



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

April 9, 2007



Dear Interested Party:

Thank you for taking time to provide us with your comments regarding our proposed Yellowtail Dam and Bighorn Lake spring/summer 2007 operating plan. By my count, slightly more than 50 people attended the Annual Spring Bighorn Basin Interagency Coordination Meeting on March 21, 2007, here in Billings, and we have received several sets of comments on our proposed operating plan.

The past couple of weeks have yielded some interesting climatic variations, and we have been closely monitoring those events. After carefully considering the information before us, we have revised the plan that was presented for comment on March 21. In summary, we are intending to keep releases from Yellowtail Dam at 1500 cubic feet per second (cfs) through May, increase releases in early June to 2000 cfs and maintain 2000 cfs through October, and then increase releases to 2250 cfs for the fall/winter period (if available storage allows).

Under the most probable runoff conditions, this release schedule should enable us to keep a relatively full reservoir pool through the summer, and hopefully provide sufficient fall storage to afford some additional flexibility during this coming year. However, we will continue to monitor conditions very closely and will make adjustments to that release schedule, as necessary, depending on the actual inflows to Yellowtail. Updates to the operations plan can be accessed through our Web site at www.usbr.gov/gp/mtao.

We remain 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

April 7, 2007

Dear Customer:

Attached is the monthly water supply outlook and projected reservoir and river operating plans as prepared on April 7, 2007. Mountain snowpack and streamflow into Bighorn Lake continues to remain below normal. Water users are advised to continue making plans to conserve the limited available water supply. We hope you find the information useful. 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
 April 1, 2007

Present Elevations & Storages:

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Storage</u>	<u>Elevation</u>	<u>Percent of Normal</u>
Boysen	464,319	4707.90	---
Buffalo Bill	457,725	5368.65	---
Bighorn Lake	798,200	3609.20	96

Actual Inflows (1,000 Acre-Feet):

<u>Month</u>	<u>Inflow</u>	<u>Percent of Normal</u>
April-July, 2006	528.2	44
WY-2006 Total	1,432.9	57
October	125.6	66
November	98.7	61
December	82.5	56
January	67.4	48
February	77.8	54
March	100.2	56

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

<u>Month</u>	<u>Gains</u>	<u>Percent of Normal</u>
April-July, 2006	-2.5	---
WY-2006 Total	280.6	39
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 Forecast of April-July Inflow (1,000 Acre-Feet):

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Inflows</u>	<u>Percent of Normal</u>
USBR	727	61

Snowpack Conditions:

