

*Colorado River District*  
*State of the River - White River Basin*

April 5, 2023

Erin Light, P.E.  
Division 6 Engineer



**COLORADO**  
Division of Water Resources  
Department of Natural Resources

# Water Outlook

Snowpack

Streamflows

In Other News

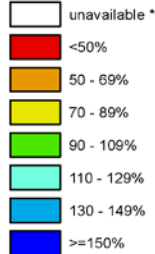


# Colorado SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) % of Normal

Apr 01, 2023

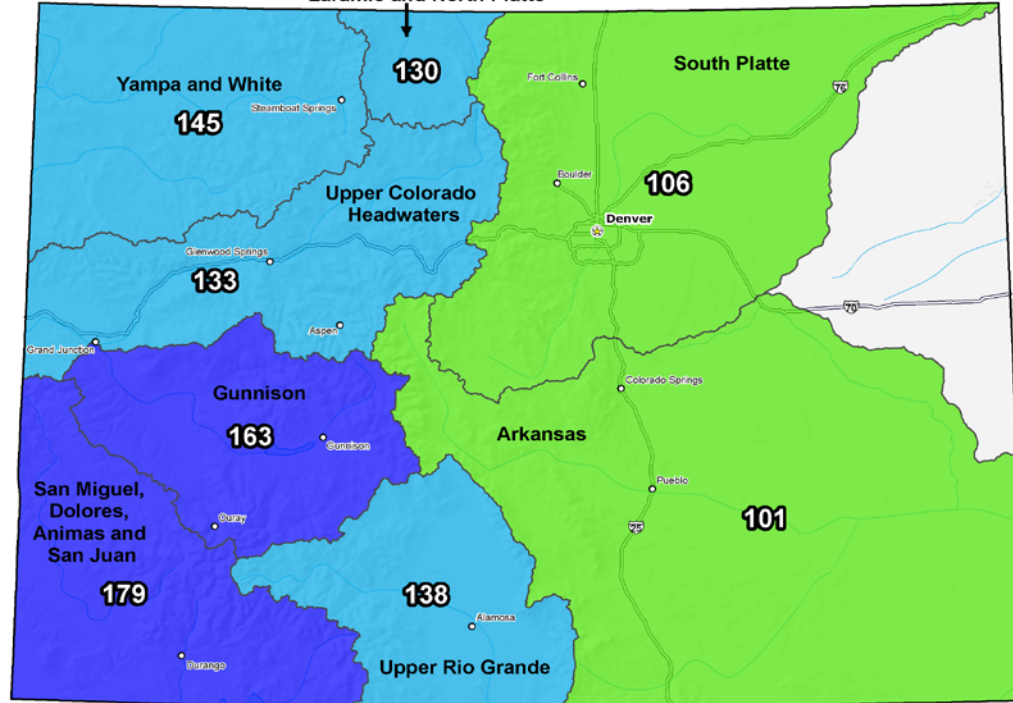
Laramie and North Platte

Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) Basin-wide Percent of 1991-2020 Median



\* Data unavailable at time of posting or measurement is not representative at this time of year

Provisional Data  
Subject to Revision



The snow water equivalent percent of normal represents the current snow water equivalent found at selected SNOTEL sites in or near the basin compared to the average value for those sites on this day. Data based on the first reading of the day (typically 00:00).

Prepared by:  
USDA/NRCS National Water and Climate Center  
Portland, Oregon  
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/wcc/home/>

