Flaming Gorge Operation Plan May 2026 - April 2027

Concurrence by

VALERIE DEPPE Digitally signed by VALERIE DEPPE
Date: 2026.05.11 10:26:12 -06'00'

Valerie Deppe, Projects, Operations, and Modeling Division Manager

Kathleen Callister Digitally signed by KATHLEEN CALLISTER
Date: 2026.05.11 14:13:38 -06'00'

Kathleen Callister, Adaptive Management / Water Quality Division Manager

Digitally signed by RICK BAXTER
Date: 2026.05.12 07:18:46 -06'00'

Rick Baxter, Provo Area Office Manager

Katrina Grantz Digitally signed by KATRINA GRANTZ
Date: 2026.05.13 09:02:29 -06'00'

Katrina Grantz, Assistant Regional Director – Upper Colorado Operation Office Manager

Approved by

WAYNE PULLAN Digitally signed by WAYNE PULLAN
Date: 2026.05.20 11:49:56 -06'00'

Wayne Pullan, Upper Colorado Basin Regional Director

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation • Interior Region 7
Upper Colorado Operating Office
Salt Lake City, Utah

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Purpose

The development of the Flaming Gorge Operation Plan (FG-Ops) completes the 2006 Flaming Gorge Record of Decision (2006 ROD)[1] process and the 4-step process outlined in the Flaming Gorge Standing Operating Procedures for May 2026 - April 2027. The Upper Colorado Operations Office (UCOO) operators will fulfill the FG-Ops within the boundaries of the operations defined below; however, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) reserves the right to adjust the Flaming Gorge operations and the implementation of flow experiments based on hydrologic conditions and other considerations. The Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program (Recovery Program), Flaming Gorge Technical Working Group (FGTWG), Flaming Gorge Working Group (FGWG), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) provided input that was considered in the development of the FG-Ops.

The FG-Ops describes the current hydrologic classification of the Green River Basin, the hydrologic conditions in the Yampa River Basin, and identifies the Reach 2 peak flow magnitude and duration that is most likely to be targeted for the upcoming spring flows and base flows. Multiple hydrologic conditions were considered in the development of FG-Ops, such that it contains a range of operating strategies that could be implemented. Flow and duration targets for these strategies consider dry, moderately dry, average, and moderately wet scenarios as these are most likely classifications to occur this year. As of the approval date of this document, the most likely hydrologic classification for the Upper Green is dry. The Yampa River Basin is in a dry condition. As approved by the 2006 ROD and per the FGTWG Proposal, experiments are being considered in this operation plan. Experiments are contingent to real time hydrologic conditions and other various factors. See Operations Summary Tables section below for additional details.

The Flaming Gorge releases shown in this document illustrate potential releases under different projected hydrologic scenarios; however, releases could increase or decrease based on observed hydrologic conditions or other operational considerations such as the Yampa River contribution to flows at the Jensen gage[2]. Releases and any adjustments to operations will be within the parameters of the 2005 Flaming Gorge Final Environmental Impact Statement (2005 FEIS)[3] and 2006 ROD as modified and improved through continual experimental and adaptive management, which allows for continued operations of Flaming Gorge dam while meeting federal obligations associated with recovery of the four federally listed fish which serves as compliance under the Endangered Species Act (See Biological Opinion 2005).[4]

Per section 2.5.3.1 of the 2005 FEIS, either one or two classifications higher (wetter) or one classification lower (drier) than the actual classification established for the Green River could be recommended for spring operations. Factors listed in Table 2-5 of the 2005 FEIS will be considered in the changing hydrologic classification targets.

Reclamation coordinates release schedules with WAPA. Occasionally, WAPA can request that Reclamation consider modifying hourly scheduled releases at Flaming Gorge Dam. Reclamation considers all requests from WAPA for hourly modified releases.

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[1] Link to the 2006 ROD: https://www.usbr.gov/uc/envdocs/rod/fgFEIS/final-ROD-15feb06.pdf

[2] Link to the Green River near Jensen, UT USGS gage: Link to the Green River near Jensen, UT USGS gage

[3] Link to the 2005 FEIS: https://www.usbr.gov/uc/envdocs/eis/fgFEIS/index.html

[4] Link to the Biological Opinion 2005: https://coloradoriverrecovery.org/uc/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/11/TechnicalReport-ISF-USFWS-2005-FGBO.pdf

Current Hydrologic Classification

The 2025 May 1st Colorado Basin River Forecast Center (CBRFC) April to July unregulated spring inflow forecast (current forecast) for Flaming Gorge Reservoir and Yampa River is as follows:

- Flaming Gorge 380,000 acre-feet, 92% exceedance[5]
- Little Snake River and Yampa River combined (Little Snake at Lily plus Yampa at Maybell) 330,000 acre-feet, 99% exceedance[6]

Spring Releases

Spring releases, as defined by Table 1 below, vary based on hydrologic conditions. Timing and magnitude are generally based on the Larval Trigger Study Plan (LTSP) from LaGory et al. (2019)[7] with the exceptions noted in Table 1.

