



State Engineer's Office

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PATRICK T. TYRRELL
STATE ENGINEER

October 28, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the State Water Forum

FROM: Patrick Tyrrell, Chairman

SUBJECT: Attached for your review and information is a copy of the October 5, 2004 Water Forum meeting minutes. Please take a few moments and pencil into your calendar the Water Forum dates for this year. The next meeting will be November 2nd in the State Engineer's Conference Room at 10:00 a.m.

WATER FORUM SCHEDULE 2004-2005 1ST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

DATE	INVITED GUEST	DISCUSSION ITEM
November 2 nd	Laura Hudson	Drought Response and Altitude Trend of Limber Pine in Southeastern WY
December 7 th	Joe Deschamp	Casper Refinery Water Usage
January 4 th	Brad Anderson	Midvale Conservation Program
February 1 st	Tom Annear	Behavioral and Physiological Effects of Winter Habitat on Trout
March 1 st	Brad Anderson	Midvale Conservation Program
April 5 th	John Lawson	Water Forecast
May 3 rd	Rik Gay	Kendrick Selenium Watershed Project

SPECIAL REPORT

The next meeting of the Water Forum will be November 2nd, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. in the State Engineer's Office conference room. Our special guest will be Laura Hudson, who is a PhD candidate with the Department of Botany at the University of Wyoming. The title of Ms. Hudson's presentation is "Drought Response and Altitude Trend of Limber Pine in Southeastern WY: Tree-Ring Widths and Stable Carbon Isotopes".

WYOMING STATE WATER FORUM MEETING MINUTES

October 5, 2004

Sue Lowry called the two hundred and forty-first meeting of the State Water Forum to order at 10:00 a.m. The following were in attendance:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Mark Conrad	DEQ/WQD	mconra@state.wy.us
Jan Curtis	WRDS/State Climatologist	jcurtis@uwyo.edu
Harry LaBonde	SEO	hlabon@state.wy.us
Britt Long	AG	blong2@state.wy.us
Sue Lowry	SEO	slowry@state.wy.us
Jeremy Lyon	DEQ/WQD	jlyon@state.wy.us
Hugh McFadden	AG	hmcfad@state.wy.us
Kirk Miller	USGS	kmiller@usgs.gov
Lyle Myler	USBR	lmyler@gp.usbr.gov
Kathy Muller-Ogle	DEQ/LQD	kmogle@state.wy.us
Erika Olson	AG	eolson@state.wy.us
John Shields	SEO	jshiel@state.wy.us
Steve Wolff	G&F	steve.wolff@wgf.state.wy.us
Steve Zimmerman	Rocky Mtn. Farmers Union	rmfusez1@msn.com

AGENCY REPORTS

In order to assure accurate reporting in the minutes, forms are passed out to be completed by the representative of each agency at the meeting. These minutes consist of a compilation of the written reports received. Please complete a form either at the Forum meeting or return within a couple of days to Jodee Pring, State Engineer's Office. This will increase the efficiency and accuracy of completing the minutes for the Water Forum. Reports can also be sent via e-mail to: jpring@state.wy.us. For more information on the following reports, please contact the agency representative listed above.

STATE ENGINEER'S OFFICE

Sue Lowry reported the following:

The Western States Water Council hosted a Water Supply conference September 27-29 in Salt Lake City. Several Federal agencies were invited to participate and listen to the western states describe how they plan to meet water supply shortages in the future. The federal agencies then participated in a panel describing their programs and how the state and federal agencies could better coordinate their efforts.

The fall Snake River agency meeting was held on September 21 in Jackson. Several boaters who use Jackson Lake came to the meeting to express their concern with the low lake levels and the impacts on fishing success this past summer. The river fishing guides and Trout Unlimited expressed support for the Bureau's operations this past summer where they moved additional storage water between Jackson Lake and Palisades in June to allow for a slightly lower and steady release through July and August. The Bureau will set the winter releases at 280 cfs out of Jackson Lake.

A technical group of Wyoming and Montana representatives will meet in Sheridan on October 21 to discuss issues raised by Montana this past May when there were requesting Wyoming to make releases for additional supply across the state line, particularly on the Tongue and Powder Rivers. Discussions on the provisions of the Yellowstone River Compact are continuing.

