

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## State of the Rivers Colorado and Gunnison

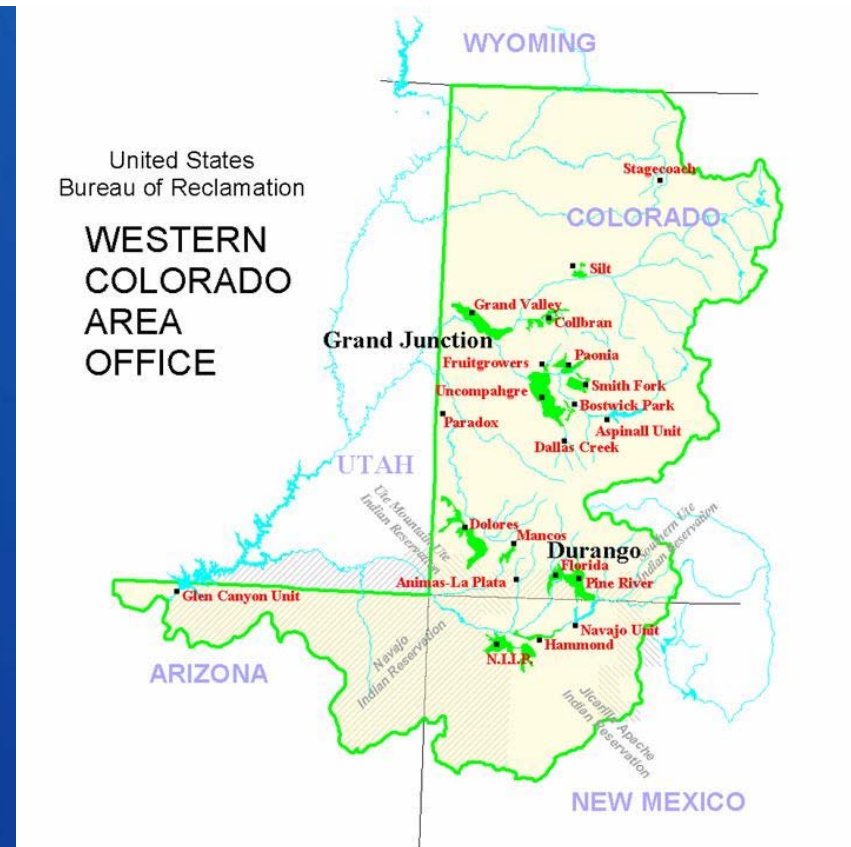
### Snowpack Overview and Reservoir Operations



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation

# Current Mission

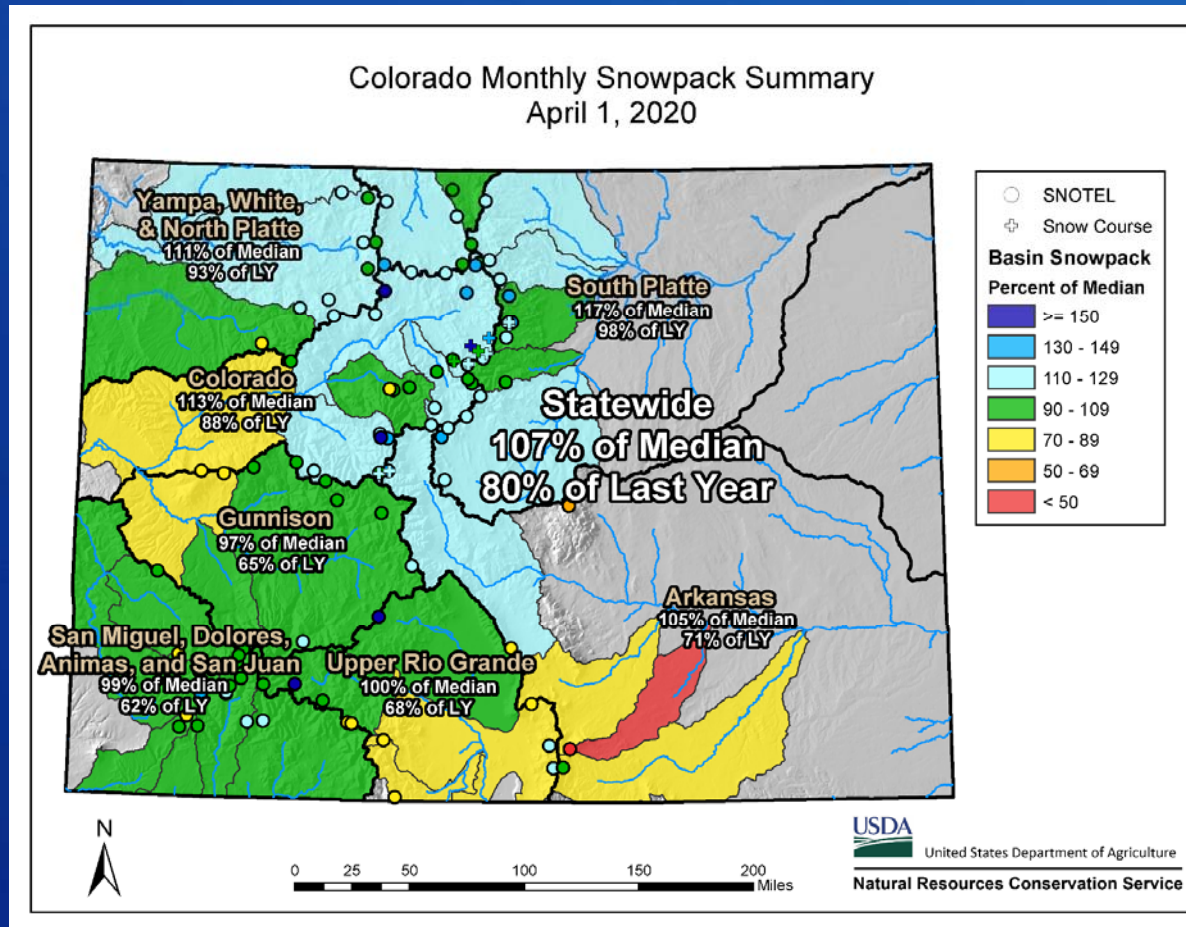
- Manage
- Develop
- Protect ...



