

Sweetwater County Conservation District Community Enhancement Grants

Financial assistance for natural resource conservation projects that benefit our communities.

The Sweetwater County Conservation District is offering grants of up to \$5,000 per application for natural resource conservation projects and/or education. Grant recipients must meet the following criteria:

- A signed application must be submitted by mail, email, or delivered to the Conservation District office by the end of business day on the first Friday of May.
- Applicants' projects must show justification that the project meets the program criteria and describes the county's public benefit.
- Selected projects must be completed by end of day of the last Friday of the year awarded. Unless otherwise preapproved by the Conservation District's Board which meets on the First Thursday of the month. You will need to contact the District no later than 5 business day before the board meeting.
- Progress reports will be required on a quarterly schedule.
- A final report and presentation to the Sweetwater County Conservation District Board of Supervisors will be scheduled within 30 days after the project completion.

If you have questions regarding this application or need technical assistance to design your project, please call the Sweetwater County Conservation District at 307-362-5257 or stop by the office.

Sweetwater County Conservation District

79 Winston Drive, Ste. 103
Rock Springs, WY 82901
307-362-5257

Email: admin@swccd.us

Web Site: <http://www.swccd.us>

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Sweetwater County Conservation District Community Enhancement Grant Application

Purpose

The Sweetwater County Conservation District realizes there are a lot of great ideas for conservation projects out there that could become a reality with a little bit of financial support. SWCCD would like to offer an opportunity for our constituents to complete projects that benefit the public and promote sound resource stewardship. Projects that address soil erosion, water quality and quantity, vegetation resources, energy conservation, wildlife habitat or that beautify the natural landscape along public corridors will be given priority. All projects must be completed within the boundaries of Sweetwater County.

The grants can be written for any amount up to \$5,000. The amount applying for must be clearly stated on the application.

Eligible Participants

These grants are open to any groups, teams, clubs, schools, partnering agencies, businesses, church groups, scouts or other civic organizations with a sincere interest in making a difference. Applicants are free to partner with other organizations for the proposed project. The main responsibility for reporting will lie with the applying organization. SWCCD will select well thought out projects that serve a wide variety of environmental stewardship goals.

Key Information

The following are some basic concepts that will guide the funding:

1. Projects may be done on Public or Private Land providing proper permission is submitted and public benefit is shown.
2. Only one grant may be awarded per group per year.
3. Recipients must provide a progress report every second month (or until project is completed). Failure to provide these reports is cause for grant cancellation and ineligibility to apply the next year.
4. A one-page final report including financials and a short presentation to the Sweetwater County Conservation District Board of Supervisors will be scheduled within 30 days after the project completion. Provide photos where possible in your presentation.
5. Applicants who are awarded a grant but fail to complete the project will not be eligible to apply for grant funding the following year, and will be given a lower priority when re-applying in subsequent years.
6. Projects must benefit natural resources such as water, soil, air, plants and/or animals and the public.
7. Projects cannot improve property for personal monetary gain.
8. Project costs will be reimbursed up to the amount of the grant received, based on actual receipts submitted and documentation of in-kind or cash match contributions. Unused budget money may not be claimed or kept for personal use.
9. All projects must be pre-approved before being initiated and must be evaluated upon completion.
10. If possible, reimbursable purchases should be made within Sweetwater County.
11. Project must show at least 20% in-kind and/or cash match. Please note what the match is the amount on the total project budget/cost estimate summary section of the application.

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12. Projects must be completed by December 30 of the year in which the grant was applied for, unless otherwise approved by the board.

Potential Projects

There are many opportunities out there for natural resource conservation making it impossible to cover every type of project that may come forward.

The following are suggestions, other projects may also be considered:

1. Scout projects that benefit the community and the environment, including Eagle Scout projects.
2. Community beautification or enhancement projects.
3. Windbreaks or living snow fence plantings.
4. Irrigation systems (e.g., installation of efficient drip systems for trees and shrubs).
5. Watershed improvement projects such as improving riparian vegetation.
6. Projects to improve habitat for wildlife and/or livestock.
7. Noxious weed management.
8. Purchase of educational materials related to natural resources and/or agriculture.
9. Projects that provide opportunities for outdoor learning experiences (i.e. outdoor classrooms, nature trails, orienteering, etc.)
10. Projects that help maintain energy savings and efficiency.
11. Projects that encourage recycling.

Eligible Expenses* (suggestive list only; others may be considered upon discussion)

- Seed, trees, shrubs, soil, spike (project specific)
- Support or materials used for irrigation systems or water/riparian enhancements
- Signs, benches, informational structures relating to environmental education
- Equipment rental related to the project
- Fencing, Posts, and wire
- Miscellaneous materials such as garbage bags, tape, rakes, shovels, etc.

Ineligible Expenses*

- Printed material such as brochures for distribution
- Food for project participants and volunteers
- Paid Labor

Final Report and Presentation

A one-page final report including financials and a short presentation to the Sweetwater County Conservation District Board of Supervisors will be scheduled within 30 days after the project completion. Provide photos where possible in your presentation.

The report must include a brief description of your project, the goals and objectives, site location and methods used, results and discussion, including any additional outcomes, if any, a final budget report, pictures and any news coverage of the project. Applicant will also be required to attend a Board of Supervisors meeting to give a brief presentation of the completed project.

Sweetwater County Conservation District Community

Enhancement Grant Application

Please submit the enclosed application form using the following information as a guideline to help you complete the application

Project Description

All applications must include a brief project narrative between 75 or greater words. Decisions regarding the project funding will be based in large part upon your project description. The Board of Supervisors may make recommendations to revise portions of the plan before the project is approved. Some sections may also require more detail upon request from the Board of Supervisors prior to final decision. The following points should be addressed in your narrative

- Current Problems that exist and how your project will improve conditions.
- How will you implement your project? Include a timeline of activities.
- Describe public benefit from your project.
- Monitoring your project, who will be the accountable contact that will provide the reporting and other requirements of the grant?

Project Location

Project Location and site description such as land cover, wildlife communities, existing conditions, current land use, and current threats to the natural values of the site. Hand drawn maps and pictures are acceptable.

Group Affiliation

Briefly describe your group's interest and commitment to Natural Resources.

Sweetwater County Conservation District

APPLICANT'S NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIPODE:

PHONE:

Use MS Word to create text that is used for the application.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION (Map of project area must be included.)

(Please address land ownership, water, soil, and habitat conservation)

Project Justification:

Describe how the project meets the program objectives and how it benefits the public.

Project design life & maintenance:

Describe the projected life-span of the project and how it will be maintained.

Sweetwater County Conservation District Community Enhancement Grant Application

Estimated Project Cost:

Amount of grant applying for:

***Please fill out the attached Budget Sheet.**

A signed application must be submitted by mail, email, or delivered to the Conservation District office by the end of business day on the first Friday in May.

Please provide a detailed cost breakdown and attach cost/bid estimates if applicable. An Excel spreadsheet will be accepted.

Material Description	Estimated Cost	Applicant Contribution (please note if it is in-kind or cash)	Anticipated Conservation District Contribution
Totals	\$	\$	\$