

LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT

FIELD OFFICE

JULY 1, 2024, TO JUNE 30, 2025

ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK

CONSERVATION

DEVELOPMENT

SELF GOVERNMENT

**LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
JULY 1, 2024, TO JUNE 30, 2025
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 & Treasurer	Robert Peternal	(307) 877-6367
4. Member	Paula Bowling	(307) 727-8226
5. 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 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.

<p>3. LCD board members will continue to support the Cokeville Watershed Improvement District (CWID) directors in their effort to oversee and maintain the Cokeville Tri-diversion Structure</p>	<p>Kenny Petersen John Reed III DeMont Grandy</p>	<p>Throughout the year</p>
<p>(SUSTAIN AND IMPROVE DISTRICT GRAZING LANDS.)</p>		
<p>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.</p>	<p>Robert Peternal DeMont Grandy</p>	<p>Throughout the year</p>
<p>2. The LCD board members and staff will re-direct efforts with the Bridger-Teton National Forest (BTNF) staff and other Cooperating Agencies to develop Ecological Site Descriptions (ESD) for Tall Forb Communities within the BTNF. Soils and vegetation monitoring data will be gathered to continue to develop and verify State and Transition Models (STM) for ESD development. The LCD will cooperate with the Star Valley Conservation District to hire a soil scientist to develop ESDs.</p>	<p>DeMont Grandy KayLynn Nield Paul Clark Aaron Zobell, USFS</p>	<p>Throughout the year</p>
<p>3. The LCD board members and staff will work closely with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD), the Lincoln County Weed and Pest District, the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), and local landowners throughout the district to locate cheatgrass on private, state, and federal lands and obtain funds from grants to eradicate the problem. The LCD will help coordinate efforts between cooperating agencies and manage financial resources to get payments processed as needed.</p>	<p>Jason Trauntvein Kevin Spence DeMont Grandy Brenda Lazcanotegui Erick Esterholdt Paul Clark</p>	<p>November 2024</p>

(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 continue to administer and sponsor grants with the USFWS Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program, Trout 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.

DeMont Grandy
Paul Clark
Janessa Julson

Throughout the year

Dave Kimble
DeMont Grandy
Brenda Lazcanotegui
Erick Esterholdt

June-October 2024

(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 sponsor Shane Pope in the implementation and construction of his riverbank stabilization project on the Smiths Fork River Northeast of Cokeville through the NRCS' Emergency Water Protection Program (EWP).

DeMont Grandy
Paula Bowling
Brenda Lazcanotegui

August 2024

DeMont Grandy
Brenda Lazcanotegui

Throughout the year

Janessa Julson
Shane Pope
DeMont Grandy
Kenny Petersen

November 2024

(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 14 miles of old woven fence

All Board Members

Throughout the year

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

November 2024

<p>and five-wire fences with four-wire Wildlife Friendly Fences for five 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.</p>	<p>Landon Petersen Wade Payne Jason Thornock Craig Sumsion</p>	<p>November 2024</p>
<p>(PROMOTE THE SOCIAL-ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT OF SOUTH LINCOLN COUNTY THAT SUSTAINS AGRICULTURE AND LOCAL NATURAL RESOURCES.)</p>		
<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 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 EIS to amend the BLM Greater Sage-grouse Management Plan, BLM PEIS for Utility-Solar Energy, BLM's Grazing Rule Change and the USFS National Old Growth Amendment.</p>	<p>Robert Peternal DeMont Grandy Erick Esterholdt Paul Clark Paula Bowling</p>	<p>Throughout the year</p>
<p>2. The LCD board members 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 still seeking a final easement for the Gateway West Transmission Line alignment this coming year again which could adversely affect LCD cooperators' agriculture ground and farmsteads.</p>	<p>Erick Esterholdt Kenny Petersen Paul Clark DeMont Grandy</p>	<p>Throughout the year</p>
<p>3. The LCD board members will be working with the Lincoln County Commissioners, USFS Kemmerer Ranger District to develop a Lincoln County Collaborative with a Greys River Working Group and South Lincoln Working Group to provide federal, state, and private land managers with consensus-based recommendations to assess and address wildlife management, grazing, and hydrologic issues.</p>	<p>Adam Calkins, USFS Chuck Butterfield DeMont Grandy KayLynn Nield Kent Connelly</p>	<p>Throughout the year</p>

4. The LCD board members and staff will work closely with the USFS Bridger-Teton National Forest (BTNF) staff and district offices to start the development of a new Forest Plan Revision. The LCD will be a Cooperating Agency throughout the new plan process.

Adam Calkin, USFS
Justin Laycock, USFS
DeMont Grandy
Erick Esterholdt
Robert Pernal
Paul Clark

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 DeMont Grandy	December 2024
2. Sponsor education programs in the elementary schools on conservation of natural resources.	DeMont Grandy Brenda Lazcanotegui	Throughout the year
3. Present yearly budget to Lincoln County Commissioners.	DeMont Grandy 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 Robert Peternal DeMont Grandy Brenda Lazcanotegui	Throughout the year
5. Continue to hire a district clerk to help implement on-going natural resource conservation programs in the district.	District Board Members	Throughout the year 4 days/week
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 Members DeMont Grandy 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 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 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 2024-2025 ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK AS THE GUIDE FOR WORK PRIORITIES IN THE LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT.

J. Estabert
CHAIRPERSON
DATE 7-16-2024

Henry P.
VICE CHAIRPERSON
DATE 7-16-2024

Robert A. Pedernal
SECRETARY/TREASURER
DATE 7-16-24

Paula Bowling
MEMBER
DATE 7-16-24

Paul Clark
MEMBER
DATE 7-16-24

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.