

# Water Supply Outlook

May 13, 2026



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

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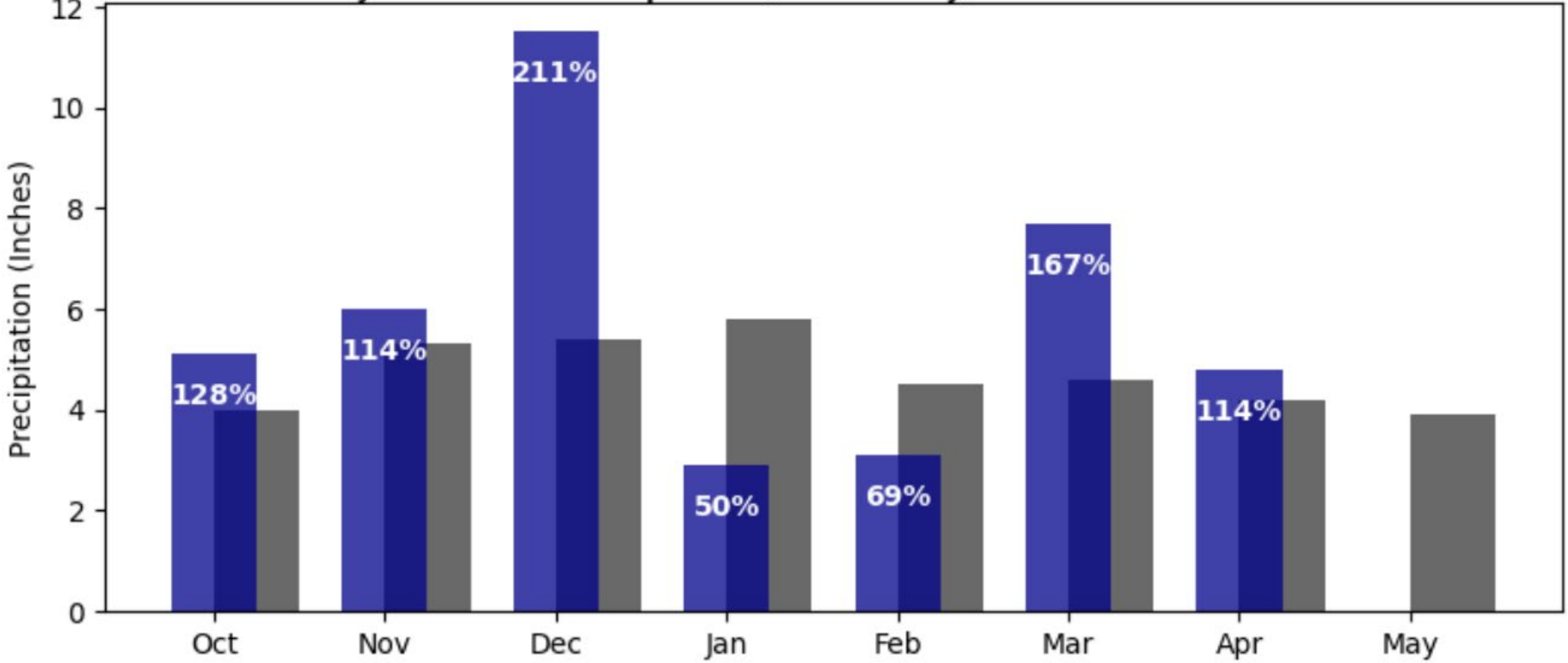
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# Overview

