

Crook County Natural Resource District



Annual Report 2008-2009
Annual Plan of Work 2009-2010

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Letter from the Chairman

Greetings,

The CCNRD board of supervisors asks that you take the time to read the CCNRD Annual Report for 2008-2009. Included with this report is the CCNRD Annual Plan of Work for 2009-2010. In the past year, the board and staff members have pursued an aggressive agenda as we strive to provide the residents of Crook County with the information and education needed to maintain and improve their quality of life. We do not plan to slow down in the coming year.

Recent events make it clear that we must remain diligent in our efforts to protect your natural resource interests. In 2009, the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) contracted with an environmental consulting firm to write a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) on the Belle Fourche River which may ultimately place new demands on local residents. The TMDL being set for the Belle Fourche River will also include Stonepile Creek and Donkey Creek in Campbell County as well as the portion of Donkey Creek in Crook County. Although, currently, TMDLs do not have any enforcement component, non-point source pollution is being increasingly regulated at the state and national level. The best protection Wyoming landowners have from this type of regulation is to implement best management practices (BMPs) in good faith. The locally developed watershed plans written with the help of conservation districts throughout Wyoming have provided both time and cost-share money to prepare for TMDLs. I'm proud to say that here in Crook County, landowners have been implementing many BMPs. Through the CCNRD Cost-Share Program we have funded 26 projects throughout the watershed, and there are also many projects that landowners have done on their own. To these people, we say thank you and keep up the good work! To show how residents have and will continue to improve local water quality, CCNRD completed its ninth season of water quality monitoring this year.

2009 was a busy year for CCNRD. In March, our employees put together an electronic recycling program which was a huge success. We are pursuing funding for similar programs to improve waste management and recycling options in Crook County. One of the new things we have been learning about is the Use Attainability Analysis (UAA) process. This involves assessing a given stream to determine if its WDEQ designated use reflects how the water can actually be used. Without UAAs, Wyoming streams, regardless of any actual uses, are classified as Class 1 recreational streams. This classification carries with it higher standards of quality than any other classification. Many of the streams in Crook County do not fit the description for Class 1 recreation and we are planning on doing some UAAs as funding allows.

Funding issues continue to be a problem for CCNRD. At this time, we plan to have the mil levy put on the general election ballot in November 2010 in another attempt to secure a local, long-term funding source. The CCNRD board has sought and received some funding from the Crook County Commissioners to keep the district operating. We really appreciate their support.

Whereas we are an unfunded district, what we have done with a very limited budget is nothing short of fantastic! The CCNRD board is proud of what our staff has accomplished this past year. If you have not been in and met our staff members, please stop by. Our employees are Sarah Barton, office manager, Jinx Hilty, financial manager, and TJ and Dave Schroll, water quality personnel. I encourage you to check out the district web site at www.ccnrd.org for more information or to contact CCNRD. **REMEMBER, WE ARE NOT HERE TO PROTECT YOUR NATURAL RESOURCES BUT TO HELP YOU PROTECT YOUR NATURAL RESOURCES!**

Sincerely,

Wayne Garman
Chairman

Board of Supervisors

The Crook County Natural Resource District has a five member Board of Supervisors. These board members serve a four-year term and are made up of three rural members, one urban and one at large. Crook County residents vote for the board during the General Election. Supervisors are unpaid, elected volunteers who attend monthly board meetings and take an active role in overseeing the activities of the conservation district. The CCNRD employees administer district programs and keep the board informed of activities and projects through email, monthly meetings and phone calls.



Pictured (left to right): Ted Parsons, Wayne Garman, Jim Geis, Tom Ferrell
Not pictured: Ted Moline

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Board of Supervisors (Continued)



Wayne Garman - Chairman (rural)
Term of Office 2008-2012



Ted Moline - Vice Chairman (rural)
Term of Office: 2006-2010



Jim Geis - Treasurer (at large)
Term of Office: 2008-2012



Tom Ferrell - Secretary (rural)
Term of Office: 2006-2010



Ted Parsons - Member (Urban)
Term of Office: 2008-2012

District and NRCS Staff



Sarah Barton
CCNRD Program Manager



Catherine "Jinx" Hilty
CCNRD Financial Manager



TJ & Dave Schroll
CCNRD Water Quality Personnel

NRCS Staff

Terry Everard - District Conservationist
Mark Emrick - Civil Engineering Technician
Sherry Keyworth - Conservation Technician
Jason Nehl- Natural Resource Specialist

