



State of Utah

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Mr. Ed Vidmar
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Subject: Comments to Proposals at FWG Meeting

After hearing the two proposals from WAPA and the USFWS at the April 15th Flow Group meeting, Utah Wildlife Resources would like to make the following comments. If water is available to “shape” during only one season (i.e. winter vs. summer), DWR prefers that flows from Flaming Gorge Dam be fluctuated during the summers months. Trout in the tailwater fishery are better able to contend with fluctuating flows during the summer months, especially where load following is conducted in a daily single peak. Warmer water temperatures and invertebrate food availability also assist trout in dealing with the energetic demands of flow fluctuations.

DWR remains opposed to double peak load following flow regimes during the winter months and feels that the energetic demands placed on the trout fishery during this period could potentially have a negative impact on this irreplaceable resource.

Additionally, DWR would like to thank Dave Speas and Steve Hulet of the BOR for adjusting the future fall operations of Flaming Gorge Dam to allow for warmer water to be released later into the season. The operational change should allow for a longer production season for the trout fishery and hopefully allow fish to over winter in better condition.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Lowell Marthe
UDWR Flaming Gorge Project Leader