

Flaming Gorge Technical Working Group
Meeting Notes
Friday, May 18, 2018

In attendance: Heather Patno, Jerry Wilhite, Kevin Bestgen, Tom Chart, Jed Parker, George Weekly, Don Anderson, Dave Speas

1. May 18, 2018 Hydrology Review
 - a. Flaming Gorge April-July forecast = 1,120,000 acre-feet, average (below median) hydrologic classification.
 - b. Yampa-Maybell + Lily April-July forecast = 841,000 acre-feet (66% of 30-year average, moderately dry hydrologic classification.
 - c. Combined hydrology leads to recommendation to operate Flaming Gorge within the moderately dry hydrologic classification.
 - d. Yampa 15-day deterministic model from the CBRFC presently indicates a gradually decreasing flow from the ~9,000 cfs peak which occurred on May 13, 2018.

2. Managed floodplain discussion
 - a. Johnson Bottom
 - i. Likely requires sustained flows of 12,000 cfs or more to be able to utilize.
 - ii. Flows of 12,000 cfs or more will require significant bypass flows.
 - iii. Unlikely to recommend using Johnson bottom during the 2018 runoff period.
 - b. Stuart Lake
 - i. Discussion on the extensive effort required to remove or control cattails previous to the runoff period
 - ii. Division of Wildlife Resources recommends filling Stuart Lake to assist in cattail control
 - iii. Flows at or above 10,000 cfs would be recommended to manage Stuart Lake
 - iv. No concerns regarding water quality impacts from the burning of vegetation because supplemental water has been used to assist operations

3. Larval emergence
 - a. Two possible razorback larvae were detected in light traps on Thursday, May 17. Confirmation of razorback identification is not complete.
 - b. A single razorback larva was detected in Stewart Lake light traps on the morning of Friday, May 18.

4. Increasing Flaming Gorge Dam releases
 - a. Increasing flows to power plant capacity, beginning Monday, May 21, was suggested.
 - b. Consensus was reached to move ahead with directive and notifications regarding power plant capacity flows beginning on Monday.

5. Flaming Gorge update
 - a. Jed to compose a more in-depth update to send out to the Flaming Gorge notification group over the weekend.