

**Integrating Science and Management
A State Agency Perspective of the Collaborative Stewardship Process:
The Colorado Division of Wildlife and The Dolores River Dialogue**

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CO Division of Wildlife – Management of Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife Resources for Recreational and Conservation Purposes

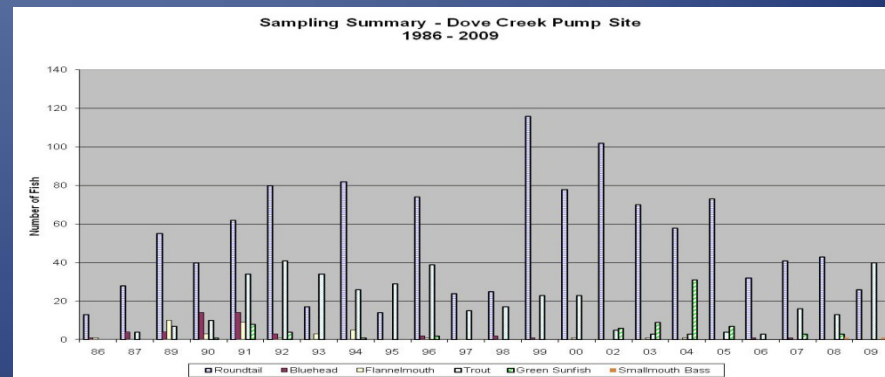
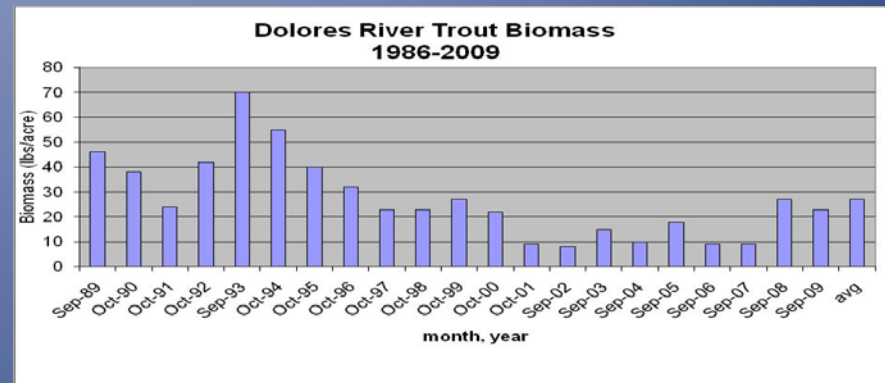
Brief History of Cooperative Management in the Lower Dolores

- Cooperative Land Management of River Corridor (to 12-miles below dam) – State and Federal Agencies (pre-Project)
- Dolores River Biology Team - Flow Management w/ Fed Partners, TU (1986 – present)
- Dolores River Instream Flow Partnership (DRIP) w/ State, Fed, Water Districts, NGO Partners (1989 - ~ 2000)
MOA signed in 1998 articulating goals, including seeking additional water supplies for Instream use

Dolores River Dialogue (DRD) – 2004 thru present

FISHERY MANAGEMENT AND DATA

- Coldwater Trout Management
 - Stocking Rainbow, Cutthroat Trout
 - Annual Electrofishing Surveys (four sites)
 - Habitat Improvement Projects
- Warmwater Native Species Conservation
 - Roundtail Chub (warranted for ESA Protection in Lower CO River Basin)
 - Flannelmouth and Bluehead Suckers
 - Annual Electrofishing Surveys (one site)
 - Infrequent, Flow-dependent longitudinal surveys



Habitat Investigations Below McPhee Dam at Lone Dome State Wildlife Area

PRE-Dam History of Land and Water Management Affecting Aquatic Habitat

- Late- Summer Dewatering since 1886
- Agriculture and Grazing

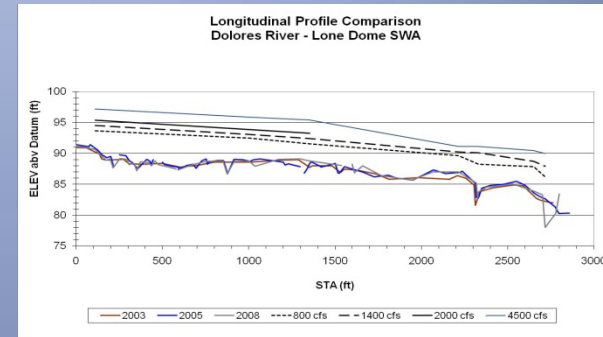
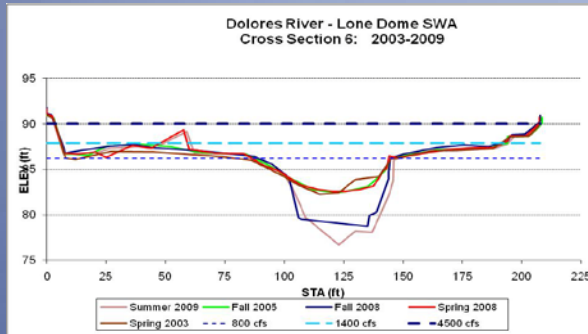
POST-Dam Issues Affecting Aquatic Habitat

- Reduced Peak Flows, No-Spill Years
- Reduced Sediment Flux below Reservoir



Specific Inquiries

➤ Cross Section and Longitudinal Surveys



- Particle Size Analyses
- Sediment Dynamics



- Thresholds of Flow

	Mobility Threshold Exceeded at XS?					
	D50			D84		
	800	1400	4500	800	1400	4500
XS#0	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES
XS#1	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
XS#2	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
XS#3	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES
XS#4	YES	YES	YES	NO (~)	YES	YES
XS#5	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

- ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT – FLOW EXPERIMENTS TO TEST HYPOTHESES

COLLABORATIVE PROCESSES – A State Agency Perspective

- History of 'Collaborative Processes' in general has been mixed (e.g., 'DRIP', 'angler roundtables', sage grouse 'working groups', big game management structure...
→ **DANGERS OF POLITICIZING WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT**
- Mandate to manage wildlife resources whether or not a 'cooperative process' exists
→ **'FAD' OR A MEANINGFUL, LONG TERM MANAGEMENT STRATEGY?**
- Decision Making Authority → **THE DRD HAS NONE**
- Parochial Interests vs Common Goals → **PARTICIPANTS MUST MAKE A CHOICE**

CONCLUSIONS RE: THE DOLORES RIVER DIALOGUE – Personal Perspective

- Meaningful scientific information has been collected and collated that can help address significant resource concerns → **COLLABORATIVE SCIENCE WORKS**

ALL KEY PLAYERS ARE AT THE TABLE – the DRD CAN BECOME A FORCE FOR PROACTIVE DECISIONS THAT COULD AFFECT FEDERAL LISTINGS OF AQUATIC SPECIES

THANK YOU

