Membership 2016

Continue your support of the Wyoming Water Association by becoming or renewing your membership today. Forms are available on page 8 of this newsletter and they will also be mailed to you along with the 2016/2017 scholarship information. You can renew your membership by the mail, by calling Radona at 307-286-8614, or on the web at www.wyomingwater.org.

Thank you for your support!

2016 WWA Officers

Frank Grimes
President

John Maier
1st Vice President

Cory Toye
2nd Vice President

Mike Cole
Secretary

Dan Laursen
Treasurer

Bryant Startin
Past President

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Join us for the Wyoming Water Association Legislative Update and Winter Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 10, 2016
10:00 am

Wyoming Water Development Office
Conference Room
A Message from WWA President, Frank Grimes

I would like to introduce myself to those of you I'm not acquainted with. I graduated from college with a BS in civil engineering and worked in the construction industry for a short time. I then served a "hitch " in the US Army primarily in the 82nd Airborn Division. Upon discharge from the service, I went to work for Nelson Engineering in the consulting business as a land surveyor. Eventually I became both a registered land surveyor and a professional civil engineer. I practiced primarily in water resource areas completing water rights, water supply and treatment projects, irrigation engineering, and community water supply planning studies. I served as President of the Wyoming Association of Consulting Engineers and Land Surveyors (now known as ACEC-Wyoming) in 1994-1995. I retired from the consulting engineering business at the end of 2014 and relocated from Jackson to Pinedale, Wyoming. I have three adult children who all live and work in Wyoming. I enjoy big game hunting, team roping and summer pack trips through the mountains.

I first attended Wyoming Water Association annual meetings in the early 1990's to become better informed about timely water issues in Wyoming and the west. The organization was known as the Wyoming Water Development Association at that time, and I sensed a vitality to the organization that kept me returning to the annual meetings. I was nominated to the Board of Directors about 10 years ago and have served on the Audit, Scholarship and Program Committees. As President of this organization for 2016, I have a few goals in mind that I hope the other officers and Board Members will endorse. They include growing our membership in numbers and diversity, getting more young people involved in the organization, increasing annual meeting attendance, and increasing the number of exhibitors at the annual meeting. At the same time, we need to continue lobbying and providing information with regard to legislative efforts, developing timely and interesting programs for the summer and fall meetings, and of course getting the information distributed to students about our scholarship program. I look forward to working toward these goals and meeting new people within WWA.
The Wyoming Water Association Annual Meeting and Educational Seminar was held the last week in October in Evanston, Wyoming. The two day conference was put on by the Wyoming Water Association and co-sponsored by the University of Wyoming’s Office of Water Programs. Entitled “State and Federal Regulatory Issues Facing Wyoming” included presentations and panel discussions covering Waters of the US, various state program changes, a special Department of Environmental Quality training. Attendees were also updated by state agency advisors and the Office of Water Programs.

The 2016 Wyoming Water Association Annual Meeting and Educational Seminar will be held in Casper in October.

Thank you for your generous support:

UW Office of Water Programs
Lowham Walsh
Water Resources Data System
PacifiCorp
Sunrise Engineering
Anderson Consulting
Mike Besson
Wenck Associates
6T9 Ranch Inc
Which initiative in Governor Mead’s Water Strategy is most important and why?

By Bail Mlinar

Within Governor Mead’s Water Strategy, he proposes four initiatives, which include the Water Management, Water Development, Water Conservation, and Protection, and the Water and Watershed Restoration Initiatives. While the combination of all four of Governor Mead’s institutes are important for Wyoming’s future I believe the second initiative, Water Development, is the most important.

Governor Mead’s first words of the Water Development Initiative state, “Capacity to store and beneficially use water is a protection to the state, municipalities, business, and individuals. It makes use in the future possible” (Page 37). These words led me to believe that Theme 2 is the most important of the initiatives because the development of foundations in which water can be supplied to the masses is necessary for the continuation of our state.

