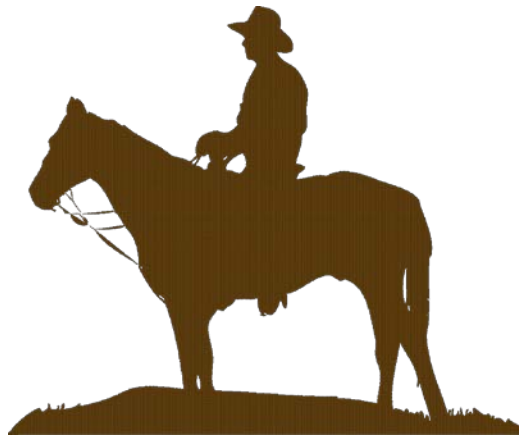


**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE
WYOMING BOARD OF AGRICULTURE
FISCAL YEAR 2016**

July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016



**MEETEETSE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

1906 State Street, PO Box 237, Meeteetse, Wyoming 82433

Phone: (307) 868-2484 Fax: (307) 868-2489

E-mail: meeteetse@conserviewy.net

On the Web: www.meeteetse-conserviewy.net

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	Page 2
Supervisors & Staff.....	Page 2
Budgeting & Finances.....	Page 2
Balance Sheet Comparison of FY 16 & FY 15.....	Page 3
Revenues & Expenditures.....	Page 4
District Activities.....	Page 6
Administration (<i>Administrative, Meetings, Training</i>).....	Page 6
Operations (<i>Cooperator Assistance, Education, Firewise Title III, Natural Resource Management and Planning, Networking and Participation in Outside Activities, Range, Surface Water Quality Monitoring, Training, Weather, Website</i>).....	Page 7
Conclusion.....	Page 11

Introduction

The Meeteetse Conservation District (MCD) Annual Report has been prepared in partial fulfillment of the requirements for Wyoming Conservation District funding through the Wyoming Department of Agriculture. It is also intended to assist the MCD Board of Supervisors in keeping the general public, other governmental entities, and non-governmental organizations informed of the activities and accomplishments of the MCD through fiscal year 2016 (FY 16). The MCD encourages public comments, which will help the District effectively plan its future.

Supervisors

<u>MCD Board of Supervisors as of July 1, 2015</u>			<u>MCD Board of Supervisors as of June 30, 2016</u>		
Office	Name	Position	Office	Name	Position
Chairman	Vacant	Rural	Chairman	George (Tracy) Renner	Rural
Vice-Chairman	Craig Giving	Rural	Vice-Chairman	Lionel Ostrander	Rural
Treasurer	Steve Jones	Rural	Treasurer	Steve Jones	Rural
Secretary	Tim Morrison	Urban	Secretary	Tim Morrison	Urban
Member	George (Tracy) Renner	At-large	Member	Vacant	At-large

Staff

<u>MCD Staff as of July 1, 2015</u>			<u>MCD Staff as of June 30, 2016</u>		
Name	Position	Status	Name	Position	Status
Steffen Cornell	Resource Specialist (RS)	FT, Hourly	Steffen Cornell	District Manager (DM)	FT, Hourly
Blaise Allen	Resource Specialist (RS)	FT, Hourly	Gary Mizer	Resource Specialist (RS)	FT, Seasonal
Virginia Davis	District Clerk	FT, Hourly	Virginia Davis	District Clerk	FT, Hourly
Bernie Spanogle	Firewise Coordinator	PT, Hourly	Bernie Spanogle	Firewise Coordinator	PT, Hourly
Wilson Renner	Resource Technician (RT)	FT, Seasonal	Wilson Renner	Resource Technician (RT)	FT, Seasonal

Budgeting

The MCD Board of Supervisors and staff developed the budget for FY 16 according to District Operations procedures. The budget was approved following the public budget hearing on July 13th, 2015. All FY 16 activities were within the constraints of the budget. Funding in the amount of \$95,013.00 was carried into FY 16 from FY 15 in the Startup Reserve account, used to fund the District through December 2015, when the first mill levy check arrived.

Finances (financial references within this report are unaudited)

In FY 16, the MCD maintained checking accounts at First National Bank in Powell and at Pinnacle Bank in Cody, as well as accounts for both cash and reserve funds with the Wyoming Government Investment Fund (WGIF). Big Horn Federal S&L certificates of deposit were used for certain reserve accounts.

The MCD operated on a cash basis and had no debt. The MCD used a VISA account through Pinnacle Bank to simplify purchasing. QuickBooks Pro was the accounting software used by MCD. MCD used an outside contractor, Schatz Accounting Services, for managing payroll and certain other bookkeeping responsibilities.