District Goals

MISSION STATEMENT

To Provide Coordinated Leadership in Resource Conservation to Assist and/or Meet the Needs of Resource Users

Goals:

1. **Water Quality:** To conserve and improve the quality and quantity of water resources in Crook County.
2. **Legislative Information:** To inform Crook County residents of current legislative activity and issues at the local, state, and national levels.
3. **Range and Timber Management:** To provide information and education to Crook County residents to encourage wise and productive management of local range and timber resources.
4. **District Operations:** To be accountable with public funds and carry out all district programs in a responsible manner.
5. **Information & Education:** To initiate and coordinate educational and informational programs addressing wise use and conservation of Crook County's natural resources.
6. **Waste Management:** To increase public information and education efforts on issues of waste management and to encourage local recycling efforts.

MEETINGS

The CCNRD board of supervisors meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the USDA conference center. Meetings are open to the public and are posted in the newspaper a week before they are held.

Funding, Administration and Accounting

The CCNRD has struggled, over the years, to obtain local, long-term funding. Local funding sources are especially important because they provide the flexibility necessary to addressing natural resource issues as they arise.

Unfortunately, despite the efforts of CCNRD employees and supervisors, the CCNRD has been unable to obtain a mil levy. The issue will be put to another vote in the next General Election.

The District is not entirely without local funding. In 2007, 2008 and 2009, the Crook County Board of Commissioners provided financial support to the CCNRD. This funding is greatly appreciated, and without it, the district might not be able to operate at all. The employees and board of supervisors are grateful for this support and hope that, eventually, the CCNRD can secure a long-term source of local funding.

Additional sources of district funding include state biennium funding, maps sales, subdivision reviews and seedling tree sales. To manage and implement the Belle Fourche River Watershed Plan, the CCNRD receives funding through DEQ EPA Section 319 grants and a WDA Water Quality Grant. Funding from the UW Small Acreage Issues Team enables the district to work with other local agencies to provide workshops on a variety of topics. A small grant from electronics retailer Best Buy allowed the district to facilitate an e-cycling event, and the district has applied to the Wyoming Community Foundation for another grant to fund more e-cycling in Crook County.

The district maintains responsible financial procedures and records. Preparation of the district's 2009-2010 Budget was in accordance with state statutes and submitted to the Crook County Commissioners, Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts and Wyoming Department of Agriculture. All monthly, quarterly, state and federal government reports were filed in a timely manner.

Special Projects

Resource Roundup- Weekly Newspaper Column

CCNRD continues to publish a weekly newspaper article called the Resource Roundup in the three local newspapers. Topics are mostly related to water quality information/education; however, articles have also included information on recycling, tree planting tips, etc. Many of the articles have generated significant positive feedback from members of the community. Articles will continue to be published on a weekly basis.

Funding Source: Section 319 Grant, WDEQ/EPA and CCNRD

Bi-monthly Newsletter

As part of our 319 grant, the district publishes a bi-monthly newsletter, the content of which focuses largely on water quality and the implementation of the Belle Fourche River Watershed Plan. The newsletter mailing list is around 750, and an online version is available to anyone interested. Newsletter topics often include watershed planning updates, the Belle Fourche River/Donkey Creek TMDL, CCNRD Cost-Share programs, and information about septic systems and best management practices (BMPs). Also included is the local NRCS report and information about the annual tree sale as well as tree planting tips. The district also started including a Defensible Space/Fire Mitigation announcement for the County. Four local advertisers support the publication of the newsletter, and this support is appreciated.

Funding Source: Section 319 Grant, WDEQ/EPA and CCNRD

Landowner Advisory Committee Meetings

CCNRD continues to facilitate landowner advisory committee meetings. The implementation of the Belle Fourche River Watershed Plan is the overarching theme of these meetings. Recently, the Belle Fourche River/Donkey Creek TMDL process and its implications for landowners have been the subject of most meetings. The landowners who attend these meetings provide valuable guidance to the district and help to determine the goals and scope of activities such as the CCNRD Water Quality Monitoring program.

