

Conservation Highlight

Wyoming

Emergency Watershed Protection Program

A Fremont County Success Story

Fifteen irrigation delivery systems used by 355 landowners, nine homes and one business were protected from flooding. One streambank stabilization project protected 30 homes in a trailer park.

June 2010 in Fremont County came with an unusual amount of late season snow. Combined with rain, the Pogo Agie River swelled and ravaged its stream banks, threatening life and property.

Within hours of requests from landowners to help save their homes, the NRCS was on-site providing engineering and cost share assistance to proceed with emergency stream bank stabilization construction.

Water was undercutting the bank and threatening a trailer park and storage units. Little time could be wasted. Fortification with rock

rip rap was needed immediately. If the bank went, everything else would have gone with it and could have damaged a bridge by Main Street.

In several areas along the river bank, water broke down dikes and erosion threatened riverfront homes. In other areas, flood deposited cobble and trees reduced stream capacity, forcing the river out of its banks, flooding homes and damaging city infrastructure.

Working collaboratively with project sponsors, the NRCS completed a total of 30 Emergency Watershed Program (EWP) projects. The partners included Pogo Agie Conservation District (25 of 30 projects), city of Lander (2 projects), Shoshone and Arapaho Tribes (2 projects), and Lower Wind River Natural Resources District (1 project).

Don Gaddie, Area Resource Conservationist with NRCS said, "We were only able to assist with these projects because of assistance from the sponsors. The Pogo Agie Conservation District was with us every step of the way."

Jeri Trebelcock, executive director with the Pogo Agie Conservation District said, "I think this is what partnerships are all about.....working together hand in hand to get projects on the ground! Our community is very appreciative of that local/federal partnership!"

NRCS infused \$404,000 into the local economy.



EWP helps:

- Reduce flood damage;
- Reduce threats to life and property;
- Prevent further damage after emergency disaster;
- Maintain healthy watershed systems.



Emergency stream bank stabilization construction begins within hours of the request to save this Lander home from the ravages of the June 2010 flood.