



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
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**Date: February 13, 2007**

**Subject: February 1, 2007 Western Snowpack Conditions and Water Supply Forecasts**

The following information is provided for your use in describing western climate and water supply conditions as of February 1, 2007.

## **OVERVIEW**

Western snowpacks show significant decreases to well below average for many basins in California, Nevada, southern Oregon, southern Idaho, western Wyoming, northern Utah, and parts of western Montana. Snowpacks increased slightly from well below normal to below normal in Arizona and New Mexico. Above normal snowpacks are reported in southeastern Colorado, northeastern New Mexico, the Washington Cascades and British Columbia.

Seasonal precipitation is well above average throughout the Pacific Northwest, Utah, eastern Colorado, southeastern Utah, central New Mexico and British Columbia. Precipitation is well below average in California, Nevada and most of Arizona.

Lack of precipitation during January and below average snowpacks have reduced expected spring and summer streamflows in many western basins to below average, with the most pronounced reductions in many Pacific Northwest and Intermountain basins. Several basins in the Central Sierras of California, Nevada central Utah, northeastern Arizona and northeastern Wyoming and southeastern Montana are expected to receive less than 50% of average runoff. Streamflows in the Washington Cascades and southeastern Colorado are expected to be above normal.

As of February 1, 2007, reservoir storages are above seasonal averages in California, Nevada, Washington and Wyoming and slightly below average in Colorado, Montana, New Mexico and Utah. Reservoir storage is near average in Arizona, Idaho and Oregon.

## **SNOWPACK**

On February 1, 2007, western snowpacks are generally below normal as shown in Fig. 1. The northern Oregon and Washington Cascades and southern Canada report snowpacks ranging from 90% to 150% of average. Snowpacks are also above average in on the Front Range of eastern Colorado and northeastern New Mexico, ranging from 110% to 150% of average because of early January snow storms. The Intermountain states of Nevada, Utah, eastern Colorado, central Idaho, Wyoming and southwestern Montana report predominately below normal snowpacks, ranging from 50% to 89% of average.

Well below normal snowpacks, less than 50% of average are reported in northern Arizona, portions of central Utah, northeastern Wyoming, northern Nevada, the Sierras of California-Nevada and southern Oregon. Alaska snowpacks are generally below average, 50% to 69% of

normal, in the north, slightly below to above average, 70% to 129% of normal, in the south and west and southeast.

A map containing a daily update of the westwide snowpack may be obtained from the following URL - <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/gis/snow.html>

## **MONTHLY AND SEASONAL PRECIPITATION**

January 2007 was extremely dry throughout most of the West (Fig. 2). Less than 50% of normal precipitation was reported in California, Nevada, eastern Oregon, eastern Washington, southern Idaho, eastern Montana, central Utah and western Arizona. Above average precipitation was reported in eastern Colorado and eastern New Mexico from early January snowstorms.

Seasonal precipitation is well below average in most of California and western Nevada, less than 50% of normal (Fig 3). In contrast, the Pacific Northwest, eastern Colorado, eastern Utah, northern New Mexico and British Columbia report above normal, greater than 130% of average. Precipitation is near average, or slightly below, in eastern Wyoming, eastern Montana, eastern Nevada northern California and parts of northern Arizona.

Monthly and seasonal precipitation maps are available from the following location - <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/gis/precip.html> and <http://www.cbrfc.noaa.gov/wsup/westwide/westwide.cgi>

## **SPRING AND SUMMER STREAMFLOW FORECASTS**

Lack of precipitation during January and below average snowpacks have reduced expected spring and summer streamflows in many western basins to below average, with the most pronounced reductions in many Pacific Northwest and Intermountain basins (Fig 4). Several basins in the Central Sierras of California, Nevada central Utah, northeastern Arizona and northeastern Wyoming and southeastern Montana are expected to receive less than 50% of average runoff. Streamflows in the Washington Cascades and southeastern Colorado are expected to be above normal.

Specific state streamflow summaries can be obtained from the Internet location - <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/cqibin/bor.pl>

## **RESERVOIR STORAGE**

As of February 1, 2007, reservoir storages are above seasonal averages in California, Nevada, Washington and Wyoming and slightly below average in Colorado, Montana, New Mexico and Utah (Fig. 5). Reservoir storage is near average in Arizona, Idaho and Oregon.

