



COLORADO
Division of Water Resources
Department of Natural Resources

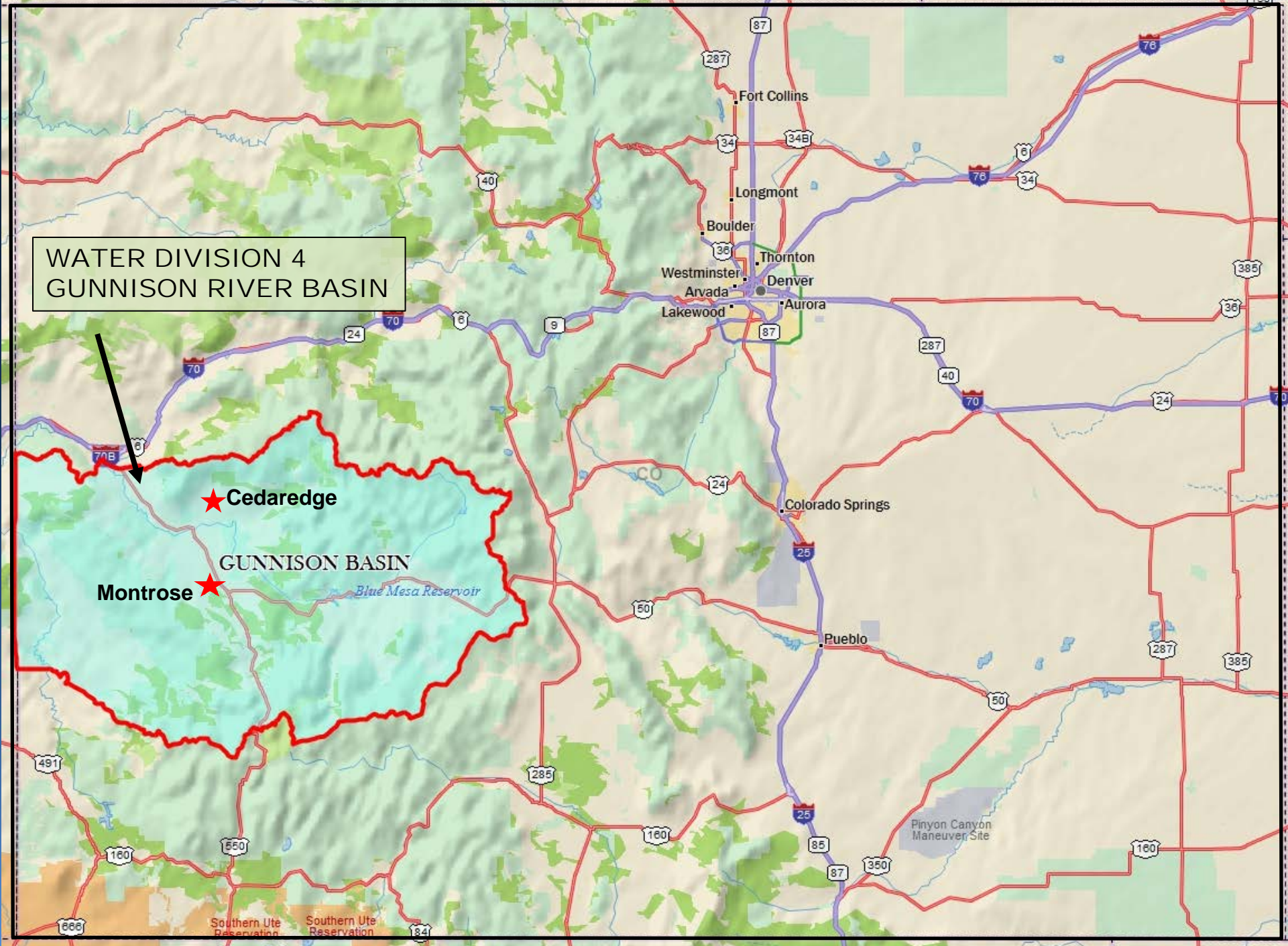
*Gunnison State of the River Meeting
Montrose Event Center
March 20, 2023*

