



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

National
Water and
Climate
Center

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Subject: January 1, 2002 Western Snowpack Conditions and Water Supply Forecasts Date: January 14, 2002

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

The Pacific Northwest seasonal streamflow volume forecasts have improved significantly from last water year. Most streamflow forecasts in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Nevada and California are near or slightly above average. However, central Montana, central Wyoming, Colorado, southern Utah, Arizona and New Mexico streamflow forecasts are either below or much below average.

SNOWPACK

January 1, 2002 snowpacks show a wide contrast between above normal in Oregon, California and Nevada and below average in central Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona. Pacific Northwest snowpacks were running two to three times the values observed in January 2001. As shown in Figure 1a, many snowpacks throughout Oregon, California and northern Nevada were greater than 150 percent of average. Further north in Washington, Idaho and British Columbia, snowpacks were near average or slightly above. On January 1st, the composite snowpack for the Columbia River above The Dalles was 102 percent of average (Figure 1b).

Snowpacks diminish rapidly moving eastward into western Montana, eastern Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona. Significant areas were in the 50-70 percent of average range. It should be noted that as of mid-January, snowpacks have diminished during the past two weeks due to the reduced frequency of storms in the West. 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 December 31) reflects above average precipitation for the Pacific Northwest, California and Nevada, but below average precipitation in southern California, Arizona, Arizona, New Mexico, southern Colorado, central Wyoming and central Montana (Figure 2).

