



Natural Resources Conservation Service
P.O. Box 2890
Washington, D.C. 20013

Date: April 12, 2007

Subject: April 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 April 1, 2007.

SNOWPACK

Western snowpacks experienced a significant meltout during March 2007 due to above normal temperatures and lack of precipitation as shown in Fig. 1. Instead of a historical gain for most basins during March, nearly every western basin registered a decline. The losses were greatest in the Southwest and central Oregon, where snowpacks declined more than 30%. Most snowpacks in the Intermountain states decreased from 6% to 30%. The only areas showing increases were central Wyoming, up 6% to 30%, in response to recent spring snowstorms. Snowpack declines of this magnitude and spatial extent were also observed in March 2004. The resulting April 1 snowpacks are extremely low in Arizona, Utah, Nevada California and eastern Oregon as shown in Fig. 2.

Daily updates to state and westwide snowpacks maps are available from the following location - <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/gis/snow.html>

STREAMFLOW

Between March 1 and April 1, spring and summer streamflow forecasts declined from 16% to 30% in Utah, western Colorado, Arizona, parts of New Mexico, southern Idaho, and eastern Oregon in response to the steep snowpack declines (Fig. 3).

Forecasted spring and streamflows for most of the West are expected to be below average (Fig. 4). Several basins in the Central Sierras of California, Nevada, southwestern Utah and central Arizona are expected to receive less than 50% of average runoff. Streamflows in British Columbia are forecast to be above average. Alaska streamflows are forecast to be near normal in most basins with the exception of southeast Alaska, which are forecast to be much above normal.

Specific state streamflow summaries are available from the location - <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/cjibin/bor.pl>

Regional streamflow forecast maps are available from the following locations - <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/gis/watersupply.html>
<http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/wsf/earth/index.html>

MONTHLY AND SEASONAL PRECIPITATION

March 2007 precipitation was extremely low, less than 50% of average in California, western Arizona, southern and northwestern Nevada, eastern Oregon and central Idaho and above normal in eastern New Mexico, eastern Wyoming and eastern Montana as shown in Fig. 5.

Seasonal precipitation, October 2006 through March 2007, continues to show well below normal precipitation in California and western Arizona and above average precipitation in western Oregon, western Washington, northern Idaho, British Columbia, central Montana, eastern Colorado and much of New Mexico as shown in Fig. 6.

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/wsuf/westwide/westwide.cgi>

RESERVOIR STORAGE

As of April 1, 2007, reservoir storages are above seasonal averages in California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada and Washington, slightly below seasonal averages in Oregon and Utah, and below seasonal averages in Arizona, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming (Fig. 7).

Additional reservoir information is available from the following location – <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/wsf/wsf-reservoir.html>

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

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Mountain Snowpack Change between March 1 and April 1

