

ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK

FISCAL YEAR 2014

July 1, 2013- June 30, 2014



MEETEETSE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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INTRODUCTION:

The Meeteetse Conservation District (MCD) is a local government and a governmental subdivision of the state as defined and established by the Wyoming Statutes at Title 11, Chapter 16, et seq., entitled – “Wyoming Conservation Districts Law”. Elected by the people of the District at general elections, by popular vote, the MCD Supervisors are the only locally elected board charged specifically with the responsibility of representing local people on natural resource issues and, as stated in W.S. § 11-16-103 Legislative declarations and policy:

“(b) It is hereby declared to be the policy of the legislature to provide for the conservation of the soil, and soil and water resources of this state, and for the control and prevention of soil erosion and for flood prevention for the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water, and hereby to stabilize ranching and farming operations, to preserve natural resources, protect the tax base, control floods,

prevent impairment of dams and reservoirs, preserve wildlife, protect public lands, and protect and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people of this state.”

This Annual Plan of Work has been prepared under the authority of and to further the implementation of the MCD Land Use Management and Resource Conservation Plan, 2011 and to provide partial fulfillment of the requirements for Wyoming Conservation District funding through the Wyoming Department of Agriculture.

The Annual Plan of Work is one of the principal tools used by the Meeteetse Conservation District (MCD) Board of Supervisors and the MCD staff to keep the general public, other governmental entities, and non-governmental organizations informed of the direction that MCD will take in FY 2014. MCD encourages comments from the public, which ensure the effectiveness of the District.

Meeteetse Conservation District Board of Supervisors as of July 1, 2013:

Tracy Renner, Chairman	Craig Geving, Treasurer
Dan Morris, Vice-Chairman	Clara Mae Yetter, Member
Steve Jones, Secretary	

Meeteetse Conservation District Staff as of July 1, 2013:

- William Woolston, Range Conservationist - Salaried, full-time
- Steffen Cornell, Resource Specialist (RS) - Hourly, full-time
- Blaise Allen, Resource Specialist (RS) - Hourly, full-time
- Landa Robbins, District Clerk - Hourly, part-time

Budgeting and Revenues:

Financial information is projected according to the FY 2014 Budget, approved by the MCD Board of Supervisors at the July 15th, 2013 Budget Hearing.

The MCD will operate on a cash basis from total anticipated revenues of \$361,955, which includes anticipated project contributions from outside sources, and non-reserve funds of \$164,935. Revenues of \$208,520 (58%) are expected from its 1 mil tax levy, \$10,000 (3%) from the WDA Competitive grants, \$8,824 (2%) from WDA base funding, \$62,000(17%) from competitive grants, \$55,400 (15%) from federal grants, which may include federal funds passed through the State, and \$15,200 (4%) from miscellaneous sources including interest, refunds, and other such revenue. \$121,525 will fund reserve accounts, of which \$121,000 is budgeted to fund the Startup Reserve that will fund the District July through December of FY 2014, until the first half mill levy funds arrive. The Depreciation, Emergency, and Natural Resources Management & Planning Reserves will be funded to a small degree by additions from accrued interest estimated at about \$525.

Administration and Operations:

In order to better evaluate its accomplishments and attainment of objectives, MCD continues to define its administrative activities and differentiate between District Administration and District Operations.

MCD defines *administration* activities as those activities that primarily keep the office and District functioning. Activities are referred to in budgeting and tracked in the accounting system as *classes*. Administrative activities are anticipated to require 40 to 50 staff-hours per week. Approximately 61% of the MCD’s administration activities are expected to be performed by the

District Clerk, who is generally responsible for the day-to-day administrative activities of the MCD, including district budgeting and finances, performs bookkeeping and associated reporting tasks as well as most secretarial tasks. The Resource Specialists generally perform administrative tasks related to district operations (see following) which should make up about 39% of the total administrative activities.

Budgeted administrative expenditures of \$52,887 are anticipated to be about 9% of FY 2014 total expenditures of \$590,426.

MCD defines services and associated activities for which the District was formed as *operations*. MCD operations include natural resource management and planning, monitoring and reporting water quality, soil moisture, range, and local weather conditions, natural resource education, and other natural resource-related activities of value to the community. The MCD may assist other entities in providing similar activities, and participation in many technical training activities may be considered part of operations.

