City of Cheyenne Board of Public Utilities

# **Plan for Wise Water Use**

Cheyenne, Wyoming

(Revised 7/18/11)





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# **Executive Summary**

Cheyenne is located in a high altitude prairie where water resources are limited. Cheyenne overcomes the lack of local resources through an extensive water system that crosses three mountain ranges. This system provides sufficient water to serve the current and future needs of the city so long as Cheyenne's residents use the resource judiciously.

This plan contains two parts, a water conservation plan that implements common sense water measures to be followed at all times and a drought response plan to be enacted during periods of drought.

# **Overview Of Cheyenne's Water Supply**

Cheyenne has an extensive water system containing both surface water resources and ground water resources. These resources can be grouped into three sources, Stage I/II System, Crow Creek Watershed and ground water resources.

The Stage I/II System consists of a trade arrangement where water is collected from west of the Continental Divide in the Little Snake River in the Sierra Madre Mountain Range and traded for water from the more deliverable source Douglas Creek in Medicine Bow Mountain Range. The system uses a series of reservoirs, pipelines, and trade and storage agreements to deliver water to Cheyenne. When water is available, the system produces 17,700 acre-feet of water. Major components of the system include ...

Hog Park Reservoir	Purpose: Trade water for Stage I/II System. Storage Capacity: 22,650 acre-feet .
	Source of water: Little Snake Watershed.
Seminoe Reservoir	Purpose: Water storage account with Bureau of Reclamation to
Seminoe Reservoir	increase trade capacity for the Stage I/II System.
	Storage Capacity: 15,700 acre-feet.
	Source of water: Hog Park Reservoir.
Rob Roy Reservoir	Purpose: Collect water for Stage I/II System in exchange for
	releasing water from Hog Park and/or Seminoe Reservoirs.
	Storage Capacity: 35,640 acre-feet.
	Source of water: Douglas Creek Watershed.
Lake Owen	Purpose: Water transport and storage in Stage I/II System
	Storage Capacity: 700 acre-feet.
	Source of Water: Rob Roy Reservoir.

Crow Creek was the first water source for the City of Cheyenne. On average, Crow Creek produces 3,500 acre-feet of water. Major reservoirs and detention structures include ...

Granite Springs Reservoir	Purpose: Collect water from Crow Creek Watershed and transport water from Stage I/II System.
	Storage Capacity: 5,320 acre-feet.
	Source of Water: Stage I/II system and Middle Crow Creek.
Crystal Reservoir	Purpose: Collect water from Crow Creek Watershed and
	transport water from Stage I/II System and Crow Creek
	Watershed to Sherard Water Treatment Plant.
	Storage Capacity: 3,410 acre-feet.
	Source of Water: Stage I/II System and Middle Crow Creek.
North Crow Reservoir	Purpose: Collect water from Crow Creek Watershed.
	Storage Capacity: 1,850 acre-feet.
	Source of Water: North Crow Creek.
South Crow Diversion	Purpose: Collect water from Crow Creek Watershed.
Structure	Source of Water: South Crow Creek.

The BOPU manages four well fields to the west and northwest of town. They are the Federal, Bell, Borie and Happy Jack Well Fields. These well fields tap into the White River and Ogallala Formations of the High Plains Aquifer. While the well fields are adjudicated 5,500 acre-feet of water per year, the BOPU uses approximately 3,500 acre-feet of water per year to sustain the aquifers.

In 2007, the BOPU began producing Class "A" reuse water or "recycled water" as it is called in Cheyenne. Recycled water replaces drinking water resources used to irrigate parks, athletic fields and green spaces in Cheyenne. The system produces approximately 180 million gallons of water, saving an equivalent amount by keeping drinking water resources in reservoirs.

When water is available, these resources can produce an average of 24,700 acre-feet of water per year. Since implementing a water conservation program, Cheyenne has reduced consumption to approximately 15,000 acre-feet per year. Before the conservation program, Cheyenne consumed 18,015 acre-feet in 2002.

