



Star Valley Conservation District

FY 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

Mission Statement

It is the mission of Star Valley Conservation District to pursue the wise use, conservation and protection of our natural resources and encourage Star Valley residents to do the same in order to preserve our quality of life.

S V C D Board Members FY 2008

Roger Coles— Chairman
Rollin Gardner—Vice Chairman
Shane Crook—Secretary-Treasurer
Larry Hodgson—Supervisor
Kay Lynn Nield—Supervisor
Leron Allred—Associate Supervisor

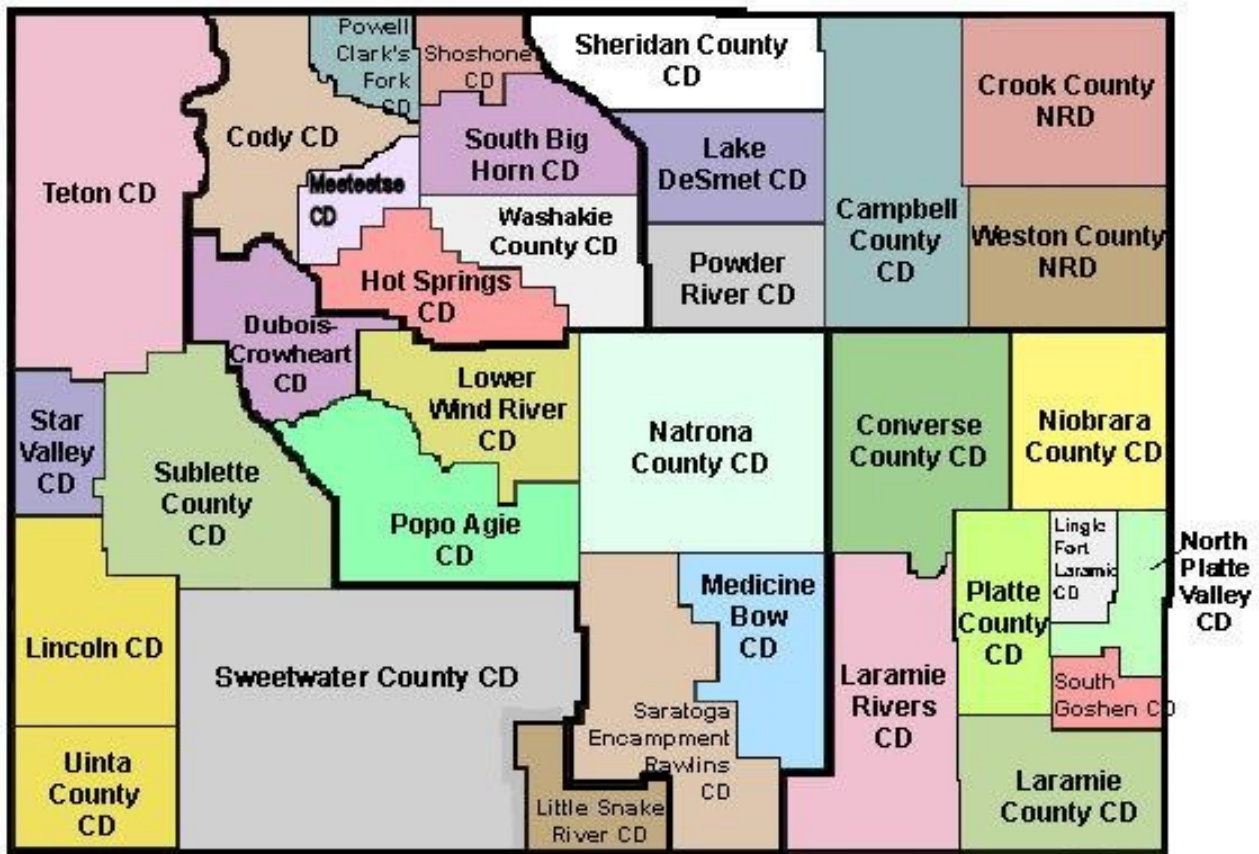
Star Valley Conservation District Staff

Brenda Ashworth, District Manager

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CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Conservation Districts trace their formation to the 1930's when national attention was focused on the soil erosion crisis of the Dust Bowl. From that point, they have evolved to a unit of local government that uses state, federal and private sector resources to solve today's conservation problems, such as water quality issues, urban activities, wetlands protection and enhancement, range conservation and education. While natural resource conservation is a national priority, the guiding philosophy of all Conservation Districts is that decisions on conservation problems should be made on the local level, by local people, with technical assistance provided by government. There are 34 Conservation Districts in Wyoming, each is governed by 5 elected volunteer board members. **Star Valley Conservation District was formed in December of 1941**, and has been working since that time for the wise use and conservation of our natural resources. Funding for SVCD comes from Lincoln County, WY Department of Agriculture and from federal grants for specific projects. NRCS provides technical assistance to the agriculture producers in the District.



