



Wyoming Water Flow

Water is Wyoming's Gold!

Mark your Calendars now!
WWA Annual Meeting and Educational Seminar
October 28-30, 2009
Sheridan, Wyoming

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2009 Wyoming Legislative Review

The 2009 General Session of the 60th Wyoming Legislature adjourned on March 5, 2009. The WWA wishes to give a special thanks to Don Brosz, who acted as the WWA Legislative Liaison for the 2009 session. Thank you Don for all your hard work! During the 2009 Session, bills related to water resources within Wyoming received additional consideration and support by the WWA. A summary of those bills are recapped in this article. The summaries listed are a general overview and are not intended to address all aspects of a bill. For more information on a particular bill please refer to the Wyoming Legislative Website at <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2009/Bills.htm> Several bills came before the Legislature sponsored by the Senate or House Agriculture, State and Public Lands and Water Resources Interim Committee. Those included:

S.F. No. 009 State Engineer Permit Application. An Act relating to the State Engineer; allowing electronic permitting; granting rulemaking authority; ratifying existing rules; and providing for an effective date. The Governor signed the bill on March 02, 2009. The bill will be included as Chapter No. 0089 with an effective date of July 01, 2009.

H.B. No. 0014 Discharged Water Management. Provides for the management of surface water dis-



charges; authorizes the issuance of general permits for discharged water; provides for additional management of water discharged from coal bed natural gas wells; authorizes construction to limit effects of excess surface discharges of coal bed water; Authorizes assessment of damages related to such construction; Provides definitions, review processes, rulemaking authority, enforcements, penalties, and an effective date. The Bill failed in committee and was not introduced into the House.

H.B. No. 0007 Water Development Projects. Provides for the development of new water sources of supply; provides for watercourse restoration; and provides for an effective date. The House received the bill on January 13, 2009. No further action required prior to Committee of the Whole (CoW) cutoff.

S.F. No. 0067 Water Development Funding. Provides for an additional appropriation for Water Development Accounts I and II from the State Reserve Account Fund and provides for an effective date. The Budget Committee did not recommend additional funds from the Reserve Account as recommended in this bill.

(continued on page 3)

WWA Hires New Administrative Consultant

Changes to the organizational front of WWA are underway as it transitions to a new Administrative Consultant. As of March 1st, Robin Gray will take over as the new Administrative Consultant for the Wyoming Water Association. Robin will be actively involved in the routine operations of the Association. Maintaining good communication and participation with members through newsletters, mailings, website updates, and educational seminars and tours will be Robin's primary focus. Working closely with the board on administrative duties will ensure a smooth and seamless transition.

Ms. Gray, a resident of Laramie, comes prepared for the job with a background in water. She has a MA from the University of Wyoming in Geography/Water Resources. In addition, Robin has benefitted from her previous employment as Project Coordinator at the Water Resources Data System (WRDS). During her time at



WWA Administrative Consultant—Robin Gray and her son Gabe.

WRDS, Robin worked on the development of The Wyoming State Water Plan (SWP). Her main responsibilities included the creation of the SWP Website, reviewal of consultant products and formation of Basin Advisory Groups across the State.

Ms. Gray's education and job experience has led to a solid understanding of Wyoming water issues and water policy across the West. Her knowledge of website design, electronic publishing, and database management will be especially useful to WWA. Robin's enthusiasm and

understanding of water related issues will not only lead to the continued short-term success of WWA, but also allow us to make positive changes that helps the association as it moves toward the future.

For the past five years, Robin has taken a break from her career to raise her two children, Gabe and Remy (5yrs and 3yrs, respectively). Her husband Steve Gray is currently the director of WRDS and the Wyoming State Climatologist. Robin takes full advantage of the nearby mountains for camping, skiing, boating, etc.. She is also an avid gardener and is the Secretary of the Laramie Garden Club.

To contact Robin for more information on WWA or to just welcome her aboard her email is robin@wyomingwater.org and phone is 307-286-8614. Welcome Robin, we look forward to working with you!

2009 WWA Membership Dues Payable Now

The Wyoming Water Association supports activities solely on membership dues and contributions. Last year's activities included educational opportunities, legislative reviews, scholarships, newsletters, a summer tour, an annual conference and email notifications. Individuals who attended the Annual Meeting and/or Educational Seminar received a complimentary membership for the 2009 calendar year. Those not able to attend the conference have received an invoice for 2009 year dues. A dues form is included in this newsletter.

