

Water Supply Outlook

April 15, 2026



Water Management and Planning
CSKT, Division of Water and Engineering Resources

Amanda Courville
Shane Hendrickson
Brian Hogenson

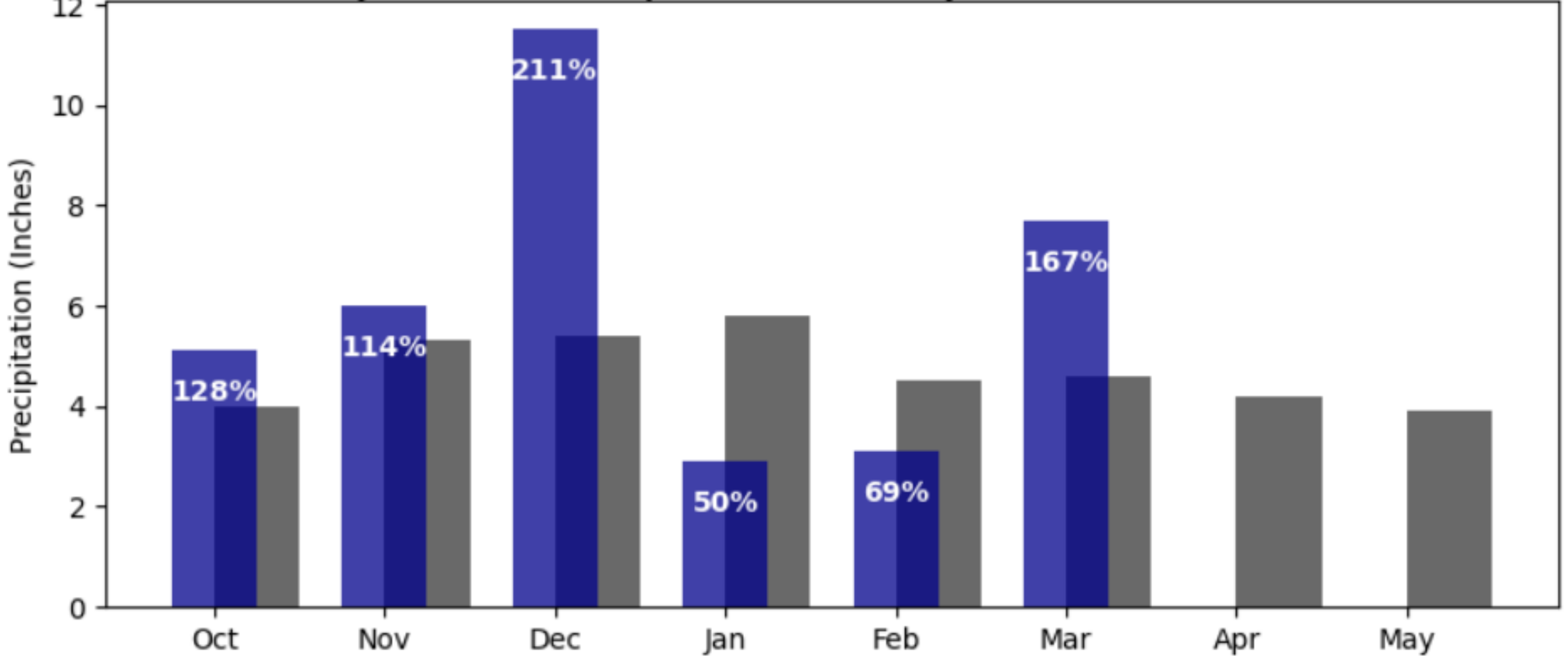
DRAFT – Not Approved by CITT

Overview

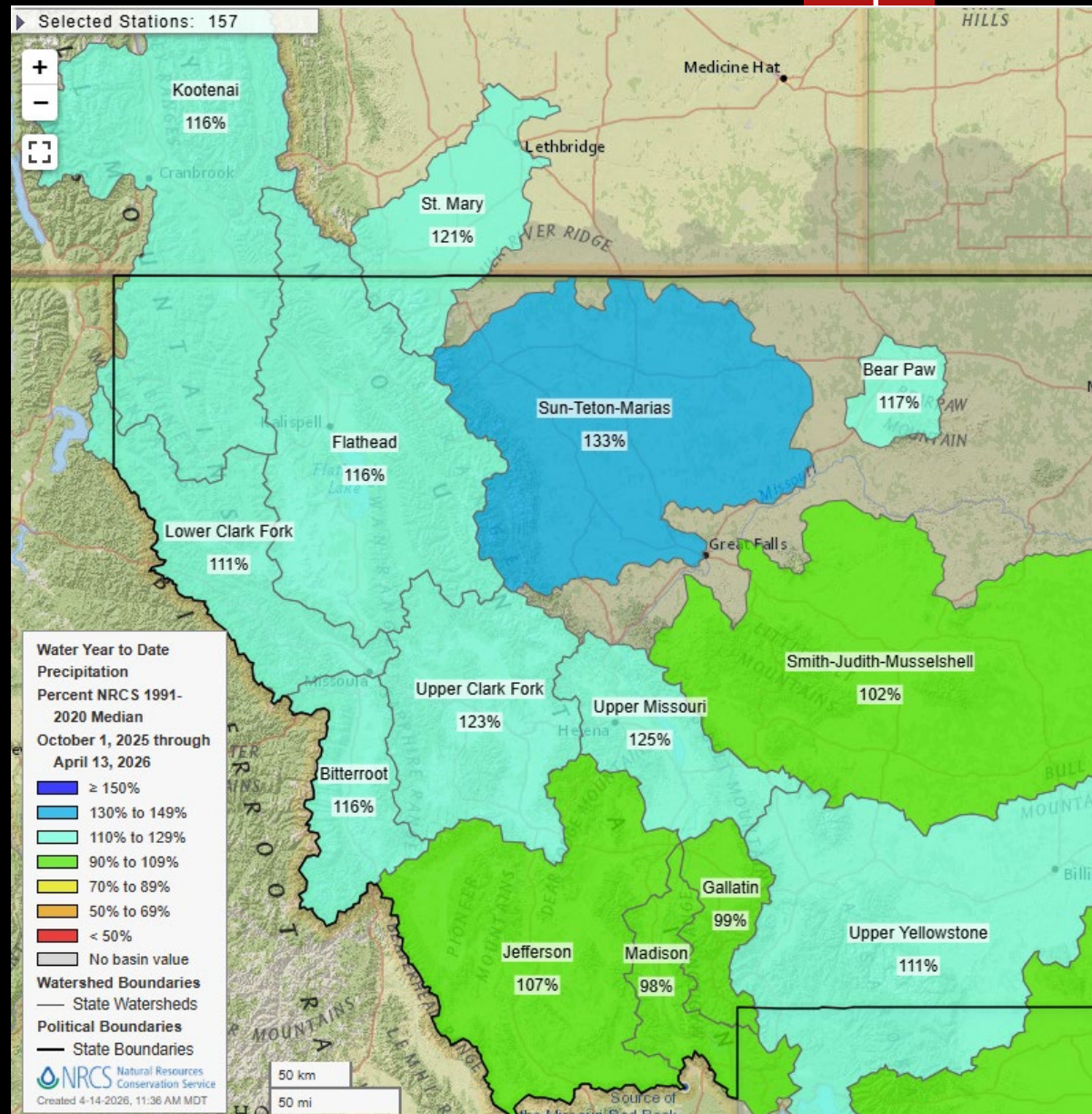
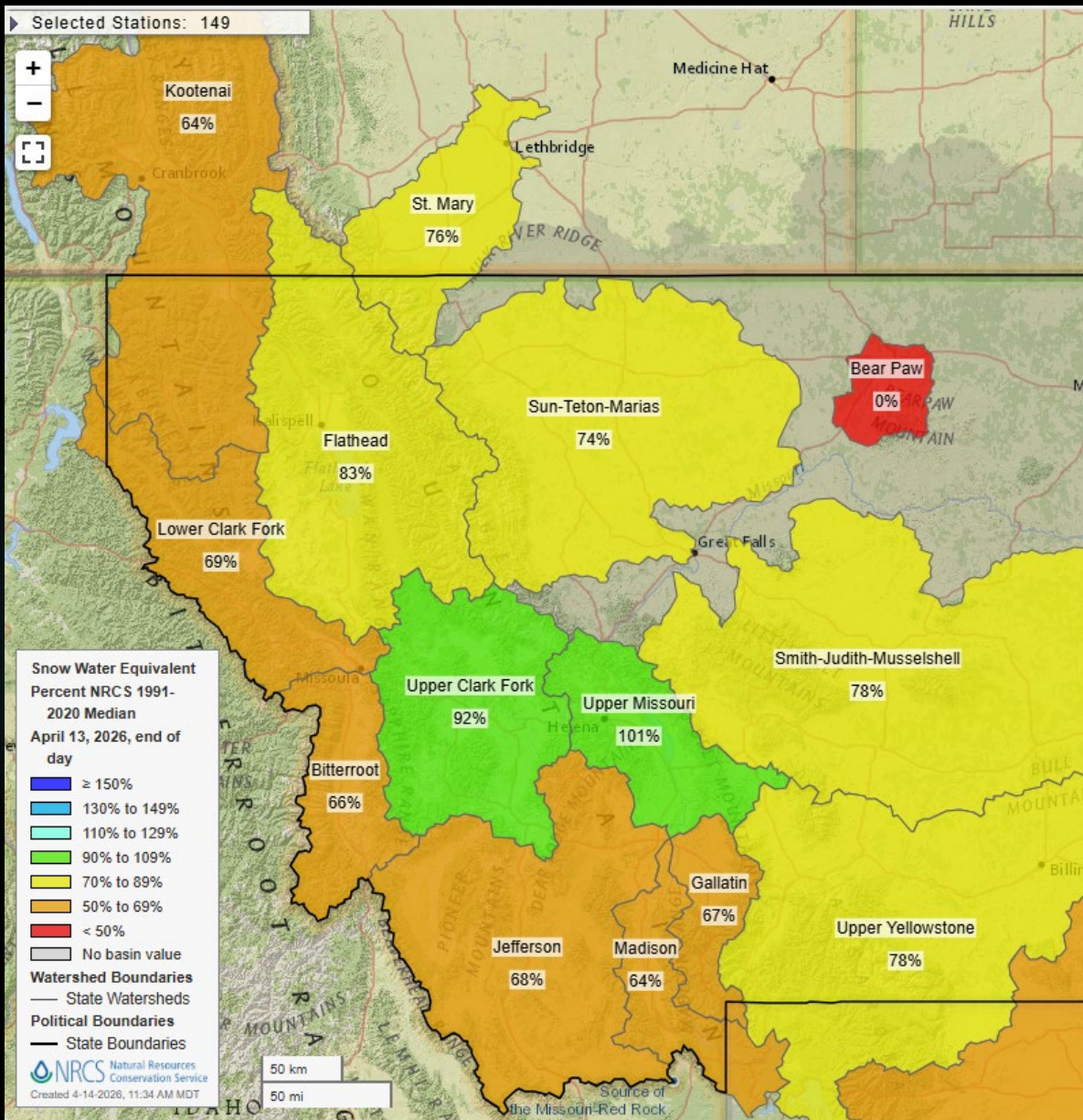
- ▶ **March saw above average precipitation (167% in Flathead), but warm weather melted the majority of snow accumulations.**
- ▶ **Accumulated precipitation for the Flathead is still above average at 116%**
- ▶ **Snowpack in the Flathead is at 83% (April 15, 2026)**
- ▶ **Lower elevation SNOTEL sites are experiencing early melt out**
- ▶ **Overall, reservoir storage is improved compared to 2025**
- ▶ **Flathead Basin Streamflow forecasts are predicting ~84% of normal for the remainder of water year 2026**

Median
Current

Flathead - Monthly Accumulated Precipitation (SNOTEL Only)



