

2025-2026 Snoqualmie/South Fork Skykomish Basin Flooding: Overview and Next Steps

Snoqualmie Watershed Forum

May 20, 2026

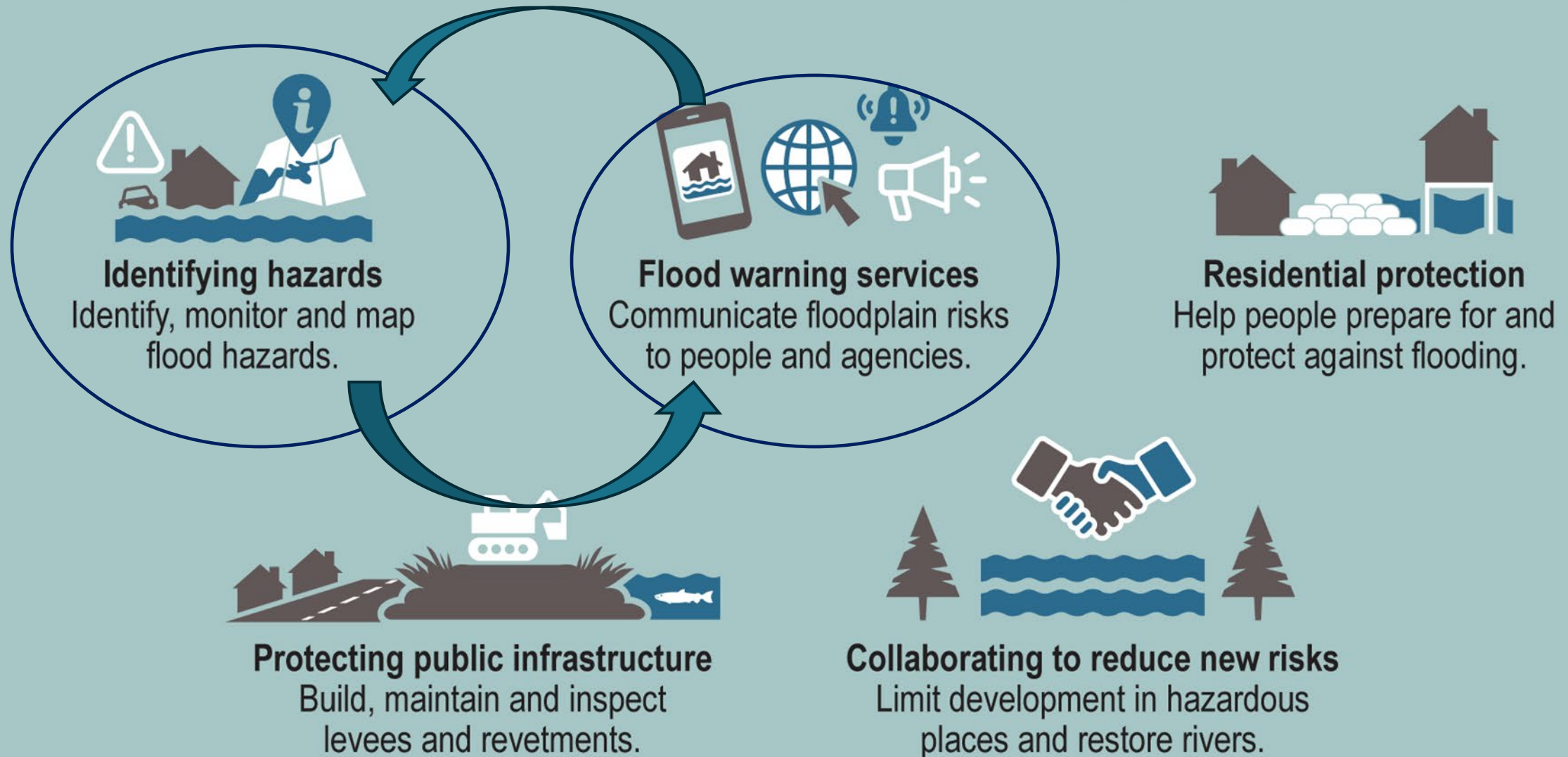
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Service Provider to the King County Flood Control District



What is floodplain management?





Presentation purpose

- Flood response overview
- Show how 2025-2026 flood events compare to historical events—based on ***provisional data***
- Summary of local damages and follow-up actions



Snoqualmie River downstream of Fall City (Dec. 9, 2025)

Massive atmospheric river caused historic flooding

Dec. 8, 2025 atmospheric river was among the strongest and longest lasting the region has seen since 1959.

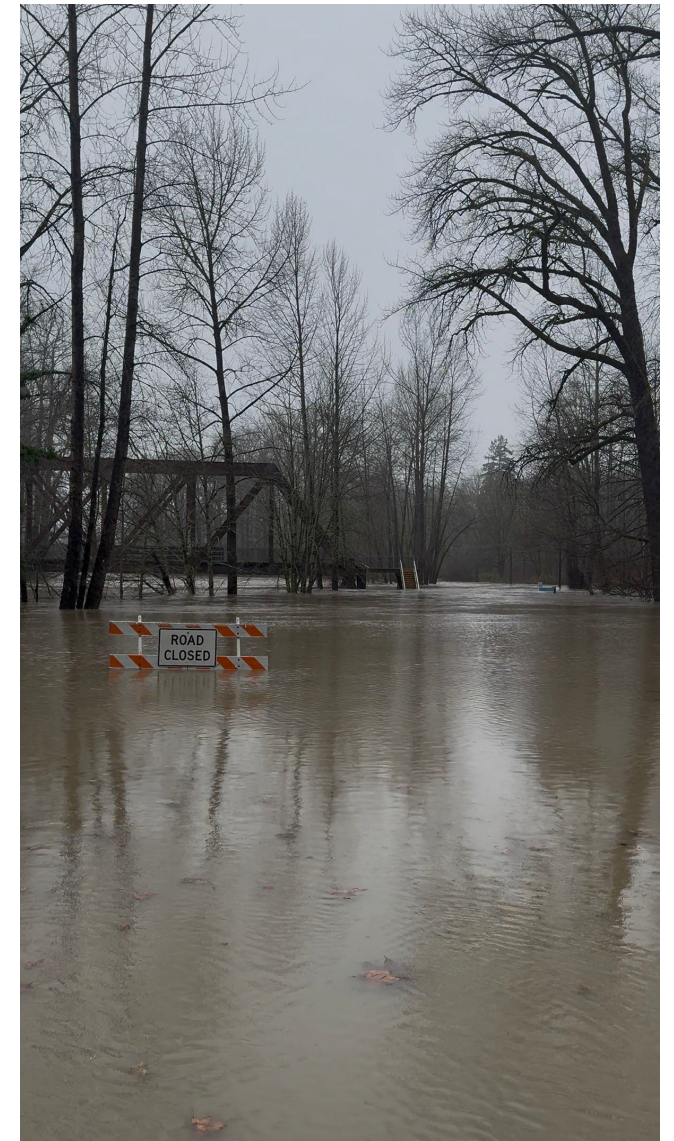
Severe flooding on multiple rivers at once during Dec. 2025 flood

Phase 4: Severe flooding

- Cedar River
- Green River
- Snoqualmie River
- South Fork Skykomish River
- White River
- Issaquah Creek

Phase 3: Moderate flooding

- Tolt River



Snoqualmie River near Snoqualmie Dec. 9, 2025

Longest flood activation in at least 40 years

- Dec. flood conditions lasted 23 days.
- King County Flood Warning Center served as a 24 hours a day call center and information hub.
- King County Flood Patrol conducted on the ground inspections and monitoring.



Flood Warning Center, Dec. 11, 2025

Collaborative flood response

- King County: Water and Land Resources Division, Road Services Division, Parks and Recreation Division, Sheriff's Office
- Cities
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- King County Office of Emergency Management coordinated operations



Roads Special Operations Crew, Green River, Dec. 23, 2025

Dec. 2025 flood response by the numbers

- **482 hours** of Flood Warning Center operation
- **1,092 miles** of river patrolled
- Trained and deployed **92 additional people** (50 National Guard members) to support flood response
- **14 emergency repairs completed** as part of flood response



