SALT RIVER AND VERDE RIVER WATERSHEDS
SRP WATER SUPPLY UPDATE

Stephen Flora, Senior Hydrologist

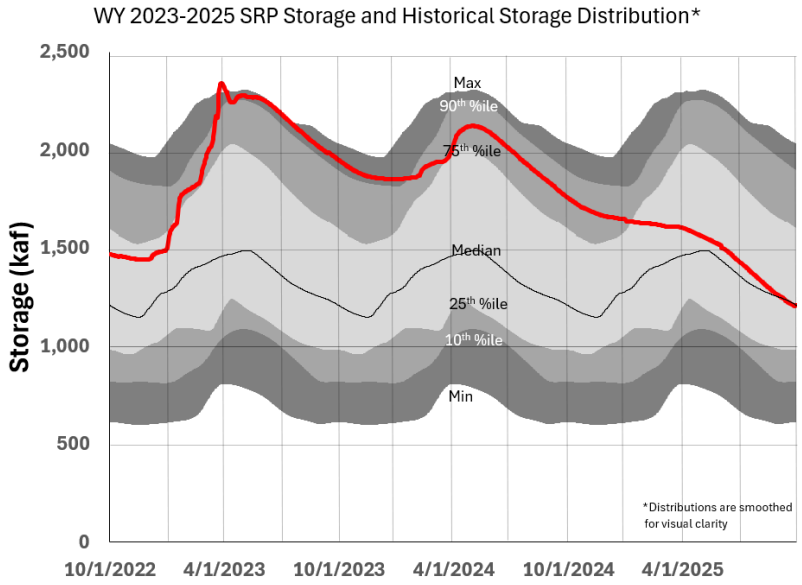
ADWR Drought ICG Meeting – May 14, 2026

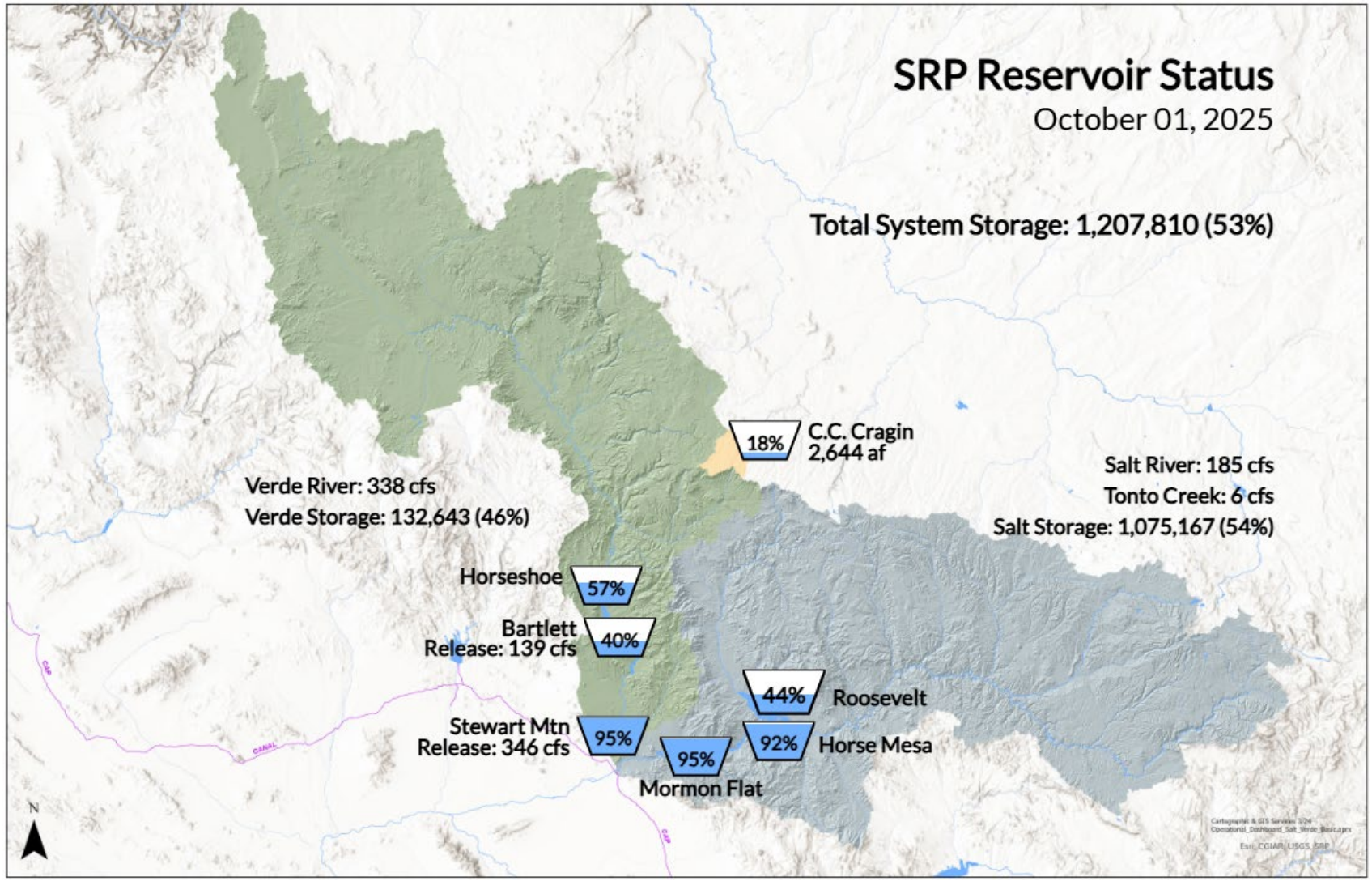
Reservoir and Watershed Status – Start of WY 2026

Water Year (WY) 2025 Total SRP Reservoir inflow = 205,083 AF (30% of median)*

*lowest on record

Reservoir storage decreased from 76% to 53% in WY 2025.





