Upper Republican River Water Users
Stakeholder Meeting

Background on Bonny Reservoir and South Fork Use

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Bonny full through late 1990s

As inflows dropped below 15,000 AF/year, Bonny dropped.

Bonny drained 2012.

Future of inflows?

Wet years
2008=88%
2009=98%
2010=92%

Recent inflows: 5000 AF/year
Bonny to KS-CO Stateline: gains approx. 2000 AF/year
Average SF alluvial pumping in KS: approx. 6500 acre-feet

South Fork alluvial water levels: partial recovery with higher flows.
More flows at Benkelman in recent years

Summary

- **Water in the basin remains limited.** If we store water in Bonny, the South Fork in Kansas will see less water.
- Bonny net evaporation averaged 2700 AF for 2004-11
- Bonny inflows averaged:
  - 7356 AF for 2000-17; 3636 AF for 2012-17.
  - 5000 AF seems about what we can expect in future “normal” years.
  - With expanded CREP; we hope to see more water
- KS alluvial use averages about 6500 AF.
- Flows reaching at Benkelman in many years
Questions on storing in Bonny

• What does it take (water, money) to make a viable recreation facility?
• How to do compact accounting?
  • How will evaporation on Bonny be share between the states?
  • Any issues with Kansas compliance tests
    • South Fork sub-basin?
    • Northwest Kansas Water-short year test

Needed input

• What is your sense of the health of the South Fork in Kansas?
• What are Kansas priorities for flows?
  • Keep flows coming to Kansas, except for flood control
  • Keep flows coming under normal conditions, but look for an opportunity to store flows in Bonny during a high runoff years.
  • Explore storing as much in Bonny as possible.
    • Minimum release?
    • Other ideas, input?
Questions & Discussion

Losses = Recharge to alluvial system

Approx. 3500 AF/year recently (2013-17)
South Fork CO-KS stateline vs Benkelman, reach gain (AF/year)

- CO-KS Stateline
- Benkelman
- Gain(+) Loss(-)