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Serving on the **Star Valley Conservation District Board of Supervisors** is Chairman Garry Crook, Vice Chairman Roger Coles, Secretary/Treasurer Shane Crook, and Supervisors Rollin Gardner and Larry Hodgson. Garry Crook retired from the Star Valley Conservation District Board of Supervisor after serving 32 years on the board. Kay Lynn Nield was elected to the SVCD Board in November 2012.

Volunteer supervisors attend monthly local meetings, area and state meetings. They oversee and direct district programs. Supervisors help with water sampling and other district programs. Supervisor time is used as in-kind match for grants from WY Department of Agriculture and WY Dept of Environmental Quality.

Pictured: Shane Crook, Michelle Crook, Garry Crook, Brenda Ashworth, Leron Allred, Rose Allred, Roger Coles, Tammie Gardner, Rollin Gardner.

Not Pictured: Larry Hodgson and Kay Lynn Nield

Financial Statement FY 2011

Revenue

Expenses

Cash from FY 2011	\$59,942.03		
County Appropriation	\$27,000.00	Administration/Education	\$59,364.00
WY Dept of Ag Appropriation	\$8,822.00	Programs/Grants	\$25,128.00
Grants/NRCS/BPA	\$53,719.00		
Subdivision Reviews	\$2,850.00		
Other Revenue	\$408.00		

PERSONNEL

Brenda Ashworth: Brenda was hired by the Star Valley Conservation District as the District Manager in July of 2005. Her duties include bookkeeping, grant writing, subdivision reviews, implementing the Salt River Watershed Plan, water sampling and monitoring. She has lived in Star Valley for nine years.

Brenda has a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology and is experienced in many areas of environmental assessments and studies, which qualifies her to do the subdivision reviews that she is being required to do in the District. She has knowledge of soils and erosion and has made excavation pits (even in a blizzard where it was hard to see the bottom of the pit) to analyze the soils in the proposed subdivisions. She is a trained and qualified water sampler, has set up a lab and is in charge of the water sampling testing for the district.

Brenda works with Lincoln County Planning and Zoning in relation to septic systems and storm water runoff from subdivisions that help protect our water from contamination.



SUBDIVISION REVIEWS

The SVCD provides natural resource information and recommendations to the Lincoln County Office of Planning and Zoning for each subdivision. District Manager, Brenda Ashworth, conducts site visits and reviews the property for surface water, ground water, land forms, drainage, soils, wildlife and storm water concerns.

The SVCD works closely with Lincoln County Weed and Pest. (LCWP). LCWP conducts a noxious weed inventory for each subdivision. This information is provided to the Lincoln County Office of Planning and Zoning. Weed control is made a 'condition of approval' for the subdivision and an improvement bond between \$1,000 and \$4,000 is held by the county for weed control.

Subdivision Review Fees:

Simple Subdivision— 2 lot split - \$200

Minor Subdivision— 3 to 5 lots - \$300

Major Subdivision— 5 to 10 lots - \$500

**SVCD reviewed 19
subdivision in
FY- 2012.**

SALT RIVER WATERSHED UPDATE

In 2002, the Salt River appeared on the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality's 303(d) List of impaired water-bodies. Specifically, that section of the Salt River for an undetermined distance upstream and downstream of the Etna Gauging Station (3.4 miles NW of Etna), on Table C, Water-bodies with Water Quality Threats, listed as threatened for recreational contact by fecal coliform. In 2008, the Salt River was listed on Table A (impaired) of the 303(d) list. In addition, Stump Creek was added to Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality's 303(d) List of impaired water-bodies on Table A in 2008..

