May 9, 2014 Hydrology Summary

Snow water equivalent (SWE) as of May 8, 2014, for the Upper Green River and Yampa/White River Basins are 149 and 105 percent of median, respectively. Flaming Gorge SWE is similar to 1996 and Deerlodge SWE is similar to 1998 as shown in Figures 1 and 2 below. The May final forecast April-July unregulated inflow volume for Flaming Gorge Reservoir is 1,320 kaf and the Yampa River at Deerlodge is 1,550 kaf.

The unregulated inflow volumes for Flaming Gorge Reservoir were lower than the previous April midmonth forecast of 1,400 kaf. The May final forecast moved into the average (above median) hydrologic classification. The Yampa River at Maybell May final forecast remained unchanged in the moderately wet hydrologic classification.

Revised Flaming Gorge operations exist in response to the decreased May final forecast. Flaming Gorge releases 14 days of power plant capacity or 4,600 cfs. Flaming Gorge releases maintain 13 days at 4,600 cfs and 17 days > 4,600 cfs and <=8,600 cfs, including bypass ramp up and down. Base flow releases are maintained at 1,725 cfs beginning after the spring peak rampdown through the estimated EOM May spring releases in 2015. If Reclamation receives a request from the USFWS for increased releases of +40% greater than the average base flow of 1,725 cfs, Flaming Gorge releases would remain at 2,415 cfs from the beginning of the base flow season through September 30, 2014. Releases would decrease at 50 cfs/day beginning October 1, 2014 through October 21 at which time releases would remain at 1,365 cfs through estimated EOM May 2015 beginning of spring runoff.

FIGURE 1—Flaming Gorge May final forecast related to ROD percent exceedances
FIGURE 2—Flaming Gorge historic unregulated inflow ranking with May final forecast of April-July unregulated inflow

FIGURE 3—Yampa at Deerlodge May final forecast related to ROD percent exceedances
FIGURE 4—Flaming Gorge historic unregulated inflow ranking with May final forecast of April-July unregulated inflow
FIGURE 1—Upper Green River Basin Snotel Tracking. 1981-2010 percent of median compared against 2014 YTD Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) and 1996 percent of average SWE

FIGURE 5—Upper Yampa River Basin Snotel Tracking. 1981-2010 percent of median compared against 2013 YTD Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) and 2008 percent of average SWE

FIGURE 6—Yampa River at Deerlodge Chances of Exceeding River Levels as of May 6, 2014
FIGURE 7—Yampa River at Deerlodge One Week Chances of Exceeding River Levels as of May 6, 2014

FIGURE 8—Flaming Gorge release and Yampa and Jensen flows for WY1998. Shaded grey area indicates larval presence.
FIGURE 9—Flaming Gorge release and Yampa and Jensen flows for WY1996. Shaded grey area indicates larval presence.