Funding Source: Section 319 Grant, WDEQ/EPA and WDA WQ Grant

Public Information & Education on TMDLs

In keeping with the Clean Water Act, the process of setting a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Belle Fourche River and Donkey Creek is underway. The Crook County Natural Resource District has been and remains committed to informing local landowners and elected officials about the TMDL process as it unfolds. CCNRD board and staff members believe that local input and participation will be critical to the success of the TMDL as a means of improving water quality. Information/education efforts continue through meetings, mailings, newsletters, newspaper articles, and the website.

Funding Source: Section 319 Grant, WDEQ/EPA

Water Quality Monitoring



Above: Dave sampling for *E. coli*



Above: TJ setting up to place a stream gauge

2009 was the ninth year that CCNRD has monitored local water quality. The CCNRD monitoring program usually begins in May, but due to staffing issues, the district was unable to get anyone in the field until late June. After the hiring of Water Quality Personnel, weekly sampling was conducted on seven sites. The pollutant of concern, *E. coli*, was monitored at all sites. Also, two sites were monitored for ammonia and chloride, for which segments of the Belle Fourche River and Donkey Creek were listed as impaired in 2008. All sites were monitored for the parameters of temperature, pH, conductivity, and Total Dissolved Solids (TDS). Although they are of interest, the parameters of turbidity and stream flow can only be monitored with two employees in the field, and, due to funding constraints and staffing issues in 2009, no data on turbidity or flow was collected.

Funding Source: Section 319 Grant, WDEQ/EPA, WDA WQ Grant

BMP and Septic Cost-Share Program



Above: Septic system replacement project using infiltrators for leach field

As part of the Belle Fourche River Watershed Plan, CCNRD provides funding to implement best management practices (BMPs) at a 50% cost-share rate. After interest in the program declined, CCNRD sent a letter to local landowners encouraging them to participate while funding was still available. This mailing generated several new applications, and so far, six septic system replacement projects and three agricultural BMPs have been approved for funding. Many of these projects will be used as an educational outreach *Funding Source: Section 319 Grant, WDEQ/EPA, WDA*

Small Acreage Workshops

In the spring of 2009, CCNRD and the local UW extension office worked together to offer a series of workshops to local landowners. In January, the workshop focused on “Energy Efficiency in Homes.” February’s workshop consisted of presentations on “Water & Snow Management.” A workshop on “Landscaping in the Arid West” was offered in March, and the series ended with a workshop targeting “Pest Control” in April. Feedback from attendees was very positive, and most people reported having learned a significant amount about how to most effectively and efficiently manage their properties. *Funding Source: Small Acreage Issues Team Grant/CCNRD*

Conservation Grade Seedling Tree Program



Above: Colorado Blue Spruce



Above: Green Ash

The Crook County Natural Resource District has offered low-cost conservation grade seedling trees and shrubs to Crook County citizens for many years. This program is intended to encourage the establishment of conservation tree plantings such as windbreaks, living snow fences, erosion control, wildlife habitat, visual screens or noise barriers. Each fall, trees are pre-ordered from nurseries. In the November newsletter, the tree order forms are sent out, the program is advertised, and orders are accepted through the middle of March. In May, the trees are ready to be picked up. This year CCNRD sold 4000 trees to Crook County residents. The district also offers a variety of seedling survival aids including fertilizer tabs, polyacrylamide, and weed barrier and provides information on how to properly plant and maintain tree seedling survival.

Funding Source: CCNRD

Subdivision Reviews

According to the Crook County Subdivision Rules and Regulations and the Wyoming Legislature statute entitled “Real Estate Subdivisions,” the Crook County Natural Resource District is responsible for providing recommendations to developers and Crook County officials concerning new subdivisions. Areas of concern include types of soil, potential drainage problems, flooding problems, water quality, and others. With this responsibility in mind, the Board of Supervisors reviews a report prepared by CCNRD staff and offers recommendations for responsible development. This year, CCNRD met with the Crook County Commissioners and Land Use Planning and Zoning Commission to review subdivision rule changes and ensure the CCNRD recommendations are taken into consideration.