Table 1. Spring release scenarios by hydrologic classification

Hydrologic Classification	Spring Release Operations
Dry (90.1 to 100% Exceedance)	LTSP, 8,300 cubic feet per second (cfs) in Reach 2 for at least 2 days, bypass may be used to achieve target after larval razorback sucker have been detected in Reach 2. If hydrologic conditions in conjunction with implementing other experiments limit water availability, spring releases should revert to Muth et al. (except for rampdown rates) to coincide with the Yampa River peak.
Moderately Dry (70.1 to 90% Exceedance)	LTSP, 8,300 cfs in Reach 2 for greater than 7 days, bypass may be used to achieve target after larval razorback sucker have been detected in Reach 2. If hydrologic conditions in conjunction with implementing other experiments limit water availability, spring releases should revert to Muth et al. (except for rampdown rates) to coincide with the Yampa River peak.
Average (30.1 to 70% Exceedance)	LTSP: in below median conditions, target greater than 14,000 cfs in Reach 2 for 7 or more days and, if possible, a peak magnitude greater than 18,600 cfs for 1 day or more. In above median conditions, target greater than 18,600 cfs in Reach 2 for 7 or more days and, under optimal conditions, 2 weeks to meet LTSP objectives and ROD requirements. Under both conditions, actual duration will be dependent on Yampa River flows and other factors. If hydrologic conditions in conjunction with implementing other experiments limit water availability, spring releases should revert to Muth et al. (except for rampdown rates) to coincide with the Yampa River peak.
Moderately Wet (10.1 to 30% Exceedance)	Average daily peak of 20,300 cfs and greater than 18,600 for 2 weeks or more in Reach 2 to coincide with peak and immediate post peak of the Yampa. When possible, releases may be extended to encompass larval drift period as recommended in LTSP.
Wet (=<10% Exceedance)	Average daily peak of <24,000 cfs (where possible) and greater than 22,700 for 2 weeks or more in Reach 2 to coincide with peak and immediate post peak of the Yampa. Additionally, greater than 18,600 cfs in Reach 2 should be maintained for 4 weeks or more.

[5] Exceedance statistics for unregulated inflow into Flaming Gorge Reservoir is based on the period from 1963 to 2025.
[6] Exceedance statistics for the Little Snake River and Yampa River is based on the period from 1992 to 2025.
[7] Link to LaGory 2019: http://coloradoriverrecovery.org/uc/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/07/GREAT-Final-Report_Oct-2019_508_2.pdf

Range of Past Spring Peak Triggers

The majority of first captures of razorback sucker larvae (i.e., the "larval trigger") range from May 15 to June 4. In general, first capture of larvae is earlier in years characterized by low flows and/or warmer conditions, and later in years characterized by high flows and/or cooler conditions.

Spring Peak Pre-trigger Coordination

The UCOO Flaming Gorge reservoir operator will participate in all coordination, update, and scheduling activities on the pre-trigger LTSP experiment. During mid-May, a coordination meeting with the Recovery Program, Reclamation, FWS, National Park Service, WAPA, CBRFC, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) among others will convene to coordinate activities such as monitoring, modeling, and forecasting of Yampa hydrology/temperature.

Spring Peak Trigger

Timing of LTSP releases per LaGory et al. (2019) is based on the date of first capture and/or significant emergence of the razorback sucker larvae observed through light trap sampling in the middle Green River which begins in early May. Typically, larval sampling is conducted every morning, and sample evaluations are completed by mid-morning. When the LTSP study can be initiated, a Recovery Program representative will notify the following Reclamation groups: Adaptive Management and Water Quality Division (AMWQD), the Provo Area Office (PAO) Manager, Projects, Operations and Modeling Division (POMD) Manager, and UCOO Flaming Gorge reservoir operator. If the timing of release coincides with high recreation use, such as Memorial Day weekend, the UCOO may delay releases to minimize risk to the public. If LTSP releases are anticipated to initiate just prior to Memorial Day weekend, the Recovery Program representative will provide notification early morning Tuesday at the latest to provide time to initiate LTSP releases. If the Yampa River flows are forecasted to create at or near flood stage conditions in Reach 2 during the first emergence of razorback sucker larvae, then spring peak releases from Flaming Gorge will be delayed until flood risk has subsided at the Jensen gage. Releases from the dam will target a flow in Reach 2 to be less than 24,000 cfs where possible. There are circumstances where flows will be in excess of flood stage in Reach 2 regardless of dam operations due to unregulated Yampa River flows and other side inflows. If hydrologic conditions in conjunction with implementing other experiments limit water availability, spring releases should revert to Muth et al. (except for rampdown rates) to coincide with the Yampa River peak. The UCOO will determine the exact timing, magnitude, and duration of the releases and will notify stakeholders. The goal is to have minimal changes in releases over the weekend or during times of expected flooding below the Jensen gage for public safety purposes. The maximum LTSP releases can range between 4,600 cfs to 8,600 cfs.

Spring Peak Release Period

During high releases, the UCOO Flaming Gorge reservoir operator will monitor Yampa River flows in conjunction with Green River flows measured at the Jensen gage.

The LTSP/spring peak flow targets in Reach 2 may require the use of bypass to supplement flows above maximum power plant releases. The use of bypass will be minimized to meet Reach 2 goals. FGTWG may recommend the use of bypass to meet LTSP/spring peak flow targets. Although the 2000 Flow and Temperature Recommendations[8] recommend spring peak releases coincide with peak flows from the Yampa River, the LTSP experiment will potentially begin after Yampa River peak flows start to decline.

