

The Corner Post

The Wyoming Department of Agriculture Natural Resources & Policy Section Quarterly Newsletter



Wy. Dept. of Agriculture
Natural Resources & Policy Section
2219 Carey Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82002-0100

IN THIS ISSUE

Livestock Producers are Grass Producers 1

Community Coloraborative Rain and Hail Study..... 2

Red is the New Green 3

Strategies for Handling Difficult Conversations..... 4

UVAs - New Technology for Rangeland Monitoring..... 5

A New Look at the Coordinated Resource Management Process.....6

Reclamation & Mitigation..... 7

TMDLs - Total Maximum Daily Loads 8

Friend of Agriculture Award Presented 9

Upcoming Events 10

Quotable Quotes

"Camping is nature's way of promoting the motel business."
-Dave Barry

Livestock Producers are Grass Producers

Lisa Reinhart, WDA J10

Grass is grass, right? Wrong. Sure, all of us like to see the green blades flowing in the wind, but what kind of grass is better for livestock production? The answer is that it depends on the climatic conditions where you live. Some grasses provide significantly higher quantities of forage and nutrition than others. If you're a livestock producer, those high quality, high quantity grasses are what add pounds in forage production. So how do you know what grass to manage for and how to do it? You start with knowing your grasses and what each one means to you.



Sandberg bluegrass / Wyoming Sagebrush

Let's talk about some common Wyoming grasses. Sandberg bluegrass is a perennial native bunchgrass and is one of the first grasses to initiate growth in spring and usually matures before the middle of June. It is a small bunchgrass with seedstalks usually less than 10 inches tall and leaves 2-3 inches long. The leaves are flat or boat-shaped with two parallel veins resembling railroad tracks down the middle of the leaf. Although the entire plant is palatable and readily grazed by

livestock, you can see in the photo that it doesn't produce much forage. This plant is known as an "increaser," meaning that in rangeland under heavy grazing pressure or other disturbance, it will increase in abundance. This plant is known as an "indicator species", so if you see more and more sandberg bluegrasses coming into a pasture, the grazing pressure is eliminating or reducing other desirable plants. This plant is more competitive for nutrients and will start to dominate a plant community. Plants like this one have shallow root systems (much like cheatgrass), so it will quickly absorb moisture from a light rain instead of allowing moisture to percolate down in the soil to feed other more productive grasses. Once the soil is dry in that shallow root area, the plant dries up quickly and can just about blow away. Therefore, by July and August, Sandberg bluegrass does not have much forage value for livestock.



Now let's take a look at bluebunch wheatgrass, another perennial cool season

Continued on page 5

Community Collaborative Rain and Hail Study

Guest Article by Lois Van MARK, State Executive Director USDA – Farm Service Agency

Drought is a way of life in Wyoming. Did you know that 20% of our state is considered to be in a drought condition at any given time? In the last eight years drought conditions around the state have intensified to the extent that all counties in Wyoming have experienced some degree of loss associated with drought. Most of Wyoming's reservoir systems went into the winter snow season with record low reserves. There is still time for moisture to fall and help in the 2008 growing season and we need help from volunteers around the state to help record any precipitation events that may occur.

Many variables come together to influence availability of water and water resources in Wyoming. Of course the most obvious of those is the amount of moisture that falls from the sky. Despite efforts from various statistical services around the state, the greatest flaw in really knowing what is happening on the ground in each of our Wyoming communities has been the shortage of reporting stations. CoCoRaHS was organized to address this shortage by developing a structure that will allow trained volunteers to report the amounts of moisture/rain/snow and various other storm events via the internet on a daily basis.



