

# South Big Horn Conservation District 2007-2012 Long Range Plan

Chairman: Linda Hamilton  
Vice Chairman: Walt Hibbert  
Treasurer: George Kelso  
Secretary: Nancy Joyce  
Member: Ted Zier

South Big Horn Conservation District Office  
408 Greybull Avenue  
Greybull, Wyoming  
82426  
(307)765-2483  
Office Hours 7:30AM-4PM

District Manager: Janet Hallsted  
District Employee: Carol Brown

NRCS District Conservationist: Monte Bush  
NRCS Technician : Dave Preator



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## **Mission Statement**

Encourage the multiple use of natural resources, provide leadership, education and technical guidance to landowners and residents of the district concerning natural resource issues, and support agriculture through the use of locally led, economically viable and voluntary programs to accomplish these objectives.

## **History of the South Big Horn Conservation District**

Following the devastating days of the “Dust bowl” caused by unsustainable cropping practices and drought in the Midwestern states, it became very apparent there was a need to conserve soil, water and other natural resources in rural America.

In March 1941, the State Legislature passed an enabling act that established Conservation Districts in Wyoming. Conservation Districts were to direct programs protecting local renewable natural resources.

To establish a Conservation District, a referendum was held whereby every landowner could cast his vote as to whether or not he wished to have a district. When the referendum showed that enough were for it, the Greybull Valley Conservation District was formed in 1945. The South Big Horn and Shell Valley Conservation Districts were organized in 1947. The Greybull Valley and Shell Valley Conservation Districts combined and became Greybull-Shell Conservation District in 1968. In 1977 the South Big Horn and the Greybull-Shell Conservation District decided to merge and at that time became known as the South Big Horn Conservation District (SBHCD).

Ninety-four dedicated ranchers and area residents have served as District Supervisors over the past sixty-two years. The Board consists of five supervisors: three rural, one urban, and one at large-who are elected during the General Election and serve staggered four-year terms. They receive no compensation for their services. Recognition must be given for the great work of all those in the District’s history. Who they were, what they stood for, and what was accomplished should not be lost.

## **Office Information**

The Conservation District has regular meetings on the first Tuesday of each month. The District office is shared with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a Wyoming Game and Fish habitat biologist and the Farm Service Agency at 408 Greybull Avenue in Greybull, Wyoming. The public is encouraged to attend our meetings and drop by the office. Office hours are 7:30AM to 4PM, Monday through Friday. Our phone number is (307)765-2483. Check out the website at [www.conservewy.com/sbhcd](http://www.conservewy.com/sbhcd) for the latest news. The Board currently employs one full-time office manager, Janet Hallsted and one part-time employee, Carol Brown. The office maintains a well-stocked library of books and videos ranging from xeriscape and tree planting information to technical guides for building feedlots, etc. The SBHCD’s goal is to provide information and technical expertise, as well as financial incentives for

implementation of best management practices when possible, to our landowners and residents in the district.

## District Description

### Overview

The land within the boundaries of the South Big Horn Conservation District is quite diverse with the Big Horn Mountains to the east, flanked by the fertile foothills just west of the Big Horns and then the sedimentary soils of the basins at the lower elevations. Generally, the mountain soils are shallower with a low pH while the basin soils are more alkaline but with varying soil depths. Irrigated farmland and arid desert rangeland comprise the large, low elevation basin with wetlands and riparian areas bordering the streambeds. Mountainous areas are comprised of coniferous forest and tundra.

About 62,915 of the total acres is irrigated cropland; 1,238,552 acres is rangeland; 40,881 acres of pasture and hay land; 139,802 acres is forest and woodland with the remaining 16,274 acres classified as other land. Timber harvests on the Forest Service land has been severely reduced so most are conducted on private lands.

