

Notification:

Diamond Fork River & Sixth Water Creek

October 2, 2018

Winter 2018-2019 Flows

During the summer of 2018, releases through the Strawberry Tunnel have been set at approximately 20 cubic feet per second (cfs) resulting in about 25 cfs at the Sixth Water USGS gauging station and approximately 50-60 cfs at Monks Hollow on Diamond Fork River. **For the winter of 2018-2019, the Joint Lead Agencies (JLAs) will operate the Strawberry Tunnel releases such that flows in upper Sixth Water Creek between Strawberry Tunnel outlet and Sixth Water Flow Control Structure would continue to be approximately 25 cfs. With expected natural flow gains the resulting flows on lower Diamond Fork River near Monks Hollow would be approximately 35-40 cfs.**

As with the past three winters, these releases will result in lower-than-typical flows on lower Diamond Fork. The change to the winter 2018-2019 flow release pattern is expected to occur in late October, 2018.

	Average Winter 2017-2018 Flows	Average Summer 2018 Flows	Proposed Approximate Winter 2018-2019 Flows
Diamond Fork (near Monk's Hollow)	42 cfs October-April	56 cfs May-present	35-40 cfs late Oct.-late April
Sixth Water (at Strawberry Tunnel)	27 cfs October-April	25 cfs May-present	25 cfs late Oct.- late April

Background

The Central Utah Water Conservancy District (District), the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission (Mitigation Commission), and the United States Department of the Interior, Central Utah Project Completion Act Office (CUCPA Office), as JLAs, have determined that the winter instream flows for Diamond Fork River can no longer be delivered from the Sixth Water Flow Control Structure. The JLAs have entered into an agreement with Utah State University (USU) to complete scientific studies over the course of several years on the Diamond Fork River and Sixth Water Creek systems to help identify the desired flow regimes.

A Categorical Exclusion Checklist was signed on October 1, 2015 to allow for flows to be experimentally altered from the legislated minimums during the study period and as decisions about possible changes to required instream flows are considered. A draft of the USU study report is anticipated to be complete in October 2018.

Questions regarding the studies or flow changes may be directed to Melissa Stamp at mstamp@usbr.gov or 801-524-3146. Additional information about this project can be found at diamondfork.cuwcd.com.