

A wide, shallow river with white-water rapids flows through a lush green landscape. The banks are lined with tall grasses and trees. In the distance, blue mountains are visible under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. Power lines run across the upper portion of the image.

Governor's Drought Advisory Committee Snowpack and Streamflow Update May 15th, 2018

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<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/mt/snow/>

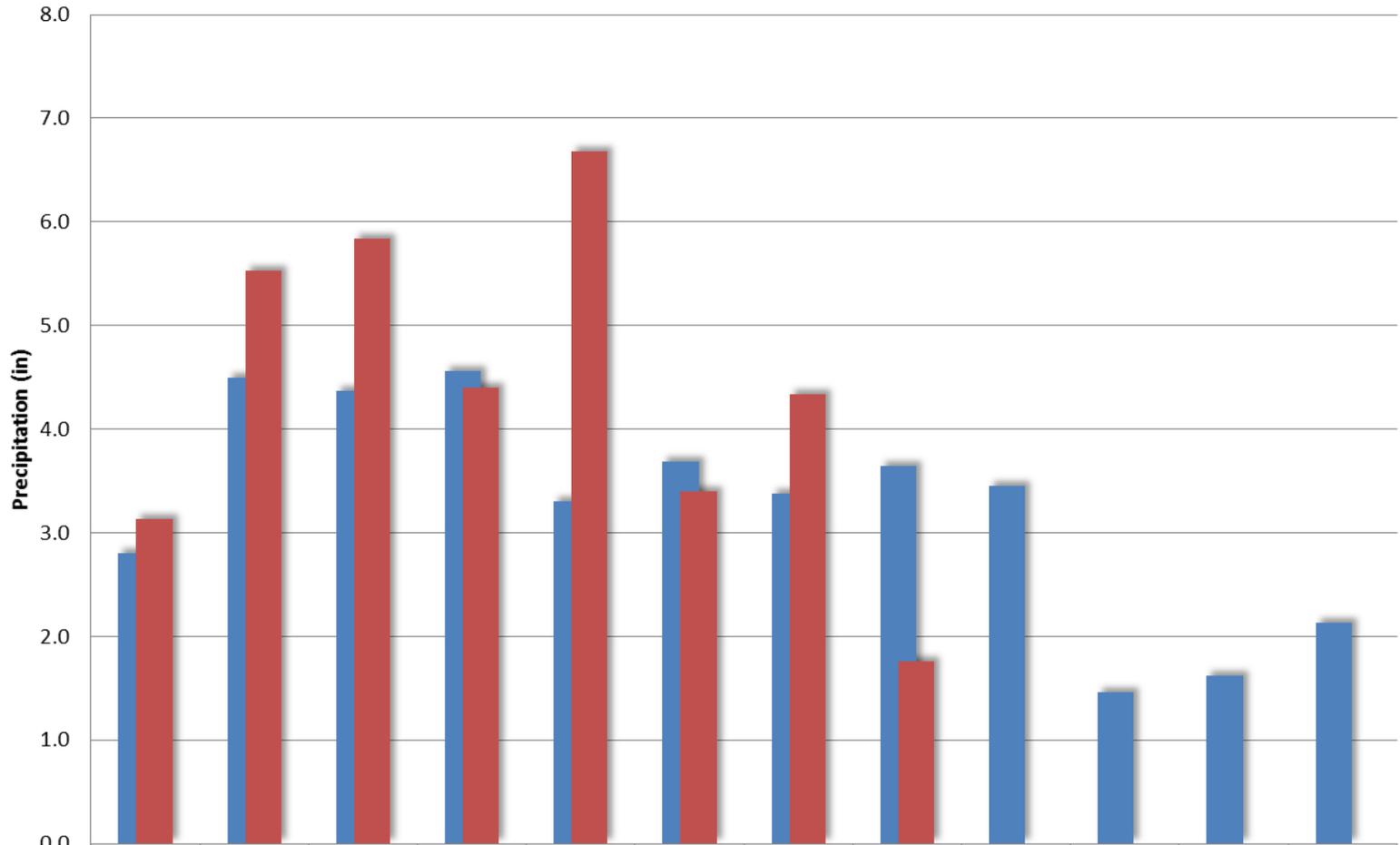
Gallatin River @ Norris Bridge near Four Corners, MT on 5/13/2018 @ 2,800 cfs. The river dropped from 4,000 cfs on Friday 5/11/2018. It's coming back up.

