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.
Summary of Snowpack

Colorado Monthly Snowpack Summary
April 1, 2020

Statewide
107% of Median
80% of Last Year

Yampa, White, & North Platte
111% of Median
93% of LY

Colorado
113% of Median
88% of LY

Gunnison
97% of Median
65% of LY

San Miguel, Dolores, Animas, and San Juan
65% of Median
92% of LY

Upper Rio Grande
100% of Median
88% of LY

Arkansas
112% of Median
71% of LY

Basin Snowpack
Percent of Median

- < 150
- 130 - 149
- 110 - 129
- 90 - 109
- 70 - 89
- 50 - 69
- < 50

United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

RECLAMATION
Summary of Snowpack

Colorado Monthly Snowpack Summary
May 1, 2020

Yampa, White, & North Platte
100% of Median
93% of LY

South Platte
54% of Median
103% of LY

Colorado
107% of Median
91% of LY

Gunnison
78% of Median
72% of LY

San Miguel, Dolores, Arimas, and San Juan
72% of Median
63% of LY

Upper Rio Grande
52% of Median
38% of LY

Arkansas
45% of Median
59% of LY

Statewide
94% of Median
74% of Last Year

SNODEL
Snow Course

Basin Snowpack
Percent of Median
< 150
130 - 149
110 - 129
90 - 109
70 - 89
50 - 69
< 50

United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

RECLAMATION
Upper Colorado Basin upstream of Dotsero
Near normal winter precipitation / small soil moisture deficit
Lower Colorado/Gunnison/San Juan basin
Low winter moisture / substantial soil moisture deficit
Colorado River – Water Supply

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reservoir</th>
<th>Current Storage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Granby</td>
<td>84% full</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Mountain</td>
<td>54% full</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolford Mountain</td>
<td>FULL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruedi</td>
<td>70% full</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Full Reservoirs expected this year
C-BT Collection System Outlook

- Peak Snowpack in Upper Colorado Basin = 122% avg
- Runoff forecast = 100% of average
- Granby Reservoir is projected to fill (535 KAF) in late June
  - 20 – 30 KAF bypass of surplus water, possibly available for CROS

Green Mountain Reservoir Outlook

- Peak Snowpack in Blue River Basin = 120% avg
- Runoff forecast = 98% of average
- Green Mountain Reservoir projected to fill (154 KAF) by July 7
  - Refills all reservoir allocations
  - 66 KAF HUP allocation refilled
  - Should have water available for CROS
Ruedi Reservoir Outlook

- Peak Snowpack in Fryingpan River Basin = 107% avg
- Ruedi inflow forecast = 90% avg
- Ruedi Reservoir is projected to fill (103 KAF) this summer
- Reservoir Operations mostly reflect average conditions
  - Lower than typical release to Frying Pan River during fill
  - Water likely not available for CROS operations
  - Should refill all environmental pools for 2020 – some Endangered Fish Recovery water released during April to mitigate low flow during irrigation startup.
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 12,000 cfs)
Peak Forecast 12,000 cfs
Gunnison River – Aspinall Unit
(based on May 15 Forecast of 395,000 af Blue Mesa Inflow)

Aspinall Unit Record of Decision (ROD) Flow Targets
• Moderately Dry Year Category (381-516 Kaf inflow)
• Peak flow target of 3,200 cfs on lower Gunnison R
• Duration at peak flow is 1 day
• 0 days of duration at half bankfull flow

Black Canyon Water Right
• Peak flow target of 2,200 cfs for 24-hour duration
Gunnison River – Aspinall Unit

Ramp Up for Spring Peak Operation began on May 15

Peak flows achieved on May 19-20

• Attempt to time with peak flows on downstream tributaries but flows have been low this year
• 1 day peak release occurred yesterday
• Flows in Black Canyon/Gunnison Gorge ~3,000 cfs for 1 day
• Flows in lower Gunnison River ~4,500 cfs for 1 day
• Entire spring operation will last 12 days with ramp up/down
**BLUE MESA RESERVOIR**

- **Full Reservoir**
  - 829,500 AF
  - 7519.4 Ft

- **Fill to 635 Kaf**
  - 7497 ft

- **Current = 533 Kaf**
  - 7484 ft

- **EOY = 493 Kaf**
  - 7478 ft
Lake Powell

• 2020 April – July Forecasted Inflow
  – 4.65 Million Ac-Ft (MAF)
  – 65% of Average Inflow

• July EOM Elevation To Decrease 9 ft. from 2019
  – 3,621 ft. – July 2019
  – 3,612 ft. – July 2020

• Lake Powell – Upper Elevation Balancing Tier
  – Total Glen Canyon Dam 2020 WY Release = 8.23 MAF
Grand Valley Diversion Dam on the Colorado River

Thank you

Questions?