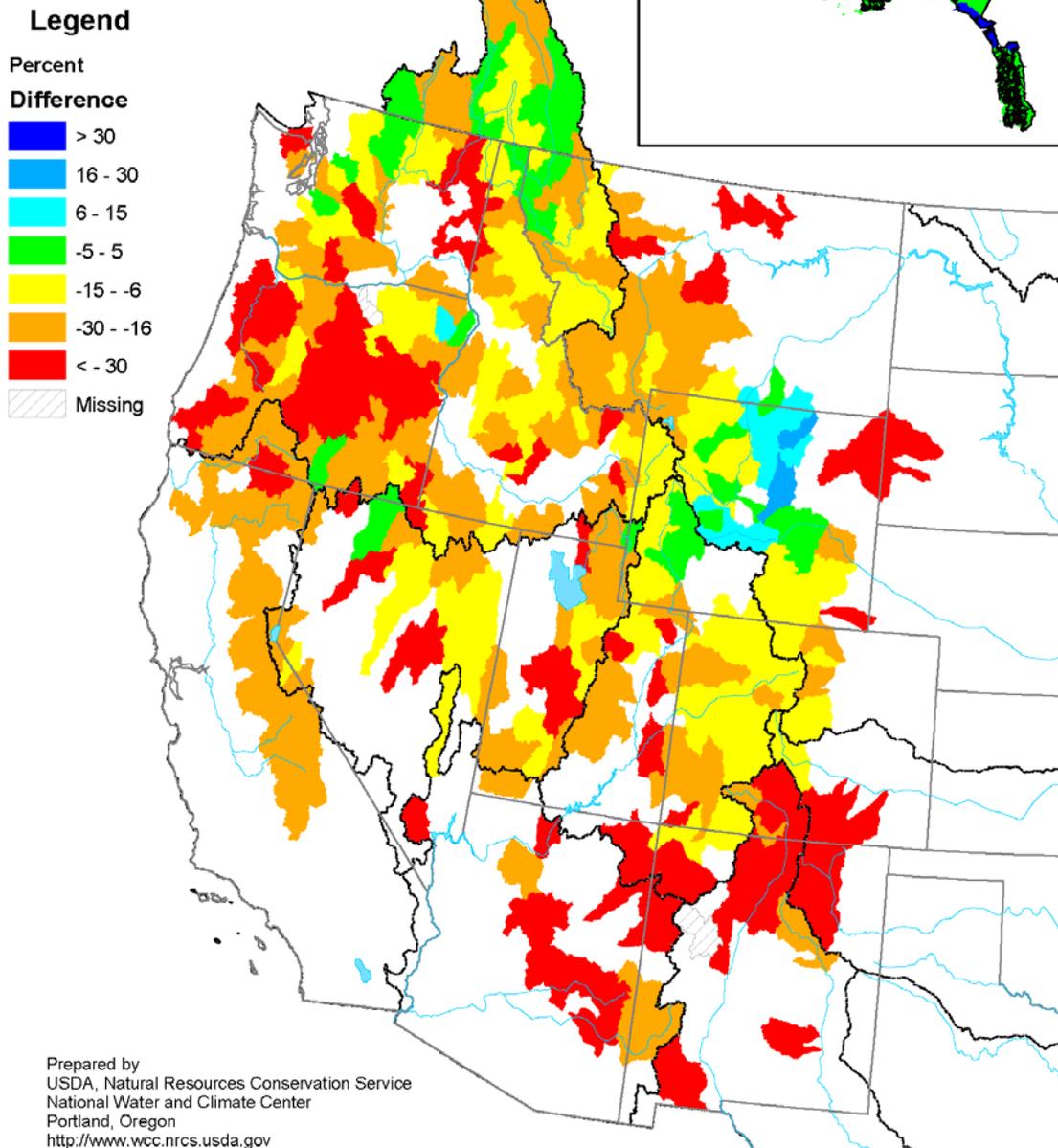
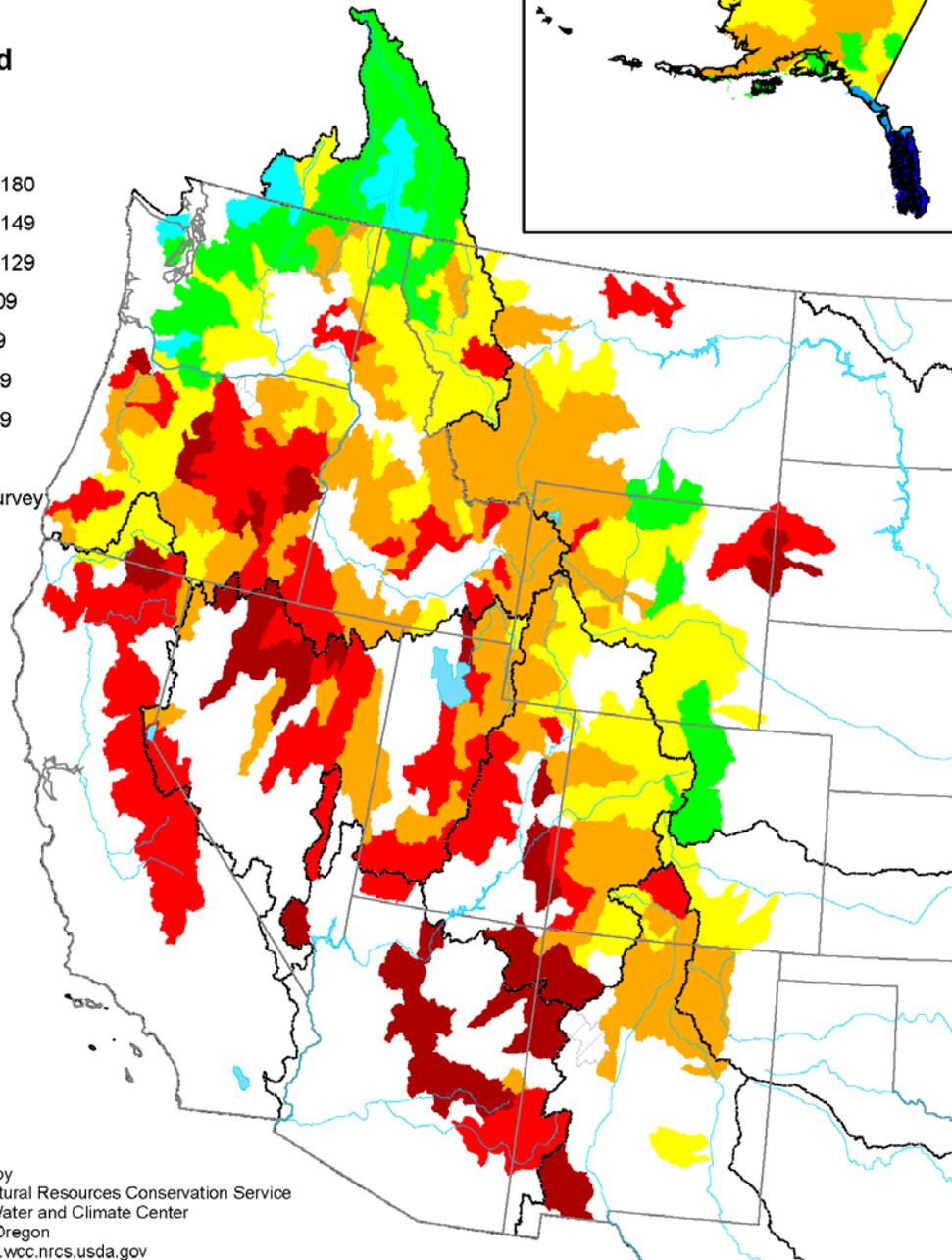
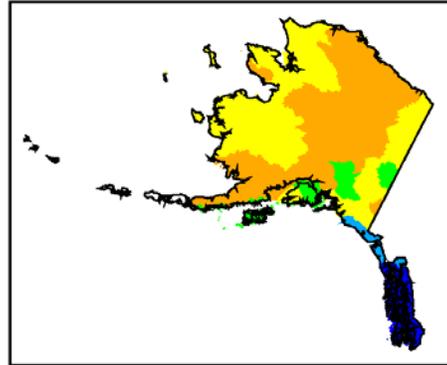


