

STATE OF WYOMING

**INTRODUCTORY
SECTION**

**For Fiscal Year Ended
June 30, 2010**

Rita C. Meyer

Wyoming Auditor



The State Auditor is a constitutional officer elected for a four year term by the general electorate of Wyoming. The Auditor is the State's chief fiscal control officer. She maintains the central fiscal accounts, acts as the official custodian of accounting records, serves as the state payroll officer, and orders all payments into and out of the funds held in the state treasury. The Auditor is also responsible for preparing the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report on the fiscal affairs of the state.

The Auditor serves as a member of the Board of Land Commissioners, the State Loan and Investment Board, the State Building Commission, and the State Canvassing Board.

Rita Meyer was elected in November 2006 to serve as Wyoming's nineteenth State Auditor. She is a graduate of the University of Wyoming with degrees in education and finance. Rita also holds an MBA in International Business from Regis University in Denver, and a Master's in National Resource Strategy from National Defense University in Washington, D.C.

Rita served her state and nation for over 23 years as an enlisted airman and officer in the Wyoming Air National Guard. She is a combat veteran and has been deployed in support of Operation Desert Storm, Operation Provide Comfort, and Operation Enduring Freedom. She attained the rank of full Colonel in July 2004. Rita retired from military service on November 3, 2007.

Rita is married to Dr. Charles Meyer, a retired dentist and native of Rawlins, Wyoming. They have one son, Charles, a Lieutenant Commander in the United States Navy.

Rita C. Meyer, State Auditor

December 30, 2010

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**TO THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF WYOMING,
THE HONORABLE DAVE FREUDENTHAL, GOVERNOR,
MEMBERS OF THE WYOMING LEGISLATURE:**

State law (W.S. 9-1-403(a)(v)) requires that by December 15th every year the State Auditor provide annual financial statements prepared in conformance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). I am pleased to present this Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) of the State of Wyoming for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2010.

The CAFR is the primary means of reporting the State of Wyoming's financial activities. McGee, Hearne & Paiz, LLP, certified public accountants, has independently audited the State of Wyoming's financial statements. The independent audit is performed annually to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements of the State of Wyoming are free of material misstatement. The independent audit involves examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management; and evaluating the overall financial presentation. The independent auditor concluded, based upon the audit, that there was a reasonable basis for rendering an unqualified opinion that the State of Wyoming's financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2010 are fairly presented in conformity with GAAP. The independent auditor's report is presented as the first component of the financial section of the CAFR.

Management's discussion and analysis (MD&A) immediately follows the independent auditor's report and provides a narrative introduction, overview, and analysis of the basic financial statements. MD&A complement this letter of transmittal and should be read in conjunction with it.

The CAFR consists of representations by the management of each State entity concerning the finances of the State of Wyoming. Responsibility for both the accuracy of the data and the completeness and reliability of the information, including all disclosures, rests with the State. To provide a reasonable basis for making these representations, the State has established an internal control framework that is designed both to protect the State's assets from loss, theft, or misuse and to compile sufficient reliable information for the preparation of the State of Wyoming's financial statements in conformity with GAAP. Because the cost of internal controls should not outweigh their benefits, the State's framework of internal controls has been designed to provide reasonable rather than absolute assurance that the financial statements will be free from material misstatement. This is the established and accepted standard. The financial statements have been prepared primarily from accounts and records maintained by the State Auditor. To the best of my knowledge and belief, this financial report is complete and reliable in all material respects.

The independent audit of the financial statements of the State of Wyoming is part of a broader, federally mandated "single audit" designed to meet the special needs of federal grantor agencies. The standards governing single audit engagements require the independent auditor to report not only on the fair presentation of the financial statements, but also on the audited government's internal controls and compliance with legal requirements involving the administration of federal awards. These reports are available in the State of Wyoming's separately issued Compliance Report.

