

An Update on Colorado River Basin Issues Affecting Wyoming

Presentation

By

**Jodee Pring, Water Planning Coordinator
Wyoming State Engineer's Office**

at the

May 25, 2010 Meeting
of the Green River Basin Advisory Group

Held at the
Sublette County Library
in Pinedale, Wyoming



Tonight's Topics:

- Current Runoff and Storage Reservoir Projections
- Status/Update on Colorado River Basin Study
- Update on Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program Activities
- Status of Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program
- Upper Colorado Basin Fund negotiations among CREDA and Upper Division States' representatives
- Upcoming Meetings

Summary of Projected Runoff Situation

The current projection of the 2010 April – July unregulated inflow into Lake Powell is 5.3 million acre-feet or 67% of average.

Forecasted unregulated inflows into Lake Powell for May, June, and July 2010 are as follows:

| | |
|------|--|
| May | 1,150,000 AF (a decrease of 350,000 AF) or 50% of average |
| June | 2,200,000 AF (an increase of 250,000 AF) or 71% of average |
| July | 1,010,000 AF (an increase of 190,000 AF) or 65% of average |

The amount of change is compared to the May final unregulated forecast dated May 5, 2010.

Precipitation Summary for This Water Year

(October 1, 2009 to date)

PRECIPITATION SUMMARY - % OF AVERAGE BY MONTH

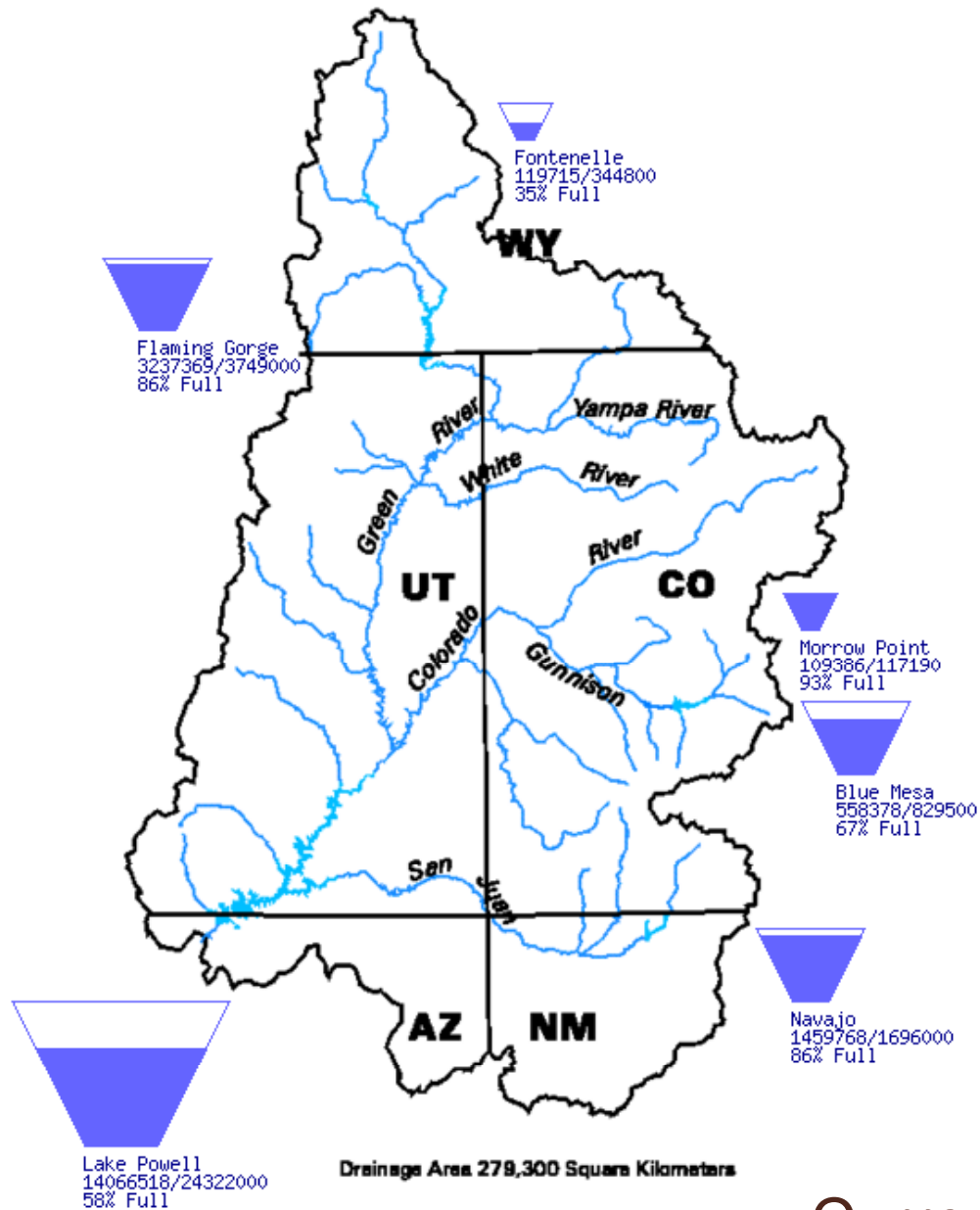
| GREEN RIVER BASIN: | OCT | NOV | DEC | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| ABV FLAMING GORGE | 145 | 15 | 70 | 60 | 45 | 85 | 140 |
| ABV GRN RVR,UT (TOTAL) | 100 | 40 | 115 | 75 | 70 | 85 | 135 |
| COLORADO | | | | | | | |
| ABV GRAND JUNCTION | 105 | 40 | 110 | 70 | 100 | 75 | 140 |
| GUNNISON BASIN | 100 | 40 | 125 | 80 | 125 | 90 | 115 |
| DOLORES BASIN | 60 | 55 | 175 | 125 | 140 | 115 | 105 |
| ABV CISCO (TOTAL) | 90 | 45 | 130 | 85 | 120 | 90 | 120 |
| SAN JUAN ABV BLUFF | 80 | 50 | 160 | 170 | 110 | 70 | 75 |
| ABV LAKE POWELL (TOTAL) | 85 | 40 | 130 | 100 | 100 | 90 | 120 |

