From: Jim Foley [mailto:jim@foleygroupinfo.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 20, 2011 2:11 PM
To: Duberstein, Leonard (Lenny) B
Subject: Big Horn River Flows

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D Dear Lenny:

Ie I am writing you to insist that the balance of the reservoir pool with healthy flows in the Bighorn is an objective that helps protect the river fishery. This fishery generates an estimated $50 million a year to Montana's economy. A flow of 3,500 cfs is the optimum flows for a healthy fishery and a flow of 2,500 cfs is a minimum target to shoot for only during drought years when the higher objective is unobtainable.

- I also believe that it makes sense to 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.

Sincerely,

James R. Foley

Billings, Montana