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LTEMP Experiments Update

TWG Meeting April 9, 2026

LTEMP Experiments

“The overall approach attempts to strike a balance between identifying specific experiments and providing flexibility to implement those experiments when resource conditions are appropriate.”

“...rather than proposing a prescriptive approach to experimentation, an adaptive management-based approach that is responsive and flexible will be used to adapt to changing environmental and resource conditions...”

--2016 LTEMP ROD, p. B-9



Potential LTEMP Flow Experiments

- Sediment (High Flow Experiments)
 - Spring HFE
 - Proactive spring HFE
 - Fall HFE
 - Fall HFE extended duration (up to 250 hr)
- Aquatic Resources
 - Macroinvertebrate Flow
 - Trout Management Flows
 - Low summer flows (2nd ten years of LTEMP)
- LTEMP SEIS
 - Smallmouth Bass Flows
 - HFE protocol revision



LTEMP Process for Experiments

- Annual Reporting and TWG meetings
- Notification and Consultation to Tribes & PA Parties
- Implementation / Planning Team Recommendation
- DOI decision

1.4 COMMUNICATION AND CONSULTATION PROCESS FOR ALTERNATIVE D

To determine whether conditions are suitable for implementing or discontinuing experimental treatments or management actions, the DOI will schedule implementation/planning meetings or calls with the DOI bureaus (USGS, NPS, FWS, BIA, and Reclamation), WAPA, AZGFD, and one liaison from each Basin State and from the UCRC, as needed or requested by the participants. The implementation/planning group will strive to develop a consensus recommendation to bring forth to the DOI regarding resource issues as detailed at the beginning of this section, as well as including WAPA's assessment of the status of the Basin Fund. The Secretary of the Interior will consider the consensus recommendations of the implementation/planning group, but retains sole discretion to decide how best to accomplish operations and experiments in any given year pursuant to the ROD and other binding obligations.



LTEMP Experiments Since 2016

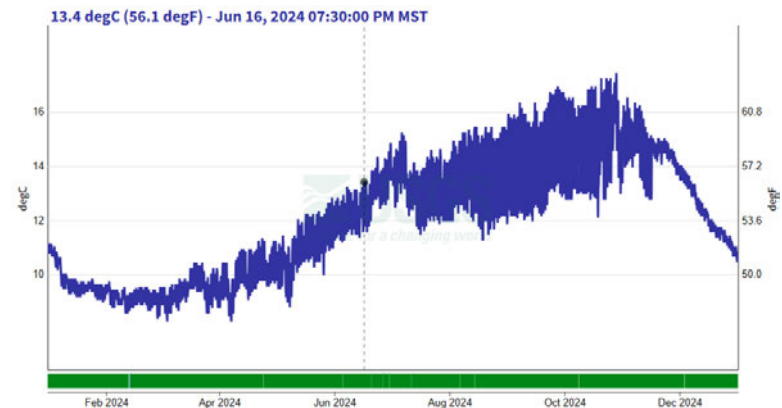
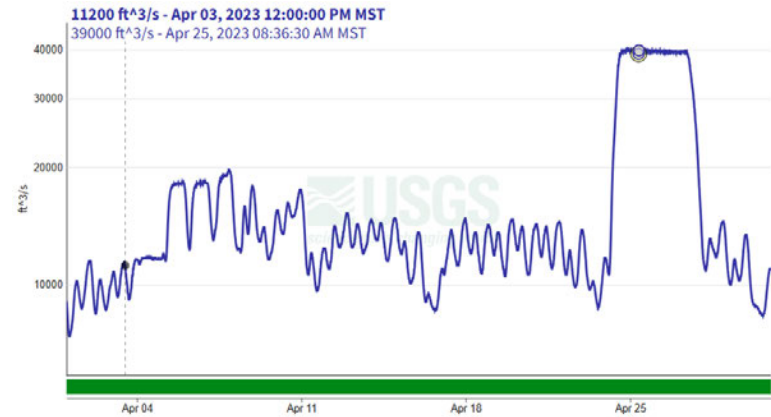
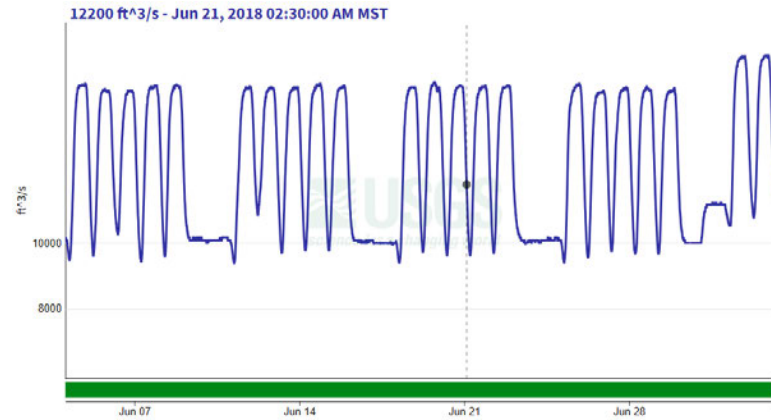
- Macroinvertebrate flows
 - 2018, 2019, 2020, 2022

