

## **SPECIAL REPORT February 4, 2003**

The State Water Forum meeting on February 4, 2003 will be held on the **first floor conference room 1699 in the Herschler Building** on Tuesday, February 4, 2003. This meeting will focus on water planning activities in the various state and federal agencies in Wyoming emphasizing the Water Planning efforts of the Wyoming Water Development Commission. Please plan on attending this meeting to share your watershed plans, and other agency water planning efforts.

## **SPECIAL REPORT**

Larry Hicks, Natural Resources Coordinator, Little Snake River Conservation District (LSRCD) gave the special presentation to the Water Forum. Mr. Hicks talked in depth about the Muddy Creek watershed work the LSRCD has done and how this work paved the way for other watershed projects within the basin. Mr. Hicks noted that all of the watersheds in the basin have active watershed management programs currently. Muddy Creek was a 1995 National demo. project. The issues of interest were fencing, water development, roads, fisheries, and vegetative treatments all combined with the intent of improving the overall watershed health. All of these issues are addressed in the other watersheds as well. Addressing these issues benefited wildlife, fisheries, recreation, livestock grazing, and water quality. Much of the work was geared toward better livestock management by developing stock water away from the stream corridors, fencing to help manage cattle disbursement and protect sensitive areas, and managing the grazing through rotation, etc. Through these processes vegetation was allowed to flourish along the bottomlands, helping improve stream health precipitating better water quality, fisheries, etc. With the addition of vegetation treatments (controlled burns) ephemeral streams began to flow year round. The water developments evolved into larger storage facilities providing more opportunities for larger cattle operations, development of wetlands that wildlife benefit from, and facilitating recreation. While admitting some projects have failed, Mr. Hicks pointed out that the great majority of the work has had very positive results enabling the LSRCD to continue to realize positive watershed health trends on the rest of the basins watersheds through future work.

<b>DATE</b>	<b>AGENCY</b>	<b>DISCUSSION ITEM</b>
February 4 <sup>th</sup>	WWDC, SEO, et. al.	Water Planning Round Table
March 4 <sup>th</sup>	United States Geological Survey – Myron Brooks	USGS update
April 1 <sup>st</sup>	United States Bureau of Reclamation – John Lawson	USBR update
May 6 <sup>th</sup>	University of Wyoming – Greg Wilkerson	Modeling CBM Surface Water Impacts Using Erosion Potential Modeler

## **SEO REPORT**

Chace Tavelli had nothing to report.