This system provides adequate water resources to meet the current and future needs of the City of Cheyenne. However, the system is dependent on snow collecting in the mountains west of Cheyenne. The snow melts and fills reservoirs and aquifers. How much snow collects from year to year can vary and can be influenced by global weather patterns, anthropogenic activities and biologic processes.

#### Water Conservation Plan

#### Purpose Of The Water Conservation Plan

The Purpose of the Water Conservation Plan is to:

- Minimize wasteful water practices
- Reduce or delay the need to acquire or develop new water resources
- Promote sustainable use of a finite and limited resource
- Postpone water and wastewater treatment facility expansions due to capacity. Water and wastewater treatment facilities may still be upgraded to meet new regulatory requirements or to improve stewardship of the water resource.
- Demonstrate stewardship over Cheyenne's water resources and the community's investment in the water system.

#### Summary Of Water Conserving Operational Practices

The BOPU integrates water conserving principles into day to day operations such as:

- Utilize a rate structure that promotes water conservation by charging higher rates for larger consumptions.
- Reclaim and recycle water for irrigation and commercial use.
- Maintain the distribution system to reduce water losses to leaks. Practices include quickly responding to main breaks, monitoring the distribution system for leaks with a leak detection program, tracking water main sections by age and leak history, and annual water main rehabilitations where needed.

- Research and recommend policies and regulations that promote efficient landscaping or irrigation practices.
- Promote water conserving principles through public outreach and education.
- Maximize source water collection through reservoir management.
- Require all water uses be metered.

#### Summary of Water Conservation Programs

In addition to day to day operations, the BOPU has the following water conservation programs.

#### Prohibit and Enforce No Watering Between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Watering with spray irrigation between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. from May 1 through September 1 is prohibited and may result in a warning or fine except when

- a. Hand watering new plants on the day of planting.
- b. Operating an irrigation system for installation, repair or reasonable maintenance. While in operation, the system must be attended and attendees must actively be working on the system.

#### **Enforce Watering Schedule**

Depending on water supply conditions, the BOPU may implement water schedules. For possible water schedules, see page 9.

If a water schedule is implemented, permits may be issued for new sod and/or seed if soils are properly amended. See section **Watering New Sod or Seed** for permit requirements.

#### Prohibit and Enforce Wasteful Water Use.

Wasting water is prohibited and can result in a warning or fine. Wasting water includes, but is not limited to,

- a. Watering during rain or high wind.
- b. Allowing water to pool or flow across the ground or into drainages such as channels, gutters, streets, alleys or storm drains.
- c. Failing to repair water leaks within 10 days.
- d. Using water instead of a broom to clean hard surfaces such as parking lots, sidewalks or driveways except for health, safety or construction reasons.
- e. Washing vehicles with a hose that lacks an automatic shut-off valve.
- f. Using drinking water resources for dust control or construction purposes outside the city limits.

#### **Rebate Programs And Incentives**

BOPU staff may include rebates or incentives to promote the use of water conserving appliances, irrigation technology or land use practices. Programs for rebates or

incentives will be developed on a year to year basis and approved as items in the budget process.

#### Watering New Sod Or Seed

Watering new sod or seed more frequently than three days per week requires a permit. Permits may be obtained at 2100 Pioneer Avenue. Permit requirements are listed below.

New sod and seed permits

- Applicants for permits must amend soils and show a receipt for soil amendments.
- Site subject to inspection and permits may be revoked if the site was not prepared properly.
- Soil must be amended with a minimum of 3.5 cubic yards of organic material per 1,000 square feet of sod prior to installing seed or sod.
- Organic material must be worked into a depth of 6 inches by tilling, disking or other suitable method.
- Inorganic substitutes will not be accepted.
- Acceptable examples of organic material: compost, aged and composted manure, sphagnum peat moss.
- Amendments not accepted: sand, mountain peat moss, fresh manure, gypsum or lime.
- Permit must be displayed from a window visible from the street.
- Sod permit allows watering ½ inch of water for 14 days and ¼ inch of water every other day for 7 days.
- Seed permit allows watering ½ inch of water for 21 days and ¼ inch of water every other day for 7 days.

