

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

**Aspinall Unit
Reservoir Operations
Spring 2010**

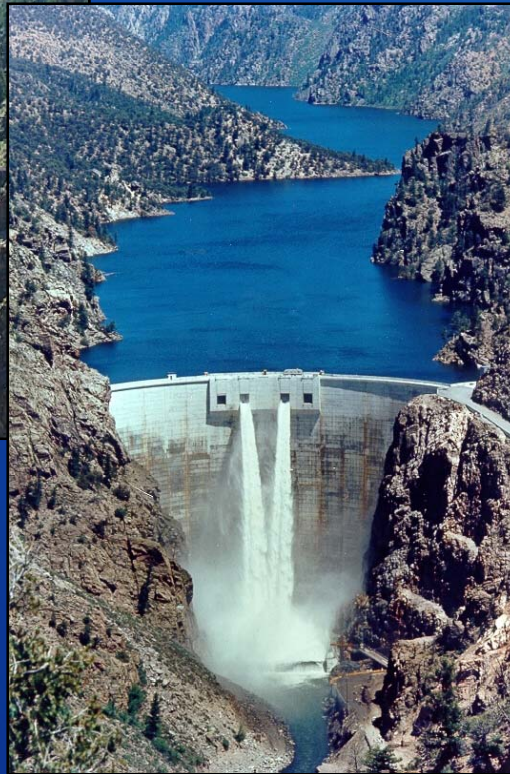


U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

