



United States Department of Agriculture

Colorado Snow Surveys

Water Availability Task Force Meeting

September 23rd, 2021

NRCS Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program

Karl Wetlaufer

Hydrologist

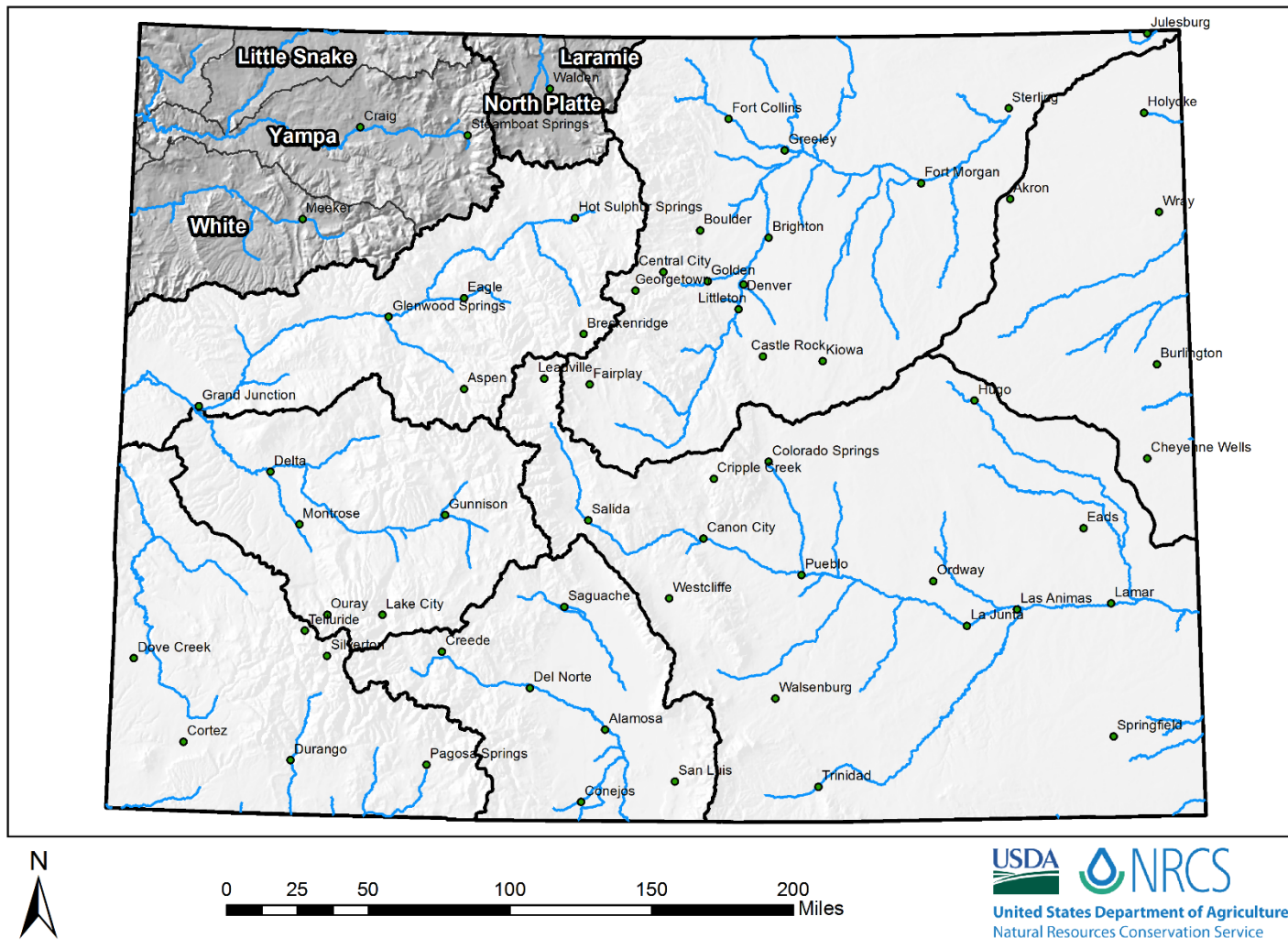
Asst. Snow Survey Supervisor

720-544-2852

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

Major Basin Summary

Yampa, White, and North Platte River Basins



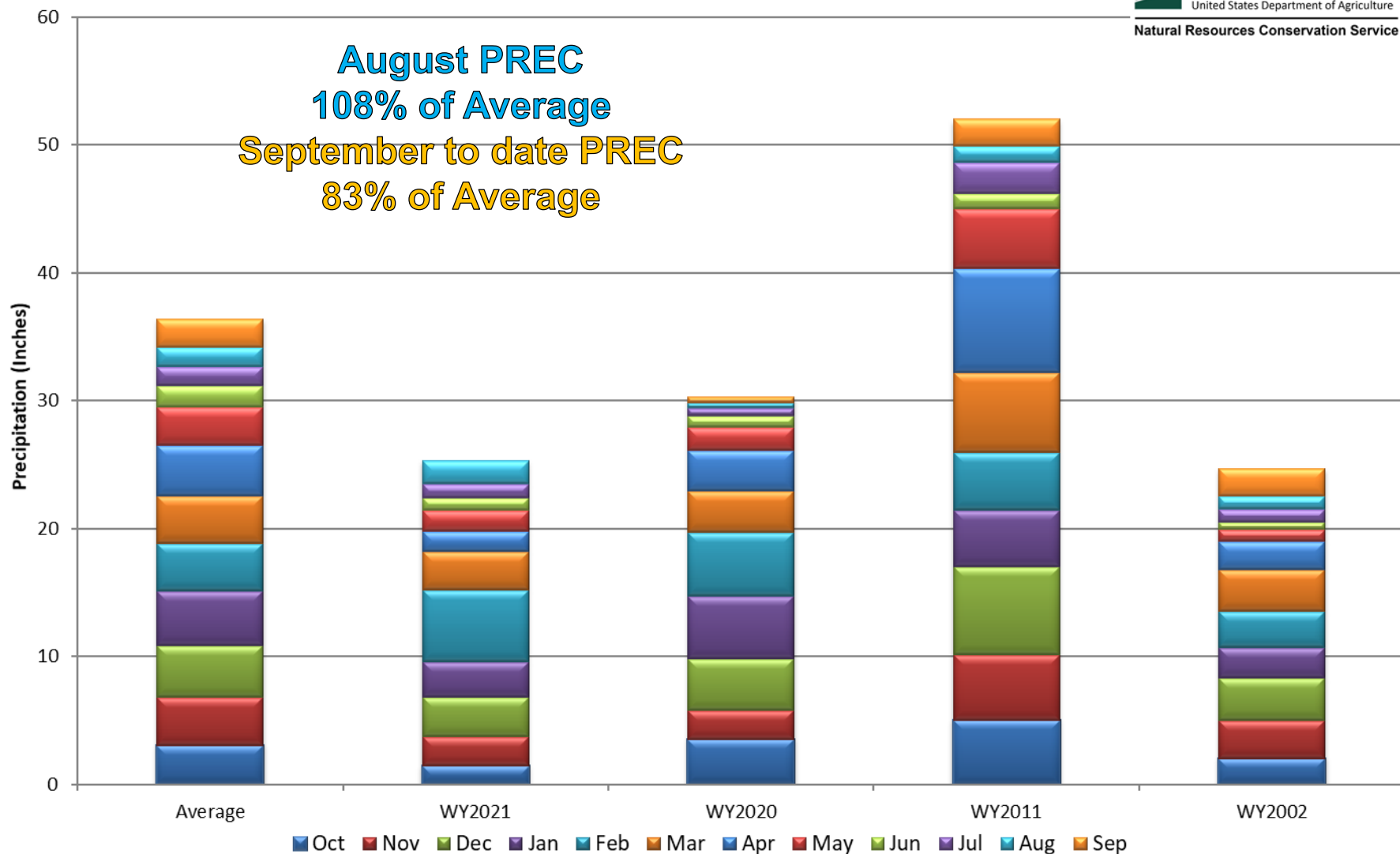
Yampa and White River Basins High/Low Monthly Precipitation Summary

Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Sep 21, 2021

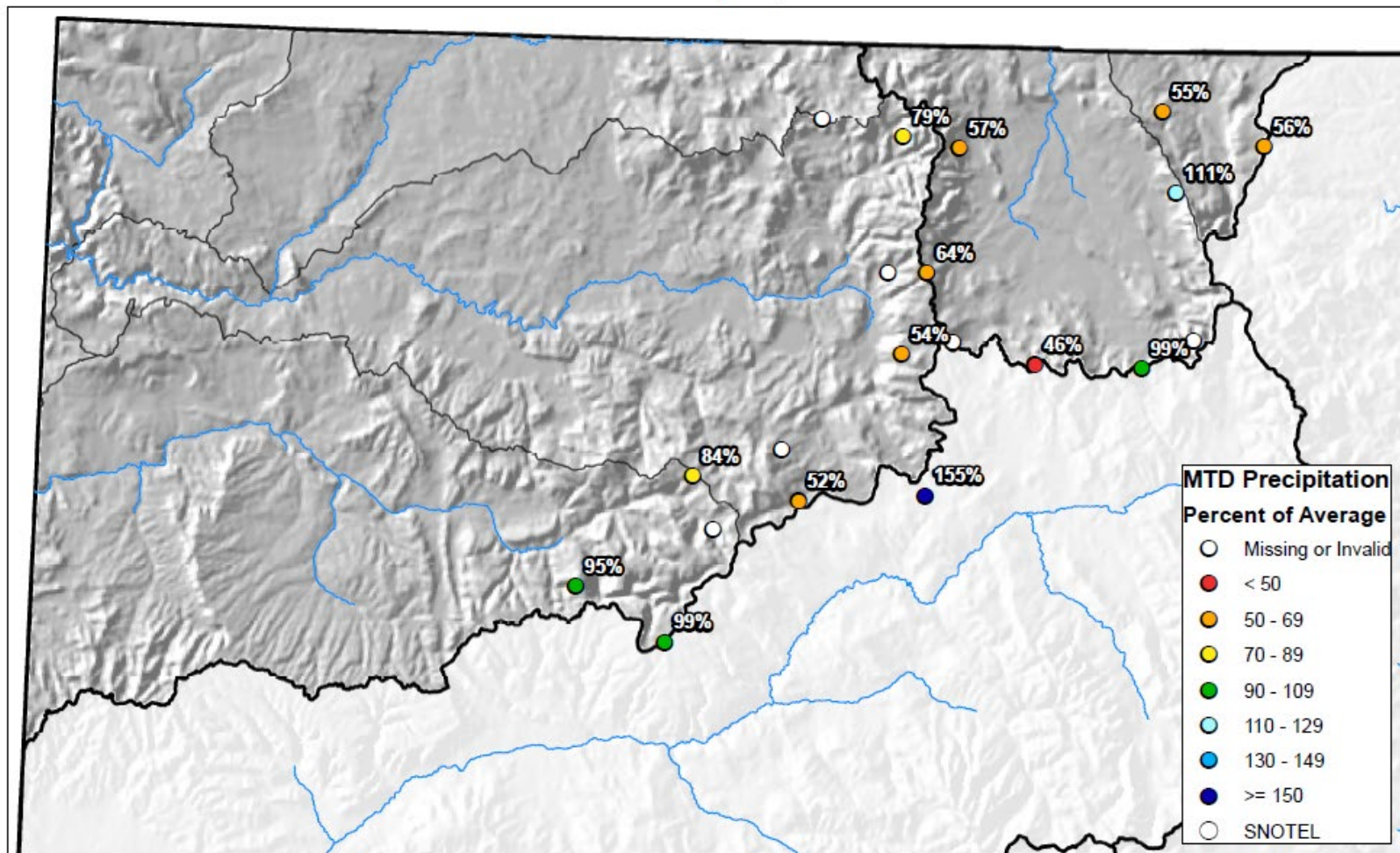


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Yampa, White, and North Platte River Basins Month to Date Precipitation Summary Current as of Sep 21, 2021

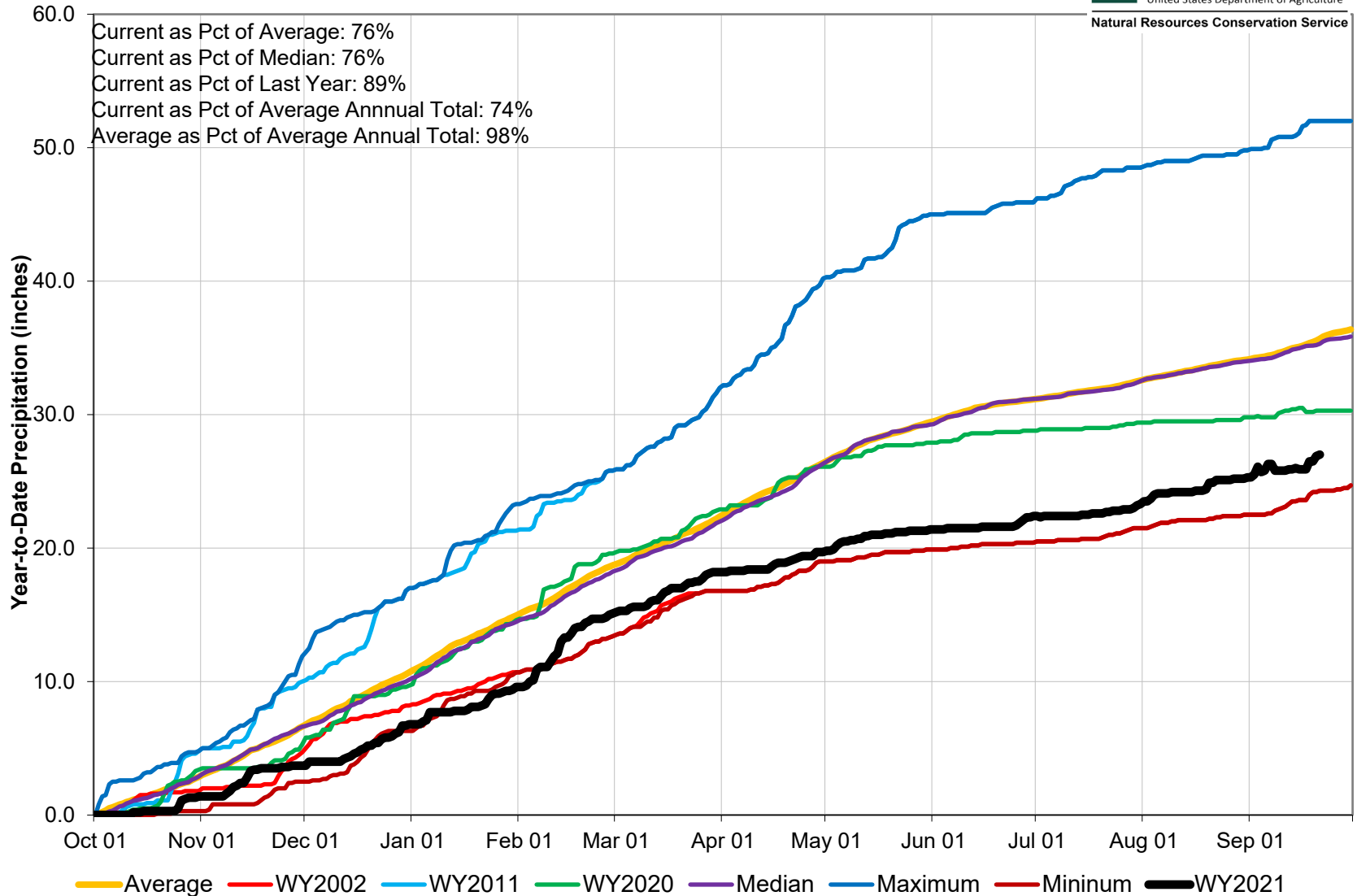


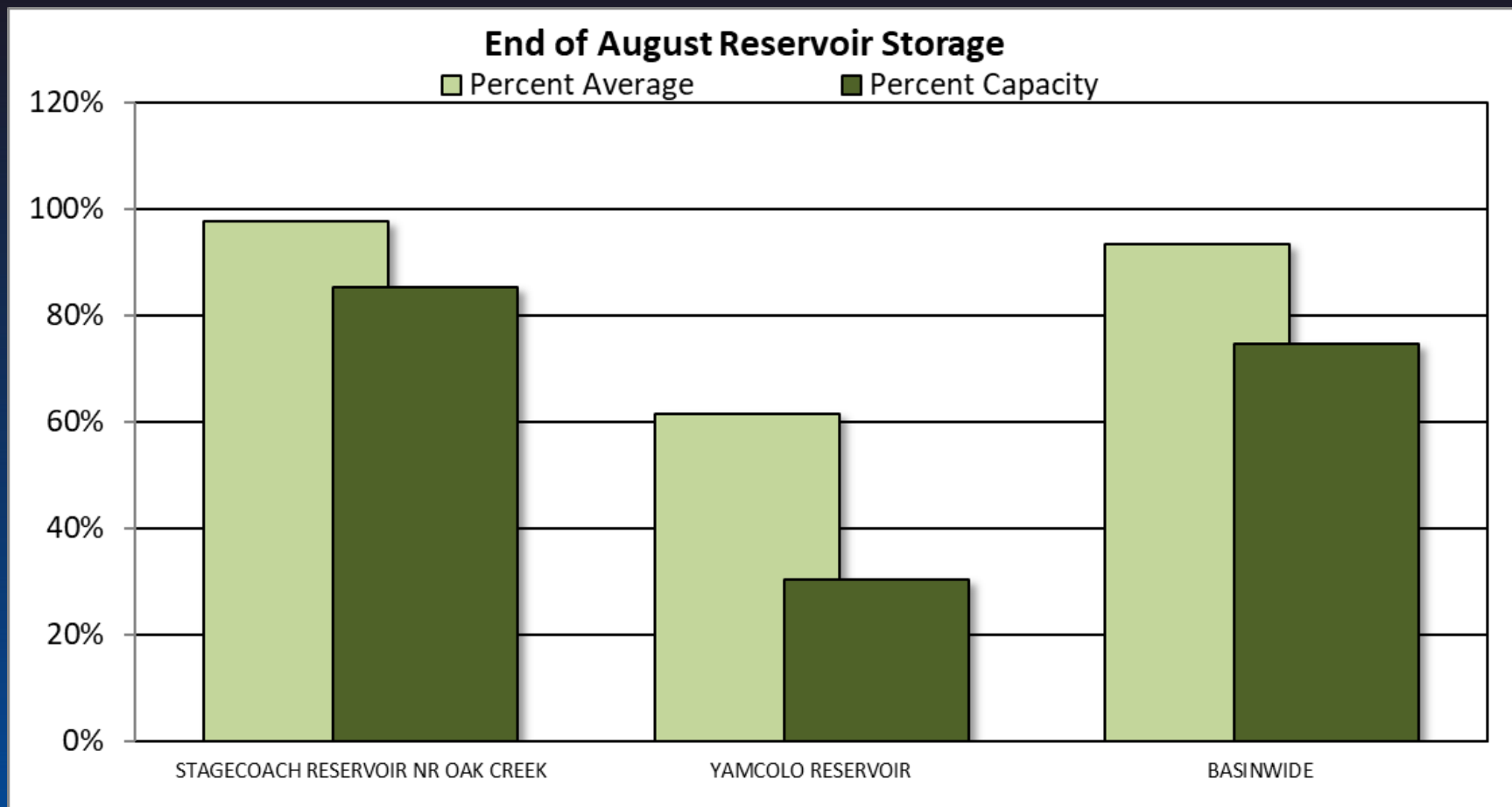
0 10 20 40 60 80 Miles

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

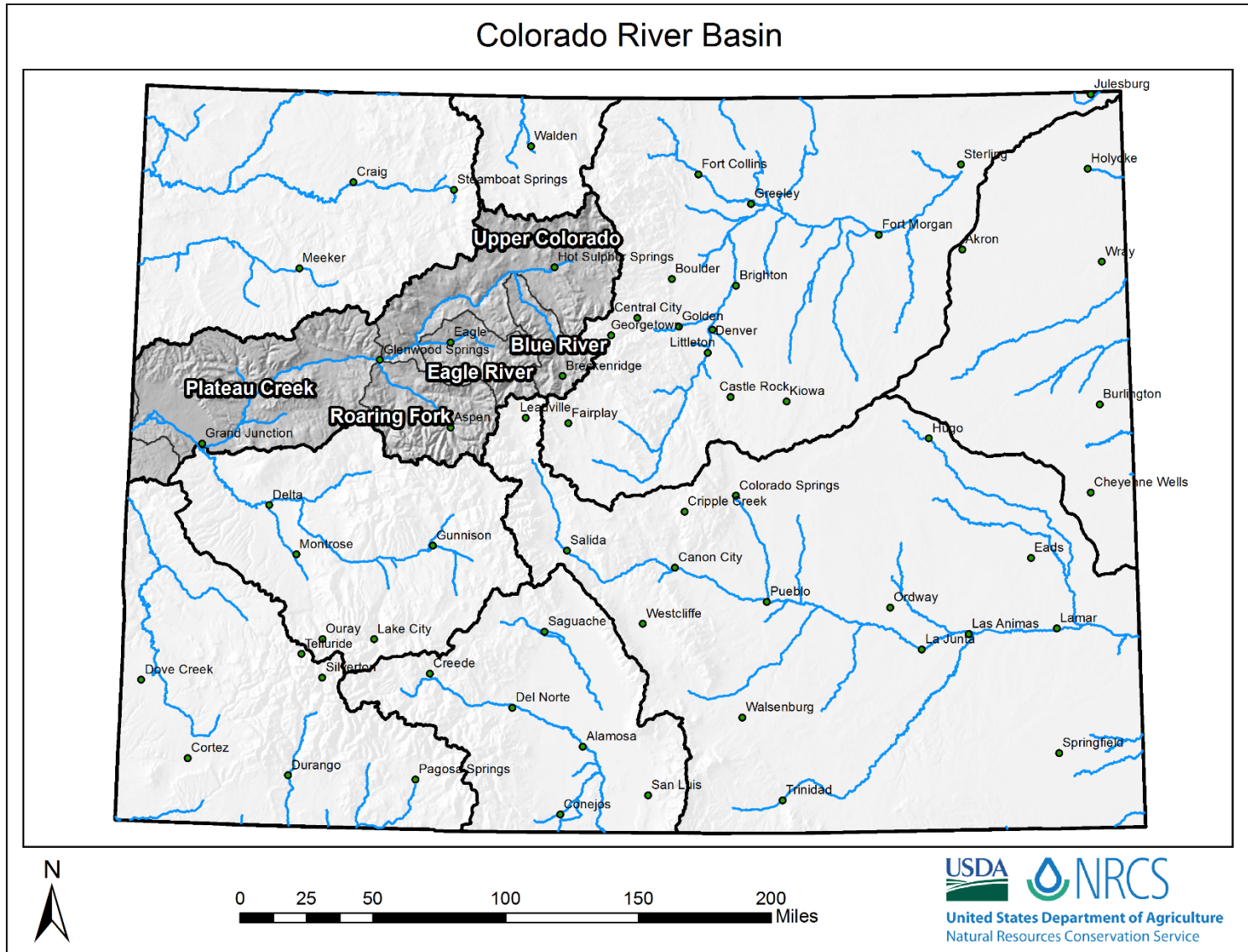
Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Sep 21, 2021