Mountain Precipitation

Clark Fork River Basin

SNOTEL Monthly Precipitation

5/15/2018

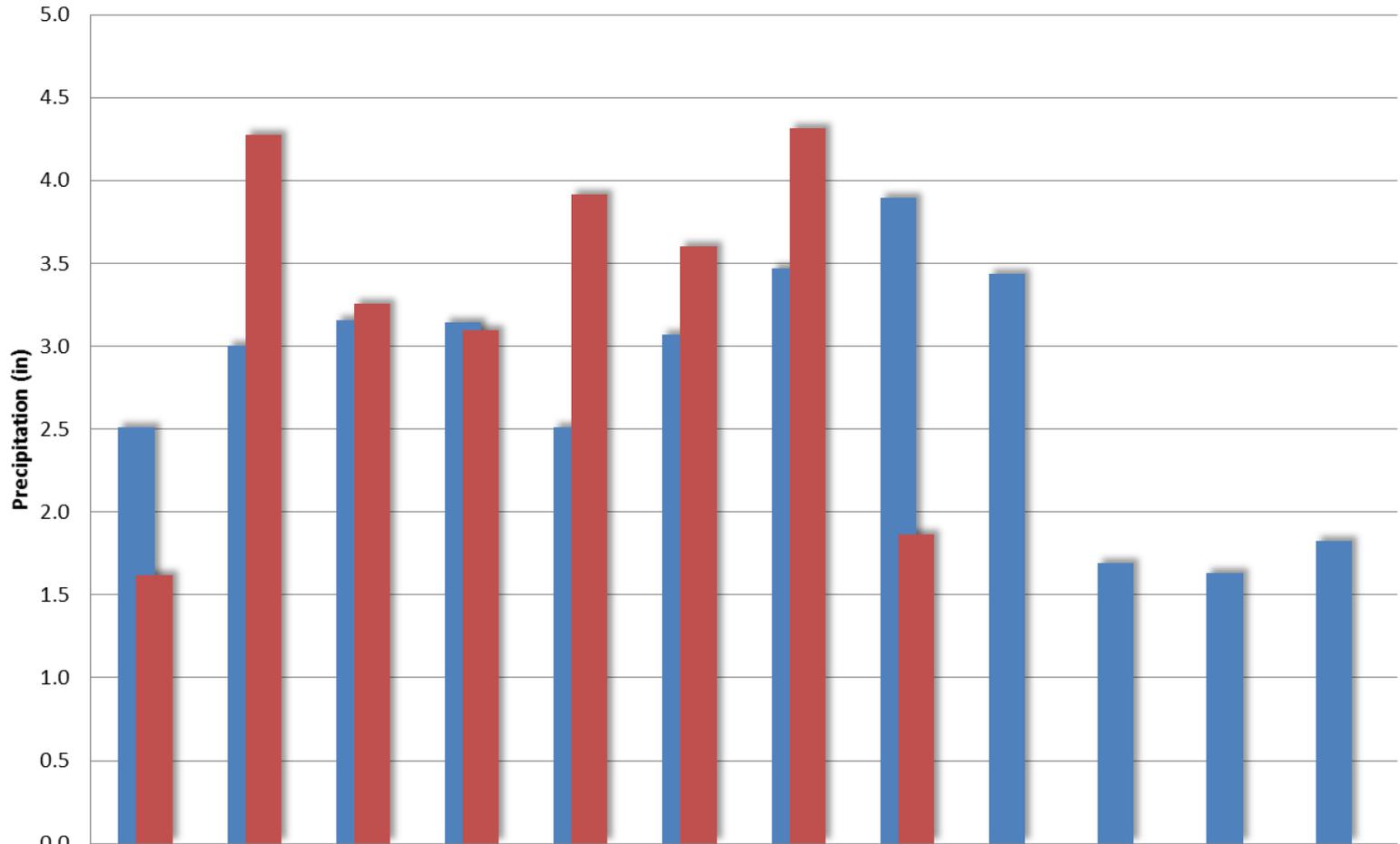


■ Avg Monthly PCP (in)	2.8	4.5	4.4	4.6	3.3	3.7	3.4	3.6	3.5	1.5	1.6	2.1
■ Monthly PCP (in)	3.1	5.5	5.8	4.4	6.7	3.4	4.3	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Missouri Headwaters

SNOTEL Monthly Precipitation

5/15/2018



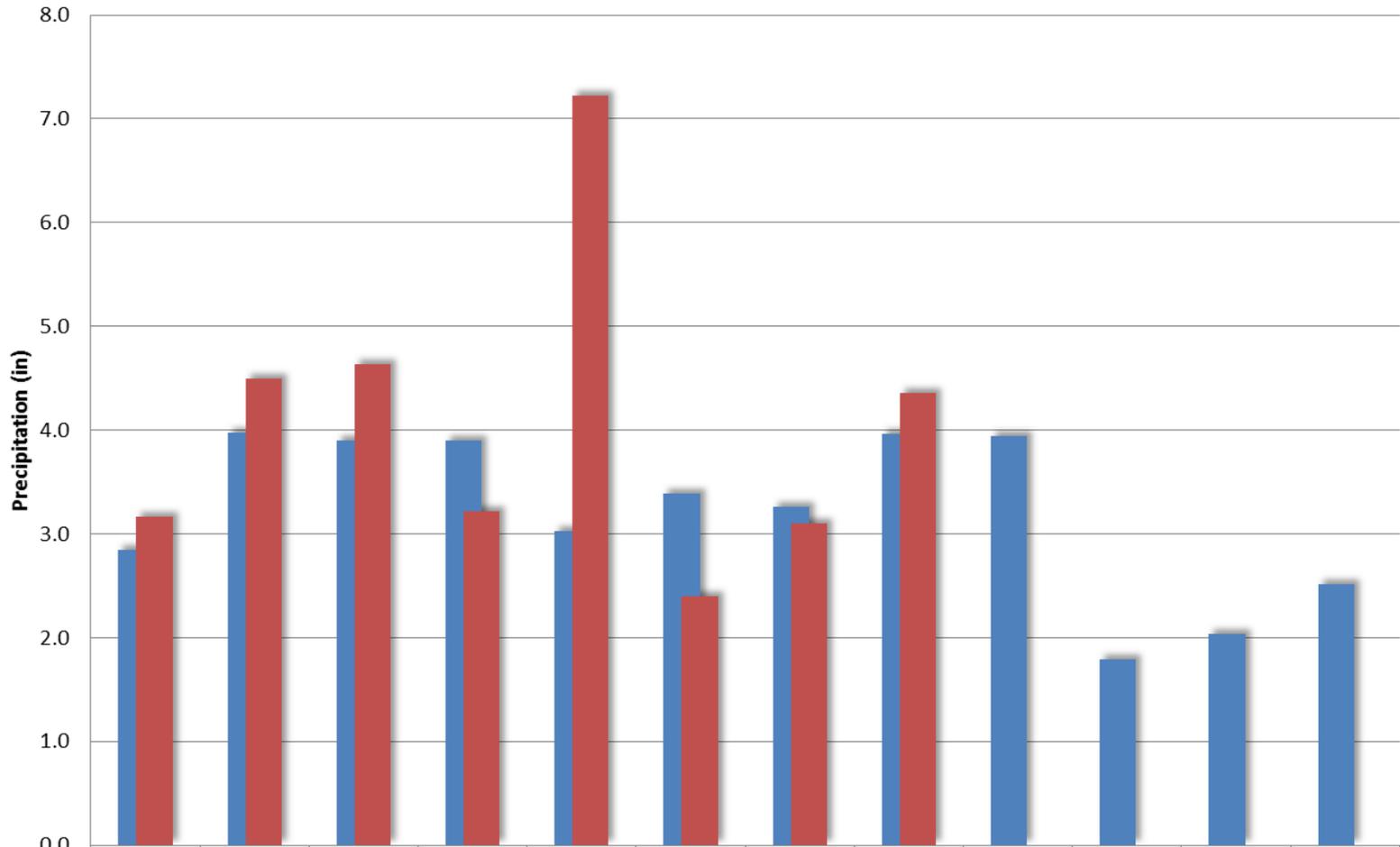
■ Avg Monthly PCP (in)

■ Monthly PCP (in)