CoCoRaHS stands for *Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow network*. At its inception, the Colorado CoCoRaHS organization, based at the Colorado Climate Center in Fort Collins, hoped to have 1 volunteer or

volunteer family every square mile! There aren't even that many people in Wyoming and we know that not every one is going to want to participate. We also know that rain storms in the spring and summer can be extremely spotty. One area may get a real down pour and the neighboring areas won't get a drop of rain. Therefore, the Wyoming CoCoRaHS organization encourages as many participants as possible. The more volunteers we can have reporting these storms across the state, the more information and data will be generated to reflect the true conditions in the ground in all counties across the state. The resulting data base will aid policy makers and other community leaders as they attempt to mitigate drought effects within communities and to formulate policy directed at addressing losses experienced as a result of drought, or other extreme weather events.



The CoCoRaHS website, found at <http://www.cocorahs.org> offers online training; however, in-person training session(s) can be arranged if enough people are interested in a session in a given area.

Wyoming Farm Service Agency County offices are involved in CoCoRaHS. FSA encourages all Wyoming citizens to go to <http://www.cocorahs.org> to volunteer to be a weather event reporter. The rain gauges offered by the Wyoming CoCoRaHS organization are free of charge. However, contributions are always welcome, as they help further this important effort by enabling the purchase of more rain gauges. Rain gauges can be obtained at your local Farm Service Agency office once you have signed up on line and been given a reporting station name and station number. Please check your local phone listing for the Farm Service Agency office in your area in the government section of your phone book or by visiting the internet at http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wy/county_offices.htm

If any one has questions please don't hesitate to call or email: Lois Van Mark, State Executive Director USDA – Farm Service Agency, (307)-261-5231, lois.vanmark@wy.usda.gov. ✦

Americans with Disabilities Act

To obtain this publication in an alternative format, contact the Wyoming Department of Agriculture at (307) 777-7323.

Red is the New Green

Matt Hoobler, Senior Policy Analyst

Coniferous forests in the West are visually experiencing profound and obvious changes. For decades we've witnessed, and grown accustomed to, a seamlessly never-ending blanket of green trees, with only the occasional timber harvest or wildland fire altering our perception of the hill, mountain or valley. Ironically, this expansive faunistic vista is under attack by one of Mother Nature's own natural armies; the mountain pine beetle.

Mountain pine beetles are attacking green stands of lodgepole, ponderosa, whitebark, limber, and white pines throughout the west. Pine beetles carry a fungus on their body and legs. Upon entering the tree, the fungus multiplies and spreads. This "bluestain fungus" blocks the transport of water up the tree's trunk, and in combination with girdling by the larvae, hastens tree death. Green needles turn red within 10 months of the initial attack, making "red the new green" over much of the forest expanse.

Although pine beetle outbreaks are natural, the current outbreak is a major threat to regional economics and public safety due to its vastness and breadth. The U.S. Forest Service estimates the west will lose 90 percent of all lodge pole pine trees that are greater than five inches in diameter. The increase in dead and downed timber

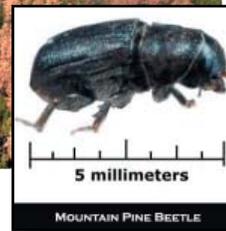
multiplies the risk of wildfire and increases the safety concerns of suppressing those fires. Detrimental impacts are potentially forthcoming on the native fauna and flora, as well as the watersheds, soils, water quality and natural ecosystem succession.

Millions of trees are dying, yet not all is lost. Pine beetle outbreaks remove the over-mature pine from thick stands

and allow other tree species to take over. Species like aspen and willow quickly respond to the increase in available ground water, with grasses and forbs many times returning immediately to areas once hidden by the darkness of the wooded canopy. New pine saplings spring from the duff, adding age diversity to forests; providing an insurance policy against future large-scale multi-landscape disturbance events. Pine

beetles create naturally-shaped openings in forests which over time reintroduces spatial diversity.