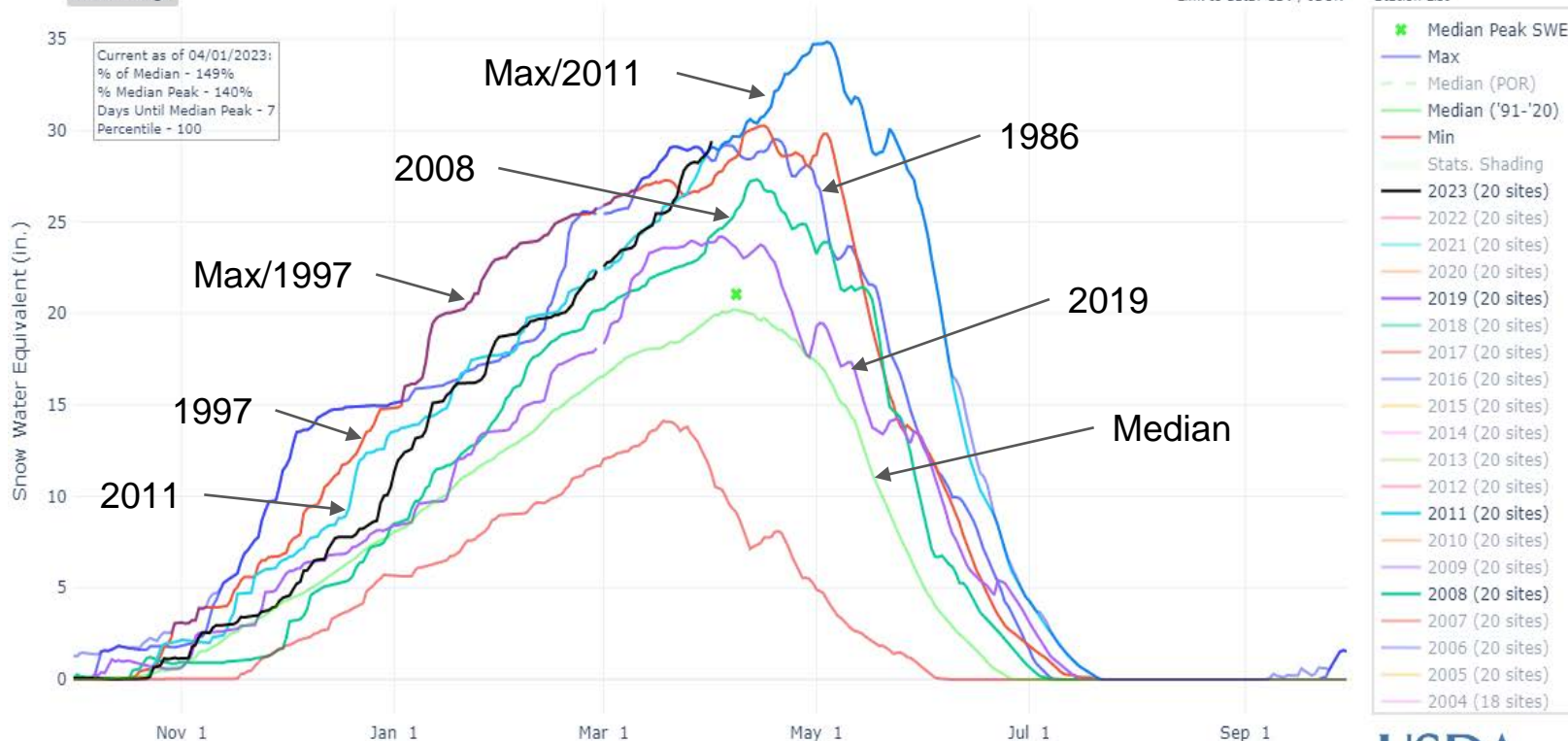


# SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN YAMPA-WHITE-LITTLE SNAKE

Reset Range

[Link to data: CSV / JSON](#)

