

2026 Upper Deschutes Basin Water Outlook

Jeremy Giffin

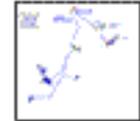
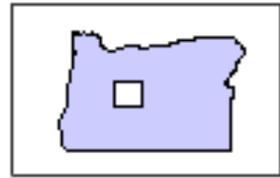
Carolyn Sufit

Oregon Water Resources Department

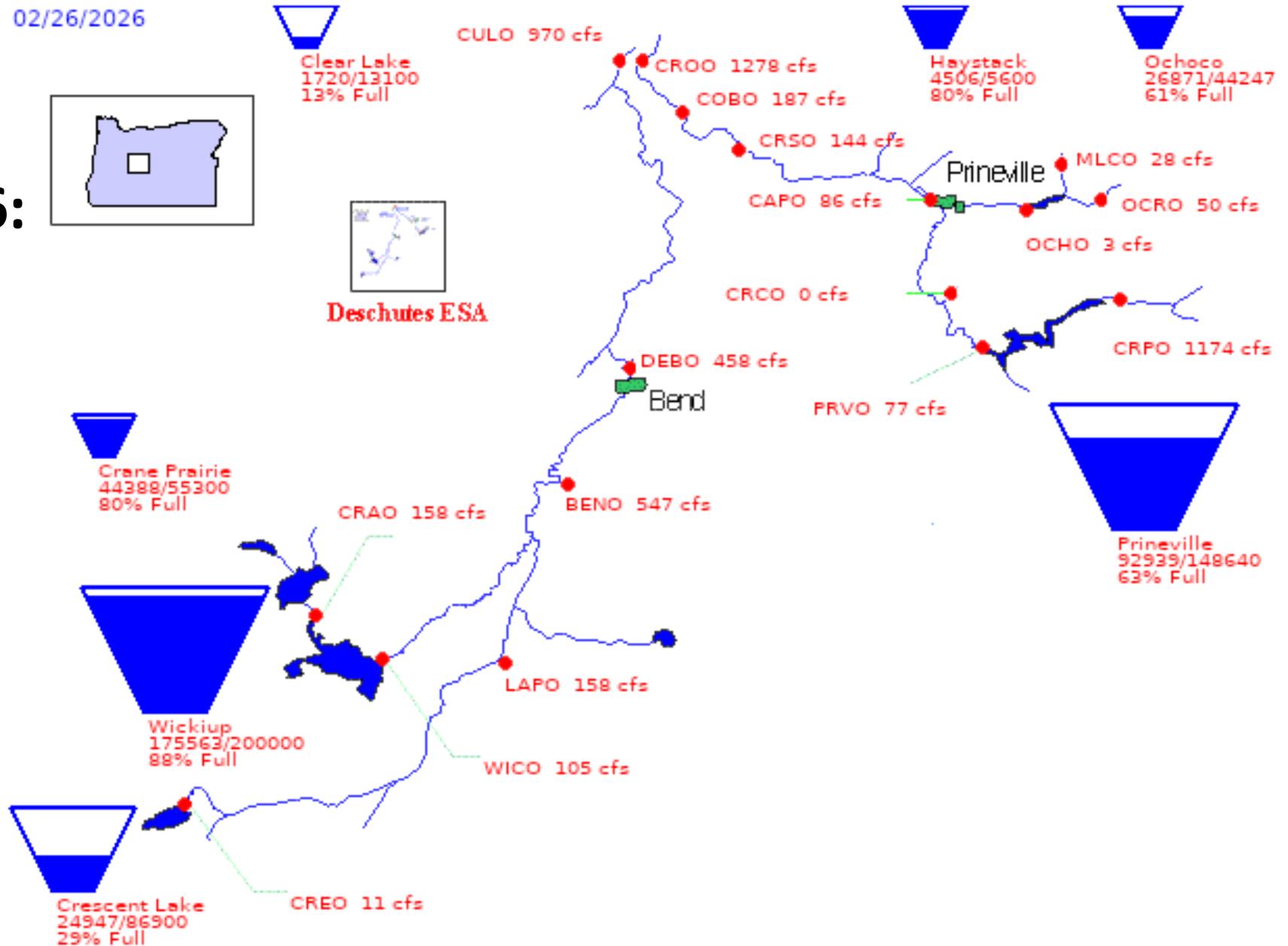


Overview of the “teacups” as of February 26 2026:

02/26/2026



Deschutes ESA



Wickiup 88% Full

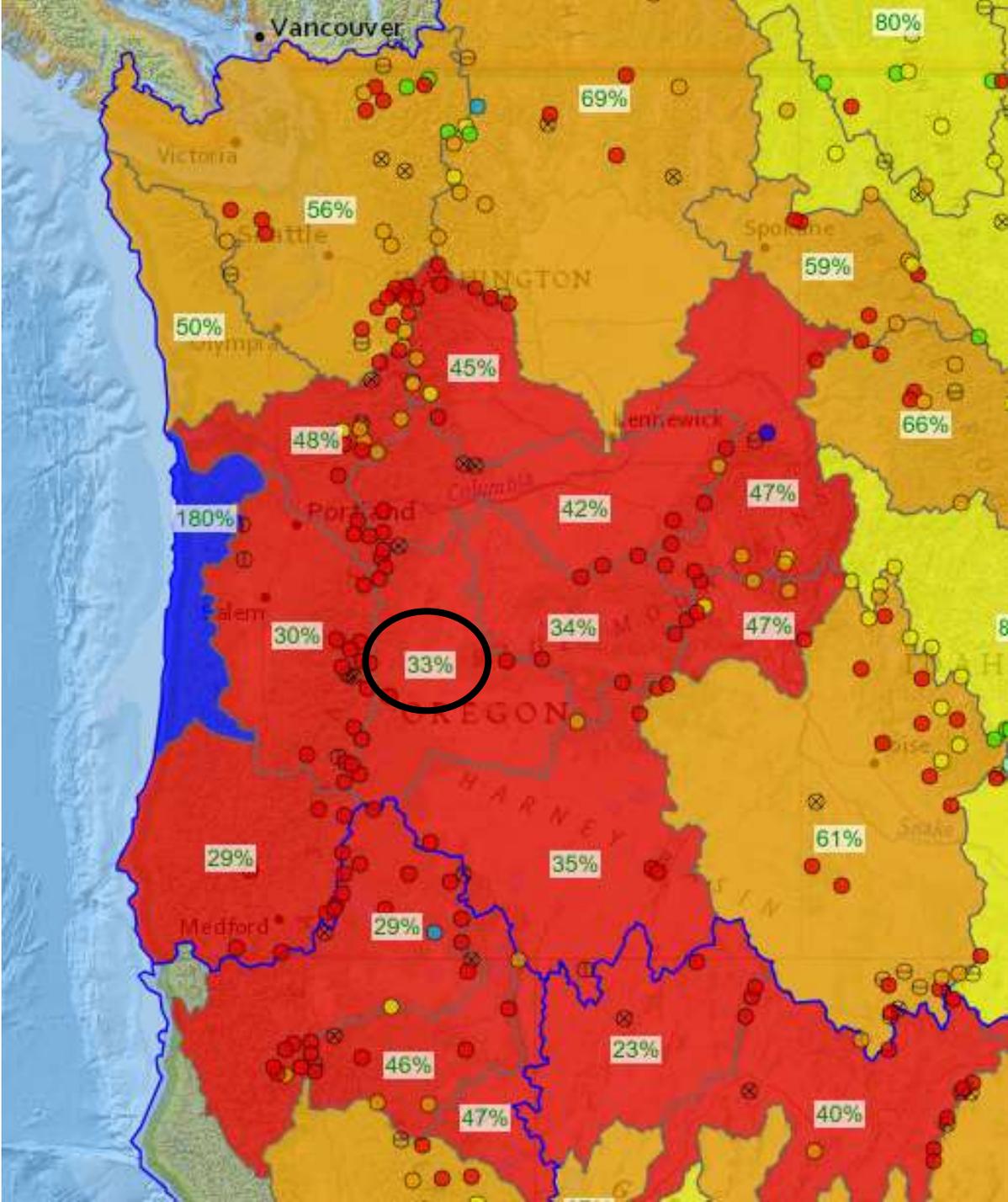
Prineville 63% Full

Ochoco 61% Full

Haystack 80% Full

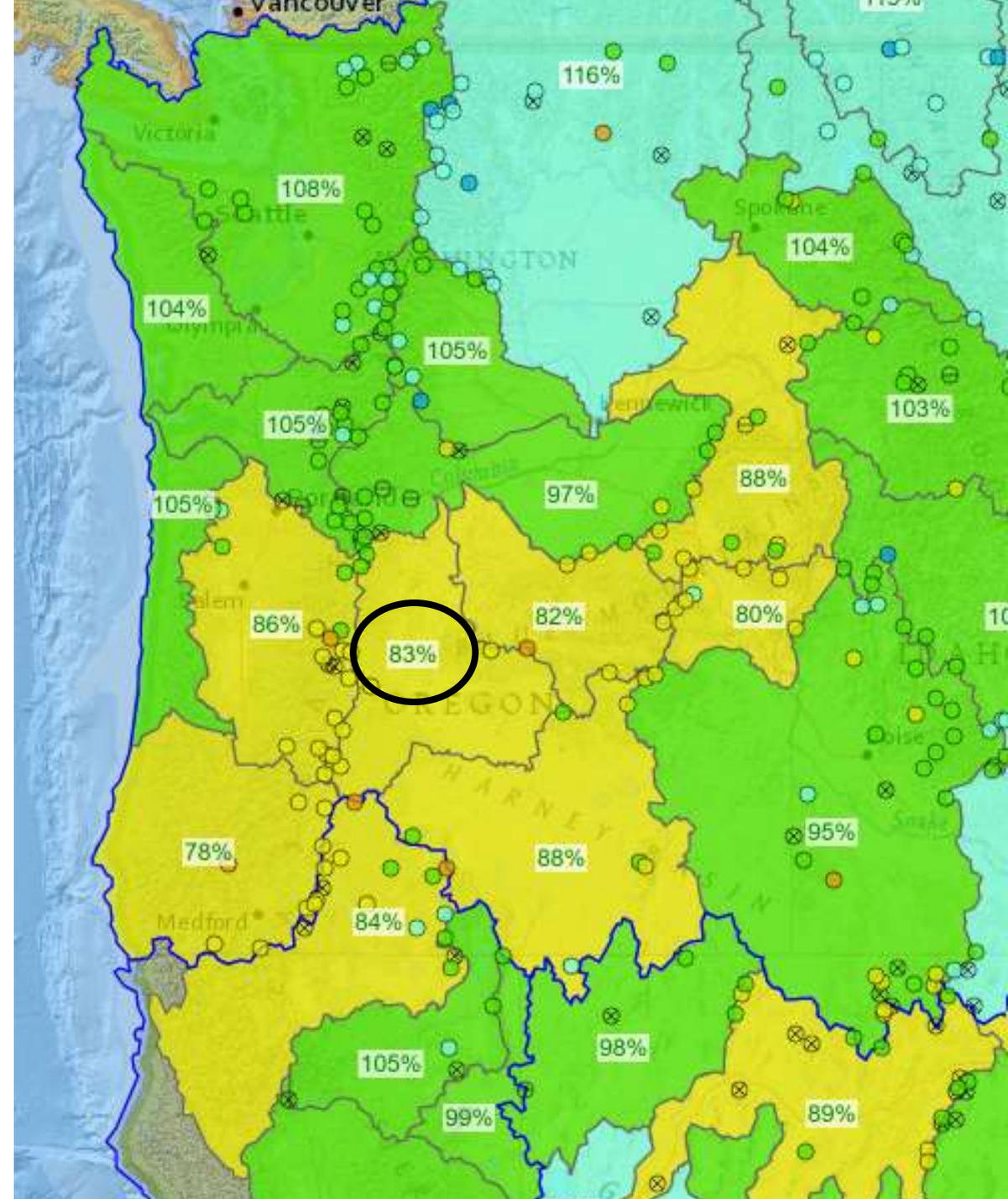
SNOWPACK in the PNW as of 2/27/26:

