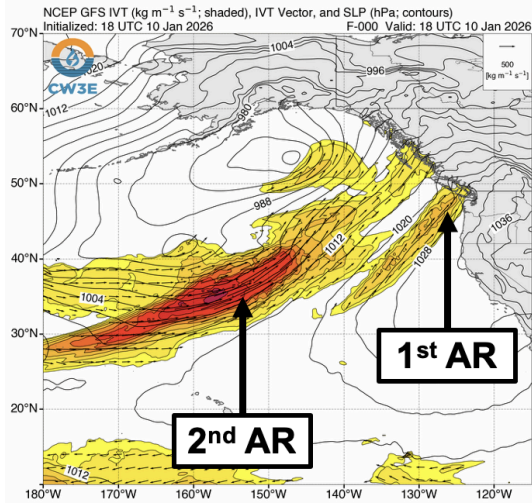


Quick Summary of the Atmospheric Rivers Impacting Washington During 10–12 January *Updated: 16 January 2026*

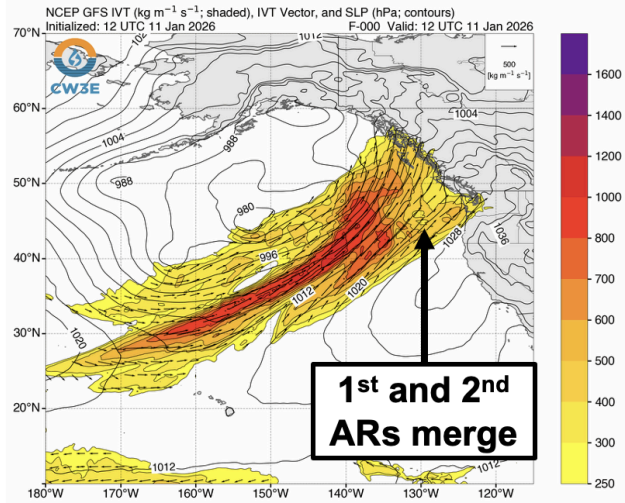
- A weakening atmospheric river (AR) that had previously made landfall over southeastern Alaska and British Columbia stalled over coastal Washington on Sat 10 Jan.
- Meanwhile, a much stronger AR that formed over the western North Pacific quickly propagated eastward toward the West Coast of North America.
- The second AR merged with the first AR early Sun 11 Jan, and the core of the second AR moved onshore the same evening, bringing moderate AR conditions ($IVT \geq 500 \text{ kg m}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$) to western Washington.
- AR conditions ($IVT \geq 250 \text{ kg m}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$) continued over Washington into late Mon 12 Jan, with the second AR gradually lifted northward into British Columbia by early Tue 13 Jan.
- GEFS analyses indicated an AR 3 (based on the Ralph et al. 2019 AR Scale) over coastal Washington due to continuous AR conditions lasting >48 hours across the two ARs. Some locations over the Olympic Peninsula experienced ~ 72 hours of AR conditions.
- These ARs produced an estimated 4–8 inches of total precipitation over much of the Olympic Peninsula, with locally higher amounts in the Olympic Mountains, as well as 3–6 inches in the North Cascades, and 0.5–1.5 inches in the Green River Basin.
- High freezing levels substantially limited snowfall accumulations in the Olympic Mountains and Cascades. The highest elevations of the North Cascades received an estimated 6–18 inches of total snowfall.
- While hydrologic impacts were relatively minor, river/stream levels exceeded action/monitor stage at a few locations. The Skokomish River near Potlatch crested just above moderate flood stage on Mon 12 Jan.

GFS IVT & SLP Analyses

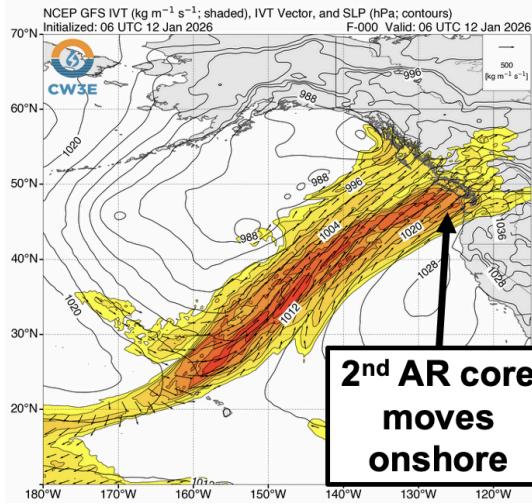
Valid 10 AM PST 10 Jan



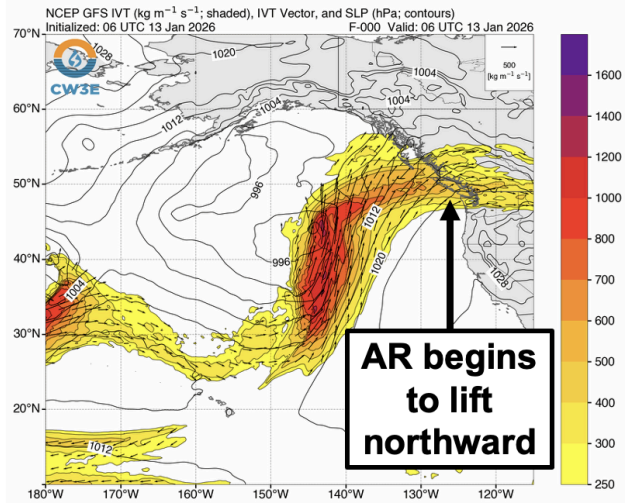
Valid 4 AM PST 11 Jan



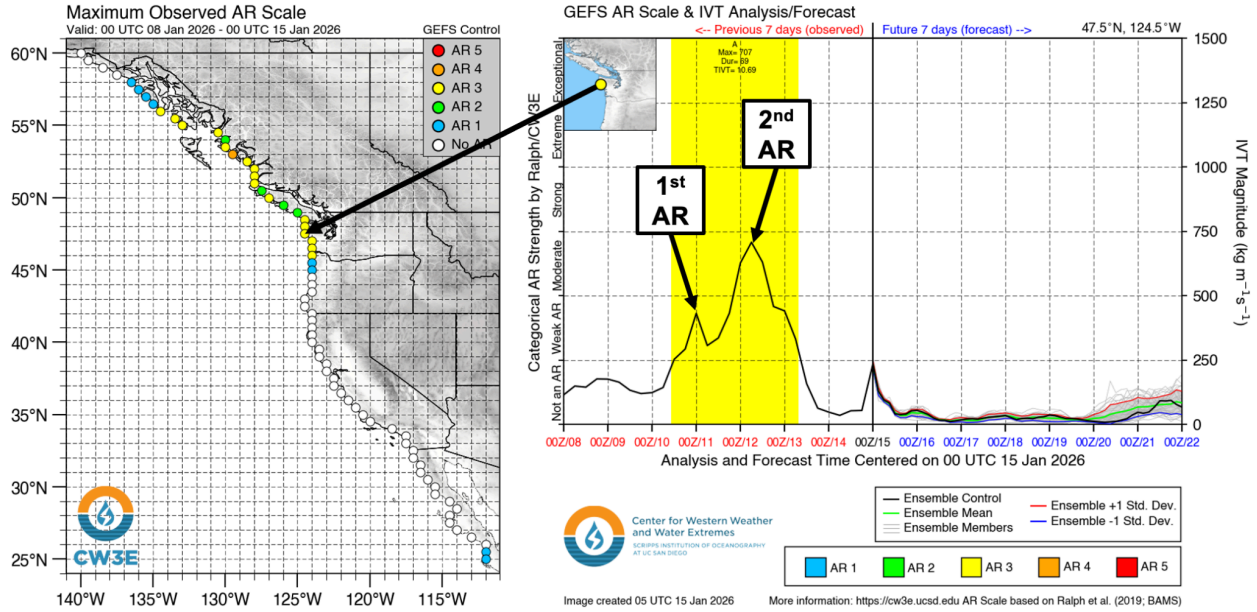
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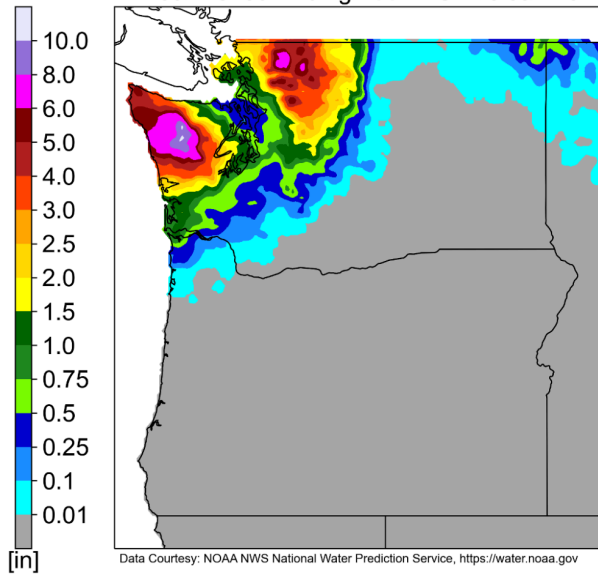
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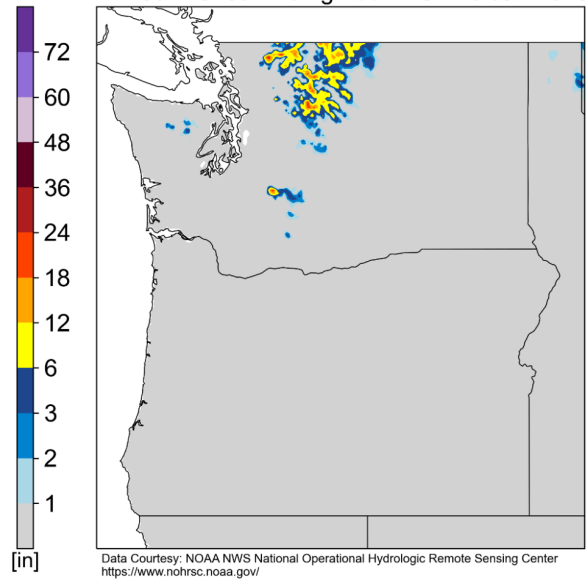
GEFS Control AR Scale Analysis

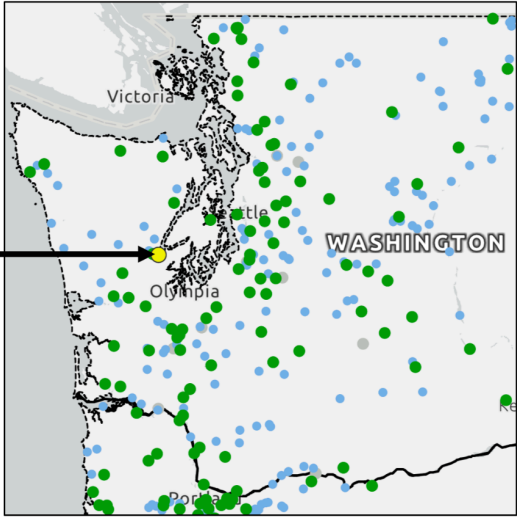
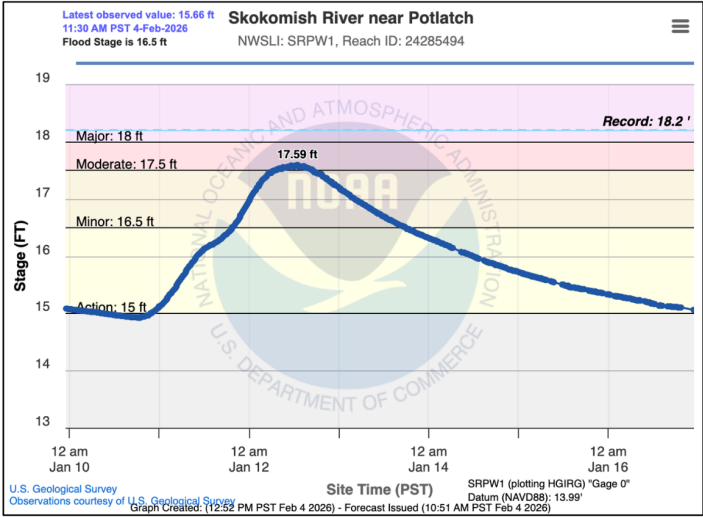


Total Estimated Precipitation
72-hour Period Ending 4 AM PST 13 Jan 2026



Total Estimated Snowfall
72-hour Period Ending 4 AM PST 13 Jan 2026





Credit: NOAA/NWS National Water Prediction Service