



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

August 8, 2007



Dear Interested Party:

July inflow to Yellowtail Reservoir (Bighorn Lake) was the 7th lowest of record and our forecast for August inflow is around 50 percent of average. Unfortunately, inflow projections for the remainder of the calendar year don't show much sign of improving. On the positive side, 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 are now able to maintain our present release of 1,750 cubic feet per second (cfs) to the Bighorn River through August and still meet downstream irrigation demands.

Despite significantly less-than-desirable hydrologic conditions during the past several months, we remain optimistic that we will be able to sustain our current release of 1,750 cfs, and hopefully provide some level of increase, into the fall and winter. The months of August and September will be critical in determining whether or not our optimism is premature. Accordingly, 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

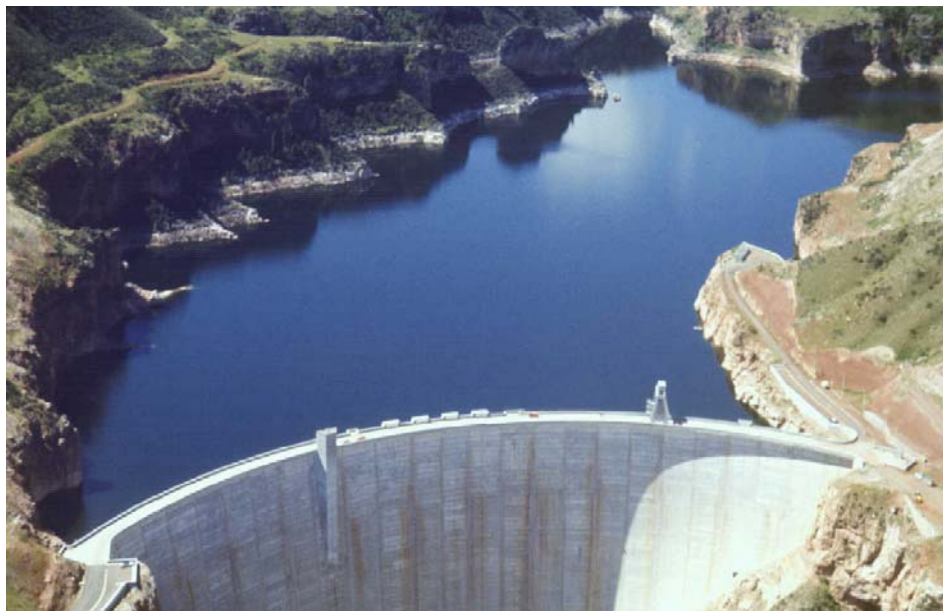
Managing Water in the West

August 8, 2007

Dear Customer:

Attached is the monthly water supply outlook and projected reservoir and river operating plans as prepared on August 8, 2007. Streamflow into Bighorn Lake has receded and remains well below normal. Inflow to Bighorn Lake during July was the 7th lowest of record. 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
 August 1, 2007

Present Elevations & Storages:

| <u>Reservoir</u> | <u>Elevation</u> | <u>Storage</u> | <u>Percent of Normal</u> |
|------------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Boysen | 4705.98 | 439,508 | --- |
| Buffalo Bill | 5381.83 | 555,134 | --- |
| Bighorn Lake | 3634.27 | 1,003,088 | 97 |

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> |

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

| <u>Agency</u> | <u>Inflows</u> | <u>Percent of Normal</u> |
|---------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| USBR | 88.1 | 52 |

