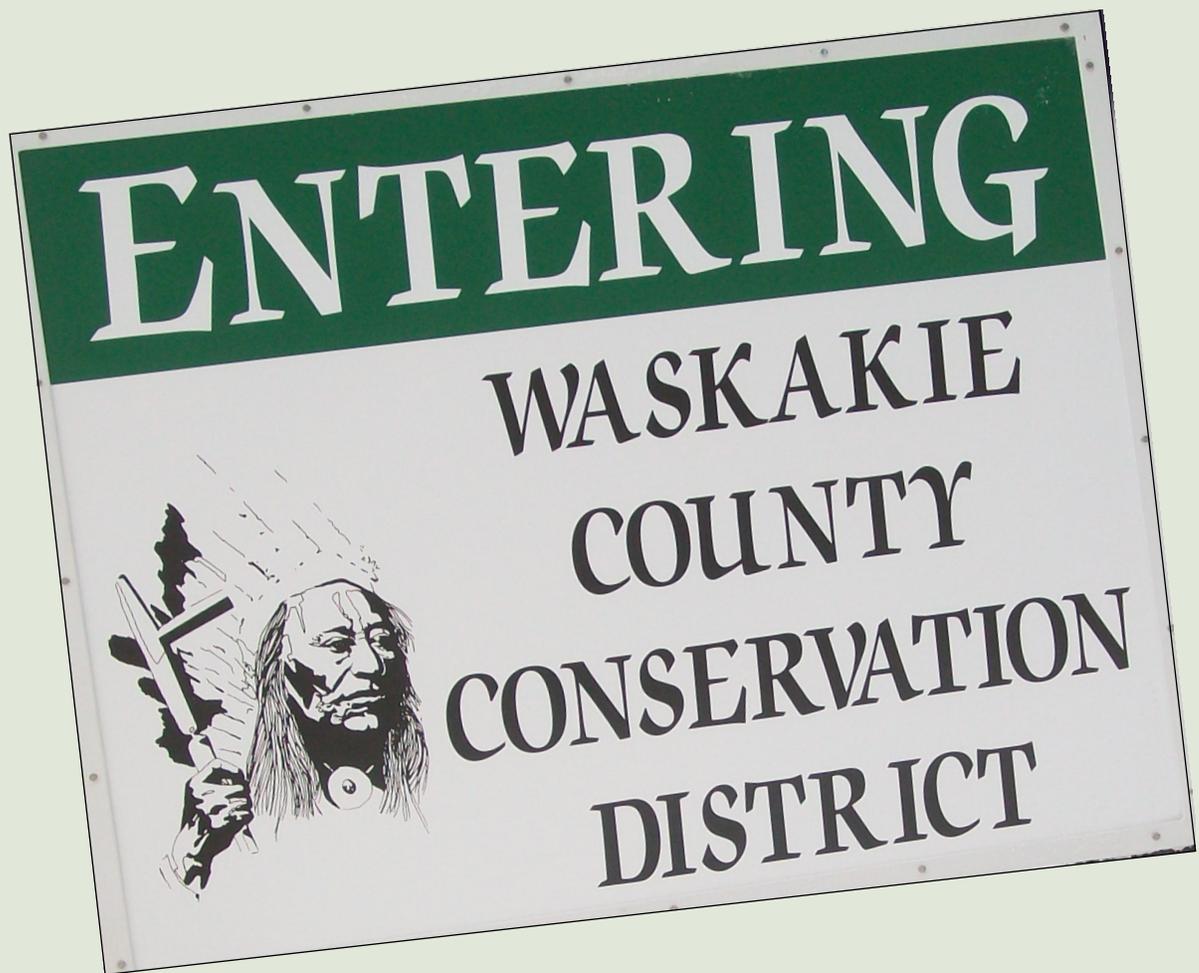


Washakie County  
Conservation District



2011-2012 Annual Report

# Washakie County Conservation District

Two of the oldest Conservation Districts in the State of Wyoming consolidated to form the Washakie County Conservation District in 1990. This combined the Nowood Conservation District, which was formed in 1941 in Ten Sleep, and the Washakie Conservation District, which was formed in 1943 in Worland.

The Washakie County Conservation District is a local government and a governmental subdivision of the state as defined and established by the Wyoming Statutes at Title 11, Chapter 16, et seq., entitled, "Wyoming Conservation District Law".

The Washakie County Conservation District's Board of Supervisors (five members) are elected by the people of Washakie County at General Elections, by popular vote. The elected members represent both the rural and urban population within Washakie County.

Conservation District Board members are the only locally elected board charged specifically with the responsibility of representing local people on natural resource issues. The Washakie County Conservation District's Board of Supervisors employ a Director and an Education Specialist to implement their projects and programs, which are supported by a mill levy, which is voter approved, and by grants.



## Board of Supervisors

Chairman—Dan Rice

Vice Chairman—Vance Lungren

Secretary/Treasurer—Kitsy Barnes

Member—David Nicholas

Member—Reed Lyman

# Public Information and Education

Goal: To share information and educate the public about natural resource issues.