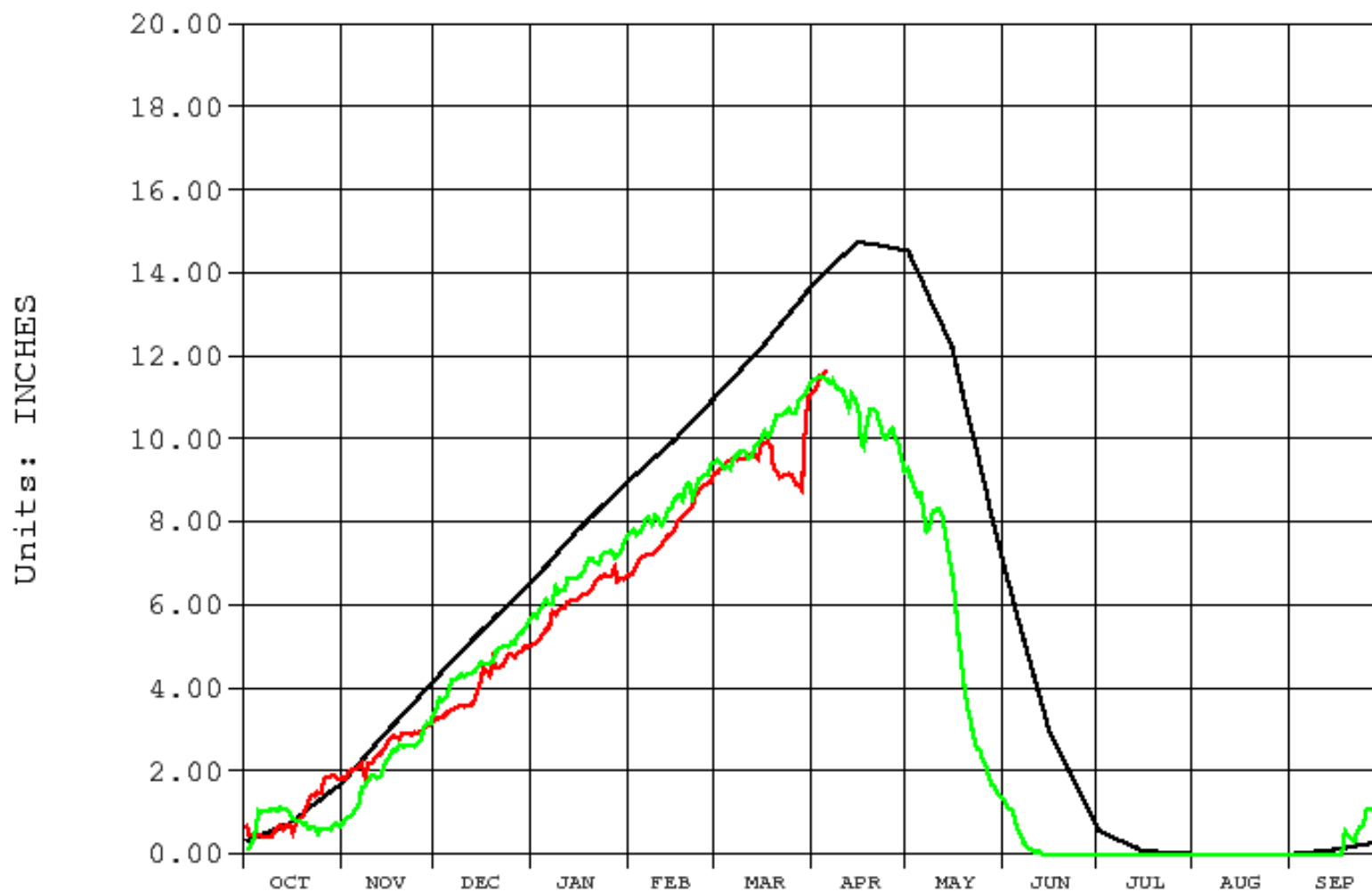
S N O W - P R E C I P I T A T I O N U P D A T E
 Based on Mountain Data from NRCS SNOTEL Sites
 As of SUNDAY: APRIL 1 , 2007

<u>BASIN</u> Data Site Name	<u>ELEV.</u> (Ft)	<u>SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT</u>			<u>TOTAL PRECIPITATION</u>		
		Current	Average	% Avg	Current	Average	% Avg
UPPER YELLOWSTONE RIVER BASIN							
BEARTOOTH LAKE	9275	17.9	23.6	76	17.3	20.3	85
BOX CANYON	6700	5.4	10.4	52	13.1	12.5	105
BRACKETT CREEK	7320	12.3	21.5	57	19.0	25.2	75
BURNT MTN CANYON	5880	.5	-M	*	11.4	-M	*
COLE CREEK	8090	11.0	13.9	79	14.7	15.6	94
EVENING STAR	7850	10.9	16.4	66	11.1	16.7	66
FISHER CREEK	9200	20.4	30.1	68	25.5	25.5	100
MONUMENT PEAK	9100	28.1	35.4	79	28.8	36.8	78
	8850	17.1	21.0	81	19.0	21.3	89

