

# WA Drought Briefing

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# Overview

- State drought framework
- Current water supply conditions and forecasts
- WDFW drought response





# What is drought?



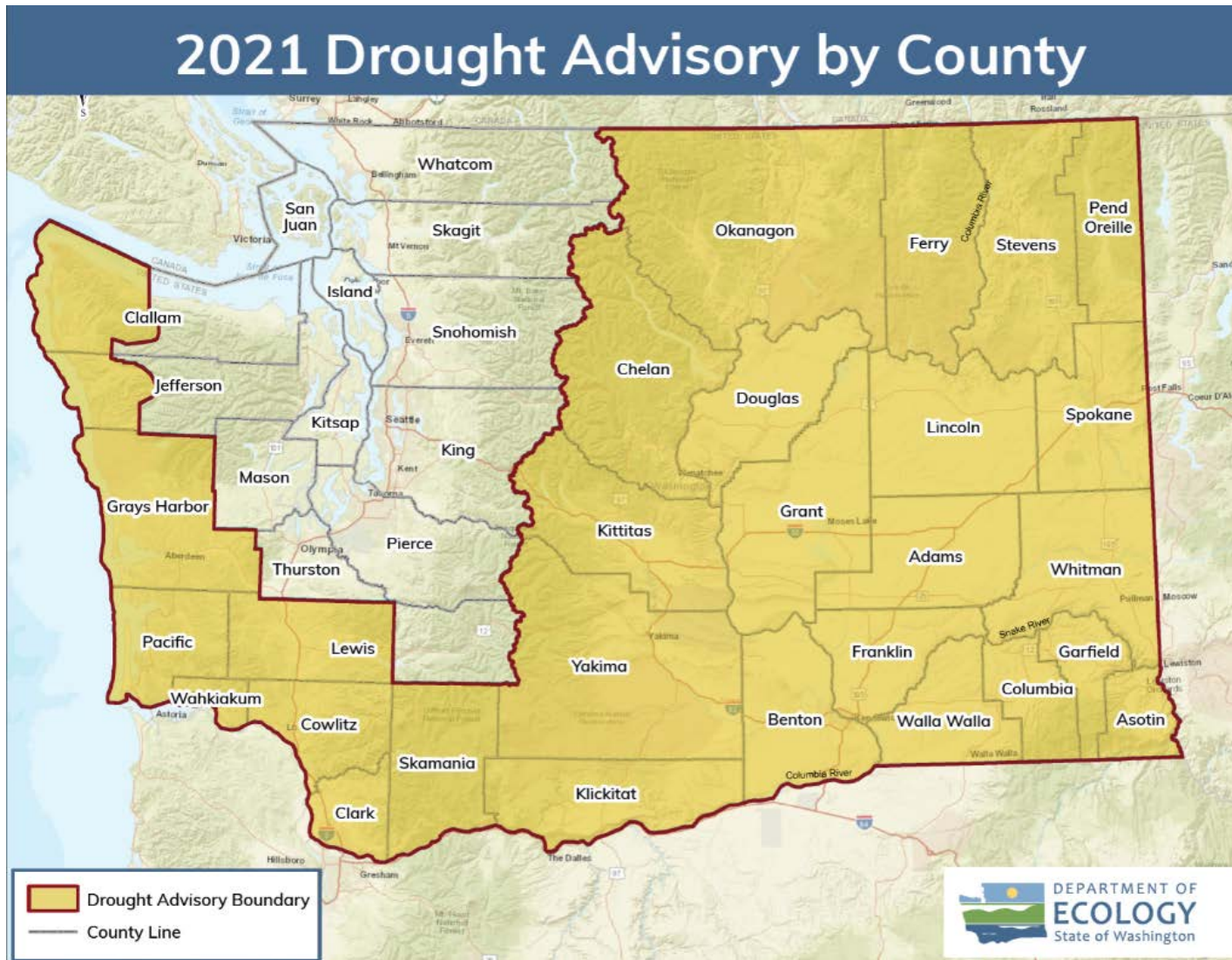


# Drought defined

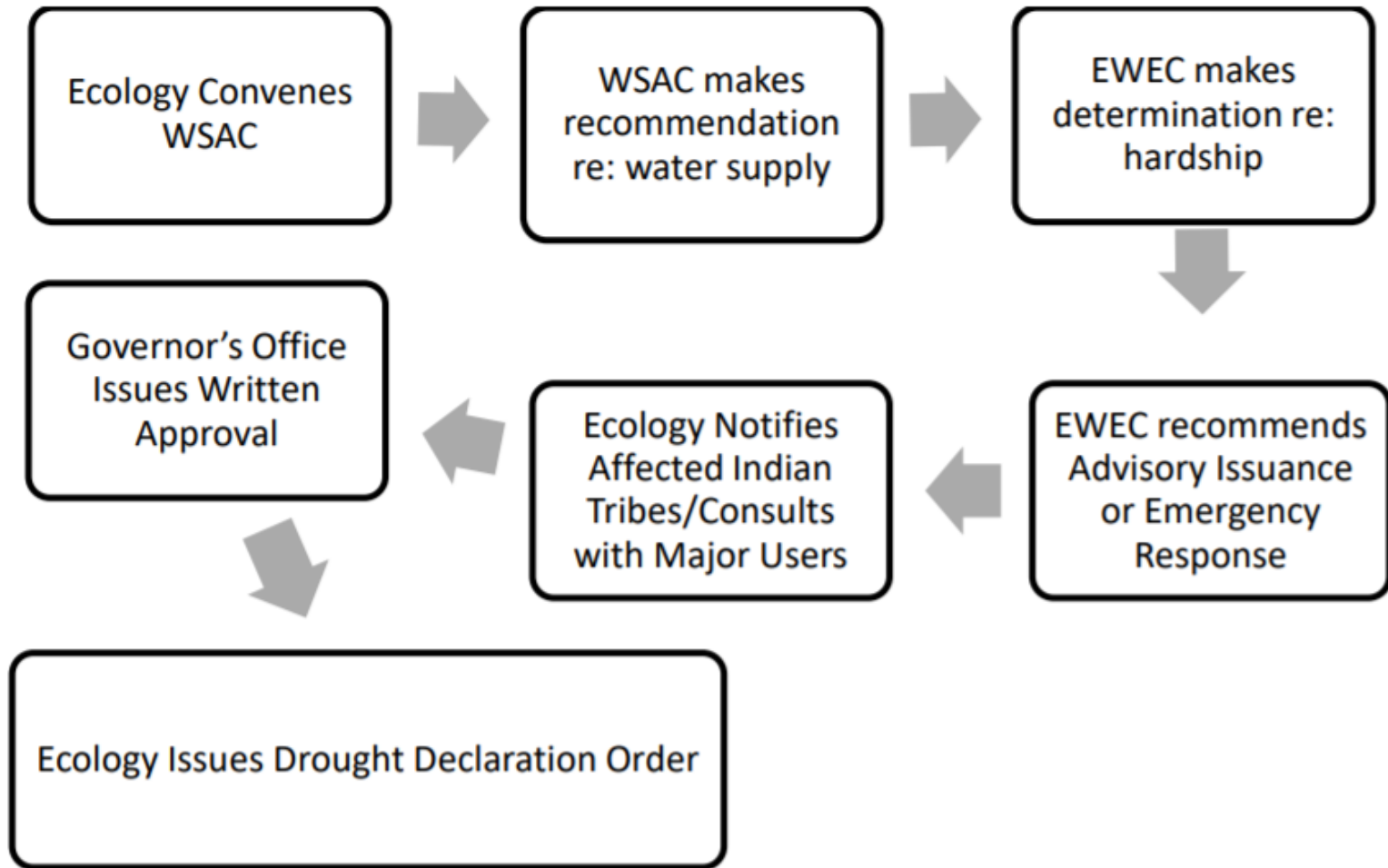
- In Washington statute, drought is defined as conditions in which water supply is anticipated to be less than 75 percent of normal and there is anticipated hardship to water users and uses (RCW 43.83B).



