From: Mike Parnell [mailto:mparnell@rockisland.com]
Sent: Monday, January 03, 2011 5:18 PM
To: Duberstein, Leonard (Lenny) B
Subject: Fw: bihorn river foraml comments

Mr. Dubeerstein

I own a residence and farm along the Bighorn River aprox 8.9 miles downstream form the afterbay.

I have reviewed your report of the "Draft Operating Criteria" for the Yellowtail Lake/Bighorn River and would like to make the following comments to be included in your formal records.

1. The Draft agreement did not provide any data that might show "use" of these facilities by category. Lake VS. River VS hiking etc. This information would be required as part of any allocation by government agencies for the allocation of resources in any determination of priorities or economic impact. Is it possible to get your agencies estimates or counts of recreational users of the lake, marinas and the same for recreational fishing interest for the river?

2. Your proposed guidance to elevate the water levels in the lake would have a catastrophic effect on the down stream economies, farm lands and use of the river.

3. Many ranches, grazing lands and farmland was in jeopardy this last season as the dam had to spill storage. This caused bank erosion and in my case required the use of sand bags and other water diversion tactics to protect my home and supporting structures. The river level was within 2" of overflowing my bank and property, homestead.

4.Unlike the Lake, the river is not subject to silting that over time will eliminate public use facilities at the entrance of the lake as higher and higher water levels will require. Is one of the remedies the agency considered, dredging the inflow channels so that water levels can be more reasonably lowered and used for the most populous users of the water resources (the River) and not impede into the flood plane?

5. The release of high water flows, that may be increased as less room is made in the flood pool for occasional increased moisture, is dangerous for young, elderly or inexperienced anglers that regularly, and in much higher numbers than lake users are in the river.

Please provide a draft of water use based on the benefit to the largest users, don't remove flood pool storage that is critical in protecting farms and ranches downstream of the dam and do not ignore the largest users of the lakes water resources.

I would appreciate your reply to these questions and comments. I am not really interested in filing these comments as part of a political action organization but I would like to become as educated as I can so that I can passionately try to effect reasonable decision making for equitable use of the water in the Lake and the River!

Respectfully,

Mike Parnell
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