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Major Basin Summary





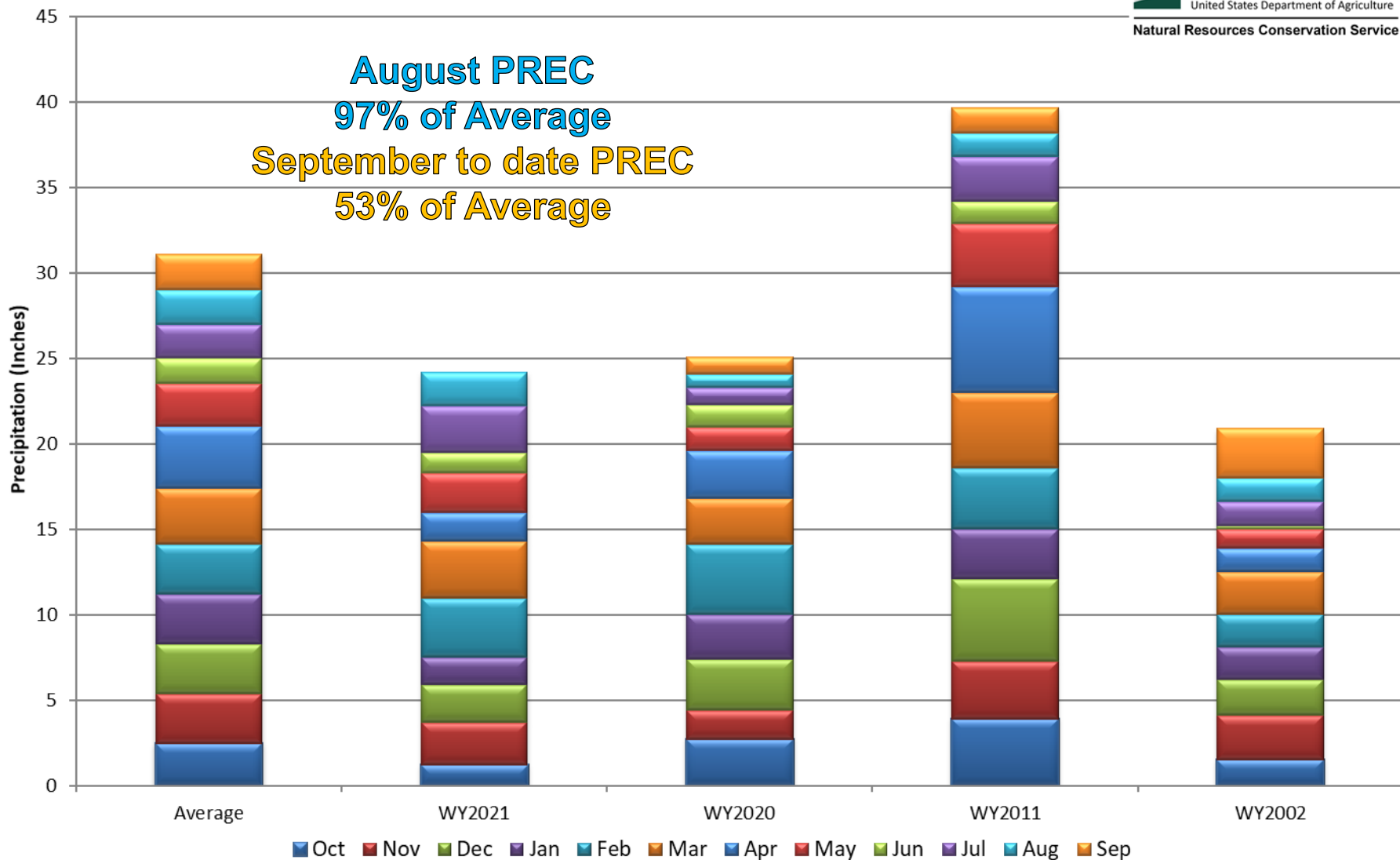
Upper Colorado River Basin High/Low Monthly Precipitation Summary

Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Sep 21, 2021



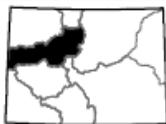
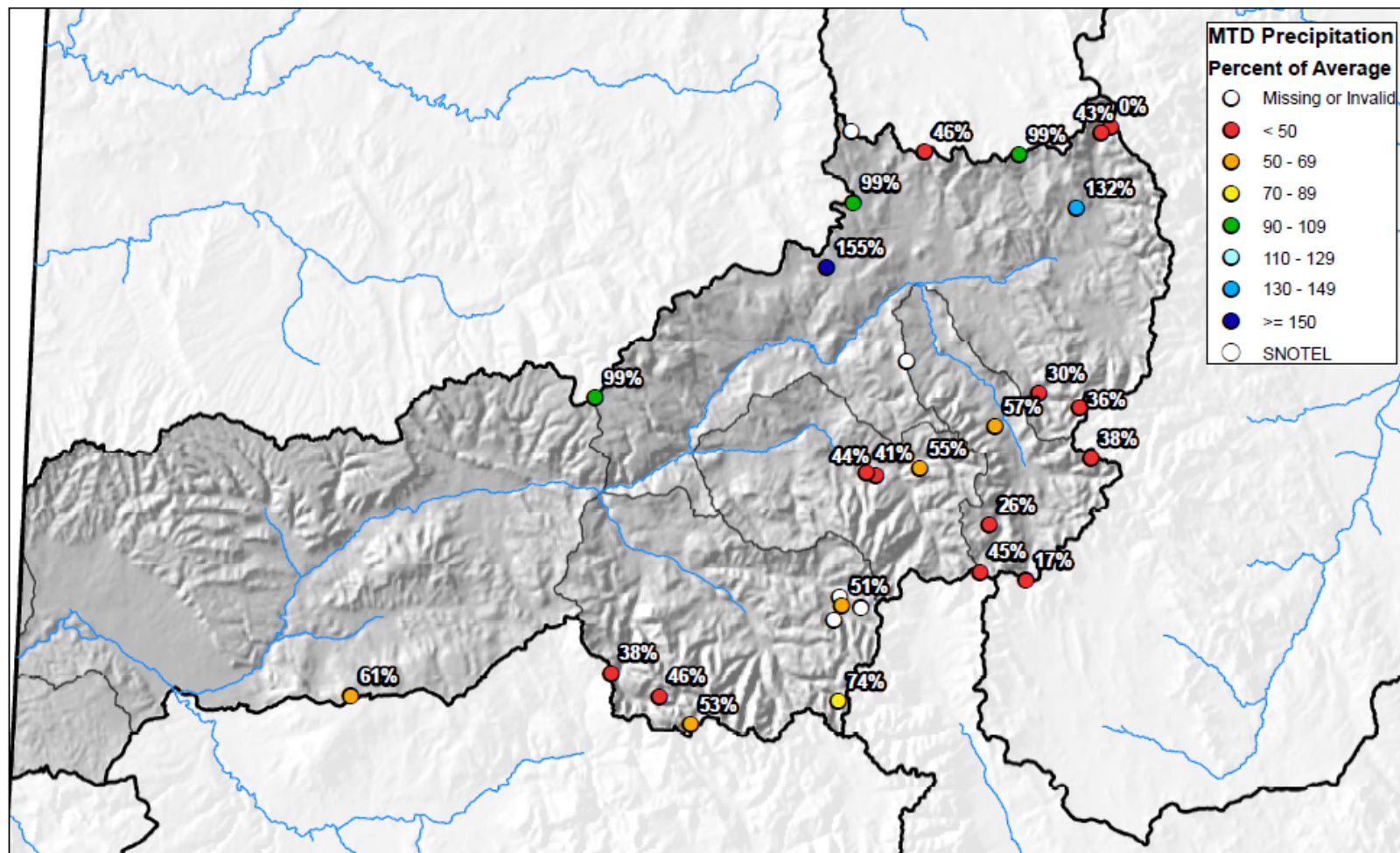
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Upper Colorado River Basin Month to Date Precipitation Summary

Current as of Sep 21, 2021



0 10 20 40 60 80 Miles



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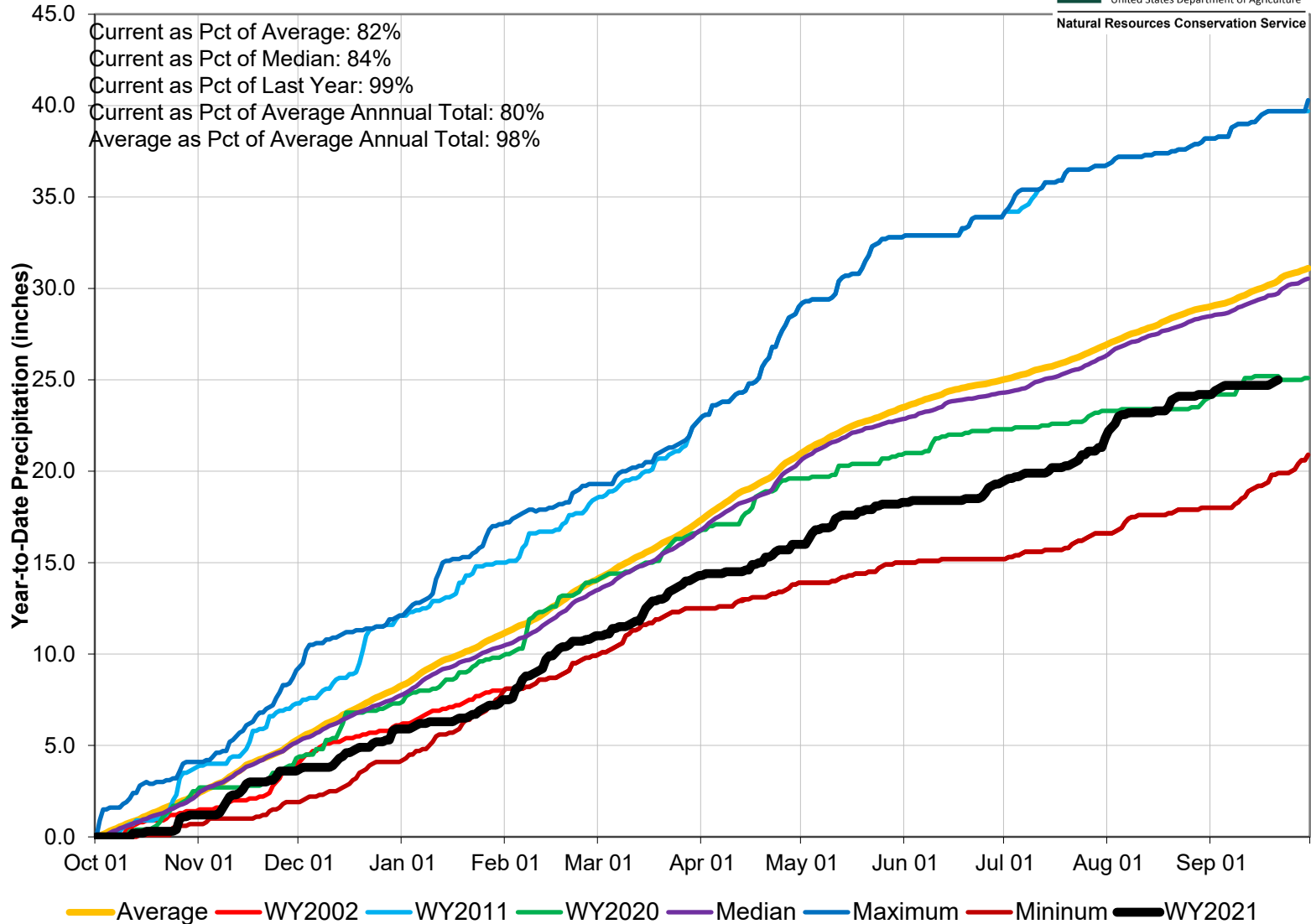
Upper Colorado River Basin High/Low Year-to-Date Precipitation Summary

Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Sep 21, 2021

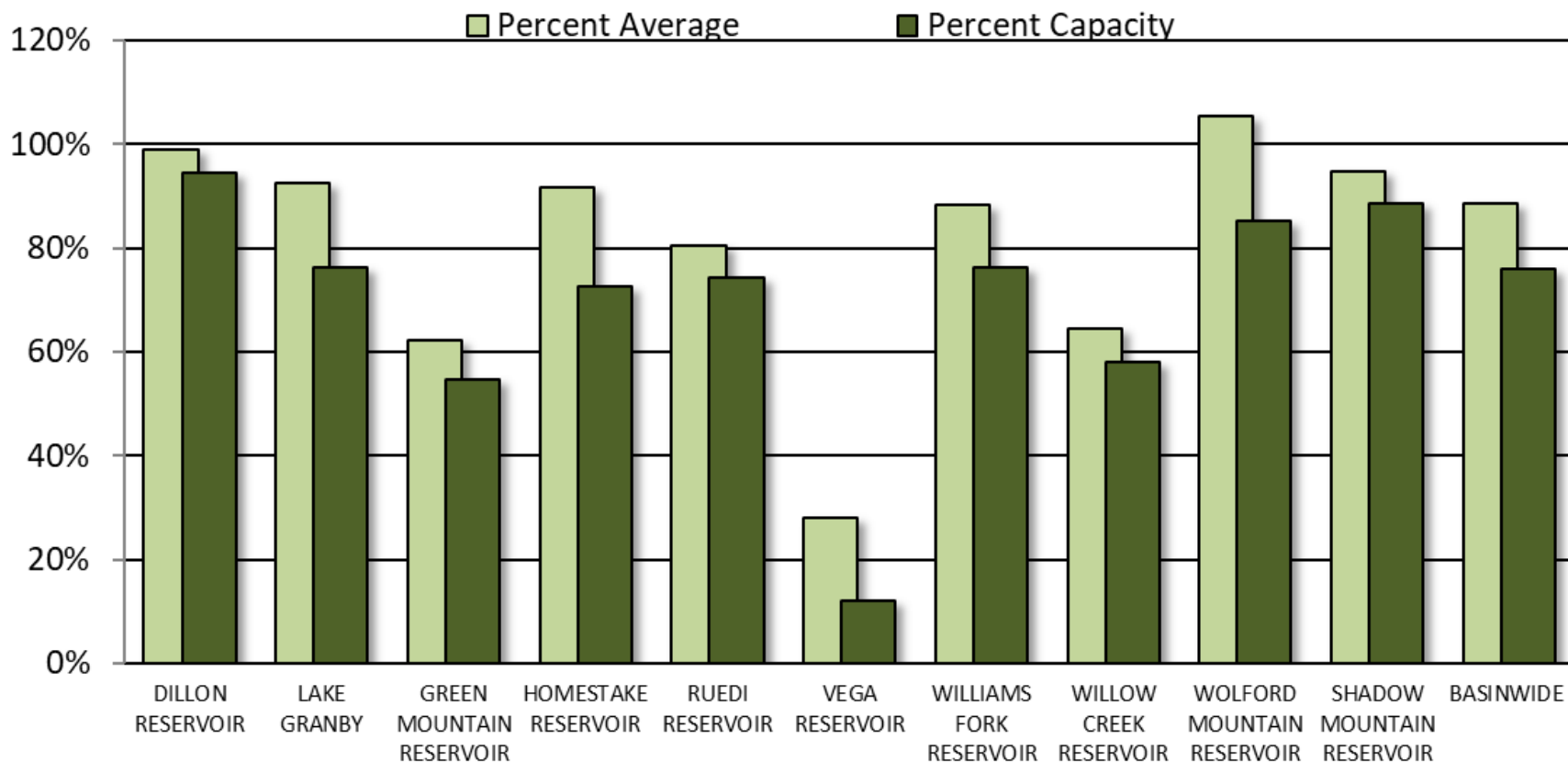


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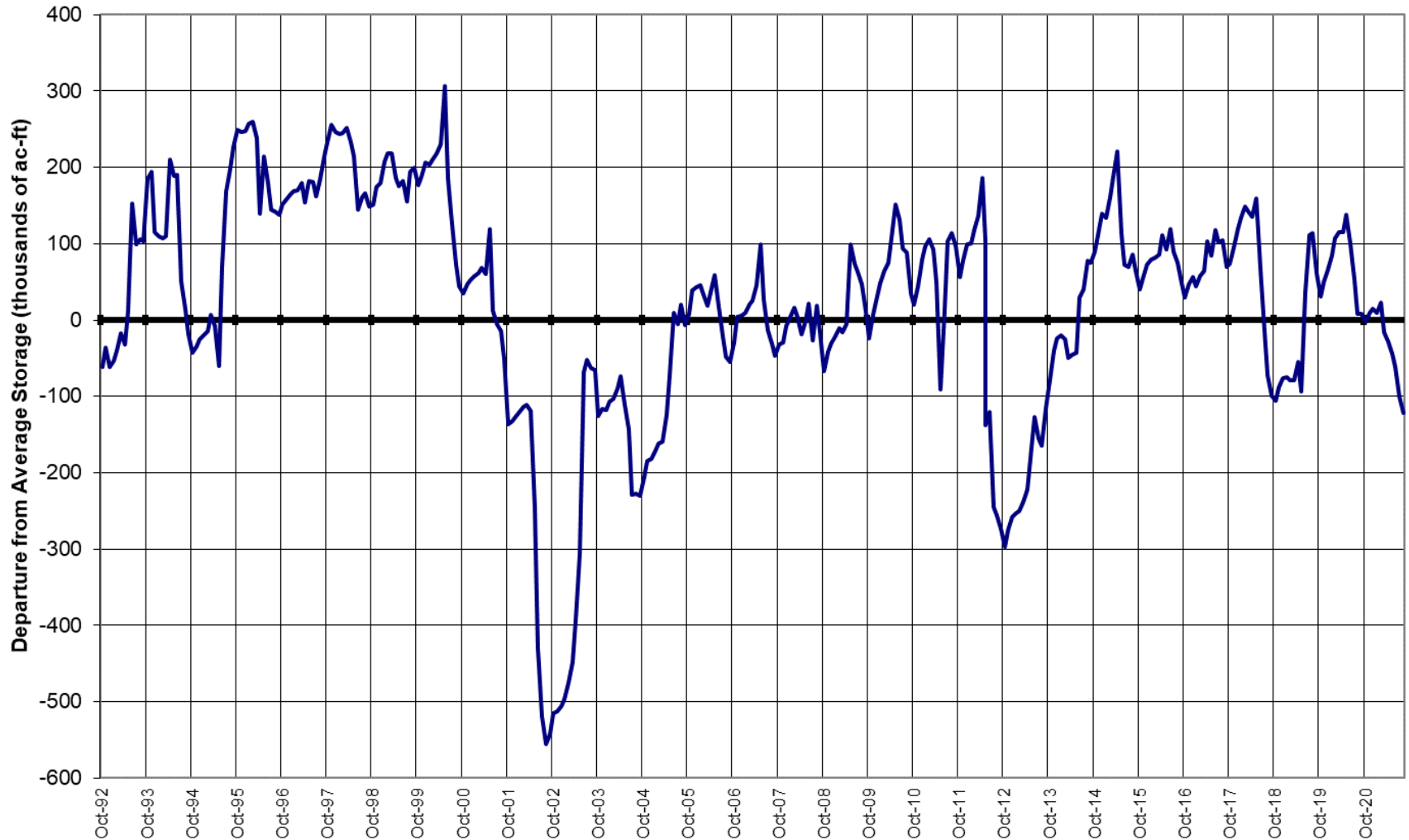
Natural Resources Conservation Service



End of August Reservoir Storage

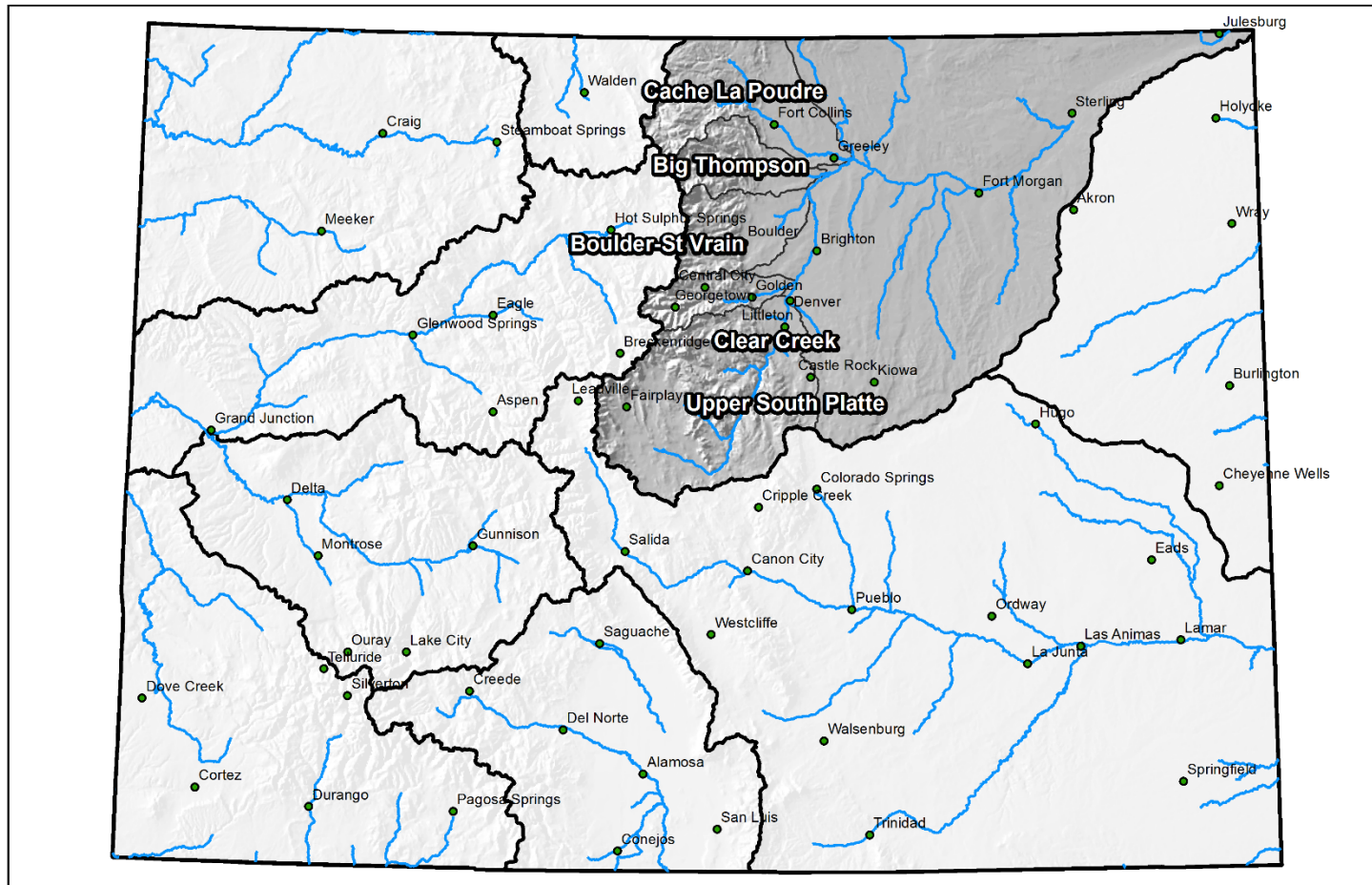


COLORADO RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage Departure from Average



Major Basin Summary

South Platte River Basin



0 25 50 100 150 200 Miles

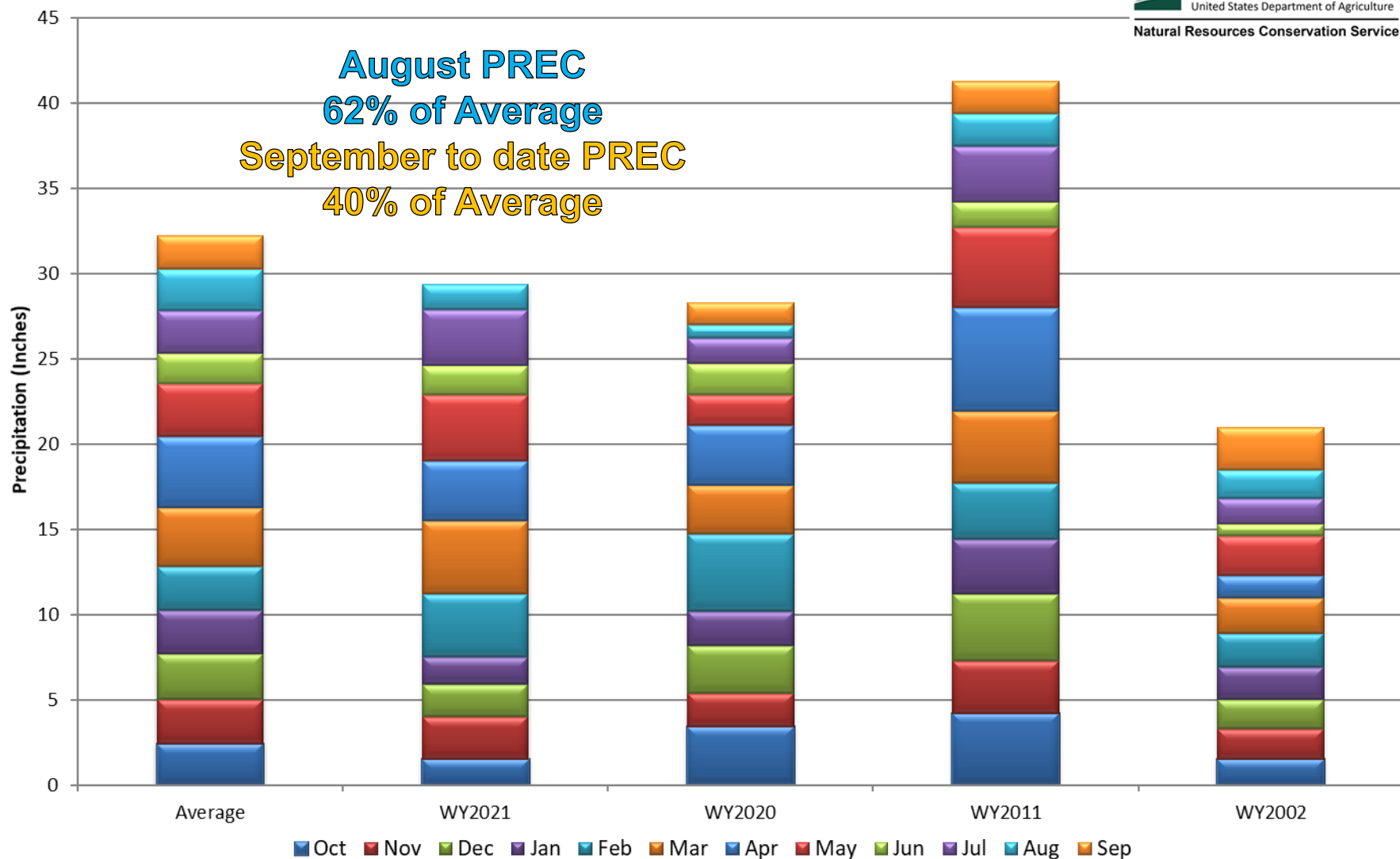
South Platte River Basin High/Low Monthly Precipitation Summary

Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Sep 21, 2021



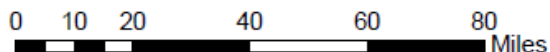
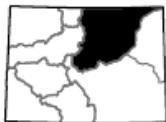
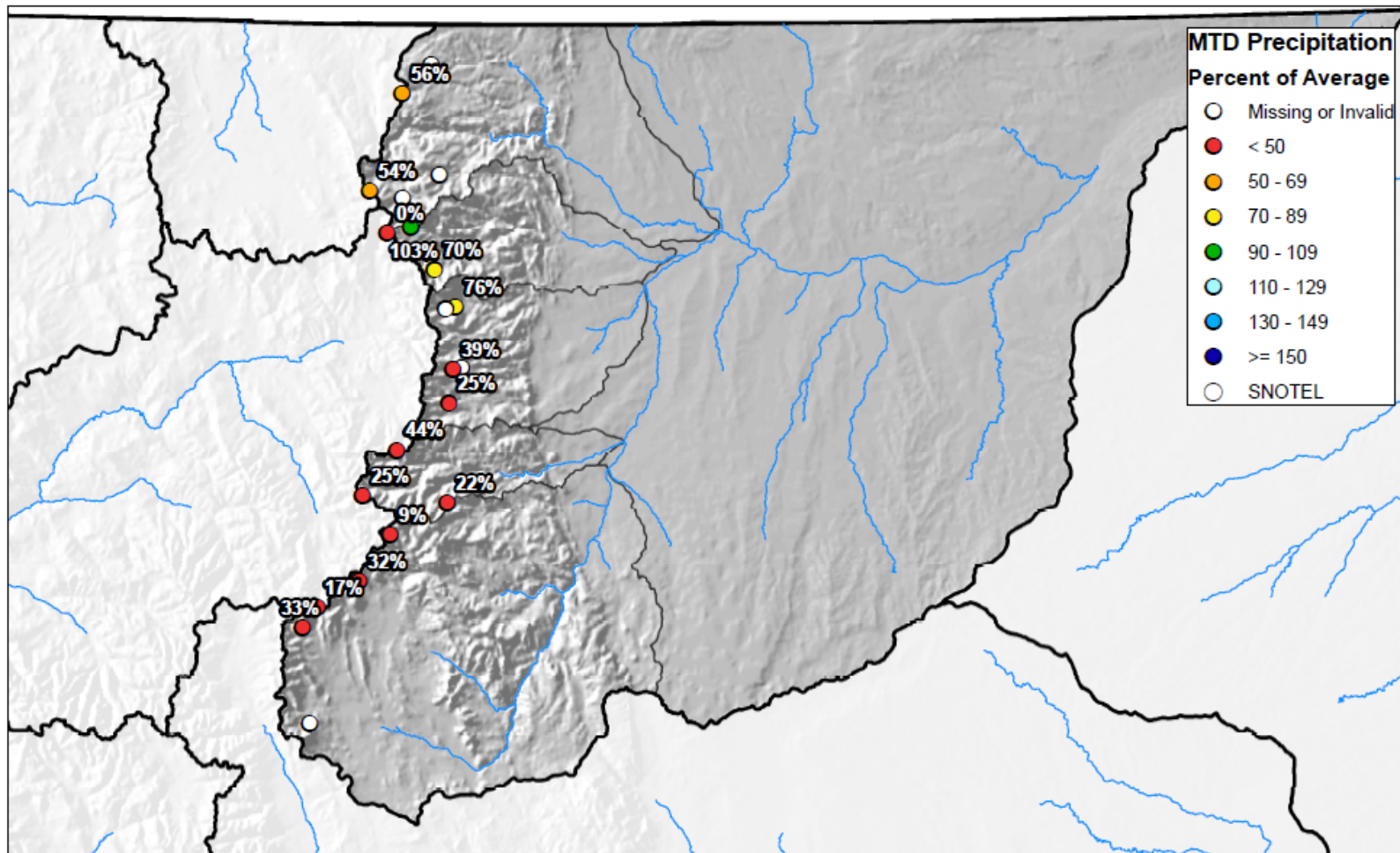
United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service



South Platte River Basin Month to Date Precipitation Summary

Current as of Sep 21, 2021



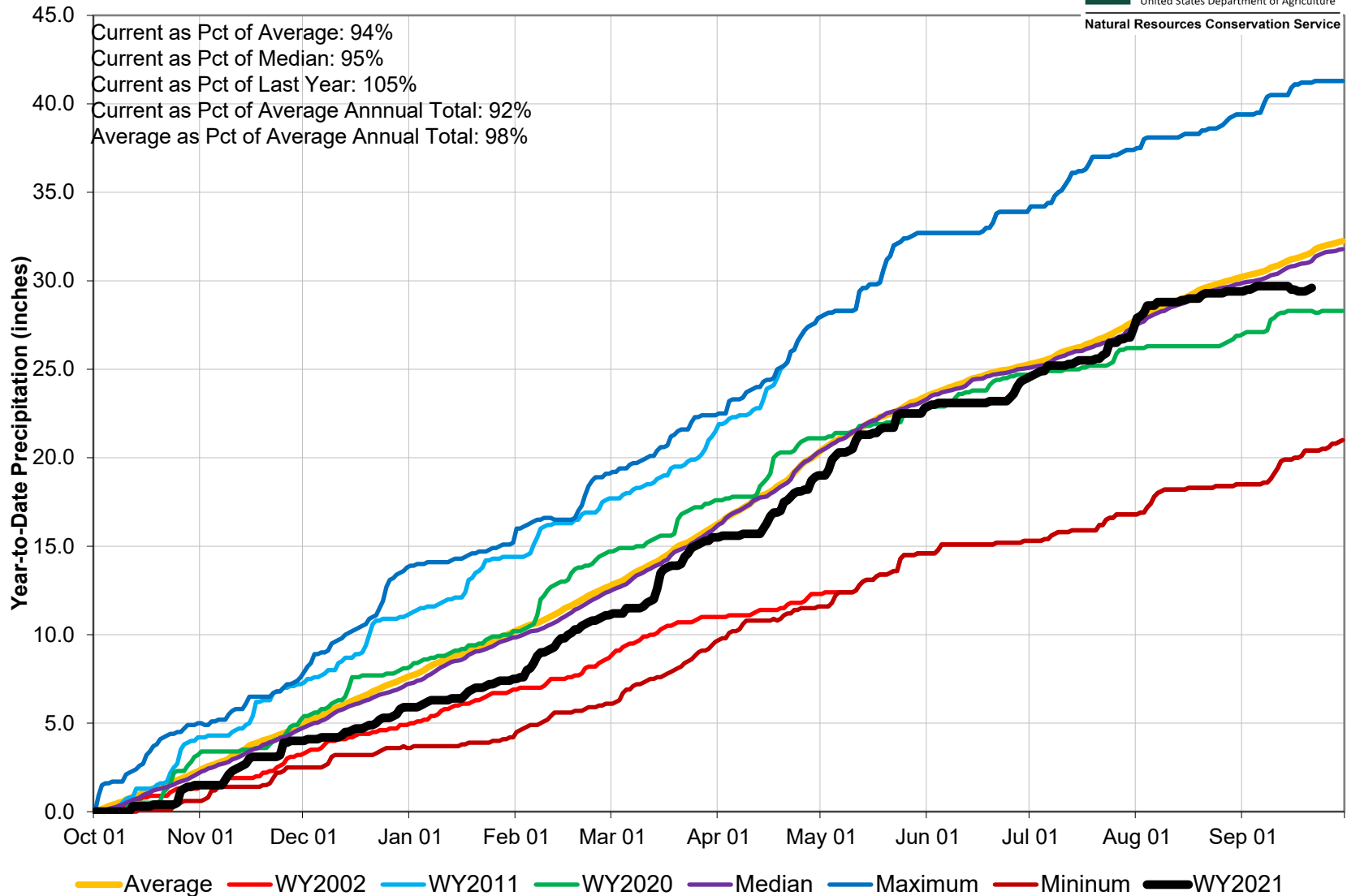
South Platte River Basin High/Low Year-to-Date Precipitation Summary

Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Sep 21, 2021



United States Department of Agriculture

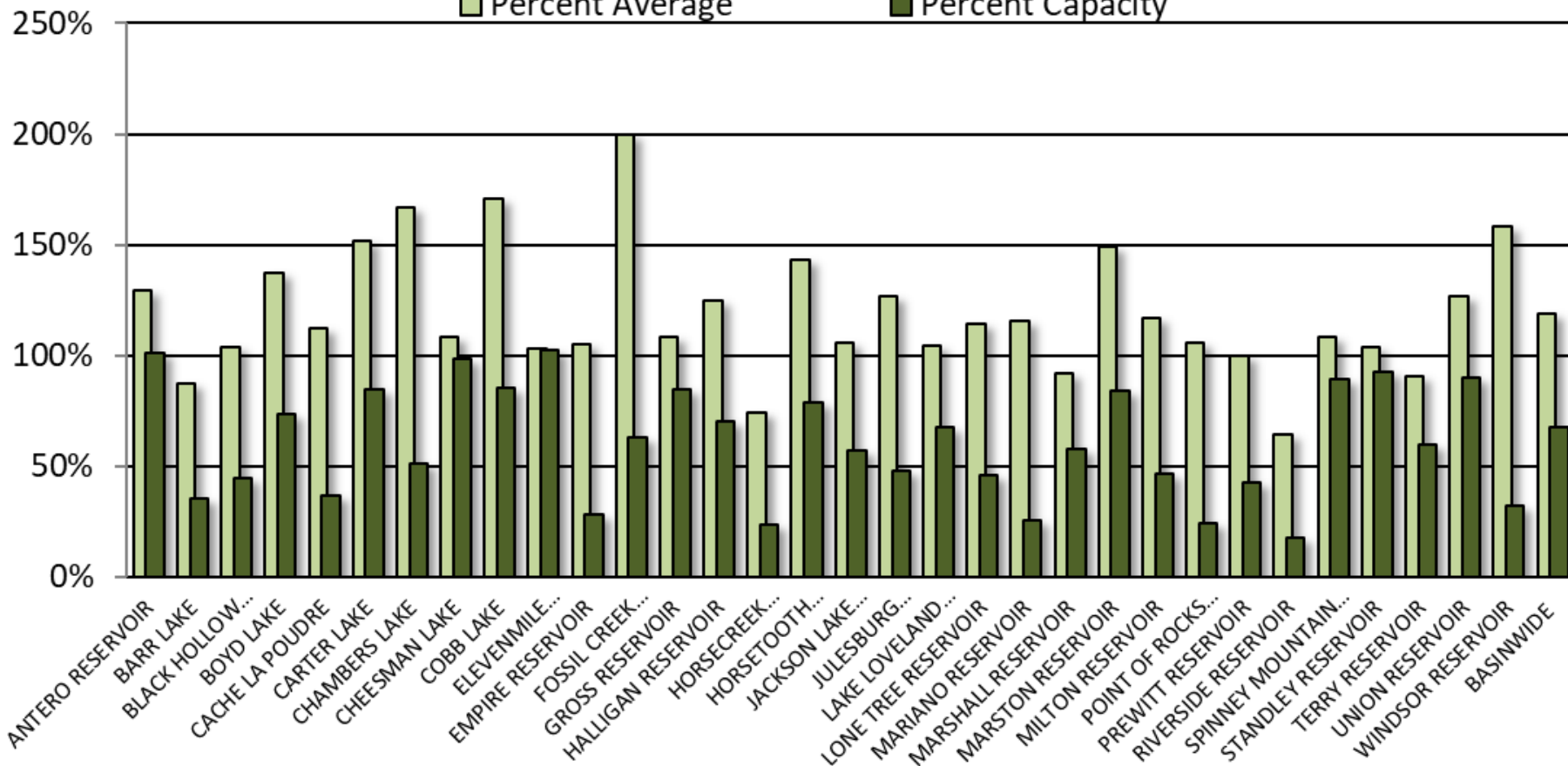
Natural Resources Conservation Service



End of August Reservoir Storage

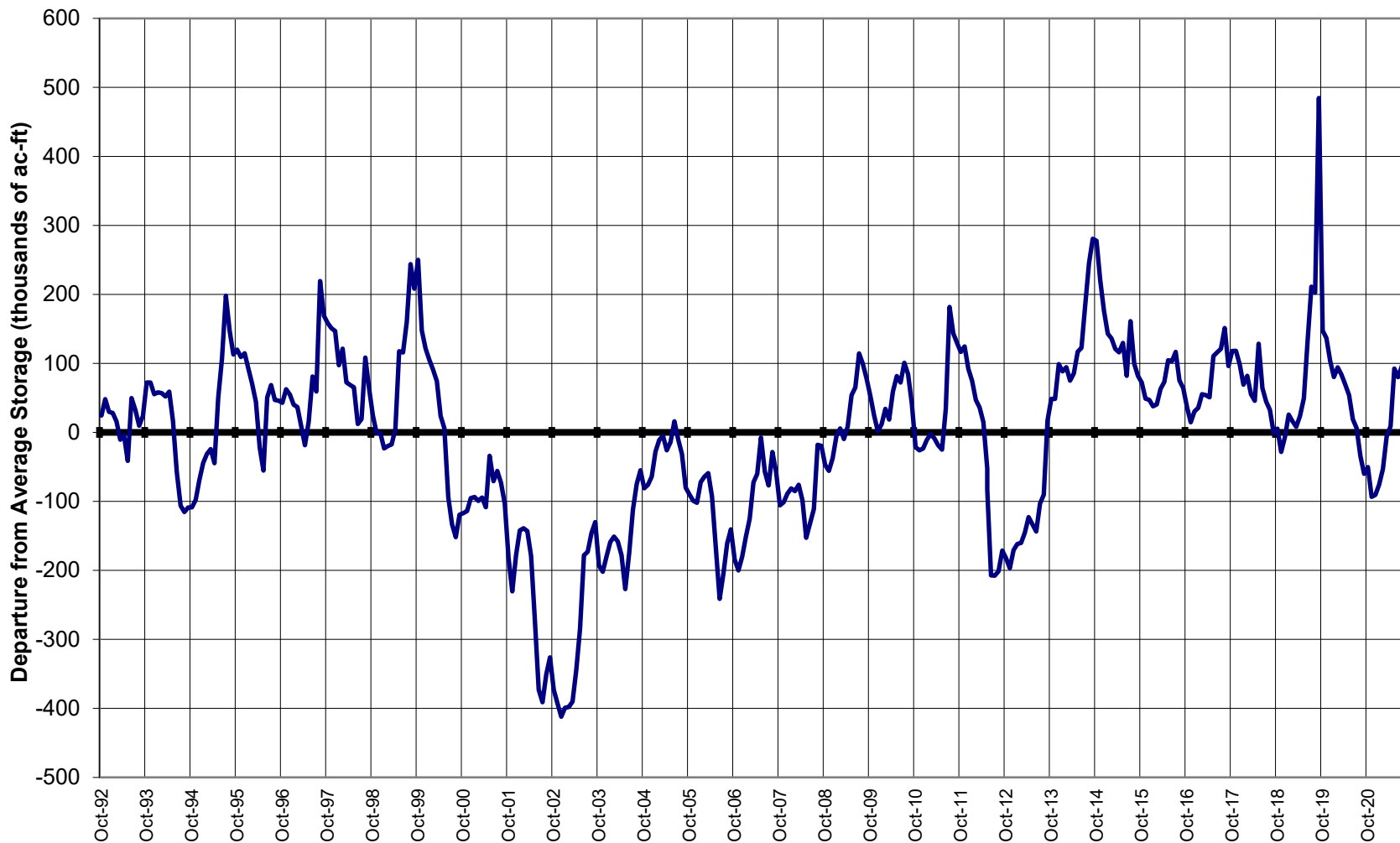
■ Percent Average

■ Percent Capacity





SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage Departure from Average

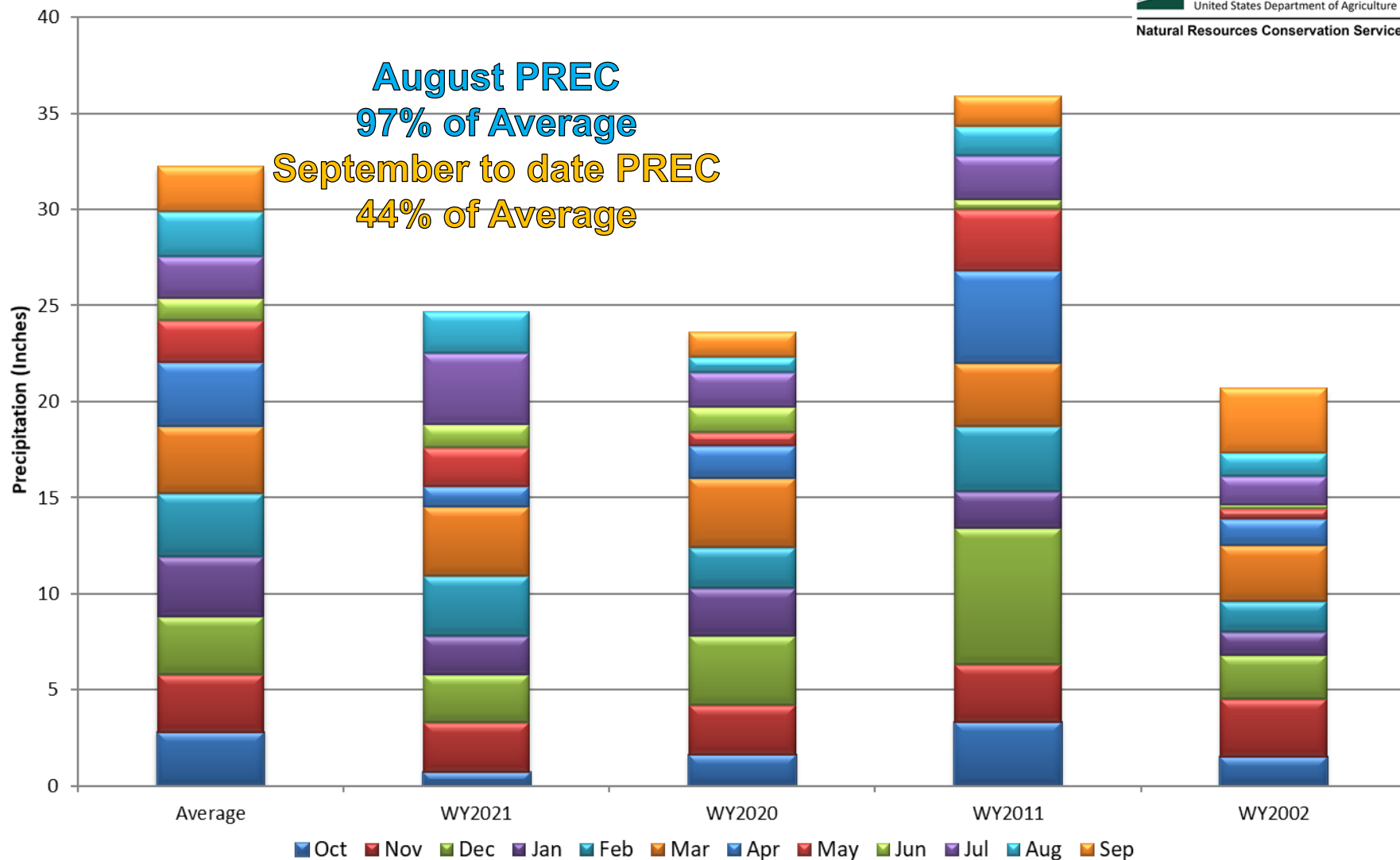


This map of Colorado displays county boundaries and major cities. The western portion of the state is shaded to indicate three specific watersheds: Surface Creek, Upper Gunnison, and Uncompahgre. The river network is depicted in blue, showing the flow from the mountains in the west towards the eastern plains. Major cities are marked with green dots and labeled, including Denver, Colorado Springs, Fort Collins, and others. The map provides a geographical context for the watersheds discussed in the text.



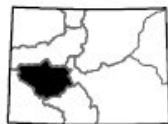
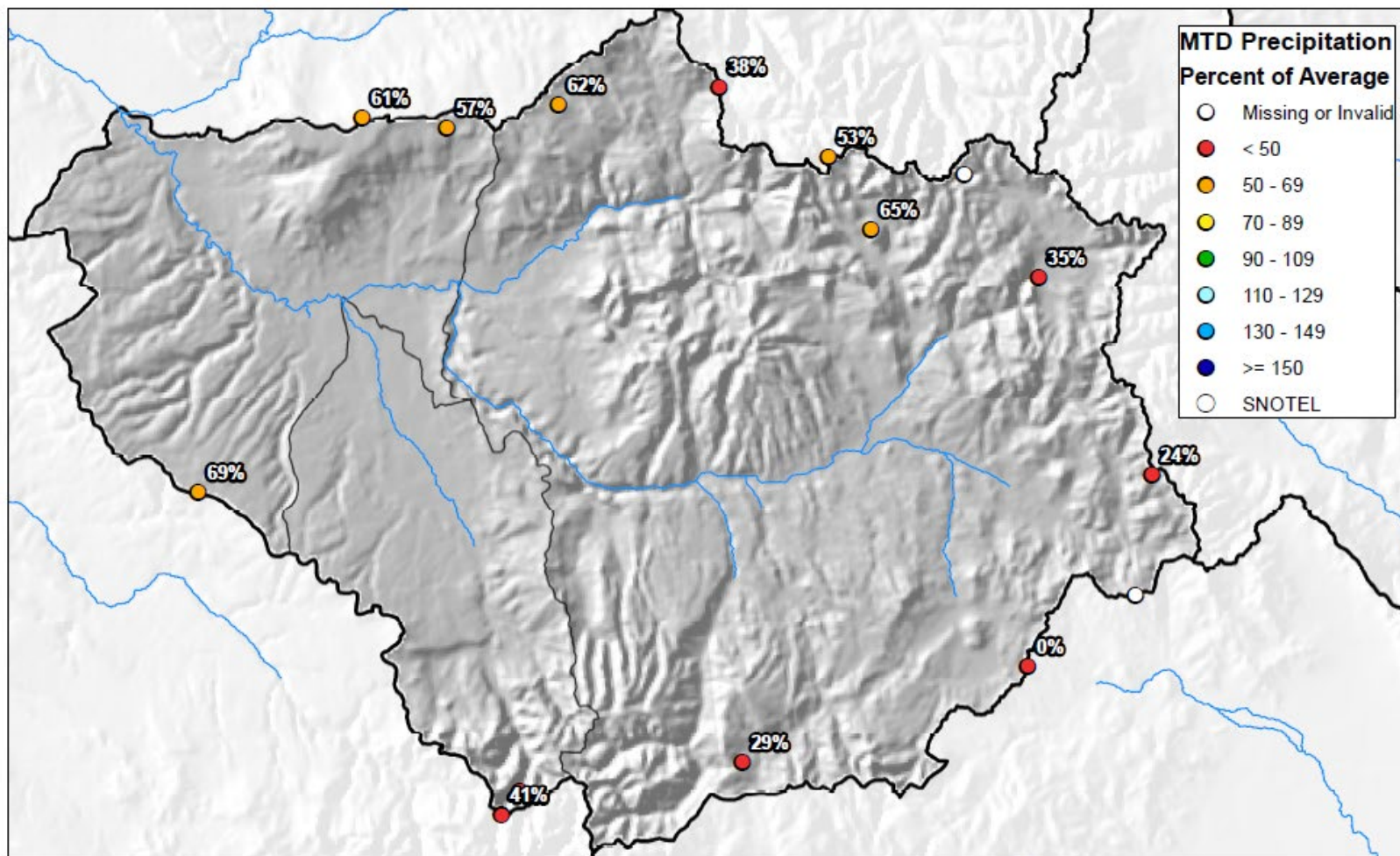
Gunnison River Basin High/Low Monthly Precipitation Summary

Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Sep 21, 2021



Gunnison River Basin Month to Date Precipitation Summary

Current as of Sep 21, 2021



0 5 10 20 30 40 Miles

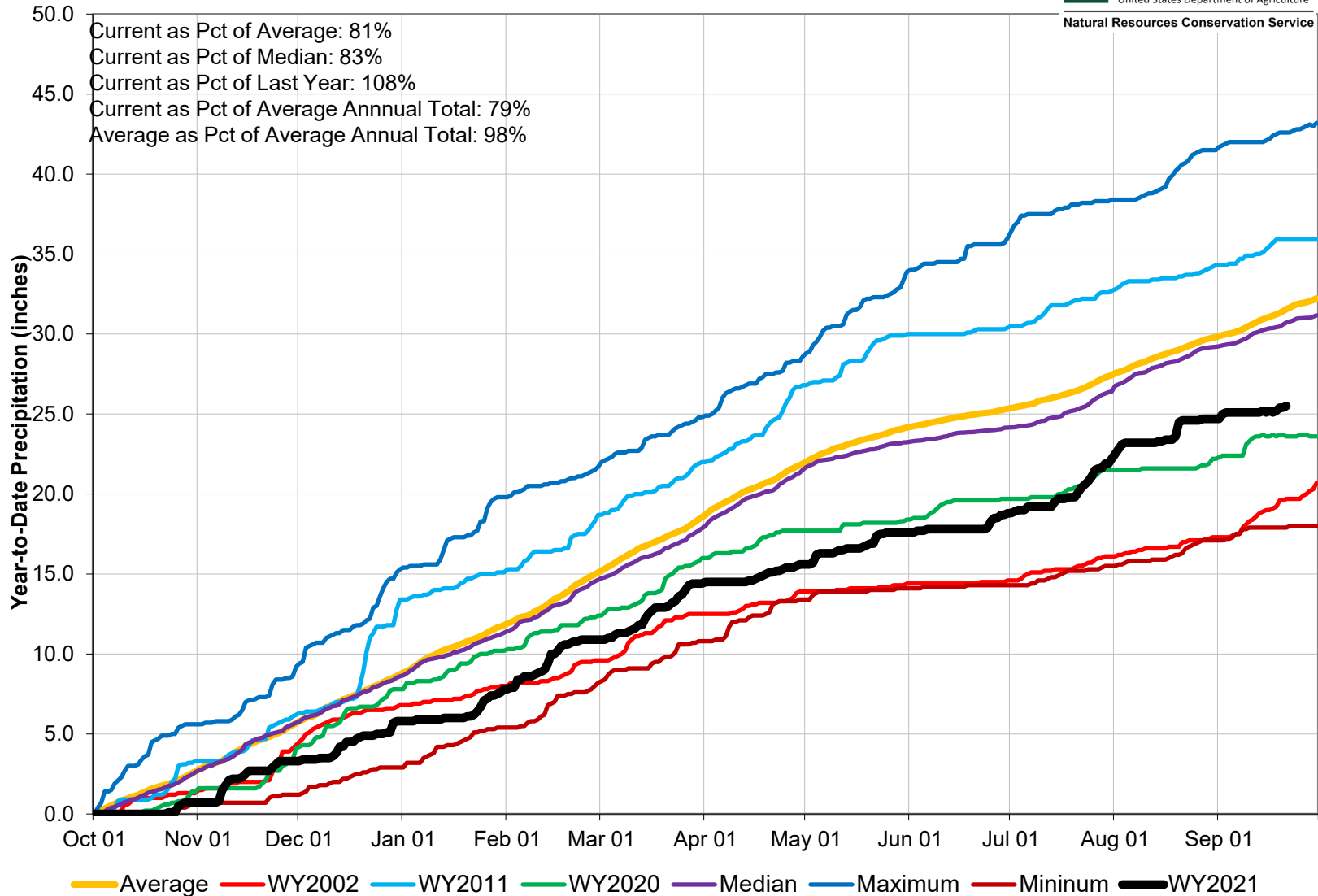
Gunnison River Basin High/Low Year-to-Date Precipitation Summary

Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Sep 21, 2021



United States Department of Agriculture

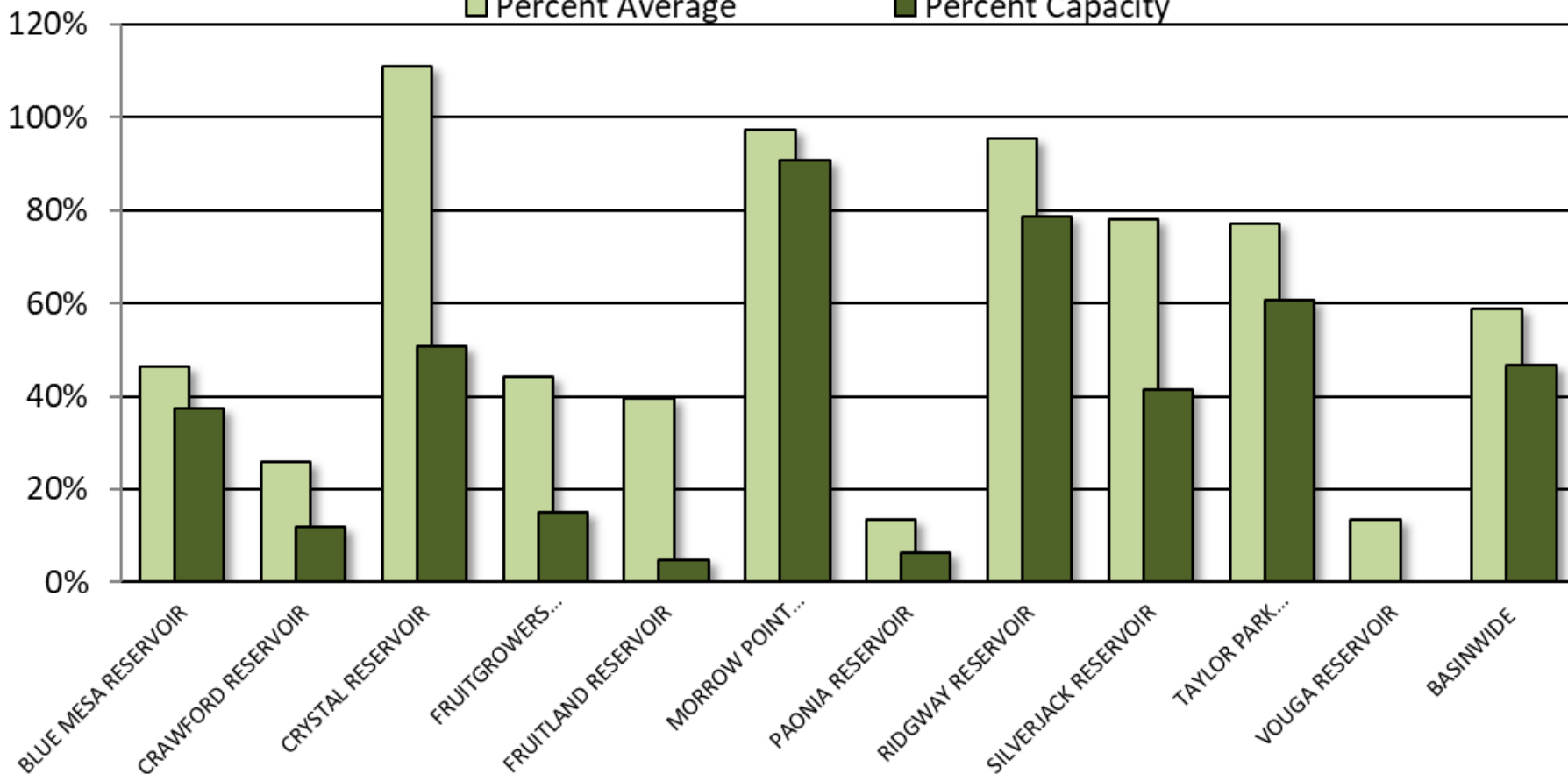
Natural Resources Conservation Service



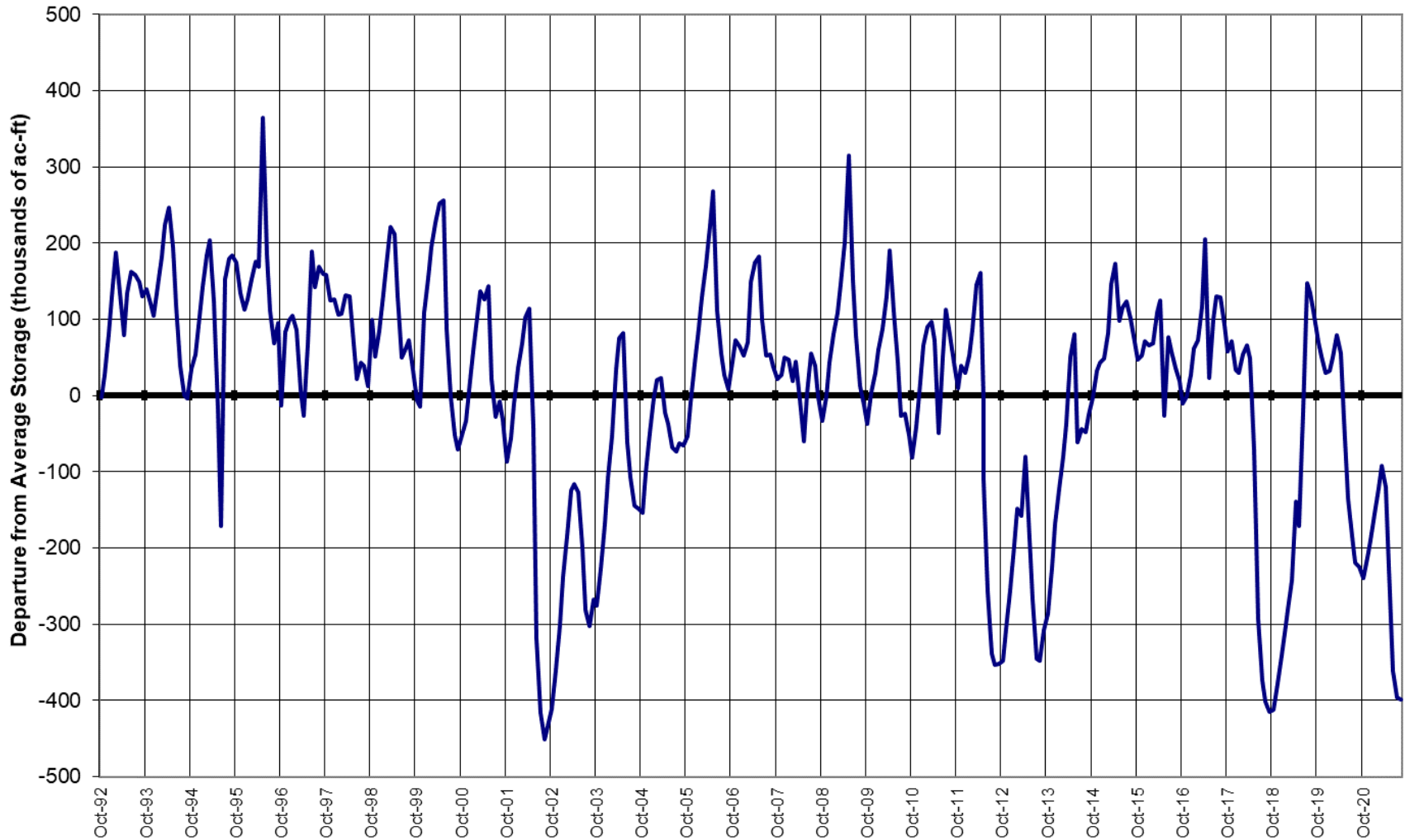
End of August Reservoir Storage

■ Percent Average

■ Percent Capacity

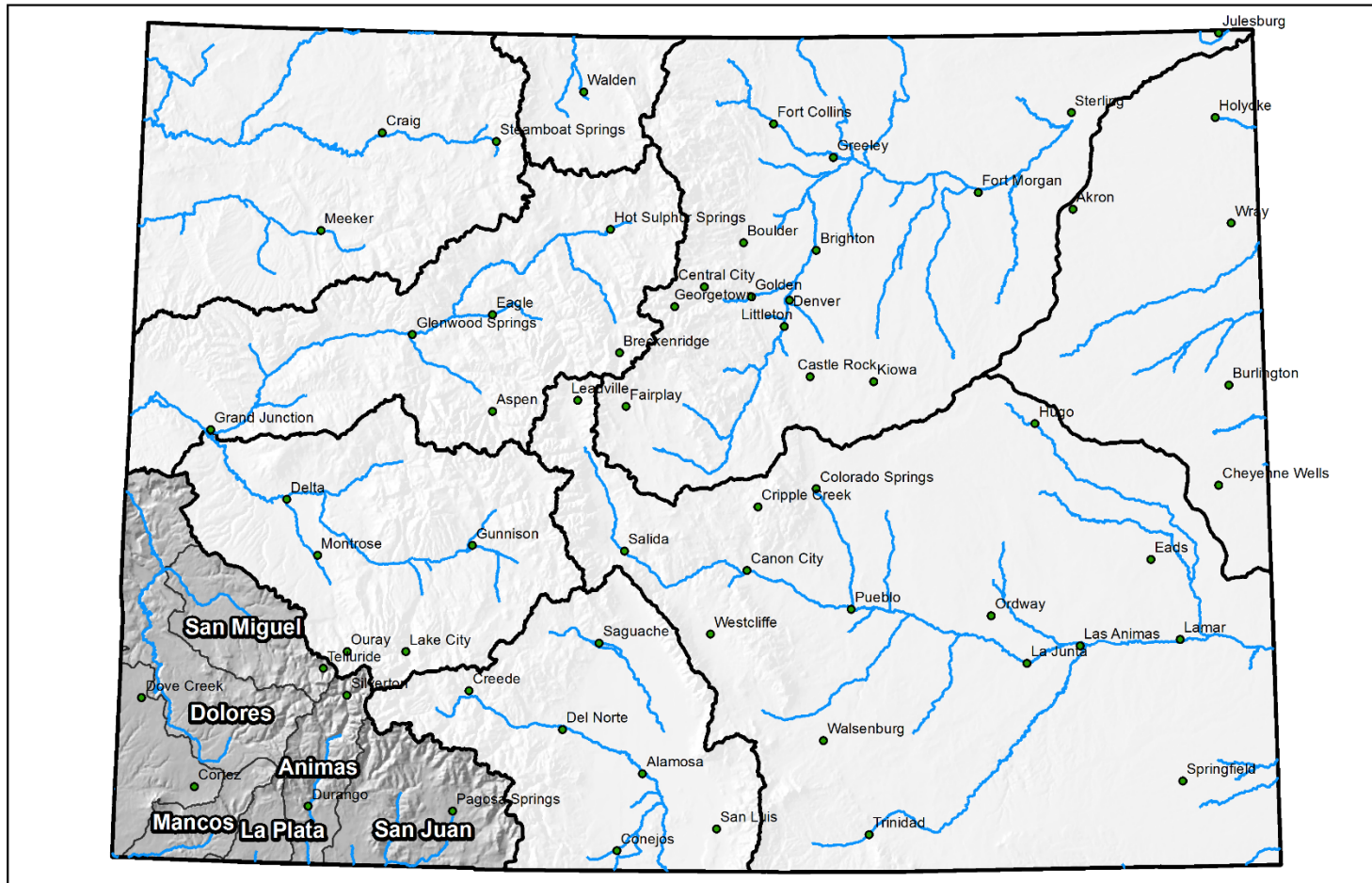


GUNNISON RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage Departure from Average



Major Basin Summary

San Miguel, Dolores, Animas, and San Juan River Basins

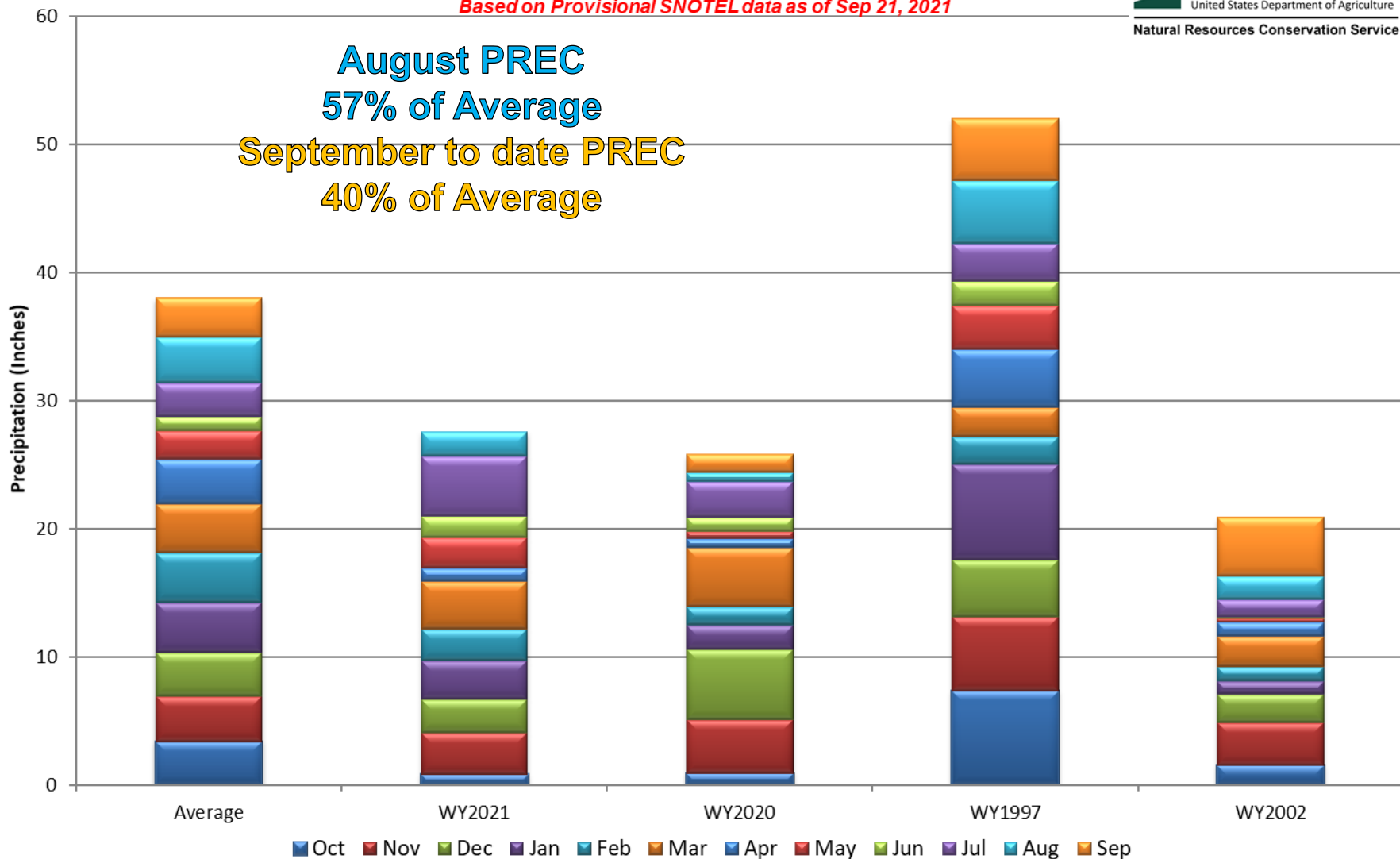


0 25 50 100 150 200 Miles

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

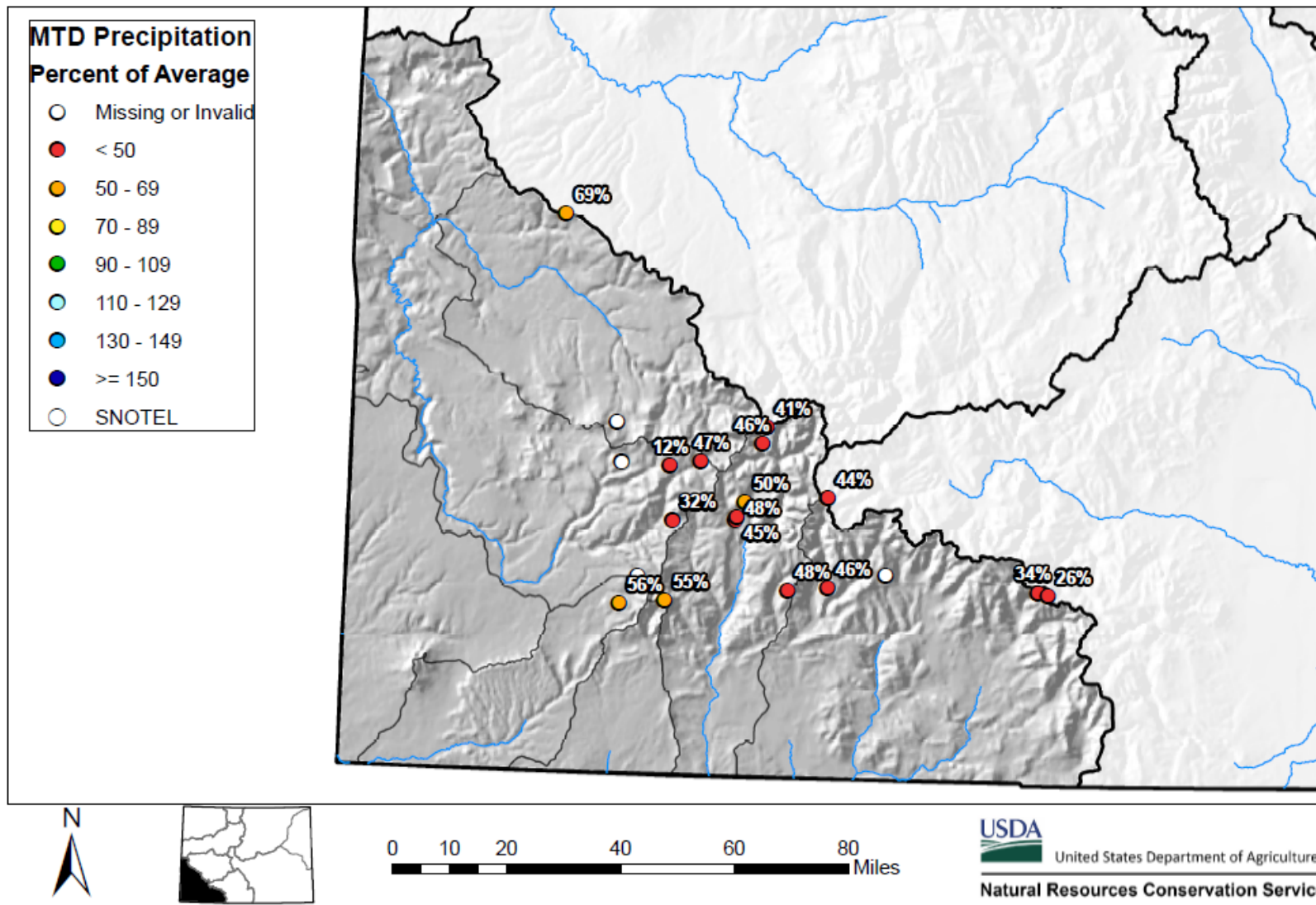
Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Sep 21, 2021

August PREC
57% of Average
September to date PREC
40% of Average



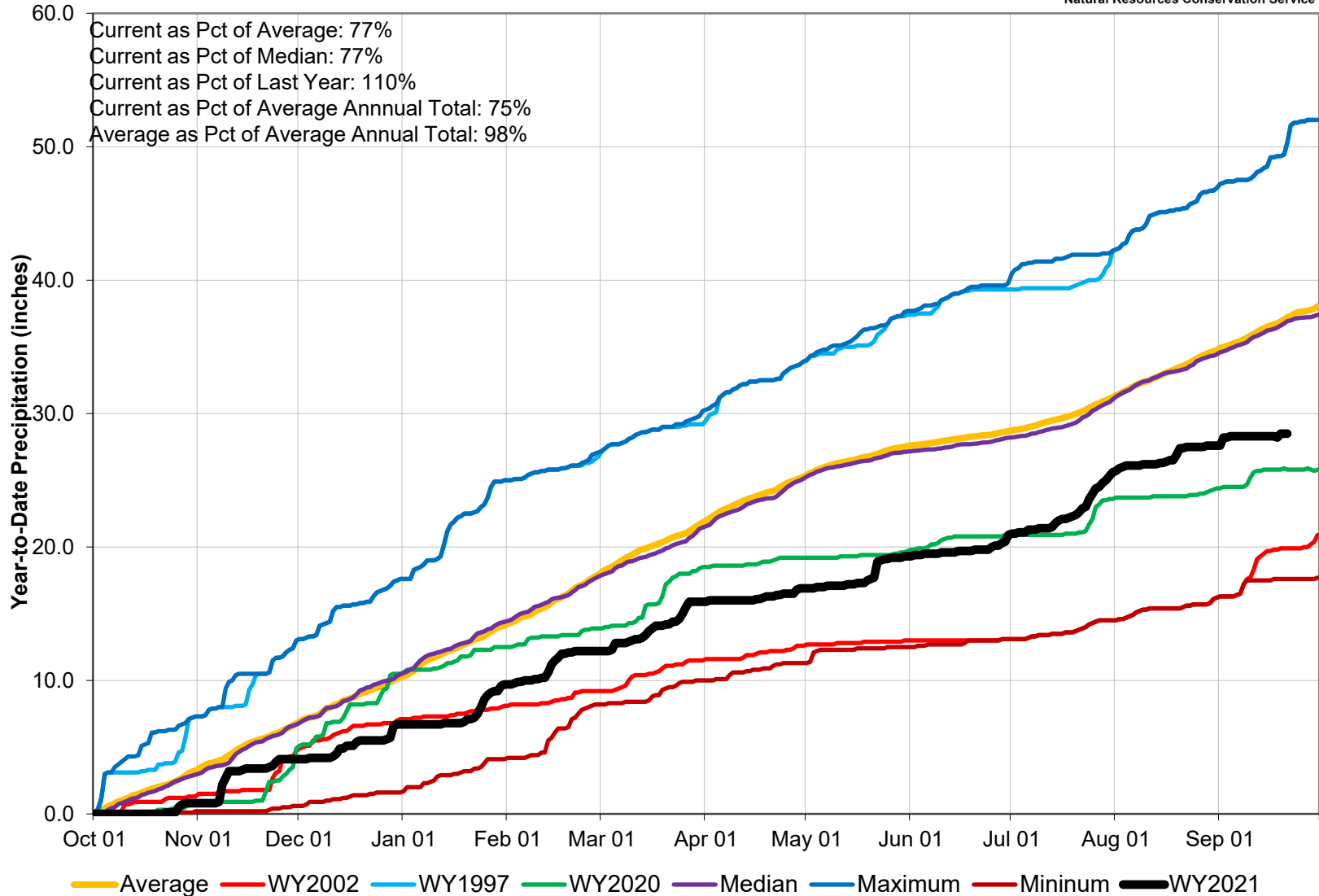
San Miguel, Dolores, Animas, and San Juan River Basins Month to Date Precipitation Summary

