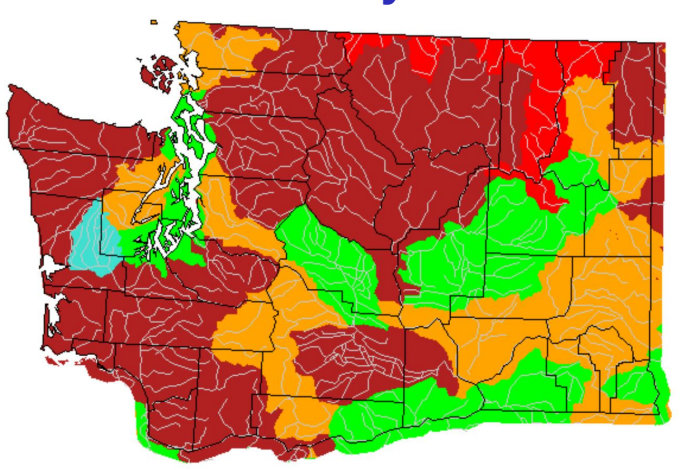
July 2015



July 2019

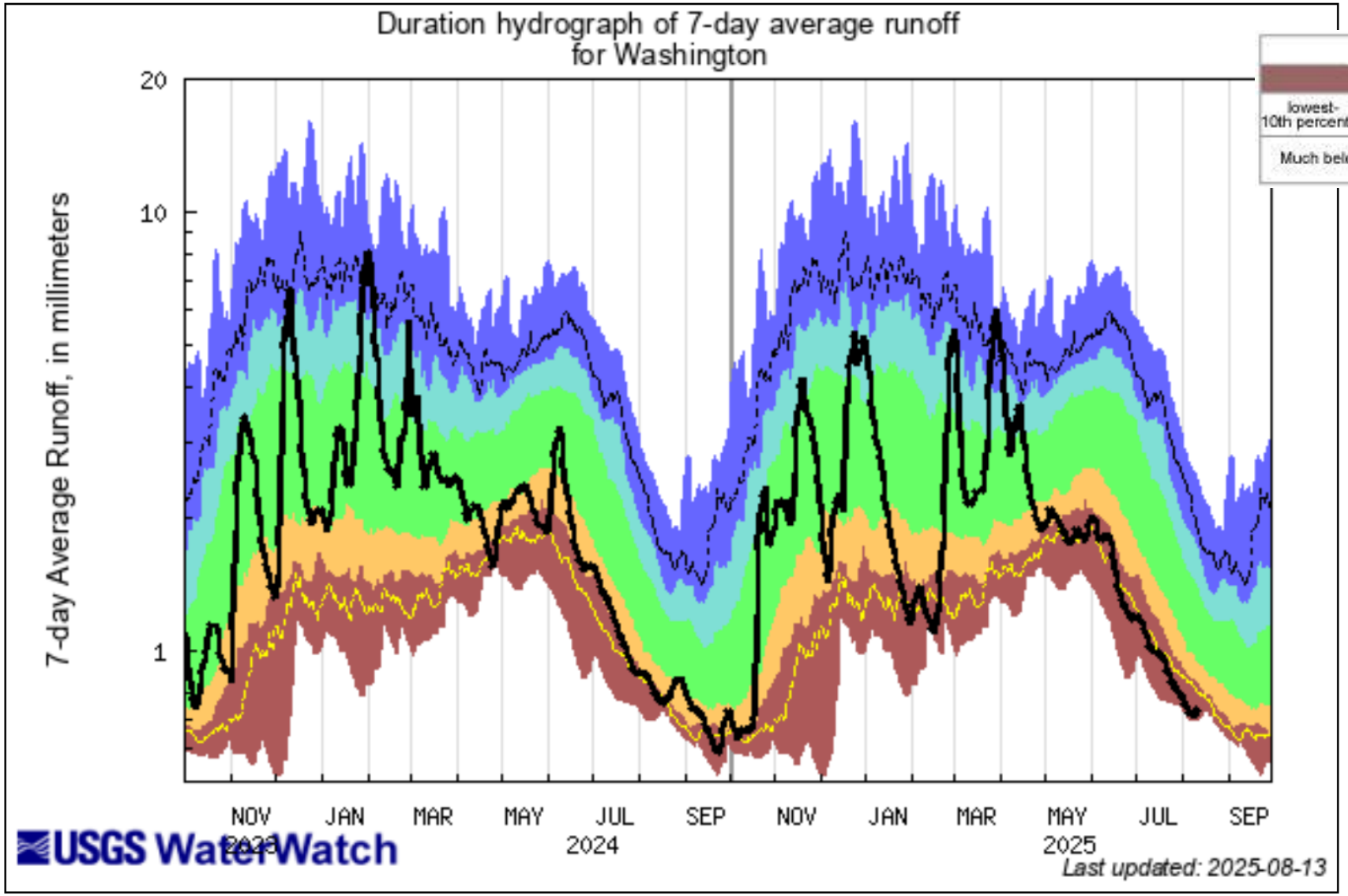


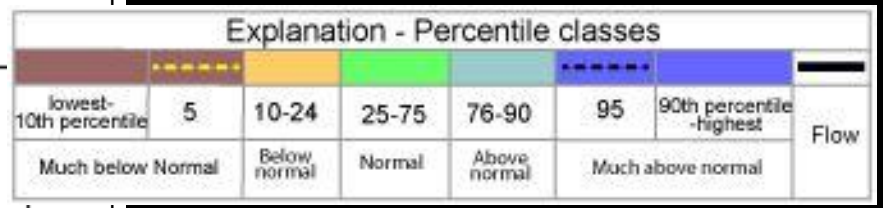
July 2025



Area-Based Runoff Duration Hydrograph

7-day average streamflow





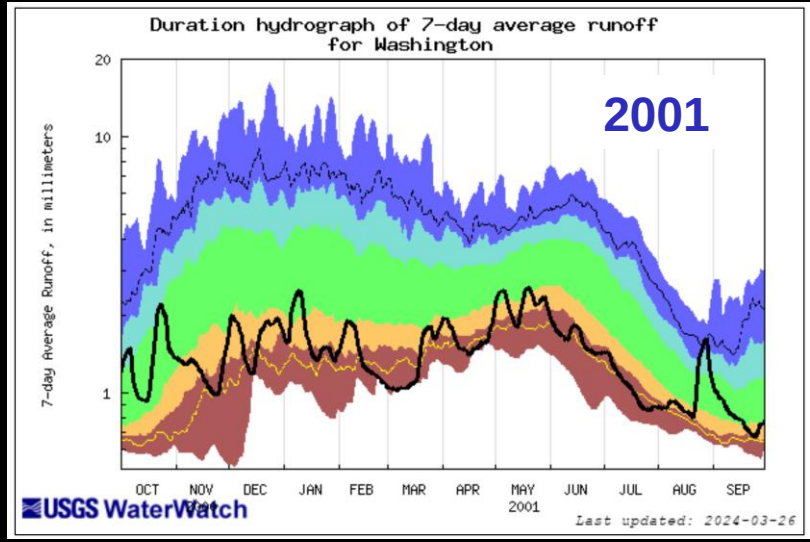
Preliminary Information-Subject to Revision. Not for Citation or Distribution.