In the end, though we experience this change in the health, appearance and ecology of our forests, remember that a stronger and more vigorous forest exists. ✦



More information is available from the USFS at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/mbr/resources/BarkBeetles>



Good Luck To Matt Hoobler

Matt Hoobler recently accepted a new position with the State Engineers office as the North Platte River Coordinator and started on March 25th. We are very sad to see his talents and leadership abilities leave the Wyoming Department of Agriculture, but are very happy for him and really glad that he is still working closely with agriculture in his new endeavors. We will be filling the open Senior Analyst position as soon as possible. In the meantime, if you have any issues that you previously visited about with Matt, please call Leanne Stevenson at (307) 777-6579. ✦

Strategies for Handling Difficult Conversations

Lucy Pauley, Mediation Coordinator

At some point, we are all involved in difficult conversations. We meet with a parent to talk about sharing management of the ranch operation. We confront a coworker about a recent argument involving a shared project that isn't going well. We meet with family members to discuss if it's time to find long-term care for an elderly grandparent. We decide to confront a neighbor about their barking dog.

These conversations are hard to start. We often anticipate that conflict will arise from these conversations. No matter how knowledgeable we are about the topic, the stress and anxiety leading up to it can make the situation even worse.

I recently was introduced to a great book that can help you prepare for a tough conversation. Difficult Conversations: How to Discuss What Matters Most, co-authored by Douglas Stone, Bruce Patton and Sheila Heen of the Harvard Negotiation Project, offers a step-by-step strategy to use before beginning the conversation. Their tips and techniques can help you approach a difficult conversation with less stress and ultimately have a more successful outcome.

The authors explain that all difficult conversations fall into three categories: the "What Happened" conversation, the feelings conversation, and the identity conversation. When starting the conversation, you should stop arguing about who is right but try to understand the other person's story. This doesn't mean that you have to agree with their story, but you should try to listen and ask questions to find out what's really important to them. As you are talking, you have to try to untangle the intent from impact. Intentions strongly influence how we judge the other person. If we think that they are trying to hurt us, we will judge them more harshly than if their actions are just an honest

mistake. During the conversation, you should try to abandon the idea of blame. Instead of thinking about who is to blame for something, you should think "how did we both contribute to the problem?" You also need to be honest about your feelings and ask yourself what's really at stake.

The book covers a lot of material that will really help you think about your next difficult conversations. There are tips on how to raise issues, how to let some of them go and how to acknowledge the other person's issues and feelings without necessarily agreeing with them. The authors also provide several real-life examples that illustrate situations that we are involved in every day. More information on Difficult Conversations can be found online at <http://www.difficultconversations.com/>.

Another option to consider when you are getting ready to have a difficult conversation is to bring in a third-party neutral, usually a mediator, to help you have the conversation in a healthy and productive manner. A mediator can assist both parties in getting their message through to the other person and finding a solution that works for everyone. If you would like more information on mediation or need help finding a mediator, contact me at (307) 777-8788 or lpaule@state.wy.us. †



Photo courtesy of Lyndsay Griffin, WDA



Wyoming Department of Agriculture gets toll free number



The Wyoming Department of Agriculture has established a toll free customer service hotline. By calling 888-413-0114, callers will have the opportunity to voice their concerns or complaints about WDA programs. Upon dialing the number, callers will reach a recorded message. They should leave their name, contact information and a detailed message regarding their concern, and a WDA employee will return their call. Anonymous complaints are accepted.

UAVs – New Technology for Rangeland Monitoring

By Leanne Stevenson, Manager Natural Resources & Policy

Rangeland monitoring is a topic of discussion at most meetings that deal with grazing public lands around the state – even around the country. Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to attend the joint meeting of the American Forage and Grassland Council and the International Society for Range Management meeting in Louisville, KY. Monitoring was a topic of many sessions and posters. Regardless of what part of the world the presenter came from, the message was the same. “It is imperative to monitor rangelands and this is best accomplished in a cooperative effort with the stakeholders involved.”

There is a lot of research being done around the country and the world on rangeland monitoring. The topics presented on monitoring ranged from comparing various methods to how much time it takes to monitor using various methods to the development of new methods for monitoring.



Photo, courtesy of USDA Agricultural Research Service, Jornada Experimental Range, Las Cruces, NM

One relatively new method that is in the infant stage of development is using unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). They have a great potential for rangeland monitoring in the future. Current aerial photography has a coarser resolution (25 cm) while UAV imagery offers a higher pixel resolution of 5 cm. It allows for observation of individual plants, patches, gaps and patterns of vegetation and soil.