On an annual basis, over 90% of the MCD's operations activities are expected to be performed by the Resource Specialists who have general responsibility for day-to-day operations and who provides guidance for the Resource Technician (RT). The Resource Specialists work with and provides guidance for the RT as well as working on independent projects. The Resource Technician (RT) is a job description used by the MCD clerk for operations duties. The RT provides assistance to the RS and is expected to be responsible for less than 10% of operations activities. The Clerk, while providing valuable assistance, has minimal responsibility for operations activities.

Operations direct costs of \$226,241 are anticipated to be about 38% of FY 2014 total expenditures of \$590,426.

Indirect costs of \$26,298 and capital outlay of \$285,000 are expected to be 4% and 48% of the FY 2014 total expenditures of \$590,426, respectively.

MCD Special Committees and staff assignments are:

- ◆ District Operations – Steve Jones, Blaise Allen, Steffen Cornell, Landa Robbins
- ◆ BLM Issues – Clara Yetter, Steve Jones, Steffen Cornell
- ◆ Education – Tracy Renner, Blaise Allen
- ◆ Forest Issues – Clara Yetter, Steve Jones, Steffen Cornell
- ◆ RC& D Council Representative – Clara Yetter, Steve Jones, Blaise Allen
- ◆ Water – Craig Geving, Steve Jones, Steffen Cornell
- ◆ Range and Fire - Craig Geving, Dan Morris, Blaise Allen
- ◆ Wildlife – Dan Morris, Steffen Cornell, Blaise Allen

Cooperators, Cooperating Agencies, Partners, and Associates:

Our Cooperators include all residents, businesses, and organizations within the boundaries of the District. In addition, the MCD has developed varying degrees of relationships with:

- ◆ Big Horn Basin R C & D Council
- ◆ Big Horn County
- ◆ Conservation Districts of Wyoming, individually
- ◆ Greybull Valley Irrigation District
- ◆ Hot Springs County
- ◆ Intermountain West Joint Ventures

- ◆ Meeteetse, Town of (including Meeteetse Volunteer Fire Department)
- ◆ Meeteetse Visitor Center
- ◆ Meeteetse Local Planning Area Advisory Committee
- ◆ Meeteetse FFA
- ◆ Meeteetse School District 16, Park County
- ◆ National Association of Conservation Districts
- ◆ Nature Conservancy, The
- ◆ Park County conservation districts - Cody and Powell-Clarks Fork
- ◆ Park County Board of County Commissioners
- ◆ Park County Fire Districts
- ◆ Park County Weed and Pest
- ◆ Pheasants Forever
- ◆ Predator Management Districts in the Big Horn Basin, individually
- ◆ State of Wyoming
 - Agriculture, Department of
 - Animal Damage Management Board
 - Department of Environmental Quality
 - Game and Fish Department
 - Forestry Division
 - Local Legislators
 - State Engineer's Office
 - Wyoming Water Development Commission
 - Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
- ◆ Trout Unlimited
- ◆ University of Wyoming College of Agriculture and Cooperative Extension Service (UW & UW-CES)
- ◆ University of Wyoming Department of Renewable Resources
- ◆ US Army Corps of Engineers
- ◆ US Department of Agriculture
 - APHIS-Wildlife Services, including the National Wildlife Research Center
 - Farm Service Agency
 - Forest Service
 - Natural Resources Conservation Service
- ◆ US Department of the Interior
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - Fish and Wildlife Service
 - National Park Service
- ◆ Washakie County
- ◆ Western Wyoming RC&D Council
- ◆ Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts
- ◆ Wyoming County Commissioner Association

The MCD has been and will continue to be a Government Cooperator and Cooperating Agency in the Shoshone National Forest's Forest Plan Revision, and is a member of the Shoshone Cooperating Agency Coalition (SCAC), which includes county commissions and conservation districts having lands within the Shoshone National Forest.

The MCD will continue to be a Cooperating Agency in the BLM Big Horn Basin Resource Management Plan (RMP) revision.

The MCD particularly relies on the USDA-NRCS for technical assistance and other support. This is despite the fact that, unlike many conservation districts that are able to share office space and other local resources with the NRCS, the nearest NRCS offices are located in Powell and Thermopolis, both approximately 53 miles distant.

