

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 14, 2006
TO: WHITE PINE COUNTY COMMISSION
FROM: DOUG CARSON, CHAIRMAN
WHITE PINE COUNTY COMMISSION
SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REVISED
WATER RESOURCES PLAN

The Water Advisory Committee met last night to review the progress on our revision of the Water Resources Plan. I am forwarding their report to you for consideration at your meeting today.

1. Revised Organization of the Water Resources Plan

The Committee recommends reorganizing the information in the Water Resources Plan so that it is easier for the reader to review the County's goals, its current and projected water use, and its water resources strategy; the plan can be updated each year by revising attachments rather than the entire plan; and the detailed background information on the County's water resources, socio-economic data, and the legal and regulatory framework is available. The proposed outline for the plan is:

Chapter 1:	Purpose and Goals
Chapter 2:	Current and Projected Water Use
Chapter 3:	Water Resources Issues, Objectives, and Strategies
Attachment 1:	Legal and Regulatory Framework
Attachment 2:	Socio-Economic Profile
Attachment 3:	Hydrographic Data
Attachment 4:	Annual Recommendations

The first two chapters and the first three attachments are in draft form and have been developed in cooperation with the Division of Water Resources Planning Section and Lumos and Associates. The Committee is working with Lumos and the E.D.C. staff to complete the final Chapter and Attachment 4.



2. Annual Review

The Committee recommends that the plan be revised at least every five years. The Water Advisory Committee should also review the plan and progress in meeting the goals and objectives on an annual basis and make recommendations to the County Commission. The annual reports of the review and recommendations should be included as an attachment to the plan for use in the five-year revision.

3. Issues, Goals, Objectives and Strategies

The draft outline for the issues, goals, objectives, and strategies is attached. The Committee is requesting action from the Commission to add your comments and approve the draft outline so that we can complete the final chapter.

4. Recommended Structure and Criteria for Basin by Basin Analysis:

The Committee recommends the following priorities for the Basin-by-Basin Analysis:

- a. That the hydrographic basins in the County be prioritized in three groups:
 1. Primary Emphasis: Steptoe, Spring, Snake, Butte, and White River Valleys have been identified as the basins for primary, in-depth analysis on the basis that they represent the primary current and potential economic development activity and they house communities representing municipal water use.
 2. Secondary Emphasis: Long, Jake's, Newark, Railroad and Tippet Valleys have been identified for secondary emphasis because their economic development activity is not likely to change in the next two to five years and they do not house municipal activity.
 3. Peripheral Basins: Huntington, Ruby, Antelope, Deep Creek, Hamlin, Lake, Cave, and Little Smoke Valleys have been identified as basins with minimal area in White Pine County where the County's economic development and water resource management strategies will have little impact on the water resources. They have not been identified for analysis unless specific issues cause a change in that status.

b. Criteria for identifying potential economic development:

The Committee recommends that for Steptoe, Spring, Snake, Butte, and White River Valleys, the Plan includes analysis of potential development in agriculture, mining and oil exploration and production, residential development, recreation and tourism, industrial development, energy development and public sector projects,

1. Agriculture: current agricultural production, potential for agricultural production based on climate and soil conditions.
2. Mining and Oil Exploration and Production: Known mineral deposits and previous mining and oil exploration and production activity as reported to the State Division of Mineral Resources.
3. Residential Development: Current land ownership and use patterns, recent trends in land divisions, property sales, and development; and growth patterns in the surrounding states.
4. Recreation and Tourism: Current and potential recreation and tourism use of the area based on existing attractions, attractions and activities with potential for recreational development.
5. Industrial Development: Potential projects under discussion, transportation corridors, and potential for production based on natural resource development (agriculture, mining and oil production)
6. Energy Development: Potential projects in the development phase, transmission corridors.
7. Public Sector Projects: projects under discussion, areas identified for potential projects in the future.

5. Primary Recommendations:

1. That the County establish an inventory of its water resources, identify areas of critical concern, and implement a monitoring program.
2. That the County develop mitigation strategies including critical resource levels and the steps to prevent deterioration of water resources and environmental quality.
3. That the County bring its Land Use and Public Land Use Policy up to date and that all planning recommendations for natural resources, land use, and economic development be coordinated.
4. That the County focus attention on Steptoe Valley due to the variety of economic development opportunities requiring water use and the potential need for water importation to meet the needs in that basin.