Flood Patrol, Dec. 23, 2025

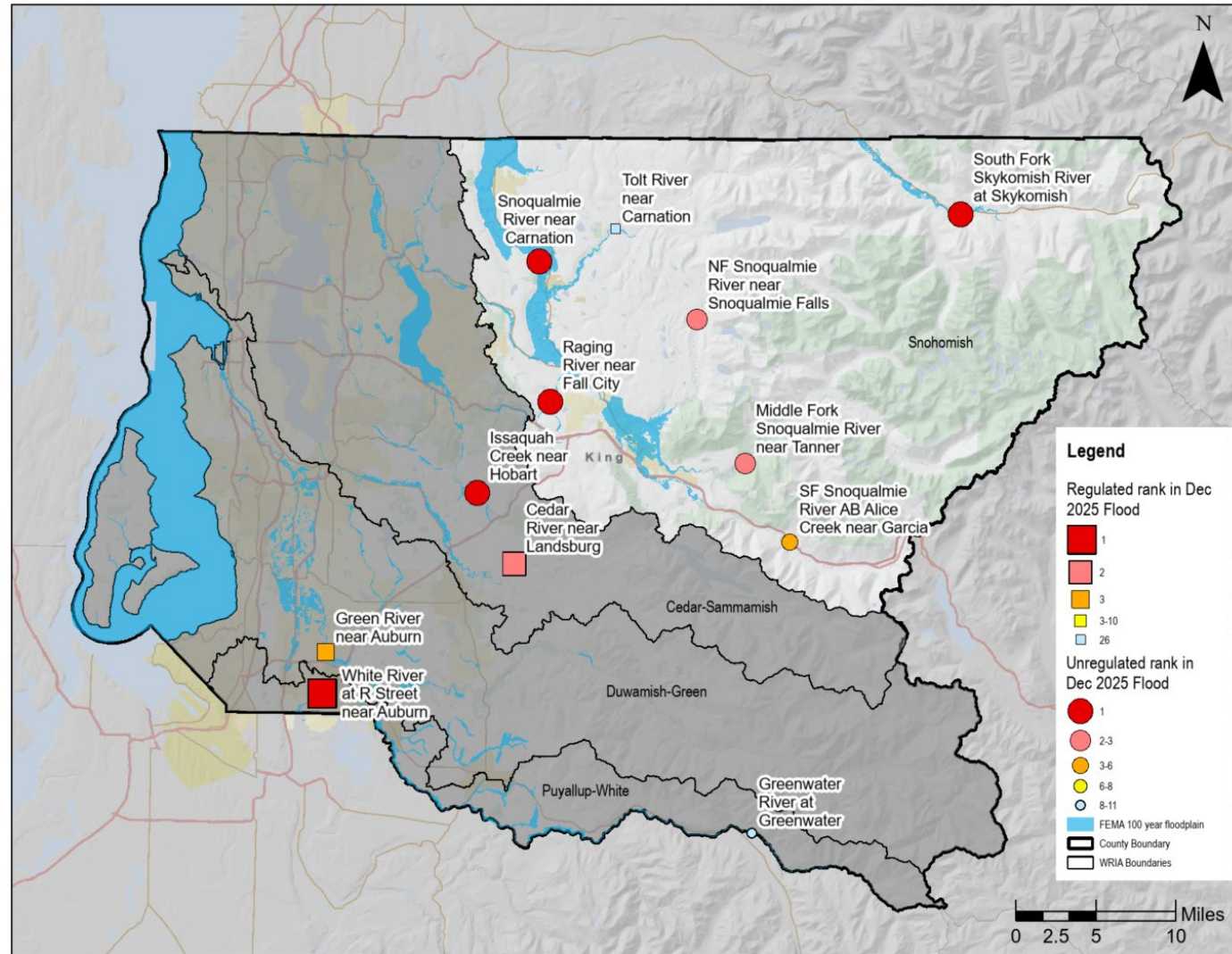


Observed historic flows throughout King County

	Gauge	Dec. '25 peak flow <i>based on USGS provisional data</i>	Historical peak flow	Historical peak flow year
★	Cedar River at Renton	12,500 cfs	10,600 cfs	1990
	Green River near Auburn	12,100 cfs	28,100 cfs	1959
★	Raging River near Fall City	6,980 cfs	6,220 cfs	1990
	Snoqualmie River near Snoqualmie	70,000 cfs	74,300 cfs	1990
★	South Fork Skykomish River at Skykomish	31,100 cfs	20,400 cfs	2020
	Tolt River near Carnation	6,540 cfs	17,400 cfs	1959

cfs means cubic feet per second

Snoqualmie and South Fork Skykomish rivers

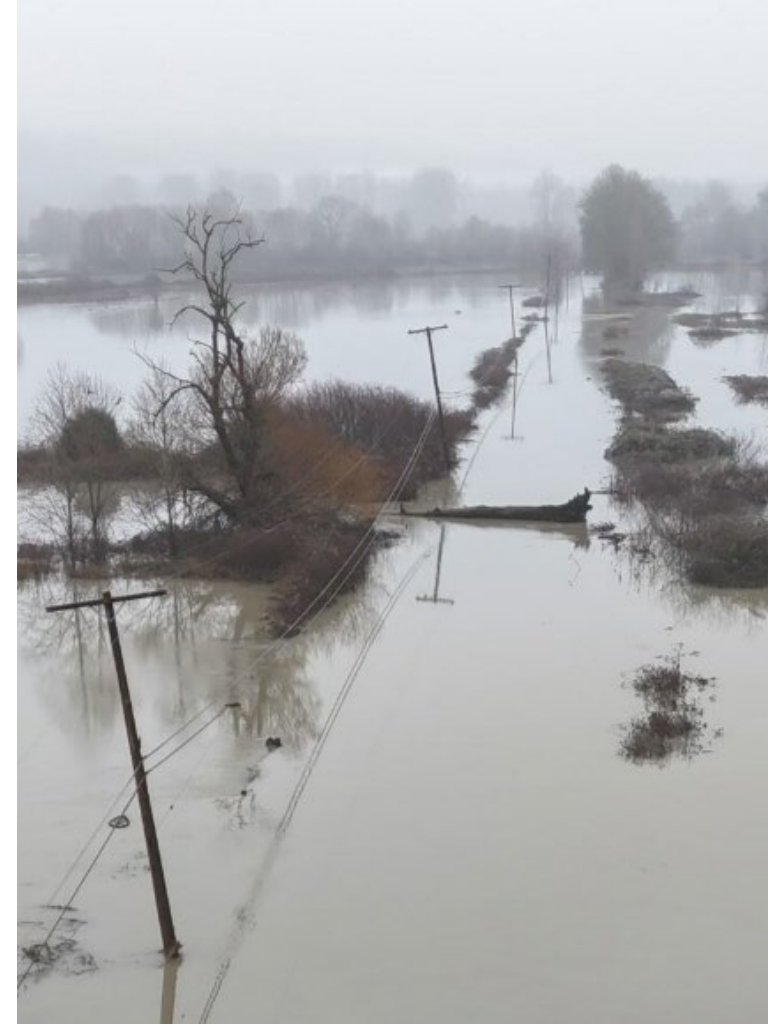


Provisional data – subject to revision



December 2025 flooding in Snoqualmie, South Fork Skykomish rivers, and tributaries

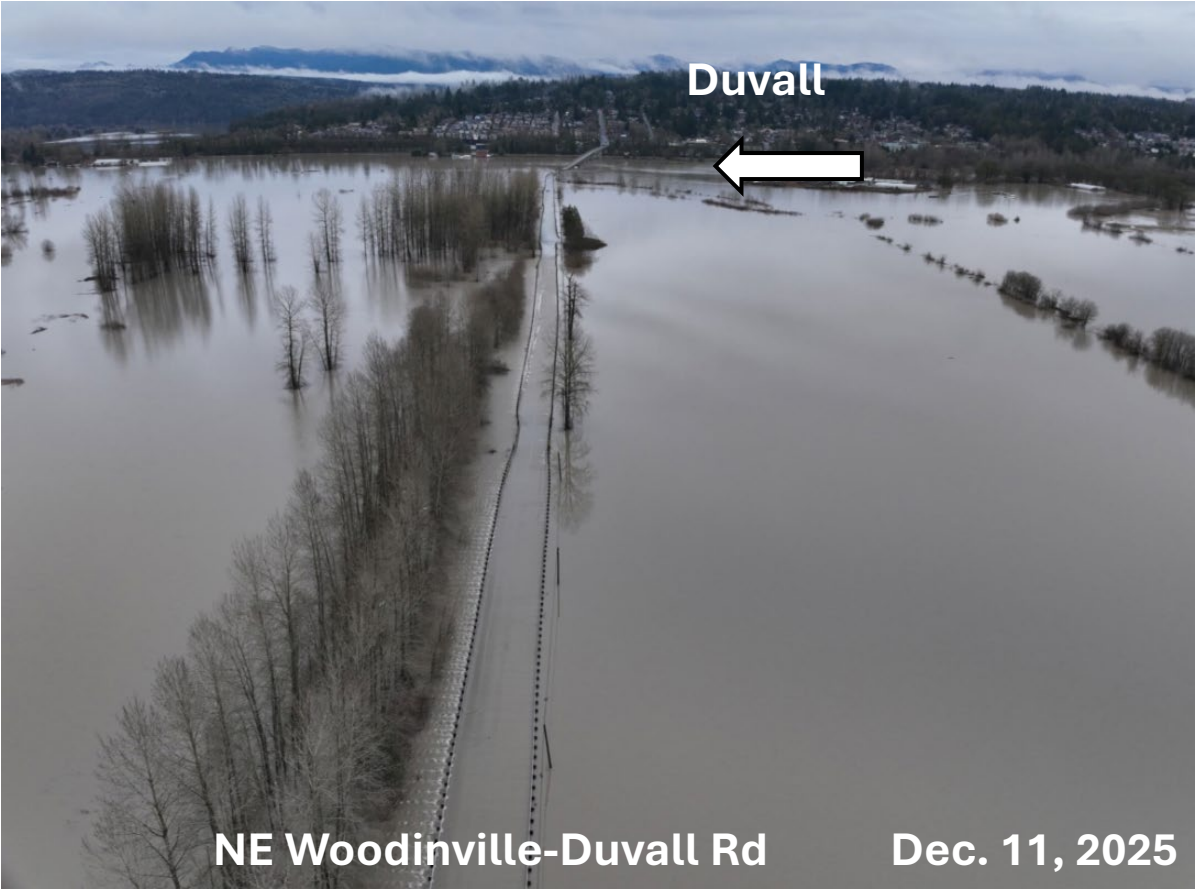
- **Snoqualmie:** Flood of record in lower Snoqualmie River (Carnation gage), but not in upper Snoqualmie River. A large area was flooded.
- **Tolt:** Filling of South Fork Tolt Reservoir reduced Tolt River flooding.
- **Raging:** Flood of record at Fall City gage.
- **South Fork Skykomish:** Flood of record at Skyomish gage, but short period of record.



