

Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative (WLCI)  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
Bureau of Land Management – Rock Springs Field Office  
Rock Springs, Wyoming  
**July 22-23, 2014**

**Awards Presentation**

Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Awards Recognition  
July 23, 2014

**Youth Awards & Recognition**

Mrs. Allison Baas and Green River High School Students

Mrs. Baas has partnered with the City of Green River, Parks and Recreation, and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's efforts to control Russian olive and Tamarisk along the Green River in the City of Green River. Mrs. Baas took her students out of the classroom and into the great outdoors to collect data that have “real world” applications and implications. Her students collected data and information that is relevant to controlling non-native plant species on the Green River. The students entered the field data into spreadsheets and provided the final products to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD). The WGFD uses this information to direct the City of Green River to target herbicide applications on the re-growth of these invasive species.

Mr. Ben Hansen, Boy Scout Troop Leader and Eagle Scouts

Mr. Hansen and the Eagle Scouts helped to maintain sage-grouse populations through their efforts associated with four sage-grouse fence marker projects and one wildlife monitoring project. Three of the four sage-grouse fence marker projects involved producing and hanging markers on 24 miles of newly constructed fence bordering the northern boundary of the Jim Bridger Mine property. Additionally the scout troop applied for and received a grant for \$2,700 from the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resources Trust to purchase material for the project. The fourth fence marker project and the wildlife monitoring were conducted within the BLM Sublette Grazing Allotment; where 2.5 miles of fence markers were hung on newly constructed fence, and with help of the Scouts, transects were located and set up to monitor sage-grouse use through bi-yearly sage-grouse pellet counts.

**Industry Award**

Jim Bridger Coal Company, Mr. Jonathan Gross

Mr. Gross and his company, Jim Bridger Coal Company, are being recognized for their efforts associated with three sage-grouse fence marker projects. The three fence marker projects involved the scheduling of three different Eagle Scout candidates and their volunteers; safety training for all participants to MSHA certification standards; supervision for the participants; and assisting with the hanging of the markers on 24 miles of newly constructed fence bordering the northern boundary of the Jim Bridger Mine property. It is through these kinds of activities, both within and outside of Wyoming's energy production areas, that address mitigating impacts on wildlife that has and will continue to sustain some of Wyoming's most valued resources and habitats.

## **Local Project Development Team Presentations**

### Carbon Local Project Development Team, Mr. Larry Hicks

Mr. Hicks has been instrumental in the initial stages of WLCI and with the mission, goals, and development of Local Project Development Teams (LPDT). He provides valuable feedback to the Carbon LPDT and to the Coordination Team to ensure we are addressing issues at landscape scales and to stay on mission to address our stated goals and objectives. His projects with the Forest Service, BLM, and private landowners to enhance aspen are a good example of landscape scale needs and accomplishments. Mr Hicks is also very involved with projects designed to improve aquatic and riparian habitats. He has several projects on Muddy, Dirtyman, and Savery creeks, and Little Snake River. Despite his side career of being a State Senator, he remains active and participates when he can and continues to be an ardent supporter of WLCI.

### Lincoln-Uinta Local Project Development Team, Mr. Erik Norelius

Mr. Norelius is being recognized for his willingness and participation on the Lincoln-Uinta LPDT, specifically, his leadership roles for the Ruby Focus Group and for the many conservation projects he is involved with and oversees. He graciously organized the tour, dinner location, and prepared dinner for the Executive Committee at the 2013 summer meeting. As the leader of the Ruby Focus Group he has provided Ruby project updates and Ruby funding allocations to the Executive Committee for several years. He has shared his knowledge and passion of wildlife and their habitats on a myriad of projects.

### Sublette Local Project Development Team, Mrs. Julie Kraft

Mrs. Kraft, over the past four years, has been the lead contact person involved in the Boulder Cheatgrass project. During that time she has scheduled and conducted a suite of control efforts related to cheatgrass in and around the Boulder Lake area and other related cheatgrass assessments and treatments. She has always provided thorough updates along with comprehensive reports of actions and outcomes. Mrs. Kraft and the Sublette County Weed and Pest District have always been ready and willing to assist with tours of this project and other efforts of the Weed and Pest District. Her leadership and expertise, along with her guidance as a member of the Sublette LPDT has increased the scope and partnerships involved with these and other projects. Her support and leadership as a member of the Sublette LPDT has gone well above and beyond expectations.

### Sweetwater Local Project Development Team, Mr. Gale Lamb, Mr. Kevin Spence, and Mr. Alan Wilson

The Green River Russian Olive and Tamarisk Control Project is a true landscape scale habitat enhancement/protection project stretching from the Fontenelle Dam, following down the Green River below the City of Green River to its confluence with Flaming Gorge. The Green River Russian Olive and Tamarisk project team members have been involved with assessing the location, condition, and relative age and structure of Russian olive and tamarisk stands. These efforts have led to various and unique methods of controlling these species, post treatment

monitoring, repeated treatment applications resprouts and volunteer shoots, and reintroduction of native plants at the affected areas within the City of Green River. These three gentlemen have assumed leadership roles beyond their customary responsibilities prescribed by their employing entities. Their leadership through all aspects of this project began with the idea about the issue and need, promoted their vision to others to provide the opportunity for collaboration and partnerships with developing the assessment design and treatment plan through project implementation, This approach to be inclusive and collaborative, from idea concept through implementation, serves as an effective model for WLCI to address difficult conservation issues at landscape scales.