

Star Valley Conservation District



Annual Report FY-2017/2018



Star Valley Conservation District

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.

Board of Supervisors

Roger Coles— Chairman

Rollin Gardner—Vice Chairman

Jeff Johnson—Secretary-Treasurer

Shane Crook—Supervisor

Daniel Erickson—Supervisor

District Staff

Kay Lynn Nield, District Manager

Financial Statement FY 2017/2018

Revenue

Cash from FY 2017	\$49,058
Lincoln County Appropriation	\$50,000
WY Dept. of Ag Appropriation	\$8,823
Subdivision Reviews	\$11,050
Grazing Workshop Fees	\$760
WY DEQ 319 Funds	\$24,032
Interest Earnings	\$152

Expenses

Administrative	\$52,997
Operations	\$67,591
Cash Balance 06/30/18	\$19,228

This information comes from the F-32 submitted to the Department of Audit 9/18/18



Salt River Watershed

In 2002, the Salt River was placed on the Wyoming 303(d) list. A 7.5-mile segment of the lower section of the Salt River does not support its designated recreation use because of high counts of the pathogen-indicator bacteria *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*). Stump Creek, from the confluence with the Salt River upstream to the Idaho border, also violates the *E. coli* criteria. The Star Valley Conservation District worked with Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality and Tetra-Tech on the Salt River Watershed TMDL and Salt River Watershed Restoration Plan. Total Maximum Daily Loads were prepared for the Salt River and Stump Creek and are presented in the Water Quality Restoration Plan and *E. coli* TMDLs Salt River Watershed, Wyoming (Tetra Tech, 2015).

E. coli load reductions of up to 60 and 66 percent are necessary in the Salt River and Stump Creek, respectively, to achieve water quality standards. The Salt River Watershed Restoration Plan (SRWRP) provides a framework to initiate voluntary activities within the Salt River watershed to reduce *E. coli* loading from all sources and pathways to achieve water quality standards. The SRWRP represents the proposed activities for the first three to five years of implementation and contains the essential requirements of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to achieve improvements in water quality.

Water Quality

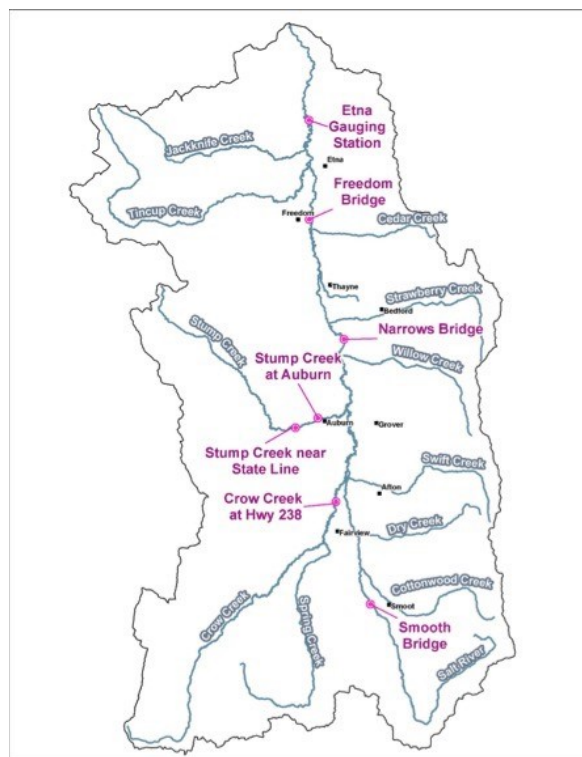
319 Grant - SVCD applied for and received a Section 319 Grant for implementation of the Salt River Water Shed Restoration Plan. Phase I of the 319 grant includes conducting septic system care and maintenance classes, providing cost-share for septic pumping and replacement. Phase I also includes funding for off-stream watering projects such as fencing, corral relocations, well drilling and trough installation. During 2018 SVCD conducted 4 Septic Seminars and provided cost-share for pumping septic systems. SVCD drilled 2 wells and one water trough for off stream watering. SVCD fenced off 1 mile of Stump Creek with electric fence and water gaps.



Water Sampling - With the development of the TMDL and Salt River Watershed Restoration Plan the annual water quality sampling program was changed to a long-term trend monitoring program.

Annual sampling consists of collecting samples from five sites on the Salt River, two sites on Stump Creek and one site on Crow Creek (see map).

SVCD staff collected E. Coli and basic water quality parameters at each of the sampling locations during the 2018 sampling season. Sampling was conducted from May 2018 to October 2018.



Rangeland Health Assessment – Star Valley Conservation District contracted Y2 Consultants from Jackson, Wyoming to conduct rangeland monitoring on three grazing allotments on the Bridger-Teton National Forest. Monitoring was conducted on Big Greys, Dry Creek and Strawberry allotments. These allotments account for 46,407 of public land. Star Valley Conservation District staff, allotment Permittees and Forest Service Personnel assisted Y2 Consultants with rangeland monitoring. The final reports were completed in December 2017 and this project is now complete.



Greys River Forest Collaborative - SVCD and Lincoln County applied to Wyoming State Forestry for funds under the Forest Collaboration Assistance Program in 2016. The Greys River Forest Collaborative started in November of 2016 with a series of meetings through 2017 and 2018. Ruckelshaus Institute at the University of Wyoming has facilitated the meetings with collaborative members. In 2018 we had 4 meetings. The Collaborative then presented the Greys River Ranger District / Bridger-Teton National Forest with recommendations to improve forest health in the Greys River. Greys River Ranger District is working to implement projects related to the recommendations of the Collaborative. Through this process the Joint Chiefs grant was applied for with the Forest Service and NRCS to fund projects in the Salt River Watershed and Salt River Range.

NRCS - In 2018 NRCS worked with agricultural producers in Star Valley to upgrade existing irrigation systems. Star Valley Conservation District is working with NRCS, Wyoming Game and Fish, and Trout Unlimited on restoration projects on Swift Creek which is a tributary to Salt River. This will improve fish habitat and provide bank stabilization.

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.

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts
Bridger-Teton National Forest Service
Lincoln County Commissioners
Lincoln County Planning and Zoning Office
Lincoln County Weed & Pest
University of Wyoming Extension Service
Wyoming Department of Agriculture
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
Wyoming State Forestry Division

