



# Star Valley Conservation District

## FY 2014 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  
Kay Lynn Nield—Supervisor  
Jeff Johnson—Supervisor  
Garry Crook—Associate Supervisor

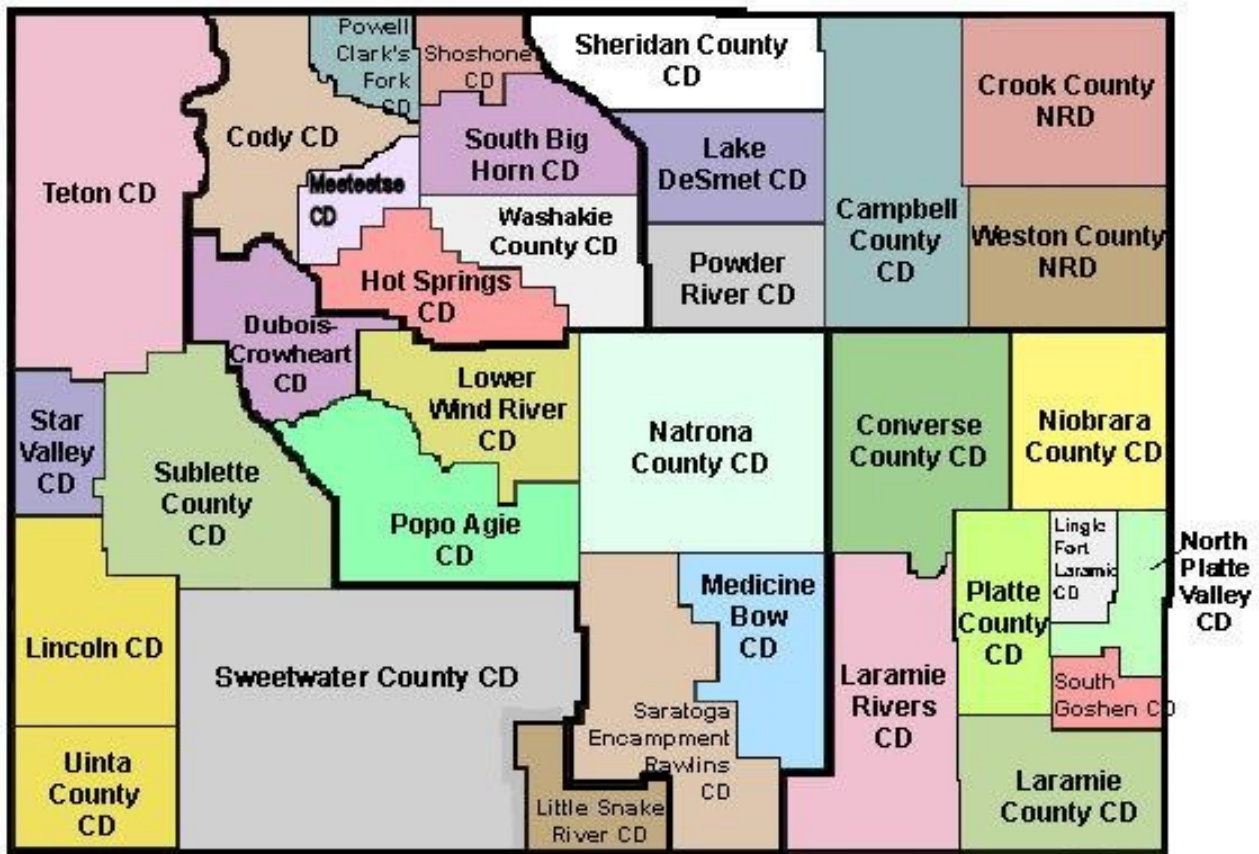
### Star Valley Conservation District Staff

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, Kay Lynn Nield and Jeff Johnson. Garry Crook serves 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 2014

### Revenue

Cash from FY 2013	\$89,941
County Appropriation	\$25,000
WY Dept of Ag Appropriation	\$8,823
Subdivision Reviews	\$1,650
Other Revenue	\$6,802
	\$133,216

### Expenses

Administration/Education	\$57,438
Programs/Grants	\$19,508

**Cash Balance 06/30/14**                      **\$57,105.66**

## 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 6  
subdivision in  
FY- 2014.**

# 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](http://www.starvalleycd.org)), Adopt-the-Salt River, Storm Water Education Workshops, and annual water sampling activities.. Sampling was conducted between May 6 and July 30, 2014. Samples were collected on 10 days during the sampling period resulting in 153 samples collected and analyzed for *E. Coli*. from the 10 regular sampling sites on the Salt River and Stump Creek during the 2014 sampling season .

The Salt River is schedule for TMDL development. Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality has issued a Request for Proposals for the Salt River TMDL, proposals were evaluated and contractor has been selected. WDEQ anticipates completing the TMDL process in 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 Middle School and Swift Creek High School students used the **Envision Septic System Simulator** to learn about water quality. Red colored water was used by the students to simulate septic waste. The Septic System model allows students to visually understand how non-point 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



### **Rangeland Health Assessment Program**

Star Valley Conservation received grant funding from the Wyoming Department of Agriculture to provide range monitoring on four grazing allotments on the Bridger-Teton National Forest. The program assisted with monitoring on the Spring Creek, Little Greys, Grover-Blaney and Forest Dell Allotments. These allotments account for 58,740 acres of public land.

### **Bridger Teton Forest Resource Advisory Committee**

Brenda Ashworth serve as Chairman for the Bridger Teton Resource Advisory Committee (RAC). RAC met during winter of 2013/2014. 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.

### **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. One hundred and ninety people attended the workshops or viewed the education materials online. Of those, 88 applied for and received cost share funding.

## **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