

LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
FIELD OFFICE

JULY 1, 2017 TO JUNE 30, 2018

ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK

CONSERVATION DEVELOPMENT

SELF GOVERNMENT

**LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
JULY 1, 2017 TO JUNE 30, 2018
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
(IMPROVE IRRIGATION WATER MANAGEMENT, IRRIGATION SYSTEM EFFICIENCIES AND ENCOURAGE WATER DEVELOPMENT AND STORAGE.)		
1. Efforts will continue with the local NRCS Field Office to update irrigable land to higher efficiency irrigation systems throughout South Lincoln County.	DeMont B. Grandy Gary Blazejewski 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 USDA Local Work Group meetings to review county-wide natural resource concerns.	DeMont B. Grandy Gary Blazejewski	August 2018
3. LCD board members will continue to support the Cokeville Watershed Improvement District directors in their effort to repair the Cokeville Tri Diversion structure by completing the Level III study to proceed with construction, Fall 2018.	Erick Esterholdt Kenny Petersen John Reed III DeMont Grandy	June 2018

(SUSTAIN AND IMPROVE DISTRICT GRAZING LANDS.)		
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.	Robert Peternal DeMont Grandy	Throughout the year
2. The LCD board members will continue to support the “Coordinated Resource Management” (CRM) activities throughout the district. The LCD will work with the Slate Creek BLM Allotment permittees to create a CRM planning process.	Robert Peternal Paula Bowling DeMont Grandy	Throughout the year
3. The LCD will administer the Rangeland Health Assessment Program. (RHAP) grants from the Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) for Devil’s Hole, Indian Creek, Lake Alice, Buckskin Knoll, Smiths Fork and Porcupine Creek U.S. Forest Service Allotments and the extended South LaBarge Creek Common BLM Allotment. Help will be given in the field by LCD employees as needed to complete rangeland monitoring efforts.	Brenda Lazcanotegui DeMont Grandy Erick Esterholdt	October 2017
4. The LCD will work closely with the Smithsfork Grazing and Mill Creek Grazing Associations and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to manage 742 acres of Mountain Big sagebrush with the chemical Tebuthiuron to improve wildlife and livestock habitat.	Erick Esterholdt DeMont Grandy	October 2017
5. The LCD will help district cooperators with livestock water projects to facilitate rotation grazing systems. a) Fred Roberts – livestock water project through a grant from the Wyoming Water Development Commission (WWDC). b) Julian Land & Livestock – livestock water pipeline project through a grant from the WWDC. c) George Collins – livestock spring development, pipeline, and trough projects through a grant from the WWDC.	Erick Esterholdt Paula Bowling DeMont Grandy	November 2017

<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 work closely with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and the Smithsfork Grazing Association to plant willow cuttings, create artificial beaver dams, and irrigate existing willow patches within riparian areas in the Smithsfork BLM Allotment to create better fisheries habitat. 	<p>DeMont Grandy Paul Clark Gary Blazejewski</p> <p>Erick Esterholdt Pete Cavalli DeMont Grandy</p>	<p>Throughout the year</p> <p>October 2017</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 land owners. 	<p>Paula Bowling Robert Peternal Brenda Lazcanotegui</p>	<p>June 2018</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) process at the federal agency level. The LCD will continue to sponsor Circle B Ranch’s fencing project and low stress livestock handling workshop and field events as requested by the Kemmerer BLM Office. These projects will promote better livestock management, which also helps wildlife. 	<p>All Board Members</p> <p>Robert Peternal Paul Clark DeMont Grandy Brenda Ashworth Levi Bennington</p>	<p>Throughout the year</p> <p>June 2018</p>

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

<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 economic and local natural resource management concerns due to federal and state government decisions that affect local agriculture producers' livelihoods.</p> <p>a) Efforts will be taken to support LCD sheep producers on the 17 U.S. Forest Service Allotments in the LCD to get their grazing permits renewed through support letters and rangeland monitoring activities.</p>	<p>Robert Pernal DeMont Grandy Erick Esterholdt</p>	<p>Throughout the year</p>
<p>2. The LCD will take an active role in sponsoring Jack Sims' headgate replacement due to severe overland flooding from LaBarge Creek. Financial assistance will be sought through the Natural Resource Conservation Service's (NRCS) Emergency Watershed Program (EWP).</p>	<p>Paula Bowling Robert Pernal DeMont Grandy</p>	<p>September 2017</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 2017
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. Actively advertise the program with the Kemmerer Gazette newspaper and the KMER radio station.	DeMont Grandy Brenda Lazcanotegui	Dec. 2017 through April 2018
4. Present yearly budget to Lincoln County Commissioners.	DeMont Grandy Brenda Lazcanotegui	May 2018
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. LCD board members will help sponsor workshops on locally needed natural resource conservation subjects.	District Board Members DeMont Grandy Brenda Lazcanotegui	Throughout the year
8. 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
9. 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>10. 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>
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WE, THE SUPERVISORS OF THE LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT, AS DULY AUTHORIZED BY THE WYOMING CONSERVATION DISTRICT LAWS, HEREBY ADOPT THIS 2017-2018 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, sub-divisions, mining companies, etc. shall be the District’s fifth priority.