

Weather Forecast Office

Pendleton, OR

Tuesday, January 7

Month in Review - December 2024

Photo taken by off-duty NWS Pendleton staff in Union County, Oregon



The Month in Review is a retrospective collection of climate statistics for NWS Pendleton's forecast area (central to northeast Oregon and south-central to southeast Washington) with specific emphasis on ASOS-based climate sites, snowpack and drought evolution, and various statistics for the water year to date.

Prepared by NWS Pendleton's Climate Services team.



Key Points - December 2024

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- Mean (average) temperatures were predominantly above normal (relative to the 1991-2020 climate reference period) throughout our forecast area during December.
- Above- to much-above-normal precipitation (top 33% and 10% of all years, respectively) was recorded across the lower elevations during December, while near- to above-normal precipitation was observed for the northeast mountains and Cascades.
- Drought conditions improved across portions of eastern Oregon and south-central Washington. Limited areas of degradation occurred along the Washington Cascade crest and north-central Oregon.



Local Storm Reports (LSRs) - December 2024

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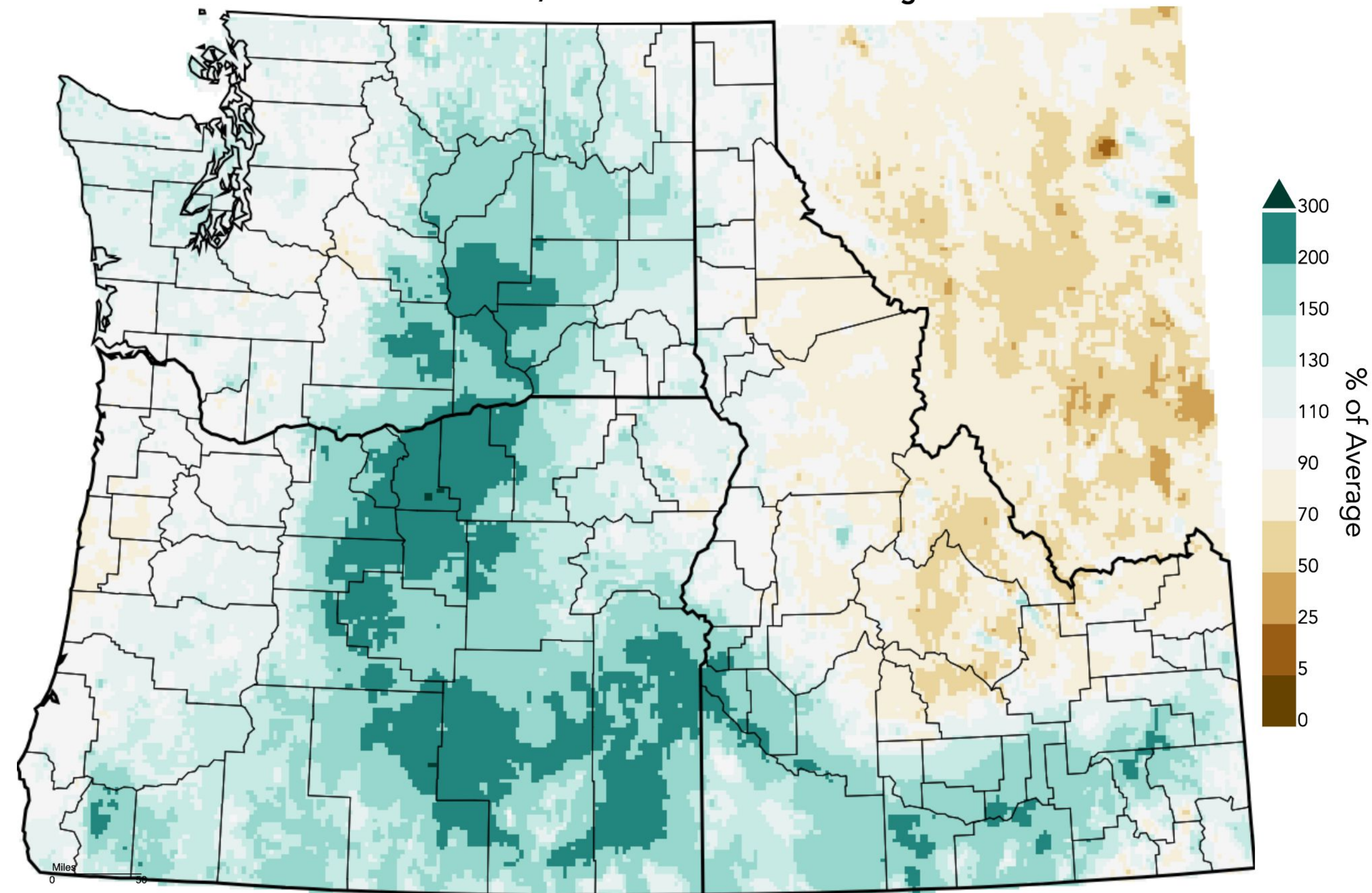
- Iowa State University's website provides a nice graphical interface for viewing archived local storm reports. See the following link for December's local storm reports in NWS Pendleton's forecast area:
<https://mesonet.agron.iastate.edu/lsr/#PDT/202412010800/202501010800/011011>
- For recent LSRs, <https://www.weather.gov/source/crh/lsrcmap.html?sid=pdt> or <https://mesonet.agron.iastate.edu/lsr/#PDT/YYYYMMDDHHmm/YYYYMMDDHHmm/111111> and change the time to your desired date range.



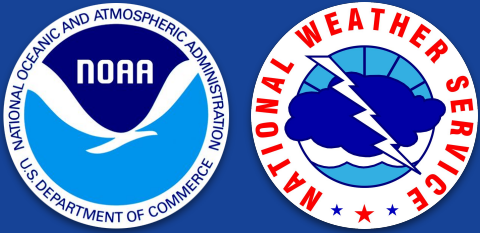
Precipitation Anomaly - December 2024

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Pacific Northwest - Precipitation
December 2024, Percent of 1991-2020 Average



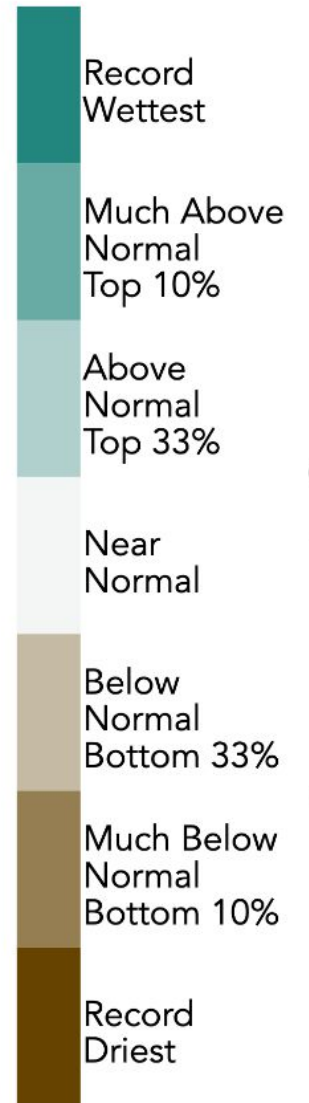
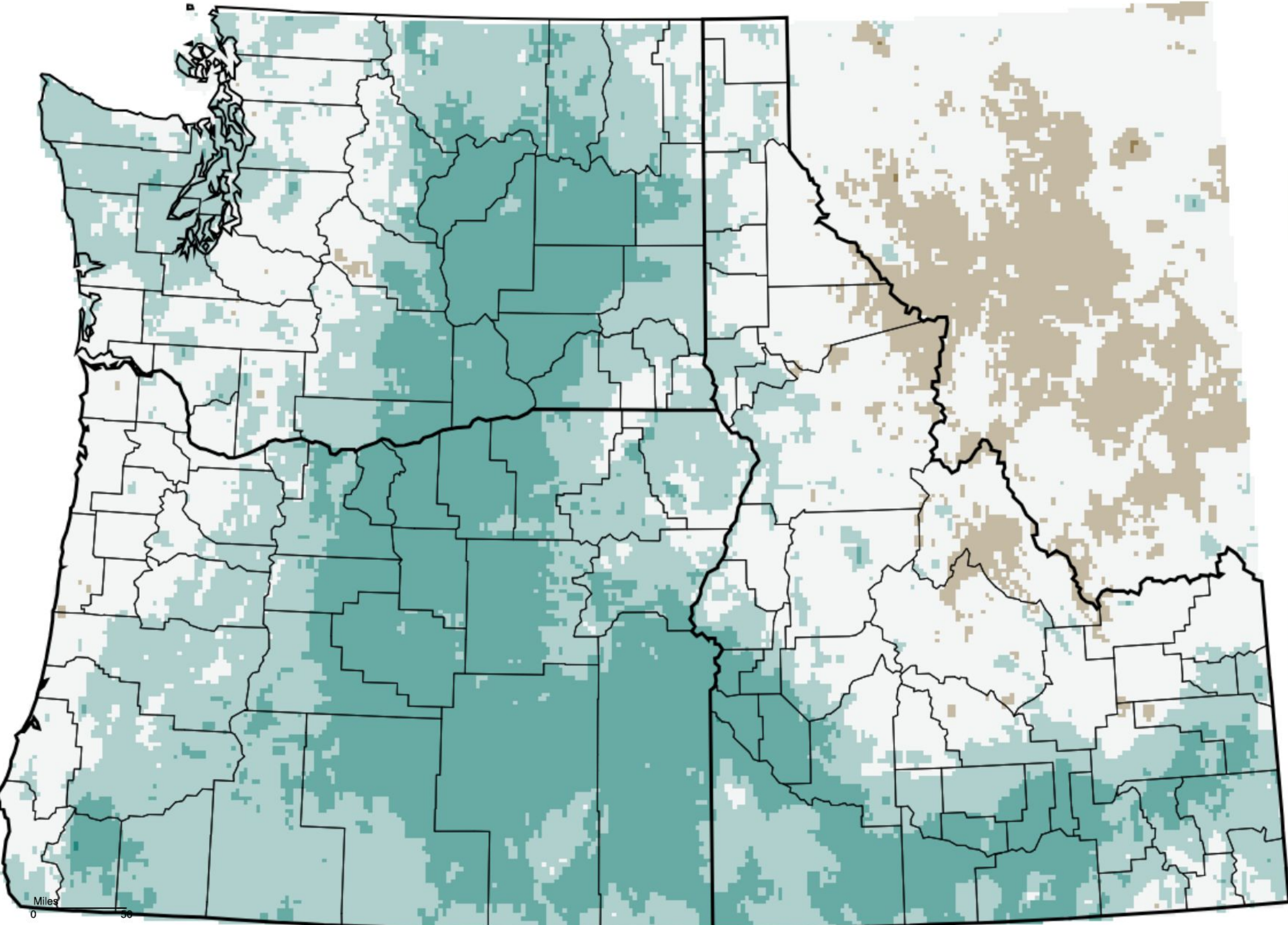
Above- to much-above-normal precipitation was observed across the lower elevations of our forecast area, with near- to above-normal precipitation across the mountains.



Precipitation Percentiles - December 2024

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Pacific Northwest - Precipitation December 2024, Percentile

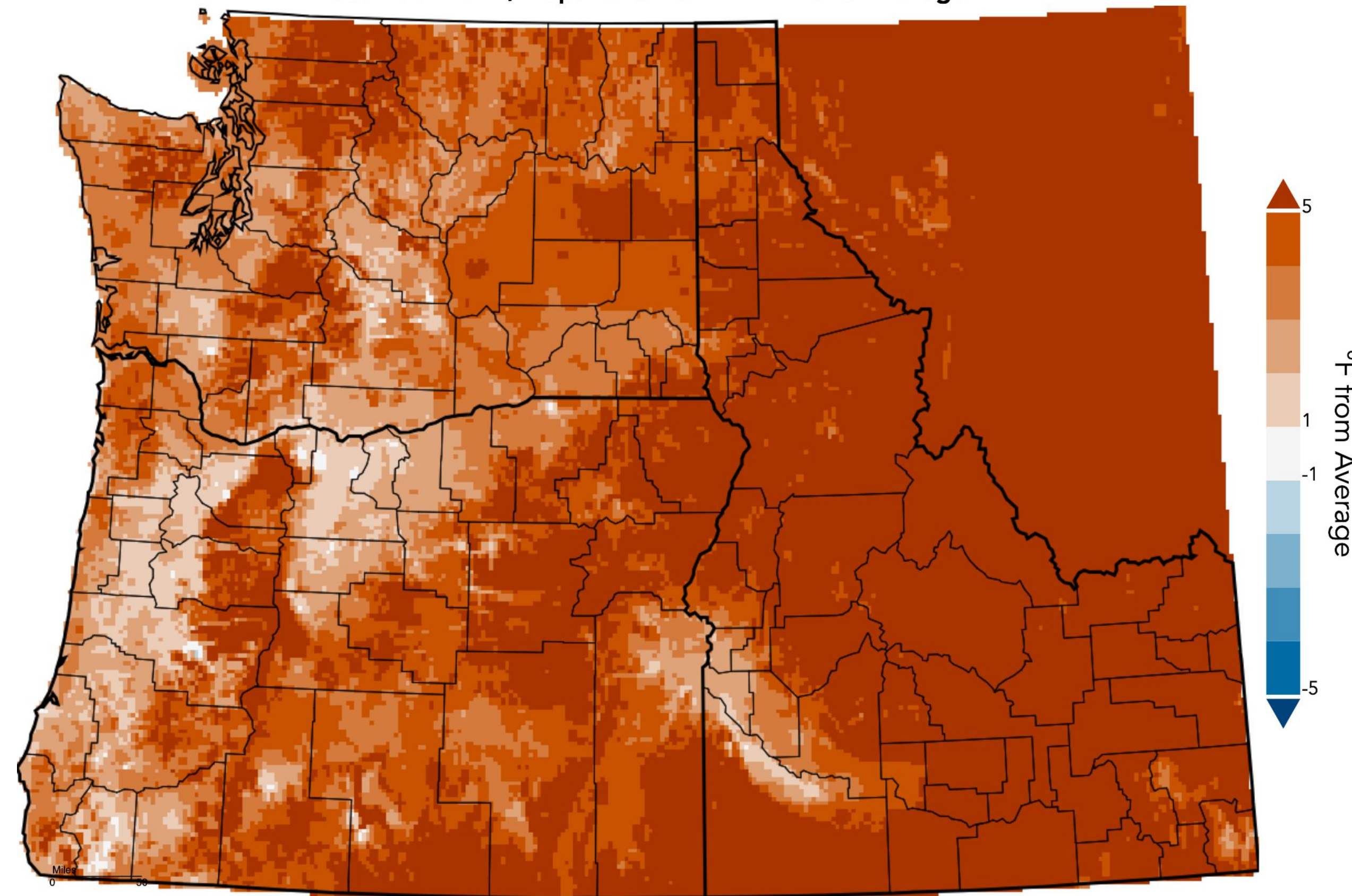


Rankings (1895-2024)

For historical context, mostly above- to much-above-normal precipitation (top 33% and 10% of all years, respectively) was recorded across the lower elevations during December, while near- to above-normal precipitation was observed for the northeast mountains and Cascades.

