



NWS Spokane

Monthly Summary

February 2025

Summary: February brought cooler and wetter than normal weather to the Inland NW, yet it was a month of extreme swings. It featured the coldest temperatures of the year in early to mid month with sub zero temperatures with an abundance of low elevation snow. This changed quickly with the arrival of mild temperatures in the 50s with rain and wind on the 23rd to 24th which led to rapid snowmelt and flooding across the Palouse region.

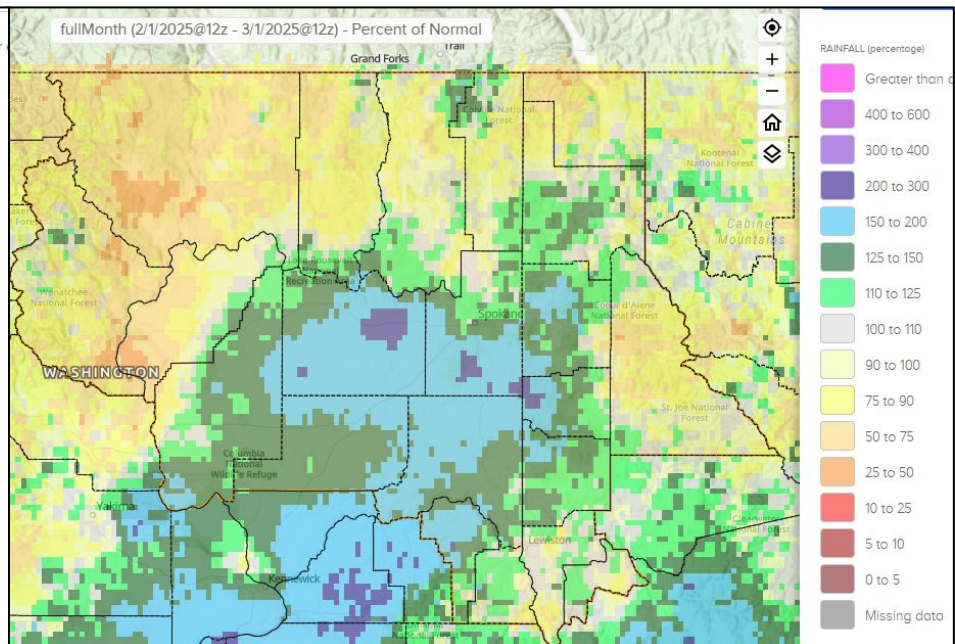
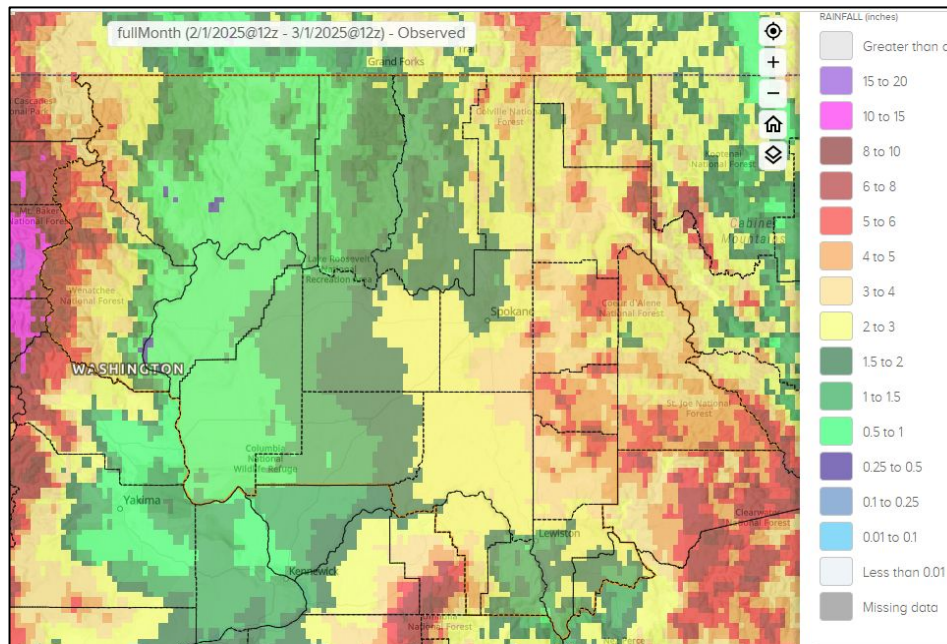
Monthly Precipitation for the Inland NW



Precipitation totals for the month indicated the above normal amounts across the eastern Columbia Basin, Spokane area, and the Palouse with 2 to 4 inches of precipitation. Despite the higher precipitation amounts in the Cascades and Panhandle mountains, these values were 50% to near 70% of normal.

Precipitation Totals for February

Precipitation Percent of Normal for February



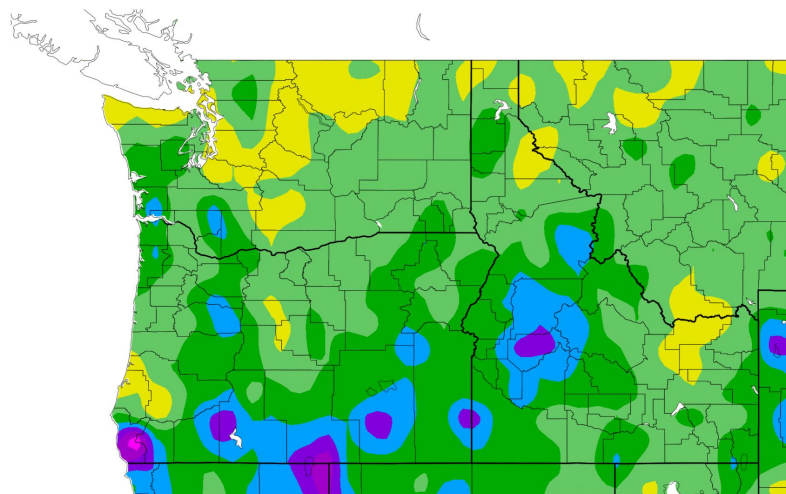
Regional Precipitation Trends: last 1 to 3 months



Regionwide, February would be a wet month in most areas with the exception of north-central WA and parts of the WA Cascades. This has been a trend for the winter season as the precipitation deficits stand out for the Cascades and the ID Panhandle mountains.