Once river flows in Reach 2 begin to peak, the UCOO Flaming Gorge reservoir operator and the wetland biologists in the field will be in close contact to share information about forecasted flows, floodplain inundation and larvae entrainment monitoring.

[8] Link to the 2000 Flow and Temperature Recommendations: http://coloradoriverrecovery.org/uc/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/11/TechnicalReport-ISF-Muth-2000-FlamingGorgeTemperatures.pdf

If the combination of Flaming Gorge releases and Yampa River flows cannot achieve targets in Tables 3-6 below for the determined classification, then releases will be reduced.

End of Spring Peak Releases

As part of experiments, the power plant and bypass release ramp down rate will follow a schedule which reduces flows by up to 2,000 cfs per day.

Smallmouth Bass (SMB) Flow Spike

In years where a SMB would be requested, a Recovery Program representative will submit an initialization request to Reclamation's AMWQD Manager, PAO Manager, POMD Manager, and the UCCO Flaming Gorge reservoir operator regarding the start of the SMB Flow Spike. The UCOO will determine the exact timing, magnitude, and duration of the releases. Below are notification criteria on when to proceed with the experiment.

- To implement the experiment on the following Monday, notification will be made on the previous Thursday before 12 p.m. MDT.
- If the Recovery Program determines that weekend SMB flow spike is necessary for the success of the study, Reclamation will consider weekend releases. Otherwise, Reclamation will plan to implement the study during the weekdays. If SMB flow spike releases are initiated over the weekend, the Recovery Program representative will provide notification on the Monday before at the latest to provide time to initiate releases, starting on Thursday.

Colorado pikeminnow (CPM) experimental base flows

The summer CPM base flow experiment (LaGory et al. 2019) will be implemented to attempt to achieve Reach 2 target flows several days prior to the predicted first presence of CPM. Flows will be maintained at the target level (Table 2) throughout the summer base flow period, if possible. Achieving targeted base flows is dependent on the decline of Yampa River flows, which may occur during spring runoff prior to the detection of CPM spawn. When CPM spawning is confirmed (or expected to occur in the very near future) in the Yampa River, a Recovery Program representative will notify the AMWQD Manager, the PAO Manager, the POMD Manager, and the UCOO Flaming Gorge reservoir operator to proceed with the experiment. Past investigations indicate the average date of first presence is July 4 (range June 20 to July 24), and is earlier in warmer and lower flow conditions, and later in cooler and higher flow conditions.

Table 2. Reproduction of Table 10 from Bestgen and Hill 2016,[9] illustrating Reach 2 experimental base flows (listed as proposed)

Hydrologic classification	2000 (Muth et al.) (cfs)	Proposed (cfs) (Bestgen and Hill 2016)
Dry (10% of years, 0 to 10% exceedance)	900 – 1,100	1,700 – 1,800
Moderately dry (20% of years)	1,100 – 1,500	1,800 – 2,000
Average (40% of years)	1,500 – 2,400	2,000 – 2,600
Moderately Wet (20% of years)	2,400 – 2,800	2,200 – 2,800
Wet (10% of years, 90 to 100%exceedance)	2,800 – 3,000	2,400 – 3,000

Summer, Autumn, and Winter Base Flow Period

Objectives considered during all base flow periods are the 3% change between consecutive mean daily flows and 0.1-m stage change at Jensen within a day as recommended in the 2000 Flow and Temperature Recommendations. Differences in mean daily flow between days could be up to 300 cfs (instead of being limited to 3% of the previous day's flow) without violating the 0.1 m/day limit on stage change when transitioning from one flow regime to another per LaGory et al. (2019).

For the month of August, the hydrologic classification would be based on the observed April-July percent exceedance of the volume of unregulated inflow into Flaming Gorge Reservoir. For the months of September through February, the hydrologic classification may be adjusted as outlined in section 2.5.3.3 of the 2005 FEIS.

During the base flow period, flows occurring in Reach 2 would be allowed to vary from the targeted flow by ±40% during the summer to fall period (August through November) and by ±25% during the winter (December through February) as described in section 2.5.3.3 of the 2005 FEIS.

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) Monitoring Program

UDWR has a long-term fish monitoring program immediately downstream of Flaming Gorge Dam. Each April and September, the agency can submit a flow request for two nights of 1,600 cfs, allowing them to electrofish the river at two 1-mile-long study sites, Spillway (Tailrace) and Little Hole. The goal of this request is to ensure that the river is navigable by jet boat and to maintain a consistent flow across sampling events. This request will be considered and approved if conditions are warranted. The UCOO Flaming Gorge reservoir operator will coordinate with WAPA to implement dam releases that meet the flow request.

Other Considerations

Unscheduled and/or emergency activities (i.e., search and rescue, drought/recovery operations, power system emergency etc.) may affect reservoir operations. Releases may need to be reduced or increased to accommodate such events. Such interruptions will be remedied, as determined by Reclamation, and operations returned to target flow rates upon termination of the reason for modification.

