OPERATIONS OUTLOOK (November 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021)

River releases are decreasing to 2,080 cfs during November. In accordance with the operating criteria, releases from Yellowtail Dam are set during the early part of November based on forecasted releases from Boysen and Buffalo Dams, forecasted tributary gains, and the March 31 storage target of 3617 feet. As actual inflows vary from the median inflow forecast, releases to the Bighorn River will be adjusted. Releases during March are based on the April through July inflow forecast and the April 30 storage target.

Median Inflow Conditions

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Boysen Release (cfs)	600	600	600	600	600
Buffalo Bill Release (cfs)	205	205	205	205	205
Tributary Gain (cfs)	855	535	607	776	1,000
Monthly Inflow (cfs)	1,660	1,340	1,412	1,581	1,805
Monthly Inflow (kaf)	98.8	82.4	86.8	87.8	111.0
Monthly Release (kaf)	124.0	127.7	127.7	115.4	151.6
Afterbay Release (cfs)	2,085	2,077	2,077	2,077	2,465
River Release (cfs)	2,085	2,077	2,077	2,077	2,465
End-of-Month Content (kaf)	910.6	869.6	832.9	809.3	773.0
End-of-Month Elevation (feet)	3631.5	3627.0	3622.3	3618.9	3613.1

Minimum Inflow Conditions

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Boysen Release (cfs)	600	600	600	600	600
Buffalo Bill Release (cfs)	205	205	205	205	205
Tributary Gain (cfs)	741	439	499	630	877
Monthly Inflow (cfs)	1,546	1,244	1,304	1,435	1,682
Monthly Inflow (kaf)	92.0	76.5	80.2	79.7	103.4
Monthly Release (kaf)	124.1	126.0	124.2	108.3	110.7
Afterbay Release (cfs)	2,086	2,050	2,020	1,950	1,800
River Release (cfs)	2,086	2,050	2,020	1,950	1,800
End-of-Month Content (kaf)	903.7	858.5	818.8	794.1	791.1
End-of-Month Elevation (feet)	3630.8	3625.6	3620.3	3616.6	3616.1

Maximum Inflow Conditions

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Boysen Release (cfs)	600	600	600	600	1,499
Buffalo Bill Release (cfs)	205	205	205	205	1,499
Tributary Gain (cfs)	970	631	712	924	1,124
Monthly Inflow (cfs)	1,775	1,436	1,517	1,729	2,828
Monthly Inflow (kaf)	105.6	88.3	93.3	96.0	173.9
Monthly Release (kaf)	124.1	129.7	131.6	138.8	227.5
Afterbay Release (cfs)	2,085	2,110	2,140	2,500	3,700
River Release (cfs)	2,085	2,110	2,140	2,500	3,700
End-of-Month Content (kaf)	917.4	880.2	846.3	807.3	758.0
End-of-Month Elevation (feet)	3632.1	3628.2	3624.1	3618.6	3610.5

OPERATIONS OUTLOOK (November 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021)

There is approximately 70 cfs of gain between Yellowtail Dam and Yellowtail Afterbay Dam from springs flowing into Yellowtail Afterbay. Total release from Yellowtail Dam is 70 cfs less than total release from Yellowtail Afterbay Dam. Yellowtail Powerplant is limited to 3 units due to on-going refurbishment project.

Irrigation Demands Outlook

Bighorn Canal (cfs)

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Median Forecast	0	0	0	0	0
Minimum Forecast	0	0	0	0	0
Maximum Forecast	0	0	0	0	0

