Monthly Climate Report

NWS Reno NV

Issued: 12/11/2025

Weather Synopsis & Highlights:

Temperatures in November were much warmer than normal by 3-5 degrees regionwide (Figure 1). Reno's average temperature was tied with 2017 for the warmest November on record. Meanwhile, precipitation for most of the region was well above normal, especially across Mono County and western NV from Mineral-Lyon County northward across the southern half of Washoe County and eastern Lassen County where totals were 200-300% above November averages. It wasn't as wet for far northeast CA-northwest NV, where precipitation was close to average for the month, while far eastern Pershing county missed out on much of the rain with totals only 25-50% of average for November. (Figure 2).

November began warm and dry, with Reno setting a new record high for any November day with 78 degrees on the 1st. These above average temperatures continued through the 4th, with afternoon breezes and generally dry conditions. Light rainfall (less than 0.25") ahead of the next main storm occurred in northeast CA on the morning of the 4th.

This storm brought widespread strong winds across the region on the 5th mainly during the morning, with peak gusts of 55-70 mph reported in multiple locations from Lassen County southward to the Tahoe basin, far western NV and Mono County, while some wind prone sites and ridge tops reported gusts from 75 mph to above 90 mph. Damage to trees, power lines and fences were reported in these areas, with several power outages, impacting as many as 30,000 customers in Washoe County and over 6000 customers in Douglas County (includes planned de-energizing of power lines due to risk of fire spread). Gusts in northwest and west central NV were generally between 45 and 60 mph, producing areas of blowing dust. While much of western NV received little or no rainfall due to strong lee-side shadowing, rainfall totals of 0.25-0.75" were reported in northeast CA west of US-395, the Lake Tahoe basin, foothill sites of far western NV and western Mono County, with isolated amounts near 1" along the Sierra crest. Temperatures also cooled to near average as this storm blew through.

Dry conditions with lighter winds then returned from the 6th through 12th. A warming trend also occurred, with highs peaking in the upper 60s-lower 70s on the 10th and 11th.

For the middle of November, a wet and stormy pattern prevailed with several periods of widespread rain, mainly high elevation snow and gusty winds. The strongest winds occurred on the 13th, with gusts up to 60 mph in Mono County and near 80 mph for Sierra crest ridges. These strong winds and lingering dry conditions produced a rapid spread of the nearly 2000 acre "Pack" wildfire which burned over two dozen structures in the McGee Creek and Long Valley areas of southern Mono County, and approached Crowley Lake. Rain spread across much of eastern CA and far western NV from the 13th into the morning of the 14th. The next wave of moisture moved across the region from the evening of the 15th into the 16th, with another round occurring on the 17th into the early morning of the 18th.

A quick break between storms brought areas of dense freezing fog to western NV and eastern CA on the 19th and a new record for the latest first freeze of the fall season at the Reno airport (surpassing the previous record in 2016 by 3 days). The final storm of this series brought colder conditions with a rain-snow mix down to 4500-5000 feet in parts of western NV on the 20th. Rainfall totals from this series of storms were between 0.50” and 2” across western NV and eastern Mono/Lassen counties, with liquid totals between 2-5” for much of the eastern Sierra and Tahoe basin northward to western Lassen County, Sierra snow totals were generally 1-2 feet above 7000 feet but amounts below 7000 feet were minimal, generally 2” or less.

Drier conditions returned for the remainder of November with light winds, valley inversions and patchy fog especially from the 21st-23rd. Temperatures during the final 10 days of the month were initially cooler than average with highs mainly in the 40s-lower 50s, then slowly warmed up to above average and peaked on Thanksgiving Day (27th) with highs in the lower-mid 60s from the Tahoe basin to far western NV. A cold front brought temperatures down to the lower 50s on the final day of the month.

Hydrology:

November precipitation continued the good start of the water year in most areas as highlighted in the synopsis above. Above normal precipitation helped keep soil moisture conditions well above normal for this time of year in the mountains on the east side of the Sierra and in the Humboldt basin as measured by NRCS SNOTEL (Figure 3). Spatially modeled soil moisture shows a bit more nuance with some dry areas in the eastern portions of Pershing and Churchill counties (Figure 4). Unfortunately, the good start to the water year did not extend to the early season snowpack. As of about November 20th, snowpack had climbed to near normal conditions in many areas, but the warm and dry conditions at the end of the month and into early December have taken a toll. As of December 1st all basins measured by NRCS SNOTEL are well below normal (Figure 5). Fortunately, it is still very early in the snow accumulation season with plenty of time to make up for the lost ground, with about 90% of the snow accumulation season still ahead.

November and Water Year to date streamflow are near to above normal in most areas, with the notable exception of the mainstem of the Humboldt, which is well below normal (Figures 6 and 7). Reservoir storage for the end of November is well above normal in Lake Tahoe and on the Walker River, near normal on the Truckee and lower Humboldt, and somewhat below normal on the Carson (Figure 8).

Drought Update:

October and November precipitation has helped further shrink the portion of the NWS Reno service area highlighted as abnormally dry by the US Drought monitor (Figure 9). Now only the eastern portions of Pershing, Churchill and Mineral counties are designated as abnormally dry, with the remainder of the service area (~73%) drought free. The Evaporative Demand Drought Index (EDDI) for November reflects generally near normal conditions, with slight dry anomalies in eastern Pershing and Churchill counties and parts of NE California (Figure 10), while the12 month EDDI highlights larger dry anomalies in Churchill county (Figure 11).

Additional Information on Drought and Climate:

Report Drought conditions here
Nevada statewide Drought update
NV State Climate Office
NV Living with Drought
Drought Monitor
New Drought.gov
California Nevada Drought Early Warning System
NOAA CPC Drought page
CNAP Drought tracker
California Nevada River Forecast Center
WRCC Drought Tracker
WRCC Enso page
WRCC Monthly Climate Summaries
Evaporative Demand Drought Index
US Seasonal Drought Outlook

Contact NWS Reno Climate Team
rev.climate@noaa.gov 775-673-8100
https://www.weather.gov/rev/

Photos:

Photo 1: Double rainbow arc with rain showers, looking west from the NWS Reno office on the morning of November 5. High winds were also occurring around this time.

Photo 2: Overturned big rig due to high winds on US-395 near Milford CA (SE Lassen County) during the early morning of November 5. Photo credit: Sierradailynews.com

Photo 3: Spectacular view of aurora during the evening of November 11, as viewed by NWS employee in south Reno.

Photo 4: ALERTCalifornia/UC San Diego camera view of Pack Fire in McGee Creek drainage of southern Mono County during a period of rapid fire spread on November 13.

Photo 5: A rare “snowbow” captured by our Co-op observer at Bodie State Park in northeast Mono County on November 18, after a recent snowfall.