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

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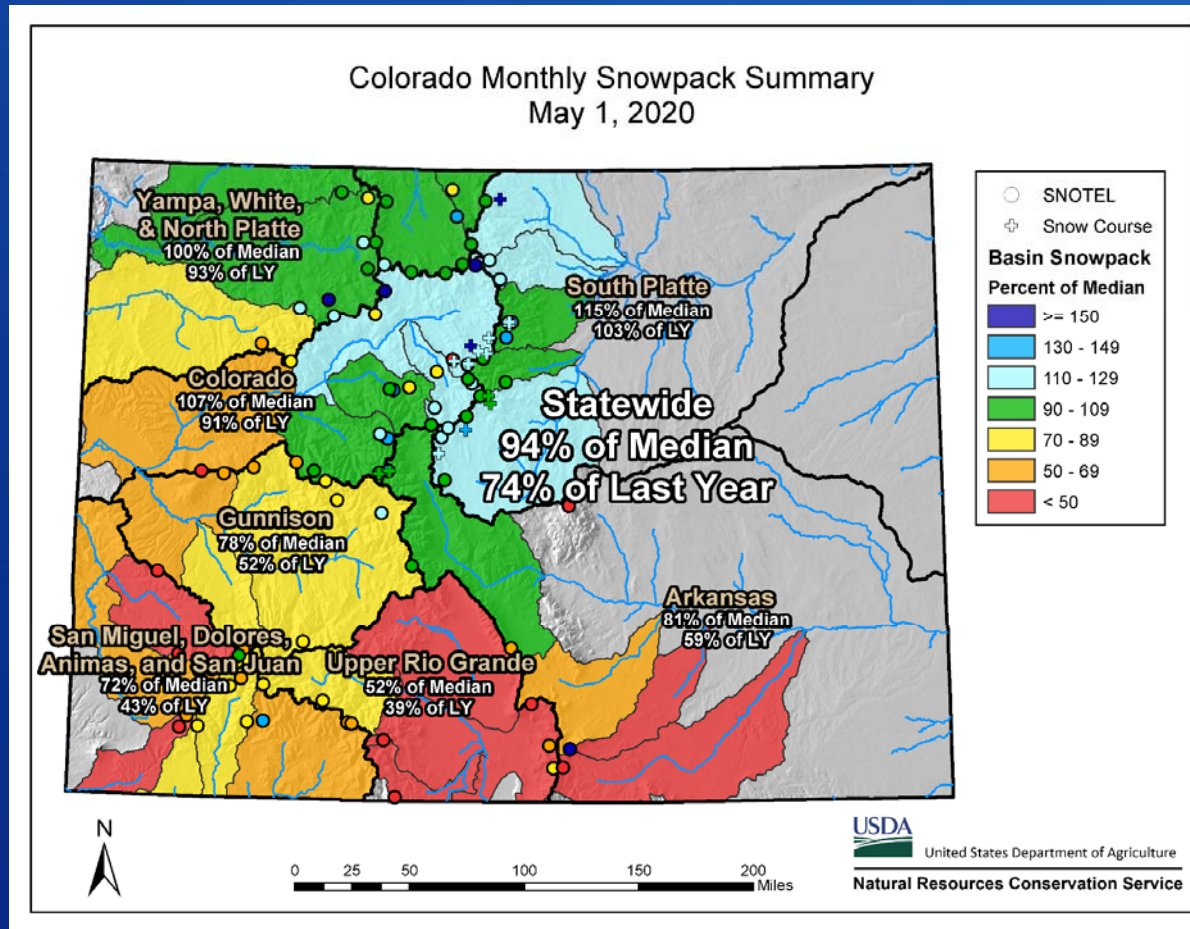
# Summary of Snowpack