Reservoir Unregulated Inflows and Forecasted Inflows

| | -----Observed--- | | | | Apr | -----Forecast----- | | | ---Outlook | |
|----------------------|------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|--------------------|------|------|------------|------|
| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | %Avg | May | Jun | Jul | Apr-Jul | %Avg |
| Lake Powell | 304 | 294 | 476 | 939 | 95% | 1150 | 2200 | 1010 | 5300 | 67% |
| Fontenelle | 28 | 23 | 43 | 63 | 68% | 70 | 205 | 100 | 440 | 51% |
| Flaming Gorge | 27 | 29 | 69 | 96 | 61% | 100 | 260 | 120 | 575 | 48% |
| Blue Mesa | 22 | 22 | 29 | 96 | 128% | 108 | 230 | 92 | 525 | 73% |
| Morrow Point | 24 | 22 | 29 | 107 | 124% | 120 | 245 | 95 | 565 | 72% |
| Crystal | 26 | 25 | 33 | 118 | 117% | 135 | 270 | 105 | 630 | 69% |
| Taylor Park | 4 | 6 | 4 | 11 | 125% | 15 | 38 | 17 | 81 | 79% |
| Navajo | 14 | 16 | 62 | 222 | 131% | 200 | 188 | 37 | 645 | 82% |

