

# Lower South Platte Water Cooperative

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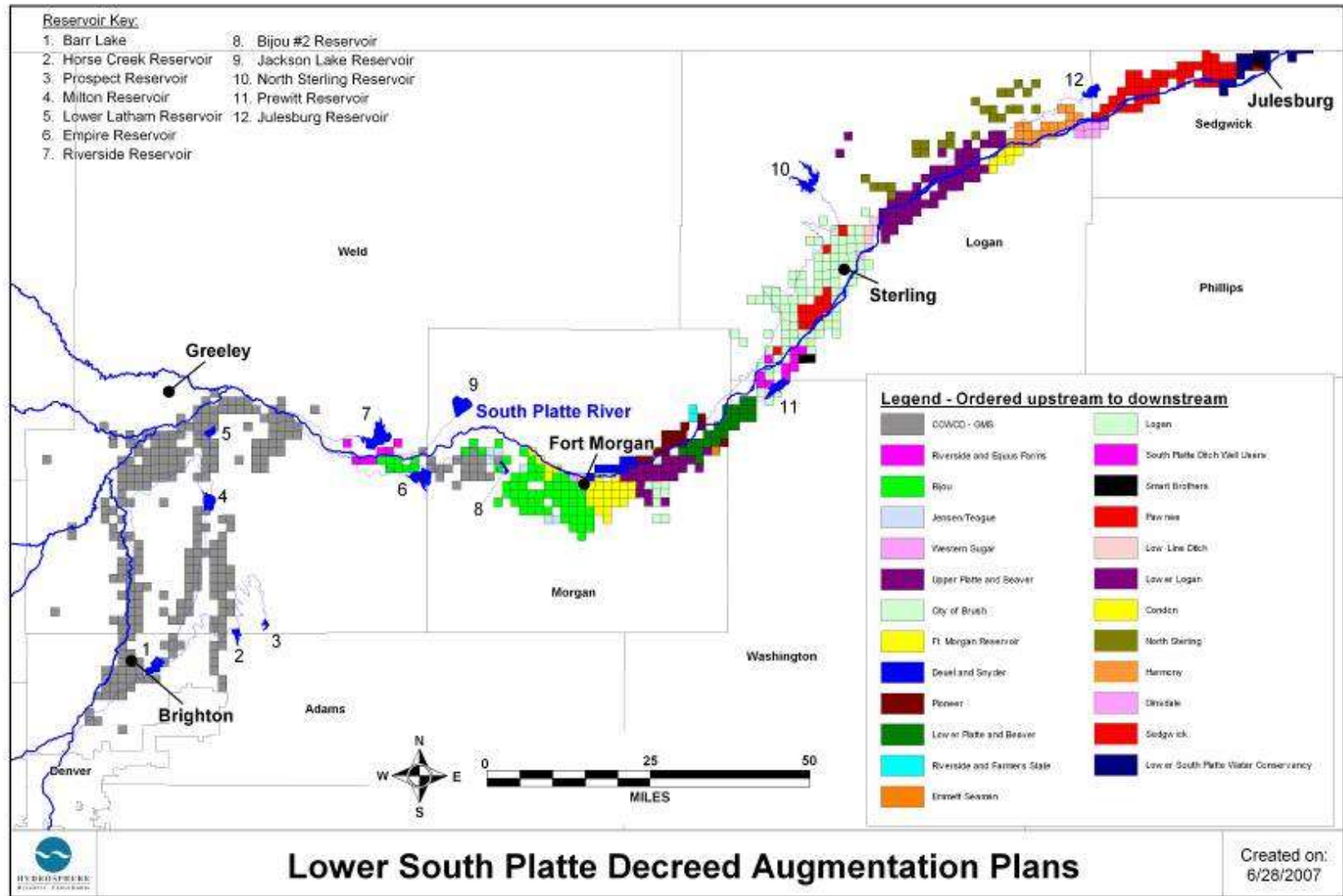
October 19 | 2011



# Overview of Presentation

- Introduction to the Cooperative
  - History
  - Initial objectives
- Recent activities
- Future activities

# History of the Cooperative



# History of the Cooperative

- Periodic excess supplies were identified
- Strong desire for optimizing water use
  - Excess augmentation supplies
  - Alternative transfers
  - Other water sources
- Steering Committee was formed
  - Members include water users and water professionals
- Members of Steering Committee began meeting with potential participants