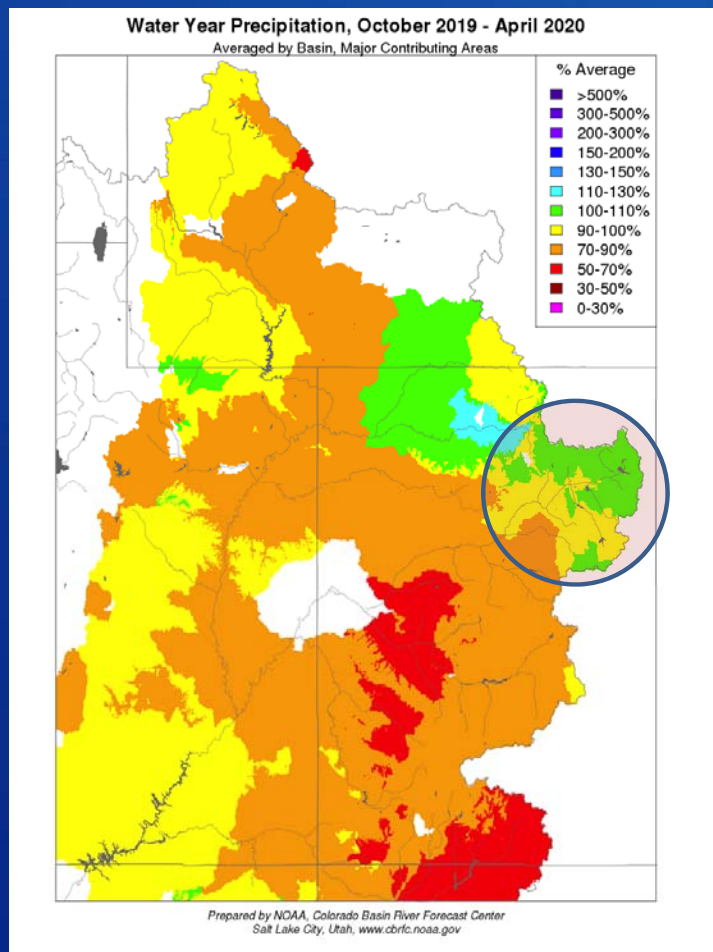
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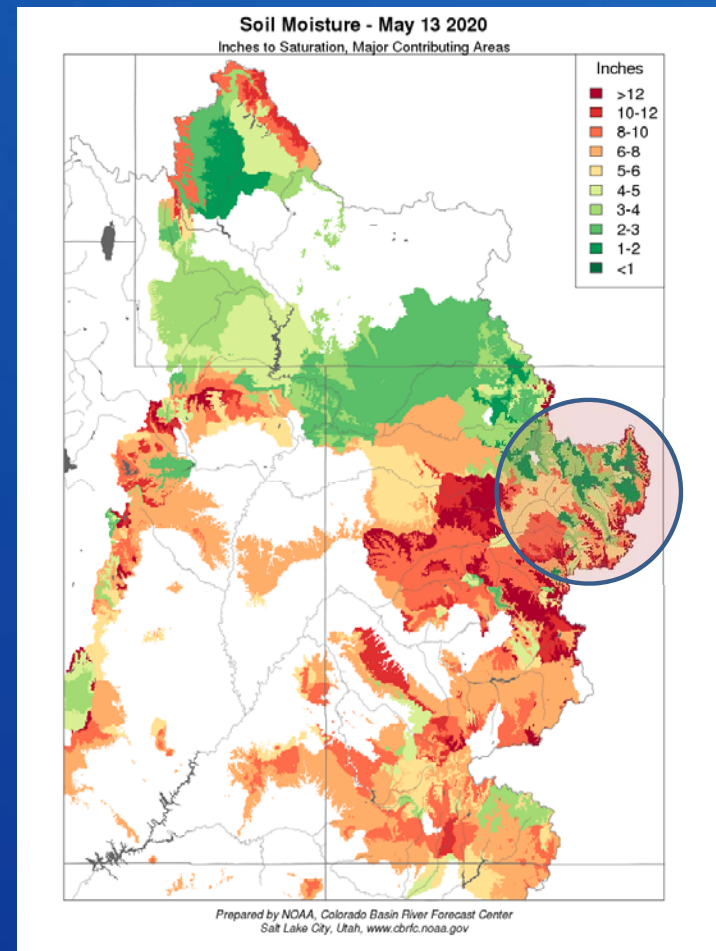
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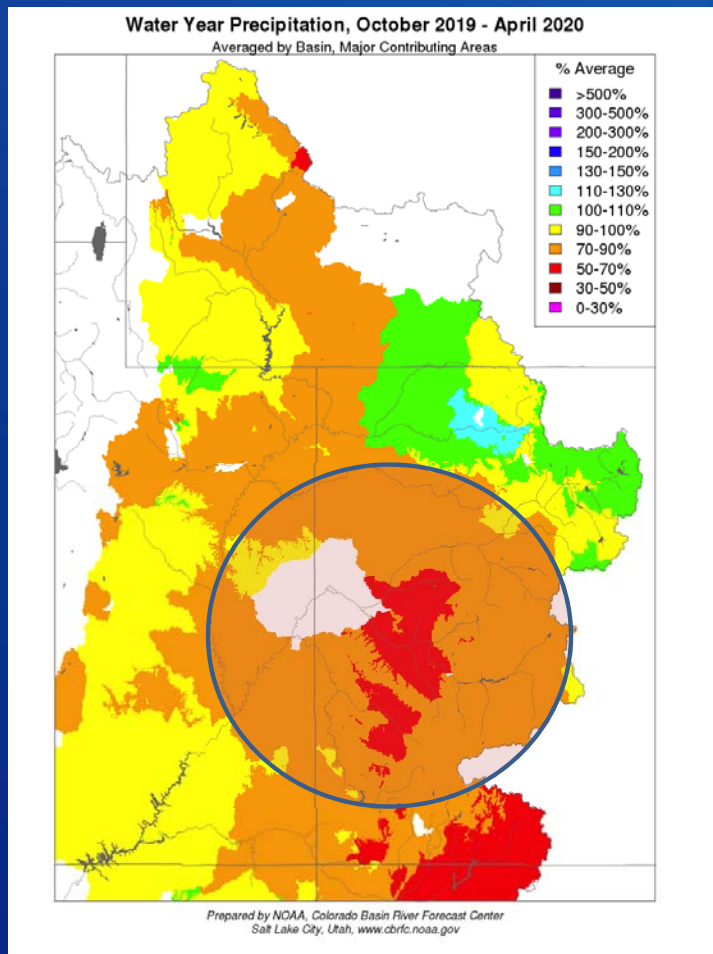
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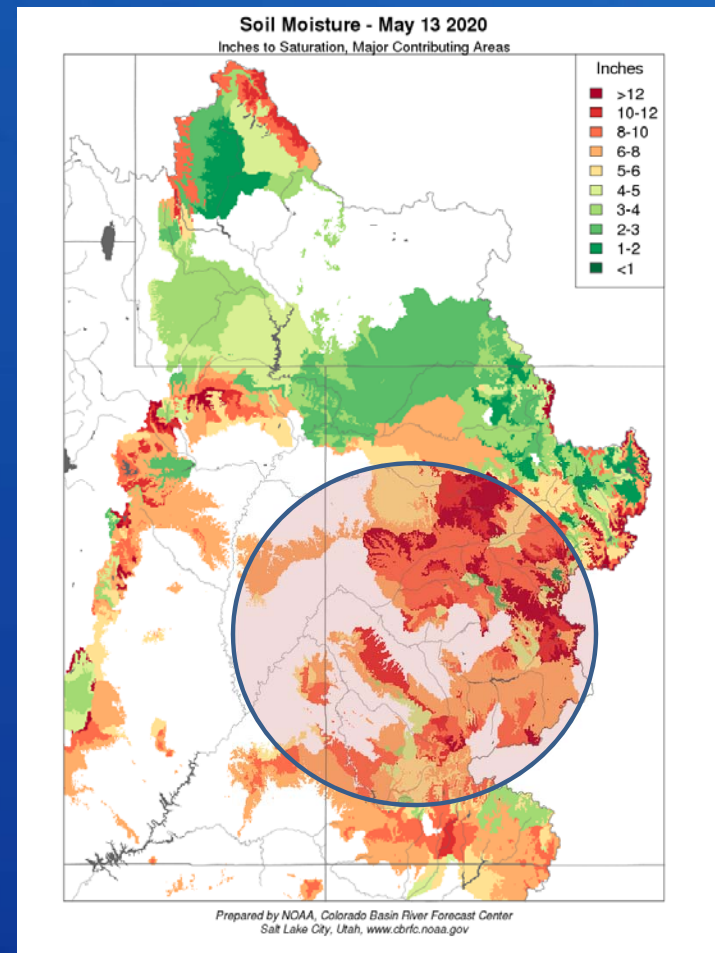
Upper Colorado Basin upstream of Dotsero  
Near normal winter precipitation /  
small soil moisture deficit