Tasks completed as part of the Salt River Watershed Plan include development of the Star Valley Conservation District Website (www.starvalleycd.org), Adopt-the-Salt River, Storm Water Education Workshops, and annual water sampling activities.. Sampling was conducted between May 3 and October 2, 2012. Samples were collected on 16 days during the sampling period resulting in 208 samples collected and analyzed for *E. Coli*. from the 10 regular sampling sites on the Salt River and Stump Creek during the 2011 sampling season .

The Salt River is schedule for TMDL development starting in 2013.

Since the stream impairment in Star Valley is due to Non-point Source (NPS) Pollution, all land users must work to improve water quality.



EDUCATION

Star Valley Conservation District Education and Media Events

Thayne Elementary (grades k-3) and Etna Elementary (grades 4-6) Science fairs. Students from each grade submitted projects using the scientific method to answer questions. Approximately 150 students participated in the science fairs.



EDUCATION

Etna Elementary Enrichment Express – Star Valley Conservation District personnel conducted four after school enrichment classes for Etna Elementary 4th to 6th grade students. Topics included dairy and paper recycling. Students visited a dairy and made cheese. Students used recycled paper to make ornaments.



Etna Elementary students used Wyoming Ag in the Classroom Dairy Shoppe curriculum to learn about the history of the dairy industry and run their own Dairy Shop. Students marketed and sold dairy products to students and teachers. Students went on a field trip to a local dairy to milk cows and feed calves.



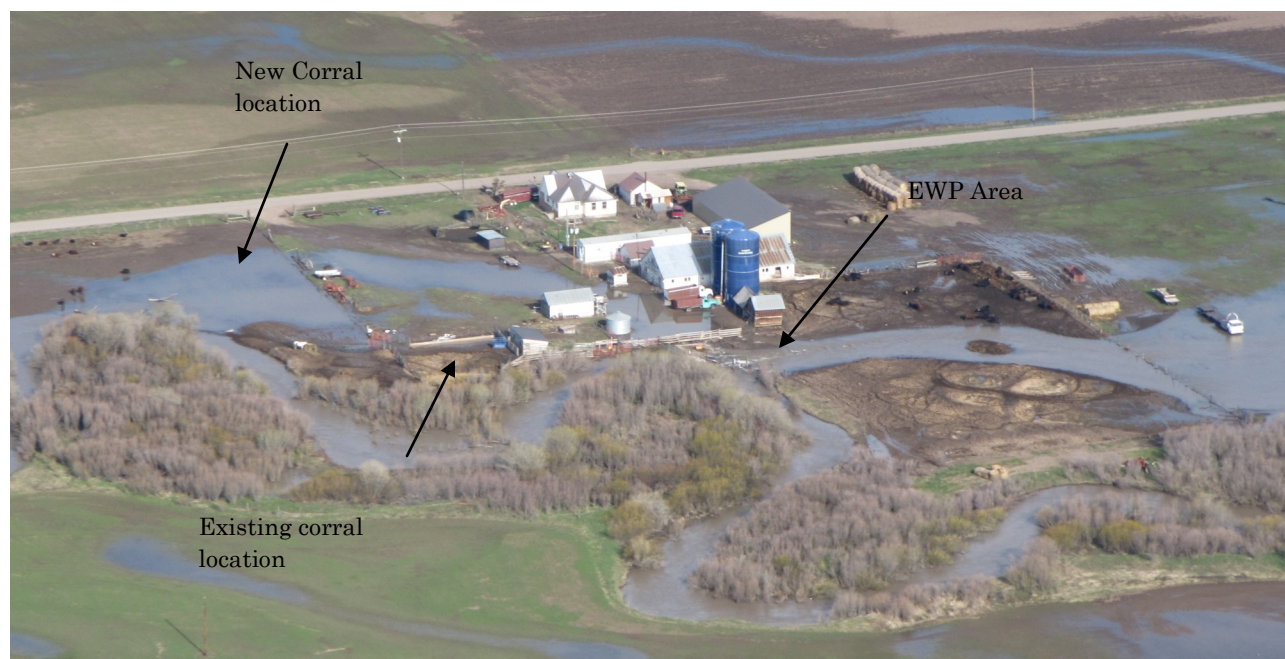
OTHER ACTIVITIES

Agricultural Efficiency Program—Star Valley Conservation District, Lower Valley Energy, Bonneville Power Administration and High Country RC&D have partnered on a program to promote agricultural efficiency in the Lower Valley Energy Service area. Lower Valley Service area includes parts of eastern Idaho (Bonneville and Caribou Counties) and western Wyoming (Lincoln, Teton and Sublette Counties). The program provide irrigation customers with an energy audit and incentives toward the goal of reducing producers energy use by 10%.

