

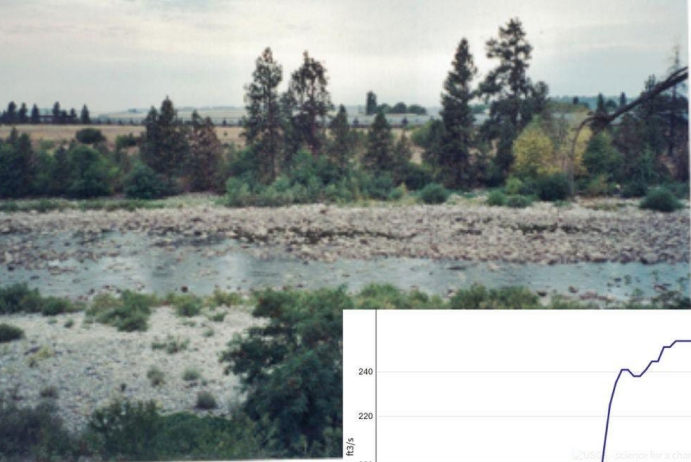
# SPOKANE RIVERKEEPER®

Together. For the River.



*Spokane Riverkeeper's mission is to protect, preserve, and restore the Spokane River for future generations.*

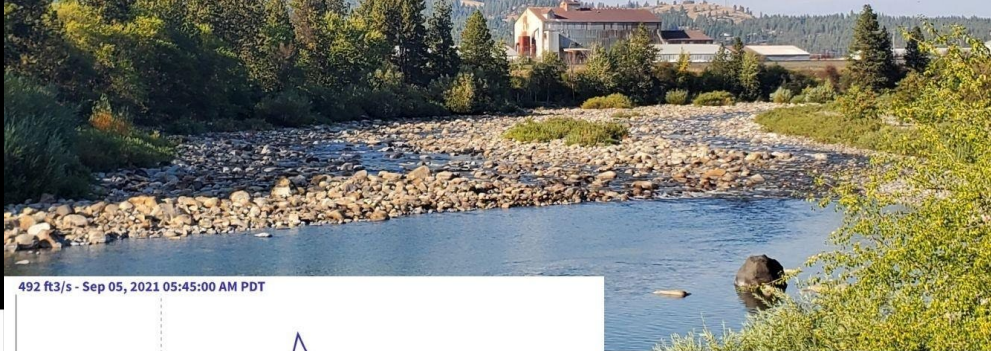




Post Falls Flows:  
176 cfs to 259 cfs



August 21, 2001



492 ft/s - Sep 05, 2021 05:45:00 AM PDT



September 5, 2021

Post Falls Flows:  
492 cfs to 594 cfs



