

Flaming Gorge Technical Working Group
Meeting Notes
Friday, July 28, 2017

In attendance: Heather Patno, Kevin McAbee, Jerry Wilhite, Crystal Dean, Ashley Nielson, Kevin Bestgen, Tom Chart, Don Anderson, Steve Hulet, Peter Crookston, Dave Speas, Larry Crist, Leslie Bennett

- Discussions were held regarding the scheduled dive requirements.
 - Steve provided historical reference. In September 2014 a dive team originally discovered a cave that had formed 11 feet deep by 23 feet long where the hollow jets hit the surface. Not able to determine if this was natural or caused by erosion. Markers were placed and a dive scheduled for March 2017 to determine changes. This had to be rescheduled again to the week of 8/28/17.
 - The dive team needs 800 cfs flow or lower to conduct inspection
 - Maintenance issues are not covered under the ROD, only emergencies
 - Normal procedure would require 32 days down and 32 days back up.
 - Discussion of postponing the dive to next Spring 2018. The dive team has a very full schedule and will potentially face the same problems.
 - Discussions of lowering cfs to just for the required 2-3 hours divers need.
 - 2400 cfs is currently scheduled for Spring 2018
 - Jerry, Chrystal and Heather will create a plan and send out to the group for approval. Steve will double check with the dive master regarding the total number of dive hours necessary.
 - Not expecting to do another dive again for 5 years. Based on the results, may need to do one sooner. Prior to rescheduling any future dives the FGTWG will be consulted.
- A discussion of the current fish situation was held.
 - As of July 2nd pike minnow were present
 - Reproductive season is usually 4 weeks
 - Drawing down now would cause dam safety issues as well as extend high flows into Winter season.
 - Planning now for risk management and forecast uncertainty.
 - Regarding dam safety we are still in a 'wet' year.
 - This may end up the 2nd wettest year in the Upper Green.