Balance Sheet Comparison of FY 16 & FY 15

	Jun 30, 16	Jun 30, 15
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
1000 · First Bank of Wyoming	-1,147.03	-3,569.38
1001 · Pinnacle Bank Chk - xx01	77,914.25	3,637.62
1004 · Firewise - Pinn Bank	22,472.09	26,871.18
1050 · WGIF Local xx00	45,092.66	33.31
1052 · WGIF Mixed xx65	14,448.41	8,291.31
1060 · WGIF- SGPP xx76	8.90	18,913.89
1061 · WGIF-Wyo-Ben xx52	3.44	35,497.92
1910 · WGIF Dep Reserve xx73	61.66	61.56
1910.03 · BHFC D DepRes xx96	2,829.89	2,819.27
1920 · WGIF NRM&P Reserv xx74	91.73	91.57
1920.03 · BHFC D-NRM&P Res xx88	28,450.48	28,343.71
1930 · WGIF Emerg Res Mixed xx75	70.45	70.34
1930.03 · BHFC D Emerg Res Mxd xx70	49,245.20	49,060.37
1931 · WGIF Emerg Res Local xx77	64.25	64.15
1931.02 · BHFC D Emerg Res Local Fnds xx38	10,928.75	10,887.87
1990 · WGIF Startup Res xx72	13.75	95,013.29
Total Checking/Savings	<u>250,548.88</u>	<u>276,087.98</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>250,548.88</u>	<u>276,087.98</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>250,548.88</u>	<u>276,087.98</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Credit Cards		
2400 · Pinnacle Bank Credit Card		
2452 · VISA 2752 - Virginia L Davis	-335.29	0.00
Total 2400 · Pinnacle Bank Credit Card	<u>-335.29</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Credit Cards	-335.29	0.00
Other Current Liabilities		
2101 · Payroll Liabilities		
2101.01 · Payroll Liabilities-Summer Hire	1,783.28	544.31
2101 · Payroll Liabilities - Other	180.56	-544.31
Total 2101 · Payroll Liabilities	<u>1,963.84</u>	<u>0.00</u>
2120 · Employee Share Benefits	6,472.28	-1,492.31
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>8,436.12</u>	<u>-1,492.31</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>8,100.83</u>	<u>-1,492.31</u>
Total Liabilities	8,100.83	-1,492.31
Equity		
3000 · Opening Bal Equity	452,185.65	452,185.65
3900 · Retained Earnings	-174,605.36	-88,064.89
Net Income	-35,132.24	-86,540.47
Total Equity	<u>242,448.05</u>	<u>277,580.29</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>250,548.88</u>	<u>276,087.98</u>

Revenues

The MCD FY 16 total revenues of \$377,057 consisted of \$190,864 (57%) from its Mill Levy, \$12,425 (4%) from Federal Grants, \$8,824 (3%) from WDA Base Funding, \$2,712 (<1%) from WDA Water Quality Monitoring Grant, \$60,000 (18%) from Competitive Grants, and \$62,233 (18%) from Interest and Other Income.

FY 2016 Revenues = \$337,056.88



Expenditures

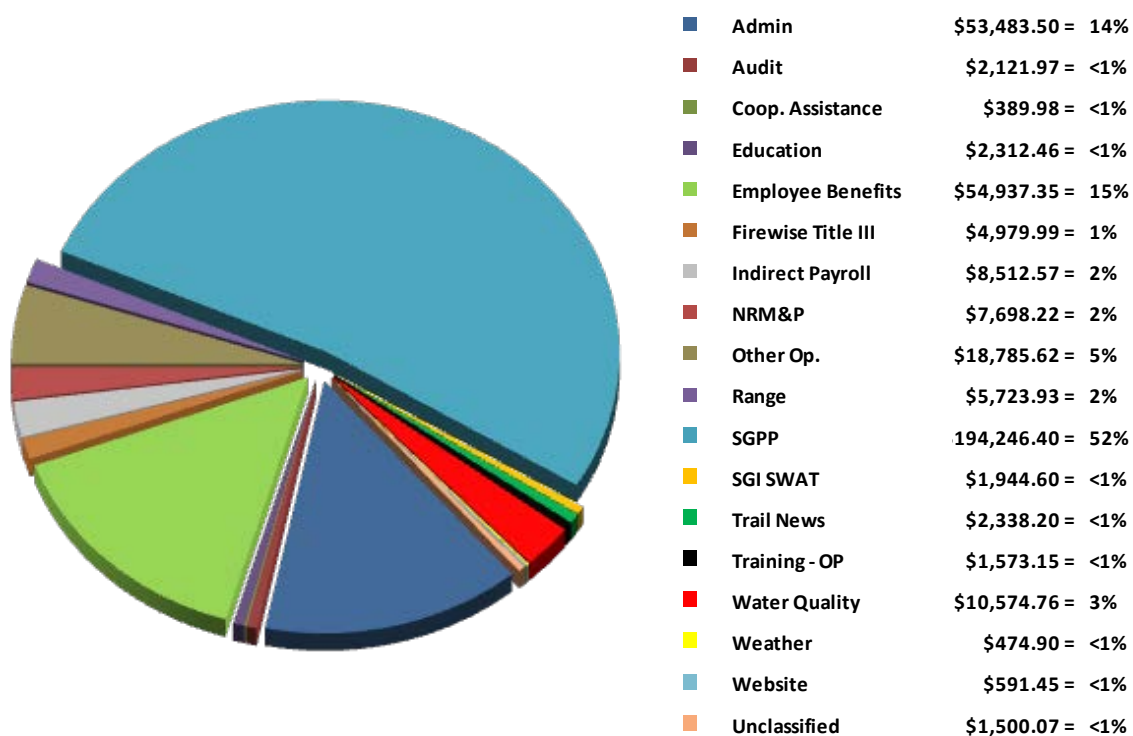
The MCD FY 16 total expenditures were \$372,189. Administration total expenditures were \$46,652 (14% of total expenditures), Operations total expenditures, including project contribution pass-throughs were \$262,517 (78%). Indirect expenditures were \$53,705 (16%). Total Capital Outlay for equipment and software was \$7,193 (2%) and Other uncategorized expenses totaled \$2,122 (<1%).

