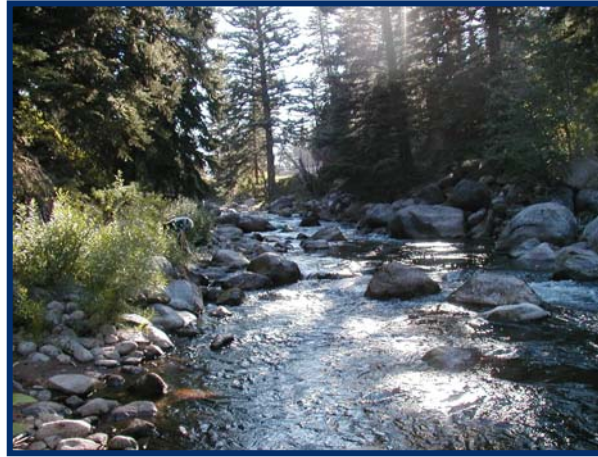


# *The Severe Sustained Drought Project*

## *A Retrospective in 20/20*



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presented by  
**Ben Harding, Hydrosphere**  
**Bill Lord, University of Arizona, Emeritus**  
October 6, 2006

**Colorado Institute for Public Policy**

*Colorado's Future 2006:*

*Taking the Plunge: Research as a Tool for Water Stakeholders*



**HYDROSPHERE**  
Resource Consultants

# The SSD Project

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## Objectives

- Define a representative Severe Sustained Drought
- Assess its hydrologic impacts
- Forecast economic, social and environmental impacts
- Assess alternative institutional coping arrangements

# The Drought

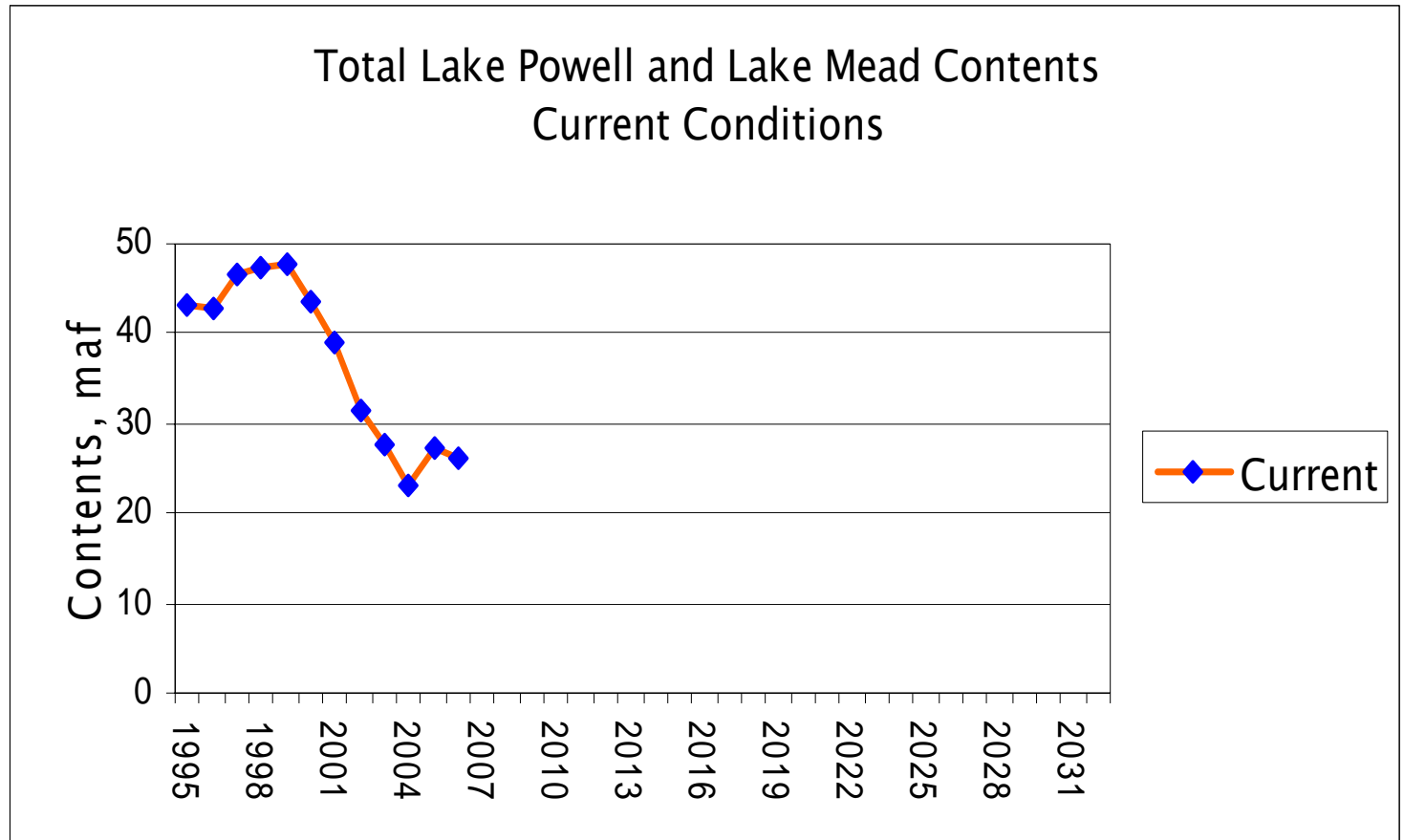
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**“...extreme, perhaps even unrealistic...”**

