



Wyoming Water Association

# Wyoming Water Flow

*Water Is Wyoming's Gold!*

Volume LXVIII, Issue I

April 2005

## Upcoming Summer Water Resources Education Tour to Highlight Afton and Star Valley Resources and Issues

The Board of Directors of the Wyoming Water Association are pleased to announce that the 2005 Summer Water Resources Education Tour will be held on **Friday, July 15th** in the Afton and Star Valley area of Wyoming. The tour will begin at 10:00 a.m., will include lunch and will conclude by mid afternoon. A nominal fee will be collected to help offset expenses. WWA members know that these annual events are always interesting, informative and a great way to learn about additional aspects of Wyoming's water resources. We sincerely hope that you will mark your calendar and plan on attending the Association's annual summer event.

The preceding day, Thursday, July 14th will feature the Summer Board meeting beginning at 3:00 p.m. and will be followed by a WWA evening dutch oven barbecue in the Afton City Park for WWA Board members and those arriving in Afton to attend the water resources tour on the following day.

More detailed information and logistical arrangements will be provided in the next issue of the *Wyoming Water Flow* and on the WWA website. Mark your calendars and please plan to attend what promises to be a most informative and enjoyable tour in northwestern Wyoming on July 15th. C U there.

## Wyoming Water Development Commission Report An Overview of the 2005 Program

The Wyoming Water Development Office staff and the Wyoming Water Development Commission have completed another round of project applications and reviews, proposed project legislation and legislative authorization. The WWDC had another bumper crop of new project applications as well as advancement of on-going Level I and II study projects to Level III construction. The following reviews the authorized 2005 WWDC program:

### Level I - Reconnaissance Studies - New Development:

**Casper Master Plan:** this study will review prior work, quantify intervening demand growth and identify management and pressure zone problems.

**Framework Water Plan:** this compilation of the seven river basin plans' data on water uses, development opportunities, and future use projections will include working with the Basin Advisory Groups to provide a report by June 1, 2006.

**Gooseberry Storage Study:** a study of the potential to provide supplemental irrigation water to Gooseberry Creek Irrigation District.

**Green River, Rock Springs, Sweetwater County Master Plan:** an update of the regional Joint Powers Water Board's utility plan will be prepared to identify population and demand growth and management problems and system improvement opportunities.

**Heart Mountain Irrigation District Return Flow Study:** analysis of the the district's water uses and benefits from district return flows to the environment and downstream users.

**Hoback Junction Water Supply:** study of potential for a rural domestic water supply system for the Hoback Junction and adjacent areas.

**Kirby Municipal Master Plan:** The Town of Kirby water supply system master plan will identify system improvement opportunities.

**Lysite Water Supply:** study on potential to construct a rural domestic water supply system for Lysite.

**Sweetwater River Watershed Plan:** a drainage-wide watershed plan for the Sweetwater will be prepared using local, state and federal agencies' information. A watershed advisory group to will be formed to assist with information transfer.

**Water Value Analysis:** This study will examine the functions and value of water in the interconnected man-made and natural hydrologic regimes in the Green River Basin and will include consideration of water-using economic sectors, aesthetics, recreational use, fishery use, late season flows, return flows, and other identified uses .

### Level I - Reconnaissance Studies - Rehabilitation

**Willwood Irrigation District Master Plan:** study of the water supply needs, losses & erosion problems and rehabilitation

(continued on page 4)

## Inside This Issue

Upcoming Summer Tour . . . . .	1
Wyoming Water Development Commission Report . . . . .	1
2005 Legislature Addresses Issues and Needs . . . . .	2
'05 Officers & Board Members . . .	3
2004 Meeting Presentations Available On Website . . . . .	5
WWA in Water Management & Conservation Assistance Program Directory . . . . .	5
WWA Student Membership and Sponsorships Program . . . . .	5
Cheyenne BOPU Seeking O & M Manager . . . . .	6
The Water Planner . . . . .	6
Membership Renewal Form . . .	7

### **2005 Officers of the Wyoming Water Association**

President . . . . .	Alan Dugan
1st Vice President . . .	Ron Cunningham
2nd Vice President . . .	Nick Wambeke
Treasurer . . . . .	Jack Meena
Executive Secretary . . . . .	John Shields