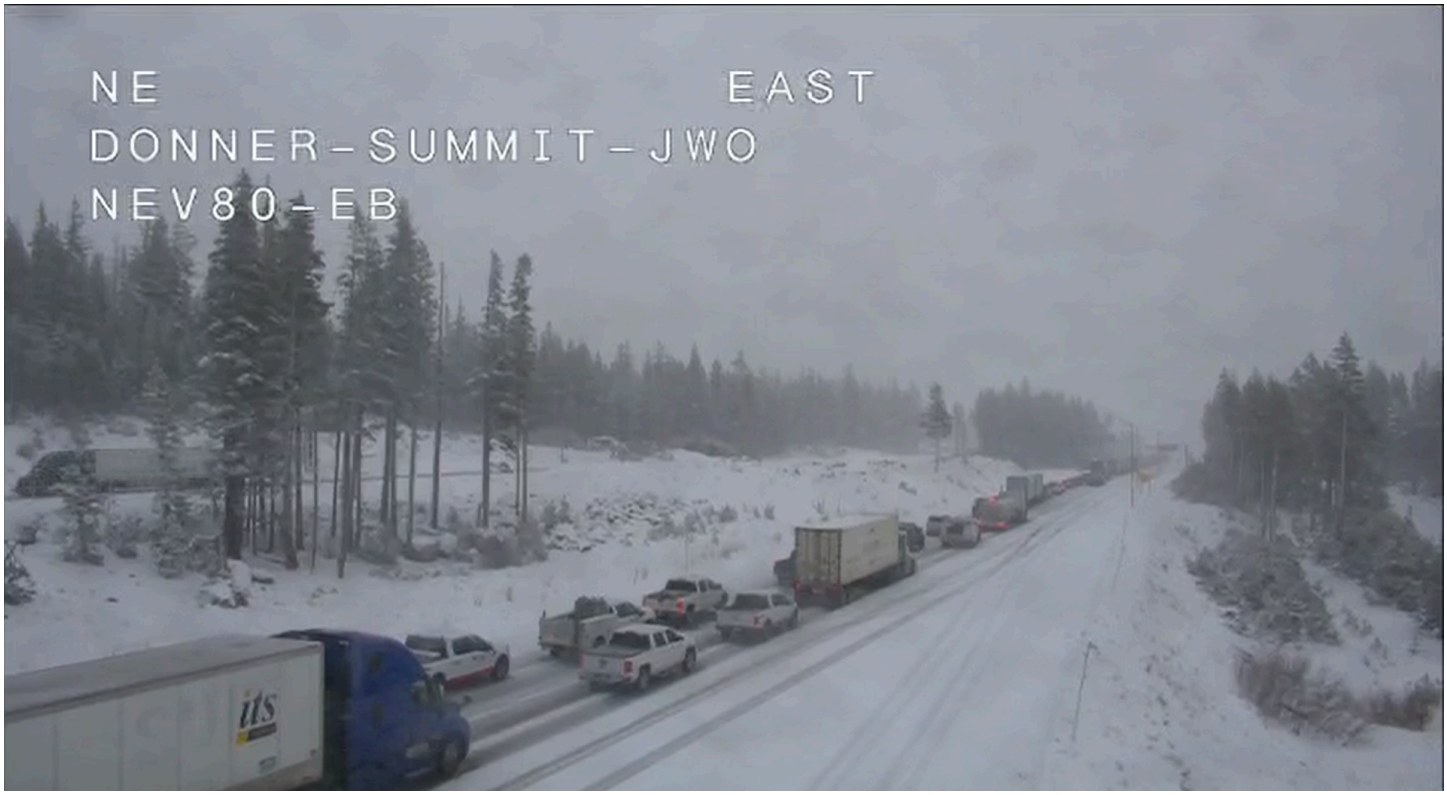


Photo 6: Snow with slow traffic on I-80 over Donner Summit during the morning of November 20, captured by Caltrans web camera. This was the last Sierra snowfall of the month, with dry conditions persisting through the first 10 days of December.

Figures:

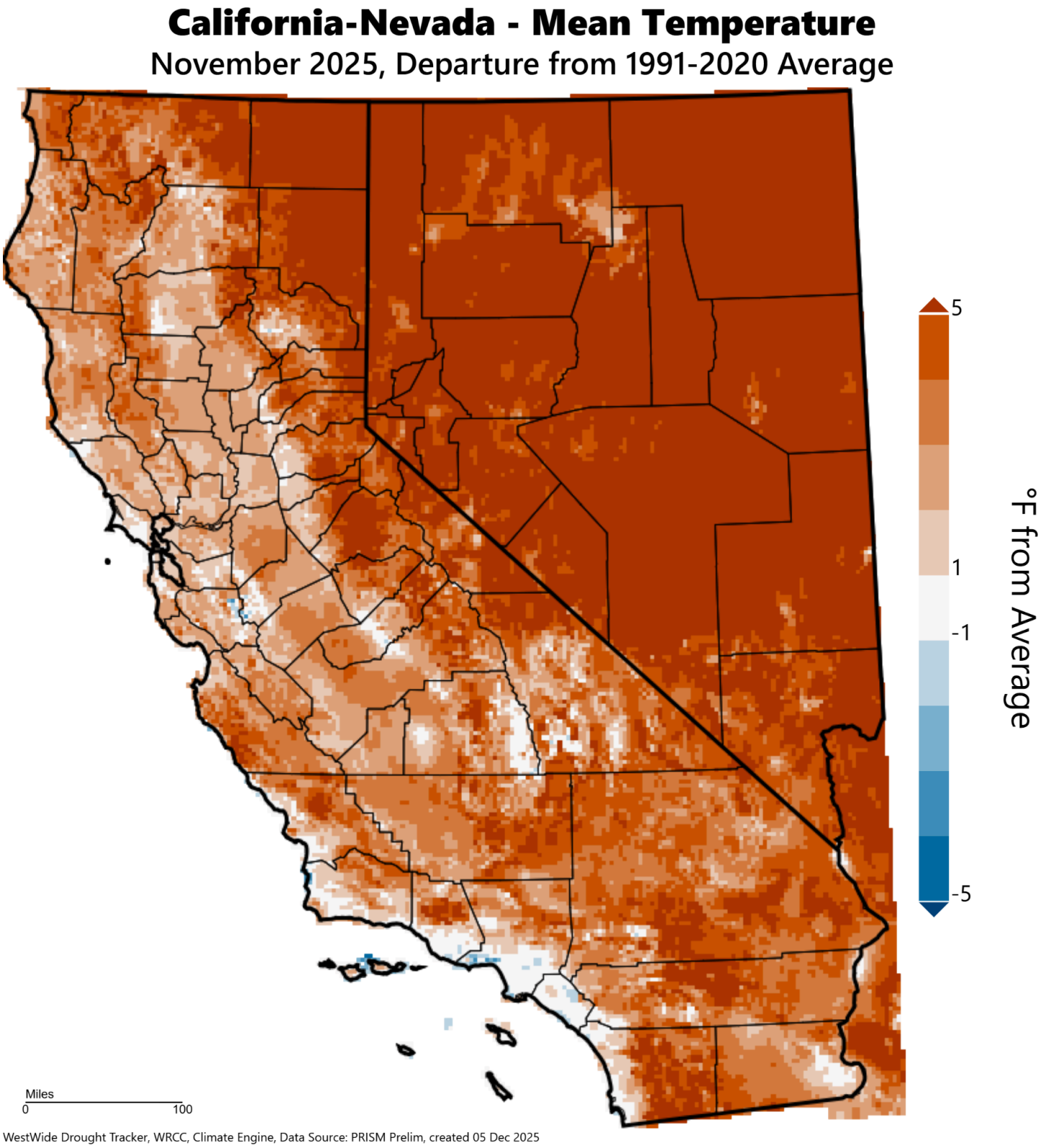


Figure 1: Departure from normal temperatures for November 2025.(WWDT)

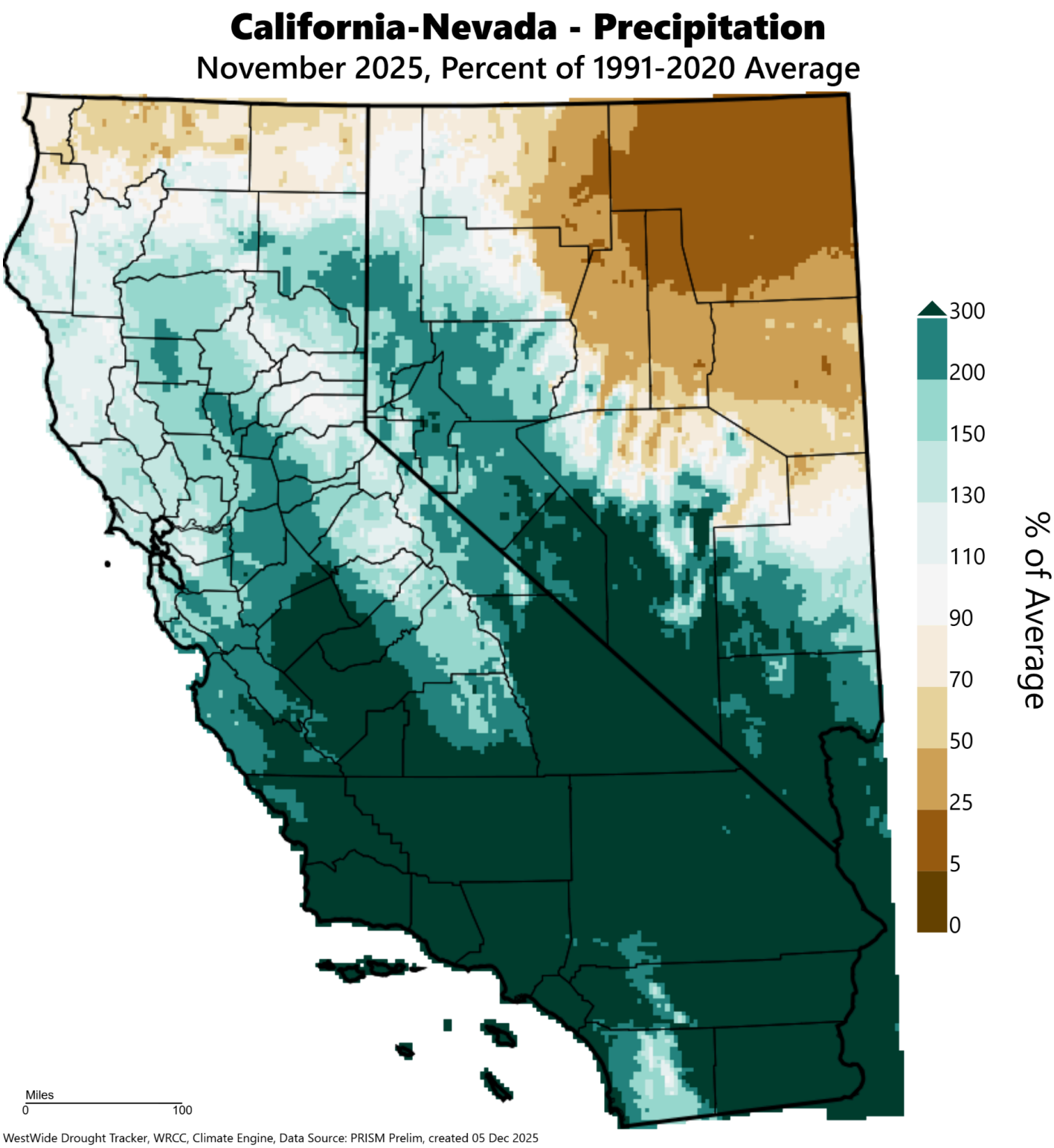
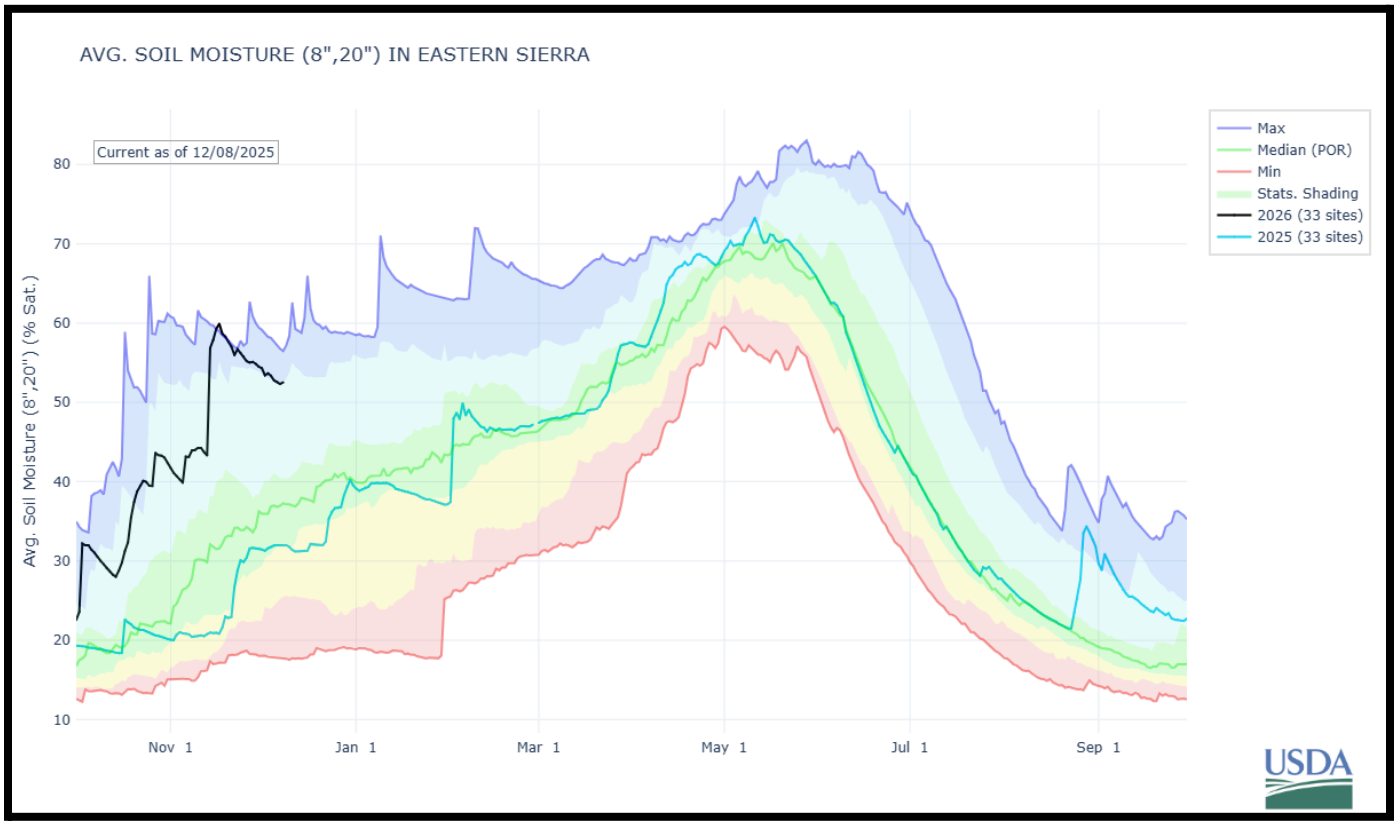