Sun-Teton-Marias

SNOTEL Monthly Precipitation

5/15/2018

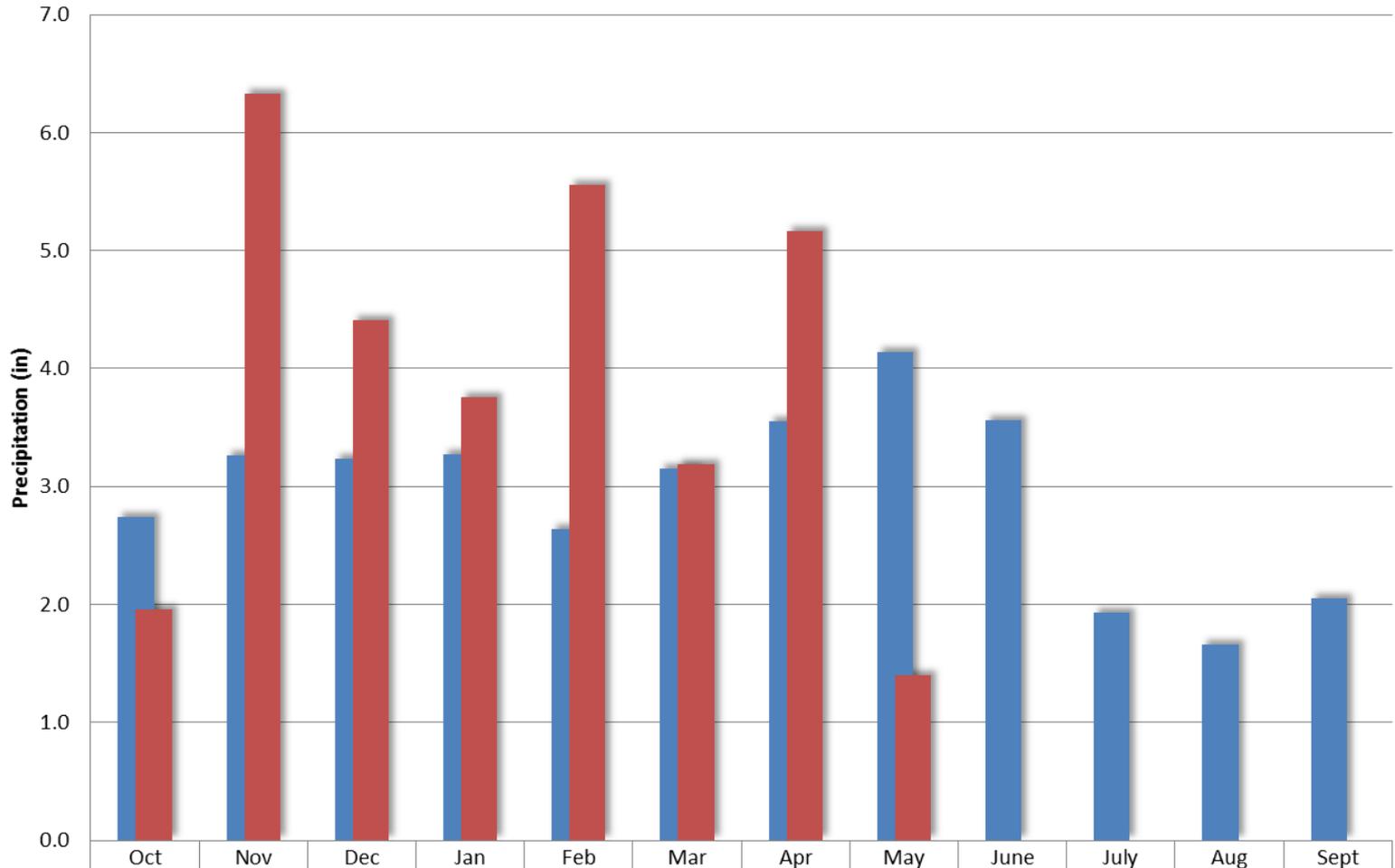


■ Avg Monthly PCP (in)	2.8	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.0	3.4	3.3	4.0	3.9	1.8	2.0	2.5
■ Monthly PCP (in)	3.2	4.5	4.6	3.2	7.2	2.4	3.1	4.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Upper Yellowstone

SNOTEL Monthly Precipitation

5/15/2018

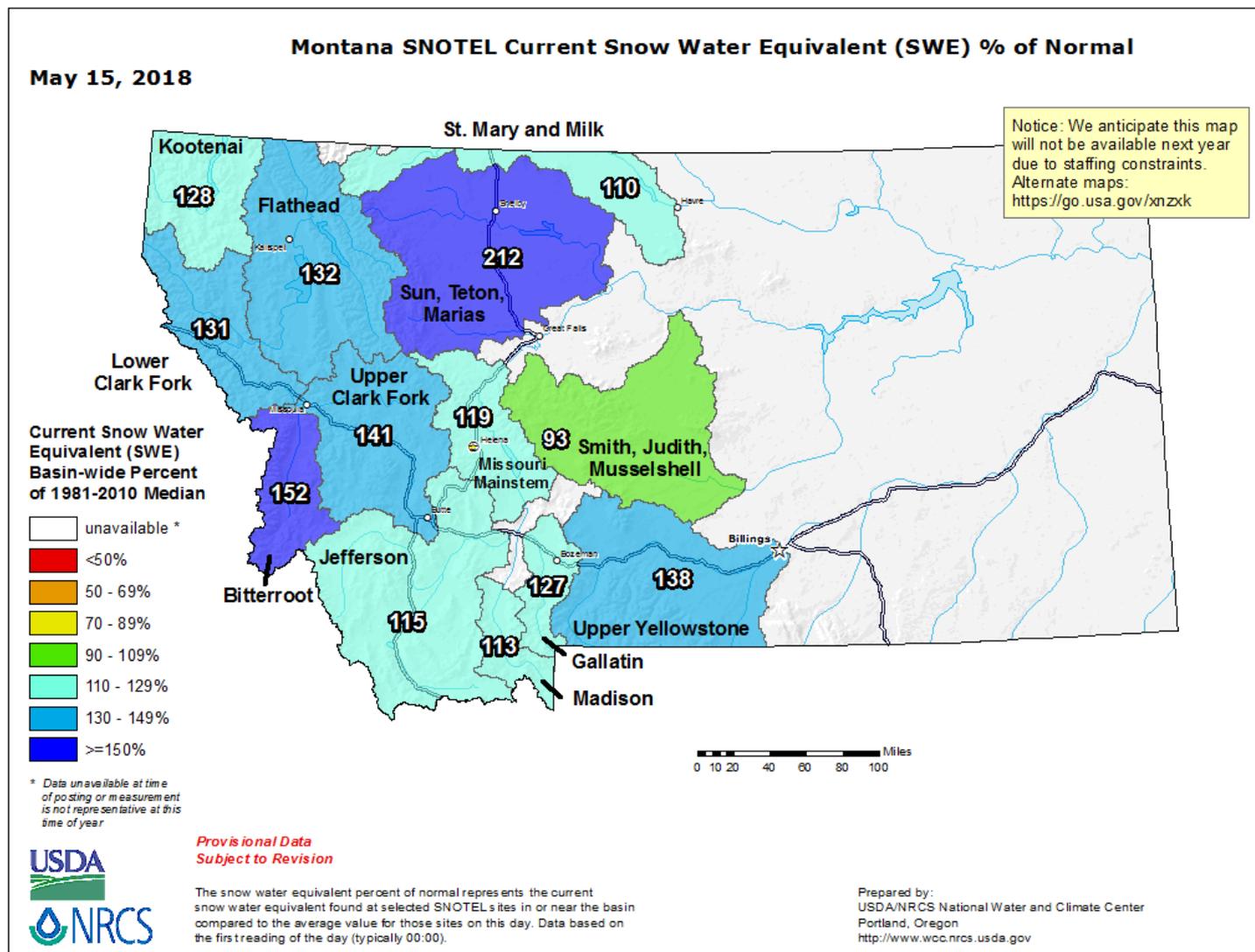


■ Avg Monthly PCP (in)