Current as of Sep 21, 2021

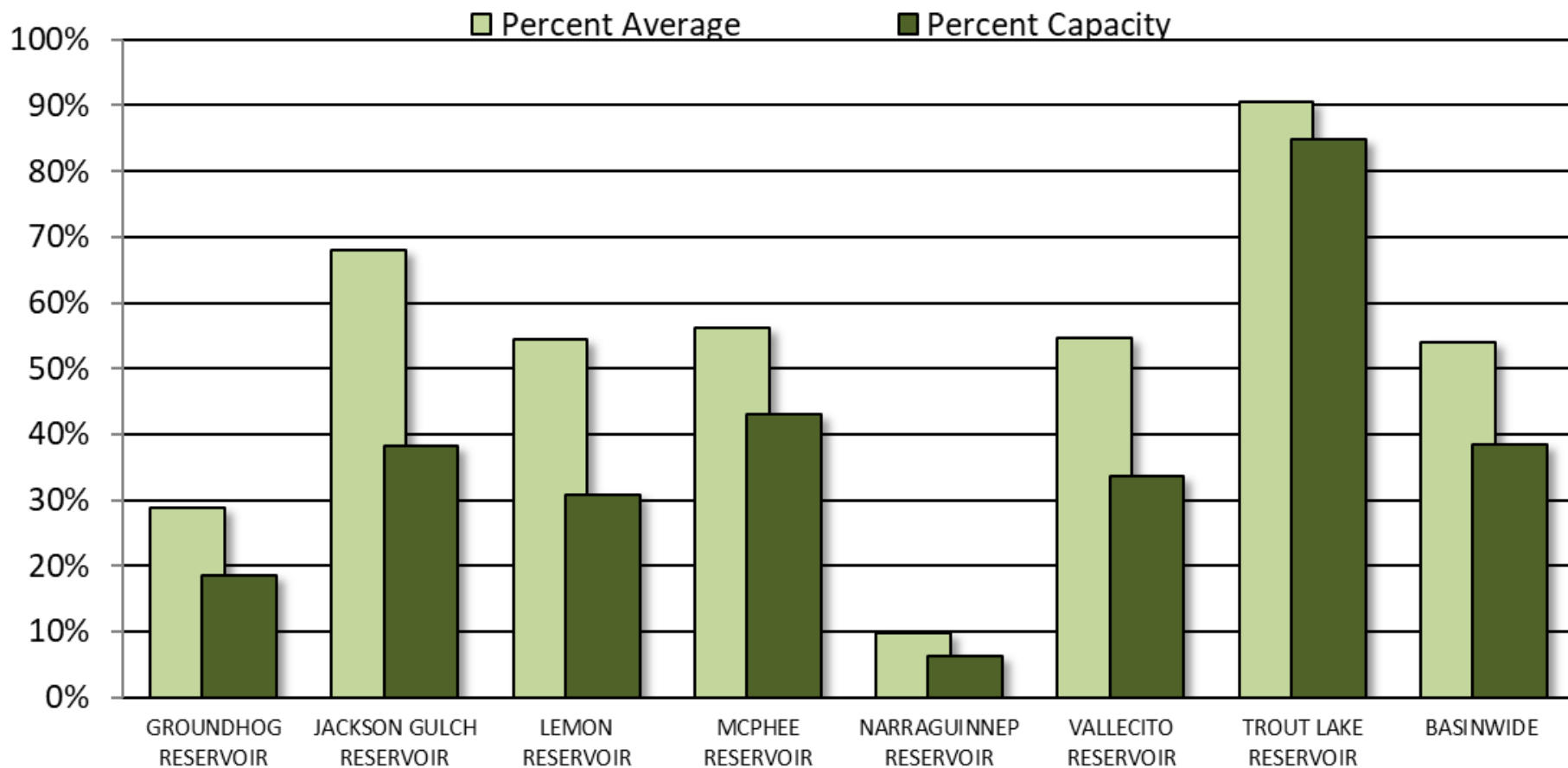


San Miguel, Dolores, Animas and San Juan River Basins High/Low Year-to-Date Precipitation Summary

Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Sep 21, 2021

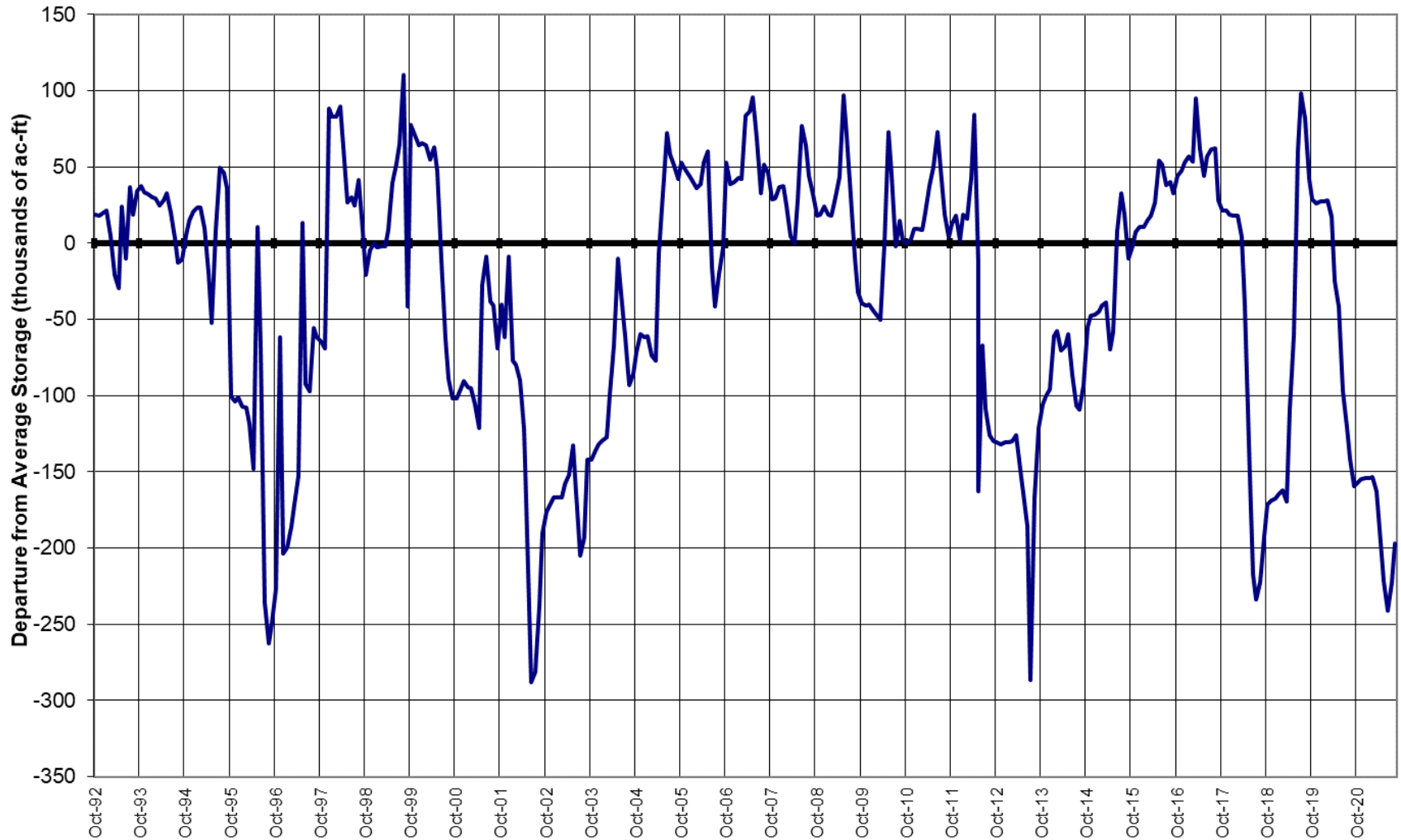


End of August Reservoir Storage



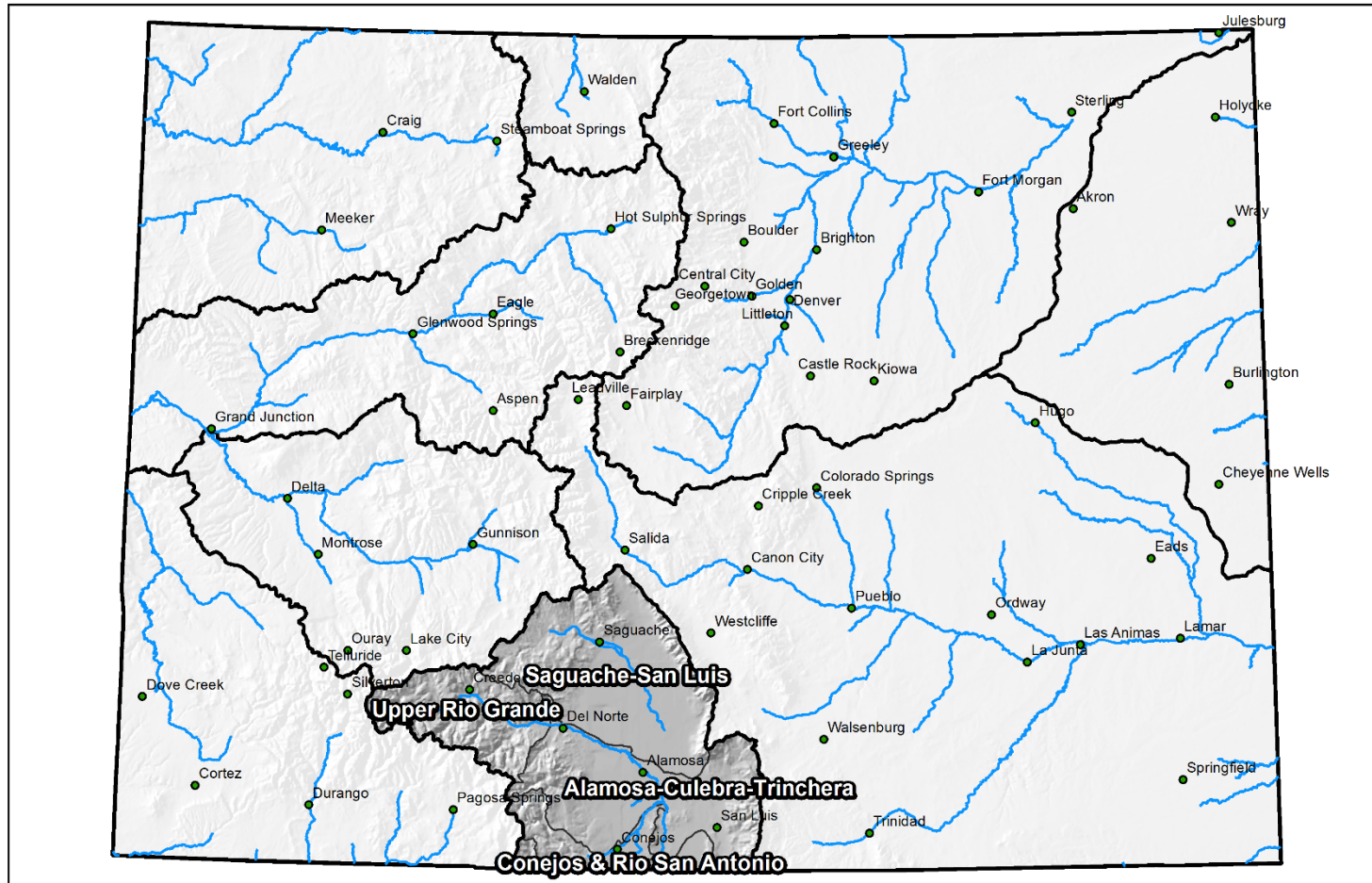
SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES, ANIMAS AND SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS

Reservoir Storage
Departure from Average



Major Basin Summary

Upper Rio Grande River Basin



0 25 50 100 150 200 Miles

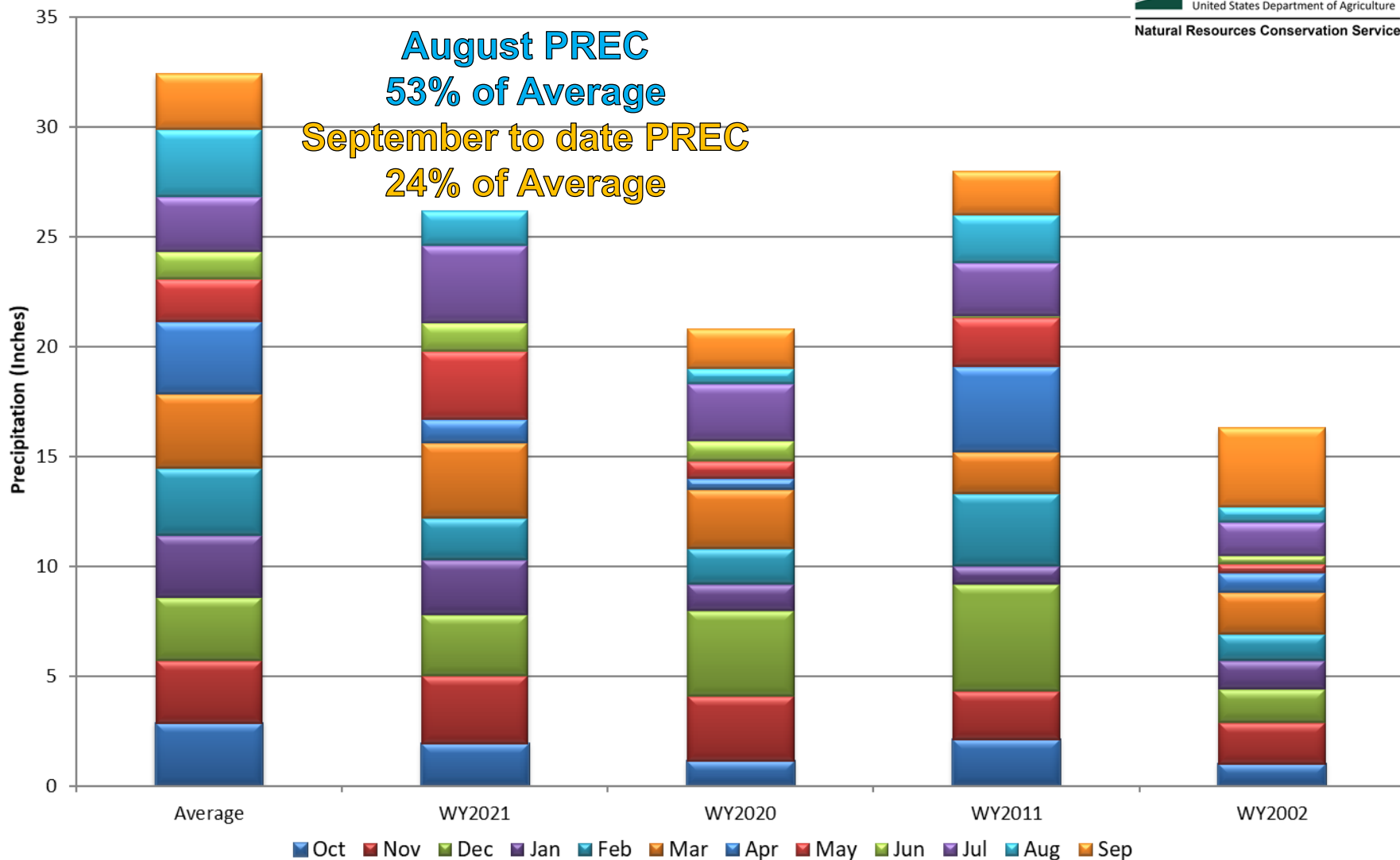
Upper Rio Grande River Basin High/Low Monthly Precipitation Summary

Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Sep 21, 2021



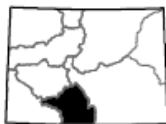
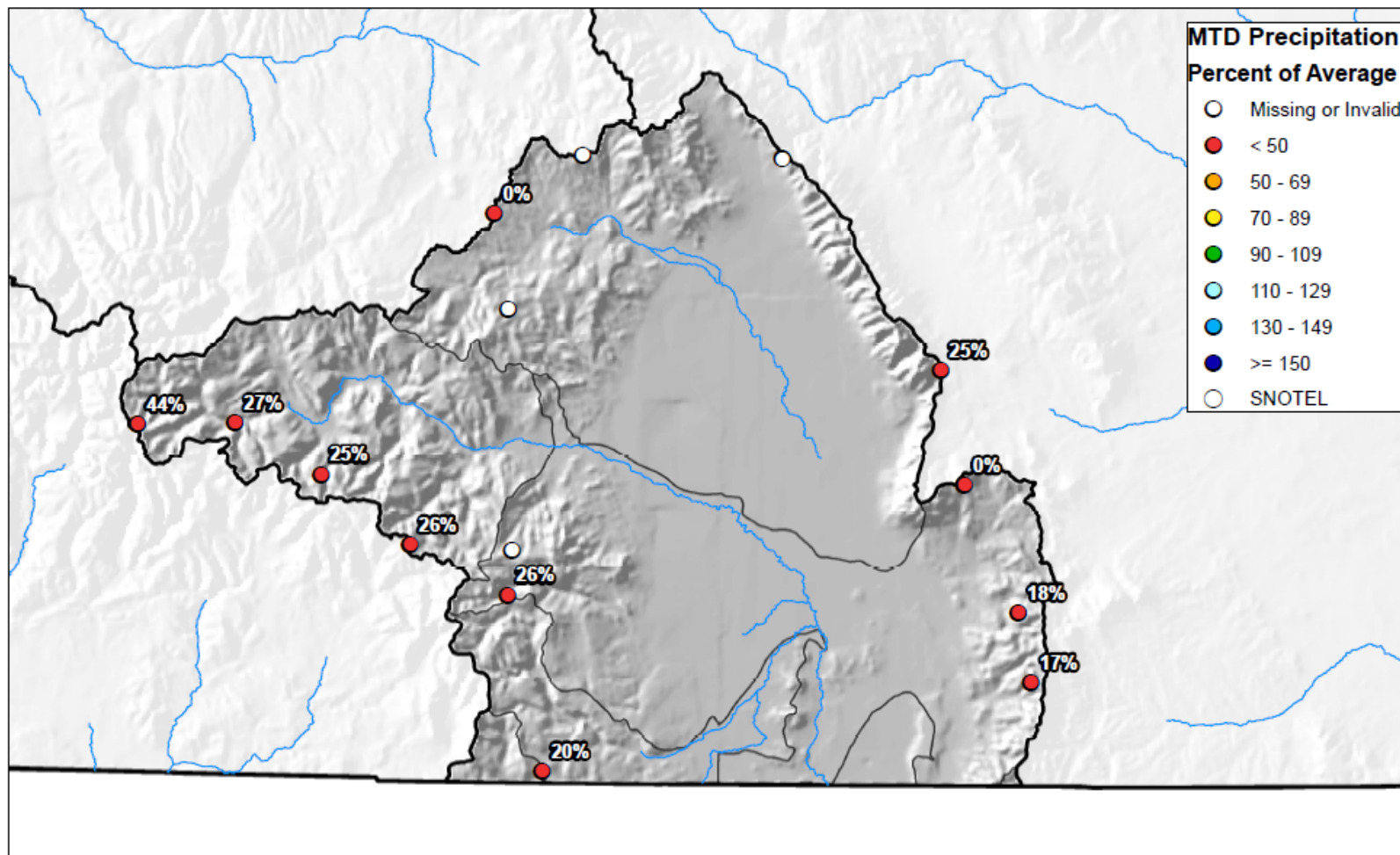
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Natural Resources Conservation Service



Upper Rio Grande River Basin Month to Date Precipitation Summary

Current as of Sep 21, 2021



0 10 20 40 60 80 Miles

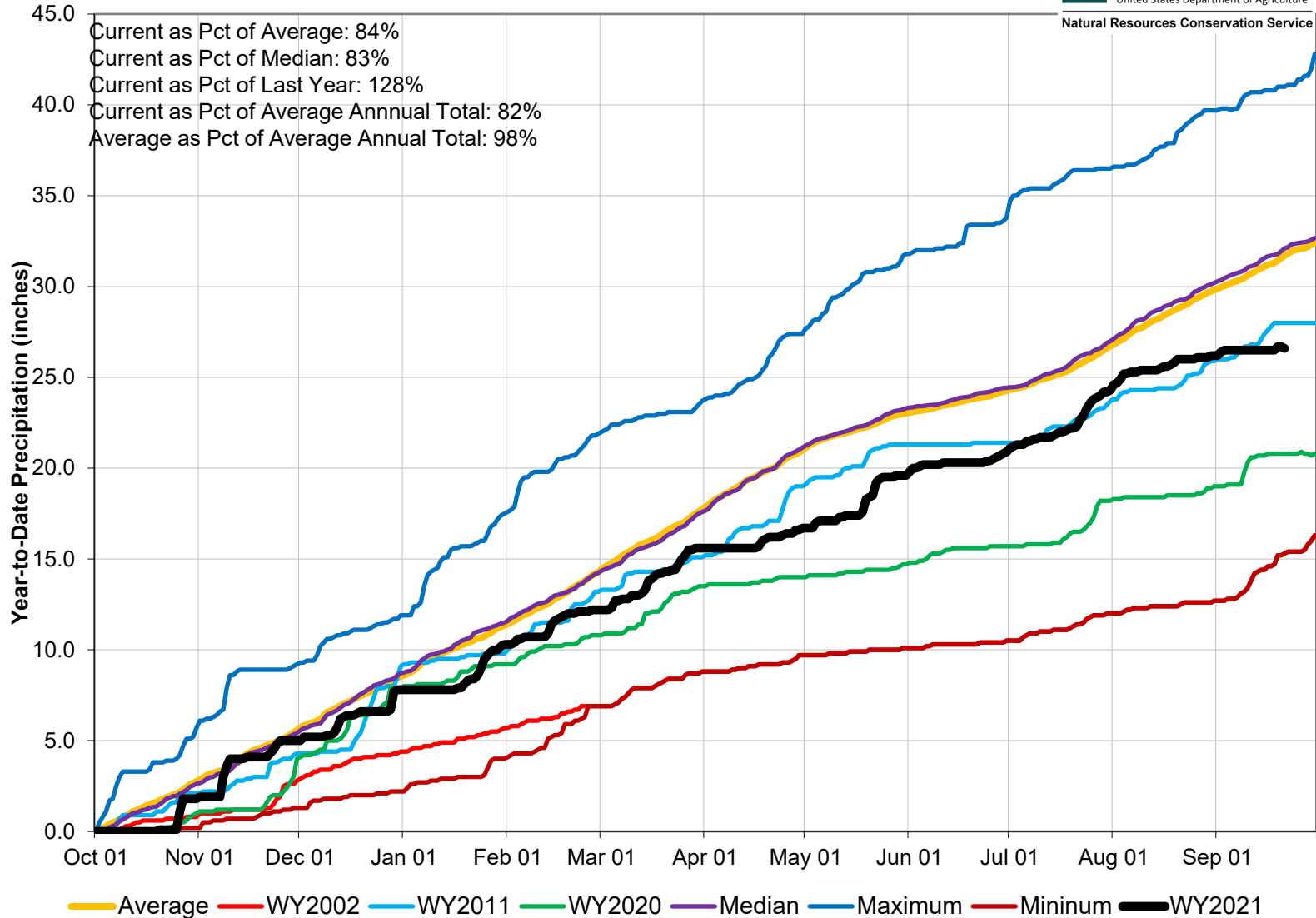
Upper Rio Grande River Basin High/Low Year-to-Date Precipitation Summary

Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Sep 21, 2021



United States Department of Agriculture

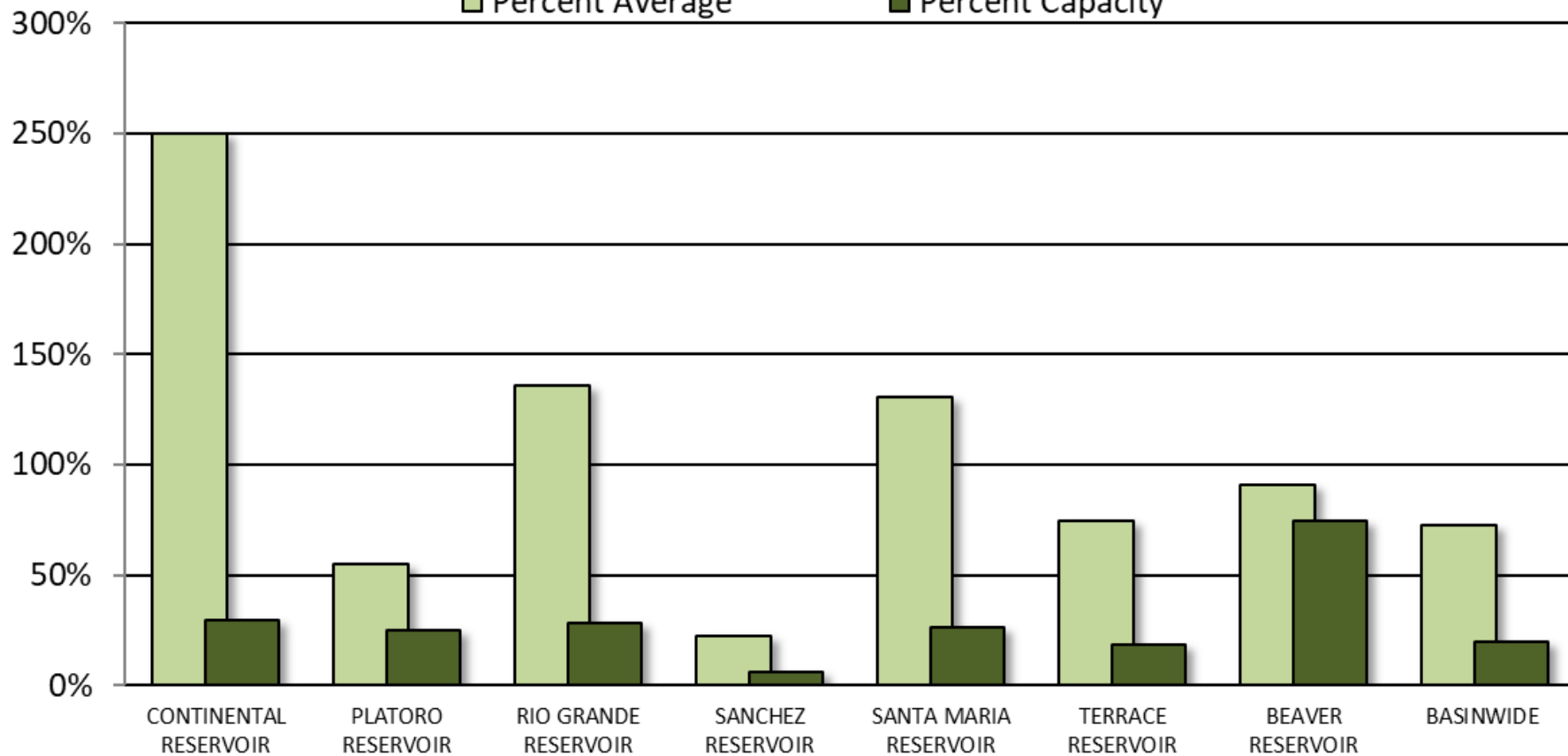
Natural Resources Conservation Service



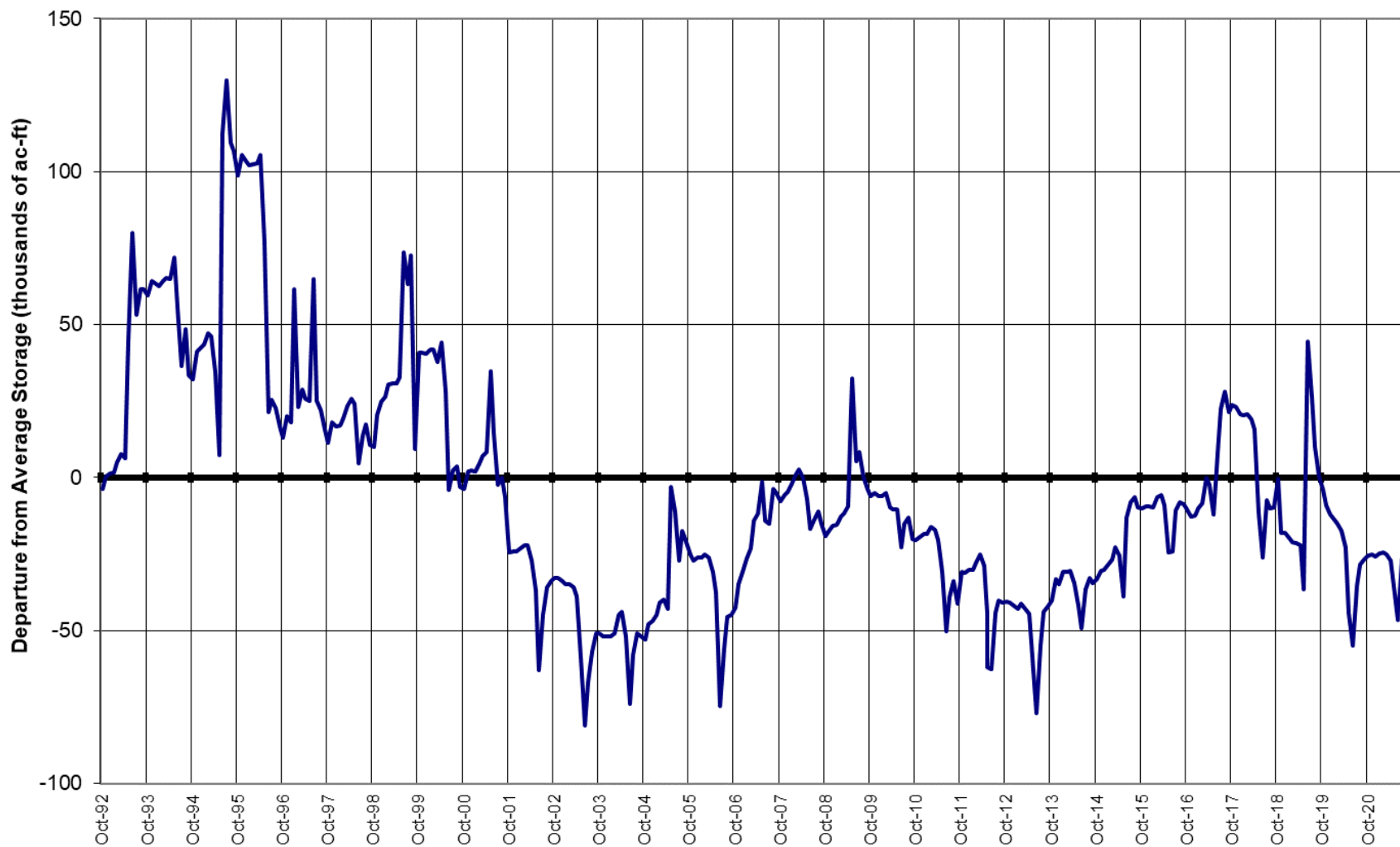
End of August Reservoir Storage

■ Percent Average

■ Percent Capacity

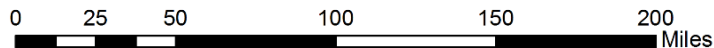
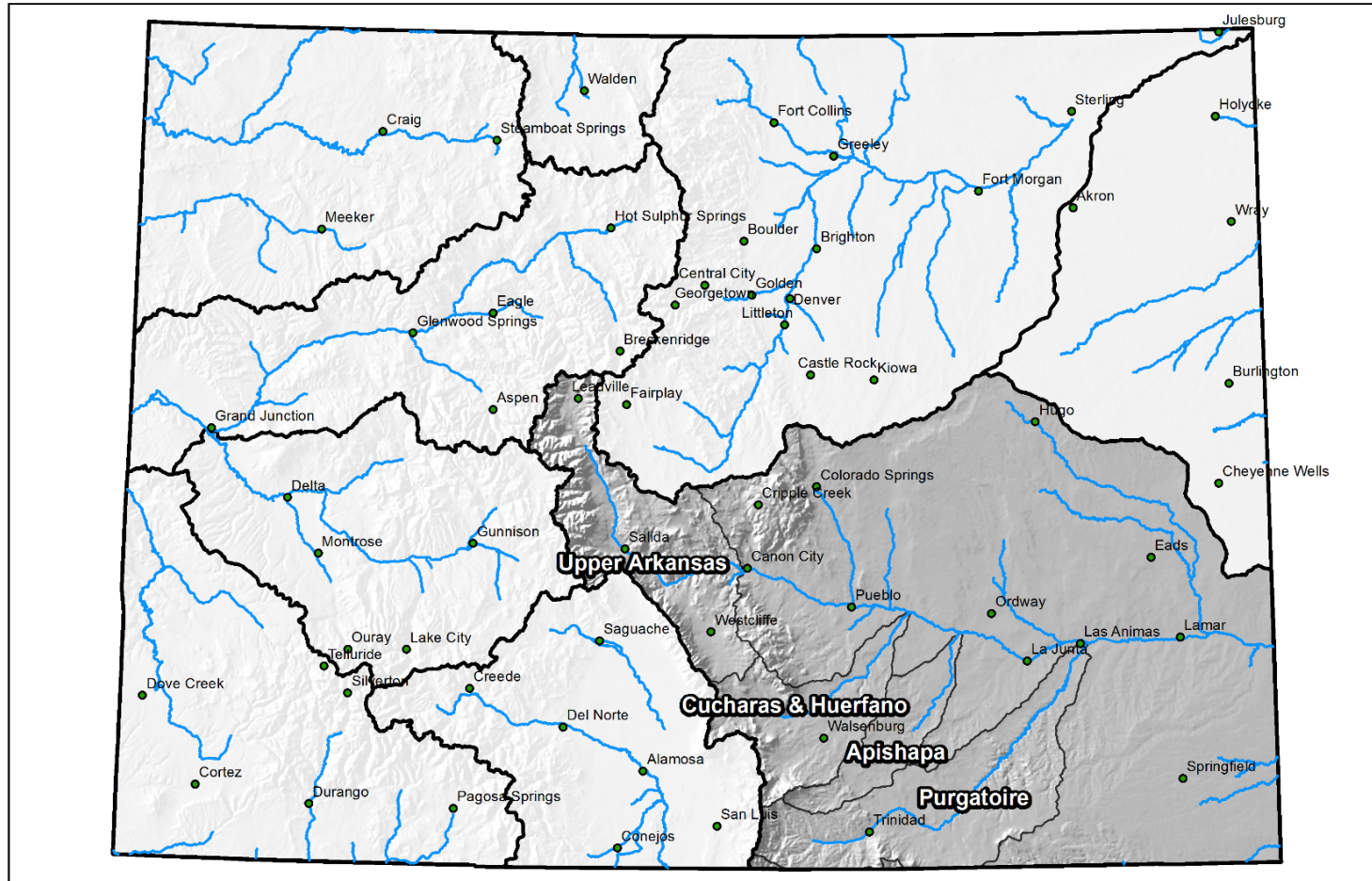


UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN Reservoir Storage Departure from Average



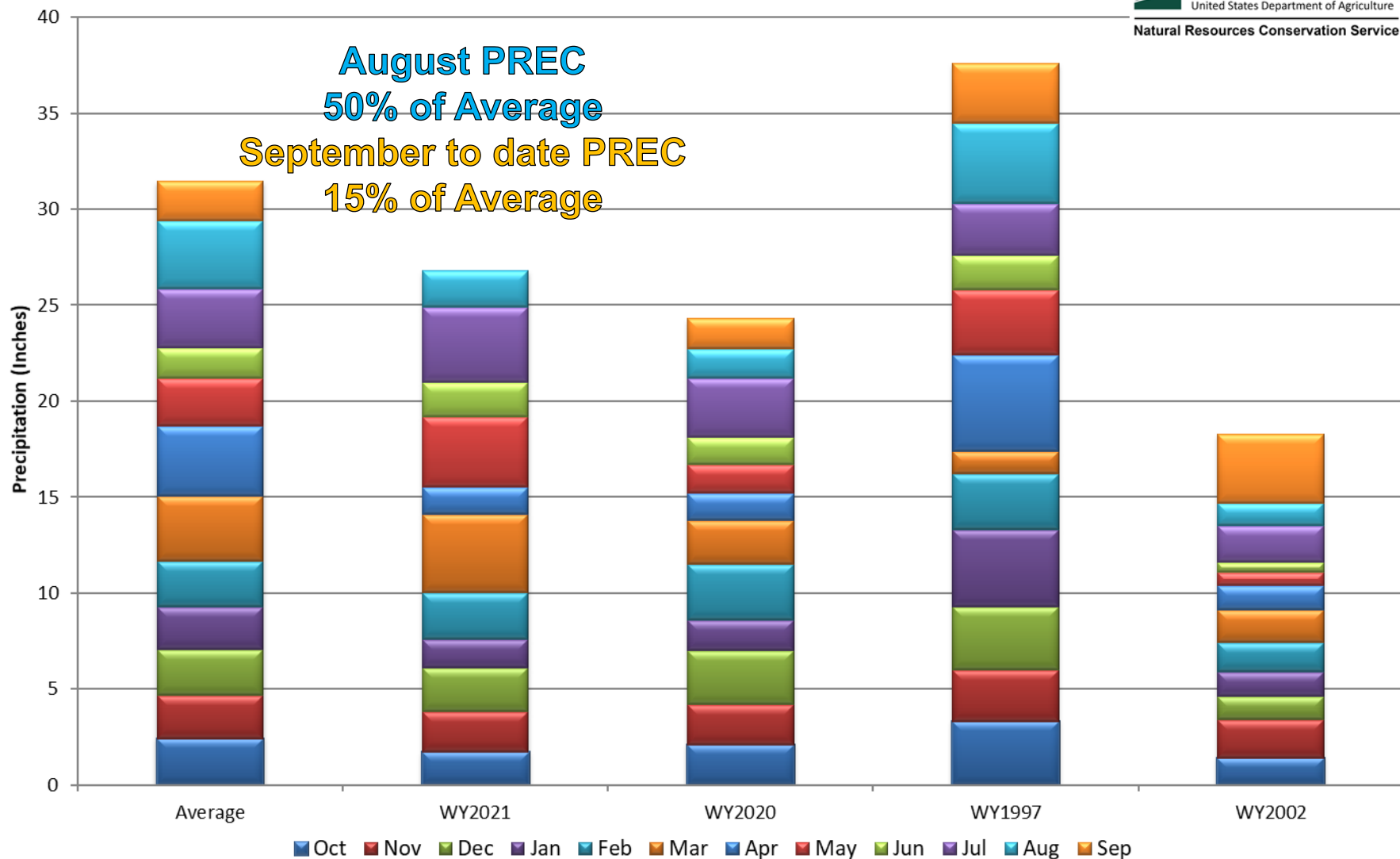
Major Basin Summary

Arkansas River Basin



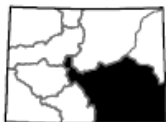
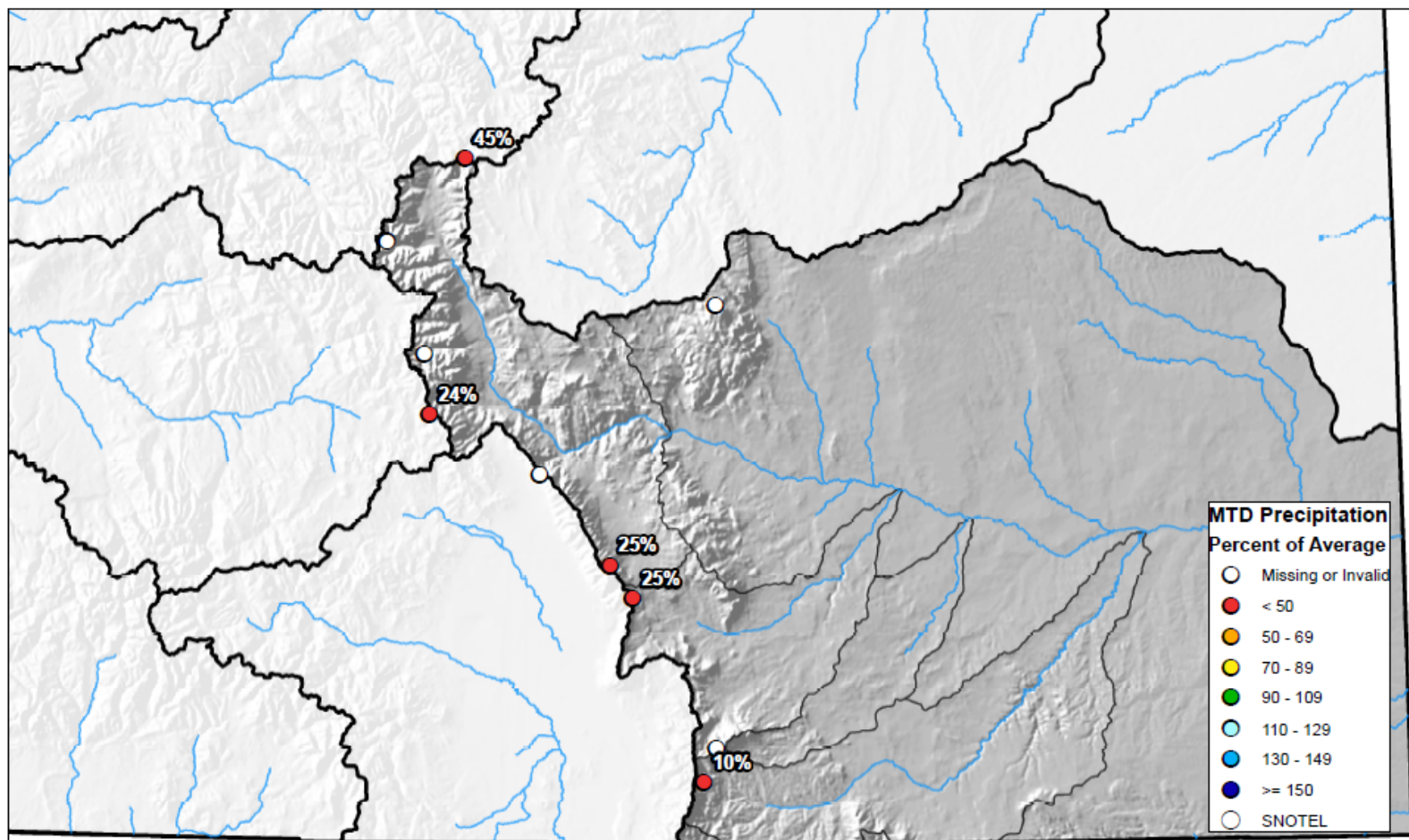
Arkansas River Basin High/Low Monthly Precipitation Summary

Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Sep 21, 2021



Arkansas River Basin Month to Date Precipitation Summary

Current as of Sep 21, 2021

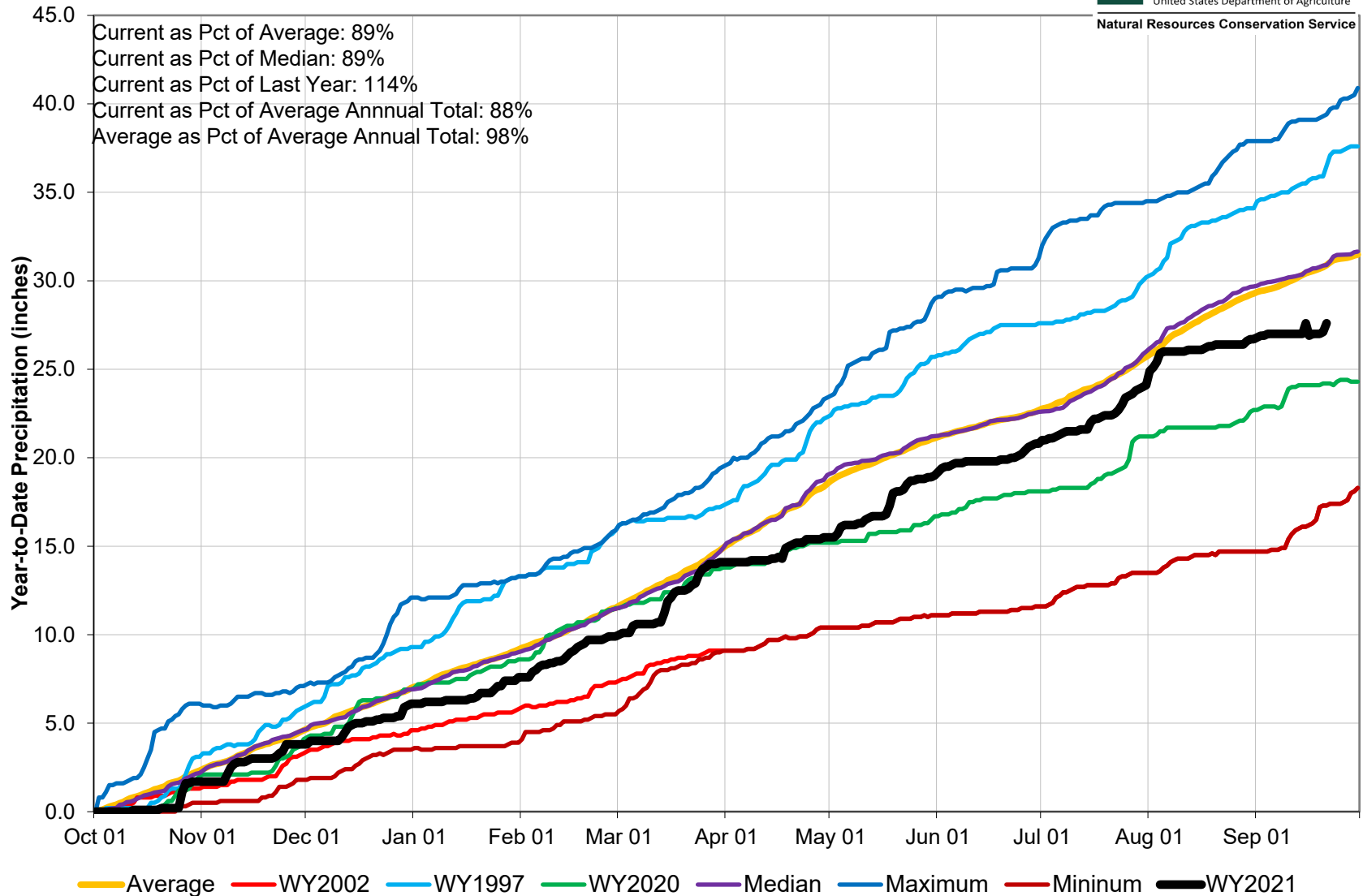


0 10 20 40 60 80 Miles

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

Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Sep 21, 2021

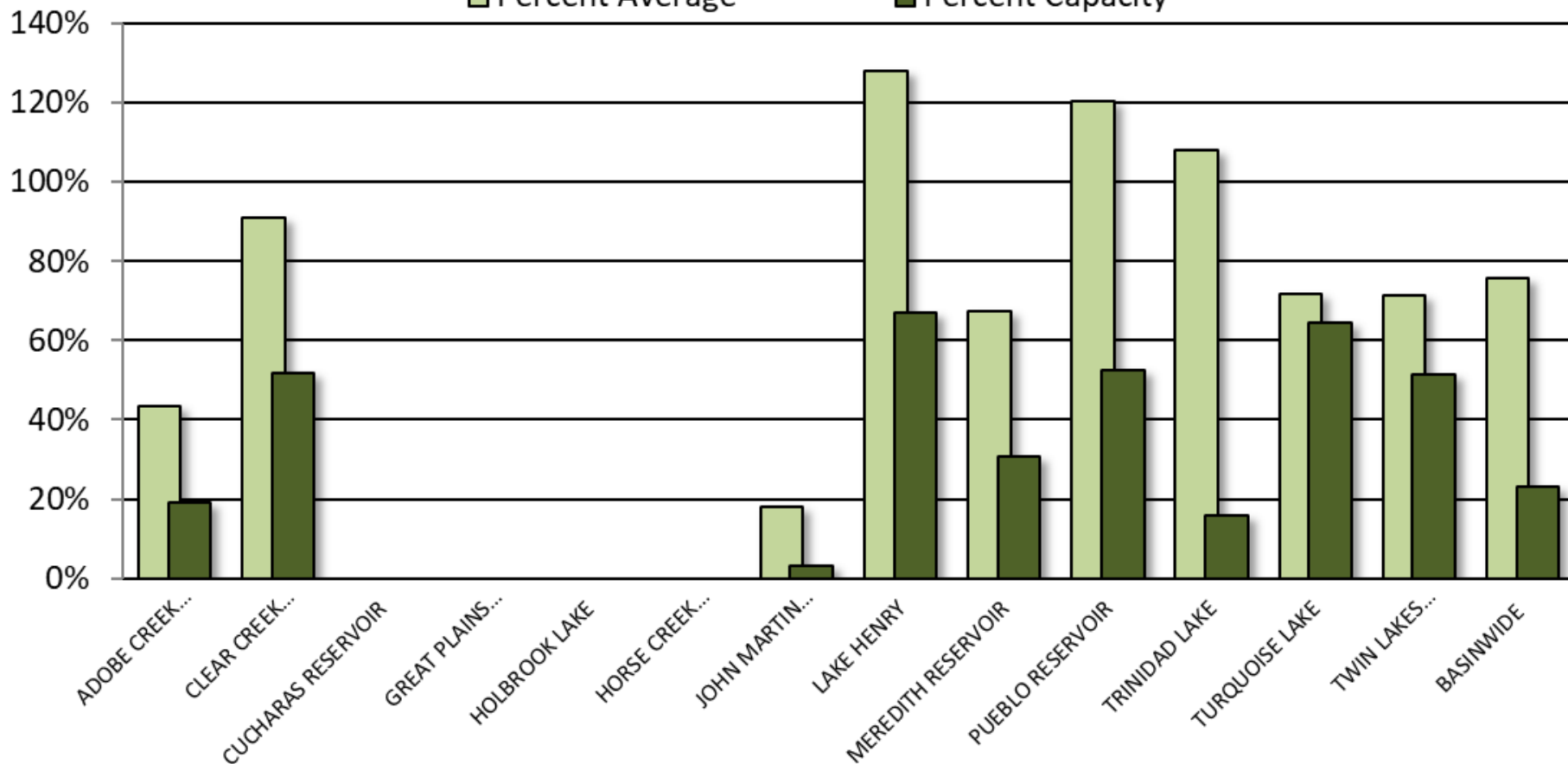
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Natural Resources Conservation Service



