

FAQs

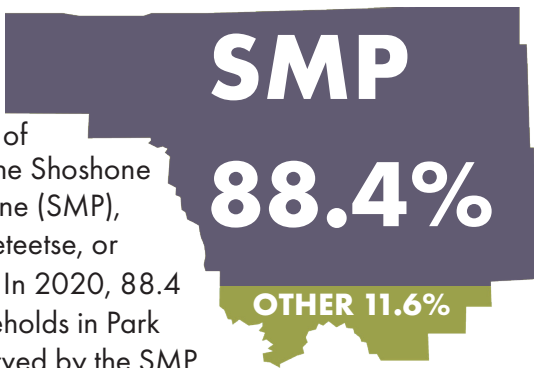
DOMESTIC WATER IN PARK COUNTY

PLAN PARK COUNTY



WHERE DOES OUR DOMESTIC WATER COME FROM?

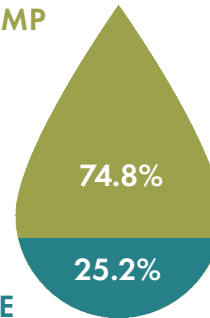
Domestic water in Park County generally comes from one of three sources—the Shoshone Municipal Pipeline (SMP), the Town of Meeteetse, or individual wells. In 2020, 88.4 percent of households in Park County were served by the SMP.



HOW MUCH WATER DOES SMP HAVE?

UNUSED SMP WATER CAPACITY

AVG. DAILY WATER USE

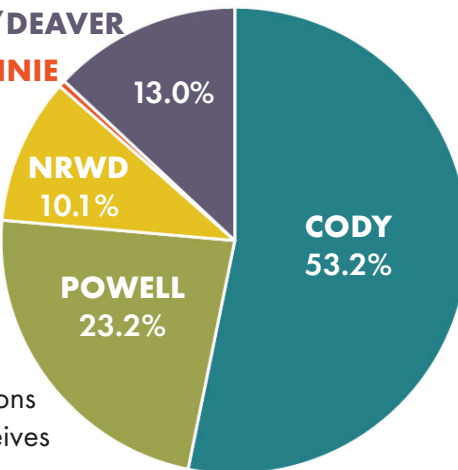


Today, SMP has ample water supply to serve current and forecasted customers without the need for conservation mandates, despite recent growth trends in Park County and higher water use during the latest hotter and drier years (2020-2021).

HOW IS SMP WATER ALLOCATED?

LOVELL/BYRON/DEAVER

FRANNIE
0.5%

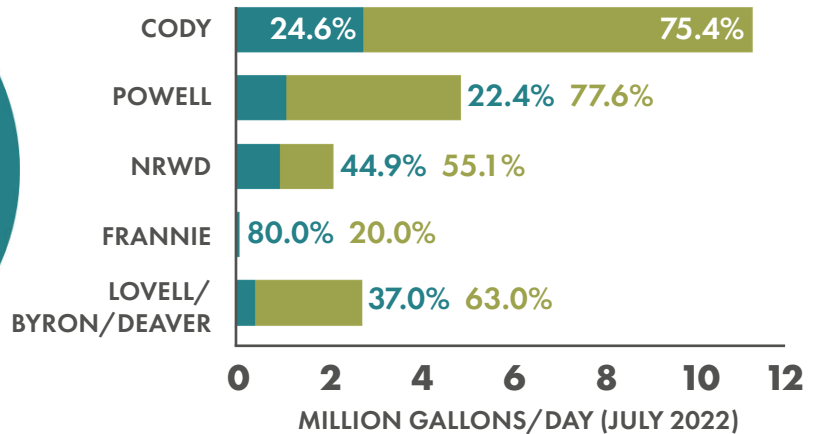


SMP and the Bureau of Reclamation have an agreement (renewed in July 2022 and extended through 2062) that outlines water allocations to each entity that receives SMP water.

HOW MUCH WATER DOES EACH WATER PROVIDER HAVE?

AVG. DAILY WATER USE

UNUSED SMP ALLOWANCE



IS THERE ENOUGH WATER TO SUPPORT GROWTH?

In 1986, SMP estimated a water service population of 36,660 by 2020 and 41,350 by 2030 with over 90% of growth expected to occur within municipalities. Instead, Park County has grown more slowly than the projections with a population of 29,624 in 2020 and unincorporated areas accounting for a greater share of population than expected (having almost 45% of Park County's residents).