Looks Record-Setting Terrible

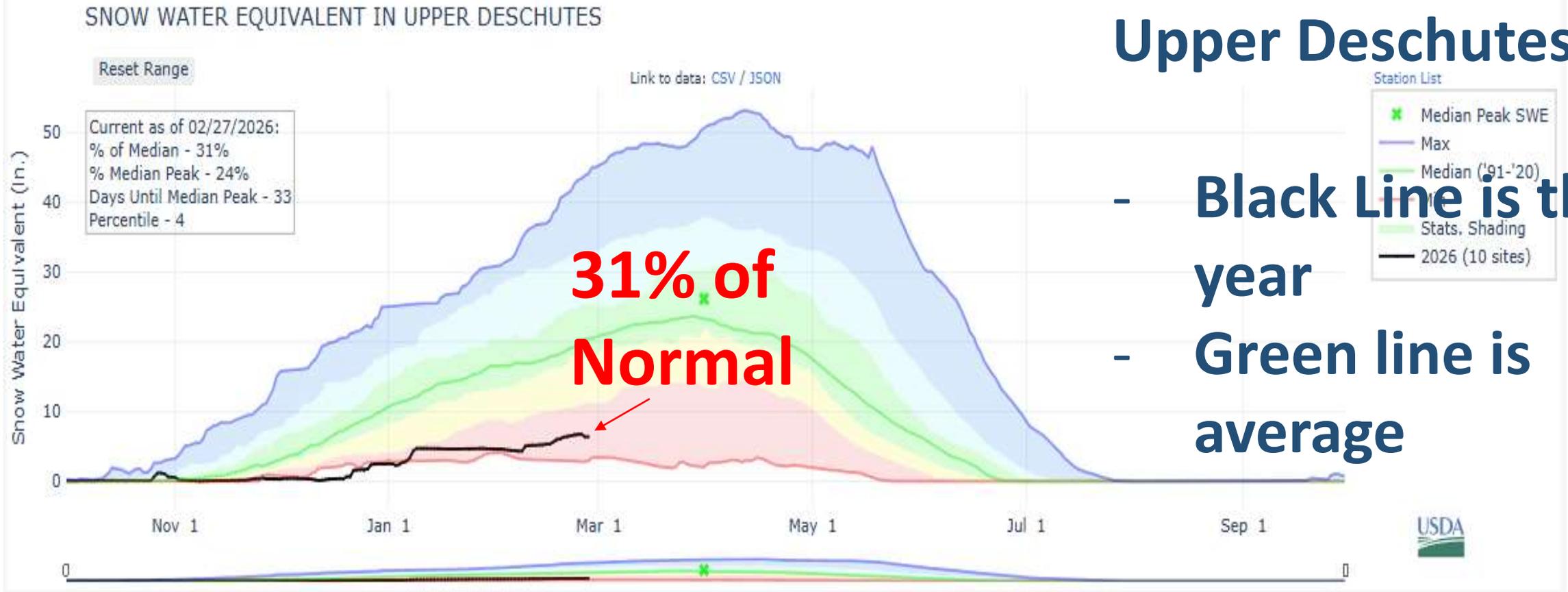


Water Year PRECIPITATION in the PNW as of 2/27/26:

83% for the
Deschutes



SNOWPACK in the Upper Deschutes



- Black Line is this year
- Green line is average

Statistical shading percentiles are calculated from period of record (POR) data, excluding the current water year. Percentile categories range from: minimum to 10th percentile, 10th - 30th, 30th - 70th, 70th - 90th, and 90th - maximum.

OREGON more information visit: [30-Year Hydroclimatic Normals](#)

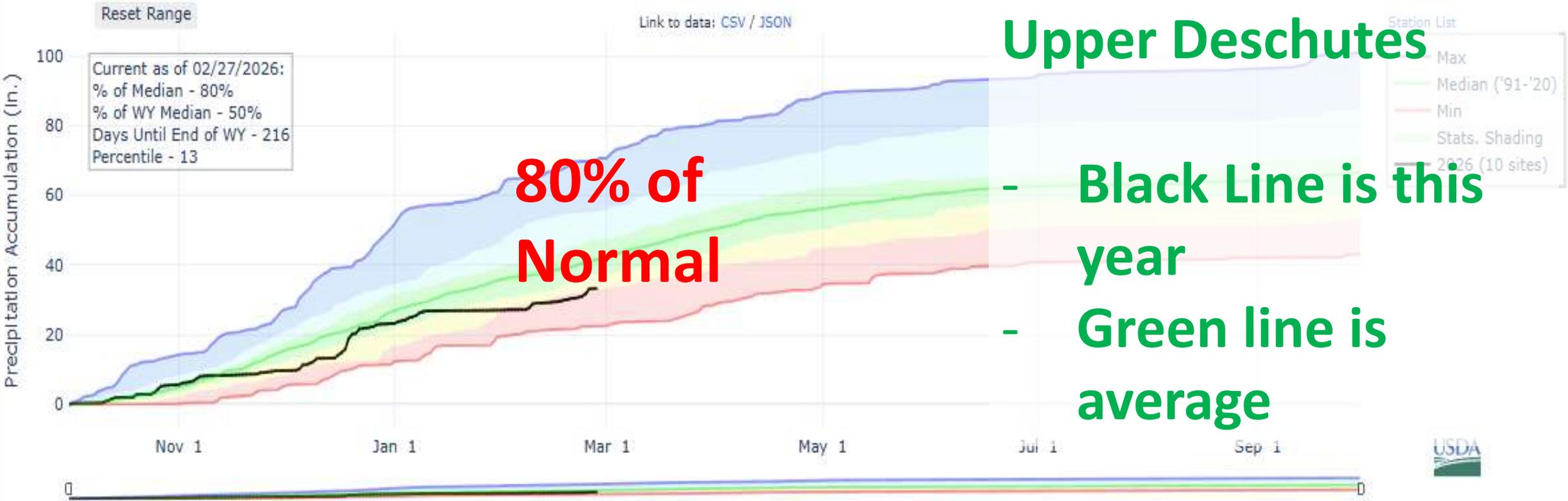
Updated: Friday, Feb 27, 2026 09 AM CST



WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

PRECIPITATION ACCUMULATION IN UPPER DESCHUTES

PRECIPITATION in the Upper Deschutes



Statistical shading percentiles are calculated from period of record (POR) data, excluding the current water year. Percentile categories range from: minimum to 10th percentile, 10th - 30th, 30th - 70th, 70th - 90th, and 90th - maximum.