Vegetative Types	# Acres	%
Rangeland	1,238,552	83%
Forest, Woodland	139,802	9%
Irrigated Cropland	62,915	4%
Pasture, Hay Land	40,881	3%
Other Land	16,273	1%
Total	1,498,423	100%



### Background

Southern Big Horn County is in a region of extreme weather, land forms and contrasting climates. The mountains, foothills, canyons and basin topography contribute to the weather patterns. Temperatures can reach as high as 110 degrees F in the summer, with winter lows commonly dipping to -30 degrees F. Precipitation varies as well. Mean annual precipitation at Burgess Junction, just northeast of the Conservation District, equals 20.8 inches, while the average in Basin is 6.4 inches. The mountainous areas

receive between 28-36 inches per year (mainly from winter snow) while the lower elevation areas receive 6-9 inches annually as rain between April and June.

Water is a crucial component to life here. The Big Horn Basin as well as the state of Wyoming has experienced a severe drought in the past 4-5 years with dramatically reduced rain and snowfall. The majority of the farmland is at the lower elevations and subsequently receives less rain; therefore irrigation is essential for farming. Irrigation water management and conservation are important tools for the landowners in the district. More farmers and ranchers are installing sprinkler systems, piping ditches to reduce evaporation, and installing off-site water sources for livestock for both water management and conservation and to reduce the potential for fecal coliform impairment. The mountains have also been affected by the drought which has stressed trees with the lack of water, increase of beetle damage and fire potential. Rangeland comprises a large part of the district and the sagebrush, grasses and forbs have all suffered as well. Livestock producers are experiencing shorter, less productive grazing periods. Less snowfall and rain translates into less irrigation water for farming, reduced productivity on timber and rangeland, reduced recharge of the aquifers and a concentration of wildlife along streambeds. Riparian areas are hit hard during drought. When rangeland and mountain reservoirs and springs are dry, domestic stock and wildlife naturally congregate along ephemeral or perennial streams to water. The reduced annual precipitation has great potential to concentrate fecal coliform in the streams. The SBHCD is interested in examining the possible trends in fecal coliform counts and fluctuating flow regimes.

The South Big Horn Conservation District encompasses an area of approximately 1,498,423 acres with 1,236,822 acres of federal land, 60,984 acres of state owned land, about 196,917 acres of privately owned land, 1,860 acres county owned and 1,840 acres in towns.

<b>Land Ownership</b>	<b># Acres</b>	<b>%</b>
Federal	1,236,822	83%
Private	196,917	13%
State	60,984	4%
County	1,860	Less than 1%
Towns	1,840	Less than 1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,498,423</b>	

### **Streams**

The Big Horn River is the largest stream in the district and its flow varies with the discharges from Boysen Reservoir. Its headwaters are in the Wind River Mountains and it flows from south to north into Montana. Most of the irrigation water for the SBHCD comes from the Big Horn River via the Big Horn Canal but several other canals originate from it and each smaller creek within the district supplies irrigation water as well.

Most of the streams within our district have their headwaters in the mountains on federally managed land (USFS and BLM) including the Nowood, Shell Creek, Beaver Creek, Paintrock Creek, Granite Creek and Greybull River. Dry Creek is the exception. Mountain snow pack serves as large reservoirs, slowly releasing water into the streams which flow into the fertile basin. Streams and rivers serve prominently in economic

importance due to the aridity of the region. Virtually all the communities in Big Horn County are located near the Big Horn River or its tributaries. Most commercial crops are irrigated with water diverted from one of these streams, and streams have historically supplied the majority of domestic and municipal water. Currently most of the towns are converting to a groundwater supply for their potable water.



Stream in SBHCD

### **Economics**

Generally, the Big Horn Basin is an economically depressed area of the state with agriculture, mining, oil and gas development and limited industry the primary land uses within the district. Cattle and sheep, sugar beets, malt barley, alfalfa seed and hay are the main crops produced here. Mineral production consists of mining of gypsum, gravel and bentonite. Recreation-based tourism, including hunting and fishing, is of great importance, too.



Cutting Alfalfa for hay.

