

# Water Development Office

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## Mission and philosophy

The Wyoming Water Development Commission (WWDC) provides funding assistance to public entities for water supply projects, serves as the water planning agency for the state, performs technical services for public entities and other state agencies, and serves as the lead state agency in managing Wyoming's water investment portfolio.

The office will be open, ethical and responsive to the public. Within the program's limited resources, innovation and creativity are the keys to long-term success. Through management support, training and development of personnel, and a respect for the views of Wyoming residents, the water development office staff will be empowered to deliver quality services.

## Results of outcomes

During FY01, the water development office completed 10 planning projects and 13 construction projects. The balance of funds remaining after the projects were constructed was \$2,663,379. These funds reverted to the appropriate water development account. The reverted funds were then available for re-appropriation by the Wyoming Legislature.

Applications for 14 new projects were reviewed and, through the legislative process, 12 new projects were accepted into the program.

Wyoming Water Development Account I and II loans generated revenue of \$2,029,845 in principal payments and \$3,085,479 in interest payments. All 114 loan payments were collected, and there are no delinquencies in the loan program.

The state's repayment and operation and maintenance obligations on Buffalo Bill, Fontenelle and Palisades Reservoirs were met and all payments were received from the state's storage contractors.

## *Dynamic, intensive effort*

The WWDC has undertaken the statewide water planning process. This is a dynamic, intensive effort that will be repeated every five to seven years on a statewide basis. Each cycle will culminate in the completion and update of river basin plans for the entire state. These plans will include compilation of an exhaustive water resources database, as well as an analysis of future water demands, and water development opportunities that could satisfy those demands.

The first cycle of the Green and Bear River Basin plans have been completed. The Powder and Tongue and Northeast Wyoming River Basin plans will be completed by December 2001. The Wind and Big Horn and the Snake and Salt Basin plans were started recently and are scheduled for completion in July 2002. With the exception of the

## *General information*

L. Michael Besson, director

## *Agency contact*

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## *Year established and reorganized*

Established in 1979, reorganized in 1982

## *Statutory references*

W.S. 41-1-106 through 41-1-108, 41-2-101 through 41-2-124 and 41-3-1004

## *Authorized personnel*

19 full-time employees

## *Organization structure*

Planning Division, Construction Division, River Basin Planning Division and Managerial Services Division

## *Clients served*

Irrigation districts, conservancy districts, municipalities, water and sewer districts, joint powers boards, improvement and service districts, and counties and state agencies

## *Budget information*

Water Development Account I    \$1,907,512  
**Total    \$1,907,512**

North Platte River Basin, additional basins will be started each year until completion. In order to complete the first planning cycle, funding requests will be submitted to the Legislature on an "as needed basis." Implementation of the North Platte River Basin planning effort will be delayed to accommodate implementation of the "new" North Platte River Decree.

### ***Public outreach effort***

The WWDC is conducting an extensive public outreach effort as part of the river basin planning process, including formation of Basin Advisory Groups (BAGs), presentations to interest groups, and informational presentations and displays at conferences, etc. The BAGs serve as an information exchange mechanism for the river basin planning process and have been invaluable in identifying basin water issues. These groups are also being utilized in review of draft products received from river basin planning consultants.

A river basin planning Website is being maintained to provide a quick and accurate mechanism whereby current information can be provided to BAGs, the general public, agencies and others. During FY01, peak activity on the Website was 21,000 accesses a month with a steady upward trend. The Website will be the primary presentation mechanism for river basin plans.

### **Strategic plan changes**

The Wyoming Water Development Commission will continue to develop and fund water projects within budgetary restraints, to preserve and protect Wyoming's water.

River basin planning efforts will continue as a valuable tool for future water development.

# Water Development Office organization chart

