



Water Conditions Monitoring Committee Meeting

January 22nd, 2026

NRCS Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program

Brian Domonkos

Hydrologist

Brian.Domonkos@usda.gov

720-544-2853

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/colorado/snow-survey>



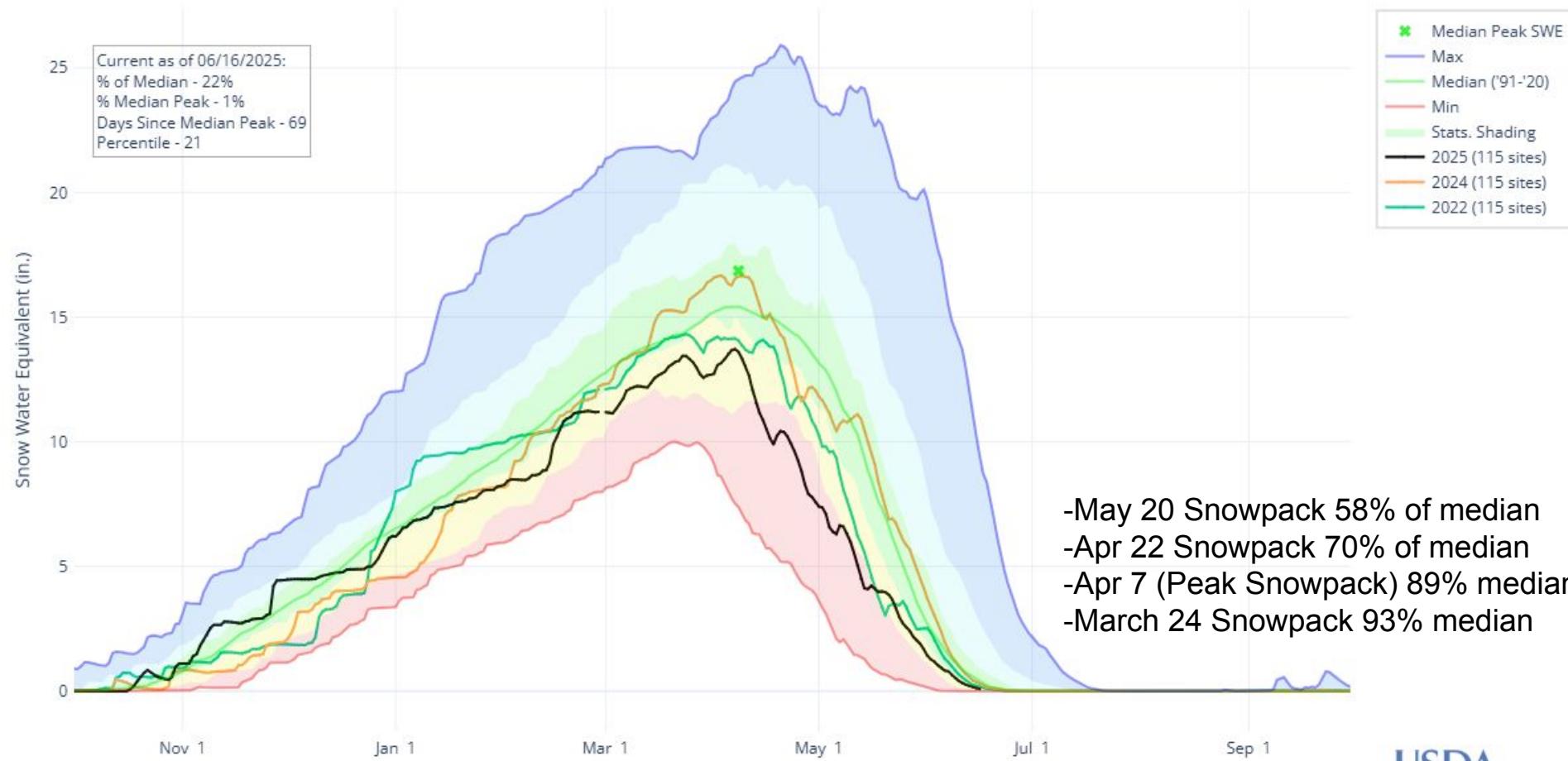
United States Department of Agriculture

Colorado Snow Surveys

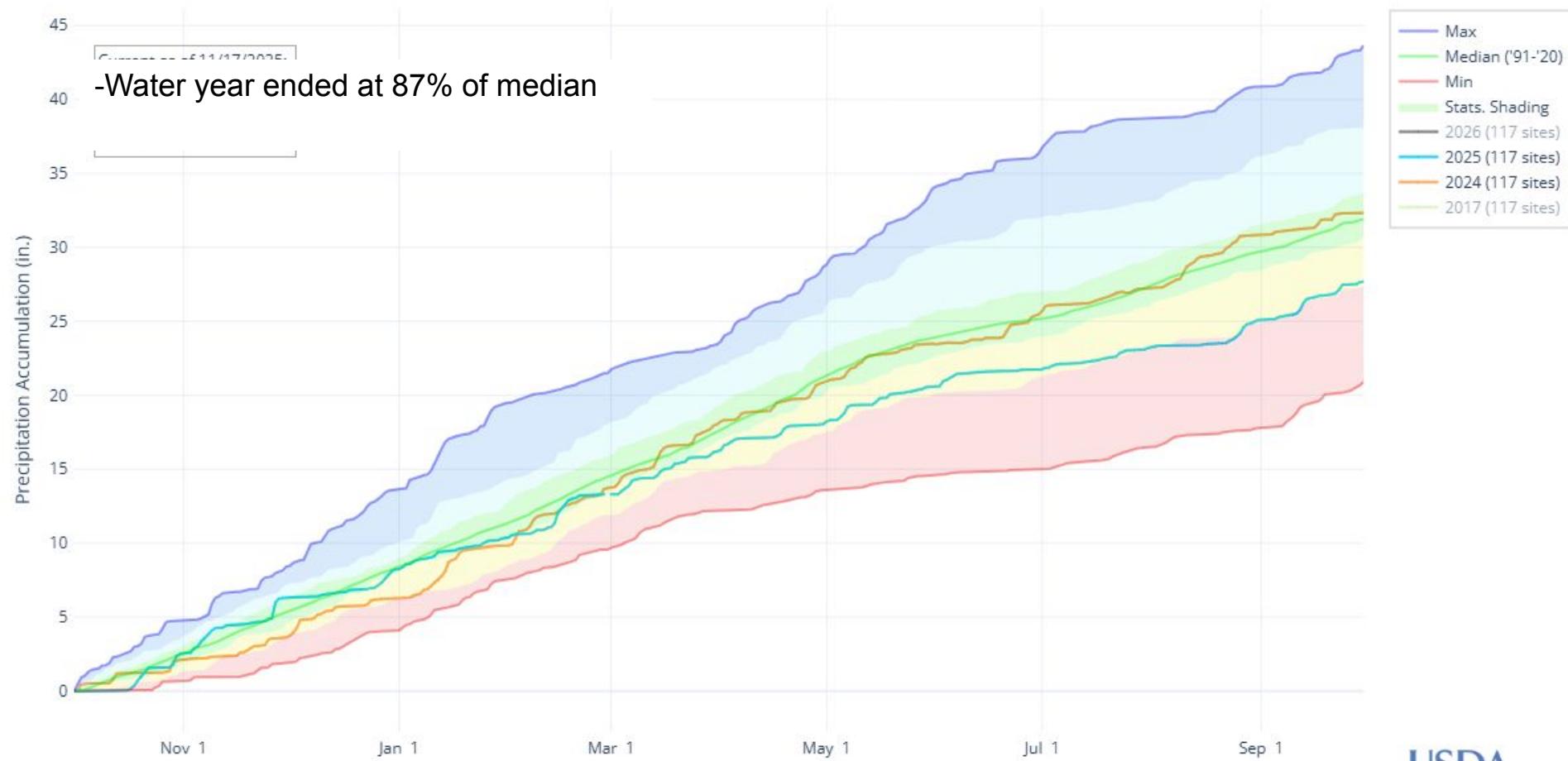
Water Year 2025 Wrap-up

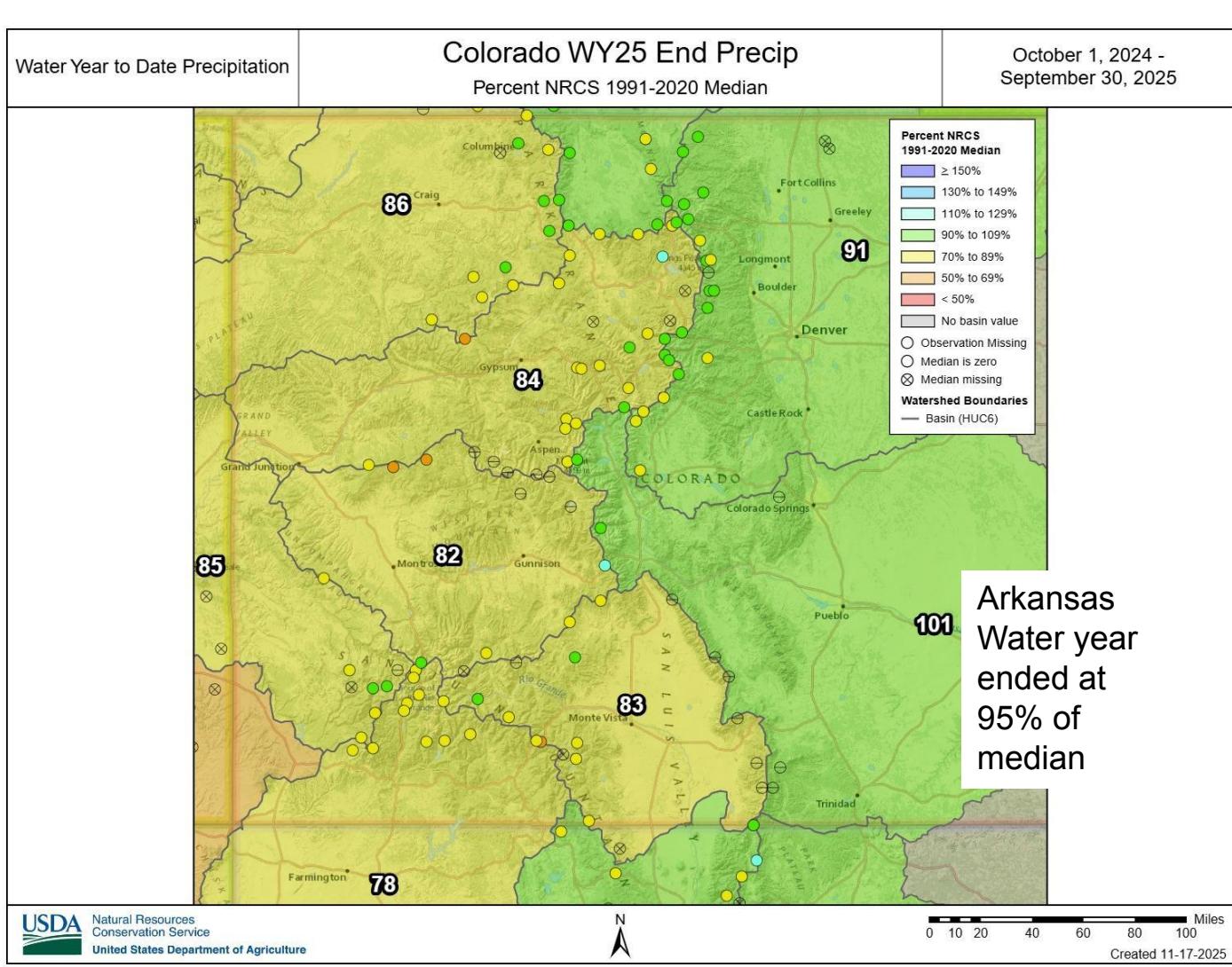
