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## CODY CONSERVATION DISTRICT COST-SHARE PROGRAMS EFFECTIVE JUNE 5, 2024

The Cody Conservation District (CCD) is a nonregulatory government entity that provides a local voice for resource concerns and exists to assist the community with natural resource management. To promote the stewardship of our land, water, and other natural resources, the District is pleased to offer multiple cost share programs to the citizens of Park County. Services offered through resource conservation programs listed are contingent upon the availability of funding.

The CCD partners on projects that demonstrate public benefit. Applicants are encouraged to fully consider the public benefit their proposed project may provide. Examples of public benefits can include continuing agricultural production to maintain open spaces that also support wildlife, enhanced, and sustained outdoor recreation opportunities, improvements to air, land, and water resources, including habitat, resource conservation that reduces the spread of noxious and invasive species, as well as other public benefits not described herein.

### GENERAL GUIDELINES AND ELIGIBILITY

1. Projects must be located within the District boundary. The Cody Conservation District's boundaries include the outlet of Black and White Road in the Chapman Bench area to the north, Lane 16 near Iron Creek to the East, and the South Fork Shoshone River and Dry Creek drainages to the south. The western extent of the CCD's boundary extends into Yellowstone National Park.
2. An on-site visit must be conducted prior to approval of the project; photographs will be taken to document existing site conditions. Applicant agrees to participate in periodic post-project follow-up meetings to evaluate project benefits with CCD staff.
3. Applicants are required to provide a map of the project area, proof of ownership, and attach all cost estimates associated with the cost breakdown on the attached budget sheet. CCD staff can assist applicants with map generation if needed.
4. The CCD Cost Share Program offers a 50/50 match with project partners, with funding caps specified by program. Applicant match can be a combination of cash and in-kind match.
5. If an applicant has not completed or cancelled a project, the applicant will not be eligible to apply for funding for 3 years.
6. If an applicant currently has a project, no other applications will be accepted until the current project is complete, unless seeking additional funding to cost share on current

project.

7. Construction must not begin until the project has been approved by the Board of Supervisors and a contract has been signed by all parties.
8. Any projects that involve state or federally managed lands will need to have a letter of permission to install submitted with the application.
9. Projects must be completed within the timeframe agreed upon in the CCD Cost-Share Program Agreement.
10. Due to time constraints, projects submitted for Wyoming Water Development Office (WWDO), funding must have an engineering design submitted with the application. \*\*\*To increase WWDO prioritization of the application, securing permits, rights of way, easements, and any other agreements necessary to implement the project are encouraged. The CCD will contact applicants for this additional information if their project is selected for sponsorship under the WWDO Small Water Projects Program.\*\*\*

### INELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Ineligible projects or project components include, but are not limited to:

- Projects that are proposed in response to a regulatory action, including settlements, orders, stipulations, or permit conditions.
- Projects where the primary benefit is increased production (crop, livestock, etc.).
- Purchase of real property, including land and permanent structures.
- Project components that would be in direct violation of local, state, or federal regulations.
- Projects that do not demonstrate public benefit.
- Project expenses incurred prior to a signed agreement with the CCD.
- Project maintenance.

### SELECTION PROCESS

Applications are approved or denied at the discretion of the CCD Board of Supervisors. It is the responsibility of the applicant to make the case that the project meets the goals of the program applied for and that it has a public benefit where applicable. The Board will review each application and determine the maximum funding allowed for cost-share assistance.

### PAYMENT

- All projects must be pre-approved before being initiated and must be certified upon completion.
- No payments will be made until the project has been completed and an as-built walk-through has been approved by the CCD.
- Project funds will not be awarded for practices that have not exceeded their expected lifespan. The CCD utilizes USDA NRCS specifications and other professional standards to determine the reasonable life expectancy of conservation practices (i.e., pipeline, wells, tanks, fencing, etc.).
- Changes in project plans must be approved in advance by the CCD.
- Payment rates are shown on the contract signed by the Board of Supervisors and the applicant. Cost-share amounts will be determined by using the most recently approved USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) cost incentive payment rate schedule or an

actual bid that the landowner has obtained from a contractor if the practice is not provided for under the NRCS payment schedule.

- Payments will be issued based on project receipts submitted. Documentation of in-kind match contributions must also be submitted prior to cost share payment being issued.

## **COST SHARE PROGRAMS**

### **Wyoming Water Development Office (WWDO) Small Water Projects Program (SWPP)**

Examples of water improvement projects that benefit wildlife, livestock, or that otherwise positively impact other natural resource conditions include:

- Small reservoirs
- Wells
- Solar Platforms
- Pipelines and Conveyance Facilities
- Springs
- Wetland Developments
- Environmental Projects
- Irrigation Works
- Windmills

This program enables the CCD to partner with landowners and resource management agencies by sponsoring applications for those entities to improve watershed condition and function, namely by water improvement projects that provide public benefit. The SWPP offers a 50/50 cost share up to \$35,000.

For a description of eligible and ineligible projects, program guidance, and the application form, visit the SWPP website [https://wwdc.state.wy.us/small\\_water\\_projects/small\\_water\\_project.html](https://wwdc.state.wy.us/small_water_projects/small_water_project.html).

The Cody Conservation District is available to assist applicants determine project eligibility and complete an application “readiness” review if projects are selected for sponsorship prior to submittal to the WWDO.