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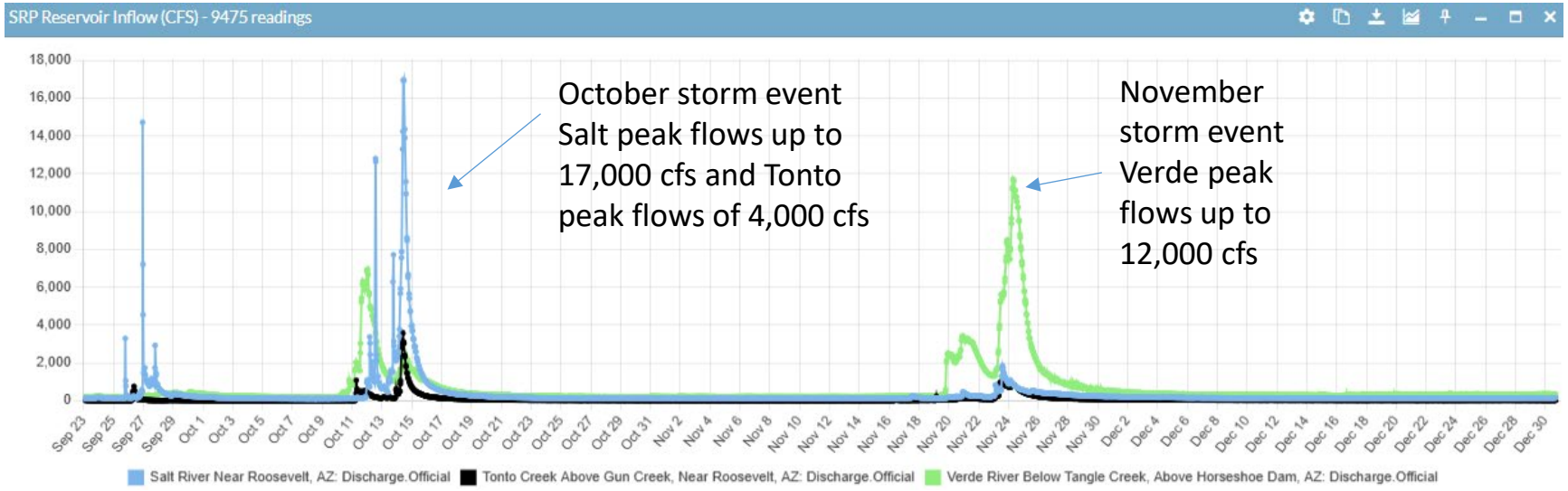
Fall 2025 Storm Events and Runoff

Precipitation Comparison

Fall 2024 (Oct –Dec)
0.86” (21% of normal)

vs.

Fall 2025 (Oct –Dec)
6.92” (172% of normal)



*River Swap from Salt to Verde for deliveries was completed December 8 to 11, 2025.

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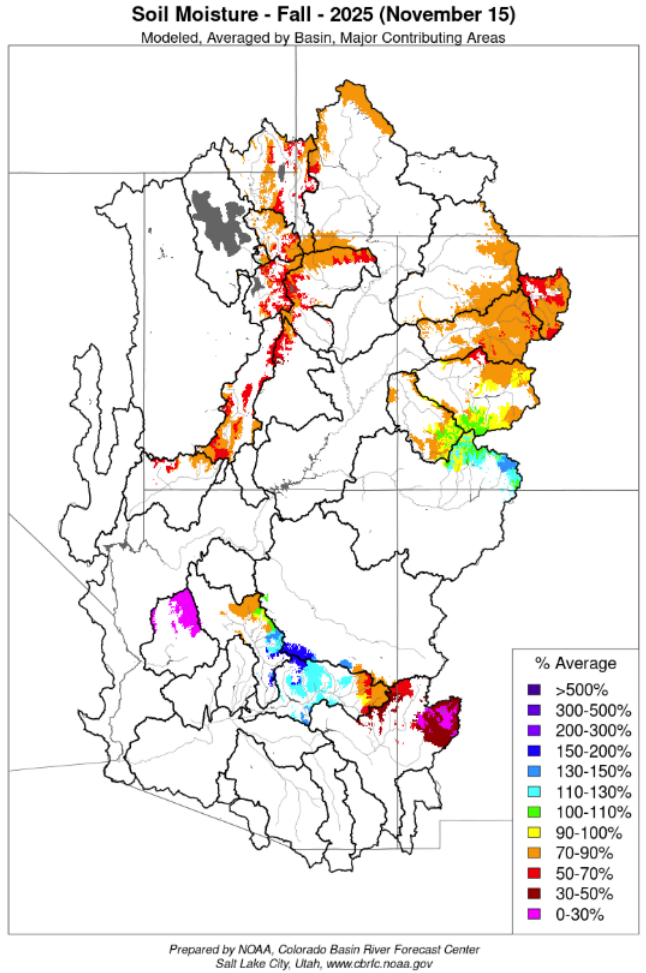
Streamflow October 1 to December 31, 2025

