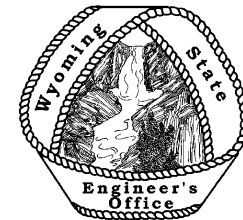


# Water Management & Conservation Assistance Programs Directory



Wyoming State Engineer's Office  
Patrick T. Tyrrell, State Engineer  
Herschler Building  
Cheyenne, WY 82002  
<http://seo.state.wy.us/>  
<http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu/>



October 2001  
Second Edition



# State Engineer's Office

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JIM GERINGER  
GOVERNOR

PATRICK T. TYRRELL  
STATE ENGINEER

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Wyoming Water Users

**FROM:** Patrick Tyrrell, State Engineer

**DATE:** October, 2001

**RE:** Water Management and Conservation Assistance Program Directory

Welcome, Wyoming water users, to the State Engineer's Office Water Management and Conservation Assistance Program Directory. We invite you to browse through the following pages and discover what programs are available here in Wyoming that may be helpful in dealing with management and conservation of our water resources.

This Directory is a product of the State Engineer's Office Water Management and Conservation Program. Recognizing that it is important to avoid duplication of effort and to maximize use of existing resources, an assistance program directory was needed. The resulting directory is a clearinghouse of information that provides a brief description of the various programs offering assistance to water users in the state.

It is the intent of this Directory to provide a compilation of assistance programs in an introductory context. Program descriptions can be reviewed and selected by potential users. The programs chosen can then be directly and more completely explored with the contact representative from the local, state or federal organization or agency responsible for that program.

Hopefully, the information in this Directory will be useful to you as you pursue meeting future challenges in managing Wyoming's 960,000s water resources. Your feedback about this product and your thoughts about how to improve it are welcome. This information can also be accessed electronically at <http://seo.state.wy.us> or at <http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu>

## **Acknowledgements:**

The Wyoming Water Management and Conservation Assistance Programs Directory was written and compiled by Ronald E. Vore, Water Conservationist, edited by Sue Lowry, Director of Policy and Laura Watson, Executive Assistant with special assistance from Janice Rath, Financial/Statistical Specialist 2 and Donna Crock, Information Technology Specialist 2, Wyoming State Engineer's Office, Connie Glassman, Department of A&I Procurement Services Division and Jodie Jackson, Wyoming Water Development Commission.

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## **For Additional Information:**

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E-Mail: [rvore@state.wy.us](mailto:rvore@state.wy.us)

Sue Lowry (307) 777-5927  
E-Mail: [slowry@state.wy.us](mailto:slowry@state.wy.us)



# **WATER MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS DIRECTORY**

## **PROGRAM REVIEW AND ORGANIZATION**

Water users and managers interested in a voluntary management and conservation program or project should be aware of the many incentive assistance programs available to help a well devised and organized plan succeed. It is the intent of the Wyoming State Engineer's Office water management and conservation planning effort to compile and organize all available information relative to financial and technical assistance.

There are numerous programs run by various agencies and organizations that are potential sources of assistance to water users. Local Conservation Districts, Ducks Unlimited, Trout Unlimited, Cooperative Extension, Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts, Wyoming Association of Rural Water Systems, Wyoming Department of Agriculture, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Wyoming State Engineer's Office, Wyoming Water Development Commission, Bureau of Land Management, Corps of Engineer's, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Bureau of Reclamation, US Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service and the US Geological Survey are all potential sources of information, technical assistance and cost-share funding opportunities.

It is important to recognize that project applications are stronger when assistance is leveraged among partners. It is also important to recognize that private funding contributions, such as in-kind provisions, are key to the development and acceptance of water management and conservation implementation proposals. Information such as source, program description and availability of funding are available to user groups and decision makers in this directory.

The water management and conservation assistance programs directory is an overview of local, state and federal programs, each with a separate section. Individual entries are tabbed for convenience and will be ordered alphabetically. Description of respective programs, a contact name, number and electronic address are included as available. This directory is provided as an opportunity to review a description of local, state and federal assistance available to water users in Wyoming. It is constructed in a format that can be changed as needed, recognizing that programs and personnel change. This directory will hopefully provide the user with program descriptions and basic information from which to further pursue additional, in-depth information. This also allows for partners to be assembled for assistance in program and project development.

## **PROGRAM CONTACTS**

### **LOCAL**

<b><u>LOCAL</u></b>	<b><u>CONTACT NAME</u></b>	<b><u>PHONE NO.</u></b>	<b><u>EMAIL</u></b>	<b><u>PAGE #</u></b>
Conservation Districts	Bobbie Frank	(307) 632-5716	waocd@trib.com	1
Ducks Unlimited	Barry Floyd	(307) 472-6980	floyd@trib.com	2
WY Council of Trout Unlimited	Kathy Buchner	(307) 733-6991	kbuchner@wyoming.com	3

### **STATE**

Office of State Lands & Investments	Ron Arnold	(307) 777-7331	slfmail@state.wy.us	4
University of WY - Cooperative Extension Service	Glen Whipple	(307) 766-5124	glen@uwyo.edu	5
WY Association of Conservation Districts	Bobbie Frank	(307) 632-5716	waocd@trib.com	6
WY Association of Rural Water Systems	Lloyd Brown	(307) 436-8636	warws@coffey.com	7 - 8
WY Business Council	Bill Bunce	(307) 237-4692	bbunce@state.wy.us	9 - 10
WY Game & Fish Department	Gary Butler	(307) 777-4565	gbutle@state.wy.us	11
	Steve Wolff	(307) 777-4559	swolff@state.wy.us	
WY Department of Agriculture	Grant Stumbough	(307) 777-6579	gstumb@state.wy.us	12
WY Department of Environmental Quality	Gary Beach	(307) 777-7072	gbeach@state.wy.us	13 - 15
Water Resources Data System	Jan Curtis	(307) 766-6659	wrds@uwyo.edu	16
WY State Engineer's Office	Pat Tyrrell	(307) 777-6150	ptyrre@state.wy.us	17 - 20
WY Water Development Commission	John Jackson	(307) 777-7626	jjacks@state.wy.us	21

### **FEDERAL**

Bureau of Land Management	Rick Schuler	(307) 775-6092	rick_schuler@blm.gov	22 - 23
Corps of Engineers	Matt Bilodeau	(307) 772-2300	Mathew.A.Bilodeau@nwco2.usace.army.mil	24 - 25
Natural Resource Conservation Service	Ed Burton	(307) 261-6453	ed.burton@wy.nrcs.usda.gov	26 - 27
Farm Service Agency	Kay Hawker	(307) 261-5081	kayhawker@wy.usda.gov	28 - 29
Rural Utilities Service	John Cochran	(307) 261-6319	john.cochran@wy.usda.gov	30
United States Bureau of Reclamation	John Lawson	(307) 261-5628	jlawson@gp.usbr.gov	31
United States Forest Service	Jane Darnell	(307) 777-6087	jdarne@state.wy.us	32
United States Fish & Wildlife Service	Mark Hogan	(307) 332-8719	mark_j_hogan@mail.fws.gov	33
United States Geological Survey	Myron Brooks	(307) 778-2931	mhb Brooks@usgs.gov	34 - 35

## CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Conservation districts are locally led, locally elected county government entities. They function as representatives of local people with responsibility to natural resource issues. Local conservation district boards perform as a liaison between local landowners and resource users and state and federal government agencies.

Conservation districts are providers of information and education at the local level. Districts also provide technical assistance as local resources, capacity and expertise allow. They can also assist in development and implementation of program and project design and funding. This is done through assistance in proposal preparation, presentation and pursuit of grant assistance. Districts are involved in water quality monitoring collecting chemical, physical and biological data on Wyoming's surface waters under accepted Sampling and Analysis Plans. Also provide leadership for locally developed watershed plans to address waters listed as impaired on the Wyoming DEQ section 303(d) list.

Conservation districts can also provide funding assistance, often through in-kind contributions such as staff time and technical aid. Local conservation districts can provide administration of programs, projects and grants on behalf of recipients of state and federal natural resource programs. Districts can assist with the development of leveraged, partnered programs and projects.

