From: Allen Norris [mailto:anorrisjr@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 20, 2011 4:41 PM
To: Duberstein, Leonard (Lenny) B
Subject: Better protection of the Bighorn River fishery

Lenny Duberstein
Bureau of Reclamation

Dear Lenny,

I am writing this email in regard to the Bureau's proposed operating criteria for the Yellowtail Dam. I am an avid fisherman of the Bighorn River, I travel every year from Pennsylvania to fish Montana's rivers and I feel that this proposal does not adequately address the minimum flows required to maintain a healthy fishery. After much research I feel that a flow of 3500 cfs is optimum for a healthy fishery and that 2500 cfs should be a minimum target to aim for only during extreme drought years. I feel the Bureau should keep a better balance on the reservoir pool along with healthy flows on the Bighorn, this objective helps protect the river fishery, which is estimated to generate $50 million dollars a year to the Montana economy. I also feel that drawing down the reservoir lower in the Spring than called for in the draft criteria, to an elevation of 3600 feet in April would be greatly beneficial. This would reduce the need to rapidly draw down the reservoir should spring storms become a problem. In doing this more water would be secured for hydro protection and a reduced flooding risk to public campgrounds and marinas on the north side of the reservoir, as well as to Montana landowners along the river. This will also help to better secure the fishery in the Bighorn River.

Sincerely.

Allen Norris Jr