

Blacks Fork & Smiths Fork Rivers Watershed Management Plan

*A comprehensive natural resource management plan
designed to address water quality issues in the
Blacks Fork/Smiths Fork watershed.*



DEVELOPED IN COOPERATION BY:

**Blacks Fork/Smiths Fork Water Quality Steering Committee
Uinta County Conservation District**

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY:

**Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts
Natural Resource Conservation Service
Wyoming Department of Agriculture**

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Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Watershed Management Plan

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Executive Summary

Mission

The goal of the Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Rivers Watershed Management Plan is to maintain and where possible improve existing water quality while preserving economic stability and the customs and culture in the Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Rivers Watershed. Water quality issues identified in the current water quality investigation of the Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Rivers, with consideration to historic and natural background influences, will be addressed through voluntary financial, technical and educational resources, thereby preventing the need for government regulatory actions.

Purpose:

1. To assess the condition of the Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Rivers and their tributaries within the Lower Green River Watershed.
2. To preserve local control in a voluntary and incentive based approach to water quality improvement
3. To maintain or improve the quality of the Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Rivers and their tributaries by identifying possible human caused pollutants and mitigating those pollutants to a realistic and achievable level, through feasible Best Management Practices¹ (BMPs) on a voluntary basis so that these waterbodies will eventually support their designated uses.
4. To promote public understanding of BMPs and evaluate, and implement BMPs within the watershed to assist in voluntary implementation of practices to improve water quality.
5. To continue water quality monitoring to determine impacts of the implementation of this watershed plan.
6. To outline a schedule of activities as an effort to remove the Blacks Fork River and Smiths Fork River from Table A, and the West Fork Smiths Fork River, East Fork Smiths Fork River and Willow Creek from Table C of Wyoming DEQ's 303(d) List of Impaired Waterbodies.

Clean Water Act

The Clean Water Act (CWA) is the Federal Law that addresses water quality. The CWA was adopted by Congress, in 1972, for two primary purposes. That is to:

- restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters; and
- where attainable, to achieve water quality that promotes protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife, and provide for recreation in and on the water. This goal is commonly known by the expression "fishable/swimable"

¹BMPs as outlined in this watershed plan include, but are not limited to, those identified in WDEQ's Wyoming Nonpoint Source Management Plan, October 1999.

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The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has responsibility to ensure that provisions of the CWA are met. With regard to Wyoming, EPA has delegated authority to the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) to ensure compliance with the CWA. In states without delegated authority, EPA retains responsibility for CWA compliance. The Clean Water Act identified 3 key action items for states:

- Identify the appropriate and beneficial use of the states waterways
- Establish credible data to protect those designated uses
- Establish standards to protect the existing high quality waters

Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality's Role

In 1973, WDEQ was created as a regulatory agency responsible for enforcing the Wyoming Environmental Quality Act §§35-11-101, *et seq.* 1997. This Act was certified by the governor and approved by EPA, which includes water quality regulations and protection of public health. In order to ensure compliance with the CWA, WDEQ had to establish a system for evaluating and protecting waterbodies. Since all waters are not used for the same purpose, no single set of standards could be established to reasonably address water quality concerns. For this reason, WDEQ classified each waterbody within the state. The classifications were based on “designated uses” designed to reflect what the water is currently used for or what the water could potentially be used for. Examples of designated uses include agriculture, industry, drinking water and fisheries among others. Different combinations of assigned designated uses resulted in a single classification for each waterbody (Appendix A). WDEQ then established water quality criteria (narrative or numeric standards) applicable to each classification to ensure that water quality is sufficient to support all of the designated uses. Water quality criteria (standards), therefore, are different for each classification.

In addition to establishing a system for evaluating water quality, WDEQ must also report the condition of the State's water(s). Under Section 305(b) of the CWA, the State of Wyoming must report the condition of their water(s) to EPA once every two years. This report is known as the 305(b) report. In addition to the 305(b) report, under section 303(d) of the CWA, States must identify those waters within its boundaries that are not meeting the water quality criteria (“impaired waters”) applicable to that waterbody based on its classification. As mentioned earlier, states are required to address impaired waterbodies by establishing water quality standards and pollution control activities designed to achieve and maintain the designated use(s).

Uinta County Conservation District's Role

In 1996 Wyoming Conservation Districts, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Wyoming Department of Agriculture saw an increasing need for Conservation Districts to represent local interests and take the lead in watershed planning efforts. As a result they developed the Watershed Strategic Plan to guide watershed planning efforts across the state. This document insists that “any Watershed effort led by a Conservation District should be landowner driven . . . [and] any participation on behalf of any landowner is strictly voluntary” (WACD, 2000). By taking an active role in the planning

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process, the landowners within the Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Watersheds and UCCD have adhered to this principle. The landowners have followed the steps for watershed planning as outlined in the Watershed Strategic Plan. They have identified and prioritized concerns, set goals and objectives, and developed a watershed management plan. Included in the Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Watershed Management Plan are elements to solicit funds, implement BMPs for water quality improvement and evaluate and alter the plan if needed.

The Uinta County Conservation District has been dedicated to conservation planning and technical assistance since 1948. Activities are directed by a Board of Supervisors consisting of five members elected by the citizens of Uinta County. The designation of the Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Rivers and their tributaries as impaired due to fecal coliform and physical habitat degradation was cause for concern. UCCD resolved to assume a proactive approach to water quality issues within the Blacks/Smiths Fork watersheds. Local Conservation Districts; by statutory authority have assumed the responsibility of leading information and education programs, and providing technical and financial assistance to their constituents to conserve Wyoming's natural resources, and to protect the quality of life of all Wyoming citizens. UCCD has served as a liaison between WDEQ and local land managers within the Watersheds to address water quality concerns and to investigate historical and background conditions as they apply to environmental compliance with regard to water quality criteria. UCCD has also endorsed the formation of the Blacks Fork/Smiths Fork Water Quality Steering Committee; to develop this locally-led, voluntary and incentive-based watershed management plan to improve water quality while preserving the economic sustainability of agricultural operations within the Watersheds. The Blacks Fork/Smiths Fork Water Quality Steering Committee is comprised of local landowners, community leaders, and representatives from County, State and Federal agencies with resource management responsibility (Appendix D). Concerns of this committee include human health risk, information and educational promotion, review of traditional agricultural practices and the economic impact of the impaired waterways upon local citizens within the Watersheds.

Conservation District's Planning Authority

Statutory language granting UCCD the Authority to develop this watershed plan is as follows:

- Wyoming Statute, 11-16-103 Legislative declarations and policy, UCCD is required 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.”
- Wyoming Statute 11-16-122 (b) grants the Conservation Districts the ability to “conduct surveys, investigations and research and disseminate information

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relating to . . . the conservation, development, utilization and disposal of water. . . in cooperation with the government of this state or its agencies . . . (v),” to “develop comprehensive plans for . . . conservation of soil and water resources . . . [that] specify in detail the acts, procedures, performances, and avoidances necessary or desirable to carry out the plans (xvi),” and to “make public the plans and information and bring them to the attention of owners and occupiers of land within the district (xvii).”

Public Participation Strategy

Public participation is a vital component of the watershed planning process that was used by UCCD to develop this watershed plan. Watershed planning efforts led by Conservation Districts within the State of Wyoming are completed using the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) Watershed Strategic Plan which specifically addresses public participation with the following statement:

Public input is one of the most important steps in the watershed planning process. The conservation district can choose the extent of public input when creating their plan. At a minimum, the district should follow the Administrative Procedures Act (W.S. 16-3-101 et seq.) which requires a public notification process, a timed 45 day public hearing/review process, and final approval of the plan by the board of supervisors.

The Mission Statement of the Uinta County Conservation District is “*To provide leadership, information, education and technical assistance for the development and improvement of our natural resources...*” to this end the Board of Supervisors makes every effort to keep the citizens of Uinta County informed of the conditions of the natural resources in Uinta County. In 1998 a Coordinated Resource Management Plan on Willow Creek initiated landowner involvement that is strong to this date. Following the Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork listing on the 303(d) list in 2000, UCCD invited public involvement by organizing a meeting with local residents, WACD and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Water Quality Regulations were presented and options reviewed by the citizens that attended. Realizing more needed to be done; a local citizen group of 20 volunteers organized and have been meeting monthly since 2002 with the support of the Uinta County Conservation District to develop this watershed plan.

The Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Watershed Management Plan will be available for public comment from April 4, 2005 through May 18, 2005 before being submitted to WDEQ for final approval. Once the watershed plan is adopted by WDEQ, the Blacks Fork/Smiths Fork Water Quality Steering Committee and UCCD will continue with implementation of the plan and continue to work towards the goal of removal of Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork from the WDEQ 303(d) list of impaired water bodies.

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Background Information

Addressing Water Quality in the Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Watersheds

As mentioned above, every waterbody within the state is classified by WDEQ based on the existing or potential uses of that waterbody. The Blacks Fork River, Smiths Fork River, East Fork of the Smiths Fork River, West Fork of the Smiths Fork River and Willow Creek have been classified as Class 2AB and are all included on WDEQ's 303(d) List of Impaired Waterbodies. WDEQ's Water Quality Rules and Regulations and more specifically Chapter One (Wyoming Surface Water Quality Standards) define Class 2AB waters as follows:

Class 2AB waters are those known to support game fish populations or spawning and nursery areas at least seasonally and all their perennial tributaries and adjacent wetlands and where a game fishery and drinking water use is otherwise attainable. Unless it is shown otherwise, these waters are presumed to have sufficient water quantity and quantity to support drinking water supplies and are protected for that use. Class 2AB waters are also protected for non-game fisheries, fish consumption, and aquatic life other than fish, primary contact recreation, wildlife, industry, agriculture and scenic value uses.

