

Western U.S. Snowpack Update; Greater Snowfall Needed

By Scarlett Waters

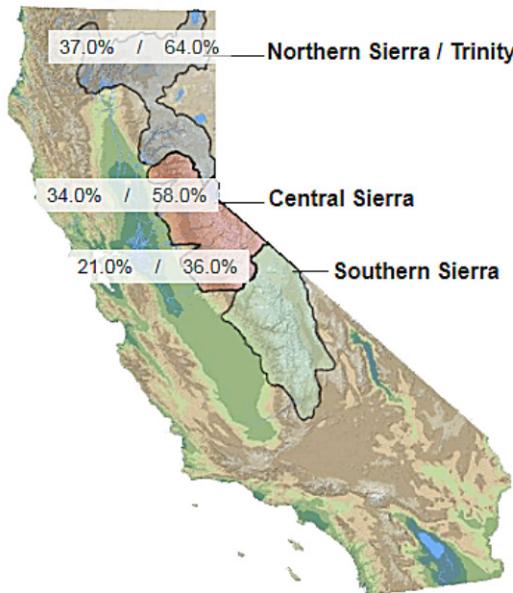
Kansas City, January 25 (World Weather Inc.) – Snow water equivalent levels are below average across much of the western U.S. mountain ranges. Reservoir levels in California are presently near historical normal levels, though reservoirs in the Pacific Northwest are skewing low, particularly in the Yakima Valley. In the next 7-days, between 1.00 and 2.50 inches of moisture will accumulate around the Sierra Nevada, 2.50 to 4.00 inches in the Washington Cascades and 0.30 to 0.90 inch in much of the Northern Rocky Mountains. While these amounts will be welcome, more precipitation will be needed in coming weeks to either replenish or maintain reservoir levels in anticipation of spring planting in late March.

Snow Water Equivalents (inches)

Provided by the California Cooperative Snow Surveys

Data For: 25-Jan-2024

% Apr 1 Avg. / % Normal for this Date



Change Date :

**Data Provided By California
Department of Water Resources**

NORTH

Data For: 25-Jan-2024
Number of Stations Reporting 26
Average snow water equivalent 10.6"
Percent of April 1 Average 37%
Percent of normal for this date 64%

CENTRAL

Data For: 25-Jan-2024
Number of Stations Reporting 50
Average snow water equivalent 9.1"
Percent of April 1 Average 34%
Percent of normal for this date 58%

SOUTH

Data For: 25-Jan-2024
Number of Stations Reporting 22
Average snow water equivalent 5.0"
Percent of April 1 Average 21%
Percent of normal for this date 36%

