

Colorado River Basin Issues

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Green River Basin Advisory Group

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WWC

Rock Springs, WY





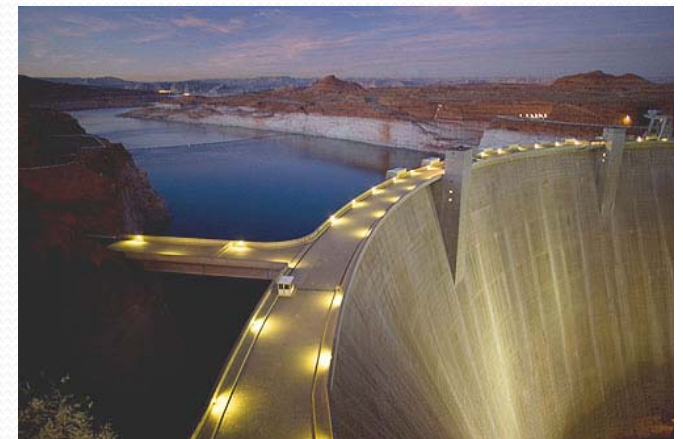
Tonight's Topics:

- Current Runoff and Storage Reservoir Projections
- Status/Update on Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study
- Upper Colorado Basin Fund MOA
- Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program Activities
- Upcoming Meetings

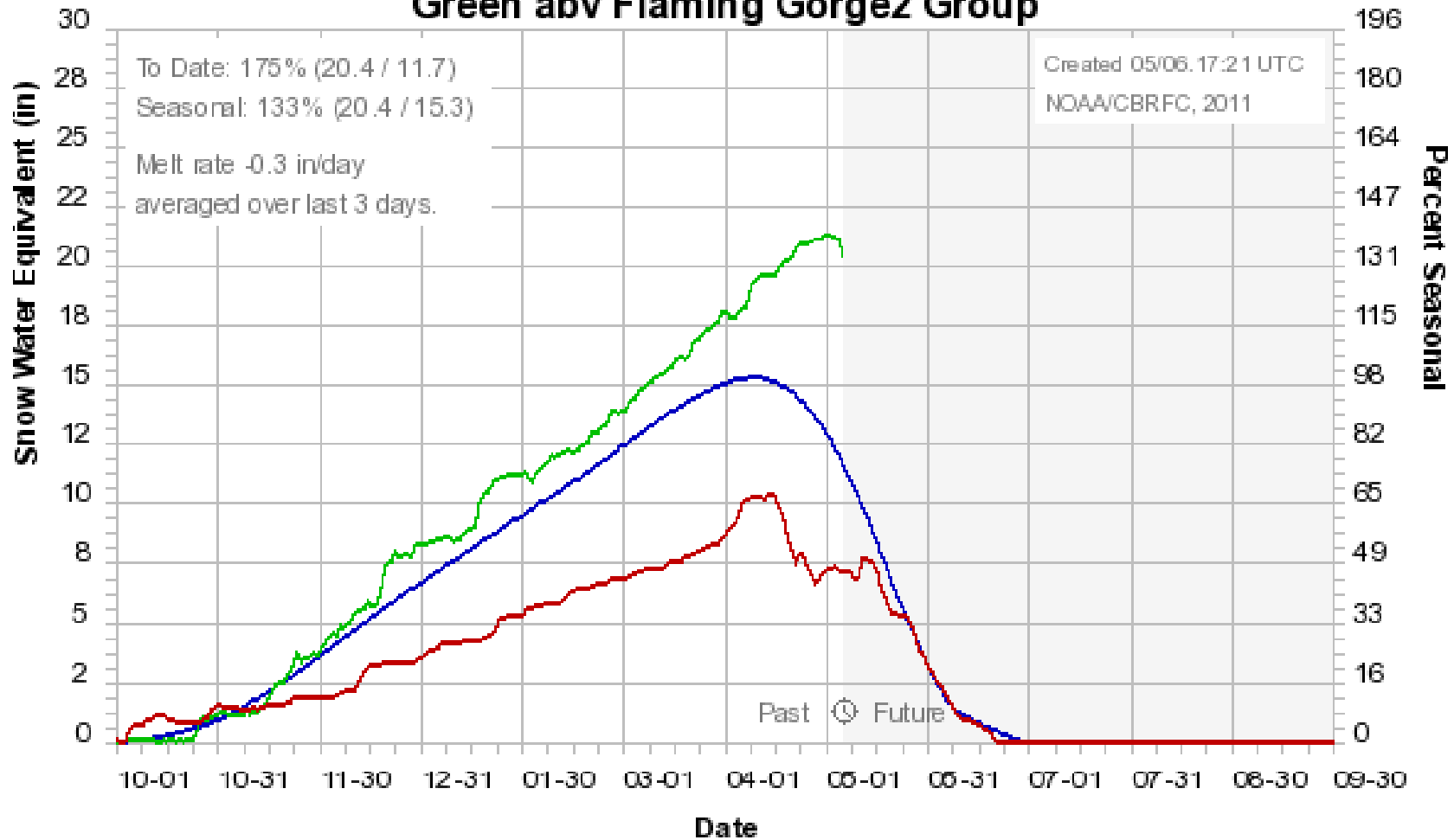
Summary of Projected 2011 Inflows (April – July)