## **Wyoming Water Flow**

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# **2005 Legislature Addresses Water Resource Issues and Needs**

**John Shields, Executive Secretary, Wyoming Water Association**

The 2005 Wyoming Legislature took a number of important steps forward relative to Wyoming's water and its wise use and development during the recent general session. The Association wishes to thank and owes a debt of gratitude to George Bartholomew, who again acted as the Association's Education Specialist during the First Session of the 58th Wyoming Legislature. The Association also wishes to thank Senator Gerald E. Geis and Representative James C. Hageman for authorizing the distribution of WWA's memorandums to be distributed on the floor of the House and Senate during the session.

Acting on Governor Freudenthal's and the Select Water Committee's recommendations, the Legislature enacted into law the creation of a new and separate account, Water Development Account III, for the development of new water storage facilities, and seeded the account with \$64,070,000. The Legislature also created a new dam and reservoir section within the Wyoming Water Development Office and authorized four additional personnel positions within the agency to work on the Wyoming Water Development Program.

Wyoming State Engineer Pat Tyrrell commented on the actions taken by the 2005 Wyoming State Legislature in a press release posted on his agency's website on April 1st. Mr. Tyrrell noted: "The Wyoming State Engineer's Office had a successful legislative session in 2005. The revisions to our penalty statutes give an additional tool to our field administration staff and to the courts as we face yet another year of drought conditions. Water theft penalizes the senior water right holder who is in compliance with the law and this year's change to our penalty statutes will hopefully dissuade the illegal use of water in the state."

"The electronic permitting bill that passed the legislature will allow the State Engineer's Office to make better use of technology and enable us to more efficiently serve the water users of this state. This bill removed impediments to our ability to conduct business electronically. If you have any questions about these law changes, please don't hesitate to contact me or members of my staff across the state." A summary of the specifics of these statutory changes can be found on the State Engineer's website ([seo.state.wy.us](http://seo.state.wy.us)) or can be requested by sending an e-mail to <mailto:seoleg@seo.wyo.gov> or by telephoning the agency at 777-6150.

The Legislature also enacted other bills of significance to Wyoming's water. Legislation passed and has been signed into law that allows the Business Council of the Eastern Shoshone Indian tribe and the Business Council of the Northern Arapaho Indian tribe to form joint powers water boards or special districts to serve as sponsors for water development projects in the same manner as local governments. This session law is intended to facilitate implementation of projects and programs designed

(continued on page 3)

(continued from page 2)  
 to more effectively benefit Wyoming's citizens, including the tribes.

Although the Legislature considered several bills that would have modified Wyoming's instream flow law and the temporary use statute, in the end none of those proposals were enacted into law. Senate File No. 56, "Temporary water use - municipalities" was supported by the Wyoming Water Association in its legislative memorandums dated January 21st and February 4th to the members of the Wyoming House and Senate. While the bill was passed by the Wyoming Senate it floundered in the House Agriculture, Public Lands and Water Resources Committee. The WWA also supported House Bill 129 that would have amended Wyoming law dealing with conservation districts' authorities but this legislation was unsuccessful.

Also enacted was the Wildlife and Natural Resource Funding Act which established a wildlife and natural resource trust account and income account. Accompanied by past and current legislators, Gov. Dave Freudenthal signed into law Wyoming's first fund dedicated to the preservation of wildlife and wildlife habitat on March 8th in Casper. The new law sets up a nine-member board appointed by the Governor and a select natural resources funding committee (consisting of three members of the State Senate and three State House members). This committee is to be appointed by July 15, 2005 and by law is directed to adopt final rules to implement the Act not earlier than October 1, 2005 nor later than November 15, 2005.

Governor Freudenthal reappointed, and the Wyoming Senate confirmed, Pat Tyrrell for a six-year term as Wyoming State Engineer. Congratulations to Pat and the Wyoming Water Association looks forward to continuing to work with him.

Governor Freudenthal made appointments and reappointments to the Wyoming Water Development Commission as follows:

William "Jeb" Steward of Encampment to represent the public at large.

George Jost of Green River was reappointed to represent Division IV.

Robert Yemington of Sundance was reappointed to represent Division II.