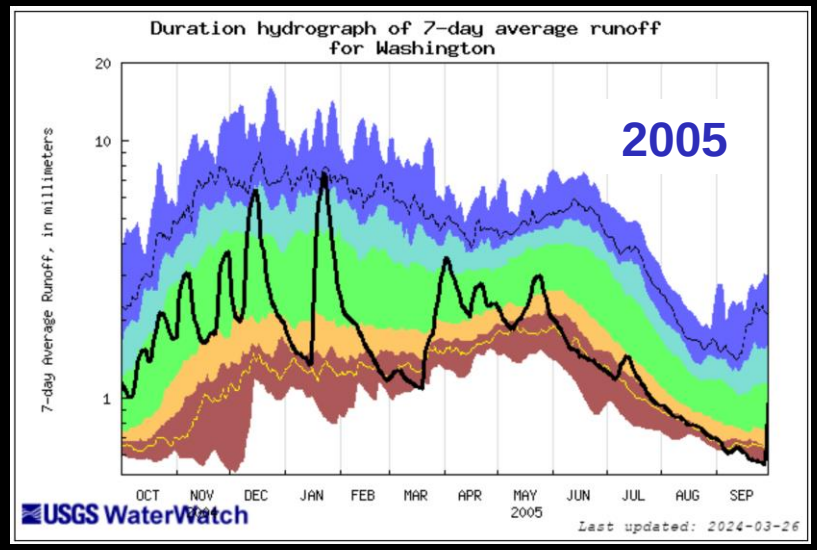
For some streams, flow statistics may have been computed from mixed regulated and unregulated flows; this can affect depictions of flow conditions.

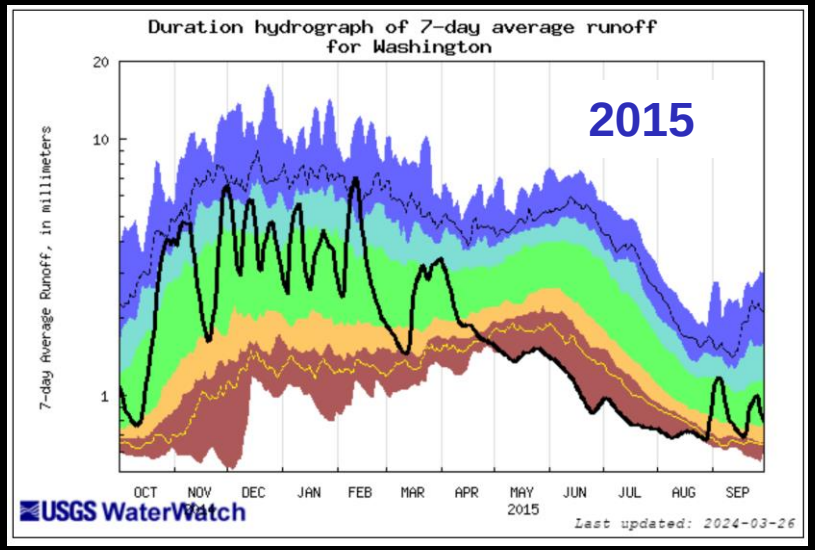
https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/

