

Water Supply Meeting

September 14, 2011

Agenda

- Fall and winter weather forecasts- Idaho Power and NWS meteorologists
- Soil Moisture and SWSI - NRCS
- Moving to the new 30 (1981-2010) year average – NWS and NRCS
- Change to using ESP instead of Regression forecasts –NWRFC
- Fall and early winter targets for reservoir operations – USBR
- Reservoir storage compared with average reservoir storage – Idaho Power
- Fall Chinook Operation Plan – Idaho Power
- Communication – Idaho Power
- Next Water Supply Meeting – IDWR

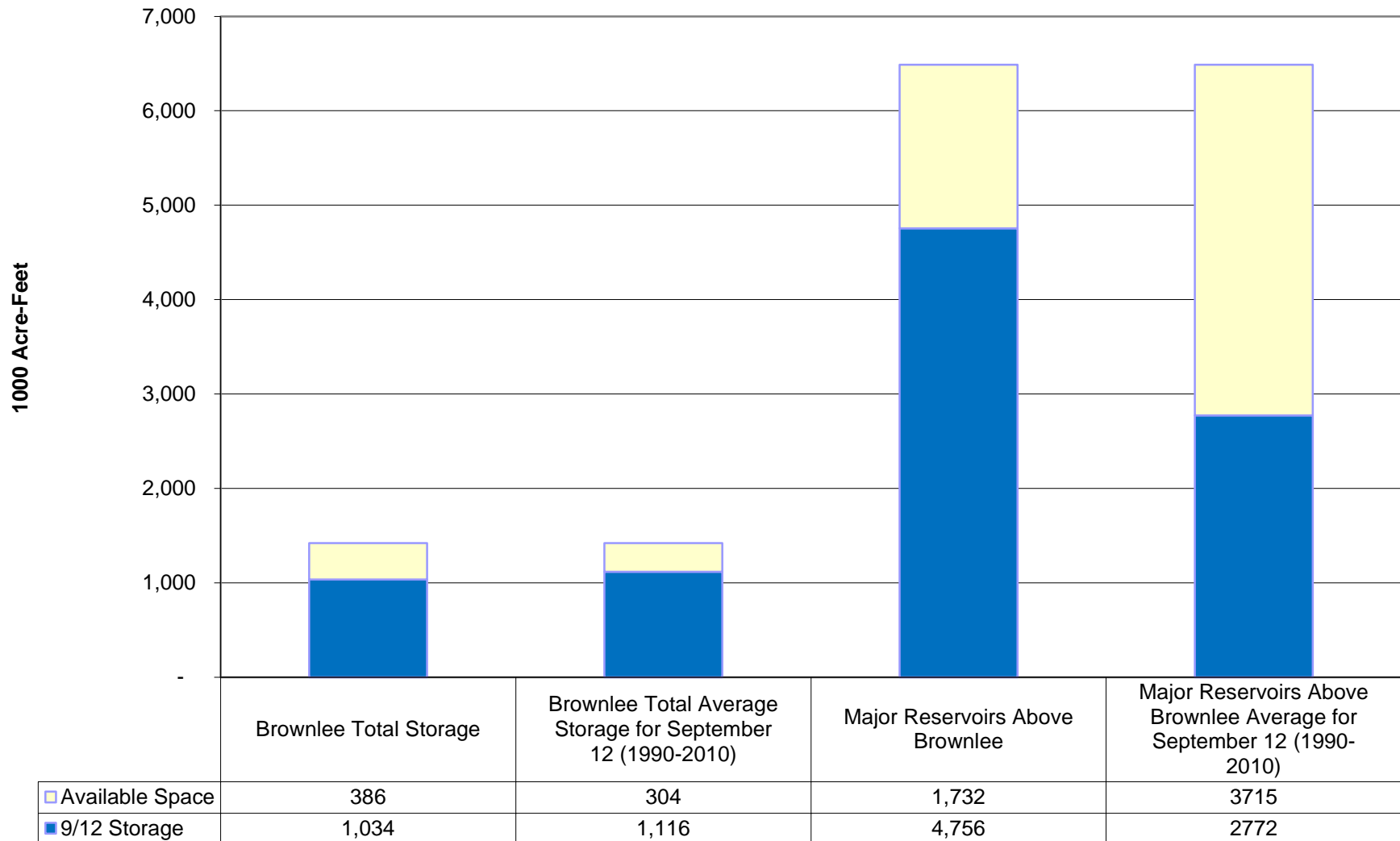
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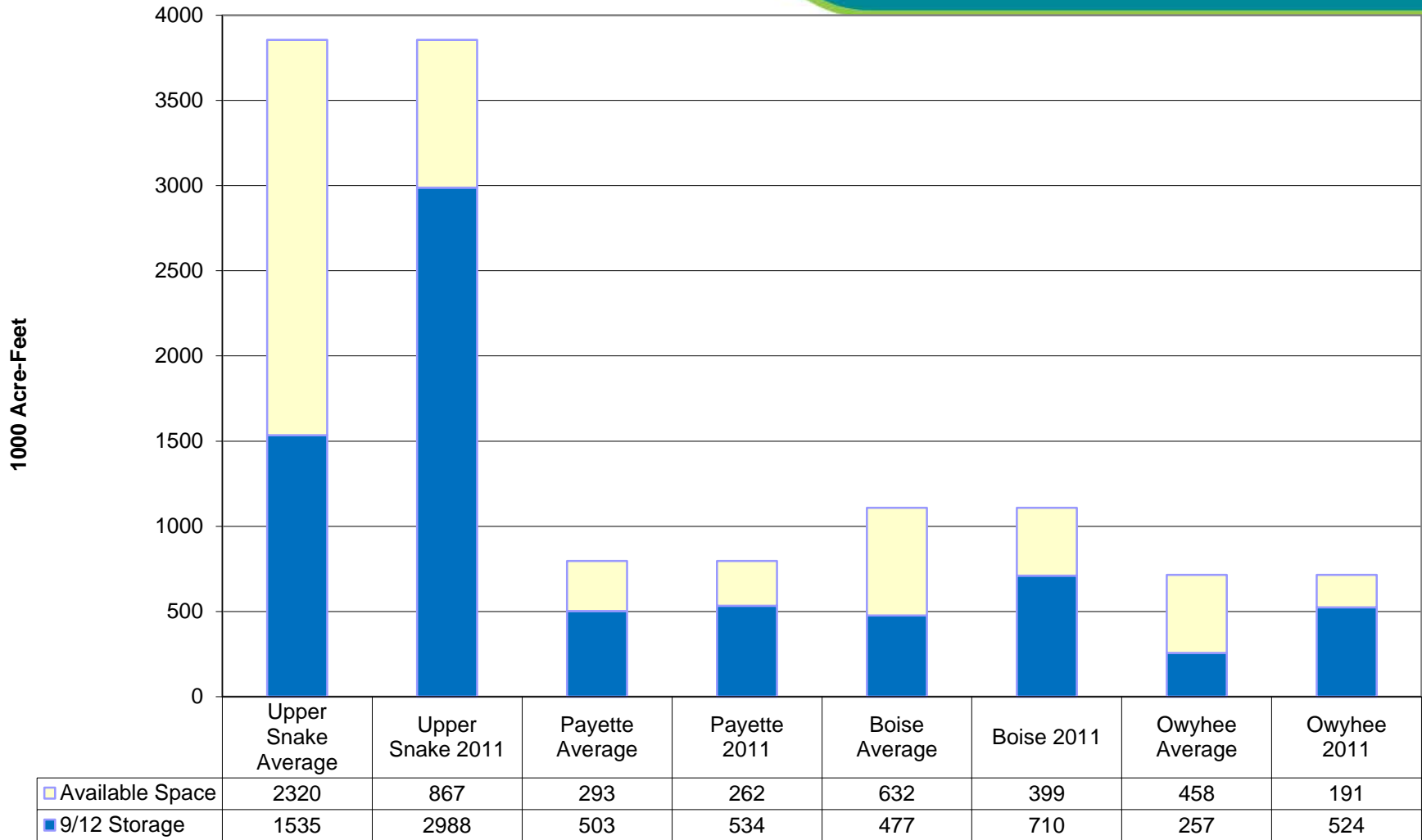
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Snake River Reservoir Storage on September 12, 2011 Compared with 1990-2010 Average



