

**Montana Area Office
Billings, Montana**

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For Immediate Release

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Yellowtail Afterbay Dam Drawdown Scheduled for Wednesday

BILLINGS, MONT. – As part of the ongoing rehabilitation work at the Yellowtail Afterbay Dam, Reclamation is planning to further draw down the Afterbay Reservoir to allow access for the contractor to install cofferdams in radial gate bay number 2. The drawdown is scheduled from 8 a.m. on January 11, 2012, to 8 a.m. on January 13. Following the drawdown, the Afterbay Reservoir will be operated up to a maximum elevation of 3,186 feet until the contractor completes work on the radial gates, currently scheduled for the end of April.

The work required under the contract is subject to operational limitations to ensure no disruption or deviations of scheduled releases to the Bighorn River occur during contract performance.

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Reclamation is the largest wholesale water supplier and the second largest producer of hydroelectric power in the United States, with operations and facilities in the 17 Western States. Its facilities also provide substantial flood control, recreation, and fish and wildlife benefits. Visit our website at <http://www.usbr.gov/gp/mtao/>.

