

FY2023 ANNUAL REPORT

WASHAKIE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Presented to:
Wyoming Department of Agriculture &
Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts



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WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

THE WASHAKIE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING THE RESIDENTS OF WASHAKIE COUNTY A SOUND NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION PROGRAM.



Washakie County Conservation District (WCCD) is a local governmental subdivision of the State of Wyoming as defined and established by Wyoming Conservation District Law. WCCD Board of Supervisors are elected by the people of Washakie County at the general election by popular vote. Conservation District Board Members are the only locally elected volunteer board charged specifically with the responsibility of representing local people on natural resource concerns.

We provide locally led leadership, and encourage and promote through education the conservation of natural resources. We assist landowners and land managers in practicing sound natural resource stewardship and conservation for the long term benefit of the people by using monitoring, partnerships, staffing resources, and mill levy funding as efficiently and effectively as possible.

HISTORY OF WASHAKIE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Several factors contributed to the rapid deterioration of western agricultural lands during the early 1930s. The application of poor farming procedures, misuse of range, and extreme lack of moisture were foremost in creating these adverse conditions.

Recognizing the need to stop further degradation of these valuable lands, Senator Earl Bower of Washakie County introduced a bill establishing the Wyoming Soil Conservation Act in February 1941. This Act authorized the establishment of Soil Conservation Districts. These newly formed bodies were given the responsibility of natural resource conservation within their respective districts.

On December 31, 1941, the Nowood Soil Conservation District at Ten Sleep became one of the first four districts in Wyoming. In 1943, the Washakie Conservation District was established in Worland. In 1990, these two districts consolidated to form the Washakie County Conservation District. The long standing historic mission of conservation districts to conserve our nation's soil and water resources is still the guiding force of WCCD.



DISTRICT OPERATIONS

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

WCCD Board of Supervisors participate in monthly board meetings and oversee District operations, financials, and staffing. District Supervisors also participate in local, regional, state, and national activities. During Fiscal Year 2023, this included:

- WCCD Board, by statute, is responsible for staying informed of actions performed by the Nowood and Cottonwood Grass Creek Watershed Improvement Districts. This includes reviewing meeting minutes and updates during the WCCD regular board meetings, and when available, participating in the WID meetings and annual tours.
- WCCD hosts the Annual Legislative Luncheon with our local legislation, which includes Senator Ed Cooper, Representatives Martha Lawley & John Winter, and the Washakie County Commissioners, Aaron Anderson, Terry Wolf, and Morgan Martinez. This years luncheon took place in December 2022 at The Other Store with all in attendance but Senator Cooper and Supervisor Keith Bower.
- Susan Pennington attended the Big Horn Basin Women in Ag Wool Workshop in January 2023.
- Jaci Harkink, WCCD Urban Supervisor and Secretary/Treasurer, attended the District Supervisor Training in February 2023 hosted by WACD and received her certification as required by State Statute.
- Jaci Harkink attended the NACD Annual Convention in New Orleans, LA during February 2023.
- Susan Pennington, Board Vice-Chairwoman, attended and volunteered at the WCCD Grow Washakie Workshop held in March 2023 at the Washakie Museum and Cultural Center.
- Jaci Harkink participated in a No-Till Drill workshop held in Riverton during May 2023, hosted by the Lower Wind River Conservation District.
- Charley Orchard attended the Wyoming Sage Grouse Implementation Task meeting in Worland during May 2023, where they reviewed Draft 1 of the States Core Map revisions.
- Jaci Harkink participated in Water Quality Monitoring Training in Sheridan during June 2023 and is working to get her certification to assist with the WCCD Water Monitoring Program in 2024 and 2025.

Washakie County Conservation District also operated under Cooperating Agency status in a Memorandum of Understanding for the NEPA process on:

- BLM Plan Amendments for Greater Sage Grouse Management in the BLM's Land Use Plan, and the associated Environmental Impact Statement.
- BLM Grazing Regulation Revisions, Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- BLM Utility-Scale Solar Development on Public Lands, Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

(Left to Right)

Charley Orchard, Board Member

Jaci Harkink, Secretary/Treasurer

Daniel Greet, Chairman

Susan Pennington, Vice Chairwoman

Keith Bower, Board Member

DISTRICT OPERATIONS, cont...