FY 2016 Expenditures = \$372,189.12



14% of the MCD's direct expenditures were for administration and 85% for operations (1% for audit & unclassified).

FY 2016 Direct Expenditures by Class



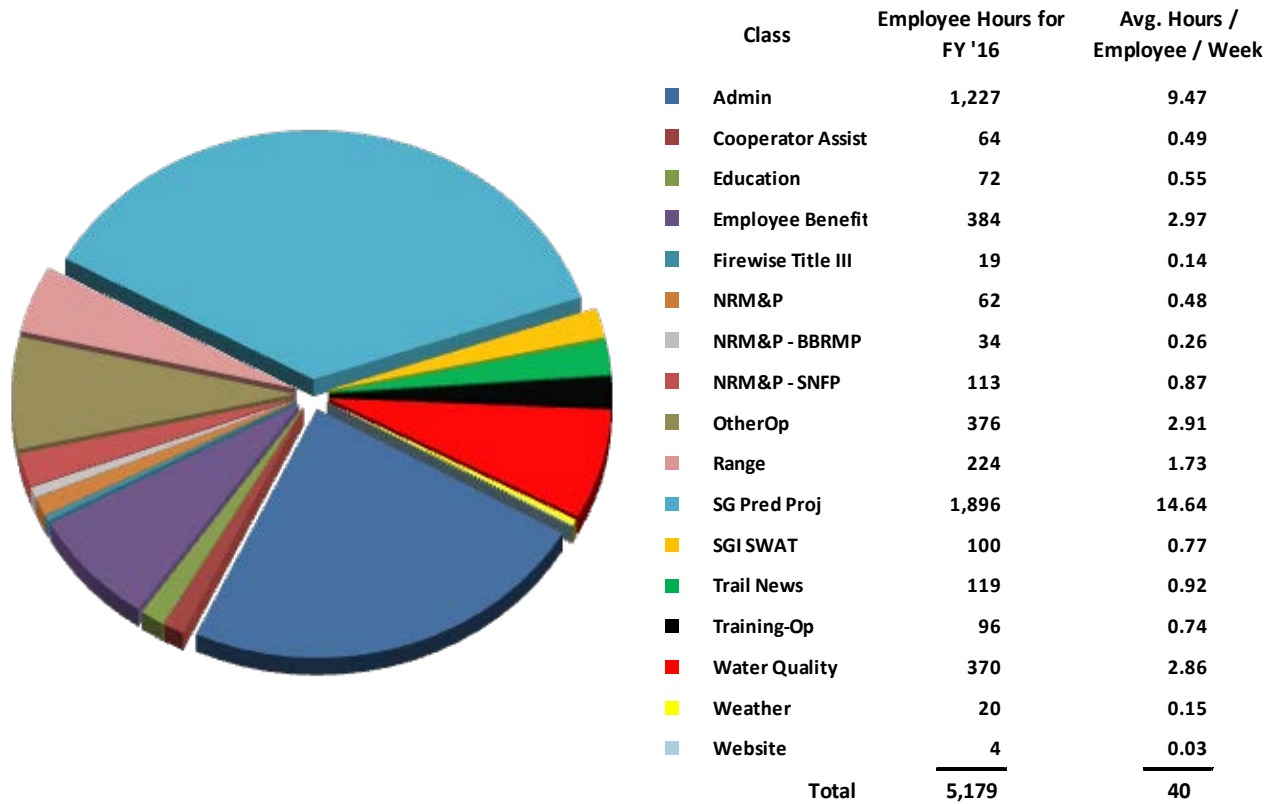
FY 16 Revenues and Expenditures

Income		Expense (cont.)	
3100 · Operating Revenues		5100 · OP Personnel Services	
3150 · Mill Levy	190,863.02	5105 · DM Wages	8,125.00
Total 3100 · Operating Revenues	190,863.02	5110 · RS wages	65,101.61
3200 · Grants		5115 · RT & Other Wages OP	9,622.31
3210 · Federal Grants(incl thru State)	12,424.77	5120 · SGI Range Con	1,482.60
3220 · Dept of Ag Base Funding Grant	8,823.50	5125 · Firewise Coordinater Wages	3,745.00
3230 · Dept of AG WQM grant- lab funds	2,712.14	5130 · Summer Hire RT	6,870.00
3250 · Competitive Grants	60,000.00	Total 5100 · OP Personnel Services	94,946.52
Total 3200 · Grants	83,960.41	5200 · Travel	
3300 · Misc.		5205 · Travel expenses	1,001.81
3320 · Interest - C.D.s & Bank Accts	553.55	5210 · Mileage	4,708.43
3330 · Refunds	1,144.38	5215 · Mileage - Summer Hire RT	9,981.56
3390 · Other income	60,535.52	Total 5200 · Travel	15,691.80
Total 3300 · Misc.	62,233.45	5300 · General Operating Expenses	
Total Income	337,056.88	5310 · Freight/Postage/Shipping	83.84
		5340 · Maint/Repairs-OP Equip	189.00
Expense		5350 · Supplies - Operations/Office	4,925.05
4100 · Admin Personnel Services		5370 · Dues,Memberships,Registrations	9,203.37
4105 · DM Admin	655.00	5380 · Advertising & Promotion	53.00
4110 · RS Admin	6,809.55	5390 · Other	1,076.78
4120 · Clerk	18,883.88	Total 5300 · General Operating Expenses	15,531.04
4190 · Other Admin	25.00	5400 · Vehicle Expenses	
Total 4100 · Admin Personnel Services	26,373.43	5410 · Passenger Vehicles Expenses	1,711.82
4200 · Board & Employee Expenses		5420 · Trailer Expenses	96.56
4205 · Travel	1,309.37	5430 · Off-Road Vehicle Expenses	442.35
4210 · Mileage	790.70	Total 5400 · Vehicle Expenses	2,250.73
4215 · Bonds	247.00	5500 · Professional Services	