Blacks Fork River - The Blacks Fork near the confluence with the Ham's Fork and upstream an undetermined distance above the Smiths Fork was placed on the 303(d) list in 2000 after assessments done by WDEQ found that fecal Coliform counts exceeded the State standard of 200 colonies per 100 milliliters, impairing contact recreation.

Smiths Fork River - The Smiths Fork, from the confluence with the Blacks Fork past Cottonwood Creek, was listed in 2000 for habitat degradation impairing game fish and aquatic life other than fish. Also, the Smiths Fork from the confluence with the Blacks Fork to an undetermined distance upstream was listed in 2002 after assessments done by WDEQ found that fecal Coliform counts exceeded the State standard of 200 colonies per 100 milliliters, impairing contact recreation.

East Fork Smiths Fork River – The East Fork Smiths Fork, from the confluence with the West Fork Smiths Fork River upstream to the Utah state line, was listed in 1998 for habitat degradation impairing game fish and aquatic life other than fish.

West Fork Smiths Fork River – The West Fork Smiths Fork, from the confluence with the East Fork Smiths Fork River upstream to the Utah state line, was listed in 1998 for habitat degradation impairing game fish and aquatic life other than fish.

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Willow Creek – Willow Creek, from the confluence with the Smiths Fork upstream to the Utah state line, was listed in 1998 for habitat degradation impairing game fish and aquatic life other than fish.

Water quality monitoring has been, and continues to be a priority for UCCD. The underlying goal of this data collection effort is to gather baseline water quality data and determine the nature and extent of bacterial and sediment contributions to surface water. UCCD began an extensive water quality monitoring program in 2002 collecting chemical, physical and biological data on the Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Rivers and their tributaries. The monitoring program included 24 sampling sites throughout the Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Rivers watershed (Appendix B). Initial investigations of the water quality in the Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Rivers were based on the fecal Coliform standard which was the best indicator of bacterial contamination at the time. WDEQ, however, is currently in the process of changing to a water quality standard based on E. coli concentrations that shall not exceed a geometric mean of 126 E. coli colonies per 100 milliliters (based on a minimum of 5 samples, taken during separate 24 hour periods, in a 30-day time span). The primary data source for the initial listing of both rivers for fecal Coliform was compiled by WDEQ. Results of the fecal Coliform and E. coli sampling done by UCCD in 2002, 2003 and 2004 indicated that the Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Rivers are in fact impaired due to fecal Coliform and E. coli loading. The data does not indicate any apparent trends or patterns related to elevated fecal Coliform/E.coli levels. This may be due to fluctuations in precipitation patterns during the three years of monitoring. Runoff related to heavy precipitation events appear to coincide with elevated levels of bacteria, but cannot be statistically confirmed with the limited amount of data collected. UCCD monitoring was done under a Section 319 project and those data and conclusions are contained in the Project Final Report that will be completed in October 2006 and available to the public upon approval by WDEQ.

Blacks Fork/Smiths Fork Watershed Description

The Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Rivers watershed ranges from flat desert like lands in the north and east, to high plateau and part of the overthrust belt to the west, to mountain peaks in the south. The interior of the watershed consists of steep mountainous terrain and narrow valleys in the upstream reaches of these two rivers which break out into an open valley with two distinct river systems. The valley between the Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Rivers is a rolling plateau like area that is irrigated from both rivers. As the Smiths Fork River flows further north and east, the terrain becomes badlands that drain into the Cottonwood system which converges with the Smiths Fork River. The Smiths Fork then converges with the Blacks Fork approximately six miles east of Lyman. The Blacks Fork continues to flow through flat desert like land in a northeasterly direction picking up water from the Muddy Creek and Hams Fork Rivers before converging with the Green River at Flaming Gorge Reservoir. This Watershed Plan covers the watershed to the point at which the Hams Fork converges with the Blacks Fork near Granger.

Much of the watershed is located in the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. The headwaters are located inside the northern boundary of Utah and flow northeast into Wyoming. The headwaters of the Blacks and Smiths Fork Rivers are found at elevations near 13,000 feet

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and flow to the confluence with the Hams Fork at an elevation of approximately 6300 feet. The approximate linear distance from the top of the watershed to the bottom is about 50 (linear) miles. The Town of Mountain View, elevation 6800 feet, represents the point at which the topography of the watershed changes. In the upper 1/3 of the watershed above Mountain View, the elevation change is approximately 4200 feet. In the lower two thirds of the watershed the elevation change is only 500 feet. The dramatic change in degree of slope has a significant impact on the composition of the streams substrate.

Soil types found in the watershed are a product of their parent material and climatic regime that they are formed in. In the Blacks and Smiths Fork Rivers watersheds, the parent material originated from sedimentary rock and climatic conditions of extreme cold and low precipitation which formed highly erodible soils. About 1/3 of the watershed has been classified as badlands, found mainly on the Smiths Fork River and its tributaries. As a result, heavy sediment loads can be expected throughout the lower portions of the watershed.

Vegetation is also extremely variable from the top to bottom of the watershed. The upper 1/3 of the watershed is dominated by evergreens and high mountain meadows. The middle 1/3 of the watershed is dominated by irrigated haylands and pasturelands. The lower 1/3 of the watershed is dominated by sagebrush, but the soils become more alkaline downstream and greasewood and rubber rabbitbrush become more prevalent.

Seasonal weather variations are from the coolest months, November and December, around 20°F. Warmest during the growing season in July and August when the average temperature is 68.4°F and 65.8°F respectively. Annual precipitation, according to the 2003 Census Report is 8.36 inches (Wyoming Agricultural Statistics, 2004). Both streams are perennial. In the lower end of the watershed physical characteristics for both streams are high sinuosity and low gradient with fine bed load material. The upper watershed consists of straighter and higher gradient channels.

Historic water development plays an important role within the watershed. There are two main reservoirs within the watershed that were constructed by the Bureau of Reclamation in the mid sixties and late seventies. The Meeks Cabin Dam located on the main stem of the Blacks Fork River just inside the Wyoming border, and the State Line Dam located on the East Fork of the Smiths Fork just inside the Utah border, both of which supply a large portion of the irrigation water for the watershed. Both reservoirs are operated by the Bridger Valley Water Conservancy District.

The economy of Uinta County has always been dependent upon activities related to farming, ranching, mining, and energy production comprising 15% of the total workforce. Current trends are leaning towards a more urban structure. Uinta County covers 1,331,200 acres. It is one of the smaller counties of Wyoming covering 2.14 percent of the state. According to the Uinta County publication, County Profile, 53.9 percent is owned privately and 42.4 percent of public land is managed by the Federal government and the state manages 3.7 percent of the land. Public lands in Uinta County provide opportunities and resources for multiple uses including recreation, livestock grazing, timber harvest, mining and mineral development.

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Water Quality Efforts to Date

Under section 319 of the Federal Clean Water Act, funds are made available to State and Local agencies, non profit organizations and private individuals to address non-point source pollution problems. Noting strong public support and a need for financial assistance, the committee submitted an application and received 319 grant funding. Grant funding has been managed by the Uinta County Conservation District for water quality monitoring, data analysis and interpretation and public education.

Since water quality impairments were first identified in 1998, UCCD and NRCS have provided technical and financial assistance to implement several BMPs and conservation projects to address water quality concerns in the Blacks Fork Watershed. These projects encompass several areas including grazing management, irrigation management and waste management. Over 1,400 acres within the watershed are currently under a prescribed grazing plan, several of these plans also include water developments, and cross-fencing. Flood irrigation improvement practices have been implemented on 180 acres and over 1,400 acres are currently under center pivots or side rolls. To date, one livestock feeding facility that was situated on the river has now been relocated. Although several BMPs have been implemented in the watershed, there has not been enough time since they were installed, to assess the impact on water quality.

To promote public awareness, the Blacks Fork/Smiths Fork Steering Committee hosted a Watershed Tour with Dr. Quentin Skinner of the University of Wyoming to review geology, soil types and river dynamics. The Conservation District displayed information at local libraries and at the Uinta County Fair about the watershed we live in and how human activities impact water quality. A local radio station, Magic 99, talk show host interviewed the Conservation District Board of Supervisor, District Manager, and Natural Resource Conservation Service District Conservationist discussing water quality regulations and how they will affect Bridger Valley. The Conservation District has made contact with all county schools providing technical services and field trip opportunities. In January of 2004 The Blacks Fork/Smiths Fork Steering committee resolved to have the Blacks Fork/Smiths Fork Watershed Plan ready for Public Review early in 2005. According to the Administrative Procedures Act 16-3-103(a) the Steering Committee is required to “Give at least forty-five days notice of its intended action”. The committee will take public comment for the duration of those days before submitting the final document to the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality by the 2006 deadline. At that point the Steering Committee and the Uinta County Conservation District will oversee implementation of the activities outlined in this watershed plan.

Watershed Concerns

Education and Awareness of the Watershed Plan

Recognition of water quality issues by landowners and the public at large is the initial challenge and in order to encourage participation in voluntary BMP activities, UCCD will have to lead effective information dissemination programs. If the residents of the

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watersheds do not voluntarily address the water quality concerns as identified by WDEQ, a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) will be imposed. This watershed plan must be in the public's eye in order to be effective. UCCD will play a key role in keeping the public updated on cost-share opportunities for BMP implementation, new technology for addressing water quality related resource concerns and progress achieved through the implementation of this watershed plan. Recognition of this watershed plan will also be important in securing the needed funding for implementation.

