



United States Department of Agriculture

Colorado Snow Surveys

# Water Availability Task Force Meeting

## March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015

### NRCS Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program

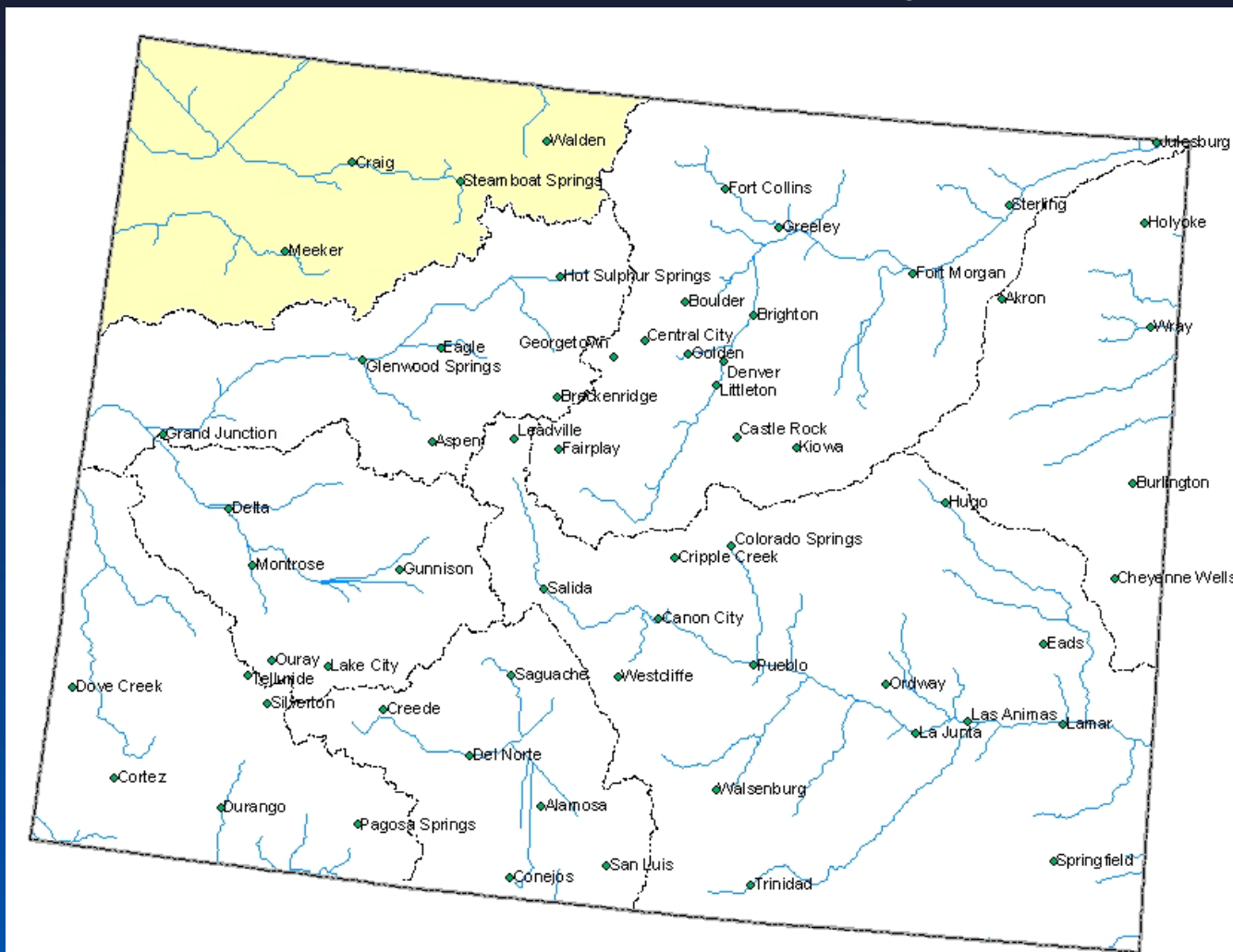
Brian Domonkos

Colorado Snow Survey Supervisor

720-544-2852

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/co/snow/>

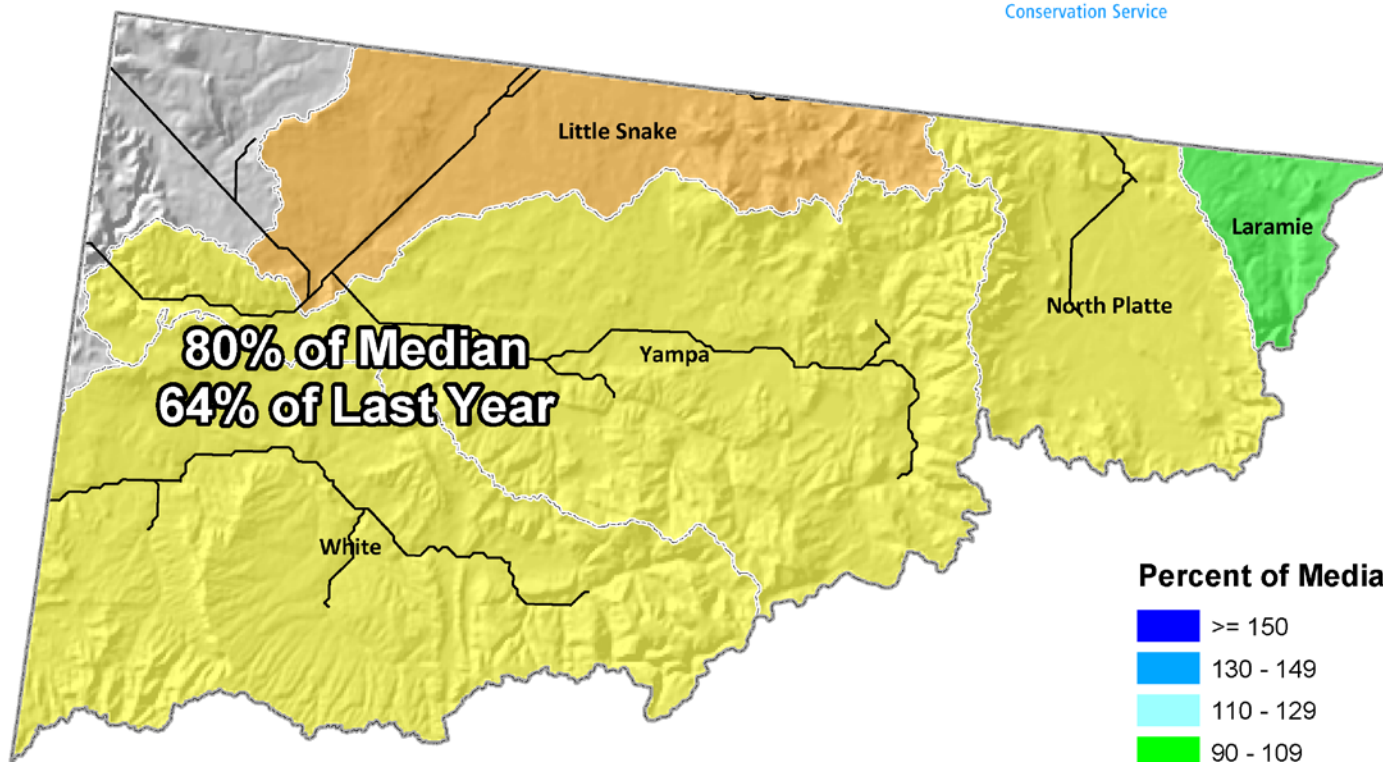
## Yampa, White & North Platte River Basins Summary



## Yampa, White and North Platte River Basins Snowpack Map



*Provisional Data  
Subject to Revision*



### Percent of Median

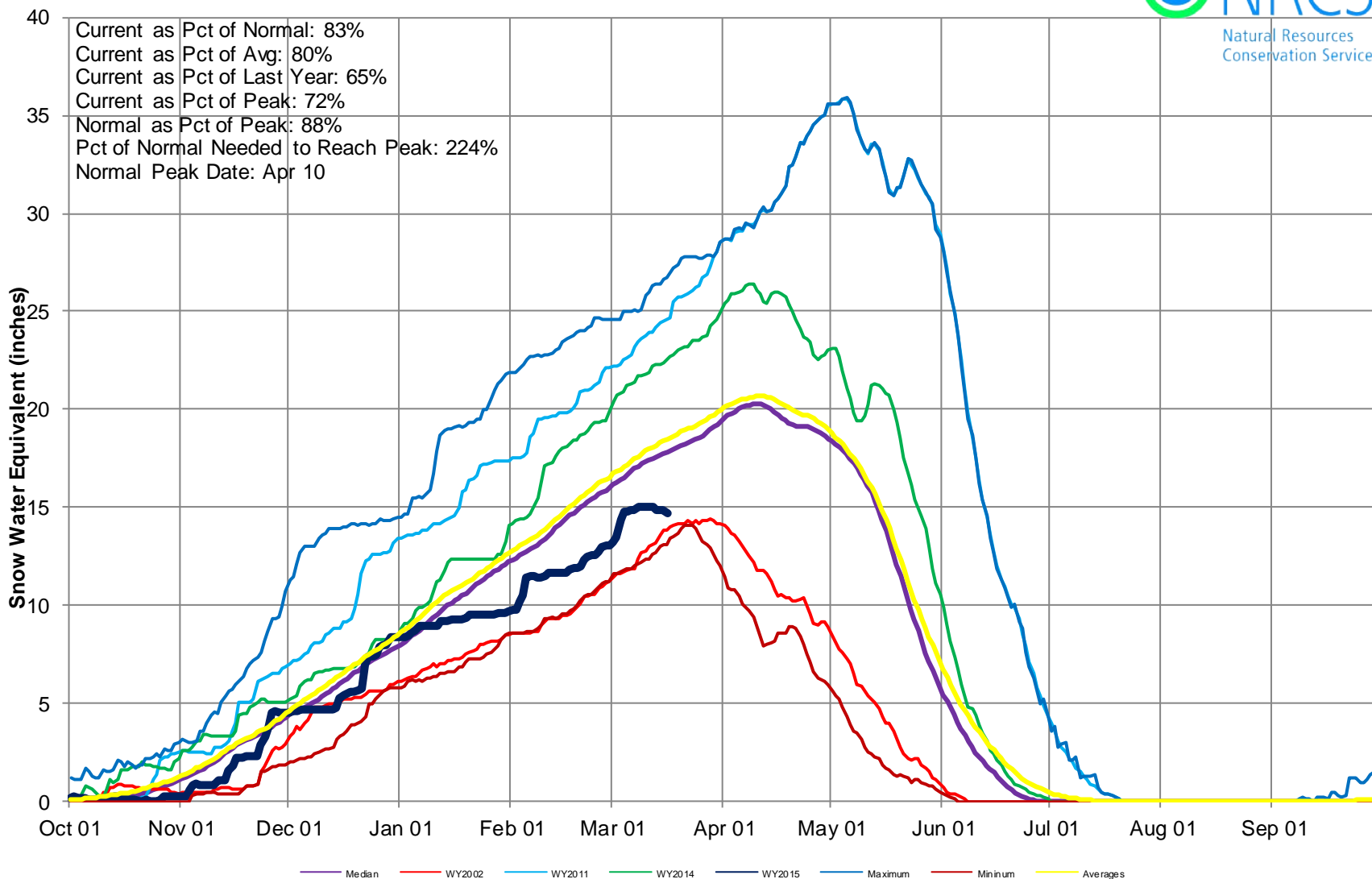


Current as of March 1, 2015



## Yampa, White & North Platte River Basins High/Low Snowpack Summary

*Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Mar 16, 2015*

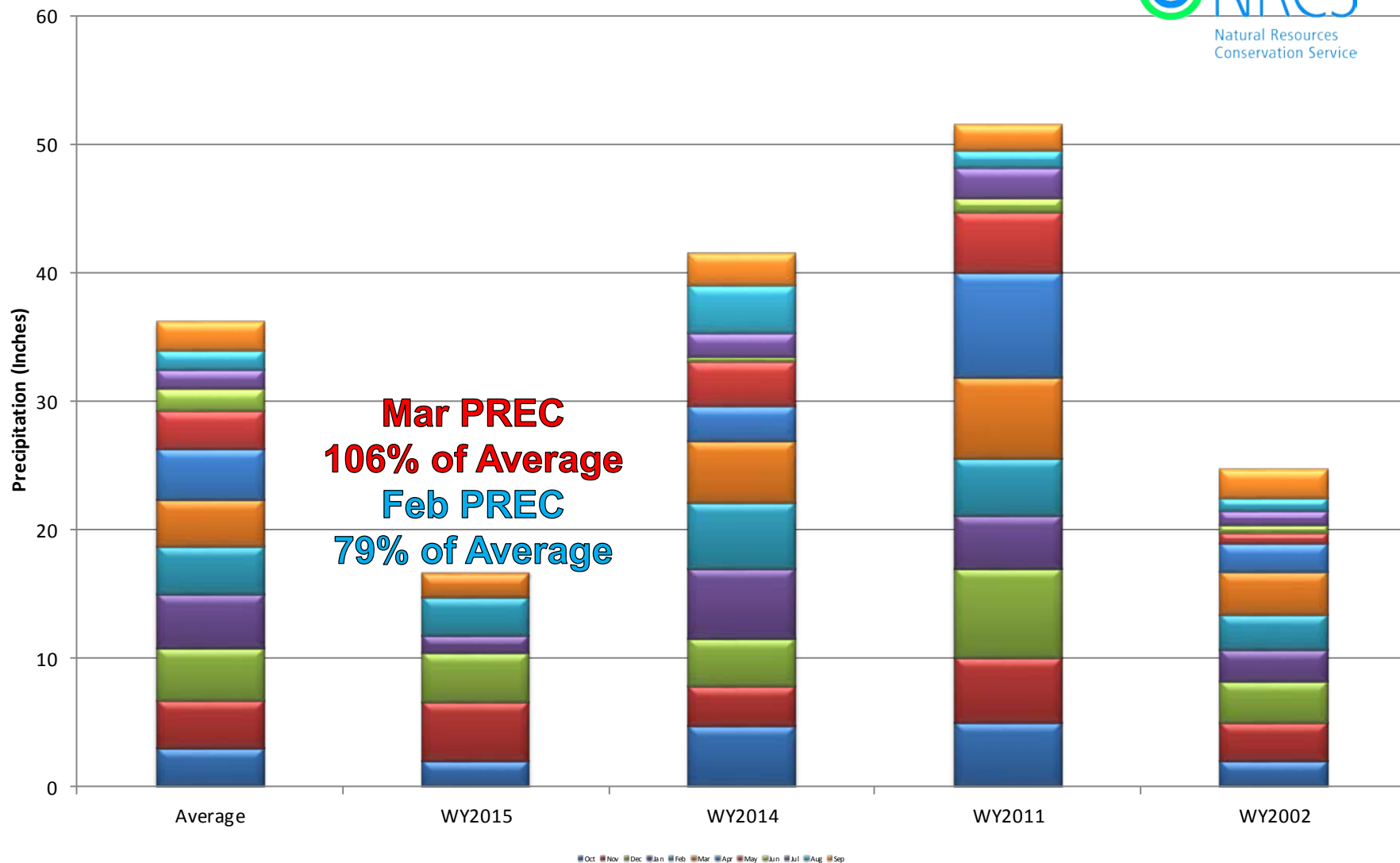






## Yampa & White River Basins High/Low Monthly Precipitation Summary

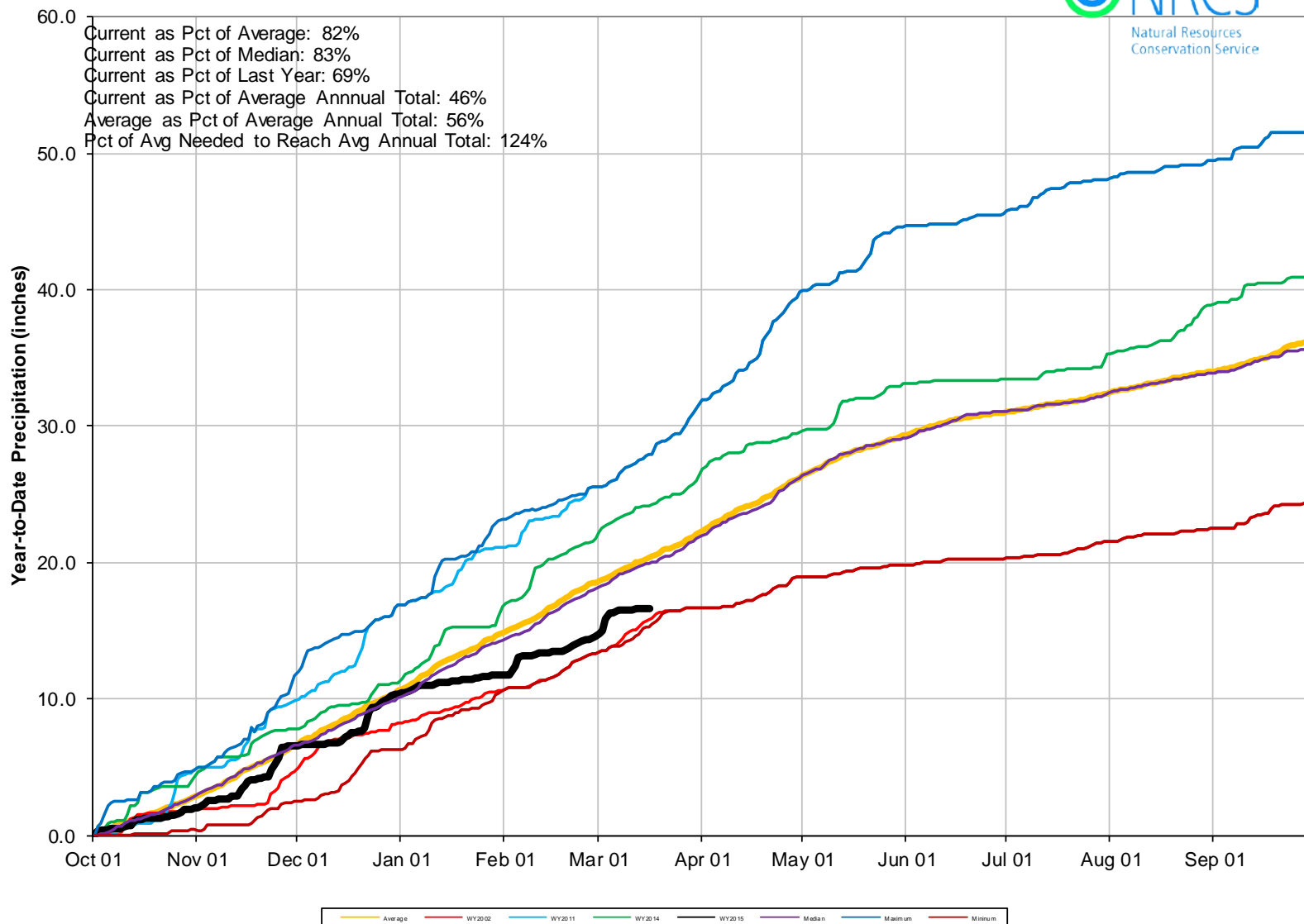
*Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Mar 16, 2015*





## Yampa & White River Basins High/Low Year-to-Date Precipitation Summary

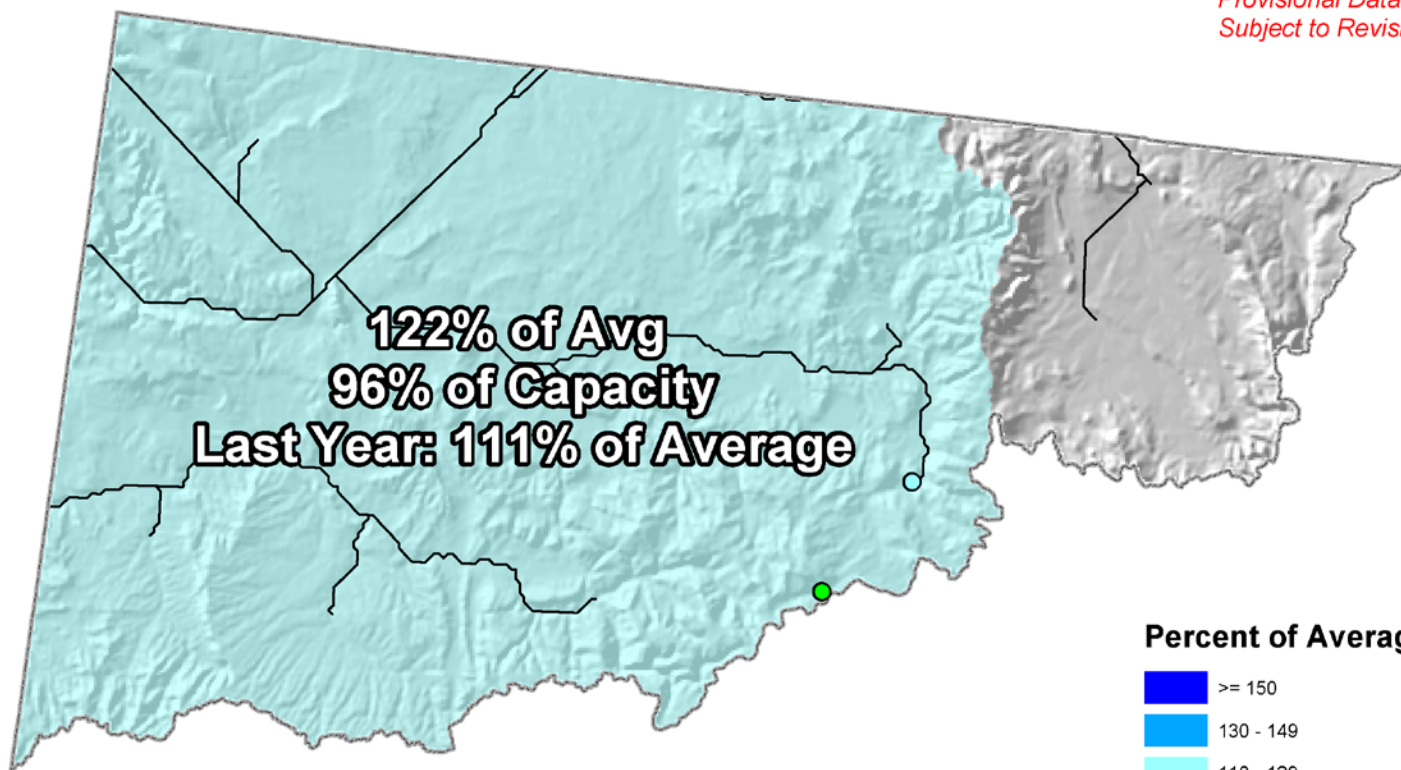
*Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Mar 16, 2015*



