



# 2022-2023



WESTON COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICT

# Annual Plan of Work

JULY 2022-JUNE 2023







**District Operations**

The District will take the lead in local conservation efforts and coordinate with local, state, and federal entities to work together for the conservation of the soil, water, vegetation, wildlife, and other natural resources of Weston County. The District will provide technical assistance to ensure projects are feasible. Programs will be implemented in a fiscally credible manner. Leveraging local funding to expand current and future efforts.

**Goals**

- 1. Improve and expand conservation efforts and programs by seeking partnership opportunities with local, state, and federal entities.
- 2. Continue to increase membership in the District.

Objectives	Responsibility
Foster regular and positive relations with local media sources including the News Letter Journal, The Weston County Gazette, KASL Radio, and others	District Manager
Collaborate with NRCS and outside technical resources to increase WCNRD’s capacity to lead conservation efforts in Weston County.	District Manager
Pursue new and unique sources of capital to leverage public funding and continue to expand current conservation programs.	District Manager
Increase WCNRD’s logo and name recognition in the community and awareness of District programs through incentives, promotional items, sponsorships, and presence at public events.	District Manager/Board
Reach out to potential partners and stay up to date on their current conservation needs and ongoing efforts and look for opportunities to partner on conservation projects	District Manager/Board

*“One of the best, and certainly the most promising, of the devices yet invented by man for dealing democratically and effectively with maladjustment in land use, as well as for carrying forward positive programs of desirable conservation, and for maintaining the work, is the soil conservation district.”*  
– Hugh Hammond Bennett





## Rangeland Health

Effective range management is based on the relationship between the soils, vegetation, and water. Water quantity and distribution, improving native vegetation, improving riparian areas, livestock management, soil erosion, and sustaining wildlife habitat are all major concerns for rangeland health.

### Goals

Enhance resource management of range and pastureland sites.



Objectives	Responsibility
Provide technical expertise and incentives for landowners/developers to reclaim disturbed range and pastureland sites.	District Manager
Reverse the encroachment of ponderosa pine and juniper into rangeland meadows and encourage meadow regeneration.	District Manager/Board
Promote erosion prevention structures through education, demonstration, implementation and monitoring.	District Manager/Board



## Water Resources

Improving both water quality and quantity are important components of the conservation districts mandate. One of the most limiting factors in effective livestock grazing, as well as wildlife distribution in Weston County is access to reliable water sources. A big part of the District's efforts have been in developing more reliable water sources by converting windmill powered wells to solar power, adding pipelines to increase distribution of stock water, as well as the drilling of new wells.

### Goals

1. Assist in maintaining and improving the quality and quantity of water sources within all watersheds in the District
2. Expand water availability for livestock and wildlife

Objectives	Responsibility
Provide cost share incentive to District members to develop additional water sources including distribution pipelines, spring developments, solar conversions, and new wells.	District Manager/Board
Provide technical assistance to ensure project design and implementation aligns with best management practices	District Manager
Follow-up on projects identified in previous watershed studies performed in Weston County and submit projects to the Wyoming Small Water Projects grant.	District Manager/Board







**Forest Health**

The District has worked for over a decade in assisting landowners in managing their forests properly. Dense and overstocked timber has led to pest outbreaks, and an increase in the severity of wildfires. Proper timber management, forest thinning, and defensible space are major concerns in these areas.

**Goals**

- 1. Promote best management practices in forest management to produce healthy forests with reduced susceptibility to disease, insect pests, and severe wildfire
- 2. Encourage conservation tree plantings to improve wildlife habitat, mitigate wind and snow issues, and to stabilize riparian areas

**Forest Management**

Objectives	Responsibility
Provide education and technical assistance to landowners to properly manage their forests and reduce threats from disease, pest, and wildfire threats	District Manager
Provide financial incentive to landowners to properly thin forested acres	District Manager/Board
Provide financial incentive to help landowners develop defensible space to protect structures and property from wildfire	District Manager/Board