The MCD will continue to be a member of the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts, the National Watershed Coalition, The National Association of Conservation Districts, American Stewards, and the Big Horn Basin RC&D Council.

Meetings:

The MCD regularly meets on the second Wednesday of each month at the District Office, 910 Park Avenue in Meeteetse.

The MCD will actively participate at the Area and State level meetings as a member of the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts (WACD), and as a member of the Big Horn Basin RC&D Council.

MCD ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

Overall, the MCD will, through its Board of Supervisors and staff, and to the best of its ability:

- ◆ Act to represent the members of the District (Cooperators) and their needs wherever possible, especially as a member of the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts, pursuant to Wyoming State Statutes and the Meeteetse Conservation District - Land Use Management and Resource Conservation Plan, as adopted or amended.
- ◆ Work to improve its ability to provide services and operational programs.
- ◆ Strive to improve its ability to work with Cooperating Agencies, Partners, and Associates.
- ◆ Improve its ability to obtain technical assistance from outside the District.
- ◆ Support District employee certification and training, and the WCDEA.
- ◆ Provide for the training of supervisors and staff on administrative issues.

DISTRICT OPERATIONS ACTIVITIES

The Meeteetse Conservation District will continue to experience change driven by a variety of social, economic, and natural resource issues and concerns. Local input and involvement, through the MCD, is a necessity in responding to change.

Overall, the MCD through its Board of Supervisors and staff will, to the best of its ability:

- ◆ Continue to be involved and provide leadership in addressing natural resource issues and concerns by providing scientific and technical assistance at the local level.
- ◆ Act to educate and provide technical assistance with respect to new natural resource conservation innovations, techniques, and government agency programs regarding natural resource conservation, utilizing existing educational forums, newsletters, and website.
- ◆ Be committed to the continued implementation of conservation and natural resource programs in the field, classroom, community, and in the planning arena that improve, maintain, or enhance the social, economic and human/physical environment within the Meeteetse Conservation District.

- ◆ Develop improved means of maintaining an inventory of District resources.
- ◆ Strive to assist in the development of programs for our Cooperators in order to address natural resource management concerns across political boundaries.
- ◆ Seek involvement in developing and amending governmental policies regarding soil, water, and natural resource conservation.
- ◆ Provide technical training for staff and supervisors, especially in the area of water quality, range science, NEPA, remote sensing, and newly emerging technologies.

Primary operations of the MCD can be outlined as follows, but significant overlap occurs:

- Cooperator Assistance - Programs for Producers/Cooperators
- Education
 - Youth
 - Community
 - Elected officials and government agencies
- Natural Resources Management and Planning (NRM&P)
 - Planning and Agency Interaction
 - Wildlife Habitat
- Range and Pasture Management
- Training (for Supervisors and staff)
- Water Quality
- Weather Station
- Website

Cooperator Assistance:

The MCD will continue to support its conservation partnership with the NRCS and will continue to support the NRCS Sage Grouse Initiative Strategic Watershed Action Team (SGI-SWAT) through employment of a SGI Range Conservationist in cooperation with the NRCS, Intermountain West Joint Ventures, Pheasants Forever, and the USDA F&WS Partners Program.

The MCD will continue to support the Wyoming Rangeland Health Assessment Program grant project. Additionally, the MCD will continue to loan certain District equipment to producers.

Education:

The MCD recognizes the overarching and continual need to provide credible natural resource information to all members of the community while honoring the contextual relationships of custom, culture, and socio-economics.

The MCD recognizes the need and importance of educating our local youth in regards to natural resources and their conservation and proper use, with an emphasis on the importance of agriculture and proper agricultural management practices as well as forestry and its related proper land management practices.

While education is a key component of most MCD operations, certain specific educational actions are planned:

- The MCD will publish its newsletter, “Trail News”, on a bi-weekly basis.
- The District will proactively work with the Meeteetse School District (and youth organizations where appropriate) inside and outside the classroom to enhance those portions of its curriculum and activities pertaining to natural resources and agriculture during the school year, intending to meet at least 3 times with youth or activity groups.

