

Water Development Office

Mission and philosophy

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.

Public service is a public trust. The Wyoming Water Development Office will be open, ethical and responsive to the public served. 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 our residents, Water Development Office staff will be empowered to deliver quality services.

Results of outcomes

During FY 02, the Water Development office completed 15 planning projects and 16 construction projects. The balance of funds remaining after the projects were constructed was \$2,900,891. These funds reverted to the appropriate water development account. The reverted funds were then available for re-appropriation by the legislature. Applications for 41 new projects were reviewed and, through the legislative process, 39 new projects were accepted into the program.

Water Development Account I and II loans generated revenue of \$6,128,631 in principal payments and \$3,287,336 in interest payments. All 123 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 a 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, the Bear, the Powder/Tongue and Northeast Wyoming River Basin plans have been completed. The Wind/Big Horn and Snake/Salt Basin plans were started in 2001 and are scheduled for completion in early 2003. Implementation of the Platte River Basin planning effort will commence in

General information

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Agency contact

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Other locations

Does not apply

Year established and reorganized

Established 1979; reorganized 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

20 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

2003. The update of the framework plan, summarizing all seven basins, will commence immediately upon completion of the Platte River Basin plan. Each basin plan will be updated approximately every five years.

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 being maintained to provide a quick and accurate mechanism whereby current information can be provided to BAGs, the general public, agencies, and others. During FY 02, average accesses to the water plan website were 2,500 per day, 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