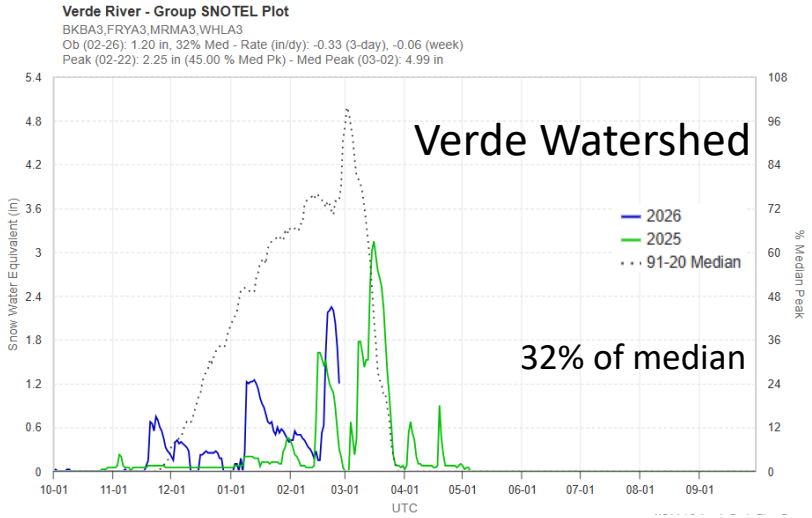
Salt River = 54,240 AF (125% of median)
Tonto Creek = 15,189 (333% of median)
Verde River = 129,856 (282% of median)

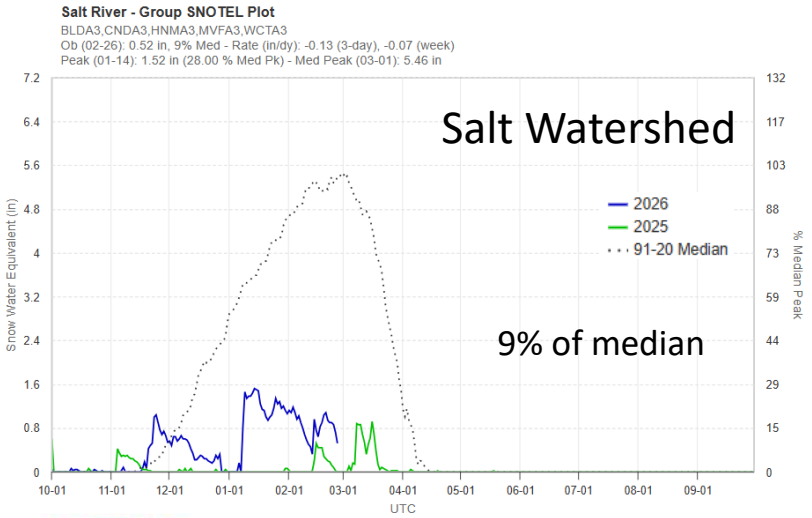
Total = 199,285 AF (210% of median)



Soil Moisture and Runoff Efficiency was above normal on Verde/Salt due to Fall 2025 Storm Events

