SMALL WATER PROJECTS PROGRAM 101

BY JODIE PAVLICA, P.E.
SMALL WATER PROGRAM MANAGER
WYOMING WATER DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
5/9/19
TODAY’S TOPICS

1. General Program Concepts
2. Interesting Statistics
3. Eligible Projects
4. 2018 Legislative Updates – SF0053
5. Recent Noteworthy Criteria Changes (October 19, 2017)
6. Public Benefit
7. Eligibility
8. Project Timelines
9. Steps to Project Completion
SMALL WATER PROJECT PROGRAM

To provide grant funding for Small Water Development Projects that improve watershed condition and function and provide benefits for...

- Livestock
- Recreational
- Wildlife
- Irrigation
- Environmental

Funding

- 50% grants up to $35,000 are available for eligible projects that provide adequate public benefit, improve watershed health, and meet the program definitions as outlined in the criteria.
INTERESTING STATISTICS

- There are currently 137 open Small Water Projects
- 191 projects have been closed since the Summer of 2015
- 47 New applications in 2015
- 25 New Applications in 2016
- 36 New Applications in 2017
- 69 New Applications in 2018
- 79 New Applications in 2019

Active or Successfully Completed Project Components (since Summer 2015)

- 70 Small Reservoirs
- 69 Wells
- 82 Solar Platforms
- 99 Pipelines
- 34 Springs
- 19 Wetlands
- 12 Environmental
- 75 Irrigation
- 3 Rural Community Fire Suppression
- 1 Recreational

Total 464
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Small Reservoirs</th>
<th>Wetland Development</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wells</td>
<td>Environmental</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solar Platforms</td>
<td>Irrigation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pipelines and Conveyance Facilities</td>
<td>Windmills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springs</td>
<td>Rural Community Fire Suppression</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Recreational</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DEFINITIONS

Small Reservoirs – Small Reservoirs may be eligible. *(Size limitations have been removed.)*

Well – A well may be eligible for funding depending on the depth of the well and scope of the project. Projects that propose to drill into unproven aquifers, as determined by the Office, may be eligible for SWPP at the discretion of the WWDC. Such discretion will be exercised in cases including, but not limited to, cases where the well does not meet the minimum requirements of the project in terms of quality and quantity.

The determination of unproven aquifer status will be clearly communicated by the office prior to the issuance of notice to proceed so the project sponsor may decide to cancel the project before funding is committed. If the sponsor decides to proceed with a well into an unproven aquifer they should be prepared to pay the drilling costs with the understanding that reimbursement for eligible expenses will be contingent upon meeting minimum water quality and quantity requirements.
DEFINITIONS

Solar Platforms – Construction of Solar Platforms may be eligible for funding through the SWPP.

Pipelines and Conveyance Facilities – Rehabilitation of existing pipelines or conveyance facilities or construction of new pipelines or conveyance facilities may be eligible for funding through the SWPP.

Springs – Improving flows of existing springs and installation of collection facilities associated with springs may be eligible for funding through the SWPP.

Wetlands – Development of wetlands where multiple benefits accrue may be eligible for funding through SWPP.

Environmental – Projects that provide for stream bank stability, water quality improvements or erosion protection may be eligible for funding through the SWPP.

Irrigation – Irrigation projects may be eligible for funding through the SWPP.
DEFINITIONS

**Windmill** – Rehabilitation of existing windmills or construction of new windmills may be eligible for funding through the SWPP.

**Rural Community Fire Suppression** – Supply and storage projects for rural community fire suppression may be considered for funding through the SWPP. (New Category)

**Recreational** – Projects for recreational purposes may be considered for SWPP funding. (New Category)

*All projects must benefit the watershed as a whole, not just one person, and be able to document the public benefit of the project.*
- Within the Small Water Program Legislation, this bill struck the language that defined a Small Project as being under $135,000.

- So there is no longer a cap on the Total Project Cost within the Small Water Program.
Before...
Planning for small water projects will be generated by a WWDC watershed study or equivalent as determined by the WWDC

After...
Small Water projects must adequately demonstrate a public benefit. Public Benefits may be demonstrated for projects included in WWDC Watershed Studies. Eligible projects may be located on Federal, State, public, or private land.

