



Star Valley Conservation District

FY 2013 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
Garry Crook—Associate Supervisor

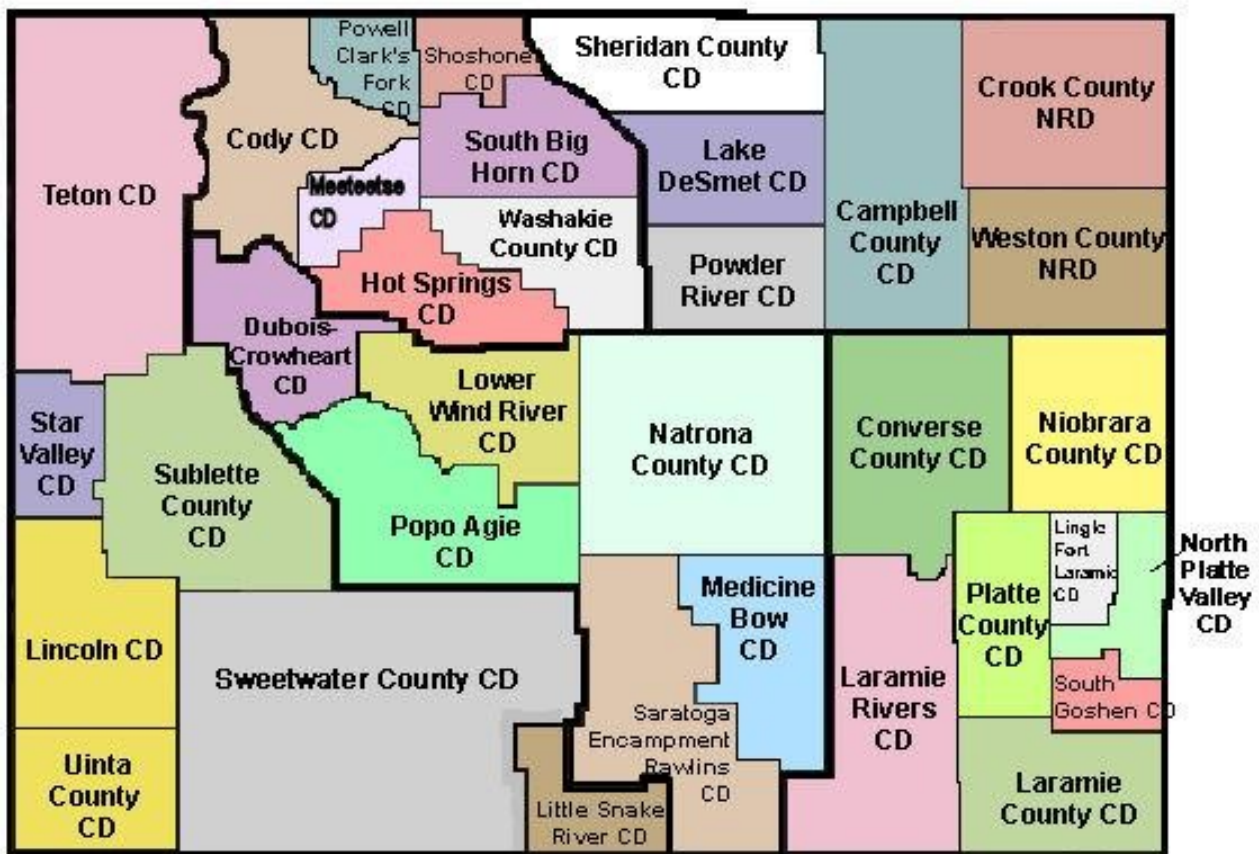
Star Valley Conservation District Staff

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 Roger Coles, Vice Chairman Rollin Gardner, Secretary/Treasurer Shane Crook, and Larry Hodgson and Kay Lynn Nield. Garry Crook retired from the Star Valley Conservation District Board of Supervisor after serving 32 years on the board and was appointed as an associate supervisor.

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.

Financial Statement FY 2013

Revenue

Cash from FY 2012	\$39,638
County Appropriation	\$27,000
WY Dept of Ag Appropriation	\$8,822
Grants	\$81,090
Subdivision Reviews	\$5,600
Other Revenue	\$379
	\$130,638.66

Expenses

Administration/Education	\$48,513
Programs/Grants	\$47,007

Cash Balance 06/30/11 \$89,941

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 12
subdivision in
FY- 2013.**

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 29 and August 27, 2013. Samples were collected on 15 days during the sampling period resulting in 196 samples collected and analyzed for *E. Coli*. from the 10 regular sampling sites on the Salt River and Stump Creek during the 2013 sampling season .

The Salt River is schedule for TMDL development starting in 2013. Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality has issued a Request for Proposals for the Salt River TMDL. Proposals are being evaluated and contractor will be selected. WDEQ anticipates starting the TMDL process in February 2014 with completion by September 2015.

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



Thayne Elementary second grade students used the **Enviroscape** to learn about water quality. Powdered drink mixes and food coloring were used by the students to simulate pollutants used by a small town. The Enviroscape model allows students to visually understand how nonpoint source pollution affects water quality



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%. A total of 27 energy audits were conducted on irrigation systems as part of the program. Implementation of recommended energy savings measures included installing variable frequency drives on pumps, installing new nozzles, gaskets and drains on irrigation systems. Implementation costs for irrigators were eligible for cost-share through Lower Valley Energy and Natural Resource Conservation Service.



Variable frequency drive and transducer installed as part of the Agricultural Efficiency Program

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 \$90,536) is from Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act. Bridger Teton RAC reviewed 15 proposed projects and recommended funding 10 of those projects.

Septic System Cost-Share Program: SVCD personnel conducted three septic system workshops. The workshops covered general information on septic systems design, installation, maintenance and repair. The workshop addressed septic system environmental concerns and land planning issues. Sixty-five people attended the workshops. People who attended the workshops were then eligible to receive a \$100 cost-share rebate on septic system pumping and inspection. To date 35 septic tanks have been pumped and inspected as part of this program.

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

Lincoln County Planning and Zoning Office

Lincoln County Weed & Pest

UW Extension Service

Lincoln County 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

IRRIGATION DISTRICTS