

STATE OF WYOMING



Wyoming Water Development Commission Wyoming State Engineer's Office

Date: March 12, 2013

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

From: Harry LaBonde State of Wyoming's Representative to the GC  
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**Re: Wyoming Depletions Report – Water Year 2012**

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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 2012 (October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2012).

Baseline No. 1

The State of Wyoming (Wyoming) complied with the Modified North Platte Decree acreage limitations for the 2012 irrigation season. On February 22, 2013, 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 2012 (WY 2012) water uses to the benchmarks under the existing Baseline No. 2 in Wyoming's Depletions Plan. As of WY 2012, Wyoming's total water uses are less than Baseline No. 2. The underruns, translated to the state line, are 61,229 acre-feet for the irrigation season and 3,738 acre-feet for the non-irrigation season.

Baseline No. 3

The development of post-1997 storage in the South Platte River basin is 40.70 acre-feet.

*Attachments 1 and 2* contain the detailed WY 2012 water use data and the reporting of new depletions.

# Attachment 1

## Wyoming Depletions Report – Water Year 2012

### 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 22, 2013. The intentionally irrigated acreage was 169,059 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 12, 2013 from Mr. Lyle Myler, Bureau of Reclamation, he indicated that the Casper-Alcova Irrigation District reported the area irrigated as 24,249 for WY 2012.
- 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 the 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 2012.

*Attachment 2 – Table 2.4* compares the WY 2012 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.

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

## Attachment 1

### Wyoming Depletions Report – Water Year 2012

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 2012, there was an increase in acre-feet of storage in the South Platte Basin in Wyoming. The 1997 to 2011 total was 36.29 acre-feet, and with an increase of 4.41 acre-feet in storage, the reported storage total for WY 2012 is 40.70 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 2012 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 2012 were larger in number and volume than in previous reports. This increase is primarily due to the updating of the Wyoming SEO electronic database, whereas these increases also included new activities from WY 2010 and WY 2011 that were not previously reported. The estimated net depletion/accretion of the small ponds and new or enlarged wells are 35.79 acre-feet depletion during the irrigation season and 18.35 acre-feet depletion during the non-irrigation season.

**Attachment 1**  
**Wyoming Depletions Report – Water Year 2012**

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

During WY 2012, 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 2012

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

Decree Category	Benchmark Acreage	2012 Acreage	Difference Acreage
Irrigated Acreage - Ab. Gu.	226,000	169,059	56,941
Irrigated Acreage - Kendrick	24,249	24,249	0

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

Sub-basin	Acreage Benchmark	2012 Acreage	Overruns (Underruns)	Unit C.U.	Overruns (Underruns)
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(af/acre)	(acre-feet)
Guernsey-State Line	106,221	78,533	-27,688	1.32	-36,548.16
Horse Creek	41,179	*		1.16	
Upper Laramie	91,255	77,440	-13,815	0.79	-10,913.85
Lower Laramie	85,711	52,370	-33,341	1.31	-43,676.71
<b>Total</b>	<b>324,366</b>	<b>208,343</b>	<b>-74,844</b>		<b>-91,138.72</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 2012.

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

Sub-basin	Irrigation Season			Non-Irrigation Season		
	97 to 11	WY 2012	Total	97 to 11	WY 2012	Total
	(acre-feet)	(acre-feet)	(acre-feet)	(acre-feet)	(acre-feet)	(acre-feet)
Above Pathfinder	117.49	5.33	122.82	30.05	2.67	32.72
Pathfinder to Guernsey	-6.29	22.44	16.15	53.21	11.47	64.68
Guernsey to State Line	45.82	0.00	45.82	31.74	0.20	31.94
Horse Creek	38.22	0.00	38.22	26.11	0.00	26.11
Upper Laramie	10.75	0.03	10.78	8.65	0.02	8.67
Lower Laramie	58.73	7.99	66.72	29.27	4.00	33.27
<b>Total</b>	<b>264.72</b>	<b>35.79</b>	<b>300.51</b>	<b>179.03</b>	<b>18.35</b>	<b>197.38</b>

**Attachment 2**  
**Wyoming Depletions Report – Water Year 2012**

**Table 2.4.**  
**Water Year 2012 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	-----	-619.05	510.69	-169.53	-1.29	122.82	-156.37	0.90	-140.73
Pathfinder to Guernsey	-----	2,317.53	-2,569.91	51.80	-40.90	16.15	-225.33	0.98	-219.70
Guernsey to State Line	-36,548.16	-316.77	139.91	-87.60	528.42	45.82	-36,238.37	1.00	-36,238.37
Horse Creek	-----	41.81	0.00	-25.27	-1.95	38.22	52.82	0.00	0.00
Upper Laramie	-10,913.85	-439.23	0.00	-145.53	-0.79	10.78	-11,488.62	0.25	-2,872.16
Lower Laramie	-43,676.71	149.31	0.00	-54.53	-0.62	66.72	-43,515.83	0.50	-21,757.92
<b>WY 2012 Total</b>	-91,138.72	1,133.60	-1,919.31	-430.67	482.87	300.51	-91,571.71		-61,228.87

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	-----	-147.75	207.06	-84.77	-473.34	32.72	-466.09	0.93	-433.46
Pathfinder to Guernsey	-----	78.28	-3,299.61	25.90	-150.72	64.68	-3,281.47	1.00	-3,281.47
Guernsey to State Line	-----	-206.35	242.99	-38.80	0.00	31.94	29.78	1.00	29.78
Horse Creek	-----	-25.57	0.00	-12.63	0.00	26.11	-12.09	1.00	-12.09
Upper Laramie	-----	-166.98	0.00	-67.77	0.00	8.67	-226.08	0.50	-113.04
Lower Laramie	-----	66.45	0.00	-27.27	0.00	33.27	72.45	1.00	72.45
<b>WY 2012 Total</b>	-----	-401.92	-2,849.56	-205.33	-624.06	197.38	-3,883.50		-3,737.83