From: David Taylor [mailto:dtaylor@cityofwhitefish.org]
Sent: Thursday, January 27, 2011 9:57 AM
To: Duberstein, Leonard (Lenny) B
Subject: Yellowtail Dam Comments

Lenny,
I have some comments on the Bighorn River Fishery and the Yellowtail Dam operating criteria. I believe your primary objective should be to protect a healthy trout fishery in the Bighorn River, which I hear generates 50 million a year to Montana's economy. Science says 3,500 cubic feet per second is the ideal flow for a healthy fishery, and I believe that is what the average flow should be, being reduced to a minimum of 2500 cfs in draught years only.
If you draw the reservoir down lower in the spring, say to 3600 feet by April, it will reduce the need to rapidly empty the reservoir should spring storms provide too much water. This will reduce flooding risks and still provide power for the hydro electric operation.
Maintaining a healthy fishery to continue to bring visitors to the river to fish should be a high priority. Fisherman like me travel across the state to fish the river, not the reservoir. Without healthy fish in the Bighorn River, we will go somewhere else.

Dave

David Taylor, AICP
Director, Planning & Building
City of Whitefish
510 Railway Street
PO Box 158
Whitefish, MT 59937
(406)863-2416

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.