**APPLICATIONS ARE DUE ANNUALLY BY 5:00 P.M., THE SECOND TUESDAY OF AUGUST  
(applications submitted after the deadline will be considered for the following years funding)**

### **Cody CD Resource Stewardship Program**

Primarily funded by a variety of state and federal funding sources, this program is available to landowners, and other local, state, and federal stakeholders to partner on conservation practices that improve surface and groundwater quality, water and energy conservation, soil health, fish and wildlife habitat, and projects that reduce soil erosion. This program offers a 50/50 cost-share; awards are made based on the availability of funds. Like the SWPP, projects must demonstrate public benefit. Although projects will be considered across the CCD boundary, priority will be given to projects where the State has identified a need to reduce pollutant loads to waters in Park County. Priority watershed areas include:

- Lower North Fork Shoshone River (HUC 1008001203, from Horse Creek to Buffalo Bill Dam)
- Lower South Fork Shoshone River (HUC 1008001303, from Twin Creek and Rock Creek to Buffalo Bill Dam)
- Trail Creek-Shoshone River (HUC 1008001401, from Buffalo Bill Dam to Buck Creek). Included in this drainage area is Dry Gulch, which currently has pollutant load reduction goals for *E. coli* bacteria and fecal coliform.

Project examples include, but are not limited to:

- Grazing Management (Improved rotation and distribution, stockwater developments, riparian fencing)
- Corral relocations/modifications
- Pet Waste Management
- Irrigation System Improvements
- Streambank and channel stabilization
- Spring and reservoir developments to enhance wildlife/livestock distribution
- Stormwater Management (Rain Barrels, Wet Gardens, Permeable/Porous Paving Projects)
- Road & Trail Improvements (Erosion Control)

**APPLICATIONS ARE DUE ANNUALLY BY 5:00 P.M., FEBRUARY 15<sup>th</sup> and JULY 15<sup>th</sup> (applications submitted after the July deadline will be considered for the following years funding)**

### **Cody CD Rural Well Testing Program**

The CCD offers rural well testing events each year for landowners who are concerned about the quality of their drinking water supply. The CCD offers a 50/50 cost-share payment for one well sample. Samples are submitted to a third-party laboratory in Billings (Energy Labs, Inc.), for processing. Water quality parameters tested under this program include Total Coliform, *E. coli*, Nitrite, Nitrate plus Nitrite, and Total Lead. Qualifications for this program include verification that the applicant is not using sample results for commercial purposes, and that Well Association information is provided if the well sampled is not an individual well. Other program information and requirements are included in the application.

**WELL TESTING EVENTS ARE HELD ANNUALLY IN THE SPRING AND/OR FALL. PLEASE CONTACT THE CCD AT 307.578.8335 OR [conservecody@gmail.com](mailto:conservecody@gmail.com) TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE NEXT SCHEDULED EVENT.**

### **Cody CD Septic Improvement Program**

This program is available to landowners to partner on septic system improvements or replacements within the CCD boundary to reduce water quality and habitat impairments from septic systems. The cost-share for this program is 50%, up to \$7,500, whichever is less. Unfortunately, at this time, funding is not available for emergency situations caused by failed septic systems. Applicants must apply to the CCD Board of Supervisors and receive cost-share approval before commencing work. All work must meet Park County and/or State of Wyoming standards and specifications to be eligible under this program. Prior to reimbursement, applicants are required to bring the following:

- Septic permit provided by the Park County Planning and Zoning Department
- Receipts and/or invoicing showing full payment to contractor(s)
- Completed inspection forms provided by Park County

**APPLICATIONS ARE ACCEPTED MONTHLY (the CCD Board of Supervisors meets the first Wednesday of each month)**

### **Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) Rangeland Health Assessment Program (RHAP)**

The WDA offers a 70/30 cost-share up to \$20,000 for allotment permittees to be more involved

in assessing rangeland health and adaptive management strategies that are based on scientifically defensible data. Rangeland health assessments are a valuable tool for meeting National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements essential for permit renewals. Program information is available at <https://agriculture.wy.gov/rangeland-health-assessment-program>. Like other funding opportunities presented in this document, applications for the RHAP must be sponsored by the CCD. Application deadlines to the WDA vary. **PLEASE CONTACT THE CCD AT 307.578.8335 OR [conservecody@gmail.com](mailto:conservecody@gmail.com) TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE NEXT RHAP APPLICATION DEADLINE.**

**Lower Sage Creek Watershed-National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) Program: 2024-2028**

Primarily funded by the USDA-NRCS, the NWQI Program is currently available for landowners and irrigation districts, to partner on conservation practices that reduce sediment runoff to Sage Creek, and the Shoshone River. The primary focus of these funds is to address soil erosion in the lower Sage Creek Watershed, but projects that additionally reduce the amount of *E. coli* bacteria from animals and nutrients from sources like fertilizer runoff are encouraged. Examples of eligible projects include those listed under the CCD Resource Stewardship Program. **APPLICATIONS ARE ACCEPTED MONTHLY (the CCD Board of Supervisors meets the first Wednesday of each month). \*Applications turned in after early November may not be eligible for funding until October of the following year (federal fiscal cycle). \* PLEASE CONTACT THE USDA-NRCS AT 307.754.9411 OR THE CCD AT 307.578.8335 OR [conservecody@gmail.com](mailto:conservecody@gmail.com) TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE NWQI PROGRAM AND NEXT APPLICATION DEADLINE.**