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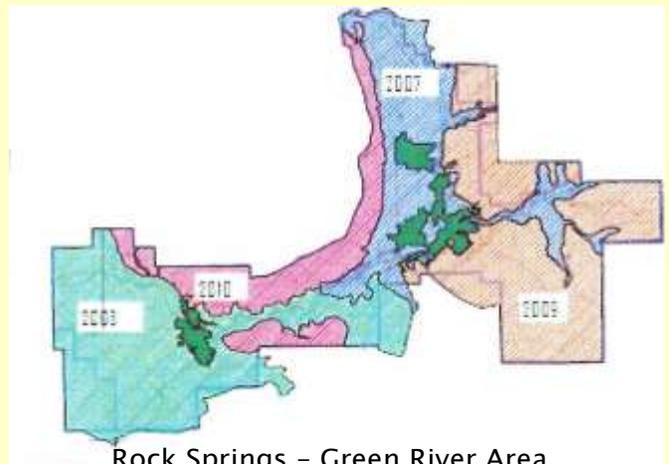
Mission Statement – Provide for the conservation of the soil, and soil and water resources of Sweetwater County, and for the control and prevention of soil erosion and for flood prevention or the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water, and thereby to stabilize ranching and farming operations, to preserve natural resources, protect the tax base, control floods, prevent impairment of dams and reservoirs, preserve wildlife, protect public lands, and protect and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people of this County.

County Soil Survey Update

The Sweetwater County Conservation District (SWCCD) hosted on May 1, 2008 a soil survey workshop that focused on updating the north and west growth management areas. The purpose of the soil survey is to accelerate the completion of all the lands within Sweetwater County. Soil data is needed to assist landowners and land users with planning and implementing measures for conserving and protecting natural resources and planning for community development. To date 162,691 acres have been mapped in Sweetwater County in the 2008 fiscal year. The district has to date spent and budgeted \$115,000 for Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to complete this portion of the project

Land and Resource Use Plan and Policy

The District adopted its plan entitled *SWCCD Land and Resource Use Plan and Policy* in May 2005 (SWCCD LRUPP). These goals and the related policies and actions form the basis for the comments and actions taken with respect to public and National Forest System lands. The SWCCD Land and Resource Use Plan and Policy (LRUPP) provides goals, objectives, and policies for federal land



Rock Springs – Green River Area
Soil Mapping Plan

resource management. The Wyoming BLM Resource Management Plans (RMPs) provide programmatic guidance that must be followed for each grazing permit, allotment, right-of-way, or new oil and gas lease. The RMPs also adopt travel management criteria and close large areas of public lands to off-highway vehicles.

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Subdivision Reviews

Sweetwater County has statutory planning, zoning and land use responsibilities. The SWCCD will provide written and/or verbal comment as is necessary, regarding planning, zoning and land use designation/change issues as those related to our district's statutory policy, guidance, duties, and powers as provided in WS § 11–16–101 et seq. and WS § 18–5–301 et seq. The district has 60 days to review and comment on a proposed subdivision review. Within this review the district will consider soil suitability, erosion control, sedimentation and flooding problems.

While reviewing these subdivisions the SWCCD will typically work with the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) using their Soil Surveys and mapping data. Over the course of the 2007–2008 fiscal years SWCCD has commented on a total of 45 subdivision reviews.

Energy Development

The SWCCD plan generally supports mineral and energy development. “Goal 1: Encourage suitable mineral and energy resource exploration and development in the County, while conserving rangeland, soil, and water resources.” SWCCD LRUPP at 29. Energy development and extraction of minerals is part of the county’s custom and culture. *Id.* Goal 2. This support for energy development and the retention of the businesses is qualified by two other goals, which require that energy development occur with full compliance with applicable state and federal laws, *Id.* at 30, and that development “Protect the rights of land owners and surface owners so that mineral development can proceed consistent with the District's mandate to conserve rangeland, soil, and water resources.” SWCCD LRUPP at 30.

Water Rights

The District plan supports protection and use of water rights and water resources. Goals 1 and 2, LRUPP at 32. The Plan adopts equally strong support for protection of water quality and protection of water resource development. *Id.* at 33, Objective 2A (“Ensure that land use inventory, planning or management activities affecting point or nonpoint sources and water quality in Sweetwater County, either directly or indirectly, are coordinated through the District and are consistent with the Plan.”)

Vegetation Management

The District Plan provides as its first vegetation goal: “Goal 1: Encourage and facilitate restoration of the forage resource that comes as a result of surface disturbance from oil and gas, utilities, and recreation.” LRUPP at 48. Under the District plan, vegetation is to be managed by identifying desired plant communities, *Id.* at 48, conducting Level III soil surveys to determine capacity of site, *Id.*, and managing soils “to maintain productivity, minimize erosion, protect private and public water reserves, water quality, limit severe and critical erosion by restricting or mitigating surface disturbance so as to minimize soil erosion, and to restore degraded areas.” LRUPP Objective 5C at 49. Control and eradication of invasive species and noxious weeds are equally important. SWCCD LRUPP at 50 “Support eradication, to the extent possible, of noxious weeds within Sweetwater County. [See Appendix Tab J, 2003 Declared List of Weeds and Pests, Wyoming Weed and Pest Control Board, as amended.]” This policy extends to undesirable species, such as halogeton, and encroachment of conifers and woody species into sage grouse habitat. *Id.* at 51.

Livestock and Grazing

The District plan recognizes that livestock grazing is an essential part of the custom and culture of Sweetwater County. LRUPP at 51. In keeping with its statutory direction, the District plan calls for supporting the use of lands within the county for livestock grazing, and managing rangeland to maintain and enhance vegetation and water resources. See Policies 1–3, 9, *Id.* at 53, 54.

Wildlife and Habitat Management

The District’s plan also recognizes the importance of fish and wildlife to the county. SWCCD LRUPP at 56. “Support the maintenance and improvement of wildlife habitat in order to sustain viable and harvestable populations of big game and upland game species, as well as wetland–riparian area habitat for waterfowl, fur–bearers, and a diversity of other game and non–game species without sacrificing forage for range and agriculture interests and, further ensuring that wildlife management and habitat objectives reduce and/or avoid conflicts with other multiple uses.” and “Support preservation and enhancement of the fisheries resource in the County.” *Id.* at 63 The plan recognizes that fish and wildlife management must be supported by scientifically credible and quality data and that identified conflicts among respective land uses need to be resolved rather than choosing one land use over the other. *Id.* at 58 “Support scientifically–based and peer–reviewed management of wildlife resources in the County to meet the multiple–use desires and objectives and the conservation of rangeland resources, soil, and water while respecting the legal grazing rights of ranching and agriculture interests and meeting other multiple use objectives, including mineral and energy development.”

The need for credible data and resolution of land use conflicts is equally true for sensitive or species listed under the Endangered Species Act. *Id.* at 79, Objective 1H (“Encourage cooperation between private landowners and local, state and federal governments to most effectively achieve protection of endangered and threatened species, rather than imposing land–use restrictions and penalties.”) and Goal 4 (Support conservation plan initiatives as an alternative to listing the sage grouse with the added condition that the respective conservation plan include criteria to evaluate existing data and science and to evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed conservation measures.”).

Access and Travel Management

The District recognizes the importance of access, including historic roads and trails, to Sweetwater County. SWCCD LRUPP at 21–25. The plan supports historic routes that are necessary for ranching, farming, mineral extraction and recreation, including R.S. 2477. *Id.* Goal 1 at 23. Resolution of rights–of–way and access should occur through coordination with local governments, landowners, and the affected state and federal agencies. *Id.* at 23, Goal 3 (“Develop a coordinated approach to the issues of roads and rights of ways with local, state, and federal agencies and private landowners.”) The District also supports identification and protection of public rights–of–way while respecting private property rights, where the roads are not public. *Id.* at 24–25, Policies 2, 4, 5.