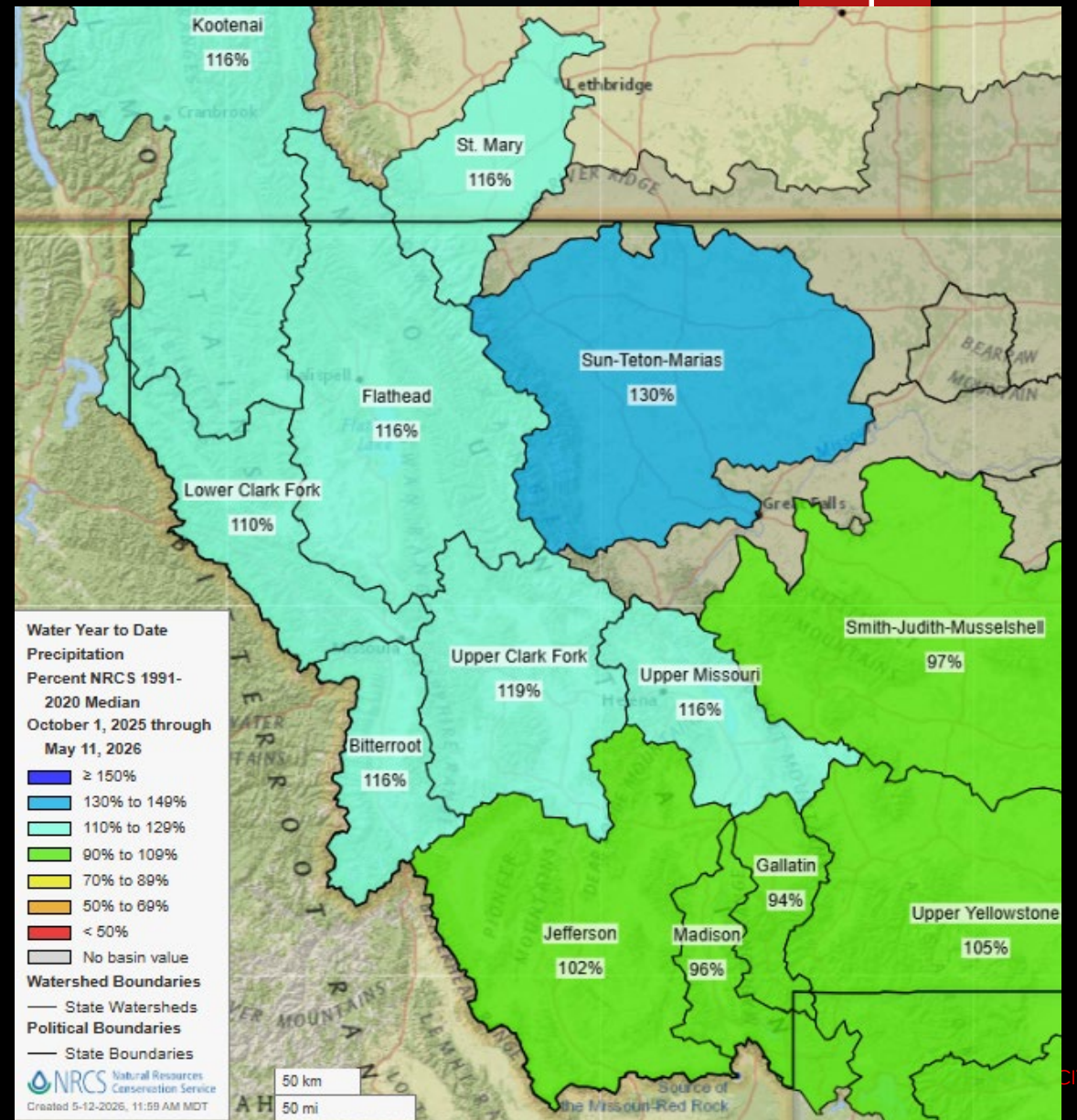
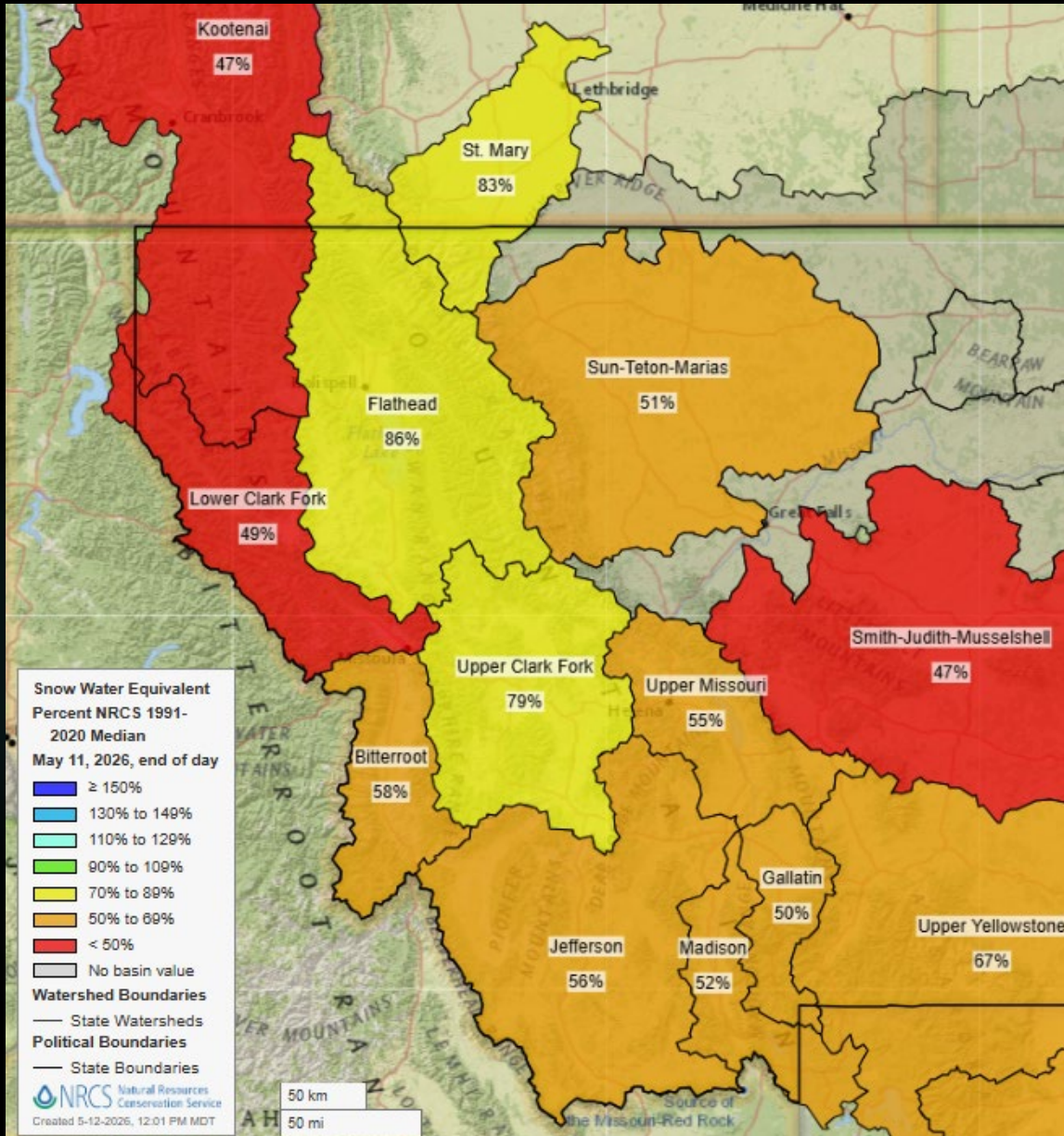
- ▶ April saw slightly above average precipitation (114% in Flathead), and warmer than normal temperatures.
- ▶ Accumulated precipitation for the Flathead is still above average at 116%
- ▶ Snowpack in the Flathead is at 86% (May 12, 2026)
- ▶ Lower elevation SNOTEL sites (below 6,000 ft) have melted out
- ▶ Overall, reservoir storage is improved compared to 2025
- ▶ Flathead Basin Streamflow forecasts are predicting ~92% of normal for the remainder of water year 2026

Median  
Current

Flathead - Monthly Accumulated Precipitation (SNOTEL Only)



