

## CR 2 Stream Reach Summary

**Study Reach:** CR2, Colorado River - Shadow Mountain Reservoir downstream to Granby Reservoir.

**Reach Description:** Approximate channel length: 4.75 miles with an average channel slope of 0.3%, subdivided as follows:

- Shadow Mountain Reservoir to backwater from Granby: Approximate channel length: 1.6 miles, approximate channel slope 0.8%.
- Backwater to Granby Reservoir: Approximate channel length: 3 miles, approximate channel slope 0.0%.

This reach of the Colorado River connects Shadow Mountain and Granby Reservoir, both constructed as part of the Colorado-Big Thompson project. As such, flows in this reach are highly regulated. Often lake levels are such that approximately 3 miles of the reach are inundated and behaves as a backwater.



*Colorado River North Fork at Shadow Mountain*

### **Flow Recommendations:**

**Environmental Flow Methodology:** A study site has not been established within this reach. CWCB instream flows have been set through an agreement between the U. S. Forest Service and the CDOW.

### **Water Users:**

- Irrigators, municipalities and industry flow-related issues: none reported
- Diverters and irrigators: not reviewed
- Recreational flows: none reported

### **Summary of Flows:**

Environmental, recommended target flow range

- No environmental flow recommendations are made for this reach.

CWCB Flows

- 50 cfs (05/1 – 09/30)
- 25 cfs (10/1 – 04/30)

Water Users

- Water rights diversions for local water users are not reviewed for this reach.

**Stream Assessments:** No assessments were conducted in CR2.

**Spawning Observations:** No spawning observations have been made in CR2.

**Hydrologic Records:** USGS Gage Station 09015000 (CR below Shadow Mountain Reservoir) was operated from 1948 to 1959. Over this short period of record, low flows typically were in the 20 to 30 cfs range, while peak flows were measured in excess of 3000 cfs. The highest median daily flow of about 1000 cfs occurred in mid-June.

**Water Temperature:** CR2 is a Tier I stream reach as designated by CDPHE with a chronic temperature standard of 17°C MWAT and an acute temperature standard of 21.2°C DM. Temperature data were not collected or reviewed for this reach.

**Water Quality:** The Three Lakes Watershed Assessment (HRC 2003) indicates that the reservoirs and lake are in a mesotrophic or moderately nourished tropic state and the water quality of each of the Three Lakes is very similar due to the manner in which the CB-T system operates. It is unknown at this time if the algae in the reservoirs are contributing to the algae in the Colorado River below Granby Reservoir.

