



# Water Availability Task Force Meeting

## November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### NRCS Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program

Karl Wetlaufer

Hydrologist

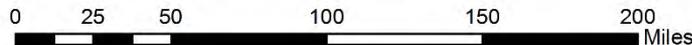
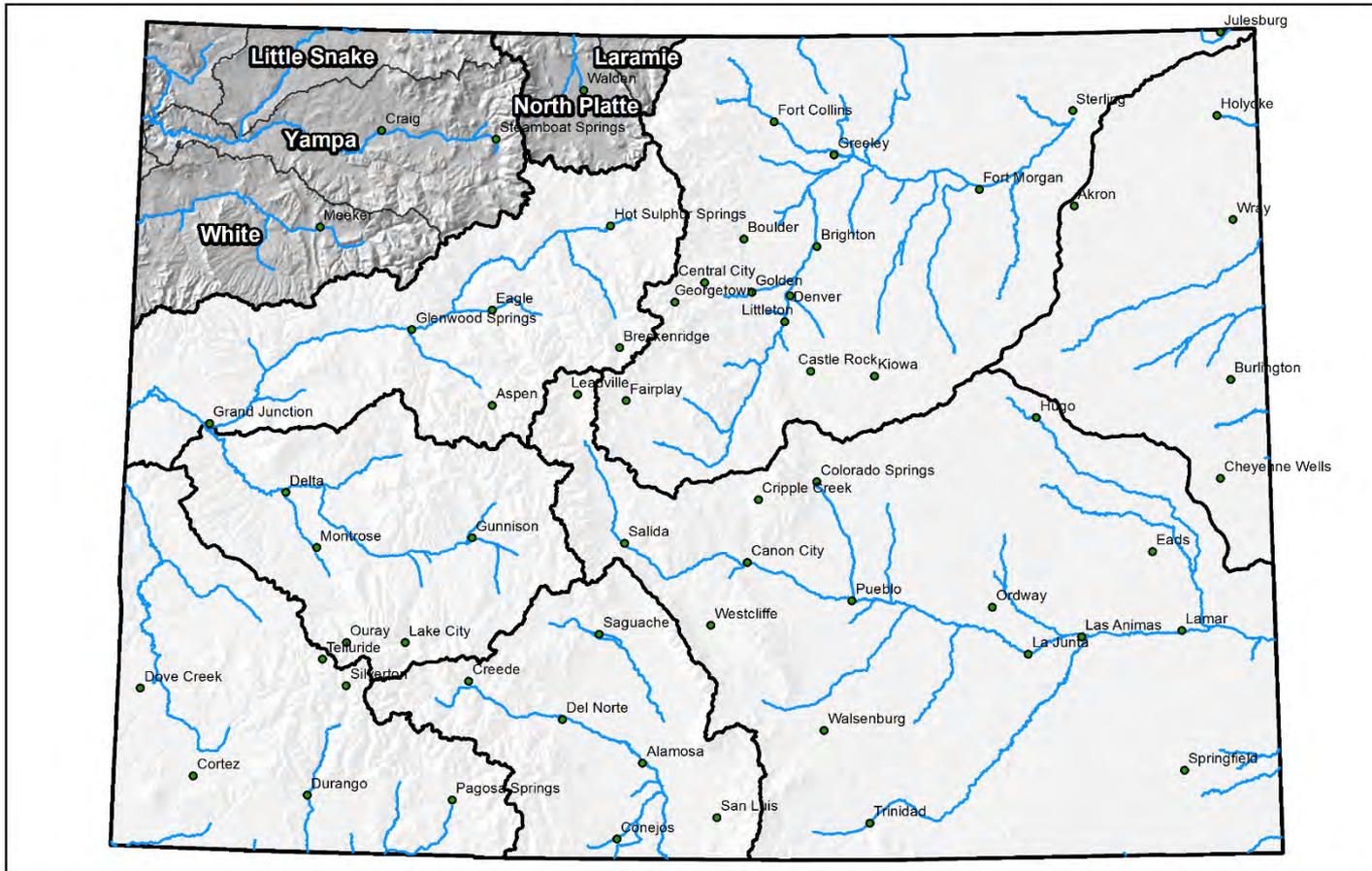
Asst. Snow Survey Supervisor

720-544-2853

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

## Major Basin Summary

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

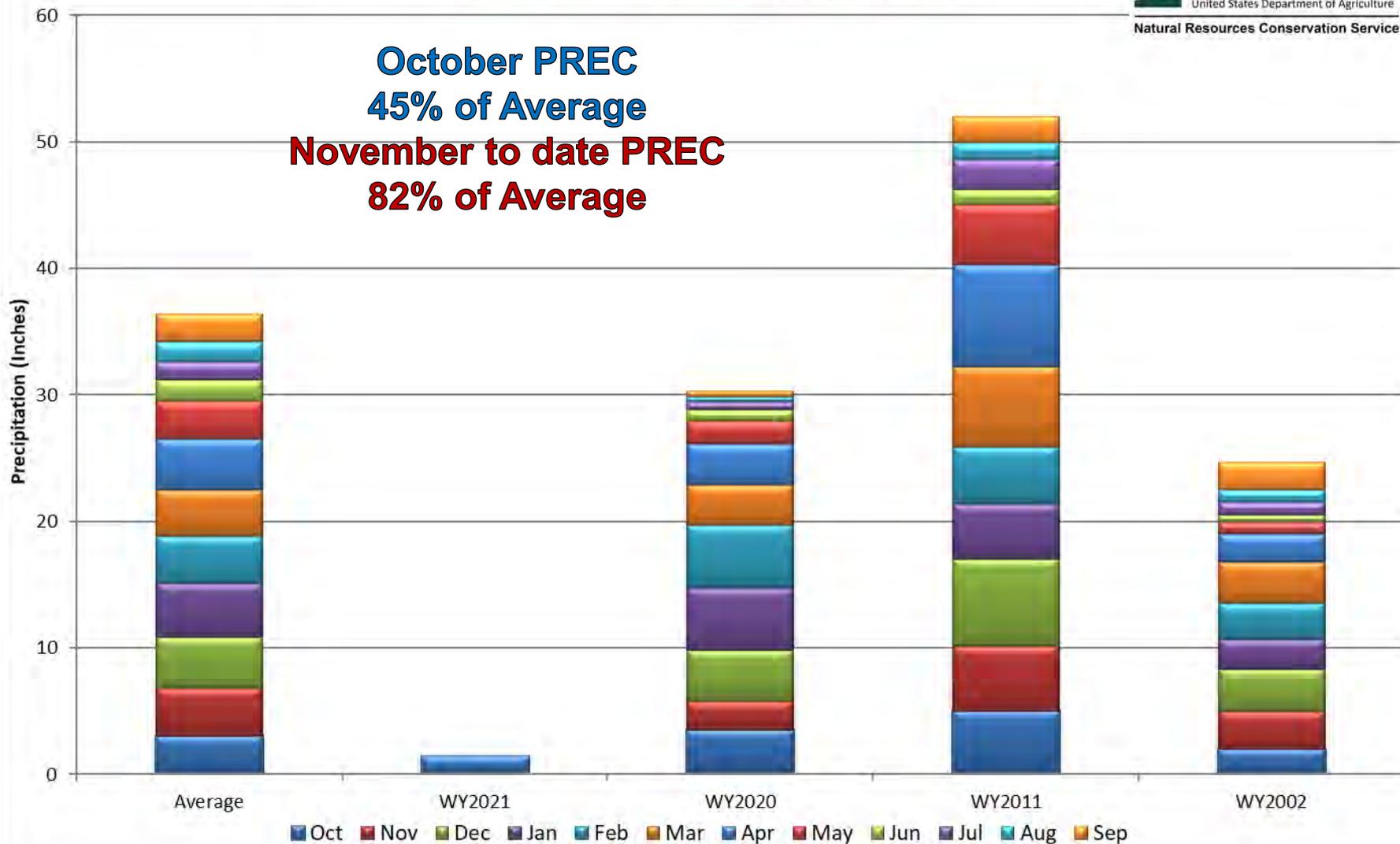




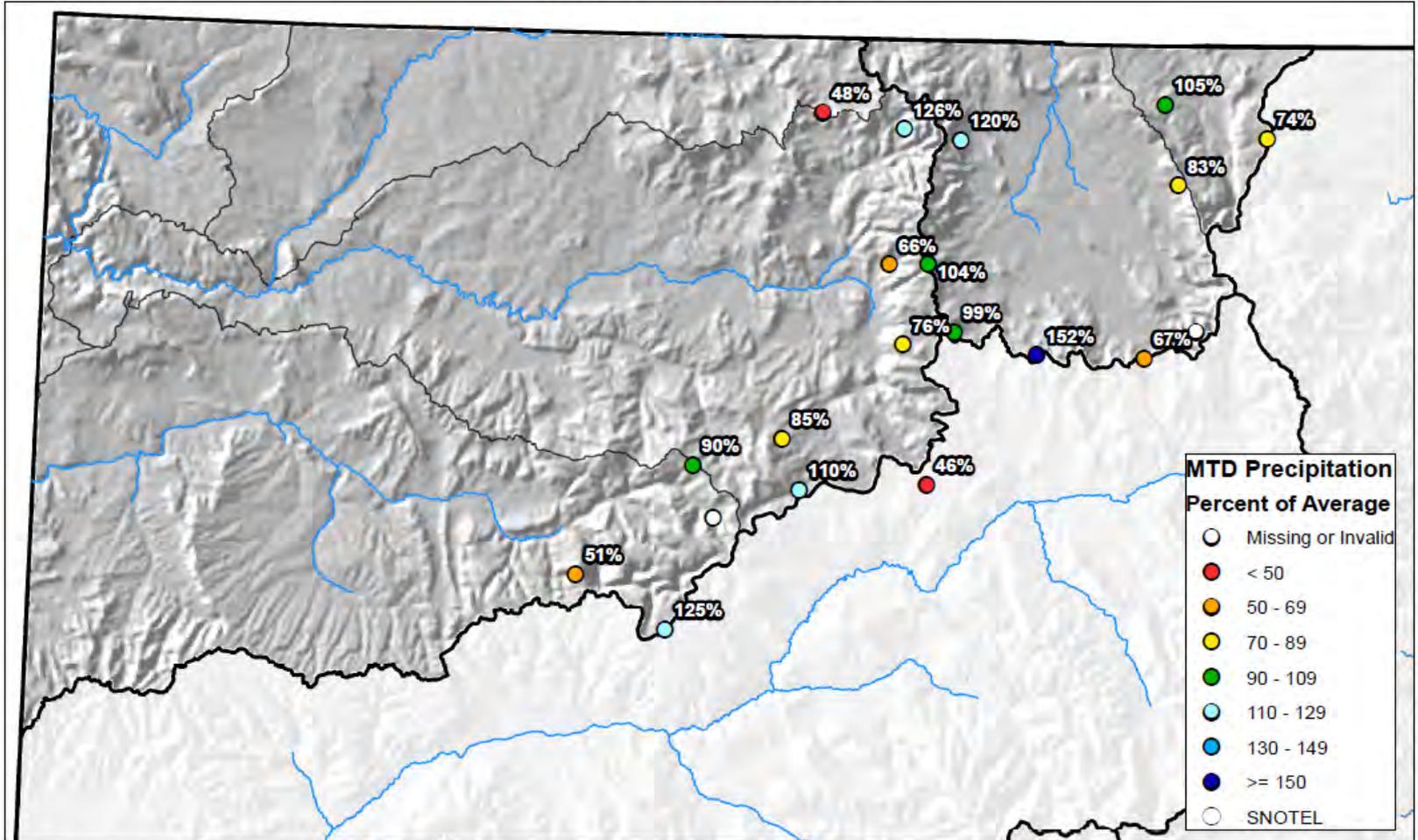
## Yampa and White River Basins High/Low Monthly Precipitation Summary

*Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Nov 18, 2020*

**October PREC  
45% of Average**  
**November to date PREC  
82% of Average**

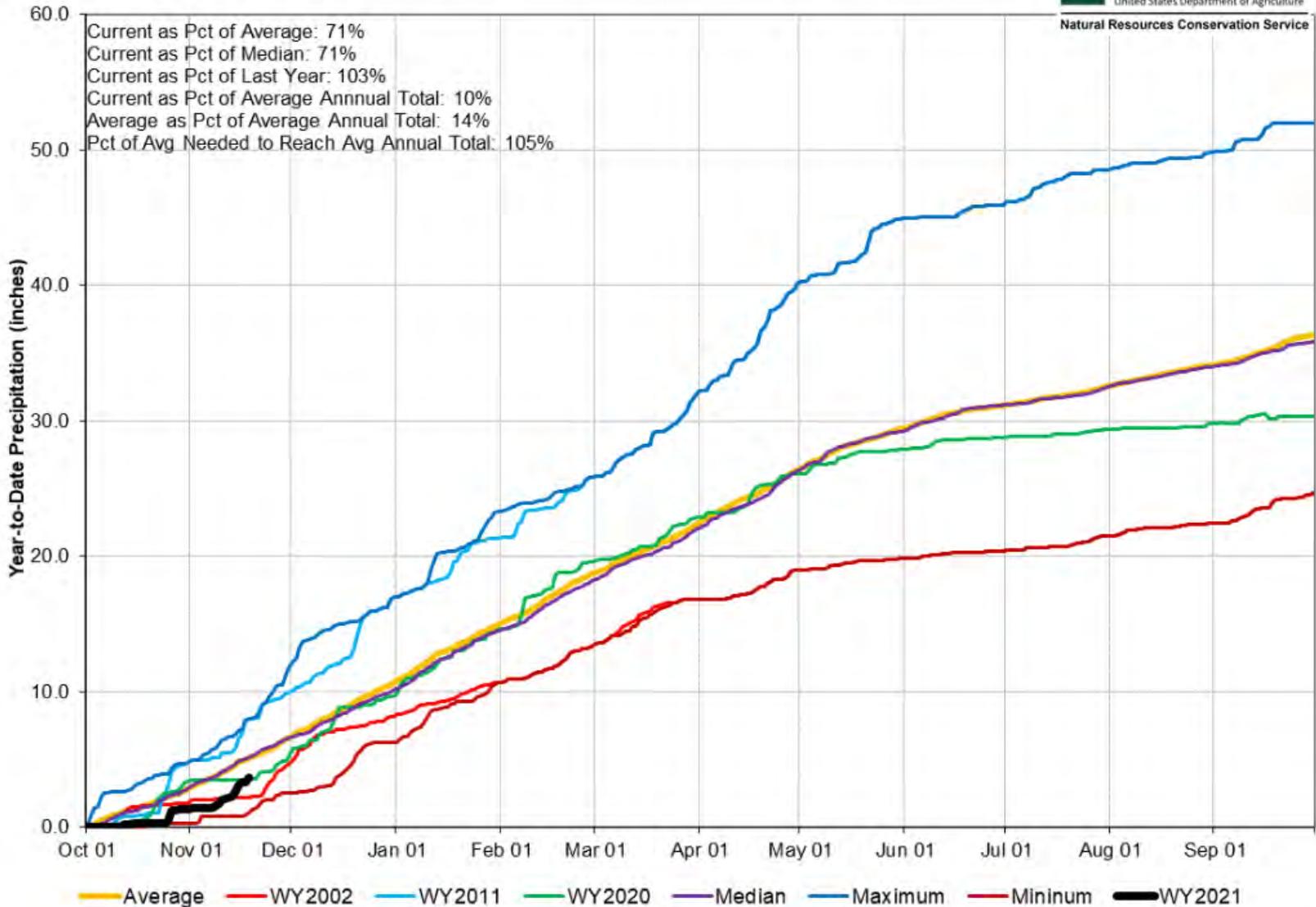
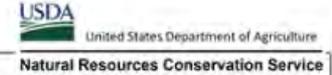


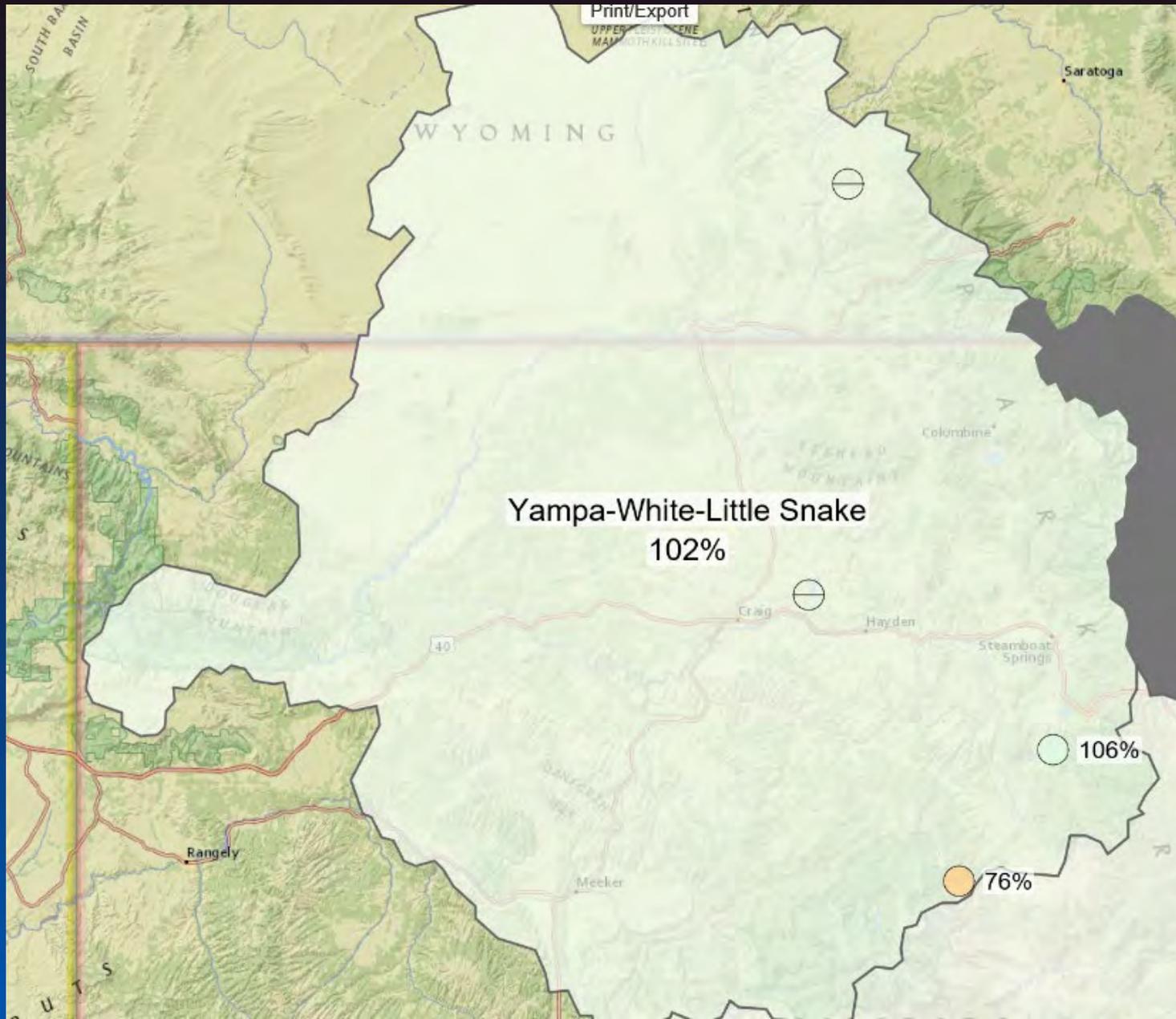
## Yampa, White, and North Platte River Basins Month to Date Precipitation Summary Current as of Nov 18, 2020



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

Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Nov 18, 2020







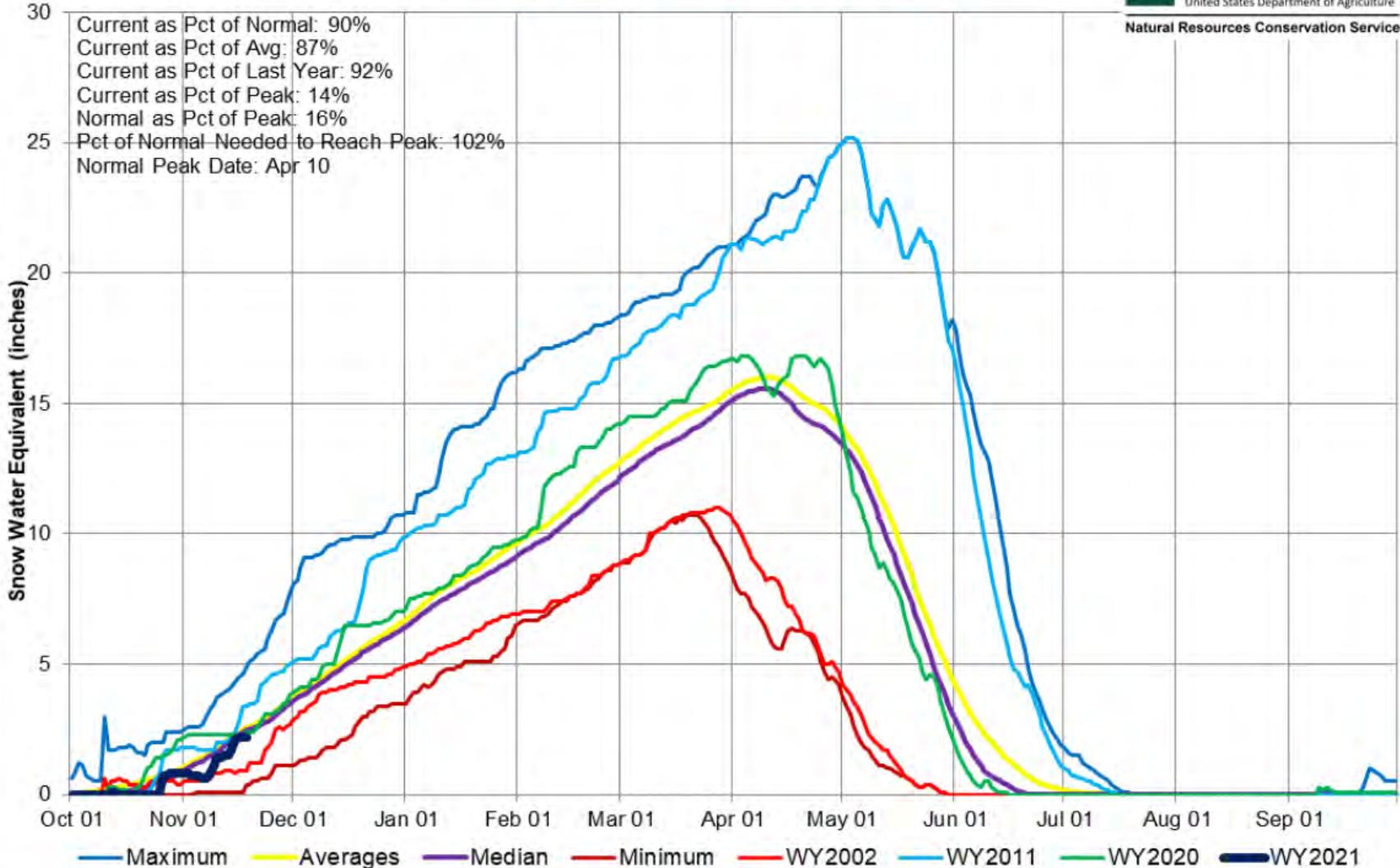
## Upper Colorado River Basin High/Low Snowpack Summary

Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Nov 18, 2020



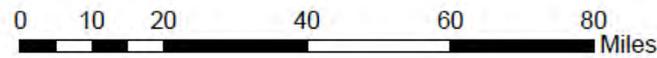
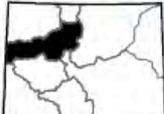
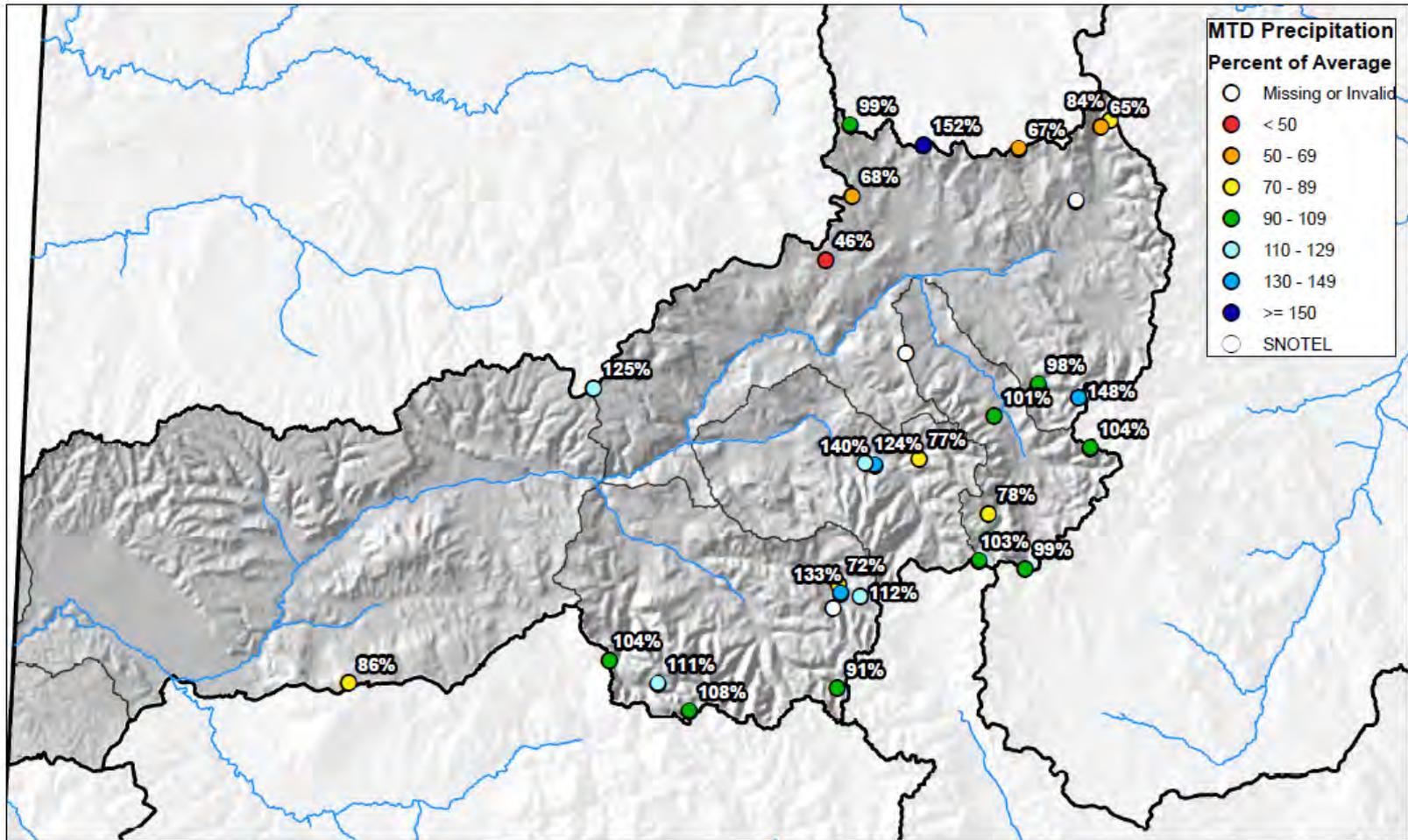
United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service