Aspinall Unit Reservoirs



Blue Mesa



Morrow Point



Crystal

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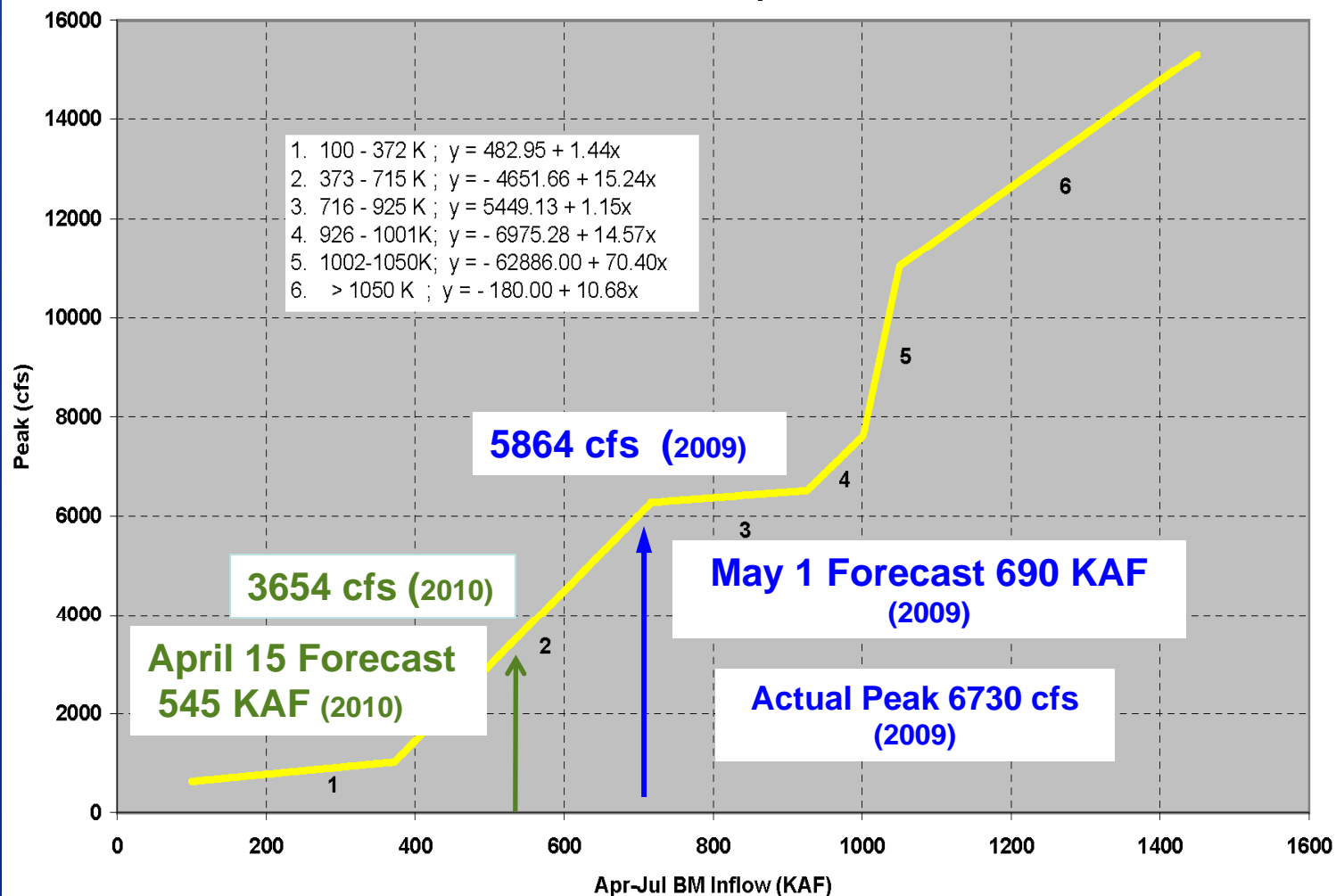
Gunnison River Operations