WestWide Drought Tracker, WRCC, Climate Engine, Data Source: PRISM Prelim, created 05 Jan 2025

Pacific Northwest - Mean Temperature
December 2024, Departure from 1991-2020 Average



Mean (average) temperatures were predominantly above normal (relative to the 1991-2020 climate reference period) across our forecast area during December. The largest departures from normal were recorded across the mountains, especially the Blue Mountains.

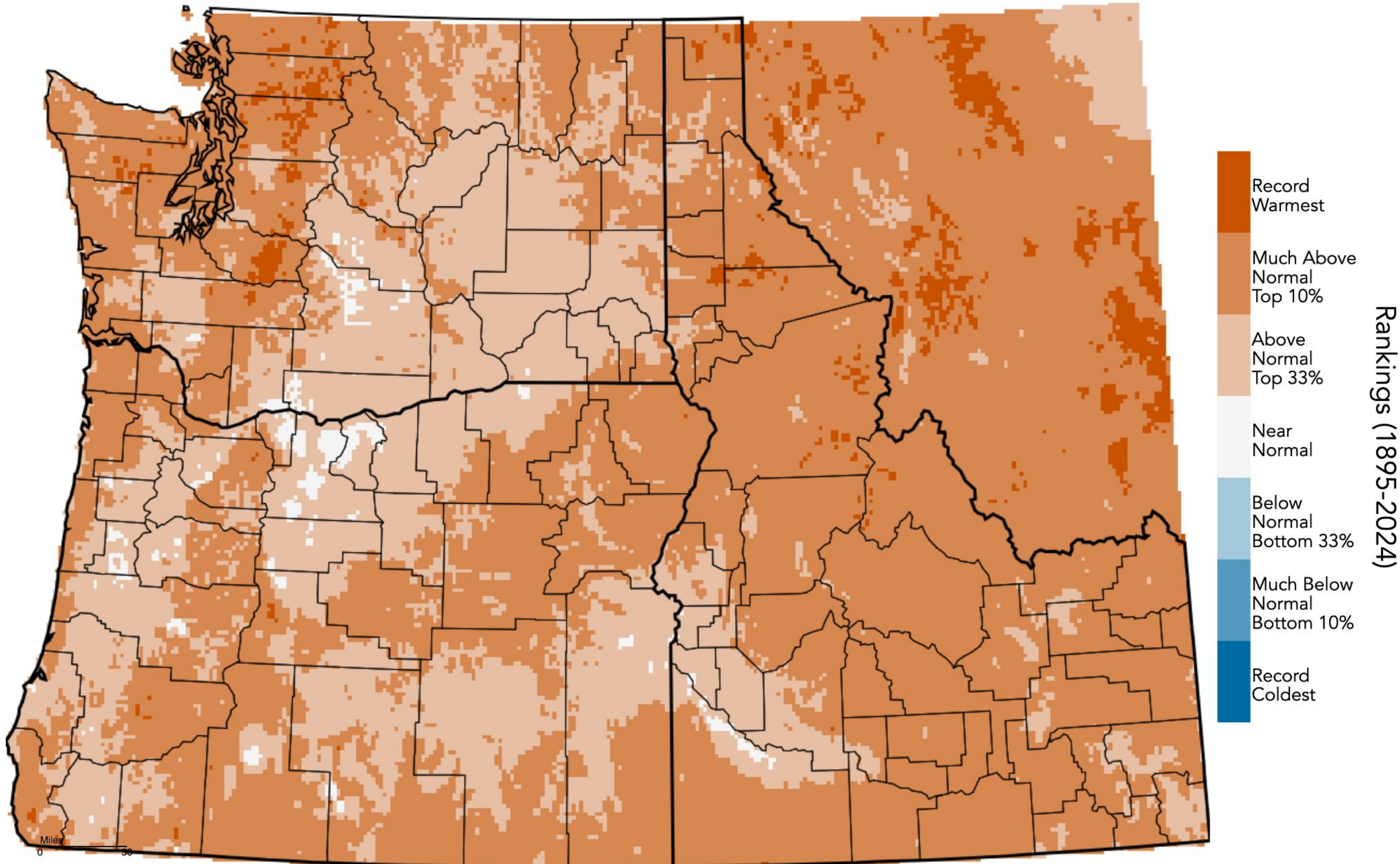


Temperature Percentiles - December 2024

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Pacific Northwest - Mean Temperature December 2024, Percentile

For historical context, mean (average) temperatures during December were mostly above normal (top 33% of all years) in the lower elevations, while mountain areas observed mostly much-above-normal temperatures (top 10% of all years).





December 2024 Climate Statistics - Pendleton ASOS

Weather Forecast Office
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Variable (units)	Observed	Normal	Departure
Warmest Daily Maximum Temperature (F)	60	-	-
Average Daily Maximum Temperature (F)	44.7	40.8	3.9
Average Daily Minimum Temperature (F)	33.4	27.5	5.9
Coolest Daily Minimum Temperature (F)	22	-	-
Average Temperature (F)	39.1	34.2	4.9
Total Precipitation (inches)	3.12	1.50	1.62
Total Snow (inches)	1.2	5.4	-4.2

Variable (units)	Value	Day
Daily Record High Temperature (F)		
Daily Record Low Temperature (F)		
Daily Record Precipitation (inches)	0.57	25th

Additional climate statistics can be found here: <https://www.weather.gov/wrh/climate?wfo=pdt>



December 2024 Climate Statistics - Walla Walla ASOS

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Variable (units)	Observed	Normal	Departure
Warmest Daily Maximum Temperature (F)	60	-	-
Average Daily Maximum Temperature (F)	43.7	41.0	2.7
Average Daily Minimum Temperature (F)	33.5	30.2	3.3
Coolest Daily Minimum Temperature (F)	27	-	-
Average Temperature (F)	38.6	35.6	3.0
Total Precipitation (inches)	2.79	2.23	0.56

Variable (units)	Value	Day
Daily Record High Temperature (F)		
Daily Record Low Temperature (F)		
Daily Record Precipitation (inches)		

Additional climate statistics can be found here: <https://www.weather.gov/wrh/climate?wfo=pdt>



December 2024 Climate Statistics - The Dalles ASOS

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Variable (units)	Observed	Normal	Departure
Warmest Daily Maximum Temperature (F)	58	-	-
Average Daily Maximum Temperature (F)	43.3	41.4	1.9
Average Daily Minimum Temperature (F)	34.8	31.0	3.8
Coolest Daily Minimum Temperature (F)	29	-	-
Average Temperature (F)	39.1	36.2	2.9
Total Precipitation (inches)	4.20	2.68	1.52

Variable (units)	Value	Day
Daily Record High Temperature (F)	58	18th
Daily Record Low Temperature (F)		
Daily Record Precipitation (inches)	0.46	16th

Additional climate statistics can be found here: <https://www.weather.gov/wrh/climate?wfo=pdt>



December 2024 Climate Statistics - Ellensburg ASOS

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Variable (units)	Observed	Normal	Departure
Warmest Daily Maximum Temperature (F)	49	-	-
Average Daily Maximum Temperature (F)	37.7	36.4	1.3
Average Daily Minimum Temperature (F)	28.9	23.8	5.1
Coolest Daily Minimum Temperature (F)	21	-	-
Average Temperature (F)	33.3	30.1	3.2
Total Precipitation (inches)	2.33	1.54	0.79

Variable (units)	Value	Day
Daily Record High Temperature (F)	49	8th
Daily Record Low Temperature (F)		
Daily Record Precipitation (inches)	0.31	25th

Additional climate statistics can be found here: <https://www.weather.gov/wrh/climate?wfo=pdt>

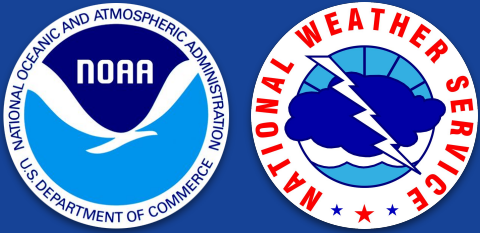


December 2024 Climate Statistics - Hermiston ASOS

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Variable (units)	Observed	Normal	Departure
Warmest Daily Maximum Temperature (F)	59	-	-
Average Daily Maximum Temperature (F)	44.1	42.1	2.0
Average Daily Minimum Temperature (F)	33.3	28.2	5.1
Coolest Daily Minimum Temperature (F)	24	-	-
Average Temperature (F)	38.7	35.2	3.5
Total Precipitation (inches)	2.57	1.12	1.45

Variable (units)	Value	Day
Daily Record High Temperature (F)		
Daily Record Low Temperature (F)		
Daily Record Precipitation (inches)		



December 2024 Climate Statistics - Meacham ASOS

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Variable (units)	Observed	Normal	Departure
Warmest Daily Maximum Temperature (F)	48	-	-
Average Daily Maximum Temperature (F)	38.9	35.4	3.5
Average Daily Minimum Temperature (F)	25.2	20.2	5.0
Coolest Daily Minimum Temperature (F)	9	-	-
Average Temperature (F)	32.1	27.8	4.3
Total Precipitation (inches)	5.25	5.15	0.10

Variable (units)	Value	Day
Daily Record High Temperature (F)		
Daily Record Low Temperature (F)		
Daily Record Precipitation (inches)		

Additional climate statistics can be found here: <https://www.weather.gov/wrh/climate?wfo=pdt>



December 2024 Climate Statistics - Pasco ASOS

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Variable (units)	Observed	Normal	Departure
Warmest Daily Maximum Temperature (F)	61	-	-
Average Daily Maximum Temperature (F)	44.2	41.0	3.2
Average Daily Minimum Temperature (F)	32.6	27.3	5.3
Coolest Daily Minimum Temperature (F)	22	-	-
Average Temperature (F)	38.4	34.1	4.3
Total Precipitation (inches)	2.16	1.03	1.13

Variable (units)	Value	Day
Daily Record High Temperature (F)		
Daily Record Low Temperature (F)		
Daily Record Precipitation (inches)		



December 2024 Climate Statistics - Redmond ASOS

Weather Forecast Office
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Variable (units)	Observed	Normal	Departure
Warmest Daily Maximum Temperature (F)	59	-	-
Average Daily Maximum Temperature (F)	46.1	42.3	3.8
Average Daily Minimum Temperature (F)	26.7	23.3	3.4
Coolest Daily Minimum Temperature (F)	13	-	-
Average Temperature (F)	36.4	32.8	3.6
Total Precipitation (inches)	1.95	0.97	0.98

Variable (units)	Value	Day
Daily Record High Temperature (F)	59, 59	7th, 19th
Daily Record Low Temperature (F)		
Daily Record Precipitation (inches)	0.45	27th

Additional climate statistics can be found here: <https://www.weather.gov/wrh/climate?wfo=pdt>



December 2024 Climate Statistics - Yakima ASOS

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Variable (units)	Observed	Normal	Departure
Warmest Daily Maximum Temperature (F)	55	-	-
Average Daily Maximum Temperature (F)	40.3	38.2	2.1
Average Daily Minimum Temperature (F)	29.5	23.1	6.4
Coolest Daily Minimum Temperature (F)	19	-	-
Average Temperature (F)	34.9	30.6	4.3
Total Precipitation (inches)	2.29	1.44	0.85

Variable (units)	Value	Day
Daily Record High Temperature (F)	55	18th
Daily Record Low Temperature (F)		
Daily Record Precipitation (inches)		

