



Wyoming Water Association

# Wyoming Water Flow

*Water Is Wyoming's Gold!*

Volume LXX, Issue I

May 2007

## WWA Summer Water Resources Tour to Highlight Little Snake River Basin

The Wyoming Water Association's 2007 Summer Water Resources Tour will be held on Friday, July 13th. Please mark your calendar and figure on participating in our fun, interesting and informative annual tour!

Tour participants will meet at the Best Western Cottonwood Hotel at 23rd and Spruce Streets in Rawlins (near the west exit off of I-80 into town) at 8:30 a.m. A short tour overview will occur and the group will depart from the Hotel at 9:00 a.m. The tour will include a visit to the High Savery Dam and Reservoir near Savery. This year's tour will include visiting and learning about the Atlantic Rim Coalbed Methane (CBM) energy development, Little Snake small water projects and planned development activities, and native fish management efforts in the Little Snake River Basin. Development of the tour itinerary is still underway - but we are promising that this tour will have something of interest for everyone.

Lunch, along with morning and afternoon snacks and beverages will be provided. A nominal registration fee of \$15.00 per person will be collected to cover expenses. Several vans will simplify car-pooling arrangements for tour travel.

The Summer Board Meeting will be held the prior day, Thursday, July 12th, in Rawlins. The meeting will be held in the Carbon Room-South at the Best Western Cottonwood Hotel at 23rd and Spruce Streets (near the west I-80 exit into Rawlins). The Board Meeting will begin at 4:00 p.m. and proceed through the dinner hour. Meeting topics will include initial planning and arrangements for the 2007 Education Seminar and Annual Meeting to be held October 31st through November 2nd at Little America Hotel and Resort in Cheyenne.



*High Savery Dam and Reservoir will be one of the reservoir storage facilities visited during the July 13th Wyoming Water Association's Summer Water Resources Tour - please join us on the tour!*

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Best Western Cottonwood Hotel at 23rd and Spruce Streets in Rawlins. We have negotiated a rate of \$70.00 including tax, for single or double occupancy, for the night of July 12th. The hotel's toll-free telephone number is (800) 662-6886 and their regular telephone number is (307) 324-2737. Please be sure to mention our block reservation "Wyoming Water Association" or "WWA" when you call to make your hotel reservation. Other hotels in Rawlins that might be considered include:

Holiday Inn Express:	(307) 324-3760
Super 8 Motel:	(307) 328-0630
Quality Inn:	(307) 324-2783
Econo Lodge:	(307) 324-2905
Motel 7:	(307) 324-2263

Please contact John Shields at 307-631-0898 or via e-mail at [wwa@wyoming.com](mailto:wwa@wyoming.com) with any questions. WWA's officers and Board hope you will strongly consider investing one summer day to participate in our annual summer water resources tour -you won't be disappointed in this tour!

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### **2007 Officers of the Wyoming Water Association**

President . . . . .	Ron Cunningham
1st Vice President . . . . .	Nick Wambeke
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Treasurer . . . . .	Jack Meena
Executive Secretary . . . . .	John Shields



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*Published Quarterly*

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# **Water Events Continue to Unfold**

*By John Shields, Executive Secretary*

Lots of things have been going on in the water arena in 2007. I'm sure you have been reading and hearing about some of the recent events concerning, or that have the potential to affect, Wyoming's water. A very brief summary of the most notable activities and events is provided here below. A separate article highlighting bills considered during the 2007 Wyoming Legislative Session is contained elsewhere in this newsletter. While providing "old news" to some, this editor wants to make sure you have heard about the following:

### **Montana Sues Wyoming Over Tongue and Powder Rivers**

On February 1st, the State of Montana filed a complaint with the Supreme Court of the United States. In a press release issued on that day, Governor Dave Freudenthal expressed disappointment over Montana's action in filing suit against Wyoming over the apportionment of water in the Tongue and Powder River drainages.

"Since territorial times, Wyoming and Montana have shared the waters in the Tongue and Powder Rivers. Since 1950, the apportionment of these waters has been controlled by the Yellowstone River Compact which Wyoming has strictly honored," Freudenthal said. "Prior to 2004, Wyoming and Montana agreed on how the compact operated. Since 2004, Montana has been agitating for a fight. I guess they finally threw the first punch. I am confident that Wyoming will prevail on this claim, but I am disappointed that Wyoming will be forced to expend millions of dollars to defend a claim that has no merit. These lawsuits drag out for years and consume vast resources and rarely result in any significant shift of water rights."

