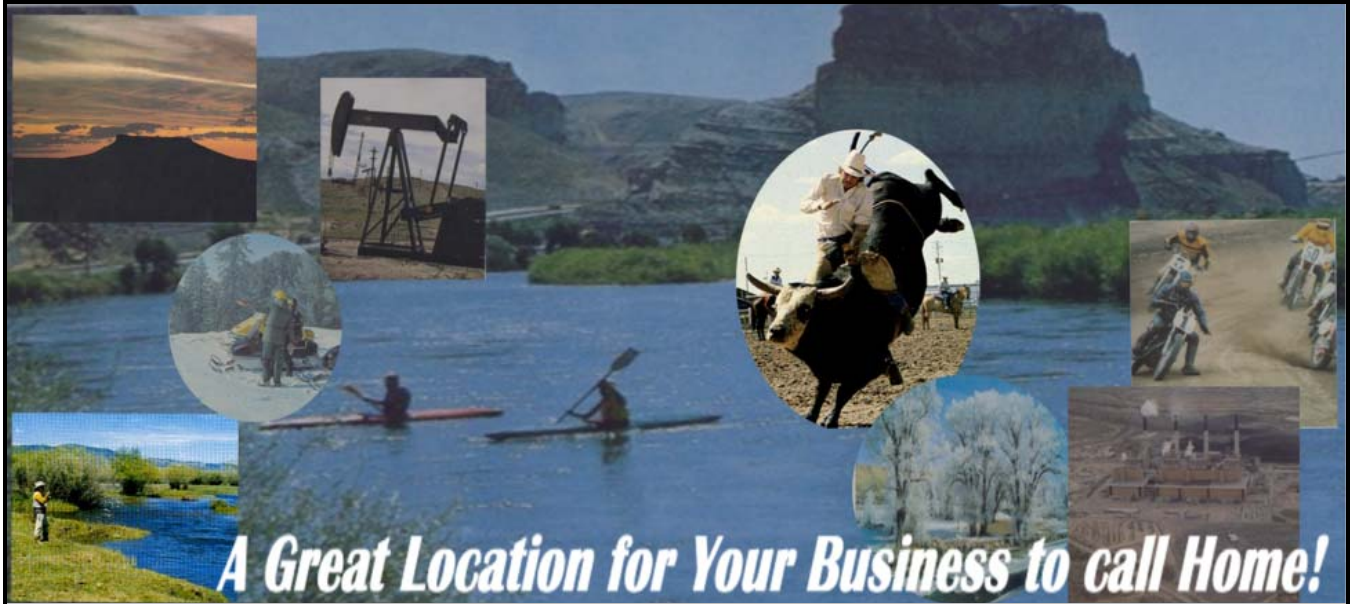


# Sweetwater County, Wyoming

## 2009 Community Profile



Web: [www.sweda.net](http://www.sweda.net)



### FACTS

County Seat:	City of Green River		
County Commissioners:	Paula Wonnacott	Randy Walker	Debby Dellai-Boese
Mayors:	Rock Springs: Tim Kaumo	Green River: Hank Castillon	Wamsutter: Ken Waldon
	Bairoil: Sue Ann Rigano	Superior: Richelle Johnson	Granger: Lenore Perry
Major Industries:	Trona Mining	Coal Mining	Fertilizer Gas Oil Recreation

POPULATION	2000	1/2002 estimate	1/2008 estimate	1/2009 estimate
Rock Springs & Reliance	18708	26,278	28,305	29,027
Green River	11808	12,683	12,841	13,166
Wamsutter		643	652	694
Bairoil		162	169	173
Point of Rocks				41
Superior		334	320	341
Farson/Eden Valley, Granger, McKinnon		1,475	1,502	1,579
Sweetwater County	38823	41,575	43,789	45,021

Source: Wyoming Department of Administration & Information, Division of Economic Analysis (1/10/02).Electrical residential hookups 1/06, 07/08 & 09(see [www.sweda.com](http://www.sweda.com))