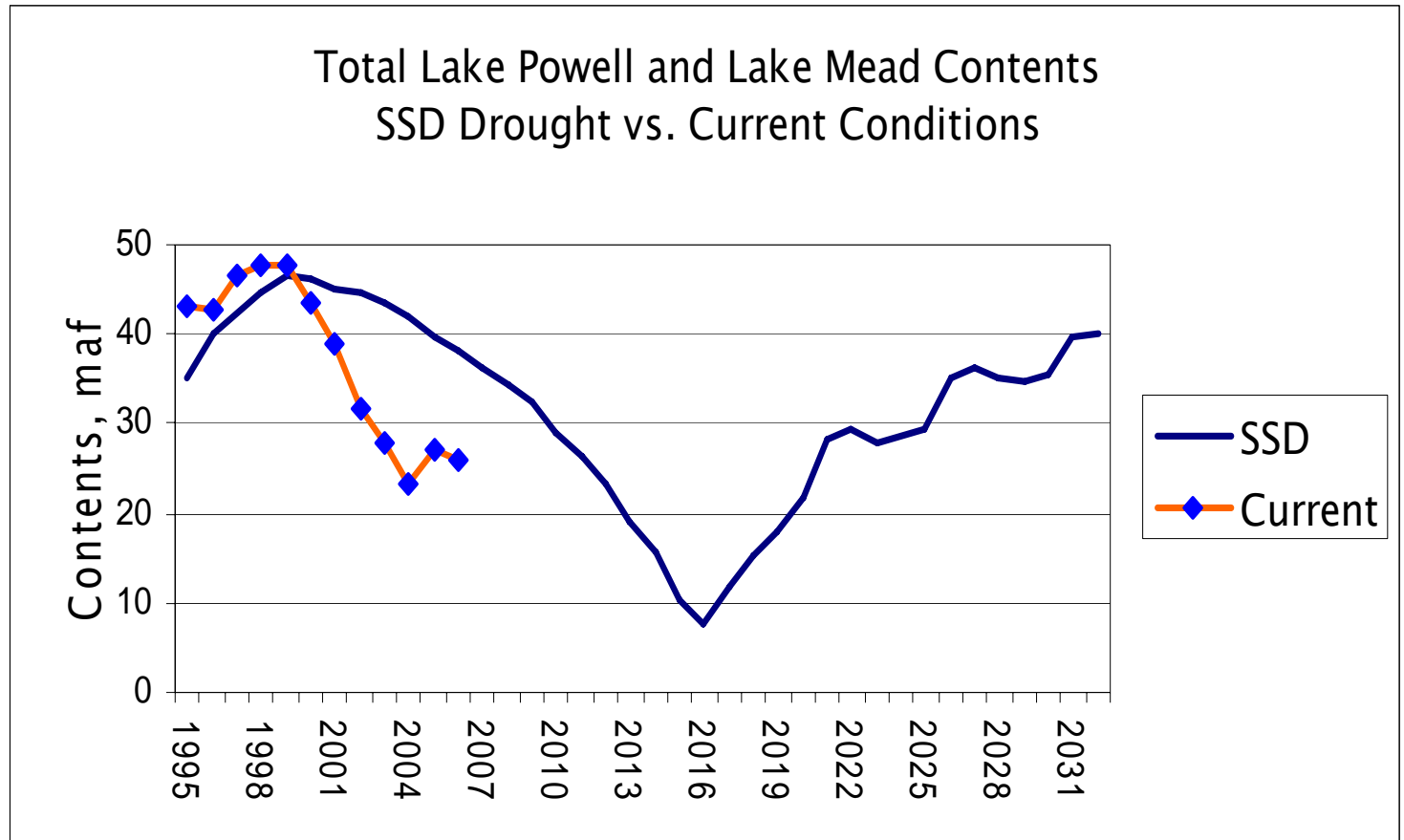
- The most severe drought in 440 years
- Taken from tree-ring records: 1579-1600
- Rearranged to increase severity
- Return period: 2,000 to 10,000 + years!

