

DEC 14 2009 Teton Conservation District FY 2009 Report Summary

WY. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES

1. TCD administered over 300 contracts and agreements in 13 different natural resource programs this year.

2. TCD's Noxious Weed Costshare program has now included over 400 landowners (a landowner may represent an entire subdivision) and treats about 25,000 acres annually. TCD has also facilitated and co-funded the second year of a county wide aquatic invasive's detection survey.
3. TCD's organic waste diversion and processing program treated about 10,000 tons of grass trimmings, manure, construction wood waste, and green wood waste at the Teton County Transfer Station and was the least expensive of any waste stream handling and processing including standard recycling in the County. An additional 40,000 tons of woody biomass from forest projects was processed as well.
4. TCD co-facilitated and funded the recently formed Biomass Utilization Group representing the BLM, Idaho State Forestry, Wyoming State Forestry, Caribou-Targhee NF, Bridger-Teton NF, Shoshone NF, Conservation Districts, environmental organizations, and private industry.
5. TCD has facilitated with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation stewardship agreements on the Shoshone NF and the Bridger-Teton NF with forest treatment projects occurring on both (250 acre Dry Quad Aspen Enhancement near Triangle X Ranch is first project on the BTNF).
6. TCD has co-funded the Grand Targhee Resort compost and greenhouse study, a regional Organic Waste Diversion in the Rockies Conference in conjunction with Biocycle and US Composting at SnowKing Resort in Jackson, and the investigation of a 3MW heat and power plant in Teton County using organic waste stream fuels.
7. TCD has conducted a LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) project for 25 miles of the Snake River Corridor and for the 144 square mile Wilson Front project. The Snake River LIDAR has provided topographic mapping for river and flood channels and bedload movement. The Wilson Front LIDAR is being used to work with the USFS RSAC research unit to model wildland fire crown, ladder, and ground fuels, tree mortality, vegetation cover types, flood plain characterization, developed topography needs, and other uses. TCD has also conducted digitizing and rasterizing of historic aerial photography in the County.
8. TCD has continued development and test plots for its Native Seed Program intended to develop a native seed bank for use by contractors in revegetation and restoration projects. TCD has also enhanced its stormwater pollution prevention program with coordination with Filtrexx Corp., other erosion control companies, and agencies including WYDOT, NRCS, USFS, NPS, Town of Jackson, Teton County, and others.
9. TCD has initiated a created wetland demonstration project for residential septic drain field treatment with hopes of getting it certified by WYDEQ for use as an option statewide; has designed phase 3 Flat Creek restoration project that includes over 50 in-stream constructed features for flood control and habitat improvement; has designed with the Town of Jackson the Karns Meadow Created Wetland Stormwater treatment project that will begin construction in 2010 to treat stormwater from east Jackson, has conducted a groundwater monitoring study to determine effects of Jackson Hole Airports use of 100,000 gallons of glycol on groundwater quality; and has conducted the Fish Creek algae, macroinvertebrate, nutrient, temperature, and water quality study in conjunction with USGS.
10. TCD has conducted surface water monitoring of Fish Creek, Flat Creek, and other streams adding to over a decade of the TCD extensive water quality monitoring data set. TCD also works with USGS to fund and operate stream flow gauging stations and the local portion of the Rocky Mountain Snow Chemistry monitoring network.
11. TCD has conducted a number of groundwater, surface water, riparian restoration, noxious weed control, and other natural resource hands-on workshops with K-12 students this year.
12. TCD has co-funded the Big Horn Sheep study of the Teton herd and the continuation of the Moose predation, mortality, and habitat study in conjunction with the WDFG and the UW.