Snoqualmie River near NE 100th St. Dec. 12, 2025



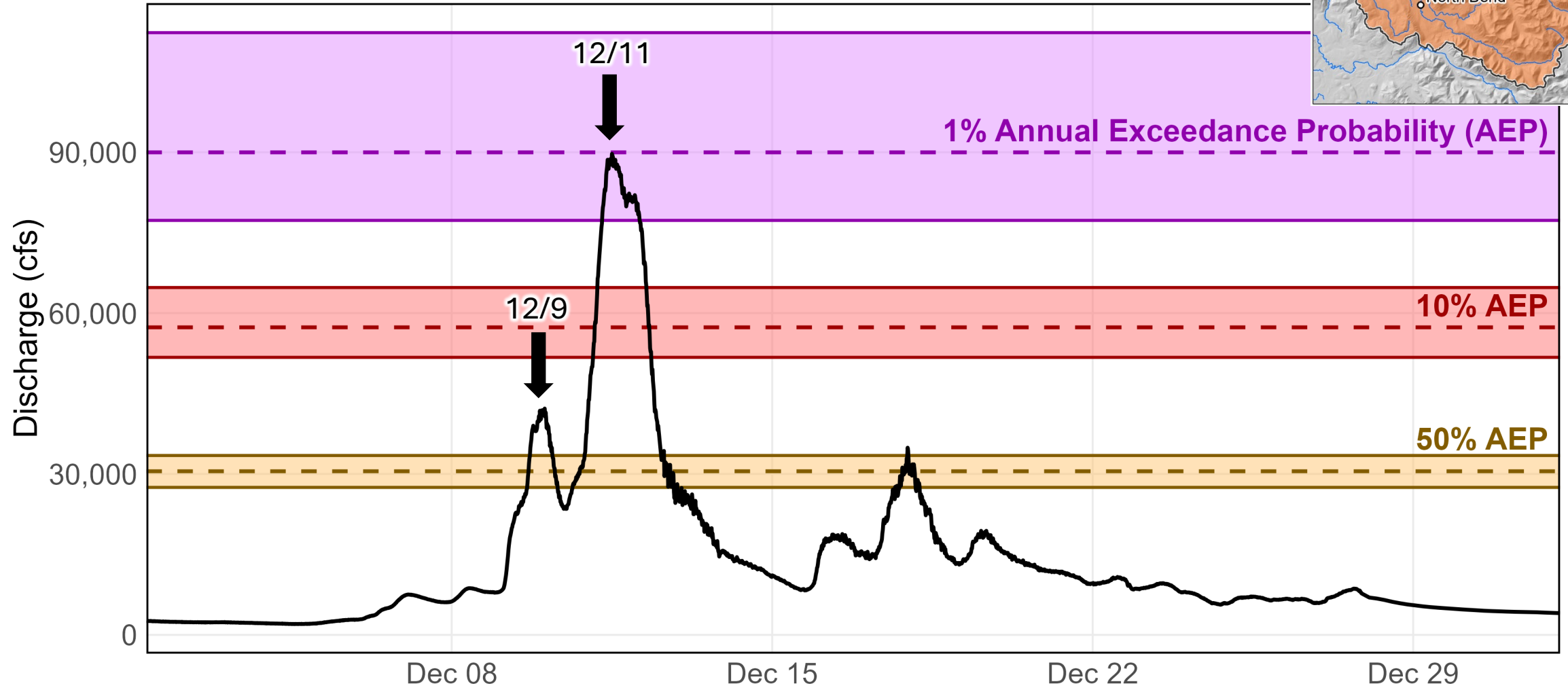
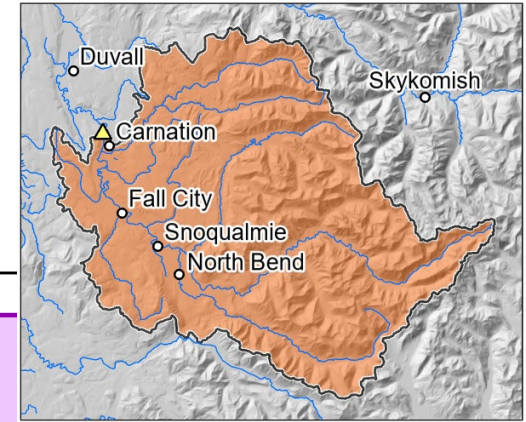
Lower Snoqualmie River





SNOQUALMIE RIVER NEAR CARNATION, WA (12149000)

December 2025 Peak Discharge: 89700 cfs

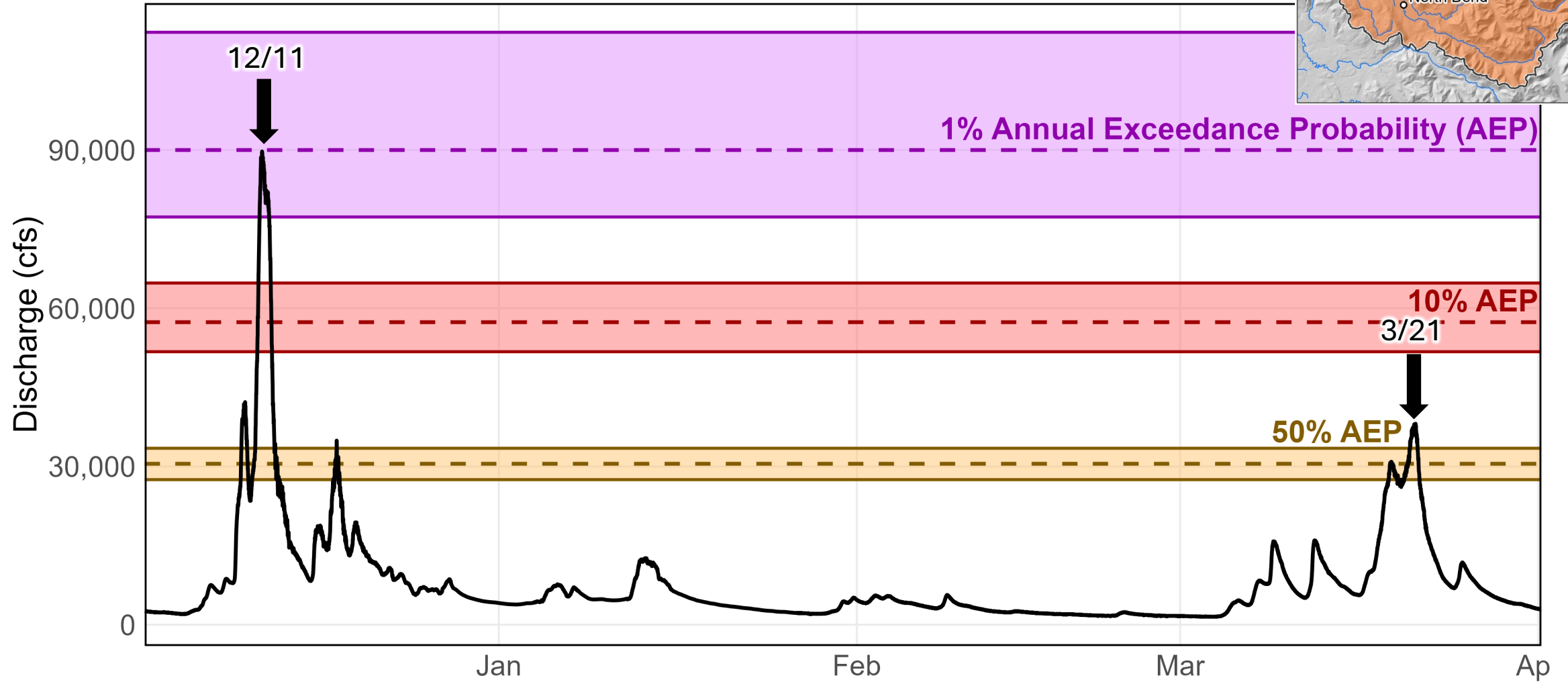
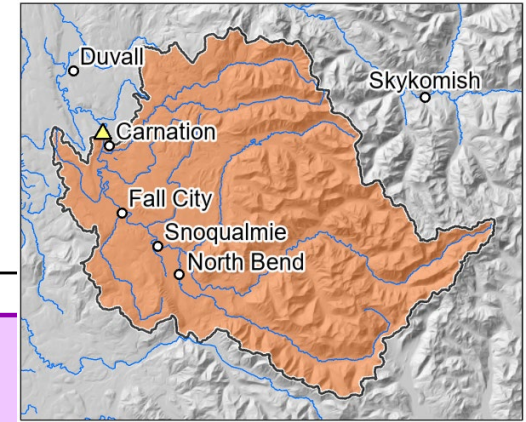


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SNOQUALMIE RIVER NEAR CARNATION, WA (12149000)

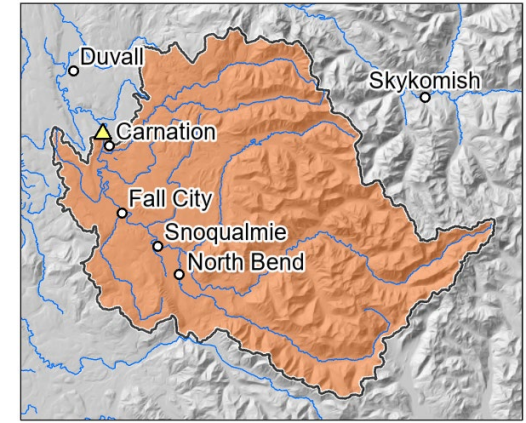
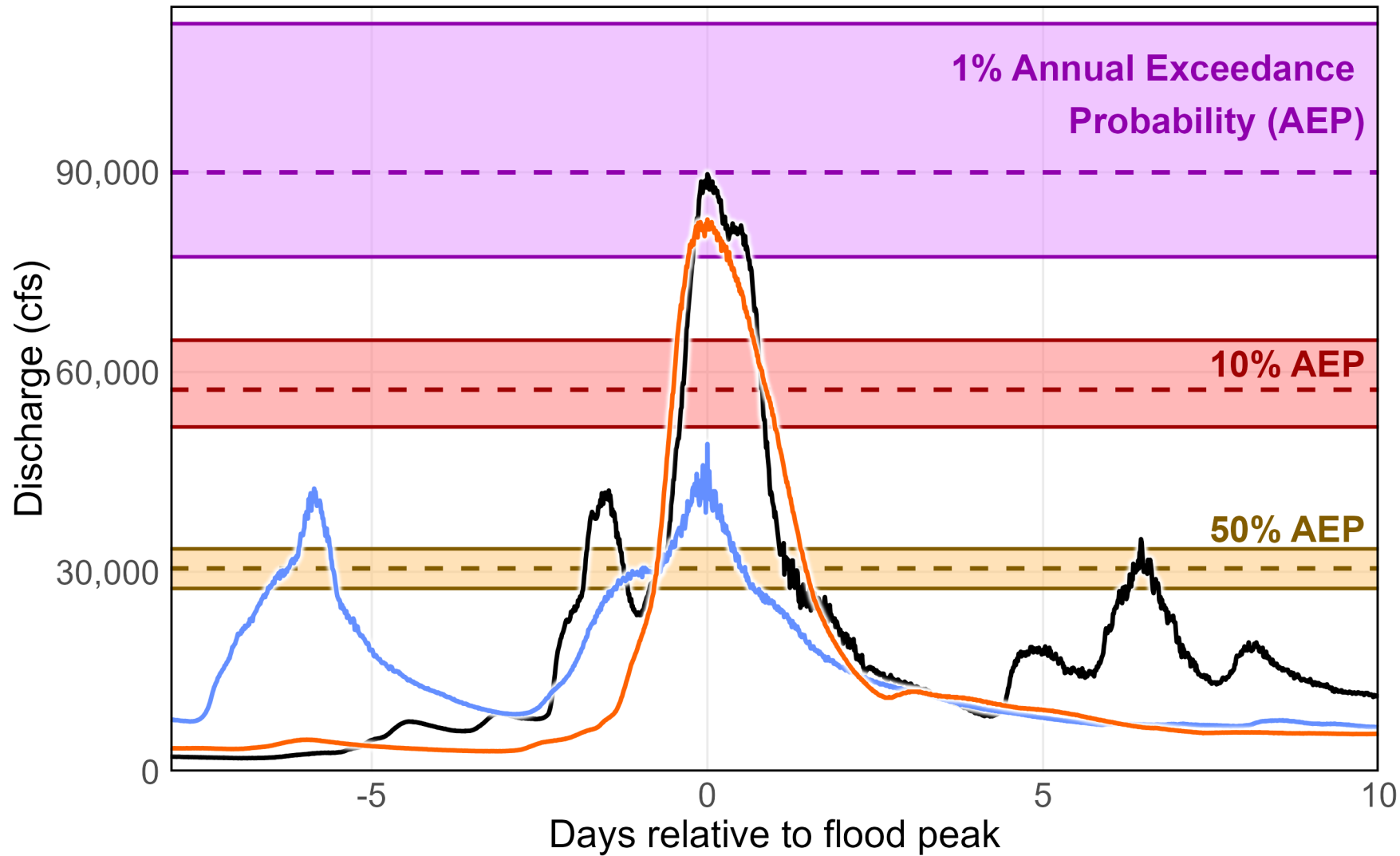
December 2025 Peak Discharge: 89700 cfs