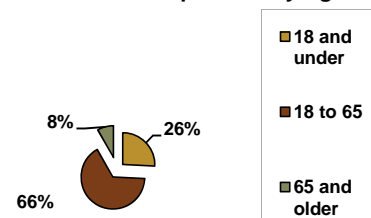
### Sweetwater Economic Development Association

1400 Dewar Drive, Suite 205A  
 Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901      WEB: [www.sweda.net](http://www.sweda.net)

Michelle Hostetler, Director (800)803-6362  
 e-mail: [parobbin@wyoming.com](mailto:parobbin@wyoming.com) (307)352-6874  
 Fax (307)352-6876

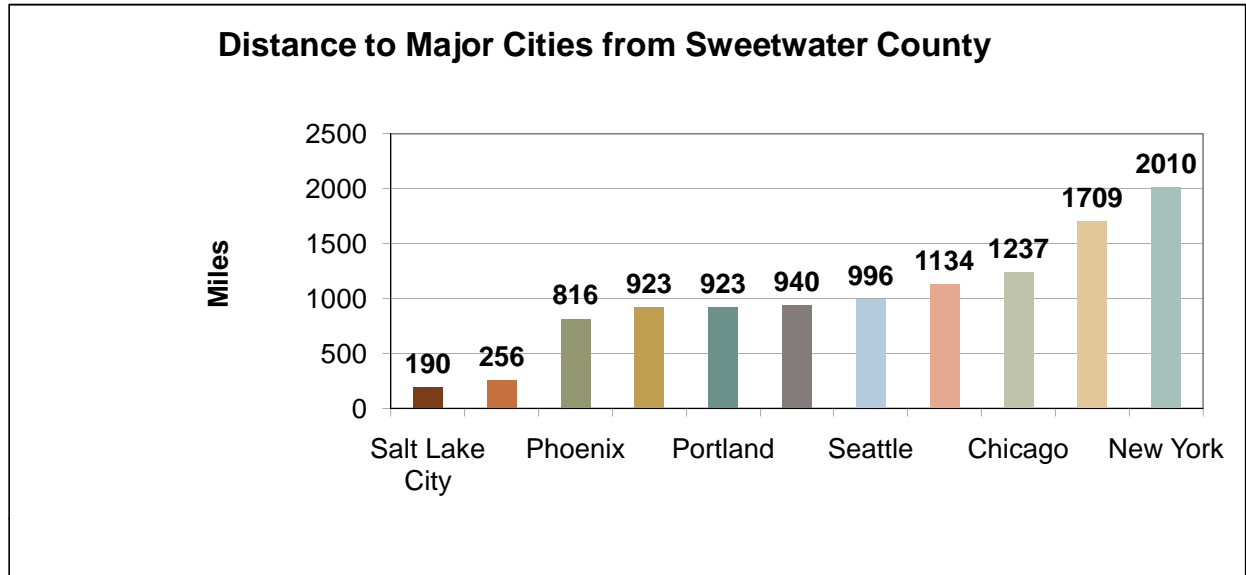


### 2006 Estimated Population by Age



<b>LAND OWNERSHIP (acres)</b>	
Total Public Lands	4,891,652
Private Lands	1,860,085
Water Surface	35,629
Total Acreage	6,708,743
Total Square Miles	10,482

<b>CLIMATE</b>	
Average annual temperature	44°F
January average temperature	18°F
July average temperature	68°F
Average annual precipitation	8.7 inches
Average annual snow fall	34.9 "
Average growing season	101 days
Average number of clear days	244 days
Average wind speed	9 mph
Elevation	6,242 feet



<b>WAGES</b>	
Annual Median Wage	2006 - \$41,600
Annual Average Wage	2006 - \$46,528
Average Hourly Rate	2006 - \$22.37
Average weekly wage	first qtr. 2007 - \$900

<b>LABOR FORCE</b>	
	<b>2007 Averages</b>
Labor Force	24,244
Number Unemployed	566
Unemployment Rates	2.3%
(Unemployment Rate-Seasonal Adjusted)	

Source: Wyoming Department of Employment & HUD

Source: Wyoming Department of Employment

### **EMPLOYMENT RESOURCES CENTER**

Wyoming Department of Workforce Services can assist companies recruiting qualified employees from the local labor pools or through the Internet using [WWW.Wyomingatwork.com](http://WWW.Wyomingatwork.com). Employers can also access this site to review resumes, post openings, find local labor market information. Staff can assist in setting up interviews, conducting job fairs, local recruiting, etc. The local office will also provide rooms for employer interviews of applicants. The Sweetwater County office is located in the White Mountain Mall, 2451 Foothill Blvd, Rock Springs, WY. Telephone 307-382-2747.

