



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

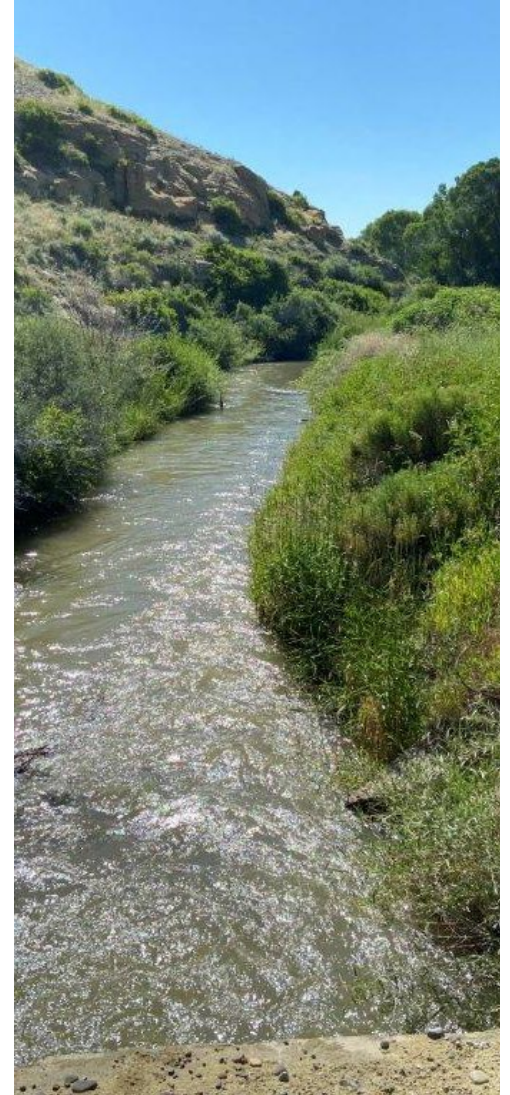


STAC Engineering Update

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

STAC ENGINEERING UPDATE

- Aquifer Testing for Waterwells
- NRCS / WACD Engineering Agreement
- Watershed Projects
 - Upcoming submissions
 - Typical timelines – Long term planning
 - Continuing Resolution impact on funding timelines

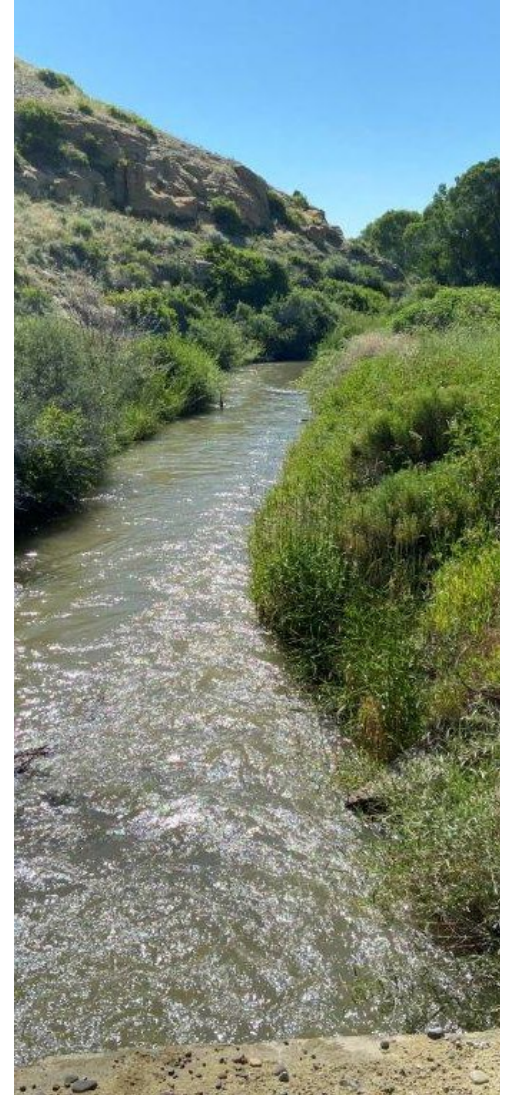


Water Well Testing starting in FY25

- Conservation Practice Standard 642
 - Now includes more specific aquifer testing requirements to verify the well can function as designed
 - Aquifer tests include a step drawdown test and/or a constant rate test
 - Additional funding was added to CPS-642 scenarios to pay for testing
 - Requesting cost verification
 - Multiple contractors currently available in MT have sprung up as a result of MT's implementation of this standard in 2016
 - Anticipate similar results to meet demand in WY