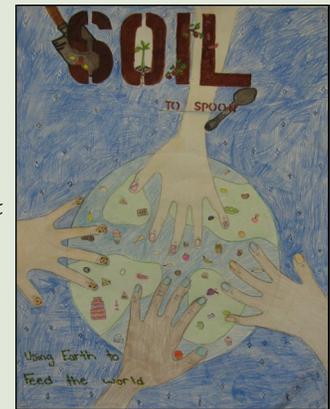


The 2012 Soil and Water Stewardship Week's theme was "Soil to Spoon".

Presentations were made to 2nd and 5th grade students, focusing on the many different ways the food we eat is tied in

to the soil. The students made posters and two of our grand prize posters, were selected as the 2012 WACD

Conservation Poster Contest winners!



Worland High School Advance Biology students conducted their 12th year of the Urban Bat Study. Eighteen students worked with the Wyoming Game & Fish Dept. and WCCD to use mist nets, learning how to identify bat species & record data.



Fourth grade students in Worland participated in a field trip to the Worland landfill, where they learned how the recyclables are processed and about landfill operations.

The students were able to correlate their field trip with their studies of solid waste and recycling.

Third grade students learned about the water cycle with a demonstration and hands-on experiences using WCCD's Enviroscope, and Groundwater models.



## Public Information and Education continued



WCCD staff gave a presentation during two sessions at WESTI Ag Days. Presentations included updating the public of implementation activities within the Big Horn River Watershed Plan over the past five years. Over 30 people were in attendance.

## Tree Program

**Goal: The WCCD will help alleviate and control soil erosion, improve energy flow, improve the water and nutrient cycle within the District, and provide affordable trees to the public and educate them on their beneficial uses.**

WCCD sold 1820 seedling trees this year to local residents, donated 300 seedling trees to Household Waste Collection Day participants, and donated 25 seedling trees to 3rd grade students in celebration of Arbor Day. Informational leaflets on tree planting tips and species characteristics were also provided.



WCCD provided cost share to one landowner for a 300' row of Native Plum to help protect his grape vines from winter desiccation and to also provide habitat enhancement. The project also included a wooden snow fence to protect the shrubs for the first few years of growth, and weed barrier, totaling \$2,254 in cost share.

# Water Quality/Quantity

Goal: The WCCD will strive to maintain and improve the quality and quantity of Washakie County's water through education, technical assistance, Best Management practices (BMP's), and coordination.



The Washakie County Conservation District, using Wyoming Department of Ag grant dollars, have purchased 12 pet waste stations for all of the parks in Worland and Ten Sleep in an effort to reduce the amount of dog waste left behind, which is a health hazard and against Worland's City ordinance.

Five hundred Storm Water Awareness brochures were printed which included information on pet waste hazards, City of Worland Ordinance, proper disposal of household hazardous wastes, trash management, and lawn, garden and landscaping activities.

## On-The-Ground Cost Share Assistance:

Provided cost share to five Washakie County residents for their well water testing totaling \$133.00

Provided cost share to one Ag producer for a pivot sprinkler totaling \$8,000.00

Provided cost share to five homeowners for updating their septic systems totaling \$13,710.00

Provided cost share to three homeowners for smart irrigation controllers totaling \$614.00

# Habitat Enhancement

Goal: The WCCD recognizes and encourages commitment to maintaining and improving the enhancement of habitat by incorporating concerns and proper management in the planning, programs and project of the WCCD.

WCCD administered grants for eradication of Russian olive and tamarisk along Cottonwood Creek, Grass Creek, and the Nowood River. Grant contributions from the Wyoming Natural Resource Trust totaled \$68,672.00 for fiscal year 2012.



WCCD advertised and coordinated the distribution of Wildlife Escape Ramps, which are provided to producers to help prevent birds and other wildlife from drowning in stock water tanks.

# Waste Management

Goal: WCCD will coordinate, support and implement recycling, waste reduction, and proper waste disposal



WCCD conducted their 17th Annual Christmas Tree Recycling effort, which included the collection and chipping of residents trees in Worland and Ten Sleep. It was a large volunteer effort, which included Worland Rotary Club, Ten Sleep Sage Stompers 4-H Club, USDA Service Center



Employees, Big Horn Rural Electric, and individuals throughout both communities.

WCCD, as a partner in the Reduce, Reuse, Recycling Coalition hosted their 6th Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day Event, where paints, batteries, used oil, chemicals, and Freon from old refrigerators were recycled. Approximately 340 residents participated in the event. WCCD financially supported the project at \$5,000.00

## Government Agency Interaction and Coordination

Goal: WCCD will continue to represent local interests in the planning and implementation efforts of local, state, and federal government agencies within the boundaries of the WCCD.

WCCD continues our involvement with the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) and the consulting firms (RESPCE & WWC Engineering) regarding the development of the Bighorn/Greybull River Total maximum Daily Load (TMDL)

WCCD continues our involvement with the Worland Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in their Big Horn Basin Resource Management Plan (RMP). This effort is in conjunction other Big Horn Basin Conservation Districts, County Commissioners, Wyoming Department of Agriculture, Wyoming Game & Fish Department, and the Governors Office.



