Mesa State of the Rivers
Colorado and Gunnison

Snowpack Overview and Reservoir Operations
Current Mission

• Manage
• Develop
• Protect ...

....water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.
Colorado River – Water Supply

RESERVOIR STORAGE
The only good news this year....

Most reservoirs in the Upper Colorado River Basin should fill or be near full this year
Colorado-Big Thompson Project

[Map of the Colorado-Big Thompson Project showing reservoirs, tunnels, and pipelines.]
Reservoir Operations
Colorado-Big Thompson Project

- Lake Granby is projected to physically fill (537 KAF) late June to early July
  - Colorado River release 75 cfs for May-August. On edge of a water short year, may be reduced by 15%!
  - Below average Runoff - No “Spill”
  - Windy Gap contract storage to complete fill
  - 10825 Colorado Endangered Fish Recovery release in late summer-early fall
Reservoir Operations
Green Mountain

Green Mountain Reservoir is projected to physically fill (154 KAF) early July

- Higher than average Denver Water and Colorado Springs Utilities storage contribute to fill confidence even with 85% of average runoff forecast
- No spill: maximum Blue River release less than 1000 cfs, release below 300 cfs during reservoir filling
- Release water for west-slope beneficial use and replacement of Colorado River Collection System out-of-priority diversion
- Expect to support the Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program
Reservoir Operations
Ruedi

• Ruedi Reservoir is projected to be short of full, estimate peak content at 95-97% full
• Reservoir Operations will reflect the dry conditions
  – Expect to support the Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program
    • 10,000 + AF available for releases to 15 Mile Reach during late summer & fall low flow periods
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

• 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

• Forecasted Peak for Colorado River @ Cameo is 9,000 cfs
  – Too low to achieve goals of CROS, no CROS operations planned for this year at this time
Gunnison River – Aspinall Unit

Aspinall Unit Record of Decision (ROD) Flow Targets

• May Forecast = 350 Kaf inflow
• Dry Year Category (< 381 Kaf inflow)
• No peak flow or duration day targets for lower Gunnison River during Dry years
• Expect short peak of ~3000 cfs on lower Gunnison R during peak of runoff

Black Canyon Water Right

• Peak flow target of 987 cfs for 24-hour duration
Lake Powell

• 2018 April – July Forecasted Inflow
  – 3.0 Million Ac-Ft (MAF)
  – 42% of Average Inflow

• Peak EOM Elevation To Decrease 25 ft. from 2017
  – 3,635 ft. – June 2017
  – 3,610 ft. – June 2018

• Lake Powell – Upper Elevation Balancing Tier
  – Total Glen Canyon Dam 2018 WY Release = 9.0 MAF
Thank you

Questions?

Grand Valley Diversion Dam on the Colorado River