STATEWIDE SUMMARY

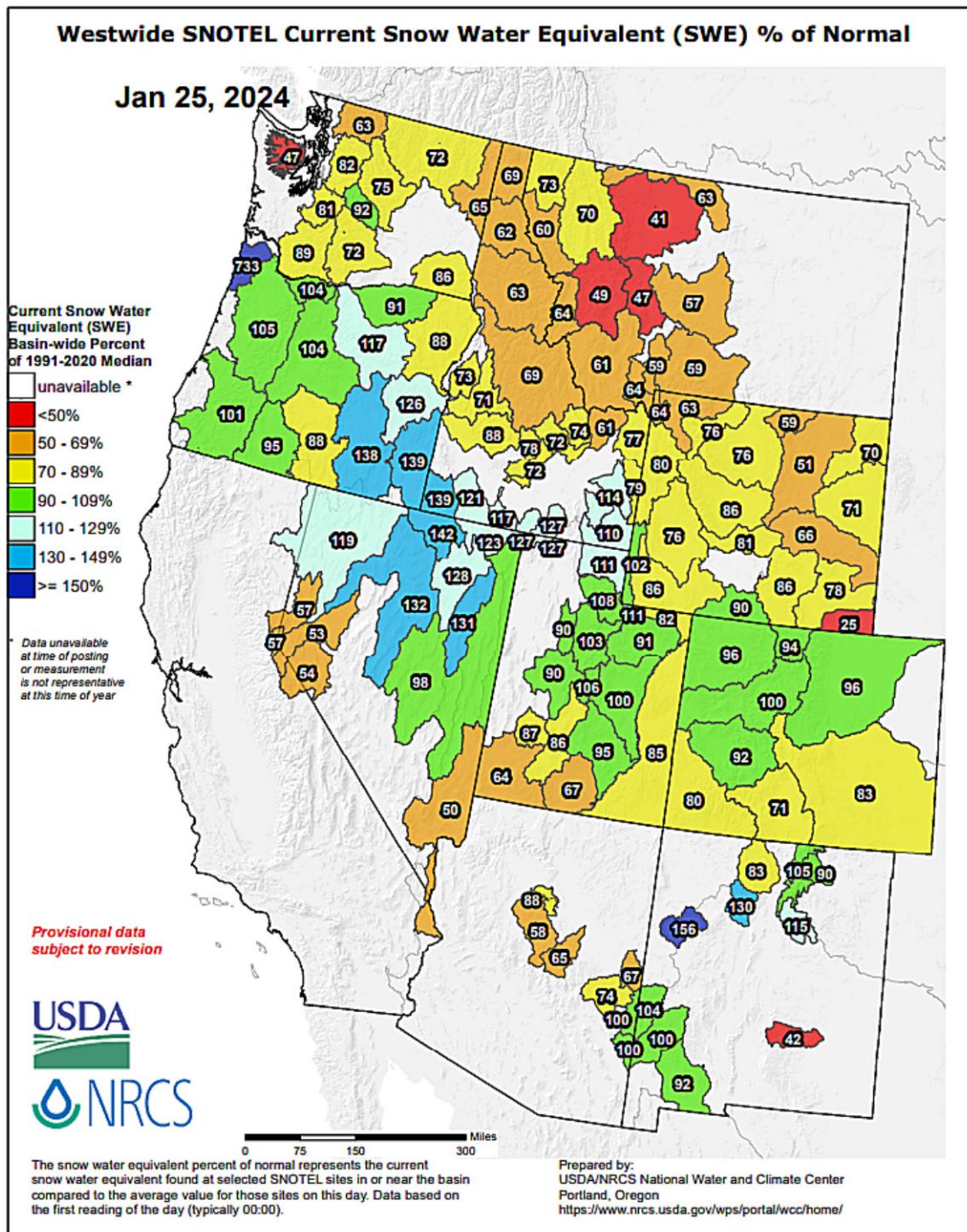
Data For: 25-Jan-2024
Number of Stations Reporting 98
Average snow water equivalent 8.5"
Percent of April 1 Average 32%
Percent of normal for this date 55%

[Printable Version of Current Data](#)

Snow water equivalents in the Sierra Nevada are at 54% of normal for this time of year and at 31% of the April 1 average as of January 24. The Cascades in Washington are also experiencing less than normal snow water equivalent levels with sections of the range