Colorado Snow Surveys

SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN STATE OF COLORADO



PRECIPITATION ACCUMULATION IN STATE OF COLORADO





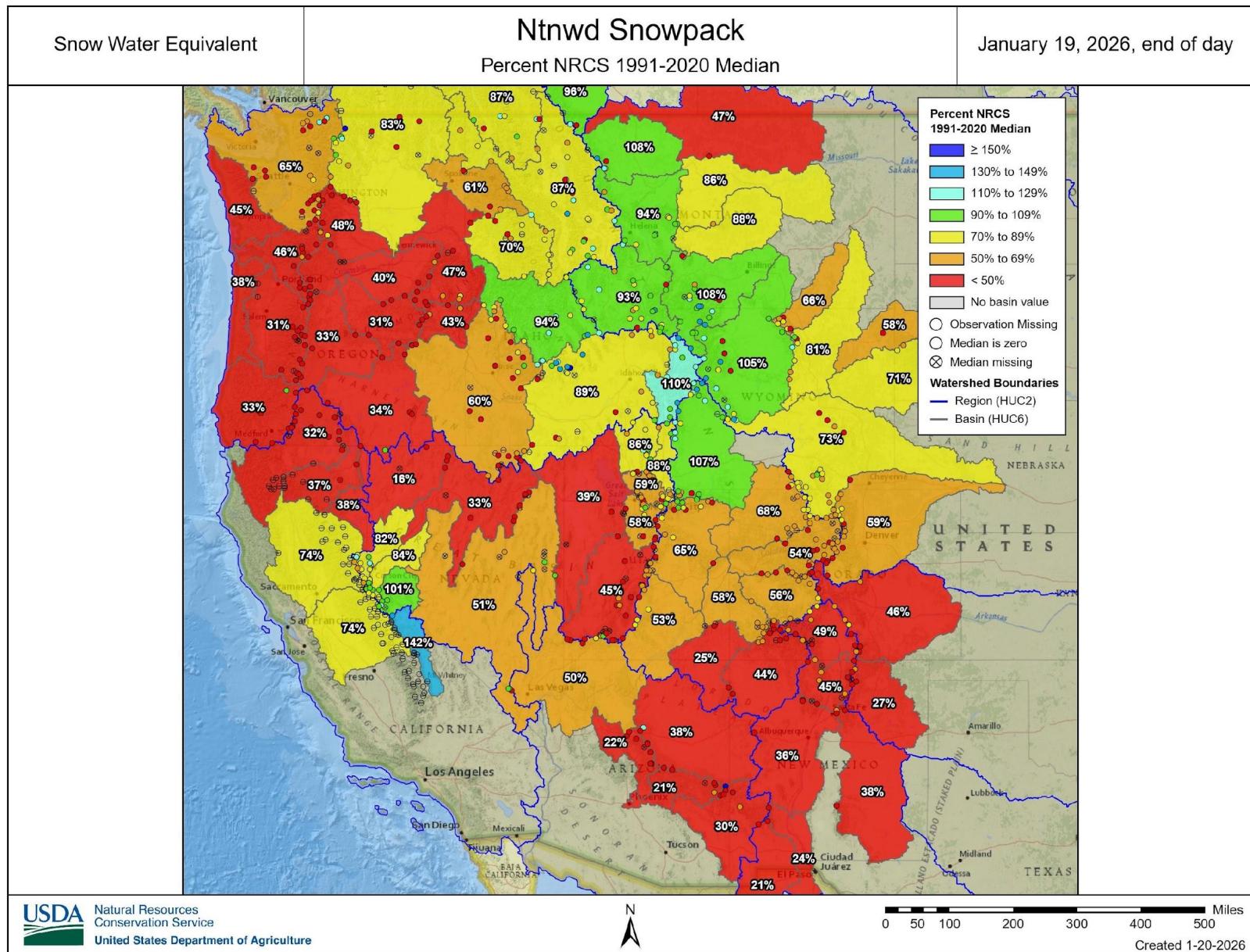


United States Department of Agriculture

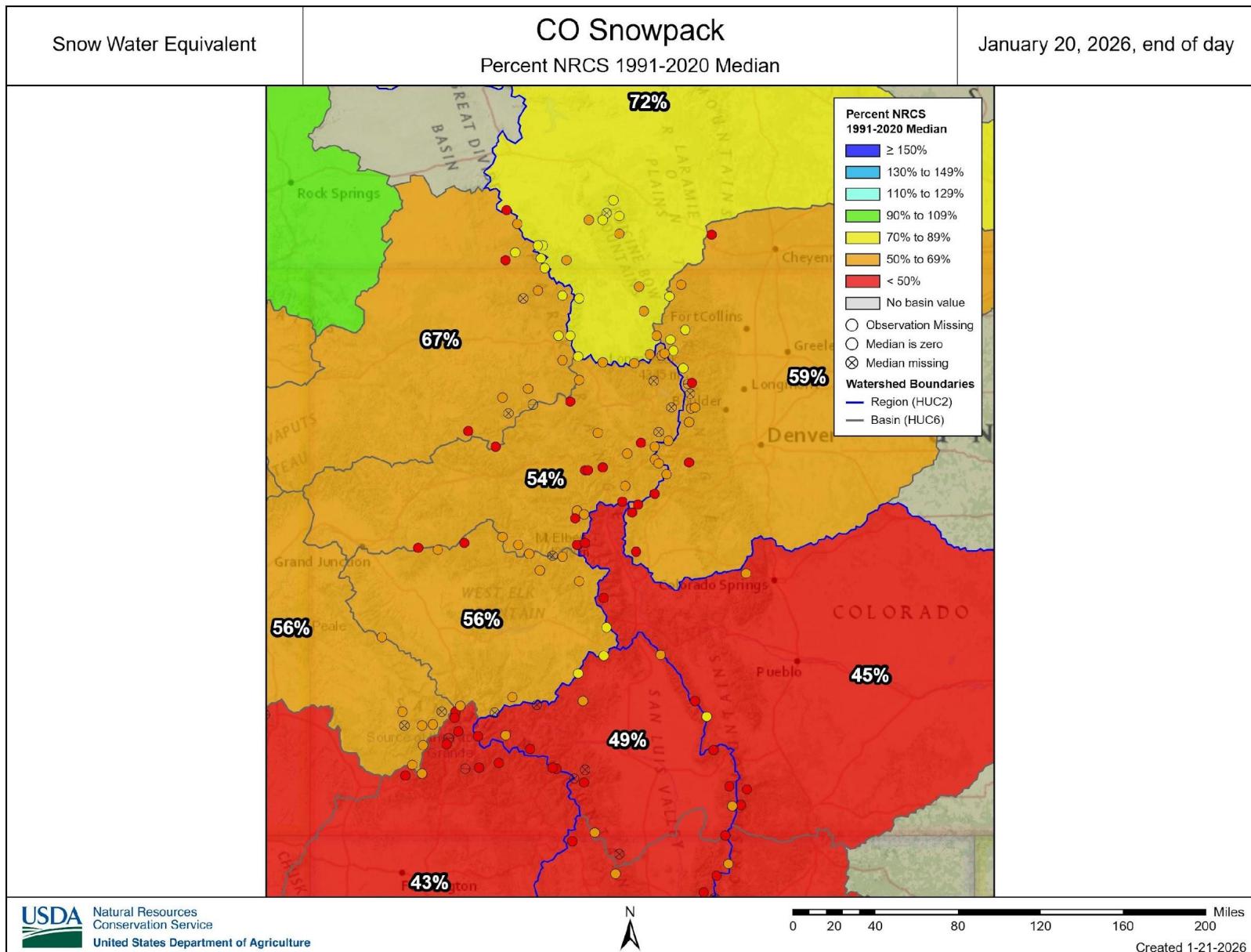
Colorado Snow Surveys

Snowpack

Colorado Snow Surveys

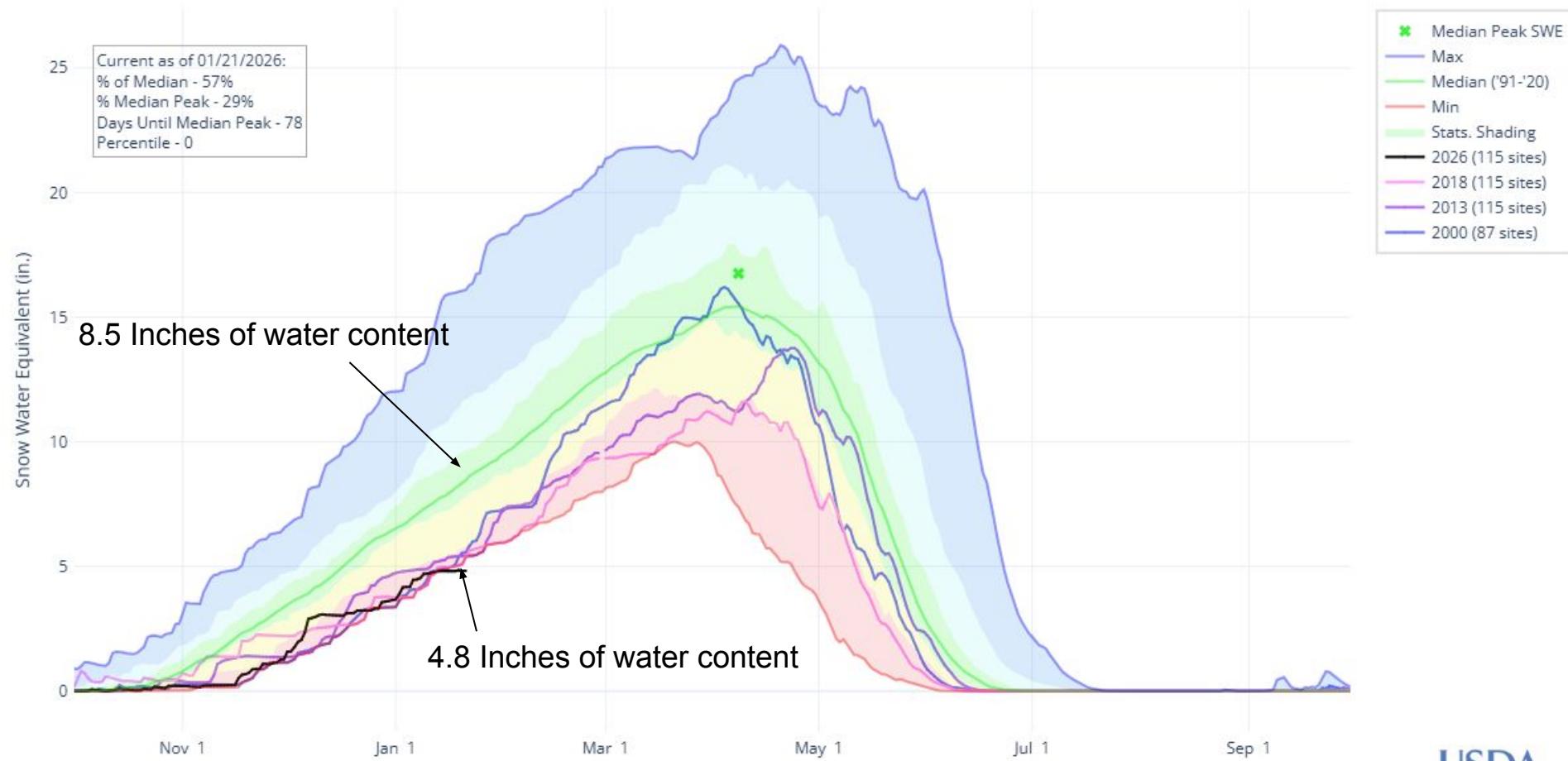


Colorado Snowpack

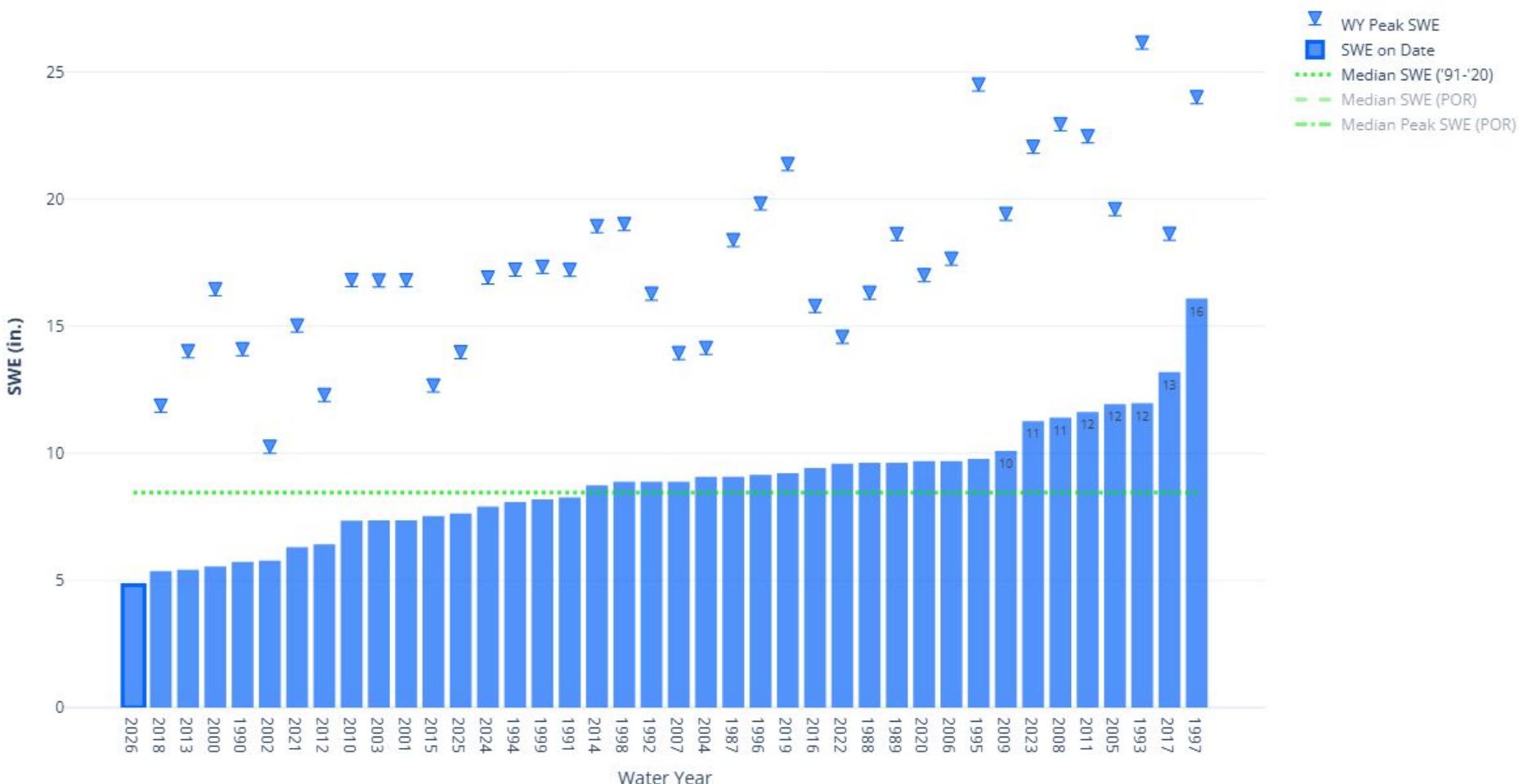


Colorado Snow Surveys

SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN STATE OF COLORADO

