

## *Historic Trails RC&D 2010 Project Updates*

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

### **On-Going Project Activities:**

- Assisted Rural Living Team to conduct seven Rural Living Workshops in Casper during the 2010 season.
- Assisted the Town of Midwest to conduct a 'Needs and Feasibility Study' to evaluate opportunities to use their thermal water energy resources. Also worked with them to conduct a tour of the RMOTC facility to see a geo-thermal generator.
- Assisted the Town of Edgerton with grant research, design concepts and project lay-out to build the Edgerton-Griffin Park.
- Successfully led the Team effort and conducted the Second Annual Solar Tour for Natrona County residents. Solar Tour attendance more than doubled this year.



Rural Living Mountain Pine Beetle Workshop

### **Background:**

- The Resource, Conservation & Development (RC&D) program combines people, rural development needs, and opportunities with solutions. RC&D provides a vehicle for dealing with rural issues through citizen participation. It is as much a way of doing things—as 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 volunteers in Natrona and Carbon counties to achieve their projects.
- The Historic Trails RC&D works with communities for land and water management, community development, land conservation and renewable energy/conservation.
- The Council consists of representatives from municipalities, businesses and non-profits in the two-county area. These members are interested in developing projects 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. We are proud to be partners with the fine organizations listed below on our projects.

### **Project Partners:**

- Saratoga-Encampment-Rawlins CD
- Natrona County Conservation District
- Little Snake River Conservation District
- The City of Casper
- Carbon County Commissioners
- Natrona County Commissioners
- Meals on Wheels
- Rocky Mountain Power Blue Sky Funds
- Wyoming State Dept. of Environmental Quality
- Barnyards & Backyards - Rural Living
- Natrona Co. Weed and Pest
- Wyoming Dementia Care
- Wyoming Rural Development Council
- Carbon Co. Higher Education
- Wyoming Conservation Voters
- NC Cooperative Extension
- The City of Rawlins
- The Town of Edgerton
- The Town of Midwest
- Town of Elk Mountain
- The Town of Medicine Bow
- Town of Saratoga
- The Town of Baggs
- NRCS
- Wyoming State Forestry
- Casper College
- CATC—The Bus

## 2010 Historic Trails RC&D Current Project Activities

### 2010 Brief Projects Update:

**Rural Living Program:** 2010 was the 5th successful year of the Rural Living Program in Natrona County where seven workshops were held. The workshops included forest health and Pine Beetle mitigation, weed management, water harvesting, landscaping and construction BMP's in subdivisions. This year we added a new poster and e-mail list which continues to reduce the costs of implementing workshops.

**Medicine Bow Beautification Project:** Worked with the Town of Medicine Bow, local residents and the Medicine Bow Conservation District to complete a concept design for park improvements. Attained a Landscape Architect from NRCS to help with the design. Worked with WYDOT for inclusion of a Rest Area. Concept design has been approved by the Town.



Tom Heald, speaker at the renewable energy display at the Agricultural Learning Center on the Solar Tour.



Landscape Architect, Rosanna Brown visits Medicine Bow park.

### **Second Annual Solar Tour -**

October brought a Solar Tour to residents for a hands-on education about small-scale solar and wind energy installations. RC&D worked to attain grant funding for the Tour and Solar Demonstration at the Meals on Wheels facility.

**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 better use of a thermal energy resource.

**Edgerton Griffin Park:** The Town of Edgerton is on it's way to developing a town park for the local residents. Called by some, 'The 'Dream Park', town residents have been working for this for over 10 years. Construction has begun and a multi-use court should be available for use this 2011 year. Historic Trails RC&D assisted the Town with community decision-making, park design, lay-out and grant research and writing. Congratulations to the Town of Edgerton!

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

**RC&D Planning:** Historic Trails RC&D has completed the 5-year Area Plan and the 2010 and 2011 Annual Plans for the RC&D Area. This involved bringing local people together in numerous meetings to ensure that the Plan represents the needs of the Natrona and Carbon county communities. Both documents are completed and approved.

**For more  
information,  
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RC&D is a USDA Program administered by the NRCS.