

April 23, 09

Ed,

I just wanted to follow up with official comments about the two proposals (USFWS & WAPA) for use of the "extra" water this season. As President of Green River Outfitter & Guides Association (GROGA) we would more favor USFWS proposal for higher base flows for the summer and a low base flow through the winter months. We feel that there is not enough data yet to say that the double peak has no effect on the fishery. I know that Utah State Univ. just completed their bug study and the Utah DWR just completed their fish study and I hope decisions are not made until they have a report of their findings. Their report should be a resource for the decision made.

Our first choice would be higher base flows with no fluctuation during the summer and low base flows during the winter with no double or single peak. Our second choice would be a single peak during the summer and low base flow in winter. We still feel that a "big flush" is needed in the river to break up the silt deposits left over from the effects of the Mustang Fire. This sediment is hardening on the river bed and consuming critical habitat for the trout and invertebrates in the system. When all the cracks and holes are filled with concrete is like managing a deer herd on barren ridge tops with no valleys to feed in. We understand that this takes water to do but the longer we wait, the more water it will take and more damage downstream in Jensen. I think it would need to be done when the Yampa is at low flows. The duration would be short to pick up the trash and move it 20 miles and then be back in business.

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