

# **Cowichan Watershed Board**



**Water Through our  
Watersheds**

# Quick Overview:

- Spring water conditions in Cowichan and Koksilah Rivers
- How people are coming together to discuss the best path forward...



# Some Thoughts from CWB members Last month...

- Shannon: Connectivity, water and its influence on how we are able to be a community
- David F: Everything gathers at the water's edge from Africa to here. The River and all the creatures in it are extremely important to all of us...
- Tim – Breaking down silos and the importance of connectivity – between each other and the River
- Aaron - not enough conversation about ecological connectivity. We need to think about water as a foundational element of good communities and our responsibilities around that.

# Cowichan

- Issue with lake level gauge operated by WSC – less water than we thought –Has been corrected.
- Good snow pack. Warm April weather resulted in snow melt – first at lower elevations then at higher
- Because of this snow melt Lake levels rose throughout the sunny warm dry weather
- Recent rain should improved situation as well



# Cowichan

- We're not in as good shape as last year but significantly better than 2019
- Currently releasing prescribed 25CMS to prevent steelhead redds on the perimeter of the river from drying up; Chinook fry to utilize peripheral habitats: and coho smolts to exit side channels.
- Scheduled to ramp down to 15 CMS starting Saturday

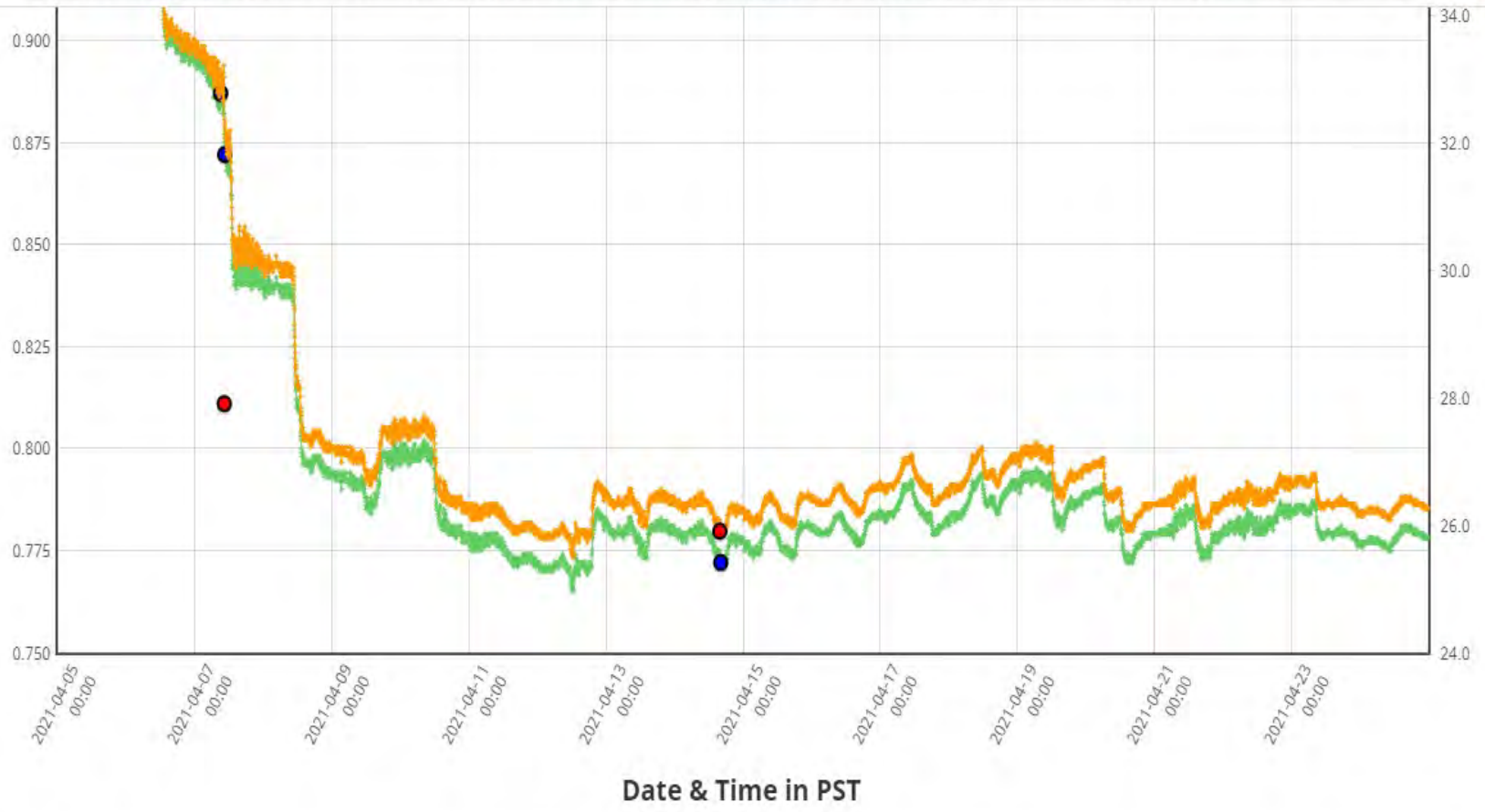




# River Flows

Watershed Board Meeting - x Google Calendar - Week of A x Automated Snow Weather St x Real-Time Hydrometric Data x Crofton - Lake Level x + - x

wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/report/real\_time\_e.html?stn=08HA002&mode=Graph&startDate=2021-04-07&endDate=2021-04-25&prm1=46&y1Max=&y1Min=&prm2=47... Update