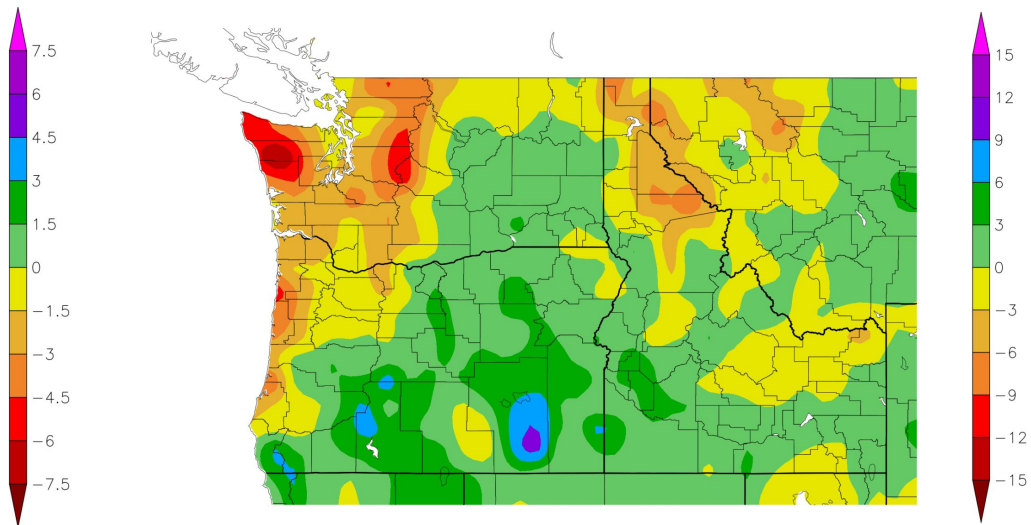
Last Month: February

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
2/1/2025 – 2/28/2025



Last 3 Months: December-February

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
12/1/2024 – 2/28/2025



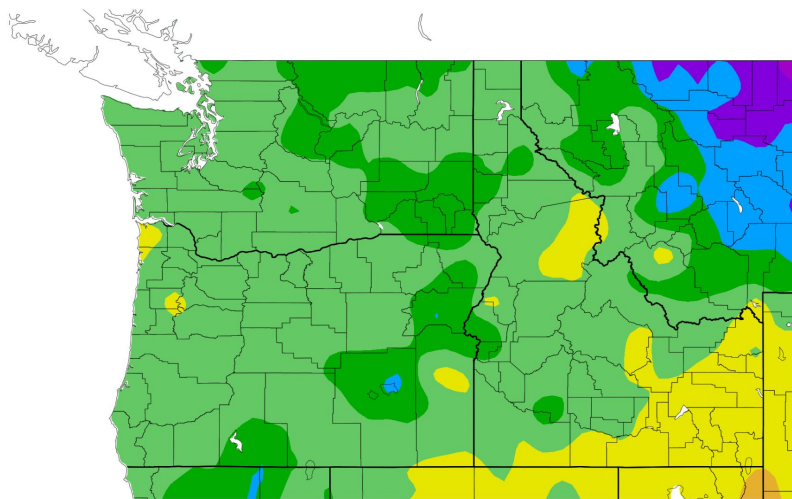
Regional Temperature Trends: last 1 to 3 months



As a whole, February was a cold month for the region despite the rapid warming by late February. Looking at the winter season, it was a mix of below, near, to above normal temperatures.

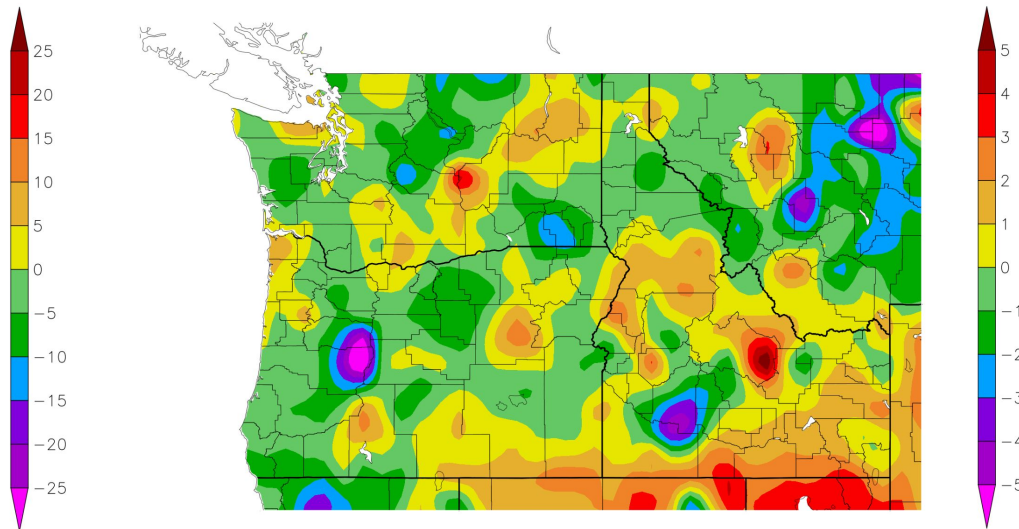
Last Month: February

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
2/1/2025 – 2/28/2025



Last 3 Months: December-February

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
12/1/2024 – 2/28/2025

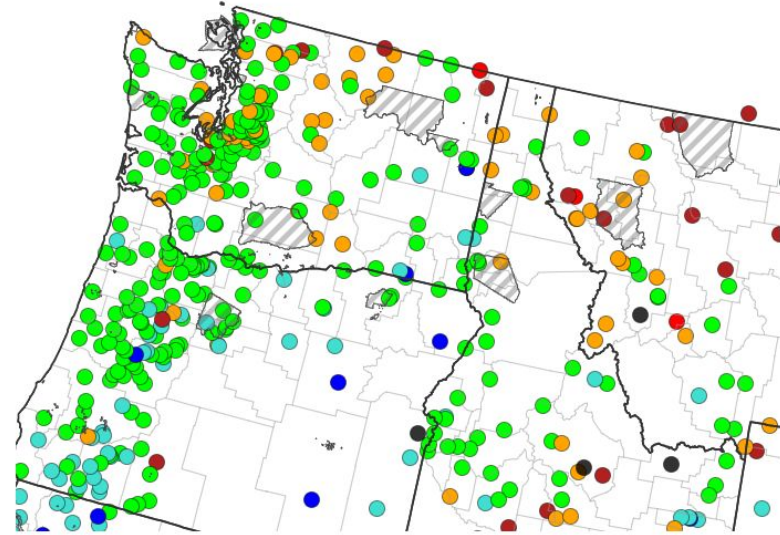


Streamflows compared to Historical Values



Average streamflows for February reflected the precipitation with near to above normal flows across the Columbia Basin and Palouse region, along with western WA, much of Oregon, and southern ID. Below normal stream flows continue in north-central WA into the northern ID Panhandle.