WY 2026 Snowpack





Late December 2025

Late February 2026

Snowpack was below normal on the Salt/Verde Watersheds in winter 2026

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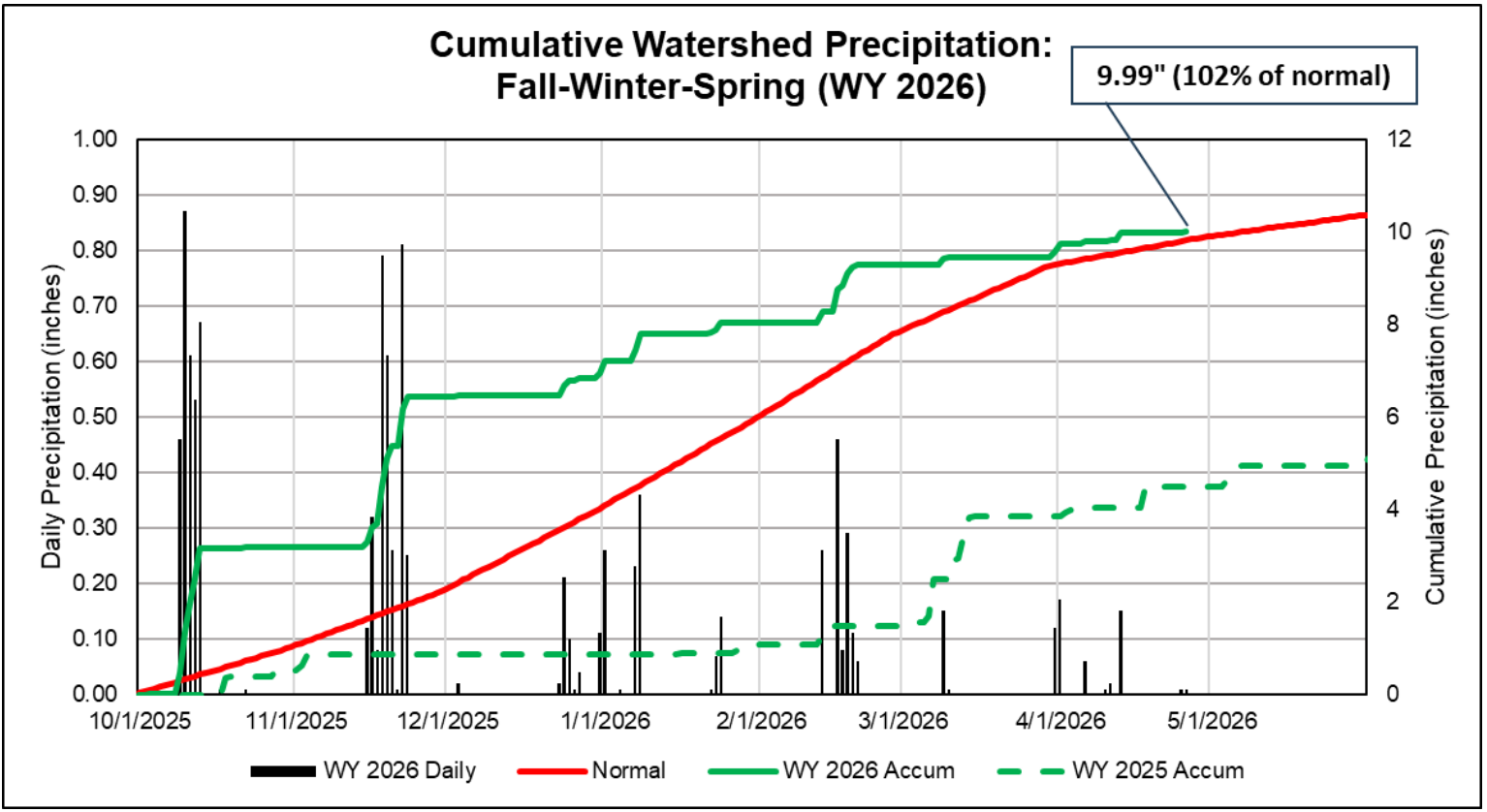
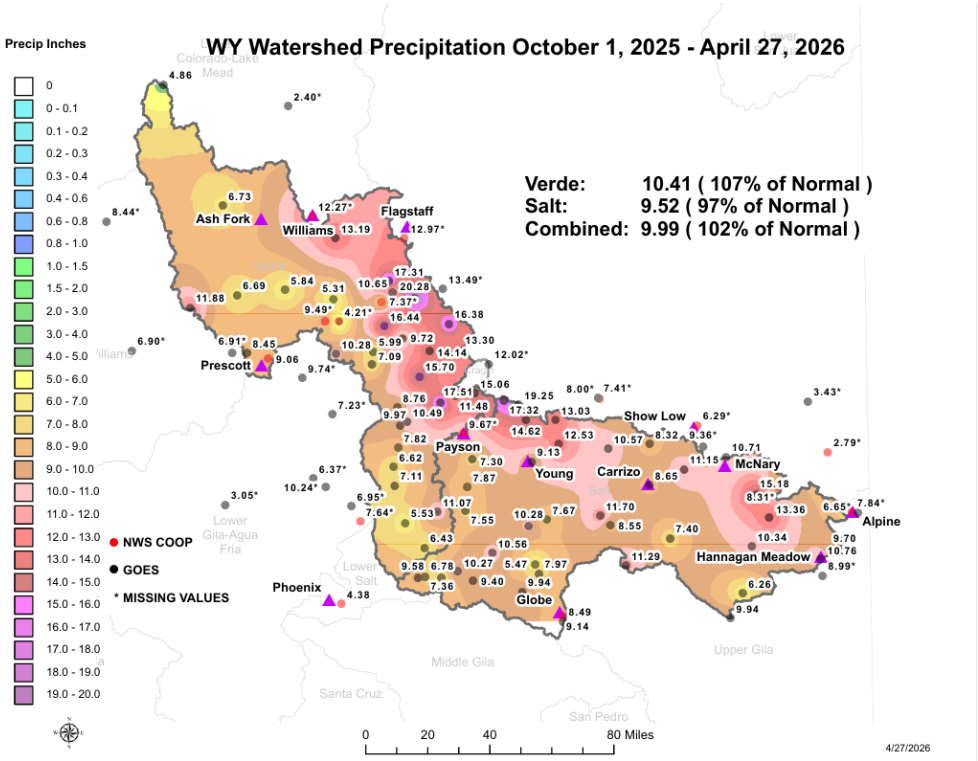
Watershed Precipitation



Water Year 2026 (as of 4/27)
9.99” (102% of normal)

Last year
WY 2025 - 11.28” (69% of normal)



Fall 2025 (Oct –Dec)
6.92” (172% of normal

Winter 2026 (Jan –Mar)
2.87” (53% of normal)