Basin SWE vs Precipitation

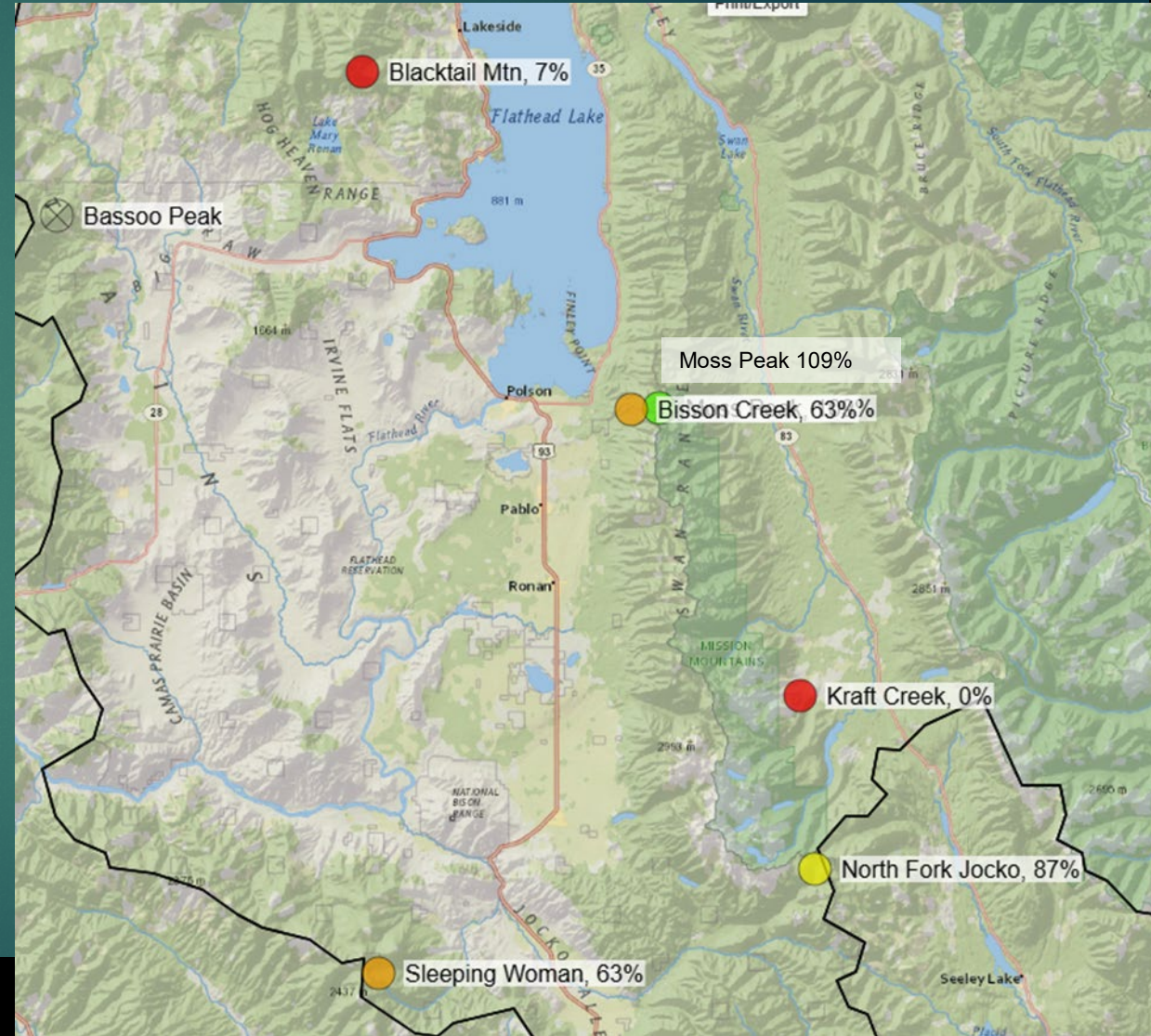
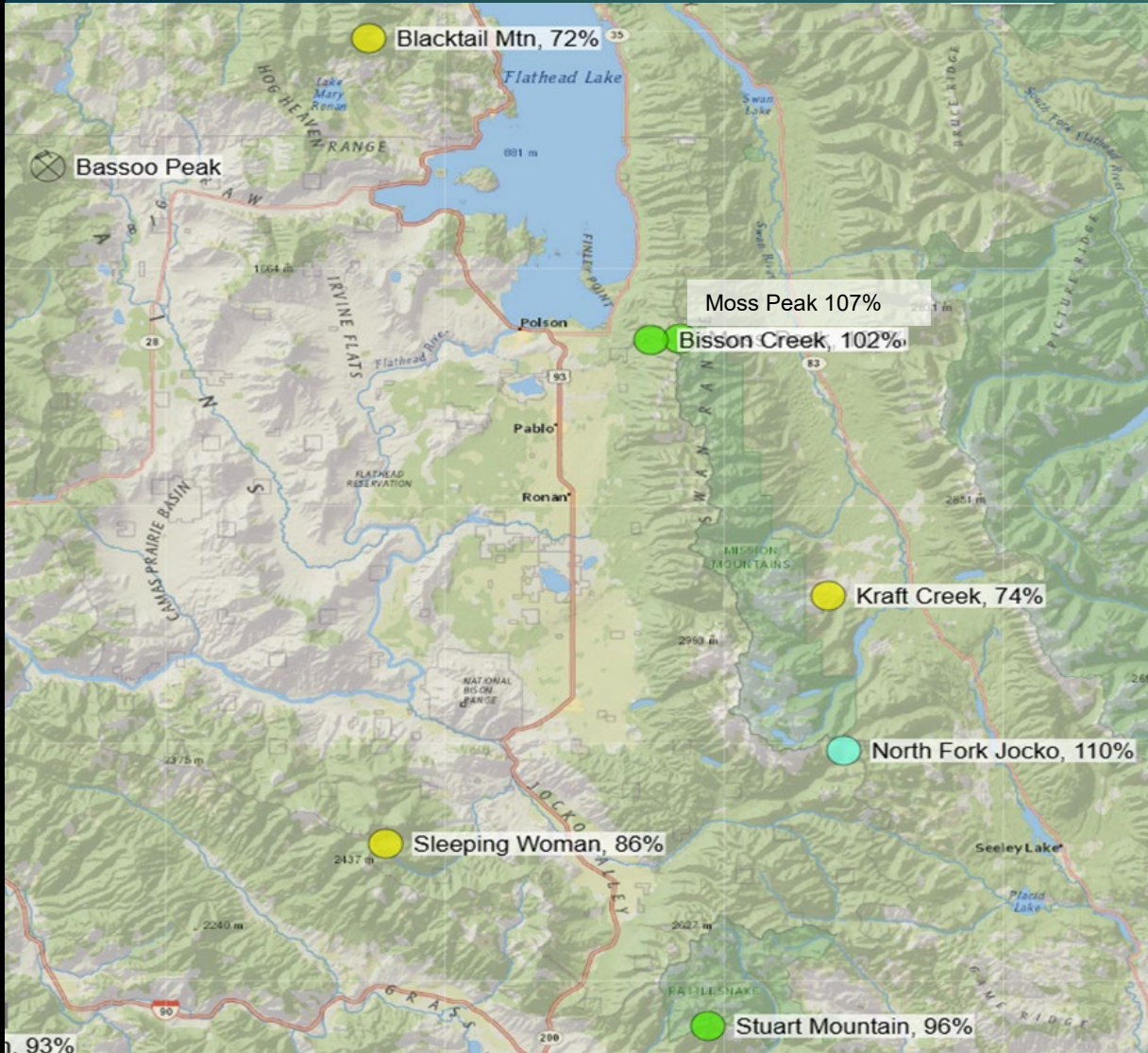