28-Day Average Streamflow



Streamflow Conditions



Tribal Nations



Source(s): U.S. Geological Survey
Data Valid: 03/01/25

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

Hydro Highlights of Specific Forecast Points - Eastern WA



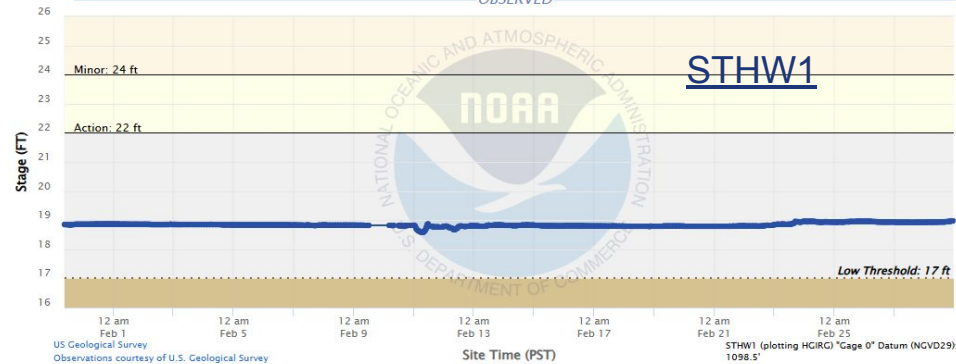
Latest observed value: 19.88 ft
7:30 AM PST 1-Mar-2025
Flood Stage is 24 ft

Stehekin River at Stehekin

NWSLI: STHW1, Reach ID: 23073999

OBSERVED

STHW1



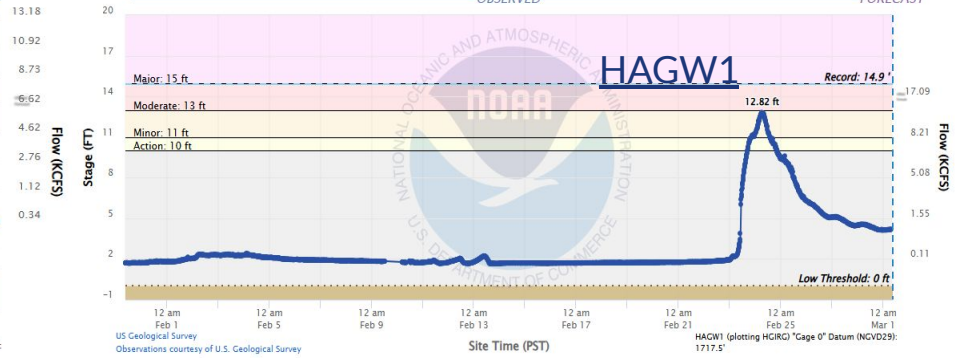
Latest observed value: 4.2 ft
7:45 AM PST 1-Mar-2025
Flood Stage is 11 ft

Hangman/Latah Creek at Spokane

NWSLI: HAGW1, Reach ID: 23017906

OBSERVED

HAGW1



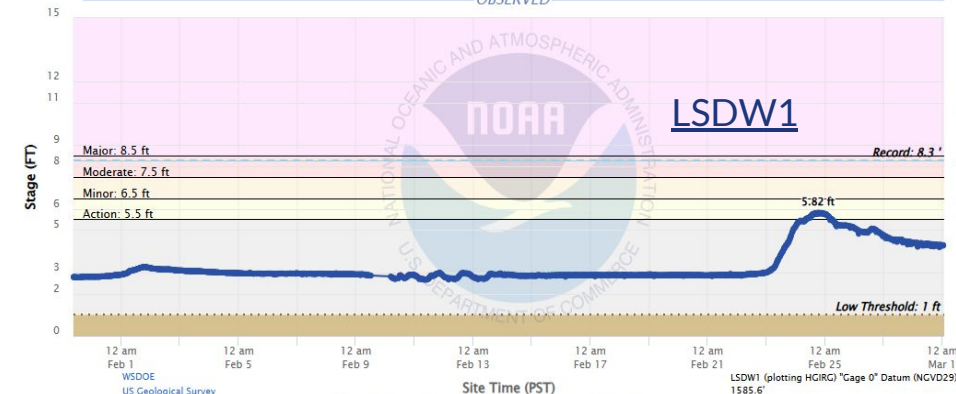
Latest observed value: 4.19 ft
7:45 AM PST 1-Mar-2025
Flood Stage is 6.5 ft

Little Spokane River at Dartford

NWSLI: LSDW1, Reach ID: 23026720

OBSERVED

LSDW1



Latest observed value: 2.44 ft
8:15 AM PST 1-Mar-2025
Flood Stage is 7 ft

South Fork Palouse River at Pullman

NWSLI: PULW1, Reach ID: 23459939

OBSERVED

PULW1



Graph Created: (08:54 AM PST Mar 1 2025) - Forecast Issued (07:54 AM PST Mar 1 2025)

High flows and minor flooding was reported across southeast WA, including the Palouse River & Latah Creek basins.

Flooding in Pullman - February 23, 2025



The South Fork of the Palouse exceeded Minor Flood stage leading to flooding around Pullman including near the pedestrian bridge, along Grand Ave (upper right), and along Fairmount Road (lower right).



There were reports of widespread small creek and areal flooding which led to road damage and mudslides across Whitman County.