The Water Planning Basin Advisory Group for the Platte River is meeting today (10/5) in Rawlins. The iBAGs for the Bear, Green and Snake/Salt Basins will be held the week of October 11.

John Shields reported the following:

The Wyoming Water Association will be holding its 2004 Education Seminar on October 27th and Annual Meeting on October 28th and 29th at the Radisson Hotel in Casper, WY. The conference theme is “Water Conservation: Challenges and Opportunities”. The presentations, panel discussions and breakout discussion sessions will provide attendees with an in-depth study of the many aspects of water conservation. The program will culminate in a moderated session with all participants jointly developing a conservation “road map” to guide the future activities of the Wyoming Water Association to promote and facilitate implementing water conservation activities in Wyoming. For more information about the conference or to register online, please visit the WWA’s website:

www.wyomingwater.org.

Mr. Shields has been involved in ongoing discussions and work by the seven Colorado River Basin States’ representatives to develop drought mitigation measures to deal with drastically low reservoir storage levels in Lake Powell and Lake Mead. The States’ efforts may result in legislative authorizations for additional re-regulatory storage and other measures. The 2005 Colorado Annual Operating Plan being recommended to the Secretary of the Interior includes provisions for a mid-year review of the Lake Powell deliveries to the Lower Basin. Mr. Shields elaborated on the context and need for the ongoing multi-state deliberations.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION / WYOMING AREA OFFICE

John Lawson submitted the following:

1. Water Supply Conditions of the North Platte River Basin.

September 30, 2004 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>% Full Conservation Storage</u>	<u>% Avg.</u>
Seminole	6299.12	270,477	27	39
Pathfinder	5785.33	194,164	19	37
Alcova	5498.35	180,352	98	101
Glendo	4586.53	127,242	25	126
Guernsey	4399.58	9,251	20	95

September 30, 2003 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Seminole	6306.98	332,979	699,400
Pathfinder	5796.48	269,747	529,500
Alcova	5497.68	178,719	179,100
Glendo	4590.22	145,371	101,100
Guernsey	4394.70	5,163	9,800

October through September Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflows</u>	<u>% Of Average</u>
Seminole	473.9	48
Pathfinder (Includes Sweetwater R.)	85.6	56
Alcova to Glendo Gains	70.2	33
Glendo to Guernsey Gains	22.9	62

Seminole Reservoir was the lowest September storage in the last 30 years and has not been this low since water year 1961. Pathfinder Reservoir storage was the second lowest September storage in the last 30 years. The total North Platte system storage was the second lowest September storage in the last 30 years.

Ownership of North Platte River Storage Water

Kendrick ownership was 643,796 acre-feet (AF) on September 30, 2004, and approximately 67% of average (963,400 AF), which compares to the 752,500 AF of Kendrick ownership on this date last year. The Kendrick ownership was the fourth lowest September ownership in the last 30 years. The Kendrick ownership has not come into priority to accrue water since water year 2000. The September 30, 2004, North Platte ownership was 75,177 AF, which was approximately 18% of average (411,400 AF), which compares to 72,200 AF of North Platte ownership on this date last year. The North Platte ownership was the sixth lowest September ownership in the last 30 years. The Glendo ownership was 64,304 AF on September 30, 2004, which was approximately 46% of average (139,200 AF), which compares to 104,500 AF of Glendo ownership on this date last year. The Glendo ownership was the second lowest September ownership in the last 30 years.

Flows in the Miracle Mile below Kortez Dam are approximately 500 cubic feet per second (cfs). Releases from Gray Reef Reservoir are approximately 500 cfs. Due to current water supply conditions, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) will not be conducting flushing flows below Gray Reef this fall.

The annual drawdown of Alcova Reservoir began on October 1, 2004. The reservoir will be lowered approximately 2 feet per week until the reservoir reaches the normal winter operating range of 5488+ one foot by the end of October.

