

Flaming Gorge Technical Working Group
Meeting Notes
Monday, April 10, 2017

In attendance: Heather Patno, Jerry Wilhite, Matt Breen, Ashley Nielson, Tildon Jones, Tom Chart, Don Anderson, Jed Parker, Kevin Bestgen, Shane Mower

- 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 21st 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 1st 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 24th. 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 cue 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 1st.
- Next FGTWG Meeting will be held at 10:00 am on April 10, 2017.