

# Water Outlook

## Situation Outlook Summary

- System-wide storage is at 77.0% of capacity which equates to about 3.0 years of demand in storage
- Snowpack in our mountain watersheds is at or near record lows
- Soil moisture conditions remain below normal in the Colorado and Arkansas River basins
- We expect significantly below average runoff this season

## Three-month outlook predictions

- Central and southern Colorado have a slightly elevated likelihood of experiencing above normal temperatures
- Precipitation across northern Colorado is expected to be near normal, while the southern half of the state faces increasing chances of below normal precipitation

We continue to monitor snowpack, demand, and storage to maximize available water supply

# Local Weather Conditions as of February 28, 2026

## Precipitation (Inches of Moisture)

- February 2026– 0.05 in. (15.6% of normal)
- 2026 YTD Total – 1.07 in. (175.4% of normal)

## Average Temperature (Degrees F)

- February 2026 – 41.6 Deg. (8.4 deg. above normal)
- 2026 YTD Average – 36.4 Deg. (3.8 deg. above normal)



# Colorado

Map released: Thurs. February 26, 2026

Data valid: February 24, 2026 at 7 a.m. EST

## Intensity

-  None
-  D0 (Abnormally Dry)
-  D1 (Moderate Drought)
-  D2 (Severe Drought)
-  D3 (Extreme Drought)
-  D4 (Exceptional Drought)
-  No Data

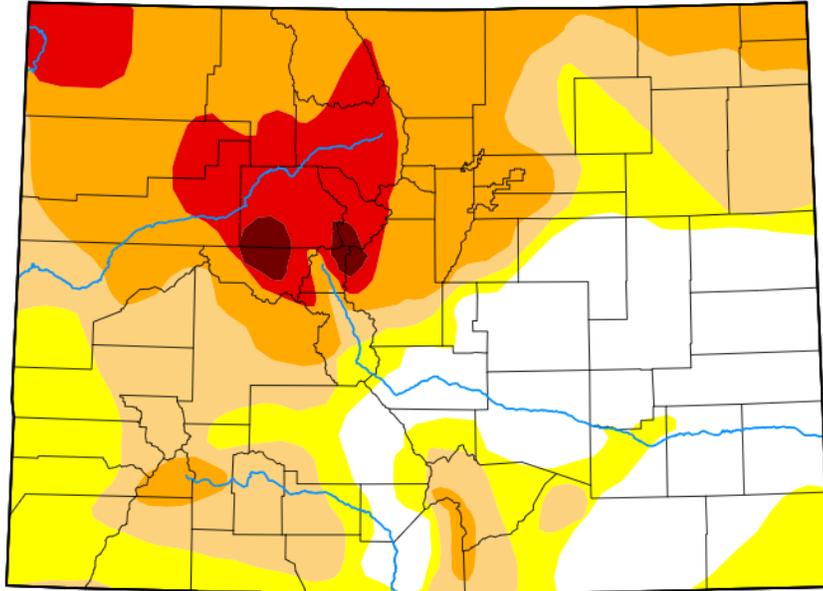
## Authors

United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):

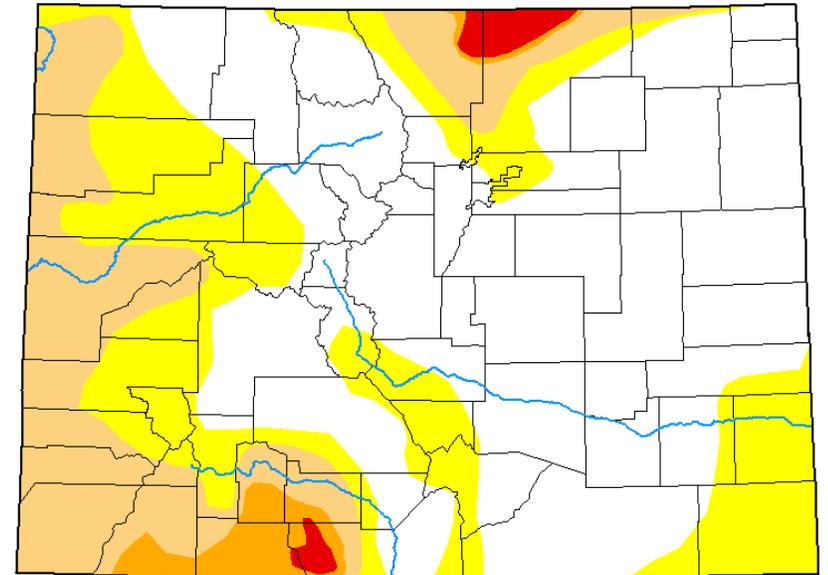
[Brad Rippey](#), U.S. Department of Agriculture