Scholarship Recipients Announced

The Wyoming Water Association is pleased to announce the 2009 - 2010 scholarship recipients. Congratulations to Zachary Herold, Bradi Nelson and Karry Stroh! Their essays on "Why is Protecting Wyoming's Groundwater Important" were chosen by the association's scholarship committee in the annual scholarship competition. These recipients will be honored by the Association's members during the Annual Meeting's evening banquet in October in Sheridan. Please check the next issue of The Wyoming Water Flow for more on these three remarkable individuals.

2009 WWA Board of Directors

President	Ron Cunningham	
1st Vice President	Nick Wambeke	
2nd Vice President	Tim Wilson	
Secretary	Ron Vore	
Treasurer	Jack Meena	
Past President	Alan Dugan	
Agriculture	Neal Payne Bryant Startin	Klodette Stroh Lee Arrington
Industry, Business & Education	Wendy Hutchinson Don Brosz	Ryan Erickson Floyd Field
Recreation & Conservation	Kathy Buchner Scott Yates	Tom Annear Barry Lawrence
Labor And Civic	Frank Grimes Mark Pepper	Marge Bedessem John Maier
Local Government	Mike Cole David Hill	Robert Taylor

(Continued from page 1)

The Select Water Committee also had two bills before the 2009 Legislative Session. They include:

H.B. No. 0100 Omnibus Water Bill - Planning.

This bill provides the annual authorization for water accounts I and II with an effective date. This bill contains an appropriation of \$50,000,000 from the Budget Reserve Account to Water Development Account I and \$50,000,000 from the Budget Reserve Account to Water Development Account II. Please see the bill for the numerous appropriations it contains. The appropriation is effective immediately.

S.F. No. 0068 Omnibus Water Bill

- Construction. This bill contains the annual authorization for the Level III construction of water projects which have previously completed the Level I and II stages. It includes the authorization of a transfer of water as specified; authorization of construction of designated water projects; description of projects; specification of terms and conditions of funding for projects; pro-

vides appropriations; modification of project descriptions and terms of appropriations for various specified prior projects; and provides for an effective date. Please see the bill for the numerous appropriations it contains. The Governor signed the bill on February 25, 2009. The assigned chapter number is Chapter No. 0038 and is effective immediately.

S.F. No. 0071 Temporary In-stream Flows. This bill sponsored by Senators Case, Decaria, Larson and Massie and Representatives Thompson and Zwonitzer. Provides for the acquisition of temporary in-stream flows and provides an effective date. Game and Fish and Trout Unlimited members of the WWA Board indicated that this bill would receive very little support from the Legislature. Therefore, the recommended WWA address H.B. No. 0070: Landowner Flexibility and Fisheries Protection and Restoration instead. S.F. No 0071 failed in committee.

