

LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT

FIELD OFFICE

JULY 1, 2020 TO JUNE 30, 2021

ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK

CONSERVATION

DEVELOPMENT

SELF GOVERNMENT

**LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
JULY 1, 2020 TO JUNE 30, 2021
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) 877-8226
6. Member	Paul Clark	(307) 279-3700
7. Associate Member	Shirley Ulrich	(307) 877-6466
8. Associate Member	Colter Julian	(307) 877-4703

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 application 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 natural resource related problems and promote varied cost share 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 RESOURCE LAND BASE IS MAINTAINED BY INSTALLING CONSERVATION PRACTICES AND PROJECTS WHICH:**
- **IMPROVE IRRIGATION WATER MANAGEMENT, IRRIGATION WATER APPLICATION 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
(IMPROVE IRRIGATION WATER MANAGEMENT, IRRIGATION APPLICATION EFFICIENCIES AND ENCOURAGE WATER DEVELOPMENT AND STORAGE.)		
1. Efforts will continue with the local NRCS Field Office to upgrade irrigable land to higher efficiency irrigation systems throughout South Lincoln County. Work with the Southwest Wyoming USDA Local Work Group to continue to replace worn out irrigation water conveyance pipelines.	DeMont B. Grandy Adam Clark Wade Payne	Throughout the year
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 Southwest USDA Local Work Group meeting to review county-wide natural resource concerns and make recommendations for priority conservation practices and cost share rates.	DeMont B. Grandy Adam Clark	May 2021
3. LCD board members will continue to support the Cokeville Watershed Improvement District (CWID) directors in their effort to repair the Cokeville Tri-diversion Structure by assisting CWID directors in their	Erick Esterholdt Kenny Petersen John Reed III DeMont Grandy	August 2020

<p>effort to get a low bid to repair the structure this fall (2020).</p> <p>(SUSTAIN AND IMPROVE DISTRICT GRAZING LANDS.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 at their monthly meetings. 2. The LCD will administer the final year's Rangeland Health Assessment Program (RHAP) grants from the Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) for Pole Creek, South Fontenelle, Lower Salt, and Sams-Allen Creek USFS Allotments. The LCD will also continue to help the South LaBarge Grazing Association with their RHAP grant since it was extended until December 31, 2020 by the WDA. Assistance will be given by the LCD as needed to complete rangeland monitoring efforts and prescribed grazing plans. 3. The LCD will help district cooperators with livestock water projects to facilitate rotation grazing systems. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The LCD and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be working with the Mill Creek Grazing Association to extend the Mill Creek livestock watering project, completed last year by installing another 4,900 feet of livestock water supply line with a watering trough. This will protect North Corral Creek riparian area from being overgrazed. 	<p>Robert Peternal DeMont Grandy</p> <p>B. Lazcanotegui DeMont Grandy Erick Esterholdt</p> <p>Fred Roberts DeMont Grandy Wade Payne Dave Kimble</p>	<p>Throughout the year</p> <p>Throughout the year</p> <p>July 2020</p>
---	---	--

<p>(IMPROVE RIPARIAN AND WETLAND HABITAT.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 2. The LCD will continue efforts with the Smithsfork Grazing Association to plant willow cuttings on streams within the Smithsfork BLM Allotment. It did not happen this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. 	<p>DeMont Grandy Paul Clark Adam Clark</p> <p>Erick Esterholdt DeMont Grandy Levi Bennington</p>	<p>Throughout the year</p> <p>May 2021</p>
<p>(MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE WATER QUALITY THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The LCD will again sponsor a domestic water well water quality testing program for rural landowners. 	<p>DeMont Grandy Paula Bowling Robert Peternal Brenda Lazcanotegui</p>	<p>June 2021</p>
<p>(HELP SEEK A BALANCE BETWEEN WILDLIFE CONCERNS AND AGRICULTURE INTERESTS.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. LCD board members will actively oppose any in stream flow adjudications that will affect private water rights within district boundaries 2. LCD board members will continue participating in the Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative (WLCI) program at the federal agency level. A grant will be worked up to obtain soils information for the development of a Tall Forb classification system and ESDS for the Bridger Teton National Forest. 3. The LCD will facilitate low stress livestock handling workshop with a field demonstration on how to move livestock between pastures. Workshop will be coordinated with the Kemmerer BLM Office. . 	<p>All Board Members</p> <p>Robert Peternal Paul Clark DeMont Grandy</p> <p>DeMont Grandy Levi Bennington Paul Clark</p>	<p>Throughout the year</p> <p>June 2021</p> <p>Throughout the year</p>

(PROMOTE THE SOCIAL-ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT OF SOUTH LINCOLN COUNTY THAT SUSTAINS AGRICULTURE AND LOCAL NATURAL RESOURCES.)

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 the federal Environmental Impact Statements (EIS). LCD expertise will center on the social economic and local natural resource management concerns due to federal and state government decisions that affect local agriculture producers' livelihoods.

a) The LCD will try to get a RHAP grant to obtain soils data for the reference sites for Tall Forb Communities within the Kemmerer USFS Ranger District. Once soils information is obtained, a Tall Forb Community Classification system can be developed to identify the different types of forb communities within the Kemmerer Ranger District. This project is being supported by Utah State University and the University of Wyoming, Ogden Regional USFS Office, and the LCD and Star Valley Conservation District. Once the information is obtained, work may recommence to complete the EIS for the K-17 sheep allotments within the Kemmerer and Greys River Ranger Districts.

b) The LCD will work in cooperation with the Lincoln County Commissioners to review and give input to the PacifiCorp/Rocky Mountain Power 2019 Integrated Resource Plan for electricity generation in southwest Wyoming. The LCD's input will center on power costs to agriculture producers to run their sprinkler irrigation systems and ensuring reliable electric power generation throughout the year. Workshops will be sponsored as needed.

c) The LCD supervisors will give input on the Gateway West Transmission Line alignment, especially in the Cokeville area when PacifiCorp moved ahead on the project.

Robert Peternal
DeMont Grandy
Erick Esterholdt

Throughout the year

DeMont Grandy
Kay Lynn Nield
Aaron Zobell

July 2020

All LCD Board Members
Lincoln County Comm.
DeMont Grandy
Brenda Lazcanotegui

Throughout the year

Erick Esterholdt
Kenny Petersen
Paul Clark
DeMont Grandy

Throughout the year

LCD/NRCS ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK

II. OBJECTIVE: TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTIONS WITH DISTRICT WIDE LANDOWNERS 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 NATURAL RESOURCE RELATED PROBLEMS AND PROMOTE VARIED COST SHARE INCENTITIVE 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 2020
2. Sponsor education programs in the elementary schools on conservation of natural resources.	DeMont Grandy Brenda Lazcanotegui	Throughout the year
3. Continue to offer the District’s seedling tree and shrub program to all interested individuals. Advertise the program with the Kemmerer Gazette newspaper and Star Valley Independent newspaper.	DeMont Grandy Brenda Lazcanotegui	Dec. 2020 through April 2021
4. Present yearly budget to Lincoln County Commissioners.	DeMont Grandy Brenda Lazcanotegui	May 2021
5. 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
6. 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
7. 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.	District Board Members DeMont Grandy Brenda Lazcanotegui	Throughout the year
8. 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.	Julia Carollo Brenda Lazcanotegui	Throughout the year

<p>9. 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 District 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 20120-2021 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 PRIORITIES

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 for subdivisions, mining companies, etc. shall be the District's fifth priority.