



Wyoming Conservation Communique



February 2009

Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts

Volume IV, Issue 1

Wyoming rancher receives NACD/NRCS Olin Sims Conservation Leadership Award

The 2nd Annual NACD/NRCS Olin Sims Conservation Leadership Award was presented to Wyoming rancher Ralph Brokaw on February 3rd, 2009, during the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) annual meeting in New Orleans. Brokaw was chosen for his outstanding leadership and service in conserving natural resources.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist, Xavier Montoya, praised Brokaw for his contributions to conservation. "Wyoming NRCS is fortunate to have Ralph Brokaw's leadership for our closest partners, the 34 conservation districts in the state," said Montoya. "As President of the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) he exemplifies the meaning of leadership in helping Wyoming farmers and ranchers help the land."

Brokaw has served more than 18 years as a conservation leader at the local, state and national level. He has served with distinction as vice-chairman and chairman of the Medicine Bow Conservation District in Wyoming; as President of WACD and as a member of NACD's Natural Resource Policy Committee.

The Brokaw family ranch, the Three Circle (000) Livestock LLC, located near Arlington, Wyoming, is a testament to his passion for healthy lands. His commitment to natural resource conservation management makes him a leader and example in his community and throughout Wyoming.

Bobbie Frank, Executive Director of WACD, said, "I am sure I speak for all of our Conservation Districts in congratulating Ralph on receiving the Olin Sims Leadership Award. It is a very deserving award for the work Ralph has done for natural resource conservation efforts in Wyoming, the region and at the national level. This award will hold significant meaning to Ralph I am sure, given that it is in memory and honor of his best friend and long time mentor, Olin Sims."

Established in tribute to the late NACD President, Olin Sims, the award recognizes outstanding conservation leadership at the state and local level. The award is presented annually to an individual, based upon superior service to the conservation community in promoting conservation on private lands. Sims, a rancher from McFadden, Wyoming, lived a life distinguished by years of volunteer service to conservation.

"Olin was a true conservationist who was equally committed to practicing conservation and

advocating for it," said NACD President, John Redding. "This award epitomizes the conservation leadership and integrity that was his life and highlights the leadership of other conservationists who assume the mantle of conservation leadership into the future."

Brokaw received the award during the Appreciation Banquet at NACD's Annual Conference in New Orleans, on February 3rd, 2009.



Ralph Brokaw pictured with NACD CEO Krysta Harden after being presented with the Olin Sims Conservation Leadership Award at the NACD Annual meeting held recently



Ralph Brokaw received the Olin Sims Conservation Leadership Award. Pictured above are NRCS Acting Chief Dave White, WACD President Ralph Brokaw, NACD President John Redding and NACD Chief Executive Officer Krysta Hardin.

Sims elected Vice President



Shaun Sims, a Uinta County Conservation District supervisor, was elected as Vice President of the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts at the 63rd annual convention held in November. Sims is a native of Uinta County and is the fifth generation to operate the family sheep and cattle operation. He and his wife, Lacey, live in Evanston.

Sims has served on the Uinta County Conservation District since 2001. He represents the district on the Coalition of Local Governments which is involved in federal land planning processes including the Kemmerer Resource Management Plan revisions and the Moxa Arch Infill Area Gas Development project. He is also involved in many district activities and supports public education through participation in outdoor workshops and guided tours of his ranching and wind turbine facility.

When asked about his vision for WACD, Sims said "My goals as Vice President are to make every effort to attend all WACD meetings, to represent WACD goals and policy and to promote Wyoming conservation through both media and education. Too often the accomplishments of districts go unheard. We need to do a better job of letting people in our state know what we have to offer our communities. Another goal is to promote the digitized soil survey, watershed based plans, and cooperative rangeland monitoring. I will strive to strengthen communications between districts and work to develop strong leadership at the district and state level. As Vice President, I will be representing Wyoming conservation districts issues and positions to our partner agencies and at a national level."

Additional information on the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts can be found on our website at www.conservewy.com.

Conservationists gather in New Orleans **New CAFO rules apply**

By Brian Lovett, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality

“Building a Better Tomorrow” was the theme of the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Annual Meeting. The meeting was held February 1-4, 2009 in New Orleans, LA. The convention focused on the changing demands on our nation’s natural resources.