### CONSERVATION DISTRICTS CONTACTS

<http://www.conservewy.com>

Big Sandy	Farson	273-5531	Niobrara County	Lusk	334-2953
Cody	Cody	587-3251	North Platte Valley	Torrington	532-4290
Converse County	Douglas	358-9825	Platte County	Wheatland	322-9061
Crook County	Sundance	283-2501	Popo Agie	Lander	332-3114
Dubois-Crowheart	Dubois	455-2388	Powder River	Kaycee	738-2321
Hot Springs	Thermopolis	864-3488	Powell-Clarks Fork	Powell	754-9301
Campbell County	Gillette	682-1824	Saratoga-Encampment	Saratoga	326-5657
Lake DeSmet	Buffalo	684-2526	Sheridan County	Sheridan	672-5820
Laramie County	Cheyenne	772-2600	Shoshone	Lovell	548-7422
Laramie Rivers	Laramie	745-7129	South Big Horn	Greybull	765-2483
Lincoln	Cokeville	279-3256	South Goshen	Torrington	532-4290
Lingle-Ft Laramie	Torrington	532-4290	Star Valley	Afton	886-3018
Little Snake River	Baggs	383-7860	Sublette County	Pinedale	367-2257
Lower Wind River	Riverton	856-7524	Teton County	Jackson	733-8179
Medicine Bow	Medicine Bow	379-2221	Uinta County	Mountain View	787-3794
Meeteetse	Meeteetse	868-2484	Washakie County	Worland	347-2212
Natrona County	Casper	261-5402	Weston County	Newcastle	746-3264

## **DUCKS UNLIMITED**

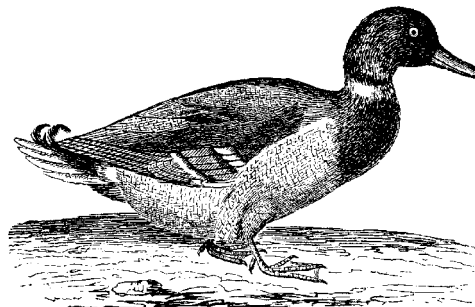
**CONTACT:**            Barry Floyd            (307) 472-6980            <http://www.ducks.org>

Ducks Unlimited, Inc. is a funding source for wetlands and waterfowl restoration. Ducks Unlimited (DU) conducts program development through a “Partner” agency in providing short term project funding assistance. Money availability is limited to what is within the organizational system. Generally, there is \$20,000 to \$30,000 available annually statewide with additional funding support from project specific donations.

Ducks Unlimited offers a waterfowl habitat development and protection program called MARSH which stands for Matching Aid to Restore States Habitat. This is a reimbursement program that provides matching funds for restoration, protection or enhancement of wetlands. The financial extent of this program is dependent on DU’s income within the state.

MARSH projects must significantly benefit waterfowl. Projects receiving funding support must be on lands that can demonstrate at least a 30 year project life at a minimum. Groups requesting assistance must be able to demonstrate capacity to execute long-term habitat agreements, deliver and manage projects and be willing to assume project liability. DU’s goal is to match MARSH funds equally with private, state or federal sources. Their objective is to obtain maximum leverage possible to maximize benefit to waterfowl. Therefore, leveraged projects have a greater likelihood of being approved.

Specifics for proposal submission, budget preparation, project development and receipt of funding can be further explained by DU’s local coordinator. He can provide additional information relating to the program and provide “Partner” contact opportunities at a local level.



## WYOMING COUNCIL OF TROUT UNLIMITED

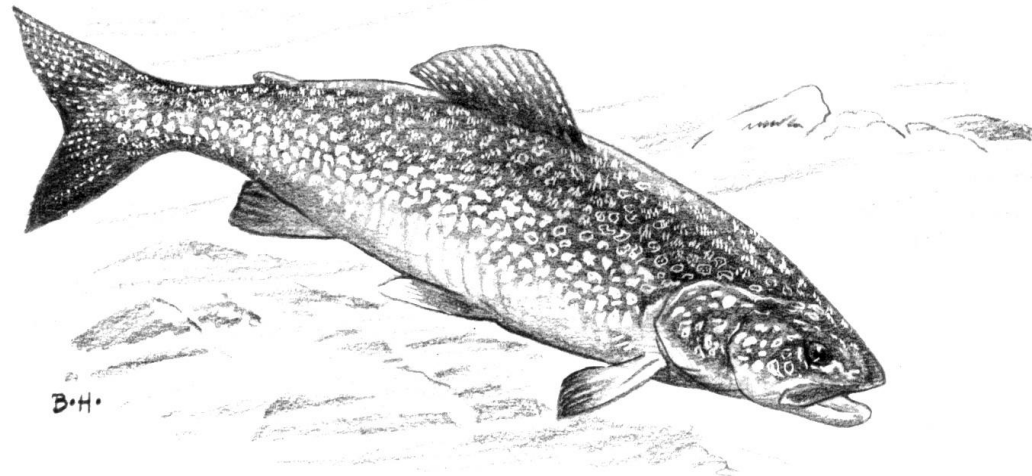
**CONTACT:** Kathy Buchner (307) 733-6991

The mission of the Wyoming Council of Trout Unlimited is to conserve, protect and restore Wyoming's coldwater (trout) fisheries and their watersheds. The Council is made up of 16 Chapters located throughout the state.

While a majority of Trout Unlimited members are indeed enthusiastic anglers, our focus is not only on maintaining fisheries for the purpose of angling. We believe that healthy trout fisheries are indicative of well-functioning, sound ecosystems and that the work we do toward restoring good trout habitat will ultimately benefit the overall environment.

Of special concern are Wyoming's four subspecies of native cutthroat trout that currently inhabit a tiny fraction of their historic range. Working with federal and state agencies, local officials and landowners, Wyoming Trout Unlimited is actively engaged in a battle to keep these fish from being listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Trout Unlimited provides funding and volunteer labor for a variety of stream and watershed projects such as erosion control and fish habitat structures, willow and other riparian plantings and stream protection fencing. Embrace-A-Stream grants are available for up to \$10,000 per project. Partnerships are encouraged and can include local conservation districts and state and federal agencies. Those interested should contact the Council office.





## OFFICE OF STATE LANDS AND INVESTMENTS

**CONTACT:**

Ron Arnold  
Jim Whalen

(307) 777-7331  
(307) 777-6639

<http://lands.state.wy.us/>

The Office of State Lands and Investments is the administrative advisory arm of the Board of Land Commissioners and the State Loan and Investment Board. In addition, the Office carries out several programs under its own authority. The Office is responsible for the management and administration of programs affecting resource management, economic development and quality of life in Wyoming.

**Farm and Irrigation Loans.** In 1921 the Legislature established the farm loan program to provide long-term real estate loans to Wyoming's agricultural operators. In 1955 the Legislature established the irrigation loan program for small and large agricultural water development projects. The farm and irrigation loan programs provide invaluable financial assistance to Wyoming's agricultural industry and finance the development of water resources throughout the state.

The Farm Loan Section is responsible for efficiently processing and servicing farm and irrigation loan applications and accounts and assuring proper and timely collection of loan payments.

**Joint Powers Act Loan Program.** In 1974 the Legislature authorized the Joint Powers Act Loan Program to benefit local communities for infrastructure needs. These loans are approved from funds within the State's Permanent Mineral Trust Fund. These programs are an aid to cities, counties and special districts in providing needed government services and public facilities. Joint Powers Act loans vary in term from 5 to 30 years at an interest rate of 7.25%.



## UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

<http://www.uwyo.edu/ces/ceshome.htm>

The University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service is an educational and technical resource. At the local level, County Extension offices serve as a contact point to gain assistance from faculty and staff at the University of Wyoming campus at Laramie. County extension educators may be able to provide assistance in gathering information, help with problem solving and also provide local leadership in preparation and presentation of assistance proposals for grant aid. Local cooperative extension personnel can assist with meeting organization, contact of outside resources and administration of projects.

Albany County	721-2571	bmoline@uwyo.edu	Natrona County	235-9400	pcullen@natrona.net
BigHorn County, Basin	568-2278	pboohar@uwyo.edu	Niobrara County	334-3534	desmith@uwyo.edu
Big Horn County, Lovell	548-7261	pboohar@uwyo.edu	Park County, Cody	587-2204	rshipp@parkco.wtp.net
CampbellCounty	682-7281	rwest@ccg.co.campbell.wy.us	Park County, Powell	754-5733	rshipp@parkco.wtp.net
Carbon County	328-2642	crawford@uwyo.edu	Platte County	322-3667	chrisp@uwyo.edu
Converse County	358-2417	fwh@uwyo.edu	Sheridan County	674-2980	extoff1@fiberpipe.net
Crook County	283-1192	agade@uwyo.edu	Sublette County	367-4380	stellamc@uwyo.edu
Fremont County, Lander	332-1044	ronc@uwyo.edu	Sweetwater County	352-6775	ggrub@wwcc.cc.wy.us
Fremont County, Riverton	857-3655	ronc@uwyo.edu	Teton County	733-3087	mmmartin@uwyo.edu
Goshen County	532-2436	wtatman@uwyo.edu	Uinta County, Evanston	789-3277	lewhitman@uintacounty.com
Hot Springs County	864-3421	langbehn@uwyo.edu	Washakie County	347-3431	jrgill@uwyo.edu
Johnson County	684-7522	bhorn@uwyo.edu	Weston County	746-3531	weston@uwyo.edu
Laramie County	633-4383	jamessus@hotmail.com	Wind River Reservation	332-2681	mgreen@uwyo.edu
Lincoln County	886-3132	jhubbard@uwces.wyoming.com			

On campus cooperative extension staff can provide education in watershed management, riparian management and hydrology. They also have expertise in land management technology that can enhance and benefit water resources and users. The University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service is a public outreach arm of the University institution and as such can provide delivery and dissemination of information throughout the state on behalf of the local field offices. The contacts for on campus cooperative extension are Glen Whipple, Director at 777-5124(glen@uwyo.edu) and Dr. Tom Thurow, Head, Dept. of Renewable Resources at 766-2263(tthurow@uwyo.edu).