## Yampa & White River Basins Reservoir Storage Map



*Provisional Data  
Subject to Revision*



### Percent of Average

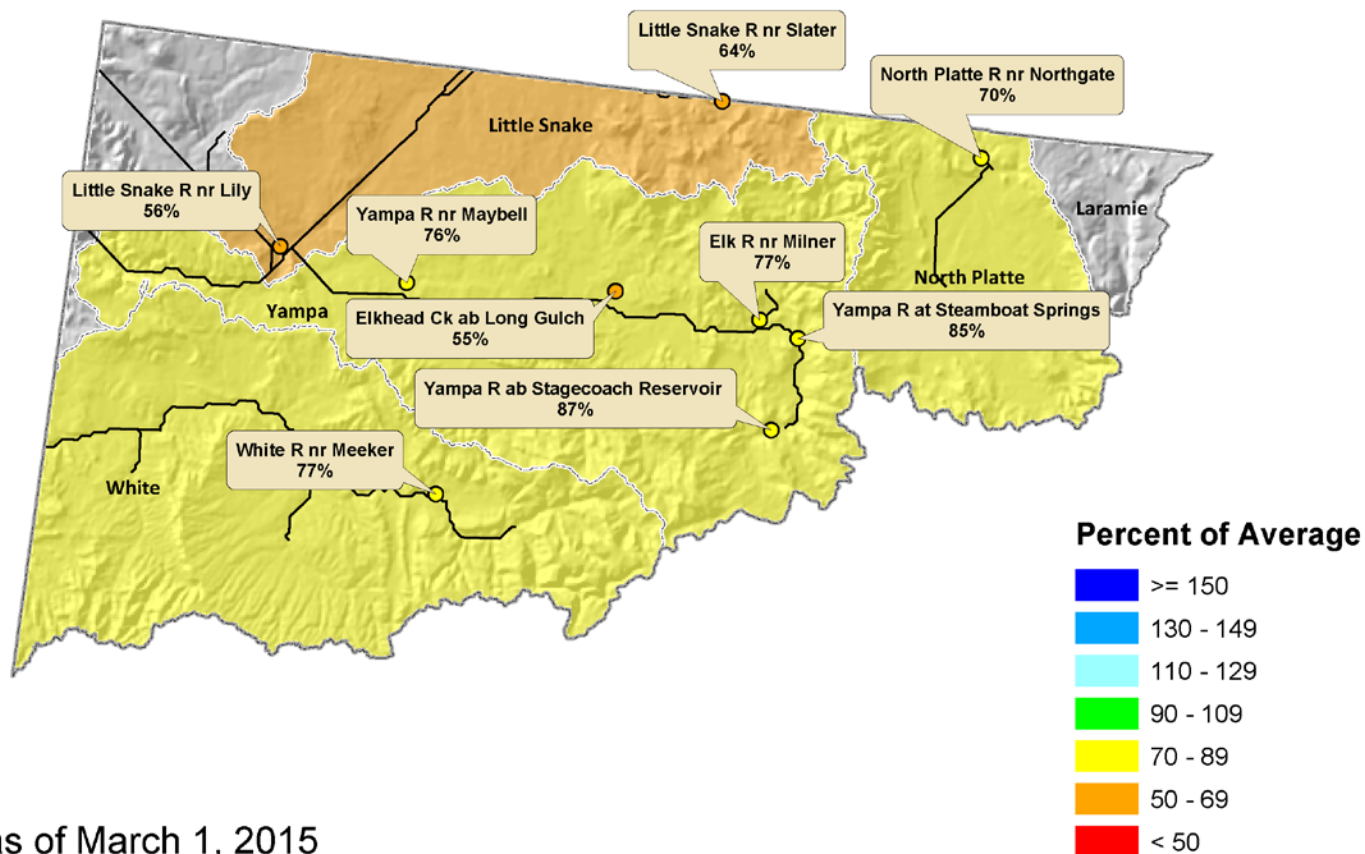


End of February 2015

## Yampa, White and North Platte River Basins Streamflow Map



*Provisional Data  
Subject to Revision*



Current as of March 1, 2015

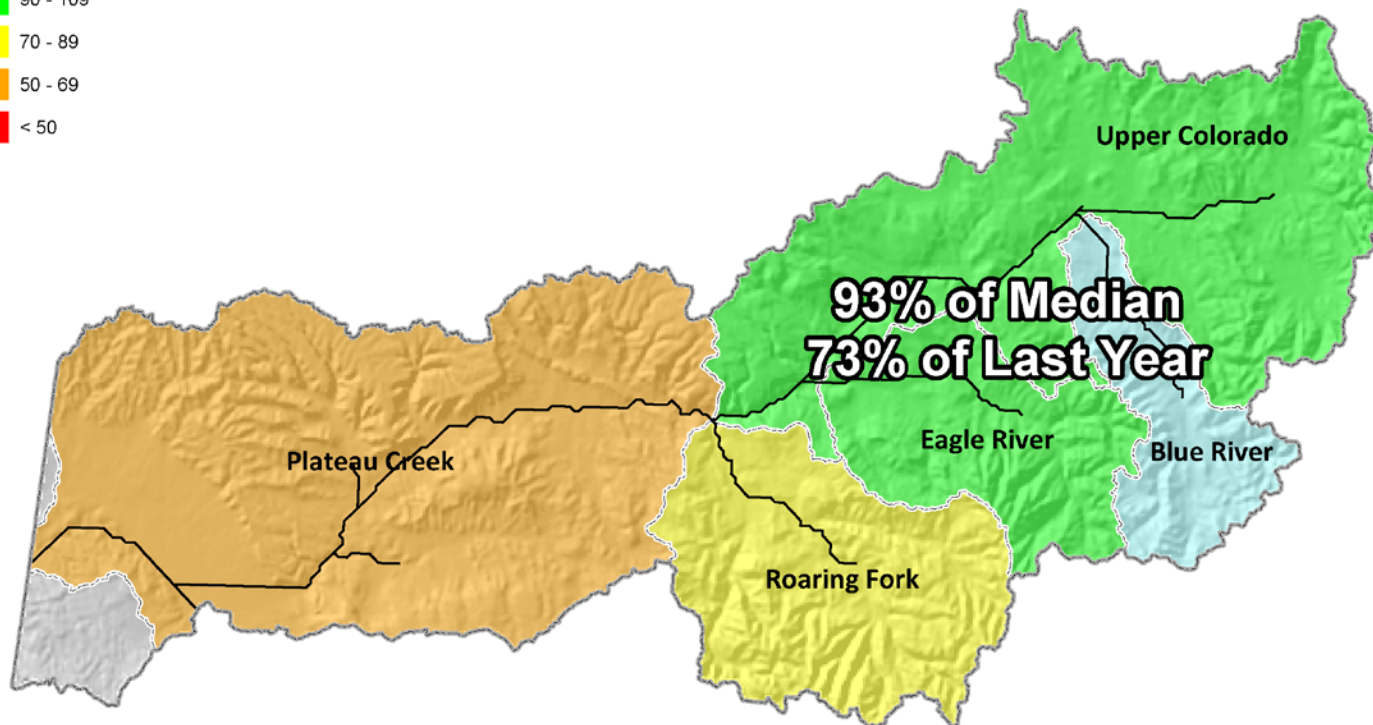


## Colorado River Basin Snowpack Map

### Percent of Median



*Provisional Data  
Subject to Revision*



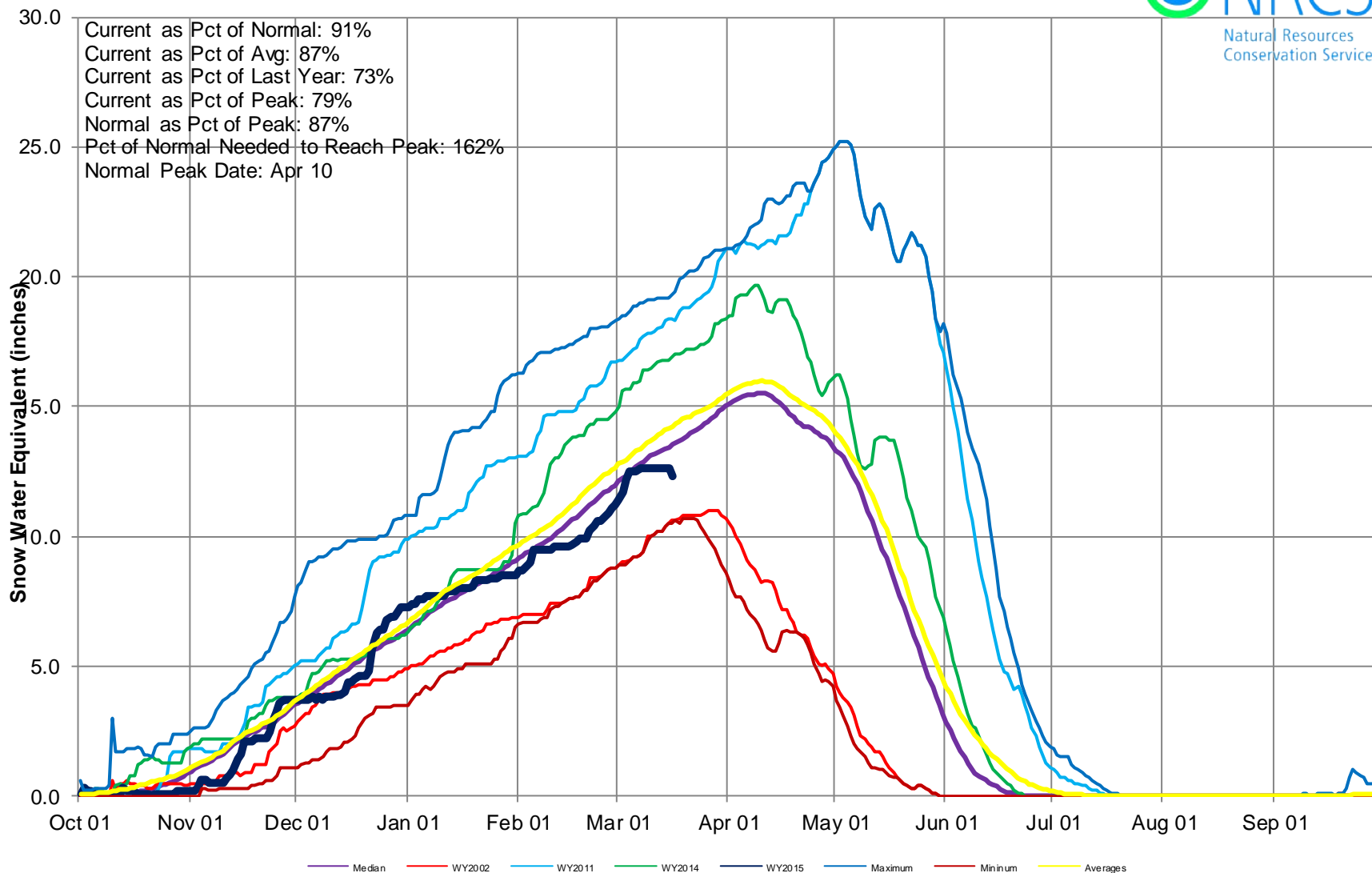
Current as of March 1, 2015





## Upper Colorado River Basin High/Low Snowpack Summary

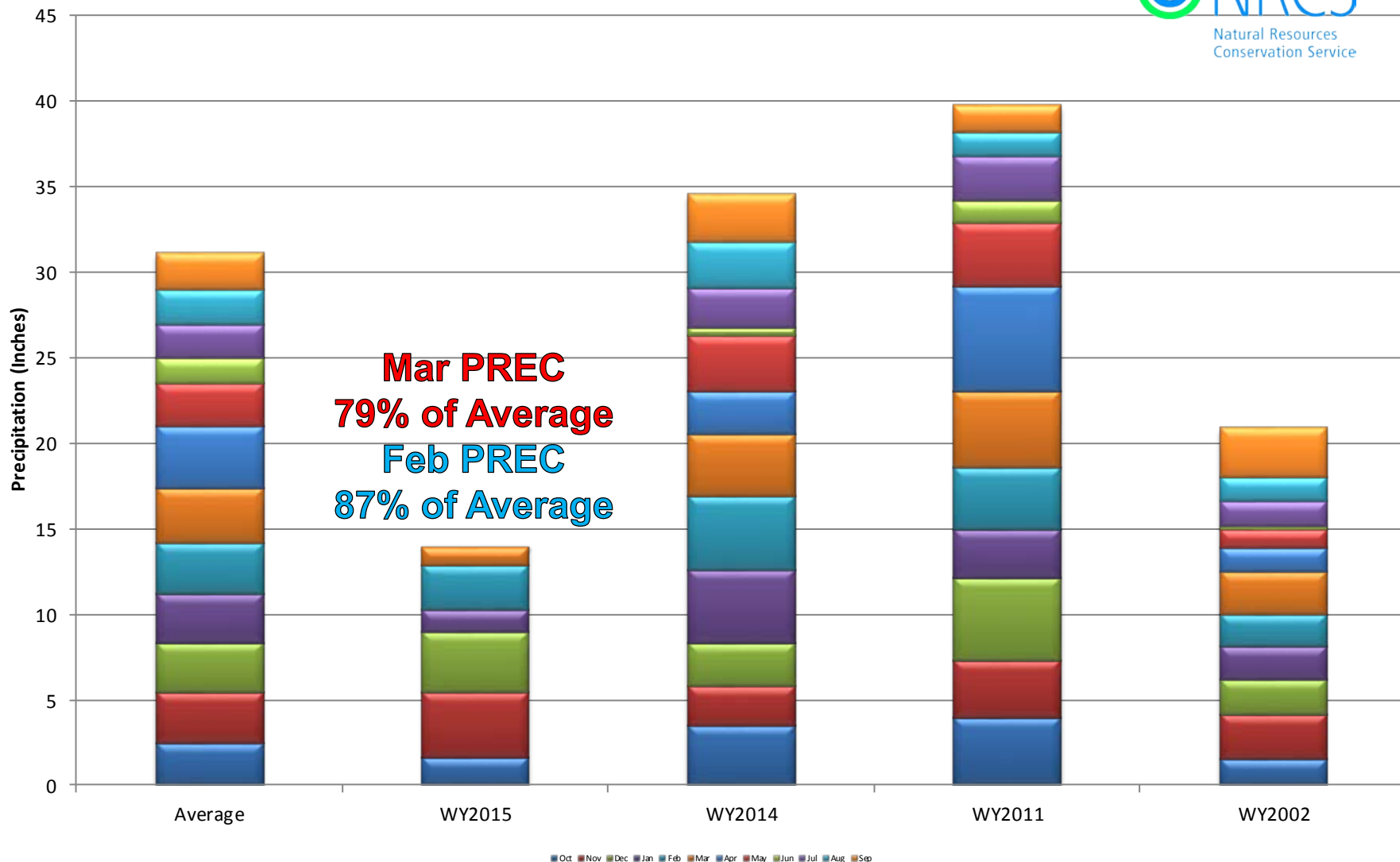
*Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Mar 16, 2015*





## Upper Colorado River Basin High/Low Monthly Precipitation Summary

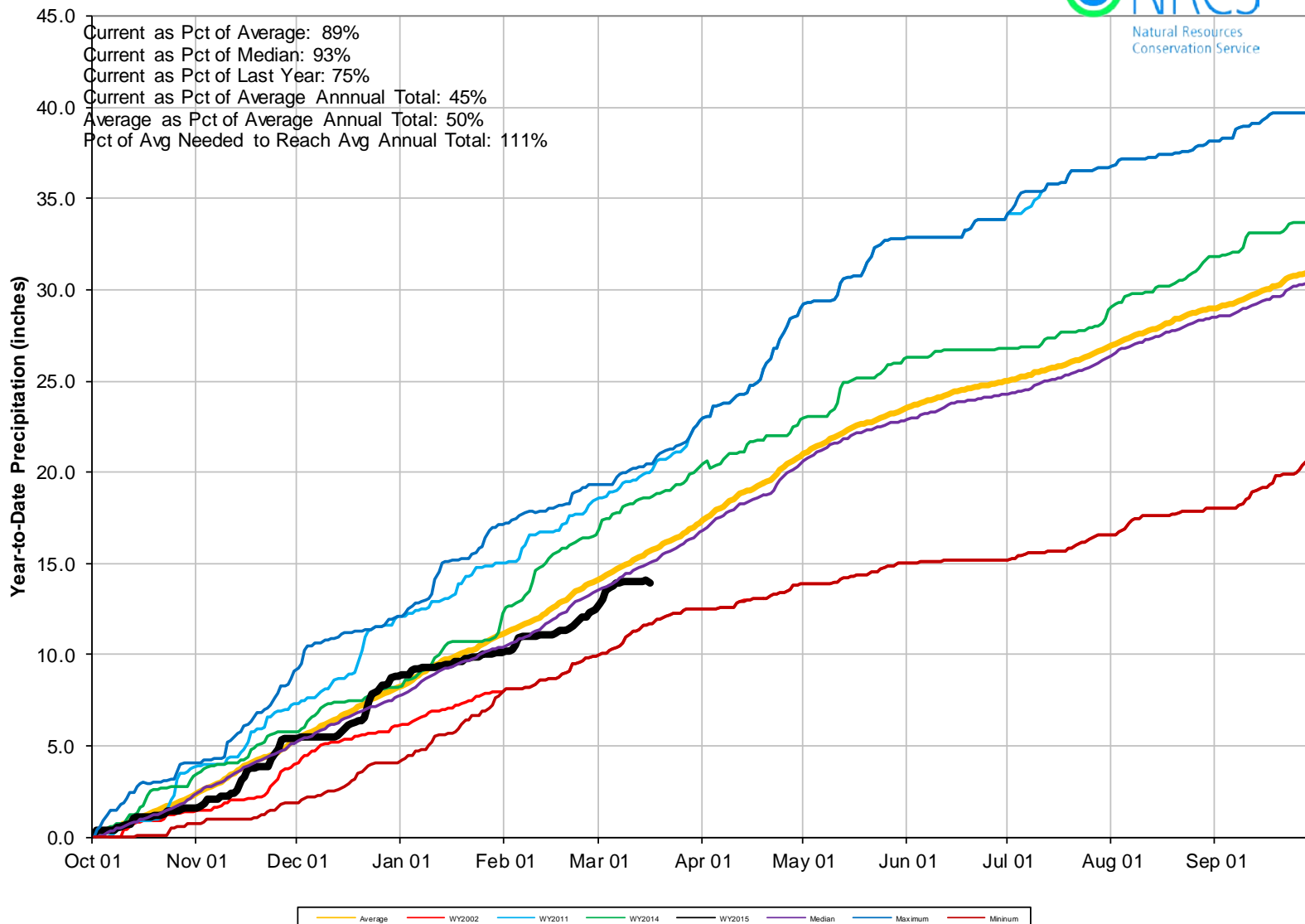
*Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Mar 16, 2015*





## Upper Colorado River Basin High/Low Year-to-Date Precipitation Summary

*Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Mar 16, 2015*

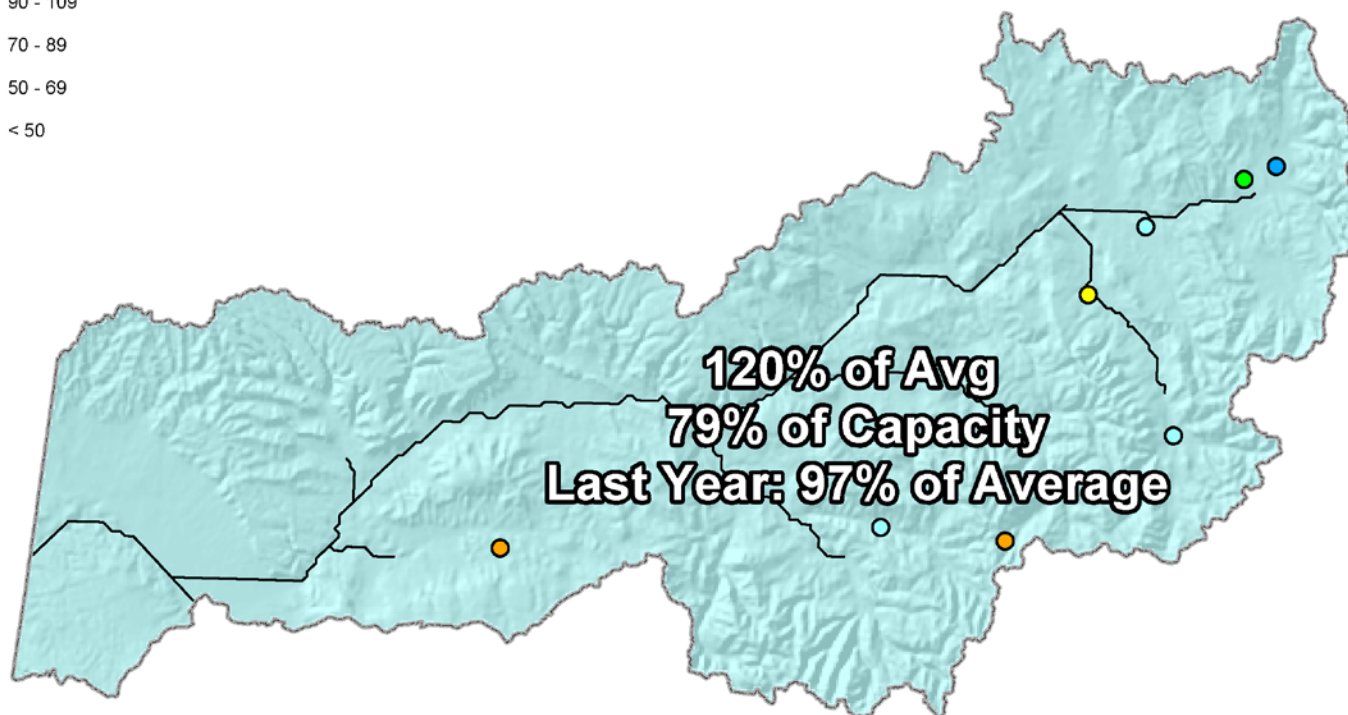


## Colorado River Basin Reservoir Storage Map

### Percent of Average



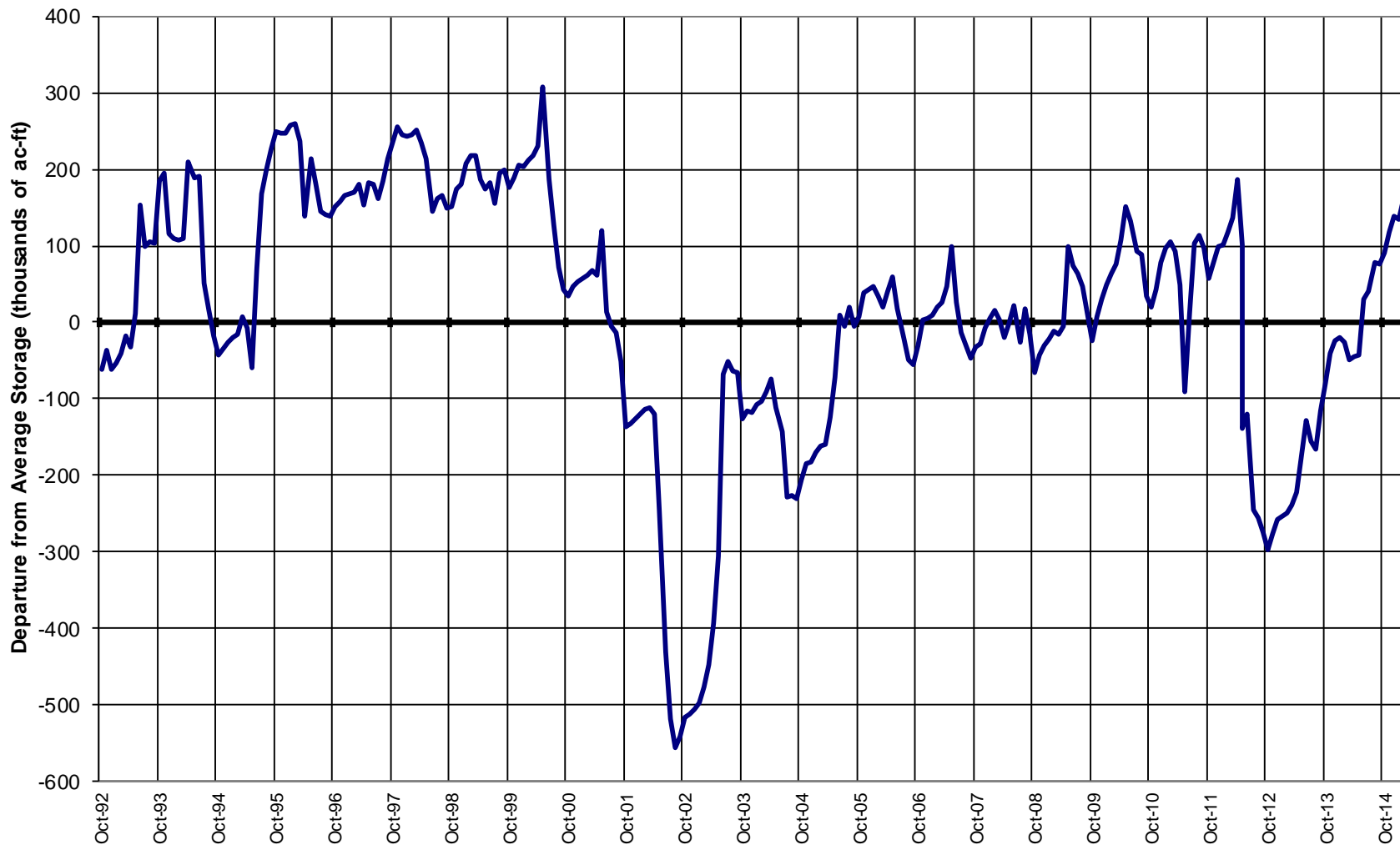
*Provisional Data  
Subject to Revision*



End of February 2015



## COLORADO RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage Departure from Average



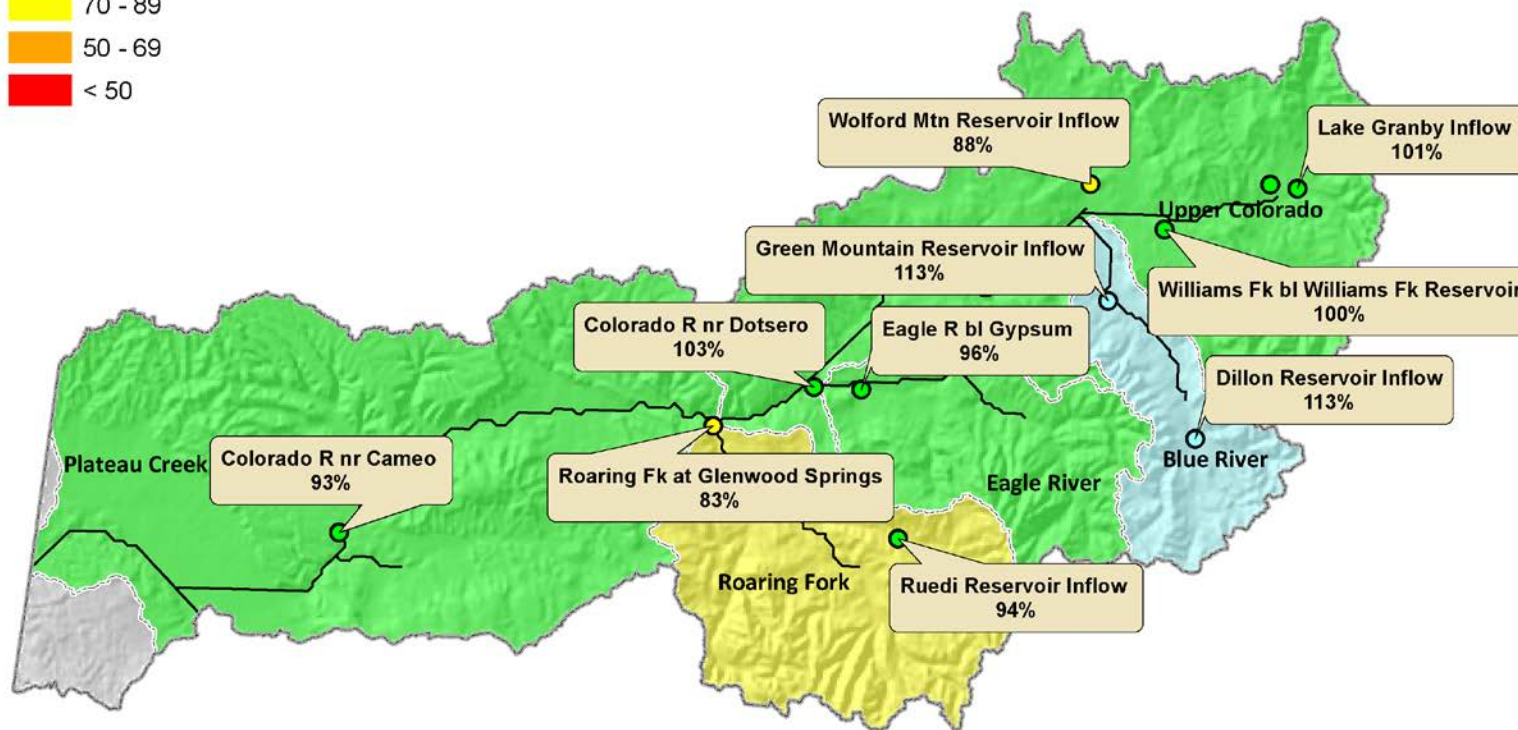
## Colorado River Basin Streamflow Forecast Map