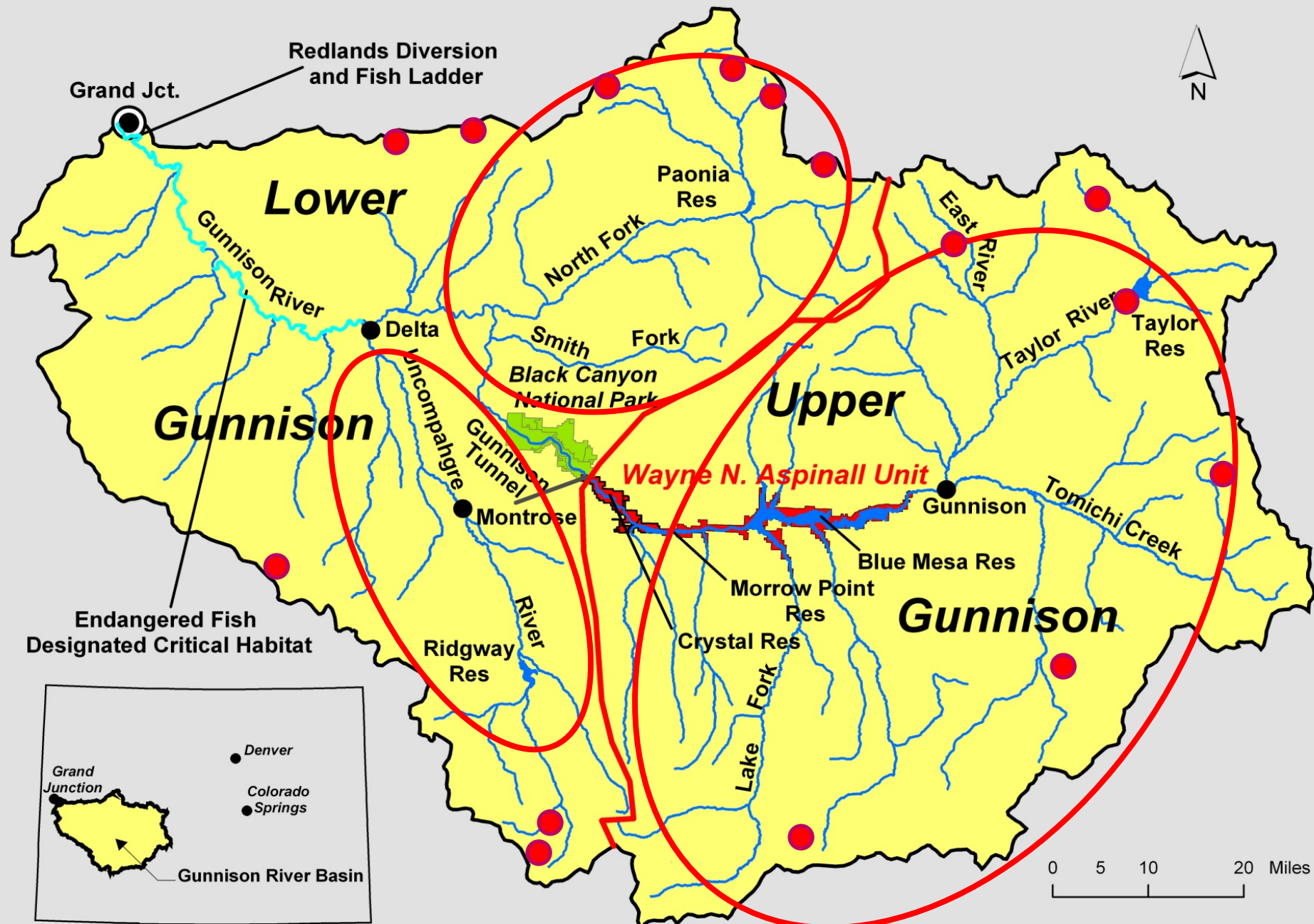
*DIVISION ENGINEER
WATER SUPPLY UPDATE*

Bob W. Hurford, P.E.
Division Engineer

- Lay of the Land and Basin wide Conditions
- Blue Mesa Reservoir
 - Snow Conditions in the Upper Gunnison
 - The Spring Runoff Forecast as of today
- Blue Mesa Spring Reservoir Operations and Storage Management
- Ridgway Reservoir Status and Uncompahgre River Forecast
- North Fork Gunnison River Forecast
- A closer look at the Uncompahgre Plateau
- Weather Outlook

WATER DIVISION 4
GUNNISON RIVER BASIN

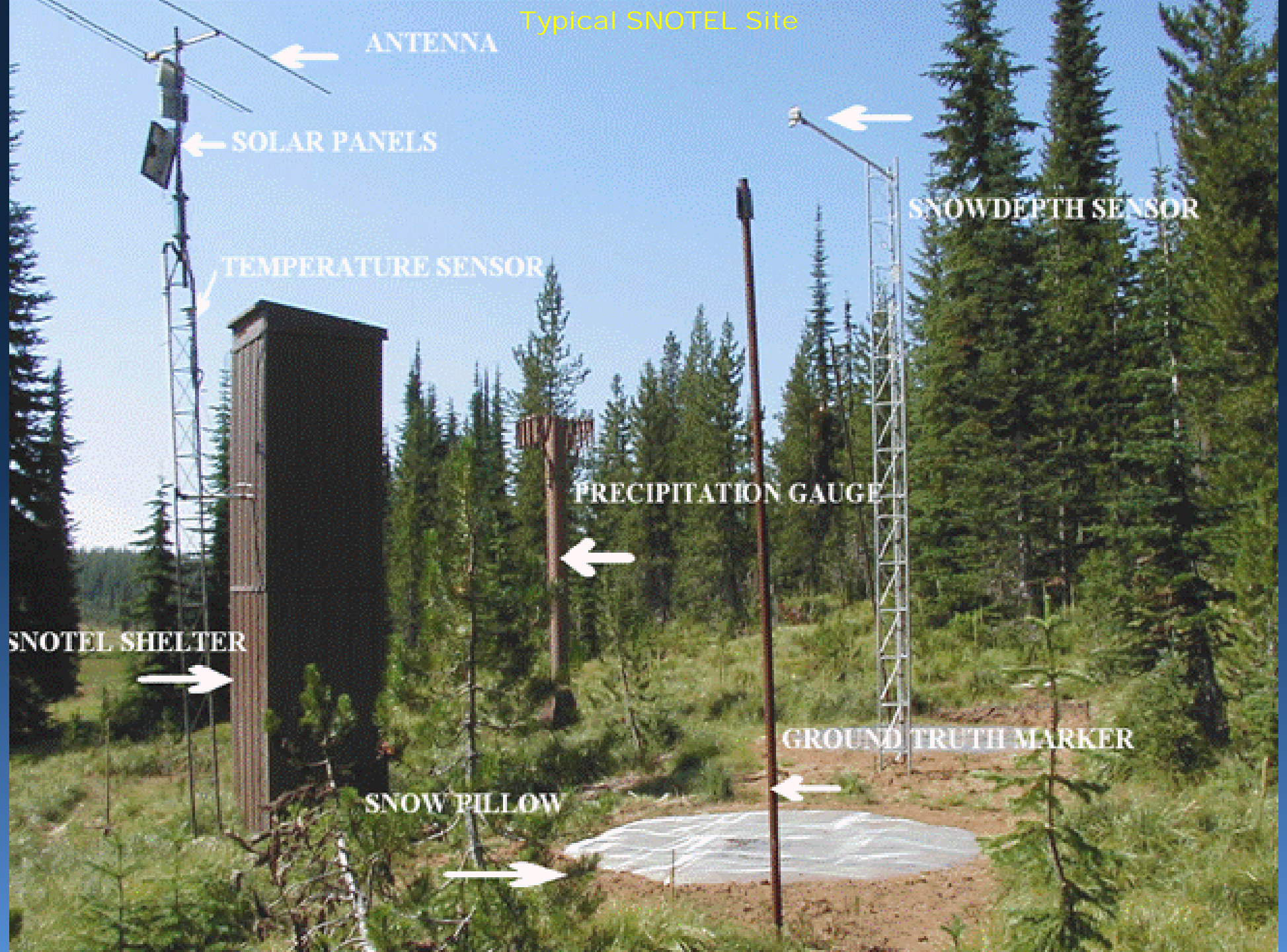




Location Map (State of Colorado)

