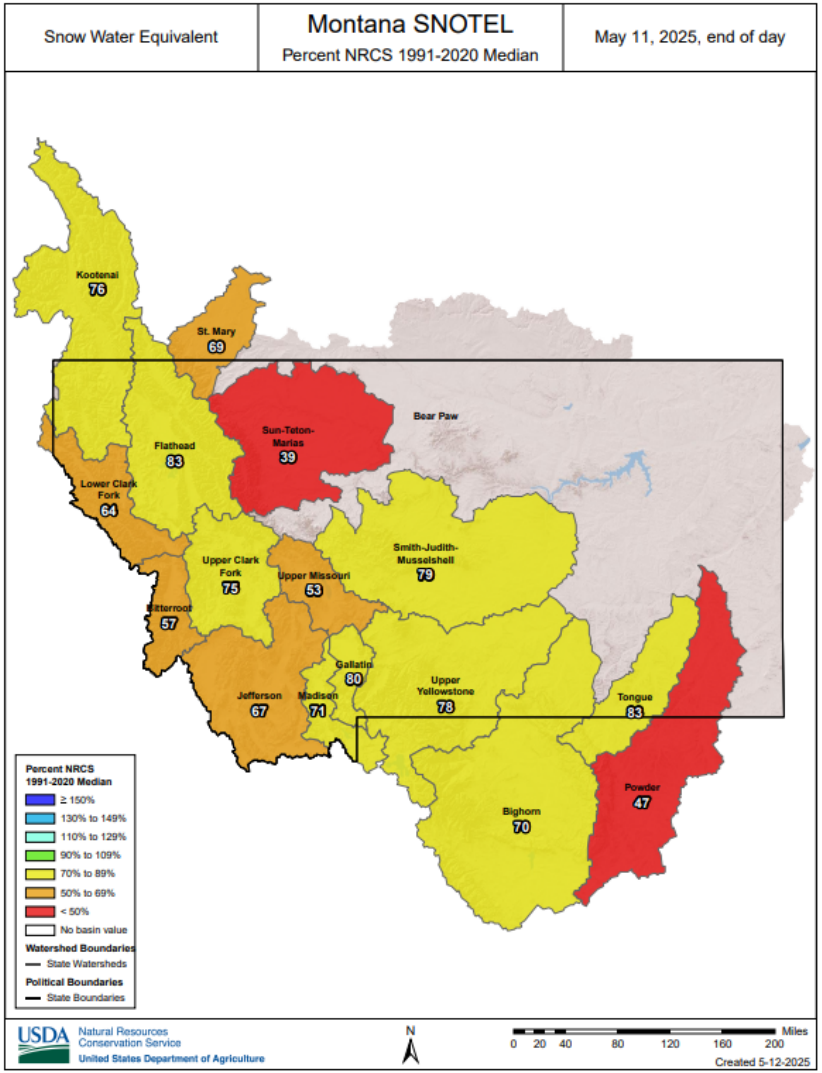
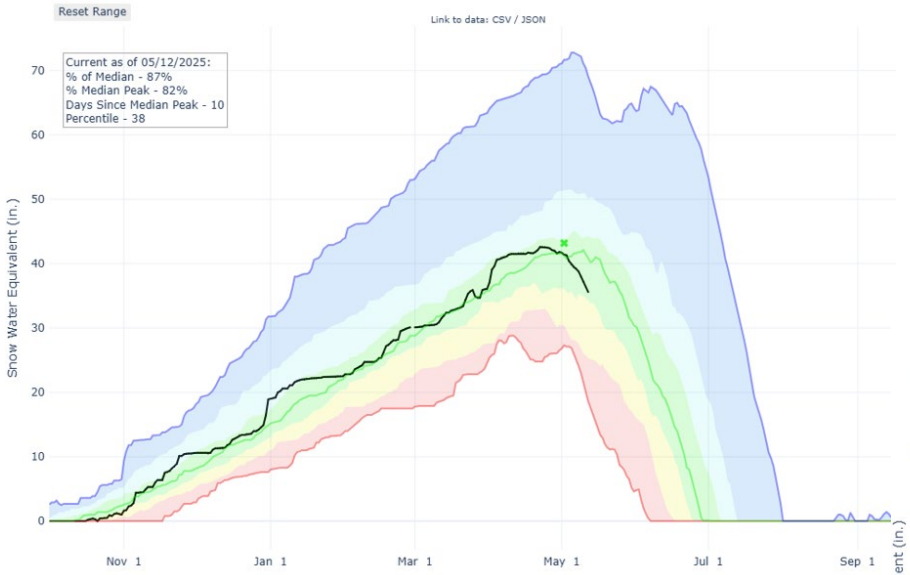
2025 Water Supply Outlook (05/13/25)

