



MICHELLE NAUER  
LYNN PADGETT  
JAKE NIECE

## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

541 4<sup>th</sup> Street • P.O. Box C • Ouray, Colorado 81427 • 970-325-7320 • FAX: 970-325-0452

February 27, 2024

United States Forest Service  
Attn: Lindsey Binder, Lands and Minerals Specialist  
2505 South Townsend  
Montrose, CO 81401  
Via email: [lindsey.binder@usda.gov](mailto:lindsey.binder@usda.gov)

RE: Stakeholder Comments - Full Moon / Crystal Reservoir Dam "*Significant Hazard Dam*"

Dear GMUG Responsible Officials,

Ouray County received and reviewed the "Dear Stakeholder" dated January 29, 2004, regarding U.S. Forest Service concerns regarding "Crystal Reservoir Dam", located in Section 29, T. 43 N., R. 7 W., of Ouray County. We appreciate having USFS Lands and Minerals Specialist Lindsey Binder join us on February 21 for our Board work session to describe the opportunity for input for this "pre-scoping" process.

During our work session, which was also attended by Silas Clarke, Ouray City Administrator, we learned that there are differences in terminology and understanding regarding the hazard classification rating and the condition of the dam and that the hazard classification and dam condition have potential impacts on public safety.

USFS indicated in our work session, that because of the hazard classification, USFS will not let a "third party" operate or repair the dam, but a transfer of ownership can be considered under one or more of the land disposal authorities of the USFS.

We received comments and communications from the City of Ouray regarding this topic, including the February 2, 2024, letter from Jason Ward, P.E., Design Review and Dam Safety Engineer, for the Colorado Division of Water Resources (CDWR), Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Colorado, Dam Safety, which appears to clarify and correct the stakeholder letter.

The clarifications to the USFS January 29, 2024 Stakeholder letter provided by Jason Ward and CDWR include:

- The official name of the structure in the State Engineer and the National Inventory of Dams (NID) is **FULL MOON DAM (aka CRYSTAL) DAMID 680105 Water Division 4, Water District 68**.
- The State Engineer and the NID both list Full Moon dam, NID ID CO00306, as having a **High Hazard** Potential Classification: <https://nid.sec.usace.army.mil/#/dams/system/CO00306/inspections>
- Full Moon Dam's hazard potential classification is categorized based on criteria in the **Forest Service Manual 7500 Water Storage and Transmission (2000)**.
- The State Engineer has the authority under Colorado Revised Statute 37-87-107, to determine amount of water which is safe to impound on all dams within the state of Colorado. The State Engineer's office now plans to conduct an inspection of Full Moon dam for the purpose of collaboration with the USFS planned headgate release and to ensure the State Engineer office reviews and establishes the safe storage level for this structure. The State Engineer's office indicated they will inform and invite the regional District Ranger and Land and Minerals Staff when that inspection is scheduled.

CDWR suggested that USFS:

1. Involve the USFS Region 2 Dam Safety Engineer in this planning process.
2. Ensuring that alternatives evaluations meet the minimum High Hazard dam criteria set forth in the State of Colorado's Rules and Regulations for Dam Safety and Dam Construction (January 1, 2020).

Silas Clarke, Administrator, City of Ouray, shared the City's immediate concerns:

- The City of Ouray has water storage rights within Crystal Reservoir and an Operations & Maintenance agreement with the USFS for the storage of the City's water. The USFS is trying to unilaterally update the Operations & Maintenance agreement, which is not allowable per the agreement, for our water storage rights within the reservoir.

The Board of County Commissioners witnessed tension and differences of opinion between the USFS and City of Ouray around prior communication and details of City's water rights expressed during our work session. We understand from Silas that both the City of Ouray and CDWR are requesting separate meetings with the USFS.

The information shared by the USFS, City of Ouray, and the provided CDWR letter, highlighted a lack of clarity and agreement as to the name of the dam, hazard classification of the dam, rating system used to determine hazard classification, vintage of information being relied on by the USFS, and current condition of the dam.

