



# State Engineer's Office

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GOVERNOR

PATRICK T. TYRRELL  
STATE ENGINEER

April 25, 2008

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the State Water Forum

FROM: Patrick Tyrrell, Chairman

SUBJECT: Attached for your review and information is a copy of the April 1, 2008 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 May 6th in the State Engineer's Conference Room at 10:00 a.m.

### WATER FORUM SCHEDULE 2007-2008 1<sup>ST</sup> TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

	<b>INVITED GUEST</b>	<b>DISCUSSION ITEM</b>
May 6 <sup>th</sup>	Bruce Brinkman - WY Water Development Office/Paul Ivancie - JR Engineering	Laramie County Aquifer Study

### SPECIAL REPORT

The next meeting of the Water Forum will be May 6, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. in the State Engineer's Office conference room. We will be hearing from Paul Ivancie, JR Engineering and Bruce Brinkman, Project Manager, Wyoming Water Development Office. Mr. Ivancie and Mr. Brinkman will be giving us a presentation on the Laramie County Aquifer Study.

## WYOMING STATE WATER FORUM MEETING MINUTES

April 1, 2008

Pat Tyrrell called the two hundred and seventy-fourth 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>
Clint Bassett	Cheyenne BOPU	cbassett@cheyennebopu.org
Matt Bilodeau	USACE	matthew.a.bilodeau@usace.army.mil
Paul Caffrey	WYGISC	caffrey@uwyo.edu
Scott Carpenter	National Weather Service	scott.carpenter@noaa.gov
Mark Conrad	WDEQ-WQD	mconra@state.wy.us
Melissa Goering	National Weather Service	melissa.goering@noaa.gov
Terry Gonzales	NRCS	terry.gonzales@wy.usda.gov
Lee Hackleman	NRCS	lee.hackleman@wy.usda.gov
Matt Hoobler	SEO	mhoobl@seo.wyo.gov
Rick Huber	WY G&F	rick.huber@wgf.state.wy.us
John Lawson	USBR	jlawson@gp.usbr.gov
Sue Lowry	SEO	slowry@seo.wyo.gov
Pete Michael	Attorney General's Office	pmicha@state.wy.us
Jodee Pring	SEO	jpring@seo.wyo.gov
John Shields	SEO	jshiel@seo.wyo.gov
David Willms	Attorney General's Office	dwillm@state.wy.us
Steve Wolff	SEO	swolff@seo.wyo.gov

### 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@seo.wyo.gov](mailto:jpring@seo.wyo.gov). For more information on the following reports, please contact the agency representative listed above.

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

Jodee Pring reported the following:

The Wyoming Water Development Office (WWDO) and the State Engineer's Office (SEO) will be holding basin advisory group (BAG) meetings in the six basins that are not in the active water planning process. During these meetings, the WWDO will provide information on projects pertinent to each basin and the SEO will provide information on local water issues. All meetings will begin at 6:00 p.m. and will be held in the following locations:

April 2 - Platte BAG - Douglas

April 3 - Northeast and Powder/Tongue BAG - Gillette

April 7 - Wind/Bighorn BAG - Riverton

April 8 - Snake/Salt BAG - Jackson

April 9 - Bear BAG - Evanston

The update of the Green River Basin Water Plan is underway and a Green River Basin Advisory Group (BAG) meeting was held March 26<sup>th</sup> in Pinedale. Topics discussed included a presentation by Pat Tyrrell on Colorado River issues, a presentation by the town engineer, Gene Ninnie and a presentation from Scott Yates, Director of the Trout Unlimited, Western Water Project. The next meeting of this group will be held May 22 in Lyman.

All of the information that has been presented at the Green River BAG meetings can be found on the Water Planning website at:

<http://waterplan.state.wy.us/basins/green/green.html>

Pat Tyrrell reported the following:

Matt Hoobler is our new Platte River Coordinator, replacing Phil Stump who took a job in the private sector.

During this past legislative session, the legislature appropriated approximately \$1.6 million to the SEO for automation of 246 gages and diversions statewide.

The Water Well Drillers and pump installers licensing bill passed the legislature and will be signed by the Governor. The law will go in effect on July 1, 2009.