**Tree Program**

Objectives	Responsibility
Provide an annual conservation tree sale to encourage affordable conservation tree plantings	District Manager/Board
Provide planting survival aids such as fabric mulch and tree protectors for purchase	District Manager/Board
Provide general tree planting and care information and assist with tree selection and design assistance for conservation tree plantings	District Manager
Encourage and support community tree planting and beautification projects through the Community Tree Grant	District Manager/Board

“Of all the questions which can come before this nation, short of the actual preservation of its existence in a great war, there is none which compares in importance with the great central task of leaving this land even a better land for our descendants than it is for us.”  
— Theodore Roosevelt





## Wildlife Habitat

Wildlife face many challenges including reliable water sources, dwindling habitat, overgrown forests, and loss of sagebrush habitat areas. As wildlife habitat occurs on private, state, and federal lands within the District, cross-boundary conservation efforts facilitated by the District are extremely important.

### Goals

1. Promote practices that improve wildlife habitat in district programs, plans, and projects.
2. Enhance efforts by state and federal agencies in managing wildlife.



Objectives	Responsibility
Cooperate with landowners and agencies in wildlife habitat improvement projects and management	District Manager
Work as liaison between private landowners and state and federal agencies	District Manager
Encourage ecosystem approach to wildlife habitat management, rather than individual species approach	District Manager



## Waste Management

Community members are willing to properly dispose of hazardous waste but often don't have the means and it can often become a burden financially as well. The District will provide access to proper disposal opportunities. Septic systems are also a concern and can be a source of contamination of ground water when not maintained properly.

### Goals

1. Encourage the reduction, reuse, and recycling of materials
2. Increase opportunities for proper waste management.

Objectives	Responsibility
Provide information on the benefits of recycling, composting and proper hazardous waste management	District Manager
Educate the community on proper storage and disposal of hazardous waste materials and sponsor annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day	District Manager
Provide information on permitted septic system installation and alternatives	District Manager



## Land Use Planning

While maintaining open space for agriculture and preserving agricultural production is important to the District, the subdivision of large tracts of land into small acreages is also a reality. Rather than ignore it, the District embraces this shift in ownership and will work with new landowners to continue best management practices and conservation efforts. Land use planning that accounts for conservation of natural resources is also important as more and more people move into the Black Hills and surrounding areas within the District.

Providing local opportunities for the enjoyment of the outdoors through recreation can help to strengthen the local economy through tourism and also provide the opportunity to increase the general public’s appreciation for and understanding of our natural resources.

### Goals

1. Encourage proper development with consideration of potential impacts to natural resources.
2. Encourage preservation and enhancement of the viewshed and recreational opportunities for residents of Weston County as well as tourists.



Objectives	Responsibility
Request cooperating agency status for Weston County Natural Resource District on issues that affect the natural resources where the District has expertise	District Manager/Board
Provide written documentation to the Weston County Planning Board on soil suitability, erosion control, sedimentation, and flooding problems for proposed subdivisions in the county	District Manager
Advocate open spaces concepts and principles and the retention of agricultural lands in production	District Manager/Board
Work with local, state, and federal entities to preserve, promote, and develop new public access areas for recreation including hiking and biking trails, fishing and hunting access areas, and off-road recreation	District Manager/Board

The function of the Conservation District is to take the available technical, financial, and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them to meet the needs of the local land user.

— Pete Nowak





## Education and Outreach

Promoting the conservation of our natural resources begins by creating an appreciation for the benefit they bring all of us. This includes educating residents as well as the upcoming generations about the importance of our natural resources and their conservation in an effort to foster an understanding of, and appreciation for, the natural resources all around them. Creating an appreciation can lead to a sense of stewardship, even if they don't take part in the District's conservation programs themselves.

### Goals

1. Raise awareness within the general public of conservation efforts and ongoing programs and projects.
2. Improve appreciation of natural resources and foster a sense of responsibility and stewardship through information and outreach programs.
3. Identify urban conservation opportunities that can help residents of urban areas of the District appreciate conservation efforts.