Freudenthal's press release concluded by stating, "I am perplexed why Montana officials have spent so much time and energy since 2003 poking Wyoming in the eye. We will vigorously defend our water rights and our sovereign interests to control our own destiny."

### **States Announce Colorado River Basin States Agreement**

On April 30th, each of the seven Colorado River Basin States announced the recent signing of a significant Basin States' Agreement that will remain in place until 2025. The Secretary of the Interior, in conjunction with the seven Colorado River Basin States, is currently working on Lower Colorado shortage guidelines and coordinated operating criteria for Lake Powell and Lake Mead under low reservoir storage conditions. The "Basin States' Alternative" is one of five alternatives included in a U.S. Bureau of Reclamation environmental impact statement (EIS) released on February 28, 2007.

The signing of the Agreement is a significant event in improving Colorado River water operations that greatly reduces the threat of litigation among the Basin States over reservoir operations and water uses through 2025. State Engineer Pat Tyrrell stated, "This Agreement is a great example of how all seven Colorado River Basin states, working

*(continued on page 4)*

# Water Association Announces Scholarship Awards

## *Chris Laursen, Karry and Kyrre Stroh Will Each Receive \$1000 Scholarships for 2007-2008 Academic Year*

The Wyoming Water Association is very pleased to acknowledge and announce the recipients of our 2007 scholarship competition. This year's competition is the first time that the Association has been able to award three scholarships, allowed by the WWA Board of Directors increasing the number of awards from two to three during the November 2006 Board Meeting. Receiving \$1,000 awards to assist them with their education expenses during the academic year beginning in the Fall of 2007 will be Christopher M. Laursen, Kary N. Stroh and Kyrre E. Stroh.

Christopher is the son of Dan and Denise Laursen of Powell, Wyoming. Chris is a May 2006 graduate of Powell High School and is currently enrolled at the University of Wyoming where he is majoring in Mechanical Engineering. During high school, Chris was awarded All-State and All-Conference honors in swimming and cross country multiple times and was a member of the National Honor Society. He was named to the U.W. College of Engineering Dean's Freshman Honor Roll during the Fall 2006 semester. Chris serves on the UW Freshman Senate and is a member of the University of Wyoming Symphony Orchestra.

Karry and Kyree Stroh, twin daughters of Rick and Klodette Stroh, are both recipients of WWA scholarship awards as well. Karry is a 2004 graduate of Powell High School. She has completed two years of college at Northwest Community College and is attending the University of Wyoming through the Outreach School. She is majoring in Agroecology and Pre-professional Science. Karry was involved with 4-H for ten years, received the State degree as the culmination of five-years of participation in the Future Farmers of America (FFA), and was named to the Northwest College Vice President's Honor Roll for the Fall 2006 semester.

Kyrre graduated from Powell High School in 2004. She attended Northwest Wyoming Community College for two years and is pursuing a degree in Agroecology or Plant Biology/Range Management. She was a FFA member for five years and was awarded the State FFA Degree in April 2004 and the American FFA Degree at the 78th National FFA Convention in October 2005. Kyrre was named to the Northwest College Vice President's Honor Roll for the Fall 2006 semester. She served three years on the Student Council in the Powell High School and was on the varsity soccer team during her freshman and sophomore

years. Kyrre received an Academic Letter Award at P.H.S. during the 2003-2004 school year.

All three of these young adults have been active in their community. Karry and Kyree served as volunteers for Absorka Head Start. Karry has assisted in organizing and filing records in the office of the State Division of Disabilities and served as a teacher's aide at P.H.S. Both Karry and Kyree have served in various capacities at St. Barbara's Catholic Church. Christopher has served as a UW "Weeks of Welcome" volunteer and performed UW freshman community service activities, including building trails at the Curt Gowdy State Park.

Christopher, Karry and Kyrre will attend the WWA's Annual Meeting Banquet (November 1st) during the upcoming 2007 Annual Meeting in Cheyenne where they will read their 500-word written essays on the topic, "How should Wyoming act to preserve our water for future generations?"

The Wyoming Water Association is pleased to recognize the past and ongoing accomplishments of these three young adults and to directly assist them, through the awarding of these scholarships, as they pursue college degrees.