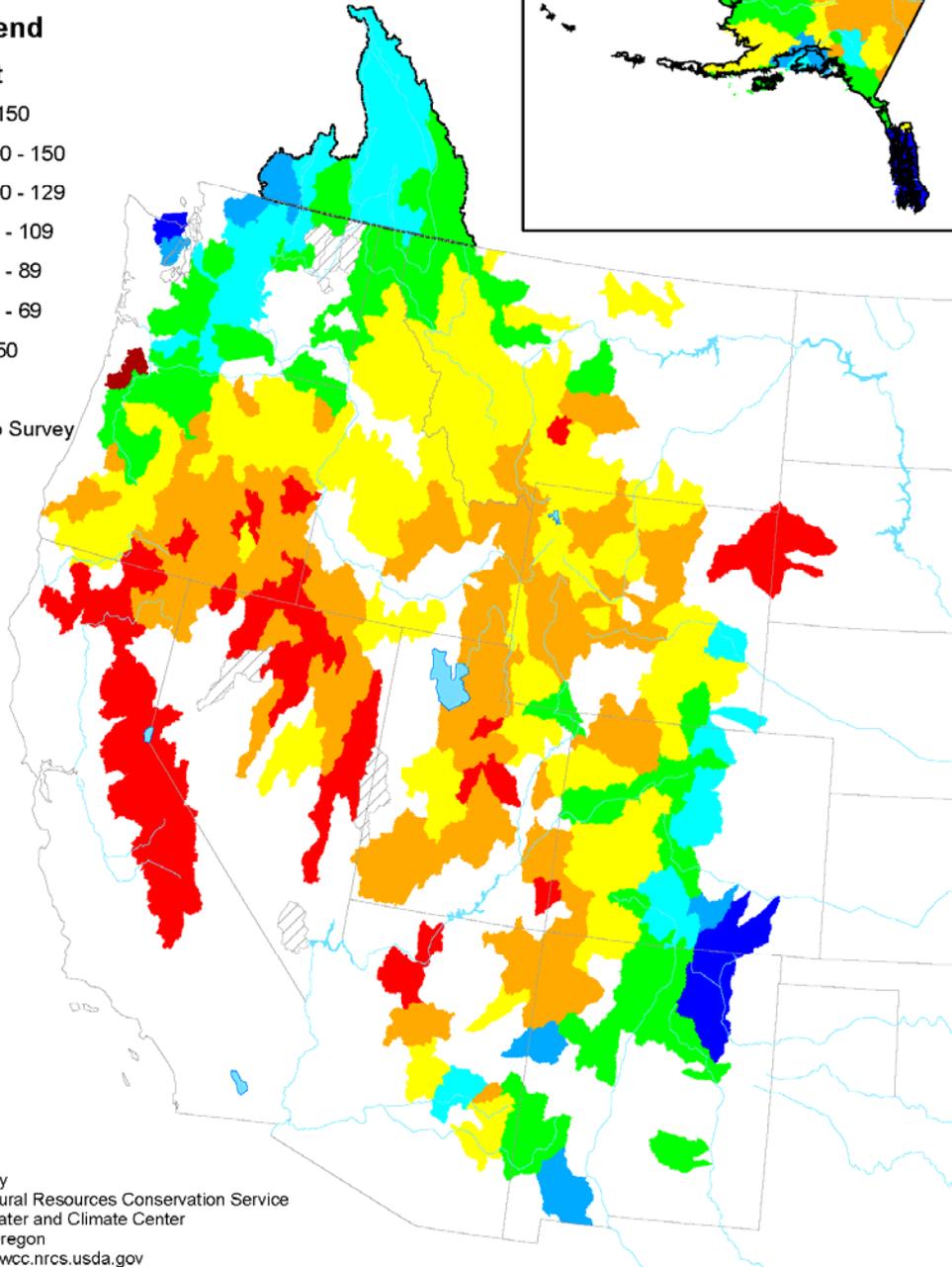
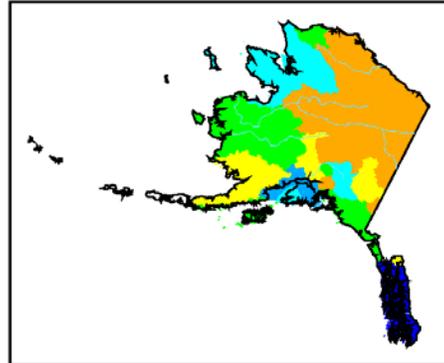
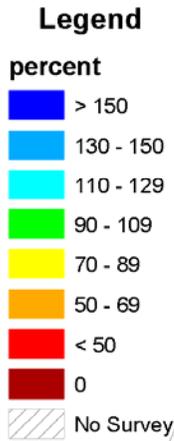
## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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/ DANIEL MEYER

