



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Great Plains Region

Montana Area Office

P.O. Box 30137

Billings, Montana 59107-0137

October 22, 2008



Dear Interested Party:

Thank you for your continued interest in Yellowtail Dam and Bighorn Lake operations. Attendance at our October 9 public meeting in Billings was down somewhat compared to the last couple of years, but we nonetheless heard good discussion and comment. I believe we are making some progress in enhancing the collective understanding of the complexities involved in operating Yellowtail to best meet the competing demands of the various interests.

We have finalized our October operations plan after considering your feedback and after thoroughly evaluating the hydrologic data. Bighorn Lake is only a few tenths of a foot from being full, and our fall-winter inflow forecast is better than we've seen in recent years. Although the snowpack remains a wildcard at this point in time, the forecasted inflows combined with our current storage should enable us to maintain 2,450 cubic feet per second (cfs) to the Bighorn River from November through March, and leave us in a good position to accommodate a range of spring runoff conditions.

As in the past, we will continue to monitor conditions on a regular basis and issue updates to our operations plan monthly. Updates to the Yellowtail operations plan can be accessed through our Website at www.usbr.gov/gp/mtao.

Reclamation remains committed to continue exploring opportunities for enhancing benefits for all Yellowtail beneficiaries through collaborative efforts with interested parties and stakeholders from both Montana and Wyoming. Please feel free to provide us with additional comments as this operational season progresses by contacting Ms. Paula Holwegner via email at pholwegner@gp.usbr.gov or by telephone at 406-247-7300.

Sincerely,

Dan Jewell
Area Manager

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

October 1, 2008

Dear Customer:

Attached are the monthly water supply outlook and projected reservoir and river operating plans prepared in October 2008. Storage in Bighorn Lake on October 1 was at 105 percent of average and only 1.93 feet higher than on September 1. Based on the most current streamflow accretions, accompanied by the planned releases out of Boysen and Buffalo Bill Reservoirs, the October inflow to Bighorn Lake is forecast at 160,000 acre-feet or 88 percent of average. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at (406) 247-7318.

Tim H. Felchle
Reservoir and River Operations



U. S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Montana Area Office
River and Reservoir Operations

YELLOWTAIL RESERVOIR OPERATIONS
 Water Supply Forecasts and Reservoir Operations
 October 1, 2008

Present Elevations & Storages:

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elevation</u>	<u>Storage</u>	<u>Percent of Normal</u>
Boysen	4718.88	535,729	117
Buffalo Bill	5372.30	484,411	144
Bighorn Lake	3639.82	1,067,768	105

Actual Inflows (1,000 Acre-Feet):

<u>Month</u>	<u>Inflow</u>	<u>Percent of Normal</u>
<i>April-July, 2007</i>	<i>614.1</i>	<i>51</i>
<i>WY-2007 Total</i>	<i>1,364.2</i>	<i>54</i>
October	138.7	76
November	95.8	63
December	66.3	48
January	66.3	50
February	68.0	50
March	86.1	51
April	80.9	50
May	291.6	118
June	595.1	144
July	330.6	114
<i>April-July, 2008</i>	<i>1,298.3</i>	<i>117</i>
August	129.6	81
September	184.6	107

Actual Gains Between Boysen and Buffalo Bill to Yellowtail (1,000 Acre-Feet):

<u>Month</u>	<u>Gains</u>	<u>Percent of Normal</u>
<i>April-July, 2007</i>	<i>188.2</i>	<i>60</i>
<i>WY-2007 Total</i>	<i>462.0</i>	<i>64</i>
October	92.9	118
November	63.2	98
December	32.3	71
January	32.2	69
February	36.0	63
March	52.2	68
April	20.7	45
May	120.4	143
June	179.7	118
July	29.4	535
<i>April-July, 2008</i>	<i>350.3</i>	<i>122</i>
August	-19.1	---
September	63.4	138

October Runoff Forecast (1,000 Acre-Feet):

