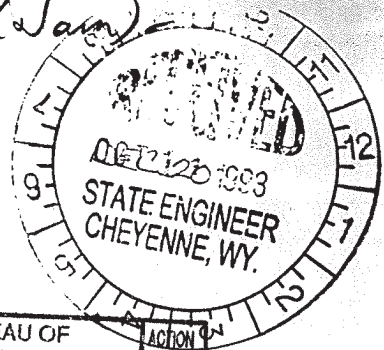


PRJ-1300-PN-400
MIN (Jam)



CONTROL NO. _____

FOLDER ID _____

STATE OF WYOMING
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
CHEYENNE 82002

MIKE SULLIVAN
GOVERNOR

December 20, 1993

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION OFFICIAL FILE COPY		ACTION MADE BY
DEC 23 1993		
TO:	400 MUD 12/27	
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	471 JES 12/29	
FILE		

Commissioner Daniel P. Beard
Bureau of Reclamation
Department of the Interior
1849 "C" Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Commissioner Beard:

I have received your reply (W-6610) to my inquiries relating to the Bureau's operation of Jackson Lake Dam and the potential to utilize the flood control space with more flexibility to increase winter releases for cutthroat trout. You have raised some additional technical parameters of which we were not previously aware. Personnel from the Wyoming State Engineer's Office will be pursuing additional discussions regarding those new technical issues with the Bureau staff at the Regional and Projects Office level.

While I remain committed to seeing the operation of Jackson Lake Dam is done without putting existing contract holders at risk, I am also equally interested in utilizing any flexibility that exists due to the location of the USBR facilities and the relatively constant, and typically abundant, water supply enjoyed by the upper Snake River basin.

I am disappointed your response didn't evidence a greater interest in pursuing flexibility which might be appropriate to assist our goals and enhance fish habitat. It would seem this would be consistent with the goals stated in your Blueprint for Reform as it relates to this situation. I believe the unique potential exists on the upper Snake River for you to lead by example and firmly reflect the Bureau is interested in the fisheries habitat in the Wyoming portion of the Snake River, while respecting the water rights and contract obligations in both Wyoming and Idaho at the same time.

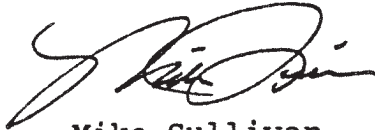
As members from our staff further explore the technical considerations raised in your letter, I am hopeful the Bureau personnel will have your support in pursuing, as I have requested my staff to pursue innovative management changes that will not put

Daniel P. Beard
December 20, 1993
Page 2

your contractors at risk or compromise your operations, but can also accomplish the goal of improved habitat for fisheries and wildlife.

With best regards, I am

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Sullivan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "S".

Mike Sullivan
Governor

MS:sm
cc: ✓ Gordon W. Fassett
Francis Petera

ORIGINAL

CONTROL NO. 93-10360

FOLDER ID 16503

United States Department of the Interior

PRJ-13.00-
MIN
(Reservoir Releases)



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

W-6610

OCT 22 1993

Honorable Mike Sullivan
Governor of Wyoming
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Working Copy

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
OFFICIAL FILE COPY
OCT 28 1993

Dear Governor Sullivan:

TO	INIT	DATE
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400	W/B/S	10/30
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Thank you for your letter of September 8, 1993, regarding several issues associated with minimum discharges and the winter flood control space requirement at Jackson Lake. I appreciate your interest in the operation and am pleased to have the opportunity to respond to you.

The fall and winter releases from Jackson Lake are explained in detail in the document "Operating Guidelines between the Bureau of Reclamation and the State of Wyoming for the use of Palisades Storage Space in Wyoming," which is being prepared jointly by Reclamation and the Wyoming State Engineer's Office. The document is still in draft form. I have enclosed an excerpt from the document pertaining to Jackson Lake winter releases. As presently written, Reclamation promises to provide a minimum release from Jackson Lake Dam of 280 cubic feet per second (cfs) or the computed lake inflow, depending upon the October 1 reservoir elevation. Since storage contracts now obligate all active storage in Jackson Lake and Palisades Reservoir, we do not have the flexibility to release more than the inflow. Through your storage contract for 33,000 acre-feet of space in Palisades Reservoir and the exchange agreement with Jackson Lake storage, Wyoming now has the ability to order releases above those provided by Reclamation.

In July, we reviewed the possibility for modification of the winter flood control space criteria to supplement releases from Jackson Lake Dam during the November through January period. Because of structural, flood control, and water supply considerations, this option is not available at Jackson Lake Dam.

Water must not be stored against the dam's radial gates during the winter. The radial gates are constructed of wooden planks upon steel frames. Ice loadings could damage the gates or make them inoperable by freezing or jamming them in position. The gate sill elevation is 6,761.17 feet, at which elevation the Lake's vacant space would be 194,500 acre-feet. The winter space requirement of 200,000 acre-feet leaves just 0.2 feet of freeboard to the sill of the gates.