Data Current as of:
05/23/2018

Upper Colorado River Drainage Basin

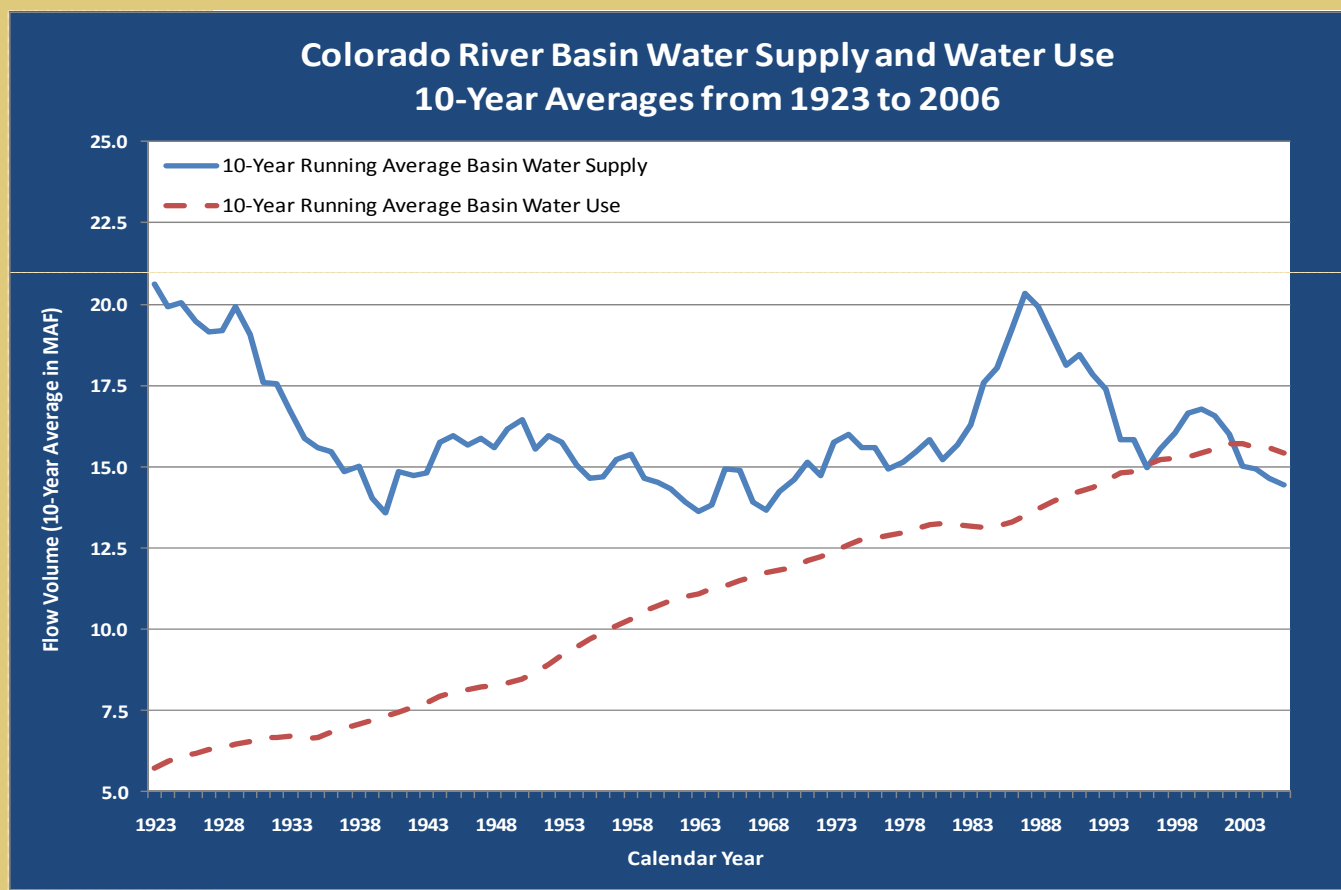


Current Reservoir Conditions

Colorado River Basin Water Supply & Demand Study

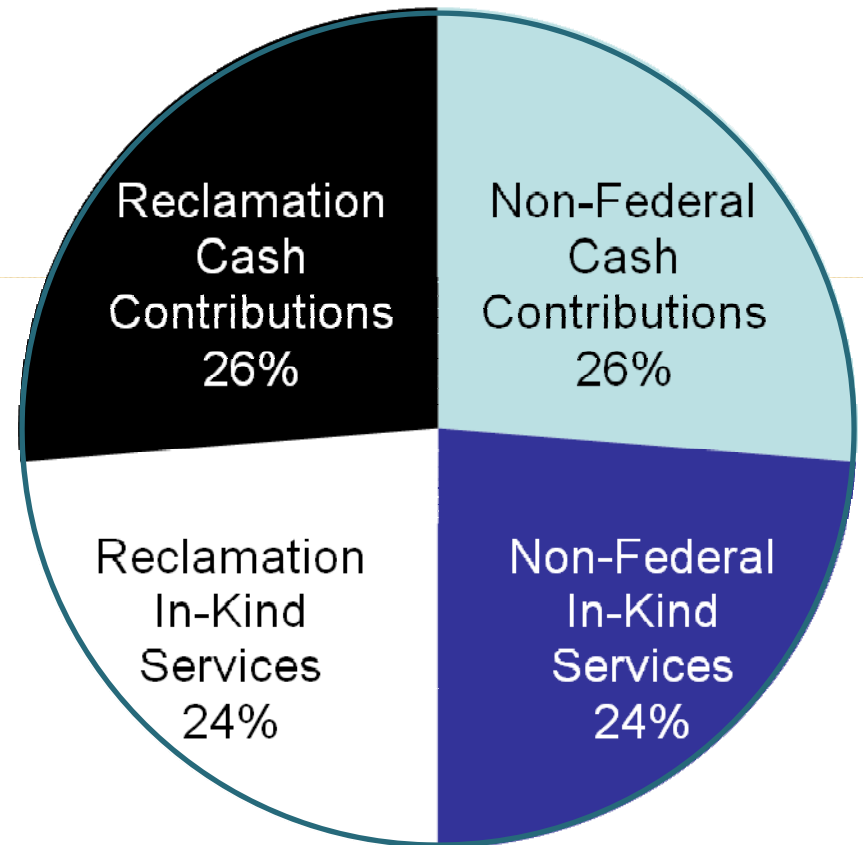
Objectives

- Define current and future imbalances in water supply and demand
- Assess the system reliability and risks to all Basin resources
- Develop and evaluate adaptation and mitigation strategies