**Water Supply Issues (UPCO):** No reported water supply issues.

**Summary of Results and Additional Remarks:**

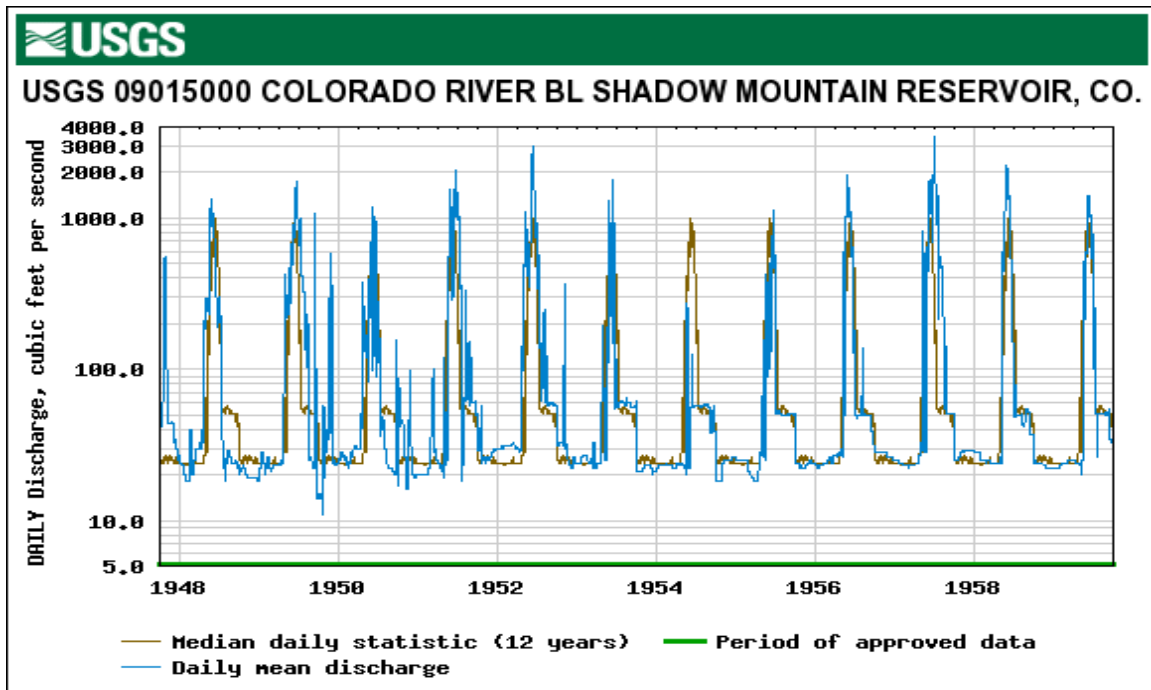
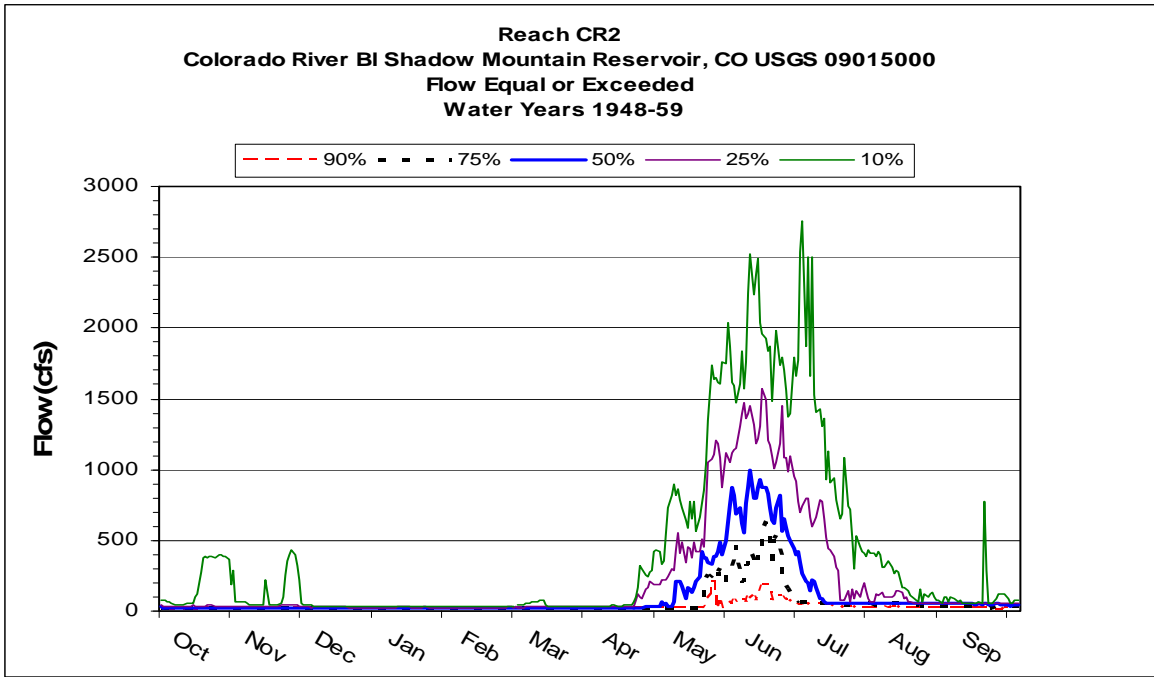
1. There does not appear to be a compelling reason to establish a PHABSIM study site within the reach at this time.
2. Based upon the limited flow record available, it appears likely the CWCB flow regime is supportive of a cold-water fishery.
3. Establishment of a flushing flow may be desirable at some time in the future.

**Restoration Opportunities:** No recommendations are made at this time.

**Monitoring:** No recommendations are made at this time.

Support Data

Hydrographs and Exceedence Plots and Tables







GRAND COUNTY  
 STREAM MANAGEMENT PLAN  
 REACHES

Legend

- ◆ REACH BOUNDARY
- ★ PHABSIM SITES
- DIVERSIONS

REACH: CR2

SHEET # :  
 1 OF 1

