

Climate Issues Committee Report
WY Dept. of State Parks & Cultural Resources
12/1/10

Glendo Flood

The flooding at Glendo State Park and Bear River State Park this past summer season constituted a serious challenge for the Parks Division and had a substantial negative impact on the local economies those parks support. The damage to parks infrastructure at Glendo was over \$1 million.

The agency is concerned about the prospects for future flooding events and what they imply for long term parks planning and management. The agency plans to communicate closely with the BOR well in advance of the 2011 summer season to improve our ability to anticipate and respond to any future events.

Pine Bark Beetle

The agency has requested approximately \$150,000 in the 2011 Supplemental Budget to mitigate the increasing impact of beetle infestations in State Parks, particularly Guernsey and Curt Gowdy. The one-time funding would allow for modest spraying and tree removal in priority “legacy” areas of these parks.

National Perspective

Climate change has been identified as one of two top issues for the National Association of State Parks Directors (NASPD). The other issue concerns the disconnect between children and nature and is seen as closely related to the climate change issue. A national steering committee is being created to work on coordinated strategies and best practices for confronting the issue.

The most recent NASPD conference this past September focused on sustainability and best practices for green building and uses of alternative energy to power state parks facilities. Wyoming State Parks is looking into options that may exist in Wyoming.

Respectfully submitted by Milward Simpson, Director