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RECLAMATION

NEWS RELEASE

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Reclamation announces start of annual drawdown of Alcova Reservoir

MILLS, Wyoming – The Wyoming Area Office of the Bureau of Reclamation in Mills will be lowering the water level in Alcova Reservoir as the 2021 irrigation season draws to a close. As part of the normal operation, the annual drawdown of the reservoir will begin on Friday, Oct. 1.

The reservoir water surface elevation will be lowered about 10 feet, at a rate of approximately four inches per day as the month of October progresses. The reservoir's normal winter operating range is between 5,487 and 5,489 feet. Water released in the drawdown of Alcova Reservoir will be stored downstream in Glendo Reservoir.

Boat owners and recreationists should be aware of the declining level of Alcova Reservoir and take proper precautions.

Alcova Dam forms a reservoir from which water is diverted into Casper Canal for irrigation of lands in the Kendrick Project. Water is released for other irrigation rights downstream through the Alcova Power Plant or over a controlled spillway. Alcova Power Plant utilizes the 165-foot drop from the reservoir to the river for power generation. It consists of two units, each an 18,000-kilowatt vertical-shaft generator driven by a 26,500-horsepower turbine. The reservoir has a total capacity of 184,405 acre-feet, of which only the top 30,606 acre-feet is active capacity available for irrigation. As an additional benefit, Alcova Reservoir and its surrounding lands provide excellent water oriented recreational facilities and is the primary recreation area for Casper and the surrounding region.

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