



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

National
Water and
Climate
Center

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Subject: Western Snowpack Conditions and Water Supply Forecasts

Date: March 11, 2001

The following information is provided for your use in describing climate and water supply conditions in the West as of January 1, 2001.

SNOWPACK

A large portion of the West reports snowpacks are **well below average snowpacks (<70%)**. These areas include central California, northern Nevada, central and southeastern Oregon, the Washington Cascades, northern Washington, British Columbia, most of Idaho, western Montana, northeastern Wyoming, central Utah, central Arizona and a small portion of southern Colorado. The snowpack index above Grand Coulee Reservoir is 55% of average, the lowest in the last 40 years. Basins reporting **near or slightly below average snowpacks (70% to 110%)** are essentially tangent to the locations mentioned above. Only isolated areas of eastern Wyoming, central Colorado and northern New Mexico are **reporting above average (>110%)** snowpacks.

SEASONAL PRECIPITATION

Well below average seasonal precipitation (<70%) conditions exist in California, western Nevada, southwestern Washington, and northwestern Montana. In general Oregon, eastern Washington and the Intermountain states are reporting seasonal precipitation totals that range from **slightly below to slightly above average (70% to 130%)**. **Well above seasonal precipitation (>130%)** is reported in southern Utah, southeastern Arizona, eastern Colorado and nearly all of New Mexico.

SPRING AND SUMMER STREAMFLOW

The scarcity of snowpack is reflected in the forecasted streamflow forecast volumes for much of the West. **Well below average (<70%)** spring and summer streamflows are forecast for central California, northern Nevada, southeast Idaho, south central and parts of southwestern Oregon, western Montana, small portions of central Wyoming, extreme southeastern Utah and portions of central Arizona and New Mexico.

Slightly below average (70% to 90%) spring and summer streamflows are forecast for parts of northern California, southwest and north central Oregon, the Washington Cascades and northern Washington, Canada, essentially all of Idaho, Montana, most of Wyoming, central Utah and central Arizona.

Average (90% to 110%) spring and summer streamflow are forecast for western Oregon (the Willamette River), a portion of the Puget Sound, northeast Oregon (Grande Ronde), upper reaches of the Gallatin, Madison and Clark Fork Rivers in western Montana, portions of southwest Wyoming, most of western Colorado, the Upper Rio Grande in southern Colorado, and a portion of the Rio Grande in central New Mexico.

Above to much above (110% to > 130%) spring and summer streamflow are forecast for Pecos River and Canadian River in New Mexico.

RESERVOIR STORAGE

Major western storage reservoirs in Arizona, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington report **slightly below average** storage levels for this time of year. **Near or above average** storage levels are reported for California, Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming and Utah.