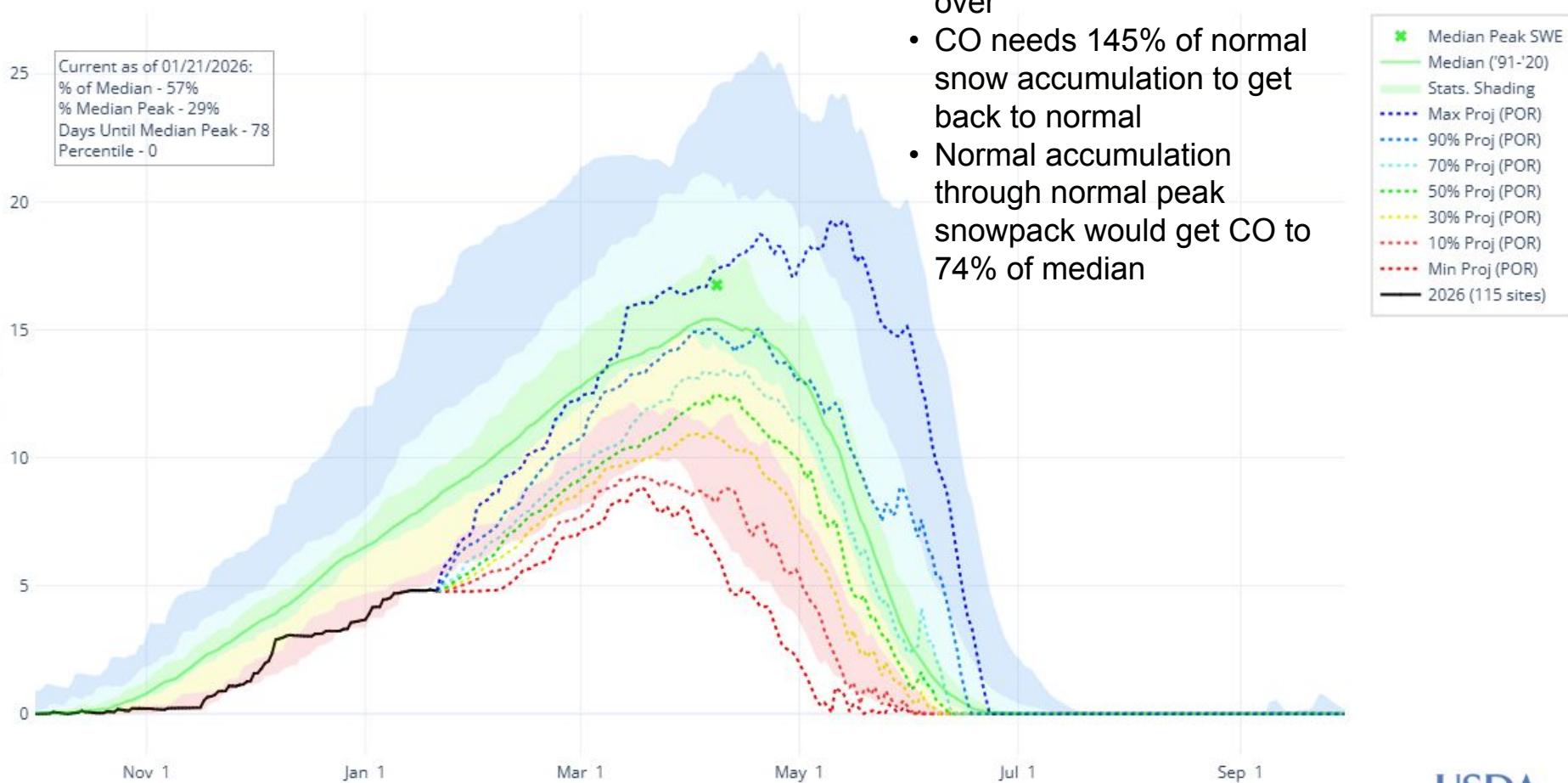


Colorado Snow Surveys

STATE OF COLORADO
JANUARY 21 SWE COMPARISON

Colorado Snow Surveys

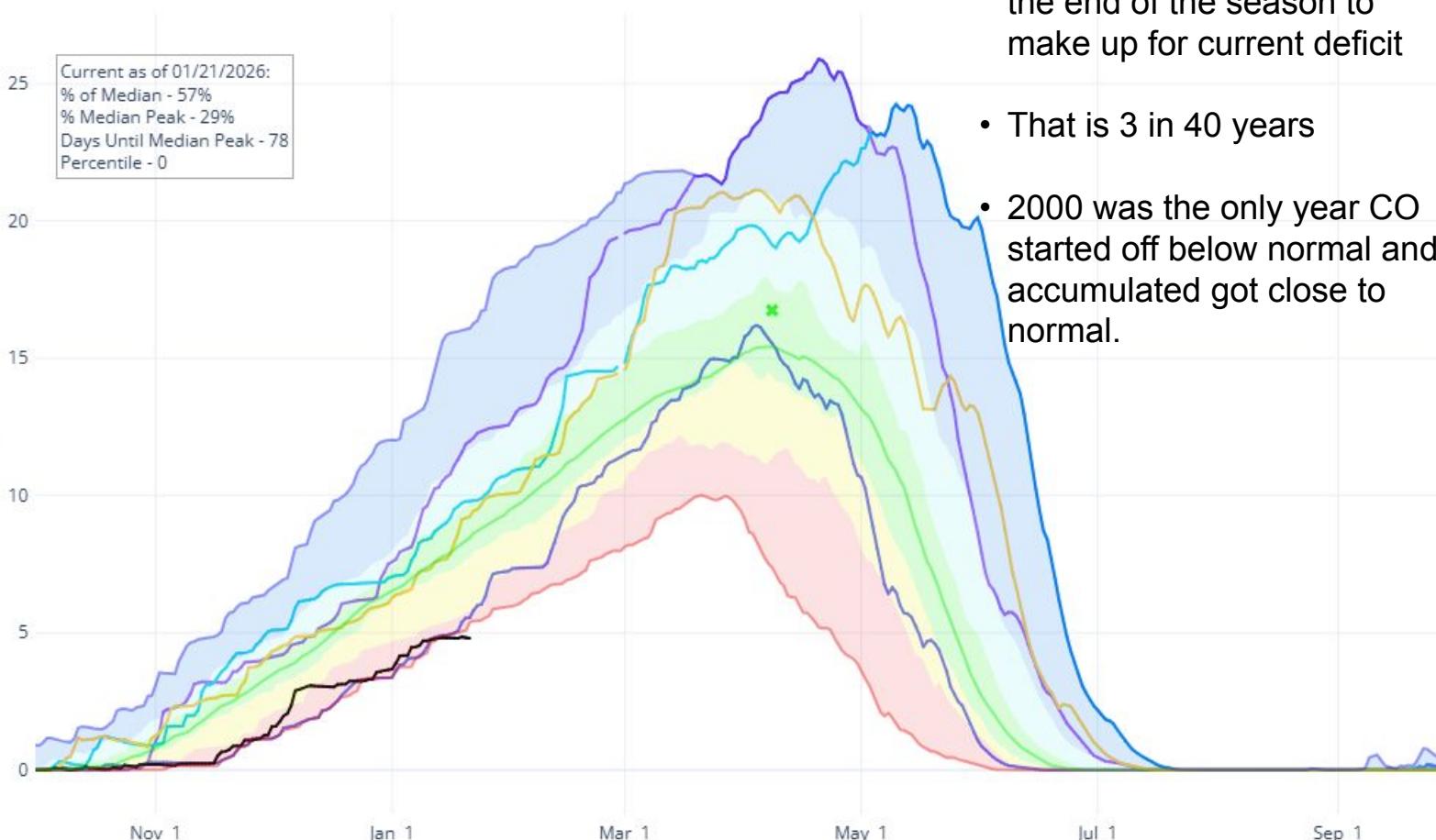
SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT PROJECTION IN STATE OF COLORADO



- Winter is 51% complete. In other words, winter is half over
- CO needs 145% of normal snow accumulation to get back to normal
- Normal accumulation through normal peak snowpack would get CO to 74% of median