NORTHEAST ENTRANCE	7350	3.8	11.3	34	12.1	12.8	95
PARKER PEAK	9400	18.1	21.9	83	16.6	16.4	101
PLACER BASIN	8830	13.8	17.8	78	17.8	19.1	93
PORCUPINE	6500	.0	6.9	0	12.3	11.9	103
SACAJAWEA	6550	6.5	14.8	44	19.3	-M	*
SHOWER FALLS	8100	19.0	22.7	84	22.7	24.6	92
S FORK SHIELDS	8100	12.6	17.7	71	19.7	20.3	97
SYLVAN LAKE	8420	14.1	22.8	62	20.2	21.1	96
SYLVAN ROAD	7120	6.3	12.9	49	15.1	17.8	85
THUMB DIVIDE	7980	11.6	19.2	60	14.5	19.1	76
TWO OCEAN PLATEAU	9240	23.4	28.4	82	21.5	28.0	77
WHITE MILL	8700	18.2	24.6	74	19.1	27.3	70
WOLVERINE	7650	4.1	11.6	35	10.5	12.9	81
YOUNTS PEAK	8350	10.1	17.3	58	13.4	16.3	82
Basin wide percent of average				67			86
WIND RIVER BASIN (WYOMING)							
BURROUGHS CREEK	8750	11.3	14.8	76	13.2	16.4	80
COLD SPRINGS	9630	3.5	9.0	39	9.1	10.7	85
DEER PARK	9700	12.0	17.1	70	15.6	22.1	71
HOBBS PARK	10100	12.8	15.1	85	12.8	12.9	99
KIRWIN	9550	9.9	11.5	86	11.7	11.3	104
LITTLE WARM	9370	7.5	12.0	62	9.3	13.5	69
OWL CREEK	8975	4.2	5.6	75	6.4	5.9	108
SOUTH PASS	9040	12.4	16.7	74	13.8	18.6	74
ST. LAWRENCE ALT	8620	4.0	7.4	54	9.1	8.9	102
TOGWOTEE PASS	9580	16.7	25.2	66	19.1	24.9	77
TOWNSEND CREEK	8700	7.8	8.8	89	11.2	11.7	96
YOUNTS PEAK	8350	10.1	17.3	58	13.4	16.3	82
Basin wide percent of average				70			84
SHOSHONE RIVER BASIN (WYOMING)							
BLACKWATER	9780	19.0	24.8	77	18.2	20.7	88
EVENING STAR	9200	20.4	30.1	68	25.5	25.5	100
MARQUETTE	8760	2.7	9.0	30	9.1	9.8	93
SYLVAN LAKE	8420	14.1	22.8	62	20.2	21.1	96
SYLVAN ROAD	7120	6.3	12.9	49	15.1	17.8	85
YOUNTS PEAK	8350	10.1	17.3	58	13.4	16.3	82
Basin wide percent of average				62			91
BIGHORN RIVER BASIN (WYOMING)							
BALD MTN.	9380	-M	19.9	*	-M	17.5	*
BEAR TRAP MEADOW	8200	4.5	5.2	87	9.0	8.3	108
BLACKWATER	9780	19.0	24.8	77	18.2	20.7	88
BONE SPRINGS DIV	9350	17.5	16.4	107	15.9	14.7	108
EVENING STAR	9200	20.4	30.1	68	25.5	25.5	100
GRAVE SPRINGS	8550	7.7	9.4	82	7.9	9.7	81
KIRWIN	9550	9.9	11.5	86	11.7	11.3	104
MARQUETTE	8760	2.7	9.0	30	9.1	9.8	93
MIDDLE POWDER	7760	11.9	11.8	101	9.4	12.4	76
OWL CREEK	8975	4.2	5.6	75	6.4	5.9	108
POWDER RIVER PASS	9480	9.5	10.9	87	11.8	12.4	95
SHELL CREEK	9580	15.4	14.9	103	12.4	13.4	93
SYLVAN LAKE	8420	14.1	22.8	62	20.2	21.1	96
SYLVAN ROAD	7120	6.3	12.9	49	15.1	17.8	85
TIMBER CREEK	7950	3.1	5.8	53	8.7	7.4	118
YOUNTS PEAK	8350	10.1	17.3	58	13.4	16.3	82
Basin wide percent of average				75			94

