

Presentation at Western Water Assessment Climate Workshop

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Wyoming Water Development Commission Offices

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“Panel discussion by other water managers. Topics include what kind of climate information they need and how they would like to use forecasts.”

- Speaker’s Limitations and Perspectives:
 - The Interstate Streams Division of the State Engineer’s Office is focused on “political hydrology” whereas the SEO’s field personnel do “regulatory hydrology.”



Perspectives, cont'd:

- In the context of Colorado River Basin hydro politics, it is never far out of mind that we in Wyoming are the State with the largest amount of Compact-apportioned but unused water remaining ours to develop -- “whenever our projects may become economically feasible of undertaking, and whether the time may be in the near future or a century or more from now.”

(quoting Frank C. Emerson, *Sixteenth Biennial Report of the State Engineer of Wyoming*, 1921-1922)



Perspectives, cont'd:

- Colorado River agreements have been made based on common understandings - and misunderstandings - of the hydrology and available water supply:
 - Colorado River Compact (1922)
 - Upper Colorado River Basin Compact (1948)
 - Colorado River Basin Project Act (1968)
 - Includes proviso making augmentation of the River's water supply a national obligation
 - Interim Surplus Guidelines (2001)



Perspectives, cont'd:

- Prolonged, Severe Drought of 2000 through 2004 heightened concerns/awareness

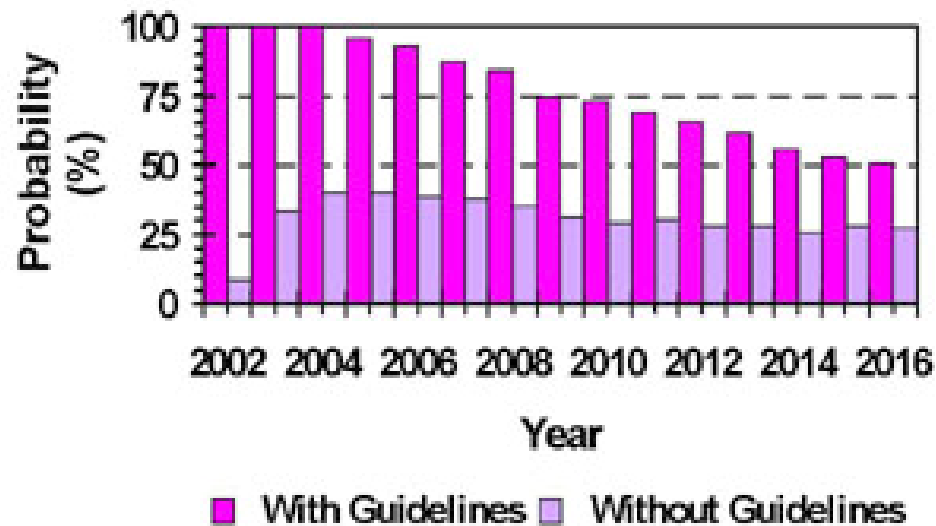
- Lake Powell full in September 1999 - then at 33 percent of capacity on April 8, 2005 (145' below full pool)

- Current Department of the Interior “process” underway to develop Interim Shortage Guidelines

- DOI process “completion date” of December 2007
- Difficult choices relative to frequency and magnitude of water user shortages
- Currently, USBR’s CRSS Riverware model incorporates 1906 through 2000 data - but 2002 inflow was extremely dry (25% of 30-year average inflow to Lake Powell)

Metropolitan Water District's Analysis of Likelihood of Surplus Deliveries Under Interim Surplus Guidelines Adopted January 2001

Probability of MWD Delivery Equal to 1.250 Million Acre-Feet





Hydro-climatic Studies are Continuously Ongoing:

- Current Study: “The Scientific Bases of Colorado River Basin Water Management”
 - “Committee on Scientific Bases of Colorado River Water Management of the National Research Council”
 - Science and Technology:
 - “Extending the Colorado River hydrologic record” - “strengthen the basis of a synthetic Colorado River streamflow history that more fully reflects long-term conditions than the 100 years of recorded history.”
 - Science Institutions and Water Management Practices
 - “Explore institutional arrangements for gathering and evaluating hydro-climatic variability and water availability across the Colorado River Basin ... promote the development of a common scientific knowledge base”
 - Systems operations and water management practices - implications.



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Thank you for your attention.
Questions?