

High County Conservation



2015

LARAMIE RIVERS CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Spring / Summer

SOME LRCD HISTORY

In 1945, Albany County residents, Otto H. Dryer and George Widman filed all the necessary applications and statements required by the State of Wyoming for the organization of Laramie Rivers Soil and Conservation District. By 1947 the board of supervisors grew to include Andrew Hurich, Arthur Johnson, and G.E. Sundby. The District originally acted as a bridge between government agencies and natural resource users. After the devastating soil erosion of the Dust Bowl in 1929, it was widely recognized that landowners needed to apply conservation practices to their operations in order to conserve the natural resources for theirs and future generations. The U.S. Government had already established the Soil Conservation Service in 1935 to provide information and technical assistance but it took the establishment of the smaller, locally run Conservation Districts to really make an impact and bring the important information and assistance to the rural populations. Since 1945 LRCD has served the Albany County community with it's many programs and financial assistance in order to conserve valuable natural re-

Laramie Lettuce Fields 1921



Ludwig Svenson Collection, American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming.



"Every person is a conservationist. Each individual instinctively sees to preserve and improve their life and enhance the environment that supports it.

Conservation is not saving for the sole purpose of saving. Only misers do that. True conservationist are dedicated to actions that contribute to the wise use of soil, water, forests, grass, and wildlife. Their cardinal concern is that mankind have the use and enjoyment of these resources today and for all time to come."

From Laramie Rivers Newsletter

February, 1962



LRCD PROJECTS THROUGH THE YEARS

Laramie Rivers Conservation District has worked with hundreds of ranchers, ag producers, and landowners over the past 70 years. Beginning in the late 40's to the 60's the board of supervisors worked continually to encourage Albany County ranches to take advantage of the many programs offered through the United States Department of Agriculture and the Soil Conservation Service to address soil erosion and watershed management.

(Continued next column)

LRCD PROJECTS CONT.

Beginning in the 1960's Conservation Districts, along with the federal agencies, began addressing other issues such increased recreational use of lands, water and soil pollution, and land reclamation projects. In the past 20 years, LRCD started many of the projects and programs residents are familiar with today. In the 1980's some of the LRCD participated in the Toltec Dam project and the Wyoming Soil Survey. In the 90's, saw the beginnings on the Conservation Kids programs, the start of the Living Snow Fence/Windbreak program and a Cost Share grant that went toward installing the first stock water tank filled by a solar pump. Since 2000, LRCD has continued expanding outreach trough enlarging the conservation programs for K-12 kids, building community gardens, organizing an annual seedling tree sale and Conservation Expo, and so much more. With an eye on the future, LRCD sees involvement in many more areas for conserving our natural resources for generations to come.



WATER IN THE VALLEY ~ THEN AND NOW

RESOURCES OF ALBANY COUNTY, WYOMING.

PRECIPITATION AT LARAMIE FOR 20 YEARS.

YEARS.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
1891	0.70	0.38	1.50	0.25	2.92	0.91	1.20	1.76	1.80	0.30	1.00	1.11	13.92
1892	0.01	0.36	0.52	0.19	1.16	3.97	2.22	0.14	T.	3.96	T.	0.20	12.73
1893	T.	0.11	0.29	0.32	0.33	0.54	0.34	1.08	0.39	0.28	0.06	0.10	3.84
1894	0.03	0.10	0.29	1.51	0.42	0.64	1.41	1.26	1.60	0.09	0.05	0.23	7.03
1895	0.08	0.14	0.43	0.87	2.09	2.12	2.71	1.17	0.18	0.74	0.32	0.33	11.15
1896	0.44	0.17	0.59	3.53	2.37	1.72	1.66	0.89	1.16	0.18	0.09	T.	12.80
1897	0.39	0.35	4.23	0.55	1.85	0.72	1.29	1.11	0.32	0.55	0.33	0.77	12.48
1898	0.05	0.01	0.40	1.26	1.88	0.90	0.65	1.16	T.	0.48	0.61	0.23	7.63
1899	0.95	1.13	1.11	1.75	0.37	1.11	2.01	1.43	0.17	1.13	0.07	0.61	11.84
1900	0.01	0.82	0.58	2.91	0.24	0.35	1.25	0.61	1.11	0.56	0.06	0.03	8.53
1901	0.04	0.41	0.05	0.28	3.00	1.73	0.32	1.11	0.09	1.28	T.	0.21	8.52
1902	T.	0.26	0.41	0.88	0.26	0.60	1.49	0.40	1.58	0.74	0.22	0.89	7.73
1903	0.11	0.36	1.09	0.73	1.63	1.09	1.31	0.88	2.37	0.54	0.30	0.07	10.37
1904	0.25	0.11	0.36	0.84	1.74	2.01	1.33	0.93	1.35	0.50	0.04	0.08	9.58
1905	0.39	0.42	0.64	1.21	1.79	0.36	1.79	0.83	1.62	0.46	0.22	0.03	9.76
1906	0.58	0.05	1.01	1.75	0.91	1.71	1.75	0.59	2.09	1.33	0.41	0.39	12.57
1907	0.29	0.15	0.28	0.78	1.09	0.90	3.68	1.28	0.62	0.16	T.	0.23	9.16
1908	0.24	0.08	0.02	0.34	5.57	0.84	2.68	1.93	0.65	0.45	0.38	0.35	13.53
1909	.34	.27	1.11	.76	1.66	.67	1.60	1.87	.97	.50	.29	.24	9.68
1910	0.19	0.04	0.33	0.95	1.90	1.52	1.97	0.27	1.11	1.79	0.06	0.32	10.45
Sum	5.09	5.72	15.24	21.66	33.18	24.32	32.06	20.70	19.20	16.02	4.60	6.42	204.20
Means	.25	.29	.76	1.09	1.66	1.22	1.61	1.03	.96	.80	.23	.32	10.21