# May 24<sup>th</sup> Drought Advisory



# WA drought emergency framework





# July 14<sup>th</sup> Emergency Order



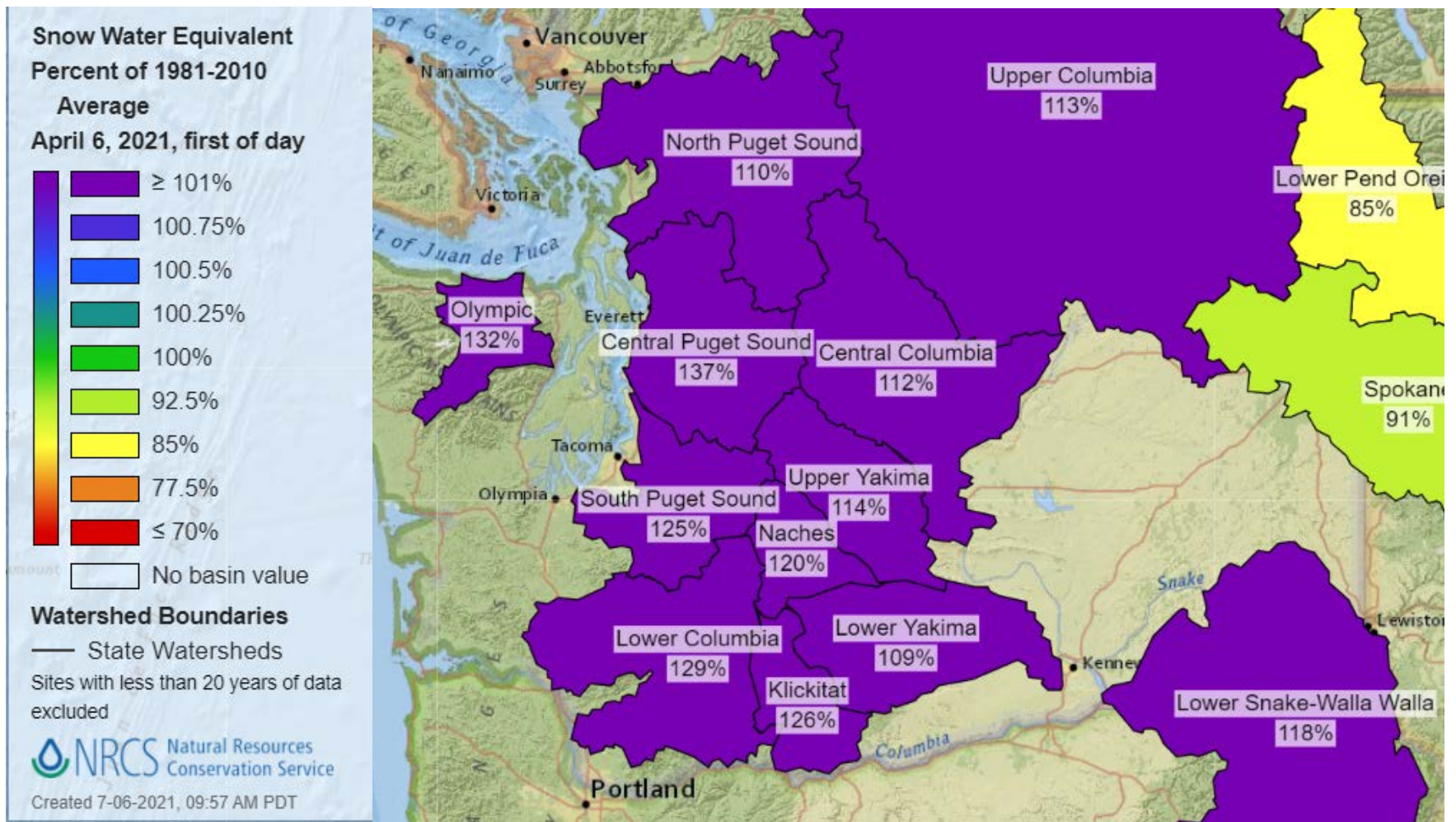