John Shields reported the following:

The Upper Colorado and San Juan Recovery Programs have been selected, as one of twenty-one recipients from across the Nation, to receive a Department of the Interior Cooperative Conservation Award. The Awards Ceremony will be hosted by the Secretary of the Interior on April 21, 2008 (Earth Day) in the Main Interior Building in Washington D.C. The Department of the Interior established its Cooperative Conservation Award (CCA) Program in 2004, as an outgrowth of then Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton making what she called "the Four C's" the cornerstone of her tenure: Consultation, Communication, and Cooperation, all in the service of Conservation. At the heart of the Four C's was Norton's oft-stated belief that for conservation to be successful, government must involve the people who live and work on the land. The intent and purpose of the CCA Program is to recognize federal government employees, who in concert with state government employees, nongovernmental entities and individuals have made exceptional contributions in conservation goals through collaboration and partnering.

The ceremony will be followed by a two-day Cooperative Conservation Workshop involving representatives of each of the CCA recipients and other diverse stakeholders who will share best practices and approaches for fostering cooperation and successful partnerships to achieve conservation outcomes through collaborative initiatives. The Workshop is a follow-on to the August 29-31, 2004 White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation held in St. Louis, MO attended by more than 1000 conservation leaders from the private, nonprofit and government sectors. The conference was called by President George W. Bush pursuant to his August 2004 Executive Order aimed at promoting greater citizen stewardship of our nation's natural and cultural resources and strengthening conservation partnerships among federal agencies, states, tribes, and local communities. The 2004 event

initiated a new conservation dialogue for the 21st Century building on the successful 20th Century conservation legacy that followed the first White House Conservation Conference called by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1908 and the second convened by President John F. Kennedy in 1962.

Sue Lowry reported the following:

Yellowstone River Compact Committee meetings will be held April 16 and 17 in Cody.

Bear River Commission meetings will be held in Salt Lake City on April 21-23.

A North Platte Decree Committee (NPDC) meeting will be held in Scottsbluff on April 15.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

Lee Hackleman reported the following:

Lee handed out a copy of the March 31st Monday Morning Snow Report which is displayed below. The state as a whole is at 102% of average, up 3% from the previous week.

**Wyoming - NRCS                      Monday Morning Snow Report                      Mar 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008**

**REPORT #19**

A good week, we gained another 2%. Keep these storms coming. Twelve basins gained and one lost ground. Last year at this time the state average was a miserable 74% with a low of 36% and a high of 97% of average. This year the state average is 102% with a low of 91% and a high of 115% of average. See the table & map below for more information.

For those of you with INTERNET capability, this report and map showing SWE percentages for the state can be found at "<http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu/wrds/nrcs/nrcs.html>"

Figure 1 -- SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT AS PERCENT OF AVERAGE. The following table shows the current, last year and preceding weeks' % of average snow water equivalent (SWE) amounts for Wyoming basins. Average is based on all reporting SNOTEL sites in the basin, not the snow courses. The reference period for average comparison is 1971-2000.

DRAINAGE BASIN	3/31/2008	3/25/2008	3/17/2008	3/31/2007	3/25/2007
SNAKE RIVER	104	99	96	66	68
UPPER YELLOWSTONE	114	108	108	70	72
WIND RIVER	97	96	93	70	60
BIGHORN BASIN	103	100	97	77	68
SHOSHONE	101	97	92	64	63
POWDER - TONGUE	110	111	108	97	73
BELLE FOURCHE	93	88	90	36	54
UPPER NORTH PLATTE	110	107	109	76	76
LOWER N PLATTE,SWT	94	91	93	83	76
LITTLE SNAKE RIVER	115	109	111	70	69
UPPER GREEN RIVER	91	87	82	64	65
LOWER GREEN RIVER	102	98	96	72	65
UPPER BEAR RIVER	98	96	96	63	62
Weighted State Average	102	99	97	74	69

\* red = down                      \* blue = up                      \* green = even

Map of Percent Averages by Basin at <http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu/wrds/nrcs/snowmap/snowmap.html>>

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE (AG)

Pete Michael reported the following:

The latest brief on the MT v. WY litigation will be filed on April 4<sup>th</sup>. The brief will be posted on the AG's office website that following Monday. MT will have until May 27<sup>th</sup> to respond to this brief.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION / SNAKE RIVER AREA OFFICE (USBR)

Mike Beus reported the following:

The April-July forecast is about 600,000 acre-feet better than last year for Snake at Heiss. The total system storage is about 1,100,000 acre-feet less than last year. Irrigation began very early last year and demands were high for a very long season. This year timing is average or later.

