

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 OVERVIEW

This 2010 Green River Basin Plan presents a basinwide perspective on water resources, updated from the 2001 Green River Basin Plan including information on:

- The **Setting** chapter presents basic physical information about the Green River Basin, current economic and social conditions, and an outline of the institutional constraints on water use.
- The **Resources** chapter characterizes the Green River Basin's total water supply, including information on where the resources are located and their quality.
- The **Use** chapter quantifies how the Green River Basin is currently using its water resources in both the depleting and non-depleting water use sectors.
- The **Projections** chapter provides estimates of the future water needs of the Green River Basin, for the depleting and non-depleting water use sectors.
- The **Availability** chapter presents estimates of the amounts and locations of unused water resources that are available to meet needs. Unused water resources are those that are physically and legally available over and above existing uses.
- Finally, the **Strategies and Recommendations** chapter presents general and specific suggestions for basin stakeholders to consider as they attempt to resolve water issues.

In addition to presenting information on water resources of the State, this document covers two other important subjects:

- A **Web-based Presentation Tool** is described in Chapter 2. This tool makes the results of this Plan available online and provides a structure that will promote efficient future planning updates.
- **Project Funding** is presented in Chapter 9. This chapter outlines opportunities for project proponents to obtain state and federal funding assistance.

This report does not include all-inclusive and explicit lists of references. Instead, all references to supporting reports, documents, maps, and personal communications are maintained in the Technical Memoranda that were prepared during the current planning

process. Should the reader desire to review a complete list of references for the information presented in this report they are referred to the full Technical Memoranda.

1.2 NEED FOR PLANNING

The Wyoming water planning process is founded on the Prior Appropriation Doctrine and the principle that the State of Wyoming should manage its water resources “for the benefit of the citizens of the state.” The Wyoming Water Development Commission (WWDC) was created by the 1979 Wyoming Legislature and is charged with responsibility for “...the planning, selection, financing, construction, acquisition, and operation of projects and facilities for the conservation, storage, distribution, and use of water, necessary in the public interest to develop and preserve Wyoming’s water and related land resources.”

In order to preserve Wyoming’s compact allocation of water for the benefit of its citizens and insurance against future water shortages, it is necessary to gather good quality, current, comprehensive data that can serve as the foundation for water projects.