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*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

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Montana Cancels Tongue River Reservoir Call

CHEYENNE, Wyo. – On April 19, 2016, the State of Montana made a call under the Yellowstone River Compact to fill Tongue River Reservoir. That call applied to Wyoming water rights with a priority date later than January 1, 1950. Since Montana made its call, the Wyoming State Engineer's Office has communicated with Tongue River Basin water users, monitored water use in Wyoming, and curtailed water use by post-1950 water rights. On May 2, 2016, Montana cancelled its call. Accordingly, any water user in Wyoming's Tongue River Basin may use water in accordance with the user's water right until or unless otherwise regulated or notified by a Wyoming Water Hydrographer/Commissioner.

State Engineer Pat Tyrrell said that unlike last year when Montana cancelled the call after Tongue River Reservoir filled, Montana officials this year determined, under current snowpack and runoff conditions, that the reservoir will fill without continuing the call for regulation. "In that regard, I very much appreciate Montana's proactive decision and their informing us so that Wyoming appropriators with post-compact rights wouldn't be further curtailed under an interstate regulatory event. We are glad it appears Tongue River Reservoir will fill, which is beneficial to water users in both states."

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