Flooding on Latah/Hangman Creek - February 24, 2025



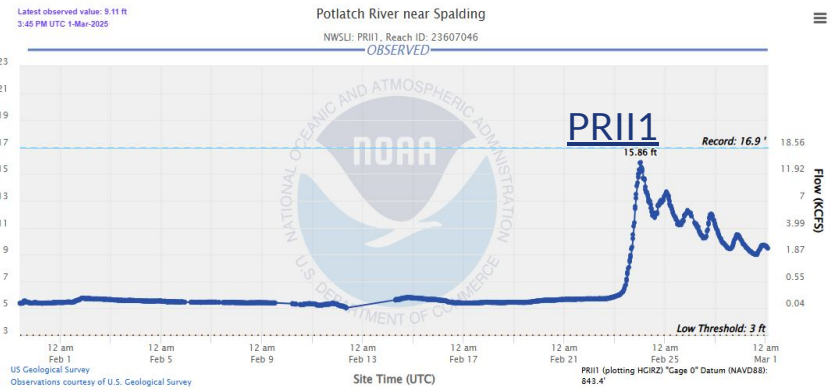
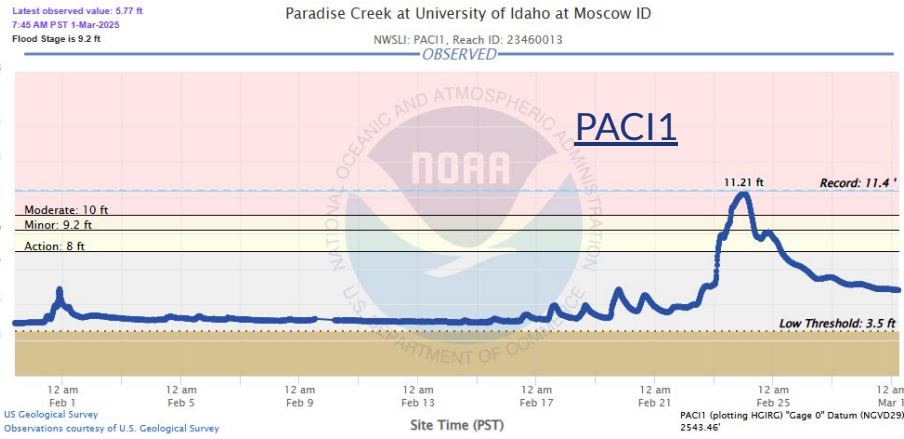
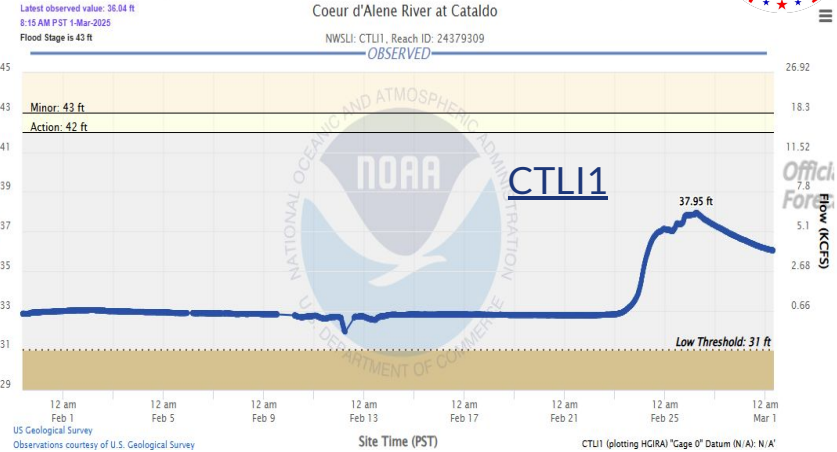
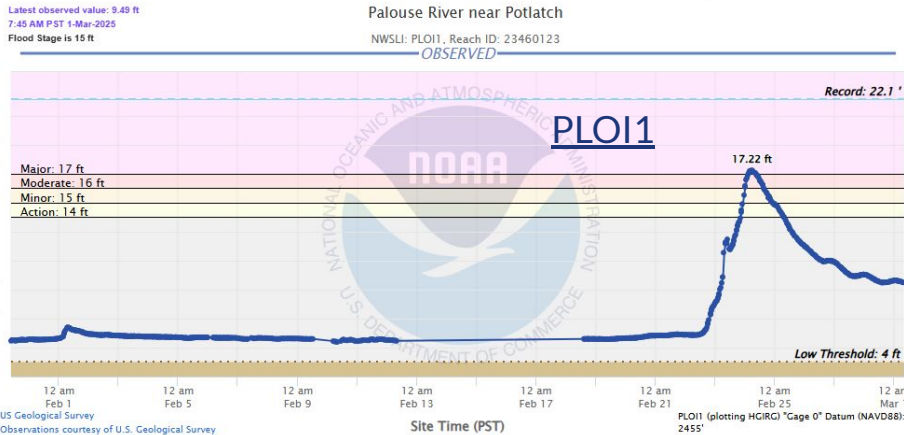
Flooding occurred along Latah/Hangman Creek where the peak stage reached 13.1 ft or Moderate Flood Stage. High flows and flooding were observed near the Latah Golf Course (upper left), near Hatch Bridge along Hwy 195 (lower left), and along S Hangman Valley Road (upper and lower right).



Small creeks and areal flooding was numerous across western and southern Spokane county.



Hydro Highlights of Specific Forecast Points - North ID



Minor to Moderate flooding was seen on the Palouse River & Paradise Creek. Higher flows on the Potlatch & Coeur d'Alene rivers.

Flooding on the Palouse River - February 24, 2025



The Palouse River at Potlatch experienced Major flooding with a peak flood stage of 17.25 ft. This led to field flooding from Potlatch to Palouse (upper & lower right) with basement and park flooding in the city of Palouse (upper & lower left).



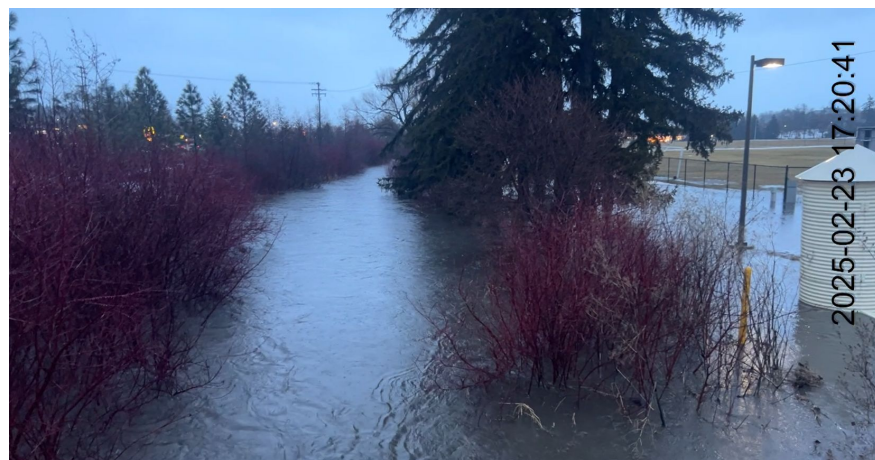
Small creek and areal flooding were reported across Latah county.