- **Flaming Gorge (as of May 6)**
 - 1.66 maf
 - 146% of average

- **Lake Powell (as of May 6)**
 - 11.5 maf
 - 145% of average
 - Best runoff since 1995
 - 15th best of record



Colorado Basin River Forecast Center Green abv Flaming Gorge2 Group



To Date: 175% (20.4 / 11.7)
 Seasonal: 133% (20.4 / 15.3)
 Melt rate -0.3 in/day
 averaged over last 3 days.

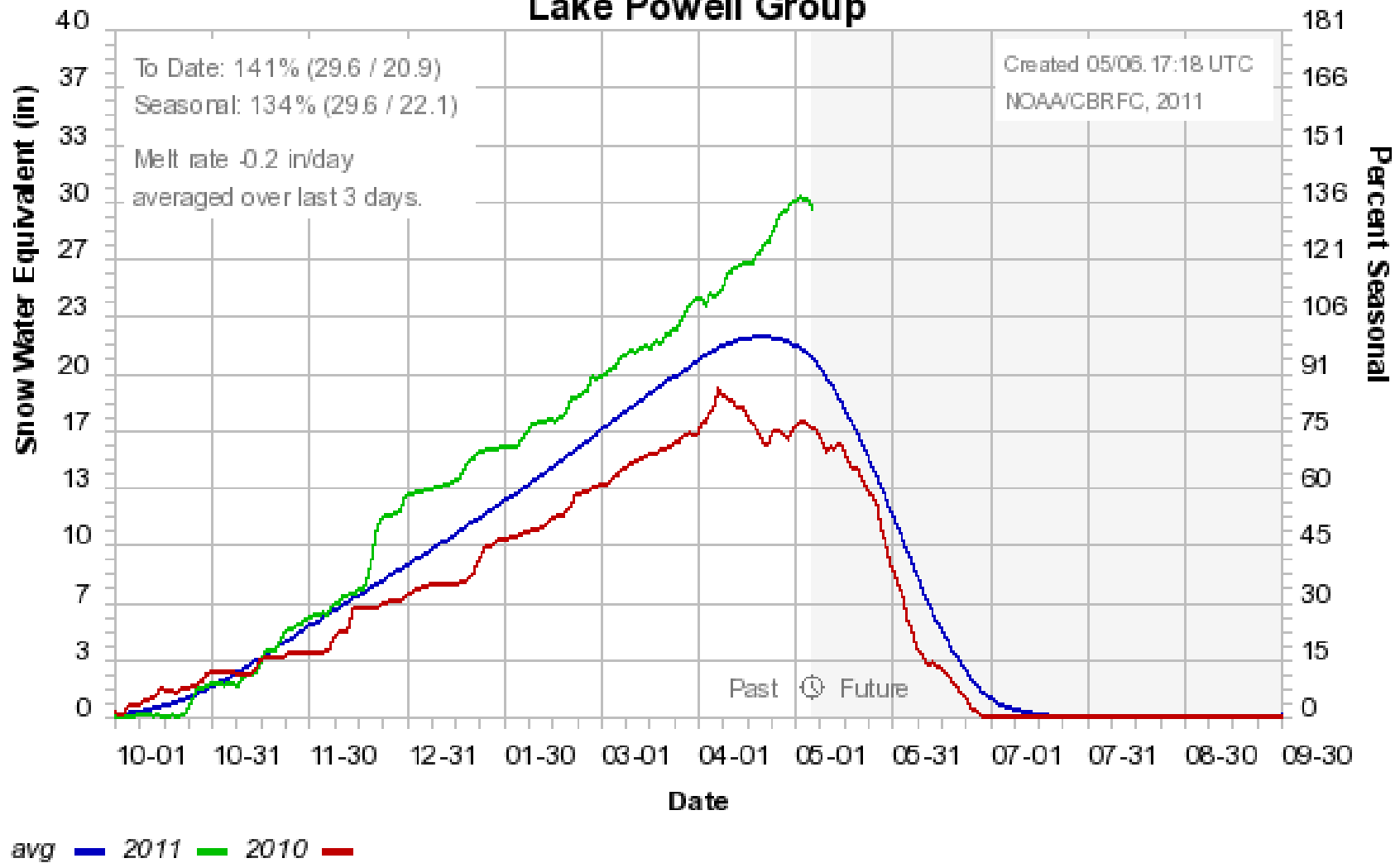
Created 05/06.17:21 UTC
 NOAA/CBRFC, 2011

