



SHERIDAN COUNTY COMMISSION

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MEDIA RELEASE

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Sheridan County, Wyoming

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JOINT PRESS RELEASE FROM SHERIDAN COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND STATE ENGINEER'S OFFICE/WATER DIVISION II

The Sheridan County Commissioners issued an emergency declaration this afternoon (Thursday May 30) in response to the Flash Flood watch Issued by the National Weather Service in Billings for tomorrow, Friday May 31. This is a watch and not a warning, and this declaration is precautionary; there is no imminent threat. However, as everyone is aware from the recent flood event, streams and tributaries in the county continue to remain out of their banks or continue to run full, and the ground is completely saturated. The emergency declaration sets in motion State assistance from the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security. Additional loads of sand and sandbags are being deployed to Sheridan and will start arriving tonight and tomorrow morning. Further State assets are available to the county, as circumstances dictate.

The following information is furnished by the State Engineer's Office (SEO), Water Division II in Sheridan regarding community concerns in connection with the recent flooding and the status of the mountain reservoirs.

The SEO has stream gage telemetry throughout Sheridan County, which measured up to 4 inches of rain from last Sunday May 27 through Tuesday, which is quite remarkable, and directly related to the elevated stream levels. Most of the rain fell in the foothills and lower elevations, whereas the higher elevation portions of the Bighorn Mountains received significant snow. Flooding throughout the county was in no way due to releases from Park Reservoir or any other mountain reservoir. Most of the reservoirs of significance are well below capacity as of May 30th but may begin voluntary releases soon to prepare for the impending runoff. The snowmelt runoff could be significant depending on further precipitation and warmer weather. By working with the reservoir companies and other state and local officials, including Sheridan County Emergency Management, every effort will be made time the releases when the creek can handle the water. By creating storage space, mountain reservoirs will be better positioned to ensure the safety of their facilities, in addition to possibly reducing flooding. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at (307) 674-7012.

David Schroeder
Superintendent, Water Division II

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