Study Considerations

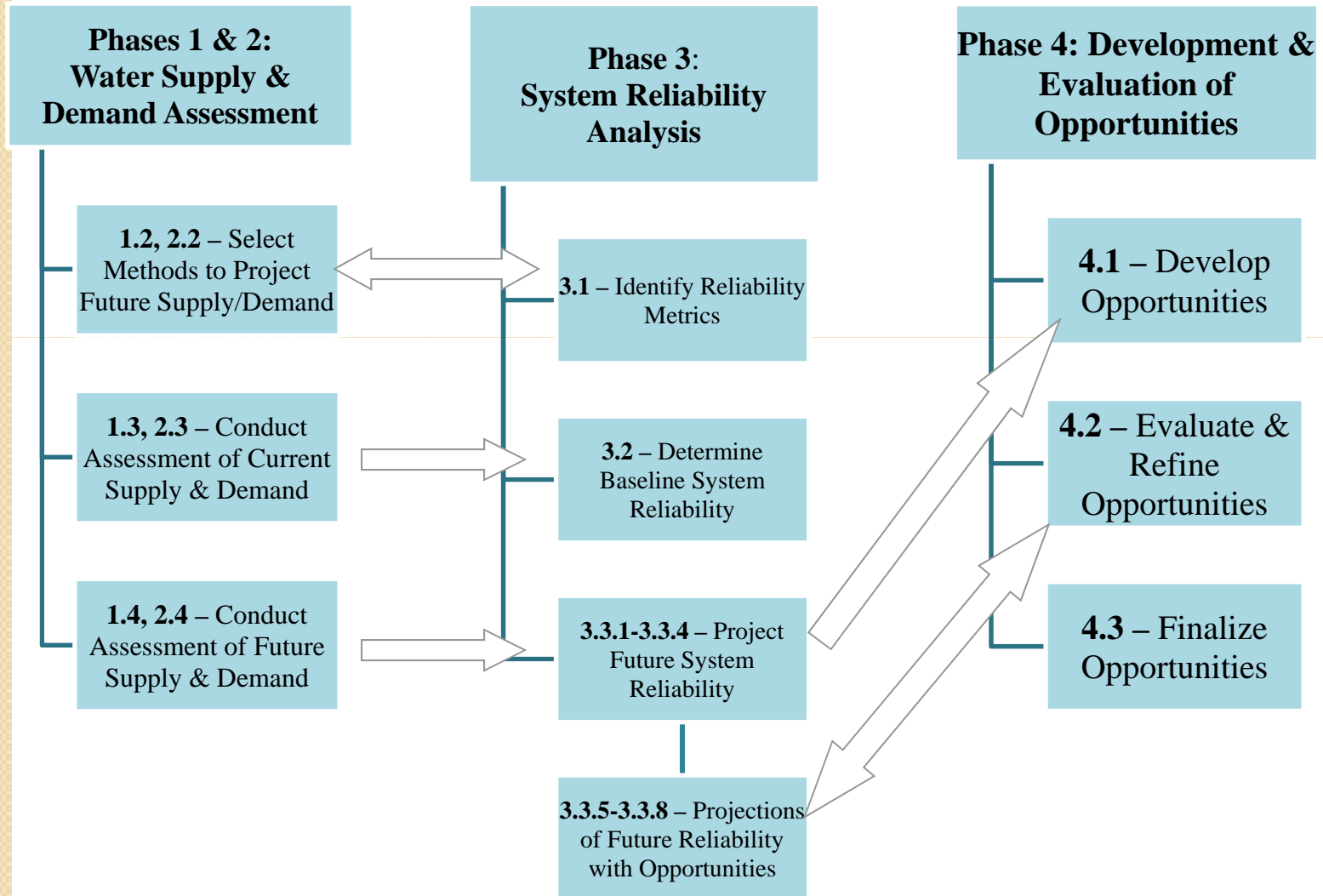
- **Study area: Colorado River Basin and those adjacent areas of the Basin States that receive Colorado River water**
- **Estimated cost of \$2 million for two years**
- **50/50 cost share by Reclamation and the Non-Federal Cost-Share Partners**



