Dear Senator Barrasso,

I’m writing today to express my concerns with the proposal put forth by the Bureau of Reclamation to reduce flows out of Jackson Lake Dam to 50cfs or lower. Such flows would be catastrophic for the ecosystem below the dam, be detrimental to a major economic driver of our region, and negatively impact the Outstandingly Remarkable Values of a Wild and Scenic River.

[PERSONALIZATION HERE – WHY DOES THE SNAKE MATTER TO YOU?]

The upper reaches of the Snake River are an international treasure worthy of our protection. Under no circumstances should the flows coming out of Jackson Lake Dam be considered expendable. The State’s recent intervention to keep flows at the bare minimum 280 cfs may only last us a couple of weeks before catastrophic drawdowns are back on the table. The clock is ticking to make a plan that protects the Snake.

I thank you for the work you have done in the past to protect the natural resources of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. I would ask you to continue your legacy of strong stewardship and help pave the way for a sustainable water management framework in the Upper Snake River Basin. A balance must be struck between the needs of the downstream agriculture and the health of the ecosystem. Please work with the Department of the Interior to prevent the proposed drawdowns in perpetuity and mandate flows that more closely mimic a natural hydrograph.

Respectfully,