**“...designed to discover how the system would respond...”**

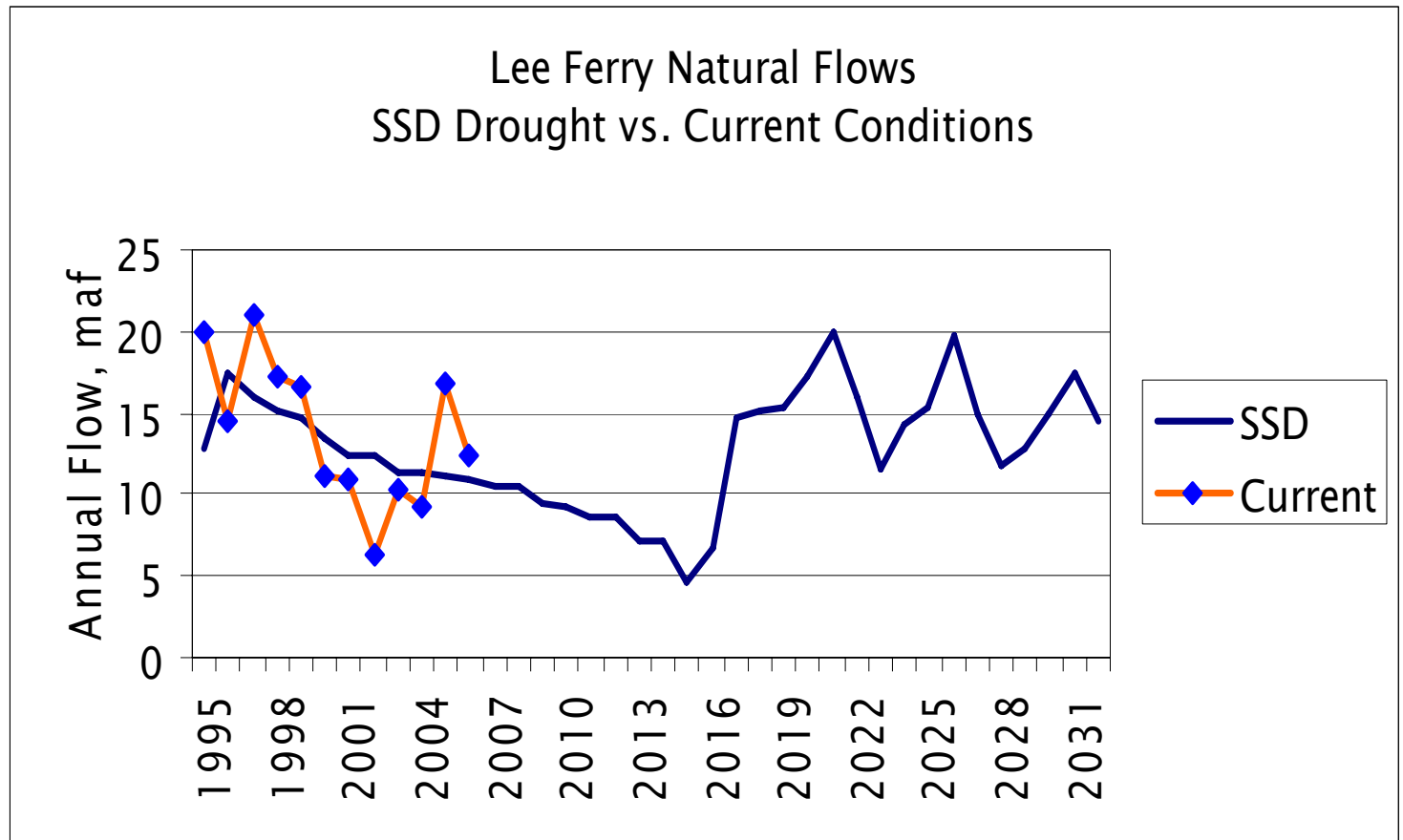
# Today's Drought



# Today's Drought



# It's not the Hydrology



# What went wrong?