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):

[Rocky Bilotta](#), NOAA/NCEI

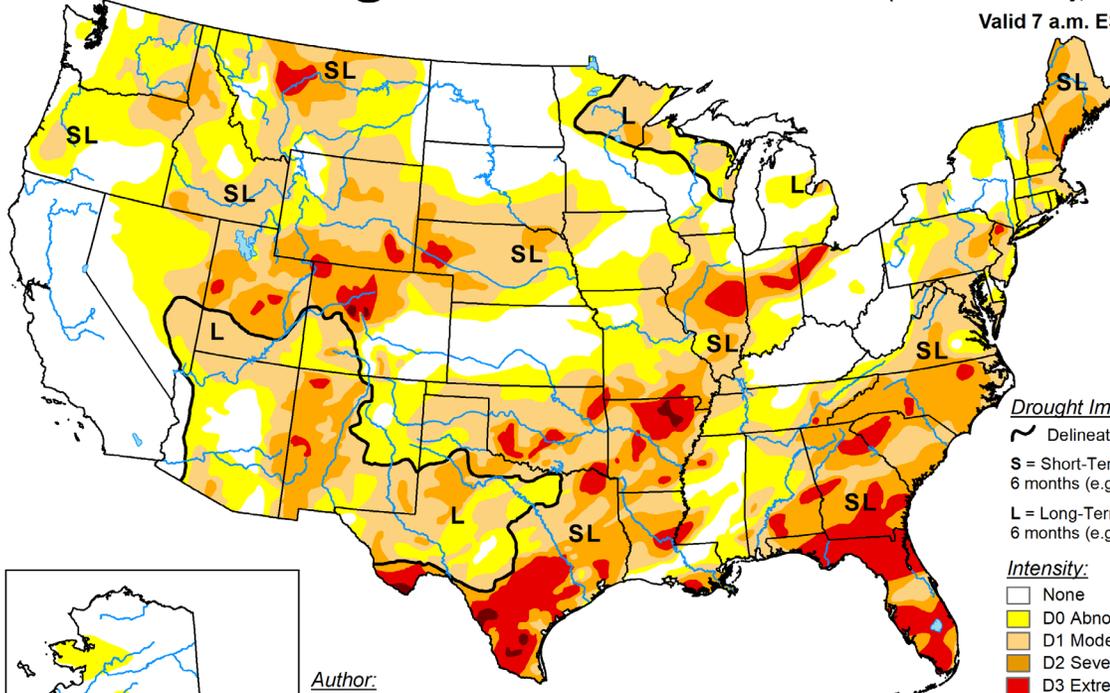


February 25, 2025



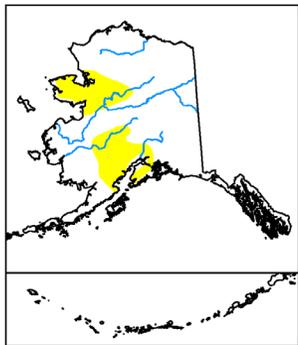
# U.S. Drought Monitor

February 24, 2026  
 (Released Thursday, Feb. 26, 2026)  
 Valid 7 a.m. EST

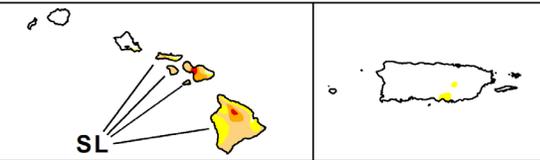


**Drought Impact Types:**  
 ~ Delineates dominant impacts  
 S = Short-Term, typically less than 6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)  
 L = Long-Term, typically greater than 6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