# Water supply conditions and forecasts

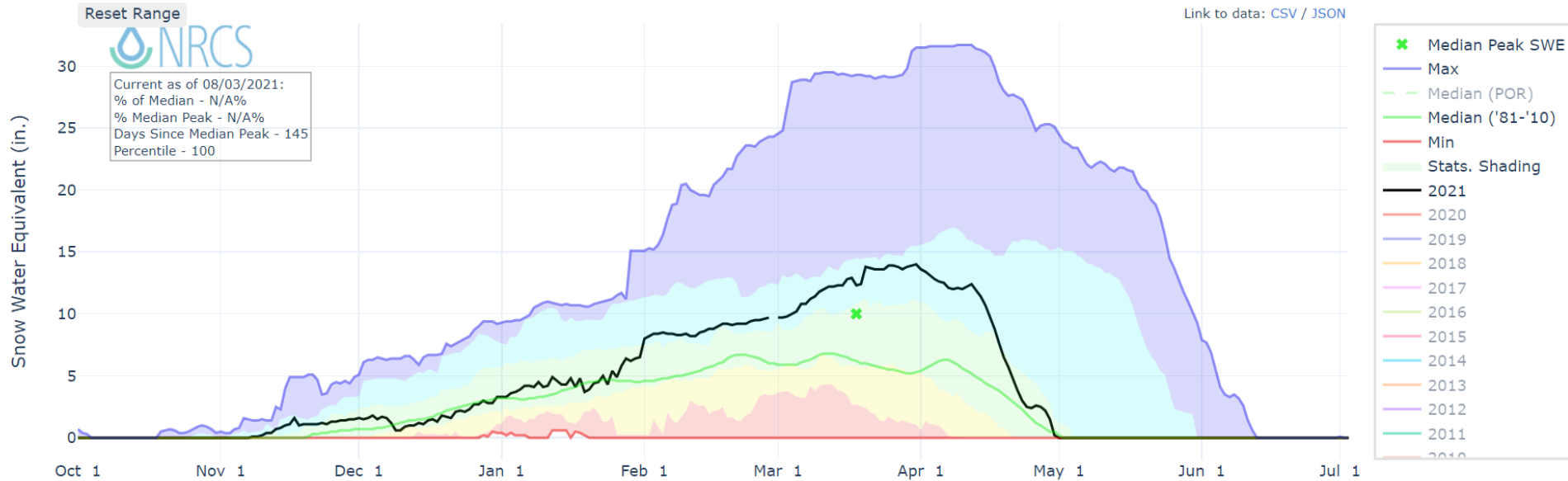




# Statewide SWE on April 6

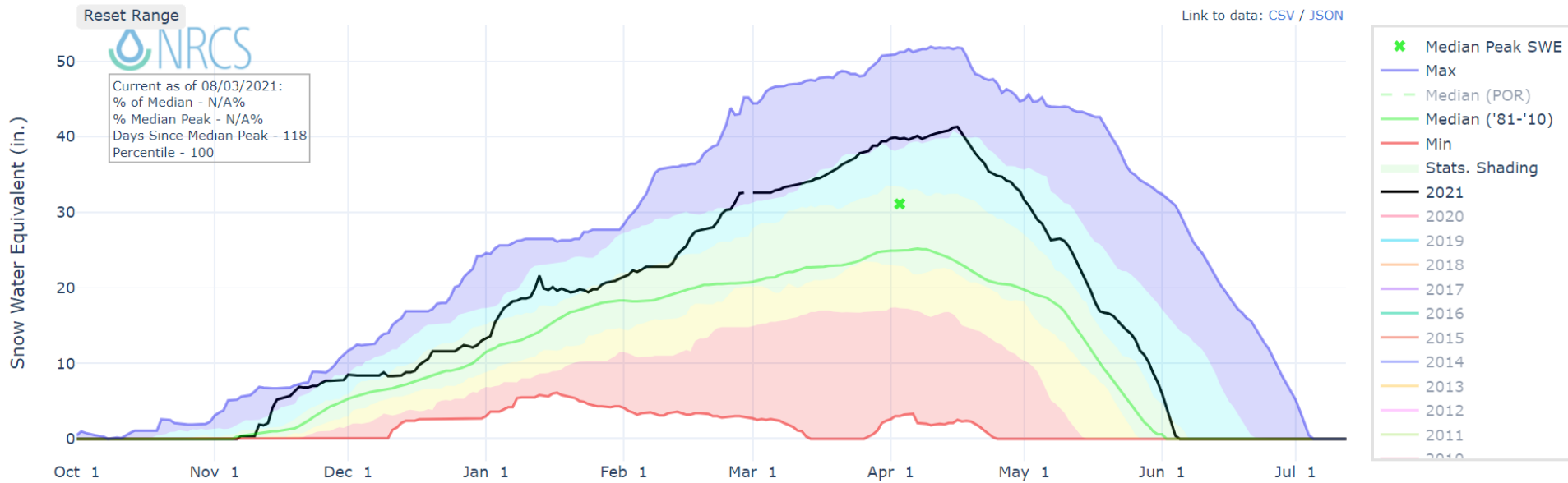


# SWE at Dungeness