Station List

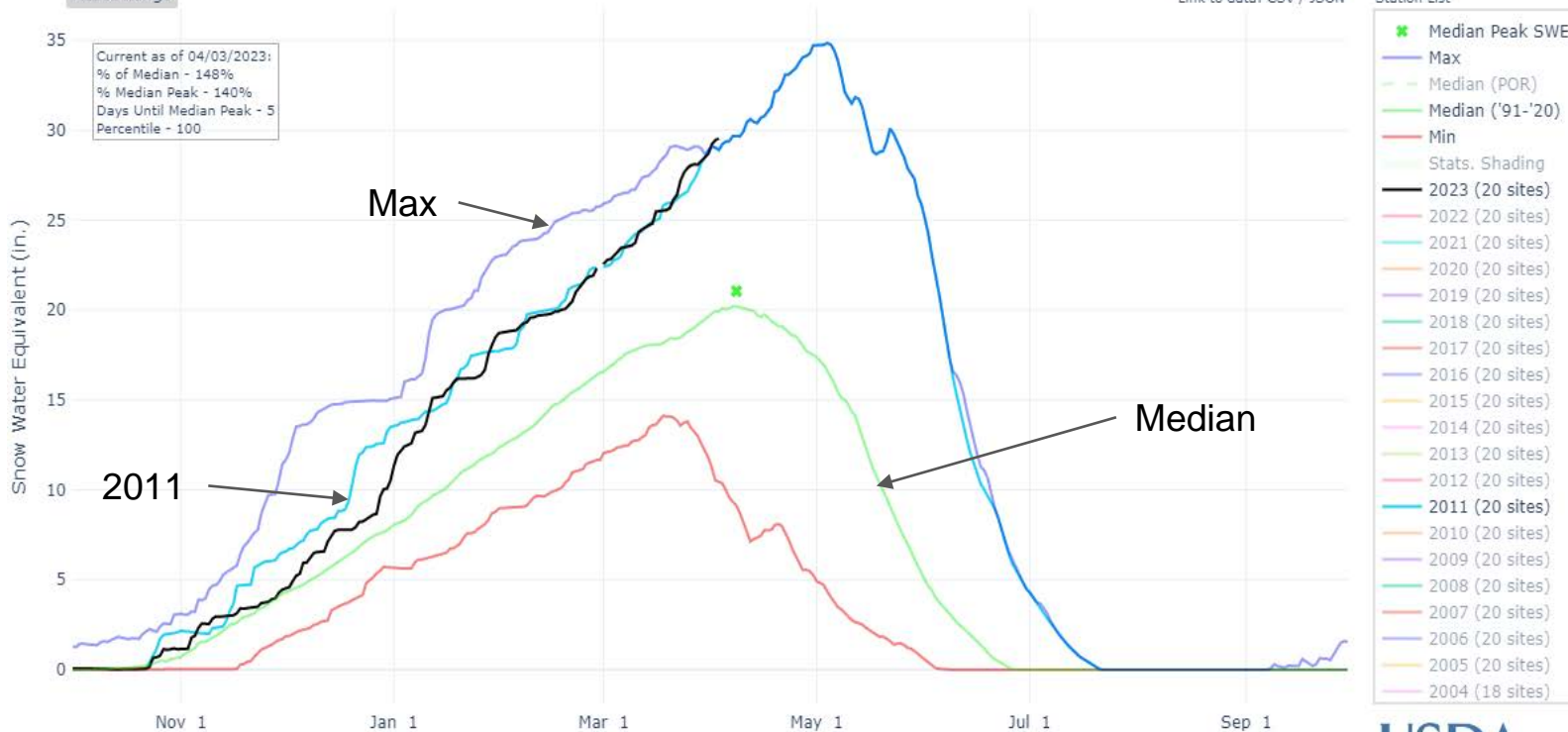


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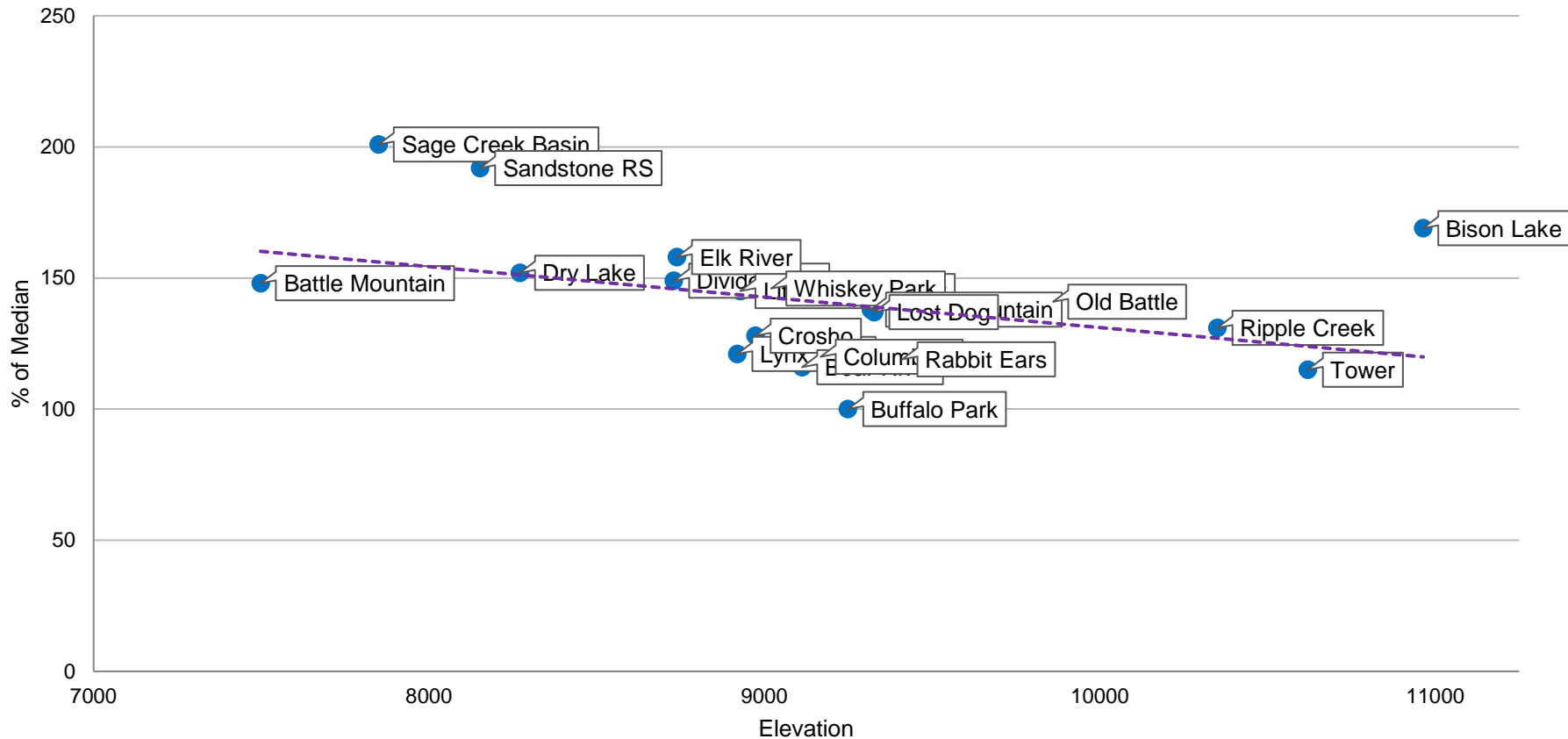


## Individual White River Snotel Sites

Site Name	Elev.	% of Median
Bison Lake	10,964	179
Burro Mtn	9,317	144
Ripple Creek	10,350	140
Trapper Lake	9,759	*
White Basin Avg		154
All Basin Avg		145