[9] Link to Bestgen and Hill 2016: https://coloradoriverrecovery.org/uc/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/11/TechnicalReport-ISF-Bestgen-2016-BWtopoGreenRiverpikeminnowreport.pdf

Drought Response Operations (DRO) Considerations

Operations at Flaming Gorge, including any drought operations or similar releases (collectively referred to as DRO), are expected to fall within the bounds of the figures below. If DRO are enacted, operations will follow closer to the maximum operations flexibility of the hydrologic classification. This plan is within the 2005 Flaming Gorge FEIS and 2006 ROD and is subject to change (due to variable factors such as hydrology), and is presented for planning purposes. The potential magnitude and duration of releases may be more or less than presented below.

Based on current hydrology, the current hydrologic classification is Dry. Section 2.5.3.1 of the 2005 EIS states that either 1 or 2 classifications higher (wetter) or one lower (drier) than the identified classification could be recommended for the Spring Period. As such, this 2026 DROA Plan utilizes the flexibility under the ROD to implement a spring target within the Average hydrologic classification, which is currently 1 classification above Moderately Dry, and could be 2 classifications above if in the Dry classification. Section 2.5.3.3 further states that the hydrologic classification for the Base Flow Period will be based on the unregulated inflow into Flaming Gorge Reservoir during the Spring Period. Additionally, paragraph II of the FG ROD provides that Reclamation's "decision includes the potential for refinement of the flow and temperature recommendations if relevant new information gained through adaptive management supports that possibility." The upper range of the 2026 DROA Plan assumes maintaining the Average classification targets through the summer, fall, and winter baseflow season, consistent with the provisions of paragraph II of the FG ROD.

Before Spring Releases

Before the spring flow peak, releases will be ~4,000 cfs daily average to full power generation.

Spring Releases

If requested by a Recovery Program representative, the spring peak flow period would likely include a LTSP release, which will be sustained for multiple days until targets are no longer obtainable. Bypass tubes may be used with a ramp-down rate of up to 2,000 cfs/day. Following the LTSP period, releases will be ramped-down to 1,000 cfs until the SMB flow spike.

Smallmouth Bass Spike Flow

If requested by a Recovery Program representative, following the post-LTSP period, the SMB flow spike will likely occur. This flow spike will consist of a ramp-up to full power plant capacity (about 4,600 cfs) in one day, an experimental flow of 72-hours duration maintained at full power plant capacity, and a down-ramp at up to 2,000 cfs per day, back down to a release rate of approx. 1,500 cfs. The SMB flow spike is predicted to occur between mid-June and early July, with timing based on biological triggers.

Base Flow Period

If requested by a Recovery Program representative, the CPM base flows would likely occur early through late summer, but per the 2026 FGTWG Proposal, may be extended through the end of the base flow period, after consideration of observed inflows and other conditions. In the DROA Plan, base flow targets are assumed to be consistent with spring peak target classification.

Transition Period

Average daily releases during the Transition Period are increased or decreased to achieve Upper Limit Drawdown (EIS Table 2-3) or other DRO targets. The Transition Period may be needed to provide additional Drought Response Operations.

Table 3. Without and With DRO Operations Summary (based on April 24-Month Study modeling assumptions, real-time operations to vary with hydrological conditions)

Operation Period	Flaming Gorge Operation without Drought Response Operations	Flaming Gorge Operation with Drought Response Operations, Max Range of additional 1 MAF
Spring Peak LTSP Release-Release Peak Release Rate (cfs) and Duration (days)	Approx. 4,600 cfs for 1 day	Approx. 8,600 cfs for 7 days
June inc. SMB Release-Peak Release Rate (cfs) / Duration (days)	4,600 cfs for 3 days	4,600 cfs for 3 days
Summer Base Flow-Target at Jensen (cfs)	Approx. 1,100 cfs	Approx. 2,100 cfs
Fall and Winter Base Flow-Target at Jensen	Approx. 1,100 cfs	Approx. 2,600 cfs
Transition Period Release	Approx. 885 cfs	Consistent with preceding base flow period

Operations Summary Tables

The figures below contain the upper and lower bound releases that could be implemented for each hydrologic classification, assuming a similar Yampa hydrologic condition. These releases are a general representation to illustrate releases and could increase or decrease pending the Yampa contributions. Actual releases will be within the confines of the 2005 FEIS/2006 ROD including adaptive management.

These tables do not reflect potential DROA operations and may not accurately reflect the DROA baseline. The DROA baseline will be developed based on observed hydrology. Rather these tables are meant to provide a generalized operation for each hydrological classification.