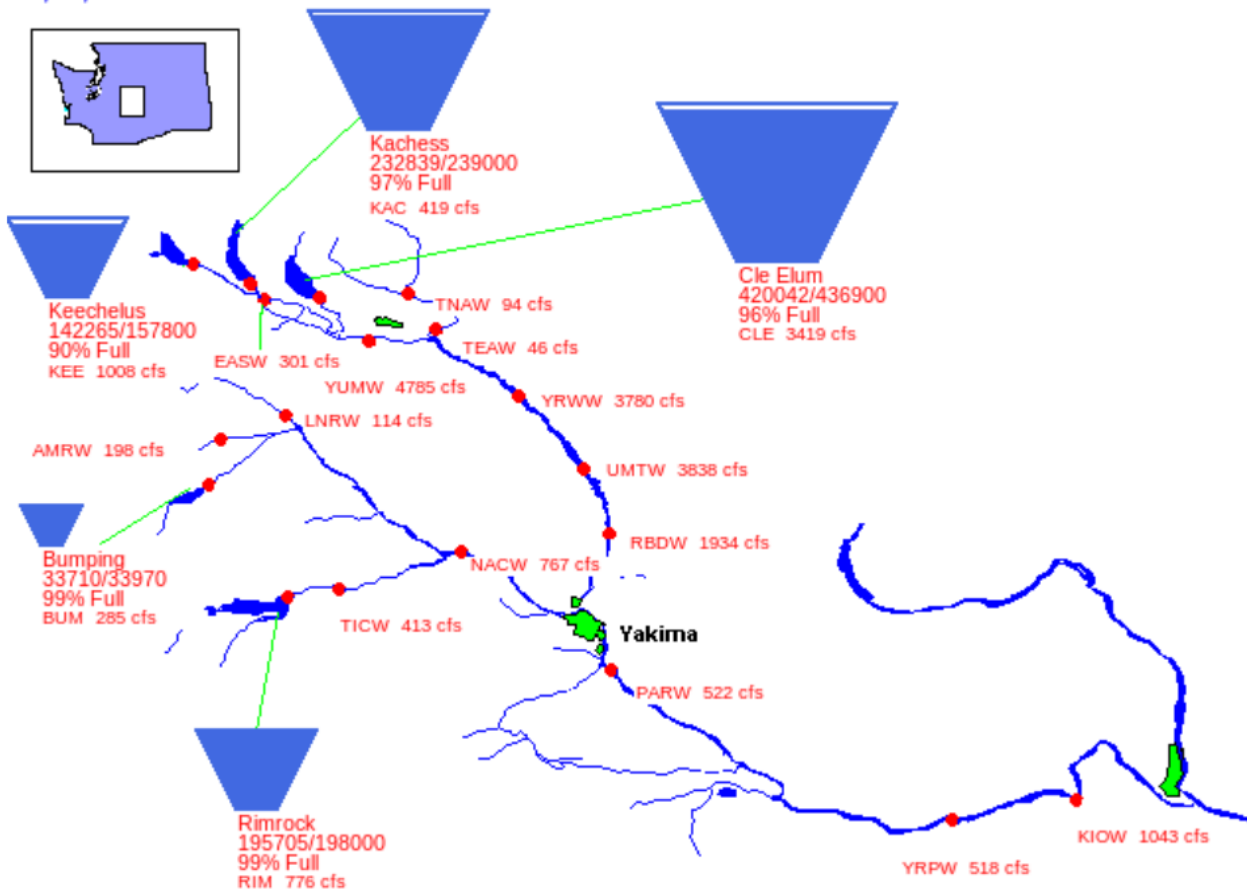
# SWE at Potato Hill



# Reservoir storage

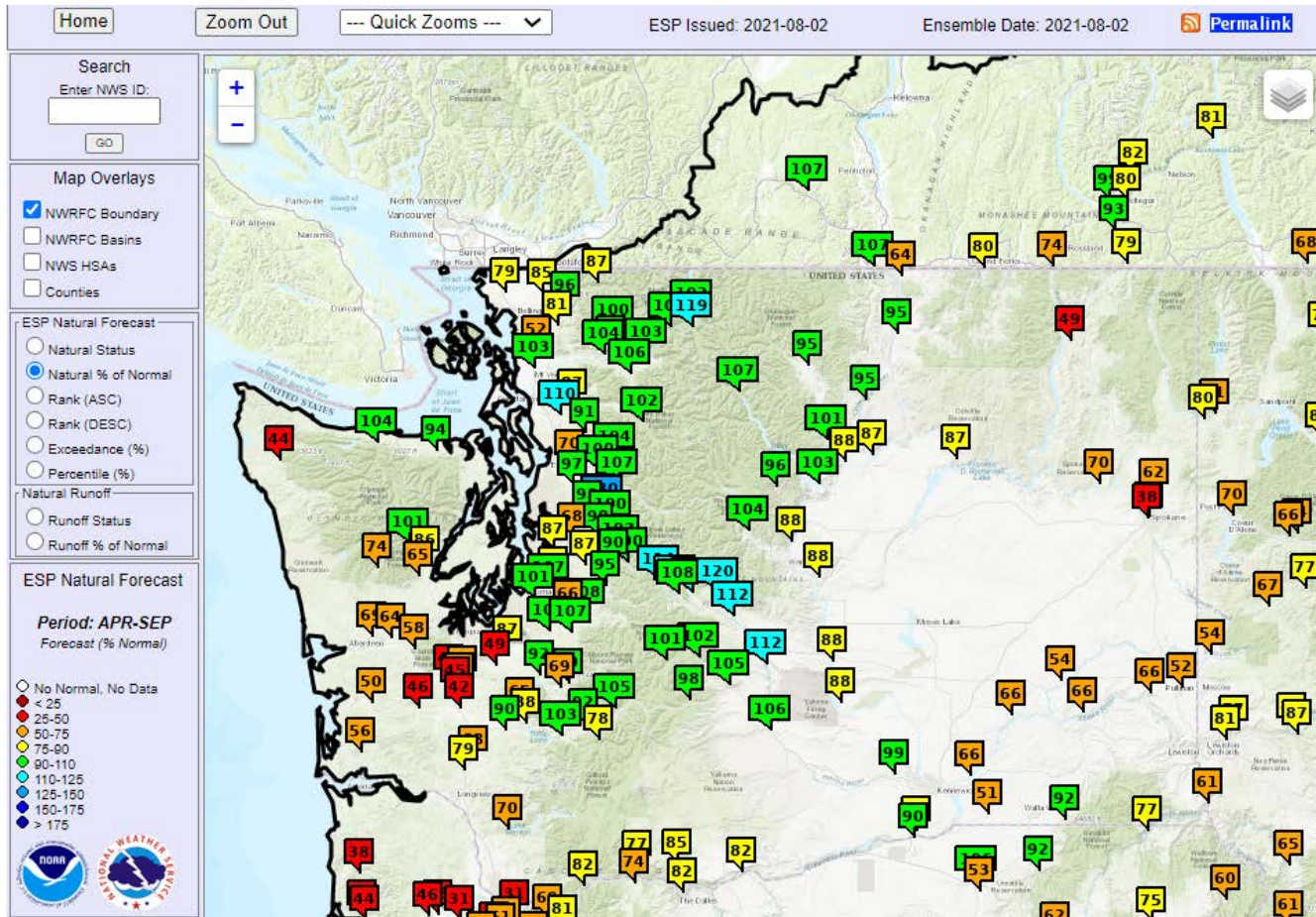
## Major Storage Reservoirs in the Yakima River Basin