While Wyoming has many areas where the head waters for the western USA are located, there could be no way to contain these waters if storage wasn’t available. If Wyoming didn’t have methods to store these mountain waters, our state would lose the wage of water to the downstream states. Reservoirs, such as the Glendo Reservoir, are used to contain Wyoming water. I have learned from my father how some of Cheyenne’s water supply functions. For just the singles city of Cheyenne, we have 6 storage reservoirs to make sure Cheyenne has a consistent supply of water at all times, despite the high or low water demands that accompany each year.

Reservoirs are contained by structures called dams. By having dams such as the Fontenelle Dam, this allows for the sufficient maintenance of reservoir water for later distribution to the masses. Although building dams is a controversial topic due to the possibility of flooding areas and destroying the habitats of wildlife around the dam area, they are a necessity in developing methods for the storage of our water. If these dams were not built, Wyoming would not have a savings account of water to fall back on in dry years or years that demand out paces supply.

All western states have a concern for water and, as a matter of fact, California has approximately 1 year of water left in storage to supply to their large population. This shortage of water supply is why I believe the Water Develop Initiative is the most important. The second initiative allows for the primary foundation of water storage facilities, after which the other three initiatives can be further developed. By taking into account the four initiatives presented in Governor Mead’s Water Strategy, there will be plenty of water to provide to the masses of the state of Wyoming. Unlike California, “[Wyoming’s] accessible poll of stored water provides assurance that commitments can be met to deliver water downstream to appropriators, as well as providing flexibility to deliver water to other states as agreed to by compact” (Page 37). Governor Mead has many projects in the works for water storage and fully understands the importance of keeping Wyoming’s water in high supply for the state’s population.
After reading Governor Matt Mead’s water strategy for Wyoming, I greatly appreciate the men and women who have put their full effort into making Wyoming water an important resource to be protected and preserved for futures generations to come.

Water is an important asset for Wyoming as it is located in a high desert setting with an annual average rainfall of approximately 12.7 inches per year. There are twenty five rivers and streams in Wyoming totaling 45,470 actual stream miles. On average about 16.3 million acre-feet of surface water are produced each year by precipitation on Wyoming’s land area. Approximately 70 percent of Wyoming’s surface water supply come in the form of snow. On average another 1.9 million acre-feet of water flows in to the state each year. This totals an annual surface water supply of about 18.2 million acre-feet. Wyoming may legally consume only 6.4 million acre-feet of this surface water annually, through interstate compacts and court decrees. Ground water can also be found throughout the state as there are approximately 10 million acre-feet in alluvial aquifers and 3 billion acre-feet in bed rock aquifers. The uses of ground water in the future will depend on the cost of recovery and the decision whether to mine the resource or limit use to the recharge rate. It is estimated that the average annual recharge rate is 1 to 4 million acre-feet per year. All of this data that I have researched leads me to believe that our water resources for the state are not limitless and thus the most important water initiative of Matt Mead’s Wyoming Water Strategy is Water Conservation and Protection.

Water Conservation and Protection is a vital initiative in managing and sustaining Wyoming’s finite supply of water for industry, municipal domestic, hydropower, agricultural, and recreational uses. It also serves to protect our water resources and provide the highest water quality through improved water quality data collection, providing consistency and integrity when making regulatory decisions. Wyoming’s future water supplies depends upon creative and new conservation methods and ideas to assure that sustainable clean and safe water supplies are available for future growth and generations.

These reasons are just some of the many examples that make water conservation and protection a major important initiative for Wyoming, as it helps Wyoming economically, keeps our water quality clean, and enables us to have confidence that our future water resources will provide adequate water for Wyoming and its neighboring States. I would lastly just like to thank Governor Matt Mead and others for their efforts in keeping Wyoming’s water resources and quality a high priority.
By Aleighica Keeran

After reading Governor Mead’s Water Strategies, I’ve become more aware of the initiatives and the goals that Wyoming is trying to achieve through the four strategies. Water management, water development, water conservation and protection, water and watershed restoration are all significantly important strategic initiatives towards Wyoming water and the future of our water. Although all of these are important, I feel as though the water development initiatives are the most significant and long lasting.