#### **Unemployment Benefits**

For the first three years, employers are assigned a tax rate which is the average for their particular industry. After three years they become eligible for a computed rate based on the company's prior three year's experience. Website: [www.wydoe.state.us/lmi](http://www.wydoe.state.us/lmi)

#### **Worker's Compensation**

Costs vary from 0.30 percent to 8.40 percent, depending on the occupation. The rate is adjusted according to each business record after two years. Website: [WWW.wydoe.state.wy.us](http://WWW.wydoe.state.wy.us)

<b>EMPLOYMENT SECTOR**</b>					
Covered Employment	Average Monthly Employed		Average Annual Wages		Average Weekly Wage
	2007	2008	2006	2007	2007
Sweetwater County	24,185	25,543	\$ 38,002	\$ 43,368	\$930

Total Earnings Sweetwater County for 2007 (estimated-----\$1,212,152,804.

\*\*State of Wyoming

<b>ECONOMIC BASE (TOP EMPLOYERS - January 2009)</b>		
Company	Product	No. F/T Employees
FMC Wyoming Corporation	Trona, mining & processing	916
Sweetwater County School District No. 1	Public Schools	910
Halliburton	Oil Field Service	872
General Chemical Company	Trona, mining & processing	506
Bridger Coal Company	Surface coal Mining	439
OCI	Trona, mining & processing	430
Solvay Minerals	Trona, mining & processing	440
PacifiCorp (Power plant & Other)	Power generation	387
Sweetwater County School District No. 2	Public Schools	332
Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County	Health Care	276
Schlumberger Pumping & Well Service	Oil Field Service	272
Questar Market Group	Gas	272
City of Rock Springs	City Government	224
Questar Market Group	Gas	272
BJ Services	Trucking	217
Simplot	Fertilizer	200
Union Pacific Railroad	Railroads	200
Western Wyoming Community College	Higher Education	200
Black Butte Coal	Coal Mining	177
Black Butte Coal	Coal Mining	177
Bunning Transfer Company	Trucking	170
Church & Dwight	Processing & Manufacturing	161
D&D Oilfield Services	Oil Field Service	158
Basic Energy Service	Oil Field Service	151
British Petroleum America (BP America)	Oil Field Service	148
Little America	Motel, Restaurant, Truck Stop	140
City of Green River	City Government	125
Wyoming Department of Transportation	Highway Department	105
Williams Energy Services	Pipeline & oil service	101
Western Gas	Natural resource development	97
Castle Rock Medical Center	Health Care	89
Exxon Company, USA	Gas	86
Moneyhun Companies	Welding & Roustabout	82
Wire Brother Roustabout Service	Oil Field Service	63
Red Horse Oil	Gas Distributors	51