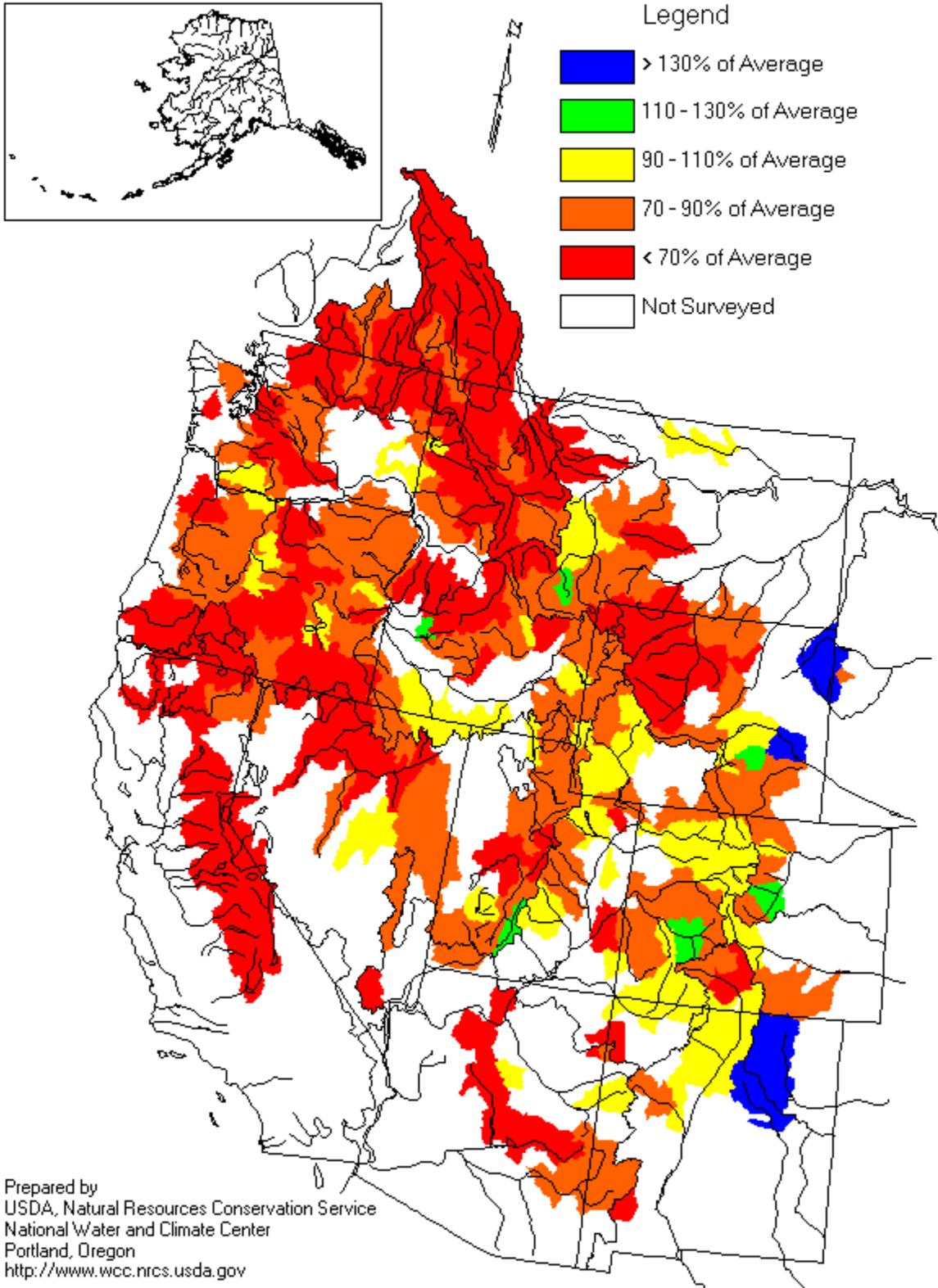
FOR MORE INFORMATION

The National Water and Climate Center Homepage provides the latest available snowpack and water supply information. Please visit us