



**High Country
Resource Conservation
& Development Council
Annual Report**

2008

HIGH COUNTRY RC&D COUNCIL

Mission Statement

Promote, assist, and deliver local RC&D efforts, projects, and programs within our ten-county area.

Vision Statement

To be recognized as a leader within the RC&D area in rural development and natural resource conservation.

2008 Goals and Objectives

Protect and Improve the Natural Resource Base

- *Assist intrastate and interstate coordination for invasive species control.*
- *Assist Cooperative Weed Management Areas.*
- *Assist the development of new agricultural related business opportunities that encourage resource conservation.*

Improve community assets within the High Country RC&D Area

- *Support RC&D sponsors efforts to develop and implement plans and projects that reduce risks from natural hazards.*
- *Assist local sponsors to develop new or improve existing facilities and services.*

Improve High Country RC&D Council Operations

- *Improve efficiency and delivery of the RC&D program.*
- *Maintain existing operations.*

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Introduction

The High Country Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc. (HCRC&D) was authorized for planning by the Secretary of Agriculture in August of 1979 under the authority of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1962, Soil Conservation Act of 1935, and other authorities. HCRC&D area is managed by a RC&D Council. Area covers over 12.5 million acres. Seventy-six percent of the land is federally owned.

The HCRC&D area serves over 185,000 people and includes Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, Teton counties and a portion of Teton County, Wyoming.

The HCRC&D Council is a non-profit organization, with Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3) tax exemption incorporated with the State of Idaho. HCRC&D assists its sponsors by providing specialized technical assistance and support to projects that are consistent with a balanced and sustainable environment, community, and economy. Sponsors include county government, city government, and conservation districts. Project partners include federal, state, and local agencies, non-profit organizations and foundations, private business, and individuals.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service provides a staff to assist the Council with implementation of its long range priorities, objectives, and courses of action. The Council acts to accomplish projects, which are carried out by sponsors with assistance from an RC&D Coordinator and Program Assistant.

Program development and priorities are guided by an Area-wide Council of elected and appointed officials representing our sponsors. One member from each county serves on our Board of Directors, which is the action arm of the Council. The Council consists of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary/Treasurer. Actions taken at meetings include adopting the annual plan of work, reviewing by-laws, adopting a budget, and reviewing project action. RC&D projects are adopted by the Council as a means of accomplishing Council objectives.

2008 Financial Report

Opening Balance 1/1/08 \$70,775.00

RECEIPTS

HFCWMA 2007	3,500.00
HFCWMA 2008	34,697.88
Henry's Lake EWM	144,724.14
USRCWMA 2007	4,300.00
USRCWMA 2008	51,017.97
USRCWMA FS 2008	39,162.12
Cloud Seeding 2007/08	52,916.67
Cloud Seeding 2008/09	89,725.00
Bonneville Co. Mosquito Project	9,088.19
Wildfire Planning Services	15,000.00
All Hazards Mitigation Plans Adm.	3,350.00
Sponsor Dues 2008	3,300.00
Checking Account Interest	877.03

EXPENDITURES

HFCWMA 2007	370.38
HFCWMA 2008	33,720.00
Henry's Lake EWM	144,354.19
USRCWMA 2007	5,012.27
USRCWMA 2008	56,394.53
USRCWMA FS 2008	35,174.00
Cloud Seeding 2007/08	46,832.62
Cloud Seeding 2008/09	38,344.94
Bonneville Co. Mosquito Project	8,655.40
Wildfire Planning Services	13,356.45
Teton County Bio Control	225.07
Taxes and Insurance	2,940.41
990 Tax Preparation	450.00
Financial Audit	3,700.00
National RC&D Association Dues	450.00
Idaho RC&D Association Dues	200.00
Council Travel for Conferences and Meetings	2,324.53
Western RC&D Association Dues	200.00
Annual Sponsors Meeting & Tour	699.24
Postage	136.72
Website and Internet Expenses Fees	682.95
Newspaper Subscriptions	89.50
Office Supplies	108.09
Miscellaneous Operating Expenses	167.99
Wages	12,692.26
Mileage Reimbursement	389.43
Newsletter	254.40

TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$451,659.00	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$408,880.30
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End of Year Summary

Balance brought forward as of 1/1/08	\$70,775.00
2008 Receipts	451,659.00
2008 Expenditures	408,880.30

Projects and General Operating Balance as of 12/31/08

General Operating	33,388.89
Southfork Bio Weed Control	1,086.79
Teton County Bio	68.93
Funder's Fair	552.87
CWMA Support Money	1,458.26
Community Forestry	1,000.85
CERT 2003 Supplemental Funds	500.00
USRCWMA FS 2008	2,229.42
Cloud Seeding 2008/09	72,292.00
Wildfire Planning Services	975.69

Total Ending Balance as of 12/31/08 \$113,553.70

High Country Resource Conservation and Development Area

2008 Sponsors

Bonneville County

Bonneville County Commission
 Eastside Soil and Water Conservation District
 Westside Soil and Water Conservation District
 City of Iona City of Idaho Falls
 City of Ammon
 City of Ucon

Jefferson County

Jefferson County Commission
 Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District
 Mud Lake Soil and Water Conservation District
 City of Mud Lake

Butte County

Butte County Commission
 Butte Soil and Water Conservation District

Lemhi County

Lemhi County Commission
 Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District

Clark County

Clark County Commission
 Clark Soil Conservation District
 City of Dubois

Madison County

Madison County Commission
 Madison Soil and Water Conservation District
 City of Rexburg
 City of Sugar City

Custer County

Custer County Commission
 Custer Soil and Water Conservation District
 City of Challis

Teton County, WY

Teton, WY County Commission
 Teton Conservation District

Fremont County

Fremont County Commission
 Yellowstone Soil Conservation District
 City of Ashton
 City of St. Anthony

Teton County

Teton County Commission
 Teton Soil Conservation District
 City of Driggs
 City of Victor

High Country RC&D Board of Directors for 2008

(The Board of Directors met 4 times during 2008)

BONNEVILLE	Dave Radford	County Commissioner
BUTTE	John Traughber	County Commissioner
CLARK	Allyn May	County Commissioner
CUSTER	Wayne Butts	County Commissioner
FREMONT	Paul Romrell	County Commissioner
JEFFERSON	Michelle Harrington	Deputy County Administrator
LEMHI	Brett Barsalou	County Commissioner
MADISON	Ralph Robison	County Commissioner
TETON	Louis Christensen	Mayor, City of Driggs
TETON, WY.	Boyd Bowles	Associate Supervisor, Teton, WY SCD

Council Officers for 2007-2009

Chairman – Dave Radford, County Commissioner, Bonneville County
 Vice-Chairman – Ralph Robison, County Commissioner, Madison County
 Secretary/Treasurer – Louis Christensen, Mayor, City of Driggs

2008 Project Review

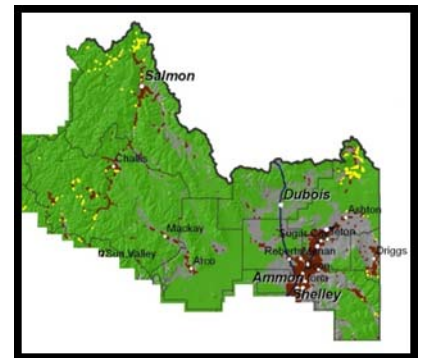


Bonneville County West Nile Virus (WNV) Mosquito Pilot Project: (On-going)

During 2008, one biological science intern and a project manager from BYU-I were hired to implement this project. The goal of the project was to establish a cost effective mosquito surveillance and monitoring program targeting select regions of Bonneville County. The objective was to provide real time data to County and City officials regarding the status of mosquito populations so that appropriate treatment options can be initiated to reduce exposure to WNV. Using GPS technology, they identified and treated over 200 bodies of water.