Overseeding permits:

- Requires site preparation through aeration and hard raking or power raking.
- Permit to be displayed from a window visible from the street.
- Overseeding permit allows watering ½ inch of water for 14 days and ¼ inch of water every other day for 7 days.

#### Water Budgets For Watering Large Community Areas

The water budget program allows water users with community used irrigated areas exceeding 1 acre in size to irrigate more than three times per week but monitors consumption to make sure the consumption does not exceed evapotranspiration rates and reasonable irrigation system inefficiencies.

Application for water budget program:

• The water budget is calculated using ET to determine the landscape irrigation requirement.

- Applicants must complete an application and sign an agreement to use best management practices to limit water waste.
- Application not valid unless signed by BOPU water conservation specialist or administration manager.
- No watering between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

#### **Commercial And Industrial Best Management Practices**

A best management practice for water conservation utilizes the best policies or technology reasonably available to achieve water conservation. Examples of best management practices include, but are not limited to

#### Restaurants:

• Serve water only upon customer request.

#### Hotel/Motel:

- Must offer guests staying more than one night the option of not changing linen, towels, etc.
- Routinely inspect for leaky faucets, showers or recreation equipment.

#### Construction sites:

- Drinking water used for construction must be used in the city.
- Hoses must be equipped with shut-off nozzles.
- Use a broom or brush instead of a hose to clean surfaces.
- Water used at construction sites must be metered.

#### Car Washes:

- Check equipment and facilities routinely to identify leaks, plugged nozzles, poor pressures or faulty equipment.
- All hoses must be equipped with automatic shut-off nozzles

Other types of best management practices:

- Optimization and recycling of cooling and process water.
- Modify processes to reduce water waste.

#### Drought Response Plan

#### Purpose Of The Drought Response Plan

- Quickly identify and evaluate the impact of drought on Cheyenne's water resources.
- Mitigate the impact of drought through water use restrictions.

#### Identifying Drought Impacts

Cheyenne's water resources are in a snow-melt dominated hydrology. This means that water is collected once a year. Cheyenne may have to rely on water stored in reservoirs for two or more years during severe drought events when very little water is collected.

To maintain adequate resources to mitigate severe or extreme drought events, the BOPU estimates reservoir storage one spring snow melt in advance. The BOPU projects, based on the current year's consumption rates and snow pack conditions, what the reservoir storage will be before spring runoff next year.

Using this method, the BOPU can identify when Cheyenne's water resources are being impacted by drought and quickly enable mitigation efforts. This drought management plan uses trigger points to identify when the water supply is being impacted, the severity of the impact and water use restrictions that can help mitigate the impact.

Reservoir Stora	ge For May 1			
Reservoir	Projected Storage	Percent of	Conservation	Conservation
Storage	Capacity	Storage	Goal	Goal
Status	acre-ft		Percent	Acre-ft (mg)
Normal	25,000 or greater	63% or greater	5 to 10	900 – 1,800 (294 - 587)
Mild	19,000 to 24,999	48% to 63%	10 to 15	1,800 – 2,700 (587 - 880)
Moderate	13,000 to 19,000	33% to 48%	20 to 25	3,600 – 4,500 (1,173 - 1,466)
Severe	7,000 to 13,000	18% to 33%	30 to 40	5,400 – 7,200 (1,759 - 2,346)
Extreme	less than 7,000	Less than 18%	50 to 60	9,000 – 10,800 (2,933 - 3,519)

### Reservoir Storage For May 1<sup>st</sup>

The BOPU will conduct further evaluations during and after spring runoff. BOPU staff will use available data from snow pack, runoff data, anticipated consumption, current water storage and reservoir operation/evaporation losses to estimate reservoir storage for the next spring. The BOPU will implement the conservation measures necessary to maintain adequate storage in the reservoirs.

Changes in reservoir storage, well field production and/or aquifer storage and recharge may change these trigger points.

Cheyenne is lower in elevation than its water sources. As such, warmer weather will impact water use in Cheyenne before water yield from the snowpack in the mountains is known. Outdoor water use in Cheyenne can begin in the early April while the wettest and most water producing snows occur in the mountains through May.