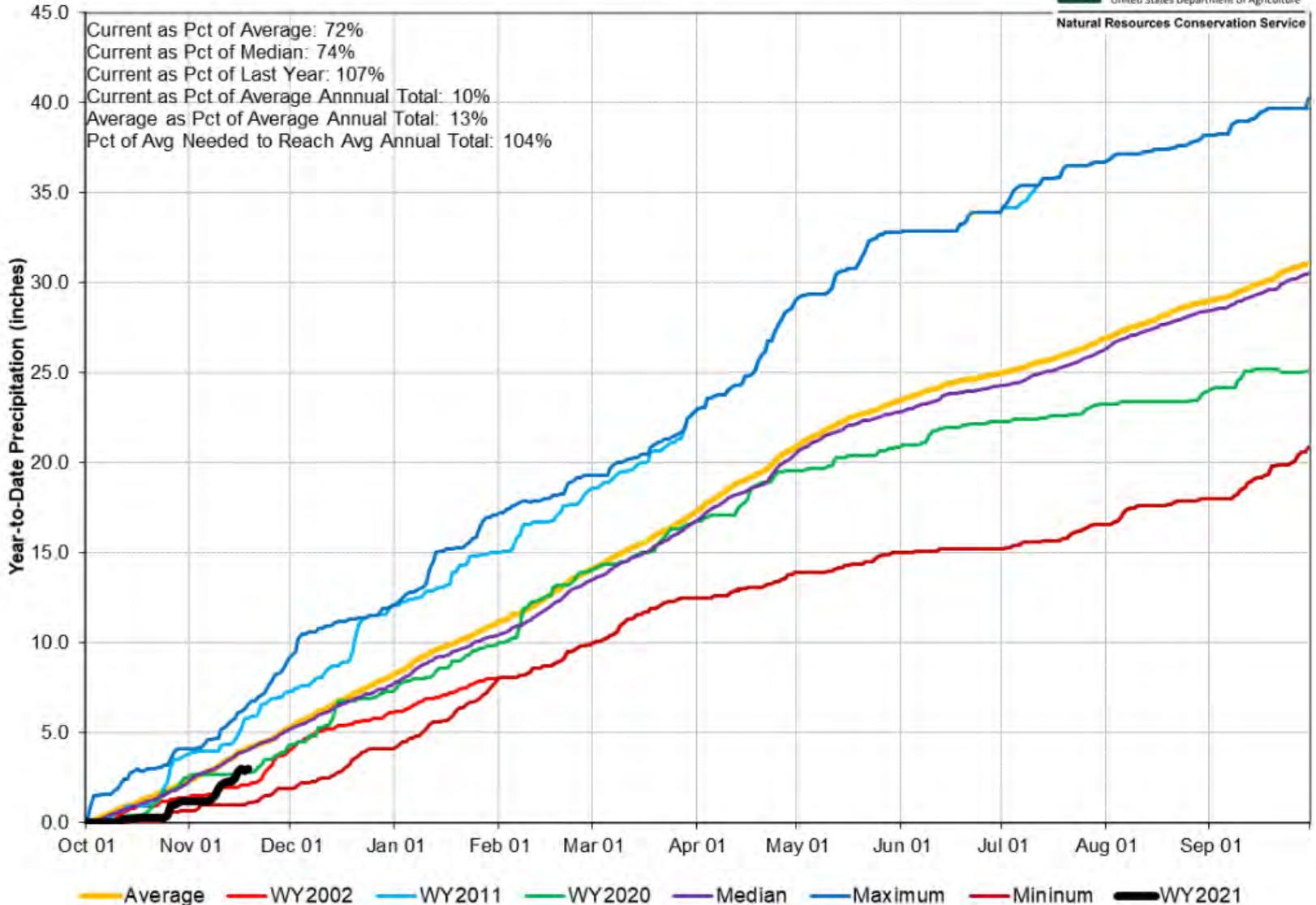
## Upper Colorado River Basin Month to Date Precipitation Summary Current as of Nov 18, 2020

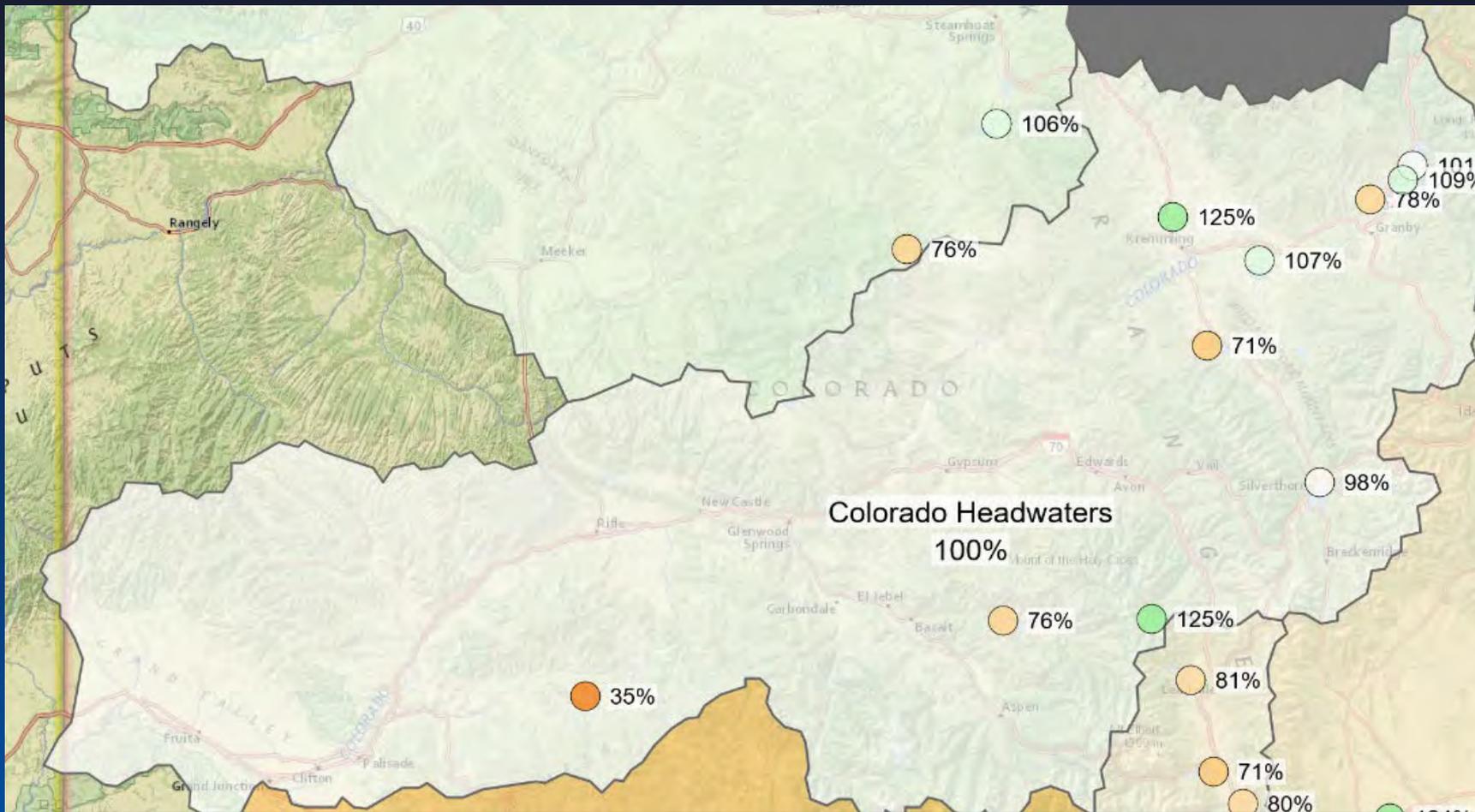


## Upper Colorado River Basin High/Low Year-to-Date Precipitation Summary

*Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Nov 18, 2020*

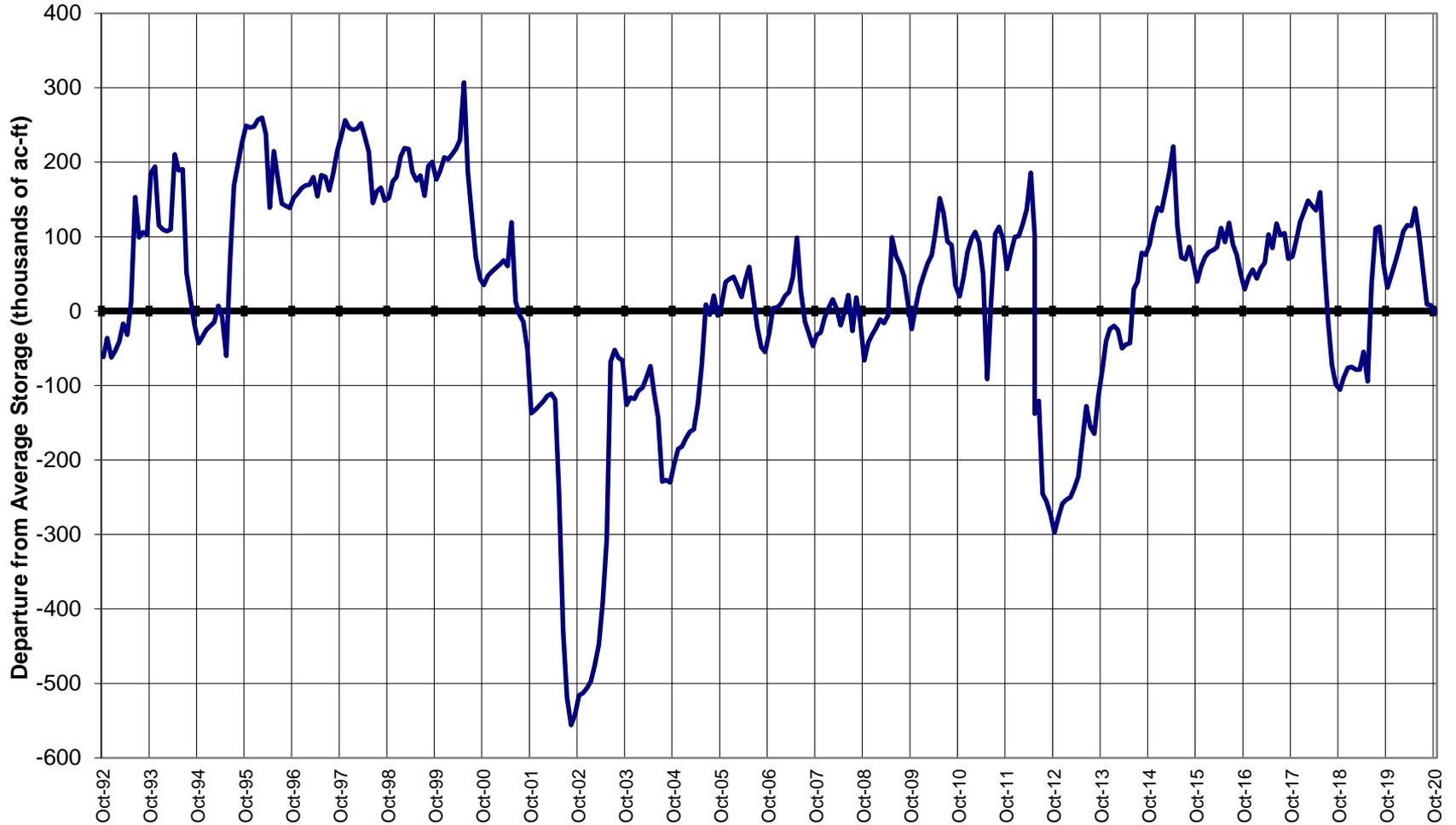
USDA  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service







## COLORADO RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage Departure from Average

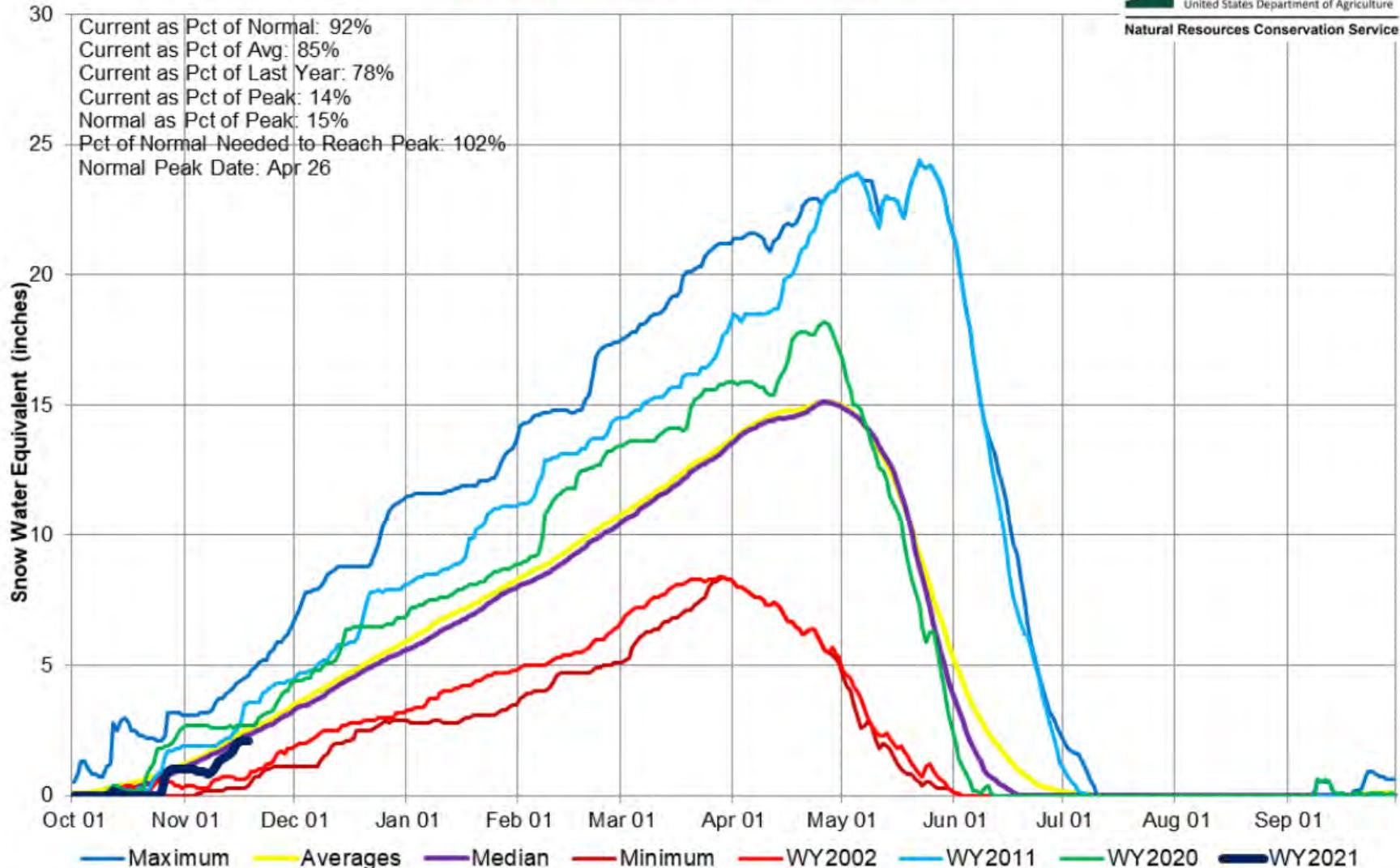




## South Platte River Basin High/Low Snowpack Summary

*Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Nov 18, 2020*

USDA  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

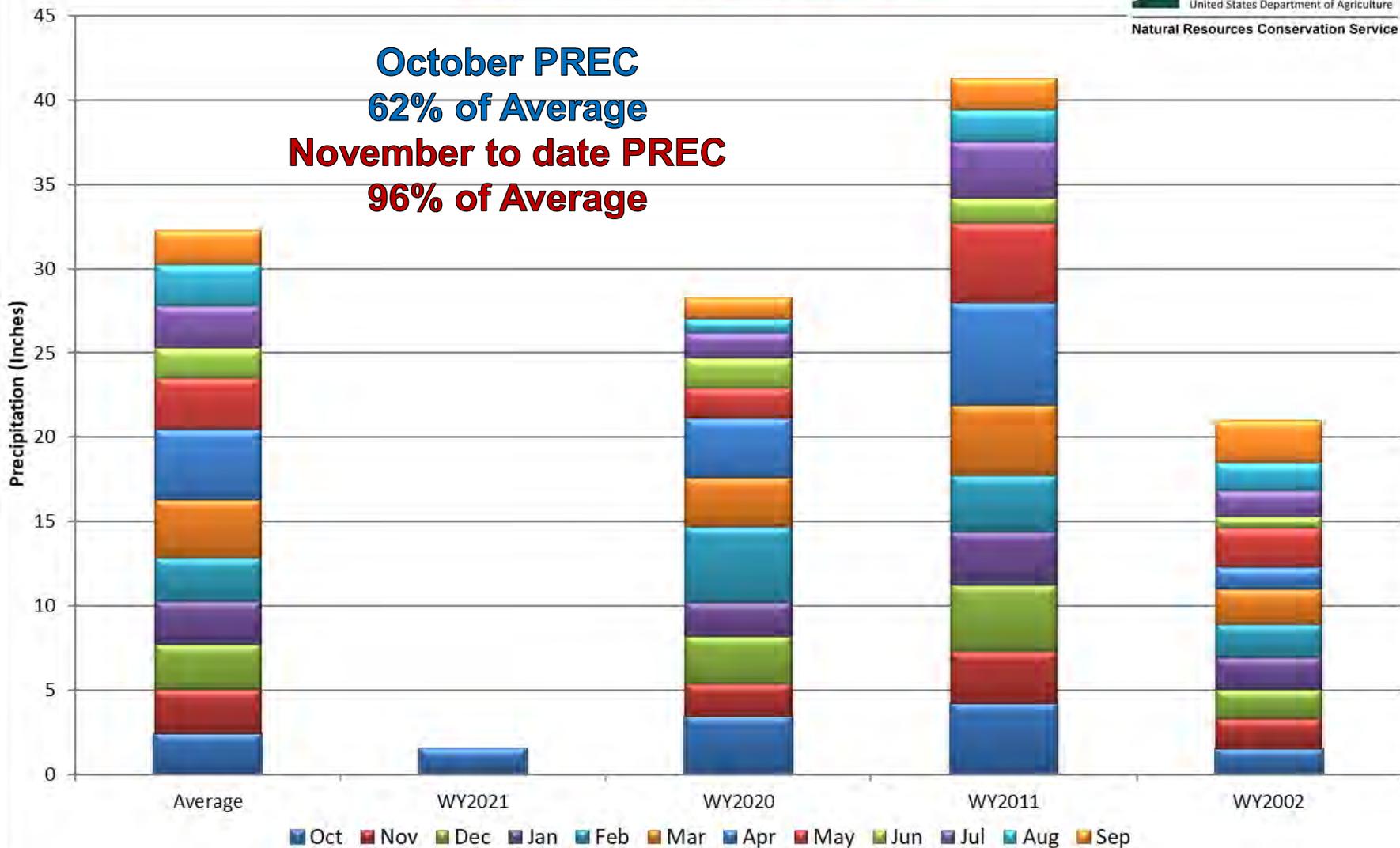


## South Platte River Basin High/Low Monthly Precipitation Summary

*Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Nov 18, 2020*

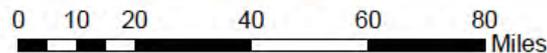
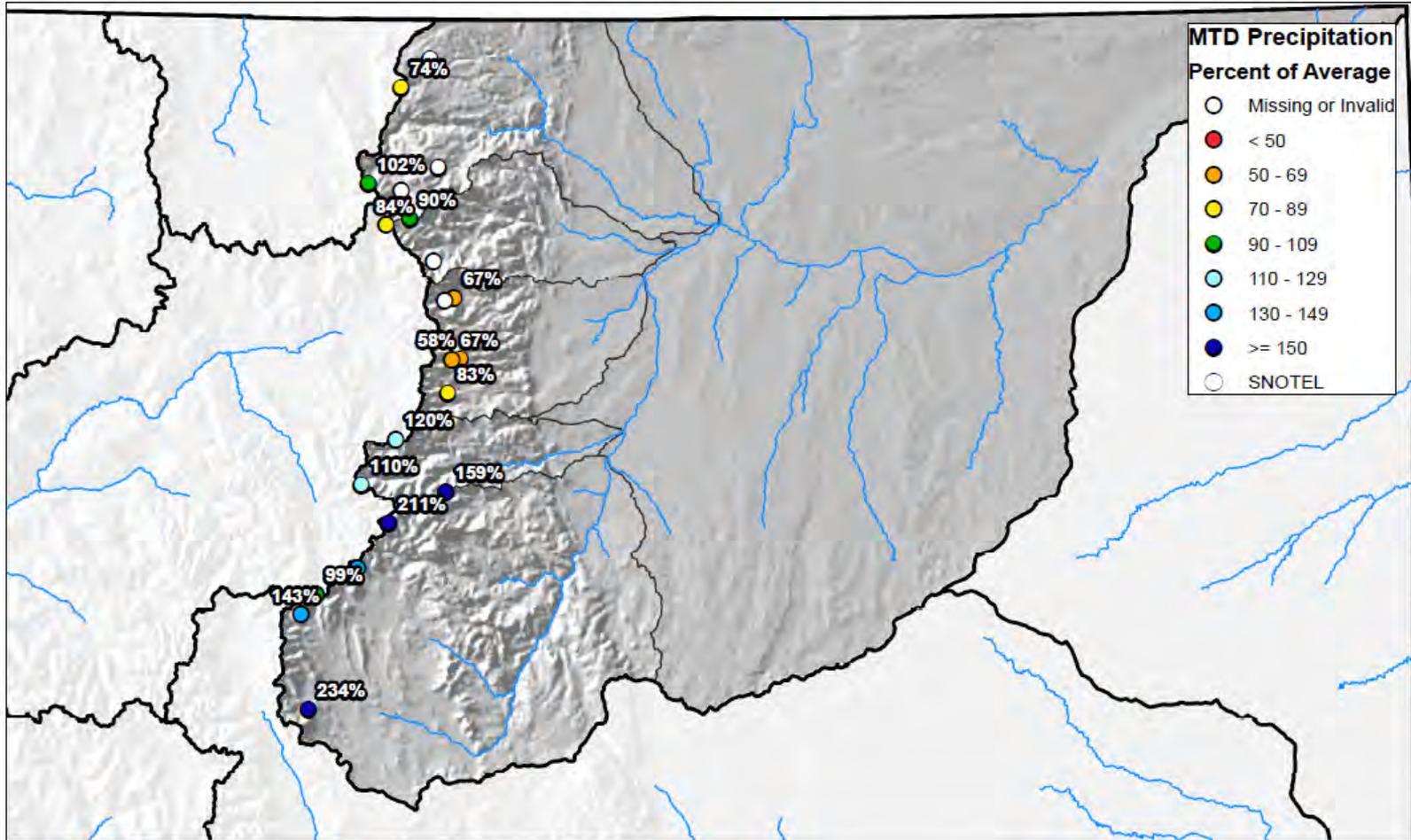
USDA  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