Snake River Reservoir Storage on September 12, 2011 Compared with 1990-2010 Average



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Depending on expected water conditions in the fall, Brownlee Reservoir releases are managed to maintain a constant flow of 8,500 to 13,000 cfs (cubic feet per second) below Hells Canyon Dam to provide optimum conditions for spawning fall chinook salmon.

In order to provide this constant outflow from October through December, the company may be required to draft, or lower the level of water within Brownlee Reservoir in September. This additional reservoir space is necessary to capture inflows in excess of the constant outflows being released.

Spawning flow is based upon:

- A minimum reservoir elevation of approximately 2,040 feet above sea level when the program starts in October.
- Forecasted inflows so that Brownlee Reservoir is full, around 2,075 feet above sea level, by the first week in December.
- Anticipation that the minimum flow set during the spawning period can be maintained until fry emergence (when the young fish leave the redds, or nests) in the spring without emptying Brownlee Reservoir.

Minimum flows below Hells Canyon Dam are maintained through fry emergence.

[View a chart](#) about how many redds have been counted in the Snake, Grande Ronde and Imnaha rivers. This survey occurs in the spring and is established by maintaining water over the most shallow redds. Once the flow is set, it's considered to be the minimum flow necessary to keep fish embryos from drying out until they are big enough to leave their nests in the spring.

These operations can impact power production. The lower the reservoir elevation in Brownlee, the lower the power production capability of the plant. This, in turn, may require the company to purchase power from other sources if demand for electricity cannot be met due to lower reservoir water levels.

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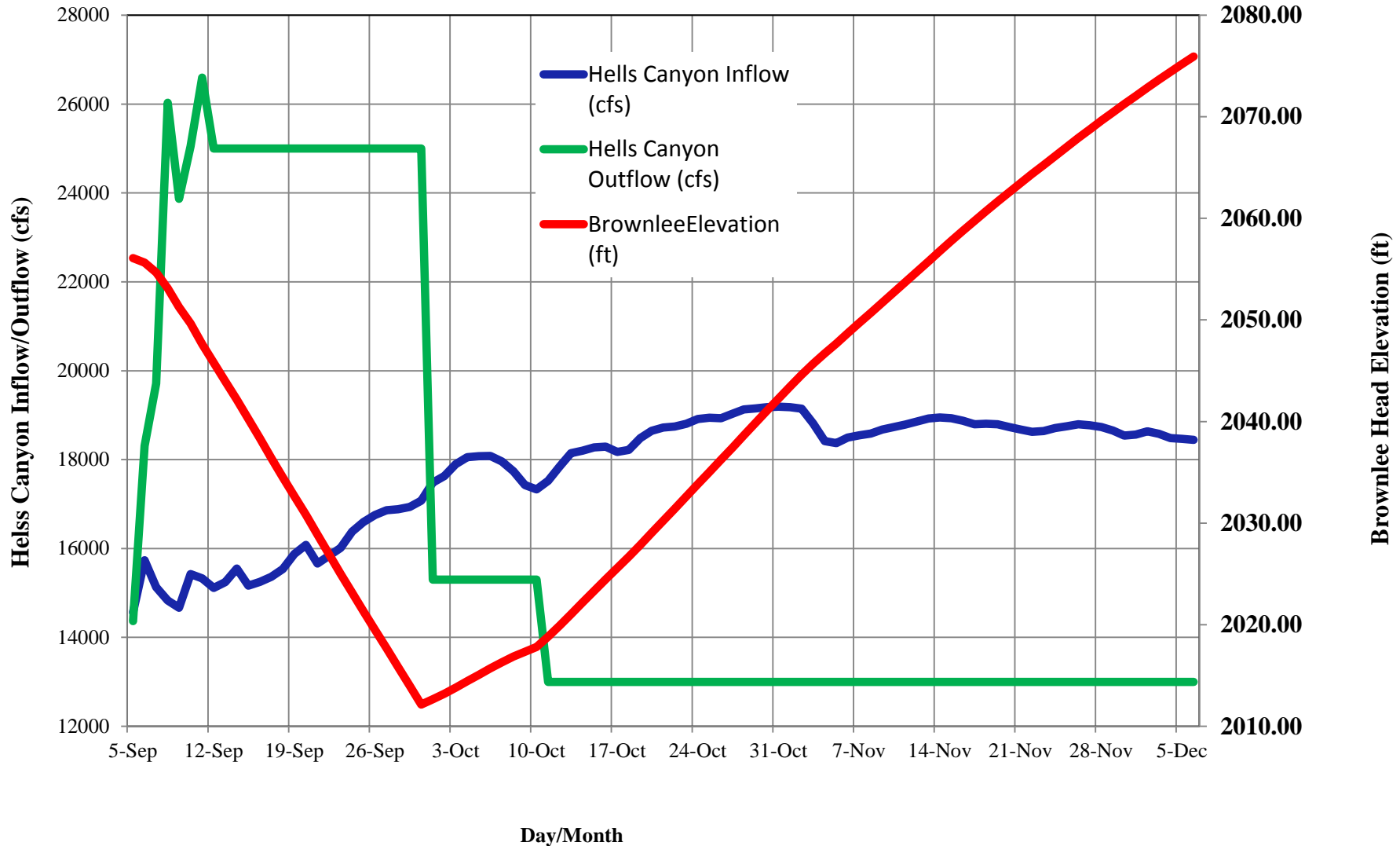
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2011 Fall Chinook Operation Plan