USFS's stakeholder letter says, "the dam is in poor condition due a long shallow crack along the dam centerline." However, a USFS inspection form dated August 14, 2023, notes, "*The dam crest has sections of low spots and shows signs of heavy trail use across the dam. In the Spring of 23, a 75-100' long crack was noted along the dam crest. During this time the dam was saturated with spring runoff and snow melt. The dam was dry during the August inspection and the crack was not visible.*"

In the spirit of providing feedback to the USFS that could be helpful to the USFS as it develops its course of action, we request:

1. At your earliest opportunity, please share the Full Moon aka Crystal Dam O&M Plan(s); O&M inspection reports; EAP Plan(s).
2. A copy of the USFS dam guidance or policy that was referenced in the stakeholder letter.
3. Scheduling an additional work session and dam site visit with the USFS Region 2 Dam Safety Engineer, Ouray District Ranger or GMUG Forest Supervisor, and the Board of County Commissioners prior to dewatering or this summer, whichever comes first. We anticipate inviting the City of Ouray and CDWR officials to the work session.
4. USFS review the July 2023 official final flood hazard determinations regarding the Preliminary Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report and Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for Ouray and Ouray County, to identify if these revisions change the potentially affected areas or structures in the case of a dam breach.
5. USFS incorporate CDWR's suggestions:
  - a. Involve the USFS Region 2 Dam Safety Engineer in this planning process.
  - b. Ensuring that alternative evaluations meet the minimum High Hazard dam criteria set forth in the State of Colorado's Rules and Regulations for Dam Safety and Dam Construction (January 1, 2020).
6. USFS perform an EIS which incorporates alternatives that allow for:
  - a. protection of the City of Ouray's water rights;
  - b. transfer of ownership of Full Moon Dam, aka Crystal and Crystal Reservoir to a local government;
  - c. dam repair or improvement;
  - d. incorporation of grid-tied hydroelectricity generation;
  - e. incorporation of the project components designed by the USFS in 2012: ADA-accessible fishing pier to be located in the northeast corner of the reservoir to improve angler access to the reservoir as well as provide additional access for other forms of recreation common at the site, including hiking and landscape photography;
  - f. analysis of socio-economic impacts to Ouray, Ridgway, Silverton, Ouray, and San Juan Counties from the potential loss of scenic resources and outdoor recreation opportunities currently provided by Crystal Reservoir, which lies adjacent to U.S. 550 and is within the San Juan Skyway Scenic Byway corridor.

- g. Full ecosystem restoration to pre-reservoir conditions (including planting native vegetation and preventing noxious or invasive species) if Crystal Reservoir is lowered or drained and/or if Full Moon Dam is removed.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposal and we look forward to future collaboration on this matter.

Sincerely,

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Michelle Nauer, Chair

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Lynn M. Padgett, Vice-Chair

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Jake Niece, Member

cc: Silas Clarke, City of Ouray Administrator  
Jason Ward, P.E. Design Review and Dam Safety Engineer, Division of Water Resources

Enc: City of Ouray Email dated 2-16-2024, O&M Inspection Report and DWR Letter to USFS dated 2-2-2024



Hannah Hollenbeck &lt;hhollenbeck@ourayco.gov&gt;

## Crystal Reservoir (Full Moon Dam) Concerns for Work Session

3 messages

**Silas Clarke** <sclarke@cityofouray.com>

Fri, Feb 16, 2024 at 3:19 PM

To: Connie Hunt <chunt@ourayco.gov>, Leo Caselli <lcaselli@ouraycountyco.gov>, Hannah Hollenbeck <hhollenbeck@ourayco.gov>

Ouray County Commissioners (Blind copied),

This email is being sent after my conversation today with the County Administrator and her recommendation that I send this to each of you directly.

I was notified of the County Work Session agenda item concerning Crystal Reservoir (Full Moon Dam) and wanted to add some additional information since this discussion by the USFS may be premature. The City of Ouray has water storage rights within Crystal Reservoir and an Operations & Maintenance agreement with the USFS for the storage of the City's water. The USFS is trying to unilaterally update the Operations & Maintenance agreement, which is not allowable per the agreement, for our water storage rights within the reservoir.

For you information, I have included the following documents:

- 1) Stakeholder Letter from the USFS dated Jan. 29, 2024 (Letter County received);
- 2) O&M Inspection Report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture dated August 14, 2023; and,
- 3) Letter from the Colorado Division of Water Resources dated Feb. 2, 2024 to the USFS illustrating errors in their "Stakeholder Letter" and a request for corrections to be made. (The City of Ouray was provided a copy of this letter through our Water Engineer on Feb. 13, 2024).