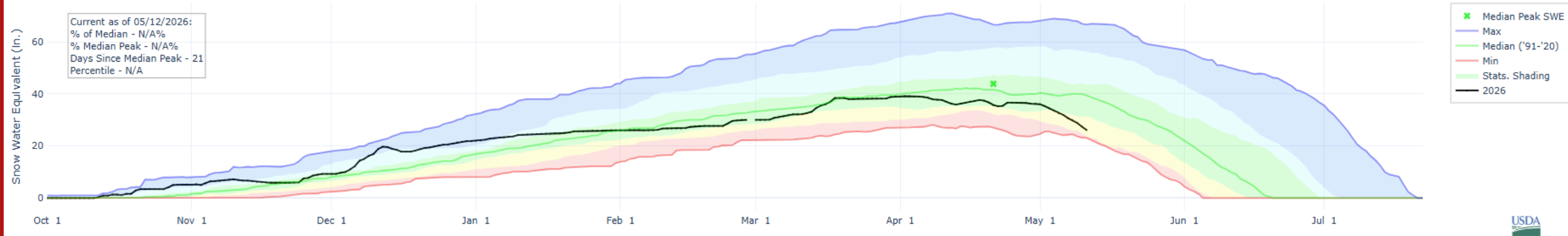
# Basin SWE vs Precipitation



# High Elevation SWE

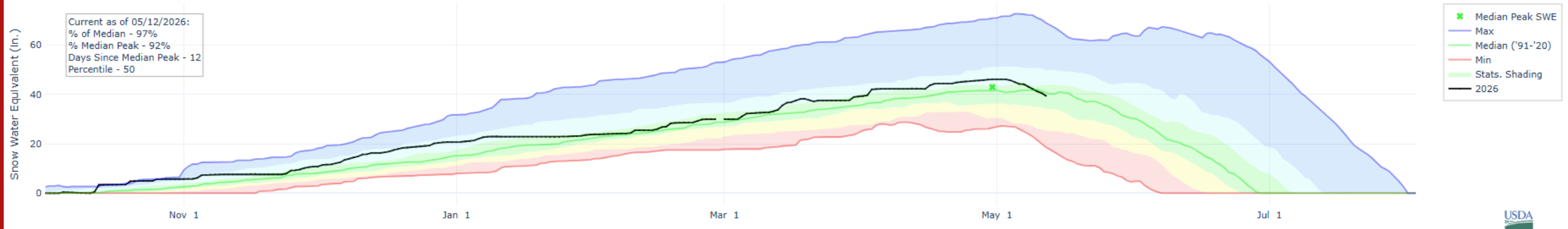
NORTH FORK JOCKO, MT (667) SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT

6110 ft

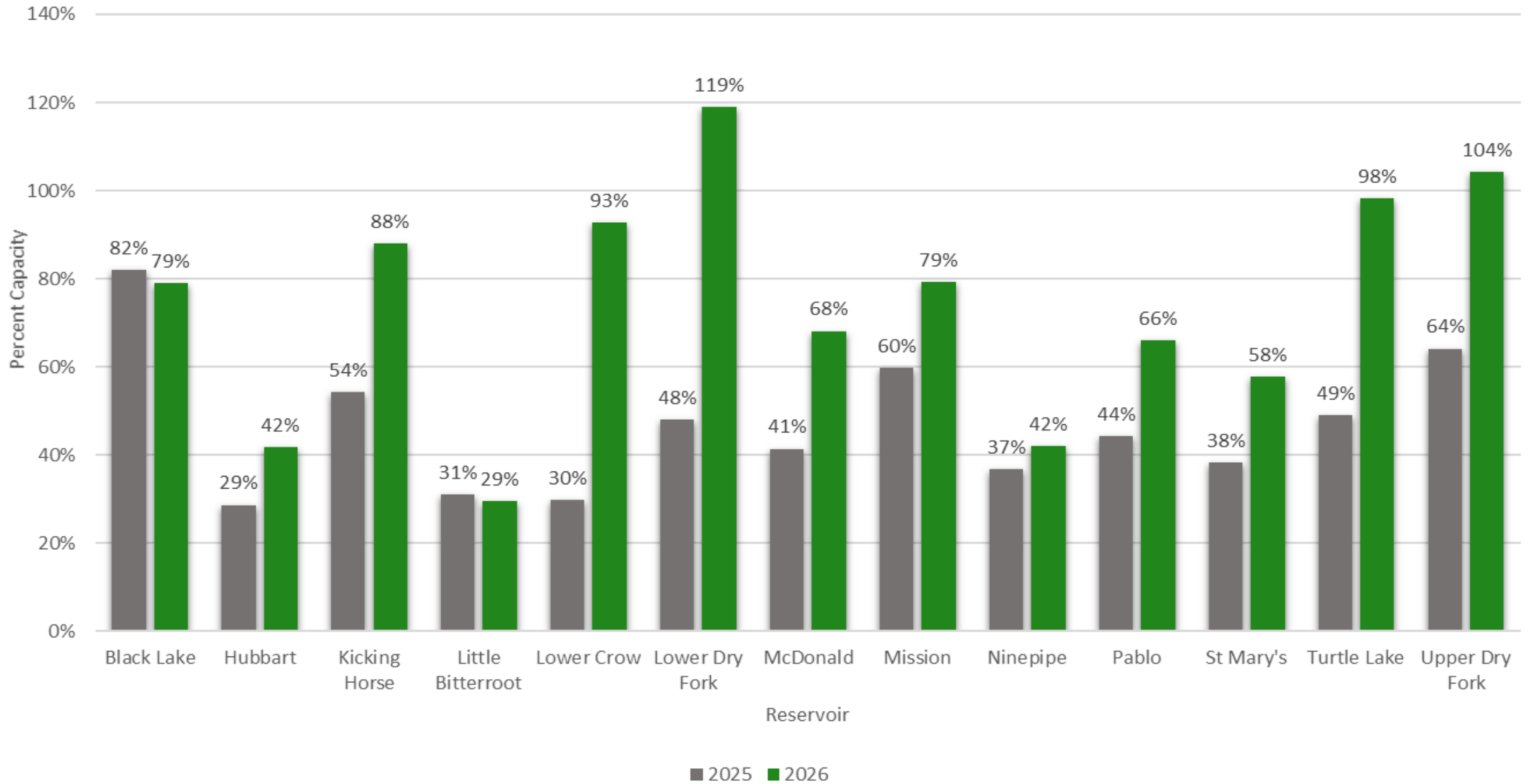


MOSS PEAK, MT (646) SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT

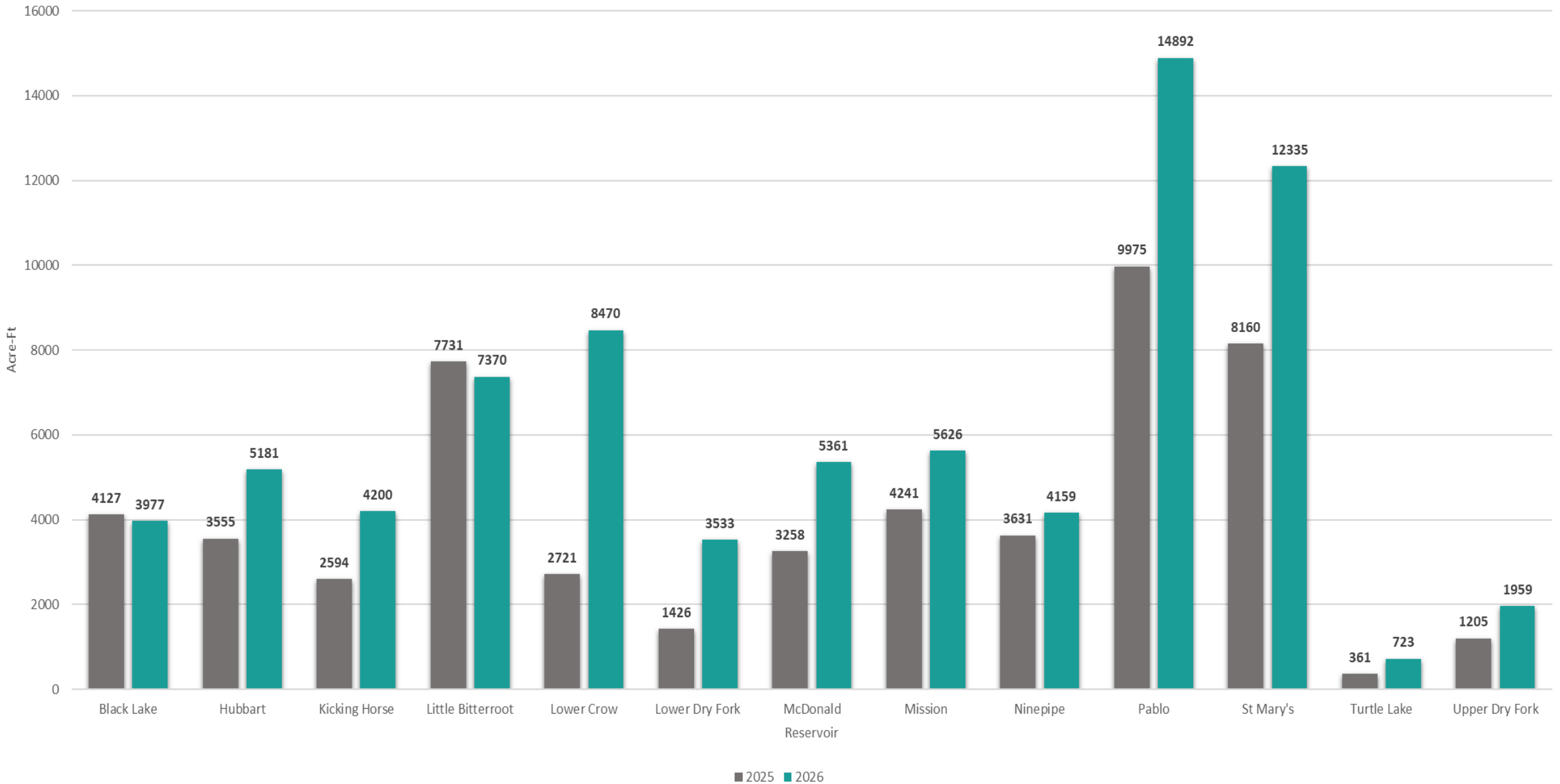