CCNRD E-Cycling Event



Above (left to right): Sarah, Jinx, David (Tattooine), Wayne, and (top) Damien (Tattooine)

To provide Crook County residents with a safe and inexpensive means of getting rid of their old electronics, the Crook County Natural Resource District acquired grant funding and held an e-cycling event. By obtaining grant funding, CCNRD was able to make this event free to the general public. Most people in Crook County own several old, broken or obsolete electronic devices. Unless they are properly handled, discarded electronics can cause serious water and air quality pollution. Some materials used to make electronics are highly toxic, such as lead, arsenic, mercury, cadmium, barium, chromium and beryllium. In a landfill, these substances can leach into groundwater, and if incinerated, they can become air pollutants. After funding had been secured and a reputable e-cycling company had committed to the pick-up, CCNRD announced the E-Cycling Event. Individuals and businesses brought unwanted electronics to the CCNRD collection site over the course of a few weeks. On the day of the event, Tattooine Electronic Systems, Inc. hauled over 7000 pounds of old, broken, or obsolete electronics to the company's dismantling facility in Cheyenne to be e-cycled. E-cycling entails disassembling electronics and sorting the various components into separated waste streams. Materials which cannot be reused must be disposed of properly. However, many materials are reusable and will become new electronics. Ultimately, e-cycling reduces the amount and toxicity of materials in landfills and decreases the need to harvest virgin materials, and CCNRD is pursuing funding for future e-cycling events.

Funding Source: Best Buy Grant, CCNRD

Crook County Fairgrounds Beautification Project

CCNRD, with the help of caring individuals, groups and businesses in Crook County as well as Wyoming State Forestry, planted 80 trees at the fairgrounds. As they grow, these trees will enhance Crook County Fairgrounds for many generations of fairgoers as while achieving conservation goals such as improving water quality, minimizing erosion, and providing shelter and habitat for wildlife. A row of elm trees along the southwest corner of the rodeo arena area will offer shade and privacy for the campground area. To the north of the arena, 30 pine trees will screen the area from the nearby highway. A cluster of lilacs planted in the riparian area near the campground will offer wildlife habitat and reduce erosion in addition to producing lovely, fragrant blooms in the summertime. The District is proud to spearhead this great project. The success of this project underlines what is great about living in Crook County. As CCNRD employees approached people about this project, they found that no one hesitates to give as much as he can. Every person, group and business who contributed to the project did so at the drop of a hat and with a smile to boot! Although Wyoming boasts its share of natural wonders, a strong economy, and other compelling reasons to live here, it is the communities of caring people who make this state a great place to live.

Funding Source: CCNRD, Local Donors



Illegal Dumpsite Clean-up Project

If you visit Sundance Pond, you will find shady picnic areas, a pleasant nature trail, and birds and wildlife to enjoy. If you continue along the edge of the pond and past the drain, you will find willows and cattails alive with the sound of birds and running water. Until recently, you could also find someone's discarded junk, bags of yard waste, and other human refuse. However, through the cooperative efforts of the District, the City of Sundance, Crook County Road & Bridge, and the Crook County Fairgrounds, this is no longer the case. Together, these agencies have cleaned up the dumpsite and are working to restore this fragile riparian area and make it once again a place for the community to enjoy.

How did this special place get trashed (literally!)? Although no one has admitted responsibility, people have used the area as a landfill, backing up to the edge of the bank and cleaning out stock trailers or unloading bags of trash! This type of dumping is illegal, but that didn't stop it from happening. CCNRD board and staff members hope that recently installed "No Dumping" signs and the vigilance of local law enforcement will prevent it from happening again. The dumping activities of the past damaged the area in more than one way. The debris shoved over the edge caused water and soil contamination as well as erosion. The disturbed soil enabled noxious weeds to begin invading the area. Thanks to Crook County Weed & Pest, the thistles and mustard weed stands are no longer thriving. Ultimately, the site will be a healthy, well vegetated riparian area providing many important ecological functions, including filtration of surface water, enhancement of biodiversity, and many others. Work on the project is ongoing.