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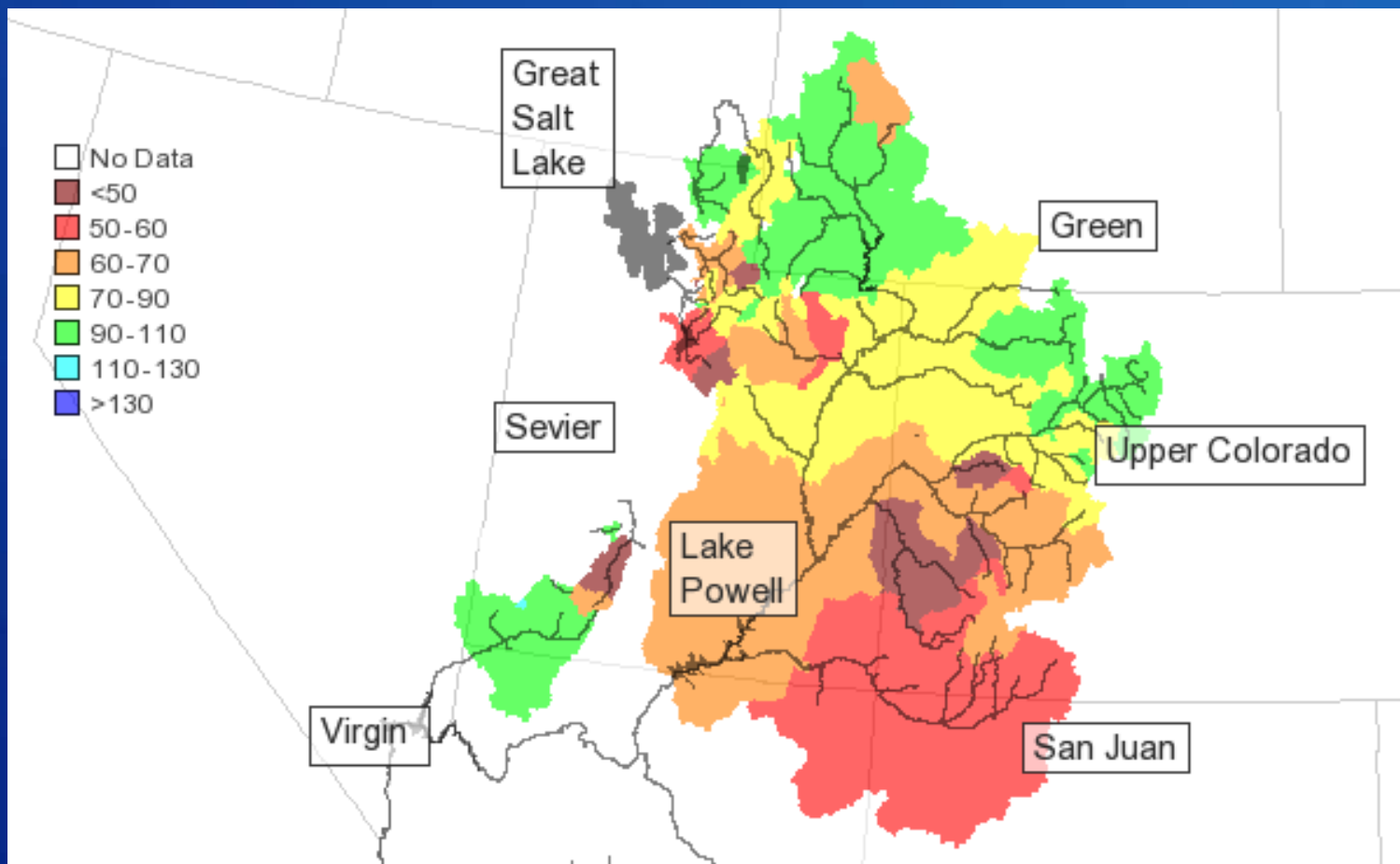


Lower Colorado/Gunnison/San Juan basin  
Low winter moisture /  
substantial soil moisture deficit



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# Upper Colorado Basin Runoff Conditions



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# Colorado River – Water Supply

