



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Green Mountain Reservoir: Store watered for the West Slope

Victor Lee, PE

Eastern Colorado Area Office

Summit County State of River, May 23, 2023

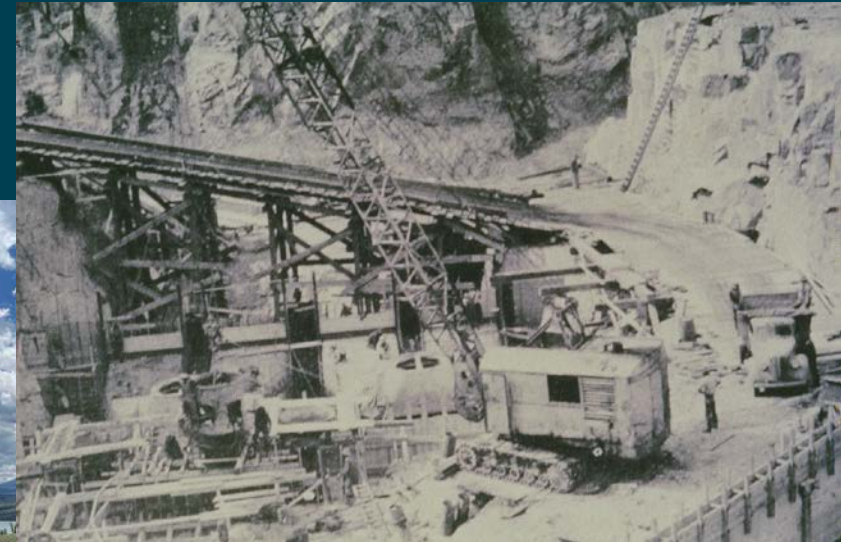
Outline

- Colorado-Big Thompson Project Green Mountain Reservoir History and Purpose
- Blue River Decree-70 years of litigation and counting
- Green Mountain Reservoir 2023 Operations