Some of the uses suggested for data collected with the UAVs include monitoring vegetation change, determining rangeland health, developing grazing strategies, assessing remediation treatment effectiveness, and conservation effects assessment programs, such as the Natural Resource Conservation Service Conservation Effects Assessment Project. Currently, this method is not ready for large scale use. But, as the UAV technology is refined, it may offer yet another method option for monitoring. ✦

Grass Producers, con't from page 1

bunchgrass. Bluebunch wheatgrass varies from 1-3 feet in height and has a unique look with bending awns (a slender bristle frequently attached near the seed). This grass produces considerable forage and should not be continuously grazed as it will decrease in abundance with grazing pressure.

A grass that is a “decreaser” means that when it is grazed too heavily or under other kinds of pressure, it will get smaller and may eventually disappear from the local plant community altogether. It will be replaced by “increaser” plants such as sandberg bluegrass which is more tolerant to grazing.

You will notice from the picture that bluebunch wheatgrass is a more vigorous plant and in conjunction with its tall structure, has much deeper root systems than sandberg bluegrass. So when drought hits, the roots have more area in the soil to extract moisture and nutrients, leaving this



plant more resistant to dry conditions. You will also notice this plant stays greener much longer into the summer growing season, and the leaves cure well for fall and winter forage. Sandberg bluegrass and bluebunch

wheatgrass are both native perennial bunchgrasses in Wyoming, but would you prefer one over another if you are a cattle rancher? Can you believe that you can actually change the plant community of native rangelands, just by the grazing management and monitoring techniques you use? A livestock producer also needs to be a grass producer, and knowing bluebunch wheatgrass from sandberg bluegrass is just as important as knowing different breeds of cattle. Usually there are only a handful of dominant native grasses that grow in your area and committing them to memory takes little time. Committing to memory two or more species that are decreasers and increasers is all you need to do to understand changes in plant communities. There are a lot of good books to help you identify grasses for your area and you can always talk to your local Extension agent and range specialist for help. After all, growing more pounds of grass means growing more pounds of beef, and that's what affects the bottom line. ✦



Bluebunch Wheatgrass / Sagebrush plant community

A New Look at the Coordinated Resource Management Planning Process

Larry Bentley, Natural Resource and Policy Consultant

The CRMP (Coordinated Resource Management Planning) process has been used with success to manage natural resource issues in Wyoming for almost twenty years. The use of the CRMP in Wyoming has been so successful that other states have looked to Wyoming for leadership in establishing the process.

The success of the CRMP process in solving natural resource issues on private land has led to other groups attempting to modify the CRMP process to fit their natural resource needs. These modified processes may be appropriate for the situation, but they are not CRMPs as the CRMP process is very clearly defined.

The problem lies not in the use of the process, but in the way it is being changed. In their attempts to change and use the CRMP process, the most important and basic first step ensuring success of the CRMP process is being ignored. The LANDOWNERS desire to participate.

"The commitment and dedication of time and resources must come first from the landowner..."

All of the successful CRMP's have succeeded because of the desire of the landowner to participate. The commitment and dedication of time and resources must come first from the landowner, then from others wishing to participate.

I believe that there are four very important steps in forming and keeping a CRMP successful. They are:

1. The landowner must realize that there is a need, and the landowner must have the desire to fix that need. The landowner must be willing to commit the time, resources, and effort, by attending the planning meetings. He must listen to the other stakeholders, and initiate the practices identified and decided on, by consensus of the CRMP as necessary to the natural resource issue.
2. Everyone sitting at the table must be able to make decisions for the stakeholder they

represent. These representatives need to know the boundaries of their stakeholder group, and be able to react within those boundaries. It is the duty of the facilitator to ensure that the representatives are able to make decisions. The facilitator must also allow for only one spokesperson for each stakeholder (example: agencies often send more than one representative, but only one may sit at the table) ensuring that the landowner is not overwhelmed.