6760 ft



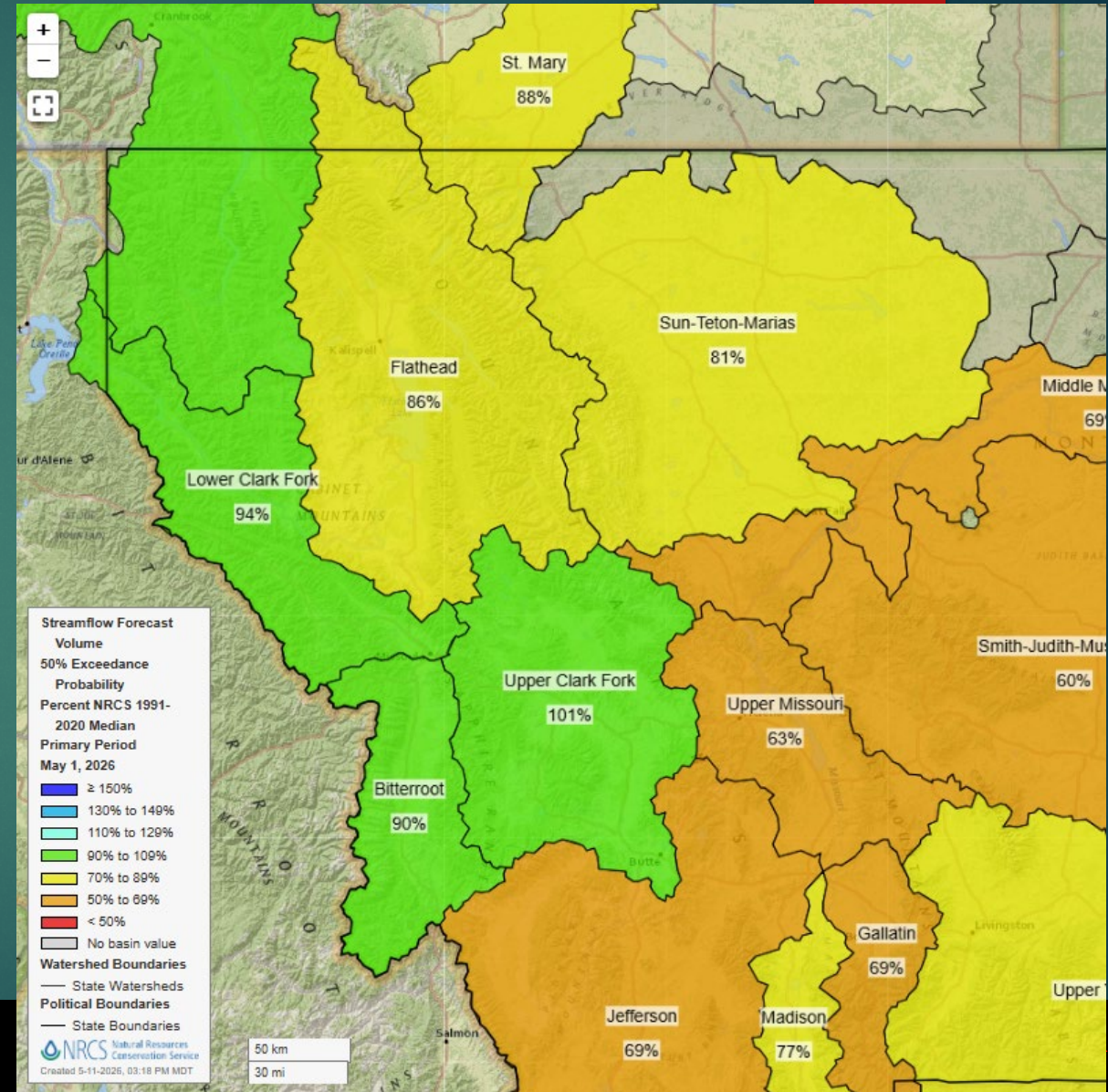
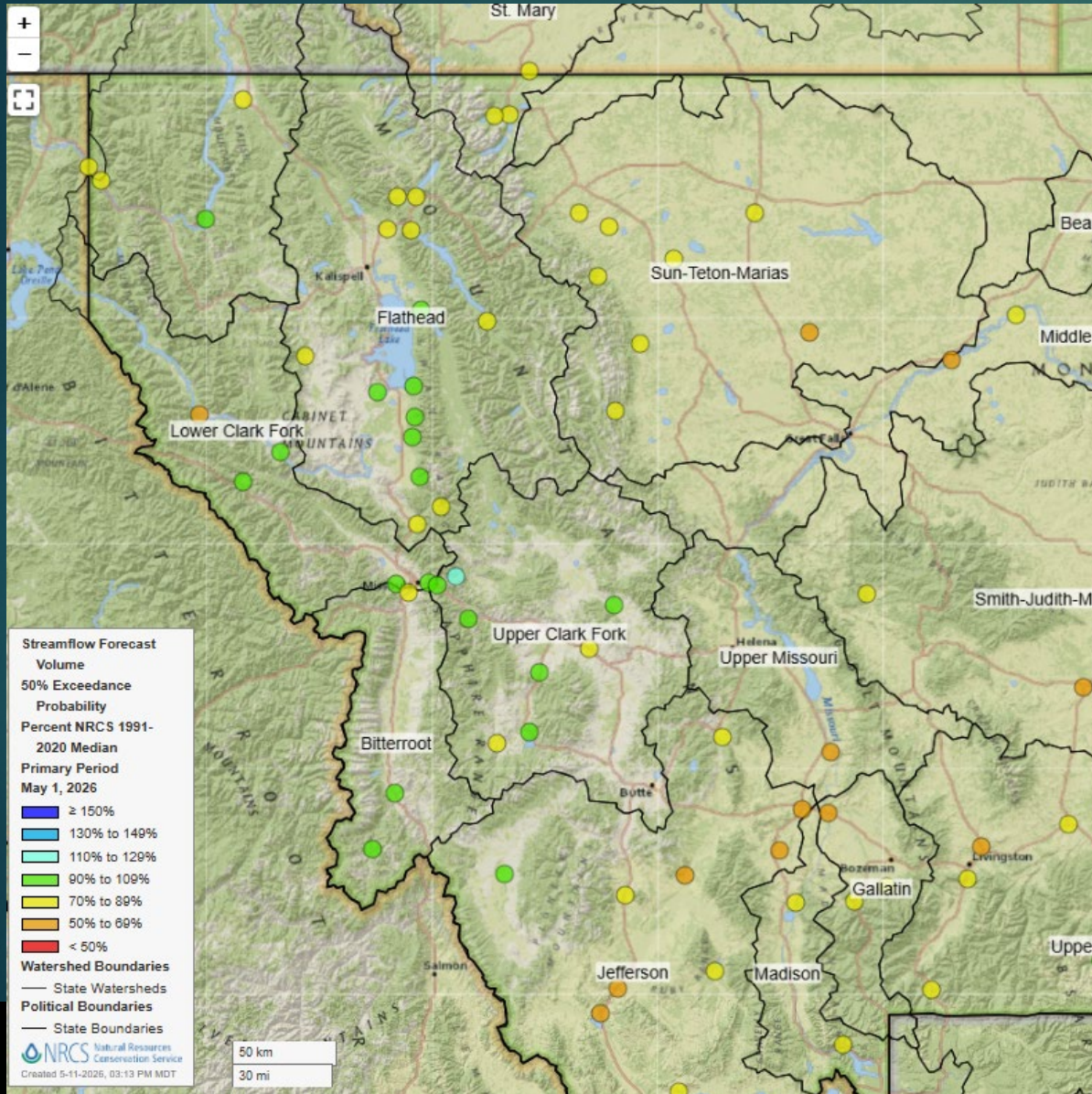
# Reservoir Percent Capacity May 12