Due to these presented issues, the City and the Colorado Division of Water Resources have requested separate meetings with the USFS to create a better understanding of the intentions for Crystal Reservoir. I fully realize the agendas for your Work Session have been distributed by the County staff, however I wanted to make you aware of these developing issues that may make this conversation premature.

The City of Ouray has a Council Work Session for the Parks Strategic Plan at the same time as your Work Session on Tuesday. If this remains on your agenda, I will try to step out of the City Council Work Session to join your meeting.

Have a good weekend,



[Sign-up for Monthly Digital Newsletters](#)

**Silas Clarke, MPA, ICMA-CM**  
City Administrator

P | 970.325.7060  
E | [SClarke@cityofouray.com](mailto:SClarke@cityofouray.com)  
City of Ouray  
P.O. Box 468 | 320 6<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Ouray, CO 81427

### 3 attachments

- FULL\_MOON\_680105\_SEO\_Response-to-Stakeholder-letter\_02-02-2024 (2).pdf**  
287K
- FULL\_MOON\_680105\_2023 USFS Crystal OM Inspection.pdf**  
19191K
- Stakeholder Letter\_Final (1).pdf**  
249K

**Connie Hunt** <chunt@ourayco.gov>  
To: Hannah Hollenbeck <hhollenbeck@ourayco.gov>

Mon, Feb 19, 2024 at 9:11 AM

Hi Hannah. Would you please add Silas's attachments to the agenda packet for the 20th work session on this item?

Thank you.




**Connie I. Hunt, MPA**  
**Ouray County Manager**  
**P. O. Box C**  
**Ouray, CO 81427**  
**970-325-7263 - office**  
**970-318-6195 - cell**

\* **Please note my new email address:** [chunt@ourayco.gov](mailto:chunt@ourayco.gov)

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**3 attachments**

-  **FULL\_MOON\_680105\_SEO\_Response-to-Stakeholder-letter\_02-02-2024 (2).pdf**  
287K
-  **FULL\_MOON\_680105\_2023 USFS Crystal OM Inspection.pdf**  
19191K
-  **Stakeholder Letter\_Final (1).pdf**  
249K

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**Hannah Hollenbeck** <hhollenbeck@ourayco.gov>  
To: Connie Hunt <chunt@ourayco.gov>

Tue, Feb 20, 2024 at 7:25 AM

Done.

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Hannah Hollenbeck  
Administrative Specialist

Please note my new email address: [hhollenbeck@ourayco.gov](mailto:hhollenbeck@ourayco.gov)

(970)325-7320 - Office  
(970)318-9447 - Cell  
Ouray County  
PO Box C, 541 4th Street  
Ouray, CO 81427

**O&M INSPECTION REPORT**  
**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
**FOREST SERVICE**

Any questions contact:

**DAM NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DAM ID:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DAM NID:** \_\_\_\_\_

**HAZARD CLASS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DAM LOCATION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**FS REGION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**FOREST:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STRUCTURE TYPE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DRAINAGE AREA:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE OF INSPECTION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**INSPECTOR NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**INSPECTOR TITLE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN (EAP):**     YES     NO

**O&M PLANS REVIEWED DURING THIS INSPECTION:**     YES     NO

**NOTES (include current work/contracts underway, climate conditions on day of inspection, reservoir elevation, recent relevant history...etc.):**

## **DAM UPSTREAM SLOPE**

### **PROBLEMS NOTED:**

- 1)  NONE
- 2)  RIPRAP – MISSING, SPARSE, DISPLACED, WEATHERED
- 3)  WAVE EROSION – WITH SCARPS
- 4)  CRACKS WITH DISPLACEMENT
- 5)  SINKHOLE
- 6)  APPEARS TOO STEEP
- 7)  DEPRESSIONS OR BULGES
- 8)  SLIDES
- 9)  CONCRETE FACING – HOLES, CRACKS, DISPLACED, UNDERMINED
- 10)  OTHER

### **OVERALL CONDITION OF UPSTREAM SLOPE:**

- Satisfactory  Fair  Poor  Unsatisfactory

## **DAM CREST**

### **PROBLEMS NOTED:**

- 10)  NONE
- 11)  RUTS OR PUDDLES
- 12)  EROSION
- 13)  CRACKS – WITH DISPLACEMENT
- 14)  SINKHOLES
- 15)  NOT WIDE ENOUGH
- 16)  LOW AREA
- 17)  MISALIGNMENT
- 18)  IMPROPER SURFACE DRAINAGE
- 19)  OTHER

