

Calaveras River Issue Clarifications



1. Did the Calaveras River support spring-run Chinook and are there management goals for recovering a run in the Calaveras River?
2. Can the Calaveras River support a perennial flow regime?

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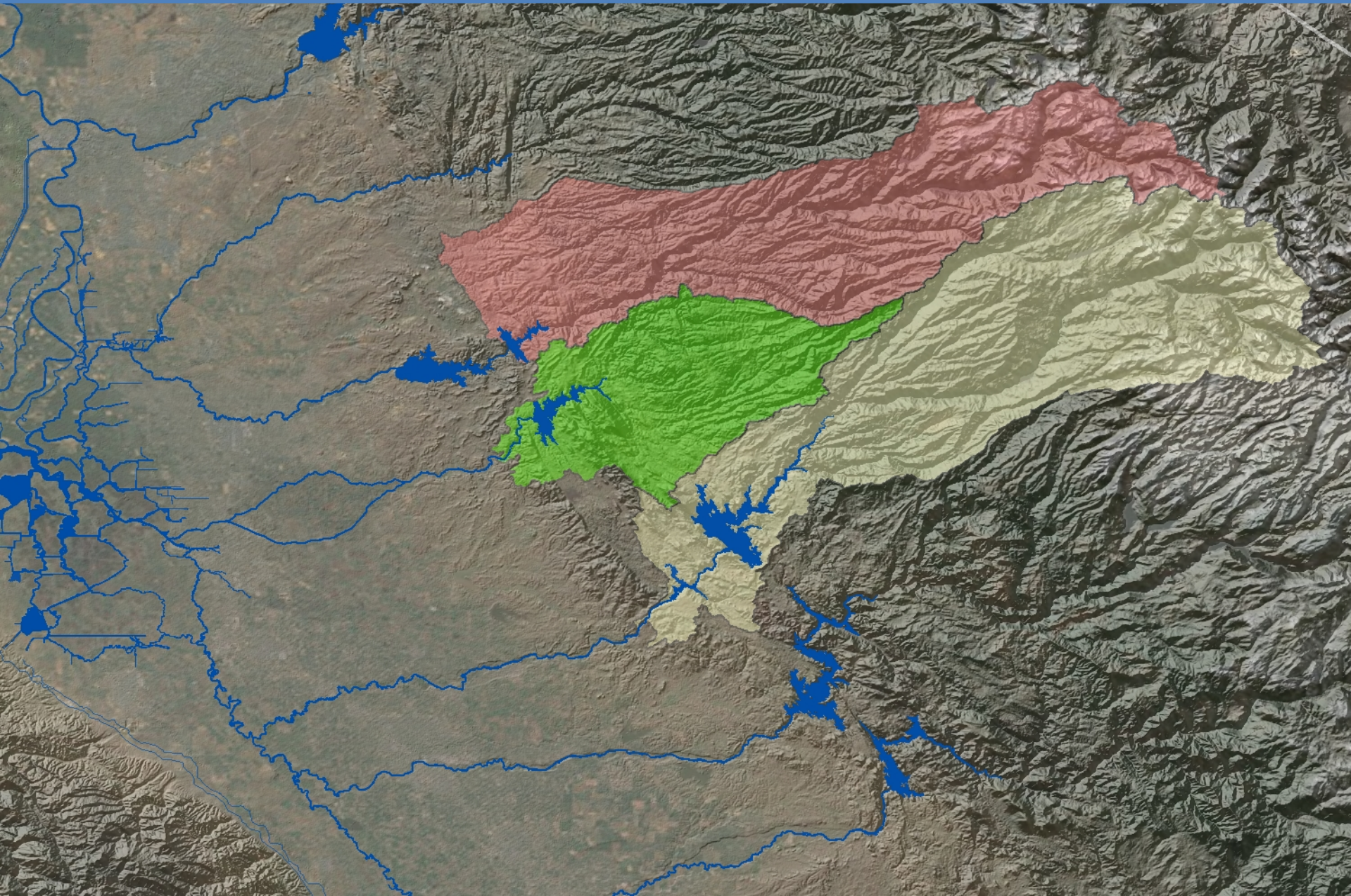


The Scientific Basis Report (P. 3-21) incorrectly states that “Spawning habitat for Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon also includes the main stem of the Sacramento (between Keswick Dam and RBDD), Feather, Yuba, and **Calaveras Rivers** and Cottonwood, Antelope, Thomes, Big Chico, Battle, Butte, Deer and Mill Creeks (NMFS 2014).”