### Percent of Average

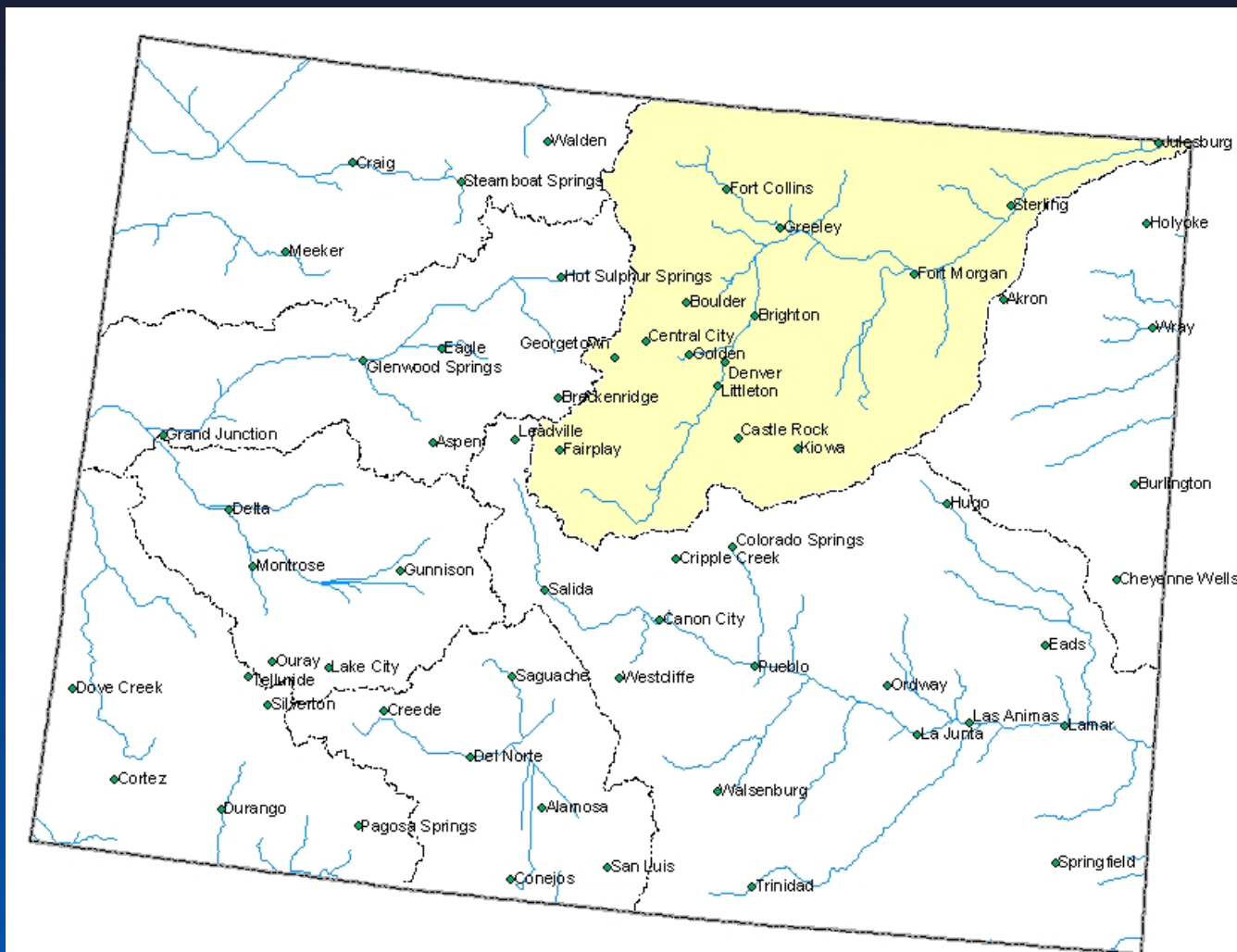


*Provisional Data  
Subject to Revision*



Current as of March 1, 2015

## South Platte River Basin Summary



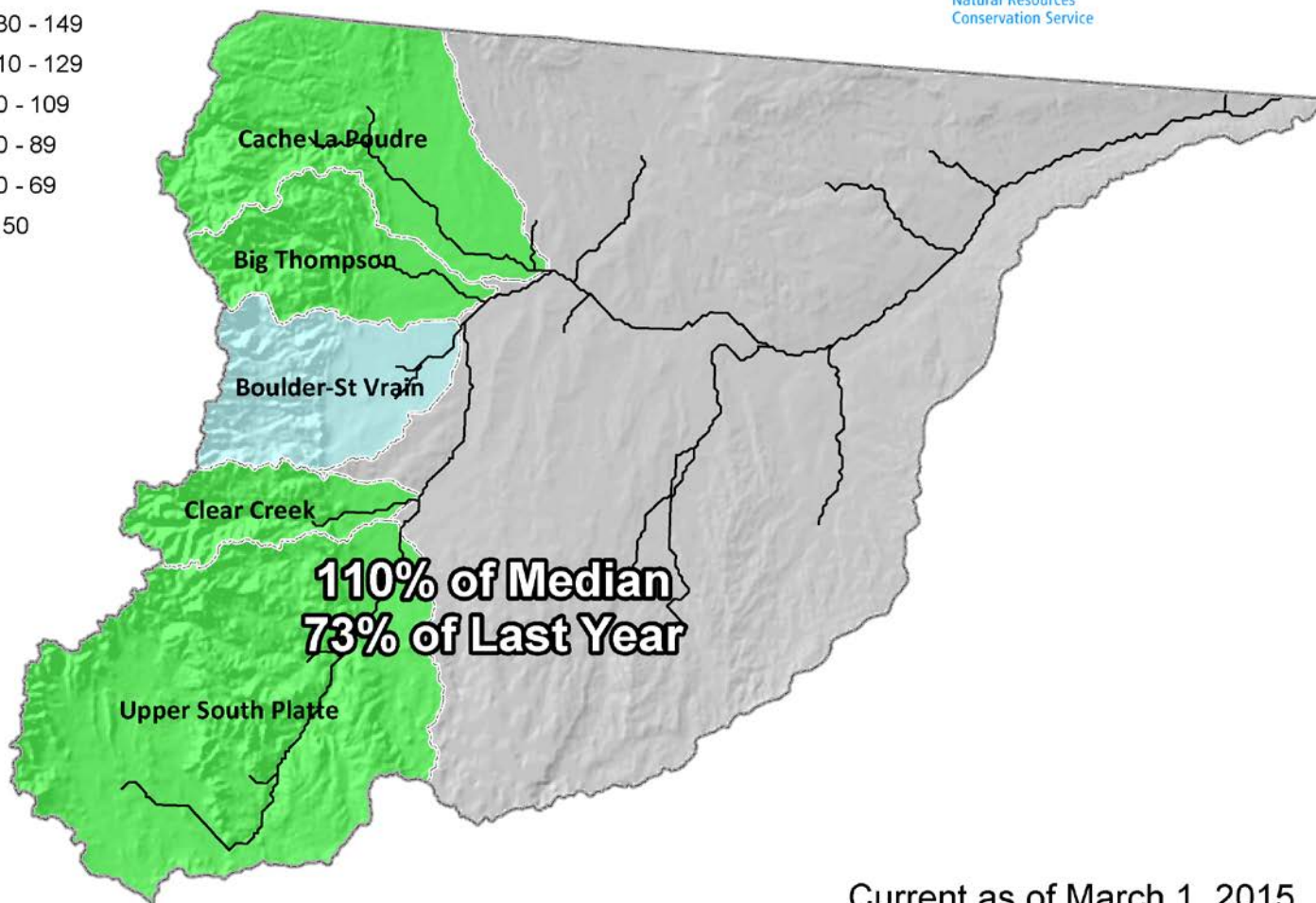


## South Platte River Basin Snowpack Map

### Percent of Median



*Provisional Data  
Subject to Revision*

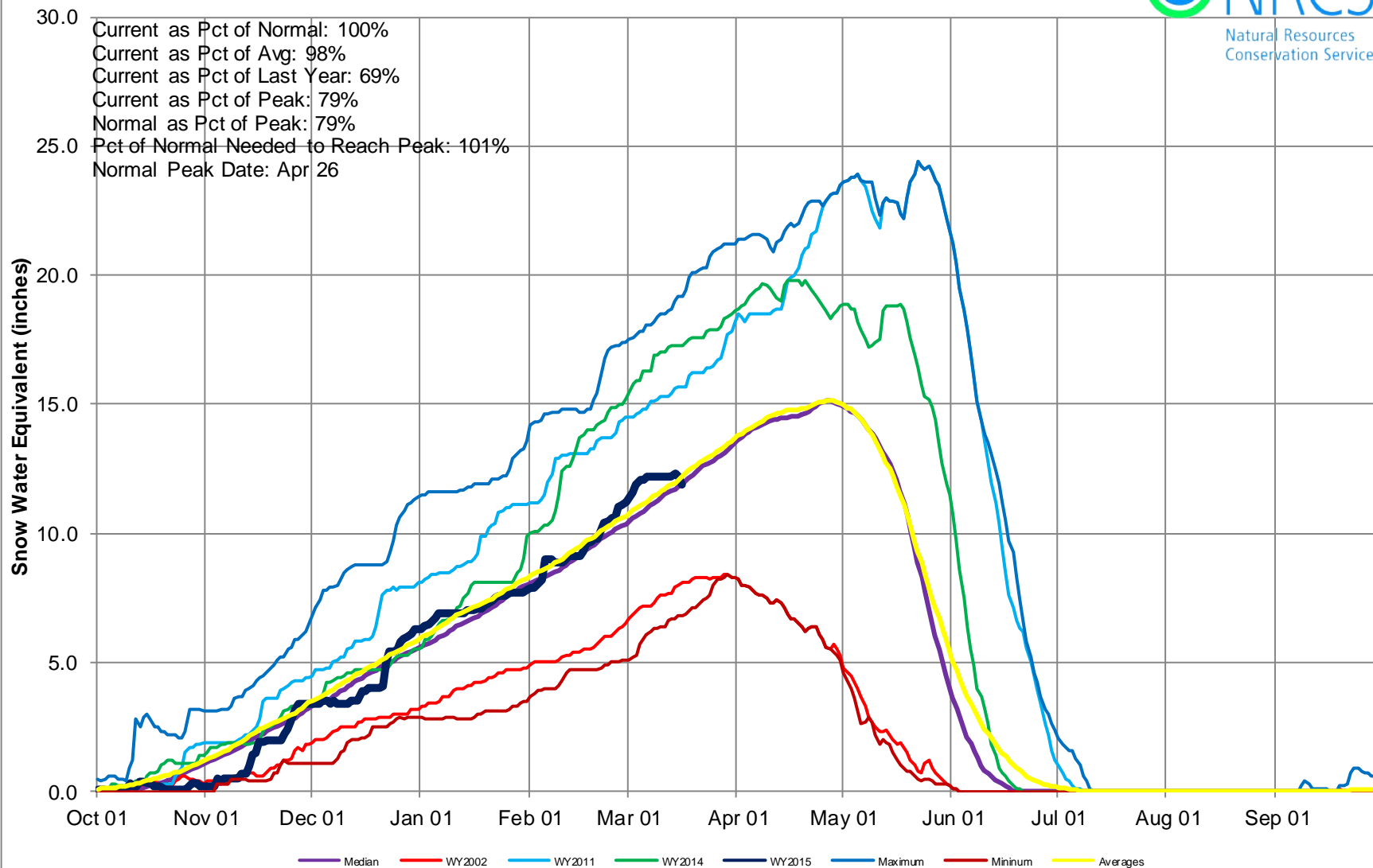


Current as of March 1, 2015



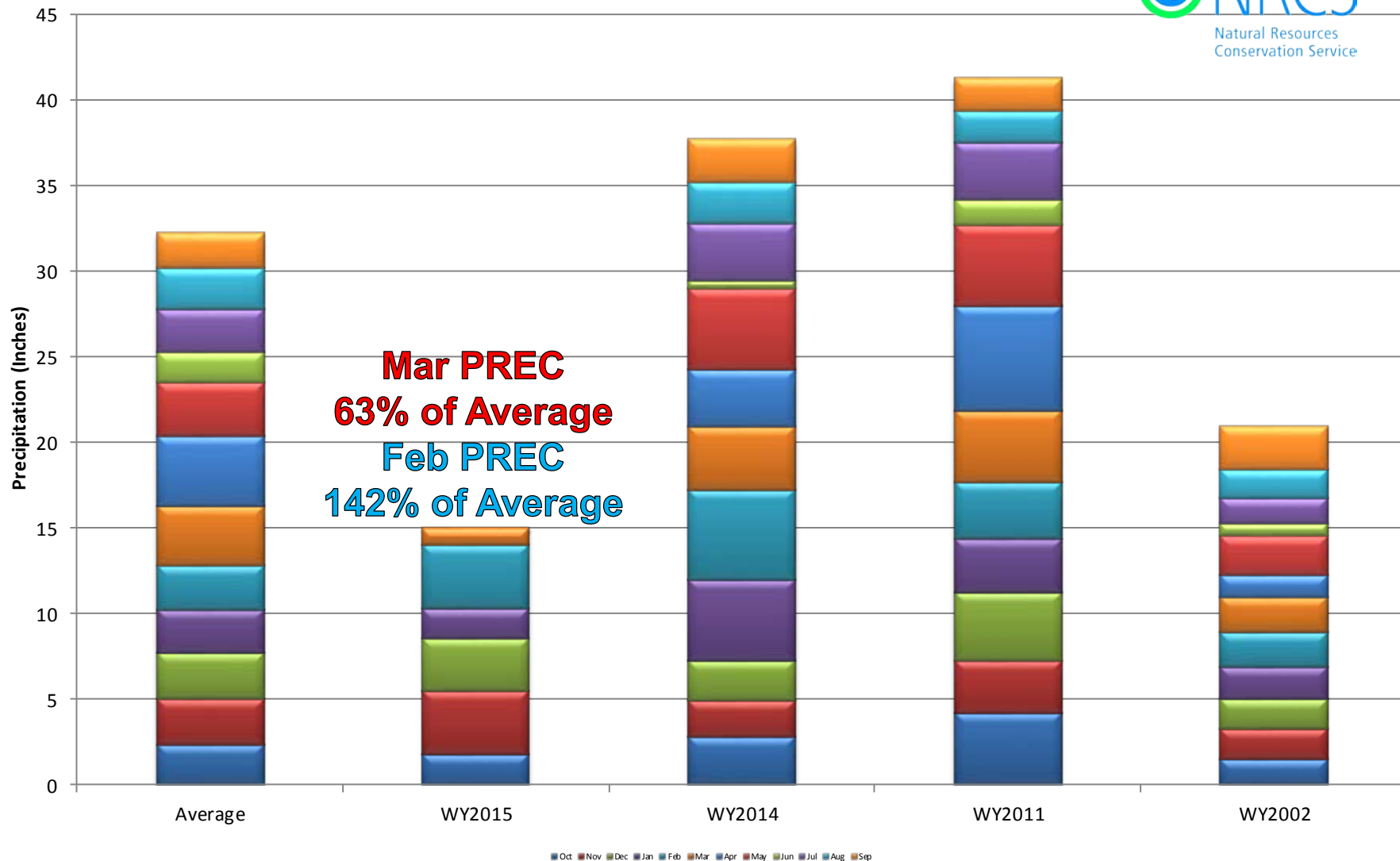
## South Platte River Basin High/Low Snowpack Summary

**Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Mar 16, 2015**



## South Platte River Basin High/Low Monthly Precipitation Summary

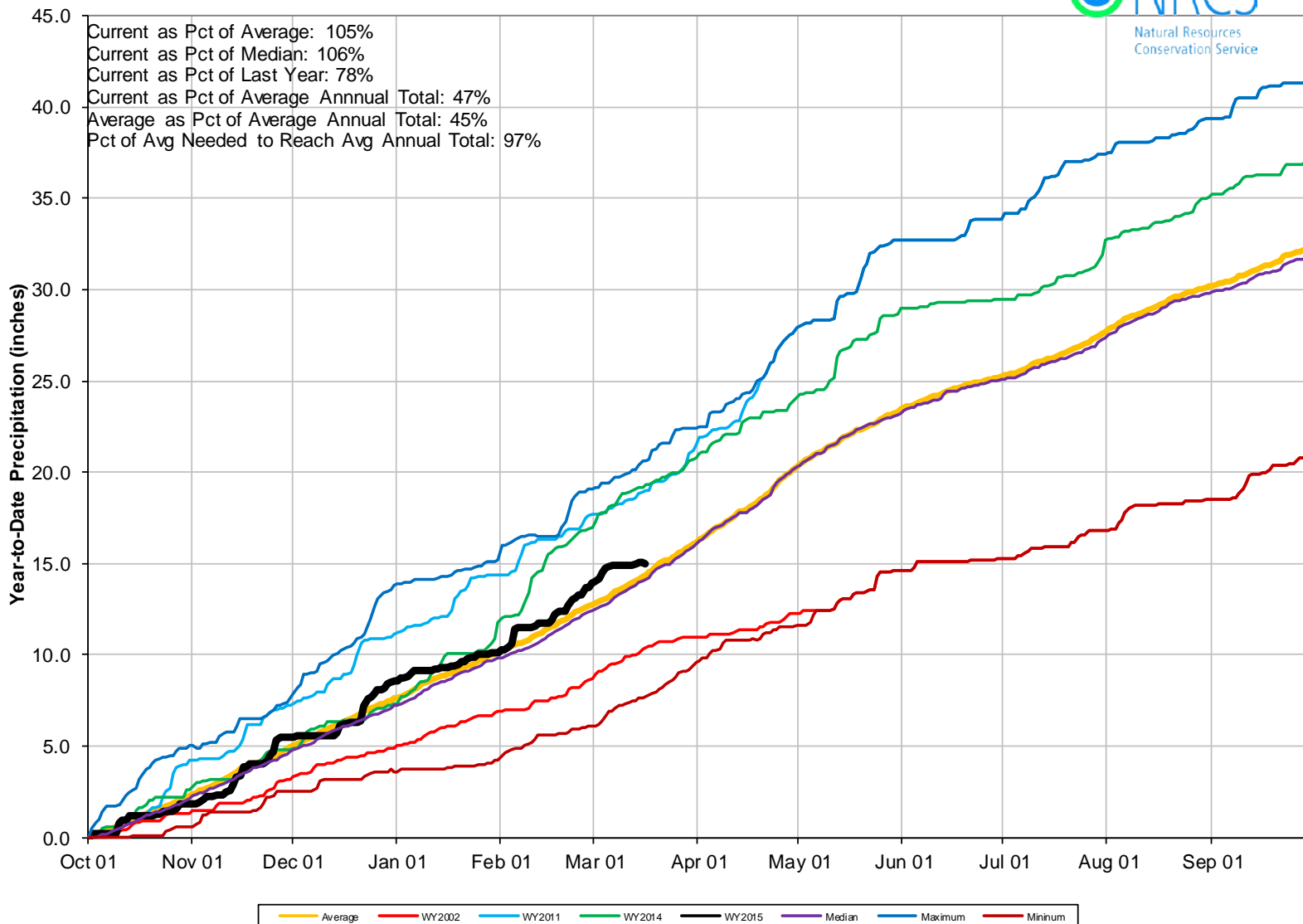
*Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Mar 16, 2015*





## South Platte River Basin High/Low Year-to-Date Precipitation Summary

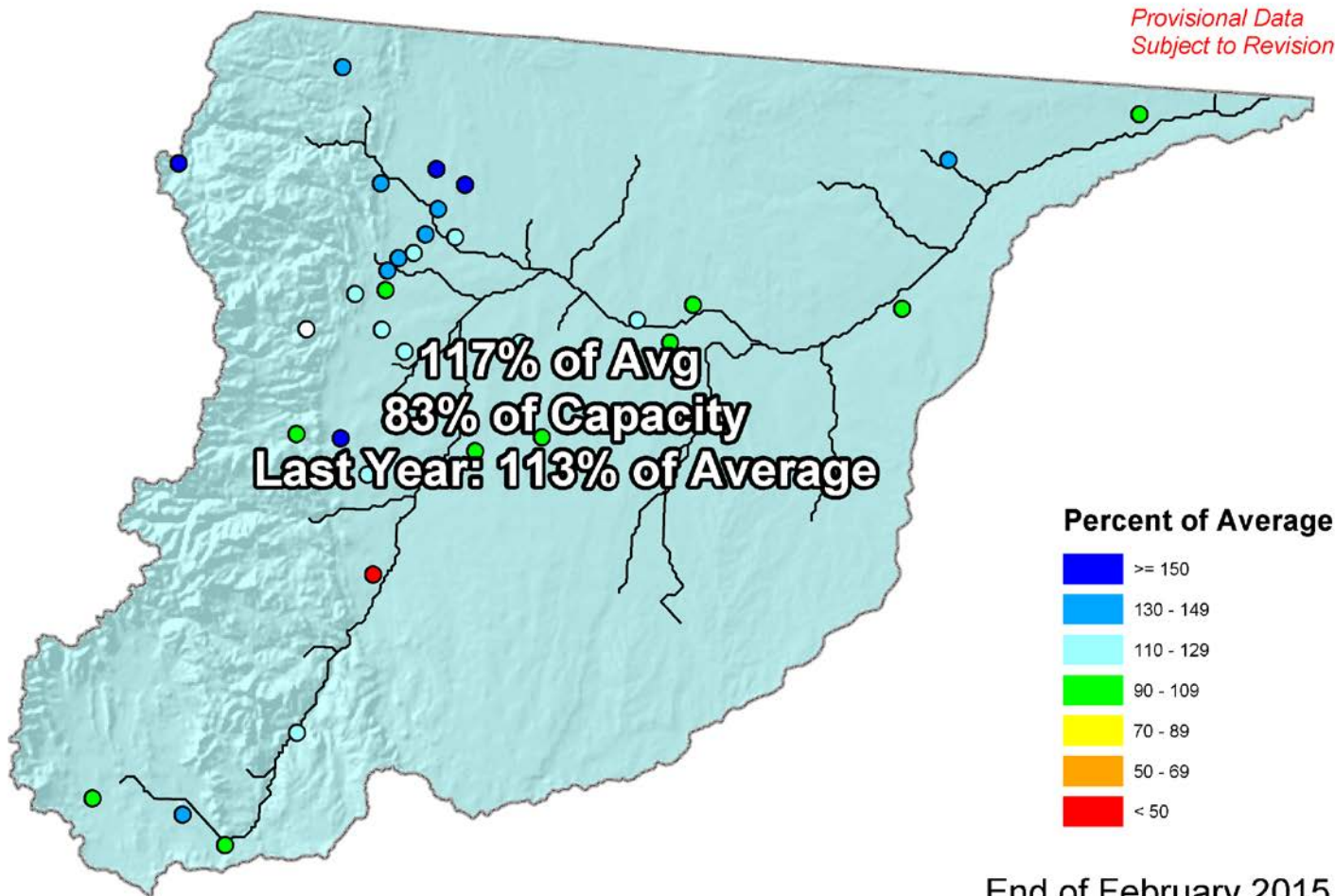
*Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Mar 16, 2015*



## South Platte River Basin Reservoir Storage Map



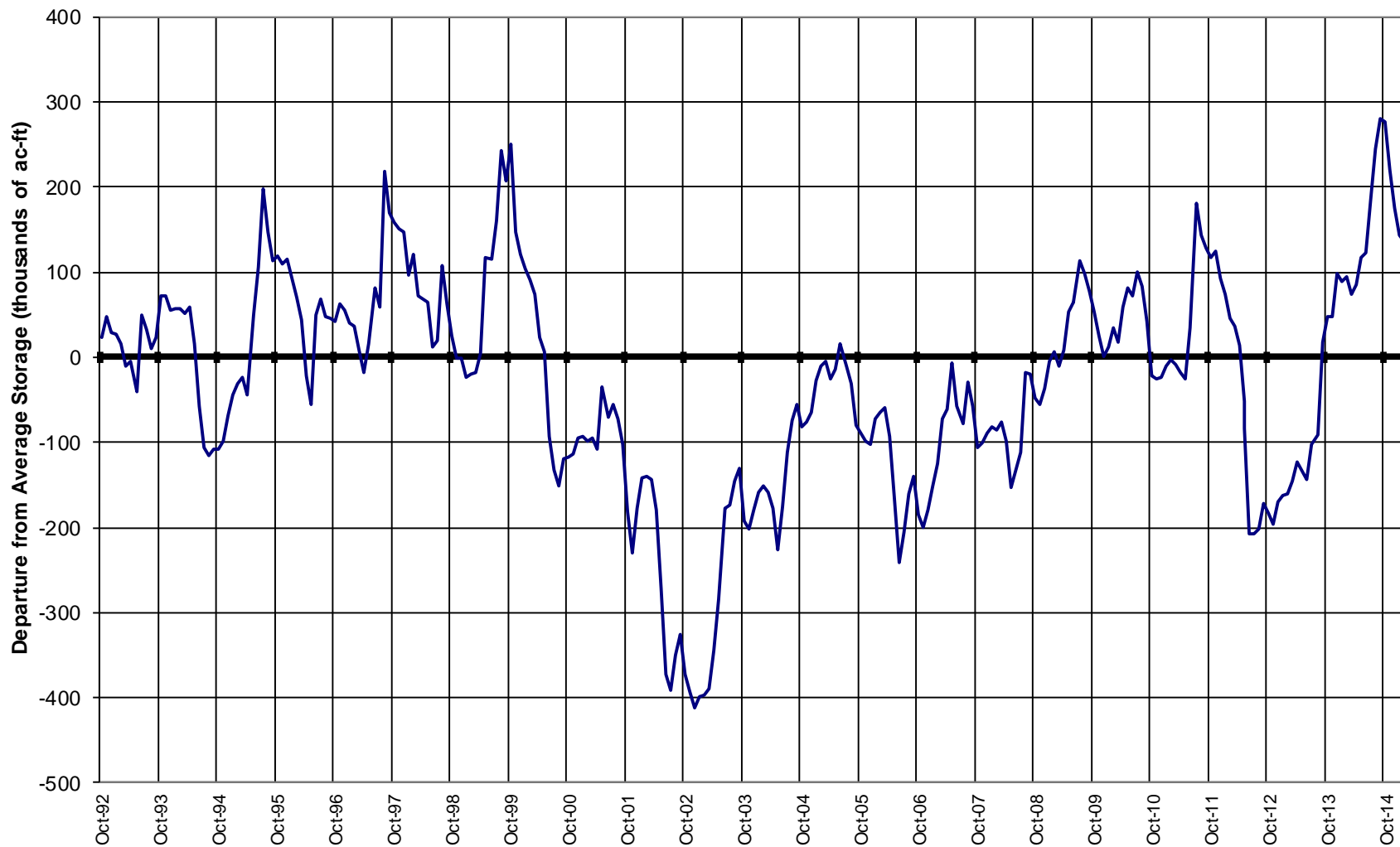
*Provisional Data  
Subject to Revision*



End of February 2015



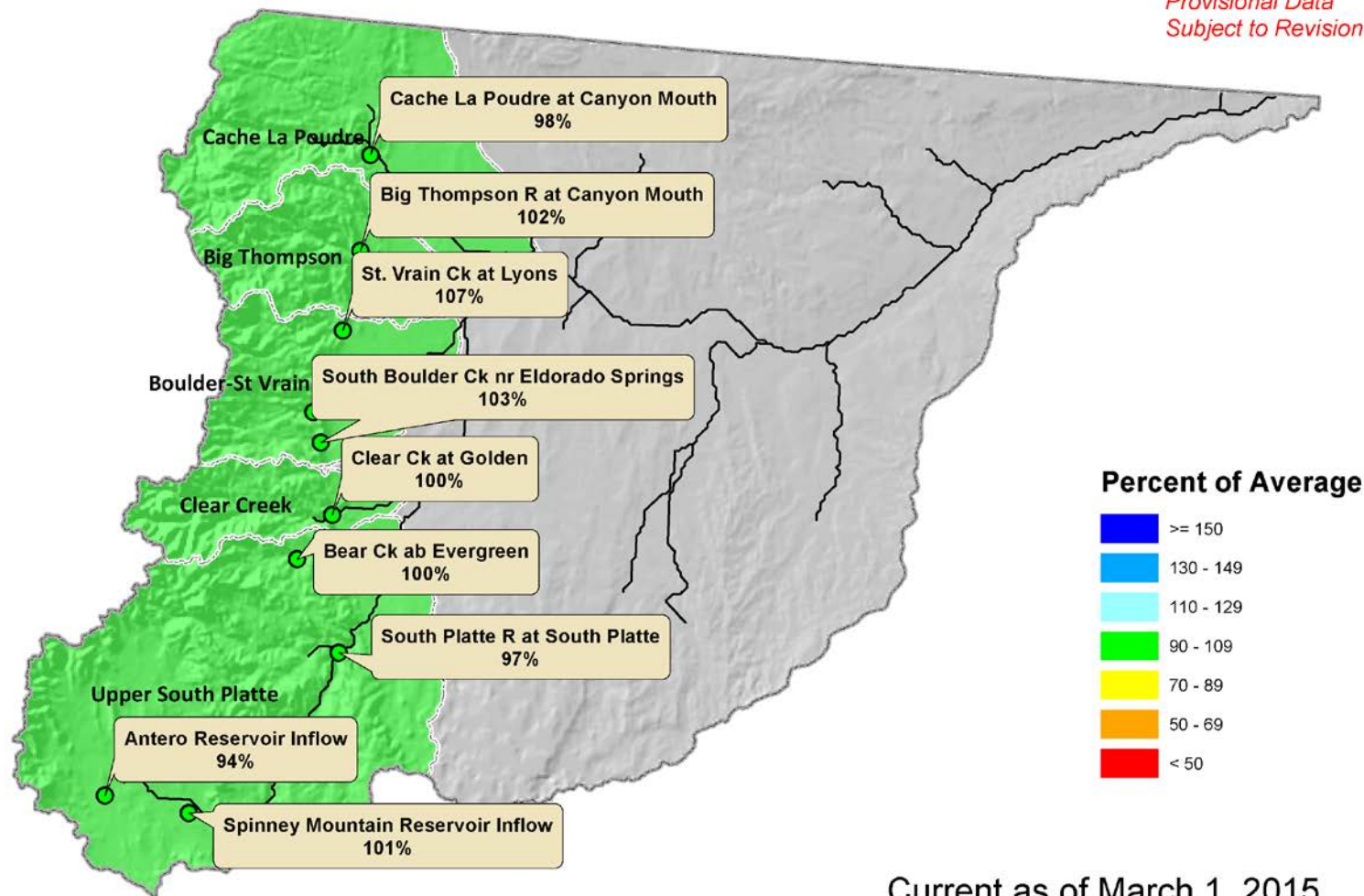
## SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage Departure from Average



## South Platte River Basin Streamflow Forecast Map



*Provisional Data  
Subject to Revision*



Current as of March 1, 2015



## Gunnison River Basin Summary



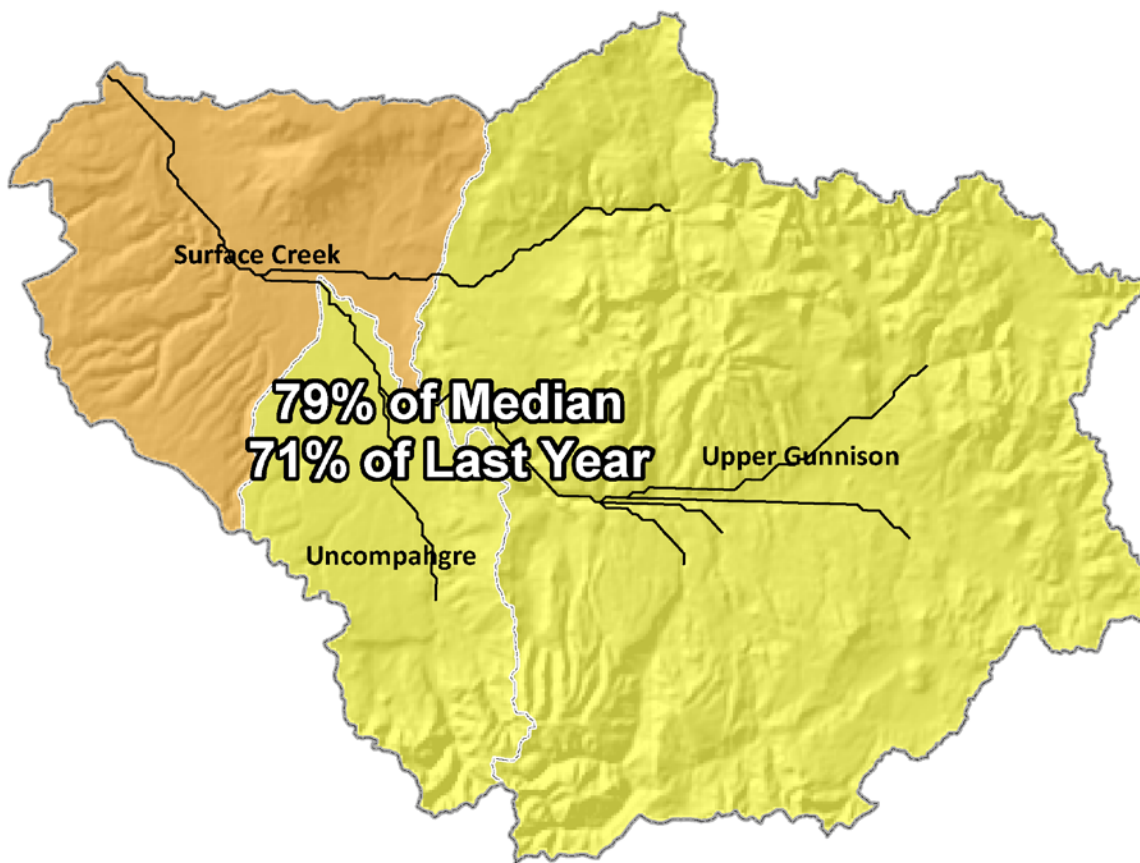


## Gunnison River Basin Snowpack Map

### Percent of Median



*Provisional Data  
Subject to Revision*

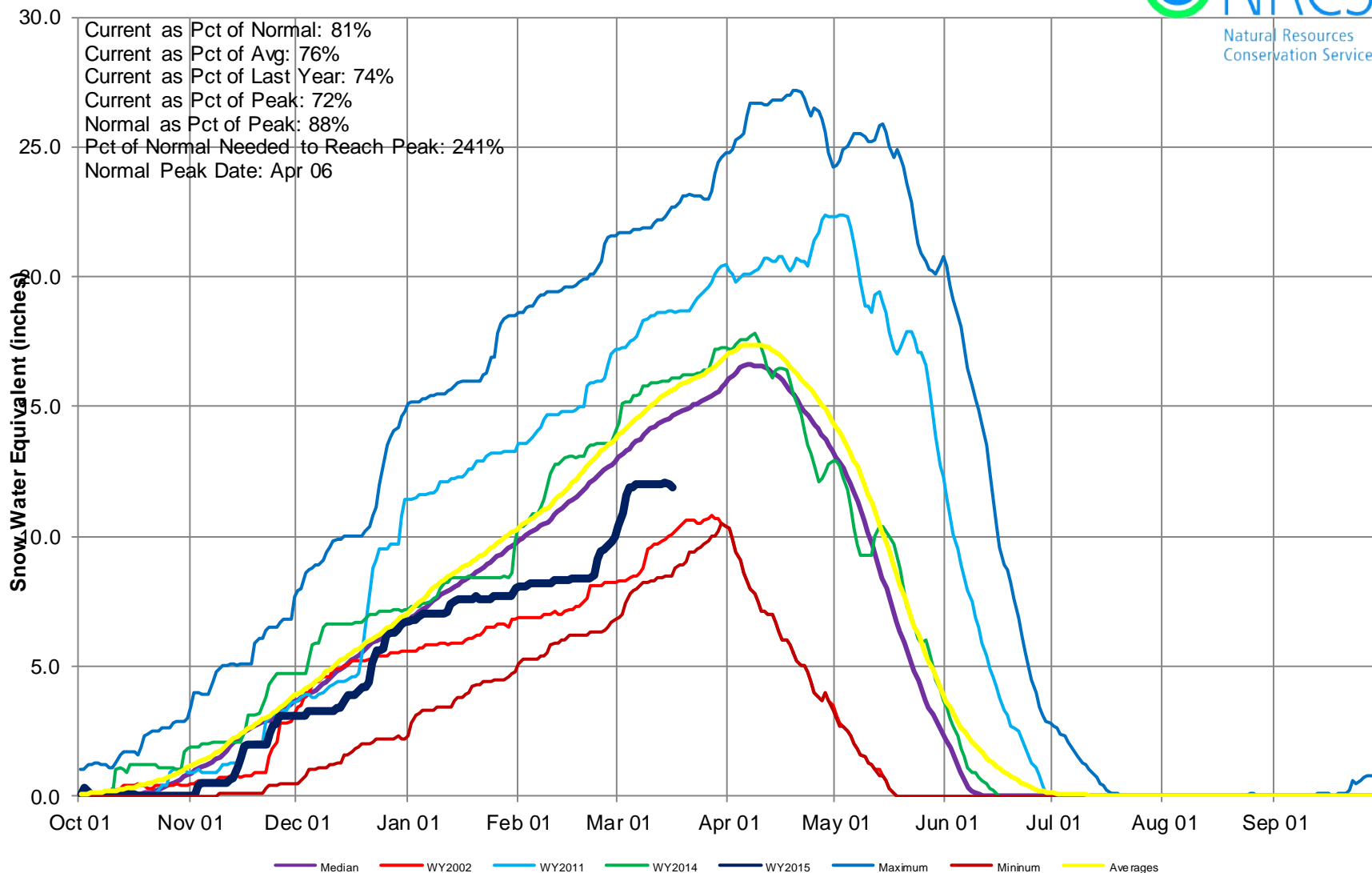


Current as of March 1, 2015



## Gunnison River Basin High/Low Snowpack Summary

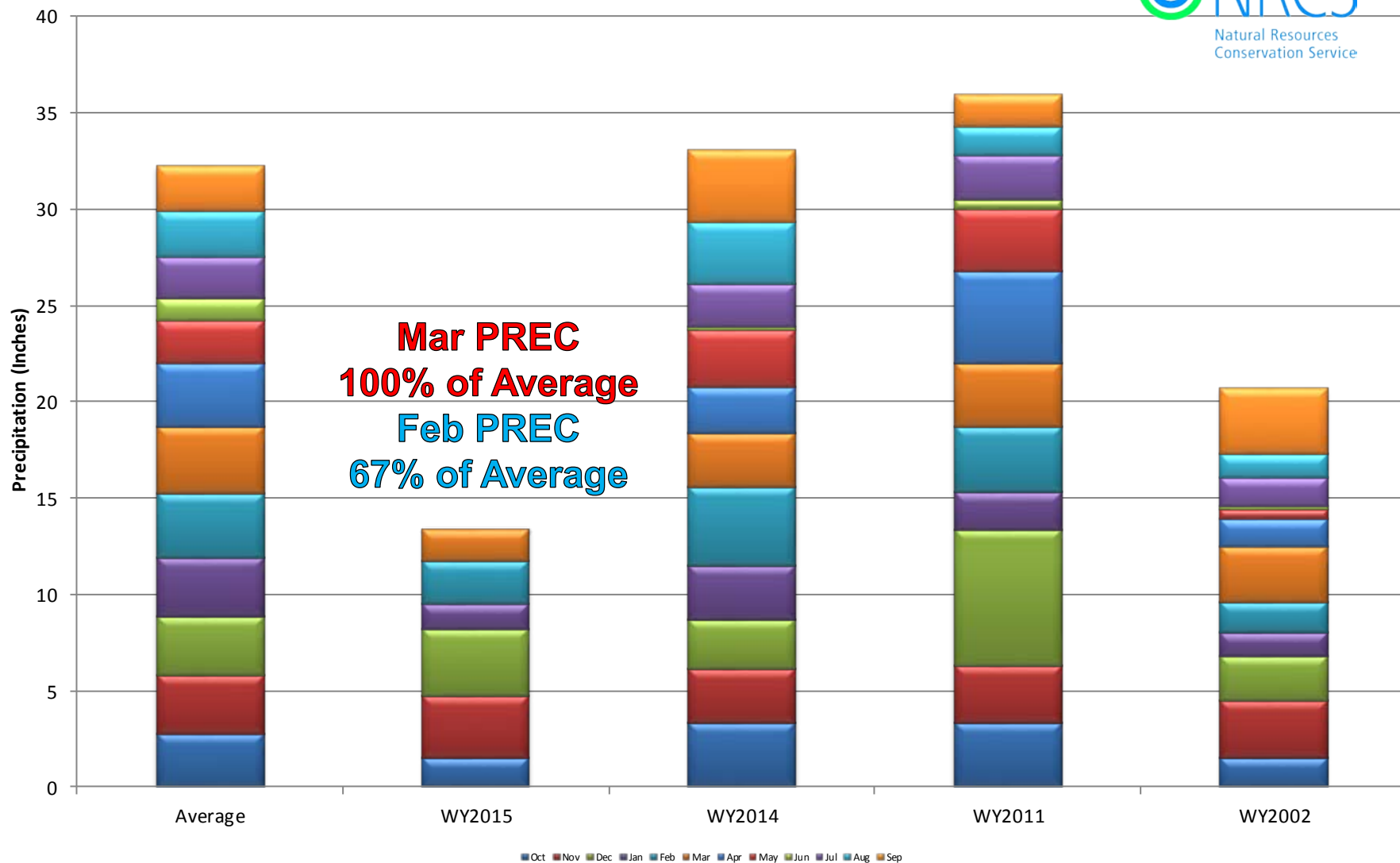
*Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Mar 16, 2015*