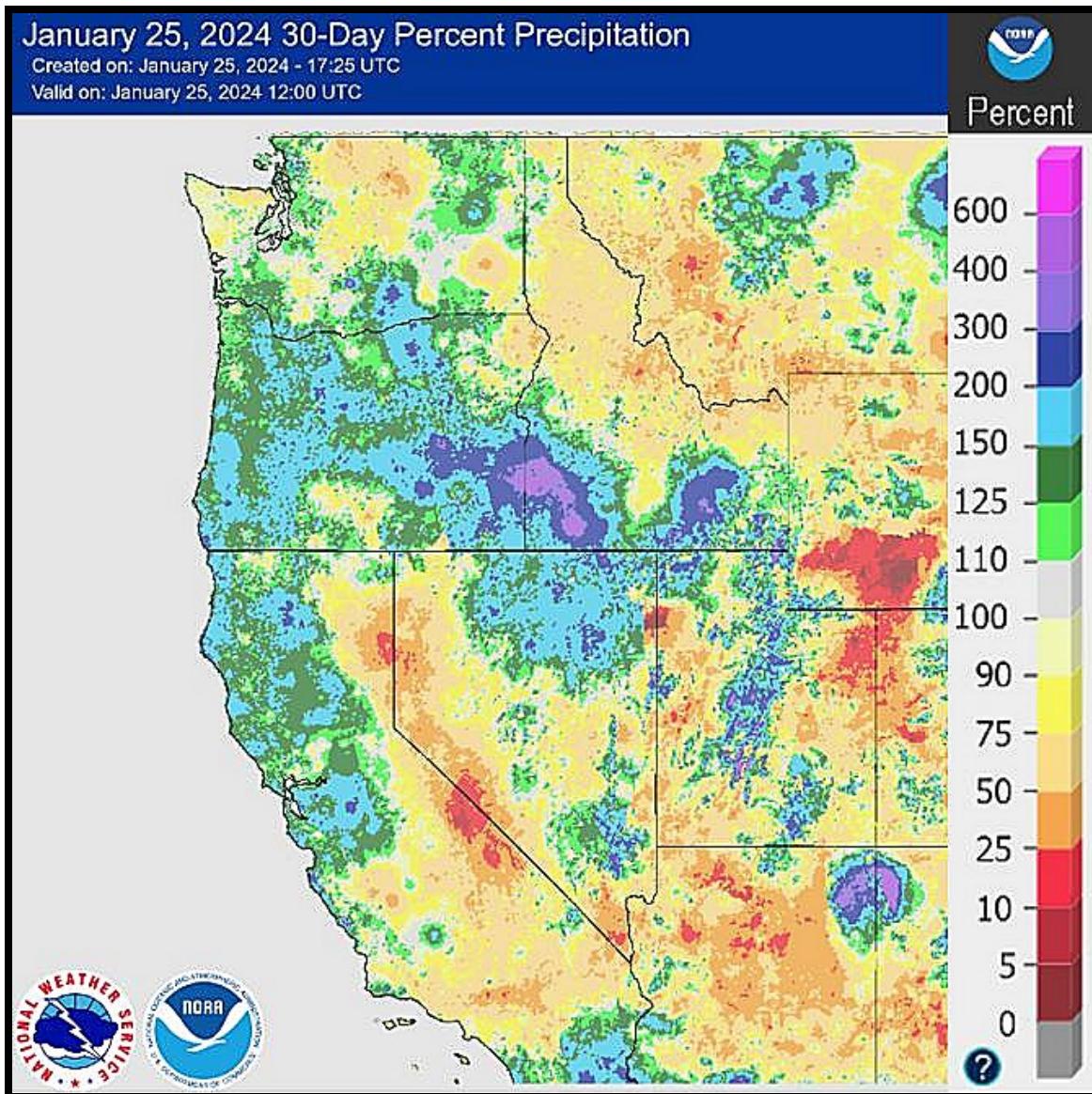
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reporting between 60% and 90% of normal moisture. Southern portions of the Cascades in Oregon are reporting near normal snow water equivalents. Many areas of the Northern Rocky Mountains are also reporting below normal snow water equivalents with some sections in Montana reporting as low as 42% of normal for this time of year.



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Overall, snow water equivalent levels are largely below normal for the major mountain ranges in the western U.S., which is tied to less than normal precipitation in the past 30-days for these areas. To improve snowpack in these areas, significant or more consistent precipitation events will need to occur in the coming weeks to months.



