

Colorado River District
State of the River - Yampa River Basin

March 23, 2023

Erin Light, P.E.
Division 6 Engineer



COLORADO
Division of Water Resources
Department of Natural Resources

Water Outlook

Snowpack

Streamflows

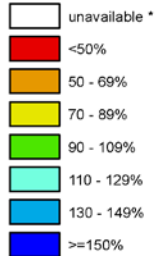
In Other News



Colorado
SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) % of Normal
 Laramie and North Platte

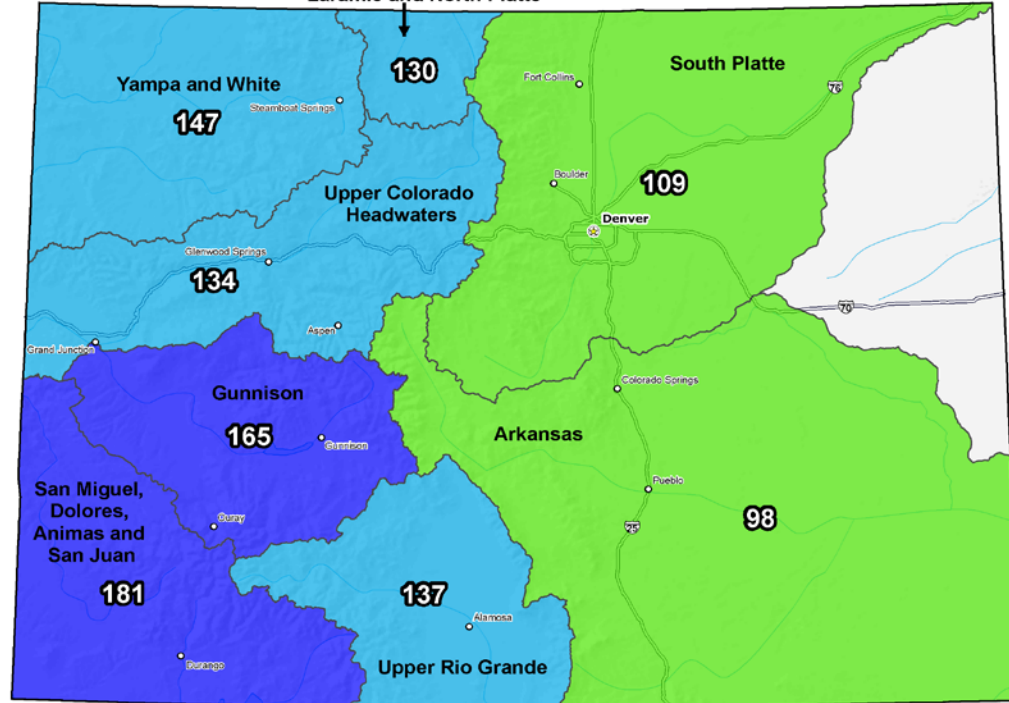
Mar 23, 2023

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/>