Growth forecasts prepared by Economic and Planning Systems as part of the Land Use Plan update estimate that Park County will add between 2,311 and 3,778 residents and 1,666 to 2,327 households by 2040. Based on these forecasts, SMP does not anticipate shortages in water supply or treatment capacity within the planning horizon.

LEARN MORE: www.PlanParkCounty.us

DOMESTIC WATER IN PARK COUNTY, cont.

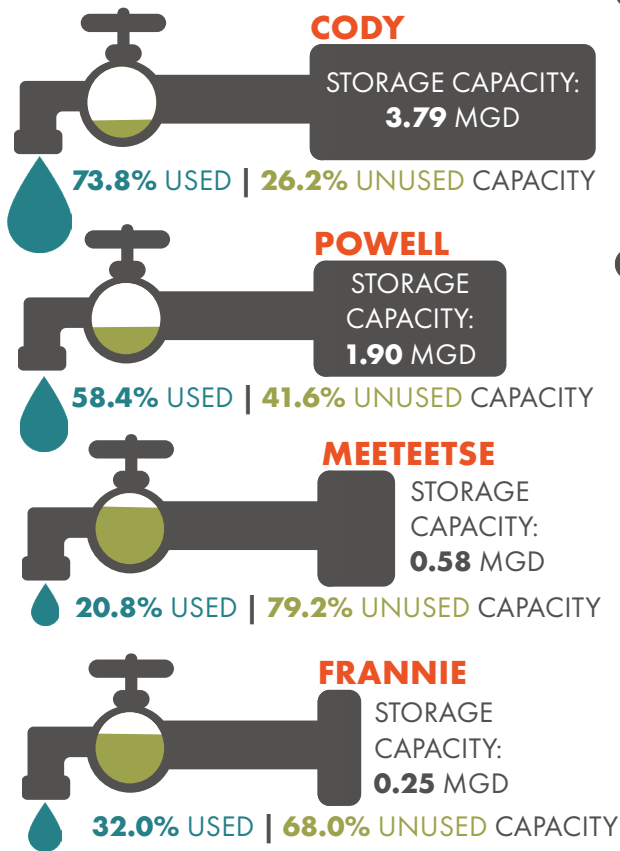
IF THERE IS WATER CAPACITY, WHY ISN'T WATER AVAILABLE EVERYWHERE?

SMP's main transmission line is designed to accommodate 18 taps for large service areas, which so far are used by Cody, Powell, and NRWD. The potential to add additional taps exists; however, the cost to install a single new tap in the main line could easily exceed \$500K. Based on cost alone, the likelihood of a private entity pursuing additional taps is small. Any request would probably be associated with a sizable development proposal and would likely require approval from the state for the formation of a new water district.

IS THERE INFRASTRUCTURE CAPACITY TO SUPPORT GROWTH?

It depends on the water provider. Even if there is plenty of water, the existing infrastructure (water treatment, storage, and delivery) may make it harder to support growth in some areas and easier in others.

Municipalities. Cities and towns in the County generally have ample storage capacity to provide for forecast growth.



Northwest Rural Water District. In unincorporated areas, infrastructure is more difficult and costly to extend. Water lines need to go farther but serve less people. NRWD is the major water provider in unincorporated Park County and was formed to deliver treated domestic water to smaller properties (generally less than 50 acres). Although NRWD's average daily usage of 0.97 million gallons represents less than half (44.9%) of its SMP allowance, and despite about \$7 million in infrastructure improvements since 2017, growth has impacted NRWD capacity in some areas due to infrastructure constraints. In March 2022, NRWD imposed a suspension of new transmission mains districtwide through April 2023. NRWD has also paused providing additional service taps in the rural Powell service areas to allow time for completion of a planned capacity expansion project.

WHAT ABOUT WELLS?

Properties located outside of municipal boundaries and outside of the NRWD service area (or that do not meet the criteria for NRWD service) are typically served by individual wells that rely on groundwater. The availability of quality groundwater and viability of wells can vary greatly by the location and depth of wells, which makes some properties unable to access sufficient groundwater.

ARE THERE OTHER OPTIONS?

Some developments in more remote areas of Park County operate small-scale water systems that serve its residents (e.g., the Copperleaf Subdivision in the Wapiti area). Otherwise, cisterns—fed by wells or SMP water that is trucked in—are used as a means to provide water to properties in some areas of Park County.

LEARN MORE: www.PlanParkCounty.us