

Mystic Lake Hydroelectric Project Whitewater Resource Group Conference Call – Annual Consultation *June 8, 2017*

Participating via conference line:

Andy Welch	NWE
Jon Jourdonnais	NWE
Deb Mullowney	NWE
Jeremy Butcher	NWE
Jeff Gildehaus	USFS
Jake Chaffin	USFS
Clint Sestrich	USFS
Mary Broache	DNRC
Ken Frazer	FWP
Kevin Colburn	American Whitewater
Jeff Frost	REC Resources
Bruce Bugbee	American Lands

The conference call began at 10:00 AM. Andy Welch confirmed participants on the conference line and reviewed the agenda.

Jeff Frost reviewed 2016 whitewater conditions. Some water spilled over Mystic Dam in early July, which created a few days of naturally-occurring boating opportunities, but a rapid decline in creek flow didn't allow any weekend releases.

Deb Mullowney reviewed the Mystic reservoir elevations and runoff forecasts:

- Today's lake elevation is ~7659 ft. (about 15 feet below full pool, ~11 feet below start of spill). Lake elevation can be viewed at:
<http://www.mysticlakeproject.com/whitewater.php>
- NRCS June and July Volume Runoff forecast is 115% of normal
- Inflows: 800 cfs
- Spill will most likely occur in late June.

Jeff Frost reviewed the whitewater release protocol; nothing has changed from 2016. The protocol can be found at: <http://www.mysticlakeproject.com/pdf2014/PROTOCOL-for-WRC-Whitewater-Flow-Enhancement-2014-NWE.pdf>

Discussion of efforts to increase paddler knowledge about spread of invasive species followed. The state of MT Fish, Wildlife, and Parks who manage aquatic invasive species (AIS) generally target motorized boaters. There could be some value to target non-motorized boaters such as kayakers. The group discussed effective ways to communicate to non-motorized community about all AIS, not just mussels.

The group discussed the presence of AIS in West Rosebud Creek. There are not any documented AIS in West Rosebud. Ken Frazer stated PKD has not been tested for in West Rosebud but was found downstream in the Stillwater River.

Kevin Colburn mentioned the use of paddling community websites and social media in getting the word out, and offered further assistance. Jeff Gildehaus and Clint Sestrich said they would work together to develop consistent messaging and the Forest would place informational signage at the put-in at the outlet of Emerald Lake.

Mary Broache let the group know she had some flyers available for distribution and that DNRC is proactive with the programs they manage.

With no additional information, questions, or comments from the group, the conference call ended at 10:30 AM.