## Gunnison River Basin High/Low Monthly Precipitation Summary

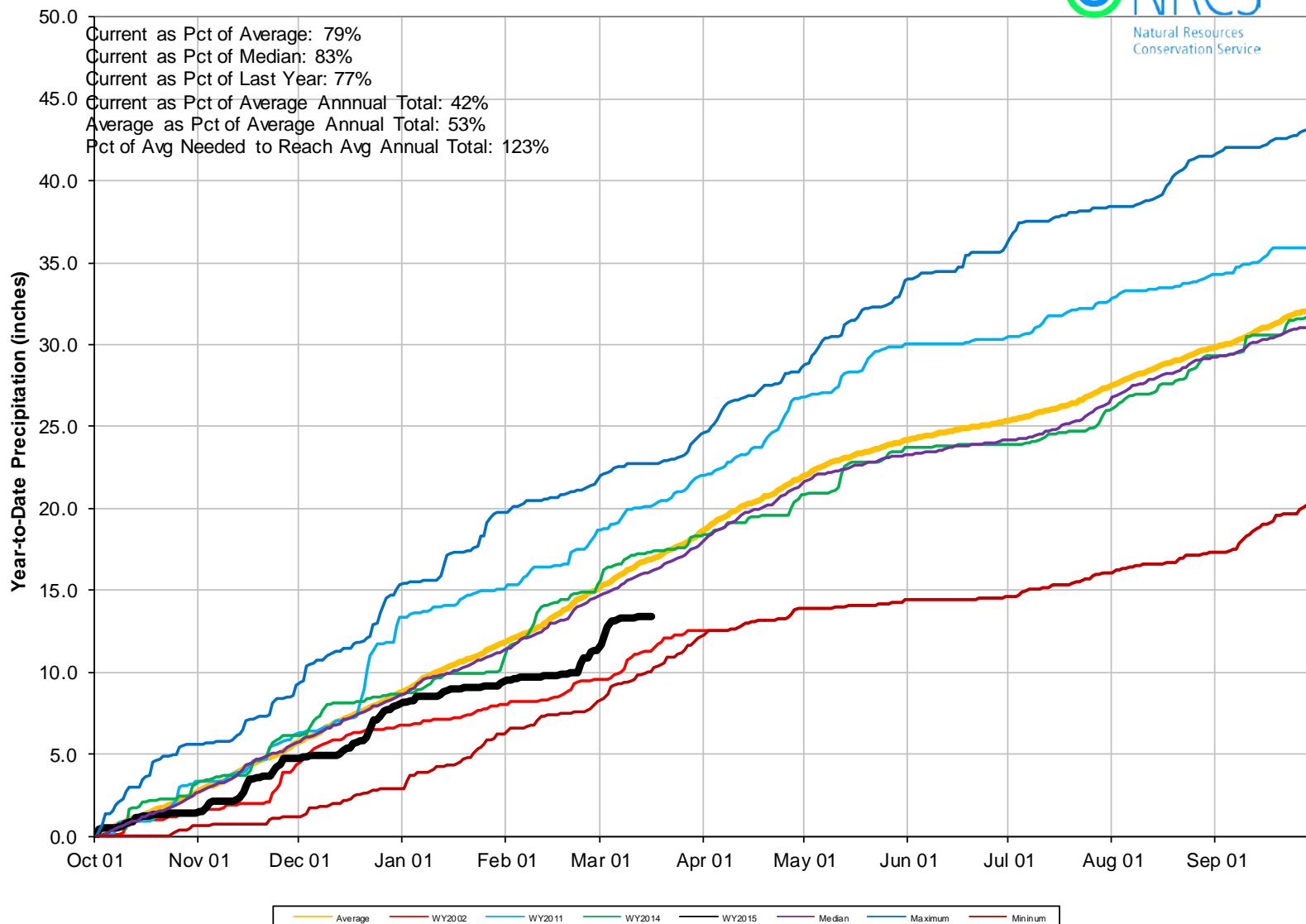
*Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Mar 16, 2015*





## Gunnison River Basin High/Low Year-to-Date Precipitation Summary

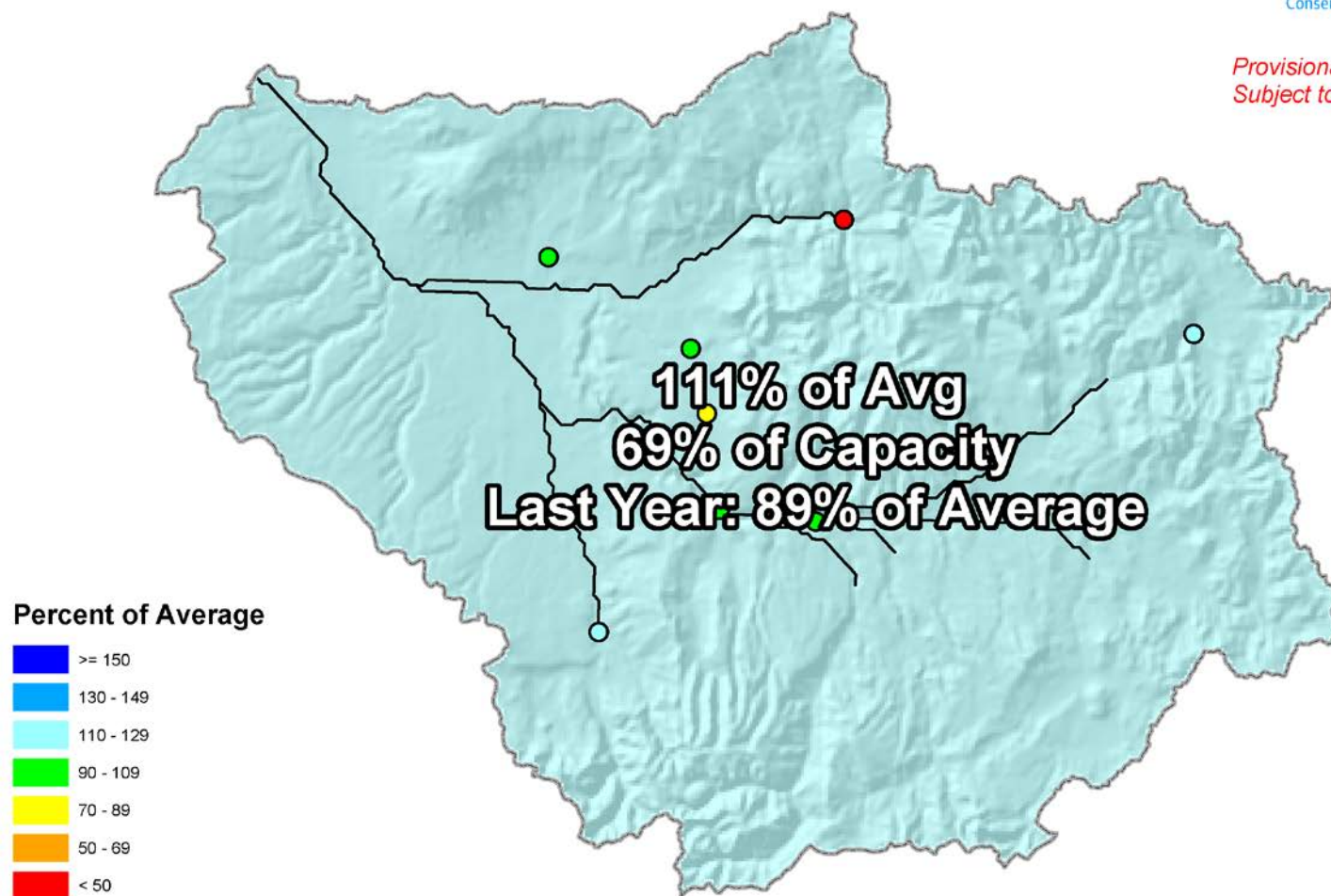
*Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Mar 16, 2015*



## Gunnison River Basin Reservoir Storage Map



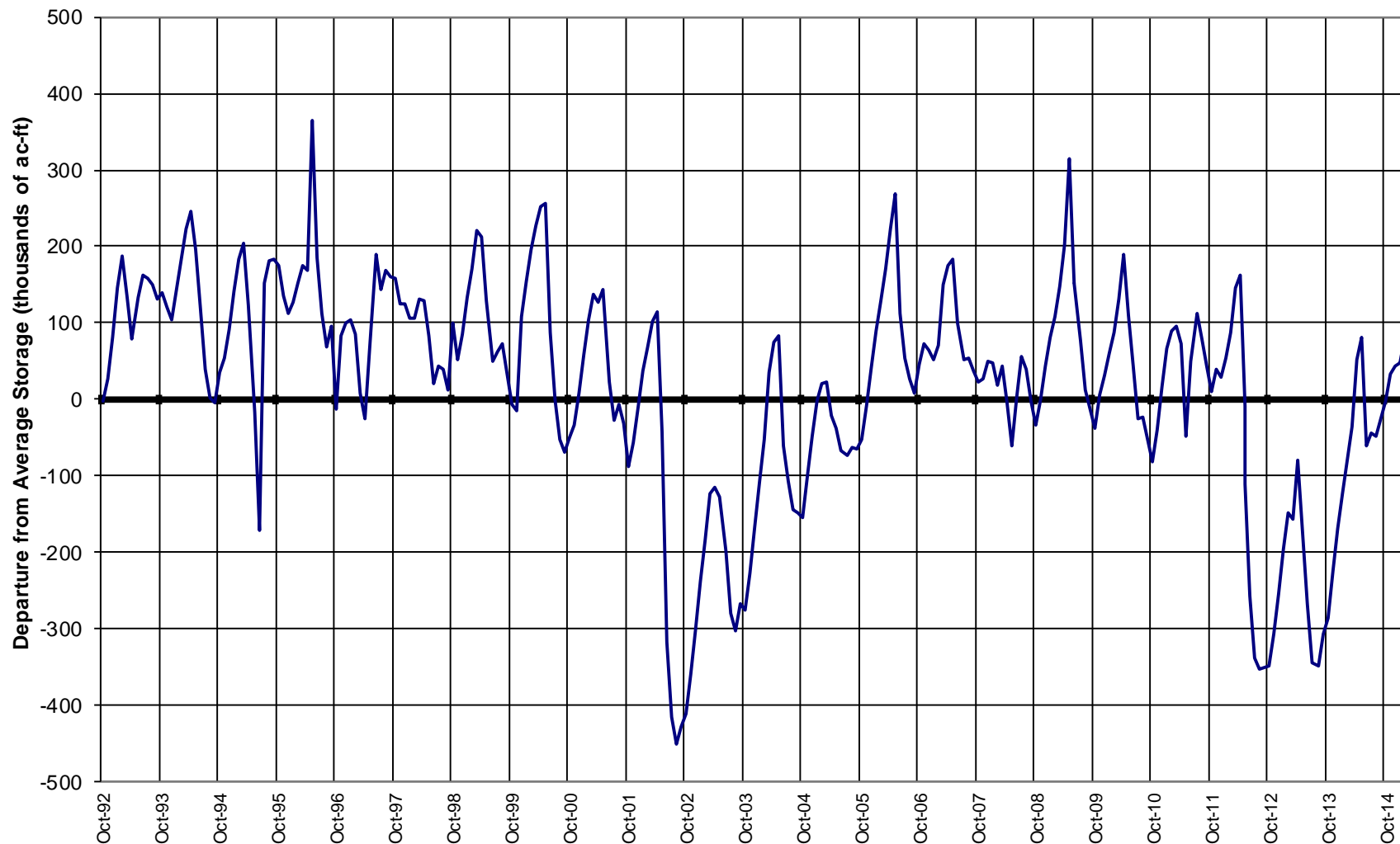
*Provisional Data  
Subject to Revision*



End of February 2015



## GUNNISON RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage Departure from Average

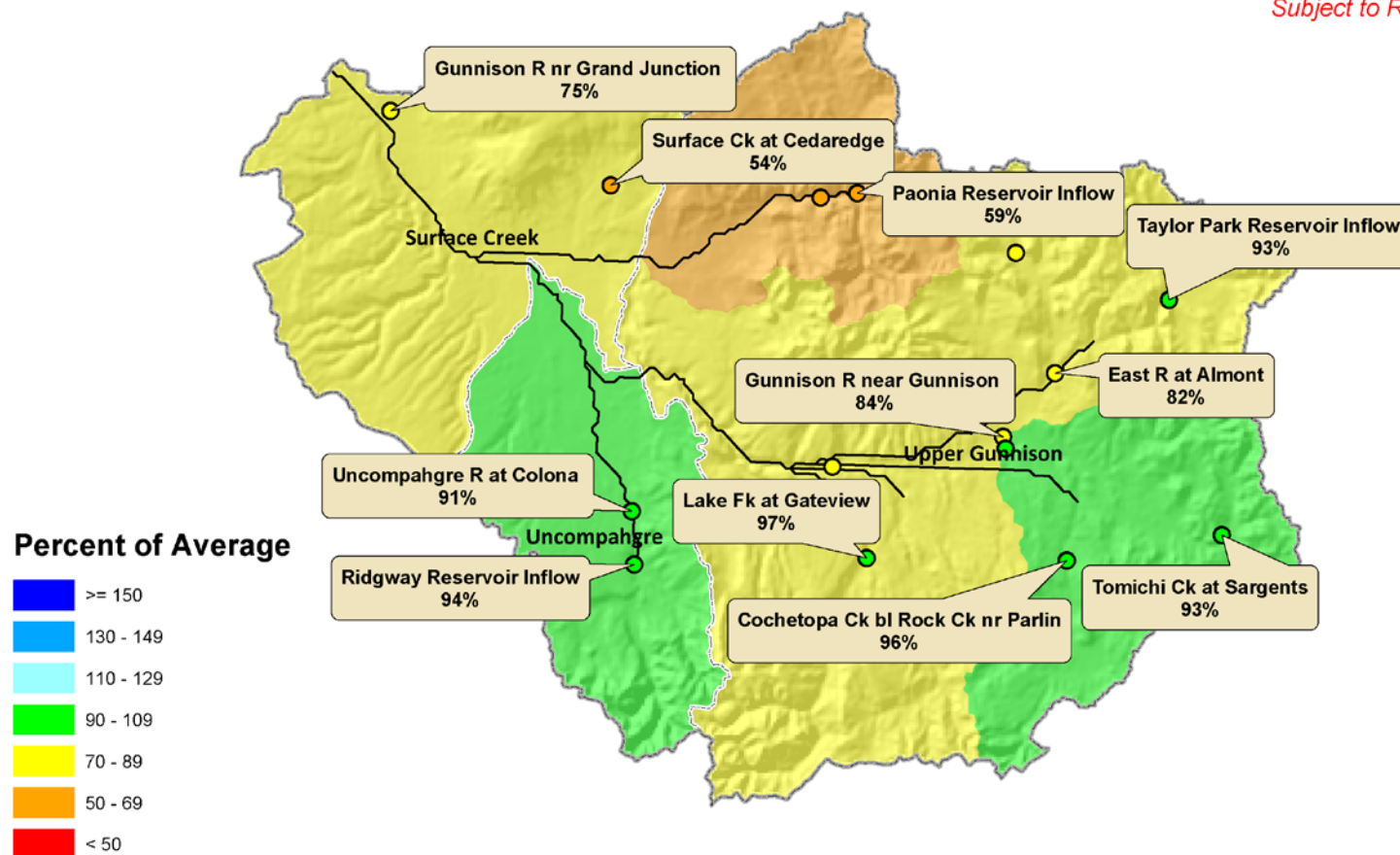




## Gunnison River Basin Streamflow Forecast Map



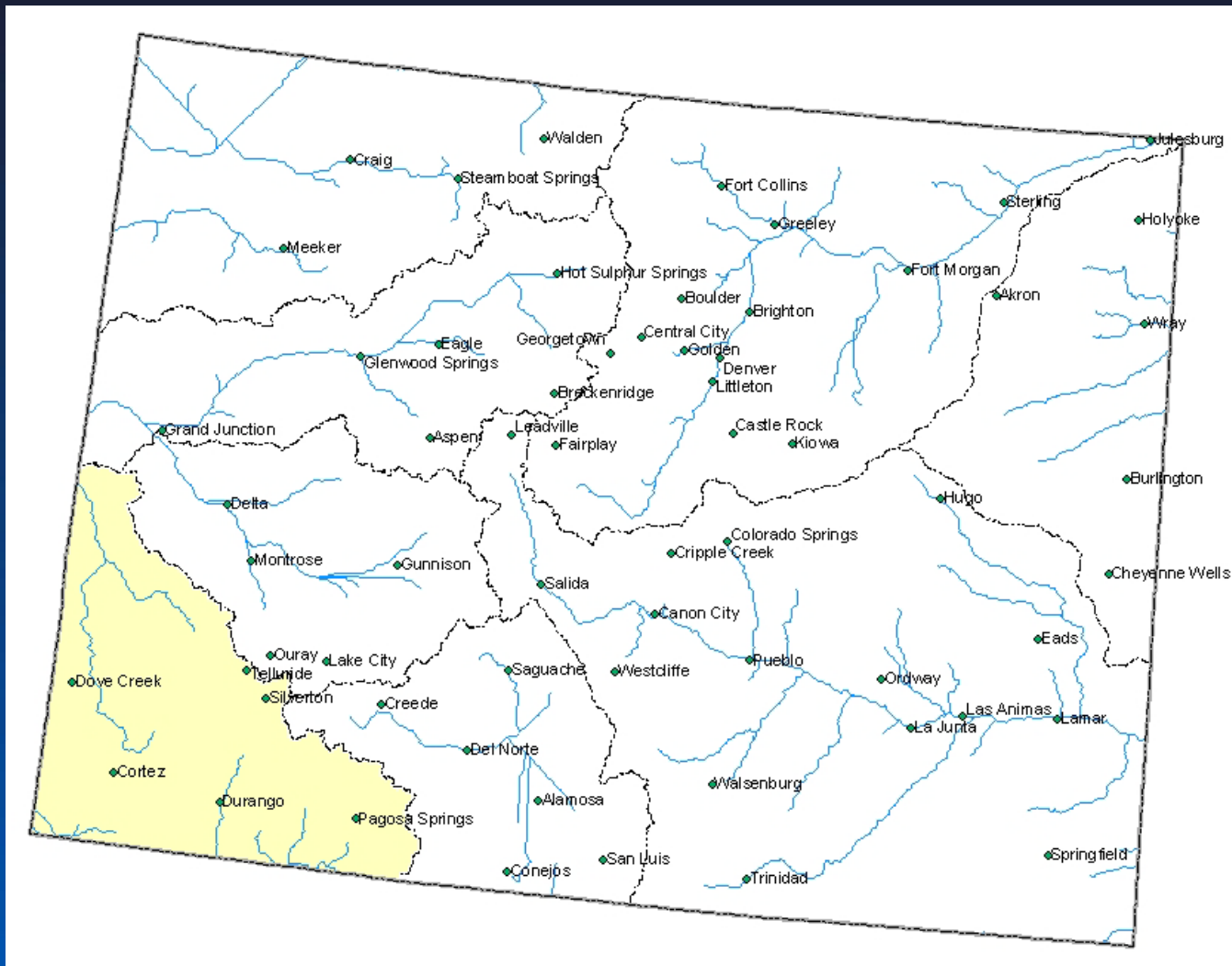
*Provisional Data  
Subject to Revision*



Current as of March 1, 2015



## San Miguel, Dolores, Animas & San Juan River Basins Summary



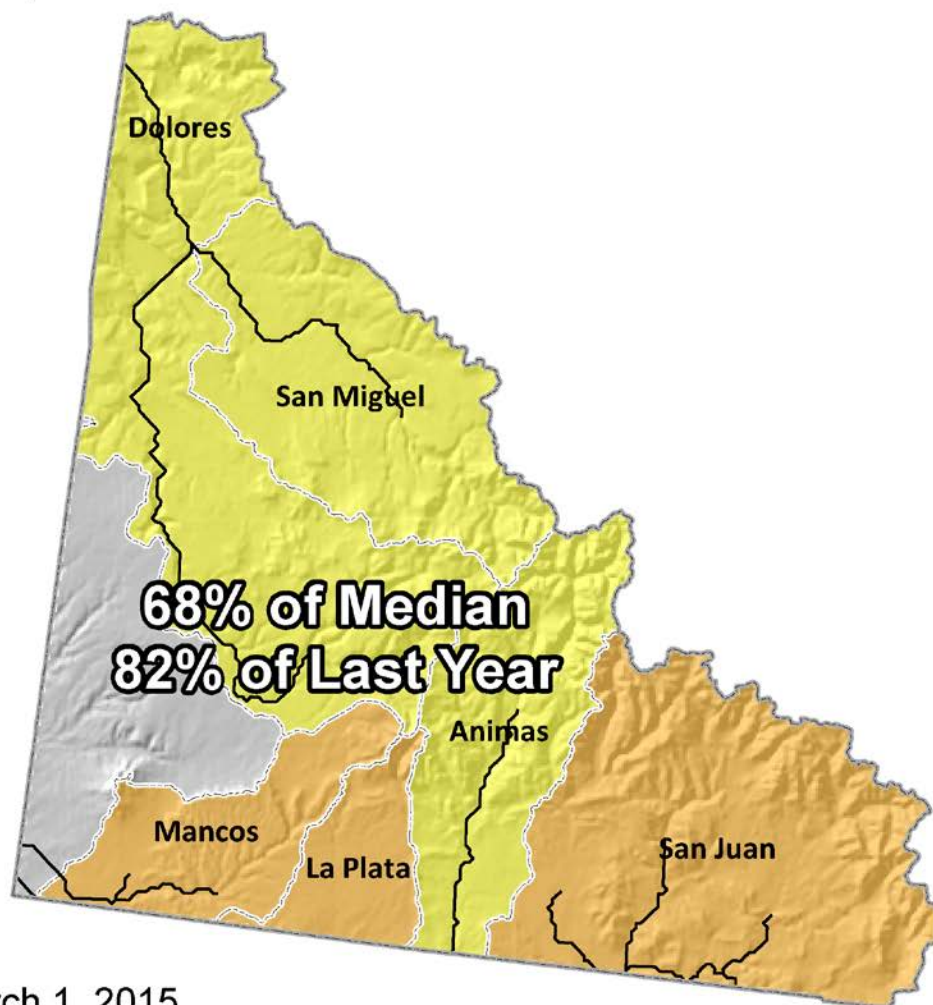
## San Miguel, Dolores, Animas and San Juan River Basins Snowpack Map