### **OVERALL CONDITION OF DAM CREST:**

- Satisfactory  Fair  Poor  Unsatisfactory

## **DAM DOWNSTREAM SLOPE**

### **PROBLEMS NOTED:**

- 20)  NONE
- 21)  LIVESTOCK DAMAGE
- 22)  EROSION OR GULLIES
- 23)  CRACKS – WITH DISPLACEMENT
- 24)  SINKHOLE
- 25)  APPEARS TOO STEEP
- 26)  DEPRSSIONS OR BULGES
- 27)  SLIDE
- 28)  SOFT AREAS
- 29)  OTHER

### **OVERALL CONDITION OF DOWNSTREAM SLOPE:**

- Satisfactory  Fair  Poor  Unsatisfactory

## SEEPAGE - THROUGH (Downstream Face), UNDER (Downstream Dam Toe), AROUND ABUTMENTS

### PROBLEMS NOTED:

- 30)  NONE
- 31)  SATURATED EMBANKMENT AREA
- 32)  SEEPAGE EXITS ON EMBANKMENT
- 33)  SEEPAGE EXITS AT POINT SOURCE
- 34)  SEEPAGE AREA AT TOE
- 35)  FLOW ADJACENT TO OUTLET
- 36)  SEEPAGE INCREASED/ MUDDY

The downstream face of the dam needs to have vegetation cleared so monitoring slope conditions and seepage could be done more effectively. Seepage was measured at a rate of 13 oz in 35 seconds and appeared to be clear.

**DRAIN OUTFALLS SEEN:**  NO  YES Show location of drains on sketch and indicate amount and quality of discharge.

- 37)  FLOW INCREASED/ MUDDY
- 38)  DRAIN DRY/ OBSTRUCTED
- 39)  OTHER

### OVERALL CONDITION OF DAM SEEPAGE REGIMEN:

Satisfactory  Fair  Poor  Unsatisfactory

## DAM OUTLET WORKS

### PROBLEMS NOTED:

- 40)  NONE
- 41)  NO OUTLET FOUND
- 42)  POOR OPERATING ACCESS
- 43)  INOPERABLE
- 44)  UPSTREAM OR DOWNSTREAM STRUCTURE DETERIORATED
- 45)  OUTLET OPERATED DURNING INSPECTION **YES**  **NO**

**OUTFALL PIPE INTERIOR INSPECTED:** YES  NO

- 46)  CONDUIT DETERIORATED OR COLLAPSED
- 47)  JOINTS DISPLACED
- 48)  VALVE LEAKAGE
- 49)  OTHER

### OVERALL CONDITION OF DAM OUTLET WORKS:

Satisfactory  Fair  Poor  Unsatisfactory

## DAM SPILLWAYS - PRIMARY AND AUXILLARY/EMERGENCY

### PROBLEMS NOTED:

- 50)  NONE
- 51)  NO EMERGENCY SPILLWAY FOUND
- 52)  EROSION WITH BACKCUTTING
- 53)  CRACKS – WITH DISPLACEMENT
- 54)  APPEARS TO BE STRUCTURALLY INADEQUATE
- 55)  APPEARS TOO SMALL

- 56)  INADEQUATE FREEBOARD
- 57)  FLOW OBSTRUCTED
- 58)  CONCRETE DETERIORATED/UNDERMINED
- 59)  OTHER

**OVERALL CONDITION OF SPILLWAYS:**

- Satisfactory  Fair  Poor  Unsatisfactory

**MONITORING**

**EXISTING INSTRUMENTATION FOUND:**

- 60)  NONE
- 61)  GAGE ROD
- 62)  PIEZOMETERS
- 63)  SEEPAGE WEIRS/ FLUMES
- 64)  SURVEY MONUMENTS
- 65)  OTHER

**MONITORING OF INSTRUMENTATION: YES  NO**

**PERIODIC INSPECTIONS BY: OWNER  ENGINEER**

**LEVEL OF MONITORING VS LEVEL OF MONITORING THAT SHOULD BE OCCURRING:**

- Satisfactory  Fair  Poor  Unsatisfactory

**MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS**

**PROBLEMS NOTED:**

- 66)  NONE
- 67)  ACCESS ROAD NEEDS MAINTENANCE
- 68)  CATTLE DAMAGE
- 69)  BRUSH ON UPSTREAM SLOPE, CREST, DOWNSTREAM SLOPE, TOE
- 70)  DETERIORATED CONCRETE – FACING, OUTLET, SPILLWAY
- 71)  GATE AND OPERATING MECHANISM NEED MAINTENANCE
- 72)  OTHER