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SNOQUALMIE RIVER NEAR CARNATION, WA (12149000)



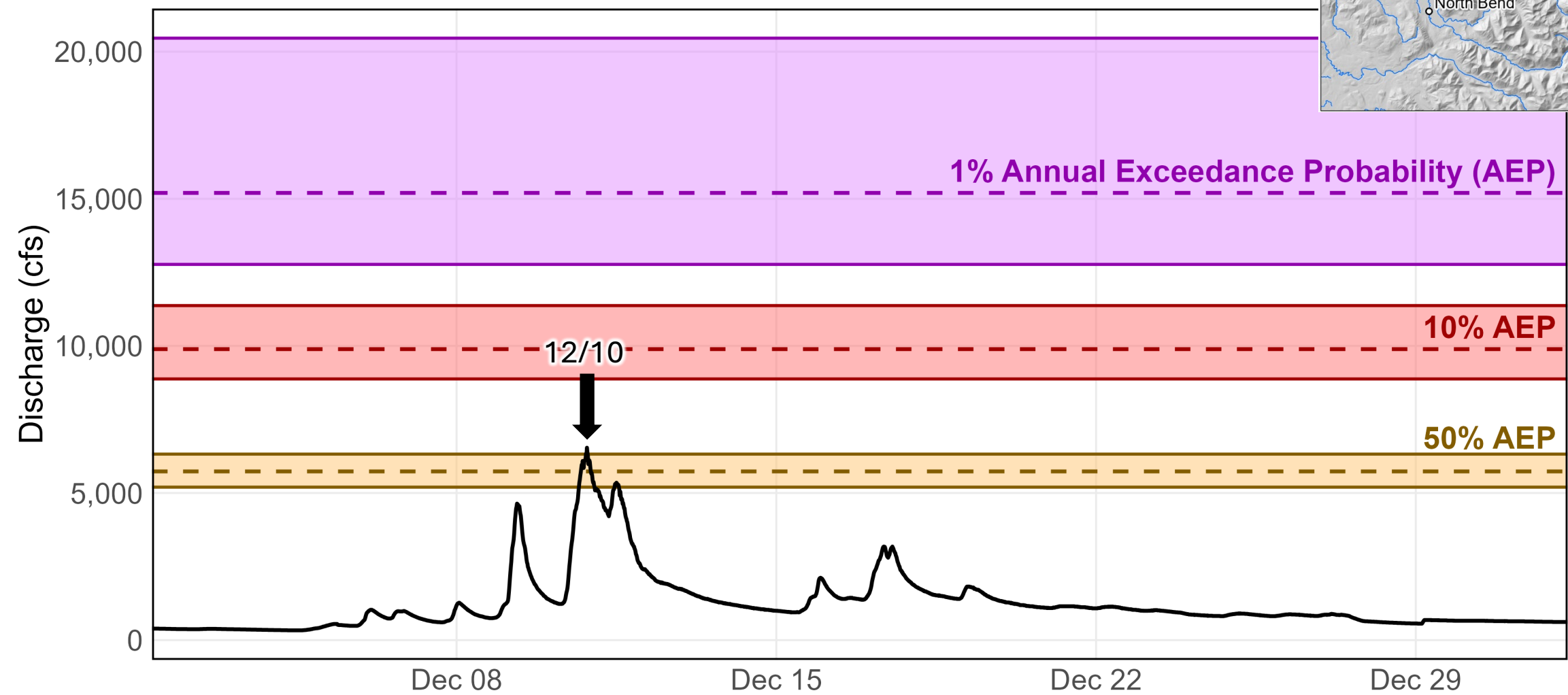
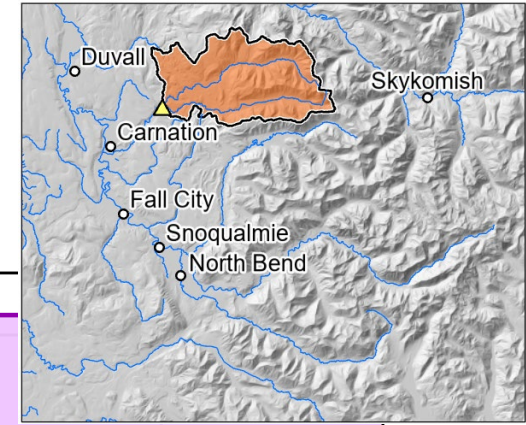
Flood event (peak date)

- 2025-12-11
- 2020-02-07
- 2009-01-08



TOLT RIVER NEAR CARNATION, WA (12148500)

December 2025 Peak Discharge: 6540 cfs



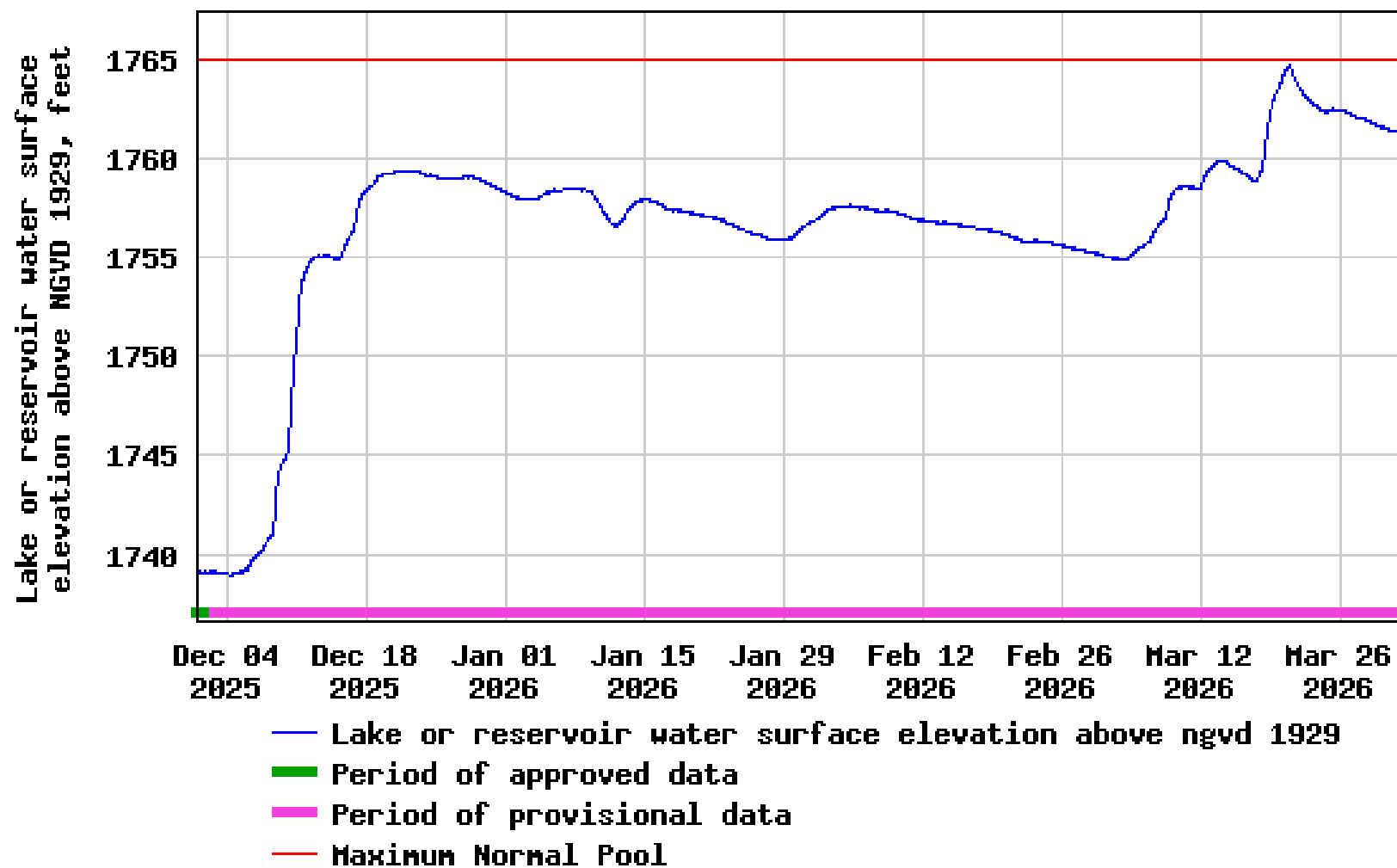
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Tolt River