# Initial Objectives

- Explore a framework for moving water

- Must be fair, open, and transparent
- Must work within existing system of water rights so that no injury occurs

- Investigate the feasibility of moving water
- If there is potential, raise support
- Work toward implementation

# Feasibility of moving water

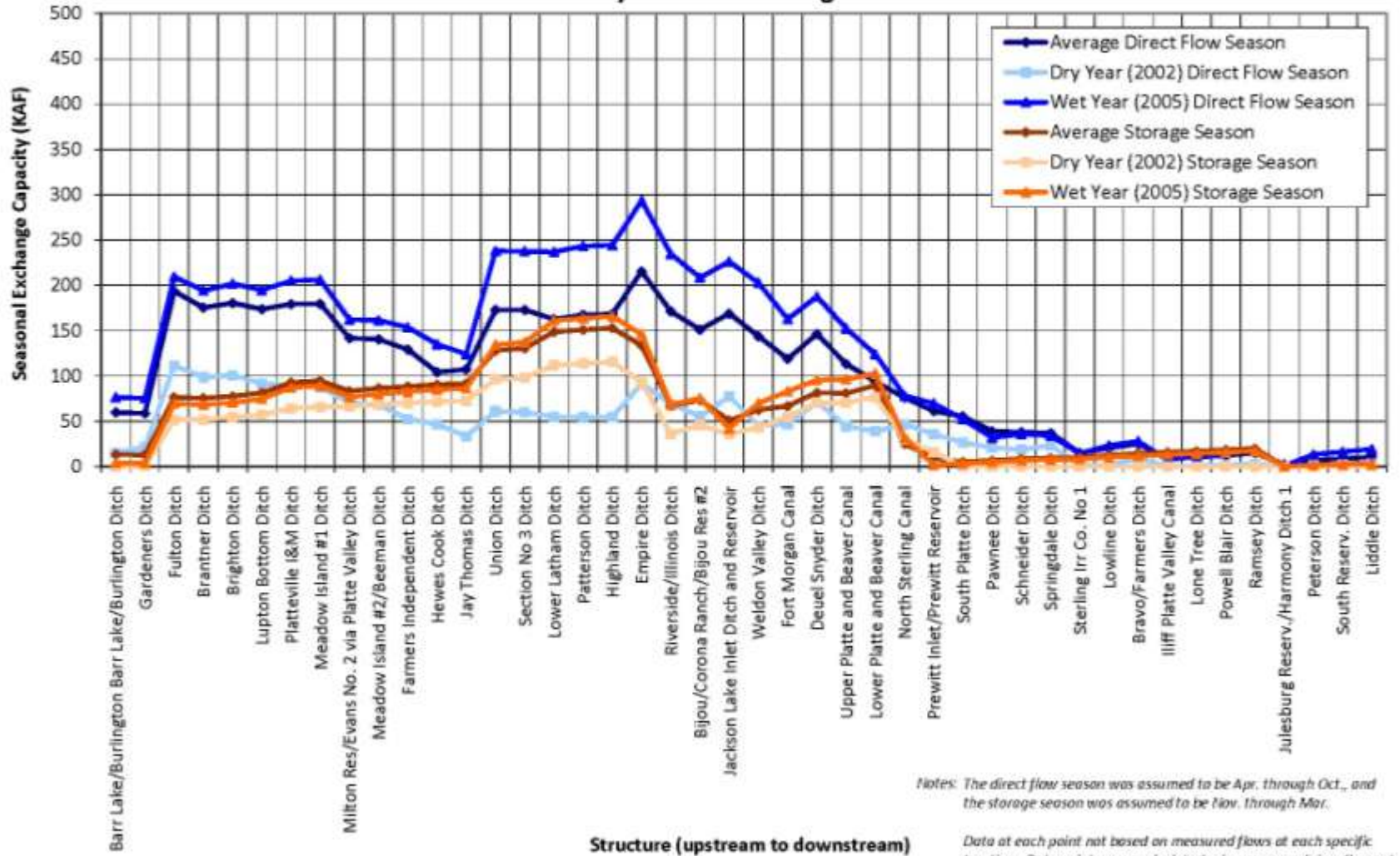
- Joined the Colorado Corn Growers Association ATM Project Team



