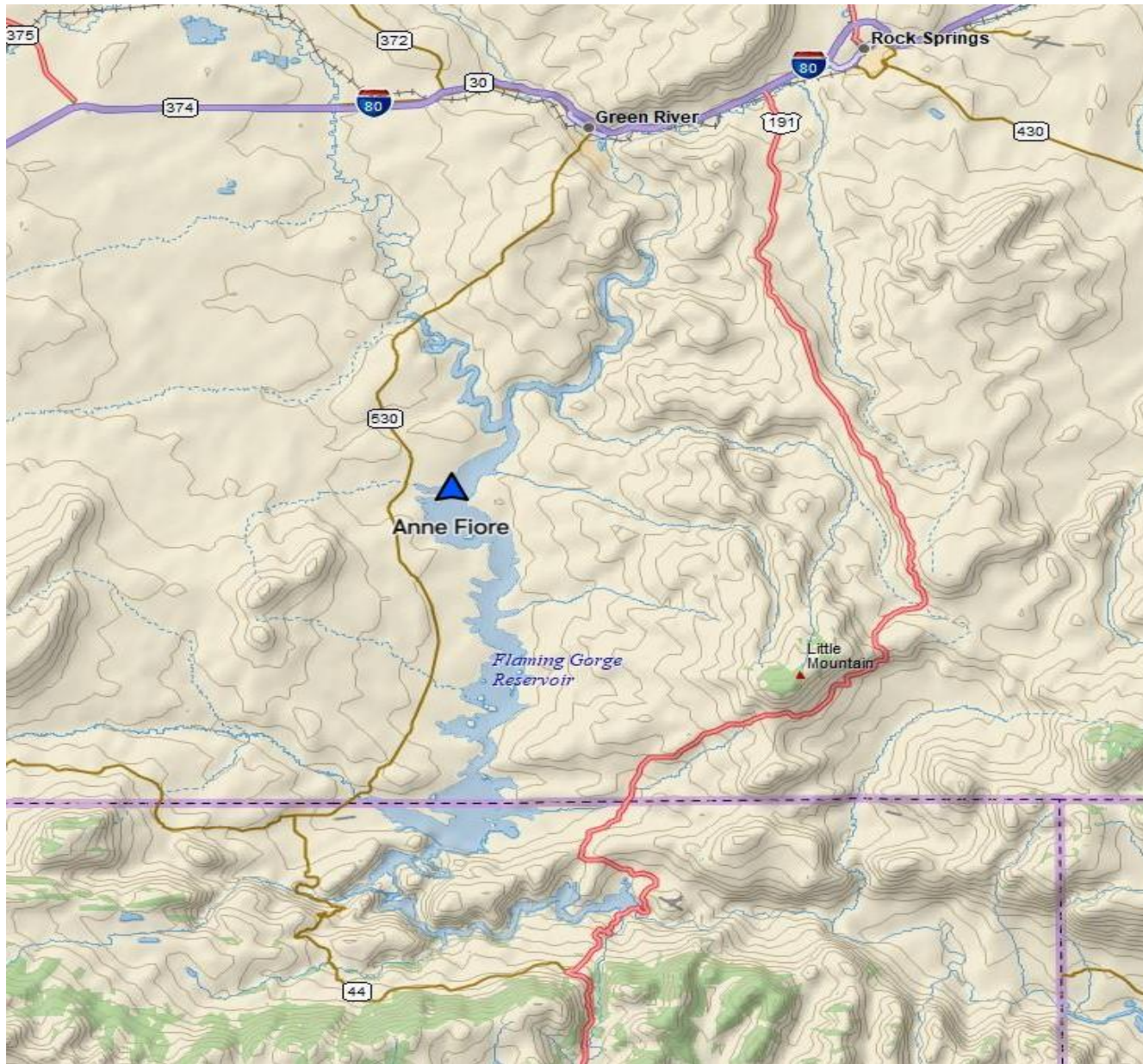


Flaming Gorge Reservoir 2026

with the Rocky Mountain Canoe club.

