1/26/2011

Re: Comments for 2011 Bighorn Lake Draft Operating Criteria

To whom it may concern:

Thank you for taking the time to come to Lovell and sharing this plan with us. I appreciate your efforts in managing this system in a fair manner for all interests. Everything presented seemed fair to me and I can tell you are doing your best to make this work for everyone.

There was only one real concern I had. It was mentioned that when the dam was designed, the down stream flow could be as high as 20,000 cfs without causing flood damage, and now people have encroached on the flood plane and developed areas that will get damaged with flows over 10,000 cfs. My concern is that as more people take the gamble to build in the flood plane, that they will then get a seat at the table as a party of interest and this will effect the management of the drain down of the lake each year so that the spring releases won't flood them out on the "flood" plane.

I would think a gamble is a gamble, and should not constitute a change in the management of a National Recreation area.

I feel that the criteria for drain down of the reservoir should be to keep releases below the original 20,000 cfs. Managing for 10,000cfs maximum release only causes excessive drain down of the reservoir below the minimum lake level of 3620 ft (Minimum request by WGF and NPS). It also inhibits silt management by allowing excessive silt to build in the Horseshoe Bend area, and hurts the Sauger population.

Please reconsider your reasons for managing releases for a maximum of 10,000 cfs release, this will only open a can of worms as more people take the gamble and build on the flood plane. Any development on the flood plane should not change management criteria of a National Recreation Area.

Thank You for your consideration,

Ken Grant,
Friends of Bighorn Lake
Midway Auto and Marine
Lovell, WY