Archive Data From 1-OCT Through 30-SEP

Plotted 04/05/2007 10:27



BHR Bighorn Lake (Yellowtail), Bighorn River near Fort Smith, MT

SE_AVG Snow Water Equivalent Average (inches)

2007

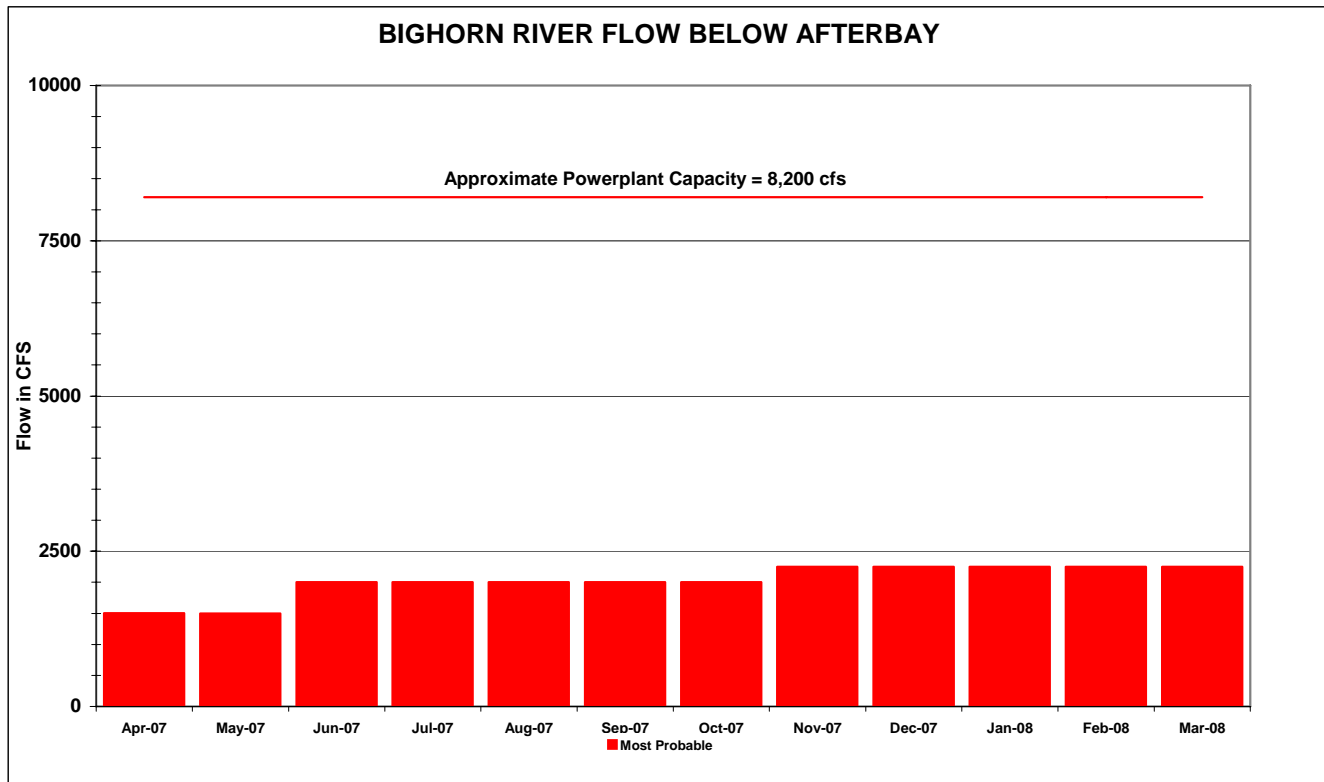
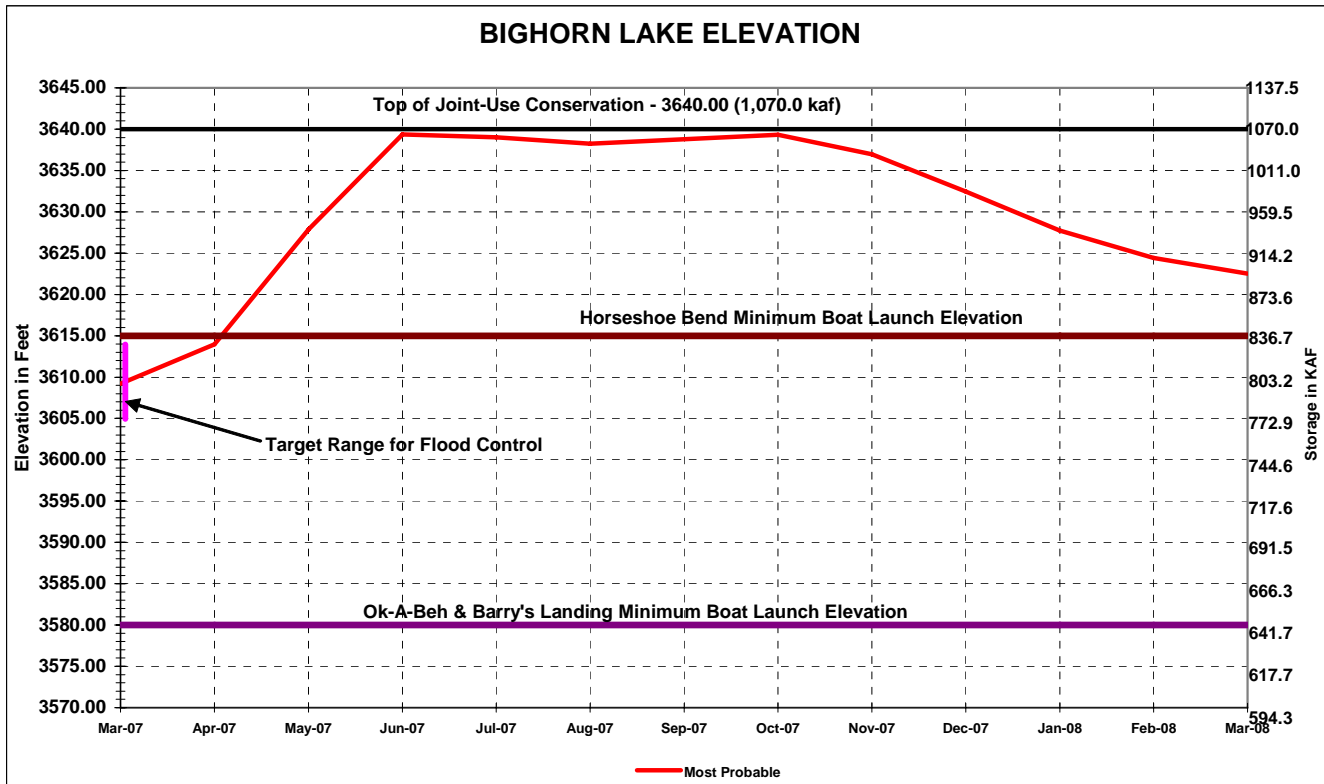
SE Snow Water Equivalent (inches)