## WYOMING ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

**CONTACT:**

Bobbie Frank

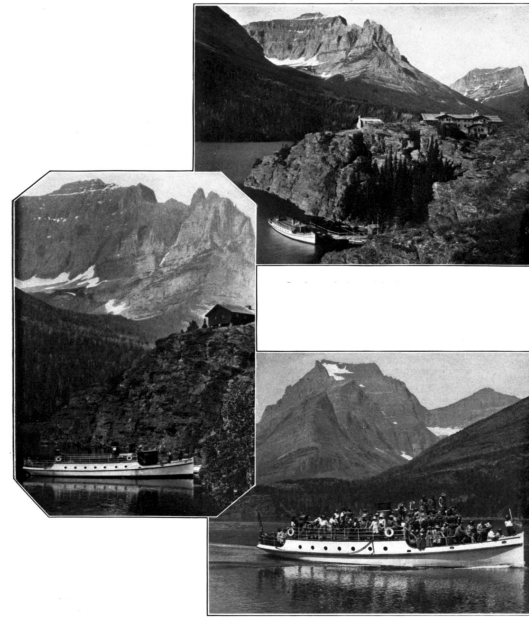
(307) 632-5716

<http://www.conservewy.com>

The Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts is implementing a grant program to address locally driven watershed efforts. The goal of this program is to increase and enhance locally driven watershed planning and implementation efforts. As part of this program, a Statewide Watershed Specialist was retained. The Statewide Specialist will be assisting selected Districts with the development of watershed plans.

WACD works in coordination with the Wyoming Department of Agriculture, DEQ, the University of Wyoming, the United States Geological Survey and others to offer watershed and water quality training.

Another portion of the grant program focuses on developing two GIS pilot projects in the state. The Lake DeSmet Conservation District, Buffalo, and the South Big Horn Conservation District, Greybull, will be developing GIS capabilities in their local Districts.



## WYOMING ASSOCIATION OF RURAL WATER SYSTEMS

**CONTACT:**

Lloyd Brown

(307) 436-8636

<http://www.nrwa.org/warws/>

The Wyoming Association of Rural Water Systems is a non-profit association that provides on-site, one-on-one technical assistance to small municipalities under 10,000 population and all rural water and wastewater districts throughout the state. This assistance is provided at no cost to these small systems. WARWS has a Program Specialist, a water Circuit Rider, a Wastewater Technician, a Groundwater Technician, an office manager and a secretary.

**The Training and Technical Assistance program is responsible for:**

1. Providing technical assistance upon request.
2. Providing professional training programs for operators, decision makers and interested persons.
3. Production of training material.
4. Production of technical bulletins.
5. Distributing public educational material.
6. General management of the state association.

**The Circuit Rider program is asked to perform:**

1. Training operators in the operation and maintenance of their system.
2. Developing a system of maintenance.
3. Helping take required tests and teach operators the correct testing methods.
4. Assisting with specific maintenance problems.
5. Testing of meters in the field.
6. Leak and line location.
7. Giving advise on rate structures and forming new districts.
8. Training on record keeping.
9. Reducing cost of power and water losses.
10. Any other service to help the water system succeed.

The Wastewater program performs many of the same functions as the Circuit Rider but specializes in the wastewater field. This assistance is directed toward the treatment of wastewater collection systems and the maintenance of lagoons. Wastewater training sessions are also available through this effort.

The Groundwater/Wellhead Protection program incorporates a five-step plan with small systems to start GW/WHP programs in their systems. It begins with the formation of a committee to identify problems and possible contamination sites and works to form a plan for emergency delivery of water in case of unsafe water conditions. Mapping and inspecting wellhead protection areas, setting sites for new wells and securing new water sources are also covered with this effort.

The WARWS office also has an extensive library of training manuals, operator study guides, certification review materials, training videos and access to the National Headquarters library. Line and leak detection equipment, field meter testing, sewer smoking testing, gas and liquid chlorine pumps, chlorine and lead test kits, magnetic and cable locator, plastic pipe locator, turbidity and digital pH meters are available for use by water and wastewater systems



## WYOMING BUSINESS COUNCIL

**CONTACT:** Bill Bunce (307) 237-4692

The Wyoming Business Council was created by the Legislature in July, 1998 to diversify and strengthen the State's foundation industries and to retain our youth through the creation of better job opportunities.

To meet this legislative mandate, the strategic plan includes the following action items.

1. Retain and strengthen existing business and industry.
2. Recruit targeted industries and their support businesses.
3. Maximize the efficiency of government and private entities to facilitate job growth and economic activities.
4. Help businesses develop value-added products.
5. Build a network for economic growth at local and state levels.
6. Create a proactive organizational structure to facilitate business and industry growth.
7. Activate statewide resources through ongoing development of strategic alliances.

To help accomplish the targeted goals, the Wyoming Business Council maintains memberships, partnerships and strategic alliances with private organizations, local economic development agencies, and state and federal government agencies.

The objectives of the Agribusiness Division are to maintain and expand job opportunities and business profitability through Agribusiness marketing, development and educational strategies; support statewide agricultural and timber leadership and educational programs; and encourage and promote the development of agriculture opportunities and markets for Wyoming agricultural products. These objectives are carried out through the following key program areas:

Leadership/Diversification & Rural Rehabilitation Program – Contact: Cindy Garretson-Weibel, 307-777-6589.

“Wyoming First”, Value-Added Food Goods, & Federal State Market Improvement Program - Contact: Ted Craig, 307-777-6578.

Domestic and International Marketing of Livestock, Genetics & Forage Commodities - Contact: Jason Fearneyhough 307-777-2862.

Export/Import Bank Program - Contact: Division Director Bill Bunce, 307-237-4692



## WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

**CONTACT:**

Gary Butler, Terrestrial Habitat  
Steve Wolff, Aquatic Habitat

(307) 777-4565  
(307) 777-4559

<http://gf.state.wy.us/>

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department offers a funding program to help landowners, conservation groups, institutions, land managers, government agencies, industry and non-profit organizations develop and/or maintain water sources for fish and wildlife. This program also provides funding for the improvement and/or protection of riparian/wetland areas for fish and wildlife resources in Wyoming. Application deadlines for projects are accepted any time with approval on January 21 and August 1 of each year.

**Riparian Habitat Improvement Grant.** The purpose of this program is to improve or maintain riparian and wetland resources. Fencing, herding, stock water development, streambank stabilization, small damming projects and beaver transplanting are a few examples of efforts that qualify under this program. Permits, NEPA compliance, construction, maintenance, access and management planning are all grantee responsibilities. There is \$10,000/project maximum available with 50% cash or in-kind required from grantee.

**Water Development/Maintenance Habitat Project Grant.** The purpose of this program is to develop or maintain water for fish and wildlife. Spring development, windmills, guzzlers, water protection and pumping payments are examples of the extent of this program. Permits, NEPA compliance, maintenance, access and water righting are responsibilities of the grantee. There is a maximum of \$10,000/project and 50% cash or in-kind contribution required from the grantee.

**Industrial Water Habitat Project Fund.** The purpose of this program is to develop water sources beneficial to fish and wildlife that are located by industrial drilling, mining or excavation operations. Examples of projects are tapped artesian wells, springs or ground water that could be used for wildlife watering or creation of wetlands or ponds. Industry must meet set criteria, obtain permitting and access, clean-up and restore the site and provide NEPA compliance. Though there is no funding limit nor no matching contribution obligation, only \$50,000 is available each year for these types of projects.

**Upland Development Grant.** The purpose of this program is to develop upland wildlife habitat. Examples of projects in this program are shrub management, grazing systems, prescribed burning, wildlife food plots such as oat, millet or corn plantings, range pitting and range seeding. Permits, NEPA compliance, maintenance, access and management planning are responsibilities of the grantee. There is a maximum of \$10,000/project and 50% cash or in-kind contribution required from the grantee.

**Fish Wyoming.** The purpose of this program is to develop public fishing opportunities. Examples of projects within this effort are boat ramps and fishing access. This program provides a 50% match of funding which is channeled through a private organization or municipality. There is a funding limit of \$20,000/year/project.



## WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**CONTACT:** Grant Stumbough (307) 777-6579 <http://wyagric.state.wy.us/>

**Water Quality:** Protect the quality of surface and groundwater through the establishment of guideline programs for wellhead protection, pesticide container disposal, confined livestock feeding, rangeland best management practices, enhanced riparian and wetland management, implementation of Farm Bill programs, development of a State Water plan and continuation of voluntary Ag Non-Point Source Pollution.