Acting Director, Conservation Engineering Division, Natural Resources Conservation Division, Washington, DC

# Mountain Snowpack as of February 1, 2007

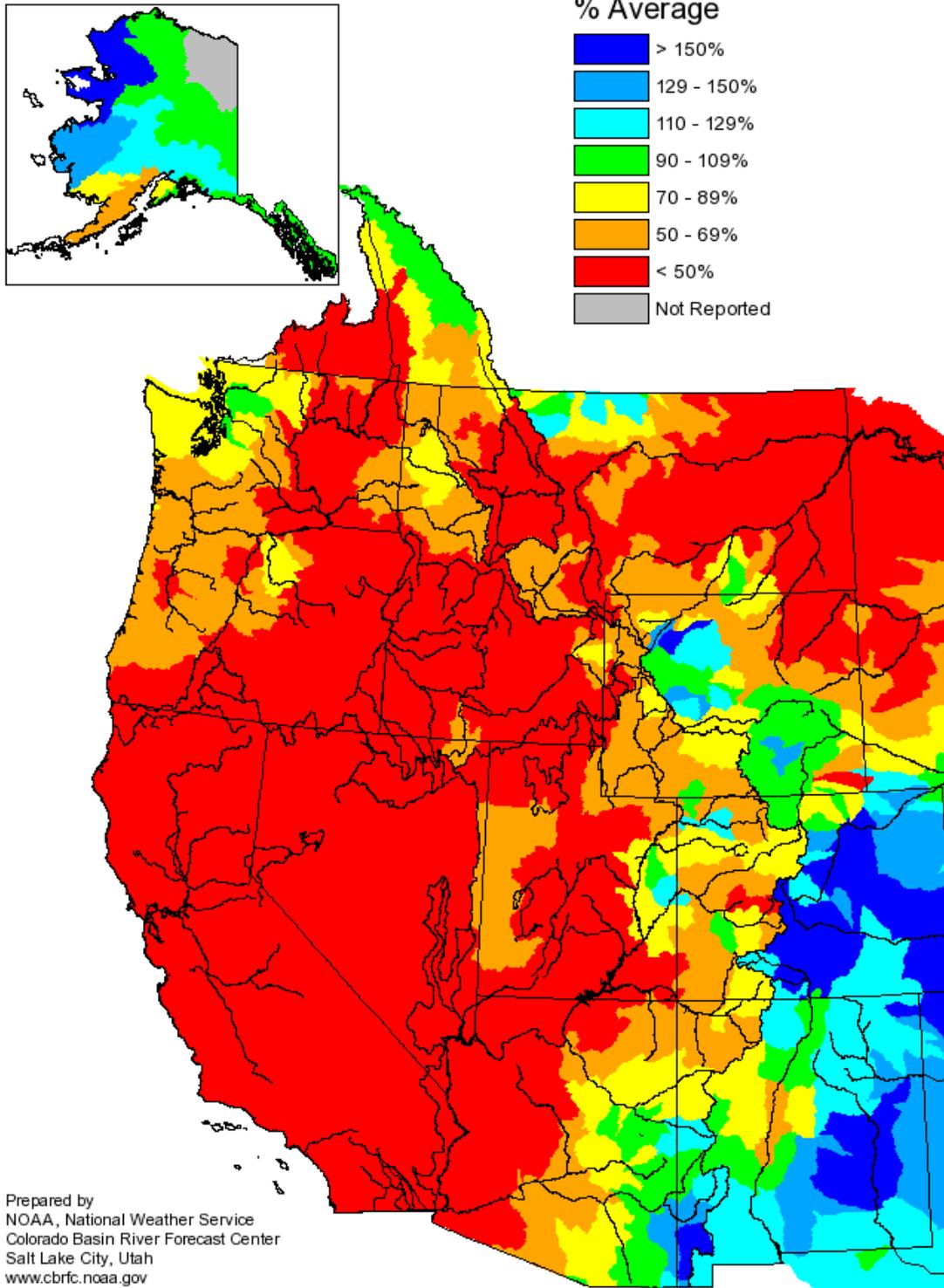


Prepared by  
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service  
National Water and Climate Center  
Portland, Oregon  
<http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov>