**October PREC**  
**62% of Average**  
**November to date PREC**  
**96% of Average**



## South Platte River Basin Month to Date Precipitation Summary

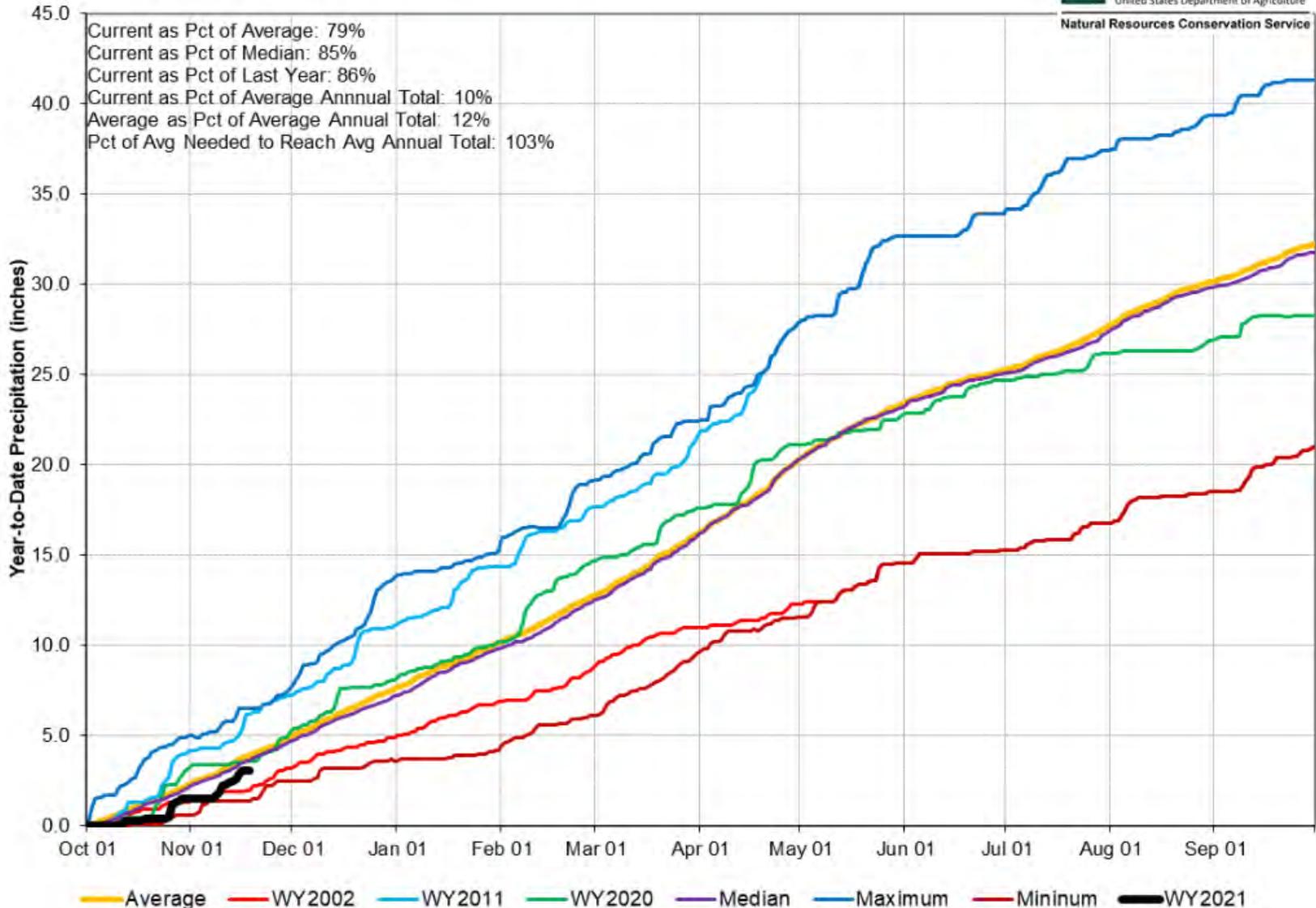
Current as of Nov 18, 2020

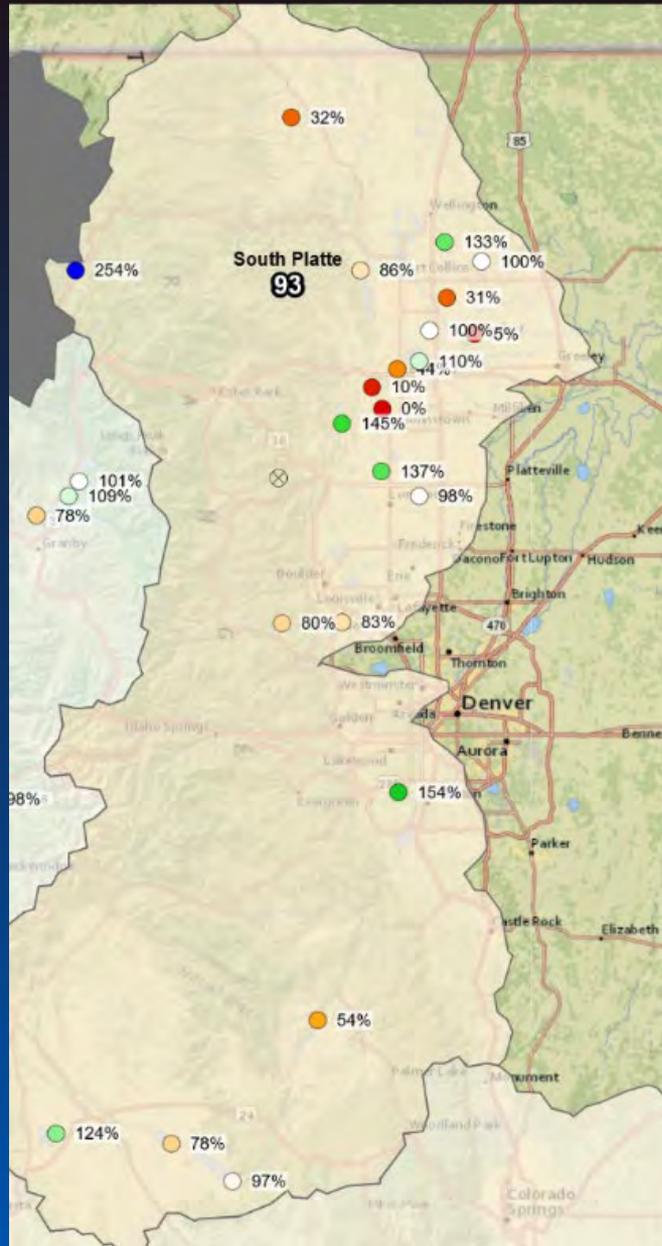


## South Platte River Basin High/Low Year-to-Date Precipitation Summary

*Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Nov 18, 2020*

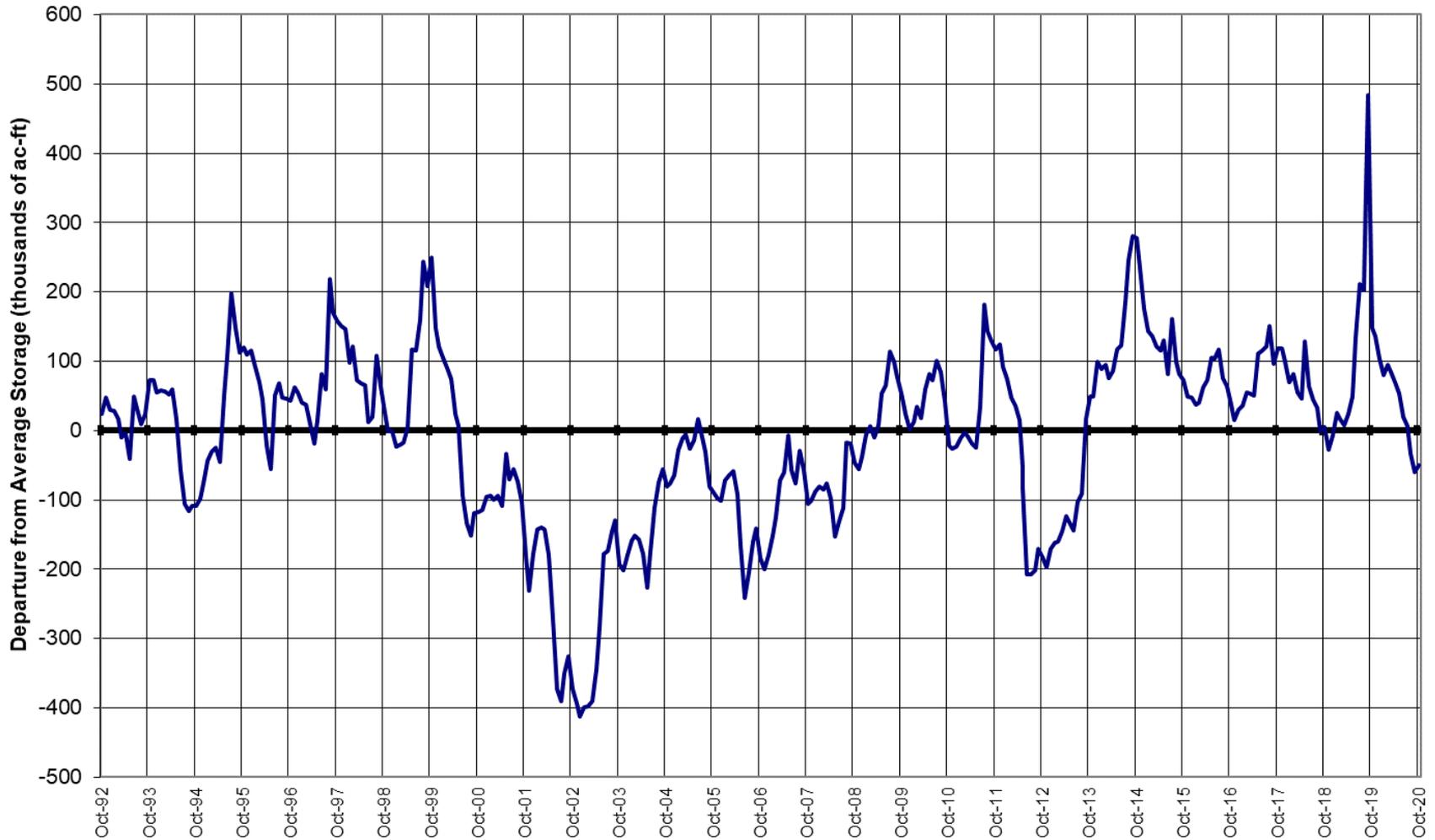
USDA  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service







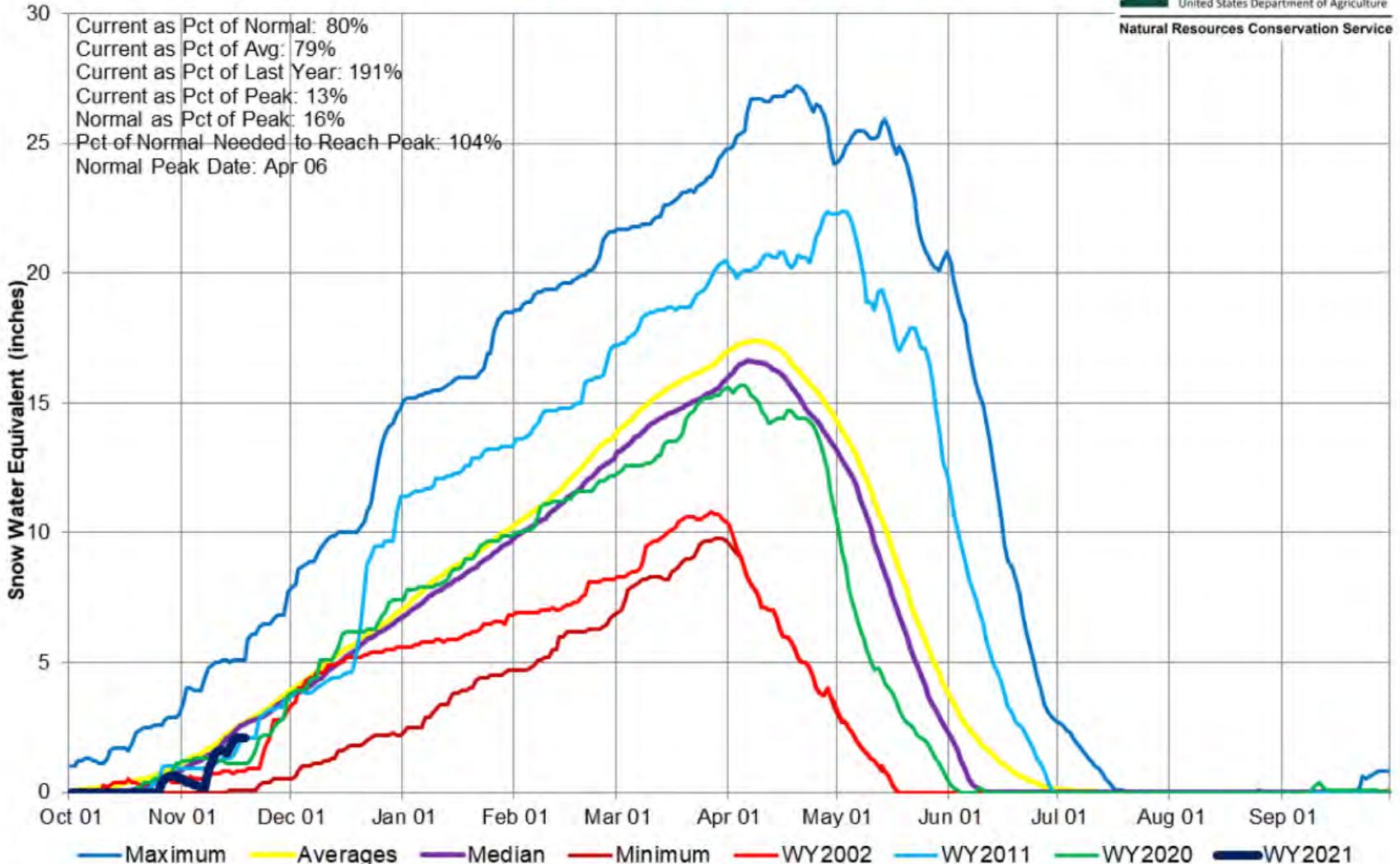
## SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage Departure from Average





## Gunnison River Basin High/Low Snowpack Summary

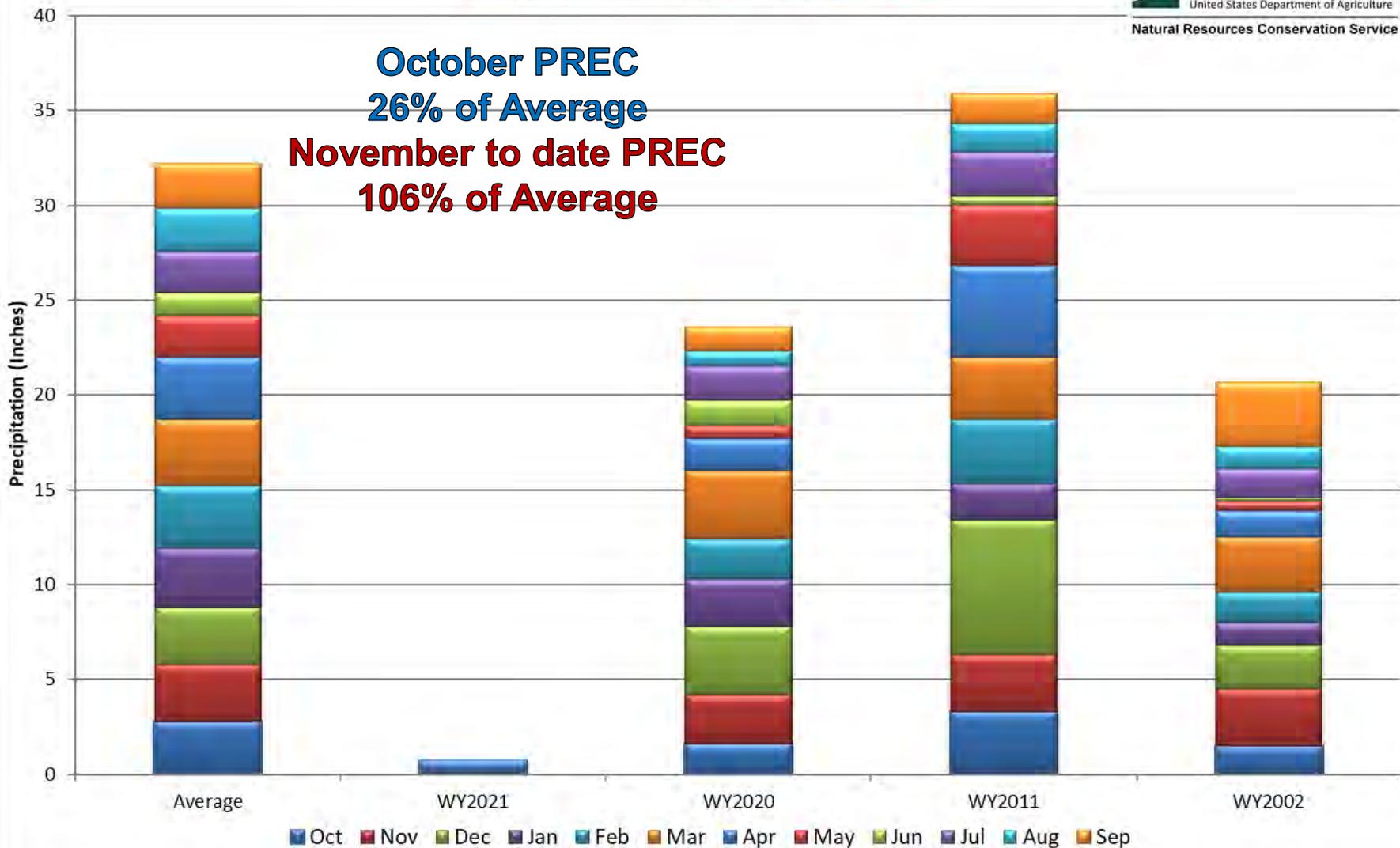
*Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Nov 18, 2020*



## Gunnison River Basin High/Low Monthly Precipitation Summary

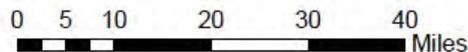
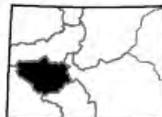
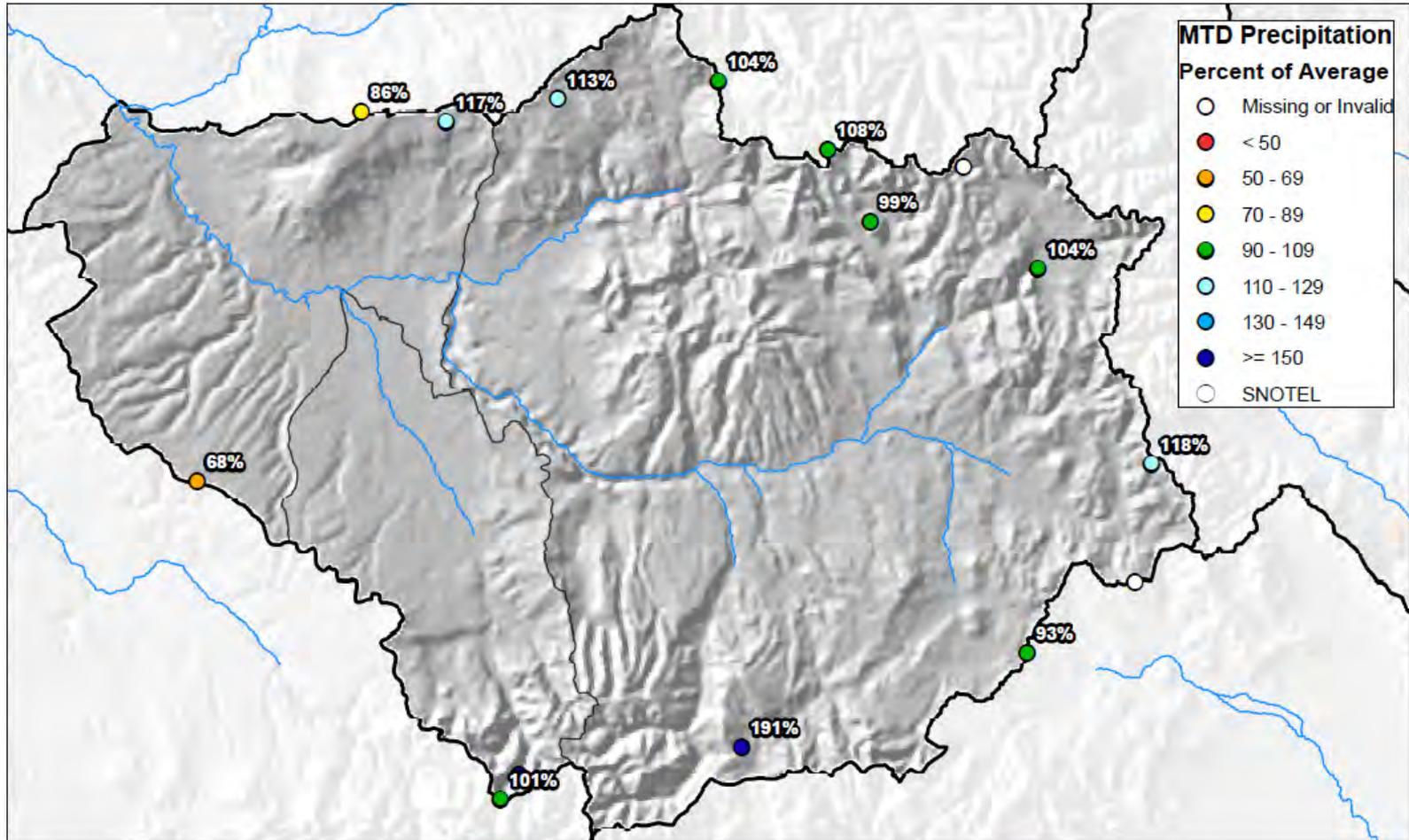
*Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Nov 18, 2020*

USDA  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service



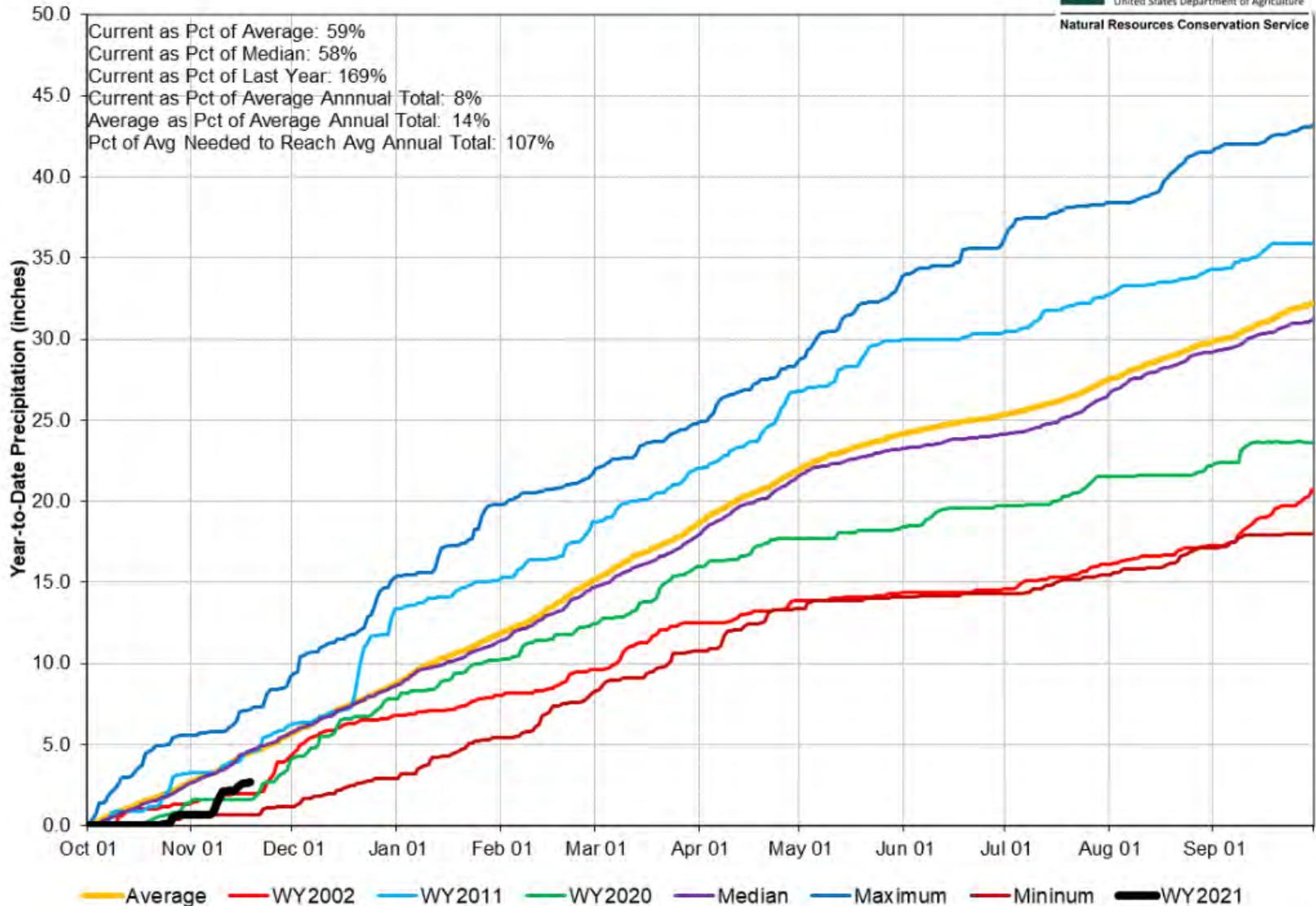
## Gunnison River Basin Month to Date Precipitation Summary

