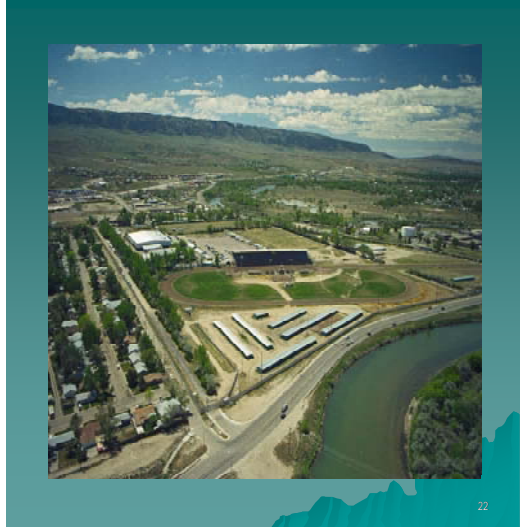


Central Wyoming Fairgrounds Animal Waste

Location: The Central Wyoming Fairgrounds is the primary agricultural events center in Casper. It is located in the Middle North Platte Watershed.

Project Goals:

- Eliminate potential contribution of nutrient and pathogen contamination to the North Platte River by implementing best management practices.
- Develop a Storm Water Management Plan.
- Improve the containment of animal waste.
- Implement improved operation for animal waste disposal including twenty new concrete bunkers and five dumpsters for hauling manure to composting facilities.
- Develop a Nutrient Management Plan.
- Develop curriculum to address animal waste management for the Fairgrounds customers, visitors and staff.



Background:

The Central Wyoming Fairgrounds held their first County Fair in 1942 at their new Fairgrounds location. The City of Casper, Natrona County, US Army, the Fair Board, Gene Autry and others worked together to bring success to these first agricultural events. Today, some of these same partners are again working together with new partners to help the facility thrive into the future. This is a story about successful partnerships, partners who have exceeded project expectations. In 1942, sound land management techniques employed releasing storm water and animal waste directly to the North Platte River by gravity-feed piping. Fifty years later this project will bring storm water management updates to the Fairgrounds continuing rigerous land management through new, best management practices for this premier Casper, Wyoming agriculture events center.

In 2005, Natrona County Conservation District applied and received funding for a 319 Water Quality Grant from Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WYDEQ). This grant would bring needed updates, both structural and in management methods to the Fairgrounds. The project's three phases included improved animal waste storage, composting for disposal, improved land application and it incorporated education and information for both the Fairgrounds visitors

Project Partners:

- Natrona County Conservation District
- Central Wyoming Fair Board/Staff
- Historic Trails Resource, Conservation + Development
- City of Casper
- Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Casper College

Project Sponsors:

- Wyoming Dept. of Environmental Quality
- City of Casper
- Natrona County Commissioners
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Natrona County Conservation District

Central Wyoming Fairgrounds Animal Waste Project

Project Strategy:

Led by the local Conservation District the goals outlined in the grant were divided up and distributed to five sub-committees for implementation. This was an effective method to achieve the goals by giving all partner members a more specific role toward the project progress and implementation.

The five sub-committees were the I&E Committee, the Structural BMP Committee, the Operational BMP Committee, the Water Quality Monitoring Committee and the Nutrient Management Committee. The Sub-Committees met and worked on their parts of the project following timelines and reporting back to the main Steering Committee periodically. This approach is accomplishing the project goals and has achieved buy-in by the partners involved.

An example of successful partner cooperation is demonstrated through the efforts of the project's information and education sub-committee. The Fairgrounds Forum newsletter is the product created to educate and inform Fairground clients and visitors about changes and expectations with the project's implementation. This newsletter will continue to be published beyond project completion due to partner involvement, bringing Fairgrounds visitors this valuable newsletter well into the future. There are many such examples of contribution and cooperation shown as this project moves toward completion.



CWYF Project Area



All 104 Acres of fairground property is located in the heart of the City of Casper & surrounded on three sides by the North Platte River – A class 2 AB water body.

The Fairgrounds visitors are being asked to conduct additional steps in doing their part for good waste and storm water management while enjoying the Fairgrounds. Visitors response has been good and is becoming evident at the facility.

Times are changing at the Fairgrounds as project's completion draws near. The environmental improvements will bring a more sustainable future to the facility. The high energy demonstrated by the Fairgrounds staff, the visitors and project partners has produced unpredictable benefits in community involvement and relationships.

Project Accomplishments:

- Applied and received an EPA 319 Water Quality Grant from Wyoming State Department of Environmental Quality
- Formed and successfully administered the Steering Committees and the five sub-committees.
- Designed the bunkers for improved waste removal and construction is on-going.
- Arranged for waste pick-up and removal to community composting facilities.
- Designed a new drainage system to address storm water release to the North Platte River.
- Water Quality Monitoring is on-going.
- The Nutrient Management Plan is completed.

For more information, contact:

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