**Intensity:**  
 None  
 D0 Abnormally Dry  
 D1 Moderate Drought  
 D2 Severe Drought  
 D3 Extreme Drought  
 D4 Exceptional Drought



Author:  
 Brad Rippey  
 U.S. Department of Agriculture

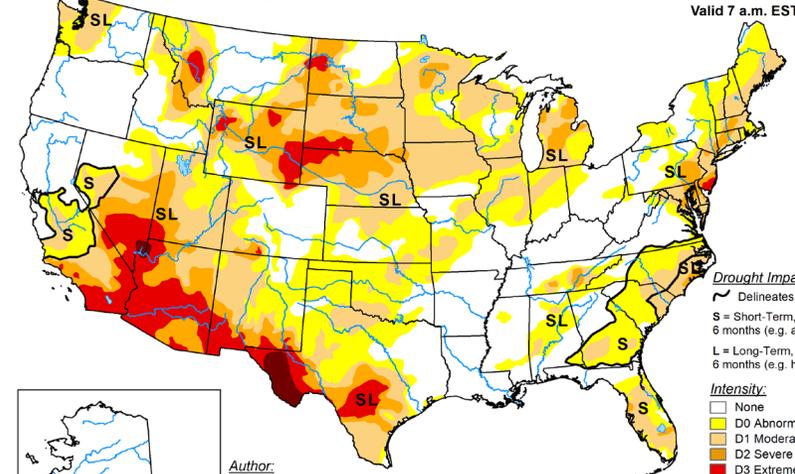


The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>



