



Wyoming Water Association  
**Wyoming Water Flow**  
 Water is Wyoming's Gold

Wyoming Water Association

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The Wyoming Water Association ended the year with a successful convention and educational seminar. The theme of "Wyoming's Groundwater- The Source Beneath our Feet," brought old friends together and new ideas to the table.

Looking back through the year from the participation in the legislature to the summer tour, the Association has had a busy year.

This newsletter attempts to cover the highlights and meetings

of the convention and educational seminar. There is also the

announcement of the annual scholarship competition as well as the new board roster.

As we prepare to enter into 2009, we have included summaries of proposed legislation (with links) so our members can be ready for the upcoming legislative session. We encourage you to partici-



pate as much as possible.

Be sure not to miss the upcoming board meeting scheduled for January 21, 2009.

The WWA hopes that this newsletter finds you well and wishes you and your family a happy and safe holiday season!



## Convention Highlights

The Wyoming Water Association celebrated their 75th annual convention and educational seminar in Casper this October. Themed "Wyoming's Groundwater— The Source Beneath our Feet," it was well attended with much accomplished.

The conference kicked off on October 29th with the WWA Board Meeting and registration in the morning session. The noon session began with remarks from the Mayor of Casper, Paul Bertoglio, and John Lawson, Bureau of Reclamation, was the luncheon address. That



afternoon participants had the choice of the Bureau of Reclamation Tour or the sessions that offered the choice of aquifer storage and recharge, fundamentals of well drilling and well design, variable frequency drives, or groundwater resource mapping, modeling and impact assessment.

The evening was a great time to visit with old friends as the social hour as we thank everyone for making the silent auction and raffle a success. Throughout the evening the audience was able to hear the essays of the scholarship recipients: Anna Melcher and Jordon Wambeke. Scott Inglestad gave the special address for the banquet that evening on the Prairie Waters Project for the city of Aurora, Colorado.

The next morning started early as October 30th was full of events. The Advi-

sors' Update Panel: The Water Development Situation, Challenges and Opportunities for the State Engineer's Office, Water Challenges and Fisheries Opportunities and The State of the State's Environmental Quality were offered in the morning session.

The afternoon continued with Current and Future Direction of the University of Wyoming College of Law luncheon address by Dean Jerry Parkinson. With no hesitation the conference shifted gears to the educational seminar in the afternoon covering various topics from well permitting to groundwater grants and water development program and water development on public lands to water quality and Department of Environmental Quality permitting.

Friday came sooner than the participants imagined as the educational seminar continued. The main focus was risk/liability of groundwater development, underground injection regulations and concluded with a panel discussion on driller registration.



## Board Meeting

The board meeting was held in Casper on October 29 and called to order by vice president Nick Wambeke. There were 23 board members present. Minutes from the July 17th meeting were approved. An update on the fall program was provided by the administrative consultants. The board created a committee to develop a "Project of the Year Award"

with Jack Meena as the chair to further develop the idea. The committee was charged with development of the following: criteria/application/selection process.

The treasurer's report was given by Jack Meena and approved. The board passed continuing the bonding of officers. In addition, they also passed a new fee schedule (effective 2010) which is included at the end of this newsletter.

The WWA Resolutions were reviewed and adopted for 2009. The resolutions can be found on the WWA website. The board selected Don Brosz as the WWA Legislative Liaison. A summary of the upcoming proposed legislation can be found in this newsletter.

The topic for the scholarship essay was chosen as groundwater. The board passed a motion to create a new account for the scholarship and Frontier Oil offered a donation. Ryan Erickson was appointed the new chair of the scholarship committee.

The Summer Water Tour date has not yet been chosen but the possibility of having the summer tour and meeting in Casper to participate in conjunction with the Wyoming Bureau of Reclamation in the 100 year Celebration of Pathfinder Dam is being pursued. A new slate of officers was also approved to present at the annual meeting.

## Annual Membership Meeting

The meeting was called to order by vice president Nick Wambeke on October 30, 2008. There were approximately 26 members, advisors and guests present.