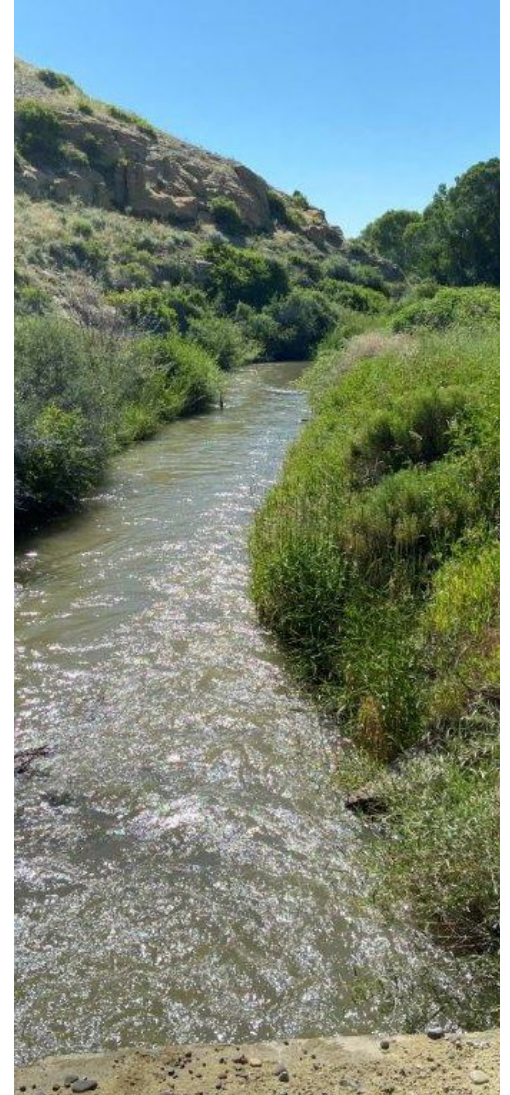
NRCS / WACD Engineering Agreement

- 3rd evolution of the agreement in place 1 Oct 2024
- Intent is to supplement NRCS WY engineering design support on complex Farm Bill projects
- \$500K initially available in the base agreement
 - First round of designs approved in November
 - Additional funding will be added as available