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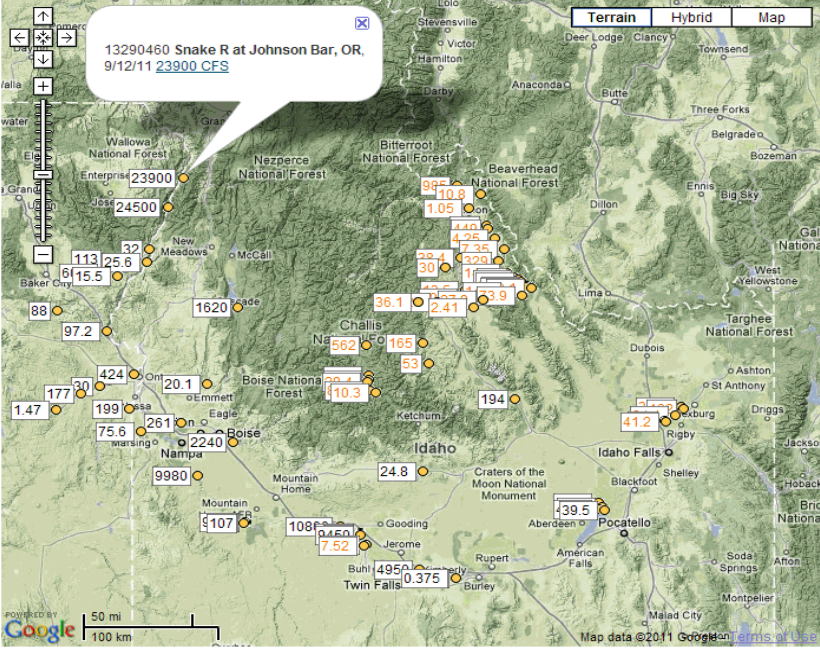
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Terrain Hybrid Map

13290460 Snake R at Johnson Bar, OR,
9/12/11 23900 CFS



Map data ©2011 Google Earth

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This data collection for the current water year is considered provisional, meaning it is subject to change until reviewed and finalized.

