

Snowpack Evaluation

Weather Research and Consulting Services, LLC

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

Not much new to report in the last two weeks. The 2025-2026 Washington and Oregon snowpack season remains dismal with snow melt in all but the highest elevations. In fact, the entire western United States experienced below to much below median snowpacks this winter. The Oregon Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) dropped 2% and is now only 9% of median. This is considerably lower than last year's 144% on April 15 and is the lowest since at least 1981. The snowpack ranges from 26% of median in the Grande Ronde Basin to 0% in the Owyhee, Malheur, and John Day River Basins. Washington's snowpack fell 5% and is well below normal at just 45% of the median. This is much less than last year's 85% and is the lowest since 2015. The SWE ranges from 70% of median in the Columbia/Methow River Basin to 29% of median in the Upper Yakima River Basin. Due to the low snowpacks, snowmelt dates are running four to six weeks earlier than usual, very comparable to 2015. We will closely monitor snowmelt rates through May, as snowmelt date is a better predictor of fire season severity than snowpack alone.

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 western Montana; and the worst in Oregon, California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico. The statewide California snowpack (reported by the California Department of Water Resources) is 21% of normal, up 3% from April 1. This is still much less than last year's 86% 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 April 15, 2026

Oregon

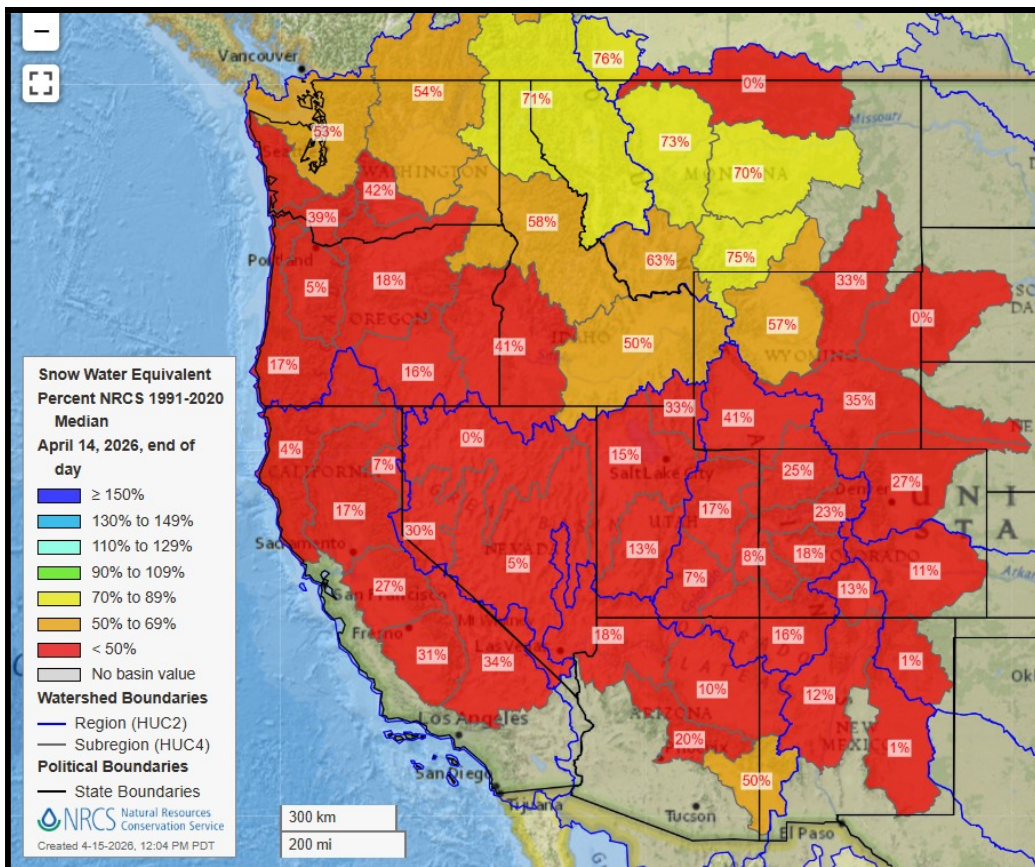
<u>River Basin</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>(Percent of Normal)</u>				
		<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Owyhee	April 15	0	112	190	256	67
Malheur	April 15	0	173	86	243	42
Grande Ronde	April 15	26	131	85	155	81
Umatilla	April 15	22	118	82	155	98
John Day	April 15	0	187	106	298	68
Deschutes	April 15	5	136	105	178	85
Lower Columbia	April 15	17	85	91	166	130
Willamette	April 15	5	108	101	195	110
Rogue/Umpqua	April 15	9	160	115	179	70
Klamath	April 15	3	170	111	192	55
Lake County	April 15	7	173	105	189	50
Harney	April 15	14	180	166	305	65
State AVG		9	144	112	209	77

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	April 15	43	89	67	93	102
Columbia/Methow	April 15	70	74	55	93	123
Chelan/Wenatchee	April 15	51	72	57	99	122
Upper Yakima	April 15	29	72	65	97	134
Lower Yakima	April 15	37	96	48	59	116
Lower Snake	April 15	30	118	83	84	127
Lewis/Cowlitz	April 15	45	107	84	98	137
White/Green	April 15	40	77	62	96	145
Cedar/Snoqualmie	April 15	44	64	61	107	173
Baker/Skagit	April 15	66	74	58	98	123
Olympic	April 15	43	95	61	90	154
State AVG		45	85	64	92	132



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