- The District will promote the Ag in the Classroom Program to Meeteetse School faculty and staff.
- The District will support and promote *Barnyards & Backyards* as an educational tool.
- The MCD will assist the Meeteetse FFA to send qualified students to FFA leadership Camp and other important educational and character-building events.
- The District will host or co-host at least one educational workshop or program for adult members of the community.
- MCD will continue public outreach in regards to Firewise standards and disseminate information on the wildland-urban interface (WUI), forest health, and related topics.
- The District will conduct at least one educational function for elected officials.
- The District will have an Open House or other public meeting to provide an opportunity for direct dialogue between cooperators and the District.
- The District will attend meetings of the Park County Board of County Commissioners, the Meeteetse Local Planning Area Advisory Committee, the Meeteetse Town Council, or other local organizations to ensure that local government understands the role that the District has in the community and to provide information on specific MCD activities.
- The MCD will attempt to leverage its ability to provide educational activities by partnering with other districts and other entities such as UW-CES, Park County Weed & Pest, Wyoming G&F, and the WDA.

Natural Resource Management and Planning (NRM&P):

The MCD takes an active role in promoting proper and responsible management and use (conservation) of natural resources. Wyoming Conservation Districts Law provides specific definitions for certain terms with regard to conservation district statutory authorities.

"Conservation" means development, improvement, maintenance, preservation, protection and use of natural resources, and the control and prevention of floodwater and sediment damages, and the disposal of excess waters;

"Renewable natural resources," "natural resources" or "resources," means land, soil, water, vegetation, trees, wild rivers, wilderness, natural beauty, scenery and open space;

At all levels, management of the resource and the associated planning are key components of resource stewardship. This includes promoting the use of renewable resources to help stimulate the local economy (including but not limited to grazing, timber, and biomass products).

Through time, the relative value of natural resources change and new management paradigms emerge. The MCD will attempt to improve the mineral cycle, water cycle, and energy flow of the public and private lands within the District through improved planning and management.

Local landowners can be impacted by planning decisions at the local, State, and federal level. Conservation Districts Law provides statutory expertise and other support for the MCD to be involved in those planning decisions. It is a reality that many landowners do not have the time or finances to review relevant documents, rules, and regulations or voice their concerns/opinions or attend meetings on a regular basis. MCD will continue to support the partnership between the District's Cooperators and landowners, and local, State, and federal governmental agencies in creating and implementing programs and policies that pertain to soil and water conservation, and to the economic stability of the Meeteetse Conservation District.

Management and planning are often controlled by governmental entities that lack local connections, are unresponsive to local needs, or that do not desire local input. Local input may have improved stature when provided by a locally elected board. The MCD strives to be a

governmental entity that provides a means of local involvement. The MCD, as an elected local governmental entity, should provide a way for cooperators to express themselves in a readily accessible forum.

A goal of the Meeteetse Conservation District is to continue to represent local interests in the planning, policy formation and implementation efforts of local, State, and federal government agencies within the jurisdictional boundary of the MCD.

With respect to planning and agency interaction the MCD will:

- Continue to be involved in State, county, local, and federal planning processes and programs, including commenting on Environmental Assessments, Environmental Impact Statements, and proposed rules as budget allows; voicing these comments at appropriate venues.
- At its discretion, formally comment on new rules and regulations that may affect local landowners and District Cooperators.
- Participate as a Cooperating Agency in federal planning processes whenever possible.
 - Continue participation in the Shoshone NF Plan Revision.
 - Participate as a Cooperating agency in the BLM Big Horn Basin RMP revision.
- Be a partner and take a leadership role in the Shoshone Cooperating Agency Coalition (SCAC) formed to support common ground objectives of local governments involved in the Shoshone NF Plan Revision.
- Strive to obtain coordination of federal land management planning with the MCD Land Use Management and Resource Conservation Plan, 2011, or as may be amended.
- The MCD will strive to develop improved inventories of infrastructure and resources. Inventory data must be suitable for their purpose in terms of quality, accuracy, and completeness.
- Continue to oppose management initiatives which restrict or limit existing and potential uses. This includes designation of “special areas”, including wilderness, and the overlap of multiple “special areas”.
- Inform public land managers of any negative impacts on the livelihoods and/or quality of life of the people of the MCD which may arise from public land management mandates, regulations and laws.
- Continue to oppose material changes in land uses which hamper or otherwise negatively impact traditional land uses in order to avoid undue social distress, dislocation, and hardship brought on the community by such changes.
- Review and comment on unincorporated area land use, subdivision proposals, and reclamation plans, as applicable.
- Help interested citizens become involved in the planning process.
- To the best of its capability, involve and inform District Cooperators on changes in federal, State, county and local natural resource management laws and regulatory procedures.
- Cooperate and assist local, county, State, and federal government agencies to implement programs that positively affect sound soil and water conservation, and economic stability.
- Continue to assist and represent Cooperators concerning natural resource policy changes, including water, proposed by government agencies or others in order to sustain and maintain the use of our natural resources and protect our tax base.

