

Historic Trails RC&D 2009 Project Updates

Historic Trails RC&D projects are in Carbon and Natrona Counties.

On-Going Project Activities:

- Five Small Acreage Workshops were held in Casper during the 2009 season
- New animal waste containment structures and management methods were completed for the Central Wyoming Fairgrounds
- Edgerton Griffin Park planning documents completed and grants applications submitted
- First annual Solar Tour offered to Natrona County residents in October
- Successfully received grant funding towards a Solar Demonstration project at Meals on Wheels facility
- Applied for Stimulus Funding for three projects; Encampment River Enhancement, Rock Creek CRM and the Van Diver Ditch Restoration/Enhancement projects.



Weed Workshop

Background:

The RC&D program combines people, rural development needs, opportunities and solutions. RC&D provides a vehicle for dealing with rural issues through citizen participation. It is as much a way of doing things—a process—as it is a program.

The RC&D program provides a form of “facilitated self-help” for conservation and economic development in rural communities in Wyoming.

Historic Trails RC&D was designated an RC&D in 2001 and works with local communities in Natrona and Carbon counties to achieve their high priority projects.

The new Historic Trails RC&D 5-year Area Plan enables the Council to continue this assistance in the following areas; Land Conservation, Water Management, Community Development, Land Management, Energy Conservation/Renewable Energy, and RC&D Council Growth and Sustainability.

The Council consists of representatives from municipalities and non-profit organizations in the two-county area. These representatives are mostly volunteers interested in project development and achieving local successes. Our projects encourage natural resource and community development to many of the small communities by assisting them with their priority goals and projects.

Project Partners:

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| • Saratoga-Encampment Conservation District | • Natrona County Weed and Pest |
| • Natrona County Conservation District | • NC Cooperative Extension Service |
| • Medicine Bow Conservation District | • The City of Rawlins |
| • Little Snake River Conservation District | • The Town of Edgerton |
| • Central Wyoming Fair Board/Staff | • The Town of Midwest |
| • The City of Casper | • NRCS |
| • Natrona County Commissioners | • Wyoming State Forestry |
| • Meals on Wheels | • Casper College |
| • Rocky Mountain Power Blue Sky Funds | |
| • Wyoming State Dept. of Environmental Quality | |
| • Barnyards and Backyards Program | |

2009 Historic Trails RC&D Current Project Activities

2009 Brief Projects Update:

Small Acreage Program: Another successful year of the Small Acreage Program in Natrona County included workshops on forestry mitigation, weed management, and land use planning in subdivisions. This year we conducted the workshops while reducing the costs of implementation.

Rock Creek CRM: Grant funding was needed for on-going weed management projects. Historic Trails RC&D applied to funding opportunities.

Central Wyoming Fairgrounds Animal Waste Improvements Project: Completed in September, 2009 all goals have been successfully met. Modern animal waste containment facilities and improved management are part of this project. This Fairgrounds facility will serve Wyoming State residents for years to come with improved technologies and BMP's.



Fairgrounds Signs



Casper Solar Tour

NC Diversified Energy Committee: Received grant funding for a Solar Demonstration site at the Meals on Wheels facility.

A Solar Tour was conducted for residents to get a hands-on education about small-scale solar and wind applications.

Midwest Cooling Pond: The Town of Midwest wants to develop an old fishing hole for multiple recreational activities. Progress has been made towards defining their goals including handicapped fishing access, thermal pools and improved use of a thermal energy resource.

Edgerton Griffin Park: Mr. Griffin has assisted in bringing this park to reality with a land donation. The Town's goals, cost estimates and grant application are complete. We assisted with all of these steps and in finding project partners.

Encampment River Enhancement Project—Phase II: Funding is key to continuation of this project. We are assisting in this effort by continuing to research grant opportunities.

Nursing Home for Patients with Dementia: A Green House concept in nursing homes creates a more family-oriented environment for our elderly. The RC&D Council is assisting with renewable energy and landscaping for this project.

RC&D Planning: Historic Trails RC&D has brought local people together in numerous meetings to refine the 5 year Plan and Annual Plan for the RC&D Council to follow. This ensures that the Plan represents the needs of the Natrona and Carbon county communities. Both documents are completed.

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