Within the water development strategies, there are four plans to help this development happen; because of the four plans this makes water development the most significant of the initiatives. The full use of Glendo Reservoir allows for more water to be held from the runoff of Pathfinder and gives the opportunity to use 275,000 acre-feet more of water in future irrigation years. In years that there is a drought, most years in Wyoming, farmers will still be allocated water but, the water that they need will be present at will. Glendo Reservoir has not been used to full capacity in over 57 years causing for some years to have more water than others and allocation years. The development of the Glendo Reservoir is something that has need to be done for years and is finally in the process to help farmers and irrigation districts across the state. Along with Glendo, the Fontenelle Dam is a momentous advancement for Wyoming water. By updating the structure, we will be able to fill the dam to its full capacity of 346,000 acre-feet of water. This initiative will also give the Upper Green up to 200,000 acre-feet more of water without taking away from the scenery.

The Ten in Ten project is also a huge leap in the processes of maintaining Wyoming water and giving the opportunity to save more water from great runoff years. The smaller reservoirs ranging from 2,000 to 20,000 acre-feet give farmers and irrigation districts the flexibility in water management. The urgency of this project makes it the most promising of the water management strategies.

With water being one of the main priorities to Wyoming, what happens within the governing sectors is also important to the management of water. Changing the processes in which water is acted on is also an important strategy to creating smooth flowing water. Sharing information on developments and creating committees to act on these processes are just some of the ways that agencies such as, The State Engineer, Department of Environmental Quality, Game and Fish, Wyoming Water Development Commission, and local governments such as Conservation Districts will make decisions on new Wyoming water management topics.

Governor Mead’s water strategies are all beneficial and will create and maintain Wyoming water for years to come. Management of this water is what I found to be the best of the four strategies to allow for further development and renewable resource usage. Without this management, we could be in a constant drought for several years, which wouldn’t be the first in Wyoming’s history.
In 2015, Governor Mead issued the landmark *Wyoming Water Strategy* that outlines top strategies for improving water management priorities for our state. In support of this initiative, state agencies are currently working together to identify opportunities that will enhance collaborative planning, information sharing, and decision making.

As we embark on this effort, we recognize that improved communication also requires input from you, Wyoming’s very own water users. That’s why we’d like to invite you to join us for our monthly Water Forum meetings.

Water Forum was originally established in 1963 as a mechanism for state agencies to share and learn about major water activities. Today, Water Forum is organized by the Wyoming State Engineer’s Office and has evolved to become a crucial platform for collaborative planning and information sharing. We welcome participation from a wide array of participants, including federal and state agencies, resource managers, and the general public.

Each Water Forum takes place on the second Tuesday of every month from September through May. Meetings are held in-person in Cheyenne and are also offered via webinar. They begin with a presentation from various experts on water-related topics ranging from science to policy, management, engineering, and even history. Following the presentation and Q&A session, participants take part in a roundtable discussion geared toward sharing the latest water-related news and events throughout the state.

Recent presentations include:

- Tom Annear, Water Management Supervisor for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department  
  Topic: "Ice Formation and Winter Tailwater Flows for Fish Habitat"

- Thomas Painter, Research Scientist at the NASA/Caltech Jet Propulsion Laboratory  
  Topic: "LiDAR Snowpack Estimates"

- Jonathan Friedman, Research Hydrologist with the USGS Fort Collins Science Center  
  Topic: "Using Tree Rings of Cottonwood to Reconstruct Flows in Plains Rivers"

- Mark Baker, Dam Safety Officer with the National Park Service  
  Topic: "The Race to Save Fontenelle Dam"

Participants are usually representatives from the State Engineer’s Office, Water Development Office, Game and Fish, USGS, Bureau of Reclamation, BLM, NRCS, conservation districts, the University of Wyoming, environmental and engineering consulting firms, and the public at-large. We would love to have representatives from the Wyoming Water Association, too!

For more information, please visit our Water Forum page where you can check out the latest speaker lineup and gain access to previous presentations: http://seo.wyo.gov/interstate-streams/water-forum.

We welcome suggestions for future speakers – especially if it’s you! Please contact Beth Ross if you have any questions: beth.ross@wyo.gov/307-777-7803. We welcome your input and would love to see you there!
**2016-2017 WWA Scholarship Application**

**APPLICATION FORM for the WYOMING WATER ASSOCIATION**
**SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM for the 2016-2017 ACADEMIC YEAR**

P.O. Box 1328 Powell, WY 82345 (307) 286-8614 E-Mail: radona@wyomingwater.org

Please complete the form with typewriter or print neatly and legibly. Attach additional sheets as necessary. Additional copies of the application form may be downloaded from the Association’s Website (www.wyomingwater.org).