Water Quality Monitoring

Continuing water quality monitoring is important to gain insight into data trends in response to changing climatic conditions and management decisions. A tremendous amount of data must be collected to determine the natural background conditions for the watersheds. As this watershed plan is implemented, sampling sites and dates may change in response to management activities or trends noticed in the data. For these reasons, the steering committee believes that local expertise in water quality issues is also important. Therefore, water quality training for UCCD employees is a priority. . All data collected by UCCD will be done to meet WDEQ Credible Data regulations and will be done under a reviewed and approved Sampling and Analysis Plan, Standard Operating Procedures, Quality Assurance Project Plans, and Quality Assurance and Quality Control reviews.

Agriculture

Agriculture is a vital component of the local economy and provides a desirable lifestyle for many within the Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork watersheds. It is a priority of the Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Rivers Water Quality Steering Committee to maintain or improve the viability of the agricultural industry within the watershed in conjunction with improving water quality. Specific issues include:

- *Waste Management* –Address commercial and private AG waste disposal and its proximity to surface waters. Corrals and feedlots adjacent to or near surface waters and seasonal feeding areas should be managed so as to minimize impacts to area streams. Increase awareness and educate the community on options, including cost-share opportunities, for reducing impacts of livestock and wildlife waste on surface waters.
- *Grazing Management* - Opportunities exist for enhanced grazing management practices to address potential fecal coliform loads as well as using grazing as a tool to enhance stream bank stability and riparian area conditions. Increase awareness and educate the community on options, including cost-share opportunities, to increase grazing efficiency and distribution to improve water quality.
- *Irrigation Management* – Opportunities exist for enhanced irrigation management practices to minimize the possibility for contamination of nearby surface waters. Priority dates of water rights and availability of stored water may influence the feasibility of implementation of projects designed to increase irrigation efficiency. Drought and lack of available water can result in reduced vegetative cover for areas normally receiving irrigation water.

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- *Economic Impacts of Remediation* – Remediation should not place an undue economic burden on those who participate in BMP programs. Economic viability of the agricultural operation should be a priority as BMP alternatives are considered. There is a wide range of incomes throughout the watershed, and those with limited economic resources, may be unable to implement BMPs, regardless of cost share opportunities. Agricultural producers in these watersheds must carefully evaluate if any BMP implementation is feasible.
- *Information and Education* – landowners may not be aware of options, including cost-share opportunities, for improving water quality through improved livestock and wildlife waste management, grazing management and irrigation management.

Rural Development/Subdivision Issues

Rural subdivisions are generally considered 35 acres or less. Development in these areas has a potential impact on water resources within the Blacks Fork and Smith Fork watersheds. The Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Rivers Watershed Steering Committee recognize these potential impacts while respecting private property rights. Specific issues include:

- *Small Acreage Land-Use Management* – Feeding of animals in confined areas has the potential to adversely impact the water resources in the Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Watersheds.
- *Setbacks* – Inadequate setbacks from surface waters of those uses commonly found on small acreages can have the potential to adversely affect surface water quality.
- *Septic Systems* – Proper installation and periodic maintenance of septic systems is very important to minimize the potential impact of improperly functioning septic systems. Individual on-site sewage treatment facilities (septic systems) are common in rural areas throughout the Watersheds and inadequate or malfunctioning systems present a potential source of contamination of the Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Rivers and their tributaries.
- *Information and Education* – Not all residents moving into rural areas of the Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Watersheds are aware of all of the challenges and lack of services inherent to living outside traditional towns and cities. It is important to inform potential residents of the specific challenges associated with the rural lifestyle, specifically with regard to surface water impacts.

Cities and Towns

The small communities within the Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Watersheds could be potential contributors of fecal coliform and sediment contamination.

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- *Stormwater Discharge* – Discharge from street runoff may potentially contribute significant levels of contaminants to the Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Rivers.
- *Wastewater Treatment Plants* – The Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Rivers Watershed Steering Committee recognizes that the three treatment plants within the watersheds are operating under discharge permits, but the permitted discharge should be considered when designing a water quality monitoring or improvement program.
- *Bank Stabilization* – Hardening of banks and straightening of channels may contribute to bank erosion and channel down cutting and therefore sediment loads.
- *Information and Education* – As pollutants such as sediment, road salt, fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides accumulate on land surfaces, storm water runoff flushes those pollutants directly into surface waters through storm sewers. Storm sewers may also be improperly used as a means of discarding waste.

Financial Conditions

Difficult and tight economic conditions and high costs of BMPs are a concern. UCCD will take a leadership role in informing citizens if there is money available for assistance, and how to apply and qualify for those funds. There may also be a need to inform participants of any regulations, stipulations or risks associated with the funds.

Wildlife Concerns

Wildlife populations in the Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Watersheds naturally contribute to fecal coliform concentrations and water quality degradation. In particular, significant populations of waterfowl are present within the watersheds. There are also large numbers of moose, elk and deer in the area that tend to congregate in riparian areas. Mitigation for wildlife impacts, however, is limited and difficult to implement.

Recreation

The outdoor recreation/tourism industry is important to Uinta County. However, inappropriate activities associated with recreation may have an adverse impact on the water resources of the Blacks Fork and Smith Fork Rivers.

- *Off-road Vehicles* – Irresponsible use of ATVs, motorcycles and four wheel drive vehicles removes vegetation and contributes to increased levels of fecal coliform and sediment in surface water.

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Water Usage and Development

The Blacks Fork/Smiths Fork Water Quality Steering Committee recognizes that water quality concerns have no impact on Wyoming Water Law. Diversions of water do alter hydrology of the watersheds, which can be beneficial or in some cases may be detrimental, and should be considered in watershed planning. Water development projects, including water storage, may also function in improving water quality within the watersheds.

Coordination with WDEQ and Other Entities

To ensure successful implementation of this watershed plan, WDEQ and other agencies involved with water quality regulation, funding and assessment will have to be aware of the status of this planning effort. UCCD will use this watershed plan as a business plan in applying for funding for implementation, so broad awareness of activities within the watersheds will be beneficial. The Blacks Fork/Smiths Fork Water Quality Steering Committee also considered addressing interstate stream issues as the headwaters for these waterbodies are in Utah. Since a portion of each watershed lies within Utah and also in the Wasatch-Cache National Forest and because both the Smith Fork and Blacks Fork flow into reservoirs in Wyoming, there is no need for a cooperative effort with resource managers in Utah. In addition, all water rights on both watersheds are attached to lands in Wyoming, or are put to beneficial use by citizens of Wyoming.

OBJECTIVES TO ADDRESS WATERSHED CONCERNS

Education and Awareness

ISSUE

Citizens within the watersheds must be kept apprised of resource management activities and the status of the water quality within the watersheds to allow for voluntary BMP implementation.

OBJECTIVES

Capitalize on as many options as possible to inform residents of the progress of this plan and opportunities for assistance with BMP implementation.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Publish articles pertaining to the progress of the Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Water Quality Management Plan, in UCCD's quarterly newsletter.
2. Publish articles in the local newspapers pertaining to water quality within the watersheds at least twice a year.
3. Participate in National Water Quality Monitoring Day with local school children annually.
4. Provide information booths emphasizing watershed planning at County Fair and Bridger Valley Business Expo annually.
5. Host a tour of the watersheds after plan implementation to highlight results of BMP implementation.

RESPONSIBLE PARTY

UCCD and NRCS

ESTIMATED COST

1. 4 Newsletters per year for 5 years = 20 newsletters at \$1,090.00 each = \$21,800.00

Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Watershed Management Plan

- (cost for the entire newsletter) (funds available)
2. 10 newspaper articles = \$250.00 (funds available)
 3. National Water Quality Monitoring Day annually for 5 years = \$2,100.00 (includes materials, advertising and staff time) (funds available)
 4. Informational booths annually for 5 years = \$2,041.00 (includes materials, advertising and staff time) (funds available)
 5. Watershed Tour \$1,500 (Based on 25 people attending) (funds available)

Water Quality

ISSUE

Continue to increase understanding of water quality response to natural and man-induced changes to the watershed

OBJECTIVES

1. Ensure Conservation District personnel are adequately trained to assess and monitor water quality.
2. Continue water quality monitoring to assess the impacts of climatic influences and resource management on water quality, identify trends in water quality data and use water quality monitoring data to guide the implementation of this watershed plan.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Provide Conservation District personnel with watershed management and water quality monitoring training at least annually or more often as needed.
2. Continue water quality monitoring activities annually as outlined in the Sampling and Analysis Plan (available from the UCCD office)

RESPONSIBLE PARTY

UCCD

ESTIMATED COST

1. Staff training annually for 5 years = \$2,390.00 (funds available)
2. Water monitoring for 5 years = \$45,390.00 (funds available)

Agriculture

It is a priority of the Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Rivers Water Quality Steering Committee to maintain or improve the viability of agricultural industry within the watershed in conjunction with improving water quality. Specific Issues Include: Waste Management, Grazing Management, Irrigation Management and Economic Impacts of Remediation

Waste Management

ISSUE

Corrals, feedlots and other feeding areas near streams should be managed to minimize potential impacts on water quality.

OBJECTIVES

1. Reduce the amount of agricultural waste entering the Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Rivers.
2. Reduce the amount of human-caused sediment within the Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Rivers.

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3. Relieve the economic burden of BMP implementation by providing information pertaining to potential cost-share opportunities available to willing participants.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Implement 10 (1 per year per stream) AFO projects to comply with current rules and regulations. This will be contingent upon funding availability and sufficient voluntary participation.
2. Provide information and education by hosting 2 workshops/tours, during the five-years of this plan, highlighting BMPs and cost-share opportunities to improve water quality.
3. Annually send educational materials to residents on UCCD's mailing list, highlighting Animal Feeding Operation (AFO) improvement options, including the Landowner Self-Assessment form (illustrates risk of contributing animal waste to surface waters) and a progress report of past BMP implementation within the Conservation District.

RESPONSIBLE PARTY

NRCS and UCCD

ESTIMATED COST

1. 2 projects per year (for 5 years) @ \$35,000 per project = \$70,000 X 5 years = \$350,000
(\$35,000 was used as an average cost for a project, recognizing that projects may vary greatly in complexity and cost)
2. 2 workshops @ \$1,500 per workshop = \$3,000 (based on 25 people attending)(funds available)
3. Mailing Animal Feeding Operation educational materials \$1,000 per year X 5 years = \$5,000 (funds available)

Grazing Management

ISSUE

Sediment

Opportunities exist for improving grazing management. The Smiths Fork Watershed, however, has naturally erosive soils, badlands and precipitation patterns that induce erosion that negatively impact water quality. The Steering Committee recognizes the potential benefits of improved grazing management, but also realizes that natural erosion conditions may limit the influence of grazing BMPs on sediment loads.

Fecal Coliform/E. coli

There are many potential sources of fecal coliform. In addition to livestock grazing issues, other man-induced sources of fecal coliform must also be addressed in an attempt to improve water quality. If fecal coliform or E. coli water quality criteria are not attainable, even after implementation of BMPs outlined in this Plan, WDEQ should consider background conditions and site-specific criteria.

OBJECTIVES

1. Reduce, to the extent possible and economically feasible, the amount of sediment entering the watersheds contained within this planning area, with emphasis on the Smiths Fork River.
2. Reduce, to the extent possible and economically feasible, the amount of fecal coliform/E. coli entering the Smiths Fork and Blacks Fork Rivers.

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ACTION ITEMS

1. Continue to encourage and support grazing practices consistent with the Allotment Management Plans approved by the Bureau of Land Management and US Forest Service for those portions of the watershed under their jurisdiction.
2. Attempt to construct four stock reservoirs and one spring development within the Sage Creek Mountain Allotment.
3. Review the BLM Standards and Guidelines Evaluations for allotments within the Smiths Fork and Blacks Fork Watersheds, which may indicate which allotments are in good condition (needing no change in management) versus allotments where BMP implementation would be a higher priority.
4. Provide equipment and annually host an educational workshop for mechanical rangeland renovation treatments for livestock grazing which reduce soil erosion by increasing vegetative cover.
5. Provide 2 workshops in a five-year period to highlight benefits of treatment for sagebrush control as related to livestock grazing and increased vegetative cover for reduced soil erosion.
6. Develop a range monitoring program to evaluate the effects of mechanical rangeland renovation for treated plots.
7. Develop a program to offer seeding alternatives that could be used in conjunction with the mechanical treatments for various soils and management objectives to increase vegetative cover.

RESPONSIBLE PARTY

UCCD and NRCS

ESTIMATED COST

1. No additional cost.
2. Four stock water ponds at \$4,000 each = \$16,000
One spring development = \$4,000 (\$4,000 was used as an average cost for a project, recognizing that projects may vary greatly in complexity and cost)
3. No additional cost.
4. Workshop for mechanical rangeland renovation annually for 5 years = \$7,500.00 (funds available)
5. Two workshops highlighting sagebrush control treatments = \$3,000.00 (funds available)
6. Range monitoring program = \$1,500.00 (funds available)
7. Seeding program = \$1,500.00 (funds available)

Irrigation Management

ISSUE

Increasing irrigation efficiency can positively influence water quality. Irrigation also increases vegetative cover and provides buffer strips to increase water quality, if implemented correctly.

OBJECTIVES

1. Inform irrigators of technology and cost-share opportunities to increase irrigation efficiencies.
2. Reduce the amount of sediment, fecal coliform and other contaminants reaching stream channels by reducing overland flow and tail water through implementation

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of efficient irrigation BMPs

ACTION ITEMS

1. Host an irrigation technology workshop to increase the awareness of BMPs available to increase irrigation efficiencies.
2. Annually advertise the availability of cost-share programs available for irrigation practices in the UCCD Newsletter.
3. Develop a brochure highlighting different alternatives for irrigation and programs available for assisting producers in increasing irrigation efficiency.
4. Install 3 irrigation BMPs per year (15 total) to increase irrigation efficiency.

RESPONSIBLE PARTY

UCCD and NRCS

ESTIMATED COST

1. \$1,500.00 (Based on 25 people attending) (funds available)
2. \$1,090.00 per newsletter X 5 newsletters (one per year for five years) = \$5,450.00 (cost of entire newsletter) (funds available)
3. Develop and distribute irrigation brochure = \$1,500 (funds available)
4. Irrigation BMP's 3 projects per year (for 5 years), project cost \$3,000-\$120,000 per project.

Economic Impacts of Remediation

ISSUE

Costs associated with implementation of BMPs to address water quality should be offset with cost-share opportunities whenever possible. The philosophy of this watershed plan is to maintain a voluntary and incentive-based approach to water quality improvement.

OBJECTIVES

1. Reduce the economic burden of BMP implementation for agricultural producers by providing cost-share opportunities.

ACTION ITEMS

1. The Conservation District Staff and the Natural Resources Conservation Service will work with landowners for Best Management Practice implementation and habitat improvements through available federal, and/or non-federal financial assistance programs. UCCD will apply for funding to implement projects. Potential sources include: NRCS programs (EQIP, WRP, WHIP, CCRP, GRP, etc.), EPA/WDEQ Section 319 Grants and Wyoming Water Development Commission (WWDC) programs.

RESPONSIBLE PARTY

NRCS, UCCD (EPA, WDEQ and WWDC will be solicited for funding if needed)

ESTIMATED COST

1. Cost to apply for one grant = \$500.00 (funds available)

Rural Development/Subdivision Issues

Human population in rural areas is increasing, potentially impacting water quality. As large tracts of land are subdivided, there are several specific issues that can influence water quality relative to people living in rural areas of the watersheds such as: small acreage land-use, septic systems and the need for information and education for those new to rural living.

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Small Acreage Land-Use Management

ISSUE

Feeding livestock in confined areas such as corrals can increase the amount of sediment and bacteria entering surface water. There may be a general lack of knowledge as to the amount of grazing land needed to support horses or other livestock, but not associated with an agricultural operation.

OBJECTIVES

1. Offer educational opportunities to residents of rural areas emphasizing the correlation between proper forage utilization and water quality.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Produce “Living on a Few Acres” brochure to be distributed with the subdivision reviews already being done by UCCD. This brochure will illustrate differences in lifestyle and expectations between living within a municipality and in a rural area where all services are not available. This brochure will be widely available.
2. Produce a brochure to illustrate how much land and supplemental feed is needed to responsibly sustain horses or other livestock specific to different range sites within Uinta County.
3. Write a newspaper article to emphasize the potential for water quality improvement associated with proper forage utilization and emphasize that there are potential penalties for violations related to animal feeding operations or corrals. This article will be published 3 times during the 5 years of this plan.

RESPONSIBLE PARTY

UCCD and NRCS

ESTIMATED COST

1. Develop and distribute Living on a Few Acres brochure = \$1,500.00 (funds available)
2. Develop and distribute brochure on supplemental feed for livestock = \$1,500.00 (funds available)
3. Three newspaper articles = \$75.00 (funds available)

Setbacks

ISSUE

Inadequate setbacks from surface waters of those uses commonly found on small acreages can have the potential to adversely impact surface water quality.

OBJECTIVES

Recommend setbacks for rural development of at least 35 feet from surface water.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Recommendations for a minimum of 35 feet from surface water for rural developments will be included in subdivision reviews completed by UCCD.

RESPONSIBLE PARTY

UCCD

ESTIMATED COST

1. No additional cost.

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Septic Systems

ISSUE

Septic systems are common in rural areas throughout the Watersheds and inadequate or malfunctioning systems present a potential source of contamination to the Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Rivers and their tributaries.

OBJECTIVES

1. Reduce the amount of fecal coliform/E. coli entering surface water from inadequate or malfunctioning septic systems.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Host a public meeting to receive feedback from residents in the watershed about their potential for participation in a septic remediation cost-share program. This meeting would be used to estimate the level of participation and need for assistance so that UCCD will know approximately how many septic systems can be addressed.
2. Apply for CWA Section 319 grant funding to design and implement a voluntary and incentive-based program to remedy failing or inadequate septic systems installed prior to 1973.
3. Distribute “Wyoming Homeowner’s Guide to Septic Systems” brochure to residents within the watersheds regardless of the outcome of the 319 grant application.