H.B. No 0070 Landowner Flexibility and Fisheries Protection and

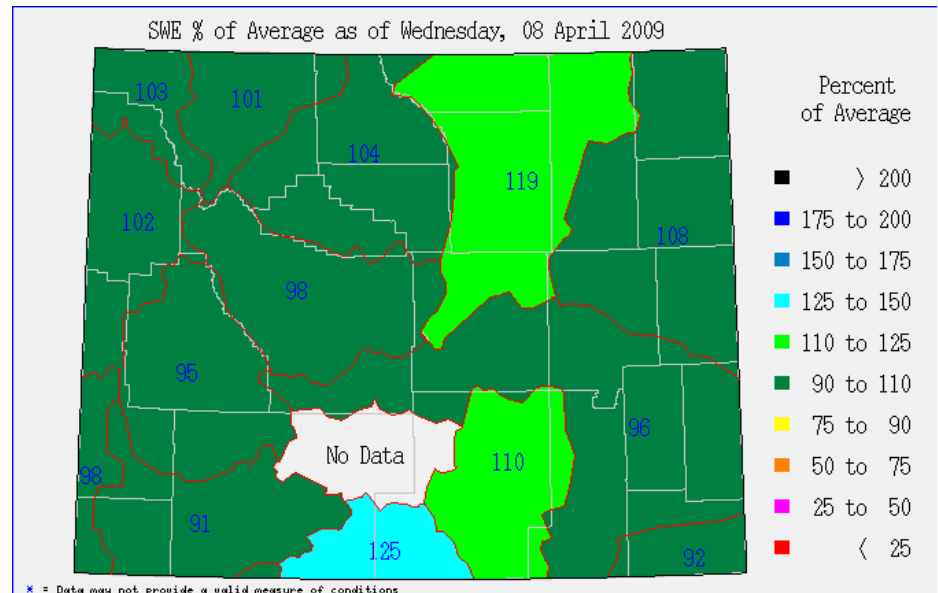
Restoration. This bill sponsored by Representatives Berger, Gingery and Jorgensen and Senators Burns, Case and Larson. Provides for temporary water rights as specified, provides procedures, imposes a fee, requires a study and reports as specified, provides definitions, provides a repealer date, provides a statement of policy, and provides for an effective date. WWA supported this bill for many reasons. First, the bill indicated that the State Engineer not issue an in-stream flow permit if injury resulted to other water right holders in the designated stream section. Second, the State Engineer was required to hold a public hearing before an in-stream flow permit is issued. Lastly, The bill contained a ten year sunset clause, that is after ten years the in-stream flow bill will be reviewed. The House Agriculture, State and Public Lands and Water Resources Interim Committee brought this bill before the House Floor. The bill failed on 1st reading by Committee of the Whole (CoW).

Wyoming Basin Outlook Report

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), as a division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, prepares basin outlook reports for the Western United States. The following is a summary of the April 1, 2009 Report prepared for Wyoming. In General, the snow water equivalent (SWE) across Wyoming was slightly below average at 98%. March precipitation varied from 86% to 169% of average across the state. As of April 1st, year-to-date precipitation was about average. Forecasted runoff varied from 51% to 230% of average for an overall statewide average of 96%. Reservoir storage, for the entire state, was at 102% of average.

Snake River Basin – The Snake River SWE was about average at 98%. In March, precipitation across the basin was above average, ranging from 77% to 188%. Water-year-to-date precipitation was 101% of average for the Snake River Basin. Reservoir storage was 123% of average for the three storage reservoirs in the basin. The 50% exceedance forecasts for April through September were slightly above average (99% to 106%) for the basin.

Upper Yellowstone and Madison River Basins – Both the Yellowstone and Madison River Basins SWE were close to average for this time of year at 106% and 94% of average, respectively. Last months precipitation in the Madison and Yellowstone drainage was about 169% of average, with ranges from 131% to 188% of average. Water-year-to-date precipitation was about 101% of average. Ennis Lake was storing 70% of its capacity which was 93% of average. Hebgen Lake was at 75% capacity (110% of average). The 50% exceedance forecasts for April through September were above average for the basin, ranging



from 93% to 106% of average.

Wind River Basin – The Wind River Basin above Boysen Reservoir had below average SWE at 84% for this time of year. SWE in the Wind River above Dubois was 95% of average. The Little Wind SWE was 82% of average and the Popo Agie drainage SWE was about 70% of average. Last months precipitation in the basin varied from 96% to 195% of average with a combined average of 131%. Water-year-to-date precipitation was 100% of average and about 92% of last year at this time. Year-to-date percentages ranged from 94% to 119% of average. Current reservoir storage varied from 100% to 115% of average. Overall, reservoirs were storing from 100% of average at Boysen to 115% of average at Pilot Butte. The 50% exceedance forecasts for April through September runoff period was below average for the basin, ranging from 61% of average at Little Wind River near Riverton to 100% of average at the Wind River above Bull Lake Creek.

Bighorn River Basin - The Bighorn River Basin SWE was above average with ranges of 102% to 107% of average. Last month's precipitation was

86% of average (75% of last year). Sites ranged from 46% to 157% of average for the month. Year-to-date precipitation was 104% of average (ranges from 81% to 119%). Boysen Reservoir was currently storing 100% of average (551,300 ac-ft). Bighorn Lake was at 113% of average (917,000 ac-ft). The 50% exceedance forecasts for April through September runoffs were anticipated to be below average (90% to 103% of average).