# Elevation vs. % of Median - 2023





March 2011



March 2023



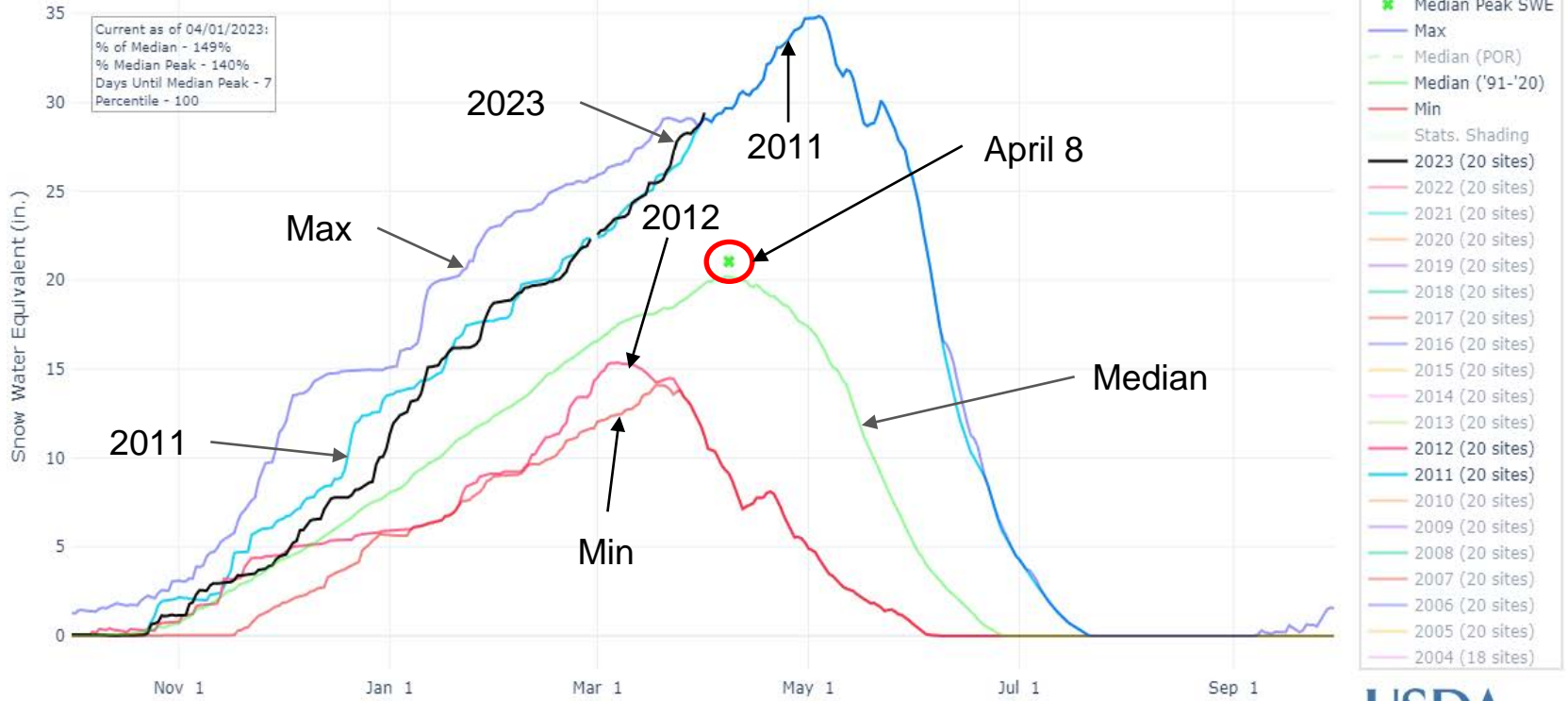


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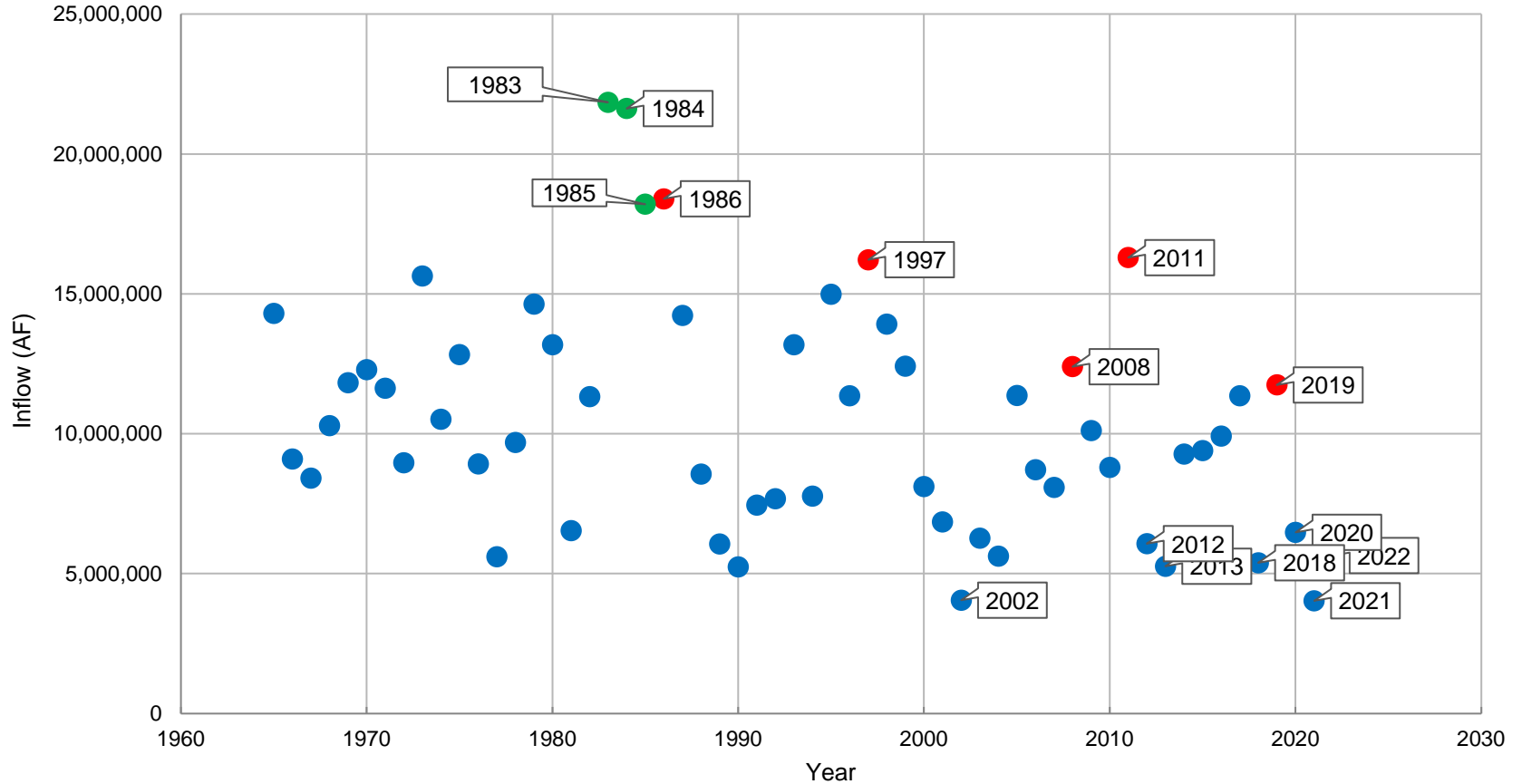


