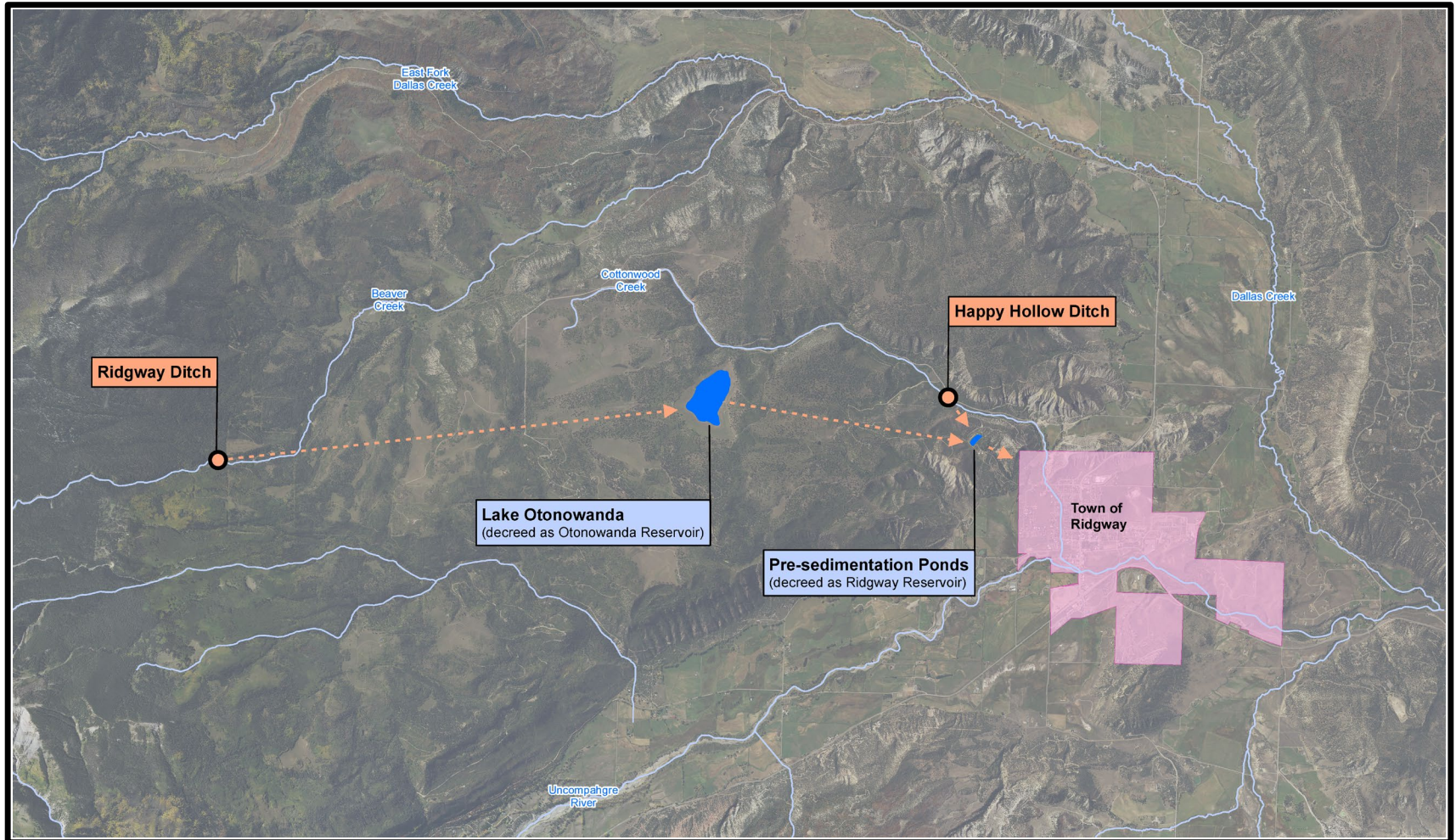


Introduction

KEY OBJECTIVES

- Review Water Supply System
- Review Water Right Portfolio
- Quantify Existing and Future Water Demands
- Analyze Physical Water Availability
Historical Hydrology & Climate Change Considerations
- Analyze Yield of Water Rights Portfolio
- Provide Water Supply Strategies
- Summary Findings and Recommendations