Figure 1. Gunnison River Basin

Typical SNOTEL Site



ANTENNA

SOLAR PANELS

TEMPERATURE SENSOR

SNOWDEPTH SENSOR

PRECIPITATION GAUGE

SNOTEL SHELTER

GROUND TRUTH MARKER

SNOW PILLOW



Blue Mesa 2007- 649,140 AF 10/31/07

Full Storage = 940,700 AF

Full Active Storage = 829,500 AF

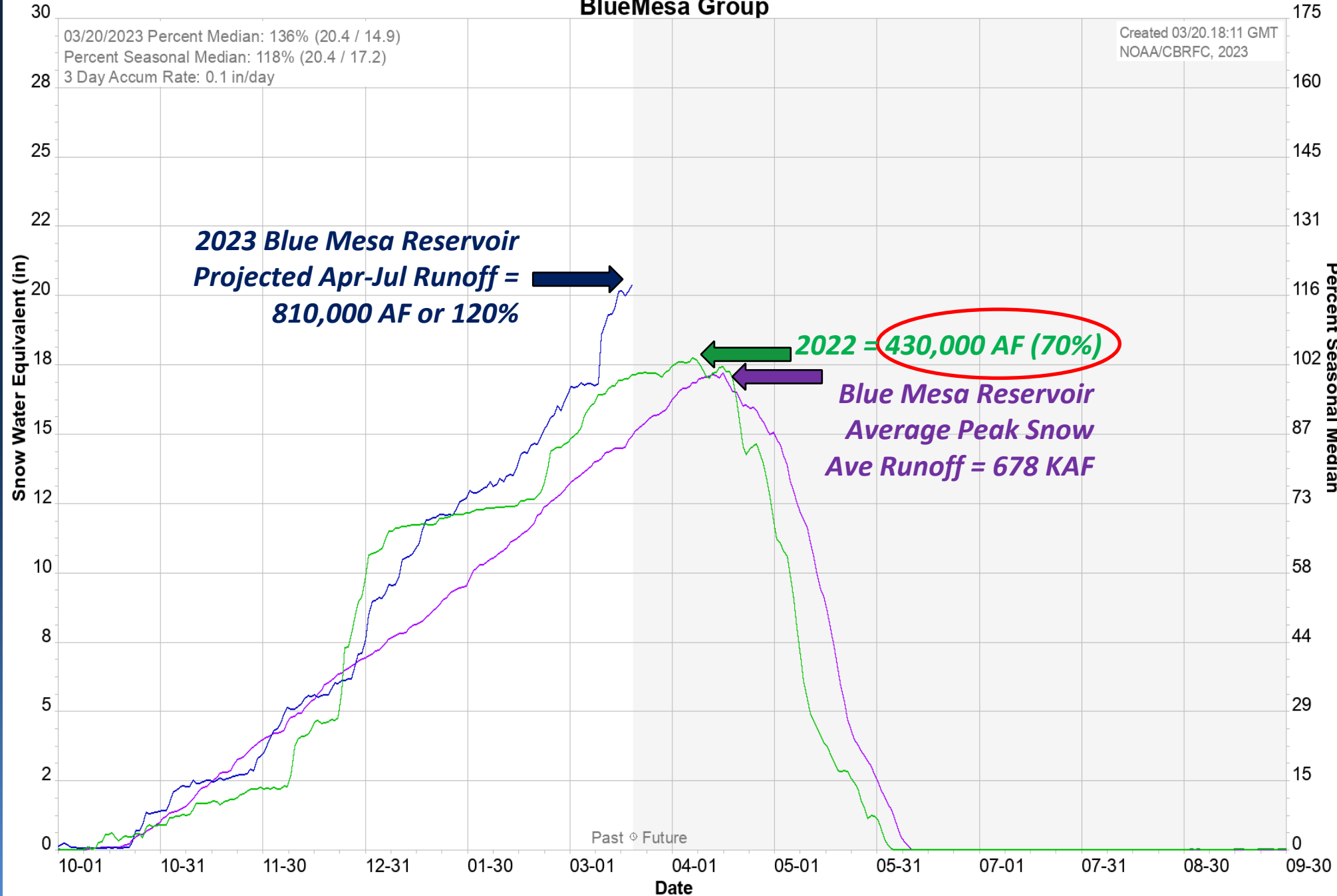


Blue Mesa 2022 - 267,631 AF 10/31/2022



Colorado Basin River Forecast Center
BlueMesa Group

Created 03/20, 18:11 GMT
NOAA/CBRFC, 2023



03/20/2023 Percent Median: 136% (20.4 / 14.9)
Percent Seasonal Median: 118% (20.4 / 17.2)
3 Day Accum Rate: 0.1 in/day

**2023 Blue Mesa Reservoir
Projected Apr-Jul Runoff = 810,000 AF or 120%**

2022 = 430,000 AF (70%)

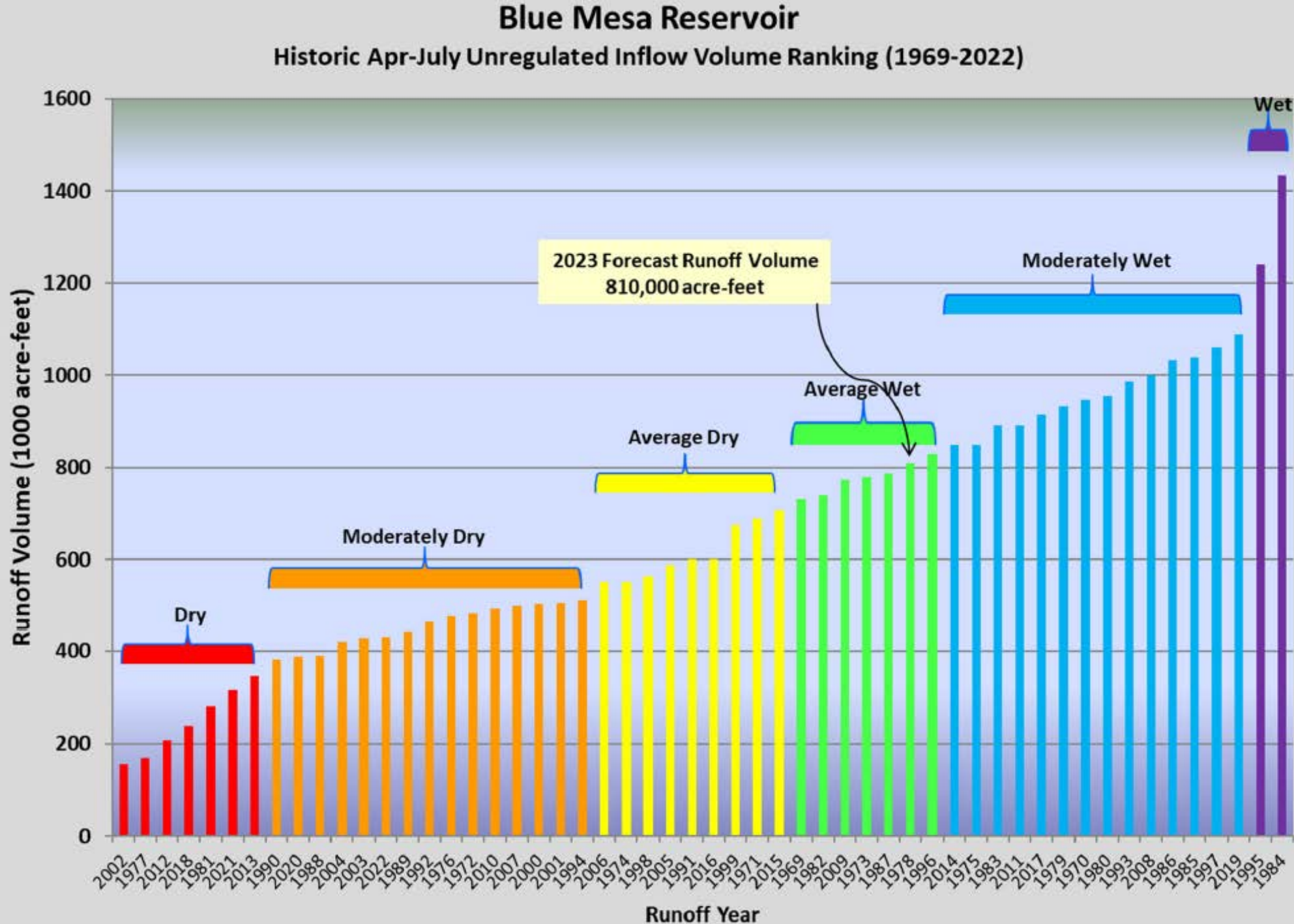
**Blue Mesa Reservoir
Average Peak Snow
Ave Runoff = 678 KAF**