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Gains</u>	<u>Percent of Normal</u>
USBR	81.2	104
	<u>Inflows</u>	
USBR	160.0	88

Snowpack Conditions:

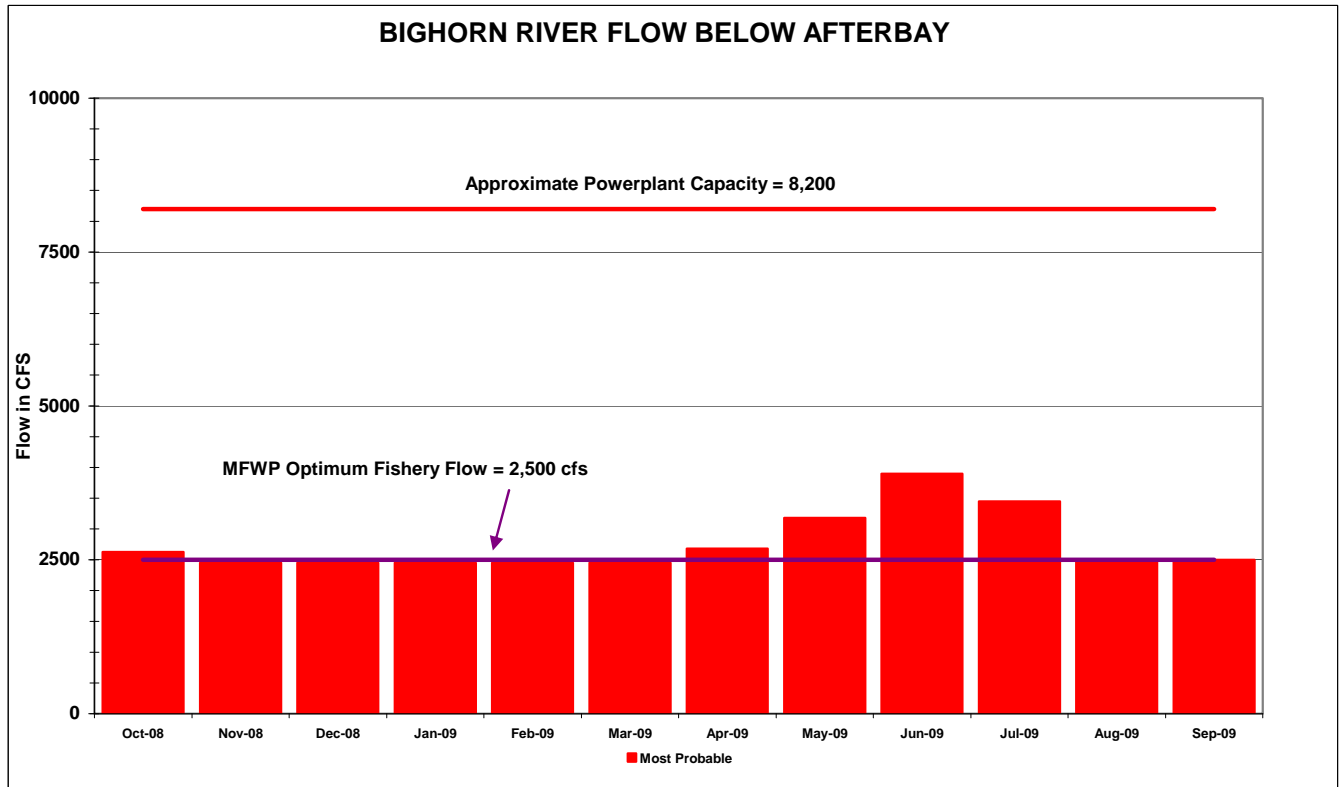
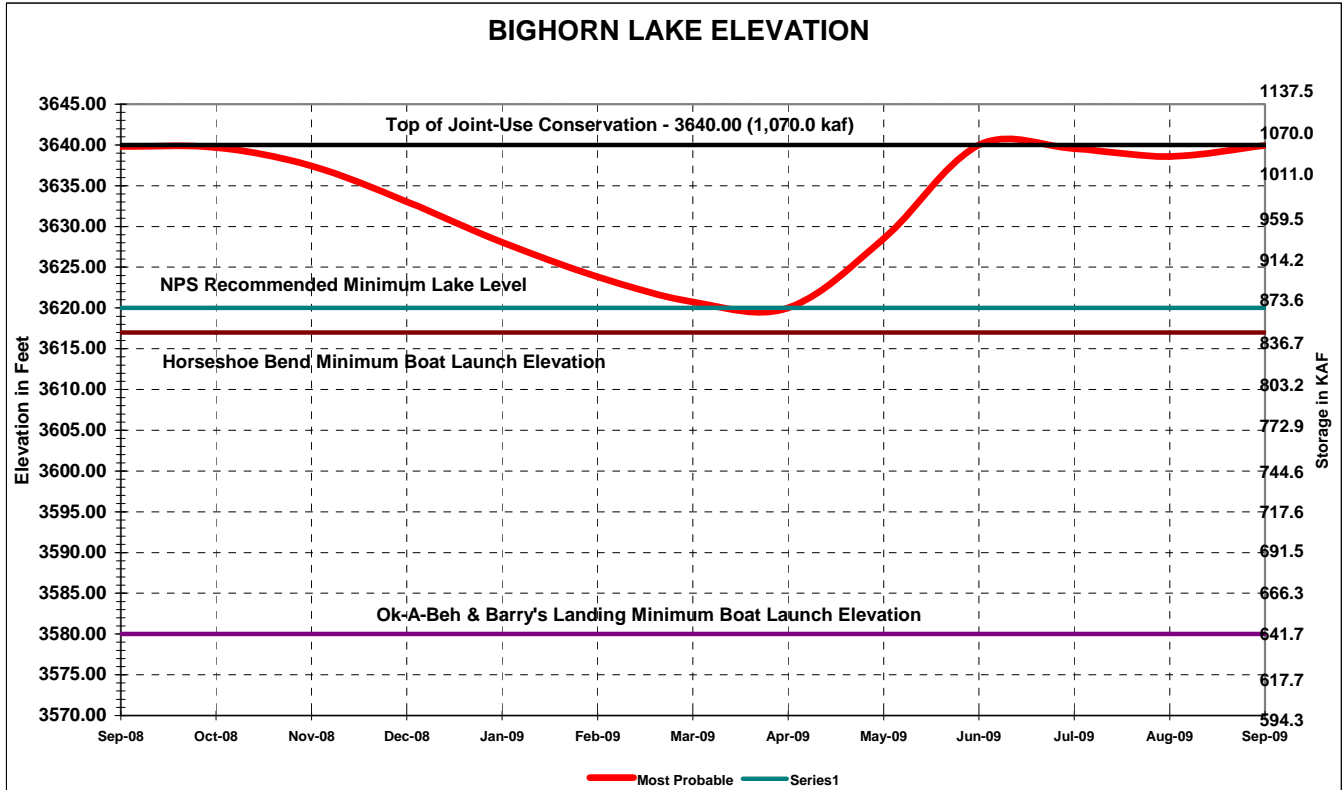
No Snow Data Information Available Until November 1

