

# FT PECK FLOWS

## Public Scoping Meetings

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February 2019



*"The views, opinions and findings contained in this report are those of the author(s) and should not be construed as an official Department of the Army position, policy or decision, unless so designated by other official documentation."*



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FOUO/FOR DISCUSSION

# FT PECK NEPA FLOWCHART 1 February 2019

**WE ARE HERE** →



**ENGAGEMENTS**

- 1 Feb – Scoping webinar
- 12 Feb – Navigators Mtg
- 25 Feb – HC Discussion at AM Wkshp
- TBD – Hydropower discussion
- TBD – Fish WG webinar on Alts
- Apr – Webinar on results of scoping
- May – Update at MRRIC Plenary

**45-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

**GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION WITH TRIBES**  
(on Draft and Final)



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# SCOPING

Purpose of Scoping: Public comments are invited to assist in identifying the scope of potentially affected environmental, social, and economic issues relevant to the proposed Federal action and determining reasonable alternatives to be considered in the EIS.

Dates: NOI issued on Feb 8<sup>th</sup>. Scoping period will run from Feb 8<sup>th</sup>-March 11<sup>th</sup>

Public Meetings: Feb 19<sup>th</sup> in Ft Peck, MT and Feb 20<sup>th</sup> in Williston, ND

Tribal Meeting: 20 Feb with Ft Peck Tribe. Others available upon request

No specific cooperating agency meetings – working through MRRIC



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# SCOPING

Scoping comments can be provided at the in-person scoping meetings or can be emailed to:

[cenwo-planning@usace.army.mil](mailto:cenwo-planning@usace.army.mil)

Scoping comments can also be mailed to:  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District  
ATTN: CENWO-PM-AC- Fort Peck EIS  
1616 Capitol Avenue  
Omaha, NE 68102



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# BACKGROUND

- USACE has responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the Missouri River Mainstem Reservoir System
- System supports eight Congressionally authorized purposes (flood control, navigation, irrigation, hydropower, water supply, water quality, recreation, and fish and wildlife)
- Operation of the System affects the endangered pallid sturgeon by altering the hydrologic, geomorphic and temperature regimes of the river, among other things