Resource Management Plan Comments

Pinedale RMP: SWCCD wrote detailed comments on the draft RMP and DEIS and filed a protest, in conjunction with the other affected counties and conservation districts. The issues raised in the protest included: (1) failure to provide for mandatory coordination and consistency with local government plans; (2) failure to provide for recreation access, particularly ATVs and snowmobiles; (3) failure to provide program direction that addressed cases where grazing allotments did not meet range health standards due to other factors; (4) imposition of restrictive visual classifications that interfere with range and conservation projects needed to meet and maintain range health; (5) adoption of scenic river status that interferes with the exercise of existing water rights; and (6) failure to follow withdrawal reporting procedures when closing large areas of public land to oil and gas leasing.

Kemmerer RMP: The SWCCD through the CLG also provided comments on the DEIS and preliminary FEIS; and on the proposed areas of critical environmental concern. As in the Pinedale RMP, the SWCCD filed a protest of the proposed RMP to address (1) special management area designation that interfered with Lincoln County's planned expansion of a ski area; (2) adoption of off-highway vehicle (OHV) limited and closure areas that interfere with public access and county road rights; (3) imposition of restrictive visual classifications that will prevent new range improvement projects and burden valid existing rights; (4) recommendation of wild river designations that interfere with the exercise of existing water rights; (5) adoption of WGFDD standards and population objectives without regard to the long-term impacts on habitat capacity, meeting range health standards, or interference with range improvement projects; and (6) large scale closures of land to oil and gas leasing, notwithstanding existing leases.

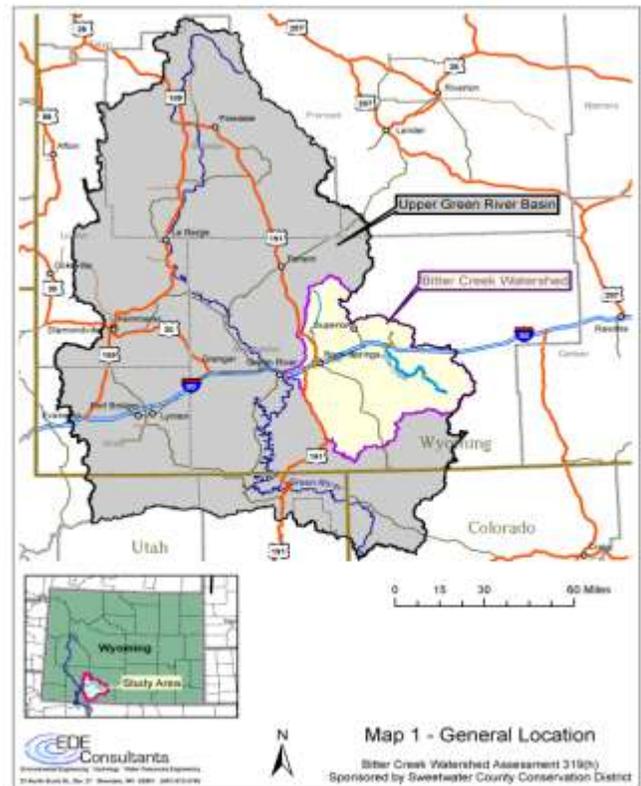
Rawlins RMP: SWCCD through the CLG has protested the Rawlins RMP to address major issues that conflict with local government's plans, programs and policies as well as forwarding major local government consistency issues to the Federal Lands Office. The Rawlins RMP also imposed large visual restrictions and identified habitat management areas where livestock grazing use is subservient to wildlife habitat. The RMP limited the size of livestock reservoirs to one acre feet in order to stymie specific water development projects as well.

Lander RMP: In conjunction with BLM, SWCCD through CLG has developed and provided comments on the goals and objectives, and now on proposed alternatives. The comments are focused on ensuring that livestock grazing remains a major multiple use with the tools to continue for the duration of the new plan.

Water Quality

The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality reviewed the existing water quality data on Bitter Creek and Killpecker Creek and found bacteria and chloride impairments. SWCCD sponsored the watershed study as part of a process to improve water quality. The purpose of the study was to assess the condition and classification of the watersheds and water quality, with the goal of achieving regulatory compliance while educating the community, in order to use a locally led process to develop a watershed plan to maintain and/or improve watershed health. The watershed study objectives were to collect water quality and quantity data to assess the listed impairment for fecal coliform and collect data with respect to E. Coli in anticipation of future water quality standards based upon this organism, to better define the extent and location of the impaired reaches of both Killpecker Creek and Bitter Creek for bacteriological parameters; to collect water quality and quantity data to assess the listed impairment for chloride and collect data with respect to E. Coli in anticipation of future water quality standards based upon this organism; to collect Beneficial Use Reconnaissance Protocol (BURP) data including sampling for micro invertebrates to assess the biological and chemical condition of the streams. SWCCD also intends to document other aspects of the physical, biological and chemical condition of Bitter Creek and Killpecker Creek.

The final Bitter Creek and Killpecker Creek Watershed Plan was completed and mailed to interested parties and cooperators. Copies of the plan are available at the SWCCD office. A ground water and supplemental sampling plan was also implemented and two years of ground water sampling is in progress.



Upper Green River Basin Watershed
and
Bitter Creek and Killpecker Creek Watershed

Joint Water Quality Monitoring On Big Sandy & Little Sandy Waters

Due to an increase in oil & natural gas exploration and development in Sublette & Sweetwater counties, the Sublette County Conservation District, in conjunction with the Sweetwater County Conservation District, will collect baseline chemical, biological and physical surface water quality data on the Big and Little Sandy Rivers in Sublette and Sweetwater Counties. The project will continue through 2012.

