



# Wyoming Water Flow

*Water is Wyoming's Gold!*

Volume LXXI, Issue III

Winter 2011/2012

## Inside this issue:

WWA Scholarship	1
Legislative Preview WWA Board	2
2011 Annual Meeting and Sponsors	3 - 4
The Water Planner	5
2012 Membership	6
2011 Hydrologic Summary	7
Admin Consultant	8

Looking for an old Wyoming Water Flow article? How about an updated Water Planner? Both can be found on the Wyoming Water Association's website, at <http://www.wyomingwater.org>. The website also contains information on the WWA scholarship and information on the Annual Meeting and Summer Tour. Check it out today!

## 2012-2013 Scholarship Announcement

The Wyoming Water Association is pleased to announce the 2012-2013 WWA Scholarship applications are now available! One or more scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors or college students for their use while attending a Wyoming college or the University of Wyoming. Eligibility is and will be limited to children, grandchildren and wards of Wyoming Water Association members.

Applications and instructions can be downloaded from the WWA website at <http://www.wyomingwater.org> or contact Radona Williams at [radona@wyomingwater.org](mailto:radona@wyomingwater.org) for a paper copy to be mailed to you.

This year's theme and essay of 500 words or less is "Compare the water resource situation in Wyoming to that of another country (for example Sudan, Kenya, or Israel). Applications are due to Scholarship Committee Chairman by February 10, 2012.

Scholarship recipients will be expected to attend the Association's Annual Meeting Banquet held in October to be recognized for receiving these scholarships and to read aloud their winning essay to the Association Meeting attendees.

Please encourage your children, grandchildren, and/or wards to apply for this scholarship!

*If you are not currently a member of the Wyoming Water Association and would like to take advantage of this scholarship opportunity, please fill out the membership form on page 7 of this newsletter.*

## 2012 Legislative Preview

The 2012 Wyoming State Legislature Budget Session convenes on February 13, 2012. Though this session should be somewhat quiet regarding water related issues, included below is a summary of bills of possible interest. To follow these and other bills online, please visit <http://legisweb.state.wy.us>.

### **HB 12LSO-0057** Change of use for irrigation districts.

This bill would amend when a change in use can be obtained for an irrigation district permit for water use. It would allow for a change in use to be obtained after a contested case is conducted and a finding is made that there is no injury to water rights of other appropriators.

### **SF 12LSO-0059** Notification of public land tenants – water rights changes.

This bill would require that tenants on state or public land be notified if a change of use or change in place of use of water rights on the leased land is proposed. The bill would require the state engineer or the board of control to consider specified facts pertinent to the effect of the requested change on the tenant, and afford a non-consenting tenant a right to a hearing.

*At the time this article was compiled, the Select Water Committee had not yet met and the following were still being considered by the committee.*

### **12LSO-176 Omnibus water bill-planning.**

The bill contains the annual authorization for Level I and Level II water development studies and provides appropriations therefor. Please see the bill for the numerous appropriations it contains.

### **12LSO-189 Omnibus water bill-construction.**

The bill contains the annual authorization for the Level III construction of water projects which have previously completed the Level I and Level II stages. Please see the bill for the numerous appropriations it contains.

## 2012 WWA Officers & Board Members

During the 2011 Annual Membership Business Meeting held on October 27th, the Association's membership approved the following roster of proposed officers and Board members.

The members of the Board serve in a voluntary capacity and donate their time and efforts freely without compensation. The Board holds at least three Board meetings per year, fall, winter, and summer. In addition, the Board has several standing committees that include: Resolutions, Scholarship, and Annual Meeting, which require additional time and effort. Please make sure you thank them for all they do for Wyoming's water!