The current flood control parameters were developed in 1958. The parameters are now being revised, but changes have not been finalized yet. The revised operation will generally require more total flood control space in Palisades Reservoir and Jackson Lake than the present criteria. A winter flood control space requirement is designed to protect downstream development from rain floods and rain-on-snow floods, which may occur with little warning anytime during the winter beginning in November. It is possible that detailed analysis will point to a greater space requirement since there have been several winter floods on record since 1958, most notably the flood of December 1964. There has also been significant development along the river downstream of the dam since 1958, increasing the potential cost of damages in the event that a winter flood cannot be controlled.

From the water supply perspective, the winter space requirement does not define a volume of water to annually draft from storage, and cannot produce a dependable water supply to shape for other uses, it only defines an upper operating limit. In many past years, the winter lake level has been well below that limit, and no special discharge considerations were required to provide flood control space during the fall. In many years, a revision of the fall flood control criteria would not provide an opportunity to improve the fall and winter discharge from the dam.

The present operation of Jackson Lake (as an important part of the upper Snake River storage system) has been developed over the years to serve the best balance of irrigation, flood control, recreation, fish and wildlife and maintenance of project facilities. A change in the winter space requirement would affect not only flood control but all functions.

I hope I have adequately answered your questions about the minimum flow and the winter reservoir flood control space requirement. Representatives from our Minidoka Project Office will continue to work with your staff to resolve any concerns before finalizing the Operating Guidelines. The Minidoka Project Office will also meet with your staff annually to discuss and plan for fall and winter operations. If you have further questions, please contact Mr. Max VanDenBerg in the Pacific Northwest Regional Office, Boise, Idaho, at (208) 378-5300.

Sincerely,

/s/ Daniel Beard

Daniel P. Beard
Commissioner

Enclosure

bc: AS-WS, CL

Regional Director, Boise, Idaho

Project Manager, Burley, Idaho

W-1530, W-6610, W-6600, W-6500, D-5000, D-1001

(w/c of incoming to each)

WBR:PNRegion/DLGiles:pd:x6171:10/8/93:931019

RET:pd:10/19/93

Enclosure

(Excerpt from "Operating Guidelines Between the Bureau of Reclamation and the State of Wyoming for the use of Palisades Storage Space in Wyoming")

VII. Typical Operating Criteria

This section will deal with the decision process for determining the releases from Jackson Lake and Palisades reservoirs, during normal or average conditions. These are "target" releases and will occur except in years where there is a high likelihood that Jackson Lake water rights will not fill, and water belonging to the Jackson Lake Right will be lost from the system. If the circumstances indicate that this will be the case, Reclamation will notify Wyoming of the projected releases and provide Wyoming at least two weeks to respond before dropping the releases from Jackson Lake to an amount less than 280 cfs."

1. Fall and Winter releases, Jackson Lake Dam:

Reclamation, the Wyoming State Engineer's Office and the Jackson office of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department agree to meet the week of September 15 annually. The purpose of the meeting will be to assist Wyoming and Reclamation in the planning for releases for the nonirrigation season.

At the beginning of the storage season, approximately October 1, decisions are made regarding the release to be made during the winter.

If the reservoir has undergone a normal or average summertime operation, the October 1 lake elevation will be near 6,760.95 feet, which is the desired winter operational level, in an average year. This elevation provides the 200,000 af of required winter flood control space. With these conditions the decision will be to release 280 cfs or natural calculated inflow which ever is greater. With these conditions the attempt will be to fill the reservoir during the recession of the spring runoff. Any water evacuated from carryover space to provide the 280 cfs which results in an injury to existing spaceholders rights will be debited from Wyoming's storage account. If the reservoir is drafted by Reclamation for Maintenance purposes, the account will not be debited.

If the reservoir is above 6,760.95 feet after October 1, flows greater than inflows could be maintained as agreed upon with Wyoming until such time as the reservoir is drafted to 6.760.95 feet. Any drafting of the reservoir beyond October 1 will be coordinated with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

If the reservoir is below 6,760.95 feet the decision will be to release 280 cfs or inflow whichever is **less**. Water drafted from storage desired to supplement natural inflows to bring the release up to 280 cfs or some other target flow as determined by Wyoming will be taken from Wyoming's storage. Reclamation will notify Wyoming during the meeting described in subsection 1 above if the inflow/release at Jackson Lake is anticipated to be less than 280 cfs at the end of the irrigation season".

All of these scenarios assume that Reclamations contractual commitments for storage in other spaceholders space can be maintained. In the event conditions are such that it becomes apparent that releases from Jackson Lake will be lost from the system, the difference between 50 cfs, [which is the minimum flow agreed upon by the Committee of Nine] and the desired releases determined by Wyoming will be debited from Wyoming's storage as described further in section VII.3.