



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

September 14, 2007



Dear Interested Party:

August inflow to Yellowtail Reservoir (Bighorn Lake) was only 54 % of average and although inflow projections for the remainder of the calendar year don't show much sign of improving, Reclamation's concerted effort to conserve storage during the past several months has placed us in a better position than we were at this same time last year. We will maintain our present release of 1,750 cubic feet per second (cfs) to the Bighorn River through September, but it is presently too early to determine whether or not we will be deviating from 1,750 cfs for the remainder of the fall and winter period.

To provide for public discussion and input into our fall and winter operations, Reclamation will host a public meeting at 7 p.m. on September 20, 2007, in room Broadway 3A at the Montana State University-Downtown Billings Building, located at 2804 3rd Avenue North, Billings, Montana to review this past year's operations and to consider options for this coming fall and winter. Any changes in releases for this coming fall and winter will be reflected in our October operations plan, which we intend to release sometime the week of October 8. Parking is available in the Park One parking garage located at 2912 3rd Avenue North; there is no charge for those exiting the garage after 6:30 p.m.

As always, we will continue to closely monitor water supply conditions at Yellowtail Reservoir (Bighorn Lake) and coordinate with our customers and the applicable resource management entities regarding our operations.

Attached are the latest monthly water supply outlook and projected reservoir and river operating plans. Updates to these plans can be accessed through our Web site 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 information as this operational season progresses.

Sincerely,

Dan Jewell
Area Manager

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

September 14, 2007

Dear Customer:

Attached is the monthly water supply outlook and projected reservoir and river operating plans as prepared on September 14, 2007. We hope you find the information useful. In addition, Reclamation would like to invite you to attend the public meeting scheduled for 7 p.m on September 20 in room Broadway 3A at the Montana State University - Downtown Billings Building. 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
 September 1, 2007

Present Elevations & Storages:

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elevation</u>	<u>Storage</u>	<u>Percent of Normal</u>
Boysen	4703.38	407,538	---
Buffalo Bill	5372.02	482,474	---
Bighorn Lake	3630.58	965,144	95

Actual Inflows (1,000 Acre-Feet):

<u>Month</u>	<u>Inflow</u>	<u>Percent of Normal</u>
<i>April-July, 2006</i>	<i>528.2</i>	<i>44</i>
<i>WY-2006 Total</i>	<i>1,432.9</i>	<i>57</i>
October	125.6	66
November	98.7	61
December	82.5	56
January	67.4	48
February	77.8	54
March	100.2	56
April	100.6	58
May	206.7	80
June	219.2	49
July	87.6	28
<i>April-July, 2007</i>	<i>614.1</i>	<i>51</i>
August	91.3	54

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, 2006</i>	<i>-2.5</i>	<i>---</i>
<i>WY-2006 Total</i>	<i>280.6</i>	<i>39</i>
October	73.5	97
November	56.9	88
December	39.6	84
January	24.0	51
February	38.7	67
March	56.7	72
April	55.0	116
May	82.2	95
June	102.3	60
July	-51.3	---
<i>April-July, 2007</i>	<i>188.2</i>	<i>60</i>
August	-28.7	---

September Forecast of September Inflow (1,000 Acre-Feet):

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Inflows</u>	<u>Percent of Normal</u>
USBR	125.5	71

Snowpack Conditions:

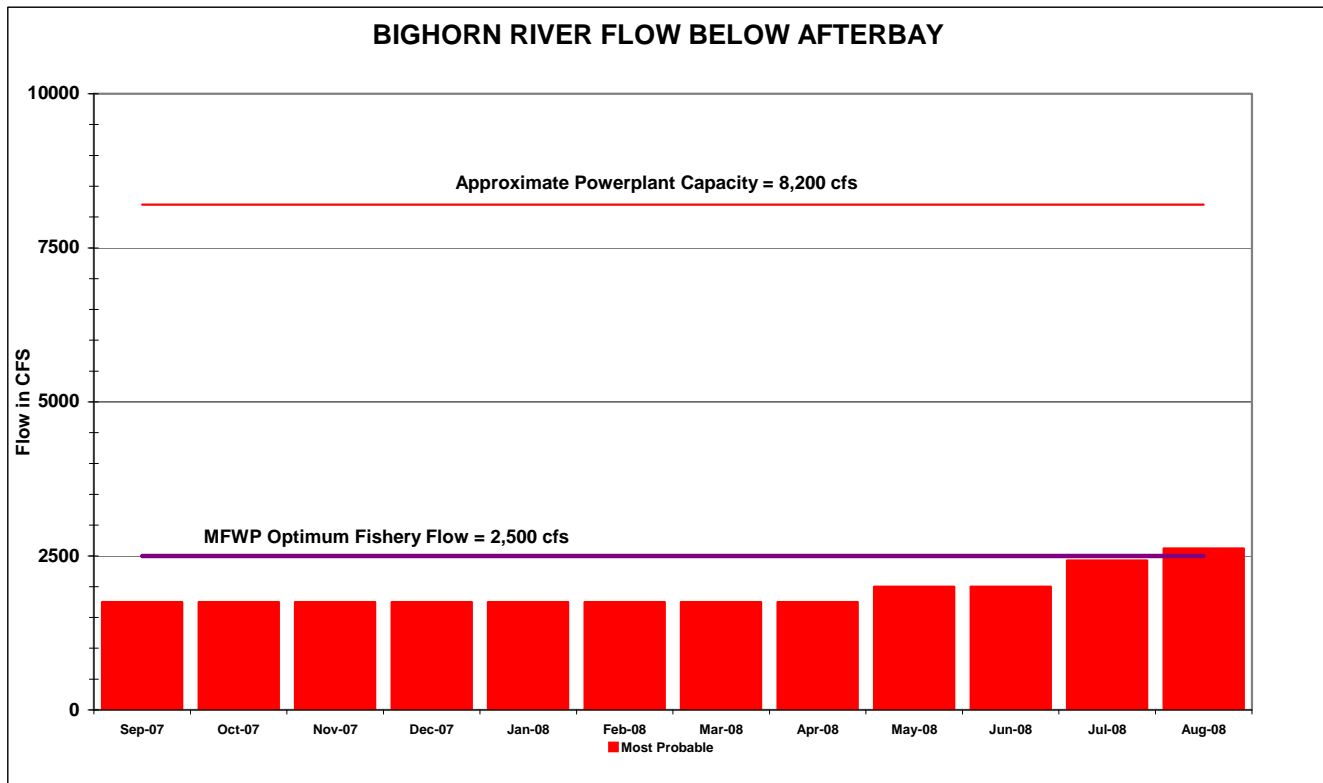
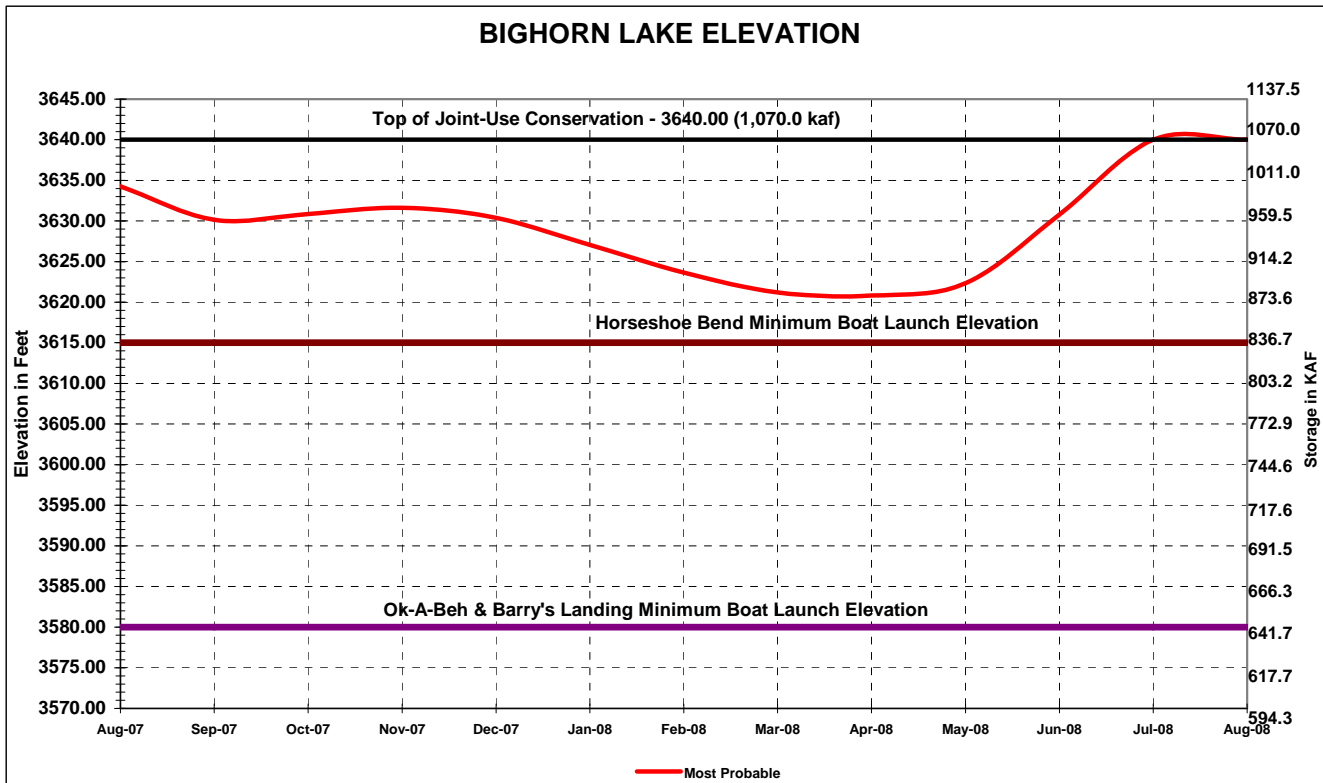
S N O W - P R E C I P I T A T I O N U P D A T E