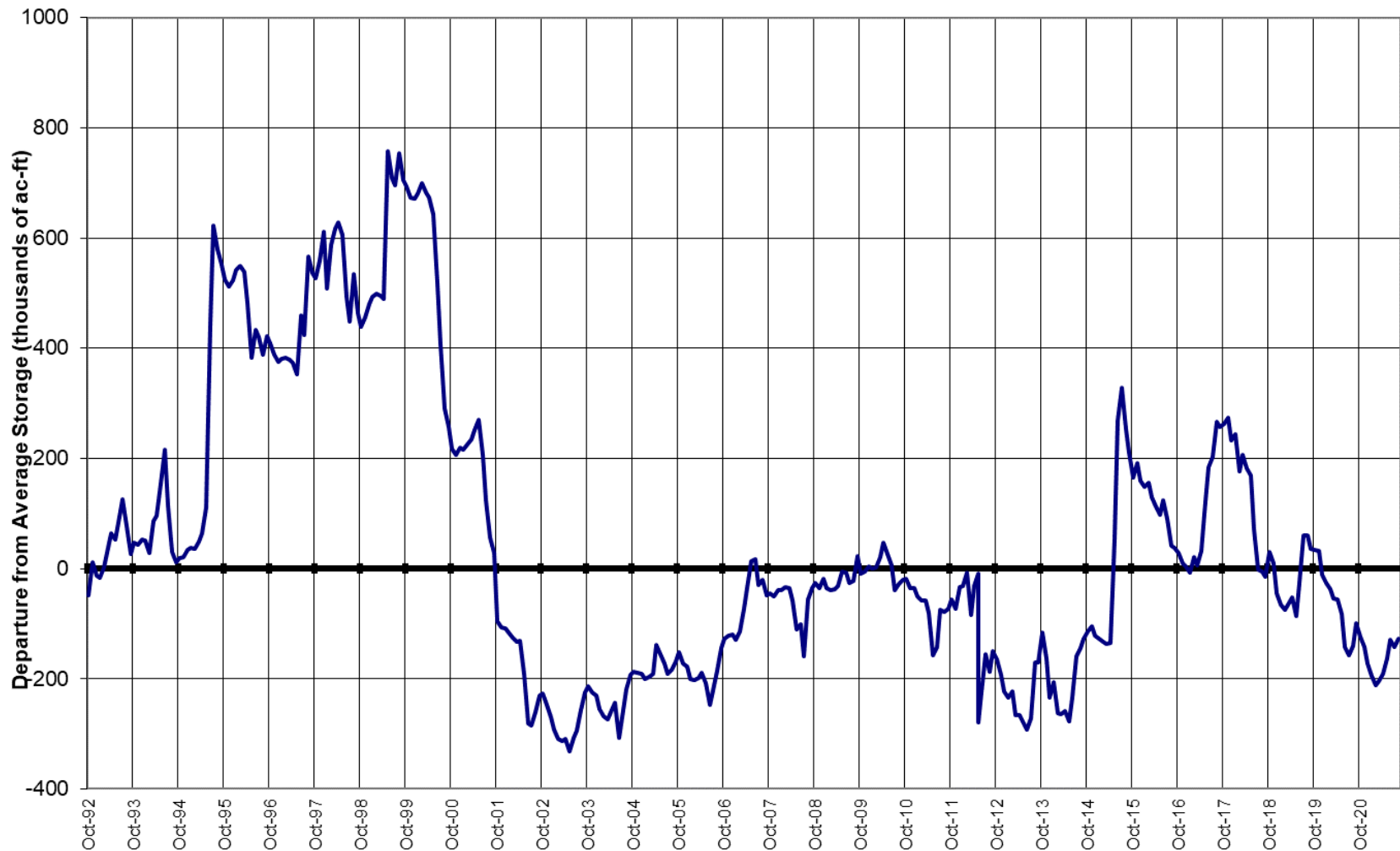
End of August Reservoir Storage

■ Percent Average

■ Percent Capacity

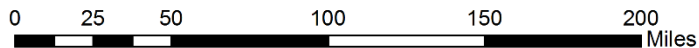
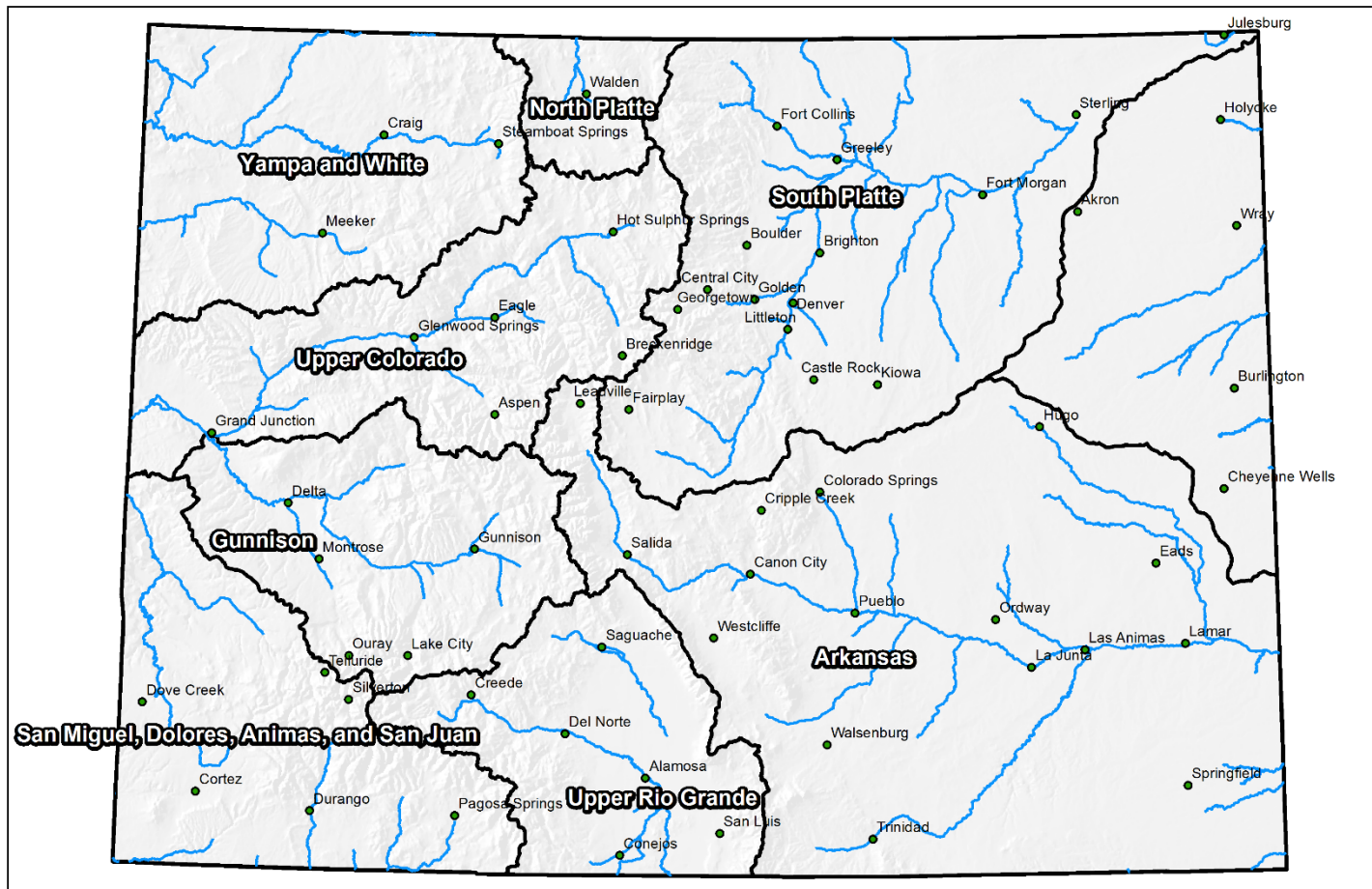


ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN Reservoir Storage Departure from Average



Colorado Statewide Summary

Colorado Major Basins



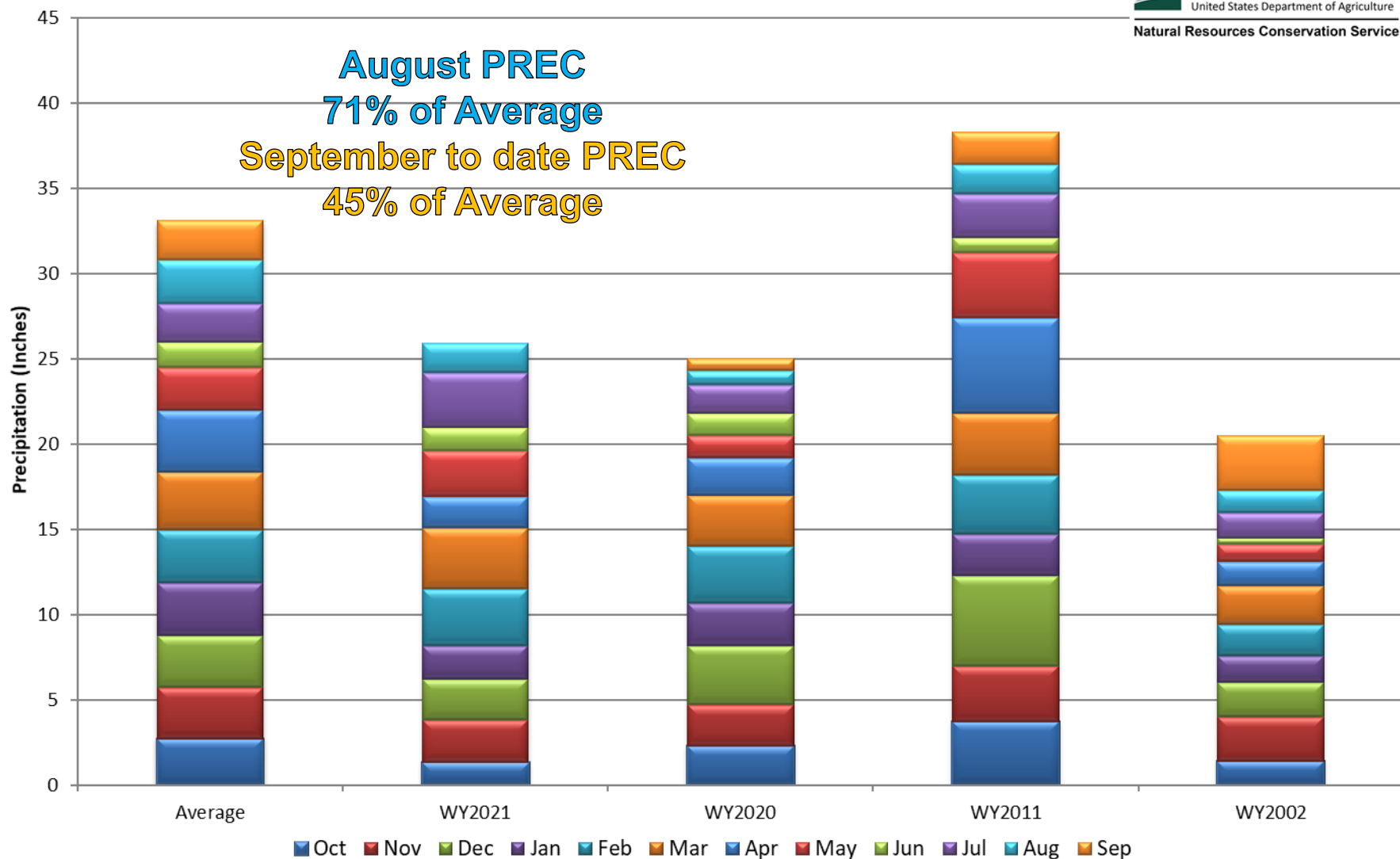
Colorado Statewide High/Low Monthly Precipitation Summary

Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Sep 21, 2021



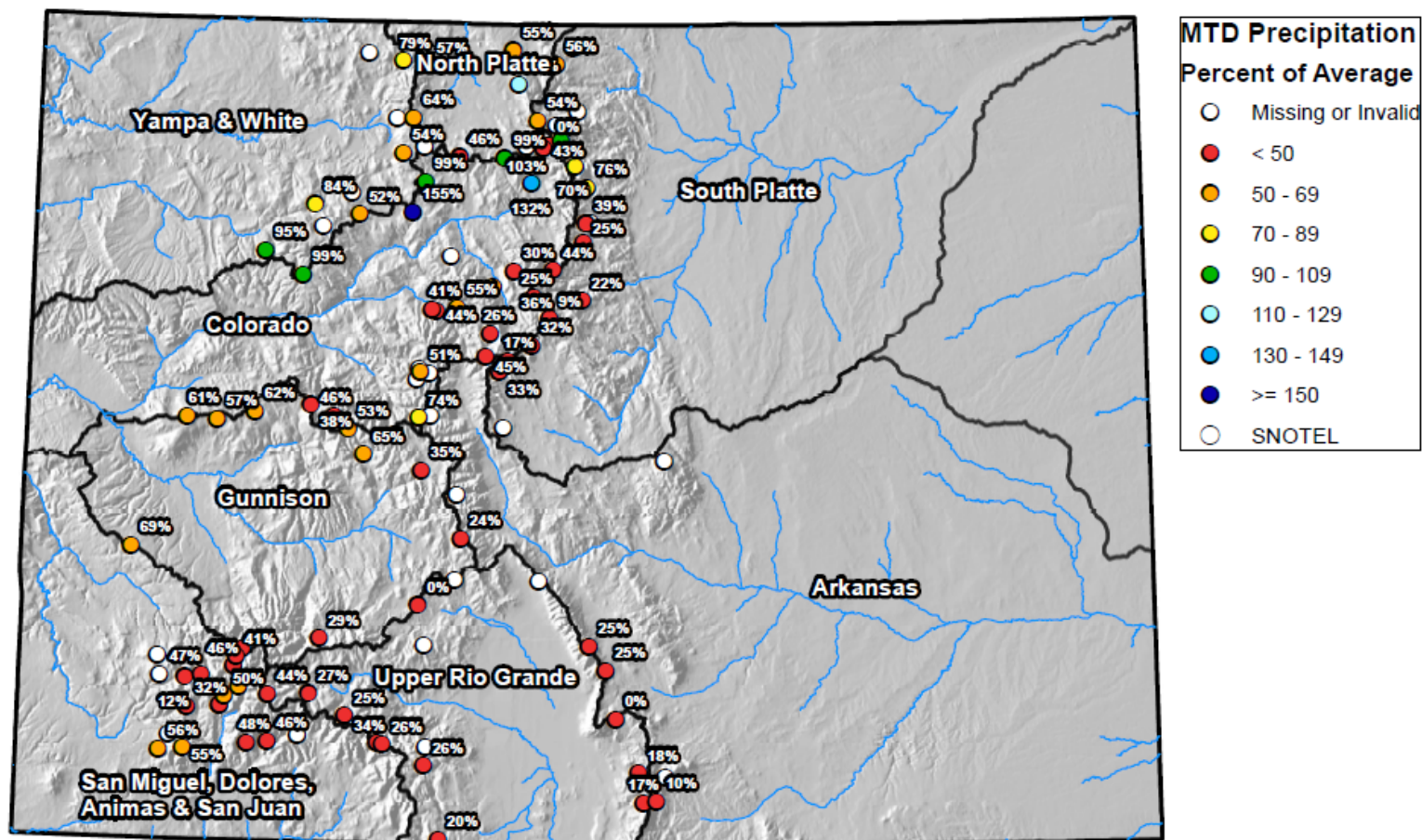
United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service



Colorado SNOTEL Month-to-Date Precipitation

Current as of Sep 21, 2021



0 25 50 100 150 200 Miles

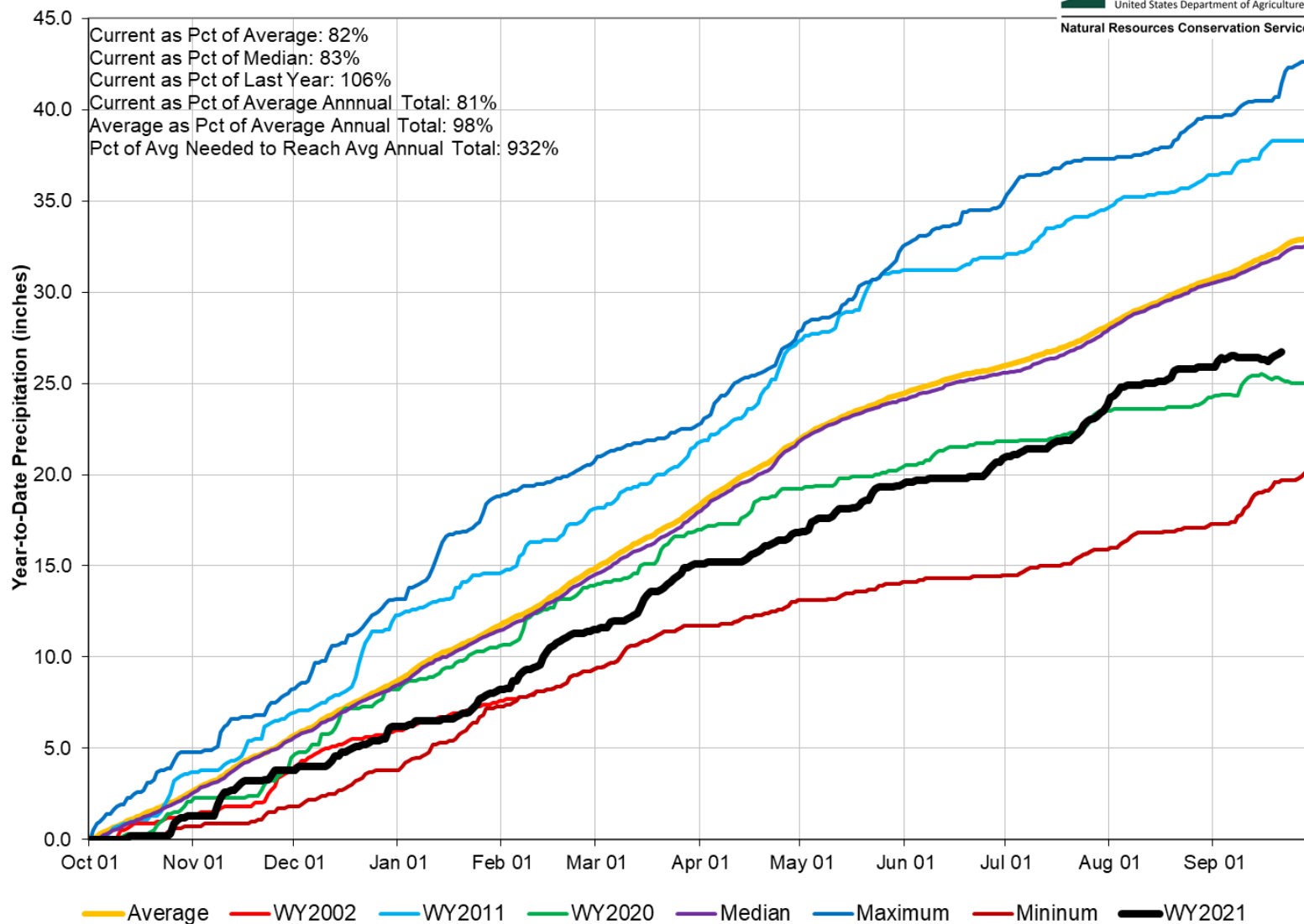
Colorado Statewide High/Low Year-to-Date Precipitation Summary

Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of Sep 21, 2021



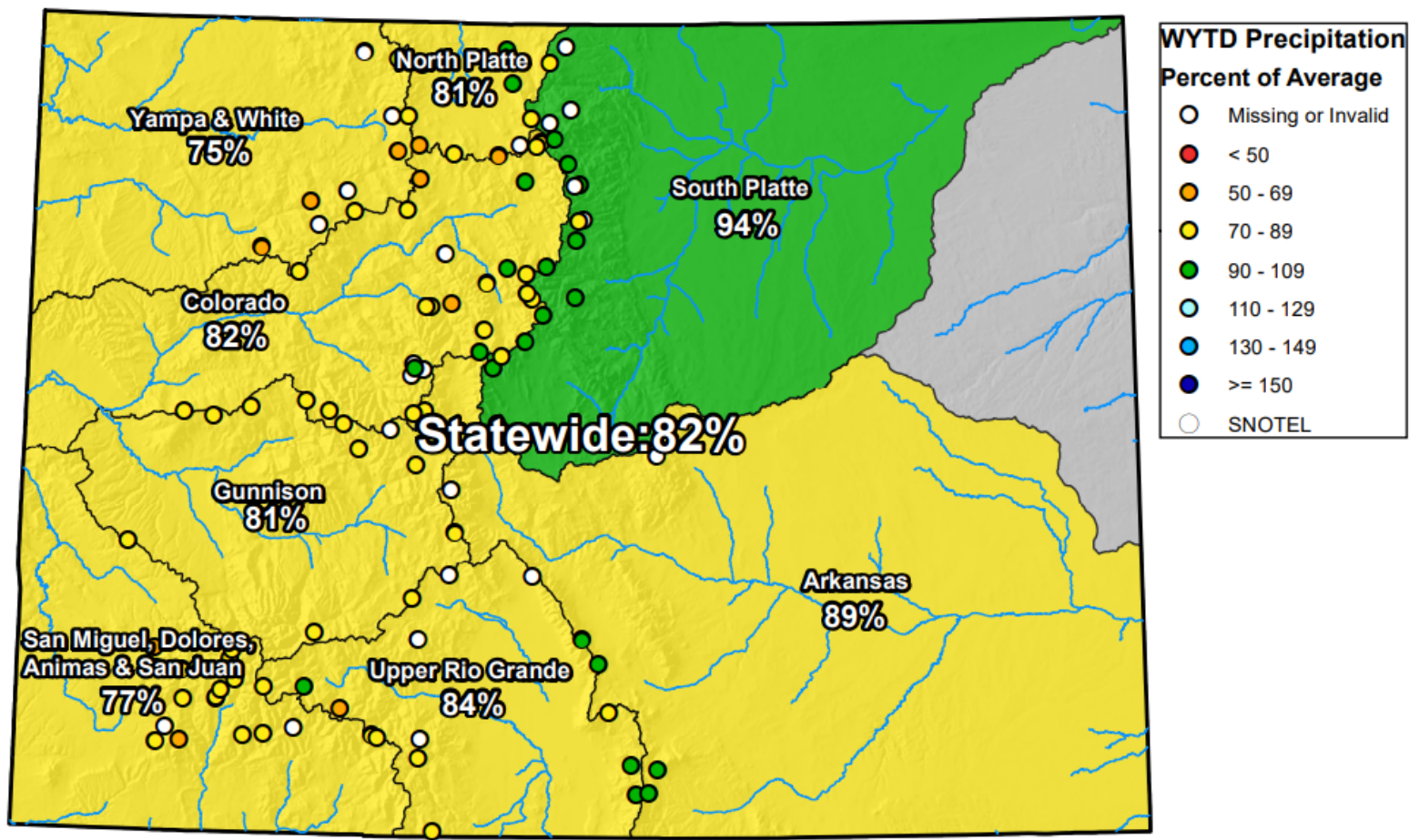
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Natural Resources Conservation Service



