

CODY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

AUGUST 18TH PRIMARY BALLOT TAX PROPOSITION



Shall the Park County Commissioners impose a conservation district tax, not to exceed **one (1)** mill, on all property within the Cody Conservation District, Park County, Wyoming for the purpose of providing natural resource programs directed by the Cody Conservation District?

A **MILL LEVY** IS THE NUMBER OF DOLLARS IN TAXES THAT A PROPERTY OWNER PAYS FOR EVERY \$1,000 OF ASSESSED VALUE.

***FOR A HOMEOWNER WITH A PROPERTY ASSESSED FOR \$600,000,
1 MILL WOULD COST≈\$57 ANNUALLY***

PARK COUNTY CURRENTLY HAS 73.5 MILLS

***OTHER ENTITIES SUCH AS THE SCHOOL DISTRICT HAVE AS
MANY AS 32.5 MILLS.***

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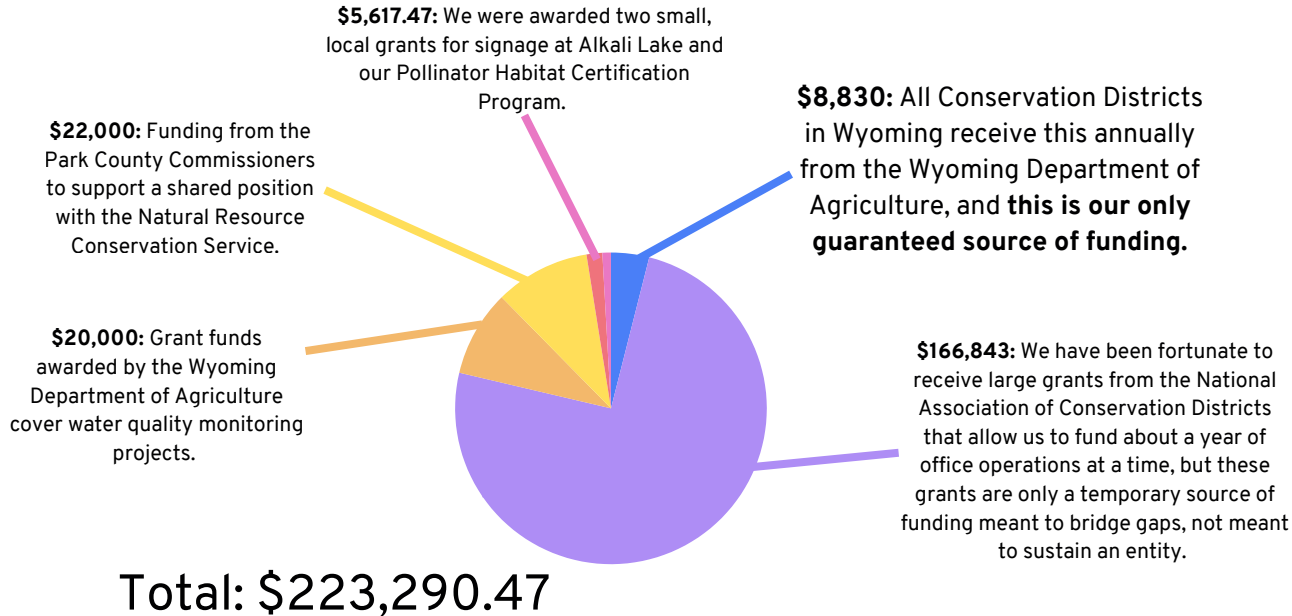
The Cody Conservation District has the ability to bring outside sources of funding into our community. We apply for and co-sponsor grants and connect local producers to funding opportunities. These grant opportunities typically do not provide any funds to cover staff hours and general office operating expenses.

In the 2025-26 fiscal year, we brought \$2,249,379 into our community while operating on a grant-funded budget of approximately \$200,000.