SPRING AND SUMMER STREAMFLOW

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

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

Mountain Snowpack as of January 1, 2002

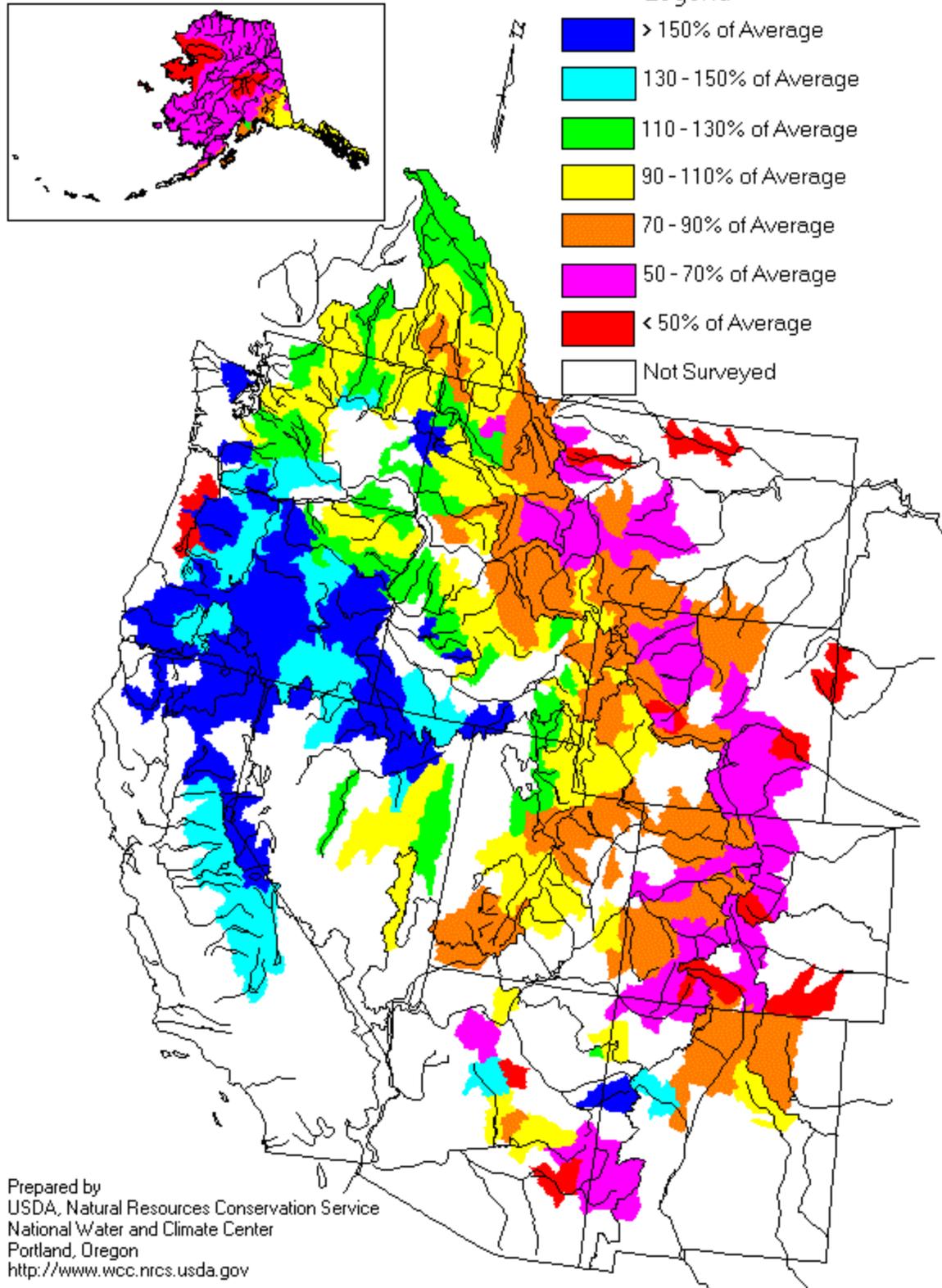


Figure 1a. Mountain Snowpack - January 1, 2002

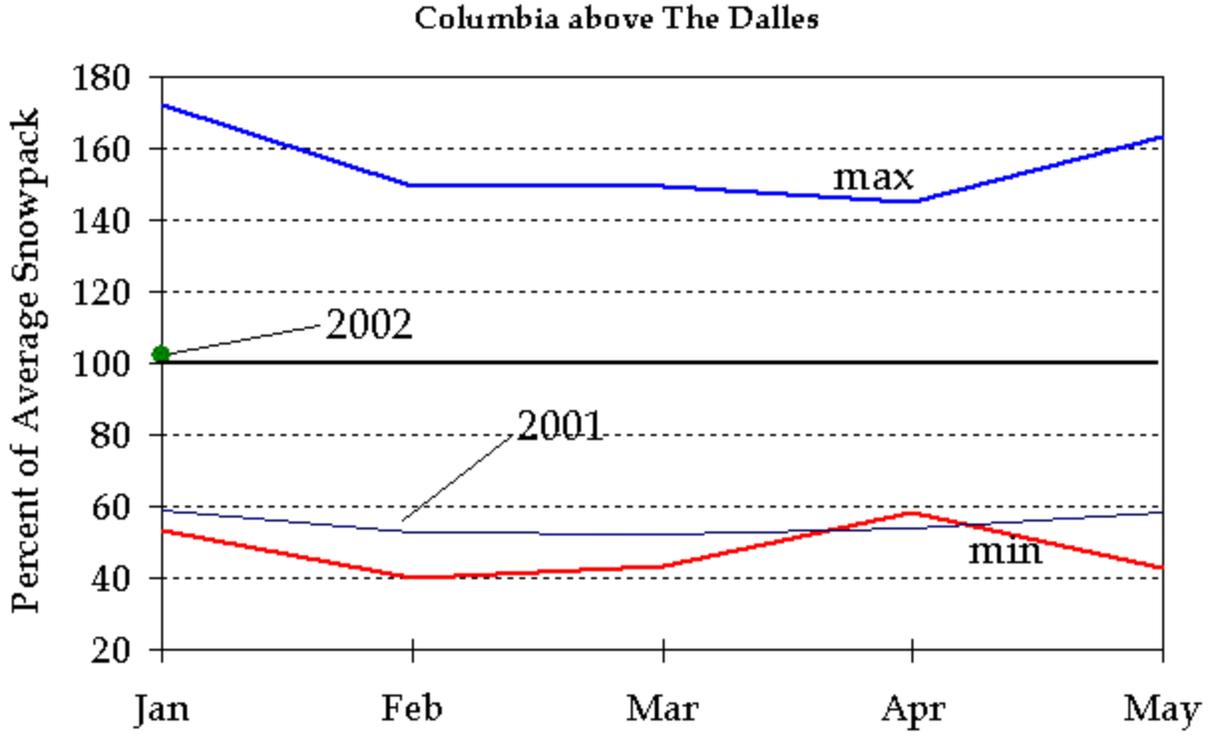
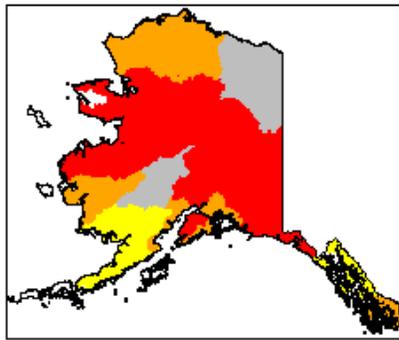