4290 · Other Board Expenses	358.21	5520 · Tech Cons NRM&P, WQM, Web, etc	371.25
Total 4200 · Board & Employee Expenses	2,705.28	Total 5500 · Professional Services	371.25
4300 · Contractual Services		5600 · Special Expenses - Operations	
4310 · Accounting/auditing/Technical	1,962.50	5610 · Contrib. to Outside Programs	1,412.98
4315 · Contract Labor	1,130.00	5690 · Other Special Ops incl SGPP	132,312.26
Total 4300 · Contractual Services	3,092.50	Total 5600 · Special Expenses - Operations	133,725.24
4800 · Office		6100 · Insurance	
4810 · Admin Supplies/Postage	988.25	6101 · Automobile Insurance	694.00
4820 · Office Eqpt.-Rent/Repair/Maint.	350.00	6105 · Liability	1,733.00
4830 · Office Bldg-Maintenance/Repairs	1,262.50	6110 · Property Insurance	698.00
4850 · Office Utilities	7,293.37	Total 6100 · Insurance	3,125.00
Total 4800 · Office	9,894.12	6200 · Indirect Payroll Costs	
4900 · Other Admin		6206 · Social Security - MCD	2,297.37
4910 · Dues/Memberships/Subscriptions	3,336.41	6210 · Workers Comp	2,957.74
4925 · Registrations/Tuition	920.00	6215 · Unemployment Taxes	282.22
4930 · Advertising	36.00	6220 · Retirement	16,128.03
4990 · Other Misc.	294.63	6226 · Medicare - MCD	2,975.24
Total 4900 · Other Admin	4,587.04	6250 · Health Insurance/Life Insuranc	25,939.62
		Total 6200 · Indirect Payroll Costs	50,580.22
		6999 · Uncategorized Expenses	2,121.97
		7000 · Capital Outlay	
		7010 · Admin equipment and software	85.22
		7020 · Operations Equipment and softwa	1,378.85
		7030 · Real Property	
		7030.1 · Empty Lots	289.55
		7030.2 · 1906 State Street	4,244.21
		7030.3 · 1902 State Street	1,195.15
		Total 7030 · Real Property	5,728.91
		Total 7000 · Capital Outlay	7,192.98
		Total Expense	372,189.12
		Net Income	-35,132.24

District Activities

Activities (employee work time) are referenced in budgeting and tracked in the accounting system as *classes*. The chart below illustrates a breakdown of all employees' time spent on administration activities or any of the sixteen operations activities.

