

# WYOMING WATER ASSESSMENT AND PROTECTION PROGRAM (SWAP)



## SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT PROGRAM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Source Water Assessment Prepared For:  
Sinks Canyon SP Popo Agie

Assessment Completed By:  
**Lidstone and Associates, Inc.**  
Engineering, Geology & Water Resource Consultants  
4025 Automation Way, Building E  
Fort Collins, CO 80525



**June 30, 2004**

## **SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT SUMMARY FOR Sinks Canyon SP Popo Agie**

### **PWS Source Water Assessment Summary**

The Sinks Canyon State Park Headquarters water system is classified as a non-community groundwater supply. The facility is located about eight miles southwest of Lander on Wyoming Highway 131. Source water for this facility is obtained from a well that is completed in the alluvium.

In general, the Headquarters' water system scores low for land use susceptibility. The overall land use, point source, and transportation corridor contaminant susceptibility ratings are low due to the lack of contamination sources within the delineated zones.

### **Delineation Methods**

Because the Sinks Canyon State Park Headquarters is classified as a transient non-community groundwater system and obtains water from a porous media aquifer, Lidstone delineated the source water area for this system using calculated fixed radius (CFR) methods. This method was used to estimate the two and five year time of travel radii for the groundwater system based on data obtained from the Wyoming SEO, the PWS Operator, and the SWAP guidance document.

The CFR is an appropriate method to use when groundwater flow to the well, spring or tunnel can be characterized as porous. This process was implemented for small communities that derive water from deeper, confined aquifers, or for non-community water systems. A factor of safety of 1.5 was applied to all systems where portions of the data were suspect. At the ground surface, the radius can be used to delineate an area around the well to be used for wellhead protection. The radius is the distance from the well to a point where groundwater (and contaminant) can reach the well over a specified time period. Input data requirements are limited, consisting of the pumping rate, open area (screened interval) of the well, porosity of the aquifer, and the selected time of travel (2 years and 5 years).

### **Groundwater Sources**

The Park obtains its source water from one well that is completed in alluvium to a depth of 151 feet. Recharge to the alluvium occurs through the direct infiltration of precipitation and from hydraulic communication with the river. Groundwater reaches the well through porous media flow. Additional information on this well is included on the attached Well Information Sheet.

As shown on the enclosed source water area map, the contaminant inventory zones for this well are centered around the wellhead. Zone 2 extends approximately 301 feet radially from the wellhead, while Zone 3 extends approximately 476 feet.

## **Integrity Summary**

The Sinks Canyon State Park Headquarters water system is classified as a non-community groundwater supply. The well was constructed between 1983 and 1993 when more stringent construction standards were not required by the State of Wyoming. However, records indicate that the well was properly sealed, but is susceptible to flooding. As shown on the Integrity Summary Table, Sinks Canyon State park HQ #1 received a score of 4 due primarily to the well completion date, wellhead accessibility and lack of protection from flooding.

## **Water Source Sensitivity Summary**

The Sinks Canyon State Park Headquarters water system obtains its source water for this facility from a well that is completed in the alluvium. As shown on the Source Sensitivity Summary Table, the well received a sensitivity score of 8.

This well received a sensitivity score of 8 for two reasons. First, the porous unconfined aquifer is moderately vulnerable to contamination therefore receiving a score of 3. The second reason is that laboratory analysis of water samples from the State Park within the last five years detected a contaminant that is listed on EPA's primary and secondary drinking water standards, nitrate. Despite detection, this contaminant was detected at concentrations below the EPA's maximum contaminant levels.

## **Water System Susceptibility Rating**

Susceptibility is defined as the potential for a public water supply to draw water contaminated at concentrations that would pose a threat or concern to human health. In general, the Sinks Canyon State Park Headquarters water system scores low for land use susceptibility. The overall land use susceptibility rating is low due to the lack of contamination sources within the delineated zones. The overall point source and transportation corridor contaminant susceptibility rating is also low for similar reasons. Susceptibility ratings for each type of potential contaminant source are summarized on the attached susceptibility tables.

A review of your PWS's routine water analysis results revealed that one or more chemicals that are considered contaminants in drinking water were detected at some time within the last five years. Chemical detections have a large impact on your PWS's sensitivity score because it may indicate that there is a pathway for contaminants to reach the water supply. However, it is likely that these chemicals are present only in small amounts and are not a danger to your health. Some of these chemicals may also occur naturally in water.

For more information about which chemicals were detected, please contact the PWS for a copy of the most recent Consumer Confidence Report or water analysis results. Chemical detections at levels that are a concern to human health are reported on the EPA's website: [http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/sdwis/sdwis\\_query.html](http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/sdwis/sdwis_query.html). To see if your PWS has exceeded the federal primary or secondary drinking water standards, just click on the State of Wyoming and then type in the name of your PWS. Consumer Confidence Reports are prepared by the PWS on a yearly basis. The reports should include information about any chemicals found in the water, even those found at very low levels. Please contact Kim Parker at DEQ, 307-777-7781, or

WARWS for assistance. You may also contact EPA to find out what contaminants were detected. You may have to fill out a Freedom of Information Act request to obtain the water test results for your PWS. Please call EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

**POINT SUSCEPTIBILITY SUMMARY TABLE  
FOR Sinks Canyon SP Popo Agie  
Point Source Susceptibility Summary**

It may appear from the results of this point source susceptibility summary table that your system has too many PSOCs influencing the final ratings. In some cases, a specific PSOC falls within a specific contaminant inventory zone shared by multiple wells or intakes. When this is the case, that PSOC will be scored for each intake. For example, an underground storage tank may appear within a contaminant inventory zone shared by four different wells. This would cause that single storage tank to be entered into the table four times, or once for each well or intake.

Point Source Type	Low	Medium	High
None Identified	N/A	N/A	N/A

- \* Illustrates the number of PSOCs in a particular rating class for all water sources
- \* N/A - Not Applicable