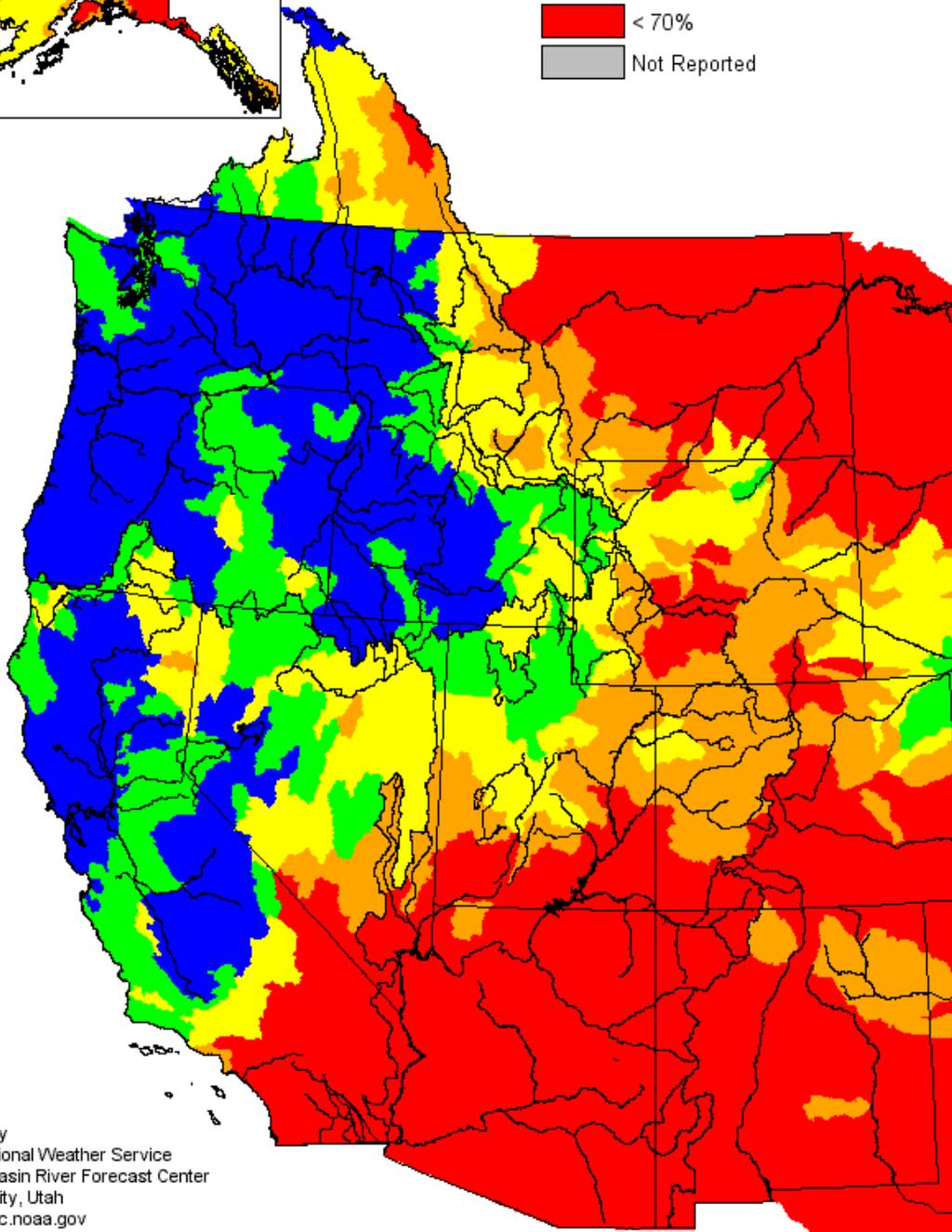
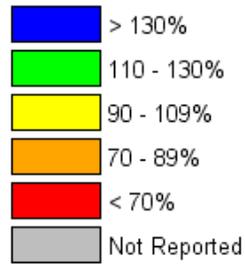
Figure 1b. Composite Snow Index for Mountain Snowpack - Columbia above The Dalles

