



# 2025-2026 Winter Newsletter

625 E. Madison Avenue Suite #1 • Riverton, WY 82501  
(307) 463-0636 • [www.lowerwindrivercd.com](http://www.lowerwindrivercd.com)

## Dates To Remember:

December 11, 2025 - Board of Supervisors meeting 12 p.m.

December 24-25- Merry Christmas!  
Office Closed

January 1, 2026 - Happy New Year!  
Office Closed

January 8, 2026- Board of Supervisors meeting 12 p.m.

January 19, 2026 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
Office Closed

February 11-12, 2026 - Farm and Ranch Days  
Fremont County Fairgrounds

February 12, 2026- Board of Supervisors meeting 12 p.m.

Find and like us on Facebook!



Wyoming FFA Foundation

## It's Giving Season! FFA Support

Your gift to the Wyoming FFA Foundation goes twice as far this year.

From November 1 through December 31,

Tallgrass, an energy infrastructure company focused on safely and reliably delivering energy, will match every dollar donated—up to \$100,000.

Double your impact today and help FFA continue to grow strong roots for tomorrow.

Visit <https://www.wyoffafoundation.org/tallgrass-match> for more information.



From all of us, to all of you! Thank you for your support in 2025! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

If you would like a beautiful Free 2026 WDA Ag Mediation Calendar, that include photos from our area, or the latest Barnyards and Backyards Magazine, stop in our office today!

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Rod Rivers - Chairman  
Richard Denke - Vice Chairman  
Ron Lucas - Secretary / Treasurer  
Nick Biltoft - At-Large Supervisor  
Scott Pettit - Urban Supervisor

Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> THURSDAY of every month at 12:00 pm

Meetings are open to the public

### OFFICE STAFF

Cathy Rosenthal  
District Manager  
[cathy.rosenthal@lowerwindrivercd.com](mailto:cathy.rosenthal@lowerwindrivercd.com)

Amanda Ablard  
Administration/Outreach Coordinator  
[amanda.ablard@lowerwindrivercd.com](mailto:amanda.ablard@lowerwindrivercd.com)

Rodney Carter  
Conservation Programs Coordinator  
[Rodney.carter@lowerwindrivercd.com](mailto:Rodney.carter@lowerwindrivercd.com)

Bobby Thoman  
District Engineer

### NRCS STAFF

Acting District Conservationist  
Jake Hogan

Programs Assistant  
Molly Koch

The Area NRCS, Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Rural Development offices are located in the USDA Service Center  
508 N. Broadway in Riverton  
307-856-7524

# What's been Happening!



## Long-Range and Natural Resource Management Plan

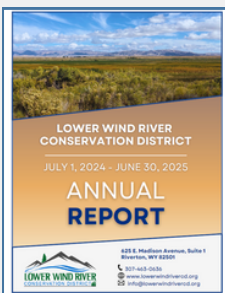
### Public Notice



Thank you to everyone who completed our Long-Range & Natural Resource Management Plan survey, and to the winner of the \$25 gift card to the Fremont Local Market, for filling out the survey! Your feedback helps us better understand the natural resource needs of our district and prioritize them for the years ahead, which was also incorporated into our 2026–2030 Draft Long-Range Natural Resource Management Plan. The Plan is now available to view and download on the homepage of our website. Public comment is open for 45 days through December 21, 2025. A public comment form is also available online, and printed copies of both the draft plan and the form are available at our office.

### Annual Plan and Report

The LWRCND Annual Report for July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025—which summarizes program accomplishments and financial information from the last biennium—along with the 2026 Annual Plan, is also available on our website or in hard copy at our office.



### Website Rebuild!

We are excited to announce the launch of our updated website platform after nearly a year of redesign work! The main intent of the rebuild was to offer our services and payment options more conveniently, including our new tree/shrub online store. To learn more about who we are, our District Operations, details about our natural resource programs, and our partnering organizations, please check it out and visit: [www.lowerwindrivercd.com](http://www.lowerwindrivercd.com). We're continuing to build out additional content so please stay tuned for more resources coming soon! A special thank you to Shannon Watts Art Design for all your help with the updates!



### 2025 Photo Contest Winners



We want to extend our heartfelt Congratulations and thanks to our first-place photo contest winner, Cathy Cline (pictured left), and our second-place winner, Shirene Petersen (pictured bottom left)! We were thrilled for Chairman Rod



Rivers to present them with certificates and monetary awards at our November meeting alongside their beautiful photos now displayed in our office, and throughout our Long- Range and Natural Resource Management Plan! Thank you both for sharing your talent of capturing the natural beauty of our area!

### WACD Convention

Rodney and Vice-Chairman Richard Denke attended the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts Annual Convention in Gillette, November 19-21<sup>st</sup>. In addition to participating in a variety of sessions, meetings, and networking opportunities, Rodney was recognized with a certificate for completing the Water Quality Training Certification. Congratulations Rodney! (pictured center, photo credit SCCD)



## No-Till Drills 2025 Recap

The LWRCD is proud to report another successful year for our No-Till Drill Program! In 2025, the 6-ft drill served 22 producers and planted a total of 209.3 acres, and the 10-ft drill was even busier, assisting 25 producers in planting 1,001.2 acres. They were utilized from March to November! Alfalfa and grass mixes were the most popular crops planted this year. We want to extend a thank you to all the producers who utilized the drills this year. As we park the drills for winter maintenance, we'd love to hear from those who have recently utilized the drills or even used them in the past as we plan for 2026. We will be sending a survey via email to those who recently used the drills, or feel free to call our office, or email Rodney with your feedback!



