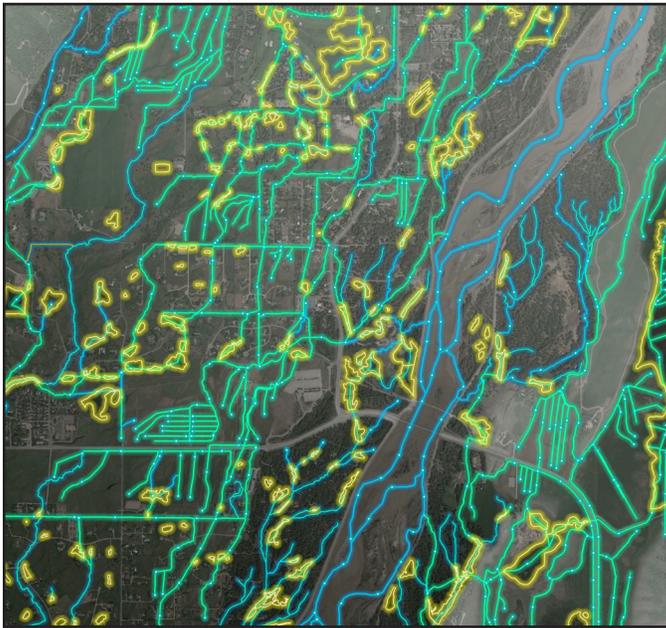




Fall 2019

Surface Water Inventory

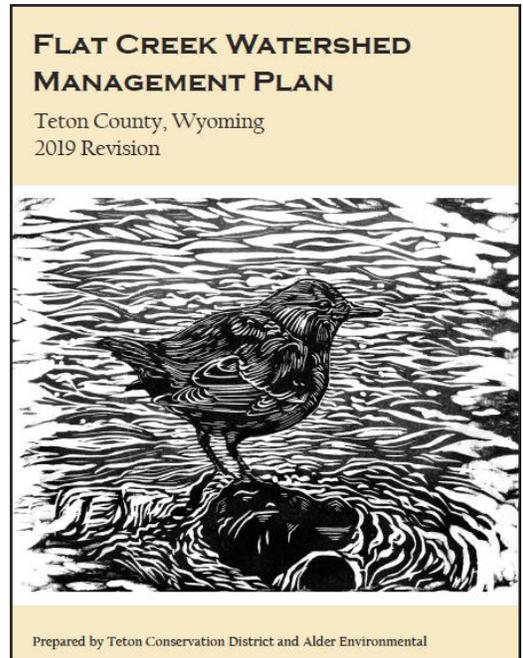
After five years of analysis, staff delivered the Teton Conservation District Surface Water Inventory (SWI), the first-ever GIS map depicting all the waterbodies and waterways in Teton County, WY. The SWI is an information platform available to every citizen, business, and agency, and will shape the management and dialogue surrounding surface waters for years to come. The database allows users to accurately identify and assess the condition and location of irrigation ditches, reservoirs, and natural waterbodies. To access the SWI, visit www.tetonconservation.org.



A clipping of the SWI. Blue indicates natural waterways, green indicates irrigation, and yellow indicates ponds and reservoirs.

Flat Creek Management Plan Revision

Teton Conservation District staff characterize stream health in Flat Creek annually. In addition to regular monitoring and other water quality improvement projects, staff recently completed a revision of the Flat Creek Watershed Management Plan. Originally written in 2006, the plan guided strategies to address water quality and stream habitat degradation through a formal community and agency input process. In addition to cataloging completed projects and summarizing years of results from physical, biological, and chemical data collection, the 2019 revision prioritizes new projects and lays the groundwork for the future of water quality and habitat restoration in Flat Creek and its tributaries.



The cover of the Flat Creek Watershed Management Plan 2019 Revision.



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Macroinvertebrate sampling in Flat Creek.

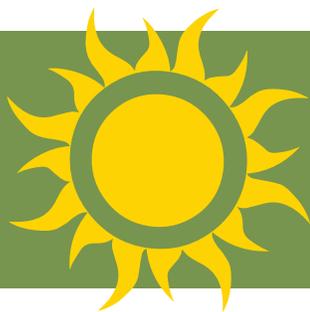
Frogs are ‘Ribbiting’

Over the past three summers, Morgan Graham, the GIS & Wildlife Specialist for Teton Conservation District, has surveyed adult and juvenile amphibians on select private lands in Teton County as part of the Rocky Mountain Amphibian Project. You could say Morgan finds them “ribbiting” (riveting, that is).

Commonly spotted species include boreal chorus frogs, Columbia spotted frogs, western boreal toads, and tiger salamanders. Globally, forty-one percent of all amphibian species are either extinct or threatened by extinction. Known threats to amphibians regionally include chytrid fungus, invasive predators, habitat loss and fragmentation, and chemicals and pollutants such as pesticides and herbicides. In past years, Morgan has swabbed frogs and toads for chytrid fungus, a disease that can kill our cold-blooded friends by inhibiting their ability to breathe through their skin. Of the 28 toads and frogs he swabbed in Teton County in 2017, 15 individuals tested positive for chytrid.



A western boreal toad sampled for chytrid fungus.



What can I do? Chytrid fungus can’t survive outside of water and sunlight kills it. To reduce the risk of spreading chytrid, dry your boots and equipment in direct sunlight between trips to a waterbody. Make sure your gear is completely dry before going on another adventure. Amphibians should never be moved from their habitat and it’s best to avoid touching them all together—things on our hands such as lotion, sunscreen, soap, and oil can harm them.

Home, Home on the Range

When you think of Jackson Hole, you may picture the Tetons, a thick stand of golden aspen trees, or the mighty Snake River. But, this place wouldn’t be what it is without rangelands—both wildlife and domestic livestock depend on these grasslands and shrublands for forage. Like many ecosystems, rangelands face natural and human-caused threats, including human development, fragmentation, invasive species, overgrazing, and changing fire regimes from altered plant communities and global climate change.



Dr. Chuck Butterfield of Y2 Consultants examines a soil pit.

In partnership with Bridger-Teton National Forest and livestock producers, Teton Conservation District staff and Y2 Consultants are embarking on a two-year project to improve knowledge of rangelands in Teton County. As a part of this project, we will monitor cattle and horse grazing allotments, establish new trend monitoring sites in both riparian and upland areas, and collect vegetation and soils data at long-term monitoring sites, allowing for trends in plant community composition to be recorded. This information will allow land managers to evaluate whether objectives in allotment management plans are being met.

Our New Mission and Vision Statements

Teton Conservation District board and staff are in the process of developing a new five-year strategic plan. As part of that process, we updated our mission statement and created a new vision statement.

Our Mission

Teton Conservation District is a local government entity whose mission is to work with the community in the conservation of natural resources for the health and benefit of people and the environment.

Our Vision

Teton Conservation District envisions a forward-looking community practicing natural resource stewardship.