2007 2006

BIGHORN LAKE MONTHLY OPERATIONS

Bighorn Reservoir		Initial Cont 798.2 kaf Elev 3609.20 ft				Maximum Cont 1328.4 kaf Elev 3657.00 ft				Minimum Cont 493.6 kaf Elev 3547.00 ft				Total
2007		Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Boysen Release	kaf	44.6	65.8	69.6	73.2	66.4	45.5	30.7	29.8	30.7	30.8	28.8	30.7	546.6
Boysen Release	cfs	750	1070	1170	1190	1080	765	499	501	499	501	501	499	
Buffalo Bill Riv Flo	kaf	24.4	64.9	62.7	70.4	63.0	50.0	18.4	8.9	9.2	9.2	8.6	9.2	398.9
Buffalo Bill Riv Flo	cfs	410	1055	1054	1145	1025	840	299	150	150	150	150	150	
Station Gain	kaf	47.8	78.5	126.8	-1.5	6.8	44.5	76.4	62.7	44.9	48.3	58.9	78.3	672.4
Monthly Inflow	kaf	116.8	209.2	259.1	142.1	136.2	140.0	125.5	101.4	84.8	88.3	96.3	118.2	1617.9
Monthly Inflow	cfs	1963	3402	4354	2311	2215	2353	2041	1704	1379	1436	1674	1922	
Turbine Release	kaf	85.6	99.1	136.6	146.4	145.5	133.6	118.7	129.7	134.0	134.0	125.4	134.0	1522.6
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	85.6	99.1	136.6	146.4	145.5	133.6	118.7	129.7	134.0	134.0	125.4	134.0	1522.6
Total Release	cfs	1439	1612	2296	2381	2366	2245	1930	2180	2179	2179	2180	2179	
Spring Flow	kaf	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.0	4.3	50.9
Irrigation Reqmnt	kaf	0.5	11.2	21.8	27.7	26.8	18.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	106.8
Afterbay Rels	kaf	89.8	103.4	140.8	150.7	149.8	137.8	123.0	133.9	138.3	138.3	129.4	138.3	1573.5
Afterbay Rels	cfs	1509	1682	2366	2451	2436	2316	2000	2250	2249	2249	2250	2249	
River Release	kaf	89.3	92.2	119.0	123.0	123.0	119.0	123.0	133.9	138.3	138.3	129.4	138.3	1466.7
River Release	cfs	1501	1499	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	2250	2249	2249	2250	2249	
Min Release	kaf	89.3	92.2	119.0	123.0	123.0	119.0	123.0	133.9	138.3	138.3	129.4	138.3	1466.7
End-Month Targets	kaf				1070.0									
End-Month Content	kaf	829.4	939.5	1062.0	1057.7	1048.4	1054.8	1061.6	1033.3	984.1	938.4	909.3	893.5	
End-Month Elevation	ft	3613.96	3627.86	3639.35	3639.01	3638.24	3638.77	3639.32	3636.97	3632.47	3627.74	3624.42	3622.52	
Net Change Content	kaf	31.2	110.1	122.5	-4.3	-9.3	6.4	6.8	-28.3	-49.2	-45.7	-29.1	-15.8	95.3
Yellowtail Power	2007	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Turbine Release	kaf	85.6	99.1	136.6	146.4	145.5	133.6	118.7	129.7	134.0	134.0	125.4	134.0	1522.6
Generation	gwh	32.220	38.285	54.850	59.849	59.362	54.483	48.502	52.828	53.939	53.133	49.110	52.076	608.637
End-Month Power Cap	mw	262.6	275.6	286.9	286.5	285.7	286.3	286.8	284.5	280.0	275.5	272.3	270.6	
% Max Gen		16	18	26	28	28	26	23	25	25	25	25	24	
Ave kwh/af		376	386	402	409	408	408	409	407	403	397	392	389	400
Upstream Generation	gwh	11.275	24.957	25.052	27.142	24.585	19.335	8.163	4.244	4.423	4.454	4.184	4.500	162.314
Total Generation	gwh	43.495	63.242	79.902	86.991	83.947	73.818	56.665	57.072	58.362	57.587	53.294	56.576	770.951

BIGHORN LAKE



WATER YEAR 2007