From: Ron Stellingwerf [mailto:rwerf@bresnan.net]
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2011 6:56 PM
To: Duberstein, Leonard (Lenny) B
Subject: Bighorn Reservoir draft operating criteria response

I feel you need to consider a stronger approach to balancing the reservoir pool levels with adequate flows in the river to maintain a healthy fishery and aquatic environment.

While 2500 CFS had been discussed based on several drought years a minimum flow of 3,500 CFS during normal to above average moisture years should be strongly consider. This would also address some of the water user concerns being express by down stream users.

The issue I've heard discussed for maintaining a reservoir level based on the Horseshoe Bend marina and boat launch. The level of the reservoir should be controlled based on annual runoff and not a marina that is rapidly silting in. The majority of the use based on what I've read and observed is from the north end of the reservoir and due to population densities that has the most drawing power no matter what the lake level is on the south end.

Finally I cannot understand how the Bureau can manage a reservoir in a drainage affected by 3 reservoirs and not consider all 3 in making the annual decisions. Boysen and Buffalo Bill reservoir should be part of the overall drainage basin decision made and not managed seperately. This severly ties your hands and limits your options in managing the water resource.

Thank you for considering these comments.