DATA UNAVAILABLE

BIGHORN LAKE MONTHLY OPERATIONS

Bighorn Reservoir		Initial Cont Elev 3630.57 ft				965.1 kaf				Maximum Cont Elev 3657.00 ft				1328.4 kaf				Minimum Cont Elev 3547.00 ft				493.6 kaf	
		2007	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Total								
Boysen Release	kaf		45.5	30.7	23.8	24.6	24.6	23.0	24.6	50.6	67.6	69.9	115.1	84.8	584.8								
Boysen Release	cfs		765	499	400	400	400	400	400	850	1099	1175	1872	1379									
Buffalo Bill Riv Flo	kaf		50.0	18.4	8.9	9.2	9.2	8.6	9.2	41.6	84.2	108.1	111.7	63.0	522.1								
Buffalo Bill Riv Flo	cfs		840	299	150	150	150	150	150	699	1369	1817	1817	1025									
Station Gain	kaf		30.0	68.1	47.6	31.8	29.8	32.9	68.9	37.3	53.2	84.1	-20.0	-8.4	455.3								
Monthly Inflow	kaf		125.5	117.2	80.3	65.6	63.6	64.5	102.7	129.5	205.0	262.1	206.8	139.4	1562.2								
Monthly Inflow	cfs		2109	1906	1349	1067	1034	1121	1670	2176	3334	4405	3363	2267									
Turbine Release	kaf		118.7	107.4	99.9	103.3	103.3	96.7	103.3	100.5	114.7	163.3	206.8	139.4	1457.3								
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		118.7	107.4	99.9	103.3	103.3	96.7	103.3	100.5	114.7	163.3	206.8	139.4	1457.3								
Total Release	cfs		1995	1747	1679	1680	1680	1681	1680	1689	1865	2744	3363	2267									
Spring Flow	kaf		4.2	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.0	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.3	50.9								
Irrigation Reqmnt	kaf		18.8	4.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	11.1	10.0	27.7	26.8	99.1								
Afterbay Rels	kaf		122.9	111.7	104.1	107.6	107.6	100.7	107.6	104.7	119.0	167.5	211.1	143.7	1508.2								
Afterbay Rels	cfs		2065	1817	1749	1750	1750	1751	1750	1760	1935	2815	3433	2337									
River Release	kaf		104.1	107.6	104.1	107.6	107.6	100.7	107.6	104.1	107.9	157.5	183.4	116.9	1409.1								
River Release	cfs		1749	1750	1749	1750	1750	1751	1750	1749	1755	2647	2983	1901									
Min Release	kaf		104.1	107.6	104.1	107.6	107.6	100.7	107.6	104.1	107.6	104.1	107.6	107.6	1270.3								
End-Month Targets	kaf											1070.0	1070.0	1070.0									
End-Month Content	kaf		971.9	981.7	962.1	924.4	884.7	852.5	851.9	880.9	971.2	1070.0	1070.0	1070.0									
End-Month Elevation	ft		3631.26	3632.23	3630.26	3626.18	3621.42	3617.20	3617.11	3620.94	3631.19	3640.00	3640.00	3640.00									
Net Change Content	kaf		6.8	9.8	-19.6	-37.7	-39.7	-32.2	-0.6	29.0	90.3	98.8	0.0	0.0	104.9								
Yellowtail Power	2007	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Total									
Turbine Release	kaf		118.7	107.4	99.9	103.3	103.3	96.7	103.3	100.5	114.7	163.3	206.8	139.4	1457.3								
Generation	gwh		47.177	42.800	39.748	40.719	40.189	37.147	39.446	38.576	44.953	65.975	84.794	57.158	578.682								
End-Month Power Cap	mw		278.9	279.8	277.9	274.0	269.5	265.6	265.5	269.1	278.8	287.5	287.5	287.5									
% Max Gen			23	20	19	19	19	19	18	19	21	32	40	27									
Ave kwh/af			397	399	398	394	389	384	382	384	392	404	410	410	397								
Upstream Generation	gwh		19.342	7.772	3.639	3.789	3.806	3.231	3.084	16.144	28.072	28.332	33.743	28.141	179.095								
Total Generation	gwh		66.519	50.572	43.387	44.508	43.995	40.378	42.530	54.720	73.025	94.307	118.537	85.299	757.777								

BIGHORN LAKE



WATER YEAR 2007