Funding Source: CCNRD, Local Partners



Above: Sarah controlling weeds with the help of Ken Shackelton, Crook County Weed & Pest



Above: Crook County employee, Morgan Ellsbury, removing debris from dumpsite

Use Attainability Analysis Training

In May, 2009, CCNRD board and staff members learned about a process known as Use Attainability Analysis. The process offers a method for preventing some bodies of water from being listed as impaired by the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality. Determining whether a water body is impaired by pollution hinges on how that water is to be used. Specifying an appropriate use for a given water body should entail consideration of its physical, chemical, biological, geographical, and economic characteristics. However, WDEQ includes by default “primary recreation” as one of the intended uses for almost all bodies of water in the state. Because much of Wyoming’s surface water is insufficient or inaccessible for this type of recreation, many water bodies are wrongly classified and thus may be wrongly listed as impaired. In other words, if people are going to swim in and possibly ingest water, it should meet certain standards; if not, then the standards need not be so stringent. Changing a water body’s designated use from “primary recreation” (i.e. swimming) to “secondary recreation” (i.e. wading) changes the acceptable levels of some pollutants- the number of E. coli colonies per 100 mL goes from 126 to 630– and could keep some bodies of water off the “impaired” list. To change the designated use of bodies of water around Wyoming, conservation districts are conducting Use Attainability Analyses, thereby minimizing the chances of having rivers and streams incorrectly listed as impaired.

In Crook County, the Little Missouri River is a water body which might benefit from a UAA. Currently, it is classified by WDEQ as 2AB and all its tributaries are classified as 3B. Both these classifications contain the “primary recreation” component, meaning the streams must be clean enough for full body contact, immersion, and possible ingestion. Most people in the area would agree that this is not an accurate description of how water in the LMR and its tributaries is used. Pursuing a change in designation through a UAA is one possibility for keeping the LMR off the WDEQ list of impaired water bodies, should landowners in the area wish to pursue this.

Area I Meeting

In September, 2008, Area I Director and CCNRD Chairman Wayne Garman and NRCS District Conservationist Terry Everard traveled to Buffalo, Wyoming for the Area I Meeting hosted by the Lake DeSmet Conservation District. Representatives of NRCS and WACD gave a presentation on the 2008 Farm Bill, and discussion followed concerning how the working

relationships between NRCS and conservation districts would be affected. Meeting attendees were taken on a tour of a stream bank restoration project completed cooperatively by the Lake DeSmet Conservation District, the town of Buffalo, and the local NRCS office. The Area I Business Meeting was held, and the Area Directors were elected. Wayne Garman was re-elected, Dave Fraley (Lake DeSmet CD) was elected, and Travis Hackert (Campbell Co. CD) was elected as an alternate.

WACD Annual Convention

In November, 2008, Wayne Garman and Sarah Barton attended the WACD Annual Convention hosted by the Campbell County Conservation District in Gillette, Wyoming. As Area I Director, Wayne attended board meetings for the Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation on November 17 and WACD on November 18. Sarah attended the Wyoming Association of Employees of Conservation Districts meeting on November 18.

Opening ceremonies were held at 8 a.m. on the 19th, and welcoming speeches were given by local dignitaries Travis Hackert, Dan Coolidge, and Duane Evenson. WACD Board President, Ralph Brokaw, gave the keynote address followed by a special presentation honoring the late Olin Sims.

There was a short break before the next speech, given by NRCS Chief Arlen Lancaster. He was followed by Debbie Hughs, New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts Executive Director, who presented success stories from conservation work happening in New Mexico. Ken Kerns from Coalbed Natural Gas Alliance gave a short presentation to close out the morning. The afternoon was spent in committee meetings. Wayne attended the Wildlife Meeting to learn about wolf issues in Wyoming, and Sarah attended the District Operations & Education Meeting. A social hour, an auction, and a calcutta closed out the evening.

A full slate of breakout sessions was held on the morning of the 20th. Sarah attended the session on range monitoring, and Wayne attend the ABC's of Subdivision Reviews. Both attended the session on EPA Watershed-based Planning and TMDLs. The luncheon speaker was the NACD President elect, Steve Robinson. After his speech, the WNRF Business Meeting was held, followed by the WACD Business Meeting. A social hour and banquet followed, and the evening concluded with the first "Bust-a-Brain" contest.