avg 2011 2010

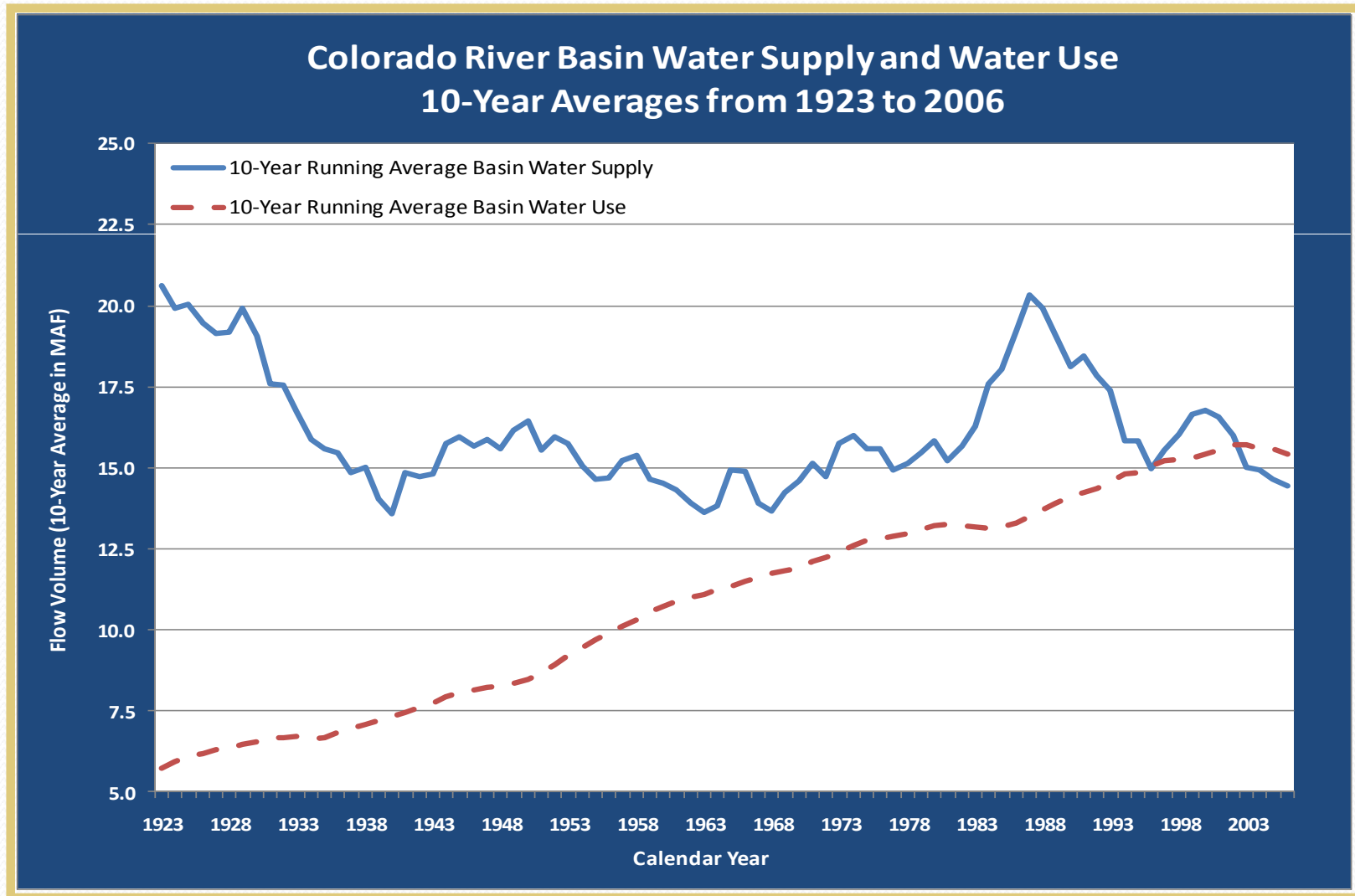
Flaming Gorge Releases (Powerplant and bypass tubes) are currently at 8700 cfs.