**President** .....Alan Dugan  
**1st Vice-President**.....Bryant Startin  
**2nd Vice-President**.....Frank Grimes  
**Secretary**.....Mike Cole  
**Treasurer**.....Jack Meena  
**Past President**.....Ron Cunningham  
**Board Members**

*Agriculture*.....Lee Allen  
 Neal Payne  
 Ron Vore  
 Klodette Stroh

*Industry, Business & Education*.....Ryan Erickson  
 Harry LaBonde  
 Wendy Hutchinson  
 Robert Taylor

*Recreation & Conservation*.....Tom Annear  
 Barry Lawrence  
 Cory Toye  
 Jeri Trebelcock

*Labor & Civic*.....Marge Bedessem  
 John Maier  
 Mark Pepper  
 Dayton Alsaker

*Local Government*.....Tim Wilson  
 Bob Juve  
 Bryan Seppie  
 Dan Roberts

# WWA Holds Annual Meeting and Educational Seminar in Casper

## *“Wyoming’s Water - Challenges and Issues 2011”*

The 2011 Annual Meeting and Educational Seminar was held in Casper October 26th through October 28th. Many registrants braved the winter like weather to gather at the Ramada Plaza Riverside to hear presentations and panel discussions that focused on this year’s theme “Wyoming’s Water - Challenges and Issues 2011”.

Events kicked off on Tuesday evening with the winter WWA Board meeting and dinner. The agenda for the meeting included discussions of the upcoming conference, the 2012 Summer meeting and tour, the 2012 scholarship program, as well as the 2012 WWA Resolutions.

The 2011 Annual Meeting began Wednesday morning with a welcome address from WWA Acting President Alan Dugan and Casper’s Mayor Paul Bertoglio. Also on Wednesday, meeting attendees heard from a panel discussing controlling the flood waters and discussions regarding the Pathfinder Spillway Rehabilitation project, water storage opportunities, controlling runoff, and an introduction to dam safety and emergency action plans.

In the afternoon, participants could either choose to attend a tour to East Gate Dam, outside of Casper, or listen to presentations on capital improvements and rehabilitations of Wyoming’s hatcheries, bioaccumulation of trace elements in Muddy Creek, and Thunder Basin National Grasslands water projects.

Wednesday evening provided registrants a relaxing social hour, silent auction, and presentation by Reid Miller of the US BLM Historic Trails Center. Due to the weather, none of the scholarship recipients were able to attend but they were acknowledged and their winning essays were read by WWA board members. Recipients for the 2011/2012 scholarship were Taylor Kath, Kara Rechard, and William Trebelcock. Each received a \$1500 in scholarships to use while attending a higher learning institute in Wyoming.

Thursday marked the second day of sessions and began with the WWA Annual Business Meeting with Alan Dugan presiding. New board members and officers were approved along with the 2012 Resolutions.

Thursday morning attendees were also treated with the Advisory Panel Update and a presentation on multi-century droughts in Wyoming’s headwaters. The luncheon keynote speaker was Randy Julander with USDA NRCS who humored everyone with his presentation called “A Little Known History of Snow Surveys - the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly”.

Information on basin planning, the North Platte and Green River compliance, and hydraulic fracturing filled the rest of the afternoon.

Friday morning’s discussions included an examination of Pavillion, Wyoming Stream Law, and Improving Stream Flows for In channel benefits. The educational seminar ended on Friday the 28th at noon with everyone excited for next year’s annual meeting and educational seminar in Rock Springs!



Tuesday evenings winter WWA board meeting.

# Your Support Really Makes a Difference!

Thank you to all those who attended the 2011 Annual Meeting and Educational Seminar  
The WWA would especially like to thank our exhibitors and break sponsors for their generous financial support.

