
1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.0 INTRODUCTION
TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.1 Overview 1
1.2 Basin Advisory Groups 2
1.3 Report Organization 3
References 4

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 OVERVIEW

The 1999 Wyoming Legislature approved the river basin planning framework and authorized the Bear River and Green River Basin Plans. The planning framework was developed through a program initiated in 1996 to establish a continuing water planning process for Wyoming. The continuing planning process was established to keep river basin plans and state water planning current through review and revision of plans on a periodic basis.

At the initiation of the river basin planning process, the state was divided into seven river basins (Figure 1-1). The planning process was started in 1999 and the final basin plan of the first round of planning was completed in 2006. The Wyoming Framework Water Plan, which combined the seven individual basin plans into a single statewide perspective and set guidance for further basin planning, was completed in 2007.

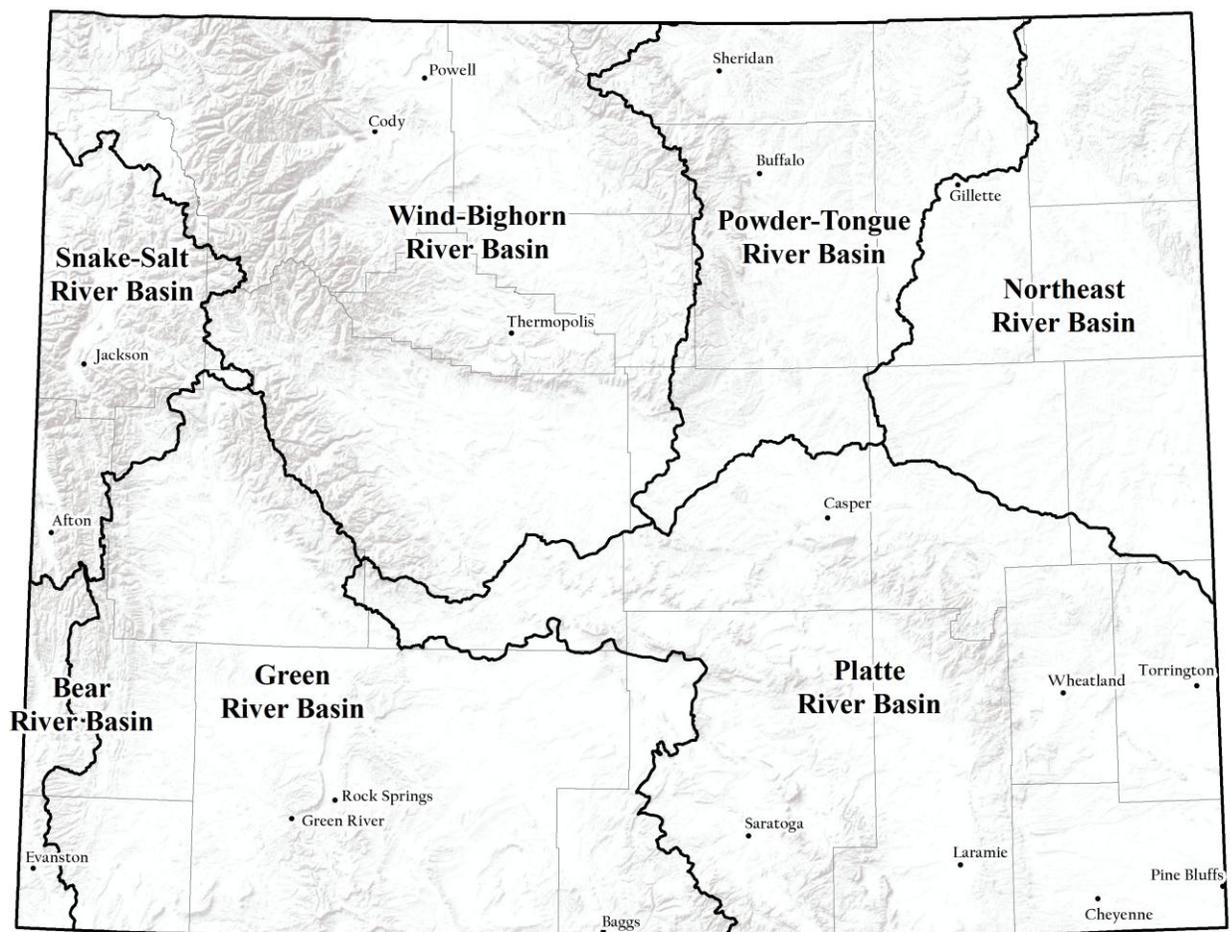


Figure 1-1: Wyoming River Basin Planning Program Basins

The first Bear River Basin Plan was completed in 2001 and has been a low priority for updating because little demographic change has occurred within the Bear River Basin (Basin). However, because the plan was one of the first water plans conducted, it was determined that an update of the plan would be prudent. The update was conducted by a team of professionals with the Wyoming Water Development Office (WDO), the Wyoming State Engineer's Office (SEO), and the University of Wyoming, Water Resources Data System (WRDS).

This update will not totally replace the 2001 plan or the supporting technical memoranda, but will provide updated information and make recommendations for the collection of additional information and data to appropriately keep the plan current. The update will provide new and updated information for as many portions of the plan as possible.

1.2 BASIN ADVISORY GROUPS

As part of the river basin planning outreach and public involvement processes, Basin Advisory Groups were developed. Basin Advisory Groups are made up of interested citizens, federal and state agency personnel and special interest group representatives. These groups were established in each of the seven major river basins in Wyoming and have been an important part of the planning process providing local concerns and information to the planning teams. Presentations and discussions of local issues were conducted in each basin.