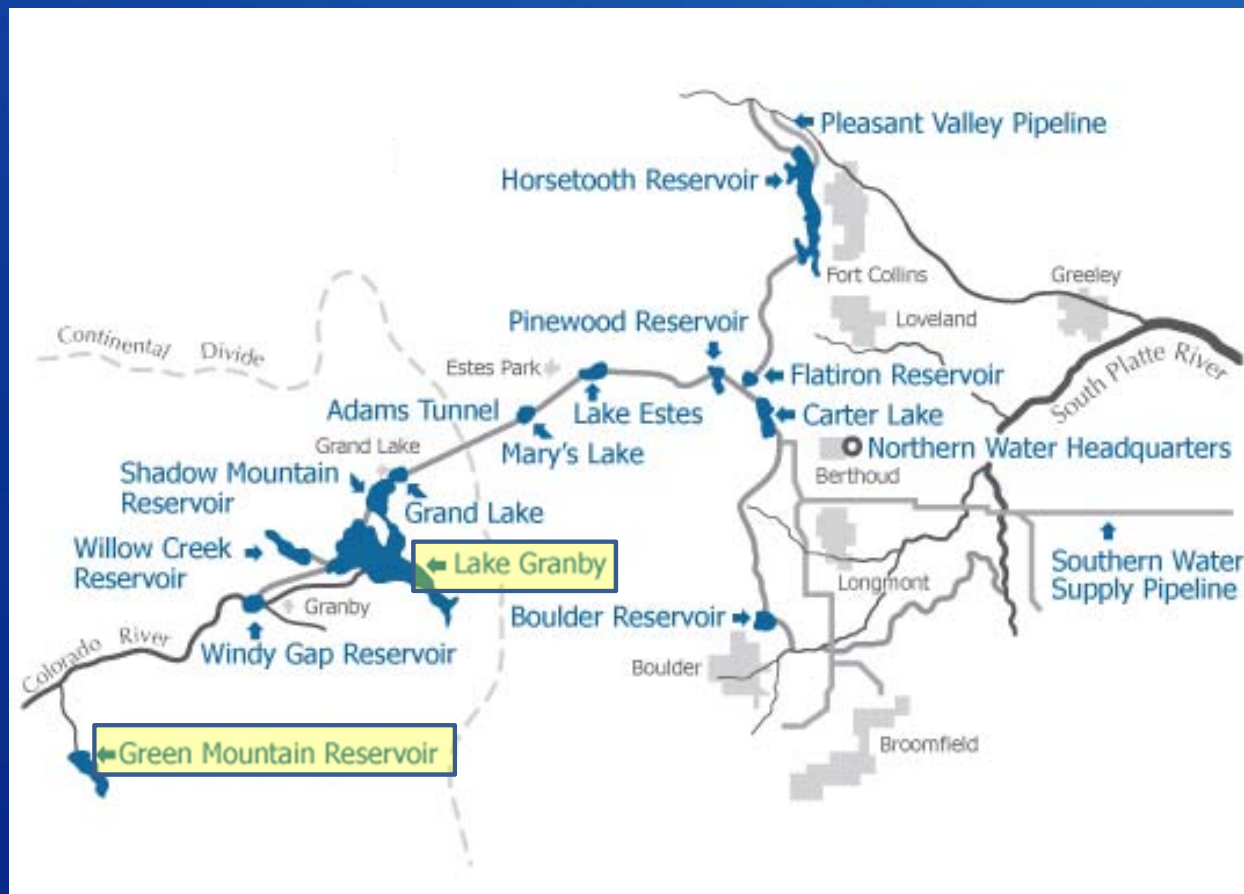
Reservoir	Current Storage
Granby	84% full
Green Mountain	54% full
Wolford Mountain	FULL
Ruedi	70% full

**Full Reservoirs expected this year**

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# Colorado-Big Thompson Project



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## **C-BT Collection System Outlook**

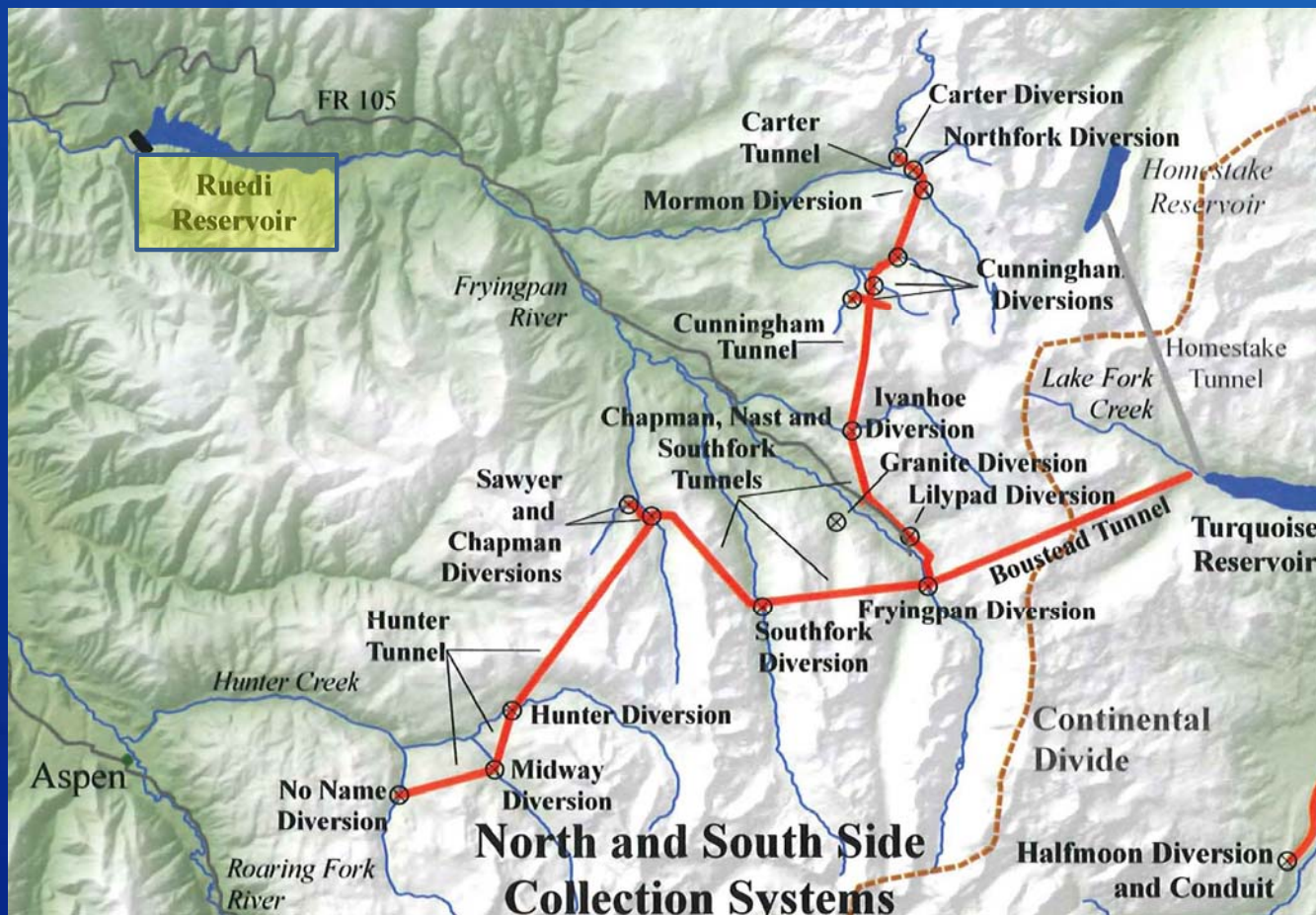
- Peak Snowpack in Upper Colorado Basin = 122% avg
- Runoff forecast = 100% of average
- Granby Reservoir is projected to fill (535 KAF) in late June
  - 20 – 30 KAF bypass of surplus water, possibly available for CROS