March 2012

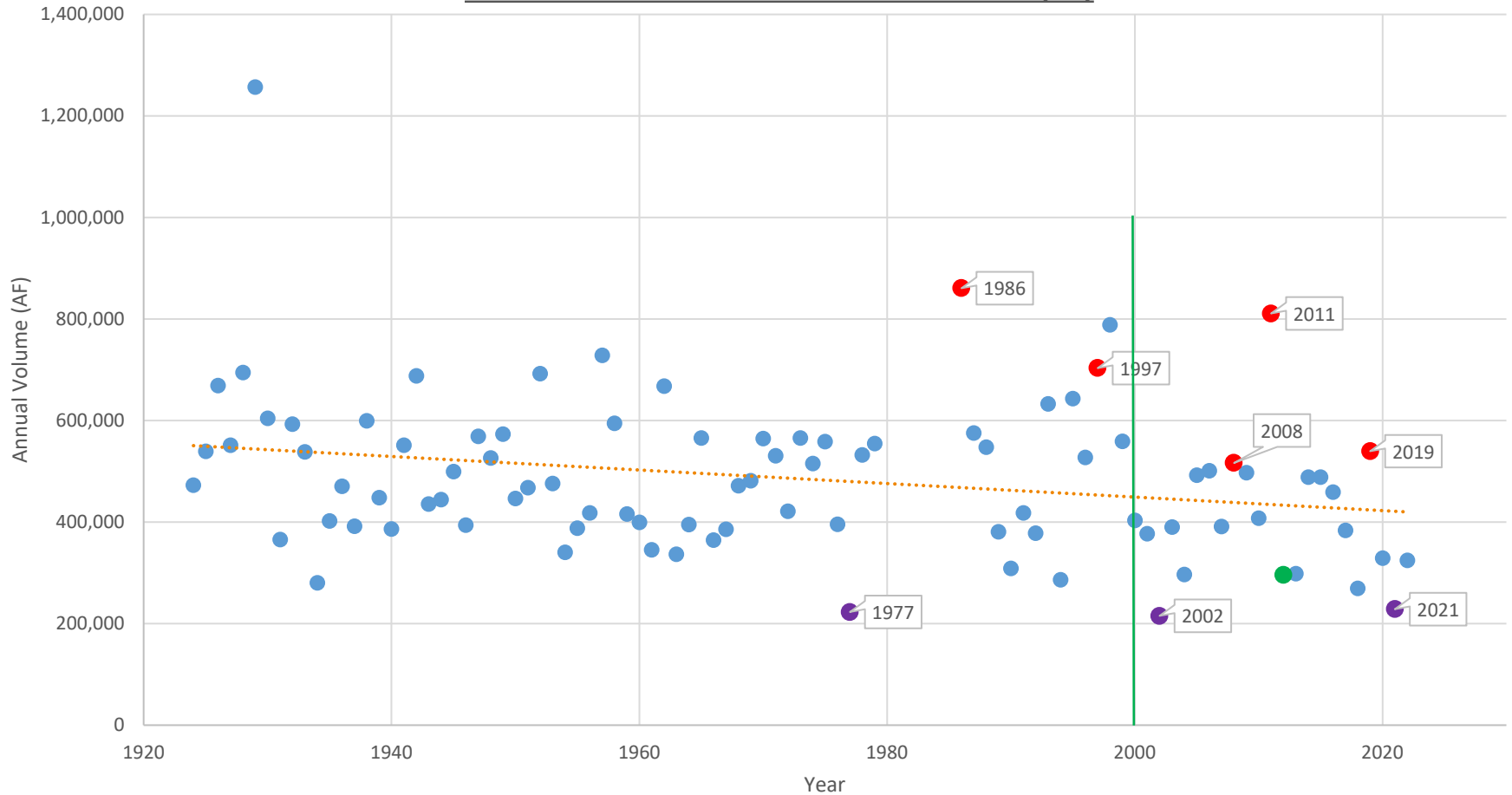


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# Lake Powell Annual Inflow (AF)



