From: James Johnson [mailto:8thday10@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 20, 2011 6:17 PM
To: Duberstein, Leonard (Lenny) B
Subject: Bighorn River flows

Dear Mr. Duberstein,

As an avid fisherman on the Bighorn River below afterbay (Fort Smith, MT) I wish to add my two cents worth regarding the proposal from Wyoming re: the flow of the Bighorn River.

I have regularly fished the Bighorn for over 25 years, and have seen with my own eyes the problems that have happened because of too little flow, or too great a flow in too short a time.

The state of Wyoming is claiming that the optimum flow for a healthy fishery on the Bighorn is 2500 cfs - but a regular flow of 3500 is much better for sustaining this fishery which contributes over $50 million to the local economy.

A year or two ago, the flow was reduced to below 1500 cfs to fill the resevoir by Memorial Day, killing an entire "class" of Rainbow Trout - I was there, I saw it! To add insult to injury, I understand that the turnout of boaters on the lake was extremely low that weekend - like 5 boats. Then came the spring storms which necessitated a huge increase of flow - over 10,000cfs which severly damaged the river for recreational fishermen such as myself (I did not return for many months because of this).

To maintain an elevation of about 3,500 feet in the lake in April would insure that there would be room for the water caused by spring storms, and protect the fisheries as well as the property of landowners downstream.

Please look hard at the proposal, and be mindful that boaters are not the only - or main - people finding recreation on this great watershed.

Sincerly, James G. Johnson
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