Upper Colorado River
Operations Water Year 2018

Presented by
Victor Lee P.E.
Hydrologic Engineer
Eastern Colorado Area Office
Topics:

• Colorado-Big Thompson Project Overview
• Forecasted CBT Operations for 2018-2019
  – Colorado River Collection System
  – Green Mountain Reservoir
• Fryingpan-Arkansas Project Overview
• Forecasted Fry-Ark Operations 2018-2019
  – Collection System
  – Ruedi Reservoir
Eastern Colorado Area Office

- Reclamation Office responsible for management of Colorado-Big Thompson and Fryingpan-Arkansas Transbasin Diversion projects
- Acts as project trustee for the Citizens of the United States and benefit for east and west slope water users
Upper Colorado Snow Accumulation

[Graph showing snow water equivalent from October 1 to September 30, with data for 2018, 2011, Average 1981-2010, and 2012.]


NOAA/CBRFC, 2018
Colorado River Collection System

- Supports Colorado River storage and diversion
- Includes Lake Granby, Shadow Mountain Reservoir, Grand Lake and Willow Creek Reservoir
- Also used for storage and delivery of Windy Gap and 10825 Endangered Fish Water
Reservoir Operations: Colorado-Big Thompson Collection System

• Lake Granby is projected to physically fill (537 KAF) by early July
  – Colorado River releases directed by Interior Secretary order 75 cfs for May-August. On edge of a water short year!
  – Below average Runoff - No “Spill”
  – Average runoff for Willow Creek Reservoir
  – Windy Gap pumping
  – 10825 Colorado Endangered Fish Recovery releases in late summer-early fall
  – Grand Lake Clarity Adaptive Management implemented for 2016 continued in 2018
Secretary of Interior Schedule Release for a non-water shortage year
10825 Water used to augment releases in late summer and early fall.
Green Mountain Reservoir

- Provides water storage for Upper Colorado River Basin beneficial use
- Replacement water for Colorado River Collection System
- Hydropower generation
Reservoir Operations: Green Mountain

- Green Mountain Reservoir is projected to physically fill (154 KAF) around July 01
  - Higher than Average Denver Water and Colorado Springs Utilities carry over storage contribute to fill confidence even with less than average runoff
  - No spill: maximum release less than 1000 cfs
  - Release water for west-slope beneficial use
  - Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program
    - No Coordinated Reservoir Operations (CROS)
    - HUP Releases in September-October may include surplus release
April Delivery of HUP Water for Low Flow in Palisade
Roaring Fork Snow Accumulation

Peak same at 2012 “Dry Year”
Ruedi Reservoir

- Provides water storage for Colorado River Basin beneficial use
- Replacement water for Collection System
- Hydropower generation
Reservoir Operations: Ruedi

- Ruedi Reservoir is not projected to physically fill (2,000 to 5,000 acre-feet short)
  - Minimum release to Fryingpan River until mid-August early September
  - Boustead Tunnel Diversion approximately 58,000 acre-feet
  - Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program
    - No Coordinated Reservoir Operations (CROS)
    - 10,400 acre-feet available for flow enhancement
Invasive Species Update

– Green Mountain Reservoir had a positive identification of larval invasive mussel!

– Recreational boating on Ruedi, Granby, Shadow Mtn, and Green Mountain Reservoir require invasive mussel inspection effective 2018

– Boat launching will not be allowed if inspection stations are closed.

– For additional information visit Colorado Parks and Wildlife website:

cpw.state.co.us/thingstodo/Pages/BoatInspection.aspx