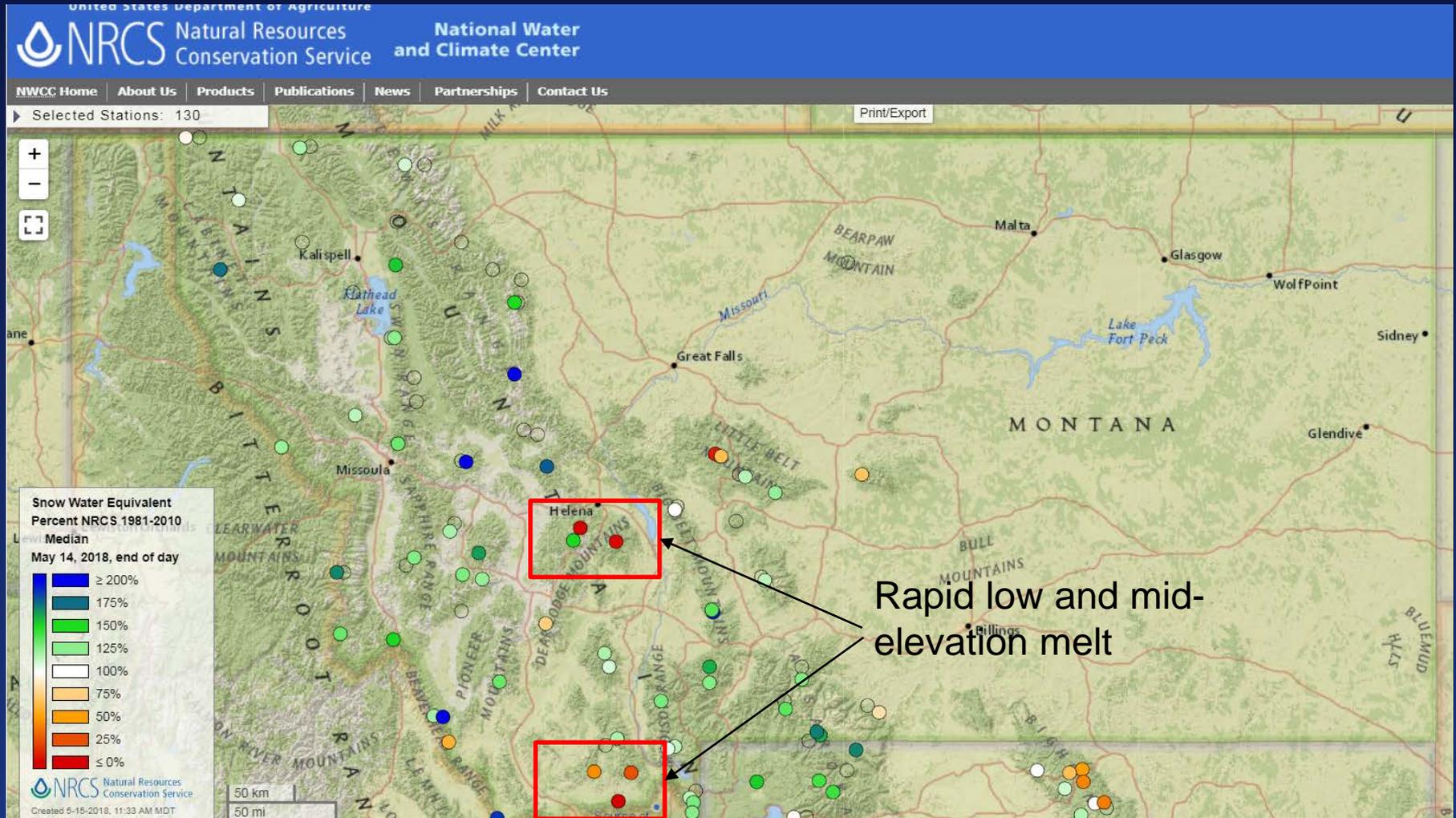
■ Monthly PCP (in)