Bitter/Killpecker Creek Watershed Advisory Group

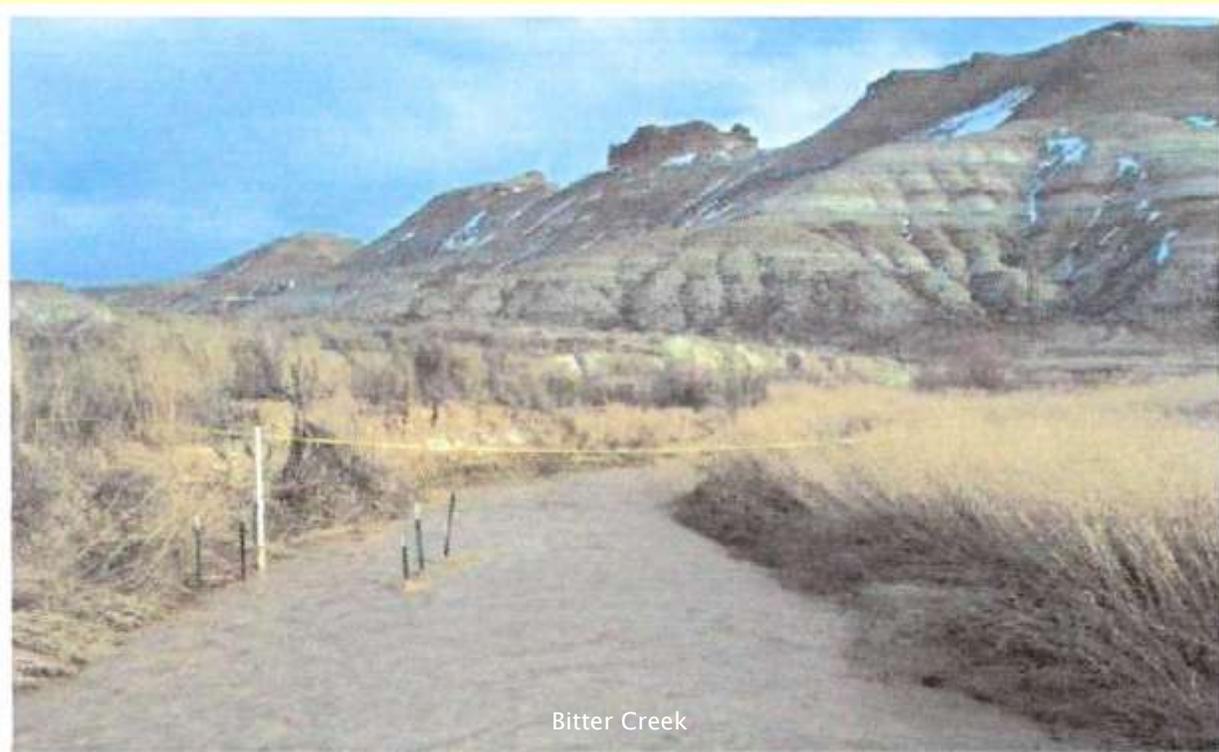
The District has endorsed the formation of the Bitter Creek Killpecker Creek Watershed Advisory Group (BKWAG) to develop this locally led, voluntary and incentive based watershed management plan to improve water quality while preserving the economic sustainability of agricultural, Industrial, and municipal operations within the Watershed. The BKWAG is comprised of local landowners, industrial, representatives, community leaders, government land managers, as well as representatives from the City of Rock Springs and Sweetwater County. An objective of the BKWAG is to address the impairments based on science, and sound land use planning at the watershed scale, while maintaining community values and culture.

In March of 2008 a meeting was held with representatives from Federal, State and County agencies. They gathered together at the White Mountain Library in Rock Springs, Wyoming. Environmental Design Engineering (EDE) gave an update on the watersheds in respect to water

quality. EDE also gave a presentation on surface and ground water monitoring.

Bobbie Frank (Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts) and Bruce Nelson (Environmental Design Engineering) updated the meeting group on the 303(d) Clean Water Act for fecal chloroform and chloride in Bitter Creek. BKWAG Implementation updates included: soils surveys, septic issues, noxious weeds, milestone table, County Health Department Reports and Use Attainability Assessment.

Landmark Design gave a presentation on the Bitter Creek Reconstruction Plan & Design. The two purposes of the plan are to reduce the flood plain and transform the creek into a community asset. Stan Cooper Senate District #14 addressed the meeting on the legislative process and funding issues. The meeting ended with an open discussion and common goals. Another meeting will be scheduled before the end of 2008.



Bitter Creek

Conservation Programs

Seedling Tree Program

SWCCD enables farmers, ranchers, and other land owners to obtain seedling trees at a nominal cost for conservation purposes. The District offers a selection of species that are hardy, with a high survival rate despite the extreme climate conditions of Sweetwater County. The trees are used to create windbreaks to reduce wind velocities and damage, reduce energy costs, control drifting snow, sand and soil, provide noise screening, erosion control, wildlife habitats, and generally improve otherwise marginal lands.

The District provided over 2600 trees of various species for conservation planting this year. SWCCD is able to assist in sponsoring trash collection efforts by donating matching funds to the Ray Lavato Recycling Center for the Trees for "Trash Program". The District applauds the recycling center, City Employees, and Dave Lewis, Associate Supervisor, for their conservation efforts.

The purpose of the tree program is to encourage landowners to plant effective wind barriers, protect cropland, feed lots and for erosion control.

These trees cannot be resold as living trees, or be used in ornamental plantings. You must own at least 2 (two) acres of land to participate. Watch for your 2009 tree order form in December of 2008, and get your orders in early for spring planting!!!!



Tree Seedling Display

Forest Service Management Issues

Management issues involving National Forest System planning and related environmental documents and projects have evolved a little differently, in part due to ongoing litigation challenging the planning rules and revisions to those rules. Land use planning on the National Forest System has been delayed or suspended. The court in *Citizens for Better Forestry v. Johanns*, 481 F. Supp.2d 1059 (N.D. Calif. 2007) enjoined the Forest Service from implementing the 2005 revisions to the 2001 planning rules and remanded the case for compliance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Forest Service issued revised planning rules in March 2008 that it believed conformed to the court order. 73 Fed. Reg. 21468 (2008). The plaintiffs filed suit again alleging that the planning rules will harm endangered or threatened species and the Forest Service failed to consult with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Forest Service is now implementing the revised planning rule absent an injunction from the Court.

When the Forest Service began the plan revision process in Region 4, it decided to follow the 2001 rules, as revised, and to write a plan without an EIS. Recently, we learned that Region 4 of the Forest Service is apparently considering not revising or rewriting the plans but merely proposing amendments.

When you put your hand in a flowing stream, you touch the last that has gone before and the first of what is still to come."

– Leonardo da Vinci

Bridger Teton National Forest

CLG which includes SWCCD as a member has sent correspondence requesting transportation planning and cessation of unilateral road closures as well as correspondence strongly objecting to the unilateral cancellation of grazing permits. SWCCD through the CLG has focused on protecting public transportation systems and livestock grazing allotments. Access for recreation and grazing has been sharply reduced through the use of categorical exclusions where the Forest Service adopts the decision without any public notice or comment. This process is controversial and under review by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Ashley National Forest

The Ashley National Forest has addressed the planning problem by dividing the plan process into smaller pieces that could be severed from the plan revision. The classification of Wild & Scenic Rivers is addressed in a Utah–statewide EIS. Transportation, including closing roads and trails, is being handled in a separate EIS. Comments were written for the DEIS for Wild and Scenic Rivers as well as for the Transportation EIS. CLG evaluated the proposed road / trail management and review and commented on the base condition report.

The Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area is considered part of the ANF and the planning issues to date have been dealt with as if it were part of the National Forest. If the Forest Service proceeds to only amend the plan, as is now being proposed, the District will focus on recreation access and maintaining livestock grazing operations. The NRA was established in the 1960s and most of the access roads predate its establishment. Keeping these roads open and ensuring that any county roads are recognized has been a major priority.



Sweetwater County Commissioner, Wally Johnson and SWCCD Chairman Mary Thoman at the United States Forest Service, Bridger Teton Forum

More Ashley National Forest

The SWCCD entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) concerning Wild and Scenic River Suitability Studies in Utah. Other cooperators are the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Intermountain Region on behalf of the Ashley Dixie, Fishlake, Manti–LaSal, Uinta and Wasatch–Cache National Forests. The Forest Service proposes to complete the process for considering potential scenic, wild, and recreational river area on the National Forests in Utah under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The purpose of and need for this study is to assess whether or not eligible river segments should be recommended for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Systems. The Conservation District will provide the Forest Service with special expertise and comments regarding inventories, assessments and reports completed in association with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Suitability Study.

Education and Outreach

What's Killing the Trees?

The Native mountain pine beetle, no bigger than a grain of rice, is responsible for killing millions of acres of pine trees in the western United States. The fast-moving beetle epidemic is bigger than any other in Central Rockies history.

Why?

This beetle epidemic was triggered by an extended drought, warmer winters, and aging forests. The resulting weak trees are perfect habitat for beetles, causing their populations to explode. As you travel through the forest, you may see entire landscapes turning red and brown as trees die.

How?

Beetles bore into trees, lay eggs, and introduce a blue stain fungus which blocks the flow of water and ultimately kills the tree. Adult beetles emerge from infested trees the following summer, traveling up to several miles to attach new trees. What is being done?

