



State Engineer's Office

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PATRICK T. TYRRELL
STATE ENGINEER

October 8, 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 October 2, 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 November 6th in the State Engineer's Conference Room at 10:00 a.m.

WATER FORUM SCHEDULE 2007-2008 1ST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

DATE	INVITED GUEST	DISCUSSION ITEM
November 6 th	James Landmeyer - USGS, South Carolina Water Science Center	From Redwoods to Remediation: The Effects of Plant/Groundwater Interactions on Surface and Groundwater Systems
December 4 th	Kyle Cheesbrough - Graduate Student - Civil & Architectural Engineering - UW Office of Water Programs	Use of Remote Sensing Data to Evaluate Glacial Change in the Wind River Range
January 8 th	Glenn Tootle - Faculty Member - Civil & Architectural Engineering - UW Office of Water Programs	Streamflow Reconstruction in the Upper Green and Upper Wind Rivers
February 5 th		
March 4 th	Cody Moser & Ty Soukup - Graduate Students - Civil & Architectural Engineering - UW Office of Water Programs	Improved Streamflow Forecasting of the North Platte River
April 1 st	John Lawson, Bureau of Reclamation	Water Forecast
May 6 th		

SPECIAL REPORT

The next meeting of the Water Forum will be November 6, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. in the State Engineer's Office conference room. We will be hearing from James Landmeyer who is with U.S. Geological Survey, South Carolina Water Science Center. Mr. Landmeyer will be speaking to us on "From Redwoods to Remediation: The Effects of Plant/Groundwater Interactions on Surface and Groundwater Systems".

WYOMING STATE WATER FORUM MEETING MINUTES

October 2, 2007

Sue Lowry called the two hundred and sixty-eighth 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>
Paul Caffrey	WYGISC	caffrey@uwyo.edu
Melissa Goering	NWS	melissa.goering@noaa.gov
Beth Hoobler	SEO	bhoobl@seo.wyo.gov
Sue Lowry	SEO	slowry@seo.wyo.gov
Chris Nicholson	WRDS	cnichol5@uwyo.edu
Mark Opitz	NRCS	mark.opitz@wy.usda.gov
Jodee Pring	SEO	jpring@seo.wyo.gov
Phil Stump	SEO	pstump@seo.wyo.gov
Steve Wolff	SEO	swolff@seo.wyo.gov
David Waterstreet	DEQ-WQD	dwater@state.wy.us
Mike Weiland	NWS	michael.weiland@noaa.gov
Kevin Wells	DEQ-WQD	kwells1@state.wy.us

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. For more information on the following reports, please contact the agency representative listed above.

STATE ENGINEER'S OFFICE (SEO)

Beth Hoobler reported the following:

A wells GIS layer is available on the SEO ftp site. This layer contains the locations of wells that have been permitted in the State Engineer's Office. To access this layer, go to <ftp://seoftp.wyo.gov>. A layer that contains the surface water points of diversion will be available in the next 6-12 months.

Phil Stump reported the following:

The next meeting of the North Platte Decree Committee will be held Oct. 16 in Torrington. A water users meeting will be held that same day in the morning.

There will be a request for proposal that will be coming out soon. The request is for estimates to fix the Stateline gage. The gage is shifting due to the sands in the river.

Steve Wolff reported the following:

The Wyoming Geographic Information Science Center (WYGISC) has the remote sensing through the 2007 irrigation season for the Green River Basin. The results should be available sometime in December.

Sue Lowry reported the following:

Snake River agency meetings will be held Sept. 19th. The Bureau of Reclamation is trying to hold as much as possible in the reservoirs. Winter releases are now at approximately 300 cfs.

Bear River meetings were held. There is some potential development around Bear Lake. A golf course and condominiums are proposed to be built. The developer is proposing to use groundwater and has purchased a ranch to mitigate the water use.

The Interstate Council on Water Policy will be holding meetings in New Orleans, LA Oct. 22-25.