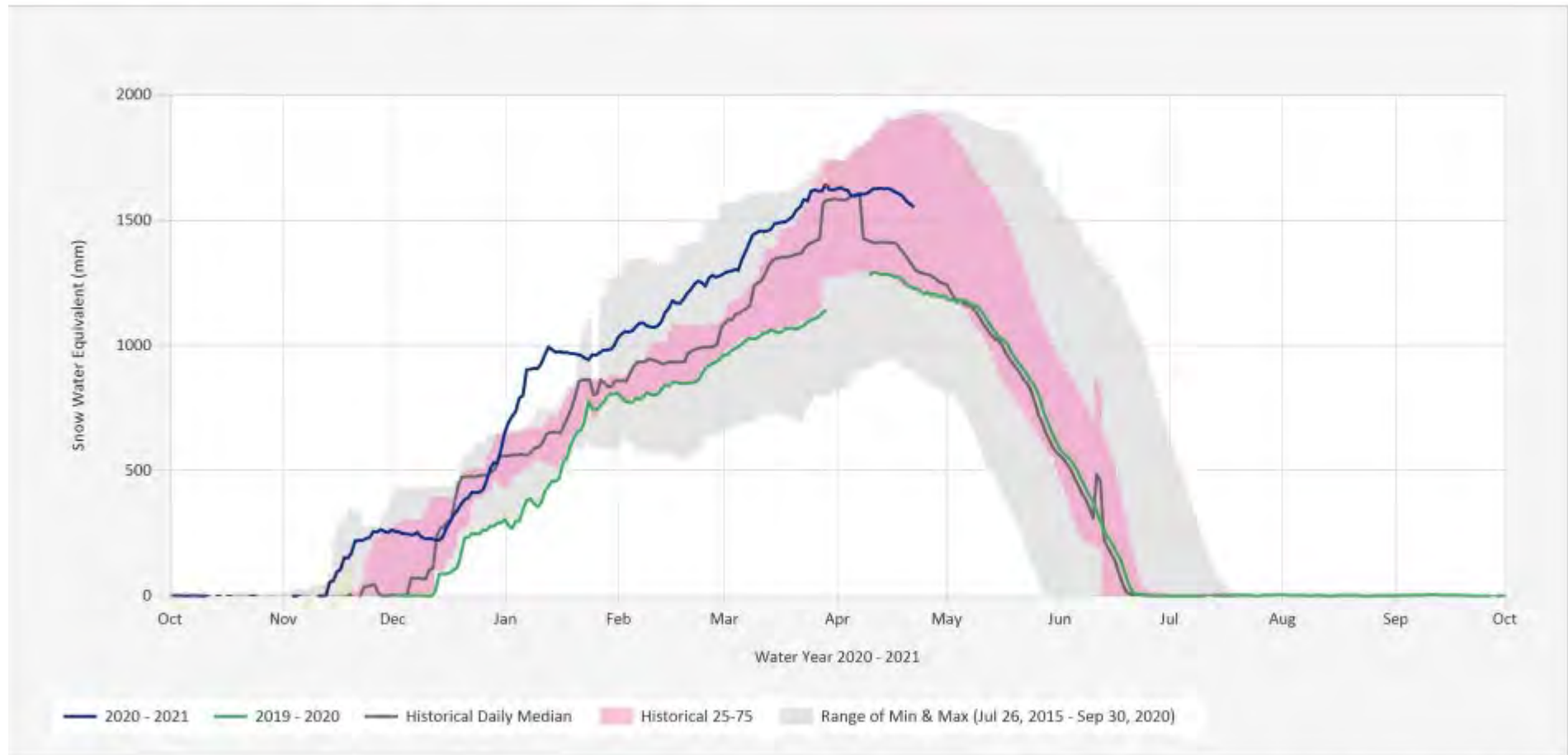
Controls

Crofton\_LakeLevel....pdf Koksilah 25.04.21.png salmon fry.jpg paddle.jpg Cowichan weir.jpg Show all

### Weather Station Graph

1 / 1 | - 98% + | 📄 🔗

Source Data: SW.Daily@3B24P  
Location: Heather Mountain Upper, Latitude: 48.943875, Longitude: -124.452113, Elevation: : 1190 m



