

CRITFC 2005 River Operations Plan



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CRITFC Hydro Program

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Plan Goals



- Establish a normative (i.e. natural peaking) mainstem hydrograph as much as possible by modifying flood control and use of upstream storage.
- Reduce water particle and fish travel time by increasing flows and selective drawdown.
- Establish normative dam passage conditions through optimizing spill and surface bypass.

2005 Water Supply Forecast

- March Mid-Month 67.7 MaF (TDA Jan.- July)
- March Final Forecast 70.7 MaF (TDA Jan. - July)
- 2001...58.2 MaF (TDA January-July)
- 1977...53.8 MaF (TDA January-July)
- 1973...71.2 MaF (TDA January-July)

2001 Juvenile Salmon In-River System Survival Rates v. 2000 BiOp Standards-Must Do Better in 2005

- SR Sp-Chinook 2001, 16% BiOp 49.6%
- SR Steelhead 2001, 4% BiOp 51.6%
- SR Fall-Chinook 2001, 1.5% BiOp 14.3%



Key Plan Recommendations

- Use CBFWA for river operations planning and decision-making process.
- BPA appears financially solvent: No “emergency” curtailment of spill in 2005.
- Water conservation: no additional river water withdrawal for drought conditions.
- Water conservation: BPA and Reclamation continue 2001 water acquisition programs.

Key Recommendations (cont)



- Modify flood control rule curves-- little to no chance of flood events in 2005.
- Draw down Lower Granite pool by 10 feet during summer migration.
- Delay the refill of Lake Roosevelt until autumn to increase spring and summer flows.
- Reduce power peaking flow fluctuations in the river and particularly Hanford Reach.
- Conduct spring RSW tests at LWG and IHR; conduct summer RSW test at IHR.

Key Recommendations (cont): Flow Augmentation over BiOp



- 487 KaF from Upper Snake and 60 KaF in-stream flow rights consistent with SRBA.
- 500 KaF from Canadian Non-Treaty Storage.
- 200 KaF from Libby.
- 50 KaF from Hungry Horse.
- 250 KaF from Banks Lake.
- 237 KaF from Brownlee in July-August (interim FERC Settlement Agreement)

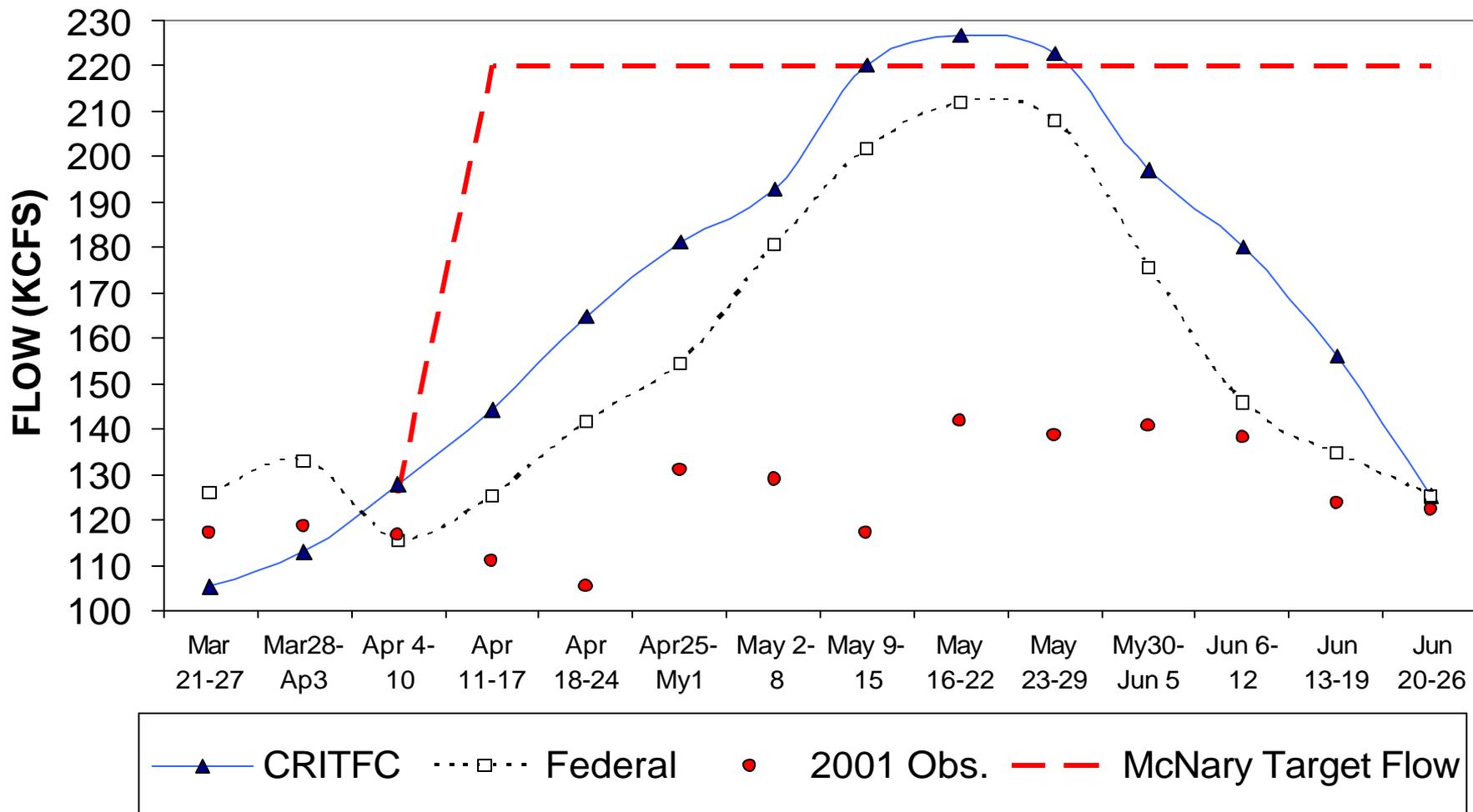
Key Recommendations (cont)