## **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

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# Fryingpan-Arkansas Project



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## 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.

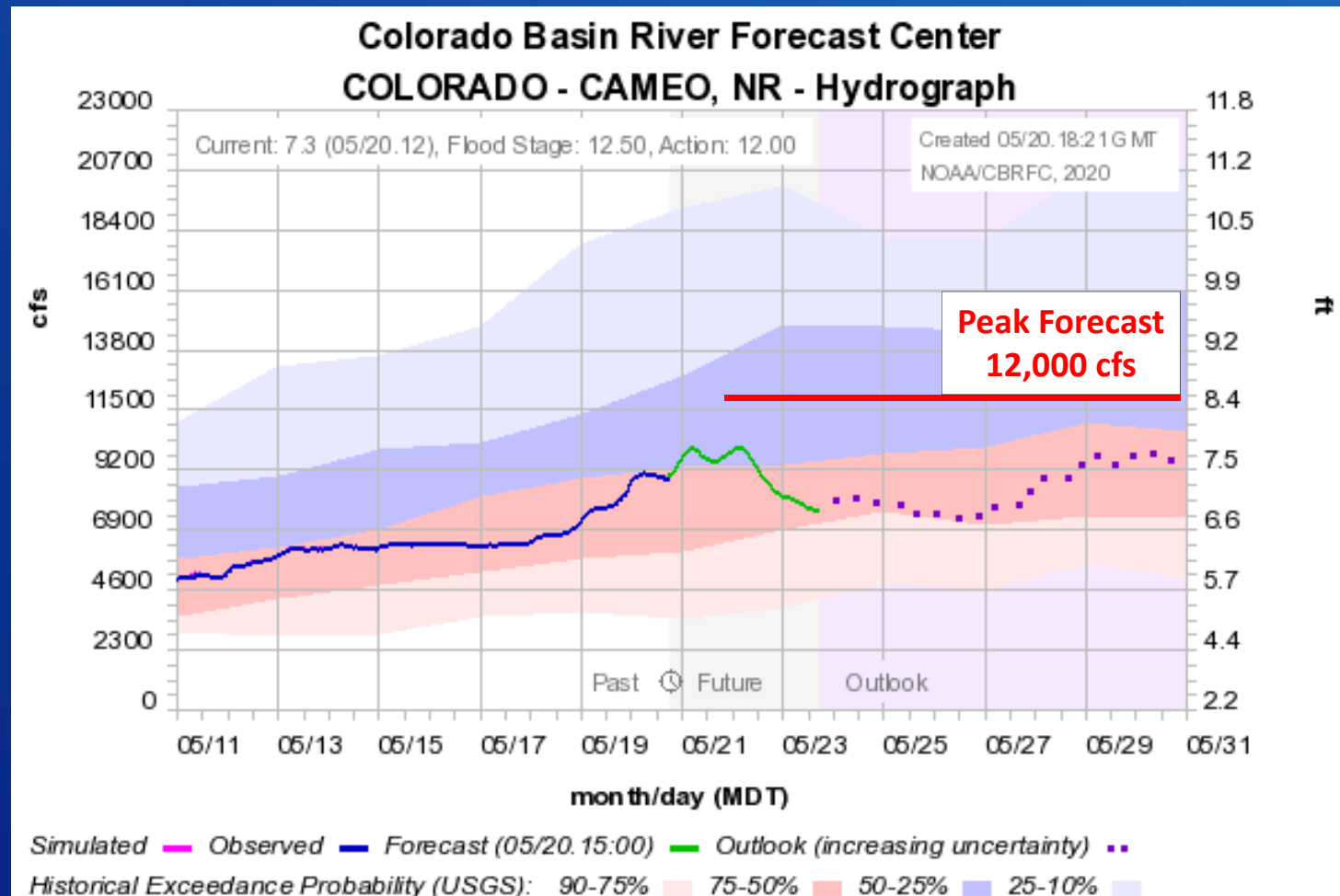
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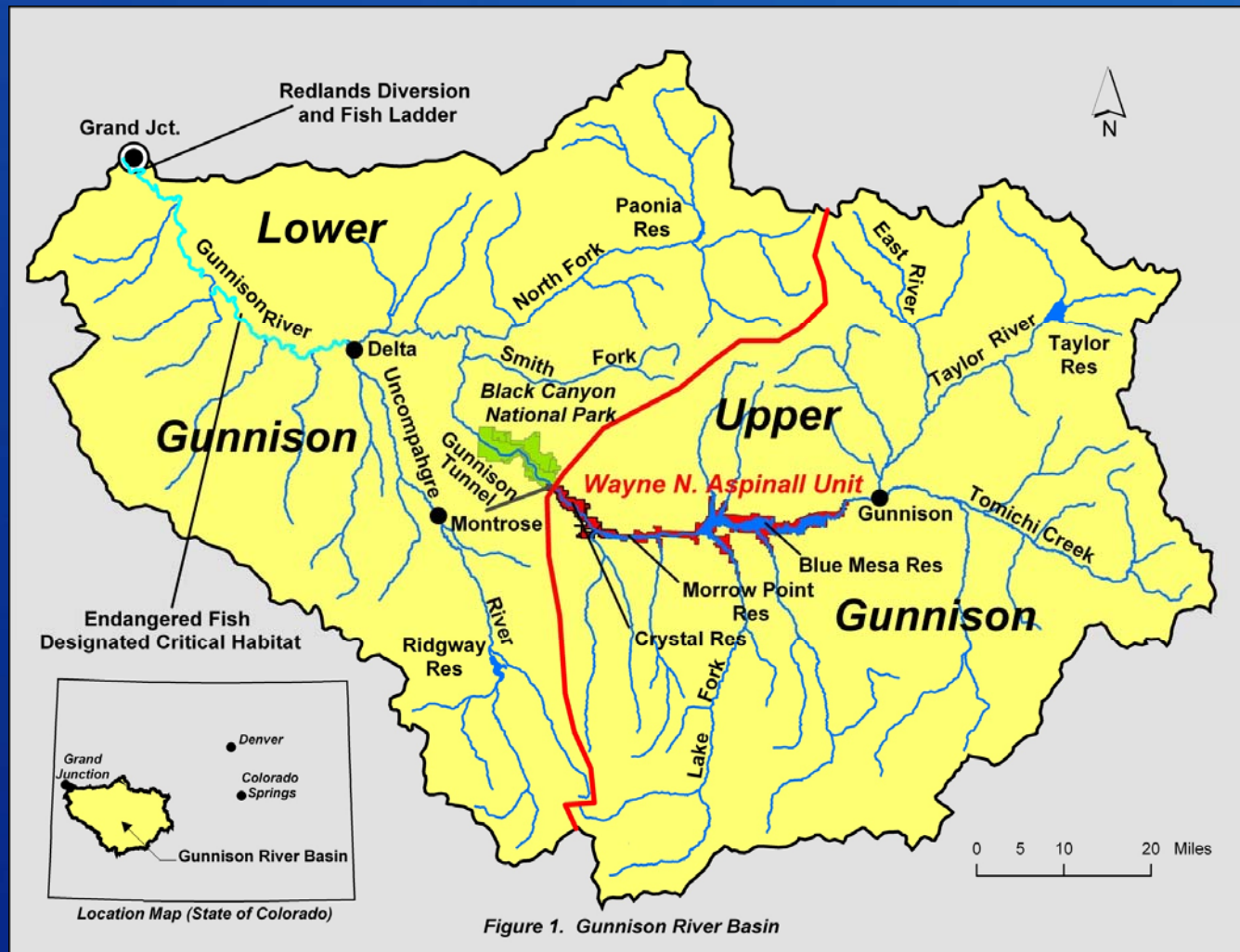
## Coordinated Reservoir Operations (CROS)

