



Club 20 Winter Policy Meeting

Ute Water Conference Center

Grand Junction, CO

Thursday March 1, 2018

2018 WATER SUPPLY AND WATER ADMINISTRATION



COLORADO
Division of Water Resources
Department of Natural Resources

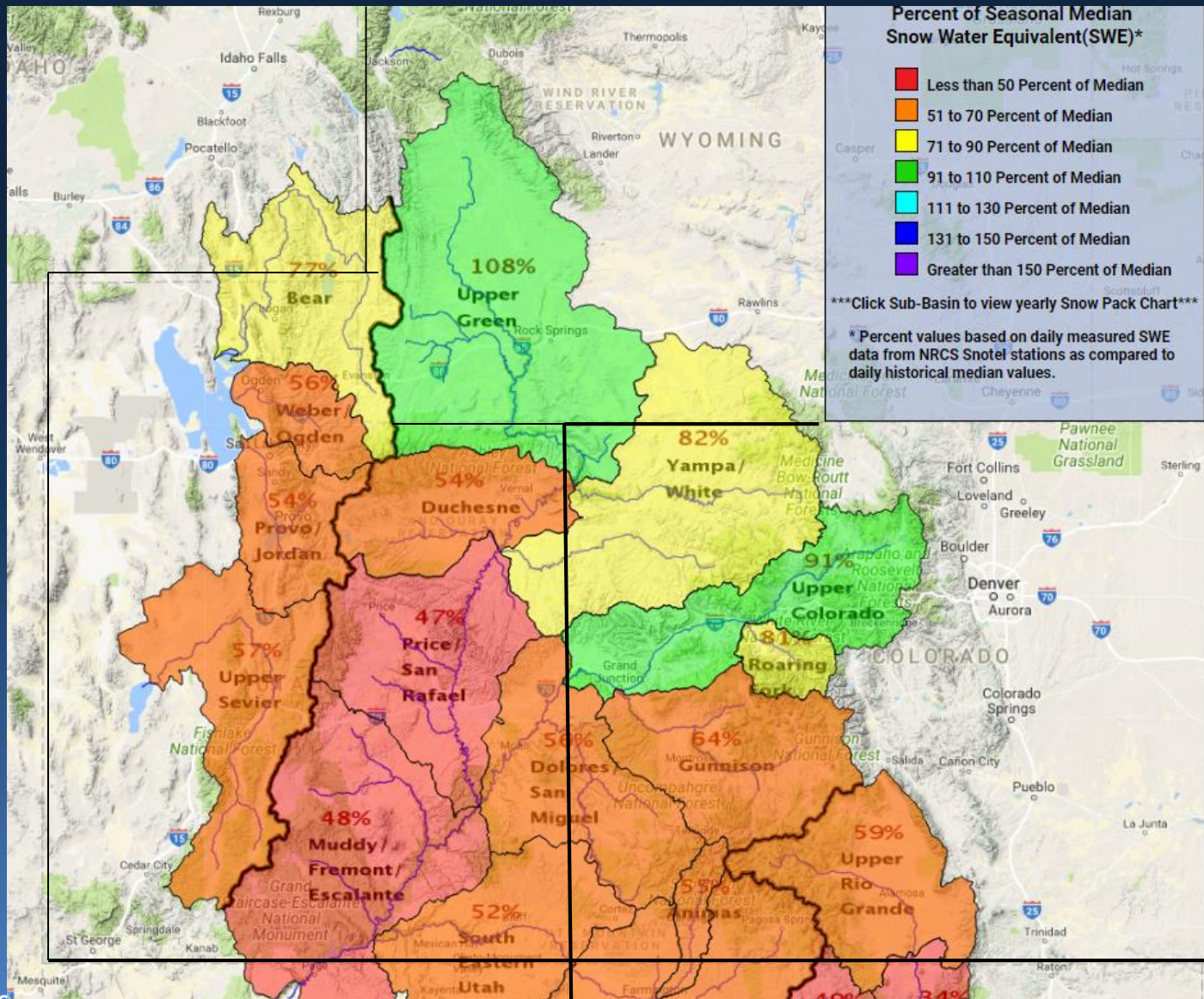
Bob W. Hurford, P.E.
Division Engineer
Water Division 4

Presentation Outline

- Water Supply Update
- Water Rights in Colorado
- Water Rights Administration in Times of Shortage
- Strategies for Water Use During Times of Shortage



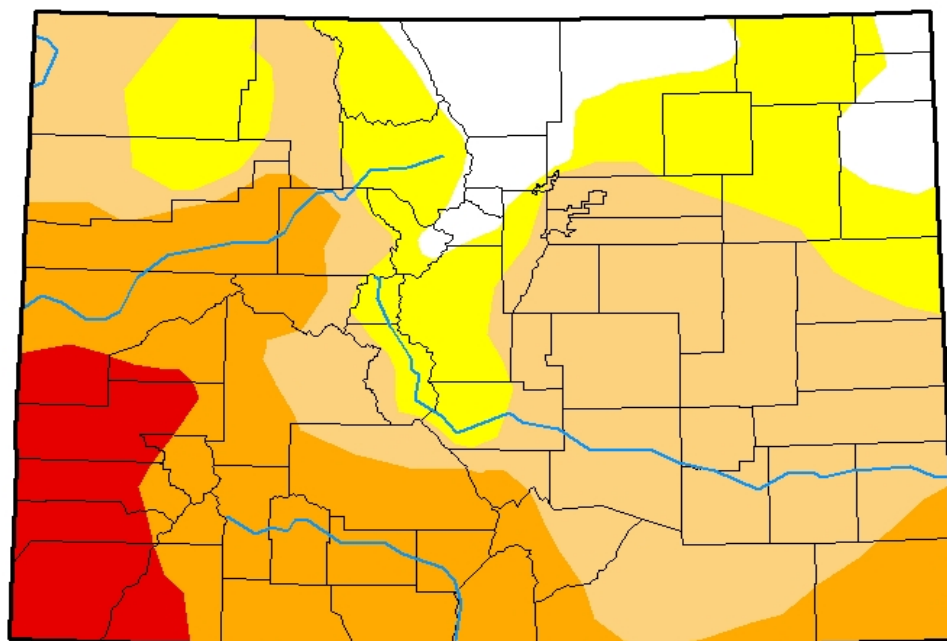
Water Supply in the Colorado River Basin



Water Supply

U.S. Drought Monitor Colorado

February 20, 2018
(Released Thursday, Feb. 22, 2018)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:

Deborah Bathke
National Drought Mitigation Center

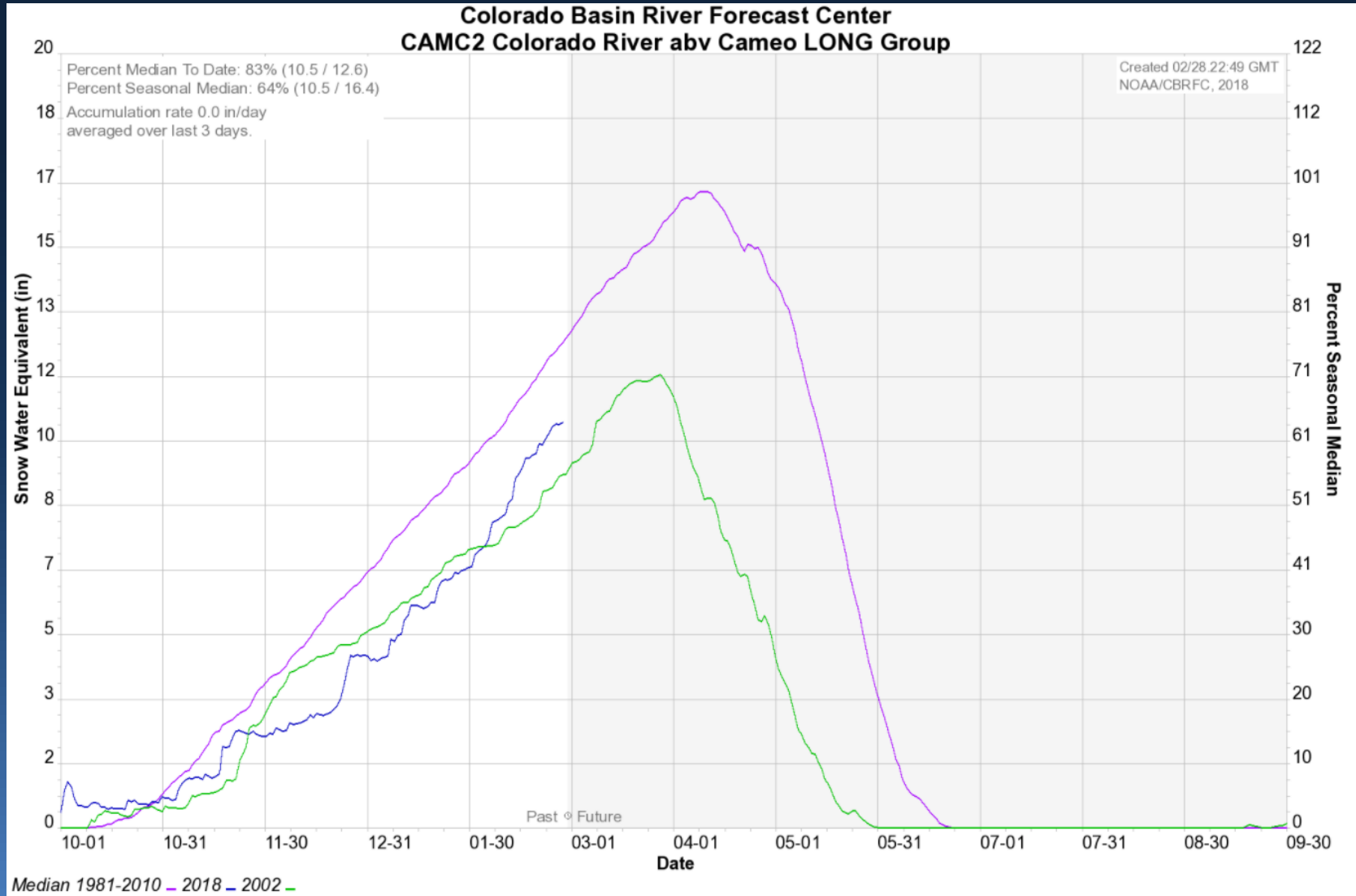


<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

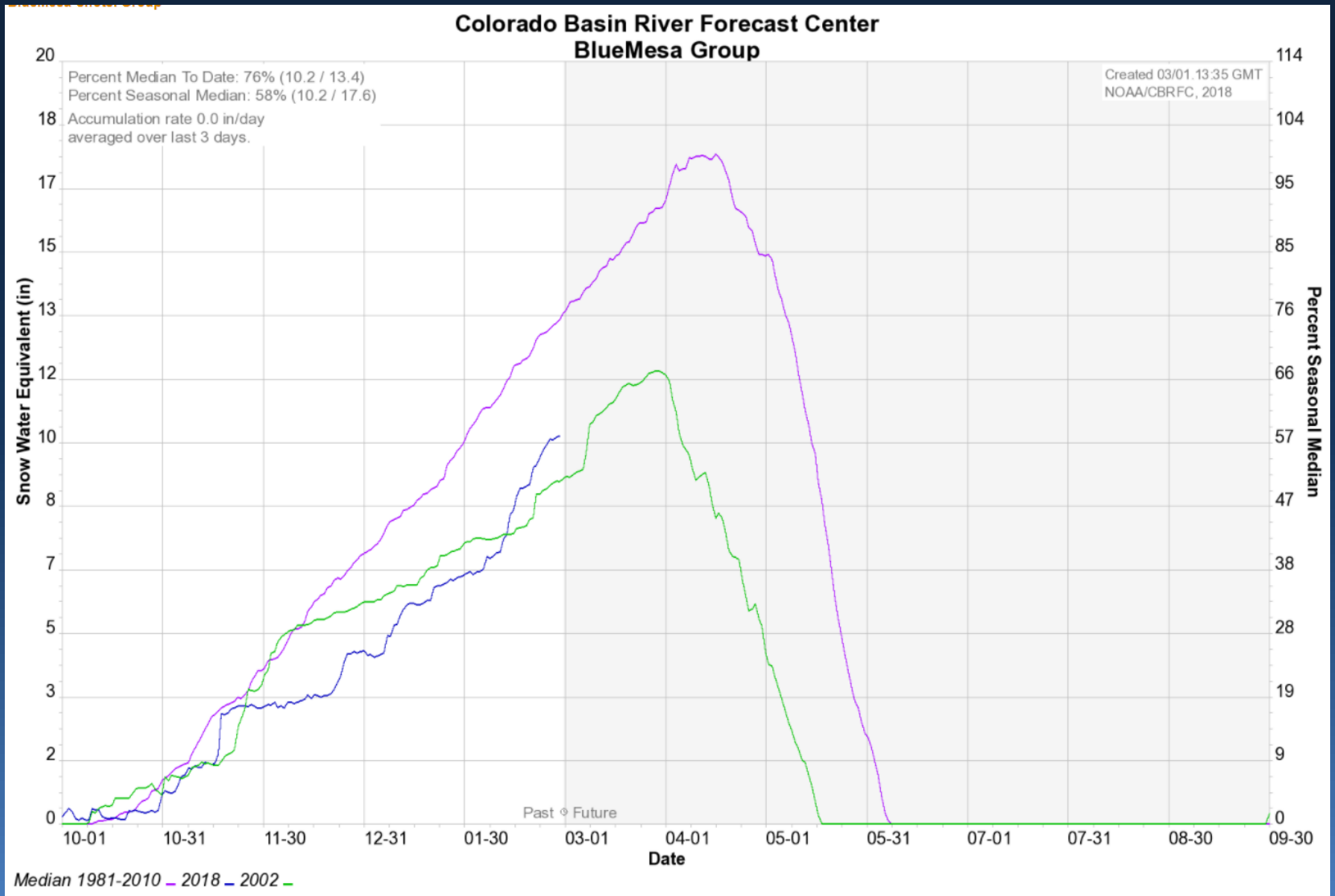


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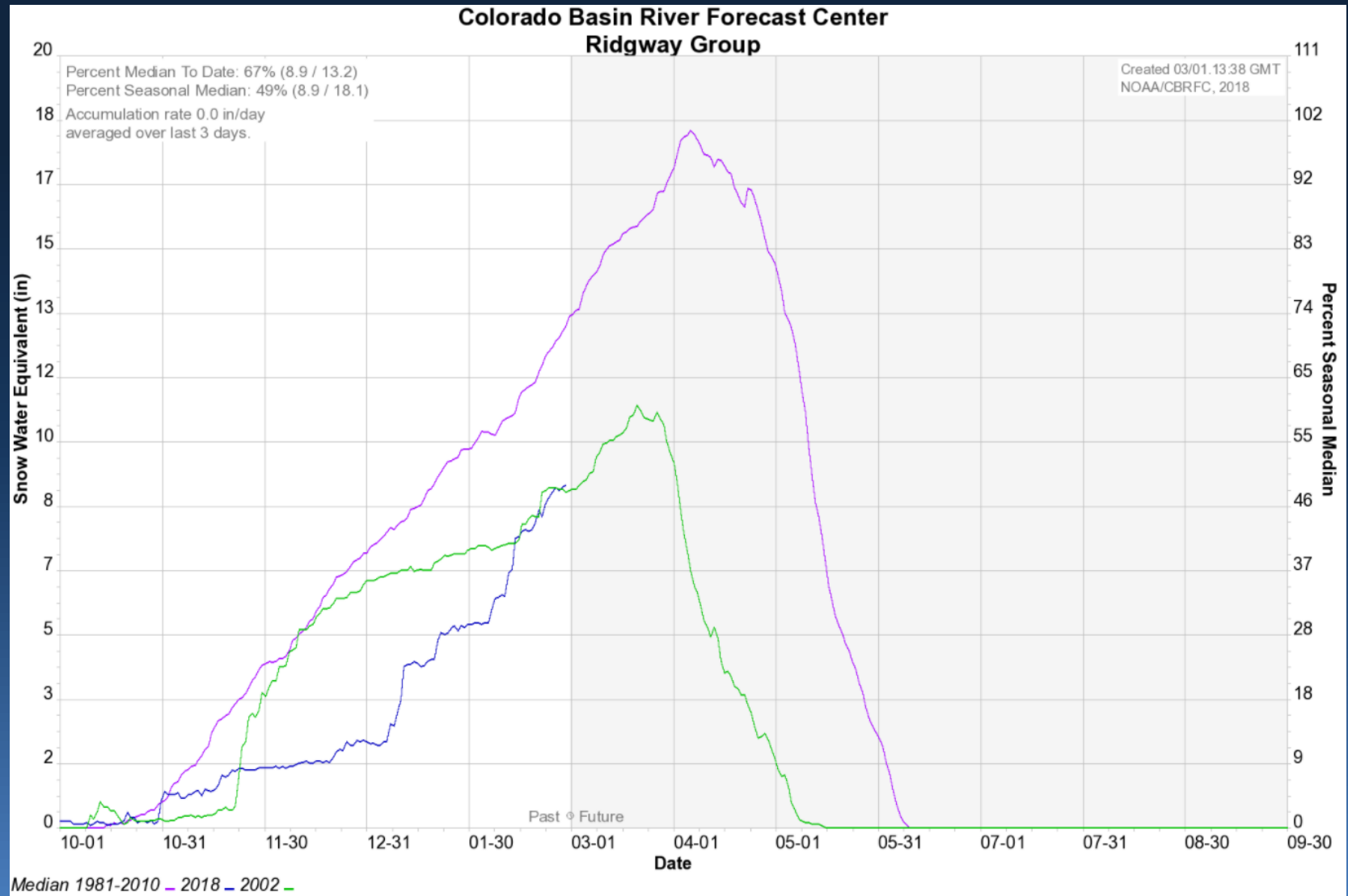
Water Supply – Snowpack Above Cameo



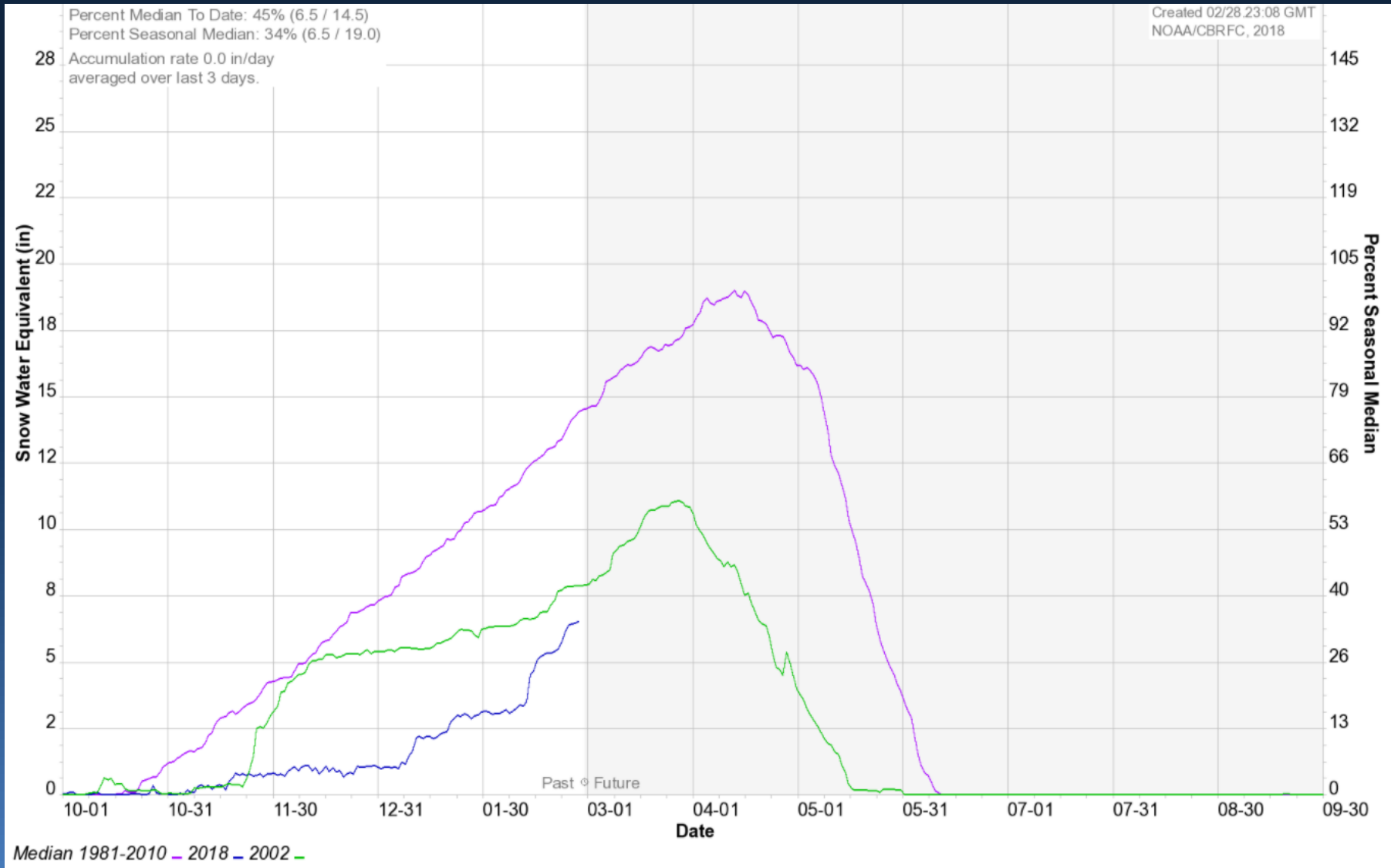
Water Supply – Snowpack Upper Gunnison



Water Supply – Snowpack Uncompahgre



Water Supply – Snow Pack, Grand Mesa



Lake Powell Stats

- Lake Powell is 54.91% of Full Pool (24,322,000 af)
 - Full = 3700 ft elevation
 - Current = 3616.12 ft
 - Minimum Power Pool elevation = 3490 ft (currently 126.12 ft above)
- Snowpack above Lake Powell is 54% of April 15 average peak
 - 73% of average to date, March 1st
- 28 Reservoirs above Lake Powell are at 74% full
 - 9.2 MAF of storage capacity
 - 7.1 MAF of current storage available



Water Rights in Colorado

Types of Water Rights

General	Unique	Other
Surface Water Right	Federal Reserve Water Right	Change of Water Rights
Storage Water Right	Recreational In-Channel Diversion	Exchange Decree
Underground Water Right	Minimum Instream Flow Water Right	Augmentation Plan*

*Not an actual water right but a plan approved by the court to use junior water rights when out of priority.



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Water Rights in Colorado

Right of Condemnation

- Colorado Constitution, Article XVI Section 6.
 - ...preferred priority uses in times of shortage
- Domestic over all other uses
- Agriculture over industrial



Water Rights in Colorado

Right to Place a “Call” for Water


- Free River – the supply of water in the river exceeds the demand for water by all decreed water users
- Call – the demand for water by a user
- Call Recognized and Administered by Division of Water Resources – the determination by the Water Commissioner of the most junior right that may divert when the supply of water in the river is less than the demand on the river by all decreed water users (also known as “the Call”)

Note: These definitions are not found in statute, but are working definitions in Division 4. The primary statute that water administration occurs under is 37-92-502 C.R.S.



Water Administration in Colorado

Call Manager Tool on DWR Website

**COLORADO'S**
Decision Support Systems
CWCB / DWR

Administrative Calls - Active

Search Fields

Geographical Area

4 - Gunnison

Additional Filter Options

Search

Table

Map

	Admin Scenario	Date Time Set	Water Source	Location WDID	Calling Location	Priority WDID	Priority Structure Name	Priority Admin No	Priority Date	Priority
View	CALL	7/3/2017 08:00 AM	OAK CREEK	4000847	OAK CREEK NO 2 DITCH	4000847	OAK CREEK NO 2 DIT...	21263.19113	3/20/1908	A68

Location

Priority

Additional Resources

Historical Calls

Colorado Information Marketplace

DWR Web Services

50 items per page

CWCB | DWR | DNR | Colorado.gov | Terms of Use | Privacy Policy



Water Administration in Colorado

Setting the Call on the River

- Determine river conditions (supply) from stream gaging stations
- Determine the demand (calls) by various water right holders from water user contacts
- Sets the valid call based on a comparison of river conditions (supply) and demand (calls) and knowledge of water gains or losses and water travel times between points on the river
- Call is set at the most junior water right in priority that can still take water. This is also called the swing right.



Water Administration in Colorado

Conditions for Placing a Valid “Call”

- User must be in priority
- Water diverted by user must be beneficially used in accordance with the decree terms and conditions
- Water cannot be wasted
- User must have an acceptable headgate and an accurate measuring device
- User must be taking all the water that is available at their headgate
- Must determine whether user will get the water they are calling for by curtailing upstream junior rights (futile call determination)



Strategies for Water Short Years

- Administrative Exchange
- Emergency Substitute Water Supply Plan: 37-92-308(7)
 - For Domestic/Municipal only
 - Applications processed by State Engineer's Office.
 - Amounts to a temporary change of water right.
- Loan of Irrigation Water Rights: 37-83-105
 - Formal request in writing
 - noticing requirement
- Lease of Storage Water
- Efficiency Improvements to on and off field delivery systems
- Court Approved Augmentation Plan



Strategies for Water Short Years

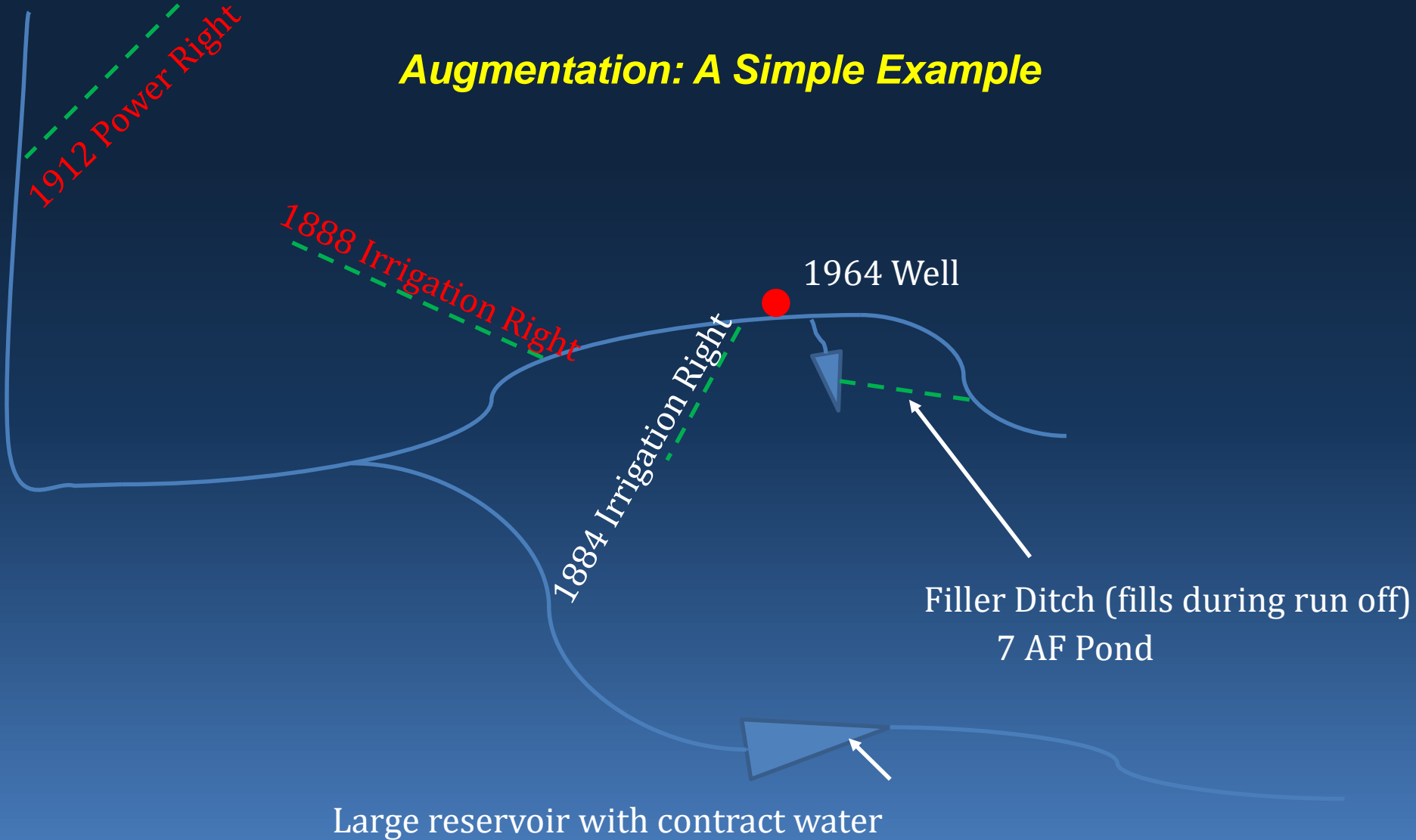
Augmentation: Sources of Replacement Water

- Fully Consumable Water (Trans Mountain Diversion)
- Reservoir Releases
 - Contract or Lease Water
 - New Storage
- Change of Irrigation Rights (HCU credits)
- Recharge Credits



Strategies for Water Short Years

Augmentation: A Simple Example



A photograph showing a person standing in a deep snowdrift in front of a house. The house has a green corrugated metal roof and a dark brown door. A red sign with the number '26036' is visible on the wall above the door. A white sign with red text is posted on the door. The person is wearing a plaid jacket, dark pants, and boots. The snow is piled high on both sides of the person, reaching up to their chest.

Time for More Questions

!Think Snow!