Flooding on Paradise Creek - February 24, 2025

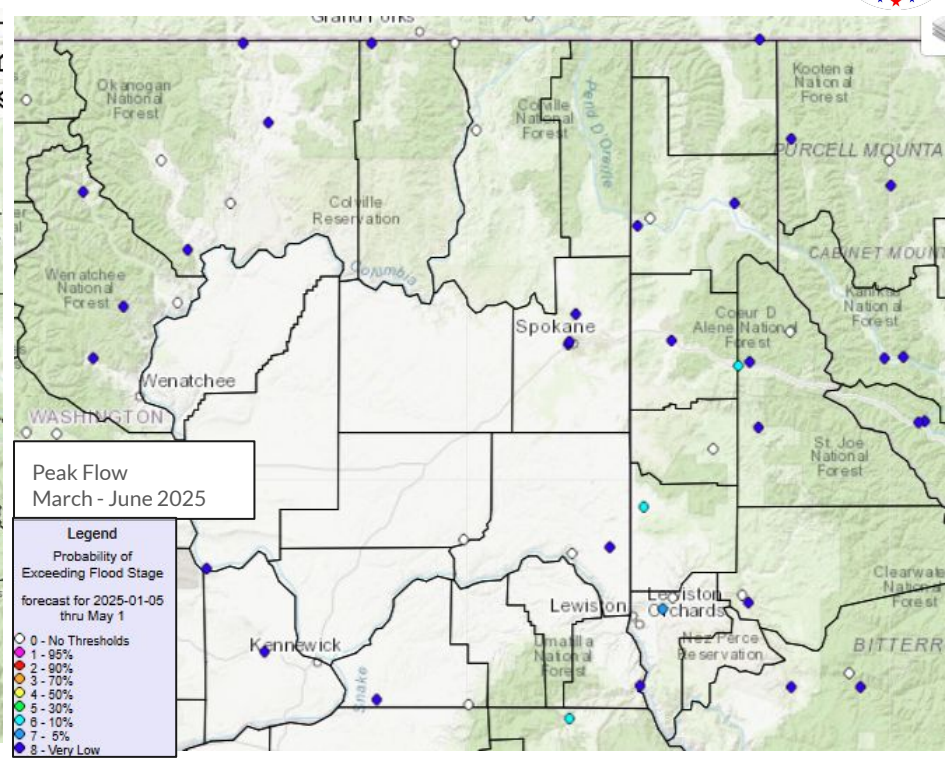
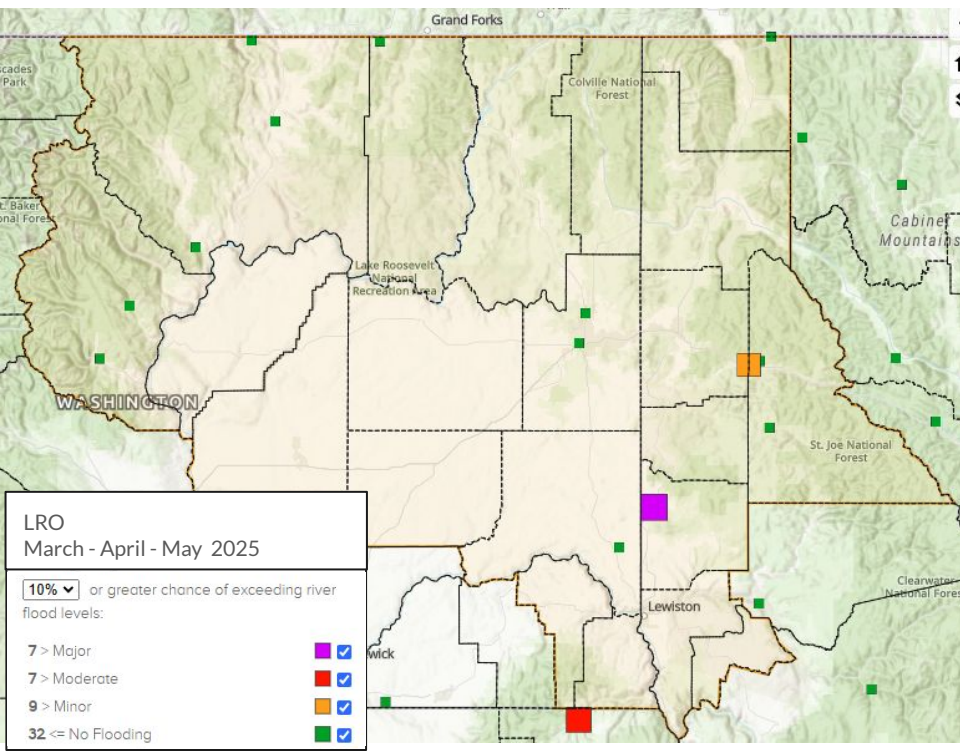


Paradise Creek in Moscow experienced flooding with a peak stage of 11.18 ft. This led to flooding around Mountain View Park, several streets flooded, along with portions of University of Idaho. See the pre-event snow cover (upper left) followed by the post-event flood (lower left & right). Although this was a significant high water event, it fell short of the flooding from 2019.





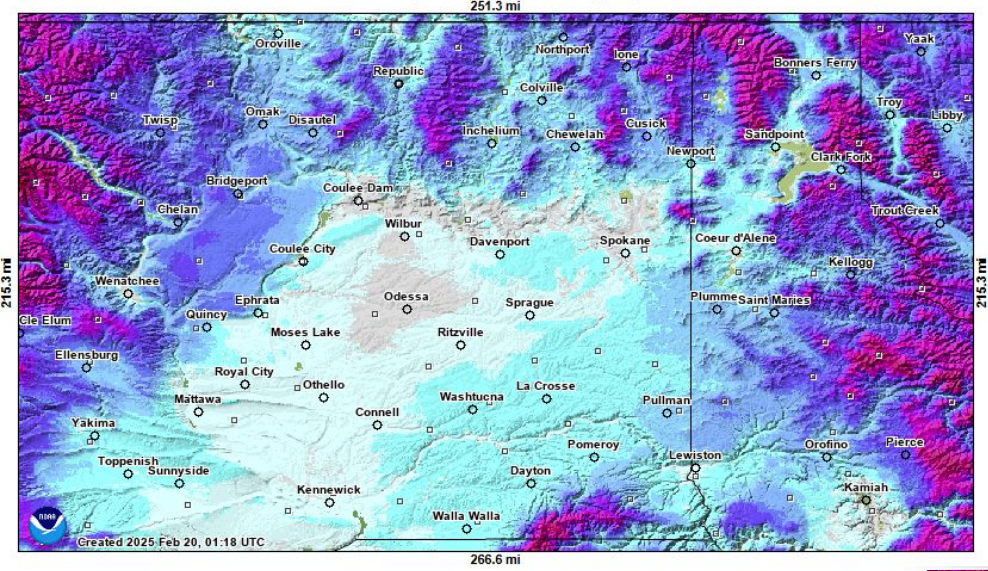
Long Range Flood (LRO) Outlook & Peak Flow Forecast



Elevated chances for higher flows remain on the Palouse and Coeur d'Alene river basins for the upcoming spring runoff season, especially for late March into April, although chances remain near to slightly less than climatology.

