

**From:** [hpatno@usbr.gov](mailto:hpatno@usbr.gov) on behalf of [Patno, Heather](#)  
**To:** [Heather Patno](#)  
**Subject:** Flaming Gorge Notification - May 12, 2014  
**Date:** Monday, May 12, 2014 4:19:19 PM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)

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May 12, 2014

Hello:

It's the time of year to begin regular updates on conditions at Flaming Gorge Dam and Reservoir. Reclamation will also be updating the website with current information, which can be found here: <http://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/crsp/cs/fgd.html>.

As in the last three years, Reclamation again will be involved in a cooperative experimental program (Larval Trigger Study Program or LTSP) this year where the capture of endangered larval razorback sucker is the "trigger" to increase releases from Flaming Gorge Dam this spring. Reclamation plans to coordinate with scientists involved in real-time monitoring on the river to determine the first appearance of larval razorback sucker. Biologists will begin sampling light traps in the middle Green River today, Monday, May 12, to determine the initial presence this year. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) will be regularly sampling for larval Razorback Sucker and data will be processed and shared when available. Upon detection of larval presence, Reclamation will increase releases from Flaming Gorge in an effort to entrain larvae in backwaters where they have a better chance of survival. Reclamation anticipates at least 3 days notification in the event larval presence is reported and Flaming Gorge Dam releases are increased. Reclamation will determine the appropriate level of releases from Flaming Gorge Dam to achieve the goals of the experimental program, and is planning on releasing above powerplant capacity (~4,600 cfs) to full bypass (8,600 cfs) to achieve those goals.

Kevin Bestgen, the scientific point of contact for prediction of larval emergence, shared the following information with Reclamation. "The best predictor of first presence of larvae is spring peak flow magnitude in the Yampa River. There is a definite temporal component to this as higher magnitude spring peaks occur later, and lower ones earlier. Whether flow is the actual driver or not is uncertain; I rather think it is not but it appears to be a useful metric for first presence prediction... The highest flow point ... was 2011; that year the temperature model predicted first presence late, by 2 days. In 2012, the model predicted first presence within 2 days, but last year was somewhat late missing by 5 days because temps were fluctuating and cool." Current estimate for larval emergence is May 24-27.

Current observed streamflow on the Yampa River measured at Deerlodge is 7,600 cubic feet per second (cfs). The Green River measured at Jensen, Utah flow is currently 8,150 cfs. The forecast for Yampa River at Deerlodge indicates flows are expected to reach between 10,000 and 12,000 cfs on May 19-21, Monday through Wednesday. Flows at Jensen, Utah, are expected to reach between 11,000 and 12,500 cfs on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 20 and 21. Current weather models indicate average temperatures are expected over the Yampa River basin this week and next. Upper elevation snowpack remains and the cooler temperatures last week decreased the rate of snowmelt. The forecast indicates low flows around 5,000 cfs following by 8,000 to 12,000 cfs through next week. Current forecasts and the current fluctuating weather patterns indicate that Yampa River flows will experience another peak where flows decrease and then increase again to approximately the same level or slightly higher during the first part of June. Forecast uncertainty increases beyond 5 days and the magnitude of flows is highly uncertain.

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

Date	Elevation (ft)	Release (cfs)	Inflow (cfs)	Storage (acre-ft)
05/07/14	6,020.25	824	2,414	2,988,435
05/08/14	6,020.35	824	2,789	2,991,975
05/09/14	6,020.53	822	4,276	2,998,355
05/10/14	6,020.63	821	2,793	3,001,904
05/11/14	6,020.89	822	5,781	3,011,147

Additional information can be found here: [http://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/rsvrs/ops/crsp\\_40\\_fgd.html](http://www.usbr.gov/uc/water/rsvrs/ops/crsp_40_fgd.html)

[CBRFC FORECASTED STREAMFLOW FOR THE YAMPA RIVER AT DEERLODGE PARK, COLORADO](#)



[CBRFC FORECASTED STREAMFLOW FOR THE GREEN RIVER AT JENSEN, UTAH](#)



Regards,

Heather

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