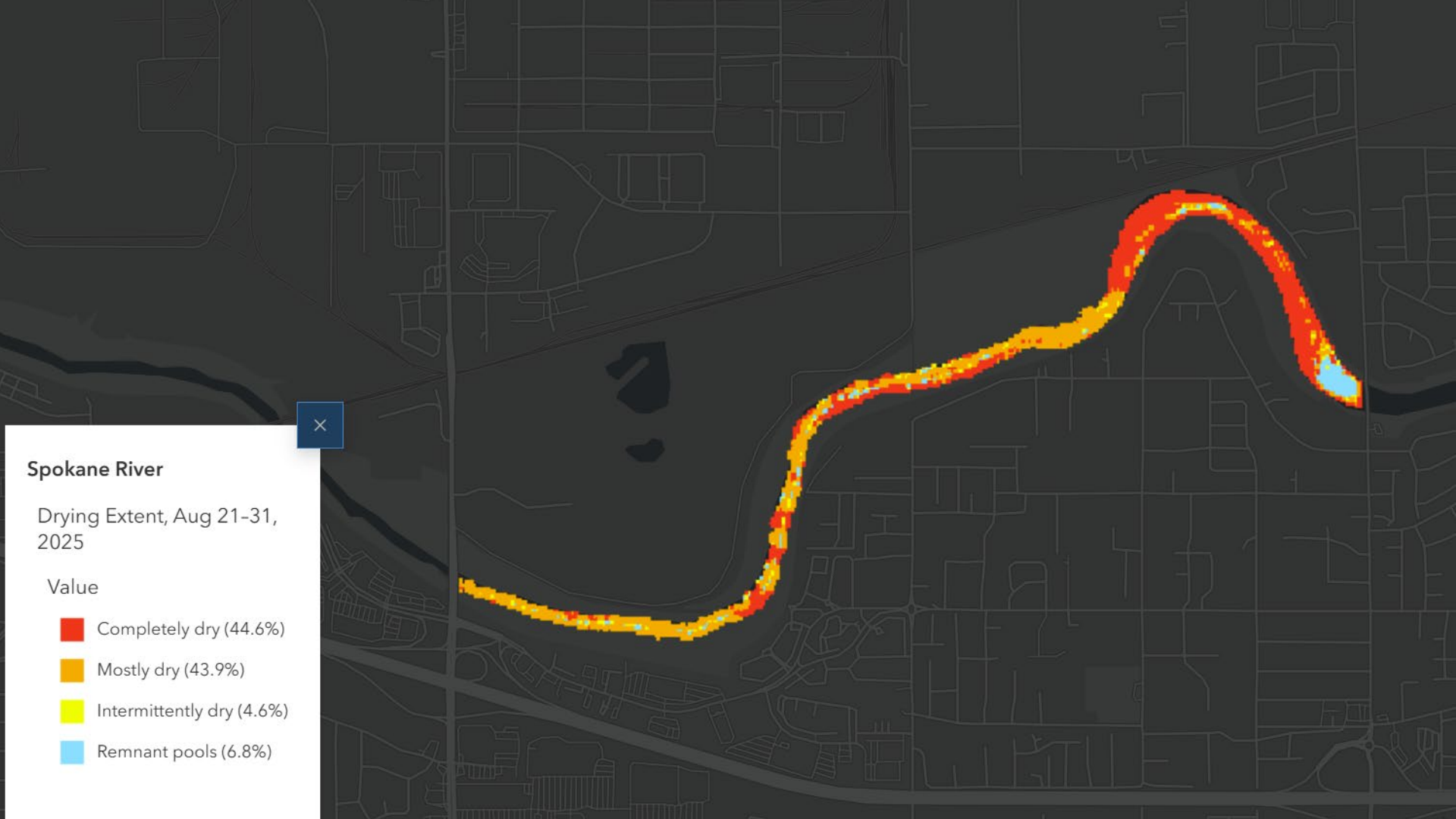
August 1, 2003

Post Falls Flows:  
253 cfs to 365 cfs



August 23, 2025

Post Falls Flows:  
486 cfs to 498 cfs



### Spokane River

Drying Extent, Aug 21-31, 2025

Value

- Completely dry (44.6%)
- Mostly dry (43.9%)
- Intermittently dry (4.6%)
- Remnant pools (6.8%)

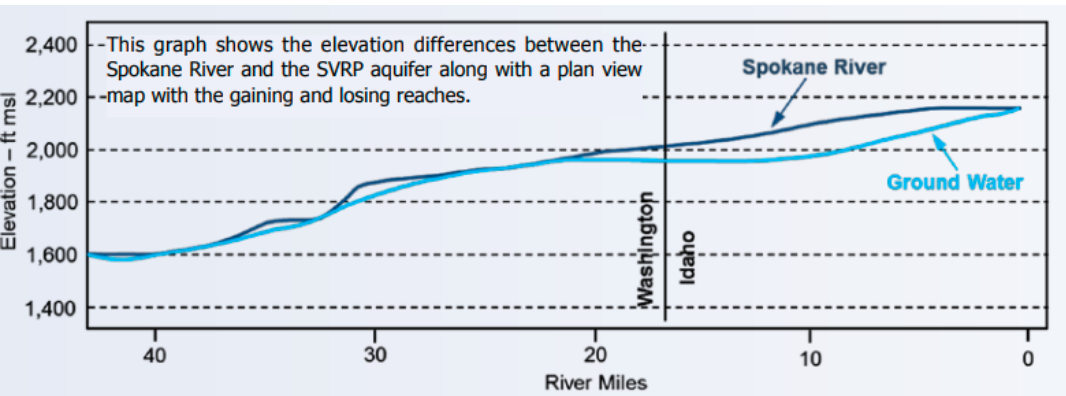
# Upper Spokane River – Two Primary Sources:

LAKE COEUR D'ALENE



SPOKANE VALLEY RATHDRUM PRAIRIE AQUIFER

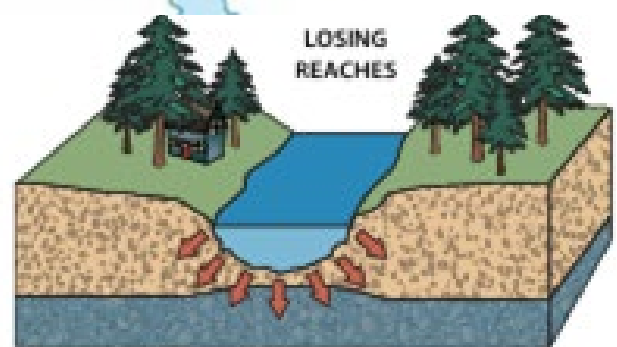
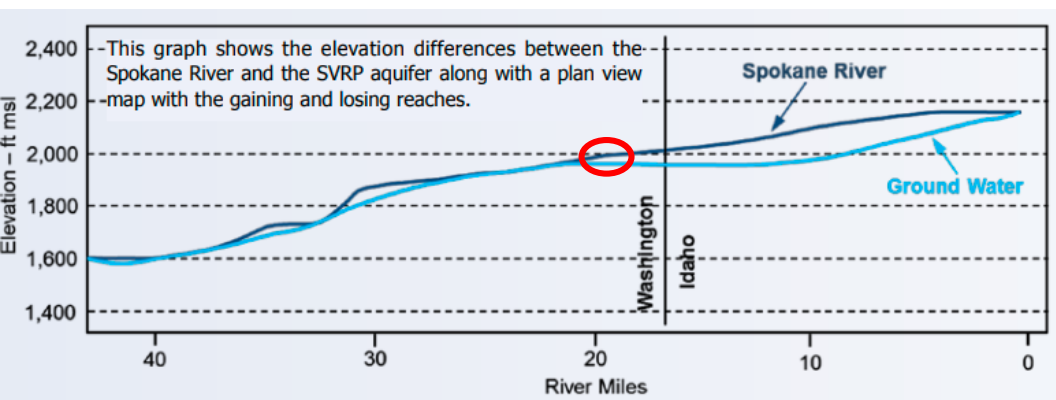




Gaining Reaches occur when the aquifer touches the bottom of the river. Aquifer water pushes into the river through the bottom or enters via springs on the banks of the river.

