From: criley@wispwest.net [mailto:criley@wispwest.net]
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2011 11:09 AM
To: Duberstein, Leonard (Lenny) B
Cc: criley@wispwest.net
Subject: Comment on proposed draft operating criteria for Yellowtail Dam on the Bighorn River

Please include my comments below regarding your proposal to manage flows in the Bighorn River below Yellowtail Dam:

1) Please recognize that the Bighorn River provides a valuable fishery and recreation resource to the citizens of Montana that also brings significant economic impact to the local economy.

2) Please consider employing the concept of flow regimes and their respective criteria for Wet, Average, and Dry years, which could be assessed annually based on a respective year's snowpack and water content, particularly in the months of April and May

3) Please note in your draft criteria that the 2,500 cfs minimum target flow would only be appropriate in the driest of years. Optimal flow for the fishery itself would be in the range of 3,500 cfs

4) Please consider that the spring reservoir drawdown elevation of 3,614 feet to best reduce the risk of elevated outflows in the event of high spring runoff, which can be so destructive to both the downstream aquatic biota and recreation resources (i.e., public facilities).

Sincerely, Chris Riley

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