Figure 2: Percent of normal precipitation for November 2025. (WWDT)



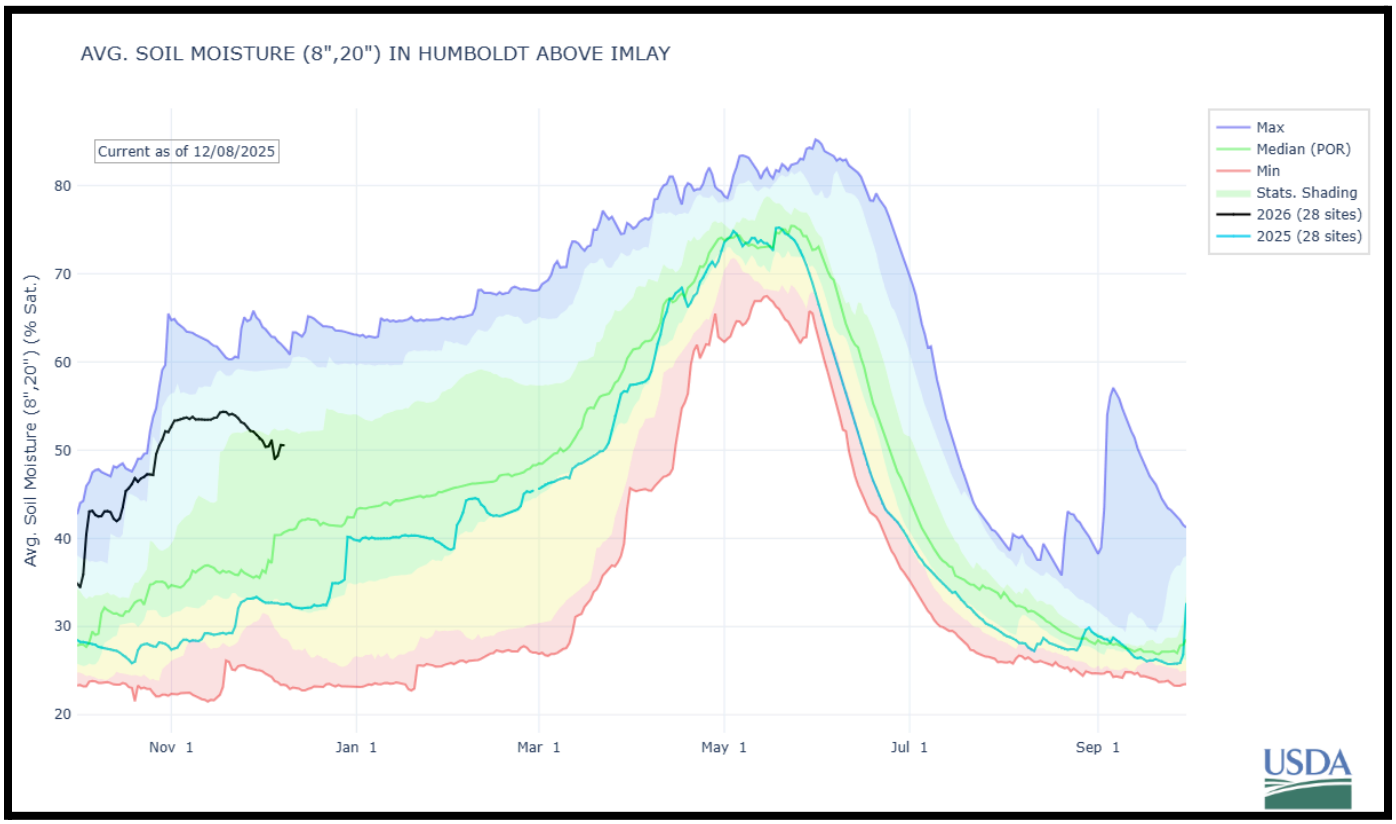


Figure 3: NRCS SNOTEL soil moisture for the combined Tahoe, Truckee, Carson and Walker basins (top), and Humboldt basin (bottom) indicated in black for the water year 2026. Water year 2025 is plotted in green for additional perspective.