- 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)

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# **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

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## Gunnison River – Aspinall Unit

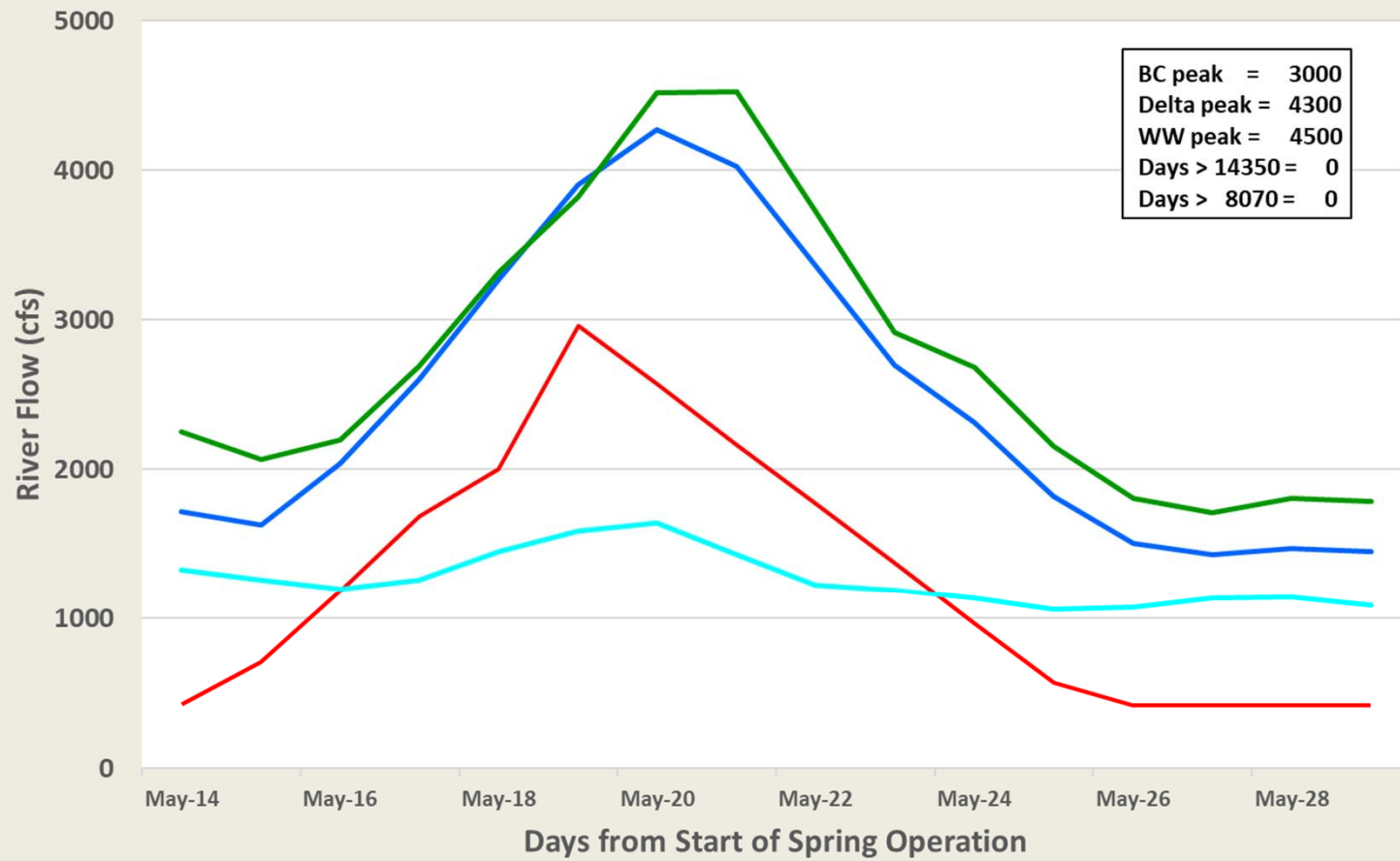
Ramp Up for Spring Peak Operation began on May 15