### Percent of Median



*Provisional Data  
Subject to Revision*

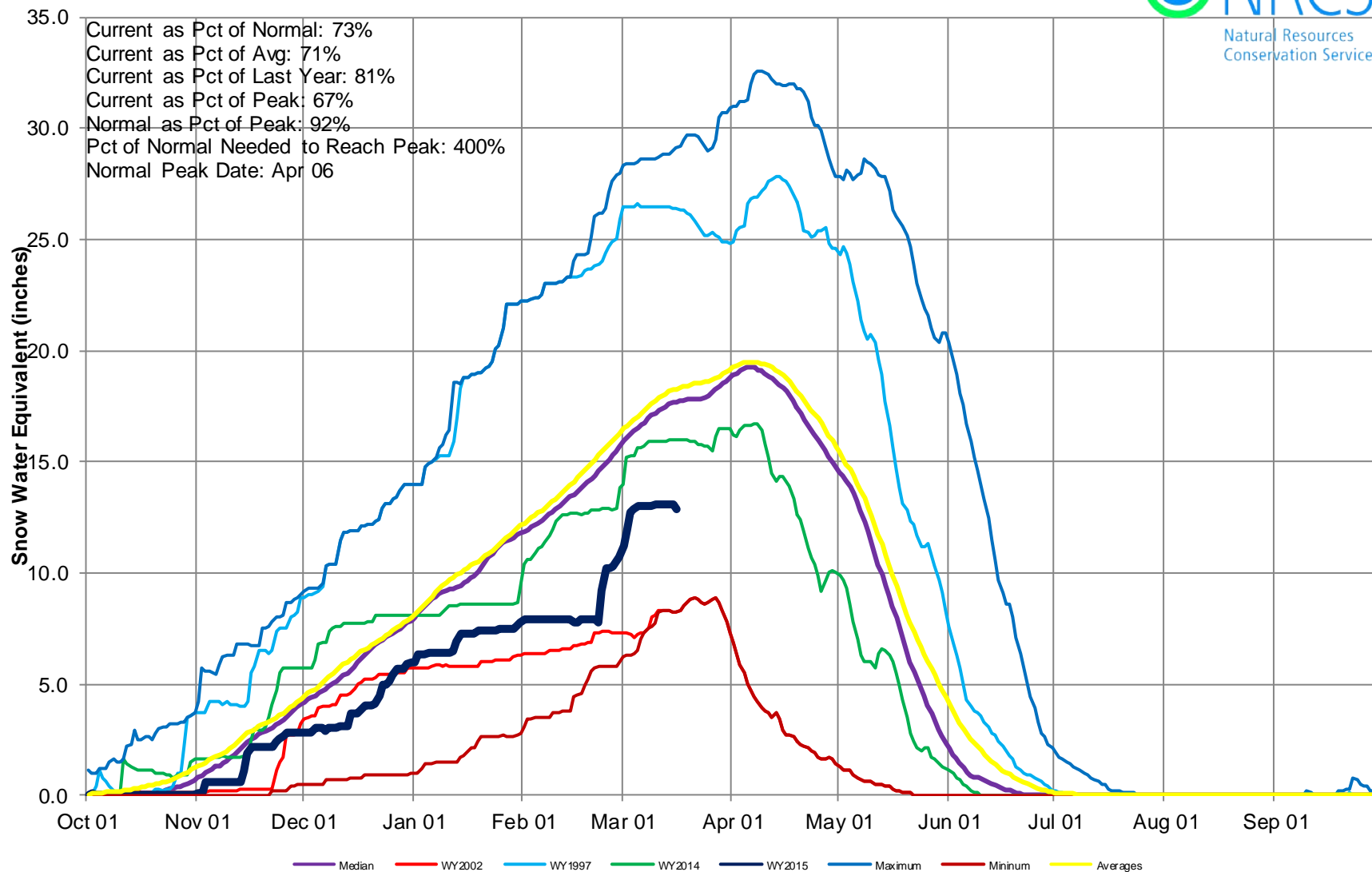


Current as of March 1, 2015

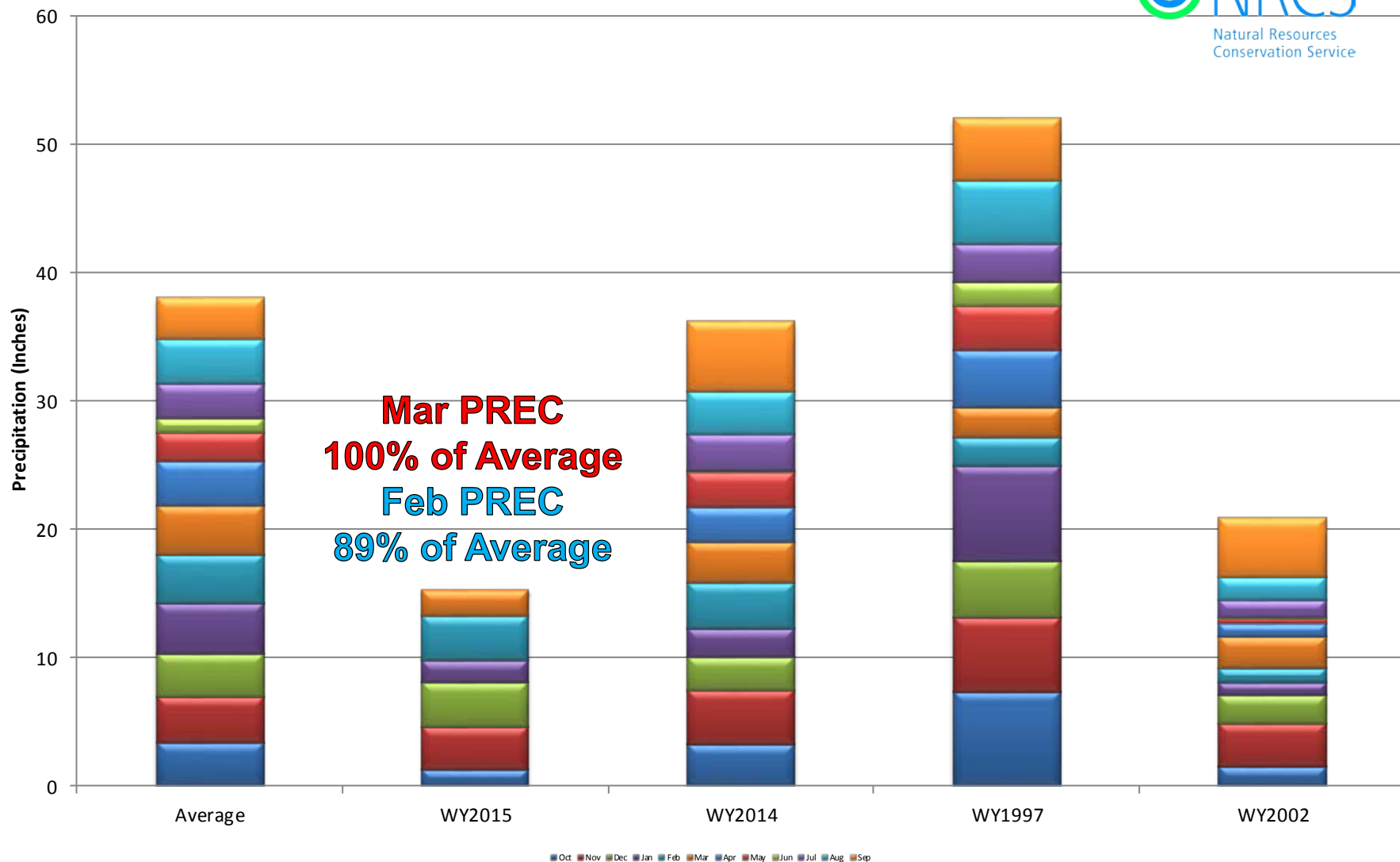


## San Miguel, Dolores, Animas and San Juan River Basins High/Low Snowpack Summary

*Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Mar 16, 2015*



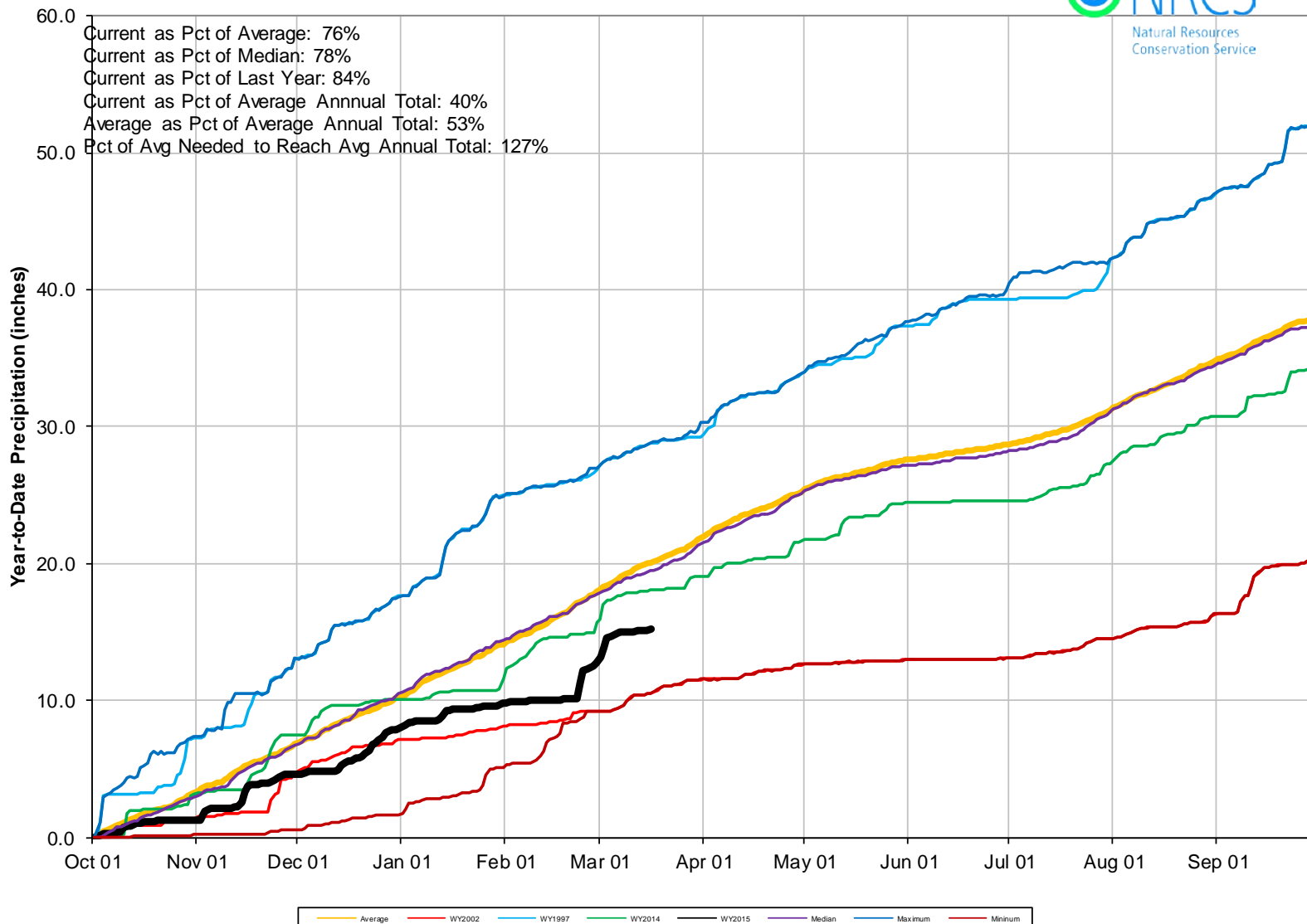
## San Miguel, Dolores, Animas & San Juan River Basins High/Low Monthly Precipitation Summary





## San Miguel, Dolores, Animas & San Juan River Basins High/Low Year-to-Date Precipitation Summary

*Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Mar 16, 2015*

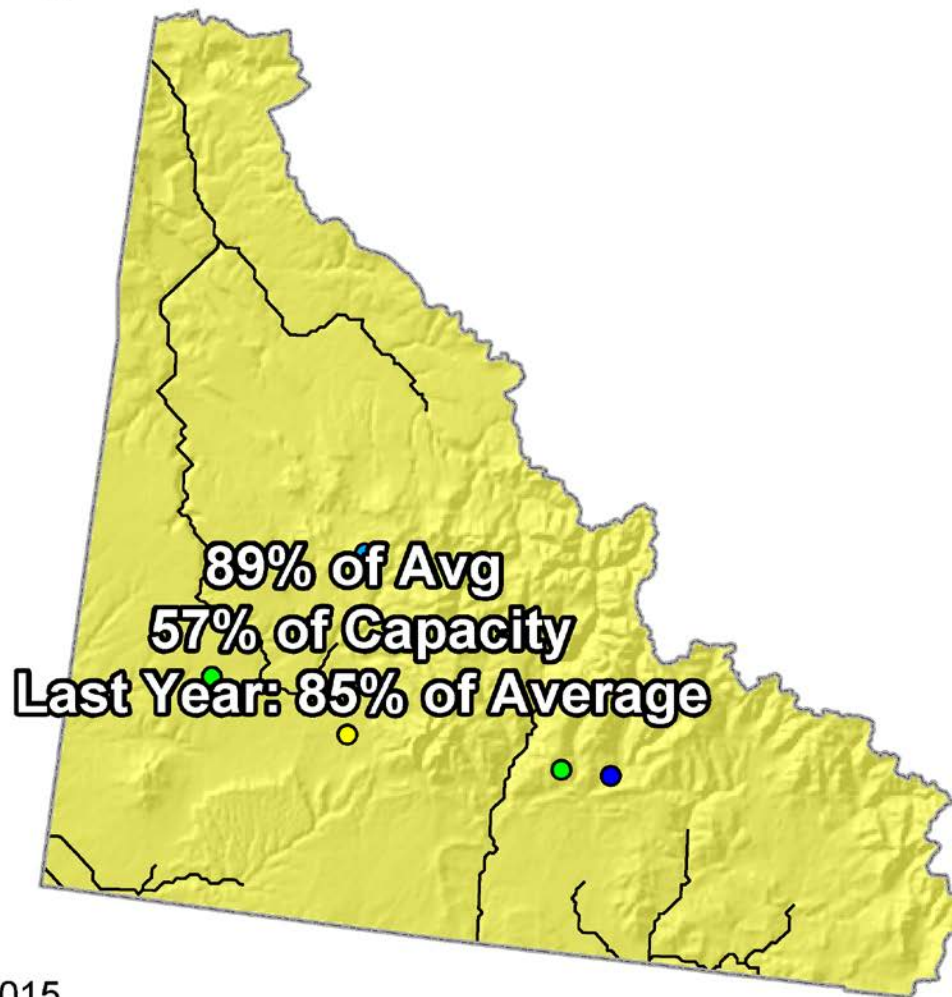


## San Miguel, Dolores, Animas and San Juan River Basins Reservoir Storage Map



*Provisional Data  
Subject to Revision*

### Percent of Average



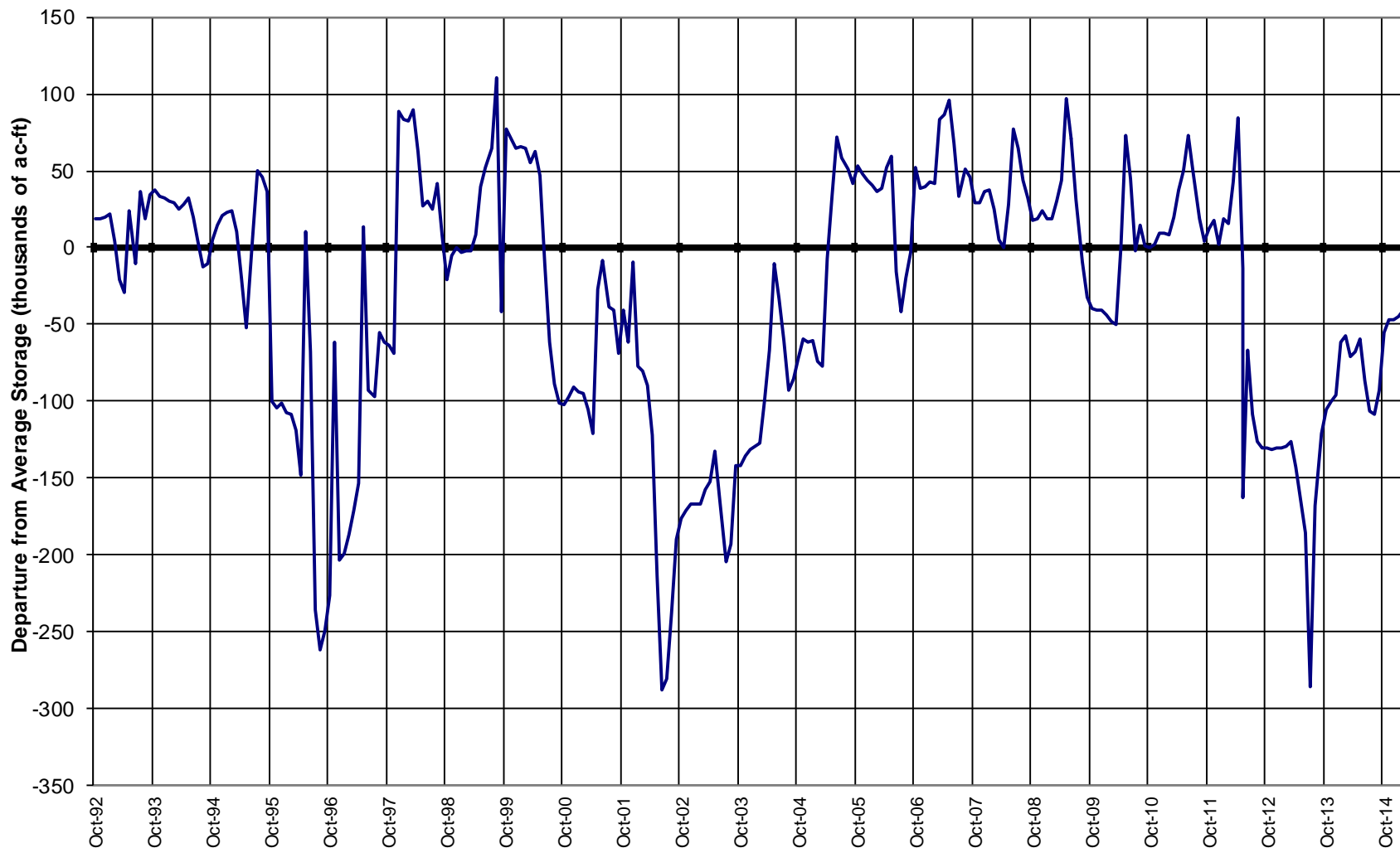
End of February 2015





## SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES, ANIMAS AND SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS

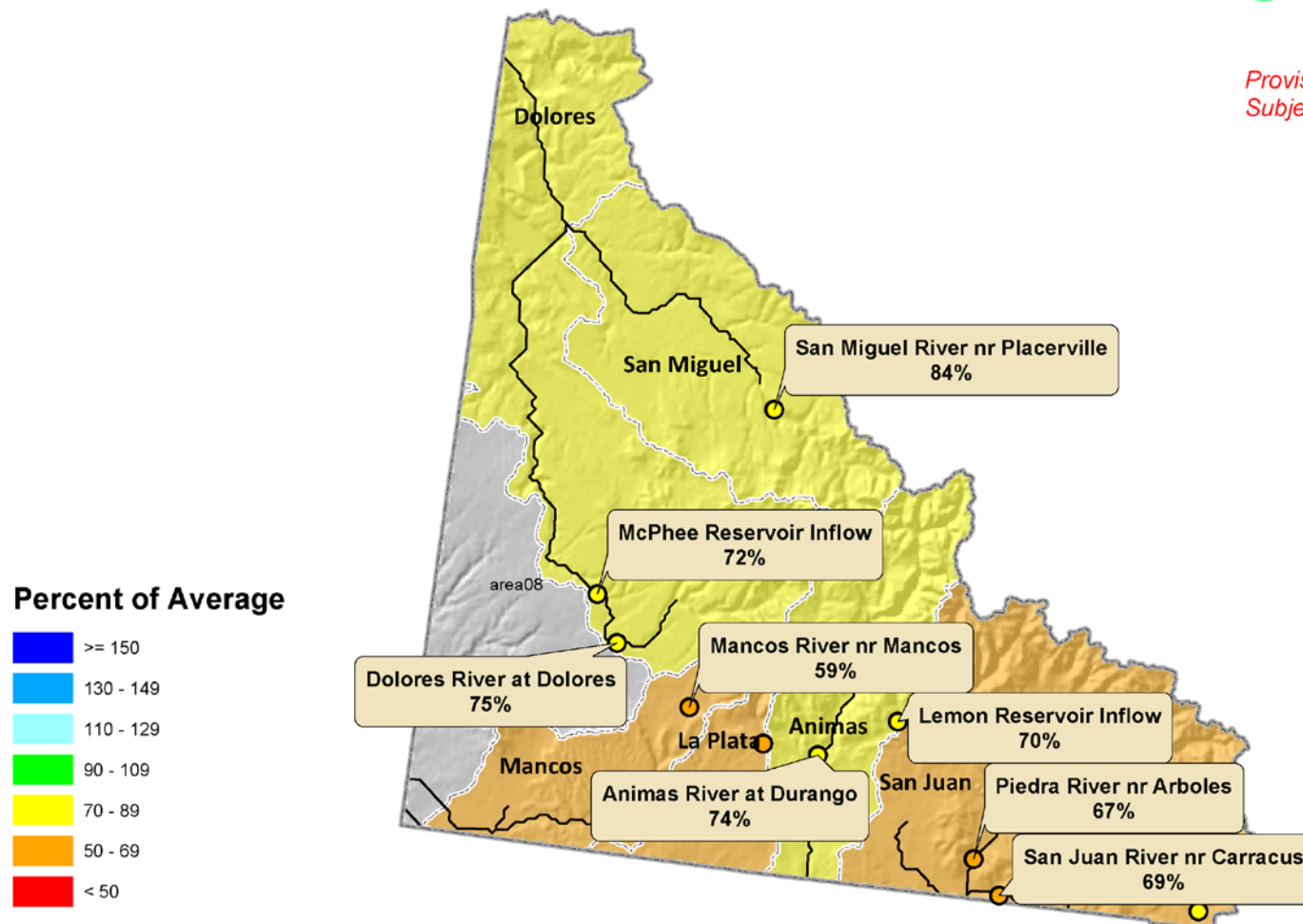
Reservoir Storage  
Departure from Average



## San Miguel, Dolores, Animas and San Juan River Basins Streamflow Forecast Map

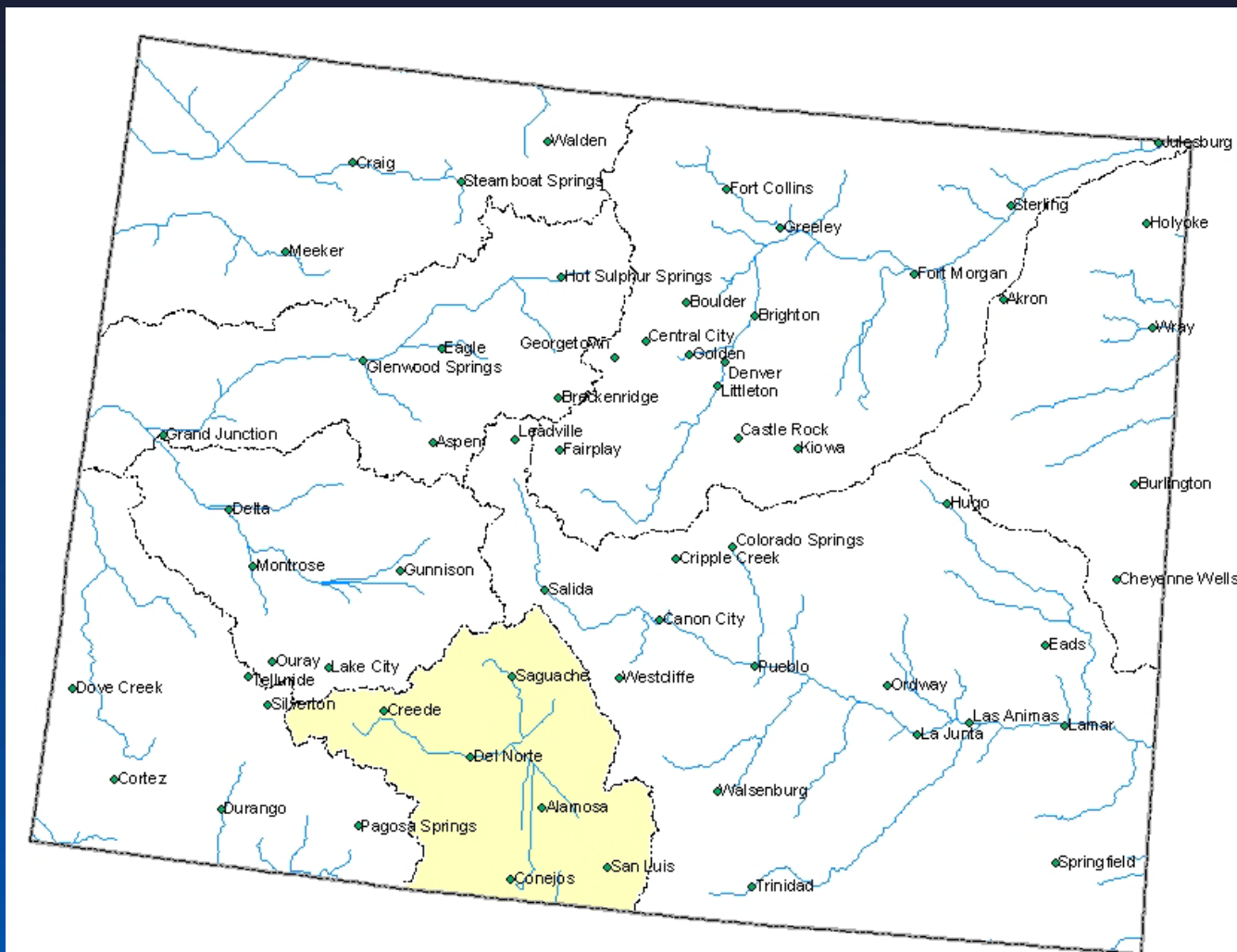


*Provisional Data  
Subject to Revision*



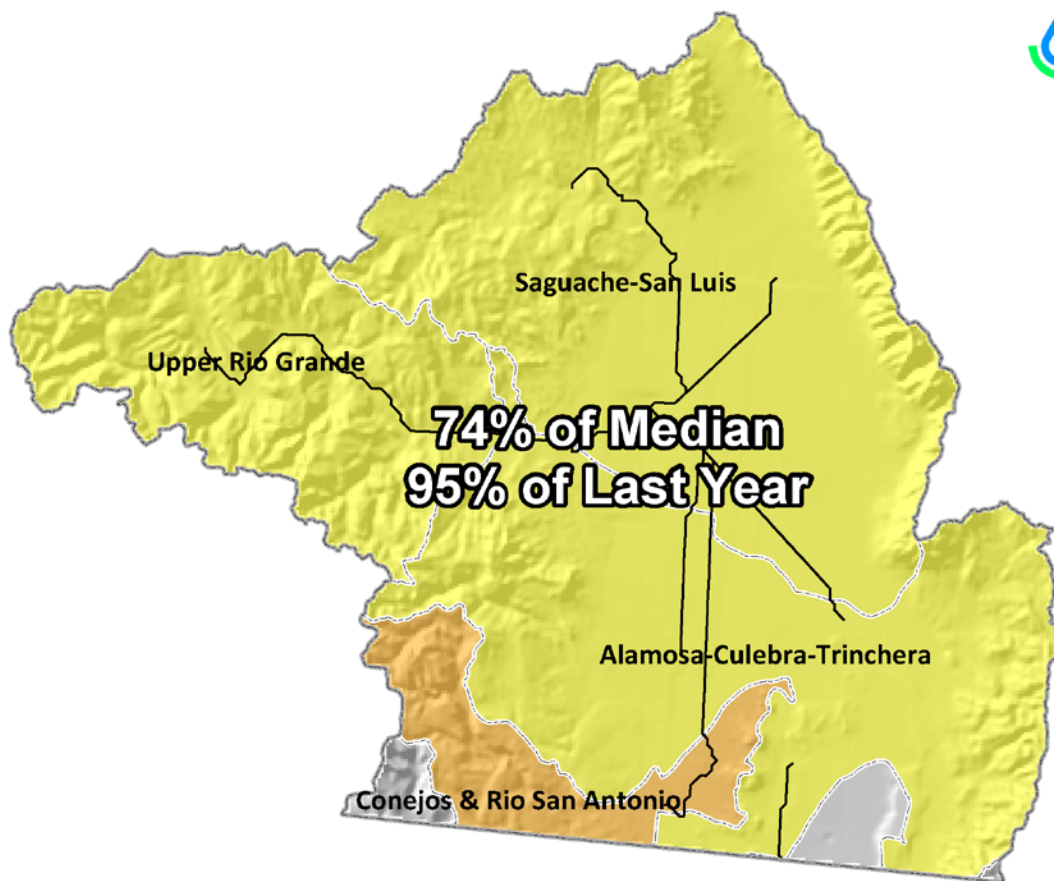
Current as of March 1, 2015

## Upper Rio Grande Basin Summary



## Upper Rio Grande Basin Snowpack Map

### Percent of Median



*Provisional Data  
Subject to Revision*

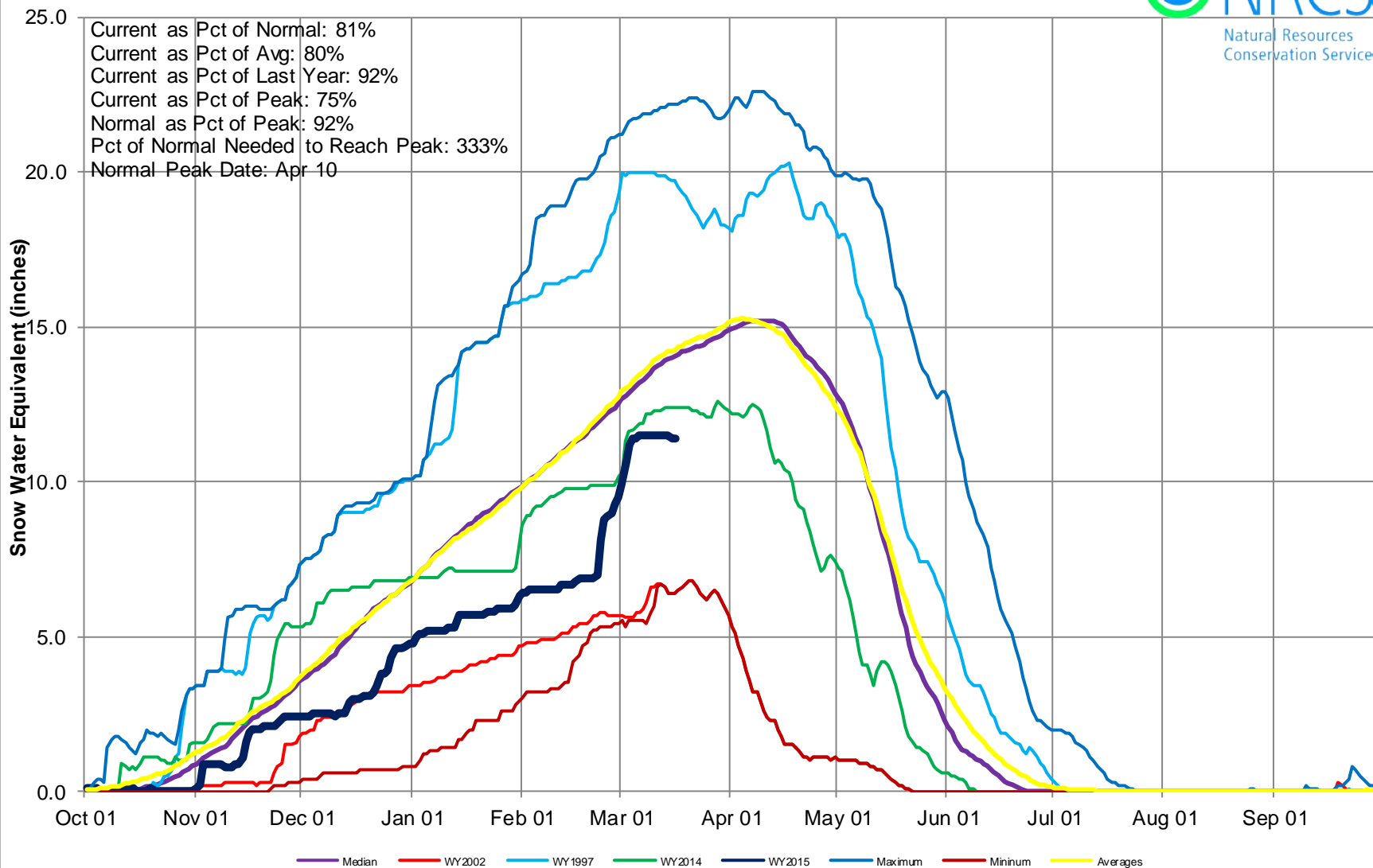


Current as of March 1, 2015



## Upper Rio Grande Basin High/Low Snowpack Summary

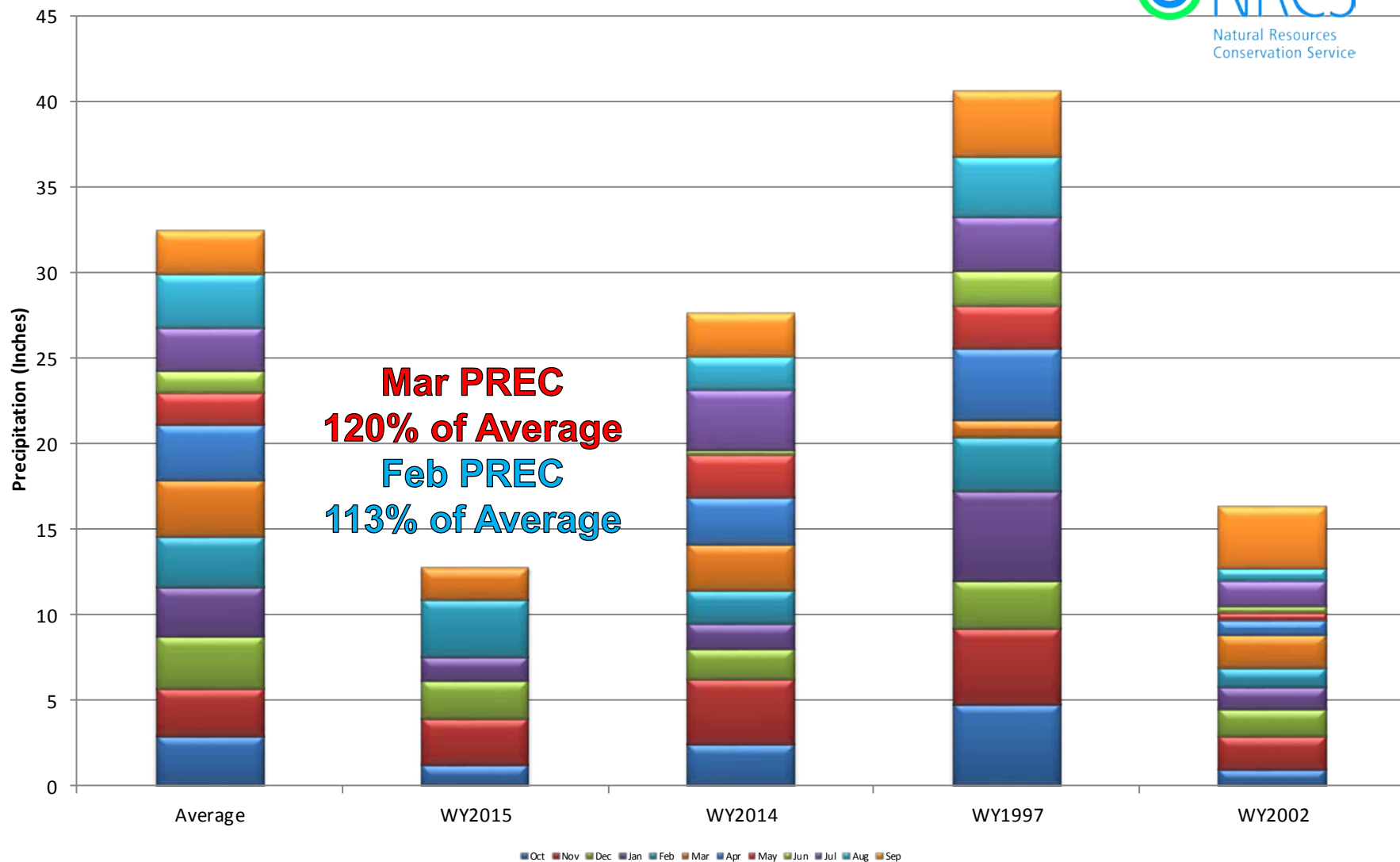
*Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Mar 16, 2015*