For drought mitigation measures to be effective, they must be published with adequate time to allow water users to program irrigation timers and establish watering practices prior to spring water use and should therefore be selected and published during April.

#### Summary Tables Of Water Conservation And Drought Mitigation Measures

Associated with each drought level are conservation measures designed to reduce consumption by the amount designated in the above table. The following tables and sections indicate which conservation measures apply during mild, moderate, severe and extreme drought impacts to Cheyenne's water system and show the common sense conservation measures to be utilized at all times, called normal.

Possible Watering Schedules							
	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Single Family Addresses Ending in 0, 1, 2, or 3		Normal Mild		Normal Mild Moderate			Normal Mild Moderate
				Severe			Severe
Single Family Addresses Ending in 4, 5, or 6	Normal Mild Moderate Severe		Normal Mild		Normal Mild Moderate Severe		
Single Family Addresses Ending in 7, 8, or 9	Normal Mild		Normal Mild Moderate Severe			Normal Mild Moderate Severe	
Business and Multifamily		Normal Mild Moderate Severe		Normal Mild		Normal Mild Moderate Severe	

Properties without a specific or numeric address may irrigate the same days as addresses ending in 0.

Note: If moderate or severe conditions exist for more than one year, then designated water days may be rotated for single family residences.

	Reservoir Storage Status	Normal	Mild	Moderate	Severe	Extreme	
	Ű	5 to 10%	10 to 15%	20 to 25%	30 to 40%	50 to 60%	
urf/Lawn Irrig	ation						
	Spring: April 15 Through May 1	3 Days/Week		No W	atering		
	Spring: May 1 Through June	3 Days/Week No Watering 10-5	3 Days/Week	2 Days/Week No Watering 10-5 3 Hrs./Day Or 20 Min./Zone	2 Days/Week No Watering 10-5 2 Hrs./Day Or 15 Min./Zone		
	Summer: July	-	-	No Watering 10-5	No Watering*	No Watering*	
	Summer: August Fall: September 1 Through October 15	3 Days/Week	3 Hrs./Day Or 20 Min./Zone	2 Days/Week No Watering 10-5 3 Hrs./Day Or 20 Min./Zone	No Watering* 2 Days/Week No Watering 10-5 2 Hrs./Day Or 15 Min./Zone	No Outdoor Water Use	
	Winter: October 16 Through April 14			No Watering			

\*Exception for warm season/alternative turf-type grasses that have been proven to use at least 30 percent less water than bluegrass, but needs to be watered once during the month of July. For lawns and turf areas planted with warm season/alternative turf-type grasses, applicants may apply for a variance. Variances for watering during the month of July limited to 1 day for 2 hours during the second week of July. No watering between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

	Reservoir Storage Status	Normal 5 to 10%	Mild 10 to 15%	Moderate 20 to 25%	Severe 30 to 40%	Extreme 50 to 60%
Vatering	Of Gardens And Flowers					
	Spring: April 15 Through May 1				Held Hose Or Drip	
	Summer: May 1 Through September 1		d Between Ind 5 p.m.	•	ohibited Between ind 5 p.m.	
	Fall: September 1 Through October 15					No Outdoo Water Use
	Winter: October 16 Through April 14		Limited To Hand- Held Hose Or Drip Irrigation	No Wa	water Use	
-	shes, And Shrubs Water Conservation Measures Trees, Bushes, And Shrubs					
	Spring: April 15 Through May 1					
	Summer: May 1 Through September 1	Prohibited Between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.	Limited To Hand-I Designated Wate		No Outdoo Water Use	
	Fall: September 1 Through October 15					
	Winter: October 16 Through April 14		Limited To Hand-He Irriga			
Water	ing Requirements for Trees, Bushes And Shrubs - Appl	y 10 Gallons For Every (	Dne-Inch Diameter Of t	he Tree Trunk Measu	ured At The Base Of Th	e Trunk
Water		-		he Tree Trunk Measu	ured At The Base Of Th	e Trunk
Water	ing Requirements for Trees, Bushes And Shrubs - Appl	-			ured At The Base Of Th	e Trunk

