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U.S. Hydropower Resource Assessment

for

Wyoming

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ABSTRACT

The Department of Energy is developing an estimate of the hydropower development potential in this country. The Hydropower Evaluation Software (HES) is a computer model that was developed by the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory for this purpose. The HES measures the potential hydropower resources available in the United States, using uniform criteria for measurement. The software was developed and tested using hydropower information and data provided by the Southwestern Power Administration. It is a dBASE menu–driven software application that allows the personal computer user to assign environmental attributes to potential hydropower sites, calculate development suitability factors for each site based on the environmental attributes present, and generate reports based on these suitability factors. This report details the resource assessment results for the state of Wyoming.

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U.S. Hydropower Resource Assessment for Wyoming

INTRODUCTION

In June 1989, the U.S. Department of Energy initiated the development of a National Energy Strategy to identify the energy resources available to support the expanding demand for energy in the United States. Public hearings conducted as part of the strategy development process indicated that potential hydropower resources were not well defined. As a result, the Department of Energy established an interagency Hydropower Resource Assessment Team to ascertain the hydropower potential. In connection with these efforts by the Department of Energy, the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory designed the Hydropower Evaluation Software (HES), which has been used to perform a resource assessment of the undeveloped hydropower potential in Wyoming (as well as several other states). This report presents the results of the hydropower resource assessment for the state of Wyoming. Pumped storage hydropower potential is not included.

The HES was developed as a tool to measure hydropower potential by regional power marketing administrations and state energy agencies, because they were the most likely to have and need accurate hydropower information. The HES was not intended to provide precise development factors for individual sites, but to provide regional or state capacity totals. Because the software was developed as a generic measurement tool encompassing national issues, regional and state totals must be considered judiciously; various local issues may skew hydropower potential totals. The information for the resource assessment was compiled from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Hydropower Resource Assessment database and several other sources. Refer to DOE/ID-10338, the User's Manual (Francfort, Matthews, Rinehart, 1991) for the specifics of the software and to DOE/ID-10430, the Status Report (Francfort, Moore, Rinehart, 1993) for an overview of all resource assessment activities to date.

Model Development

Hydropower Evaluation Software, both a probability-factor computer model and a data base, is a dBASE, menu-driven software application that is intended to be user-friendly. Computer screens and report generation capabilities were developed to meet the needs of users nationwide. The software uses environmental attribute data to generate an overall project environmental suitability factor (PESF) between 0.1 and 0.9, where 0.9 indicates the highest likelihood of development and 0.1 indicates the lowest likelihood of development. Suitability factors depend on environmental attributes of a potential site. They reflect the considerations that (a) environmental concerns can make a potential site unacceptable, prohibiting its development (for a suitability factor of 0.1), or (b) absence of environmental concern can have little or no effect on the likelihood of site development (for a suitability factor of 0.9). A combination of attributes results in a lower suitability factor because multiple environmental considerations reduce the likelihood that a site may be developed to its physical potential.

Model Goal

The goal of the HES is to assemble an accurate resource database of all potential hydropower sites in the United States for use as a planning tool to determine the viable national hydropower potential. Potential hydropower is not limited to the development of new sites; it also includes the development of additional hydropower at sites that currently have hydropower but are not developed to their full potential. This hydropower potential is a source of nonpolluting, renewable energy available to meet the growing power needs of the United States. The HES should make

this goal attainable and help assure a set of uniform criteria for national assessment.

Dam Status

The effects of environmental attributes vary by dam status. The dam status classifications follow the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) standard, which is

W = Developed hydropower site with power. The total hydropower capacity has not been fully developed. Only the undeveloped capacity is discussed in this report.

W/O = Developed site without power generation. The site has some type of developed impoundment or diversion structure but no hydropower generating capacity.

U = Undeveloped site. The site does not have power generation capability nor a developed impoundment or diversion structure.

ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Summary Results

A total of 72 sites have been identified and assessed for their hydropower potential. The Hydropower Evaluation Software results for site capacities range from 3 kilowatts to 261 megawatts. Most of the sites have potential capacities of under 10 megawatts (Figure 1).

The unadjusted hydropower potential for Wyoming was identified as being 1,628 megawatts. The Hydropower Evaluation Software results lower this estimate 45% to 894 megawatts. The greatest reduction in undeveloped potential occurs at sites with no physical structures present. These undeveloped sites have a Hydropower Evaluation Software estimated capacity of 320 megawatts, a 55% reduction in capacity (Figure 2). The number of sites does not change, only the identified capacity is reassessed (Figure 3).