FY 2016 District Activities by Class



In order to better evaluate its accomplishments and attainment of objectives, MCD continued to differentiate between District administration and District operations.

Administration

MCD defines *administration* activities as those activities that primarily keep the office and District functioning. Administrative activities required an average of 9.56 staff-hours per week over 52 weeks. Approximately 69% of the MCD's administration activities were performed by the District Clerk, who is generally responsible for basic day-to-day activities of the MCD, including district budgeting and finances, bookkeeping and associated reporting tasks as well as most secretarial tasks. The Resource Specialist (RS), generally performed administrative tasks related to district operations (see following) which made up about 30% of the total administrative activities. The District Manager (DM) performed tasks requiring direction, oversight and review of various administration-type activities, comprising only 1% of the total (the DM didn't start until just before the end of the FY).

- 22% of total salary and wages were for administrative activities.
- Salary and wages for administrative duties were 50% of total administrative expenditures.
- Non-payroll expenses, such as office rent, insurance, utilities, dues, and supplies accounted for 50% of administrative expenditures.

Meetings:

MCD's Board of Supervisors and staff regularly met on the second Monday of each month of FY 16, at the District office at 1906 State Street in Meeteetse, as scheduled. All regular meetings, special meetings, work sessions, and budget hearing were held as provided for under Wyoming Statute.

The MCD actively participated at the Area and State level meetings as a member of the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts (WACD), attending the WACD Area III meeting in Thermopolis, and the 2015 WACD Annual Convention in Laramie.

Administrative Training:

To the best of their ability, Board members and staff attended Supervisor Training webinars held by the WDA and MCD participated in WACD Statutory Jurisdiction & Special Expertise discussions.

Additionally, the MCD maintained a close working relationship with the Wyoming Department of Agriculture, which has statutory oversight of certain conservation district activities as well as WACD.

Operations

MCD defines services and associated activities for which the District was formed as *operations*. MCD operations include natural resource management and planning, educational seminars and workshops, monitoring and reporting of water quality, soil moisture monitoring, range monitoring, reporting local weather conditions, natural resource education, and other natural resource related activities of value to the community. The MCD assisted other entities or Conservation Districts in providing similar activities. Participation in certain technical training activities were usually considered part of operations.

On a cost basis, the Resource Specialists (RS) and Resource Technicians (RT), worked on independent projects and were responsible for approximately 73% of operations activities. The Clerk also assisted with some operations tasks at approximately 14% of those activities. The Firewise Title III Coordinator's duties comprised 6% of operations activities, while the SGI Range Conservationist's duties comprised 4% and the District Manager contributed 3%.

- 78% of total salary and wages were for operations activities.
- Salary and wages for operations duties accounted for 31% of total operations expenditures and 25% of total MCD expenditures.
- Non-payroll expenses, such as equipment, supplies, mileage, and travel accounted for 69% of total operations expenditures.

Cooperator Assistance:

In FY 16 four NRCS conservation contracts, incorporating various practices were completed and paid in MCD.

- 2,754 acres of Upland Wildlife Habitat Management was completed under WHIP 2008.
- \$24,973 was paid on 2,025 feet of Irrigation Pipeline under EQIP 2014.
- \$9,064 was paid on 165.5 acres of Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface under EQIP 2014.
- \$5,570 was paid for 1 Structure for Water Control under EQIP 2014.

Two NRCS planned conservation projects were obligated in (federal) FY 16 in MCD.

- \$4,623 was obligated for 2,703 feet of Livestock Pipeline under EQIP 2014.
- \$3,587 was obligated for 1 Watering Facility under EQIP 2014.

NRCS also contributed prescribed grazing CTA (Conservation Technical Assistance) for 74,535 acres within MCD in FY 16.

The MCD helped develop and implement the Wyoming Rangeland Health Assessment Program grant project for Turnell Cattle Co. and saw it through to its completion, including attending the WY Board of Agriculture meeting in Cody where the final report was approved. MCD plans to continue its efforts in helping local producers implement adaptive management and cooperative rangeland management

Steffen provided GPS and GIS mapping support for a number of cooperators including:

- The Northwest Wyoming Off-Highway Vehicle Alliance for their motorized trail proposals as part of the Travel Management process for the Shoshone National Forest plan.