- Study components
  - How much periodic excess exists?
  - How successfully can we exchange water?
  - How much free river exists?
  - Would new infrastructure be useful?
- Results

# Results

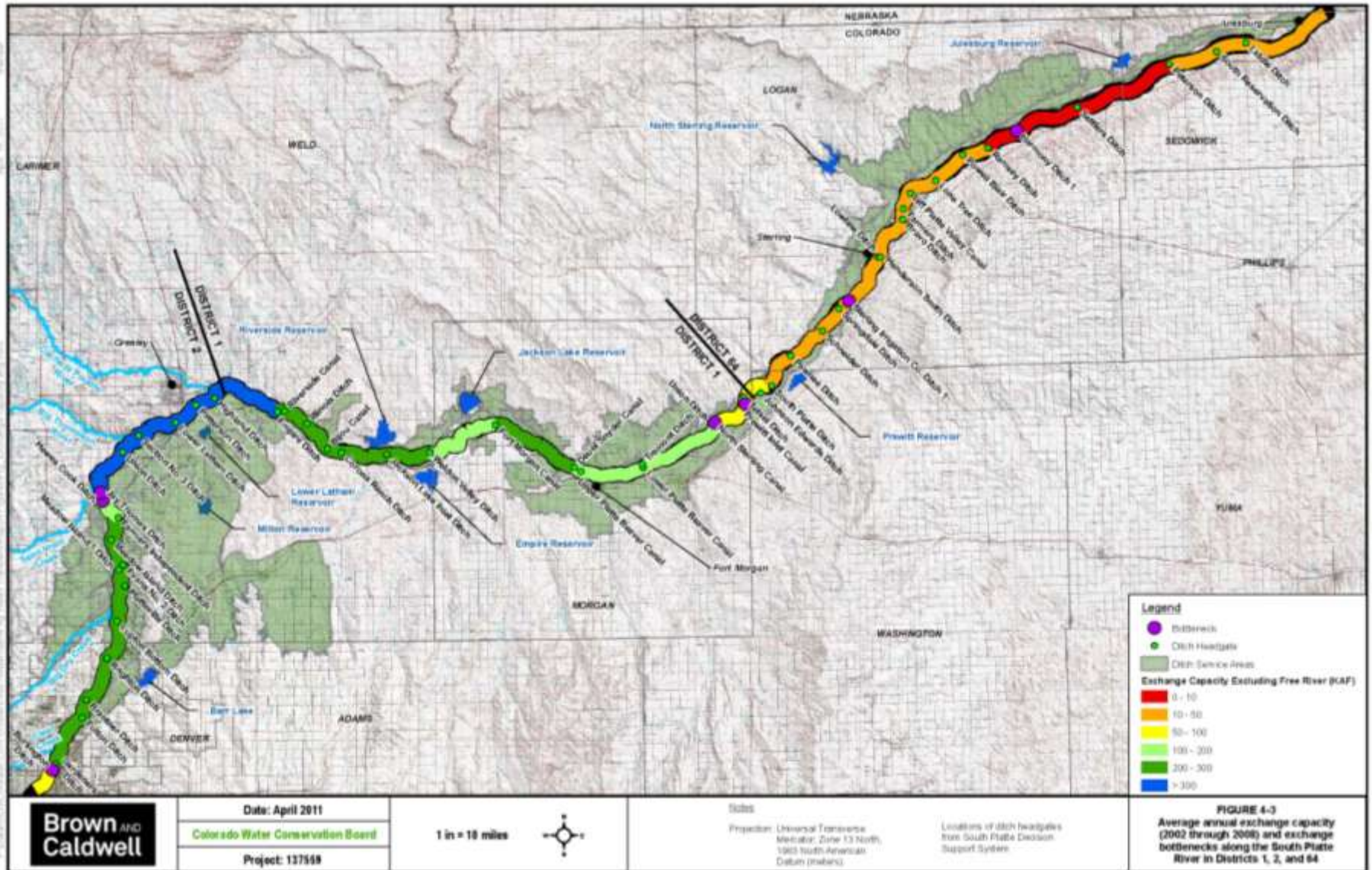
Figure 4-4. Seasonal variation in exchange capacity at various points along the South Platte River for water years 2002 through 2008



Notes: The direct flow season was assumed to be Apr. through Oct., and the storage season was assumed to be Nov. through Mar.