Approximate date	Purpose of Meeting
End of January	Review reservoir carryover and initial projection of water supply, tentatively categorize water-year type
End of February	Review reservoir carryover and initial projection of water supply, tentatively categorize water-year type, set March wet and normal year streamflow targets, modify MEF timing (if applicable) to match anticipated snowmelt runoff
End of March	Refine projection of water supply, tentatively categorize water-year type, and set April wet and normal streamflow targets, modify MEF timing (if applicable) to match anticipated snowmelt runoff
Mid-April	Refine projection of water supply, categorize water-year type, update wet and normal streamflow targets for the month, set initial RDAs based on water year type, modify MEF timing (if applicable) to match anticipated snowmelt runoff
Early May	Refine projection of water supply, update water-year type (if applicable), set wet and normal streamflow targets for the month, review initial RDAs based on water year type, taking into account any changes in water year type, modify MEF timing (if applicable) to match anticipated snowmelt runoff
Mid-May	Refine projection of water supply, update water-year type, update wet and normal streamflow targets for the month, update RDAs based on any changes in water year type, modify MEF timing (if applicable) to match anticipated snowmelt runoff
Early June	Refine projection of water supply, update water-year type (if applicable), set wet and normal streamflow targets for month, quantify portion of RDAs used to date, modify MEF timing (if applicable) to match anticipated snowmelt runoff
Mid June	Finalize projection of water supply and water-year type, update wet and normal streamflow targets for month, modify RDAs based on any changes in water year type, modify MEF timing (if applicable) to match anticipated snowmelt runoff
Early July	Set wet and normal streamflow targets for the month, evaluate RDAs, quantify portion of RDAs used to date
Mid July	Update wet and normal streamflow targets for the month
Early August	Set wet and normal streamflow targets for the month, evaluate RDAs, quantify portion of RDAs used to date
Early September	Set wet and normal streamflow targets for the month, quantify portion of RDAs used to date
Early October	Discuss annual reporting and water operations for the completed irrigation season, develop long-range forecast based on climatic indicators
Early December	Finalize annual reporting of water measurement, refine long-range forecast based on climatic indicators