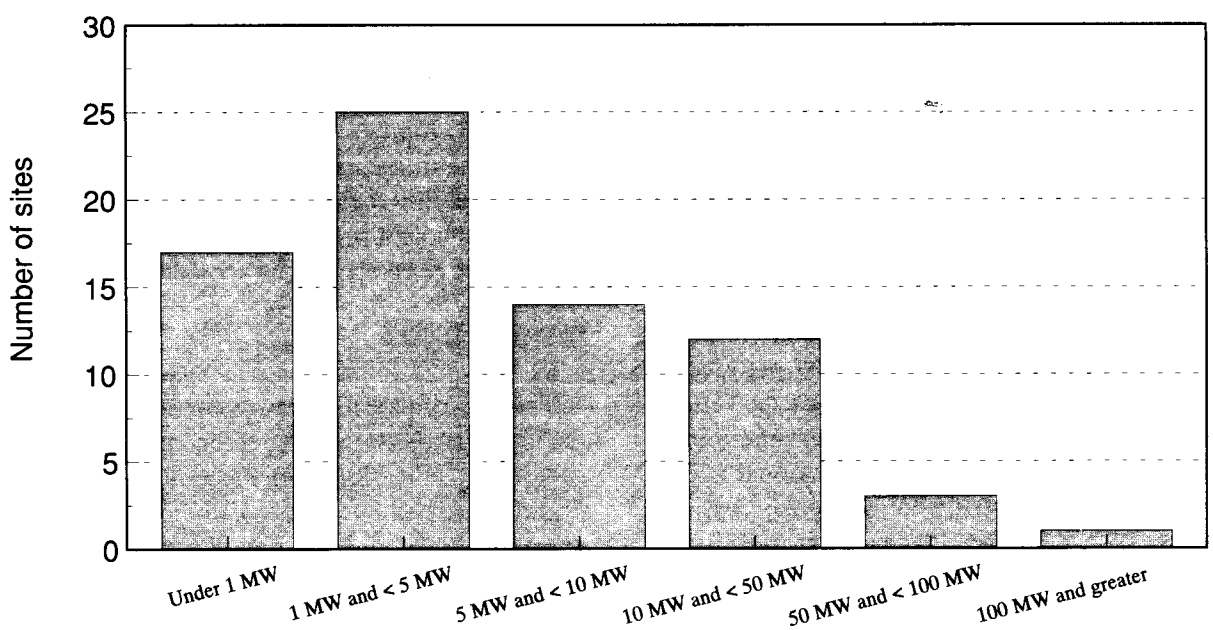

Figure 1. Number of sites with various capacity potentials.