Data at each point not based on measured flows at each specific location. Data points were calculated using measured river flows at various locations, measured diversions, and river losses/gains.

# Results

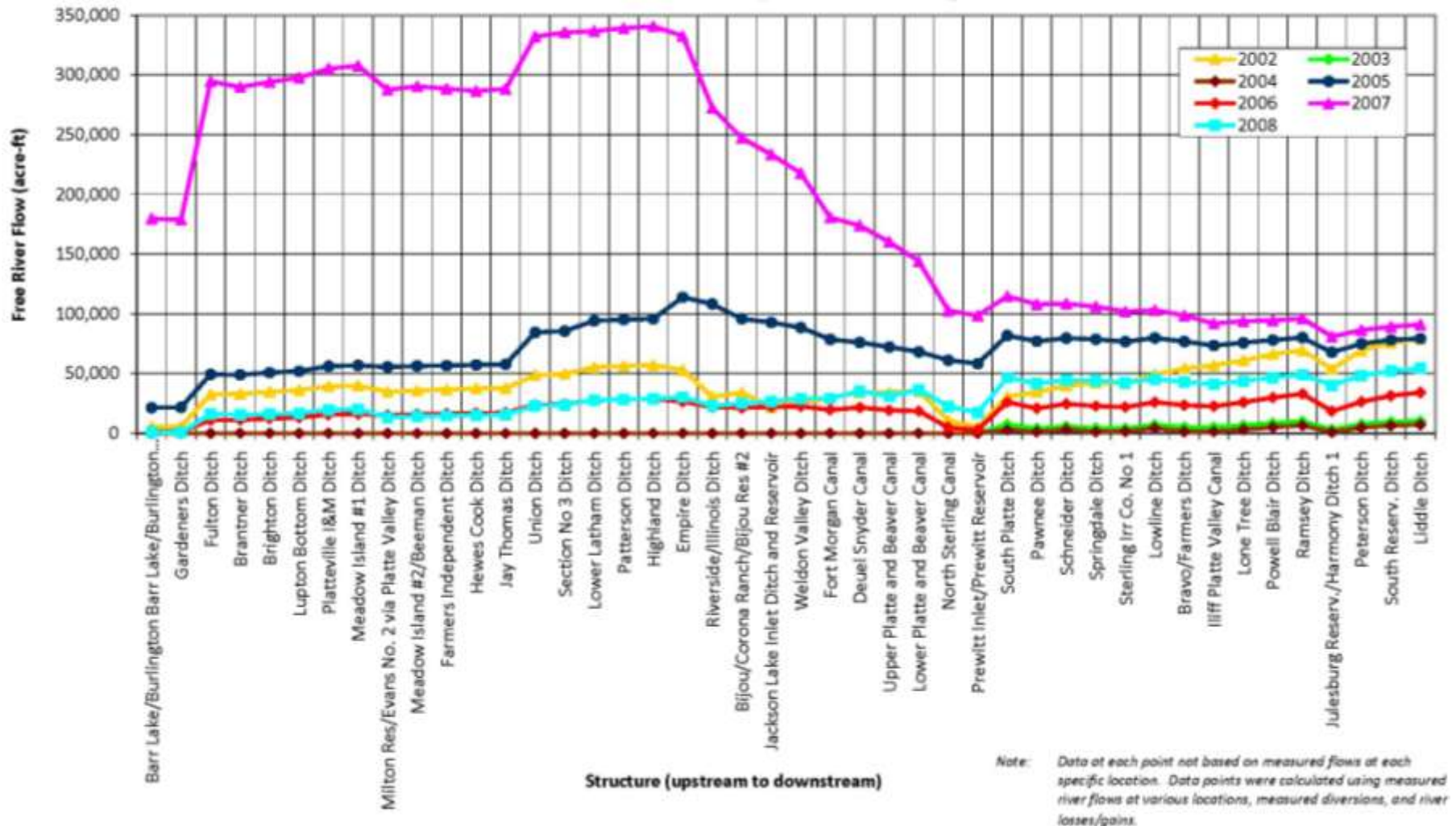


# Results

	Exchanging from Bottom of District 1 to Mouth of Poudre	Exchanging from Just Upstream of Sterling #1 to Mouth of Poudre
Volume of Excess recharge (acre-feet)	16,900	5,000
Volume of recharge potentially exchanged (acre-feet)	11,700	2,200
Percentage of recharge potentially exchanged	70%	45%
Percentage of recharge accretions occurring when exchange not necessary (free river)	8%	8%
Percentage not exchanged	22%	47%