RESPONSIBLE PARTY

UCCD

ESTIMATED COST

1. Public meeting = \$300.00 (funds available)
2. Cost to apply for one grant = \$500.00 (funds available)
3. Distribute Homeowners Guide to Septic Systems = \$2,000 (funds available)

Information and Education

ISSUE

Not all residents moving into rural areas of the Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Watersheds are aware of all of the challenges and lack of services inherent to living outside traditional towns and cities. It is important to inform potential residents of the specific challenges associated with the rural lifestyle, specifically with regard to surface water impacts. (See Small Acreage Land-Use Management section above)

OBJECTIVES

(See Small Acreage Land-Use Management section above)

ACTION ITEMS

(See Small Acreage Land-Use Management section above)

RESPONSIBLE PARTY

UCCD and NRCS

ESTIMATED COST

(See Small Acreage Land-Use Management section above)

Cities and Towns

The small communities within the Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Watersheds may contribute fecal coliform/E. coli, sediment and other contaminants to surface water due to

Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Watershed Management Plan

storm water discharge, wastewater treatment facilities and bank stabilization projects.

Stormwater Discharge

ISSUE

Stormwater run-off from streets and roads may contribute fecal coliform/E. coli bacteria, sediment and other contaminants.

OBJECTIVES

Work with the Cities and Towns within the watersheds to reduce the amount of pollution entering surface waters through storm water runoff.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Contact city and county officials to provide recommendations for storm water run-off treatment if not already addressed in capital improvement plans.
2. Coordinate with the Town of Mt. View to develop a Stormwater Assessment Plan.
3. Coordinate with the Cities and Towns to develop a public information and education campaign to increase water quality awareness of municipal residents with respect to city storm drain dynamics.

RESPONSIBLE PARTY

UCCD

ESTIMATED COST

1. No additional cost.
2. No additional cost
3. Develop a public information and education campaign = \$500.00

Wastewater Treatment Plants

ISSUE

There are three wastewater treatment facilities within the two watersheds. The steering committee recognizes that these facilities are operating under WDEQ approved discharge permits, but the bacterial contributions from these point sources should be considered when designing water quality monitoring or improvement programs.

OBJECTIVES

There are no objectives for this issue as this is a “point source” regulated by WDEQ.

ACTION ITEMS

There are no action items for this issue.

RESPONSIBLE PARTY

WDEQ

ESTIMATED COST

No additional cost.

Bank Stabilization

ISSUE

Hardening of banks and straightening of channels may contribute to bank erosion and channel down cutting and therefore sediment loads.

OBJECTIVES

The steering committee has no current recommendations for initiation of stream restoration projects. This issue was raised as a possible impact to water quality, but other less expensive BMPs should be implemented to improve water quality before stream

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restoration project alternatives are explored.

ACTION ITEMS

No action items.

RESPONSIBLE PARTY

UCCD

ESTIMATED COST

No additional cost.

Financial Conditions

ISSUE

Difficult and tight economic conditions and the high cost of some BMPs are a concern. If there is money available for cost-share assistance, all eligible residents need to be aware of the application process, stipulations and risks associated with accepting cost-share funds.

OBJECTIVES

1. Clearly explain and widely advertise any cost-share programs, regardless of source, to all eligible participants.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Advertise availability and eligibility details of any cost-share programs to implement BMPs outlined in this watershed plan. Cost-share program information advertisements will be included in the UCCD newsletters as well as all newspapers within the watersheds.

RESPONSIBLE PARTY

UCCD and NRCS

ESTIMATED COST

1. Newsletter articles 1 per year for 5 years = \$5,450.00 (cost of entire newsletter) (funds available)
2. Newspaper articles = \$125.00 (funds available)

Wildlife Concerns

ISSUE

Significant populations of wildlife and waterfowl are present within the watersheds, potentially increasing fecal coliform/E. coli concentrations. Moose, elk, deer and antelope in the area tend to congregate in riparian areas. Mitigation for wildlife impacts, however, is limited and difficult to implement.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of including wildlife concerns in this watershed plan is to emphasize that wildlife and waterfowl are a contributing source of bacteria with little recourse.

ACTION ITEMS

There are no specific action items for this issue, but if human induced concerns are addressed through BMP implementation and water quality criteria are still exceeded, site specific water quality criteria may be pursued by the steering committee and UCCD.

RESPONSIBLE PARTY

BF/SF Steering Committee, UCCD and WDEQ

ESTIMATED COST

No additional cost

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Recreation

The outdoor recreation/tourism industry is important to Uinta County. However, inappropriate activities associated with recreation may have an adverse impact on the water resources of the Blacks Fork and Smith Fork Rivers.

Off-road Vehicles

ISSUE

There is off-road vehicle use occurring mostly on federal land within the watersheds. Monitoring inappropriate off-road vehicle use is difficult for grazing permit holders or agency employees. Some members of the steering committee are members of the grazing associations for Federal grazing allotments and may influence development of programs to address off-road vehicle use in the watersheds.

OBJECTIVES

Reduce soil erosion and water quality impacts associated with off-road vehicle use.

ACTION ITEMS

1. The steering committee will recommend the establishment of a designated area for off-road vehicle use.

RESPONSIBLE PARTY

Steering committee

ESTIMATED COST

No additional cost.

Water Usage and Development

ISSUE

The Blacks Fork/Smiths Fork Water Quality Steering Committee recognizes that water quality concerns have no impact on Wyoming Water Law. Diversions of water do alter hydrology of the watersheds, which can be beneficial or in some cases may be detrimental, and should be considered in watershed planning. Water development projects, including water storage, may also function in improving water quality within the watersheds.”

OBJECTIVES

Recognize water development as an effective alternative to improve water quality.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Make this watershed plan available as justification for funding BMPs related to water developments with the potential to improve water quality, if needed.

RESPONSIBLE PARTY

Steering committee

ESTIMATED COST

No additional cost.

Coordination with DEQ and Other Entities

ISSUE

To ensure successful implementation of this watershed plan, WDEQ and other agencies involved with water quality regulation, funding and assessment will have to be aware of the status of this planning effort.

OBJECTIVE

Keep WDEQ and other agencies updated on the status of this watershed plan.

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ACTION ITEMS

1. UCCD will coordinate with WDEQ by providing an annual updated milestone table and a brief summary of activities regarding this watershed plan. This update will be available to other interested entities as well.

ESTIMATED COST

No additional cost.

**Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork
Watershed Management Plan**

Action Items/Milestone Table

Issues and Action Items	2006				2007				2008				2009				2010			
	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug Sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug Sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug Sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug Sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug Sep	Oct Nov Dec
Education and Awareness																				
1. Publish articles pertaining to the progress of the BF/SF Watershed Plan in UCCD's quarterly newsletter.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<i>Completed</i>																				
2. Publish articles in the local newspapers pertaining to water quality in the watershed at least twice a year.		1		1		1		1		1		1		1		1		1		1
<i>Completed</i>																				
3. Participate in National Water Quality Monitoring Day with local school children annually.				1				1				1				1				1
<i>Completed</i>																				
4. Provide information booths emphasizing watershed planning at County Fair and Bridger Valley Business Expo annually.		1	1			1	1			1	1			1	1			1	1	
<i>Completed</i>																				
5. Host a tour of the watersheds after plan implementation to highlight results of BMP implementation.																			1	
<i>Completed</i>																				
Water Quality																				
1. Provide Conservation District personnel with watershed management and water quality monitoring training at least annually or more often as needed.		1				1				1				1				1		
<i>Completed</i>																				
2. Continue water quality monitoring activities annually as outlined in the Sampling and Analysis Plan.		1	1			1	1			1	1			1	1			1	1	
<i>Completed</i>																				

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Issues and Action Items	2006				2007				2008				2009				2010			
	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug sep	Oct Nov Dec
Agriculture																				
1. Implement 10 (1 per stream) AFO projects to comply with current rules and regulations. Contingent upon funding availability and sufficient voluntary participation.			2				2				2				2				2	
<i>Completed</i>																				
2. Provide information and education by hosting 2 workshops/tours, during the five-years of this plan, highlighting BMPs and cost-share opportunities to improve water quality.							1								1					
<i>Completed</i>																				
3. Annually send educational materials to residents on UCCD's mailing list, highlighting Animal Feeding Operation (AFO) improvement options, including the Landowner Self-Assessment form (illustrates risk of contributing animal waste to surface waters) and a progress report of past BMP implementation within the Conservation District.	1					1				1				1				1		
<i>Completed</i>																				
Grazing Management																				
Sediment																				
1. Continue to encourage and support grazing practices consistent with the Allotment Management Plans approved by the Bureau of Land Management and US Forest Service for those portions of the watershed under their jurisdiction.		x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x		x	x	x
<i>Completed</i>																				

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Issues and Action Items	2006				2007				2008				2009				2010			
	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug sep	Oct Nov Dec
<i>Grazing Management continued</i>																				
2. Attempt to construct four stock reservoirs and one spring development within the Sage Creek Mountain Allotment.			1				1				1				1				1	
<i>Completed</i>																				
3. Review the BLM Standards and Guidelines Evaluations for allotments within the Smiths Fork and Blacks Fork Watersheds, which may indicate which allotments are in good condition (needing no change in management) versus allotments where BMP implementation would be a higher priority.			x																x	
<i>Completed</i>																				
4. Provide equipment and annually host an educational workshop for mechanical rangeland renovation treatments for livestock grazing which reduce soil erosion by increasing vegetative cover.		1				1				1				1				1		
<i>Completed</i>																				
5. Provide 2 workshops in a five-year period to highlight benefits of treatment for sagebrush control as related to livestock grazing and increased vegetative cover for reduced soil erosion.						1												1		
<i>Completed</i>																				
6. Develop a range monitoring program to evaluate the effects of mechanical rangeland renovation for treated plots.												x								
<i>Completed</i>																				

