



## **Washakie County Conservation District**

### **Rural Special Discretionary Program**

### **Program Guidelines**

#### **Program Objectives**

To provide incentive for citizens, businesses, organizations, and groups within the Washakie County Conservation District to implement natural resource conservation practices to address soil erosion, water quality and quantity, energy conservation, food production, waste management, education, green infrastructure, habitat improvement, and beautification of the natural landscape along public corridors.

#### **Eligibility**

To be eligible for this program, the following eligibility criteria must be met:

- The project as well as the residents, businesses, service organizations, schools, museums, churches, partnering organizations, and others as determined and approved by the WCCD Board of Supervisors must be located within the Washakie County Conservation District boundary.
- If the construction of this project crosses other landowners' property, applicant will need to have discussed the proposed project and received preliminary access approval and permission to install. (Refer to Landowner Permission to Install Form).
- Only one grant may be awarded per applicant/organization per fiscal year.

#### **Selection Process**

This program offers two batching review periods, with applications due April 1<sup>st</sup> or August 1<sup>st</sup>. Application packets are available through our website or in person at our district office. Cost Share recipients will be selected, and payment decisions will be made by the Washakie County Conservation District Board of Supervisors at the April and August meetings following the application deadline. It is the responsibility of the applicant to make the case that the project meets the objective of the program and has a public benefit. Cost share recipients must complete the project within the same fiscal year that funds are awarded.

#### **Payment**

Washakie County Conservation District will cost-share 50% of the total project cost, up to a maximum cost share of \$2,500.00.

- We will match cash expenditures with receipts only.
- In-kind contributions will be capped at 25% of the total project cost and will be based on a labor rate of \$15.00 per hour.
- All projects must be pre-approved before being initiated and must be evaluated upon completion.
- After project completion and inspection, cost share will be issued based on signed receipts and documentation of in-kind contributions.



## **Washakie County Conservation District** **Rural Special Discretionary Funds Program** **Project Examples**

### **Project Examples (may be included, but are not limited):**

- Educational events or practices with emphasis on natural resource conservation
- Food Production Practices
  - High Tunnels
- Beautification projects that promote natural landscape along public corridors
  - Greenway projects
  - Boulevard plantings
- Water Quality and Water Quantity
  - Green Roof – A rooftop covered with a growing media and vegetation that enables rainfall infiltration and reduces runoff. Green roofs are best suited for large industrial or office buildings where stormwater management costs are likely to be high, and where structural support exists. Additional benefits: aesthetic value, pollinator habitat, urban heat island effect reduction
  - Permeable Pavement – Pavements that allow rainfall to infiltrate through it rather than simply run off it. Permeable pavements can be made of pervious concrete, porous asphalt, or permeable interlocking pavers. Additional benefits: groundwater recharge
  - Rain Catchment Systems – An aboveground container that captures and stores stormwater runoff from homes and small buildings for use between rain events. Stored water can be used to water gardens, lawns, or simply drained slowly to increase infiltration. Additional benefits: groundwater recharge
  - Bioretention System – A landscaped basin where stormwater is filtered through the soil before flowing downstream or infiltrating completely into the soil. Vegetation in the soil planting bed provides uptake of pollutants and runoff, while soil properties allow for infiltration and drainage. Rain Gardens, Pocket Prairies, Permeable Pavements are considered types of bioretention system, absorbing runoff from rooftops, sidewalks, and streets. Additional benefits: groundwater recharge, aesthetic value, pollinator habitat
  - Grass Strip (or buffer strip) – an area with permanent vegetation built to treat stormwater runoff from an upstream area before it reaches a street or water body. Additional benefits: ecosystem services, groundwater recharge
  - Grassed Swale (bioswale or vegetated swale) – An engineered landscape feature to direct stormwater within a shallow vegetated channel, allowing for infiltration along its path, to a retention pond or detention basin. Additional benefits: ecosystem services, erosion prevention, groundwater recharge
  - Retention Pond – A constructed lake or pond used to store stormwater runoff that retains a permanent pool of water. Retention ponds can be vegetated or unvegetated around the perimeter. Additional benefits: ecosystem services, wildlife habitat, aesthetic value, recreational opportunities
  - Wetland Basin– An area filled with water (permanently or periodically) and covered with wetland vegetation to assist with stormwater runoff during rainfall events. Wetlands can be natural or constructed. Additional benefits: wildlife habitat, ecosystem services, groundwater recharge, aesthetic value, recreational opportunities, pollinator habitat