STAFFING & ADMINISTRATION

WCCD employees manage the day to day operations, project management, education and outreach for the district as approved and supervised by the Board of Supervisors. In addition to participation in various webinars that provide informal training, WCCD staff participated in the following training opportunities during Fiscal Year 2023:

- WCDEA Annual Training in Pinedale, Amanda
- Wyoming Ag in the Classroom Stewardship, Janet
- Principles of Water Quality & Water Quality Monitoring, Amanda and Janet
- Harvest Wyoming: A Small Farm Symposium, Janet
- Preserve at Home Course through Idaho State University, Janet
- NRCS Plant Materials Center in Bridger, MT, Janet
- NRCS Pollinator Habitat JAA, Amanda
- NRCS Ventenata and other Invasive Grasses, Amanda
- Low Tech Processed Based Restoration Webinars (2), Amanda and Janet
- FEMA: Cyber Attacks, Janet
- Red Cross Shelter Volunteer Certification, Amanda
- 2023 Urban & Small Farm Conference, Amanda and Janet
- Invasive Grasses Summit, Amanda
- Wyoming Food Coalition, Amanda and Janet
- Wyoming Women in Ag, Wool Workshop, Amanda and Janet
- Wyoming Special District Annual Training, Amanda
- Oregon State University Permaculture Pro Design Course for Certification, Janet
- Wyoming Climate Collaboration in Worland, Amanda

Organizations, Committees and Board positions WCCD employees participate with include:

- Amanda
 - Wyoming Conservation District Employee Association, Training Committee Member
 - Wyoming Collaboration of Healthy Soils, Education Committee
 - BBORC Big Horn River Blueway Trail, Signage Sub-Committee
 - Washakie Emergency Management LEPC
- Janet
 - Worland Community Garden, Board President
 - Worland Community Resource Committee
 - Washakie Emergency Management LEPC



WCCD EMPLOYEES

Amanda O'Keefe, District Manager
Janet Hofmann, Education Coordinator
Ben Vega, Seasonal Maintenance

GOVERNMENT AGENCY INTERACTION & COMMUNITY COORDINATION

WCCD actively participates with local, regional, state and federal agencies and community organizations to assure that the customs, culture, economic viability, social stability, and quality of life that is unique to this area is respected and carefully considered during planning efforts. We advocate for these values to resource conservation, planning, growth, development, and other changes as they may occur within the district throughout time.

Below is a list of agencies Board Supervisors and employees interacted with for FY2023.

LOCAL

- Washakie County Commissioners
- Washakie County Planning and Development
- Washakie County Assessors
- Washakie County Clerk
- Worland City Council
- Washakie County Emergency Management
- Washakie County Weed & Pest
- Nowood and Cottonwood Grass Creek Watershed Improvement District
- University of Wyoming Washakie Extension Office
- Worland Community Resource Committee
- Worland Rotary Club
- Washakie County School District #1 (Worland)
- Washakie County School District #2 (Ten Sleep)
- Joeys Fly Fishing
- Washakie Museum and Cultural Center
- USDA NRCS and FSA in the Worland Field Office
- Women in Ag

REGIONAL

- Wyoming Basin Area Four County Legislative Meeting (Legislatures and Commissioners)
- Big Horn Basin Sage Grouse Local Work Group
- Bighorn National Forest Steering Committee meetings
- NRCS Local Work Group
- WACD Area III Meeting

STATE

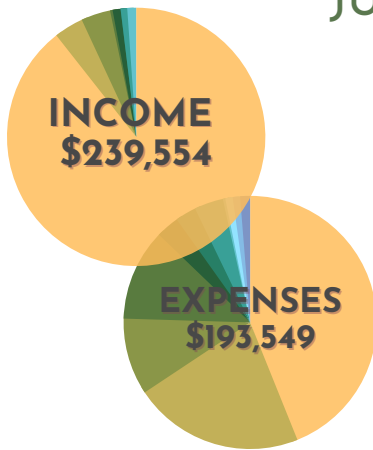
- Wyoming Collaboration for Healthy Soils
- WDEQ NPS Task Force meetings
- WDA Board of Agriculture meetings
- WCDEA Annual Training in Pinedale, hosted by Sublette County Conservation District
- Wyoming Conditions & Monitoring Monthly Webinar
- Wyoming Association of Special District Annual meeting
- Wyoming Food Coalition
- Wyoming Association of Special Districts
- Wyoming Water Association

