

Quick Look at the AR Presently Impacting the Pacific Northwest

Updated: 10 December 2025

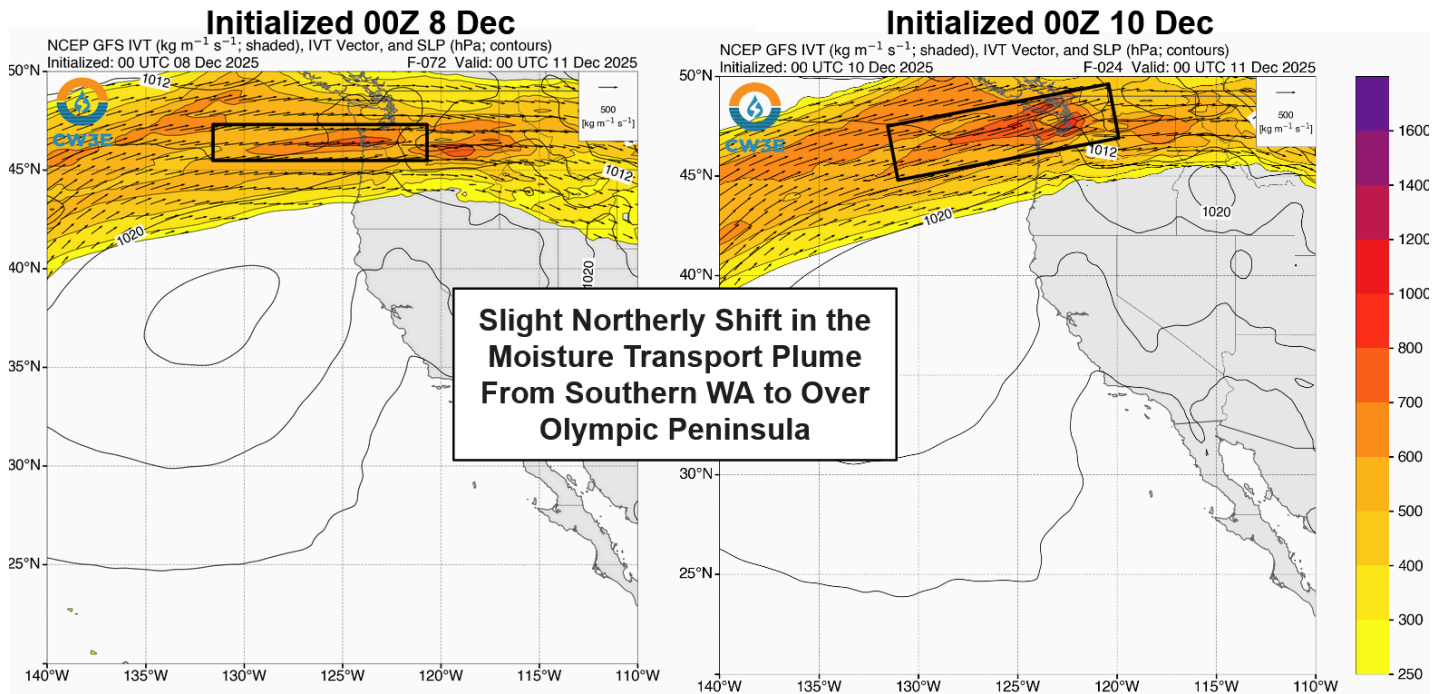
The atmospheric river (AR) presently impacting the Pacific Northwest will continue to produce very heavy precipitation in western Washington today into early tomorrow, leading to potentially historic riverine flooding.

Forecast Highlights:

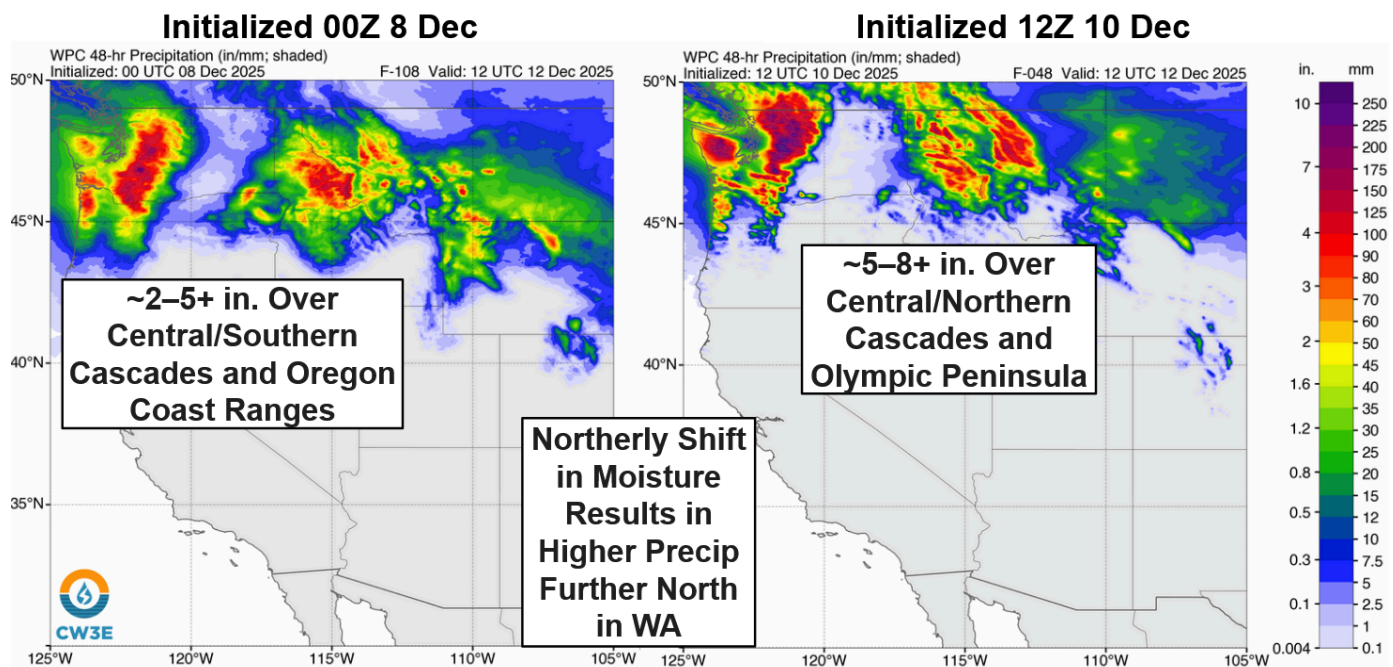
- The forecast position of the AR has shifted slightly north over the last two days, which has altered precipitation and streamflow forecasts over Washington. In addition, a longer duration of moderate-to-strong AR conditions ($\text{IVT } 500\text{--}1000 \text{ kg m}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$) is now expected to continue through Thu 11 Dec.
- The NWS Weather Prediction Center (WPC) 48-hr precipitation forecasts for the period ending 4 AM PT Fri 12 Dec emphasize the shift in precipitation as the highest totals in Monday's forecast over the central and southern Washington Cascades and Oregon Coast Ranges have shifted north to the Olympic Peninsula and the central and northern Washington Cascades.
- The WPC is forecasting 5–8 in. over the central and northern Washington Cascades and 3–5 in. over the Olympic Peninsula for the 48 hour period ending 4 AM PT Fri 12 Dec.
- Freezing level forecasts have also trended higher over the Washington Cascades with the northward shift of the AR. As a result, nearly all of the precipitation is expected to fall as rain, exacerbating the streamflow response and potential for major flooding in western Washington.
- The NWS Northwest River Forecast Center (NWRFC) is forecasting 15 gauges to exceed major flood stage and four gauges to break their record flood stage in the next 24 to 48 hours. Increases of 5–10 feet are forecast for many gauges in western Washington, with several gauges forecast to see an increase of 15+ feet.
- One such gauge, the Skagit River near Concrete, is forecast to rise nearly 20 feet in the next 24 hours, and the Skagit River near Vernon gauge is forecast to exceed the record flood stage by ~4 feet. Approximately 80% of West-WRF ensemble members are forecasting 24-hour precipitation totals of 4+ in. by 12Z Thu 11 Dec in the vicinity of the Skagit River.
- Evacuation orders have already been issued for the surrounding area. Visit the Skagit County [Incident Information page](#) for further information regarding the flooding threat