Colorado Basin River Forecast Center Lake Powell Group



Colorado Basin Water Supply & Demand Study

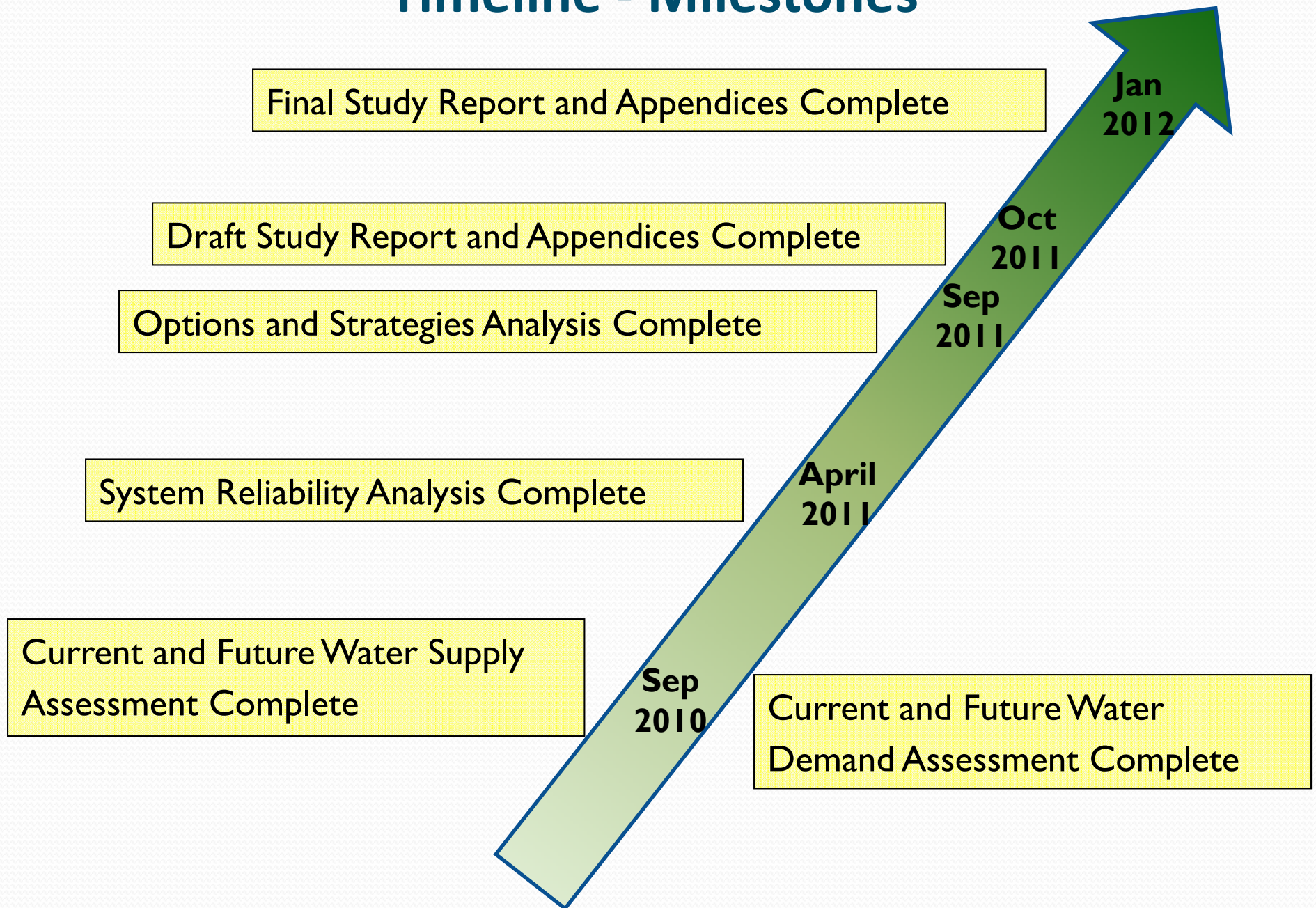




OBJECTIVES

- 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

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>



Upper Colorado Basin Fund MOA

- The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is among the States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming and the Colorado River Energy Distributors Association (CREDA), identified in the MOA as the “non-Federal parties”; and the Bureau of Reclamation and the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA).
 - Became effective on January 24, 2011 with execution by Governor Mead of Wyoming
- The MOA provides for complete repayment of the costs of participating projects that are already under construction and are beyond the ability of the irrigators to repay as required by the CRSP Act.
- The MOA is an interim agreement that will end on September 30, 2025 unless extended by mutual agreement of the parties.

Upper Colorado Basin Fund MOA - continued

- By executing the MOA, CRSP power customers will gain some rate mitigation through WAPA's reduced collection of power revenues associated with apportionment accounting. Project use customers in the Upper Division States will benefit from the same rate mitigation as CRSP power customers/CREDA members.
- By executing the MOA, the Upper Division States will receive additional funding from power revenues totaling **\$161 million (average of \$11.5 million per year each year through 2025)** for CRSP operation, maintenance and replacement projects identified and prioritized by the States but completed by the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation.
- No cost-sharing funds will be required from the Upper Division States.
- No participating projects that are currently authorized but not built will be deauthorized by the MOA.
- Next steps: Adoption of Operating Procedures process guidance document and formulation of priority project lists.

Upper Colorado Basin Fund MOA - continued

1. Replacements, Additions and Extraordinary Maintenance

