United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
National Water and Climate Center
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Portland, Oregon 97204-3224

Subject: February 1, 2002 Western Snowpack Conditions and Water Supply Forecasts Date: February 11, 2002

The following information is provided for your use in describing climate and water supply conditions in the West as of February 1, 2002.

Seasonal streamflow volume forecasts continue to remain above average in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Nevada and California. However, concerns of low seasonal water supplies are emerging in central Montana, central Wyoming, Colorado, central and southern Utah, Arizona and New Mexico where streamflow forecasts are either below or much below average. All major western storage reservoirs are below seasonal averages.

SNOWPACK
February 1, 2002 snowpacks continue to exhibit a wide contrast from well above average totals in Pacific Northwest to well below average in the Intermountain West and Desert Southwest as shown in Figure 1. The northern Cascades of Oregon report the highest snowpacks, which are greater than 150% of average. Many snowpacks throughout Oregon, California and northern Nevada are greater than 130% of average. Further north, Washington, Idaho and British Columbia snowpacks were near average or slightly above. On February 1st, the composite snowpack for the Columbia River above The Dalles was 110% of average, up 8% from last month.

In stark contrast to the Pacific Northwest, snowpacks diminish significantly eastward into the northern Rockies and Desert Southwest. Large areas of central Wyoming, Colorado New Mexico, Utah and Arizona report snowpacks between 50% and 70% of average. In Colorado, the North Platte, South Platte, San Juan, and Upper Rio Grande Snowpacks are near 50% of average. After a near normal start last fall, very few winter storms have brought snow to the Rockies through the winter. Alaska reports generally below average snowpacks with a small area of near average snowpacks in central and southeastern sections. The most recent snowpack information may be obtained from the following URL - http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/water/w_qnty.html

MONTHLY AND SEASONAL PRECIPITATION
Seasonal precipitation (October 1 through January 31) reflects shows average precipitation for the Pacific Northwest, California and Nevada, generally near average for the Intermountain area, but well below average precipitation in southern California, Arizona, western New Mexico, southern Utah, Colorado, central Wyoming and central Montana (Figure 2).

SPRING AND SUMMER STREAMFLOW
The February 1, 2002 water supply forecasts are generally average or slightly above average in the Pacific Northwest, California and Nevada (Figure 3). Water supply forecasts are below average in central Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, central and southern Utah, Arizona and New Mexico. Alaska water supply forecasts are not generated in February.

RESERVOIR STORAGE
All major western storage reservoirs are below seasonal averages (Figure 4). This reflects the carryover effects of last year's drought that affected much of the West.