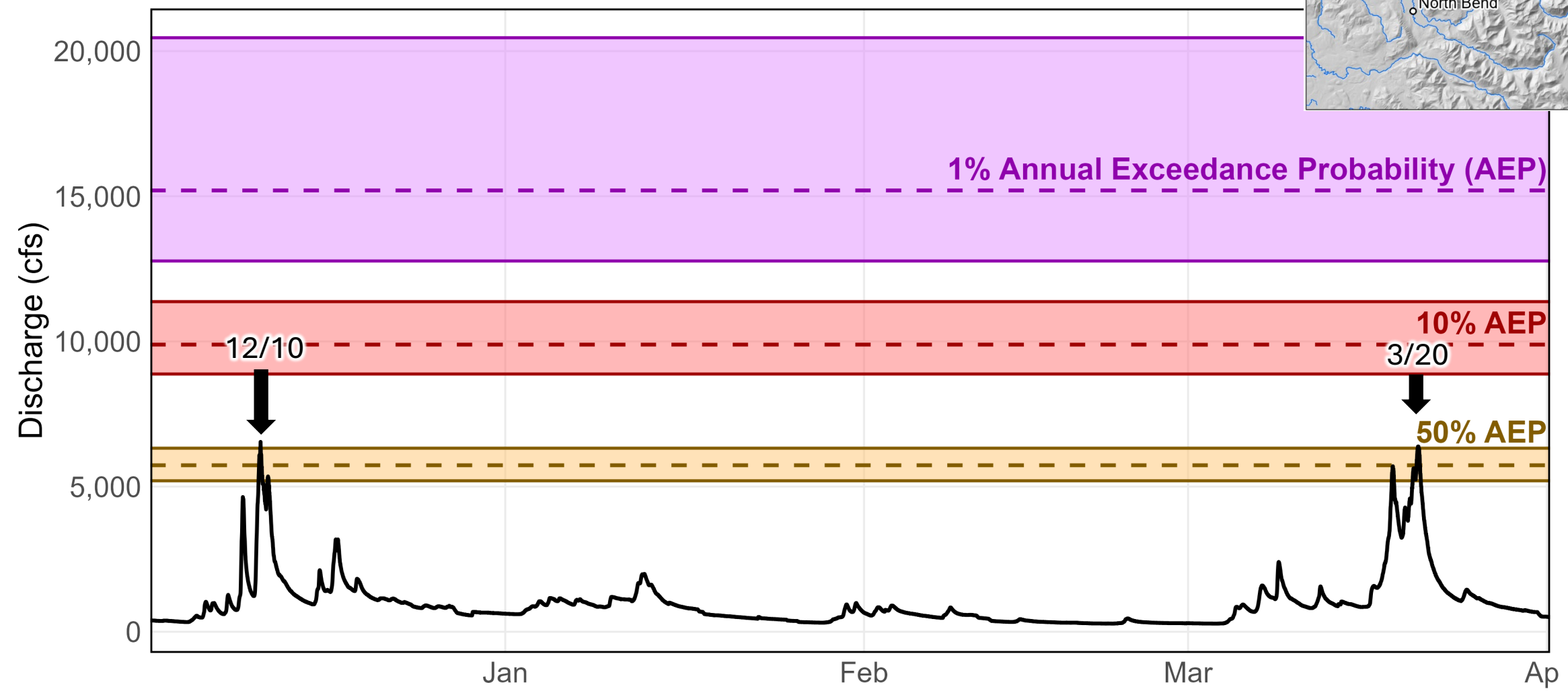
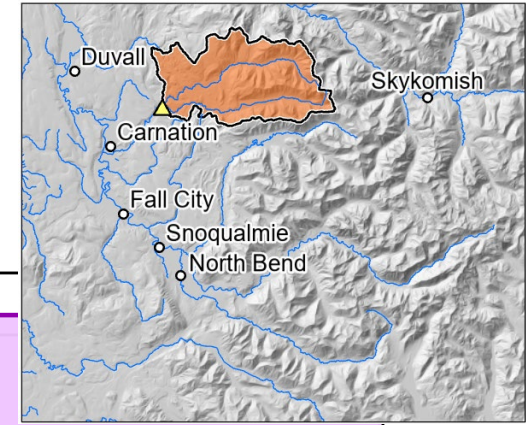
USGS 12147900 SOUTH FORK TOLT RESERVOIR NEAR CARNATION, WA





TOLT RIVER NEAR CARNATION, WA (12148500)

December 2025 Peak Discharge: 6540 cfs



Provisional data – subject to revision



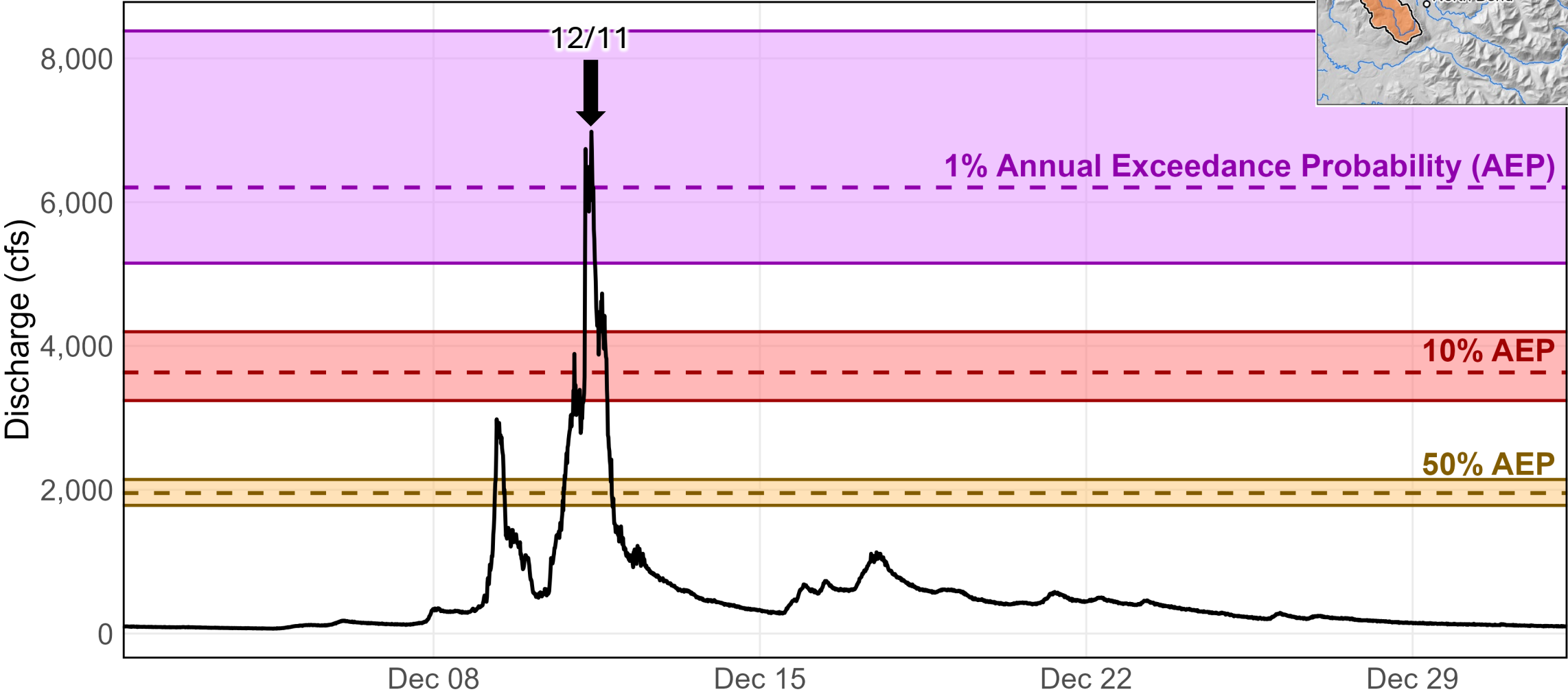
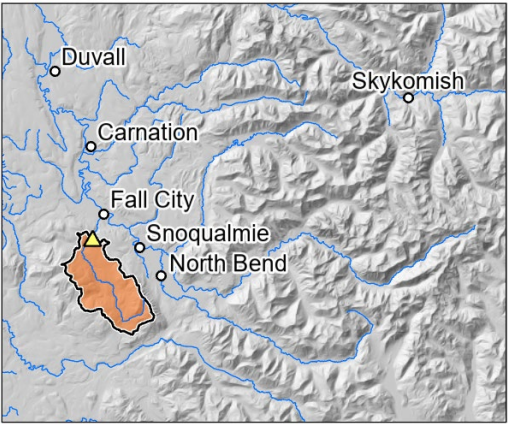
Raging River





RAGING RIVER NEAR FALL CITY, WA (12145500)