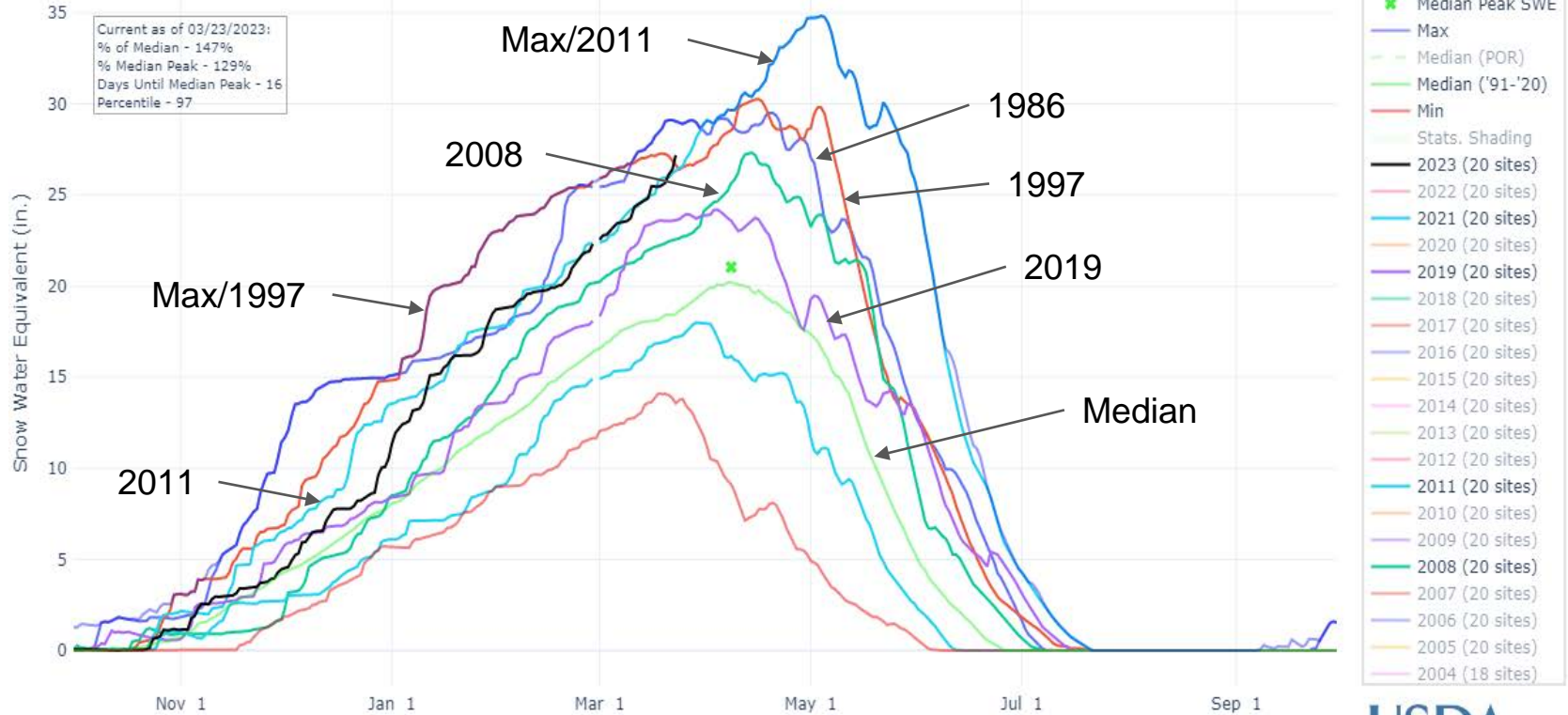


SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN YAMPA-WHITE-LITTLE SNAKE

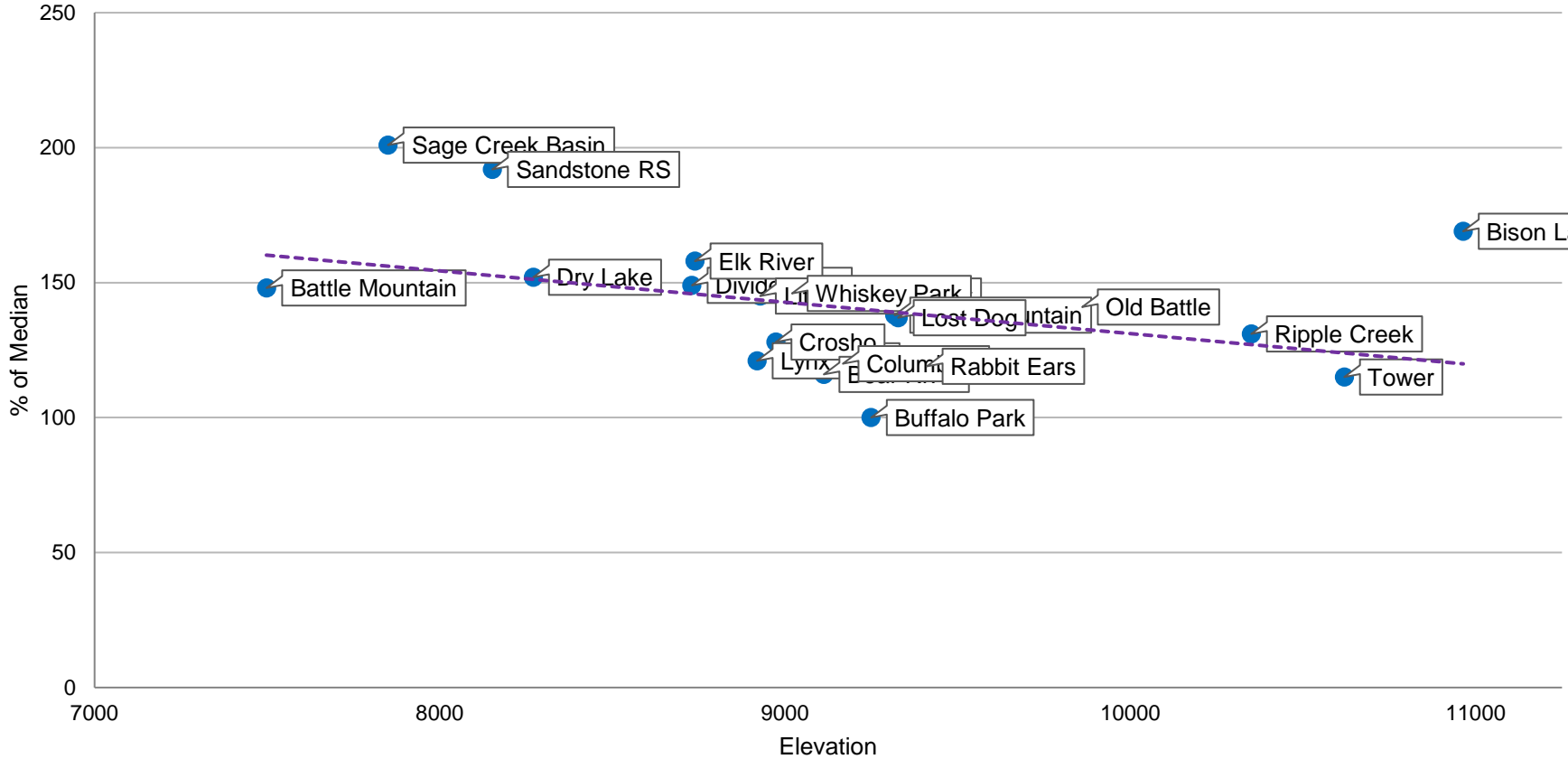
Reset Range

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

Station List