Friday, 10 July 2026 to Tuesday, 14 July 2026





Flaming Gorge Reservoir 2026

Gary and I organized a Rocky Mountain Canoe Club outing to Flaming Gorge Reservoir in southwest Wyoming. Flaming Gorge Reservoir is created by the Green River impounded behind Flaming Gorge dam and is a great destination for flatwater trips, both multiday self-supported trips and day paddles with a base camp.



©anne mariea fiore (Flaming Gorge 07/12/2026)

Friday, 10 July 2026

Gary and I left this morning, which was the start of the “heat dome” over the mid-western and western states. The temperature in Longmont was forecast to be over 100. The forecast for Green River, Wyoming is only marginally cooler, at just below 100. This will not be too bad when we are on the water and paddling but we’ll be toasty at camp.

Going north from Ft Collins on US 287 is one of my favorite drives. It’s been dry & hot this summer. Surprisingly, the field grass is still green. On the east side of the road, fields of boulders cascade down from the ridge, and as we drive north, there are more and more boulders.

We arrived in Green River, Wyoming, filled the gas tank then headed south to Buckboard Marina, arriving there by 4:45, where Doug Hurcomb meets us.

Gary paddled here in 2024 and found a nice remote camp along the water not too far from Buckboard. From the parking lot, we back tracked a short distance to a gravel road that runs alongside the water tower, a very prominent feature seen both when driving along WY 530 and when paddling. We turned where the road crossed in front of the tower then continued up-lake, down a short, steep and rough section (Doug had no problem in his Outback) then along the edge of the lake. We find a nice turn-around just short of a cove where we pull off.

Friday, 10 July 2026



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Doug points out a nice cottonwood that his wife would claim as her own. It is nice, providing a large, shaded area. Also, it came in handy as a landmark when returning from our paddles.



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Friday, 10 July 2026

I walk beyond a band of tamarisks just past our tent to the water. The lake is low as they have been pulling out water to help with the water levels in Lake Powell. Today, it's about 30 feet below full pool (6045'). It's not too far to the water and there is a nice spot for a put-in. The water is still and clear. Across the lake are the low sagebrush covered hills, typical of the landscape here on the Wyoming side of this reservoir.

I get up during the night and looked up – the Milky Way was very clear and the sky an explosion of stars, far more intense and brilliant than recall seeing on other outings.