BHXAOP V1.12 Run: 21-Oct-2008 15:10
 Based on Most Probable Inflow Forecast

BIGHORN LAKE MONTHLY OPERATIONS

Bighorn Reservoir		Initial Cont 1067.8 kaf Elev 3639.82 ft				Maximum Cont 1328.4 kaf Elev 3657.00 ft				Minimum Cont 493.6 kaf Elev 3547.00 ft				Total
	2008	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
Boysen Release	kaf	43.1	41.7	43.1	43.1	39.0	43.1	84.1	141.3	131.8	128.0	87.0	62.2	887.5
Boysen Release	cfs	701	701	701	701	702	701	1413	2298	2215	2082	1415	1045	
Buffalo Bill Riv Flo	kaf	35.7	20.8	21.5	21.5	19.4	21.5	24.4	81.0	145.1	117.2	80.9	78.2	667.2
Buffalo Bill Riv Flo	cfs	581	350	350	350	349	350	410	1317	2438	1906	1316	1314	
Station Gain	kaf	81.2	51.3	33.3	33.0	36.5	56.8	42.0	65.5	102.0	-15.3	-3.4	39.5	522.4
Monthly Inflow	kaf	160.0	113.8	97.9	97.6	94.9	121.4	150.5	287.8	378.9	229.9	164.5	179.9	2077.1
Monthly Inflow	cfs	2602	1912	1592	1587	1709	1974	2529	4681	6368	3739	2675	3023	
Turbine Release	kaf	161.5	141.6	146.3	146.3	132.2	146.3	156.1	215.8	254.5	235.5	176.2	163.4	2075.7
Bypass/Spill/Waste	kaf	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Release	kaf	161.5	141.6	146.3	146.3	132.2	146.3	156.1	215.8	254.5	235.5	176.2	163.4	2075.7
Total Release	cfs	2627	2380	2379	2379	2380	2379	2623	3510	4277	3830	2866	2746	
Spring Flow	kaf	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.3	3.9	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.2	50.8
Irrigation Reqmnt	kaf	4.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	24.6	26.8	27.7	26.8	18.8	129.4
Afterbay Rels	kaf	165.8	145.8	150.6	150.6	136.1	150.6	160.3	220.1	258.7	239.8	180.5	167.6	2126.5
Afterbay Rels	cfs	2696	2450	2449	2449	2451	2449	2694	3580	4348	3900	2936	2817	
River Release	kaf	161.7	145.8	150.6	150.6	136.1	150.6	159.7	195.5	231.9	212.1	153.7	148.8	1997.1
River Release	cfs	2630	2450	2449	2449	2451	2449	2684	3180	3897	3449	2500	2501	
Min Release	kaf	161.7	145.8	150.6	150.6	136.1	150.6	148.8	153.7	148.8	212.1	153.7	148.8	1861.3
End-Month Targets	kaf							873.6		1070.0				
End-Month Content	kaf	1066.3	1038.5	990.1	941.4	904.1	879.2	873.6	945.6	1070.0	1064.4	1052.7	1069.2	
End-Month Elevation	ft	3639.70	3637.41	3633.05	3628.07	3623.80	3620.72	3620.00	3628.52	3640.00	3639.55	3638.60	3639.93	
Net Change Content	kaf	-1.5	-27.8	-48.4	-48.7	-37.3	-24.9	-5.6	72.0	124.4	-5.6	-11.7	16.5	1.4
Yellowtail Power	2008	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
Turbine Release	kaf	161.5	141.6	146.3	146.3	132.2	146.3	156.1	215.8	254.5	235.5	176.2	163.4	2075.7
Generation	gwh	66.162	57.760	58.993	58.095	51.753	56.663	60.133	84.103	102.416	96.482	72.004	66.821	831.385
End-Month Power Cap	mw	287.2	284.9	280.6	275.8	271.8	268.9	268.2	276.2	287.5	287.1	286.1	287.4	
% Max Gen		31	28	28	27	27	26	29	39	49	45	34	32	
Ave kwh/af		410	408	403	397	391	387	385	390	402	410	409	409	401
Upstream Generation	gwh	14.849	9.224	9.536	9.511	7.668	8.957	14.648	34.752	34.174	34.879	31.230	28.054	237.482
Total Generation	gwh	81.011	66.984	68.529	67.606	59.421	65.620	74.781	118.855	136.590	131.361	103.234	94.875	1068.867

BIGHORN LAKE



WATER YEAR 2009