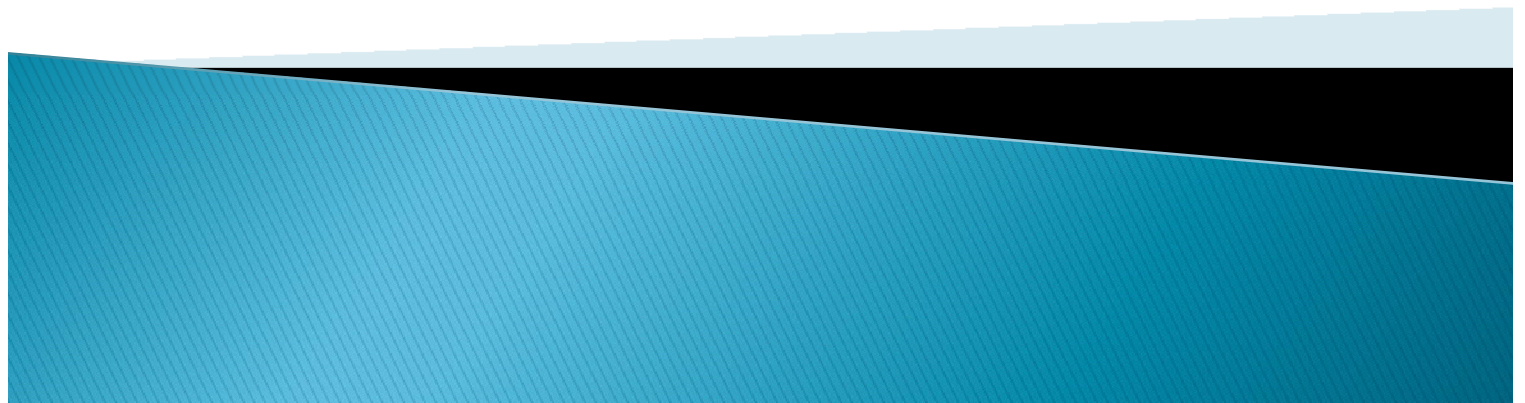


Presentation to Green River Basin Advisory Group Meeting in Baggs, Wyoming February 26, 2009

Presented by
John Shields, Interstate Streams Engineer
Wyoming State Engineer's Office



Update Topics:

- Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program
- Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program
- Glen Canyon Adaptive Management Program



Once again the Recovery Program's participants have prepared their annual *Program Highlights* briefing booklet setting forth a summary of the Program's status and accomplishments during the past year.



Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program
and
San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program

Balancing Species Recovery with
Water Use and Development

Program Highlights 2009

Partners of the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program collaborate with public and private interests to recover endangered Colorado River fishes while meeting human needs for water and energy.

The Department of the Interior recognized the recovery programs with a Cooperative Conservation Award in 2008, citing the programs' excellence in conservation through collaboration and partnerships.

The Intermountain West is the nation's fastest-growing region and a critically important energy-producing area. The recovery programs provide Endangered Species Act compliance for fulfillment of federal trust responsibilities to American Indian Tribes and continued operation of federal water and power projects. Adaptive management enables the programs to continually evaluate and revise management actions as new information becomes available.

Program Highlights 2009 features milestones achieved since the inception of each Recovery Program.

Program Highlights is produced annually to document the recovery programs' progress toward recovery of the endangered fishes. This document is not a publication of the U.S. Department of the Interior or its agencies.



Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program:

- ▶ March 3rdth through 10th briefing meetings (briefing booklet handout at today's meeting) will be held with:
 - Congressional delegation staff members who represent Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming (8 of 14 Members are Freshmen).
 - Congressional authorization and appropriations committee staff having jurisdiction over the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Department of the Interior officials (Acting Assistant Secretaries of the Interior for Water and Science; Fish, Wildlife and Parks; and Policy, Management and Budget), Bureau of Reclamation and USFWS officials
 - Non-governmental organizations, including International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Western Governors Association, etc.
- ▶ The President's full fiscal year 2010 budget will not be released until April. We will then send funding support testimonies, submit funding requests to our Congressmen and circulate joint delegation funding support letters.