Table 4. Operation Matrix for Dry Hydrologic Classification

Period Name / End of Objective	Date and Description
Pre-spring peak / ends at the start of spring release – Biologic Trigger	May 1 to LTSP/spring peak trigger. ~800 cfs daily average release to full power generation (pending operation)
LTSP/spring peak operations / ends when < 8,300 cfs is predicted or observed at Jensen Gage.	Estimated middle-late May to early June, pending Yampa Flows/biologic trigger. Increase to full power plant capacity in one day to meet Reach 2 peak Target (≥8,300 cfs). The target is to have ≥8,300 cfs in Reach 2 for at least 1 day. Bypass may be used, if needed.
End of spring peak, ends before the SMB spike flow	Ramp down, end of spring peak period – estimated middle to late June. 2,000 cfs/day ramp down from bypass and below power plant releases, until releases at 800-1,000 cfs is achieved. 800 cfs daily average release will be targeted if possible.
SMB spike flow / mid-June to early-July	One day ramp up to full power plant capacity (~4,600 cfs) for 72 hours with a ramp down rate of 2,000 cfs/day. Selective Withdrawal Structure (SWS) units 2 and 3 will be adjusted to 50' below the reservoir surface after full power plant releases are attained. The SWS units 2 and 3 will be returned to 40' below the surface when full power plant releases conclude. SWS unit 1 will be the last unit to be online and the first to be offline before and after full power plant releases.
Summer base CPM base flows / ends on September 30	Sustaining Colorado pikeminnow base flow (1,700-1,800 cfs) in Reach 2 until September 30 will be targeted, within the 2000 Flow and Temperature Recommendations, but are not likely to be achieved. Average daily releases are estimated to be 1,200 cfs (+/- 40% period). As high as 300 cfs/day ramp up and down may be used between flow regimes.
Autumn base flows / Oct 1 to Nov 30	Autumn base flow target in Reach 2 is 900-1,100 cfs. Average daily base flows ~1,000 cfs in Reach 2 will be targeted. Average daily releases will be ~800 cfs, pending the Yampa River. As high as 300 cfs/day ramp up and down may be used between flow regimes.
Winter base flow Dec 1 to Feb 28	Winter base flow target in Reach 2 is 900-1,100 cfs. The+25% base flow period, not to exceed ~1,375 cfs in Reach 2, if used, will be observed. Average daily releases will be ~800 cfs pending the Yampa River. Winter base flow releases will be planned such to achieve a pool elevation of no greater than 6027' by February 28, pending hydrology.
End of FG Operation Plan and Transition Period / End April 30	At the maximum, average daily releases are increased or decreased to achieve Upper Limit Drawdown (EIS Table 2-3).

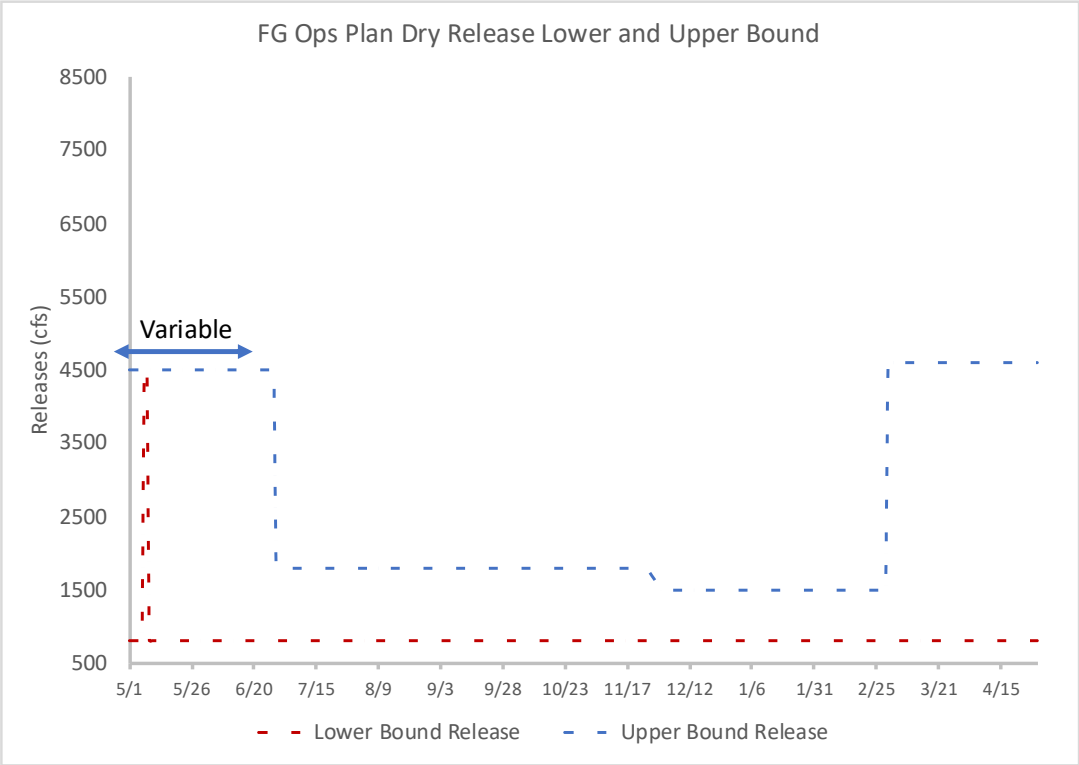

FIGURE 1 – Proposed flow regime for Dry Hydrology, bypass may be used but is unlikely.