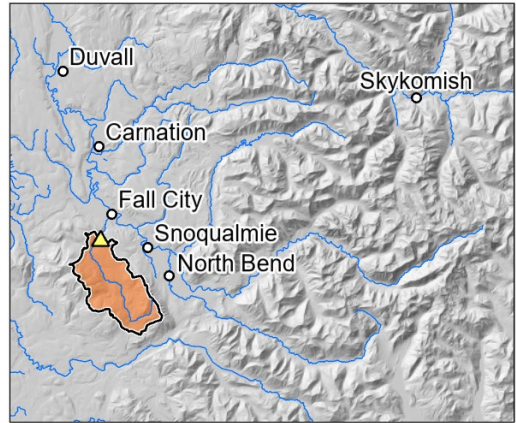
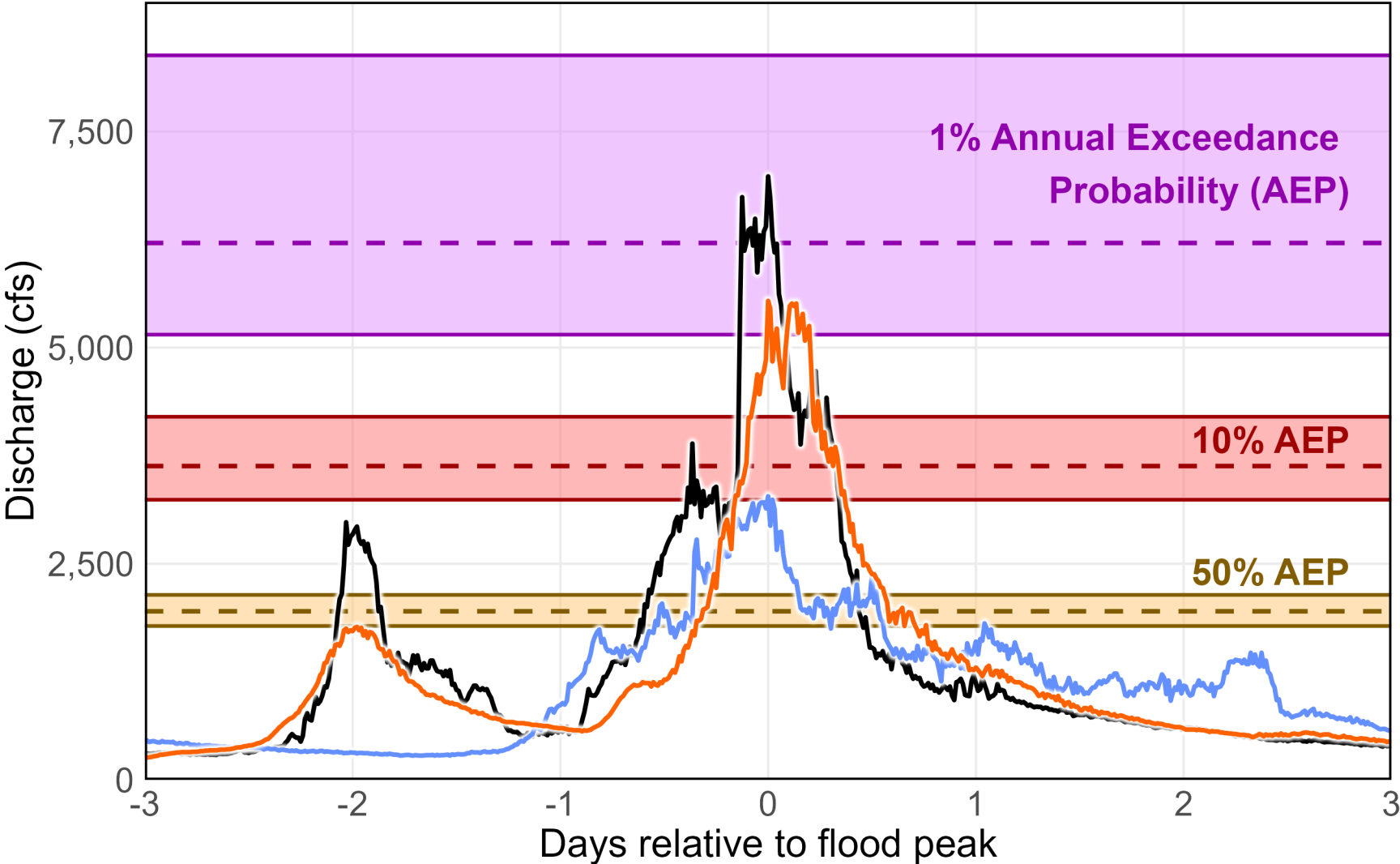
December 2025 Peak Discharge: 6980 cfs



Provisional data – subject to revision



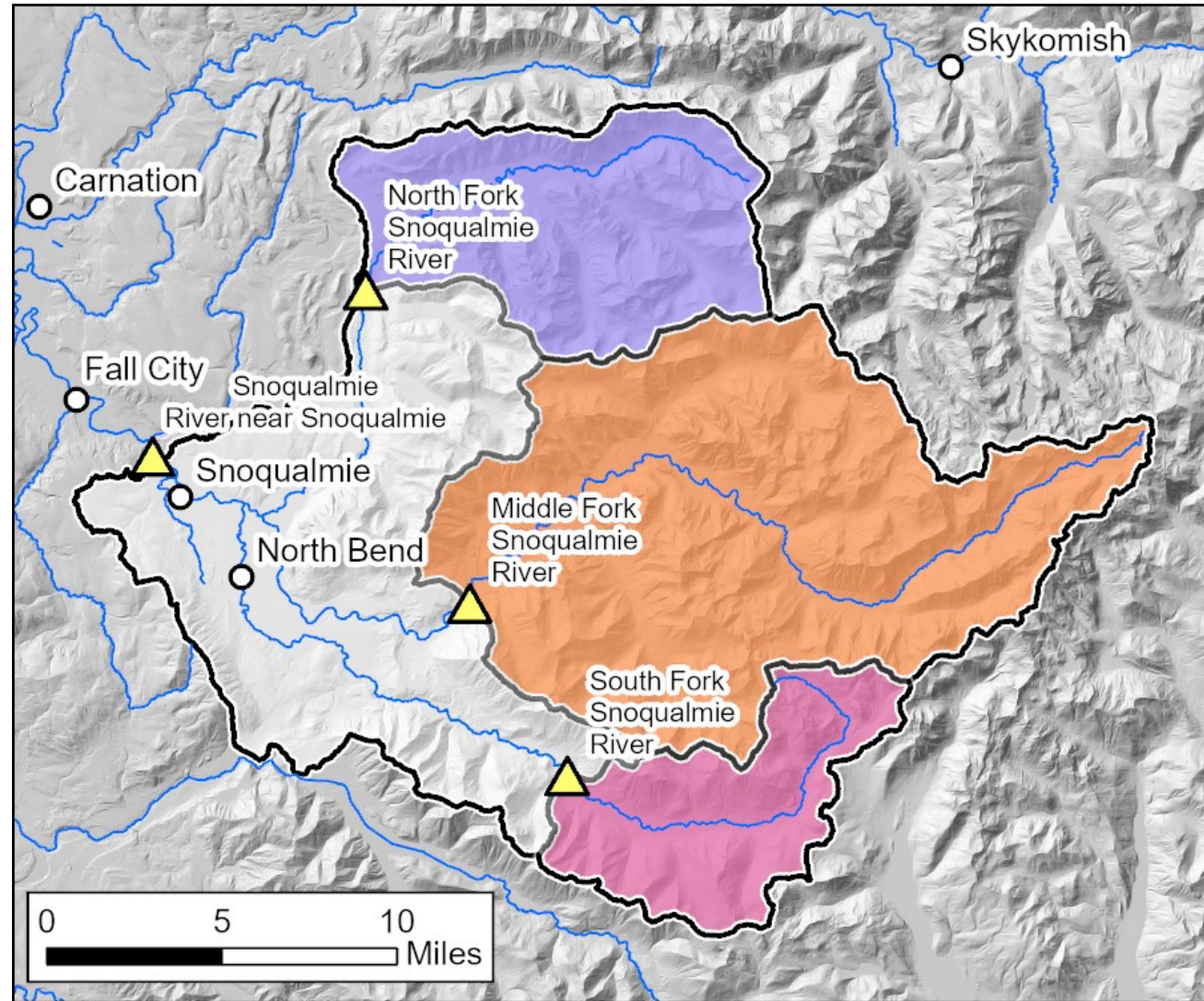
RAGING RIVER NEAR FALL CITY, WA (12145500)



Flood event (peak date)

- 2025-12-11
- 2020-02-06
- 1990-11-24

Upper Snoqualmie River and Forks





Upper Snoqualmie River

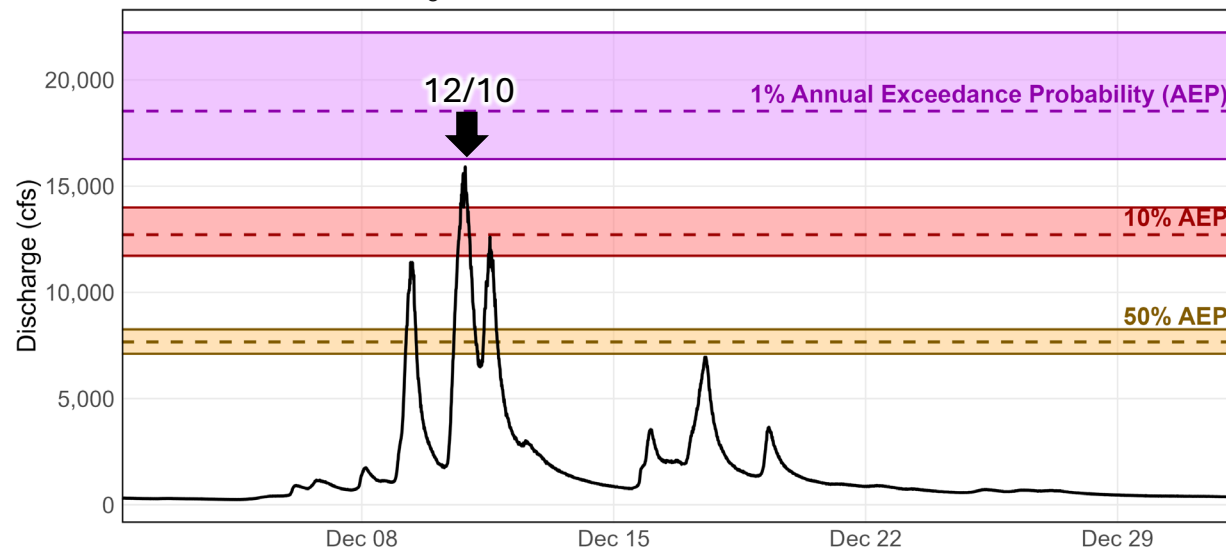


Photo credits: City of Snoqualmie



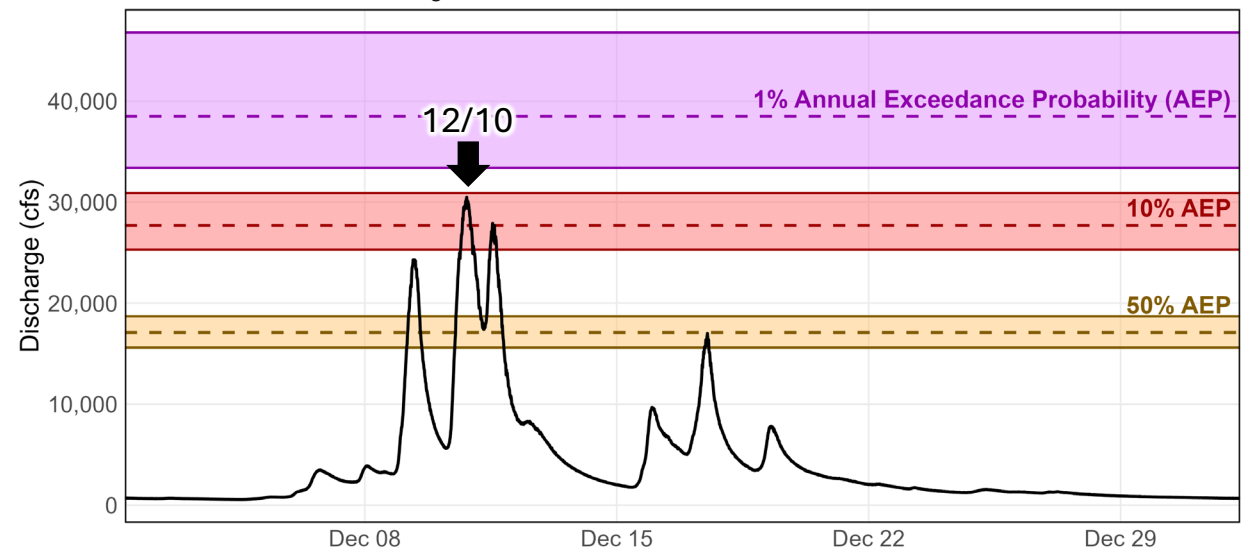
NF SNOQUALMIE RIVER NEAR SNOQUALMIE FALLS, WA (12142000)