Median 1991-2020 — 2023 — 2022 —

**Blue Mesa
Water Supply
2023**

**2022 snowpack
was 103%
2023 stands at
118% of season
total**

**Aspinall Unit
Operations
Based on
3/19/2023
Runoff Forecast
for Apr- Jul 2023**



Peak flow amounts for Lower Gunnison River and Black Canyon for 2023

Spring Peak & Duration Targets Based on Hydrologic Year Type

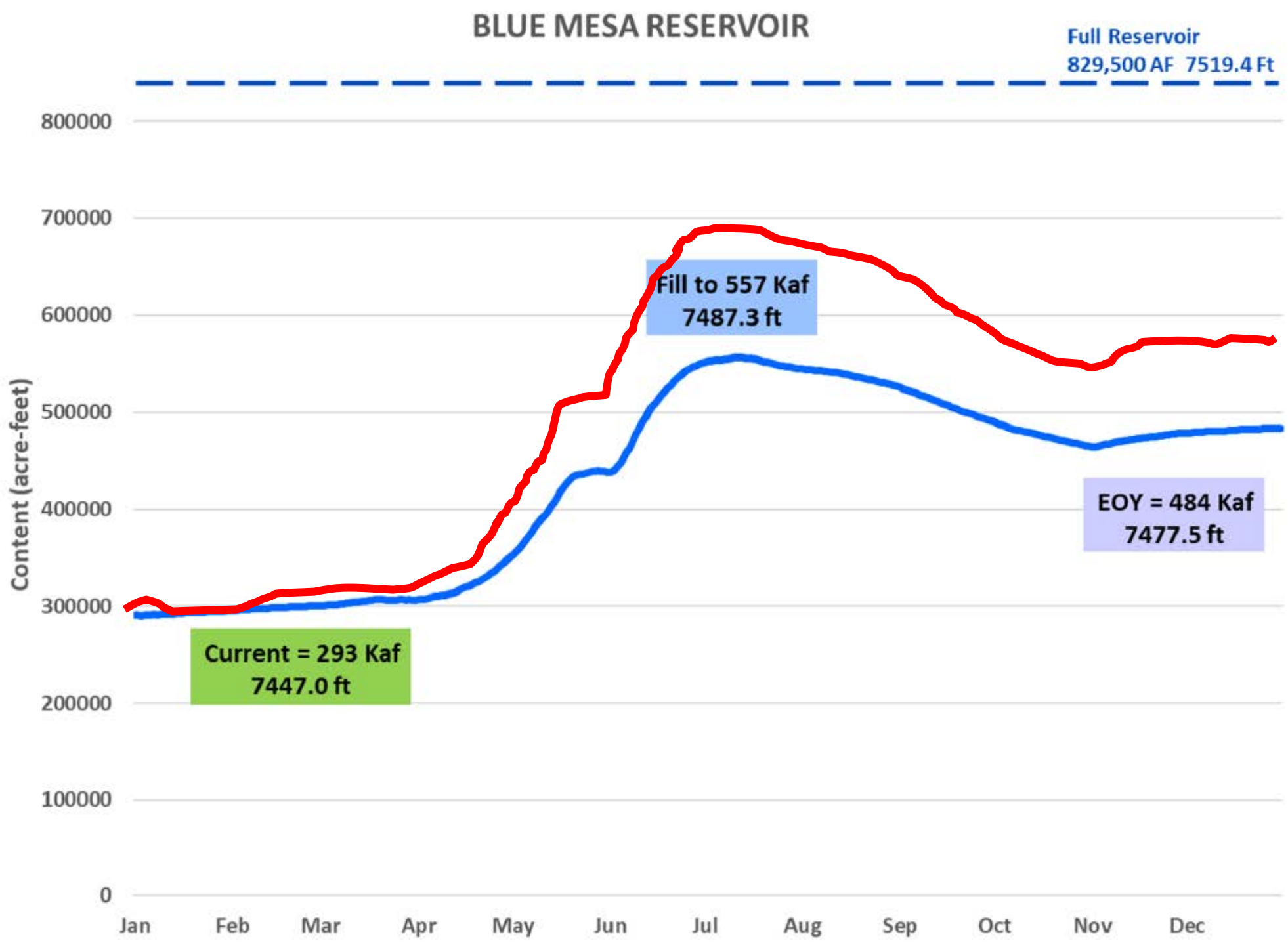
**Mar 15
810,000**



Year Type	Blue Mesa Forecasted April-July Inflow Af	Desired Peak at Whitewater cfs	Duration of Half Bank (8,070 cfs) Days	Duration of Peak Flow (up to 14,350 cfs) Days
DRY	< 381,000	900	0	0
MOD DRY	381,000 to 516,000	2,600 to 8,070	0	0
AVG DRY	516,001 to 709,000	8,070	10	0
AVG WET	709,001 to 831,000	8,070 to 14,350	20	2
MOD WET	831,001 to 1,123,000	14,350	40	10
WET	>1,123,000	14,350	60	15