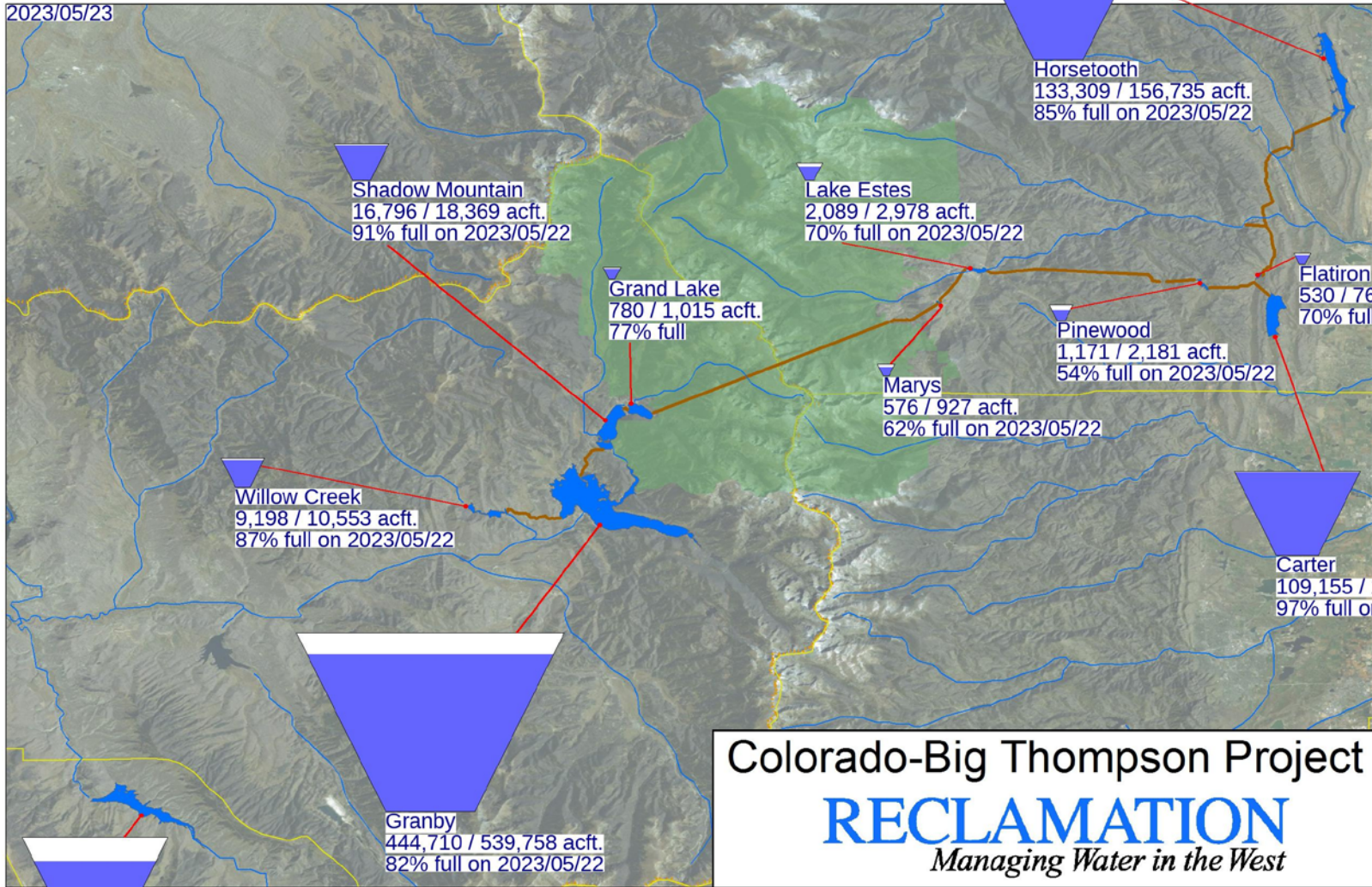


Colorado-Big Thompson Project

- Authorized by Congress and approved by Franklin Roosevelt in 1937
- First Feature to build: a reservoir to mitigate project injury to Western Colorado
- Green Mountain Reservoir built during WW II
- Managed by the Bureau of Reclamation for water users benefit across Colorado
- Includes 5 storage reservoirs, 6 powerplants, over 100 miles of tunnels & canals



2023/05/23



Colorado-Big Thompson Project
RECLAMATION
Managing Water in the West



Green Mountain
100,542 / 153,639 acft.
65% full on 2023/05/22



Green Mountain Reservoir-Blue River Decree

- Green Mt. Reservoir two primary purposes:
 - 1/3 of storage allows C-BT Collection System to divert water when out of priority
 - 2/3 of storage for hydro power and for west slope water users benefit
- Federal court issued water rights decree in 1955 with stipulations for Denver and Colorado Springs
- Litigation over Blue River Decree continues today



Blue River Decree-Key Elements

- Green Mt. Reservoir and Powerplant Water Rights with 1935 Priority
- Senior to Denver's Blue River Diversion Project and Colorado Springs' Continental-Hoosier Project expansion.
- The Secretary of the Interior allows Denver and Colorado Springs to use their junior water rights provided:
 - No injury to Green Mt. Reservoir's ability to store
 - No injury to Green Mt. Reservoir's authorized purposes
 - Reimburse the United States for powerplant loss of generation



Blue River Decree Results

- Green Mt. Reservoir does not fill approximately 30% of the time
- Denver and Colorado Springs “owe water” to Green Mt. Reservoir
 - Shortage to Green Mt. Reservoir’s first fill caused by Denver and Colorado Springs Utilities is replaced- referred to a substitution operation
 - May include coordinated release from Upper Blue, Dillon, Williams Fork, Wolford, Ruedi and other reservoirs
- Substitution Operations may reduce Green Mt Reservoir releases
- Denver and Colorado Springs replaces several thousand Kilowatt-hours of lost generation annually
- Project beneficiaries upstream of Dillon Reservoir are accommodated