The treasurer report was approved as presented Jack Meena. The membership was informed of the scholarship fund, now in a separate account, as well as the annual membership fee schedule (effective 2010) that was approved at the board meeting.

The Scholarship Committee reported that the WWA will continue to

provide three \$1000 scholarships with existing criteria. The topic for the 2009-2010 scholarship essay will be groundwater. Frontier Oil's donation was presented and they will now be listed as co-sponsors of the scholarship.

Nominations Committee reviewed nomination reports for board members and officers. Mr. Floyd Field, Casper and Mr. Ryan Erickson, Afton are now board members. After selecting new board members, the membership approved nominations for the 2009 Board members and officers

presented by the board. A full list of board members and officers can be found at the end of the newsletter.

The membership reviewed the WWA Resolutions with proposed changes and passed them.

There was no old business.

Under new business, the suggestion was made to hold the 2009 annual membership meeting in Sheridan, Wyoming aligned with the Upper Missouri River Water Users Association.

After announcements the meeting was adjourned.

## 2009 Legislative Preview

The 2009 legislative session is around the corner and now is the time to become familiar with upcoming issues. The following are summaries from the Wyoming State Legislature website. We have included the direct link for each draft piece of legislation.

### **The Agriculture, State and Public Lands and Water Resources have drafted various bills of interest for the water community:**

#### [SF 9](#) [LSO-0025 - State engineer permit application.](#)

Provides for electronic permitting, grants rulemaking authority to the State Engineer for ditches, canals or other distribution works and ratifies existing rules.

<http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2009/Titles/SF0009.htm>

#### [HB 14](#) [LSO-0026 - Discharged water management.](#)

Provides for the management of surface water discharges, authorizes DEQ to issue general permits for discharged water, provides for the State Engineer to manage stream channels affected by surface water discharges from coalbed methane natural gas wells, authorizes construction to limit effects of excess surface water discharges from coalbed methane water, provides for rulemaking authority to the State Engineer, provides for a review process, for enforcement and for penalties.

<http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2009/Introduced/HB0014.pdf>

#### [SF 21](#) [LSO-0027 - Subdivisions located within irrigation districts.](#)

Provides for subdivision of lands within an irrigation district and for indemnification by the subdivider should damages accrue to the district.

<http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2009/Titles/SF0021.htm>

#### [HB 7](#) [LSO-0078 - Water development projects.](#)

Provides for the development of new water sources of supply and watercourse restoration.

<http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2009/Introduced/HB0007.pdf>

#### [SF](#) [LSO-0206 - Water development accounts.](#)

Appropriates \$1,000,000 to water development accounts.

**The Select Water Committee also has two bills for the legislative session:**

LSO 333 Omnibus water bill-planning.

The bill contains the annual authorization for Level I and Level II water development studies and provides appropriations therefore. Please see the bill for the numerous appropriations it contains.

<http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2008/interim/water/BILLS/09Iso-0333w2.pdf>

LSO 334 Omnibus water bill-construction.

The bill contains the annual authorization for the Level III construction of water projects which have previously completed the Level I and Level II stages. Please see the bill for the numerous appropriations it contains.

<http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2008/interim/water/BILLS/09Iso-0334w2.pdf>

Don Brosz will serve as the WWA Legislative Liaison for the 2009 session.



**Board Legislative Update Meetings:**

January 21      January 28  
February 4      February 11  
February 18     February 25  
(meetings starting at 1 pm)

Legislative session meetings will be held at:  
Water Development Office Conference Room  
6920 Yellowtail Road,  
Cheyenne, Wyoming

**For more information visit:**

<http://legisweb.state.wy.us/>



# Scholarship Announcement

The Wyoming Water Association and Frontier Oil announces their upcoming scholarship to high school seniors or college students. Annually, the WWA gives \$3000 to students determined by the association's scholarship committee. To be eligible, applicants must be children, grandchildren or wards of WWA members. The students complete out an application form and essay. Winners will be requested to attend the annual education seminar and convention in October. This year's topic is: "Why is protecting Wyoming's Groundwater Important?" The scholarship application is attached to the end of this newsletter.