Wyoming was well represented at the annual meeting by representatives from across the state. Those in attendance were Ralph Brokaw, WACD President; Shaun Sims, WACD Vice President; Bobbie Frank, WACD Executive Director; Travis Hakert, Richard VanCampen, Robert and Sandy Brug, Campbell County CD; Kathy Cooney, Duane Loyd, Dale Beranek and Tom Farrell, Laramie County CD; Jeri Trebelcock, Popo Agie CD; Tori Dietz, Washakie County CD; Randy Williams, Teton CD; Kerri Sabey, Uinta County CD; Jack Cobb and Mary Waldron, Little Snake River CD; Justin Williams, Wyoming Department of Agriculture; Nephi Cole and Xavier Montoya, NRCS; and Tammie Sims, Dan Frank, Lacey Sims and Naomi Brokaw.

Breakout sessions were held on topics such as Conservation Districts’ role in climate change, Smart Growth – Districts’ role in urban farming, Recovery after major storm disasters, the 2008 Farm Bill, and conservation for small acreage resource concerns, as well as many others.

“It was a good year for policy,” said WACD President Ralph Brokaw, “we set policy on the implementation of the new Farm Bill as well as other issues. One of the main benefits to Wyoming is retaining flexibility in the programs offered to producers. I am impressed with the leadership shown by Shaun Sims, WACD Vice President, as well as everyone from Wyoming who attended the meeting. Shaun was very active in the committee process and working the halls to ensure that Wyoming’s issues and concerns were heard and understood. The election of a new slate of officers will ensure that conservation issues are addressed,” continued Brokaw.

The Teton Conservation District also displayed a portion of their projects and programs as part of the information and technology sharing outreach at the Conservation Expo held in conjunction with the meeting.

The National Association of Conservation Districts is the non-profit organization that represents the nation’s 3,000 conservation districts and 17,000 men and women who serve on their governing boards. For almost 70 years, local districts have worked with cooperating landowners and managers of private working lands to help them plan and apply effective conservation practices.

On Friday October 31, 2008 the U.S. EPA announced it had finalized Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) regulations. The new rule was published in the Federal Register on November 20, 2008 and went into effect on December 22, 2008.

Many of you are thinking “Haven’t we done this already”? The Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts (WACD), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA), and Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) have spent the previous ten years commenting on proposed Clean Water Act rules, educating producers on regulatory requirements, providing technical assistance and implementing Best Management Practice demonstration projects.

What does all of this mean to the livestock operator? Much of the discussion nationally is focused on the “duty to apply” revisions. These revisions do not affect producers in Wyoming as Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations (Chapter 2, appendix G) already address the requirement for large CAFO’s to be permitted or apply for a “no potential to discharge” determination.

The rule also requires the Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) to be submitted as part of the WYPDES application, be reviewed by the permitting authority, and be made available for public review and comment. These

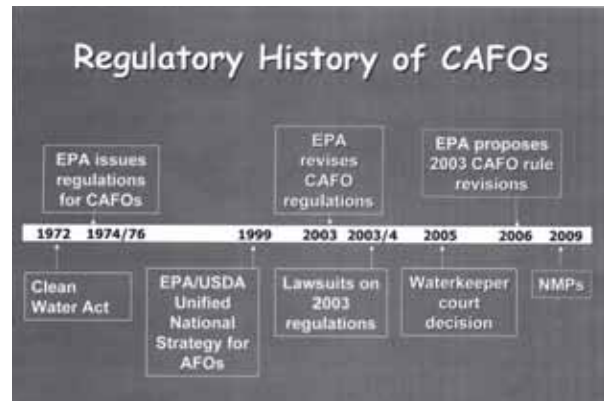
requirements have also been addressed by DEQ since 2005.

However significant changes to the Wyoming program that will be required to meet the new requirements that conditions from the NMP be incorporated as enforceable terms of the permit. Any significant change to the NMP would require the permit and NMP to go through the public notice process. Examples of significant changes include: increased nutrient application rate, changes in nutrient balance, changes in handling, storage or application of manure, significant increase in animal numbers, reduction of manure trans-

ferred offsite, or a change in application area.

DEQ and NRCS have had several meetings on NMP changes to address these new requirements. A switch from a linear approach where specific application rates were developed for each application area to a narrative approach where the process for calculating the specific rate for each application area is defined should allow enough flexibility to avoid an annual public notice process for CAFO’s. These changes will be phased in as permits come up for renewal.

DEQ and NRCS will be conducting training for permitted CAFO operators in late February. The training will focus on current compliance concerns and future NMP and permit changes.



Wyoming representatives attended the Olin Sims Memorial tree planting held in conjunction with the NACD Annual Meeting.



The Teton Conservation District displayed a portion of their projects and programs during the Conservation Expo.

