Agenda Item
Planning for a Fall 2014 High Flow Experiment

Action Requested
Information item only

Presenter
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Previous Action Taken
N/A

Relevant Science

Background Information
The Finding of No Significant Impact for the Development and Implementation of a Protocol for High-Flow Experimental Releases from Glen Canyon Dam, Arizona, 2011 through 2020 (HFE Protocol) was completed in May of 2012 along with a directive from the Secretary of the Interior on the implementation of the HFE Protocol and Non-native Fish Control in Grand Canyon. The directive and later guidance from the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Water and Science, created the DOI Glen Canyon Leadership Team which is charged with determining when HFEs will be implemented under the HFE Protocol, and an HFE Technical Team that evaluates resource conditions and provides a recommendation to the DOI Glen Canyon Leadership Team on implementation of individual HFEs.

As of October 22, 2004, GCMRC estimated that 1.95 million metric tons of sand had entered the Colorado River from the Paria River since July 1, 2014. Based on that amount, GCRMC recommends conducting the largest HFE allowable under the HFE Protocol. Reclamation estimates that 7 of 6 units will be available at Glen Canyon Dam to conduct an HFE in November, and that a maximum of 37,500 cfs release will be possible given the outage of one unit and other factors such as the need to maintain 40 MW of system regulation. If a fall 2014 HFE were to occur, the HFE would be of 37,500 cfs magnitude for 96 hours, and would occur from November 10-15, 2014. The planning process and related materials will be reviewed in the presentation.
HFE Decision Making Process

1. Planning and Budgeting Component
   - Annual resource status assessment
   - Annual Agency Reporting
   - GCDAMP Budget and Work Plan Process

2. Modeling Component

3. Decision and Implementation Component
   - Review Modeling Component
   - Review Status of Resources
   - Consultation with agencies and tribes, AMWG and TWG input
   - Staff Recommendation/DOI GCD Leadership Team Recommendation
HFE Protocol Parameters

Possible Timing
- March-April and October-November through 2020
- Spring HFEs will not be considered until 2015

Duration range
- 1 hr – 96 hrs (at full magnitude)
- 1 ½ days – 6 ½ days (including ramping)

Magnitude range
- 31,500 cfs – 45,000 cfs (depends on maintenance)
- 2014 projected available release for November is **37,500 cfs** (7 of 8 units available)

Ramping rates
- Ramping rates are defined by 1996 ROD and 1997 Glen Canyon Dam Operating Criteria (62 FR 9447, 4,000 cfs up and 1,500 cfs down)
Current conditions from the GCMRC web page as of Oct. 17

Paria River at Lees Ferry discharge since July 1

Paria River at Lees Ferry cumulative sand load since July 1

1.94 mmt
Lower bound 0.91 mmt

K. Stout
Preliminary data
Do not cite
K. Stout
Preliminary data
Do not cite
Glen Canyon Dam Possible HFE Release Pattern

Provisional HFE Pattern

At full capacity
Nov 10, 5pm - Nov 14, 5pm

max release = ~ 37,500 cfs

Open bypass tubes
Nov 10, 10am

Begin ramp up
Nov 10, 6am

Complete HFE
Nov 15, 9am

November Volume
~770 kaf total release
(~170 kaf to be reallocated from later months)
(~130 kaf bypass)

96-hr HFE / 37,500 cfs max release
4,000 cfs up-ramp, then 1/2 bypass tube
1,500 cfs down-ramp
6,500 cfs / 9,000 cfs post-HFE
Possible Monthly Release Volumes

Water Year 2015

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Typical MLFF Pattern</th>
<th>Possible 9.0 Maf Hydrograph presented at AMWG</th>
<th>9.0 maf</th>
<th>96 hr HFE 9.0 maf</th>
<th>8.23 maf</th>
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Monthly release patterns are provisional and subject to change.
Resource Status Assessment

Sediment Resources
In-channel sediment storage
Sandbar campable area
High-elevation sand deposits

Cultural Resources
Archaeological site condition and stability
Access to archaeological sites by tribes

Biological Resources
Aquatic food base
Lees Ferry trout population
Lees Ferry fishery recreation experience quality
Endangered humpback chub and other fish abundance
Riparian vegetation

Hydropower and water delivery
Water quality
Water delivery
Dam maintenance
Hydropower production and marketable capacity
Cultural Resources

- HFE-caused erosion is a consideration, most sites already mitigated.
- The HFE MOA requires reporting and consultation after HFEs.
- No impacts to sites were identified from the 2012 HFE, no reports of issues with access to sites.
- The MOA for the HFE Protocol requires notification to all the consulting parties at least 30 days in advance of a HFE and will consult with tribes to resolve any issues.
- A 30-day notification letter notifying MOA signatories of a possible HFE in November.