	Greater Than One Inch But Le To Five Inches	Once Per Week	On Designated Days	S		
	Greater Than Five Inches		Once Per Month	ys		
Washing Cor	nservation Measures					
	Reservoir Storage Status	Normal	Mild	Moderate	Severe	Extreme
		5 to 10%	10 to 15%	20 to 25%	30 to 40%	50 to 60%
Washing Ha	rd Surfaces	Pro	ohibited Except Fo	r Health, Safety Or (	Construction Reaso	ons.
(defined as s	idewalks, parking lots, driveways, etc.)					
Washing Per	rsonal Vehicles					
	Summer: April 15 Through October 15	Limited To Hose Equipped With a Spray Nozzle, And/Or Bucket. Spray Nozzle, And/Or Bucket. Spray Nozzle, And/Or Bucket. Spray Nozzle, And/Or Bucket. Spray Nozzle, And/Or Bucket.		Prohibited Between 10 a.m. And 5		No Outdoor Water Use.
	Winter: October 16 Through April 14					
Washing Fle	et Vehicles		o's* to Conserve ater.	Except For He	rice Per Month Palth Or Safety Sons.	Prohibited Except For Health Or Safety Reasor

Normal 5 to 10%	Mild 10 to 15%	Moderate 20 to 25%	Severe 30 to 40%	Extreme 50 to 60%	
Wasting Wa	ter Prohibited	Essential To S	No Outdoor Water Use		
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Must Use BMP's* to Conserve Water	Prohibited				
	5 to 10% Wasting Wat Yes No Must Use BMP's* to Conserve	5 to 10%10 to 15%Wasting Water ProhibitedYesYesYesNoMust UseBMP's* toConserve	5 to 10% 10 to 15% 20 to 25%   Wasting Water Prohibited Prohibited United	5 to 10%10 to 15%20 to 25%30 to 40%Wasting Water ProhibitedProhibited Unless Operation Is Essential To Support Fish Or Aquatic LifeYesYesYesNoNoYesMust Use BMP's* to ConserveProhibited	

# Summary of New Sod and Overseeding Permits

Reservoir Storage Status	Normal	Mild	Moderate	Severe	Extreme
	5 to 10%	10 to 15%	20 to 25%	30 to 40%	50 to 60%
Require Soil Amendments Prior To Installing Sod	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Require Sign Be Displayed On Property For New Sod	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Allow Watering 1/2 Inch For Consecutive Days	14	12	11	9	
Allow Water ¼ Inch Every Other Day For Days	7	6	5	4	
Allow Watering Sod Other Than Designated Day					
March Through April 15	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No Outdoor
June	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Water Use
July	Yes	Yes	No*	No	
August	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
September Through October 15	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
October 16 Through November	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
December Through February	Yes^	Yes^	No	No	

\*Applicants who established a lawn or turf area by sod permit during the 45-day period before July 1<sup>st</sup> may water on the regularly scheduled day for a period not to exceed one hour during July. No watering will be allowed between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

^Applicants who lay sod during December through February may apply for a winter watering permit that will allow watering ¼ inch every other day as listed under item 4.

Summary of Seed Permits					
Reservoir Storage Status	Normal 5 to 10%	Mild 10 to 15%	Moderate 20 to 25%	Severe 30 to 40%	Extreme 50 to 60%
Require Soil Amendments Prior To Seeding	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Require Sign Be Displayed On Property For New Seed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Allow Watering Seed For Consecutive Days	21	14	11	9	
Allow Watering Seed Every Other Day For Days	7	6	5	4	•
Allow Watering Overseed For Consecutive Days	14	12	11	9	•
Allow Watering Overseed Every Other Day For Days	7	6	5	4	•
Allow Watering Seed And Overseed Other Than Designated Day					•
March Through April 15	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No Outdoor
June	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Water Use
July	Yes	Yes	No*	No	
August	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
September Through October 15	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	•
October 16 Through November	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	•
December Through February					•
Excessive watering charge equal to highest single-family residential tier assessed for consumption over 1250 gal/1000 square feet/day	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	