**OVERALL LEVEL OF MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS:**

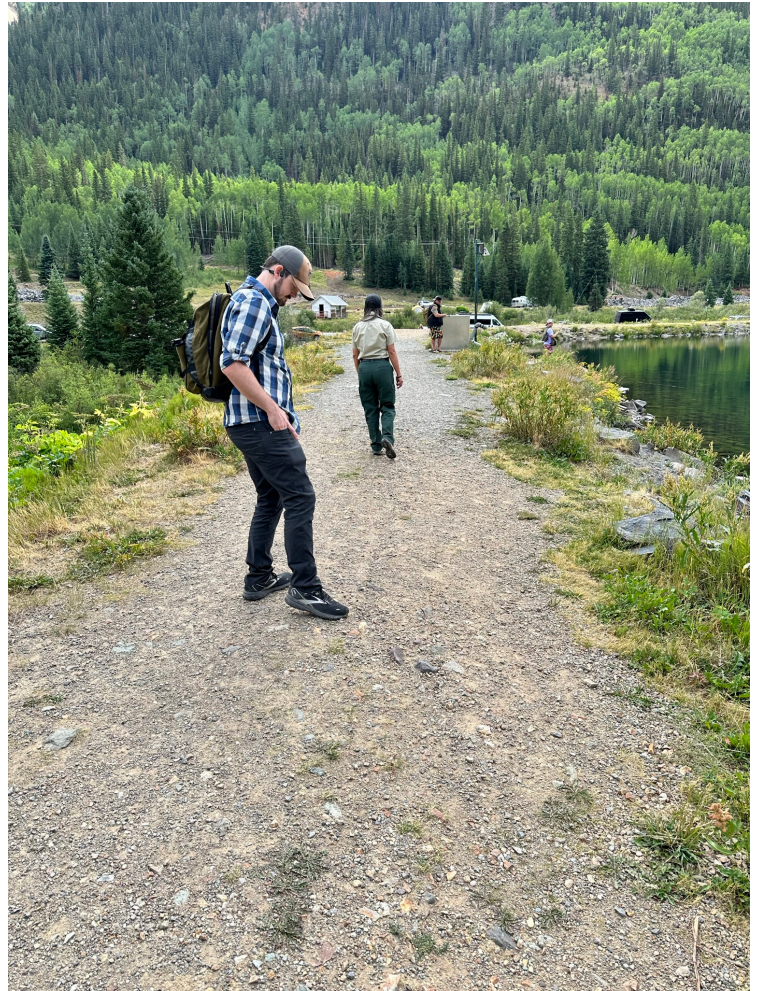
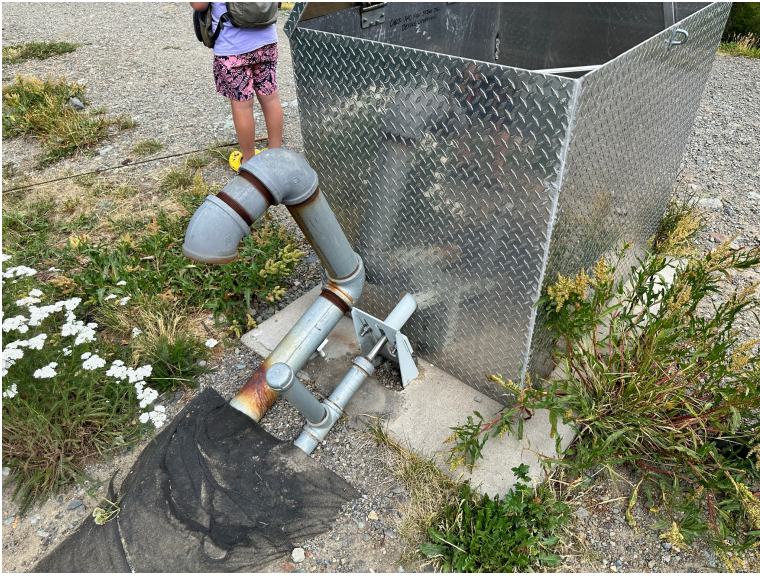
- Satisfactory  Fair  Poor  Unsatisfactory