Christopher Laursen



Karry Stroh



Kyrre Stroh

## Water Events Continue to Unfold *(continued from page 2)*

together, have found additional flexibility existing within the ‘Law of the River’ sufficient to craft creative, workable solutions that, when implemented, will resolve significant water supply challenges on the River. This Agreement reduces the risk of interstate river litigation as well as the risk of Wyoming water users having to curtail uses under Compact administration during the interim period through 2025.” Each of the Basin States affirms the right of the other States to develop their water. All parties commit to pursue alternative dispute resolution in lieu of filing suit for the duration of the Agreement.

The intent of the “Basin States Alternative” analyzed in Reclamation’s EIS - and the provisions in the newly-signed Agreement - are to delay the onset of water shortages in the Lower Division States (Arizona, California and Nevada) and to minimize their extent and duration. At the same time, the intent is to maximize the Upper Division States’ protection provided by having Lake Powell storage available to release so as to meet the Colorado River Compact requirement that 75 million acre-feet of water flows past Lee Ferry in each ten-year period. The “Basin States’ Alternative” will provide for more efficient operation of the system reservoirs for the benefit of both the Upper and Lower Basins.

Regarding additional coordination of the operation of Lakes Powell and Mead, Tyrrell noted “the ‘Basin States’ Alternative’ in the EIS reflects a compromise that Wyoming and the other three Upper Basin States are willing to accept: allowing additional Lake Powell releases to Lake Mead at higher reservoir levels – which are offset by reduced Lake Powell releases at lower levels. Levels in both Lakes Mead and Powell will serve as trigger points used in calculating annual Lake Powell release amounts. The Upper Basin States see this modified Lake Powell operation as a reasonable compromise in an agreement that establishes Lower Basin shortage operations as well as real and specific incentives for conservation and augmentation in the Lower Basin – neither of which had existed before.

The Agreement also implements a process to develop dedicated water supplies through participation in system efficiency improvement

projects and clarifies how Nevada may proceed with uses of tributary waters reaching the mainstem.

An important element of the seven States’ proposal for the shortage guidelines is developing “Intentionally Created Surplus” (ICS) accounting. ICS water accounting provides a means for Lower Basin water contractors to add water to the system through conservation or importation and for the Secretary to release water in the future to the Lower Division State that added the water. Since in “normal” water supply years, the Lower Division States are using their full entitlements of Colorado River water, it is necessary for one of the States to agree to use less water (or “forbear”) to allow another State to create ICS water that can be used in subsequent, water-short years. The necessary forbearance arrangements are now in place.

Representatives for the seven States reached consensus on agreement tenets and their proposal for interim Colorado River operations in January 2006 and transmitted both to the Secretary in February 2006 – with the stated expectation that Reclamation would use the proposal as the preferred alternative in the NEPA analysis (EIS) for the Lower Basin shortage criteria and coordinated reservoir operations development process. Reclamation will identify its preferred alternative in its final EIS and the Secretary will release his Record of Decision implementing interim shortage criteria in December, 2007.

**Glancing Around the World:** Recent Political Cartoon Perspective on Global Warming in England



# 2007 Wyoming Legislative Session -- The Water Report

## *WWA Took Positions on the Diverse Water Bills That Were Considered*

The 2007 Legislative general 40-day session saw a number of water-related bills considered, but ultimately only the omnibus water planning and omnibus water construction bills were enacted in law. The Water Association, through its legislative review sessions held on January 10th and weekly thereafter on Wednesdays, studied, discussed and took positions on bills being considered by the Legislature. The Wyoming State Engineer and the Director of the Water Development Commission participated in these legislative review sessions. The basis for positions taken on bills was the Association's 2007 Statement in Support of Objectives and Resolutions adopted by the members at our November 2006 meeting. The bills tracked and positions taken - and communicated to the Members of the Wyoming Legislature - were as follows:

**Senate File No. 51**; Temporary instream flows and **House Bill No. 84**; Water management flexibility: The Wyoming Water Association (WWA) recommended these bills be amended to:

(1) to require that a specific stream reach or segment is identified through the temporary use application process and that the State Engineer has authority to limit the stream reach to reasonable length. WWA felt this amendment was needed to ensure that the temporary change process for "instream" or "in-channel" flows can be administered by State Engineer's Office personnel.

(2) Specific language should be added to ensure no third party enforcement is allowed. WWA's amendment was proposed to avoid the possibility of third parties intervening to perpetuate results accruing due to the temporary use.