Figure 1. Change in Mountain Snowpacks between March 1 and April 1, 2007

Mountain Snowpack as of April 1, 2007



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

Figure 2. Mountain Snowpack, April 1, 2007

Change in Spring and Summer Streamflow Forecasts from March 1 to April 1, 2007

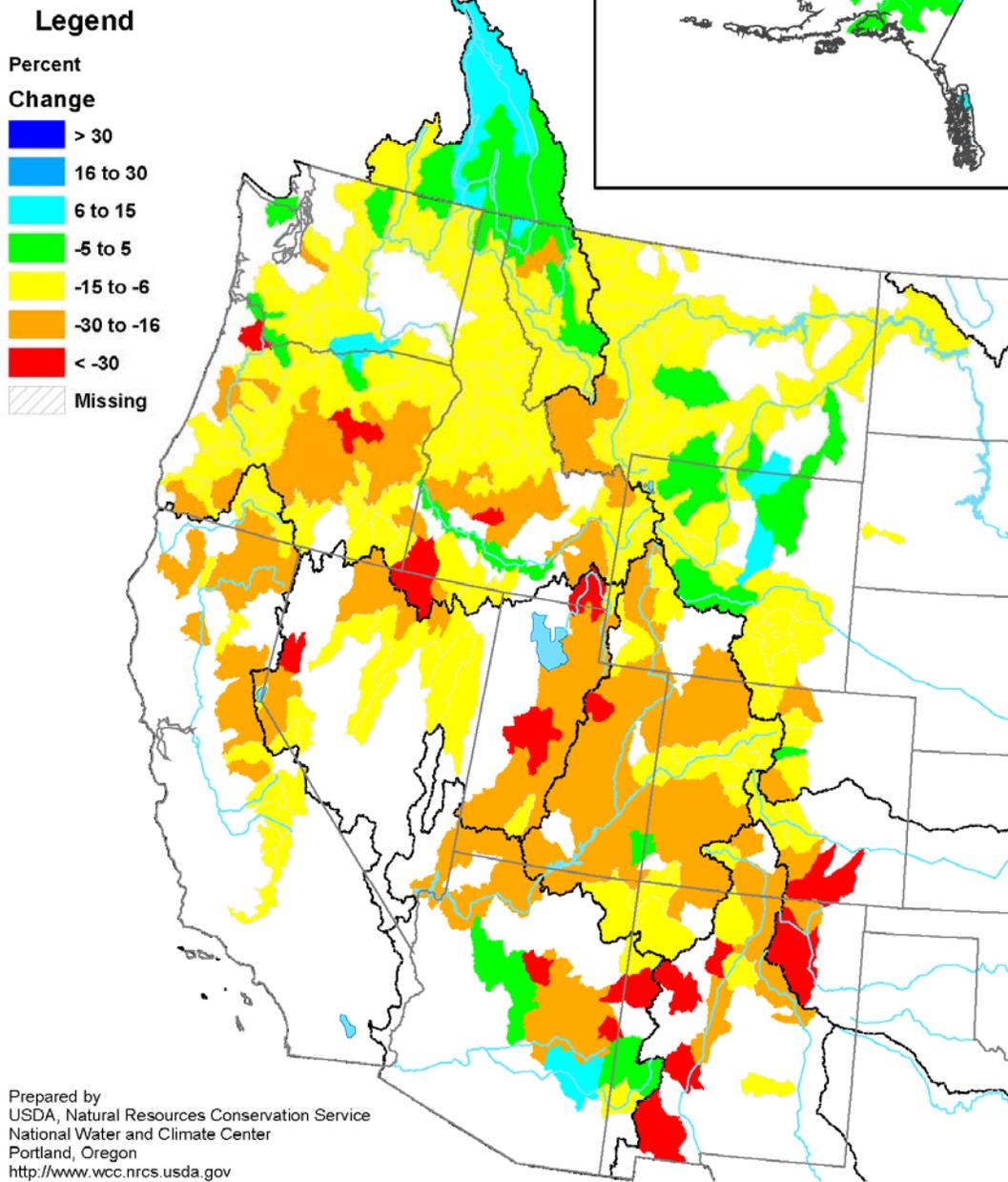