Analog Years

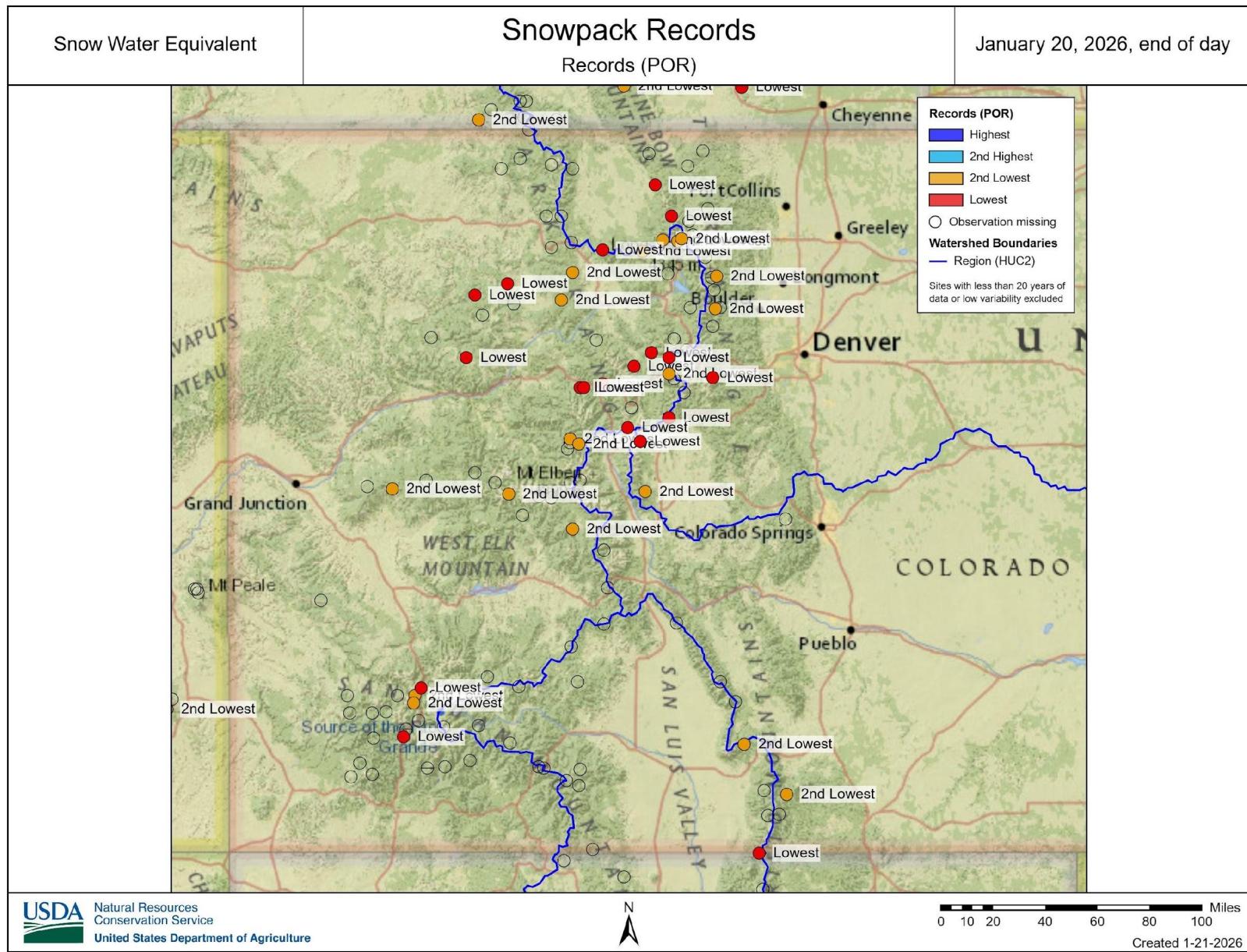
SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN STATE OF COLORADO



- '93, '95 & '19 accumulated enough snow from now thru the end of the season to make up for current deficit
- That is 3 in 40 years
- 2000 was the only year CO started off below normal and accumulated got close to normal.

Colorado Snow Surveys

Colorado Snowpack Records





United States Department of Agriculture

Colorado Snow Surveys

SNOWPACK BY ELEVATION IN STATE OF COLORADO JANUARY 22, 2026



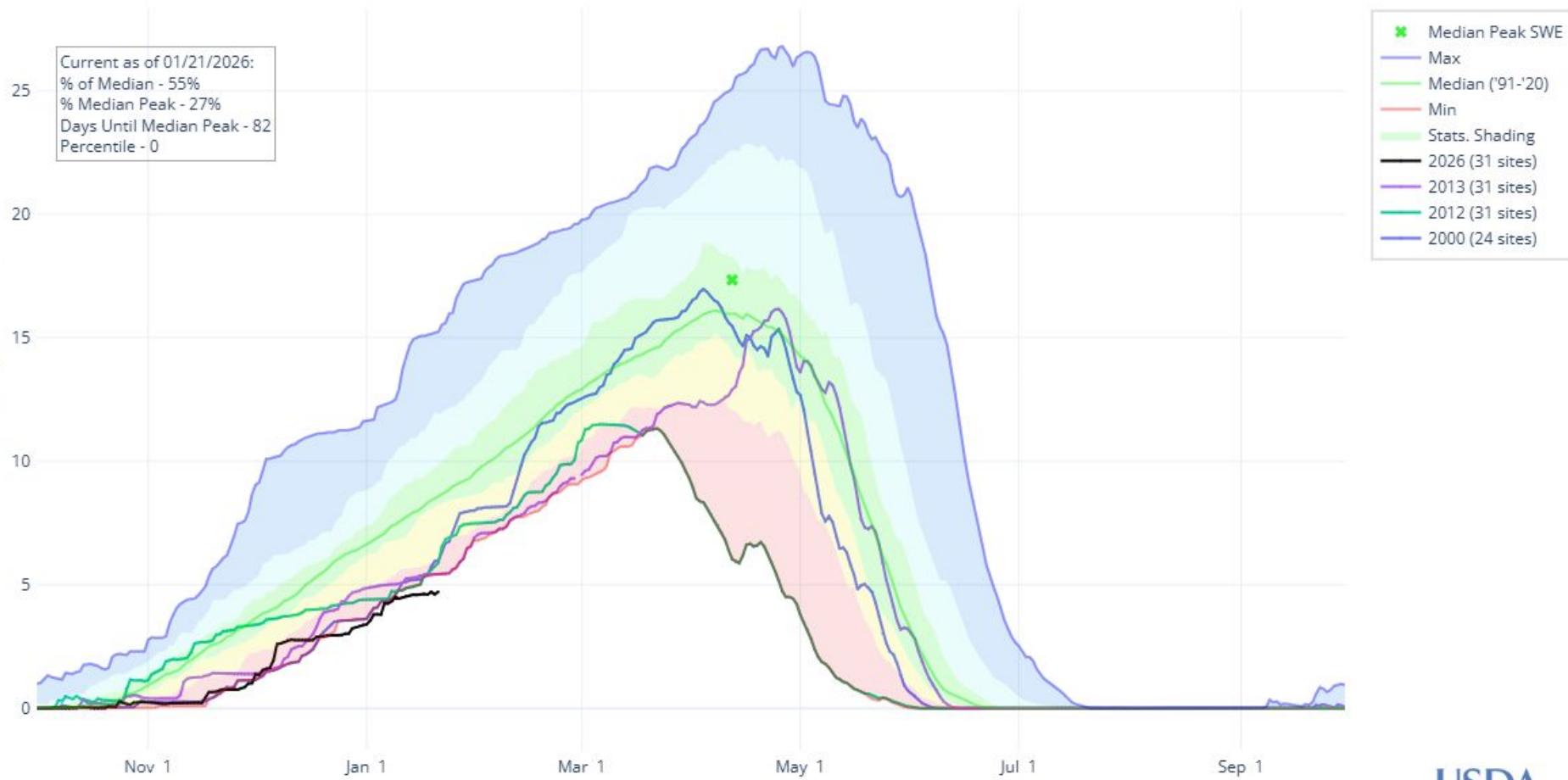


SNOWPACK BY ELEVATION IN SOUTH PLATTE JANUARY 22, 2026



Colorado Snow Surveys

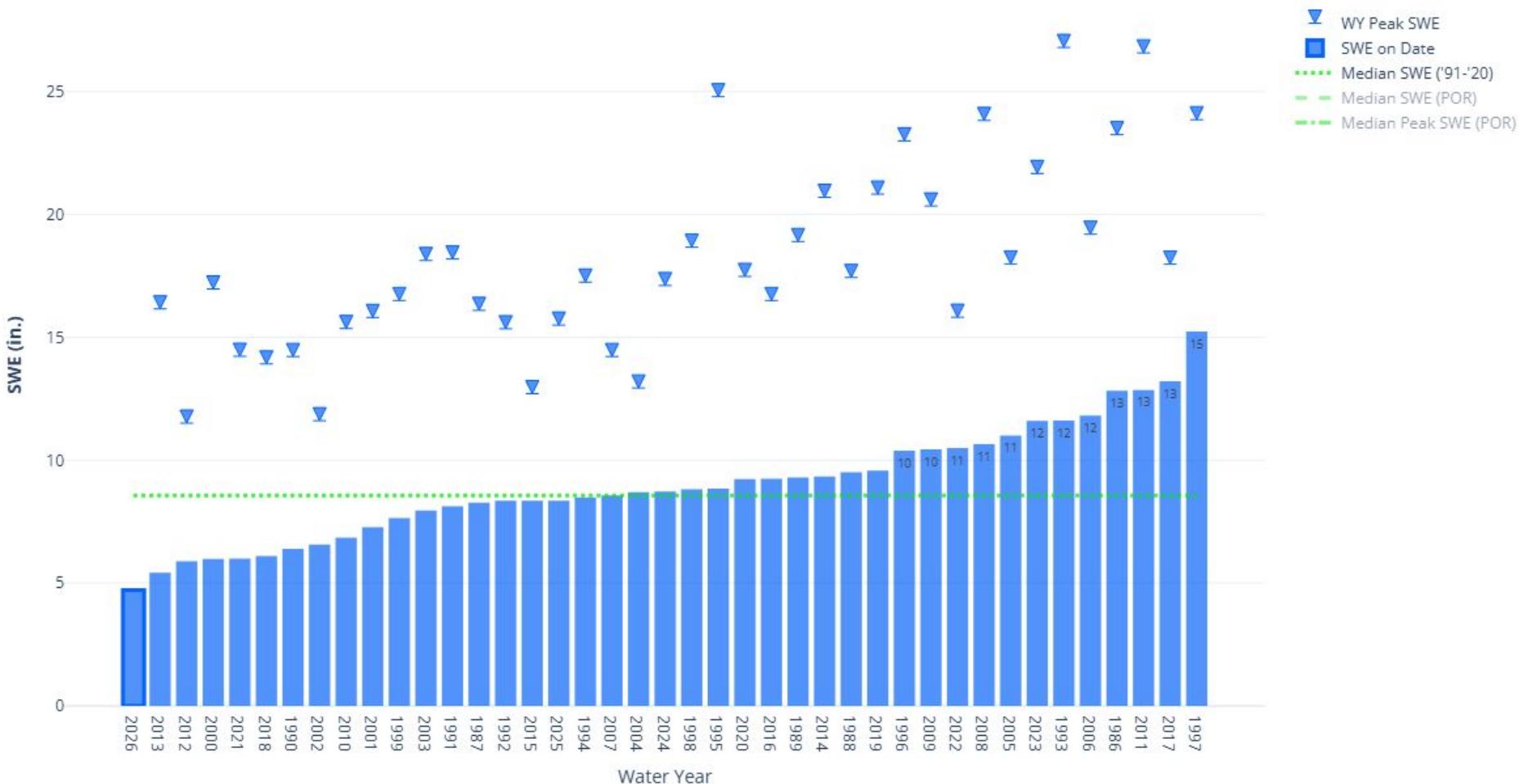
SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN COLORADO HEADWATERS