Regulatory and Scientific Literature Review

- The 2014 NMFS Recovery Plan does not identify any recovery actions for Chinook salmon.
- The Recovery Plan (NMFS 2014) does not include the Calaveras River on the map of spring-run Designated Critical Habitat and Distribution (Figure 2-8 in NMFS 2014).
- A review of the 2005 Final Rule on designation of critical habitat indicates that Calaveras River is not listed as critical habitat for Spring-run.
- Clark (1929, as cited in Yoshiyama et al. 2001) reported that the Calaveras was mostly dry in the summer and fall.
- According to Yoshiyama et al. (2001), "This river [i.e., Calaveras River] was probably always marginal for salmon, and it lacks suitable habitat for spring-run fish (E.R. Gerstung, personal observation)."

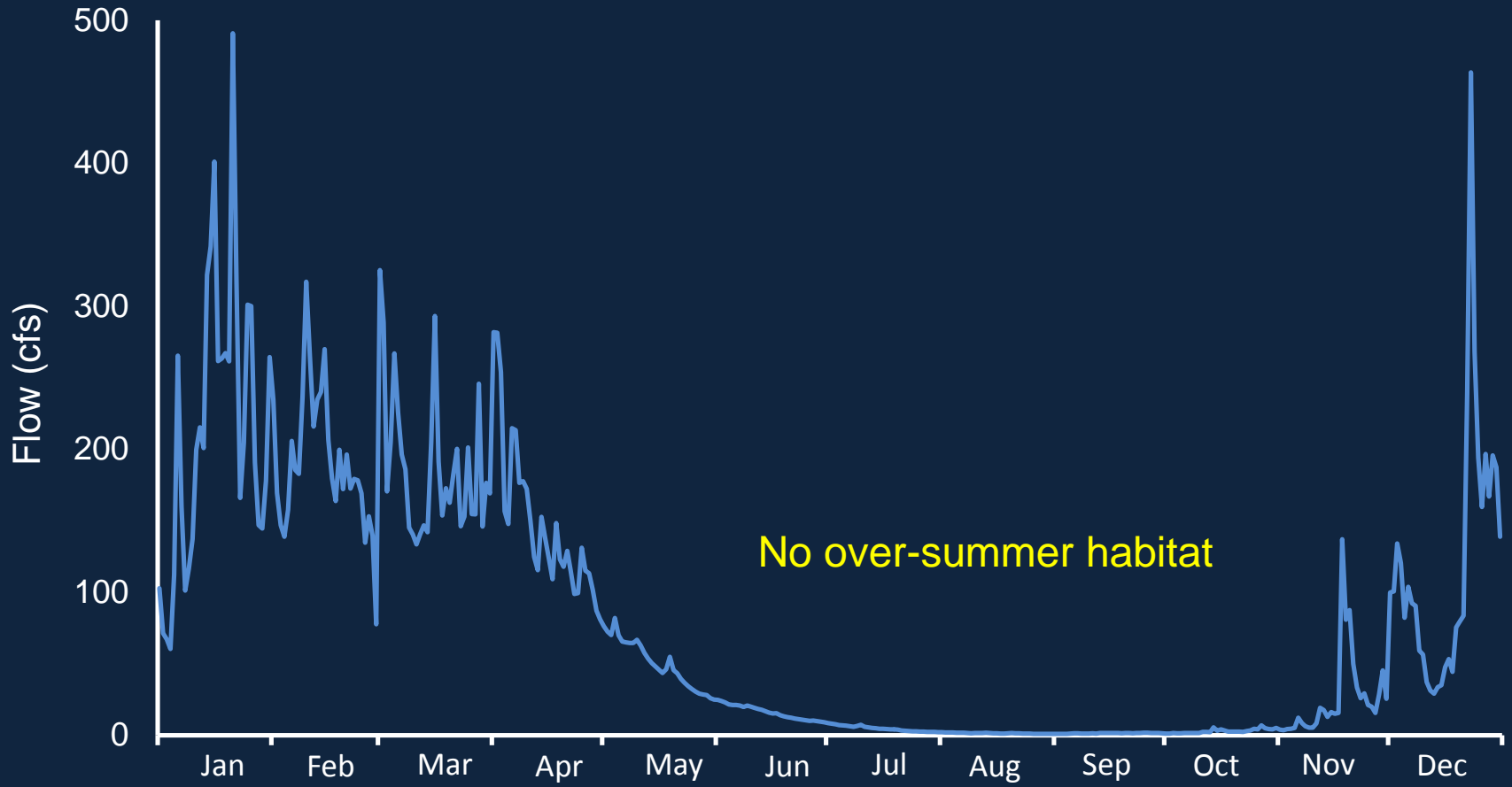
Calaveras and Neighboring Watersheds



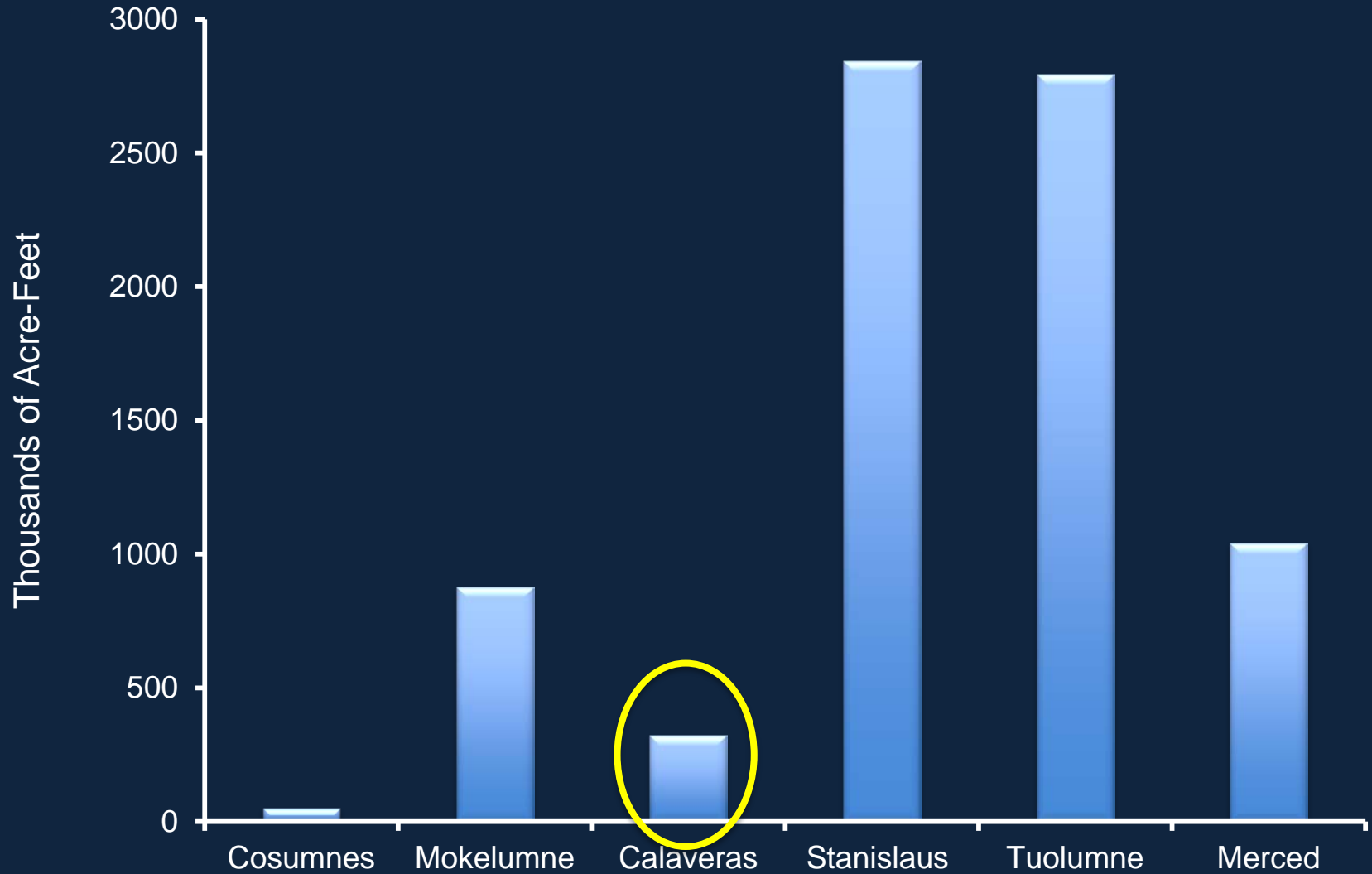
Upper Calaveras Basin – North Fork Average Flow (1951-1979)



