



Wyoming Water Association

Wyoming Water Flow

Water is Wyoming's Gold!

Volume LXVIV, Issue III

Fall 2009

Mark your Calendars now!

**Joint WWA/UMWA
Annual Meeting and
Educational Seminar
October 28-30, 2009
Sheridan, Wyoming**

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Looking for an old Wyoming Water Flow article? How about an updated Water Planner? Both can be found on the Wyoming Water Association's website, at <http://www.wyomingwater.org>. The website also contains information on the WWA scholarship and information on the Annual Meeting. Check it out!

“Water Management Challenges in the Headwater States - *It's all downhill from here!*”



The Joint Wyoming Water Association and Upper Missouri Water Association 2009 Annual Conference and Education Seminar begins on October 28th!



This year, the Upper Missouri Water Association (UMWA) will team up with the Wyoming Water Association (WWA) to host the 76th Annual Meeting in Sheridan, Wyoming. The Association's will be convening the Annual Meeting on Wednesday, October 28th and will continue through a joint luncheon on Thursday, October 29th. The WWA Education Seminar will start with the same joint luncheon and continue to noon on Friday, October 30th.

This year's conference entitled “Water Management Challenges in the Headwater States - *It's all downhill from here!*” will focus not only on Wyoming issues, but also on the Upper Missouri River Basin as a whole. The conference will be a significant opportunity for water users in Montana, North and South Dakota, and Wyoming to get together to discuss mutual concerns and objectives.

The 2009 Conference will provide presentation and panel discussions covering a broad scope of water resource issues and concerns. Representatives from the State Engineer's Offices (or equivalent), WWA's Advisors and the Bureau of Reclamation Area Managers will each be giving overviews and updates of state and regional projects. Luncheon addresses will explore stimulus funding opportunities and updates on national water policy. Additional talks during the Annual Meeting will involve a coal bed methane issues panel, water supply and habitat talks, and streamgaging issues in the

Upper Missouri River Basin. And, starting this year, student presentations from University of Wyoming graduate students are on the agenda.

The Education Seminar starts on Thursday afternoon, and comprises the second half of the Conference. We are pleased to announce that 8.0 hours of continuing legal education (CLE) credits are available. Continuing education credits for engineers and water well contractors will also be available. Topics discussed during this session will include legal interstate issues (trans-basin diversions, Yellowstone River Compact and Pallid Sturgeons—water management policies), water law opportunities and flexibilities, carbon sequestration, implications from Pine Bark Beetle infestations, plus many more. For a complete program please visit the WWA website at <http://www.wyomingwater.org>

This year, we are pleased to have two tours planned for Wednesday afternoon. Both tours will be visiting the Goose Creek Habitat Restoration Area. After visiting Goose Creek, groups will split off, one visiting a coal bed methane discharge facility and treatment and the other touring the Sheridan Intake Diversion and Big Goose Water Plant. Participants will return to the Holiday Inn in time to get ready for the evening's Annual Award Banquet.

This year's Annual Banquet will be especially memorable. Don't miss out on the *Continued on page 5.*

Economic Impact of U.S. Sugar

By Klodette Stroh, WWA Board Member

Sugar beet crops are looking very good in my hometown of Powell. Park County is the leading county in production of sugar beet, barley, dry eatable beans and 6th for oats grain, corn grain among the 23 counties in the State of Wyoming.

According to Wyoming agriculture statistic The value of the Ag sector output in Wyoming annually exceeds over one billion dollars with cash income historically around \$900 million. There are 34.4 million acres of farms and ranches in Wyoming, which provides over 17000 jobs. Agriculture plays a vital role in Wyoming's economy. Hay is by far the leading crop in Wyoming in term of value of production totaling \$161.6 million as stated in the 2005 agriculture report. Sugar beets had the next highest crop value in 2005 at \$33.4 million, followed by barley at \$18.4 million, corn at \$16.8 million, wheat at \$15.4 million and dry beans at \$15.1 million. According to the Wyoming agriculture report in terms of cash receipts, hay and sugar beet are usually close contenders for the leading crop followed by barley.

