



Date: March 10, 2014

To: Governance Committee (GC) of the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program (PRRIP)

From: Harry LaBonde State of Wyoming's Representative to the GC  
Director, Wyoming Water Development Office  
Patrick T. Tyrrell Wyoming State Engineer  
Matthew Hoobler State Coordinator, Wyoming Depletions Plan

**Re: Wyoming Depletions Report – Water Year 2013**

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This document is provided pursuant to the PRRIP, *Attachment 5, Section 7, and Paragraph II.B.* of Wyoming's Depletions Plan, approved by the GC on October 24, 2006 and revised on April 10, 2007, December 12, 2007, and August 11, 2009. This report summarizes any new depletion that commenced during Water Year 2013 (October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013).

Baseline No. 1

The State of Wyoming (Wyoming) complied with the Modified North Platte Decree intentionally irrigated acreage limitations for the 2013 irrigation season. On February 18, 2014, the Wyoming State Engineer's Office (SEO) submitted the intentionally irrigated acreage and reservoir storage accruals compliance report to the North Platte Decree Committee (NPDC).

Baseline No. 2

The SEO collected all the pertinent water use information to compare Water Year 2013 (WY 2013) water uses to the benchmarks under the existing Baseline No. 2 in Wyoming's Depletions Plan. As of WY 2013, Wyoming's total water uses are less than Baseline No. 2. The underruns, translated to the state line, are 72,195 acre-feet for the irrigation season and 5,256 acre-feet for the non-irrigation season.

Baseline No. 3

The development of post-1997 storage in the South Platte River basin is 59.92 acre-feet.

*Attachments 1 and 2* contain the detailed WY 2013 water use data and the reporting of new depletions.

**Attachment 1**  
**Wyoming Depletions Report – Water Year 2013**

**1. Existing Water Related Activities – Baseline No. 1**

1.1. Compliance with the Modified North Platte Decree

Wyoming complied with the Modified Decree as per the intentionally irrigated acreage report submitted to the NPDC on February 18, 2014. The intentionally irrigated acreage was 171,696 acres for the sub-basin above Guernsey Reservoir. Irrigation water use in the Benchmark No. 1 sub-basins appears in *Attachment 2 – Table 2.1*.

1.2. Kendrick Project

The Kendrick Project did not exceed the acreage limitation of 24,249 acres. In a letter received on March 10, 2014 from Mr. Lyle Myler, Bureau of Reclamation, he indicated that the Casper-Alcova Irrigation District report the area irrigated as 24,249 for WY 2013.

1.3. Mitigation

No mitigation is required.

**2. Existing Water Related Activities – Baseline No. 2**

2.1. Annual Water Use versus Benchmarks

Irrigation water use in the Benchmark No. 2 sub-basins appears in *Attachment 2 – Table 2.2*. Since Horse Creek sub-basin irrigation has no affect on depletions at the State Line during the irrigation season, irrigated acres in this sub-basin were not counted in WY 2013.

*Attachment 2 – Table 2.4* compares the WY 2013 water use with the benchmarks. The irrigation, municipal, industrial, rural domestic, retired/mitigation uses, and post-1997 new water uses are included in each respective row.

The sources of the rural domestic population data is the State of Wyoming Department of Administration and Information and the U.S. Census Bureau 2010 Census. The rural domestic use is based upon 2009 populations, which are the most current data available. The municipal population totals are based on the adjusted 2010 Census.

*Attachment 2 – Table 2.4 Column 5* includes water right abandonments derived from searching the Wyoming Board of Control records for permanently retired irrigation water uses between 2005–2008. In the Pathfinder to Guernsey sub-basin, the records were searched back to 1998.

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Additionally in *Table 2.4 Column 5*, the non-irrigation season overruns from municipalities and industries above Guernsey Dam have been offset by the agriculture underruns tabulated from Guernsey Dam to the state line. Due to the intervening reservoirs on the North Platte River, the effects of the depletions resulting from the basins above Guernsey Dam in both the irrigation and non-irrigation seasons arrive at the Guernsey to State Line reach during the irrigation season. Therefore, any municipal and industrial overruns above Guernsey Dam can be offset by agriculture underruns in the Guernsey Dam to State Line portion of the North Platte River basin (*Wyoming Depletions Plan – Attachment No. 1, page 4, October 24, 2006*).

**2.2. Mitigation**

After the overruns and underruns are translated to the state line, the net effect is an underrun for both the irrigation season and the non-irrigation season. No mitigation is required.

**3. South Platte River Basin – Baseline No. 3**

For WY 2013, there was an increase in acre-feet of storage in the South Platte Basin in Wyoming. The 1997 to 2012 total was 40.70 acre-feet, and with an increase of 19.22 acre-feet in storage, the reported storage total for WY 2013 is 59.92 acre-feet. All of these facilities are small ponds for stock, wildlife, fish propagation or environmental purposes. The cumulative effect of these facilities does not affect flows at the Wyoming / Colorado state line during a large runoff event.

**4. Proposed Changes to Benchmarks**

At this point in time, Wyoming has no plans to propose changes to the benchmarks.

**5. New Water Related Activities**

5.1. In *Attachment 2 – Table 2.3*, Wyoming reports by sub-basin the new water related activities commencing during Water year 2013 that are covered by existing water related Baseline No. 2 in Wyoming's Depletions Plan. *Table 2.3* also includes the total number of new water related activities implemented since 1997. This post-1997 total is integrated into Column 6 of *Table 2.4* and contributes to the overruns / underruns that occur.