Activities for the continued operation and maintenance of the Initial Units and participating projects.

- For example, the stilling basin at Fontenelle needs repairing.
 - CRRS Modeling
 - Snowpack data collection
 - Repair, refurbish and rehabilitate existing facilities

2. Water Conservation Activities

Activities that improve the efficiency and operation of CRSP Initial Units and participating projects. This activity needs to be separated into Federal and Non-Federal facilities, since there is a Reclamation-wide ceiling for Non-Federal grants.

- For example, Reclamation could complete the placement of riprap on the upstream face of Fontenelle Dam.
 - Conserve reservoir storage
 - Water quality
 - Refurbishments
 - Lining of canals and laterals
 - Flow gaging/water monitoring
 - Water administration costs
 - Studies to define and develop water conservation projects

Upper Colorado Basin Fund MOA - continued

3. Environmental Compliance Activities

Costs of environmental compliance for CRSP initial units, including biological opinions or programmatic biological opinions and associated improvements that are necessary to satisfy compliance for continuation of operation of facilities.

- For example, the biological opinion covering the Aspinall Unit will likely necessitate extensive funding within the Gunnison River Basin to reduce selenium concentrations in the Gunnison River.
- Funding for improvements to support environmental compliance could be applied to improvements on CRSP participating projects or other Reclamation projects, e.g., lining of canals, diversion structure improvements, efficiency improvements on pumping plants, or the construction of fish passage structures or temperature control structures.
- Recovery Implementation Program costs

Upper Colorado Basin Fund MOA - continued

4. **Stream Gaging**

Installation and operation of gages necessary for the operation of CRSP Units.

- For example, expand USGS gaging sites and the SNOTEL network.

5. **Consumptive Use and Quality of Water**

Studies necessary and incident to more efficient present and future operation of the CRSP system.