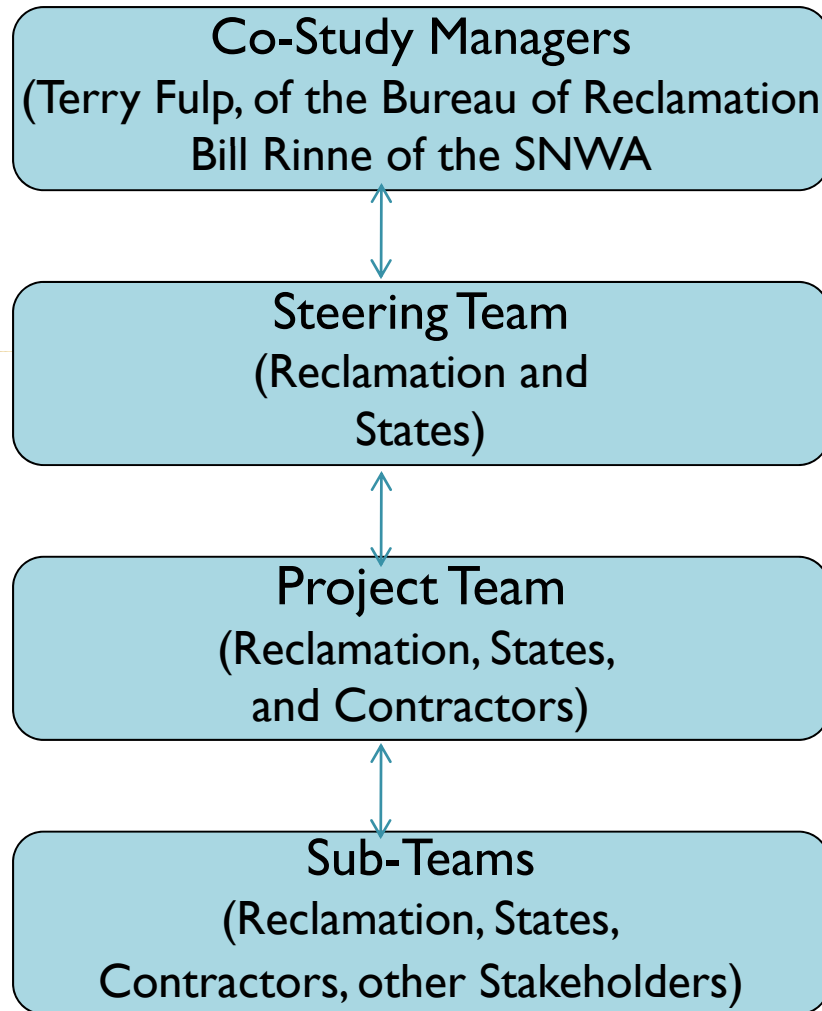
Contracting Services

- Black & Veatch/CH2MHill were awarded the initial contract on April 23, 2010 for approximately \$354,000
 - Les Lampe is the Project Manager
- Contract terminates September 31, 2010

