

**LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**FIELD OFFICE**

**JULY 1, 2023, TO JUNE 30, 2024**

**ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK**

**CONSERVATION**

**DEVELOPMENT**

**SELF GOVERNMENT**

**LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**JULY 1, 2023, TO JUNE 30, 2024**  
**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) 727-8226          |
| 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<br>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 and Commission
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 new conservation practices and maintain existing conservation practices.

## LCD 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                       |
|---|--|----------------------------|
| <p><b>(IMPROVE IRRIGATION WATER MANAGEMENT, IRRIGATION APPLICATION EFFICIENCIES AND ENCOURAGE WATER DEVELOPMENT AND STORAGE.)</b></p> <p>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 and sprinkler irrigation systems.</p>   | <p>DeMont B. Grandy<br/>Janessa Julson<br/>Wade Payne</p>      | <p>Throughout the year</p> |
| <p>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.</p> | <p>DeMont B. Grandy<br/>Janessa Julson<br/>B. Lazcanotegui</p> | <p>April 2024</p>          |
| <p>3. LCD board members will continue to support the Cokeville Watershed Improvement District (CWID) directors in their effort to oversee and maintain the new Cokeville Tri-diversion Structure</p>  | <p>Kenny Petersen<br/>John Reed III<br/>DeMont Grandy</p>      | <p>Throughout the year</p> |

**(SUSTAIN AND IMPROVE DISTRICT GRAZING LANDS.)**

1. The LCD board members will continue to work closely with the Coalition of Local Governments (CLG) to address public and private rangeland issues within the LCD at their monthly meetings.

Robert Peternal  
DeMont Grandy

Throughout the year

2. The LCD natural resource specialist will work closely with the Star Valley, Sublette County, and Teton Conservation Districts to acquire vegetation monitoring data on Tall Forb Communities within the Bridger Teton USFS National Forest to develop Ecological Site Descriptions for Tall Forb Communities within the Bridger-Teton National Forest. The LCD will work with the Star Valley Conservation District to hire a soil scientist to help develop Ecological Site Descriptions (ESDs).

DeMont Grandy  
Mike Henn  
KayLynn Nield  
Robb Sgroi  
Paul Clark  
Aaron Zobell,  
USFS

Throughout the year

3. The LCD will work with US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD), and a private landowner to complete the Boyd Hollow Spring and the water development project for livestock and wildlife.

Dave Kimble  
DeMont Grandy  
Tim Teichert

August 2023

**(IMPROVE RIPARIAN AND WETLAND HABITAT.)**

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 administer and sponsor grants with the USFWS Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program, Ducks Unlimited, WGFD, and the WWNRT Fund to continue to maintain and improve aging irrigation distribution systems along the Bear River in the LCD. This will greatly improve wetland habitat for wetland birds plus improve water quality by curtailing eroding banks and filtering out sediment from Bear River. Some six LCD cooperators will be participating in the project.

DeMont Grandy  
Paul Clark  
Janessa Julson

Throughout the year

Dave Kimble  
DeMont Grandy  
B. Lazcanotegui  
Erick Esterholdt

June-October 2023

**(MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE WATER QUALITY THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT.)**

1. The LCD will again sponsor a domestic water well and spring culinary water quality testing program for rural landowners.
2. The LCD will continue to let the Town of Cokeville use the district's incubator for testing water quality samples for the town.
3. The LCD will work with the NRCS employees, Lincoln County Homeland Security, Town of LaBarge, Kenneth Cook, and Shane Pope to obtain Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program funds to correct serious Riverbank problems caused by overland flooding this past spring.

DeMont Grandy  
Paula Bowling  
B. Lazcanotegui

August 2023

DeMont Grandy  
Brenda  
Lazcanotegui

Throughout the year

Janessa Julson  
Ben Bonella  
Jay Hokanson  
Town of LaBarge  
Kenneth Cook  
Shane Pope  
DeMont Grandy  
Paula Bowling  
Kenny Petersen

October 2023

**(HELP SEEK A BALANCE BETWEEN WILDLIFE CONCERNS AND AGRICULTURE INTERESTS.)**

1. LCD board members will actively oppose any in stream flow adjudications that will affect private water rights within district boundaries
2. The LCD will sponsor and apply for grants with USFWS, WGFD, Nature Conservancy, and the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust fund to remove and replace 20,195 feet of old woven

All Board  
Members

Throughout the year

Dave Kimble, USFWS  
Kevin Spence, WGFD  
DeMont Grandy  
Erick Esterholdt

November 2023

And five-wire fences with four wire Wildlife Friendly Fences for six different cooperators. This will greatly facilitate Mule Deer migration and curtail Mule Deer fatalities. This work is being promoted by the Southwest Mule Deer Initiative. The LCD will obtain Greater Sage-grouse reflectors for all new fences to curtail sage-grouse collisions.

Landon Petersen  
Diamond H. Ranch  
Bryan Carmichael  
Paul Clark

**(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. This year's activities will include the Pacific Dry Creek Trona EIS, the BLM Conservation and Landscape Health Rule, the BLM EIS to Amend Greater Sage Grouse Management Plans, and the PEIS for Utility-Scale Solar Energy.
  
2. The LCD supervisors will continue to give input on the Gateway West Transmission Line alignment, especially in the Cokeville area this coming year. PacifiCorp/Rocky Mountain Power is seeking easement for the Gateway West Transmission Line alignment this coming year again which could adversely affect LCD cooperators' agriculture ground and farmsteads.

Robert Peternal  
DeMont Grandy  
Erick Esterholdt  
Paul Clark  
Paula Bowling

Throughout the year

Erick Esterholdt  
Kenny Petersen  
Paul Clark  
DeMont Grandy

Throughout the year

## LCD 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<br>DeMont Grandy  | December 2023<br>Throughout the year            |
| 2. Sponsor education programs in the elementary schools on conservation of natural resources.  | DeMont Grandy<br>Brenda Lazcanotegui  | May 2024  |
| 3. Present yearly budget to Lincoln County Commissioners.  | DeMont Grandy<br>Brenda Lazcanotegui  | Throughout the year                             |
| 4. 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<br>Robert Peternal<br>DeMont Grandy<br>Brenda Lazcanotegui | Part time<br>4 days/week<br>Throughout the year |
| 5. Continue to hire a district clerk to help implement on-going natural resource conservation programs in the district.  | District Board<br>Members   | Throughout the year                             |
| 6. 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<br>Members<br>DeMont Grandy<br>Brenda Lazcanotegui           | Throughout the year                             |
| 7. 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.   | Brenda Lazcanotegui<br>Kevin Kershner                                       | Throughout the year                             |
| 8. 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 | DeMont Grandy<br>District Board Members                                     | Throughout the year                             |

WE, THE SUPERVISORS OF THE LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT, AS DULY AUTHORIZED BY THE WYOMING CONSERVATION DISTRICT LAWS, HEREBY ADOPT THIS 2023-2024 ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK AS THE GUIDE FOR WORK PRIORITIES IN THE LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT.

J. Eschscholtz  
CHAIRPERSON

7-18-23  
DATE

Kenny R.  
VICE CHAIRPERSON

7-18-23  
DATE

Robert T. Rehnold  
SECRETARY/TREASURER

7-18-23  
DATE

Paula Bowling  
MEMBER

7-18-23  
DATE

Paul Clark  
MEMBER

7-18-23  
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.