From: Jamie McLean [mailto:jkmclean1223@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2011 10:39 AM
To: Duberstein, Leonard (Lenny) B
Cc: bruce@montanayu.org
Subject: Comments re: Draft Operating Criteria for Yellowtail Dam

Dear Mr. Duberstein,

I understand from Trout Unlimited that the Bureau of Reclamation has proposed operating criteria for the Yellowtail Dam on the Bighorn River. I understand that Montana FWP scientists have determined that a flow rate of 3500 cfs is the ideal rate for this river; however, the Bureau is proposing 2500 cfs, only 71% of the higher rate. Understandibly, 3500 cfs may not be available every year, but it should be the target based upon Montana FWP research, with 2500 cfs being the target during drought years. This higher flow rate will help protect the multi-million dollar economic benifit this river provides within the state of Montana.

Additionally, I understand there would be benefits to draw the reservoir down to 3614 feet in April thereby reducing the potential need to quickly drop the level should spring flooding become an issue . As has been seen in the last couple of years, rapidly dropping the level in an emergency situation causes downsteam flooding, reduces hydropower production potential due to bypassing the turbines, and harms angling opportunites.

I appreciate your consideration of these points which, if implemented, would better protect the Bighorn River fishery.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jamie McLean
Butte, MT

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