## DEQ 303(d) Listing w/ Map

Most of the streams within the SBHCD are listed on the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WYDEQ) 2006 303(d) List of Waters Requiring TMDL's . This includes the Big Horn River, Greybull River, Nowood River, Paint Rock Creek, Shell Creek, Beaver Creek, Granite Creek and Dry Creek. Paintrock Creek, Dry Creek and Beaver Creek were listed on Table C of the 303(d) List as "threatened" for contact recreation due to occasional high counts of fecal coliform. Those streams listed on Table A of the 303(d) Waters with Water Quality Impairments List include the Big Horn River, Greybull River, Nowood River, Granite Creek and Shell Creek and are listed for exceedences of the criteria for fecal coliform bacteria and not supporting its use for contact recreation. The complete 303(d) List of Waters Requiring TMDL's is found at the WYDEQ website at [www.deq.state.wy.us](http://www.deq.state.wy.us) under Water Quality Division.

Fecal coliform bacteria occur naturally in the digestive tract of humans and other warm-blooded animals and their presence is an indicator that there may be a problem with water quality. Other pathogenic organisms are associated with fecal coliform bacteria and may cause diseases and illness. The presence of large numbers of fecal coliform is an indicator of water quality impairment. Some of the ways fecal coliform may enter the river systems is through storm runoff carrying agricultural and animal waste, wildlife concentrations along rivers and from human sewage discharged into the water.



Nowood River after storm event



## **Duties of a Conservation District**

**The duties of a Conservation District are broad and cover a wide spectrum of natural resource issues. Conservation Districts have no regulatory authority and therefore rely on the support and efforts of the local landowners. Communication is vital in order to be effective!**

### **District Law:**

11-16-103. Legislative declarations and policy.

It was declared by the legislature that the farm and grazing lands of Wyoming are among the basic assets of the state; that improper land use practices cause and contribute to serious erosion of these lands by wind and water; that among the consequences which would result from such conditions are the deterioration of soil and its fertility and the silting and sedimentation of stream channels, reservoirs, dams and ditches; that to conserve soil, and soil and water resources, and prevent and control soil erosion, it is necessary that land use practices contributing to soil erosion be discouraged and that appropriate soil conserving land use practices be adopted.

It has been declared to be the policy of the legislature for the Conservation Districts 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 or the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water, and thereby 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.

11-16-122. Powers and duties of districts and supervisors thereof generally.

The Conservation Districts will conduct demonstration projects within the district on lands owned or controlled by this state or its agencies, with the cooperation of the agency administering and having jurisdiction thereof, and on other lands within the district with the consent of the owner or occupier of the lands, to demonstrate range management practices, the means, methods and measures by which soil and soil resources may be conserved, and soil erosion in the form of soil blowing and washing may be prevented and controlled and works of improvement for flood prevention or the conservation, development, utilization and disposal of water may be carried out;

Carry out preventive and control measures and works of improvement within the district, including engineering operations, range management, methods of cultivation, the growing of grass or other vegetation, changes in use of land or any measure which may be developed for the control of erosion and better use of soil, and works of improvement for flood prevention or the conservation, development, utilization and disposal of water on lands owned or controlled by this state or its agencies, with the cooperation of the agency administering and having jurisdiction thereof, or on other lands within the district with the consent of the owner or occupier of the lands.

Conservation districts are charged with reviewing subdivision filings for the county for their potential impacts on natural resources and to highlight potential natural limitations which must be mitigated to prevent problems as the subdivision is developed.

#### 18-5-301 Subdivision Review

(b) The board shall require the applicant to obtain review and recommendations from the local conservation district regarding soil suitability, erosion control, sedimentation and flooding problems. The review and recommendations shall be completed within sixty (60) days.

In addition, the South Big Horn Conservation District is the governing entity responsible for overseeing Watershed Improvement Districts which includes the Shell Valley Watershed Improvement District.

