From: Tacia, Thomas [mailto:t_tacia@lernerfinancial.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 20, 2011 5:31 PM
To: Duberstein, Leonard (Lenny) B
Subject: Bighorn River

I'm writing this in response to the proposed draft operating criteria for Yellowtail Dam on the Bighorn River.

I attended the University of Montana from 1993 thru 1998 and had the chance to fish Bighorn River several times. It is one of the greatest tailwater rivers in the United States and should be protected at all costs. Please consider the following in proposing your operating criteria.

- Balance the reservoir pool with healthy flows in the Bighorn to protect the estimated $50 million a year to Montana's economy.
- 2500 cfs should be a minimum target to shoot for only during drought years and 3500 cfs is the optimum flows for a healthy fishery.
- Draw down the reservoir lower in the spring than called for in the draft criteria to an elevation of about 3,614 feet in April. This will reduce the need to rapidly evacuate the reservoir should spring storms become a problem. This will secure more water for hydro protection and reduce the flooding risk to public campgrounds and marinas on the north side of the reservoir, as well as to Montana landowners along the river. It will also help secure the fishery and fishing in the Bighorn River.

Thank you,

Tom Tacia
University of Montana Alum 1998