Bighorn Lake Draft Operating Criteria Comment Sheet

To: Lenny Duberstein – USBR MT Area Office
From: Friends of Bighorn Lake
Date: Jan 25, 2011

FOBHL would like to suggest some adjustments to this document. We will cite the page and paragraph with our info.

Pg 6 para 1 & 4 "Bighorn Lake for waterfowl, fishery and flat water recreation……"we may have missed some more such references so would you please correct them as well.

Pg 10 para 4 ……down to elevation 3580, following extension of these two ramps in 2003"

Pg 12 para 2 ……for boating, fishing and water sports.
These desired levels and river flows were not considered……..

Pg 13 para 1 to facilitate a waterfowl migration resting area and waterfowl hunting.
Para 3 The WGF portion of this paragraph is being rewritten by WGF to state their correct information.
Para 5…….separate study by the ACORE and USBR.

Pg 15 para 2 dealing with the Heart Mtn canal…..we discussed this with Gordon in Oct by phone and he thought this paragraph could be <u>written more understandable</u>.

Pg 18 – 19 Dealing with river and lake risk……..We are still <u>very uneasy</u> on how this risk is to be handled. We will be watching this closely to get a better understanding and to offer suggestions in the future on this process.

Para 2 4th line change gain to gain2 for clarity

This area is of concern even though gain2/inflows projections are getting better oft times there are still over projections being made. There needs to be "a cushion" so the lake and the river receive an equal hit if actual gains2/inflow end up under the forecast projections. Soil moisture needs to play a greater role in this projection process too. Target lake elevations need to be used and visible as are the river flows.

Overall this document is coming along very well and in the course of the next several years much fine tuning will occur to make it even better. It has promise to be a win-win for all stakeholders involved in this Bighorn River Systems Issues Group. We recommend that this process continue to move forward providing an additional transparent management tool for the USBR. Let's keep the conference calls on going and a couple meetings a year also! Lake storage must remain a key element in this plan in order for the USBR to service stakeholder's needs in a balanced way.

We appreciate all the USBR is doing to better educate all of us and improve your own management skills.

Signed: Robert E Croft
President, FOBHL Board of Directors