FEDERAL

- National Association of Conservation Districts
- USDA Natural Resource Conservation Services
- Bureau of Land Management
- Environmental Protection Agency

FY 2023 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

JULY 1, 2022 TO JUNE 30, 2023



INCOME

In Wyoming, conservation districts are funded through a variety of sources. Washakie County Conservation District receives a majority of its funding through 1 mill levy. A mill levy is the number of dollars a taxpayer must pay for every \$1,000 of assessed value on real property. A mill levy is approved by the electors through a general election. Without this funding, we would not be able to provide our support to the community through cost-share assistance, educational and programming opportunities, and technical assistance. It is our goal to reinvest this funding locally. In Fiscal Year 2023, 64% of mill levy funding received went directly back into the Washakie County economy.

Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) provides appropriations funding through the state budget, as well as lab analysis funding which can be used for well water testing, lab equipment and supplies, and water quality monitoring. This funding is available on a biennium basis, and by meeting specific funding criteria. This criteria includes providing a balanced budget to WDA, State of Wyoming Department of Audit and our state association, Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts (WACD).

WCCD also makes a modest amount of income from tree seedling, landscape fabric and compost bin sales. This income is meager and typically covers staff time to implement the sales programs.

GRANT FUNDING SECURED IN FISCAL YEAR 2023

- Wyoming Art Council, \$750 for Recycling Trailer Mural.
- Barnyards & Backyards Rural Living Workshops, \$1000 for Grow Washakie Workshop.
- WDA Water Quality Grant Funding, \$1906 for WCCD Sampling and Analysis Plan Development.

EXPENSES

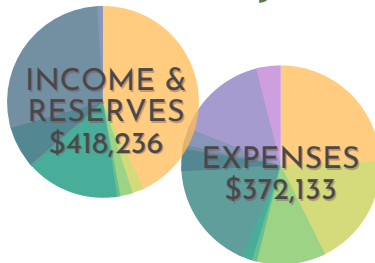
Expenses throughout Fiscal Year 2023 remained conservative, and allowed us to successfully have a balanced budget. Below are some notable expenses:

- WCCD pays dues to participate with certain organizations which locally include the Chamber of Commerce, statewide includes WACD, Wyoming Association of Special District and Wyoming Water Association, and nationally includes the National Association of Conservation Districts, among others.
- Educational Programming stayed within budget while offering many programs to both our youth and general public. Many of our programs can be offered with supplies and resources already on hand.
- Recycling Programs slightly exceeded budget with the implementation and purchase of compost bins (expense offset with income collected), and the completion of the Recycling Trailer mural.
- Landscaping Programs slightly exceeded budget with the costs of landscape fabric increasing for the third year in a row, as well as higher anticipation of tree sales (expense offset with income collected).
- Projects and Organization support was successful with funding provided to Chief Washakie FFA for WyRED Range Camp, Washakie 4H Fair Sponsorship, Ten Sleep Schools for Teton Science School Field Trip, and Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom among those receiving program sponsorship.

COST SHARE FUNDING IN FISCAL YEAR 2023

- Rural Cost Share Program, \$15,000 for 1 pipeline project and 1 pivot electrical project.
- Special Discretionary/Community Enhancement Program: \$1,047 for 1 xeriscaping project and cost share on compost bins for West Side Elementary garden.
- Special Projects Program, \$3,061 for Dog Waste stations, Grow Washakie event, and Annual Calendar.

FY 2024 FINANCIAL FORECAST JULY 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2024



WCCD has a fiscal responsibility to our district to properly manage public funds and provide a balanced budget. Being fiscally conservative and exercising responsible spending is critical to obtaining our goals, and allows us to maintain our cost-share and other programs that are a direct benefit to Washakie County residents for many years to come.

INCOME

Mill levy funding is anticipated by be approximately \$179,949 as suggested by the Washakie County Clerks office. This is the bulk of our annual funding, in addition to appropriations and lab funding through the Wyoming Department of Agriculture. A modest amount of income is expected for program sales of seedling trees, landscape fabric, and compost bins.

ANTICIPATED GRANT FUNDING FOR FY2024

WCCD had several grant programs that will be funded during Fiscal Year 2024.