Bridger Teton Forest Resource Advisory Committee—Brenda Ashworth serve as Chairman for the Bridger Teton Resource Advisory Committee (RAC). RAC met during winter of 2012. The purpose of the RAC is to improve collaboration among forest users and provide advice to the Forest Service about projects to invest in the land and create employment opportunities. Funding for RAC projects (approximately \$120,000) is from Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act. Bridger Teton RAC reviewed 15 proposed projects and recommended funding 11 of those projects.

Flooding

Star Valley experienced extensive flooding during the 2011 spring run off. SVCD, NRCS and Wyoming Game and Fish worked with Lex Porter on an Emergency Watershed Protection project. The Porter property was hit hard by the flooding in the spring of 2011. Flooding resulted in a significant loss of animals and damage to property. During the flooding, the corral was surrounded by floodwater with no way to access or remove animals. Lex Porter, NRCS and SVCD cooperated on an Emergency Watershed Protection and Rehabilitation (EWP) project to stabilize and rehabilitate the bank on Tin Cup Creek. Lex Porter, NRCS and SVCD recognized the need to relocate the existing corral. NRCS designed the corral, grading and location. The corral relocation project met the NRCS standards and specifications. The corral was con-



NRCS REPORT

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is a Federal agency that works in partnership with the American people to conserve and sustain our natural resources. NRCS works with landowners through conservation planning and assistance designed to benefit the soil, water, air, plants, and animals that result in productive lands and healthy ecosystems. NRCS services can include direct assistance to urban and rural landowners, technical assistance to local units of government, technical and financial assistance to ranchers, farmers, and other agricultural producers in the county. The NRCS also cooperates with the other Federal and State agencies located in the valley on a wide variety of issues.

NRCS Farm Bill programs available to Star Valley Landowners:

CSP-Conservation Stewardship Program: Program that encourages producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner by: Undertaking additional conservation activities and improving, maintaining, and existing conservation activities.**EQIP-Environmental Quality Incentives Program:** Provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers through contracts up to a maximum term of ten years in length while addressing local resource concerns. (See conservation priorities below)

GRP- Grasslands Reserve Program: Helps landowners and operators restore and protect grassland, including rangeland and pastureland, and certain other lands, while maintaining the areas as grazing land.

FRPP- Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program: Provides funds to farmers and ranchers to preserve their agricultural land. The program provides matching funds to State, Tribal, and local governments and non-governmental organizations, who have farmland protection programs to purchase perpetual conservation easements. USDA provides up to 50 percent of the fair market easement value of the conservation easement, while the cooperating partners provide at least 25 percent of the acquisition price.

WHIP- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program: Provides assistance to people who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat on private lands.

WRP- Wetland Reserve Program: Program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property.

NRCS REPORT -CONTINUED

Conservation Priorities/Resource Concerns for Lincoln County 2012:

Irrigation Water Management/Water Efficiency, Water Quality, Vegetation and Land Health (Including noxious weeds and forest health), Soil Erosion, and Wildlife.

NRCS Lincoln County Staff:

Gary Blazejewski- District Conservationist- (307) 279-3256

Dayle Funka- Soil Conservationist- (307) 886-9001 X:109

Wade Payne- Civil Engineering Technician-(307) 279-3256

Maureen Meagher- Soil Conservation Technician-(307) 886-9001 X:108

COOPERATING AGENCIES & ORGANIZATIONS

STAR VALLEY CONSERVATION DISTRICT would like to thank the following agencies and organizations for their support of our programs and assistance they provide to us for our common goal of the conservation and wise use of Star Valley's and Wyoming's precious natural resources.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Farm Service Agency

Rural Development

Forest Service

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Bonneville Power Administration

Geological Survey

LINCOLN COUNTY

Commissioners

Planning and Zoning Office

Weed & Pest

Extension Service

School District No. 2

WESTERN WYOMING RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

WYOMING WATER DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

STATE ENGINEER'S OFFICE, WATER DIVISION NO. 4

STATE FORESTER

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS OF STAR VALLEY

LOWER VALLEY ENERGY

STAR VALLEY LAND TRUST

TROUT UNLIMITED