Water Resources Data System  
UW College of Engineering and Applied Science  
Rubicon Water  
States West Water Resources Corporation  
BenchMark of Torrington  
Nelson Engineering  
PacifiCorp  
Sunrise Engineering  
Anderson Consulting



ANDERSON CONSULTING ENGINEERS, INC  
*Civil • Water Resources • Environmental*



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## *The Water Planner*

<b>January</b>	10-11	WWDC Workshop/Meeting in Cheyenne
	12	SWC Meeting in Cheyenne
	25-27	WWWA Water Well Convention in Casper
<b>February</b>	13	Wyoming Legislative Session Begins
	15	<b>WWA Meeting 10:00 am @ Wyoming Water Development Office</b>
<b>March</b>	9	Wyoming Legislative Session Ends
	26-28	AWRA Spring Specialty Conference in New Orleans
	26-28	NWRA Federal Water Issues Conference in Washington DC
<b>April</b>	17-20	WARWS Spring Conference in Casper
<b>June</b>	25-29	AWRA Summer Specialty Conferences in Denver, Colorado
<b>July</b>	TBD	WWA Summer Meeting and Tour
<b>August</b>	1-3	NWRA Western Water Seminar in Sun Valley, Idaho

**List of Abbreviations:**

AAG - American Association of Geographers  
 ABA - American Bar Association  
 AGU - American Geophysical Union  
 AWRA - American Water Resources Association  
 CLE - Continuing Legal Education  
 CRWUA - Colorado River Water Users Association

NWRA - National Water Resources Association  
 SWC - Select Water Committee  
 WARWS - Wyoming Association of Rural Water Systems  
 WWWA - Wyoming Water Well Association  
 WWDC - Wyoming Water Development Commission



# WYOMING WATER ASSOCIATION

## *2012 Membership and Renewal Form*

*Water is Wyoming's Gold!*

The WWA Board has established the following dues schedule for calendar year 2012:

Membership Class:	Annual Membership Dues:
<b>Student</b>	\$25.00 (includes participation at all WWA events including Annual Meeting and Education Seminar)
<b>Individual</b>	\$50.00
<b>Businesses:</b>	
Small (1-10 employees)	\$100.00
Medium (11-100 employees)	\$200.00
Large (101+ employees)	\$350.00
<b>Associations</b>	\$100.00
<b>Conservation Districts</b>	\$100.00
<b>Irrigation Districts</b>	\$.01/acre... Minimum of \$100.00
<b>Drainage Districts</b>	\$100.00
<b>Special Districts</b> (Including Water & Sewer, Irrigation & Drainage, etc.)	\$100.00
<b>Municipalities:</b>	
100 to 1000 population	\$125.00
1,001 to 5,000 population	\$250.00
5,001 and over	\$500.00
<b>County Governments</b>	\$500.00
<b>Joint Powers Boards</b>	\$500.00

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 2012 Calendar Year.**  
**I have enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as my/our dues payment for the coming year.**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Please mail your dues payment to: Wyoming Water Association, P.O. Box 21701, Cheyenne, WY 82003-7032.  
 Should you have additional questions, please call the WWA at 307-286-8614 or email [radona@wyomingwater.org](mailto:radona@wyomingwater.org).  
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.**



# Wyoming Hydrologic Summary for 2011

*Taken from the National Weather Service annual report*

Water Year 2011 (WY2011) was an exceptional hydrological year in Wyoming. Many rivers and creeks across Wyoming had record and/or near record flows during the spring and early summer runoff. Remarkably, the very high flows lasted along many main stem rivers for close to 5 to 7 weeks. Record snowpack and accompanying record snow water equivalents (SWEs) in the snowpack were the driving force in causing the historic runoff flow in WY2011. A moist early spring followed by a cool late spring (which kept record “wet” snowpack on the basins into June) was also a main factor in helping produce record high runoff flows. Other local factors like warm and windy nights during peak snowmelt, rainfall on a melting snowpack, and biological factors (watersheds devastated by pine bark beetle infestation) also contributed to the record peak flows in WY2011.

## Main Factors leading up to WY2011’s historic runoff flow:

### 1) Record snowpack and historic snow water equivalent (SWEs) in snowpack.

Wyoming’s record snowpack during WY2011 started early in the water year---as watersheds in southern Wyoming already had >110 percent of normal SWEs by the end of November 2010.