Seasonal Precipitation, October 2001 - December 2001

(Averaged by Hydrologic Unit)



% Average



Prepared by
NOAA, National Weather Service
Colorado Basin River Forecast Center
Salt Lake City, Utah
www.cbrfc.noaa.gov

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

Spring and Summer Streamflow Forecasts as of January 1, 2002

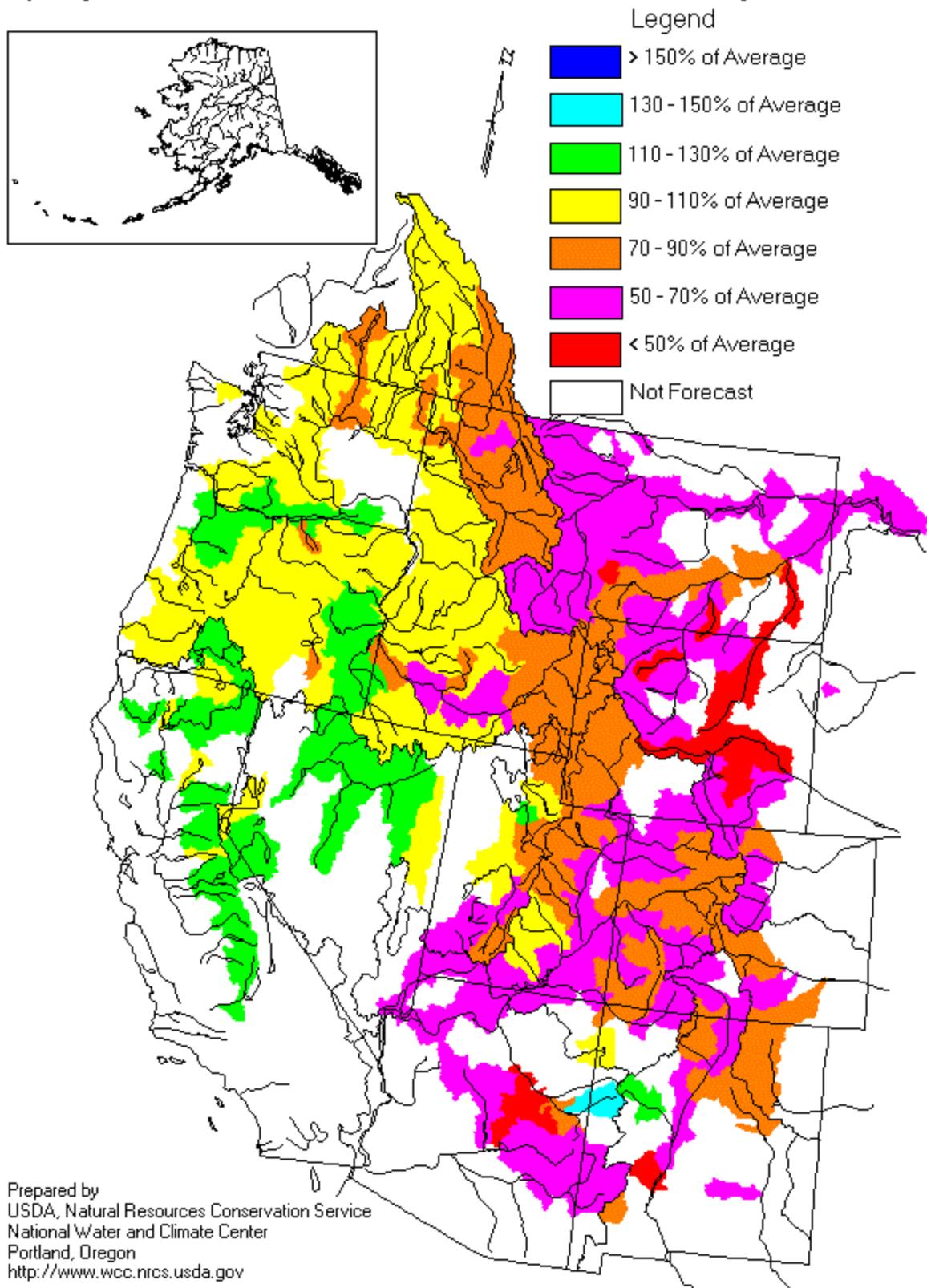
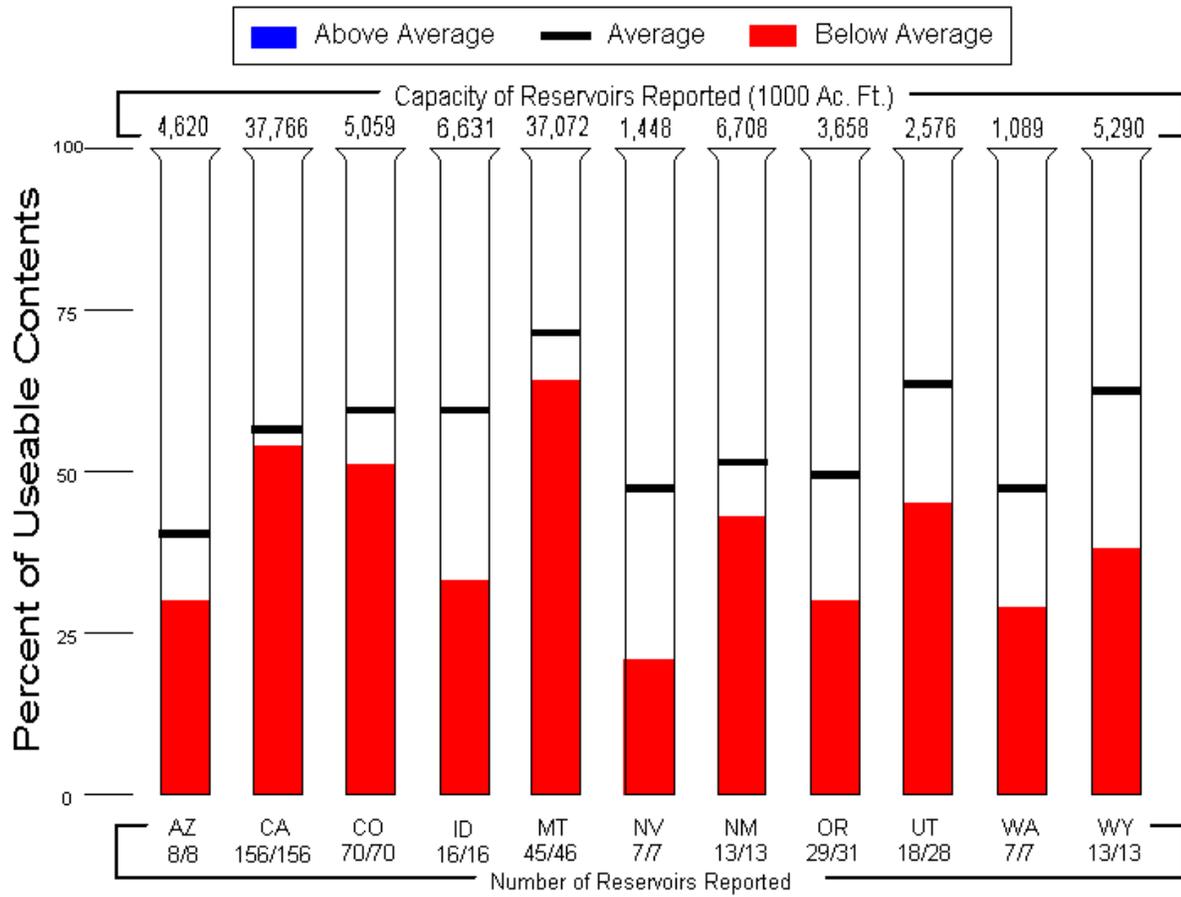


Figure 3. Seasonal Water Supply Forecasts - January 1, 2002

Reservoir Storage as of January 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 - January 1, 2002