April 2025

vs

April 2026⁵

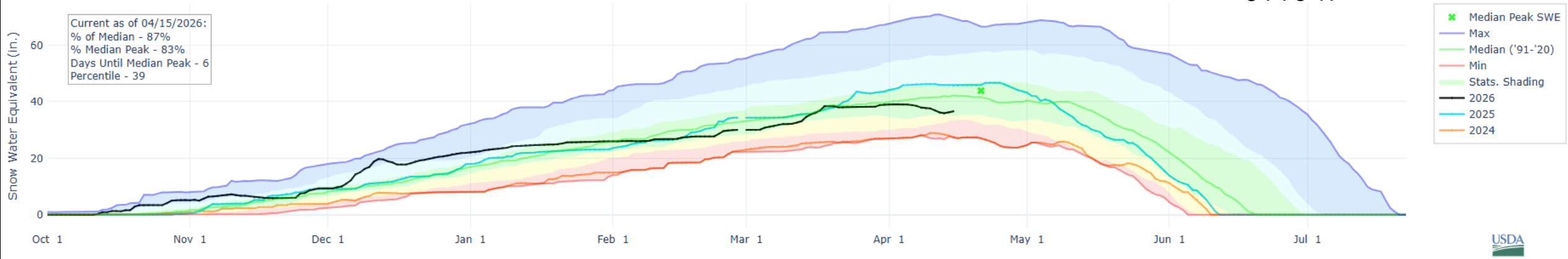
5



High Elevation SWE

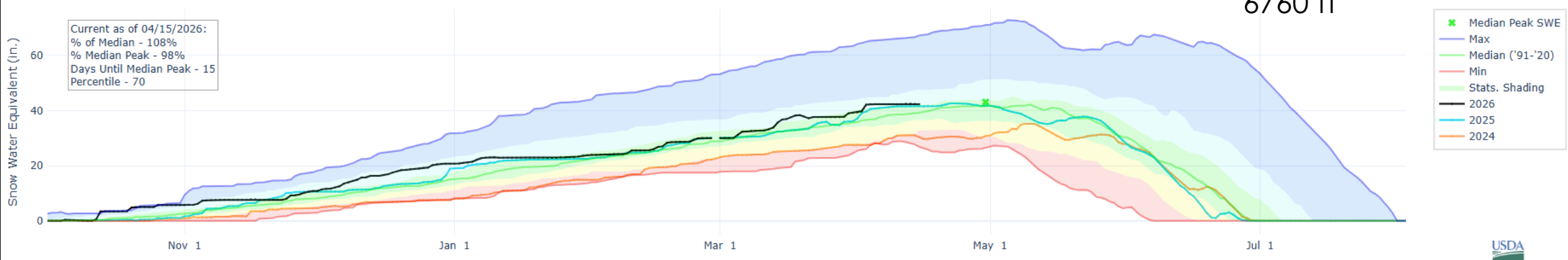
NORTH FORK JOCKO, MT (667) SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT

6110 ft



MOSS PEAK, MT (646) SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT

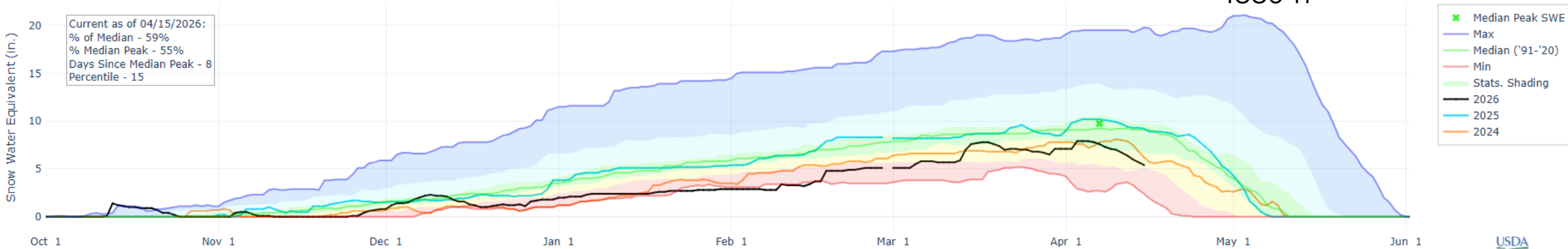
6760 ft



Low Elevation SWE

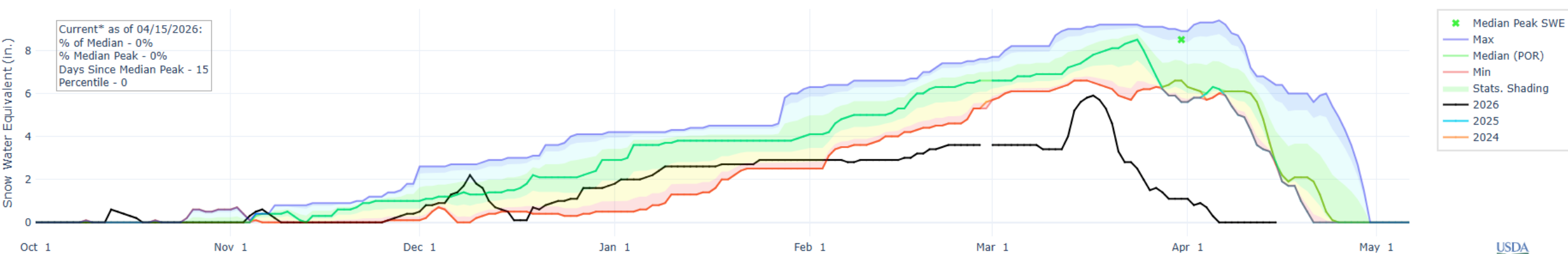
BISSON CREEK, MT (346) SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT

4880 ft

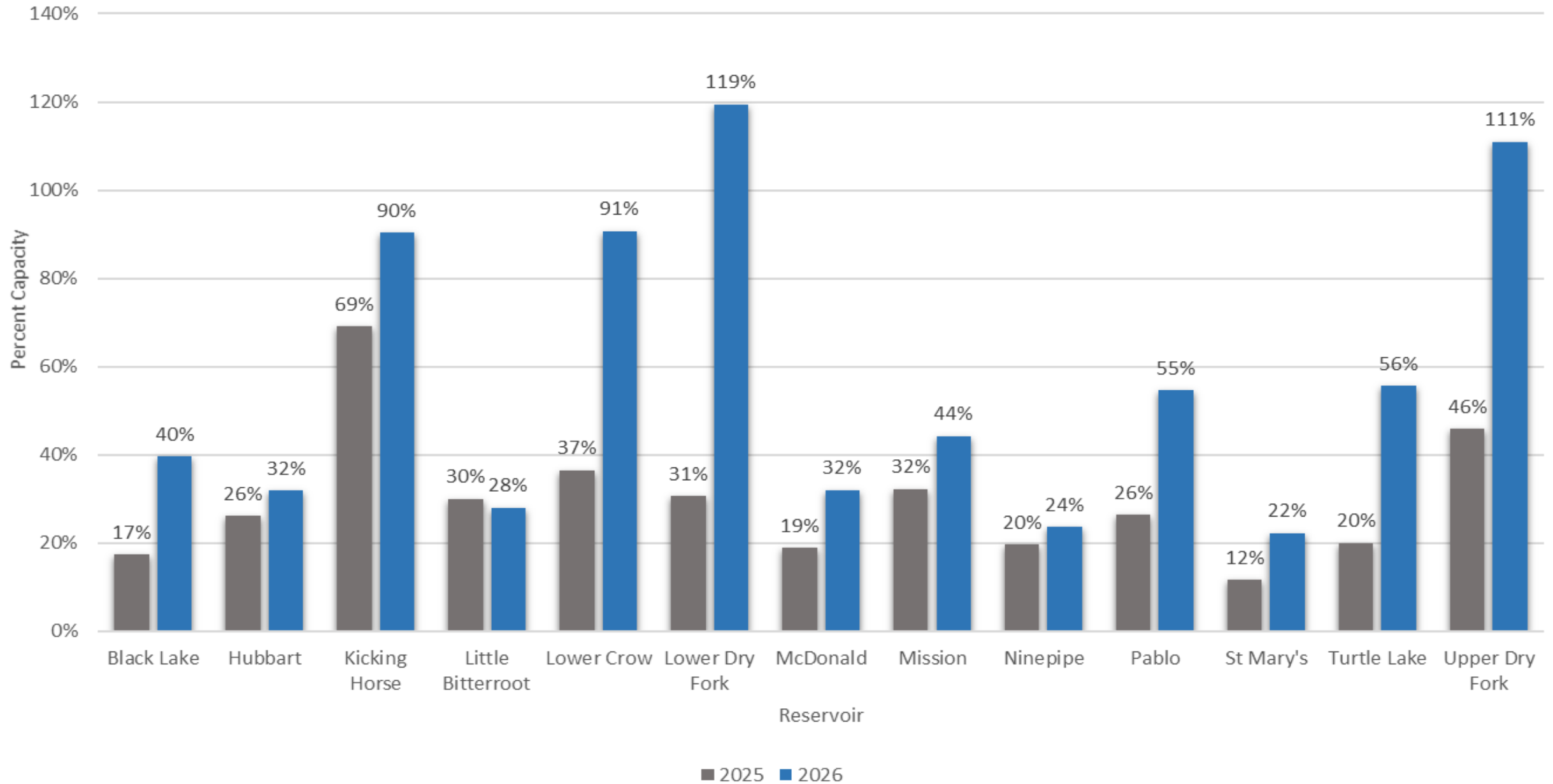


BASSOO PEAK, MT (1190) SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT

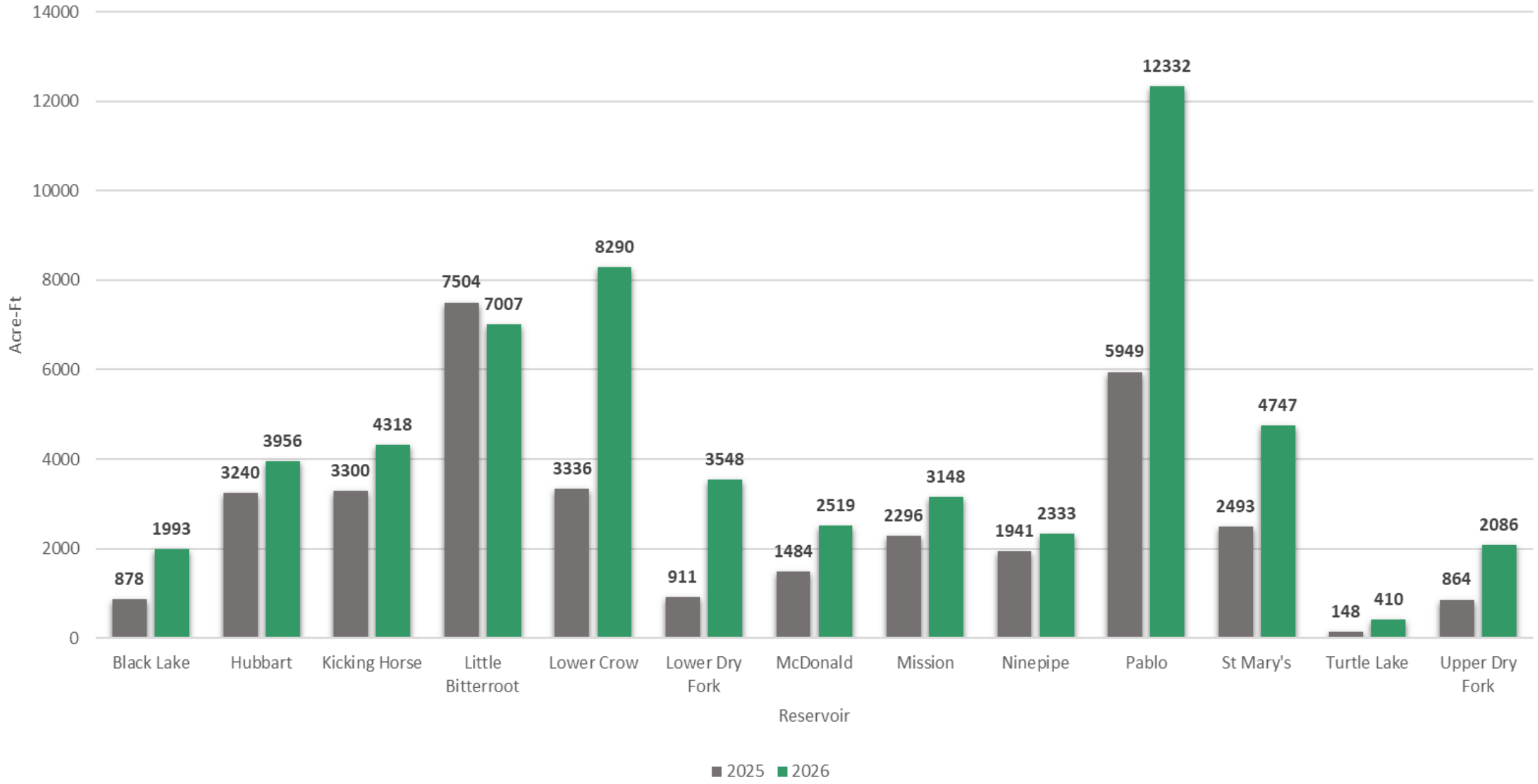
5130 ft



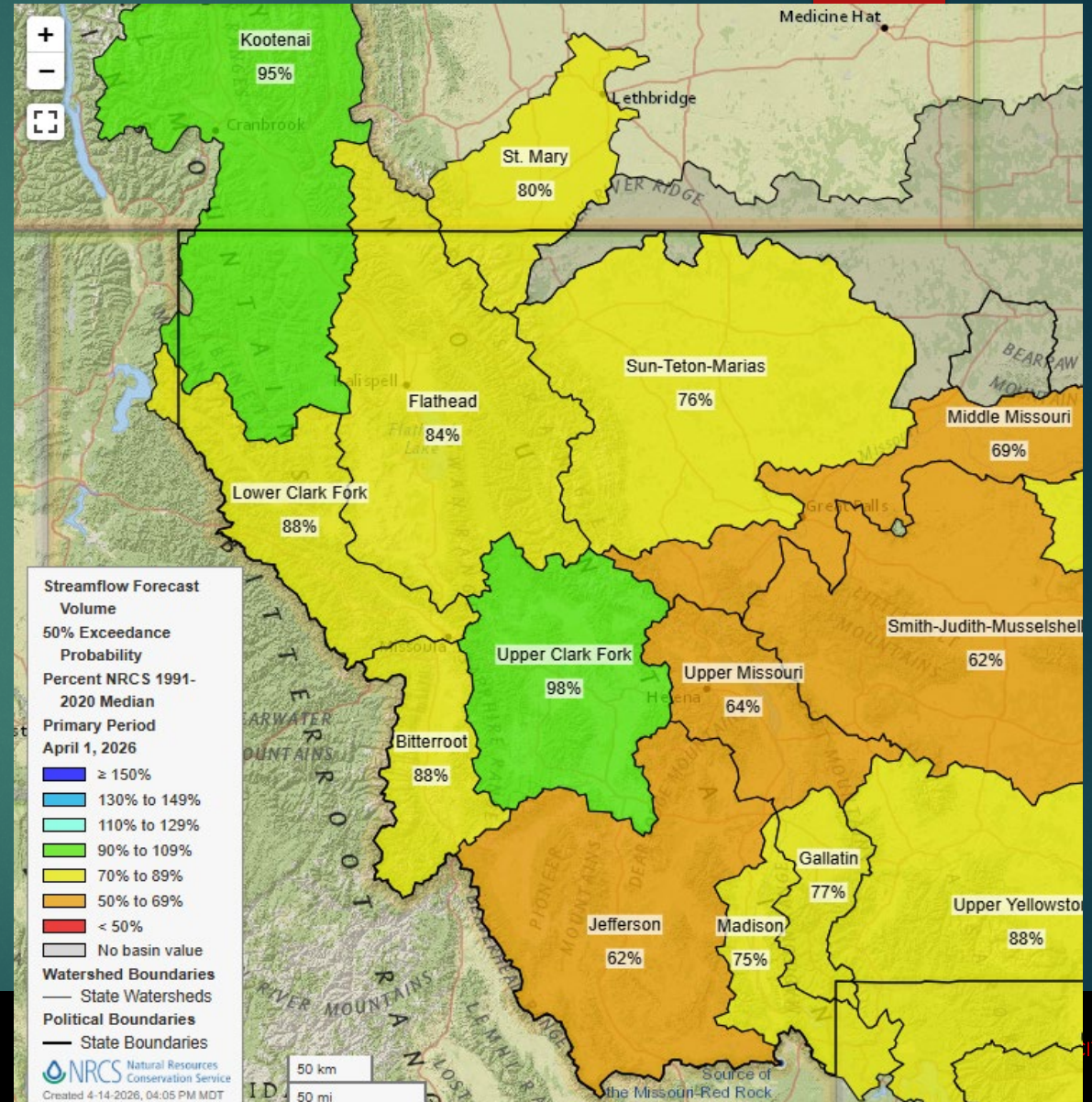
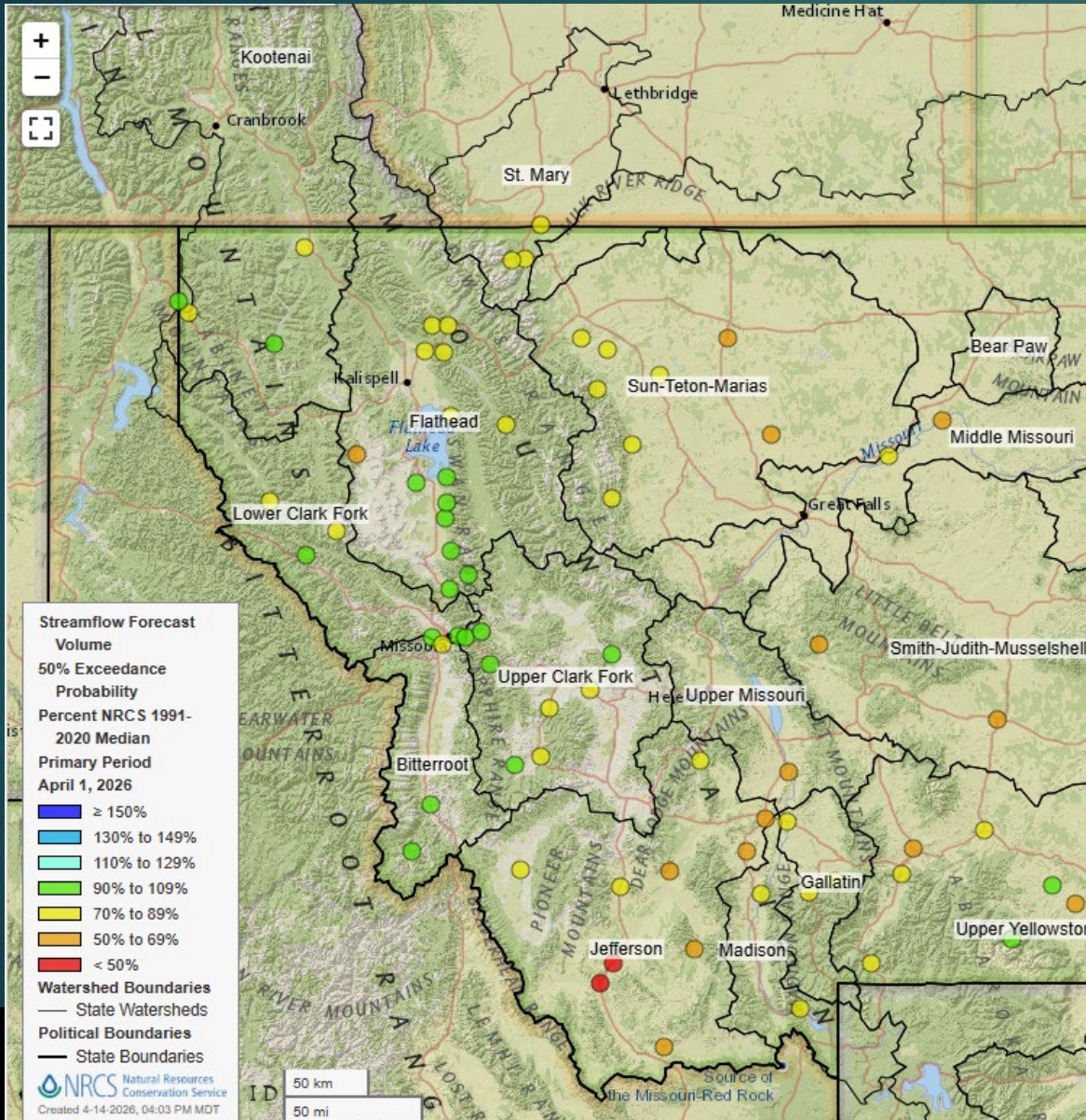
Reservoir Percent Capacity April 15