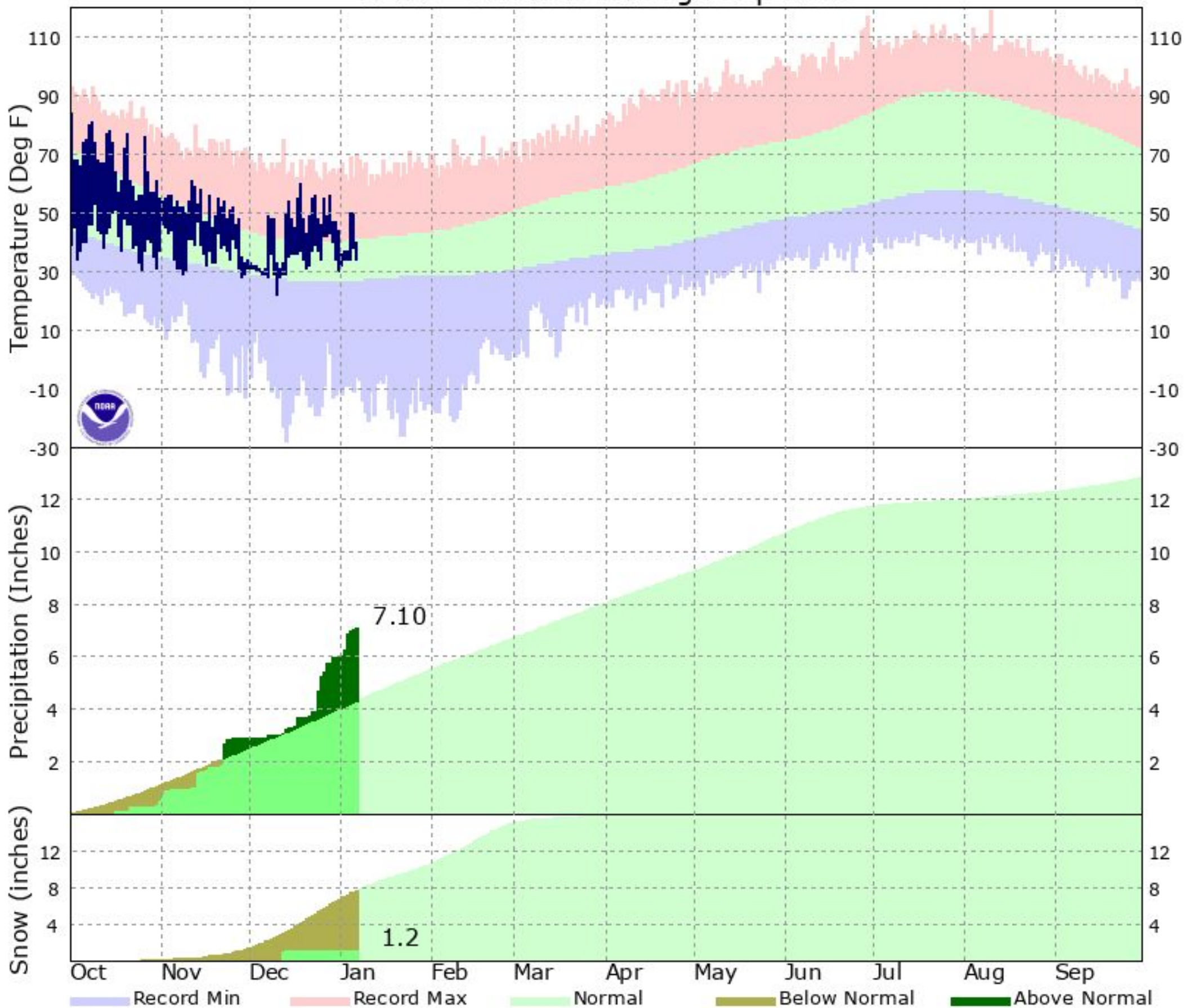
Additional climate statistics can be found here: <https://www.weather.gov/wrh/climate?wfo=pdt>



Water Year Climate Graphs - Pendleton ASOS

Weather Forecast Office
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KPDT - Oct 2024 Through Sep 2025



During the October 2024 - September 2025 water year, Pendleton has observed above-normal precipitation and below-normal snowfall.

The latest graphs are located here:

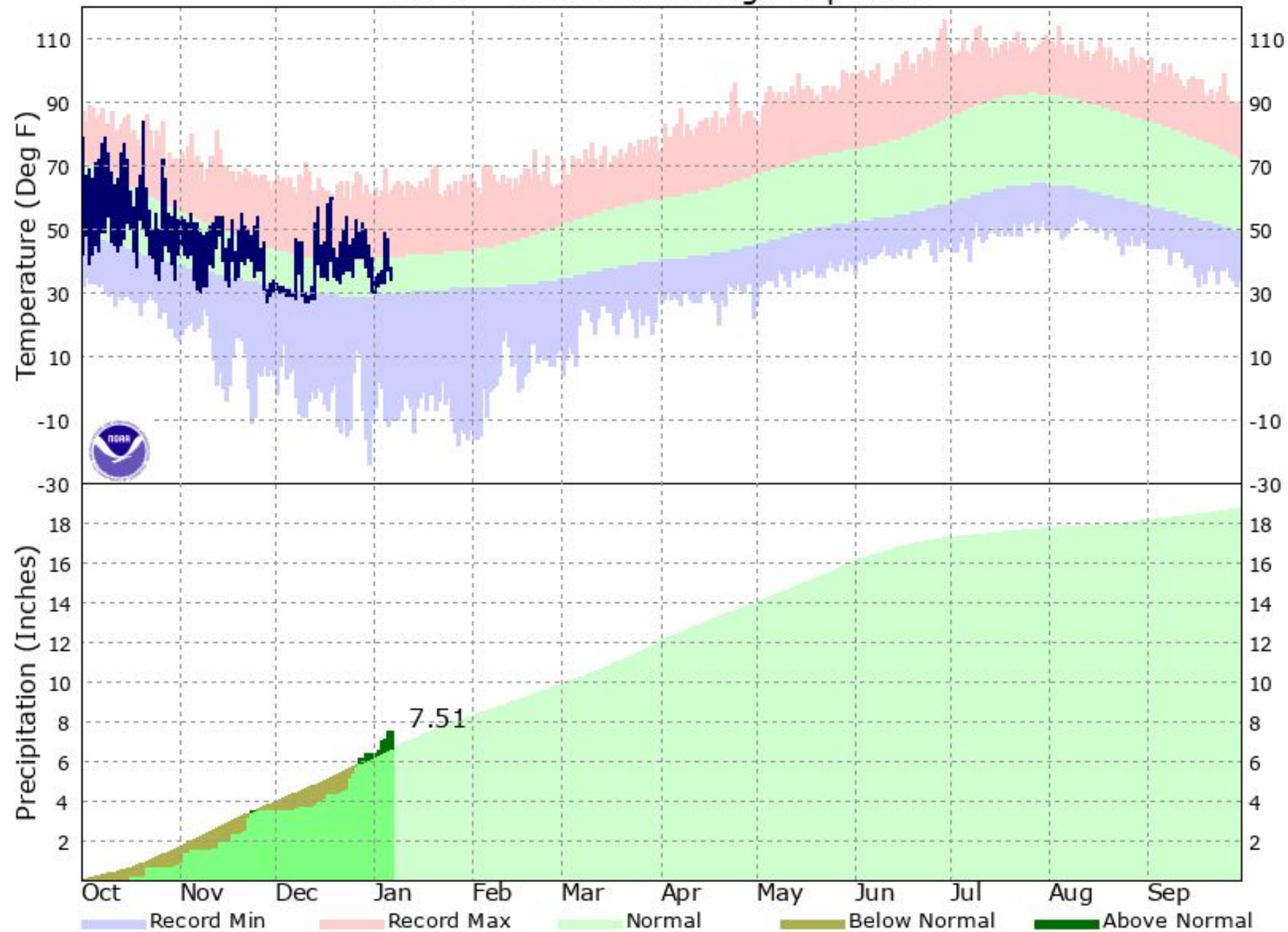
<https://www.weather.gov/pdt/CliPlot>



Water Year Climate Graphs - Walla Walla ASOS

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KALW - Oct 2024 Through Sep 2025



During the October 2024 - September 2025 water year, Walla Walla has received slightly above-normal precipitation.

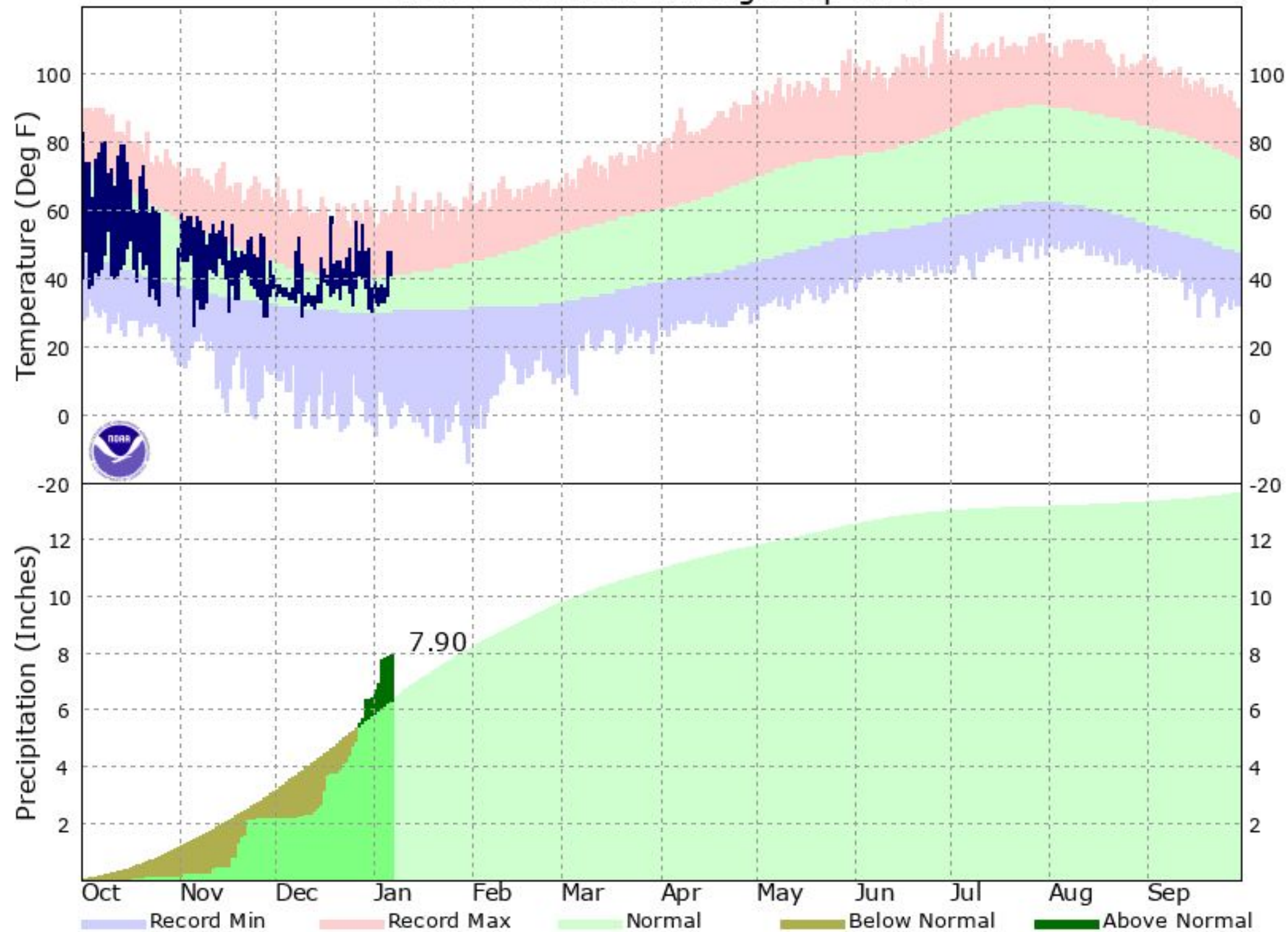
The latest graphs are located here:
<https://www.weather.gov/pdt/CliPlot>



Water Year Climate Graphs - The Dalles ASOS

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KDLS - Oct 2024 Through Sep 2025



During the October 2024 - September 2025 water year, The Dalles has recorded above-normal precipitation.