Individual companies contacted - January 2009

**SWEETWATER COUNTY TOP 30 TAXPAYERS - TAX YEAR 2008**

COMPANY	TAXES PAID	% OF TOTAL
1. BP AMERICA	\$17,814,652.08	11.16%
2. ANADARKO	\$16,797,488.94	10.52%
3. MERIT ENERGY	\$12,789,823.74	8.01%
4. FMC	\$9,474,868.86	5.93%
5. SOLVAY MINERALS	\$7,531,957.72	4.72%
6. OCI	\$6,403,584.34	4.01%
7. GENERAL CHEMICAL	\$6,289,442.28	3.94%
8. BRIDGER COAL	\$5,607,308.58	3.51%
9. PACIFICORP	\$4,354,416.24	2.73%
10. ENCANA	\$3,814,198.96	2.39%
11. WEXPRO	\$3,520,344.56	2.20%
12. BLACK BUTTE COAL	\$3,501,484.28	2.19%
13. DEVON ENERGY	\$3,054,085.30	1.91%
14. SAMSON RESOURCES	\$2,902,356.72	1.82%
15. QUESTAR EXPLORATION	\$2,468,217.60	1.55%
16. CHEVRON	\$2,465,670.48	1.54%
17. MARATHON OIL	\$2,386,332.52	1.49%
18. CABOT OIL	\$2,355,602.50	1.48%
19. MOUNTAIN GAS RESOURCES	\$1,629,820.54	1.02%
20. UP RAILROAD	\$1,511,351.32	0.95%
21. EOG RESOURCES	\$1,301,204.32	0.81%
22. ROCKIES EXPRESS PIPELINE	\$1,285,973.64	0.81%
23. YATES PETROLEUM	\$1,122,042.82	0.70%
24. KERR-MCGEE	\$1,103,549.46	0.69%
25. IDAHO POWER	\$1,009,403.40	0.63%
26. WYOMING INTERSTATE CO	\$952,262.70	0.60%
27. SIMPLOT PHOSPHATES	\$931,190.82	0.58%
28. WHITING PETROLEUM	\$790,187.50	0.49%
29. WAMSUTTER GAS PROCESSING	\$755,290.54	0.47%
30. EXXON MOBIL	\$661,653.42	0.41%
TOTAL	\$126,585,766.18	79.28%
TOTAL TAXES LEVIED IN SWEETWATER CO 2007-2008	\$159,667,859	100.00%

SOURCE: Sweetwater County Assessor's Office - January 2009

CRIME INDEX - 2006		RACE & HISPANIC ORIGIN Estimate 2006	
Murder	2	White	95.3%
Forcible Rape	14	Black	1.0%
Robbery	7	American Indian, Eskimo or Aleut.	1.2%
Agerated. Assault	210	Asian or Pacific Islander	1.5%
Burglary	266	Other Races	0.1%
Larceny-Theft	1067	Hispanic Origin	10.8%
MV Theft	91		

Source: Attorney General

Source: US Census

TAXES				
Type of Taxes	Rock Springs	Green River	Sweetwater County	State
Real Property	8 mill	8 mill	11.980 mill	None
Personal Property	None	None	None	None
Inventory	Exempt if held for resale			
Sales	None	None	2%	4%
Lodging (Bed)	None	None	2%	None
Corporate Income	None	None	None	None
Personal Income	None	None	None	None
School	43.6000 mills	49.053 mills		
State: Industrial Property:	assessed 11.5% of market value			
Commercial:	assessed 9.5% of market value			
Residential:	assessed 9.5% of market value			

Source: Department of Revenue

GOVERNMENT			
	Rock Springs	Green River	County
Government Form:	Mayor/Council	Mayor/Council	Sheriff
Law Enforcement	59	29	50
Fire dept.	35	2 F/T 36 Volunteers	2
Presence of 911	Yes	Yes	Yes
Planning Commission	Yes	Yes	Yes
Business License Required	Yes	Yes	Yes
Zoning Regulations	Yes	Yes	Yes
Building Codes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fire Insurance Rating	4	4	4

Source each agency 1/12/08

BANKS		
	Rock Springs	Green River
Rock Springs National Bank	State Bank	Wells Fargo
North Side State Bank	Commerce Bank of Wyoming	Bank of the West
Wells Fargo		US Bank
US Bank		State Bank
Bank of the West		
Rocky Mountain National Bank		

SHOPPING FACILITIES	
Number of shopping & Strip malls:	8
Number of major discount stores:	4

**Education**

<b>School District 1 (January 09)</b>	<b>Grades K-4</b>	<b>Grades 5-6</b>	<b>Grades 7-8</b>	<b>Grades 9-12</b>
(Rock Springs, Wamsutter, Farson/Eden) Website: www.sw1.k12.wy.us				
<b>Rock Springs</b>				
No. of School	6	1	1	1
Number of Students	2,172	764	668	1,145
Pupil/Teacher Ratio	23/1	25/1	21/1	21/1
Per pupil expenditures	\$12,473	\$12,473	\$12,473	\$12,473
Percent of students to higher learning:				4 yr-32%
				2 yr-40%
				Voc -7%