Profile of the Government

On July 10, 1890, the State of Wyoming, known as the 'Equality State,' was the 44th state admitted to the Union. Located in the Rocky Mountain section of the western United States, Wyoming is bounded on the north by Montana, on the east by South Dakota and Nebraska, on the south by Colorado and Utah, and on the west by Utah, Idaho and Montana. It is the ninth largest state in the United States, containing 97,914 square miles. The 2010 Census put Wyoming's population at 563,626. Wyoming is home to two of the

country's foremost national parks, Yellowstone National Park and Grand Teton National Park, as well as the first designated national monument, Devil's Tower.

The executive branch of Wyoming government is comprised of a Governor, Secretary of State, State Auditor, State Treasurer, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction, all of whom are elected by statewide vote every four years. The legislative branch of government is comprised of 30 state senators and 60 state representatives. The term of office for senators is four years, 15 of the members being elected at a general election at which a President of the United States is elected, the balance at the next general election. The entire body of the House of Representatives is elected every two years for a two-year term.

The State of Wyoming provides a full range of services to its constituents. Under the Governor are fifteen Cabinet level departments: Administration and Information, Agriculture, Attorney General, Department of Audit, Corrections, Employment, Engineer, Environmental Quality, Family Services, Game and Fish, Health, Revenue, State Parks and Cultural Resources, Transportation, and Workforce Services. There are also 19 separate operating agencies and 13 licensing boards and commissions

Among the 19 separate operating agencies are six entities which are legally separate but considered as component units of the State of Wyoming, as the State has significant operational and/or financial relationships with them. Six of the component units' financial data are reported in columns separate from the financial data of the primary government (the State). Those organizations are the University of Wyoming, Department of Transportation, Wyoming Community Development Authority, Wyoming Pipeline Authority, Wyoming Infrastructure Authority and Wyoming Business Council. Additional information on all six of these legally separate entities can be found in Note 1 in the notes to the financial statements.

Budgetary Process

The biennial budget serves as the foundation for the State of Wyoming's financial planning and control. Wyoming statutes require the Governor to prepare and submit a biennial budget to the Legislature every even-numbered year. Budgets are prepared for a biennial period and are augmented, if necessary, with supplemental appropriations during the legislative sessions conducted in odd-numbered years. Budgets are adopted at the program level by agency. The Legislature may add, change, or delete any budget items proposed by the Governor. The Governor may authorize changes and revisions to approved budgets during the budget term, including increasing appropriations in the event of federal revenue above the initial budget approved by the Legislature. Budget-to-actual comparisons are provided in the CAFR for each individual governmental fund for which an appropriated biennial budget has been adopted. For the general fund, the foundation program fund, the legislative reserve fund and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Fund, this comparison is presented as part of the required supplementary information. For governmental funds other than the major funds, this comparison is presented in the supplementary information section of the CAFR.

Long Term Financial Planning

The State of Wyoming incorporates revenue forecasting for two principal areas: general government operations and public school financing.

For general government the State utilizes the efforts of the Consensus Revenue Estimating Group (CREG). CREG was created by mutual informal agreement between the executive and legislative branches in 1983 as a result of the need for reliable and consistent revenue estimates which could be used by the executive branch and the Legislature in the budgeting process.

CREG is composed of members from various professional fields and governmental organizations, including legislative and executive branch representatives.

The CREG Report contains the following information:

(i) Projections for major revenue sources to the General Fund are detailed including sales and use taxes, pooled interest, Permanent Wyoming Mineral Trust Fund interest, and severance taxes.

(ii) The severance tax forecast details projected production, price and expected severance tax receipts for each major mineral and the report shows expected distributions of severance taxes to each fund or account that receives the taxes;

(iii) The federal mineral royalty forecast also details projected production, price and expected royalties for oil, natural gas and coal and details the expected distribution of royalties to each fund or account that receives the royalties;

(iv) The report also projects income derived from investment of the Common School Permanent Land Fund and projects total state assessed valuations to project the amount of revenue generated by the assessment of twelve mills to support education.