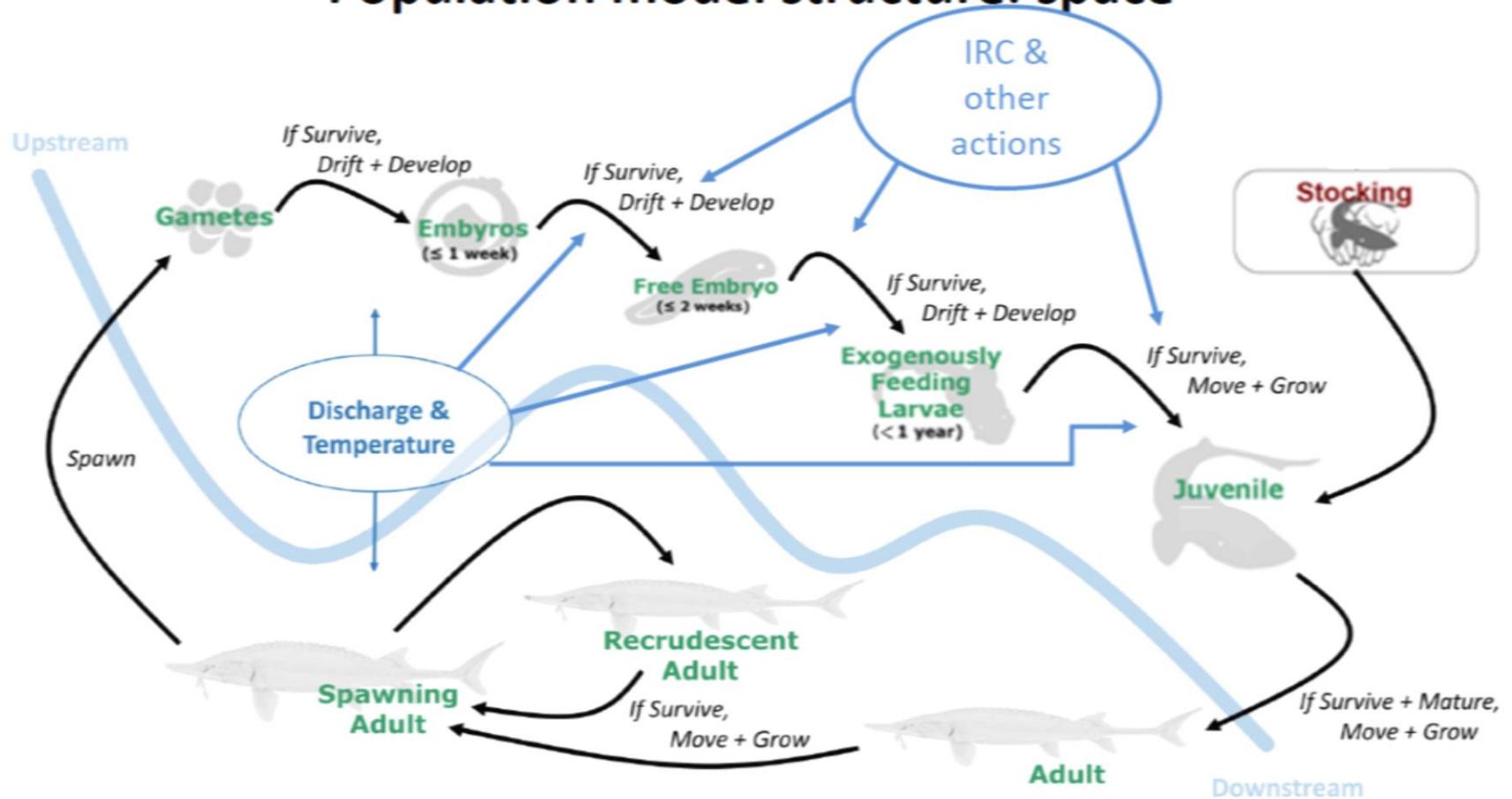


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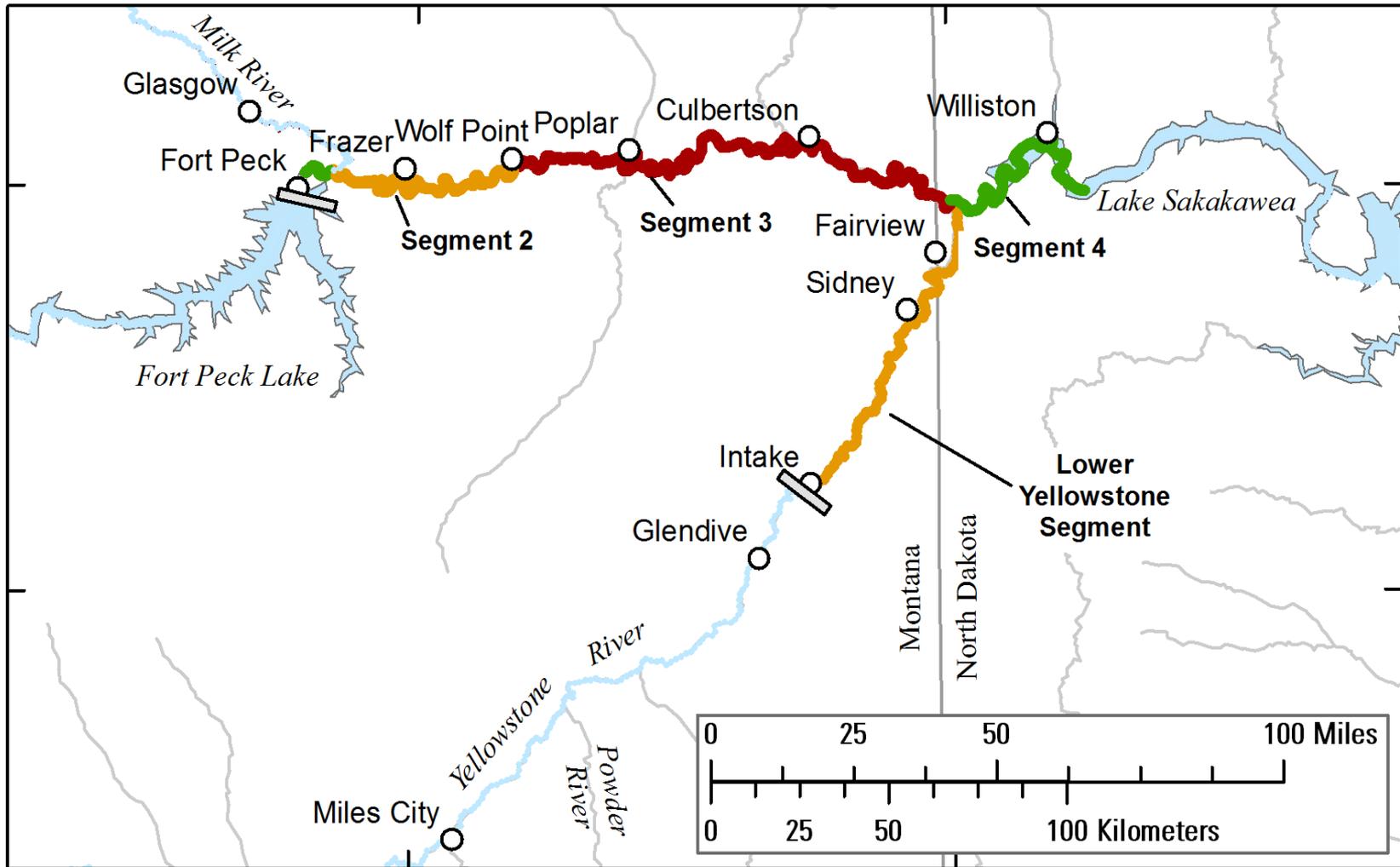


# Projections from Population Model (4)

## Population model structure: space



# BACKGROUND



Source: U.S.G.S. digital basemap data  
Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 15

or Engineer



# ESA CONSULTATION

- As part of consultation on Operation of the Missouri River Mainstem Reservoir System the Corps amended it's proposed action in the Biological Assessment (BA) to include an alternate hydrograph from Ft Peck to benefit pallid sturgeon recruitment
- Based on the proposed action in the BA, USFWS issued a "No Jeopardy" opinion in April 2018



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# PURPOSE AND NEED

Purpose: Assess test flows out of Ft Peck Dam related to pallid sturgeon recruitment while accounting for conditions on the Yellowstone River.

- Pursuant to the BiOp, there is a need to prioritize hypotheses related to flows out of Fort Peck Dam....

There are other actions that would need NEPA. Would recommend to move forward with coverage of the flows and move into the next priorities once that's completed.



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# OBJECTIVES

- Investigate the capacity of Ft Peck flow releases to test hypotheses related to the ability to attract pallid sturgeon migration up the Missouri River
  - Investigate the capacity of Ft Peck flow releases to test hypotheses related to the ability to retain pallid sturgeon in a location suitable on the Missouri River
  - Investigate the capacity of Ft Peck flow releases to test hypotheses related to the ability to aggregate pallid sturgeon resulting in spawning in the Missouri River
  - Investigate the capacity of Ft Peck flow releases to test hypotheses related to the ability to affect pallid sturgeon drift in the Missouri River
- Decision to implement would always take into account what is happening on the Yellowstone and the context of the status of the species