# White River near Watson - Annual Volume (AF)

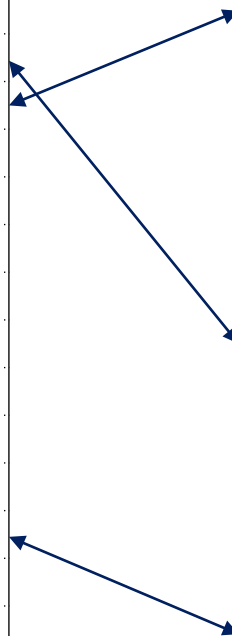


## White River near Watson, UT - Maximum Annual Volumes

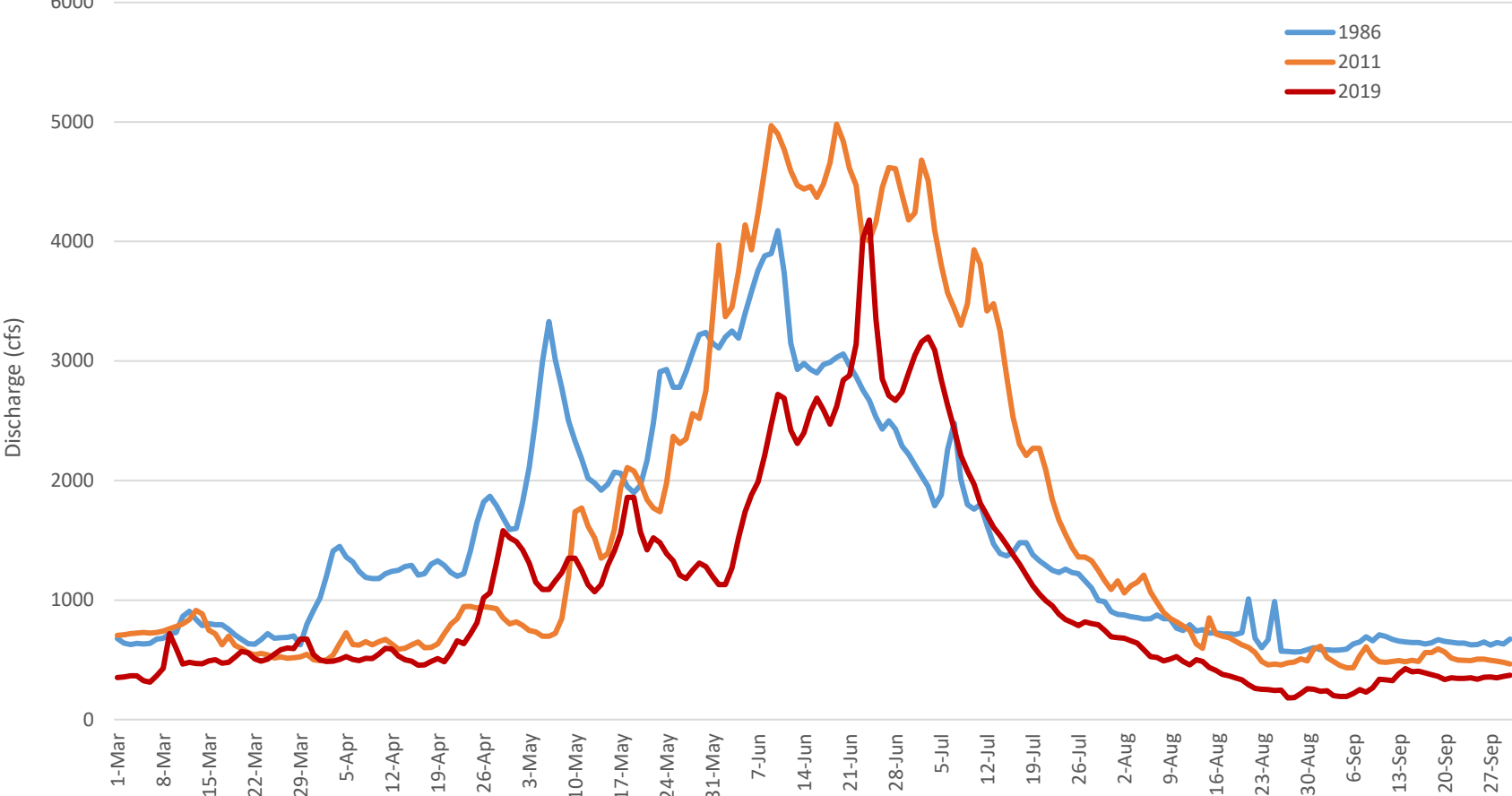
Rank	Year	Avg Q (AF)
1	1929	1,256,807
2	1986	860,797
3	2011	810,843
4	1998	788,400
5	1957	728,311
6	1997	703,406
7	1928	694,357
8	1952	692,474
9	1942	687,913
10	1926	668,728
33	2019	539,645
39	2008	527,700
N/A	1983	No Data
N/A	1984	No Data
N/A	1985	No Data
Historic Average		486,194

## Yampa River Near Maybell - Maximum Annual Volumes

Rank	Year	Avg Q (AF)
1	2011	2,247,193
2	1984	2,190,000
3	1917	2,134,255
4	1929	2,024,936
5	1997	1,853,355
6	1921	1,802,678
7	1957	1,780,959
8	1986	1,712,182
9	1985	1,646,301
10	1983	1,575,352
11	1920	1,569,560
12	1996	1,563,769
13	1998	1,550,737
14	2008	1,515,263
23	2019	1,379,157
Historic Average		1,110,581



# White River near Watson, UT - Historic Flows



# Status of Reservoirs

## Yampa River - March 2023

- Stillwater Reservoir - ~950 AF (23%)
- Yamcolo Reservoir - 5,828 AF (60%)
- Stagecoach Reservoir - 27,090 AF (74%)
- Fish Creek Reservoir - 1785.55 AF (42.8%)
- Elkhead Creek Reservoir - 17,946 AF (72%)

## White River - March 2023

- Lake Avery - Approx. Full
- Taylor Draw - Approx. Full



## Administrative Calls in 2011

- Talamantes Creek tributary to Vermillion Creek of the Green River
- West Fish Creek tributary to Fish Creek tributary to Trout Creek of the Yampa River.