Although the beetle epidemic cannot be stopped, steps are being taken to lessen the impacts. Foresters are able to protect some

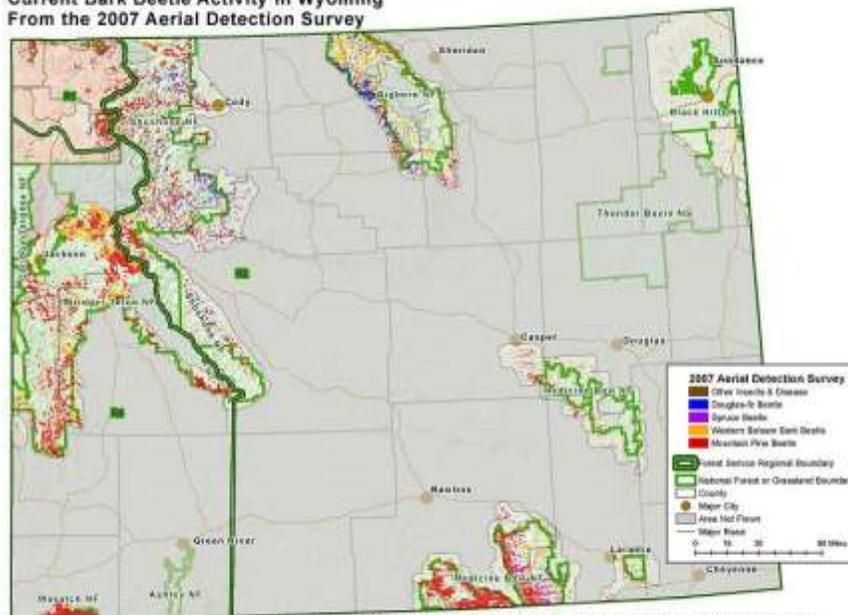
high value area, such as homes and campgrounds, by removing recently infested trees and using insecticides on individual trees.

What about fire danger?

This significant change in the forest landscape will influence fire behavior. The U.S. Forest Service, other agencies, local communities, and property owners are working together to remove dead, dying and hazardous trees. This will help protect people, roads, trails, power lines, campgrounds, other facilities and critical watersheds.

Critical Watersheds – Sweetwater County is within the Colorado River Basin drainage and receives most of its fresh water from surrounding mountain ranges currently infested with pine beetles. The Bridger-Teton and Ashley National Forest as well as Little Mountain and Pine Mountain are affected. Fourteen percent of Wyoming's total landmass contributes to the Colorado River System and from these forest headwaters. The Green River main stem collects most of the water which then flows through Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area and supplies hydro-electric power at the dam on its way downstream to merge with the Yampa and Colorado rivers. Critical watersheds are dependent on healthy forests.

Current Bark Beetle Activity in Wyoming
From the 2007 Aerial Detection Survey



Education and Outreach



Sweetwater County Students

Sweetwater County Resource Rendezvous

The Sweetwater County Conservation District took part in the Southwest Wyoming Resource Rendezvous, an activity geared towards the youth of Sweetwater County. This event provided a unique opportunity to educate students, teachers, and the public on economic, social and environmental issues. The district got a chance to be creative during this two-day event, setting up a booth that featured kid-friendly educational activities by letting the children make wildlife tracks in the sand. The students also learned about the need for soil and water conservation. This event was a great resource for the children to learn more about the Conservation District and its focus on conservation efforts.



SWCCD Display Table

Sweetwater County Home & Garden Show

The District was once again involved in the 2008 Sweetwater County Home & Garden Show.

The show was held on April 18, 19, and 20th. This event provided the County an opportunity for residents to be introduced to business and products in Southwest Wyoming. Partners on this project included Farson Weed and Pest and the University of Wyoming Extension Office. Informational pamphlets on seedling trees, polymer, planting, and soil erosion, were handed out. Drawings for baskets, trees, and plants were done throughout the event. Education on plants, trees, weeds, watering and other helpful tips were provided to county residents. The District would like to thank everyone for coming out and enjoying the show!

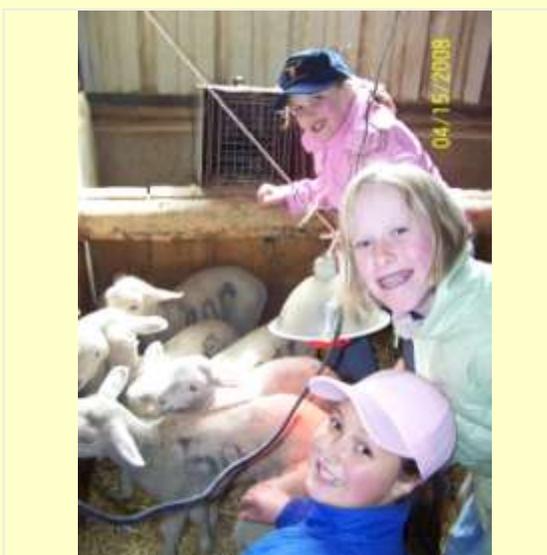


Cora Bortello (L) UW Ext. & Master Gardener
Karen Pecheny (M) SWCCD District Clerk
Denise Wehster (R) Farson Weed and Pest



Southwest Natural Resource Roundup

Part of the Resource Rendezvous was introducing the agricultural side to the students of Sweetwater County. Over the course of two days several of the ranches participated in showing the students of grades first through fourth the workings of a real ranch. The pictures below are from the Thoman Ranch near Fontenelle, Wyoming. The trips are designed to promote real experiences and help them understand where their food and clothing materials come from.



State Convention

The Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts and the Wyoming Natural Resource Conference was held at the Parkway Plaza Hotel & Convention Centre in Casper on December 2–6 2007. Supervisors and staff attended the four day event. Some of the convention highlights included natural resource sessions, 2007 Farm Bill updates, education, training, committee meetings, annual awards and a live auction.



Tom Burris, Mary Thoman and Randy Shipman
Attending Convention

Meetings

The Area V Meeting

The *Area V Meeting* was hosted by Star Valley Conservation District in Thayne, WY in September 2007. Sweetwater, Lincoln, Star Valley, Sublette, Teton and Uinta County Conservation Districts attended. Training was held for staff and Supervisors. Shawn Sims of Uinta County was elected for Area V Director. All six Districts took a tour of the Smoky Canyon Phosphate Mine.



Smoky Canyon operations during 1982

Bridger Teton National Forest Meeting

SWCCD hosted public outreach on minerals and recreation for Bridger Teton National Forest Plan Revision in April, 2008. The SWCCD has been working cooperatively with Forest Service personnel and other interested parties on the Bridger Teton National Forest Plan Revision.

Local Resource Advisory Group Meeting (LRAC)

The Local Resource Advisory Group made up of landowners, various agencies and natural resource interests in Sweetwater County meets at least annually. The LRAC assisted in identifying natural resource priorities for the County at the August 7, 2007 meeting. Soils and water and watersheds were identified as the major priorities.



Jean Dickinson and Jack Lytle
Attending Convention

“It is our task in our time and in our generation, to hand down undiminished to those who come after us, as was handed down to us by those who went before, the natural wealth and beauty which is ours.”
–John F. Kennedy

Land Planning

Coalition of Local Governments (CLG)

The CLG is a voluntary association of Southwest Wyoming local governments that was formed to guide and develop public land policy in the affected counties and conservation districts and to facilitate the respective roles of its members as cooperating agencies in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for land use plan revisions and other projects. The purpose of the CLG is protect the rural economies of the member counties and

- to prevent the taking of property rights by state or federal agencies without payment of just compensation and to prevent the erosion of the private land base;
- to promote and support timber, wildlife, recreation, water, mineral extraction, grazing and rights of way along with any other appropriate use of public lands;
- to promote and support management within the concept of multiple use and sustained yield;
- to promote and support outcome-based management on public lands;
- to promote and support habitat improvement over protective management for wildlife and plant species;
- to support and fund scientific studies to address controversies that arise in federal land use areas, including biological, wildlife, mineral/geology, and economics; and
- to use the collaboration and comment process for the federal land use plans and related land use projects to educate the federal officials regarding the custom, culture, and history, and the interrelationship of natural resources and the communities to the scientific studies developed above.