On July 1, 2008, Deputy Secretary of the Interior Lynn Scarlett, Rep. John Salazar and other officials spoke at a dedication ceremony for the Price–Stubb Fish Passage Structure – signifying the completion of all capital construction projects in the Grand Valley area of Western Colorado.



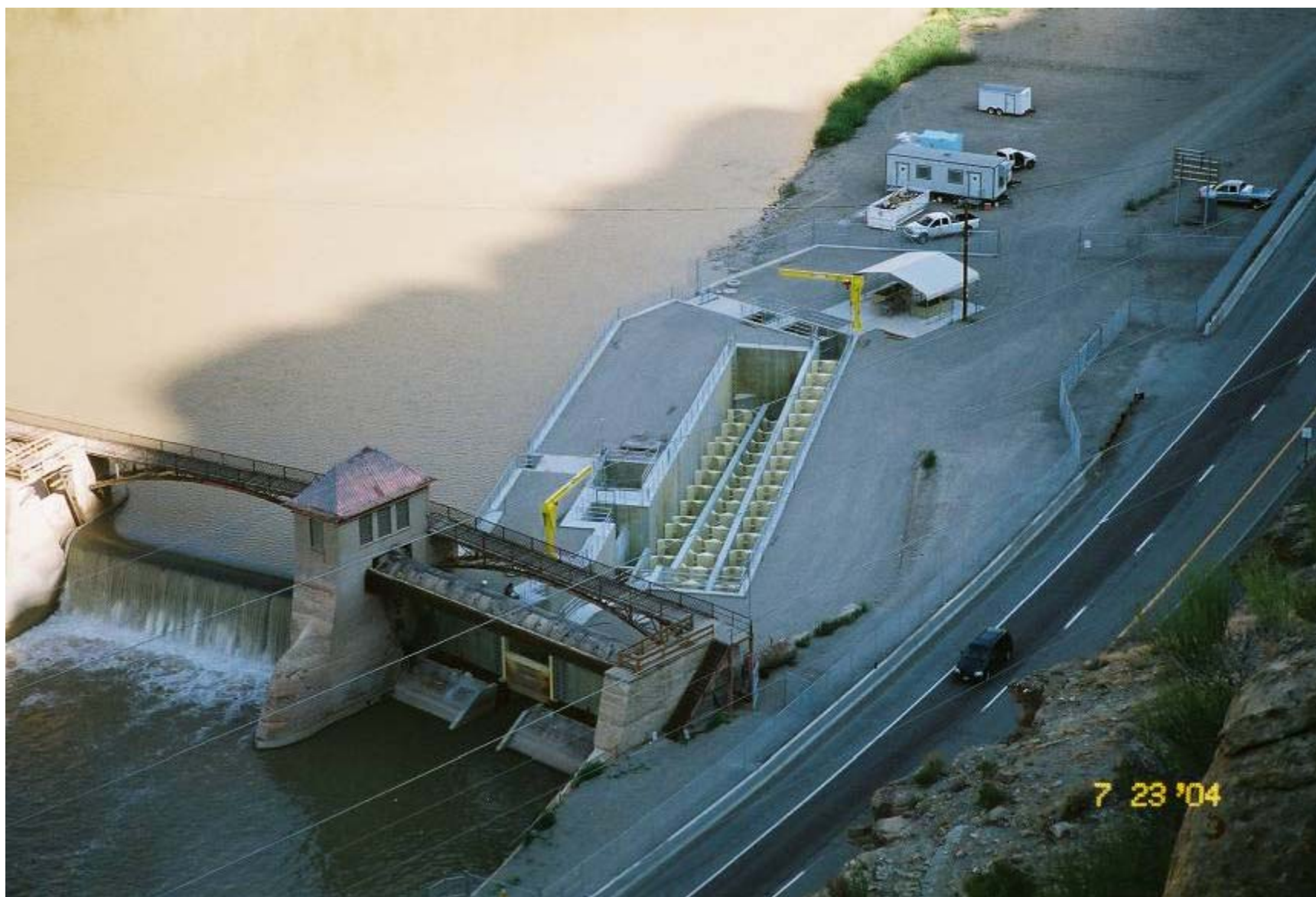
Redlands Fish Passage – 1996