- **545,000 ac-ft Projected Inflow to Blue Mesa**
 - (April – July Forecast, 76% of Average) (May 1st prelim.)
- **Black Canyon National Park Water Right**
 - 300 cfs Minimum
 - 3,654 cfs Peak (May 1st prelim.)
 - Mid-May time frame
 - No Shoulder Flows
- **Post Peak Operation – 800 cfs**
- **Flood Control**
- **Future Operation for ESA**
- **Other Project Purposes**

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Black Canyon Peak Flow Determination

based on Blue Mesa May 1 forecast

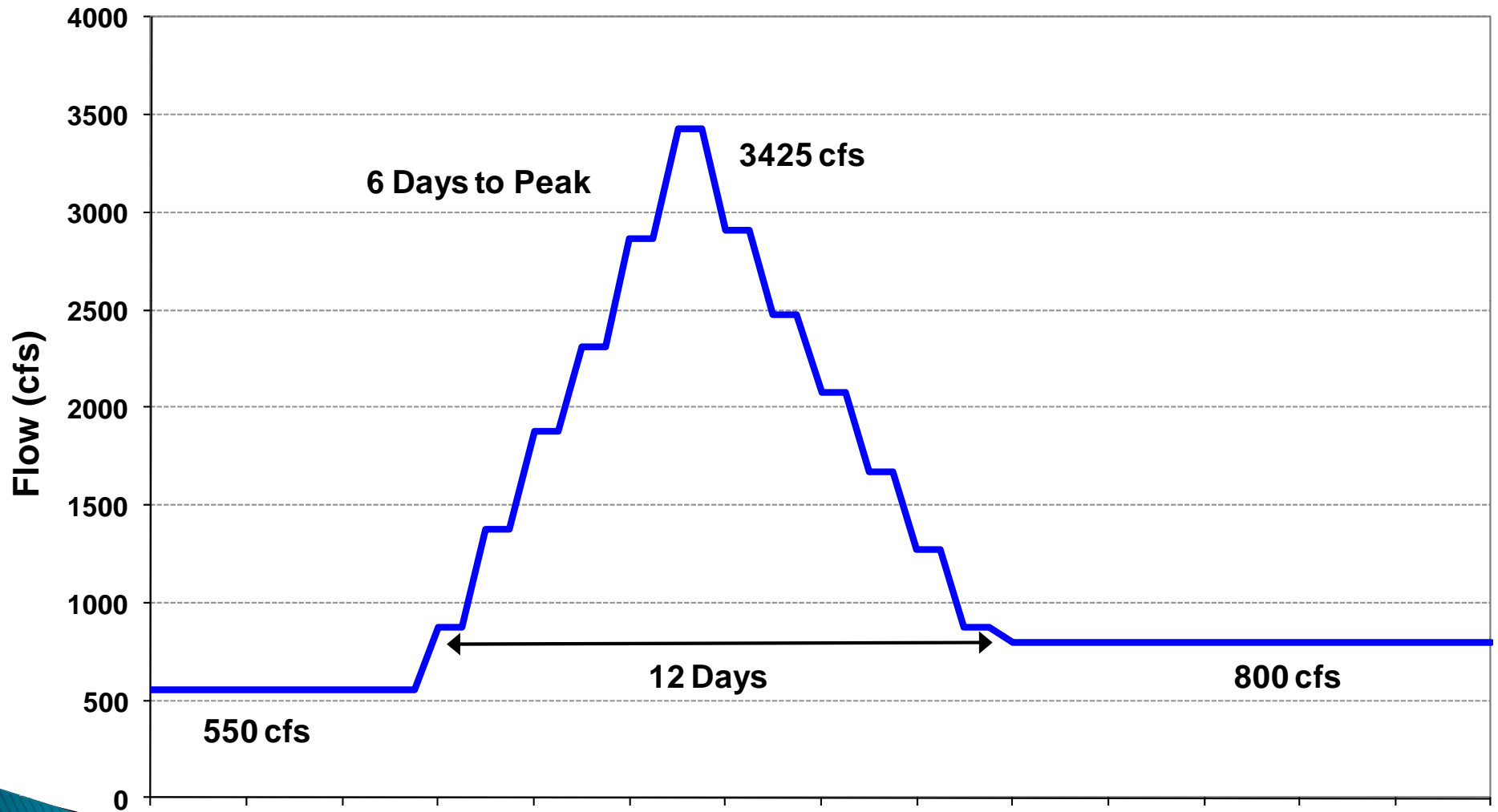


2009 & 2010 Peak Flow Targets

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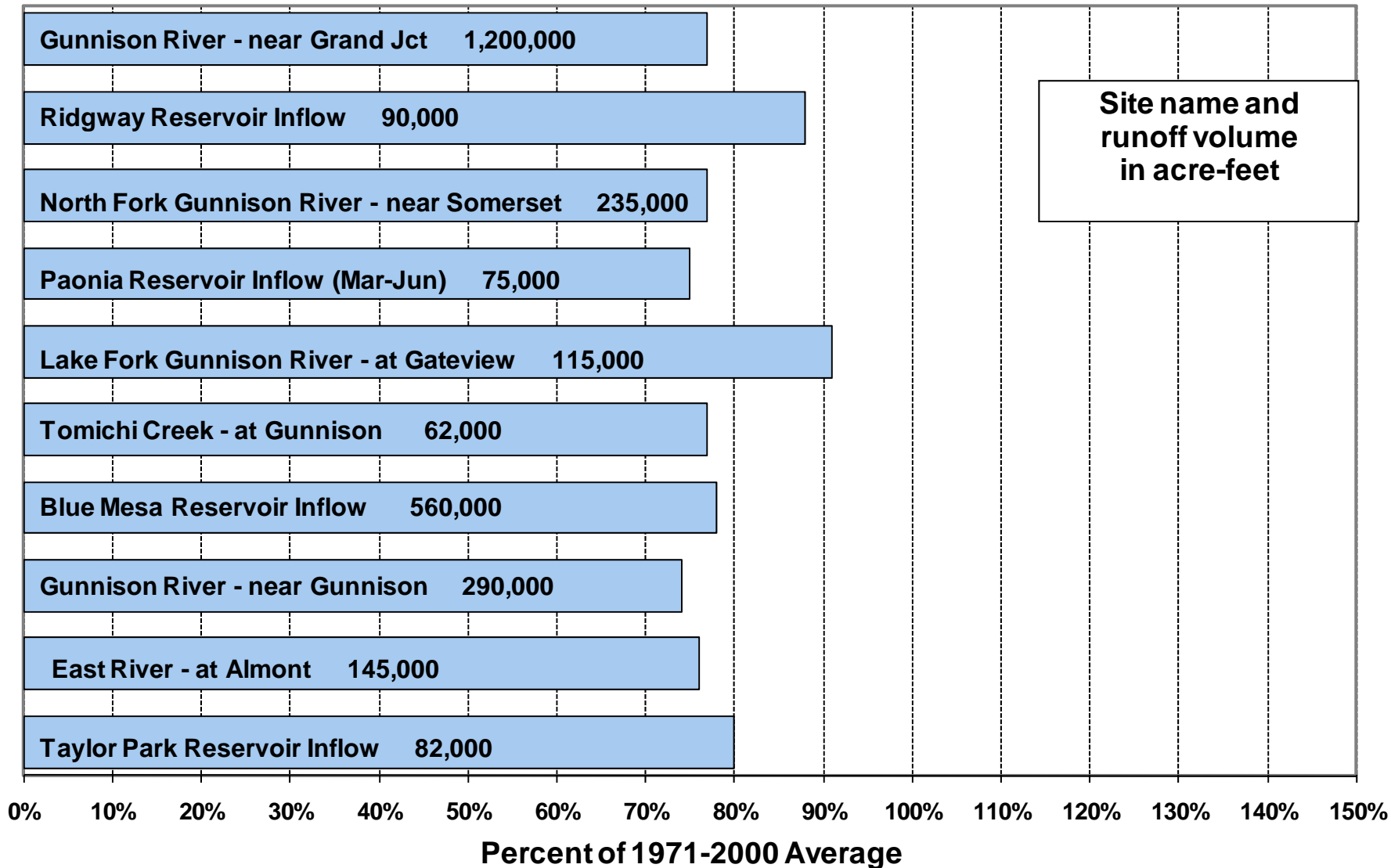
Black Canyon Peak