- Provide 24 hour spill for spring and summer migrations at all dams (Federal plan calls for "no spill" at 3 Snake dams).
- Increase spill volumes and timing.
- Spread-the-risk for juvenile transportation (no more than 50% of fish transported).
- Improve lamprey passage.
- Improve fish facilities through additional inspections and emergency protocols.

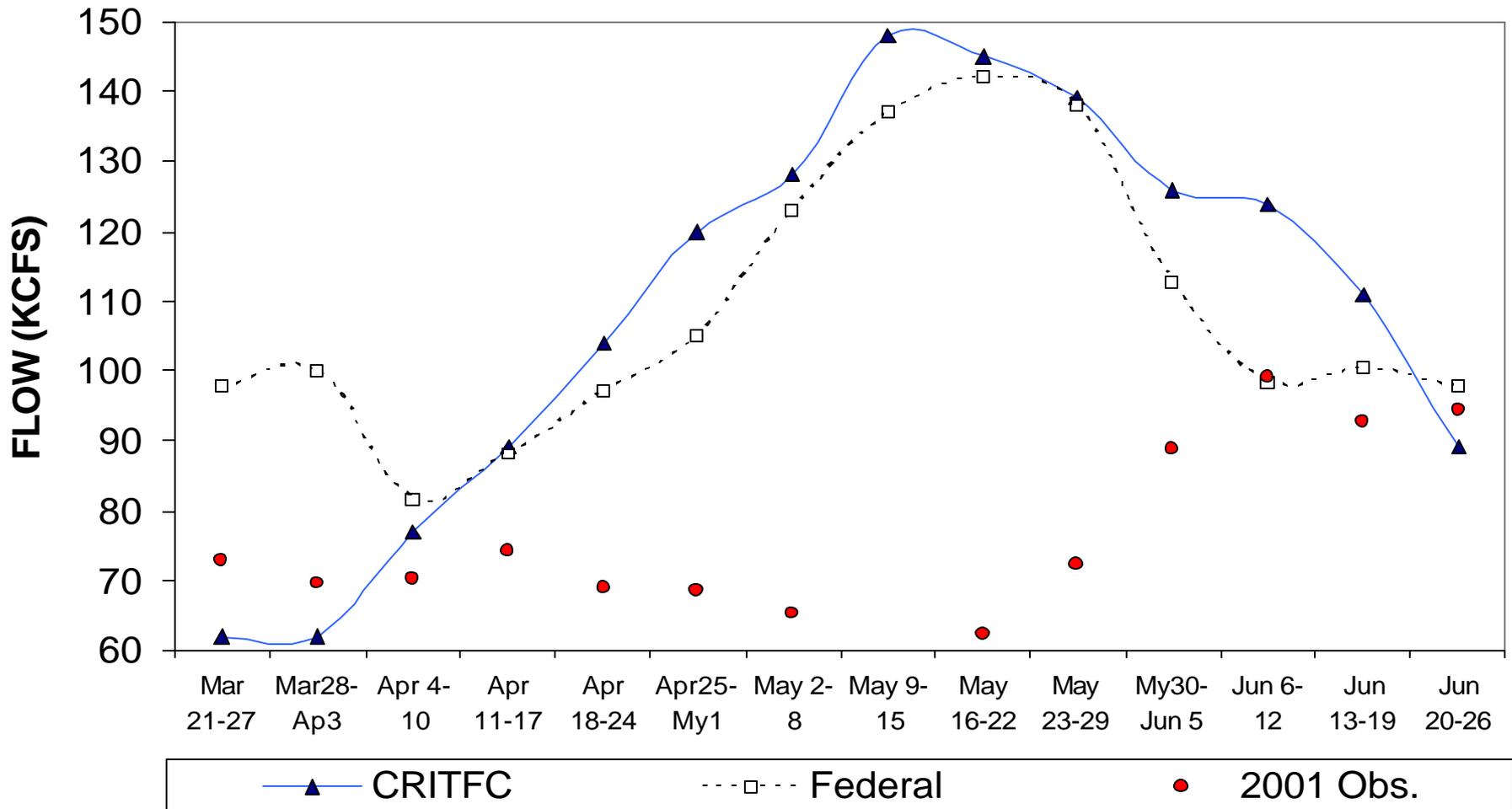
Flow Improvements: Exceed BiOp Spring Flow Targets for Migration Peak