#### **Funding**

The SBHCD is funded locally through a ½ mil levy which must be renewed every 4 years by the voters of the district. With this local funding, the district leverages these funds through the acquisition of grants from varying governmental and non-governmental organizations including Section 319 Clean Water Act monies. In addition, the district receives annual funding approved by the Wyoming legislature and distributed through the Wyoming Department of Ag.

### District Operations

**Meetings:** The SBHCD will hold regular monthly meetings the first Tuesday of each month at the USDA Farm Service Agency Office in Greybull. Special meetings will be announced according to regulations. All meetings will comply with the Open Meetings Act. The public is encouraged to attend all Conservation District meetings.

**Finances:** The SBHCD will comply with all rules and regulations concerning finances, audits and reports as mandated by WACD, Wyoming Department of Agriculture, DEQ and any other funding agency.

**Staff Training and Development:** The SBHCD will strive to keep personnel trained and updated on procedures, finances, water quality data collection and any other aspect of conservation district operations and procedures

## **Goals for SBHCD for 2007-2011**

### **Primary focus on Water Quality**

By virtue of having every stream listed on the DEQ 303(d) list for fecal coliform exceedences, the SBHCD is primarily focused on and will continue to work at improving the water quality throughout the district to ensure all waters within the District meet the designated beneficial uses through locally led, voluntary programs to preclude regulatory actions by state or federal agencies. The conservation district feels very strongly that more will be accomplished through voluntary remediation of human influenced sources of fecal coliform contamination than mandatory regulation from state or federal agencies. The district will continue to promote Best Management Practices (BMP's) for landowners and work closely with the NRCS through the EQIP program and the upcoming Farm Bill programs, along with utilizing all available and appropriate funding from other state or federal agencies or private organizations. These sources would include but not be limited to the University of Wyoming Agricultural Extension Service, the Wyoming DEQ, Wyoming Department of Ag, the Wyoming Water Development Commission, the Big Horn County Weed and Pest, county government, and the EPA.

### **Feedlot Rehab and Septic System Rehabilitation**

The SBHCD has written EPA Section 319 Clean Water grants to address possible impairment issues concerning feedlots and septic systems. The district feels it can have the greatest influence over water quality improvements by reducing manmade contaminants as much as practical. SBHCD is also aware that other issues such as wildlife may contribute to the fecal coliform listing but the manmade concerns will be the primary focus for the next five years. As of Nov. 1, 2006 ten septic systems have been installed on Paintrock Creek, Big Horn River, Greybull River and Shell Creek. Four feedlots have been relocated/moved off stream banks in order to remove unacceptable conditions and to diminish/lessen the potential impact on streams. Several more feedlot renovations are in the process. The SBHCD will continue to seek financial support from state and federal sources in order to enable the SBHCD to offer incentives to landowners participating in these voluntary programs. The septic system grant currently runs through September 2007 and will potentially fund 10 more septic system rehabilitations. The feedlot grant will continue until July 2007 to allow landowners to eliminate the unacceptable conditions surrounding their feedlots.

The SBHCD feels strongly that there is plenty of work left to be done in these two areas in order to improve water quality within the district and hopes the water quality data will be able to show improvement in fecal coliform levels because of implementation of BMP's on threatened or impaired streams.



Feedlot rehabilitation project.

**Water Monitoring and Data Analysis, Watershed Plan:** SBHCD will continue to implement a water quality monitoring and data analysis plan for the listed waters within district boundaries. (Data gathering without analysis and interpretation is somewhat meaningless!) This plan will be evaluated regularly in order to establish consistent and credible data for possible de-listing of streams from the DEQ 303(d) list and to appraise the affects of BMP implementation on listed streams. The Water Quality Steering Committee, a locally led, volunteer group of landowners and townspeople, will review the sampling plan and determine priorities for future monitoring. This group, with the supervision of the SBHCD, wrote the Watershed Plan submitted to DEQ in 2006 for approval. The local Water Quality Steering Committee has been and will continue to be a significant source of input and feedback on the water monitoring efforts within the district boundaries. The SBHCD will continue to implement the BMP's and action items as stated in the South Big Horn County Watershed Plan for 2006-2011. (See Appendix A).