- Detention Basin – A dry, vegetated storage basin or excavated area that fills during rain events to provide flow control or temporary storage of stormwater runoff. Basins may allow for infiltration or diversion to local storm sewer systems. Additional benefits: temporary habitat, ecosystem services, groundwater recharge
- Irrigation Water Management
- Livestock Water Gaps
- Xeriscaping to replace traditional lawn with approved native or dry climate species.
- Micro-Irrigation ( <https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2018-05/documents/ws-outdoors-microirrigation-homeownerguide.pdf> )
- Energy Management Practices
  - Windbreaks
  - Solar stock pumps
  - Solar energy
- Wildlife, Aquatic, and Terrestrial Habitat Practices
  - Native and pollinator plantings
  - Riparian fencing to manage livestock and reduce grazing impacts
  - Spring developments to enhance wildlife and/or improve livestock distribution
- Soil Health Management Practices
  - Soil erosion (water bars on public trails, streambank stabilization)
  - Soil sampling for nutrient testing
  - Soil remediation
  - Fencing for implementation of rotational grazing systems
  - Weed and pest management
- Resource damage due to acts of nature (water gaps, field loss, reservoir rehabilitation, head gates, streambank stabilization)
- Practices that federal farm bill programs do not fund, such as electrical costs
- To comply with federal regulations

\*Some item descriptions listed above are provided by Purdue University Extension, Tipping Point Planner Stormwater Definitions, FNR-580-W. A copy of this is available through our office.

\*Conservation District employees or Board of Supervisors may recommend other available cost-share programs that are better suited for projects listed above, based on practice or available funding.



**Washakie County Conservation District  
Rural Special Discretionary Funds Program  
Application**

Name and/or Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Contact's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Location of Project:** Please provide any of the following: Township/Range/Section, Coordinates, Detailed Description, or include a Map showing where the project will take place:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Project Justification:** Describe how the project meets the program objectives and how it benefits the public:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Project Description:** Describe what you propose to do in detail (attach plans), the projected lifespan of the project and how the project will be maintained:

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**Estimated Project Cost:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICATIONS ARE DUE APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup> AND AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup>.**

Applicants are required to attend a Board Meeting prior to batching deadline to present their project proposal to the Board of Supervisors.



**Washakie County Conservation District  
Rural Special Discretionary Funds Program  
 Budget Form**

Provide a detailed cost breakdown and attach cost/bid estimates.

EXPENSE DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED COST	RECEPIENT CONTRIBUTION (Cash or In-Kind Contribution)	ANTICIPATED DISTRICT CONTRIBUTION
TOTALS	\$	\$	\$

If you are seeking other grants to accomplish this project please provide us with the name and amount applied for:

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(The applicant is responsible for 50% of the cost of the total project of which 25% can come from other sources.)



**Washakie County Conservation District**  
**Rural Special Discretionary Funds Program**  
**Ranking Objectives & Signature Page**

**Ranking Objectives**

Does this project address any of the natural resource concerns below?  
A minimum of 3 points is required to qualify for this program.

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Yes(1pt.)</b>	<b>No(0pt.)</b>
Educational Opportunity		
Wildlife, Aquatic, Terrestrial Habitat		
Water Quality/Quantity		
Soil Erosion		
Energy Conservation		
Can't Qualify for Other Farm Bill Programs		
Contributes to Local Food Supply		

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Recipient Signature

Date

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Keith Bower, Chairman

Date

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Susan Pennington, Vice-Chairwoman

Date

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Jaci Harkink, Secretary/Treasurer

Date

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Keith Bower, Member

Date

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Andrew Mills, Member

Date