



ANNUAL REPORT FY 2020-2021

The Clear Creek Conservation District (CCCD) includes the northern half of Johnson County, Wyoming and is funded mainly by a mil levy approved by the voters. Board meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm and are open to the public. Our budget is presented to the county commissioners before approval and is published annually in the Buffalo Bulletin and is also available on the Johnson County website.

All fiscal procedures and records are in accordance with the Johnson County
Commissioners under Special Districts, Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts and
the Wyoming Department of Agriculture.

CCCD continues to be in compliance with the Wyoming Department of Agriculture, Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts, Wyoming Department of Audit, Internal Revenue Service, Wyoming Retirement System and the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services. An annual audit is conducted pursuant to W.S. 9-1-507

CCCD strives to serve the entire community of Northern Johnson County including rural, urban and small acreage owners providing cost-share projects, materials, education and conservation items such as rain barrels and composters. Trees and related materials are sold at cost and CCCD covers the shipping charges. Educational workshops are held free of charge when possible and speakers from other organizations are brought in to give the best information on the topic.

This annual report meets the requirements of the Department of Agriculture and the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts. Copies are distributed to elected officials in our district and to our many partners.





The District operates within the guiding principles of their Mission Statement:

"The Clear Creek Conservation District is dedicated to the development and implementation of programs to provide leadership and technical assistance for the conservation of Johnson County's natural resources, agricultural heritage and resource base, to promote the control of soil erosion, to promote and protect the quality and quantity of Wyoming's waters and all other natural resources, to preserve and enhance wildlife habitat, to protect the tax base and to promote the health, safety and general welfare of the residents of this County through responsible conservation planning".

HISTORY

The Clear Creek Conservation District (CCCD) was formed in 1946. The CCCD is located in the northern portion of Johnson County and encompasses approximately 1,450,067 acres.

The District is a legal sub-division of the State of Wyoming and was organized to serve the best interests of its people. The CCCD is governed by a five member Board of Supervisors. The five elected officials offer representation for three rural positions, one urban position and one at-large position. The District's focus remains the concerns identified by the people of Johnson County.

District Programs and services provide conservation planning and implementation to the residents and producers within the CCCD.

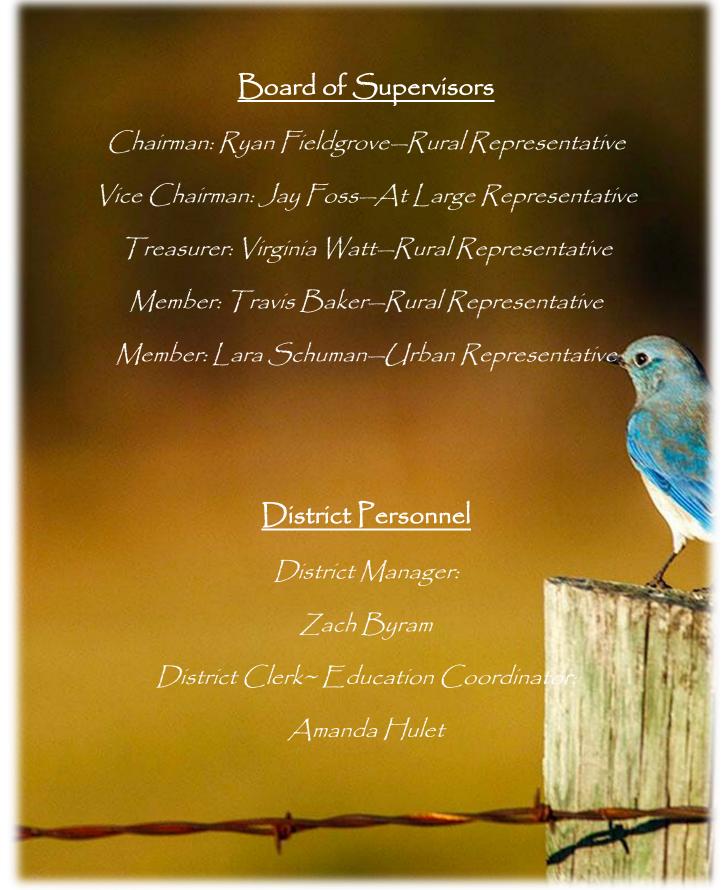
The Clear Creek Conservation District and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) work cooperatively to implement the priorities set forth by the District Board and the local community.