SBHCD will continue to train and monitor personnel for water quality monitoring and ensure they are capable of gathering unbiased credible data for the district through training seminars, methods checks with DEQ personnel as well as NRCS and WACD personnel, and other consultants where beneficial. If the data support it, the District may pursue de-listing of streams which no longer show impairment through fecal coliform. The SBHCD is also interested in the influence of drought and low stream flows in relation to fecal coliform counts.



Water monitoring

**Education:** Education is an important component of any SBHCD plan and serves the purpose of informing residents and landowners of potential natural resource issue problems and possibly their solutions. Through the use of educational tours, book and video loans, brochures, informational town meetings and published annual plan of work and long range plans, the SBHCD informs landowners of BMP's and possible financial incentives for their implementation.



Lunch break during an ag tour, 2005

## Other Projects

**Seedling Tree Program:** The SBHCD will continue to make available seedling trees to district residents and encourage the use of woody plants for windbreaks, shelterbelts, and wildland developments to reduce erosion, create more favorable microclimates to reduce heating and cooling energy consumption, enhance riparian areas, and to improve wildlife habitat.

**Agriculture:** The SBHCD will conduct educational tours highlighting the latest technology, informational seminars on crops, possible alternative fuel sources and best management practices (BMP's) for maximizing economic production on a sustainable basis.



Educational tour for DEQ Non Point Task Force, 2006

**Urban Issues:** The district has been fairly remiss in addressing education/informational issues for town residents in the past. The SBHCD would like to step up and provide informational seminars on proper fertilizer and chemical usage, xeriscape gardening, water conservation.

**Rural Development/Small Acreage Issues:** Rural residents have an impact on water quality through grazing on small acreages, water use and conservation. The SBHCD will host educational seminars on relevant topics, publish brochures on grazing small acreages, septic systems, outdoor etiquette, distribute Barnyards and Backyards Magazine.

**Education:** The SBHCD will sponsor natural resource programs in schools through the use of the Enviroscape in classrooms and county fair demonstrations, World Water Monitoring Day and range monitoring. The District will provide more informational classes with the schools and encourage school teachers to make use of the Outdoor Classroom in Greybull; will support tours, seminars, and hands-on activities for agricultural producers, homeowners, and other interested parties to highlight practical solutions to resource concerns; utilize local media such as newspapers, newsletters, radio, the District's website and displays at public events to provide resource conservation information.



Aquaculture tour

**Subdivision reviews:** The SBHCD will continue to provide detailed soils analysis as well as evaluate the potential subdivision site for any possible damage or harm to the natural resources in the area. The district will recommend measures to mitigate negative environmental effects when these assessments are forwarded to the County Planner and County Commissioners for final review. The District has experienced a notable increase in the number of subdivision reviews and in the future may need to outsource this job to qualified local consultants.

**Legislative Communication:** The SBHCD works closely with legislators to keep them abreast of the latest natural resource issues. Each year before the Wyoming Legislature commences, the SBHCD will join other districts where practical to hold an open house for all the legislators in the area to discuss natural resource issues of importance. WACD partners with SBHCD to continue to provide up-to-date information on bills passing through the Wyoming Legislature and will provide this information to interested residents of the District.



Legislative Meeting 2005

**Public Policy:** Over 80% of the land within the SBHCD is federally owned, therefore, the SBHCD, whenever possible, will provide input to agencies on actions that will affect the landowners in the district. This may include oil and coal bed methane issues, Forest Service revision plans, BLM management plans, sage grouse and other wildlife management plans, and residential or industrial development outside of urban areas.

**Range and Wildlife Projects:** The SBHCD will promote projects to improve rangeland as well as wildlife habitat and will work with the appropriate agencies like the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to implement them. The district will strive to send area youth to range education camps such as WyRed and host local range judging contest.