Power Generation Outlook

Current Number of Units Available: 3 of 4
Approximate Yellowtail Powerplant Turbine Capacity: 6,150 cfs
Approximate Yellowtail Powerplant Generation Limit: 4,615 cfs
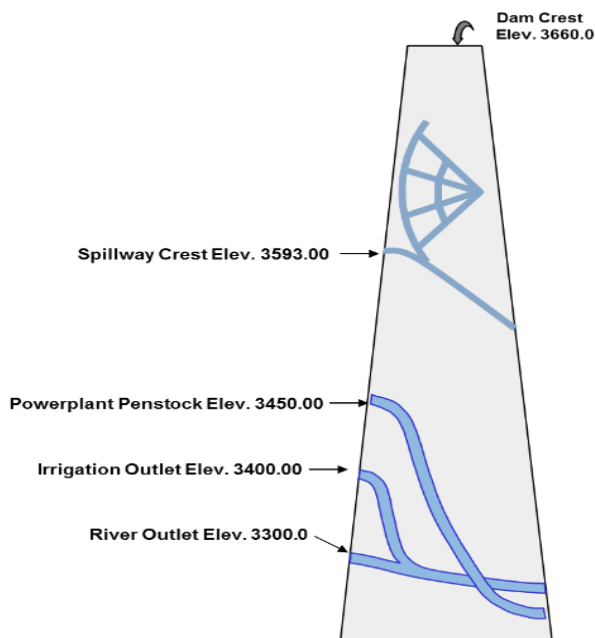
Yellowtail Powerplant Release (cfs)

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Median Forecast	2,015	2,007	2,007	2,007	2,395
Minimum Forecast	2,016	1,980	1,950	1,880	1,730
Maximum Forecast	2,015	2,040	2,070	2,430	3,630

Yellowtail Powerplant Generation (gwh)

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Median Forecast	47.7	48.8	48.3	43.2	57.2
Minimum Forecast	47.7	48.1	46.8	40.4	41.1
Maximum Forecast	47.7	49.6	49.9	53.2	85.5

Yellowtail Spill (cfs)

	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Median Forecast	0	0	0	0	0
Minimum Forecast	0	0	0	0	0
Maximum Forecast	0	0	0	0	0

Dam Crest Elev. 3660.0
Spillway Crest Elev. 3593.00
Powerplant Penstock Elev. 3450.00
Irrigation Outlet Elev. 3400.00
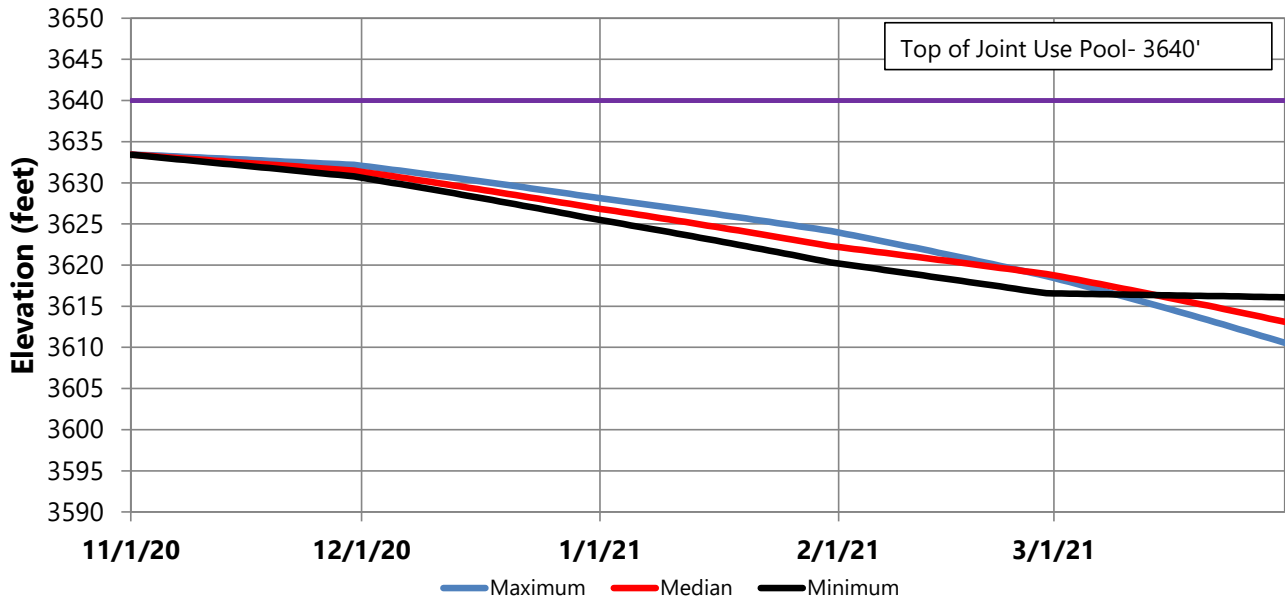River Outlet Elev. 3300.0