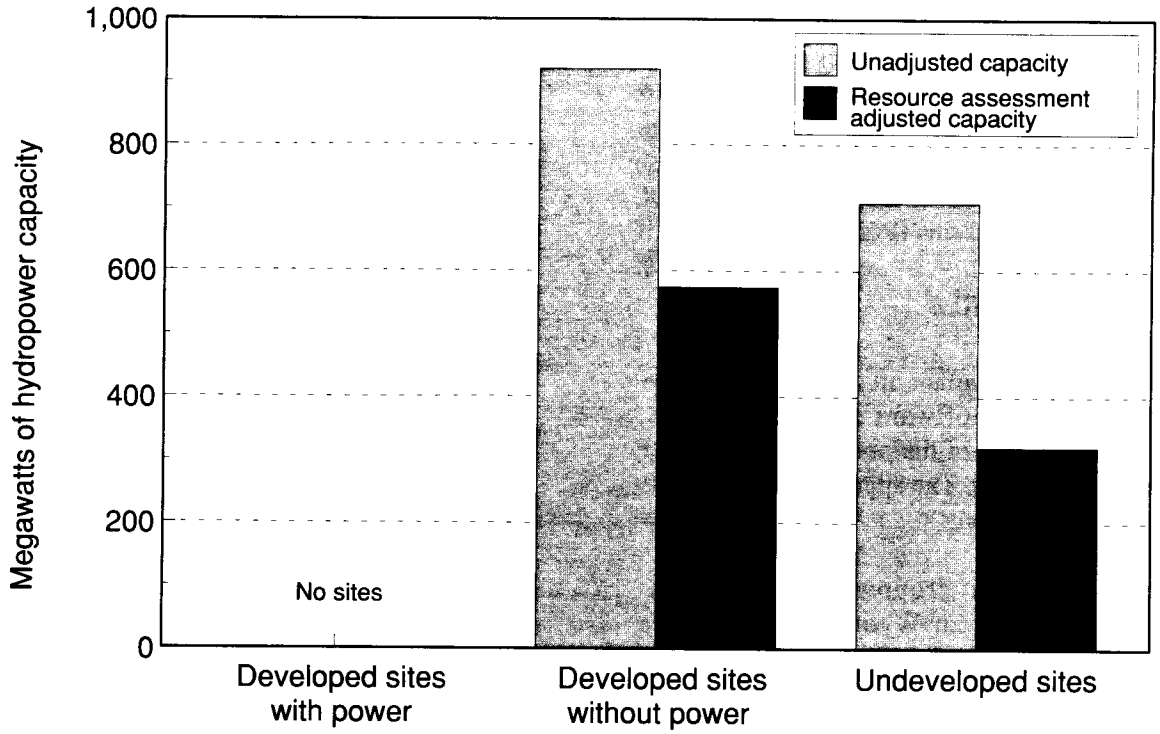

Figure 2. The Hydropower Evaluation Software identified potential hydropower capacity and the unadjusted potential capacity.

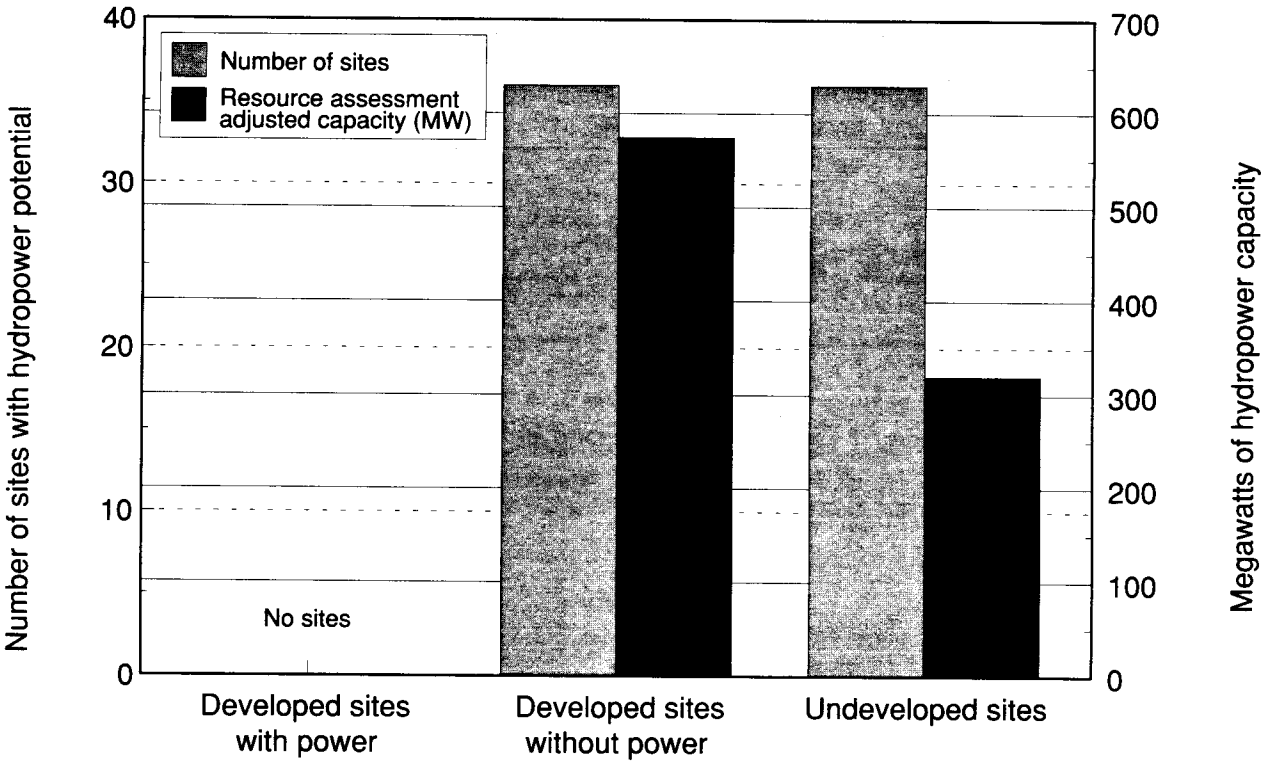

Figure 3. The number of sites with potential hydropower capacity and the total megawatts of potential capacity.

The 72 identified sites are located within 6 river basins. The number of sites per river basin ranges from 1 in the Cheyenne River Basin to 33 sites in the Yellowstone River Basin (Figure 4). The Yellowstone River Basin has the most undeveloped potential hydropower capacity of the Wyoming river basins (Figure 5).