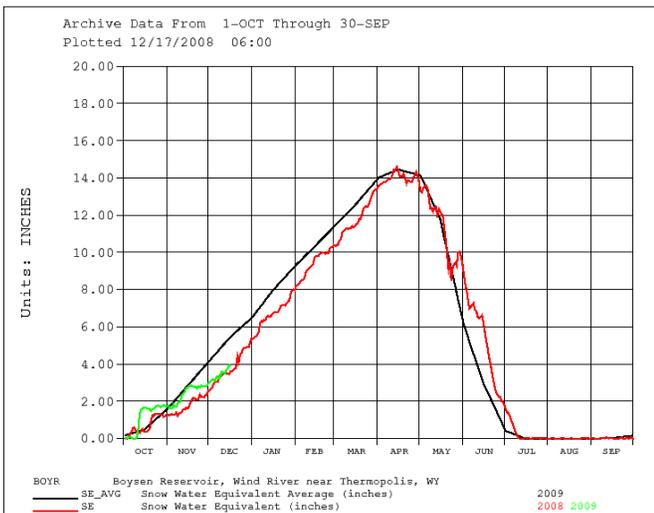
**Application Deadline:  
February 11, 2009**

For more information please visit:

[http://www.wyomingwater.org/scholarship\\_program.html](http://www.wyomingwater.org/scholarship_program.html)

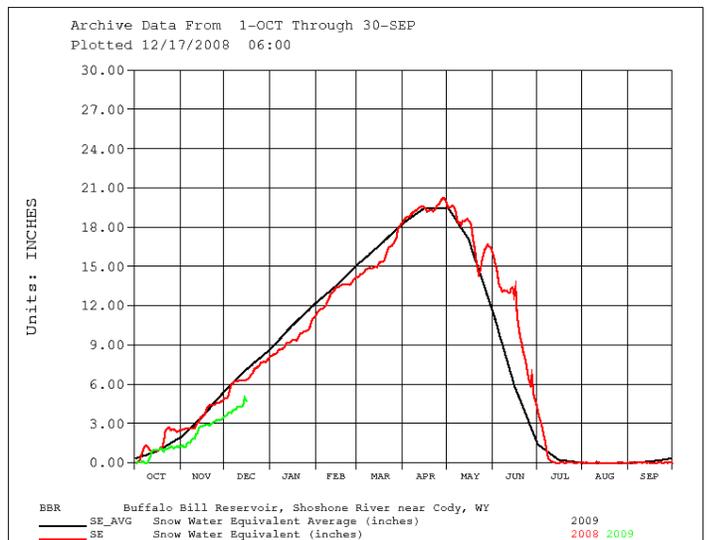
## Snow Level Update

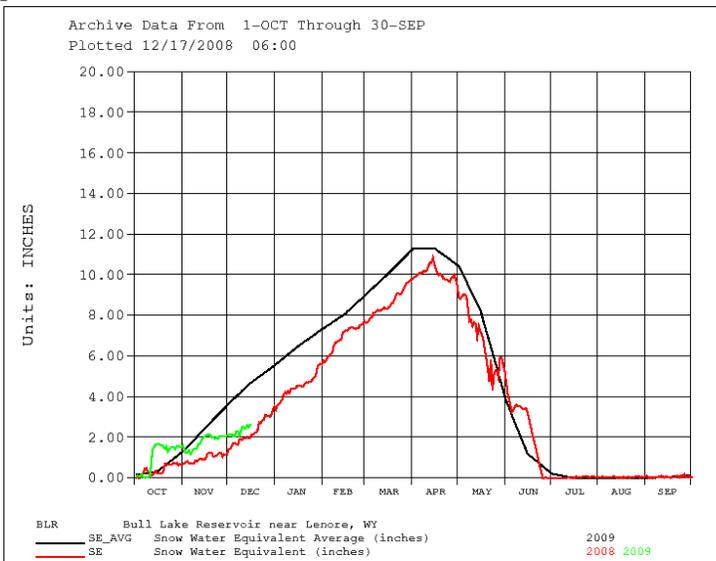
The following graphs are from the United States Bureau of Reclamation website for an update on snow water content for Wyoming reservoirs. Each of the graphs display data for 2008, 2009 and the average. For more information on content and Wyoming water reservoirs visit: [http://www.usbr.gov/gp/lakes\\_reservoirs/wyoming\\_lakes.htm](http://www.usbr.gov/gp/lakes_reservoirs/wyoming_lakes.htm)



