

# Snowpack Evaluation

## Weather Research and Consulting Services, LLC

This is the March 1, 2026 Washington and Oregon snowpack report, along with comparisons to 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025. The report will be updated on or about March 15.

The 2025-2026 winter snowpack remains well below normal across the Pacific Northwest. A cool, wet period, around mid-month, resulted in new snow even down to the lower elevations. However, strong pressure aloft returned shortly afterwards with more dry weather. The Oregon Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) remains much below normal at 32% of median, up 4% since February 14. This is considerably lower than last year's 136% on this date and is the lowest since 2015. The snowpack ranges from 47% of median in the Grande Ronde River Basin to only 21% in the Owyhee River Basin. Washington's snowpack rose 3% but remains below normal at 53% of the median. This is much less than last year's 88%. The SWE ranges from 88% of median in the Columbia/Methow River Basin to just 35% of median in the Upper Yakima River Basin and 36% in the White/Green River Basin. The first half of March will likely see little if any improvement in these snowpack percentages. Based upon 40+ years of snowpack data, the April 1 Oregon snowpack is projected (using WRCS algorithms) to be only 25-45% of median and the Washington snowpack 45-65%. With such low percentages, snowmelt dates could be two weeks to a month earlier than usual this spring.

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. The best snowpacks are in southern Montana and Wyoming; and the worst in southern Washington, Oregon, Nevada, Arizona, and New Mexico. The statewide California snowpack (reported by the California Department of Water Resources) is 66% of normal, up 13% from February 14. However, this is still less than last year's 85% on this date.

We will continue to monitor snowpack figures through June 1. If you have questions about this report, please contact Weather Research and Consulting Services, LLC using the links at the end of this report.

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

#### Oregon

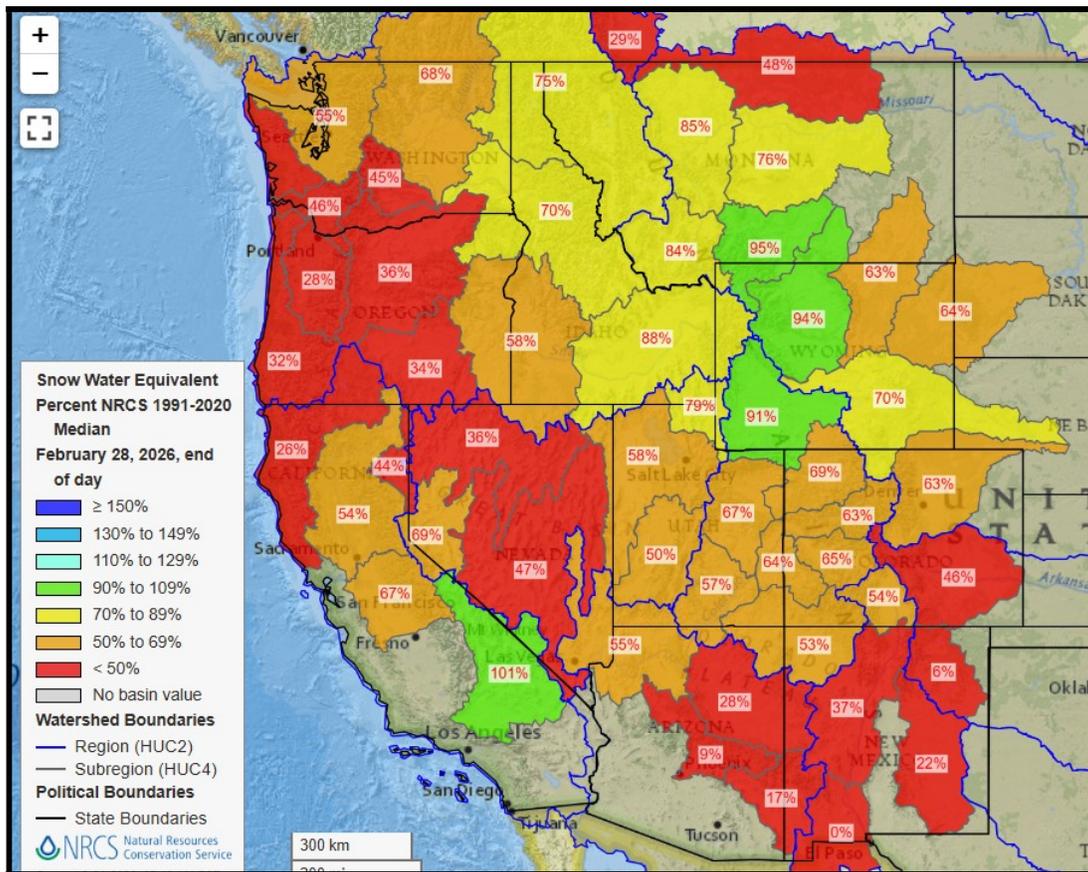
<u>River Basin</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>(Percent of Normal)</u>				
		<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Owyhee	March 1	<b>21</b>	115	147	126	75
Malheur	March 1	<b>34</b>	167	124	92	70
Grande Ronde	March 1	<b>47</b>	129	89	100	86
Umatilla	March 1	<b>37</b>	124	86	100	101
John Day	March 1	<b>33</b>	168	112	108	82
Deschutes	March 1	<b>30</b>	119	106	101	82
Lower Columbia	March 1	<b>34</b>	84	93	105	117
Willamette	March 1	<b>28</b>	94	101	109	100
Rogue/Umpqua	March 1	<b>27</b>	136	99	103	73
Klamath	March 1	<b>25</b>	155	95	108	65
Lake County	March 1	<b>34</b>	178	90	123	68
Harney	March 1	<b>30</b>	168	134	122	70
<b>State AVG</b>		<b>32</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>82</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	March 1	51	88	68	98	97
Columbia/Methow	March 1	88	87	68	105	98
Chelan/Wenatchee	March 1	62	81	72	89	99
Upper Yakima	March 1	35	87	83	96	93
Lower Yakima	March 1	54	83	59	84	60
Lower Snake	March 1	48	120	86	98	87
Lewis/Cowlitz	March 1	49	106	81	105	96
White/Green	March 1	36	83	69	95	98
Cedar/Snoqualmie	March 1	39	65	64	102	104
Baker/Skagit	March 1	75	74	64	88	100
Olympic	March 1	46	92	46	88	83
<b>State AVG</b>		<b>53</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>92</b>



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