A meeting co-sponsored by Western States Water Council and Western Governor's Association will be held in Salt Lake City, UT, October 10-12. This meeting will center on water planning. Information concerning this meeting can be found at westgov.org.

Jodee Pring reported the following:

The State Engineer's Office IT Initiative is nearing completion. The goal is to have the new system online for use by SEO employees after the first of the year. At that time, a Weston employee will be onsite for the first six months of deployment.

The update of the Green River Basin Water Plan has begun. WWC Engineering has been selected as the consultants for this basin plan. The first meeting of the Basin Advisory Group will be held Nov. 14 in Green River. This group will meet every other month until the completion of this plan, which is scheduled for June 2009.

An Advanced Mediation Training Workshop will be held October 22, 2007 in Casper, WY. For more information please contact Lucy Pauley at 307-777-8788 or lpau@state.wy.us.

The University of Wyoming - Casper College Center, the Haub School and Ruckelshaus Institute of Environment and Natural Resources, the University of Wyoming Outreach

School and the Casper Star-Tribune are sponsoring a series of free public lectures. The series is titled, "Delicate Networks: Wyoming's Land and Water and the Decisions Demanded by Growth." The series will be moderated by Anne MacKinnon and will be held from 7:00p - 9:00p at the Wheeler Auditorium, Room 103 in the Casper College Physical Science Building. The dates of the series are Oct. 18, Nov. 1 and Nov. 15.

A workshop "Finding the Balance: Energy and Climate" will be held October 8-10, 2007 in Jackson Hole, WY. For more information and registration details go to: <http://www.uwyo.edu/FindingTheBalance>

WATER RESOURCES DATA SYSTEMS (WRDS)

Chris Nicholson reported the following:

The Public Water System Survey is underway and should be completed by the end of October.

The Green River Basin Water Plan has started the next round of planning. All of the agendas, minutes, and PowerPoint's and handout materials will be available online at <http://waterplan.state.wy.us>.

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (USGS) <http://wy.water.usgs.gov/>

Kirk Miller reported the following:

USGS Budget News

A continuing resolution is in effect through November 16 or until the FY2008 budget is passed whichever comes first. No additional information on FY2008 funding for the Cooperative Water Program or the National Streamflow Information Program is available at this time.

Recently Discontinued and Threatened Gages

FY2008 funds for USGS water-resources monitoring have not been secured for the following site:

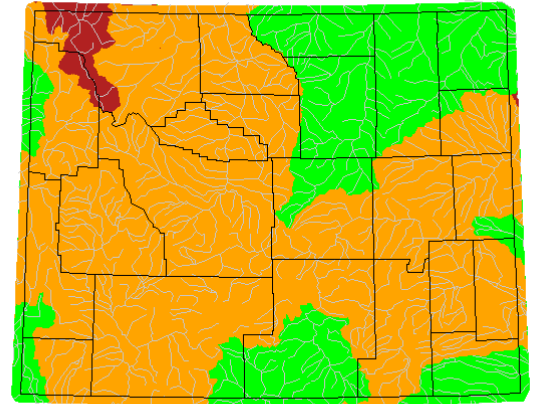
2008 Threatened Stations	
Station ID	Station Name
06305700	Goose Creek near Acme, WY

FY2008 funding for operation and maintenance of the streamflow-gaging stations 06299980 Tongue River at Monarch WY and 06306250 Prairie Dog Creek near Acme WY as well as periodic sampling have been secured. Funding is not available for continued operation of real-time conductance monitors at any of the subject sites.

Streamflow Conditions

Average streamflow conditions for the month of September were below normal across most of the State. Streamflows in most of southwestern Wyoming have been below normal to much below normal on average for four consecutive months. Streamflows in the Yellowstone Headwaters were much below normal on average for the third consecutive month. Streamflows in the Tongue and Powder River basins continue to be normal on average.