Sweetwater County

The economy and social structure of

Sweetwater County is directly tied to public land management within Sweetwater County and the surrounding Counties. Over 70% of Sweetwater County is federal land.

The District has broad authority to provide for the conservation of the soil, and soil and water resources of Sweetwater County, and for the control and prevention of soil erosion and for flood prevention or the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water, and thereby to stabilize ranching and farming operations, to preserve natural resources, protect the tax base, control floods, prevent impairment of dams and reservoirs, preserve wildlife, protect public lands, and protect and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people of this County.

The land use decisions throughout Southwest Wyoming directly affect Sweetwater County due to the fact that many companies and businesses that rely on public land uses and resources throughout the planning area are based in Sweetwater County. Sweetwater County is home to many of the energy businesses and related service industries that operate in Sublette County. A significant percent of the industry employees live in Sweetwater County, either because their offices are located in Sweetwater County or because the employees find available housing in Sweetwater County rather than Sublette County. The lack of affordable housing in Sublette County results in many Sweetwater County residents commuting to work sites in Sublette County.

Land Planning Cont'd

The District and CLG provided comments on the following Resource Management Plan (RMP), Environmental Assessments (EA) and Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) during the past year.

USDOI –Bureau of Land Management

- Kemmerer RMP
- Lander RMP
- Pinedale RMP
- Rawlins RMP
- Vernal RMP
- Moxa Arch EIS
- Continental Divide Creston (EIS)
- Pine Mountain Gravel Pit EA
- South Jonah EA
- Tommy James Sand & Gravel EA

USDA Forest Service

- Ashley National Forest
- Ashley Wild & Scenic Rivers
- Bridger Teton National Forest

Other

- Wolf Plan
- Big Horn Sheep
- Brucellosis
- Adobe Town

Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) The District has several MOU's with different entities:

- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Soil Survey and Technical Assistance
- USDOI – Bureau of Land Management
- USDA Forest Service
 - Wild & Scenic River Suitability Studies in Utah between SWCCD and USDA Forest Service
 - Ashley National Forest Travel Plan
- Eden Valley Irrigation & Drainage District
- Upper Green Flaming Gorge (Tri-State) Watershed
 - An agreement between United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), NRCS agencies for Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming

Service Agreements

- Little Snake River Conservation District
 - Allows the Little Snake Conservation District to provide technical assistance and capacity building expertise to Sweetwater County Conservation District.

EIS and ES Comments

Pinedale Anticline Supplemental EIS: The SWCCD comments through CLG focused on conservation district's role in monitoring implementation of the field expansion and effectiveness of mitigation, addressing mitigation for agriculture operations, and ensuring that other important impacts such as housing and commuting needs are addressed.

Hiawatha Regional Energy Development EIS: The SWCCD comments through the CLG have addressed revisions to the second and third preliminary draft DEIS. The work has focused on protecting ranch operations, effective reclamation, habit restoration, and resolving wildlife and habitat conflicts.

Moxa Arch Infill EIS: SWCCD through CLG commented on alternatives and mitigation needs as well as three sets of comments on the DEIS, revised alternative and preliminary FEIS. Like the Hiawatha Project, the efforts have focused on effective reclamation, restoring, resolving conflicts, and protecting ranch operations while allowing energy development to proceed.

East LaBarge Environmental Assessment: SWCCD through CLG has submitted scoping comments on a proposal to expand a gas field.

Devon Energy Environmental Assessment: SWCCD through CLG submitted scoping

EIS and ES Comments Cont'd

comments on an Environmental Assessment for gas wells in Sweetwater County.

South Jonah Environmental Assessment:

SWCCD through CLG submitted scoping comments in the proposal to ensure that mitigation was effective in allowing energy operations to proceed.

Big Sandy Work Group

The Big Sandy Working Group continues to work on the monitoring phase of the Big Sandy River Project. The group formed in 1996 with the goal of preserving and enhancing the riparian areas and the water quality of the Big Sandy River from Farson to its confluence with the Green River. Members of the working group include the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, livestock grazers utilizing the four grazing allotments bordering the Big Sandy River, concerned citizens and other affected parties. It is coordinated by the District.

A 10-year and 50-year vision of the desired condition of the Big Sandy River Corridor was developed early in the process. Agreements were initiated and a working plan put in place to enhance and preserve the riparian areas and the fisheries in the river. Several rock sills were installed to raise the water table, deepen water pools in the river and provide habitat for fish. An electric fence was installed along the river to aid in the control of cattle and sheep without endangering wildlife. Several water wells were drilled and are producing in the uplands to encourage better use of these upland areas by livestock and wildlife.

The Big Sandy River Corridor Monitoring Plan was finalized and published in 2002. On site monitoring of the river corridor is currently being done with a spring review of the area for winter use primarily by wildlife and detailed measurements of key woody and herbaceous vegetation after the growing and summer use season in the fall.



Lee Splett, Associate Member and Liaison to Big Sandy Working Group, and Chairman Mary Thoman Monitoring Rangeland along Big Sandy River.

Elected Supervisors



Mary Thoman – Board Chairman

Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative – Executive Committee representative for seven SW Wyoming counties—a special federal initiative to provide for habitat improvement projects in the heavily mineral impacted SW Wyoming counties (see wlci.gov for more)

CLG Executive Committee – A Coalition of Local Governments consisting of six county commissions and six conservation districts in SW Wyoming (Sweetwater, Lincoln, Carbon, Fremont, Uinta, and Sublette). The CLG meets monthly to review federal plans and projects. They work with a legal, technical, economic, and wildlife team of experts to draft comments for forest and Bureau of Land Management plans and projects.

Big Horn Sheep working Group –Former Governor Geringer and Senator Thomas assisted the group of interested individuals and organizations in the initial stages. A Big Horn –Domestic Sheep Plan for Wyoming was developed and approved by the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission. Numerous protocols were developed for the Wyoming Game and Fish and others to follow when dealing with big horn sheep. The group was instrumental in obtaining a research component for Wyoming domestic–wildlife disease issues. The Legislature provides funding. The group meets annually to discuss the latest research and anything related to big horn sheep. (Plan is available on the WG&F web site)

Big Sandy Working Group – Federal livestock grazing permittees, interested parties, and the Bureau of Land Management have met for over ten years to address wildlife and domestic livestock issues along the Big Sandy River. A 50 year vision and monitoring plan have been developed. Wyoming Water Development small project funding was matched with permittees and BLM funds to implement a series of projects including nine upland wells, three reservoirs, two pipelines and riparian corridor electric fencing. Five riparian sites are monitored in the fall and spring to measure use levels by livestock and wildlife. Fencing provides for summer rest in hopes of promoting willow growth along the river.

Cumberland Steering Committee – This group of individuals representing livestock, mineral, Bureau of Land Management, water, wildlife and interested public have been meeting for almost twenty years. It is a cooperative working group that provides for monitoring and projects in the Cumberland Allotment of Southwest Wyoming (over 450,000 acres).