* This is a Constitutional Requirement
The public benefits section of your application will be quoted directly in the recommendation presented to the Commission.

You need to specifically address the resource benefits of your project.

Do Not assume that it is understood how distribution of livestock will improve the health of the watershed.

Be prepared to address how watershed health is improved and why public dollars are justified for every project in every application.

Do Not cite “...improved economics for the county...” as a benefit. Water Development is not in the economic improvement business.

Examples

- Wildlife Habitat Improvements
- Sage Grouse
- Improved Riparian Condition
- Fish Passage
- Water Quality Improvements
- ETC...

This is not an exhaustive list.
The reasoning for this water development project is to produce off-channel watering for cattle that have impacted Lodgepole Creek. Combining this off-channel development with construction of a riparian pasture fence, this project’s goal is to recover the stream banks and produce woody vegetation for bank stabilization and canopy cover. Better riparian conditions equates to better stream function and wildlife habitat. Improving dispersion of cattle will also improve the upland grazing and reduce the gulch erosion and head cutting currently occurring.

This project will improve water quality by filtering irrigated return flows through a wetland before they are returned to the river. The wetland will serve as a sink for nutrients, in this case nitrogen and phosphorus will be captured. Sediment loading will also be reduced and thermal impacts to the river from the irrigation water will be improved.
The benefit of this project would be to eliminate approximately 2000 linear feet of a dirt ditch that is highly erosive and increases the amount of E. coli transported to the nearby 303d listed stream. Please refer to the map and see that the property is one of the nearest above the impaired reach. This buried pipeline will enclose a section of the conveyance ditch that has many changes in elevation and scours from high runoff, effectively reducing the transported sediments and E. coli downstream. It will also increase water savings from seepage, and allow the producer to irrigate his pastures more efficiently.

This is a collaborative project to improve irrigation infrastructure, bank and channel stability, sediment transport and passage for Snake River Cutthroat. Two gravel push up dams will be replaced by a single fish passage friendly rock diversion structure.

The Hoback River is a major tributary of the Snake River and is an important wild native Snake River Cutthroat Trout Fishery. It is a popular fishery that is self-sustained by wild recruitment (no Stocking) and is a high conservation priority because of the robust, genetically pure Snake River Cutthroat Populations found within the watershed. Maintenance of the Hoback River Fishery by conserving functioning instream and riparian habitats and restoring and improving degraded habitats benefits the public and future generations.
## OTHER NOTEWORTHY CRITERIA CHANGES

### Project Funding Priorities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account 1</th>
<th>Account II</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Source Water Development</td>
<td>1. Diversion structures and Spring Developments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Storage</td>
<td>2. Storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Irrigation</td>
<td>4. Irrigation other than the above</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Environmental</td>
<td>5. Environmental</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Recreational</td>
<td>6. Recreational</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Projects that have completed (and provided copies of) all necessary design, permitting, and funding requirements on or before January 1st will be classified as “Shovel Ready”, and may be considered as a funding priority at the Commissions Discretions. (Typically this is a #1 priority). In cases where funding is limited higher priority projects may have a greater chance of receiving funding.*
D 7. In the case of limited funding for this program the WWDC may only fund a portion of the applications submitted by any one sponsor will prioritize the applications.

E 1. The sponsoring entity shall adhere to appropriate design standards for small water projects. Plans that are may be provided by the NRCS, an appropriate land management agency or the State Engineer a registered Professional Engineer and/or registered Professional Geologist.
SMALL WATER PROJECT PROGRAM

Eligibility

Applications must be received from eligible public entities

- Conservation Districts
- Watershed Improvement Districts
- Water Conservancy Districts
- Irrigation Districts
- Municipalities
- Business Council of Either the Northern Arapahoe or Eastern Shoshone Tribes
- Other Approved Assessment Districts formed according to Wyoming Law

