

LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
FIELD OFFICE

JULY 1, 2015 TO JUNE 30, 2016

ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK

CONSERVATION DEVELOPMENT

SELF GOVERNMENT

**LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
JULY 1, 2014 TO JUNE 30, 2015
PLAN OF WORK**

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Lincoln Conservation District to pursue the conservation, wise use and protection of our natural resources and encourage Southern Lincoln County Residents to do the same in order to preserve our quality of life.

DISTRICT SUPERVISORS

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>TELEPHONE NUMBER</u>
1. Chairperson	Erick Esterholdt	(307) 279-3519
2. Vice Chairperson	Kenny Petersen	(307) 279-3545
3. Secretary	Robert Peternal	(307) 877-6367
4. Treasurer	Robert Peternal	(307) 877-6367
5. Member	Paula Bowling	(307) 877-4441
6. Member	Paul Clark	(307) 279-3700

NRCS / DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

1. Natural Resource Specialist	DeMont B. Grandy	(307) 279-3256
2. District Clerk	Brenda Lazcanotegui	(307) 279-3256
3. Civil Engineering Technician NRCS	Wade Payne	(307) 279-3256

COOPERATING AGENCIES

1. Natural Resources Conservation Service
2. Wyoming Department of Agriculture
3. Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative Group
4. Farm Service Agency
5. Lincoln County Commissioners
6. Lincoln County Cooperative Extension Service
7. Lincoln County Planning Office
8. United States Forest Service
9. Town of Cokeville
10. City of Kemmerer
11. Town of Diamondville
12. Town of Opal
13. Town of LaBarge
14. Bureau of Land Management
15. Lincoln County Weed and Pest District
16. Wyoming Game and Fish Department
17. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
18. Wyoming Livestock Board
19. Wyoming Stock and Wool Growers Association
20. Office of State Lands and Investments
21. Wyoming State Forestry

22. Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
23. Wyoming Water Development Commission

DISTRICT OBJECTIVES

- I. Oversee the natural resources in Southern Lincoln County so a healthy and productive natural resource land base is maintained by installing conservation practices and projects which:
 - Improve irrigation water management, irrigation water system efficiencies and encourage water development and storage.
 - Sustain and improve public, state, and private grazing lands.
 - Improve riparian and wetland habitat.
 - Maintain and improve water quality throughout the district.
 - Help seek a balance between wildlife concerns and agriculture interests.
 - Promote the social-economic environment in South Lincoln County that sustains agriculture and local natural resources.

- II. Take the necessary actions with district wide landowners, state and federal agencies to work together as effective stewards of the natural resources on their property by fostering local solutions to local resource related problems, and promote varied incentive programs to install and promote and maintain conservation practices.

LCD/NRCS ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK

- I. OBJECTIVE: OVERSEE THE NATURAL RESOURCES IN SOUTHERN LINCOLN COUNTY SO A HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE NATURAL RESOURCES LAND BASE IS MAINTAINED BY INSTALLING CONSERVATION PRACTICES AND PROJECTS WHICH:
- IMPROVE IRRIGATION WATER MANAGEMENT, IRRIGATION WATER SYSTEM EFFICIENCIES AND ENCOURAGE WATER DEVELOPMENT AND STORAGE.
 - SUSTAIN AND IMPROVE PUBLIC, STATE ,AND PRIVATE GRAZING LANDS.
 - IMPROVE RIPARIAN AND WETLAND HABITAT.
 - MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE WATER QUALITY THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT.
 - HELP SEEK A BALANCE BETWEEN WILDLIFE CONCERNS AND AGRICULTURE INTERESTS.
 - PROMOTE THE SOCIAL-ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT OF SOUTH LINCOLN COUNTY THAT SUSTAINS AGRICULTURE AND LOCAL NATURAL RESOURCES

ACTIVITY	WHO	WHEN
<p>(IMPROVE IRRIGATION WATER MANAGEMENT, IRRIGATION SYSTEM EFFICIENCIES AND ENCOURAGE WATER DEVELOPMENT AND STORAGE.)</p> <p>1. Efforts will continue with the local NRCS Field Office to update irrigable land to higher efficiency irrigation systems throughout South Lincoln County.</p> <p>2. Inform landowners about the federal NRCS Farm Bill Programs through local newspaper articles, the Agriculture Service Center newsletter and personal contracts. District cooperators, along with local, federal, state, and county land management agencies, and conservation groups and organizations will be invited to attend the USDA Local Work Group meetings to review county-wide natural resource concerns. An emphasis will continue for the NRCS Sage Grouse State EQIP Initiative and developing of plans to manage riparian areas by developing rotational grazing systems on rangelands.</p> <p>3. LCD board members will continue its efforts with the Cokeville Water Development Company, Smiths Fork Irrigation District Water Users, and the Wyoming Water Development Commission to finish the Level II Study For the Sublette Creek Watershed for a potential water</p>	<p>Gary Blazejewski Wade Payne</p> <p>DeMont B. Grandy Gary Blazejewski</p> <p>Erick Esterholdt Kenny Petersen Sam Bennion John Reed III DeMont Grandy</p>	<p>June 2016</p> <p>August 2015</p> <p>June 2016</p>