## Upper Rio Grande Basin High/Low Monthly Precipitation Summary

*Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Mar 16, 2015*

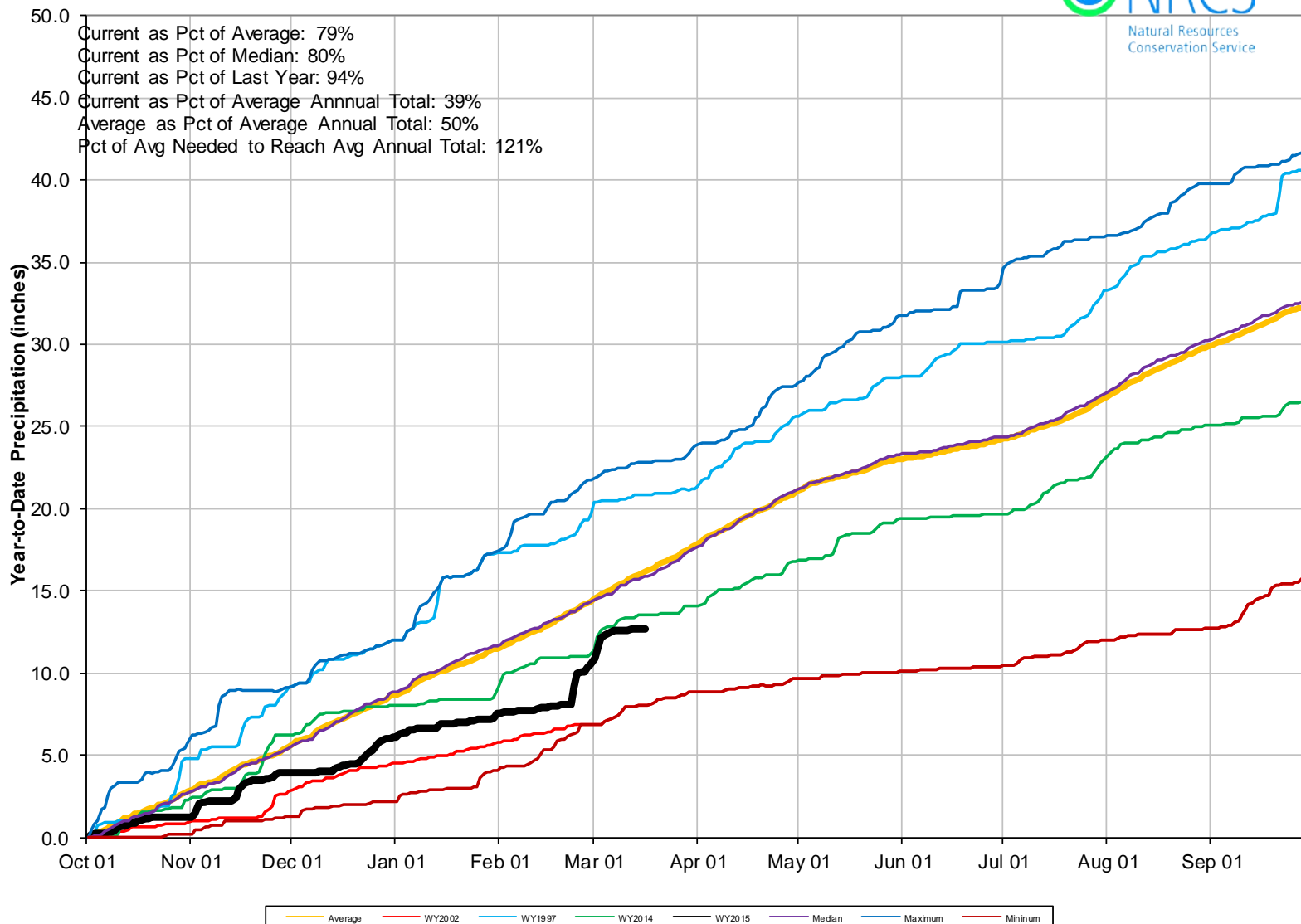






## Upper Rio Grande Basin High/Low Year-to-Date Precipitation Summary

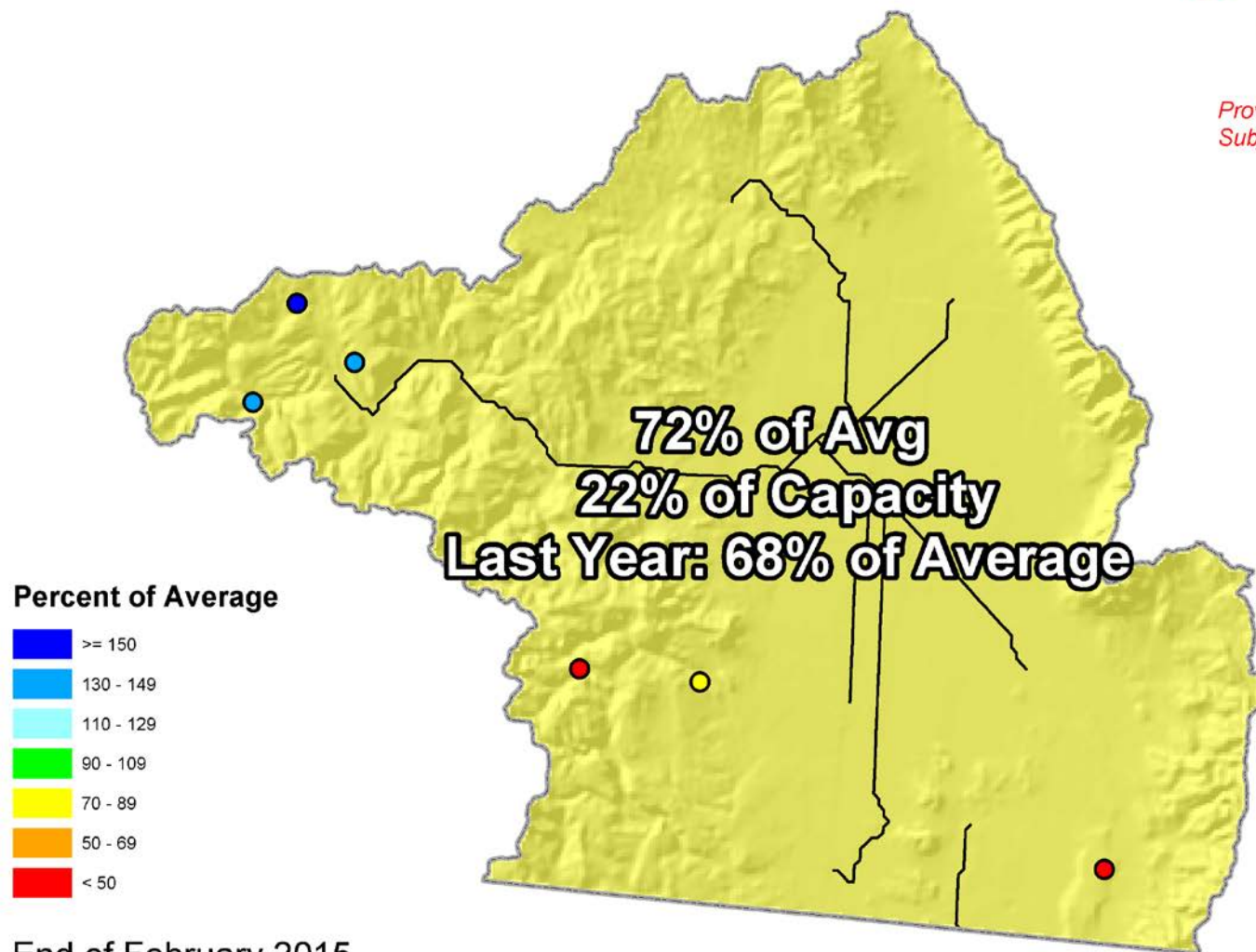
*Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Mar 16, 2015*



## Upper Rio Grande Basin Reservoir Storage Map



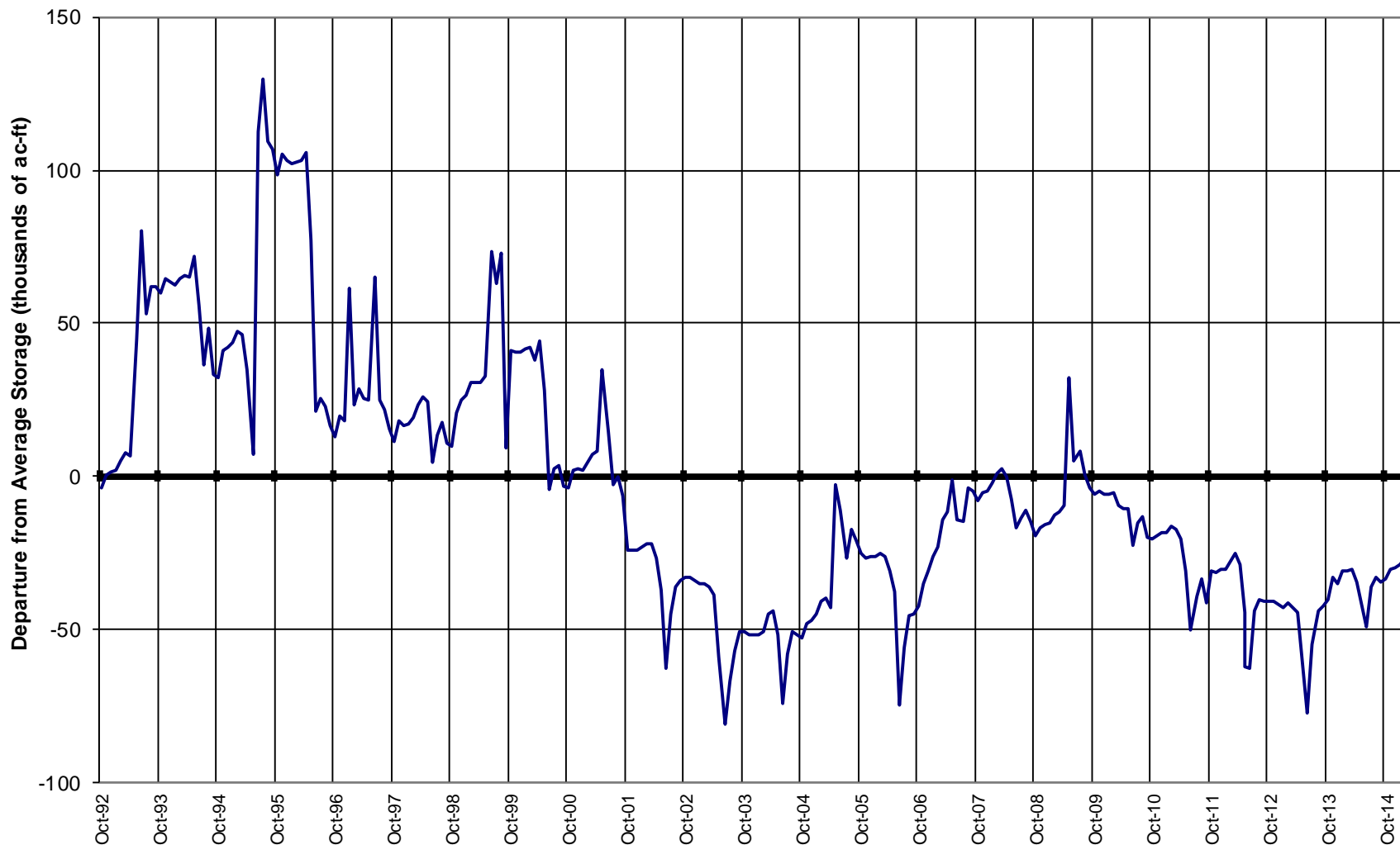
*Provisional Data  
Subject to Revision*



End of February 2015



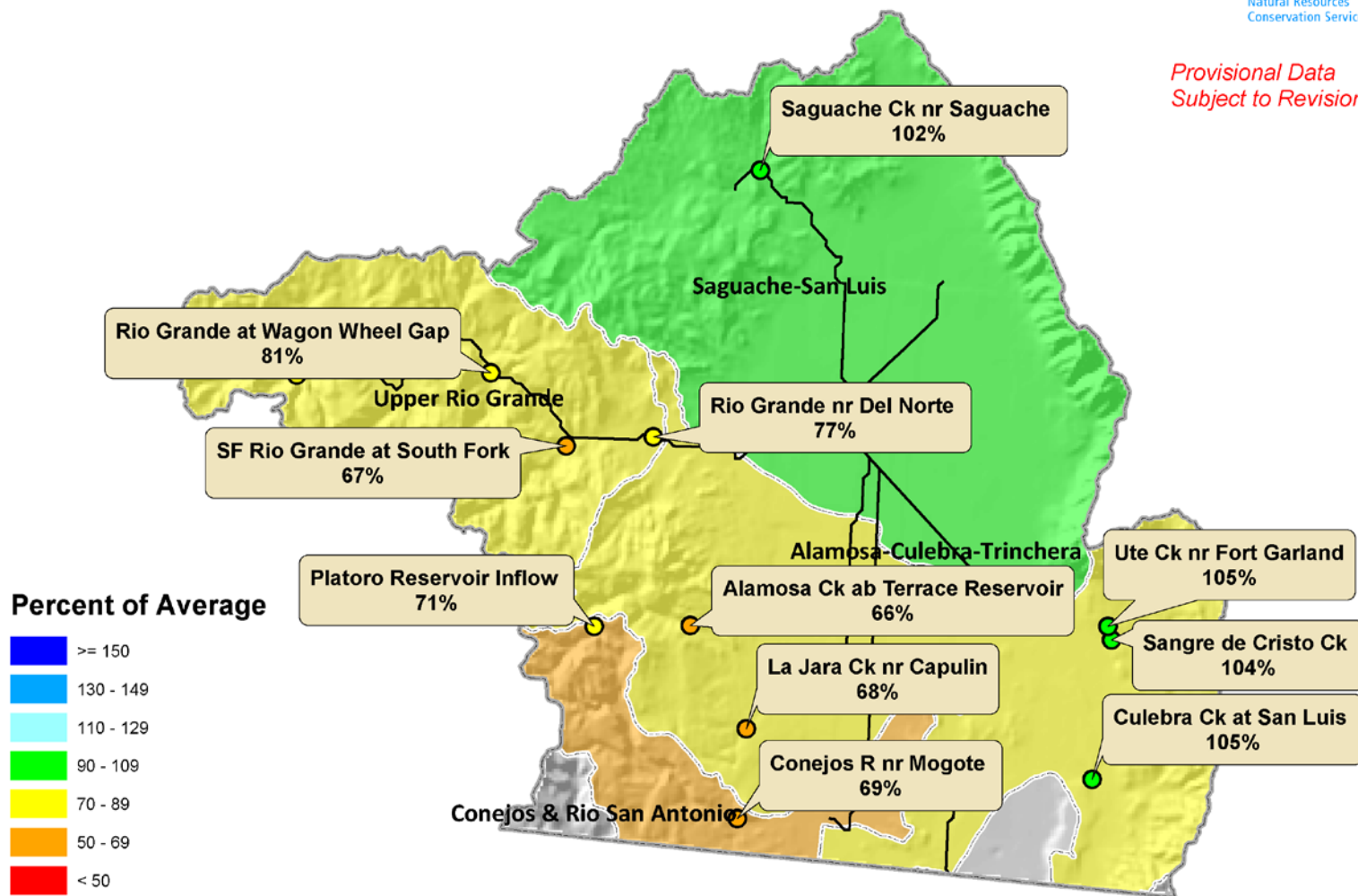
## UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN Reservoir Storage Departure from Average



## Upper Rio Grande Basin Streamflow Forecast Map



*Provisional Data  
Subject to Revision*



Current as of March 1, 2015

## Arkansas River Basin Summary

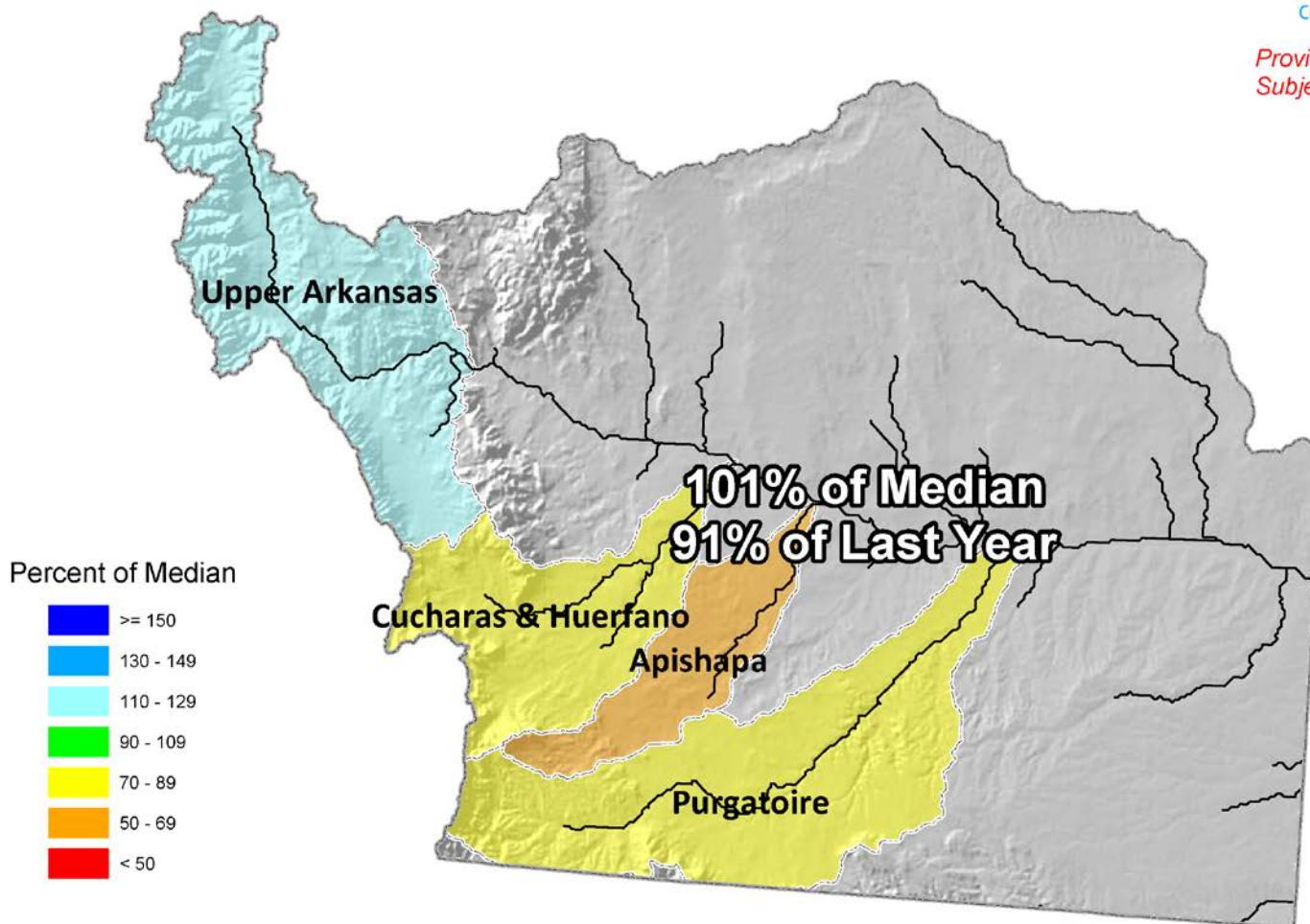




## Arkansas River Basin Snowpack Map



*Provisional Data  
Subject to Revision*



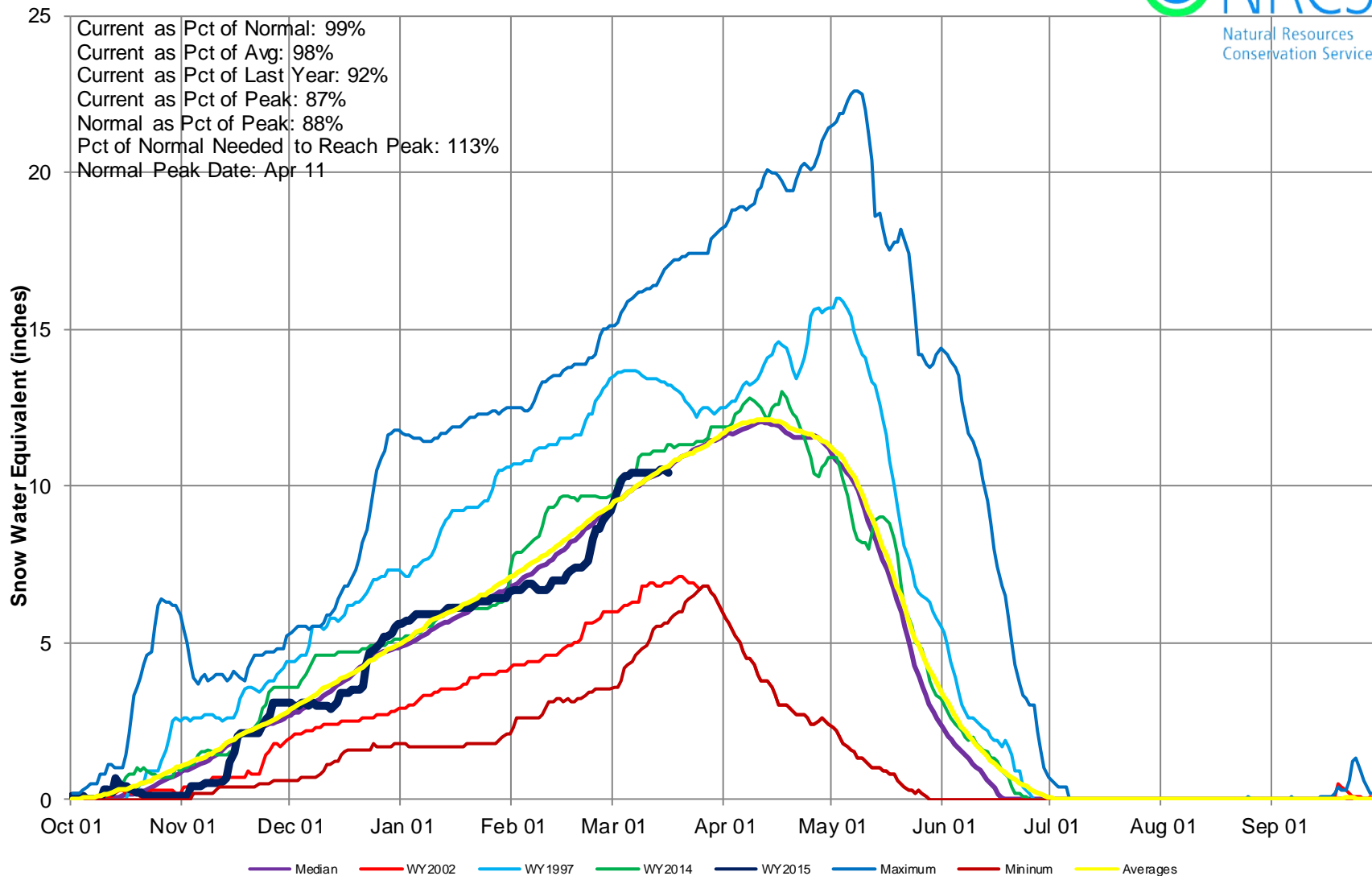
Current as of March 1, 2015





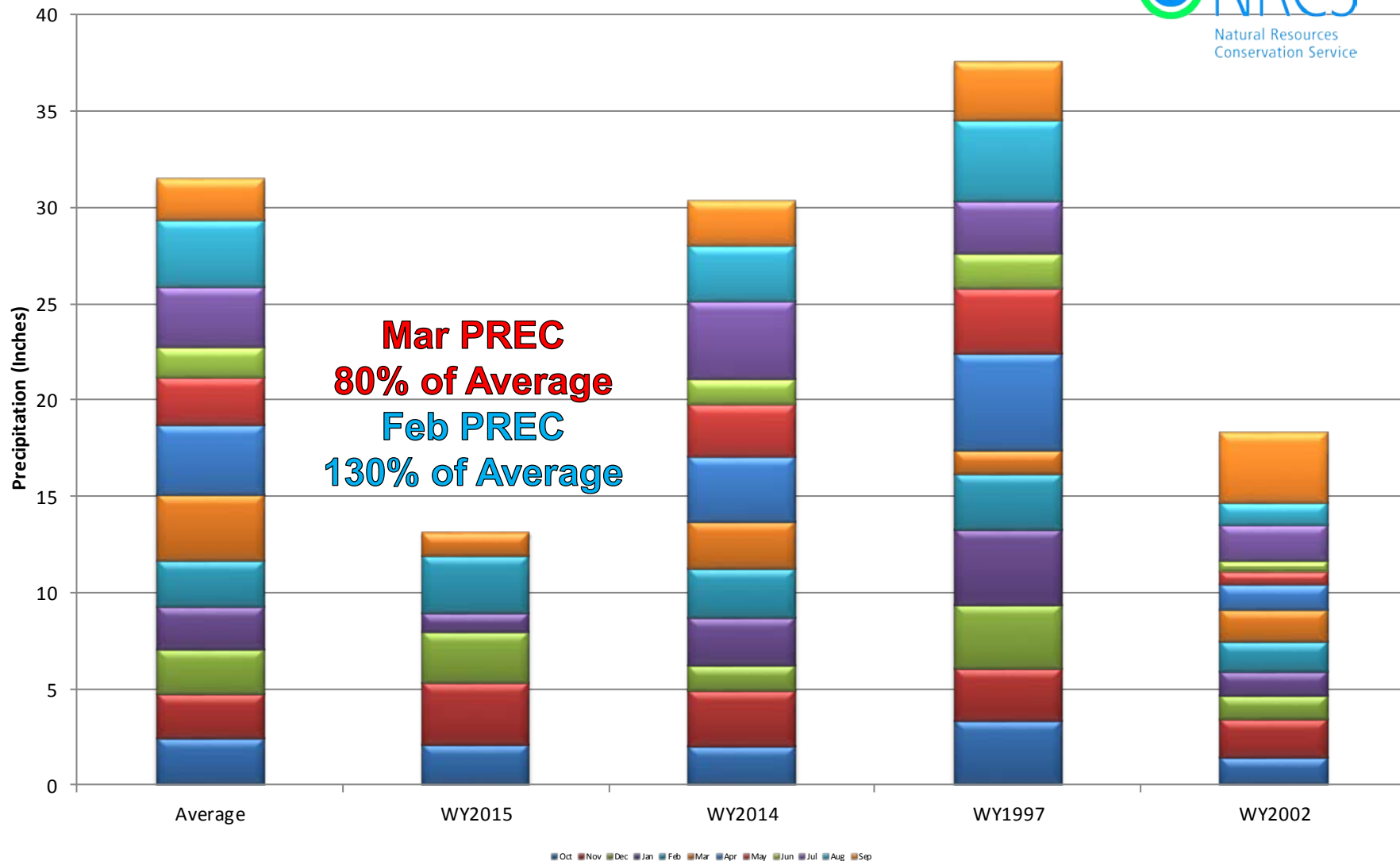
## Arkansas River Basin High/Low Snowpack Summary

*Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Mar 16, 2015*



## Arkansas River Basin High/Low Monthly Precipitation Summary

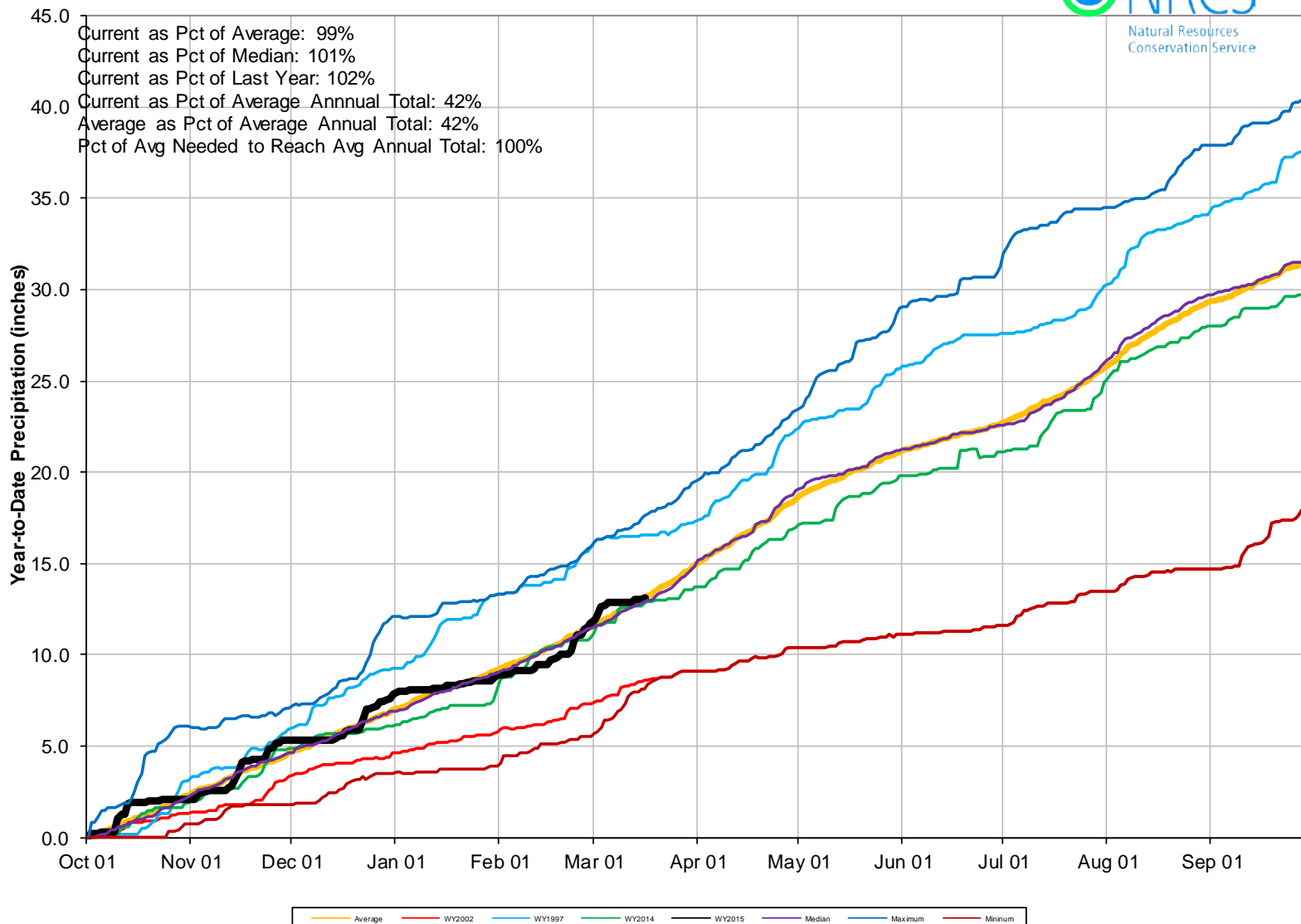
*Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Mar 16, 2015*





## Arkansas River Basin High/Low Year-to-Date Precipitation Summary

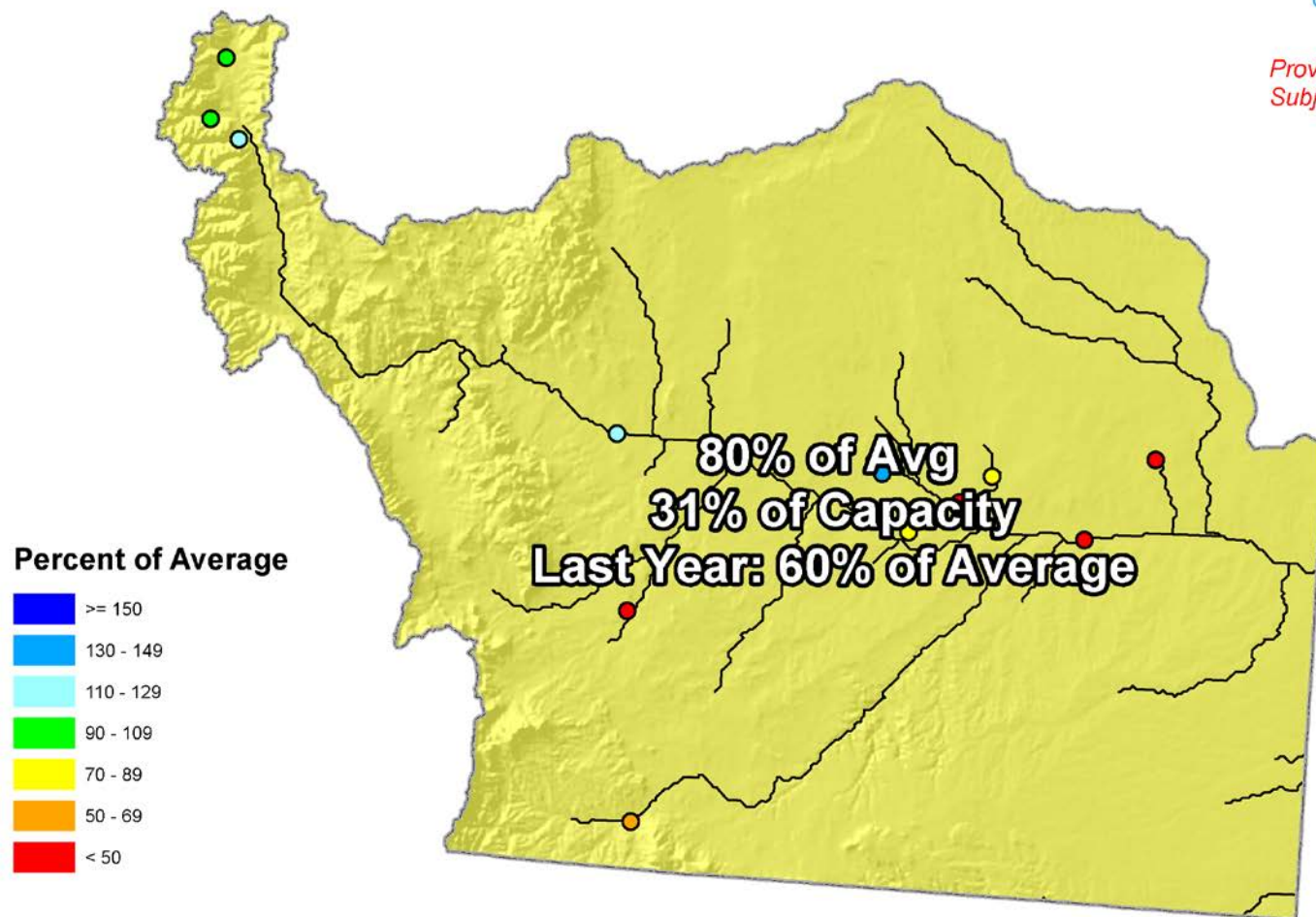
*Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Mar 16, 2015*



## Arkansas River Basin Reservoir Storage Map



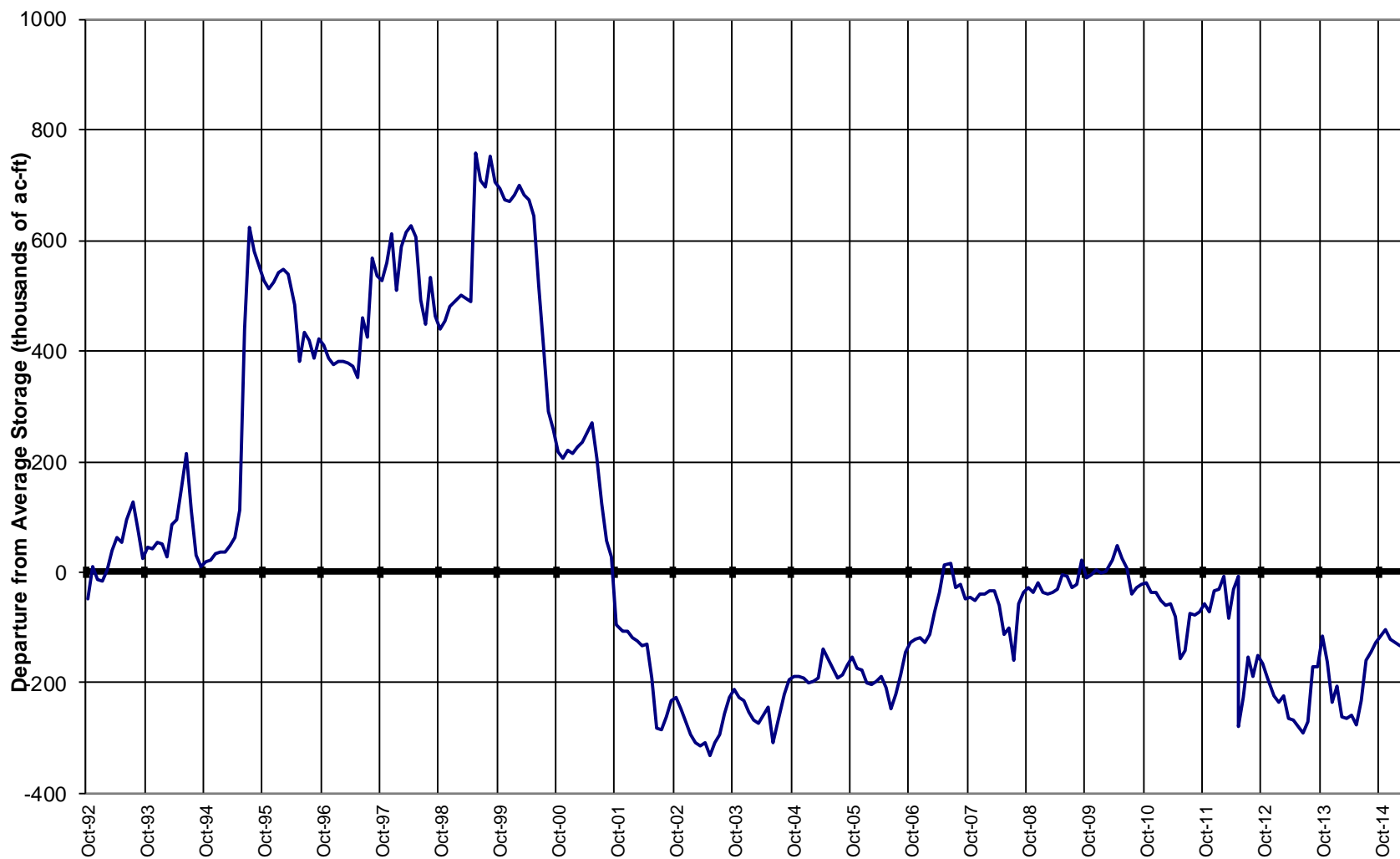
*Provisional Data  
Subject to Revision*



End of February 2015



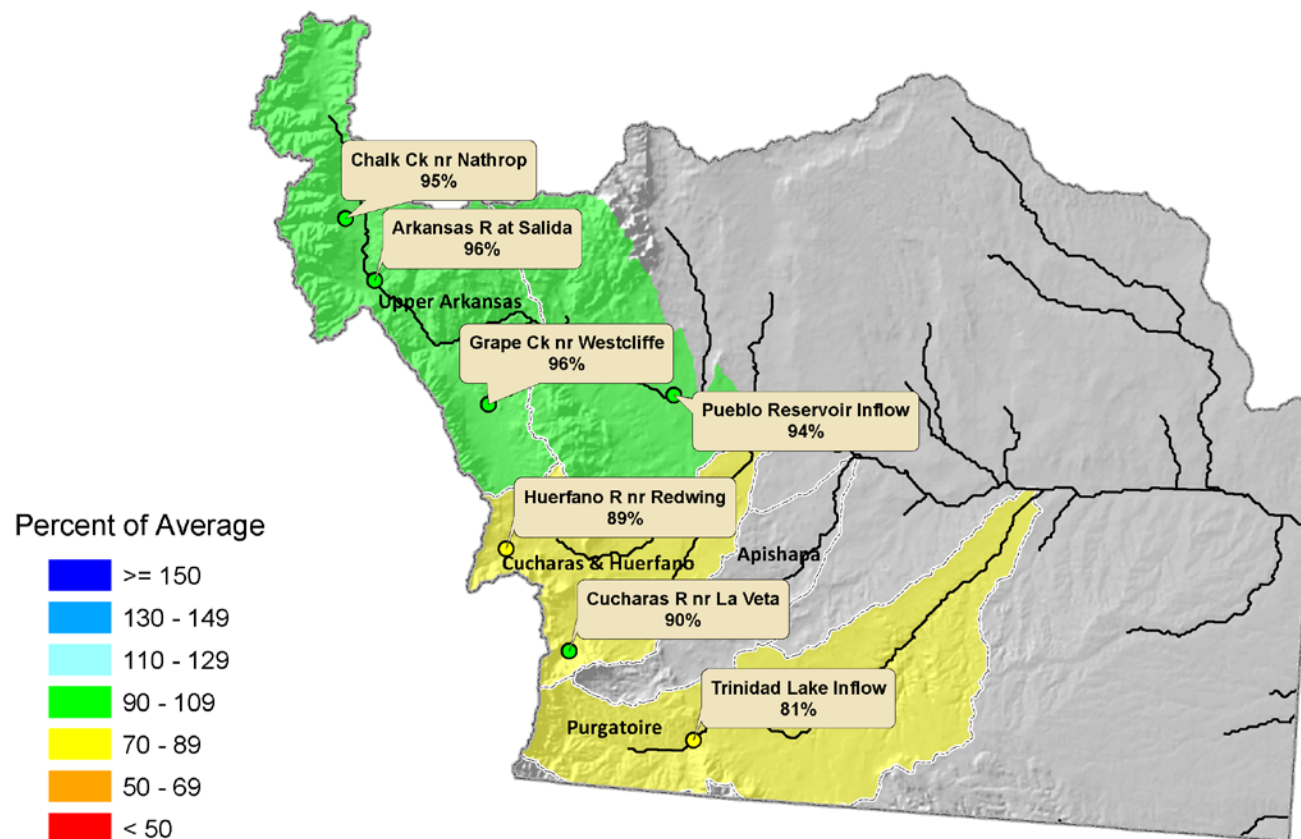
## ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage Departure from Average



## Arkansas River Basin Streamflow Forecast Map



*Provisional Data  
Subject to Revision*



Current as of March 1, 2015

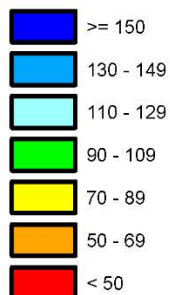


## Colorado Statewide Summary

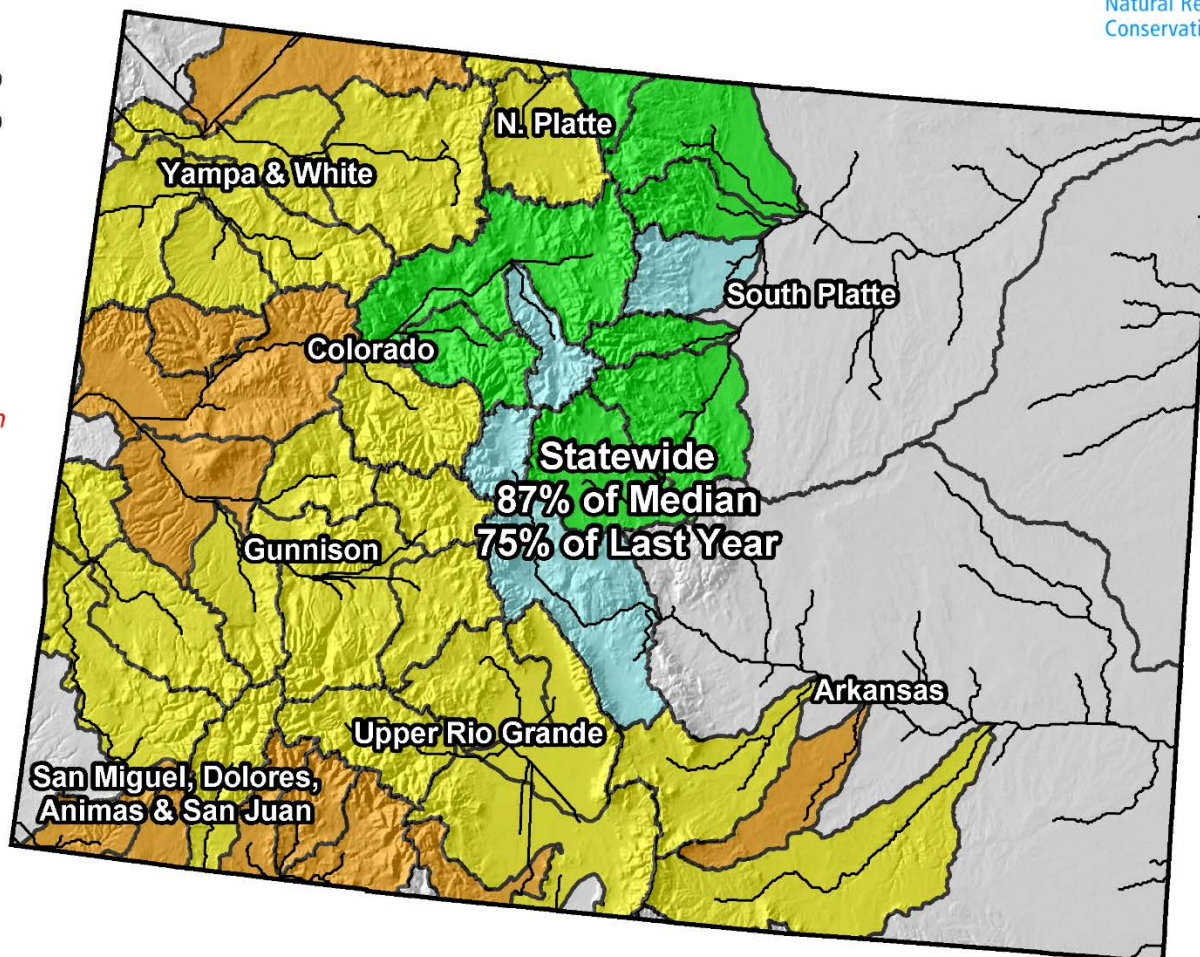


## Colorado Snowpack Map

### Percent of Median



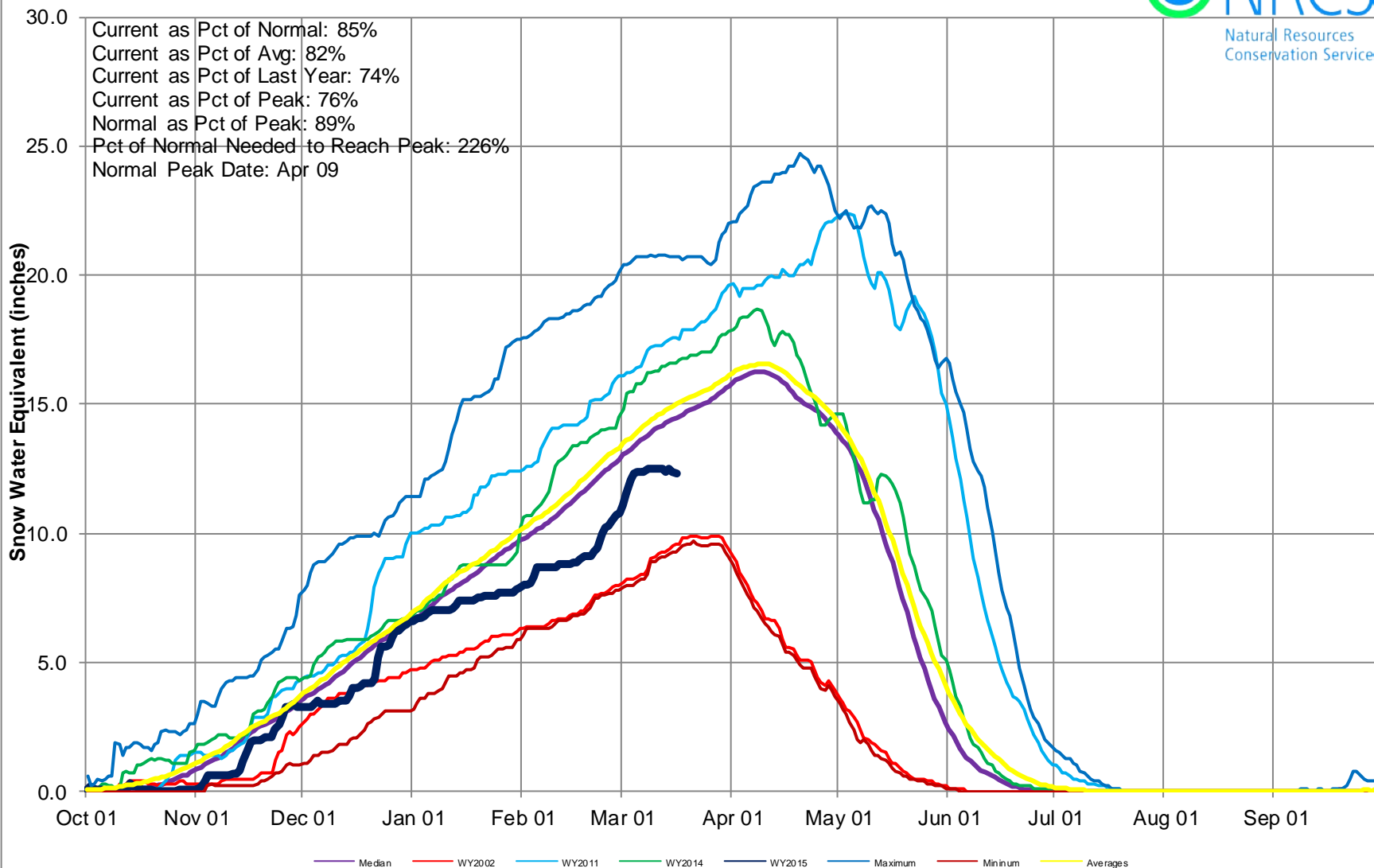
*Provisional Data  
Subject to Revision*





## Colorado Statewide High/Low Snowpack Summary

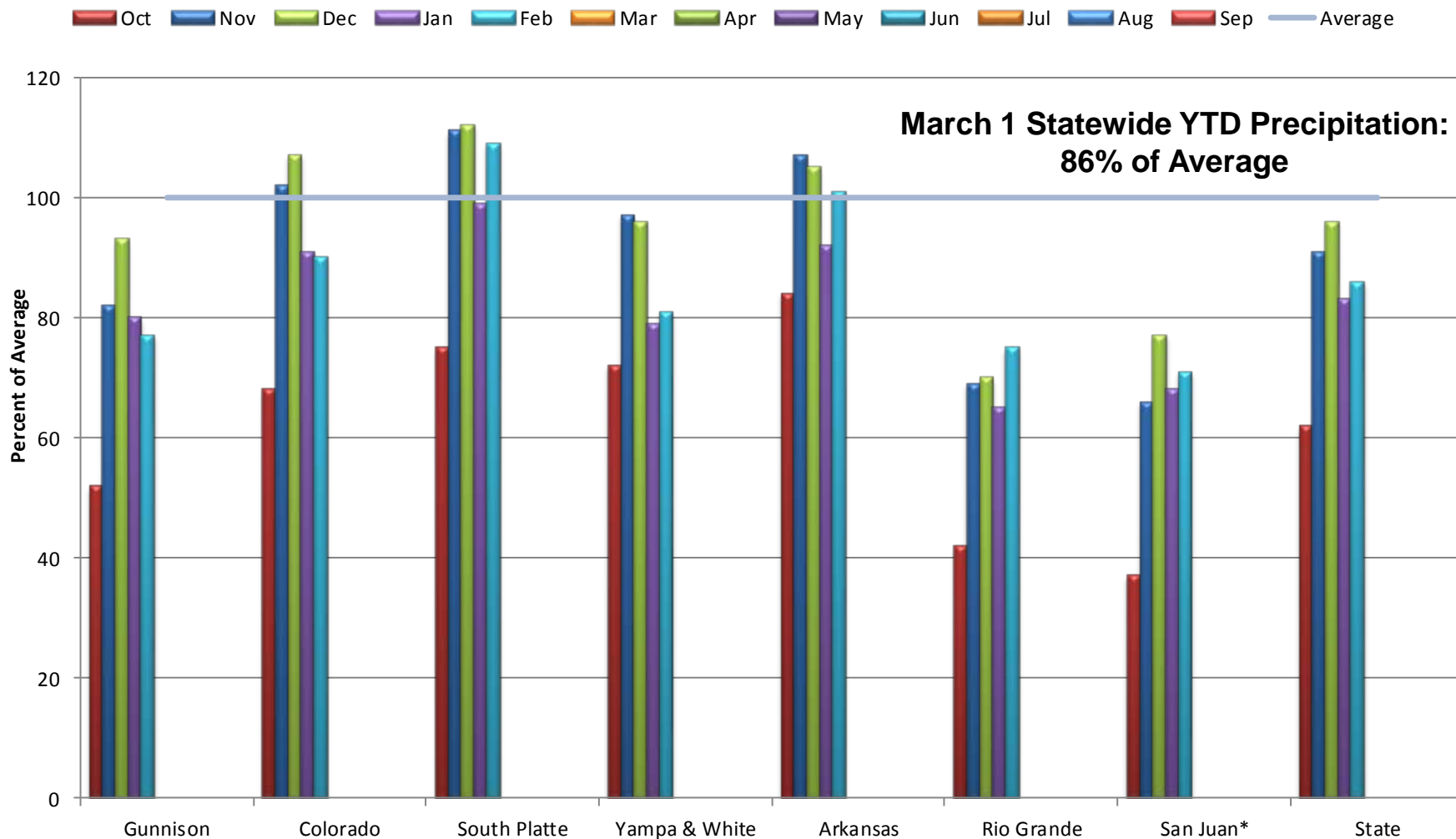
*Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Mar 16, 2015*