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

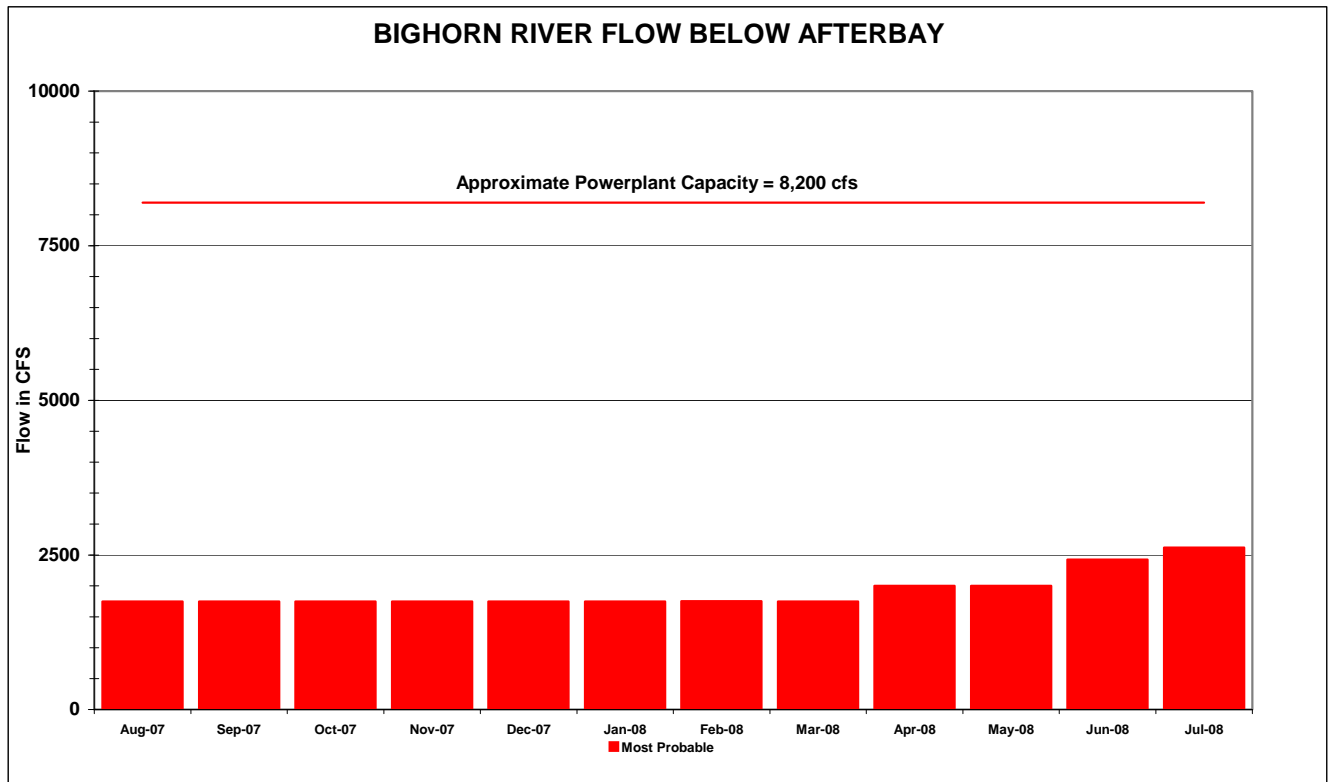