## Cost Share Programs Update

Cost-share services were offered through our October well water testing event, with 18 water tests submitted for analysis, and 13 fall soil tests were submitted for analysis. Three Resource Enhancement projects were also completed during the fall. As we look to 2026, our focus will be on sustaining these essential programs.

### Dates to remember:

- **Spring well water testing days will remain the 3rd Wednesdays of April and May 2026.**
- **Resource Enhancement Applications are due May 1st, 2026! More information will be available in our spring newsletter.**

Thank you for your continued support of our cost-share programs!

## Muddy Creek Water Sampling

The LWRCD has completed this year's water sampling season on Muddy Creek. Over late summer and fall, staff gathered data—including water quality parameters, *E. coli* levels, and flow measurements—from four sites. The resulting dataset will be analyzed to assess long-term water quality changes and help inform future conservation strategies within the greater watershed.



## Fall Education & Outreach

LWRCD had a busy fall with various education and outreach opportunities!

### September

- Cathy and Rodney provided a soil health presentation and program update at the Honor Farm, followed by a tour of their greenhouses.
- Amanda attended a Grant Management Regional Training in Cheyenne.
- All staff and Supervisor Denke attended the WACD Area IV meeting in Casper.

### October

- Rodney attended the Wyoming Watershed Conference in Laramie
- Amanda and Rodney participated in a native plant project -Sagebrush seedling planting at DeLoma Mine with Ft. Washakie students, DEQ AML, and Institute for Applied Ecology partners.

### November

- Bobby and Cathy attended the Wyoming Association of Irrigation Districts meeting in Casper.
- All staff attended and Cathy presented at the Society of Range Management conference in Riverton.
- Cathy and Amanda presented a tree lesson to 160 PreK-5th grade students at Wind River School as part of UW Science Initiative Roadshow STEM day.

### Early December

Rodney, Cathy and Amanda provided a water quality lesson to Riverton Middle School 6<sup>th</sup> graders.



Thank you to everyone who invited us to participate in your events and programs. Please keep us in mind for your Natural Resource Education and Outreach needs!!

# More Ongoing & Happening this Winter

## Tree and Shrub Sale Open!

Seedling trees are now available to order! Trees are sold on a first-come, first-served basis, so ordering sooner increases your chances of getting the trees you want. Our website offers online ordering, as well as the most up-to-date tree availability order form, a tree manual to help you decide the species you need, and other resources for your tree planting needs. A hard copy of the tree order form is also available at our office. The LWRCD sells seedling trees for windbreaks, erosion control, and other conservation practices.

**Tree delivery is tentatively scheduled for the last week of April or the first week of May 2026.**

**Planting Tip** - Winter is a great time to design your tree planting or windbreak layout for next spring. This is a good opportunity to outline your rows and spacing, determine watering requirements and decide which species will work best for your property. Give us a call or contact the NRCS if you'd like help with planning a windbreak.



**SEEDLING TREE & SHRUB SALE NOW OPEN!**

**OVER 20 SPECIES TO SELECT FROM!**

APRICOT, ASPEN, GOLDEN WILLOW  
CARAGANA, COTTONWOOD,  
CHOKECHERRY, ELDERBERRY, LILAC,  
PRAIRIE RED PLUM, PRAIRIE SKY POPLAR  
PONDEOSA PINE,  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN JUNIPER  
**AND MORE!**

**WE ALSO CARRY WEED BARRIER AND FABRIC STAPLES!**

**SHOP FOR THE TREES/SHRUBS AND ORDER AT:**  
<https://lowerwindrivercd.com/trees/>

**OR STOP BY THE OFFICE AND WE'LL ASSIST YOU!**  
625 E. MADISON, SUITE 1  
307-463-0636



**READY, SET, EXPLORE!**  
A FREE, family-friendly program designed to inspire outdoor adventures and create unforgettable memories!  
October, 2025-May, 2026

Click on the picture for more information!


Register today to see the great Ready, Set, Explore activities for December!



UW Extension Questions? readysetexplore.4h@gmail.com  
The University of Wyoming is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.

**NACD Stewardship Week**

NACD's annual Stewardship Week will take place April 26 – May 3, 2026. This year's theme is **"Soil. Where It All Begins."** Stewardship Week is an opportunity for Conservation Districts across the country to highlight the importance of soil health, responsible land use and the role producers play in protecting natural resources. Our district will once again participate by offering a poster contest in the spring along with more information about Stewardship week!



**Virtual Fence Symposium**

Northeast Virtual Fence Symposium - January 8, 2026, Gillette Camp Complex. WGFD, NE Wyoming Conservation Districts, and various non-profits to host the symposium. Visit the website for an agenda and to register:  
<https://wgfd.wyo.gov/news-events/northeast-wyoming-virtual-fence-symposium>

