

“Filling the Gap: Meeting Future Water Needs in the Platte Basin, Wyoming” Fact Sheet:

- **Large new pipelines—i.e. Flaming Gorge Pipeline—proposed for the Platte Basin, Wyo. are not only expensive, but unnecessary.**
 - This ***“Filling the Gap-Wyo.”*** report (third in a series) clearly demonstrates that Wyoming can meet the water needs of the urban communities of the Platte Basin through a combination of: existing supplies, small scale acceptable planned projects (APPs)¹, conservation and reuse, and agricultural-urban cooperation.
 - Our portfolio would provide more than five times the amount of additional water needed to meet the 2035 demand of the Urban Subbasins without the need to build large environmentally damaging transbasin diversions and without permanently drying up agricultural lands.
 - Looking beyond the traditional approach of building new large-scale, environmentally damaging transbasin projects, the portfolio of APPs, conservation, reuse, and ag/urban sharing described in this report would provide 19,600 acre-feet (6.4 billion gallons) of water *in excess* of the Urban Subbasin’s 2035 demands.
 - Wyoming’s urban water supplies are set to meet future demands in large part because of the consistent, proactive work water supply planners have done since the 1970s.
- **Healthy rivers and streams are a vital component of Wyoming’s economy. Consider the following Wyoming-specific facts and statistics on the revenues generated by the state’s recreation economy:**
 - \$4.5 billion in consumer spending in 2012²
 - \$1.4 billion in wages and salaries in 2012
 - \$300 million in state and local tax revenue in 2012
 - 50,000 direct jobs in the state in 2012
 - \$1.1 billion in fishing, hunting and wildlife-associated recreation expenditures in Wyoming in 2011³
 - Approximately 75 percent of Wyoming voters consider themselves conservationist, and more than 80 percent believe that low levels of water in their rivers is a serious problem. ⁴
 - Wyoming is at the very top of the list among all continental U.S. states in freshwater fishing expenditures as a percentage of gross domestic product (Figure 1)

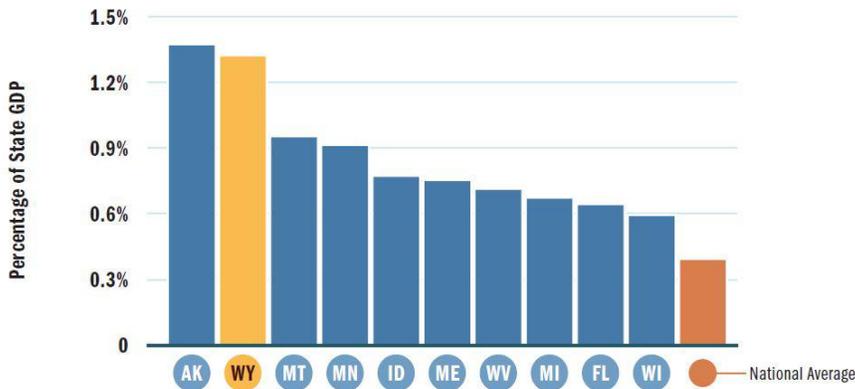
¹ The *Filling the Gap* report series identifies water supply projects currently in the planning phases as acceptable if they are designed and implemented pursuant to the Smart Principles described below.

² Outdoor Industry Association. 2012. *The Outdoor Recreation Economy*. Boulder, Colo.

³ National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation.

⁴ Conservation in the West Poll. 2013

FIGURE N°1 IN-STATE FRESHWATER FISHING EXPENDITURES BY RESIDENTS AND NON-RESIDENTS, AS PERCENTAGE OF THE STATE GDP, 2011.



Meeting Future Urban Water Needs in the Platte Basin, Wyoming

- **Conservation and reuse strategies are often the cheapest, fastest and most flexible options available when compared to large-scale water pipelines or transbasin diversions.**
 - *Definition:* “Water conservation” means a permanent reduction in municipal per capita water use resulting from long-term implementation of water saving practices and technologies.
 - 16,650 acre-feet of water (enough water for about 41,000 families or 160,000 people for a year) can be made available in the Platte Basin through a long-term investment in reasonable, cost-effective water conservation programs.
 - Some of the municipalities in the Platte Basin, such as the city of Cheyenne, are already accomplishing the report’s recommended level of conservation, recognizing that municipal conservation:
 - Reduces and delays the need to acquire or develop new water resources
 - Postpones water and wastewater treatment facility expansions
 - Demonstrates stewardship over water resources and their community’s investment in their water system
 - An abundance of cost-effective water efficiency technologies and practices exist to save water throughout a utility’s system and for its users (i.e. utility system-wide water loss detection and repair; residential indoor and outdoor low-water use retrofit rebates; and water conservation incentives for commercial development).
 - There is great potential for water reuse in the Platte River Basin as:
 - Reuse is legal in Wyoming
 - Reuse can provide an additional 10,530 acre-feet of water to the Platte Basin urban communities by 2035
 - Investing in reuse is a critical strategy for minimizing, or even eliminating, the need to rely on agriculture-to-urban water transfers to meet the future demands of the urban communities of the Platte Basin

For more information and to download the report visit <http://www.westernresourceadvocates.org/wyogap>