**OVERALL CONDITION OF DAM USING NID RATING SYSTEM**

**Based on this Safety Inspection and recent file review, the overall condition is determined to be:**

- SATISFACTORY  FAIR  Poor  UNSATISFACTORY













February 2, 2024

Ms. Lindsey Binder  
Lands and Mineral Staff  
Forest Service, GMUG  
2505 S. Townsend Ave.  
Montrose, CO 81401  
via email: [lindsey.binder@usda.gov](mailto:lindsey.binder@usda.gov)

When replying, please refer to:  
**FULL MOON DAM (aka CRYSTAL)**  
**DAMID 680105**  
**Water Division 4, Water District 68**

**SUBJECT:** Stakeholder Feedback - Dam Safety Specific

Dear Ms. Binder,

Our office is in receipt of the stakeholder letter from District Ranger Dana Gardunio dated January 29, 2024, concerning an interim stage restriction and alternatives analysis for the subject dam. We have reviewed the letter and have several requests and comments for your consideration:

- As a matter of clarification, the State Engineer and the National Inventory of Dams (NID) identifies the official name of this structure as Full Moon Dam with an aka name of Crystal Dam.
- Our office found the following errors in the stakeholder letter:
  - The letter incorrectly states the dam is identified in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' National Inventory of Dams as a *Significant Hazard Dam*. The State Engineer and the NID both list Full Moon dam, NID ID CO00306, as having a *High Hazard Potential Classification*: <https://nid.sec.usace.army.mil/#/dams/system/CO00306/inspections>. The High Hazard classification rating is supported in Section 8.3 of the report enclosed with the stakeholder letter.
  - The letter incorrectly states that the hazard rating is based on the "State of Colorado Dam Safety Rules and Regulations". While the definitions are similar, the report enclosed with the stakeholder letter clearly states the hazard potential classification is categorized based on criteria in *Forest Service Manual 7500 Water Storage and Transmission (2000)*.
  - Our office asks that these corrections be made known to the stakeholders receiving this letter.
- It is our understanding the dam underwent a major reconstruction project in 2016 consisting of breach cut and cover replacement of the outlet works, replacement of a spillway pipe at the left abutment, placement of riprap on the upstream slope, placement of erosion control on the downstream slope, and crest grading. The stakeholder letter states the dam is in poor condition due to a long shallow crack along the centerline of the dam. The NID indicates the dam was inspected on 8/21/2019 but that the Condition Assessment was Not Rated. **Please**



provide a copy of the 2019 and/or most recent inspection of the dam supporting the poor condition rating.

- Under current policy resulting from a 1998 state legislative audit, the State Engineer does not perform routine safety inspections on federally owned dams. However, Colorado Revised Statute 37-87-107 gives the State Engineer the authority to determine amount of water which is safe to impound on all dams within the state of Colorado. **As such, given the High Hazard classification and public safety impact, our office will plan to conduct an inspection of Full Moon dam.** We will inform and invite the regional District Ranger and Land and Minerals Staff when that inspection is scheduled. The intent of the inspection is to allow collaboration with your planned headgate release and ensure our office reviews and establishes the safe storage level for this structure.
- The details surrounding the Hazard classification misunderstanding and the poor condition rating presents concerns that have potential to impact public safety. The High hazard classification impacts both rehabilitation design alternative criteria as well as dam breach criteria. **Please ensure that alternatives evaluations meet the minimum High Hazard dam criteria set forth in the State of Colorado's *Rules and Regulations for Dam Safety and Dam Construction (January 1, 2020)*.** We suggest involving your USFS Region 2 Dam Safety Engineer in this planning process.

Our office offers these comments with the primary goals of meeting the State Engineer's statutory obligations and ensuring the safety of dams in the state of Colorado. We hope that these comments are constructive and we look forward to receiving the requested information and working together as a cooperative government agency.