<b>Independence High School - Rock Springs</b>				
No. of School				1
Number of Students				54
Pupil/Teacher Ratio				12/1
Per pupil expenditures				\$12,473
Percent of students to higher learning:				28%

	<b>Wamsutter Elementary School</b>		<b>Farson-Eden School</b>		
	K-6	7th & 8th	K-6	7th-8th	9th - 12th
No. of School	1	1	1	1	1
Number of Students	69	11	91	24	56
Pupil/Teacher Ratio	8/1	7/1	12/1	6/1	12/1
Per pupil expenditures	\$12,473	\$12,473	\$12,473	\$12,473	\$12,473
Percent of students to higher learning:					88%

<b>School District 2(January 08)</b>	<b>Grades K-4</b>	<b>Grades 5-6</b>	<b>Grades 7-8</b>	<b>Grades 9-12</b>
(Green River, Granger & McKinnon, Thoman) Website: www.sw2.k12.wy.us				
No. of School	3	1	1	2
Number of Students (All schools)	1,072	418	379	729
Pupil/Teacher Ratio	20/1	24/1	24/1	26/1
Per pupil expenditures	\$12,229	\$12,229	\$12,229	\$12,229
Percent of students to college:				21% - 4 yr
				56% - 2 yr

Independence High School - Green River					69
<b>Rural (McKinnon, Granger, Thoman)</b>		<b>K-12</b>			
Number of Students (All schools)	17				
Pupil/Teacher Ratio	6/1				
<b>Private - Rock Springs</b>	<b>K-6</b>		<b>Private School - Green River</b>	<b>K-12</b>	
Number of Students	130		Number of Students	40	
Pupil/Teacher Ratio	15/1		Pupil/Teacher Ratio	10;1	

**College (January 2009)**

**Western Wyoming Community College** was established in 1959. Consistent growth led to citizens of Sweetwater County supporting a \$43 million bond issue, creating one of the most modern and beautiful campuses in the West. The main campus is located in Rock Springs, with a branch facility in Green River. The College was granted accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association in April of 1976 and received continuing status for 10 years in 2004. Western has been selected as an AQIP (Academic Quality Improvement Program) institution through HLC which means continuous improvement is part of the accreditation program. Western Wyoming College is a publicly supported comprehensive center for learning, dedicated to providing life-long education for a diverse and changing society.

**Total Enrollment (Full and Part-Time): 3,926**

WWCC makes every effort to be responsive to the workforce development needs of industry and business. WWCC offers flexible programming that provides an appropriate combination of experiential and conceptual learning. Continuing Education Courses are designed to offer practical skills and technical knowledge for the beginning, intermediate, or advanced skill level employee. The business requesting training has the option of being trained on the college campus or on the work site. WWCC's partners work with the individual company to customize training.

Nearest 4-year College: University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming

Percent Bachelor Degree or Higher (2000): 17.0%

## HOUSING

Average home price (Dec. 2008)	\$216,423.00	Newly Constructed	\$177780
Average multi-family housing vacancy rate	1.86%		
Average Rental Rates (eff. Dec. 2009)	<u>Mobile Home</u>	<u>House</u>	<u>Apartment</u>
	<u>Utilities &amp; Lot</u>	<u>2 or 3 BR</u>	<u>Unfurnished</u>
	\$714	\$655	\$500
Average cost of land: City: <u>\$60,000 /Lot</u>	County: <u>\$60,000/acre</u>	(Prices include Utilities )	
<b>2000 Census Results for Sweetwater County &amp; Municipalities Housing Counts</b>		<b>January 2009 Estimated Houses*</b>	
Sweetwater County	14,105	17,450	
Rock Springs & Unincorporated	9,929	11,103	
Green River & Unincorporated	4,824	5,103	
		*Source: Utility Companies residential electrical connects	

## MEDICAL SERVICES

Number of hospitals	1
Number of Beds	100
Number of physicians	about 49
Number of dentists and orthodontists & periodontics	20
Number of optometrists	10
Availability of ambulance service:	Yes
Nursing Homes	2
Medical Centers	7