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Saturday, 11 July 2026



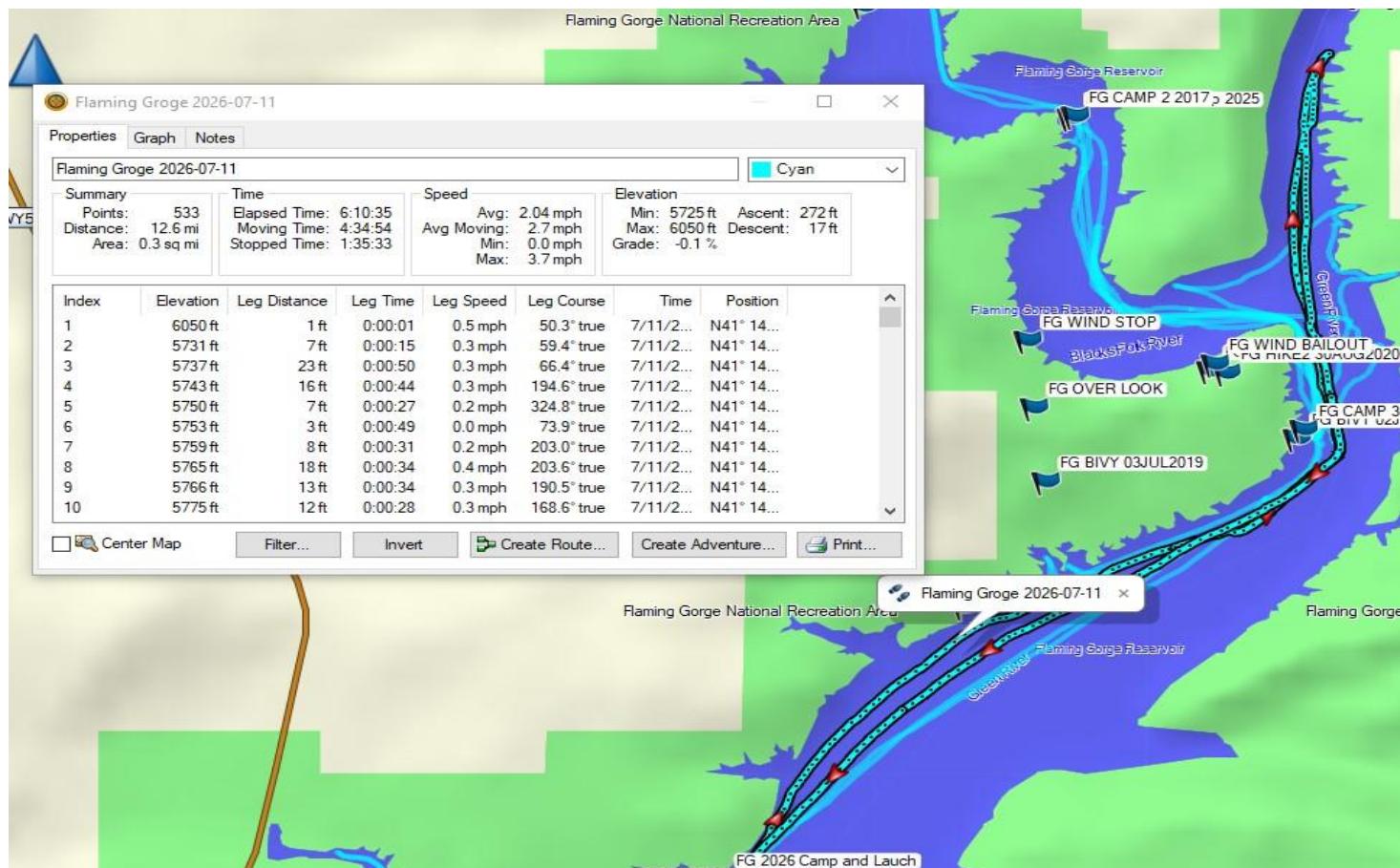
We are up around 7:30 AM. After breakfast and coffee, boats are wheeled down to the water.

Like yesterday, the water is still and clear. We are off, heading north and up-lake. After an hour or so, we stop for a break, near the end of Forest Service Road 11 and were treated with a herd of antelope, including some young ones! As I approach the shore, there is also a mother merganser herding a group of four babies.

We continue up lake, past the mouth of Black's Fork Arm and into the Green River Arm. Around noon we stopped for lunch and a dip in the lake, then head back, retracing our route, including another stop at the end of road 11.

From there, it seems to take us twice as long to get back to our starting point and I am paying close attention to the cliff band along the shoreline as our camp is just past the end of these.





Saturday, 11 July 2026

From Road 11, it seems to take us twice as long to get back to our starting point and I am paying close attention to the cliff band along the shoreline as our camp is just past the end of these.

Once at our launch and camp, we pull the boats out of the water, take another dip, then head back up the shore.

It's hot, even in the shade of the cottonwood tree! I try to write in my journal but keep falling asleep!

