



News Release

City of Cheyenne
Board of Public Utilities
2416 Snyder Ave.
Cheyenne, WY 82001
307-637-6460
www.cheyennebopu.org

Media Contact: Dena Egenhoff
(307) 637-6415
DEGENHOFF@cheyennebopu.org

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Cloud Seeding this Winter

Cheyenne, WY – At Cheyenne’s Regional Airport, a King Air B200 aircraft is ready for the State of Wyoming’s airborne cloud seeding project to take off. This unique aircraft, outfitted with flare racks and the ability to de-ice in flight, is scheduled to help increase snowpack in the targeted remote areas of the Sierra Madre and Medicine Bow Mountains.

The City of Cheyenne Board of Public Utilities (Board) continues to watch weather conditions in the mountains where winter snow equals Cheyenne’s future drinking water supplies. With unpredictable winter snowpack amounts and Cheyenne’s dependence on snowpack for water supply is the reason the Board is partnering with the Wyoming Water Development Office’s (WWDO) Cloud Seeding program, again this winter.

“Cheyenne’s water supply is very snowpack dependent. About a quarter of the time, the Board’s reservoirs don’t fill, or severe droughts occur. Anything the Board can do to mitigate water shortages can only enhance our community’s resiliency,” stated Board’s Director, Brad Brooks.

WWDO’s Cloud Seeding program uses well-established technology to enhance a cloud’s ability to produce snow. Flares on the aircraft scatter very small amounts of silver iodide (a compound that cloud water easily attaches to) into specific winter cloud types. This process initiates the formation of ice crystals which eventually becomes snowflakes. This technology is not new, is well researched and has been used for decades by other states, ski resorts and even other countries to enhance precipitation.

Cloud seeding flights in the targeted remote locations of the Sierra Madre and Medicine Bow Mountains start December 5, 2019 and run through April 15, 2020, barring any suspension. Questions about the project can be directed to WWDO, Julie Gondzar at 307-777-7626 or at wwdc.state.wy.us. Watch the skies for the King Air B200 aircraft these coming months. Remember winter snow equals Cheyenne’s future H₂O.

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