**Figure 1. Mountain Snowpack, February 1, 2007**

# Monthly Precipitation for January 2007

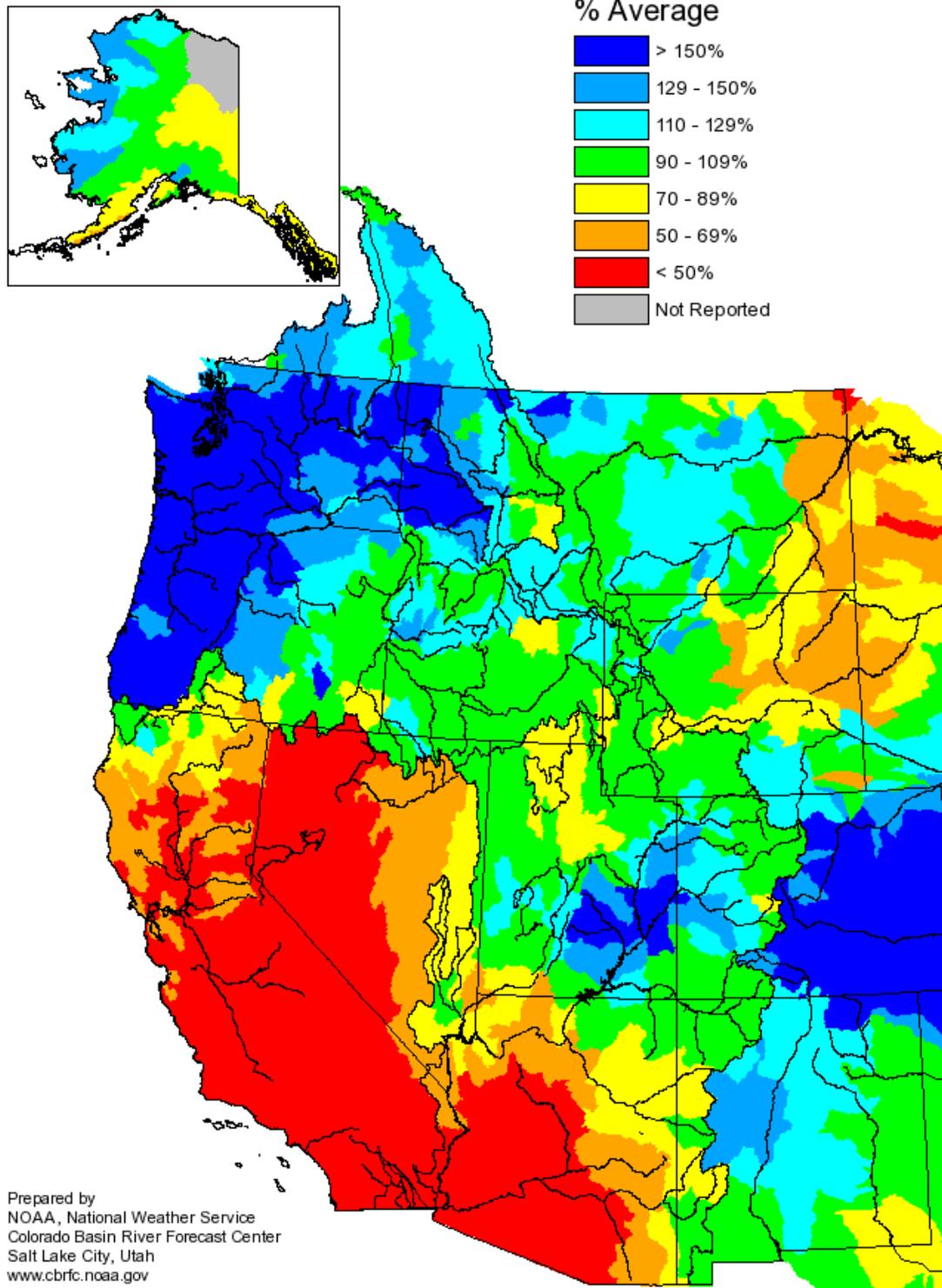
(Averaged by Hydrologic Unit)



