



# State Engineer's Office

HERSCHLER BUILDING, 2 WEST  
CHEYENNE, WYOMING 82002  
(307) 777-6150

MARK GORDON  
GOVERNOR

STATE ENGINEER

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## **State Engineer's Office to Initiate Stakeholder Involvement Process on Potential Demand Management Program in the Green and Little Snake River Basins.**

In November, the Wyoming State Engineer's Office, with the assistance of the University of Wyoming Extension, will be kicking off a public stakeholder process in the Green and Little Snake River Basins to investigate the feasibility of an Upper Basin Demand Management (DM) Program in Wyoming. The DM Program is one element of the Drought Contingency Plans (DCP) that were approved this past spring by the seven Colorado River Basin States and the Department of Interior.

The Colorado River Basin has been experiencing persistently dry hydrology since the turn of the 21st Century. Given these conditions, the Upper Division States of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming have coordinated with the Department of the Interior and stakeholders throughout the Basin to evaluate proactive options for protecting critical elevations at Lake Powell. Lake Powell is the Upper Basin's primary storage facility to help assure continued compliance with the Colorado River and Upper Colorado River Basin Compacts, and the reservoir assists the continued use and development of Colorado River water by the Upper Division States.

The purpose of an Upper Basin DM program would be to support the voluntary, compensated, and temporary reduction of consumptive uses in the Upper Basin or augment supplies with imported water, if needed in times of drought, to help assure continued compliance with the 1922 Compact and without impairing existing water rights. Like mandatory curtailment, any DM program would be a state-based effort implemented under state law.

Within Wyoming, the water users of the basins involved must consider whether they want to see the state work to implement a DM program, and if they do, what that program should look like. In addition, no DM program can be created and implemented unless and until the four Upper Division States and the Upper Colorado River Commission determine it to be feasible and consistent with the terms of the DCP. If, after study, the States collectively agreed that a DM program is feasible, they may then develop and implement a program. A DM program may only be implemented if approved independently by each State's Commissioner to the Upper Colorado River Commission and the Commission as a whole.

Dates and locations for upcoming public meetings to be held from 6-8 pm are as follows:

- **Monday Nov. 4: Pinedale, Rendezvous Pointe Senior Center**
- **Tuesday Nov. 5: Green River, Sweetwater County Library**

- **Wednesday Nov. 6: Baggs, Little Snake River Conservation District Office**
- **Thursday Nov. 7: Cheyenne, Cheyenne Botanic Gardens, South Gathering Room**

All information related to DM can be found at: <http://www.uwyo.edu/uwe/wy-dm-ucrb/>. For additional information, please feel free to contact:

Steve Wolff  
Wyoming State Engineer's Office  
(307) 777-1942  
[steve.wolff@wyo.gov](mailto:steve.wolff@wyo.gov)