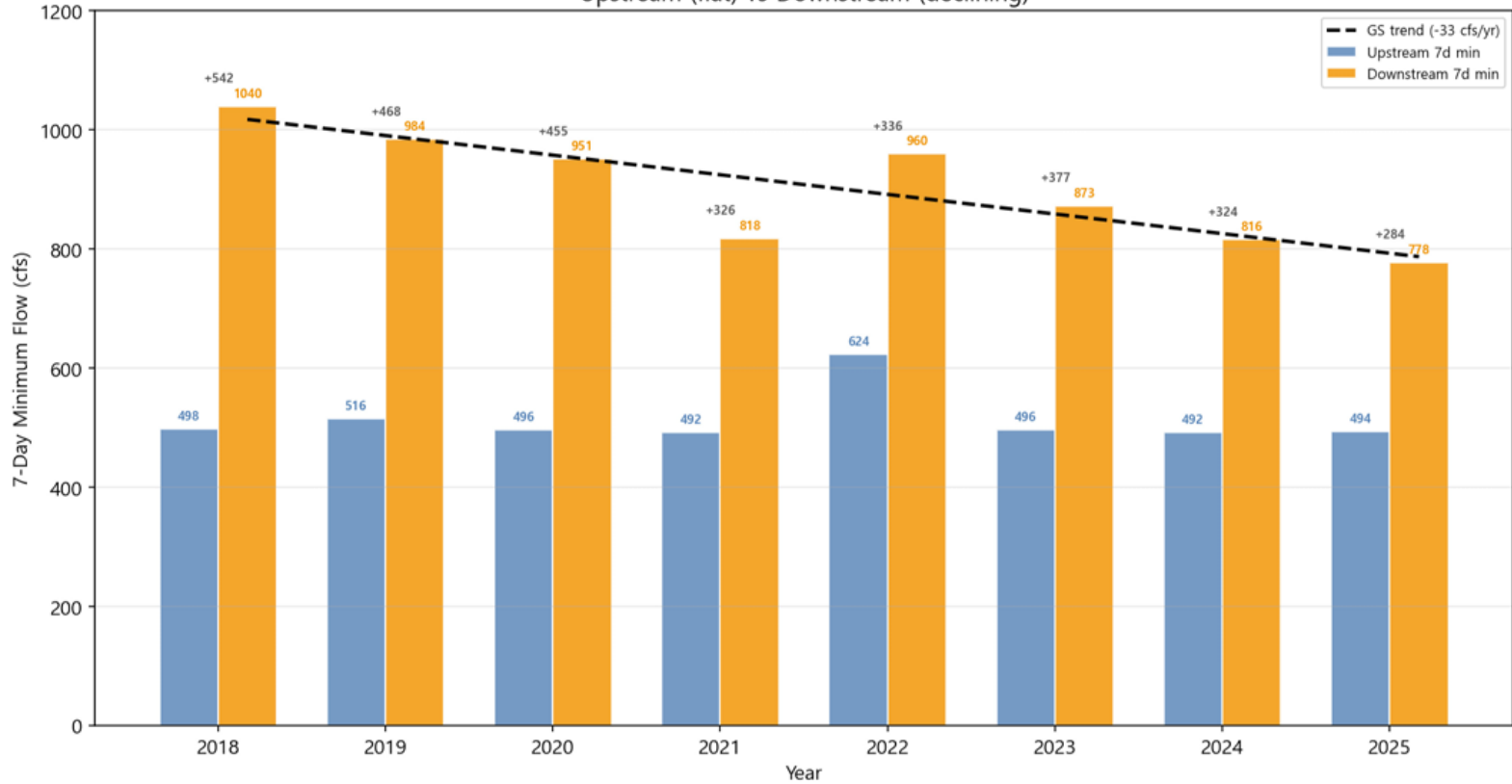


Losing Reaches occur when the aquifer does not touch the river bottom. River water then drains downward into the aquifer.



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Spokane River: Post Falls (12419000) to Greene St (12422000)  
Annual Low Flows During Avista Window  
Upstream (flat) vs Downstream (declining)