Shoshone and Clarks Fork River Basin – Snowpack in these basins were about average for this time of year with a SWE of 98% of average in the Shoshone River Basin and a SWE of 104% of average in the Clarks Fork River Basin. Precipitation for last month was 150% of average with monthly precipitation ranging from 93% to 191% of average. The basin year-to-date precipitation was 107% of average. The average for the eight reporting stations ranged from 87% to 121%. Current storage in Buffalo Bill Reservoir was about 111% of average and at about 67% of capacity. Currently, about 432, 900 ac-ft were stored in the reservoir compared to 455,200 ac-ft last year. The 50% ex-

Wyoming Basin Outlook Report (cont.)

-ceedance forecasts for the April through September period was expected to be slightly above average for the basin, ranging from 103% to 109% of average.

Powder and Tongue River Basins

– Snow water equivalent (SWE) in the Powder and Tongue River Basins were above average. SWE ranged from 103% in the Goose Creek drainage to 117% in the Upper Powder River drainage. Last month's precipitation was 88% of average for the nine reporting stations, with monthly percentages ranging from 46% to 117% of average. Year-to-date precipitation was 111% of average (ranging 81% to 123% of average). The Tongue River Reservoir was at 79% of capacity and 206% of average at 62,100 ac-ft. The 50% exceedance forecasts for the April through September period were expected to be above average for the basin.

Belle Fourche and Cheyenne

River Basins – The Belle Fourche River Basin was 117% of average for this time of year. Precipitation for last month was 146% of average, ranging from 83% to 282%. Year-to-date precipitation was 156% of average. Yearly percentages ranged from 148% to 165% of average. Current reservoir storage was around 110% of average in the basin. Belle Fourche Reservoir was storing 129% of average (169,100 ac-ft) and Keyhole Reservoir was storing 86% of average at 98,100 ac-ft. The 50% exceedance forecasts for the April through September period were expected to be way above average with 249% of average at the Deerfield Reservoir Inflow and 232% of average at the Pactola Reservoir Inflow.

Upper North Platte River Basin – The SNOTELS above Seminoe Reservoir were showing about 102% of average (SWE) for this time of year. SWE values ranged from 91% of

average in the Medicine Bow and Rock Creek drainages to 104% of average in the Encampment River drainage. Eight reporting stations show last month's precipitation at 119% of average or 119% of last year's amount. Precipitation ranged from 93% to 142% of average in the basin. Total year-to-date precipitation was about 112% of average, with ranges from 96% to 128% of average. Seminoe Reservoir was estimated to be storing 528,100 ac-ft or 52% of capacity. Seminoe Reservoir was also storing about 106% of average for this time of year and 275% of last year. The 50% exceedance forecasts for April through September were expected to be just below average.

Lower North Platte River Basin

– SWE for the North Platte River Basin was at 97% of average. SWE's ranged from 59% of average in the Sweetwater drainage to 97% of average for the Laramie River above Laramie. The water year-to-date precipitation for the basin was currently 98% of average, with ranges from 74% to 158% of average. The Lower North Platte River Basin reservoir storage was below average at 78%. Reservoir storage is as follows: Alcova 158,400 ac-ft (99% of average); Glendo 323,500 ac-ft (76% of average); Guernsey 20,100 ac-ft (98% of average); Pathfinder 404,800 ac-ft (54% of average); Seminoe 528,100 ac-ft (106% of average); and Wheatland #2 51,700 ac-ft (95% of average). The 50% exceedance forecasts for April through September were expected to be below average.

Little Snake River Basin – As of April 1, 2009, SWE in the Little Snake River drainage was 115% of average. Precipitation across the basin was above average this past month. Water year-to-date precipitation was 114% of average and 99% of last year. Year-to-date percentages ranged from 109% to 121% of average. Reservoir information from High Savery Dam is pend-

ing. The 50% exceedance forecast for the April through July on the Little Snake drainage was expected to be slightly above average for this year (113% to 118% of average).

Upper Green River Basin – SWE for the Green River Basin was below average for this time of year. SWE values ranged from 63% of average in the Big Sandy-Eden Valley Basin to 93% of average for the west side of the Upper Green River Basin. Last month's precipitation varied from 77% to 179% of average. Water year-to-date precipitation was about 98% of average with ranges from 88% to 120% of average. Storage in the Green River Basin was below average at 76% of average. The 50% exceedance forecasts for the April through July runoff period was forecasted to be below average. Runoff values ranged from 78% of average at Big Sandy near Farson to 96% of average at Pine Creek above Fremont Lake.