THE DISTRICT APPRECIATES THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE THE
RESIDENTS OF JOHNSON COUNTY
WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

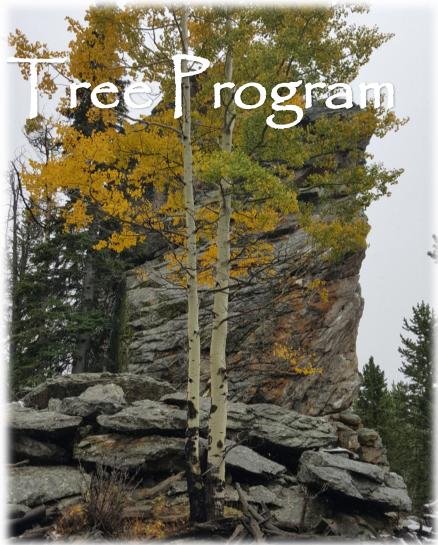


Financial Statement for the: Clear Creek Conservation District 2020/2021 Budget BALANCE ON HAND JULY 1, 2020 \$4,611,040.00 **INCOME:** 195,000.00 MILL LEVY..... INTEREST 70,100.00 FEDERAL GRANTS 313,954.00 STATE GRANTS... 164,074.00 COUNTY GRANTS 9NOT FROM Treasurer).....\$ 4,000.00 **%** Goods and Services. 17,160.00 TOTAL INCOME.\$ 764,288.00 **EXPENSES:** ADMINISTRATION.....\$ 154,180.00 OPERATIONS.....\$ 608,659.00 19,980.00 TOTAL EXPENSES..... 782,639.00 BALANCE ON HAND JUNE 30, 2021.....\$ 4,813,040075.00 ** BALANCE INCLUDES CASH CARRYOVER, COMMITTED PROJECT FUNDS, EMERGENCY RESERVE AND FUTURE PROJECT RESERVES









 The CCCD tree program was developed to provide landowners with an affordable and convenient way to purchase trees, shrubs, and seedlings for conservation practices such as windbreaks, shelter-belts, living snow fences, wildlife habitat enhancement and aesthetic value. In 2021, over 200 seedlings were sold and 1300 mature trees were purchased and planted around northern Johnson County!

* We worked with Piney Island Native plants to offer flowers, shrubs and native grasses to our constituents We sold 250 seedlings.



2 of our helpers unloading trees





Piney Island Native Plant Sale





Building soil profiles—8th grade science day



Soil testing done by CSU







- CCCD partnered with Clear Creek Middle School to do a science day where 8th grade science students had the opportunity to visit a number of stations which included our soils and soil testing station.
- CCCD is now providing a free routine soil test for urban and rural landowners. Participants received results and valuable recommendations on how to improve their soil from our office.
- CCCD continues to promote it's 50% rain barrel and composter cost-share program. It enables users to collect and store storm water runoff to use in watering of plants and trees.
- CCCD also offers conservation weed barrier in it's cost-share to northern Johnson County residents as well.
- CCCD offered a soil health workshop with NRCS's Marlon Winger that was well attended
 - CCCD offered water well testing cost share to residents of northern Johnson County







CCCD has completed work on a Russian Olive Removal Project that was started in FY15/16. Seventeen (17) acres of the invasive tree were removed and over 250 native tree and shrub species have been planted back into the project as the restoration continues. An interpretive trail with signs was installed and completed in 2020.



Completed an EWP project to repair 3 irrigation diversions in Clear Creek washed out due to historic high run-off that was initiated in 2017.

- Facilitated a group to begin to restore the Buffalo Wetlands;
- Funded geomorphology/hydrology designs for I-25 fish barrier removal project;
- Assisted in establishing Johnson County Weed Bounty Program.
- Received grant funding to pursue Twin Creeks Forest Health TSI project
- Began a Soil Health inspired Cover Crop Cost-Share program.









CCCD held its 16th annual Pesticide and Home Hazardous Waste Day on May 30, 2020. During this years successful event the *275* participants dropped off the

following for proper disposal:

- 575 gallons of motor oil
- 600 gallons of latex paint
- 450 gallons of oil based paint/stains
- 400 gallons of flammable liquids (gasoline, acetone, etc.)
- 1550gallons of pesticides
- **1,200** car tires
- 45 car batteries

CCCD continues to provide composters at a 50% cost-share. The composters are made from recycled, black material in order to expedite the composition process to create compost for home and garden use.