**Figure 2. Monthly Precipitation, January 2007**

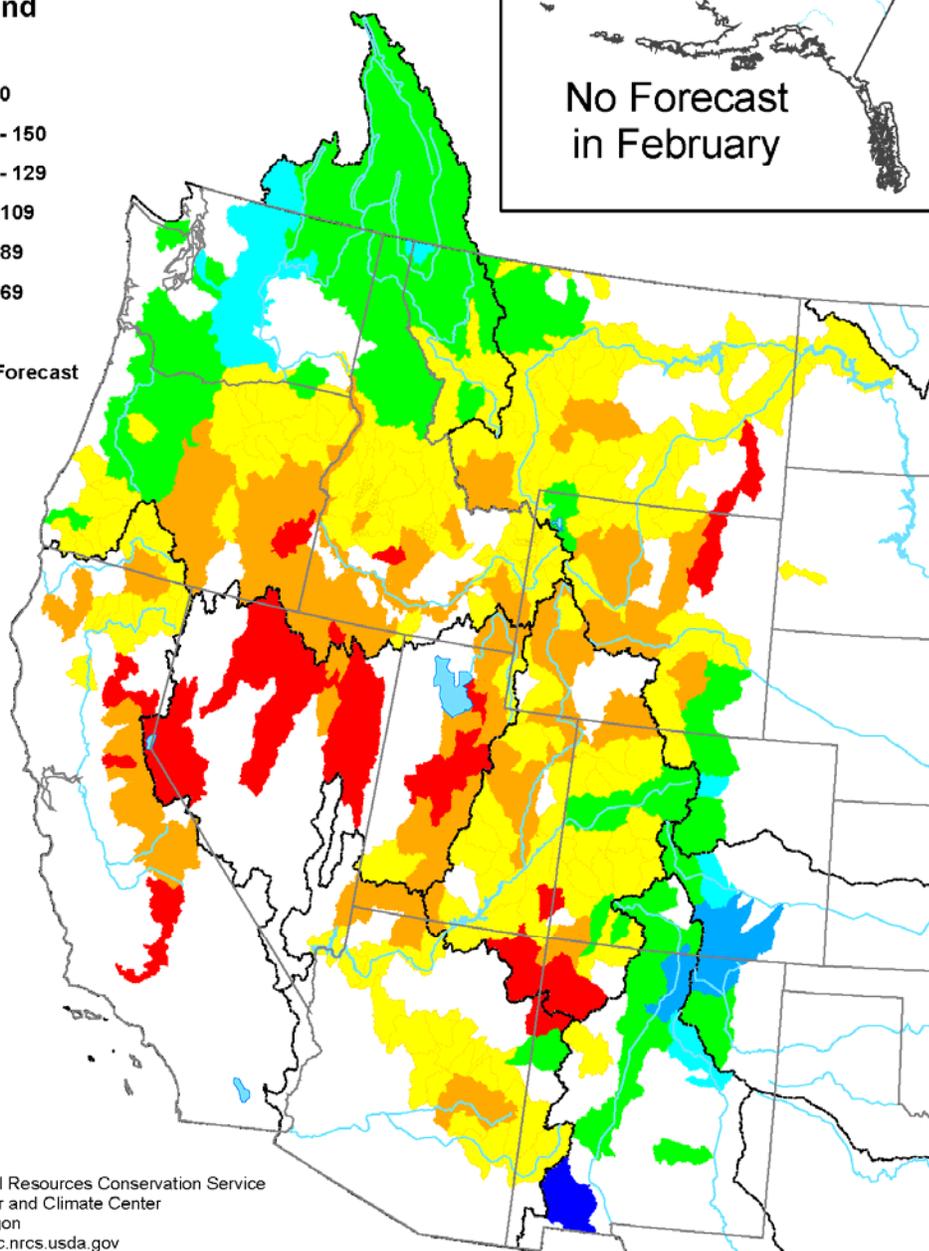
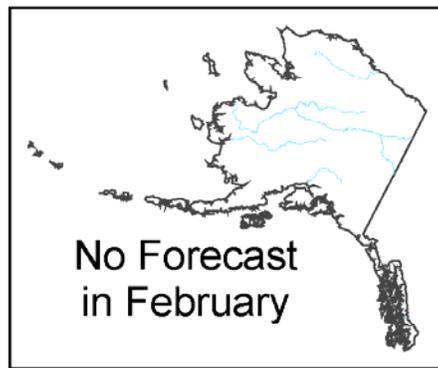
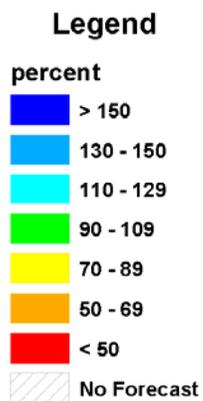
# Seasonal Precipitation, October 2006 - January 2007