The next two steps are not listed as part of the fourteen steps in forming a CRMP, but I believe that they are important to a successful CRMP.

3. Special interest groups, such as, Mule Deer Foundation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Western Watersheds and others do not sit at the table. These groups may attend meetings and comment on planning efforts at the public comment periods, but unless they own land within the boundaries of the CRMP, they are not stakeholders.
4. The facilitator needs to set the agenda for every meeting. It is important to have an agenda that identifies the issues, and establishes a time line for discussion and consensus making. The agenda should be strictly followed, unless it appears that with a little more time consensus on an issue can be reached. If consensus is not going to be reached on an issue, table it for another time. It is very important to show progress at every meeting so that CRMP members feel that the process has forward progress.

The Duncan ranch CRM is good example of a successful CRMP effort. The process handled a controversial issue, using an aggressive timeline, and it had all the necessary ingredients to ensure a successful management plan. The plan when completed received no negative comments when presented for public comment.

The CRMP process is an important tool for management of Wyoming's natural resources. Support from the Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) is very important to the continued implementation and success of the CRMP fundamental process for private landowners to use in identifying natural resource management plans. ✦

Reclamation & Mitigation: “Just Git’r Done”

Don Christianson, Senior Policy Analyst

Do you patiently explain to someone exactly what to do? Or do you tell them “Just git’r done”. Well, that’s the difference between prescription-based and performance-based planning.

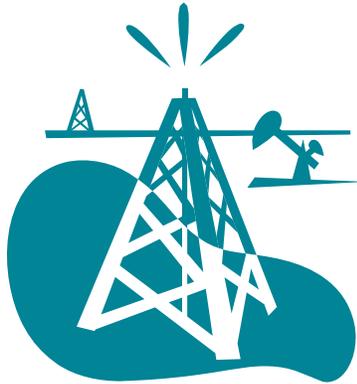
There’s a lot of energy development going on in Wyoming and drilling for gas means surface disturbance. Well pads with drilling equipment, connecting roads and frequent heavy-duty truck traffic, the laying of pipelines, building of compressor buildings, holding tanks, and all of the other ancillary equipment can devastate affected vegetation, soils, and waters.

In the past, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) developed plans that prescribed exactly what the energy operators had to do to reclaim or mitigate those disturbances. The companies then simply had to do whatever the BLM plan told them to do. If the companies did what the BLM told them to do, then the companies were “successful”.

But wait a minute. What about the disturbed soils, vegetation, and waters. Ahhhh, there’s the rub. The proof of success was not successful reclamation and mitigation of the surface disturbance. The proof of success was, simply, did you do what you were told to do. And there were times when the companies did what they were supposed to do, but reclamation and mitigation failed. The companies, rightfully, could claim to the BLM, “Hey, we did everything you told us to do.”

The planning for the Atlantic Rim Energy Development in the BLM Rawlins Field Office area changed that approach. Here, the BLM changed from prescription-based planning to performance-based planning.

The performance-based approach doesn’t spell out what will be done. Instead, it says, “Just git’r done.” In other words, this approach tells the companies the conditions that are expected after successful reclamation and mitigation occurs. It gives them the freedom and incentives to let them do whatever they believe best to achieve successful reclamation and mitigation. The companies then report annually to the BLM and local



and state government cooperators on the status of their reclamation and mitigation efforts.

This performance-based planning can also involve “carrots and sticks”, that is, incentives for successful reclamation and mitigation, and penalties for unsuccessful reclamation and mitigation. For example, year-round drilling may occur with expeditious and successful reclamation and mitigation. Conversely, if surface disturbances prevail and accumulate, drilling may have to cease. For instance, the

Atlantic Rim project planning includes a cap on the total number of acres of surface disturbance that can occur. If that cap is exceeded, then development stops until the surface disturbances created by the energy development are successfully reclaimed or mitigated and the number of acres of surface disturbance falls under the cap.

