



# State Engineer's Office

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**MATTHEW H. MEAD**  
GOVERNOR

**PATRICK T. TYRRELL**  
STATE ENGINEER

June 14, 2011

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Members of the State Water Forum

**FROM:** Patrick Tyrrell, Chairman

**SUBJECT:** Attached for your review and information is a copy of the May 3, 2011 Water Forum meeting minutes.

The Water Forum will take a break for the summer, but will resume in September. Please visit our website at <http://seo.state.wy.us/> for the 2011-2012 schedule. I would like to send out a big thank you to all of the Water Forum members for your support and encouragement over this last year.

We will see you in September in the State Engineer's Office conference room, Herschler Bldg., 4E.

# WYOMING STATE WATER FORUM MEETING MINUTES

May 3, 2011

Jodee Pring called the three-hundred and 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>
Brian Anderson	BOR	bjanderson@usbr.gov (phone)
Matt Bilodeau	COE	matt.a.bilodeau@usace.army.mil
Rick Huber	WY G&F	rick.huber@wgf.state.wy.us
Gregg Kerr	UW – Office of Water Programs	rrek@uwyo.edu
Jeremy Manley	SEO	jmanle@seo.wyo.gov
Cheryl Miller	USGS	cmiller@usgs.gov
David Mott	USGS	dmott@usgs.gov
Chris Nicholson	WRDS	cnichol5@uwyo.edu
Jodee Pring	SEO	jpring@seo.wyo.gov
Nathan Werner	States West Water Resources	nwerner@stateswest.com (phone)
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. 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 following Basin Advisory Group (BAG) meetings have been scheduled:

May 9 – Green River BAG – Rock Springs

May 10 - Bear BAG – Evanston

May 11 – Snake/Salt BAG – Alpine

May 24 – Powder/Tongue BAG – Sheridan

May 25 – Northeast BAG – Gillette

All meetings will begin at 6:00 p.m.

### WATER RESOURCES DATA SYSTEM (WRDS)

Chris Nicholson reported the following:

Mr. Nicholson handed out a sheet showing the precipitation departures from normal. A copy of that handout can be found [here](#).

WRDS is now on Facebook. The Facebook page is “Wyoming Climate Water”. This page will contain information on climate and water issues around the state as well as important dates and meetings. Currently, the schedule of upcoming Basin Advisory Group meetings is listed on this page.

### UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING - OFFICE OF WATER PROGRAMS (OWP)

Greg Kerr reported the following:

The Water Research Program received 11 annual reports and 5 final reports last Friday.

### UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (USGS)

Cheryl Miller reported the following:

The following press release will go out tomorrow:

#### **Stay on Top of Spring Streamflows**

Spring snowmelt will increase Wyoming stream and river flows, and those watching for flooding can receive instant, customized updates on water conditions via the [WaterAlert](#) service.

This free U.S. Geological Survey service provides the public and decision-makers with daily or hourly updates about current conditions in rivers, lakes and groundwater when they match specific conditions of concern.

“Real-time water data are essential to those making daily decisions about water-related activities, whether for resource management, business operations, flood response, or recreation,” said Kirk Miller, USGS hydrologist. “WaterAlert does the work of monitoring those streams and rivers for you, then sends an update based on what you are interested in.”

“This is fantastic,” said Jim Cantore, Weather Channel field meteorologist. “The new WaterAlert system from the USGS provides the latest river information to people in harm's way. This could be the first alert to a developing flood and can even help out during drought periods.”

To access WaterAlert, users start at <http://water.usgs.gov/wateralert> and select a specific site. Users then select the preferred delivery method (email or text), whether they want hourly or daily notifications, which data parameter they are interested in, and the threshold for those

parameters. Users can set the system to alert them when conditions are above a value, below a value, and between or outside of a range.

USGS provides science for a changing world. Visit USGS.gov, and follow us on Twitter @USGS and our other social media channels.

WYOMING GAME AND FISH (WY G&F)

Rick Huber reported the following:

The new headquarters building is now open. All G&F employees are back at this building. It is open to the public for tours, so come by.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (COE)

Matt Bilodeau reported the following:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued an announcement in the May 2, 2011 edition of the Federal Register requesting public comment on proposed guidance the agencies developed that will identify waters protected by the Clean Water Act while implementing the Supreme Court decisions in SWANCC and Rapanos.