THE DALLES SPRING FLOWS: WY 2005



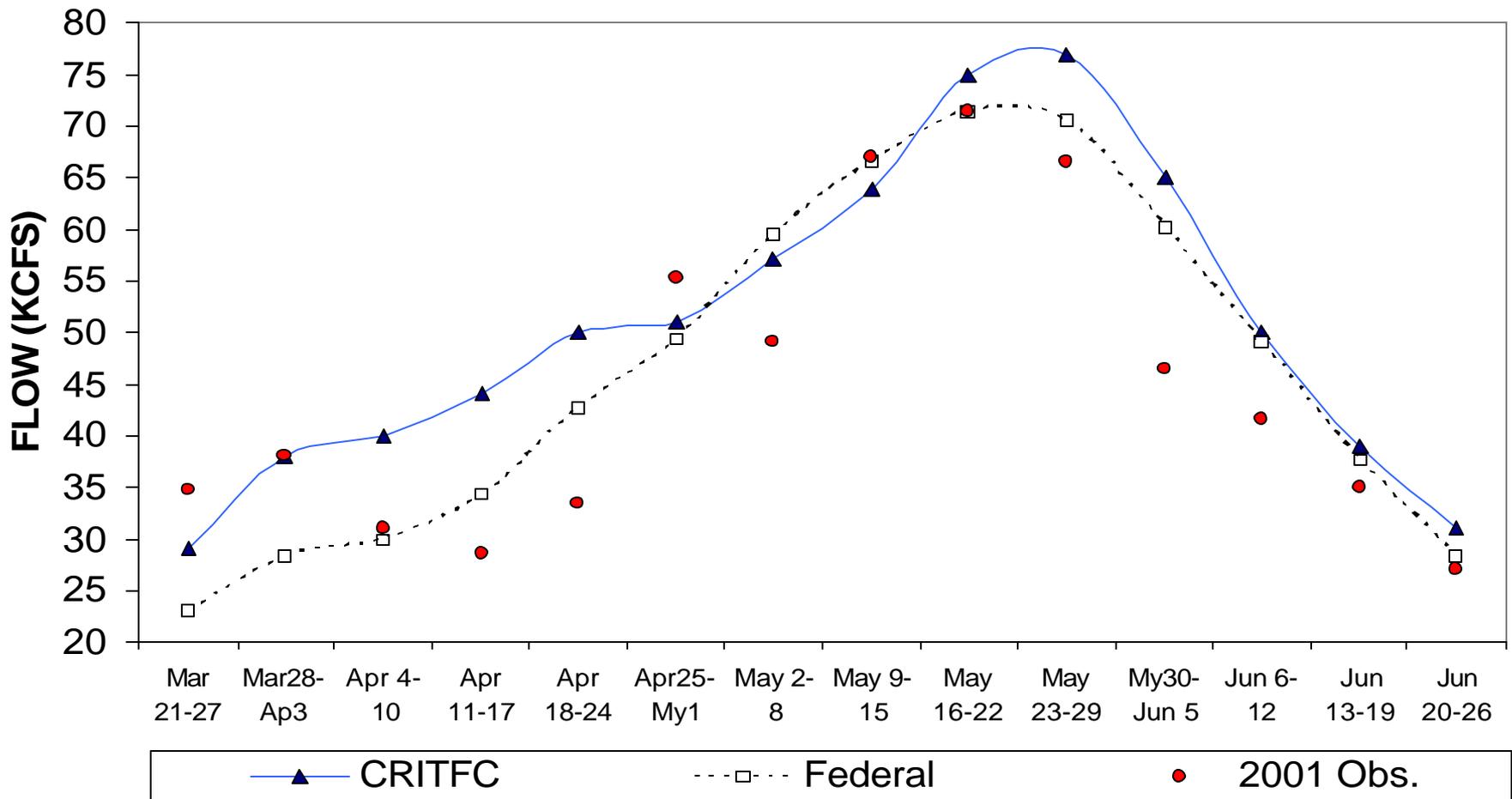
Flow Improvements: Exceed BiOp Spring Flow Targets for Migration Peak