**Instructions and Provisions Applying to the 2016 - 2017 Scholarship Competition and Selection Process:**

1. The Wyoming Water Association (WWA) is offering one or more scholarships to high school seniors or college students for their use while attending a Wyoming college or the University of Wyoming. The Association’s Scholarship Committee shall determine the distribution of the $4,500 allocated, with no one scholarship exceeding $1,500.

2. The Scholarship Committee and the Administrative Consultant will supply additional application forms to WWA Members upon request. As noted above, applicants can obtain additional copies of this form from the Association’s website. Eligibility is and will be limited to children, grandchildren and wards of WWA members. Award will be limited to twice per student on non-consecutive years.

3. Applicants must complete the scholarship application form, the required essay and sign the form. Additional sheets may be attached as necessary to provide the required information. Completed applications must be mailed to Chairman Ryan Erickson, Wyoming Water Association Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 609, 47 East 4th Avenue, Afton, Wyoming 83110, no later than March 11, 2016.

4. On or before March 18, 2016, the Chairman will mail a copy of each application submitted to members of the Scholarship Committee. Members will score each application upon the weights specified on the application form for Sections 1 and 2, for a total of 40 percent of the score. At the same time, the Chairman will mail unattributed copies (to ensure blind review) of the submitted essays to the essay reviewers, who have been selected by, and who may consist of, members of the Scholarship Committee. The reviewers, without knowledge of the authors’ names, shall score the essays for a total of 60 percent of the score. Both the application form reviewers and the essay reviewers will report their scores to the Scholarship Committee Chairman, who will compile the scores for each applicant and those scores will be verified by the Association’s Administrative Consultant.

5. The Scholarship Committee, by majority vote, will make its selection of the recipients and will report the names of those selected to the Administrative Consultant by April 15, 2016. The Scholarship Committee Chairman will also report the recipients’ names to the President and Treasurer of the Wyoming Water Association. A member or members of the Scholarship Committee will offer the Committee’s consolidated constructive critique to applicants who desire and request a confidential review of their essays and application forms.

6. The Treasurer of the Association will provide the award check to each recipient without delay when notified by the recipient in writing that the recipient has registered for the appropriate semester at a Wyoming college or at the University of Wyoming. Notification is best accomplished by submittal of a coursework registration form, receipt form for registration fees or copy of an official communication between the student and the educational institution.

7. Questions concerning these instructions may be addressed to the WWA’s Administrative Consultant via phone or e-mail at the phone number and e-mail address listed above. All eligible students who are qualified by virtue of their parents or grandparents’ affiliation with the WWA are strongly encouraged to apply. Scholarship recipients will be expected to attend the Association’s Annual Meeting Banquet in October in Casper to be recognized for receiving these scholarship awards and to read aloud their winning essay to the Association.

NAME____________________ ADDRESS____________________ WY__________
First                    Middle                   Last
Street/Apt./P. O. Box          City          Zip

PHONE____________________ EMAIL____________________

I am the child, grandchild or ward of ________________________________, who is a current member of the Wyoming Water Association. I am currently or will be attending __________________________________________, a Wyoming college or university and my major is or I intend that it will be ________________________________________.
Section 1. EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS (Scholarship application weighting of 15 Percent):

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Honors</th>
<th>One</th>
<th>Two</th>
<th>Three</th>
<th>Four</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Honors and Achievements</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honor Societies/ Offices Held</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Academic Organizations/Offices Held</td>
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Section 2. NON-ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS (Scholarship application weighting of 25 Percent):

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<tr>
<th>Type of Activity</th>
<th>Name of Organization or Activity</th>
<th>Type of Participation</th>
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Section 3. REQUIRED ESSAY (Scholarship application weighting of 60 Percent):

Topical Subject of Essay: What role do regulatory agencies play regarding development of Wyoming’s water resources?