Snowpack

Snowpack Percentages May 15th, 2018

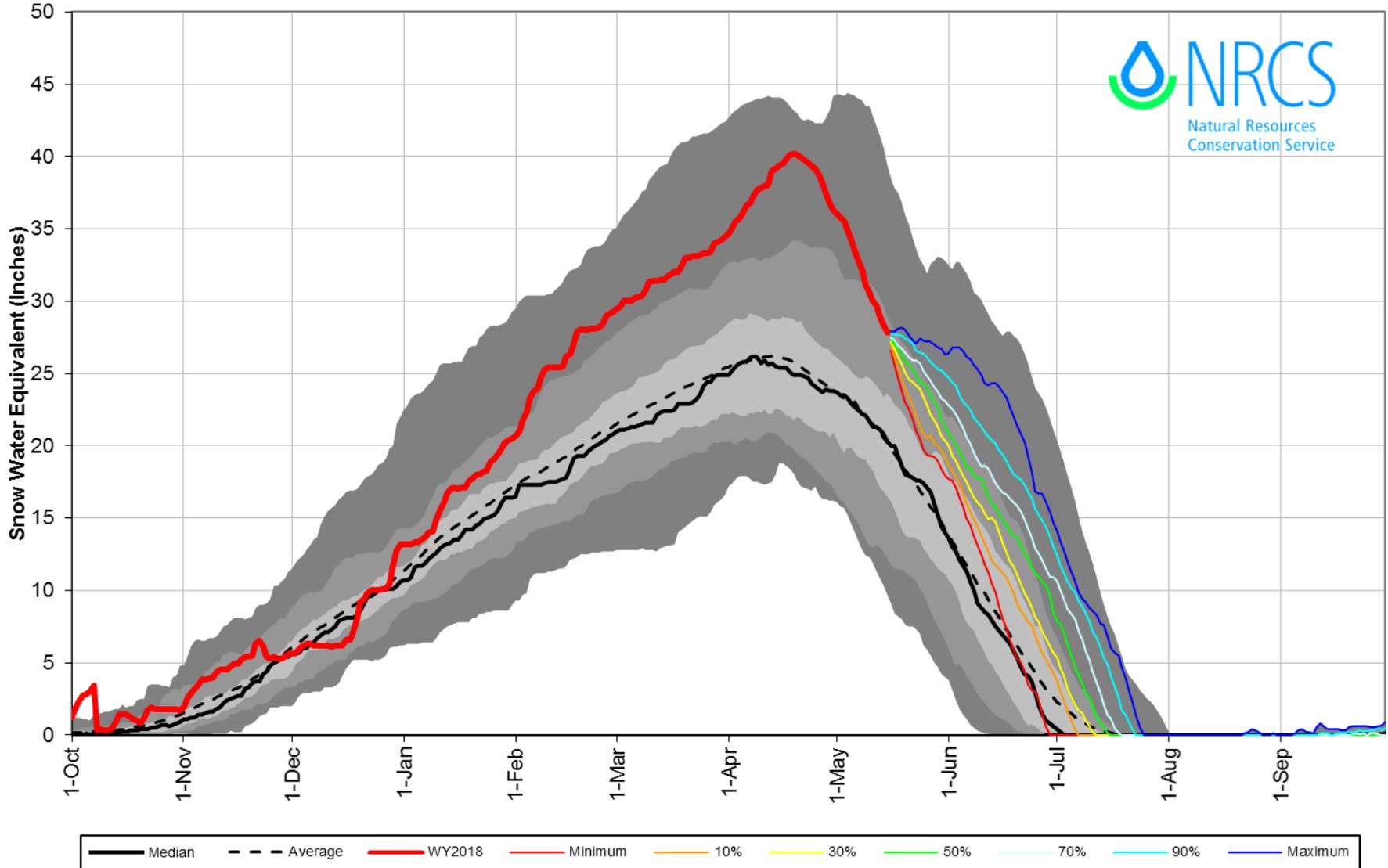


Snowpack Percentiles for May 15th, 2018



Flathead River Basin Snowpack with Non-Exceedence Projections

Based on Provisional SNOTEL Data as of May 15, 2018

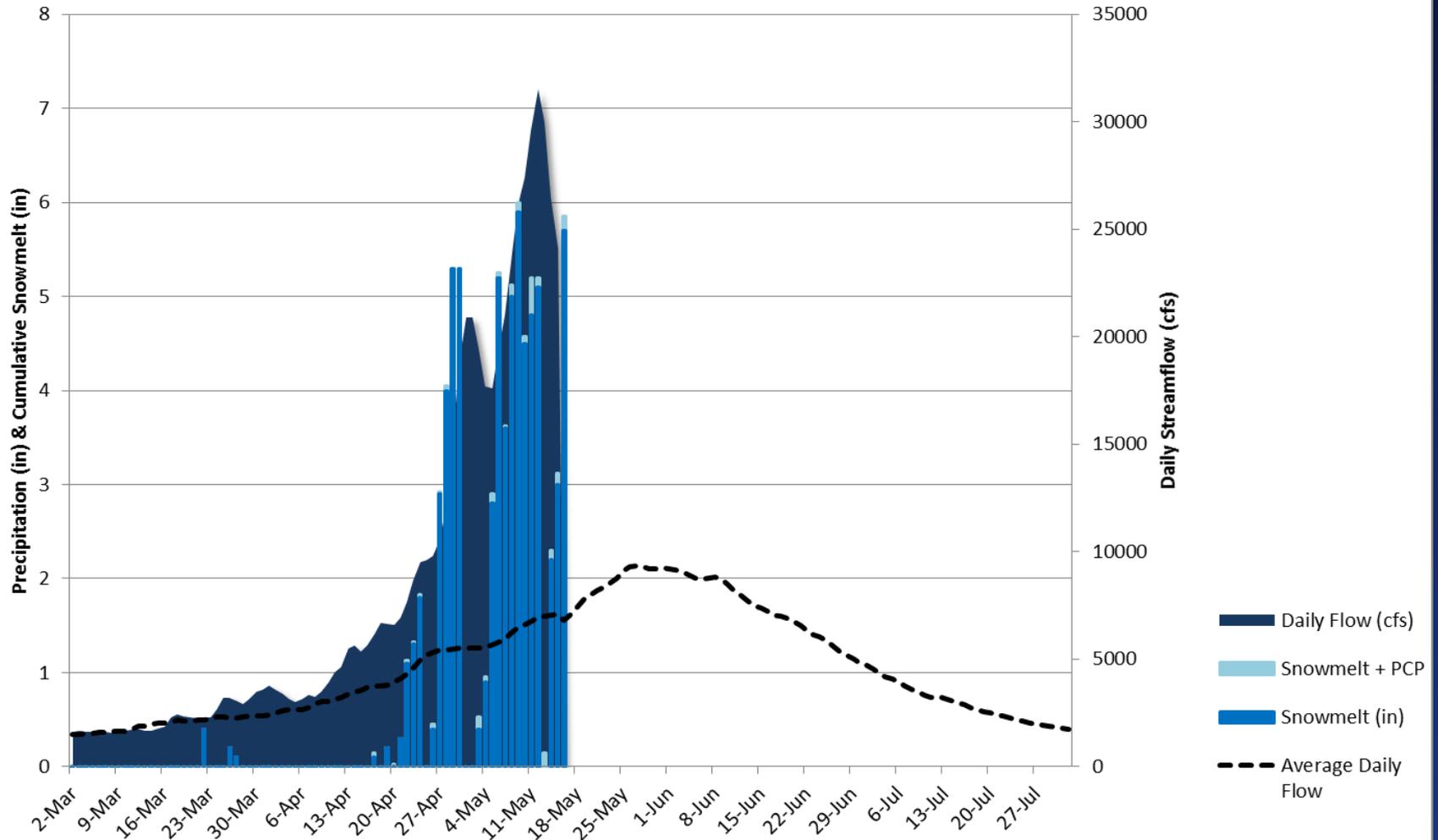




