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Wyoming Beneficial Uses

Irrigation use is the irrigation of any lands for agricultural purposes not included in the definition of domestic use.

Municipal use is water used within a municipality. (Water used within non-municipal subdivisions, trailer courts, etc. is not considered to be municipal use).

Industrial use includes water used in oil field secondary recovery operations, industrial processing, mining and other more or less permanent industrial uses. Examples of Industrial use include:

- Dewatering
- Drilling (activities of any type associated with drilling)
- Heat Extraction
- Manufacturing
- Milling
- Mining
- Power Generation
- Pollution Control
- Reclamation Watering
- Refining
- Sedimentation Control
- Other Industrial (Must be explained)

Domestic use is defined as household use and the watering of lawns and gardens for non-commercial family use, where the area to be irrigated does not exceed one (1) acre, and where the yield or flow does not exceed .056 cubic feet per second or twenty-five (25) gallons per minute.

Stock use is the normal watering of livestock. If feed lot operations are involved, the use should be designated as "Miscellaneous" and then described in detail in the application.

Miscellaneous uses consist of any other beneficial use not previously described. Examples of Miscellaneous uses include:

- Bathing
- Chemical Mixing
- Churches
- Coal Bed Natural Gas
- Commercial
 - Apartment Houses
 - Aquaculture.
 - Automobile Service Stations
 - Bottling Water

- Culinary
 - Dairy Product Processing
 - Feedlot/Stockyard
 - Hydropower Generation
 - Maintenance (Vehicle/Equipment Washing)
 - Medicinal
 - Motels
 - Snow Making
 - Trailer Courts
 - Other Commercial (Must be explained)
- Domestic Supply use is for domestic household use and irrigation for non-agricultural purposes not included in the definition of domestic use. For example, subdivision developments.
 - Environmental use (as authorized by the Wyoming Legislature)
 - Erosion Control
 - Fire Protection
 - Fish Propagation
 - Flood Control
 - Flow Through (to supply water at a rate that allows the exchange of the entire contents of a reservoir over a 30-day period)
 - Groundwater Recharge
 - Heat Extraction from Water
 - Highway Construction and Repair
 - Hydropower Generation (non-commercial)
 - Ice Cutting
 - Public Utility (non-municipal)
 - Railroad Construction and Maintenance
 - Recreation
 - Reservoir Supply
 - Schools
 - Steam Engines
 - Steam Generation
 - Temporary drilling or other temporary industrial purposes
 - Transportation
 - Wetlands
 - Wildlife
 - Other Miscellaneous (Must be explained)

Instream Flow use is the storage of water or unappropriated stream flow appropriated for the purpose of providing the minimum flow necessary to establish, maintain, or improve new or existing fisheries in accordance with W.S. §§ 41-3-1001 through 1014. No person other than the state of Wyoming shall own any instream flow water right.