07/05/2021

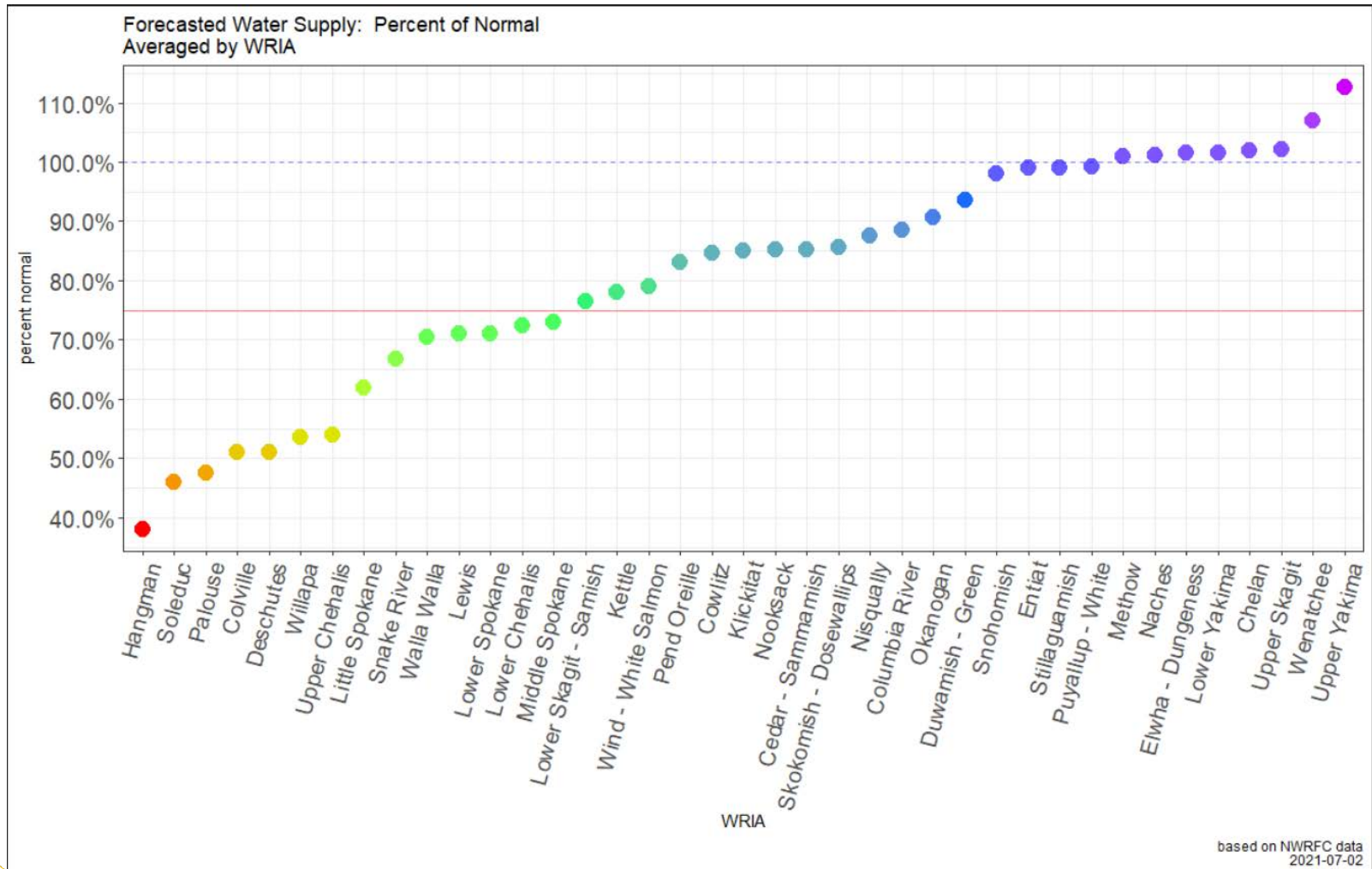




# Streamflow forecast % of normal

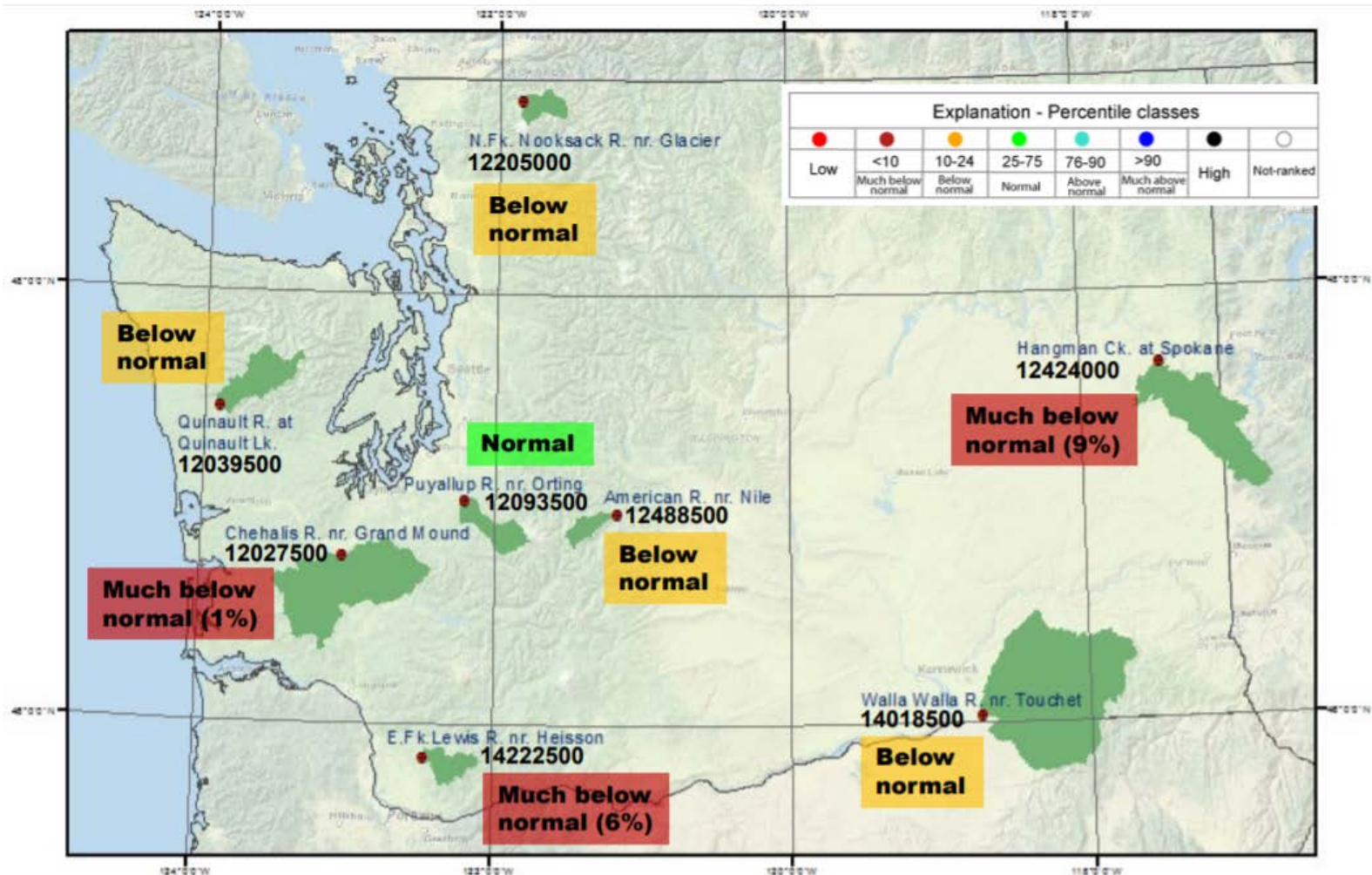


# Streamflow forecast % of normal





# Index gaging stations, 7-day average (July 21, 2021)



# Real-time water temp in °C



August 03, 2021 09:30ET



Explanation							
▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼*
<1	1-4.9	5-9.9	10-19.9	20-29.9	30-35	>35	No Data

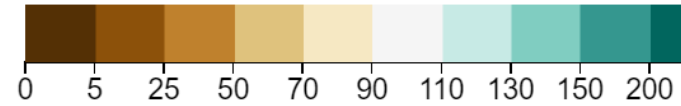




# 90-day precip % of average

Precipitation Percent Of Average  
(gridMET)

2021-05-02 to 2021-07-30, Total, vs. 1981 - 2010



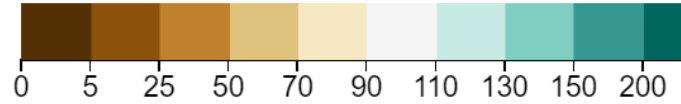
Precipitation Percent of Average (%)



