State of the Rivers
Colorado and Gunnison

Snowpack Overview and Reservoir Operations

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Current Mission

- Manage
- Develop
- Protect ...

...water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.
Bureau of Reclamation Organization

5 Regions
Denver Office
Washington D.C.
Western Colorado Area Office
Colorado Streamflow Forecasts Summary
May 1, 2017

Streamflow Forecast
Percent of Average
- >= 150
- 130 - 149
- 110 - 129
- 90 - 109
- 70 - 89
- 50 - 69
- < 50

Forecast Point

United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

RECLAMATION
Colorado River – Water Supply

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reservoir</th>
<th>Current Storage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Granby</td>
<td>74% full</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Mountain</td>
<td>48% full</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolford Mountain</td>
<td>96% full</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruedi</td>
<td>69% full</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Full Reservoirs expected this year
Reservoir Operations: Green Mountain

• Green Mountain Reservoir is projected to physically fill (154 KAF) around July 10
  – Reservoir Operations reflect average runoff conditions
  – Dillon Reservoir and east slope reservoirs carry over storage less than last year but remain higher than average
  – No spill: maximum release approximately 1400 cfs
  – Expect to support the Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program
    • Coordinated Reservoir Operations (CROS)
    • HUP Surplus Releases in September-October
  – No operating restriction anticipated for 2017 deliveries
Reservoir Operations: Colorado-Big Thompson

• Lake Granby is projected to physically fill (537 KAF) around July 15

• Significant Reservoir Operations
  – Lake Granby is forecasted to have minimal to no spill
  – Colorado River releases: 75 cfs for May-September
  – No Windy Gap pumping
  – Colorado Endangered Fish Recovery releases in late summer-early fall (East Slope contribution for 10825 recovery water)
  – Grand Lake Clarity adaptive management implemented in 2016 will continue in 2016
Fryingpan-Arkansas Project
Reservoir Operations: Ruedi

• Ruedi Reservoir is projected to physically fill (103 KAF) by July 15

• Reservoir Operations mostly reflect average conditions
  – Expect to support the Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program
    • Coordinated Reservoir Operations (CROS)
    • Late summer-early fall fishery releases
Coordinated Reservoir Operations (CROS)

• Augment the peak flow in the 15-Mile Reach of the Colorado River to improve habitat conditions for 4 endangered fish species

• Reservoir owner/operators voluntarily bypass inflow during the peak (late May/early June)

• Two conditions necessary:
  – Operators must be fairly certain their reservoir will fill
  – Must be able to achieve a peak in the range of 12,900 cfs to 23,000 cfs (current forecast is 14,000 cfs)
Peak Forecast 14,000 cfs
Gunnison River – Aspinall Unit
(based on Mid-May Forecast of 825,000 af Blue Mesa Inflow)

Aspinall Unit Record of Decision (ROD) Flow Targets
• Moderately Wet Year Category (709-831 Kaf inflow)
• Peak flow target of 14,350 cfs on lower Gunnison R
• Duration at peak flow is 2 days
• 20 days of duration at half bankfull flow of 8,070 cfs

Black Canyon Water Right
• Peak flow target of 6,427 cfs for 24-hour duration
Gunnison River – Aspinall Unit

Ramp Up for Spring Peak Operation has begun

• Releases from Aspinall Unit increasing daily through May 22
• Crystal Reservoir will begin spilling on May 18
• Maximum releases planned for 2 days (May 22- May 23)
• Flows in the Black Canyon/Gunnison Gorge projected to be close to 12,000 cfs for 2 days
Blue Mesa Content
End of Month

Maximum Capacity = 829.5 Kaf

Fill to 706 Kaf
Current = 679 Kaf

May 1 Forecast = 850,000 AF
Thank you

Questions?

Grand Valley Diversion Dam on the Colorado River