The new water related activities completed during Water Year 2013 were similar in number and volume to the WY 2012 report, which were larger in number and volume than in previous reports prior to WY 2012. This increase is primarily due to the updating of the Wyoming SEO electronic database, whereas these increases also included new activities as far back as WY 2010 that were not previously reported. The estimated net depletion / accretion of the small ponds and new or enlarged wells are

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52.05 acre-feet depletion during the irrigation season and 24.88 acre-feet depletion during the non-irrigation season.

**6. Non-hydrologically Connected Groundwater Wells**

During WY 2013, there were no new groundwater well applications submitted to the SEO which requires the approval of the Groundwater Wells Subcommittee (GWSC) of the NPDC.

**Attachment 2**  
**Wyoming Depletions Report – Water Year 2013**

**Table 2.1**  
**Exiting Water Related Baseline No. 1**

Decree Category	Benchmark Acreage	2013 Acreage	Difference Acreage
Irrigated Acreage - Ab. Gu.	226,000	171,696	54,304
Irrigated Acreage - Kendrick	24,249	24,249	0

**Table 2.2**  
**Existing Water Related Baseline No. 2 – Irrigation Water Use**

Sub-basin	Acreage Benchmark	2013 Acreage	Overruns (Underruns)	Unit C.U.	Overruns (Underruns)
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(af/acre)	(acre-feet)
Guernsey-State Line	106,221	72,344	-33,877	1.32	-44,717.64
Horse Creek	41,179	*		1.16	
Upper Laramie	91,255	68,018	-23,237	0.79	-18,357.23
Lower Laramie	85,711	54,516	-31,195	1.31	-40,865.45
<b>Total</b>	<b>324,366</b>	<b>194,878</b>	<b>-88,309</b>		<b>-103,940.32</b>

\* Since Horse Ck. sub-basin depletions have no affect on depletions at the State Line during the irrigation season irrigated acres were not counted in WY 2013.

**Table 2.3**  
**Total Depletions from New Water Activities – Post 1997**

Sub-basin	Irrigation Season			Non-Irrigation Season		
	97 to 12	WY 2013	Total	97 to 12	WY 2013	Total
	(acre-feet)	(acre-feet)	(acre-feet)	(acre-feet)	(acre-feet)	(acre-feet)
Above Pathfinder	122.82	4.66	127.48	32.72	2.33	35.05
Pathfinder to Guernsey	16.15	5.99	22.14	64.68	3.00	67.68
Guernsey to State Line	45.82	0.40	46.22	31.94	0.20	32.14
Horse Creek	38.22	0.00	38.22	26.11	0.00	26.11
Upper Laramie	10.78	25.91	36.69	8.67	12.96	21.63
Lower Laramie	66.72	15.09	81.81	33.27	6.40	39.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>300.51</b>	<b>52.05</b>	<b>352.56</b>	<b>197.39</b>	<b>24.88</b>	<b>222.27</b>

**Attachment 2**  
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**Table 2.4**  
**Water Year 2013 Overruns / Underruns**

Sub-basin	Table 2.4 - Irrigation Season - Overruns / Underruns AF							Tracking Factors Table I	Effects State Line (AF)
	Irrigation Use	Municipal Use	Industrial Use	Rural Domestic	Retired / Mitigation	Post 1997 Activities	Total		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Above Pathfinder	-----	-724.62	178.24	-186.73	-1.29	127.48	-606.92	0.90	-546.23
Pathfinder to Guernsey	-----	757.81	-2,138.64	-99.67	-40.90	22.14	-1,499.26	0.98	-1,461.78
Guernsey to State Line	-44,717.64	-619.01	-31.92	-92.73	427.81	46.22	-44,987.27	1.00	-44,987.27
Horse Creek	-----	15.83	0.00	-25.53	-1.95	38.22	26.56	0.00	0.00
Upper Laramie	-18,357.23	-613.05	0.00	-170.13	-0.79	36.69	-19,104.51	0.25	-4,776.13
Lower Laramie	-40,865.45	-11.07	0.00	-51.93	-0.62	81.81	-40,847.26	0.50	-20,423.63
<b>WY 2013 Total</b>	-103,940.32	-1,194.11	-1,992.32	-626.73	382.26	352.56	-107,018.66		-72,195.04

Sub-basin	Table 2.4 - Non-Irrigation Season - Overruns / Underruns AF							Tracking Factors Table II	Effects State Line (AF)
	Irrigation Use	Municipal Use	Industrial Use	Rural Domestic	Retired / Mitigation	Post 1997 Activities	Total		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Above Pathfinder	-----	-136.46	278.89	-93.37	-559.58	35.05	-475.46	0.93	-442.18
Pathfinder to Guernsey	-----	-103.61	-2,306.01	-49.83	36.13	67.68	-2,355.65	1.00	-2,355.65
Guernsey to State Line	-----	-317.22	-1,981.14	-41.37	0.00	32.14	-2,307.58	1.00	-2,307.58
Horse Creek	-----	-24.97	0.00	-12.77	0.00	26.11	-11.63	1.00	-11.63
Upper Laramie	-----	-87.24	0.00	-80.07	0.00	21.63	-145.68	0.50	-72.84
Lower Laramie	-----	-79.43	0.00	-25.97	0.00	39.67	-65.73	1.00	-65.73
<b>WY 2013 Total</b>	-----	-748.92	-4,008.26	-303.37	-523.45	222.27	-5,361.73		-5,255.61