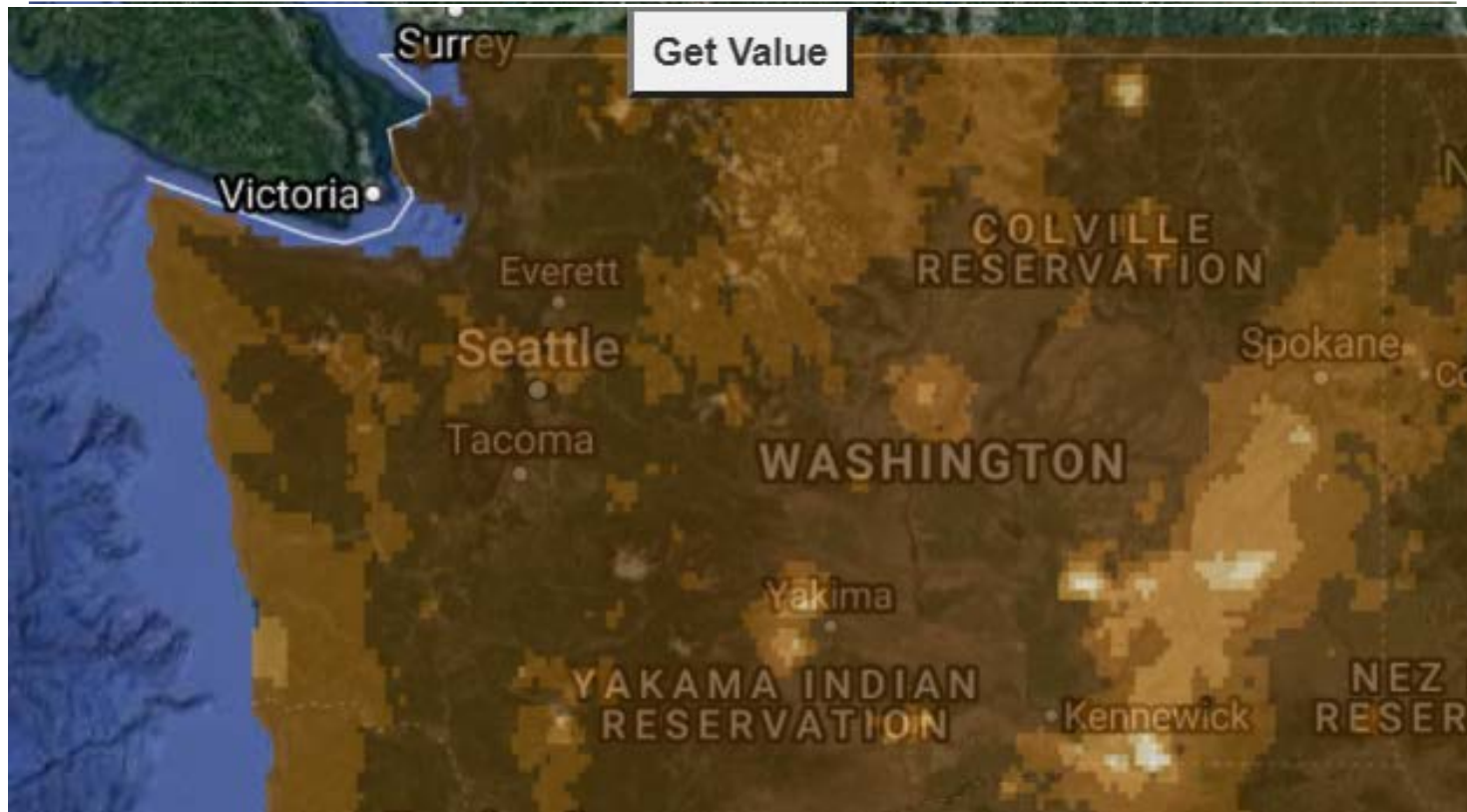
# 30-day precip % of average

Precipitation Percent Of Average  
(gridMET)

2021-07-01 to 2021-07-30, Total, vs. 1981 - 2010

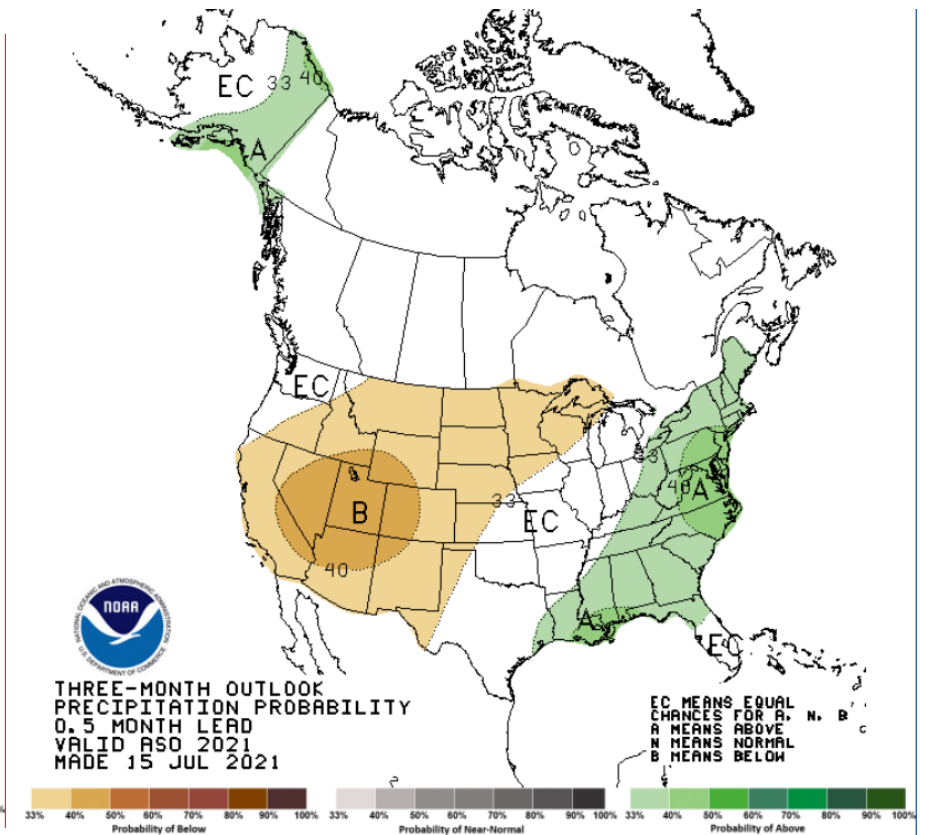
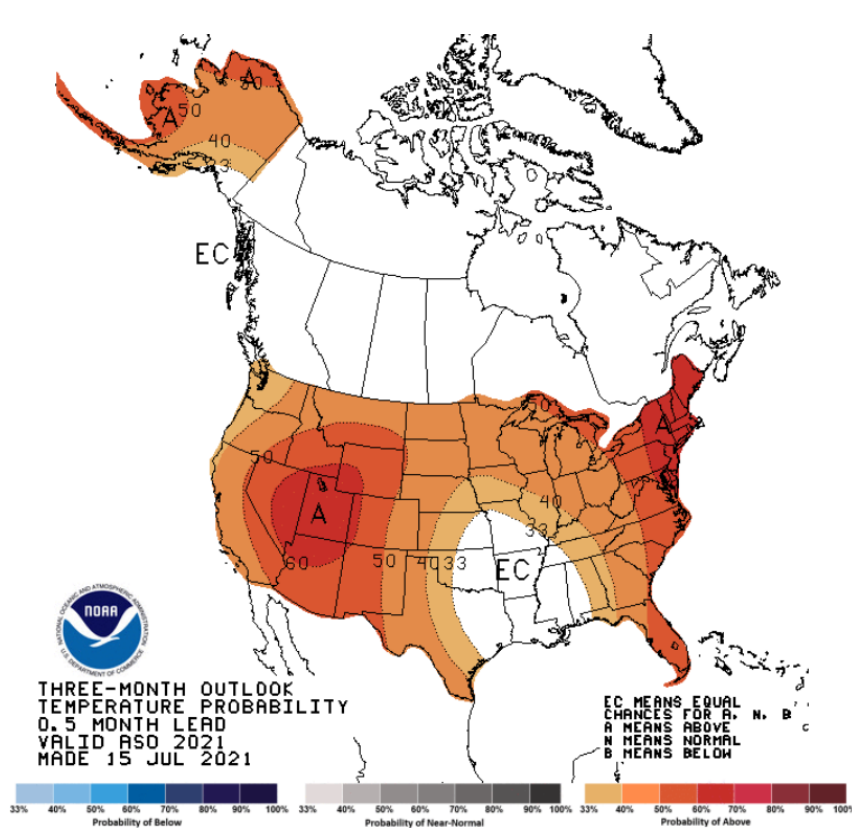