Objectives	Responsibility
Provide useful and up-to-date technical information on natural resources, practical and/or creative land management practices and technologies, funding programs, projects, deadlines, and other announcements through high quality newsletters, an updated website, and social media	District Manager/Board
Provide educational presentations to school children and youth groups on natural resource issues and conservation programs and projects through classroom activities, field days, tours, displays, etc.	District Manager
Meet with community groups to better understand their concerns and identify opportunities to partner on conservation projects	District Manager/Board

In the end we will conserve only what we love, we will love only that what we understand, and will understand only that what we are taught.  
— Baba Dioum, Senegal



Photo: Peg Miller, Miller Photography

## 2022-2023 District Budget

### Revenue

Administrative (interest, sales tax, donations)	\$	3,500.00
City/Town/County Aid	\$	6,675.00
State	\$	8,823.50
Contract	\$	10,000.00
Sale of goods	\$	15,000.00
Private Grants	\$	45,000.00
State Grants	\$	75,300.00
Mil Levy	\$	140,679.92

<b>Total Revenues</b> .....	\$	304,978.42
Cash on hand as of July 1, 2022	\$	135,727.98
Reserves as of July 1, 2022	\$	104,097.42

### Expenses

Administrative	\$	52,474.00
Operations	\$	344,041.86
Indirect costs	\$	34,190.54
Addition to Reserves	\$	10,000.00

<b>Total Expenses</b> .....	\$	440,706.40
-----------------------------	----	------------





We, the supervisors of the Weston County Natural Resource District, as duly authorized by Wyoming Conservation District Statute, hereby accept and adopt this 2022-2023 Annual Plan of Work September 13, 2022, as a guideline for work priorities in the District.

This Plan of Work serves to guide the Weston County Natural Resource District in implementation of goals and objectives identified in our Long-Range and Natural Resource Management Plan (this document can be found on our website at [www.westoncountynrd.org](http://www.westoncountynrd.org)).

To stay current on natural resource issues, members of the District will attend the annual Area 1 meeting in September and the Wyoming Association of Conservation District (WACD) convention in November. In addition, board members and staff communicate with the County Commissioners and other local and state elected officials on a regular basis to discuss natural resource issues in the county and District business. Every effort is also made to pursue funding from grant sources, leveraging local funding to help accomplish our goals.

David Tysdal, Chairman

Tucker Hamilton, Vice-Chairman

Emily Hartinger, Secretary/Treasure

Gene Norman, Supervisor

Tom Streeter, Supervisor





## Special Thanks to our Cooperators and Partners!

We appreciate the support from the following agencies and organizations who are instrumental in assisting the District with carrying out its programs and activities.

### Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts

Wyoming Department of Agriculture

Wyoming State Forestry Division

Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Natural Resource Conservation Service

City of Newcastle

Newcastle Area Chamber of Commerce

Farm Service Agency

Weston County Commissioners

Weston County Weed and Pest

Wyoming Refining Company

Weston County Fire Protection District

Wyoming Native Plant Society

Weston County Senior Services

University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension

### Newcastle FFA

Weston County School District #1

Weston County School District #2

Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality

Town of Upton

Upton Chamber of Commerce

University of Wyoming

Wyoming Honor Conservation Camp

Inyan Kara Grazing Association

Weston County Senior Services

Wyoming Wildlife Natural Resource Trust

University of Wyoming Small Acreage Team

Wyoming Water Development Commission

University of Wyoming Extension

National Wild Turkey Federation

It is the policy of the Weston County Natural Resource District to uphold a program that ensures high standards of honesty, integrity, impartiality and conduct and ensure a safe and healthy workplace free from discrimination or harassment of any kind.

### Weston County Natural Resource District

1225 Washington Blvd. Suite 3, Newcastle, WY 82701

(307) 746-3264 ext. 111

ccarter.wcnrd@gmail.com







✉ [ccarter.wcnrd@gmail.com](mailto:ccarter.wcnrd@gmail.com)

📍 1225 Washington Blvd., Suite 3, Newcastle, WY 82701

🌐 [westoncountynrd.org](http://westoncountynrd.org)

📞 (307) 746-3264

