



1 This article shall be known and may be cited as the  
2 "Wyoming Colorado River Advisory Committee Act."

3

4 **41-11-302. Wyoming Colorado River advisory committee;**  
5 **purpose; membership.**

6

7 (a) The Wyoming Colorado River advisory committee is  
8 created within the state engineer's office. The state  
9 engineer's office shall provide administrative services and  
10 staffing for the committee.

11

12 (b) The purpose of the committee is to advise and  
13 inform the governor, the state engineer and Wyoming's  
14 commissioner to the Upper Colorado River Commission  
15 regarding the beneficial use, development, protection and  
16 conservation of water from the Green and Little Snake  
17 rivers and their tributaries relative to Wyoming's rights  
18 and obligations under the Colorado River Compact and the  
19 Upper Colorado River Basin Compact.

20

21 (c) The committee may, at the request of the  
22 governor, develop a management plan to ensure that Wyoming  
23 can protect and develop water within Wyoming's portion of

1 the Colorado River Basin to ensure that Wyoming can operate  
2 within the state's apportionment under the Colorado River  
3 compact and the Upper Colorado River Basin compact.

4

5 (d) The committee shall meet not less than two (2)  
6 times each year and shall meet additionally as necessary  
7 upon the request of the state engineer, Wyoming's  
8 commissioner to the Upper Colorado River Commission or the  
9 majority of the members of the committee.

10

11 (e) The committee shall consist of ten (10) members  
12 appointed by the governor as follows:

13

14 (i) Two (2) members representing agricultural  
15 irrigation interests that divert and use water from the  
16 Green River or its tributaries upstream from the Fontenelle  
17 Reservoir;

18

19 (ii) One (1) member representing agricultural  
20 irrigation interests that divert and use water from the  
21 Green River or its tributaries downstream from the  
22 Fontenelle Reservoir;

23

1           (iii) One (1) member representing agricultural  
2 interests that divert and use water from the Little Snake  
3 River or its tributaries;

4

5           (iv) One (1) member representing municipal water  
6 users that divert and use water from the Green River or its  
7 tributaries;

8

9           (v) One (1) member representing municipal water  
10 users that divert and use water from the Little Snake River  
11 or its tributaries;

12

13           (vi) Two (2) members representing industrial  
14 water users that divert and use water in Wyoming's portion  
15 of the Colorado River basin;

16

17           (vii) One (1) member representing recreational,  
18 fish, wildlife and environmental interests in Wyoming's  
19 portion of the Colorado River basin;

20

21           (viii) One (1) member representing conservation  
22 districts in Wyoming's portion of the Colorado River basin.

23

1           (f) Committee members shall be appointed for a term  
2 of four (4) years and may be reappointed for subsequent  
3 terms. The governor may appoint some initial members for  
4 terms of less than four (4) years to provide for staggered  
5 terms. Members appointed to the committee by the governor  
6 may also be removed in accordance with W.S. 9-1-202.

7

8           (g) The members of the committee shall not receive  
9 any fees, salary or other compensation but are entitled to  
10 receive per diem and mileage on the same basis and at the  
11 same rate as state employees and reimbursement for any  
12 other actual and necessary expenses incurred in the  
13 performance of committee duties. Members who are government  
14 employees or public officials shall be considered on  
15 official business of their agency when performing duties as  
16 members of the committee.

17

18           **41-11-303. State engineer duties; dissemination of**  
19 **information.**

20

21           (a) The state engineer or the state engineer's  
22 designated representative shall provide information and  
23 data to the committee regarding potential or existing

1 programs, issues or decisions that may affect the  
2 beneficial use, development and conservation of water from  
3 the Green and Little Snake rivers and their tributaries.

4

5 (b) To safeguard the rights and interests of Wyoming,  
6 Wyoming's agencies and Wyoming's residents related to the  
7 use of water within Wyoming's portion of the Colorado River  
8 Basin, the state engineer shall seek advice from the  
9 committee before exercising his authority as may be  
10 necessary to comply with Wyoming's obligations under the  
11 Colorado River compact and the Upper Colorado River Basin  
12 compact. Discussions under this subsection shall be held in  
13 executive session and are privileged and confidential.

14

15 (c) The state engineer may designate an employee to  
16 assist with providing information and data to the committee  
17 and to act as a liaison between the state engineer and  
18 water users in Wyoming's portion of the Colorado River  
19 basin.

20

21 (d) Each member of the committee may disseminate  
22 information and data provided by the state engineer under  
23 subsection (a) of this section to interested stakeholders

1 within the sector that the member was appointed to  
2 represent.

3

4 **41-11-304. Applicability of public meetings act.**

5

6 The Wyoming Colorado River advisory committee shall not be  
7 considered an agency as defined in W.S. 16-4-402(a)(ii) for  
8 the purposes of W.S. 16-4-401 through 16-4-408. When  
9 practicable, meetings of the committee shall be advertised  
10 and open to the public.

11

12 **Section 2.**

13

14 (a) The state engineer is authorized one (1)  
15 additional full-time equivalent position for the purposes  
16 of W.S. 41-11-303(c).

17

18 (b) There is appropriated two hundred thousand  
19 dollars (\$200,000.00) from the general fund to the state  
20 engineer's office. This appropriation shall only be  
21 expended for the purposes of this act including for the  
22 employee authorized under subsection (a) of this section  
23 and for the provision of per diem and travel expenses of

1 the Wyoming Colorado River advisory committee. This  
2 appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any  
3 other purpose and any unexpended, unobligated funds  
4 remaining from this appropriation shall revert as provided  
5 by law on June 30, 2024. It is the intent of the  
6 legislature that this appropriation be included in the  
7 standard budget for the state engineer's office for the  
8 immediately succeeding fiscal biennium and thereafter.

9

10 **Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2023.

11

12

(END)