Monday, October 01, 2007



USGS

Explanation - Percentile classes						
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal	

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE

Mark Opitz reported the following:

The NRCS is taking EQIP sign-ups through December 31st.

Two new area offices have been opened in Douglas and Riverton. Tom Watson is in the Douglas office and Jerry Sullivan is in the Riverton office.

Two new watershed plans will be available soon. The Kaycee, WY Flood Protection Project Middle Fork Powder River Watershed plan will be available January 1st and the Middle Fork Popo Agie watershed plan will be available mid-2008.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION / WYOMING AREA OFFICE

John Lawson submitted the following:

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

September 30, 2007 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>% Full Conservation Storage</u>	<u>% Avg.</u>
Seminole	6292.78	226,400	22	35
Pathfinder	5781.38	171,100	17	35
Alcova	5498.02	179,500	97	100
Glendo	4584.80	119,300	23	110
Guernsey	4392.10	3,600	8	43

September 30, 2006 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Seminoe	6298.76	267,800	645,700
Pathfinder	5786.73	202,700	486,900
Alcova	5498.14	179,800	179,100
Glendo	4590.21	145,300	108,300
Guernsey	4392.49	3,900	8,300

October through September 2007 Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflows</u>	<u>% Of Average</u>
Seminoe	687.4	73
Pathfinder (Sweetwater)	51.7	37
Alcova to Glendo Gains	156.6	77
Glendo to Guernsey Gains	12.9	36

Kendrick ownership was 359,300 acre-feet (AF) on September 30, 2007 and approximately 40% of average (905,500 AF), which compares to the ownership of 442,700 AF last year at this date. The September 30, 2007, North Platte ownership was 286,300 AF, which was approximately 74% of average (389,300 AF), which compares to 328,600 AF of North Platte ownership on this date last year. The Glendo ownership was 53,600 AF on September 30, 2007, which was approximately 42% of average (128,500 AF), which compares to the 29,600 AF of Glendo ownership on this date last year.

Kendrick Ownership was the lowest for the end of September in the last 30 years. Glendo ownership at the end of September was the third lowest in the last 30 years.

Flows in the Miracle Mile below Kortess Dam are approximately 500 cubic feet per second (cfs). Releases from Gray Reef Reservoir are approximately 500 cfs. The level of Alcova Reservoir is at the normal summer operating range of 5498± one foot.

2. Water Supply Conditions of the Big Horn Basin

September 30, 2007 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>% Full Conservation Storage</u>	<u>% Avg.</u>
Bull Lake	5765.42	47,700	31	62
Boysen	4701.87	389,700	53	64
Buffalo Bill	5362.74	417,800	65	96
Pilot Butte	5424.96	9,300	28	50

September 30, 2006 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Bull Lake	5767.11	51,300	77,300
Boysen	4706.63	447,800	605,700
Buffalo Bill	5366.19	441,100	435,600*
Pilot Butte	5411.25	4,200	18,500

* 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.

October through September 2007 Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflows (KAF)</u>	<u>% Average</u>
Bull Lake	146.0	79
Boysen	468.3	50
Buffalo Bill	577.2	70

The total release from Buffalo Bill Reservoir to the river is approximately 770 cfs as measured at the Cody river gage. The release from Boysen Dam is approximately 528 cfs.

SPECIAL REPORT

John Henz was our special presenter today. Mr. Henz has spent over 30 years as a senior meteorologist working on solutions to complex flooding issues in Virginia, Texas, Minnesota, Colorado, Arizona, Nevada, Wyoming and California. He has been the project manager of projects dealing with operational flash flood prediction, the development of flood warning response plans, the design and integration of flood detection networks, determination of site specific Probable Maximum Precipitation for dam rehabilitation. Mr. Henz has developed original techniques for radar-rainfall estimation for hydrologic applications and water supply prediction using hydro-climate indices.

A copy of Mr. Henz's abstract can be found [here](#).

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.