

**BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
NAVAJO RESERVOIR
APRIL 24, 2012 MEETING NOTES
SENT VIA FAX AND E-MAIL**

Dear Interested Party:

Enclosed is a summary of our April 24, 2012, meeting to coordinate Reclamation's operation of the Navajo Unit. The meeting was held at the Civic Center in Farmington, New Mexico.

Highlights of the meeting include:

≠The most probable April through July modified unregulated inflow to Navajo Reservoir based on the mid-April forecast, is 420,000 acre-feet, or 56 percent of the 30-year average. However, this is only a forecast and is subject to change as updated forecasts become available.

≠The reservoir elevation on April 22, 2012 was 6,058.8 feet, which corresponds to approximately 1,332,880 acre-feet of storage (78% of full and 98% end of April average). The current release to the river is approximately 500 cfs from the reservoir and 580 cfs from NIIP headworks.

≠Snow pack for the months of January through mid-April 2012, in the San Juan Basin above Navajo Reservoir was below average. As of April 22, 2012, the current basin snowpack was at 40 percent of average with a snow water equivalent (SWE) of 7.2 inches.

≠Based upon all (minimum, most and maximum) mid-April inflow forecasts and calculated available water, a 1-week at 5,000 cfs hydrograph will be released with a three day ramp up and down. The preliminary dates for the spring peak release are to begin on May 14th with the ramp up and reaching 5,000 cfs on May 16th continuing through May 22nd, followed by a ramp down concluding on May 25th. The exact dates are to be determined as additional information becomes available. A one week advance notification will be issued prior to an increase in the release. UPDATE: The spring peak release will begin on May 21st and reach 5000 cfs on May 23rd. The ramp down will begin on May 30th and reach a base release on June 1st.

≠The release from Navajo Reservoir has been approximately 500 cubic feet per second (cfs) since December 12, 2011. The release will continue to be at 500 cfs before and after the spring peak release. Adjustments to the release will continue to occur to meet target base flows in the critical habitat area. The release may be decreased to 350 cfs to conserve water for the next year, as long as target base flows will still be met.

Copies of the material presented and past meeting notes are available online at:

<http://www.usbr.gov/uc/wcao/water/rsrvs/mtgs/nmcurrnt>

If you have any suggestions on improving the operation meetings or the summaries of the meetings, please let us know. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, **August 21, 2012 at 1:00 at the Farmington Civic Center, Farmington, New Mexico (200 West Arrington Street)**. If you have questions, please call me at 970-385-6590.

Sincerely,

Ryan Christianson
Water Management Group Chief

NAVAJO UNIT OPERATIONS MEETING

April 24, 2012

Participation: This meeting was held in Farmington, New Mexico at the Civic Center. The attendance list is attached.

Purpose of Meeting: The purpose of these meetings, held annually in January, April, and August, is to gather input for determining upcoming operations for Navajo Reservoir. This input is used in Reclamation's development of an overall 24-month study for operation of Reclamation projects in the Upper Colorado River Basin, which includes plans for Glen Canyon, Flaming Gorge, Aspinal Unit and Navajo. Input from individuals, organizations, and agencies along with other factors such as weather, water rights, endangered species requirements, flood control, hydro power, recreation, fish and wildlife management, and reservoir levels, will be considered in the development of these reservoir operation plans. In addition, the meetings are used to coordinate activities and exchange information among agencies, water users, and other interested parties concerning the San Juan River and Navajo Reservoir.

Guest Speaker

Sharon Whitmore, from the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) presented an overview of the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program. The program was established to recover the endangered Colorado pike minnow and the razorback sucker while allowing water development and management activities to continue in the San Juan River Basin.

Review of 2012 Operations

A quick overview was given of the 2012 water year up to April 22, 2012, including a graphical summary of Navajo Reservoir operations, downstream flows, and current Navajo Reservoir conditions.

The reservoir elevation on April 22, 2012 was 6,058.8 feet which corresponds to approximately 1,332,880 acre-feet of storage (78% of full and 98% for the end of April average). The Navajo Indian Irrigation Project (NIIP) headwork is diverting approximately 580 cfs and the San Juan-Chama Project was diverting approximately 265 cfs. The current reservoir release to the river is approximately 500 cfs.

Water Year 2012 Conditions

As of April 22, 2012, the average snowpack for SNOTEL stations above Navajo was at 40 percent of average with a snow water equivalent (SWE) of 7.2 inches. The snowpack reached a maximum of 13.8 inches SWE in mid-March. Comparisons of past year's snowpack on the same date indicate that inflows are below average and are currently forecasted to remain below average.

Water Year 2012 Forecasts

The most probable April through July 2012 modified unregulated inflow, based on the mid-April forecast, is 420,000 acre-feet, which is 56 percent of the 30-year average. The minimum probable and maximum probable April-July inflow forecasts are 244,000 acre-feet (33% of average) and 600,000 acre-feet (81% of average), respectively.