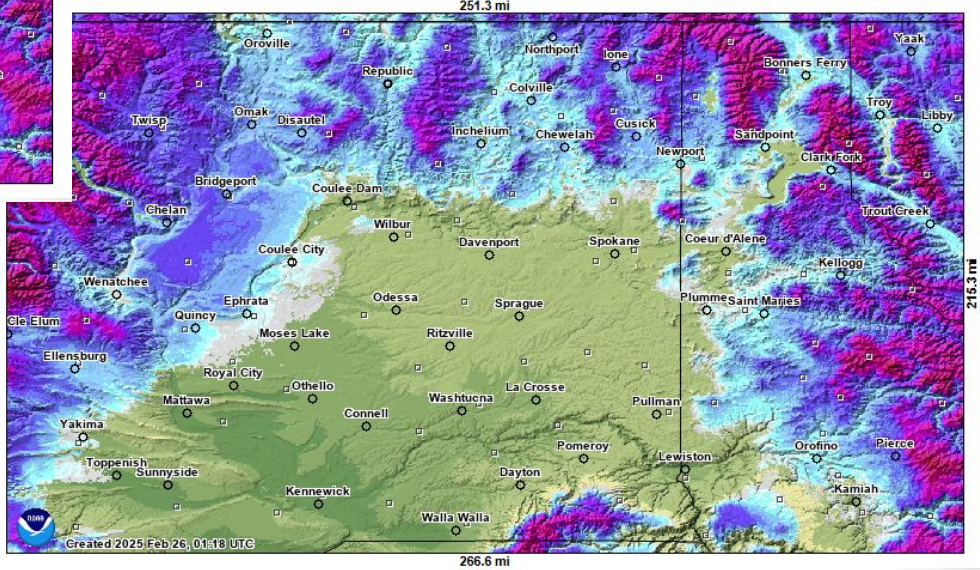
Change in Snow Cover

Modeled Snow Depth for 2025 February 19, 17:00 UTC



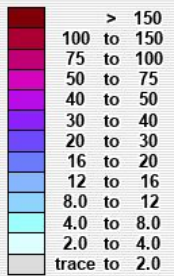
The cold snap in mid February allowed the low elevation snow pack to build. The image on the left shows the snow at its peak around February 19th with 2 to 10 inches across the Columbia Basin and Palouse region.

Modeled Snow Depth for 2025 February 25, 17:00 UTC



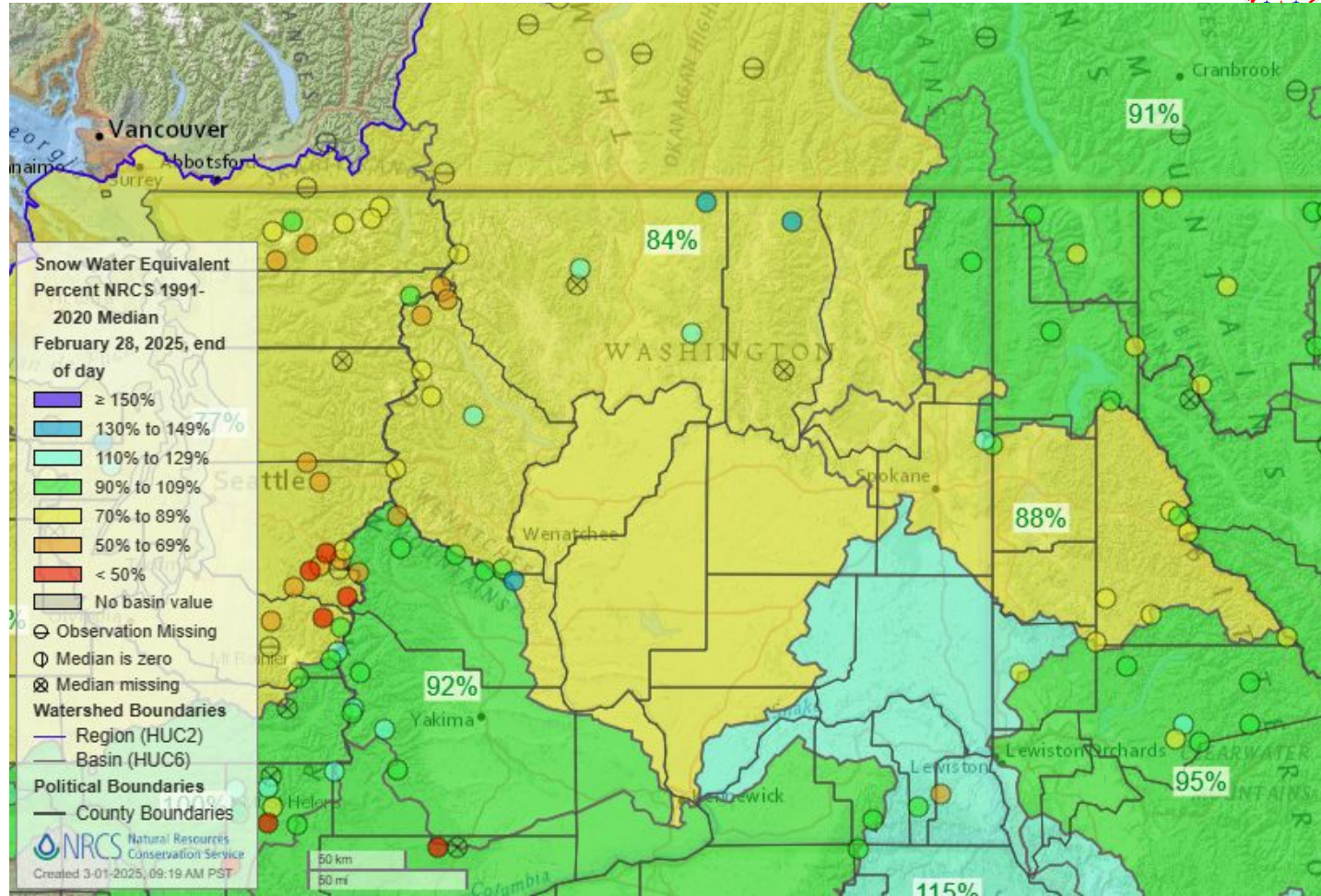
The mild and wet weather arrived through the weekend of February 22-24 which brought significant snowmelt across the lower elevations as seen in the image from February 25th.