What We've Been Up To

July 1, 2020—June 30th, 2021

- ♦ Emergency Watershed Project—Clear Creek & Last Chance Ditch
- ♦ Russian Olive Removal Project maintenance
- ♦ Buffalo Core Area Invasive Weed Treatment Project
- ♦ Predator Board Project
- ♦ Household Hazardous Waste Day
- ♦ Budget Hearing
- ♦ I-25 Fish Barrier Removal Project
- ♦ Johnson County Natural Resource Plan Committee
- ♦ Subdivision Reviews
- ♦ Grant Writing
- ♦ Mature Trees, Seedlings and Native Plants Sales
- ♦ Buffalo Wetlands Russian Olive Removal
- ♦ Hosted Elected Officials Tour
- ♦ Small Water Program Projects
- ♦ Living Snow Fence Program
- ♦ Twin Creek Forest Health Project
- ♦ Legislative Updates
- ♦ Spring & Summer Soil Health Workshops
- ♦ Cover Crop Program
- ♦ Weed Bounty Program
- ♦ Added 2 new board members
- ♦ Collaboration with Boys & Girls Club for Garden and outside education programs
- Water Quality Testing education program for 5th graders
- ♦ 8th grade science day
- Collaboration with State Forestry & Food Pantry on Community Orchard



- ♦ Crazy Woman Improvement District assistance
- ◆ Reno Fire & Double Cross Fire Assistance
- ◆ Coached FFA Agronomy Team—2nd place at state event
- ♦ Received a Dome and are starting a Community Garden

Meetings Attended:

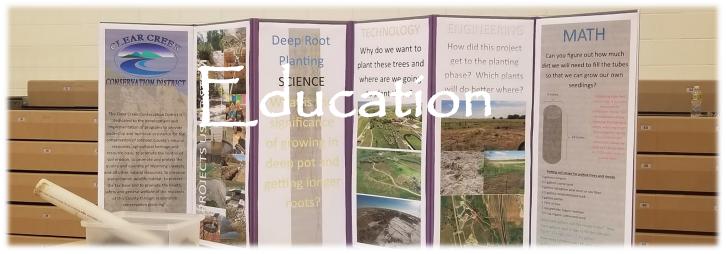
- ♦ State Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)
- ♦ WY State Forestry Landowner Field Day
- ♦ Garden Club Meeting
- ♦ WY Game & Fish Educator Camp
- ♦ PLT/Project Wet/Wild Facilitator Training
- ♦ WY Water Development Office/Select Water Committee meeting & tour
- NRCS Soil Health Training
- ♦ Bureau of Reclamation Meeting
- ♦ Area 1 Meeting—Hosted by CCCD
- ♦ Rocky Mountain Science Conference
- Wyoming Naturalist Program
- ♦ NACD Convention
- ♦ RCPP Meeting

- * Supervisor Training
- * Employee Winter Training
- * Southeast & Pacific Region NACD Meeting
- * NEWIGWG

Conservation Support Efforts:

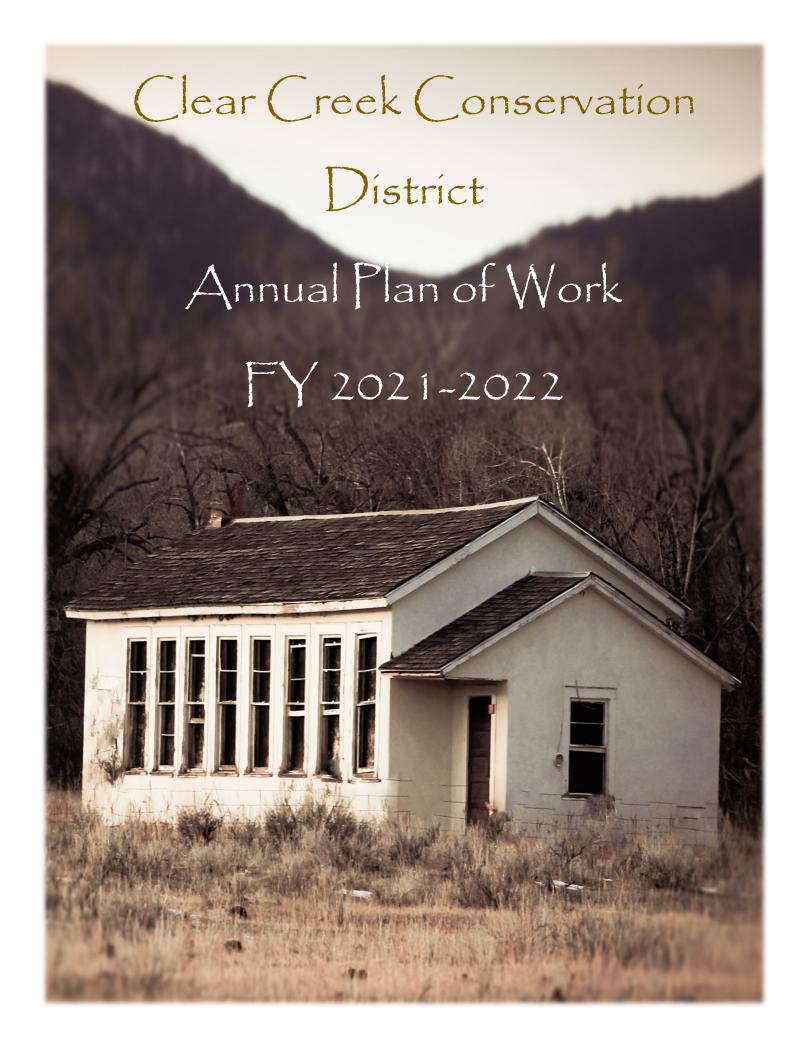
- ♦ Wyoming Ag in the Classroom
- ♦ WY State 4H Foundation
- Johnson County Cattlewomen
- · Barnyards & Backyards