December 2025 Peak Discharge: 15900 cfs



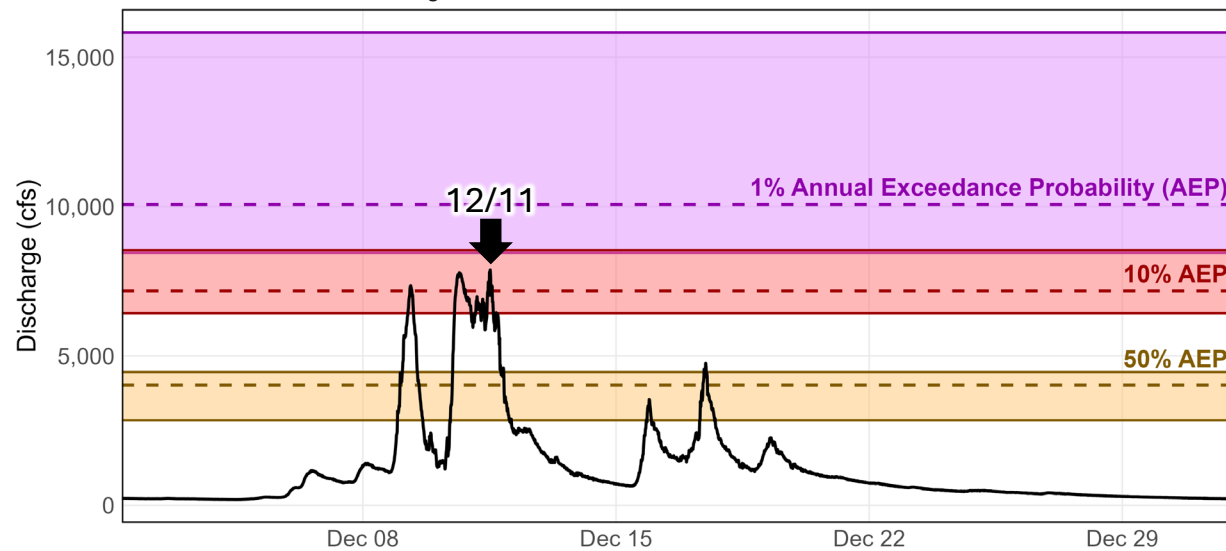
MIDDLE FORK SNOQUALMIE RIVER NEAR TANNER, WA (12141300)

December 2025 Peak Discharge: 30,500 cfs



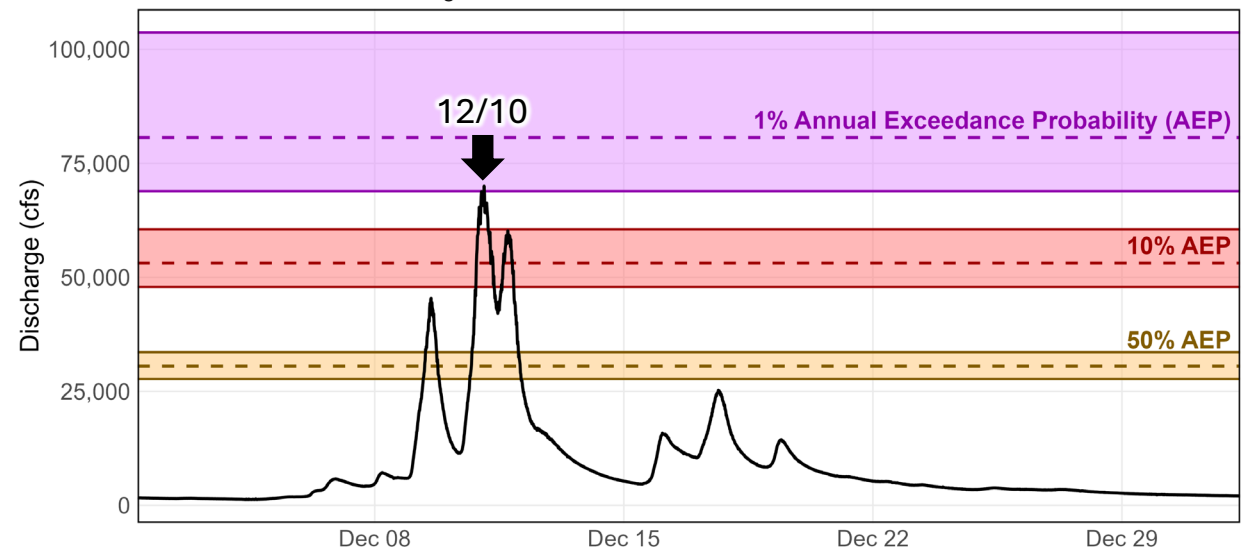
SF SNOQUALMIE RIVER AB ALICE CREEK NEAR GARCIA, WA (12143400)

December 2025 Peak Discharge: 7880 cfs



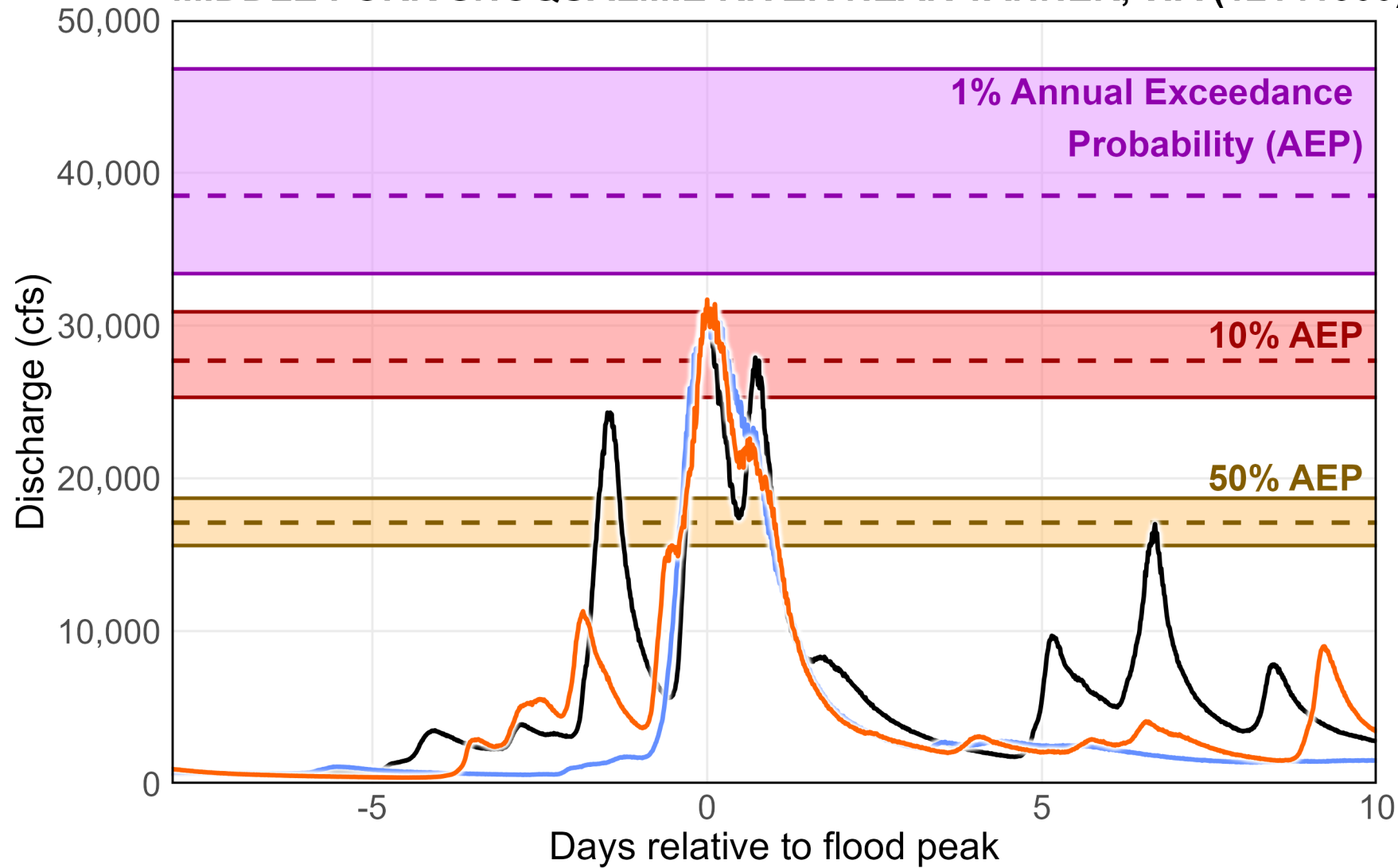
SNOQUALMIE RIVER NEAR SNOQUALMIE, WA (12144500)

December 2025 Peak Discharge: 70000 cfs





MIDDLE FORK SNOQUALMIE RIVER NEAR TANNER, WA (12141300)