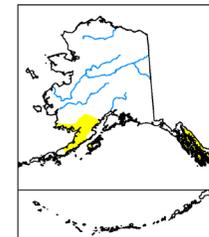
# U.S. Drought Monitor

February 25, 2025  
 (Released Thursday, Feb. 27, 2025)  
 Valid 7 a.m. EST

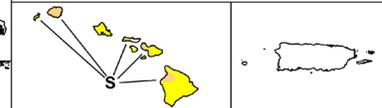


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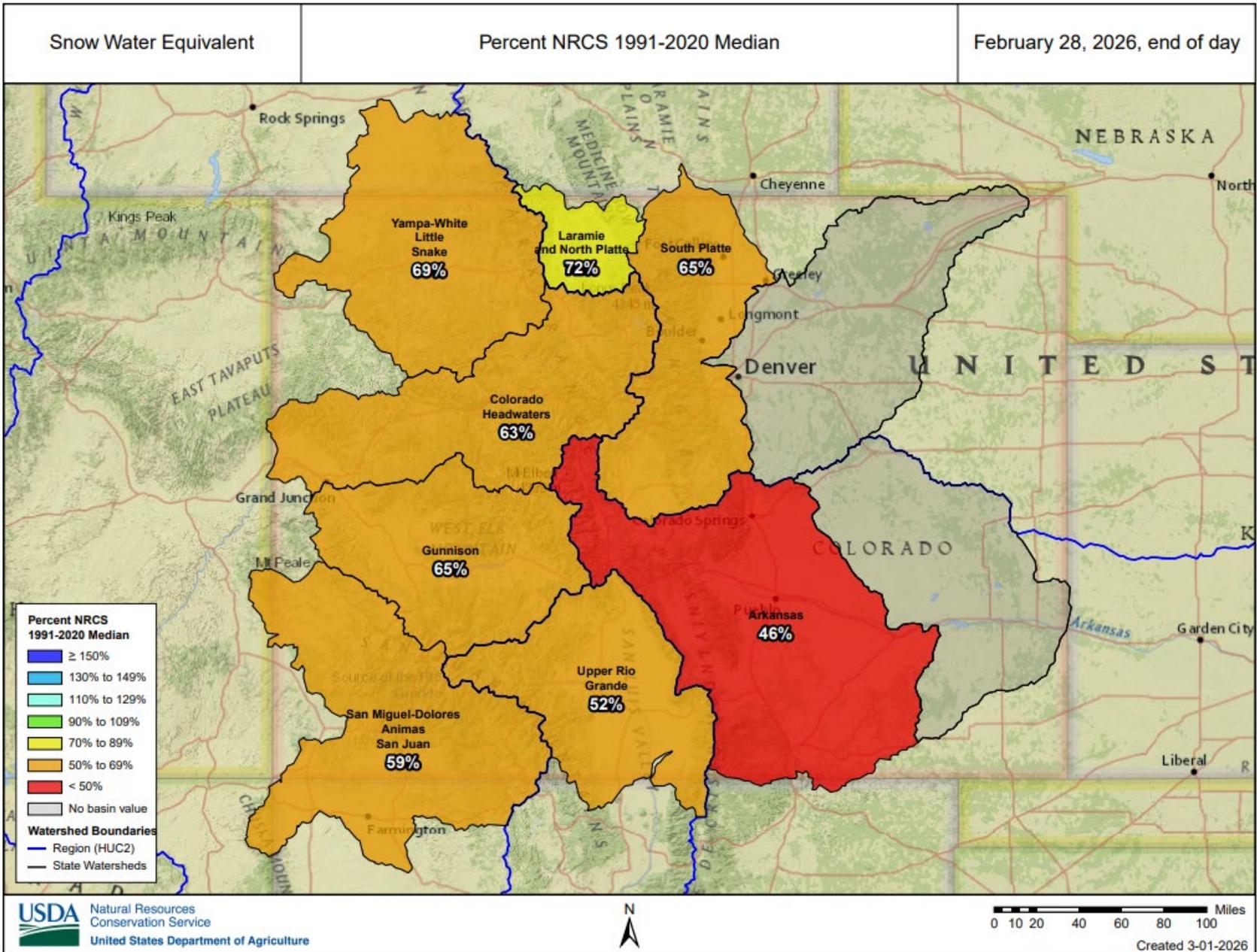


