

KENDRICK WATERSHED PLAN

PROJECT UPDATE

WINTER 2011



BUZZING ABOUT SPRING!

February in Wyoming is a perfect time to begin to think about springtime plans, plantings, and enhancing local habitat for native pollinators. Many of our local crops, gardens and flowers benefit from insect pollination mostly provided by bees. In North America, bees pollinate about 14 billion dollars worth of crops annually, and approximately one in three mouthfuls of food and beverage required the presence of a pollinator.



Pollinators include bees, moths, flies, beetles, wasps, desert bats, hummingbirds, and butterflies. Many are crucial to the function of the ecosystems because they enhance plant reproduction. In many areas pollinators are in decline and are threatened by habitat loss, habitat fragmentation, pesticides, disease and parasites. Pollinators are a keystone species group, and the persistence of a large number of other species depend on them.

The loss of honey bees due to pests, diseases and other factors has been widely publicized in recent years, many of the wild native bees are also disappearing. This condition is present throughout the intermountain west and has been observed in Natrona County and other agricultural areas of the state. As pollinators continue to disappear, the effects on the health and viability of crops and native plant communities can be devastating.

Protecting, enhancing and providing habitat is the best way to conserve pollinators. When planning spring planting options, consider both herbaceous and woody plant species that provide a source of nectar, food and

cover habitat for adult and immature pollinators and a variety of other wildlife species. Grasses, forbs, legumes, shrubs and trees planted along farm and ranch borders and within fields attract wildlife, including pollinators and other beneficial insects. The correct mix of plant species that bloom during most of the growing season will provide a continuous source of nectar and pollen needed by pollinators and other beneficial insects.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) can assist landowners with habitat enhancement for pollinators by encouraging the establishment of an array of attractive plants that flower throughout the growing season. NRCS Plant Material Technical Note 17 (http://www.wy.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/Plant/tech_notes.html) provides information on why, where and how to create pollinator-friendly habitat, and a comprehensive list of recommended native flowering plant species for consideration.



Pollinator habitat plantings should include at least one grass for interspace cover and one forb, legume, or shrub adapted to the site from each of the three seasonal flowering categories; early, mid, and late blooming to sustain the pollinator through their active period.

Many flowering shrubs and trees included in Technical Note 17, are available through the Natrona County Conservation Districts (NCCD) annual Seedling Tree Program. Natrona County residents can order trees through the NCCD until April 15th, for delivery in early May. The Seedling Tree Program order form is available at the NCCD office or online at: www.natronacountyconservationdistrict.com.



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NORTH PLATTE SELENIUM TMDL PROJECT

In 1998, the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ), as a result of their statewide surface water quality assessment, placed the North Platte River on its list of impaired waterways due to the presence of high concentrations of selenium. In 2000, several local tributaries of the North Platte were also placed on the impaired waterways list, again, due to high concentrations of selenium.

While selenium is a naturally occurring element commonly found in the rocks and soils of Natrona County and throughout the West, it can be toxic to both aquatic life and wildlife in high concentrations, and result in impaired reproduction of migratory aquatic birds.

The presence of high concentrations of Selenium in the portion of the North Platte watershed between Alcova Reservoir and slightly downstream of the City of Casper is well documented by more than 30 years of water sampling on the river and its tributaries. Area landowners, both public and private, have implemented improvements and practices to reduce the migration of selenium from the soil to ground and surface waters; however, controlling and managing nature is never easy.

WHAT IS TMDL

A total maximum daily load (TMDL) is the amount of pollutant which a waterway can accept and still meet its designated uses. TMDLs must be established for each pollutant which is a source of stream impairment. They must be measurable and must consider both point, nonpoint, and natural sources. Pollutant load reductions are allocated among the significant sources and provide a scientific basis for restoring surface water quality. In this way the TMDL process links the development and implementation of conservation practices to the attainment and maintenance of water-quality standards.

TMDL PROJECT TEAM

To comply with the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean Water Act, WYDEQ selected RESPEC Water and Natural Resources Division in collaboration with Anderson Consulting Engineers to lead the project team, which also includes representatives

from the NCCD and the Casper Alcova Irrigation District (CAID). The project team hosts public meetings for local stakeholders and study-area landowners to review the project status and address questions or concerns. The initial study findings will be presented at next public meeting, scheduled for Spring 2011. Meeting date and location will be announced on the NCCD web site.

TMDL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

Calculation of the TMDL for an impaired waterway is based on the acquisition and compilation of all existing water sampling and flow data from the study area, some data from as far back as the 1970's.

“Years of water sampling data are being analyzed, primarily from NCCD, WYDEQ, University of Wyoming, and U. S. Geological Survey, and flow data from CAID and Bureau of Reclamation,” said Cory Foreman, Project Manager, RESPEC. “ We are taking a watershed approach to the project. With the acquisition of all available data, the TMDL analysis can be performed on each impaired waterway in the study area. Selenium is the primary pollutant of concern. We are also doing a cursory analysis of sediment loading.”

Currently, RESPEC and Anderson Consulting are analyzing and interpreting massive amounts of the data, and forming their initial recommendation. By July, all data will be combined into a final TMDL summary document for the WYDEQ and submittal to EPA. The TMDL summary document will include a generalized implementation plan and recommend general types of BMP's to reduce selenium loading. A more detailed document will be provided to the local project team members and North Platte study area stakeholders. All the data compiled for the TMDL assessment will be incorporated into a geodatabase that can be used as a comprehensive tool for watershed planning.