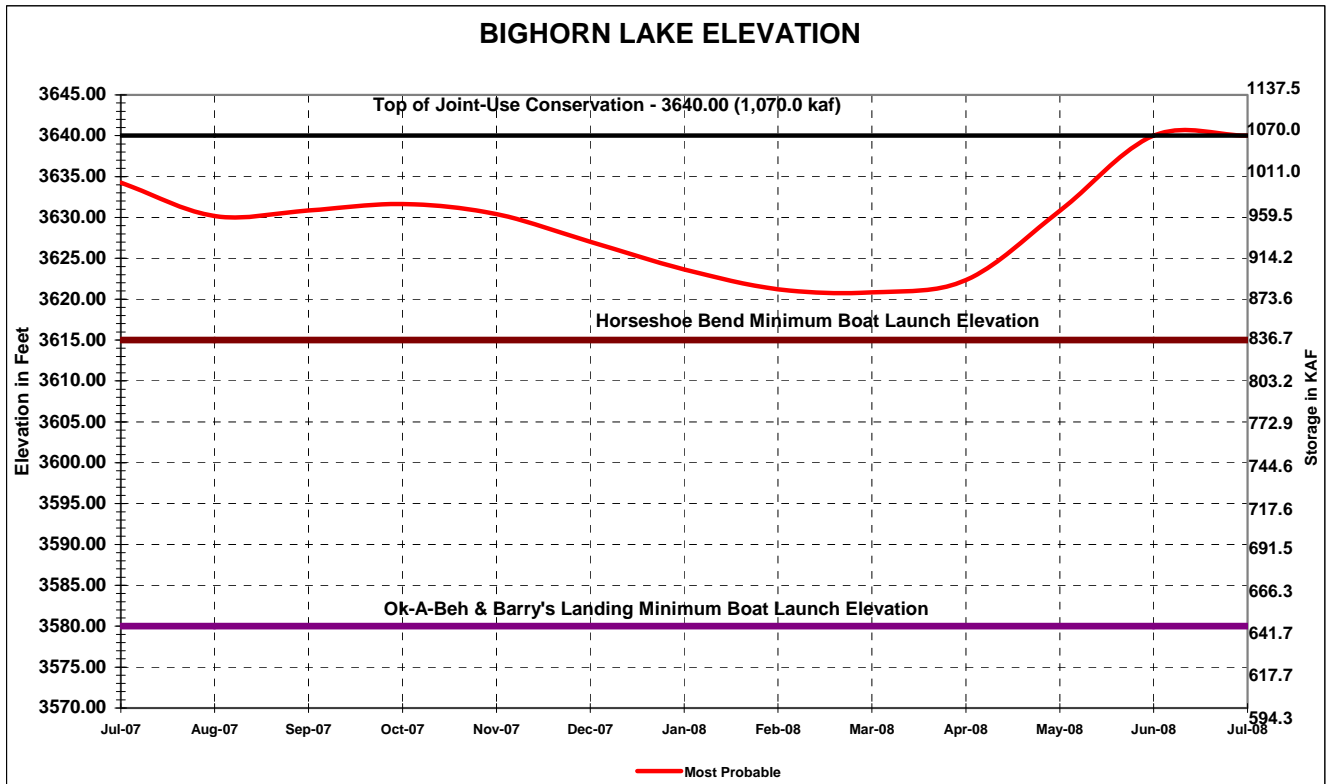
DATA UNAVAILABLE

