



**SOUTH BIG HORN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
March 3, 2026**

The regular monthly board meeting of the South Big Horn Conservation District was held Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at the Farm Service Center with the meeting starting at 4:02pm. The meeting was called to order by George Kelso. Those in attendance were George Kelso, Linda Hamilton, Howard Wildman and Ashley Coenen, District Manager, Laura Galloway, District Conservationist. Guests include Wendy Thulander, Sam Donahue, Roger Hall, Robert West, Barb Burbridge, Ken Rempel & Rodney Galusha.

OLD BUSINESS

MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

The minutes of the February 2026 meeting were reviewed; a motion was made by Eddie to approve the minutes. Linda seconded. Motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Checking Account***5307 | \$ 70,502.33 |
| Tree Acct Checking***5343 | \$ 2,508.98 |
| Tree Acct Savings***2184 | \$ 7,491.03 |
| Reserve Account***7053 | \$ 19,103.60 |
| TOTAL | \$99,605.94 |

Bank statements were reviewed and reconciled by Ashley.

| PAYEE | FOR | AMOUNT | CHECK # |
|----------------------|--------------------|------------|---------|
| EFTPS | Payroll Expenses | \$942.85 | ACH |
| WY Retirement System | Retirement | \$652.53 | ACH |
| Visa | Misc. | \$1,773.03 | ACH |
| TCT | Internet | \$62.45 | ACH |
| Ashley Coenen | Wages | \$1,414.86 | ACH |
| Optum Bank | HSA | \$300.00 | ACH |
| Big Horn Federal | Direct Deposit Fee | \$2.00 | ACH |
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Linda made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s report. Howard seconded. Motion carried.

MONTHLY BILLS – Linda made a motion to pay all regular bills for the month of March 2026. Eddie seconded. Motion carried.

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| George Kelso Chairman | Linda Hamilton Vice – Chairman | Eddie Johnson Treasurer | Howard Wilman Secretary | Walter Hibbert Member |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|

NRCS REPORT – see attached report.

OTHER BUSINESS –

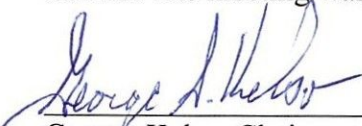
- **SHELL CANAL (THOMPSON LATERAL)** – Ken provided the stamped engineer designs, easement from Board of Control for how much extension you are allowed to go on each side of the ditch. (Carey act). Copy given to the board. Robert asked Ken for a copy of the Final engineer designs, Ken said yes, they would get them a copy. George asked the Shell Canal board to get a letter stating they would complete the reclamation of the old canal. Howard asked the question on how the easement worked for the state lands. George explained the process. Barb asked about the Letter of Support to give to the WWNRT – applied for \$180,000. Roger Hall expressed his concerns about the different route options that the NRCS engineer had given Shell Canal board of directors and members.
- **Letter of Support** – The board discussed giving Shell Canal a letter of support for their WWNRT grant application. It was decided that the South Big Horn Conservation District will not write a letter and stay neutral between all parties involved in the Thompson lateral project.
- **Legislative update** – Linda gave an update on eminent domain from the Senate and NWID funding.

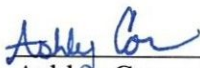
RESOURCE CONCERNS – Linda made a motion to keep the resource concerns the same as last year. Eddie seconded. Motion carried.

OFFICE REPORT – Ashley let the board know she can buy LifeStraw’s through the WDA Lab funds for the Wildlife Leave No Trace education days. Ashley will be presenting to the Beyond the Bell students in Basin on March 26th. Ashley will be attending WCDEA winter training next week on March 9th and 10th. Shell Valley WID election is March 17th.

NEXT MEETING – April 7, 2026 @ 4:00 PM

MEETING ADJOURNED – Howard made a motion to adjourn. Linda seconded. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00PM


George Kelso, Chairman 4-7-26
Date


Ashley Coenen, District Manager 4-7-26
Date

George Kelso
Chairman

Linda Hamilton
Vice – Chairman

Eddie Johnson
Treasurer

Howard Wilman
Secretary

Walter Hibbert
Member

Big Horn County NRCS Field Office Report

March 2026 Meeting



EQIP

- Assessment and Ranking deadline is April 17th.
- We are working through eligibility and assessments on the eligible applicants
- The new cost list is missing some of the items we used for different practices. We are having to compromise and use either different ones that fit the best or not funding those items in some instances.