Reclamation met with MOA signatories Feb. 12, 2014 to review effects of 2013 HFE and found none.
Hydropower/Socioeconomic Impacts

- HFEs impact hydropower production:
  - Water released during an HFE counts against the annual release and is not available to be programmed in peaking releases during high demand months (HFE windows of Mar/Apr and Oct/Nov are low-demand shoulder months).
  - 30-40% of HFE releases bypass the power plant.
  - Lake Powell is lowered, reducing hydrologic head.

Western Area Power Administration estimates annual hydropower impacts of $1.777M from Fall 2014 HFE
RM 22 R – Returned to pre-HFE size by February (about same response as 2012)
RM 51 L – Still larger in May 2014 (not a “gainer” for 2012 HFE)
Sandbar Response to 2013 HFE based on Analysis of Images from Remote Cameras

- **Response immediately after 2013 HFE**
  - Substantial Gain (deposition): 21 sandbars (50% of sites)
  - No substantial change: 16 sandbars (38% of sites)
  - Substantial Loss (erosion): 5 sandbars (12% of sites)

- **2013 HFE compared to 2012 HFE**
  - Sandbar larger after 2013 HFE: 9 sandbars (27% of sites)
  - Sandbar larger after 2012 HFE: 2 sandbars (6% of sites)
  - About the same: 22 sandbars (67% of sites)

Response to 2013 HFE similar to previous HFEs: substantial deposition followed by erosion of about half the new deposits with 6 months

*Preliminary data*
Adult and Sub-Adult Humpback Chub Abundance Estimates

Abundance estimates for adults (age 4+)

Abundance estimates for sub-adults (age 2+)

ASMR abundance estimate: > 7,000 adult Humpback Chub. Uncertainty likely considerably underestimated.
Adult Humpback Chub Abundance Estimates: Multistate Population Model

Suggests adult Humpback Chub abundance stable from 2009 – 2012. Confidence intervals provide reasonable estimates of uncertainty.

(Yackulic et al. 2014)
Annual spring abundances of humpback chub ≥ 150 mm and ≥ 200 mm in lower 13.6 km of LCR

2014 spring estimates indicate Humpback Chub abundance stable in the LCR

(Preliminary data from VanHaverbeke et al. 2014, Do Not Cite)
Juvenile humpback chub survival increased over 2012-2013 interval. 2013-2014 estimate available late 2014.
**Spring LCR 150-199 mm humpback chub abundance estimates**

2014 spring abundance estimate of 150-199 mm
HBC = 2175
(95% CI: 1861-2489)

(Preliminary Data from VanHaverbeke et al. 2014, Do Not Cite)
Colorado River, Grand Canyon Water Temperatures
Projections based on September 2014, Most Probable Hydrology
Colorado River, Grand Canyon Water Temperatures
Projections based on October 2014, Most Probable Hydrology

Temperature, °C

Month


RM 0  RM 30  RM 61  RM 87  RM 87  RM 166  RM 226
Rainbow Trout Abundance By Reach

I – Glen Canyon/Lees Ferry
II – House Rock
III – Buck Farm
IVa – Upstream of LCR
IVb – Downstream of LCR

All 2014 abundance estimates exceed BiOp trigger level (presented as fish/km).

July 2014 estimate very preliminary.

(Preliminary Data from Korman and Yard 2014. Do Not Cite.)
2011 USFWS Biological Opinion
Non-native Fish Control Trigger

- Adult humpback chub <7000 fish?  No

- OR

- ALL THREE?  No
  - 3 of 5 years 150-199 mm humpback chub in the LCR drops below 910?  No
  - Temperature <12° C for 2 consecutive years at LCR?  No
  - Annual survival of 40-99 mm humpback chub in JCM drops 25% from preceding year?  TBD
2011 USFWS Biological Opinion
Non-native Fish Control Trigger

- AND

- Rainbow trout abundance over 760? \hspace{1cm} Yes
  Open model estimates exceed threshold for all trips to date in 2014
  (Korman and Yard, preliminary data)

- AND

- Brown trout abundance over 50? \hspace{1cm} Unknown
  2014 catches lower than in 2013, only 7 total caught in Jul. 2014 – catches too low to generate abundance estimate
  (Yard and Korman, preliminary data)
2014 HFE Summary and Next Steps

1. Resource conditions support a 2014 HFE
2. 37,500 cfs for 96 hours, early-mid Nov. 2014
3. Timing TBD, week of Nov. 9
4. 30-day HFE MOA letter has gone out
5. TWG Webinar Oct. 17 11am-1pm mdt
6. Leadership Team meeting week of Oct. 20
7. US Fish and Wildlife Service report in December
8. If an HFE occurs in FY 2014, convene a workshop to review results of first 3 HFEs in 2015