### 2) Below Average Basin Temperatures during the Spring 2011

A cool spring in 2011 delayed the “ripening” of the snowpack well into the late spring. When the peak runoff finally occurred in many watersheds across Wyoming, there was still ample amount of “ripe” snowpack to create historical peak flows.

### 3) Above average basin precipitation throughout the early to the middle of Spring 2011

Basin-wide precipitation was well above average across almost all watersheds across Wyoming during April and May 2011. This precipitation mainly fell as additional “wet” snow in the peak snowmelt runoff elevations (8000-9500’). This “primed” the watersheds for exceptionally high runoff flows in June and into early July.

## Preliminary Outlook for Upcoming Spring 2012 Runoff

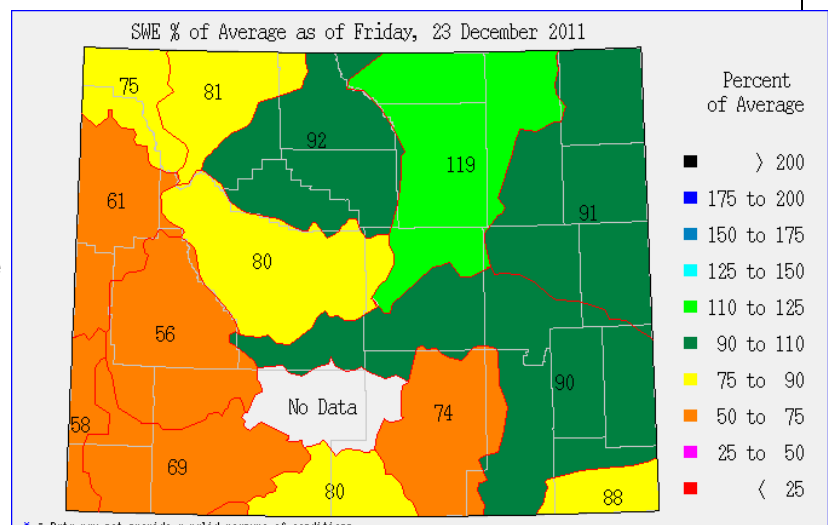
### Quick Summary:

WY2012 is already starting out quite differently than how WY2011 started---especially in terms of snowpack across Wyoming. Basins across Wyoming received near normal to above normal snowfall in November 2011---but nothing compared to the magnitude of snowfall with exceptionally high SWEs by the end of November 2010. Snow production in the mountains has again been low this December across Wyoming.

The temperature and precipitation outlooks for the rest of the 2011-12 winter indicate that Wyoming’s basins will receive about normal to slightly above normal precipitation (snowpack) with near normal basin temperatures.

Is it too early to make any definitive predictions for the 2012 spring/early summer runoff---of course it is. However, basins across Wyoming (especially west of the continental divide) have lost about a month and a half of snowpack production—and will be “playing catch-up” to equal last years historical snowpack numbers. Watersheds east of the continental divide receive most of their “wet-runoff” snowpack in the spring. Bottom line is a lot can happen in the next few months with snowpack trends---but so far, this water year is not even comparing to the exceptional water year that we had last year.

For a complete copy of the 2011 Hydrologic Summary visit [http://www.crh.noaa.gov/images/riw/hydro/hydro\\_report.pdf](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/images/riw/hydro/hydro_report.pdf)



**WYOMING WATER ASSOCIATION**



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**Wyoming Water Association  
Introduces New  
Administrative Consultant**

The Wyoming Water Association welcomes Radona Williams as their new administrative consultant. Radona began working for the Association a few weeks prior to the 2011 Summer Tour and Meeting. She and her husband, Jason, have three children and live outside of Kaycee, Wyoming.

Please feel free to contact Radona with any questions or ideas via email at [radona@wyomingwater.org](mailto:radona@wyomingwater.org) or by telephone at either 307-738-2385 or 307-286-8614.

WWA Board Meeting  
February 15, 2012  
10:00 am  
Wyoming Water Development Office  
Cheyenne, WY