## TRANSPORTATION

Major Highways: <u>Interstate I-80</u>	<u>US 191 North &amp; South and 30N</u>	<u>WYO. 430 and 530</u>
Rail Service: <u>Union Pacific mainline - Piggyback service available in Green River Yard</u>		
Trucking: <u>Heavy Haul : 13 companies</u>		
<u>Liquid or Dry Bulk: 6 companies</u>		
<u>Motor Freight: 6 companies</u>		
Parcel/Express: <u>UPS and Federal Express</u>		
Air Service: <u>Rock Springs/Sweetwater County Airport</u>		
	Commercial Airlines: <u>(United Express - 2 Daily Flights), (Great Lakes - 3 Daily Flights)</u>	Type of Surface: <u>friction, porous</u>
	Runway length: <u>10,000 ft.</u>	<u>Yes</u>
	Instrument Landing System	<u>Yes</u>
	Lights	<u>Yes</u>
	Tower	<u>Yes (not manned)</u>
	Fixed base operator/Air taxi:	<u>Yes</u>
	Fuel available	<u>Yes</u>
	Rest Rooms	<u>Yes</u>
Bus Service: <u>Greyhound, Jackson-Rock Springs Bus Lines, Sweetwater Stages</u>		
Public Transportation: <u>Sweetwater County Transit Authority (STAR)</u>		

## LODGING

Number of hotels/motels:	<u>35</u>	<u>(23 - Rock Springs, 8 - Green River, 1-Little America,</u>
Approximate number of lodging units (rooms)	<u>2,054</u>	<u>1- Wamsutter, 1 Farson)</u>

**UTILITIES**

**Electricity Supplier:** Rocky Mountain Power - Tel. # (800)-221-7070 (24 hours/day)

Rocky Mountain Power, formerly Pacific Power in Utah, Idaho and Wyoming, is one of the US's lowest-cost electricity producers. PacifiCorp has more than 1.6 million customers in six western states, 8,470 MW of generation capacity, 15,580 miles of transmission lines, 59,510 miles of distribution lines, 908 substations, 68 generating plants and approximately 6,750 employees. PacifiCorp has two other divisions besides Rocky Mountain Power. The PacifiCorp Energy group includes the generation/mining divisions of the company. The other division is Pacific Power which serves the states of Washington, Oregon and Northern California.

For Wyoming rate information go to Rocky Mountain Power website at: [www.rockymtnpower.net](http://www.rockymtnpower.net) or telephone their 24 hour business center at (800)-221-7070

**Natural Gas Supplier:** Questar Gas Tel. # (800) 231-8874 or 307-352-7701

For current rates and tariff information go to <http://www.questargas.com>

Rates effective 1/1/2001

All Rates are per heating value in Decatherm (dth):

1 decatherm=10 Therms or 1 million Btus

**Core Firm Sales Service(s)**

	First 45 Dth	All Over 45 Dth	
<b>GS-1 Volumetric Rates</b>			
<u>Non-Gas Costs</u>	\$2.03650	\$1.27856	
<u>Non-Gas Surcharge</u>	\$0.07751	\$0.07751	
<u>Core Service Gas Costs</u>	\$5.46036	\$5.46036	
<b>Total Rate</b>	\$7.57437	\$6.82312	
<b>Monthly Customer Charge</b>		\$8.70	
<b>F-1 Volumetric Rates</b>	<u>1st 80 Dth</u>	<u>Next 730</u>	<u>All Over 810 Dth</u>
<u>Non-Gas Costs</u>	\$0.97169	\$0.86262	\$0.75327
<u>Non-Gas Surcharge</u>	\$0.07751	\$0.07751	\$0.05571
<u>Core Service Gas Costs</u>	\$5.46036	\$5.46036	\$5.46036
<b>Total Rate</b>	\$6.60956	\$6.40049	\$6.29114
<b>Monthly Customer Charge: Monthly Meter-Based Customer Charge:</b>	Category 2 meter = \$34., Category 3 Meter = \$67., Category 4 Meter \$317.		

GS-1 Classification: Service is used for domestic purposes such as space heating, air condition, water heating, clothes drying and cooking.