based on Apr 15th forecast



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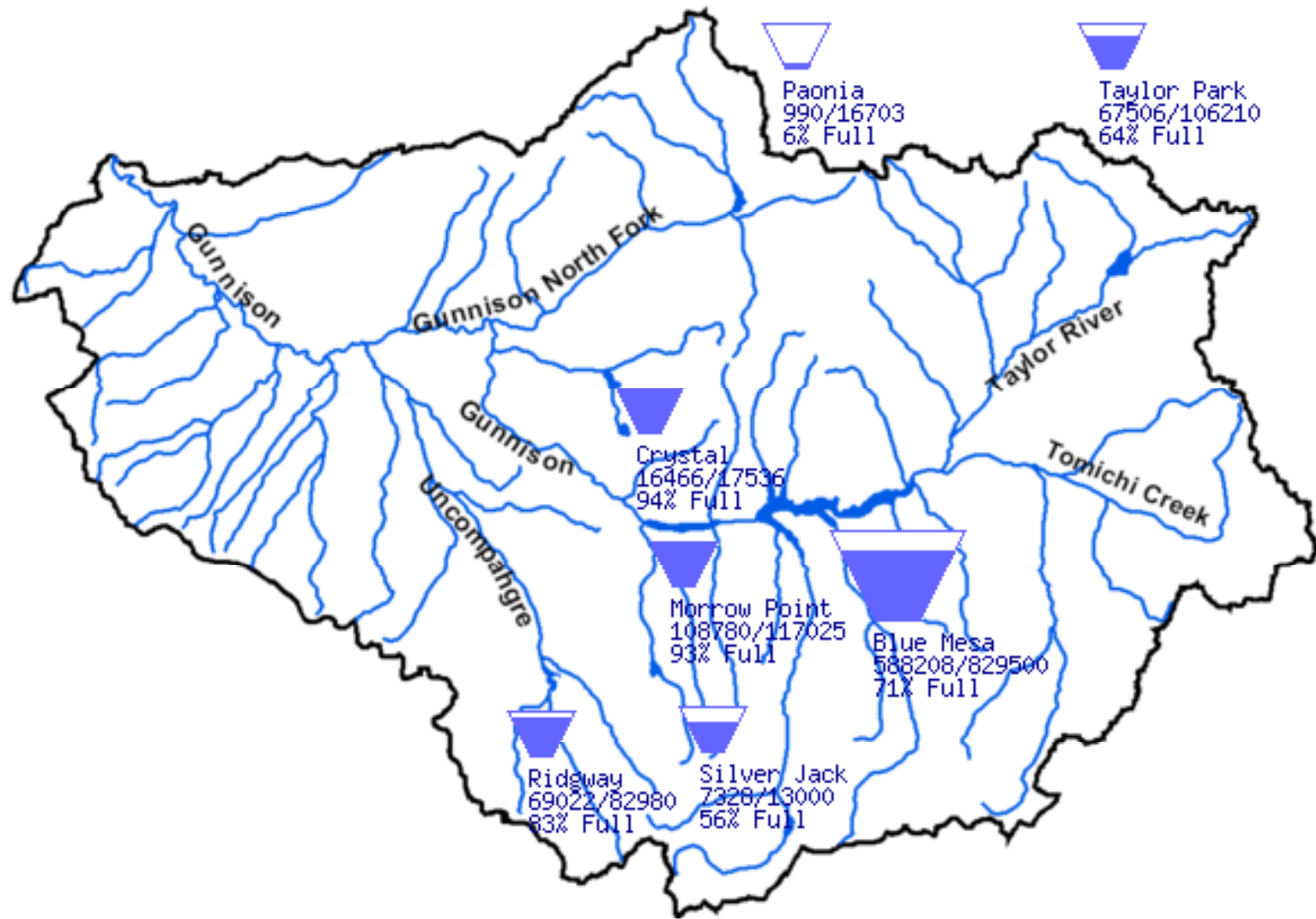
Forecasted April-July Runoff As of April 1st



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Data Current as of:
05/02/2010

Gunnison River Basin, CO



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Peak Flow Forecasts

	90%	75%	50%	25%	10%
North Fork Gunnison near Somerset					
<i>average peak 3,310 cfs</i>					
CFSD	2050	2350	2700	3100	3500
<i>Average time of peak 5/11 - 6/2</i>					
Date of Peak	5/6	5/12	5/19	5/24	6/1
Gunnison at Delta (minus flow from Crystal)					
CFSD	2700	3100	3700	4200	4800
Date of Peak	5/6	5/12	5/19	5/25	6/2