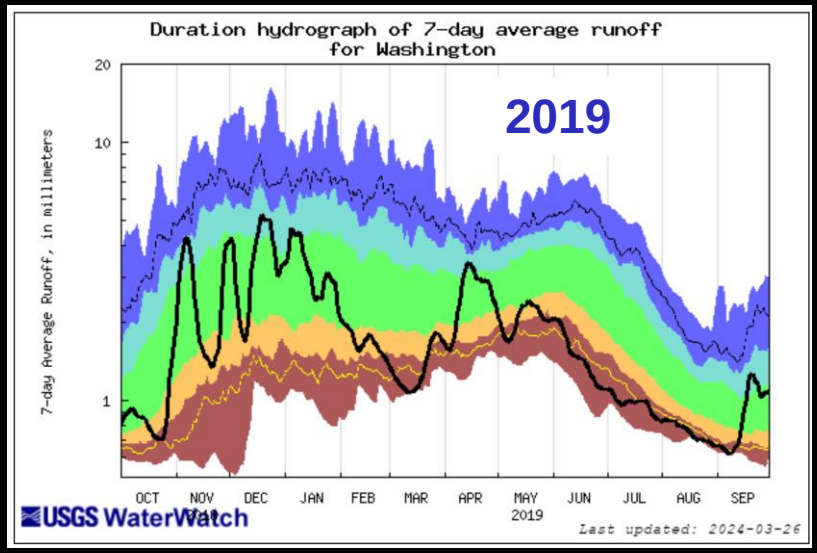
Area-Based Runoff Duration Hydrograph

7-day average streamflow

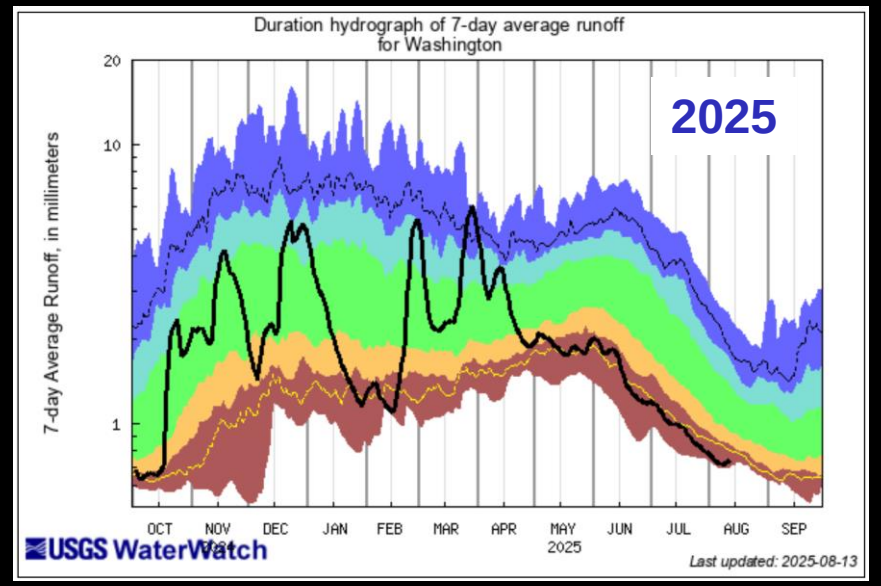


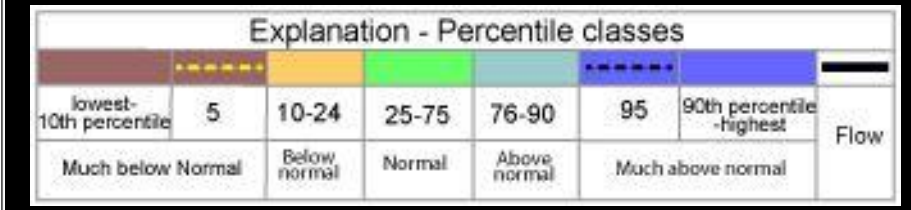






Duration hydrograph for the year compared to recent years of drought



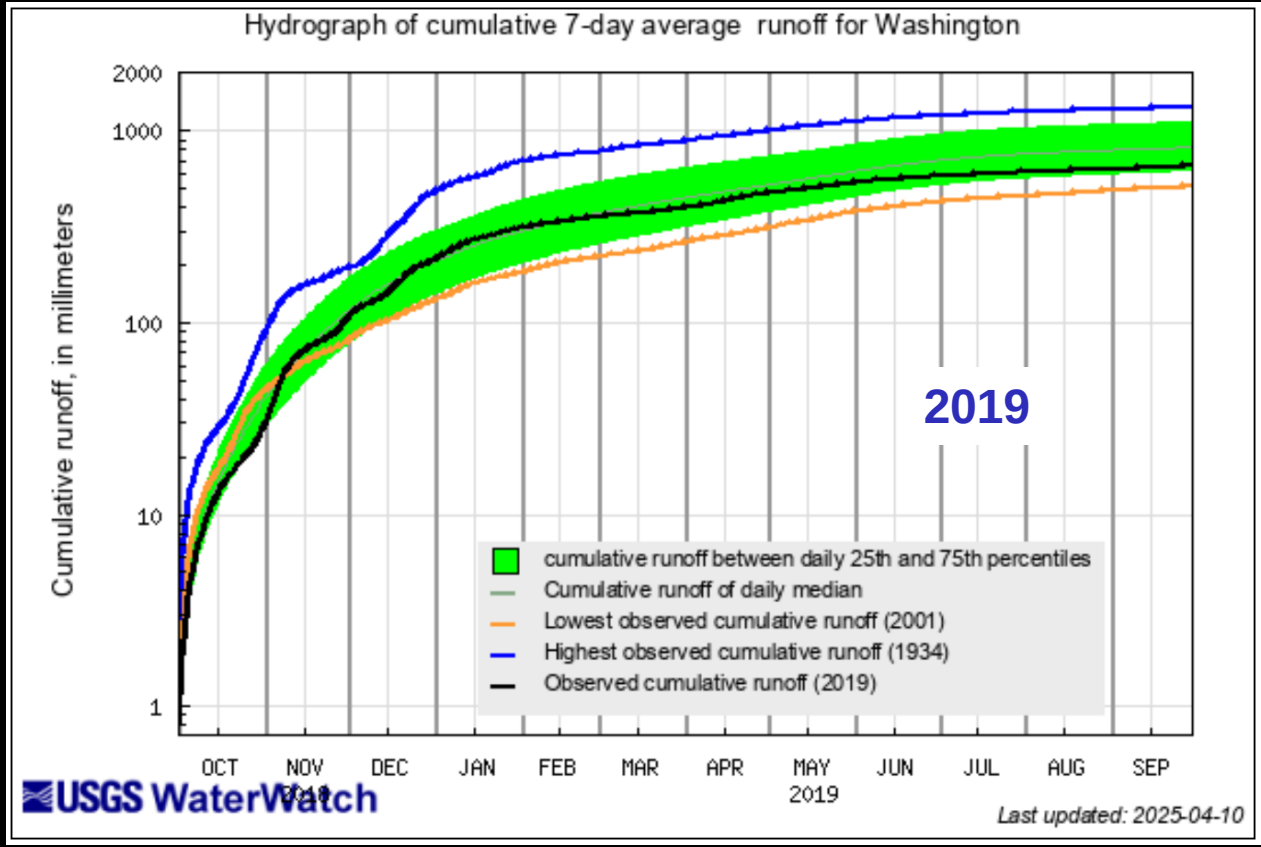


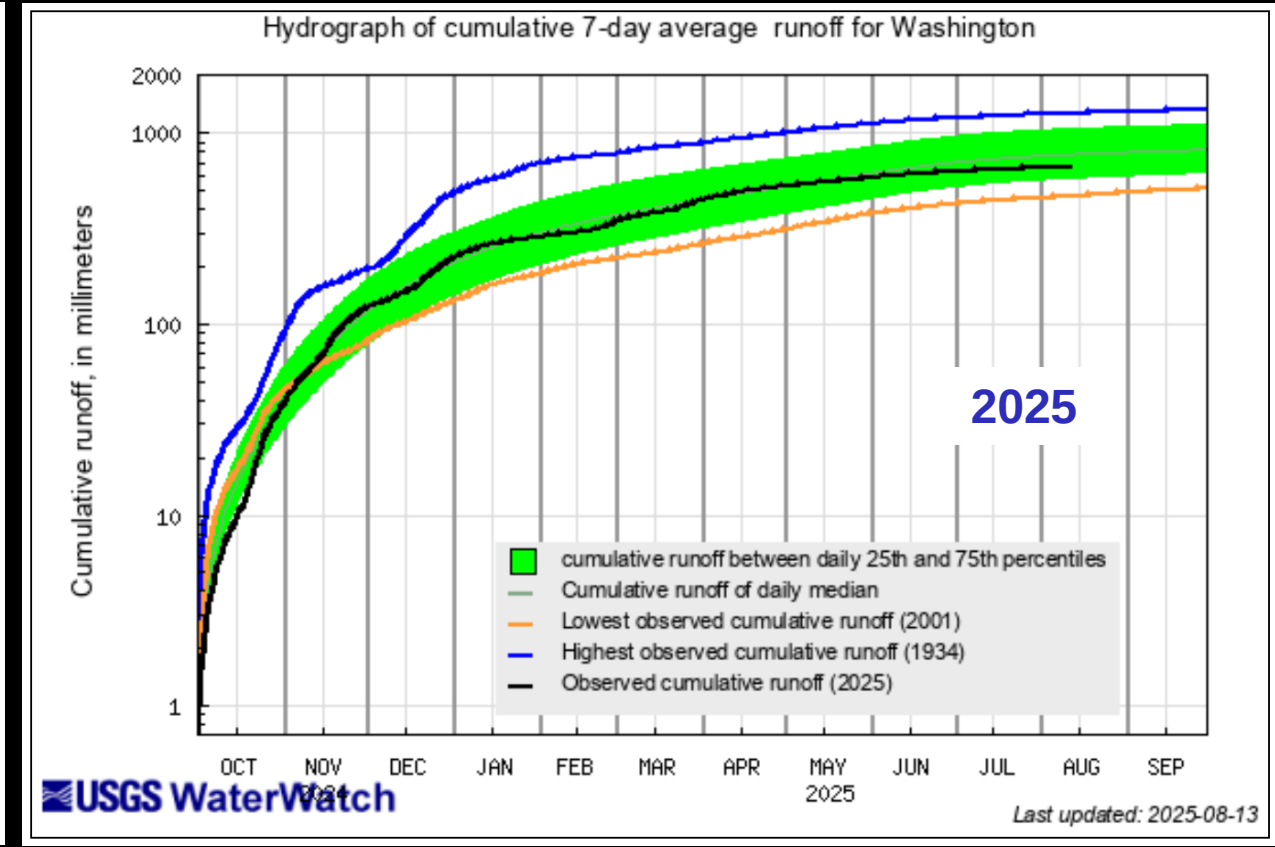
Preliminary Information-Subject to Revision. Not for Citation or Distribution.