- Upper Big Horn Sub-Basin Watershed Implementation Program through WDEQ 319 Implementation Program will provide landowners with reimbursement for projects that were approved and implemented. This program will also provide funding for project management, outreach, and coordination with the WCCD Board of Supervisors, WCCD Staff and the Washakie Watershed Steering Committee.
- WCCD Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) Development through WDA Water Quality Program will provide additional funding to cover staff time and resources needed to develop the SAP and implement a water monitoring program for Sage, Slick, and Nowater Creeks and the Big Horn River for 2024 and 2025. WCCD anticipates the SAP to be completed and submitted to WDEQ for review and approval in Q4 of 2023. This SAP for water monitoring is associated with the WDEQ 319 program.
- Worland Community Garden Expansion Project through Wyoming Community Foundation. WCCD partnered with the Community Garden to secure funding for the expansion of its garden, specifically for fencing and labor.
- Worland Natural Resource Mural through Wyoming Art Council (pending grant approval). WCCD will coordinate with City of Worland and Washakie County School District #1 in seeking funding through the Wyoming Art Council to paint a natural resource related mural on the bathrooms at Newell Sargent Ballfields.

PROGRAM EXPENSES FOR FY2024

Outside of normal administrative and operational expenses, below is a list of notable program expenses scheduled for FY2024. You can visit WCCD website for a copy of the FY2024 budget for further detail.

- Educational Programming has \$13,648 budgeted to install a composting toilet at the Outdoor Classroom, Youth Educational Programs with both school districts in Washakie County, Preschools in Worland, and the Wyoming Boys School. Annual NACD and PLC poster contests, and the Full Campaign educational workshops and resources are also included in the budget. There are other programs being offered that are low costs or free to operate.
- Landscaping Programming has \$6,225 budgeted for purchasing seedling trees, bushes, and native plants, along with landscape fabric that will be offered to the public for purchase.
- Recycling Programming has \$2,928 budgeted for purchasing compost bins that will be offered to the public for purchase, as well as operational costs for the Ten Sleep National Honor Society monthly recycling drive. We also have funds set aside to contribute to the Hazardous Household Waste Day, should that event take place again in 2024.
- Cost Share Programming has \$67,750 budgeted for cost share on project implementation with landowners, as well as Special Discretionary funding for both urban and rural constituents.

OUTREACH & EDUCATION PROGRAMS

During FY2023, WCCD offered 25 Outreach and Educational Programs impacting over 1,682 participants. This was a great accomplishment for Education Coordinator Janet Hofmann, who started with the District in September 2022. Through relationship building and community connections, WCCD educational programs continue to grow and impact more Washakie County residents each year.

YOUTH OUTREACH & EDUCATION

PROJECT LEARNING TREE ARBOR DAY POSTER CONTEST

The 2023 theme was Wonderful, Wild, Wyoming Trees! Janet facilitated an educational experience for 4th and 5th grade students (165 total students), contest implementation and awarded prizes for both Ten Sleep and Worland Schools. Finalist posters were submitted in the state competition.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS POSTER CONTEST

The 2023 theme was One Water. Janet facilitated an educational experience for 2nd and 3rd grade students (180 total students), contest implementation and awarded prizes for both Ten Sleep and Worland Schools. The finalist poster was submitted to WACD for the state competition.

PRESCHOOL EDUCATIONAL SERIES

Fall and Spring Sessions were held at select area daycares and preschools. Each session Janet provided consisted of 4 distinct natural resource related lessons. Teaching topics such as seasons & hibernation, water quality and conservation, trees, soil health and vermiculture, plant and life cycles, and pollinators were shared. Janet had 25 participants in the fall pilot program and 50 participants in the spring program.

MEDICINE LODGE FIELD DAY

Worland Middle School 7th Graders (80 total students) gathered at Medicine Lodge group campground for a day of fun and learning. WCCD hosted a station on the characteristics and interactions between predator and prey culminating in a rousing game of predator and prey tag.

TREE IDENTIFICATION CLASS

West Side Elementary students from the Life Skills Class (8 total students) enjoyed use of the WCCD Outdoor Classroom facilities as they observed trees and used tree identification books checked out from our educational library.

