From: Michael Hoiness [mailto:flygoods@wtp.net]
Sent: Friday, January 07, 2011 1:29 PM
To: Duberstein, Leonard (Lenny) B
Subject: FW: Bighorn River System Issues

Hello Larry,

It was nice to hear all the discussion and comments during Tuesdays Meeting.

From my observation one of the negatives on keeping a fuller pool in the reservoir is that when a spring or early summer "flood" type occurrence happens, the only option is to release more flows. In 2010 this resulted in 6 weeks of flow over 8,000 CFS in which no power could be generated. By my rough calculations it is around $2 million dollars in lost revenue from the power. It also significantly reduces the quality of angling below and puts the river in a flood condition. A lower lake pool could absorb the "occurrence".

When making policy with all the factors involved like lake level, river, flood control, irrigation, hydro electric, I realize that many of the criteria or factors are some-what fixed. You have to maintain flood control. You need to produce hydroelectric power. You need to provide irrigation. My question is how all the other variable concerns are weighed. Are spawning walleye or access to Horseshoe Bend equal to the river quality below Yellowtail? I can see both sides. But if you take the river system from Lovell Wyoming to Hardin Montana and break down the usage and economic impact for each section, I believe you would have a majority below Yellowtail dam. If this is the case, the Bighorn River below Yellowtail should weigh a little heavier in the decision making process.

I had one question on the flows below on the Bighorn below Yellowtail. What is the average yearly flow?

Sincerely,

-Mike Hoiness

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