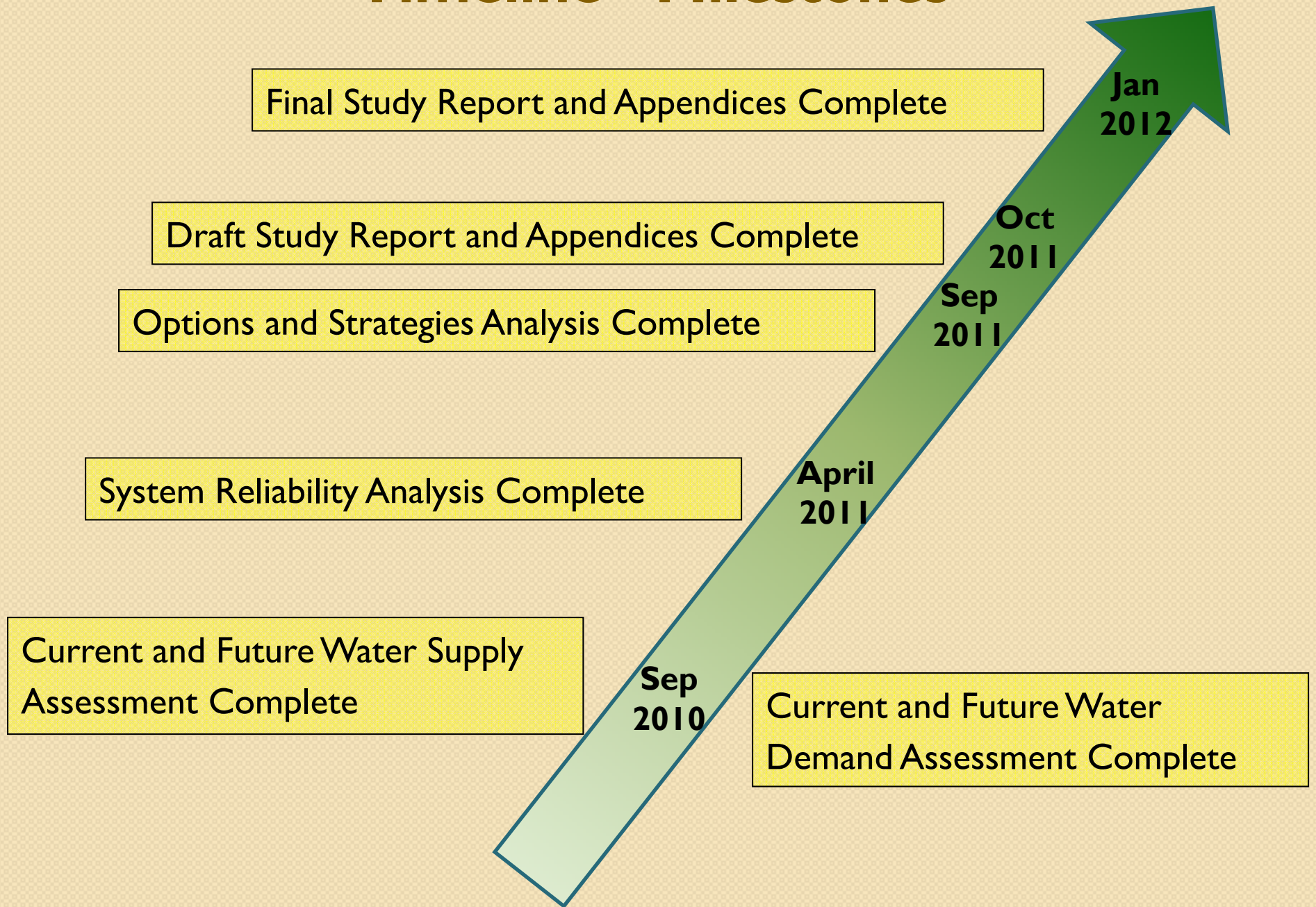
Plan of Study: Study Phases



Study Management Structure



Timeline - Milestones



Final Study Report and Appendices Complete

Jan 2012

Draft Study Report and Appendices Complete

Oct 2011

Options and Strategies Analysis Complete

Sep 2011

System Reliability Analysis Complete

April 2011

Current and Future Water Supply Assessment Complete

Sep 2010

Current and Future Water Demand Assessment Complete

Current and Future Water Demand Assessment Complete

Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study

Website: <http://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/programs/crbstudy.html>