BHXAOP V1.12 Run: 06-Aug-2007 13:23
 Based on Most Probable Inflow Forecast

BIGHORN LAKE MONTHLY OPERATIONS

| Bighorn Reservoir | | Initial Cont Elev 3634.27 ft | | | | Maximum Cont Elev 3657.00 ft | | | | Minimum Cont Elev 3547.00 ft | | | | Total |
|----------------------|------|---------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 2007 | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | |
| Boysen Release | kaf | 66.4 | 45.5 | 30.7 | 23.8 | 24.6 | 24.6 | 23.0 | 24.6 | 50.6 | 67.6 | 69.9 | 103.7 | 555.0 |
| Boysen Release | cfs | 1080 | 765 | 499 | 400 | 400 | 400 | 400 | 400 | 850 | 1099 | 1175 | 1687 | |
| Buffalo Bill Riv Flo | kaf | 63.0 | 50.0 | 18.4 | 8.9 | 9.2 | 9.2 | 8.6 | 9.2 | 40.6 | 84.6 | 104.1 | 107.6 | 513.4 |
| Buffalo Bill Riv Flo | cfs | 1025 | 840 | 299 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 682 | 1376 | 1749 | 1750 | |
| Station Gain | kaf | -41.3 | 30.0 | 66.1 | 54.9 | 38.1 | 40.3 | 45.3 | 66.6 | 36.1 | 53.0 | 78.7 | -26.8 | 441.0 |
| Monthly Inflow | kaf | 88.1 | 125.5 | 115.2 | 87.6 | 71.9 | 74.1 | 76.9 | 100.4 | 127.3 | 205.2 | 252.7 | 184.5 | 1509.4 |
| Monthly Inflow | cfs | 1433 | 2109 | 1874 | 1472 | 1169 | 1205 | 1337 | 1633 | 2139 | 3337 | 4247 | 3001 | |
| Turbine Release | kaf | 130.1 | 118.7 | 107.4 | 99.9 | 103.3 | 103.3 | 96.7 | 103.3 | 115.4 | 129.8 | 150.1 | 184.5 | 1442.5 |
| 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 | 130.1 | 118.7 | 107.4 | 99.9 | 103.3 | 103.3 | 96.7 | 103.3 | 115.4 | 129.8 | 150.1 | 184.5 | 1442.5 |
| Total Release | cfs | 2116 | 1995 | 1747 | 1679 | 1680 | 1680 | 1681 | 1680 | 1939 | 2111 | 2523 | 3001 | |
| Spring Flow | kaf | 4.3 | 4.2 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.0 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 4.3 | 50.9 |
| Irrigation Reqmnt | kaf | 26.8 | 18.8 | 4.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.6 | 11.1 | 10.0 | 27.7 | 99.1 |
| Afterbay Rels | kaf | 134.4 | 122.9 | 111.7 | 104.1 | 107.6 | 107.6 | 100.7 | 107.6 | 119.6 | 134.1 | 154.3 | 188.8 | 1493.4 |
| Afterbay Rels | cfs | 2186 | 2065 | 1817 | 1749 | 1750 | 1750 | 1751 | 1750 | 2010 | 2181 | 2593 | 3071 | |
| River Release | kaf | 107.6 | 104.1 | 107.6 | 104.1 | 107.6 | 107.6 | 100.7 | 107.6 | 119.0 | 123.0 | 144.3 | 161.1 | 1394.3 |
| River Release | cfs | 1750 | 1749 | 1750 | 1749 | 1750 | 1750 | 1751 | 1750 | 2000 | 2000 | 2425 | 2620 | |
| Min Release | kaf | 107.6 | 104.1 | 107.6 | 104.1 | 107.6 | 107.6 | 100.7 | 107.6 | 119.0 | 123.0 | 119.0 | 123.0 | 1330.9 |
| End-Month Targets | kaf | | | | | | | | | | | 1070.0 | 1070.0 | |
| End-Month Content | kaf | 961.1 | 967.9 | 975.7 | 963.4 | 932.0 | 902.8 | 883.0 | 880.1 | 892.0 | 967.4 | 1070.0 | 1070.0 | |
| End-Month Elevation | ft | 3630.16 | 3630.86 | 3631.64 | 3630.40 | 3627.04 | 3623.65 | 3621.21 | 3620.84 | 3622.33 | 3630.81 | 3640.00 | 3640.00 | |
| Net Change Content | kaf | -42.0 | 6.8 | 7.8 | -12.3 | -31.4 | -29.2 | -19.8 | -2.9 | 11.9 | 75.4 | 102.6 | 0.0 | 66.9 |
| Yellowtail Power | 2007 | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Total |
| Turbine Release | kaf | 130.1 | 118.7 | 107.4 | 99.9 | 103.3 | 103.3 | 96.7 | 103.3 | 115.4 | 129.8 | 150.1 | 184.5 | 1442.5 |
| Generation | gwh | 51.934 | 47.116 | 42.731 | 39.718 | 40.778 | 40.366 | 37.469 | 39.866 | 44.607 | 50.933 | 60.607 | 75.650 | 571.775 |
| End-Month Power Cap | mw | 277.8 | 278.5 | 279.2 | 278.0 | 274.8 | 271.6 | 269.3 | 269.0 | 270.4 | 278.4 | 287.5 | 287.5 | |
| % Max Gen | | 24 | 23 | 20 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 22 | 24 | 29 | 35 | |
| Ave kwh/af | | 399 | 397 | 398 | 398 | 395 | 391 | 387 | 386 | 387 | 392 | 404 | 410 | 396 |
| Upstream Generation | gwh | 24.444 | 19.227 | 8.001 | 3.602 | 3.751 | 3.768 | 3.545 | 3.835 | 15.779 | 27.988 | 28.294 | 32.696 | 174.930 |
| Total Generation | gwh | 76.378 | 66.343 | 50.732 | 43.320 | 44.529 | 44.134 | 41.014 | 43.701 | 60.386 | 78.921 | 88.901 | 108.346 | 746.705 |

BIGHORN LAKE



WATER YEAR 2007