SYSTEM OVERVIEW

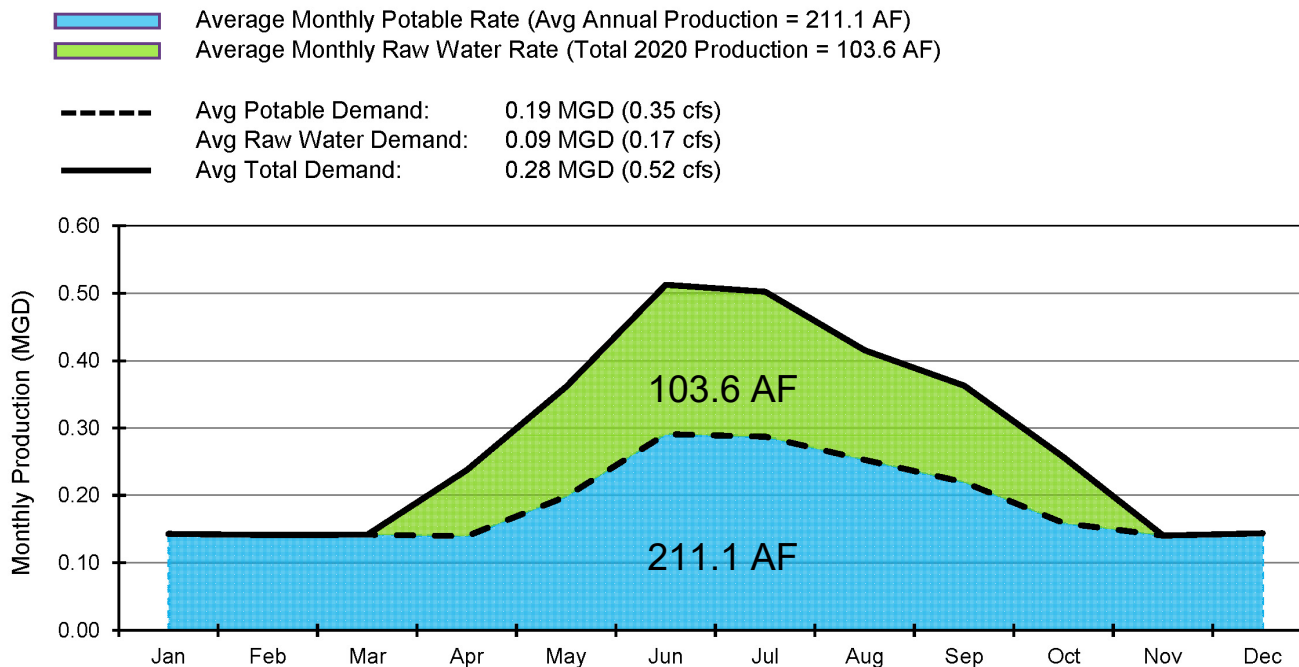


Existing Water Demands

Total = Treated Potable Supply + Raw Water Irrigation

- **Existing Demand: Population ~ 1,150 Residents**
- **Existing Total Demand = 314.7 AF (0.28 MGD)**