(Averaged by Hydrologic Unit)



**Figure 3. Seasonal Precipitation, October 1, 2006 to January 31, 2007**

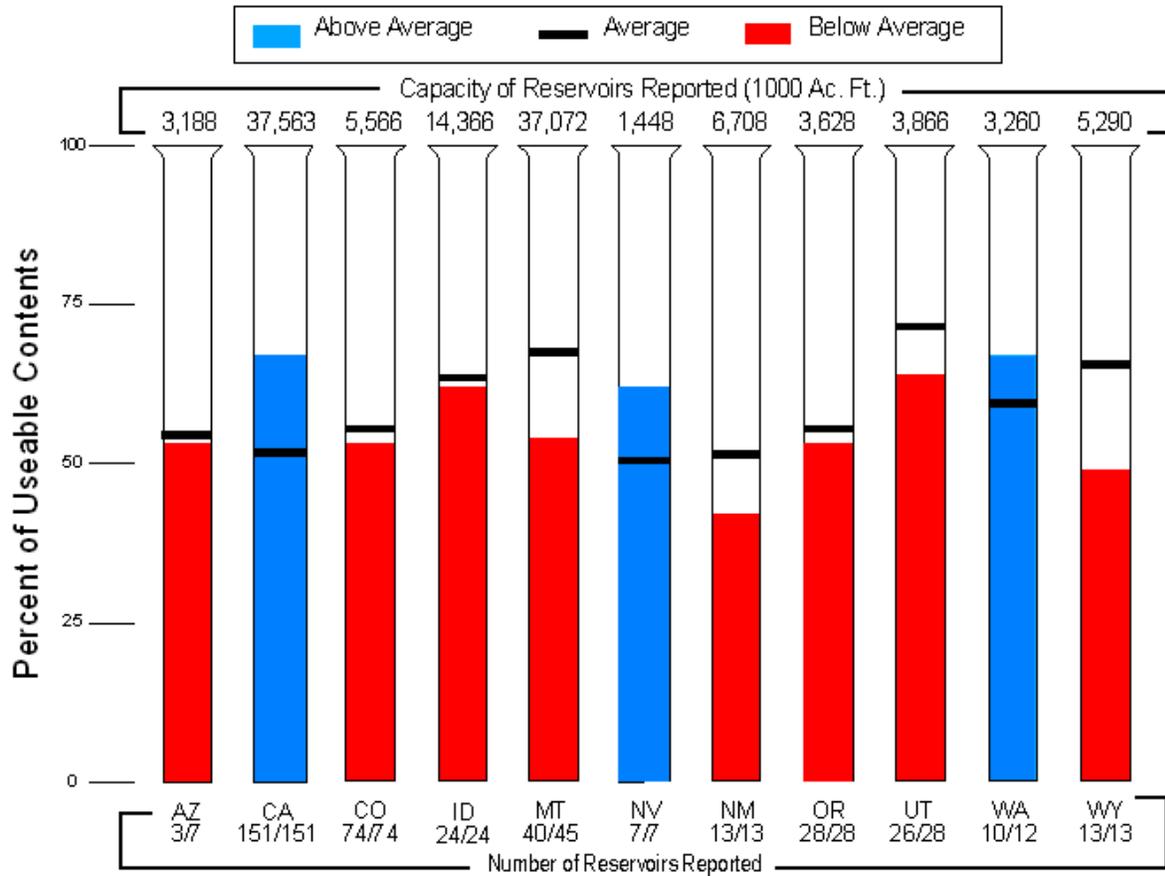
# Spring and Summer Streamflow Forecasts as of February 1, 2007



Prepared by  
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service  
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Figure 4. Seasonal Water Supply Forecasts - February 1, 2007

# Reservoir Storage as of February 1, 2007



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

**Fig. 5. Reservoir Storage - February 1, 2007**