PRIEST RAPIDS SPRING FLOWS: WY 2005



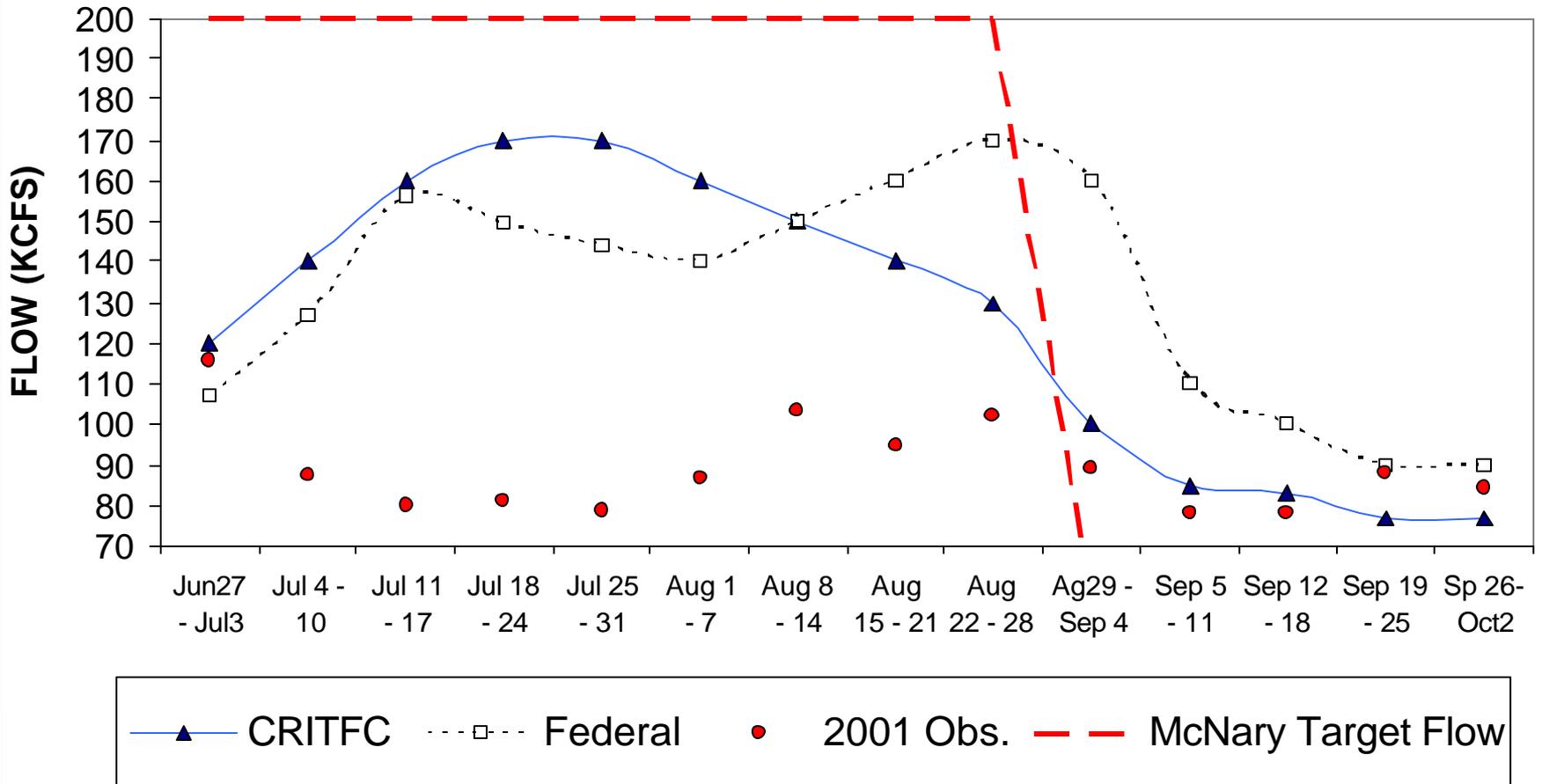
Flow Improvements: Target Flows for Migration Peak