**Conservation Districts:** Enhance abilities of conservation districts to protect water quality and natural resources. Provide comprehensive leadership training and assist in developing coalitions with all natural resource users, managers and owners. Provide grants for local conservation districts.

**Coordinated Resource Management:** Use the CRM process to resolve natural resource conflicts, protect water quality and enhance natural resources. Facilitate partnership at the local level. Provide CRM awareness sessions and facilitation training.

**Weed and Pest:** Promote Integrated Management Systems including education programs and integrated control methods. Develop an informational Weed and Pest program and a viable forage certification program. Identify research needs in conjunction with other agencies and institutions and pursue funding for research in Integrated Weed and Pest Management programs. Provide grants to local weed and pest.

**Coordination of Critical Natural Resource Issues:** Plan, coordinate and develop natural resource management strategies with local, state and federal partners. Provide information and assistance at the local level for the development of natural resource management plans and strategies.

**Endangered Species Act Issues:** Educate and inform the people of Wyoming on the Endangered Species Act including listing and delisting decisions, conservation measures and their potential outcome and effect on the agricultural industry. Develop and implement Section 10 programs to assist landowners with endangered species issues, namely Habitat Conservation Plans and Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances. Keep aware of all Endangered Species Act issues in Wyoming and be prepared to brief other members of the WDA. Assist the United States Fish and Wildlife Service with Partners for Wildlife projects.

**Mediation:** Develop and implement a mediation program to assist natural resource managers in resolving conflicts through improved communication, cooperation and coordination. Provide a voluntary mediation process for dispute and conflict resolution.

**New Technologies:** Research and implement new technologies to promote better management of natural resources. Establish demonstration sites to evaluate remote sensing, GIS, GLA and watershed management software. Provide education to natural resource owners, managers and users on the benefits and effectiveness of new technologies.

# WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY - WATER QUALITY DIVISION

**CONTACT:** Gary Beach (307) 777-7072 <http://deq.state.wy.us/>

## Mission Statements for Three Sections of the Water Quality Division

**The mission of the Groundwater Protection Section is to prevent, reduce, and eliminate groundwater pollution; and to protect, preserve, and enhance existing and potential groundwater uses; and, when excessive pollution is discovered, require restoration of pre-existing groundwater uses and the protection of public health and the environment. This is accomplished by:**

1. Administering a preventative permit to construct program to ensure that point sources of groundwater pollution are designed, constructed and capable of being operated to protect groundwater use standards;
2. Carefully evaluating the self compliance monitoring reports to ensure that releases of pollution do not impact groundwater in excess of allowed amounts or to ensure corrective action is progressing in an effective and timely manner;
3. Administering a preventative voluntary program by promoting the use of Best Management Practices (BMP) and providing information to owners of non-point groundwater pollution sources directed at protecting groundwater;
4. Utilizing groundwater vulnerability mapping and other groundwater related information to prioritize resources in administering groundwater protection activities for non-point sources of groundwater pollution;
5. Investigating groundwater pollution complaints, standard or permit exceedances and requiring the responsible party of excessive groundwater pollution to take necessary corrective actions to reduce or eliminate the pollution and protect public health and groundwater uses;
6. Requiring responsible parties of spills that have caused groundwater pollution to take necessary corrective actions to restore groundwater use, prevent further environmental damage and threats to public health; and
7. Coordinating and cooperating with local governments, other state agencies, agencies of other states, and the federal government to develop and implement a comprehensive approach to groundwater protection.

8. Oversee the construction and operation of Underground/Aboveground Fuel Storage Tanks to assure protection of public health and safety and the groundwater and to conduct corrective action projects where leaking underground storage tanks have polluted the groundwater and pose threats to public health and safety.
9. Assist local governments with the review of subdivision applications to assure safe and compatible sewage disposal and water supply systems.

**The mission of the Watershed Management Section is to protect and restore the quality of Wyoming's surface water resources to assure they support their designated uses. This mission is accomplished through implementation of the following programs:**

1. Permits are issued for discharge of pollutants to surface water. These permits contain limits to assure that public health and the receiving waters uses are protected.
2. Stormwater runoff permits are issued for projects which disturb five or more surface acres and for certain industrial sites. Project proponents must develop and implement pollution prevention/erosion control plans.
3. Review of certain federal actions to assure that Water Quality Standards will be achieved for activities that may affect waters of the state (primarily Section 404 Dredge and Fill Permits and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licenses).
4. The section operates the state wetlands banking program which provides incentives for voluntary wetland creation, restoration and enhancement activities. Under the program, credit can be awarded for wetland improvements and can be used to mitigate impacts from future development activities. The goal of the program is to help achieve no net loss of wetlands on a watershed basis.
5. A voluntary nonpoint source control program utilizes education, demonstration and cost-share grants to local entities to address water quality problems which result from diffuse pollution sources such as runoff associated with land use activities.
6. Surface water bodies are protected by standards which describe the minimum acceptable water quality conditions and maximum pollutant concentrations. The standards include designations of protected uses, numeric and narrative criteria designed to achieve those uses, and an antidegradation policy to maintain the highest possible water quality.
7. A process to identify waterbodies that are impaired or at threat of impairment and to focus resources and processes on these impaired waterbodies to restore and protect their designated uses.

8. Conduct an ambient water quality monitoring program to identify those waters which are supporting their uses, those waters which are impaired, to identify sources of impairment, to verify stream classifications, to establish discharge limits, to verify program effectiveness, and where necessary, to develop Total Maximum Daily Loads.
9. Conduct regular inspections of permitted discharge points and respond to complaints concerning unauthorized discharges to surface waters of the state.

**The mission of the Water and Wastewater Section is to prevent, reduce and eliminate pollution of the surface and ground waters of the state in order to preserve and enhance the water resources of the state and to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the environment and the inhabitants of the state. This mission is accomplished through implementation of the following activities and programs:**

1. Prevention of pollution through wastewater construction permits. The purpose of these permits is to insure the design, construction and operation of facilities capable of providing the required treatment and prevention of pollution.
2. Issuance of public water supply construction permits. The purpose of these permits is to insure the design, construction and operation of facilities capable of delivering a safe and reliable potable water supply.
3. Assure that technically competent personnel operate public water supply systems and public sewerage systems.
4. Respond to reporting of spills, assure proper cleanup and follow-up reporting of releases that enter or threaten to enter waters of the state.
5. In cooperation with the Office of State Lands and Investment, administers low interest loan programs for publicly owned water supply systems and wastewater treatment projects.
6. Assure that public water supplies systems have the technical, managerial and financial capability to operate these systems in compliance with the requirements of state and federal laws. To assist these systems with the development of source water protection programs.
7. Permit the construction, operation and closure of large confined swine feeding operations.
8. Authorize land application and surface disposal of biosolids generated during the treatment of domestic sewage in treatment works.
9. Work with local governments to carry out these responsibilities and delegate programs where applicable.
10. Provides field inspection and technical assistance to permitted facilities as resources allow.

## WATER RESOURCES DATA SYSTEM

**CONTACT:**

Jan Curtis

(307) 766-6659

<http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu/>

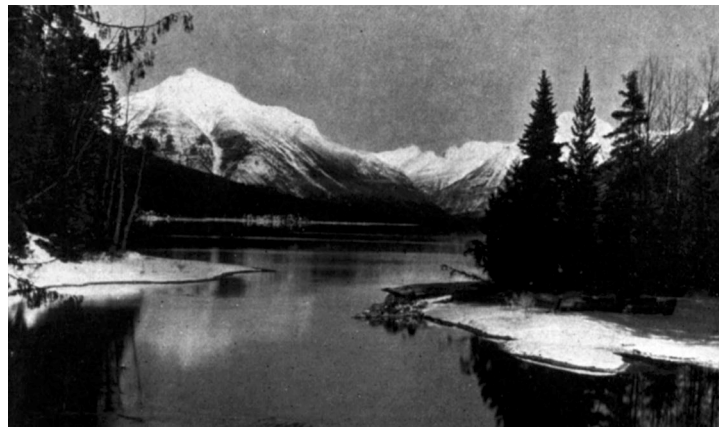
The Water Resources Data System (WRDS) is a clearinghouse of hydrological and climatological data for the State of Wyoming. WRDS offers a wide variety of products and services to its users, including retrievals for water resources information from in-house databases, CD-ROM products, and alternate data systems from across the region and/or country via the Internet. WRDS is actively migrating its databases to the World Wide Web (WWW) environment for online access by its users. Currently, both *The Wyoming Water Bibliography* and Water Quality databases are accessible in this manner. Cooperative data posting efforts with federal and state agencies in Wyoming have led to additional water resources information being disseminated through the site. Online data may be accessed at the following Uniform Resource Locator (URL): **<http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu/>**

Funded by an allocation from the Wyoming Water Development Commission, the system strives to provide the most comprehensive compilation of water resource information available to its requesters. Operating in such a one-stop shopping environment mandates not only linkages to other databases, but also the keen awareness of who the end users are and how the data will be utilized, which can be as varied as the number of sources of information. During the 1997 calendar year, 700 requests for data and analyses were received and processed by the WRDS office, while thousands more visited the WRDS web site for online information.

