From: Bradharlan@aol.com [mailto:Bradharlan@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 27, 2011 12:14 PM
To: Duberstein, Leonard (Lenny) B
Subject: Comments on Draft Operating Criteria for Yellowtail Dam on the Bighorn River

Dear Mr. Duberstein,

I am writing to comment about the Draft Operating Criteria for Yellowtail Dam on the Bighorn River. I am retired and am an avid recreational fly fisherman. I also help several fly fishing businesses in Montana, including two on the Bighorn River, so I bring a number of perspectives to this issue. I have read the Draft.

I support the following points:

1. There needs to be a better balance in the management of the reservoir pool, so that the very important natural resource of the fishery is maintained at a healthy level.

2. 3,500 cfs is the desirable flow for a healthy fishery, with flows as low as 2,500 cfs only accepted in severe drought years.

3. The reservoir should be drawn down lower in the spring--to around 3,615 feet--so that there is room to manage spring storms. This will better prevent flooding and manage the fishery better.

Sincerely,

Bradley J. Harlan, M.D.