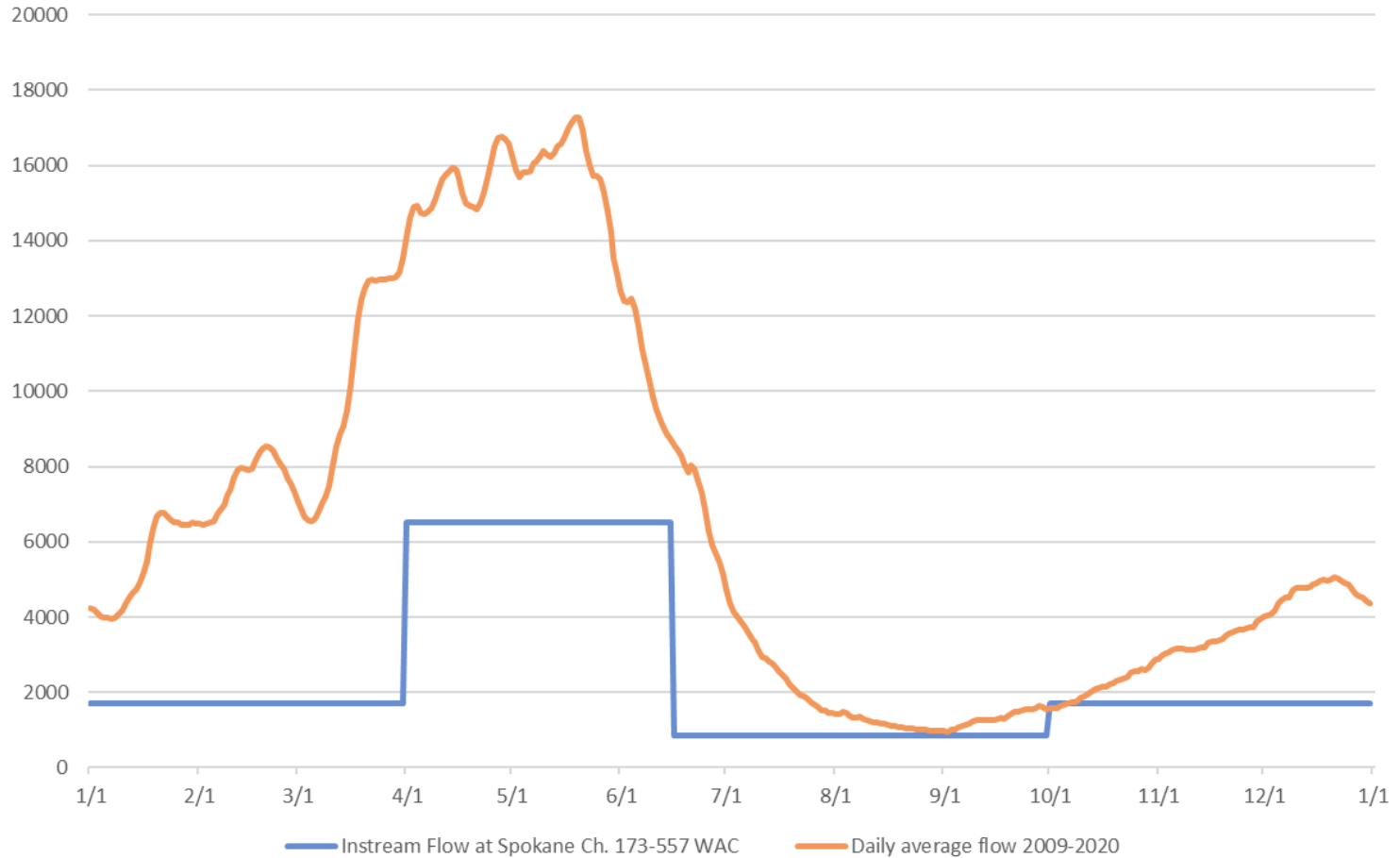
# Instream Flows for the Spokane River

<b>Spokane River at Spokane</b>	
October 1 - March 31	1,700 cfs
April 1 - June 15	6,500 cfs
June 16 - September 30	850 cfs
<b>Spokane River at Greenacres (Barker Road)</b>	
June 16 - September 30	500 cfs