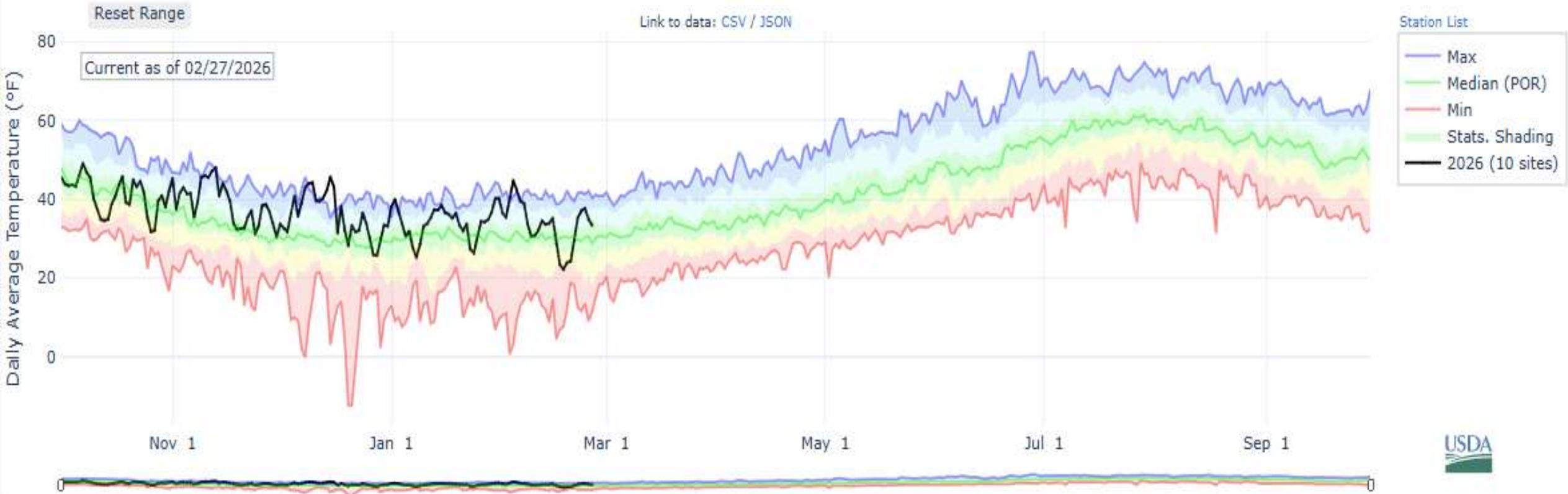
OREGON information visit: [30-Year Hydroclimatic Normals](#)

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Temperatures

DAILY AVERAGE TEMPERATURE IN UPPER DESCHUTES



Statistical shading percentiles are calculated from period of record (POR) data, excluding the current water year. Percentile categories range from: minimum to 10th percentile, 10th - 20th, 20th - 30th, 30th - 40th, 40th - 50th, 50th - 60th, 60th - 70th, 70th - 80th, 80th - 90th, and 90th - maximum.

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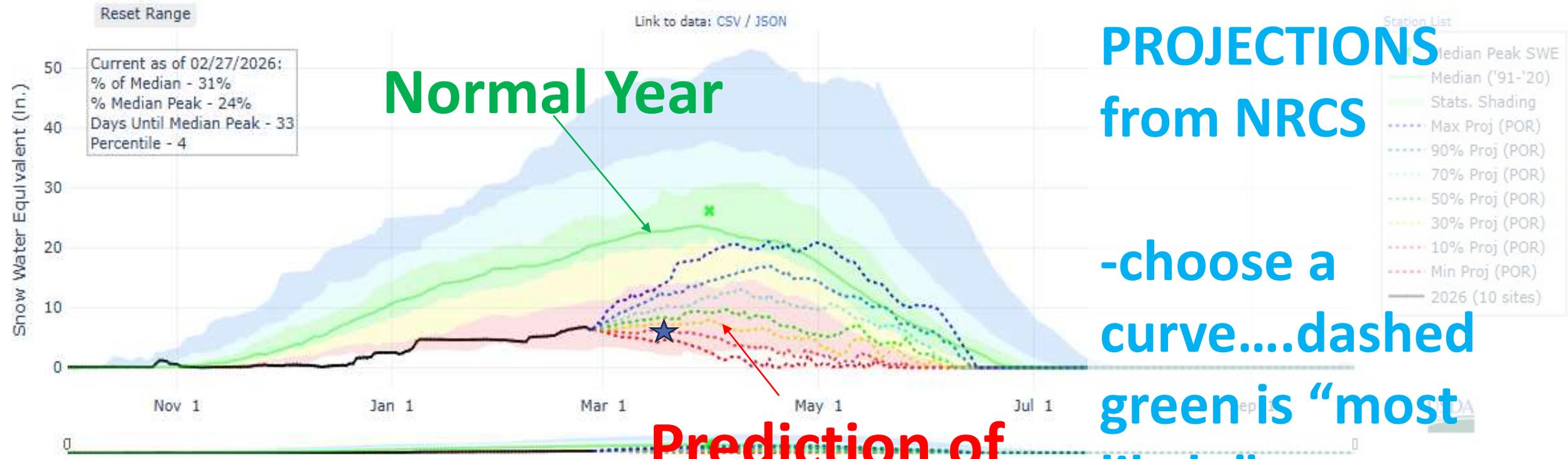
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Monday, Feb 27, 2026 06 AM CST

UPPER DESCHUTES Prediction Today

SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT PROJECTION IN UPPER DESCHUTES