Small Water Projects must adequately demonstrate a public benefit

Applications should be received by January 1st each year
TIMELINE

- Applications Due January 1st
- Small Water Program Funding is Obtained in the Omnibus Construction Bill during the legislative session.
- Applications are approved for funding at the March Commission and Select Water Committee Meetings
- Grants expire 2 years and 9 months later on December 31st
  - The responsibility is on the project sponsor to get the project done in this amount of time.
- Time Extensions or Project scope changes will not be given without extenuating circumstances. Applicants must instead reapply.
- Sponsor is responsible for completing all designs and obtaining all necessary permits.
  - Criteria won’t allow payment if sponsor proceeds with the project prior to issuance of Notice to Proceed.
STEP 1

- The Conservation District should complete the Application (not the landowner)
- Submit by the January 1st deadline.
- If you are seeking shovel ready status include copies of designs, permits, easements, checklists, etc. for review.
### 21. Project Components

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>New Development</th>
<th>Rehabilitation</th>
<th>Latitude (Required)</th>
<th>Longitude (Required)</th>
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<td>Spring Development</td>
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<td>Irrigation</td>
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<td>Windmill</td>
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<td>Rural Community Fire Suppression</td>
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<td>Recreational</td>
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*The project types listed in the above table will be considered eligible as defined by the Small Water Projects Program Criteria. Environmental projects are defined as those that provide for stream bank stability, water quality improvements, or erosion protection.*

### 22. Legal Description (Optional)

<table>
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<th>Township</th>
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### 23. Project Description

Planning for Small Water Projects may be generated by a WWDC watershed study. Provide all information necessary to accurately describe the proposed project and its eligibility per operating criteria. Additional information may be attached to this application as necessary.

### 24. Public Benefit

Wyoming statutes 56-3-1503(x)(vi)(c) and 56-3-1504(m)(vi)(i)(c) requires all Small Water Project Sponsors to substantiate the public benefit that is to be derived from the proposed project. Please provide all information necessary to accurately document public benefit from the proposed project. Additional information may be attached as necessary.

### 25. Project Participants

Please list all project participants (e.g. District, NRCS, WWDC, BLM, Landowner, etc.), and their type of participation (e.g. technical, financial, project oversight, etc.).

### 26. Who is the owner of the project?

### 27. Who owns the land on which the project is to be built?

### 28. How many acres will benefit from this project?

### 29. What is the total estimated project cost?

### 30. Was the project specifically identified in a WWDC Watershed Study?  Yes  No

If yes, what was the name of the study?

### 31. Project Readiness

Projects that have completed the following requirements prior to application may request a “Shovel-Ready” designation and may be considered as a funding priority at the Commission’s discretion:

- Project designs and specifications
- Permit procurement
- Right-of-way, easement acquisition
- Have finalized all other financial agreements
31a. Is the project seeking "Shovel-Ready" Status?  □ Yes  □ No

31b. If yes, please complete and attach the Project Sponsor Checklist, Well Evaluation, and Hydrologic Evaluation forms that are available at the following website:

http://wcd.state.wy.us/small_water_projects/small_water_project.html

Additionally, please list all supporting documentation for a Shovel-Ready designation that is being attached. (If the Sponsor is not seeking a Shovel-Ready designation, this section may be left blank.)


32. Sage Grouse

Is the project located in a Sage Grouse Core Area or within 1/4 mile from an active lease?  □ Yes  □ No

Sage Grouse Core Area information can be found on the following website:  http://inwx.wyo.gov/

SIGNED APPLICATIONS MAY BE SUBMITTED DIGITALLY TO Jodie.Pavlica@wyo.gov BY JANUARY 1ST (INCLUDE ALL SHOVEL READY DOCUMENTATION IF YOU ARE SEEKING THIS DESIGNATION).
STEP 2

- Funding for Small Water Applications is approved at the March Commission Meeting

STEP 3

- Project Agreements are signed by the Commission at the March Meeting then sent to the project sponsor for signature. This is not the same as Notice to Proceed!
STEP 4

- If the project wasn’t shovel ready, designs are now completed, and permits are acquired. (This step is all on the sponsor. You can call with questions, but completion of this task is your responsibility.)

