

**Flaming Gorge Technical Working Group**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**Wednesday, May 10, 2017**

In attendance: Heather Patno, Jed Parker, Jerry Wilhite, Kevin McAbee, Ashley Nielson, Randy Staffeldt, Daryl Magnuson, Peter Crookston, Tildon Jones, Tom Chart, Dan Schaad, Kevin Bestgen, Steve Hulet, John Morton, Leslie Bennett

- Jerry reported on the Anglers meeting.
- Temperatures from the selective withdrawal structure were discussed.
- Hydrology Summary was reviewed
  - This year has been an anomaly.
  - Ashley pointed out her figures are from yesterday and with today's precipitation and warmer temperatures we could now see a peak in the Yampa in the next 10 days. Flows expected to reach 9,600 cfs in the next ten days.
  - The ROD has Flaming Gorge as wet and the Yampa at Average-Below Median. Utilizing the flexibility outlined in the ROD and shifting one classification down, the hydrology classification will be moderately wet. It is unlikely we will meet moderately wet targets at Jensen of 20,300 cfs peak magnitude and 18,600 cfs for 14-day duration. Green River at Jensen may not reach 18,600 this year.
  - Heather has not included information relative to the ten-day deterministic and long-term Yampa River forecast due to the wet conditions in which operating procedures are for hydrology. Ashley has this if needed and the link is public on their website here:  
[https://www.cbrfc.noaa.gov/product/hydrofcst/csv2table.php?fname=yampa\\_peak/ydlc2\\_dly.csv](https://www.cbrfc.noaa.gov/product/hydrofcst/csv2table.php?fname=yampa_peak/ydlc2_dly.csv)
  - There is still a lot of SWE at Tower. Uncertainty exists as to how this will melt off and whether there will be a second peak later in the season. It is likely the Yampa will increase again, but whether the increase is sustained over the next few weeks or a second peak occurs in late-May is still uncertain.
  - Kevin and Tildon reported the water is still really cold and pushing spawning until the end of May. There are no ripe or tuberculate fish in the razorback sampling.
- Flaming Gorge Operations were discussed. The current elevation is 6022. There is some flexibility to decrease to 6600 cfs. Two options were discussed: 1) Decrease releases now potentially increasing the temperature of the water to assist with spawning. Would need to increase to 8600 cfs at a later date. 2) Maintain flows now and be able to decrease releases earlier for pikeminnow base flows. It was agreed upon to decrease releases now. Heather will do so in the next few days and will hold that level until larvae emergence.
- Stewart Lake operations were waiting for this discussion to determine action.
- Next FGTWG Meeting will be brief held at 11:00 am on May 17, 2017.