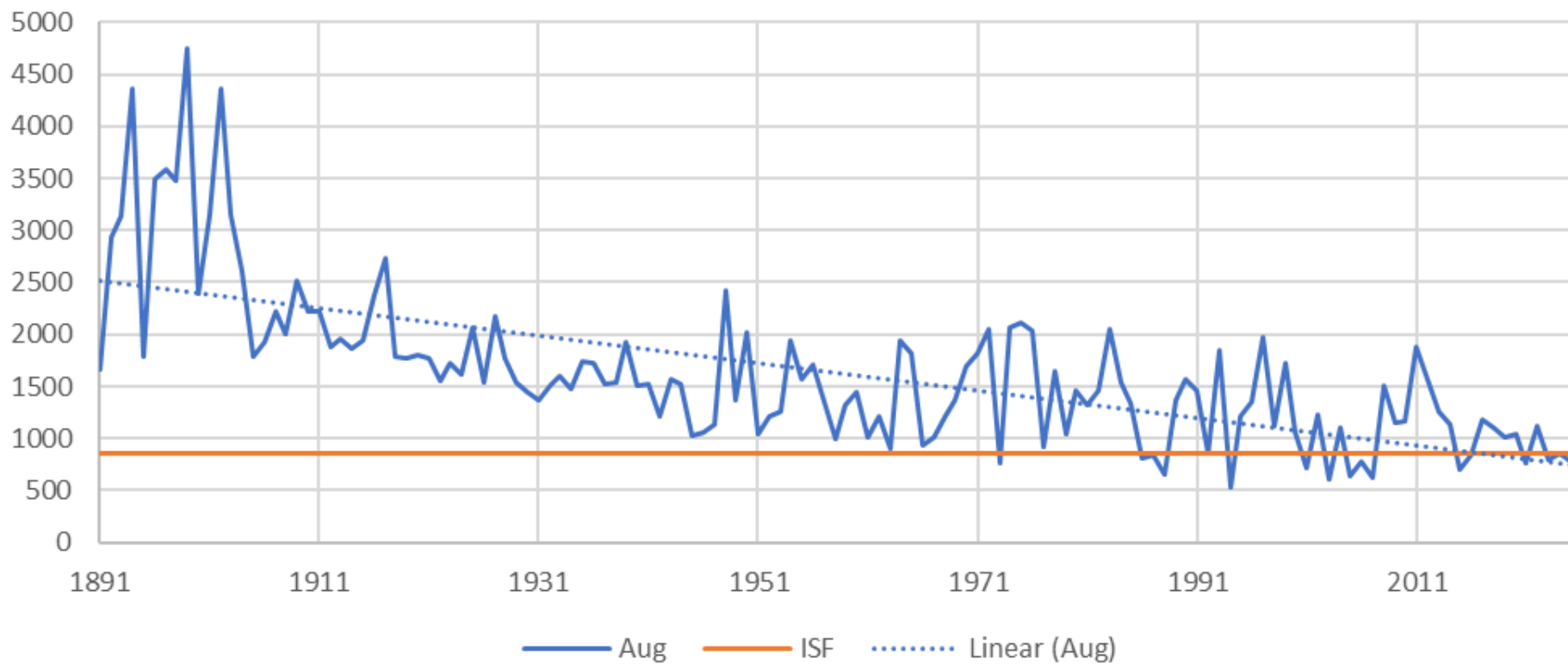
Avista FERC License for Post Falls

- 600 cfs minimum discharge 6/7 until day after Labor Day
- Reduce to 500 cfs if lake level falls below 2,127.75 feet during summer full-pool period

Daily Average Flow 2009-2020, Spokane at Spokane (USGS 1222500)