Figure 3. Change in Seasonal Water Supply Forecasts, March 1 to April 1, 2007

Spring and Summer Streamflow Forecasts as of April 1, 2007

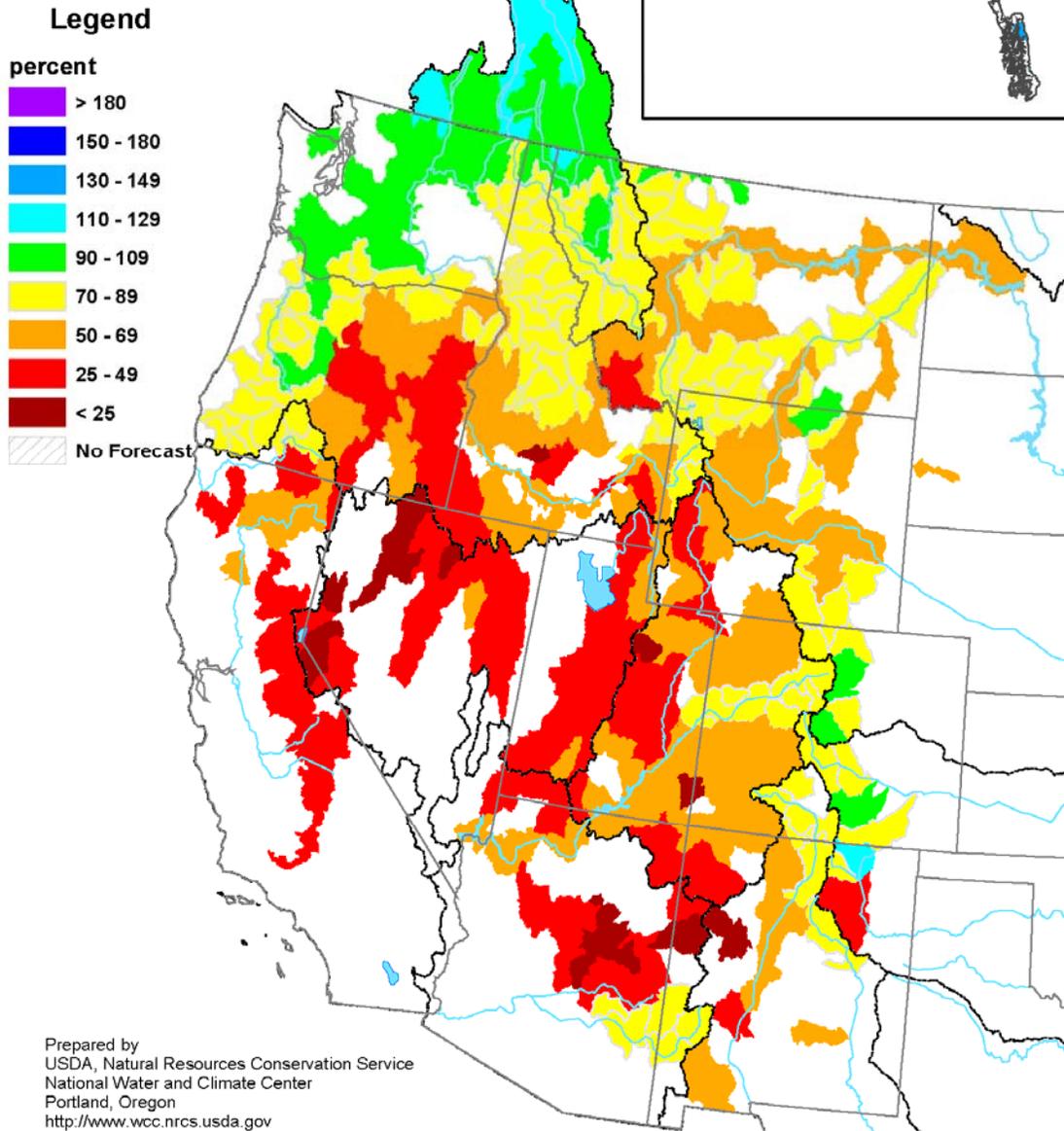


Figure 4. Seasonal Water Supply Forecasts - April 1, 2007

Monthly Precipitation for March 2007

(Averaged by Hydrologic Unit)