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Salt, Tonto, Verde Streamflow

Precipitation Comparison

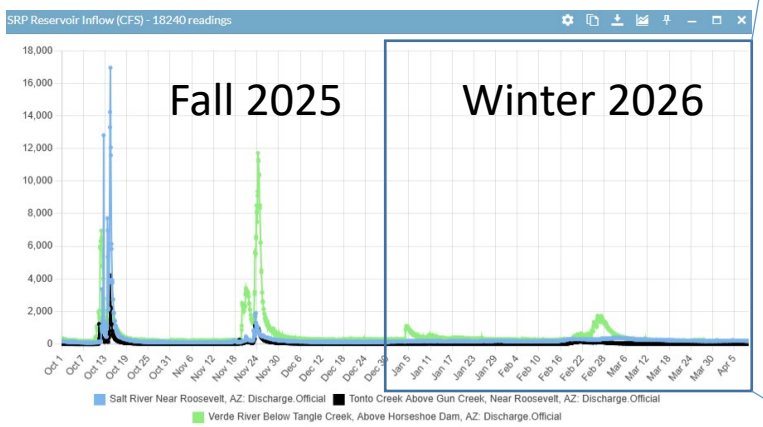
Winter 2025 (Jan –Mar)
3.00” (56% of normal)
March 2025 = 2.36”

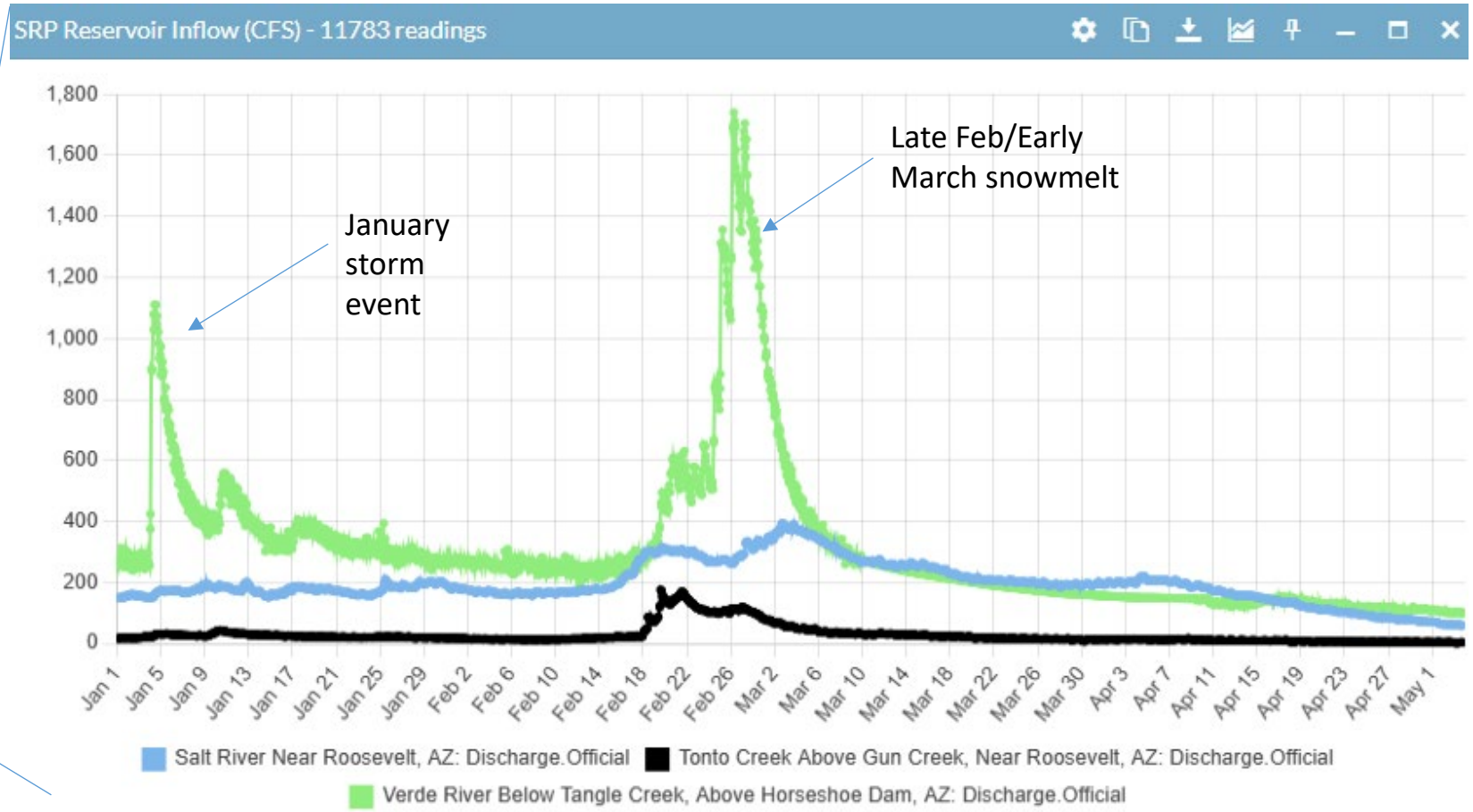
vs.