Floyd Field of Casper was reappointed to represent Division I.

A. Lee Arrington of Pavillion, was appointed to succeed Wayne Voss and will represent Division III.

The Wyoming Water Association congratulates each of these people and wishes them and the other members of the Water Development Commission much success as they fulfill their important responsibilities to wisely invest State funds in developing Wyoming's water resources for the benefit of Wyoming's people.

This summary of some of the actions of the 2005 Wyoming Legislature would be incomplete without expressing a sincere "thank you" to the WWA Board members who participated in our weekly legislative review sessions. Thanks so much for your input!

### **2005 WWA Officers and Board Members**

**President** ..... Alan Dugan

**1st Vice-President** ..... Ron Cunningham

**2nd Vice-President** ..... Nick Wambeke

**Treasurer** ..... Jack Meena

**Secretary** ..... John Shields

#### **Board Members**

*Agriculture* ..... Neal Payne  
 Klodette Stroh  
 Bryant Startin  
 Dennis Schroeder

*Industry, Business  
& Education* ..... Wendy Hutchinson  
 Robert Johnson  
 Evan Simpson  
 Don Brosz

*Recreation & Conservation* ..... Kathy Buchner  
 Laurie Goodman  
 Tom Annear  
 Barry Lawrence

*Labor & Civic* ..... Harriet Hageman  
 Jane West  
 Bill Stafford  
 Frank Grimes

*Local Government* ..... Tim Wilson  
 Bruce Barnard  
 Robert Taylor  
 Scott Schmidt



(continued from page 1)

needs of the conveyance system of the Willwood Canal system.  
Level II - Feasibility Studies - New Development

**Alpine Master Plan Update:** evaluation of additional water sources, determination of feasibility of providing additional storage and conduct of a system leakage analysis.

**Big Horn Regional Groundwater:** a test drilling site will be selected in the Buffalo Creek area south of Thermopolis using prior study information.

**Boulter Lake Enlargement:** evaluation of feasibility of enlarging & rehabilitating Boulter Lake Reservoir in the Wind River Range in Sublette County.

**Bridger Valley Reservoir Storage, Phase II:** evaluation of feasibility of developing a storage reservoir for the Bridger Valley Joint Powers Board.

**Burlington Regional Master Plan:** evaluation of the feasibility of providing water to Burlington and Otto from the regional water supply systems.

**Cottonwood Lake Enlargement:** evaluation of the feasibility of enlarging and rehabilitating Cottonwood Lake Reservoir in the Salt River Range of Lincoln County. The plan will include evaluation of the Forest Service and Army Corps of Engineer's permitting issues and requirements.

**Kaycee Well and Storage:** feasibility of developing a new Madison Formation groundwater well for Kaycee.

**Laramie Water Management Study:** evaluation of the feasibility of developing new supplies for the City of Laramie, including the elimination of water loss from the Turner well field and the City springs. The study will evaluate raw water irrigation system alternatives for city parks and greenways.

**LeClair/Riverton Valley Storage:** feasibility of developing storage reservoirs in the LeClair and Riverton Valley irrigation systems capable of storing water during irrigation season surplus periods.

**Owl Creek Irrigation District Storage:** feasibility of improving existing or developing new storage in the upper reaches of Owl Creek.

**Rawlins Raw Water Storage:** feasibility of constructing a new raw water storage reservoir near the City's treatment plant.

**Upper Green River Storage:** feasibility of developing new reservoir storage to impound unappropriated water in the Green River Basin and identify opportunities to limit or eliminate shortages identified in the Basin.

**Viva Naughton Enlargement:** feasibility of impounding additional water in the Hams Fork drainage, to include the Dempsey Basin and Willow Creek sites and raising the dam at Viva Naughton Reservoir.

Level II Feasibility Studies -- Rehabilitation

**Big Horn Canal Rehabilitation:** feasibility of rehabilitating the Big Horn Canal, including evaluation of structural integrity of drops, turnouts, siphons, and other facilities.

**Big Valley & Crossed Arrow Water Supply:** feasibility of utilizing the Meeteetse supply system to provide service to the Big Valley and Crossed Arrow Service and Improvement District.