The mission of Basin Advisory Groups is to assist the WDO and the state planning team by identifying water related issues, problems and concerns in the individual river basins. Through public participation, the group advises the WDO and the planning team on local issue priorities, data needs, and regional concerns. Basin Advisory Groups also assist the planning teams and local officials through review of basin planning products.

The Bear River Basin Advisory Group was first assembled in 1997 as part of the river basin planning process feasibility study (Boyle Engineering, 1998). The group members represented agricultural, municipal, industrial, recreation and environmental water uses within the Basin. The meetings were open to the public, and participation was good. Currently, the Bear River Basin Advisory Group is an *ad hoc* group with participation from most water use sectors and the public.

Several meetings were held to discuss the plan update. The Basin Advisory Group and public will have an opportunity to review and comment on the report. A meeting will be held to discuss the report and recommendations.

As part of the river basin planning outreach and public involvement processes, Basin Advisory Groups were developed. Basin Advisory Groups are made up of interested citizens, federal and state agency personnel and special interest group representatives. These groups were established in each of the seven major river basins in Wyoming and have been an important part of the planning process providing local concerns and information to the planning teams. Presentations and discussions of local issues were conducted in each basin.

The mission of Basin Advisory Groups is to assist the WDO and the state planning team by identifying water related issues, problems and concerns in the individual river basins. Through

public participation, the group advises the WDO and the planning team on local issue priorities, data needs, and regional concerns. Basin Advisory Groups also assist the planning teams and local officials through review of basin planning products.

The Bear River Basin Advisory Group was first assembled in 1997 as part of the river basin planning process feasibility study (Boyle Engineering, 1998). The group members represented agricultural, municipal, industrial, recreation and environmental water uses within the Basin. The meetings were open to the public, and participation was good. Currently, the Bear River Basin Advisory Group is an *ad hoc* group with participation from most water use sectors and the public.

Several meetings were held to discuss the plan update. The Basin Advisory Group and public will have an opportunity to review and comment on the report. A meeting will be held to discuss the report and recommendations.

1.3 REPORT ORGANIZATION

This Bear River Plan Update is presented in two volumes. Volume 1 is comprised of the report and Volume 2 is made up of the updated technical memoranda. The report is organized into nine chapters and follows the outline established in the Wyoming Framework Water Plan (WWC, 2007). References are presented at the end of each chapter for the reader's convenience. A summary of the report chapters, except this chapter (Chapter 1), is presented below:

Chapter 2 Presentation Tool, describes the online report and web-based tools that are available along with a brief description of other documents, tables and maps that are available online. This chapter also provides a listing of appendices and technical memoranda associated with this report.

Chapter 3 Setting, provides a physical description of the Basin, a discussion of Basin economics and population, a discussion of compacts and legal constraints, and a discussion of recent studies and projects conducted in the Basin.

Chapter 4 Water Resources, presents the Basin's total supply of surface water and groundwater and the quality of these resources.

Chapter 5 Current Water Use, quantifies Basin water use in consumptive and non-consumptive sectors including agriculture, industrial, municipal, rural domestic, environmental and recreation.

Chapter 6 Water Use Projections, provides estimates of future water uses for the Basin for all use sectors. The estimates are prepared for two different projected growth scenarios.

Chapter 7 Water Availability, presents estimates of the amount of water remaining for development considering the growth scenarios presented in Chapter 6.

Chapter 8 Basin Issues, Strategies, and Water Use Opportunities, discusses Basin issues identified by the Basin Advisory Group (BAG) and strategies developed with the BAG. In addition, water use opportunities, which would help meet water demands within the Basin, are discussed.

Chapter 9 Program Strategies and Recommendations, summarizes proposed program strategies that will guide further river basin planning in the Wyoming portion of the Bear River Basin. Recommendations for further work and data collection within the Basin are also presented.

There are also two appendices included as part of the report. Appendix A presents the Framework Water Plan Tables, which were developed as part of the 2007 Framework Water Plan (WWC, 2007). These tables were designed to be updated as new information becomes available and are available online at the water planning web site [<http://waterplan.state.wy.us/plan/statewide/tables/tables.html>]. Appendix B presents the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division, Wyoming Surface Water Classification List, which is referenced in Chapter 4.

Two references used often and throughout the report, and which may not be fully cited each time are the Bear River Basin Water Plan Final Report (Forsgren Associates, Inc. 2001) and the Wyoming Framework Water Plan, Volumes I and II (WWC Engineering, Inc. 2007). These reports may be referred to in various ways including but not limited to: the 2001 Bear River Basin Plan, the 2001 Basin Plan and the 2001 Plan; and the 2007 Framework Water Plan and the 2007 Framework Plan. Appropriate citations are presented in the references section.

REFERENCES

- Boyle Engineering 1998. State Water Planning Process Feasibility Report. Prepared for the Wyoming Water Development Commission, Cheyenne, Wyoming.
- Forsgren Associates, Inc. 2001. Bear River Basin Water Plan, Final Report. Prepared for the Wyoming Water Development Commission, Cheyenne, Wyoming. Prepared in association with Anderson Consulting Engineers, Inc; Leonard Rice Engineers, Inc.; and BBC Research and Consulting.
- WWC Engineering, Inc. 2007. Wyoming Framework Water Plan Volume I, and Volume II Planning Recommendations. Prepared for the Wyoming Water Development Commission, Cheyenne, Wyoming. Prepared in association with Hinckley Consulting; Collins Planning Associates; Greenwood Mapping, Inc.; and States West Water Resources Corporation.