2. Water Supply Conditions of the Big Horn Basin

September 30, 2004 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>% Full</u> <u>Conservation Storage</u>	<u>% Avg.</u>
Bull Lake	5783.24	89,664	71	104
Boysen	4711.60	515,208	69	88
Buffalo Bill	5365.87	438,829	72	94
Pilot Butte	5441.24	18,764	68	117

September 30, 2003 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Bull Lake	5769.44	56,345	77,300
Boysen	4698.53	351,939	567,200
Buffalo Bill	5369.70	465,714	433,500*
Pilot Butte	5431.11	12,426	16,300

* The average used for Buffalo Bill Reservoir reflects data from 1993 through 2003. In 1992, the capacity of the reservoir was increased to approximately 646,565 AF as a result of raising the dam. A long-term average cannot be calculated until several years of operation occur under the increased storage.

October through September Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflows</u>	<u>% Of Average</u>
Bull Lake	161.7	86
Boysen	627.8	63
Buffalo Bill	561.4	65

The total release from Buffalo Bill Reservoir to the river is currently 532 cfs as measured at the Cody river gage. The release from Boysen Dam is currently 407 cfs.

Reclamation has been working with the Wyoming Water Development Commission, the Game and Fish Department, and the State Engineer's Office to develop a new Winter Release Agreement to continue to provide winter flows below Buffalo Bill Dam in the Shoshone River. Public meetings were held June 18 and September 15, 2004. The new agreement provides flow management improvements between the already established flows of 100 cubic feet per second (cfs) or 350 cfs, allowing for flows of 150 cfs and 200 cfs under certain hydrologic conditions. Reclamation is working to finalize the new agreement.

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY <http://wy.water.usgs.gov/>

Kirk Miller submitted the following:

Streamflows <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/wy/nwis/rt>

Average streamflows in Wyoming for the month of September were about 77 percent of the monthly average. The average is based on long-term USGS gaging stations with 30 or more years of streamflow data. As during earlier months, average September streamflows were lowest in the northeast part of the State. At long-term USGS gaging stations in the Tongue, Powder, and Cheyenne

River Basins, September streamflows were about 56 percent of the monthly average. Elsewhere in Wyoming, September streamflows at long-term USGS gaging stations ranged from about 73 percent of average in the North Platte River Basin to about 97 percent of average in the Wind River Basin. September streamflows were about 81 percent of average in the Bighorn River Basin and about 80 percent of average in the Green River Basin. Streamflows at some stations are influenced by upstream reservoirs or diversions.

With the end of water year 2004, provisional data indicate new record lows for annual run-off were measured at several USGS streamflow gaging stations. Some notable long-term stations with preliminary record lows for the year include:

06279500 Bighorn River at Kane, WY (74 years; last 3 years lowest in record)

06298000 Tongue River near Dayton, WY (72 years; 3 of last 4 years lowest in record)

06674500 North Platte River at WY-NE State Line (74 years; last 3 years lowest in record)

Additional information describing year-to-date streamflows is available at <http://wy.water.usgs.gov/projects/drought/runoff04/>.

New Publications <http://wy.water.usgs.gov/pubs/>

Available now from the Wyoming District Office (limited copies) and online:

· **Water Resources Investigations Report 02-4150** Relations Between Total-Sediment Load and Peak Discharge for Rainstorm Runoff on Five Ephemeral Streams in Wyoming by *James G. Rankl* <http://pubs.water.usgs.gov/wri024150>

In addition to recent reports published in HTML and PDF formats, the USGS is in the process of making all previously-published, numbered series reports available online. The reports are in an image format that can be viewed and searched with free software from [LizardTech](#). At last count, more than 200 previously published USGS reports on Wyoming (all or in part) are now available in this format.

For more information contact Kirk Miller at (307) 778-2931 ext. 2716, kmiller@usgs.gov

SPECIAL REPORT

Mr. Scott Zimmerman, who is with the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, spoke to the group today about a new organization that has recently been formed called the Coalition for Wyoming's Water (CWW). This group is comprised of the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts (WACD), the Wyoming Stock Growers Association (WSGA), the Wyoming Wool Growers Association (WWGA), the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) and the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union (RMFU). Mr. Zimmerman outlined the different avenues the group will take to get their word out. They will be doing some television and radio spots, along with print media and a website. For more information about CWW, please contact Mr. Steve Zimmerman at rmfusez1@msn.com.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.