Addressing Growth Concerns as the Local Voice in Natural Resource Issues

CCNRD has participated in various discussions and meetings with local municipalities, Crook County officials (Board of Commissioners, Land Use Planning and Zoning Commission and others) and the new Growth and Development Department to address concerns about recent population growth in the County. We remain the local voice in natural resource issues and provide advice/information on how to address growth and development responsibly in order to protect the beauty of Crook County and preserve the way of life.

Financial Summary

Fiscal Year 2008-2009

Cash on hand as of July 01, 2008 \$68,368.00

REVENUE

Operating Revenues \$11,266.00

Federal Grants/Funding \$47,694.00

Local: Crook County Board of Commissioners \$20,000.00

Private Foundation Grant: Best Buy \$1500.00

Interest & Donations \$1020.00

Total Income \$81,480.00

EXPENDITURES

Administration \$12,822.00

Operations \$40,232.00

Indirect Costs \$11,390.00

Total Expenses \$64,444.00

Cash on hand as of July 01, 2009 \$85,404.00

CCNRD Annual Plan of Work 2009-2010

With reference to the Long Range Plan (2005-2010), the CCNRD has prepared this Annual Plan of Work to meet the needs of and focus on natural resource management in Crook County. The main goals for 2009-2010 are to develop new projects/programs that benefit the community and are needed in Crook County and to seek additional funding to support these projects/programs. CCNRD will continue to work closely with the Crook County Growth and Development Department (CCG&DD), County Commissioners, Municipalities, Land Use Planning and Zoning Commission, Crook County Weed & Pest, and UW Extension Office to coordinate efforts, provide support and remain in open communication about events and/or issues that affect natural resources and Crook County residents. In the coming year, the current Long Range Plan is slated to expire, and a new version will be drafted and approved with the support of Crook County residents.

The Crook County Natural Resource District Board of Supervisors is committed to taking a leadership role in the wise use of natural resources in Crook County. The goals and objectives set forth in this plan are stepping stones on the road to realizing the mission statement of the district. Through continued public awareness, education and teamwork, CCNRD supports the wise management of Crook County's natural resources.

The Crook County Natural Resource District was created for the resource users of Crook County. The district remains committed to serving those individuals with the best interest of local residents and resources in mind.

PARTNERS

The Crook County Natural Resource District is committed to achieving local leadership ensuring that local people are setting priorities and making decisions about conservation in our community. The success of the district would not be possible without the support and assistance from our conservation partners.

Belle Fourche River Watershed Partnership
Campbell County Conservation District
Crook County Commissioners
Crook County Extension Services
Crook County Landowner Advisory Committee
Crook County Land Use Planning and Zoning Commission
Crook County Growth and Development Department (CCG& DD)
Crook County Road and Bridge
Crook County School Districts
Crook County Weed and Pest
Colorado State Forest Service Nursery
Environmental Protection Agency-Region 8 (EPA)
National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)
Northeastern Wyo. Resource Conservation & Development Area (RC & D)
State of Wyoming
Sundance Chamber of Commerce
University of Wyoming
USDA National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)
USFS Black Hills National Forest
U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
Western Coalition of Conservation Districts
Weston County Conservation District
Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts (WACD)
Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA)
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
Wyoming State Forestry
Wyoming Game and Fish

Water Quality

GOAL: To conserve and improve the quality and quantity of water resources in Crook County.

Objectives:

- Continuing to implement the current Belle Fourche River Watershed Plan and overseeing the revision of this plan in 2010
- Increasing local knowledge about issues of water quality and conservation through the district newsletter, local newspapers and CCNRD mailings
- Conducting water quality monitoring according to the 2006 SAP with amendments
- Conducting water quality related workshops, one involving septic systems
- Conducting tours of completed BMPs around Crook County
- Continuing to accept applications for and initiate cost-share projects for BMPs and septic system remediation projects
- Keeping the Belle Fourche River Landowner Advisory Committee informed of all aspects of the 319 grants, water quality monitoring and watershed planning
- Applying for funding related to water quality to improve efforts to implement the Belle Fourche River Watershed Plan
- Completing all required current grant reporting requirements
- Participating in Water Quality Monitoring Day with local youth
- Continuing to offer FREE Rural Well Testing to Crook County residents
- Participating in Soil and Water Stewardship Week through a Poster Contest and educational outreach in schools in Crook County
- Visiting Crook County schools to demonstrate the Enviroscape model and/or water quality monitoring
- Supporting the continuing education of district employees through their attending water quality related trainings as well as conferences related to water quality and watersheds

Legislative Information

GOAL: To inform Crook County residents of current legislative activity and issues at the local, state, and national levels.

