From: Paul Fickes [mailto:Paul@csjlaw.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 20, 2011 3:36 PM
To: Duberstein, Leonard (Lenny) B
Subject: Bighorn River

I care about the Big Horn River. I have reviewed your operating criteria. You appear to not have Trout as a priority. Healthy trout, health river.

You should balance the reservoir pool to allow more healthy flows in the Bighorn. This should be a primary objective. the river fishery over there supports a $50Million dollar economy for Montana.

You should acknowledge that 3500, not 2500, cfs is the optimum flow for a health fishery. I can see 2500 as a minimum target during drought years, but lets get serious.

In the spring it seems you should draw down the reservoir lower than the draft criteria calls for, such as 3.614 in April. My understanding is that this reduces the need to rapidly evacuate the reservoir if spring storms cause issues. My further understanding is that this secures more water for hydro protection and will reduce risk to campgrounds and marinas on the north side. Should be better for landowners along the river also. To provide lasting fishing for the Bighorn River, please consider these matters wisely.

Thanks,

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