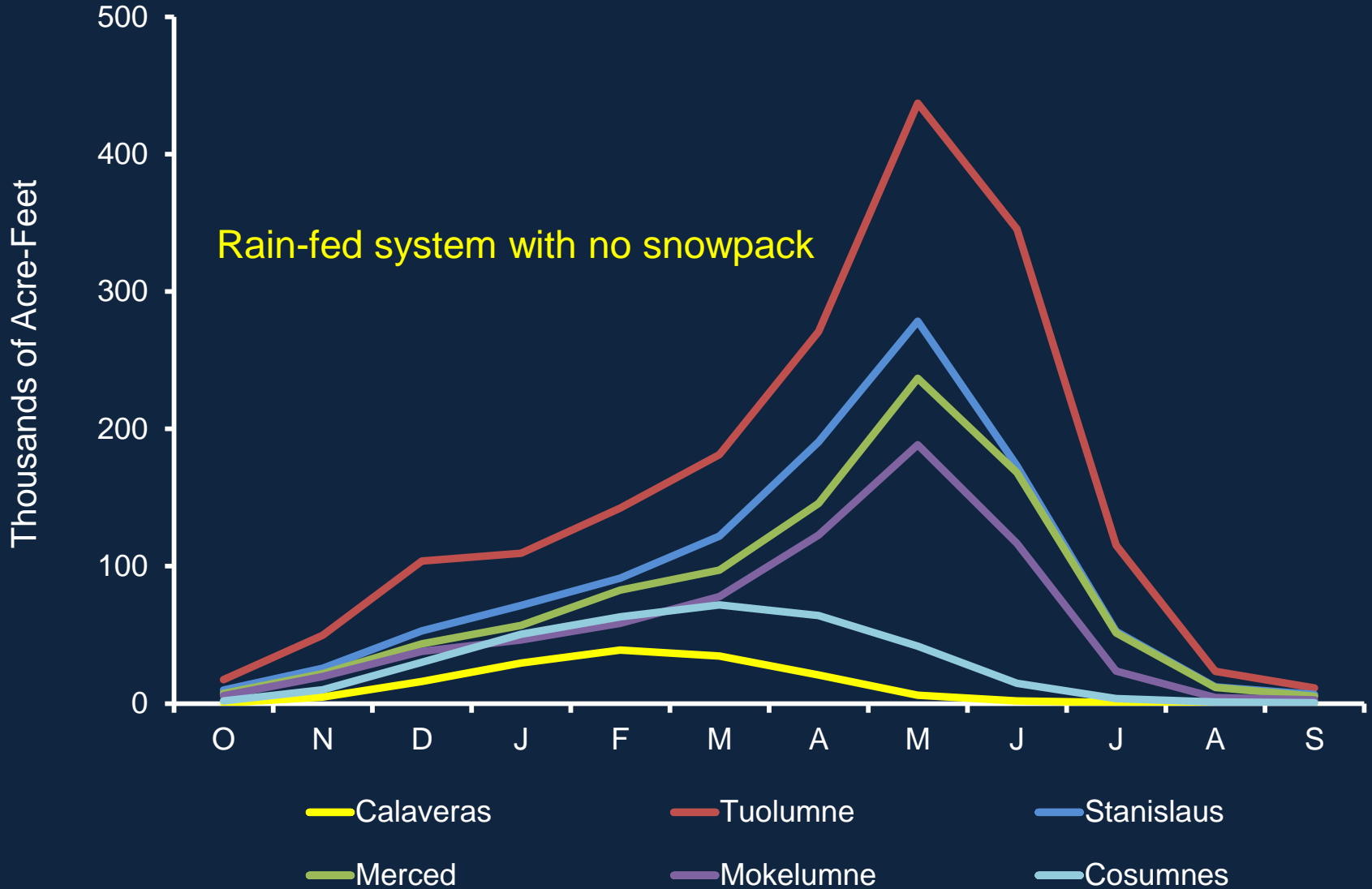
Upper Calaveras Basin – South Fork Average Flow (1951-1979)



Can the Calaveras Support a Perennial Flow Regime?



San Joaquin Basin Monthly Unimpaired Flow Comparison



Implications of Suggested Flow Schedule

If 50% unimpaired flow was imposed on the Calaveras River, New Hogan would never have more than 100 TAF in storage and it appears **50% of the time roughly 25,000 AF in storage.**

Consistently managing the reservoir at low-level volumes would be *devastating* to the *O. mykiss* fishery in the Calaveras River.