



Spring 2025 Newsletter

625 E. Madison Avenue Suite # 1 • Riverton, WY 82501

307-463-0636 • www.lowerwindrivercd.com

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Dates To Remember:

March 13 - Board of Supervisors March meeting - 12 p.m. LWRCD Conference Room

March 18 - National Ag Day, CWC

April 11 - April Board of Supervisors meeting 12 p.m. LWRCD Conference Room

April 15 - Last Day for tree orders!

April 16 - Well Water Testing Day

April 30 - May 2 - Stewardship Week

May 1 - Resource and Community Enhancement applications Due!

May 2 - Tree/Shrub pick up at LWRCD

May 8 - Board of Supervisors May meeting - 12 p.m. LWRCD Conference Room

May 21 - Well Water Testing Day

June 12 - Board of Supervisors June meeting - 12 p.m.

Change of address or want to receive a newsletter by email?



Need assistance with a project? Please email or call ahead to schedule an appointment to make sure we are meeting your needs!

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Rod Rivers - Chairman
 Richard Denke - Vice Chairman
 Ron Lucas - Secretary / Treasurer
 Nick Biltoft - Member
 Urban Member - open
 Clay Shafer - Associate Supervisor

The LWRCD Board of Supervisors meet on the second THURSDAY of every month at our office at 12:00 pm unless otherwise noted. Meetings are open to the public.

OFFICE STAFF

Cathy Rosenthal
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 District Engineer

NRCS STAFF

District Conservationist
 Eric Watson

Senior Planner
 Thomas Tjepkes

Programs Assistant
 Molly Koch

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

What's Been Happening

The LWRCD has had a busy first few months of 2025, with attending various meetings and events in and out of state!

On January 3rd, Cathy, Ron, and Nick attended a Legislative Meet and Greet at the Riverton Branch Library, engaging with area Representatives and Senators. This event provided a platform to share the mission and work of the LWRCD while discussing important bills and issues impacting our area. We are grateful to the Riverton Chamber of Commerce for organizing this opportunity.



The LWRCD participated in Farm and Ranch Days in Riverton on February 5-6, where we had a booth and enjoyed connecting with everyone who stopped by. We enjoyed partaking in the great sessions offered and value the opportunity to engage with our local agricultural community.

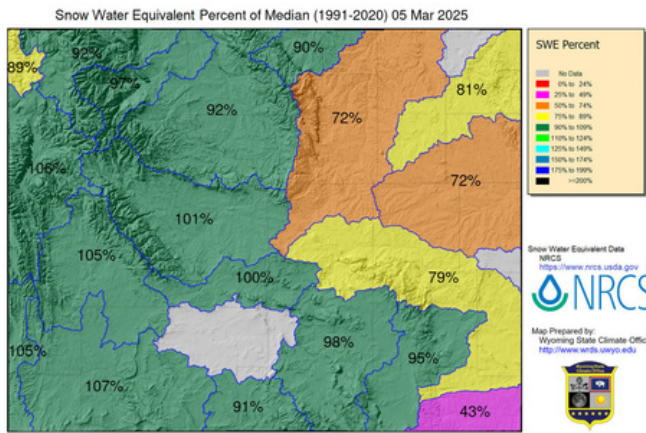
Associate Supervisor Clay Schafer and Cathy attended the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, from February 7-12. This national gathering brought together over 800 attendees from across the country. The theme of this year's convention was "Bee the Change." Cathy was honored to present on growth within Conservation Districts during the Employees Association's "Success and Growth Mindset" Panel. Both she and Clay came away with valuable information and fresh ideas they hope to apply within the LWRCD.



Annual Plan & Annual Report

Curious as to what the LWRCD is all about? Our Annual Report that highlights projects, programs, activities and financials from July 2023-June 2024 and our Annual Plan that lists proposed activities for July 2024 - June 2025 are posted on our website www.lowerwindrivercd.com/planspolicy along with our current FY budget. We also have copies at our office!

Water Supply Outlook and Crop Progress & Condition February Report



"Wyoming received some relief from the ongoing drought conditions during the month of February, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Rainfall was scattered and total accumulations varied ranging from a trace to 15 inches across the State during the month of February, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Temperatures also varied during the month, ranging from 15 degrees below average to near normal in the northern half of the state, while in the southern half of the State saw temperatures ranging from 3 degrees below average to 6 degrees above average during the month, according to the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC) climate maps for the month of February. Drought conditions improved in Wyoming during February, according to the United States Drought Monitor report published for February 25, 2025."

For the full report, visit:
https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Wyoming/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/

Tree & Shrub Sale!

Spring planting is right around the corner! If you are in need of trees or shrubs to build windbreaks, help with erosion control or other conservation practices, stop by and pick up an order form or order through our website on our tree page! Our website has the most up-to-date list of what is still available.