**Cody Canal Irrigation District Rehabilitation and Hydropower:** feasibility of rehabilitating existing conveyance and delivery system, to include a rehabilitation plan recommending the most effective and cost efficient remedial measures and feasible sites to install hydro-electric generation.

**Frannie Well Rehabilitation:** evaluation of the Frannie warm water Madison Formation well and feasibility of

rehabilitating the well.

**Owl Creek Irrigation District Conservation Study:** evaluation of seepage losses and preparation of a rehabilitation plan in the Lucerne portion of the district.

**Riverton - Mountain View:** evaluation of the Mountain View Home Owners Association well to determine if it has sufficient capacity to provide supply service to both the city of Riverton and to Mountain View.

**Sheridan/Veterans Center:** evaluation of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center rehabilitation needs and feasibility of combining the Veterans Center system with the City of Sheridan's system.

**Thermopolis Storage and Raw Water:** evaluation and siting of a new storage structure to replace existing storage in poor condition, to include hydraulic evaluation of the town's system and feasibility of providing raw water to the town's parks and greenways.

**Wheatland Irrigation District Conservation:** determination of the most feasible methods of conserving water within the district with focus on three areas: 1) the Canon Canal in the upper reaches of the district's system, 2) upgrades to the district's system near Wheatland Reservoir No. 3, and 3) the main service area near the city of Wheatland.

**Worland Area Irrigated Land GIS:** determination of the feasibility of developing a GIS mapping system and implementing the system for the irrigation districts in the Worland area. The study will include data collection, system inventory, and cataloging of features within the systems. The system would enable the districts to track and implement needed maintenance at regular intervals.

Instream Flow Hydrologic Studies

Evaluation of the feasibility of providing the requested instream flows from unappropriated direct flows, determine shortages relative to the requested amounts, storage needs to provide these flows, and reconnaissance level cost estimates of the storage required. The study shall include use of hydrologic models selected by WWDC staff as part of the analysis.

Level II Feasibility Studies -- New Development

**Weather Modification Study -- Salt and Wyoming Ranges:** feasibility of conducting cloud seeding programs in the Salt and Wyoming Ranges for winter snowpack augmentation, including analysis of the climatology of the region, storm frequencies and characteristics, barriers, seeding potential, etc.

**Weather Modification 5-Year Pilot Program (Operations) -- Medicine Bow/Sierra Madre and Wind River Ranges:** conduct of a winter orographic cloud seeding program in each of the target areas based on the experimental design detailed in the feasibility study. Both remote-controlled, ground-based seeding generators and high performance seeding aircraft shall be utilized. Operations shall be conducted for five successive winters during the months of November through April.

**Weather Modification 5-Year Pilot Program (Evaluation) -- Medicine Bow/Sierra Madre and Wind River Ranges:** conduct of a comprehensive independent evaluation of both statistical results and physical measurements to determine the efficacy of the current winter orographic cloud seeding program in each of the target areas, to include a detailed analysis of cloud microphysical characteristics and their response to seeding and an assessment of environmental and extra-area (downwind) effects. Program evaluation will continue throughout the 5-year pilot program and will culminate with a final report.

## **Presentations on Water Conservation at 2004 Education Seminar and Annual Meeting Available on Association's Website**

Wyoming Water Association members are reminded that speaker addresses and PowerPoint presentations made during our excellent October 2004 Education Seminar and Annual Meeting on "Water Conservation - Challenges and Opportunities" remain available for reference on the Association's website [www.wyomingwater.org](http://www.wyomingwater.org) and can be accessed by clicking in the blue box on the WWA's website homepage. Take a look at these excellent speeches and Powerpoint presentations!

## **Wyoming Water Association Included in Third Edition of Water Management and Conservation Assistance Directory**

The new, third edition of the Wyoming Water Development Commission's *Water Management and Conservation Assistance Program Directory* includes the Wyoming Water Association as one of the listed entities. Released in March 2005, the Directory provides information about water related programs available in Wyoming, includes introductory descriptions of programs and contact information to assist in learning and gaining access to the wide range of assistance available statewide.