https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/

Cumulative runoff hydrograph

Area-based runoff based on 7-day average



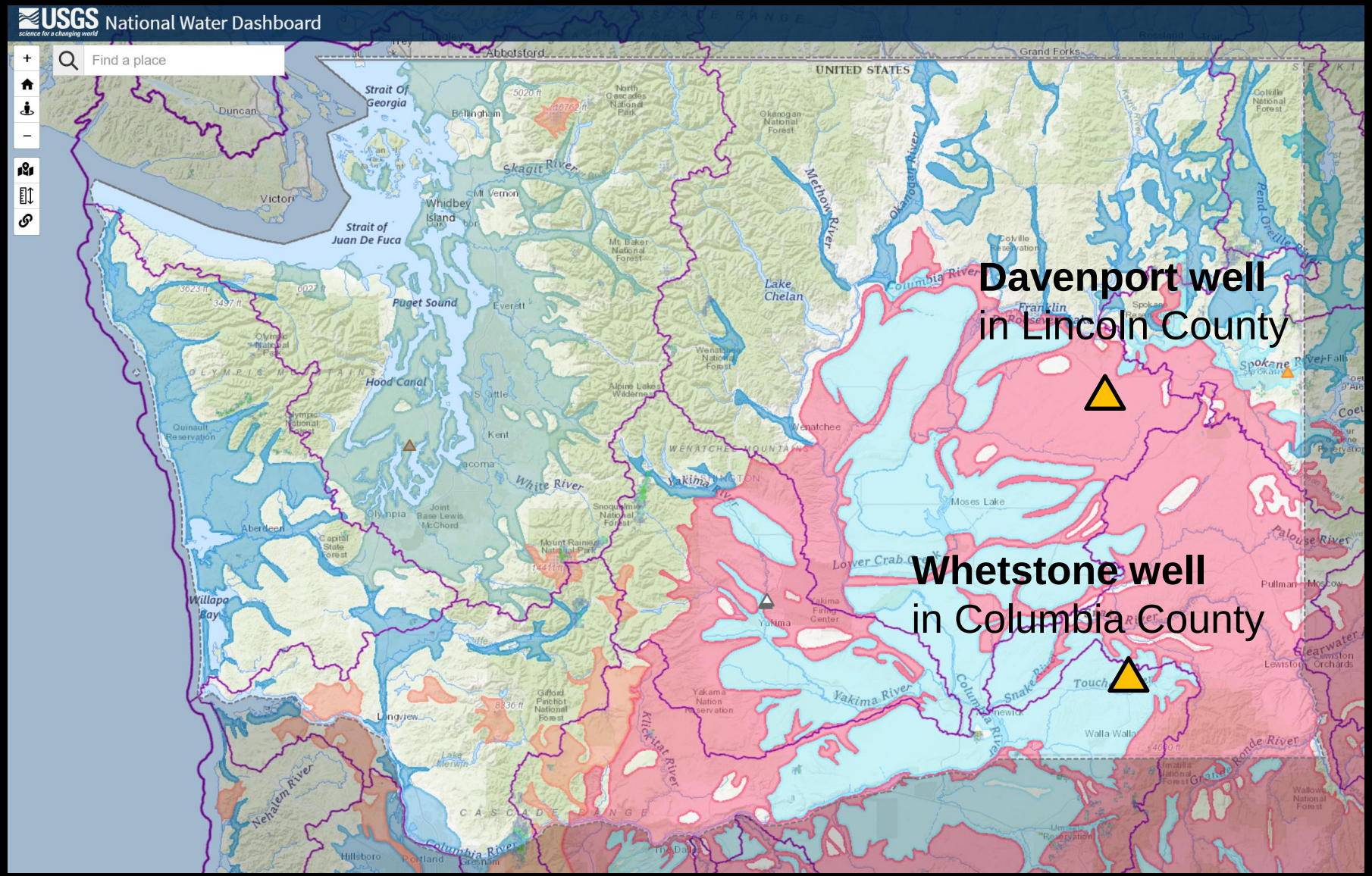


Area-based runoff may have been computed from mixed regulated and unregulated streamflows

https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/

Preliminary Information-Subject to Revision.
Not for Citation or Distribution.