- Work to ensure that changes to Wyoming DEQ/WQD Ag Use Protection Policy truly protect the agricultural use of discharge water from oil and gas development and to support agricultural use of discharge water.
- Be involved in Park County's Fire Plan, support coordination of that plan with other local, county, State and federal resource management plans, and support Stewardship Contracting on federal lands as a fire management tool.

With regard to Watershed Planning, which is recognized to have considerable overlap with the Water Quality Operations Class, MCD will facilitate the implementation of the Greybull River Watershed Water Quality Management Plan, as that Plan has been incorporated into the MCD Land Use Management and Resource Conservation Plan, 2011.

With respect to maintaining the mineral cycle, water cycle, and energy flow of the public and private lands within the District, the MCD recognizes the importance of utilizing biomass in conjunction with fuels reduction projects and timber harvest. To the best of its ability, the MCD will:

- Encourage federal land managers to manage for multiple use.
- Facilitate the availability of a broad range of forest products to the community, cooperating and coordinating with public resource managers as appropriate.
- Assist federal land managers to monitor resource conditions.
- Encourage producers to recognize the changes in value that may be occurring in their resource base.
- Encourage producers to consider new paradigms in their management efforts.

With respect to Prescribed Burning, managed under (DEQ) regulations, MCD will:

- Assist District Cooperators with burn and post-burn plans, when applicable.
- Act to keep District Cooperators informed regarding Wyoming's DEQ air quality rules and regulations.
- Promote the use of properly designed and conducted prescribed burns on public lands for vegetation management & hazardous fuels reduction when and where appropriate.
- Work to keep burning and air quality rules from being unnecessarily burdensome.

The MCD recognizes the complexity of management and planning related to wildlife and habitat. The MCD values improving or enhancing wildlife habitat to support viable and healthy wildlife populations in concert with agricultural activities, including livestock grazing.

Just as a plant out of place can be a weed, so can an animal out of place be a pest. That being said, the MCD will join with local landowners, government agencies, and organizations in maintaining, improving, and enhancing wildlife populations and habitat, complementary to and in conjunction with the other resources of the District.

Regarding wildlife and habitat management and planning, the MCD will:

- Provide or assist in providing educational materials, information, and programs for the community.
- Continue assistance and involvement in the sage grouse predation project which may include performing captures, field surveys, monitoring, data management and quality control.
- Assist Cooperators and government agencies in obtaining technical assistance for prescribed burns, planned grazing, and conservation plans on privately owned property in the District.

- Support the NRCS Sage Grouse Initiative Strategic Watershed Action Team (SGI-SWAT) through employment of a SGI Range Conservationist in cooperation with the NRCS, Intermountain West Joint Ventures, Pheasants Forever, and the USDA F&WS Partners Program.
- Attempt to increase engagement with Wyoming Game & Fish Department (WG&F) in order to provide:
 - Better communication.
 - Appropriate recognition and action by WG&F regarding Cooperator needs.
 - Better District Cooperator feedback to assist WG&F.
 - Balanced multiple use objectives of resource management.
 - MCD representation and participation on a local and regional scale.

Other natural resource management or planning actions:

- MCD will help Cooperators to find technical assistance for water rights and related permits, as requested.
- MCD will continue to encourage the use of MCD owned equipment and services for conservation projects as time and budget allows.
- MCD will continue to obtain or provide assistance for Producers interested in using GIS and other mapping technologies, as requested.
- MCD will actively support implementation of the newly emerging LIDAR technology.

Range and Pasture Management:

The MCD believes that converting forage vegetation to meat for human consumption is one of the best uses of the renewable forage resource.

In order to protect against soil erosion and water loss, the MCD supports planned grazing, pastureland planning, and the development and use of best management practices on rangelands and pastures. The MCD believes that high quality community dynamics follow proper management of biological diversity and vegetative ground cover.