Precipitation Percent of Average (%)

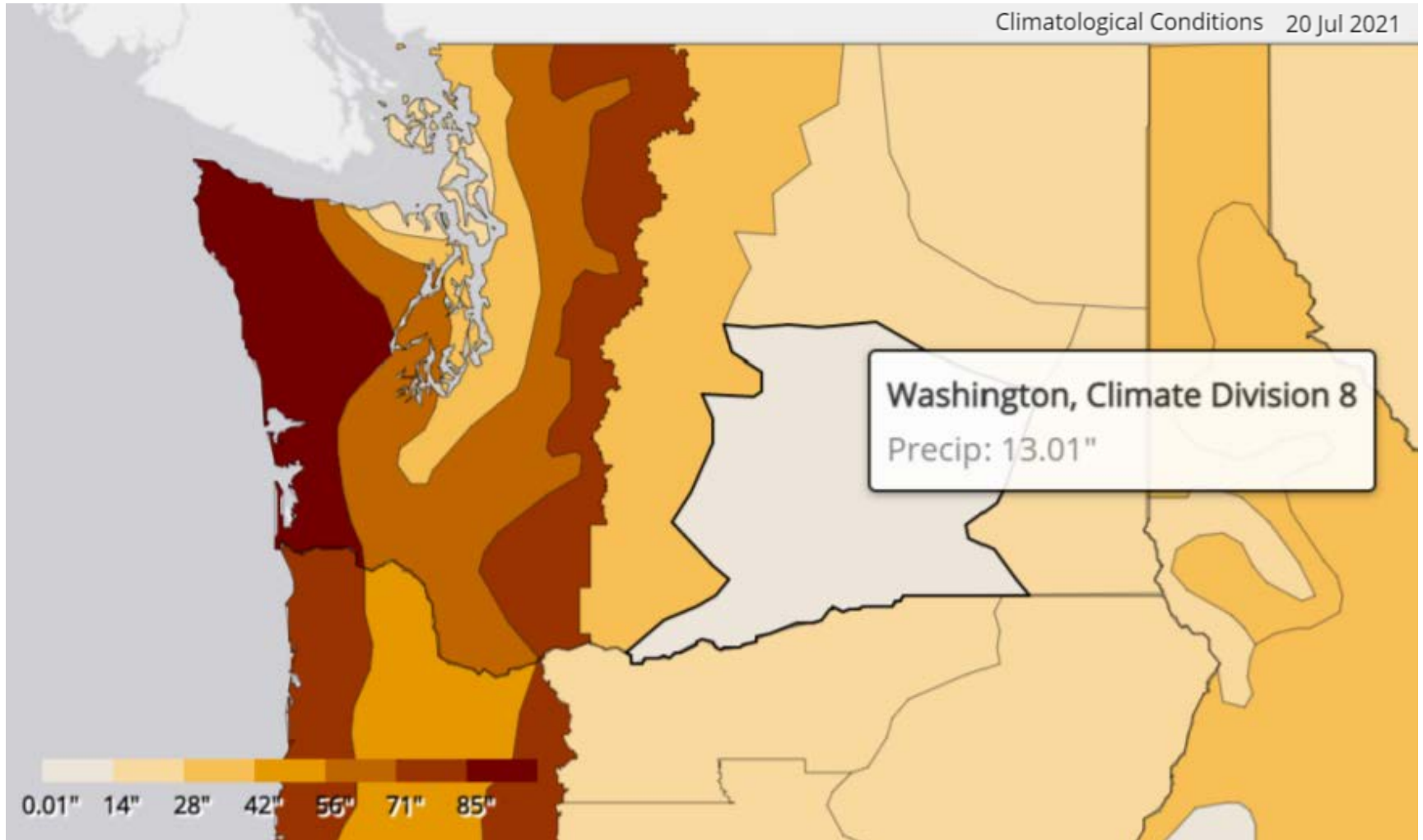




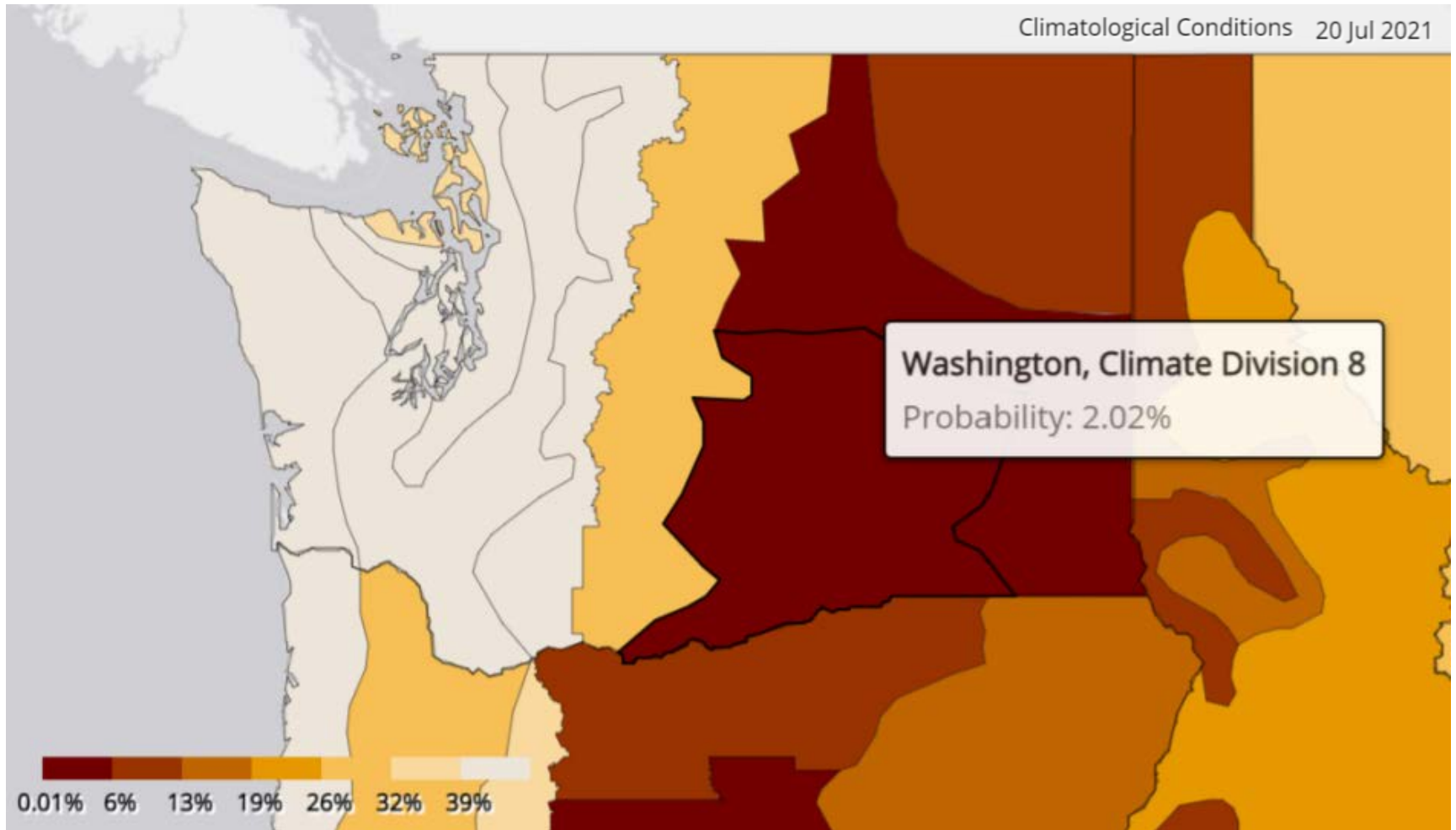
# Aug-Oct climate outlooks



# Precip needed to end drought conditions in 9 months



# Probability of ending drought conditions in 9 months





# WDFW drought response





# WDFW drought response



**Monitors water supply conditions**



**Participates on Executive Water Emergency Committee**



**Coordinates internally and externally to identify and ameliorate drought impacts**



**May expend drought response money, if available**



# WDFW drought plan

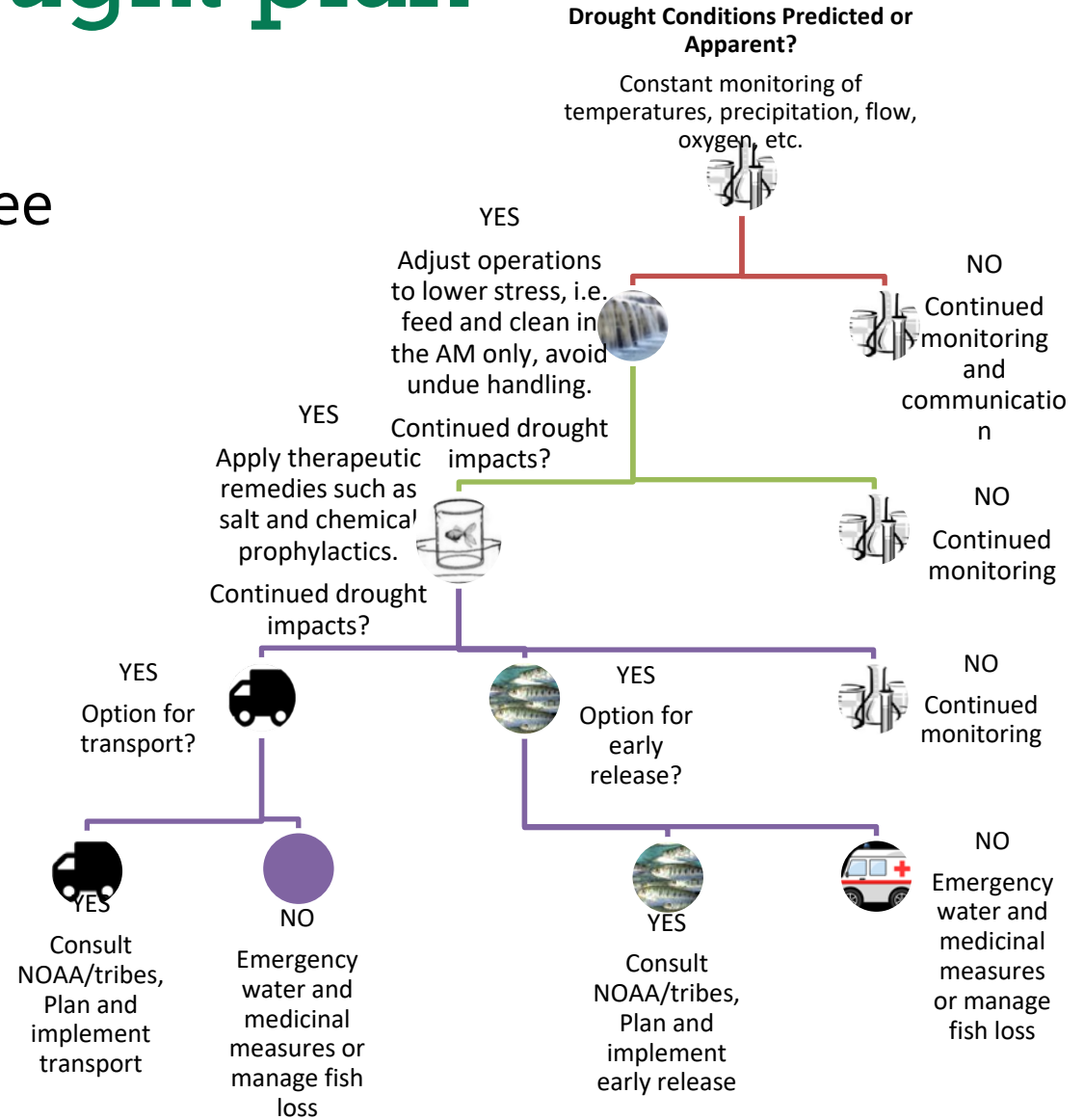
- Articulates principals to guide response
- Collation of drought information
- Identifies a communications framework within the agency
- Ever-adapting document





# WDFW drought plan

Example: hatchery drought decision tree



# Impacts: recreational rock dams



## LET 'EM PASS! Rock Dams Block Fish



**Rock dams like these block fish and are illegal.  
Fish can't move upstream to find cool water, spawn, and feed.**

