



# State Engineer's Office

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February 26, 2007

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the State Water Forum

FROM: Patrick Tyrrell, Chairman

SUBJECT: Attached for your review and information is a copy of the February 6, 2007 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 March 6<sup>th</sup> in the State Engineer's Conference Room at 10:00 a.m.

### WATER FORUM SCHEDULE 2006-2007 1<sup>ST</sup> TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

DATE	INVITED GUEST	DISCUSSION ITEM
March 6 <sup>th</sup>	Tom Annear - WY Game and Fish	Behavior, bioenergetics and survival of trout below dams in the winter
April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	John Lawson, Mike Beus - Bureau of Reclamation	Water Forecast
May 1 <sup>st</sup>	Sarah Strauss - UW, Assoc. Professor, Dept. of Anthropology	Climate Change and the Social Life of Water in Leukerbad, Switzerland

### SPECIAL REPORT

The next meeting of the Water Forum will be March 6, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. in the State Engineer's Office conference room. We will be hearing from Tom Annear of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Mr. Annear will be giving us a presentation on "Behavior, bioenergetics and survival of trout below dams in the winter" or "What happens to trout in the winter?"

## WYOMING STATE WATER FORUM MEETING MINUTES

February 6, 2007

Jodee Pring called the two hundred and sixty-third 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>
Matt Bilodeau	COE	matthew.a.bilodeau@usace.army.mil
Jane Darnell	SLF - Federal Land	jdarne@state.wy.us
Paul Dey	WY G&F	paul.dey@wgf.state.wy.us
Steve Gray	WRDS/State Climatologist	sgray8@uwyo.edu
Lee Hackleman	NRCS	lee.hackleman@wy.usda.gov
Ken Hamilton	WY Farm Bureau	khamilton@wyfb.org
Rick Huber	WY G&F	rick.huber@wgf.state.wy.us
Mike Jennings	WARWS	mikejennings@wyoming.com
Brett Moline	WY Farm Bureau	bmoline@wyfb.org
Lyle Myler	USBR	lmyler@gp.usbr.gov
Jeremy Lyon	WDEQ-WQD	jlyon@state.wy.us
Kirk Miller	USGS	kmiller@usgs.gov
Kathy Muller Ogle	WDEQ-LQD	kmogle@state.wy.us
Mark Opitz	NRCS	mark.opitz@wy.usda.gov
Jodee Pring	SEO	jpring@seo.wyo.gov
Phil Stump	SEO	pstump@seo.wyo.gov
David Willms	AG	dwillm@state.wy.us
Vicki Winders	WWDO	vwinde@state.wy.us
Steve Wolff	SEO	swolff@seo.wyo.gov
Scott Yates	Trout Unlimited	syates@tu.org

### AGENCY REPORTS

In order to assure accurate reporting in the minutes, all attendees are asked to email a copy of the report they gave at the meeting. These minutes consist of a compilation of the written reports received. Please email a report to Jodee Pring, State Engineer's Office at [jpring@seo.wyo.gov](mailto:jpring@seo.wyo.gov). This will increase the efficiency and accuracy of completing the minutes for the Water Forum. For more information on the following reports, please contact the agency representative listed above.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION / WYOMING AREA OFFICE

John Lawson submitted the following:

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

January 31, 2007 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>% Full Conservation Storage</u>	<u>% Avg.</u>
Seminole	6298.74	267,700	26	50
Pathfinder	5792.23	239,100	24	41
Alcova	5488.10	156,300	85	101
Glendo	4610.35	276,500	53	86
Guernsey	4402.59	12,700	28	120

January 31, 2006 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Seminole	6315.18	408,100	530,100
Pathfinder	5798.26	283,400	587,600
Alcova	5488.10	156,300	155,100
Glendo	4609.46	269,600	321,700
Guernsey	4403.24	13,500	10,600

January 2007 Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflows (KAF)</u>	<u>% Of Average</u>
Seminole	24.2	97
Pathfinder (Sweetwater)	3.6	65
Alcova to Glendo Gains	4.4	43
Glendo to Guernsey Gains	0.9	60

Kendrick ownership was 439,100 acre-feet (AF) on January 31, 2007 and approximately 48% of average (917,600 AF), which compares to the Kendrick ownership of 537,300 AF last year at this date. The January 31, 2007 North Platte ownership was 472,100 AF, which was approximately 89% of average (530,400 AF), which compares to 526,700 AF of North Platte ownership this date last year. The Glendo ownership was 28,000 AF on January 31, 2007, which was approximately 21% of average (131,500 AF), which compares to the 53,000 AF of Glendo ownership on this date last year.

Flows in the Miracle Mile below Kortez Dam are approximately 525 cubic feet per second (cfs). Releases from Gray Reef Reservoir are approximately 500 cfs. The level of Alcova Reservoir is at the normal winter operating range of 5488 ± one foot.

