

**Flaming Gorge Technical Working Group**  
**June 1, 2013, 12:00 pm**  
**Conference Call Record**

**Attending:**

Reclamation: Heather Hermansen, Dave Speas  
Fish and Wildlife Service: Kevin McAbee  
Western Area Power Administration: Jerry Wilhite  
Recovery Program: Tom Chart, Kevin Bestgen  
UDWR: Matt Breen

**Agenda:**

- Hydrology in the Yampa Rivers
- Stewart Lake update

**Hydrology:**

Heather Hermansen reported that Yampa River flows were decreasing. There was a potential for flows to decrease below 4,000 cfs and she would watch that carefully. If flows dropped below 8,300 cfs at Jensen, Utah, Reclamation would open the bypass tubes to augment Yampa River flows.

**Stewart Lake Update:**

Matt Breen indicated that Bruce Haines verified samples in the razorback sucker traps at Stewart Lake. There are 23 traps at Stewart Lake, 12 had razorback sucker. Some of the traps had single digits of razorback sucker with some containing 20+ razorback, and traps did contain a mix of flannel mouth sucker also. They pulled the traps this morning at 11 of 23 had larval fish, some traps exceeded 30 larvae. Matt reported that the traps were distributed throughout the floodplain located as far as where the water was spreading into grassy area. The weirs are working and there was some surprise that the weirs didn't contain as many nonnatives as they originally projected. The gate structure still has steady inflow and the gates remain open. However, UDWR sees no benefit to keeping the gates open after they see negative flow from the wetland. As flows decrease, wetlands other than Stewart Lake will continue to see benefit, but UDWR indicated they would not keep the gates open. UDWR will definitely be ready to reopen the gate if the Yampa River increases above the current wetland stage. They are waiting until after the gates are closed for the season because once they call on Red Fleet water there is the potential to increase the current stage and miss the second Yampa increase. Once the gates have been permanently closed, it will take 48 hours after calling to get Red Fleet water. The current management strategy is to get as much water as possible from the Yampa River peaks and then supplement through the summer with Red Fleet water. Kevin Bestgen indicated that the river stage changes are important to the life cycle and entrainment possibilities for razorback. He indicated that even at negative flows, the Yampa River increases incrementally and those small increases entrain fish, which provides a net benefit. Kevin also recommended discontinuing light trapping if the spatial distribution has been documented in order to keep the fish in the wetland. UDWR confirmed that they will discontinue light trapping, but will do it again after the gate is permanently closed and Red Fleet

water was being pumped into Stewart Lake in order to ascertain spatial distribution and numbers of entrainment.

**Next Meetings:**

June 4, 2013 at 10:30 a.m.

June 7, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.