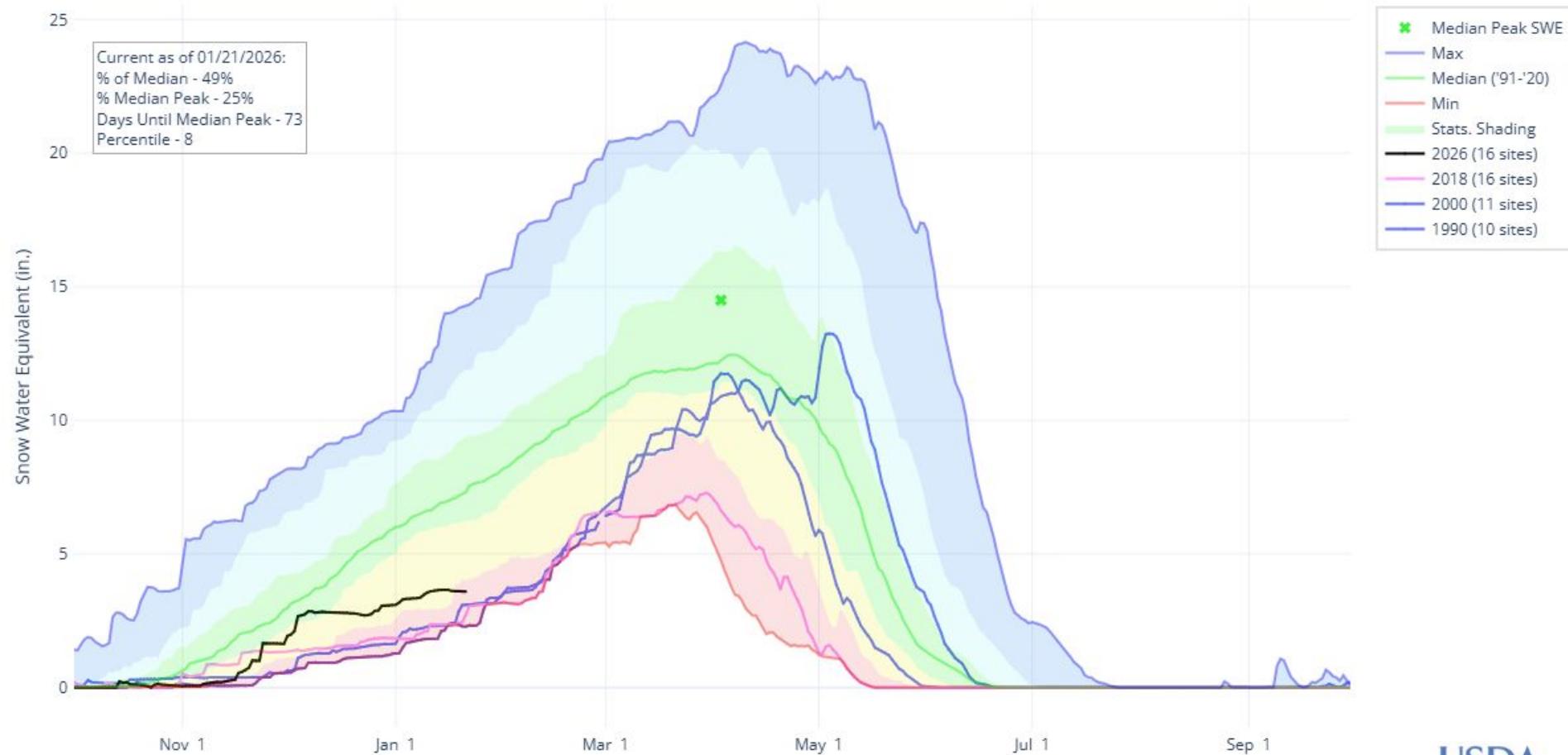
Colorado Snow Surveys

COLORADO HEADWATERS JANUARY 21 SWE COMPARISON

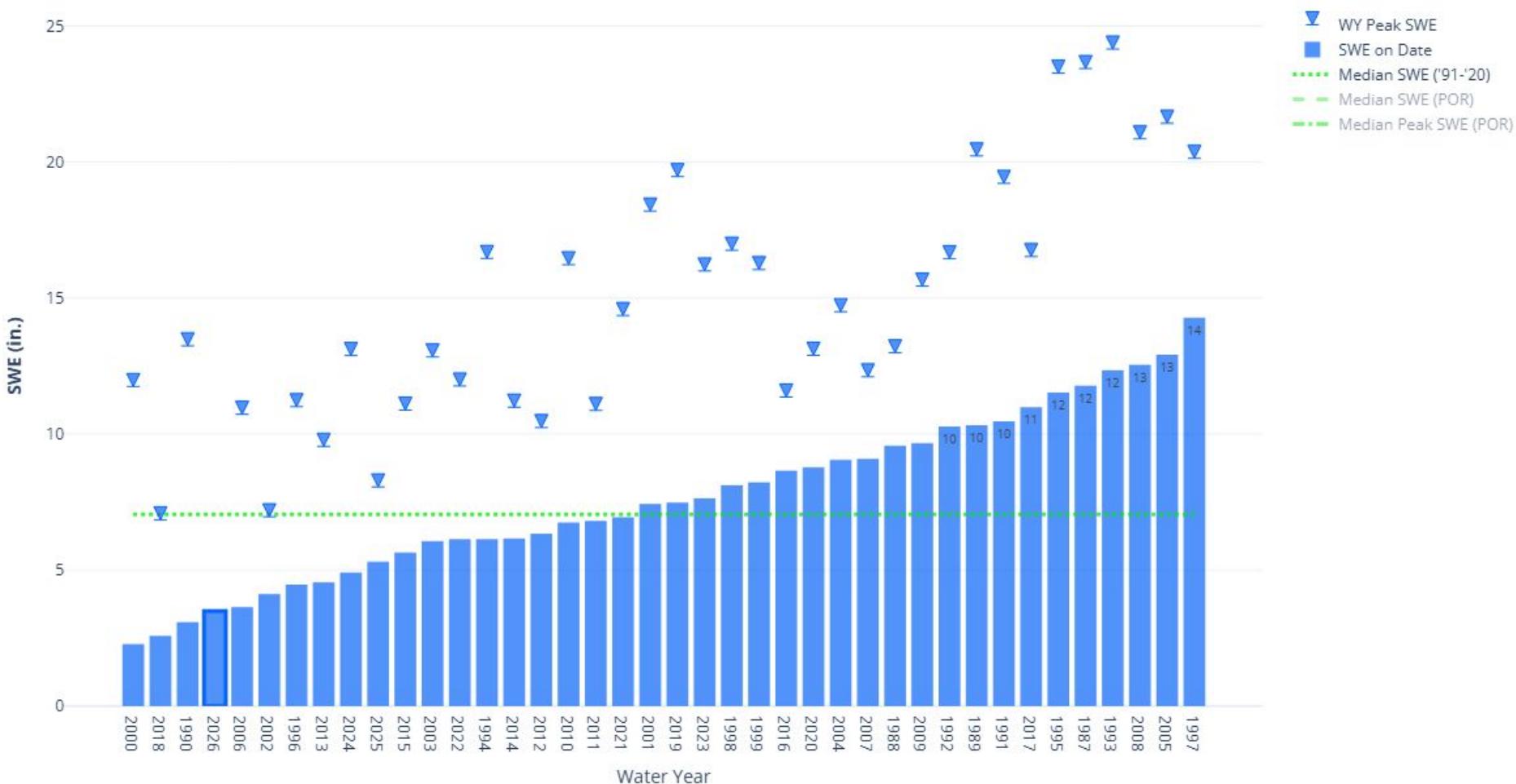


Colorado Snow Surveys

SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN RIO GRANDE HEADWATERS



Colorado Snow Surveys

UPPER RIO GRANDE
JANUARY 21 SWE COMPARISON



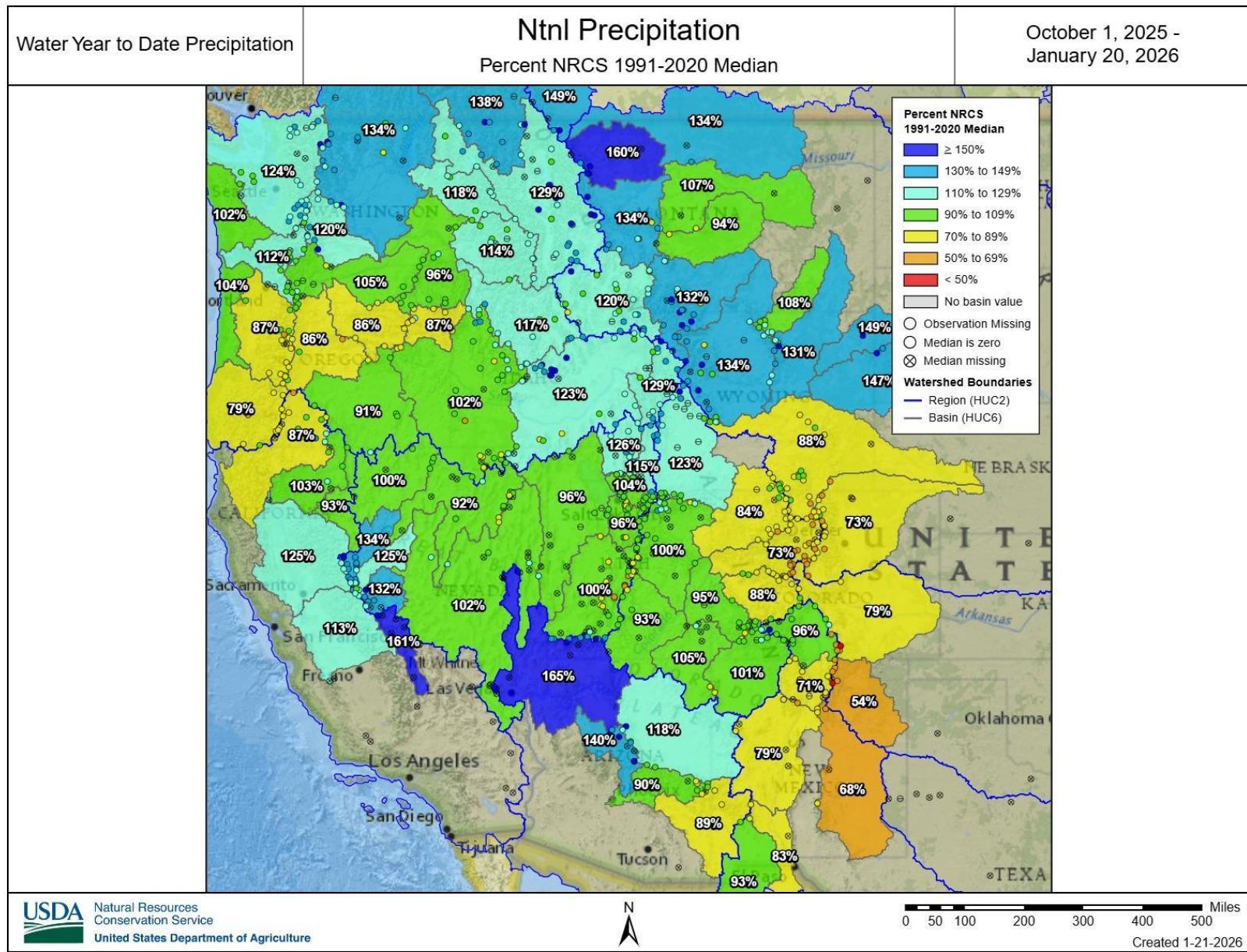
United States Department of Agriculture

Colorado Snow Surveys

Precipitation

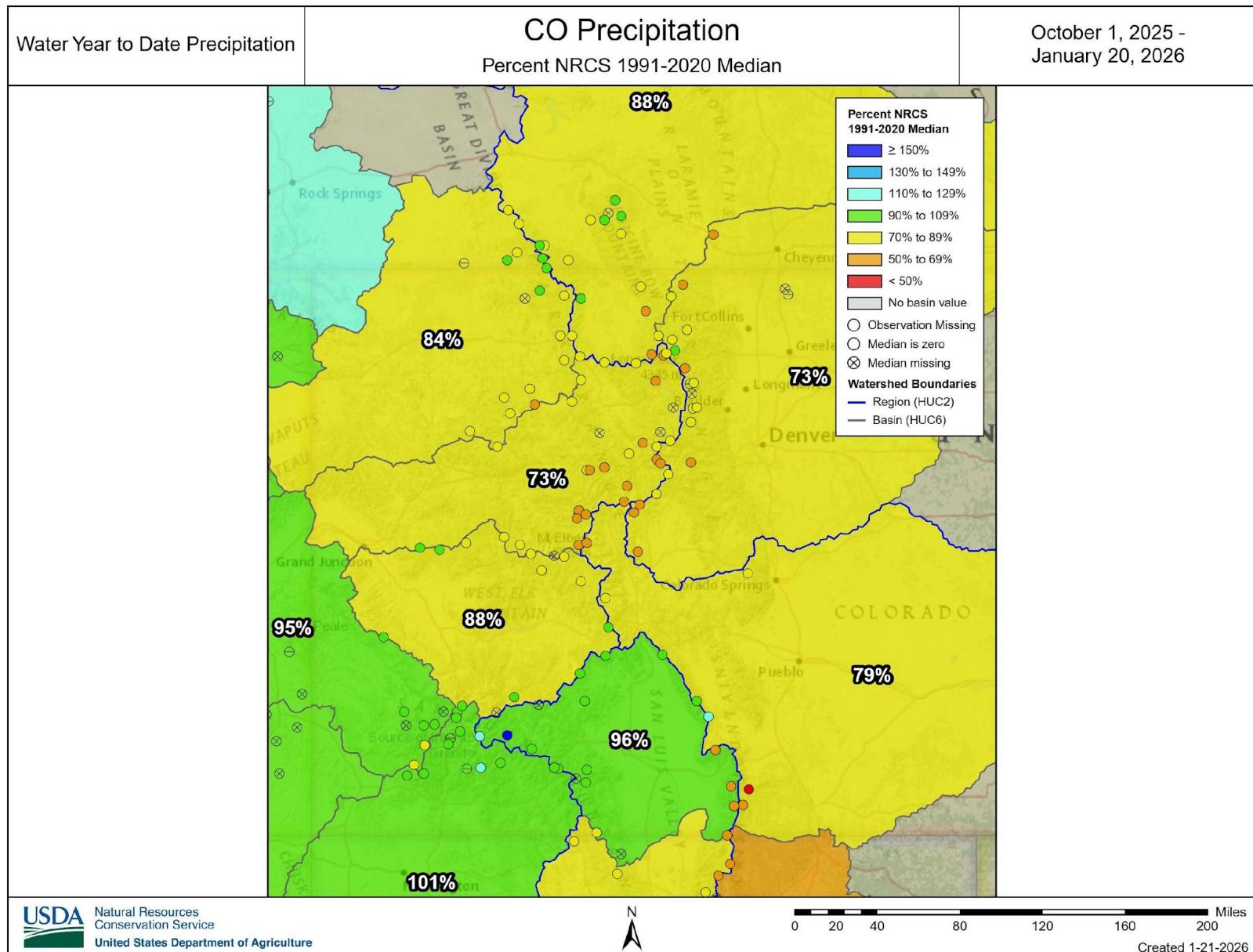
Colorado Snow Surveys

Nationwide WYTD Precip



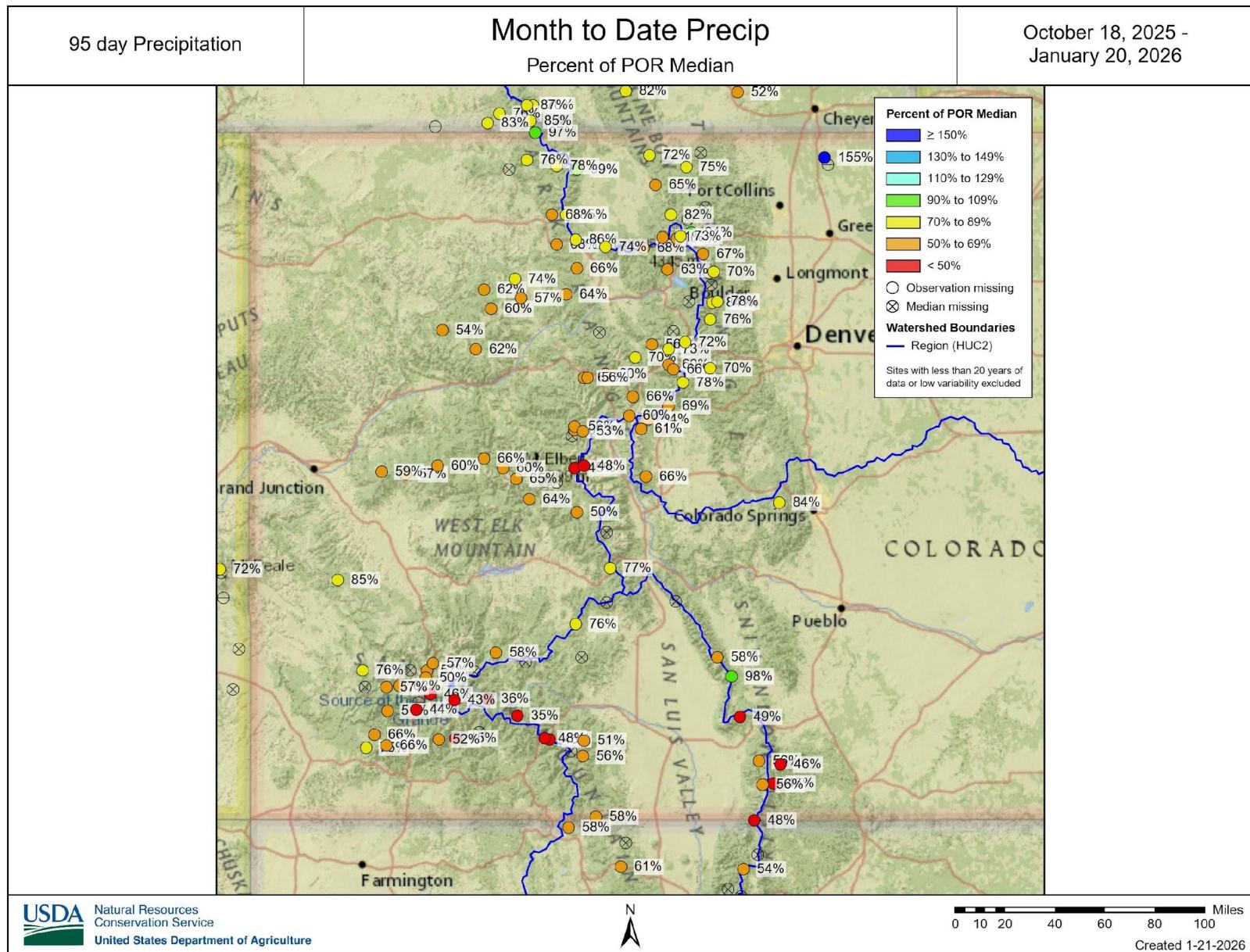
Colorado Snow Surveys

Colorado WYTD Precip



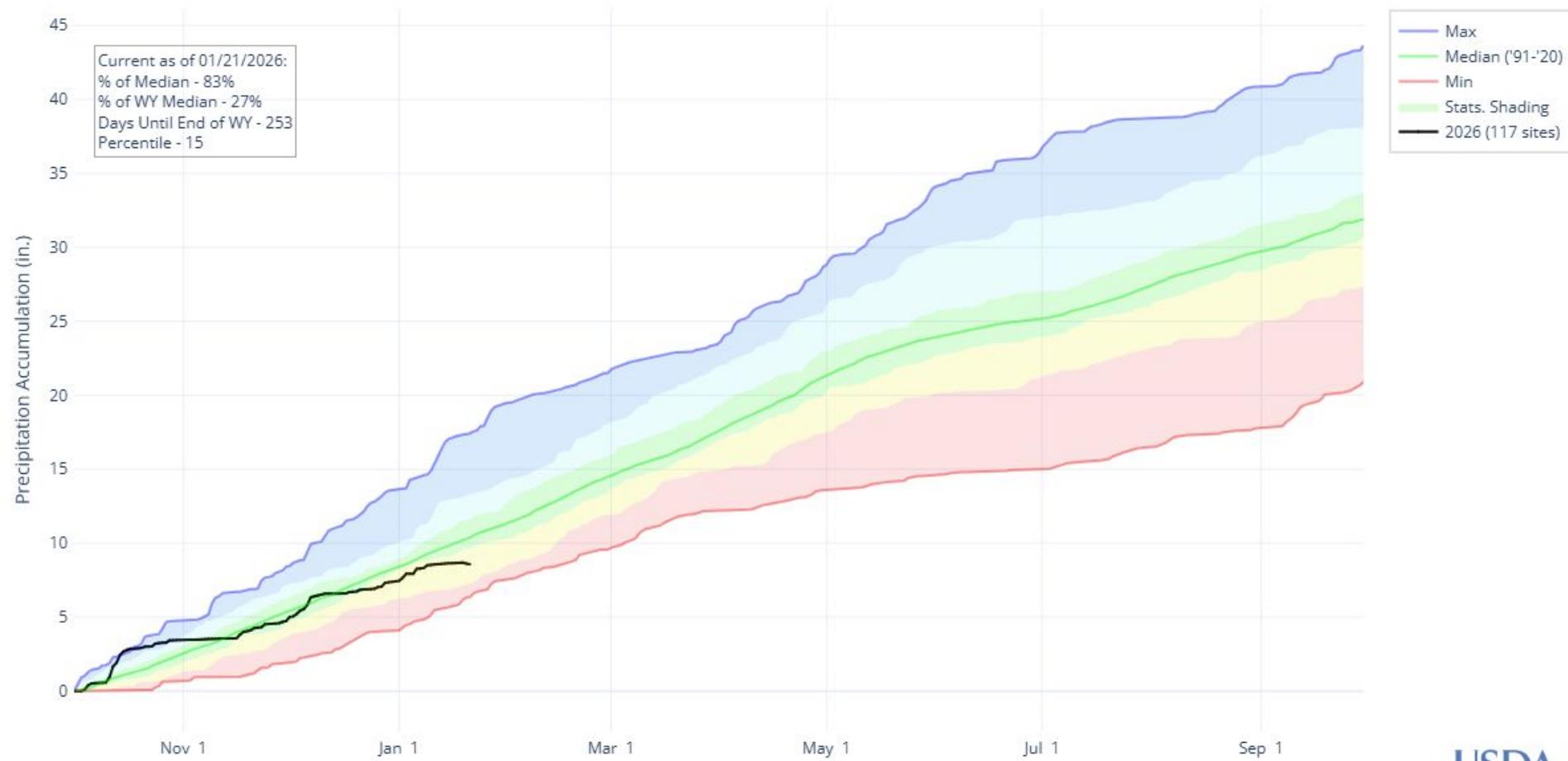
Colorado Snow Surveys