Inches of depth



Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE)

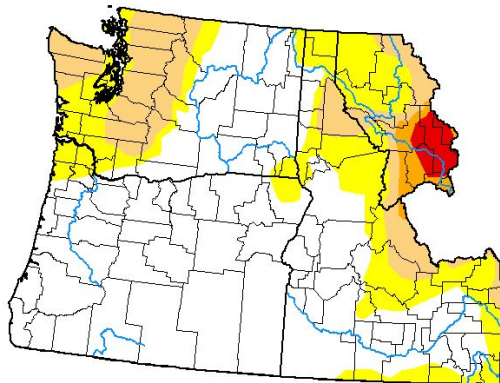
For the higher elevations, there were slight improvements in the mountain snowpack across the ID panhandle and Blue mountains. Despite the less than normal precipitation in north-central WA, snowpack continues to hold higher than normal across the Okanogan Highlands.



Monthly drought status



U.S. Drought Monitor Pacific Northwest DEWS



March 4, 2025

(Released Thursday, Mar. 6, 2025)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

| | None | D0 | D1 | D2 | D3 | D4 |
|---|-------|-------|-------|------|------|------|
| Current | 63.34 | 20.67 | 12.97 | 1.51 | 1.50 | 0.00 |
| Last Week 03-25-2025 | 60.73 | 20.38 | 14.19 | 3.00 | 1.71 | 0.00 |
| 3 Months Ago 12-03-2024 | 44.50 | 31.67 | 18.00 | 3.44 | 1.95 | 0.44 |
| Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2025 | 61.17 | 24.24 | 10.30 | 2.54 | 1.75 | 0.00 |
| Start of Water Year 10-01-2024 | 13.07 | 30.68 | 44.86 | 9.13 | 1.78 | 0.49 |
| One Year Ago 03-05-2024 | 52.78 | 25.20 | 11.94 | 8.97 | 1.10 | 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>

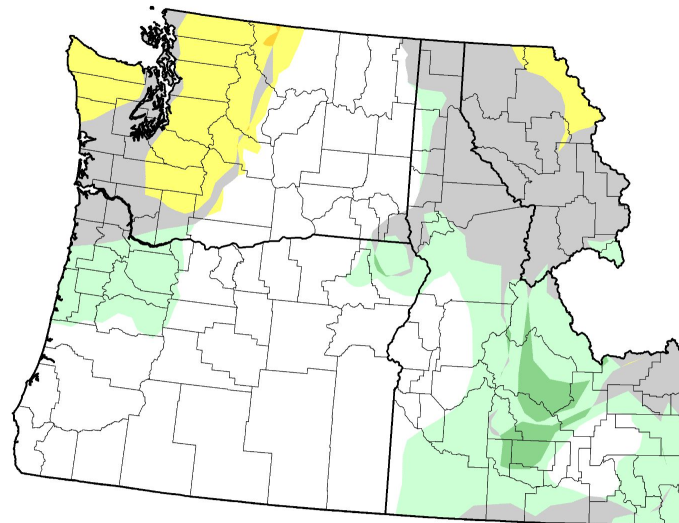
Author:

Curtis Riganti
National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

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



March 4, 2025
compared to
February 4, 2025

droughtmonitor.unl.edu



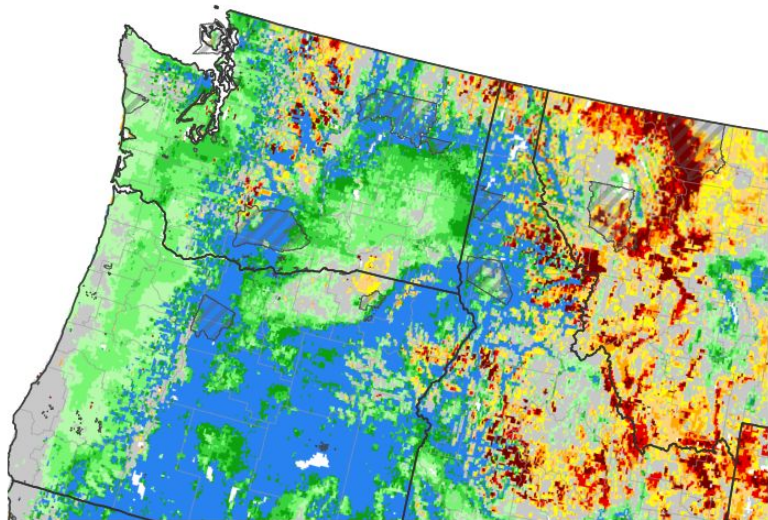
- 5 Class Degradation
- 4 Class Degradation
- 3 Class Degradation
- 2 Class Degradation
- 1 Class Degradation
- No Change
- 1 Class Improvement
- 2 Class Improvement
- 3 Class Improvement
- 4 Class Improvement
- 5 Class Improvement

The latest US Drought Monitor shows slight degradation in drought across the Cascades into western WA. Slight drought improvements were seen in the ID Panhandle. Most of the Inland NW remains drought free. The higher elevations of the Cascades and central Panhandle mountains remain in a long term moderate drought.