Sunday, 12 July 2026

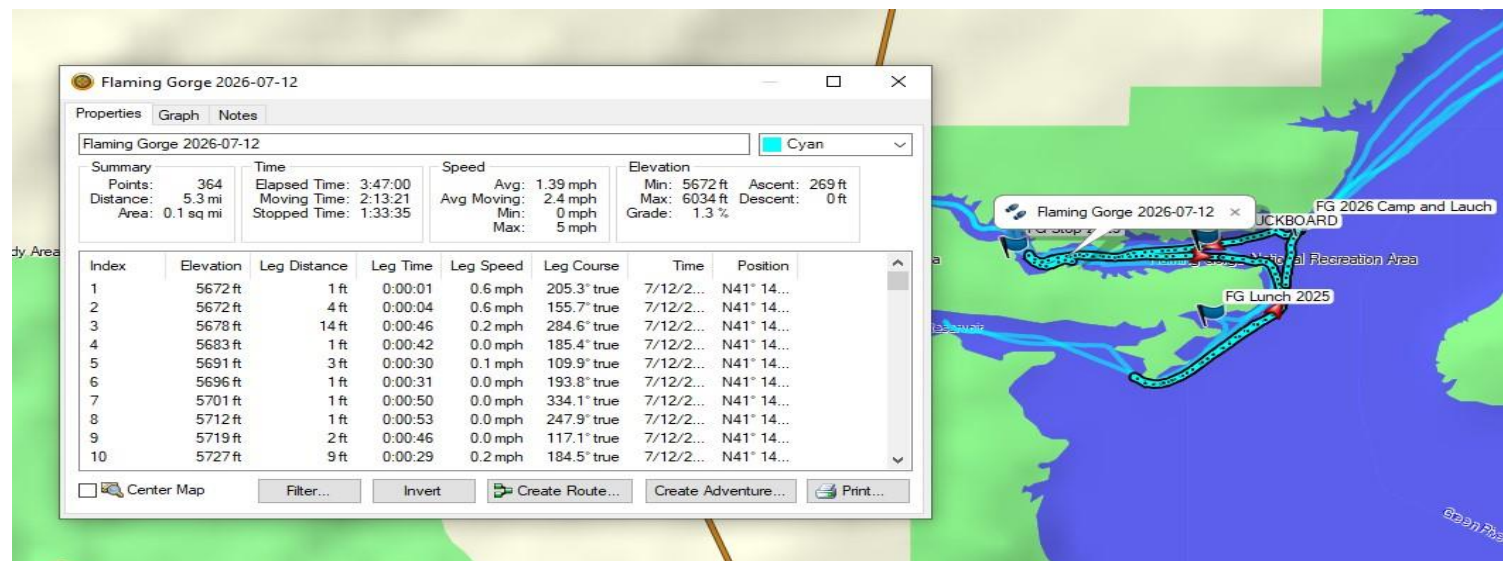


We are up at 7 AM. After breakfast, we launch the boats and head down-lake, toward Buckboard Marina.

Our first destination is the bay where Buckboard is located and we paddle up to its end which does not take long. A group of avocets is stationed at the final sandbar.

We turn around, head back out, then south into the next bay. We do not get nearly as far as we did last year!

We have lunch then head back to camp. We were out for about 4 hours.



Monday, 13 July 2026



We are up at 7, have breakfast and head down to the boats for today's adventure, back up-lake and into Black's Fork Arm.

I wonder if we'll run out of lake. We got almost to the bench which was our camping spot of July, 2017. We do not run out of water, but I am running out of steam so we turn back. We hope to find a spot for lunch that is in the shade and away from the Lost Dog Access. With it being so hot, many people are taking advantage of the cool waters of the lake.

But there is no shade and around every corner is another group of campers. We continue past the confluence into the main lake and find a spot for lunch which turns out to be quite buggy and we immediately get attacked!. We do not stop for long.

The clouds are looking ominous. When we paddled this way on Saturday, the clouds also were ominous, but that storm passed further to the south. Not so today and the storm seems to grow as we paddle. We are lucky as the wind does not seem to increase too much except for the last 10 minutes, which require a good deal of effort for us to reach our camp.

But we made it! It helped to know exactly where we needed to go and I was glad that we took note of the cliff bands on Saturday. And, having the cottonwood tree as a landmark helped. I am glad we turned back when we did!

We beach the boats and head up to camp. Gary's sunshade was blown around and got torn. After a beer, Doug makes supper, a simple and tasty tuna salad with white beans.

We had already decided to break camp the next day. The 100 degree days were not bad when paddling and taking regular dips helped but it was miserable in camp, even with the cottonwood for shade. The next morning, Doug is up early and on his way even before we are out of the tent. We pack up in a leisurely manner, head out and are home by 5. A good outing, despite the heat.