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Hells Canyon River Flows

Provisional and subject to revision
Snake R below Hells Canyon Dam

Hells Canyon Outflow for Past Four Days
Move Mouse Over Graph To See Data Values

Hells Canyon Outflow Forecast
Updated Hourly
Move Mouse Over Graph To See Data Values
Actual operations may differ from the estimates given below.

Browselee Reservoir Three-Day Average Inflow:
• 09/15/11 15000 cfs

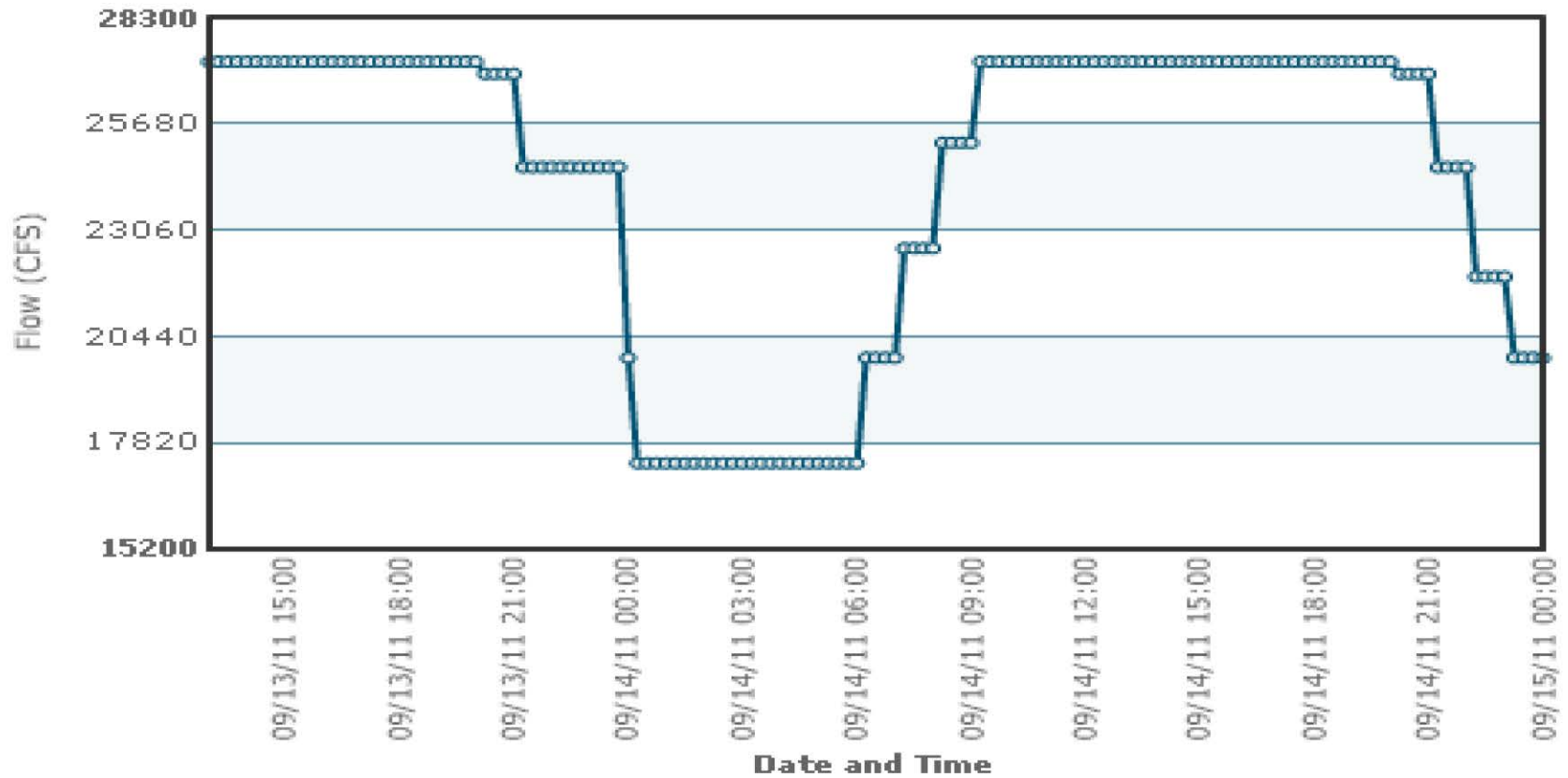
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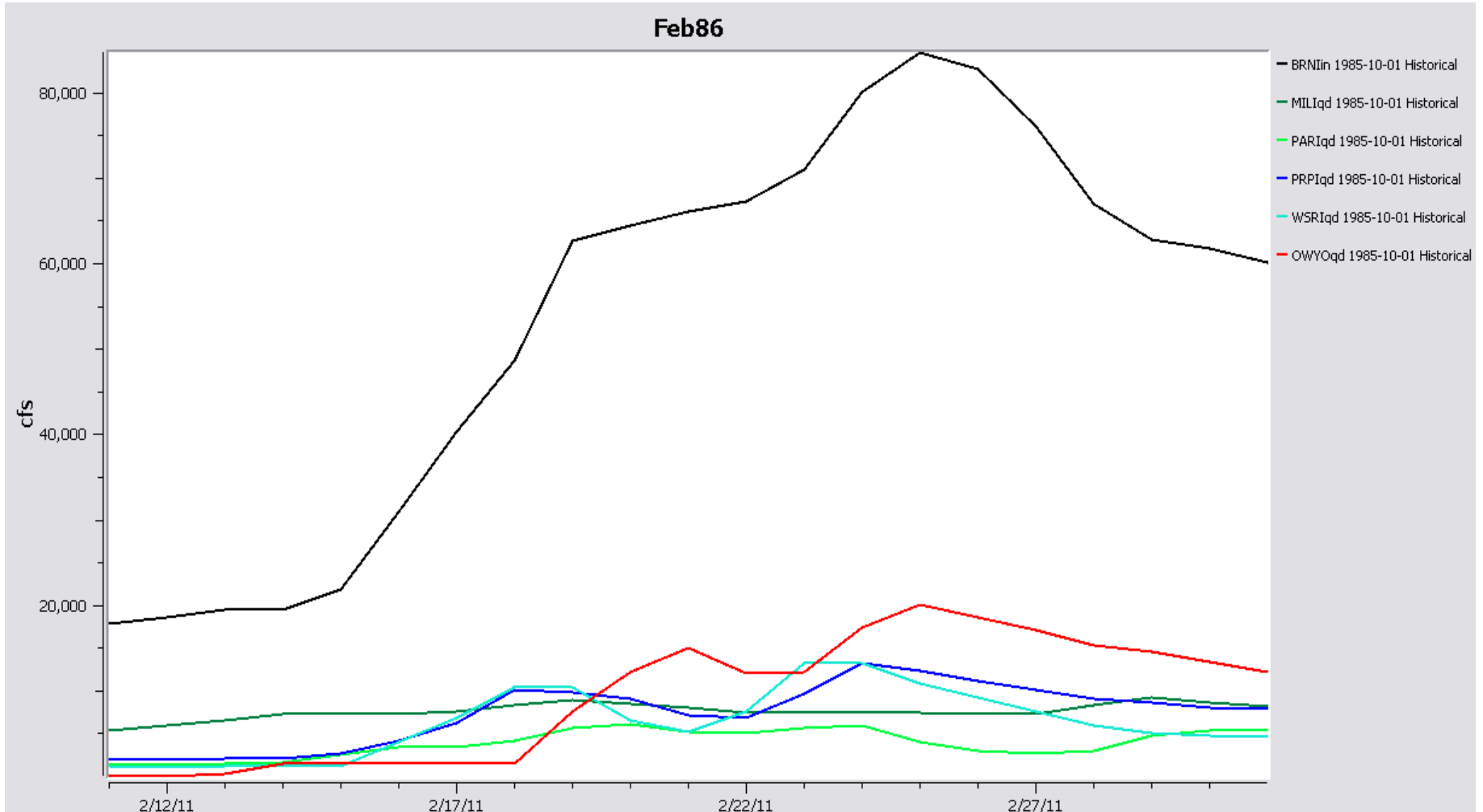
