



Racing Mother Nature

A Collaborative Approach to
Emergency Permitting



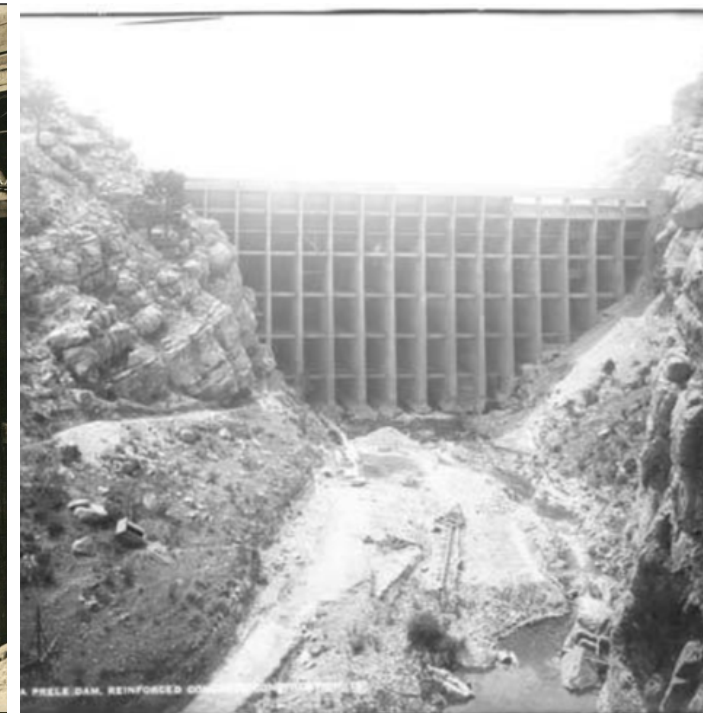
5/14/2026



LaPrele Dam Location: Converse County, WY

A Troubled History of LaPrele Dam

- Completed in 1909
- Crest height: 135 feet
- Crest length: 325 feet
- Storage: 20,000 acre-feet
- 1920's-1930's – Deterioration and repairs
- 1965 & 1970 – Major floods and 50% limit placed on storage
- 1974-1979 – Major rehabilitation (nearly condemned)



What Was the Original Plan?

1. Design and permit a replacement dam
2. Build the replacement dam
3. Remove the old dam...

On November 1, 2024
all of that changed!



What Makes an Emergency?

- High-hazard dam
- Over a century old
- Cracked and decaying structure
- Water level restrictions
- Breach order



Preventing an Emergency: Racing the Clock

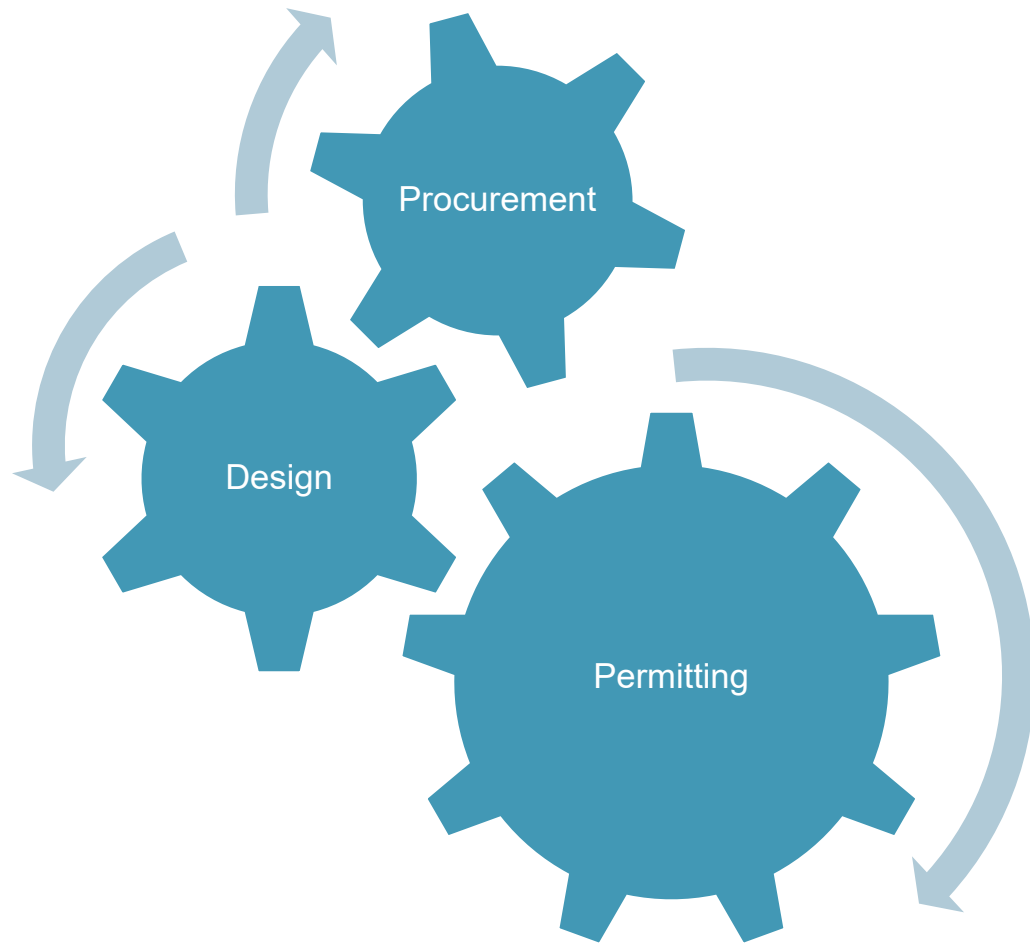
November 1, 2024: WY State Engineer's Office issues Emergency

