

# Snowpack Evaluation

## Weather Research and Consulting Services, LLC

This is the June 1, 2026 Washington and Oregon snowpack report, along with comparisons to 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025. The report is the final update for the 2025-2026 winter snowpack season.

The 2025-2026 Washington and Oregon snowpack season was dismal and is the worst since 1980. In fact, the entire western United States experienced below to much below median snowpacks this winter. Snowmelt is pretty much complete in all but the higher elevations above 6000 ft msl. The Oregon Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) is as low as it can be, 0% of median. This is considerably lower than last year's 89% on this date. The snowpack ranges from 1% of median in the Grande Ronde Basin to 0% in all the other basins. Washington's snowpack fell 9% and is well below normal at just 14% of median. This is much less than last year's 46% on June 1. The SWE ranges from 49% of median in the Columbia/Methow River Basin to 0% of median in the Upper and Lower Yakima River Basins and the Olympic Mountains.. Due to the low snowpack and warm spring weather, snowmelt dates are four to six weeks earlier than usual. How does this affect fire season severity? The Spring Snowpack Index (SSPI), developed by WRCS, is a good indicator of fire season severity. This year, the Oregon SSPI is 7 and 32 in Washington. These values are similar to 1981, 1992, 2000, 2005, 2015, 2020 and 2021. Six of those seven years experienced very active fire seasons in Washington and Oregon. Our algorithms indicate Washington and Oregon will experience a very active fire season this summer with a high risk for 1.5 million acres burned. A very active fire season can also be expected nationally with 9-10 million acres burned.

A graphic of Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) percentages across the western United States is also included for comparison. Areas shaded in blue indicate above normal snowpack, green indicates near normal, and yellow, orange, and red below normal. Other than western Montana and northern Idaho, the western United States has little snowpack remaining. The statewide California snowpack (reported by the California Department of Water Resources) is only 6% of normal, considerably less than last year's 44%.

The snowpack report will resume again on or about January 1, 2027.

### Oregon and Washington Snowpack Comparison as of June 1, 2026

#### Oregon

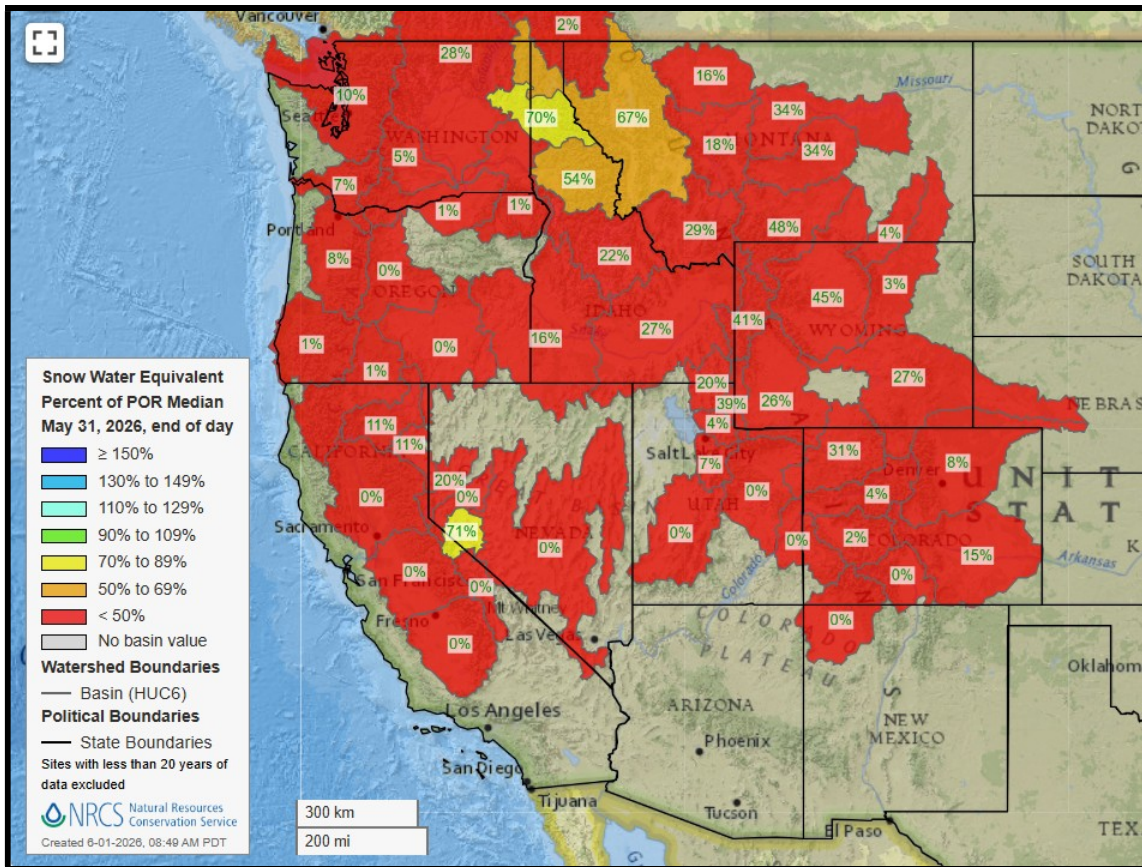
		(Percent of Normal)				
<u>River Basin</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Owyhee	June 1	0	0	0	0	0
Malheur	June 1	0	0	0	0	0
Grande Ronde	June 1	1	78	93	98	253
Umatilla	June 1	0	115	112	77	275
John Day	June 1	0	0	0	0	0
Deschutes	June 1	0	52	99	83	173
Lower Columbia	June 1	0	51	108	82	305
Willamette	June 1	0	52	100	103	222
Rogue/Umpqua	June 1	0	175	96	166	142
Klamath	June 1	0	205	105	293	218
Lake County	June 1	0	120	N/A	389	49
Harney	June 1	0	225	234	N/A	137
<b>State AVG</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>148</b>

**Note:** Red figures indicate the lowest snowpack average in the past 5 years.

# Washington

(Percent of Normal)

River Basin	Date	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
Spokane	June 1	44	58	79	40	206
Columbia/Methow	June 1	49	21	54	7	197
Chelan/Wenatchee	June 1	10	23	34	28	188
Upper Yakima	June 1	0	27	62	37	241
Lower Yakima	June 1	0	0	0	0	(1850)
Lower Snake	June 1	1	76	93	91	243
Lewis/Cowlitz	June 1	9	97	102	119	187
White/Green	June 1	9	64	62	53	183
Cedar/Snoqualmie	June 1	4	20	66	64	319
Baker/Skagit	June 1	30	52	56	42	146
Olympic	June 1	0	68	39	90	196
<b>State AVG</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>211</b>



Paul Werth, Fire Weather Meteorologist  
 Weather Research and Consulting Services, LLC  
[www.fireweather.com](http://www.fireweather.com) or [www.firewx.com](http://www.firewx.com)  
 360.907.2022 (cell)  
[wrcs@prodigy.net](mailto:wrcs@prodigy.net)