(3) The temporary use should not be transferable. The WWA believes if the land to which the underlying water right is attached is transferred (through sale or otherwise) prior to the end of the term of the temporary change agreement, the temporary use should cease and the use should revert back to the original use.

(4) The WWA advocated the addition of a ten-year

formal sunset provision for these bills in view of them presenting a new concept under Wyoming water law (temporary changes for instream or in-channel purposes). The sunset period would allow for a test period after which the State Engineer's Office, in consultation with other affected state agencies, can be directed to report to the Legislature regarding the number of change applications issued and any observable impacts and benefits from the bills. *H.B. 84 was not passed out of the House Water Resources, Public Lands and Water Resources Committee. S.F. 51 passed the Senate on a 17-12-1 vote and was referred to the House Agriculture, Public Lands and Water Resources Committee, but was not passed out of House Committee.*

The WWA recommended the passage of **House Bill No. 136**, the water well drilling and pump installation licensure bill. *The State Engineer has worked for a number of years to get this legislation enacted into law. As noted in the last issue of this "Water Flow" newsletter, Wyoming is the only Western State that does not require licensing of water well drillers and pump installers. The enacted bill was vetoed by the Governor on March 9th, with the veto message noting the bill contained a drafting error which in the Governor's view made for a circular construction providing that only licensed persons would be prohibited from acting without a license. The State Engineer remains committed to getting this legislation enacted into law - and is working with the Agriculture, Public Lands and Water Resources Interim Committee to have the Committee sponsor an improved version of the bill during the next Legislative Session.*

The Association recommended the passage of **House Bill No. 209**; Severance tax distribution - 1. *This bill would have provided for changes in the distribution of severance taxes that would have benefitted Wyoming's water development program. The bill was passed out of the Revenue Committee on a 9-0 vote and placed on general file on January 24th, but was not taken up by the House or further considered.*

*(continued on page 6)*

## 2007 Legislative Session *(continued from page 5)*

**House Bill No. 236**, the Omnibus water bill-planning was recommended for enactment by the WWA. The bill was amended during consideration by the House Agriculture, Public Lands and Water Resources Committee to provide \$100,000 for the conduct of a replacement water study for the "Triangle Region" (area bounded by Whalen Diversion Dam on the west, Fort Laramie Canal on the South, Interstate Canal on the North and the WY-NE state line on the east). The bill passed the House on a 58-0-2 vote and was signed into law, after passage by the Senate, as Chapter 85 of the 2007 Session Laws.

WWA recommended passage of **Senate File No. 28**, the State Engineer's rulemaking authority. This piece of legislation had a rather unusual, and perhaps unprecedented, history. The bill was drafted after it was discovered that certain portions of Title 41 do not presently contain explicit authority to promulgate rules and regulations for the administration of certain portions of Wyoming's water law - even though governing rules have previously been promulgated. This bill would have "cleaned up" ambiguity associated with the State Engineer's proposed updating of the Surface Water Rules and Regulations. The bill was passed by the Senate on a 28-0-2 vote, passed the House Agriculture, Public Lands and Water Resources Committee on a 9-0 vote, placed on the General File, then re-referred to the House Agriculture, Public Lands and Water Resources Committee (a small but vocal group of Goshen County groundwater irrigators alleged the bill would unduly broaden the State Engineer's powers and authority was being sought to regulate groundwater pumping in the "Triangle Region" as required by the Modified North Platte Decree if replacement water supplies to make up for the groundwater pumping were not secured) and did not re-emerge. The State Engineer intends to seek enactment of this bill during the next Legislative Session. Plans to issue updated rules for the Surface Water statutes will be put on hold until this statutory "clean-up" is accomplished.

**Senate File No. 137**; Omnibus water bill-construction was recommended for passage by the

WWA. This bill was passed by the Senate (29-0-1) and by the House (59-0-1) and codified as Chapter 121 of the 2007 Session Laws. New development projects authorized are the following:

Casper Zone III

Granger Water Storage Project

Greybull Valley I.D. Hydroelectric Project

Lander Paleozoic Well

Northern Arapaho Well and Transmission Project

Lusk Well

Powell Transmission Pipeline

Saratoga Well Field Project

Shoshone Well and Transmission Project

Sundance Meadows Water Supply Project

Sundance Well Project

Alpine Water Supply Project

Glendo Well

Kirby Municipal Project

Sheridan Northwest/Big Goose Tanks Project

Wheatland Black Mountain II Water Supply Project

### Interim Legislative Summaries

The Agriculture, Public Lands and Water Resources Committee was provided with \$25,000 for 2007 interim studies. Priority 1 for the Committee is: "Study state water issues and address water management needs ... consider state water resources, management of streams and rivers, conditions of irrigation systems, water conservation measures, weather modification and instream flows. The Committee would like to include a field trip with one meeting to look at various water issues."