LOWER GRANITE SPRING FLOWS: WY 2005



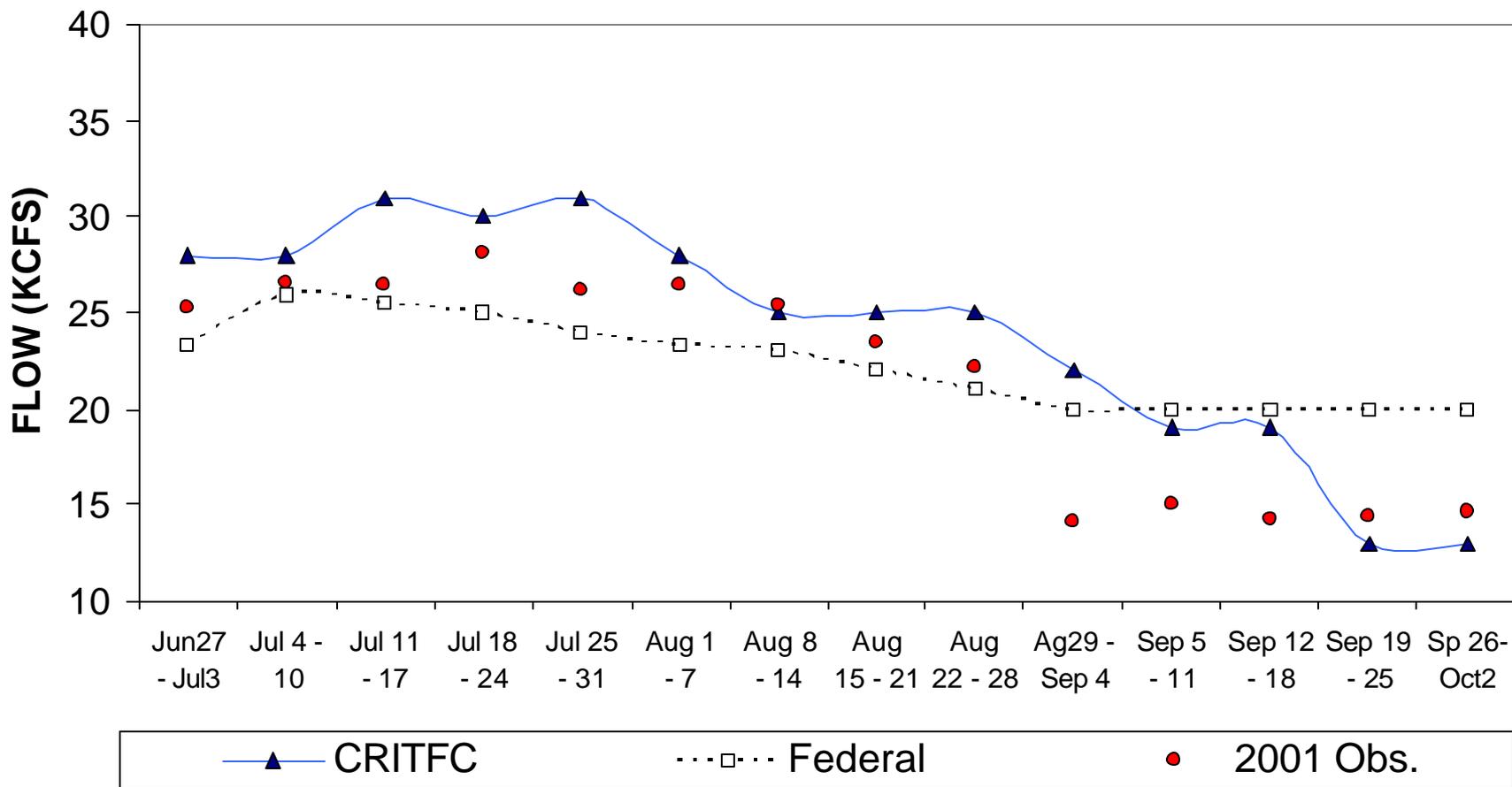
Flow Improvements: Summer

THE DALLES SUMMER FLOWS: WY 2005



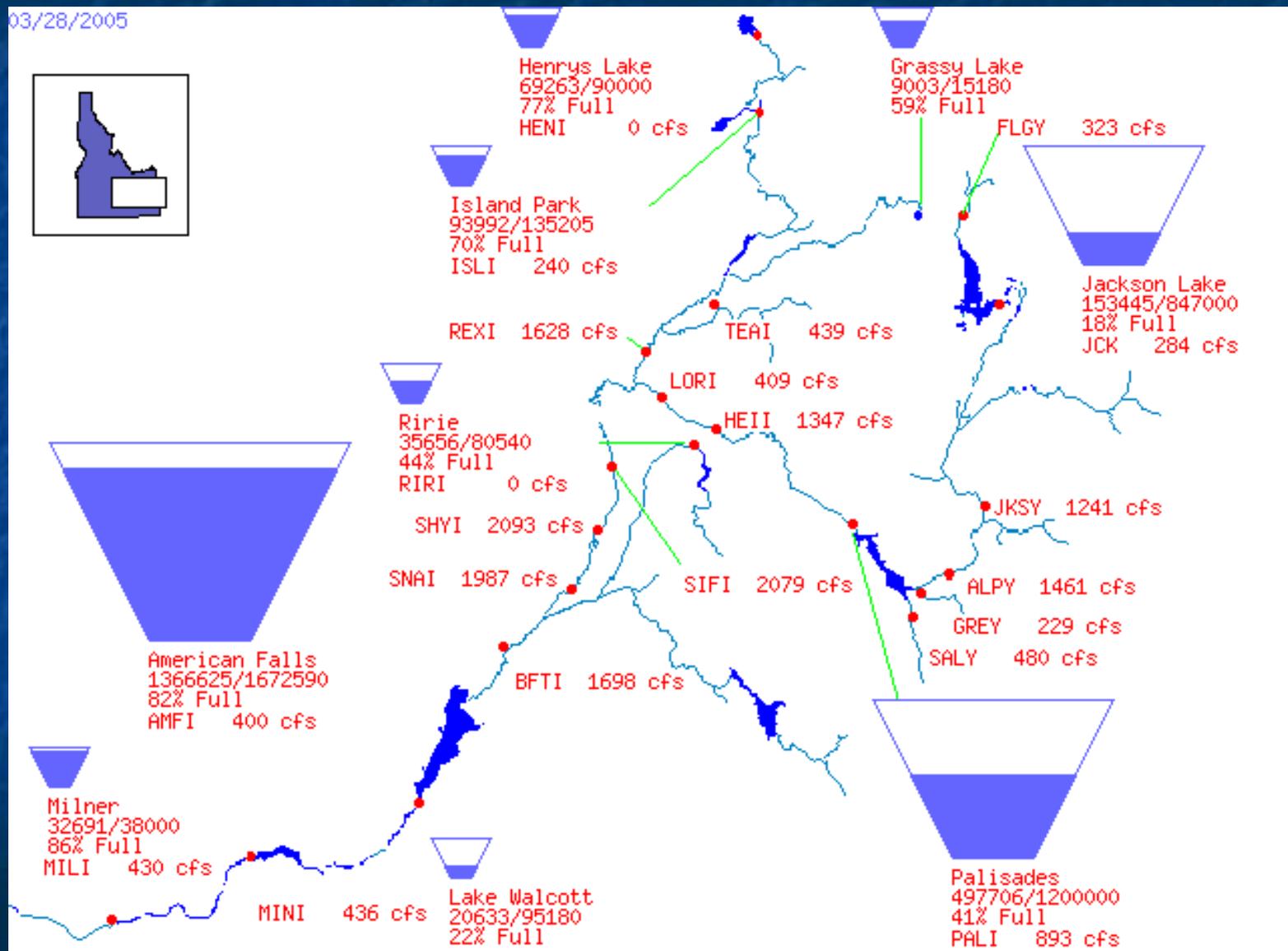
Flow Improvements: Summer

LOWER GRANITE SUMMER FLOWS: WY 2005