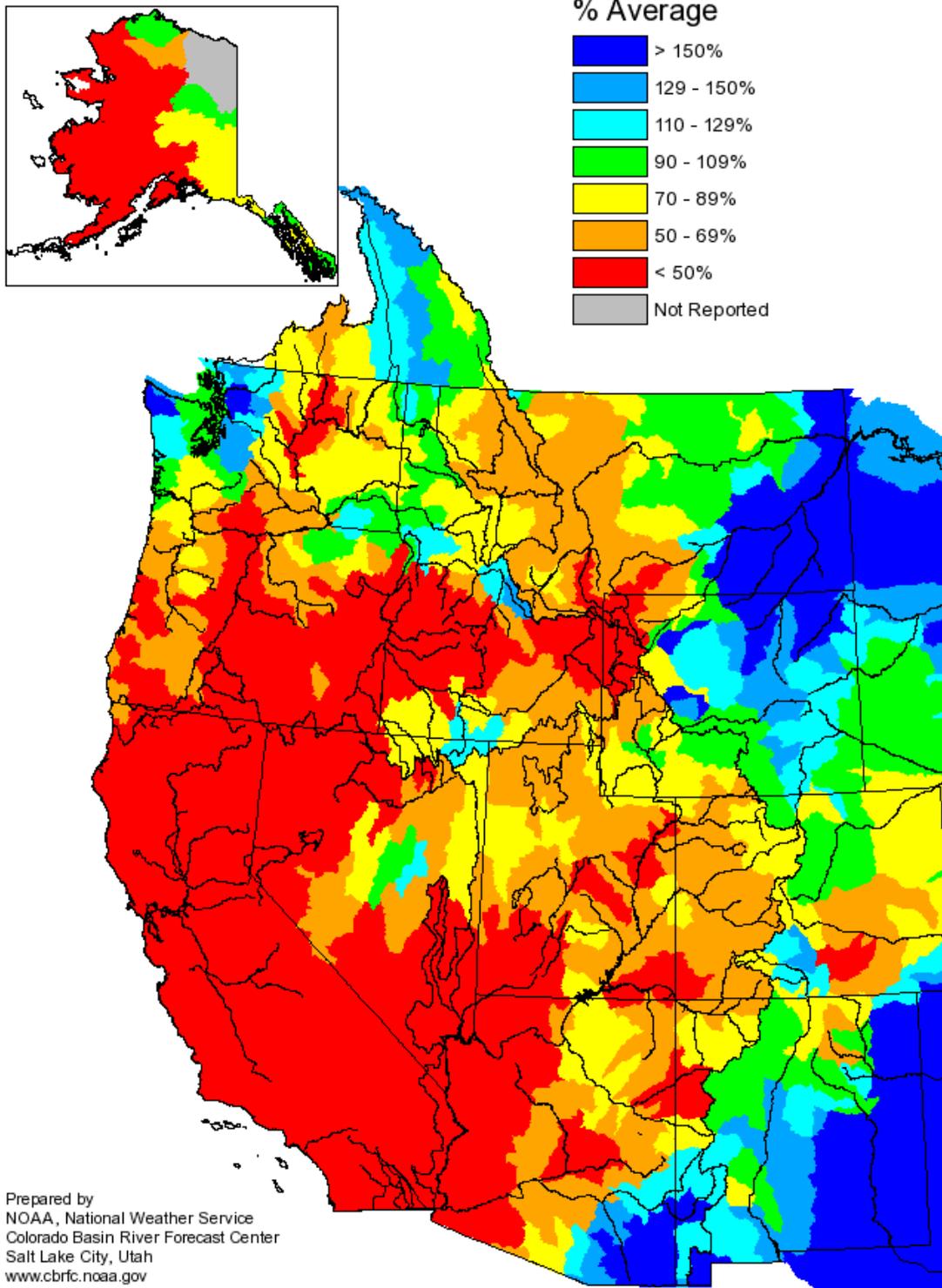


Figure 5. Monthly Precipitation, March 2007

Seasonal Precipitation, October 2006 - March 2007

(Averaged by Hydrologic Unit)

