

Hydrology Committee Report and Discussion of Purpose of Model

Immediately following the Cooperating Agency Meeting, the Hydrology Group held a brief meeting. It was decided by Reclamation to post versions of the hydrology model on the web as they become available. The model could be downloaded and run by those with the appropriate Riverware software. Any official proposed modifications to the model would come through the group for discussion before being incorporated. Erik Knight showed where this would reside on the Aspinall EIS web site and how it looks on the Navajo/San Juan website.

It is important to note the purpose of the hydrology model is to be a planning tool for evaluation of alternative operations scenarios in relation to the Flow Recommendations for the Gunnison River. Given the many unknowns and variables involved in modeling a river basin the size and complexity of the Gunnison, the model is intended to provide an indication of whether alternative operations might meet the Flow Recommendations.

Coll Stanton presented some example rules for the model and discussed the complexity of their development.

A discussion ensued regarding the need for iterative traces. This type of analysis was used at Glen Canyon in the CRSS model. After dry years, theoretically, Flaming Gorge and the Aspinall Unit should “reset” themselves more frequently than Glen Canyon because they are smaller reservoirs on a larger system relative to Lake Powell. Reclamation committed to look into the viability of iterative traces.

The meeting ended at about 4:30 p.m.