
1.0 INTRODUCTION

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

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

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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 begun 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 as shown in 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.

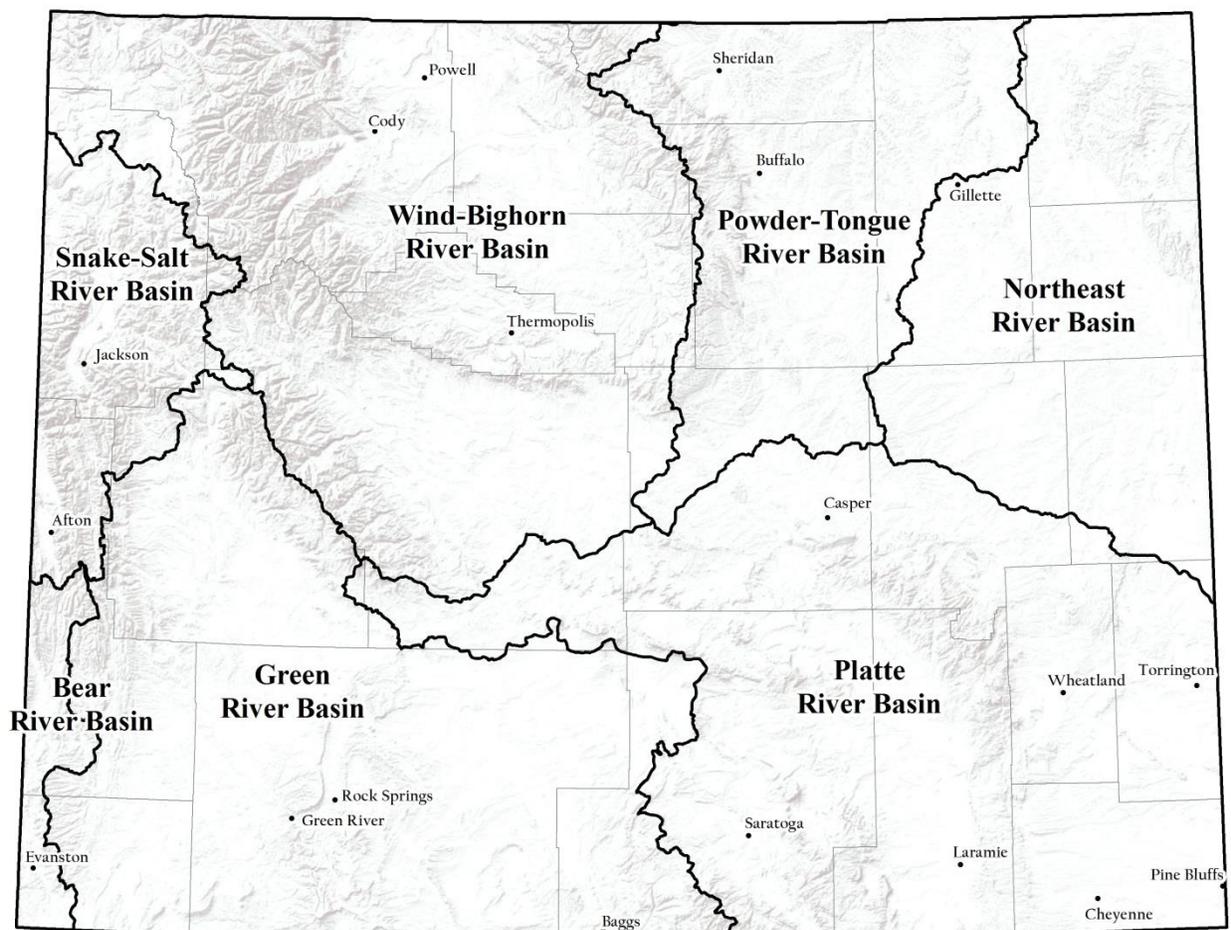


FIGURE 1-1: WYOMING RIVER BASIN PLANNING PROGRAM BASINS

The first Snake/Salt River Basin Plan was completed in 2003 and has been a medium priority for updating. However, because the plan is ten years old, it was determined a plan update would be prudent. The update is being 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 2003 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.

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 groups advise the WDO and the planning team on local issue priorities, data needs, and regional concerns. Basin Advisory Groups also assist decision makers through the review of basin planning products.

The Snake/Salt River Basin Advisory Group (BAG) was first assembled in 2001. The group members represented agricultural, industrial, governmental, recreational and environmental water uses within the basin. The meetings were open to the public, and participation was good. Currently, the Snake/Salt River BAG is an *ad hoc* group with participation from most water use sectors and the public.

Several meetings were held to discuss the plan update and the group and public have been given the opportunity to review and comment on the report. A final meeting will be held to discuss the report and recommendations.

1.3 REPORT ORGANIZATION

This report is titled 2012 Snake/Salt River Basin Plan Update. Primary data collection and analysis were completed in 2011 and 2012, hence the title. During 2013 data and information were compiled and report preparation was completed with final publication in early 2014. The Plan Update is presented in two volumes. Volume I is comprised of the report and Volume II 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 Engineering, Inc, 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 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 agricultural, industrial, municipal, rural domestic, environmental and recreational.

Chapter 6 Water Use Projections provides estimates of future water uses for the basin for all use sectors. The estimates are prepared for three 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 BAG and strategies developed with the BAG. In addition, water use opportunities, that 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 Snake/Salt River Basin. Recommendations for further work and data collection within the basin are also presented.

There are also three 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 Engineering, Inc, 2007). These tables were designed to be updated as new information became available and are available on the water planning web site. Appendix B presents the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division, Wyoming Surface Water Classification List, referenced in Chapter 4. Additionally, Appendix C is a tabular combination of the initial BAG issues, the Framework Water Plan issues and strategies.

Two references used often and throughout the report, and which may not be fully referenced each time are the Snake/Salt River Basin Plan Final Report (Sunrise Engineering, Inc., 2003) 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 2003 Snake/Salt River Basin Plan, the 2003 Basin Plan, previous Basin Plan, and the 2003 Plan; and the 2007 Framework Water Plan, and the 2007 Framework Plan. Appropriate citations are presented in the references section.

REFERENCES

Sunrise Engineering, Inc. (2003, June). *Snake/Salt River Basin Plan Final Report*. Retrieved from <http://waterplan.state.wy.us/plan/snake/finalrept/finalrept.html>

WWC Engineering, Inc. (2007, October). *Wyoming Framework Water Plan Volume I and Volume II Planning Recommendations*. Retrieved from <http://waterplan.state.wy.us/frameworkplan.html>