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

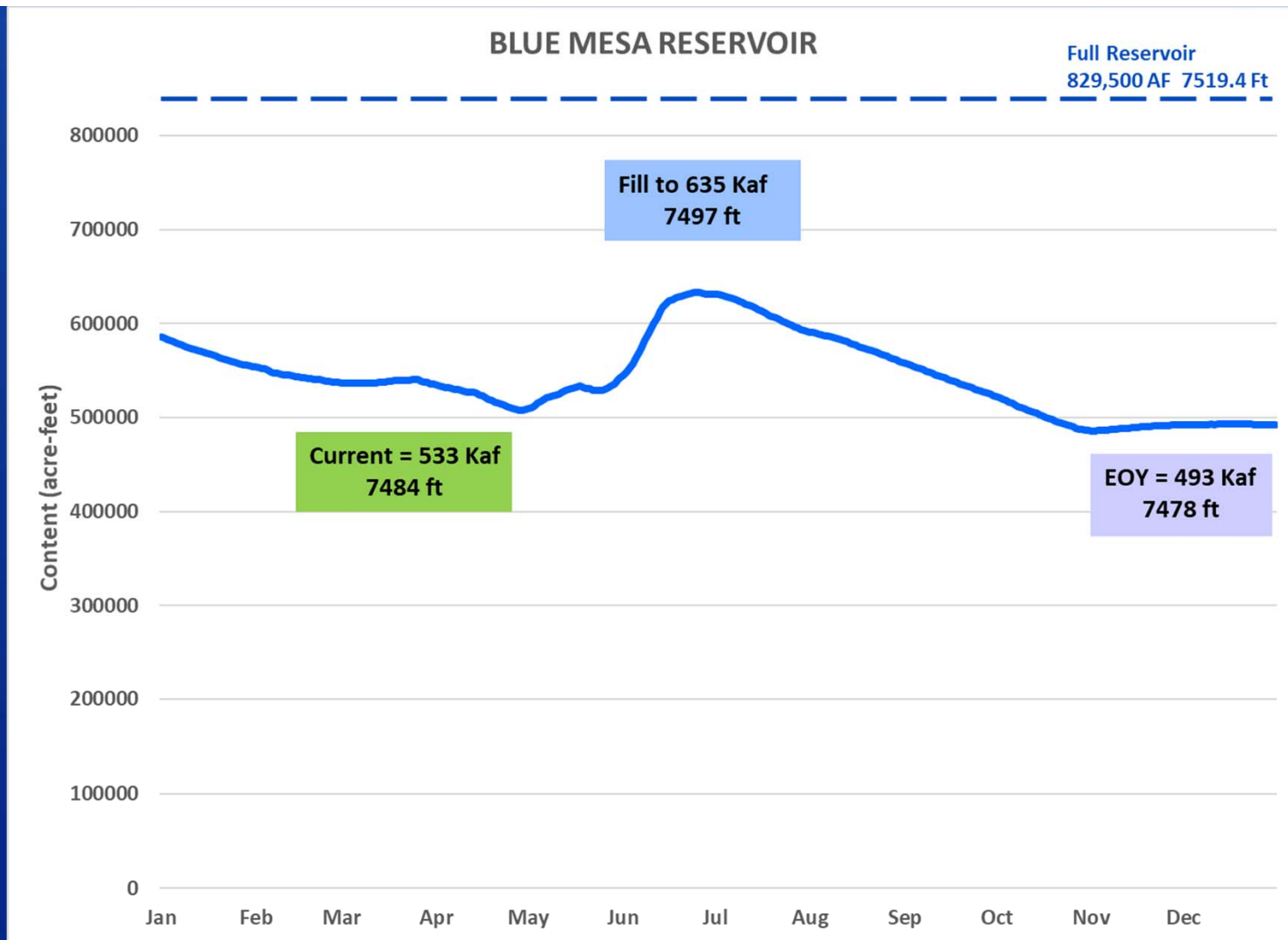
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### Gunnison River Flows from Start Day of Spring Operation



— Gunnison R - Black Canyon — North Fork Gunnison R — Gunnison R @ Delta — Gunnison R @ Whitewater

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# 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

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Thank you

Questions?



*Grand Valley Diversion Dam on the  
Colorado River*

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