Phone: (307) 766-6651 Fax: (307) 766-3785

Email: [wrds@uwyo.edu](mailto:wrds@uwyo.edu)

WWW:<http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu/>



## WYOMING STATE ENGINEER'S OFFICE

**CONTACT:**

Pat Tyrrell

(307) 777-6150

<http://seo.state.wy.us/>

**BOARD OF CONTROL.** The three primary functions of the State Board of Control are Adjudication of Water Rights, Administration of Water and Amendments to Adjudicated Water Rights.

**Adjudication of Water Rights.** After water has been put to beneficial use, a reservoir is constructed as outlined in a permit issued by the State Engineer or a notice of completion to beneficial use or notice of completion of construction is received by the Surface Water Division of the State Engineer's Office, a final proof of appropriation or construction is prepared by the Board of Control staff. This is then sent to the appropriate water division superintendent, is advertised in a local newspaper and an inspection of the project is made. Only lands found to be irrigated and/or possessing a reservoir will be accepted for adjudication. After inspection the water division superintendent submits a proof to the Board of Control Cheyenne Office for consideration at the next regular scheduled meeting of the Board of Control. If everything is found in order and no protests are filed, the Board of Control approves the adjudication of the water right. A certificate of appropriation and/or construction is issued by the Board of Control and is recorded in the county clerk's office where the water right is located and in the Cheyenne Office of the Board of Control. This certificate is then listed in the tabulation of adjudicated water rights for the respective water division within the State Engineer's Office.

**Amendments to Adjudicated Water Rights.** All matters concerning changes to adjudicated appropriations of water, both surface and ground water, must be brought before the Board of Control in the form of a petition. A petition must be in the form of an affidavit signed by the water right owner, or an authorized agent, before a notary public or other officer authorized to administer oaths. If the change and its petition require a map, the map must be prepared by a professional engineer or land surveyor licensed to practice in Wyoming.

**Administration of Water.** Hydrographer commissioners and water commissioners are appointed by the Governor on recommendation of the State Engineer and the appropriate water division superintendent. Commissioners must be skilled in the measurement of water and are in charge of the water administration of an entire watershed. During winter months, hydrographer commissioners make monthly measurements of the various Geological Survey gaging stations in their district. This is done under a state-federal cooperative program. The hydrographer commissioner is charged with keeping comprehensive records of water diversions and flows in their district and submit an annual report of this information.

**SURFACE WATER DIVISION.** The Surface Water Division of the State Engineer's Office administers permitting, petitions, weather modification permits, safety-of-dams and Wyoming Board of Geographical Names programs.

**Permitting.** This program includes permits for direct flow diversions, enlargements of existing facilities and reservoirs.

**Petitions.** This program allows changes to existing unadjudicated permits. Exchange petitions allow “make up” water from another source to fully satisfy an appropriation or allows the diversion of water at a different time of the year. The exchange allows flexibility while preventing injury to other water users.

**Weather Modification Permits.** This permit allows entities to attempt to cause more precipitation to fall or to prevent the formation of hail.

**Safety-of-Dams Program.** This program provides for a review of dams planned for construction and also provides for inspection of existing dams to help meet safety standards.

**Wyoming Board of Geographic Names.** This program effort advises on naming of geographic features within the State of Wyoming.

## **GROUND WATER DIVISION.**

The Ground Water Division of the State Engineer's Office is charged with administration of the state's ground water resources which includes:

1. To issue, record, maintain, and prepare permits for adjudication which grant the right to appropriate ground water.
2. To resolve conflicts between ground water users.
3. To conduct Ground Water Control Area Advisory Board meetings
4. To coordinate ground water investigations involving the State Engineer's Office and other agencies
5. To investigate water well construction and enforce well construction regulations.
6. To protect the state's ground water resources.
7. To investigate the occurrence of ground water resources.
8. To monitor ground water levels across the state.

### **Ground Water Division Programs:**

**Control Areas.** At present there are three ground water use control areas maintained in the state. They include the Laramie County Control Area, Platte County Control Area, and Prairie Center Control Area. Ground water use in the control areas is overseen by elected advisory boards which make recommendations to the State Engineer on ground water right activities in those areas. Control areas are formed where ground water use is found to be critical with respect to available supplies.

**Monitor Well Network** - The Ground Water Division operates a network of ground water level observation wells throughout the state which collect data for baseline information, control area monitoring, or special study areas.

**Water Supply and Water Yield Analysis.** The State Engineer's Office is required to provide analysis for projects under the jurisdiction of the Industrial Siting Administration (DEQ) which propose to use 800 acre feet of ground water or more per year. This analysis is performed to evaluate the adequacy of the proposed water supply for the project.

**Subdivision Water Supply Adequacy Review.** Includes a review for disposition of water rights on lands to be subdivided and a review of professional reports on water supply adequacy to determine if adequacy has been properly addressed for proposed ground water sources.

### **Ground Water Special Projects**

**West Bank Snake River Project.** An investigation in cooperation with Teton County and the Teton County Conservation District involving collection of ground water level data and streamflow gauging data in a effort to characterize the hydrologic forces of the Snake River system and impacts of land use in the specific area of the west bank in Teton County.

**Madison Aquifer Assessment.** An evaluation of the impact of water usage in Wyoming and adjoining states concerning the ground water resource contained in the Madison Formation aquifer. Data collection is comprised of observation well data, streamflow measurement data, and weather station (meteorological) data.

**Gillette Aquifer Monitoring Program.** The Fort Union Formation aquifer is the primary fresh water source for municipal and subdivision use at Gillette. Ground water level data from observation wells completed in the this aquifer, underlying the Gillette area, is collected and analyzed in an effort to more effectively manage the use of the aquifer.

**Cooperative Programs.** Conducted with other state or federal agencies via matching funds agreements which provide for hydrologic monitoring, analysis, and administration support.

### **SPECIAL PROJECTS DIVISION.**

**Geographic Information Systems (GIS).** The use of GIS technology has been utilized for the identification of overlapping water rights or conflicts in water rights. In addition, GIS has been used on interstate river compact issues, primarily to aid in determining land use and the numbers of irrigated acres. The GIS software used are ARC-Info and Arc-View. Following is several examples of GIS projects.

**Burnt Fork Project.** Under Article XII Section (a) of the Upper Colorado River Basin Compact, it is stated "Waters diverted from Henry's Fork, Beaver Creek, Burnt Fork, Birch and their tributaries shall be administered without regard to the state line on the basis of an interstate priority schedule to be prepared by the states affected and approved by the Commission in conformity with the actual priority of right of use, the water requirements of land irrigated, and the acreage irrigated in connection therewith".



The Wyoming State Engineer's Office - Special Projects Division has been working with the Utah State Engineer's Office to develop a joint identification of the water rights within a basin, which will lead to the development of a water priority schedule.

During this process, it was determined that all lands and water rights involved should be mapped through the use of GIS. All Utah and Wyoming water rights have been mapped including the acreage, sources, ditches, and conflicts identified. Pending another field season and an annual meeting with the appropriators, a delivery (priority) schedule prepared and delivered to the Colorado River Commission for approval and use by both States' water administration officials.

**Wind River Project.** Refinement and upgrade this existing Wind River GIS project continues with the integration "Walton claims". The Walton mapping project overlays the Wind River GIS project. Walton award maps are developed to provide a pictorial view of location of the awards. The maps are incorporated as part of the court's report and recommendation. These maps are also used for determination of overlapping water rights, i.e. identifying the conflicts with the Tribes' Reserved Right and State Permitted Rights for Walton.

**Willow Creek Project.** This project is located in Water Division Four and encompasses Willow Creek and its tributaries. This project is a cooperative mapping project between the staff and the field personnel. The purposes of this project is to determine overlapping water rights, identify a composite of all rights and use final maps for field investigation. 108 surface water permits and 4 reservoir permits have been identified within the project area.

**Miscellaneous Mapping Projects.** The division assists other state agencies (Department of Environmental Quality and the Attorney General) analyze GIS information and prepare GIS maps for litigation.

The staff is involved in obtaining GIS information from a variety of sources including federal and local governments and the private sector, as well as providing SEO GIS data to a several entities.

**Wyoming Geographic Information Advisory Council (WGIAC).** Appointed by the chair of the WGIAC, the State Engineer's Office represented the State of Wyoming on the National States Geographic Information Advisory Council (NSGIC). The State Engineer's Office, as the WGIAC liaison, represented Wyoming at the State Cooperating Council's meeting with the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) which was chaired by Secretary Babbitt.