# Reservoir Storage (Acre-ft) May 12



# Streamflow Forecast



# Streamflow Forecast

Methodology for the May Forecasts:

**Measured April Flows** + May-July Forecasted Flows

3521 South Crow		0600 Hellroaring		USGS S. Fork Jocko		3121 Mill Creek		3512 North Crow		5167 Agency		USGS Mission	
Date	Mean Q (cfs)	Date	Mean Q (cfs)	Date	Mean Q (cfs)	Date	Mean Q (cfs)	Date	Mean Q (cfs)	Date	Mean Q (cfs)	Date	Mean Q (cfs)
4/1/2026	14.5	4/1/2026	10.6	4/1/2026		4/1/2026	31.5	4/1/2026	25.9	4/1/2026	8.9	4/1/2026	
4/2/2026	15.4	4/2/2026	12.2	4/2/2026		4/2/2026	30.0	4/2/2026	26.5	4/2/2026	8.8	4/2/2026	
4/3/2026	15.6	4/3/2026	11.5	4/3/2026		4/3/2026	26.8	4/3/2026	26.8	4/3/2026	8.2	4/3/2026	
4/4/2026	15.4	4/4/2026	11.1	4/4/2026		4/4/2026	23.8	4/4/2026	25.8	4/4/2026	7.9	4/4/2026	
4/5/2026	15.7	4/5/2026	11.5	4/5/2026		4/5/2026	22.3	4/5/2026	26.0	4/5/2026	8.2	4/5/2026	
4/6/2026	16.2	4/6/2026	12.0	4/6/2026		4/6/2026	21.2	4/6/2026	27.3	4/6/2026	8.6	4/6/2026	
4/7/2026	18.9	4/7/2026	13.4	4/7/2026		4/7/2026	20.5	4/7/2026	32.9	4/7/2026	9.9	4/7/2026	
4/8/2026	20.7	4/8/2026	14.0	4/8/2026		4/8/2026	20.7	4/8/2026	38.2	4/8/2026	11.4	4/8/2026	
4/9/2026	18.8	4/9/2026	13.5	4/9/2026		4/9/2026	21.7	4/9/2026	36.7	4/9/2026	11.7	4/9/2026	
4/10/2026	17.8	4/10/2026	12.9	4/10/2026		4/10/2026	22.2	4/10/2026	35.3	4/10/2026	11.8	4/10/2026	
4/11/2026	20.2	4/11/2026	13.5	4/11/2026		4/11/2026	22.6	4/11/2026	39.9	4/11/2026	12.9	4/11/2026	
4/12/2026	26.7	4/12/2026	14.0	4/12/2026		4/12/2026	23.3	4/12/2026	60.0	4/12/2026	17.0	4/12/2026	
4/13/2026	25.2	4/13/2026	15.3	4/13/2026		4/13/2026	28.2	4/13/2026	60.1	4/13/2026	18.5	4/13/2026	
4/14/2026	23.7	4/14/2026	14.8	4/14/2026		4/14/2026	28.2	4/14/2026	55.4	4/14/2026	17.7	4/14/2026	
4/15/2026	21.6	4/15/2026	14.5	4/15/2026		4/15/2026	29.9	4/15/2026	47.9	4/15/2026	16.2	4/15/2026	
4/16/2026	20.3	4/16/2026	13.6	4/16/2026		4/16/2026	30.4	4/16/2026	41.5	4/16/2026	14.7	4/16/2026	
4/17/2026	19.2	4/17/2026	12.6	4/17/2026		4/17/2026	28.7	4/17/2026	37.4	4/17/2026	13.4	4/17/2026	
4/18/2026	18.0	4/18/2026	11.7	4/18/2026		4/18/2026	26.6	4/18/2026	33.9	4/18/2026	12.7	4/18/2026	
4/19/2026	17.0	4/19/2026	11.5	4/19/2026		4/19/2026	24.7	4/19/2026	32.4	4/19/2026	12.2	4/19/2026	
4/20/2026	17.1	4/20/2026	11.5	4/20/2026		4/20/2026	23.3	4/20/2026	32.3	4/20/2026	12.2	4/20/2026	
4/21/2026	19.8	4/21/2026	12.3	4/21/2026		4/21/2026	22.4	4/21/2026	41.1	4/21/2026	13.8	4/21/2026	
4/22/2026	32.1	4/22/2026	15.6	4/22/2026		4/22/2026	21.7	4/22/2026	71.9	4/22/2026	21.0	4/22/2026	
4/23/2026	33.0	4/23/2026	17.6	4/23/2026		4/23/2026	22.9	4/23/2026	83.2	4/23/2026	25.8	4/23/2026	
4/24/2026	27.1	4/24/2026	14.6	4/24/2026		4/24/2026	24.2	4/24/2026	66.1	4/24/2026	22.8	4/24/2026	
4/25/2026	23.7	4/25/2026	12.1	4/25/2026		4/25/2026	24.6	4/25/2026	55.3	4/25/2026	19.4	4/25/2026	
4/26/2026	21.4	4/26/2026	10.0	4/26/2026		4/26/2026	24.2	4/26/2026	47.2	4/26/2026	17.3	4/26/2026	
4/27/2026	20.0	4/27/2026	8.4	4/27/2026		4/27/2026	23.7	4/27/2026	41.7	4/27/2026	15.8	4/27/2026	
4/28/2026	19.1	4/28/2026	8.1	4/28/2026		4/28/2026	22.6	4/28/2026	38.5	4/28/2026	15.1	4/28/2026	
4/29/2026	19.0	4/29/2026	7.8	4/29/2026		4/29/2026	21.2	4/29/2026	36.1	4/29/2026	14.3	4/29/2026	
4/30/2026	18.9	4/30/2026	7.8	4/30/2026		4/30/2026	20.2	4/30/2026	35.7	4/30/2026	14.3	4/30/2026	
Acre Feet	1214	Acre Feet	734	Acre Feet	9665	Acre Feet	1457	Acre Feet	2498	Acre Feet	838	Acre Feet	1952

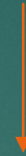
USGS Site - Relied on total accumulated April flows only - No daily flow data for this presentation

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# Streamflow Forecast

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Methodology for the May Forecasts:  
Measured April Flows + May-July Forecasted Flows



Site	Forecast Period	90% (kaf)	70% (kaf)	50% (kaf)	0% (as % Mediar	30% (kaf)	10% (kaf)
Agency Crk ab Jocko S Canal nr Arlee	MAY-JUL	3.8	4.6	5.1	88	5.6	6.4
Hellroaring Creek ab Reservoir nr Polson	MAY-JUL	3	3.4	3.7	103	4	4.4
Mill Ck ab Bassoo Ck nr Niarada	MAY-JUL	1.6	1.98	2.3	72	2.7	3.6
Mission Ck nr St. Ignatius	MAY-JUL	19.5	22	24	96	26	29
North Crow Creek at Campground nr Ronan	MAY-JUL	13.3	15.3	16.7	103	18.1	20
SF Jocko R nr Arlee	MAY-JUL	20	24	27	82	30	34
South Crow Ck nr Ronan	MAY-JUL	7.3	8.7	9.6	99	10.5	11.9

# Flathead Basin Streamflow Forecast

Table 1: May 2026 Water Year NRCS Streamflow Forecast								
April - July Projections (April Flows + May NRCS Forecast)						Site-Specific Water Year Thresholds		
Geographic Area	Gage Site	70%	50%	30%	% Median	Dry Year	Normal Year	Wet Year
Jocko	South Fork Jocko near Arlee	33,665	36,665	39,665	105%	<24,000	24,000 - 36,000	>36,000
	Agency Creek	5,438	5,938	6,438	98%	<4,640	4,640-6,880	>6,880
Mission	Hellroaring Creek	4,134	4,434	4,734	109%	<3,350	3,350-4,750	>4,750
	North Crow Creek near Ronan	17,798	19,198	20,598	109%	<14,400	14,400-22,700	>22,700
	South Crow Creek near Ronan	9,914	10,814	11,714	106%	<7,700	7,700 - 11,800	>11,800
	Mission Creek	23,952	25,952	27,952	100%	<21,100	21,100 - 29,000	>29,000
Little Bitterroot	Mill Creek above Bassoo Creek near Niarada	3,437	3,757	4,157	80%	<2,200	2,200 - 4,900	>4,900
		Wet						
		Normal						
		Dry						
						*all values are in acre feet		

