



Subject: June 1, 2001 Western Snowpack Conditions and Water Supply Forecasts Date: June 22, 2001

The following information is provided for your use in describing climate and water supply conditions in the West as of June 1, 2001. **The seasonal streamflow volume forecasts continue to show well below average conditions for much of the West, especially the Pacific Northwest, with the June 1, 2001 Columbia Basin The Dalles forecast below to the 1977 record minimum flow for the April-September forecast period.**

SNOWPACK

The snowpack for the West has essentially melted with the exception of portions of western Montana, Colorado and Wyoming, where recent late season snowfalls have produced ephemeral snowpacks. These storms have not added materially to major river basin storage, but can improve storage in smaller reservoirs.

MONTHLY AND SEASONAL PRECIPITATION

May 2001 (Figure 1) was generally well below average in nearly all of the West with the exception of the Southwest, western basins in Oregon and Washington and British Columbia. Much above average precipitation was reported in eastern Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado. Alaska reported a dry month in western sections, near average in central locations and above average in a small portion of central Alaska. Seasonal precipitation (Figure 2) continues to display a dry pattern in the northern half of the West and wet to the south.

SPRING AND SUMMER STREAMFLOW

The scarcity of snowpack and seasonal precipitation is reflected in the forecasted streamflow forecast volumes for much of the West as shown in Figure 3. For the Pacific Northwest, water year 2001 streamflow will most likely take its place among one of the lowest since modern records began in 1929. The June 1, 2001 NWS/NRCS Columbia Basin April-September water supply volume forecast for The Dalles is 52.00 million acre-feet (53% of average). This forecast is 2% lower than the observed record low volume of 54.09 million acre-feet established in 1977.

For the rest of the West, well below average (<70%) spring and summer streamflows are forecast for most of California, northern Nevada, southwest, central and eastern Oregon, nearly all of Washington, Idaho, southern British Columbia, Canada, Montana, Wyoming northwestern Colorado, and most of Utah.

Slightly below average (70% to 90%) spring and summer streamflows are forecast for the Willamette Basin and north central basins in Oregon, northern British Columbia, Canada, southeastern and southern Utah, scattered portions of California, and northern and central Colorado.

Average (90% to 110%) spring and summer streamflow are forecast for portions of south-central Colorado, and central New Mexico. Above average (110% to > 130%) spring and summer streamflow are forecast for only a few basins in southern Colorado and central and northern New Mexico.

RESERVOIR STORAGE

Major western storage reservoirs (Figure 4) in Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Washington report below average storage level for this time of year. Arizona and California report near average storage. Above average storage levels are reported in Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming.

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

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Monthly Precipitation for May 2001

(Averaged by Hydrologic Unit)