The division participated in the annual GIS demo for the legislature and the public. The division participates in and hosts several regional GIS conferences. The staff participated on the GIS Policy Group in the development of a Statewide GIS policy document, which was recently approved by the Governor.

## WYOMING WATER DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

**CONTACT:**

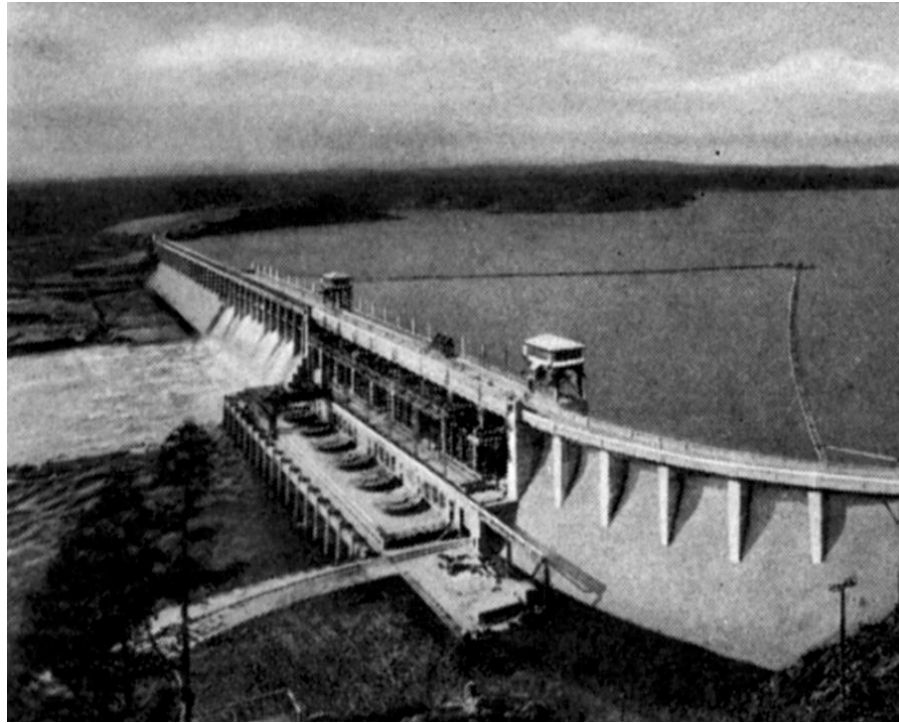
John Jackson, Planning Administrator

(307) 777-7626

<http://wwdc.state.wy.us/>

The Wyoming Water Development Commission provides grant and loan funding for water supply feasibility studies and construction projects. Funding comes from the Wyoming Water Development Account and each study or project must be approved by the Legislature. Applicants for assistance must be approved entities such as municipalities, irrigation districts, service and improvement districts or Joint Powers Boards.

Projects must address water supply, transmission or storage. Water treatment or distribution systems are not applicable. New projects and rehabilitation of existing projects are considered. Applications must be received by the WWDC by September 15 of each year.



## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

**CONTACT:** Rich Schuler (307) 775-6092

**BLM's Riparian Habitat Management Program** offers the opportunity to coordinate with outside interests on riparian improvement projects. The goal of BLM's riparian-wetland management is to maintain, restore, improve, protect, and expand these areas so they are in proper functioning condition for their productivity, biological diversity, and sustainability. The overall objective is to achieve an advanced ecological status, except where resource management objectives, including proper functioning condition, would require an earlier successional stage. The goal includes aggressive riparian-wetland information, training, and research programs as well as improving the partnerships and cooperative management processes.

Partnerships have been available for riparian improvement projects and for research into riparian issues. Funding is available on an annual basis subject to budget allocations from Congress. All submitted cooperative projects compete for the funds available in the riparian program. For information on the riparian habitat program within BLM, please contact Mark Gorges (307) 775-6100.

**Range Improvement Planning and Development** is a cooperative effort not only with the livestock operator but also with other outside interests including the various environmental/conservation groups. Water development, whether it be for better livestock distribution or improved wetland habitats for wildlife, is key to healthy rangelands and biodiversity. Before actual range improvement development occurs, an approved management plan must be in place. These plans outline a management strategy for an area and identify the type of range improvements needed to accommodate that management. Examples of these plans are Coordinated Resource Plans, Allotment Management Plans, and Wildlife Habitat Management Plans.

All rangeland improvement projects on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management require the execution of a Permit. Although there are a couple of methods for authorizing range improvements on the public lands, Cooperative Agreement for Range Improvements form 4120-6 is the method most commonly used. This applies equally to range improvement projects involving water such as reservoirs, pits, springs, and wells including any associated pipelines for distribution. The major funding source for the Bureau of Land Management's share comes from our range improvement fund which is generated from the grazing fees collected. There, too, is a limited amount of funding from the general rangeland management appropriations. If the cooperator is a livestock operator, their contributions come generally in the form of labor. There are times they also provide some of the material costs as well. Contributions from the conservation/environmental interests is monetary and often come in the form of grants. They also contribute labor on occasion. For information on the range improvement program within BLM, please contact Tom Enright (307)775-6329 or Don Glenn at (307)775-6097.

**BLM's Watershed and Water Quality Improvement** efforts are undertaken in a cooperative approach with the State of Wyoming, Conservation Districts, livestock operators and various conservation groups. Wyoming's BLM is partnering in the implementation of (12)

Section 319 watershed plans state-wide.

It is anticipated that as the State's Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Plan is fully implemented, the State Water Quality Division of DEQ and BLM will cooperatively identify additional priority watersheds for improvement practices and treatments. In the course of developing watershed plans or TMDL's for these watersheds, BLM will be routinely involved in watershed health assessments, planning, project implementation and Best Management Practice (BMP) monitoring.

Now, and in the future, the goals of cooperative watershed projects will typically be the restoration and maintenance of healthy watershed function. These goals will typically be accomplished through approved BMP's, e.g. prescribe burns, vegetation treatments, instream structures, to enhance vegetation cover, control accelerated soil erosion, increase water infiltration and enhance stream flows and water quality.

Currently, in response to the Clean Water Action Plan and associated funding increases, BLM is expanding its efforts to address water quality and environmental concerns associated with abandoned mines. This work will also be accomplished, in cooperation with the State Abandoned Mine Lands Division, on a priority watershed basis and will employ appropriate BMP's to address identified acid mine drainage and runoff problems from mine tailings and waste rock piles.

For information on the watershed and water quality program within BLM, please contact Rick Schuler at (307)775-6092.



## CORPS OF ENGINEERS

**CONTACT:** Matt Bilodeau (307) 772-2300 <http://www.usace.army.mil/>

The Army Corps of Engineers has civil responsibilities for flood damage reduction, hydroelectric power generation and navigational improvement as well as other water and land resource problems and needs including environmental preservation and enhancement, ecosystem management and comprehensive flood plain management. The Corps is responsible for a worldwide military construction program, an extensive environmental program and a broad national civil works program.

The Corps of Engineers is authorized to provide technical assistance to local communities, States and federally recognized Indian Tribes in support of their efforts to alleviate flooding impacts, reduce erosion and otherwise plan for the wise and prudent use of the nation's water and related land resources. They also have authority to construct certain water resources related projects and respond to water resource needs.

**Planning Assistance To States.** This program provides for assistance in preparation of plans for the development, utilization and conservation of water and related land resources. The Corps provide technical planning assistance in all areas related to water resources development such as bank stabilization, sedimentation, water conservation, ecosystem and watershed planning and water quality. Assistance is limited to \$500,000 per state and studies are cost-shared on a 50-50 basis with a non-federal sponsor such as a state, public entity or an Indian Tribe.

**Flood Plain Management Services.** This program provides technical services and planning guidance for support and promotion of effective flood plain management. Flood and flood plain data are developed and interpreted with assistance and guidance provided in the form of "Special Studies" on all aspects of flood plain management planning. All services are provided free of charge to local, regional, state or non-federal public agencies. Federal agencies and private entities have to cover 100% of costs.

**Flood Damage Reduction Projects.** This program provides structural and non-structural projects to reduce damages caused by flooding and focuses on solving local flood problems in urban areas, towns and villages. The Corps works with the project sponsor to define the flood problem, evaluate solutions, select a plan, develop the design and construct a project. A feasibility study is conducted to identify potential projects with the first \$100,000 of the cost Federal. Any cost above this amount is cost-shared 50-50 with the sponsor in the form of cash and in-kind services. Construction lands, easements, rights-of-way, relocations and disposal and 5% of the projects costs are the sponsor's responsibility. Operation and maintenance and a maximum of 50% of total project cost are the sponsor's responsibility.