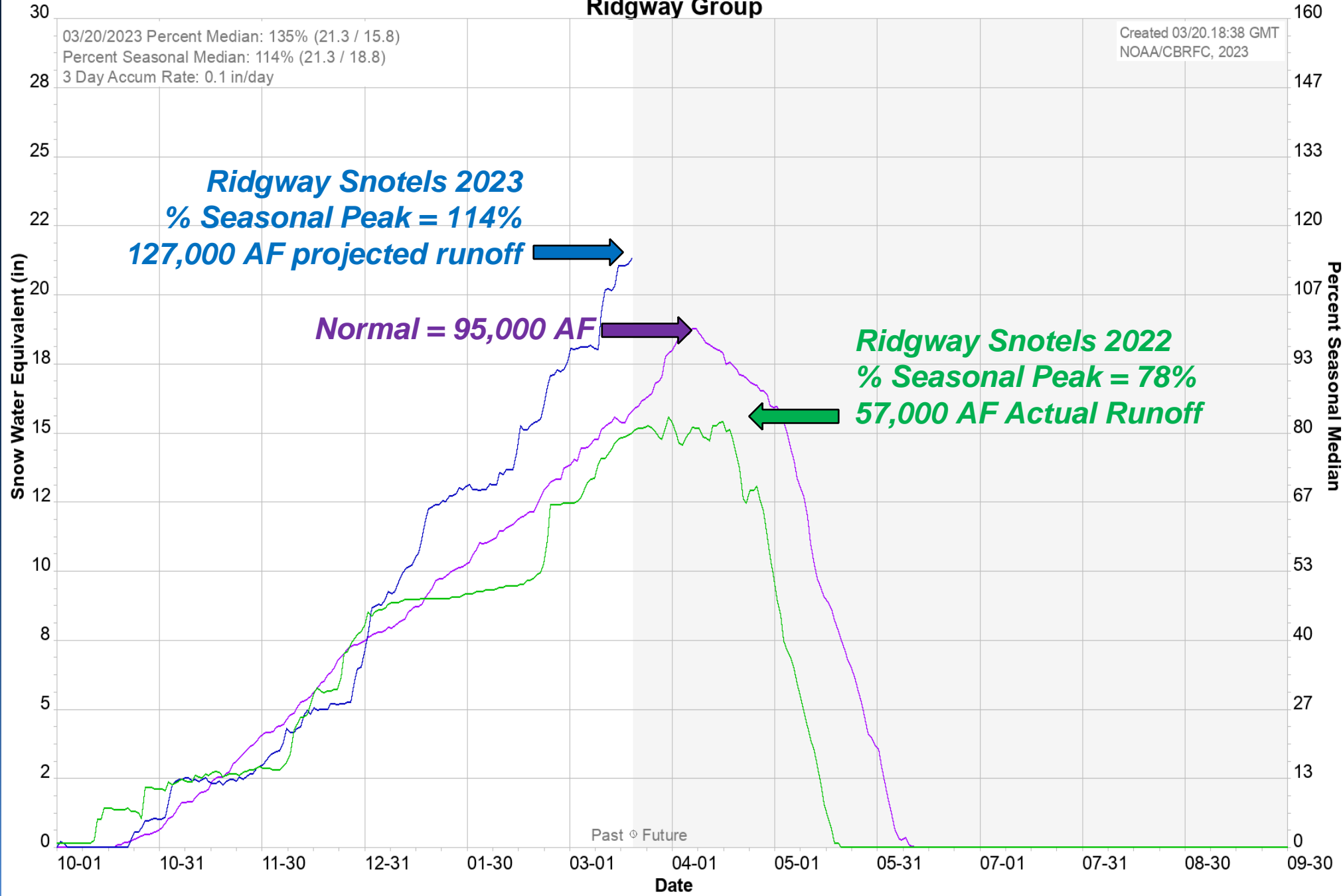


**Blue Mesa fill
projection and
end of year
elevation for
2023**



Snowpack above Ridgway Res.