WCCD continues support and participation for the second year, with other Big Horn Basin Conservation Districts, regarding the Sage Grouse Predation project, which includes gathering data to show the predator-prey relationships and also human activity impacts to Sage Grouse.

## Range and Irrigated Land Management

Goal: The WCCD will promote Best Management Practices (BMP's) for the improvement and continued use of all rangelands and irrigated cropland to sustain agriculture productivity.

WCCD hosted WyRED this year at the Circle J Ranch outside of Ten Sleep. WCCD provided registration fees to four students from the Chief Washakie FFA Chapter and to three Ten Sleep FFA students to attend.

WCCD received a Rangeland Health Assessment Grant for \$20,000 for the Orchard Ranch in Ten Sleep. The project included development of a monitoring plan in conjunction with the Worland BLM office and the Office of State Lands and Investments. Also included in the project was the collection of baseline monitoring and reporting showing documentation of



WCCD contributed cost share of \$10,000.00 to assist with the cost of a Written Pole Motor, a practice to reduce energy costs to run a pivot sprinkler system. When the project was completed by Doug & Michelle Hamilton, the WCCD hosted a tour of the project, which also included touring other WCCD projects; such as the Dog Waste Stations within the Worland City Parks and Mark Stiver's Native Plum shelterbelt.



# Internal District Operations

Goal: The WCCD will carry out duties established by statutes, the local public and Board of Supervisors to maintain a structural, stable and functioning District.



WCCD received honorable mention for our Annual Report 2010-2011, by the Wyoming Department of Agriculture during the WACD annual convention in Lander, Wyoming.

WCCD hosted a Rural Living Workshop in Ten Sleep using a \$1,000 grant received by the Wyoming Small Acreage Team. The workshop was attended by 30 landowners and included topics of Wyoming Water Law, weeds, small acreage grazing, and water well testing information and cost share.



WCCD received an Urban Small Waters Grant from the EPA for \$60,000, which will be to complete an assessment of the City of Worland's storm drain system, including the development of a GIS map, Best Management Practice option identification, and Implementation Plan.

WCCD updated and reprinted 300 Living on a Few Acres in Washakie County publications using Wyoming Department of Agriculture grant funds.

## Internal District Operations continued

WCCD Board and staff reviewed two subdivision plan and provided information, including soils maps on soil suitability for buildings, sewage disposal, road and streets, shallow excavations, lawns and landscaping and unpaved road construction, as per state statute.

WCCD Director, Education Specialist and a board member attend the WACD Area III meeting in Greybull. Chairman, Dan Rice received the Area III Outstanding Area Supervisor.

WCCD developed and printed 500 "Know Your Conservation District" brochures, which describe who we are and what we do.

WCCD's monthly board meeting minutes were provided to the NRCS, Wyoming Department of Agriculture, WACD, Wyoming Board of Ag., Washakie County Planner, Washakie County Commissioners, Washakie County Clerk, Wyoming Legislatures, and the Worland and Ten Sleep Mayors.

In November, the Board of Supervisors took their oath of office.

WCCD continues to update our website and Face book page as needed.

WCCD continued the budgeting of dues for the National Association of Conservation Districts, WACD, Bridger Plant Materials Center, and the Wyoming Conservation District Employees Association.

WCCD Education Specialist continued with assisting local residents with maps for projects and special interest areas, generated using ArcGIS.

Yearly, a budget request to carry out WCCD's programs, is submitted to the Wyoming Department of Ag, WACD, Washakie County Clerk, and Wyoming Department of Audit.

WCCD utilized a one-mill levy, which was passed as a petition recall during the 2002 General Election.

WCCD Board reviewed NRCS conservation plans of local Ag producers for their EQIP, AMA, CSP, and CRP projects.

# Washakie County Conservation District

## Financial Statement—Fiscal Year 2011-2012

### Income - \$314,078

Mill Levy	168,585	Wyoming Wildlife Bat Grant	500
Tree Program	1,029	Special Projects	6,728
Dept. of Ag Grants	31,282	WWNRTF Grants	68,671
Interest Income	1,677	Wyoming Private Grazing Lands	1,000
Reimbursable Income	34,606		

### Expense - \$336,298

#### ADMINISTRATION

Personnel	75,270
Mileage/Meals/Lodging	3,093
Reimbursable Expense	34,606
Office Supplies	3,306
Training	840
Dues	11,627
Postage/Advertising	2,391
Phone/Internet	1,119

#### OPERATIONS

Recycling Program	300
Russian Olive/Tamarisk Program	68,671
Education Program	3,561
Misc. Program Services	2,626
Water Quality Programs	23,651
On-The-Ground Projects	30,620
Vehicle Fuel & Maint. Expense	1,229
Rangeland Health Program	18,000
Resource Library	111
Living Snow Fence Maintenance	583
Meeting Expense/Workshops	985
Projects/Organizations Support	13,690

#### INDIRECT COSTS

Insurance	1,952
Payroll Costs	38,067

**Reserve - \$79,867**