Snowmelt and Precipitation vs Daily Average Streamflow

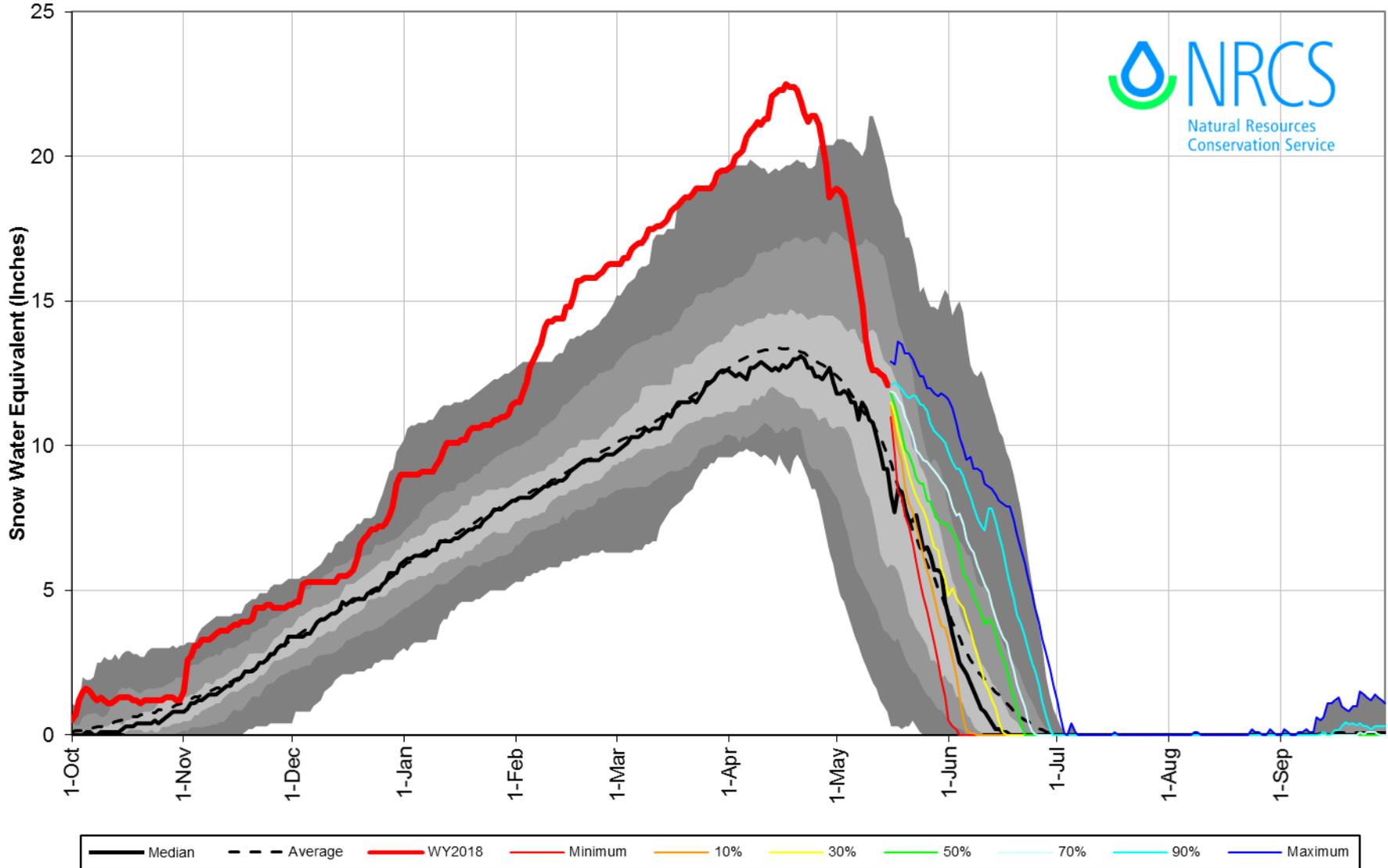
Clark Fork R ab Missoula

5/15/2018



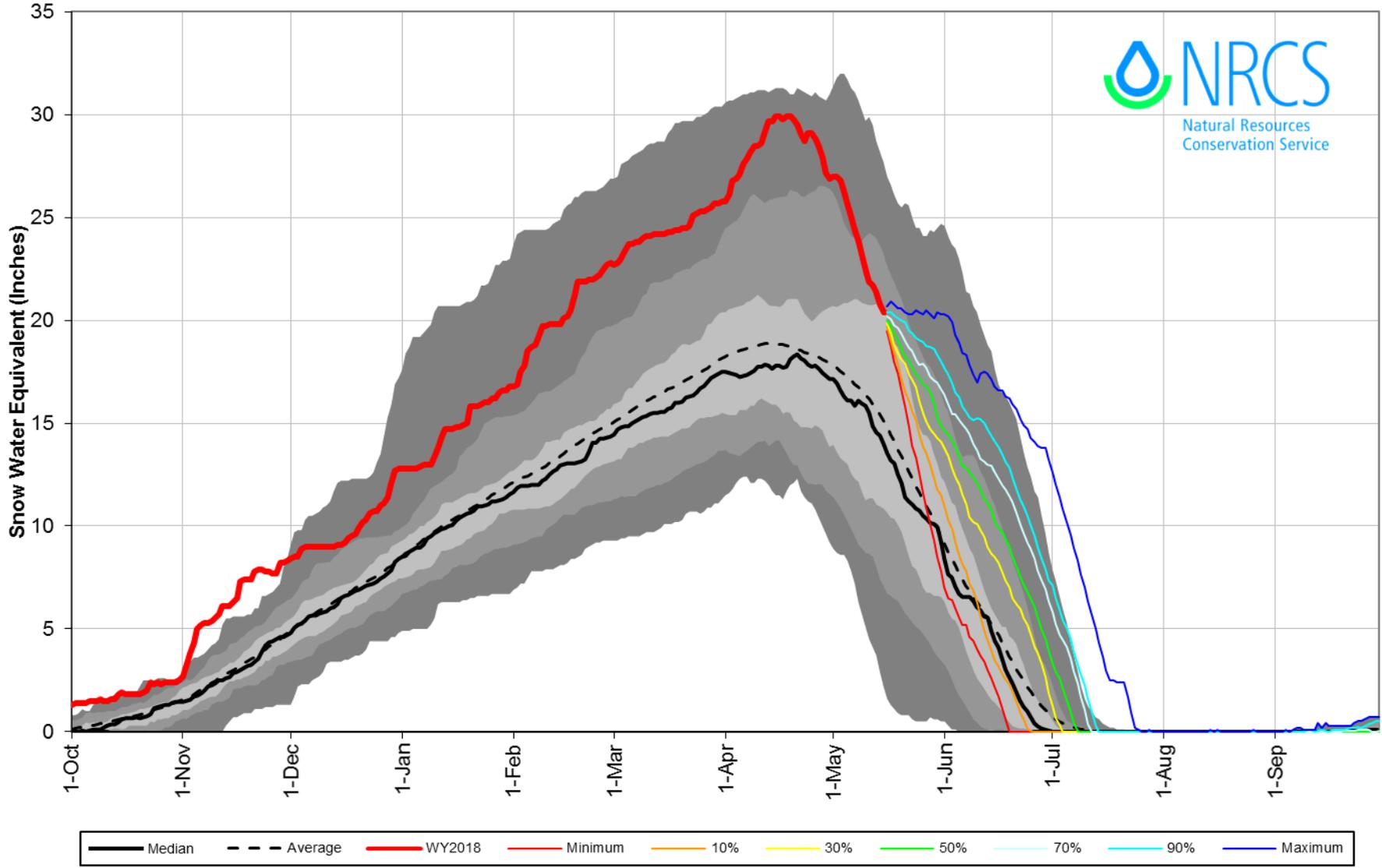
Missouri Mainstem River Basin (below Toston, above Smith) Snowpack with Non-Exceedence Projections