Author:  
 Brian Fuchs  
 National Drought Mitigation Center



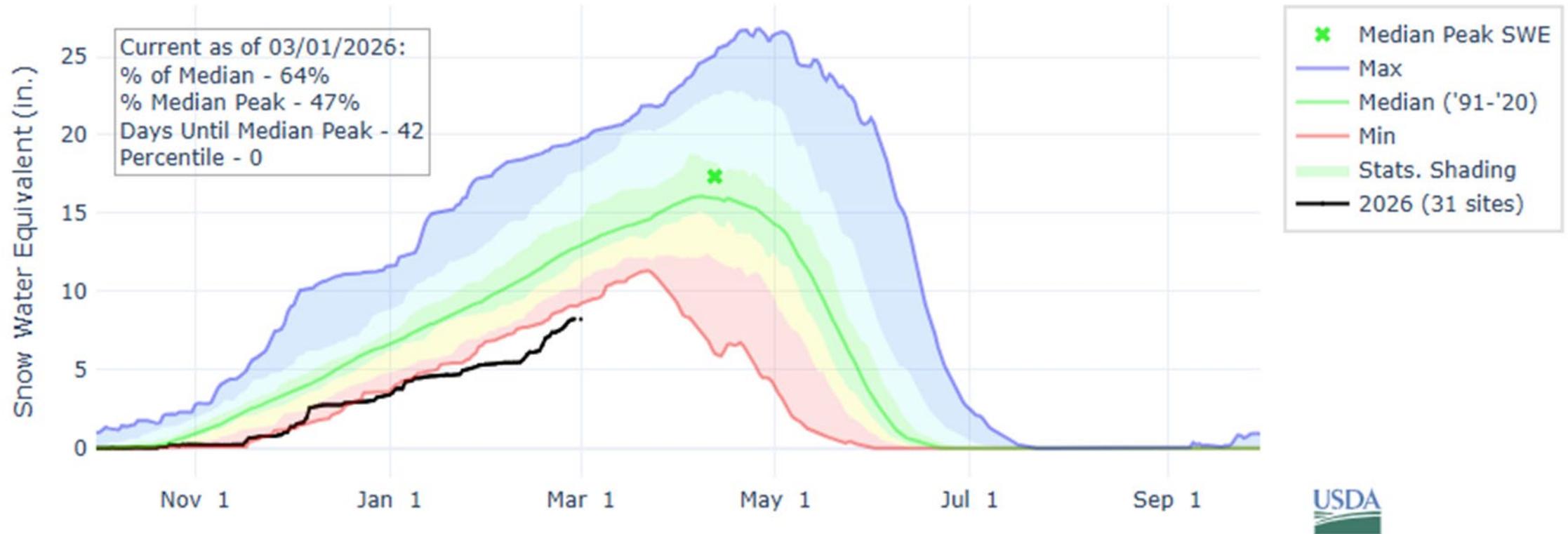
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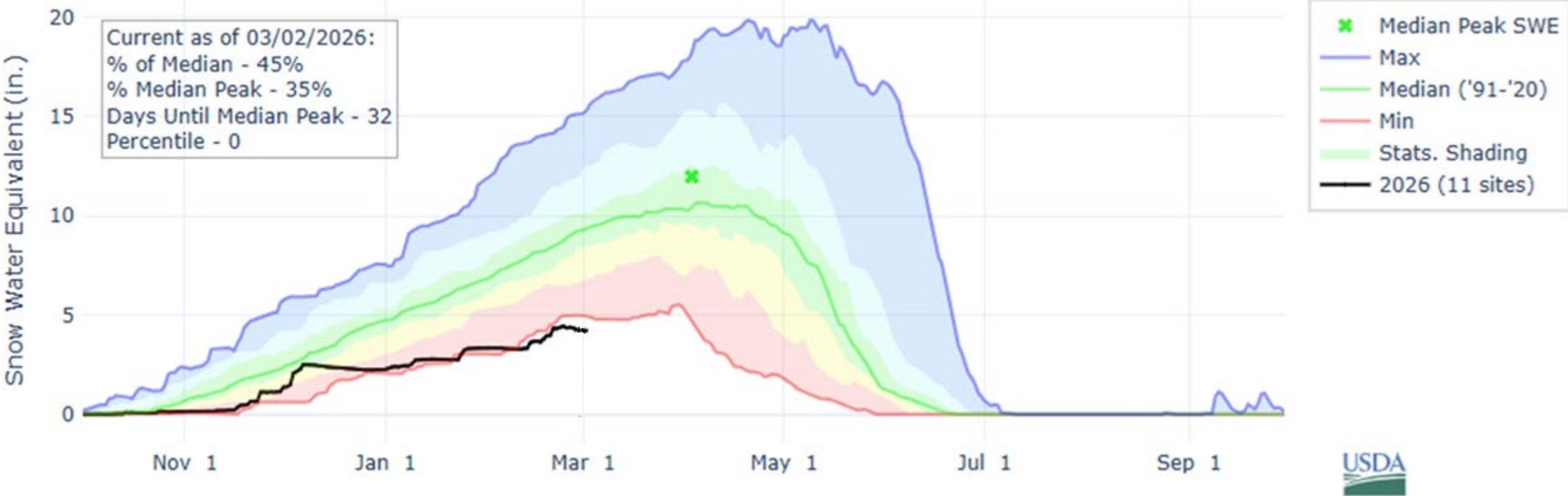
## Snowpack in the Colorado River Headwaters Basin is 64% of normal as of March 1, 2026

### SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN COLORADO HEADWATERS



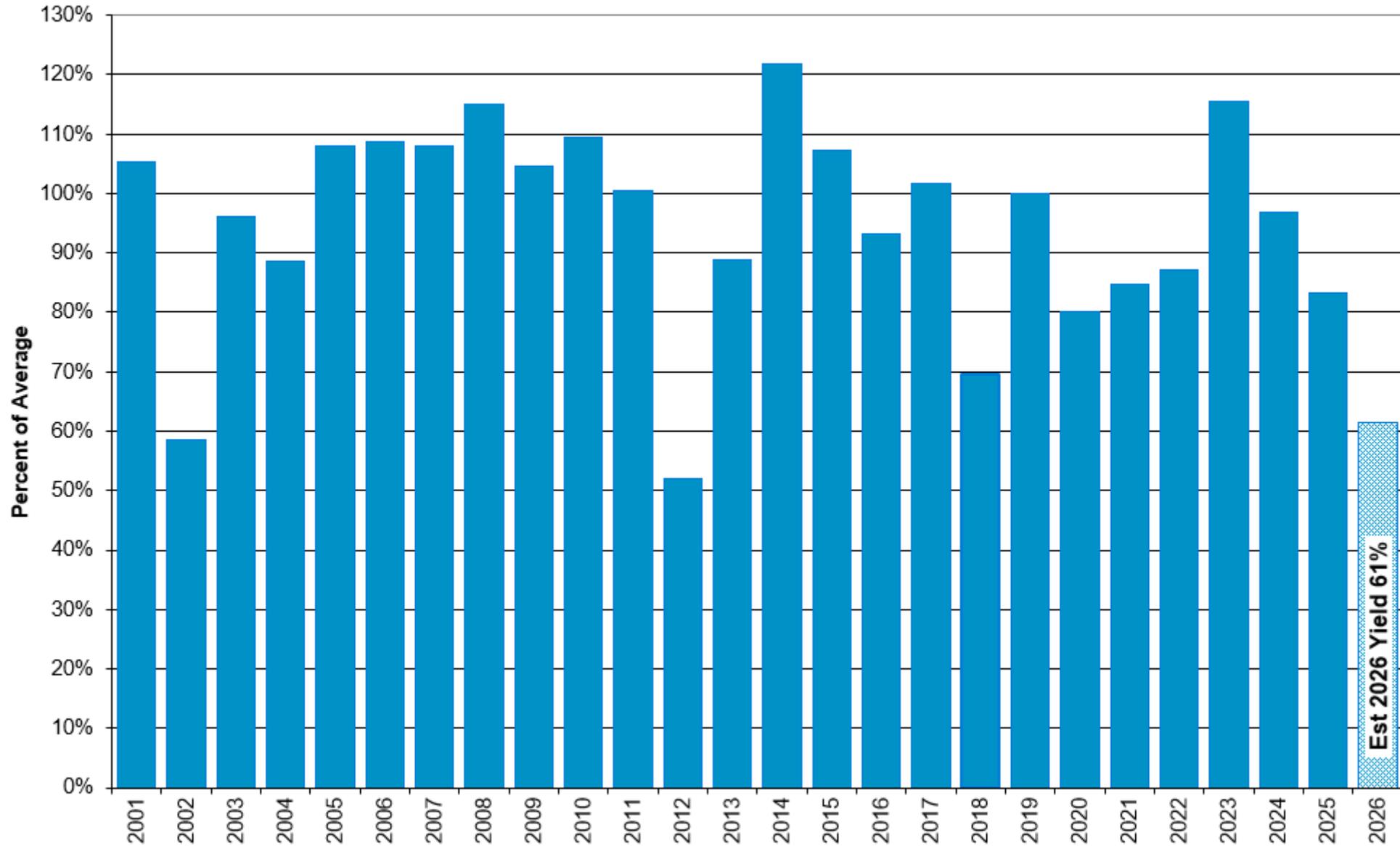
**Snowpack in the Arkansas River Basin is 45% of normal as of March 2, 2026**

**SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN ARKANSAS**



# Colorado Springs Water Yields 2001 - 2026

## Percent of Average Yield



# Reservoir Levels

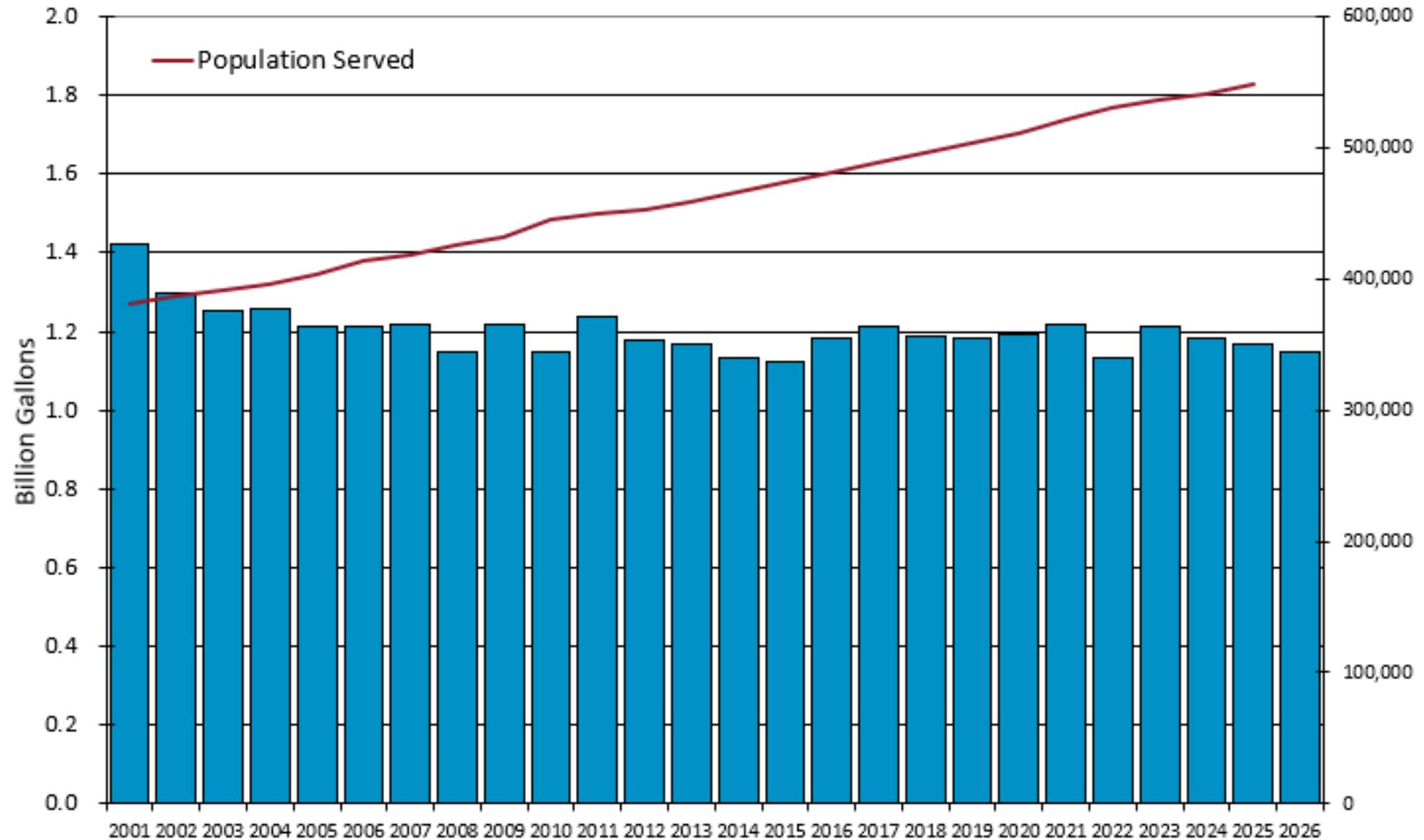
February 28, 2026

- Pikes Peak 47 %
  - 91-20 Avg. 66 %
- Rampart 74 %
  - 91-20 Avg. 81 %
- Local Total 64 %
  - 91-20 Avg. 75 %
- System Total 77 %
  - 91-20 Avg. 72 %



Upper Blue Reservoir

# Monthly Water Use for February



# 2026 Demands

## February

- Averaged 41.0 MGD
- 1.6% less than February 2025

## 2026 Year to Date through February 28

- Averaging 40.4 MGD, 2.5 BG total
  - 3.8% lower compared to the same time in 2025
  - 0.1 Billion Gallons less than 2025

