

WATER'S ROLE IN SHAPING THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST

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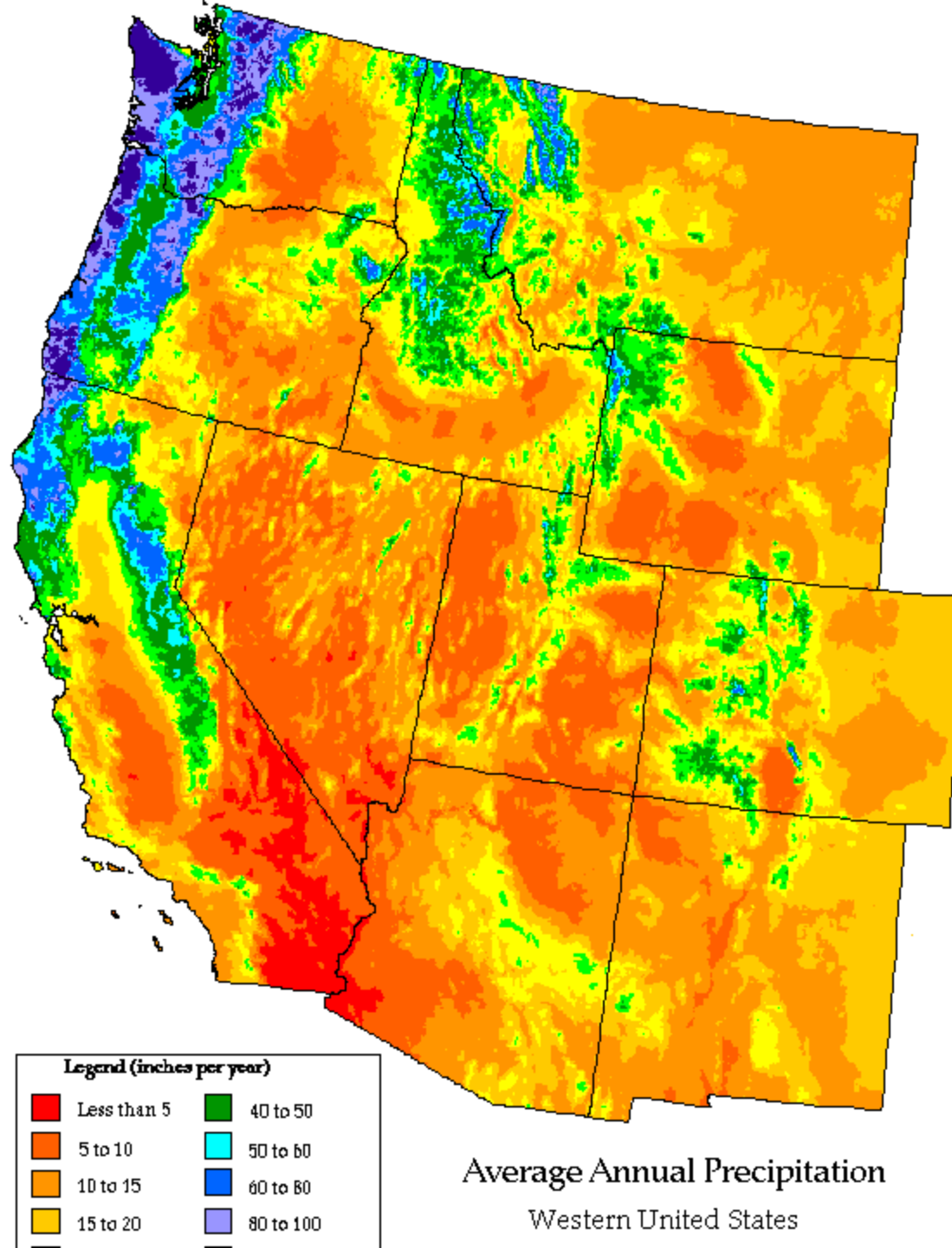