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Issues and Action Items	2006				2007				2008				2009				2010			
	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug sep	Oct Nov Dec
<i>Grazing Management continued</i>																				
7. Develop a program to offer seeding alternatives that could be used in conjunction with the mechanical treatments for various soils and management objectives to increase vegetative cover.	1																			
<i>Completed</i>																				
Irrigation Management																				
1. Host an irrigation technology workshop to increase the awareness of BMPs available to increase irrigation efficiencies.				1																
<i>Completed</i>																				
2. Annually advertise the availability of cost-share programs available for irrigation practices in the UCCD Newsletter.			1			1				1				1					1	
<i>Completed</i>																				
3. Develop a brochure highlighting different alternatives for irrigation and programs available for assisting producers in increasing irrigation efficiency.				1																
<i>Completed</i>																				
4. Install 3 irrigation BMPs per year (15 total) to increase irrigation efficiency.		3				3				3				3					3	
<i>Completed</i>																				

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Issues and Action Items	2006				2007				2008				2009				2010			
	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug sep	Oct Nov Dec
Economic Impacts of Remediation																				
1. The Conservation District Staff and the Natural Resources Conservation Service will work with landowners for Best Management Practice implementation and habitat improvements through available federal, and/or non-federal financial assistance programs. UCCD will apply for funding to implement projects. Potential sources include: NRCS programs (EQIP, WRP, WHIP, CCRP, GRP, etc.), EPA/WDEQ Section 319 Grants and Wyoming Water Development Commission (WWDC) programs.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
<i>Completed</i>																				
Rural Development/Subdivision Issues																				
Small Acreage Land-Use Management and Setbacks																				
1. Produce "Living on a Few Acres" brochure to be distributed with the subdivision reviews already being done by UCCD. This brochure will illustrate differences in lifestyle and expectations between living within a municipality and in a rural area where all services are not available. This brochure will be widely available.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
<i>Completed</i>																				
2. Produce a brochure to illustrate how much land and supplemental feed is needed to responsibly sustain horses or other livestock specific to different range sites within Uinta County.				1																
<i>Completed</i>																				

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Issues and Action Items	2006				2007				2008				2009				2010			
	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug sep	Oct Nov Dec
<i>Small Acreage Land-Use Management and Setbacks continued</i>																				
3. Write a newspaper article to emphasize the potential for water quality improvement associated with proper forage utilization and emphasize that there are potential penalties for violations related to animal feeding operations or corrals. This article will be published 3 times during the 5 years of this plan.	1				1				1											
<i>Completed</i>																				
Setbacks																				
1. Recommendations for a minimum of 35 feet from surface water for rural developments will be included in subdivision reviews completed by UCCD.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
<i>Completed</i>																				
Septic Systems																				
1. Host a public meeting to receive feedback from residents in the watershed about their potential for participation in a septic remediation cost-share program. This meeting would be used to estimate the level of participation and need for assistance so that UCCD will know approximately how many septic systems can be addressed.	1																			
<i>Completed</i>																				
2. Apply for CWA Section 319 grant funding to design and implement a voluntary and incentive-based program to remediate failing or inadequate septic systems installed prior to 1973.		1																		
<i>Completed</i>																				

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Issues and Action Items	2006				2007				2008				2009				2010			
	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug sep	Oct Nov Dec
<i>Septic Systems continued</i>																				
3. Distribute "Wyoming Homeowner's Guide to Septic Systems" brochure to residents within the watersheds regardless of the outcome of the 319 grant application.	1																			
<i>Completed</i>																				
Cities and Towns																				
Stormwater Discharge																				
1. Contact city and county officials to provide recommendations for storm water run-off treatment if not already addressed in capital improvement plans.	x																			
<i>Completed</i>																				
2. Coordinate with the Town of Mt. View to develop a Stormwater Assessment Plan.	x																			
<i>Completed</i>																				
3. Coordinate with the Cities and Towns to develop a public information and education campaign to increase water quality awareness of municipal residents with respect to city storm drain dynamics.		x																		
<i>Completed</i>																				
Financial Conditions																				
1. Advertise availability and eligibility details of any cost-share programs to implement BMPs outlined in this watershed plan. Cost-share program information advertisements will be included in the UCCD newsletters as well as all newspapers within the watersheds.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<i>Completed</i>																				

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Issues and Action Items	2006				2007				2008				2009				2010			
	Jan Feb Mar	Apri May Jun	Jul Aug sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar	Apri May Jun	Jul Aug sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar	Apri May Jun	Jul Aug sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar	Apri May Jun	Jul Aug sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar	Apri May Jun	Jul Aug sep	Oct Nov Dec
Recreation																				
Off-road Vehicle Use																				
1. The steering committee will recommend the establishment of a designated area for off-road vehicle use.	x																			
<i>Completed</i>																				
Water Usage and Development																				
1. Make this watershed plan available as justification for funding BMPs related to water developments with the potential to improve water quality, if needed.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
<i>Completed</i>																				
DEQ/Other Entity Coordination																				
1. UCCD will coordinate with WDEQ by providing an annual updated milestone table and a brief summary of activities regarding this watershed plan. This update will be available to other interested entities as well.				1				1				1				1				1
<i>Completed</i>																				

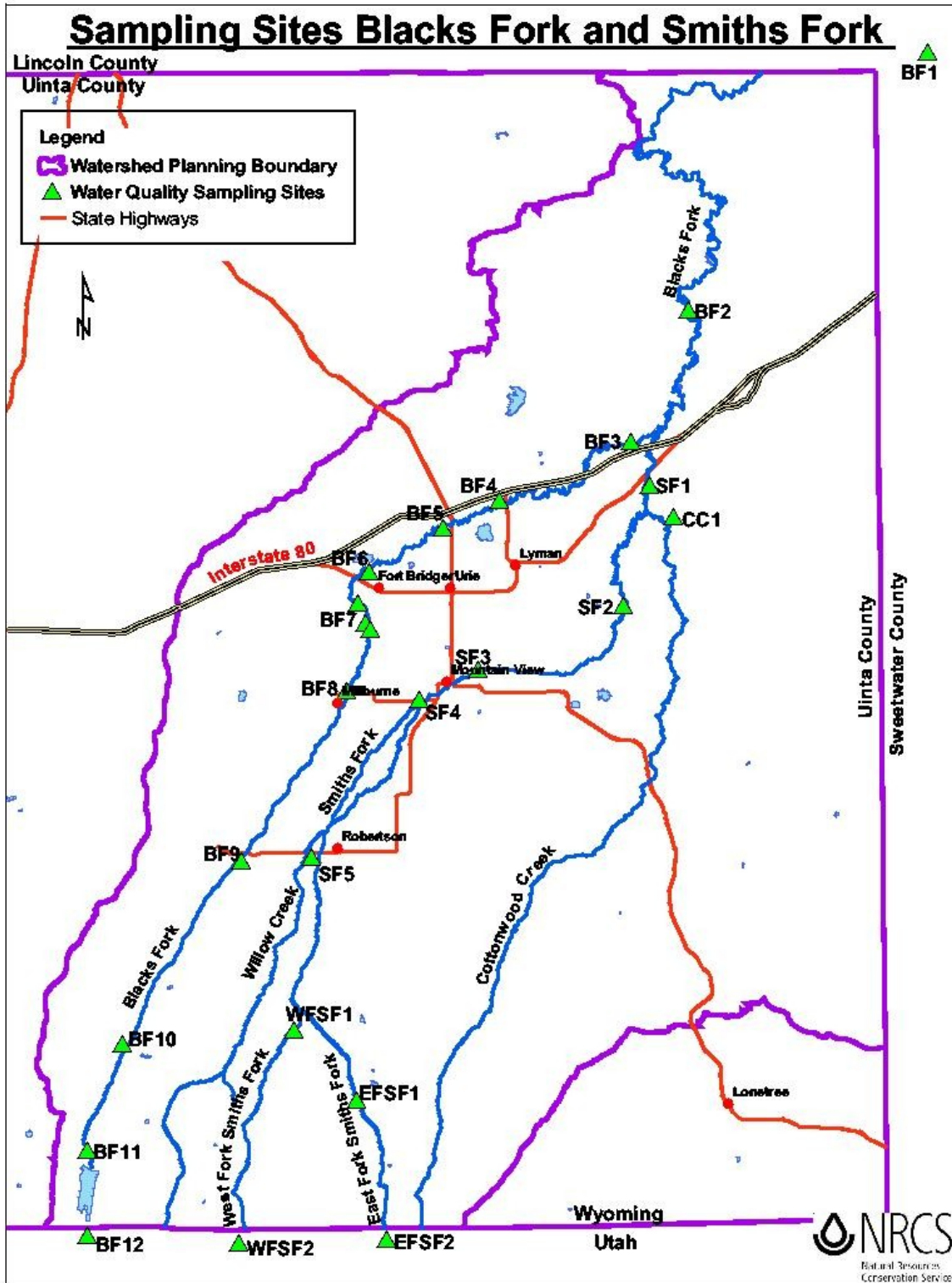
Appendix A - Use Classification Table

Use Classification Table

Class	Drinking Water	Game Fish	Non-Game Fish	Fish Consumption	Other Aquatic Life	Recreation	Wildlife	Agriculture	Industry	Scenic Value
2AB	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2A	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2B	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2C	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
3A	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
3B	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
3C	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
4A	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
4B	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
4C	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Watershed Management Plan