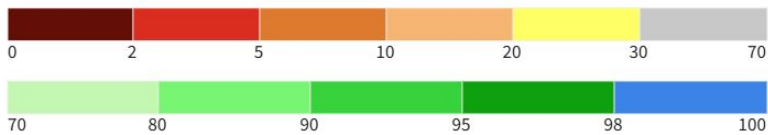
Soil Moisture



0-100 cm Soil Moisture Percentile



0-100 cm Soil Moisture Percentile



Tribal Nations

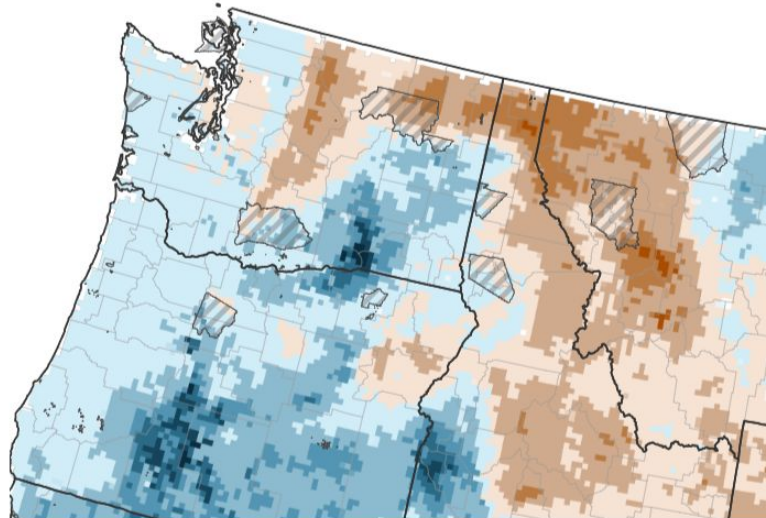


Source(s): NASA
Data Valid: 02/28/25

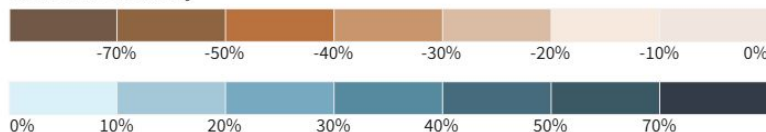
Drought.gov

Soil moisture showed improvements across the lowlands with the above normal precipitation and low elevation snow melt. Below normal soil moisture remains at the higher elevations beneath the cold snowpack.

Crop-CASMA Subsoil (1 Meter) Soil Moisture Anomaly



Soil Moisture Anomaly



Tribal Nations

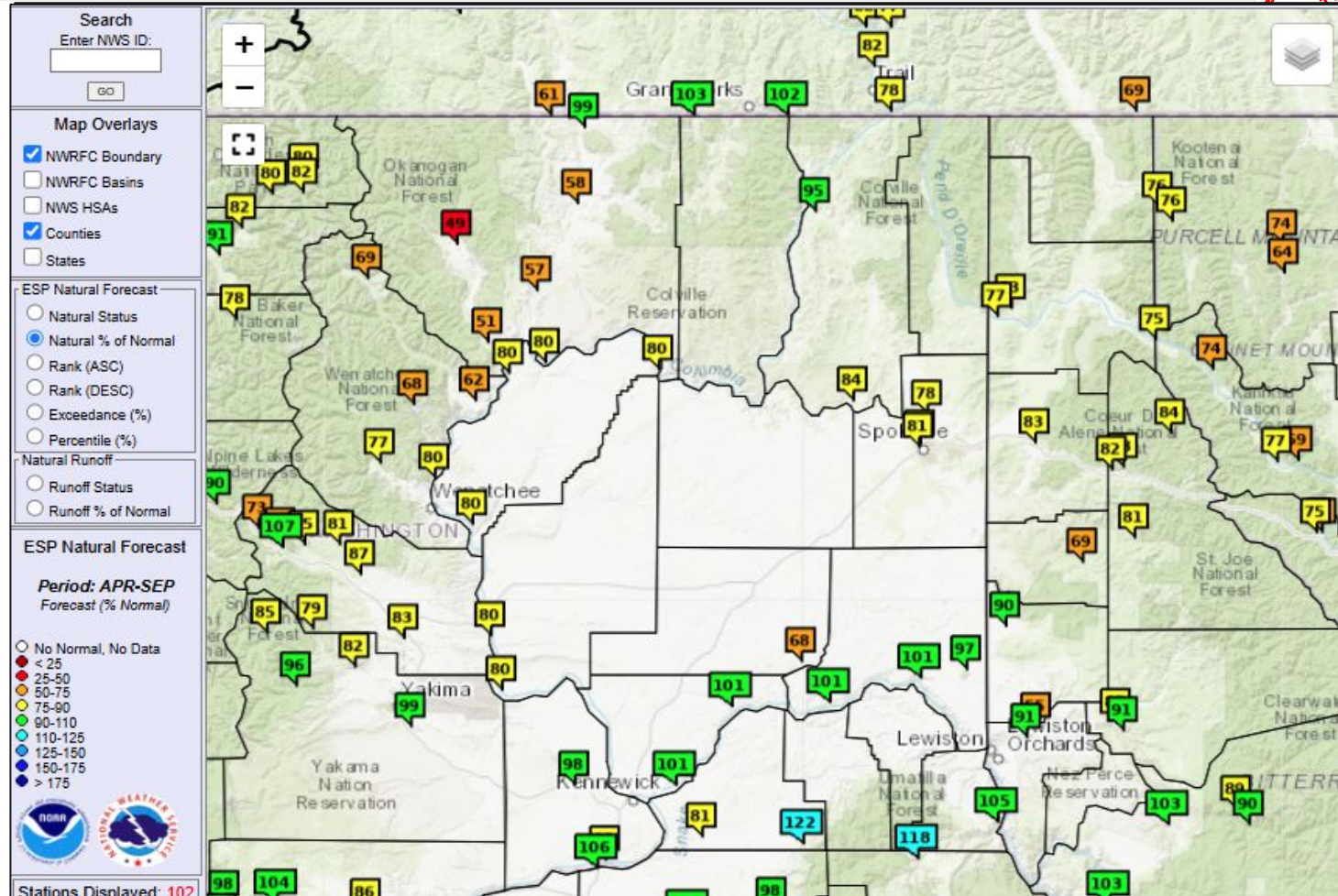


Source(s): NASA, USDA, George Mason University
Data Valid: 02/24/25

Drought.gov

Water Supply Outlook

The Water Supply Outlook from the NW River Forecast Center varies across the region. Most areas remain below normal. There has been a decrease since last month across north central WA. There's been a slight increase across southeast WA and the southern ID Panhandle.



Hydrology Products

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| Flood Watches | 2 |
| River Flood Warnings | 4 |
| River Statements | 12 |

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Flash Flood Watches | 0 |
| Flash Flood Warnings | 0 |
| Flood Advisories | 2 |

Flood Stage

PLOI1 - Palouse River - Major flooding - 2/24/25

PACI1 - Paradise Creek - Mod flooding - 2/24/25

HAGW1 - Hangman Creek - Minor flooding - 2/24/25

PULW1 - SF Palouse River - Minor flooding - 2/23/25

Action Stage

LSDW1 - Little Spokane - 2/24/25

Significant Reports

Numerous reports of flooding from Spokane through the Palouse region. Several towns were inundated with water including Garfield, Oakesdale, Thornton, Rosalia, Colfax, Plaza, Palouse, Pullman, Moscow, and Edwall.

Several roads were closed due to flooding including portions of Highway 2, US 27 from Oakesdale to Eden, and portions of SR 23, 25, 231, and 272. More flood details are found in the following [Storm Reports](#).