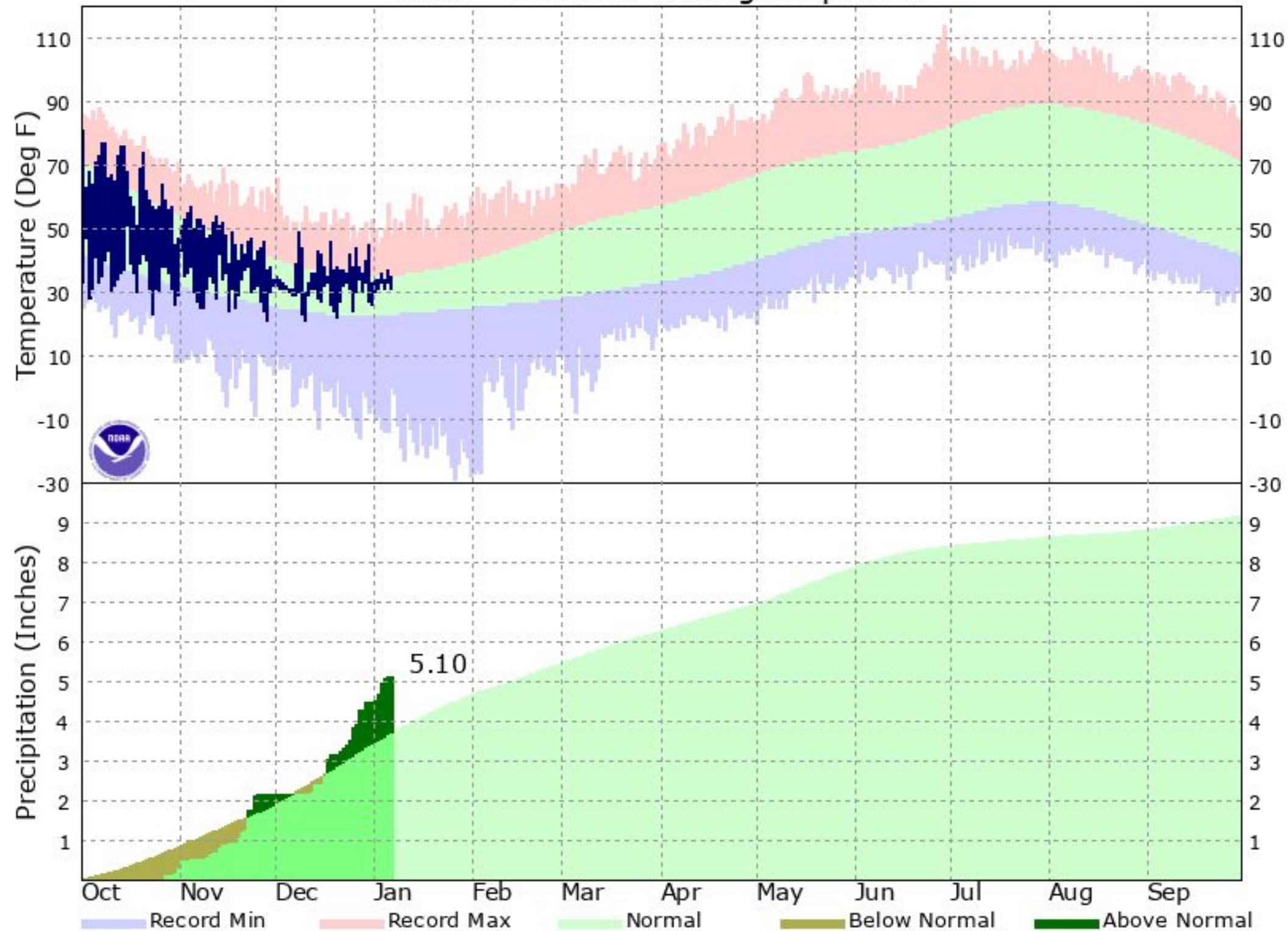
The latest graphs are located here:
<https://www.weather.gov/pdt/CliPlot>



Water Year Climate Graphs - Ellensburg ASOS

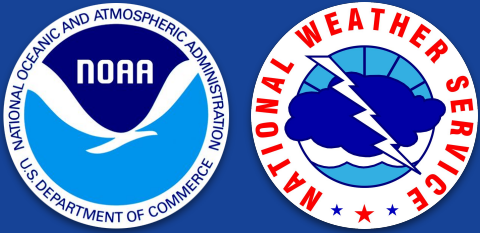
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KELN - Oct 2024 Through Sep 2025



During the October 2024 - September 2025 water year, Ellensburg has observed above-normal precipitation.

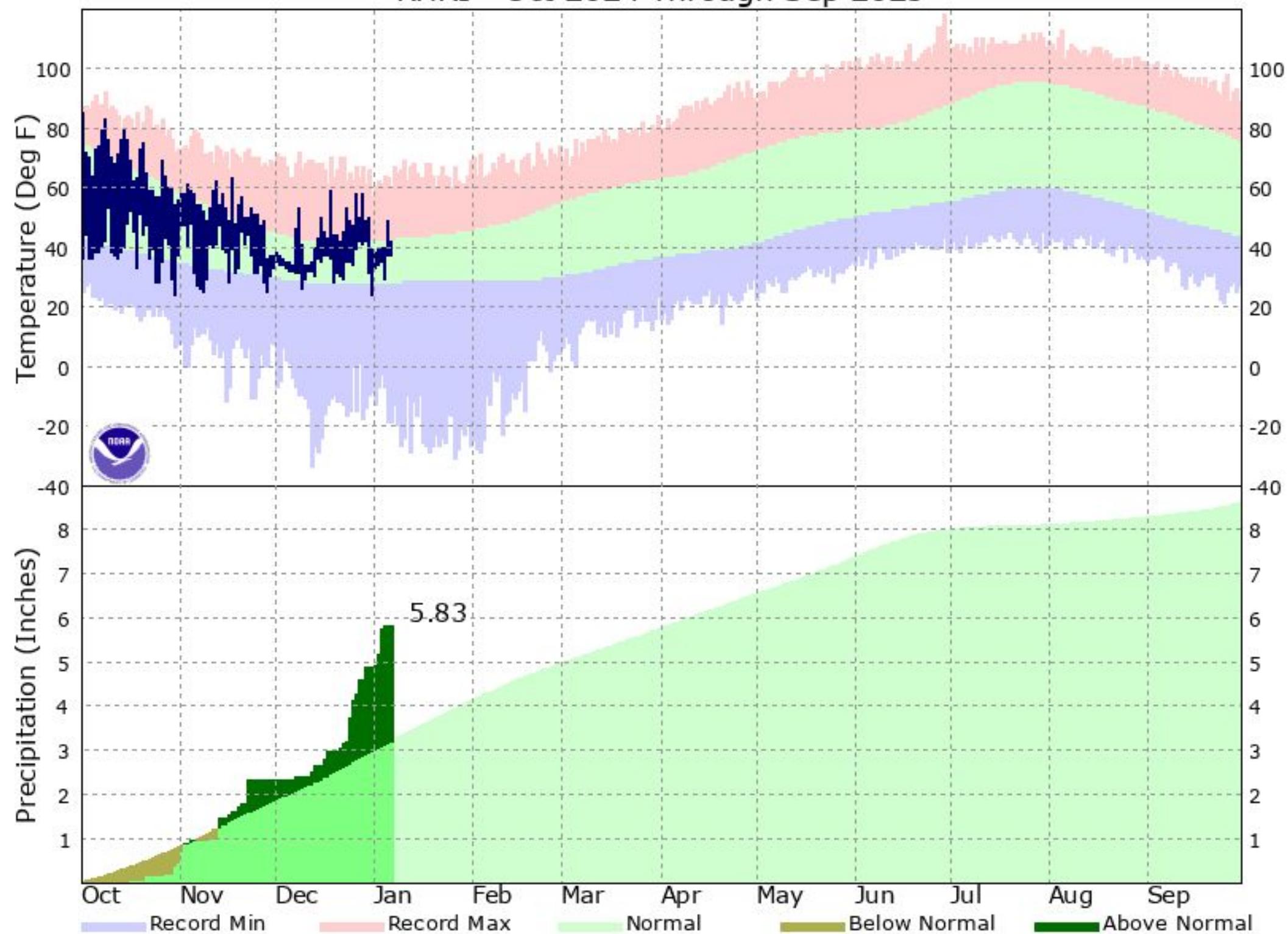
The latest graphs are located here:
<https://www.weather.gov/pdt/CliPlot>



Water Year Climate Graphs - Hermiston ASOS

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KHRI - Oct 2024 Through Sep 2025



During the October 2024 - September 2025 water year, Hermiston has recorded above-normal precipitation.

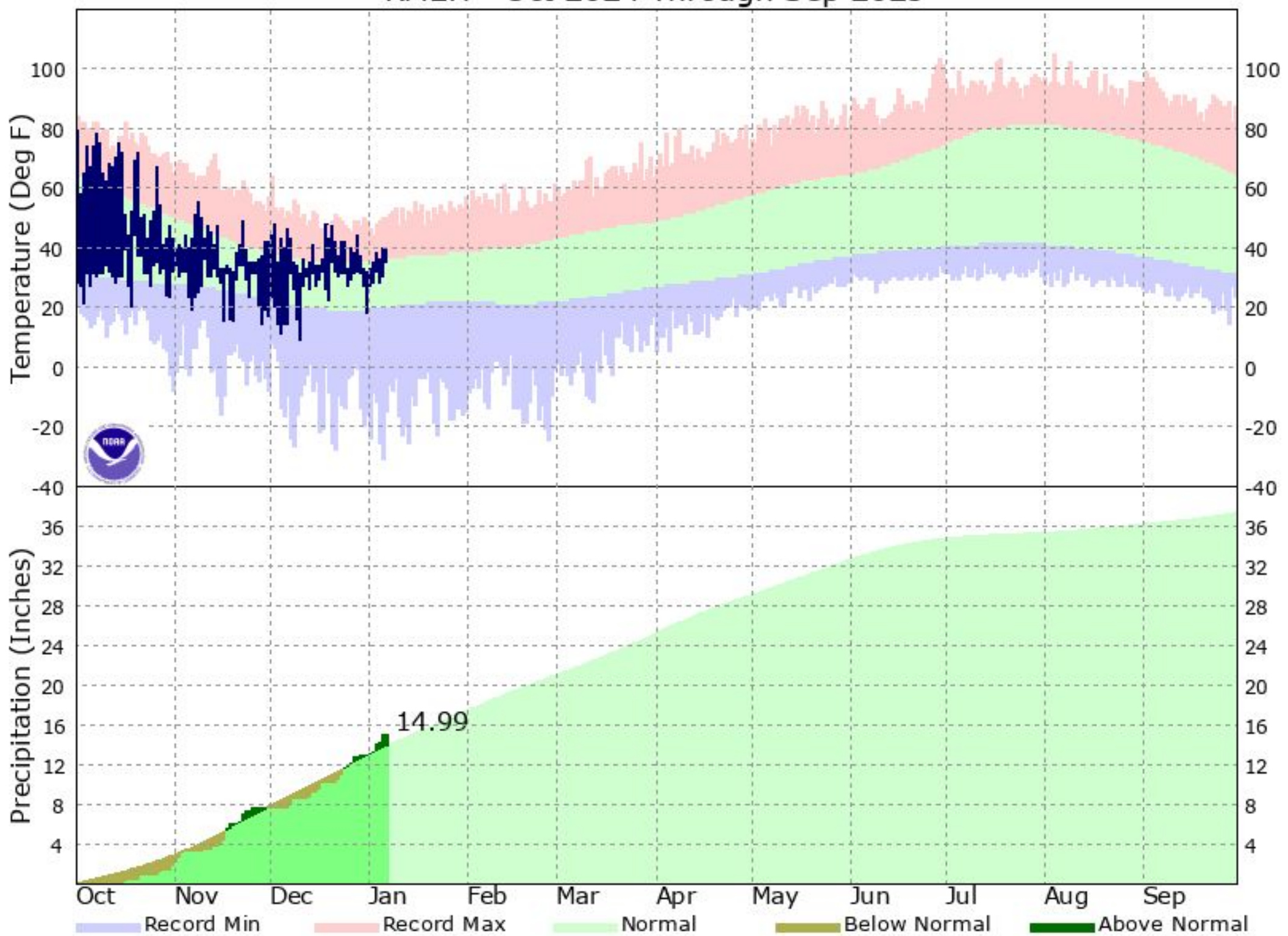
The latest graphs are located here:
<https://www.weather.gov/pdt/CliPlot>



Water Year Climate Graphs - Meacham ASOS

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KMEH - Oct 2024 Through Sep 2025



During the October 2024 - September 2025 water year, Meacham has received near-normal precipitation.