Colorado SNOTEL Water Year to Date Precipitation

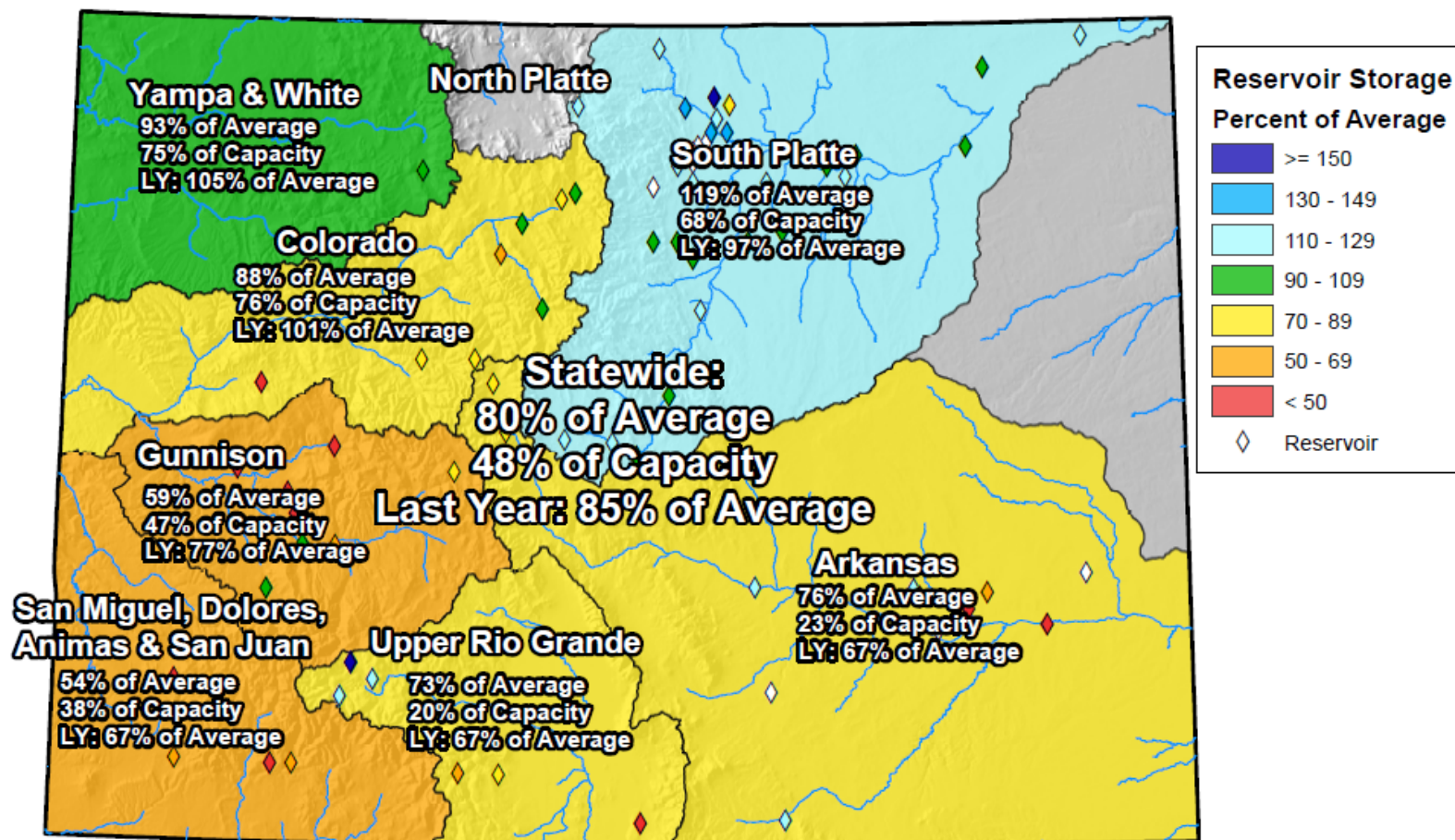
Current as of Sep 21, 2021



0 25 50 100 150 200 Miles

Colorado Monthly Reservoir Storage Summary

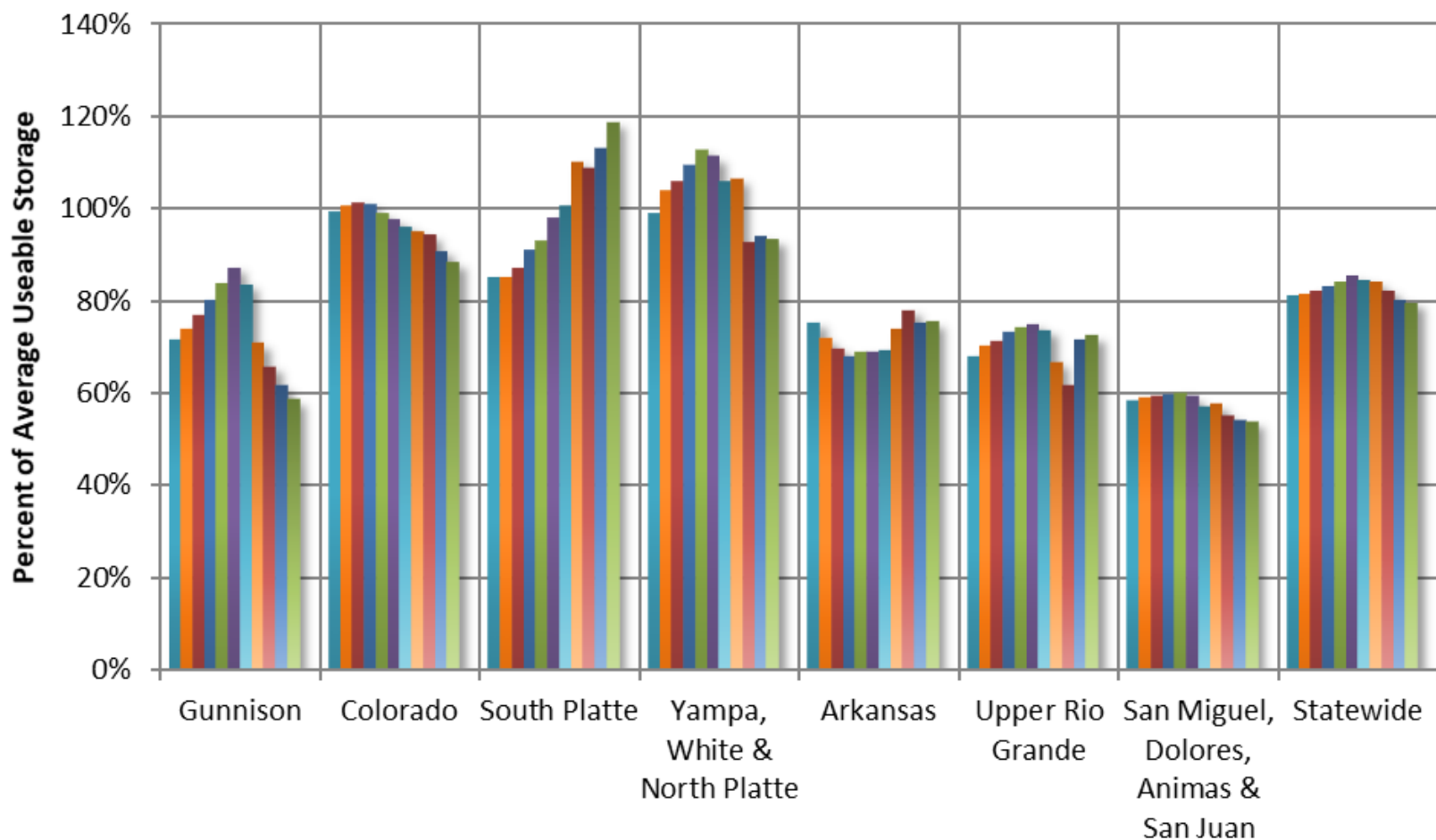
End of August 2021



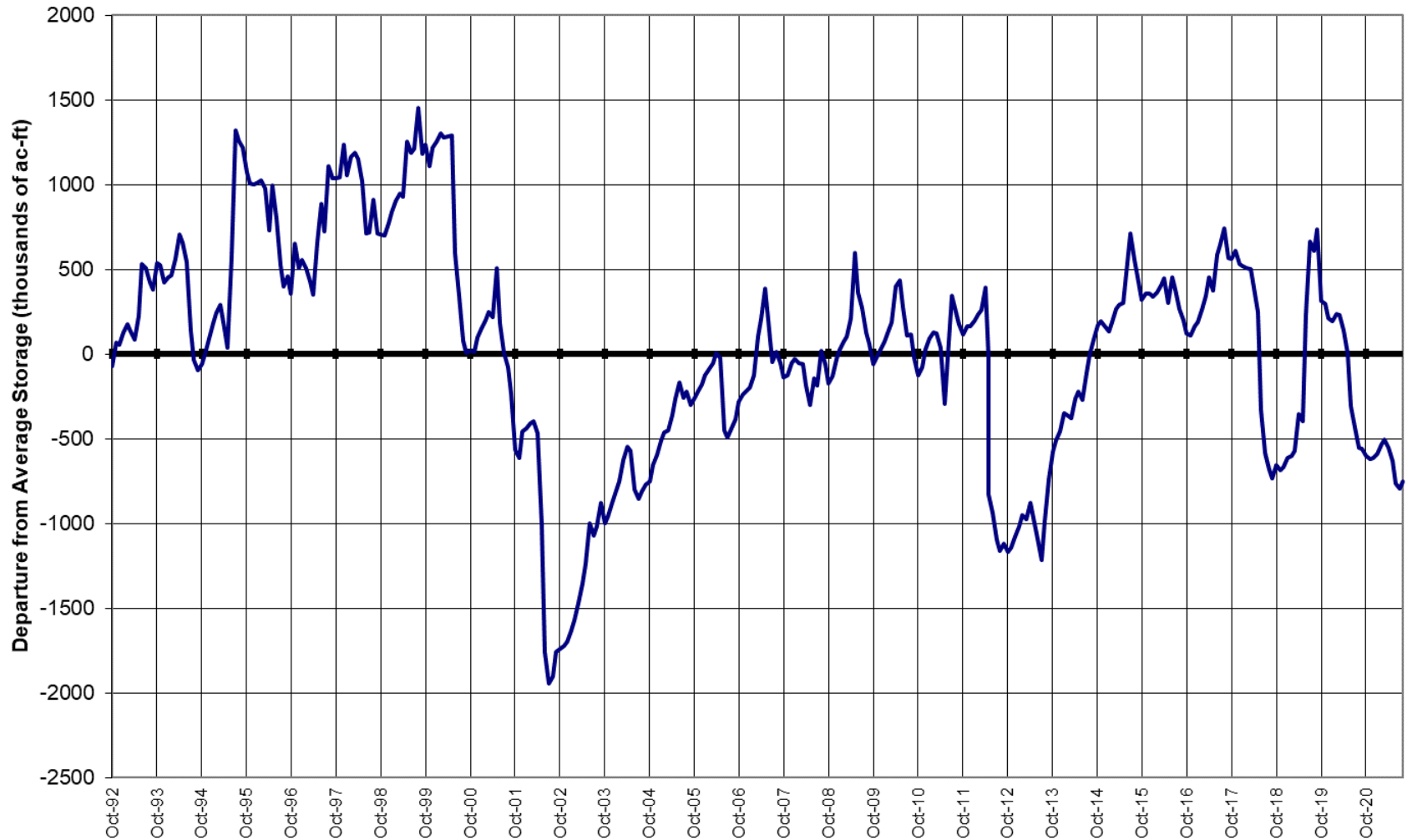
0 25 50 100 150 200 Miles

Colorado Reservoir Storage

Oct-20 Nov-20 Dec-20 Jan-21 Feb-21 Mar-21
 Apr-21 May-21 Jun-21 Jul-21 Aug-21 Sep-21



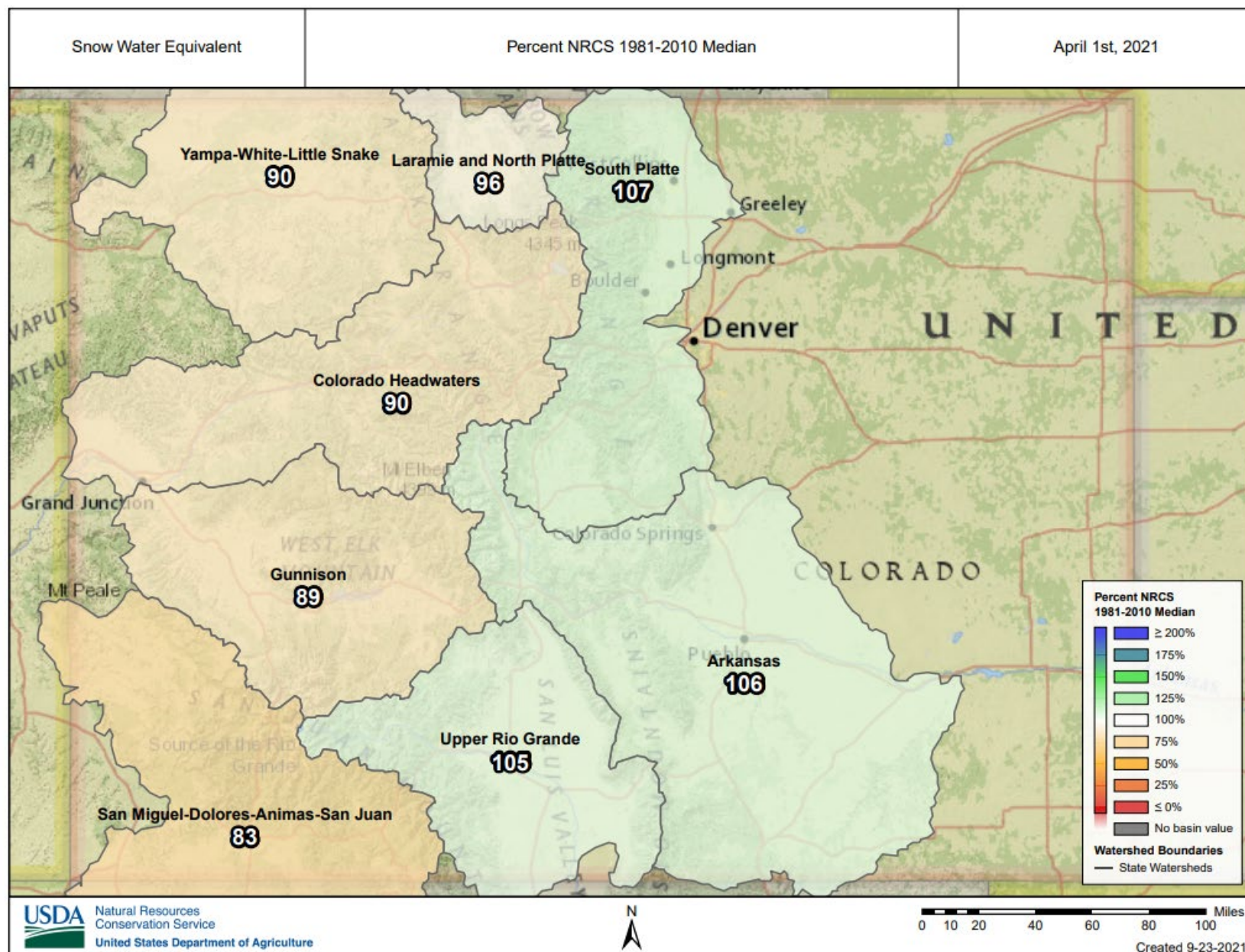
COLORADO STATEWIDE Reservoir Storage Departure from Average





United States Department of Agriculture

Colorado Snow Surveys

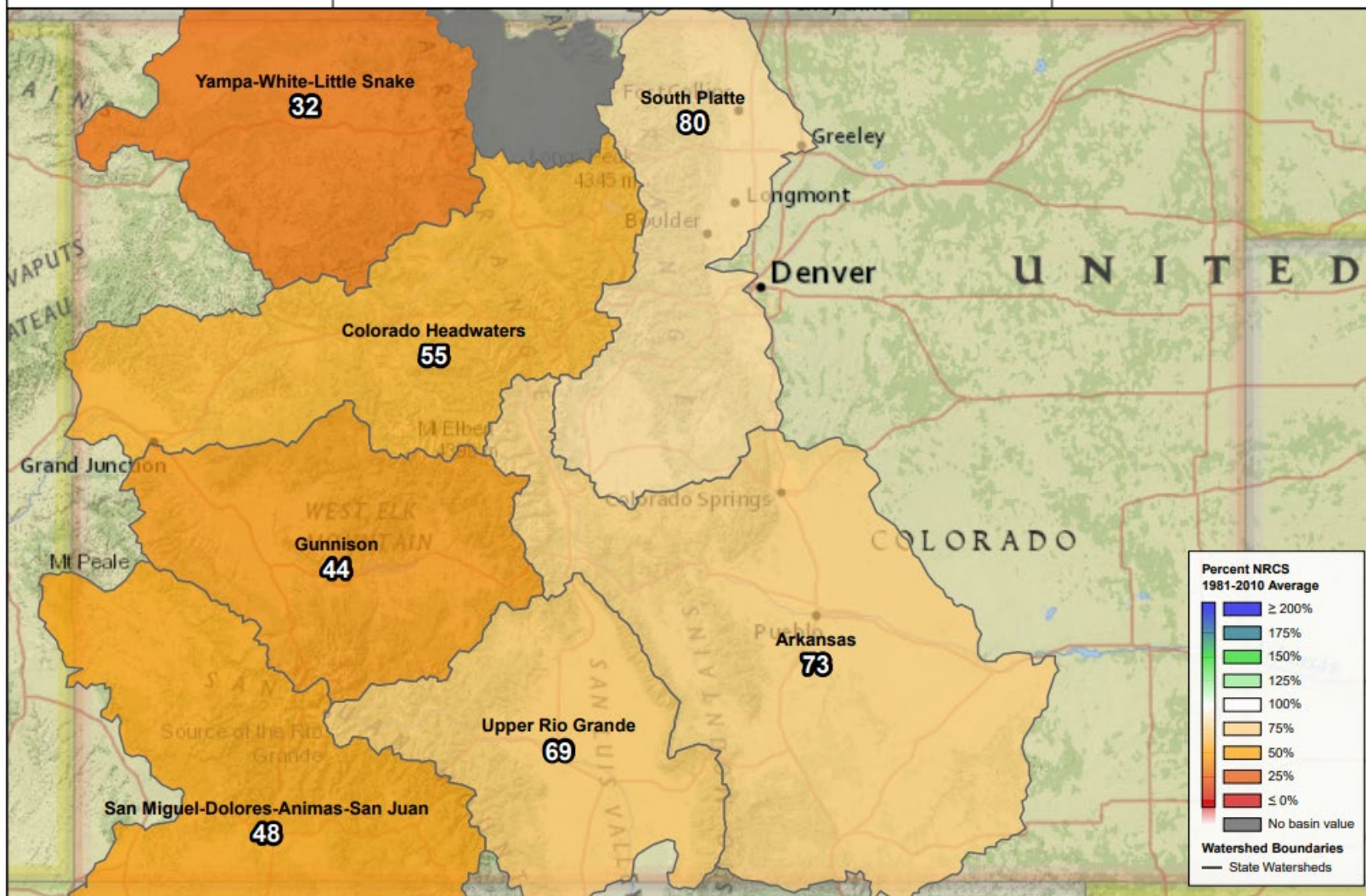


Colorado Snow Surveys

5 month Adjusted Volume, Observed

Percent NRCS 1981-2010 Average

April 1, 2021 - August 31, 2021

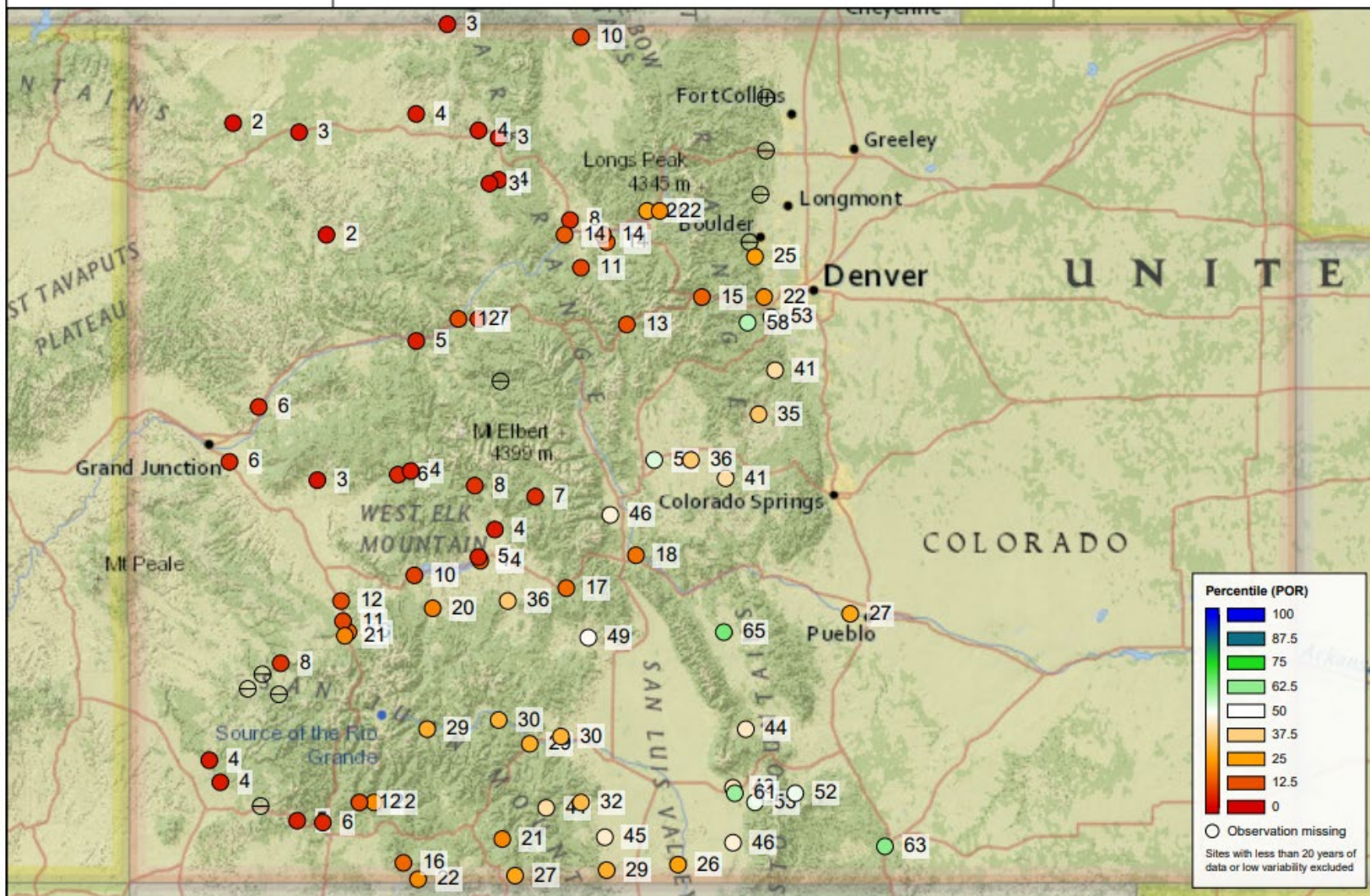


Colorado Snow Surveys

5 month Adjusted Volume, Observed

Percentile (POR)

April 1, 2021 - August 31, 2021



Summary

- Last week of a rather dry Water Year 2021 across most of the state
- September has reverted back to dry conditions across the state with statewide month to date mountain precipitation being just 45 percent of average
- More than half of the streamflow forecast points in the state were in the bottom 25th percentile of observed streamflows since April 1st
 - 30 percent of streamflow points in the bottom 10th percentile- primarily on the Western Slope
- Statewide reservoir storage is 80 percent of average but with the Southwest Basins holding substantially lower amounts of storage.
- **PRAY FOR SNOW** in Water Year 2022!



United States Department of Agriculture

Colorado Snow Surveys

Water Availability Task Force Meeting

September 23rd, 2021

NRCS Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program

Karl Wetlaufer

Hydrologist

Asst. Snow Survey Supervisor

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



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