As stated in the Cooperator Assistance section, the MCD will continue to support the NRCS Sage Grouse Initiative Strategic Watershed Action Team (SGI-SWAT).

Proper management hinges on observation, understanding, and acting appropriately.

During the coming year, the MCD will strive to:

- Work to support and assist continued livestock grazing on public and private lands.
- Participate in cooperative monitoring with permittees and other MCD cooperators.
- Make range and pasture management education, training, services, and information available to all land managers and stewards within the District.
- Update and improve the MCD range monitoring program, including the use of SamplePoint monitoring.
- Demonstrate monitoring methods so that cooperators can learn to collect data on their own.
- Make available information and technical assistance on wetland and riparian management.

- Assist in the dissemination of the holistic management decision-making framework, and co-sponsor workshops/seminars for the development of planned grazing and pastureland planning, as budget and time permits.
- Work to enable interested Cooperators to adopt and improve techniques for appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) and management under Conservation Plans.
- MCD will strive to help producers and agencies follow Wyoming DEQ's air quality rules and regulations since fire continues to be an important management tool for producers within the District.
- Sponsor local area student(s) attendance at the Youth Range Camp, Wyoming Resource Education Days (WyRED).
- Assist cooperators in establishing grazing programs and strategies with the technical assistance of NRCS and the UW College of Agriculture Extension Service.
- Assist the Shoshone National Forest in increasing allotment monitoring through activities contemplated in the MOU of June, 2009 between the USDA Shoshone NF and the MCD
- Support and assist Cooperators with appropriate weed and pest BMPs.

Understanding the forage resource is critical to livestock and wildlife alike and the MCD will work to assist cooperators in management of the forage resource.

- The MCD will provide a cost-share program for forage analysis.
- The District will assist interested cooperators in using the NutBal fecal analysis (TAMU Grazingland Animal Nutrition Lab) to obtain information on the nutritional quality provided to ruminant livestock.

The MCD has been actively participating in the statewide UW Soil Moisture Monitoring Program by collecting and reporting soil moisture, monitoring vegetation, and collecting forage yield data at the Little Buffalo Basin and Spring Creek stations. The MCD will continue to support this important program through data collection and annual reporting to UW-CES, with data analysis as appropriate.

Recycling:

The goal is to reduce the waste of natural, community, and personal resources.

Objective: The MCD will support Meeteetse's recycling program and be active in the development of future waste disposal plans.

Soil:

Soil is the basis for plant life, which helps sustain livestock and communities. Soil is also the foundation for all crops. Therefore, MCD is committed to improving soil conditions within the District and helping interested parties learn more about soil.

Planned MCD Actions:

- Continue to support the implementation of the NRCS Big Horn Basin Area soil survey.
- Collect and analyze soil samples for MCD Cooperators.
- Provide educational materials on soil, as requested.

Tree program:

A goal of MCD is to help alleviate and control soil erosion, improve energy flow, and improve the water and mineral cycle within the District. Trees improve the aesthetics of the community and selection of suitable species is critical with regard to energy flow. Furthermore, MCD

recognizes the importance of educating the public regarding the beneficial uses of trees for windbreaks and living snow fences.

Planned MCD Actions:

- Provide information regarding tree nurseries and proper tree planting techniques, and irrigation systems for trees to interested parties.
- Provide Cooperators with the knowledge and benefits of using trees as windbreaks, living snow fences, tree planting, propagation, and maintenance through our website and through educational workshops.
- Assist interested cooperators in obtaining funding through the Living Snow Fence Program.
- Provide Cooperators with technical and funding information regarding planting trees for windbreaks.
- Support Cody and Powell-Clarks Fork Conservation Districts' fund-raising efforts by referring qualified cooperators to those Districts' tree sales programs.

Water Quality:

The MCD remains committed to the goal of maintaining, and improving where appropriate, the water quality of groundwater, streams, rivers, reservoirs and lakes within the boundaries of the District. The District supports a **voluntary** approach to conservation and resource management including: education, coordination and cooperation, leadership, team building, and trust.

An MCD objective is to continue to provide effective management of water quality and the watershed, making improvements where and when possible.