The Wyoming Conservation Communique

Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts
517 E. 19th Street, Cheyenne, WY 82001
(307) 632-5716
waocd@tribcsp.com - <http://www.conservewy.com>

Ralph Brokaw, President, McFadden
Shaun Sims, Vice President, Evanston
Wayne Garman, Sundance
Dave Fraley, Buffalo
Curtis Grandstaff, LaGrange

Hardy von Forell, Wheatland
Mack Frost, Cody
Pete Jachowski, Cody
Jack Berger, Saratoga
Jean Dickinson, Rock Springs

Bobbie Frank, Executive Director
Kelly Brown, Program Specialist
Doug Miyamoto, Watershed Coordinator
Nephi Cole, Watershed Coordinator

The “Conservation Communique” is a quarterly publication of the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts: a nonprofit organization providing leadership for the conservation of Wyoming’s natural resources. The information contained in this publication does not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the Board or the Association. Articles for publication and/or advertising may be submitted to the address above for consideration.

**63rd
Annual
Convention
"Leading the
way in
grassroots
conservation"**

**Convention
Sponsors**

Silver Level

- Starbucks
- Camelanes
- D.R.M. Inc
- Security State Bank
- B Bar M Ranches LLC
- Barlow Livestock
- Bill & Neva Kemerling
- Dave Magnason
- First Interstaet Bank
- First Interstate Bank of Buffalo
- Isenberger Ranch
- Roadrunner Auto & Sport, Inc.
- Susan McKay, CPA, LLC
- White's Frontier Motors
- Bank of Gillette
- Big Horn Beverage Company
- Boardman Ranch Co
- Inter-Mountain Laboratories, Inc
- P Cross Bar Ranch
- Marathon Oil/Pennaco Energy
- Mike Ryan
- Rocky Mountain Business Equipment
- Sundance State Bank
- Western Mine Service
- Weston County NRD
- WWC Engineering
- Thar's Feed and Ranch Supply
- Billiards and Barstools
- MBS Daylighting Services

Gold Level

- Anadarko Petroleum Corporation
- Bill Barrett Corporation
- BKS Environmental Associates, Inc.
- Black Hills Corporation
- Deven Energy Corp.
- Durham Ranches, Inc
- L&L Mine Service
- Midight Oil
- Neiman Enterprises
- Powder River Energy Corporation
- Rio Tinto Energy America
- Williams Production RMT Co.

Platinum Level

- Lake DeSmet CD
- Wyodak Resources Development
- Campbell County CD
- Powder River CD
- Coalbed Natural Gas Alliance

2008 Auction Buyers

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Robert Brug | Jack Lytle |
| Ann Trosper | Joe Rosenan |
| Bailey Hallwachs | John Johnson |
| Bill McKenzie | Kelly Brown |
| Bobbie Frank | Mark Shirley |
| Brenda Schladweiler | Matt Scott |
| Bryon Oedekoven | Pete Jachowski |
| Carla Thomas | Ralph Brokaw |
| Cindy Sewell | Reg Phillips |
| Clark Noble | Rollin Gardner |
| Dave Fraley | Rory Karhu |
| Debbie Hughes | Rusty Schwartz |
| Delsa Allen | Shaun Sims |
| Dwight Bliss | Terry Willson |
| Gary Thar | Tim Morrison |
| Hardy von Forell | Tim Schroeder |
| Jack Berger | Tom Lohse |

Bust-A-Brain Calcutta Buyers

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Tammie Sims | Scott Kerbs |
| Dennis Thaler | Cobb Cattle |
| Dennis Sun | Reg Phillips |
| Hardy von Forell | Terry Wilson |
| Jason Fearnayough | Lacee Sims |
| Brenda Ashworth | Jack Lytle |
| SnoAnn Engler | Natrona County CD |
| Jack Berger | Lake DeSmet CD |
| Julie Allen | |

Award Winners



Pete Jachowski, Cody CD, was selected as the 2008 Outstanding Supervisor.

Conservation Poster Contest Winners
K-1: Emily Hatch, North Platte Valley CD
2-3: Kylah Mills, Washakie County CD
4-6: Lauren Sarantopulos, Sheridan Co CD
7-9: Susie Webb, Niobrara CD
10-12: Amanda Lemaster, Laramie Co CD
Outstanding Annual Plan 2008-09
 North Platte Valley CD

Honorable Mention: Niobrara CD
Outstanding Annual Report 2007-08
 Niobrara CD

Honorable Mention: Laramie Rivers CD
Outstanding News Reporter
 Richard Klein

Teacher of the Year
 Becky Havely

Outstanding Cooperator

Pat, JoAnn and Monte Wade

Outstanding Small Acreage Cooperator

Scott Fluor

Outstanding Conservationist

Allison McKenzie

Outstanding Elected Official

Representative Doug Samuelson

Outstanding Technician

Jerry Hattan

Outstanding Employee

Todd Heward

Outstanding Supervisor

Pete Jachowski

WACD Presidential Award

Leron and Rose Allred and Pete Meike



Members of the Bust-A-Brain game show teams provided entertainment at the banquet as well as assisted in raising funds for the Olin Sims Endowment.