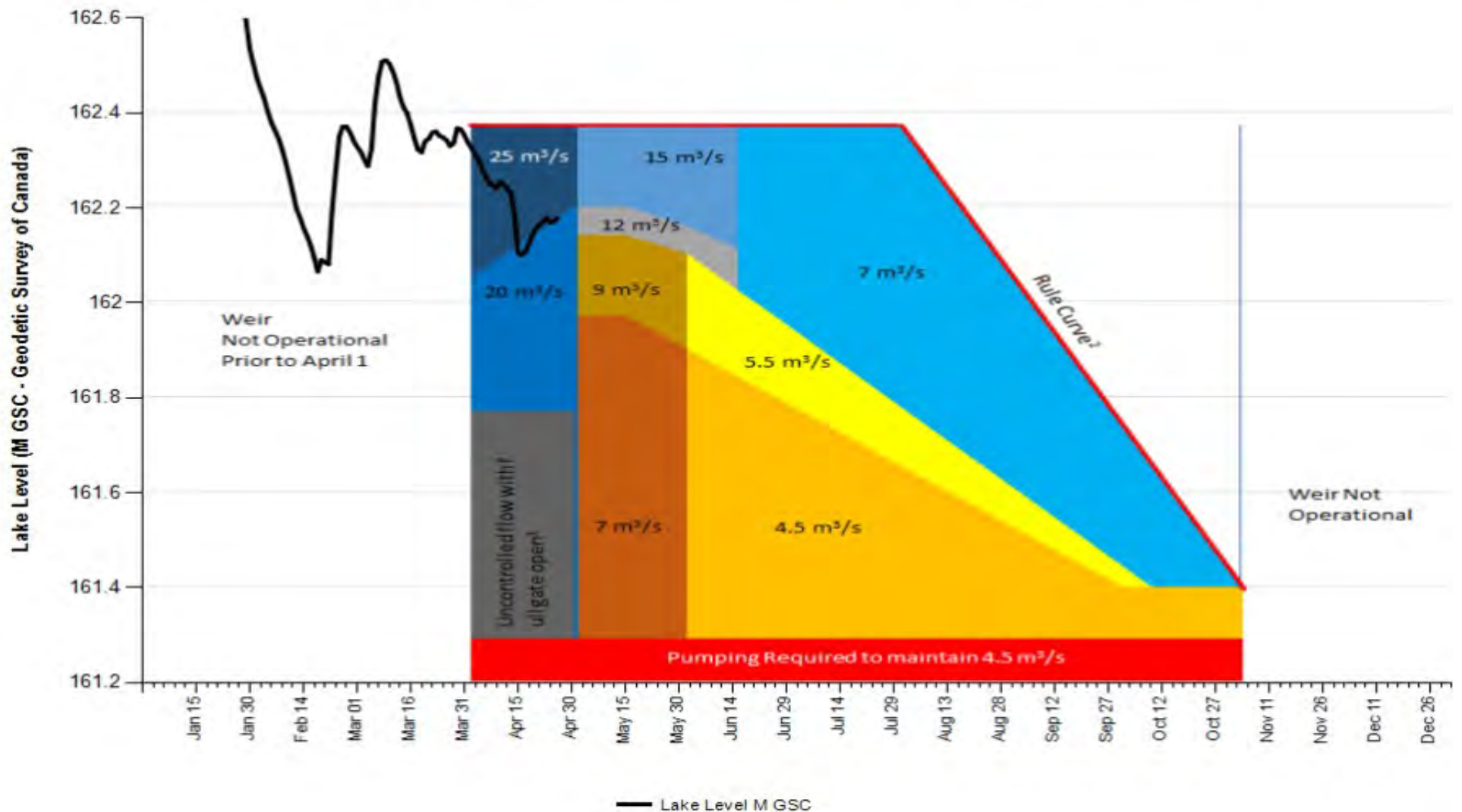
Statistics are based on the period of record prior to the current Water Year  
Statistics are only displayed for locations with at least two years of data

Data last appended: April 21, 2021 16:00 UTC+00:00



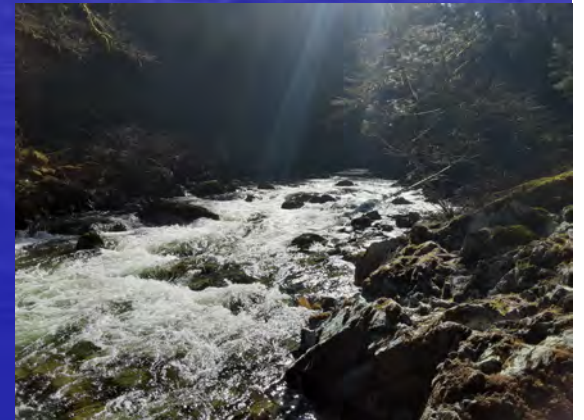
# The Model...