How successful is performance-based planning? The jury is still out. The Record of Decision for Atlantic Rim was just signed a few months ago and implementation of the plan has just begun.

But we know two things. One, efforts are being made to use performance-based planning for future energy developments. Two, and perhaps most importantly, the goal and objectives are not the planning, but the successful reclamation and mitigation of the disturbances created by the energy developments. Just git’r done. ✦

NATURAL RESOURCES & POLICY SECTION STAFF

Leanne Stevenson, Manager	(307) 777-6579
Don Christianson, Sr Policy Analyst.....	777-6576
Vacant, Sr Policy Analyst	777-7024
Lucy Pauley, Mediation Coordinator.....	777-8788
Justin Williams, Ag Program Coordinator	777-7067
Michelle MacDonald, Administrative Specialist.....	777-7323
Lisa Reinhart, NR Program Coordinator/JIO.....	367-3991
Larry Bentley, Eastern WY Consultant.....	867-2555

TMDLs

Total Maximum Daily Loads

Continuing Efforts to Improve Wyoming's Water Quality

Justin Williams, Ag Program Coordinator

Can I have a T, an M, a D, and an L? Sounds like someone participating on Wheel of Fortune, trying to solve the puzzle for the grand prize. Unfortunately, it's just another acronym. TMDL stands for Total Maximum Daily Load and is an implementation effort under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. Wyoming's Department of Environmental Quality—Water Quality Division (DEQ) has taken primacy and will write TMDLs as an effort to clean up impaired waters throughout our State. The impairment of waters can dramatically alter how an operator makes day to day decisions on their farm or ranch.

Water is a critical component to a successful agricultural operation. The Wyoming Department of Agriculture recognizes this and actively participates in providing written and oral comments to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and DEQ on their proposed rules and regulations. Our most recent effort is participating on the TMDL working group to understand the ins-and-outs of how DEQ will write TMDLs on Wyoming's waters.

Other states have already written TMDLs. However, implementation of those TMDLs is not federally mandated; therefore, in many instances, the water bodies remain impaired. Historically, Wyoming conservation districts have worked hard to address impairments by sampling, planning and implementing Best Management Practices with the help of local watershed steering committees. These locally driven committees were given between 8 and 13 years to improve their local watersheds to a set standard. Despite the committees' efforts, DEQ will begin writing the TMDLs. The future direction of the steering committees and efforts of the districts remains unknown, but many districts may offer assistance in outreach meetings to give landowners and community members the support and centralized location for upcoming meetings and new information. The one thing that is for sure is that the development of TMDLs on impaired waters is inevitable.

Impaired waters are those which no longer support their designated use or classification and may require

a TMDL. Chapter 1, of the Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations contains four classes for surface water quality: Class I, Outstanding Waters; Class II, Fisheries and Drinking Water; Class 3, Aquatic Life Other Than Fish; and Class 4, Agriculture, Industry, Recreation, and Wildlife.

The Use Support Determination is based on scientifically valid, objective and representative data and assessments according to DEQ. A TMDL is written on the 303(d) listed waters; List of Impaired and Threatened Waters and ranked according to high, medium or low priority. The 303(d) list is updated every two years. Waters listed may be a result of pollutants such as sediment, nutrients, pH, metals, pathogens, etc.. Efforts to improve water quality have resulted in the removal of some water bodies, however, many more waters are listed than removed.

Priority list for TMDLs

Gillette

- Fishing Lake
- Hams Fork River
- Wet Fork Battle Creek
- Big Goose Creek
- Beaver Creek
- McCormick Creek
- Soldier Creek
- Kruse Creek
- Ocean Lake
- Haggarty Creek
- Crooks Creek
- Jackson Creek
- Sacket Creek
- Rapid Creek
- Goose Creek
- Park Creek

Each water body assessment indicates the reason for the listing and the TMDL write-up addresses how much pollutant must be removed in order for the water body to meet the designated use and classification. The development of TMDLs is a very complex and a new concept for many of us, including the staff at DEQ. The staff at DEQ created a draft TMDL Development Schedule for 2008 – 2009 for waters they will address. A TMDL will not improve the water quality, but rather serve as a beginning implementation guide. The table of waters above are scheduled to have TMDLs written. This list is scheduled to change, but will give landowners a heads-up if the waters are in their area.