"I didn't mean like that, ya dern fool!"

## **WWA Sponsors Successful Legislative Workshop**

### ***January 8th Event Well Attended***

On January 8th, the 2007 Wyoming Legislative Water Law Workshop was held in the Herschler Building in Cheyenne. Sponsored by the Wyoming Water Association and conducted by the Wyoming State Engineer's Office and the Wyoming Water Development Commission, the event was attended by 43 of Wyoming's elected members of the Wyoming Legislature. Held the day before the 2007 Session began, on a day on which Legislators had many other commitments and training sessions to attend, the participation level by Wyoming lawmakers was gratifying to Don Brosz and John Shields who represented WWA at the workshop - and confirmed there is considerable interest in water resources management and law.

A Water Workshop syllabus containing water administration and water development statutes, water resources availability info., maps, etc., was prepared and distributed to all Wyoming Legislators. The notebook's contents were also placed on the State Engineer's website and is available on the Web at: [seo.state.wy.us/PDF/water\\_law\\_workshop.pdf](http://seo.state.wy.us/PDF/water_law_workshop.pdf).

Past WWA Executive Secretary and Irrigation Engineer Don Brosz was instrumental in organizing and putting on these useful events at the beginning of each Wyoming Legislative General Session for many years - thus assisting lawmakers in better understanding Wyoming's water laws and water administration system. The Wyoming Water Association assisted the State Engineer and Water Development Commission agencies in publicizing this 2007 event through mailing letters in early December to each Legislator and further coordinating with the Legislative Services Office.

Shields, Brosz and agency staff compiled the information for the ninety copies of the workshop syllabus thus enabling Legislators to have reference information readily at hand (or quickly available on the Internet) concerning Wyoming's water resources and the laws governing its use and distribution during the 2007 Session.

Based on the successful workshop attendance and feedback received, a 2009 Legislative Workshop will be planned, organized and again offered.

## **ESA Rule Changes To Be Proposed by Interior**

The Interior Department is considering a Endangered Species Act rewrite that would change the definition of habitat damage and give states greater authority in administering the law, a Bush administration official has told the House Natural Resources Committee. Dale Hall, director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, told the Resources Committee in a letter the week of May 9th that his agency is working on rule changes that would limit ESA protection to plants' and animals' current habitat, rather than throughout their historic range, and allow states and other federal agencies to consult on ESA cases, a task now restricted to FWS biologists.

Hall's agency has been under fire since draft regulatory changes were leaked by an environmental organization in late March. That proposal would scale back federal power to list species or prevent disruptive activities in species' occupied habitat. Environmentalists are concerned that regulatory changes could mirror those included in a bill passed by the the House last year.

Hall's letter to the committee came in response to Rahalls' request for a copy of the draft regulations. "We do not want to mislead you or the public by releasing a draft document that may ultimately not be proposed by the department," Hall wrote in the letter to Rahall. No longer under consideration, he said, are proposals that would change the definition of what puts a species in "jeopardy," gives veto power to states on federal listing decisions or allow the destruction of vegetation grown after critical habitat is designated. Hall wrote that a provision allowing the government to avoid designating "critical habitat" if a species is not threatened by habitat loss is under consideration.

Also up for a rewrite are "adverse modification" rules aimed at limiting destruction of important habitat. Current law bars the harm of species habitat, but courts have issued conflicting rulings. Hall said the new rule would not include a provision from an earlier draft that would have limited habitat protection to land features and vegetation that were present when habitat was designated, e.g., not protecting newly grown trees and plants.

# Framework Water Plan Nearing Completion

## *Framework Plan to Be Presentation & Discussion Topic at Upcoming Basin Advisory Group Meetings*

Wyoming will soon have a framework water plan to replace the May 1973 edition! Wyoming's prior framework water plan was published by the Wyoming Water Planning Program (which was a division within the State Engineer's Office at that time) under the direction of Frank J. Trelease, Jr. The new Framework Water Plan, now under development, will consolidate the data developed for the seven individual plans published since 2000 as components of the current Water Planning Program into a single statewide water plan. It will provide a statewide perspective for water resource planners and will set the course for the next round of river basin plans. It will not, however, replace the individual basin plans and will not be a competition between basins. In addition, an Internet based statewide presentation tool will be developed.