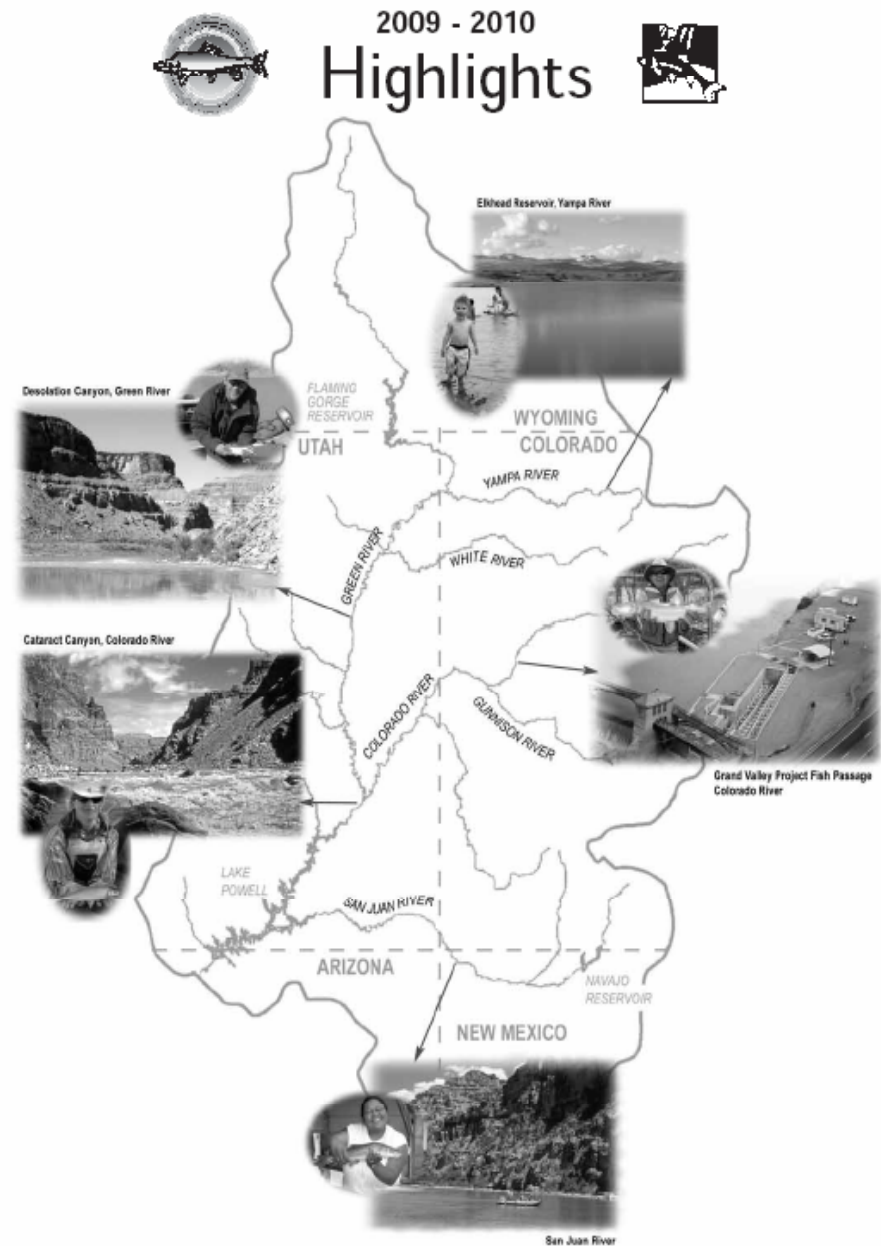


Update on Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

March 17 - 23, 2010
Washington Briefing Trip:

Meetings with Congressional Delegation Staff Members who represent CO, NM, UT & WY, authorizing & appropriations committee staff, Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation and Fish and Wildlife Service officials, and others. Thirty-four meetings and a Congressional staff appreciation luncheon were held in Washington.

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



Above: Cover of this year's briefing booklet

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 29, 2010

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Chairman
The Honorable Lamar Alexander, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Feinstein and Senator Alexander:

We write to request your support for fiscal year 2011 appropriations to the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) as requested in the President's recommended budget. The national-level FWS funding for "Recovery" and "National Fish Hatchery Operations" within the Resource Management Appropriation line-items are the sources of FWS funding for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program. The President's recommended budget for FY 2011 includes vitally-needed FWS funding for these two recovery programs. They are recognized national model efforts for collaboratively working to recover endangered species while addressing water needs to support growing western communities' water needs. These programs are ongoing partnerships among the States of New Mexico, Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, Indian tribes, federal agencies, and water, power and environmental interests which, since 1988, have provided ESA compliance (without litigation) for more than 2,000 federal, tribal, state and privately managed water projects depleting more than 3.7 million acre-feet of water per year.

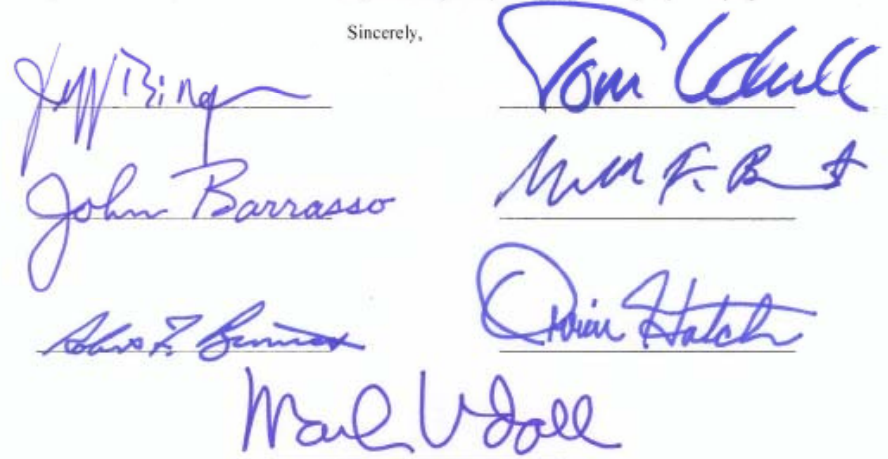
We seek the appropriation of \$709,000 of "Recovery" funds (Resource Management Appropriation; Ecological Services Activity; Endangered Species Subactivity; Recovery Element; within the \$85,611,000 item entitled "Recovery") for essential FWS participation in the Upper Colorado Recovery Program.

We seek the appropriation of \$485,000 in operation and maintenance funds (Resource Management Appropriation; Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation Activity; National Fish Hatchery Operations Subactivity); within the \$50,307,000 item entitled "National Fish Hatchery Operations" for ongoing fish hatchery operational activities integral to the Upper Colorado Recovery Program.

