

San Juan River Environmental Flows Workshop #1

USFWS NM Ecological Services Field Office

Albuquerque, NM

12-13 February 2015

Workshop #1 Goal Statement:

Initiate process to reduce risk of water shortage in the San Juan River Basin and increase effectiveness of implementing 1999 San Juan River Flow Recommendations

Workshop #1 Objectives:

- 1) Review and evaluate current Navajo Reservoir operation procedures, including methodology for calculation of available water, decision tree, and how different target lake elevations will affect operations.
- 2) Recommend the most appropriate available water calculation (for determining end-of-year target reservoir elevation) to best meet Recovery Program Goals and reduce risk of shortage in the San Juan River Basin.
- 3) Recommend process for determining environmental releases from Navajo Dam in 2015.
- 4) Develop conceptual framework for conducting Workshop #2 for evaluating and modifying the 1999 San Juan River Flow Recommendations, as needed, to best meet the Recovery Program goals including development of an effective monitoring strategy to measure key uncertainties that is tied to the Program's Long Range Plan.

Expected Workshop #1 Outcome:

- 1) Decision on available water calculation for 2015 for incorporation into flow recommendations
- 2) Recommendations for changes to current procedures and methodology for planning and managing 2015 reservoir environmental releases including the process to be followed by the Biology Committee, Coordination Committee, Reclamation, and the Service in 2015
- 3) Recommendation on conceptual framework/outline for conducting Workshop #2 to evaluate and modify the 1999 San Juan River Flow Recommendations to best meet Recovery Program goals

AGENDA

February 12; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

8:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. - Workshop 1 objectives/introductions/ground rules - Brooks

8:15 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. – Background on 1999 flow recommendations and reservoir operating procedures (available water calculation, decision tree) - 30 min. presentation/15 min. discussion - Bliesner & Westfall

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. – Reclamation's operational limitations for implementing decision tree and hydrology modeling analyses of Navajo Reservoir Ops. - 1 hour presentation - Behery

10:00 – 10:15 a.m. - **Break**

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. - Develop draft recommended available water calculation/end-of season volume – 1 hour group discussion

11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. - Discuss development of process for determining 2015 Navajo Dam environmental release including but not limited to identifying information that will be needed (*what*), the sequence for decision-making (*who*), and timelines (*when*) – 45 min. group discussion

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch (brought in)

1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. - Overview and update of SJR Hydrology Model Gen2 and Gen3 - 30 min. presentation - Behery, Vandergriff, and Westfall

1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. - Flaming Gorge Environmental Releases Experiment – 30 min. presentation - Beverly Heffernan

2:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. - Finalize recommended available water calculation (Workshop Outcome #1) – 15 min. group decision

2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. - **Break**

2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. – Develop draft recommended process for determining Navajo Dam environmental releases for 2015 – 2 hour group discussion

4:30 p.m. - 4:40 p.m. NEPA/ESA compliance check – 10 min. - Uilenberg/Campbell

4:40 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. - Wrap-up; assignments for next day, if any; public comment period, if needed

Friday; February 13; 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

8:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. – Re-cap of previous day's discussions – Brooks

8:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. – Finalize recommended process for determining Navajo Dam environmental releases for 2015 (Workshop Outcome #2) – 15 min. group decision

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. – Discuss options and objectives for evaluating and modifying the 1999 San Juan River Flow Recommendations during Workshop #2 including but not limited to goals, requirements, outstanding questions, needed analyses/information, stakeholders, and timelines – 1 hour group discussion

9:30 a.m. – 9:45 – Break

9:45 a.m. – 11:00 - Develop draft conceptual framework/outline (or possibly draft agenda) for Workshop #2 – 1.25 hour group discussion

11:00 a.m. – 11:30 – Finalize recommendations for conducting Workshop #2 to evaluate and modify the 1999 San Juan River Flow Recommendations to best meet the Recovery Program goals (Workshop Outcome #3) – 30 min. group decision

11:30 - 12:00 p.m. – Workshop wrap-up; assignments; set a date for Workshop #2, if possible; public comment period, if needed – 30 min.

2015 San Juan River Environmental Flows Workshop #1 Background Materials/Information (posted at <http://www.fws.gov/southwest/sjrip/>):

- Modeling Analysis of Navajo Reservoir Operations (Behery Jan 2015)
- Proposed Modification of Available Water Calculation for Determining Spring Peak Releases on the San Juan River (Reclamation/Service Sept 9, 2014)
- Draft memo recommending Operating Rules change BC to CC (May 16 2007)
- Memo regarding New Op Rules Model Runs Keller-Bliesner to Hydrology Committee (Oct 9 2006)
- SJR Draft Final Integration Report (Miller 2005)
- SJR Flow Recommendations (Holden 1999)
- Gen2 and Gen3 model run flow statistics spreadsheet (Gen2_Gen3_Run_Comparisons.xls)
- Links to information relevant to the Flaming Gorge process
- SWCA Summary Report of SJRRIP Habitat-Flow Monitoring Workshop (Feb 8 2012)