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Subject: Flaming Gorge Update - May 11, 2012
Date: Friday, May 11, 2012 1:37:45 PM

Hello:

Flaming Gorge is releasing an average daily flow of 1,600 cubic feet per second (cfs). Reclamation is involved in a cooperative experimental program this year where the capture of endangered larval razorback sucker is the “trigger” to increase releases from Flaming Gorge Dam this spring. Reclamation continues to coordinate with scientists involved in real-time monitoring on the river to determine the first appearance of larval razorback sucker. Biologists continue sampling light traps in the middle Green River to determine the initial presence this year and project that larval fish may be seen within the next 3-4 days based on information received from monitoring river temperatures and captures of spawning female razorback sucker.

The Colorado Basin River Forecast Center forecast indicates a 50 percent chance of flows between 3,500 and 4,600 cfs next week at the Yampa River at Deerlodge Park, CO. Current precipitation forecasts are for the majority of the precipitation to occur to the southeast over the Denver area, but the Little Snake and Yampa Rivers may see small amounts of that storm system. Additionally, patches of high elevation snowpack (around 10,000 feet) exist in the Yampa River basin and a rain-on-snow event may contribute to the forecasted increase in flows.

Communication will continue with updates on larval razorback sampling efforts and forecasted Yampa River at Deerlodge 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 somewhere between the combined capacity of powerplant and bypass tubes. The purpose of the increased releases would entrain larval fish and meet the experimental flow target for one to six days above 8,300 cfs measured at the Green River at Jensen, Utah. Reclamation anticipates at least 2 days notification in the event larval presence is reported and Flaming Gorge releases are increased.

Current projections for the average daily release from Flaming Gorge for the period between June and September 30, 2012, range between 1,300 cfs and 1,500 cfs. Average daily releases are anticipated to decrease beginning October 1 anywhere between 800 cfs to 1,100 cfs depending on current and forecasted river conditions at that time. Projected releases are provisional and subject to change.

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)
05/06/12	6,026.23	1,713	2,167
05/07/12	6,026.21	1,322	1,697
05/08/12	6,026.21	1,715	1,899

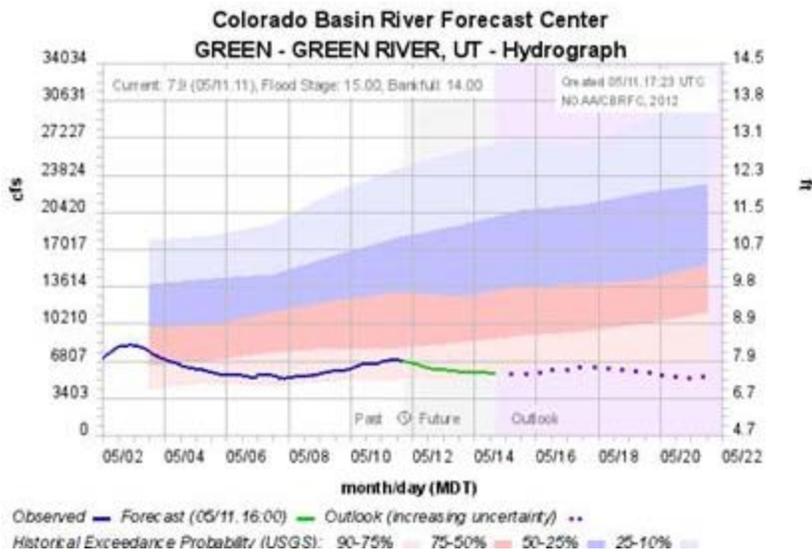
05/09/12 6,026.19 1,324 1,427
 05/10/12 6,026.19 1,711 1,759

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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