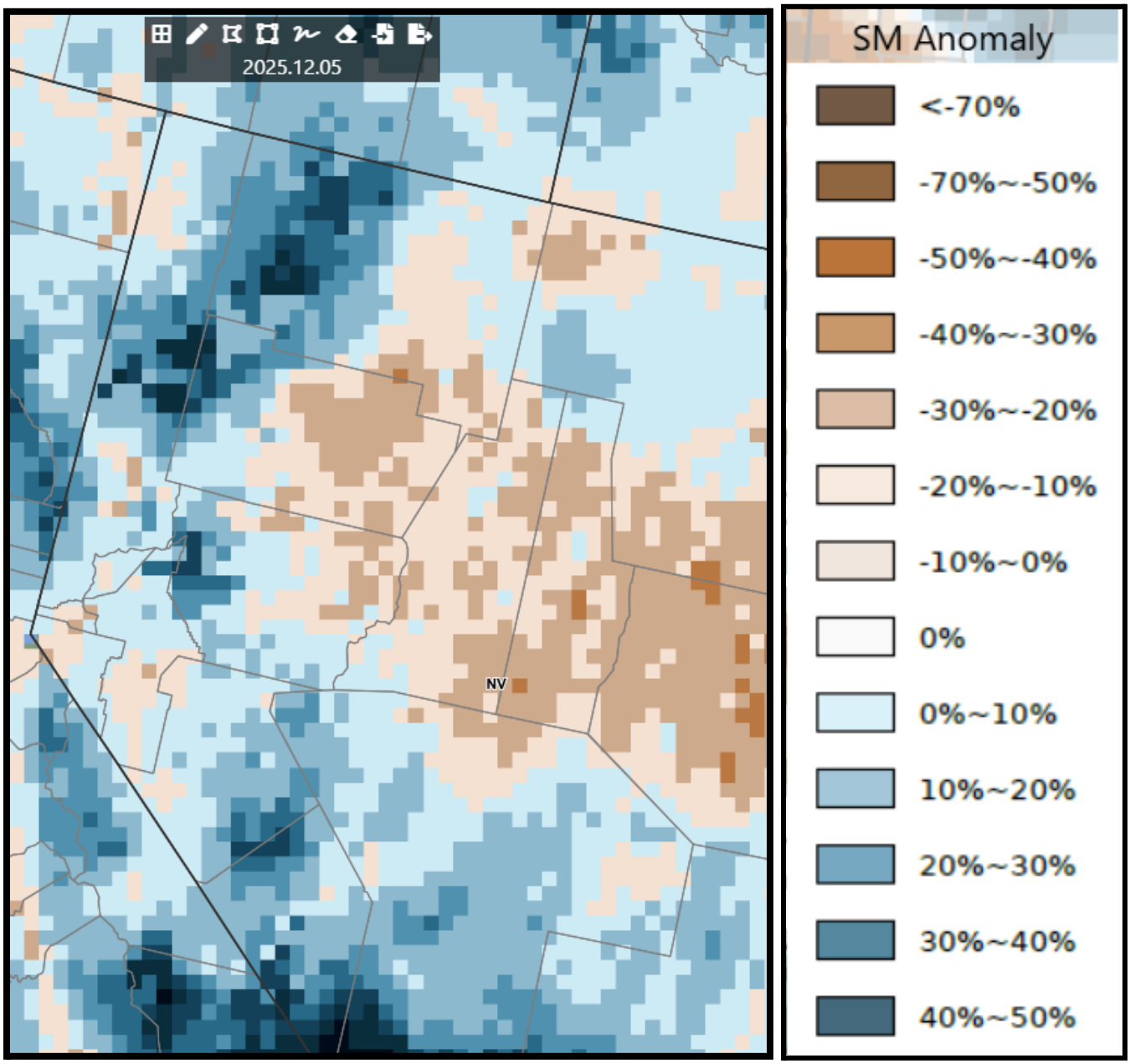


Figure 4. Crop-CASMA Soil Moisture Anomaly 12/05/25

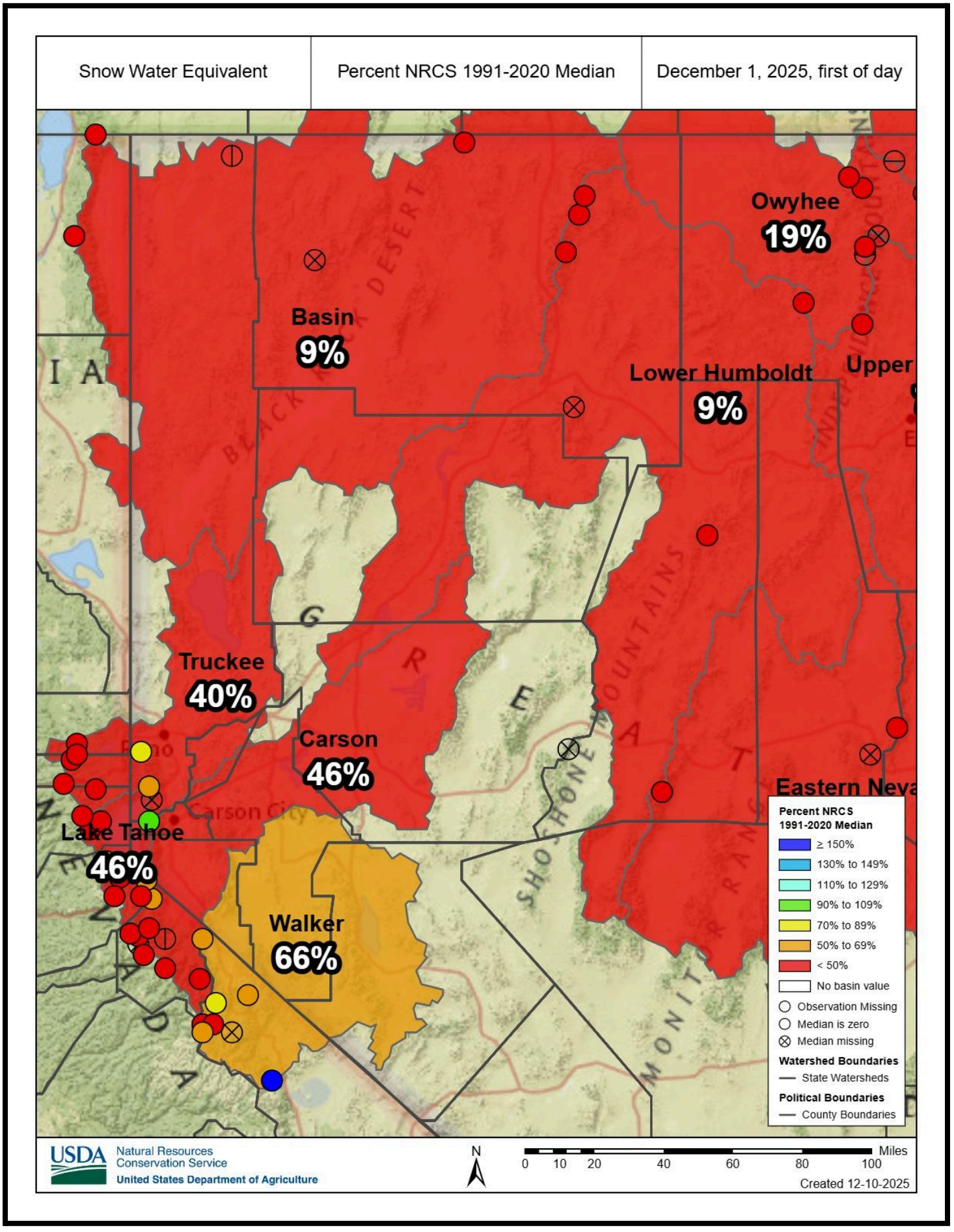
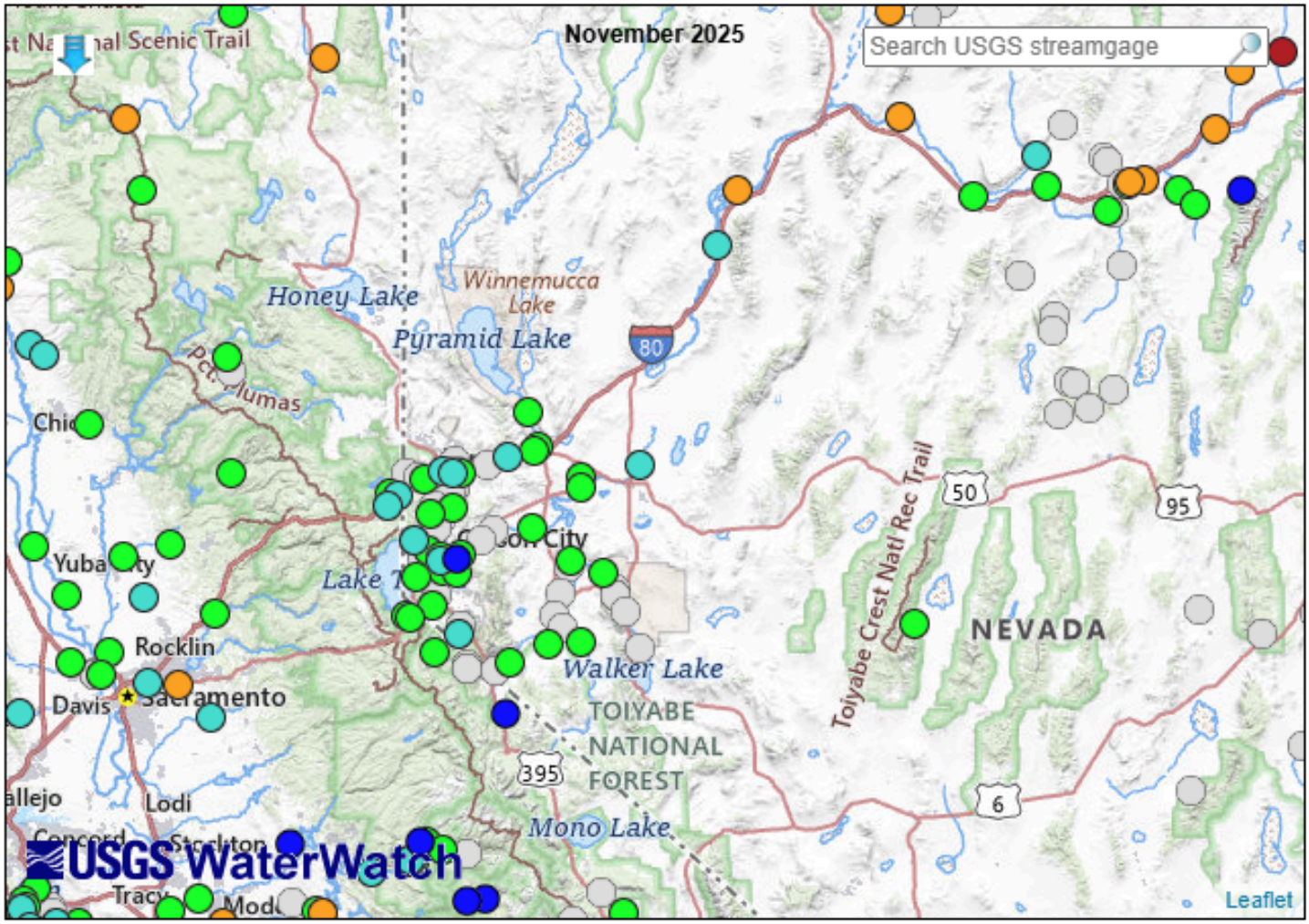


Figure 5. NRCS SNOTEL basin snow water equivalent (SWE) as % of median as of December 1st. 2025



Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10 Much below normal	10-24 Below normal	25-75 Normal	76-90 Above normal	>90 Much above normal	High	Not-ranked

Figure 6: [USGS Monthly streamflow] for November.

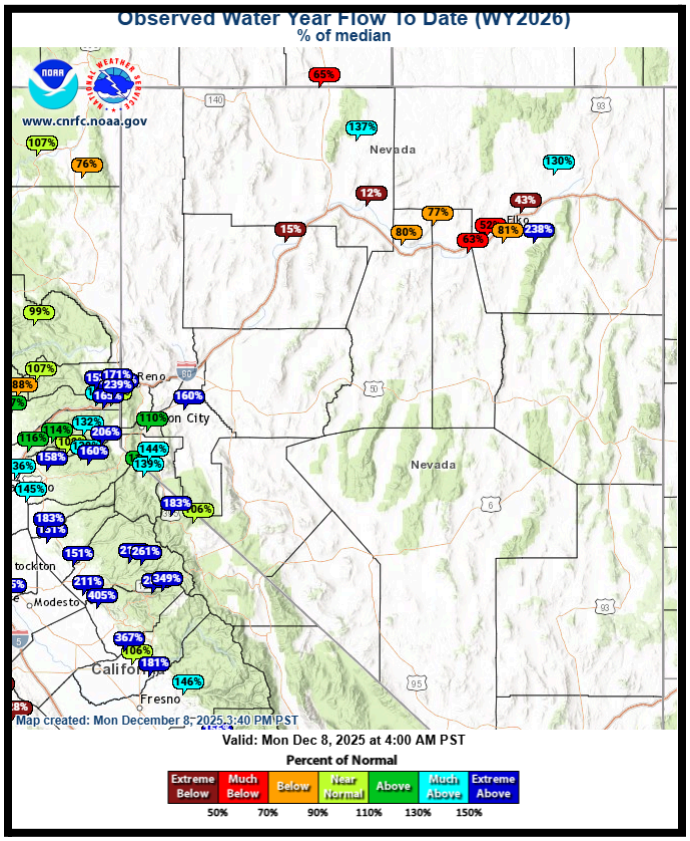


Figure 7. CNRFC Water year 2025 observed flow to date.