- HFE

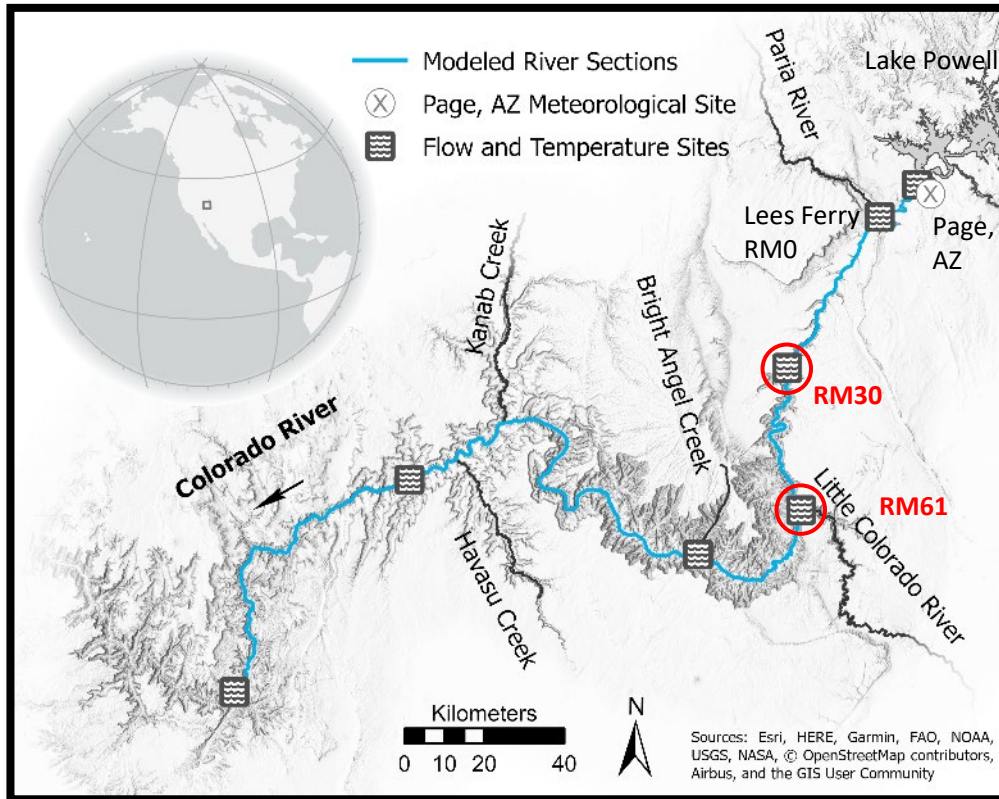
- 2016, 2018, 2023
- Sediment Trigger met but no HFE 2021, 2022, 2024, 2025