Liaison on Bridger–Teton National Forest Plan Revision, Big Horn Sheep/Domestic Group, Kemmerer and Lander BLM RMP planning meetings, Moxa Arch EIS Cooperator Meetings and Big Sandy Monitoring and Working Group



Tom Burris – Board Vice–Chairman

Eden Valley Irrigation District
Appaloosa Horse Club membership
Seedling Tree Program Supervisor Liaison



Jean Dickinson – Board Secretary

Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts – Area V Director and Vice President

Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation – Currently Board member

Coalition of Local Governments

Bitter Creek Killpecker Creek Watershed Advisory Group – Co–Chair currently implementing the Bitter Creek and Killpecker Creek Watershed Plan.

Cooperating Agency to the Hiawatha EIS – Served as the liaison for the District

Ashley Forest Revision Plan – Serves as the liaison for the District

Elected Supervisors Cont'd

Wild and Scenic Rivers EIS – Serves as the liaison for the District

Ashley Transportation Plan EIS – Serves as the liaison for the District

Lander Resource Management Plan – Alternate to the meetings.

Daley Allotment Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – Serves as the liaison between the affected conservations districts, Rawlins Field Office, and Wyoming Game & Fish Department.

Tri-State MOU – Sweetwater Wyoming, Moffat County Colorado, and Daggett County Utah and the State NRCS for Wyoming, Colorado and Utah. – Serves as the liaison for the District

Continental Divide Creston EIS – Serves as the liaison for the District



Barbara VanMatre – Board Treasurer

Volunteered at the District office helping out with administrative and financial duties during shortages of office personnel.

Retired 2007 Superintendent of Sweetwater County (SWCO) School District #2

Served on SWCO Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees for 2 terms

Currently on Board of Directors of Trona Valley Federal Credit Union

Currently on City of Green River Planning and Zoning Commission

Currently working part time for the City of Green River

City of Green River Council Member Walker recognized Barbara VanMatre for her outstanding community service and continued contributions to the citizens of the City of Green River, by demonstrating exceptional leadership and active public service.



Bob Slagowski – Rural Supervisor

Cedar Mountain Grazing Association – Serves as a member and liaison for the District

Local Sage Grouse Working Group – Serves as a member and liaison for the District

People's Canal – Serves as a member and liaison for the District

District Staff Personnel and Consultants



Dwight Bliss – Technical Coordinator

Started out as a part time volunteer for the district reorganizing their file system. After a couple of months he was hired on as a fulltime Technical Coordinator. He helps out with the districts computer issues and currently is working on updating the Land and Resource Users Plan and Policies documents, Dwight comes from a Computer and Facilities Engineering background and worked for Eastman Kodak Company for over 32 years.



Karen Pecheny – District Clerk

Started with the District in October 2007

Administrative Duties which include – Administrate daily, monthly, quarterly and annual records and reports for the District. She attends Board, Area V, committee, staff meetings, Conventions and various applicable training.

Budgeting and Maintain files and daily business

Tree Program Coordinator – oversee tree sales and distribution

Education and Outreach Coordinator

Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts employee certified

Karen comes from a background in sales and bookkeeping.



Randy Shipman – Consultant

Randy provides assistance in identifying potential Wyoming Water Development Projects.

Helped with coordination of Eastern Sweetwater County and Little Snake River Conservation District.

Attends meetings on Ashley National Forest, Green River Basin Advisory Group, and Area V

Assist in the Natural Resource Conservation Service Soil Survey

Assist the Board on Federal Plans and Reclamation

Review the District's Land Resource Use Plan and Policy



Tim Morrison – Consultant

Tim is the Non-Renewable Resource Coordinator who works for the Little Snake Conservation District. Currently, the SWCCD and Little Snake have agreement to utilize Tim and his expertise in the Southeastern portion of Sweetwater County. Tim has been identifying projects in this area and helps implement them and bring them to completion.

Budget

Budget 2007-2008 Budgeted

Expenditures

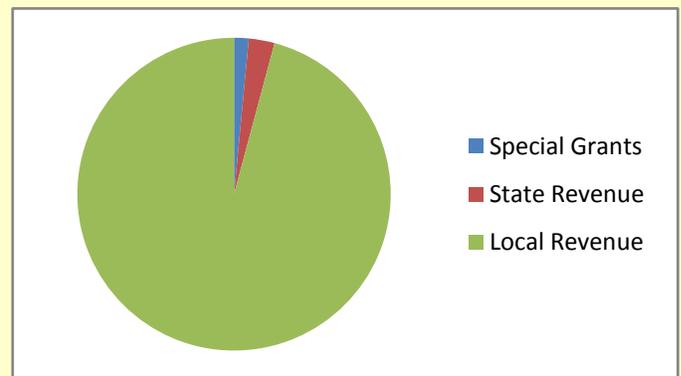
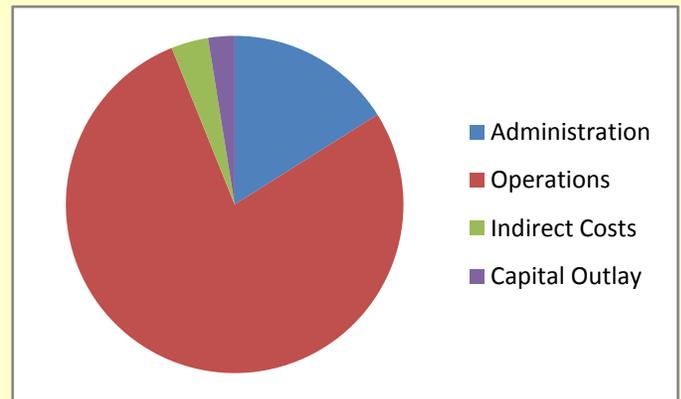
Administration	\$ 63,506
Operations	\$307,880
Indirect Costs	\$ 14,059
<u>Capital Outlay</u>	<u>\$ 10,000</u>
Total	\$395,445

Budgeted Revenue

State Revenue	\$ 8,824
Special Grants	\$ 5,000
<u>Local Revenue</u>	<u>\$ 317,342</u>
Total	\$ 331,166
Cash Available EOY	\$ 74,279
Reserves	\$ 10,000

The Annual Budget Hearing for the Sweetwater County Conservation District was held at 9:00 July 20, 2007 at the Conservation District Office.

SWCCD Budget Amendment Hearing was held on June 5, 2008 at 6:00 PM and the Sweetwater County Conservation District's Office



A Thanks to Our Cooperators

Anadarko
 Associate Board Supervisors
 Big Sandy Working Group
 Bitter Creek and Killpecker Creek Watershed Advisory Group
 BP of America
 Bureau of Reclamation
 City of Green River
 City of Rock Springs
 Coalition of Local Governments
 Colorado State Forest Service Nursery
 Conservation Restoration and Seeding
 Department of Agriculture
 EnCana
 Enercrest
 Environmental Protection Agency
 Farm Services Agency
 Environmental Design Engineering
 Farm Service Agency
 K.C. Harvey
 Little Snake River Conservation District
 National Association of Conservation Districts
 Natural Resource Conservation Service
 Questar Exploration and Production
 Representative Barbara Cubin's Office (Bonnie Cannon)
 Rock Springs Chamber of Commerce
 Rock Springs Grazing Association
 Seedskaadee National Wildlife Refuge

The late Senator Craig Thomas'
 Senator John Barasso (Patti Smith)
 Senator Mike Enzi's Office (Lyn Shanaghy)
 Southwest Wyoming Industrial Association Sweetwater County
 State Grazing Board – Dick Loper
 Sweetwater County Libraries
 Sweetwater County Commissioners
 Sweetwater Economic Development Association
 Urban Renewal Agency
 U.S. Bureau of Land Management
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife
 U.S. Forest Service
 U.S. Geological Survey
 University of Wyoming
 W. Wyoming Community College–Green River Center
 W. Wyoming Resource Conservation & Development
 Wexpro
 Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom
 Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts
 Wyoming Department of Agriculture
 Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
 Wyoming Department of Transportation
 Wyoming Game & Fish Department
 Wyoming Governor's Office
 Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation
 Wyoming State Engineers Office
 Wyoming State Lands and Investments Board
 Wyoming State Planning Office
 Wyoming Water Development Commission Wyoming
 Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust

A Special Thanks To The Sweetwater County Commissioners.