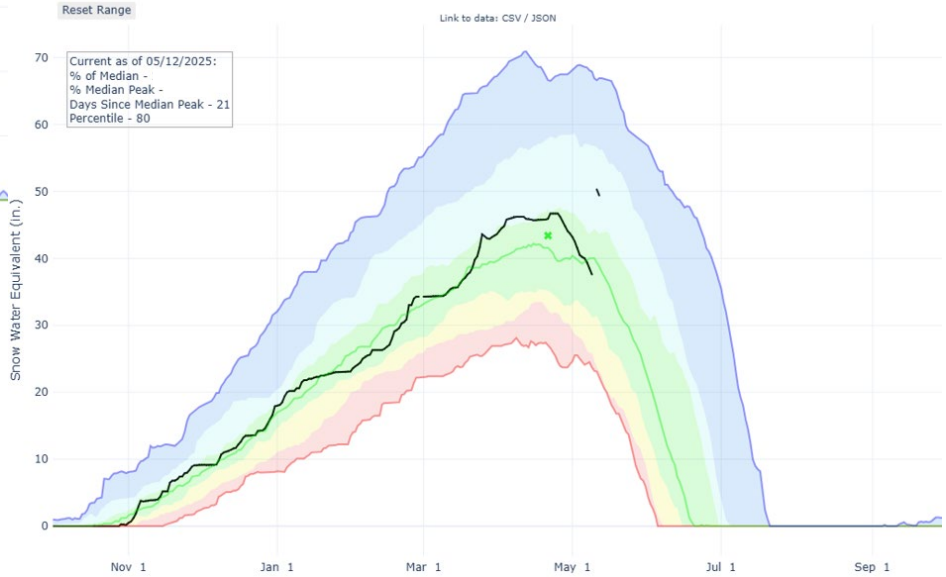
Appendix 3.5 Timeline



Moss Peak – Elev. 6760’



North Fork Jocko – Elev. 6110’

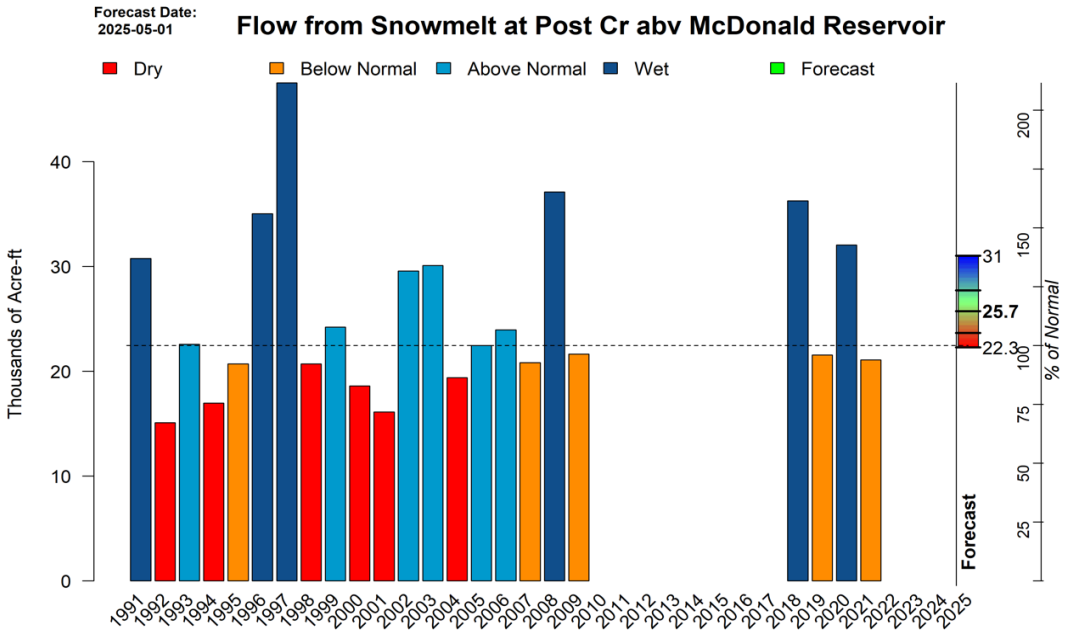


May 2025 Forecast – Post Creek Above McDonald

Courtesy of Todd Blythe – DNRC Hydrologist

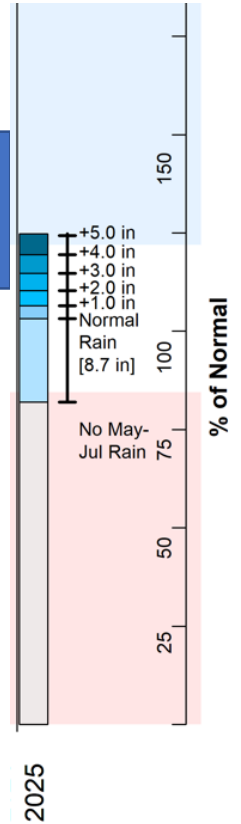
Snowmelt

Forecast Day (for 5/1/2025):
Flow from snowmelt 5/1 – 7/31 = 25749.2 acre-feet (111% of normal)
90% Exceedance Probability (22285.18 acre-feet)
10% Exceedance Probability (31023.65 acre-feet)