- Smallmouth bass flows

- 2024 and 2025



Smallmouth Bass Flows



	2024	2025
Target Temperature	≤ 15.5 °C	≤ 15.5 °C
Target River Mile	RM61 (76 miles)	RM30 (45 miles)
On-Ramp	July 9	Aug 3
Off-Ramp	Nov 18	Oct 20 th
Cost	\$19 million	\$6.5 million

No young of year smallmouth bass in 2024 and 2025



Where are we

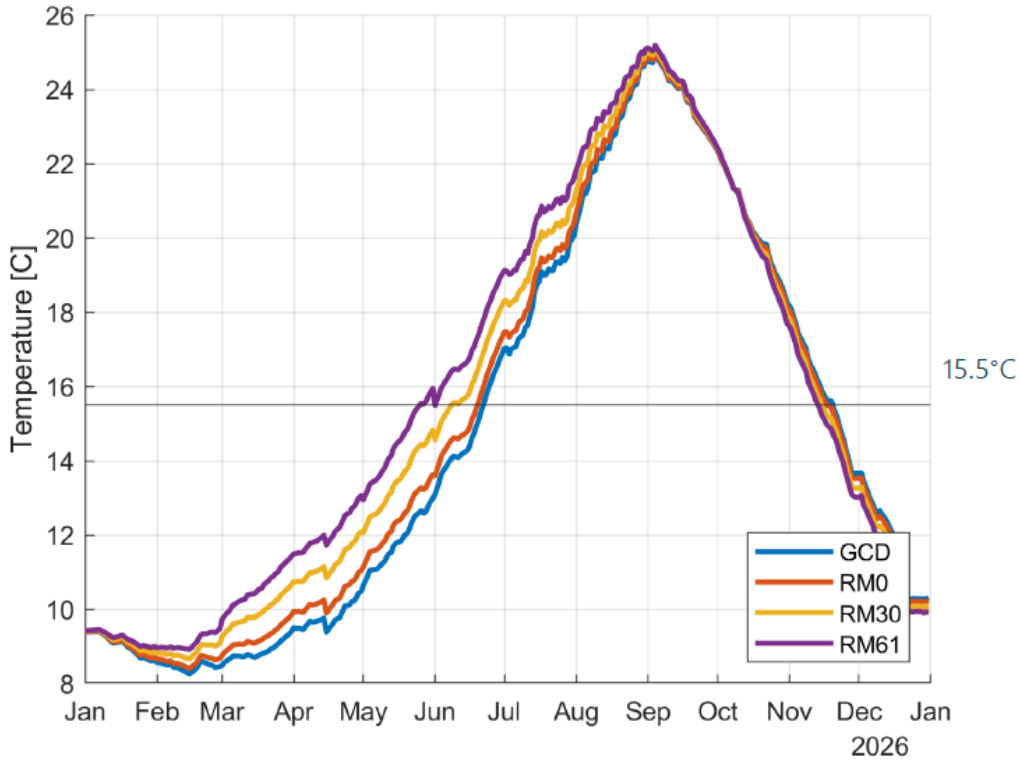
- PI Team meet weekly starting Feb 19th
- Feb 25th Presented at AMWG
- March 3rd – Notification to tribes

- High Flow Experiment
 - 32,400 cfs
 - Duration (TBD – sufficient sediment to run up to 96 hours)
 - Possible Implementation time frame 3rd week of June

- Smallmouth Bass Flows
 - Screening Tool – analyzing 13 options
 - Cool mix at different locations and end dates
 - Non bypass flow
 - No action



Combined Temperature Predictions March 2026 Most Probable Hydrology



(*Dibble et al, 2020 model)
[*https://doi.org/10.1002/eap.2279](https://doi.org/10.1002/eap.2279)



Next Steps

- **GCMRC/WAPA/Argonne to complete screening tool**
 - Smallmouth bass population growth (Lambda)
 - Estimated Costs
- **Draft Technical Reports for HFE and Smallmouth Bass Flows**
- **Mid April – PI Technical Team Recommendation**
- **End of April – PI Leadership Team Recommendation**
- **May AMWG Update**
- **Seeking Decision by end of May**
- **June – Possible implementation**



Questions?



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