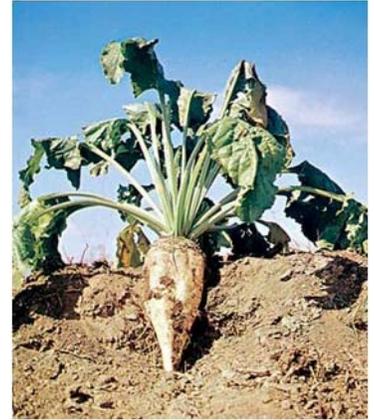
During my visits to Washington D.C. as the WIFE national sugar chairman to represent our nation's sugar beet, cane and corn sweeteners farmers I often had the chance to talk about my beloved state of Wyoming to the other states Senators and representatives. They were always so surprised with all the agriculture activity in Wyoming. It has been an honor for me to educate many people about the agriculture economic benefits in Wyoming.

Water has played an important role in Wyoming agriculture. Park County is filled with lush green fields of crops because of the water supply in Buffalo Bill Dam reservoir. Buffalo Bill (Shoshone dam) and Pathfinder dam were one of the first reclamation dams built in Wyoming around 1910-1911. Buffalo bill dam has over 97000 acres of irrigated land and over 20000 acres of total 27000 acres of sugar beets are grown in the Park County. Total income from crops included alfalfa, barley, oats, corn grain, dry beans and sugar beets exceed 100 million dollars annually.

Nationwide state of Wyoming ranks number 1 in average size of farms& ranches, number 2 in wool number 4 in pinto beans number 6 in barley and number 8 in sugar beets.

Wyoming sugar beet farmers provide 4,571 jobs in Wyoming and in a larger scale they are portion of the 146,000 jobs provided nation wide that rely on a strong U.S. sweetener industry. The economic impact of sugar

industry is \$ 10 billion a year America's economy. Sugar policy operates at no cost to the taxpayers. There is no subsidy check issued for sugar beet and cane farmers in this country. The program gives authority to regulate the import quota to the Secretary of Agriculture.



The farm family was the basic unit shaping life in America. For over 200 years, agriculture has changed the countryside while providing rural strength. Farmers are the backbone of this country and as taxpayers in this country we have to protect our farming industry. American farmers provide food for America and half of the world. Without commodities what would we trade, how would we put sanctions on countries like North Korea in order to secure world peace, and how would we be able to feed the hungry of the world or those stricken by natural disasters? Without farmers, who will feed our troops at home and those fighting abroad to protect our precious freedom? Without farmers who will provide the food programs for those who are experiencing tough times, and what will happen to all the food programs we have in place for our schools, child care centers and senior program? Indeed, farmers provide so many benefits for all of us and I can't imagine world without them. Next time you see a farmer let him know you are supporting his hard work and give him word of encouragement for working from dawn to dusk to ensure America's superior global position. There is world wide economic commotion. We should support American farmers, as they are founders of our nation.

Park & Big horn County WIFE president. WIFE National sugar chair
Klodette Stroh



2009 Summer Tour a Success!

The Cottonwood and Grass Creek Watersheds were the highlight of this year's Summer Water Resources Educational Tour

Nearly 40 people turned up in Thermopolis, WY on a beautiful July day to attend the WWA Summer Water Resources Tour. This year's tour highlighted efforts to enhance watershed function and sustainability in the Big Horn Basin and more particularly the Cottonwood and Grass Creek Watersheds. A special thanks to Marvin Andreen, Hot Springs County Weed and Pest and Dee Hillberry, Cottonwood/Grass Creek Watershed Improvement District for hosting the tour!

After a pre-tour introduction at the County Fairground building in Thermopolis, participants hopped on the bus and headed northwest. The morning half of the tour consisted of stops at Whales Reservoir, Hamilton Dome and the LU Ranch.