Two reference groundwater wells



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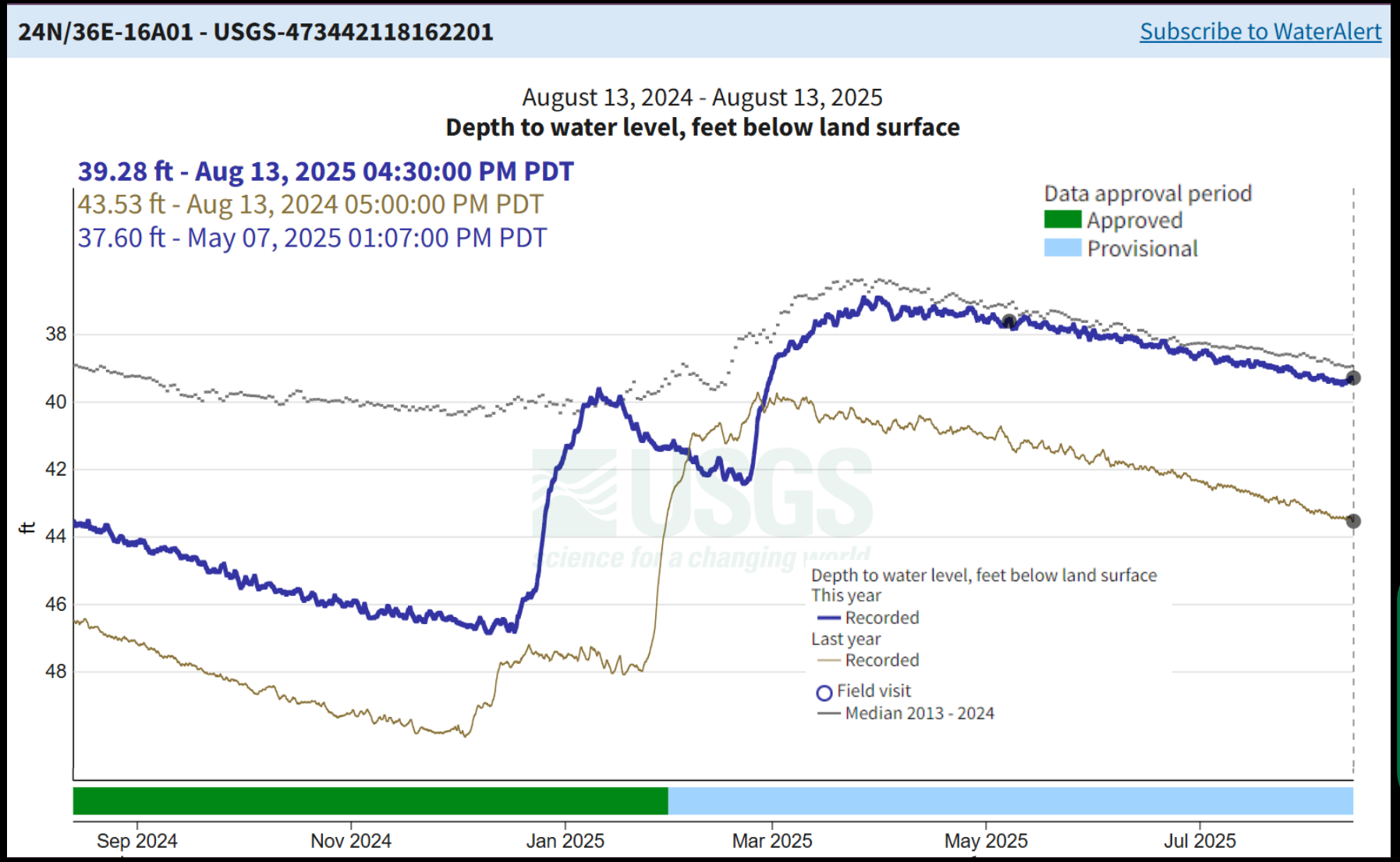
https://dashboard.waterdata.usgs.gov/app/nwd/en/?aoi=state-wa

Davenport Well Groundwater Conditions



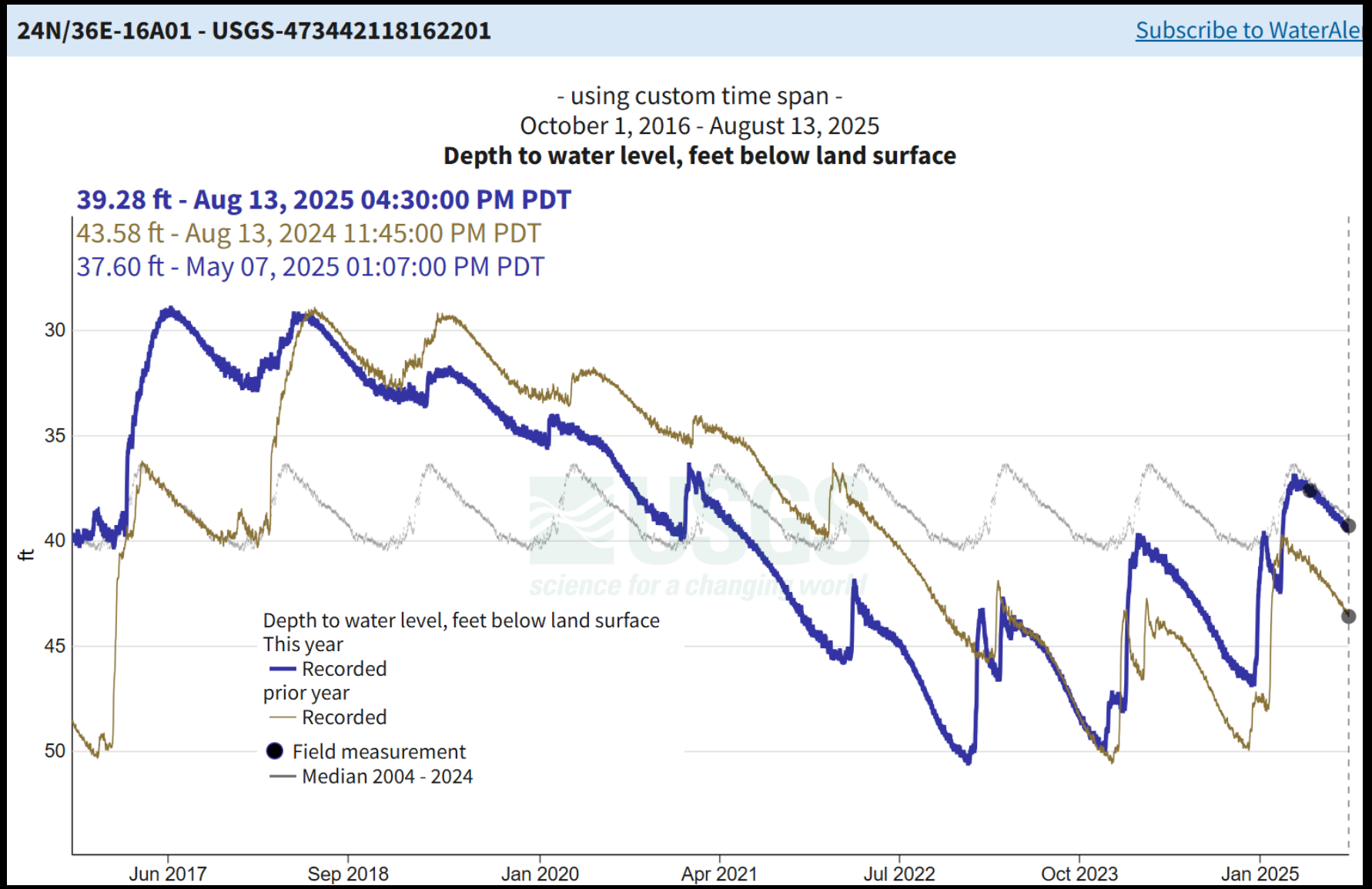
Davenport well

Well Details

- Lincoln County
- 117-ft deep
- Wanapum Basalt

Preliminary Information- Subject to Revision. Not for Citation or Distribution.