Table 5. Operation Matrix for Moderately Dry Hydrologic Classification

Period Name / End of Objective	Date and Description
Pre-spring peak / ends at the start of spring release – Biologic Trigger	May 1 to LTSP/spring peak trigger. ~800 cfs daily average release to full power generation (pending operation).
LTSP/spring peak operations / ends when < 8,300 cfs is predicted or observed at Jensen Gage.	Estimated middle-late May to early June, pending Yampa Flows/biologic trigger. Increase to full power plant capacity in one day and increase as much as 4,000 cfs/day during bypass, if needed, to meet Reach 2 peak Target (≥8,300 cfs). Pending Yampa flows, the target is to have ≥8,300 cfs in Reach 2 for 7 days or less. Bypass may be used, if needed.
End of spring peak, ends before the SMB spike flow	Ramp down, end of spring peak period – estimated middle to late June. 2,000 cfs/day ramp down from bypass and below power plant releases, until releases at 800-1,200 cfs is achieved. 800 cfs daily average release will be targeted if possible.
SMB spike flow / mid-June to early-July	One day ramp up to full power plant capacity (~4,600 cfs) for 72 hours with a ramp down rate of 2,000 cfs/day. SWS units 2 and 3 will be adjusted to 50' below the reservoir surface after full power plant releases are attained. The SWS units 2 and 3 will be returned to 40' below the surface when full power plant releases conclude. SWS unit 1 will be the last unit to be online and the first to be offline before and after full power plant releases.
Summer base CPM base flows / ends on September 30	Sustaining Colorado pikeminnow base flow (1,800-2,000 cfs) in Reach 2 until September 30. Average daily releases will be ~1,500-1,600 cfs to target approx. 1,800 cfs in Reach 2. As high as 300 cfs/day ramp up and down may be used between flow regimes.
Autumn base flows / Oct 1 to Nov 30	Autumn base flow target in Reach 2 is 1,100-1,500 cfs. Average daily base flows ~1,100 cfs in Reach 2 will be targeted. Average daily releases will be ~800 cfs, pending the Yampa River. As high as 300 cfs/day ramp up and down may be used between flow regimes.
Winter base flow Dec 1 to Feb 28	Winter base flow target in Reach 2 is 1,100-1,500 cfs. The+25% base flow period, not to exceed ~1,875 cfs in Reach 2, if used, will be observed. Average daily releases will be ~800 cfs pending the Yampa River. Winter base flow releases will be planned such to achieve a pool elevation of no greater than 6027' by February 28, pending hydrology.
End of FG Operation Plan and Transition Period / End April 30	At the maximum, average daily releases are increased or decreased to achieve Upper Limit Drawdown (EIS Table 2-3).

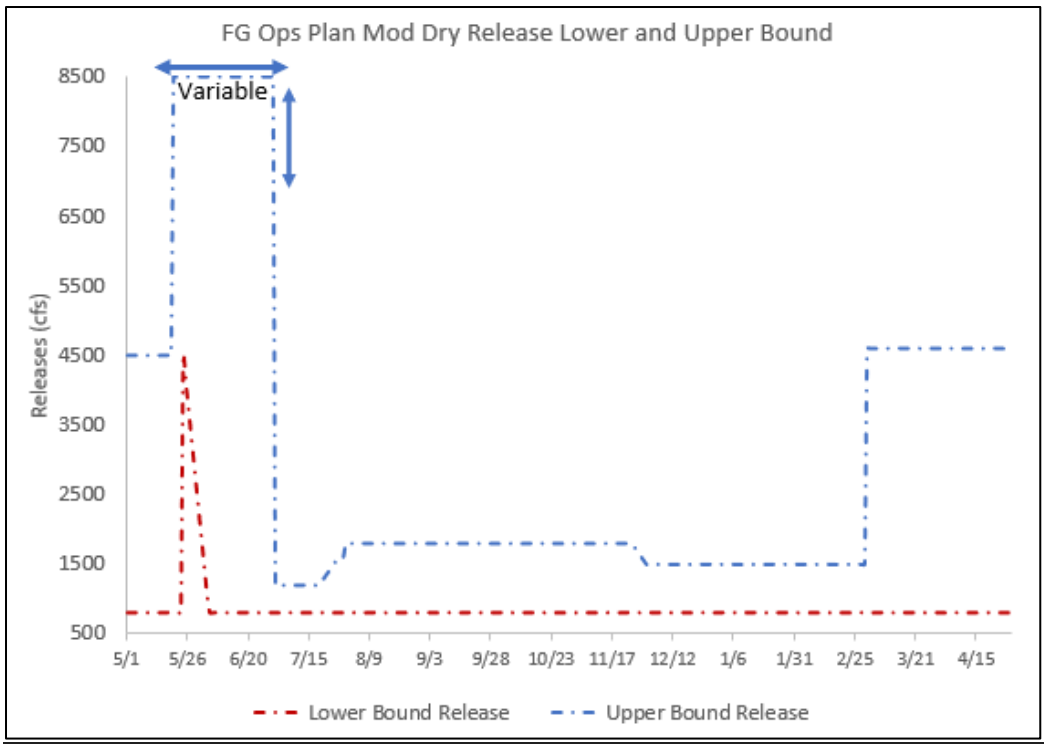

FIGURE 2 – Proposed flow regime for Moderately Dry Hydrology, bypass may be used.