Flood event (peak date)

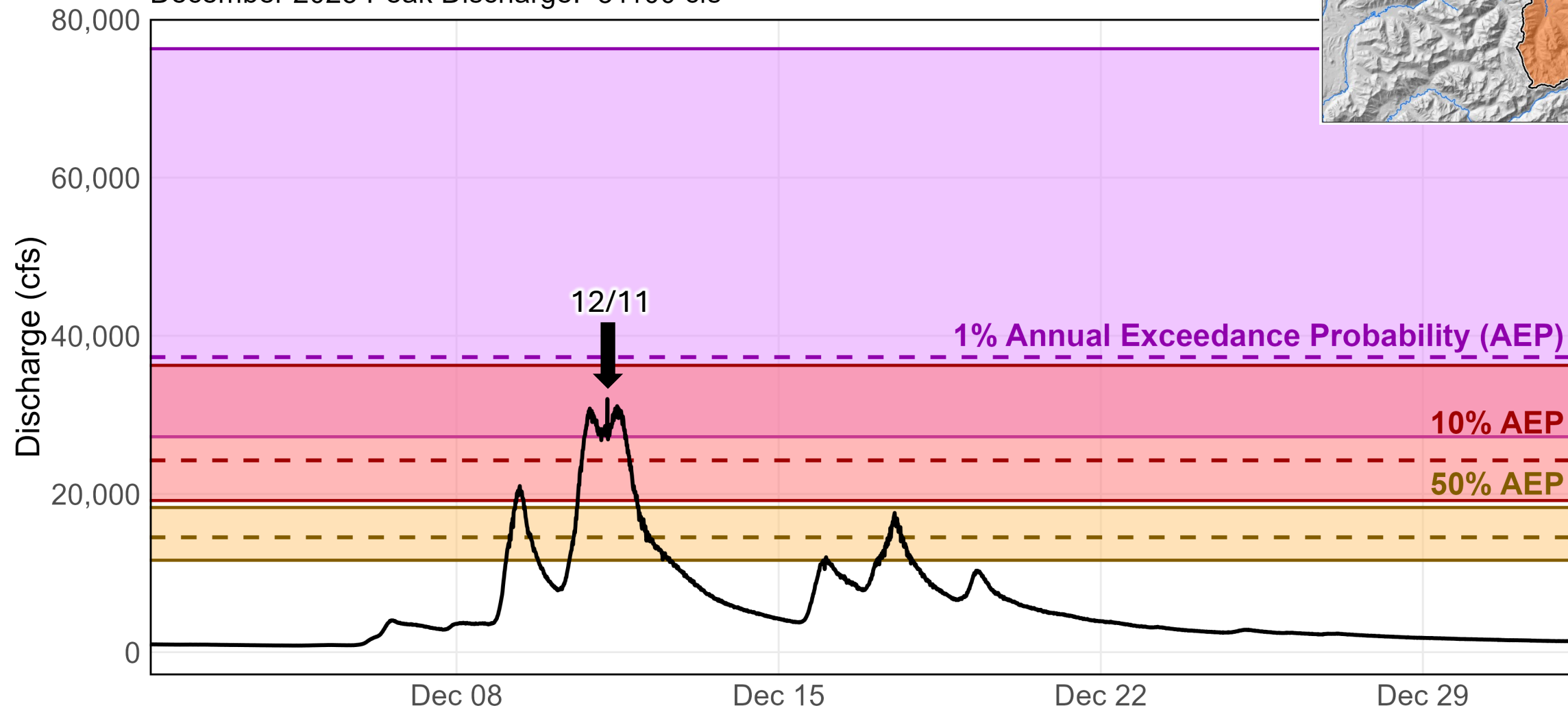
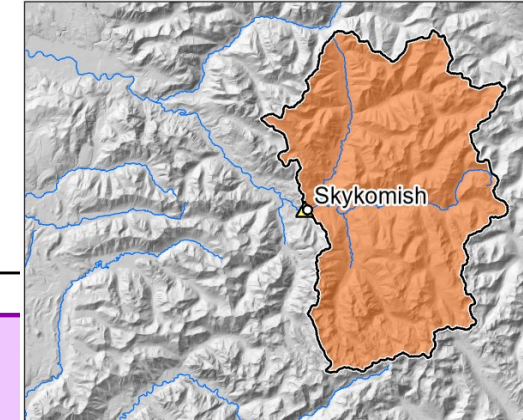
- 2025-12-10
- 2009-01-07
- 2006-11-06

Provisional data – subject to revision



SOUTH FORK SKYKOMISH RIVER AT SKYKOMISH, WA (12131500)

December 2025 Peak Discharge: 31100 cfs



Provisional data – subject to revision

Post-flood data collection

- High water marks collected.
- 2025 flood Data will be used to update models that predict water surface elevations.



High-Water Mark: Seed Line at Tolt-MacDonald Park

Post-flood river facility damage assessment

- Post-flood inspections complete Jan. 2026.
- Assess inspection results and work with the King County Flood Control District to prioritize repairs.
- Prepare list of damages for County's compilation of damage for FEMA.



King County staff inspecting damage along the Raging River, Jan. 6, 2026

Other post-flood actions

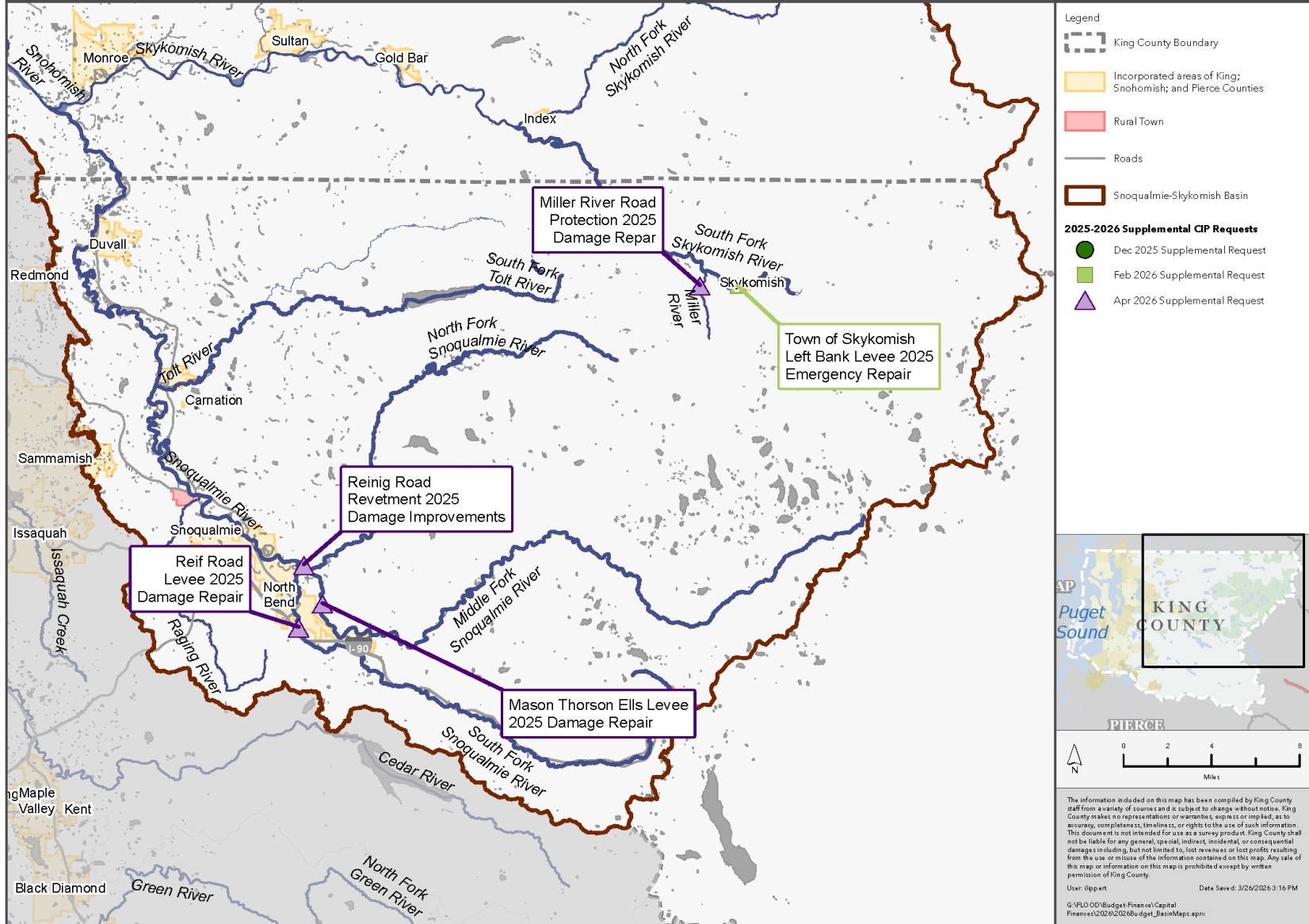
- Mail flood recovery information to properties that likely experienced flood damage.
- Respond to flood buy-out requests, initiate new home elevations, and answer community calls.
- Generate actions plans and costs for 44 damaged facility repairs.
- Support federal disaster cost assessments.



King County geologist inspecting damage on the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River, Jan. 8, 2026

December 2025 Flood Emergency Repairs and Proposed Projects

Snoqualmie and South Fork Skykomish River Basin





Flood recovery resources

- Resources to help people respond and recover from flooding are available at **kingcounty.gov/flood-recovery**
- Homeowners may be eligible for the following programs:
 - **Flood buyout program** for interested homeowners in flood-prone areas of King County: kingcounty.gov/flood-buyout
 - **Flood elevation program** for homeowners in areas of the Snoqualmie Valley: kingcounty.gov/home-elevation
 - **King County Housing Repair program** for qualified homeowners: kingcounty.gov/HousingRepair



Be flood ready! Visit kingcounty.gov/PrepareForFlooding

Learn about the King County Flood Control District at kingcountyfloodcontrol.org



Stay informed about floods in the future



- Alerts about severe weather and other emergencies in your area
- Sign up at **kingcounty.gov/alert**



- Alerts about potential river flooding near you
- Sign up at **kingcounty.gov/flood**

Track current river conditions with the King County Flood Warning App: kingcounty.gov/flood