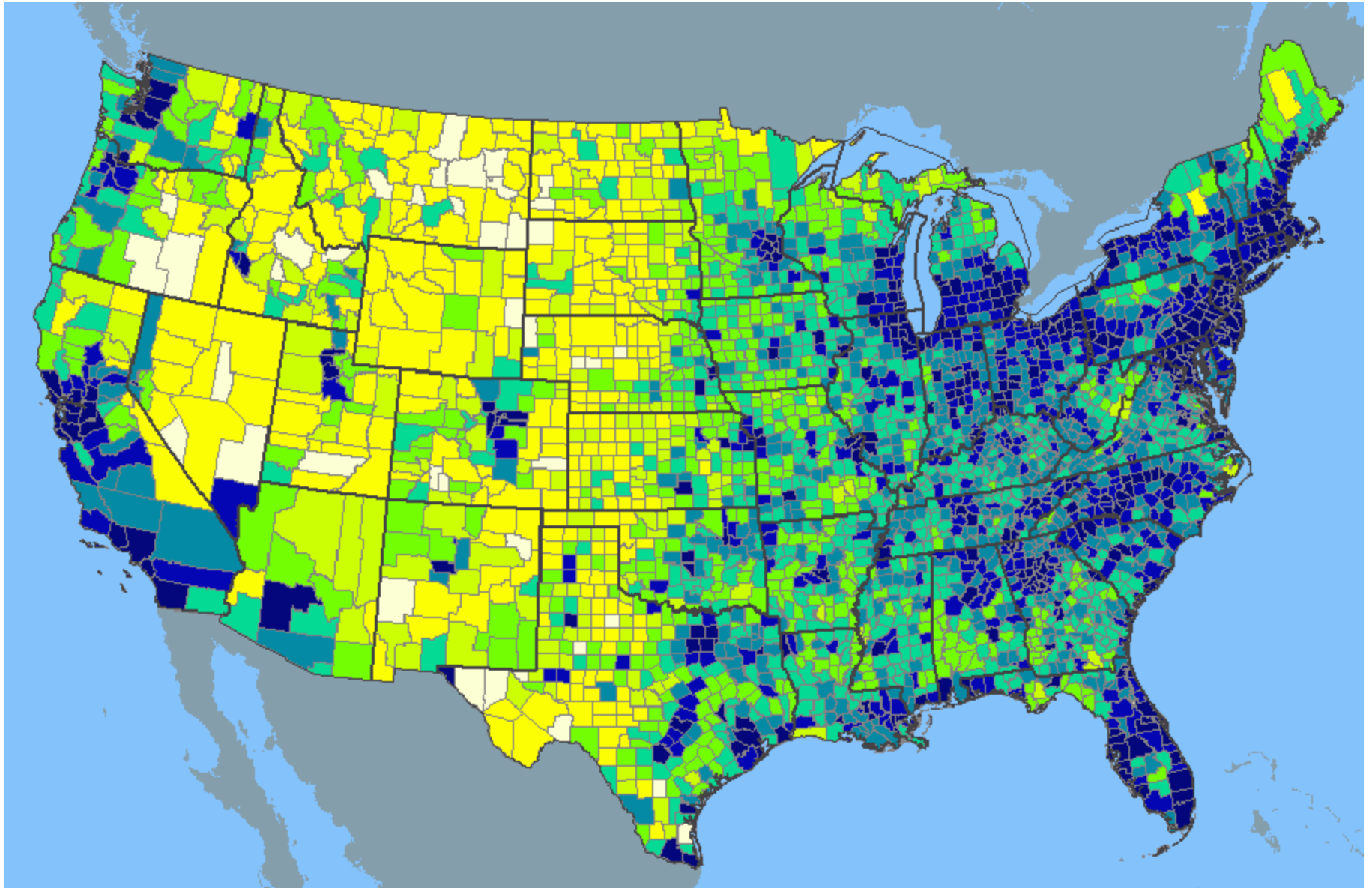


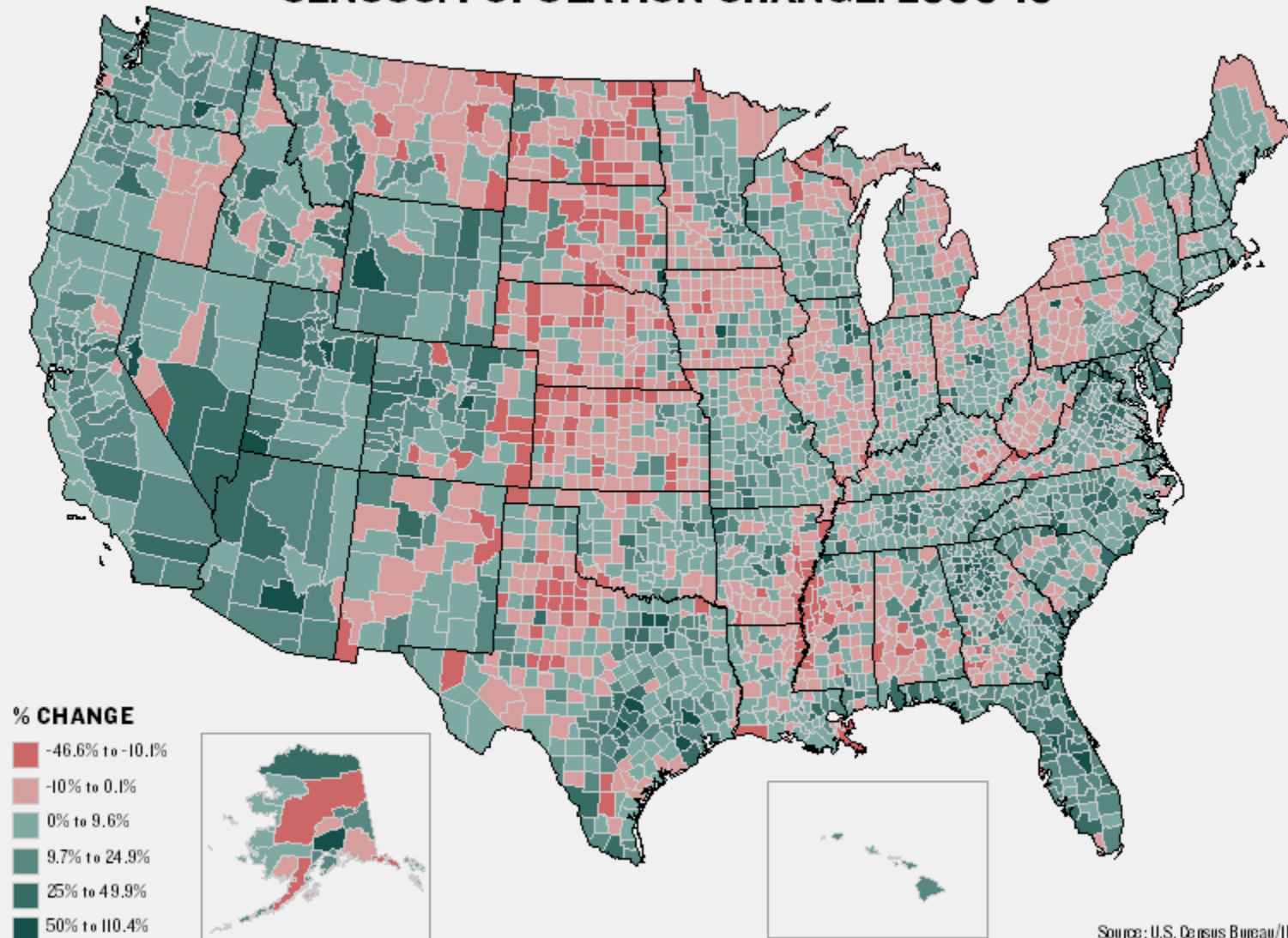
0 500 1,000
Kilometers

1,000 2,500 10,000 50,000 250,000 650,000







CENSUS: POPULATION CHANGE: 2000-10

Water Uses in Rocky Mountain states

- 92% of withdrawals from surface water in 1985; 77% in 2010
- 93% of all withdrawals in 1985 for ag uses; 89% in 2010
- Despite 60% population increase, total withdrawals of water declined

Important Trends

Growth and urbanization

- Total population in 8-state region increased over 60% between 1990 and 2010
- Population more than doubled in Nevada; nearly doubled in Arizona
- Most new population centered in urban areas

Trends

Stabilization of irrigated agriculture

- Continuing importance in rural areas
- Relative decline in economic importance
- Remains the dominant user of water

Trends: Environmental and recreational water demands

- Growing interest in river-based recreation
- Legal protections for water quality and endangered species
- Challenge of integrating these objectives with historical focus on water development

Emerging concern: climate change

- Measurable increases in average temperatures
- Changes in water supply and water demand
- Added uncertainties to an already highly variable water management system