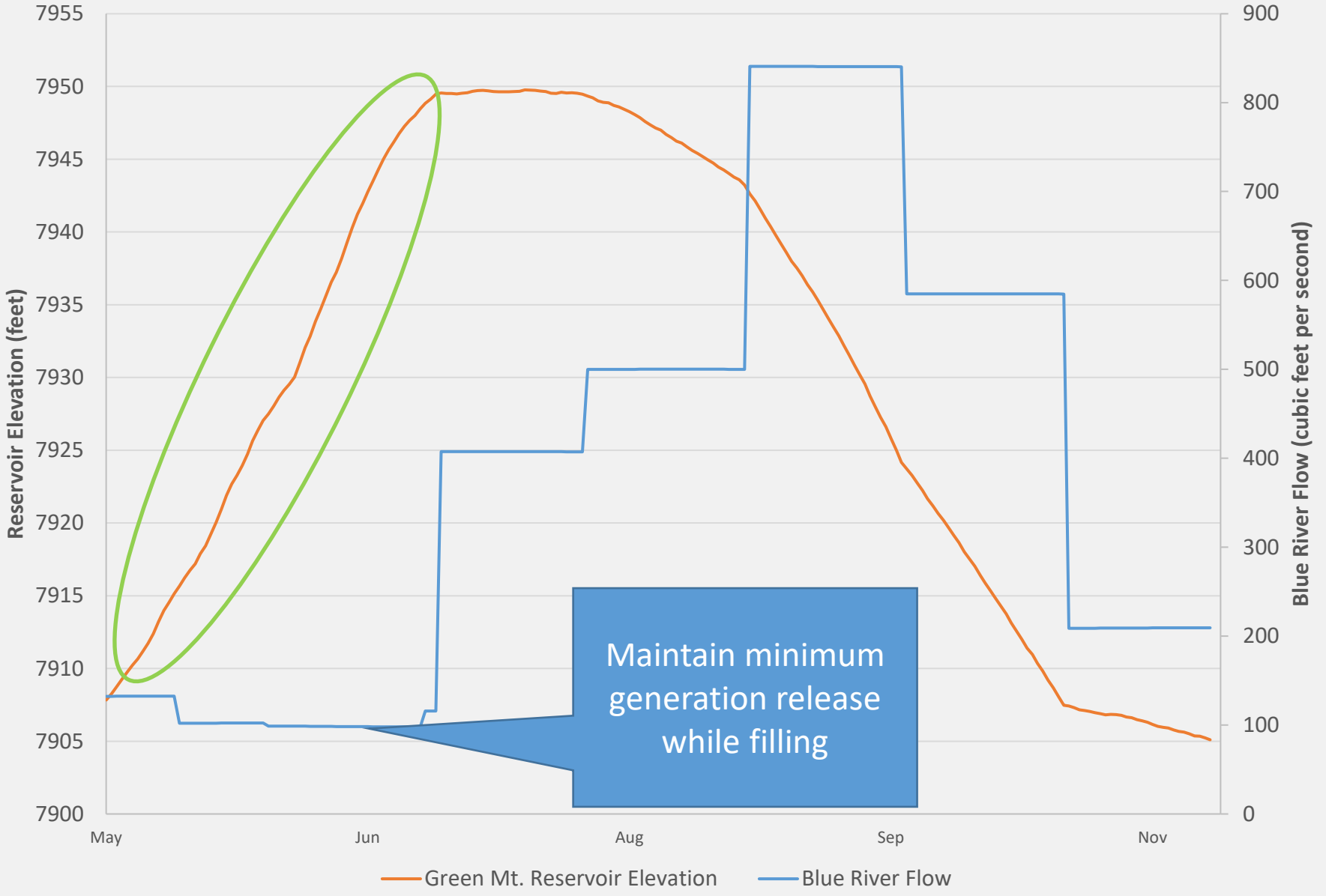


Green Mt. Reservoir 2023 Operation Outlook

- Green Mt. Reservoir obtains a physical fill around July 4th with no Substitution Operations – First time since 2020
- Blue River flow below Green Mt. Dam will remain at approximately 100 cfs until the reservoir fills
- Normal stored water releases – expected flow between 400 cfs to 850 cfs