Precip Since San Juan Oct Storms



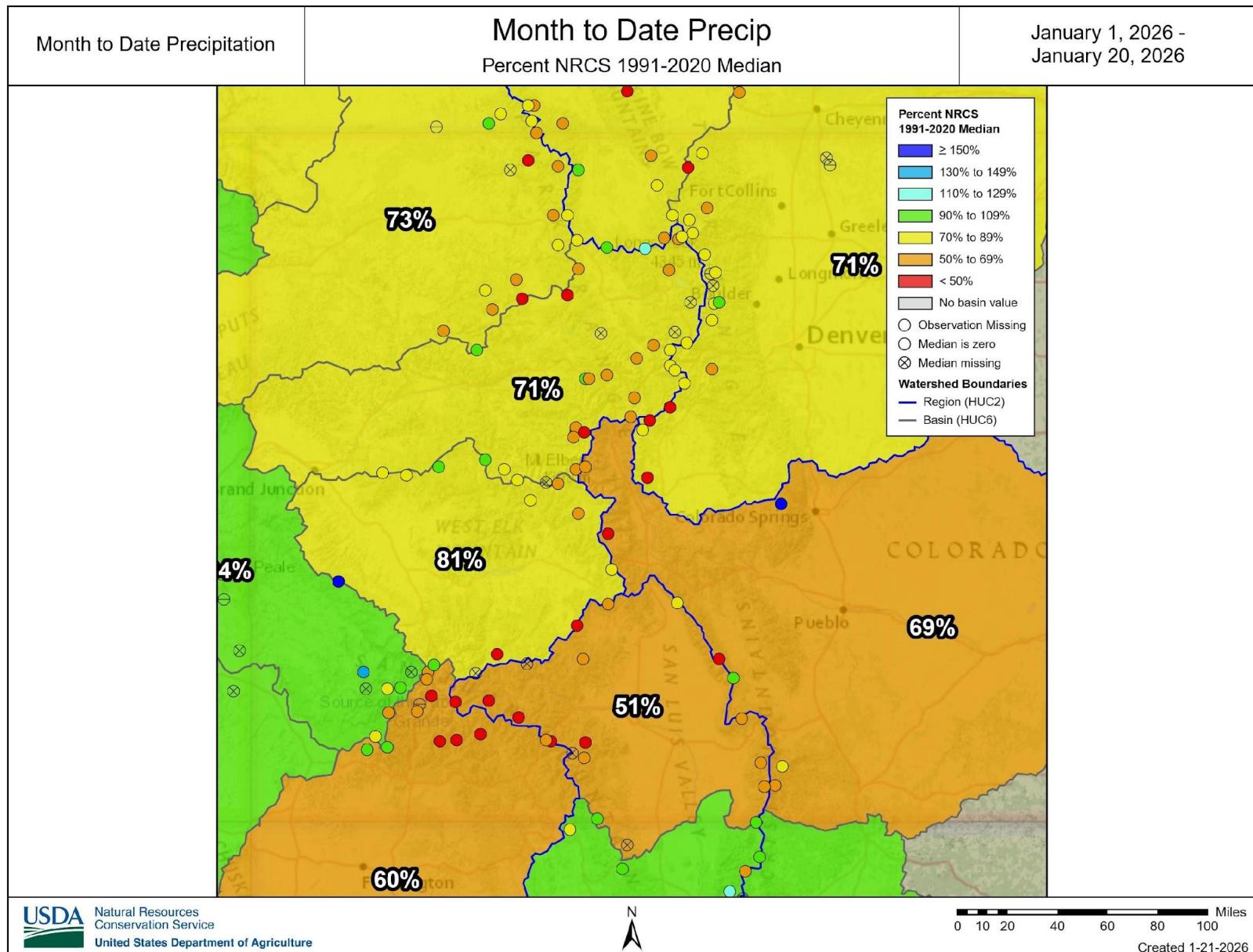
Colorado Snow Surveys

PRECIPITATION ACCUMULATION IN STATE OF COLORADO



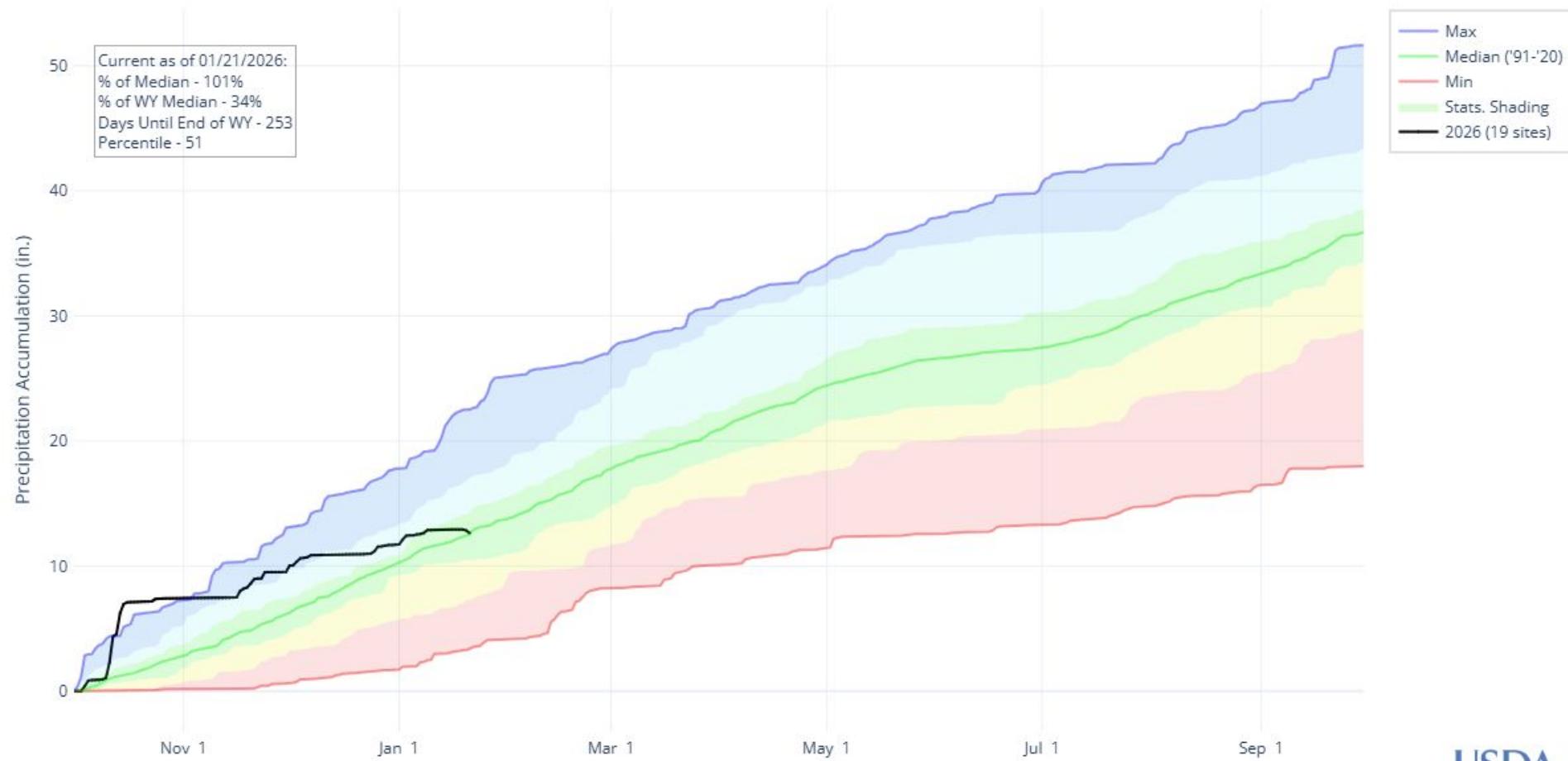
Colorado Snow Surveys

Colorado MTD Precip



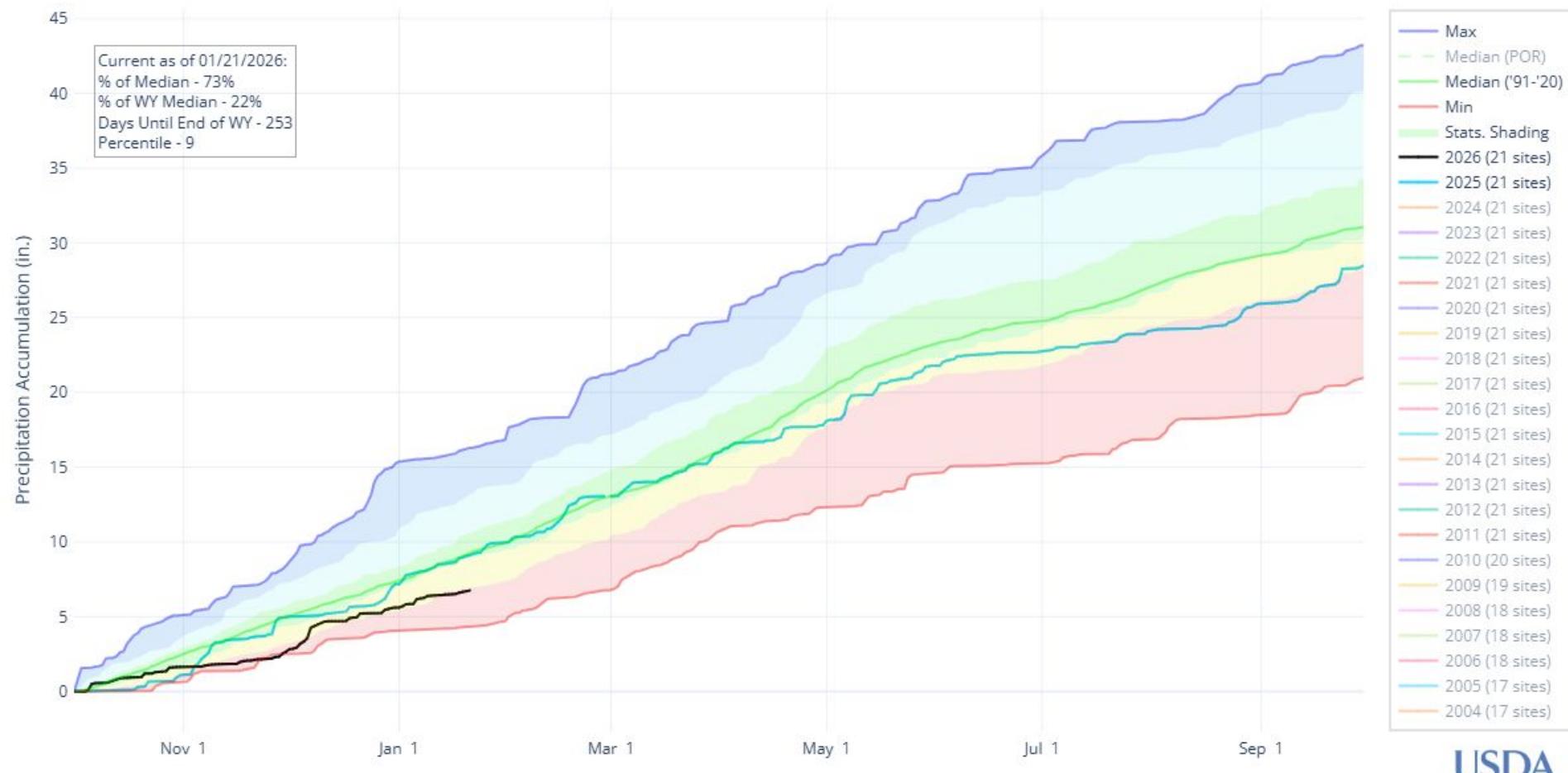
Colorado Snow Surveys

PRECIPITATION ACCUMULATION IN SAN MIGUEL-DOLORES-ANIMAS-SAN JUAN



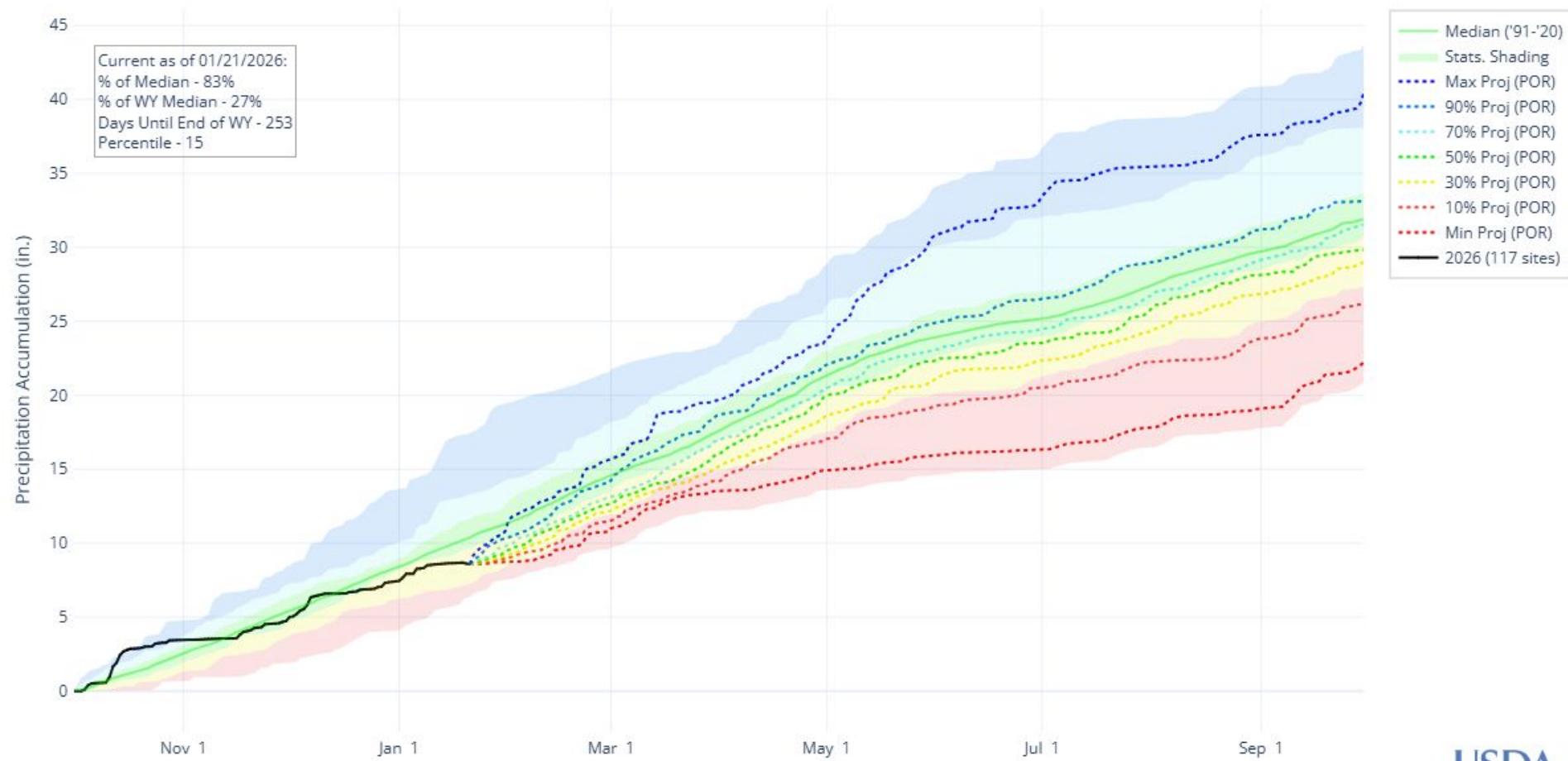
Colorado Snow Surveys

PRECIPITATION ACCUMULATION IN SOUTH PLATTE



Colorado Snow Surveys

PRECIPITATION ACCUMULATION PROJECTION IN STATE OF COLORADO



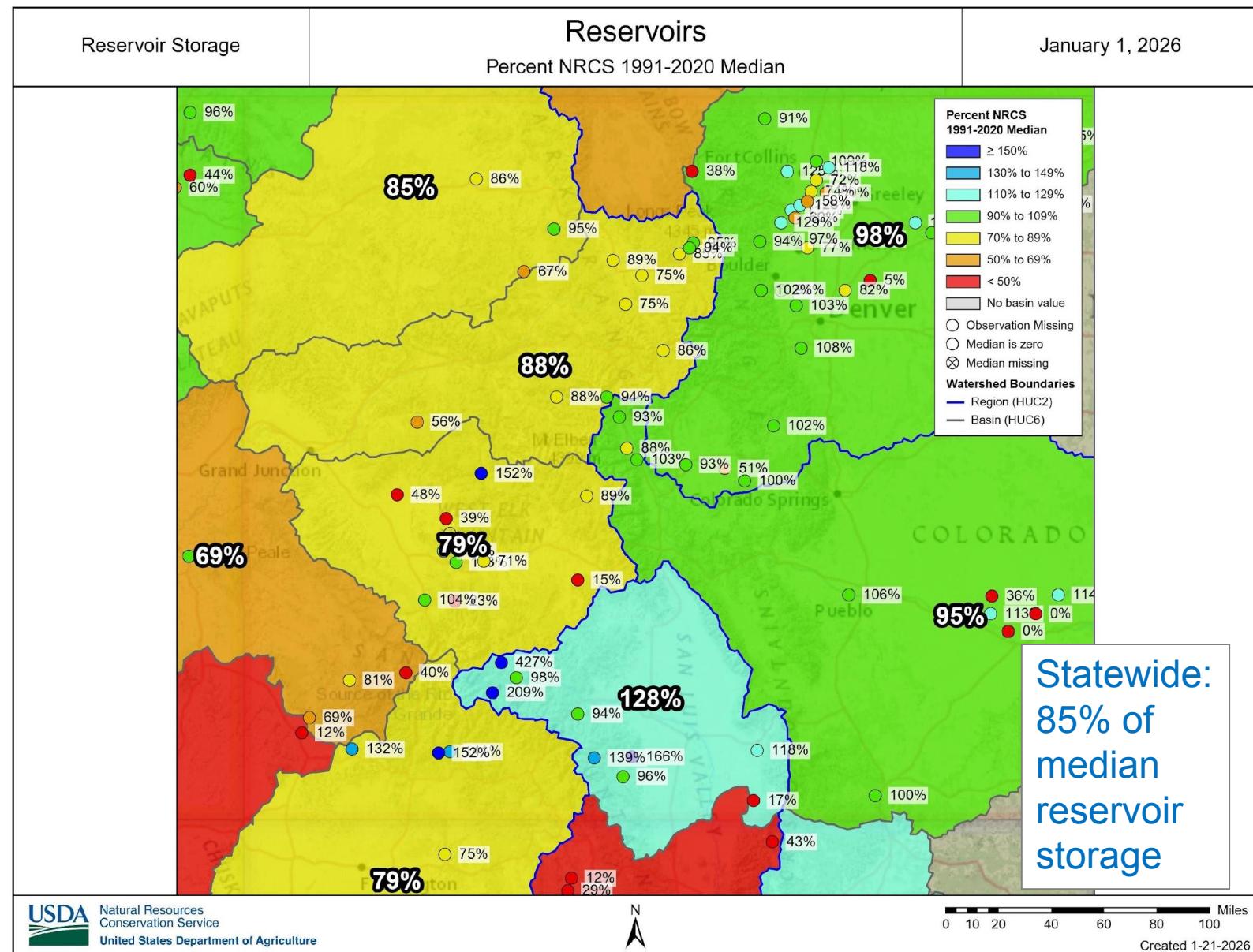


United States Department of Agriculture

Colorado Snow Surveys

Reservoirs

Statewide Reservoir Storage Jan 1