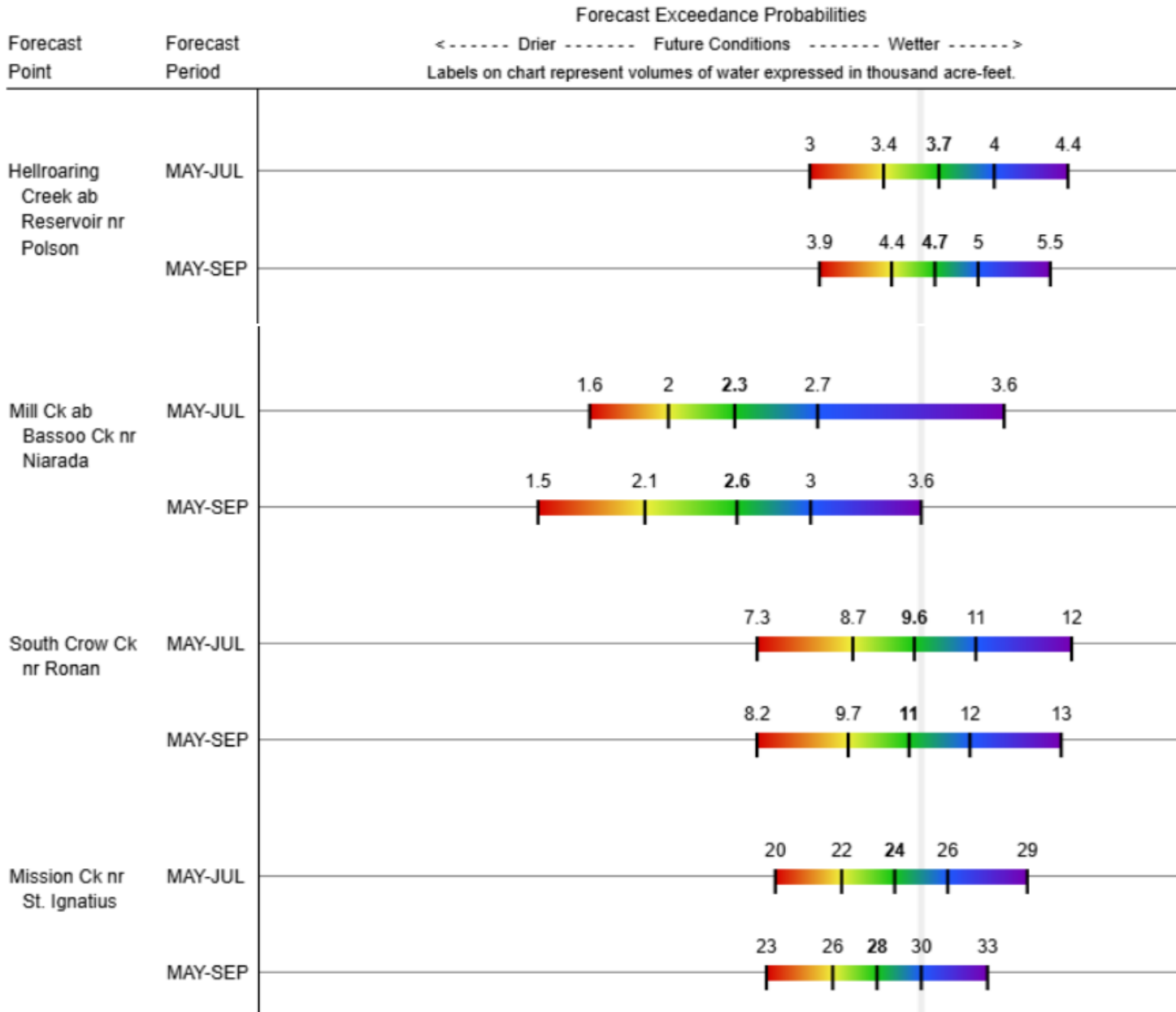
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# 2025/2026 Forecast Comparison

Table 1: May 2025/2026 Water Year NRCS Streamflow Forecast

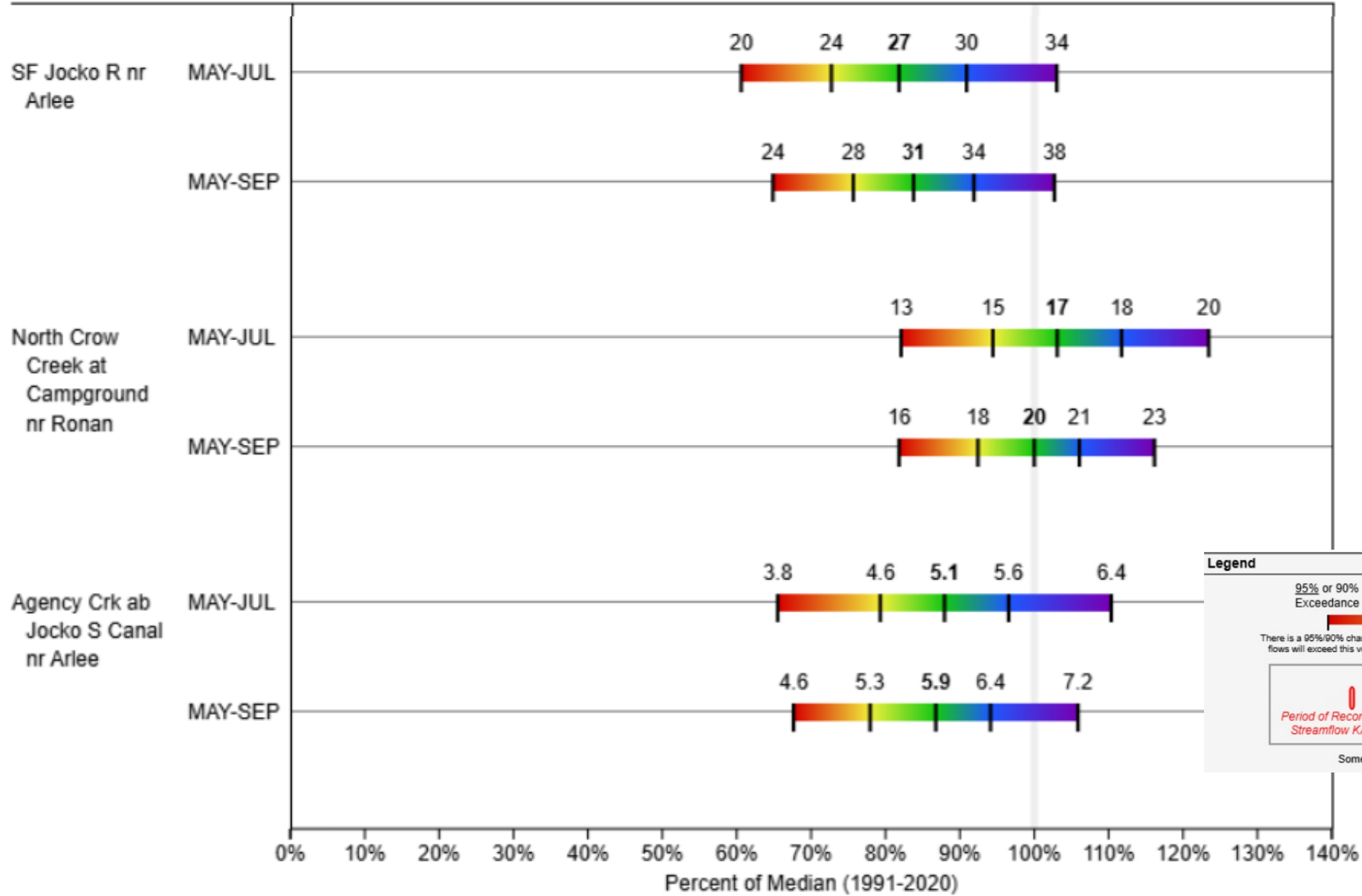
		April - July Projections (April Flows + May NRCS Forecast)								Site-Specific Water Year Thresholds		
		2025				2026						
Geographic Area	Gage Site	70%	50%	30%	% Median	70%	50%	30%	% Median	Dry Year	Normal Year	Wet Year
Jocko	South Fork Jocko near Arlee	29,879	32,879	35,879	94%	33,665	36,665	39,665	105%	<24,000	24,000 - 36,000	>36,000
	Agency Creek	5,037	5,637	6,137	93%	5,438	5,938	6,438	98%	<4,640	4,640-6,880	>6,880
Mission	Hellroaring Creek	3,865	4,265	4,565	104%	4,134	4,434	4,734	109%	<3,350	3,350-4,750	>4,750
	North Crow Creek near Ronan	17,111	18,611	20,211	106%	17,798	19,198	20,598	109%	<14,400	14,400-22,700	>22,700
	South Crow Creek near Ronan	9,614	10,514	11,414	103%	9,914	10,814	11,714	106%	<7,700	7,700 - 11,800	>11,800
	Mission Creek	24,476	26,476	28,476	102%	23,952	25,952	27,952	100%	<21,100	21,100 - 29,000	>29,000
Little Bitterroot	Mill Creek above Bassoo Creek near Niarada	2,405	2,905	3,605	62%	3,437	3,757	4,157	80%	<2,200	2,200 - 4,900	>4,900
		Wet										
		Normal								*all values are in acre feet		
		Dry										