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

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

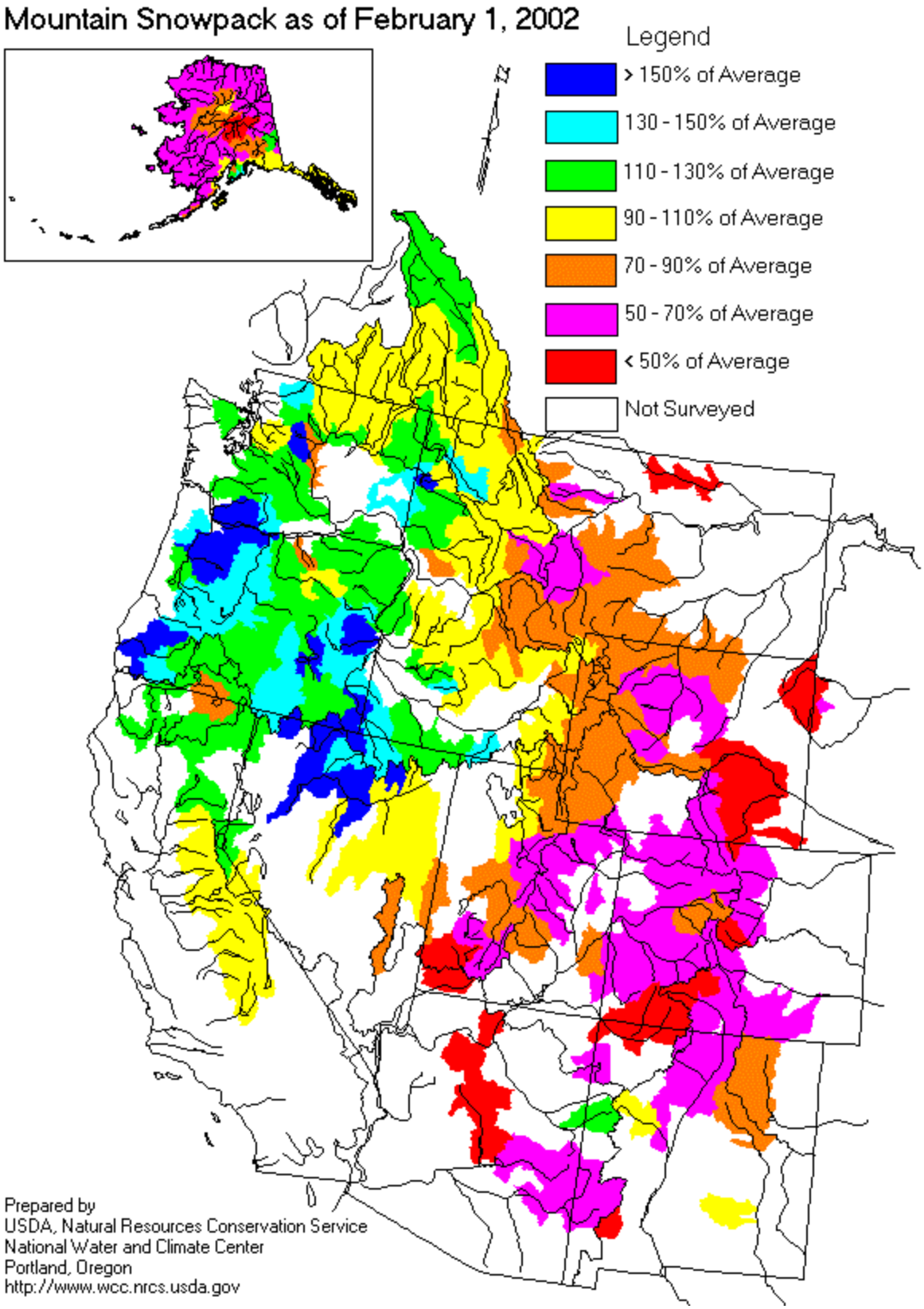


Figure 1. Mountain Snowpack - February 1, 2002

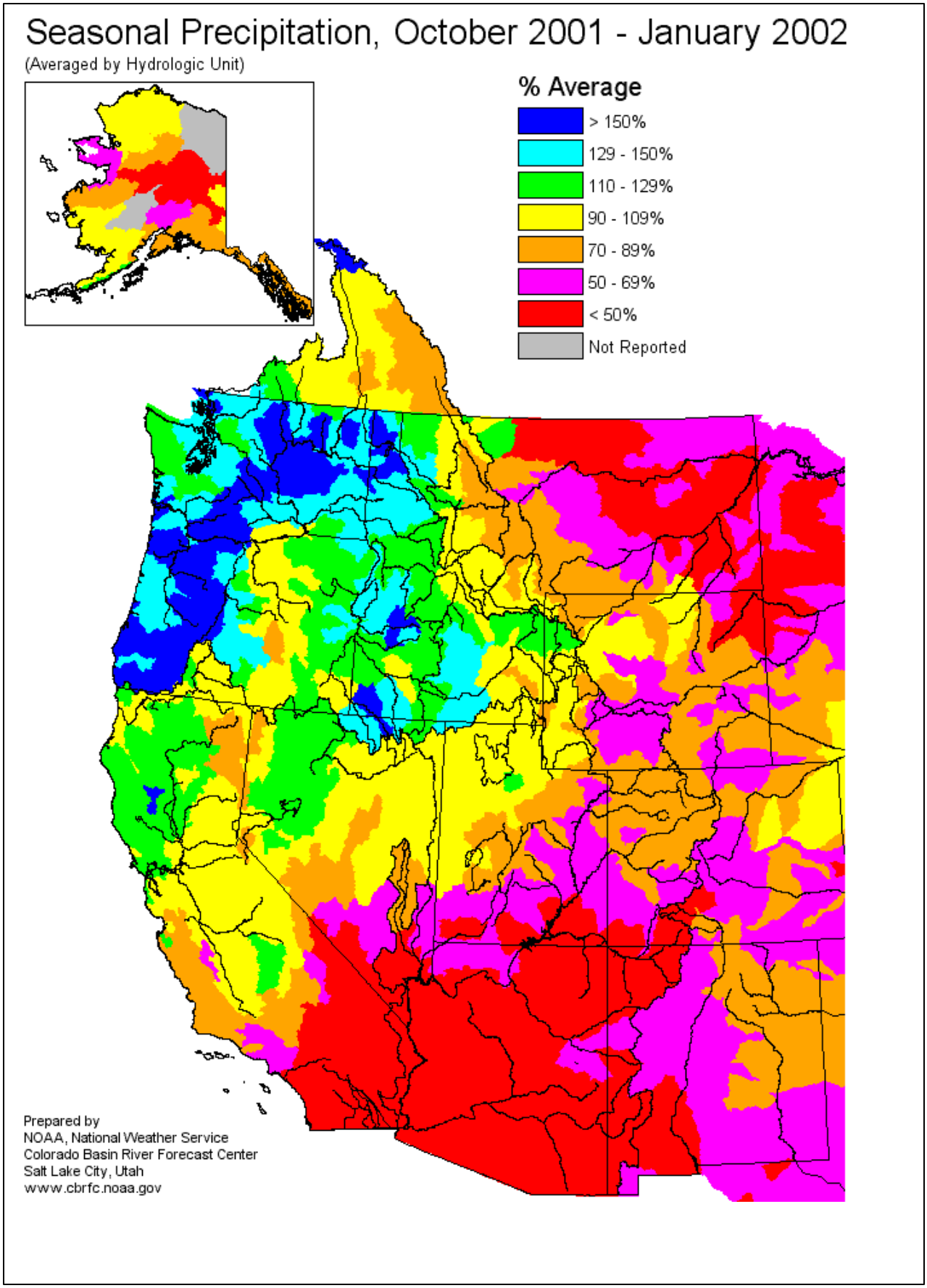