- Our Education Coordinator spent time in the classroom helping with composting and water studies. She also worked in a number of outdoor education days.
 - Collaborated with the Boys and Girls Club to do outdoor education and gardening programs
 - Marlon Winger with NRCS gave a soil health workshop that was well attended.







Clear Creek Conservation District

Mission Statement

The Clear Creek Conservation District is dedicated to the development and implementation of programs to provide leadership and technical assistance for the conservation of Johnson County's natural resources, agricultural heritage and resource base, to promote the control of soil erosion, to promote and protect the quality and quantity of Wyoming's water and all other natural resources, to preserve and enhance wildlife habitat, to protect the tax base and to promote the health, safety and general welfare of the residents of this County through responsible conservation planning.

District Operations

GOAL: Be accountable for public funds. Ensure all District programs are carried out in a responsible manner.

Objectives:	Responsibility:
Meet the objectives, goals, and workload of the district.	Board/Staff
Develop and maintain an accurate district budget.	District Manager
Complete financial reviews/audits as required by law.	District Manager
Complete subdivision reviews according to district policy.	District Staff
Participate in area meetings and state conventions to stay abreast of local, state and federal conservation efforts.	District Staff
Foster partnerships developed between NRCS, Wyoming Extension Service, WG&F, USF&WS, DEQ, NESGLWG, USFS, BLM, JCW&P and other agencies/entities that provide technical and financial assistance necessary to the operation of the district.	Board/Staff
Continue to seek alternative funding for district programs.	Staff
Publish Annual Report and Annual Plan of Work	Staff



Objectives:	Responsibility:
Sponsor meetings with landowners, resource agencies, groups, and other organizations to identify opportunities for implementation of conservation efforts.	Board/Staff
Assure the District's mission statement is met by assisting the agricultural and urban communities in planning and applying conservation practices.	Board/Staff
Continued administration of the Crazy Woman Improvement District	District Manager

Information and Education

GOAL: Expand and strengthen the District's Information and Education program to enhance natural resource conservation through youth and adult education via workshops,

Objectives:	Responsibility:
Maintain an outreach program to educate the public on district programs.	Board/Staff
Sponsor and assist in educational workshops including small acreages and trees that heighten awareness of natural resource issues	Board/Staff
Continue the participation of Buffalo Ag Day and other events to provide students educational materials and instruction in tree planting.	Staff
Support the 4-H awards program and continue sponsorship of conservation programs and activities	Board/Staff
Utilize local newspapers, radio, newsletter and the website to provide information to the community on conservation programs and activities.	Staff
Inform landowners of the value of integrated pest management plans for addressing invasive/noxious weeds, both urban and rural related.	Staff



Objectives:	Responsibility:

Tree Program

GOAL: Encourage the planting of trees to aid in the conservation of natural resources.

Objectives:	Responsibility:
Provide a variety of trees, shrubs and seedlings for windbreaks, shelterbelts, wildlife and aesthetic value for community use in conservation planting.	Staff
Prepare and offer applications for tree orders to applicants online and in the office.	Staff
Assist customers with species selection, planting concerns, technical design and informational materials.	Staff
Prepare a listing of local tree resources and assistance for distribution to costumers utilizing the tree program.	Staff
Continue to offer seedling stock from CSU to producers for windbreaks, living snow fences and shelterbelts.	Staff
Continue to hold the annual tree workshop, inviting speakers to address topical issues and concerns to local tree owners.	Staff
Assist customers with soil identification and suitable trees/shrubs from information gathered on the Web Soil Survey. Also offer free or reduced cost soil testing.	Staff
Make available the District's "A Guide to the Trees in Buffalo" to aid customers in determining preferred species for conservation purposes	Staff



Objectives:	Responsibility:
	Board

Watershed Planning

GOAL: Work cooperatively with local landowners, resource agencies and groups to address water quality issues and concerns through watershed planning efforts.