**Town of Ridgway's Average Monthly Potable and Raw Water Production
2016 - 2020**

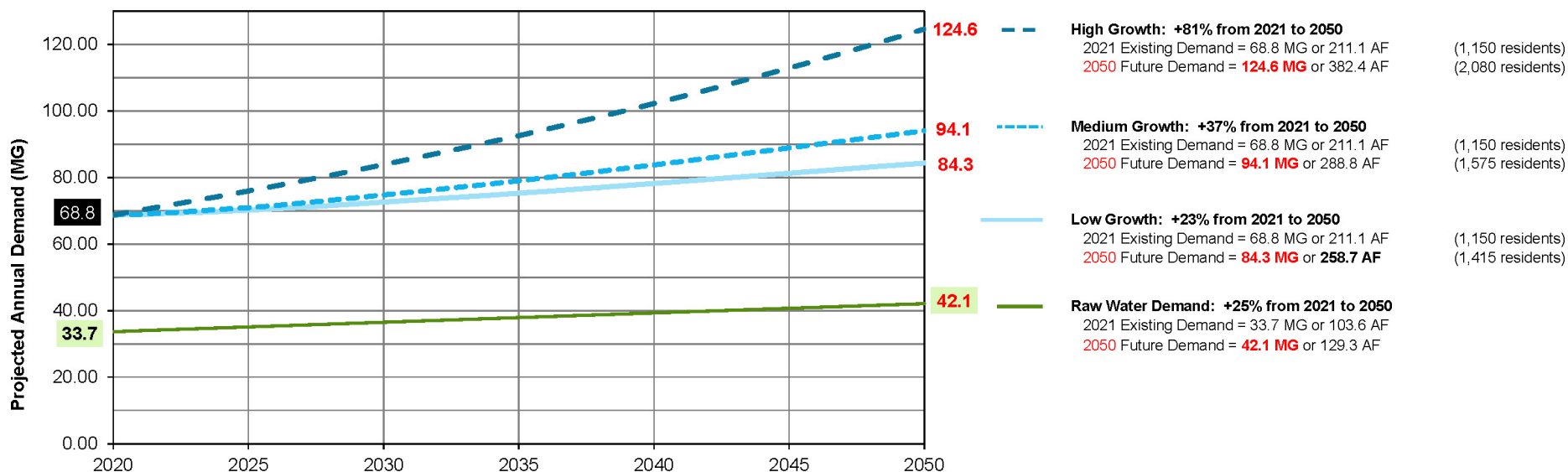


Projected Water Demands

Total = Treated Potable Supply + Raw Water Irrigation

- **Existing Demand: Population ~ 1,150 Residents**
- **Future 2050 Demand: Population ~ 1,415 – 2,080 Residents**
- **Future 2050 Raw Water Demand ~ +25% = 129.3 AF**

Town of Ridgway's Projected Annual Demand Volume
2021 - 2050



WATER SUPPLY STRATEGIES

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

➤ **Increase Storage**

- Storage is highly valuable. It provides flexibility by storing water when hydrologic conditions are abundant and releasing water when natural flows are not physically or legally available.

➤ **Acquire Water Rights**

- To be of value, the water right must be physically and legally available when the Town needs it.

➤ **Develop a Plan for Augmentation**

- Replace depletive impact instead of diversion impact.

The background features several large, semi-transparent hexagons in light blue and light green. A thick black horizontal bar is positioned at the bottom of the slide.

Findings and Recommendations

KEY FINDINGS

HISTORICAL HYDROLOGY

- If the Ridgway Ditch is managed such that the Town receives its full entitlement decreed to the senior 2 cfs priority or system losses are improved, then the total 2050 municipal demand at high growth can be met.
- If operations continue without changes in how the Ridgway Ditch is managed or without improving system losses, the total 2050 municipal demand at high growth will not be met, and water supply gaps will start in 2039.
- Under all modeled conditions, the Town's potable water supply could be met through 2050.

KEY FINDINGS

CLIMATE CHANGE HYDROLOGY

- If the Ridgway Ditch is managed such that the Town receives its full entitlement decreed to the senior 2 cfs priority, then the total 2050 municipal demand at high growth can be met.
- If operations continue without changes in how the Ridgway Ditch is managed, the total 2050 municipal demand at high growth will not be met, and water supply gaps will start in 2034. If system losses are improved the water supply gaps will not start until 2047.
- Under all modeled conditions, the Town's potable water supply could be met through 2050.

RECOMMENDATIONS

DATA IMPROVEMENTS

➤ **Production Records**

- Verify the accuracy of meters at the WTP & continue to replace customer's meters.

➤ **Lake Otonowanda Records**

- Implement best management practices to ensure that quality data is being collected, especially during the winter.

➤ **Ridgway Ditch Diversion Records**

- Consider installing monitoring equipment near the headgate diversion in order to obtain diversion data more frequently.

RECOMMENDATIONS

LEGAL AVAILABILITY

➤ **Ridgway Ditch Operations**

- Consider implementing guidelines and practices that set forth how the Town manages its senior priority, so that other users are limited at times when the Town needs its full entitlement.

➤ **Cottonwood Creek Administration**

- Continue to monitor streamflow conditions near the confluence of Cottonwood Creek and the Uncompahgre River.

RECOMMENDATIONS

DEVELOPMENT CODE

➤ **Adequate Water Supply Rules**

- Consider modifying the existing code to be more in line with the “typical” development within the Town’s service area.

➤ **Raw Water Demand**

- When properties apply to be annexed into the Town’s service area, the Town should examine potential opportunities to acquire water rights decreed to irrigate the annexed land and promote the continuance of raw water irrigation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

➤ **Ouray County's Water Court Case**

- Continue to actively engage with the County, as it relates to the potential to increase the exchange capacity in the reaches above Ridgway Reservoir.

➤ **Water Right Clean-Up**

- Consider hiring a water rights attorney to resolve any ambiguity related to the Town's ability to divert its 3.0 cfs ownership in the Priority 131 of the Ridgway Ditch.

RECOMMENDATIONS

KEEP AN EYE ON

➤ **Climate Change Considerations**

- Continue to monitor water supply planning and modeling efforts at the state and basin wide level. Specifically, improvements related to the effect of dust on snow.

➤ **Funding and Grants**

- Continue to investigate how to access potential funding opportunities: the Colorado Water Plan, Gunnison Basin Roundtable.