**FLATHEAD**  
**Water Supply Forecasts**  
**May 1, 2026**



### Forecast Exceedance Probabilities

<----- Drier ----- Future Conditions ----- Wetter ----->  
 Labels on chart represent volumes of water expressed in thousand acre-feet.



**Legend**

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

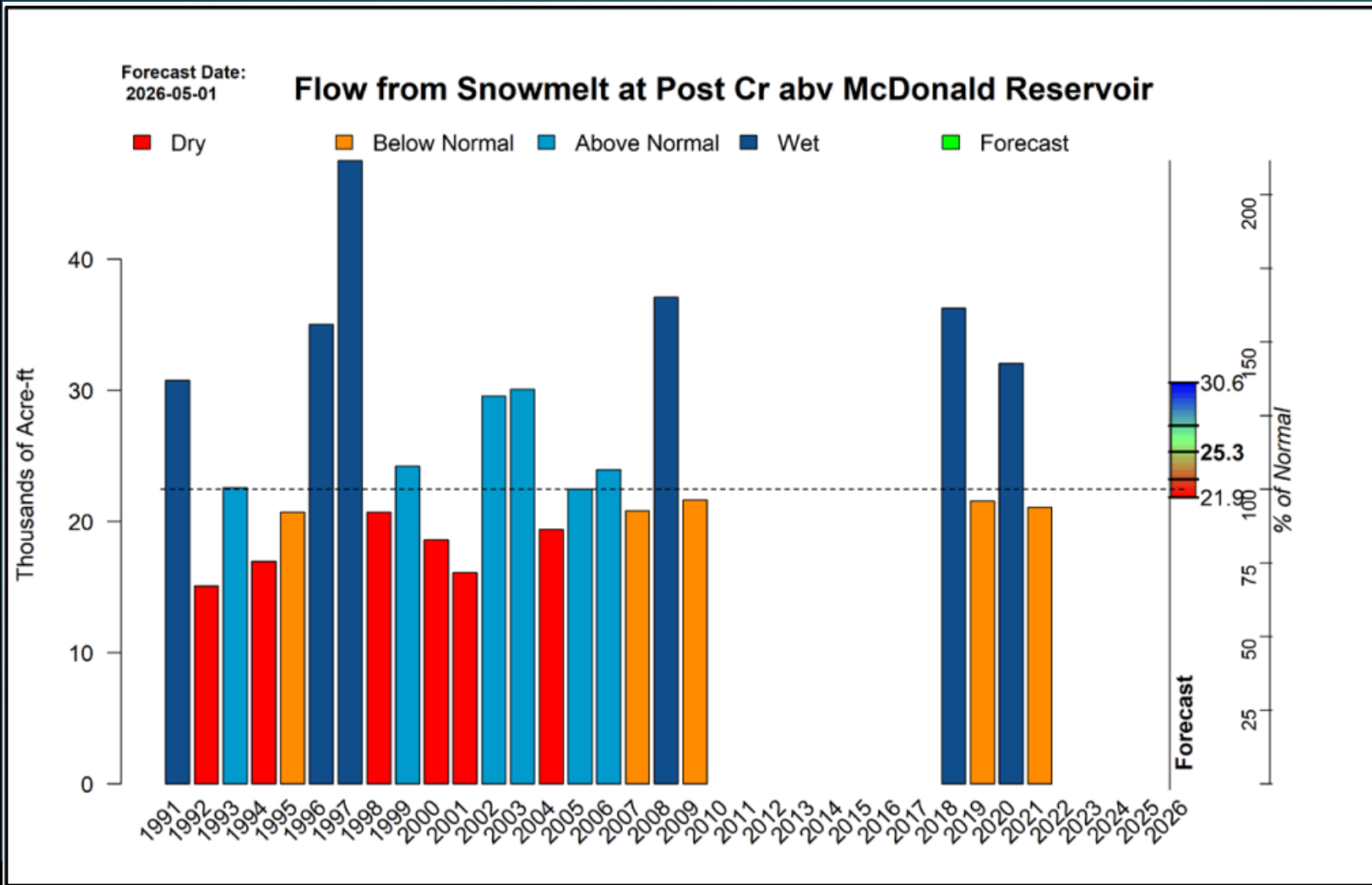
There is a 95%/90% chance that flows will exceed this volume    There is a 70% chance that flows will exceed this volume    There is a 50% chance that flows will exceed this volume    There is a 30% chance that flows will exceed this volume    There is a 10%/5% chance that flows will exceed this volume

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 May 1-July 31 an average of 31,418 acre feet recorded at Post Creek
- ~71% of flow at Post Creek is from snowmelt (22,460 AF)
- May 1 forecast predicts 25,325 AF from snowmelt (113%)
- Precipitation in excess of average (8.7") could increase volume considerably.

# Summary



- April was warm and damp
- Accumulated precipitation =116%
- Snowpack =86% (all high elevation)
- Reservoir storage is improved compared to last year
- Streamflow forecasts in local geographic areas indicate normal year outlook