## Colorado Year-to-Date Precipitation Summary for WY2015

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

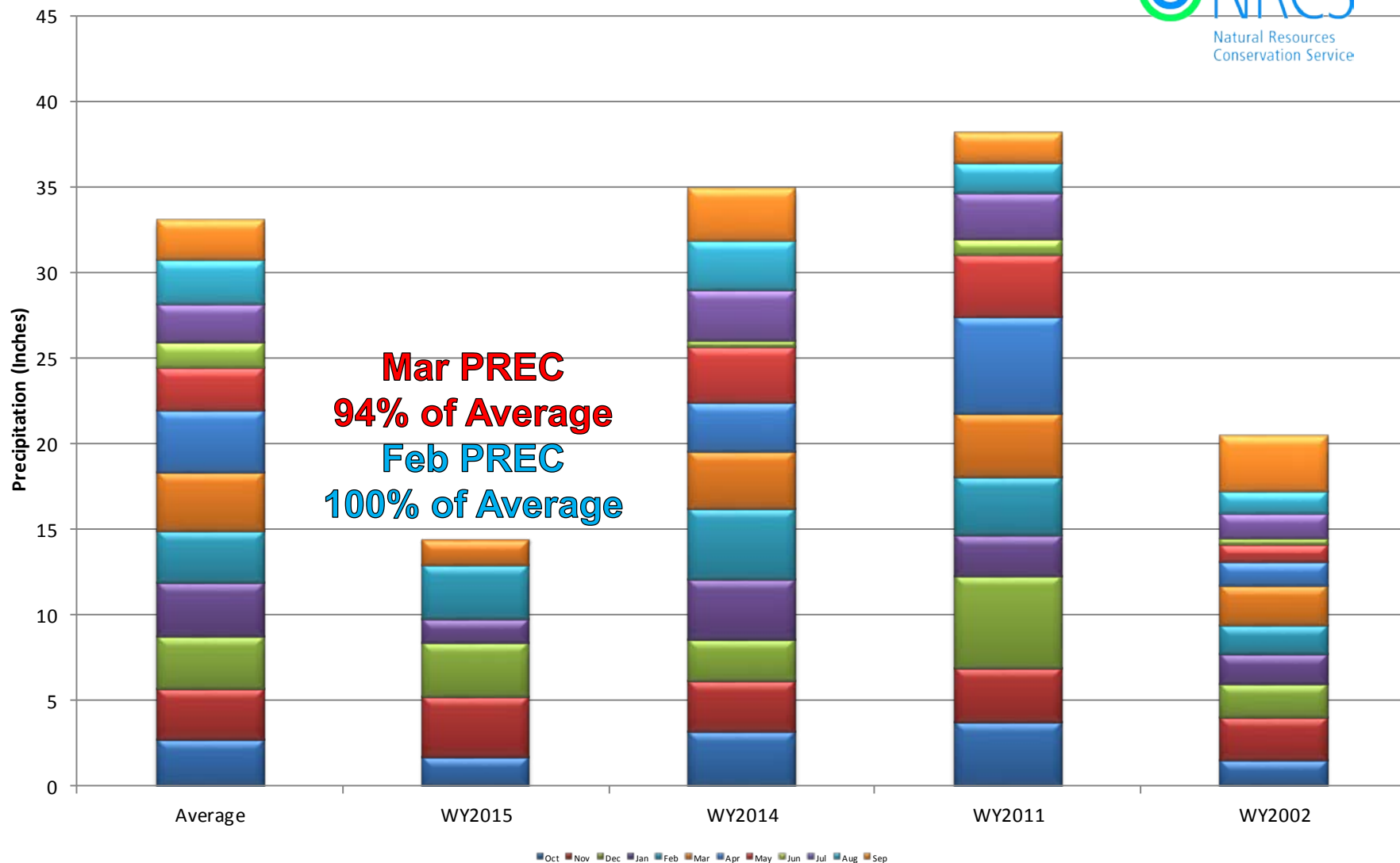


\*Includes Animas, Dolores, San Miguel Basins



## Colorado Statewide High/Low Monthly Precipitation Summary

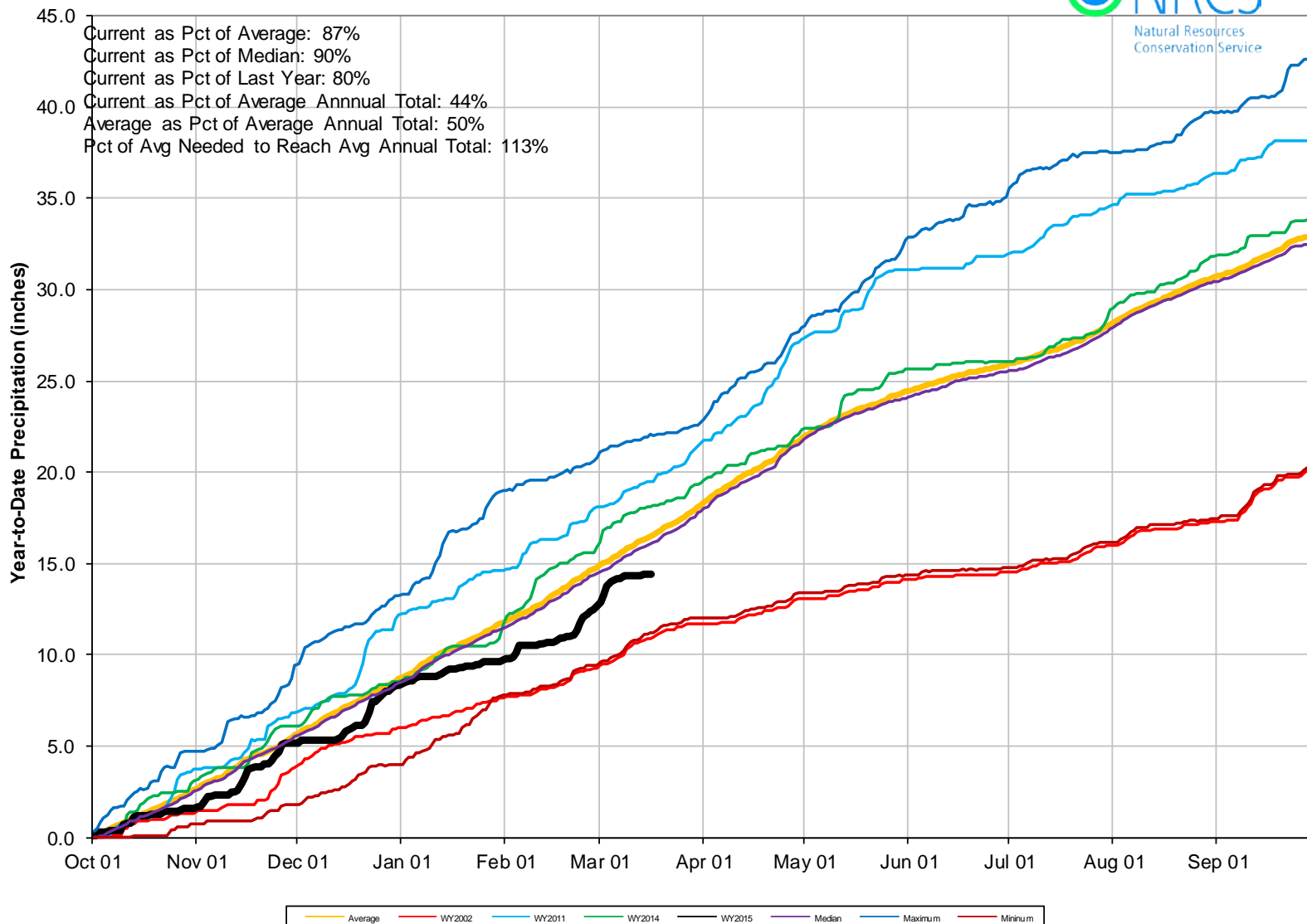
*Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Mar 16, 2015*





## Colorado Statewide High/Low Year-to-Date Precipitation Summary

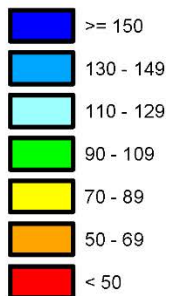
*Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Mar 16, 2015*



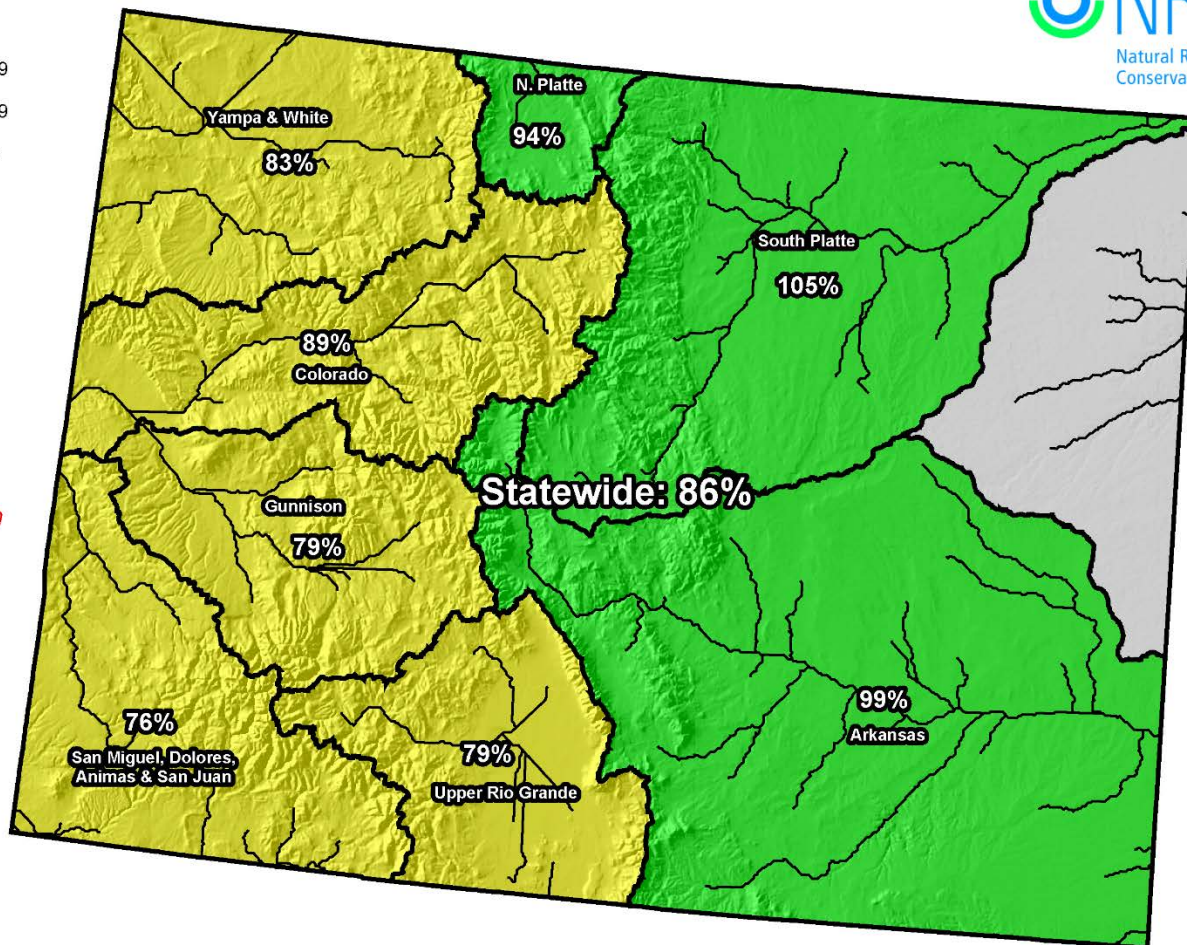


## Colorado SNOTEL Water Year-to-Date Precipitation Update Map

Percent of Average



*Provisional Data  
Subject to Revision*

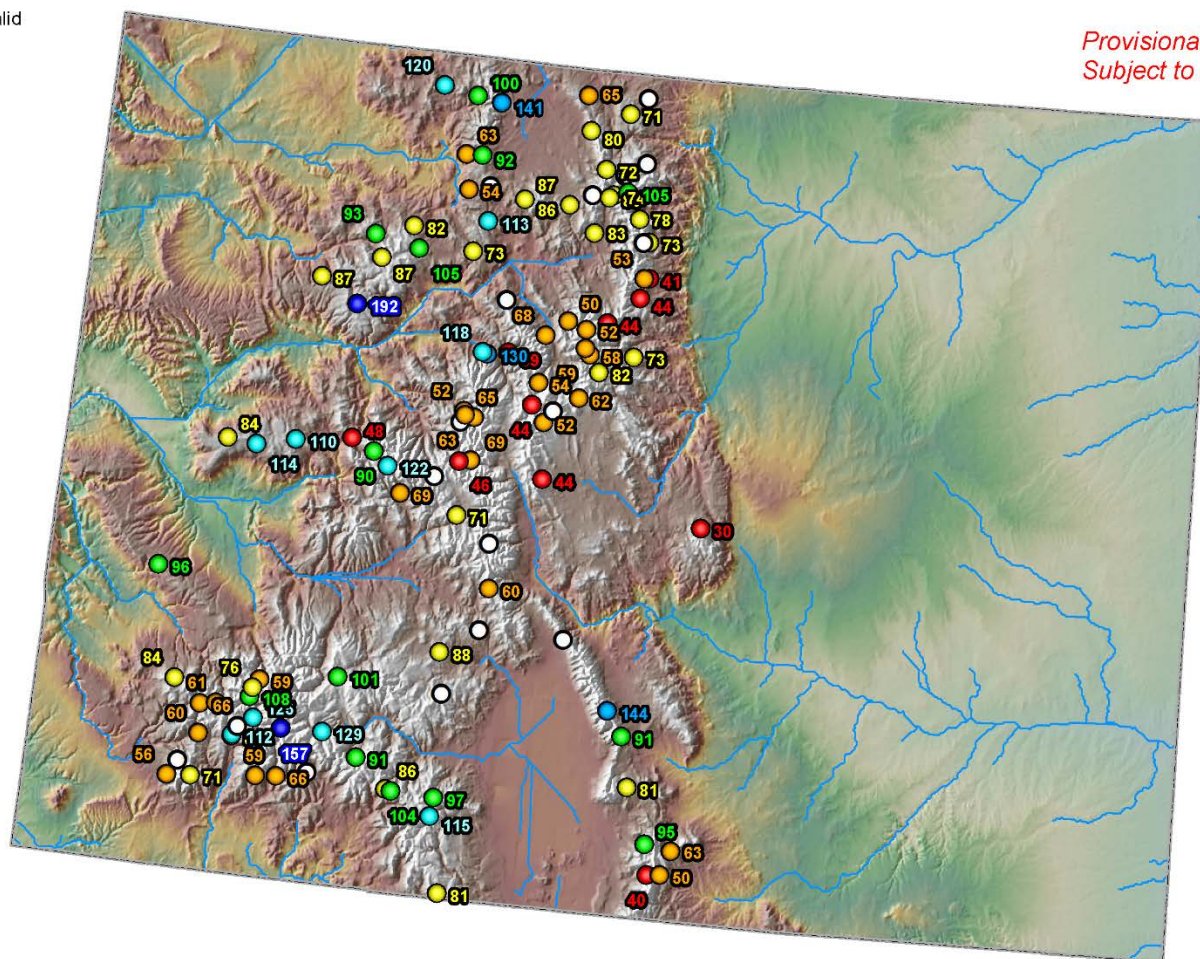


Current as of 03/16/2015

## Colorado SNOTEL Month-to-Date Precipitation

Percent of Average

- Missing or Invalid
- < 50
- 50 - 69
- 70 - 89
- 90 - 109
- 110 - 129
- 130 - 149
- ≥ 150



*Provisional Data  
Subject to Revision*

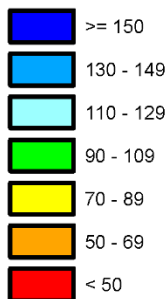
Current as of 03 16, 2015



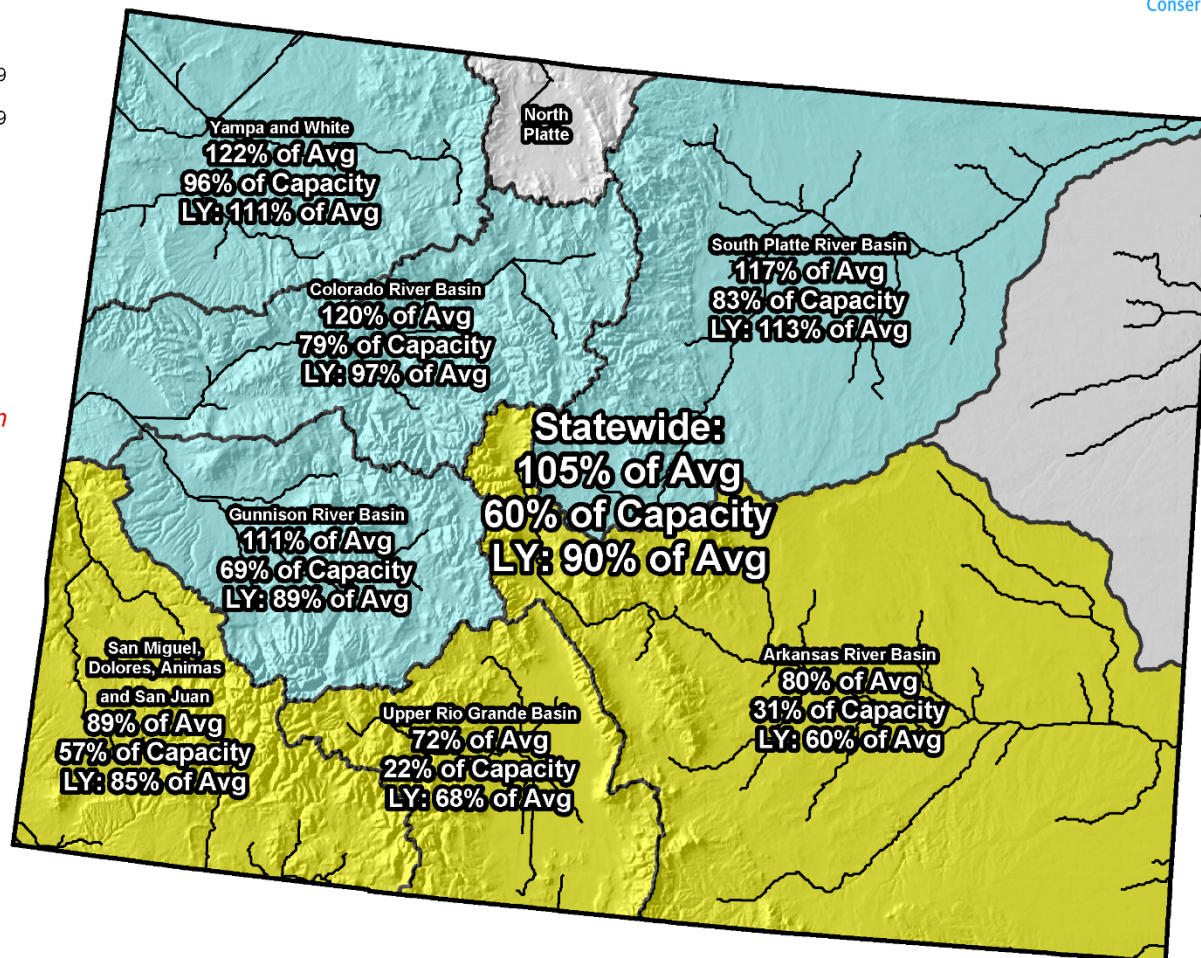
## Colorado Reservoir Storage Map



### Percent of Average



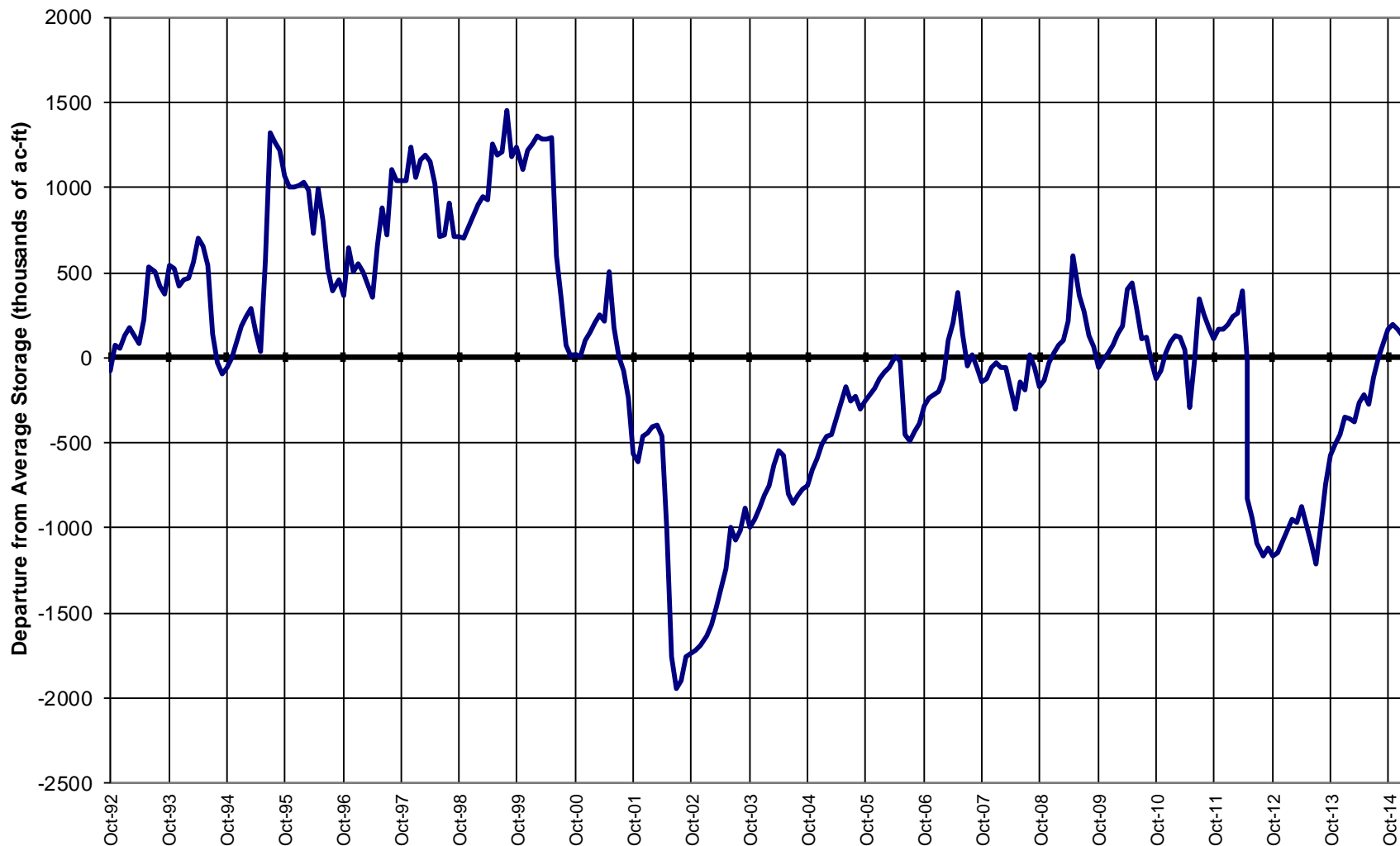
*Provisional Data  
Subject to Revision*



End of February 2015



## COLORADO STATEWIDE Reservoir Storage Departure from Average

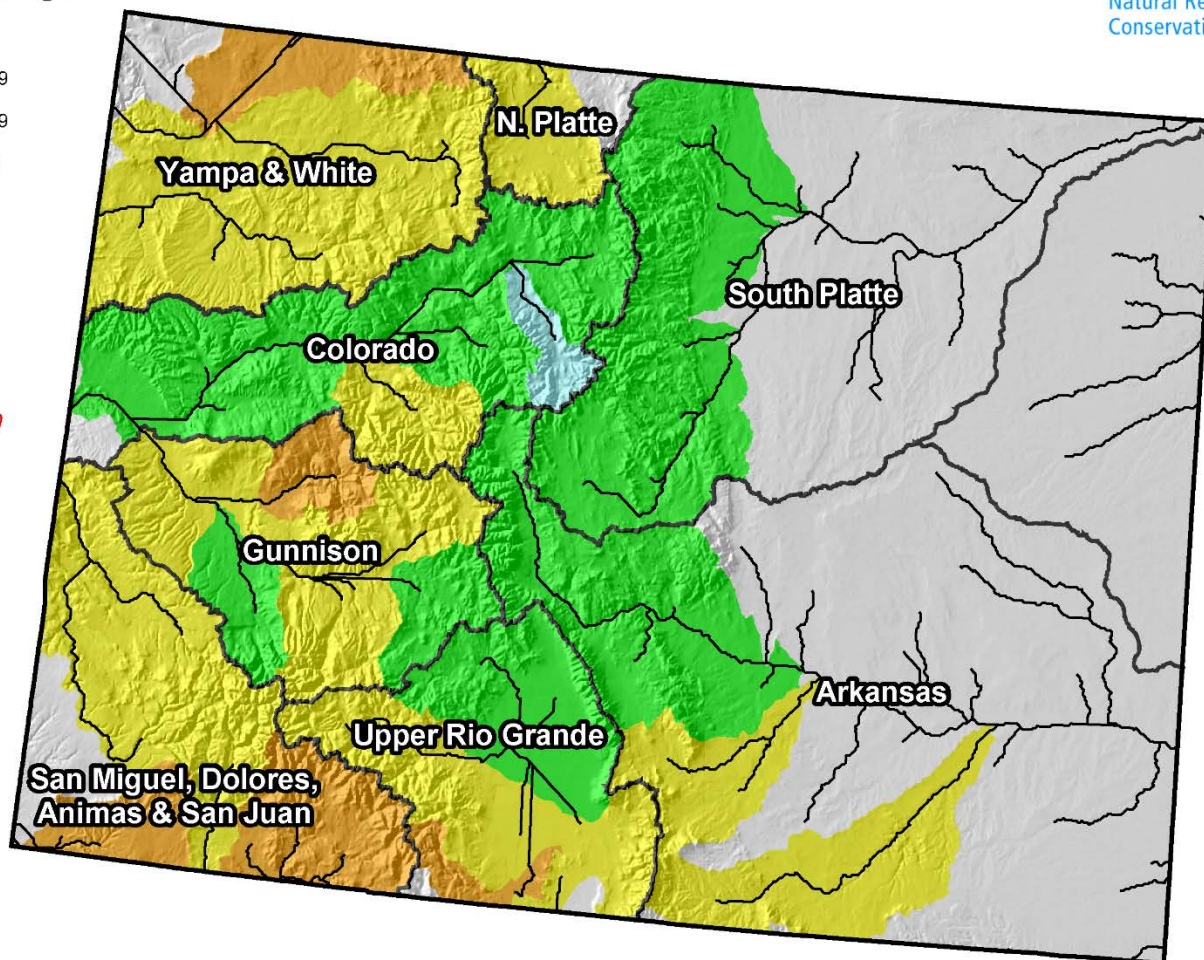


## Colorado Streamflow Forecast Map

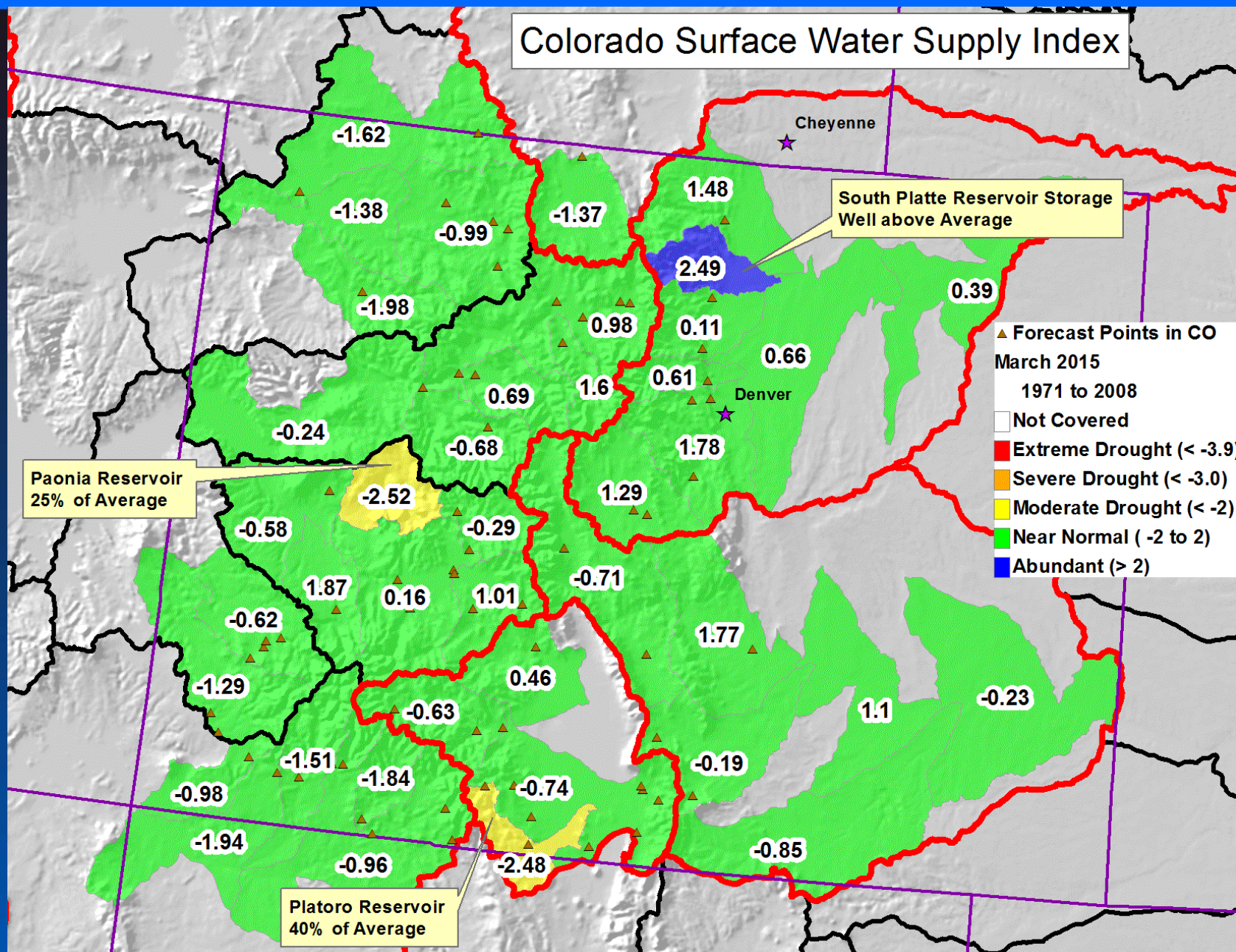
### Percent of Average



*Provisional Data  
Subject to Revision*









## Summary

- February precip ended the month right at average
- So far March precip is averaging 94% across the state but individual watersheds across the state vary
  - 120% of average in the upper Rio Grande
  - 63% of average in the South Platte
- Snowpack
  - Currently snowpack is ranked 26<sup>th</sup> of 30 years yet still at 85% of average
  - Keeping that number as high as it is:
    - South Platte snowpack
    - Upper Arkansas snowpack
    - Upper Colorado snowpack
  - South Platte snowpack is the best in the state, at 100% of normal and close behind the entire Arkansas is 99%
- Reservoirs are slightly above average statewide but again vary
  - Better in northern CO between 111% - 122% (basin-wide totals)
  - Worse in southern CO between 72% - 89% (basin-wide totals)
- As of January 1
  - Streamflow forecasts vary greatly and should be viewed individually



United States Department of Agriculture

Colorado Snow Surveys

# Water Availability Task Force Meeting

## March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015

### NRCS Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program

Brian Domonkos

Colorado Snow Survey Supervisor

720-544-2852

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/co/snow/>