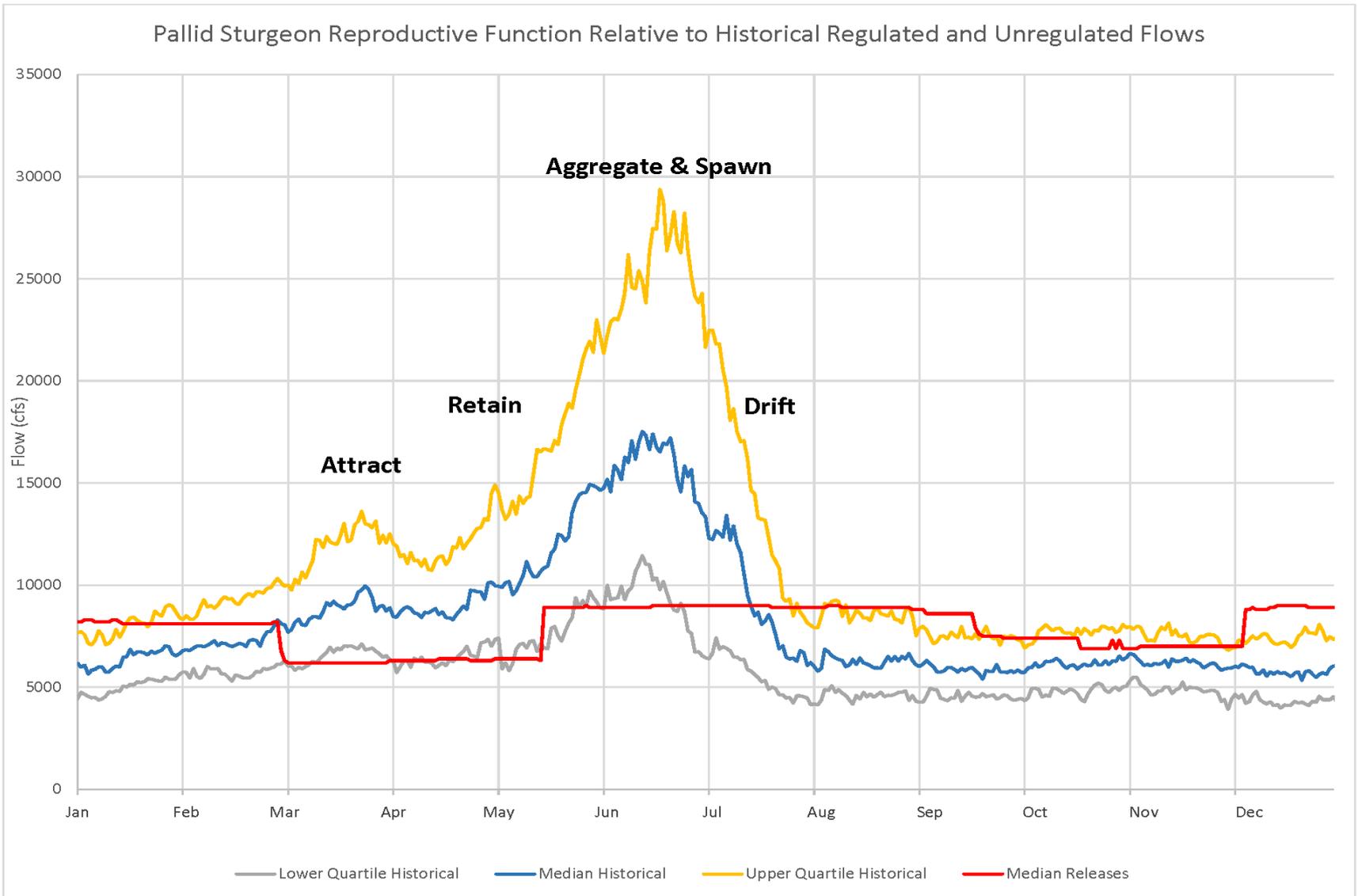


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# OVERVIEW

## Hydrograph components



# ALTERNATIVES

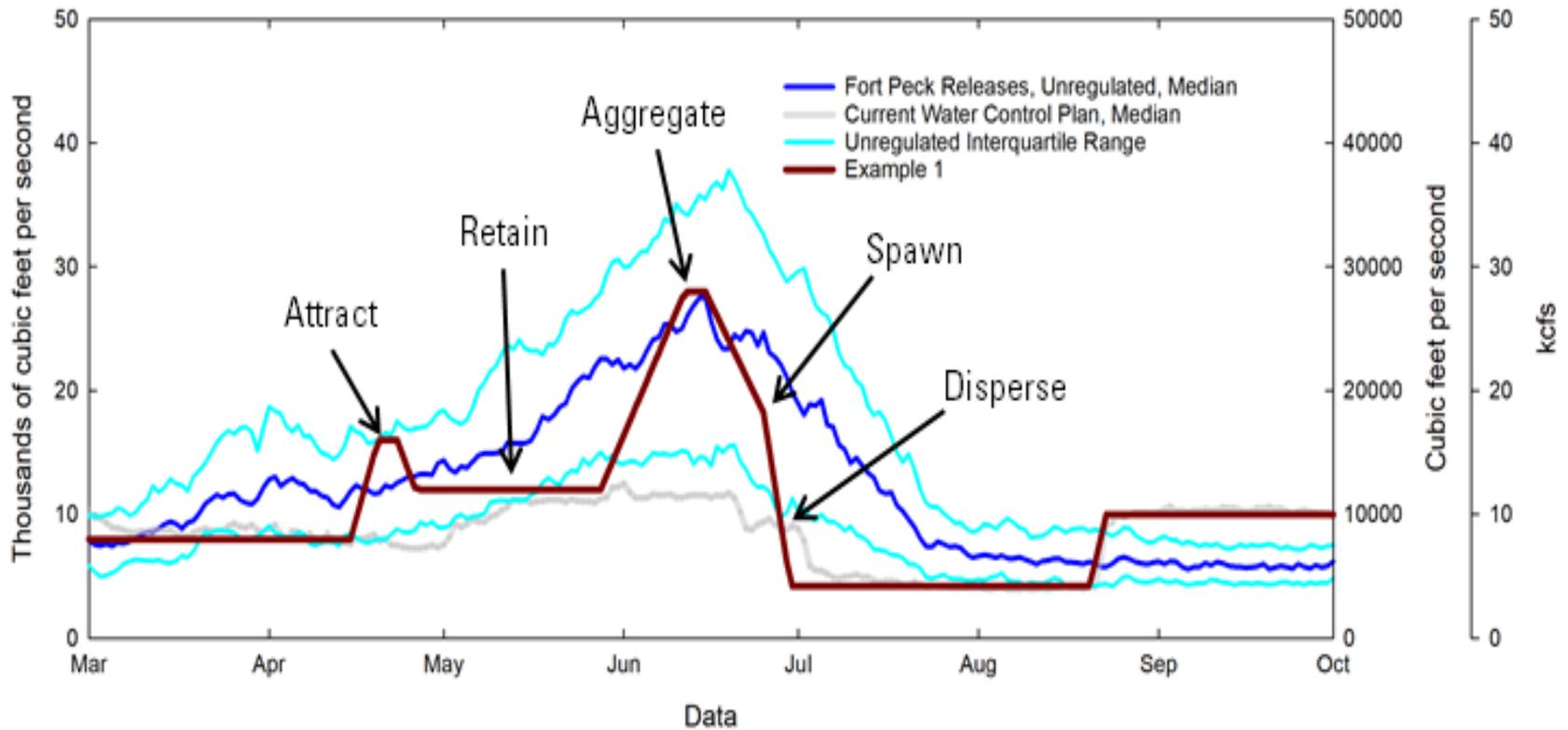
- To date, 2 existing hydrographs have been developed
- Will evaluate a low flow only alternative
- Work with WGs on potential additional alt(s)
- Additional alt(s) may be received through scoping