Winter 2026 (Jan –Mar)
2.87” (53% of normal)
March 2026 = 0.46”

Streamflow January 1 to April 30, 2026
Salt River = 46,980 AF (22% of median)
Tonto Creek = 6,626 (18% of median)
Verde River = 82,056 (56% of median)

Total 2026 = 135,662 AF (33% of median)
Last Year 2025 = 83,544 AF





WY 2026 Total SRP Reservoir inflow = 335,000 AF

(as of April 30, 2026)

Verde River peak flow was 1,740 cfs (late Feb) and Salt River peak flow was 395 cfs (early March)
Tonto Creek did not exceed 200 cfs during the winter 2026 runoff season.

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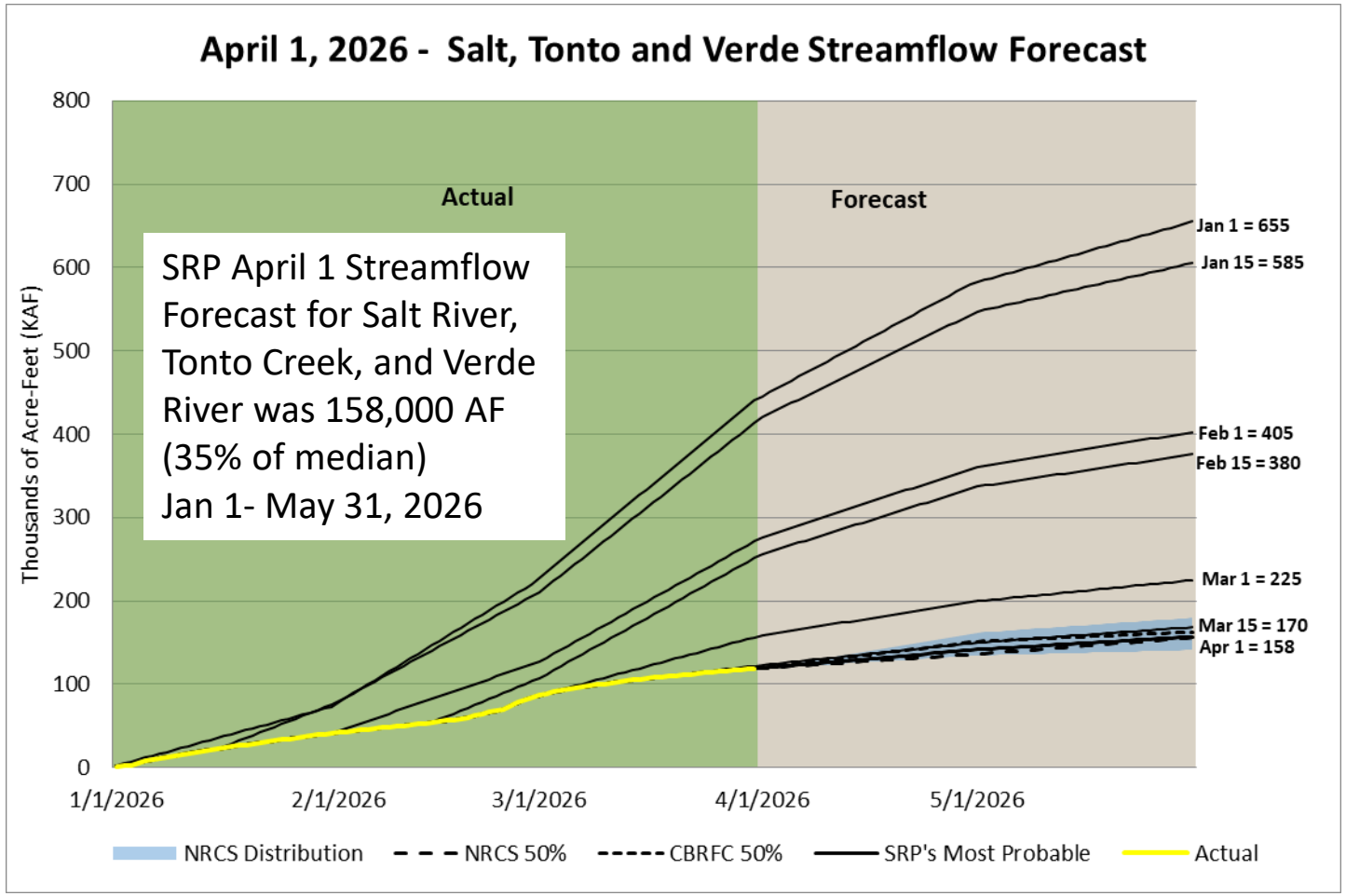
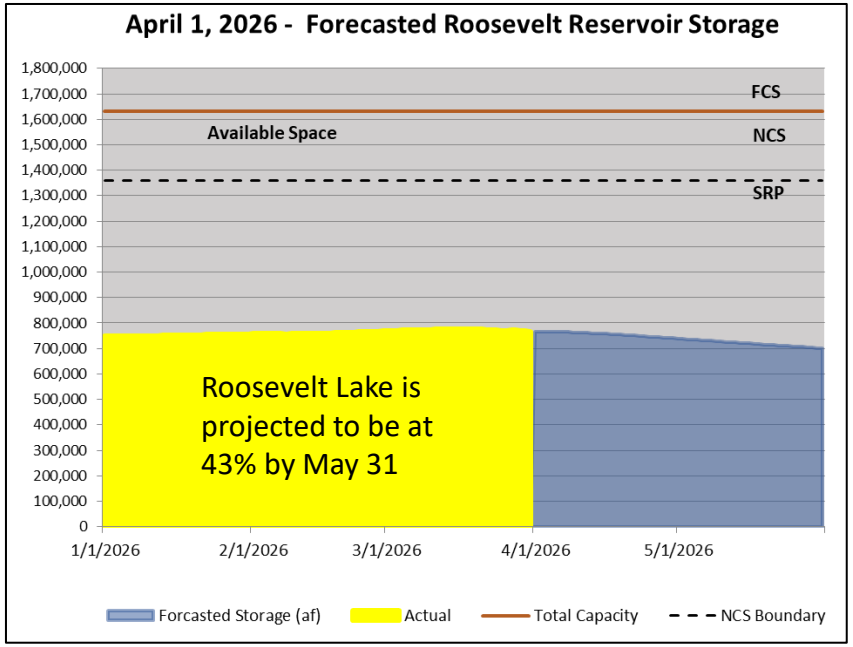
Streamflow Forecast – April 1