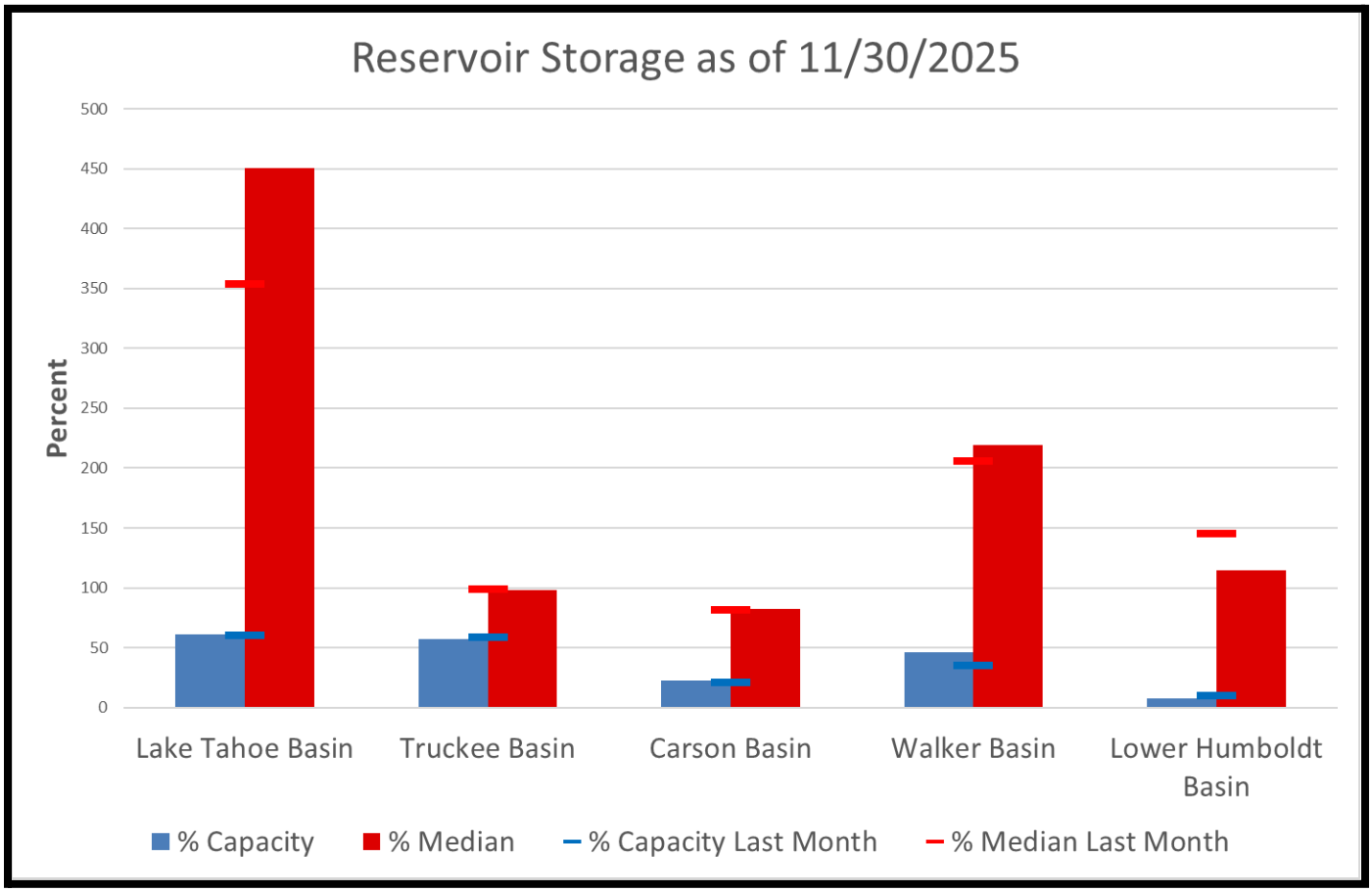


Figure 8. End of November reservoir storage relative to capacity and **median*** for this month and last month. Only the Walker Basin has more storage this year than last year at this time.(*compared to NRCS 1991-2020 median values)

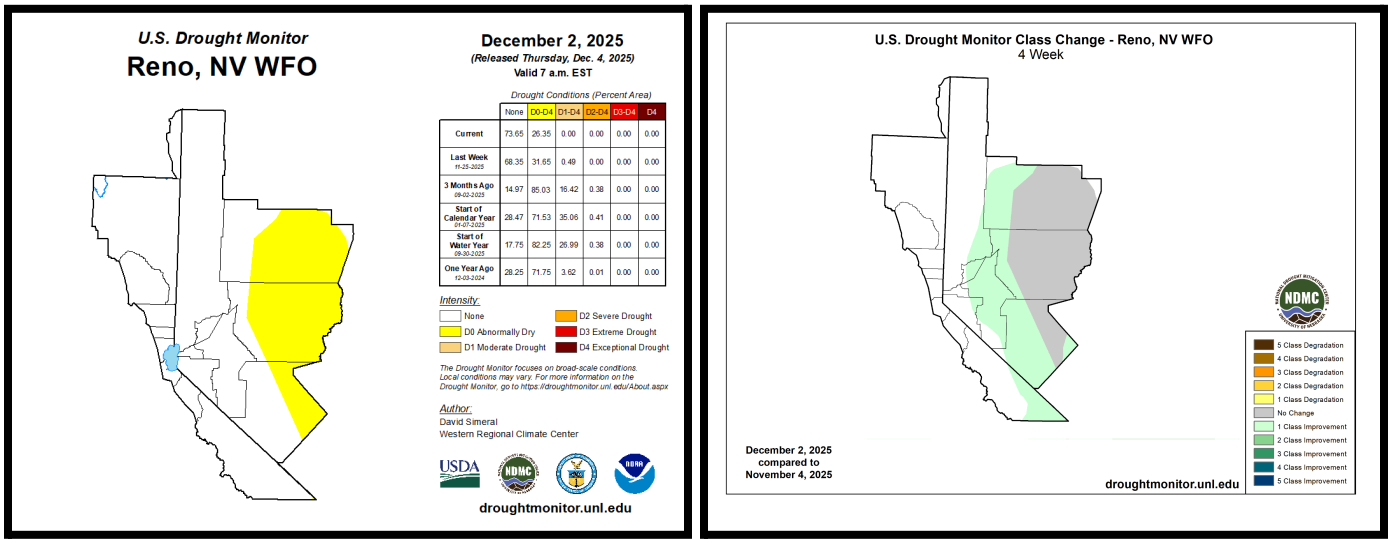


Figure 9: December 2nd Drought Monitor Status and water year change map. Check for updates at: Drought Monitor.

