



Sheyenne James Resource Conservation & Development  
Council, Inc.

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## "Best Management Practice Team"

The Sheyenne James Resource Conservation & Development Council (RC&D) is the lead sponsor for the NPS BMP Team. Sheyenne James considers water quality improvements as a high priority in their area plan. Of particular concern, was the impact nonpoint source pollution could have on the beneficial uses of lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands.

With approximately 1,800 cattle operations and over 336,000 head of cattle in the Sheyenne James RC&D alone, the council identified runoff from livestock feeding areas as the most likely source of nutrients and pathogens impairing the uses of many water bodies in their area. Another priority for the local NPS watershed projects, NRCS field offices, and soil conservation district (SCD) staff was timely engineering support which was one of the main factors limiting their ability to effectively address runoff from the livestock feeding areas.



Given the limitations in engineering support, the RC&D coordinated with several partners in 1998 to develop a program that would address the local demands for engineering support. The NPS BMP Team was the program developed through the partnership and it continues to operate under the same goal established in 1998.

The primary goal of the NPS BMP Team has always been to maintain delivery of efficient and timely engineering services to local NPS Pollution Control projects. A majority of the Team's engineering services have continued to be directed toward the design of manure management systems for medium and small animal feeding operations (AFO). These manure management system designs have included construction details for a variety of practices including BMP such as containment ponds, clean water diversions, heavy use pads, dikes, solid separators, and/or manure transfer systems.

The BMP Team has also recently seen an increase in requests from local NPS projects for engineering assistance to develop designs for riparian restoration projects using bioengineering techniques. Most of these requests for riparian restoration designs have come from the Section 319 watershed projects in the Red River Valley.



The BMP Team is North Dakota's NPS Program's primary means for addressing local requests for engineering support to develop designs for various structural BMPs.