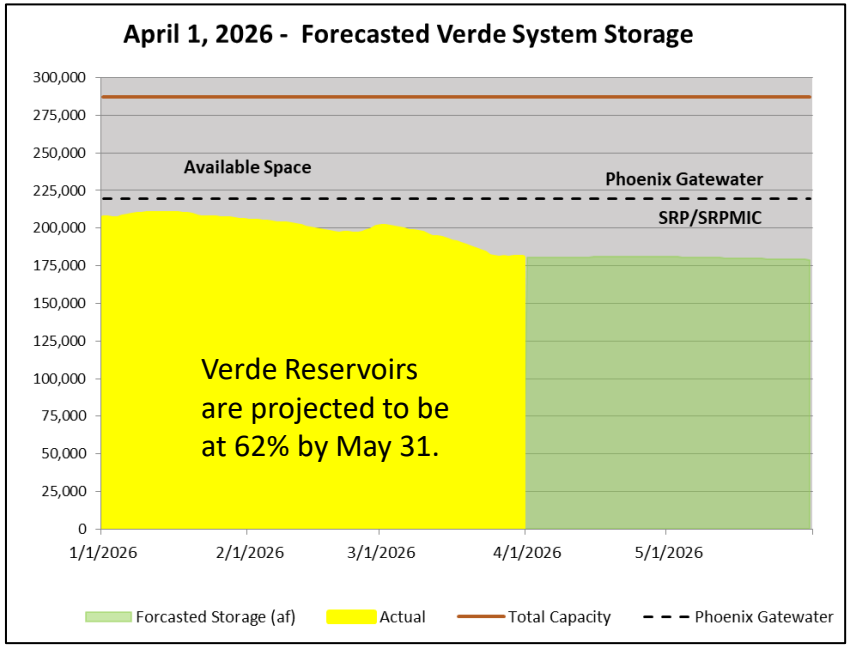


Jan 1 – May 31, 2025, streamflow of 97,000 AF was a record low*

Jan 1 – May 31, 2026, streamflow is projected to be the 13th lowest*

*records going back to 1913





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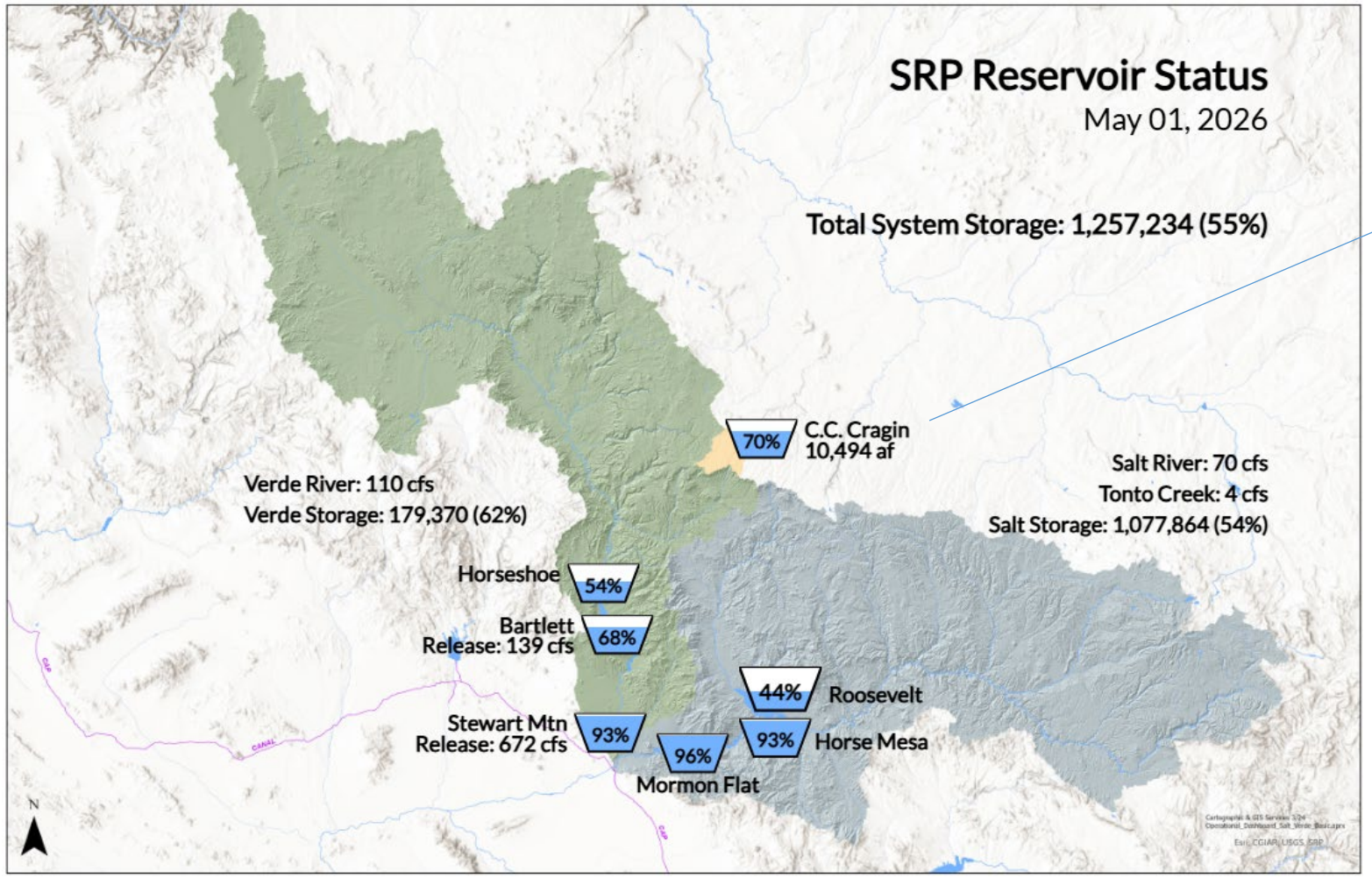
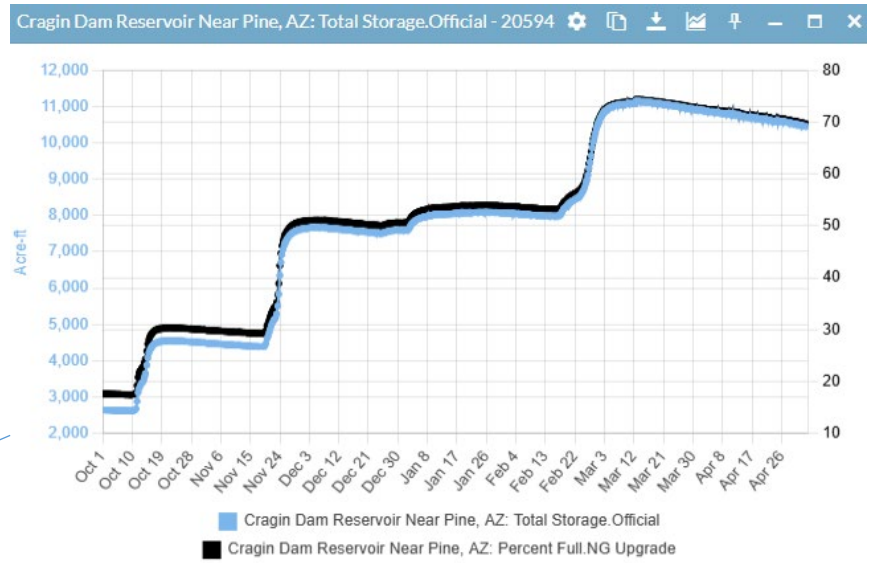
End of Runoff Season Reservoir Status





- C.C. Cragin increased from 52% to 72% in Winter 2026
- Roosevelt remained near 45% most of Winter 2026.
- Verde Reservoir Storage decreased from 72% to 62% in Winter 2026.
- River Swap from Verde to Salt for deliveries was completed March 23 to 26, 2026.

Salt/Verde Watershed & SRP Reservoirs Summary

- Water Year 2026 (Oct 1, 2025 – May 1, 2026)
  - Watershed Precipitation = 9.99” (102% of normal)
  - Reservoir Inflow = 335,000 AF (74% of median)
  - Wet Fall of 2025 observed 200,000 AF inflow (210% of median)

- Watershed Conditions and Reservoirs (Winter/Spring 2026)
  - Near normal to above normal soil moisture early but dried out late
  - Well below median snowpack, below normal precipitation in winter 2026
  - Streamflow of forecast (Jan 1 – May 31) of 158,000 AF (35% of median)
  - Reservoir storage is currently at 55% capacity (1.25 MAF)

- SRP Operations & Organizational Updates
  - 2026 Groundwater Use is 225,000 AF (likely to increase in 2027)
  - Water Deliveries transitioned to Salt in March 2026 (continue until October)
  - Canyon Lake Drawdown in Fall 2026/Winter 2027

- Charlie Ester is retiring after 43 years with SRP

Charlie Ester

Drought ICG representative for SRP

Director Water Supply & Planning

THANK YOU

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