

Water Development Office

Mission and philosophy

The Wyoming Water Development Program was founded on the sound philosophy of utilizing a portion of the financial resources the state receives from the development and use of its non-renewable resources, such as coal, oil, and gas, to develop a renewable resource, water. Water development is achieved by providing and rehabilitating the infrastructure necessary to deliver water to Wyoming residents in an economical and environmentally responsible manner and thereby preserving Wyoming's water entitlements for its future. Further, sound water planning serves to promote the effective and efficient use of available water resources.

The Wyoming Water Development Commission 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.

Results of outcomes

During FY03, the Water Development Office completed 32 planning projects and 22 construction projects. The balance of funds remaining after the projects were constructed was \$3,499,126. These funds reverted to the appropriate water development account. The reverted funds were then available for re-appropriation by the legislature. Applications for 22 new projects were reviewed and, through the legislative process, 20 new projects were accepted into the program.

Water Development Account I and II loans generated revenue of \$3,945,275 in principal payments and \$3,361,577 in interest payments. All loan payments were collected and there are no delinquencies in the loan program.

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

The WWDC has undertaken the statewide water planning process. This is a dynamic, intensive effort that will produce river basin plans for every basin in the state. The process will be repeated every five to seven years, which will serve to maintain the accuracy of this information. 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 initial effort of preparing river basin plans for the entire state will be complete once the Platte River Basin Plan is finished in 2005. The Bear, Green, Northeast, Powder/Tongue, Wind/Bighorn, and

General information

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Other locations

Does not apply

Year established and reorganized

Established in 1979 and reorganized in 1982.

Statutory references

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

Authorized personnel

22 full-time employees

Organization structure

Planning division, construction division, river basin planning division, managerial services division

Clients served

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

Budget information

Water Development Account I	\$2,005,586
Total	\$2,005,586

Snake/Salt River Basin Plans are now available on the web at <http://waterplan.state.wy.us>

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, 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 maintained to provide a quick and accurate mechanism whereby river basin plans and other information can be provided to the general public, BAGs, agencies, and others. Recently, activity on the website has been around 2000 accesses per day, with a steady upward trend in usage since its creation over four years ago. The website is 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