Release Outlook by Outlet

All releases are currently going through the powerplant and are expected to go through the powerplant through the end of March.
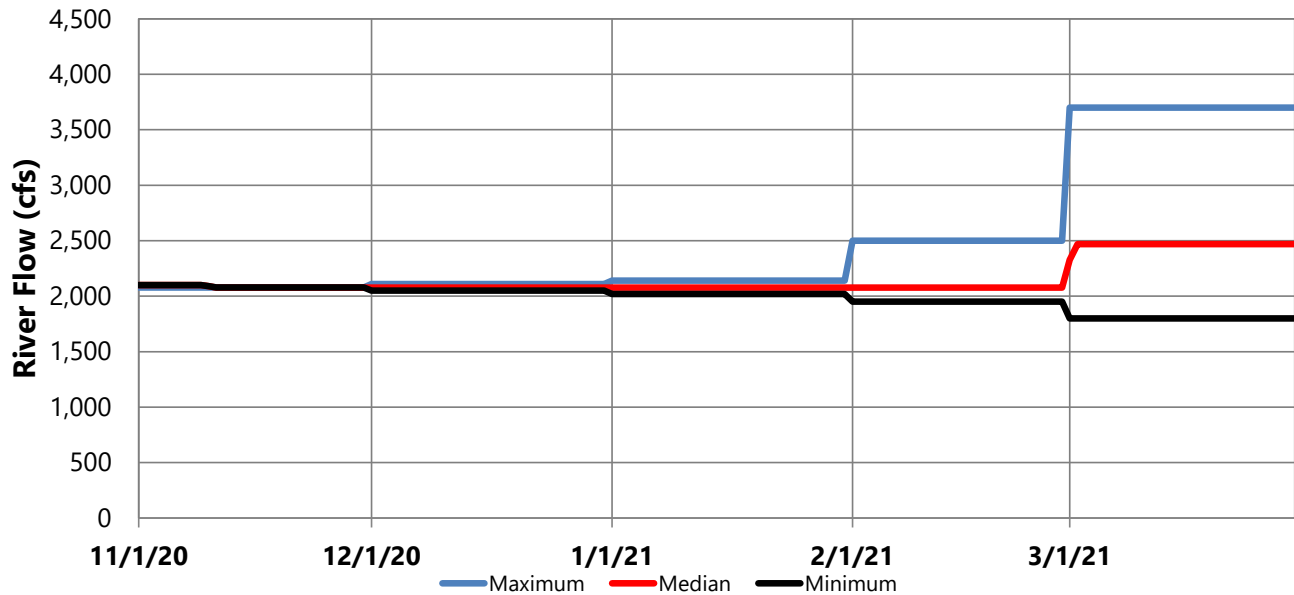
OPERATIONS OUTLOOK (November 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021)

Projected elevations and the range of river releases are based on the median, minimum, and maximum inflow forecasts. End-of-month elevations and river releases vary based on the difference between forecasted inflow scenarios.

Bighorn Lake Elevation

Top of Joint Use Pool- 3640'

Maximum ▬▬ Median ▬▬ Minimum

River Release

Maximum ▬▬ Median ▬▬ Minimum

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Monthly Operating Plans, Current Conditions, Snowpack and Other Water Management Information
https://www.usbr.gov/gp/lakes_reservoirs/wareprts/main_menu.html