There were no calls on the:

- Bear River
- Little Bear Creek tributary to Fortification Creek
- Fortification Creek
- Piceance Creek



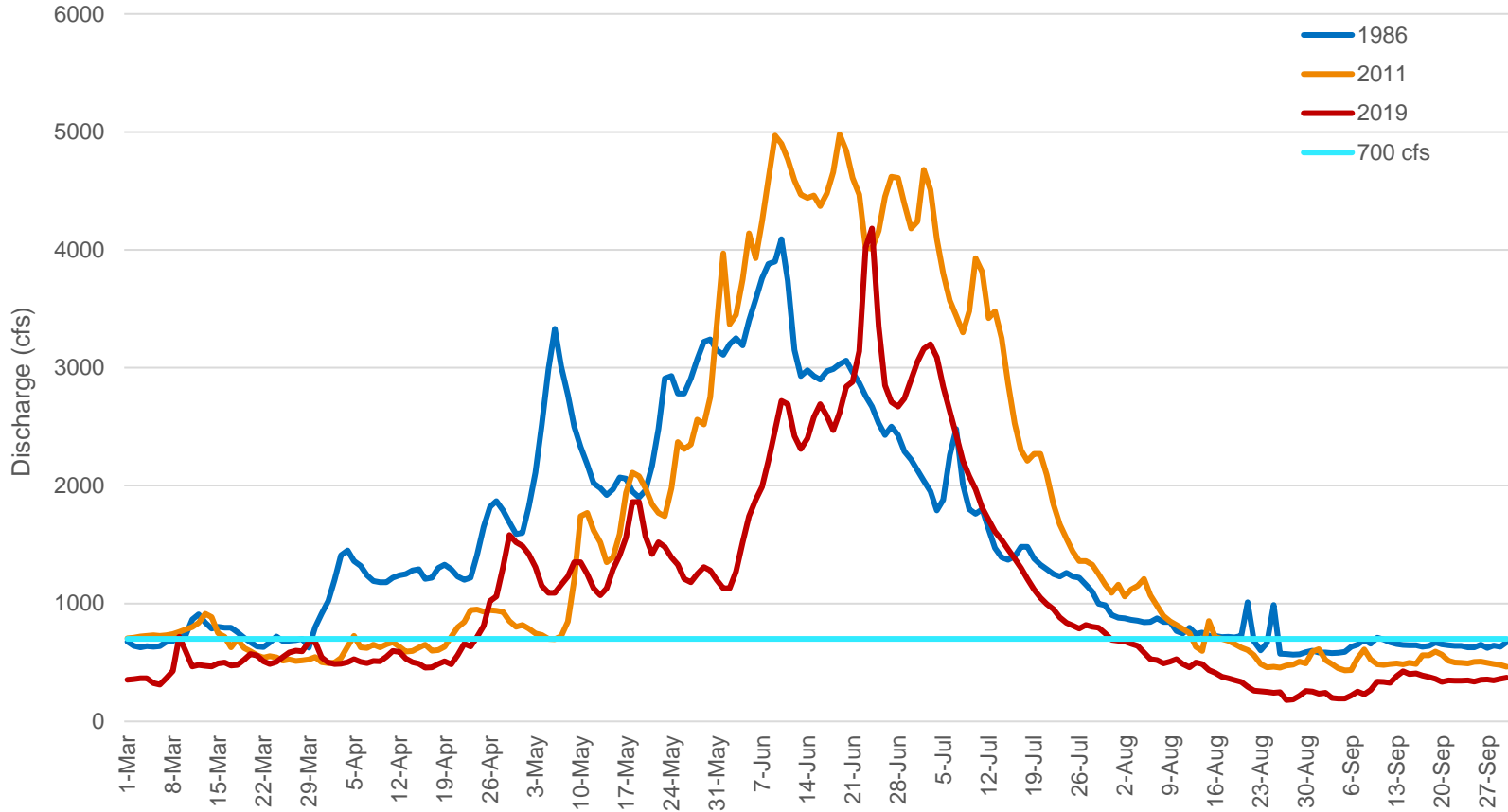


# Predictions

- Stillwater\*, Yamcolo, Stagecoach, Fish Creek and Elkhead Creek Reservoirs will fill to capacity
- WY 2023 Annual Volume of water past Watson gage will exceed 750,000 acre-feet
- Only calls will be on Talamantes Creek and the White River\*



# White River near Watson, UT - Historic Flows



# In Other News

Upcoming Project  
Measurement Rules  
Call in White River



# Upcoming Project



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## Data Logger/Telemetry Installation on Bear River Diversion Structures