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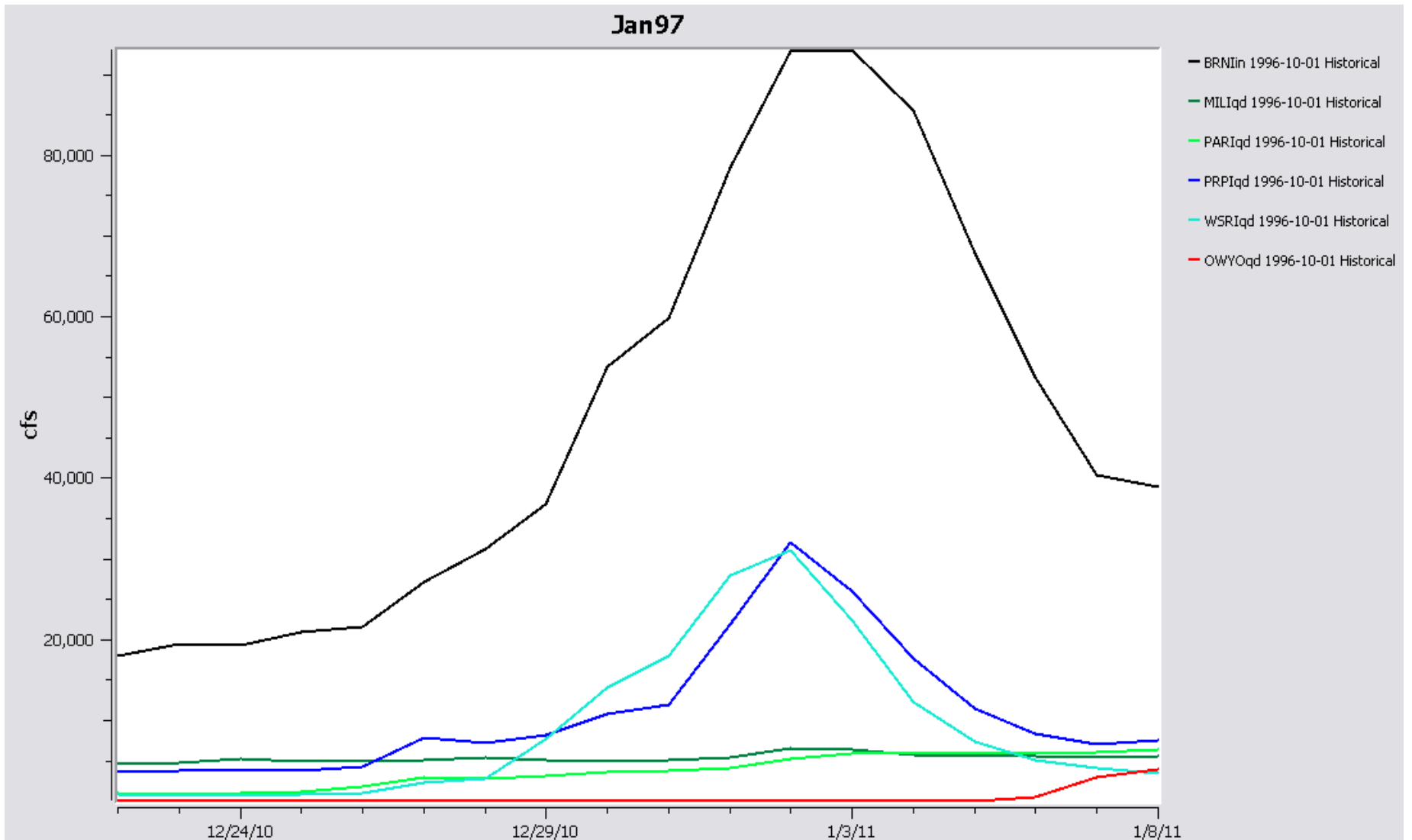
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Historical Flood Event



Historical Flood Event



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