Education:

Youth Education:

- Nolan and Steffen volunteered as judges for the Meeteetse High School student science fair.
- Staff attended mandatory meetings for participation in the Meeteetse Youth Work Program.

Community Education:

- The District continued to provide educational information on the MCD website.
- In addition to the District's website as an educational outreach tool, the MCD continued its publication of the "Trail News" and distributed it via its website, email and free hard copies at local businesses. The electronic

version of “Trail News” is also sent to the other Wyoming conservation districts, as well as to local, state, and federal government entities.

Elected Officials and Government Agencies Education:

It has been obvious that many County Commissioners and state legislators are in need of direct contact and information from local folks who use and rely on natural resources. The MCD continued to provide information on an ongoing basis to local and State governmental entities as well as to the Wyoming Congressional Delegation, helping to keep the Delegation one of the best informed, responsive, engaged, and effective at addressing local needs.

- MCD presented its FY 15 Annual Report summary to the Park County Commissioners during FY 16.

Firewise Title III:

The Park County Firewise program was initiated in 2011 from a USDA Forest Service Title III Firewise Communities Grant to the Park County Board of County Commissioners. The Board originally assigned the grant to the Cody Conservation District for implementation. In January, 2014 MCD began administration of the Park County Firewise Program and associated grant funds. The objectives of the Park County Firewise programs are to educate, advise, and assist landowners about the problem and solutions related to hazard fuels, fuels mitigation measures and activities, defensible space principles and also distribute information on Firewise landscaping as well as Firewise home design and construction.

- The Firewise coordinator completed a hazard fuel assessment of the Shoshone River below the dam, the South Fork and the Crandall area using aerial photos.
- The coordinator sent twenty eight (28) letters to those landowners where high hazard fuels were identified near structures and the risk of structure loss would be high in the event of a wildfire event in the area.
- Three landowners responded to the letters, one in the North Fork and two in the Crandall (Pilot Creek) area. Firewise assessments were done on those three properties.
- The coordinator worked with Mountain West Farm Bureau (MWFB) at their Regional Office in Laramie to update their policy holder’s hazard fuel assessment form. This consultation has the potential to implement proper Firewise principles and mitigation measures for thousands of MWFB agents and their policy holders throughout the Rocky Mountain region.
- The coordinator did three (3) presentations about the Firewise program. (Park County Board of Realtors, Optimist Club, and the Meeteetse community)
- Other activities completed can be found in the Monthly Firewise Reports on file at the MCD office.

Natural Resource Management and Planning (NRM&P):

The MCD was actively involved in a multitude of natural resource-related issues. Participation included reviewing documents, attending public meetings, submitting formal comments, and keeping MCD cooperators informed regarding natural resource management and planning issues.

Big Horn Basin RC&D: In FY 16 the MCD continued as a member of the Big Horn Basin RC&D.

BLM Bighorn Basin Resource Management Plan (RMP Revision): The MCD, as a Cooperating Agency (CA) was actively engaged in the beginning stages of the implementation process, which included numerous meetings usually attended by Steve, Steffen or Tim. Under its Land Use Management and Resource Conservation Plan, the MCD formally opposes lands with special designations and increasing the areal extent of existing ones, such as the Carter Mountain Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) which lies within the MCD. The MCD, with the four Bighorn Basin counties and six other conservation districts, continued use of Ecosystem Research Group (ERG) as a technical consultant. The MCD worked with the other local governments in efforts to properly evaluate and inventory the so-called BLM “Lands with Wilderness Characteristics”. The MCD also continued to work with the counties and other Districts to provide transparent and open meetings with the BLM throughout the planning process.

Sage Grouse: The MCD is cognizant of the implications of endangered species protections on its community and takes a special interest in working on special projects to ensure that candidate species remain off that list. In 2015, the US Fish and Wildlife Service determined that the Sage Grouse was not warranted for listing. Steve continued to represent Area III conservation districts as a member of the Big Horn Basin Sage-Grouse Local Working Group. The MCD also continued facilitating the Big Horn Basin Sage Grouse Predation Project (SGPP).

The SGPP was brought to fruition through action by all seven Area III Districts at the 2010 Area III meeting. It has garnered broad support including funding and in-kind contributions from other conservation districts, predator management districts, individual ranches, oil and gas industry, grazing interests, plus other entities including the Wyoming Game & Fish Department, Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board, Wyoming Wool Growers Association, Wyoming Wildlife Services and the Big Horn Basin RC&D.