In compliance with the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program (SJRIP) Flow Recommendations, under the minimum, most and maximum probable forecasts, a 1-week at 5,000 cfs hydrograph will be released with a three day ramp up/down.

The current CBRFC forecast for the peak of the Animas River at Farmington is May 22nd. The goal of the spring peak release from Navajo Reservoir is to match the peak of the Animas River at Farmington. The preliminary dates for the spring peak release are to begin on May 14th with the ramp up and reaching 5,000 cfs on May 16th continuing through May 22nd, followed by a ramp down concluding on May 25th. After the spring peak release, it is anticipated to return to the base release of 500 cfs. These dates may be adjusted based on the latest peak forecast for the Animas River. A final release hydrograph will be announced no later than 1-week prior to the beginning of the ramp-up.

Nearby Projects Update

An overview of the conditions of nearby reservoirs was presented. The forecasted inflow into Vallecito Reservoir is sufficient to reach a full reservoir. Lemon Reservoir is not projected to fill this year. The Animas-La Plata Project's Lake Nighthorse is currently at full capacity with an elevation of 6880.1 (98% full), storing 112,319 acre-feet. No releases are anticipated during the spring and summer. A test release may occur in the fall. The Navajo Nation Municipal Pipeline is currently under construction.

Maintenance Activities

Drainage rehabilitation work will commence in June or July at the downstream left groin. Maintenance building and yard improvements will potentially occur during the summer and fall.

Agency/Organization Activities and Discussion of Related Activities

Fish & Wildlife Service – Announced upcoming San Juan Recovery Implementation Program (SJRIP) meetings. The Biology Committee meeting is scheduled for May 15th, the annual meeting is scheduled for May 16th and the Coordination Committee meeting is scheduled for May 17th. All these meetings will be held at the Public Lands Building in Durango, Colorado.

Hammond Conservancy District – The irrigation season began on April 15th, water is currently being released and utilized by the farmers.

Next Meeting - Scheduled for **1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 21, 2012** at the Civic Center in Farmington, New Mexico (200 West Arrington Street).

Attendance List – April 24, 2012 Navajo Operations Meeting

Andrews, Roy, San Juan Shrine, Fruitland NM
Ashcroft, Nick, West Hammond Domestic Water Users Assoc., Bloomfield NM
Becker, Herb, Jicarilla Apache Nation, Dulce NM
Ber, Shannon, City of Farmington, Farmington NM
Campbell, Dave, Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque NM
Christianson, Ryan, Bureau of Reclamation, Durango CO
Crawford, Carroll, Bloomfield Irrigation District, Bloomfield NM
Day, Henry, Arizona Public Service, Phoenix AZ
Duncan, Martin, San Juan River Dineh Water Users Inc., Shiprock NM
Durst, Scott, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Farmington NM
Flanigan, Kevin, NM Interstate Stream Commission, Santa Fe NM
Goode, Doris L., NM State Parks, Navajo Lake NM
Greene, Mike, PNM, Albuquerque NM
Horner, Gary, Self, Farmington NM
Israel, David and Lecia, Abe's Store, Navajo Dam, NM
Isaacson, Mike, Keller-Bliesner Engineering, Farmington NM
Joe, Jeanette, Navajo Agriculture Products Industry, O&M, Farmington NM
Johns, Morris V., San Juan River Dineh Water Users, Shiprock NM
Johnson, Larry, Soaring Eagle Lodge, Navajo Dam, NM
Krakow, Bob, Western Refining, Farmington NM
Lane, Teresa, Hammond Conservancy District, Bloomfield NM
Lasator, Stevy, Lee Acres Water Users Association, Farmington NM
Leavesley, Brian, CO Division of Water Resources, Durango CO
Lile, Carrie, Southwest Water Conservation District, Durango CO
Lotts, Bob, Arizona Public Service, Phoenix AZ
Lynch, Steve, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Farmington NM
Miller, Gordon, San Juan Water Commission, Farmington NM
Montoia, Paul A., City of Farmington NM
Munoz, Mark, NM State Engineers Office, Santa Fe NM
Novak, Susan, Bureau of Reclamation, Durango CO
Oxford, Robert, Citizen, Farmington NM
Peterman, Ron, City of Farmington, Farmington NM
Prder, Sam, West Hammond Water Users, Bloomfield NM
Richmond, Linda, Bureau of Land Management, Bluff UT
Secrist, Doug, CO Parks and Wildlife, Arboles, CO
Smith, Brad, Arizona Public Service, Phoenix AZ
Sosa, Nate, Wild River Expeditions, Bluff UT
Swickard, Ruth, Bureau of Reclamation, Durango CO
VanWinkle, Barb, CO Parks and Wildlife, Arboles NM
Watson, Blaine, NM State Engineers Office, Aztec NM
Wethington, Marc, NM Department of Game and Fish, Navajo Dam NM
Williams, Michael, Soaring Eagle Lodge, Navajo Dam, NM
Williams, Shawn, NM State Engineers Office, Aztec NM