STEP 5

- After the designs are completed, all permits, and easements have been acquired, then the checklists are filled out and the package is submitted for notice to proceed approval.
### Project Sponsor Checklist:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Check As Applicable</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Construction Factors</strong></td>
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<td>Project Description</td>
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<td>Design and Specifications</td>
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<td>Operation and Maintenance Plan</td>
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<td>Budget and Cost Estimatets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funding Participation (Identify)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Project Location Information</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Photographs (Before, During, After)</td>
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<td>Longitude/Latitude Coordinates</td>
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<td><strong>Legal, Design, and Permitting Factors</strong></td>
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<td>Public Benefit (Submit with Application)</td>
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<td>Right-of-Way/Access Agreement</td>
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<td>Easement/Option Agreement</td>
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<td>Agency Commitment</td>
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<td>NRCS</td>
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<td><strong>Notifications</strong></td>
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<td>Wyoming Game and Fish Dept.</td>
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<td>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utility Owners</td>
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<td>Land Procurement</td>
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<td>State/County/Local Requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wyoming SEQ Water Rights</td>
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</table>

### To Be Completed by Project Sponsor

**Conservation District, Irrigation District, etc.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Address</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>Email</td>
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</table>

Acquisition of all permits, designs, certificates, and approvals is the responsibility of the project Sponsor. Please review the checklist above and sign below to indicate your agreement that all necessary permits, approvals, and certificates have been obtained:

| Signature     | Date                |

Please list the attachments included with this package provided that document the necessary approvals:

- Attachment 1
- Attachment 2
- Attachment 3
- Attachment 4
SECTION 10

LOCATION MAP

Scale 1:2,000

Lat: 41° 16' 00" North

Long: 96° 19' 45" West

Storage Capacity: 125 Acre-feet

B.M. = 100.0, Location as shown on Plan Layout

GENERAL NOTES:

1. Strip borrow area and dan footprint 12 inches deep.
2. Core dan alignment to 2 feet minimum.
3. place compacted earth fill in embankment.
4. Excavate spillway channel.
5. Install principle spillway pipe with any necessary excavation and compacted earth fill.
6. Excavate a plunge pool at outlet of pipe.

TABLE OF QUANTITIES

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Earthfill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Excavation</td>
<td>CY0</td>
<td>230</td>
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<tr>
<td>6&quot; PVC Pipe</td>
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<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90° 83&quot; Bend</td>
<td>Each</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Pond

Plan Layout

Scale 1:100

Embankment Profile

Scale 1:50 H, 1:20 V

Embankment Cross Section

Scale 1:40 H, 1:20 V
SITE PLAN
SCALE 1:200
1-FOOT CONTOUR INTERVALS

SHEET INDEX
1  SITE PLAN AND DETAILS
2  EMBANKMENT DETAILS
3  ROCK VANE AND J-HOOK STRUCTURE DETAILS

ESTIMATED QUANTITIES
STRIPPING 7,885 SYDS
EMBANKMENT EARTH FILL 10,445 CYDS
ROCKS OR BLOCKS 3' MINIMUM 348 CYDS
18" ROCK RIPRAP 100 CYDS
GEOTEXTILE 115 CYDS

SIDE CHANNEL ELEVATIONS
NOT TO SCALE
OUTLET

EXISTING BANK EXCAVATED TO BANK FULL
TOP OF EMBANKMENT = 6308.5

2:1 SIDE SLOPES

EXISTING CHANNEL BED

1.0' TO 1.5' DROP WITH 6" ROCK STEPS

INVERT 6302.0

EXISTING CHANNEL BED

INLET

EXISTING BANK EXCAVATED TO BANK FULL
TOP OF EMBANKMENT = 6308.5

2:1 SIDE SLOPES

EXISTING CHANNEL BED

INVERT 6301.0

EXISTING CHANNEL BED

2:1 SIDE SLOPES

EXISTING CHANNEL BED

INVERT 6301.0

EXISTING CHANNEL BED

SIDE CHANNEL RIPRAP SECTION
NOT TO SCALE

5" TO 6" VERTICAL

2.5" ROCK

6' BOTTOM

NON WOVEN GEOTEXTILE FILTER FABRIC
July 6, 2016

Dear Mr.