Table 6. Operation Matrix for Average Hydrologic Conditions

Period Name / End of Objective	Date and Description
Pre-spring peak / ends at the start of Spring peak - Biological Trigger	May 1 to spring peak trigger. ~800 cfs daily average release to full power generation (pending operation)
Spring peak (average-below median) / ends when < 14,000 cfs is predicted or observed at Jensen Gage.	Estimated middle-late May to early June, pending Yampa Flows/biological trigger, increase to full power plant capacity in one day and increase as much as 4,000 cfs/day during bypass, if needed, to meet Reach 2 Target. In drier average years, ≥8,300 cfs will be targeted and in wetter years, 14,000 to >18,600 may be targeted. Pending wetter or dryer hydrologic classification at least 7 days at the target will be attempted, pending Yampa flows.
End of spring peak / ends when ramp down ends.	Ramp down, end of spring peak period – estimated middle to late June. 2,000 cfs/day ramp down from bypass and below power plant releases, until releases at 800-1,200 cfs is achieved. 1,000 cfs daily average release will be targeted if possible.
SMB spike flow / mid-June to early-July	One day ramp up to full power plant capacity (4,600 cfs) for 72 hours with a ramp down rate of 2,000 cfs/day. SWS units 2 and 3 will be adjusted to 50′ below the reservoir surface after full power plant releases are attained. The SWS units 2 and 3 will be returned to 40′ below the surface when full power plant releases conclude. SWS unit 1 will be the last unit to be online and the first to be offline before and after full power plant releases.
Summer CPM base flows / ends on September 30	Sustaining Colorado pikeminnow base flow (2,000-2,600 cfs), ~2,350 cfs will be targeted in Reach 2 until September 30. Average daily releases will be ~2,000 cfs, pending the Yampa River. As high as 300 cfs/day ramp up and down may be used between flow regimes.
Autumn base flows Oct 1 to Nov 30	Autumn base flow target in Reach 2 is 1,500-2,400 cfs. Average daily base flows ~1,600 cfs in Reach 2 will be targeted. Average daily releases will be ~1,100 cfs, pending the Yampa River. As high as 300 cfs/day ramp up and down may be used between flow regimes.
Winter base flow Dec 1 to Feb 28	Winter base flow target in Reach 2 is 1,500-2,400 cfs. The+25% base flow period, not to exceed ~3,000 cfs in Reach 2, if used, will be observed. Average daily releases will be ~1,700 cfs, pending the Yampa River. Winter base flow releases will be planned such to achieve a pool elevation of no greater than 6027′ by February 28, pending hydrology.
End of FG Operation Plan and Transition Period / End April 30	At the maximum, average daily releases are increased or decreased to achieve Upper Limit Drawdown (EIS Table 2-3).

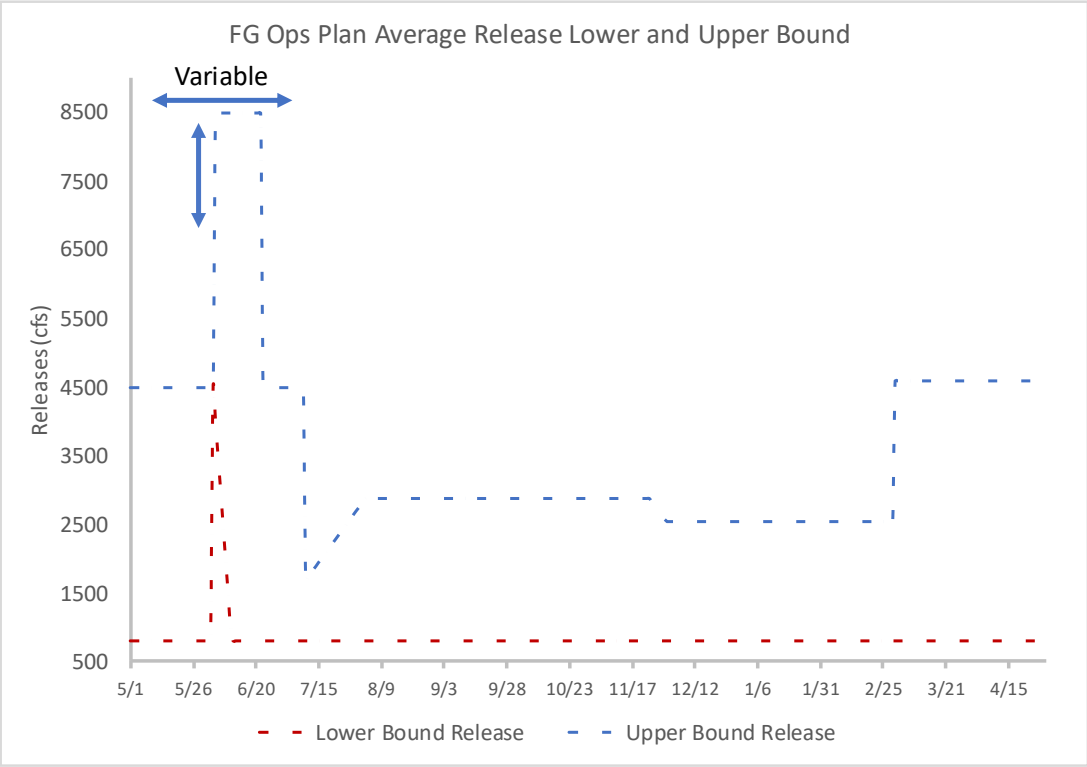

FIGURE 3 – Proposed flow regime for Average Hydrology, bypass may be used.