A copy of a Public Notice describing the announcement with links to the applicable websites is available on the Wyoming Regulatory Office website at:

<http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/html/od-rwy/pn/spn2May11.pdf>

Mr. Bilodeau can be contacted at (307) 772-2300 with any questions.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION / WYOMING AREA OFFICE

John Lawson submitted the following:

The following is a listing of reservoir conditions on April 30, 2011:

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

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>% Full Conservation Storage</u>	<u>% Avg.</u>
Seminole	6325.52	520,012	51	106
Pathfinder	5845.35	915,457	90	148
Alcova	5498.45	180,596	98	101
Glendo	4627.64	433,760	84	97
Guernsey	4408.89	22,325	49	75

April 30, 2010 Reservoir Conditions:

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Seminoe	6340.88	729,200	492,500
Pathfinder	5839.42	799,255	617,900
Alcova	5498.20	179,985	178,900
Glendo	4632.27	484,769	445,500
Guernsey	4411.05	26,317	29,900

April 2011 Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflows (KAF)</u>	<u>% Of Average</u>
Seminoe	171.7	170
Pathfinder (Sweetwater)	3.7	19
Alcova to Glendo Gains	44.4	116
Glendo to Guernsey Gains	5.7	127

Kendrick ownership was 774,384 acre-feet (AF) on April 30, 2011 and approximately 89% of average (866,300 AF), which compares to the ownership of 997,421 AF last year at this date. The April 30, 2011, North Platte ownership was 1,058,589 AF, which was approximately 144% of average (733,700 AF), which compares to 1,001,578 AF of North Platte ownership on this date last year. The Glendo ownership was 179,619 AF on April 30, 2011, which was approximately 133% of average (134,800 AF), which compares to the 182,671 AF of Glendo ownership on this date last year.

Flows in the Miracle Mile below Kortez Dam are approximately 9,500 cubic feet per second (cfs). Releases from Gray Reef Reservoir are approximately 5,400 cfs. The level of Alcova Reservoir is at the summer operating range of 5498± one foot.

North Platte Water Supply Forecast

Forecast Points	May 1, 2011 Forecast of April-July Runoff			30 Yr. April-July Runoff Avg. <sup>2</sup>	Expected % of Avg.	Comparative Actual April - July Runoff			
	Reasonable Maximum <sup>1</sup>	Expected	Reasonable Minimum <sup>1</sup>			W. Yr.	W. Yr.	W. Yr.	W. Yr.
						2010	2009	2008	2007
Seminoe Reservoir	2,050	1,750	1,450	714	245	1242	964	956	425
Sweetwater River Above Pathfinder Reservoir	100	80	60	59	136	91	48	52	24
Alcova to Glendo	290	220	150	131	168	304	161	209	102

<sup>1</sup> The probability is estimated to be 9 chances in 10 that the actual volume will fall between the reasonable minimum and reasonable maximum.

<sup>2</sup> Average is based on the 1981-2010 period.

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

### April 30, 2011 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	5774.51	67,962	45	90
Boysen	4714.02	550,767	74	105
Buffalo Bill	5349.63	334,999	52	85
Pilot Butte	5449.07	24,522	73	80

### April 30, 2010 Reservoir Conditions

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Elev. (Ft)</u>	<u>Content (AF)</u>	<u>30 Year Average (AF)</u>
Bull Lake	5781.20	84,405	75,800
Boysen	4718.12	615,916	526,000
Buffalo Bill	5362.06	413,497	392,900*
Pilot Butte	5456.77	30,867	30,700

\* The average used for Buffalo Bill Reservoir reflects data from 1993 through 2010. 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.

### April 2011 Inflows

<u>Reservoir</u>	<u>Inflows (KAF)</u>	<u>% Average</u>
Bull Lake	2.3	62
Boysen	34.9	71
Buffalo Bill	20.3	50

The release from Buffalo Bill Reservoir to the river with the springs is approximately 910 cfs as measured at the Cody river gage. The release from Boysen Dam is approximately 2,400 cfs.

## Bighorn Water Supply Forecast

(1000 acre-feet)

Forecast Points	May 1, 2011 Forecast of April-July Runoff			30 Yr. April-July Runoff Avg. <sup>2</sup>	Expected % of Avg.	Comparative Actual April - July Runoff			
	Reasonable Minimum <sup>1</sup>	Expected	Reasonable Maximum <sup>1</sup>			W. Yr. 2010	W. Yr. 2009	W. Yr. 2008	W. Yr. 2007
	Bull Lake Reservoir	130	160			190	139.5	115	151
Wind River above Bull Lake Creek	480	580	680	401.6	144	408	546	412	199
Boysen Reservoir	600	800	1000	555.9	144	861	803	522	211
Buffalo Bill Reservoir	870	970	1120	660.9	147	674	954	955	427

<sup>1</sup> The probability is estimated to be 9 chances in 10 that the actual volume will fall between the reasonable minimum and reasonable maximum.

<sup>2</sup> Average is based on the 1981-2010 period.

	April (kaf)	May (kaf)
Bull Lake	2.3	
Wind River above Bull Lake Creek	16.9	
Boysen	34.9	
Buffalo Bill	20.3	

## SPECIAL REPORT

Cheryl Miller, a hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, was the special presenter at today's meeting. A copy of Ms. Miller's presentation on the USGS Stream/Groundwater Gaging Station Pilot Study can be found [here](#).

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.