Grand Valley Irrigation Company Fish Passage – 1998



Grand Valley Irrigation Company Fish Screen – 2001



Grand Valley Project Fish Passage – 2004



Grand Valley Project Fish Screen – 2005



Redlands Fish Screen – 2005



Price-Stubbs Fish Passage-2008

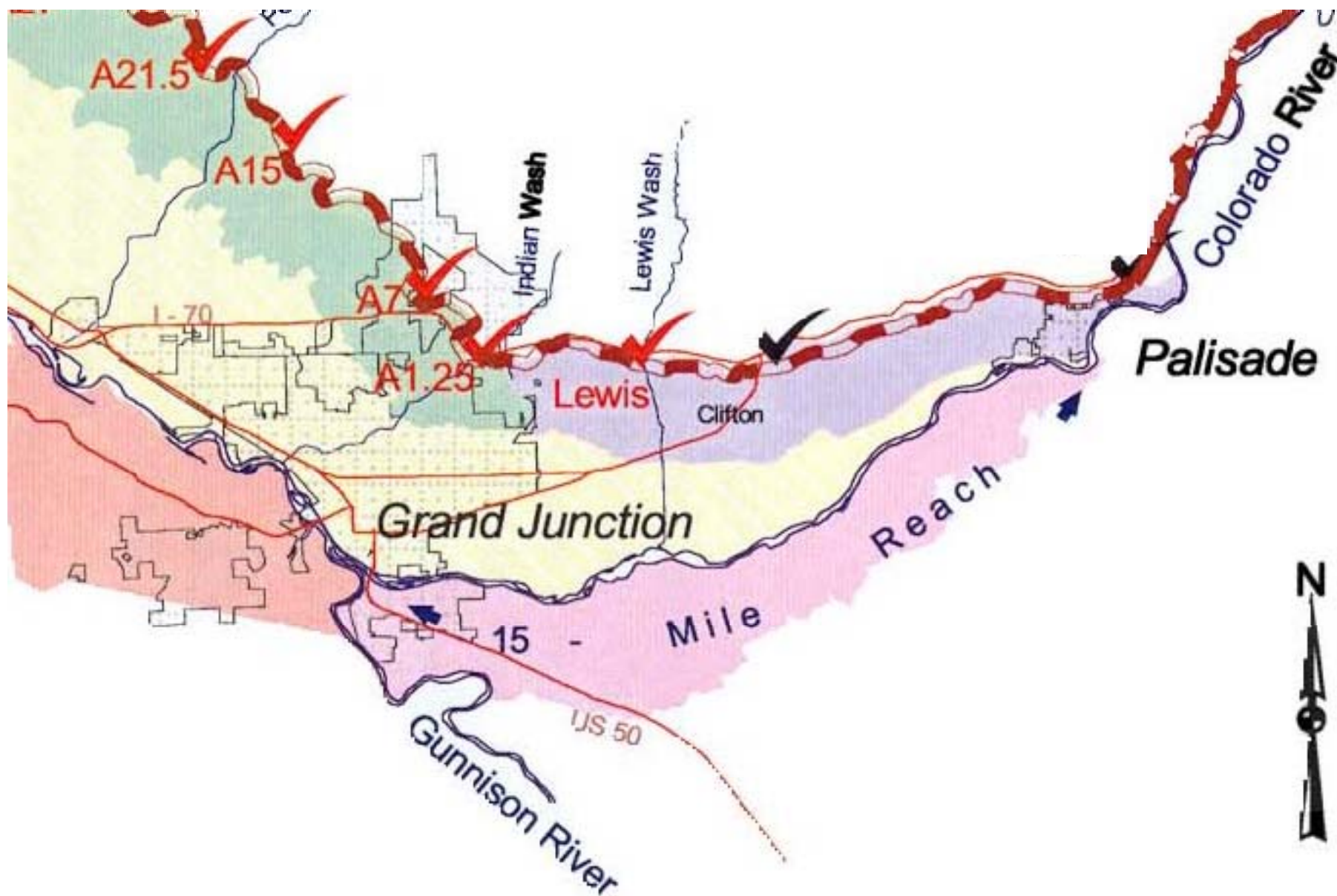
Grand Valley Water Management Project

Objectives:

Redirect spill reduction to address other
human and environmental water needs



15-Mile Reach



Project Map

Grand Valley Water Management


**Badger Wash Spills Decrease
from 9,700 AF to 1,300 AF**


**Camp 7 Spills into
Highline Lake Decrease
from 10,700 AF to 1,700 AF**

Spills Eliminated into:
 East Salt Wash -5,400 AF
 Big Salt Wash -1,100 AF
 Little Salt Wash -2,000 AF
 Persigo Wash -2,500 AF

**Irrigation Diversions
Reduced an Average
of 19,400 AF**

**Palisade Pipeline
spills an average of
9,000 AF**


 Gov't Highline Canal


 Existing Checks


 Proposed Checks


Irrigation District

 Grand Valley Water Users Association

 Orchard Mesa Irrigation District

 Mesa County & Palisade Irrigation Districts

 Grand Valley Irrigation Company

 Redlands Water & Power Company



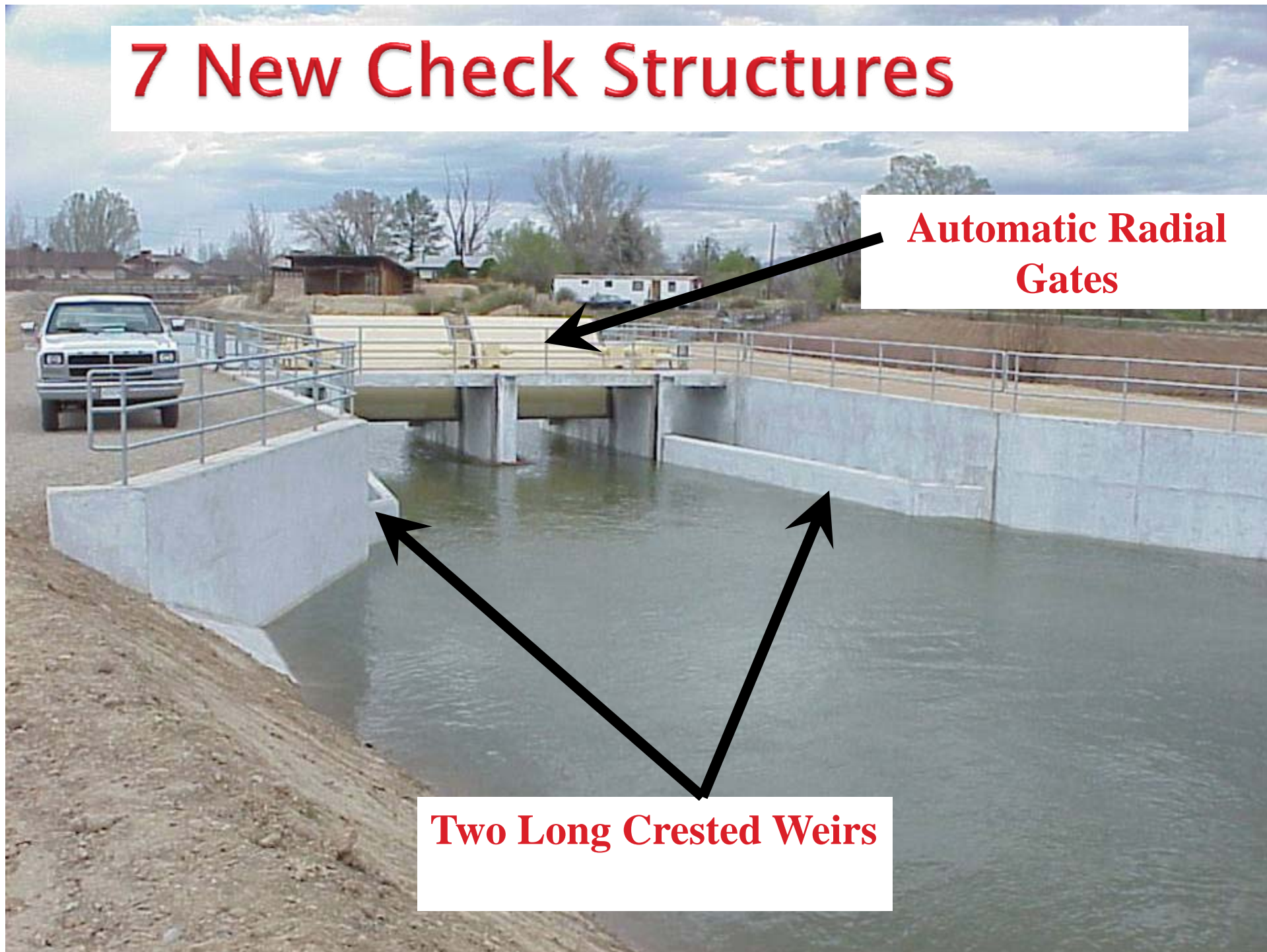
**NOTE: Changes in spills and diversions
would occur in August - October**