WEST SIDE STEM DAYS

How soil interacts with the water cycle was the lesson on day one for 36 students at West Side Elementary. They created soil models made of various edible materials and then enjoyed eating their “dirt cup.” The next lesson gave students a chance to create snow globes and snowflakes as they explored weather and storm lessons.

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM MULCHING

The Worland Boy Scout Troop 5045 spent a Saturday morning at the Outdoor Classroom distributing mulch, provided free of charge from Wright Tree Service, around the bur oak trees. They learned the importance of mulching for water conservation and tree health.



OUTREACH & EDUCATION PROGRAMS

YOUTH OUTREACH & EDUCATION, cont...

HATCHING BABY CHICKS

The West Side Elementary Special Education class (8 total students) hatched out baby chicks provided by WCCD and learned a plethora of facts about the chicks as they accessed learning materials from the WCCD library.

ANCIENT GRAINS & SPROUTING

This collaboration between WCCD and the Washakie County Extension Office participated in the Beginning Culinary Courses offered at Washakie County School District #1. The history and present day usage of ancient grains was covered as well as practical use recipes and sprouting techniques. A total of 30 students participated.

4TH GRADE HISTORY DAYS

Over 240 students and participants made the rounds at the Washakie County Museum and Cultural Center to learn about various aspects of Wyoming History. WCCD hosted a station that taught about the history of cattle in Wyoming and the benefits provided to mankind by our bovine friends. Students did an active sorting activity where they guessed what products contain bovine byproducts and then had the opportunity to “milk” a life-size board cow.

WEST SIDE TREE STAKING

In conjunction with Jacob McCarthy from the Wyoming State Forestry Division (WSFD), WCCD taught 23 West Side Elementary students how to properly stake trees. This activity accomplished staking small fruit trees onsite at West Side.

THE WEB OF LIFE

Ten Sleep 4th and 5th Graders (15 total students) learned about the complex interactions in various ecosystems through this joint effort of the WCCD and the WSFD.

CLOVERBUDS IN THE GARDEN

4H Cloverbuds (about 20 of the very youngest of 4H participants), potted and then planted plants for the Worland Community Garden while learning about soil, seeds, edible plants, and planting techniques along the way.

WEST SIDE 5TH GRADE OUTDOOR DAY

Borrowing hides and skulls from Wyoming Game and Fish Department made this identification activity possible. 86 students rotated through the WCCD hosted station which taught identification and wildlife adaptations.

WORK IT WEDNESDAYS

WCCD was proud to provide support for the West Side Elementary summer gardening program by interacting with students and staff who came to tend the compost pile, weeds, water, and to harvest at the West Side Outdoor Classroom and Garden.

WYOMING BOYS SCHOOL LEARN & WORK PROGRAM

The Wyoming Boys School brought on average of 3 to 6 students to each of the six learn and work experiences at the Worland Community Garden and WCCD Outdoor Classroom. A short natural resource lesson was shared, followed by an opportunity for the boys to provide service to the community. The boys prepped rows for planting, mulched garden beds, cleared debris and weeds, and dismantled a defunct restroom at the Outdoor Classroom. They worked hard and took with them a sense of contribution and accomplishment.

WCCD KIDS CORNER ON FACEBOOK

This monthly Facebook post features natural resource topics, seasonally related, that target elementary aged children. Links for activities, songs, recipes and videos are provided on each topic. This is WCCD's second year running this social media campaign.

OUTREACH & EDUCATION PROGRAMS cont...

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EDUCATION

GROW WASHAKIE: A RURAL LIVING WORKSHOP

With funding from University of Wyoming Extension Barnyards & Backyards Rural Living Program and sponsorships from Security State Bank and Big Horn Co-Op, WCCD hosted the first Grow Washakie: A Rural Living Workshop in March 2023. This program is part of the Full Campaign (read more below). Attendees registration fees covered their lunch, which was catered by the Washakie County Cowbells. With close to 100 attendees, presenters and volunteers in attendance, we successfully held sessions on the following topics:

- Building Healthy Soils for the Garden, Caitlin Youngquist with UW Extension
- Integrated Pest Management, Scott Schell with UW Extension
- Extending your Growing Season with High Tunnels, Catherine Wissner with UW Extension
- Planting for Pollinators, Jenny Thompson with UW Extension
- Windbreaks and Tree Care, Jacob McCarthy with Wyoming State Forestry
- Poultry: What Comes First?, Tamara Drake and Jennifer Taylor with Big Horn Co-Op
- Functional and Sustainable Landscaping, Ivy Asay
- Food Preservation, Laureena Houchin with WYOgains

FULL CAMPAIGN: HEARTS. BELLIES. PANTRIES.