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S.W. Colorado

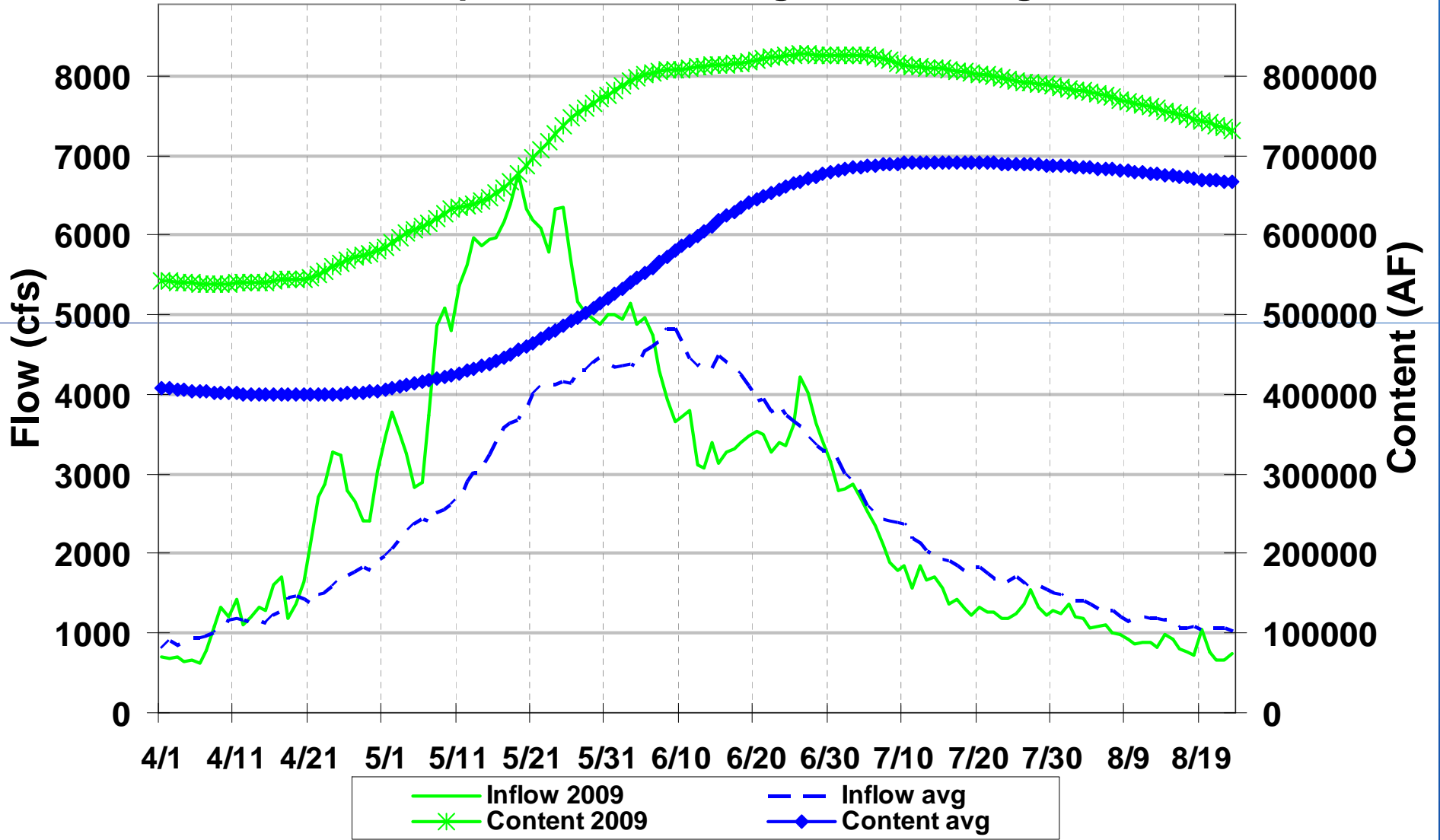
Dust on Snow Events

- Center for Snow and Avalanche Studies
- 12 Events – 2009, 4 Events – 2010 (so far)
- Effect on Runoff and Operation???



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April - August 2009 Blue Mesa Comparison with Long Term Average



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Aspinall Unit Operations Advanced Final Environmental Impact Statement

- **Complete Interior review**
- **Cooperating agency review**
- **Final EIS**
- **Record of Decision**



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Programmatic Biological Opinion

- **ESA Coverage for Water Uses**
- **Includes Selenium Mgt. Program**
- **Work has begun on development of a plan to reduce selenium concentrations in lower Gunnison and Colorado rivers**

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Division Engineer Monitoring Releases



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Questions



Crystal Spill – May 14th, 2009; Total Release 5,400 cfs; Spill 1,200 cfs

“We send our clean water to Arizona and all we get back is red dirt”

– Carol DeAngelis, A.M. WCAO

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