SNOWPACK PROJECTIONS from NRCS

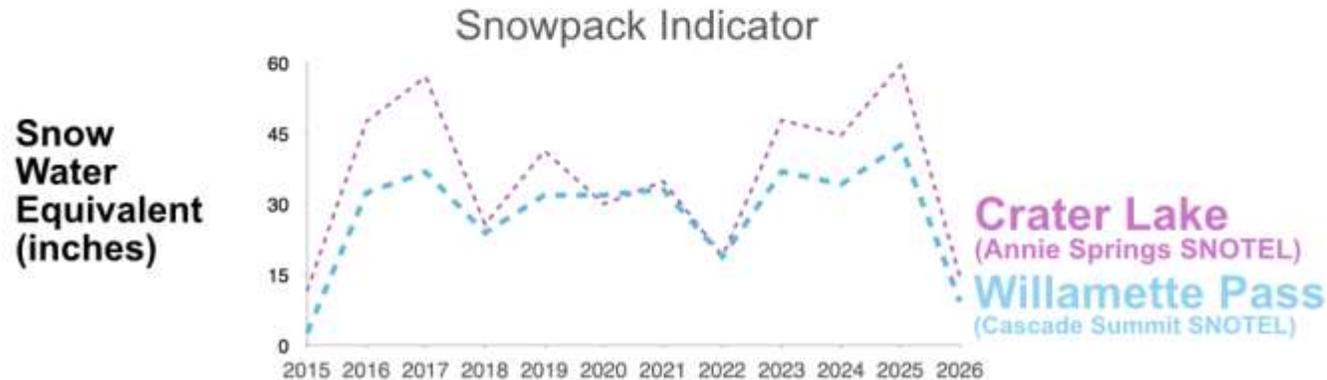
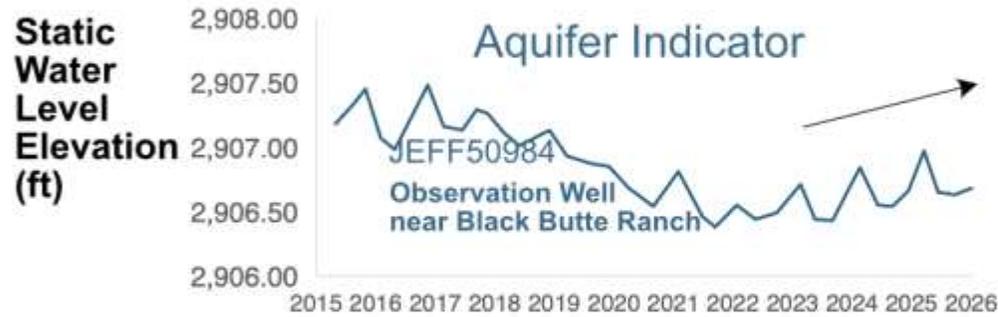
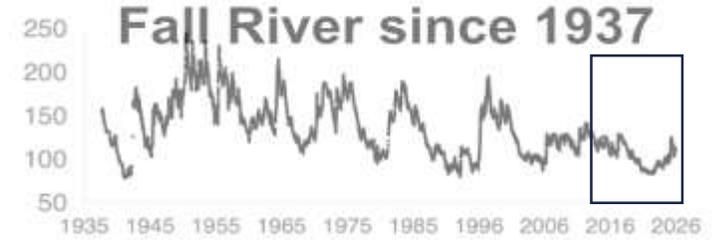
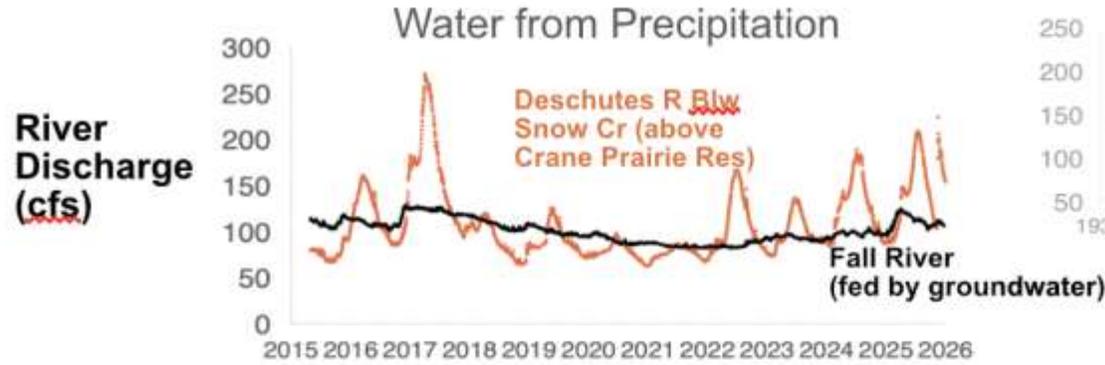


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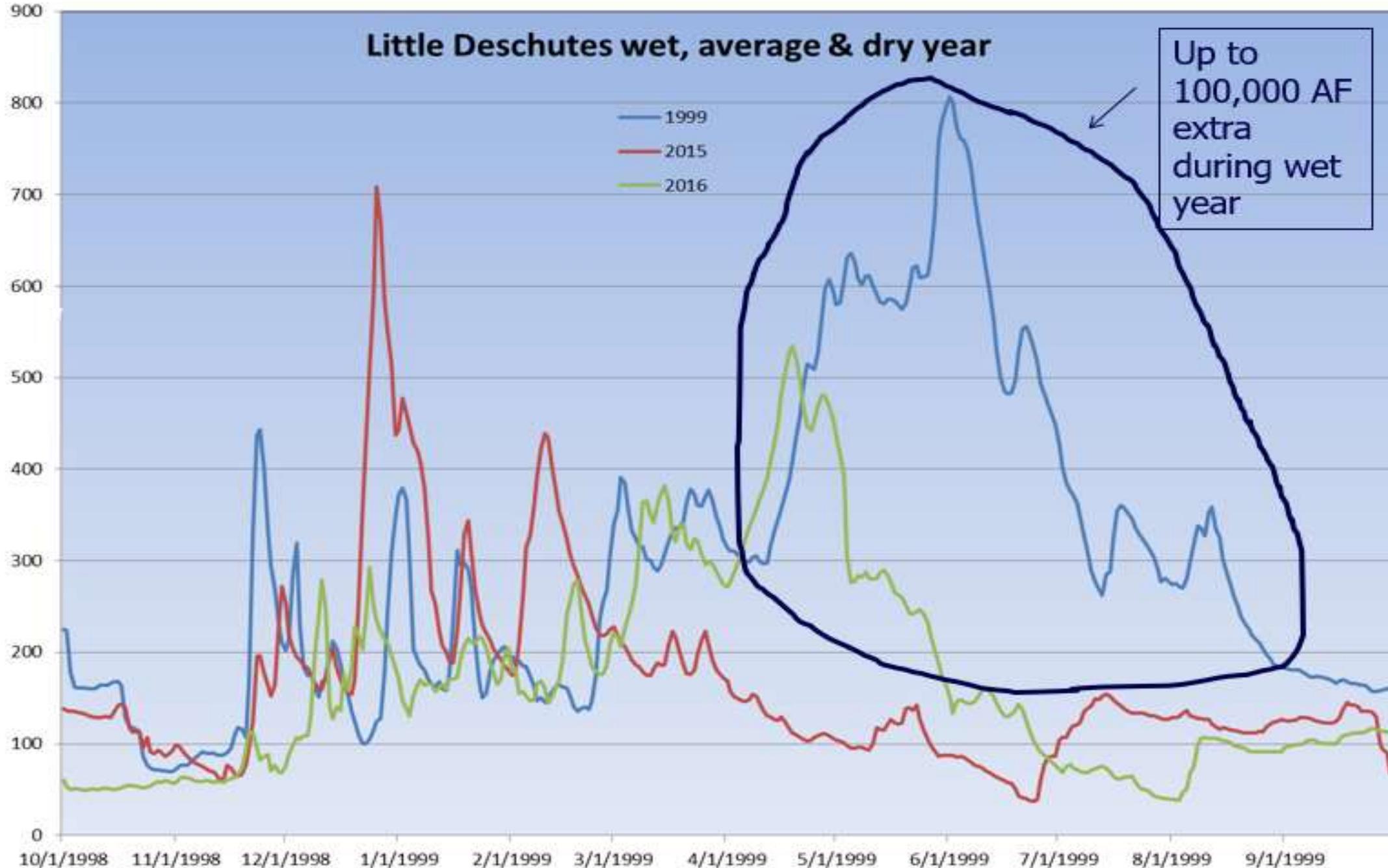
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Water in the Upper Deschutes over the last 10 years

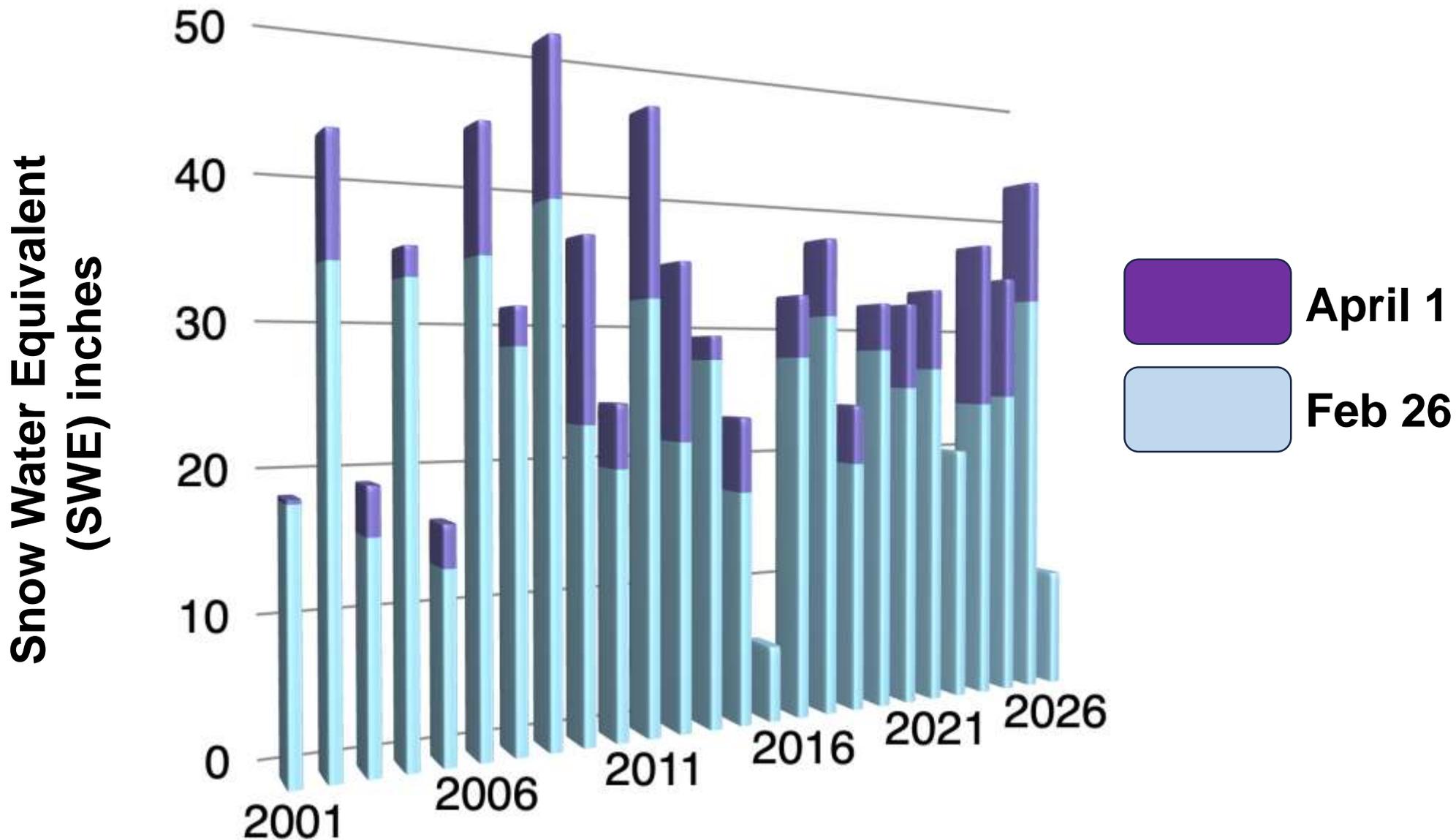


Little Deschutes wet, average & dry year



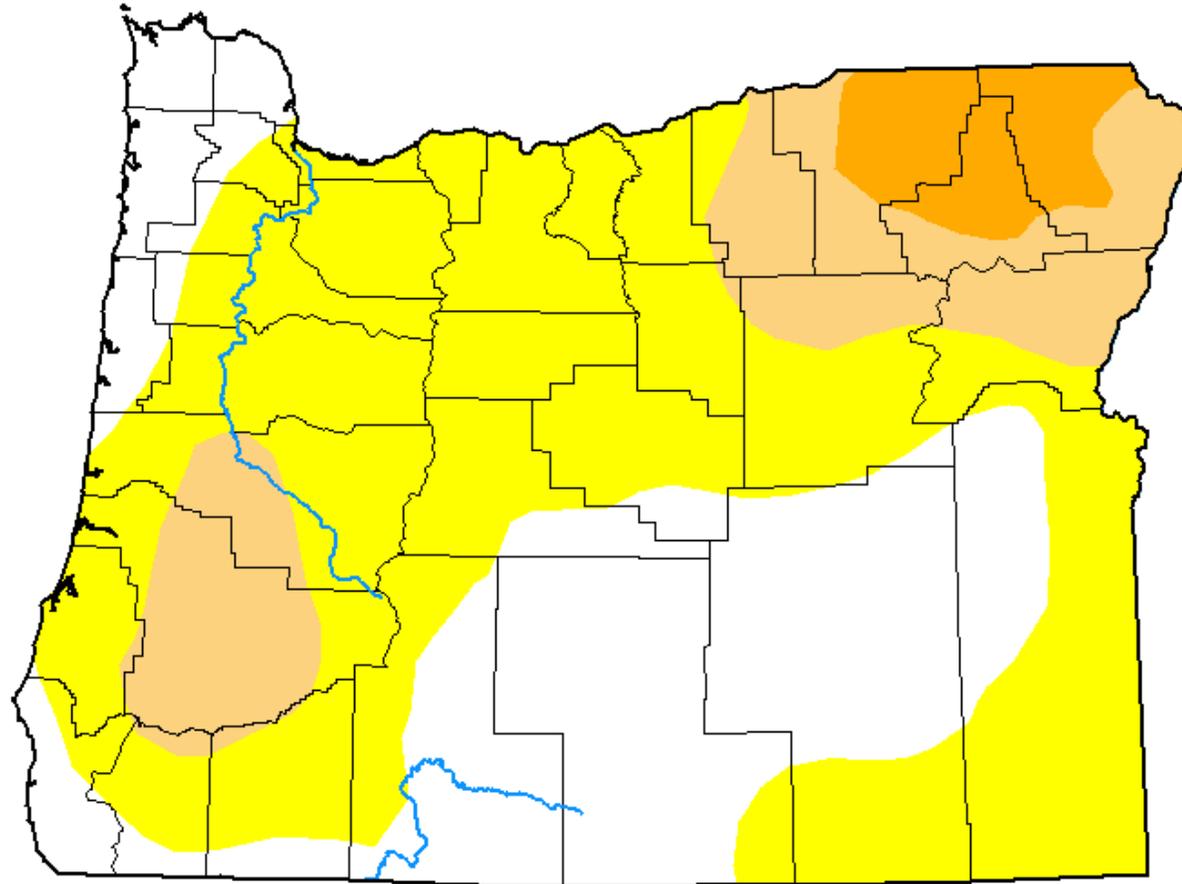
Up to 100,000 AF extra during wet year

If we get 30" of water in the snowpack at Cascade Summit by April 1st we will be alright.-Awbrey Perry Deschutes Watermaster 1933-1960.



U.S. Drought Monitor Oregon

February 24, 2026
(Released Thursday, Feb. 26, 2026)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



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>

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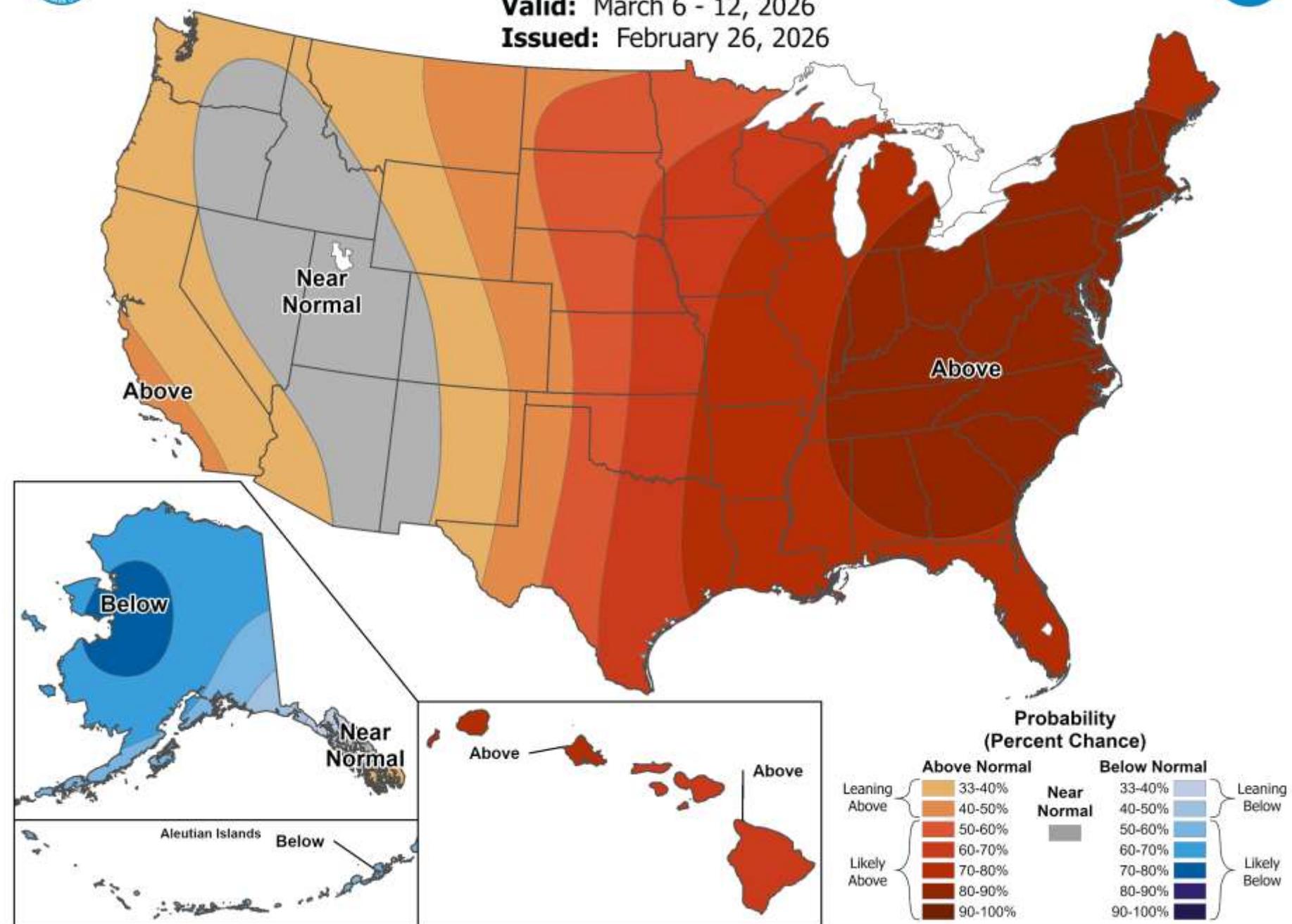


