



Statewide Nonpoint Source Information & Education Program

Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation

March 2016

This project was conducted in cooperation with the
State of Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
and the US Environmental Protection Agency
Project Number C900086360-14



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1.0 Executive Summary

PROJECT TITLE: Statewide Nonpoint Source Information & Education program

PROJECT START DATE: April 2014

PROJECT COMPLETION DATE: March 2016

FUNDING

TOTAL BUDGET: \$36,720

Total 319 funds awarded	\$ 20,970.00
Total 319 funds expended	\$ 20,970.00
Match budgeted	\$ 18,250.00
Match accrued	\$ 56,641.00
Total Project budget	\$ 39,220.00
Total project Expenditures	\$ 77,611.00



SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Statewide Nonpoint Source Information & Education program goals included coordination of a statewide Day of Monitoring, document and inform decision makers and general public of activities and efforts to improve water quality statewide, and implement an additional educational best management practice component of the Pathway to Water Quality project on the Wyoming State Fair Park.

This project resulted in successful implementation of all three aspects of the original project goals, plus an additional task, via a project grant amendment, of developing a project video highlighting stream restoration in the Little Snake River Conservation District.

Wyoming continued to have high participation in the World Day of Monitoring activities, with over 1,100 students participating each year. The Wyoming Watersheds progress report was published as a high quality print document which was distributed statewide and nationally. There were 500 copies of the document produced. Of those, 260 were distributed via direct mail, approximately six copies were delivered in person to Wyoming's congressional delegation, and the remaining were utilized in presentations as well as to respond to requests for copies. There are only eight copies remaining of the report.

In July 2015, seven pet waste stations were installed through the Wyoming Fair Park. These began seeing use within minutes of installation.



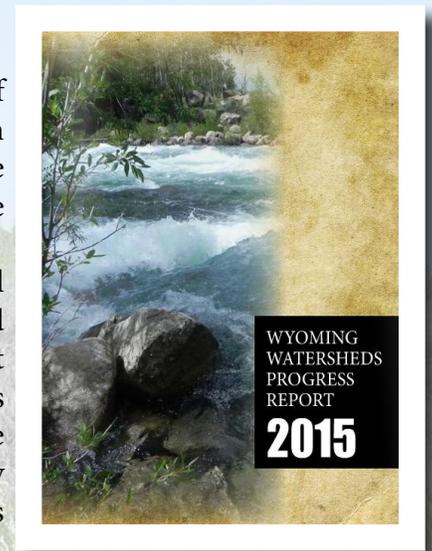
2.0 Background

This project was needed in order to provide for statewide coordination of Day of Monitoring which results in an elevated level of awareness and attention on the issue of water quality monitoring and protection. As well the statewide coordination provides economic savings as materials and supply costs can be reduced through bulk purchasing.

The statewide watershed progress report helps to provide an educational and accountability tool to ensure that local, state and federal agencies, elected officials and partners are aware of efforts undertaken to improve and protect water quality. In addition, this report since its initial publication in 2005 has helped to document efforts and their evolution over time. This helps provide a statewide perspective for priorities and direction in addressing water quality challenges. Without funding support, the Foundation is unable to publish this document.

The initial phases of the Pathway to Water Quality project were implemented on the Wyoming State Fair Park grounds, these first three phases included capture and diverting runoff, managing livestock waste, providing for a constructed wetland that filters runoff prior to entering the North Platte River. All of these showcase, in a unique setting, different management practices. It became apparent through the implementation phase, which started in 2010, that an additional impact needed to be addressed. The State Fair Park sees extensive use for dog walking and exercising. However, no pet waste receptacles existed and subsequently generally dog waste was extensive throughout the grounds.

After the Association through a prior 319 project, developed and published several videos highlighting best management practices across the state, it was determined one additional video on stream restoration activities would be very beneficial. Subsequently the project was amended in July 2014 and funds added in order to develop this video. All of the BMP videos are available on the Foundation's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/ConserveWY>.



<https://www.youtube.com/user/ConserveWY>



3.0 Goals and Outcomes

The goals of the project were successfully achieved with a combined participation in Day of Monitoring activities totaling over 2,400 students in 2014 and 2015, the successful distribution of nearly 500 Wyoming Watersheds Progress Report, the installation of seven pet waste stations and the development and publication of the stream restoration video.

Specifically, the project outcomes by objective included a target of 2,000 K-12 students participating in the World Day of Monitoring activities. This outcome was exceeded with 2,400 students participating and an additional 211 adult educators and volunteers participating. The Saratoga Encampment Rawlins Conservation District had 190 students from Chicago participate in their day of monitoring.

The Wyoming Watersheds Progress Report continues to serve as an important tool in providing accountability and report to local, state and federal agencies and local, state and federal elected officials, as well as a valuable resource tool that has been increasingly requested by the state's library system. There were 500 copies of the report published and only eight copies remain. This report was the focus of a agriculture week news article as well.

The project objective included installation of seven pet waste stations and one interpretative sign. This objective was met with the installation in July 29, 2015 of seven pet waste stations, with 28 – 100 count boxes of disposal bags and one interpretative sign. Within minutes of installation citizens walking their dogs in the wetland area were utilizing the pet waste stations. In early December 2015, only three boxes of disposal bags remained. Subsequently over 2500 disposal bags were utilized in a 7 month period.