Colorado Basin River Forecast Center Ridgway Group



Ridgway Res. Content

Mar 20, 2023 = 69,880 AF

March 19 Forecast

Apr – Jul

Runoff = 127,000 AF

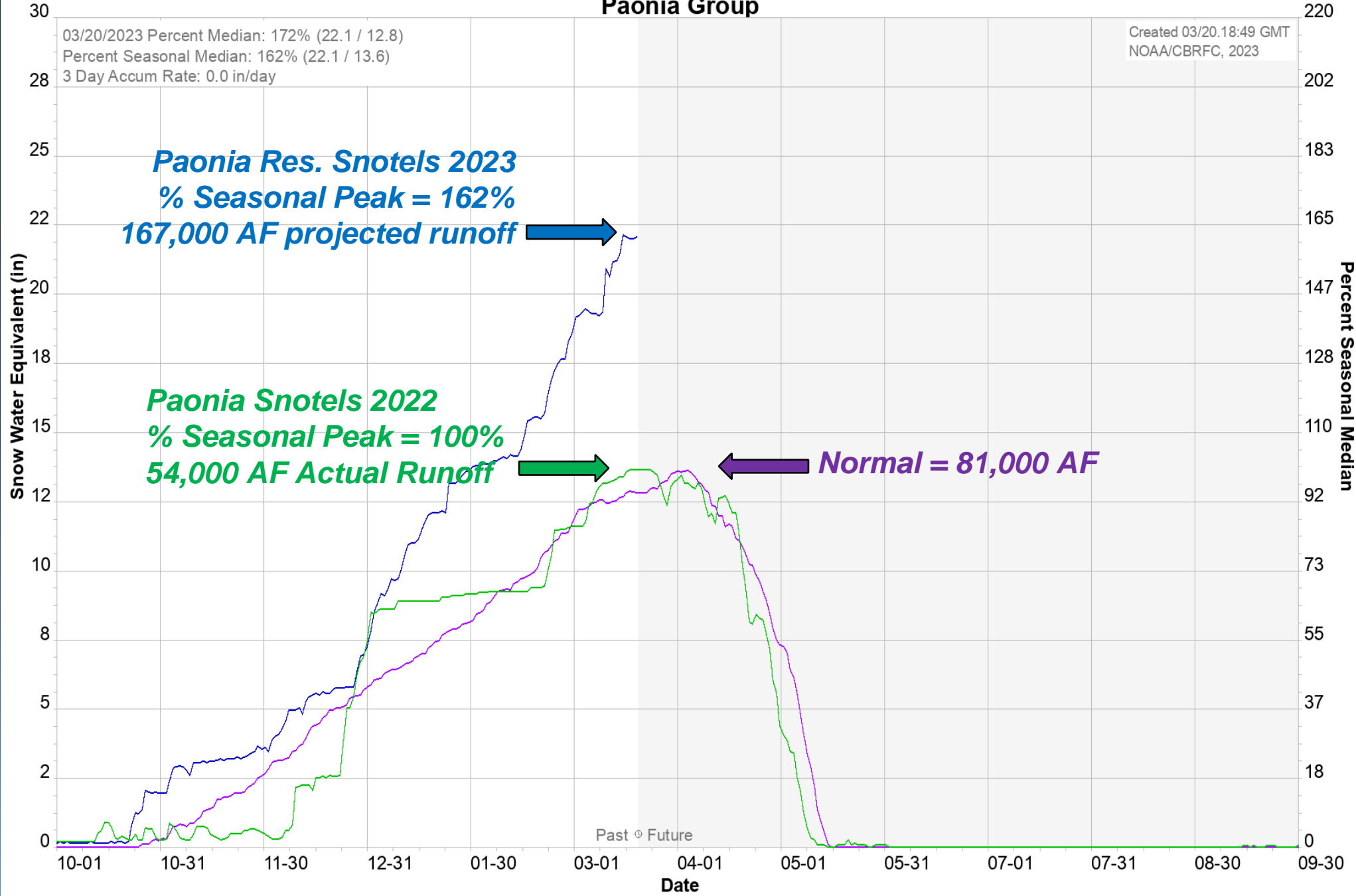
Ridgway Reservoir

Full Reservoir
= 84,400 AF



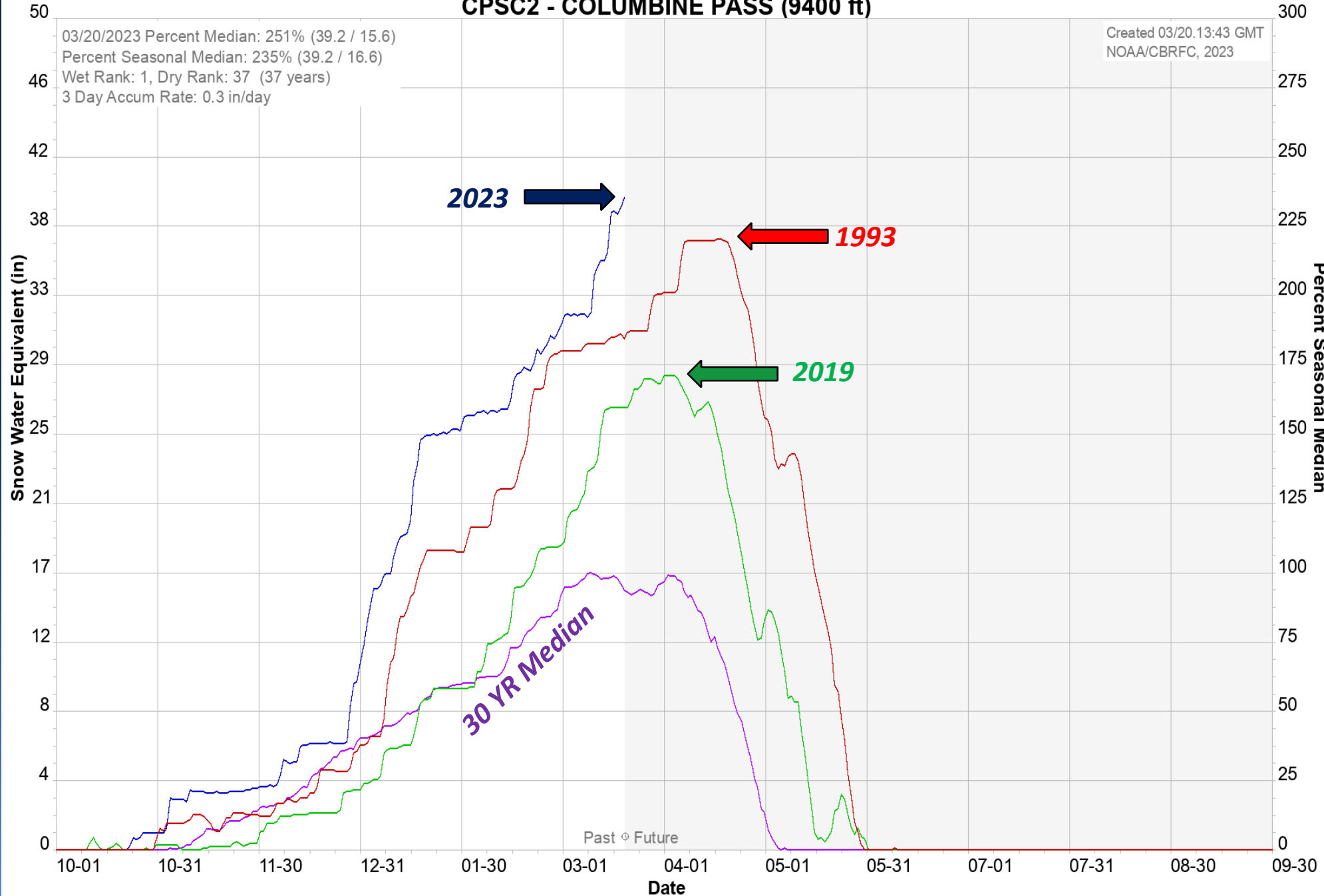
Snowpack above North Fork Gunnison River 2023