<p>storage reservoir and assist the Cokeville Development Company develop a water conservancy district in order to start a Level III Study for the Sublette Creek Watershed proposed reservoir once the Level II Study is completed. The LCD board members will also assist the WWDC Look for another alternative site for water storage since the Sublette Creek Site has some major environmental concerns. The Dry Fork of the Smiths Fork River has some potential.</p>		
<p>(SUSTAIN AND IMPROVE DISTRICT GRAZING LANDS.)</p>		
<p>1. The LCD board members will continue to work closely with the Coalition of Local Governments to address public and private rangeland issues within the LCD.</p>	<p>Robert Peternal Jonathan Teichert DeMont Grandy</p>	<p>June 2016</p>
<p>2. The LCD board members will continue to support the “Coordinated Resource Management” (CRM) activities throughout the district. This year’s efforts will again center on the implementation of CRM plans for the Smithsfork BLM Allotment in cooperation with the Smithsfork Grazing Association and South LaBarge BLM Common Allotment in cooperation with the South LaBarge Grazing Association. Efforts will be taken with the Granger BLM Allotment permittees to organize a CRM plan.</p>	<p>Erick Esterholdt Robert Peternal Paul Clark Paula Bowling DeMont Grandy</p>	<p>Throughout the year</p>
<p>3. The LCD will work closely with the Wyoming Dept. of Agriculture (WDA) to complete the Rangeland Health Assessment Program (RHAP) grant for the Smithsfork BLM Allotment and the South LaBarge Common BLM Allotment.</p>	<p>Brenda Lazcanotegui DeMont Grandy Erick Esterholdt</p>	<p>June 2016</p>
<p>4. Implement the RHAP grant through the WDA for the Elk and Basin Creeks, USFS Allotments to start rangeland monitoring procedures</p>	<p>Robert Peternal Brenda Lazcanotegui DeMont Grandy</p>	<p>August 2015</p>
<p>(IMPROVE RIPARIAN AND WETLAND HABITAT)</p>		
<p>1. The LCD will encourage district cooperators to develop rotation grazing systems on their private, state and federal lands to improve riparian and wetland areas.</p>	<p>DeMont Grandy Paul Clark Gary Blazejewski Kenny Petersen</p>	<p>Throughout the year</p>
<p>(MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE WATER QUALITY THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT.)</p>		
<p>1. The LCD will again sponsor a domestic water well water quality testing program for rural land owners.</p>	<p>Brenda Lazcanotegui Paula Bowling</p>	<p>August 2015</p>

<p>2. The LCD will work closely with the Uinta County Conservation District and the Wyoming Water Development Commission (WWDC) to complete a comprehensive Level I watershed study for the Bear River Watershed in Wyoming.</p> <p>3. The LCD will complete and document several WWDC Small Water Development administrative checklists in addition to overseeing the construction of the projects within the Hams Fork River and Little Muddy drainages.</p>	<p>Robert Peternal</p> <p>DeMont Grandy Brenda Lazcanotegui Paula Bowling Robert Peternal</p> <p>DeMont Grandy</p>	<p>June 2016</p> <p>October 2015</p>
<p>(HELP SEEK A BALANCE BETWEEN WILDLIFE CONCERNS AND AGRICULTURE INTERESTS.)</p>		
<p>1. LCD board members will actively oppose any in stream flow adjudications that will affect private water rights within district boundaries</p>	<p>All Board Members</p>	<p>Throughout the year</p>
<p>2. LCD board members will continue participating in the Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative (WLCI) process at the federal agency level. The LCD will sponsor Circle B Ranch’s fencing and livestock water development projects plus sponsor the local Kemmerer BLM Office’s low moisture block program for livestock Grazing management as requested.</p>	<p>Robert Peternal Paul Clark DeMont Grandy Brenda Ashworth Levi Bennington</p>	<p>June 2016</p>
<p>(PROMOTE THE SOCIAL-ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT OF SOUTH LINCOLN COUNTY THAT SUSTAINS AGRICULTURE AND LOCAL NATURAL RESOURCES.)</p>		
<p>1. The LCD will continue to request Cooperating Agency Status with other federal agencies so pre-decisional advice may be presented in the development of federal Environmental Impact Statements (EIS). LCD expertise will center on the social and economic concerns due to federal and state government decisions that affect local agriculture producers’ livelihoods. The LCD can also assist with rangeland and water quality monitoring concerns for the EIS due to the availability of a LCD technical staff trained in these natural resource areas.</p>	<p>Robert Peternal DeMont Grandy Erick Esterholdt</p>	<p>Throughout the year</p>