Elk

## Partners

**Landowners/Residents:** Without the support of the local people, the SBHCD would not be able to accomplish much at all! We would like to thank them for their cooperation and efforts in tackling the water quality issues plaguing the county. Their confidence and support of the SBHCD is necessary to the District's programs for improving water quality through implementation of BMP's. The district will solicit input from landowners and residents in identifying priorities and programs which will be most beneficial through town meetings.

**NRCS:** Communication is critical to all aspects of the District's business. It is essential for the SBHCD and NRCS to maintain an efficient and open working relationship. SBHCD works closely with NRCS via the District Conservationist (DC). Through a Memo of Understanding, the SBHCD is able to leverage their funds by splitting the salary of a part-time employee with NRCS. This has benefited both the NRCS and the District. Members of SBHCD provide advice to the two DC's in the county and the Farm Service Agency through the Local Work Group concerning cost-share programs and setting priorities for the county. The NRCS DC keeps the board apprised of Farm Bill programs and how they apply to local producers so that the SBHCD can help promote NRCS conservation programs.

**County Commissioners:** SBHCD will continue to work with the Big Horn County Commissioners to keep them informed of local conservation issues at the yearly legislative meeting and throughout the year, including the need for current soil surveys in the county as well as surrounding counties and District septic system and feedlot remediation programs available. The District and the county commissioners will make financial contributions towards accelerating the completion of the soil survey which will commence April 1, 2007. Discussion will continue concerning the need for a larger wastewater treatment facility in southern Big Horn County.

**County Planner, County Engineer:** The SBHCD will continue to provide subdivision reviews and collaborate with the county on septic system rehabilitation. The District will be prepared to provide input to land use and zoning plans.

**Wyoming Game and Fish Department:** The SBHCD office is housed in the same building with a Wyoming Game and Fish Dept. biologist who advises the CD on wildlife issues. The District recognizes the importance of wildlife to the local economy and will support and promote programs to enhance wildlife habitat and manage future development to reduce impacts on important wildlife habitat while maintaining or improving the economic vitality of the area.

**Wyoming Department of Agriculture:** The District will promote Department of Ag programs which further District goals and accept the assistance of the Department of Ag in carrying out District programs. The District will seek grants and appropriations from the Department Ag which are targeted toward conservation districts or their programs and abide with all auditing and reporting requirements.

**Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts:** The WACD provides valuable information concerning any natural resource issue. SBHCD and the NRCS Watershed Coordinator will continue to work together on the Watershed Plan for the District along with the Water Quality Steering Committee. The District will cooperate and coordinate with WACD on resource issues and concerns and convey local views to the WACD. The SBHCD will remain in compliance with the WACD requirements to receive funding through the Wyoming Department of Agriculture. The SBHCD supervisors and employees will attend area and state meetings and trainings whenever possible.

**Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality:** Through the DEQ Non Point Task Force, the SBHCD has obtained grant monies in order to rehabilitate feedlots with unacceptable conditions as well as replacing failed septic systems on listed streams. One member of the SBHCD, representing the sheep industry, is a member of the NPS Task Force. The SBHCD will work with DEQ to channel available DEQ funds to address resource concerns. The District will also provide DEQ with input on their policies to ensure these are not detrimental to area resources and economies and promote voluntary, locally led solutions to resource concerns.

**Municipalities:** The SBHCD will work to more actively involve municipalities in natural resource issues in the future. Municipalities will be encouraged to make use of District programs and to cooperate and partner with the District to solve resource issues within their jurisdictions. The SBHCD will hold meetings in Hyattville, Greybull, Shell, Basin and Burlington once in 5 years to inform landowners of District and NRCS programs available to them.

**Shell Valley Watershed Improvement District:** The District will fulfill its statutory oversight duties towards the Shell Valley Watershed Improvement District and encourage SVWID actions, such as their current WWDC Level I watershed study as a means of identifying resource needs and issues and taking actions on these issues. The SBHCD will continue to hold elections for the Shell Valley Watershed Improvement District.