Rainfall

Total flow with average May to July precipitation:
32431.07 acre-feet (103% of normal)



May 2025 Forecasting – NRCS Basin Reports

Site	Forecast Period	Median (kaf)	90% (kaf)	70% (kaf)	50% (kaf)	50% (as % Median)	30% (kaf)	10% (kaf)
Agency Crk ab Jocko S Canal nr Arlee	MAY-JUL	5.8	3.9	4.6	5.2	90	5.7	6.5
Agency Crk ab Jocko S Canal nr Arlee	MAY-SEP	6.8	4.7	5.5	6	88	6.6	7.4
Flathead R at Columbia Falls	MAY-JUL	4370	3150	3470	3690	84	3950	4360
Flathead R at Columbia Falls	MAY-SEP	4900	3520	3870	4120	84	4410	4780
Flathead R nr Polson	MAY-JUL1	5040	3710	4430	4760	94	5090	5810
Flathead R nr Polson	MAY-SEP1	5680	4170	5020	5410	95	5800	6650
Hellroaring Creek ab Reservoir nr Polson	MAY-JUL	3.6	2.9	3.2	3.6	100	3.9	4.4
Hellroaring Creek ab Reservoir nr Polson	MAY-SEP	4.6	3.8	4.3	4.6	100	4.9	5.5
Mf Flathead R nr West Glacier	MAY-JUL	1310	865	960	1030	79	1120	1220
Mf Flathead R nr West Glacier	MAY-SEP	1470	985	1090	1170	80	1260	1400
Mill Ck ab Bassoo Ck nr Niarada	MAY-JUL	3.2	1.5	2.1	2.6	81	3.3	4.3
Mill Ck ab Bassoo Ck nr Niarada	MAY-SEP	3.6	2.3	2.9	3.3	92	3.9	4.6
Mission Ck nr St. Ignatius	MAY-JUL	25	21	23	25	100	27	31
Mission Ck nr St. Ignatius	MAY-SEP	30	25	27	30	100	32	36
NF Flathead R nr Columbia Falls	MAY-JUL	1390	1000	1090	1160	83	1240	1350
NF Flathead R nr Columbia Falls	MAY-SEP	1540	1110	1220	1300	84	1390	1530
North Crow Creek at Campground nr Ronan	MAY-JUL	16.2	13.3	15.3	16.8	104	18.4	21
North Crow Creek at Campground nr Ronan	MAY-SEP	19.8	16.2	18.3	20	101	22	25
SF Jocko R nr Arlee	MAY-JUL	33	23	26	29	88	32	36
SF Jocko R nr Arlee	MAY-SEP	37	26	30	32	86	36	42
South Crow Ck nr Ronan	MAY-JUL	9.7	7.6	8.7	9.6	99	10.5	12
South Crow Ck nr Ronan	MAY-SEP	10.9	8.6	9.8	10.9	100	11.9	13.6
Swan R nr Bigfork	MAY-JUL	435	400	440	470	108	500	555
Swan R nr Bigfork	MAY-SEP	505	465	505	540	107	580	635