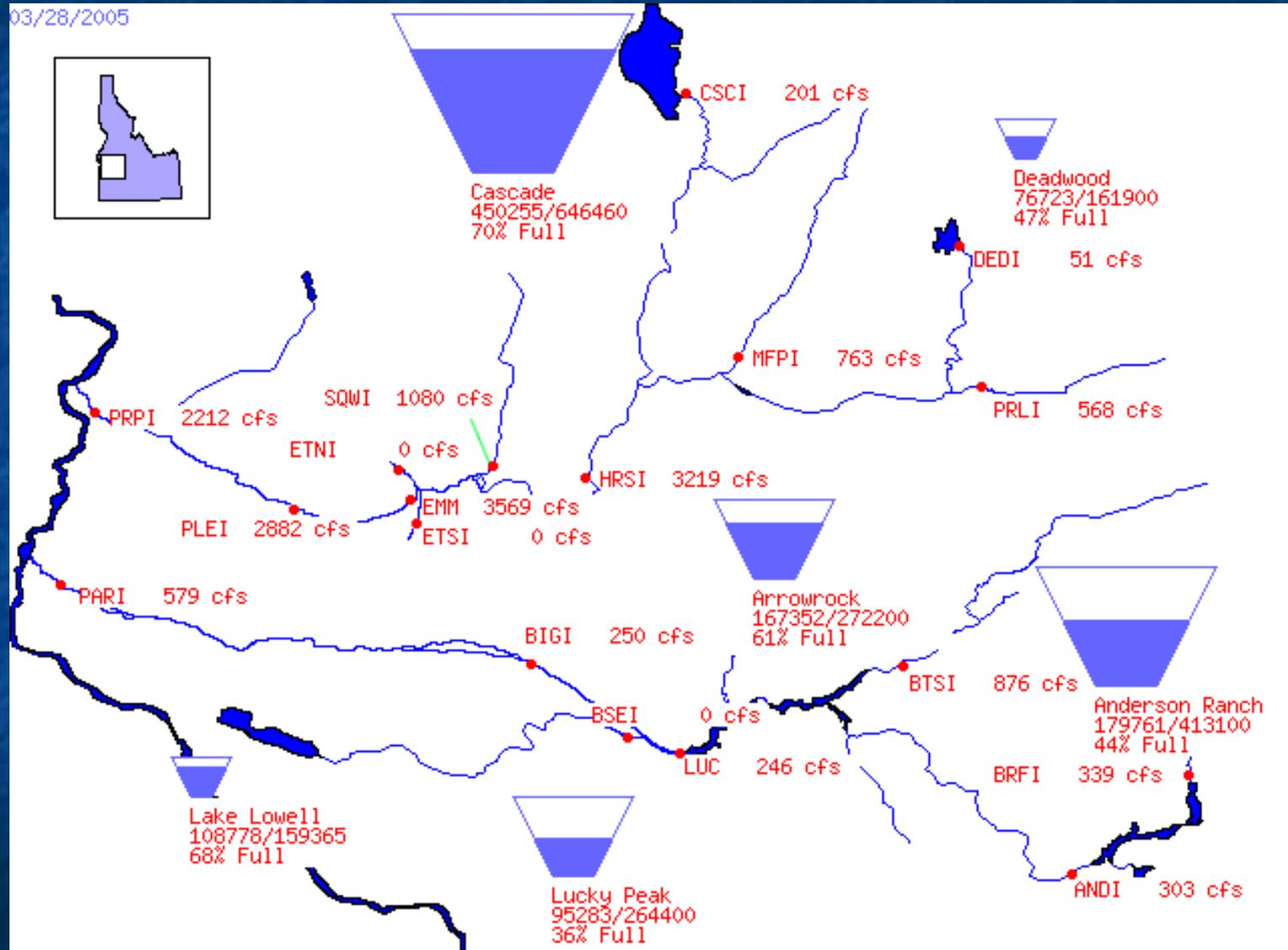
Upper Snake River Storage

03/28/2005



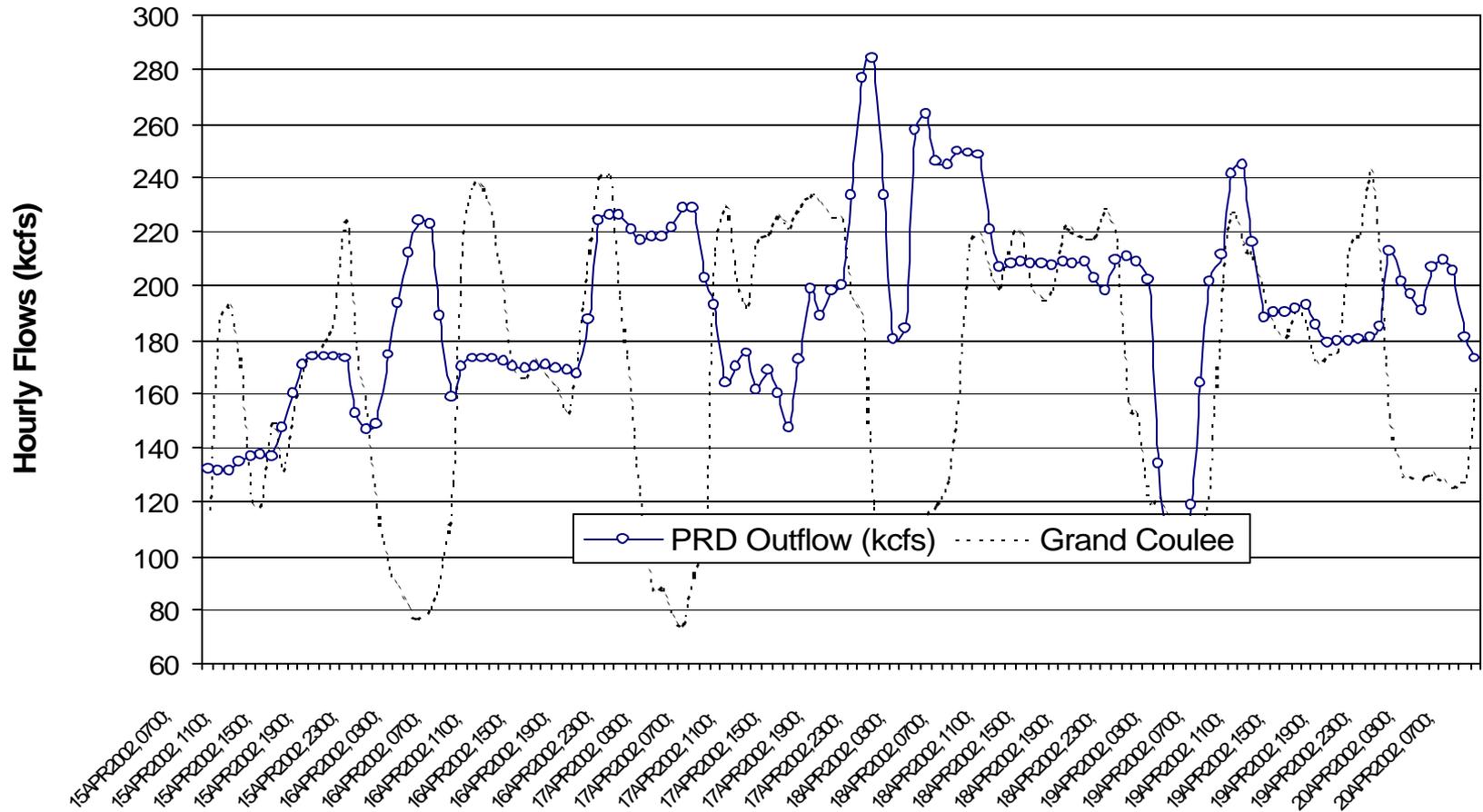
Upper Snake River Storage

03/28/2005



Hanford Reach: Reduce Flow Fluctuations/Stranding/Entrapment

Columbia River at Hanford Reach





Spill Operations

- Spring initiation planning date: March 20 for early migrants including kelt passage.
- Spring Spill: 24-hours all dams; slightly increased volumes over BiOp schedule, no TDG impacts anticipated.
- Summer Spill: 24-hours at all dams, slightly increased volumes over BiOp schedule.
- Summer ending planning date: September 15 for late migrants and to reduce adult fallback impacts.



Summary

- Request written response to ROP recommendations from Federal operators.
- Respond by April 13 TMT meeting