7 New Check Structures

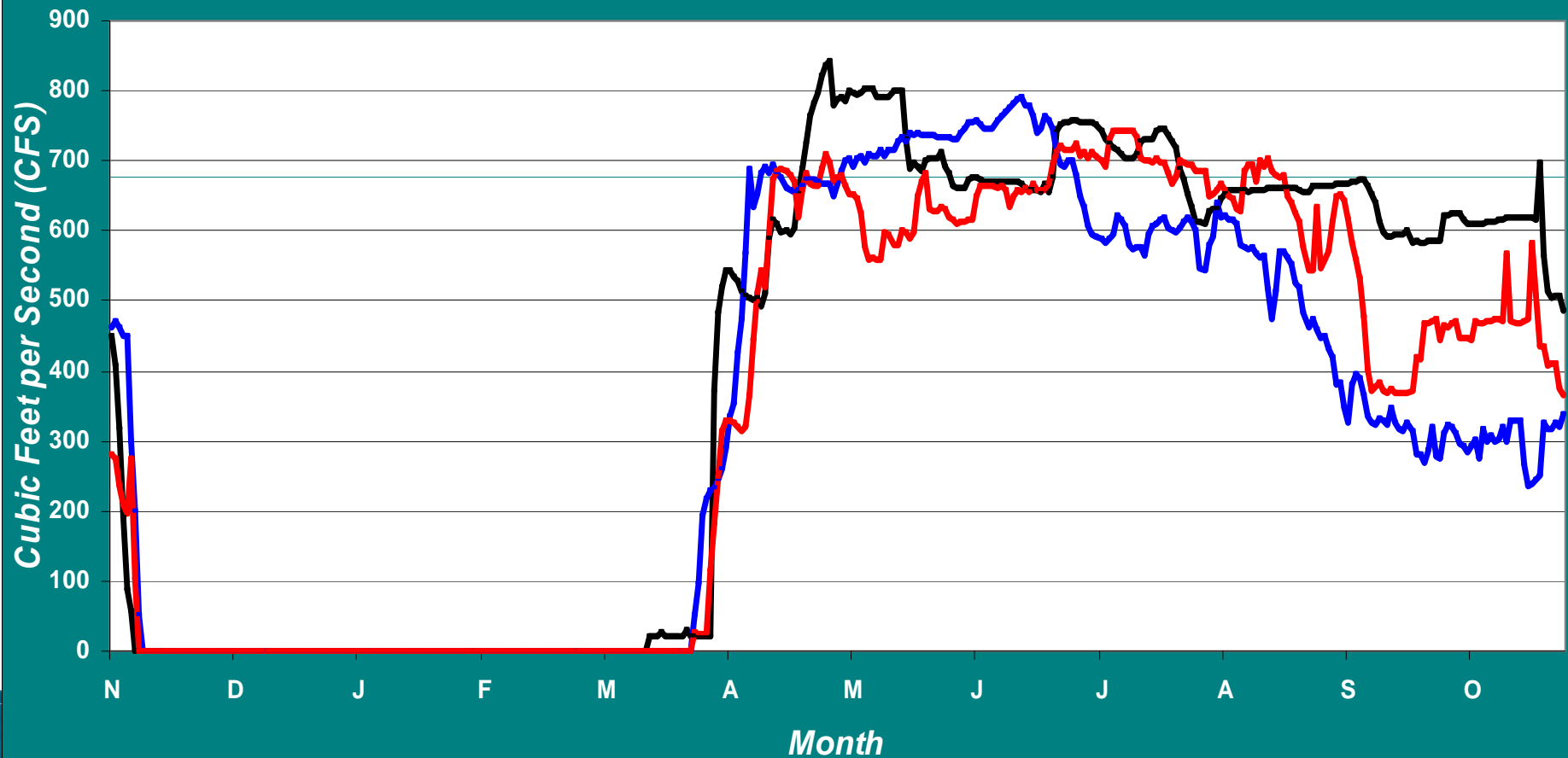
**Automatic Radial
Gates**

Two Long Crested Weirs



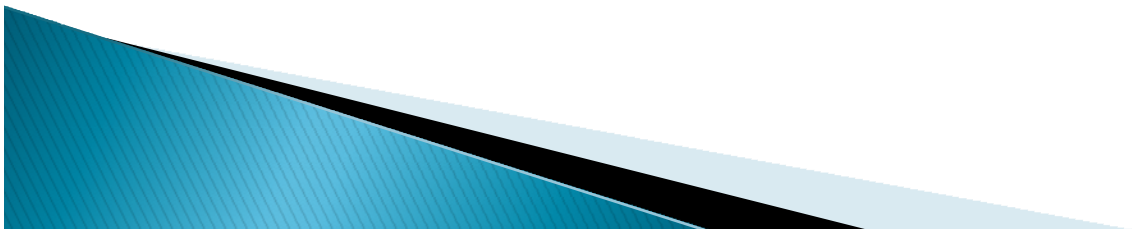
Grand Valley Water Management Delivery to Grand Valley Water User's Association

— Pre GVWM 1998
— Post GVWM 2002
— Post GVWM 2003



2002 Water Year

- ▶ Green Mountain Reservoir HUP did not fill.
- ▶ GVWUA irrigation diversion reduced by 44,793 acre-feet.