**WITHOUT PERMANENT FUNDING THAT CAN COVER STAFF
AND OFFICE OVERHEAD, WE CANNOT RELIABLY
ADMINISTER THIS FUNDING FOR OUR COMMUNITY**

CODY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 OPERATING BUDGET



CODY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

FUNDING WE BROUGHT INTO OUR COMMUNITY

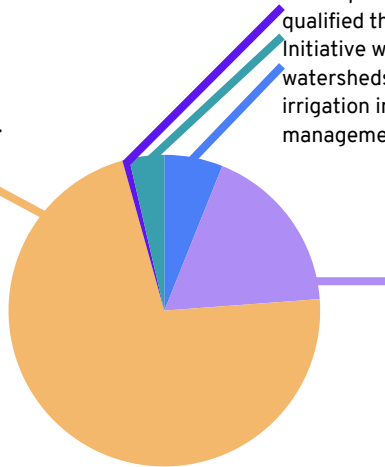


\$1,615,903: Cody Conservation District secured funding for a Level 1 Watershed Study and continually collected water quality data, which was used by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to allocate funding for water quality concerns in the Sage Creek area. Funding was set aside for this priority

\$234,247: The Level 1 Watershed Study conducted by the Cody Conservation District highlighted the need for water quality improvements in the Sage Creek area. This qualified the area for the National Water Quality Initiative which directs NRCS funding to priority watersheds. These three projects completed included irrigation improvements and advanced irrigation management.

\$399,229: District staff facilitated an irrigation improvement project cost share between the NRCS and a beginner farmer/rancher.

Total for Fiscal
Year 2025-26:
\$ 2,249,379



Out of these funds, all dollars went to implementing conservation projects. None of this funding paid for Cody CD staff or overhead.

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When all funding comes from outside sources, districts are often very constrained to the scope of grant funding priorities and deliverables. Mill levy funding would allow for the district to dynamically adapt to the needs of our community.

Of the 34 conservation districts in Wyoming, 31 districts have recurring local funding. These districts can reliably fund staff and operational expenses, allowing them to seek other funding sources for projects.

MILL LEVY FUNDING ALLOWS US TO PRIORITIZE YOU

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CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION VS. WHAT'S POSSIBLE

- The Conservation District has been in existence for 82 years operating without the benefit of a permanent, sustainable source of funding. For many of those years the district has had no paid staff to implement its mission nor to provide important services to the community.
- Over our history, limited and unreliable grant opportunities have been the primary source of funding. The current funding model does not support long-term planning and sustainability.
- When grants fund the majority of our work, our priorities are often constrained by grant deliverables rather than allowing us to adapt to the current needs of District residents.
- With reliable annual funding, we would be able to sustain an engaged staff to better leverage opportunities to bring increased resources to the community.

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Conservation districts partner with local, state, and federal agencies to support boots on the ground conservation efforts that benefit our local communities.

- During government shutdowns, conservation districts continue to operate.
- As a special district, conservation districts qualify to accept certain funding that other entities or individuals do not qualify for on their own. Since we are a non-regulatory special district, we often do not have the same red tape that other organizations have in administering awarded funds.
- The Cody Conservation District Board of Supervisors lives within district boundaries; our decisions are made with local priorities in mind, not Washington's.

A FEW CODY CONSERVATION DISTRICT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES:

- Water quality monitoring, Watershed Studies, and cost share on well testing
- Small Acreage Workshop, Pollinator Habitat Certification, and site visits for landowners
- Community Wildfire Protection Plan and County Wide Technical Assistance for fire resilience
- Soils reviews for all new subdivisions
- Rangeland Health Monitoring Program
- Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Projects such as Beaver Dam Analogs
- Educational outreach in schools, libraries, and other community organizations
- Collaboration with NRCS to connect producers with Farm Bill program funding and technical assistance
- Tree sales program provides low-cost a source of trees for conservation purposes
- Sponsoring Small Water Project Grant applications for producers
- Large Ungulate Migration Corridor projects



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The Cody Conservation District is a nonregulatory government entity which provides a local voice for resource concerns, has cooperating agency status with federal agencies, and assists the community with natural resource management.

A LOCAL VOICE FOR RESOURCE CONCERNS PROVIDING INFORMATION, EDUCATION, AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

The Cody Conservation District is committed to improving the quality of life in our district through good stewardship of our land, water, and natural resources. The District will achieve this goal by providing information, education, and technical services to its constituents and by being a local voice in federal projects and management decisions.

A **MILL LEVY** IS THE NUMBER OF DOLLARS IN TAXES THAT A PROPERTY OWNER PAYS FOR EVERY \$1,000 OF ASSESSED VALUE.

***FOR EXAMPLE, WITH AN AVERAGE HOME VALUE OF
\$600,000, AN ANNUAL 1 MILL COST WOULD BE \$57***