Reservoir Storage (Acre-ft) April 15



Streamflow Forecast

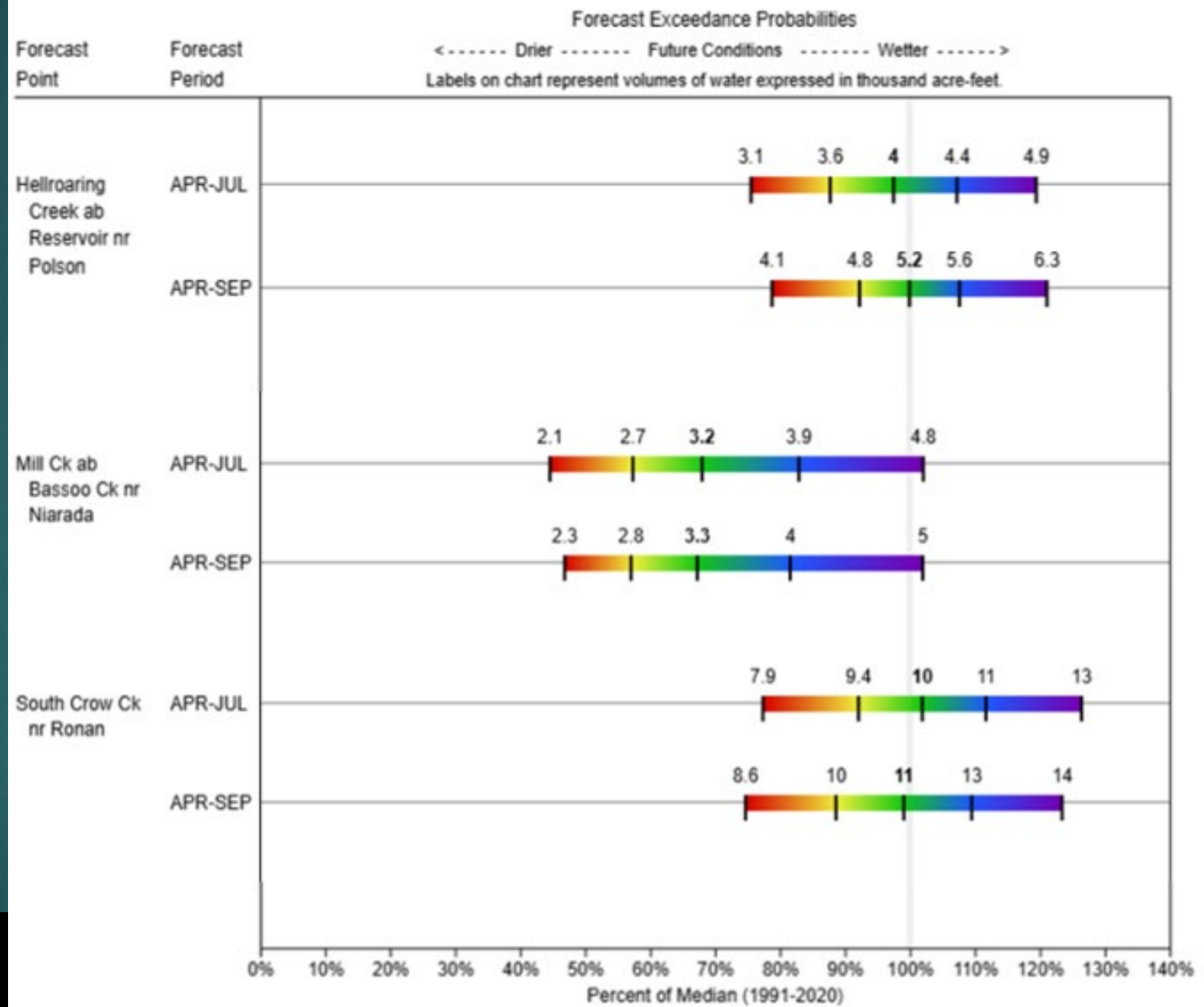


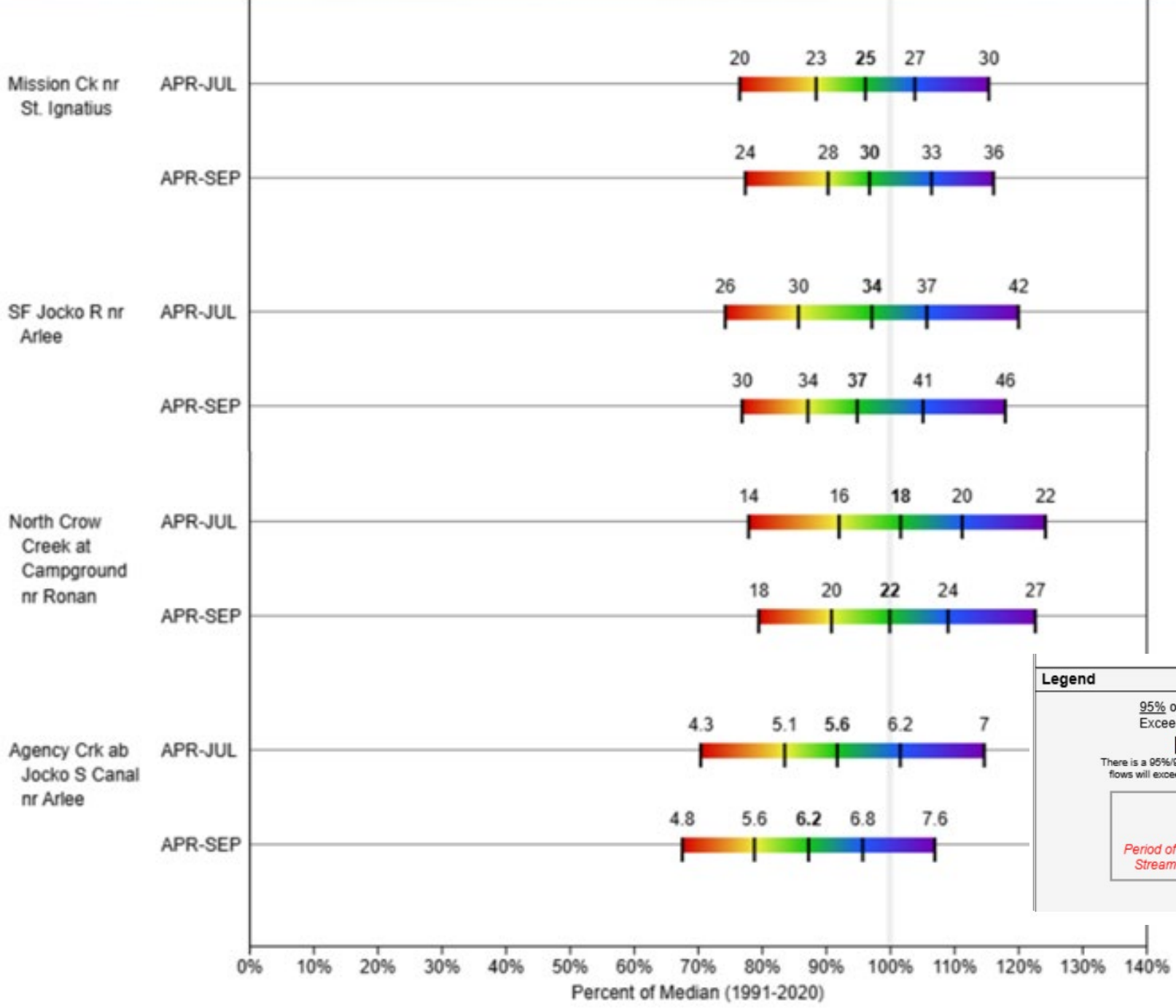
Flathead Basin Streamflow Forecast

Table 1: April 2026 Water Year NRCS Streamflow Forecast

Geographic Area	Gage Site	April NRCS Forecast				Site-Specific Water Year Thresholds		
		70%	50%	30%	% Median	Dry Year	Normal Year	Wet Year
Jocko	South Fork Jocko near Arlee	30,000	34,000	37,000	97%	<24,000	24,000 - 36,000	>36,000
	Agency Creek	5,100	5,600	6,200	92%	<4,640	4,640-6,880	>6,880
Mission	Hellroaring Creek	3,600	4,000	4,400	98%	<3,350	3,350-4,750	>4,750
	North Crow Creek near Ronan	16,300	18,000	19,700	102%	<14,400	14,400-22,700	>22,700
	South Crow Creek near Ronan	9,400	10,400	11,400	102%	<7,700	7,700 - 11,800	>11,800
	Mission Creek	23,000	25,000	27,000	96%	<21,100	21,100 - 29,000	>29,000
Little Bitterroot	Mill Creek above Bassoo Creek near Niarada	2,700	3,200	3,900	68%	<2,200	2,200 - 4,900	>4,900
		Wet						
		Normal				*all values are in acre feet		
		Dry						

FLATHEAD
Water Supply Forecasts
 April 1, 2026





Legend