Current as of Nov 18, 2020

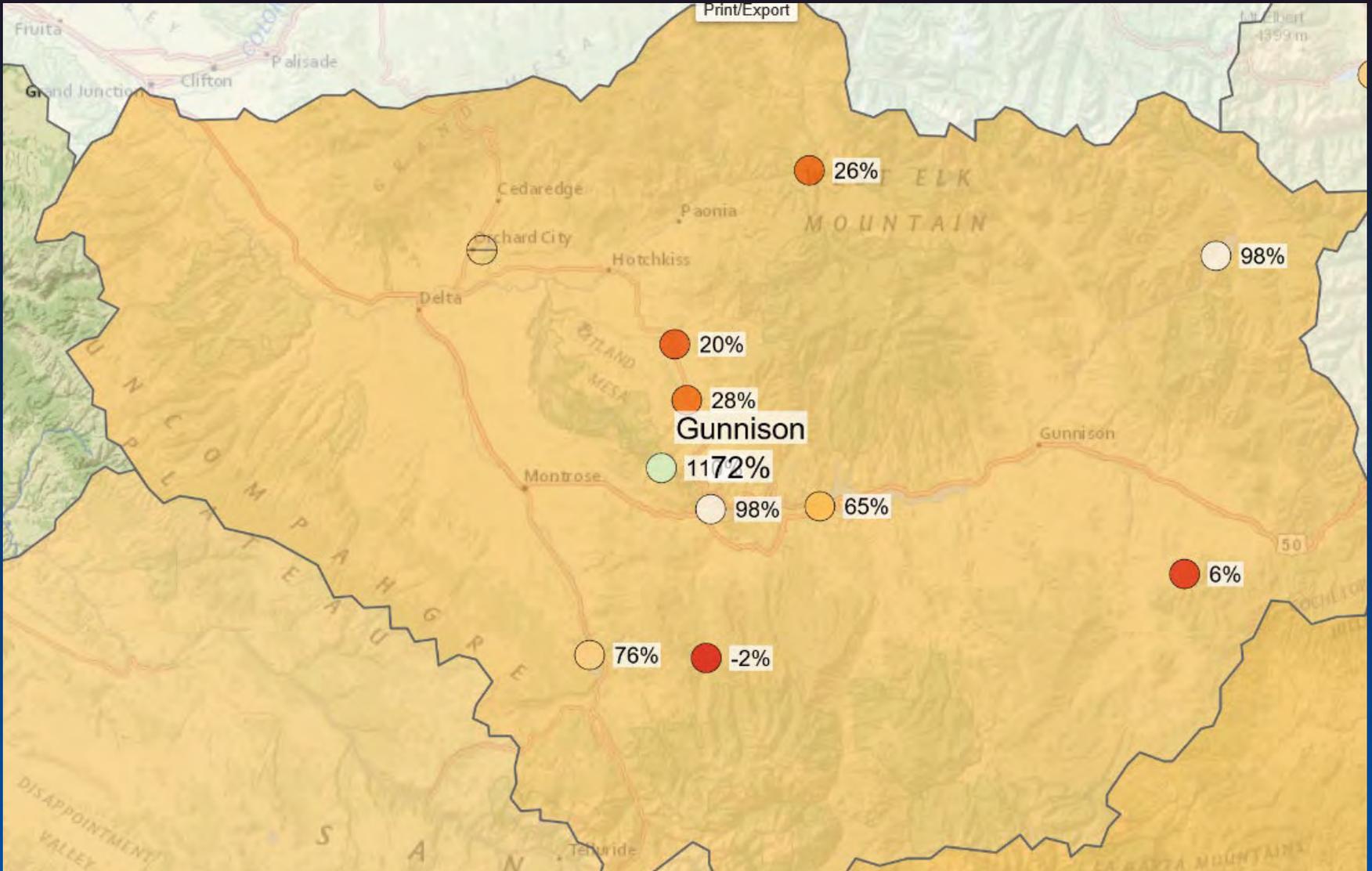


## Gunnison River Basin High/Low Year-to-Date Precipitation Summary

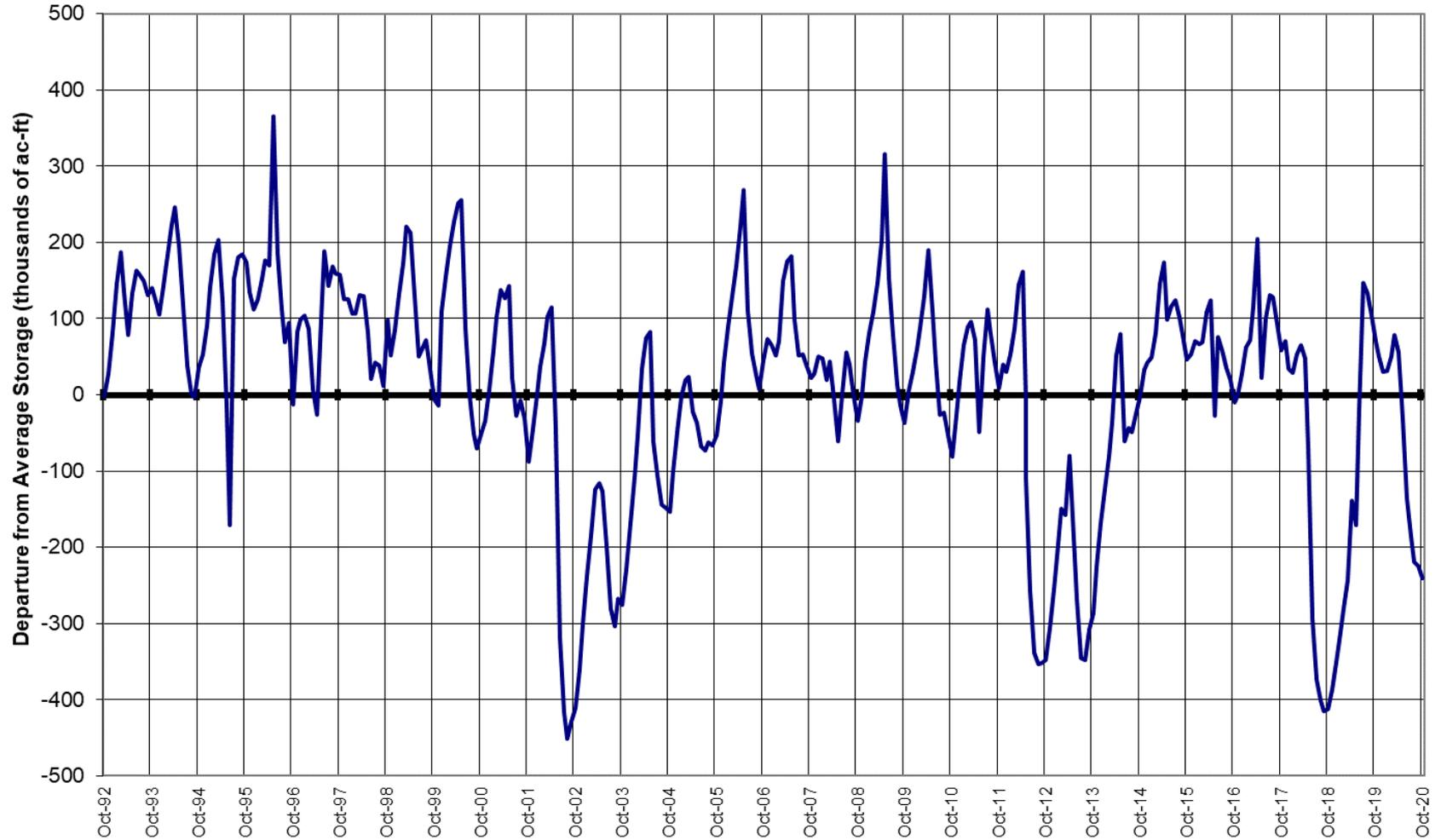
Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Nov 18, 2020



# Colorado Snow Surveys



**GUNNISON RIVER BASIN**  
**Reservoir Storage**  
**Departure from Average**

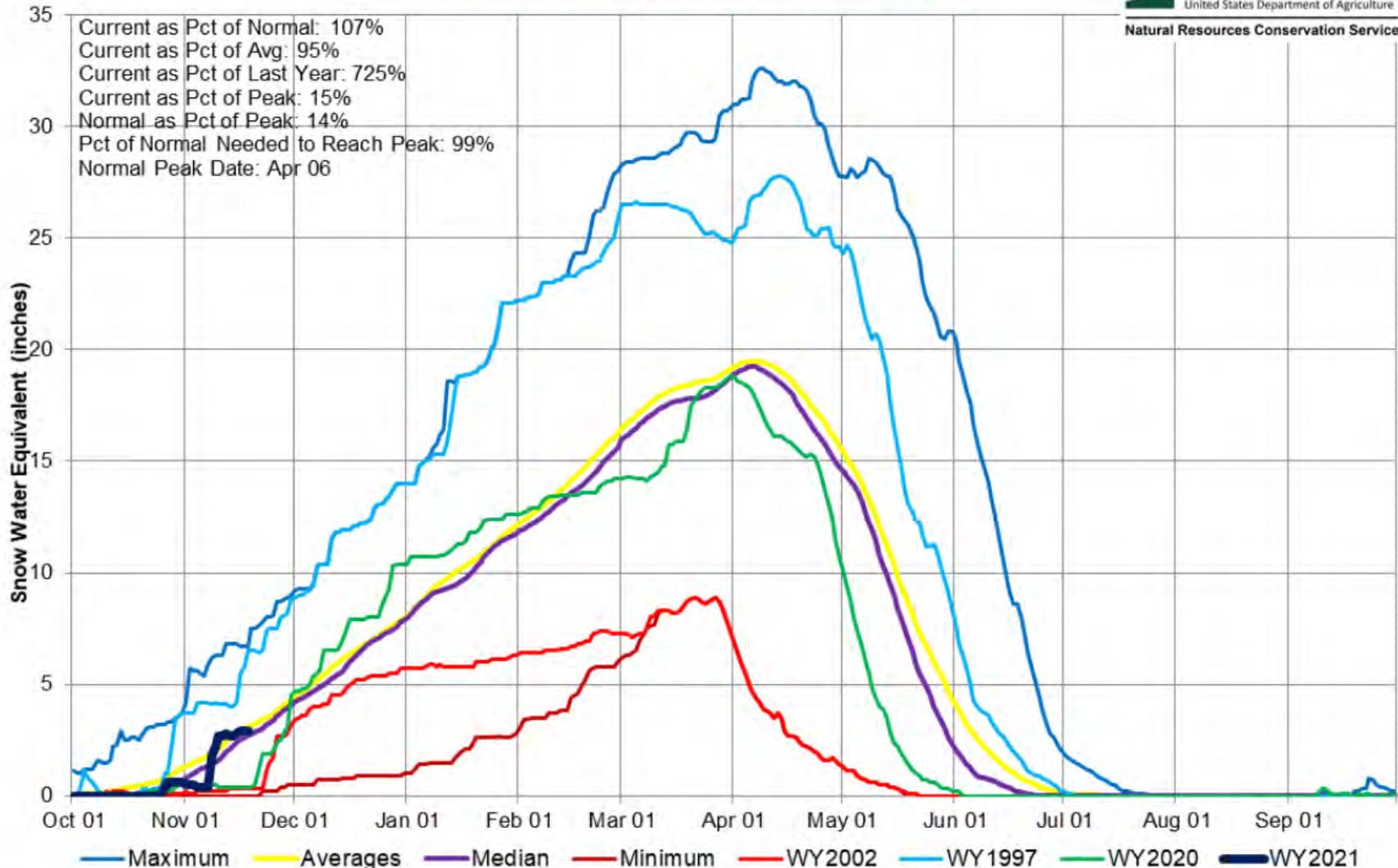




## San Miguel, Dolores, Animas and San Juan River Basins High/Low Snowpack Summary

*Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Nov 18, 2020*

USDA  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

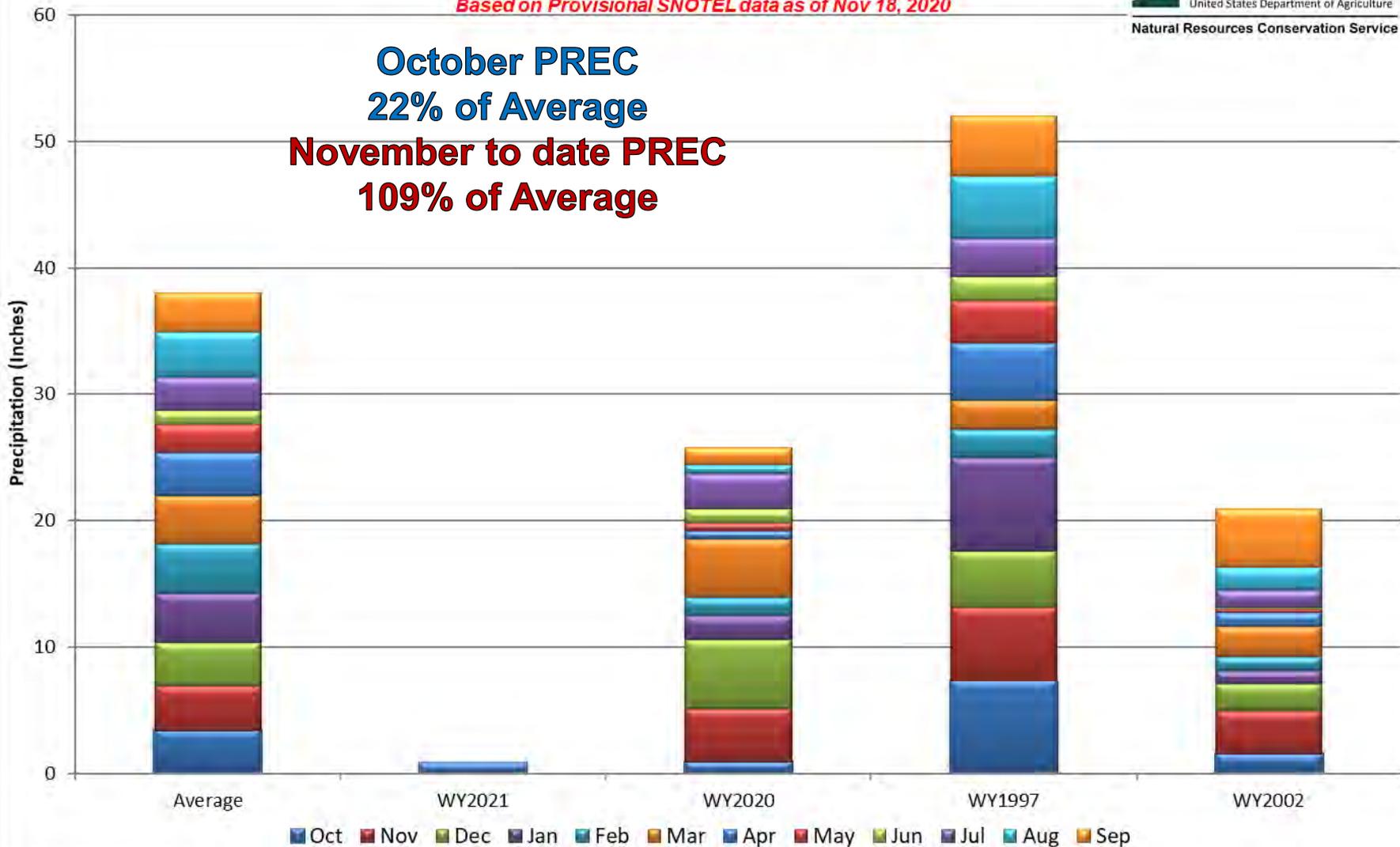


## San Miguel, Dolores, Animas and San Juan River Basins High/Low Monthly Precipitation Summary

*Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Nov 18, 2020*

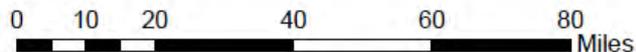
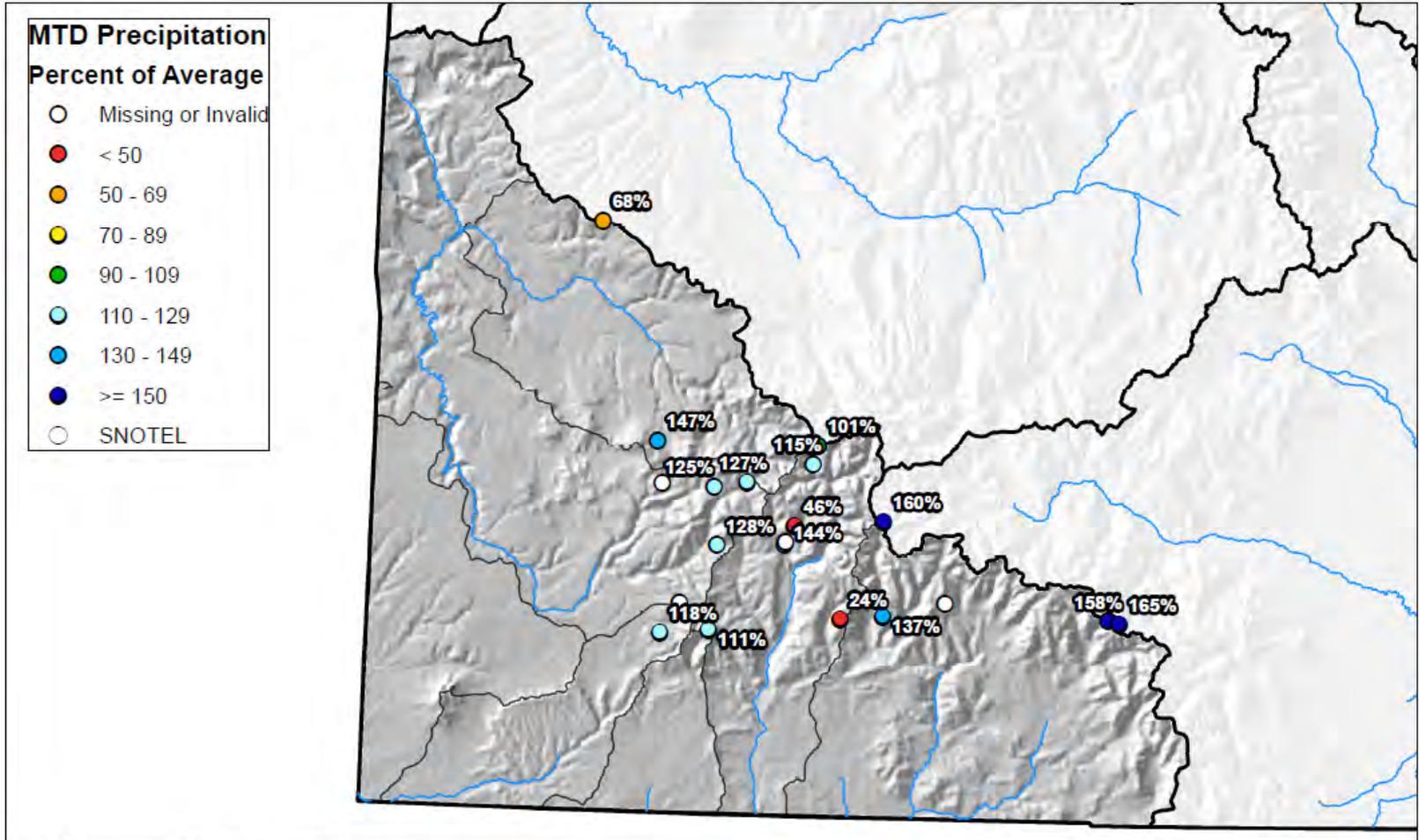
USDA  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

**October PREC  
22% of Average**  
**November to date PREC  
109% of Average**



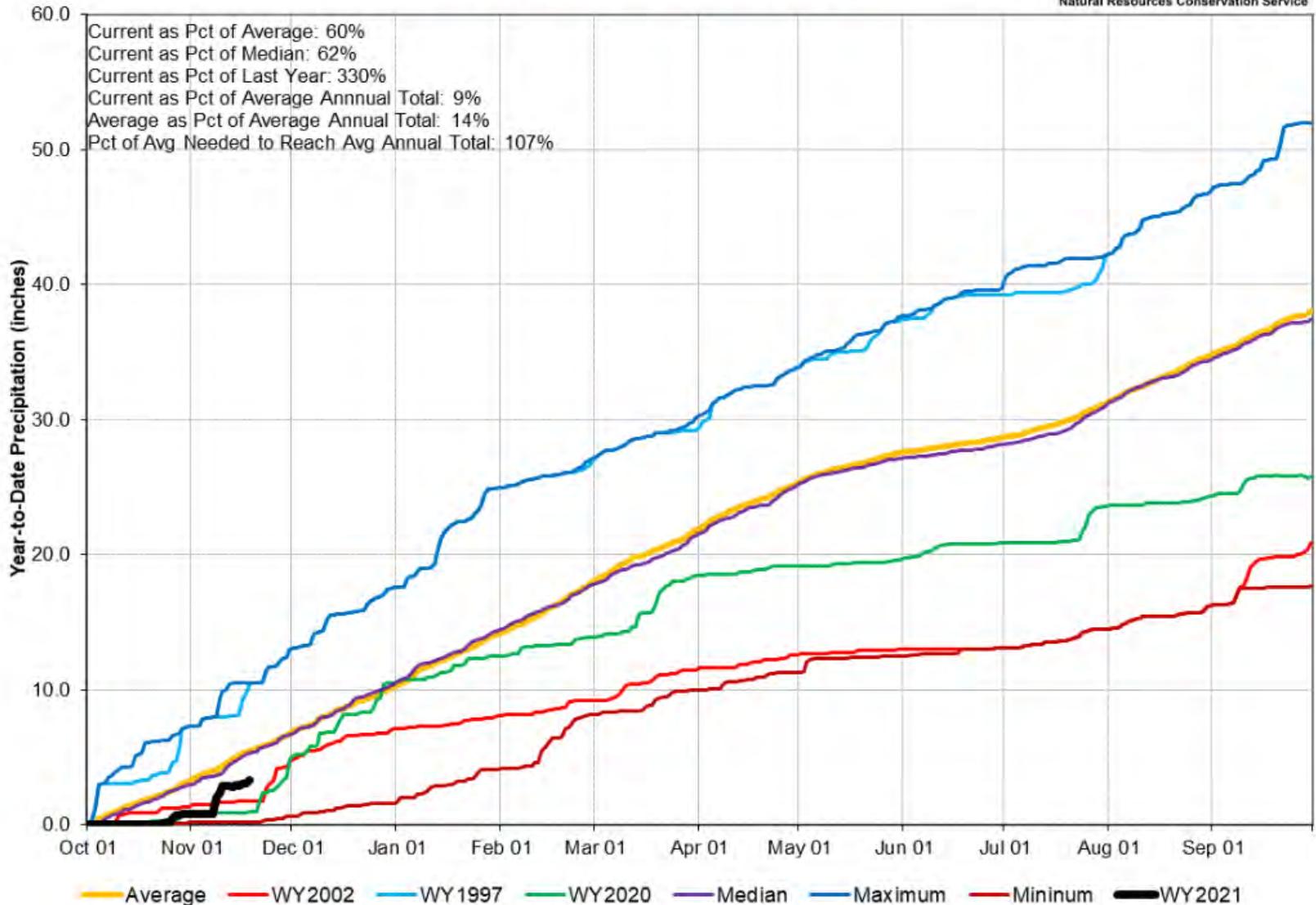
## San Miguel, Dolores, Animas, and San Juan River Basins Month to Date Precipitation Summary