8-14 Day Temperature Outlook



Valid: March 6 - 12, 2026

Issued: February 26, 2026



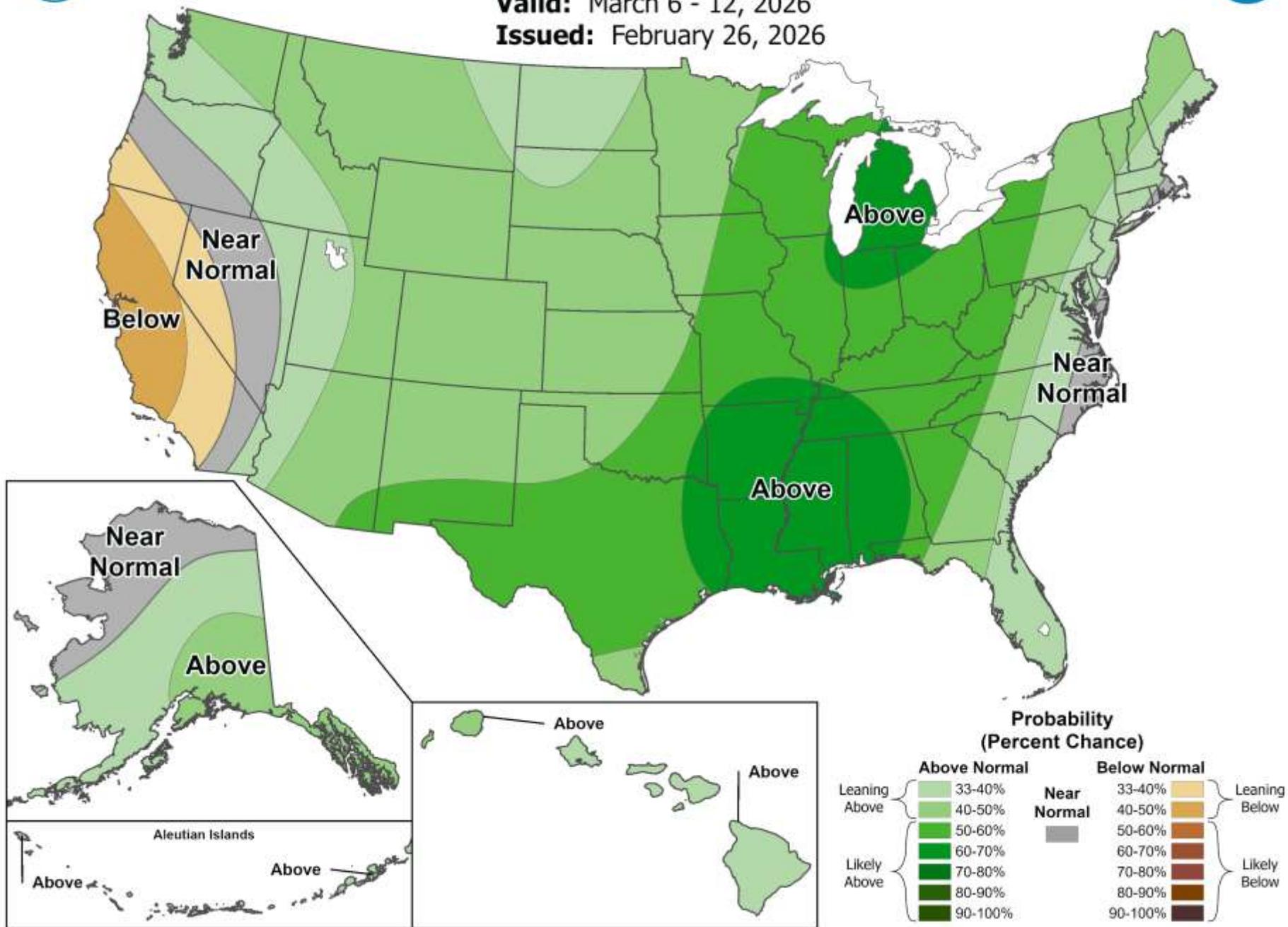


8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook



Valid: March 6 - 12, 2026

Issued: February 26, 2026



Probability (Percent Chance)

Above Normal		Below Normal	
Leaning Above	33-40%	Near Normal	33-40%
	40-50%		40-50%
	50-60%		50-60%
	60-70%		60-70%
Likely Above	70-80%		70-80%
	80-90%		80-90%
	90-100%		90-100%
			Likely Below

Takeaways....

- Water users without stored water will see near record low supplies.
- Little Deschutes River, Whychus Creek & Tumalo Creek to see the worst effects.
- Storage will go very fast in the upper basin reservoirs.
- The “bump” in natural flow we received in last two years will disappear.

Aubrey Perry (Watermaster 1933-1960) and Jack Frost (NRCS) measuring snowpack in Dutchman Flat area Circa 1940-1945.