F1 Classification: Annual load factor is 40% or greater, where load factor is defined to be: Actual or estimated average daily usage is at least 40% of peak winter day.

**Non-Core Interruptible Services**

**I-2 Volumetric Rates** Commercial & Industrial (Interruptible) based on 15% or greater load factor

	1st 48,600	Next 72,900	All Over 121,500 Dth
<u>Non-Gas Costs</u>	\$0.14588	\$0.12713	\$0.10840
<u>Upstream Pipeline Costs</u>	\$0.18854	\$0.18854	\$0.18845
<u>Commodity Costs</u>	Market Index Price for service nominated prior to the 1st day of the month - Daily Price		
Minimum yearly charge: Daily Contract Limited x 55 Days x Tail Block Rate			
<b>Monthly Customer Charge: Monthly Meter-Based Customer Charge:</b>	Category 2 meter = \$34., Category 3 Meter = \$67., Category 4 Meter \$317.		

I-2 Classification: Service on an annual contract basis available to commercial and industrial customers with a load factor of 15% or greater where load factor is defined to be: Actual or estimated average daily usage at 15% of peak winter day.

**I-4 Volumetric Rates** - Commercial & Industrial Interruptible based on 50% or greater load factor

	1st 48,600	Next 72,900	All Over 121,500 Dth
<u>Non-Gas Costs</u>	\$0.14588	\$0.12713	\$0.10840
<u>Upstream Pipeline Costs</u>	\$0.18854	\$0.18854	\$0.18845
<u>Commodity Costs</u>	Market Index Price for service nominated prior to the 1st day of the month - Daily Price		
Minimum yearly charge: Daily Contract Limited x 183 Days x Tail Block Rate			
<b>Monthly Customer Charge: Monthly Meter-Based Customer Charge:</b>	Category 2 meter = \$34., Category 3 Meter = \$67., Category 4 Meter \$317.		

I-4 Classification: Service on an annual contract basis available to commercial and industrial customers with a load of 15% or greater where load factor is defined: Actual or estimated average daily usage is at least 50% of peak winter day.

**IC Volumetric Rates** - Applies to Industrial & Commercial Interruptible Customers (Available by Contact Only)

All usage as specified by contract terms

**Water Supplier:** Municipal Tel. # (307)352-1405 or 875-4317

Capacity of water plant (gpd) 32 million gallons

Looped System: Yes

Residual pressure at industrial sites 20 psi is 2,200 gallons a minute

**Wastewater:** Municipal

Treatment Types: Activated Sludge Process

Design Hydraulic Capacity, mg: 4.0

Solid Waste Disposal Available: Yes

Rates: Determined by water use

## COMMUNICATIONS

Media: Newspapers: Rocket-Miner (Daily) and Green River Star (Weekly)

Radio Stations: AM : KRKK, KUGR, ROCK 104

FM: KSIT, KYCS, QQSW & KMKX

Cable TV: Yes

Digital TV: Yes

Telephone Companies: Qwest

A.T. & T.

CommNet 2000

MCI Sales

Union Telephone

McLeod USA

Digital Switches: Yes

Fiber Optic Available: Yes

Post Offices: 2 First Class

Overnight Mail Service: Yes

High Speed Internet: Local Access

## AREA ATTRACTIONS

**Boars Tusk - Red Desert Sand Dunes**  
**Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area**  
**Seedskaadee National Wildlife Refuge**  
**Expedition Island - Green River**  
**Sheep Creek Geographical Area - 60 miles**  
**Recreation Center - Rock Springs**  
**Recreation Center - Green River**  
**Wildlife (Elk, Antelope, Deer, and many others)**

## CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS

**Golf Courses - Rock Springs and Green River**  
**Sweetwater County Museum, Green River**  
**Rock Springs Museum**  
**Flaming Gorge Days, Green River**  
**Nutcracker Ballet, Green River**  
**Community Fine Arts Center, Rock Springs**  
**Home and Garden Show, Rock Springs**  
**Red Desert Rodeo, PRC, Rock Springs**  
**Stockcar Races, Rock Springs**  
**Hispanic Festival**  
**Basque Festival**  
**White Water Rafting**  
**Ice Sculpture Event**