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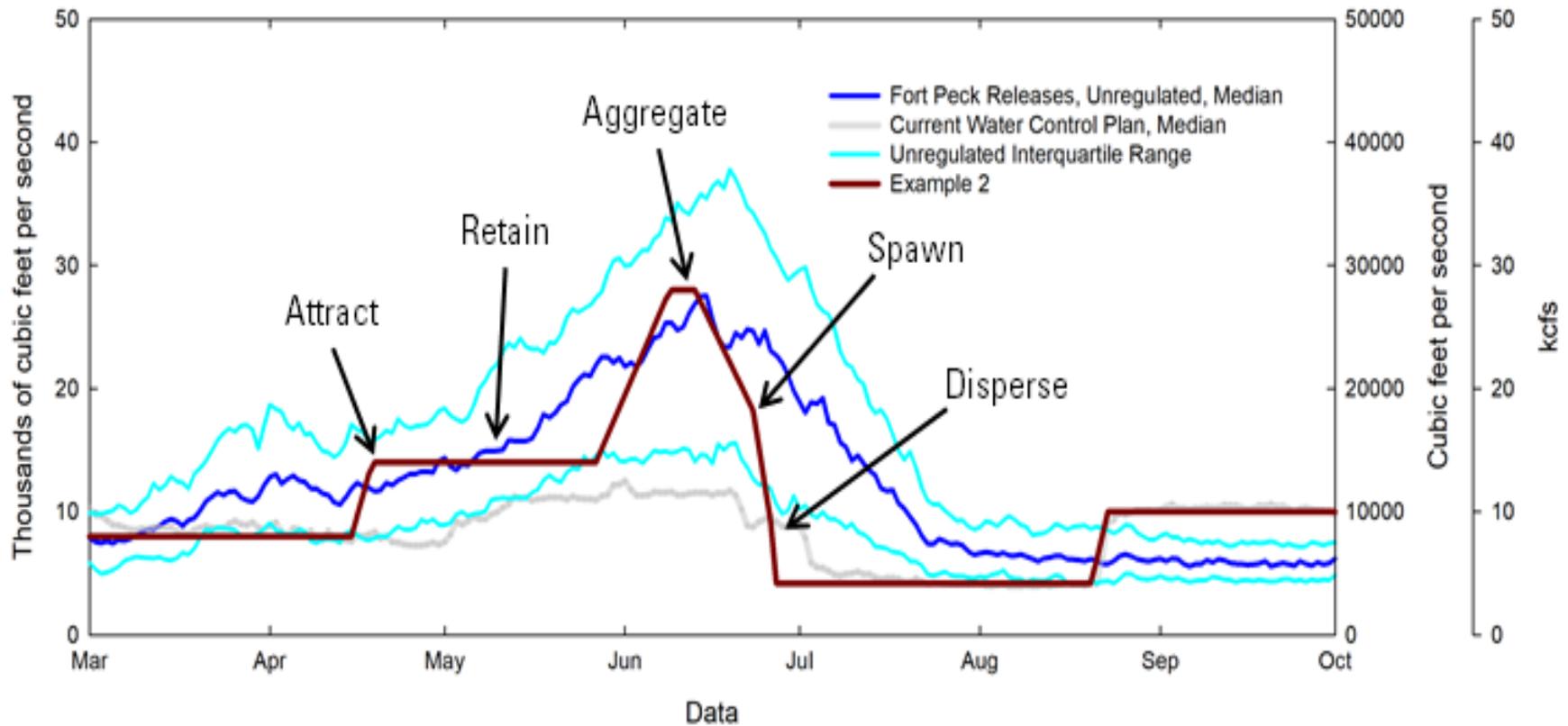
# TEST HYDROGRAPHS



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# TEST HYDROGRAPHS



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# POTENTIAL RESOURCES AFFECTED

- Hydropower
- Flood Risk – will utilize flood targets at Williston, Culbertson and Wolf Point
- Cultural Resources - Max release ROC of 3,000 cfs per day (bank erosion)
- Tribal Interests
- Fish and Wildlife
- Recreation
- Water Supply - Set a 3,000 cfs flow target (not release)
- Irrigation
- Water Quality/Temperature
- Environmental Justice
- River Processes



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# IMPLEMENTATION TIMING

- Need to have additional discussion on how to set the timing to coordinate with the AM requirements for Intake. Work with FWS and Reclamation.



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