Figure 2. Seasonal Precipitation to Date Starting October 1, 2001

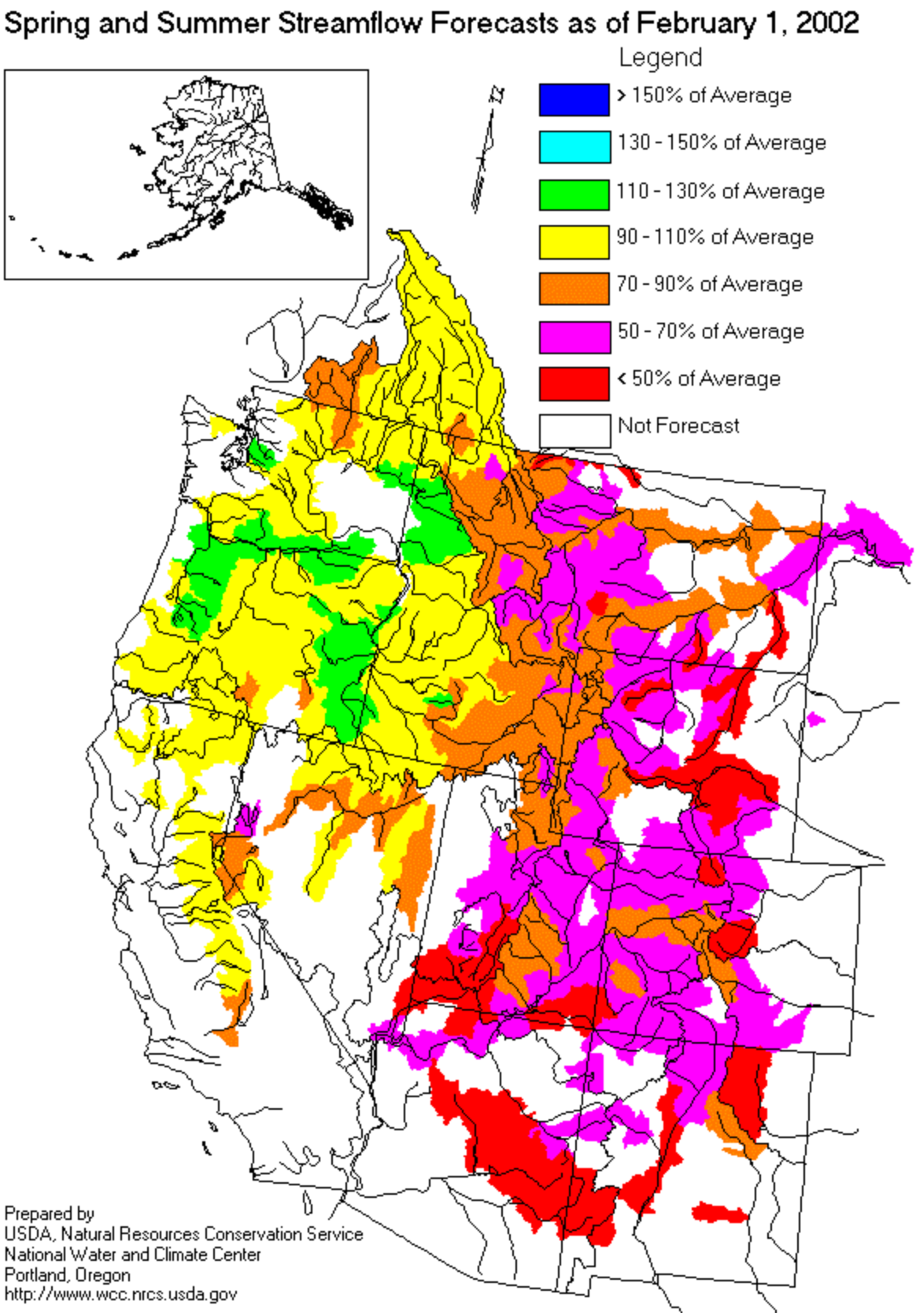
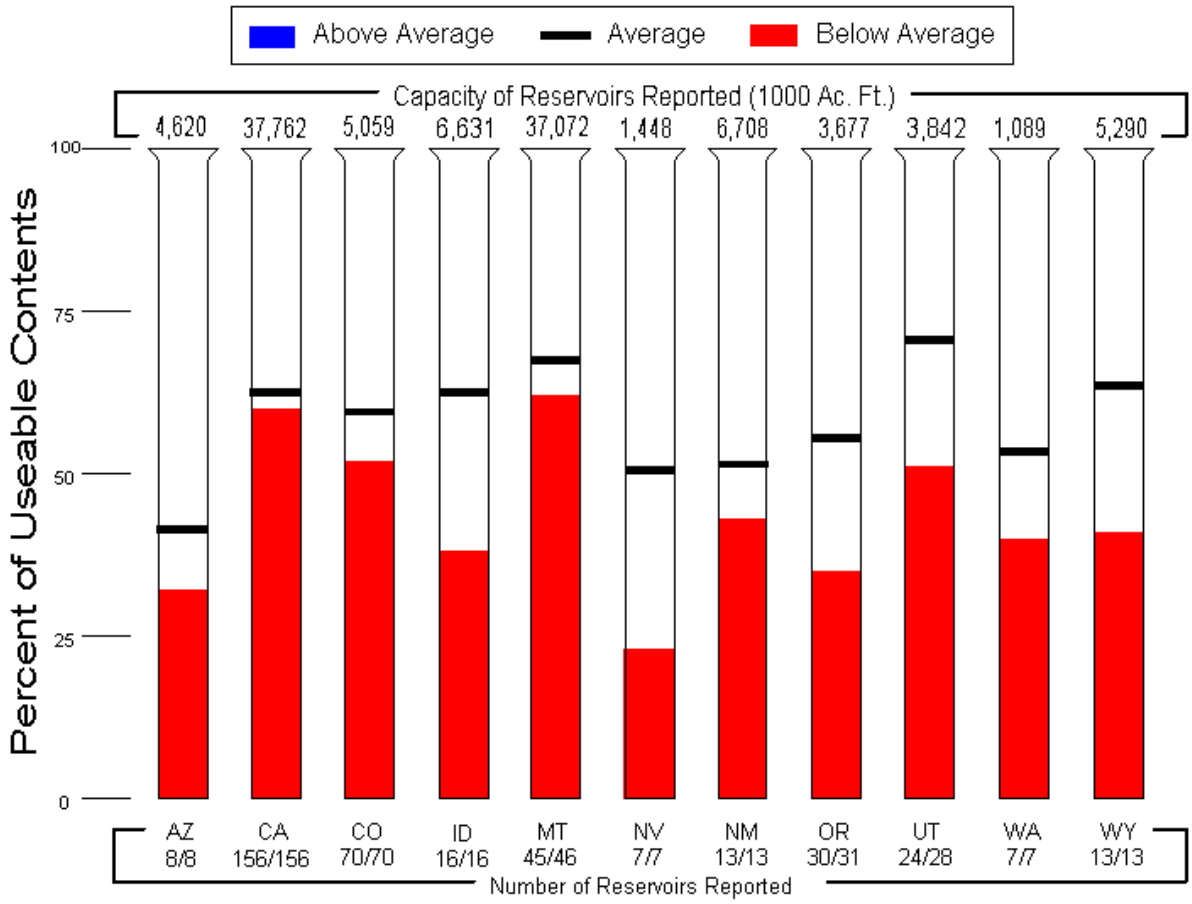


Figure 3. Seasonal Water Supply Forecasts - February 1, 2002

Reservoir Storage as of February 1, 2002



Prepared by: USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Water and Climate Center, Portland, OR
http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov

Figure 4. Current Reservoir Storage - February 1, 2002