**Other Conservation Districts:** Through networking, the SBHCD is able to share information with other CD's in the state. Where practical, the District will cooperate and coordinate with other districts in implementing District programs.

**Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management:** The SBHCD will strive to build relationships with these two agencies in the future. Current issues include the soil surveys, sage grouse management, the implementation of the Big Horn National Forest Plan, and 303(d) listed streams located entirely on Forest Service lands. The Forest Service will continue to monitor water quality on Granite Creek. The District will continue to participate in the formation of management plans by these agencies where possible.

**RC&D Council:** The SBHCD will continue to be a member of the RC&D Council and will attend RC&D meetings whenever possible and keep the council updated on our activities.

**Other organizations:** The SBHCD will communicate with other organizations such as Weed and Pest, Farm Bureau, Wind/Big Horn River Basin Advisory Group, DEQ Non-Point Task Force, University of Wyoming Extension Agency, Wyoming Water Development Commission, Wyoming Stockgrowers Association on natural resource issues of concern.

**Local Media:** The SBHCD will continue to use the local media of radio, newspaper, newsletters and publish newspaper articles and newsletters from county extension office, Farm Service Agency, NRCS and others to inform residents of issues of concern to the SBHCD.



Cattle grazing rangeland.

**South Big Horn Conservation District Long Range Plan  
2007-2012**

The Conservation District is managed by a publicly elected Board of Supervisors who meet monthly to provide leadership and education on natural resource issues within the District.

Linda Hamilton-Chairman  
Walt Hibbert-Vice Chairman  
George Kelso-Treasurer  
Nancy Joyce-Secretary  
Ted Zier-Member

We, the supervisors of the South Big Horn Conservation District, as duly authorized by Wyoming Conservation District Law, hereby adopt this Long Range Plan of Work as a guide for work priorities for the next five years.

Supervisor Signatures

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Linda Hamilton, Chairman

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Walt Hibbert, Vice Chairman

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George Kelso, Treasurer

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Nancy Joyce, Secretary

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Ted Zier, Member

Appendix A: Goals and Action Items from the South Big Horn County, Wyoming Watershed Plan, 2006-2011.

Copy this. Pages 45-51.

## **SBHCD Action Items (Not Listed in Appendix A)**

### **Education:**

General Public: Publish 4 news articles/year on education or resource issues within the district. May include feedlot and septic tank rehabilitation program, septic tank brochures, range projects, etc. Books and videos loans always available in office

Public schools: Participate in World Water Monitoring Day every fall.  
Have Enviroscape presentations available.  
Poster contests annually.

County Fair: Enviroscape presentation  
Septic System brochures  
Nose Pumps, Electric Fence available for loan

### **Seedling Tree Program:**

Continue to sell seedling trees and provide education on windbreak plantings.

### **Agriculture:**

Host 2 educational tours in five years to highlight new technology

Soil Survey: Meet w/ county commissioners as needed to complete funding/ details to ensure acceleration of soil surveys in Big Horn, Park and Hot Springs Counties.

### **Rural Development and Urban Issues:**

Hold 1 seminar in five years on topics of concern but not limited to small acreage grazing, water rights, outdoor recreation etiquette or water conservation.

Continue to provide magazine "Barnyards and Backyards" to SBHCD residents.

### **Subdivision Reviews:**

Provide detailed soil analysis and potential resource issues to County Planner as needed.

### **Legislative Communication:**

Hold one legislative meeting per year in conjunction with surrounding conservation districts before the Wyoming Legislature commences.

Maintain open communications throughout year on natural resource issues.

### **Public Meetings:**

Hold town meetings once in 5 years to inform district residents of programs available, progress on water quality improvement. Meetings will be hosted in Basin, Hyattville, Burlington, Shell and Manderson.

### **Shell Valley Watershed Improvement District (SVWID):**

Conduct annual election for representative to SVWID board. Attend 4 meetings per year as required. Encourage and support SVWID projects.