Total expected April through July runoff in the North Platte Basin above Glendo Dam is expected to be 720,000 acre feet (AF) or 82% of the 30 year average of 883,000 AF. Approximately 600,000 AF (86% of average) of the runoff is expected to enter Seminoe Reservoir with an additional 30,000 AF (48% of average) being provided to Pathfinder Reservoir from the Sweetwater River, and the balance of 90,000 AF (74% of average) coming from the basin between Pathfinder Reservoir and Glendo Reservoir.

## 2. Water Supply Conditions of the Big Horn Basin

### January 31, 2007 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	5770.54	58,800	39	76
Boysen	4707.81	463,100	62	82
Buffalo Bill	5366.86	445,300	69	108
Pilot Butte	5436.11	15,400	46	58

### January 31, 2006 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Bull Lake	5776.56	72,900	77,200
Boysen	4716.16	583,800	562,700
Buffalo Bill	5370.65	472,500	412,900*
Pilot Butte	5453.57	28,200	26,500

\* The average used for Buffalo Bill Reservoir reflects data from 1993 through 2006. 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.

### January 2007 Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflows (KAF)</u>	<u>% Average</u>
Bull Lake	2.1	95
Boysen	19.6	53
Buffalo Bill	10.7	72

The total release from Buffalo Bill Reservoir to the Shoshone River is approximately 200 cfs and with additional flow from the springs is approximately 280 cfs as measured at the Cody river gage. The release from Boysen Dam is currently 500 cfs.

The total expected April through July runoff in the Shoshone River Basin above Buffalo Bill Dam is expected to be 500,000 acre-feet (78% of average), compared to a 30 year

average of 641,000 acre-feet. The total expected April through July runoff to Boysen Reservoir is 350,000 acre-feet (63% of average).

#### WYOMING WATER DEVELOPMENT OFFICE (WWDO)

Vicki Winders reported the following:

In area of Weather Modification, cloud seeding began January 4 in the Laramie Range. Seeding has not yet begun in the Wind River Range as the conditions have not been favorable.

#### WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY - LAND QUALITY DIVISION

Kathy Muller Ogle reported the following:

Uranium activity around the state continues to increase. A senior analyst position has been added to the Land Quality Division to assist with CHIAs and ARC GIS.

#### WYOMING ASSOCIATION OF RURAL WATER SYSTEMS (WARWS)

Mike Jennings reported the following:

WARWS has hired a new education coordinator, Kathy Weinsaft.

The 2007 spring conference will be held March 27 - 29 in Casper. Please go to <http://www.warws.com/springcon.htm> for more information.

#### WATER RESOURCES DATA SYSTEMS (WRDS)

Steve Gray reported the following:

WRDS is currently searching for a new coordinator for river basin planning. The position is open and closes at the end of this week. Interviews will follow shortly.

The WRDS library is attempting to get all of the library's paper records converted to digital format, especially the large format sheets, such as maps.

#### NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

Mark Opitz reported the following:

State Conservationist, Adolfo Perez will be leaving Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>. Ralph Swift will be the acting State Conservationist.

The Water rights verification checklist that NRCS has been working on with the State Engineer's Office is in its final format.

Lee Hackleman reported the following:

Mr. Hackleman handed out copies of the Monday morning snow report for February 5<sup>th</sup>. This report can be found at:

<http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu/wrds/nrcs/snowrept/snowrept.html>

Mr. Hackleman also handed out the U.S. Drought Monitor for January 30, 2007. This informative document can be found at: <http://drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html>

The Wyoming Basin Forecast Trends Snow Water Equivalent should be on the website by the end of the week.

#### STATE ENGINEER'S OFFICE (SEO)

Steve Wolff reported the following:

There will be a remote sensing (satellite imagery) pilot project conducted. This project will look at irrigated lands only in the upper Green River above Fontenelle Reservoir.

Phil Stump reported the following:

The Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (PRRIP) began January 1<sup>st</sup>.

The North Platte Decree Committee contracted to have some weather stations installed and also have a request for proposal (RFP) out for an evapotranspiration study.

Jodee Pring reported the following:

A Basic Negotiation Training Course for Natural Resource Professionals will be held in Fort Collins, CO. The first session will be held March 6-8 and the second will be held April 3-5. Please visit <http://www.fort.usgs.gov/NegTraining/announcement.htm> for more information.

#### SPECIAL REPORT

Scott Yates with Trout Unlimited was our special presenter for today. Mr. Yates gave a PowerPoint presentation on the bills that Trout Unlimited has been following that are in front of the legislature this session. Mr. Yates also spoke about some exciting restoration projects that Trout Unlimited has been working on with the Bureau of Land Management, the NRCS and private landowners. A copy of his PowerPoint presentation can be found [\*\*here\*\*](#).

Laurie Goodman was also a special presenter today and spoke about her work with LAW, Landowners Association of Wyoming. This group has been working on imminent domain issues that are before the legislature this session. A copy of an information sheet that Ms. Goodman handed out can be found [\*\*here\*\*](#).

The meeting adjourned at 12:00.