Jeri Trebelcock, Team Village People Captain, answers a question during the Bust-A-Brain game show.



Leron and Rose Allred and Pete Meike were selected to receive the Presidential Award.

Foundation meets Endowment challenge WNRFF elects officers

Leron Allred, former WACD Director and Star Valley Conservation District supervisor and his wife Rose, pledged to donate \$10,000 to the Olin Sims Endowment Fund if the Foundation could raise over \$50,000 by December 31, 2008. Due to the generosity of auction buyers, Bust-A-Brain Calcutta buyers and donations from Olin's family and friends, the WNRFF met that challenge. The Allred's contribution was received by the Foundation in late December. To date, over \$60,000 has been raised by the Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation.

The WNRFF Board of Directors has decided that as the endowment grows, interest earnings will be utilized to develop Olin Sims Living Legacy projects in each of Wyoming's 34 conservation districts, assist with leadership development by providing funding for conservation district supervisors and employees to attend regional and national meetings as well as providing funding to address current issues and projects through the Foundation.

In addition to the priorities developed by the Board, a short-term funding goal of raising \$100,000 by December 31, 2009 was set by the Board. The long term goal of the WNRFF Board of Directors is that the Olin Sims Endowment provides significant financial support for the conservation of Wyoming's rich natural resources, invest in her people and be responsive to an ever changing environment.

A long-term funding goal for the Endowment of \$5 million was also established.

The WNRFF Board of Directors would like to thank all of the Olin Sims Endowment donors, including the auction buyers and calcutta buyers for their generosity and assistance in meeting the challenge issued by the Allreds.

Persons interested in making a donation to the Olin Sims Endowment can contact the WNRFF at 307-632-5716 or via email at waocd@tribcsp.com. A list of donors is available on the WNRFF website at www.wynaturalresourcefoundation.com.



Leron and Rose Allred

Pete Jachowski was re-elected as President and Curtis Grandstaff was elected to replace Robert Brug as Vice President of the Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation at the recent convention held in Gillette. The WNRFF is a sister organization to the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts.

Jachowski, a cattle rancher from Cody, has raised registered cattle, in association with Siggins Polled Herefords, since 1974. He has served on the Cody Conservation District since 1992, and serves on the Board of Directors for the Cody Area Chamber of Commerce. He is also active on the Southfork Weed Management Area, Park County Multiple Use Association and represents the Cody CD on the Wapiti Ridge CRM Steering Committee. Jachowski was first elected President of the WNRFF in 2004. "We are fortunate to have Curtis as Vice President of the Foundation" said Pete Jachowski, "He brings with him a lifetime of leadership experience."

Grandstaff is the Chairman of the South Goshen Conservation District. He was elected in December, 2003 to the WACD Board of Directors and serves on the District Operations and Education Committee. Curtis and his wife Cheryl own Grandstaff Angus and Trailer Sales in LaGrange, raising registered Black Angus on Bear Creek. Curtis is a mem-

ber of the Wyoming Angus Association. Along with his mother and brother, Curtis owns and manages LaGrange Grain Company.



Curtis Grandstaff

He served for 25 years as Mayor of LaGrange and 31 years in the Army National Guard, retiring at the rank of Colonel. Over the years, he was a high school teacher and coach, piloted his own single-engine plane, retired from the local fire department, and is a member of his church and the American Legion. Curtis especially enjoys tending his cattle, socializing with friends, and being outdoors in the unspoiled beauty of Wyoming. He and his

wife have two married daughters and two grandchildren.

"I am looking forward to serving the WNRFF as Vice President and working with the officers, members, and staff in promoting the legacy of Wyoming's natural resources through our scholarship and other programs." said Grandstaff. "Sure, everyone is busy, but we have a responsibility to value our state's unique heritage, culture, and gifts. Wyoming's natural resources are worth working for."

The WNRFF is dedicated to conserving Wyoming's natural resources, heritage and culture. For more information on the Foundation, please visit our website at www.wynaturalresourcefoundation.com.



Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts

517 E. 19th Street, Cheyenne, WY 82001

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CHEYENNE, WY
PERMIT No. 56