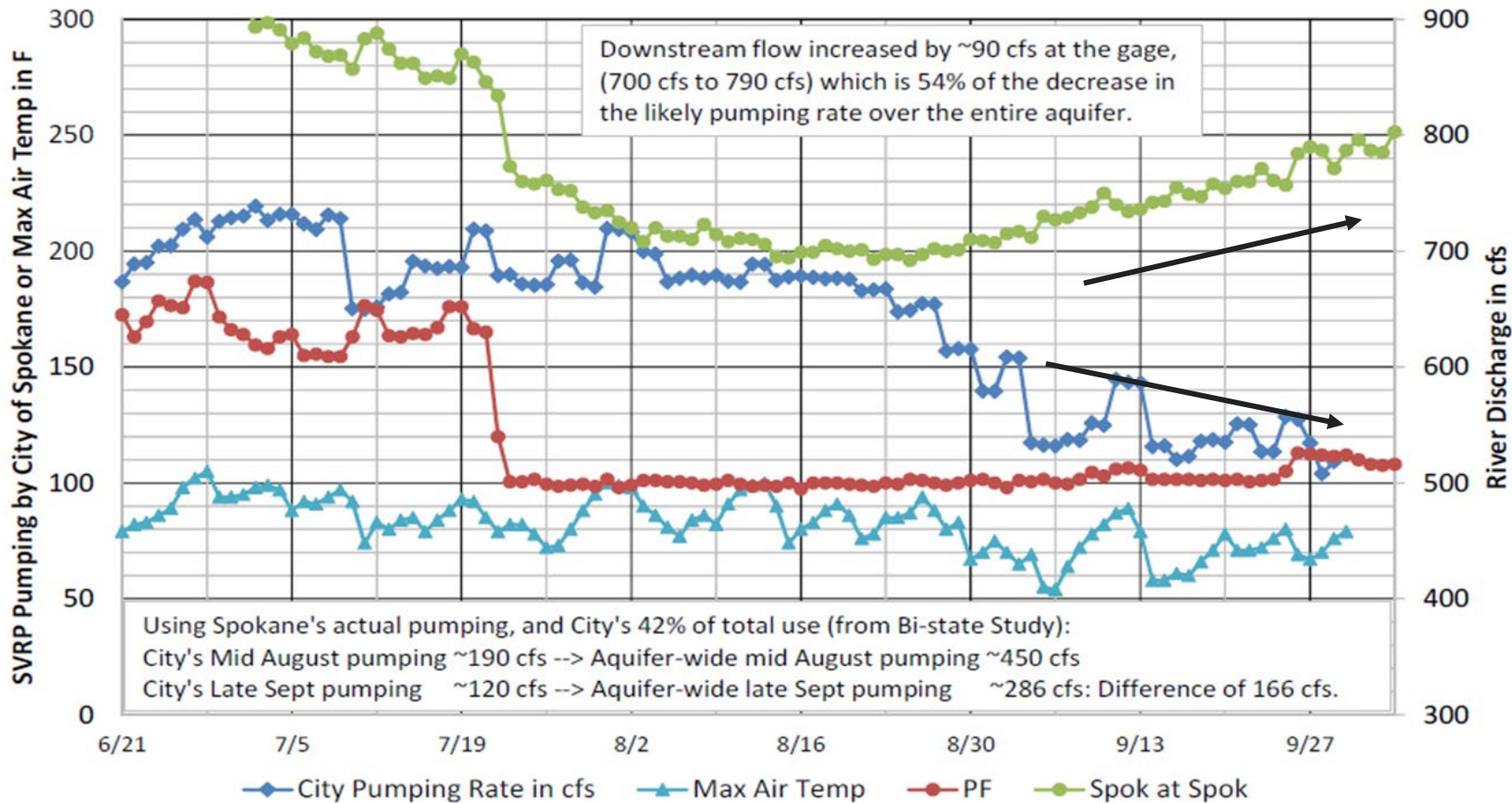


# Avg Aug flows 1891-2025





## City of Spokane Daily Pumping from SVRP vs River Discharge





*Bowl & Pitcher, August 2015, 620 cfs. Photo courtesy of Sierra Club.*

# FREQUENT RIVER DROUGHTS— Low flows

A drought is a prolonged or chronic shortage of water

Spokane River is starved of water from its two sources:

- Lake Coeur d'Alene
- SVRP Aquifer.

**Drought Causes:**

- Insufficient snowpack in Idaho – less water out of Lake Coeur d'Alene
- Early season loss of snowpack – less water in Lake Coeur d'Alene
- Inefficient use of SVRPA and over-consumption that competes with the Spokane River for water in gaining reach during critical low-flow season.



# THANK YOU!

Join Our Email List



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