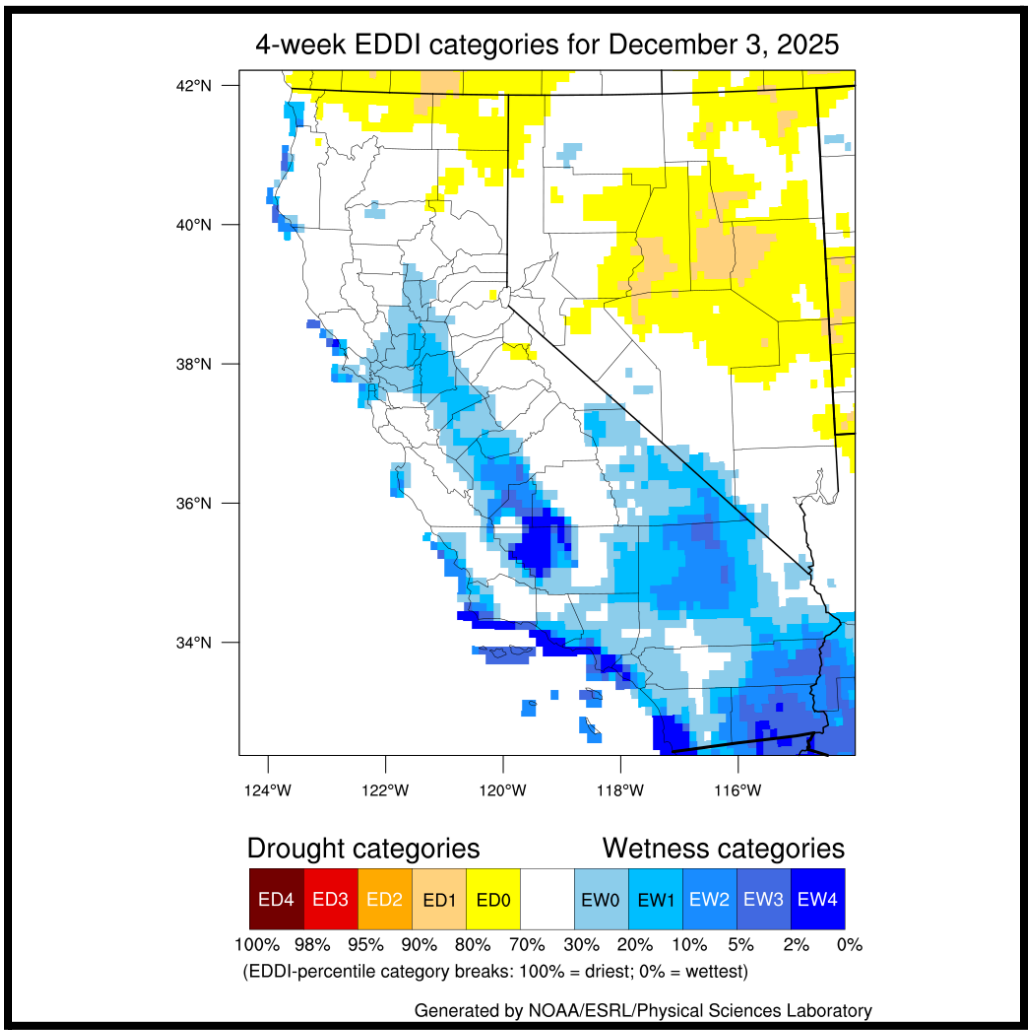


Figure 10. Evaporative Demand Drought Index (EDDI) for November.

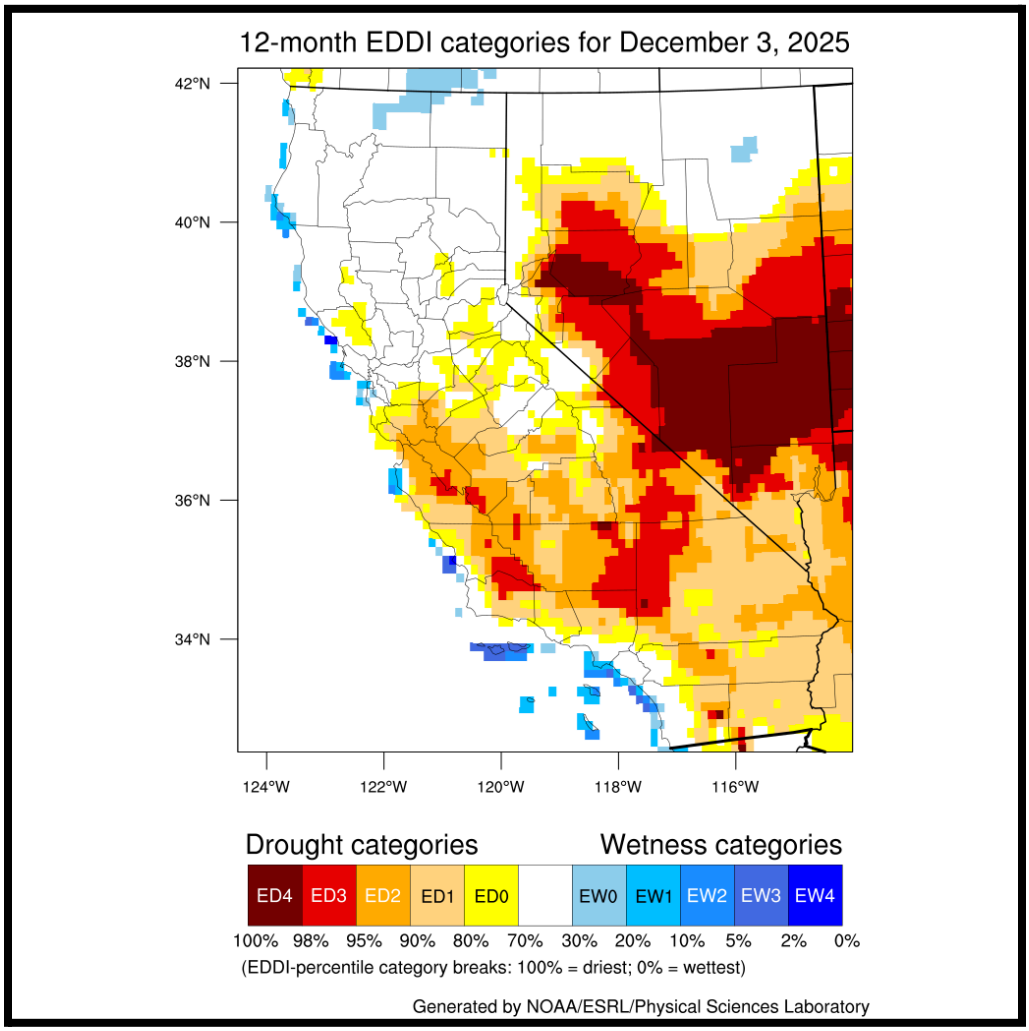


Figure 11. Evaporative Demand Drought Index (EDDI) for past 12 months