In the first half of FY 16, field investigations and research continued under the joint auspices of MCD personnel and the National Wildlife Research Center in Corvallis, Oregon. During the second half of FY 16, the focus of the project shifted to a more focused examination of Common Ravens as a major predator of sage grouse nests. MCD contracted professional wildlife consultant, Hayden-Wing Associates out of Laramie, WY due to their experience in studying Raven/Sage grouse dynamics. During the second half of FY 16, with continued and much appreciated in-kind support from Park County Predator Management Board and Wyoming Wildlife Services, we were able to capture and GPS tag 12 ravens and 20 sage grouse as part of the adaptive study objectives. Interim reports are available upon request and the study will continue through FY 17 and at least into the first half of FY 18, depending on funding.

Shoshone National Forest (SNF): The MCD actively supported renewing Forest grazing permits for operations within the District and affecting its cooperators and permittees. The MCD also has an MOU for joint cooperative monitoring with the SNF.

SNF's Forest Plan: The MCD participated as a Cooperating Agency throughout the scoping and subsequent phases of Travel Management, attending meetings and submitting comments and proposals. Steffen, Steve, Bernie, Nolan and Tracey each attended meetings for the SNF Travel Management Compliance Working Group, working with other committee members to draft recommendations to the forest supervisor for an improved Travel Management system.

Subdivision Reviews: The MCD will continue to review subdivisions when they occur. Nolan and Steffen completed one subdivision review in FY 16.

Other: MCD donated a historic cabin to Old Trail Town (Cody, WY) during FY 16. Old Trail Town preserves and displays significant historic structures for public viewing. MCD acquire the 'McNally' cabin, the first building built in Meeteetse when it purchased the property adjacent to Lucille's café as a new office location. The cabin was disassembled log by log and transported to Cody where it has since been rebuilt. MCD made in-kind and financial contributions for this project and is proud to have helped restore the dilapidated feature.

Networking and Participation in Outside Activities:

In FY16, MCD was a member of the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts, the National Association of Conservation Districts, the National Watershed Coalition, the Wyoming Wolf Coalition, the Meeteetse Visitor Center, the Big Horn Basin RC&D Council, and American Stewards. MCD pays dues for its employees to be members of the Wyoming Conservation Districts Employees' Association (WCDEA).

Steffen was an Area III rep and served on the Training Committee for WCDEA. He also prepared and instructed an Advanced GIS Training course for 2016 WCDEA Winter Training in Casper, demonstrating how to create HUC boundaries using ArcMap.

Steve Jones resigned his position as WACD Area III Director at the end of calendar year 2015; Russell Boardman filled the position vacated by Steve. Steve also represented the AREA III Conservation Districts on the WGFD Big Horn Basin Sage Grouse Local Working Group. He also continued as a member of the Meeteetse Local Planning Area Advisory Committee for Park County Planning and Zoning, appointed by the Park County Board of County Commissioners.

MCD was active in the NRCS Local Work Group at the county and division levels and also on the State Technical Committee (STC). Steffen helped develop a weighted priority ranking spreadsheet at the division meeting and Tim represented Area III Conservation Districts at the STC meeting in Casper.

Steve continued to represent Area III Conservation Districts as a member of the Big Horn Basin Sage-Grouse Local Working Group.

MCD staff attended the annual meeting of the 4 county commissioner boards.

Steffen contributed in-kind support to the WY G&F Non-game division for annual Black-footed ferret trapping surveys in Shirley Basin for 3 days in the fall of 2015.

Range:

MCD works with the University of Wyoming, Department of Ecosystem Science and Management in order to help producers predict forage quality and quantity available for livestock based on range and precipitation monitoring at two soil moisture sites. The soil moisture, forage, and precipitation monitoring is an evolving long-term study to acquire baseline data and define the interrelationships between rangeland soil moisture, precipitation, and forage yield.

The Little Buffalo Basin (LBB) site is located on private rangeland seventeen miles southwest of Meeteetse. The Spring Creek site is located on private rangeland about four miles northwest of Meeteetse. Throughout FY 16, data was collected by an automated, solar-powered logger throughout the day. Periodically, data files were downloaded on site by district personnel and sent to appropriate UW personnel for analysis of the total water saturation of the soil. Precipitation data was collected yearlong, but the sites are too remote to properly monitor snowfall details.