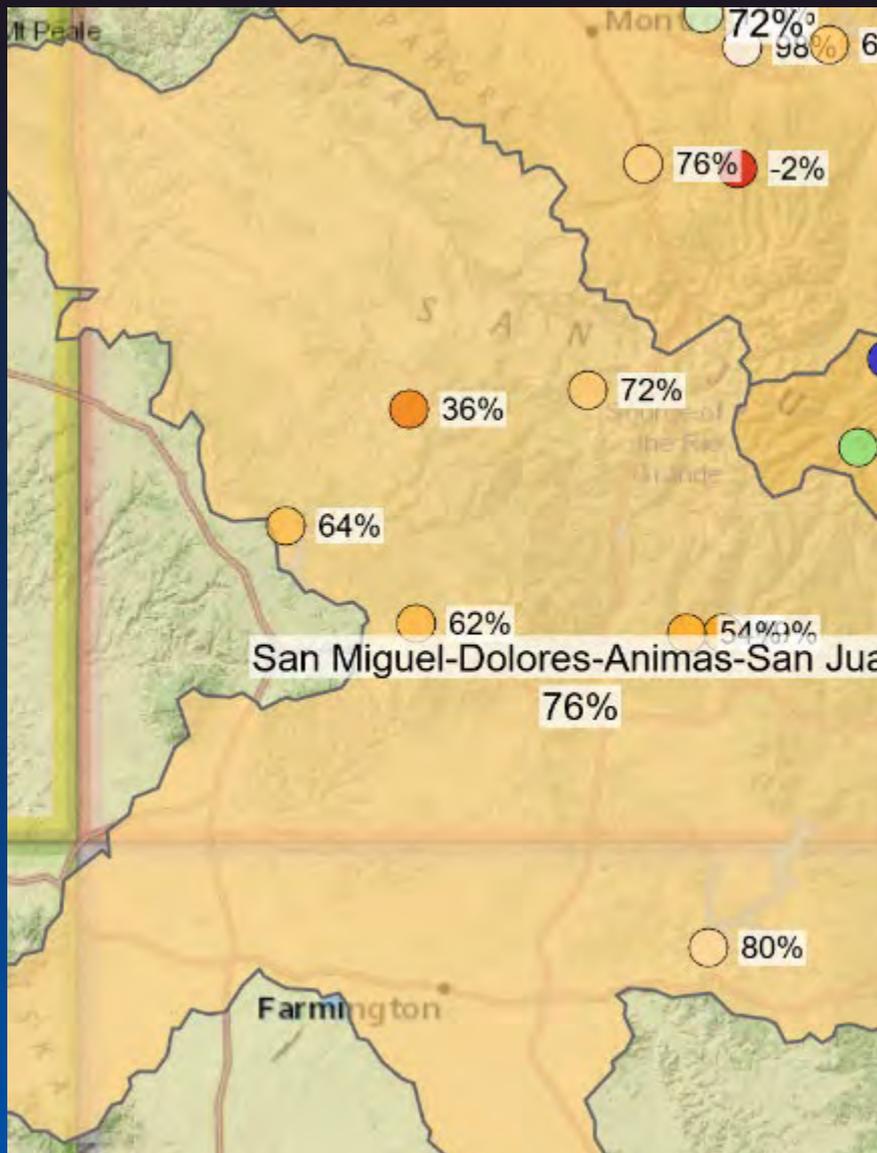
Current as of Nov 18, 2020



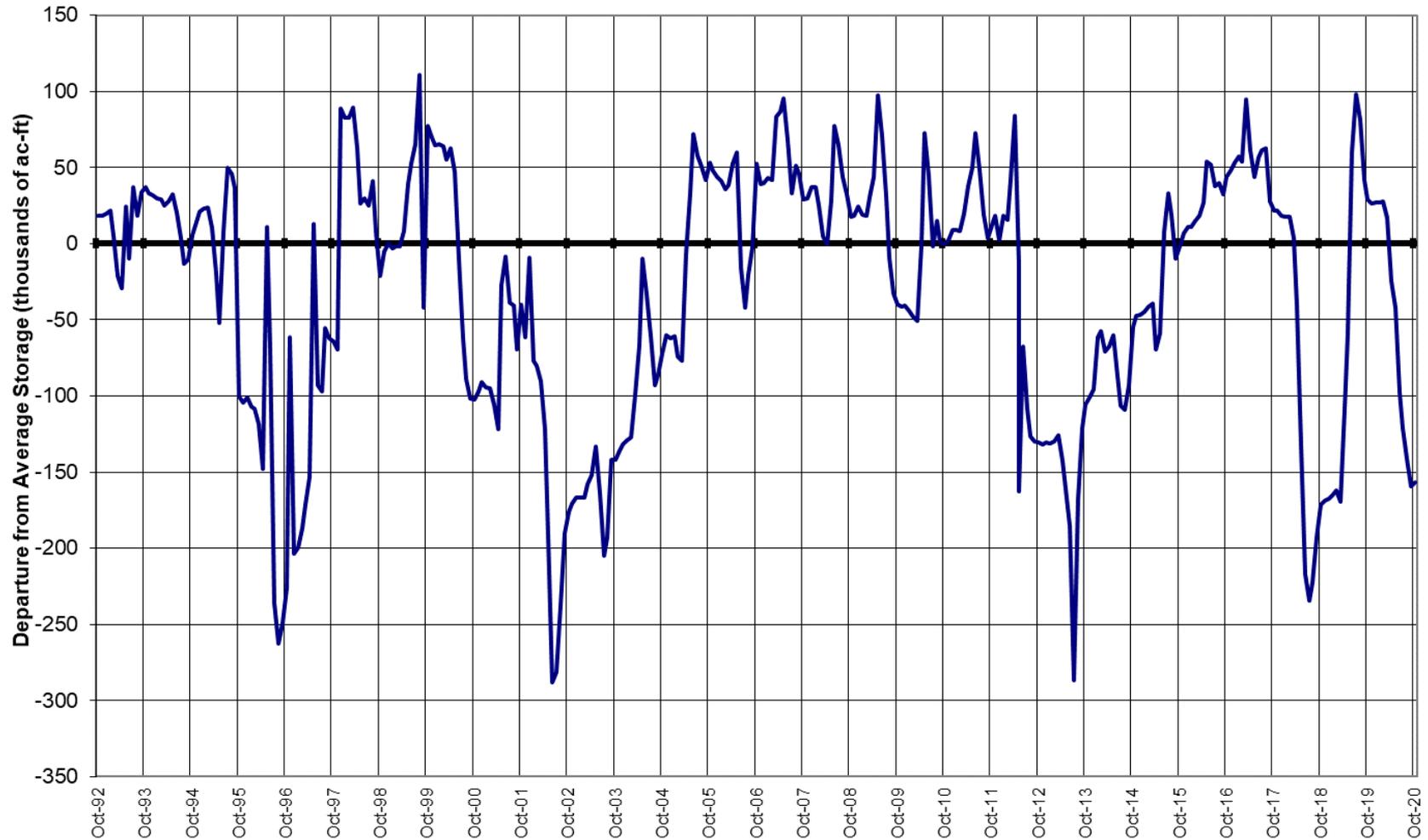
## San Miguel, Dolores, Animas and San Juan River Basins High/Low Year-to-Date Precipitation Summary

*Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Nov 18, 2020*



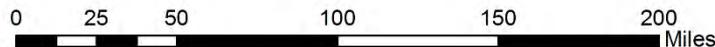
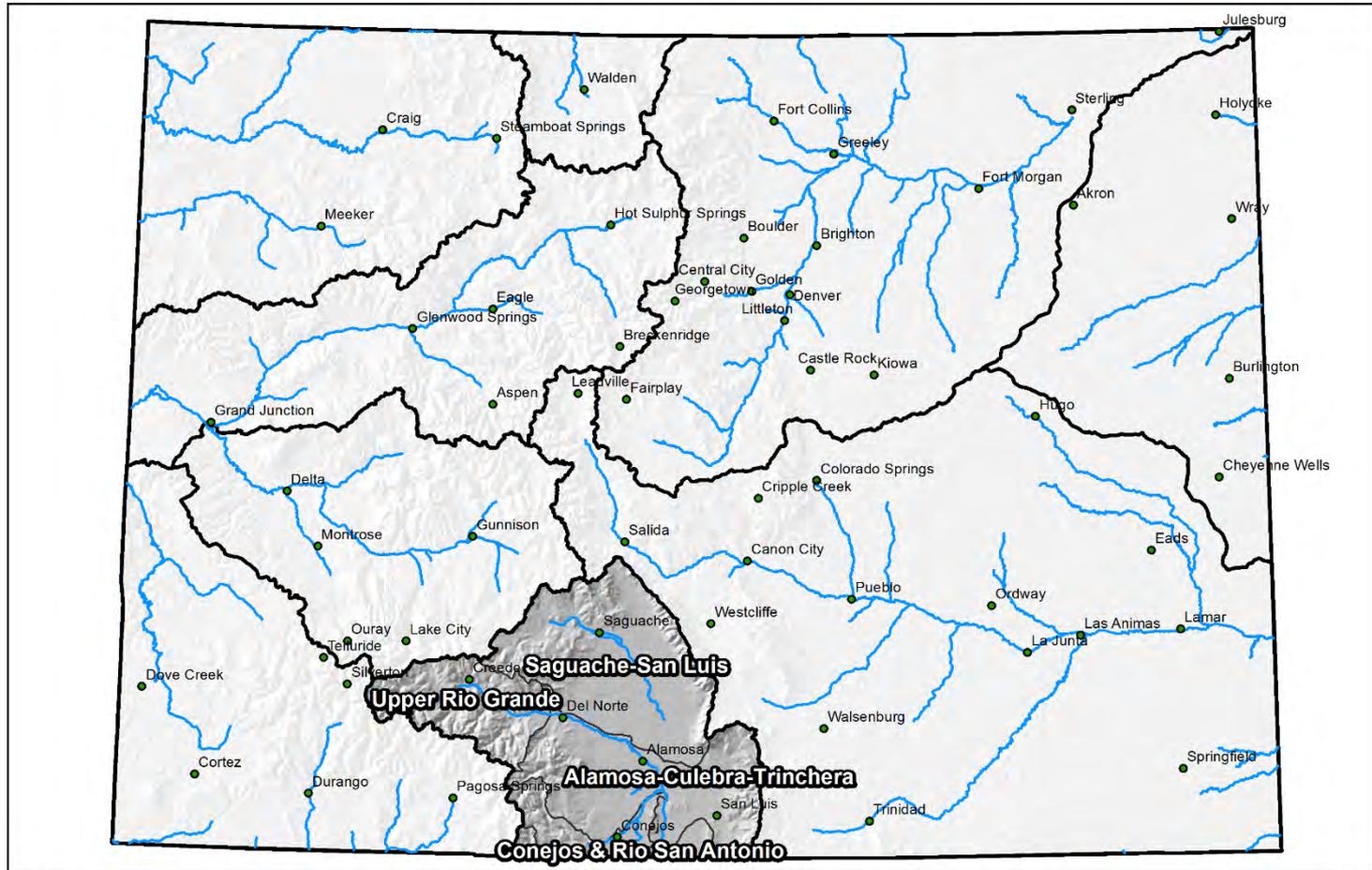


**SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES, ANIMAS AND SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS**  
**Reservoir Storage**  
**Departure from Average**



## Major Basin Summary

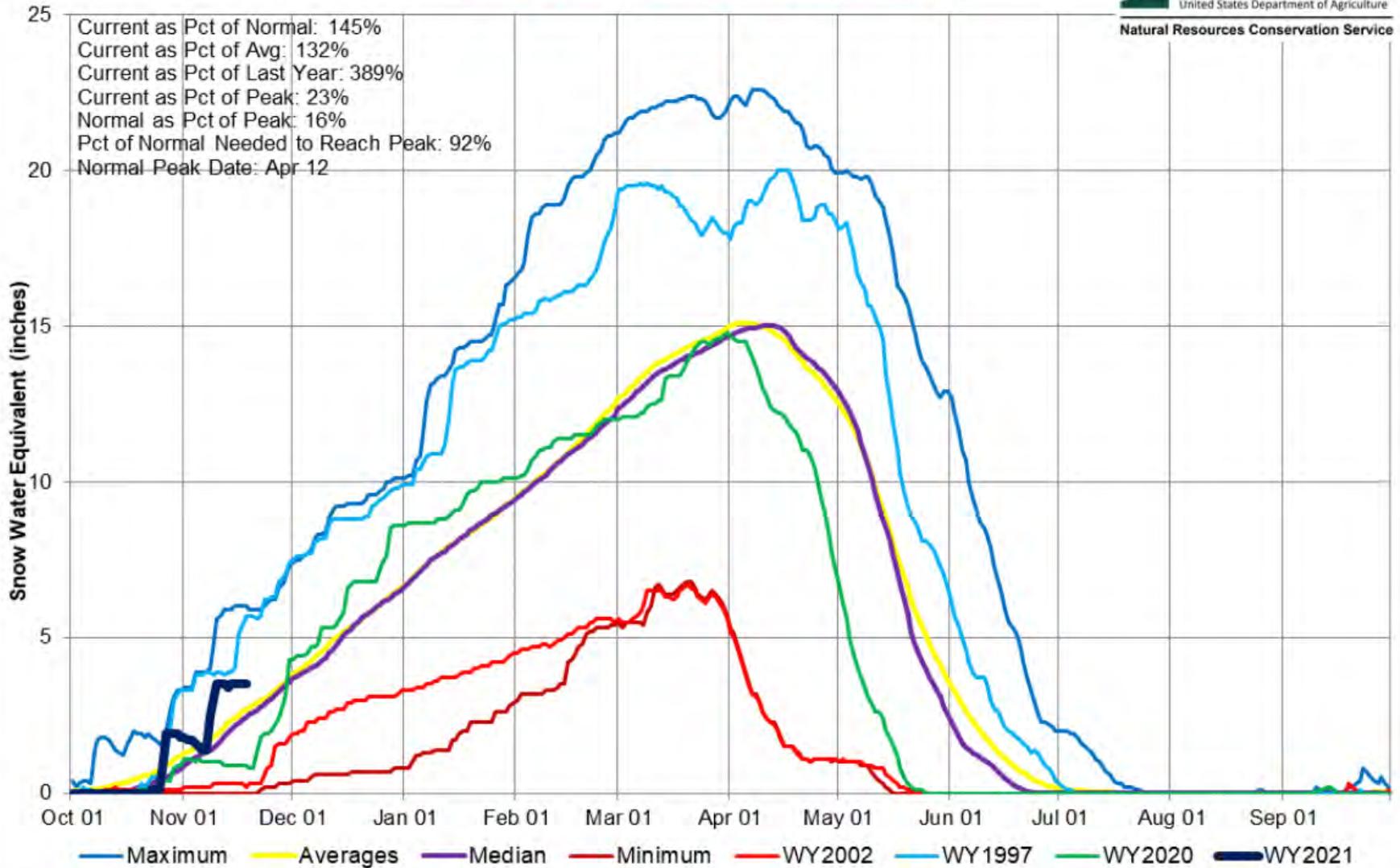
Upper Rio Grande River Basin



## Upper Rio Grande Basin High/Low Snowpack Summary

Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Nov 18, 2020

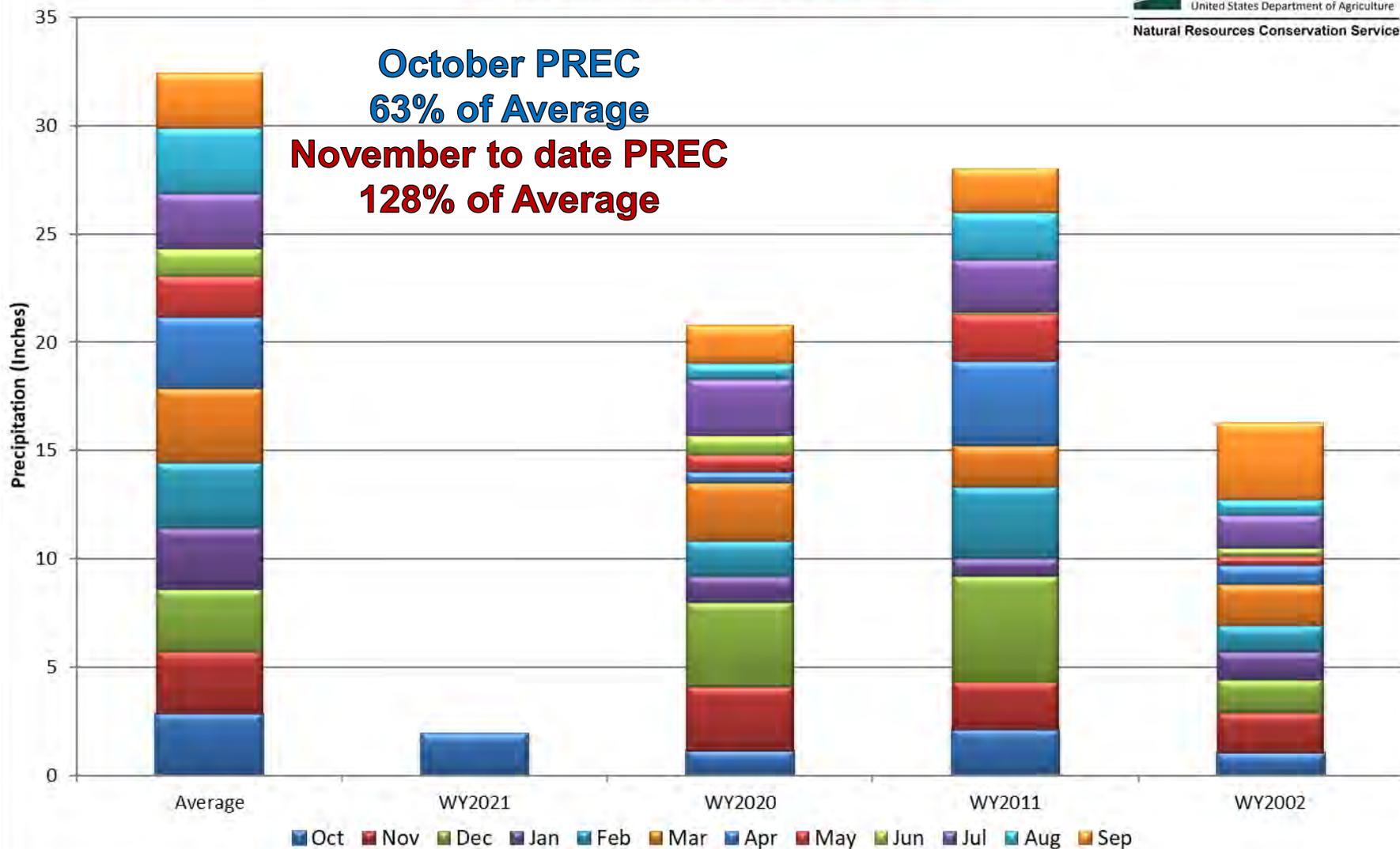
USDA  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service



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

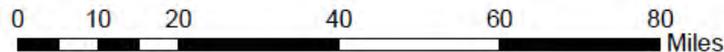
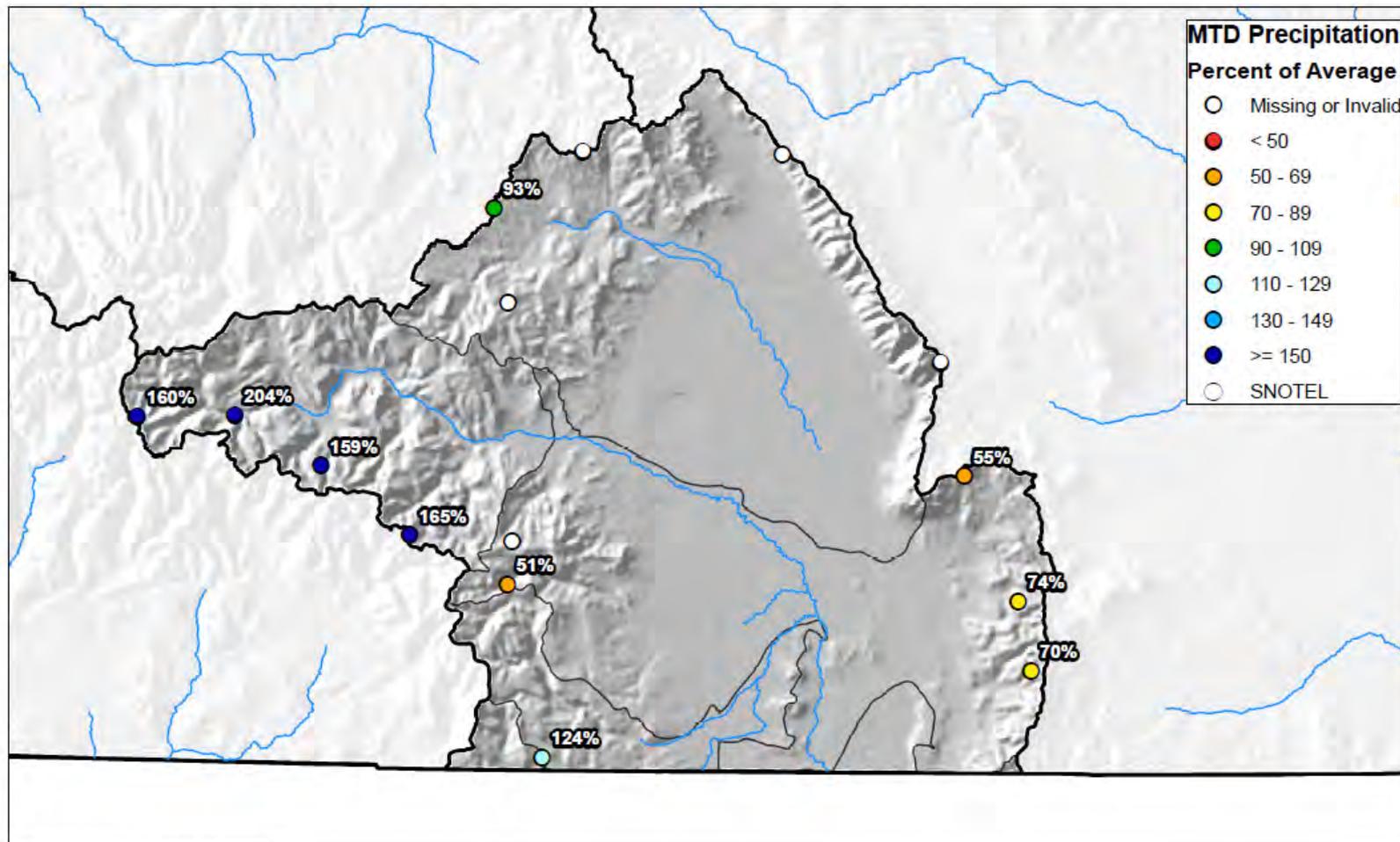
*Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Nov 18, 2020*