This local collaboration between WCCD, Washakie County Public Health, Washakie County Emergency Management, University of Wyoming Extension-Washakie, and the Worland Community Garden exists to encourage food production, procurement, preparation and preservation within Washakie County. This effort was spearheaded by WCCD and began in February 2023. Between the collaboration of agencies, the following events were promoted and hosted successfully:

- Cooking with Heritage and Ancient Grains, UW Extension, 15 participants
- Canning Meat, UW Extension, 8 participants
- Poultry 101, UW Extension, 17 participants
- Dirt Cheap Gardening, UW Extension, 20 participants
- Dirt Cheap Gardening Mentor Program, WCCD, 4 households
- Food Waste Reduction Pilot Program, WCCD and West Side Elementary, 20 students
- FoodScape Contest, WCCD, 2 participants
- Composting Workshop, UW Extension and WCCD, 18 participants
- Grow Washakie: A Rural Living Workshop, WCCD, 81 participants
- Reach out to Janet Hofmann with WCCD for more details on these programs.

ANNUAL CALENDAR PHOTO CONTEST

Each year WCCD prints 250 calendars to be shared among businesses within Washakie County. This year we opened up the calendar photo in a contest available to Washakie County residents, where the winning entry would be featured on the calendar. The contest entries were posted to Facebook where our followers were able to vote on the winner. We had 7 participants, with Crystal Berryman's photo of a windmill at sunset being the selected winner.

SOCIAL MEDIA, PRINT AND RADIO

WCCD events and educational programs were highlighted in several articles throughout the year in the Northern Wyoming News. We had guest appearances on Community Connections with LeAnne Baker on 104.7 Big Horn Radio. Facebook was our main source for community outreach, and with the marketing for Grow Washakie and Compost Bin Sales, we had great success in gaining more followers, ending the year with 978 followers, up 144 from the previous fiscal year. We also started publishing The Quarterly Beet, our newsletter that is published seasonally, and with the help of Remind 101 App, had 375 views between the three publications we have distributed so far.

NATURAL RESOURCE PROGRAMS

WASTE MANAGEMENT

MONTHLY RECYCLING EVENT

Ten Sleep National Honor Society manages the Ten Sleep Monthly Recycling Event utilizing a recycling trailer provided by WCCD. This monthly event invites residents of Ten Sleep the opportunity to bring recyclables like plastics, cardboard, aluminum cans and paper to the event to be recycled and these items are then transported to a recycling facility in Buffalo. This program has steady participation.

RECYCLING TRAILER MURAL

With funding support provided through the WCCD, Wyoming Art Council in collaboration with the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Wyoming Legislature, Ten Sleep Schools (Washakie County School District #2) designed and painted a mural to beautify the existing recycling trailer. Vega Autobody also donated time and materials to make this project a success. This project involved 66 artist that included students and staff from the school. The result was a stunning natural resource mural that pays tribute to the beauty of the surrounding area. WCCD dedicated the Recycling Trailer with a ceremony at Culture Fest, honoring the students and staff for their creativity and work.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

WCCD continued this year with the Adopt-A-Highway program where we adopted a 2 mile section of highway between Worland and Ten Sleep through the WYDOT program. During FY2023, we had participation from the Wyoming Boys School and local residents. Two pick up events occurred during this fiscal year.

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

2023 was our 28th year holding our Christmas Tree Recycling Event. This annual event is held every January and offers the residents of Washakie County the opportunity to have their Christmas tree picked up free of charge, and utilized to create mulch. Picked up trees are gathered with the help of volunteers from Chief Washakie FFA, Worland Rotary Club, and other residents that volunteer their time. These trees are taken to the City Compost lot where Big Horn REA then provides the mulching service free of charge. It is a great community collaborative that helps reduce waste going into our landfill that can be repurposed. We had a total of 23 volunteers for this fiscal year.