Colorado Basin River Forecast Center Paonia Group



**Snowpack on the
Uncompahgre
Plateau 2023
235% of season
peak**

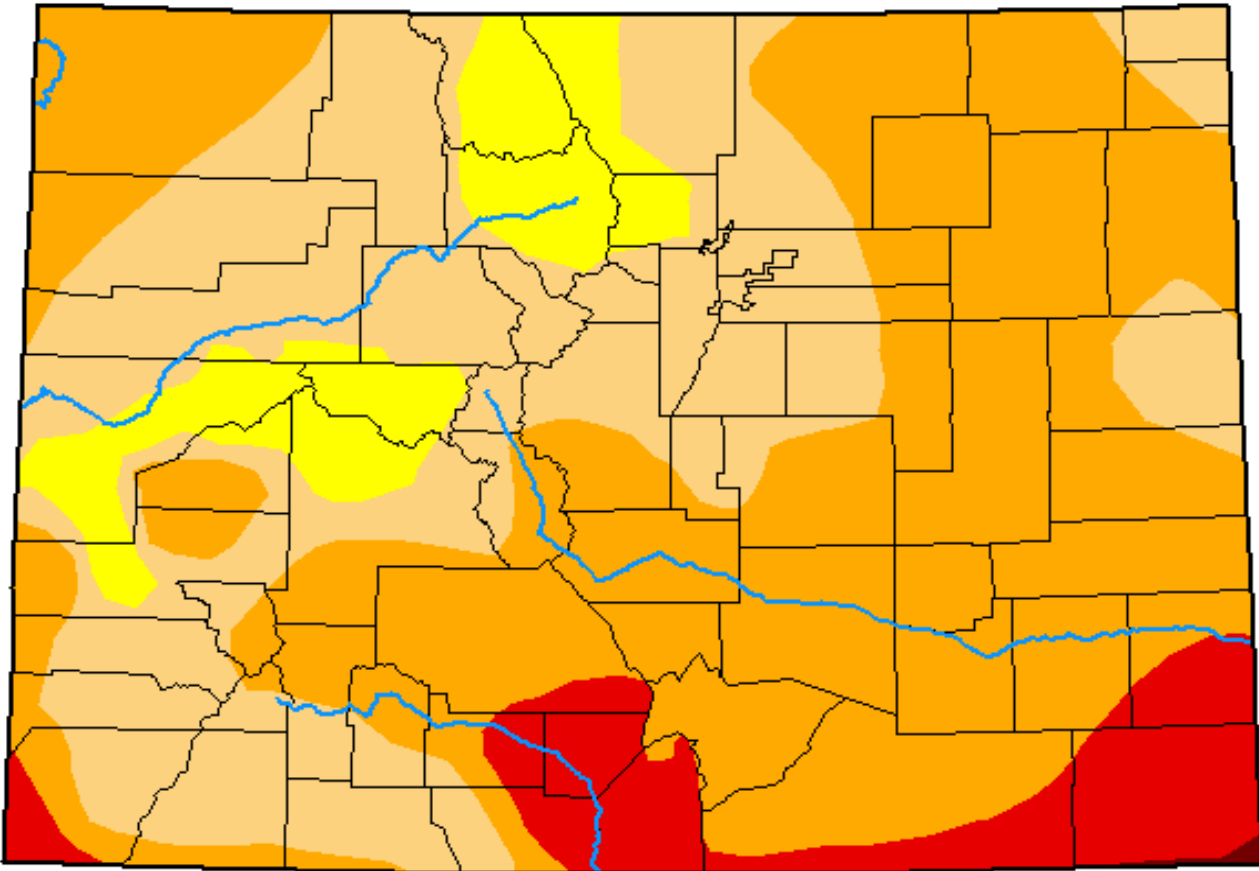
**Colorado Basin River Forecast Center
CPSC2 - COLUMBINE PASS (9400 ft)**