2008/09 Cloud Seeding Program: (On-going) The RC&D Cloud Seeding committee is implementing a program in Eastern, Idaho for the 2008/09 winter season. The committee decided to proceed with fundraising efforts through mail and phone with the target goal of \$150,000. Total funds raised to date are \$112,147. Funding partners include: Water District 1, Counties, Cities, Irrigations Districts, Ground Water Districts, Idaho Falls Power, Rocky Mountain Power, Madison Farm Bureau, Snowmobile clubs, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The project is contracted through Clark County. A total of 24 manually operated generators were set up in Bingham, Bonneville, Clark, Fremont, Madison and Teton counties. A big addition to the project this year was a partnership with Idaho Power. They set up three remote generators in the Cloud Seeding area, a weather station in Ashton, and balloon launching is being done. North American Weather Consultants from Utah was contracted to monitor and analyze seeding results.

Wild land Urban Interface Community Assistance: (On-going) Wildfires pose a significant threat to life and property for individual landowners and communities within the nine county HCRC&D area. The Bureau of Land Management awarded the HCRC&D a grant for \$101,000 to be used for wild land fire planning services. The primary objective is to assist our sponsors to turn existing County Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) into action. Assistance will be prioritized towards those counties where the partners actively support taking action, but lack the internal capacity to undertake the priority tasks identified in their CWPP. This project will go through August of 2010.



City of Challis Skate Park: (On-going) The city has constructed phase one and two of the skate park. HCRC&D provided grant assistance, which the city received \$40,000 for phase one and \$35,000 for phase two. Another \$40,000 will be needed to finish phase three. The youth have already been using the park with positive results. About 6,200 square feet are now open for use. They are looking for additional funds to finish the 3rd phase.

Upper Snake River Cooperative Weed Management Area (USRCWMA): (Completed) The USRCWMA was established by the Bonneville, Teton, Madison, Jefferson and Bingham County Commissioners in partnership with the state and federal agencies that manage lands within those counties. The USRCWMA provides a forum to coordinate area wide activities to prevent, contain, and control non-native invasive plants and noxious weeds on



public and private lands. Fifteen cost share projects were implemented during 2008 with Idaho State Department of Agriculture funding of \$105,814. Projects included: land treatment, landowner cost-share projects, mapping and inventory projects and biological control projects. Some of the projects implemented during 2008 have been on-going for several years and are resulting in some very successful noxious weed treatments. The RC&D administers the ISDA grant and provides technical support to the CWMA.

Henry's Fork Cooperative Weed Management Area (HFCWMA): (Completed) The HFCWMA is a cooperative effort to manage, contain, reduce and eradicate noxious weeds in all of Fremont County plus the southwestern portion of Yellowstone National Park and a portion of Teton County, Wyoming that lies within the Ashton Ranger District. In 2008, six projects were implemented with Idaho State Department of Agriculture funding for a total of \$35,720. Following are some of the projects that were implemented during 2008: Two-way cost share spraying projects targeting Leafy Spurge and Knapweed, purchase of biological insects distributed in several locations within Fremont County, Dyers Wood Early Detection, and cooperative spray days with several partners. HCRC&D also administered this ISDA grant.



Upper Snake River Cooperative Weed Management Area: (On-going) A grant for 2009 was submitted and awarded by the Idaho Department of Agriculture for a total of \$150,575.

Henry's Fork Cooperative Weed Management Area: (On-going) A grant for 2009 was submitted and awarded by the Idaho Department of Agriculture for a total of \$70,533.

Henry's Lake Eurasian Water milfoil (EWM) Prevention Project: (Completed) High Country RC&D assisted Fremont County by developing a grant request to the Idaho Department of Ag for Eurasian water milfoil prevention, which targeted Henry's Lake. The total funds awarded were \$160,923. The money was used to protect the lake from invasion of EWM by initiating a public information outreach campaign targeted at recreational users of the lake, completing over 140 surveys at Henry's Lake using Idaho's protocol, and initiating a boat cleaning program at public and private launching facilities on the lake with two self-contained boat washes and four high pressure washers. Summer lake sampling showed no EWM in Henry's Lake so far, however many boater's surveys showed them boating in infected waters from in and out of state waters.



Henry's Lake EWM Prevention Project: (On-going) A grant for 2009 was submitted and awarded by the Idaho Department of Agriculture for a total of \$138,910.

"Holding the Line" Forest Service Grant: (On-going) A grant for 2009 was submitted and awarded by the U.S. Forest Service for \$57,000 to prevent leafy spurge from invading currently clean areas in Southeastern Idaho and Yellowstone National Park.