Wagon bridge on the Laramie River in 1868
Photographer unknown
University of Wyoming, American Heritage Center

Upper Laramie Watershed Study Update

In May the Wyoming Water Development Commission (WWDC) awarded a contract to Anderson Consulting Engineers of Ft. Collins to conduct a watershed study in the Upper Laramie River Watershed (above Wheatland #2 reservoir). Anderson is currently working on the Upper Platte in the Saratoga Valley and knows the area fairly well. This watershed study is a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary evaluation of the watershed and its water resources, including the identification of water supply needs and development of a watershed management plan that identifies individual projects and problem areas within the watershed. One major goal of the study is to identify potential water development projects with interested land owners or irrigation districts and get them ready for application to the Small Water Development Program. Watch for a first meeting announcement later in the summer, for an opportunity to bring your ideas for projects to the table. For more information contact Tony Hoch at 307-721-0072 Ext. 101 or tony.hoch@lrcd.net

Laramie Regional Airport - Preliminary Data

Source: <http://www.weather.gov/climate/index.php?wfo=cys>

Month	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
JAN	0.06	0.04	0.13	0.30	0.03	0.13	0.05	0.31	0.14	0.38	0.16	0.15	0.68	0.12
FEB	0.07	0.25	0.10	0.20	0.05	0.09	0.16	0.04	0.30	0.49	0.95	0.42	0.51	0.67
MAR	0.95	0.95	0.00	0.49	0.21	0.85	0.26	0.06	0.50	0.40	trace	0.34	0.54	0.17
APR	0.23	1.28	1.32	0.81	0.58	0.95	0.38	1.30	2.14	1.96	0.54	0.71	0.80	1.73
MAY	0.82	1.73	0.69	1.06	0.86	1.42	3.59	1.36	1.24	1.21	0.21	0.99	2.55	2.71
JUN	0.38	0.82	2.86	3.29	0.46	0.33	1.81	2.36	2.29	1.36	0.24	0.44	0.76	
JUL	0.50	1.11	1.07	0.97	1.57	2.20	0.58	2.30	0.78	1.17	1.48	1.89	3.32	
AUG	1.47	0.78	1.77	0.70	1.40	1.74	1.56	1.03	1.16	0.65	0.34	2.34	1.63	
SEPT	0.58	0.76	3.03	0.43	1.25	1.51	1.19	0.90	0.06	0.89	0.47	3.05	2.07	
OCT	0.75	0.46	0.62	1.05	0.61	1.42	0.18	0.96	1.49	1.31	1.01	2.08	0.30	
NOV	0.06	0.59	0.22	0.71	0.06	0.07	0.24	0.38	1.46	0.41	0.16	0.46	0.54	
DEC	0.07	0.42	0.04	0.06	0.09	0.35	0.20	0.72	0.76	0.06	0.42	0.1	0.14	
Total:	5.94	9.19	11.85	10.07	7.17	11.06	10.20	11.72	12.32	10.29	5.98	12.97	13.84	5.40

ALBANY COUNTY
CATTLE-WOMEN

PRESENT

**THE
ALBANY
COUNTY
RANCH TOUR**



WHEN: July 18th, 2015 ~ 8:00am

WHERE: Meet in City Park,
Rock River to tour the
Rock River to Garrett
area.

WHY: An event celebrating
agriculture and the
ranching lifestyle.

