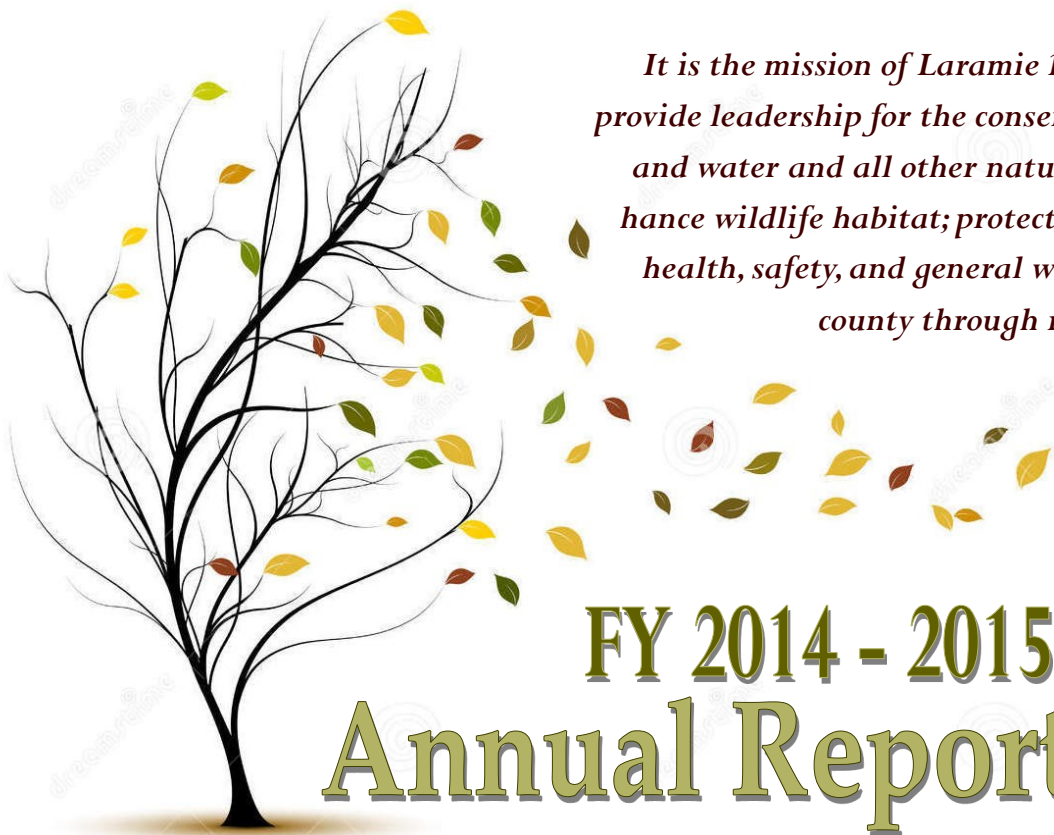


It is the mission of Laramie Rivers Conservation District to provide leadership for the conservation of Albany County's soil and water and all other natural resources; preserve and enhance wildlife habitat; protect the tax base; and promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of Albany county through responsible conservation ethic.



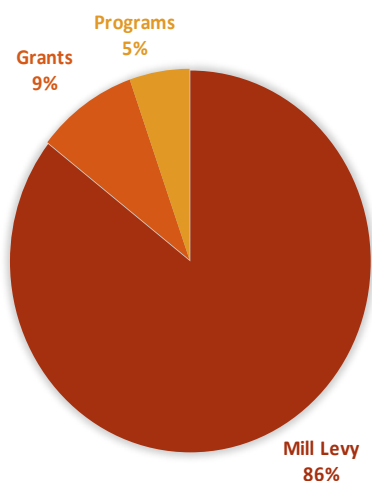
FY 2014 - 2015 Annual Report

Revenue:

- ◇ **Mill Levy:** LRCD is one of twelve special districts in Albany County and receives 1 Mill annually from the Albany County Commissioners to support conservation efforts. As a recipient of this funding, LRCD continually works at providing the very best conservation programs, technical advice, and financial support to rural and urban residents. It is our honor to serve our community and we appreciate feedback that helps us decide where our funds are best directed.
- ◇ **Grants:** LRCD looks for grant opportunities that can further conservation projects in our County. In FY 2014-15 we received funding from five grants ranging from \$2000 to \$25,000. This support helped LRCD carry out the following conservation projects:
 - ◆ Hutton Lake - finished work on the 3 year project by designing and installing informative birdwatching signage on the newly constructed viewing deck and reseeded areas disturbed by previous years construction. (Wyoming Wildlife Natural Resource Trust [WWNRT] grant)
 - ◆ Weed abatement in Rock River reducing invasive Russian Knapweed and Whitetop. (WWNRT grant)
 - ◆ Water quality monitoring on the Laramie Rivers. (WY Association of Conservation Districts and WY Dept. of Ag. grants)
 - ◆ Educational gardens installed at Centennial Elementary School (Laura Jane Musser Fund and WY Dept. of Ag grants)
 - ◆ ADA Pathway installed at LaBonte Park Learning Center (City of Laramie grant)
 - ◆ Continued monitoring of Wyoming Toad reintroduced on a volunteer participants property. (USFWS Safe Harbor grant)
 - ◆ Continuing site analysis and clean up of N. Cedar refinery property (EPA grant)
- ◇ **Programs:** For 70 years, LRCD has worked with ranchers, ag producers, and landowners encouraging use of the programs designed to address conservation concerns. Our current programs that bring in revenue include:

INCOME

Total \$521,211



- ◇ Equipment Rental - providing use of pipe welder, Dew Drop seed drill & harrow, and tractor-puller rototiller.
- ◇ Soil Sale - offering garden soil & compost at a bulk rate to assist gardeners creating raised beds or amending existing beds.
- ◇ Tree Survival Aids - Sale of drip irrigation parts, tree shades, mulch fabric, TransFilm anti-desiccant, and other items.
- ◇ Seedling Tree Sale - This year was 28th annual sale of seedling trees to the public with nearly 5000 trees sold.
- ◇ Living Snow Fence - for 30 years LRCD has designed and installed Living Snow Fences throughout Albany County. This past spring, Resource Specialist Martin Curry planted 7 new LSF's that will add beauty, provide protection, prevent soil erosion, and manage drifting snow for years to come.

For our complete budget, please visit www.lrcd.net

Expenses:

As a recipient of Mill Levy funds collected from Albany County residents, LRCO takes fiscal responsibility seriously as we provide programs and take on projects that benefit the community. We employ many checks and balances throughout our financial policies and procedures to ensure a high-degree of integrity with how we use funds. We strive to keep administrative costs within reason and devote resources toward providing programs and services that benefit as many people as we can reach. Our key services and projects this past year include:

Regular Cost Share grant- \$16,000 awarded toward 14 projects including Living Snow Fences, Xeriscaping, water conservation, and educational events.

Rural Cost Share grant - \$20,000 toward 7 projects including solar arrays for stock water pumps, replacement of old stock tanks with tire-tanks, riparian area fencing, and Albany County Clean-up Day.

Analytical Cost Share - Launched our newest cost share program designed to assist residents with costs associated with analysis tests on soils, water, and plants.

K-12 Education - \$70,000 for conservation education, including educational gardens, nature fieldtrips, macroinvertebrates study, water quality education, wildlife habitat, biodiversity, recycling, resource conservation, community clean-up projects, along with the professional staff person, Trish Penny, who brings it all to life.

Adult Education - \$7500 toward the Conservation Expo, workshops, publications, and further outreach for adults, often in collaboration with UW Extension, US Forest Service, Albany County Weed & Pest, and others.

Youth group support - \$3800 for youth groups and activities in agriculture and conservation sciences.

Information Outreach - \$10,000 for keeping the community informed through newsletters, website, advertising, and publications by staff and other agencies/organizations.

Community Gardens - \$1200 for the LaBonte Park Learning Center gardens where kids participate in summertime programs with hands-on learning growing vegetables & flowers, beekeeping and much more.

Wildlife Projects - \$33,000 went toward projects aimed at improving habitat (Lake Hutton) and maintaining biodiversity (Wyoming Toad project).

Trees & Shrubs - \$16,000 for seedlings trees and tree survival aides for the annual tree sale. Each year LRCO sells over 4500 seedling trees that are planted by residents throughout the Laramie community. These trees and shrubs provide benefits far into the future and for many generations.

North Cedar/Old Refinery Brown field remediation - In 2015 LRCO invested \$25,000 into the clean-up of the old refinery on N. Cedar and in June EPA awarded a \$200,000 EPA Brownfield grant for the final phase remediation. Although our long-term plans for the property are not certain, once finished, there are many possibilities we are considering.

Community Beautification - through our Regular Cost Share program as well as participation with Laramie Beautification Committee, LRCO provides financial and technical assistance to projects focused on beautification. Water-wise gardens, native landscapes, public art, and community clean-up days are some of the many ways we help keep Laramie looking great!