The water management and conservation assistance programs directory is an overview of local, state and federal programs, each with a separate section. Description of respective programs, along with contact information and addresses are included. The directory provides descriptions of local, state and federal assistance available to water users in Wyoming and can thus provide assistance to those seeking to develop water-related project and program partnerships.

The *Water Management and Conservation Assistance Directory* can be downloaded from the Wyoming Water Development Commission's website (<http://wwdc.state.wy.us/wconsprog/WtrMgntConsD>

irectory.html) or a printed copy or more information can be obtained by contacting Ron Vore at the Water Development Commission by telephone at 307-777-7626 or e-mail at [rvore@state.wy.us](mailto:rvore@state.wy.us).

## **Reminder – WWA Now Has Student Membership Class and Will Provide Student Sponsorships for Conferences**

As noted in the post-Annual Meeting newsletter (December 2004 issue), during the General Membership Business Meeting held on October 28, 2004, the membership created a new class of membership - student membership - in the Wyoming Water Association. University of Wyoming or junior college students can attend full day sessions of the education seminar or annual meeting by paying only \$15.00 for each day they choose to attend. Payment of the one-day fee also provides students with full-year membership in the Association for the following year (as is the case for others attending the seminar or annual meeting).

As we look ahead to our 2005 annual conference, the education and annual meeting registration form will reflect student membership as an option. In addition and importantly, other members will have the capability to donate funds for "student sponsorship." In order to broaden the opportunity for desiring students to participate, membership renewal forms - including the one found in this edition of the *Wyoming Water Flow* newsletter - provide the opportunity for members to make a donation, should they desire, to generate a pool of funds to help sponsor students wishing to attend the November 2-4th annual conference in Casper.

Your Officers and Board of Directors are very pleased that the Association took the action to create student memberships and to establish a student sponsorship program. The WWA can be sure that it will pay great dividends to our state-wide water resources organization and to those students who take advantage of the Association's great offer for them. This action reflects the Association's underlying objectives of promotion and education - and recognizes that the future of Wyoming's water rests with our young adults and those who come after us to continue to resolve this State's water issues.

## Operation & Maintenance Manager Sought

### *Cheyenne Board of Public Utilities Seeking Water Resources Professional*

The Cheyenne Board of Public Utilities, which provides water and wastewater services for the City of Cheyenne is accepting applications for a highly qualified individual to join their Management Team. Responsibilities include overseeing the operation and maintenance of Cheyenne's water distribution and wastewater collection systems. The successful candidate will lead a team of dedicated and skilled workers in providing Cheyenne with the highest quality of water and wastewater services.

The BOPU is seeking an individual with a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree from an accredited college in management or engineering (civil, sanitary, environmental) or a closely related field. WY DEQ Level II certifications within two years of employment will be required. Applicants must have five years experience in the operation and maintenance of a Class II or larger distribution and collection system, including 5 years in a management or supervisory capacity.

The Board offers competitive pay based on experience and qualifications (salary range: \$4,020 to \$6,421 per month) and an excellent comprehensive employee benefit package. For confidential consideration, please submit a Board application and resume detailing qualifications to:

Board of Public Utilities

2100 Pioneer Avenue, P.O. Box 1469

Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003-1469

Ph: 307-638-4309 Fax: 307-637-7672

E-mail: [kkellner@cheyennebopu.org](mailto:kkellner@cheyennebopu.org)

Visit our website at: [www.cheyennecity.org](http://www.cheyennecity.org)

From home page access Board of Public Utilities  
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## Points to Ponder

During our recent "spring break" we gazed across the breadth and admired the awesome depth of the Grand Canyon. This experience again brought to mind an ancient African proverb: When water is the boss, the land must obey. Everywhere and at all times, it does seem that water is the boss.

## The Water Planner:

### *Water-Related Upcoming Events and Activities of Interest*

To help inform WWA members about upcoming meetings on Wyoming's water resources, the Water Planner is included in newsletters and can be viewed on our website ([www.wyomingwater.org](http://www.wyomingwater.org)).