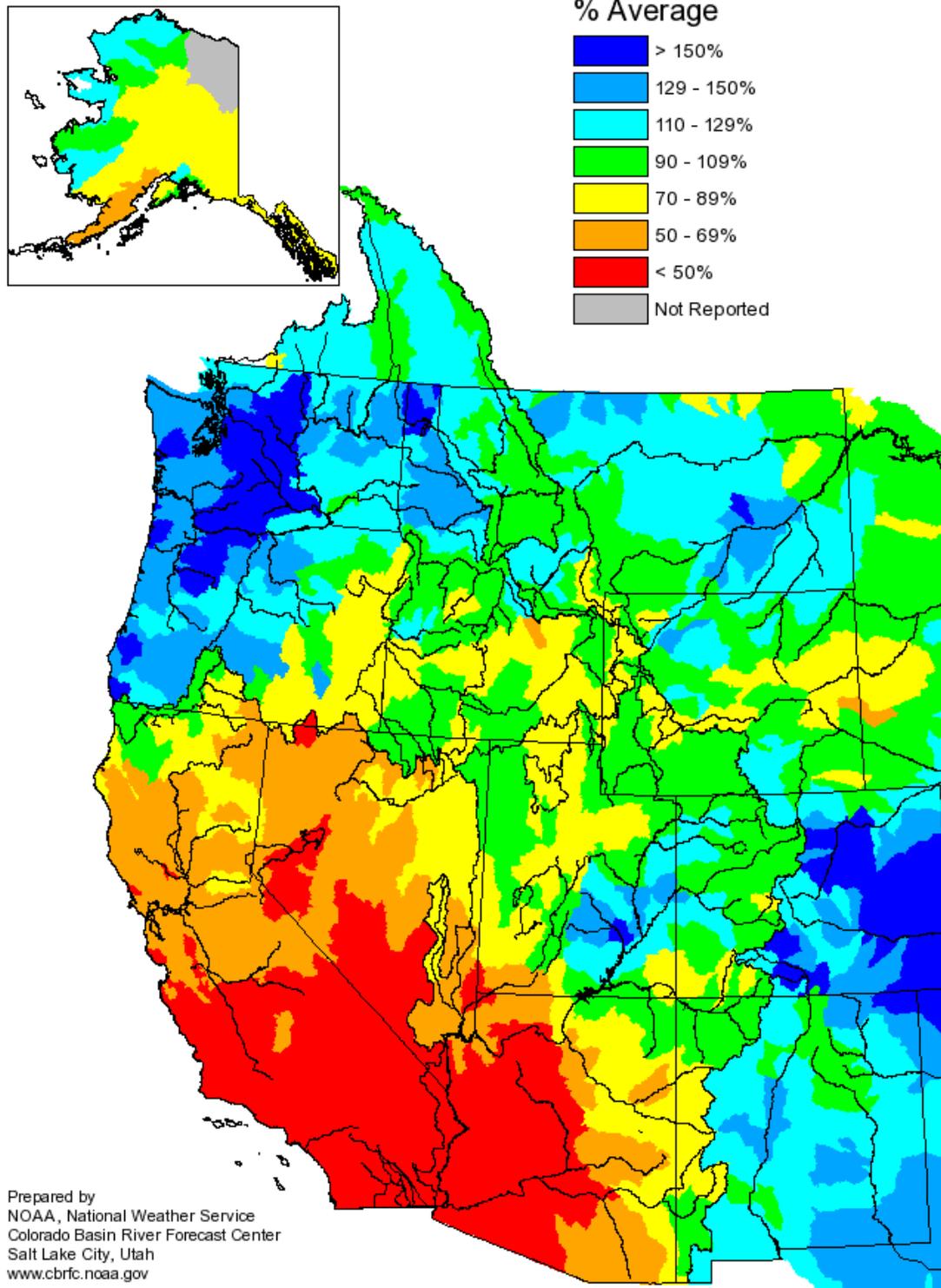
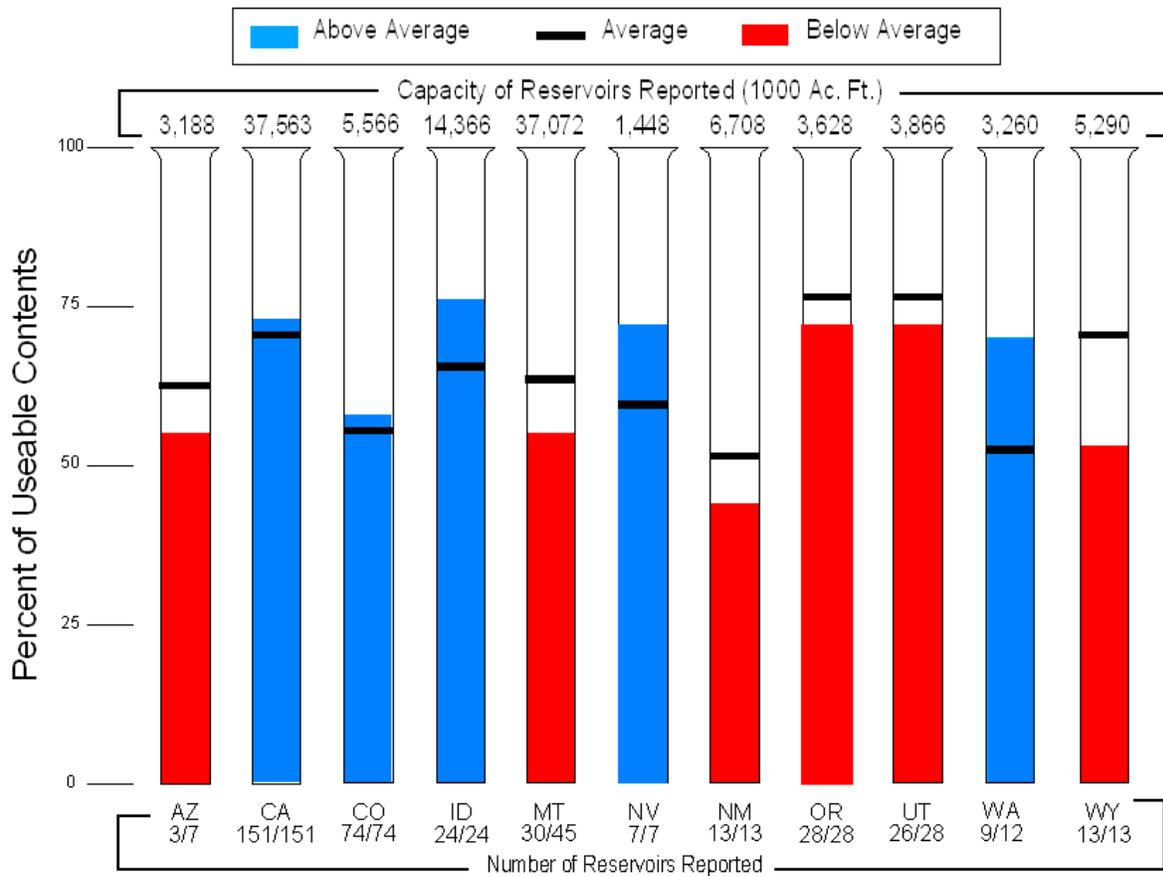


Figure 6. Seasonal Precipitation, October 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007

Reservoir Storage as of April 1, 2007



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

Fig. 7. Reservoir Storage - April 1, 2007