# Results

**Figure 5-6. Variation in the annual volume of free river flow passing various points along the South Platte River for water years 2002 through 2008**



# Recent activities

- Meetings with potential participants
  - ✓ Positive feedback
  - Participant needs
    - Fairness and Transparency
    - Provide water for agriculture and municipal uses
    - Work within current water rights system
- Raised support for further study
  - CWCB Funding
    - WSRA Grant
    - ATM Grant
- Formed Grant Review Committee



# WSRA Grant Work

- Water Supply Reserve Account grant

Objective: Evaluate organizational framework for the Water Cooperative

- Overview of Tasks
  1. Research potential organizational structures
  2. Analyze water law and water rights issues
  3. Begin operational planning
  4. Develop organizational structure
- Lots of Water User Feedback

# ATM Grant Work

- Alternative Transfer Methods grant

Objective: Evaluate operational plan  
for the Water Cooperative

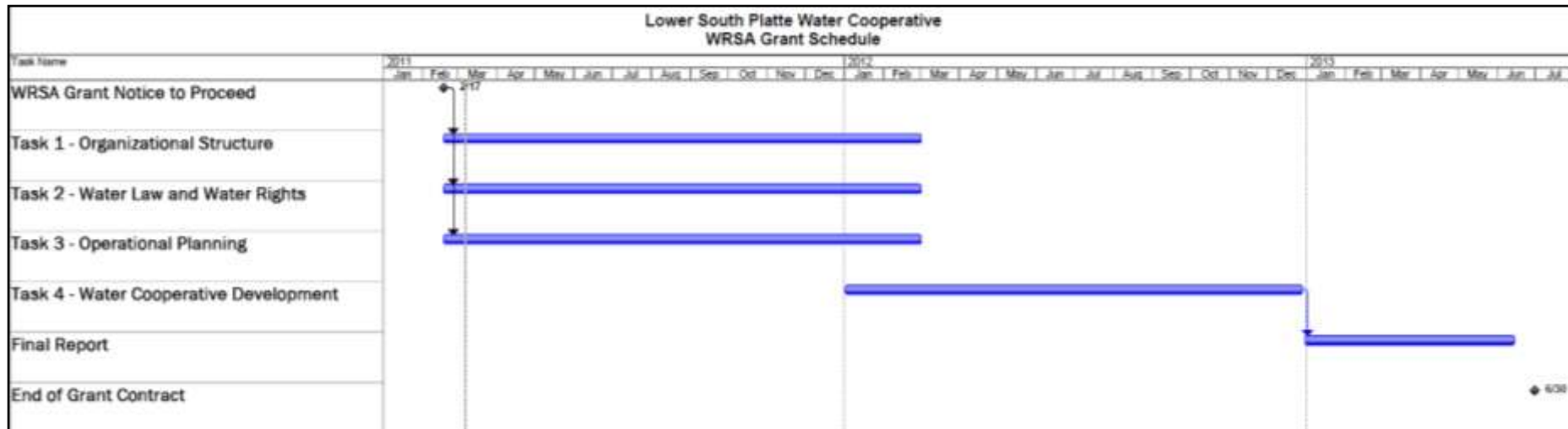
- Overview of Tasks

1. Develop operational plan
2. Meetings with stakeholders
3. Data, measurement, and accounting needs
4. Inventory existing infrastructure
5. Assess operational costs and methods of financing
6. Economic and operational considerations
7. Reports

- Lots of Water User Feedback

# How do these grant projects fit together?

- There is a lot of overlap - organizational and operational plans are dependent on one another
- WSRA Grant Schedule



- ATM Grant in contracting process
  - Scheduled for completion 2 years after notice to proceed

# Future Steps

- Complete Studies
- Form Organization (If sufficient interest)
- Begin Water Court Process

# Lower South Platte Water Co-op

## Collaborative Effort of Agricultural Water Users

- Increasing Augmentation Efficiency
- Meeting Future M&I Water Needs
  - Locally & Front Range
- Keeping Farmers Farming