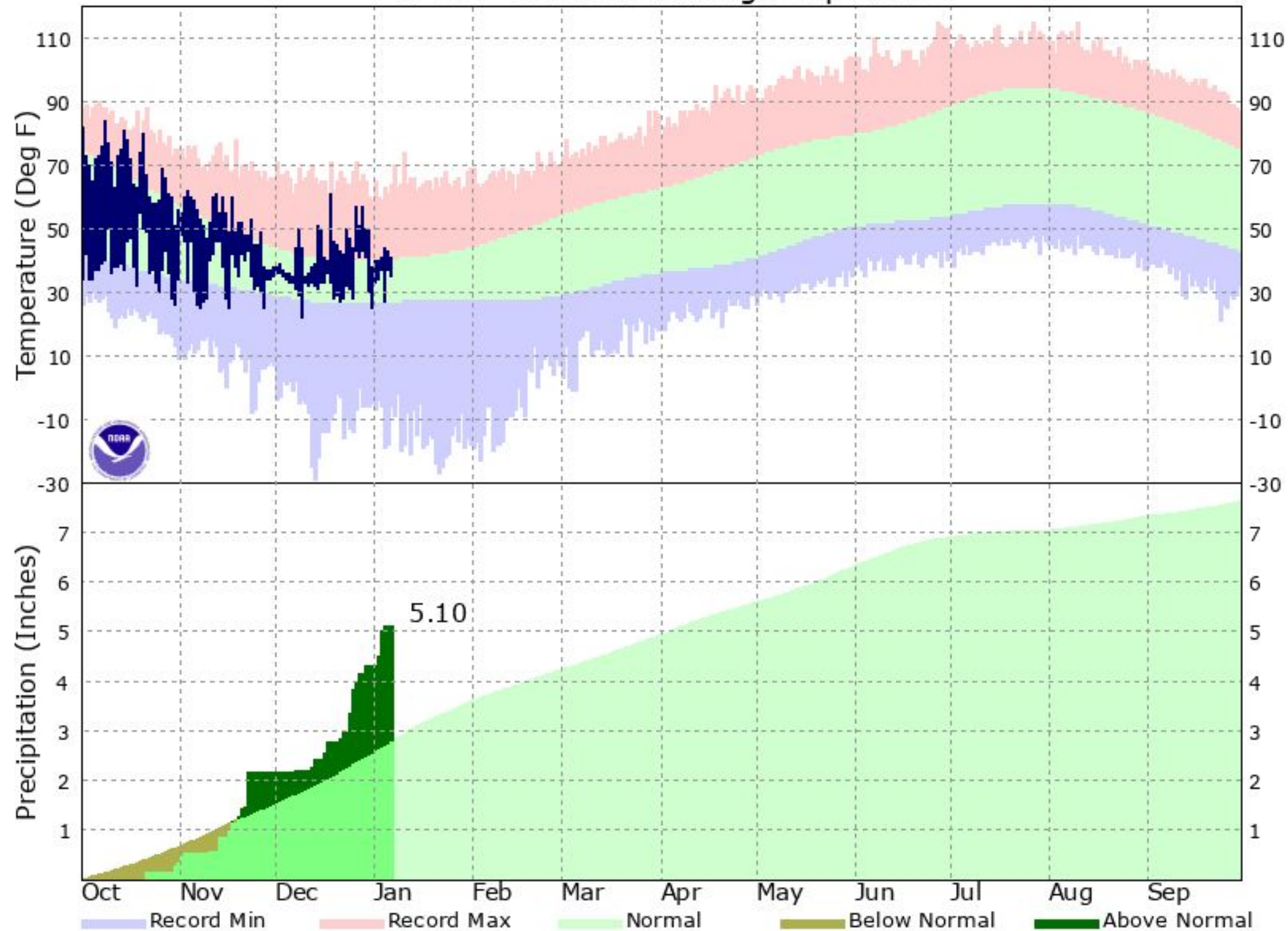
The latest graphs are located here:
<https://www.weather.gov/pdt/CliPlot>



Water Year Climate Graphs - Pasco ASOS

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KPSC - Oct 2024 Through Sep 2025



During the October 2024 - September 2025 water year, Pasco has observed above-normal precipitation.

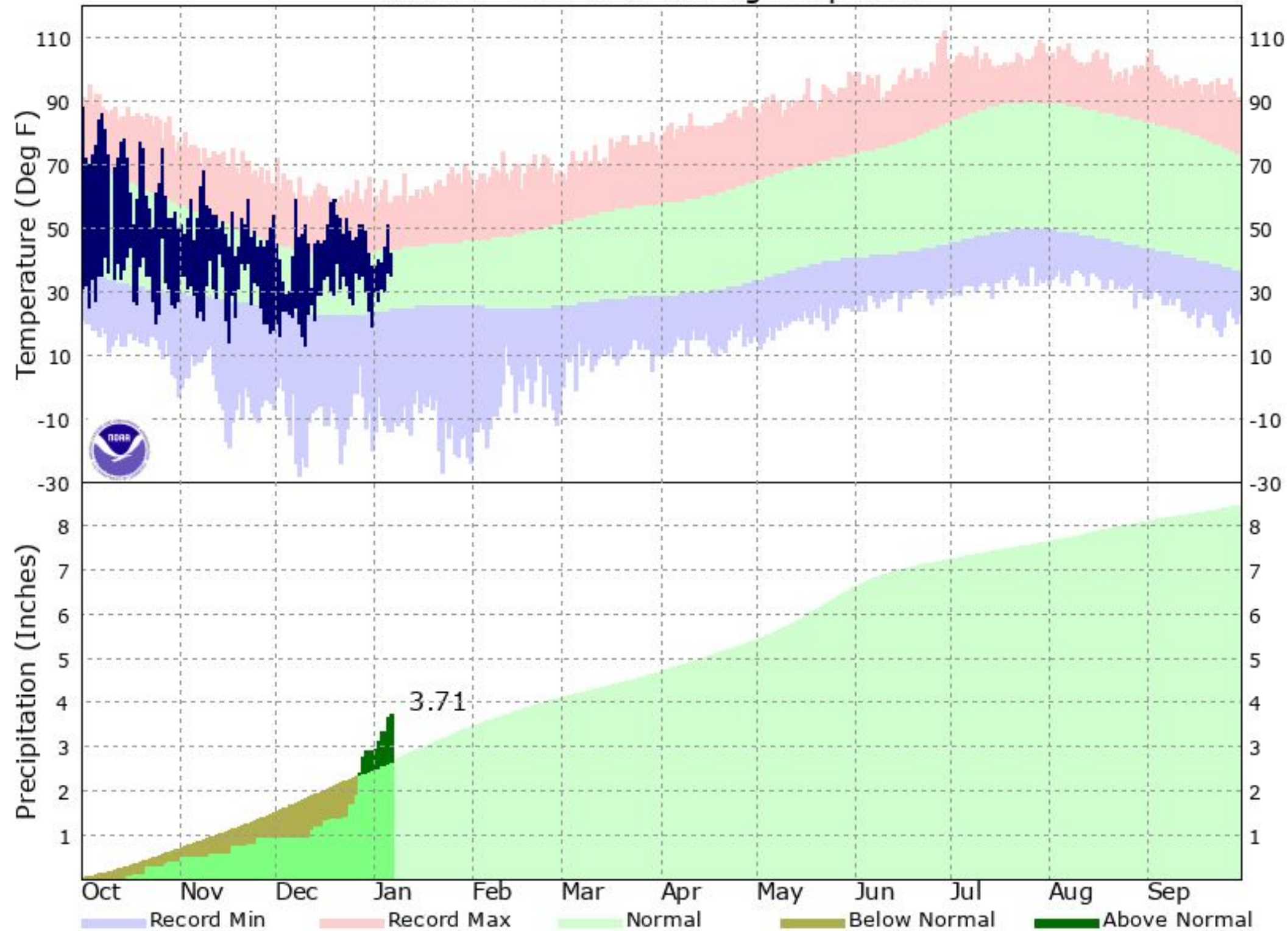
The latest graphs are located here:
<https://www.weather.gov/pdt/CliPlot>



Water Year Climate Graphs - Redmond ASOS

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KRDM - Oct 2024 Through Sep 2025



During the October 2024 - September 2025 water year, Redmond has recorded above-normal precipitation.

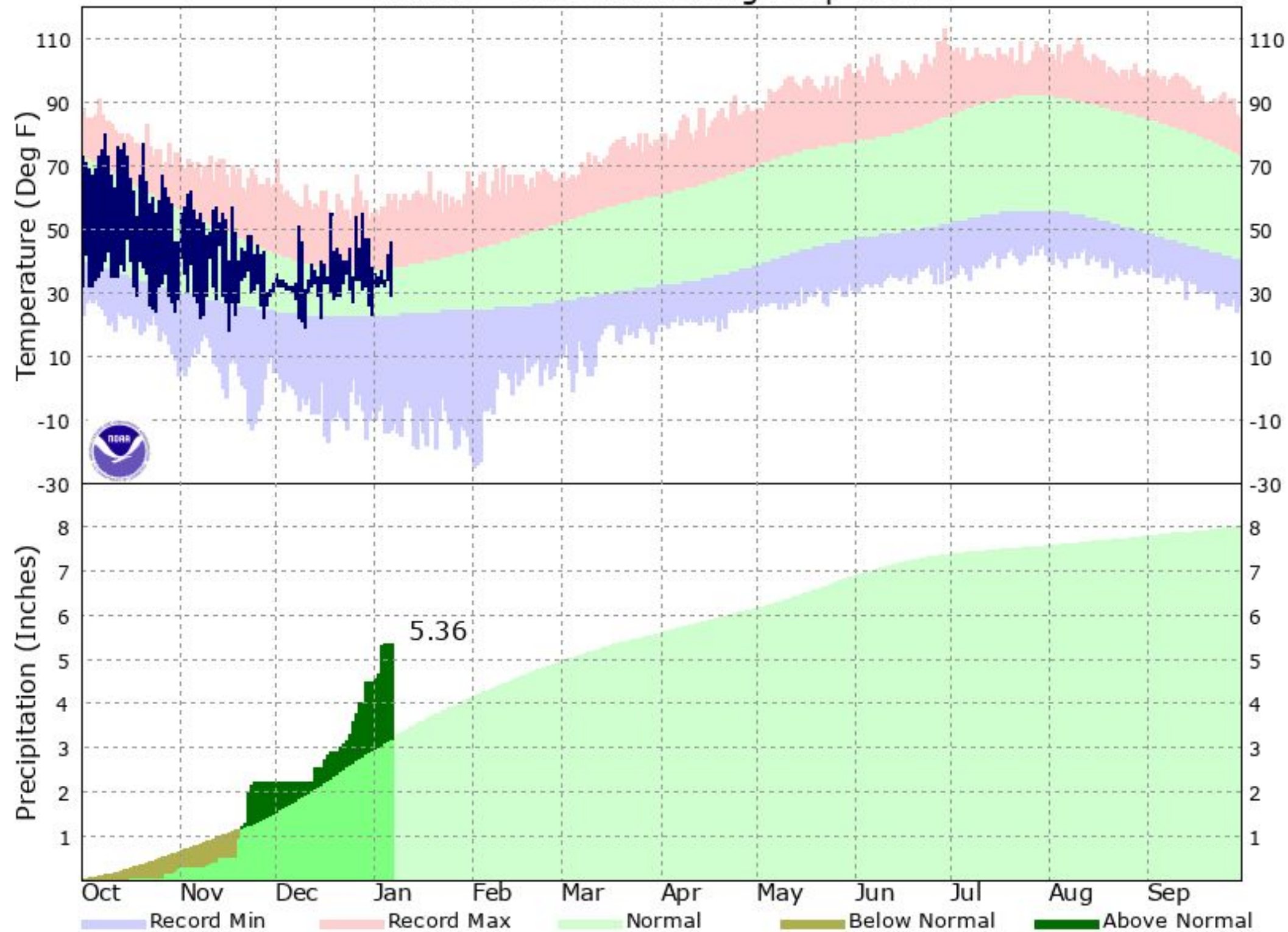
The latest graphs are located here:
<https://www.weather.gov/pdt/CliPlot>



Water Year Climate Graphs - Yakima ASOS

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KYKM - Oct 2024 Through Sep 2025



During the October 2024 - September 2025 water year, Yakima has recorded above-normal precipitation.

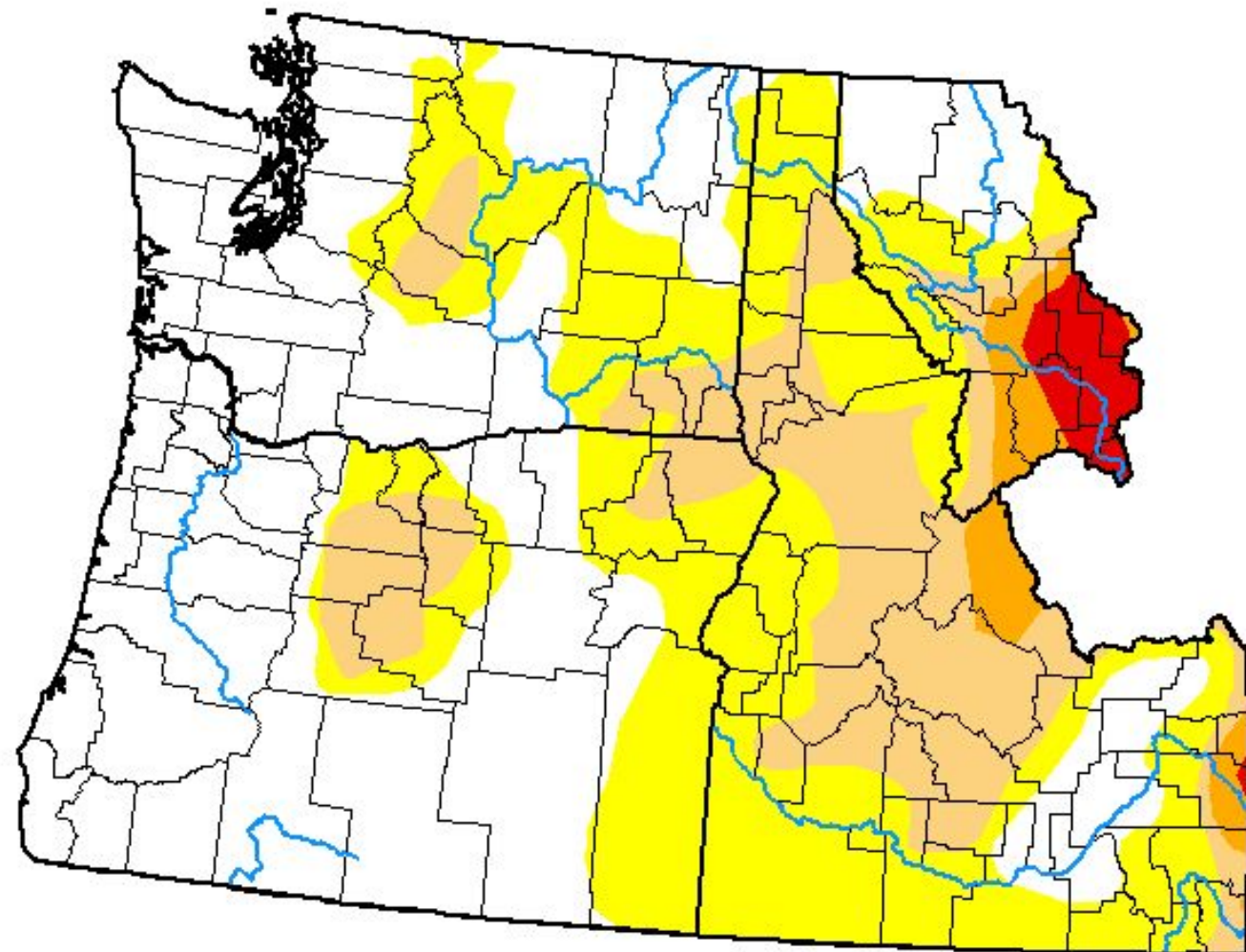
The latest graphs are located here:
<https://www.weather.gov/pdt/CliPlot>



Drought Status: Late December

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U.S. Drought Monitor Pacific Northwest DEWS



December 31, 2024

(Released Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	47.24	52.76	21.00	4.29	1.75	0.00
Last Week 12-24-2024	43.79	56.21	23.16	4.51	1.75	0.00
3 Months Ago 10-01-2024	13.07	86.93	56.26	11.40	2.27	0.49
Start of Calendar Year 01-02-2024	44.06	55.94	26.37	4.48	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2024	13.07	86.93	56.26	11.40	2.27	0.49
One Year Ago 01-02-2024	44.06	55.94	26.37	4.48	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Rocky Bilotta
NCEI/NOAA



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

D4 (Exceptional Drought): None.

