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Subject: Flaming Gorge Update - May 9, 2012
Date: Wednesday, May 09, 2012 4:41:00 PM

Hello:

The May forecast for April-July unregulated inflow volume into Flaming Gorge Reservoir is 630 kaf (64 percent of average). This volume corresponds with the moderately dry classification within the 2006 Record of Decision. Because the flow targets measured on the Green River at Jensen, Utah are dependent upon Yampa River flows, flexibility is written into the Record of Decision that allows Reclamation to meet targets up to two classifications higher or one classification lower than the classification under the May forecast. The hydrologic classification has been designated as dry because of the extremely dry conditions on the Yampa River.

Flaming Gorge continues to release an average daily flow of 1,600 cfs. On May 7, 2012, Yampa River flows reached 4,700 cfs, are currently decreasing and expected to reach flows around 3,000 cfs over the next few days. Biologists with the US Fish and Wildlife Service reported that larval fish have not been found in the current collection of light trap samples. Biologists will continue sampling light traps in the middle Green River to determine the initial presence this year. Razorback sucker have been detected on the spawning bar and samples have historically contained larvae within 7-9 days after spawning is detected.

The Colorado Basin River Forecast Center 10-day forecast for flows on the Yampa River at Deerlodge Park, CO indicate a precipitation event over the Yampa River Basin will increase flows beginning next week (May 13-15). Forecast uncertainty increases beyond 5 days and the magnitude of the precipitation event is highly uncertain.

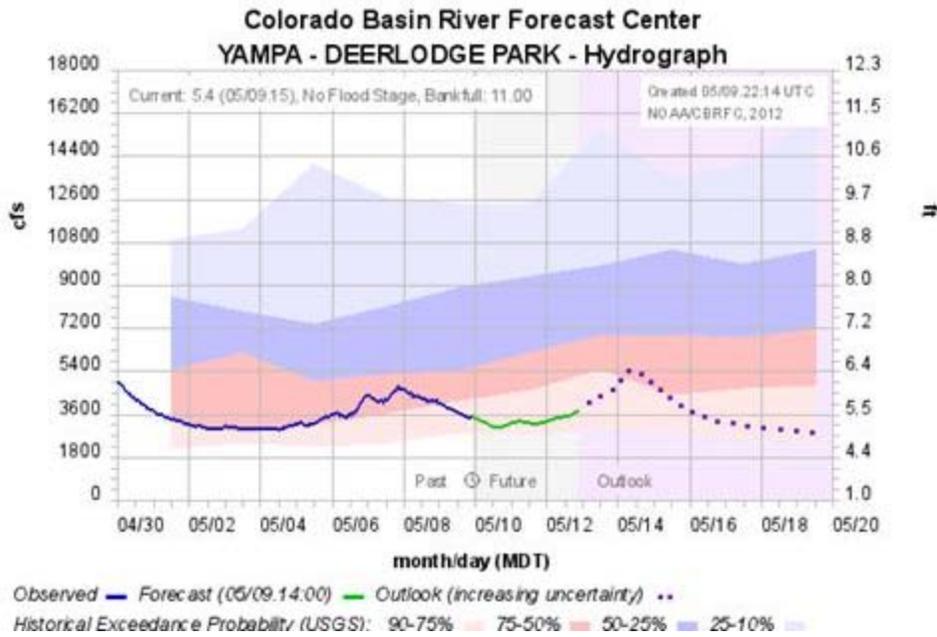
Communication will continue with updates on larval razorback sampling efforts and forecasted Yampa River flows. If larval presence occurs before the predicted increase in Yampa River flows, there may still be an opportunity during the week of May 14th to increase Flaming Gorge releases to at least powerplant capacity and meet the dry hydrologic classification for a minimum of 2 days above 8,300 cfs measured at the Green River at Jensen, Utah. Spring conditions change daily and the weather is critical to matching flows with the timing of larval presence.

Flaming Gorge information for the last five days is shown below. All data is provisional and subject to change.

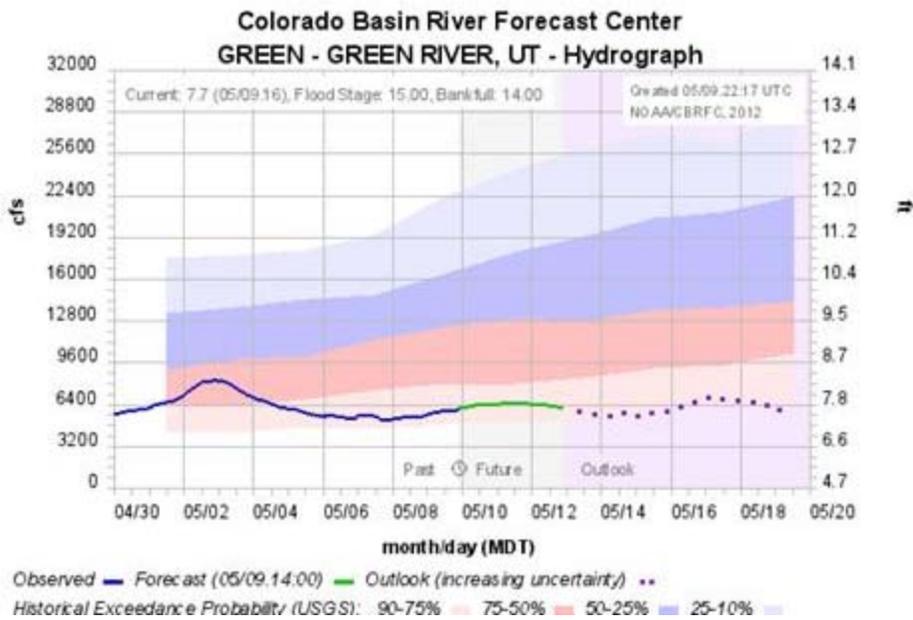
Date	Elev (ft)	Inflow (cfs)	Unreg Inflow (cfs)
05/04/12	6,026.23	1,707	2,237
05/05/12	6,026.23	1,708	2,187
05/06/12	6,026.23	1,713	2,167
05/07/12	6,026.21	1,322	1,697
05/08/12	6,026.23	2,106	2,290

Further information can be found here: http://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/rsvrs/ops/crsp_40_fgd.html

[CBRFC Green River at Jensen 10-Day Forecast](#)



[CBRFC Green River at Green River, Utah 10-Day Forecast](#)



Current conditions are duplicated here: <http://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/crsp/cs/fgd.html>

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