

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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JACKSON, WY.....The Little Snake River Conservation District was named the first ever "Partner of the Year" by the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust today in Jackson.

"There are many outstanding examples of effective conservation in Wyoming," said WWNRT chairman Delaine Roberts, Etna, "and these folks are a shining star. In every way that we evaluated our partners, the Little Snake Conservation District excelled."

Roberts said the WWNRT has funded 21 projects sponsored by the Conservation District over the past five years, with more than half of those completed to date.

"They do a great job with their design of these projects, and when they are funded they get out and get them done," he said.

Board member Peggy Colson, Rawlins, said she was impressed with the variety of work done in the Little Snake River valley.

"They have built wetlands, cut conifers to help aspen, restored river systems, improved habitat for mule deer, developed water, and even done one conservation easement," Colson said. "Out of ten categories we use to track types of projects, they have done seven. And, they run the gamut from millions of dollars to small projects that cost a few thousand."

The largest projects have been river restoration efforts on the Little Snake, Battle Creek, and Savery Creek. According to the WWNRT, the Little Snake has applied more than \$8.2 million into conservation in the area, with approximately \$1.5 million coming from WWNRT.

"One of the most important aspects of the Wildlife Trust program is the amount of leverage we can gain for the State of Wyoming," said Roberts. He noted that the LSRCDC brought in more than \$4.50 for every dollar of state funding. "For a little over a million dollars in five years, we have been able to mobilize more than \$8 million into the local economy."

In addition to the project work, the Little Snake has taken advantage of the Trust's "banking" program, contributing district funds, and generating funds from Anadarko Petroleum and Devon Energy, to help build the WWNRT.

Bob Anderson, Casper, said it was the partnering aspect of the local district that appealed to him as a WWNRT Board member.

"When you go on site visits down there, you talk to landowners, district boards, federal and state agencies, oil companies, timber contractors, and local dirt movers. People are excited about this conservation work, and they really get with it on the ground."

The Partner of the Year award was instituted to recognize organizations and individuals whose conservation efforts have been outstanding.

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