Objectives:

- Continuing to address current legislative issues in newsletter and newspaper articles
- Participating in any conferences or conventions through WACD on legislative topics

- Communicating with legislators and informing them of the district's position on natural resource issues
- Commenting on policies or events relating to local natural resource issues

Range and Timber Management

GOAL: To provide information and education to Crook County residents to encourage wise and productive management of local range and timber resources.

Objectives:

- Encouraging the planting of windbreaks and other conservation plantings in Crook County
- If funding allows, developing a living snow fence and windbreak cost-share program and providing technical assistance in the planting of living snow fences and windbreaks
- Increasing the knowledge of district staff members concerning windbreak design through trainings provided by Wyoming State Forestry
- Hosting workshops on forestry topics with assistance from Wyoming State Forestry
- Cooperating with the Small Acreage Issues Team and Crook County Extension Office to hold a series of Small Acreage or Rural Living Workshops
- Maintaining the living snow fence tree planting on Warren Peak County (Base) Road #100
- Coordinating efforts to install another living snow fence in Crook County
- Maintaining a tree planter and a fabric laying implement for use by county residents
- Continuing to provide low-cost tree seedlings to county residents
- Remaining informed of and involved with forest health and biomass issues in Crook County as well as cooperating with NRCS and NE WY RC & D on these issues
- Continuing to work with Forest Service, Game and Fish, and NRCS personnel regarding range and wildlife habitat management
- Promoting 319 cost-share funds to support proper grazing practices and off-site watering facilities

District Operations

GOAL: To be accountable with public funds and carry out all district programs in a responsible manner.

Objectives:

- Conducting annual evaluations of all district employees in accordance with their job description
- Revising the CCNRD Personnel Policy and Employee Position Descriptions positions are created and updated
- Reviewing annual budget at each regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors
- Reviewing the annual plan regularly to assess whether objectives are being completed in accordance with the Long Range Plan
- Continuing to pursue a mil levy or continued funding from the Crook County Commissioners
- Meeting all deadlines associated with payroll and quarterly reporting
- Following all auditing and budgeting requirements as determined by the Dept. of Audit
- Submitting all annual reports, plans and budgets to the WDA and WACD
- Maintaining cooperative/contribution agreements with the NRCS
- Making the Crook County map available throughout the year
- Maintain all district files in an orderly fashion and pay/mail bills in a timely manner
- Keeping the Board of Supervisors advised of all district related information
- Supporting the continuing education of board members through webinar training programs and in-person trainings

Information & Education

GOAL: To initiate and coordinate educational and informational programs addressing wise use and conservation of Crook County's natural resources.

Objectives:

- Continuing to provide information and education to local residents regarding BMP and septic issues, as determined by the Belle Fourche River Watershed Plan
- Continuing to publish weekly newspaper articles to inform county residents of district activities and programs as well as state and national natural resource issues
- Continuing to publish the CCNRD Newsletter on a bi-monthly basis

- Maintaining and updating the CCNRD website in a timely fashion
- Provide local educational opportunities on natural resource issues through tours, seminars, visits to local schools and displays
- Remaining a voice in natural resource decisions through continued Cooperating Agency status with the State of Wyoming

Waste Management

GOAL: To increase public information and education efforts on issues of waste management and to encourage local recycling efforts.

Objectives

- Continuing to address issues related to septic, as described in the Belle Fourche River Watershed Plan
- Continuing to submit comments regarding any waste management issues, such as septic systems, urban waste issues and animal feeding operations (AFOs/CAFOs)
- Continuing to print and distribute RV waste, pet waste and septic system brochures to pertinent businesses/facilities as needed
- Cooperating with municipalities to enhance local recycling programs and deal with waste management issues in the County
- Pursuing funding and support to offer e-cycling, and possibly a household hazardous or pesticide waste disposal, to residents of Crook County