

**Flaming Gorge Technical Working Group**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**Thursday, April 26, 2018**

In attendance: Don Anderson, Kevin Bestgen, Ashley Nielson, Jed Parker, Matt Breen, George Weekly, Peter Crookston

1. April 26, 2018 Hydrology Review

- The April 1 Final Forecast projected 1,000,000 acre-feet for Flaming Gorge, putting it in the average-dry classification. The April 24 ESP projects 1,060,000 acre-feet which, if it holds, would likely put Flaming Gorge in the average-wet classification. Reclamation is currently looking at a 14-day peak at power plant capacity, given current hydrology.
- The April 24 ESP Forecast projected 819,000 acre-feet for the Yampa (Lily + Maybell), putting it in the moderately dry classification. The 50% exceedance probability for the maximum peak daily flow in the Yampa as of April 26 is for an 8,000 – 9,000 cfs peak for limited duration in late-May. It is unlikely to expect a 10,000+ cfs Yampa Peak this year.
- Current Yampa River flows have reached above 4,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) and Jensen flows are currently ~6,000 cfs. Current FG releases are 1,700 cfs/day with fluctuations for hydropower. Flaming Gorge pool elevation will be about one foot below the average May 1 target of 6027 ft.
- Signs of razorback sucker spawning have occurred. An estimate was given putting a likely larval emergence May 20-24. This estimate should be taken as such and not relayed to the public until further confidence can be applied.

2. Working Group Review

- Stakeholders within the Working Group expressed two concerns that were worth restating in the FGTWG. Stakeholders first wanted to know what the possibilities of varying from the 14-day, 4,600 cfs release were. In addition, stakeholders restated their desire to be informed of decisions as far in advance of action as possible.
- A review of the proposed 14-day, 4,600 cfs peak was given at the Working Group meeting. Concern exists that stakeholders may perceive that this release plan is unlikely to change when in fact the FGTWG would like to further explore flexibility that may alter the presented plan. A desire within the FGTWG was expressed to present a range of possibilities at future Working Group meetings according to the requirements within the ROD.
- The Recovery Program indicated to the public that they would request 14-day, 4,600 cfs releases volume be reshaped to include bypass releases in the FGTWG. The official flow request discussion is further described below.

3. Flow request discussion

- An alternate release schedule from Flaming Gorge was presented: three days at 4,600 cfs followed by a week of bypass flows ending with three-four days at 4,600 cfs before returning to base flows. Reclamation will comment on the possibility of achieving this schedule at the May 8 FGTWG meeting.
- The group will defer finalizing the peak flow schedule until the May 8 FGTWG meeting or until conditions manifest with the Yampa during larval emergence.
- Discussion of the base flow releases was tabled until further FGTWG meetings.

The next FGTWG Meeting will be held May 8, 2018 at 1:00 pm and Jed will send the summary link with calendar invite.