From Aspens to Willows, fruit bearing to evergreens, we have 29 different species to choose from. Orders are due April 15th and tree pick-up day is May 2nd at the LWRCD office.

Call us today if you have any questions. We also have weed barrier, tree protectors and staples!



Agronomy Seminar



The LWRCD, in partnership with Rocky Mountain Agronomy and NRCS, hosted an Agronomy Seminar with Paul Stukenholtz, Certified Crop Advisor, with Stukenholz Laboratory on February 25th and 26th at CWC in Riverton.

From soil and fertilizer chemistry to proper applications and management, over 30 participants left with some great new knowledge and ideas not only for the upcoming planting season but for well into the future.



Eric Watson with NRCS and Cathy also presented on conservation programs available that benefit and are tied to soil health. Thanks to Paul, Eric, Bunks BBQ, and Marisha Graves - The Busy Mother LLC, for the amazing food, and to all who attended.

Project Highlight: Ocean Lake Shoreline Erosion Project

Thanks in part to a grant the LWRCD received through the Wyoming Department of Agriculture, a landowner within the Ocean Lake Watershed implemented a critical bank stabilization project on the southern shoreline of Ocean Lake. With assistance from B&M Septic and Excavation Services LLC, 350 ft. of shoreline was graded and a Flexamat material was installed to provide stabilization and protection of the shoreline & property for the from further erosion.



Before Implementation



After Implementation

Education & Outreach

The LWRCD was invited to Willow Creek Elementary on February 18th to provide a demonstration of our Enviroscope model to 4th graders that had been learning about erosion. Thank you Mrs. Wiese and Willow Creek Elementary for having us!

Amanda has also sent the NACD Stewardship Week "Home is Where the Habitat Is" themed Poster Contest information out. **The Contest deadline is May 6th!** If you would like additional information about the Poster Contest please contact us or visit our website!





Happening this Spring



Resource & Community Enhancement Cost-Share Program

The LWRCD provides incentives to promote sustainability and environmental stewardship by encouraging the implementation of practices that address soil erosion, water quality and quantity, energy conservation or wildlife habitat.

Resource Enhancement:

LWRCD provides 50% cost-share up to \$10,000 per project.

Project examples include irrigation water management, stream bank stabilization, windbreaks, solar stock water wells, spring development, fencing, and fish habitat improvement.

Community Enhancement:

LWRCD provides 50% cost-share up to \$5,000 per project.

Project examples include educational events, rain collection, permeable pavements, demonstration projects for energy or water conservation, soil erosion prevention and xeriscaping.

The LWRCD has moved to one application period for the 25-26 Fiscal Year.

Applications are due May 1, 2025!

Visit our website for an application or call our office if you would like to discuss your project ideas!

Analysis Cost Share Program

This cost-share initiative provides our constituents with essential, comprehensive soil and water testing services with accredited analytical laboratories. Due to increasing laboratory fees & after careful consideration, the LWRCD has implemented a small cost-share charge of 10% of the total costs for both programs, aside from Bacteria testing which remains free. [Here's what you need to know about the updated cost-share rates and testing dates!](#)

Well Water Testing!

- Bacteria well water tests remain free!
- \$25.00 for livestock and family water tests
- **Testing dates are scheduled for the 3rd Wednesday's of April, May, and October. Come by our office at least 1 day ahead of a testing event for a water kit.**



Soil Testing!

- \$10.00 per soil test
- For multiple soil tests, if the total cost exceeds \$300.00, the constituent will pay the remaining cost.
- Bags for soil testing are available anytime!



For more information about the programs, please visit our website, call or scan the QR codes.

No-Till Drills

We're quickly approaching Drill season! The LWRCD offers two No-Till Drills for rent to Fremont County residents, providing a soil-friendly alternative to traditional tilling.

Rental rates are \$15 per acre, with a \$200 minimum for the 10-ft drill and a \$100 minimum for the 6-ft drill. Payment is due after use. The district will deliver and pick up the drill, ensuring proper calibration and instruction on its use. To reserve a No-Till Drill, call the office at (307) 463-0636. Reservations are on a first come first served basis!



The 2025 Garden Expo is set for April 26th 9am to 3:00pm at Lander Valley High School. This FREE, family-friendly event is perfect for anyone who loves gardening, relaxing in the backyard, or exploring the great outdoors. A draft agenda of workshops is on the Popo Agie CD (PACD) website.

NATIONAL AG DAY
TUESDAY, MARCH 18TH
FROM 10-1PM
@ THE CWC GYMNASIUM
 Enjoy learning from and interacting with local agriculturalists as they share their roles in the agriculture & equine industries. All ages welcome to learn!
 For more information contact Amanda Winchester

The PACD sells tire tanks for \$650 each and are 12' diameter, as well as bird escape ramps which are \$100 each. Please call 307-332-3114 for more information or visit the PACD website if interested!

