

**Flaming Gorge Technical Working Group**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**Tuesday May 8, 2018**

In attendance: Heather Patno, Jerry Wilhite, Dan Schaad, Kevin Bestgen, Tom Chart, Ashley Nielson, Jed Parker, George Weekly, Tildon Jones, Peter Crookston, Randy Staffeldt

1. May 8, 2018 Hydrology Review
  - a. Flaming Gorge April-July forecast = 1,000,000 acre-feet (102% of 30-year average), 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 sub-9,000 cfs peak occurring May 12 – May 13, 2018.
  
2. Downramp rates
  - a. The recovery program would like to explore the possibility of utilizing enhanced downramp rates for the benefit of Colorado pikeminnow, possibly by utilizing rates in different hydrologic classification
  - b. Reclamation would prefer that requests for altered downramp rates be considered through a study request, which would likely require discussion in a public forum such as the Working Group meetings per the 2005 Biological Opinion.
  
3. Biological benefits of Recovery Program flow request
  - a. The Recovery Program was asked to comment on the biological benefits of reshaping the current planned release of 4,600 cfs for 14 days. The following are the stated benefits:
    - i. Higher peaks are more likely to entrain larval razorback suckers in the managed floodplains.
    - ii. Due to head pressure on the gates of the managed floodplains, a higher peak will put more water into the floodplains, enhancing habitat and overall water quality above what a lower magnitude peak would yield.
  
4. Modeled emergence projection
  - a. Current guidance indicates that likely razorback sucker larval emergence to take place between May 15 and May 22, 2018.
  - b. Fish & Wildlife Service has begun light trapping for razorback sucker larvae. Nothing has been captured yet.
  
5. Jed will create calendar place-holders for weekly FGTWG meetings through May. The dates and times established are as follows:
  - a. Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m.
  - b. Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 p.m.
  - c. Tuesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m.