- **June 8-10** - University of Colorado School of Law Natural Resource Law Center Summer Conference - "Hard Times on the Colorado River: Drought, Growth and the Future of the Compact." More info at [www.colorado.edu/law/centers/nrlc/events.htm](http://www.colorado.edu/law/centers/nrlc/events.htm) or by calling 303-492-1288.
- **July 12** - Green River Basin Advisory Group meeting in Rock Springs. More info by contacting Barry at the Water Development Commission by phone at 777-7626 or by e-mail at: [blawre@state.wy.us](mailto:blawre@state.wy.us).
- **July 13** - Snake Salt River Basin Advisory Group meeting in Afton. For more info contact Barry at the Water Development Commission - 777-7626.
- **July 14** - Summer Board Meeting of the **Wyoming Water Association** at the School Administration Building beginning at 3:00 p.m. Board meeting to be followed by a dutch oven cook-out for WWA Board members and guests in the Town Park at 5:45 p.m.
- **July 15** - **Summer Water Resources Education Tour** in the Afton and Star Valley Area, tentatively scheduled to run from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. More details to follow in the next *Wyoming Water Flow* newsletter.
- **July 20-22** - National Water Resources Association (NWRA) Western Water Seminar at the Huntley Lodge in Big Sky, Montana. More info at [www.nwra.org](http://www.nwra.org).
- **November 1** - Fall Board Meeting of the **Wyoming Water Association** at the Radisson Hotel in Casper beginning at 6:00 p.m.
- **November 2** - 2005 **Wyoming Water Association Education Seminar** at the Radisson Hotel in Casper beginning at 8:00 a.m.
- **November 3-4** - **Wyoming Water Association Annual Meeting** at the Radisson Hotel in Casper.
- **November 9-11** - National Water Resources Association Annual Conference at the Sheraton Waikiki in Honolulu, Hawaii. More info at [www.nwra.org](http://www.nwra.org).
- **December 14-16** - Annual Meeting of the Colorado River Water Users Association, Caesar's Palace, Las Vegas, Nevada. More info at [www.crwua.org](http://www.crwua.org) or by calling (760) 398-2651.



# Wyoming Water Association 2005 Membership and Student Sponsorship Form

The WWA Board has established the following dues schedule for calendar year 2005.

Membership Class:	Annual Membership Dues:
Student	\$15.00 (includes one-day of annual conference)
Individual	\$35.00
Small Businesses	\$50.00
Medium Businesses	\$100.00
Large Businesses	\$250.00
Associations	\$50.00
Irrigation Districts	\$.01 per acre ... Minimum of \$50.00
Conservation Districts	\$25.00
Drainage Districts	\$50.00
Special Districts (Including water and sewer, improvement and sanitation)	\$50.00
Municipalities of 100 to 1,000 population	\$100.00
Municipalities of 1,001 to 5,000 population	\$200.00
Municipalities of 5,001 and over population	\$300.00
County Governments	\$250.00
Joint Powers Boards	\$300.00

Please fill out the short form below and return it, along with your dues payment, to the WWA today.

- Yes, please renew my Wyoming Water Association membership for the 2005 Calendar Year. I have enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as my/our dues payment for the coming year.
- Yes, I wish to make a donation in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for "Student Sponsorship" to assist the WWA in providing funds for students to attend our annual conference.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** *If you attended the 2004 Annual Meeting and/or Educational Seminar in Casper, your registration fees included your membership dues for 2005 - and you do not need to submit this renewal form. Membership dues invoices will be sent out in early 2005 - avoid that billing by sending your payment today.*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

*Please mail this form and your dues payment to:*

**Wyoming Water Association, P.O. Box 21701, Cheyenne, WY 82003-7032.**

Should you have questions, please call the WWA at 307-631-0898 or e-mail to [wwa@wyoming.com](mailto:wwa@wyoming.com).

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**





## Wyoming Water Association

P.O. Box 21701  
Cheyenne, WY 82003-7032  
307-631-0898 Fax: 307-632-0299  
Website: [www.wyomingwater.org](http://www.wyomingwater.org)  
Email: [wwa@wyoming.com](mailto:wwa@wyoming.com)

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Please take a moment to mark your calendar now  
for these Wyoming Water Association meetings  
and events in 2005:

**WWA Summer Board Meeting and Water  
Resources Tour: July 14-15th in Afton**

*and*

**WWA Fall Board Meeting, Education Seminar  
& Annual Conference: Nov. 1-4th in Casper**