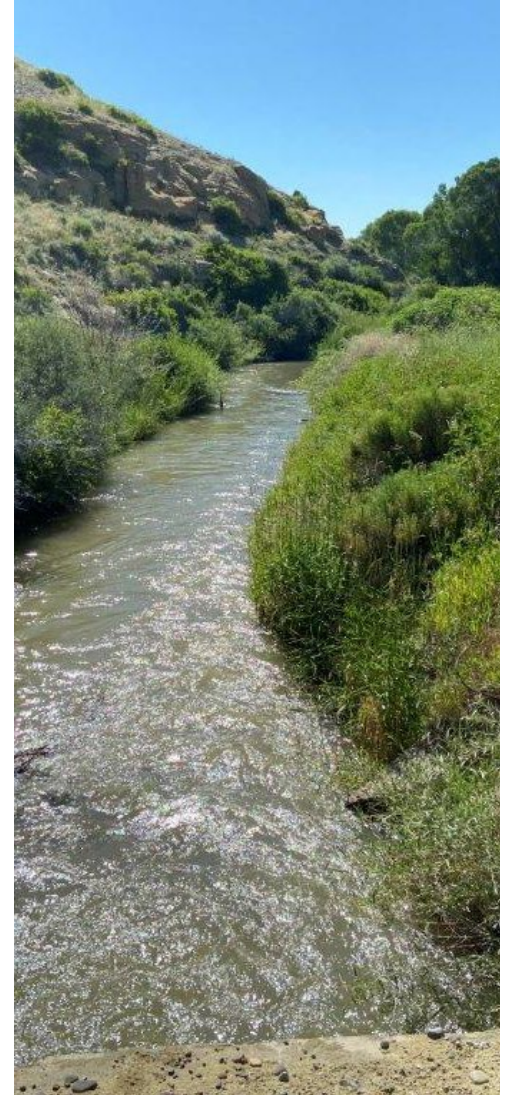
NRCS / WACD Engineering Agreement

- Annual calls for projects are conducted via the District Conservationists. Funding requests that come into the State Office directly will be pushed back to the field for their area consideration / priority.
- Final funding availability for each FY is usually known by July (G&A cutoff)
- We will provide guidance and request DC's to provide an updated funding request list in July



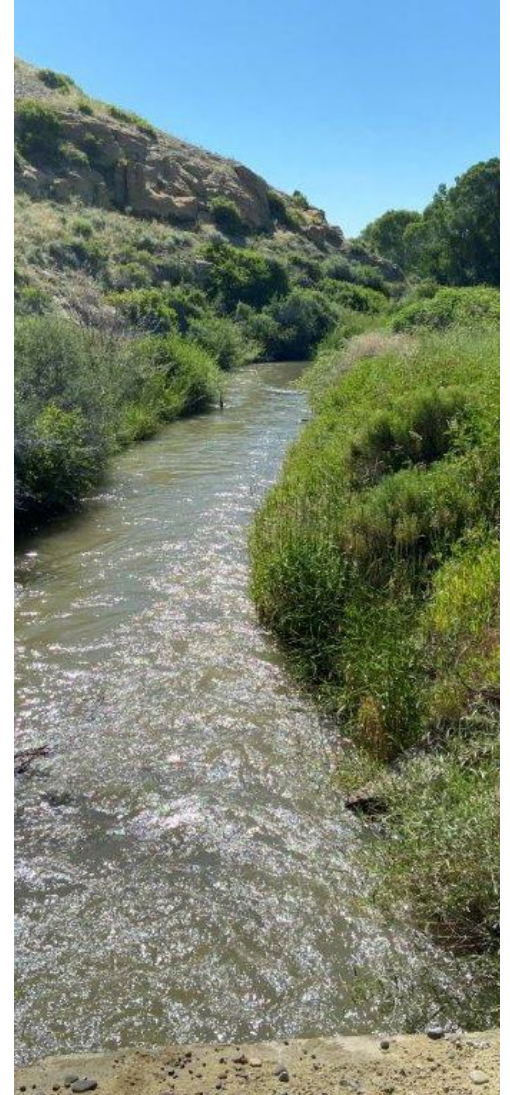
Watershed (PL-566) Projects

- Upcoming submissions
- Typical timelines – Long term planning
- Continuing Resolution impact on funding timelines
- Watershed Team
 - Team Lead – **Regan Kirchner**
 - Biologist – Drew Williams
 - Engineer – **Jessica Klein**
 - Archaeologist – TBD
 - ACES Engineer – Chuck Schmitt



Watershed (PL-566) Projects

- Upcoming submissions
- March 2025 we will send a notice requesting FY26 submissions
 - Will include standard template for requesting projects
- May 16th will be submission due date
- Projects received afterwards or not funded in FY26 will be submitted for FY27
 - We have already received one project request for FY26



Watershed (PL-566) Projects

- Typical timelines. The project timeline is **lengthy** - requires long term planning
- Year 1: May project requests are ranked and submitted to Headquarters for funding. PIFR project requests are expected to be funded in the spring. Assume 4 months to complete.
- Year 2-4: Watershed Plan/NEPA funded and conducted. Add a minimum of 1 year for EIS level plans.
- Year 5: Design goes from 30% to Final
- Year 6-8: Construction (typically phased around growing season)
- Assumes no delays in funding between phases
- Don't be frightened by the timeline, other projects have found that they would have been better off going with PL-566 option



Watershed (PL-566) Projects

- Continuing Resolution impact on funding timelines
- This can add years to a project due to timing issues
- PL566 and EWP projects are typically funded by the annual appropriations act or special legislation
- Additional annual funding is not usually available while working under a CR
- FY25 requests will be ranked by HQ in March for potential funding. Amount still TBD. Funding requests are anticipated to greatly exceed actual funding.