Elevation vs. % of Median - 2023





March 2011



March 2023



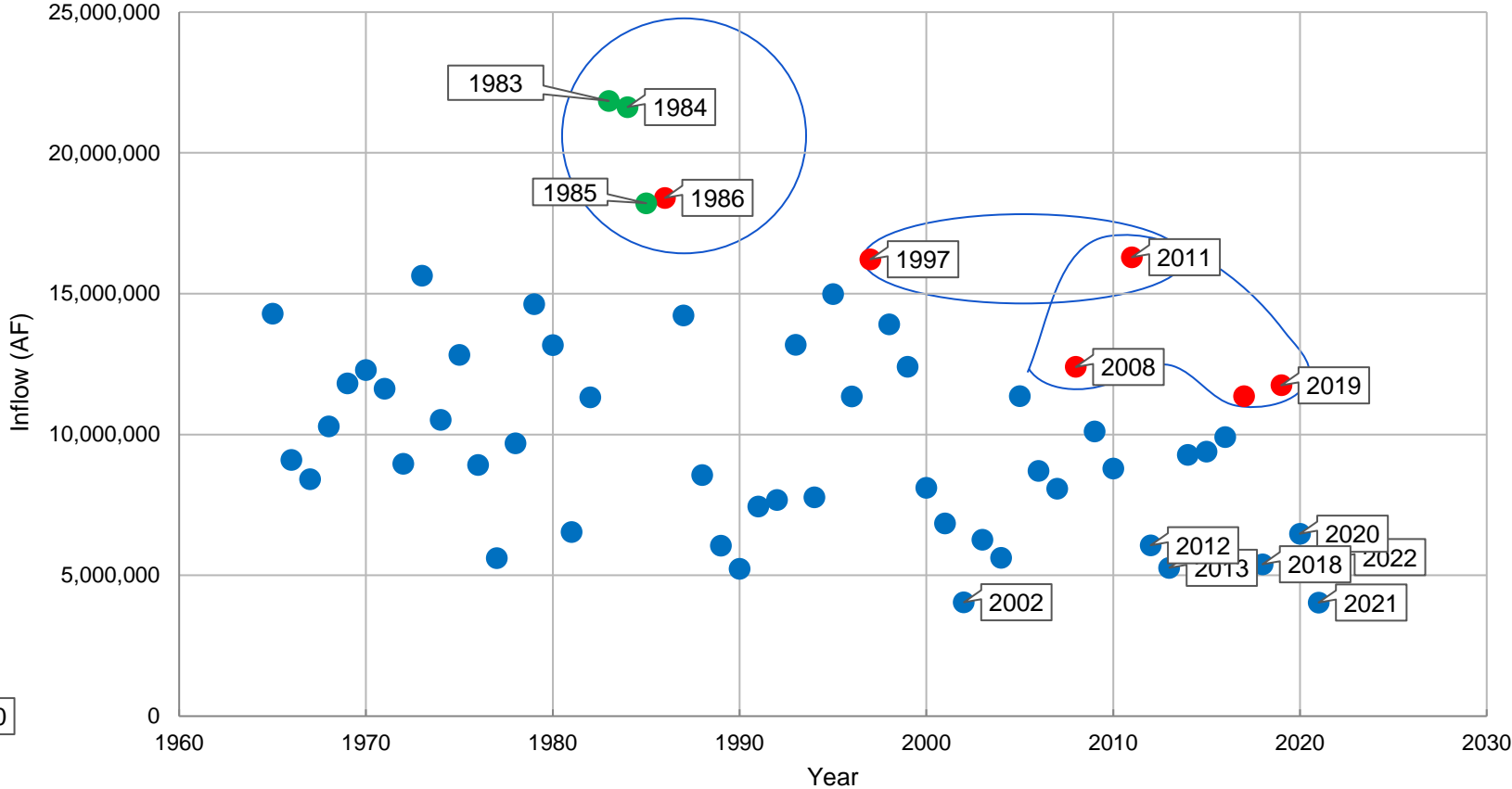


March 2012



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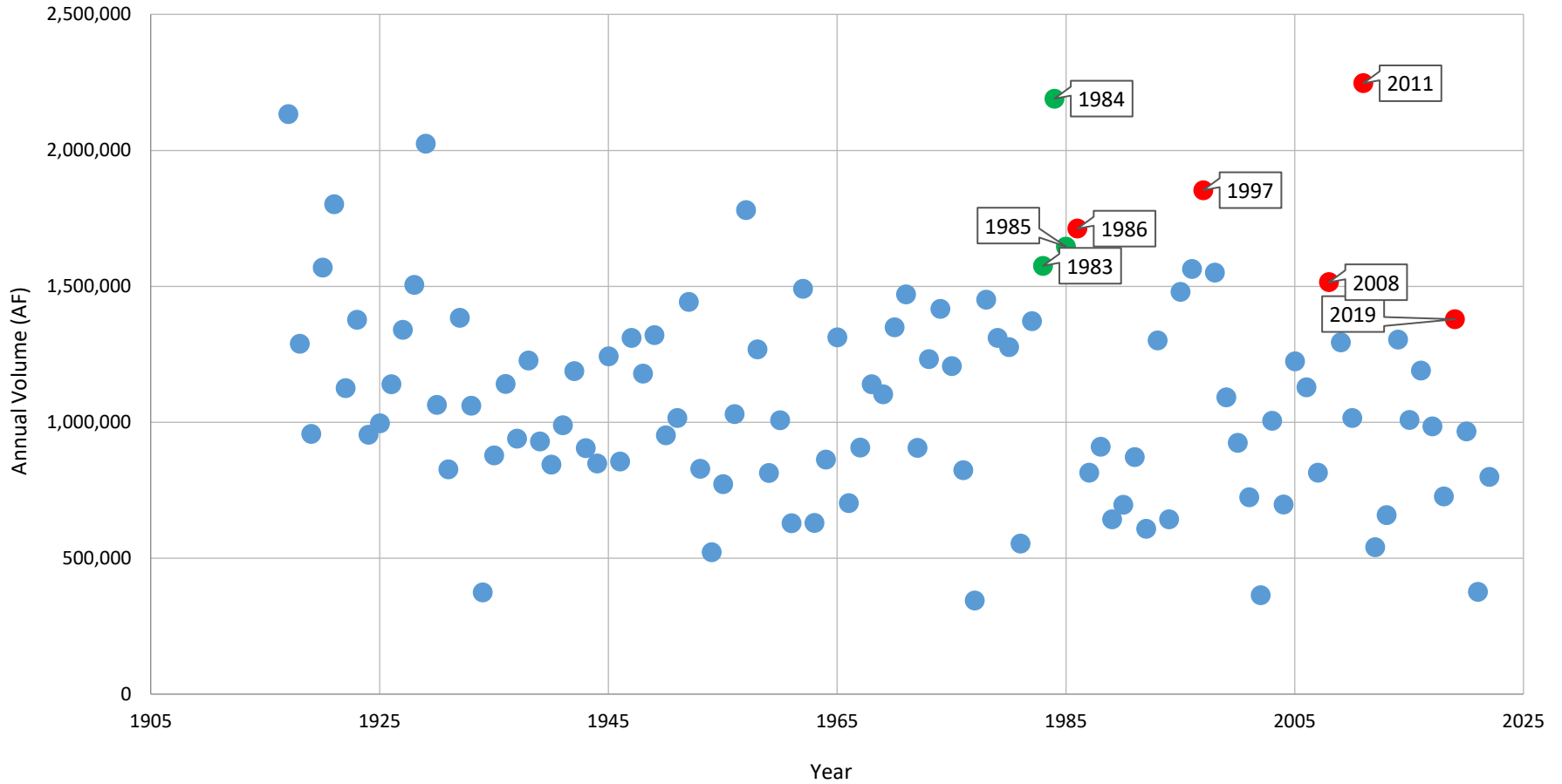
Lake Powell Annual Inflow (AF)