\*Applicants who established a lawn or turf area by seed during the 45-day period before July 1<sup>st</sup> may water on the regularly scheduled day for a period not to exceed 1 hour during July. No watering will be allowed between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

#### Changes To The Water Budget Program During Drought Response

- During mild, moderate, severe and extreme drought conditions, the water budget allotment is based on the landscape irrigation requirement less the conservation goal plus an additional 5 percent.
  - Must complete application and sign agreement to reduce water consumption by the conservation goal + 5 percent.
  - Application not valid unless signed by BOPU water conservation specialist or administration manager.
  - Must submit water conservation plan.
- No watering outside of restricted dates that apply to residential consumers unless specified and approved in water budget application.
- Water consumption will be monitored monthly. Exceeding water budget allotment will result in a surcharge equivalent to the highest single-family residential tier.

#### **Authority**

Authority for implementation and enforcement of water conservation measures comes from:

- 1. BOPU Resolution No. 2004-03.
- 2. City of Cheyenne Resolution No. 4564.
- 3. Water supply status and conservation level declaration.
- 4. Annual fine and fee ordinances approved by Board and City Council.

#### **Enforcement**

Water enforcement personnel, as approved by BOPU management, may issue violations for water use prohibited under this plan. These enforcement personnel must wear identification and a BOPU safety vest when issuing violations.

# **Penalties**

Penalties for violating the water conservation measures for the declared conservation level will be added to the customer's water bill. First offenses result in an official warning and entry into the computer system. Violation and fine history accumulates between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, refreshing each year. Hence, previous years violations do not apply to the following year. Fine amounts established with other fines or fees through City Council approval. After five violations, water services may be shut-off or a trickle device installed.

#### Appeal Process

Appeals for violations resulting in fines may be requested pursuant to the "Rules Of Practice And Procedure For Cases Before The Board Of Public Utilities" approved and adopted January 19, 1999. To appeal a violation resulting in a fine, contact the water conservation specialist or customer service at the Board of Public utilities, ph. 637-6463, or

Water Conservation P.O. Box 1469 Cheyenne, WY 82003.

# <u>Wells</u>

Well water is exempt from these water conservation measures. However, because ground water is also affected by drought, BOPU strongly encourages people with wells to follow the conservation measures included in this document. Residents using wells for irrigation purposes must post a sign indicating that irrigated water comes from a well. The BOPU administration office, at 2100 Pioneer Ave. will issue "Well Irrigation Signs" at no charge. The sign must be visible from public roads.

Properties displaying a well irrigation sign(s) are subject to chlorine tests and verification of ground water permit from the State Engineering Office to assure irrigation water does not originate from the public water works. Properties displaying a "Well Irrigation Sign" waive their first warning and may be issued a fine if irrigation water, after testing, is determined to originate from the public water works, not from the private well, and is in violation of established conservation measures.

#### **Recycled Water**

Recycled water is considered a drought resistant water source. Its use does not impact water available to Cheyenne's residents. Therefore, recycled water is exempt from drought-based reductions in water use so long as recycled water is available.

All drinking or potable water at locations using recycled water continue to be subject to all water conservation measures described in this plan.

Locations using recycled water are prohibited from watering between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

# Water Efficient Forms of Irrigation

Efficient water practices, such as low pressure sub-surface irrigation, may not be able to water within the designated times and days according to the water conservation level. These watering practices must implement best management practices in order to achieve water conservation goals. For example, extend the watering frequency of the system to meet the conservation goal.

#### **Variances**

The water conservation specialist, administration manager or customer service supervisor may grant, in writing, temporary variances for water uses otherwise prohibited under the declared water conservation level. Variances may be granted under the following conditions:

- 1. Compliance with the conservation measures established for the declared drought status level cannot be technically accomplished.
- 2. Alternative methods can be implemented that will achieve the same level of reduction in water use.

To request a variance, submit the request in writing to:

Water Conservation P.O. Box 1469 Cheyenne, WY 82003.