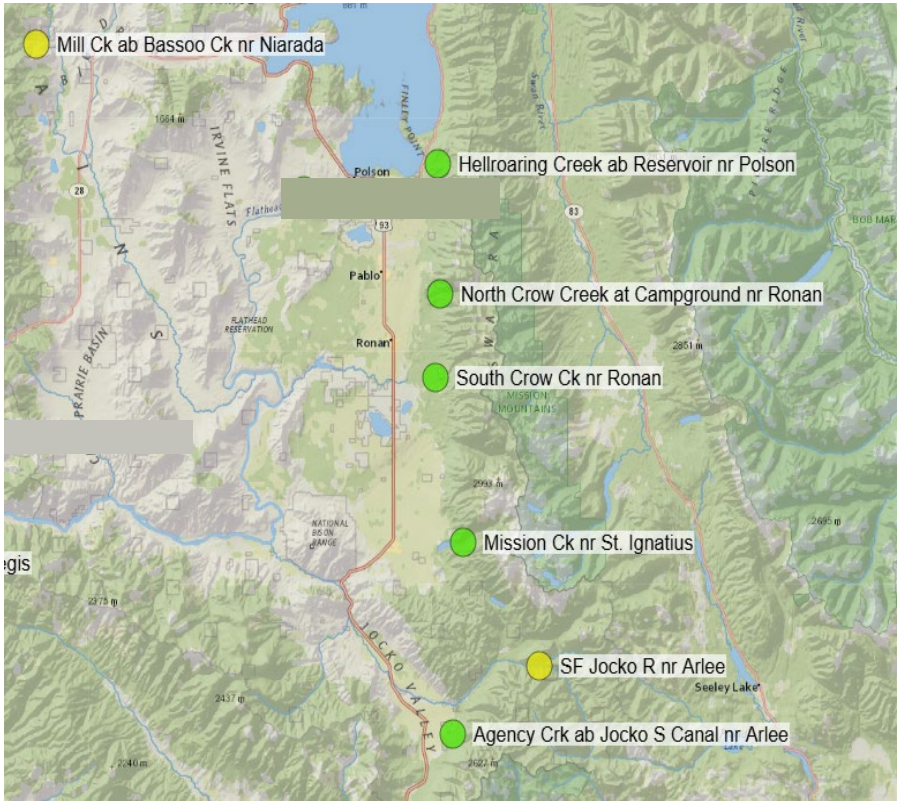
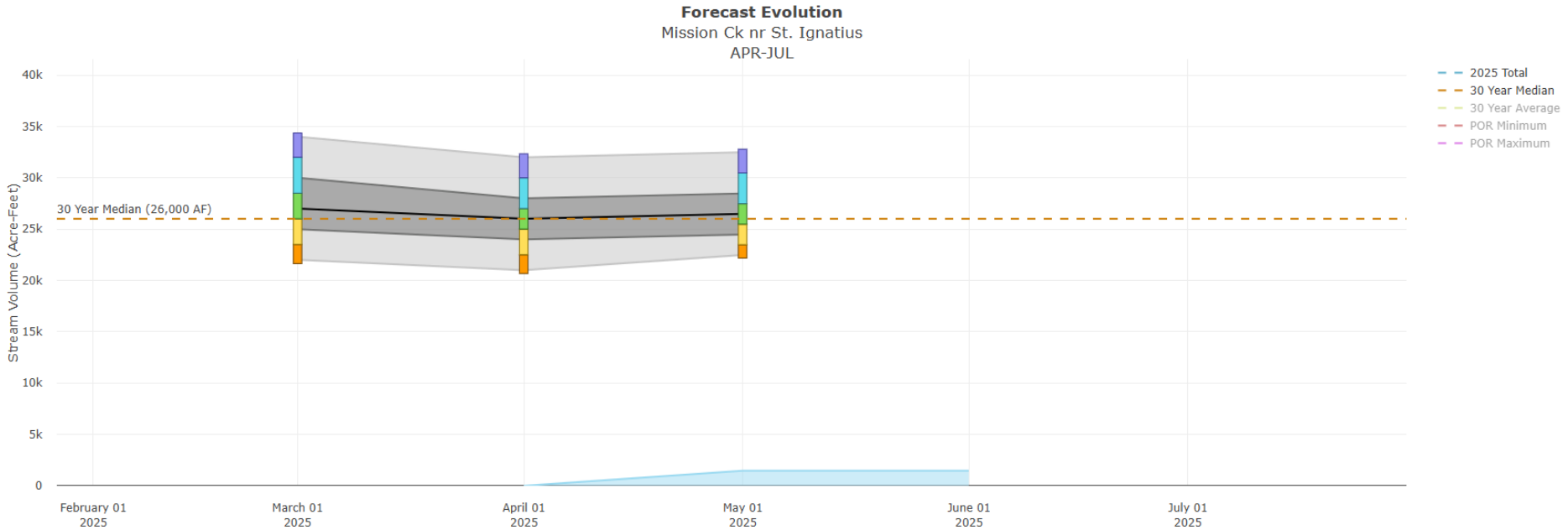