Water Smart Program

- Adam has been working with these applicants to finish the assessments and ranking. Hoping to have them pre-approved earlier than April 17th so he can start on them.

CSP

- Has the same deadlines as regular EQIP this year.

RPP

- We have been receiving multiple different training courses on this new initiative to see how many applications we can fit under it.

CTA (Conservation Technical Assistance)

- Virtual Fence seems to be the new hot subject. We have had multiple training courses available for this.

Other

- Local Work Group meeting is coming up. We need to go over the Resource Concerns.

2025

| NRCS Resource Concern Category | Big Horn County |
|--|-----------------|
| Field Sediment, Nutrient and Pathogen Loss | 5 |
| Field Pesticide Loss | 10 |
| Storage and Handling of Pollutants | 15 |
| Salt Losses to Water | 8 |
| Source Water Depletion | 1 |
| Soil Quality Limitations | 7 |
| Inefficient Energy Use | 9 |
| Wind and Water Erosion | 6 |
| Degraded Plant Condition | 4 |
| Livestock Production | 2 |
| Pest Pressure | 10 |
| Concentrated Erosion | 3 |
| Long-term Protection of Land | 14 |
| Aquatic Habitat | 13 |
| Terrestrial Habitat | 12 |
| Air Quality Emissions | 18 |
| Weather Resilience | 16 |
| Fire Management | 17 |

Snow Pack

- We are in the second week of being in the D2 status on the drought monitor.

Wyoming

[Home](#)

Map released: Thurs. February 26, 2026

Data valid: February 24, 2026 at 7 a.m. EST

Intensity



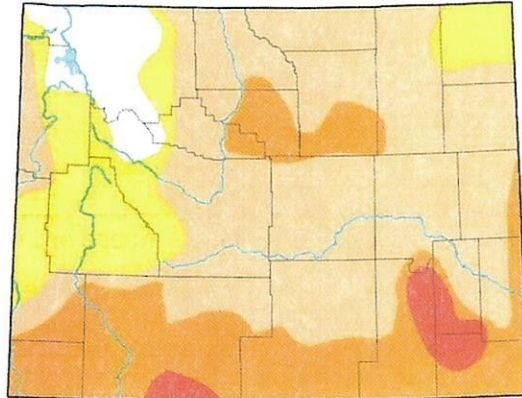
Authors

United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):

[Brad Rippey](#), U.S. Department of Agriculture

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):

[Rocky Bilotta](#), NOAA/NCEI



- Report # 10 February 16,2026

| Basin | 2/16/2026 | 2/9/2026 | 2/2/2026 | 2/16/2025 | 2/16/2024 |
|------------------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Snake | 93 | 94 | 97 | 103 | 87 |
| Madison | 85 | 88 | 91 | 91 | 76 |
| Yellowstone | 110 | 110 | 112 | 91 | 68 |
| Wind | 97 | 99 | 105 | 109 | 100 |
| Bighorn | 81 | 82 | 84 | 99 | 82 |
| Shoshone | 101 | 99 | 102 | 94 | 81 |
| Powder | 71 | 75 | 78 | 83 | 60 |
| Tongue | 57 | 60 | 62 | 97 | 65 |
| Belle Fourche | 61 | 70 | 70 | 89 | 61 |
| Cheyenne | 68 | 77 | 77 | 81 | 66 |
| Upper North Platte | 67 | 65 | 69 | 97 | 89 |
| Sweetwater | 86 | 89 | 104 | 114 | 98 |
| Lower North Platte | 35 | 38 | 40 | 83 | 73 |
| Laramie | 55 | 54 | 58 | 91 | 79 |
| South Platte | 3 | 4 | 4 | 48 | 36 |
| Little Snake | 67 | 63 | 66 | 92 | 96 |
| Upper Green | 91 | 95 | 100 | 109 | 83 |
| Lower Green | 73 | 76 | 81 | 108 | 103 |
| Upper Bear | 70 | 72 | 77 | 102 | 105 |
| Statewide SNOTEL Percent of Median | 79 | 80 | 84 | 98 | 86 |
| Weighted State Average (Area) | 73 | 75 | 86 | 95 | 80 |