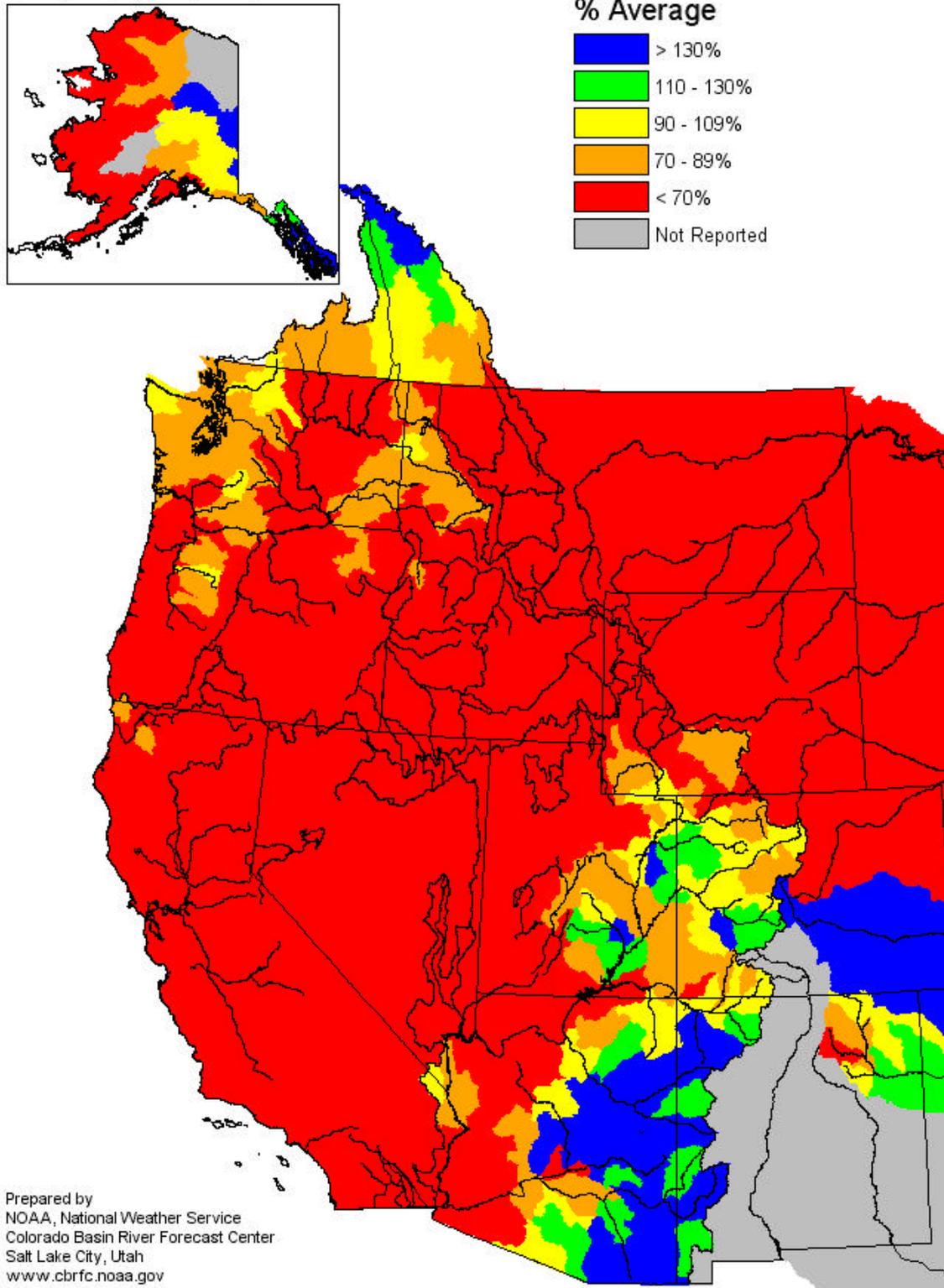


Figure 1. Previous Month's Precipitation

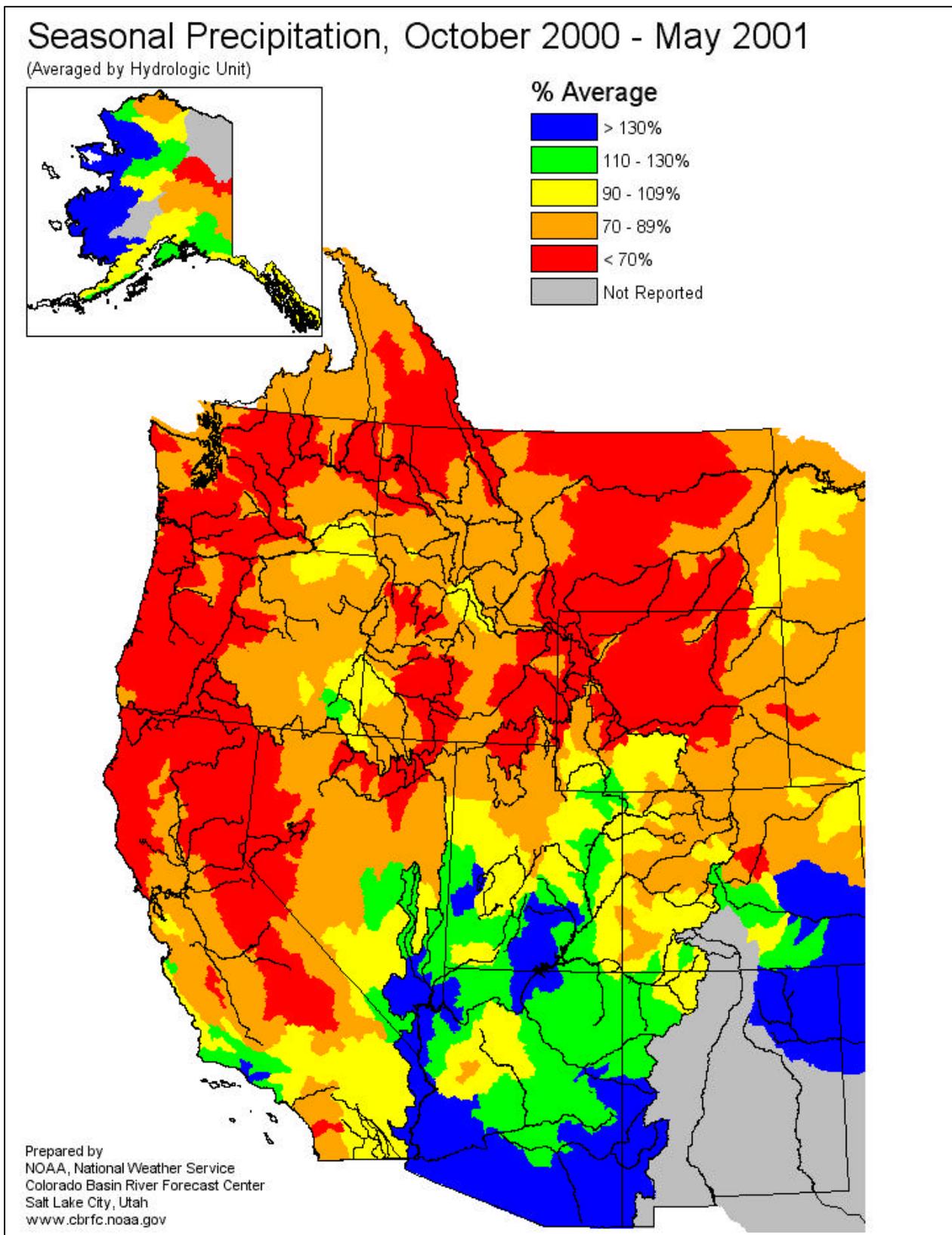


Figure 2. Seasonal Precipitation to Date beginning in October 2000