USDA  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service



## Upper Rio Grande River Basin Month to Date Precipitation Summary

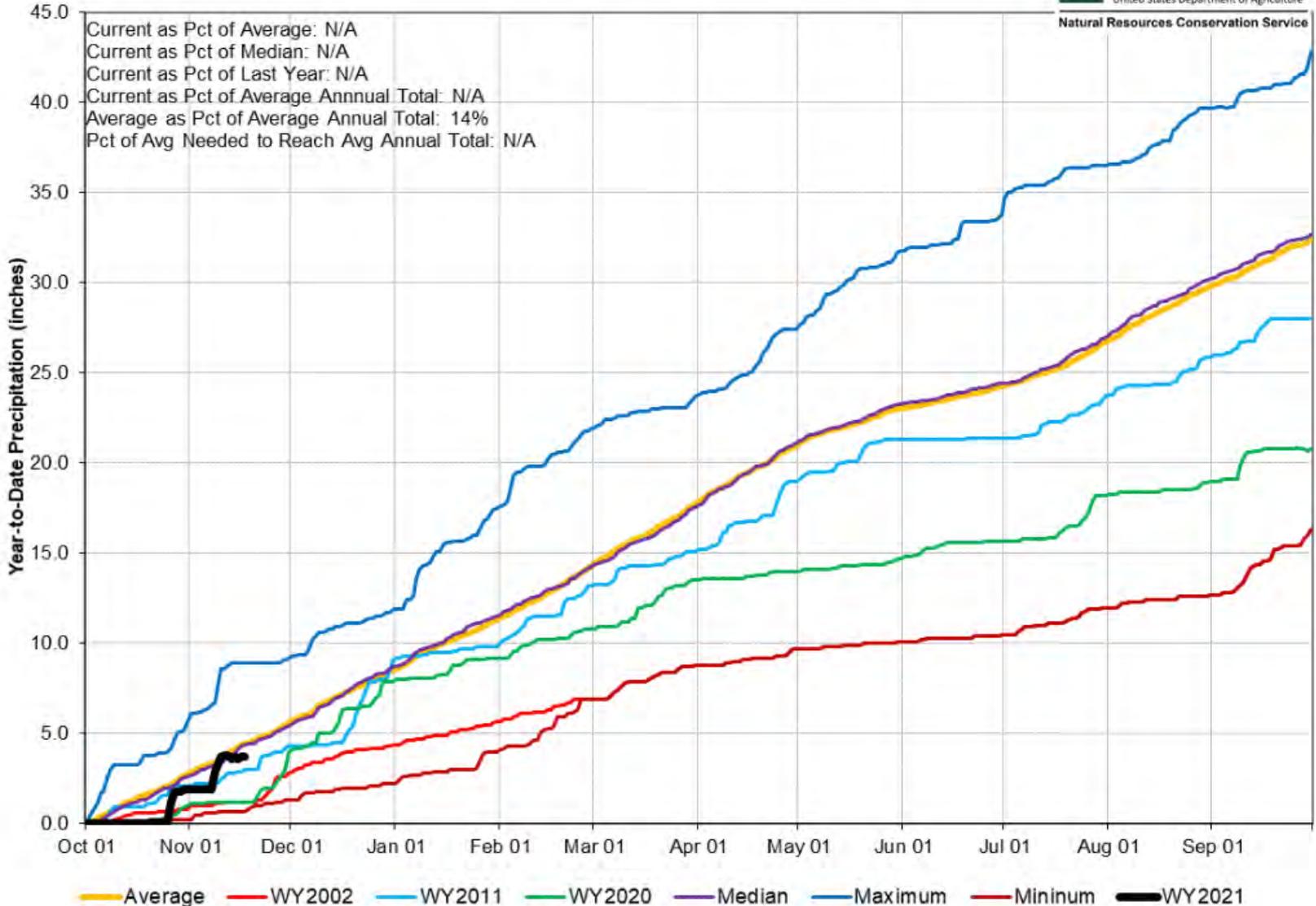
Current as of Nov 18, 2020

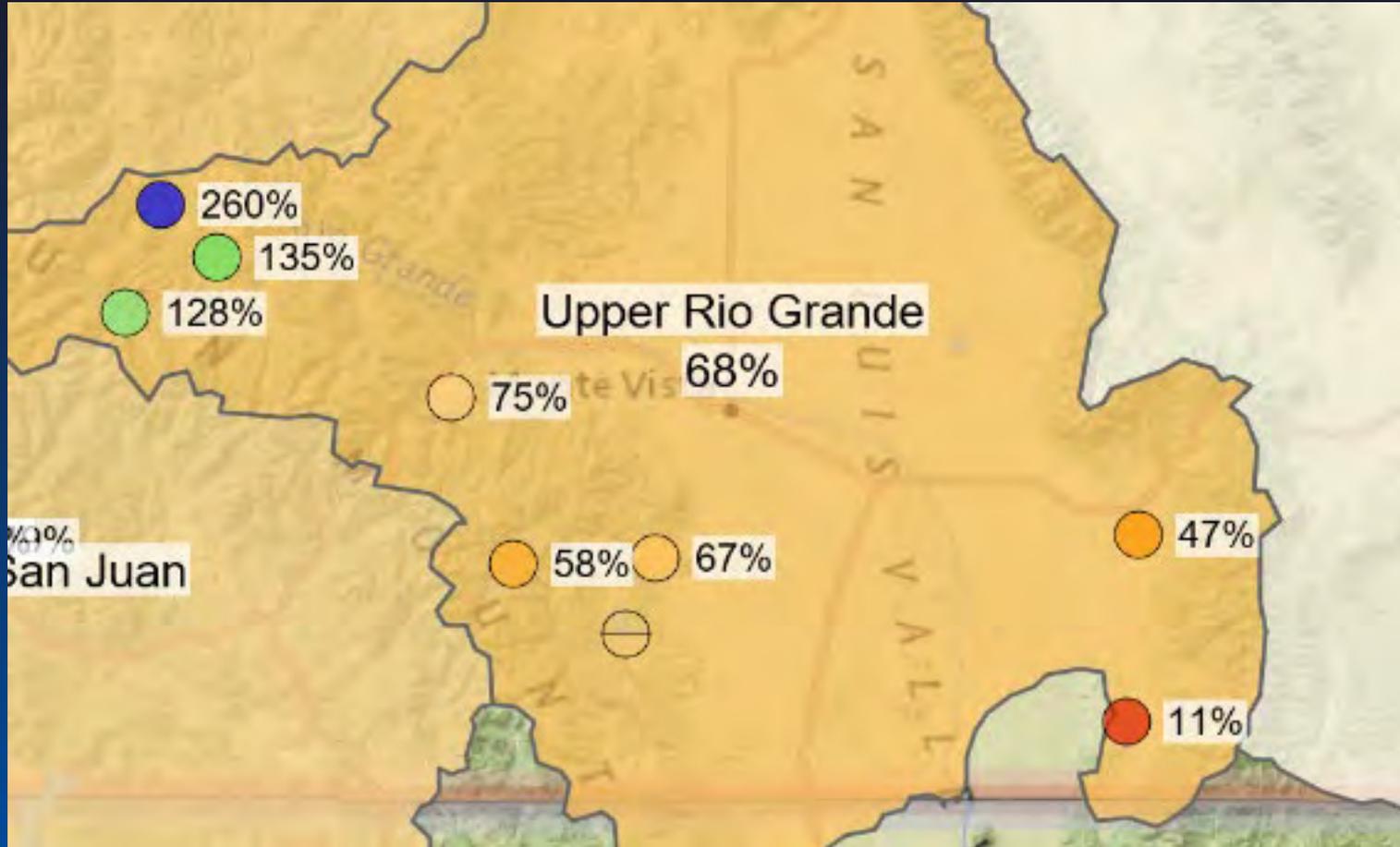


## Upper Rio Grande River Basin High/Low Year-to-Date Precipitation Summary

*Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Nov 18, 2020*

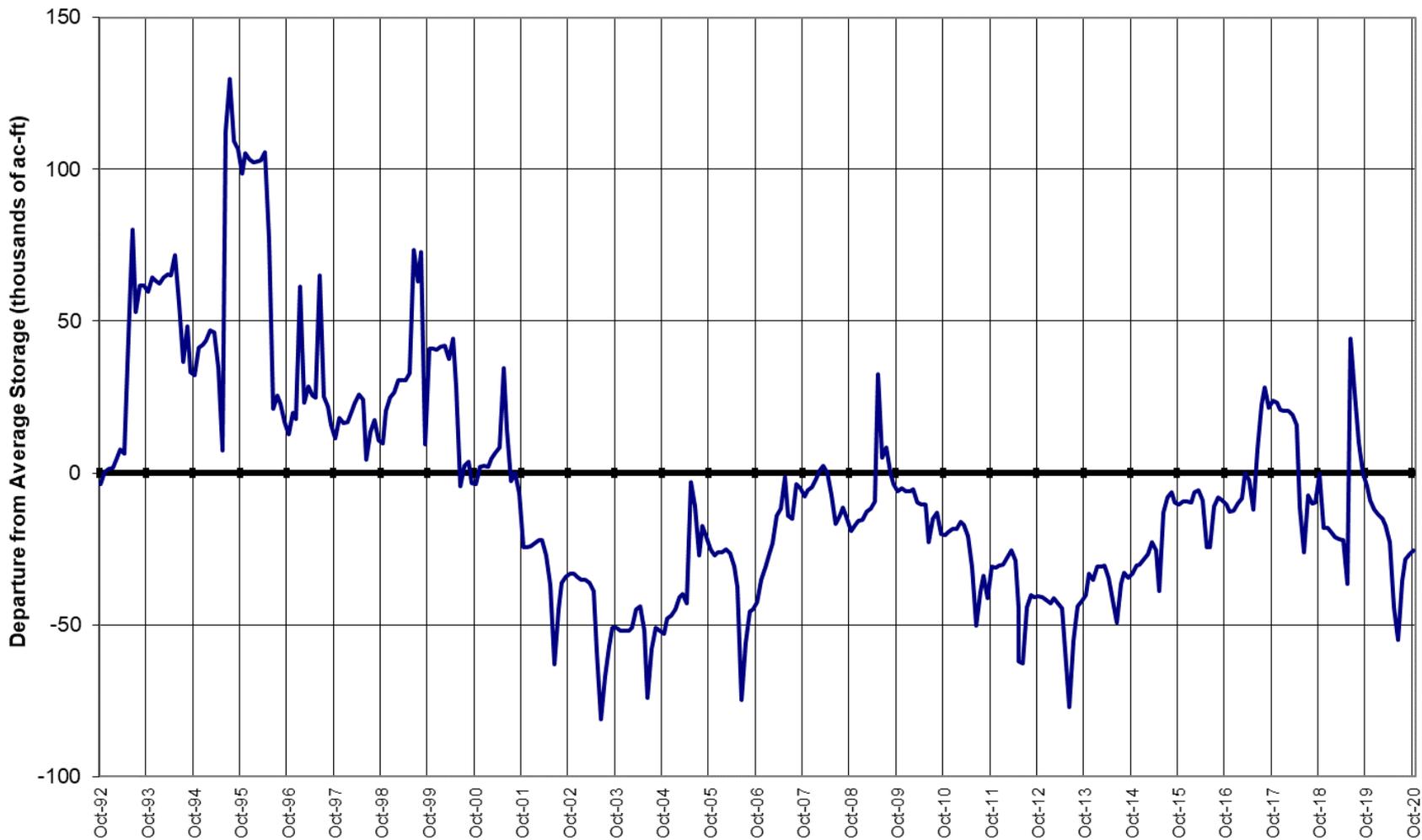
USDA  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service





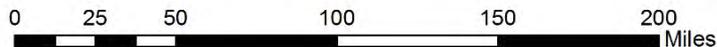
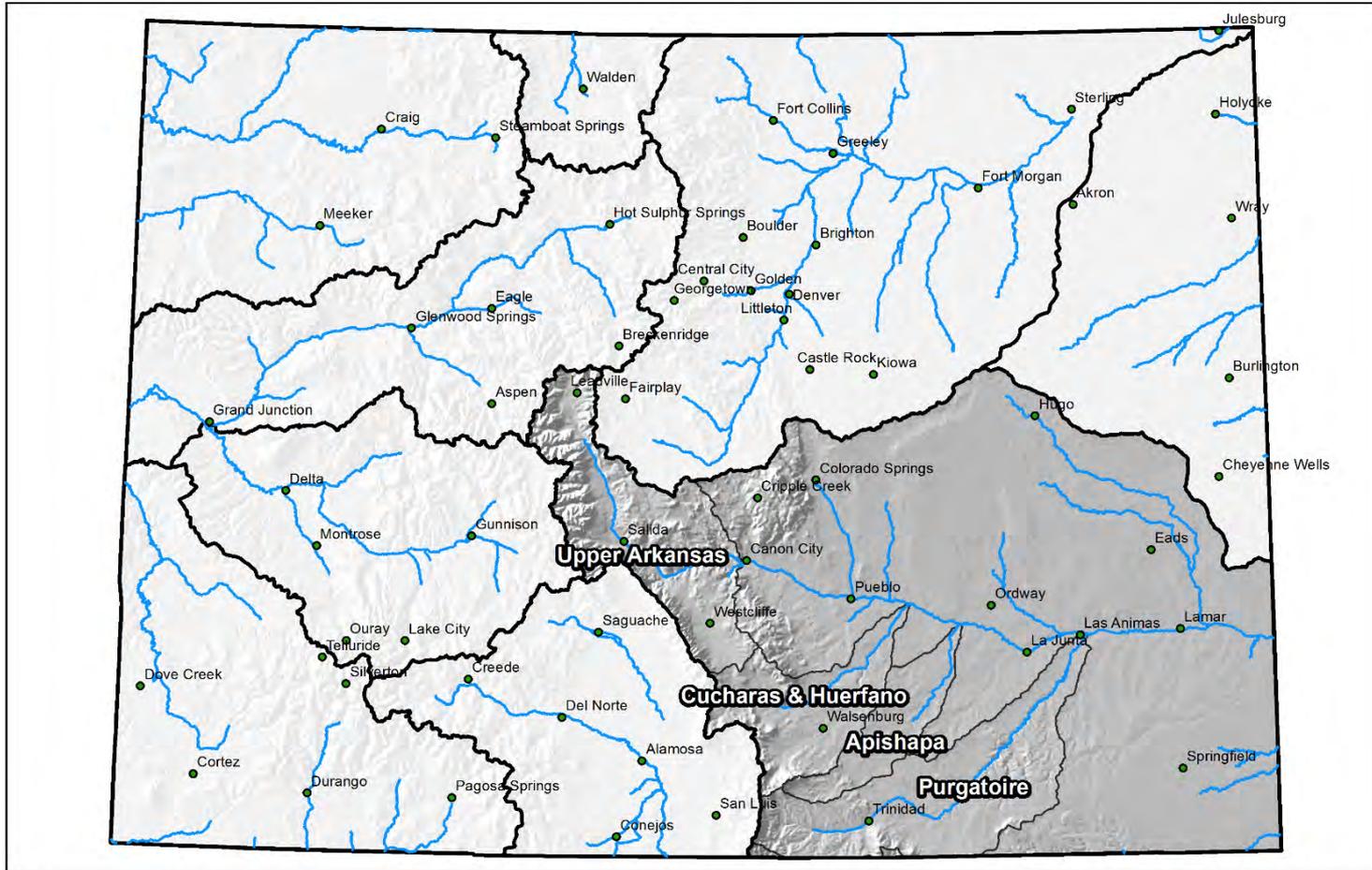


## UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN Reservoir Storage Departure from Average



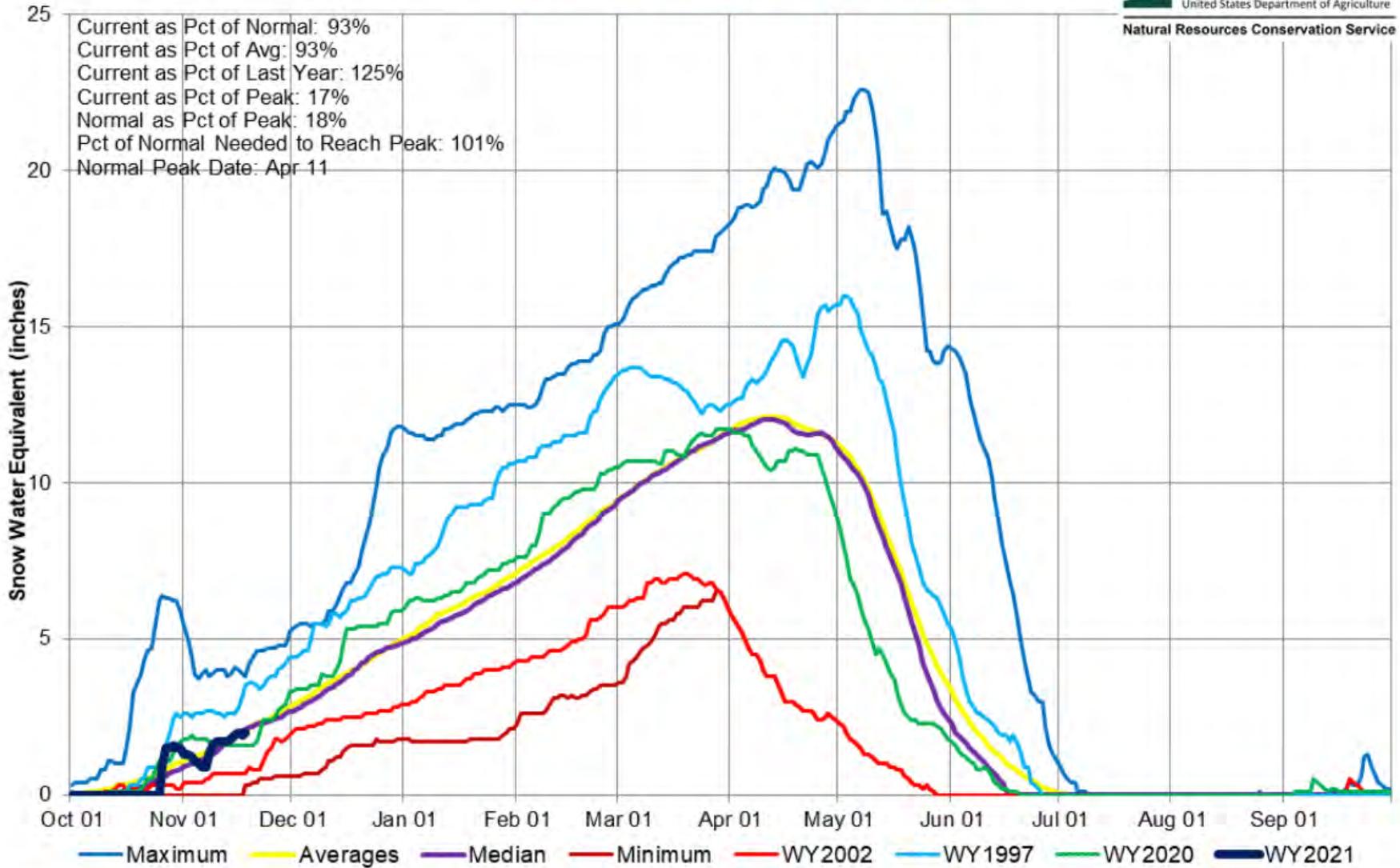
## Major Basin Summary

### Arkansas River Basin



## Arkansas River Basin High/Low Snowpack Summary

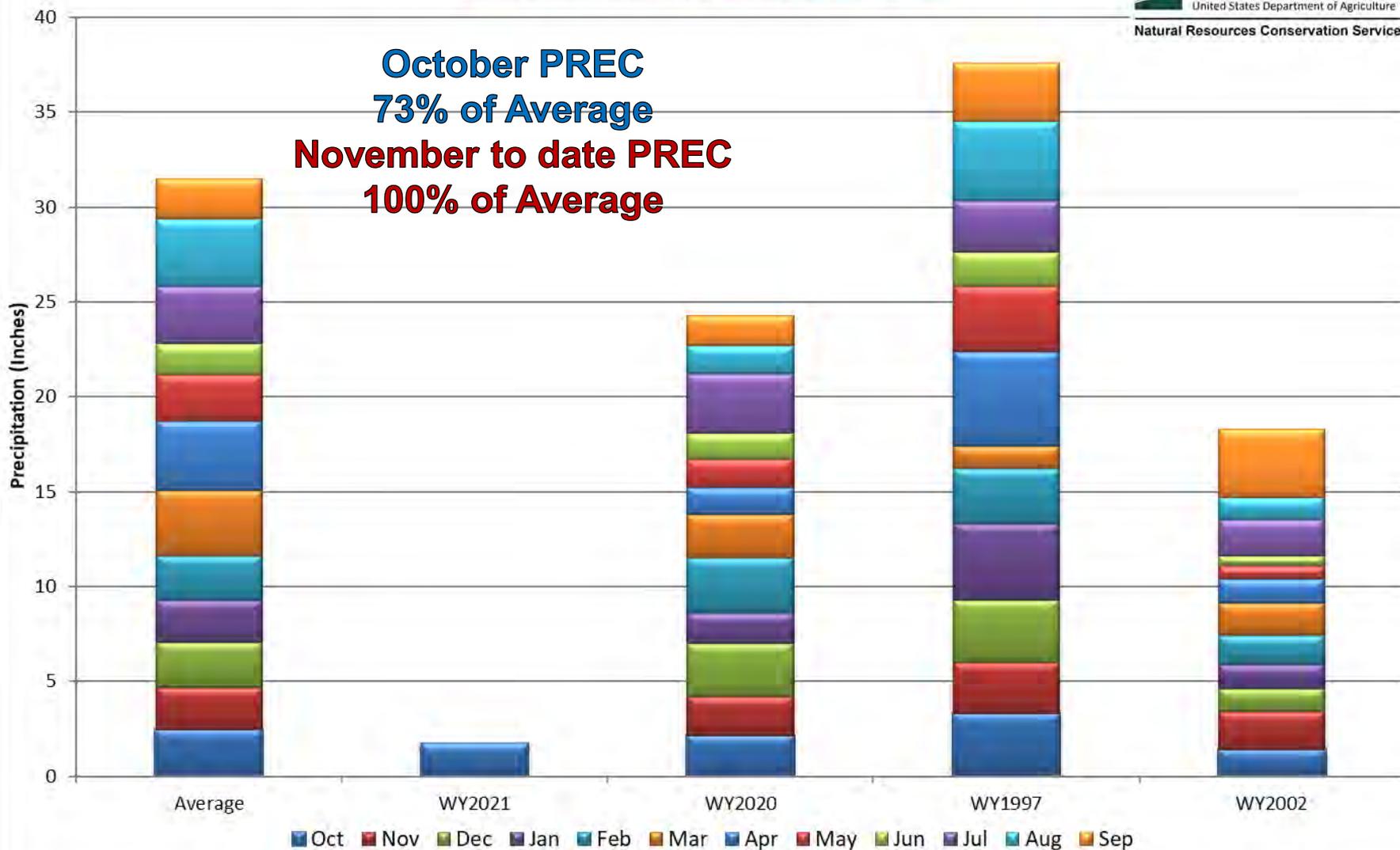
*Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Nov 18, 2020*



## Arkansas River Basin High/Low Monthly Precipitation Summary

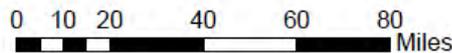
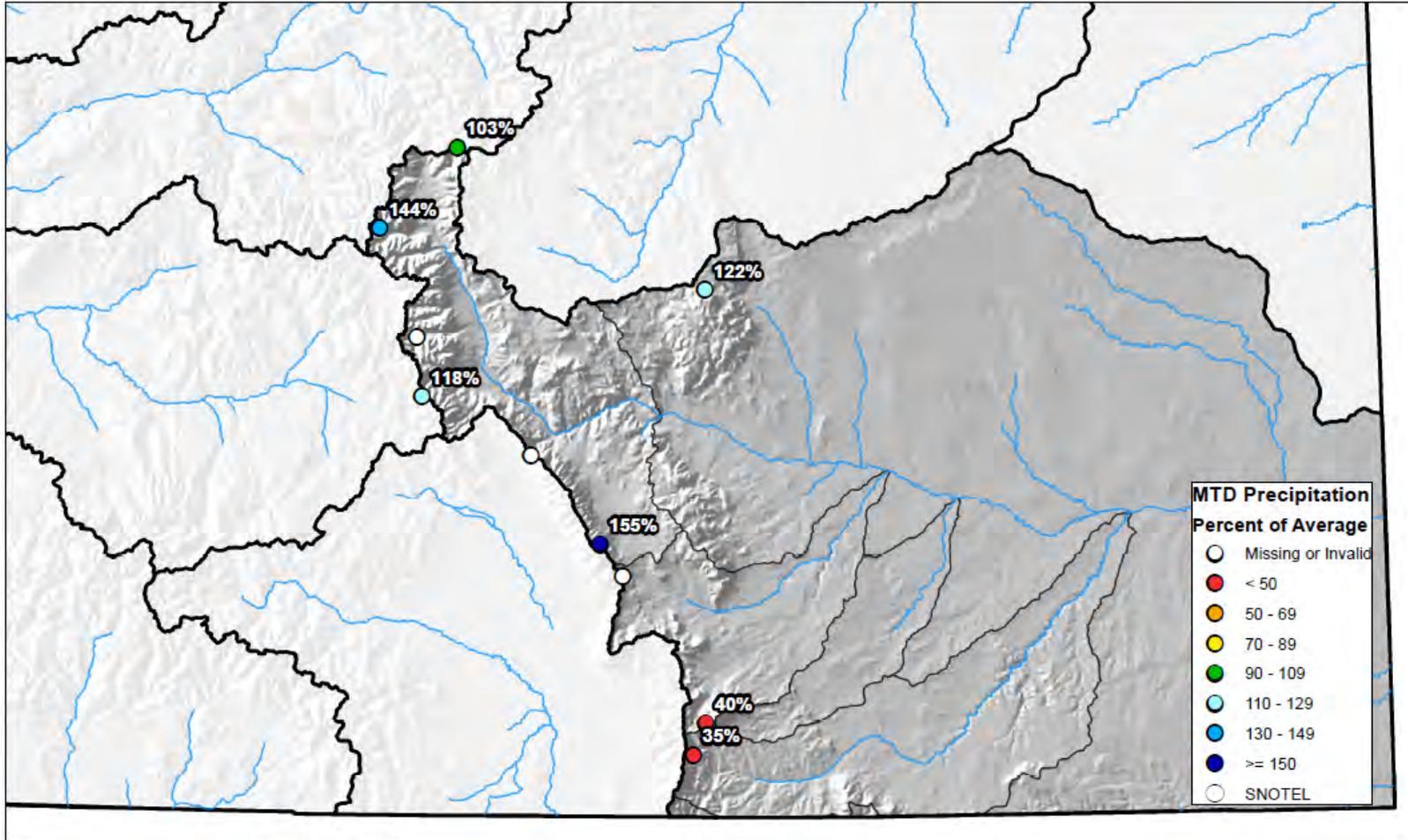
*Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Nov 18, 2020*