D3 (Extreme Drought): None.

D2 (Severe Drought): None.

D1 (Moderate Drought): Portions of Kittitas, Yakima, Walla Walla, Columbia, Wallowa, Union, Umatilla, Gilliam, Sherman, Wasco, Jefferson, Crook, Wheeler, and Deschutes counties.

D0 (Abnormally Dry): Portions of all counties except Klickitat and Benton.

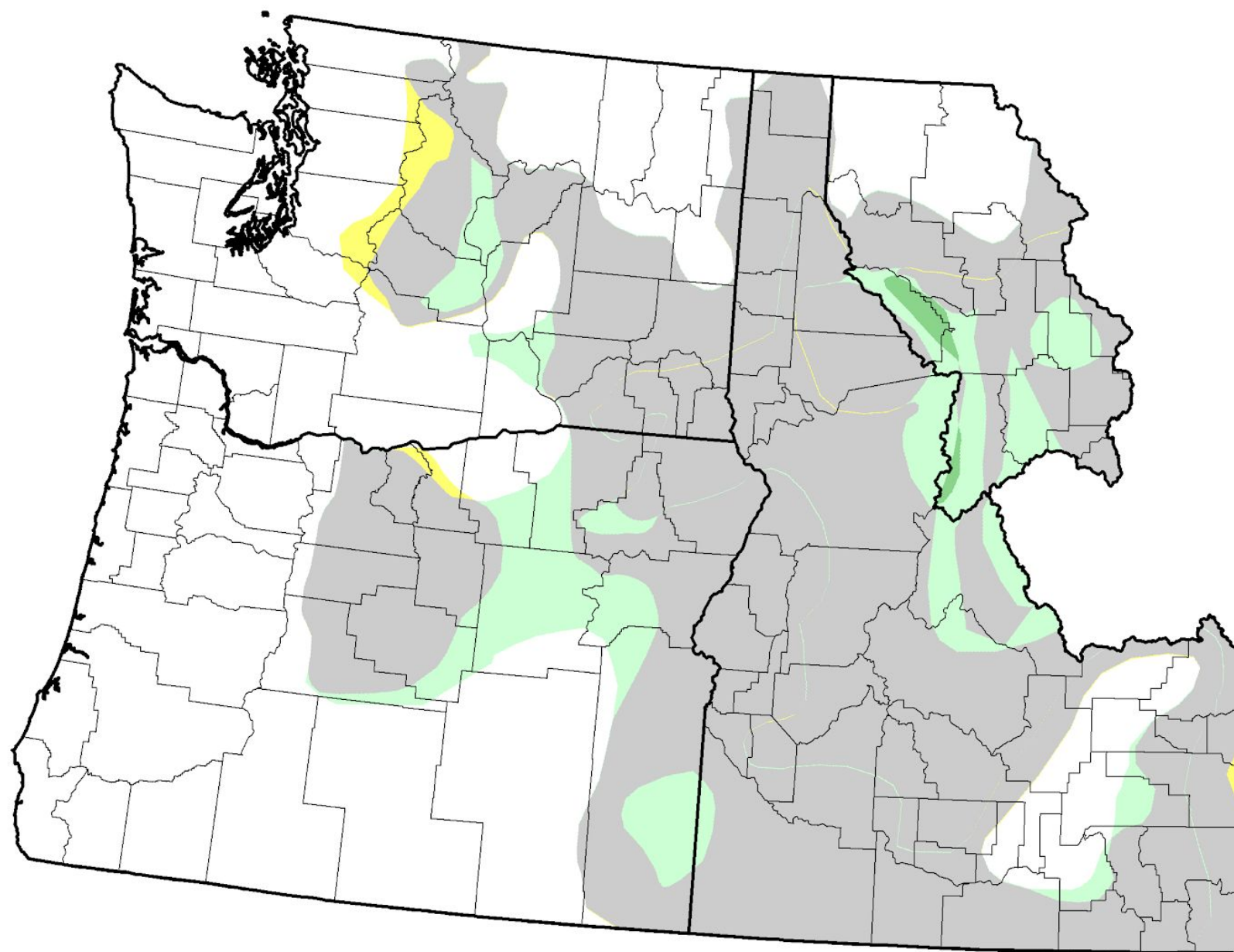
For the latest conditions, please see droughtmonitor.unl.edu



Drought Evolution: 4-Week Change during December

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U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change - Pacific Northwest DEWS
4 Week



December 31, 2024
compared to
December 3, 2024

droughtmonitor.unl.edu



- 5 Class Degradation
- 4 Class Degradation
- 3 Class Degradation
- 2 Class Degradation
- 1 Class Degradation
- No Change
- 1 Class Improvement
- 2 Class Improvement
- 3 Class Improvement
- 4 Class Improvement
- 5 Class Improvement

Improved: Portions of Umatilla, Morrow, Grant, Union, Crook, Deschutes, Kittitas, Yakima, Benton, and Franklin counties.

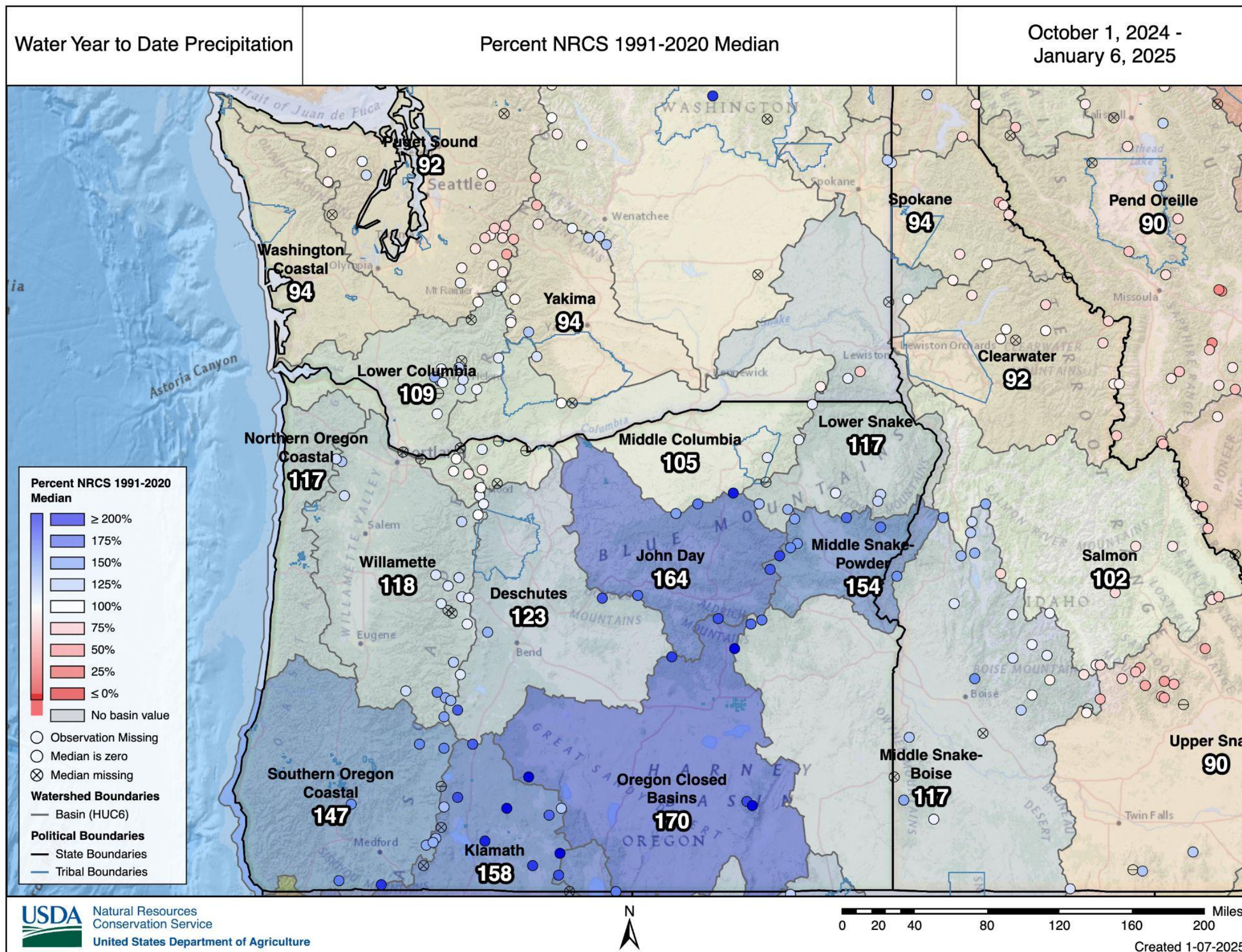
Degraded: Cascade crest of Yakima/Kittitas counties, and limited portions of Sherman, Gilliam, and Morrow counties.

No change: Portions of all counties except Klickitat and Benton.



SNOTEL Precipitation - Basin/Watershed Map

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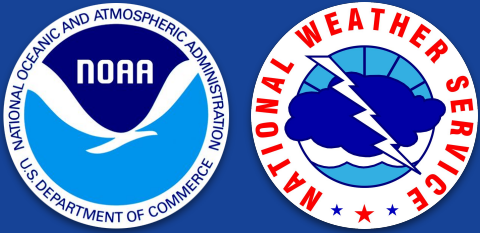


Basin-wide SNOTEL precipitation for the water year to date (October 1, 2024 - January 6, 2025) relative to the 1991-2020 median is shown on the left. Basin names are displayed, and individual SNOTELs are represented as circles.

For the water year to date through January 6th, precipitation was mostly near or above the climatological median for areas south of approximately 45-46N latitude. Conversely, precipitation was mostly near or below the median north of roughly 45-46N latitude.

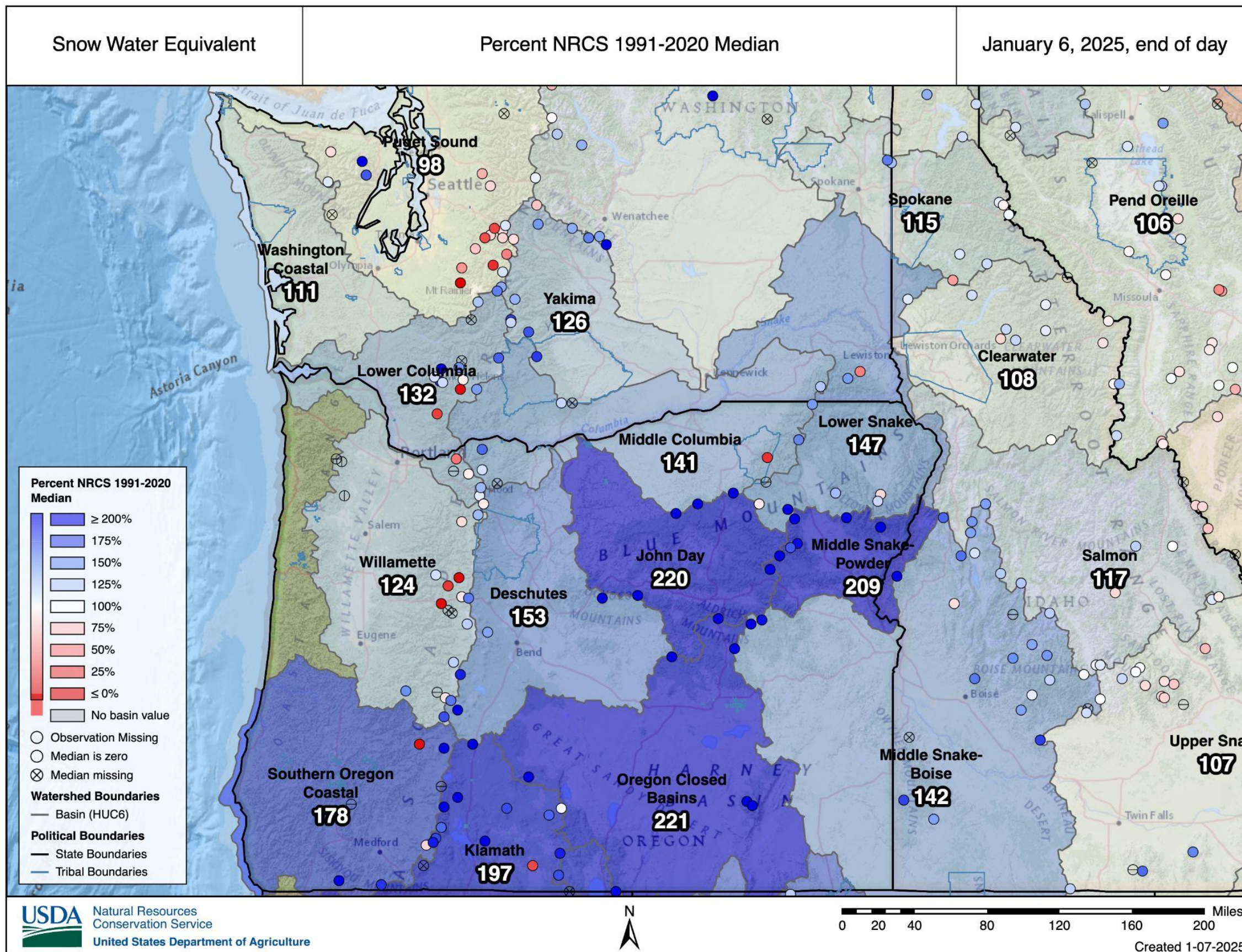
View the latest conditions here:

<https://nwcc-apps.sc.egov.usda.gov/imap/#version=169&elements=&networks=!&states=!&basins=!&hucs=&minElevation=&maxElevation=&elementSelectType=any&activeOnly=true&activeForecastPointsOnly=false&hucLabels=true&hucIdLabels=false&hucParameterLabels=true&stationLabels=&overlays=&hucOverlays=state.tribal&basinOpacity=55&basinNoDataOpacity=25&basemapOpacity=100&maskOpacity=0&mode=data&openSections=dataElement,parameter,date,basin,options,elements,location,networks,overlays,labels&controlsOpen=true&popup=&popupMulti=&popupBasin=&base=esriNgwm&displayType=basinstation&basinType=6&dataElement=PREC&depth=-8¶meter=PCTMED&frequency=DAILY&duration=wytd&customDuration=&dayPart=E&monthPart=E&forecastPubDay=1&forecastExceedance=50&useMixedPast=true&seqColor=1&divColor=5&scaleType=D&scaleMin=&scaleMax=&referencePeriodType=POR&referenceBegin=1991&referenceEnd=2020&minimumYears=20&hucAssociations=true&relativeDate=-1&lat=45.285&lon=-120.027&zoom=6.5>



SNOTEL Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) - Basin/Watershed Map

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Basin-wide snow water equivalent (SWE) percent of 1991-2020 median is shown on the left (valid January 6th, 2025). Basin names are displayed, and individual SNOTELs are represented as circles.

View the latest conditions here:

<https://nwcc-apps.sc.egov.usda.gov/imap/#version=169&elements=&networks=!&states=!&basins=!&hucs=&minElevation=&maxElevation=&elementSelectType=any&activeOnly=true&activeForecastPointsOnly=false&hucLabels=true&hucIdLabels=false&hucParameterLabels=true&stationLabels=&overlays=&hucOverlays=state,tribal&basinOpacity=55&basinNoDataOpacity=25&basemapOpacity=100&maskOpacity=0&mode=data&openSections=dataElement,parameter,date,basin,options,elements,location,networks,overlays,labels&controlsOpen=true&popup=&popupMulti=&popupBasin=&base=esriNgwm&displayType=basinstation&basinType=6&dataElement=WTEQ&depth=-8¶meter=PCTMED&frequency=DAILY&duration=1&customDuration=&dayPart=E&monthPart=E&forecastPubDay=1&forecastExceedance=50&useMixedPast=true&seqColor=1&divColor=5&scaleType=D&scaleMin=&scaleMax=&referencePeriodType=POR&referenceBegin=1991&referenceEnd=2020&minimumYears=20&hucAssociations=true&relativeDate=-1&lat=45.285&lon=-120.027&zoom=6.5>



SNOTEL Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) - Lower Snake Watershed

SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN LOWER SNAKE

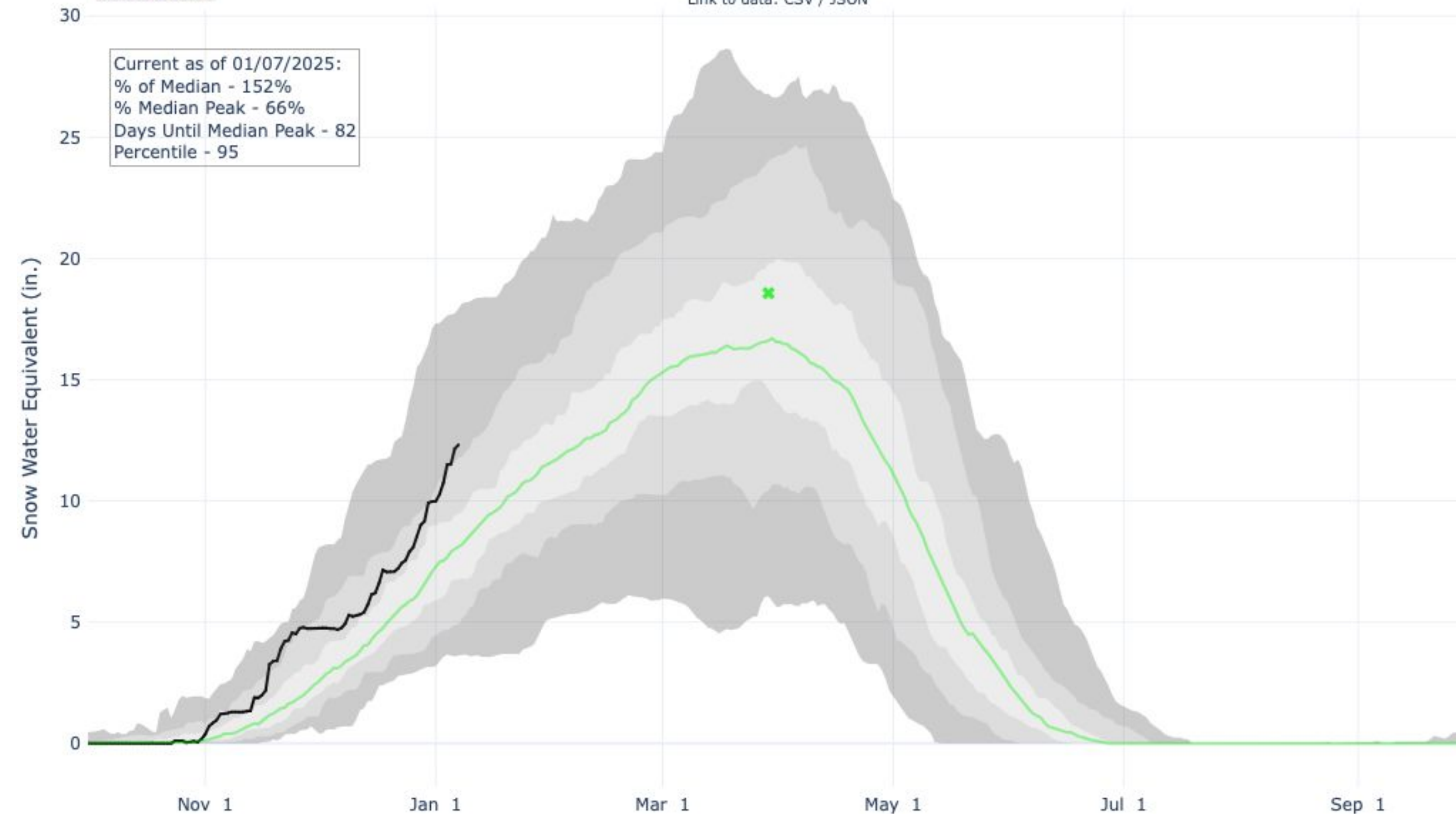
Reset Range

Link to data: CSV / JSON

Current as of 01/07/2025:
% of Median - 152%
% Median Peak - 66%
Days Until Median Peak - 82
Percentile - 95

Station List

- ✖ Median Peak SWE
- Median ('91-'20)
- Stats. Shading
- 2025 (16 sites)



Shading breaks at the 10th, 30th, 50th, 70th, and 90th percentiles for the period of record.

The black line indicates the current water year, while the green line shows the median value, and the green "x" is the median peak SWE magnitude and date.





SNOTEL Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) - Middle Columbia Watershed

SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN MIDDLE COLUMBIA

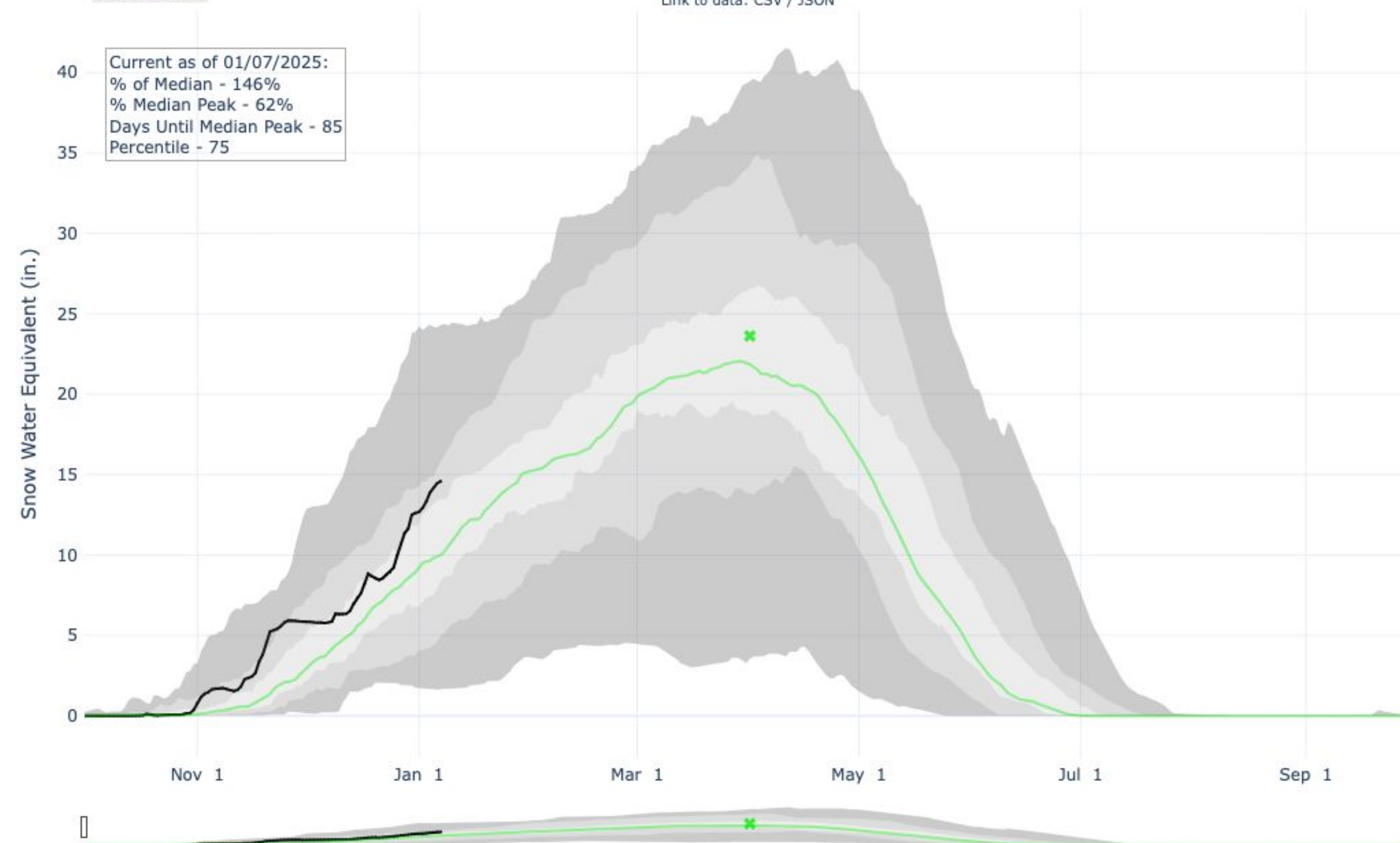
Reset Range

Link to data: CSV / JSON

Current as of 01/07/2025:
% of Median - 146%
% Median Peak - 62%
Days Until Median Peak - 85
Percentile - 75

Station List

- ✖ Median Peak SWE
- Median ('91-'20)
- Stats. Shading
- 2025 (20 sites)



Shading breaks at the 10th, 30th, 50th, 70th, and 90th percentiles for the period of record.

The black line indicates the current water year, while the green line shows the median value, and the green "x" is the median peak SWE magnitude and date.