For TMDL Project information, contact Lisa Ogden, District Manager, 5880 Enterprise Drive Suite 100, Casper, WY 82609, phone: 307-234-4022.

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MEET THE NCCD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

A five-member volunteer Board of Supervisors governs the Natrona County Conservation District. Each board member serves a four-year term. To ensure all residents of the county are represented on the Board of Supervisors, three board members are from the rural area of the county (living outside of a municipality), one is urban (living inside of a municipality), and one at-large supervisor (either rural or urban).

Residents of Natrona County elect the board members during the general election. Board members serve staggered four-year terms, with two positions available at general election and three positions at the next general election.

The role of the Board of Supervisors is to manage the fiscal and legal aspects of the District, to be responsible for staffing and personnel employed at the NCCD, facilitate the development of the policies governing the District, and to determine the goals and mission of the District that address local needs through a responsible conservation ethic.

The Board meets on the first Tuesday of each month at the NCCD office. The board meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and are open to the public.

The NCCD provides assistance to all resident of the county: farmers, ranchers, small acreage landowners, urban dwellers and youth groups. It provides services for companies and individuals involved in natural resource development; local, state and federal units of the government.

NEW NCCD WEB SITE

NCCD has recently launched a new comprehensive web site, featuring information of interest to all Natrona County residents.

Our intent is to develop and maintain a web site that residents can use as a primary resource for government agencies, rural living tips and information, surface and groundwater issues, and other conservation topics. We have included an extensive links section, which allows



Supervisor Tyrone Fittje
2011 Board Chair
Term Expires 2012



Supervisor John Bentley
2011 Board Vice-Chair
Term Expires 2012



Supervisor
Richard Hallingstad
2011 Board Treasurer
Term Expires 2012



Supervisor Kelly Burch
Term Expires 2014



Supervisor Tom Walters
2010 Board Chair
Term Expired 2010

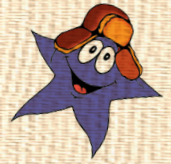
easy access to conservation, natural resources and agency information.

Log on and meet the NCCD Board of Supervisors, learn more about NCCD's programs and projects, order seedling trees and rain barrels, and review upcoming meetings and workshops in the calendar section.

Enter the address once and add it to your favorites:
www.natronacountyconservationdistrict.com



Fun & Games for Watershed Wonks



Wetland Inhabitant Word Search

Search for the types of living things found in wetlands. Can you find these words:

Beaver	Flounder	Wood Duck	Clam	Crab
Crayfish	Mosquito	Raccoon	Heron	Bear
Frog	Egret	Dragonfly	Sunfish	Mink
Turtle	Shrimp	Salamander		

A O O T X B Z T D A Q L X A T L M
T H C U W O O D D U C K X T S X C
B E L R A C C S T C R A B T F O R
C R T T S M I N K F G C G F B S A
S O N L T S S M O S Q U I T O U Y
B N T E O Q R S T A O C U X N N F
E L R T S O P X P P A B E A R F I
A C C X T S H R I M P L L N A I S
V D R A G O N F L Y N T S S C S H
E T V V U Q Q R L U I V I L C H O
R E G R E T X O T V N Z A T O X O
V X S G N A Z G X T V M V S O A O
X S A L A M A N D E R N Q X N N L
N L T F L O U N D E R L I T T O L

HELP THE BIRDS THIS WINTER

Don't toss that empty milk jug! Turn it into an easy-to-make bird feeder. You'll help the birds and keep a milk jug out of the landfill.

Step 1: Main Entrance to the Feeder

Draw and cut out a large circle (about 2.5" wide) a few inches up from the bottom of an empty, clean gallon milk jug.



Step 2: The Perch

Make a small twig-size hole just below the large one, either with a nail or a hole punch.

Step 3: Exterior

Brush green acrylic paint on the outside of the jug and let it dry. Using any clear-drying craft glue. Glue leaves or other natural materials onto the outside of the jug.

Step 4: Hanger

Punch a hole through both sides of the top just below the cap and slip a wire through it.

Step 5: Roof & Decorative Touches

Glue about a dozen or so 5" twigs to each side of the jug's top. Poke another, thicker twig into the perch hole. Glue on stones, pinecones, pine needles, more twigs, or any other decorations you like. Paint over the natural materials with clear non-toxic craft glaze or finish.



Step 6: Final

Add birdseed: and hang your feeder from a tree branch. Be sure to hang it where you can easily refill it!

Source: National Wildlife Federation



Watershed Clean Water Quiz

We all benefit from clean water - and we all have a role in keeping the ditches, streams, lakes, rivers and groundwater in our watershed clean. Check your watershed clean water habits!

- Where is the best place to dispose of used antifreeze, transmission fluid or other engine fluids?
 - Down the storm drain
 - On the ground
 - In old plastic jug
 - Into a ditch
- What should you do with used motor oil?
 - Pour onto the ground in a rural area
 - Mix with gasoline and put in trash
 - Pour around house foundation to kill weeds
 - Recycle

Answers: 1. c, 2. d.

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