- For example, Consumptive Uses and Losses studies, Quality of Water Studies, CRSS model development, climate change modeling, and reservoir water quality modeling and basin studies.

6. **Salinity – Upper Colorado River Basin**

Provide new, cost-effective opportunities to control salinity in the basin.

7. **Global Climate Change**

Provide for nationwide data collection and monitoring activities; relevant research; and activities to increase the efficiency of the use of water in the United States.



2010 - 2011

Highlights



Upper Colorado River
Endangered Fish Recovery Program

San Juan River Basin
Recovery Implementation Program





Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program



San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program

Requested Fiscal Year 2012 Congressional Appropriations

The non-federal participants in the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program request the support of the Congress for fiscal year 2012 funding consistent with the President's recommended budget as follows:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

☑ **\$706,300** of "Recovery Program" funds for the Upper Colorado Endangered Fish Recovery Program (*Resources Management Appropriation; Ecological Services Activity; Endangered Species Subactivity; Recovery Element*)

- **Program management:** Funds for salaries, expenses and recovery activities of the Program staff for the critically-important day-to-day program administration and management essential for continuing success of this multi-agency, multi-element, large river basin species conservation partnership.
- **Monitoring achievement of recovery goals:** FWS' estimations of the abundance of fish populations, stocking evaluations and monitoring of fish and habitat establish the progress being made towards accomplishing the recovery goals' downlisting and delisting criteria.
- **Data Management:** FWS personnel in the FWS CRFP Offices maintain the Program's essential computerized inventory database systems - providing management and analysis tools to assess species' response to program activities. Species' response determines when the recovery goals are met.

☑ **\$200,000** of "Recovery Program" funds for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program (*Resources Management Appropriation; Ecological Services Activity; Endangered Species Subactivity; Recovery Element*)

- **Program management and FWS participation:** Salaries and expenses of the San Juan Program Coordinator and assistant and other related FWS expenses in completing Program actions will be paid with this requested funding.

☑ **\$485,800** for the Ouray National Fish Hatchery (*Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation Activity; National Fish Hatchery Operations Subactivity*)

- Meeting the ongoing operation, maintenance and upkeep expenses associated with this innovative Program hatchery is essential to meeting the Upper Colorado Program's stocking objectives.

Bureau of Reclamation

☑ **\$6,248,000** in "Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program" funds within the Upper Colorado Region budget (\$5,698,000 for construction activities for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program; \$150,000 for construction management activities for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program; and \$400,000 for Fish and Wildlife Management and Development activities to avoid jeopardy).

- **\$5,698,000** for the Orchard Mesa Irrigation District Canal Automation Project near Palisade, CO, to initiate construction of an innovative canal automation system to conserve (17,000 acre-feet +) and redirect water for instream flows.
- **\$400,000** for Fish and Wildlife Management and Development activities to avoid jeopardy within the Upper Colorado River, Pecos River, Rio Grande, and Bonneville River Basins.
- **\$100,000** for Upper Colorado Program Management for contracting, budgeting, reporting, contract administration, tracking expenditures, and addressing issues and concerns associated with capital project construction.
- **\$50,000** for San Juan Program Management for budgeting, contracting and contract administration, reporting, tracking expenditures, and transferring Capital Improvement Program funds to the appropriate entities.

Legislative Action Required to Extend Authorization to Use Upper Colorado River Basin Fund Revenues for Base Funding

- Full Annual Base Funding Authorization Expires on September 30, 2011.
 - Reclamation will then be unable to request approx. \$3 million in annual funding (\$2 million to the Upper Colorado Program and \$1 million to the San Juan Program) to fully fund the programs.
- **Consequences of Not Passing Legislation: Serious consequences** for the Upper Colorado and San Juan recovery programs and the **ability of these programs to provide ESA compliance for over 2,100 water projects in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming.**
- Failure to provide **full annual funding would cripple the programs**, eliminating funding for critical Program elements (including non-native fish management and control).



Upcoming Meetings of Note:

- May 24-26th - Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum and Advisory Council Meetings – Glenwood Springs, CO
- June 7-8th Upper Colorado River Commission Meeting – Boulder, CO
- June 30-July 1st - Colorado River Basin Water Supply & Demand Study Steering Committee Meeting – San Diego, CA