red = down blue = up green = same

S N O W - P R E C I P I T A T I O N U P D A T E

Based on Mountain Data from NRCS SNOTEL Sites
As of MONDAY: FEBRUARY 27 , 2026

| BASIN | ELEV. | SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT | | | TOTAL PRECIPITATION | | |
|-------------------|--------|-----------------------|---------|--------|---------------------|------|-----|
| Data Site Name | (Ft) | % | | % | | | |
| Current | Median | Median | Current | Median | Med | | |
| WYOMING | | | | | | | |
| WIND RIVER | | | | | | | |
| Burroughs Creek | 8760 | 9.6 | -M | * | 15.8 | -M | * |
| Castle Creek | 8410 | 4.3 | 6.2 | 69 | 6.5 | 6.9 | 94 |
| Cold Springs | 9640 | 6.2 | 5.7 | 109 | 11.1 | 6.8 | 163 |
| Deer Park | 9690 | 12.4 | 10.0 | 124 | 14.5 | 13.1 | 111 |
| Hobbs Park | 10080 | 10.2 | 9.8 | 104 | 11.9 | 8.5 | 140 |
| Kirwin | 9580 | 10.4 | 8.4 | 124 | 15.4 | 8.9 | 173 |
| Little Warm | 9370 | 9.0 | 7.7 | 117 | 12.9 | 9.2 | 140 |
| South Pass | 9040 | 10.7 | 11.3 | 95 | 12.2 | 11.0 | 111 |
| St. Lawrence Alt | 8610 | 2.4 | -M | * | 6.7 | -M | * |
| Togwotee Pass | 9590 | 19.7 | 18.4 | 107 | 24.3 | 19.6 | 124 |
| Townsend Creek | 8720 | 4.6 | 6.5 | 71 | 8.3 | 7.9 | 105 |
| Basin Index (%) | | | | 104 | | | 127 |
| BIGHORN BASIN | | | | | | | |
| Bald Mtn. | 9360 | 13.4 | 14.4 | 93 | 13.5 | 12.4 | 109 |
| Bear Trap Meadow | 8200 | 3.8 | 4.8 | 79 | 7.8 | 6.2 | 126 |
| Bone Springs Div | 9340 | 10.1 | 12.6 | 80 | 9.6 | 12.0 | 80 |
| Grave Springs | 8560 | 3.3 | 6.4 | 52 | 7.1 | 6.7 | 106 |
| Kirwin | 9580 | 10.4 | 8.4 | 124 | 15.4 | 8.9 | 173 |
| Marquette | 8800 | 2.0 | 5.1 | 39 | 5.2 | 6.6 | 79 |
| Middle Powder | 7760 | 4.4 | 7.7 | 57 | 8.1 | 6.8 | 119 |
| Owl Creek | 8990 | 1.8 | 4.2 | 43 | 4.7 | 4.6 | 102 |
| Powder River Pass | 9480 | 9.1 | 8.4 | 108 | 13.1 | 9.6 | 136 |
| Shell Creek | 9570 | 11.1 | 11.6 | 96 | 12.4 | 10.7 | 116 |
| Timber Creek | 7910 | -M | 3.4 | * | 3.3 | 5.6 | 59 |
| Basin Index (%) | | | | 83 | | | 111 |
| SHOSHONE RIVER | | | | | | | |
| Blackwater | 9830 | 19.3 | 17.0 | 114 | 22.3 | 16.8 | 133 |
| Evening Star | 9030 | 24.9 | 21.4 | 116 | 29.8 | 23.6 | 126 |
| Marquette | 8800 | 2.0 | 5.1 | 39 | 5.2 | 6.6 | 79 |
| Sylvan Lake | 8440 | 15.2 | 15.4 | 99 | 22.4 | 18.2 | 123 |
| Sylvan Road | 7140 | 8.4 | 10.0 | 84 | 17.1 | 13.8 | 124 |
| Younts Peak | 8340 | 13.6 | 11.6 | 117 | 18.4 | 11.4 | 161 |
| Basin Index (%) | | | | 104 | | | 127 |

Respectfully Submitted, Laura Galloway D.C.____