Objectives:	Responsibility:
Voluntarily address water quality issues for streams listed on the 303(d) Threatened & Impaired Water Body list.	Staff
Utilize the District's 1998 watershed inventory document in determining District direction.	Board
Continue active participation in the Double Crossing, Crazy Woman, French Creek, Shell Creek and Clear Creek Watersheds.	Board/Staff
Continue to work with producers, voluntarily, in addressing water quality issues with removal and relocations of livestock working facilities.	Board/Staff
Maintain the partnerships with landowners, groups and agencies to enhance, improve, and complete the District's water quality efforts.	Staff
Administer District programs, as needed, to implement land use planning.	Staff
Work cooperatively with NRCS to provide landowners with recommended BMP's to help reduce non-point source pollution.	Board/Staff
Utilize the CCCD cost-share program, USDA incentive programs and alternative funding sources for new projects and continued water conservation projects.	Board/Staff
Develop and maintain water systems for improvement, storage and conservation.	Board
Utilize the District's Watershed Assessments to provide landowners leverage in addressing natural resource issues through USDA incentive programs.	Board
Continue the partnership with Johnson County schools to monitor for water quality on National Water Monitoring Day.	Staff



Objectives:	Responsibility:
Maintain partnerships for opportunities to address water storage, water availability, and irrigation infrastructure identified within the Clear Creek Level II Watershed Storage Study.	Board/Staff
Explore opportunities for water owners/users in the formation of irrigation districts to address irrigation management.	Staff

Special Projects

GOAL: Provide information and technical assistance to northern Johnson County residents who have resource concerns not addressed through other District programs

Objectives:	Responsibility:
Provide financial assistance to urban and rural residents for implementation of conservation efforts through the CCCD Natural Resource Cost-Share Program.	Staff
Sponsor a Pesticide and Hazardous Waste Disposal day by working with the City, County, Weed & Pest and the Buffalo Recycle Center.	Staff
Provide assistance to the Buffalo/Johnson County Recycle Center and local residents for expansion of storage, recycling equipment and future recyclables.	Board
Cooperate with the City and NRCS in weed management and native restoration of the City Green Belt area, Eva Knepper Trail and Cemetery Creek.	Staff
Support a cooperative effort with the City, USFWS, NRCS, WG&F, and private landowners for implementation of fish barrier removal and stream restoration projects.	Staff
Continue to provide sage grouse fence markers and escape ramps for participants in the District Sage Grouse Program and SGI.	Staff



Objectives:	Responsibility:
Identify and prioritize programs and projects which need special emphasis with the local work group:	Board/Staff
o CCCD Cost-Share Program	
o USDA Farm Bill Programs	
 Wyoming Wildlife Natural Resource Trust 	
o Potential EQIP, CRP, AMA,ACEP SGI and EWP	
 Wyoming Water Development Commission 	
watershed studies	
o 205-j and 319 watershed projects	
 Rangeland improvement and irrigation 	
management practices	
 WACD supplemental/competitive grants 	
 Watershed inventory priorities 	
Remain actively involved in providing technical assistance for land use planning:	Board/Staff
o Review proposed subdivisions with strong	
recommendations.	
o Provide assistance to residents on land use	
planning	
o Be pro-active in working to maintain	
agricultural lands while	
improving agricultural production	
 Provide assistance, as requested, in the 	
County Planning & Zoning	
efforts and future development	
 Provide assistance in air quality issues for 	
the County	
 Provide soils information for land use 	
planning.	
Be an active member of the USFS & BLM Steering Committees as well as keeping abreast of all proposed regulation changes that could have an impact to agriculture and our community tax base.	Board/Staff







We, the Supervisors of the Clear Creek Conservation District, as duly authorized by the Wyoming Conservation District Law, hereby adopt this 2021-2022 Annual Plan of Work as the guide for work priorities for this conservation district.

Frank Tildgeren	11.16.2021
Ryan Fieldgrove — Chairman	Date
Jay Foss Vice-Chairman	II/Ile / 21 Date
Virginia Watt — Treasurer	11 - 16 - 21 Date
Travis Baker—Member	11/1672/ Date
Lara Schuman — Member	Date