- Requirement: demolition complete NLT **April 1, 2025**
- Required permitting complete by **February 1, 2025**



A Collaborative Approach to Permitting

Simultaneous Phases to Meet a 90 Day Deadline



Collaboration in Action

Deliverables:

- Environmental Assessment (NEPA)
- CWA Section 404 Permit
- CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certification
- WY DEQ Large General Construction Permit



Environmental Assessment (EA)

- Decision document
- Iterative development process
- First draft completed in 10 days
 - Public review and comment waived



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Environmental Assessment LaPrele Dam Removal Project

EA No. WYAO-2025-01

Prepared By: HDR Engineering, Inc.

Prepared for: United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation
Missouri Basin Region

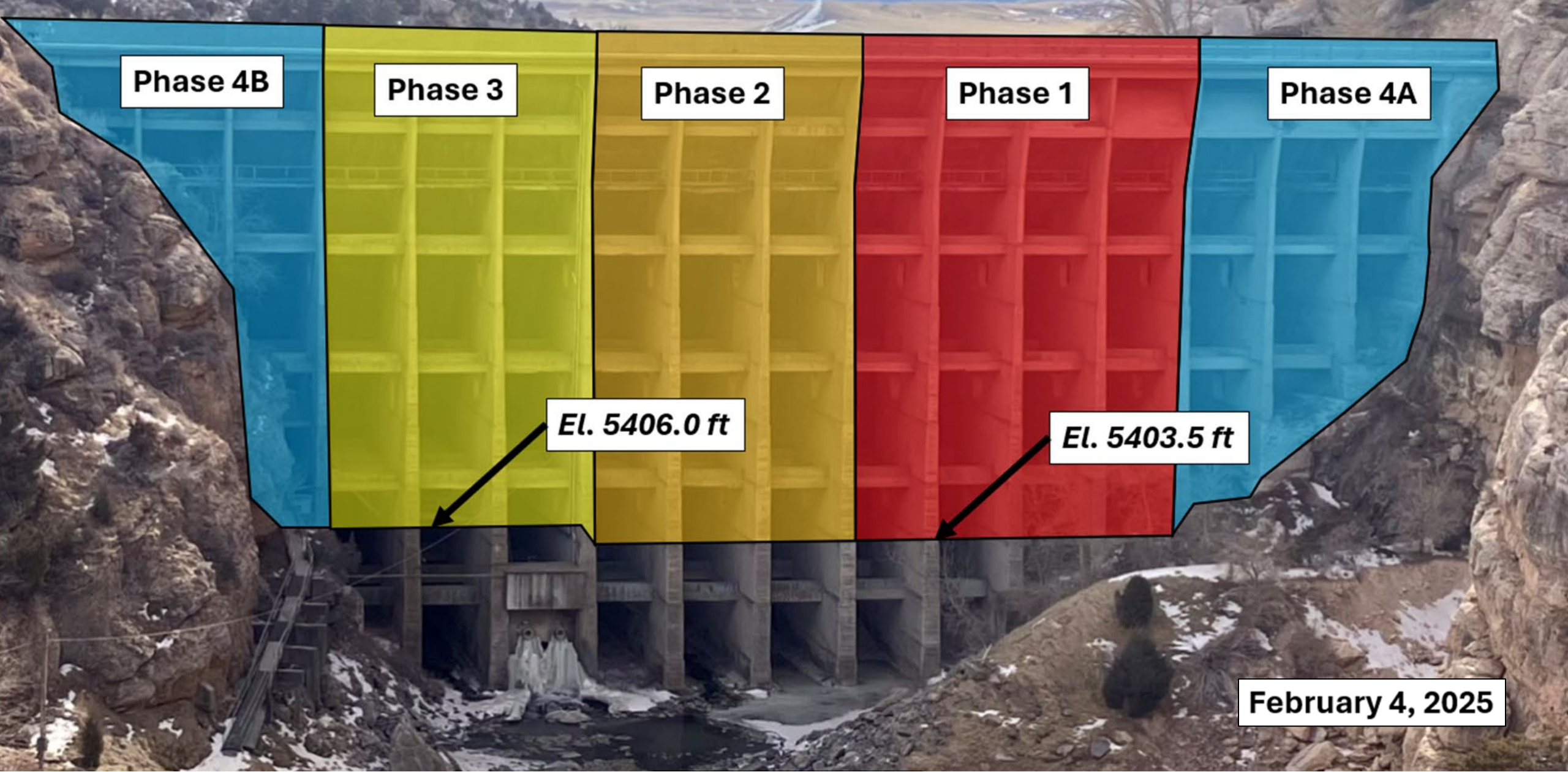
Wyoming Area Office



401/404 CWA Individual Permit

- Design, Delineation, Impacts, Mitigation, ESA Compliance, Cultural Compliance, Water Quality Certification, Alternatives Analysis
- Emergency Procedures: waived alternatives analysis, pushed mitigation submittal
- Required three submissions





Phase 4B

Phase 3

Phase 2

Phase 1

Phase 4A

El. 5406.0 ft

El. 5403.5 ft

February 4, 2025

How Did it End?



March 4, 2025



March 15, 2025



April 09, 2025



November 13, 2024



April 05, 2026