- ▶ No surplus water delivered to augment instream flows.
- ▶ Green Mountain Reservoir HUP would have been depleted by mid-August without Grand Valley Water Management Project.
- ▶ Disastrous results avoided!



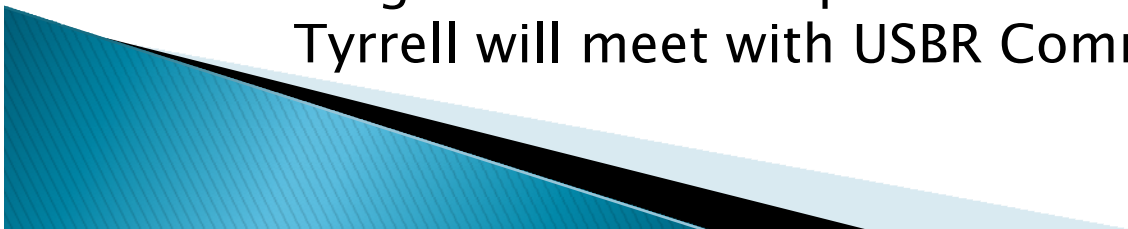
2003 Water Year

- ▶ Green Mountain Reservoir HUP did fill.
- ▶ GVWUA reduced diversion by 30,913 acre-feet.
- ▶ Green Mountain released 47,527 acre-feet of surplus water to indirectly augment instream flows.



Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program

- ▶ Next Meeting May 7th in Moab, Utah.
 - Forum and Advisory Council Chairman Pat Tyrrell will lead discussions on:
 - Alternative/replacement projects to replace the Paradox Valley Deep Well Injection Project.
 - Forum Tour of the Paradox Facility on May 6th
 - Currently putting more than 150,000 tons of salt “down hole” per year
 - Remaining life of well – ten years? More? Less?
 - Preparing to begin administering the “Basin States Program” authorized within the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act by P.L. 110–234 (signed into law in early June)
 - Planning Report required by PL 110–234 to be sent by Secretary of the Interior to the Congress before Basin States Program funds are spent is at Washington office of USBR – Tyrrell will meet with USBR Commissioner on March 3rd.



Eden Valley Rehabilitation –2009

- ▶ Bureau of Reclamation Basinwide Salinity Control Program Funding Opportunity Announcement in mid-2008
 - Eden Valley Irrigation District submitted a proposal to do salinity reduction work that scored well in the Bureau of Reclamation's evaluation
 - Bureau of Reclamation issued a Commitment to Fund letter in the Fall of 2008
 - Contingent on 50% funding from other sources

- ▶ Senate File 68
 - \$13,160,000 total project cost
 - Appropriation of \$6,580,000
 - Contingent on 50% funding from other sources



Glen Canyon Dam Litigation and March 2008 Glen Canyon Dam Beach Habitat Building Flow (BHBF):

- The Grand Canyon Trust (GCT) filed a lawsuit on 12/7/07 against the Bureau of Reclamation and Commissioner of Reclamation Robert Johnson alleging Reclamation has violated the 1994 Glen Canyon Dam Operations Biological Opinion, NEPA and ESA in its operations of Glen Canyon Dam
 - U.S. Department of Justice filed a Motion to Dismiss on March 17, 2008.
- The Department of the Interior conducted a high flow experiment (BHBF) beginning March 4, 2008
 - Flows were increased beginning on March 4, 2008 with Powerplant bypass flows beginning on March 5, 2008.
 - Release of 41,500 cfs for 60 hour period
- On 11/13/07 Reclamation requested re-initiation of formal ESA Section 7 consultation on the operation of Glen Canyon Dam. Per the Biological Assessment sent to the USFWS in 12/07, “this request is based on the acquisition of new scientific information about the status and trends of federally listed species and effects of dam operations on the species and critical habitat.”



Three hundred thousand gallons of water per second gush from Arizona's Glen Canyon Dam during a media event on Wednesday—enough to fill the Empire State Building in 20 minutes. The gathering trumpeted a three-day controlled flood that is designed to help restore Colorado River habitats for endangered species in the Grand Canyon, U.S. Department of the Interior officials say.

March 2008 Glen Canyon Dam BHBF – continued:

- DOI said the 2008 test would be different than previous high-flow tests conducted in 1996 and 2004:
 - “... scientists have concluded that more sand is needed to rebuild sandbars throughout the 277-mile reach of Grand Canyon National Park than was available in 1996 or 2004. Currently, sand supplies in the river are at a 10-year high (2,500,000 metric tons) with a volume about three times greater than the volume available in 2004 due to tributary inflows below the dam over the past 16 months.”
- Upper Basin States concerned about:
 - Funding Impacts on the Upper Colorado River Basin Development Fund (Basin Fund) due to this test – and the likelihood of future tests
 - Legal ramifications – bypassing of the powerplant is not supported by the Law of the River or the express language found in the 1996 Operation of Glen Canyon Dam Record of Decision
 - Experiment versus “management action”
 - March 2008 Experimental Flow may buttress DOI’s legal defense against Grand Canyon Trust lawsuit



“At Grand Canyon, Water Battle Rages New”

February 22, 2009

Power vs. Nature

Test Controversy







May I answer any questions?



The Colorado River's Horseshoe Bend
in northern Arizona.