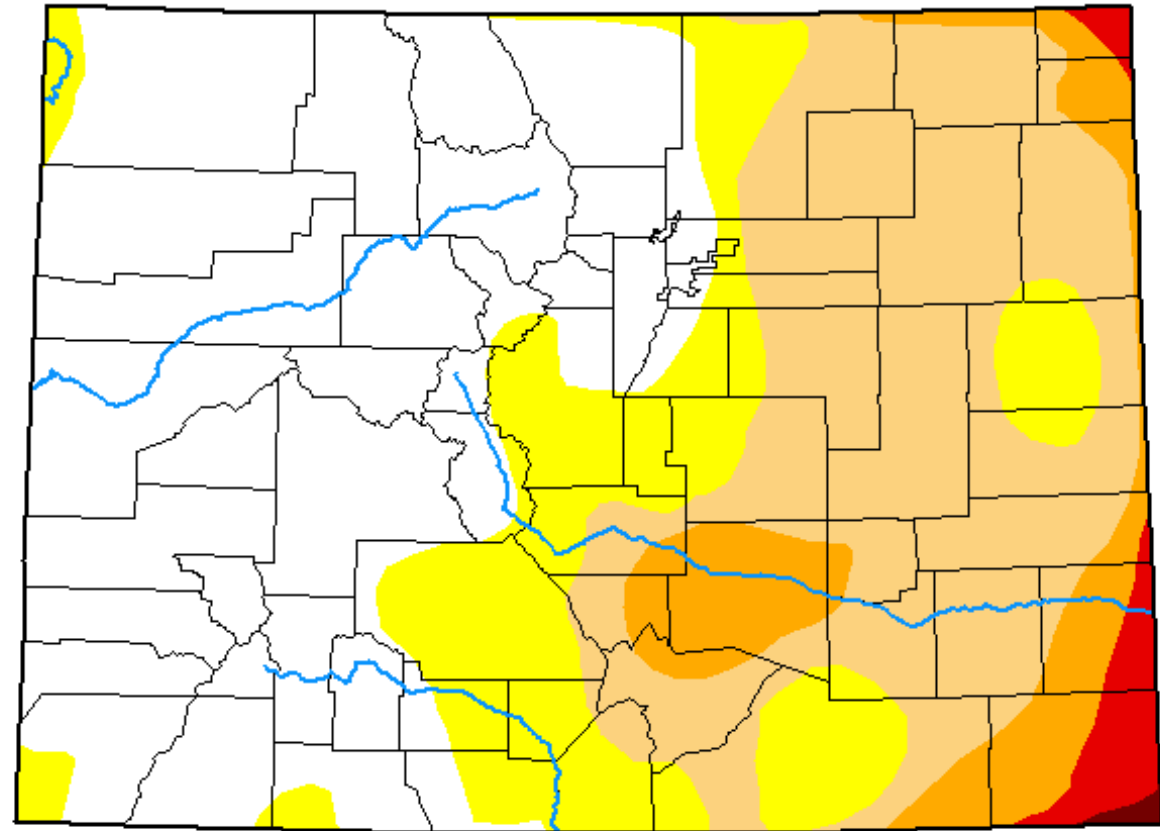
Median 1991-2020 — 2023 — 2019 — 1993 —

U.S. Drought Monitor for Colorado

COLORADO
March 15, 2022



COLORADO
March 14, 2023



6-10 Day Temp and Precip. Outlook



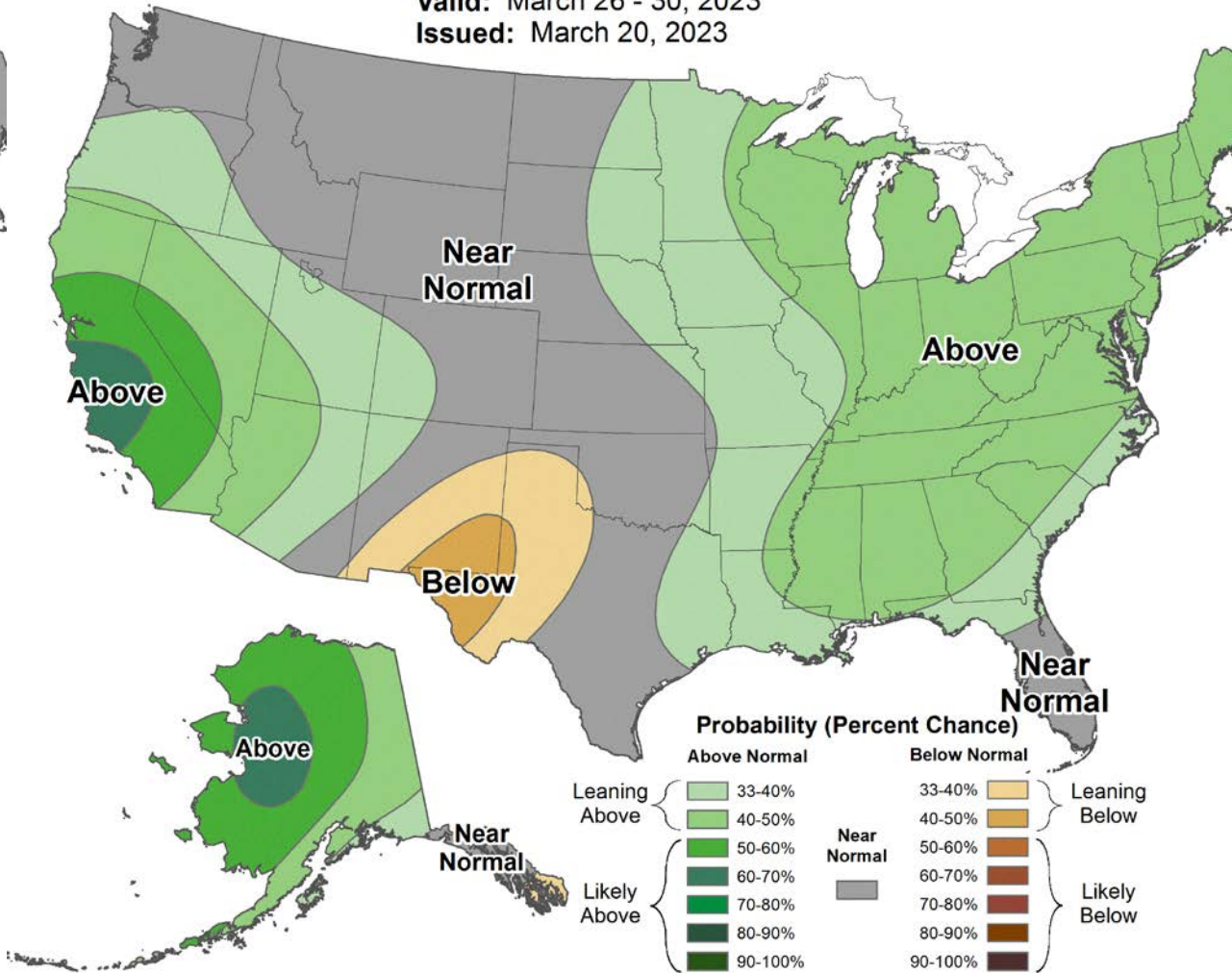
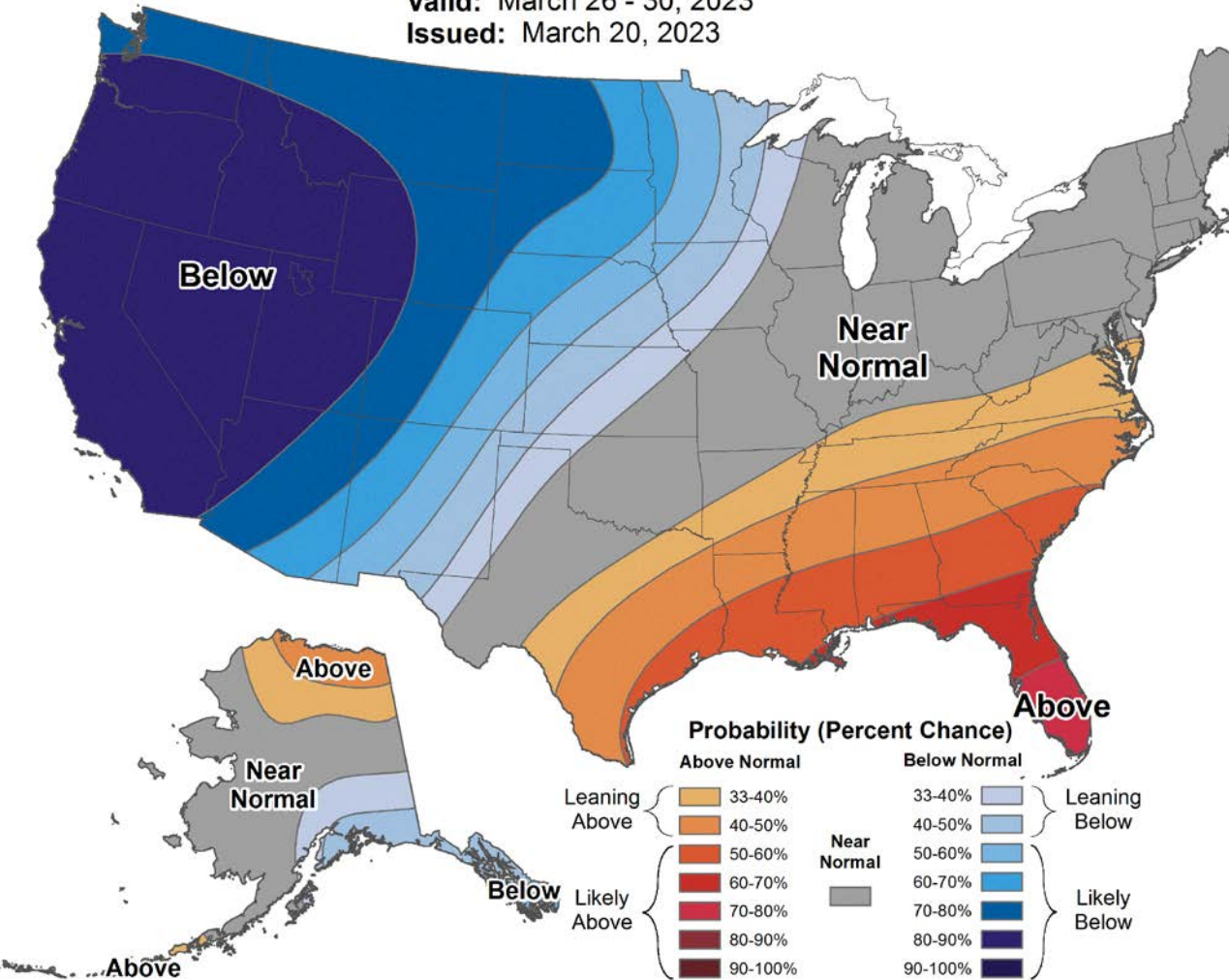
6-10 Day Temperature Outlook

Valid: March 26 - 30, 2023
 Issued: March 20, 2023



6-10 Day Precipitation Outlook

Valid: March 26 - 30, 2023
 Issued: March 20, 2023



THANKS FOR LISTENING
QUESTIONS PLEASE