In October 2014 a press release was issued statewide announcing the publication of the Little Snake River video. Concurrently the video was posted on the Foundation's YouTube channel. An announcement and link was also posted on the Foundation and the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts Face book pages. To date there have been 89 views of the video. The Foundation would have liked to have seen a higher viewing rate and is researching how to enhance the effectiveness and reach of YouTube videos.



4.0 Task Activities

<i>Task #</i>	<i>Task Title</i>	<i>Task Description</i>	<i>Actual Deliverables</i>
1	<i>Administration</i>	<i>Quarterly payments, reports</i>	<i>5 payment requests, 2 annual reports, final report</i>
2	<i>Day of Monitoring Activities</i>	<i>Coordination 2 annual activities</i>	<i>Purchase and delivery of 82 DOM kits, 2660 promotional items, 2,600 participants</i>
3	<i>Watershed Progress Report</i>	<i>High quality hard copy of report/online version</i>	<i>500 full color Watershed Progress 2015 reports and one online version</i>
4	<i>Install pet waste stations State Fair Park</i>	<i>Install pet waste stations and interpretative sign</i>	<i>Installed 7 pet waste stations and one interpretative sign</i>
5	<i>Development & posting of nonpoint source video</i>	<i>Create one video depicting BMP installation</i>	<i>Produced one video highlighting stream restoration BMPs in Little Snake River CD</i>



5.0 BMP Implementation

Not Applicable



6.0 Monitoring Results

Monitoring of project activities was based on tracking the number of participants in the Day of Monitoring activities and number of districts participating, the number of Watershed Progress reports distributed, and the number of waste disposal bags utilized and state fair personnel observations. The video was added to the project at a later date. Monitoring is based on views of video on YouTube. The monitoring results indicate that the project activities were effective. The video however did not receive the level of viewings desired. The Foundation is currently researching information on increasing effectiveness of social media.

The Foundation inventoried districts for their input and thoughts on continued use of Day of Monitoring supplies and activities. Of those responding, the majority of the districts indicated they found the kits useful and would continue to use them. Several who did not host activities in 2014 or 2015 indicated they would in the future. Several districts underwent staff changes in the last year and it is anticipated that impacted the level of district participation.





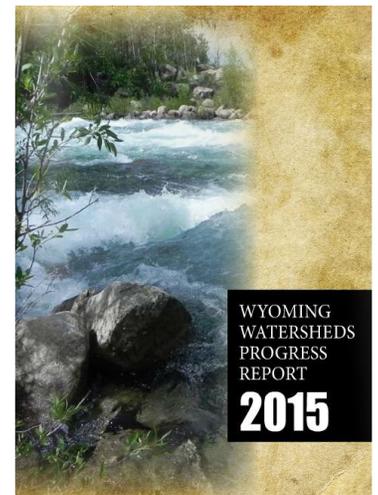
7.0 Partners

Partners included the local conservation districts both in terms of the Day of Monitoring coordination and delivery throughout the state. Approximately half of the districts participated each year in Day of Monitoring. Locally, conservation districts reported assistance and participation in Day of Monitoring field days from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Game & Fish, Bureau of Land Management, Weed & Pest, Waste treatment plant operators, private industry. The educators who have their classrooms participate are one of the most important partners.

The districts are a key partner in the writing and publication of the Watershed Progress Report 2015. The districts compile and submit relevant information for all 303(d) listed waters in the state.

The Wyoming State Fair personnel, Wyoming Board of Agriculture, Converse County Conservation District and local volunteers are vital partners to the Pathway to Water Quality projects, specifically under this project with the installation of the pet waste stations and interpretative sign.

The video production included assistance from the Little Snake River Conservation District, as well as participation of the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service personnel and local contractors.





Section 8.0 Information and Education

This was an Information and Education project. Press releases were issued for Watershed Progress Report and BMP videos. Each individual district conducted their own outreach for Day of Monitoring activities due to varying schedules.



Section 9.0 Complications

The only complication encountered was the cancelation or rescheduling of Day of Monitoring activities and as indicated a decrease in the number of districts participating. The only other issue is the lack of number of “viewings” of the BMP video.



Section 10.0 Recommendations

The Foundation would include in any future Day of Monitoring activities the development of some sort of incentive for district participation. Avenues should be explored for rewarding and encouraging districts to host this event, possibly as part of broader education program recognition.

Also, a means of better promoting the video postings should be explored. It is recommended that future educational efforts include social media advertising budget to allow for additional coverage as well as a drawing or giveaway to entice viewings and participation.

The pet waste receptacles have been highly utilized and there are no other recommendations at this point. There may be a need in the future for additional receptacles to be installed.



Section 10.0 Financial Summary

Task #	Task Title	319 Funds Expended	Nonfederal Match Expended	Total NPS Expenditures	Other Federal Funds Expended
1	<i>Administration</i>	\$1,100.00	\$102.50	\$1,202.50	
2	<i>Day of Monitoring Activities</i>	\$5,909.11	\$46,650.60	\$52,559.71	
3	<i>Watershed Progress Report</i>	\$8,230.82	\$7,641.83	\$15,872.65	
4	<i>Install pet waste stations State Fair Park</i>	\$3,720.07	\$1,197.01	\$4,917.08	
5	<i>Development & posting of nonpoint source video</i>	\$2,010.00	\$1,050.00	\$3,060.00	
	TOTALS	\$20,970.00	\$56,641.94	\$77,611.94	



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