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 15th at 12:00 p.m.
   b. Wednesday, May 23rd at 1:00 p.m.
   c. Tuesday, May 29th at 12:00 p.m.