Table 1: May 2025 Water Year NRCS Streamflow Forecast								
	April - July Projections (April Flows + May NRCS Forecast)					Site-Specific Water Year Thresholds		
Geographic Area	Gage Site	70%	50%	30%	% Median	Dry Year	Normal Year	Wet Year
Jocko	South Fork Jocko near Arlee	29,879	32,879	35,879	94%	<24,000	24,000 - 36,000	>36,000
	Agency Creek	5,037	5,637	6,137	93%	<4,640	4,640-6,880	>6,880
Mission	Hellroaring Creek	3,865	4,265	4,565	104%	<3,350	3,350-4,750	>4,750
	North Crow Creek near Ronan	17,111	18,611	20,211	106%	<14,400	14,400-22,700	>22,700
	South Crow Creek near Ronan	9,614	10,514	11,414	103%	<7,700	7,700 - 11,800	>11,800
	Mission Creek	24,476	26,476	28,476	102%	<21,100	21,100 - 29,000	>29,000
Little Bitterroot	Mill Creek above Bassoo Creek near Niarada	2,405	2,905	3,605	62%	<2,200	2,200 - 4,900	>4,900

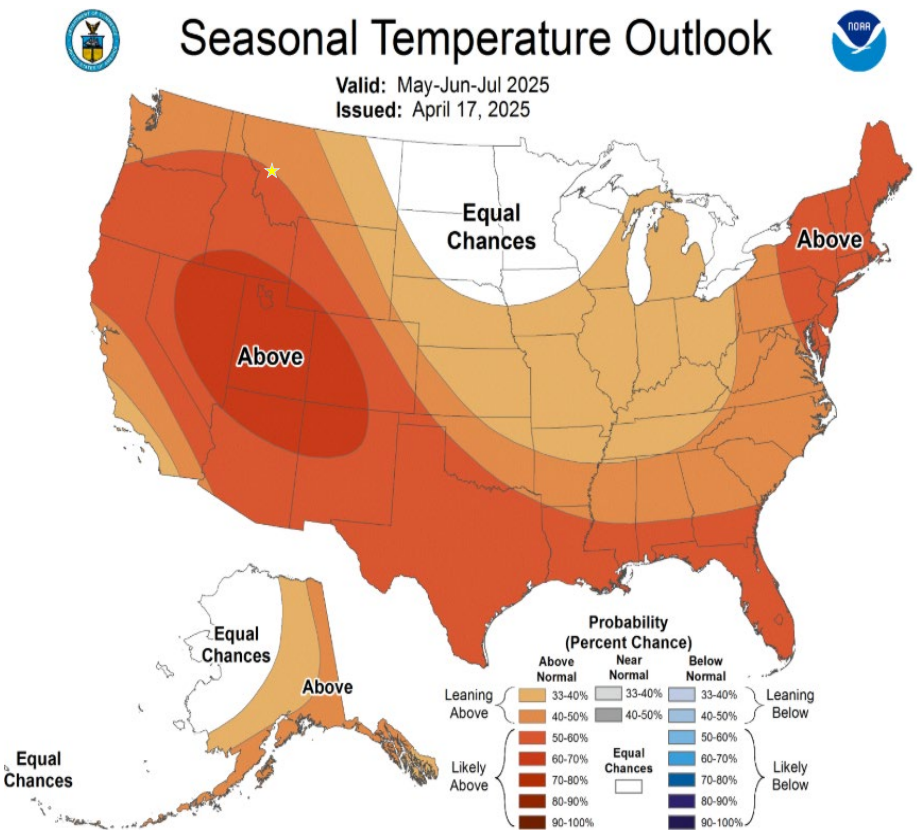
Wet
Normal
Dry

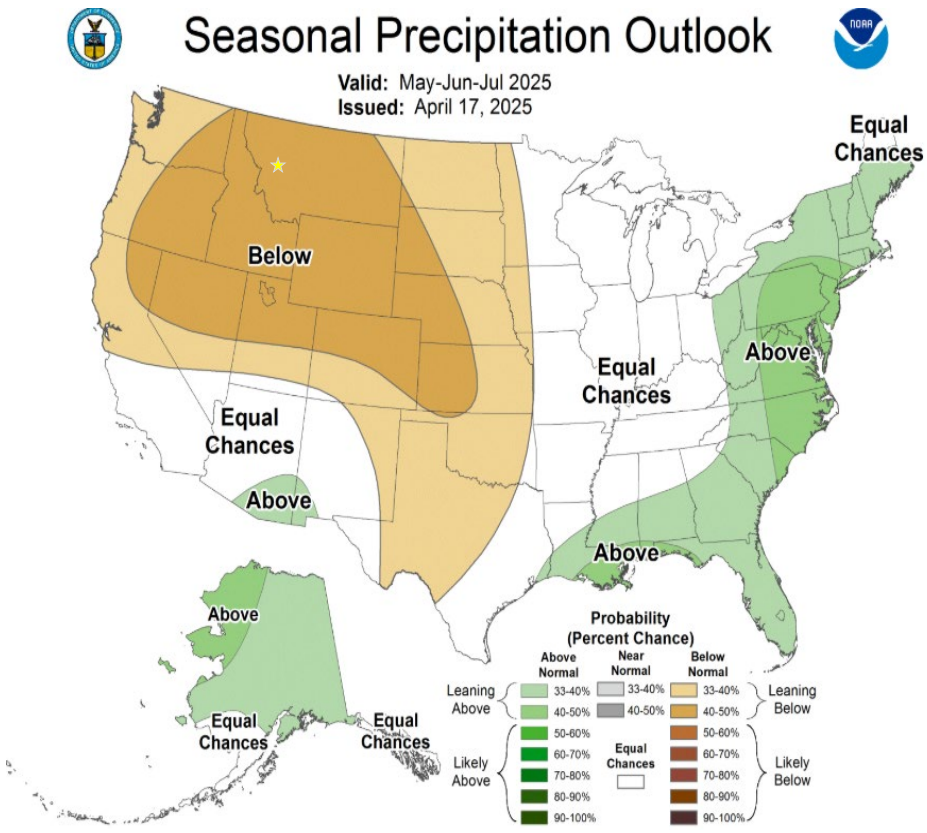
*all values are in acre feet

Note: These forecasts are provided by the NRCS based on provisional records and may be adjusted in subsequent forecasts.