During the upcoming year, the MCD will:

- Assist in the implementation of the Greybull River Watershed Plan to be led by the local steering committee under the joint auspices of the Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA), the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts (WACD), and the Wyoming DEQ Water Quality Division (WQD).
- Strive to be an effective liaison between the WDEQ and its Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) consultant, and the Cooperators of the MCD, including the Greybull River Watershed Plan Steering Committee; representing its Cooperators' interests during the development of the Bighorn and Greybull Rivers' TMDL development by the WDEQ.
- Continue to provide leadership for watershed planning, management, and improvement programs within the District and the State, as funding and time allows.
- Encourage continued participation by landowners, producers, and other entities in maintaining and improving the water quality within the District.
- Financially support the Wyoming Water Coalition, created by WACD, WSGA, WWGA, WFBF, WDA, the Meeteetse Multiple Use Association, and others.
- Promote appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs).
- Provide information regarding residential septic systems and water quality.
- Consider using the WDA CRM program to address local resource issues.
- Provide technical assistance and information to Cooperators on improved irrigation efficiency and flood water management, as requested.

The MCD will continue surface water quality monitoring and will to the best of its ability:

- Update as appropriate the MCD Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP), the Beneficial Use Reconnaissance Project (BURP), and Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) in order to meet the Quality Assurance and Quality Control requirements of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division, Watershed Program, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency under the requirements of the State of Wyoming Enrolled Act 47 (the Credible Data Bill).
- Compile and interpret water quality sampling data obtained to date; continuing with the development of MCD's Access database for water quality and related data.
- Test for *E. coli*, coliform bacteria, and other water quality parameters as appropriate when requested by local landowners.
- Continue the ongoing program of water quality sampling and monitoring of the biological, chemical, and physical characteristics of the Greybull watershed within the District under the revised SAP as funding and time allows.
- Utilize information from the WDA grant project "Greybull River Streambed Processes & *E. coli* Distribution" in continuing efforts to understand the nature of the fecal coliform impairment of the lower reach of the Greybull River.
- Conduct continuous water quality monitoring at five locations, generally April - October.

Weather:

Wyoming's weather not only changes frequently, but quickly - both temporally and spatially. Furthermore, prediction is difficult and weather stations are widely spaced. The District realizes that weather is a crucial factor in ranch and farm management. Current updates on weather conditions and accurate weather data can be invaluable to range, irrigation, and wildlife habitat management. MCD also recognizes that the general public is interested in local weather, such as inches of rainfall or snowfall, low and high temperature, and barometric pressure. Combined with soil moisture information, Meeteetse weather will help Wyoming's State Climatologist with drought forecasting and reports. Our weather data also helps the National Weather Service out of Riverton, Wyoming with "watches and warnings" and forecasting.

The MCD intends to be a provider of weather information and data, and as such:

- The District's weather station (located at the MCD office) will be used to collect weather data on a daily basis. Variables currently monitored are: temperature, wind speed, barometric pressure, relative humidity, dew point, wind chill, wind direction, solar insolation, and precipitation.
- Provide that current weather data will be automatically uploaded to MCD's website.
- The District will also keep cooperators and the general public up-to-date by publishing precipitation measurements and monthly weather summaries in the Meeteetse *Trail News*, and provide accumulated weather data and soil moisture data from the Little Buffalo Basin and Spring Creek stations on the MCD website.
- MCD will continue as a participant in and to educate cooperators about the multi-state Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow Study network (CoCoRaHS).
- MCD will continue as a participant in the Citizen Weather Observation Program (Station DW0465).

Website:

The MCD website: <http://www.meeteetsecd-wy.gov> is a primary means of communication and education for the District. The MCD will continue to post information including:

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Weather | Current topics | Soil moisture |
| MCD Newsletter | Meetings & conferences | Links to regulations |
| Current work & projects | Water quality information | Assistance MCD provides |
| MCD Annual Report | MCD Plan of Work. | MCD's Goals and Policies |
| NRCS Information | Fire Information | MCD's LUM&RCP |
| Greybull River Watershed Planning Information | | |
| Links to related education sites & educational youth activities | | |

Additionally, the MCD will continue to refine and improve the website on a continuing basis.

Certification:

The Supervisors of the Meeteetse Conservation District, as duly authorized by the provisions of the Wyoming Conservation Districts Act, hereby adopt the foregoing Annual Plan of Work as the guide for work efforts in the Meeteetse Conservation District during the 2014 Fiscal Year.

ss/ Tracy Renner
Tracy Renner, Chairman

December 11, 2013
Date