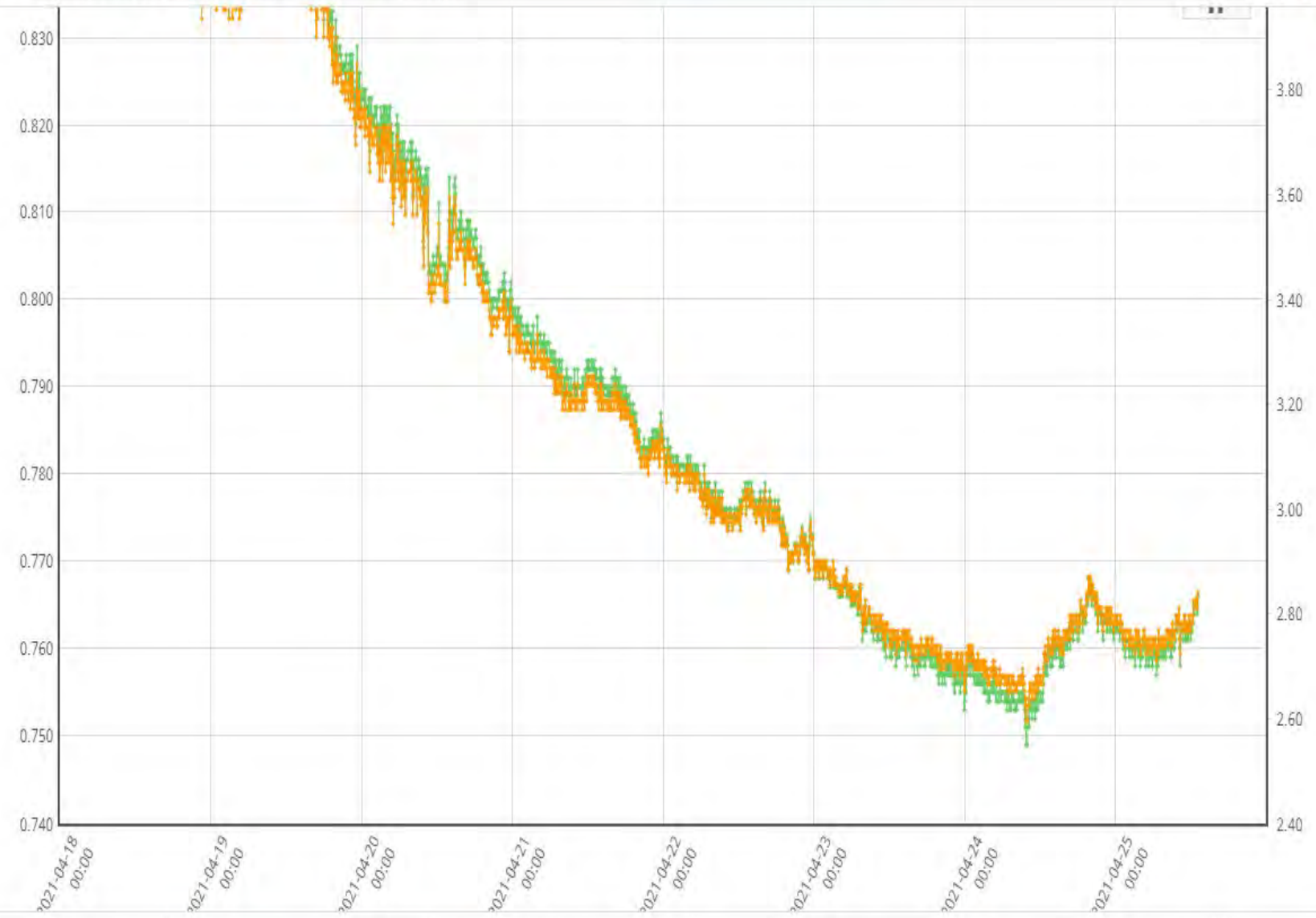
2021 Cowichan Lake Level and River Flow Guidance Chart - Above Average snow pack



# Koksilah

- Flows are not controlled – we take what the watershed gives us.
- MAD in the Cowichan is around 50CMS and in the Koksilah around 10CMS – on average the Cowichan carries 5 times as much water as the Koksilah
- The Cowichan is running at 25CMS so similar flows in the Koksilah would be 5 CMS





# Koksilah Water Processes

- Water Sustainability Plan Scoping
  - Long term planning process
  - Cowichan Tribes and Province of BC
  - Supported by CWB and External advisors
- In season Drought Management Team
  - Stakeholders table working towards short term solutions to immediate flows challenges

# In Summary...

- Currently moderate water conditions in both Cowichan and Koksilah watersheds
- Hydrology and control options differ significantly
- Both watersheds are being closely monitored and efforts are underway to manage collaboratively as much as possible
- The well being of our communities remains inextricably connected to the well being of our rivers and the watersheds they support and the CWB remains focused on providing sustainable ecological flows in both watersheds...