**Project Modification For Improvement of Environment.** The purpose of this program is to modify structures or operation of previously constructed water resources projects to improve environmental quality, especially fish and wildlife values. A study, at federal expense, is initiated followed by a feasibility plan that is cost-shared 25% by the sponsor.

**Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration.** This effort is for restoration of historic habitat conditions to benefit fish and wildlife resources. This is primarily to provide structural or operational changes to improve the environment such a river channel reconnection, wetland creation or improving water quality. Conditions are similar to the Project Modification program with sponsor cost-share being 35%.

**Water Resources Projects.** The purpose of this program is to construct larger projects for flood damage reduction and to provide technical assistance in resolving more complex water resource problems. It is used to evaluate projects costing more than \$10 million that include purposes of flood control, water supplies, water quality, environmental protection and restoration, sedimentation or recreation. This would include reservoirs, diversions, levees, channels or flood plain parks as examples. The Corps works with a non-federal sponsor to define the flood or water resource related problem or opportunity, evaluate flood control or solutions, select a plan, develop a design and construct a project. This requires special authorization and funding from Congress with a reconnaissance study being federal cost. A feasibility study to establish solutions is cost-shared 50% by the non-federal sponsor with 35 to 50% of construction cost the responsibility of the sponsor.

**Support For Others Program.** This program provides for environmental protection and restoration or facilities and infrastructure. This includes Environmental Planning and Compliance, Economic and Financial Analyses, Flood Plain Management, Cultural Resources and General Planning. All costs for these programs are provided by the customer agency.

**Regulatory Authority/Responsibility.** The Corps of Engineers has regulatory authority under the Clean Water Act and the River and Harbor Act. The purpose of these laws is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of waters of the United States. Section 404 of the Clean Water Act authorizes the Corps to regulate the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters. This would include dams and dikes, levees, riprap, bank stabilization and development fill. There are three kinds of permits issued by the Corps. They are Individual, Nationwide and Regional General permits.



## NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE

**CONTACT:** Lincoln “Ed” Burton (307) 261-6453 <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/NRCSProg.html>

**Technical Assistance.** Technical assistance from NRCS is delivered through conservation districts to farmers, ranchers and other land users. It is for planning and implementation of natural resources conservation and water quality practices. Assistance is based on development of a farm plan that addresses natural resource concerns. This includes conservation systems designed to sustain and improve:

- soil and water quality through erosion control
- grazing land management
- pesticide and nutrient management
- irrigation water management
- wetlands conservation and restoration
- woodland management and windbreaks
- wildlife habitat improvement
- flood control and streambank stabilization

**Environmental Quality Incentive Program.** EQIP applies to all types of conservation practices. It is available through priority areas or statewide resource concerns. Priority areas command 65% of available funding through EQIP. Priority areas are areas needing conservation practices that are identified, assessed and prioritized by local work groups. Statewide resource concerns command 35% of EQIP funding and are specifically for conservation work that is outside of priority areas. They are funded through a ranking process and are for grazing lands, irrigation water management and water quality concerns. EQIP contracts have a 5 to 10 year duration, have a \$50,000/contract payment limitation with up to a 75% cost-share.

**Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program.** WHIP is a program to provide technical assistance to eligible participants to develop wildlife habitat plans and implement practices. This program is a cost-share effort for habitat enhancement and includes an educational effort with an emphasis on riparian and wetlands habitat and fisheries.

**PL 566.** This program assists local organizations in flood prevention, watershed protection and water management via establishment of erosion, sedimentation and runoff control measures. Watershed protection is attained through conservation land treatments. Flood prevention practices include land treatment, nonstructural and structural measures to reduce flood damage. Increasing or conserving water supply, improvement of water quality and increasing water management efficiency are all agricultural water management practices. Non-agricultural water management is primarily wetlands restoration and recreation development. Groundwater recharge is mainly measures to facilitate percolation of surface waters to replenish subsurface aquifers. Technical and financial assistance for this program is for construction and

ranges from 50 to 100% excluding municipal and industrial water supplies. This program needs to be sponsored by a locally led group that is responsible for application, planning, implementation, operation, maintenance and replacement.

**Water Conservation Study/ “09 River Basin Study”**. The purpose of this program is to identify problems and need and to recommend alternative solutions. The emphasis is on an inventory of canal systems, specifically erosion, sedimentation and seepage. The study evaluates economic considerations, assesses irrigation improvements, environmental concerns and opportunities for implementation.





## FARM SERVICE AGENCY

**CONTACT:** Kay Hawker (307) 261-5081

The Farm Service Agency is a member agency of the United States Department of Agriculture. Programs administered through the FSA are offered through local county committees. Technical assistance needed for implementation of FSA programs is provided through the Natural Resource Conservation Service. FSA programs available are the Conservation Reserve Program, the Continuous Sign-up for High Priority Conservation Practices and the Emergency Conservation Program.

**Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).** This program offers agricultural producers annual rental payments to remove highly erodible cropland from production. Farmers and ranchers establish long-term conservation practices on erodible and environmentally sensitive land. In exchange, they receive 10-15 years of annual rental payments and cost share assistance. CRP is a voluntary program specifically for highly erodible lands currently in active production planted 2 of the 5 most recent crop years. Land offered for CRP is ranked according to environmental benefit for wildlife habitat, erosion control, water quality and air quality.

**Continuous Sign-Up for High Priority Conservation Practices.** Continuous sign-up provides management flexibility to farmers and ranchers to implement certain high-priority conservation practices on eligible land. Land must meet the requirements of CRP and be determined by the NRCS to be eligible and suitable for:

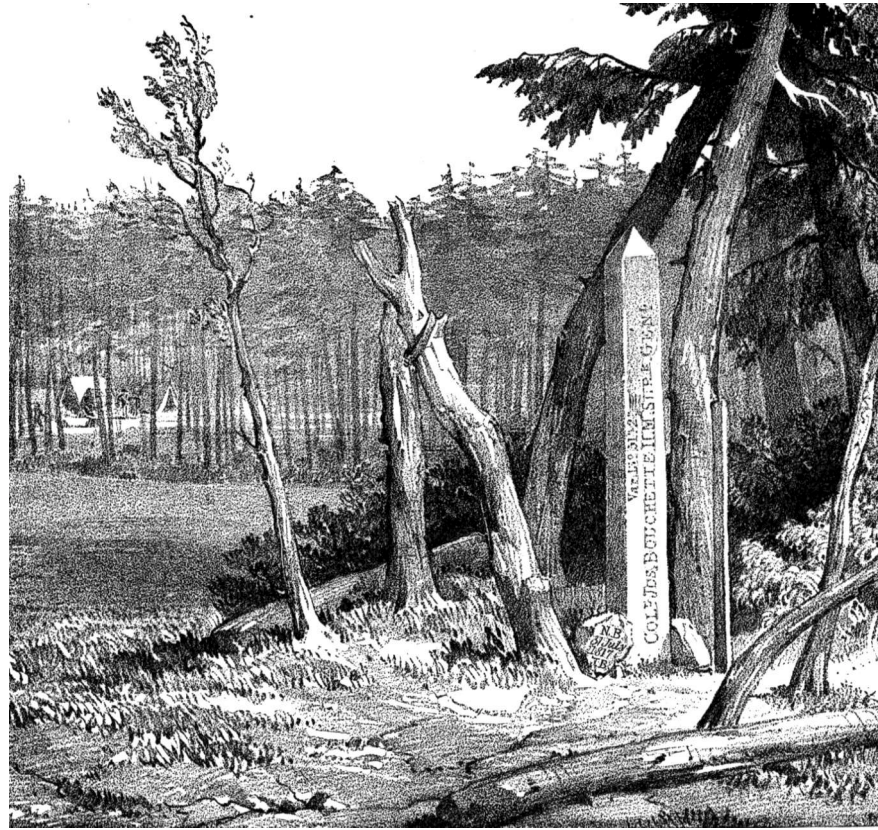
- Riparian buffers Filter Strips
- Grass waterways Shelter belts
- Field windbreaks Living Snow fences
- Contour grass strips Salt tolerant vegetation
- Shallow water areas for wildlife

Key provisions of continuous signup enhancements include:

1. An up-front, one-time CRP Signing Incentive Payment(CRP-SIP) of \$100 to \$150/acre (depending on contract length) will be provided to eligible participants who enroll selected practices;
2. A Practice Incentive Payment (PIP) equal to 40% of the eligible installation costs will be provided to eligible participants enrolling certain practices.

This is a cost share program that offers rental rates based on the average value of dryland cash rent with an additional financial incentive of up to 20% of the soil rental rate for field windbreaks, grass waterways, filterstrips and riparian buffers. An additional 10% may be added if the land is located in an EPA-designated wellhead protection area. There is also a provision for cost share of up to 50% of the cost of establishing permanent cover.