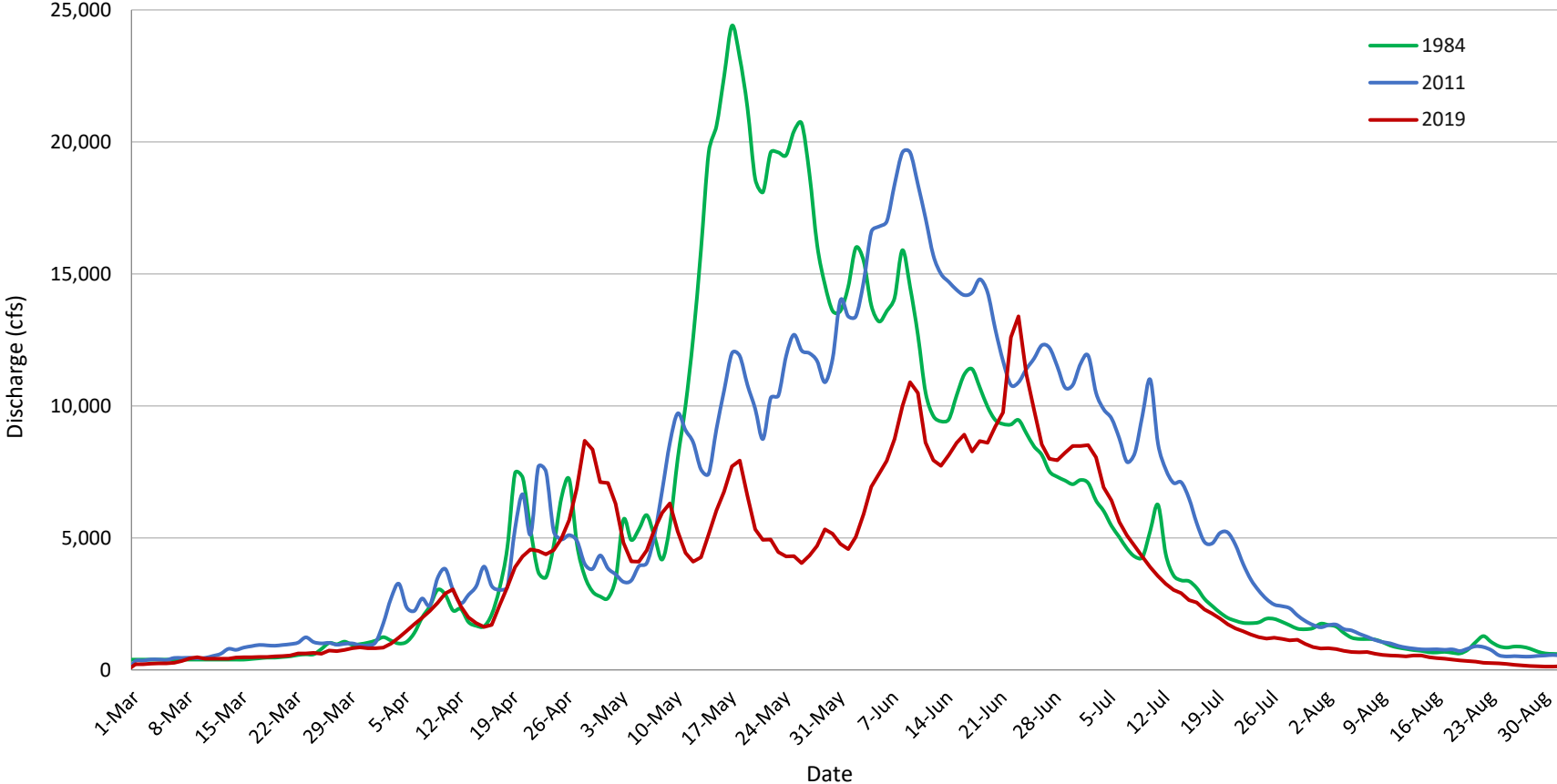
0



Yampa River Near Maybell - Annual Volume



Yampa River near Maybell Historic Flows

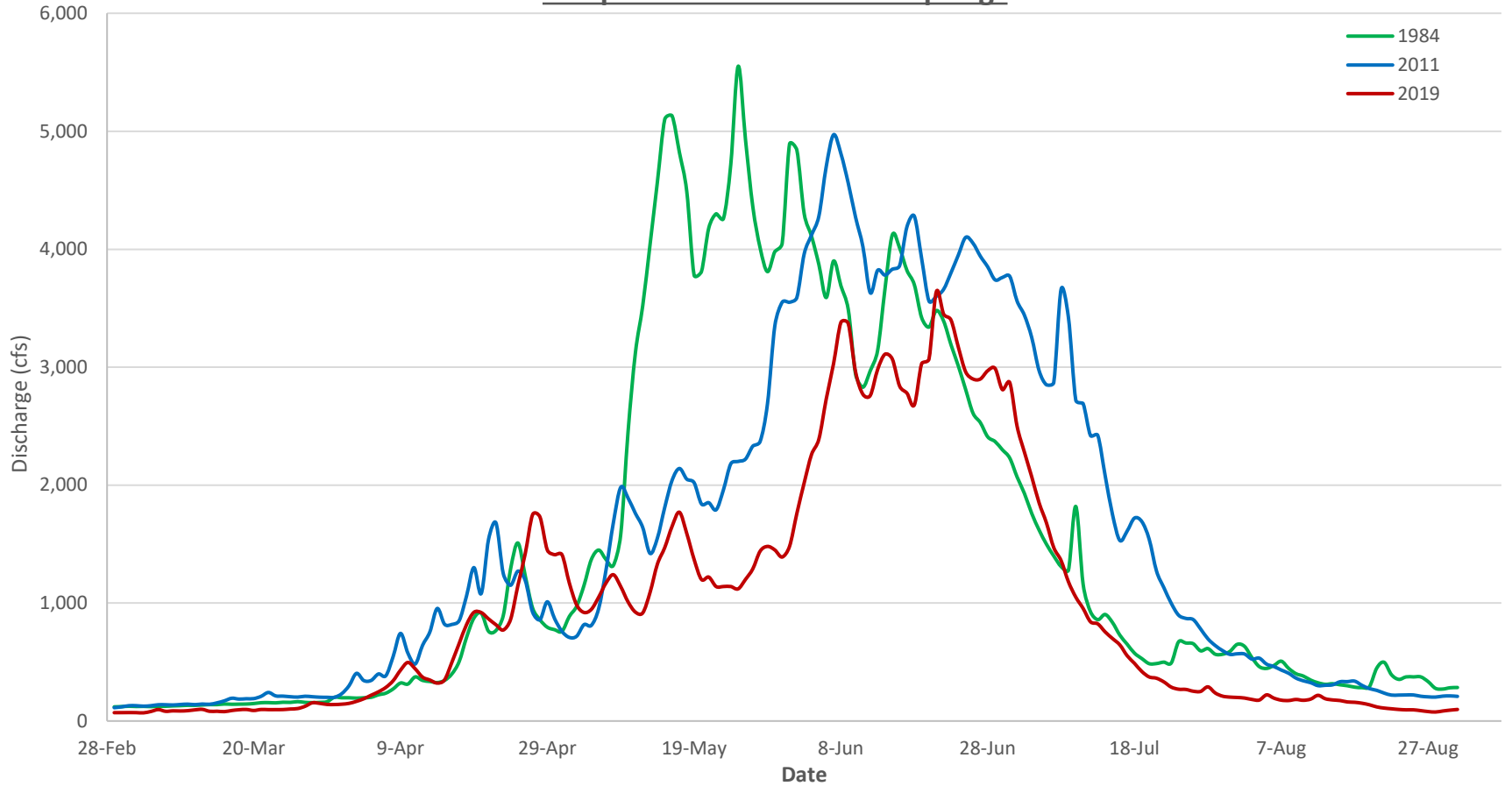


Yampa River near Maybell Maximum Annual Volumes

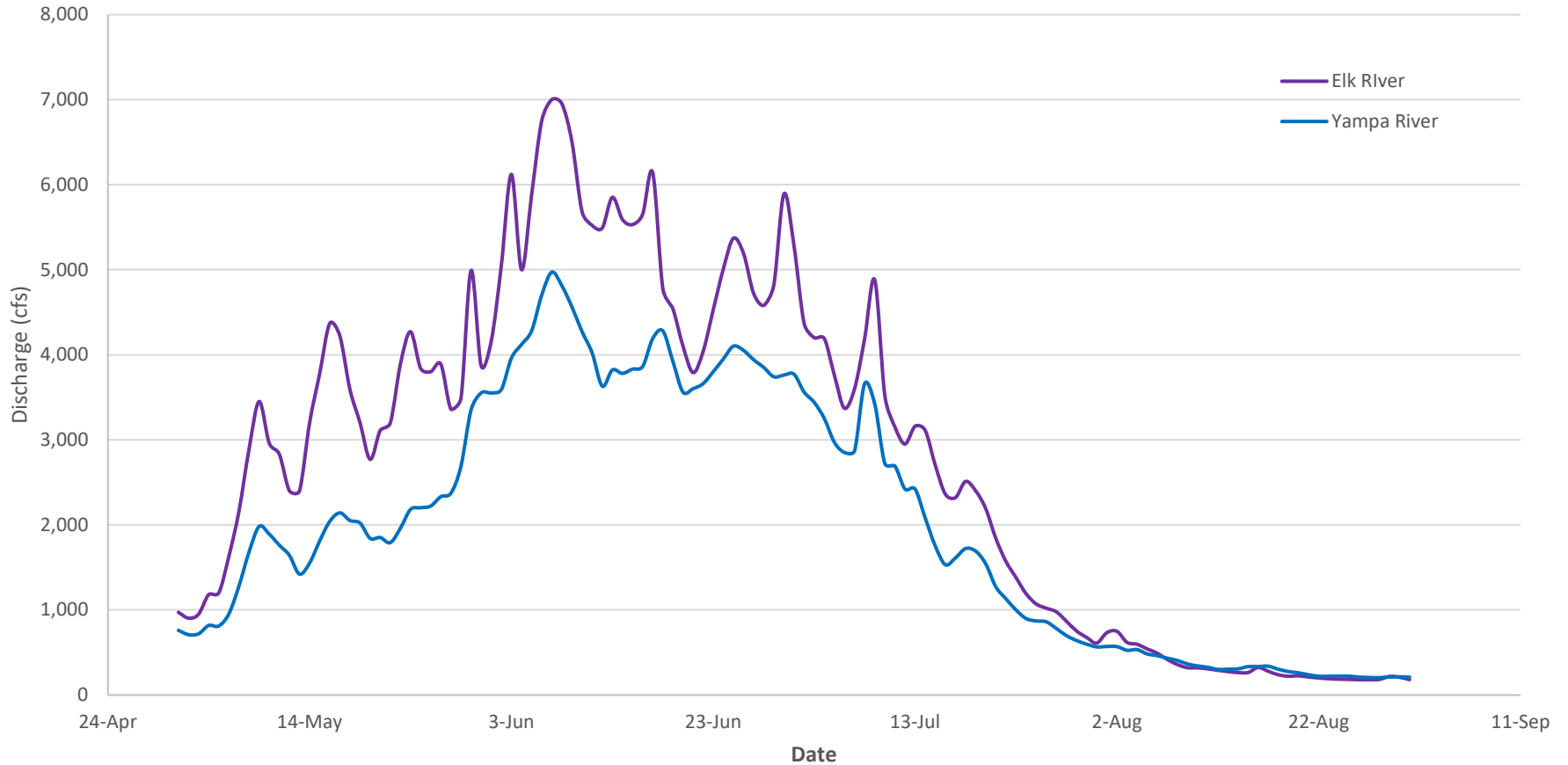
<u>Rank</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Avg Q (AF)</u>
1	2011	2,247,193
2	1984	2,190,000
3	1917	2,134,255
4	1929	2,024,936
5	1997	1,853,355
6	1921	1,802,678
7	1957	1,780,959
8	1986	1,712,182
9	1985	1,646,301
10	1983	1,575,352
11	1920	1,569,560
12	1996	1,563,769
13	1998	1,550,737
14	2008	1,515,263
Historic Average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



Yampa River at Steamboat Springs



2011 Comparison Yampa River at Steamboat vs. Elk River near Milner



Status of Reservoirs

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%)



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 Maybell gage will exceed 1.5 Million acre-feet
- Only calls will be on Talamantes Creek and the White River



