Date: August 12, 2008

From: Water Resources Group, Salt Lake City
All Colorado River Annual Operating Plan (AOP) Recipients

Current Status

	July Inflow (unreg) (acre-feet)	Percent of Normal	Midnight Aug 11 Elevation	Reservoir Storage (acre-feet)
Fontenelle	173,000	81	6501.90	313,000
Flaming Gorge	188,000	73	6022.49	3,069,000
Blue Mesa	172,000	128	7511.21	756,000
Powell	1,672,000	107	3632.10	15,089,000
Navajo	79,000	94	6061.46	1,366,000

Expected Operations

The operation of Lake Powell and Lake Mead in this 24 Month Study is pursuant to the December 2007 Record of Decision on Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and the Coordinated Operations of Lake Powell and Lake Mead (Interim Guidelines). The Interim Guidelines are available for download at http://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/programs/strategies/RecordofDecision.pdf

The April 24 Month study projected an end of water year elevation at Lake Powell of 3639.81 feet, with an annual release volume of 8.23 million acre-feet, which was above the equalization level for 2008 (3636 feet above sea level). In accordance with Section 6.B.3 of the Interim Guidelines, the operation of Glen Canyon Dam will be governed by Section 6.A (Equalization Tier) for the remainder of Water Year 2008. Under the Equalization Tier, it is likely that the annual release from Glen Canyon Dam for Water Year 2008 will be greater than 8.23 million acre-feet. The August 24 Month Study projects the annual release from Glen Canyon Dam to be 8.972 million acre-feet; however, the projected annual release will be updated each month throughout the remainder of the Water Year to achieve the operation specified in Section 6.A.1.

FONTENELLE – Releases from Fontenelle are currently 1,700 cfs while inflows are averaging 1,100 cfs. The elevation of Fontenelle Reservoir is 6502.3 feet above sea level, about 3.7 feet from top of pool, or 92% full. The reservoir elevation reached its peak for water year 2008 on July 8, 2008 at an elevation of 6505.7 ft (approximately 4 inches from top of pool) and is now slowly declining.

Inflows so far for water year 2008 have been below average. During the April through July period Fontenelle received 582,000 acre-feet inflow, which is 68% of average. Despite the below average conditions, the reservoir still filled and bypasses were required

for 11 days during July. Bypasses are considered normal operations for Fontenelle reservoir.

Based on the latest inflow forecast from the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center, inflows will be slightly below average through the fall and winter months. Releases will be decreased later in August to approximately 1,000 cfs and will remain at, or near, that level though the winter season. Current modeling projects that the reservoir elevation will be approximately 6468 ft above sea level early next spring.

Open forum discussions on Fontenelle operations take place at the "Fontenelle Reservoir Working Group" meetings. The Working Group is a forum for information exchange between Reclamation and other parties associated with the operation of Fontenelle Reservoir. The public is encouraged to attend and express their concerns and interests with regard to Fontenelle Reservoir operation. The next Working Group meeting is scheduled for August 19, 2008 at 10:00 am at the Wyoming Department of Fish and Game in Green River Wyoming. Spring and summer operations will be reviewed and future operations will be discussed. For more information about the Fontenelle Working Group, contact Ed Vidmar at 801-379-1182.

FLAMING GORGE – The average base flow release from Flaming Gorge is currently 1,500 cfs/day, and will remain at this level through September 30, 2008. The current off peak low is approximately 940 cfs with an afternoon peak of approximately 1,720 cfs. July observed unregulated inflow into Flaming Gorge reservoir was 188,000 acre-feet (AF), or 73 percent of average inflow. The total observed April through July unregulated inflow into Flaming Gorge Reservoir was 731,000 af (61 percent of average). The projected end of water year elevation of Flaming Gorge Reservoir is 6021.5 feet above sea level (87 percent live storage capacity).

Under the most probable scenario, average releases of 1,300 cfs will begin on October 1, 2008, and continue through February 28, 2009. Beginning March 1, 2009, releases will decrease to 800 cfs and will likely remain at that level until the beginning of the 2009 high spring peak release. Western Area Power Administration (Western) is working with the Utah Department of Wildlife Resources to study effects downstream of a double-peak fluctuating flow pattern. Reclamation will be considering an operation regime that includes double peaks during the winter months of water year 2009 depending on water availability.

Based on the hydrologic classification system implemented by the Flaming Gorge Record of Decision (ROD) and the 2008 observed April through July unregulated inflow to Flaming Gorge, the hydrologic classification is moderately dry. However, the Flaming Gorge Technical Working Group (FGTWG), which is comprised of representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Western, and Reclamation, developed a proposal for the Green River during the base flow period. The FGTWG proposed to Reclamation that base flows in the Green River should fall within the average range to better match the flow conditions that occurred during the spring peak when average targets were achieved. The current release rate is maintaining flows in the Green River which fall within the average hydrologic condition.