Continued on page 9

Friend of Agriculture Award Presented

The Excellence in Agriculture Awards recognize individuals or organizations with outstanding records of support or service to the Wyoming Department of Agriculture and the Wyoming agriculture industry. The 2007 awards were presented on August 17 at a ceremony during the Wyoming State Fair.

The Friend of Agriculture Award was given by the Natural Resource & Policy Division to a person who has gone above and beyond to promote sustainable agriculture in Wyoming. The division staff nominates a recipient who has worked with the division as well as the Department of Agriculture and demonstrated an expertise and passion for agricultural values.

The 2007 award was presented by Leanne Stevenson, manager of the division, to Helen Jones from Buffalo. Helen is a dedicated landowner and board member to numerous boards. She has tirelessly contributed to substantial positive efforts which benefit agriculture in Wyoming. Her representation and effective voice on many issues is valued by the Wyoming Department of Agriculture, as is her commitment to leadership and participation on local and statewide boards and committees. She was presented with a custom-made belt buckle mounted on a plaque.

Helen dedicates countless hours driving to meetings

and serving on boards, which many others do as a paid, full-time job. As a member of the Board of Agriculture from 2003 – 2007, Helen was instrumental in a number of statutory and long term changes. For example, the term for Board of Agriculture members changed from four to six years, pay for board members changed from \$10 to \$100 per day, and youth members serving on the board changed from advisory to voting members. The Board of Agriculture is a stronger, streamlined board due to Helen's dedication and drive, learning about agricultural issues from the local level upwards.



Photo courtesy of Lyndsay Griffin, WDA

Additionally, Helen has served as an agriculture representative on the Northeast Local Sage Grouse Working Group; was appointed to serve on the Coal Bed Methane Task Force; served simultaneously as a member of the Board of Agriculture and on the Animal Damage Management Board (ADMB); and was the founding Chairman of the Living Legacy Program of the State Fair Park.

Helen has been an amazing voice and representative for agriculture in all aspects. It is crucial to have strong representation of agriculture producers on boards and Helen has been active on nearly all of them. A big thank-you to Helen for your continued dedication and we want to congratulate you on receiving the Friend of Agriculture Award. ✦

TMDLs, con't from page 8

The WDA encourages all Wyoming agricultural producers, land owners, and interested citizens to learn more about water quality and how to collaborate their efforts with watershed steering committees, conservation districts and affiliated agencies to utilize this important resource and improve the water which they use.

This is an important topic, but a complex one. The WDA will continue to track changes by EPA and

DEQ and is open to including comments from producers across the state. Please contact Justin Williams, Ag Program Coordinator in the Natural Resources and Policy Section at 307-777-7067. ✦

To learn more about TMDLs and water quality in Wyoming, please visit:
<http://deq.state.wy.us/wqd/>



Upcoming Events

May 7:	Wyoming Board of Agriculture Conference Call	June 18:	Wyoming Board of Agriculture Conference Call
May 19-22:	Mediation Workshop, Laramie	July 15:	Environmental Stewardship Tour, Pape Ranch, Pinedale
May 21:	Wyoming Board of Agriculture Conference Call	August 9-16	State Fair, Douglas
June 3-4:	WACD/WNRF Spring Board Meeting, Dubois	August 14:	Wyoming Beef Council Meeting, Holiday Inn Express, Douglas
June 3-6:	Wy. Stock Growers Summer Meeting, Casper		
June 4:	Wyoming Board of Agriculture Conference Call		

If you have questions or comments about the information in this newsletter, please contact Michelle MacDonald, WY Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources & Policy section at 307.777.7323 or mmacdo@state.wy.us

Wyoming Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources & Policy Section
2219 Carey Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82002-0100

The Corner Post