Three Month Outlook – May/June/July 2025





2025 Water Supply Outlook Summary (05/13/25)

° Snowpack has ripened and has entered runoff phase, with pending temperatures driving peak streamflow timing and patterning.

° 3 month outlooks indicate potential for 'leaning above' average temps and 'below' average precipitation.

° Water Supply Forecasts project a Normal Year outlook, supporting previous forecasts.

Table 1: May 2025 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	29,879	32,879	35,879	94%	<24,000	24,000 - 36,000	>36,000
	Agency Creek	5,037	5,637	6,137	93%	<4,640	4,640-6,880	>6,880
Mission	Hellroaring Creek	3,865	4,265	4,565	104%	<3,350	3,350-4,750	>4,750
	North Crow Creek near Ronan	17,111	18,611	20,211	106%	<14,400	14,400-22,700	>22,700
	South Crow Creek near Ronan	9,614	10,514	11,414	103%	<7,700	7,700 - 11,800	>11,800
	Mission Creek	24,476	26,476	28,476	102%	<21,100	21,100 - 29,000	>29,000
Little Bitterroot	Mill Creek above Bassoo Creek near Niarada	2,405	2,905	3,605	62%	<2,200	2,200 - 4,900	>4,900

Wet
Normal
Dry

*all values are in acre feet