Detailed Results

The appendices contain, in the form of Hydropower Evaluation Software generated reports, detailed information of the potential hydropower capacity in Wyoming. The appendices contain the following information:

Appendix A The hydropower capacity summary for Wyoming categorizes sites by dam status. The number of sites, unadjusted capacity, and Hydropower Evaluation Software adjusted capacity are provided based on the dam status.

Appendix B The hydropower resource assessment by river basin includes the FERC project number, project name, stream name, dam status, unadjusted capacity, and Hydropower Evaluation Software adjusted capacity for each of the individual sites. Subtotals are provided for each river basin.

Appendix C This is a listing of the project numbers, plant name, stream name, if a site is Federally owned, unadjusted capacity, and Hydropower Evaluation Software adjusted capacity. The sites are grouped by dam status.

Appendix D This section contains a resource database listing for each of the 72 sites in Wyoming. Information includes plant, stream, state, county, river basin and owner names; project number; name plate and Hydropower Evaluation Software adjusted capacity ratings; the unit and plant types, dam status; latitude; longitude; and the environmental factors that the Hydropower Evaluation Software uses to determine the project environmental suitability factor.

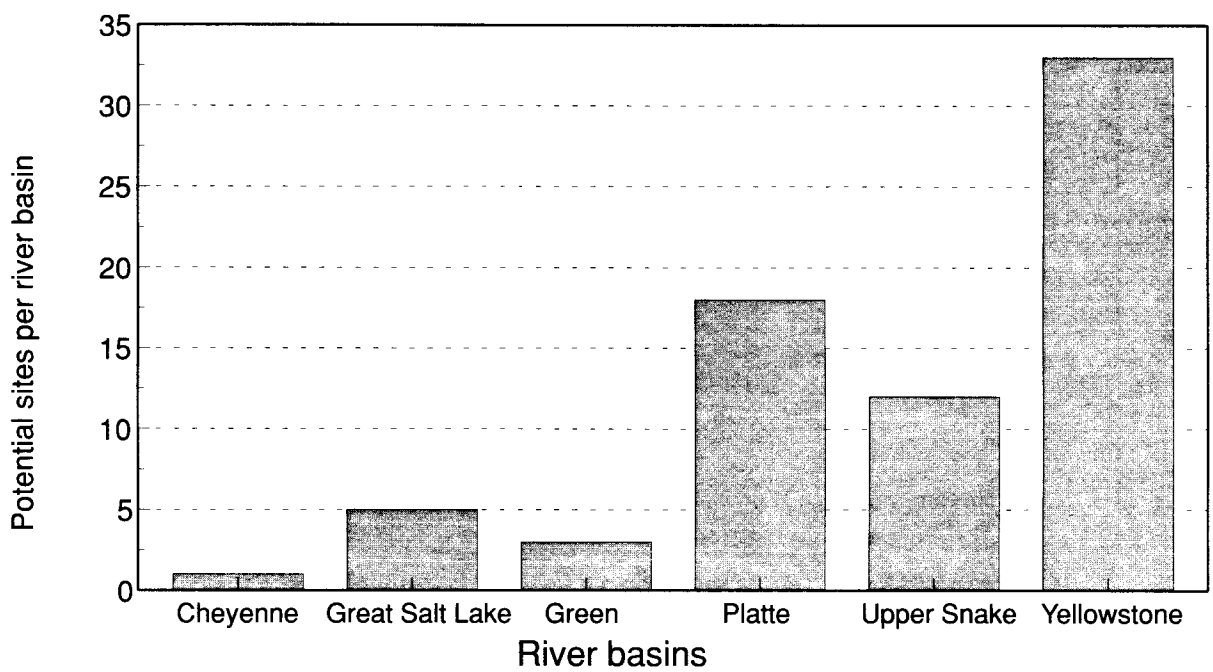

Figure 4. Number of sites with potential hydropower capacity in the Wyoming river basins.