All Hazards Mitigation Plans: (On-going) Madison County received a grant from Bureau of Homeland Security to develop comprehensive FEMA approved All Hazard Mitigation Plans (AHMPs) in each of the nine counties. HCRC&D is administering the grant. These plans will identify and quantify natural hazards that pose a threat and develop strategies to mitigate risks before a disaster occurs. In the end, projects identified in the plan may be eligible for FEMA funding. Whisper Mountain Professional Services was awarded the contract. This project should be completed by May of 2009.

Community Forestry Program: (On-going) In 2008, the following cities within the High Country RC&D received Community Forestry grants: **Community Transportation Enhancement:** Ucon, Idaho Falls, and Salmon; **Tree City USA:** Ammon, Ashton, Driggs, Dubois, Idaho Falls, Iona, Mackay, Menan, Rexburg, Salmon, St. Anthony, Sugar City, Ucon, and Victor; **Arbor Day Grants:** Dubois, Mackay, Stanley, Ashton, and Ririe. Gerry Bates, Community Forester assisted the cities with these grants.



Other Projects

Fremont County Economic Development Strategic Plan: (Complete) Fremont County received a grant from the Idaho Department of Ag to develop an Economic Development Plan. They hired a full-time Economic Development Specialist and partnered with Island Park and West Yellowstone to work together on economic activities. HCRC&D was part of the steering committee and has participated in planning meetings.

Carbon Sequestration: (On-going) National Carbon Offset Coalition (NCOC) provides an opportunity for landowners, public and private corporations, tribal, local and state governments to participate in a market-based conservation program that can help offset the environmental impacts of greenhouse gases. Sequestration of carbon through natural resource based programs can help reverse soil, water and air degradation, while providing enhancement of wildlife and recreational opportunities. High Country RC&D became an NCOC Affiliate Member in 2007.

Teton Valley Arena: (On-going) Teton County lacks an indoor multi-purpose community facility for its citizens. They would like to construct a 150 x 300 foot building, which will provide a safe environment for the youth and citizens of the county. The fairground property has already been donated by the county. High Country RC&D (HCRC&D) is assisting with grant research and grant writing to raise the needed funds.

Teton Creek Restoration: (On-going) This project is located on Teton Creek in Teton County. The stream bank and riparian vegetation has been removed and eight feet of channel is gone. Friends of the Teton River is seeking additional funding to repair and stabilize one mile of the most critical stream bank channel and requested HCRC&D to assist with grant writing and identify additional grant sources.

Butte County Skate Park: (On-going) Butte County and the Lost Rivers Youth Coalition would like to provide area youth with a clean and safe recreational opportunity by constructing a skate board park with the City of Arco. They requested grant writing assistance to help locate funds for this project.

Other Activities and Accomplishments

Dave Radford, Wayne Butts, and Michelle Harrington attended the Idaho RC&D Association spring meeting in Boise. A presentation was given by Idaho Department of Ag on "Don't Move a Mussel" that was very interesting. Dave Radford also attended the fall Idaho RC&D Association meeting in Boise with a Leadership & Strategic presentation given by Dr. John Luthy with the Futures Corporation.

The High Country RC&D Annual Sponsors Meeting was held on March 27, 2008. Presentations were given by Rick Fawcett on the All Hazards Mitigation Plans project; Kevin Conran with Bureau of Land Management on the Federal Fire program; and Paul Romrell gave an updated report on the Cloud Seeding program. The Council also discussed and approved their 2008 Annual Plan of Work.

The High Country RC&D Tour was hosted by Fremont County on August 21, 2008. The tour consisted of a Dyer's Woad noxious weed site, the Henrys Lake Eurasian Water milfoil project, Red Zone Wildfire Risk Assessment, and the Fremont County Sewer System. Lunch was held at the Lakeside Lodge in Island Park.

Dave Radford attended the Idaho Wildland Fire Conference on October 8-9, 2008 in Boise. The following topics were covered: Restoring Forest & Rangeland Ecosystems, Structural Protection, Fire Education, Land Use Planning, Living on the Edge, and County Working Groups.