

Sample Letter to the Editor

OPEN LETTER TO THE EDITOR

October 28, 2002

Dear Editor,

I am writing in regard to the Blue Sky Conservation District and the important role they fill in representing the residents of the District on natural resource management issues at the local, state and federal level.

The theory behind the creation of Conservation Districts was the need for local people to be represented and involved in programs and issues, which could affect the management of the natural resources located within their communities. The Districts have traditionally promoted voluntary, incentive based conservation programs that protect resource health while maintaining a stable tax base.

One of the big issues that will be facing Blue Sky County is addressing water quality impairments on waters within the county. The District can ensure that local people lead the effort to decide how to address these issues, thereby helping to eliminate the need for top down regulations. The Deep Blue River has been placed on the Department of Environmental Quality 303(d) list of threatened waters due to a possible fecal coliform problem. With local support, the Cody Conservation District can begin working to address such issues.

The Blue Sky Conservation District has undertaken major projects over the past several years, which demonstrate the success of a local, proactive approach to resource management. Some of the projects include establishing a weed identification and management program, hosting the "Living on a Few Acres" educational program, promoting enhanced wildlife fisheries habitat, the seedling tree program and most recently, the Water Quality Monitoring Day.

The Board of Supervisors is Carol Jefferson, Marshall Jackson, Ed Richardson, Scott Smith, Connie Wolff Walker and Associate Supervisor Ken White. These volunteers are elected, but receive no compensation for the time spent representing the people of the Blue Sky Conservation District. They should be commended for their efforts to ensure that the interests of the citizens are represented.

Past history has shown that most environmental decisions have been made without local input into the decision making process. The Blue Sky Conservation District is setting an example of how natural resource health can be improved and maintained through cooperative efforts rather than regulation.

In order for the local people to have a voice, it is very important that the voters of the Blue Sky Conservation District support the mill levy on November 5th. Without your support, your local voice in natural resource management decisions will be lost.

Respectfully,