

Water Projects and Issues on the Wind River Indian Reservation

Shoshone and Arapaho Tribes
Office of the Tribal Water Engineer
Wind River Water Resource Control Board
Joint Business Council

Beneficial Uses of Water

- Domestic Use
- Municipal Use
- Agricultural Use
- Stock Water Use
- Industrial Use
- Instream Flow Use
- Mineral Resource Development
- Water Storage, Marketing and Transfer
- Groundwater Recharge and Supply Enhancement
- Recreational Use
- Cultural Use
- Religious Use
- Hydropower Generation
- Pollution Control
- Resource Development

Water Studies

The TWE Office, WRWRCB, JBC and Wyoming Water Development Commission (WWDC) have commissioned three studies on the WRIR

P Water Storage

P Water Marketing (Export)

P Riverton East Irrigation

P All are funded by WWDC

Upstream Storage

By SEH-ESA

P Looking at potential upstream storage within the Wind River Basin

P Began with 150 sites, down to 26

P Sites screened out based on certain criteria

< Storage Capacity less than 8500 Ac-Ft

< Cost greater than \$3000 per Ac-Ft

< Location

< Supply and Demand Issues

P **Not The Final Say**

Upstream Storage (cont'd)

Considerations

- P Tribal Control of Stored Water
- P Stored Water has 1868 Priority
- P Recognition of Traditional and Cultural Uses
- P Hydropower
- P Upstream storage would give the tribes better control of the water flowing through the reservation and allow them to utilize it to their benefit.

Water Marketing

By ECI

P Needs Analysis

- < Platte River Cooperative Agreement
- < Municipal Needs in Wyoming
- < Colorado's Front Range
- < California / Nevada Water Demands

P Available Wind River Water Supply

Marketing (cont'd)

P Export Routes

P Water Right Issues

P Marketing

P Water Bottling Plant

P Power Generation - Thermopower

< Existing Local Methane and Natural Gas Industries

P Allows Tribes to see the monetary value of the water

Riverton East Irrigation

Nelson Engineering

P Futures Water Right

P 1868 Priority

P 3814 Acres

< With a possibility for more acres

P 4.6 ac-ft/ac

P 17,544 ac-ft

Riverton East (cont'd)

Advantages

- P Allows guaranteed (instead) flow down Wind River
- P Potential Economic Resource
- P Employment Opportunities