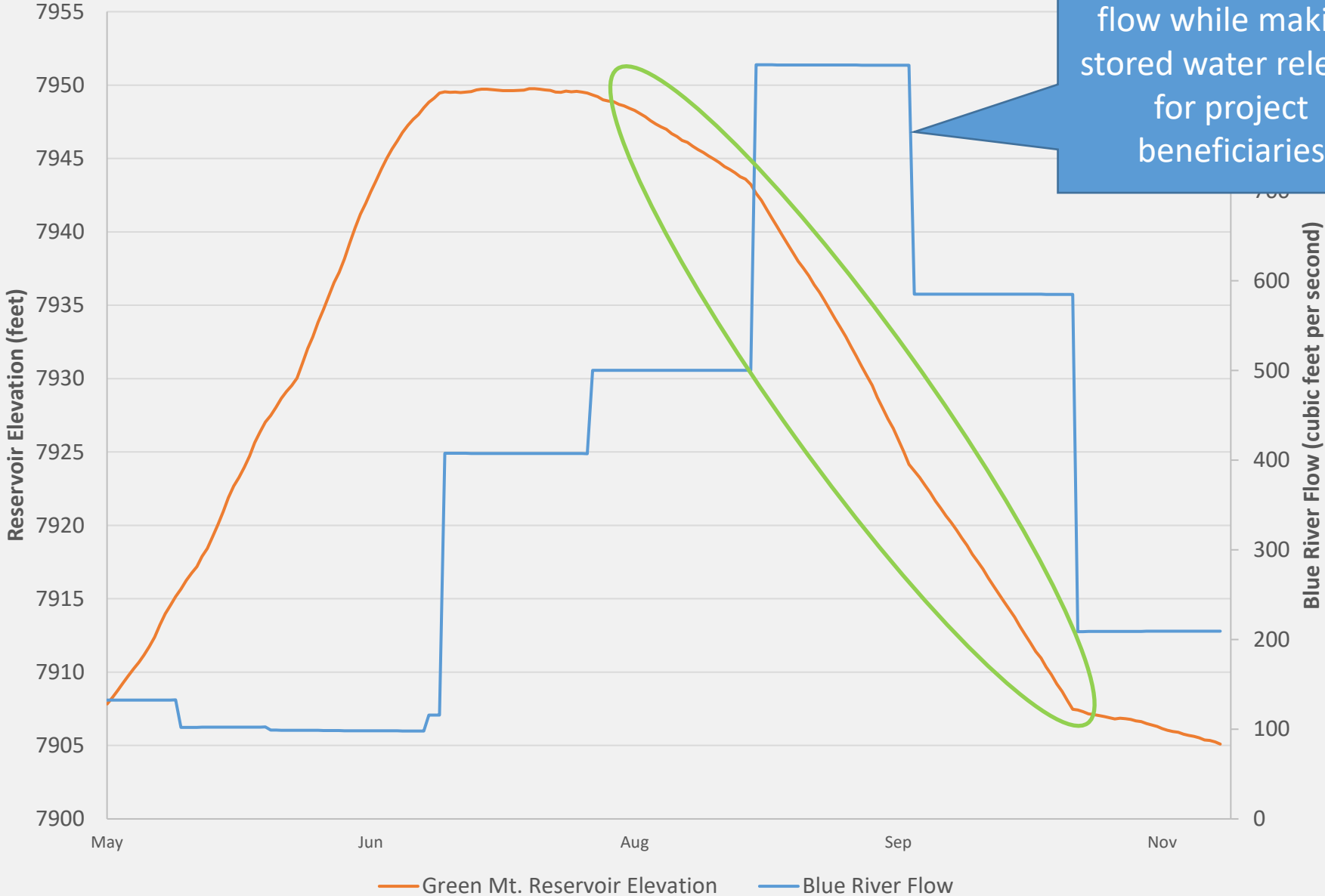
Green Mt. Reservoir 2023 Operations



Green Mt. Reservoir 2023 Operations



Green Mt. Reservoir 2023 Operations



Elevated Blue River flow while making stored water release for project beneficiaries



Contact:

Victor Lee 970-461-5484 (vlee@usbr.gov)



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION