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U.V.W.U.A.

UNCOMPAHGRE VALLEY  
WATER USERS  
ASSOCIATION

KNOWN  
FOR  
THE  
GUNNISON  
TUNNEL

Early pioneers to the Uncompahgre Valley soon found that rainfall was inadequate for farming & the one river, the Uncompahgre, carried too little water to irrigate much of the available land within the fertile valley



To the northeast, however, locked  
in an awesome gorge flowed the  
Gunnison River



All that was needed was  
A tunnel

In 1902 Congress passed the Reclamation Act which provided for repayment of construction costs of irrigation projects over a long period of time with no interest

On June 7, 1903 the Secretary of Interior approved funding for the Uncompahgre Project, one of the 1<sup>st</sup> five projects to be built by the newly created Reclamation Service (now known as the Bureau of Reclamation)



Photo Credit: [callawayfamily.org](http://callawayfamily.org)

In the fall of 1904 construction  
began on the tunnel

After many difficulties, on July 6,  
1909, crews at the last two  
headings met & the tunnel was



“holed through”

It was the longest irrigation tunnel  
in the world

On Sept. 23, 1909 the “biggest event that ever happened in Montrose” President William Howard Taft arrived in Montrose Colo. to officially dedicate the Gunnison Tunnel



Photo Credit: coloradoforfree.com

**Gunnison Tunnel completed in 1909**

And Gunnison River water was brought into the Uncompahgre Valley



Sixty-three years later in 1972, the Gunnison Tunnel was acclaimed by the American Society of Civil Engineers as a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark. The tunnel became only the 26<sup>th</sup> structure of man's ingenuity to be accorded the honor.

It was soon recognized for a need  
of up stream storage to store the  
spring runoff so that irrigation  
water would still be available in the  
late summer

A site was chosen on the Taylor River, a tributary to the Gunnison River



*Taylor Park Dam Site*

# Construction on Taylor Park Dam began in 1935



The dam is located about 30 miles northeast of Gunnison Colorado near the Continental Divide



The dam was completed in 1937 & holds 106,230 Acre Feet of water



Presently we are in the process of adding Hydro Power to our Project



Two different sites were chosen on the South Canal. UVWUA & DMEA joined forces to produce Hydro-electricity



Construction began this past spring (2012) on the facilities and they will produce between 6—8 Megawatts (25—30 million kilo-watt hours/year)



Enough electricity for 3,000—3,500 homes. We will begin producing power this spring (2013) & operate only during the irrigation season



The Project lands surround the City of Montrose and extend 34 miles along both sides of the Uncompahgre River from the foot hills of the Gunnison Gorge to the East & the foot hills of the Uncompahgre Plateau to the West down river to the City of Delta

Project features include Taylor Dam and Reservoir, Gunnison Tunnel, 7 diversion Dams, 128 miles of main canals, 438 miles of laterals, 216 miles of drains, and soon to be, 2 Hydro Electric Facilities.

The system diverts water from the Uncompahgre and Gunnison Rivers to serve over 80,000 acres of Agriculture and Urban land. We also supply the municipal water to Project-7 for treatment of the domestic water throughout the valley in exchange for Ridgway water for irrigation purposes

# UVWUA WATER RIGHTS

Gunnison tunnel has a 05/08/1913 water right for 1300cfs

Uncompahgre River has a 06/30/1890 water right for a total of 1225.64cfs

Taylor Park Reservoir has a 04/29/1941 storage water right for 106,230 AF

Ridgway Reservoir has a 04/14/1961 storage water right of which we purchase 11,200 AF of irrigation water annually

We also have an exchange contract for up to 15,000 AF of municipal water from Ridgway annually

# SOIL TYPES

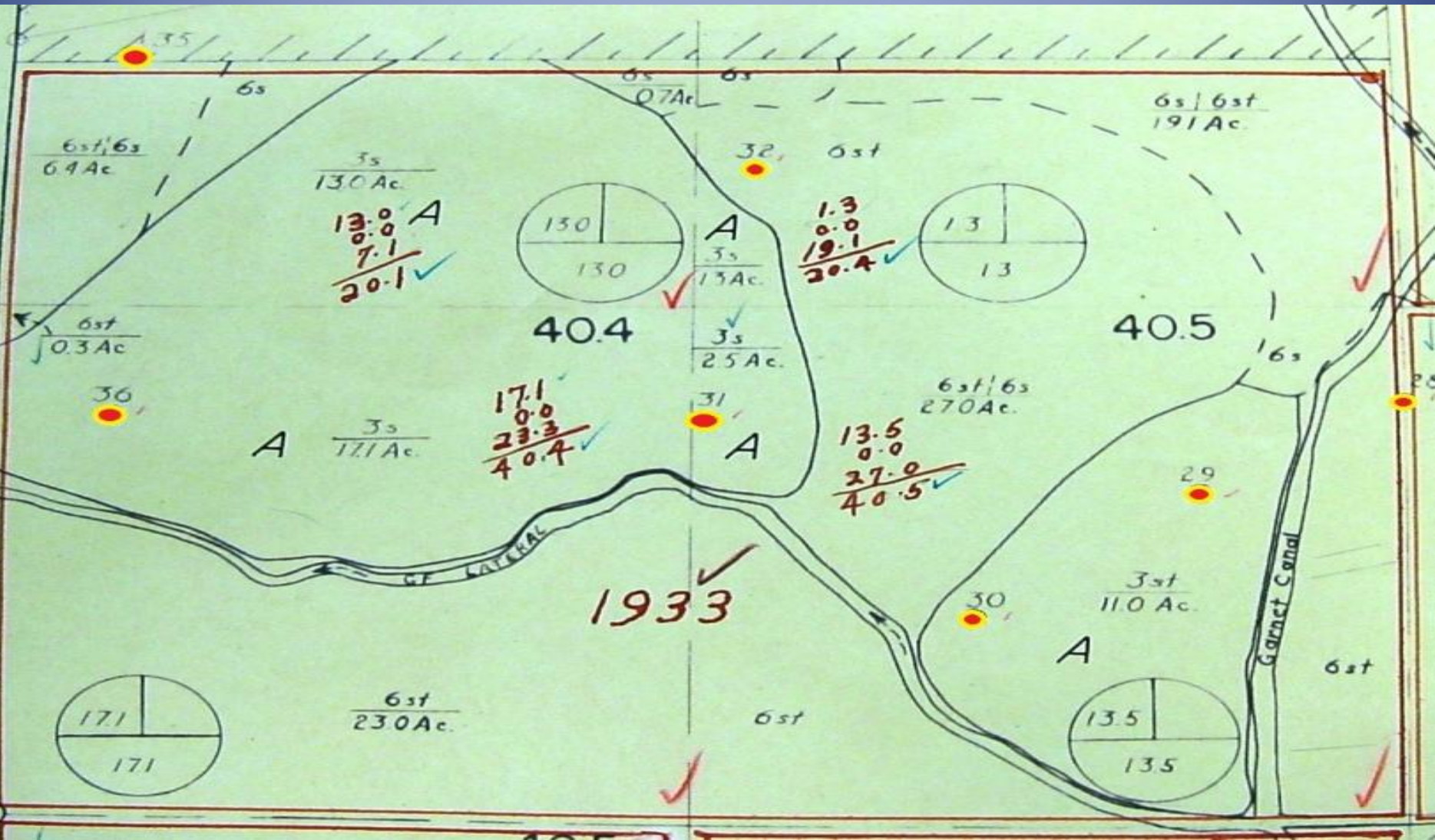
We have two types of soil in the valley-Mesa Soil & Adobe Soil

Mesa Soil receives 5 AF of water per share (Acre) per year

Adobe Soil receives 4 AF of water per share (Acre) per year

The soils are also classified as 1, 2, 3 or class 6

# WATER MAP SHOWING DIFFERENT CLASSIFICATION OF WATER



Today we face the challenges of maintaining our water in Colorado and insuring ourselves there will be plenty for future needs for generations to come

# TODAY WE FACE ISSUES LIKE

- High Cost of Maintenance
- Meeting the Demands of Water
- Urbanization
- Trans Mountain Divisions
- Colorado River Compact
- Clean Water Act
- Endangered Species Act
- Over Allocation of Water

# High Cost of Maintenance

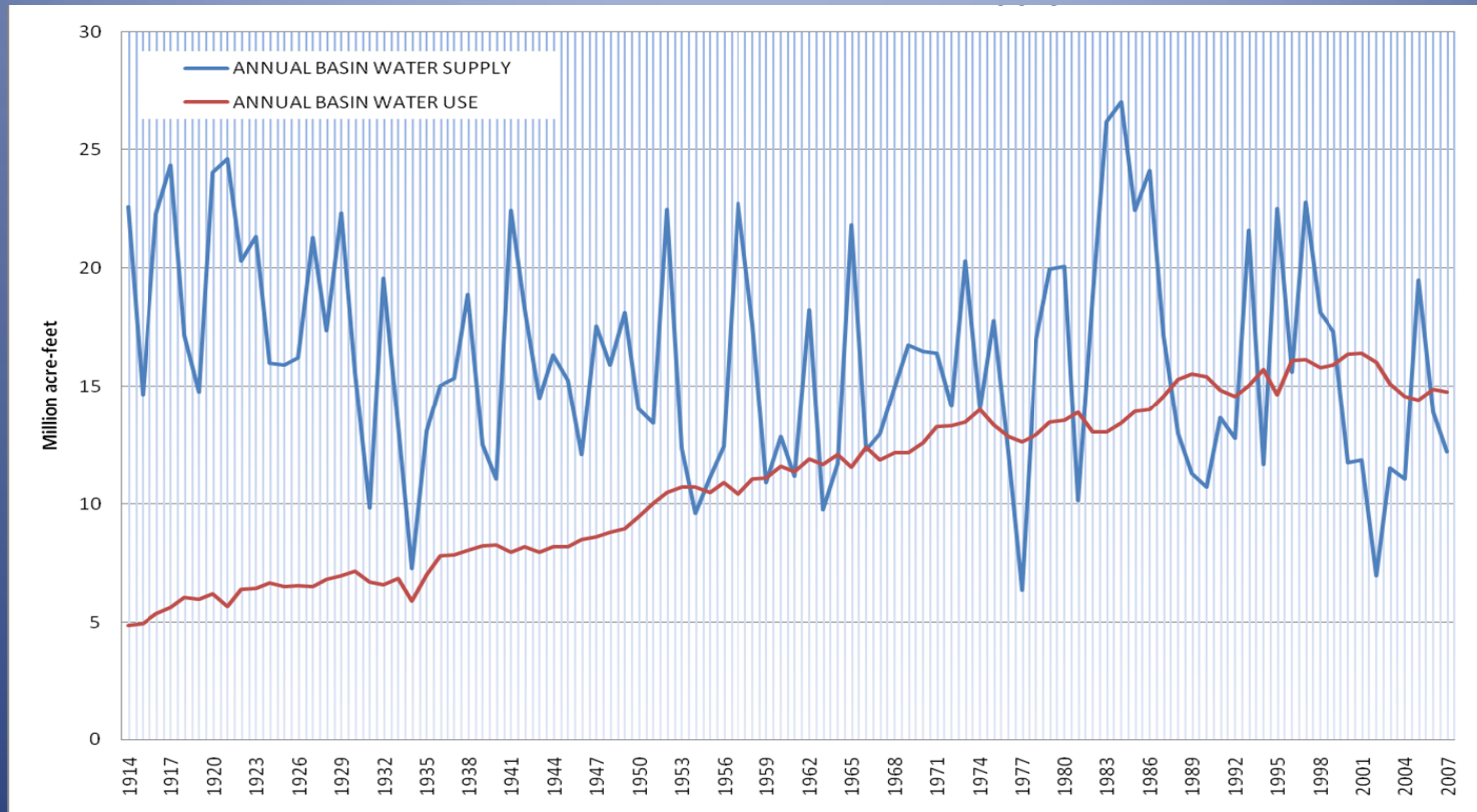


With the Project being over 100 years old it's starting to show it's wear & tear as shown here on the spillway at Taylor Dam



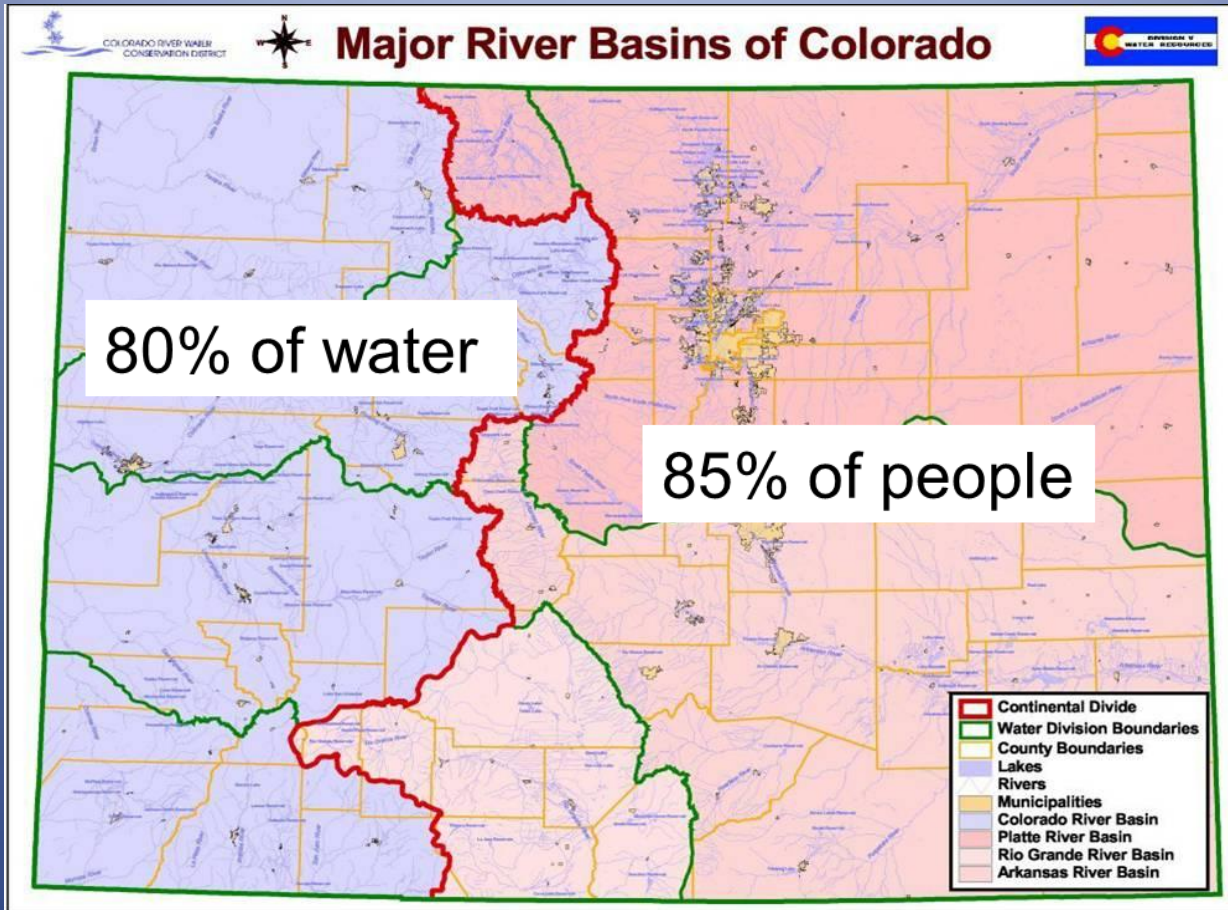
Wear on canal banks are constancy in  
need of maintenance

# Meeting the Demands of Water

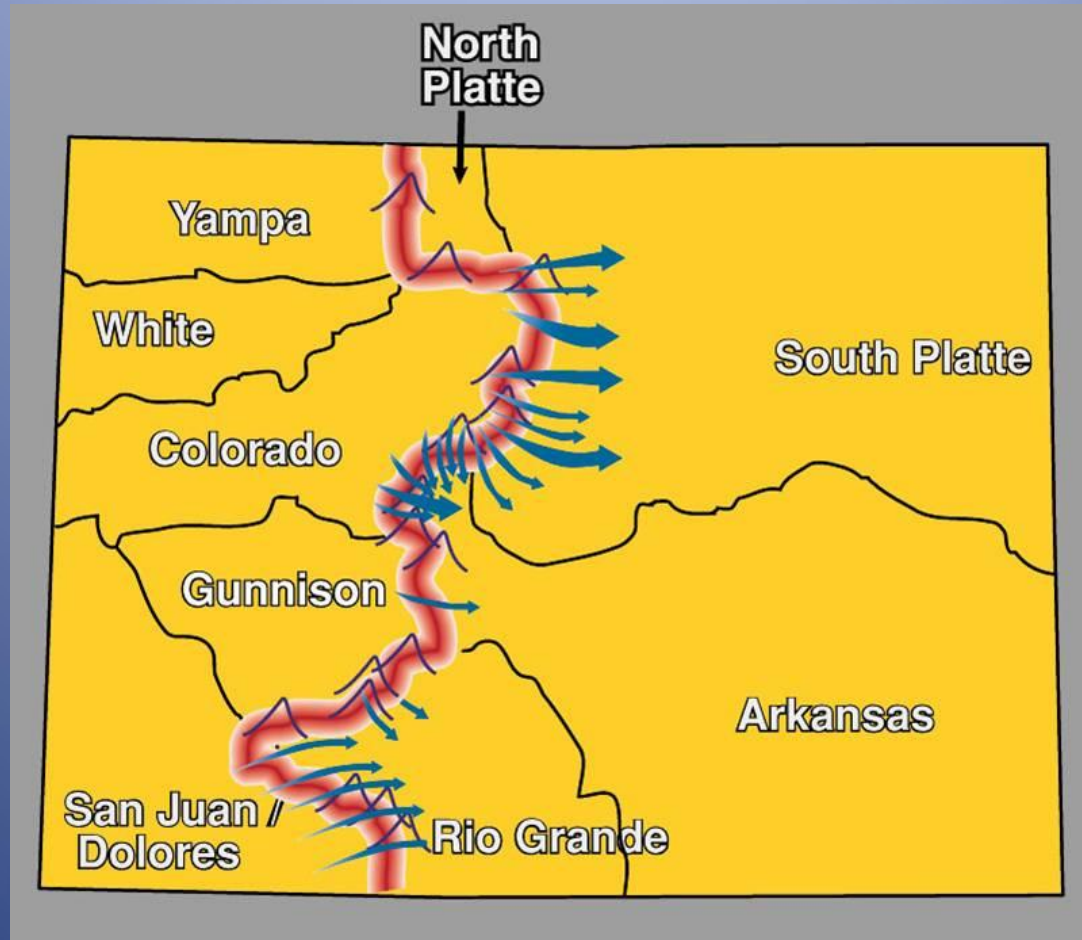


Blue line shows the annual basin water supply & the red line shows water use

# Urbanization



# Trans Mountain Divisions

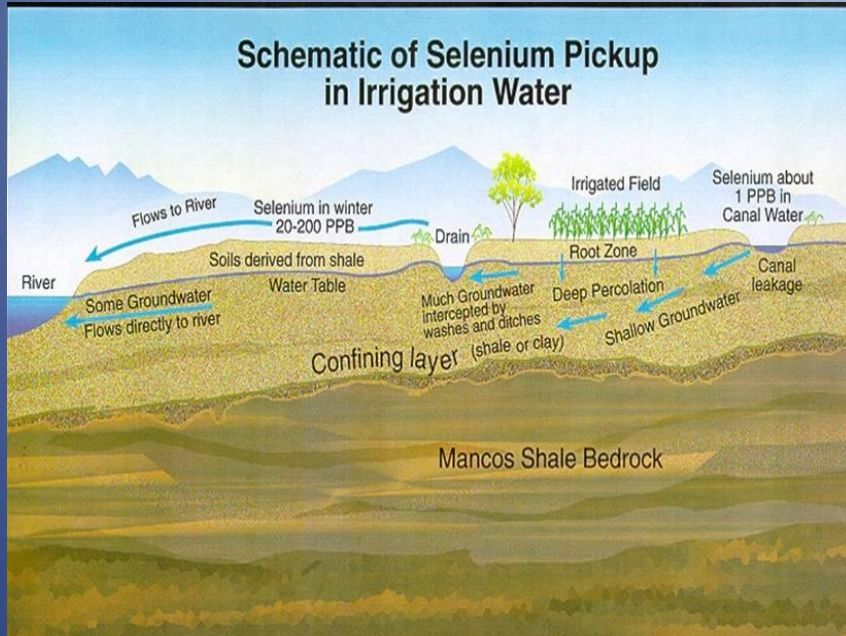


There are 24 trans mountain divisions in  
in the state

# Colorado River Compact



# Clean Water Act



Salt & Selenium enter the ground water from the deep percolation of water from canals & laterals. This loaded water then enters the rivers & streams which puts them in violation of the Clean Water Act

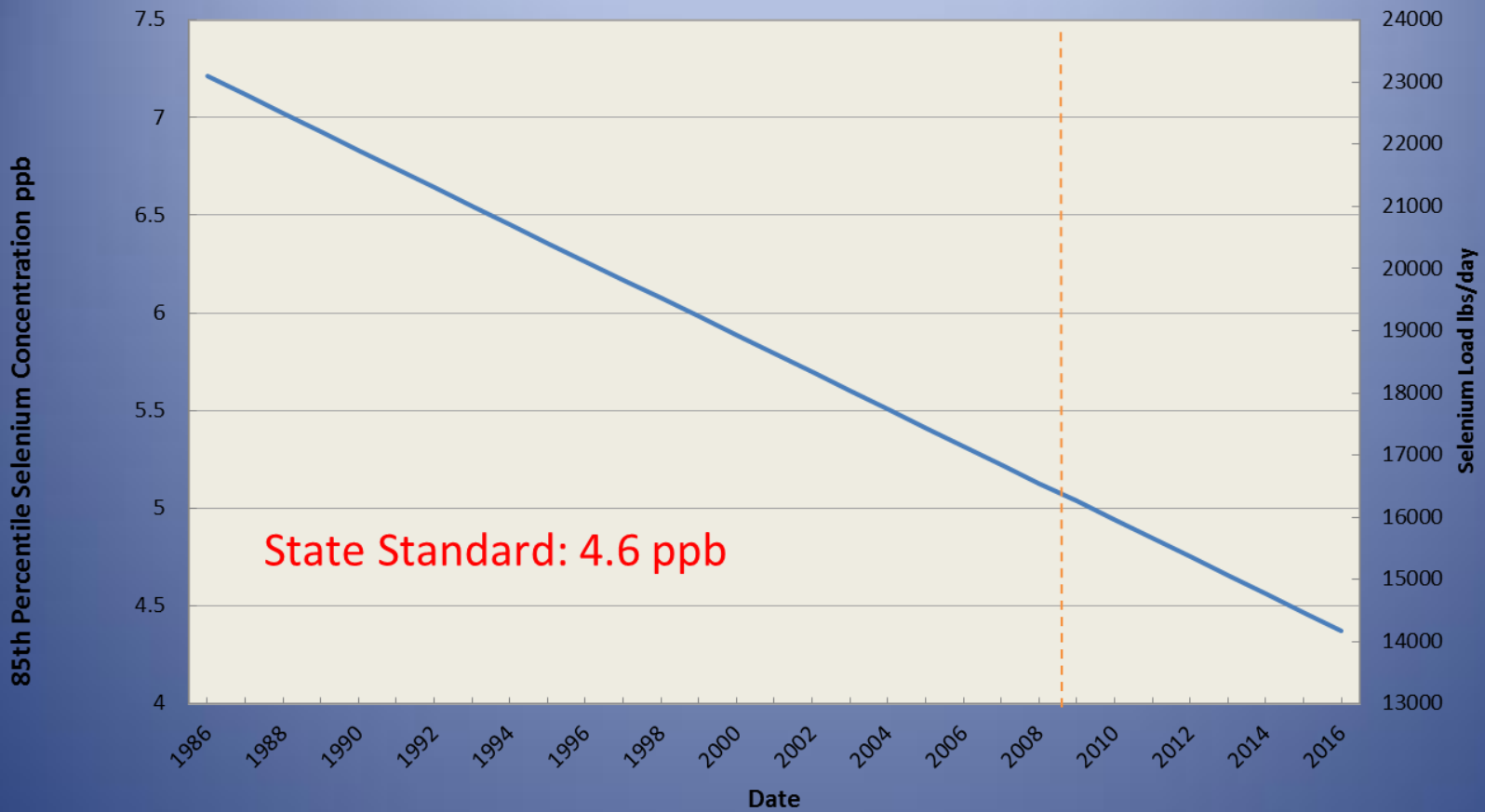
# Endangered Species Act



This Selenium loaded water is also affecting endangered fish in the Colorado River Basin which is in violation of the Endangered Species Act



Several years ago we choose to be proactive instead of being reactive & started piping & lining our canals & laterals to meet the requirements of the Clean Water & Endangered Species Acts. This endeavor is accomplished by grants provided by State & Federal agencies



It shows that our endeavors have been working as there has been a steady decrease in amount of Selenium at State Line in the Colorado River

# Colorado River Basin Supplies

Seven Basin States

Almost 300,000 square miles

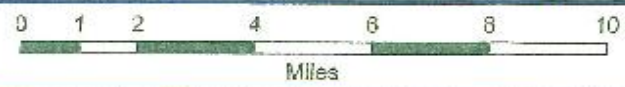
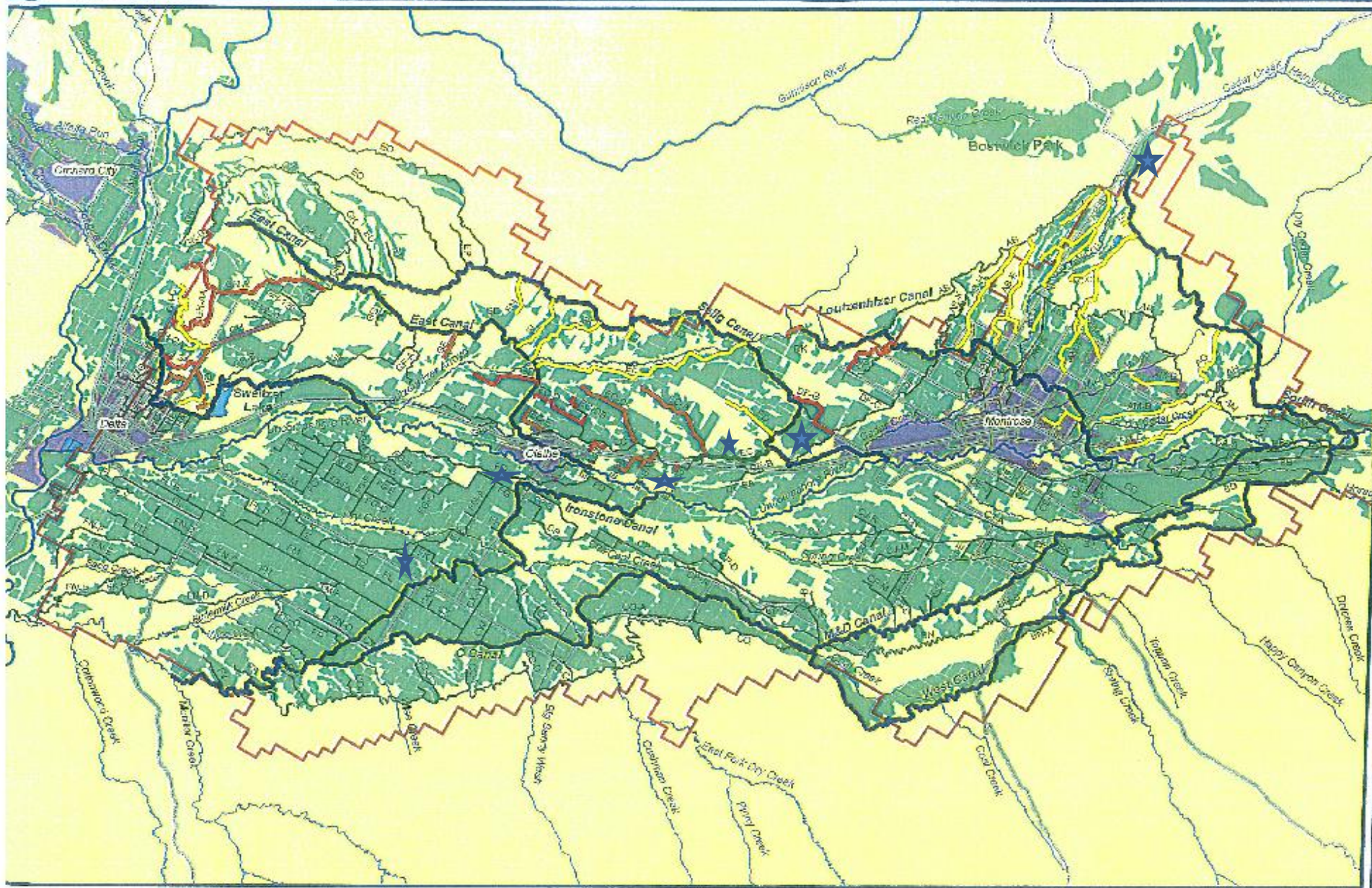
30-35 Million people

Up to 4.5 Million Irrigated Acres

10 Autonomous/Sovereign Tribes

2 Countries





Reclamation Project: Off-Farm Salinity/Selenium Control Improvements  
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QUESTIONS  
AND  
COMMENTS