at <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov>

/s/ PHIL PASTERIS

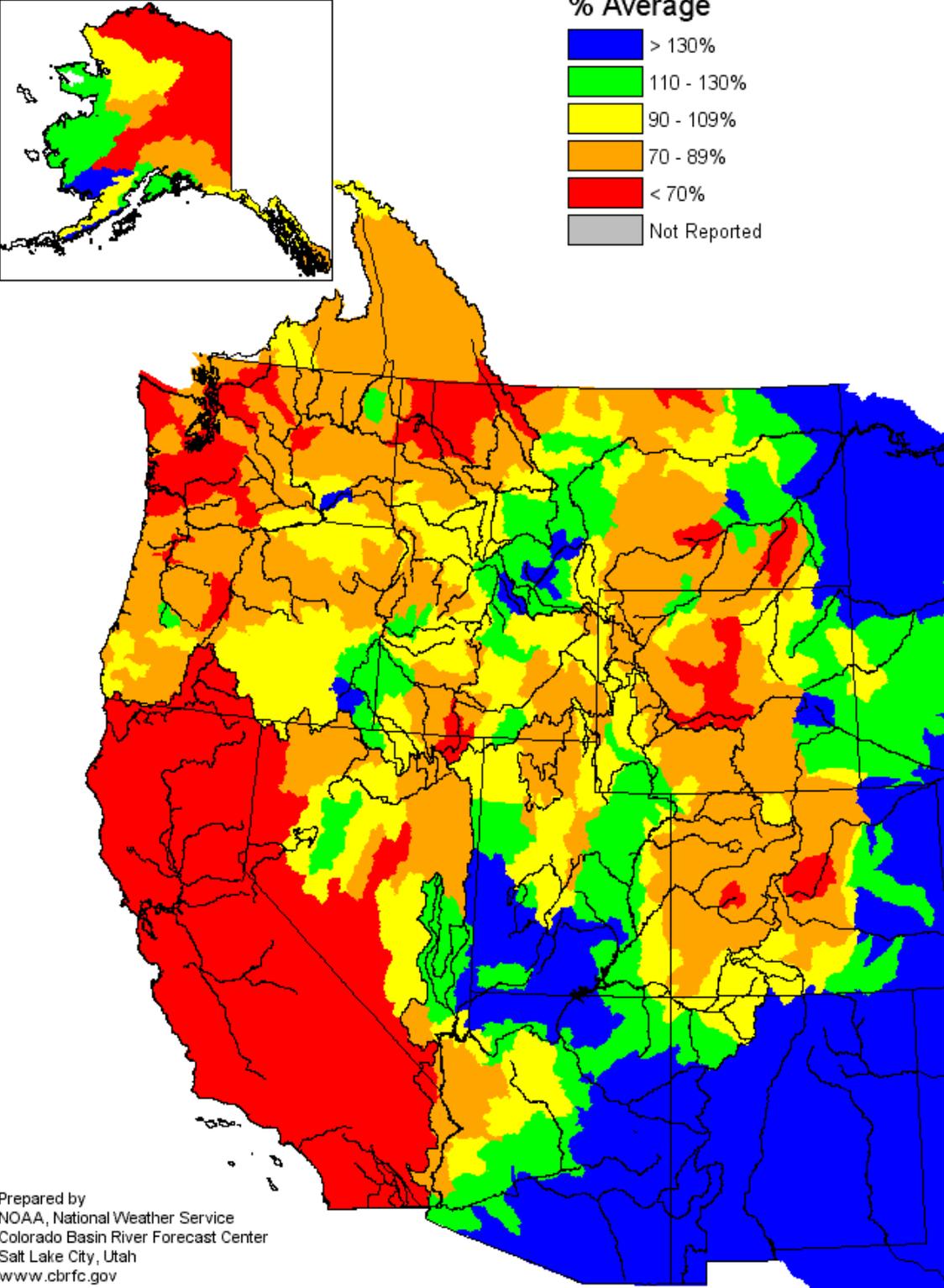
Team Leader, Water and Climate Services, National Water and Climate Center