RSVP: Dicksie May
307-745-8937



**NRCS ANNOUNCES
FUNDS AVAILABLE
FOR WORKING LANDS
FOR WILDLIFE
PROGRAM FOR THE
GREATER SAGE
GROUSE INITIATIVE**

Laramie – Funding is available and applications are currently being accepted for the Working Land for Wildlife (WLFW) Greater Sage-Grouse Initiative. The WLFW initiative is a partnership between NRCS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to use agency technical assistance expertise combined with financial assistance to combat the decline of seven specific wildlife species, including the Greater Sage-grouse in Wyoming. All applications on file by **Friday, June 19, 2015** will be considered for funding. Site visits will be conducted with the producer to evaluate proposed practices that will benefit sage grouse and the land.

- Installing grazing infrastructure such as fences and water tanks to improve grazing management.
- Applying herbicide to control noxious species such as cheat grass to restore or release plant communities and improve wildlife habitat.
- Removing conifer trees that are encroaching into sagebrush ecological sites.



If you are interested in implementing any of these types of projects on your land please contact Ruben Vasquez at the Laramie NRCS field office at 307-745-3698, or stop by the NRCS/LRCD field office located at 5015 Stone Road for additional information.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

Laramie Rivers Conservation District - A History of Touring

Sponsoring and conducting tours is a long tradition for LRCD. In addition to granting financial assistance to groups like the Albany County Cattle-Women, LRCD has enjoyed leading residents on conservation themed tours for decades. These are a few snippets from our newsletter archive:

July, 1963:

- ◇ 1st Stop - Pole Mountain to see work on deferred grazing
- ◇ 2nd Stop - Chimney Rock Ranch to see Sagebrush spraying
- ◇ 3rd Stop—Hutton Lake Refuge to view different types of irrigation water control structures and see example of properly managed range land.

June 1970:

- ◇ 1st Stop - North Wallis Lane to John Bells then on to Jack Wallis' to view various conservation projects.
- ◇ 2nd Stop - Bosler to Tom Page's ranch to view his land leveling project and the newly installed suspension fence.
- ◇ 3rd - Todd Windsor's to look at the new sprinkler with a 16 tower circular type sprinkler (Editor's note: we believe this may have been the first center pivot used in this area)
- ◇ 4th Stop - UW Agronomy farm to look at the new beef production units.

August 1983:

- ◇ Tour of the Toltec Dam construction site to see beginning pouring of the principal spillway. (Toltec Reservoir is 1 mile long, 1/2 mile wide and covers 376 acres.

Summer 2005:

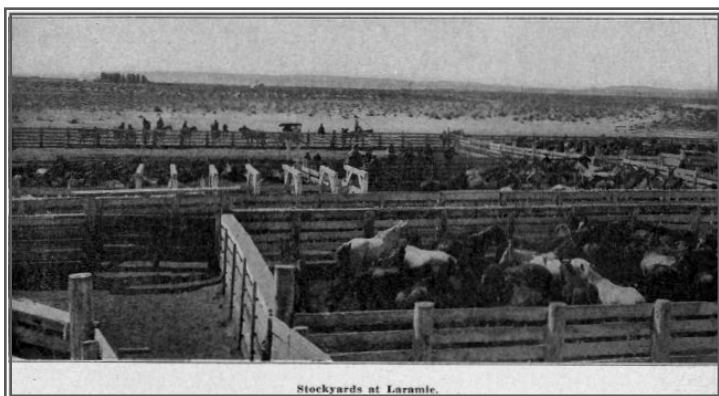
- ◇ Director Tony Hoch held his 3rd annual geology field trip for Eppson Center Seniors that included a 5 mile hike up the flank of Sheep Mountain and a brief lecture on geological structures of the Centennial Valley.



**LARAMIE RIVERS
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**
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LARAMIE, WY 82070
PHONE: (307) 721-0072



NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #9
LARAMIE, WY
82070



Stockyards at Laramie

SOIL, WATER, AND PLANT ANALYSIS COST SHARE PROGRAM

Potable Water
Trace Minerals in water
Irrigation and Livestock water
Forage testing for nutritional value
Soil testing for gardens for crops

The SW&P Analysis Cost Share is a matching program in which up to 50% of project costs may be reimbursed by the District up to \$500 total.

If interested or want to know more, please contact us @ 721-0072.

Our knowledgeable staff can assist with understanding the different tests that are available,

Garden Mix
40% Soil
30% Compost
10% each of sand, peat, wood-chip

3rd Annual Soil Sale

Both are \$30/cubic yard
We will sell by the gallon if needed.

Compost
25% each of cow, sheep, goat,
& chicken manure
composted 12-18 month