From: John Virgin [mailto:john@argmt.net]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2011 10:14 AM
To: Duberstein, Leonard (Lenny) B
Subject: Bighorn River

Please, balance the reservoir pool with healthy flows in the Bighorn, an objective that helps protect the river fishery, which generates an estimated $50 million a year to Montana's economy.

- I feel that 3,500 cfs is the optimum flows for a healthy fishery, and that 2,500 cfs is a minimum target to shoot for only during drought years when the higher objective is unobtainable. Also, draw down the reservoir lower in the spring than called for in the draft criteria – to an elevation of about 3,614 feet in April -- thereby reducing the need to rapidly evacuate the reservoir should spring storms become a problem. This will secure more water for hydro protection and reduce flooding risk to public campgrounds and marinas on the north side of the reservoir, as well as to Montana landowners along the river. It will also better secure the fishery and fishing in the Bighorn River.

Thank You

John

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