We support action by the Subcommittee which will allocate \$200,000 in "Recovery" funds for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program for fiscal year 2011 to meet FWS's expenses in managing the San Juan Program's diverse recovery actions.

Substantial non-federal cost-sharing funding exceeding 50% is embodied in both of these programs. The past support and assistance of your Subcommittee has greatly facilitated the success of these multi-state, multi-agency programs. We gratefully thank you for that support and request the Subcommittee's assistance for fiscal year 2011 funding of "Recovery" and "National Fish Hatchery Operations" to help ensure FWS' continuing financial participation in these vitally important programs.

Sincerely,



For the first time since 1996, we obtained the signatures of Senators from all four of the states participating in the two recovery programs on our joint delegation funding support letters. Senator Simpson was the last WY Senator to sign onto these joint delegation letters prior to this year. Thank you, Senator Barrasso!

ENDANGERED FISH RECOVERY PROGRAMS
IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2010

MAY 18, 2010.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of
the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. RAHALL, from the Committee on Natural Resources,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

together with

ADDITIONAL VIEWS

[To accompany H.R. 2288]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Natural Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 2288) to amend Public Law 106-392 to maintain annual base funding for the Upper Colorado and San Juan fish recovery programs through fiscal year 2023, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Endangered Fish Recovery Programs Improvement Act of 2010".

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF FISH RECOVERY PROGRAMS.

Section 3(d)(2) of Public Law 106-392 (114 Stat. 1694 and 1695) is amended by inserting at the end the following: "For fiscal years 2012 through 2023, there are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to provide for the annual base funding for the Recovery Implementation Programs above and beyond the continued use of power revenues to fund the operation and maintenance of capital projects and monitoring."

House Report 111-481 describes the amendments made to the bill on December 16, 2009.

On May 20, 2010, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 2288, to amend Public Law 106-392 to maintain annual base funding for the Upper Colorado and San Juan fish recovery programs through fiscal year 2023, by a vote of 264 to 122. The bill was co-sponsored by 13 out of the 14 Members of Congress who represent the participating States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming (including Representative Cynthia Lummis of Wyoming).

Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program

- The Basin States Program will begin on Oct. 1st.
 - Public Law 110-246, enacted on June 18, 2008, created the Basin States Program.
 - This “clarified” authorities created in 1996 for up-front cost-sharing within the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act (FAIRA, P.L. 104-127).
 - Required Planning Report sent to Congress on Sept. 14, 2009
 - Advisory Council formed a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) in Oct. 2009 to develop recommendations on Basin States Program’ funding and project work to be presented to the USBR.
 - Initial recommendations to be acted on at June 4th meeting.

Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program – continued

- Austin – Wall Canal and Reservoir Rehabilitation Project was funded with an appropriation of \$400,000 as a WWDC Level II Rehabilitation Study within the Omnibus Water – Planning bill enacted into law during the 2010 Wyoming Legislature.
 - The Scope of Work for the project requires that the consultant will review the Bureau of Reclamation’s Basinwide Salinity Control Program’s Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) to apply for salinity control project funding through a competitive bid process.
 - The Consultant will gather all necessary information and complete a draft funding application based upon the results of canal seepage loss studies and will work with the WWDC to ensure that all required data and information is collected according to FOA and CRBSCP standards.

Upper Colorado Basin Fund Negotiations Continue

- Representatives of CO, NM, UT and WY and the Colorado River Energy Distributors Association (CREDA) are negotiating to develop an interim agreement to reduce future CRSP firm electric service rates and provide funding to further the purposes of the Colorado River Storage Project Act.
 - The proposal would modify how Section 5.e of CRSPA operates, based on a proposed MOA, to provide a current “more real” funding stream for water project purposes benefitting water users within the State of Wyoming.
 - The proposal is to modify the amount of CRSPA hydroelectric power generation sales revenue collected and redistribute and use portions of that revenue for water project development.
 - These revenues would be used for improvements to CRSP facilities, such as: canal lining, SCADA and other system automation, water measurement devices and telemetry systems to obtain water flow and storage readings on a real-time basis, replacement of gate seals and gate painting, power plan rewinds and other projects of a similar nature.

Upcoming Meetings of Note:

- Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum and Advisory Council Meetings
 - June 2-4th at Little America in Cheyenne
- Upper Colorado River Commission Meeting
 - June 9-10th at Little America in Cheyenne
- Colorado River Basin Study Steering Committee Meeting
 - June 14th at McCarran Airport in Las Vegas
- 2011 Annual Operating Plan Consultation Meeting
 - June 25th at McCarran Airport in Las Vegas
- Colorado River Water Users Association
 - December 15-17th at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas

Contact us:

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