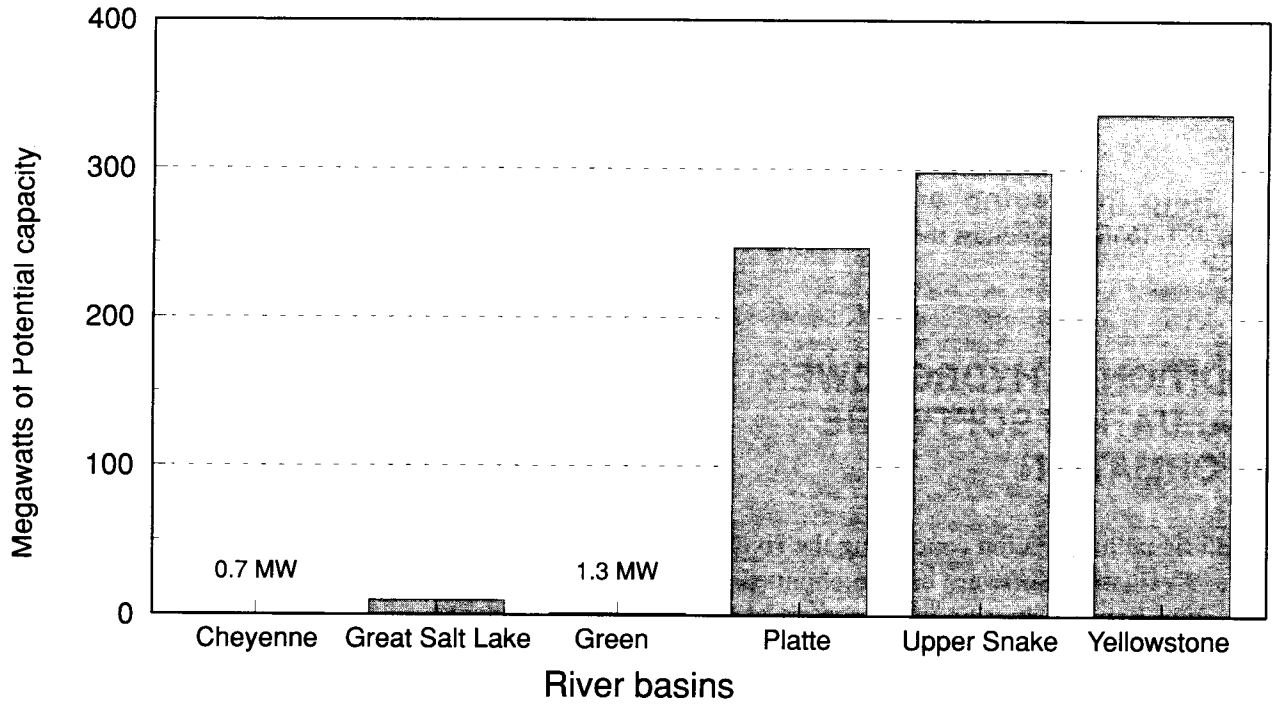

Figure 5. Potential hydropower capacity in the Wyoming river basins.

OBTAINING INDIVIDUAL STATE INFORMATION

Additional copies of the hydropower resource assessment results for individual states are available and can be obtained by writing or calling the National Technical Information Service (NTIS).

Telephone Orders – (703) 487-4650. NTIS sales desk and customer services are available between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

Fax – (703) 321-8547. Customers may fax their orders to NTIS. These orders may be charged to a NTIS deposit account, American Express, VISA, or MasterCard.

Mail Orders – Mail orders should be sent to National Technical Information Service, Document Sales, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161. Call the sales desk for prices before placing an order.

Method of Payment – Customers may pay for reports (and other NTIS products and services) by (a) credit card (American Express, Visa, or MasterCard); (b) check or money order on a United States bank payable to NTIS; (c) a NTIS deposit account; or (d) by asking to be billed (add $7.50 per order, United States, Canada, and Mexico, only).

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individual attention. The items ordered are delivered by first call mail. Call NTIS for information on rush order service for computer products.

For Help in Tracing an Order – Call (703) 487-4650 and request the customer service option.

ADDITIONAL HYDROPOWER EVALUATION SOFTWARE INFORMATION

Additional information concerning the Hydropower Evaluation Software can be obtained by contacting Ben Rinehart or Jim Francfort at the addresses provided below. Copies of the software and the User's Manual may also be obtained from these individuals.

Ben Rinehart
Idaho National Engineering Laboratory
P.O. Box 1625
Idaho Falls, ID 83415-3830
(208) 526-1002

Jim Francfort
Idaho National Engineering Laboratory
P.O. Box 1625
Idaho Falls, ID 83415-3875
(208) 526-6787

Information concerning the state of Wyoming involvement with the resource assessment or about the identified sites may be obtained by contacting:

David Zelenka
Wyoming Water Development Commission
Herschler Building, 4th Floor
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

REFERENCES

Francfort, J. E., S. D. Matthews, and B. N. Rinehart, 1991, *Hydropower Evaluation Software User's Manual*, DOE/ID-10338, Idaho National Engineering Laboratory, Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Francfort, J. E., K. M. Moore, and B. N. Rinehart, 1993, *Uniform Criteria for U.S. Hydropower Resource Assessment, Hydropower Evaluation Software Status Report*, DOE/ID-10430, Idaho National Engineering Laboratory, Idaho Falls, Idaho.