Essay Requirements: The essay must be less than 500 words in length and must be submitted in typed or printed format.

I certify that the above information and data are correct and true. I consent to their disclosure to those persons responsible for reviewing and validating this application and essay for purposes of selecting the WWA scholarship recipients. I understand that the essay I wrote for the purpose of this scholarship competition may be used and distributed by the WWA without further approval by me.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

DATE
The WWA Board has established the following dues schedule for calendar year 2016:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Class</th>
<th>Annual Membership Dues:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Student</strong></td>
<td>$25.00 (includes participation at all WWA events including Annual Meeting and Education Seminar)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Individual</strong></td>
<td>$50.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Businesses:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Small (1-10 employees)</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medium (11-100 employees)</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Large (101+ employees)</td>
<td>$350.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Associations</strong></td>
<td>$100.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Conservation Districts</strong></td>
<td>$100.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Irrigation Districts</strong></td>
<td>$.01/acre… Minimum of $100.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Drainage Districts</strong></td>
<td>$100.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Special Districts</strong> (Including Water &amp; Sewer, Irrigation &amp; Drainage, etc.)</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
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<td><strong>Municipalities:</strong></td>
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<td>100 to 1000 population</td>
<td>$125.00</td>
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<td>1,001 to 5,000 population</td>
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<td>5,001 and over</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>County Governments</strong></td>
<td>$500.00</td>
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<td><strong>Joint Powers Boards</strong></td>
<td>$500.00</td>
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Please fill out the short form below and return it, along with your dues payment, to the WWA today.

☐ Yes, please renew my Wyoming Water Association membership for the 2016 Calendar Year.
I have enclosed $____________ as my/our dues payment for the coming year.

NAME__________________________________________________________
ORGANIZATION__________________________________________________
ADDRESS_____________________________________________________________________
CITY_________________________STATE________ZIP_____________________
PHONE_________________FAX____________E-MAIL_________________

Please mail your dues payment to: Wyoming Water Association, P.O. Box 1328, Powell, WY 82435.
Should you have additional questions, please call the WWA at 307-286-8614 or email radona@wyomingwater.org.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.
# The Water Planner 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Water and Waste Advisory Board Meeting; Casper, WY</td>
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<td></td>
<td>28-29</td>
<td>Game and Fish Commission Meeting; Cheyenne, WY</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>NACD Annual Meeting; Reno, NV</td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>NACD Annual Meeting; Reno, NV</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Wyoming Legislative Session Begins</td>
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<td>8-11</td>
<td>Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Work Group Meeting</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Water Forum; Cheyenne, WY</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Wyoming Water Association Winter Meeting and Legislative Review</td>
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<td>17-19</td>
<td>WAM Winter Workshop</td>
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<td>22-26</td>
<td>Board of Control Meeting</td>
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<td>23-25</td>
<td>Conservation District Supervisor and Employee Certification Training</td>
<td>Cheyenne, WY</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>Wyoming Water Development Commission Meeting</td>
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<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Water Forum; Cheyenne, WY</td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Wyoming MOA Application Due</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11-13</td>
<td>Module II Water Quality Training</td>
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<td>11-13</td>
<td>2016 NWRA Leadership Forum; Washington DC</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Water Forum; Cheyenne, WY</td>
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<td>14-15</td>
<td>Recertification Training</td>
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<td>19-22</td>
<td>WARWS Spring Training Conference</td>
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Wyoming Water Development Office

Platte River Basin Plan Update

PLATTE RIVER PLAN (4 MINUTE) INTEREST POLL

<http://goo.gl/forms/j4g7jRWoH>

The original Platte River Basin Plan for the State of Wyoming was completed in 2006. The ten year update to this plan will be complete this year. We are looking to gauge interest in this project and to get input on water resource issues that are important to you. The results of the survey will help inform the focus and the presentation of the plan update (http://waterplan.state.wy.us/plan/platte/2017platte-plan.html). The first step in this process is getting your feedback on this brief survey. The survey will close on February 5, 2016. Please give us your 4 valuable minutes.

For more information contact Peter Gill.

Peter.Gill@wyo.gov

Wyoming River Basin Planning,

6920 Yellowtail Road

Cheyenne, WY 82002