Appendix B - Map



Appendix C - Acronyms

Acronyms

BMP – Best Management Practices
CCRP – Continuous Crop Reserve Program
CWA – Clean Water Act
DEQ – Department of Environmental Quality
EPA – United States Environmental Protection Agency
EQIP – Environmental Quality Incentives Program
GRP – Grassland Reserve Program
NPDES – National Pollution Discharge Elimination System
NPS – Non-Point Source
NRCS – Natural Resource Conservation Service
TMDL – Total Maximum Daily Loads
UCCD – Uinta County Conservation District
WACD – Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts
WDA – Wyoming Department of Agriculture
WDEQ – Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
WGFD – Wyoming Game and Fish Department
WHIP – Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program
WRP – Wetland Reserves Program
WWDC – Wyoming Water Development Commission

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Appendix D – Steering Committee & Planning Team

Blacks Fork/Smiths Fork Water Quality Steering Committee:

Marty Watkins	Lawrence Bugas, Bridger Valley Conservancy District
Carl Larson	Dave Dasher, Town of Mt. View
Wade Larson	Curt Bindl, Ft. Bridger Water and Sewer District
Garie Henry	Ken Fackrell, Bridger Valley Conservancy District
Justin Ellis	Kelly Guild, Conservation District
Wes Lupher	Dennis Cornelison, Conservation District
Kirk Eyre	Spencer Eyre, Conservation District
Todd Rollins	Shaun Sims, Conservation District
Bob Stoddard	Kevin Condos, Conservation District
Judd Redden	Allen Jaggi, State Engineers Office
Jim Eyre	Joe Locurto, Uinta County Economic Development
Ron Micheli	Uinta County Commissioners
Jerry Overy	Town of Lyman
Joe G. Micheli	Bridger Valley Joint Powers Board
Vearl Bird	
Lawayne Hurdsman	

Planning Team

Doug Miyamoto, Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts
Ralph Swift, NRCS
Adrian Hunolt, NRCS
Jason Fearneyhough, Wyoming Department of Agriculture
Kerri Sabey, Uinta County Conservation District
Annette France, Uinta County Conservation District

Uinta County Conservation District Board of Supervisors

Shaun Sims	Kevin Condos
Kelly Guild	Dennis Cornelison
Spencer Eyre	

**Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork
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Appendix E – References Cited

References Cited

Uinta County Area Profile 2003, Uinta County Association of Governments May, 2003, Evanston Chamber of Commerce, contact information: 800-328-9078

Watershed Strategic Plan: The Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts, revised 2000.

Wyoming Administrative Procedures Act: Wyoming State Statute 16-3-101 Chapter 3

Wyoming Agricultural Statistics 2004: United States Department of Agriculture, Wyoming Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA NASS Wyoming Statistical Office, Cheyenne WY 82003, <http://www.nass.usda.gov/wy/>

Wyoming Surface Water Quality Standards: Department of Environmental Quality, Water quality Program, Current Rules and Regulations, Chapter One <http://soswy.state.wy.us/RULES>

**Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork
Watershed Management Plan**

Appendix F – Response to Comments

May 12, 2005

To: Uinta County Conservation District
Attention: Kerri Sabey
P.O. Box 370
Lyman, WY 82937

From: Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ)
Herschler Building, 122 West 25th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002

RE: Blacks Fork & Smiths Fork Watershed Management Plan Comments

Dear Kerri,

The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) would like to thank the Uinta County Conservation District (UCCD) for the opportunity to provide comment on the Blacks Fork & Smiths Fork Watershed Management Plan. The WDEQ complements the district on putting together a well-written and detailed report. The department does have a number of comments we would like to present. These involve some minor formatting comments, some questions where we feel a bit more information may be warranted, and also some suggestions the district may wish to consider to possibly enhance the effectiveness of the plan.

Response to WDEQ BFSF Watershed Plan Comments

Comment 1

Formatting Comment – Fonts. It appears there are subtle changes in either print font or font size at various locations in the text (Page 11, Line 468 and also some “issue” descriptors appear in one font, while other “issue” descriptors appear to be another font). This comment does not affect the quality of the content of the plan, but UCCD may wish to check the plan for consistency with respect to fonts.

Response: The Blacks Fork/Smiths Fork Steering Committee concurs with the above comment and the plan has been changed accordingly.

Comment 2

Formatting Comment – References. There are some definite references (i.e. Wyoming Agricultural Statistics, 2003 on Page 9, Line 378) and inferred references (i.e. the Uinta County publication, County Profile on Page 9, Line 395); however there is no specific References Cited section to the plan. UCCD may want to place a References Cited” section at the end of the plan. This would allow the interested reader (and people

Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Watershed Management Plan

associated with updating this plan down the road) to know exactly what documents were used to help formulate this plan.

Response: The Blacks Fork/Smiths Fork Steering Committee concurs with the above comment and has added a “References Cited” section to the plan.

Comment 3

Appendix D. The review did not see where Appendix D is referenced in the plan text. Should this appendix be cited on page 5 where the steering committee is discussed?

Response: The Blacks Fork/Smiths Fork Steering Committee concurs with the above comment and has changed the plan accordingly.

Comment 4

Pages 7-8. The five waters of primary interest are described on these pages. It would be helpful to the reader if these descriptions also referenced a map where the waterbody could be clearly located. The Appendix B map has sample locations presented (ID numbers can lead one to speculate the identity of all the waterbodies except Willow Creek), but these streams are not specifically identified. A more detailed map would be helpful. Also, if the extent of the impairments could be delineated on such a map, that would also be beneficial information to the reader (also comment No. 5).

Response: The Blacks Fork/Smiths Fork Steering Committee concurs with the above comment and the map has been revised to more clearly delineate the stream reaches mentioned in the plan. The Committee approached the delineation of impaired segments by more clearly labeling features on the map. Highlighting the extent of the impairments would add little information to the reader as entire segments are impaired for different reasons.

Comment 5

Page 8. Lines 318-338. Little of the UCCD monitoring data is discussed in this paragraph. The initial WDEQ monitoring effort was much more limited in scope than the impairments. People are going to read this plan and want to know a bit more on the extent and nature of the impairments. The description of the UCCD monitoring effort gives the reader the impression that more information is definitely available, but not presented for some reason. The UCCD monitoring data is also extremely valuable in implementing this watershed plan as efficiently and effectively as possible and therefore getting the waters delisted in the quickest, most economical manner as possible. WDEQ realizes that the UCCD monitoring report has not been completely finalized, but if it is appropriate to use any of those data at this time, that would make the discussion in this section more meaningful. If UCCD does not feel it appropriate to draw conclusions from their monitoring and assessment effort until the Section 319 Final Report is completed and approved, it is suggested that a sentence stating that UCCD monitoring was done under a Section 319 project and those data and conclusions are contained in the Project

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Final Report (with an estimated approval date) would allow the interested reader to know where they could look to see the UCCD data and conclusions.

Response: The Blacks Fork/Smiths Fork Steering Committee concurs with the above comment and will reference the Project Final Report in the plan. UCCD has a data release policy that states the District will not release any provisional, raw data. Data will be available for review only after a complete analysis of the data has taken place.

Comment 6

Page 11. Lines 452-459. In this Water Quality Monitoring section UCCD may wish to add a sentence or two that commits this monitoring program to the collection of “Credible Data.” This could be something to the effect of: “All data collected by UCCD will be done to meet WDEQ Credible Data regulations and will be done under reviewed and approved Sampling and Analysis Plans, Standard Operating Procedures, Quality Assurance Project Plans, and Quality Assurance and Quality Control reviews.”

Response: The Blacks Fork/Smiths Fork Steering Committee concurs with the above comment and the plan was changed accordingly.

Comment 7

Page 12. Line 489. The plan states: “There is a variety of conditions within the watershed that make economic impacts hard to quantify.” This review is not sure what is being said here. Are we dealing with unique watershed issues (soils, climate, etc.), with unknown economic factors (market futures, inflation on materials costs, ect.)? It would be helpful in getting the desire point across to the reader if more descriptive information were provided in this statement.

Response: There is a wide range of incomes throughout the watershed, and those with limited economic resources, may be unable to implement BMPs, regardless of cost share opportunities. There are limited approaches for profitable agricultural practices within the watersheds, and BMP alternatives may not be economically or logistically feasible. The Blacks Fork/Smiths Fork Steering committee concurs with the above comment and have changed the plan accordingly.

Comment 8

Page 12. Lines 518-523. The Information and Education bullet for Rural Development differs somewhat from that same bullet for Agriculture in that it appears to be more of a statement of a problem than a statement of action. UCCD may wish to add additional language to this paragraph that provides action for the I&E program. This could be an expanded sentence at the end of the paragraph something like: “It is important to inform potential residents of the specific challenges associated with the rural lifestyle, specifically with regard to surface water impacts associated with operation and maintenance of septic systems, small acreage pastures, household waste disposal, and fertilizer and pesticide use.”

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Response: The information and education bullet under the Rural Development section is stated correctly as a concern of the committee. The information and education bullet under the Agriculture section is stated as a goal rather than a concern and has been addressed.

Comment 9

Page 13. Line 542. The Cities and Towns planning category does not contain a specific “information and Education” bullet. UCCD may wish to partner with the towns to get information out to those citizens. Possible I&E action for Cities and Towns might be something like: “Increase water quality awareness of municipal residents with respect to pet waste impacts, household waste disposal, yard fertilization and pesticide use and city storm drain dynamics.”

