



High Desert News

Sweetwater County Conservation District

Meet and Greet - January 24, 2017

Where: USDA Service Center, 79 Winston Drive, STE 110, Rock Springs

When: 1-4 pm

- Come and visit about the Farm Bill Programs and meet Adam Clark!
- Pictures and updates on the Bitter Creek Drop Structure Project!
- Refreshments will be served!
- Door prizes will be handed out to lucky winners!



Adam and Ranee' Clark and family

The Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Sweetwater County Conservation District are excited to welcome **Adam Clark; Soil Conservationist**. Adam comes to us by way of Alaska, but is from Northern Wyoming where he

worked on his family's farm. Adam's NRCS background started in Torrington as a technician and then moved to Buffalo where he worked on the Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI) and range work. Adam and his family moved to Alaska for 3 years. Adam is very busy at home as he has three boys ages 11, 8 and 4.

Adam and his wife Ranee' are excited to be back in Wyoming and closer to family and looking forward to working with the District, NRCS, Farm Service Agency and serving Rock Springs and the surrounding areas.

Sweetwater County Conservation District Board of Supervisors

Mary Thoman, Chair

Tom Burris, Vice Chair

Jean Dickinson, Secretary

Henry Bliss, Treasurer

Stephanie Anderson, Member

District Staff

Karen Pecheny

District Clerk

Office: 307-362-5257

Natural Resource Conservation Service

Jeff Lewis,

District Conservationist

Adam Clark, Soil Conservationist

NRCS phone: 307- 362-3062 x 3

Farm Service Agency

Jennifer Dutton, County Director

307-362-3062 x 2

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

Conservation Practices and programs for **your land.**

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Is for working lands. It is the largest conservation program in the United States with 70 million acres of productive agricultural and forest land enrolled in CSP. Thousands of people have chosen to enroll in the program because it helps them enhance natural resources and improve their business operation.

CSP helps you build on your existing conservation efforts while strengthening your operation.

Contract payments are based on two components:

- Payments to maintain the existing conservation based on the operation type and number of resource concerns that are meeting the stewardship level at the time of application and
- Payments to implement additional conservation activities.

Learn more at:
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/csp/>

Stop by and visit with Adam to see if the program would be a good fit for you.

Sign up deadline is February 3rd for 2017 funding.

Contact your local NRCS Office:

Natural Resource Conservation Service

Jeff Lewis, District
Conservationist

Adam Clark, Soil Conservationist

79 Winston Dr. Suite 110
Rock Springs, WY 82901
NRCS phone: (307) 362-3062



Adam Clark



Water Quality

Sampling has been conducted to evaluate Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) 303d chloride and E. coli bacteria impairment listings in the watershed. Sampling has supported the 303d impairment listings and allowed identification of areas in the watershed contributing to elevated concentrations of chloride and E. coli. WDEQ will develop a total maximum daily load (TMDL) assignment for E. coli and implement a criterion for chloride within the impaired reaches of the Bitter Creek watershed.

The District applied for and received a Water Quality Grant through the 2017-2018 Water Quality Program with the Wyoming Department of Agriculture. The grant money helps local conservation District's with their watershed planning efforts.

During 2016 the SWCCD conducted spring and fall single sample monitoring at select project locations. Spring sampling coincided with a significant precipitation runoff event which produced high flows at most sites sampled. Flows during fall sampling returned to a typical low flow condition.

WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (WDEQ)

The Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)

The TMDL will resume in 2017. A TMDL assessment is required by the Clean Water Act.



Bitter Creek High Flow

Seedling Trees are now available from SWCCD

Call or stop by the office

79 Winston DR. Suite 103

362-5257

or visit our website at swccd.us and order your trees early for best selection.

Bitter Creek Drop Structure

Come see an update on the project at the Meet and Greet on Tuesday, January 24th

The Pierotto Ditch Project, also known as the Bitter Creek Drop Structure Project, began in the early 1990's. After years of grant writing, getting the needed studies done and gathering support from various groups, construction on the new drop structure is finally underway.

*The Bitter Creek Diversion/Headcut Drainage Area, of which the diversion structure is part, is the largest ephemeral drainage in the United States at 2,200 square miles.

*Anadarko donated almost 20 acres of property to Sweetwater County for the project.

The Pierotto Diversion Structure is located approximately 14 miles east of Rock Springs along Bitter Creek on property owned by Sweetwater County. The construction of the new hydraulic drop structure includes the demolition of the existing concrete irrigation structure and the installation of a new grouted rip rap hydraulic drop structure. Along with the construction of the new drop structure, the project also includes the abandonment of a portion of Pierotto Ditch, an extension of this ditch to Bitter Creek, and the replacement of an existing head gate from Bitter Creek to the Pierotto Ditch. Construction activities include excavation, backfill, installation of sheet piling, and placement of grouted rip rap. In addition, construction of the drop structure is taking place during historical non-peak run off times of Bitter Creek to minimize the magnitude of turbidity in the affected water downstream of the project. The project began in mid-August of 2016 and is expected to be complete by spring of 2017 with vegetative and erosion control re-establishment ending in late 2018.

This head cut protects Interstate 80, industrial sites downstream, Union Pacific Rail Road, grazing activity and the genetically pure flannel mouthed suckers. SWCCD has successfully secured grants from the Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative/Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Desert Fish Habitat Partnership and received support from the Sweetwater County Commissioners.

