

GRPD issues warning about high water



ANYONE WHO decides to walk the Greenbelt might need to wear wading boots as the Green River rises. These benches on the south bank stand in water and the boardwalk built last year is also partially submerged. Star photo by Eric Nielsen

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The Bureau of Reclamation is releasing more water from Fontenelle Reservoir than it has since 1999, according to Malcom Wilson, spokesman for the agency.

Because of this increase, the Green River Police Department issued a warning to residents.

"With the recent wet weather and the seasonal runoff, the Green River has risen to a level that is very dangerous. Please be aware the currents are very swift and a person could easily be swept away and drowned," Detective Fred Moczulski said.

He said people should be vigilant when using the Greenbelt and keep a close eye on children who may be in the area.

"If you are going to venture into the area of the river, a personnel floatation device is recommended," Moczulski said.

Releases from the reservoir increased from 7,000 cubic-feet-per-second to 8,000 cfs on Monday.

Wilson said the flow will remain at that level for at least several days in order to bring the reservoir down and provide space to capture potentially high runoff.

Releases of about 8,000 cfs will continue until the reservoir elevation decreases to 6,501 feet or below.

"Though the releases are higher, they will still be below the safe channel capacity for the City of Green River," Wilson said.

He said all plans are being coordinated with Sweetwater County Emergency Management in order keep the City of Green River and residents in the surrounding areas informed of the higher water levels.

Snotel station data currently indicates that about 7 percent of the total snowpack remains at high elevation levels above Fontenelle.

However, there are very few monitoring sites located at this elevation level so runoff could be higher than projected.