SNOTEL Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) - Yakima Watershed

SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN YAKIMA

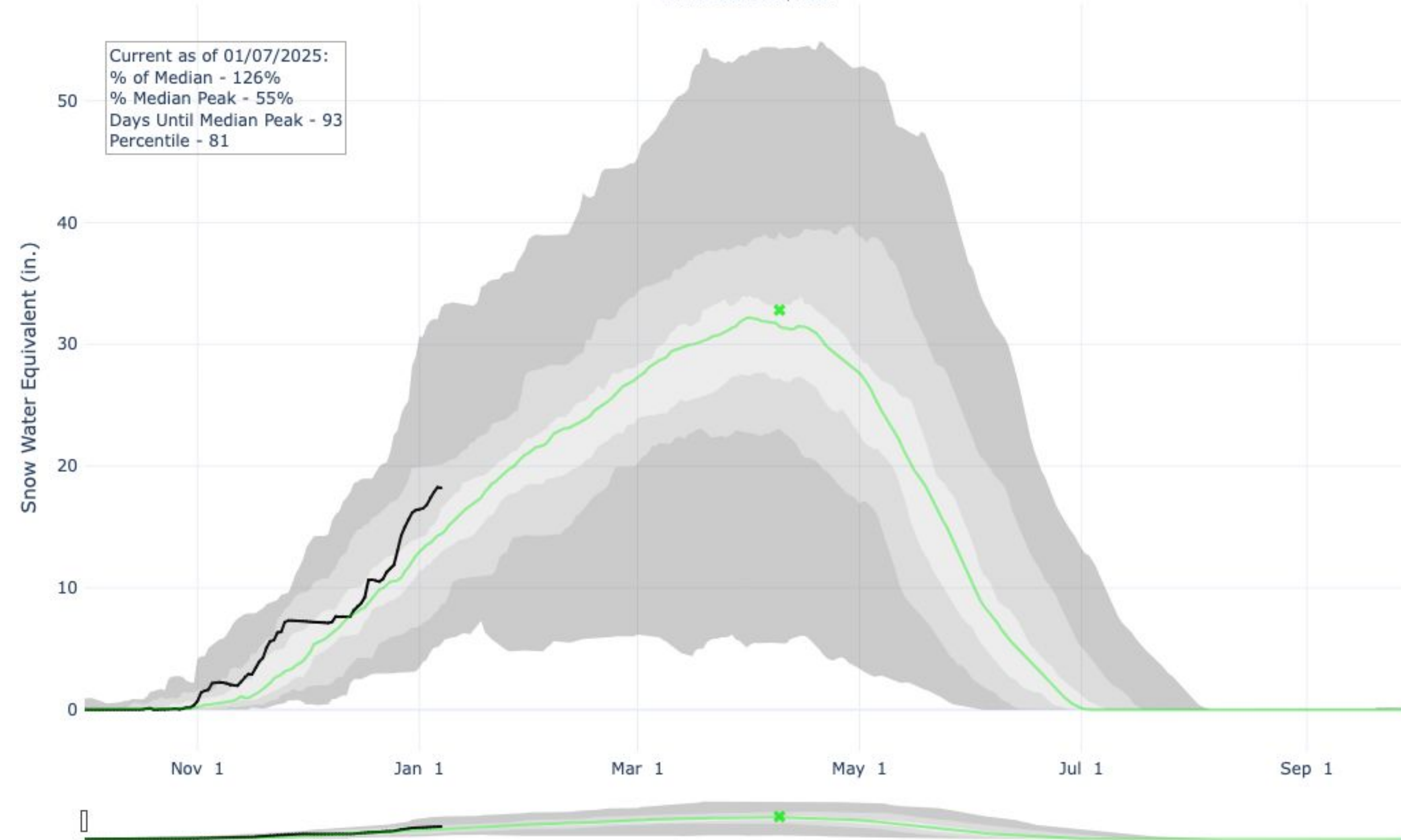
Reset Range

Link to data: CSV / JSON

Current as of 01/07/2025:
% of Median - 126%
% Median Peak - 55%
Days Until Median Peak - 93
Percentile - 81

Station List

- ✖ Median Peak SWE
- Median ('91-'20)
- ▒ Stats. Shading
- 2025 (17 sites)



Shading breaks at the 10th, 30th, 50th, 70th, and 90th percentiles for the period of record.

The black line indicates the current water year, while the green line shows the median value, and the green "x" is the median peak SWE magnitude and date.





SNOTEL Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) - Deschutes Watershed

SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN DESCHUTES

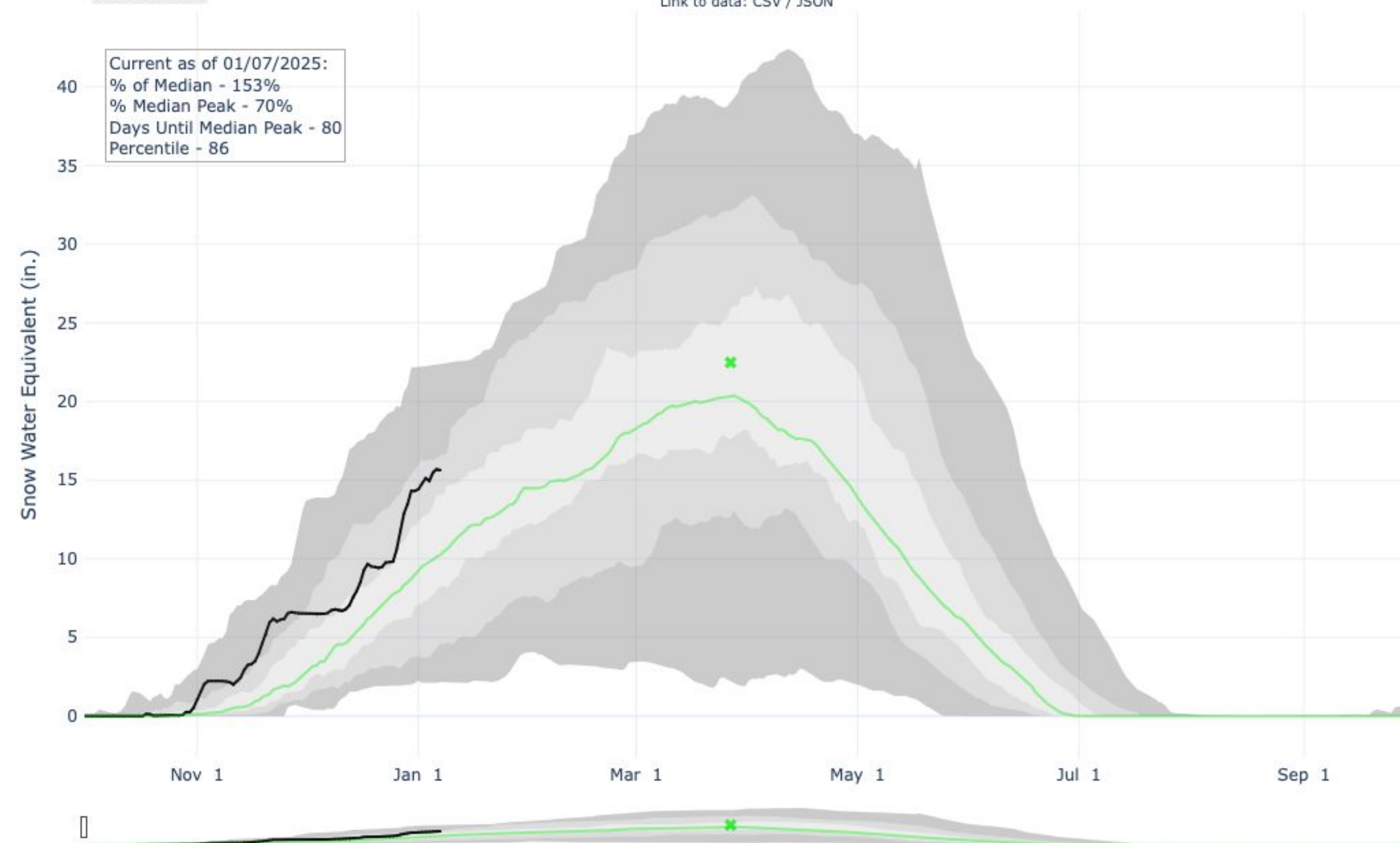
Reset Range

Link to data: CSV / JSON

Current as of 01/07/2025:
% of Median - 153%
% Median Peak - 70%
Days Until Median Peak - 80
Percentile - 86

Station List

- ✖ Median Peak SWE
- Median ('91-'20)
- Stats. Shading
- 2025 (18 sites)



Shading breaks at the 10th, 30th, 50th, 70th, and 90th percentiles for the period of record.

The black line indicates the current water year, while the green line shows the median value, and the green "x" is the median peak SWE magnitude and date.





SNOTEL Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) - John Day Watershed

SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN JOHN DAY

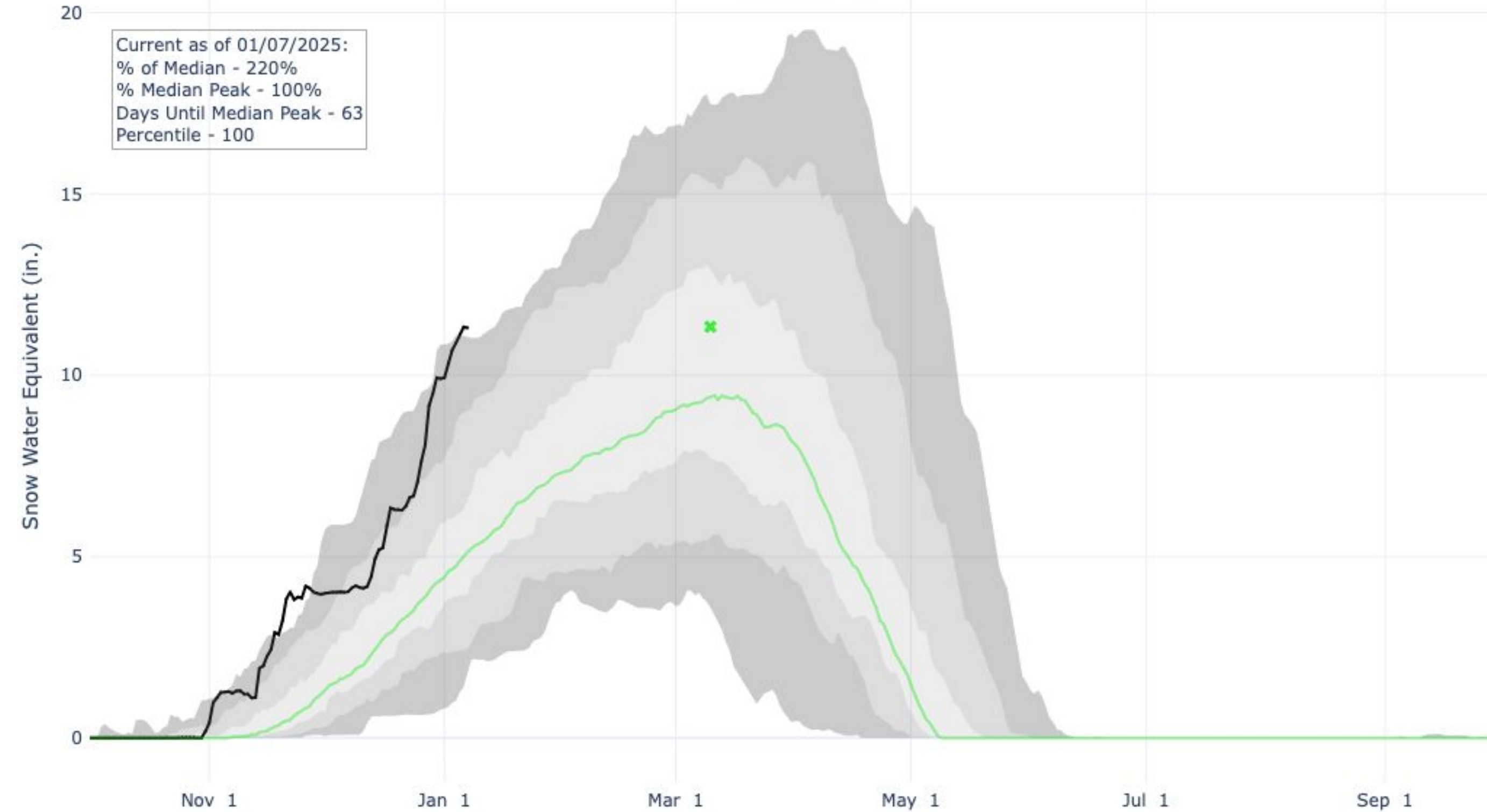
Reset Range

Link to data: CSV / JSON

Current as of 01/07/2025:
% of Median - 220%
% Median Peak - 100%
Days Until Median Peak - 63
Percentile - 100

Station List

- ✖ Median Peak SWE
- Median ('91-'20)
- Stats. Shading
- 2025 (13 sites)



Shading breaks at the 10th, 30th, 50th, 70th, and 90th percentiles for the period of record.

The black line indicates the current water year, while the green line shows the median value, and the green "x" is the median peak SWE magnitude and date.





Summary

Weather Forecast Office
Pendleton, OR
Tuesday, January 7

- Mean (average) temperatures were predominantly above normal (relative to the 1991-2020 climate reference period) throughout our forecast area during December.
- Above- to much-above-normal precipitation (top 33% and 10% of all years, respectively) was recorded across the lower elevations during December, while near- to above-normal precipitation was observed for the northeast mountains and Cascades.
- Drought conditions improved across portions of eastern Oregon and south-central Washington. Limited areas of degradation occurred along the Washington Cascade crest and north-central Oregon.



nws.pendleton@noaa.gov



(541) 276-7832



weather.gov/pendleton