Lower Green River Basin - SWE ranged from 60% of average in the Henry's Fork drainage to 91% in the Hams Fork Basin. Precipitation was above average at 107%. The year-to-date precipitation ranged from 85% to 92% of average. Fontenelle Reservoir as currently storing 77% of average and Flaming Gorge Reservoir was storing 102% of average. The 50% exceedance forecasts for April through July runoff period was forecasted to be below average.

Upper Bear River Basin – SWE in the Upper Bear River Basin in Utah were estimated to be at 94% of average. Precipitation for last month was 110% of average for the two reporting stations. The year-to-date precipitation was 86% of average for the basin. Storage in Woodruff Narrows Reservoir was about 52,400 ac-ft (160% of average) and at about 91% of capacity. The 50% exceedance forecasts for the April through September runoff period was estimated to be below average.

The Water Planner

April	7	Water Forum, State Engineer's Office in Cheyenne, WY
	16-17	Wyoming Water Law Conference in Cheyenne, WY
	16-17	Wyoming Association of Municipalities Annual Meeting in Thermopolis, WY
	28	Bear River Basin Advisory Group (BAG) Meeting in Evanston, WY
	29	Snake/Salt River Basins Advisory Group (BAG) Meeting in Alpine, WY
	30	Green River Basin Advisory Group (BAG) Meeting in Rock Springs, WY
May	5	Water Forum, State Engineer's Office in Cheyenne, WY
	5-7	Wyoming Water Development Commission (WWDC) Consultant Selection Interviews in Cheyenne, WY
	8	WWDC Meeting in Cheyenne, WY
	11-15	State Board of Control Quarterly Meeting in Cheyenne, WY
	19	Yellowstone Compact Commission Meeting in Burgess Junction, WY
	26	Platte River Basin Advisory Group (BAG) Meeting in TBA, WY
	27	Northeast Wyoming River Basin Advisory Group (BAG) Meeting in TBA, WY
	28	Powder/Tongue River Basin Advisory Group (BAG) Meeting in Buffalo, WY
June	3	WWDC/Select Water Committee Joint Workshop in Cheyenne, WY
	3	6th USCID Irrigation District Specialty Conference in Reno, NV
	4	WWDC/Select Water Committee Joint Meeting in Cheyenne, WY



Wyoming Water Association 2009 Membership Form

Water is Wyoming's Gold!

The WWA Board has established the following dues schedule for calendar year 2009:

STUDENT	15.00
INDIVIDUAL.....	\$35.00
BUSINESSES:	
Small.....	\$50.00
Medium.....	\$100.00
Large.....	\$250.00
ASSOCIATIONS.....	\$50.00
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS.....	\$25.00
IRRIGATION DISTRICTS.....	1 cent/acre..Minimum \$50.00
DRAINAGE DISTRICTS.....	1 cent/acre..Minimum \$50.00
SPECIAL DISTRICTS (W&S, I&S, etc).....	\$50.00
MUNICIPALITIES:	
100 to 1,000 population.....	\$100.00
1,001 to 5,000 population.....	\$200.00
5,001 and over.....	\$300.00
COUNTY GOVERNMENTS.....	\$250.00
JOINT POWERS BOARDS.....	\$300.00

Please fill out the following form and return it to the WWA today with your dues payment.

Yes, Please renew my WWA membership for the 2009 Calendar Year.

NAME _____

ORGANIZATION _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ FAX _____ E-MAIL _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

PLEASE MAIL YOUR DUES PAYMENT TO:

**WYOMING WATER ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 21701
CHEYENNE, WY 82003-7032**

Signature _____

If you have any questions about WWA activities, or about your dues, please call the WWA at 307-286-8614, or email wwa@wyoming.com **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

Important Note: If you attended the 2008 WWA Annual Meeting and/or the Education Seminar held in Cheyenne, your registration fees included your membership dues for 2009—and you need not submit this renewal form.

WYOMING WATER ASSOCIATION



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wwa@wyoming.com

Help WWA save on printing costs and paper waste!

Please sign up for electronic delivery of all WWA newsletters and other important news items by sending your e-mail to robin@wyomingwater.org — Thanks!



Attn: WWA Members -

Mark your Calendars now!

WWA Annual Meeting

October 28-30th

Sheridan, WY