Based on Provisional SNOTEL Data as of May 15, 2018



Upper Yellowstone River Basin Snowpack with Non-Exceedence Projections

Based on Provisional SNOTEL Data as of May 15, 2018



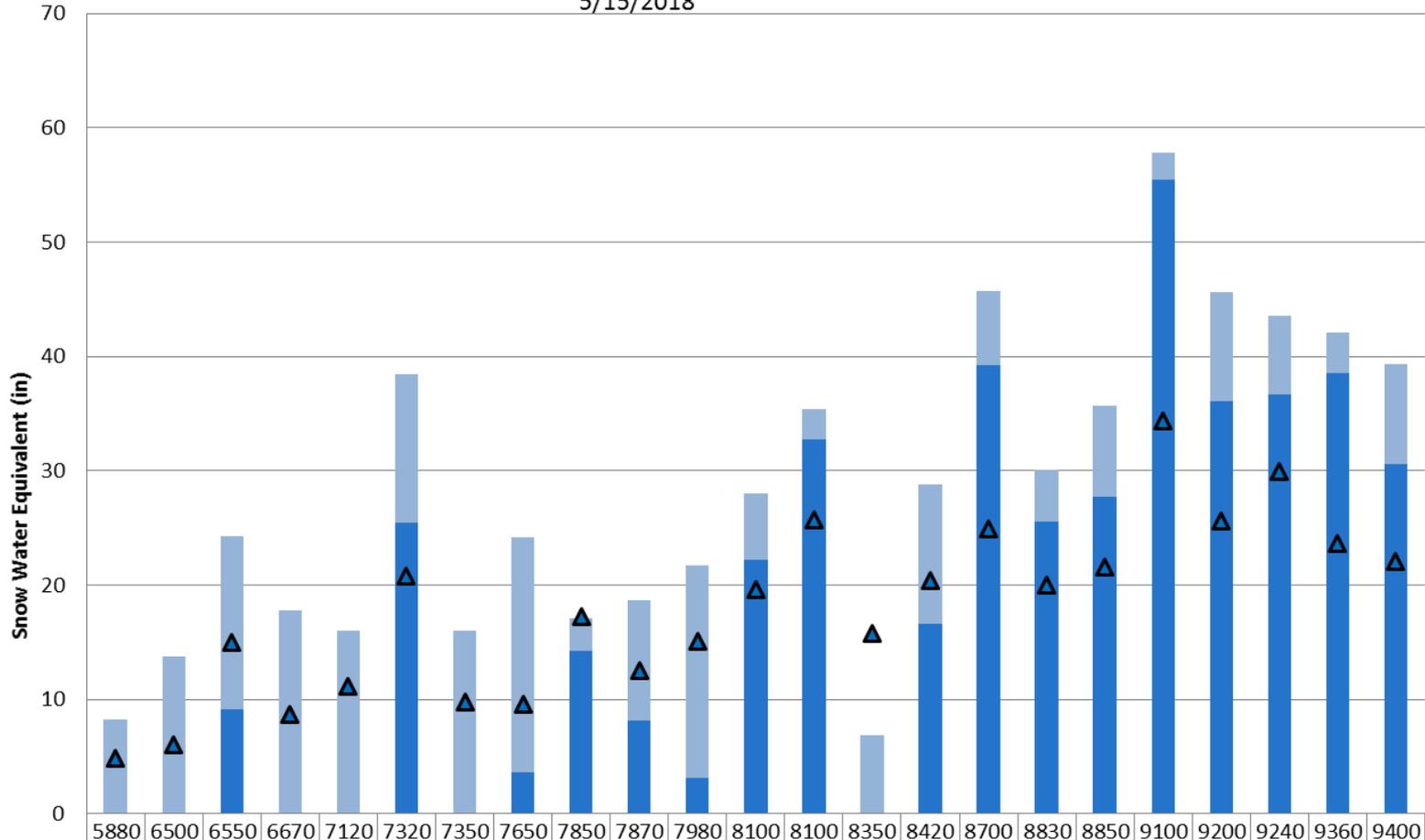
Montana Snow Survey



Upper Yellowstone

Percent Remaining Snowpack

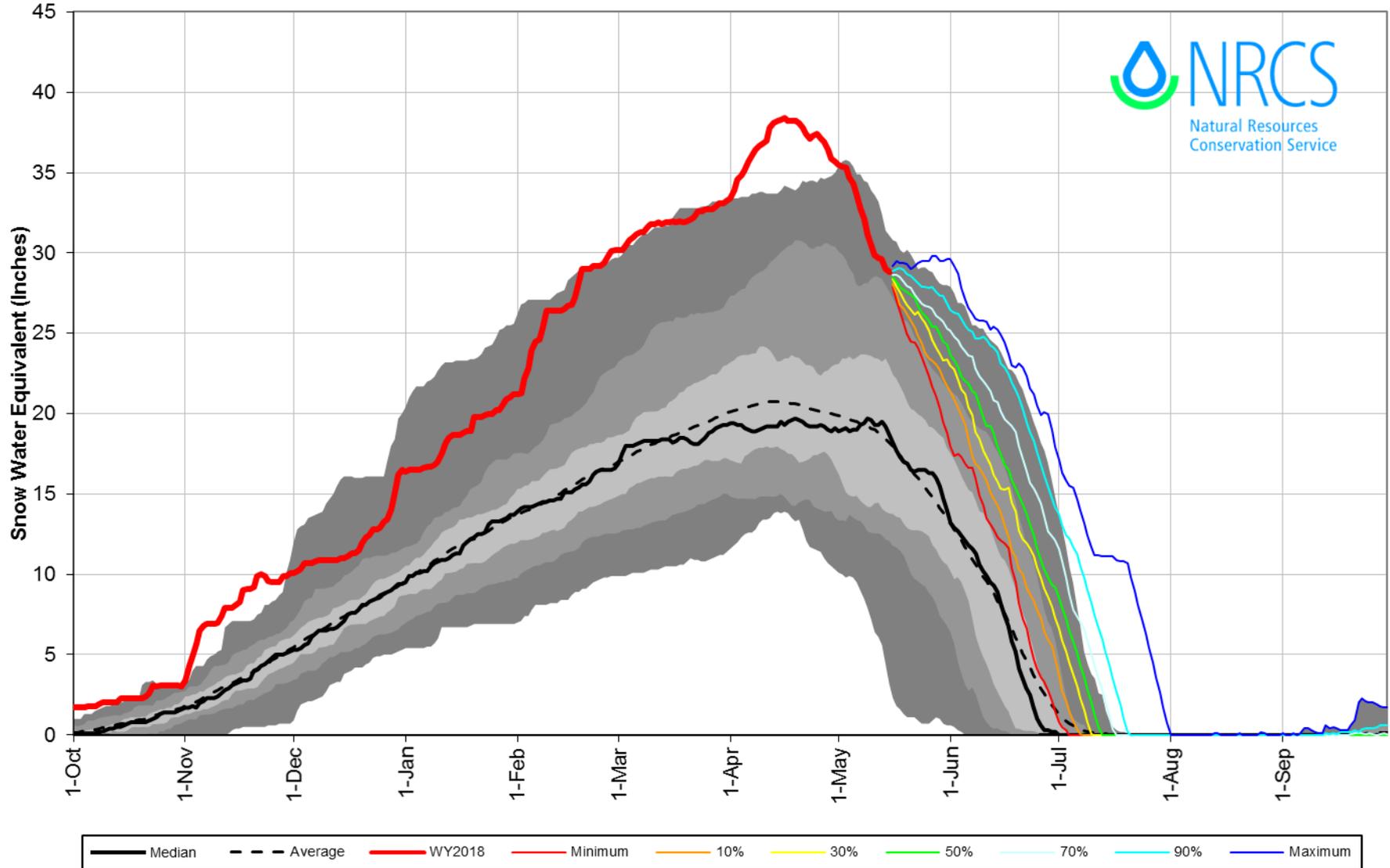
5/15/2018



■ Peak SWE	8.2	13.7	24.3	17.8	16	38.4	16	24.2	17.1	18.7	21.7	28	35.4	6.9	28.8	45.7	30.1	35.7	57.8	45.6	43.6	42.1	39.3
■ Current SWE	0	0	9.1	0	0	25.5	0	3.6	14.2	8.1	3.1	22.2	32.7		16.6	39.2	25.6	27.7	55.5	36.1	36.7	38.5	30.6
▲ Normal Peak	4.8	6.0	15.0	8.7	11.1	20.8	9.8	9.6	17.2	12.5	15.1	19.6	25.7	15.8	20.4	24.9	20.0	21.6	34.4	25.6	29.9	23.6	22.1
Percent Remaining	0%	0%	37%	0%	0%	66%	0%	15%	83%	43%	14%	79%	92%		58%	86%	85%	78%	96%	79%	84%	91%	78%
Percent of Normal			194%			137%			83%	153%	61%	115%	127%		98%	161%	128%	136%	163%	143%	126%	170%	142%

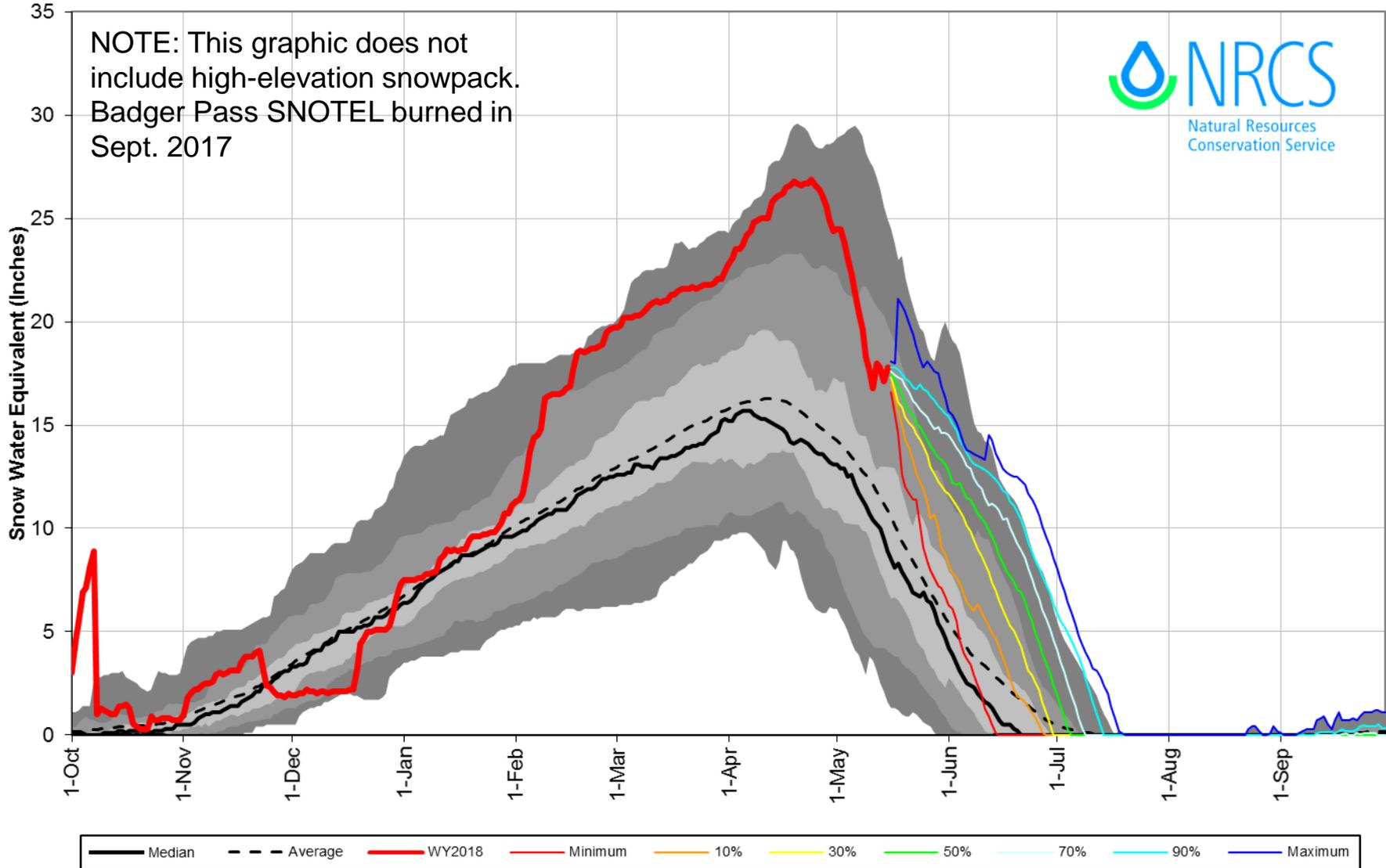
Clark's Fork of the Yellowstone River Basin Snowpack with Non-Exceedence Projections

Based on Provisional SNOTEL Data as of May 15, 2018



Sun, Teton, Marias River Basins Snowpack with Non-Exceedence Projections

Based on Provisional SNOTEL Data as of May 15, 2018



Summary

- Snowpack remains above normal for this time of year in many river basins, especially at mid and high-elevations
- Low to mid-elevation melt has been rapid in some river basins. Red Rock River basin and snowpack feeding streams that flow into Helena, and Boulder River, most effected.
- Significant snowpack remaining at mid and high elevations will sustain long-duration high flows over the month (or two), but length of this will be weather dependent.
- Streamflow forecasts as of May 1st indicate near to well above average seasonal river volumes for the May 1st – July 31st time period. Some forecasted values are approaching record flows for some river basins.
- The coming month will be *critical* in determining the timing and volume of runoff this spring and summer.



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Natural Resources Conservation Service

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