Commissioner Chairman: Wally Johnson
 Commissioner: Joe Oldfield
 Commissioner: Debby Dellai-Boese
 SWCCD Chairman: Mary Thoman (standing)



2008 – 2009 Annual Plan of Work

Mary Thoman, Chairman	Rural Member
Tom Burris, Vice–Chairman	Rural Member
Jean Dickinson, Secretary	Urban Member
Barbara VanMatre, Treasurer	At–Large Member
Bob Slagowski, Member	Rural Member

Associate Supervisors

Betty Wilkinson	Dean Webster
Dave Lewis	Randy Shipman

Technical Support Staff

Jeff Lewis, NRCS District Conservationist
 Bryan Christensen, NRCS Range Management Specialist
 Suzanne Mayne, NRCS Range Conservationist
 Bonnie Hueckstaedt, FSA Staff
 Jody Triplett, FSA Staff
 Maureen Meagher, Western Wyoming RC&D Coordinator
 Martin Rosek, Soil Scientist Supervisor
 Teresa Koper, Soil Scientist
 Drew Mather, Soil Scientist
 Louise Sainsbury, Soil Scientist

Budget 2008–2009

The Annual Budget Hearing for the Sweetwater County Conservation District was held at 6 pm, July 21, 2008, in the Conservation District Office.

Budgeted Expenditures

Administration	\$149,445
Operations:	\$324,444
Indirect Costs	\$ 31,876
Capital Outlay	<u>\$ 5,000</u>
Total	\$511,765

Budgeted Revenue

Estimated Cash Available	\$ 50,519
State Revenue	\$ 30,824
Local Revenue	<u>\$461,246</u>
Total	\$542,589

The Top Three Priorities for the Sweetwater County Conservation District are:

Watershed Plans

Bitter Creek and Killpecker Creek Watershed Plan –

The ultimate project goal is to gather water quality and other resource data, assess the data, and implement strategies designed to address watershed related water quality impairment issues that were identified in the Bitter Creek and Killpecker Creek Watershed Plan. Successfully achieving the goal will allow the removal of the streams from the State of Wyoming, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Water Quality Division (WQD) listing of impaired streams (303d list). This goal includes implementing actual on-the-ground activities such as implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs), which result in improved water quality. The goal also includes regulatory activities to officially and legally acknowledge the natural conditions of the streams. The Bitter and Killpecker Creeks Watershed Advisory Group (BKWAG) is the lead advisory and management organization for this project.

Objectives:

- 1) Determine if BMPs are effectively improving water quality.
- 2) Determine if chloride is naturally occurring and whether a Use Attainability Analysis (UAA) is an appropriate method for addressing such a condition.
- 3) Determine what additional BMPs should be implemented.
- 4) Document changes in water quality since the comprehensive watershed study of 2006.
- 5) Implement the Bitter Creek and Killpecker Creek Watershed Management Plan.

Tasks:

- 1) Continue to sample water quality and other relevant parameters to monitor progress achieved through implementation of the watershed plan. This sampling would be conducted in a manner to allow comparative analysis with the baseline watershed study of 2006. The locations of monitoring sites, stream classifications, and impaired reaches are shown on the attached map.
- 2) Continue to identify specific possible sources/impairments and mitigate those issues with realistic, achievable activities such as voluntary implementation of BMPs and evaluation of the condition of the watershed. Based upon existing data and continued monitoring, determine if the most reasonable action is to write and submit a UAA addressing specific attributes of the watershed. If that determination is made, draft the UAA(s) for submittal to DEQ.
- 3) Develop and implement effective public education and awareness programs which enhance the public understanding of the watershed plan and the measures

- being taken to implement the plan for the betterment of the watersheds and water quality.
- 4) Coordinate with local, State and Federal agencies and organizations to optimize the Sweetwater County Conservation District (SWCCD) implementation of the Bitter Creek and Killpecker Creek Watershed Management Plan and the efforts of these entities to collectively work towards improvement in the target watersheds and the water quality.

The District will implement the following tasks for the ongoing Watershed Plan:

- 1) The BKWAG, the District, the County and the NRCS will continue, and attempt to expand, the cost–Share programs for BMP’s addressing water quality by providing the technical assistance to apply for funds and documenting resource concerns.
- 2) The District will conduct homeowners workshops related to septic systems evaluations including brochures and public notices.
- 3) The District will approach the Western Wyoming Resource Conservation and Development council to seek assistance in pursuing all available options for funding sewer remediation or other water quality concerns.
- 4) The District will provide water quality data to outlying communities and all sewer and water districts within the watershed.
- 5) The District will provide an interactive booth at community events highlighting the water quality of Bitter and Killpecker Creeks and emphasizing water quality and effects of pet waste, lawn watering, over fertilization and other uses.
- 6) The District will disseminate proper OHV use information or other available brochures at the District office and community events.
- 7) The District will make a request to the City of Rock Springs to develop a storm water management plan and provide the scope of work for the one–cent ballot initiative for water and sewer upgrades.
- 8) The District will provide a map in conjunction with the City and County, indicating storm water drainages into Bitter Creek and Killpecker Creek.
- 9) The District will provide support for the Bitter Creek Beautification Project by assisting the City of Rock Springs in the implementation of this project.
- 10) The District will provide a brief synopsis of the plan and update Sweetwater County residents on watershed activities in their newsletter and in progress editions of local newspapers.
- 11) The District will develop an Annual Report of Progress regarding the watershed project and make available to watershed residents and the WDEQ.
- 12) The District will create links on the WACD and the Rock Springs Chamber of Commerce websites to serve as a source of information on water quality issues for residents and maintain the sites with current data.

- 13) The District will implement an information and education program for appropriate RV and camping waste management within the Bitter Creek and Killpecker Creek watershed.
 - 14) The BKWAG will continue to meet at least twice a year in the next five years, if needed, to review progress of this watershed plan and provide input on the District's water quality program.
 - 15) The District will document implementation activities not included in this watershed plan and include an annual report to WDEQ and other interested parties.
 - 16) The District, in coordination with the BKWAG, will collect credible water quality data to illustrate effects of implementation and gain understanding of background conditions.
 - 17) The District, in coordination with BKWAG, will complete a two-year water quality monitoring program to focus on the impacts of ground water on bacteria and chloride concentrations in Bitter and Killpecker Creeks.
 - 18) The District will provide District personnel with watershed management and water quality monitoring training at least annually or more often as needed.
- Big Sandy and Little Sandy Watersheds
 - The District is cooperating with Sublette County to provide on-going water quality data in the Big Sandy and Little Sandy Watersheds.
 - Other Watersheds
 - The District will monitor for other water quality as needed.
 - The SWCCD is cooperating with the Uinta County Conservation District (UCCD) on-going water monitoring of the Blacks Fork River.