Table 7. Operation Matrix for Moderately Wet Hydrologic Conditions

Period Name / End of Objective	Date and Description
Pre-spring peak / ends at the start of spring release	May 1 to Yampa peak. ~800 cfs daily average release to full power generation (pending operation).
Spring peak ends when <18,600 cfs is predicted or observed at Jensen Gage	Estimated middle-late May to early June, pending Yampa flows, increase from full power plant capacity in one day and increase as much as 4,000 cfs/day during bypass, if needed, to meet Reach 2 Peak Target (≥20,300 cfs). Pending wetter or dryer hydrologic classification ≥7 days at ≥18,600 cfs in Reach 2, pending Yampa flows will be targeted. The final goal is to achieve 2 weeks or more in Reach 2. When possible, releases may be extended to encompass larval drift period as recommended in LTSP.
End of spring peak / ends when ramp down ends.	Ramp down, end of spring peak period – estimated middle to late June or later. Up to 2,000 cfs/day ramp down from bypass and power plant releases, until summer base flows begin; releases of ~1,300 cfs will be targeted.
Summer CPM base flows / ends on September 30	Sustaining pikeminnow base flow (2,200-2,800 cfs), ~2,750 cfs in Reach 2 until September 30. Releases will be in 2,200-2,500 cfs range, pending the Yampa River. As high as 300 cfs/day ramp up and down may be used between flow regimes.
Autumn base flows Oct 1 to Nov 30	Autumn and winter base flow target in Reach 2 is 2,400-2,800 cfs. Autumn average daily base flows ~2,500 cfs in Reach 2 will be targeted. Average daily releases will be ~2,000 cfs, pending the Yampa River. As high as 300 cfs/day ramp up and down may be used between flow regimes.
Winter base flow Dec 1 to Feb 28	Winter base flow target in Reach 2 is 2,400-2,800 cfs. The+25% base flow period, not to exceed ~3,000 cfs in Reach 2, if used, will be observed. Average daily releases at ~2,700 cfs pending the Yampa River. Winter base flow releases will be such to achieve a pool elevation of no greater than 6027' by February 28, pending hydrology.
End of FG Operation Plan and Transition Period / End April 30	At the maximum, average daily releases are increased or decreased to achieve Upper Limit Drawdown (EIS Table 2-3)

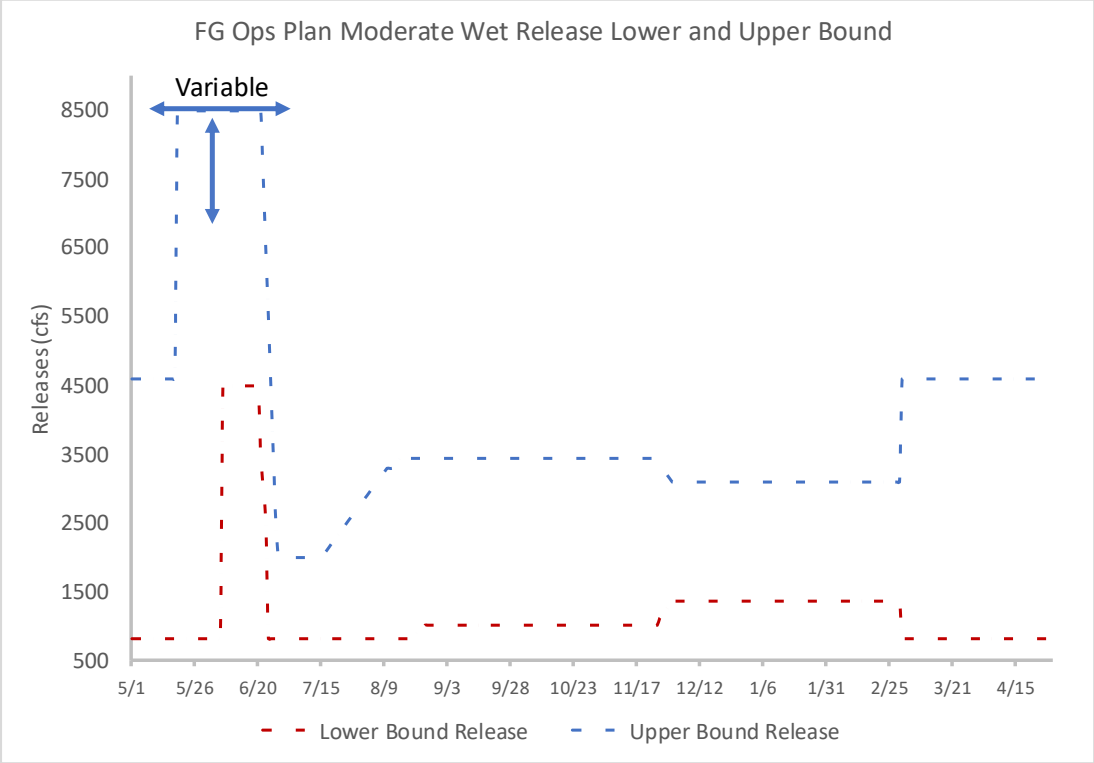

FIGURE 4 – Proposed flow regime for Moderately Wet Hydrology, bypass may be used and is likely.