Flaming Gorge Technical Working Group  
Meeting Notes  
Tuesday, March 28, 2017

In attendance: Heather Patno, Jerry Wilhite, Matt Breen, George Weekley, Kevin McAbee, Ashley Nielson, Dave Speas, Peter Crookston, Tildon Jones, Steve Hulet, Don Anderson, Dale Hamilton, Paul Abate, Leslie Bennett

- It has been a very interesting March. The Upper Green has stayed wet and the Yampa has dried out.
- Hydrology Summary was reviewed
  - The streamflow on March 21\textsuperscript{st} has already passed record by almost double.
  - This does not include March inflows.
  - The Yampa is a different story. There has been significant melt except at the highest elevations.
- The ROD allows flexibility for the May 1\textsuperscript{st} classification. We have not seen such a difference between Flaming Gorge and Yampa hydrology. There is flexibility to move timing of water. We will be operating this year for dam safety.
- Question as to when the Razorback sucker will spawn, because in the last wet year (2011) spawn was June 24\textsuperscript{th}. The increased flows out of Flaming Gorge will lower the water temperature. The peak of Yampa may happen before the Razorback sucker spawn.
- 2011 had the highest volume out of Yampa. This year the volume is much lower and will affect the water temperature.
- George Weekley shared that this year will be very hard to forecast as the conditions are unprecedented. He proposes the Pikeminnow spawn will be later than normal.
- As Kevin Bestgen was unable to be on the call, members would like to propose questions to him for additional information prior to the next meeting:
  - To what extent do the water temperatures in the Green River display a que for spawning into the warmer Yampa River.
  - What is the chronology of razorback sucker in the Green River
  - Is there an advantage to bypass earlier prior to June
  - If bypass is utilized in April and forward what affect to razorback sucker
  - How does the different hydrology and snowpack in the two basins affect spawning chronology
- The ROD requires elevations lower in a wet year. Will need to utilize bypass similar to 2011. Stakeholders in Price do not want a repeat of 2011. The fishing guides do not like the water to fluctuate due to bypass releases. Elevations are required below 6023 by May 1\textsuperscript{st}.
- Next FGTWG Meeting will be held at 10:00 am on April 10, 2017.