Boysen Reservoir

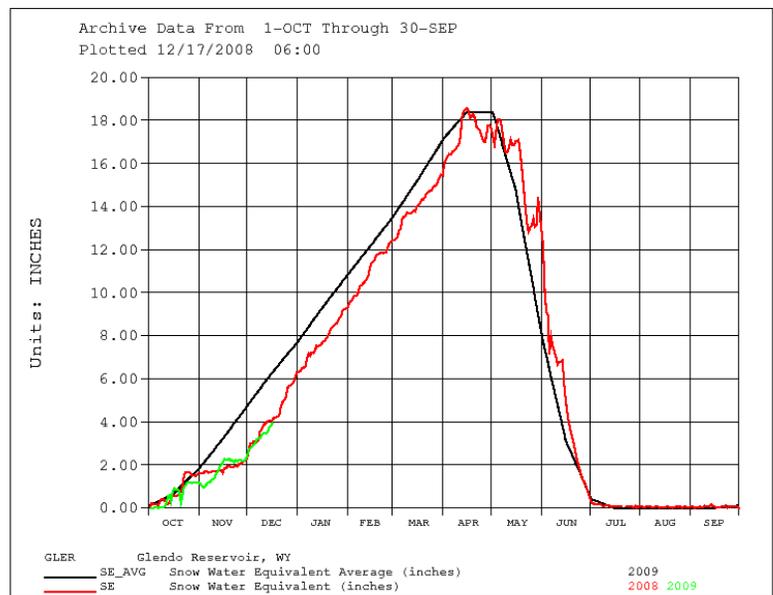
Buffalo Bill Reservoir



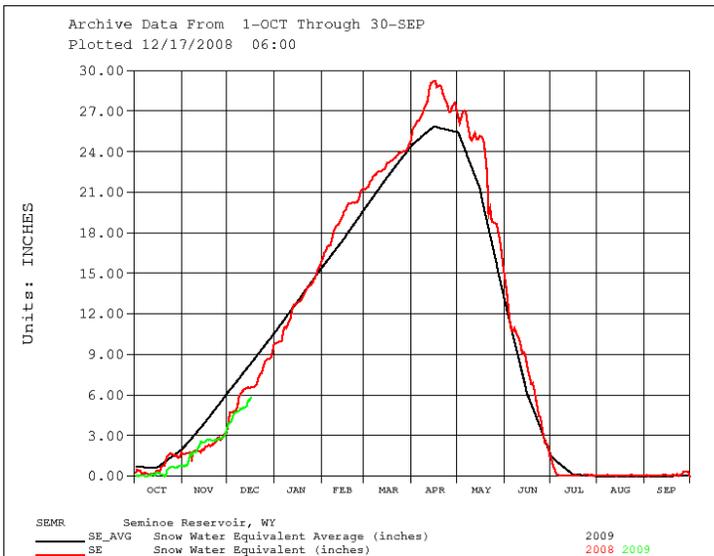


Bull Lake Reservoir

Glendo Reservoir



Seminole Reservoir



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[www.wyomingwater.org](http://www.wyomingwater.org)

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**Upcoming Board Meeting:**

**January 21, 2009**

**1:00 pm**

**Wyoming Water Development Commission Office**

