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[Home](#)
[Meetings & Announcements](#)
[Minutes](#)
[Irrigation](#)
[Culture](#)
[Lake Elevation](#)
[Releases](#)
[Links](#)
[Photos](#)

MCPHEE RESERVOIR WATER YEAR 2008 OPERATING PLAN

"This data is provisional and subject to change due to Dolores river inflow, future precipitation, weather patterns, fill and spill criteria, and user demand."

2008 Forecasted Spill

Dolores River Below McPhee Reservoir (updated 4-10-08)

Releases will remain at 800 cfs through Sunday night, April 13, 2008, after which, flows will be decreased to 500 cfs by Tuesday to facilitate Department of Wildlife fish surveys. Flows will start increasing Thursday night, April 17 and should be back at 800 cfs by late Friday night and hold through the weekend. Next week's flows will remain at a minimum of 800 cfs and **may** rise upwards to a maximum 1500 cfs in anticipation of increased runoff based on new forecast data. The most current flows are available at Department of Water Resources site, Dolores gage below McPhee. <http://www.dwr.state.co.us>. Lack of new snowfall and winds have lowered the official forecasted run off by 10%, but new snow recorded this week. Please review current seasonal forecast below.

April 1-30 – Rafting flows of 800-1500cfs are anticipated throughout the month except that flows will be reduced to 500cfs from April 14-18 to facilitate fish surveys.

May 1-31 - It is anticipated the flows will range between 800cfs and 2,000cfs in the first half of May and increase to a peak of 3,000-4000cfs in the third week of May. An attempt will be made to keep flows in the 2,000-2,500 cfs range over Memorial Day. Flows could remain as high as 2,000-3,000cfs in the last week of May. These peaks could vary in timing, duration and size depending on the weather.

June 1-30 – As the time approaches where irrigation and municipal demand are equal to or exceed inflow to the Reservoir, the spill will be brought to a close. The goal is to ramp down flows at an average rate of about 100cfs per day, but the tail end of the spill is difficult to manage and may require more abrupt down-ramping, so please plan accordingly. The spill is scheduled to end on approximately June 30.

NOTE: Release estimates are approximate and updates will be made available based on emerging weather conditions, in-flow rates and reservoir levels. Future weekly updates will be available at this site.

For additional information about rafting on the Dolores River call the Dolores District, San Juan Public lands at 882-7296 or 882-7297

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