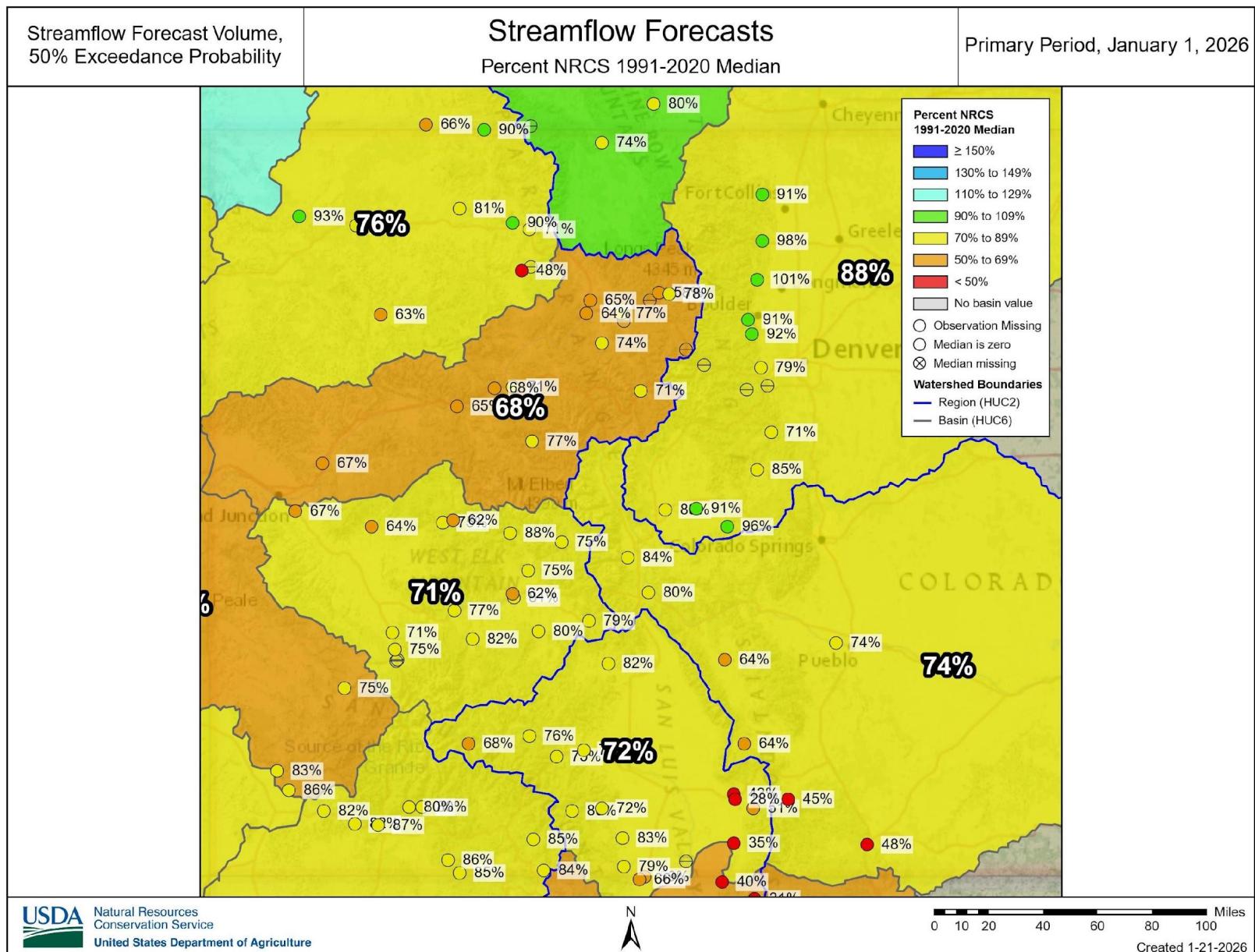


United States Department of Agriculture

Colorado Snow Surveys

Streamflows

Colorado Snow Surveys





Summary

- Snowpack across Colorado is the lowest snowpack in the 40-year period of record which is 57% of median
 - At this point, half of the winter remains
 - To get back to normal snowpack levels, Colorado needs 145% of normal snow accumulation
 - Returning to near normal snowpack level is a long shot this year
- Statewide precipitation is also below normal at 83% of median
 - Propped up by the October storms in the San Juan Mountains
 - Without those storms, statewide precip would be much lower
- Statewide reservoir storage is at 85% of median
- Streamflow Forecasts were last generated on Jan 1 observations
 - These forecasts projected below normal runoff in most locations
 - Feb 1 forecasts will likely be lower based on below normal Jan snow accumulation



Non-Discrimination Statement:

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA 's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call [866] 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.



Water Conditions Monitoring Committee Meeting

January 22nd, 2026

NRCS Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program

Brian Domonkos

Hydrologist

Brian.Domonkos@usda.gov

720-544-2853

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/colorado/snow-survey>