We need your help to maintain good fish habitat! Please be a responsible recreationist and do not leave dams or other structures in the stream.

Report dams to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife at 1-877-933-9847 or email: [WILDCOMM@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:WILDCOMM@dfw.wa.gov)

Please provide:

- Location of obstruction (lat-long or GPS coordinates are best)
- Description of obstruction (send photo if possible)
- Date/Time
- Name and contact information (optional)



Report A Rock Dam

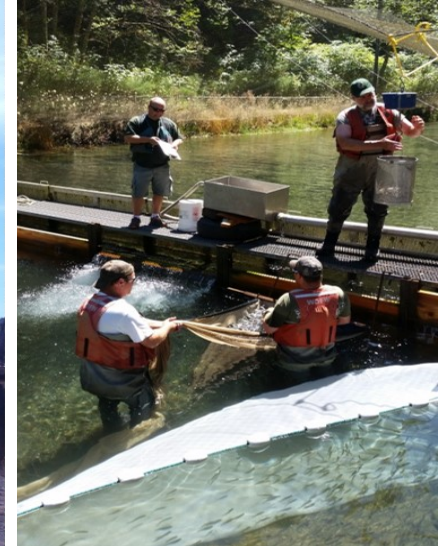




# Impacts: hatchery impacts

CLOCKWISE FROM  
UPPER RIGHT:

- Early Plants at Icy Creek Hatchery
- Installing Soos Creek Hatchery pack column for aeration
- George Adams Hatchery Shade cloth
- Drilling replacement well at Naches Hatchery





# Impacts: wildfire





# Final thoughts: the new normal



# Questions?