For more events visit: [www.rockspringswyoming.net](http://www.rockspringswyoming.net), [www.grchamber.com](http://www.grchamber.com) or [www.sweetwaterevents.com](http://www.sweetwaterevents.com)

**Rock Springs** is the largest city in Sweetwater County and the fourth largest city in Wyoming. Founded in 1868 with the coming of the Union Pacific Railroad, the town grew to become one of the most significant coal mining centers in the western United States. While remembering its past as a coal mining community, the town is today an economic center for the oil and gas industry, coal mining and ranching. It is also a gateway to the historical and scenic attractions throughout Sweetwater County.

Historic Business District is listed on the National Registrar of Historic Places. The Buildings reflect the changing economic fortunes of the town. Nineteenth century wood-frame, false-front buildings stand next to imposing early 20<sup>th</sup> century stone and brick buildings. The heart of the downtown area is the Old City Hall. This large two-story stone building with its distinctive white spire was construction 1894 and was used by the city until 1982. Today it houses the Rock Springs Historical Museum. The Fine Arts Center, located in the Rock Springs Library, displays the works of local artists.

The Downtown National Register District is located along North Front Street and South Main Street with the Union Pacific Railroad mainline dividing the two halves of the town. To the North and south of the Business District are the oldest residential neighborhoods. The north side preserves turn-of-the-century coal miners' houses, while the south side contains Queen Anne, Folk Victorian and craftsman style houses from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

West of the downtown area on College Hill is Western Wyoming Community College. The College is the home of one of the largest displays of dinosaur skeletons in the Intermountain West. Skeletons of Tyrannosaurs Rex, Triceratops, Stegosaurus, Camptosaurus, Plesiosaurus, and a large fish called Xiphactinus Audax are on display. Also present are fossilized fish and ancient palm fronds. In addition, the Natural History Museum contains displays on the archaeology and paleontology of southwestern Wyoming.

**Green River** is the County Seat of Sweetwater County and its second largest city. Unlike Rock Springs, which grew up as a coal-mining town, Green River developed through its relationship with the Union Pacific Railroad. Green River succeeded South Pass City as the County Seat in 1872. In the same year, Green River became a Division Point on the Union Pacific Railroad. A large railroad yard and shop facility was built south of the downtown area and an imposing brick depot eventually replaced the original wood frame building.

Trona was discovered Sweetwater County in 1938 during oil and gas explorations. This first mineshaft was excavated in 1946, and commercial production began in 1948. Up until that time, all soda ash in the United States was produced synthetically (chemically). Trona is refined to produce soda ash in very large and sophisticated refineries. The Trona industry is the major employer in Wyoming's Sweetwater County. There are five producers operating in the County producing over 15 million tons on Trona and over 8 million tons of soda ash each year. Approximately 90% of the soda ash produced in the United States and about 25% of the World's supply are natural soda from Sweetwater County.

The City of Green River takes its name from the Green River that flows through the center of the city. The river flows through a broad steep-sided valley with prominent rock formations along either side. "Nature's Art Shop" is a brochure, which shows pictures, and the locations of these many rock formations including the Palisades, Tool Gate and "Cliffs of Green River" featured in the painting by Thomas Moran.

Expedition Island, the Green Belt Nature Area, and Scotts Bottom Nature Area are found along the river. Expedition Island is found immediately southwest of the railroad yards. The island was the point where John Wesley Powell began his expedition down the Green and Colorado Rivers that culminated in his trip through the Grand Canyon. Downstream from Expedition Island on the south bank of the river is the Green Belt Nature Area. This area contains nature paths that run along the edge of the river. Waterfowl and other types of birds nest in the tall grass and bushes that grow throughout the area. Further to the South at the southern edge of the river is the Scotts Bottom Nature Area. Like the Green Belt, the Scotts Bottom Nature Area has paths and interpretive signs that tell of the wildlife that live in this riparian habitat along the edge of the Green River. The Green River offers excellent fishing for Rainbow Trout, Brown Trout, and Kokanee Salmon.