This letter is in response to a pre-construction notification we received on May 20, 2016, concerning Department of the Army authorization to undertake stream restoration activities in a 5,020-foot reach of the Little Snake River near Dixon. The project area is located in the SW ¼ of Section 1, Township 12 North, Range 91 West, Carbon County, Wyoming.


Proposed activities include redistribution of approximately 49,250 cubic yards (CY) of alluvium to improve channel dimensions and enhance flow characteristics in an area degraded by bank erosion and sediment deposition. Three cross-vanes would be installed to provide grade control. Bank stabilization using J-hook vanes and straight vanes would be implemented at 10 locations. Rock clusters would be installed at 5 locations to enhance habitat. Those features would require 3,314 CY of rock. Approximately 0.28 acre of wetland would be lost due to excavation activities, 1.08 acres would be reestablished along the banks, and 8.06 acres would be established in oxbow areas.

Based on the information provided, we determined that proposed activities described above are authorized by Nationwide Permit (NP) 27 as defined in the Federal Register published on February 21, 2012 (Vol. 77, No. 34). A copy of NP 27 is enclosed. Please take time to carefully review the terms and general conditions of NP 27.

In a letter to you dated June 20, 2016, the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) certified that use of NP 27 for activities described above is acceptable provided all terms and conditions are followed and construction is conducted in a manner which does not result in a violation of any applicable water quality standard. The WDEQ has added specific requirements to its certification that are hereby incorporated as special conditions of NP 27 for this project. Please note Special Conditions 1 and 2 of the certification, which require submittal of a project completion report within 60 days after construction and a monitoring report in the following year.

Landowner/Operator: __________________________
Job Location: __________________________
Prepared by: __________________________
Date: January, 2015

Operation and Maintenance Items
A properly operated and maintained Pond is an asset to your farm. This structure was designed and installed to provide storage to ranfall water for beneficial use. The estimated life span of this installation is at least 15 years. The life of this installation can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out an effective operation and maintenance program. Here are some recommendations for effective operation and maintenance:

- Inspect the pond after the first significant rainfall and again after each rain until the pond is filled to the inlet elevation.
- Avoid using vegetated spillways as a travel lane for vehicles and/or farm machinery.
- Excessive erosion, settlement and/or cracks in earthen sections must be investigated (to determine the cause) and repaired.
- Periodically inspect spillways and control gates, valves and weirs for proper functioning and their ability to maintain the water level to design elevations. Remove debris or flow blockages.
- Inspect metal surfaces for rust and other damage. Especially inspect sections in contact with earthfill and/or other materials. Repair or replace damaged sections and apply a protective covering.
- Inspect concrete for accelerated weathering, spalling, settlement, misalignment or cracks. Repair defects.
- Inspect rock riprap for accelerated weathering and displacement. Repair to original grades if necessary.
- Check for unusual seepage on the backside of the dam. Check for water flowing underneath the pipe at the outlet, water flowing in the inlet but not out the outlet, and for water flowing out the outlet but not in the inlet. Make sure all structure drains are functional and soil is not being transported through the drainage system. Screens and/or rodent guards must be maintained and in place.
- Repair any rodent, burrowing animal, vandalism, vehicle, or livestock damage.
- Maintain vigorous growth of vegetative coverings. This includes mowing, fertilization, and application of herbicides when necessary. Periodic mowing or short-term grazing may also be needed.
- If fences are installed, they must be maintained to prevent unauthorized entry.

Other: ______________________________________

October 2001
STEP 6

- I review the package and respond with any questions or comments.

STEP 7

- After all the comments and questions have been addressed, I issue Notice to Proceed and send the sponsor their copy of the project agreement.
STEP 8

- The project can now be open for bid. *(For in kind services, I can only pay for invoiced items, so keep all invoices and receipts.)*

STEP 9

- After project is complete, begin 40 day advertisement period, and get Affidavit of Publication at the completion of the advertising period from the News Paper.

STEP 10

- Submit the signed invoices and any of the items listed to the right that have not already been submitted for review and payment.
STEP 11

- The Water Development office releases a check or EFT to the project sponsor for payment, and closes out the project.

Criteria, applications, and checklists are available at...

http://wwdc.state.wy.us/small_water_projects/small_water_project.html
Any Questions?