

**Flaming Gorge Technical Working Group**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**Wednesday, May 23, 2018**

In attendance: Jed Parker, Nick Williams, Ashley Nielsen, Heather Patno, Jerry Wilhite, Kevin Bestgen, Tom Chart, George Weekly, Don Anderson, Dave Speas, Randy Staffeldt, Dan Shaad, Tildon Jones

1. May 23, 2018 Hydrology Review
  - a. Yampa River Basin SWE continues to track 2001
  - b. Reclamation presented figures generated by Ashley Nielsen (CBRFC) to demonstrate current projections for Green River at Jensen based off of current powerplant capacity release schedule
  - c. Jensen expected to see over seven days above 10,000 cfs with small spikes above 11,000 cfs.
  - d. Current projections indicate well over 7 or 14 days above 8,300 cfs at Jensen, after larval emergence, as required by LTSP
  
2. Release scenario discussion
  - a. Reclamation conveyed results of internal discussions with management on requests, received through two prior FGTWGs, on the possibility of utilizing bypass flows to achieve higher sustained flows for the benefit of Stuart Lake operations
  - b. Reclamation will not release above power plant capacity for these purposes for the following reasons:
    - i. Timing and magnitude of higher releases and their impact on downstream stakeholders
    - ii. Previously stated objectives relayed to stakeholders of only utilizing bypass flows to achieve 8,300 cfs flows at Jensen
    - iii. Stated benefits of higher flows are not likely to be quantified in time for increased releases to make a significant difference at Jensen given the Yampa River's declining flow
  
3. Discussion on Reclamation decision
  - a. Concern expressed that endangered species concerns were not considered as decision was being made
  - b. Concern expressed regarding the impact of the decision of progress on Section 7 compliance
  
4. Stuart Lake discussion
  - a. Filling expected to begin on Thursday, May 24
  - b. Discussion on the current water level of Stuart Lake and recent management decisions
  - c. Current flows of ~10,000 provide 6-8 inches of head on the inlet gates
  
5. Next FGTWG – Friday, May 25 at 10:00 am