School Finance

As a result of a Wyoming Supreme Court ruling in *Campbell County v. State (Wyo. 1995)*, which directed the Legislature to define the proper combination of educational goods and services every child in Wyoming should receive. The State has embarked on a continuing process to determine the resources needed to provide that proper combination of educational goods and services and to ensure that school districts had adequate funding to provide those goods and services at the local level. This process has evolved to the present day funding model, which is recalibrated every five years.

The funding model consists of three major components:

1. Legislation enacting the model. This includes the statutory language to fund schools, and an appendix known, which outlines specific funding decisions made by the Legislature.
2. A set of linked worksheets which compute school and district funding allocations.
3. Additional worksheets developed by the Wyoming Department of Education to distribute funds to the school districts.

The State also has a legislatively approved plan for construction and major maintenance of state facilities, including those funded by the legislature for the University of Wyoming.

State Economy

Wyoming's economic well-being continues to depend primarily on the mineral industry, revenues to the State of Wyoming come from severance taxes, ad valorem tax on real and personal property, federal mineral royalties from production on federal lands in Wyoming and sales and use taxes. Wyoming gets approximately 52 percent of its mineral severance tax from natural gas production.

As the national economy continued to be mired down with an unemployment rate that fluctuated between 9.9% and 9.5% as of June 30, Wyoming's economy struggled as well with an unemployment rate at 6.8% as of June 30, compared to 5.9% a year earlier. Wyoming did show year over year employment gains for June in government, mining and natural resources, education and health, and manufacturing. In fact, a resurgent energy industry caused the CREG committee to project healthy increases in state revenues for the balance of the 2011-2012 biennium. An indicator of this resurgence is shown in stronger employment numbers for the oil and gas industry.

Each year the Division of Economic Analysis (EA) of the Department of Administration and Information forecasts economic conditions in Wyoming for a ten-year period. This report and additional economic and demographic information can be found on the Division of Economic Analysis website: <http://eadiv.state.wy.us>.

Awards and Acknowledgments

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the State of Wyoming for its CAFR for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2009. This was the tenth consecutive year and twelfth of the past thirteen years that the State has received this prestigious award. To be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, the State published an easily readable and efficiently organized CAFR. This report also satisfied both GAAP and applicable legal requirements.

A Certificate of Achievement is valid only for a one-year period. We believe that our current CAFR continues to meet the Certificate of Achievement Program's requirements and are submitting it to the GFOA to determine its eligibility for another certificate.

The CAFR represents the responsibility of the State Auditor to give the citizens of Wyoming an accurate picture of the financial condition of their state government. Great strides have been made in the past few years to improve our State's accounting and financial reporting: implementation of GAAP, preparation of the CAFR, an independent audit of our financial statements, and implementation of various Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) standards. All have contributed to better financial management. My appreciation goes out to the Legislature and our staff for making these improvements possible.

Preparation of the CAFR could not have been accomplished without the cooperation and capable assistance of all State agencies. I especially appreciate the staff in the State Auditor's Office, whose commitment to serve the citizens of Wyoming is exemplary. I extend thanks to the Division of Economic Analysis and the CREG Committee for information used in this letter.

Thank you!

Best regards,



Rita C. Meyer
State Auditor

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

Presented to

State of Wyoming

For its Comprehensive Annual
Financial Report
for the Fiscal Year Ended
June 30, 2009

A Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting is presented by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada to government units and public employee retirement systems whose comprehensive annual financial reports (CAFRs) achieve the highest standards in government accounting and financial reporting.



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.

President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey R. Emer".

Executive Director

PRINCIPAL STATE OFFICIALS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Dave Freudenthal, Governor

Max Maxfield, Secretary of State

Rita C. Meyer, Auditor

Joseph B. Meyer, Treasurer

Jim McBride, Superintendent of Public Instruction