Last year we failed to anticipate the compound effects of the very dry summer decreasing the supply and increasing the demand. Usually it takes two, consecutive, dry years to deplete the system enough to call for this much water from Jackson Lake. Last year, we went from nearly full to rather low (very low for the system as a whole) in a single year. If we could have known, we would have reversed the pattern of flow downstream of Jackson Lake Dam and released the highest flows in June and followed a receding pattern for the remainder of the summer.

Much of this winter's snow fell during cold period resulting from northwesterly flow. Snow density was, and remains, low for the season and the ski resorts are reporting near record totals, while snow water content is very close to average. Empty space in Jackson Lake and Palisades Reservoirs is substantially more than required for flood control.

Jackson Lake is expected to fill in early June, a little later than normal.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION / WYOMING AREA OFFICE (USBR)

John Lawson submitted the following:

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

March 31, 2008 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>% Full Conservation Storage</u>	<u>% Avg.</u>
Seminole	6287.26	192,444	19	41
Pathfinder	5788.37	213,145	21	34
Alcova	5488.67	157,554	85	99
Glendo	4617.70	337,727	65	82
Guernsey	4405.59	16,896	37	87

March 31, 2007 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Seminole	6306.78	331,278	466,000
Pathfinder	5793.59	248,619	628,800
Alcova	5488.80	157,849	158,400
Glendo	4620.67	364,632	413,500
Guernsey	4405.35	16,533	19,400

March 2008 Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflows</u>	<u>% Of Average</u>
Seminole	42.9	756
Pathfinder (Sweetwater)	6.3	53
Alcova to Glendo Gains	7.7	43
Glendo to Guernsey Gains	1.0	67

Kendrick ownership was 353,776 acre-feet (AF) on March 31, 2008 and approximately 40% of average (888,700 AF), which compares to the ownership of 437,321 AF last year on March 30, 2007. The March 31, 2008 North Platte ownership was 497,745 AF, which was approximately 79% of average (631,100 AF), which compares to 638,133 AF of North Platte ownership on March 31, 2007. The Glendo ownership was 51,754 AF on March 31, 2008, which was approximately 38% of average (135,200 AF), which compares to the 27,464 AF of Glendo ownership on March 31, 2007.

Flows in the Miracle Mile below Kortes Dam are approximately 530 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 900,000 acre-feet (AF) or 101% of the 30 year average of 887,500 AF. Approximately 750,000 AF (107% of average) of the runoff is expected to enter Seminole Reservoir with an additional 50,000 AF (81% of average) being provided to Pathfinder Reservoir from the Sweetwater River, and the balance of 100,000 AF (83% of average) coming from the basin between Pathfinder Reservoir and Glendo Reservoir.

2. Water Supply Conditions of the Big Horn Basin

March 31, 2008 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	5769.99	57,566	38	74
Boysen	4706.62	447,660	60	83
Buffalo Bill	5368.29	455,220	70	112
Pilot Butte	5452.53	27,293	81	95

### March 31, 2007 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Bull Lake	5770.39	58,465	77,400
Boysen	4707.90	464,319	540,100
Buffalo Bill	5368.65	457,725	405,400*
Pilot Butte	5454.05	28,551	28,600

\* The average used for Buffalo Bill Reservoir reflects data from 1993 through 2007. 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.

### March 2008 Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflows (KAF)</u>	<u>% Average</u>
Bull Lake	1.2	67
Boysen	41.7	79
Buffalo Bill	12.9	66

The total release from Buffalo Bill Reservoir to the river is approximately 150 cfs and with addition from the springs is approximately 255 cfs as measured at the Cody river gage. The release from Boysen Dam is approximately 400 cfs.

The total expected April through July runoff in the Shoshone River Basin above Buffalo Bill Dam is expected to be 680,000 acre-feet (106% of average), compared to a 30 year average of 644,000 acre-feet. The total expected April through July runoff to Boysen Reservoir is 500,000 acre-feet (91% of average).

### SPECIAL REPORT

John Lawson, Area Manager for the Wyoming Area Office of the Bureau of Reclamation was special presenters today. Mr. Lawson gave an interesting and informative presentation on the water forecast for the upcoming season. A copy of the presentation can be found [here](#).

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.