Davenport Well Groundwater Conditions



Well Details

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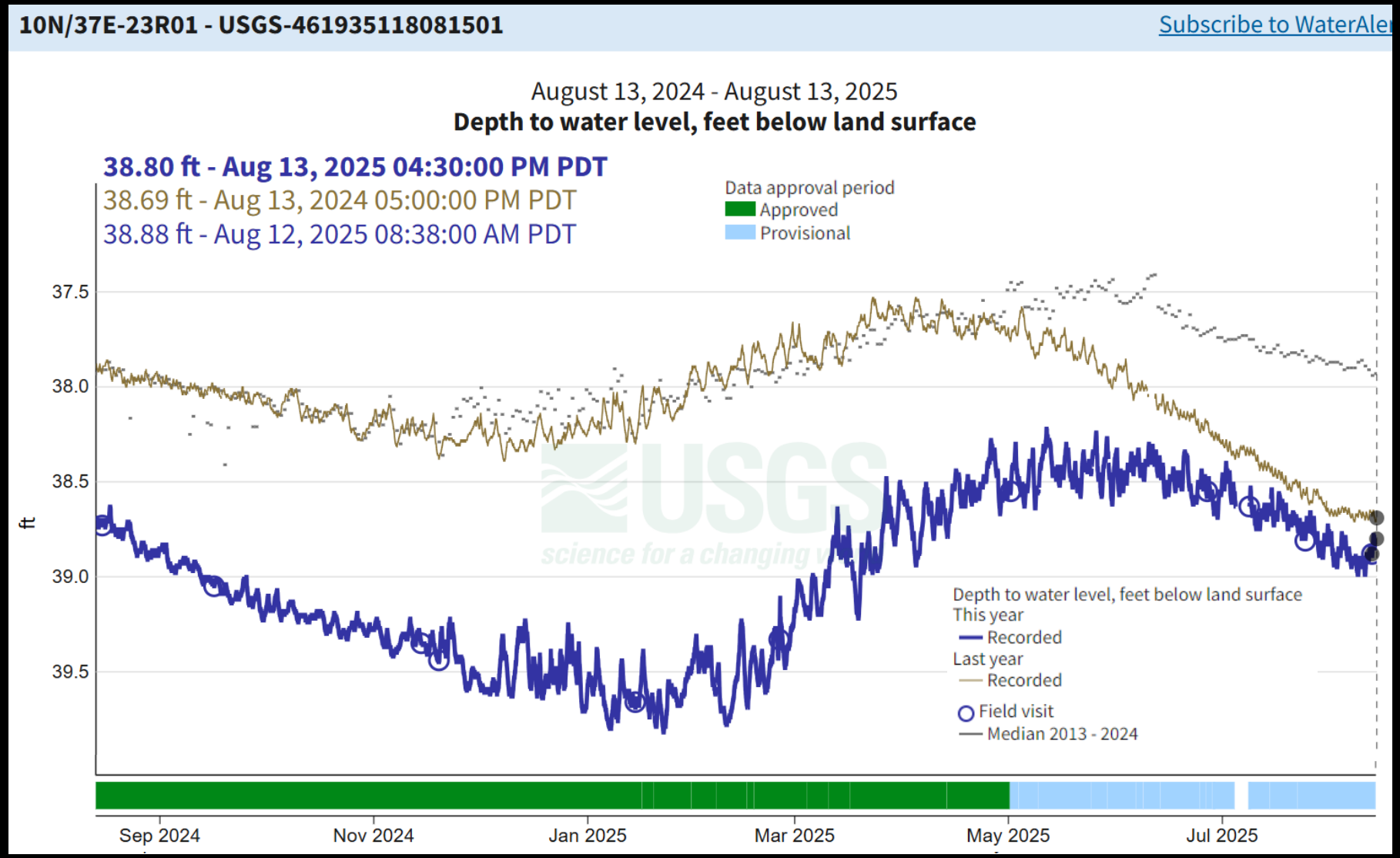
Whetstone Well Groundwater Conditions



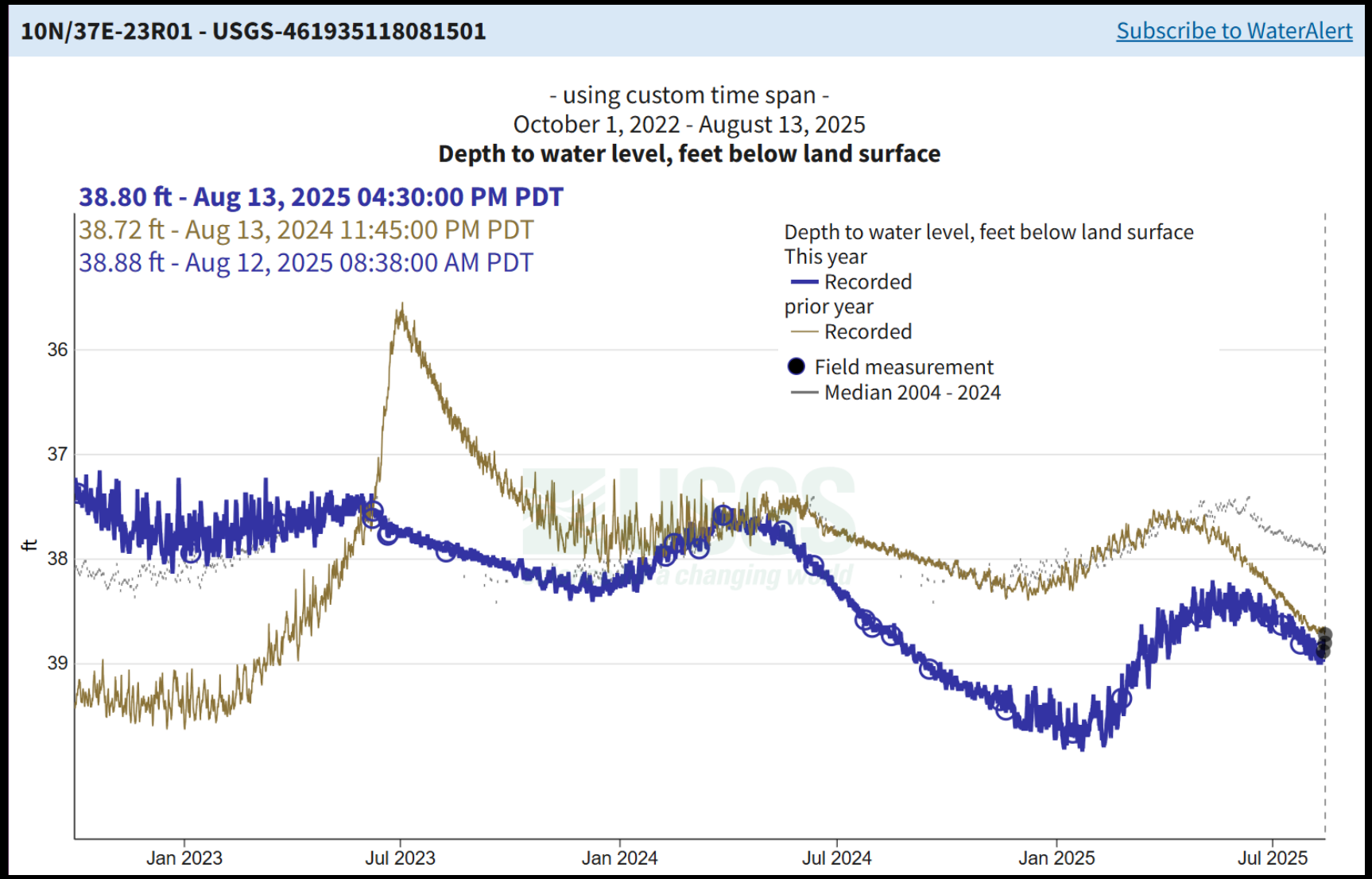
Whetstone well

Well Details:

- Columbia County near Waitsburg
- 172.5-ft deep
- Grande Ronde Basalt Formation

Preliminary Information-Subject to Revision. Not for Citation or Distribution.

Whetstone Well Groundwater Conditions



Well Details:

- Columbia County near Waitsburg
- 172.5-ft deep
- Grande Ronde Basalt Formation

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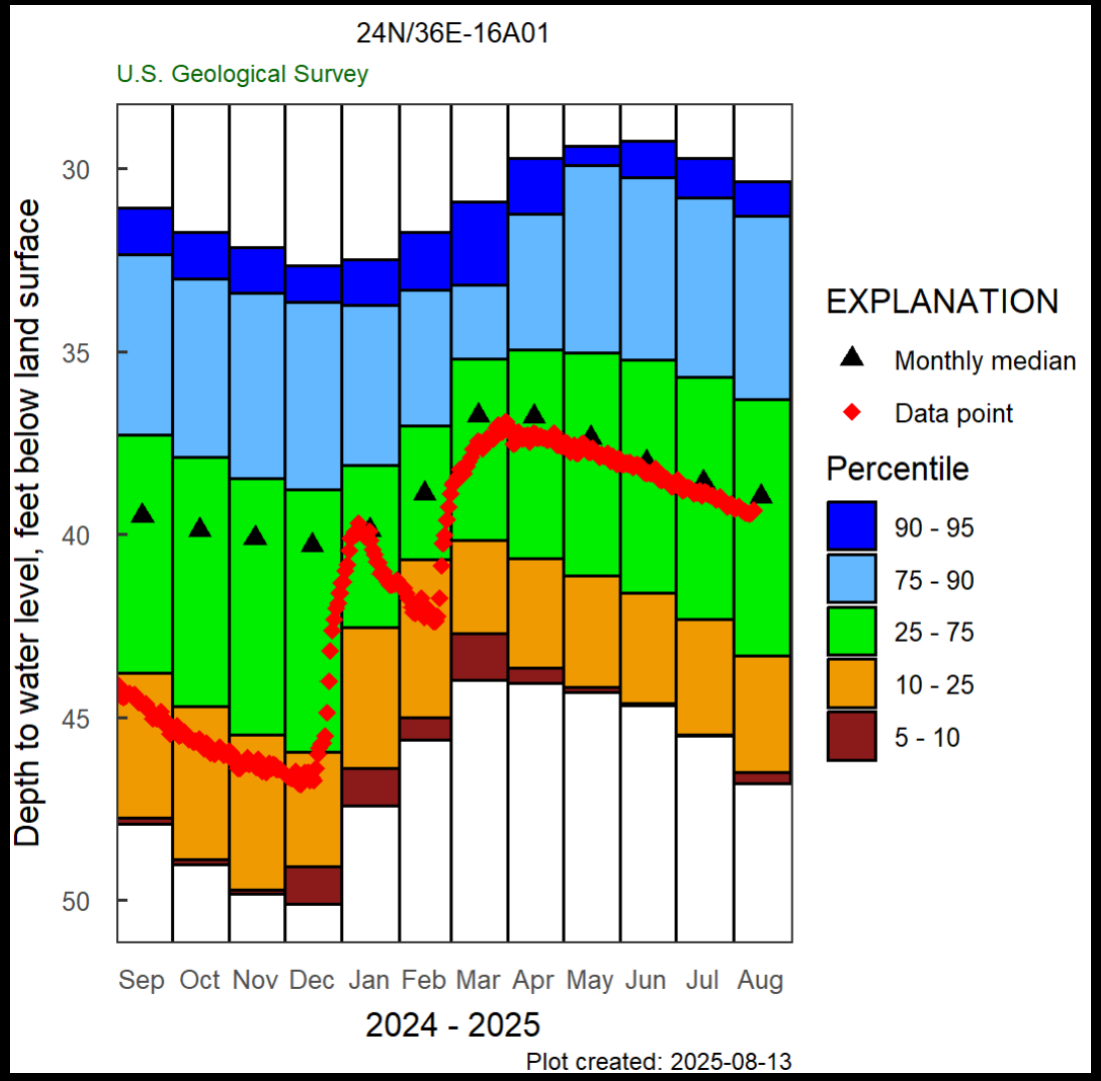
https://dashboard.waterdata.usgs.gov/app/nwd/en/?aoi=state-wa