Respectfully,



Jason Ward, P.E.  
Design Review and Dam Safety Engineer

Encl.: Stakeholder Letter, USFS, Dana Gardunio, January 29, 2024

ec: John Hunyadi, Chief, Colorado Dam Safety Program  
Tracy Kosloff, Acting State Engineer, Director  
Bob Hurford, Division Engineer, Water Division 4  
Evan Jones, Assistant Division Engineer, Water Division 4  
Eric Weig, WD 68 Water Commissioner  
Dana Gardunio, District Ranger, Ouray Ranger District, [dana.gardunio@usda.gov](mailto:dana.gardunio@usda.gov)

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**File Code:** 2700  
**Date:**

Dear Stakeholder,

The Ouray Ranger District of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests (GMUG) is evaluating options to address concerns with Crystal Reservoir Dam, located in Section 29, T. 43 N., R. 7 W., of Ouray County. We are considering actions in accordance with current Forest Service direction, which identifies the need to remove non-hydropower Federal dams or provide dam technical assistance to mitigate public safety concerns and provide ecosystem restoration. As you may be aware, Crystal Reservoir Dam is identified in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' National Inventory of Dams as a "*Significant Hazard Dam*" based on a State of Colorado Dam Safety Rules and Regulations analysis. The classification was "significant" because of the potential for appreciable damage to structures, bridges and infrastructure downstream in Ouray, should a dam break or flood occur.

Additionally, the dam is in poor condition due to a long shallow crack along the dam centerline. To address this situation, the Forest Service is considering an interim stage restriction at the dam to lower the risk by opening the headgate to release water from Crystal Reservoir and subsequently initiating environmental analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to analyze alternatives on how to address the dam itself, including analyzing the removal of the dam and restoration to the area.

As a valued stakeholder, we are looking for your feedback prior to proceeding. If you'd like to provide information that may be helpful as we develop our course of action, please contact Lindsey Binder, Lands and Minerals Specialist, at [lindsey.binder@usda.gov](mailto:lindsey.binder@usda.gov), or 970-318-6516. Your feedback is most helpful if received by Friday, March 1, 2024.

Sincerely,

X

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Dana Gardunio  
District Ranger  
Ouray Ranger District

Encl: Full Moon/Crystal Lake Dam – Final Downstream Inundation Report

Encl: Jason Lawhon, Acting Forest Supervisor; Jim Cuthbertson, Acting Public Services Staff Officer





File Code: 2700  
Date: 1/29/24

Dear Stakeholder,

The Ouray Ranger District of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests (GMUG) is evaluating options to address concerns with Crystal Reservoir Dam, located in Section 29, T. 43 N., R. 7 W., of Ouray County. We are considering actions in accordance with current Forest Service direction, which identifies the need to remove non-hydropower Federal dams or provide dam technical assistance to mitigate public safety concerns and provide ecosystem restoration. As you may be aware, Crystal Reservoir Dam is identified in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' National Inventory of Dams as a "*Significant Hazard Dam*" based on a State of Colorado Dam Safety Rules and Regulations analysis. The classification was "significant" because of the potential for appreciable damage to structures, bridges and infrastructure downstream in Ouray, should a dam break or flood occur.

Additionally, the dam is in poor condition due to a long shallow crack along the dam centerline. To address this situation, the Forest Service is considering an interim stage restriction at the dam to lower the risk by opening the headgate to release water from Crystal Reservoir and subsequently initiating environmental analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to analyze alternatives on how to address the dam itself, including analyzing the removal of the dam and restoration to the area.

As a valued stakeholder, we are looking for your feedback prior to proceeding. If you'd like to provide information that may be helpful as we develop our course of action, please contact Lindsey Binder, Lands and Minerals Specialist, at [lindsey.binder@usda.gov](mailto:lindsey.binder@usda.gov), or 970-318-6516. Your feedback is most helpful if received by Friday, March 1, 2024.

Sincerely,

**DANA**  
**X GARDUNIO**

Digitally signed by DANA GARDUNIO  
Date: 2024.01.29 11:24:58 -0700

Dana Gardunio  
District Ranger  
Ouray Ranger District

Encl: Full Moon/Crystal Lake Dam – Final Downstream Inundation Report

Encl: Jason Lawhon, Acting Forest Supervisor; Jim Cuthbertson, Acting Public Services Staff Officer