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

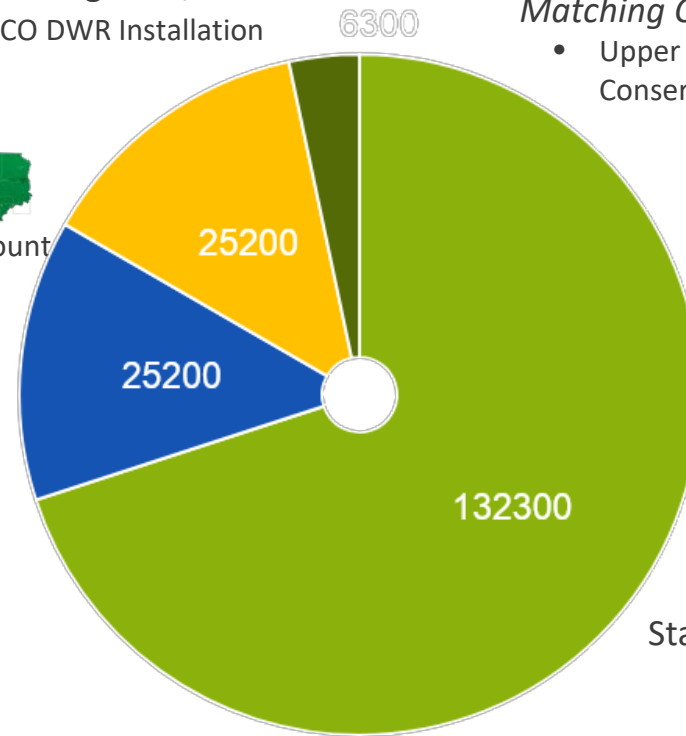
Matching Cash

- Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District



- YWG Basin Account

<u>Description</u>	<u>Start Date</u> ⁽²⁾	<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

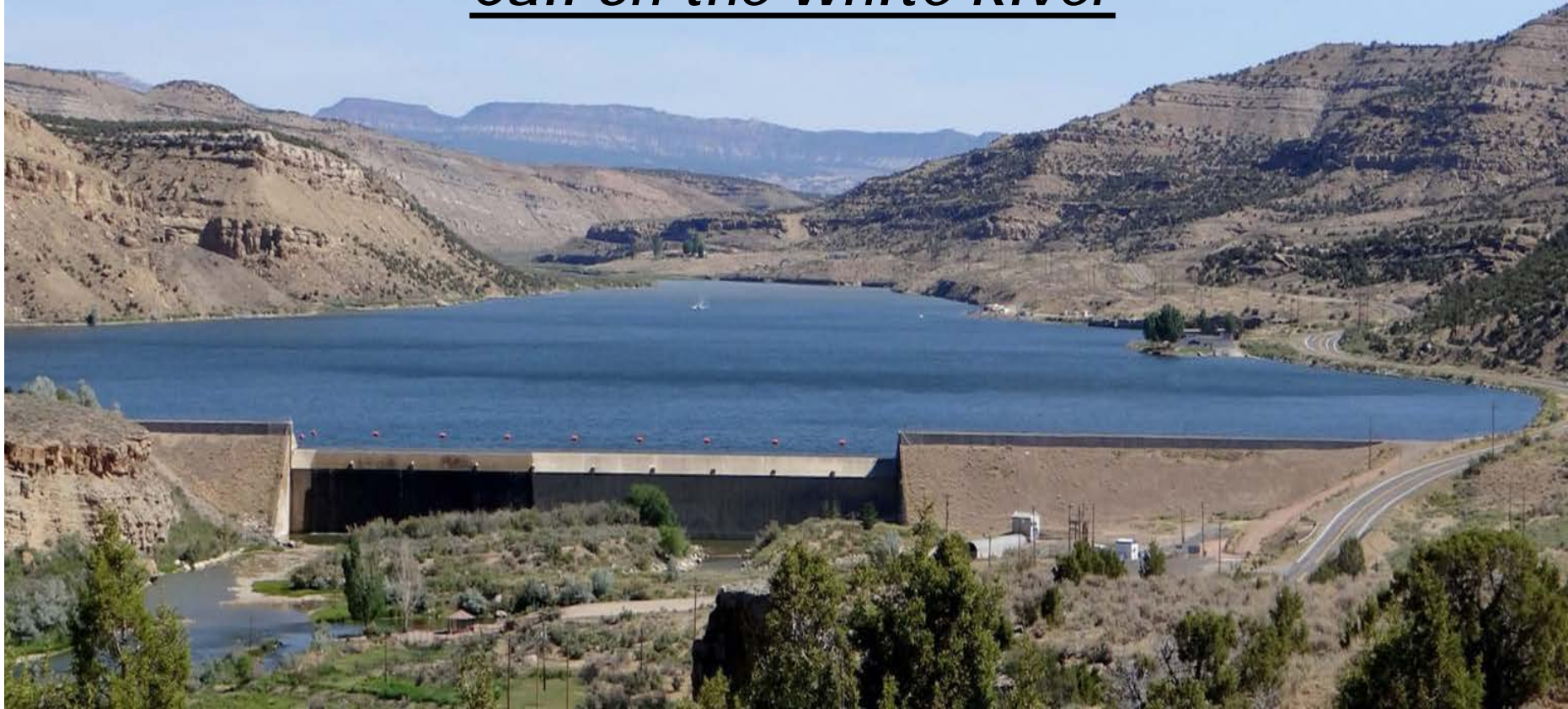
Measurement Rules Update

Division 6 Water Court Case No. 22CW3102

Seven Protest Filed



Call on the White River



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: ~530 cfs
- Call will continue until inflows exceed turbine capacity of 700 cfs and the reservoir (Taylor Draw Reservoir) spills