USDA  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service



## Arkansas River Basin Month to Date Precipitation Summary

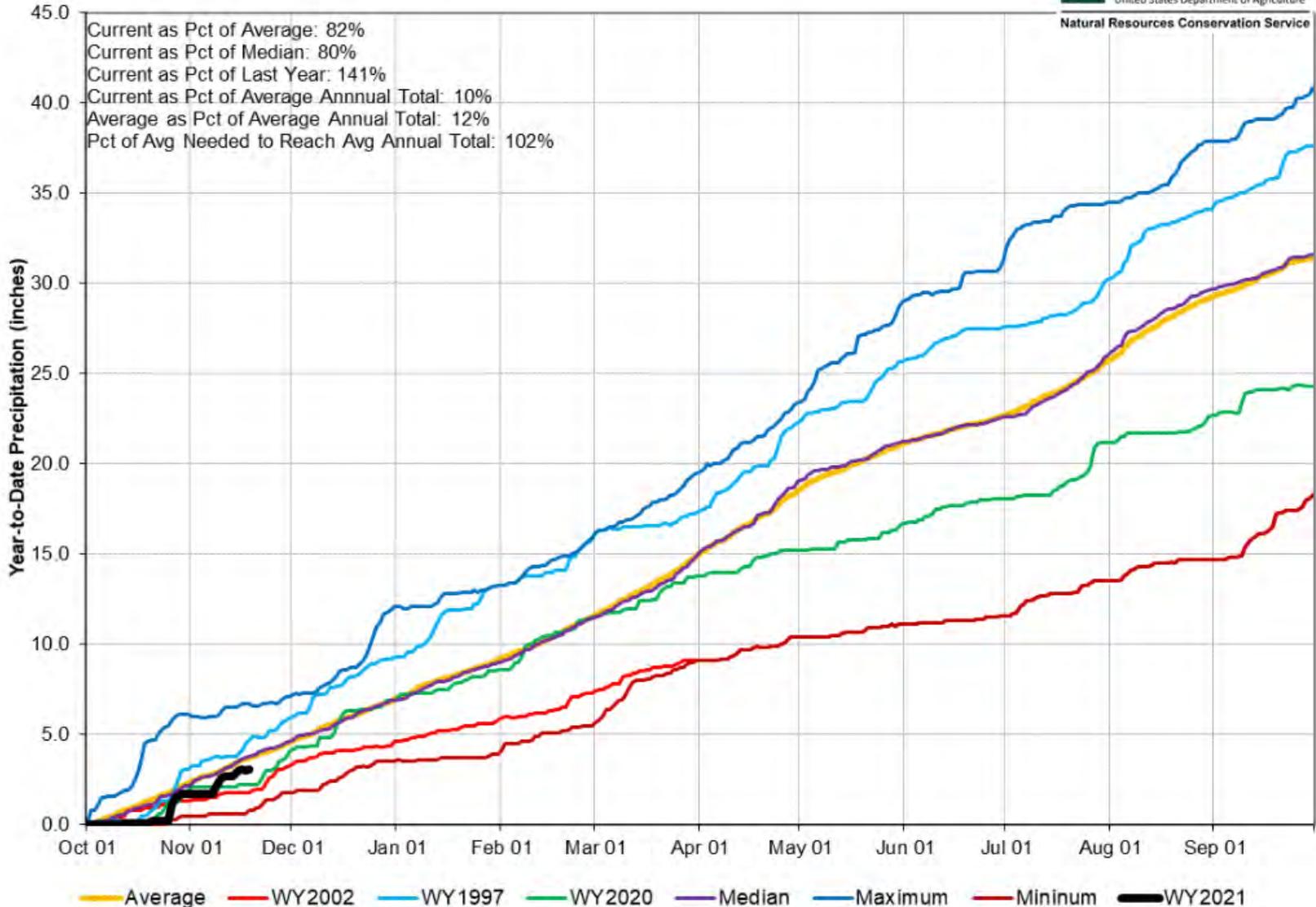
Current as of Nov 18, 2020

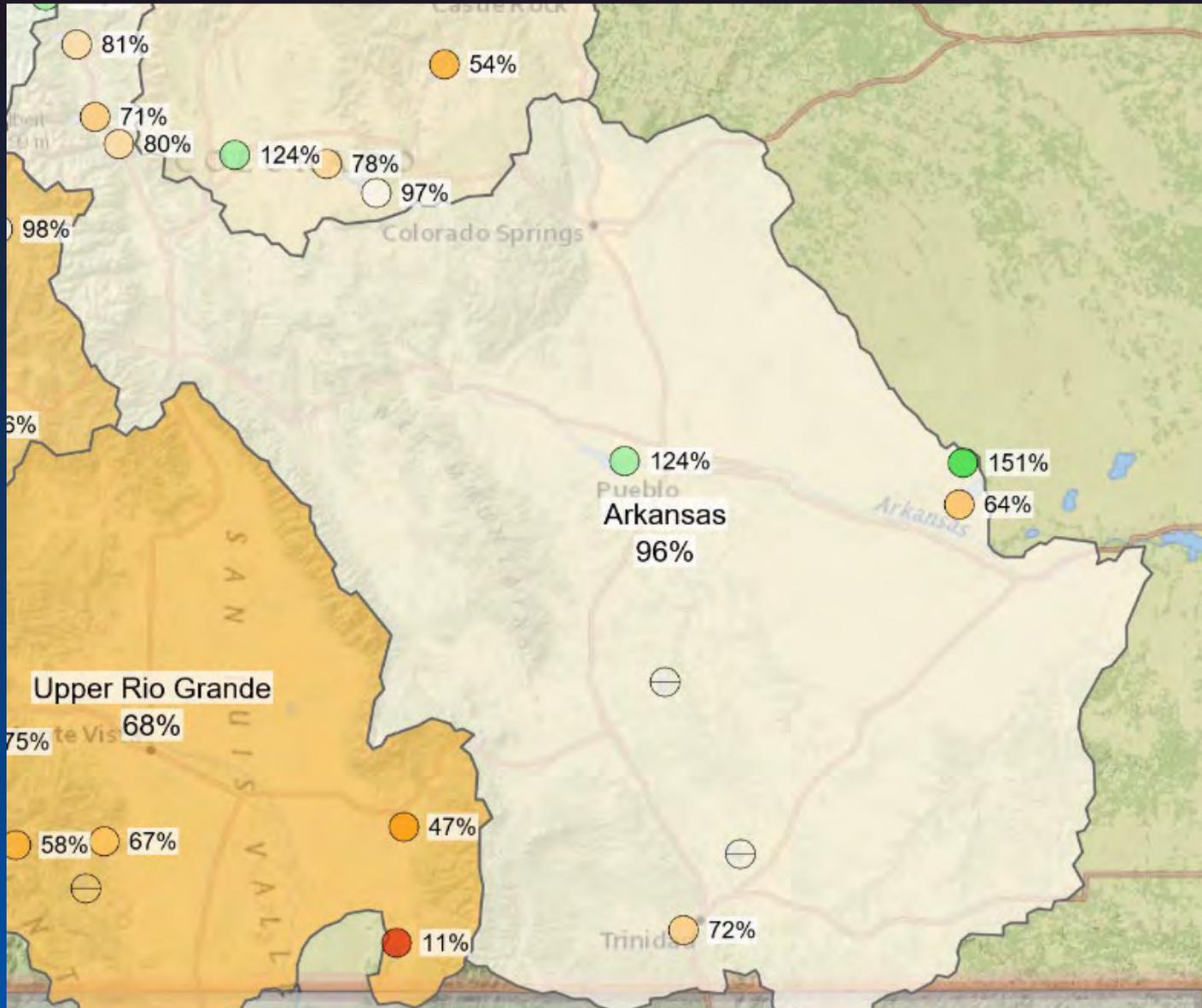


## Arkansas River Basin High/Low Year-to-Date Precipitation Summary

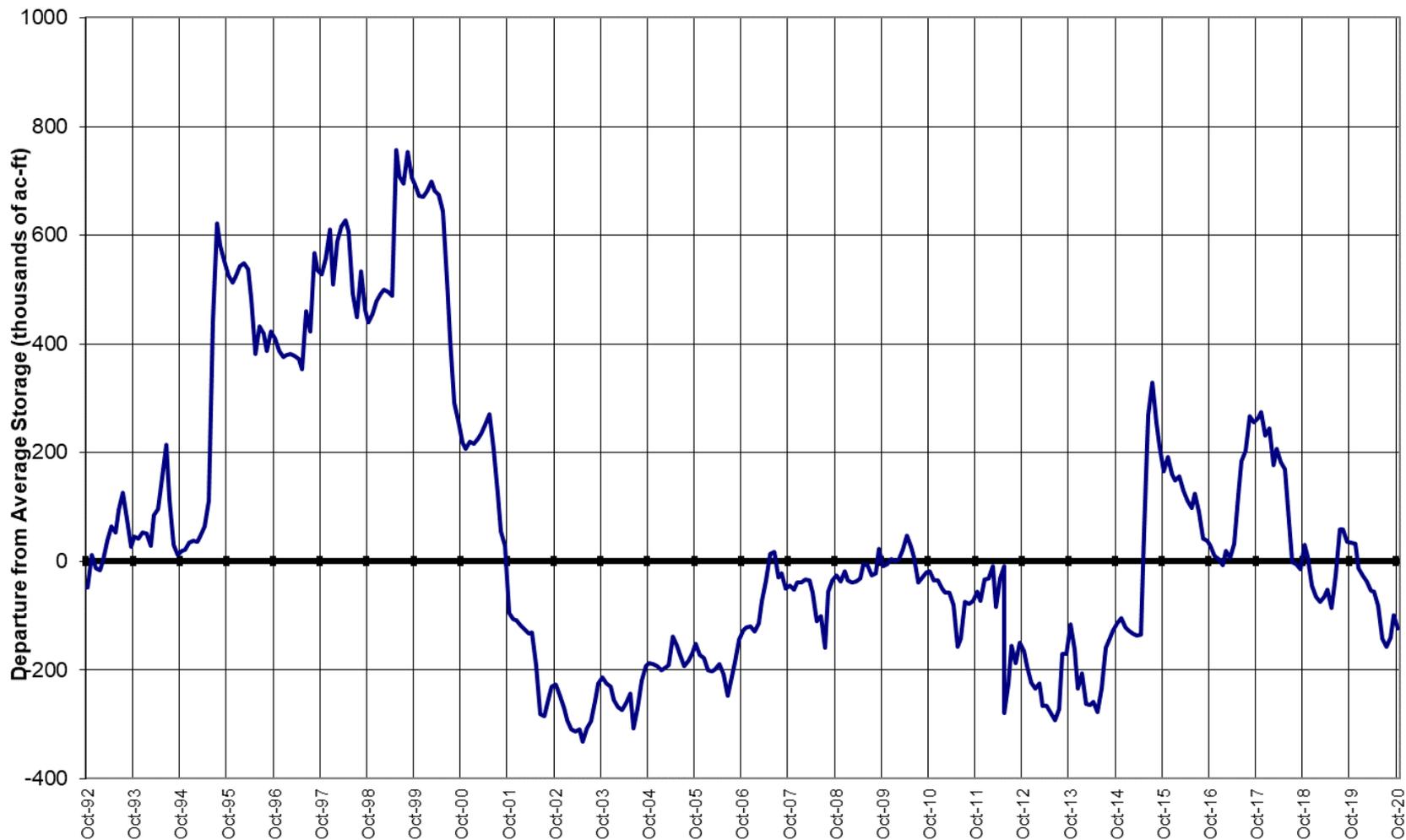
*Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Nov 18, 2020*

USDA  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service



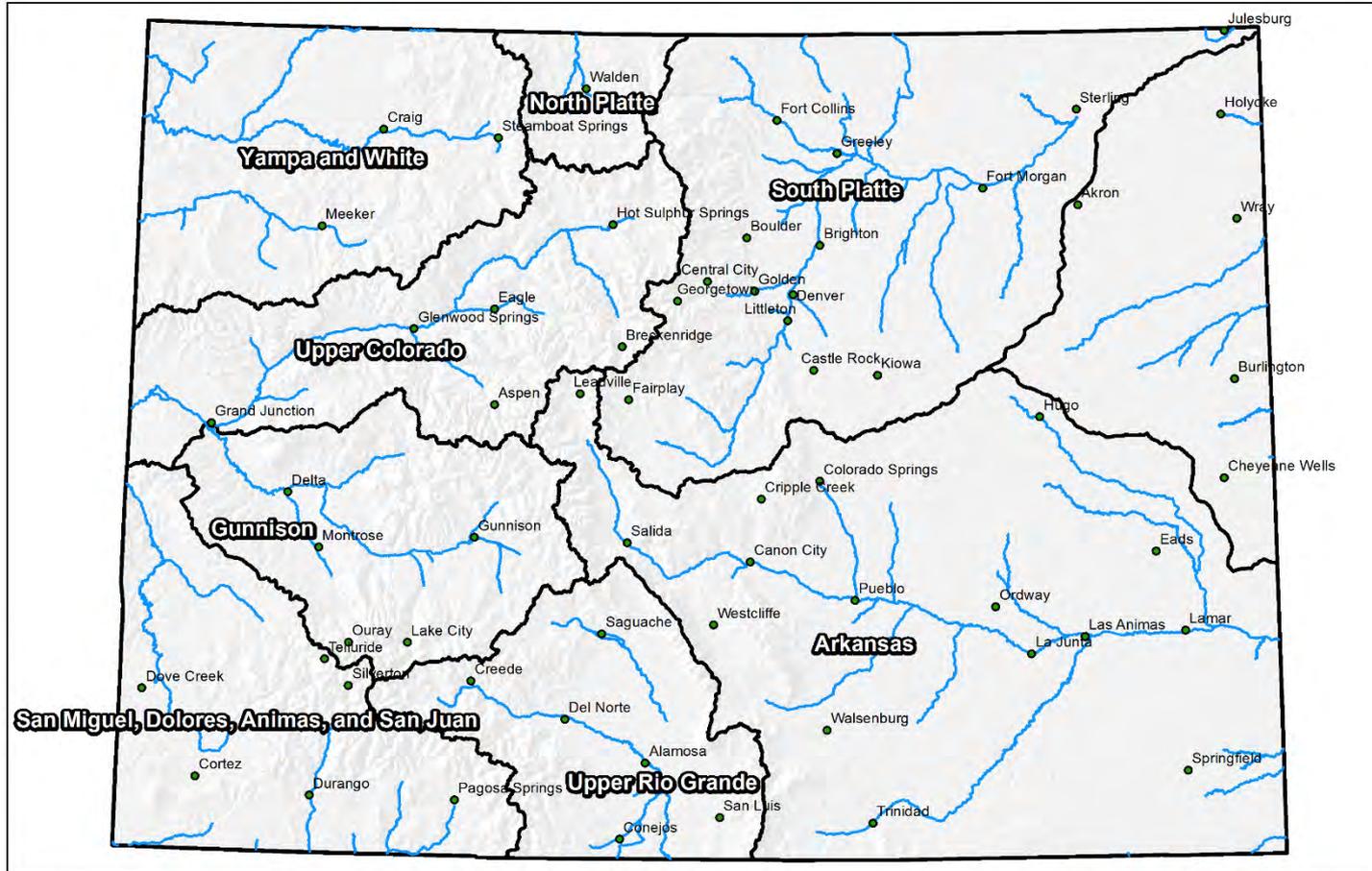


## ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage Departure from Average



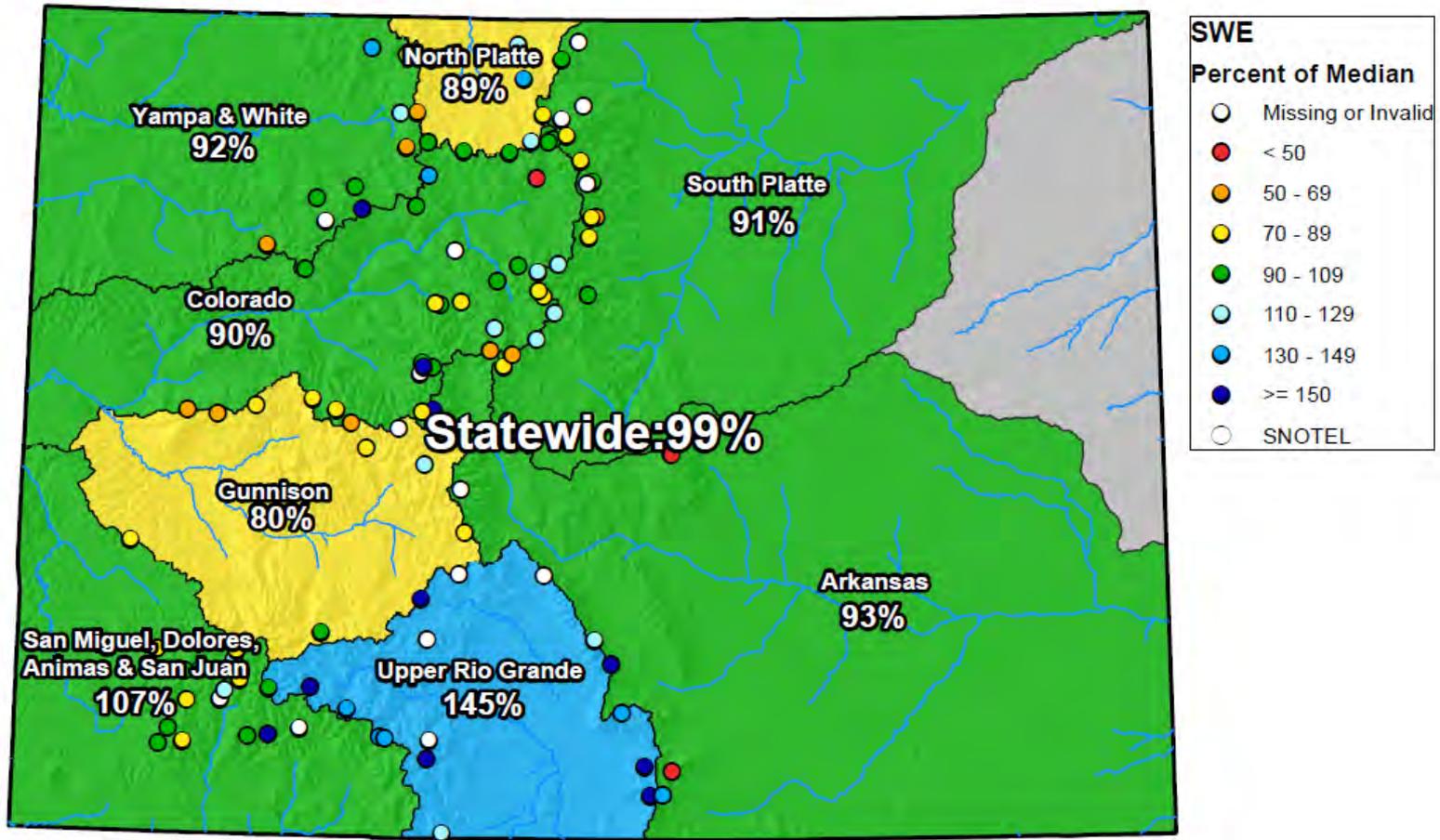
## Colorado Statewide Summary

### Colorado Major Basins



## Colorado SNOTEL Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) Update Map with Site Data

Current as of Nov 18, 2020



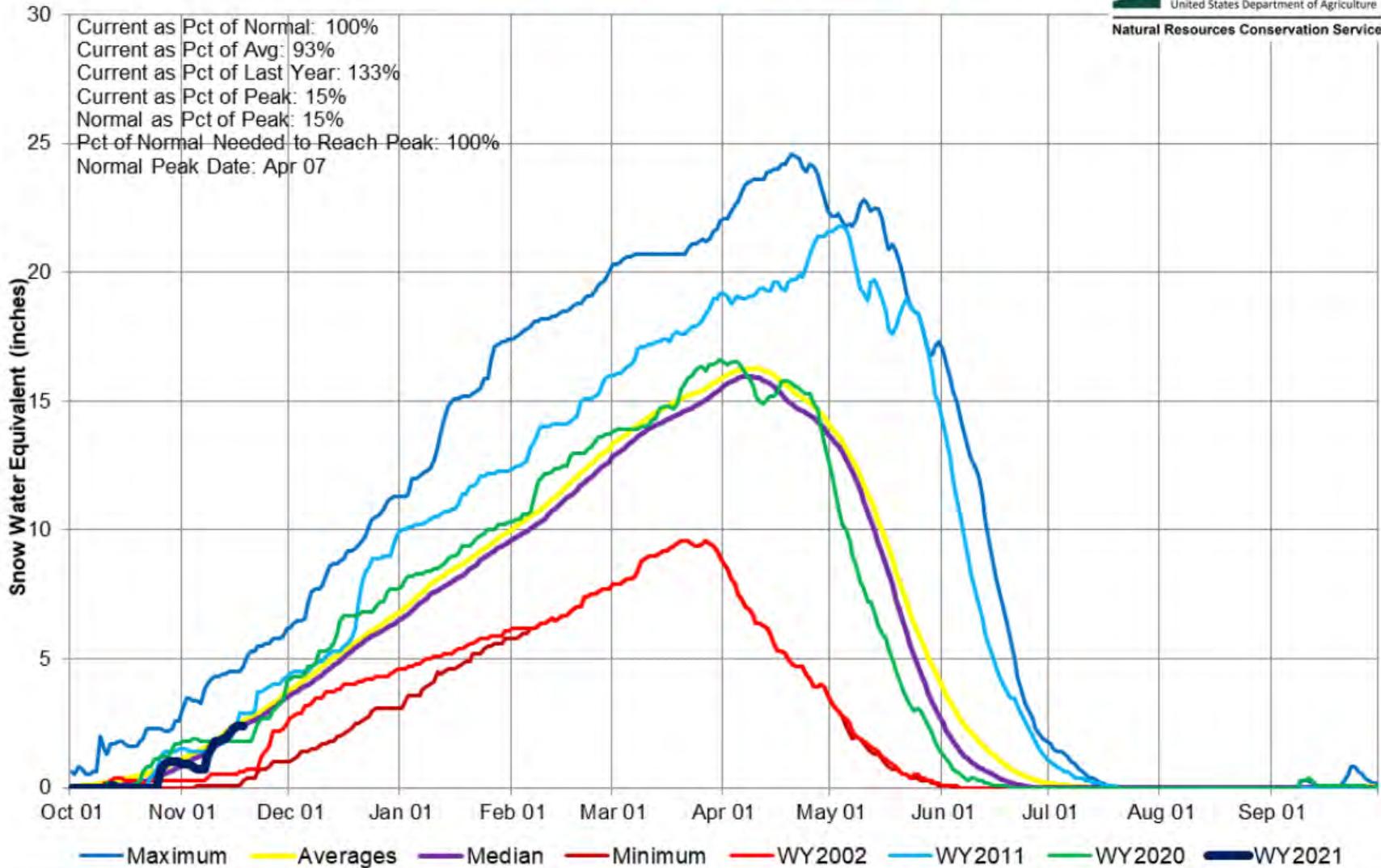
## Colorado Statewide High/Low Snowpack Summary

Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Nov 18, 2020



United States Department of Agriculture

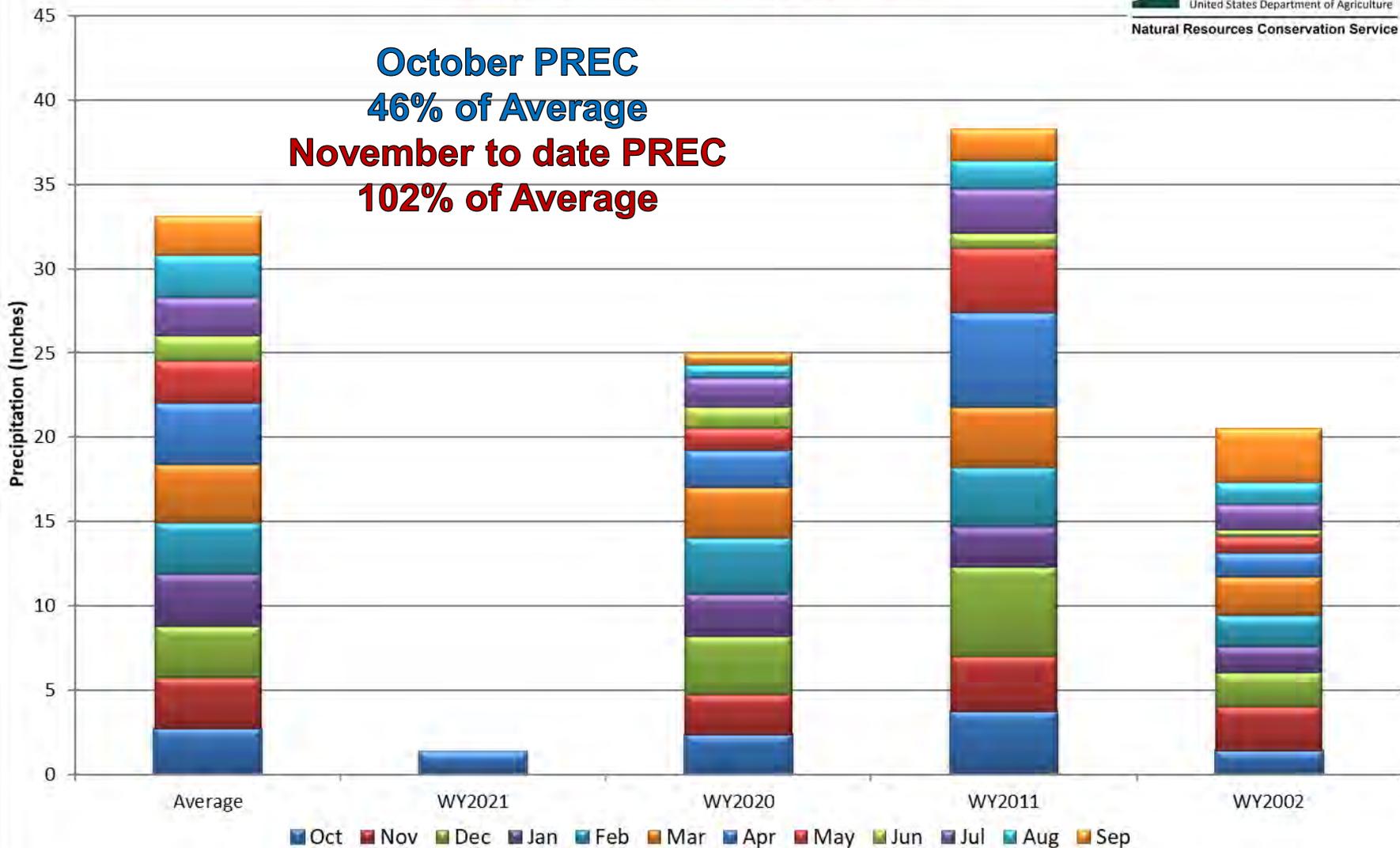
Natural Resources Conservation Service



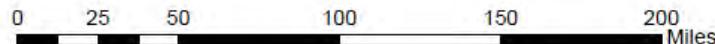
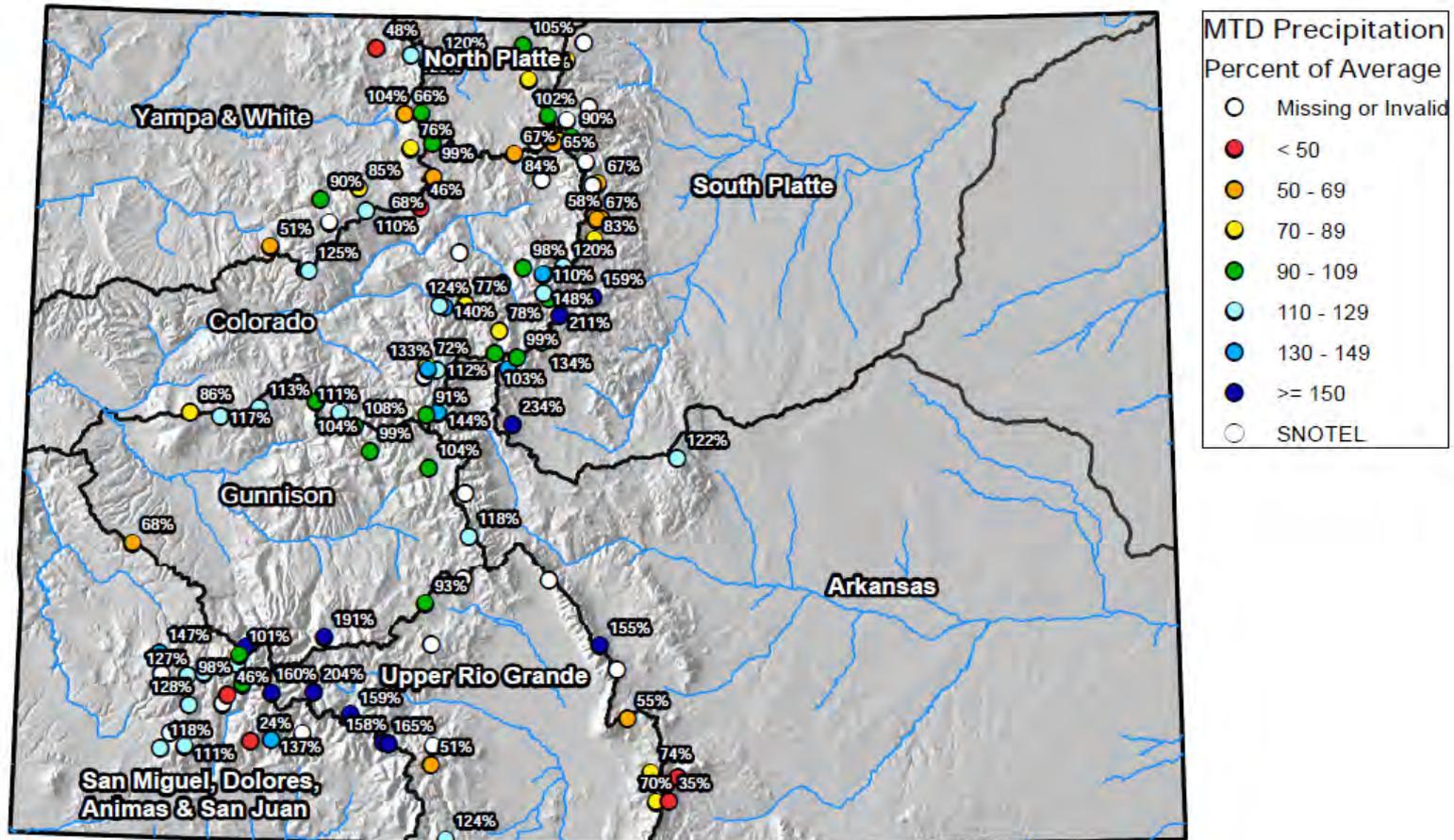
## Colorado Statewide High/Low Monthly Precipitation Summary

*Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Nov 18, 2020*

**October PREC**  
**46% of Average**  
**November to date PREC**  
**102% of Average**



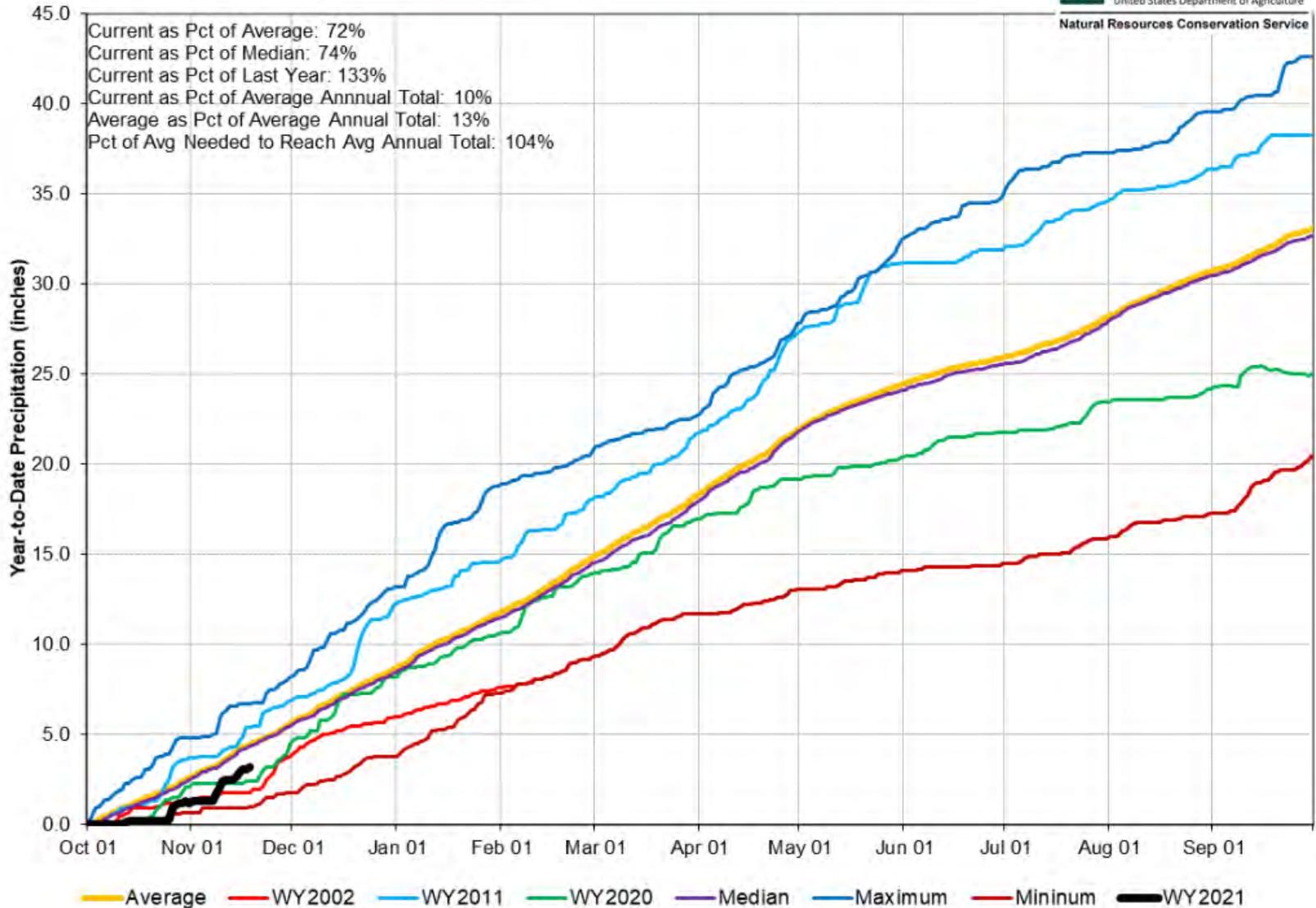
## Colorado SNOTEL Month-to-Date Precipitation Current as of Nov 18, 2020



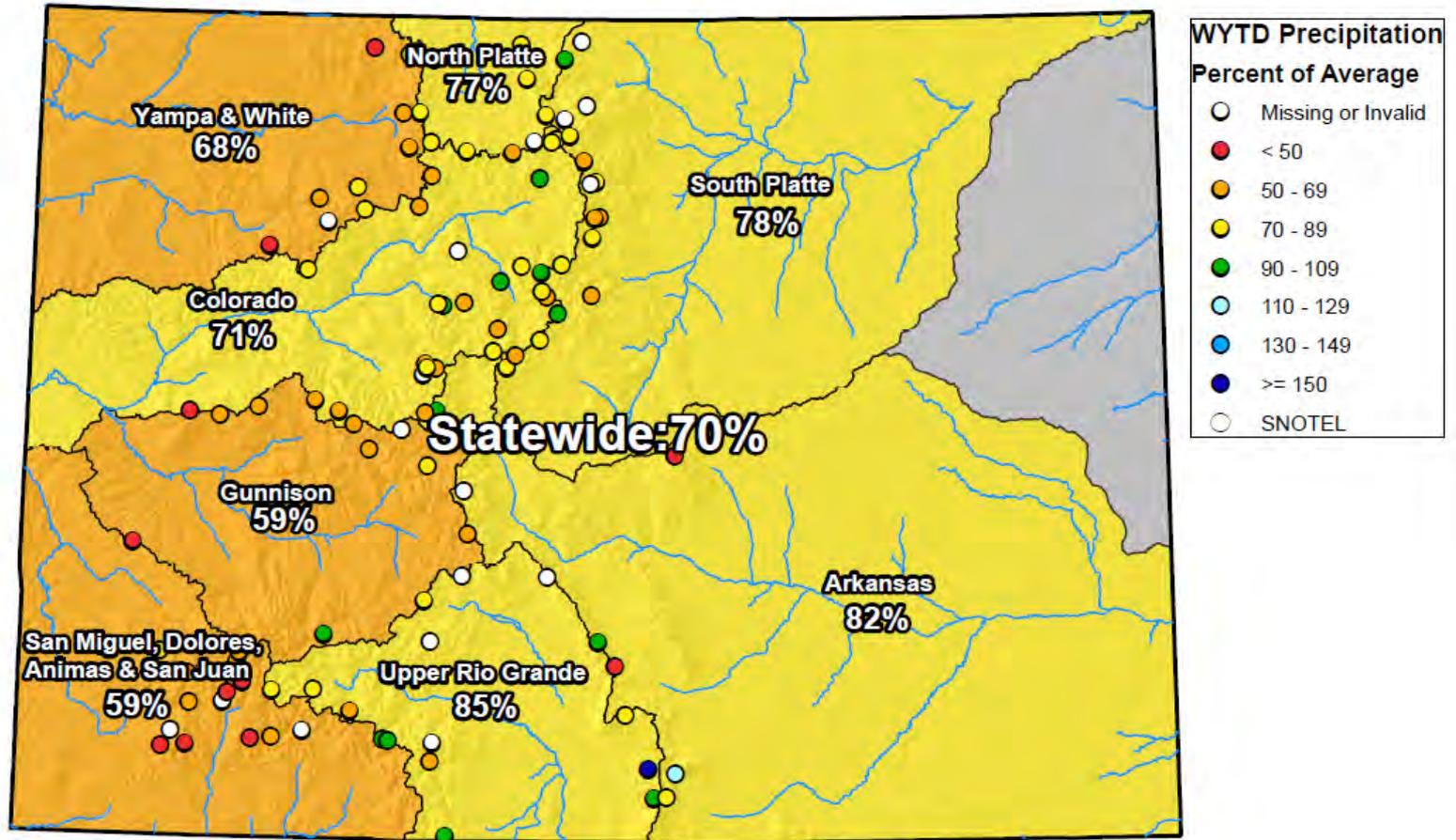
## Colorado Statewide High/Low Year-to-Date Precipitation Summary

*Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Nov 18, 2020*

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United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service



## Colorado SNOTEL Water Year to Date Precipitation Current as of Nov 18, 2020



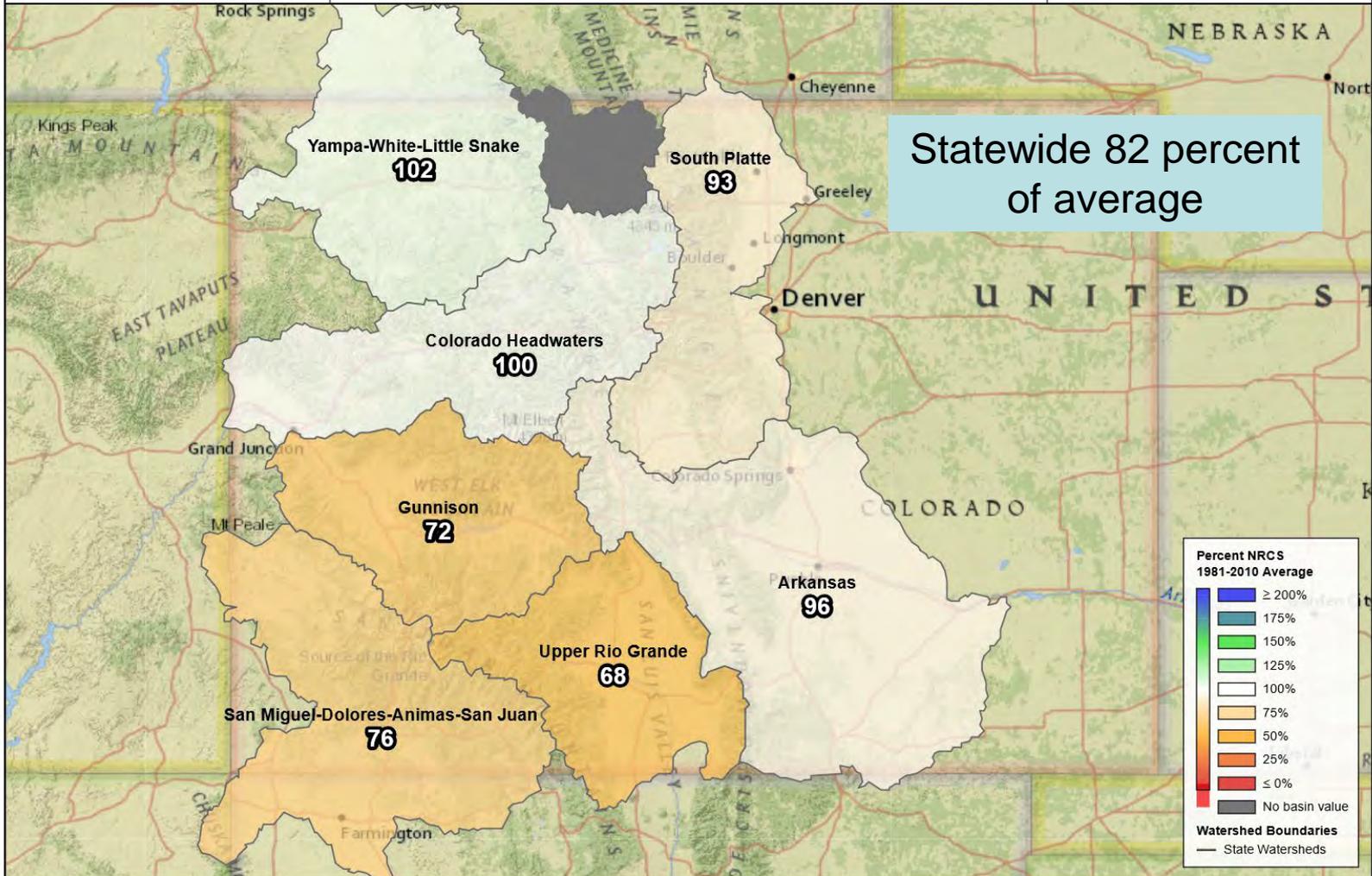


# Colorado Snow Surveys

Reservoir Storage

Percent NRCS 1981-2010 Average

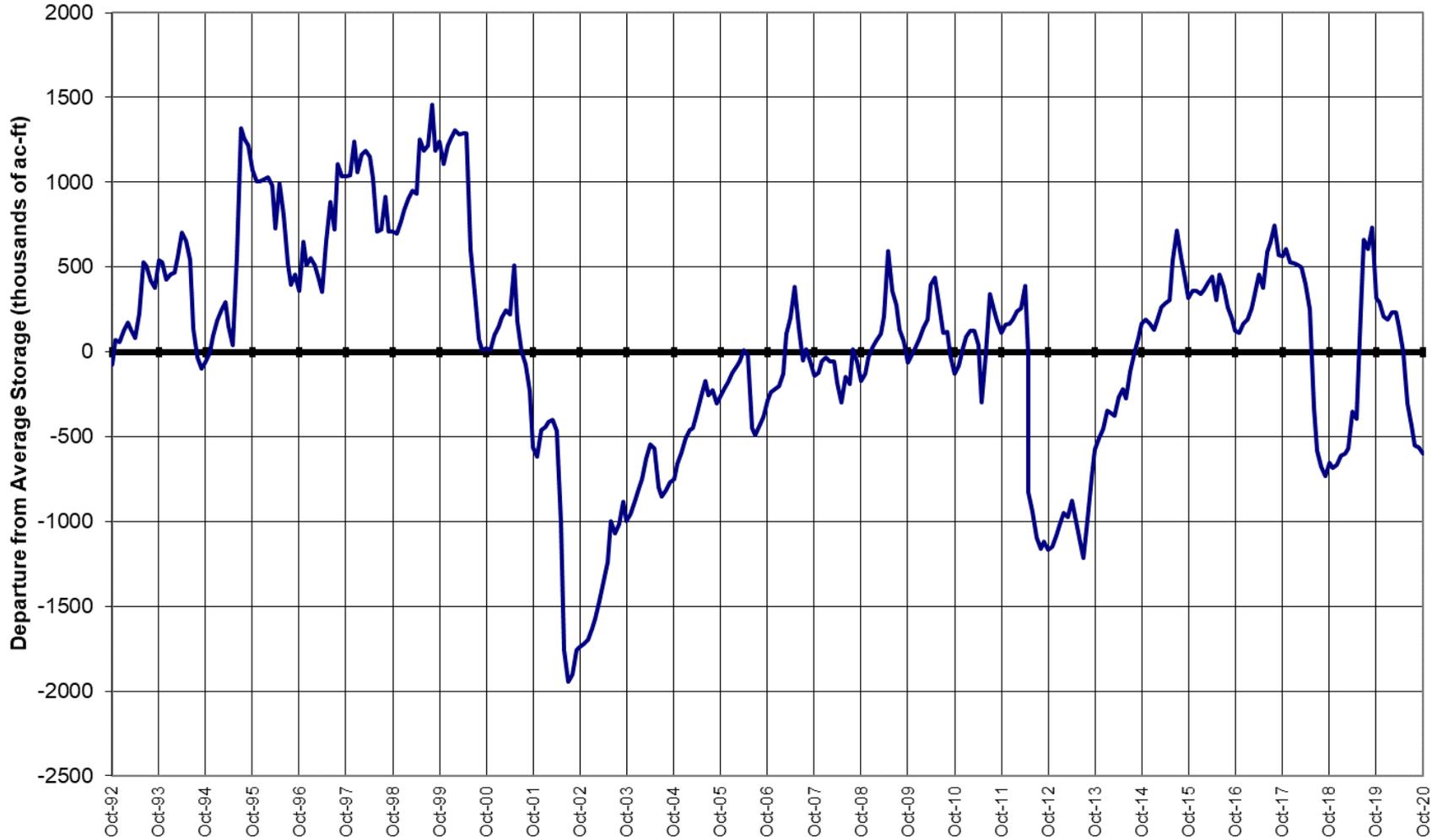
End of October, 2020



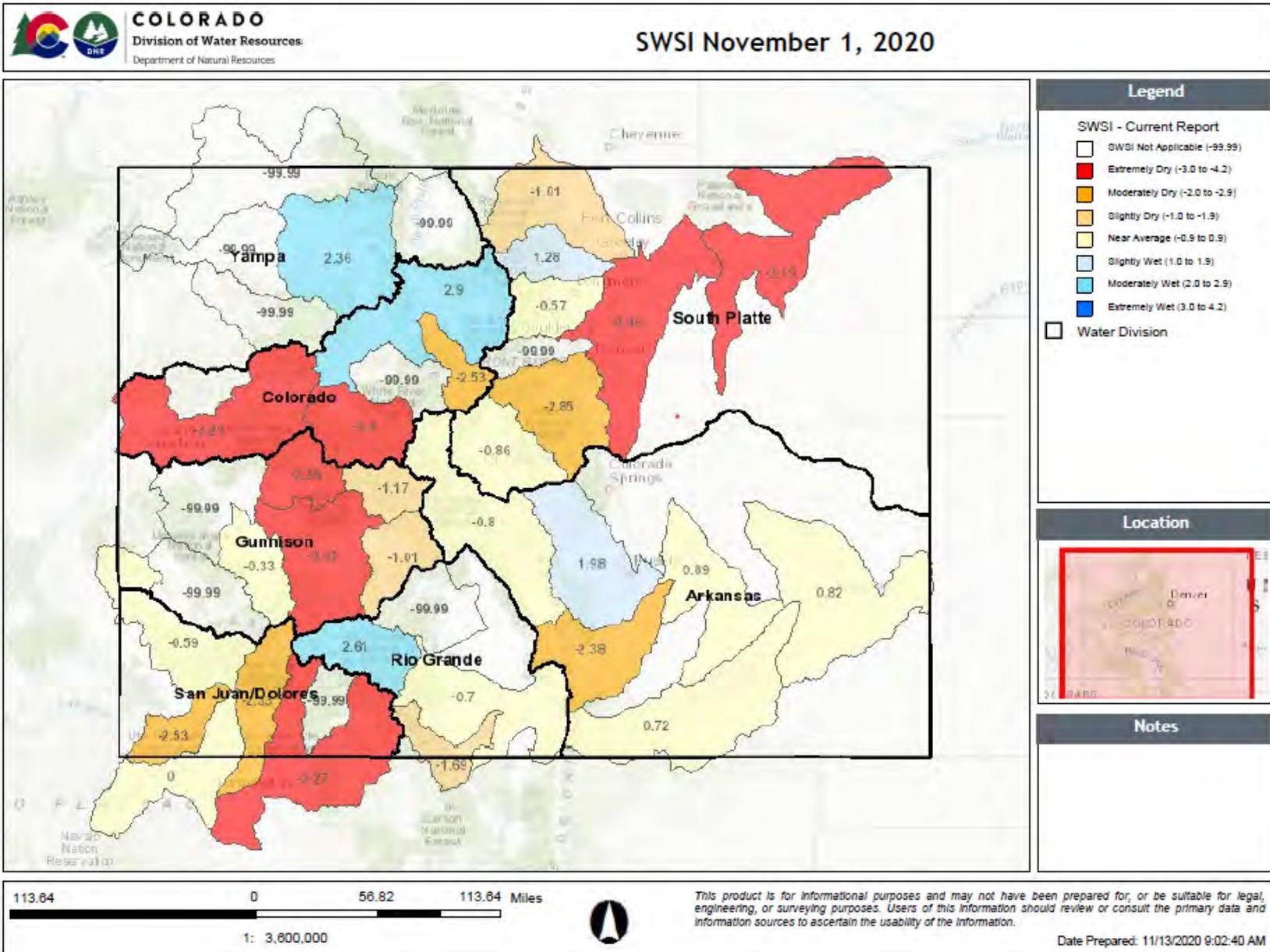




## COLORADO STATEWIDE Reservoir Storage Departure from Average



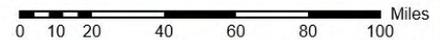
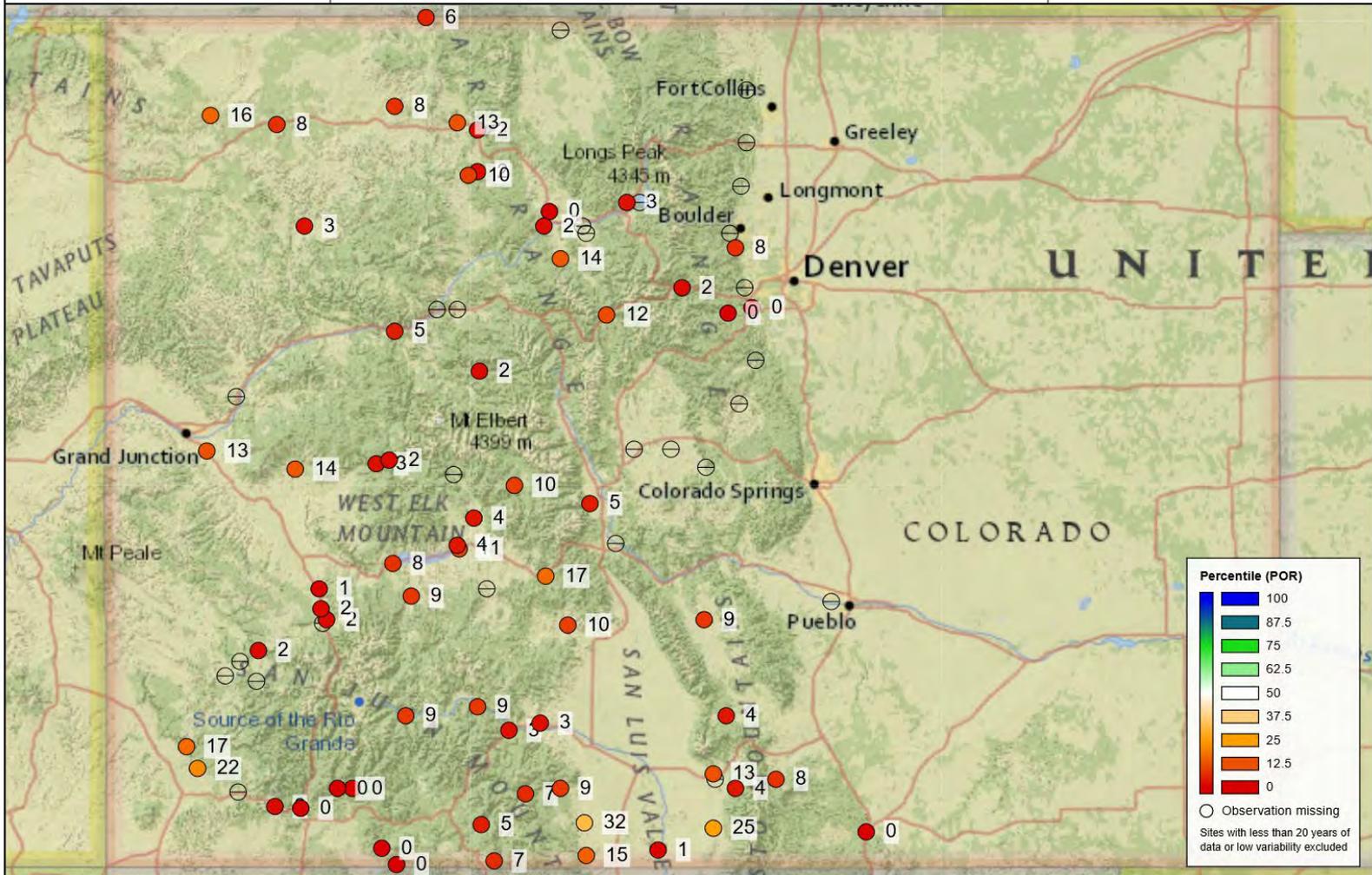
November 1, 2020 SWSI



3 month Adjusted Volume, Observed

Percentile (POR)

August 1, 2020 - October 31, 2020



# Summary

## •Precipitation Statewide

- October precipitation remained well below average statewide
- November precipitation has been near normal but still leaving a deficit for the water year to date

## •Reservoir storage is near normal in several basins but below in several others, particularly in southwest

- Ranges from 68 to 102 percent of average across the state
- Statewide storage is 82 percent of average

## •Statewide snowpack is 99 percent of average but it is still very early in the season

- We have received 15 percent of the normal peak snowpack which commonly occurs in mid-April

## •Extremely low fall baseflows in rivers across the state



# Water Availability Task Force Meeting

## November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### NRCS Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program

Karl Wetlaufer

Hydrologist

Asst. Snow Survey Supervisor

720-544-2853

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



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