Along the way, several stops were made to look at efforts being made by landowners on Cottonwood/Grass Creek to clear Tamarisk and Russian Olive infestations. In October of 2005, landowners formed a Coordinated Resource Management Area (CRM) to develop an integrated weed management program. The objectives of the program were to identify and map invasive weed species throughout the watershed, identify best



Looking at cottonwood restoration on a creek at the LU Ranch.

management practices (BMP's) for biological and ecological control, and develop plans for reclamation. It was amazing to see the difference between areas infested with salt cedar, Russian Olive and invasive weeds versus treated areas where native grasses, willows and cottonwoods resided. A special thanks goes to Mr. Mike Healy with the LU Ranch for not only allowing us access to the ranch but also in sharing his experiences and vision in management, future enhancements and long-term productivity in the Cottonwood/Grass Creek Watershed! For more information on the CRM plan, you may contact the Grass Creek Weed Management Area at (307) 864-2278.

Lunch was enjoyed at the 4-H camp off of Grass Creek road. A memorable meal of barbeque and all the fixings, was provided by Chubby Cheeks BBQ. Thank you Dave Murdock out of Worland for some of the best smoked ribs and steaks I have had in a long while! Our speakers for lunch talked about the pyric treatment plans for Pinon and Juniper removal in the upper reaches of Grass Creek and more about the CRM currently in place for removal of invasive species.

management practices (BMP's) for biological and ecological control, and develop plans for reclamation. It was amazing to see the difference between areas infested with salt cedar, Russian Olive and invasive weeds versus treated areas where native grasses, willows and cottonwoods resided. A special thanks goes to Mr. Mike Healy with the LU Ranch for not only allowing us access to the ranch but also in sharing his experiences and vision in management, future enhancements and long-term productivity in the Cottonwood/Grass Creek Watershed! For more information on the CRM plan, you may contact the Grass Creek Weed Management Area at (307) 864-2278.

Following lunch, our tour continued as we discussed the stock water pipeline project at the LU Ranch. With assistance from the Wyoming Water Development Commission and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, plans to efficiently increase irrigation by changing the point of diversion, rehabilitating the ditch structures and converting to pivot sprinklers are underway.

Before leaving the Cottonwood/Grass Creek watershed we took a harrowing bus ride up to the top of Adam Weiss Peak with spectacular 360 degree views. This stop focused on the Little Grass Creek

stock water pipeline project. This upland water development project consists of a six mile gravity feed system. This spring and series of tanks is vital to the health of the area by diverting stock and wildlife away from sensitive riparian areas. All hail to the bus driver for getting us up and back on the four-wheel drive road all in one piece!



At the top of Adam Weiss Peak.

For the last portion of the trip, we left the Cottonwood/Grass Creek area and headed down to Kirby, home of the Wyoming Whiskey Distillery. We were extremely fortunate to be at the distillery on the second day of production. The tour was amazing as we were able to view the production (second day in!) and the eventual storage room. Did you know that all the ingredients used in the making of the Whiskey comes from Wyoming! Though some were saddened by the unavailability



2nd day of production at the Wyoming Whiskey Distillery

of product to sample (seven more years to wait!), overall everyone was amazed at the high-tech operation located in Kirby, Wyoming. Thank you Donna Nally for the wonderful tour!

The tour concluded back at the County Fairground Building in Thermopolis at exactly 5 pm! Thank you to all who attended and participated in this year's tour. We couldn't have made it a success without you!

And the Scholarship Winners Are...

Bradi Nelson

Bradi Coe Nelson, daughter of Brad and LindaKay Nelson grew up in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Currently a Senior Honor Student at the University of Wyoming, Nelson is majoring in Physical Education with a minor in Health. Nelson will also graduate with an endorsement in coaching.