95% or 90% Exceedance 70% Exceedance 50% Exceedance 30% Exceedance 10% or 5% Exceedance

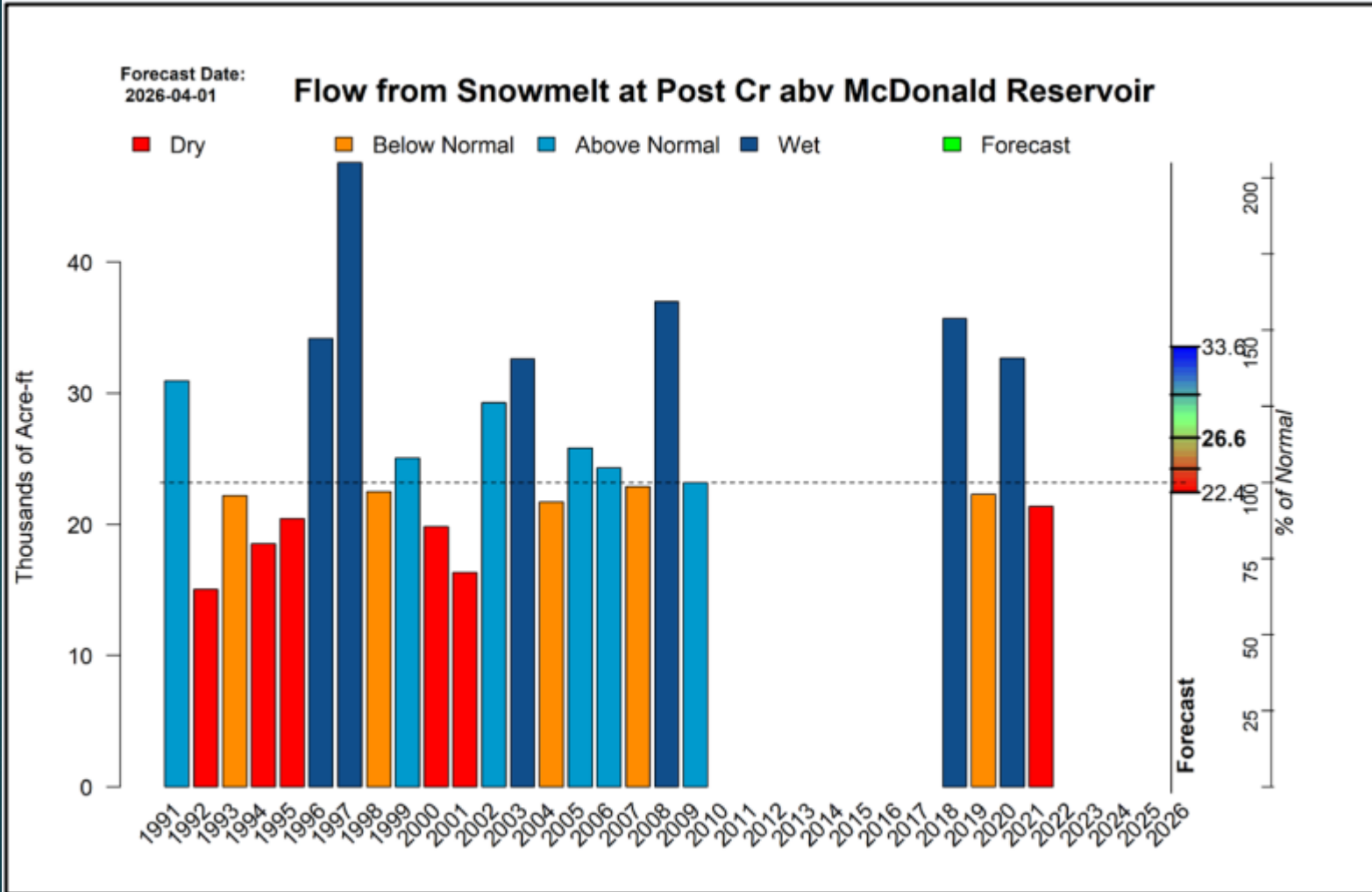
There is a 95%/90% chance that flows will exceed this volume There is a 70% chance that flows will exceed this volume There is a 50% chance that flows will exceed this volume There is a 30% chance that flows will exceed this volume There is a 10%/5% chance that flows will exceed this volume

When selected, the following historic streamflow values and statistics will be shown.

| *Period of Record Minimum Streamflow KAF (Year)*
 | *1991-2020 Normal Streamflow KAF*
 | *Observed Streamflow KAF*
 | *Period of Record Maximum Streamflow KAF (Year)*

Some forecasts may be for volumes that are regulated or influenced by diversions and water management.

Post Creek above McDonald Reservoir



- From April 1-July 31 an average of 33,292 acre feet recorded at Post Creek
- ~70% of flow at Post Creek is from snowmelt (23,199 AF)
- April 1 forecast predicts 26,609 AF from snowmelt (115%)
- Precipitation in excess of average (12.8in) could increase volume considerably.