**Emergency Conservation Program.** The objective of ECP is to provide cost share assistance to agricultural producers who have suffered severe damage to their farmland or irrigation systems as a result of a natural disaster. The damage must be of such magnitude that it would be too costly for the producer to rehabilitate without Federal assistance. Benefits available through this program are for land leveling, restoring fences, debris removal, pipelines, irrigation structures, etc. Cost share levels up to 64%, as set by county committees, are available with a maximum of \$10,000 per person as approved by the county committee or \$20,000 per person as approved by the State committee. Cost sharing over \$20,000 must be approved by the Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs. Farmers or ranchers may enter into pooling agreements to jointly solve mutual conservation problems.



## RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE

**CONTACT:**

John Cochran

(307) 261-6319

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/wy/>

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/index.htm>

The United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Rural Utilities Service(RUS) is authorized to provide financial assistance for water and waste disposal facilities in rural areas and towns of up to 10,000 people. This program is intended for public entities and not-for-profit corporations. Priority is given to public entities serving less than 5,500 people with preference given to small low income communities.

Applicants must be unable to obtain funding from other sources, have capacity to secure and repay loans and operate the needed facilities or service, be financially sound and be capable of retiring the debt and maintain a reserve. All loans must be adequately secured. Grants are also available for up to 75% of development costs. Assistance is also available on how to assemble information concerning engineering, financing and management of proposed improvements.

Loans and grants may be used to construct, repair, improve, expand or modify rural water supplies and distribution facilities such as reservoirs, pipelines, wells and pumping stations, waste collection, pumping, treatment or other disposal facilities. This assistance may also be used to acquire a water supply or water right or finance facilities in conjunction with funds from other agencies or those provided by the applicant. These funds can be used to pay legal and engineering fees connected with the development of a facility or pay other costs related to development including rights-of-way or easements and relocation of roads or utilities. Loan terms are a maximum of 40 years with interest rates based on current market yields for municipal obligations.

Rural Utilities Service also guarantees loans to eligible commercial lenders to improve, develop or finance water or waste disposal facilities in rural areas. This guarantee is a warrant to protect the lender and may cover up to 80% of the principal advanced. The guarantee fee is 1% of the loan amount multiplied by the percent of the guarantee. Interest rates will be negotiated between the lender and the borrower.

## UNITED STATES BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

**CONTACT:**

John Lawson

(307) 261-5628

<http://www.gp.usbr.gov/www/watrcon1.htm>

The Bureau of Reclamation's mission emphasizes water conservation, recycling, reuse, development of partnerships with customers, states and tribes, bringing competing interests together to address needs, transferring title and operation of some facilities to local beneficiaries to enhance efficiency and achieving a higher level of fiscal responsibility to the taxpayer. This is all endeavored to meet the increasing water demands of the West while protecting the environment and the public's investment.

Water conservation and efficient water use is one of Reclamation's priority programs. Through the Water Conservation Field Services Program, Reclamation encourages innovation in water resources management and supports technical assistance to Reclamation's customers in planning, demonstrating and implementing water efficiency measures. Both technical and limited financial assistance through cost-sharing, generally on a 50-50 basis, are available to support development and implementation of cost effective water conservation measures. Reclamation has a commitment to working closely with each of their contractors to develop water conservation plans to improve irrigation district and municipal water user operations and make them more efficient.

Other areas of Bureau of Reclamation activity related to Reclamation developments are operation, maintenance, and management of the dams, reservoirs, power plants, irrigation delivery systems, fisheries, wildlife, water quality, natural resource development, recreation facilities and dam safety. Reclamation is also working to find consensus among parties competing for a shared water resource. This effort focuses on helping to facilitate discussions toward agreements that will restore fish and wildlife habitat while meeting the economic needs of the region.

## UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

**CONTACT:** Jane Darnell (307) 777-6087

A number of Federal laws direct or authorize watershed management on National Forest Service lands. Some of these laws provide broad authority while others deal more narrowly with specific watershed management activities.

The objectives of the Forest Service watershed management program are to protect and enhance soil productivity, water quality, water quantity and timing of water flows and to maintain favorable conditions of stream flow and continuous production of resources from National Forest System watersheds.

It is the policy of the Forest Service to implement watershed management activities on National Forest System lands in accordance with general objectives of multiple use and the specific objectives in the forest land management plans for the area involved. It is also the intent to design management activities of other resources to minimize short term impacts on soil and water resources and to maintain or enhance long term productivity, water quality and water quantity.

The Clean Water Action Plan provides broad water quality direction for the Forest Service. Specific direction for water quality is contained in the Land and Resource Management Plan for each National Forest. The forests in Wyoming are in the process of completing the Inland West Water Reconnaissance which will provide a classification of watersheds and stream reach conditions. Forest Service water quality programs are coordinated with Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality and other appropriate agencies. The Forest Service also has a water rights program that is coordinated with the Wyoming State Engineer.

The Forest Service, in conjunction with other federal, state and local agencies, provides watershed management and condition training. T-WALK and Proper Functioning Condition surveys are field methods used to assess stream reach and other waterbody condition.

Forest Service contacts are: Jane Darnell, Wyoming State Liason, 777-6087/jdarne@state.wy.us; Bryce Bohn, Bighorn NF, 672-0751; Monte Williams, Black Hills NF, 605-673-2251; Randy Davis, Bridger-Teton NF, 739-5521; Kirk Wolff, Medicine Bow/Routt NF, 970-870-2226; and Greg Bevenger, Shoshone NF, 527-1263.

## UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

**CONTACT:** Mark Hogan (307) 332-8719

**Partners for Wildlife Habitat Restoration.** This program provides technical and financial assistance directly to private landowners through voluntary cooperative agreements called Wildlife Extension Agreements (WEA). The program targets habitats that are in need of management, restoration or enhancement such as riparian areas, streams, wetlands and grassland. Under these Wildlife Extension Agreements, private landowners agree to maintain the restoration projects as specified in the agreement but otherwise retain full control of the land. Depending on the number of partners, the cost share may vary somewhat but is typically 75% partners and 25% landowner.

**Wildlife Conservation and Appreciation Program.** This program provides grants to state fish and wildlife agencies to fund projects that bring together USFWS, state agencies and private organizations and individuals. Projects include identification of significant problems that can adversely affect fish and wildlife and their habitats, actions to conserve species and their habitats, actions that will provide opportunities for the public to use and enjoy fish and wildlife through nonconsumptive activities, monitoring of species and identification of significant habitats.

**Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund.** This program is available to states that have a cooperative agreement with the Secretary of Interior. The intent is to provide Federal assistance to any state to assist in the development of programs for the conservation of endangered and threatened species. Potential programs include animal, plant and habitat surveys, research, planning, management, land acquisition, protection and public education. Single states may receive up to 75% of program costs

**North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grant Program.** This grant program promotes long-term conservation of wetlands ecosystems and the waterfowl, migratory birds, fish and wildlife that depend upon such habitat. Conservation actions supported are acquisition, enhancement and restoration of wetlands and wetlands associated habitat. This program encourages voluntary, public-private partnerships. Public or private, profit or non-profit entities or individuals establishing public-private sector partnerships are eligible. Cost-share partners must at least match grant funds with non-federal monies.

## UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

**CONTACT:** Myron Brooks (307) 778-2931 mhbrooks@usgs.gov

**WHO WE ARE:** The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) collects, interprets, and makes available information needed to:

Describe and understand the Earth

Minimize loss of life and property from natural disasters

Manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources

Enhance and protect our quality of life

Most USGS employees in Wyoming work on water-resources issues from our Cheyenne, Casper, and Riverton offices. Information on these activities can be found at "<http://wy.water.usgs.gov>".

**WHAT WE DO:** In Wyoming, the USGS collects, analyzes, and publishes data for both surface water and ground water. Examples of these programs include:

Operating a streamgaging network throughout the State. Major cooperators in this effort include the Wyoming State Engineer, Shoshone and Northern Arapahoe Joint Business Council, and the Bureau of Reclamation.

Collecting water-quality data at surface-water sites in cooperation with the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality.

Evaluating the water resources of the Yellowstone River Basin (part of the National Water Quality Assessment program), including the collection and analysis of water quality, quantity, and biological data throughout the Basin.

Assessing the occurrence and distribution of pesticides in ground water on a county by county basis in cooperation with the Wyoming Department of Agriculture as part of the State of Wyoming's Pesticide Management Plan.

**HOW WE CAN ASSIST OTHERS:** Much of the water-resources work conducted by the USGS in Wyoming is funded by the Federal-State Cooperative Water Resources Program. With this program, the USGS provides up to 50 percent of the required funding for the project, and the remainder is provided by reimbursements from cooperating agencies such as State, local, and Tribal agencies.

**HOW TO ACCESS OUR INFORMATION:** The USGS provides information on Wyoming's water resources via the world wide web and through various published reports. Information, reports, and data (including near real-time streamflow information) can be accessed at our home page, <http://wy.water.usgs.gov>, or by calling the Wyoming District Office in Cheyenne at (307)778-2931.