A 2006 Honor graduate of Pine Bluffs High School, Bradi was recognized as an outstanding athlete, along with being one of the top ten academic students of Laramie County of 2006. Nelson was involved in volleyball, basketball, track and high school rodeo. She was PBHS Student Body President, National Honor Society Vice President, FFA Vice President, while mentoring younger students. Miss Nelson is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Cowboys, Cheyenne Hills Baptist Church, American Cowboys Team Roping Association and held the title "Miss All Around 2008".

Bradi loves to team rope, barrel race and compete in intramural sports.



Karry Stroh

Karry Stroh is 23 years old and lives in Powell, Wyoming. She is a 2007 graduate of Northwest College where she received two associated. She is currently attending school through the outreach program at the University of Wyoming. There she is in her senior year in the College of Arts and Science pursuing a degree in Psychology. She will be honored with an award by the University in October for her outstanding academic performance. Karry plans on attending graduate school next year where she will be **working towards a master's in counseling. She currently works part-time** for Kinder Morgan Pipelines and attends school full-time. In between school and work she enjoys riding motorcycles with her husband, camping, reading and spending time with friends and family.

Zach Herold

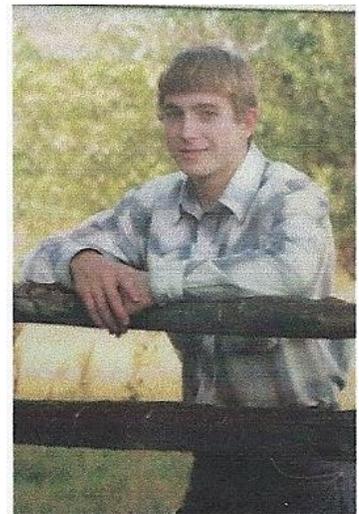
I am Zach Herold. I was one of the Wyoming Water Association Scholarship recipients. I am very honored to have been chosen for this scholarship. Outdoors is where my passion in life is and always will be.

In the summer months I worked for the Little Snake River Conservation District and can honestly say I loved my job. I was the boss of the summer kids; we planted willows, collected seed, lop and scatter, water quality, and various other outdoor jobs.

In the fall almost all of my time evolves around school and hunting. I start off with archery hunting which last me around a month in which I hunt deer and elk. After archery season, rifle season and bird season occupies my time.

The winter is another busy season for me. Downhill skiing, snowboarding, and snow machining keep me occupied, along with a little predator calling on the side.

I am a striving individual and will not quit until the job is done. I am respectful and courteous to others around me. I take pride in my accomplish such as building my dad a flat bed in ag class. 4-h and FFA have played a huge role in my life and partially shaped me into the young man I am today. My mom, dad, and family are the other 75% of the shape that I have taken. I would like to thanks them all for the help and support it took for me to get as a far as I have and wish to continue getting their support as my life continues.



Committee Updates

Select Water Committee Report

The Select Water Committee met jointly with the Wyoming Water Development Commission (WWDC) on August 20th and 21st in Casper. The purpose of the meeting was to continue the approved 2009 interim work. The Committee heard information on the proposed water development projects. In addition to the meeting, the committee toured the Bureau of Reclamation's Alcova and Pathfinder Dams, the Freemont Power Plant and surrounding water systems.

After the call to order and approval of the June 4, 2009 minutes, the WWDC held a public hearing and then voted to approve the proposed changes to the administrative rules. The Director of WWDC, Mr. Mike Purcell, then gave an update of the balance of the water development accounts. He also explained the Agency's upcoming budget request, which will include moneys for a cost of living increase, new computers, money for TMDLs, safe drinking water and participation with the State Engineer for the Endangered Species Act.

Following explanation by Mr. Jon Wade of the Wyoming Water Development Office, the Committee approved amendments to the Rawlins Master Plan. Mr. Jon Wade and Mr. Greg Kerr of the UW Office of Water Programs explained the Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) which provides support from the WWDC for the Office. The MOU also provides \$300,000 to be paid to the Office for water research projects from the WWDC. Mr. Kerr provided an update on the status of the research projects.