Soil Surveys –

- Objective
 - Coordinate and facilitate the addition of staff in Sweetwater County in support of a National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS) approved soil survey within that county. Acreage mapped as a direct result of these efforts should be at least 40,625 acres, but may exceed that number if additional efficiencies are realized. Mapping is to be done in cooperation with the USDA/NRCS.
 - Upon completion of the project, the contractor will provide a summary of expenditures and a final report in cooperation with the USDA/NRCS to the Sweetwater County Conservation District. The report shall include detailed

information as to the status of the soils mapping performed in the County as well as a time as to when the soils maps will be available for use.

- Tasks
 - The NASIS database will be complete for the fiscal year 2007 portions of the Growth Management Area as well as the Hiawatha year by April 2009
 - All of the Growth Management Area will be mapped by end of this field season 2008–2009
 - All of the Growth Management Area maps will be digitized by April 2009
 - Provide available soils information for subdivision reviews throughout Sweetwater County.
 - The BLM is conducting a soil survey of 106,498 acres in the Hiawatha area and will be completed by year end 2008.

Land Planning –

- Objective
 - Improve or maintain natural resources for the benefit of domestic livestock, wildlife, watersheds, water quality, wetlands and riparian areas, recreation, and other uses important to Sweetwater County.
 - Provide for private and public involvement on public land regarding natural resource management decisions.
 - Allow for decisions to be made focusing on what is good for the resource rather than what is good for a single interest group
- Tasks
 - Continue working with land and natural resource plans and projects through continued coordination with Coalition of Local Governments (CLG).
 - USDOJ – Bureau of Land Management
 - Rock Springs Field Office
 - Big Sandy Working Group – biannual monitoring
 - Jack Morrows Hills SEIS – implementation
 - Conversions, Allotment plans
 - Kanda Pipeline
 - Westwide Energy Corridors
 - Hiawatha EIS
 - Kemmerer Field Office
 - Kemmerer Resource Management Plan (RMP)
 - Moxa Arch EIS

Rawlins Field Office

- Rawlins Resource Management Plan
- Continental Divide–Creston EIS
- Grizzly and Daley Allotment Management Plan and MOU

Pinedale Field Office

- Pinedale Resource Management Plan

Lander Field Office

- Lander Resource Management Plan

- USDA – National Forest Planning Processes

- Bridger Teton National Forest

- Ashley National Forest

- Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area and Dam

- Sweetwater County Local Resource Advisory Group Meeting

During the meeting the group brainstormed on how to best direct the District energies, and came up with water quality as their major focus. With this a series of action items were developed to take the group the next level. The group went over the list of various action items.

There was discussion on scheduling meetings with various agencies.

1. Meet new District Manager and Area Managers (BLM) between Conservation Districts and Grazing Associations
 - a.) Discuss monitoring on wildlife and grazing together
 - b.) Other sources of funding and help on permit renewals
 - c.) 8100 funds discussion
2. Meet with USGS, Ag Commission , CD, Dept of Ag, Grazing Board
 - a.) Gain Information on what Science USGSA can provide for ranching perspectives
3. Meet with BLM area managers, range staff from BLM, Dept of Ag, and CD
 - a. Concerning permit renewals
 - b. Open doors and share ideas and concerns
 - c. State grazing Board
4. Meeting continued from today to November 6th Board Meeting
5. Talk to Bobbie Frank of WACD about sharing information from this meeting at the November WACD meeting in Gillette
 - Develop a flow chart, planning – to help gain a bigger picture.

- Others

Continue to develop position papers on specific issues and work cooperatively to develop a Reclamation Guidebook for industry.

Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative (WLCI) – provide input for projects and the process.

The Executive Committee of the Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative (WLCI) met on Wednesday, July 9, 2008 at the Bureau of Land Management office in Rock Springs. The meeting began at 12:30 p.m. and adjourns around 5 p.m. During the meeting, the Executive Committee discussed the WLCI charter MOU to include the group's new members, the Southwest Wyoming Conservation Districts, including the Sweetwater Count Conservation District and Southwest Wyoming County Commissioners, and discussed the MOU with the Wyoming Heritage Trust. They heard updates on various WLCI projects and committees. The WLCI Executive committee is comprised of representatives from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Forest Service, Wyoming Game & Fish Department, Wyoming Department of Agriculture, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, county commissioners and conservation districts. Wyoming Department of Agriculture Director, John Etchepare, is currently serving as chairman of the committee. Sublette County Commissioner John Linn and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Wyoming Field Supervisor Brian Kelly are serving respectively as first vice chair and second vice chair. The WLCI is a long-term science-based effort to assess and enhance aquatic and terrestrial habitats at a landscape scale in Southwest Wyoming, while facilitating responsible development of the region's valuable energy resources. More information on the WLCI can be found at:
<http://www.wlci.gov/>.



- Upper Green Flaming Gorge (Tri-State) Watershed MOU

The upper Green Flaming Gorge Watershed is to ensure uniform delivery of NRCS programs across state and conservation district boundaries, in a consistent manner related to those producers with property in the identified Upper Green Flaming Gorge (Tri-State) Watershed. This MOU is to promote and serve conservation in the watershed area where the watershed crosses state boundaries and do so in a way that the technical assistance to the watershed and customers in this watershed appears seamless and without regard to state boundaries.
- Land & Resource Use Plan (LRUP) with Public Comment
 - Updating LRUPP appendix for the Land & Resource Use Plan and Policy.
 - Updating the Plan for the Land & Resource Use Plan and Policy

Community Education and Outreach

- Objective
 - To promote activities and programs increasing community awareness of conservation district activities and programs.

- To work towards building strong public knowledge. To provide a friendly and visible resource to our local community for conservation information and assistance.
- Tasks
 - Continue to work with NRCS staff promoting and participating with Ag in the Classroom projects
 - Commence work with Rock Springs and Green River grade schools emphasizing Earth Day and Stewardship Week activities.
 - Work with Rock Springs and Green River secondary school science teacher to demonstrate and provide hands-on water quality testing for local students.
 - Utilize the Wyoming Ag in the Classroom Natural Resource Education Trunks to assist educators and the District in helping children and adults gain knowledge and understanding of the plants, animals, insects, soils and water that make up our natural resources.
 - Develop and sponsor educational and interactive booths at local events.
 - Offer education incentives to students interested in pursuing greater resource knowledge.
 - Sponsor educational workshops, tours and conferences and heighten awareness of natural resource issues, concerns and District projects.
 - Recruit involvement from Sweetwater County residents on committees and advisory groups to gather broad-based and affected local input in district and area programs and projects.
 - Use local and regional news organizations to educate and inform the public of conservation efforts and concerns.

Administrative

- Objective
 - To meet WDA and WACD administrative guidelines and requirements and to ensure that all Sweetwater County Conservation District programs are carried out in a timely and responsible manner.
- Tasks
 - Comply with WDA and WACD financial policies in order to receive state funding.
 - Develop and maintain accurate and legal District budget

- Provide the Board of Supervisors accurate and timely financial information so that they can make appropriate decisions.
- Administrate daily, monthly, quarterly and annual reports for the District.
- Coordinate all information disbursements to Board Members, Associate Members, Resource advisors and local committees.
- Hold regular monthly Board of Supervisor meetings, Area Meetings, Conventions, committee meetings, staff meetings, and various applicable training to make sure public is aware of these meeting and to encourage public participation in these meetings.
- Complete and distribute and Annual Report and Annual Plan of Work.
- Maintain District files and daily business.
- Continue all efforts in conjunction with Cooperative Agreements established with the district.
- Provide, evaluate and participate in staff training.
- Provide opportunities for development for staff and board members.
- Attend meetings and trainings to increase knowledge of natural resources and to stay informed of local, state, and national conservation issues
- Complete all required state and federal reports
- Research and obtain funding sources for District programs and local project concerns.
- Maintain and update District's Website.
- Provide ongoing computer and Information system support for the District.