From: Nic Jovanovich [mailto:nicjovanovich@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 12:08 PM
To: Duberstein, Leonard (Lenny) B
Subject: Big Horn River

Mr. Duberstein, and to all others concerned,

I have received word of the gathering of public opinion regarding Yellowtail Dam management a little later than others. I do realize that January 28th was the last day for public weigh in but still wanted to voice my personal opinion. I wish to urge you and the Bureau of Rec to pay more mind to the flows of the Big Horn River below the dam in protection of wild trout. The beautiful Big Horn is quite probably the finest trout fishery in the lower 48 states and it is our duty to protect that claim and ensure its future. I understand that water conservation is always the issue at hand, and many are continually pushing for holding more water back throughout the year. I truly believe a better balance can be found between high running spring flows and trickling late year flows.

As a professional guide on the Big Horn (and Beaverhead and Big Hole Rivers), I spend quite a bit of time on the water itself. I know that flows under 3,000 cfs are not choice for healthy trout populations on our Big Horn. A healthy river is not only vital to my survival, but for a healthy portion of state income, and for the ecosystem in general. I understand that overabundant water in the spring is problematic for the reservoir but I believe that better pre-spring management can compensate for this, and therefore alleviate the need for spring flushing and then, later in the year, the need to reduce flows in to the river.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Nicolas N Jovanovich, MT guide #13182