**Next Select Water Committee Meeting
November 5-6, 2009
Casper, WY**

Agriculture Committee Report

The Joint Agriculture, State and Public Lands and Water Resources Interim Committee met on September 21st and 22nd in Hulett, Wyoming. Minutes from the meeting are not yet available. Once posted, they will be available from the State Legislature Website at <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/LegislatorSummary/IntCommList.aspx>

According to the agenda, reports from State Forestry, Office of State Lands and Investments, the Wyoming Livestock Board, Rangeland Monitoring, Department of Agriculture, State Engineer and the Water Development Office was heard.

In addition to the reports, a tour of Devil's Tower Forest Product and a tour of regional tornado damage was taken. During the reception for committee members, agency representatives and guests, former Senator Vasey was recognized and honored for his long-standing support of Wyoming.

**Next Joint Agriculture, State and Public
Lands and Water Resources Interim
Committee Meeting
TBA**

Continued from page 1

annual silent auction which will start at 6 p.m. Proceeds from the auction support the WWA's Scholarship Awards Program. It is our hope to be able to provide three \$1,000 scholarships to Association members' children or grandchildren attending higher learning institutions. Thanks to all who have provided items! And to those who haven't there is still time, help us support higher education in Wyoming!

The Banquet will continue with the awards program. Former senator and water supporter Bill Vasey will be honored with a lifetime distinguished service award. The 2009 WWA Scholarship winners will be honored and be asked to read their essays to the group. UMWA will also have awards to present for distinguished service in each of the four basin states.

Should you need hotel accommodations, the Associations have negotiated a rate of \$72 per night for hotel rooms at the Holiday Inn, Sheridan. Please advise the hotel staff that you are making your reservation within the Wyoming Water Association block reservation when you call. The hotel's registration desk can be reached directly by

telephoning (800) 465-4329 or (307) 672-8931. Additional information concerning the hotel and its amenities can found on the internet at www.holidayinn.com/sheridanwy. **Hotel registration deadline is October 19th.**

A registration form is included in this newsletter. For a complete program please visit the WWA Website at <http://www.wyomingwater.org> Student registrations are available. For more information on the Annual Meeting and Education Seminar or on how to become a sponsor, please contact Robin Gray at (307) 286-8614 or robin@wyomingwater.org **Don't delay—hurry and get your registration in by the October 16th deadline!**

We hope to see you in Sheridan!

The Water Planner

October	1-2	9th Annual Montana Water Law Seminar in Helena, MT
	5-8	National Rural Water Association National Training Conference and H2OXPO October 5-8 in Louisville, KY
	6	State Water Forum Meeting in Cheyenne, WY
	15	Wyoming Rural Water Planning and Source Water Protection Symposium in Cheyenne, WY
	26-30	Wyoming Water Quality and Pollution Control Association Conference in Casper, WY
	27	WWA Annual Board Meeting in Sheridan, WY
	28-30	WWA/UMWA Annual Conference and Education Seminar in Sheridan, WY
November	2-6	State Board of Control Quarterly Meeting in Cheyenne, WY
	2-6	WWQ/PCA Preconference and Conference in Casper, WY
	3	State Water Forum Meeting in Cheyenne, WY
	4-6	WWDC/SWC Workshop/Meeting in Casper, WY
	18-20	NWRA Annual Conference in San Antonio, TX
December	1	State Water Forum Meeting in Cheyenne, WY
	12	SEO Public Hearing on Pathfinder Reservoir and the Pathfinder Modification Project in Casper, WY
January	5	State Water Forum Meeting in Cheyenne, WY
	5-6	WWDC/SWC Workshop/Meeting in Cheyenne, WY
	7	Select Water Committee Meeting in Cheyenne, WY
February	2	State Water Forum Meeting in Cheyenne, WY
	8-10	National Rural Water Rally in Washington, DC

List of Abbreviations:

UMWA—Upper Missouri Water Association

NWRA—National Water Resources Association

SEO—State Engineer's Office

SWC—Select Water Committee

WWA—Wyoming Water Association

WWDC—Wyoming Water Development Commission

WWQ/PCA—Wyoming Water Quality and Pollution Control Association



Joint Wyoming Water Association and Upper Missouri Water Association Annual Meeting and Educational Seminar

Holiday Inn, Sheridan, Wyoming
October 28-30, 2009



ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s) _____

Representing _____ Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

Please indicate the number attending for each event: # Cost Total

Annual Meeting and Education Seminar Package (Oct. 28-30) _____ \$ 325.00 \$ _____

Includes all conference activities Oct. 28-Oct. 30

ALL MEALS, sessions, tour, social hour/banquet, breaks and continuing ed. credits

**Annual Meeting and Education Seminar Package-
Non WWA/UMWA Member** _____ \$ 365.00 \$ _____

WWA/UMWA Annual Meeting Only (Oct. 28-29) _____ \$ 125.00 \$ _____

ALL MEALS, sessions, tour, social hour/banquet and breaks

on Wednesday, Oct. 28 through the Luncheon on Thursday, Oct. 29

Annual Meeting Only Non WWA/UMWA Member _____ \$ 165.00 \$ _____

Educational Seminar Only (Oct. 29-30) _____ \$ 225.00 \$ _____

Includes sessions and breaks starting with the Luncheon

on Thursday, Oct. 29, continental breakfast on Friday, Oct. 30

and continuing education credits

Educational Seminar Only Non WWA/UMWA Member _____ \$ 265.00 \$ _____

Extra meal tickets may be purchased:

Opening Luncheon (Oct. 28) _____ \$ 15.00 \$ _____

Awards Banquet (Oct. 28) _____ \$ 25.00 \$ _____

Joint Annual Meeting/Ed. Seminar Luncheon (Oct. 29) _____ \$ 15.00 \$ _____

_____ **Totals** \$ _____

HOTEL ROOMS: A block of rooms has been reserved for Oct. 27-Oct. 29, at the Holiday Inn in Sheridan, Wyo. Reserve your room(s) by calling (307) 672-8931 (\$72 single/double, WWA Meeting block), by **Oct. 14**.

CANCELLATION POLICY: When you register for the convention, we make arrangements for your arrival. In the unlikely event you have to cancel your registration, the following cancellation policy will be applied. By registering to attend the event, you are complying with the cancellation policy. A **\$40 administrative fee** will be charged on all refund requests for registration and meals on or before **Oct. 27**. There will be no refunds for cancellations received after **Oct. 27**- substitutions are permitted.

Send completed form and check to:

Upper Missouri Water Association

PO Box 2254, Bismarck, ND 58502

Phone: 701-223-4232 Fax: 701-223-4645 E-mail: ndwater@btinet.net

For credit card payments contact Robin Gray at WWA at 307-286-8614



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Water is Wyoming's Gold.

**Reminder:
WWA Board Meeting
Tuesday, October 27th
Holiday Inn Hotel
Sheridan, WY
6:00 p.m.**

To view this publication in color
please see the WWA website at [http://
wyomingwater.org/publications.html](http://wyomingwater.org/publications.html)
or send your e-mail address to
robin@wyomingwater.org

Request for Exhibitors and Sponsors

Dear Water Supporters:

It's not too late to sign up for exhibit space or to help sponsor a networking break at the upcoming WWA/UMWA Annual Meeting and Education Seminar on October 28th - 30th in Sheridan, WY.

The exhibit fee is \$150. Coffee breaks and breakfasts will be held in the exhibit area to allow the opportunity for networking with the meeting participants.

We are also seeking sponsorships for the snack/refreshment breaks being held throughout the meeting and seminar. This is a great way to get your company name in the conference materials, newsletters as well as signage during the sponsored break.

For more information or to receive an exhibitor registration form please contact Robin Gray at (307) 286-8614 or email at robin@wyomingwater.org