Mountain Snowpack as of January 1, 2001

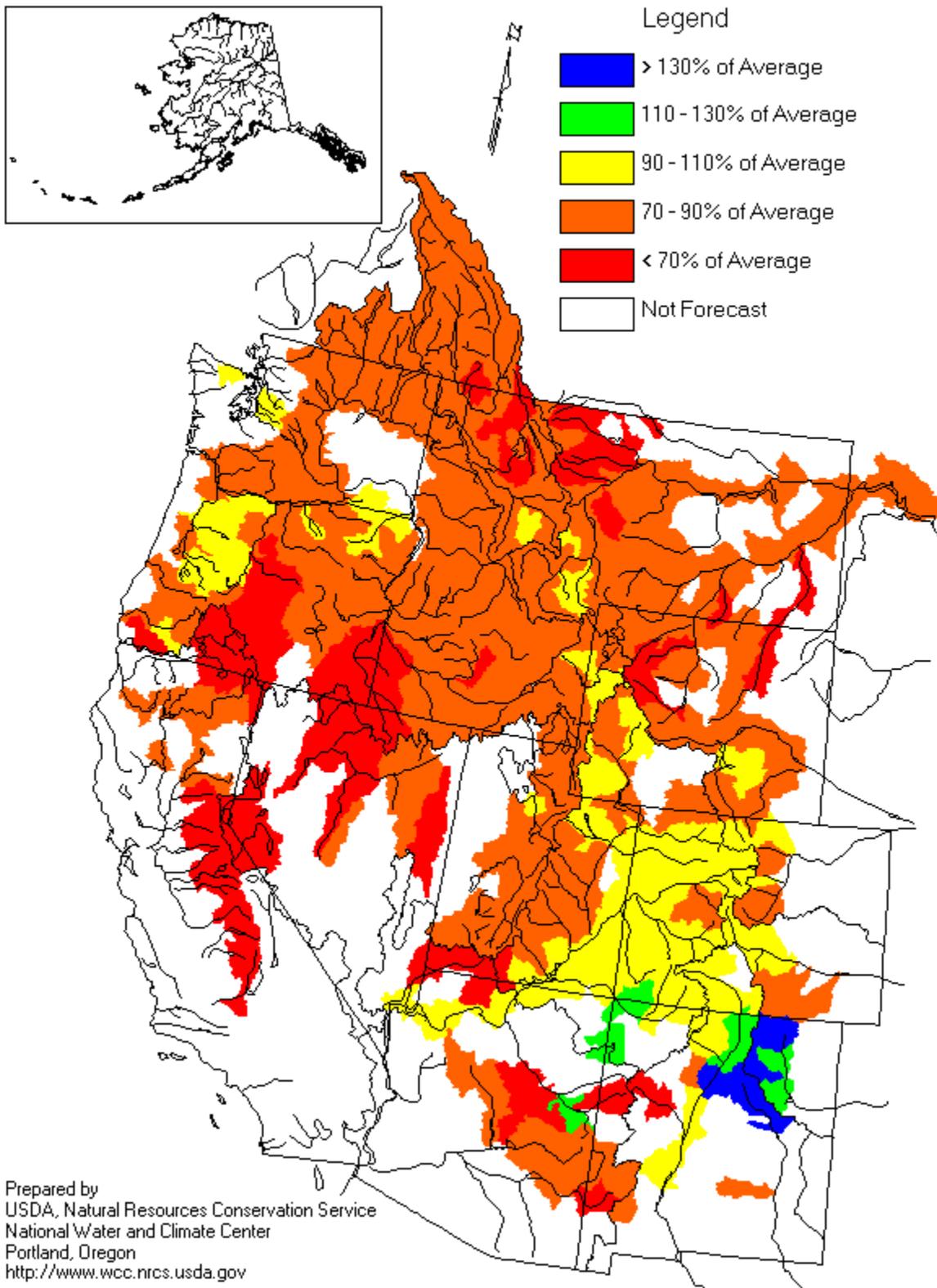


Seasonal Precipitation, October 2000 - December 2000

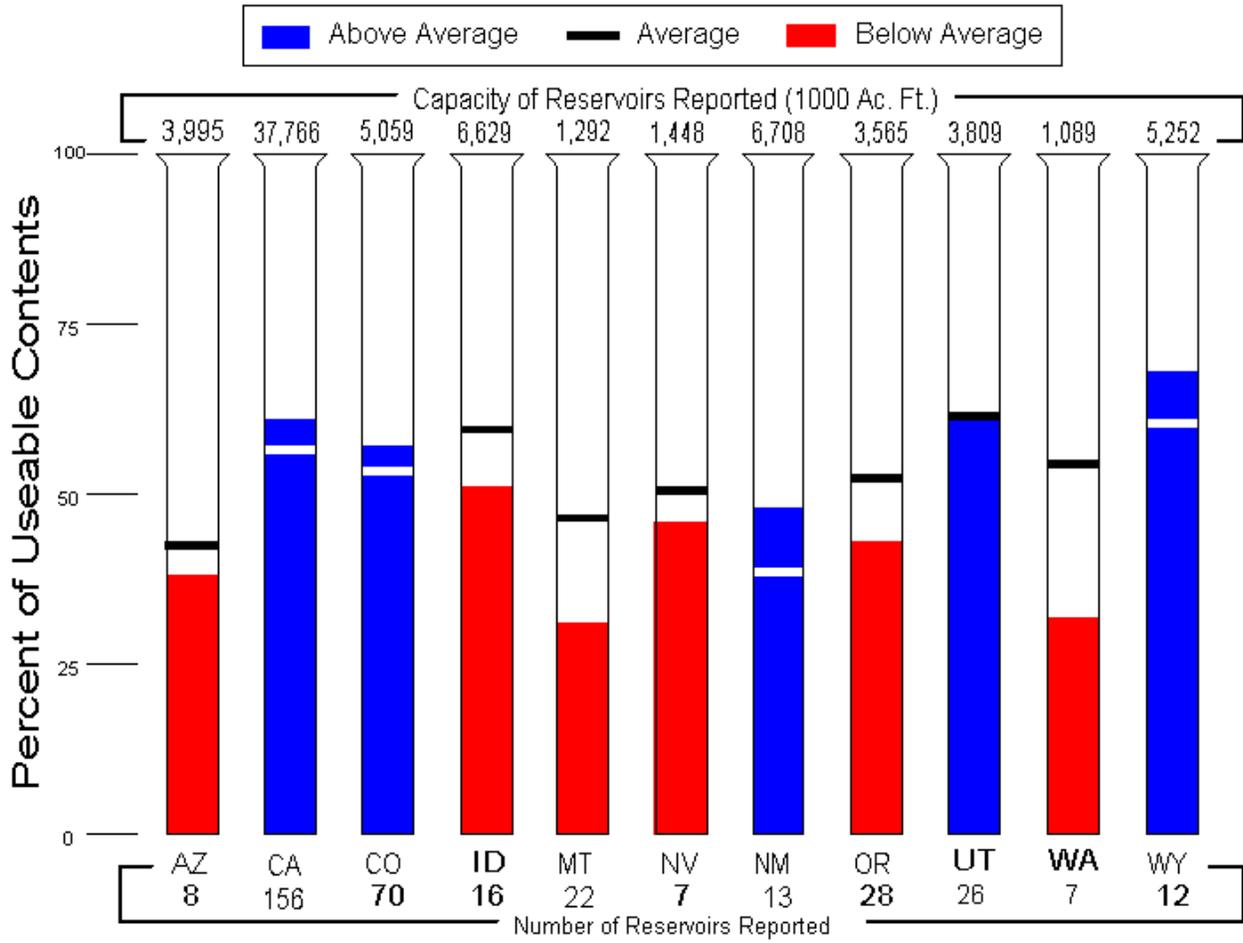
(Averaged by Hydrologic Unit)



Spring and Summer Streamflow Forecasts as of January 1, 2001



Reservoir Storage as of January 1, 2001



Prepared by: USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Water and Climate Center, Portland, OR
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