Spring and Summer Streamflow Forecasts as of June 1, 2001

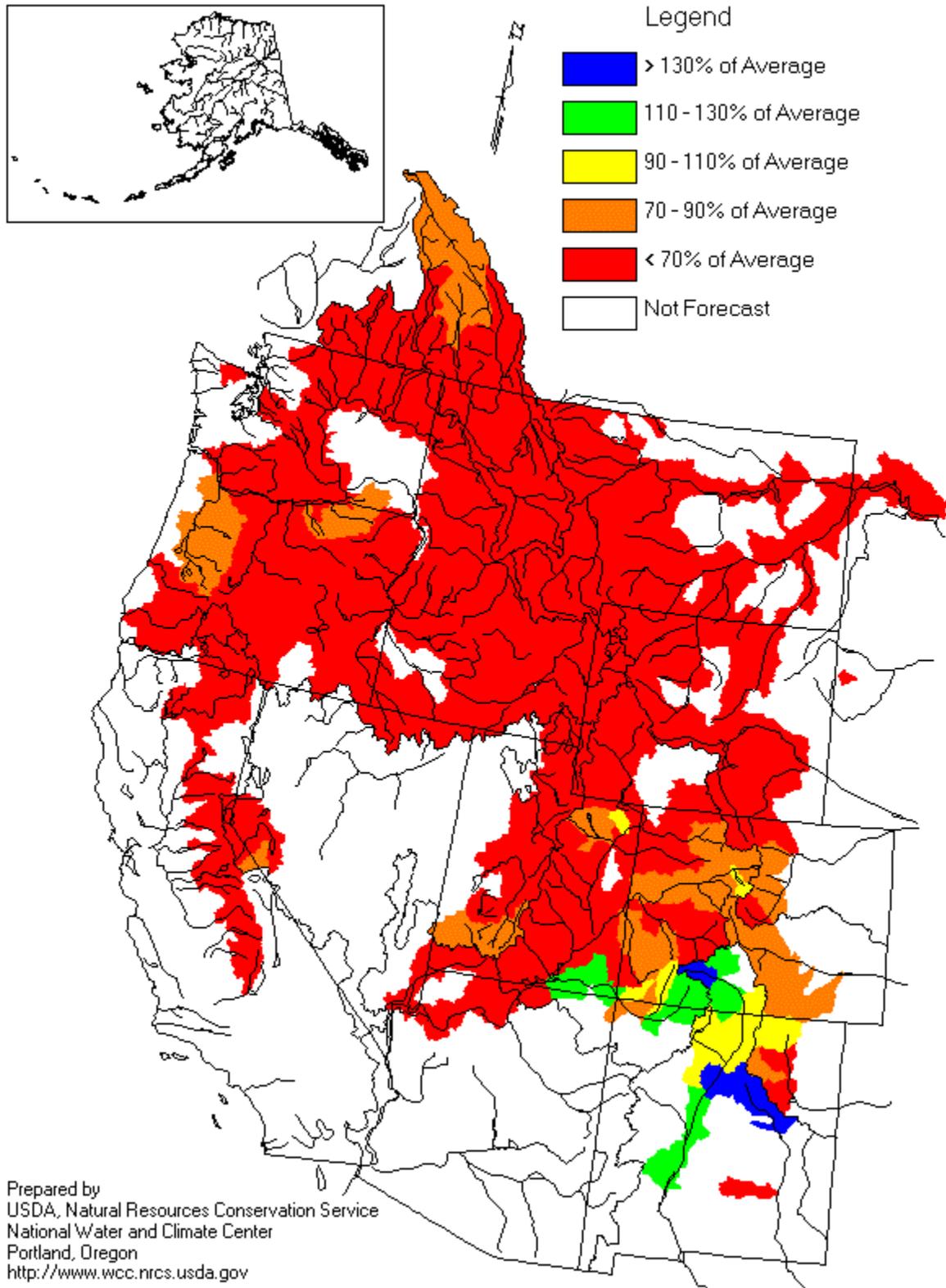
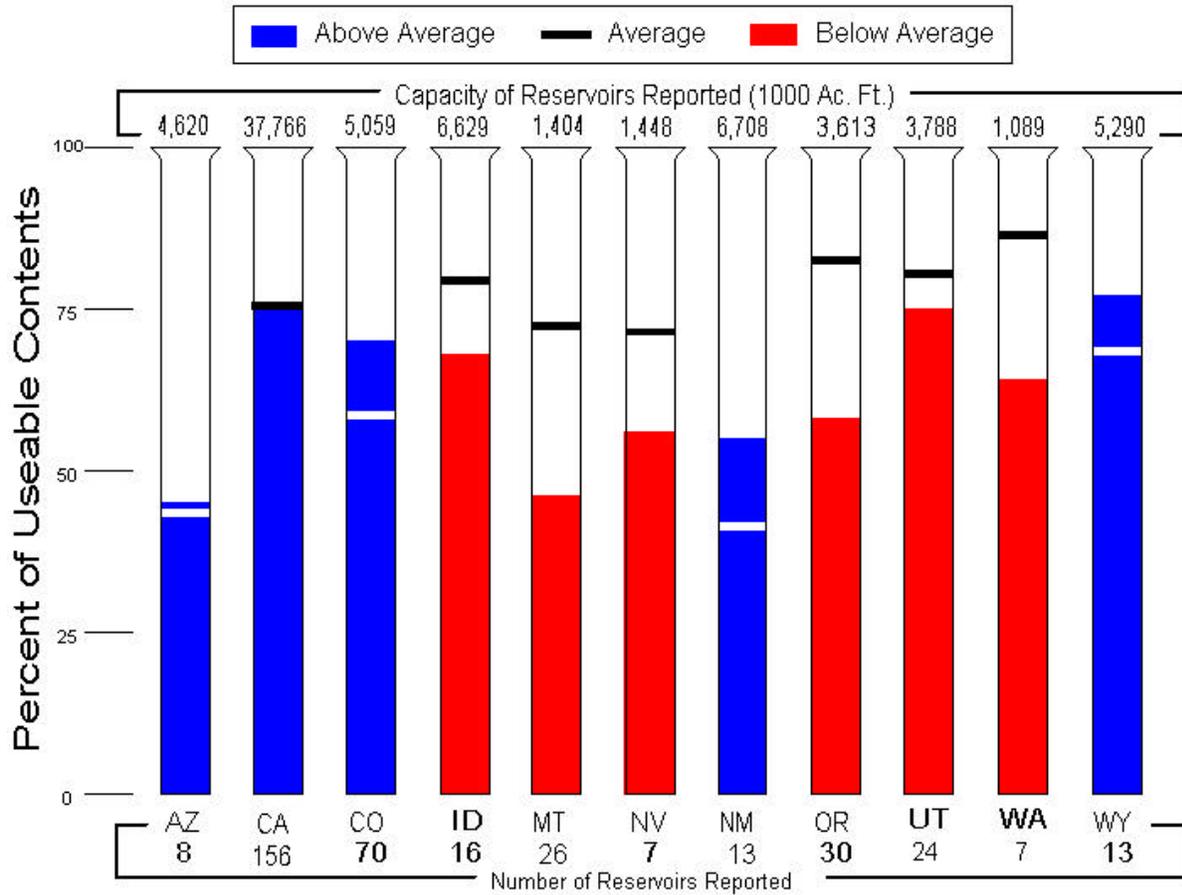


Figure 3. June 1, 2001 Water Supply Forecast

Reservoir Storage as of June 1, 2001



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Figure 4. Current Reservoir Storage