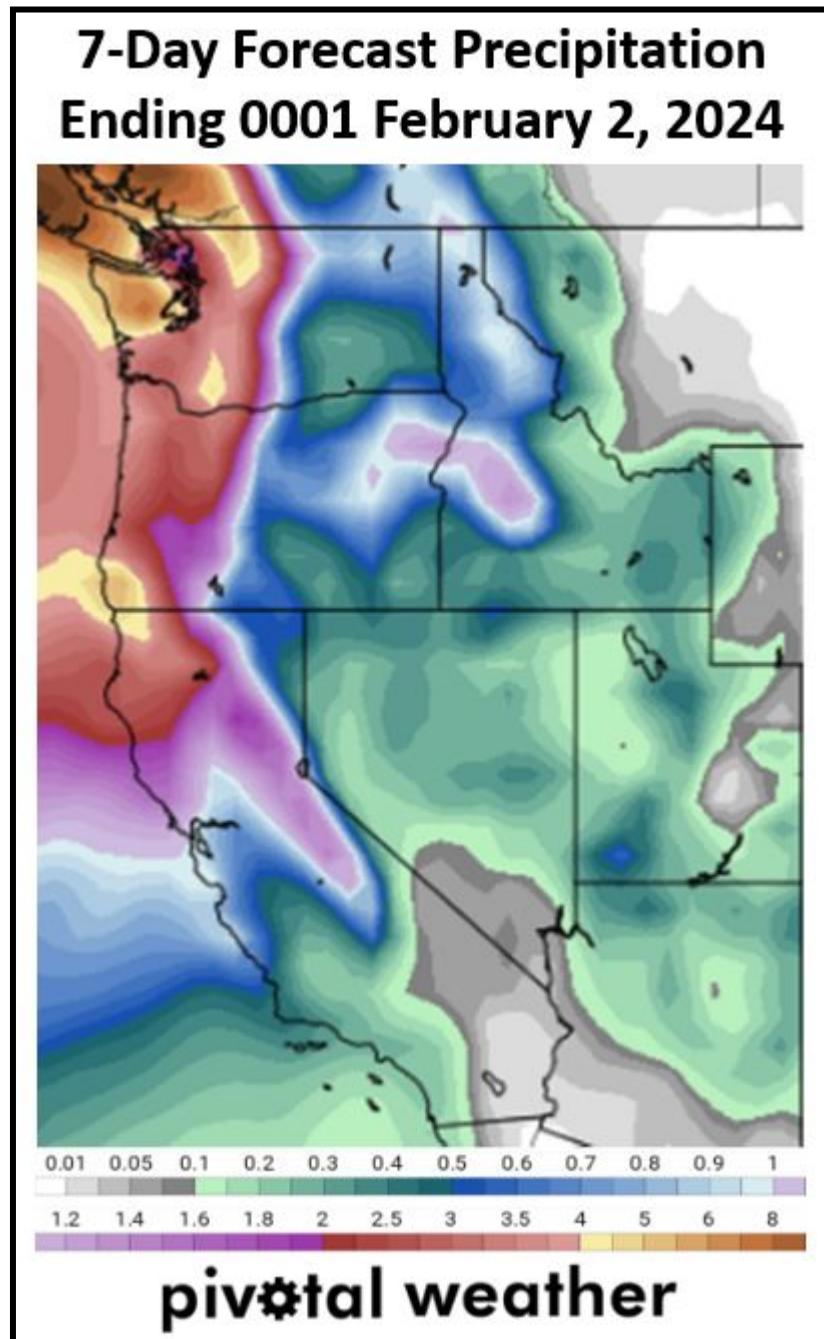
Water reservoirs across California are largely near or above historical averages, with the lowest reservoir being San Luis at 83% of the historical average water level. In the Pacific Northwest, the reservoirs in the Yakima River system are at 27% capacity collectively. Reservoirs in the Boise and Payette system are collectively at 63% capacity, with the upper Snake River system at 72%. More consistent precipitation and improved mountain snowpack will be needed in each of these areas to improve or maintain reservoir levels in both the short term and for spring planting later in March.

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In the next 7-days, precipitation is expected to occur in the Cascades and Sierra Nevada.

Between 1.00 and 2.50 inches of liquid equivalent precipitation is expected from the Northern to Southern Sierra. Between 2.50 and 4.00 inches are expected across the Cascades, with locally heavier amounts up to 5.00 inches possible in isolated areas. The Northern Rocky Mountains will see lesser precipitation between 0.30 and 0.90 inch and local amounts over 1.00 inch in southern portions of the Bitterroot Range and along the Blue Mountains in Oregon.

[These moisture totals will help to improve moisture deficits in these mountain ranges, though particular areas in the northern Cascades, Northern Rockies and Southern Sierra Nevada will need more consistent or significant precipitation to improve snowpack.](#)



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