# Project Budget and Timeline



## Matching Cash/Labor

- CO DWR Installation

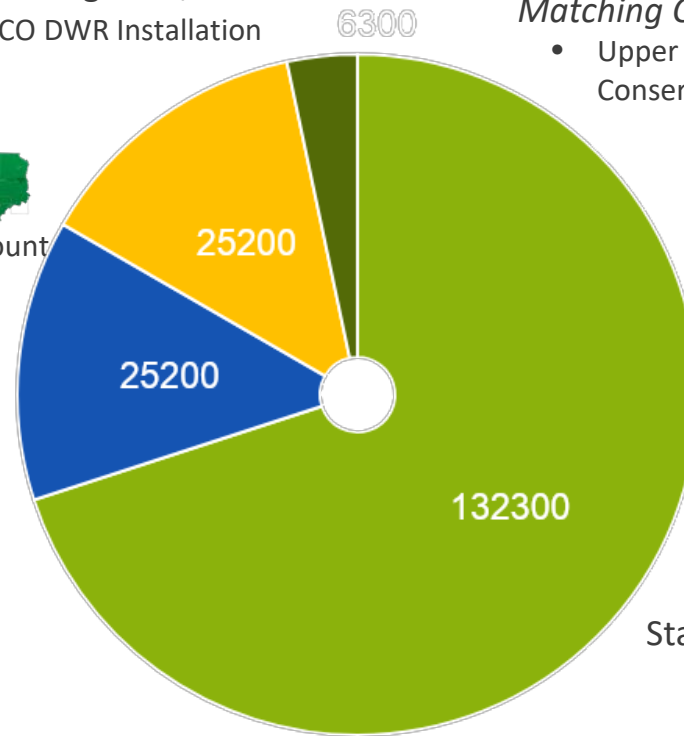
## Matching Cash

- Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District



- YWG Basin Account

<u>Description</u>	<u>Start Date</u> <sup>(2)</sup>	<u>End Date</u>
-	-	-
Order and receive equipment	07/01/2023	04/30/2024
Build telemetry boxes/enclosures	08/01/2023	04/30/2024
Build structures to mount field equipment	08/01/2023	10/31/2024
Install equipment in field	09/01/2023	10/31/2025
DWR User data fee	04/01/2024	10/31/2025



Statewide Account



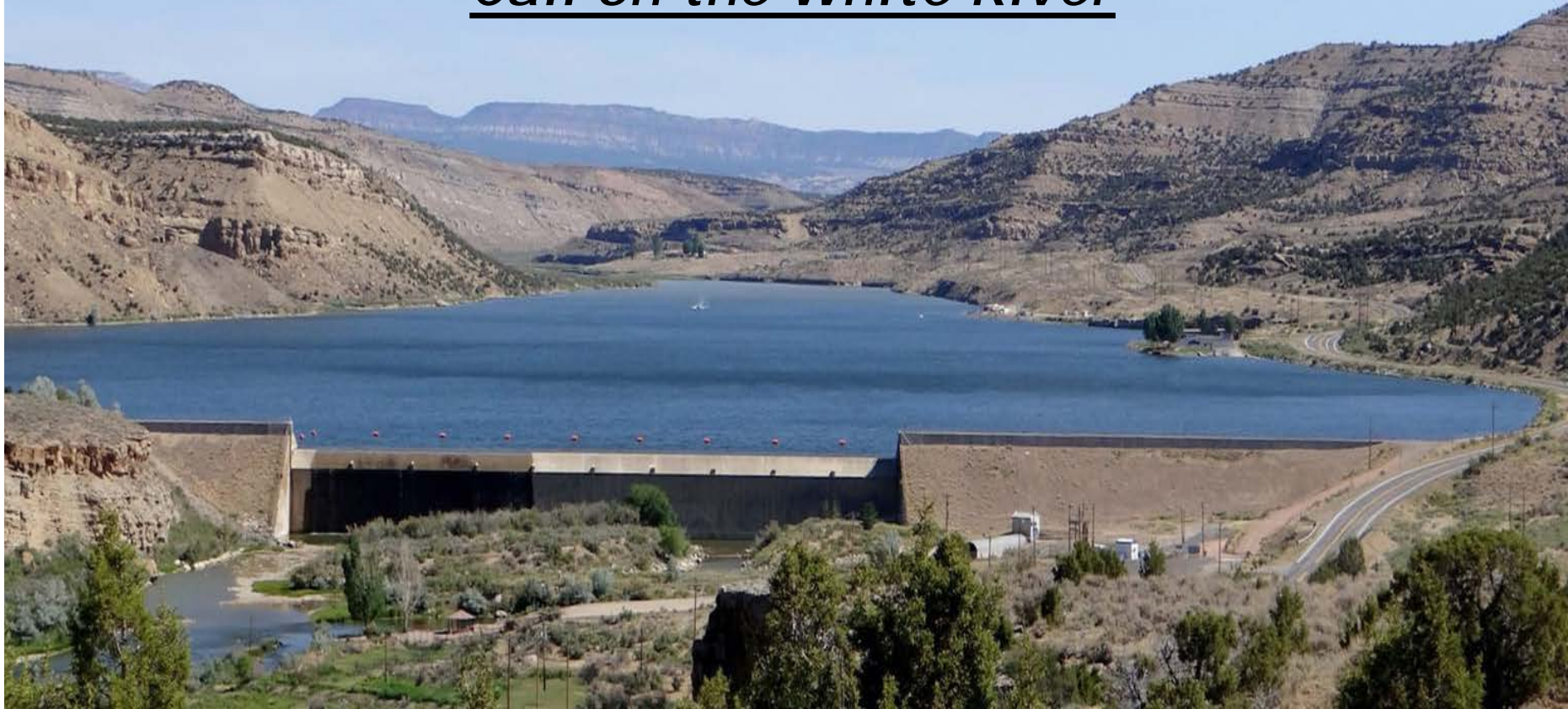
# Measurement Rules Update

Division 6 Water Court Case No. 22CW3102

Seven Protest Filed



# *Call on the White River*



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# Call on White River

- Calling location: Taylor Draw Power Conduit (WDID 4302571)
- Started on: December 1, 2022
- Decreed Use: Power Generation
- Current Flow through turbine: 700 cfs (April 1 Boise gage)
- Call was removed on: April 3 due to inflows exceeding turbine capacity