A meeting to discuss the status of the draft framework water plan document - which will be at the 90 percent of completion stage at the time of the meeting - has been set for **June 11th** in **Riverton** at the Riverton Branch Library located at 1330 West Park Street. The meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m. The draft document is being written by Murray Schroeder of Western Water Consultants of Laramie and their subconsultants, with assistance from staff of the Wyoming Water Development Commission and the Wyoming State Engineer's Office.

Following that meeting, presentations concerning the draft document and input and advice from Wyoming citizens will be sought and obtained during a "round" of Basin Advisory Group meetings that will be held during the following weeks. WWA members are encouraged to mark their calendars and to attend one of the Basin Advisory Group meetings near them. The upcoming meetings will be held as follows:

**June 12** -- the Wind/Bighorn Basin Advisory Group will meet in Cody at the Courthouse Addition (1002 Sheridan Avenue) beginning at 3:00 p.m.

**June 13** -- the Snake/Salt River Basin Advisory Group will meet in the Town Council Chambers (250 US Highway 89) in Alpine beginning at 6:00 p.m.

**June 18** -- the Powder/Tongue River Basin Advisory Group will meet in the BLM Building (1425 Fort Street) in Buffalo beginning at 6:00 p.m.

**June 19** -- the Northeast Wyoming River Basin Advisory Group will meet in the Forest Service Building (1225 Washington Blvd.) in Newcastle beginning at 1:00 p.m.

**June 20** -- the Platte River Basin Advisory Group will meet at the Wyoming Technology Business Center (1938 Harney St) in Laramie beginning at 11:00 a.m.

**June 25** -- the Bear River Basin Advisory Group will meet at the Uinta County Library (701 Main Street) in Evanston beginning at 6:00 p.m.

**June 26** -- the Green River Basin Advisory Group will meet at Western Wyoming Community College (2500 College Drive) in Rock Springs beginning at 10:00 a.m.

The May 1973 framework water plan introduction began with the following statements that remain as applicable today as when written -- and which the people of Wyoming should continue to bear in mind as they consider the new, up-to-date, version that will soon replace it:

"The Wyoming Framework Water Plan identifies the long-range (50-year) alternatives for meeting the water needs of the State. It is an inventory of the State's water resources and related lands, a summary of the State's present water uses, a projection of future water needs, and an identification of alternative decisions to meet or not to meet the indicated future water needs ...

Projections of future water needs presented in the Wyoming Framework Water Plan were used in order to identify alternative water resources programs and projects that may be required for the future.

Who will choose which alternatives the State should follow as a matter of policy? Hopefully, the decision-making process will involve everyone in Wyoming, and certainly the Legislature will be involved in the decision-making process. People need facts on which to base sound decisions. The Wyoming Framework Water Plan is intended as a basis of information upon which such decisions can be founded. The report points out what might happen in the next 50 years in Wyoming depending on the decisions that are made. Thus a final 'State Water Plan' may never be written, for water planning must remain an ongoing process with the course of future events depending upon every decision made.

It is hoped that the people of Wyoming will examine this summary of the Wyoming Framework Water Plan, try to determine how they will be affected by resource development, and become involved in the decision-making processes which will determine the future of the State. Only then can the 'State Water Plan' truly reflect the interest of all of Wyoming's people."

## 2007 WWA Officers and Board Members

During the 2006 Annual Membership Business Meeting held on November 2nd, the Association's membership elected the roster of proposed officers and Board of Directors.

The members of the Board serve in a voluntary capacity and give of their time and talents freely without compensation. The Board holds at least three Board meetings per year: fall, winter and summer. In addition, the Board has several standing committees that include Scholarship, Resolutions and Conservation that require additional volunteer efforts. Please take the time to thank these people for all they do for Wyoming's water. For reference, the Board and Officers of the Wyoming Water Association are listed below:

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<b>President</b> .....	Ron Cunningham
<b>1st Vice-President</b> .....	Nick Wambeke
<b>2nd Vice-President</b> .....	Tim Wilson
<b>Treasurer</b> .....	Jack Meena
<b>Secretary</b> .....	John Shields
<b>Immediate Past President</b> .....	Alan Dugan
<b>Board Members</b>	
<i><b>Agriculture</b></i> .....	Neal Payne Klodette Stroh Bryant Startin Lee Arrington
<i><b>Industry, Business &amp; Education</b></i> .....	Wendy Hutchinson Robert Johnson Evan Simpson Don Brosz
<i><b>Recreation &amp; Conservation</b></i> ....	Kathy Buchner Scott Yates Tom Annear Barry Lawrence
<i><b>Labor &amp; Civic</b></i> .....	Harriet Hageman Mark Pepper Bill Stafford Frank Grimes
<i><b>Local Government</b></i> .....	Tim Wilson John Maier Robert Taylor Jeremy Grimm

## WWA History to be Told *WSHS Underwriting Secured*

John Shields, Executive Secretary of the Wyoming Water Association was pleased to receive a letter dated April 30th from John Waggener, Chairman of the Wyoming State Historical Society's (WSHS) Lola Homsher Awards Committee advising that the funding grant application submitted by Shields earlier this year was selected to receive funding from the Lola Homsher Endowment. Shields will receive \$500.00 to assist with the preparation of a written history of the first 75 years of the Wyoming Water Association to be completed in Spring 2008.

The history, to include original research in the Perry (P.W.) Jenkins (WWA's founder and first President of the "Wyoming Reclamation Association" [as WWA was then known] from 1933-1945) papers held by the Museum of the Mountain Man in Pinedale and in collections at the American Heritage Center at the University of Wyoming looking for WWA records created by H.T. Person during his tenure as the organization's Executive Secretary during the period from 1938 through 1955. Shields will also be interviewing past presidents and executive secretaries of our organization. This work will collect written documents as well as photographs and result in a written history of the Association's activities and influence within our state during the past 75 years.

The project will result in a written history book available to attendees of the 2008 annual meeting and convention - during which the Association will be celebrating its diamond anniversary.

The Endowment was made by Miss Homsher before her death in 1986. Homsher, originally from Basin, was a well-known historian and author. She directed what is now the Cultural Resources Division of the Dept. of Commerce from 1951 to 1965, and along with Henryetta Berry, established records management and document preservation programs in Wyoming. She served as Editor of the *Annals of Wyoming* and was instrumental in founding our State Historical Society. She was always interested in educating young people and enjoyed a long and fruitful career in the history profession in Wyoming.

### NOTICE

In accordance with Title 17 United States Code Section 107, this material is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving this information for research and educational purposes.

# NWRA Holds Federal Issues Conference in D.C.

## *Secretary of the Interior and Others Address National Water Resources Association Members*

The 2007 Federal Issues Conference held by the National Water Resources Association on March 26th through 28th in Washington, D.C. featured addresses by Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne and Michael Bogert, Counselor to the Secretary, among others.

Secretary Kempthorne's remarks focused on partnerships and stressed the point that cooperation is better than litigation in resolving natural resources disputes and conflicts. He drew attention to the Healthy Lands Initiative, which he announced on February 5, 2007, and which in particular is represented by the Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative (WLCI).

Kempthorne stated that high demand for energy resources has caused an unprecedented surge in the intensity of natural gas development. The combination of energy development and industrial and residential expansion, with associated roads, drilling, pipelines, utility lines, and other human generated activities, is occurring in wildlife habitat areas. Although impact mitigation is required in energy development areas, landscape-scale conservation action will better address natural resources issues in this vast area.

According to Dept. of the Interior information, the Healthy Lands Initiative represents a new concept for meeting emerging challenges in managing natural resources for continued multiple use with flexible, landscape-level approaches. To ensure Southwest Wyoming's wildlife and habitat remain viable in areas experiencing development pressure, the Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Reclamation, and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department collectively developed the WLCI.

The WLCI partners have committed to:

- Conduct efficient, science-based species monitoring and habitat enhancement.
- Facilitate best reclamation and mitigation practices for areas affected by current natural gas development.
- Integrate existing data with new knowledge and technologies to forecast future development of energy resources and assist in habitat conservation planning.
- Conduct habitat enhancement in all habitat types with a special focus on sagebrush, mountain shrub, aspen, and riparian communities.

It is intended that the WLCI will complement existing habitat reclamation and mitigation efforts and

broaden the understanding of the valuable Green River Basin ecosystem.