The Flaming Gorge ROD implemented operational flexibility during the base flow period. The flexibility during the August through November base-flow period allows for daily flows to deviate from the seasonal average by ±40 percent. During the December through February base-flow period, the daily flows should be within ±25 percent of the seasonal average. Additionally, the mean daily flows should not exceed 3 percent variation between consecutive days and daily fluctuations due to power production at Flaming Gorge Dam should produce no more than a 0.1 meter daily stage change at Jensen, Utah.

The next Flaming Gorge Working Group meeting is scheduled for August 20, 2008 in Vernal, Utah. The meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. at the Western Park Convention Center located at 302 East 200 South in Vernal, Utah. For directions, please call 435-789-7396. The Flaming Gorge Working Group is an open public forum for information exchange between Reclamation and the stake holders of Flaming Gorge Dam. The public is encouraged to attend and comment on the operations and plans presented by Reclamation at these meetings. For more information on this group and these meetings please contact Ed Vidmar at 801-379-1182.

ASPINALL – July unregulated inflow into Blue Mesa Reservoir was 172,500 acre-feet or 128 percent of average. The current inflow rate into Blue Mesa Reservoir is approximately 1,400 cfs while reservoir releases are averaging 1,900 cfs. Blue Mesa's present elevation is 7511.5 feet, which corresponds to a storage content of about 758,000 acre-feet. The observed April through July runoff into Blue Mesa Reservoir was recorded at 1,006,000 acre-feet, or 140 percent of normal. The reservoir reached a high elevation of 7511.9 feet on July 31, 2008, which was approximately 4.5 feet below “full” pool. Based on significantly high April to July inflow forecasts (153 percent of average in mid-May), Blue Mesa Reservoir was operated to provide an early high peak release in spring 2008. Late-season reductions in the forecast prompted decreased releases and slightly lower reservoir elevations near the end of runoff. The reservoir is considered full at elevations above 7516.4 feet. The top of the spillway gates is actually 7519.4 feet, but we rarely fill to that level due to safety concerns for the reservoir.

Releases from Crystal are currently set at 2,000 cfs. The Gunnison Diversion Tunnel started taking water for the new season on March 31, 2008. The current diversion rate in the tunnel is about 1,050 cfs, which results in a river flow below the diversion tunnel of approximately 1,050 cfs. As in years past there seems to be about 100 cfs discrepancy between the different gage readings. These reservoir release rates may change as conditions warrant, primarily as we respond to changes in the river inflows.

The next meeting of the "Aspinall Unit Working Group" will be held on Thursday August 27th in the Elk Creek Visitors Center at Blue Mesa Reservoir. Spring and summer operations will be reviewed and future operations discussed. These meetings are open forum discussions on the Aspinall Unit reservoir operations with many interested groups participating. Anyone needing further information about these meetings should contact Dan Crabtree in the Grand Junction Area Office at (970) 248-0652.

NAVAJO – Reclamation decreased releases from Navajo Reservoir to 500 cubic feet per second (cfs) on June 25, 2008 and has kept them steady since then. Releases will remain at 500 cfs until changes are required based on changes in weather and or river conditions downstream.

Releases are made for the authorized purposes of the Navajo Unit, and to attempt to maintain a target base flow through the endangered fish critical habitat reach of the San Juan River (Farmington to Lake Powell). It is probable that increases in the release will be necessary later in the summer and fall in order to maintain the target base flow. The San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program recommends a target base flow of between 500 cfs and 1,000 cfs through the critical habitat area. The target base flow is calculated as the weekly average of gauged flows throughout the critical habitat area.

July unregulated inflow into Navajo Reservoir was 79,000 acre-feet, or 94 percent of average. The total runoff for the 2008 season ending July (April-July) was recorded at 956,000 acre-feet, or about 122 percent of average runoff. The reservoir had a seasonal peak elevation of 6066.84 feet on May 25, 2008. Navajo Reservoir also provided a spring peak hydrograph of 5,000 cfs during the fist two weeks of May.

Currently the daily reservoir inflow is averaging 800 cfs and reservoir releases to the San Juan River are set at 500 cfs. NIIP diversions are approximately 550 cfs. The reservoir water surface elevation is currently 6061.31 feet, which corresponds to a storage content of about 1,365,000 acre-feet.

A public meeting on Navajo Reservoir operations will be held on Tuesday, August 26, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. in Farmington, New Mexico. At this meeting, review of last spring and summer reservoir operations, and plans for this fall and winter 2008/2009 operations will be discussed. These are open forum discussions on the operation of Navajo Reservoir with many interested groups participating. Anyone interested in the general operation of the reservoir is encouraged to attend. Please contact Pat Page in Reclamation's Durango, Colorado Office at (970) 385-6560 for information about these meetings or the daily operation of Navajo Reservoir.