LCD/NRCS ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK

II. OBJECTIVE: TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTIONS WITH DISTRICT WIDE LAND OWNERS AND STATE AND FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES TO WORK TOGETHER AS EFFECTIVE STEWARDS OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES ON THEIR PROPERTY BY FOSTERING LOCAL SOLUTIONS TO LOCAL RESOURCE RELATED PROBLEMS, AND PROMOTE VARIED COST SHARE PROGRAMS TO INSTALL AND MAINTAIN CONSERVATION PRACTICES.

ACTIVITY	WHO	WHEN
1. Publish an annual report on current natural resource conservation activities in the District.	Brenda Lazcanotegui DeMont Grandy	December 2015
2. Revise the LCD Long Range Plan.	Brenda Lazcanotegui	June 2016
3. Complete the development of an official LCD Land Use and Natural Resources Plan for Southern Lincoln County.	DeMont Grandy Jonathan Teichert	March 2016
4. Sponsor education programs in the elementary schools on conservation of natural resources.	Brenda Lazcanotegui DeMont Grandy	Throughout the year
5. Continue to offer the District's seedling tree and shrub program to all interested individuals. Actively advertise the program with the Kemmerer Gazette newspaper and the KMER radio station. Assist the Town of Cokeville with their Tree USA and Arbor Day programs.	DeMont Grandy Brenda Lazcanotegui	Dec. 2015 through April 2016
6. Present yearly budget to Lincoln County Commissioners.	DeMont Grandy Brenda Lazcanotegui	May 2016
7. Become more active in inviting other local, state, and federal natural resource agency personnel to district board meetings. Work closely with them in solving natural resource problems in the district.	Erick Esterholdt Brenda Lazcanotegui	Throughout the year
8. Continue to hire a district clerk to help implement on-going natural resource conservation programs in the district.	District Board Members	Part time 4 days/week
9. LCD board members will help sponsor workshops on locally needed natural resource conservation subjects such as the local Extension Service's Water Wise Workshop for Town of Cokeville and the BLM's Low Stress Livestock Handling Workshop.	District Board Members DeMont Grandy Brenda Lazcanotegui	Throughout the year
10. Sponsor scholarship(s) for attendance at natural resource camps, courses for weed control methods, or prescribed grazing techniques or crop management etc. for interested individuals. Up to 5 individuals per event will be considered.	Erick Esterholdt Robert Pernal	Throughout the year

<p>11. LCD will update its Web Site to help keep cooperators informed of LCD conservation activities and natural resource activities going on by other cooperating agencies.</p>	<p>Julia Carollo Brenda Lazcanotegui</p>	<p>Throughout the year</p>
<p>12. The LCD will hire a part-time natural resource specialist to help with the conservation planning and implementation of conservation practices on LCD lands and the day-to-day operations of the district. Emphasis will be placed on rangeland and water quality monitoring activities on private, state, and federal lands.</p>	<p>DeMont Grandy All Board Members</p>	<p>Throughout the year</p>

WE, THE SUPERVISORS OF THE LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT, AS DULY AUTHORIZED BY THE WYOMING CONSERVATION DISTRICT LAWS, HEREBY ADOPT THIS 2014-2015 ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK AS THE GUIDE FOR WORK PRIORITIES IN THE LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT.

CHAIRPERSON

DATE

VICE CHAIRPERSON

DATE

SECRETARY/TREASURER

DATE

MEMBER

DATE

MEMBER

DATE

THE LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER, AND OFFERS ALL PROGRAMS, SERVICES, AND ASSISTANCE ON A NONDISCRIMINATORY BASIS, WITHOUT REGARD TO AGE, COLOR, CREED, MARITAL STATUS, NATIONAL ORIGIN, PHYSICAL OR MENTAL HANDICAP, POLITICS, RACE, RELIGION, OR SEX.

LCD ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK

The Board of Supervisors for the Lincoln Conservation District further moves to establish the following in apportioning District technical and professional assistance to land users within the District.

- I. The management, control, and wise use of irrigation water shall be the District's first priority.
- II. The improvement or maintenance of rangeland condition, along with the proper grazing use of private and public District rangeland shall be the District's second priority.
- III. Activities relating specifically to soil erosion, sediment control and water quality shall be the District's third priority.
- IV. The development and furtherance of conservation plans as tools for wise land use shall be the District's fourth priority.
- V. Assistance to non-agricultural type land use, such as to land developers, sub-divisions, mining companies, etc. shall be the District's fifth priority.