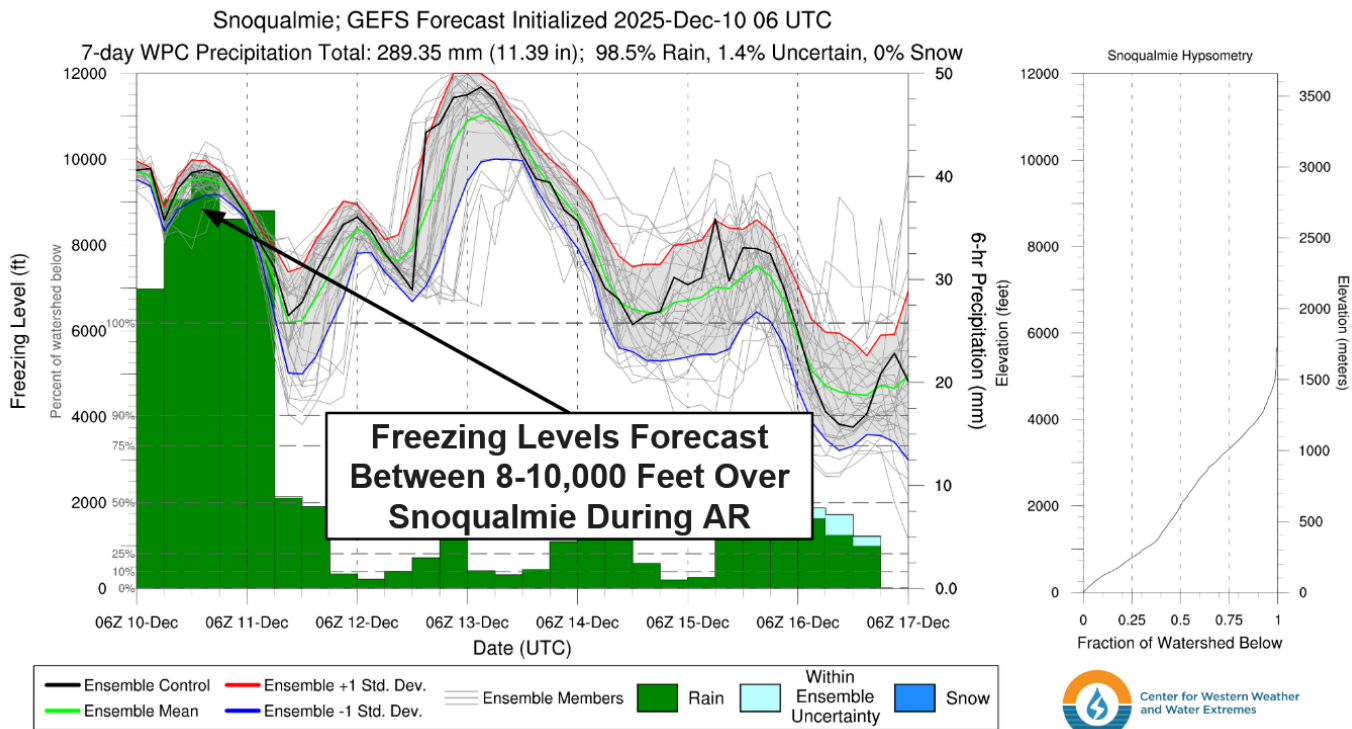
Stay alert to official NWS forecasts, watches, and warnings at [weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov) and monitor local emergency management communications for updates in your area.