Groundwater Conditions

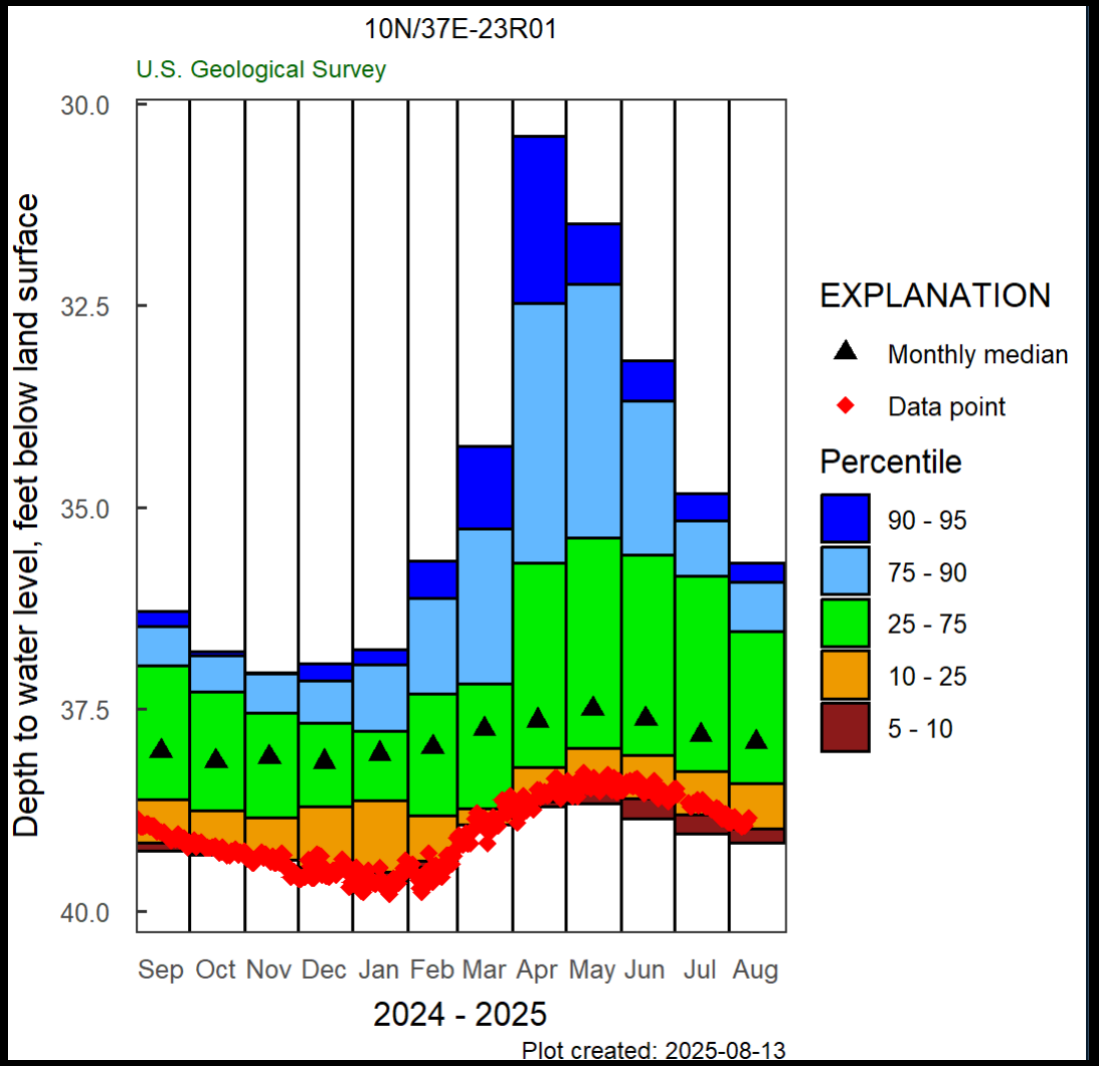
Davenport well



EXPLANATION
Monthly median
Data point
Percentile
90 - 95
75 - 90
25 - 75
10 - 25
5 - 10

Preliminary Information Subject to Revision. Not for Citation or Distribution.

Whetstone well



Summary of Washington Streamflow and Groundwater Conditions as of 13 August 2025

7-day average streamflow at eight index gaging stations:

Normal

- Hangman Creek
- Walla Walla River
- Puyallup River nr. Orting

Below Normal

- Chehalis River nr. Grand Mound (record low)
- EF Lewis River
- American River

Much Below Normal

- Quinault River
- Nooksack River

Monthly average groundwater conditions:

- Davenport well
  - Normal

- Whetstone well
  - Below normal

Preliminary Information-Subject to Revision. Not for Citation or Distribution.

Summary of Washington Streamflow and Groundwater Conditions

Monthly average area-based runoff in July below normal

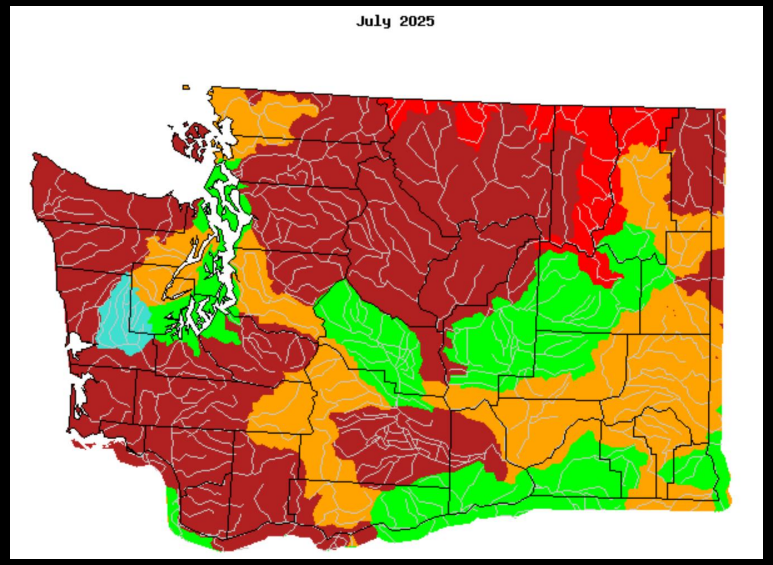
Exceptions include:

- Lower Chehalis, Puget Sound, Upper Yakima, Lower Spokane, Crab, Walla Walla

Much below normal:

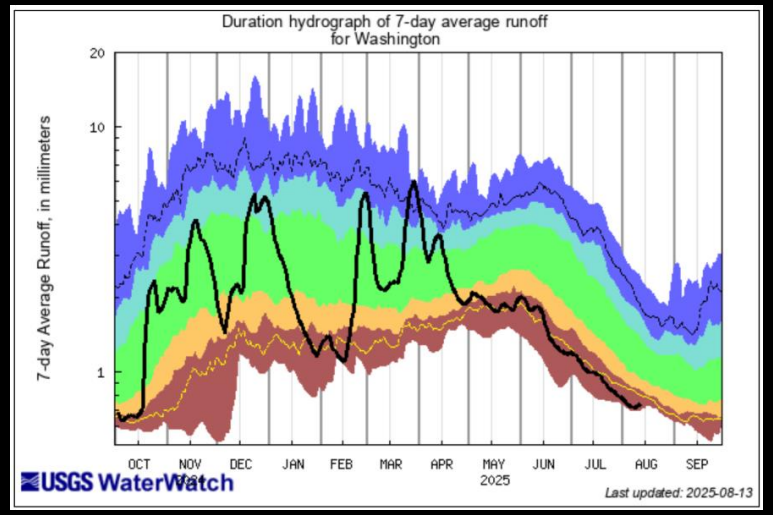
- Southwestern WA (Willapa, Upper Chehalis, Nisqually, Puyallup, Cowlitz)
- Olympic Peninsula (Dungeness, Elwha, Hoh, Quillayute, Queets, Quinault)
- Northern Cascades (Skagit, Sauk, Snohomish)
- Northern interior (Methow, Okanogan, Chelan, Wenachee, Entiat)
- Lower Yakima

Record lows in Kettle, Roosevelt Lake, and Similkameen



7-Day area-based runoff much-below normal in July

- Close to a record low at the beginning of August



Cumulative Runoff

- Normal for water year 2025

Preliminary Information-Subject to Revision. Not for Citation or Distribution.