During August 2015, range monitoring site vegetation data was collected in order to determine relationships between the soil moisture and precipitation data. MCD plans to continue to collect this data annually with expectations of developing site trends. Range monitoring activities conducted at both sites, include:

- Site photos at Little Buffalo Basin (LBB) and Spring Creek
- Collection, drying and weighing of forage clippings from exclosure cages (16 at each site)
- Cover by life form surveys along each of four 100' transects at LBB and eight 100' transects at Spring Creek
- Photos taken at five points along each aforementioned transects at LBB and Spring Creek for the SamplePoint method

After range monitoring data collection activities were finished, Nolan worked with Ginger Paige, UW to develop standardized protocols between the two soil moisture sites for conducting annual range monitoring activities (exclosure placement and number, SamplePoint photos, forage clipping, cover by life form surveys). MCD also:

- Compiled, organized and sent soil moisture data to the University of Wyoming.
- Repaired and replaced rain gauges at LBB and SC stations
- Winterized each soil moisture site to prevent damage from freezing
- Removed all but eight exclosures at LBB for standardization between the two sites (two per transect)
- Moved and placed ten additional exclosures at Spring Creek (two per transect)

Surface Water Quality Monitoring and Watershed Planning:

The MCD continued monitoring surface water quality on the Greybull River watershed in accordance with the MCD Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) which is updated in accordance with updated WDEQ regulations. The WY State Engineer's Office relocated a USGS gage site and MCD continues to rely on that data as it attempts to better understand the relationships of different parameters affecting the Greybull River watershed. As a result, we moved our G45 sampling location approximately 200 yards downstream and have renamed it G46 going forward with subsequent sampling.

The MCD measured conductivity, pH, temperature, and turbidity and sampled for *E. coli* in accordance with requirements of Wyoming law and WDEQ regulations. The MCD used the "5 in 60" protocol for *E. coli*, collecting a minimum of 5 samples representing separate 24 hour periods within 60 days.

Training:

Training (including attendance of educational programs) continued to be of great importance to the MCD.

- Staff attended WCDEA winter training in Casper.
- Nolan attended the 69th annual Society for Range Management meeting in Corpus Christi, TX. The theme of the meeting was, "Rangelands and Wildlife"
- Nolan completed Water Quality Module I training in Casper.
- WY Chapter SWCS 2015 Technical Workshop Oct. 1st in Cheyenne – Current Water Rights and Issues in the Region
- Steffen attended the Sage Grouse Density Disturbance Calculation (DDCT) Tool Training in Worland.
- Steffen Completed Water Quality Re-certification Training in Lander

Weather:

MCD employs a Davis Instruments Wireless Vantage Pro2 Plus Weather Station in order to continue to collect and log data on a real-time basis in an effort to keep its cooperators up-to-date on local weather conditions. Temperature, wind speed, barometric pressure, relative humidity, dew point, wind chill, wind direction, UV & solar radiation, and precipitation were parameters collected by the weather station and automatically uploaded to MCD's website as well as the National Weather Service and Citizen Weather Observation Program (CWOP, station #DW0465) using the Davis WeatherLink Network. MCD also submitted Meeteetse precipitation data to the national Community Collaborative Rain and Hail Study (CoCoRaHS, #WY-PK-22). Combined with soil moisture information, Meeteetse weather data helped Wyoming's State Climatologist with drought forecasting and reports. Our weather data also helps the National Weather Service in Riverton, Wyoming with "watches and warnings" and forecasting.

Links for information on MCD's weather data are:

www.meeteetse-conservewy.net/weather-information/

www.weatherlink.com/user/meeteetsecd

www.wxqa.com

www.weather.gladstonefamily.net/site/D0465

www.findu.com/cgi-bin/wxpage.cgi?call=DW0465!Meeteetse&last=120

Website:

www.meeteetse-conservewy.net

The MCD website went online in 2005 and changed to a new website developer in 2013, and through regular updates by staff, continues to be one of the District's primary communication tools, providing information on:

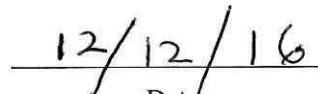
- Weather, including real-time data from the weather station located at the MCD office
- Current topics and events
- Greybull River Watershed Steering Committee information
- Soil moisture information from the Little Buffalo Basin and Spring Creek stations
- Education
- MCD work and project reports
- Water quality monitoring and related information
- Regulations
- MCD's Land Use Management and Resource Conservation Plan
- MCD's Goals and Policies
- Links to agencies, regulations, and sites of interest
- Information regarding assistance MCD can provide to the public
- MCD's Annual Report and Plan of Work
- Meeting, conference, and workshop dates that may be of interest to the public
- MCD News/Information, including the latest version of the Trail News
- Fire Information
- Range Management
- NRCS Information

Conclusion:

In conclusion, MCD respectfully submits the MCD FY 16 Annual Report to the Wyoming Department of Agriculture and the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts pursuant to requirements of law and applicable annual and biennium funding requests, and to the United States Department of Agricultural, Natural Resource Conservation Service, in accordance with our Memorandum of Understanding.

For the Meeteetse Conservation District Board of Supervisors,

ss/ 
George T. Renner, Chairman


Date