LAKE POWELL –

Glen Canyon Dam Operations

The monthly release volume in August 2008 is scheduled to be 890,000 acre-feet. Weekday releases will average about 14,700 cfs with afternoon peak releases to about 18,000 cfs and early morning lows to about 10,000 cfs. Weekend releases will average about 14,000 cfs with afternoon peak releases to about 17,750 cfs and early morning lows to about 10,000 cfs.

The release volume in September is being managed to achieve the objectives of the Equalization Tier of the Interim Guidelines. For water year 2008 the Equalization Tier calls for the annual release volume for Glen Canyon Dam to be managed as practicably

as possible to achieve a Lake Mead end of water year elevation of 1105 feet above sea level. In the August 24-month study, the release volume for September that achieves this objective is projected to be 717 KAF which is an average release rate of 12,050 cfs. A two month steady flow experiment will be conducted in September and October 2008. Once this steady flow experiment begins, releases during September will be steady and will not be adjusted. If necessary, Reclamation may make a final adjustment to the September release volume at the end of August 2008 to better achieve the objectives of the Equalization Tier. The October 2008 release volume will be scheduled to maintain consistent steady flows during the steady flow experiment.

The annual release volume for water year 2008 that is projected in the August 24-month study is 8.972 million acre-feet (maf) and the volume of equalization water (volume in excess of 8.23 maf) is 742 thousand acre-feet (kaf). The projected end of year elevation at Lake Powell is 3630.41 feet above sea level which is about 32 feet above the elevation at the beginning of water year 2008 (October 1, 2007). During water year 2008 the live storage in Lake Powell will likely have increased by nearly 3 maf and will likely end water year 2008 at 61% of full capacity. The April through July unregulated inflow to Lake Powell in water year 2008 was 8.84 maf which is 111% of 30-year average (1971-2000).

Upper Colorado River Basin Hydrology

Precipitation in the basin above Lake Powell was above average in July (150% of average). The overall precipitation in the Upper Colorado River Basin for water year 2008 so far has been 105% of average.

The unregulated inflow to Lake Powell during the April through July period was 8.84 maf (111% of average). Unregulated inflow to Lake Powell over the next 3 months (August through October) is projected to be above average (106%). The long range outlook for water year 2009 projects that the most probable unregulated inflow to Lake Powell will be 91% of the 30-year average (1971-2000) however there is a wide range of uncertainty associated with these long range outlooks.

Upper Colorado River Basin Drought

The Upper Colorado River Basin is experiencing a protracted multi-year drought. Since 1999, inflow to Lake Powell has been below average in every year except water year 2005 and 2008.

In the summer of 1999, Lake Powell was essentially full with reservoir storage at 23.5 million acre-feet, or 97 percent of capacity. Inflow to Lake Powell in 1999 was 109 percent of average. The manifestation of drought conditions in the Upper Colorado River Basin began in the fall months of 1999. A five year period of extreme drought occurred in water years 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004 with unregulated inflow to Lake Powell only 62, 59, 25, 51, and 49 percent of average, respectively. Lake Powell storage

decreased through this five-year period, with reservoir storage reaching a low of 8.0 million acre-feet (33 percent of capacity) on April 8, 2005.

Drought conditions eased in water year 2005 in the Upper Colorado River Basin. Precipitation was above average in 2005 and unregulated inflow to Lake Powell was 105 percent of average. Lake Powell increased by 2.77 million acre-feet (31 feet in elevation) during water year 2005. But as is often the case, one favorable year does not necessarily end a protracted drought. In 2006, there was a return to drier conditions in the Colorado River Basin. Unregulated inflow to Lake Powell in water year 2006 was only 71 percent of average.

Water year 2007 was another year of below average inflow with unregulated inflow into Lake Powell at 68 percent of average. Over the past 9 years (2000 through 2008, inclusive), inflow to Lake Powell has been below average in all but two years (2005 and 2008). Drought conditions have eased in water year 2008 with above average inflows to the main stem Colorado River reservoirs with the exception of Flaming Gorge and Fontenelle Reservoirs. Reservoir storage in the Colorado River Basin, however, is still below desired levels with the overall Colorado River system storage (above Lake Mead) projected to be about 58% of capacity at the end of water year 2008.

Reservoir storage in Lake Powell and Lake Mead has decreased during the past 8 years but is projected to increase by the end of water year 2008. Current reservoir storage in Lake Powell is 63 percent of capacity. Storage in Lake Mead is 49 percent of capacity.