COMMUNITY COMPOST BIN SALES

This program is new and initiated by WCCD and coordinated with other Conservation Districts throughout the state. Statewide we had 12 districts participate and ordered a total of 324 bins, of which 36 were purchased by WCCD. We pre-sold the bins to residents in Worland and Ten Sleep prior to placing our order due to a good outreach campaign. Composting not only redirects food and yard waste from the landfill, but also provides a nutrient rich output to help improve soil health. We cost shared with West Side Elementary on the purchase of 3 compost bins for their classroom garden.

DOG WASTE STATIONS

WCCD provides 16 pet waste stations at city parks in Worland that we maintain and keep stocked with pet waste disposal bags. Each station is actively utilized and serviced year-round.

TEN SLEEP RECYCLING TRAILER MURAL

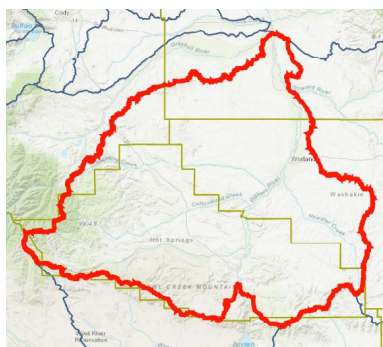


NATURAL RESOURCE PROGRAMS, cont..

WATER QUALITY/QUANTITY

WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, 319 EPA CLEAN WATER ACT GRANT UPPER BIG HORN SUB-BASIN WATERSHED IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

WCCD entered into year two of this program during FY2023. During this year, the Washakie Watershed Steering Committee ranked three landowner projects, of which all three were approved by the WCCD Board of Supervisors. Two of the three projects included open dirt ditch converted to pipeline that would address erosion, water quality and quantity issues. One of these landowners withdrew his application due to conflicts with design. The third project was a larger project that the landowner was utilizing NRCS EQIP funding on a portion of the project to bury pipeline, and install gated pipe. The portion not covered by EQIP was for settling ponds and installing waste ditches that will utilize the runoff and divert it back onto cropland. This portion was cost shared through this program. In addition to project implementations, WCCD started work on the WCCD Sampling and Analysis Plan Development that will result in a water monitoring program for the 2024 and 2025 sampling seasons.



WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WATER QUALITY GRANT SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS PLAN DEVELOPMENT

WCCD was hoping to work on the SAP development more intensely during Fiscal Year 2023, but with a long winter making conditions hard to visit potential sampling sites on Slick, Sage and Nowater Creeks, turnover in employees, and other WCCD programming, efforts did not start until FY2024. This grant is due to expire in December 2023, but has since been extended until February 2024 to allow time for development and review of the plan prior to approval being given by WDEQ.

WDA LAB FUNDING

WCCD utilized WDA lab funding this fiscal year to complete well water testing on two wells for two landowners, and for the purchase of water monitoring equipment needed to complete the monitoring program and training.

WCCD COST SHARE FUNDING FOR WATER QUALITY PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

WCCD offers Cost Share Programs that provide landowners with financial assistance in project implementation related to natural resource conservation. Our Rural Cost Share Program funds most of these projects, and we budget \$50,000 annually. This program gets utilized more often when a landowner doesn't qualify for Farm Bill programs, or when practices being implemented are not covered under EQIP funding. With all the funding currently available through USDA, our funds have been under utilized in previous years, but we are seeing an increase with more requests from landowners. We encourage all landowners with projects that will result in conservation of natural resources to utilize these programs.

Projects approved and/or implemented during FY2023 included:

- Electrical components for a center pivot not covered by EQIP funding, \$5,000 (Approved in FY2022 and completed in FY2023)
- 4,910 feet of open dirt ditch converted to buried pipeline, \$10,000 (Completed)
- 1,155 feet of open dirt ditch converted to buried pipeline, \$10,000 (Approved in FY2023 and pending completion in FY2024)



We, the Supervisors of the Washakie County Conservation District, as duly authorized by Wyoming Conservation District Law, hereby adopt and accept this Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2023 on October 16, 2023.

A cursive signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Greet".

Daniel Greet, Chairman

A cursive signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Pennington".

Susan Pennington, Vice Chairwoman

A cursive signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jaci Harkink".

Jaci Harkink, Secretary-Treasurer

A cursive signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charley Orchard".

Charley Orchard, Board Supervisor

A cursive signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Bower".

Keith Bower, Board Supervisor

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