Response: The Blacks Fork/Smiths Fork Steering Committee concurs with the above comment and an I&E section has been added under the Cities and Towns section as programs are already planned.

Comment 10

Page 13. Line 543. The Financial Conditions actions section is an area where UCCD can take a strong leadership position. The plan may wish to state that leadership role here.”

Response: The Blacks Fork/Smiths Fork Steering Committee concurs with the above comment and the plan has been changed accordingly.

Comment 11

Page 13. Line 564. Under the Recreation planning category, UCCD may wish to consider adding a second bullet concerning dispersed camping. Most dispersed camping occurs on public lands and does not involve the use of any constructed waste facilities. The district may wish to become involved in providing information to recreationists concerning dispersed camping; specifically things like the distance they should try and be away from live water when they camp, human waste handling and disposal, and gray water (dish water) handling and disposal.

Response: The committee discussed the effects of dispersed camping but did not feel that any alternatives developed in this plan would be any more effective than the strategies employed by the Federal Land Management Agencies as there are already information and education campaigns to address dispersed camping. For this reason, the committee will rely on Federal Land Management regulations already in place for dispersed camping and recreation.

Comment 12

Page 13. Lines 569-571. The plan states that water development projects, including storage, may be considered as alternatives for improving water quality within the watersheds. This review is not clear on what is meant here. If a water storage feature is

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constructed, the water in that impoundment is still subject to state water quality standards. Depending upon what the intended meaning was, more clear wording for this sentence might be: “Water development projects, including water storage, may also function in improving water quality within the watersheds.”

Response: The Blacks Fork/Smiths Fork Steering Committee concurs with the above comment and has changed the plan accordingly.

Comment 13

Page 14. Line 596 and again on Line 609. It would be helpful to state how many articles and how many copies of each newsletter are anticipated in order to get adequate information coverage. Here is a food-for-thought comment only and one that would be for a later date and not necessarily part of any formal plan. UCCD may wish to have some type of feedback loop built into the articles and newsletters to try and get an idea if people are reading this material or just tossing it in the trash. This could be a “call this number for more information” statement where the District then keeps track of the number of follow-up requests. Another option is a topic-related, follow-up reward (i.e. an article on lawn maintenance for water quality [watering, fertilization, and pesticide use] is directed toward municipal residents. This article ends with the statement “come into the UCCD Office to get additional information on this topic and receive your free lawn watering rain gage.”). UCCD could set goals on the amount of feedback they would like to see and be able to get a better idea on what is working with getting the information out and what is not. If the feedback does not meet the desired goals, instead of repeating an ineffective process over and over again, the feedback loop will tell you the process needs to be modified or replaced.

Response: UCCD will incorporate feedback loops into all articles, newsletters and information and education associated with this plan. Feedback loops have historically been ineffective at gauging participation and interest in district activities. The committee will provide feedback loops that will hopefully provide information on implementation activities, but does not anticipate that there will be enough participation in the feedback process to indicate whether or not changes in implementation strategy are required.

Comment 14

Page 15. Line 632. The plan references the Sampling and Analysis Plan as being Appendix C. Appendix C to this plan is a list of acronyms. Is the SAP the Appendix C of a different document? This review did not see another reference to Appendix C, a reference that would refer to this list of acronyms, in this document.

Response: Rather than listing the SAP as an appendix, readers will be referred to the UCCD office for copies.

Comment 15

Page 15. Line 659. It is not specifically spelled out, but should UCCD look at concentrating the workshops during the first few years of the 5-year plan? Workshops

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and tours done as early as possible (i.e. 2006 and 2008) may better help achieve the overall objectives within the initial 5-year time frame. Additionally, if UCCD finds early that demand is greater than expected, additional funds could be sought and secured. If that happens, an adjustment to the goal of 10 implementations within the 5-year scope of this plan could be made.

Response: The objective of any tours would be to highlight BMP activities. Hosting a tour early in the implementation phase may limit the number of projects that could be showcased. The number and timing of tours illustrated in the milestone table are minimums and if participation is high, more tours will be hosted.

Comment 16

Page 16. Line 691. Suggest changing “WYDEQ” to “WDEQ” for consistency.

Response: The Blacks Fork/Smiths Fork Steering Committee concurs with the above comment and has changed the plan accordingly.

Comment 17

Page 16. Line 695. Objective number 1 is to reduce the amount of sediment entering the Smiths Fork River. UCCD may wish to expand this to: “reduce the amount of sediment entering the watershed contained within this planning area with an emphasis on the Smiths Fork River.” WDEQ realizes that the current emphasis on the Smiths Fork is due to the listing of that water for sediment. It is agreed that a priority system that directly addresses the sediment issue on the Smiths Fork and ultimately results in a delisting is essential. But doing what is possible, when it is practical, on other waters to reduce NPS sediment inputs may be good insurance in preventing those waters from ever becoming listed for this pollutant. In other words, if there is a good riparian buffer proposal that comes in on the Blacks Fork, and it isn’t competing head-to-head for cost share funds with a similar project on the Smiths Fork, the District may wish to sponsor that implementation as a proactive BMP that will result in a positive water quality improvement.

Response: The Blacks Fork/Smiths Fork Steering Committee concurs with the above comment and has changed the plan accordingly. The plan will not limit BMP implementation for sediment to the Smiths Fork River.

Comment 18

Page 17. Line 718. The Grazing Management Action Items appear to be focused around grazing systems and water development, but lacks the use of riparian buffers on private rangelands as a water quality improvement tool. UCCD may wish to consider adding an Action Item No. 8. This suggested additional item could be something like: “Provide landowners with information on various Farm Bill Programs such as Conservation Reserve Program, Wetlands Reserve Program, and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program when and where riparian buffer areas may be desired.”

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Response: Landowners will be informed of alternatives for water quality improvement. Installation of buffer strips will be encouraged where appropriate. The BFSF committee does not wish to set a numerical goal for buffer strip installation. The initial focus of grazing management as it relates to water quality will be on developing off-site water and using a rotational grazing system.

Comment 19

Page 20. Lines 876+. Under the I&E component, if the District elects to do an expanded I&E for Cities and Towns (comment No. 9), those should be included as action items.

Response: The Blacks Fork/Smiths Fork Steering Committee concurs with the above comment and the plan has been changed accordingly.

Comment 20

Page 22. Lines 957-961. The UCCD brings up the issue of wildlife contributions to pollution problems in this section of the plan and states that there are no specific action items. The UCCD may wish to include the Wyoming Game and Fish Department as a responsible party in this section (Line 061). If wildlife is determined to be significant pathogen loading source leading to a water quality issue, this agency should be involved. If the citizens are dealing with a potential human health risk due to the wildlife, the WGF should be directly involved and take the lead on any game management changes or wildlife BMP implementations that could be conducted to help reduce pathogen loading.

Response: The objective of including wildlife concerns in this watershed plan is to emphasize that wildlife and waterfowl are a contributing source of bacteria with little recourse. The Blacks Fork/Smiths Fork Steering Committee believes that BMP implementation related to grazing management will have positive impacts on wildlife contributions as well. The committee does not intend to change WGF wildlife management strategies through this plan.

Comment 21

Page 23. Line 986. If UCCD decides that dispersed camping is a possible concern under the Recreation category then a separate “Issue, Objectives, Action Item, etc. discussion for this recreational activity should be developed.

Response: The committee discussed the effects of dispersed camping but did not feel that any alternatives developed in this plan would be any more effective than the strategies employed by the Federal Land Management Agencies as there are already information and education campaigns to address dispersed camping. For this reason, the committee will rely on Federal Land Management regulations already in place for dispersed camping and recreation.

Comment 22

Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Watershed Management Plan

Page 23. Line 996. Similar to comment No. 12, this review does not quite understand the intent of the statement: “Recognize water development as an effective alternative to improve water quality.” Again, is the statement’s intent: “recognize water development may be an effective mechanism to help improve water quality”? Clarification would be helpful.

Response: The Blacks Fork/Smiths Fork Steering Committee concurs with the above comment and has changed the plan accordingly.

Comment 23

Page 23. Line 1001. Should Wyoming Water Development Commission be listed as a possible responsible party?

Response: The Wyoming Water Development Commission will be a critical participant in the implementation of the watershed plan. Responsibility for compliance with Water Development Commission programs will be assumed by UCCD.

Comment 24

Action Items/Milestone Table. General comment, if any of the suggestions presented in this review are incorporated, appropriate additions to the Milestone Table may be needed.

Response: The Blacks Fork/Smiths Fork Steering Committee concurs with the above comment and has changed the plan accordingly.

Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Watershed Management Plan

Signature Page

On Wednesday, July 13th, 2005, the Blacks Fork/Smiths Fork Watershed Steering Committee adopted the Blacks Fork & Smiths Fork Watershed Management Plan as a method for addressing the water quality concerns in the Blacks Fork & Smiths Fork Watershed.

Marty Watkins

Garie Henry

LaWayne Hurdsman

Vearl Bird

Carl Larson

Allen Jaggi

Curt Bindl

Dave Dasher

Jerry Overy

The Uinta County Conservation Board of Supervisors approved the Blacks Fork & Smiths Fork Watershed Management Plan on Thursday, July 21st, 2005.

Shaun Sims, Chairman

Kelly Guild, Vice Chairman

Spencer Eyre, Secretary/Treasurer

Kevin Condos, Member

Dennis Cornelison, Member

The Blacks Fork & Smiths Fork Watershed Management Plan was approved by the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality.

Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality

Date