Kempthorne also spoke to other cooperative and collaborative partnerships, including those involving joint management of water resources. He praised the initiation of the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program and other similar efforts that are currently underway. Kempthorne related a story he had read in a book written by former football coach and sports commentator John Madden about Hall of Fame football place kicker Ray Wersching, who always kept his head down when he came out on the field to kick a field goal. Wersching didn't ever look at the goal posts when he lined up for a field goal. In fact, he NEVER looked at the goal posts. The quarterback had to tell him if a kick was successful. "But how do you aim," Madden once asked him, "if you don't look at the goal posts?"

"I just look at the hash marks," said Wersching, "They tell me all I have to know." Madden went on to note that Wersching is right. The hash marks, the chalked lines on the field that are about 23 yards inside each sideline, are 18 1/2 feet apart, the same width as the goal posts.

"The farther away you are, the narrower the goal posts look," Ray Wersching explained, "But the hash marks always look wide." If you think about it for a moment, you will see the intelligence in that. Why concentrate on the narrow goal posts instead of the wide hash marks? Concentrate on your short term goals, and your long-term goals will take care of themselves. -- John Madden, *One Knee Equals Two Feet* (New York: Jove Books, 1986).

Kempthorne praised the efforts of the Colorado River Basin States to develop a consensus proposal for administering water supply shortages should it be necessary for the Secretary to declare, within the annual operating plan, that insufficient water supplies will be available in the coming year to meet 7.5 MAF of pumping and diversions within California, Arizona and Nevada. Kempthorne reiterated that he will be signing a record of decision for the Interim Shortage Guidelines by the end of this year.

Michael Bogert, Counselor to the Secretary, addressed the ongoing development of rule amendments for administration of the Endangered Species Act in his remarks to the NWRA membership (see page 7 of this newsletter for additional details).



# Wyoming Water Association's 2007 Summer Water Resources Tour

The Wyoming Water Association invites you to join us as we tour water resource facilities and learn about the water facilities and current watershed issues and concerns in the Little Snake River Valley south of Rawlins and within the Baggs and Savery area on **Friday, July 13, 2007**. Wyoming Water Association Board Member Tom Annear, Executive Secretary John Shields, Savery Ranchers Pat and Sharon O'Toole, WWDC agency representatives and others will be your tour guides as we explore the unique developmental history of High Savery Dam and Reservoir, instream flow and other watershed issues in the Little Snake River Basin.

Our tour will begin with a brief orientation at the **Best Western Cottonwood Hotel**, 23rd and Spruce Streets, (near the West exit into Rawlins off of I-80) in Rawlins. **Please arrive no later than 9:00 a.m.** "Day of the tour" registration will begin at 8:00 a.m., but registration in advance will be appreciated. The tour will conclude by mid-afternoon. Lunch and snack break/beverages will of course be provided for tour participants.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the **Best Western Cottonwood Hotel** in Rawlins for the evening of July 13th for folks attending our upcoming tour. **Please reserve your room by calling 1-800-662-6886 or 307-324-2737.** Be sure when making your reservation to mention you are reserving your room under the Wyoming Water Association Summer Meeting and Tour block to obtain our negotiated lodging rate of **\$70.00** single or double occupancy, including tax. **The cut-off date for the block reservation is July 6, 2006.**

WWA's summer tours are interesting fun, in-depth and educational. Mark your calendar now and plan on participating in our upcoming event. Should you have any special accommodation needs or desire additional information, please contact John Shields, WWA Executive Secretary, by calling 307-631-0898 or send an e-mail to [wwa@wyoming.com](mailto:wwa@wyoming.com).

Yes, please register me for the **July 13, 2007** Wyoming Water Association Summer Water Resources Tour. I have enclosed \$ 15.00 as my tour registration payment. For additional participants, please attach an additional sheet listing information for each person participating.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

*Please mail this form and your tour registration payment of \$15.00 per participant to:*

**Wyoming Water Association, P.O. Box 21701, Cheyenne, WY 82003-7032**

Should you have questions, please call the WWA at 307-631-0898 or send an e-mail to [wwa@wyoming.com](mailto:wwa@wyoming.com).



## Wyoming Water Association

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Email: [wwa@wyoming.com](mailto:wwa@wyoming.com)

*Water Is Wyoming's Gold!*

*Now in our 74th year*



*Hope to see you there!*

## REMINDER:

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the  
**Wyoming Water Association's**  
**Summer Water Resources Tour**  
departing from the Best Western Cottonwood Hotel  
(23rd and Spruce Street) in Rawlins at 9:00 a.m.

# July 13, 2007