GFS IVT: Forecast Valid 4 PM PT Wed 10 Dec

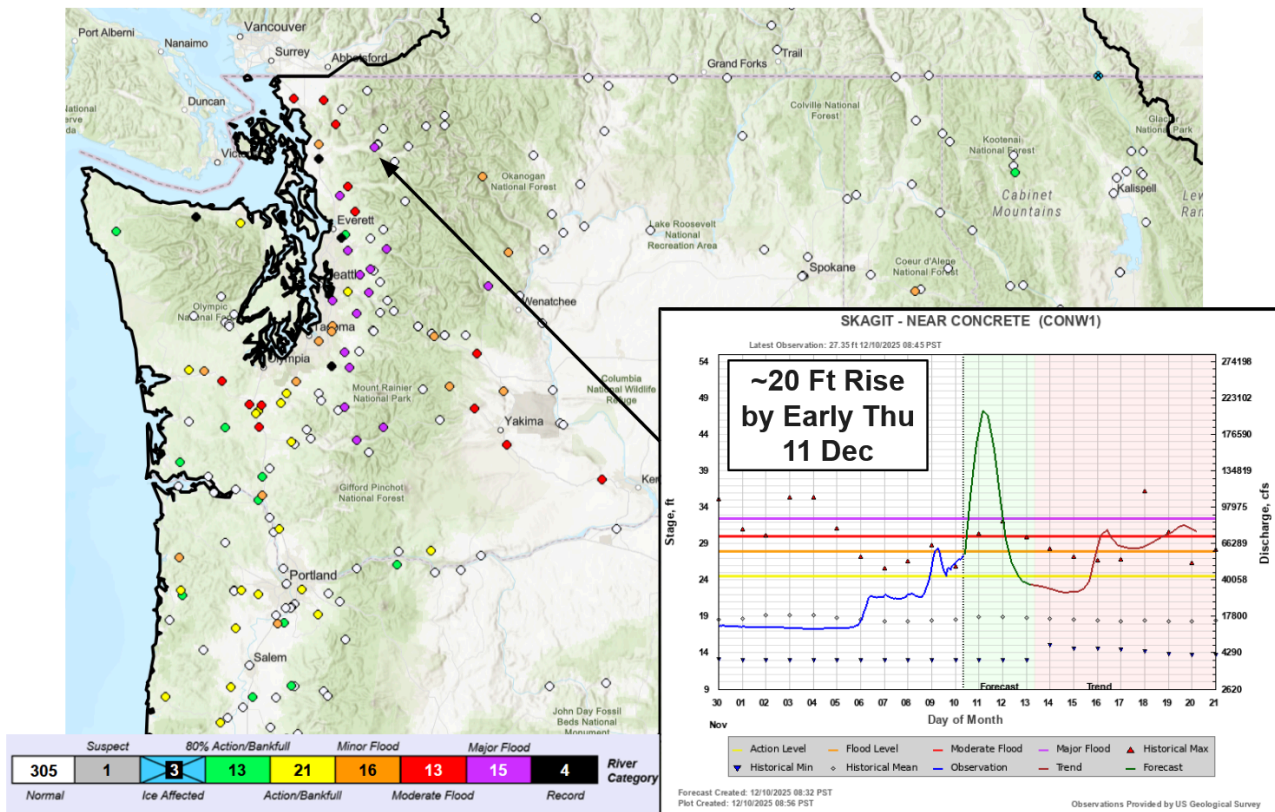


WPC 48-Hr Precipitation: Forecast Valid 4 AM PT Fri 12 Dec

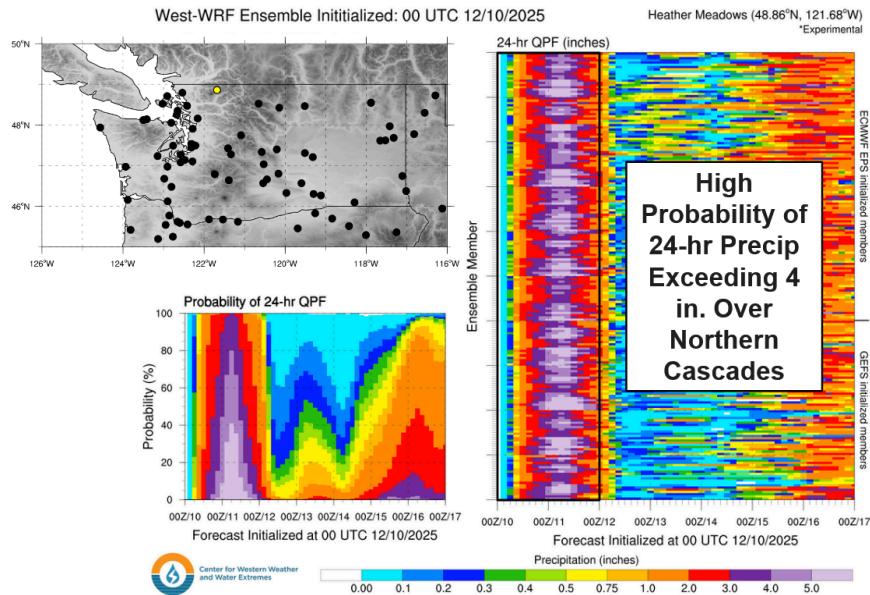





NWRFC Stream Level Forecasts



West-WRF Ensemble Precipitation Forecast at Heather Meadows






Key Messages for Pacific Northwest Flooding

Issued Dec 10 2025
8:00 AM CT


Life Threatening Flooding Ongoing and Expected to Continue

- Locally Catastrophic Flooding Impacts are possible along the Skagit and Snohomish Rivers**
Major and/or record river flooding is expected, bringing an increasing threat to life and property. Overtopping of levees is possible.
- Considerable Flooding Impacts are Ongoing and Expected to Continue Across the Cascade Foothills to Puget Sound**
Considerable small stream and moderate-to-major river flooding is expected into Friday.
- Widespread Urban and River Flooding**
Urban and river flooding is also possible throughout the remainder of western Washington and portions of northern Oregon.
- Potential For Landslides**
Landslides are possible in areas of steep terrain within the considerable region.
- For the latest rainfall forecasts, visit**
www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov



Flood Hazard Outlook: Through Day 3 (Experimental)
Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Potential Flooding Impacts
Catastrophic
Considerable
Limited
For information on these categories see www.noaa.gov



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

For more information, visit
water.noaa.gov

National Water Center
Tuscaloosa, AL

Additional Considerations:

Visit <https://www.weather.gov/nwrfc/> for specific river and stream forecasts and <https://www.weather.gov/> for point specific forecasts.

In-depth AR forecasts products can be found here:

<http://cw3e.ucsd.edu/iwv-and-ivt-forecasts/>

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