

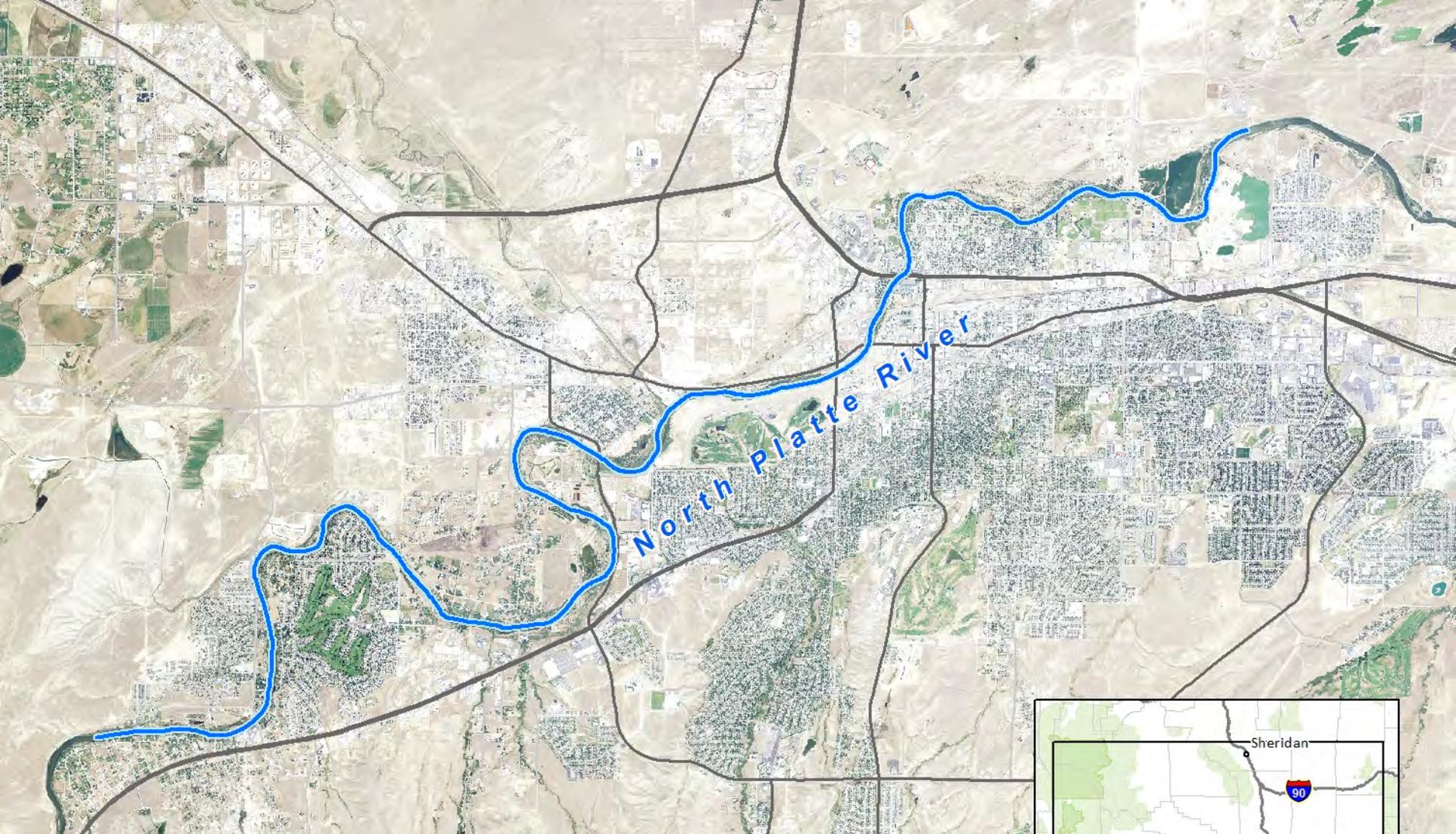
Platte River Revival

North Platte River Restoration
Casper, Wyoming

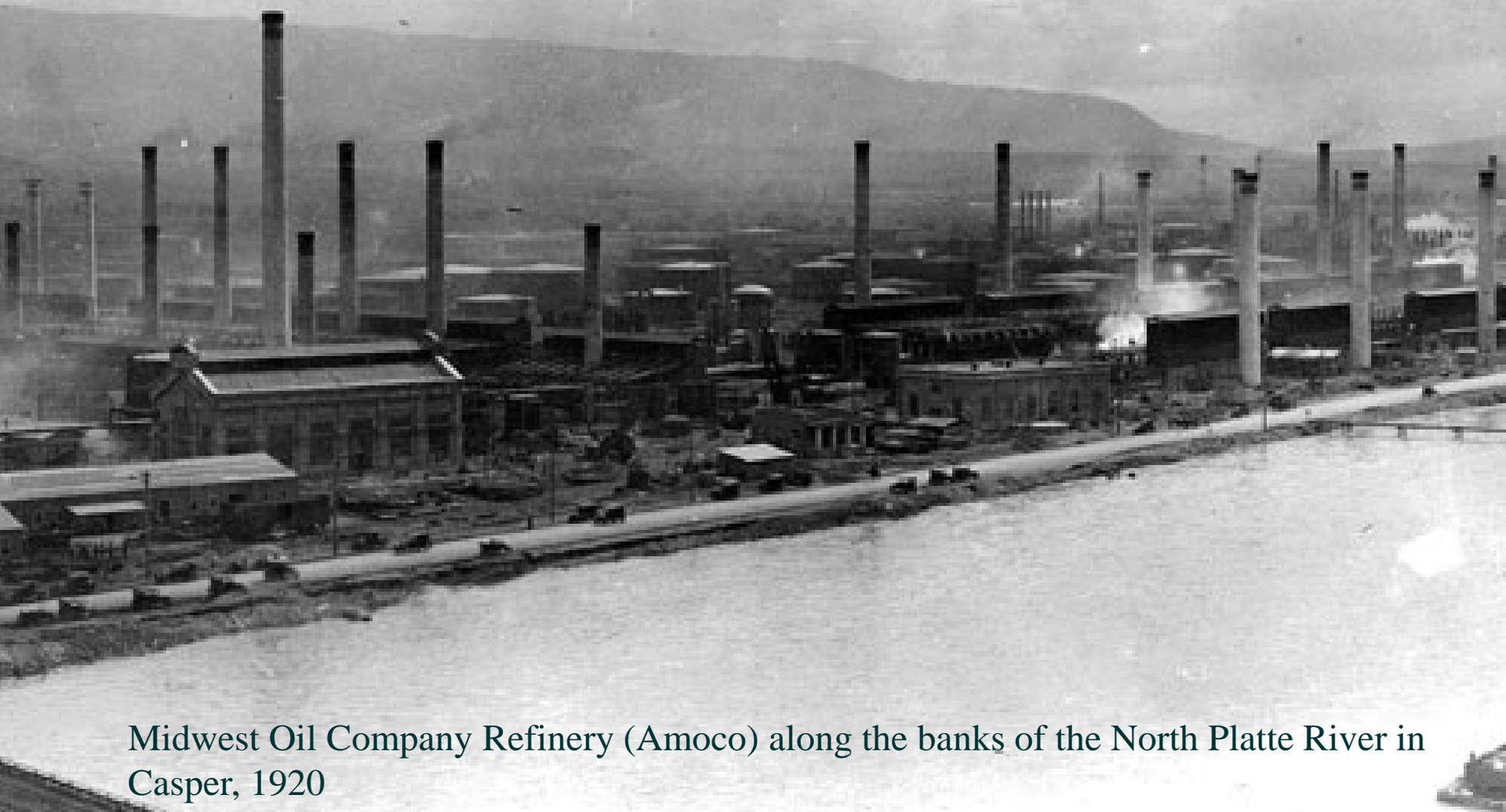


Where We Were or Black Water





The North Platte River from Casper to the Nebraska state line is “so grossly polluted with human and refinery wastes that it is doubtful if recovery can ever be obtained.” 1948 US Public Health Service Report



Midwest Oil Company Refinery (Amoco) along the banks of the North Platte River in Casper, 1920

By...

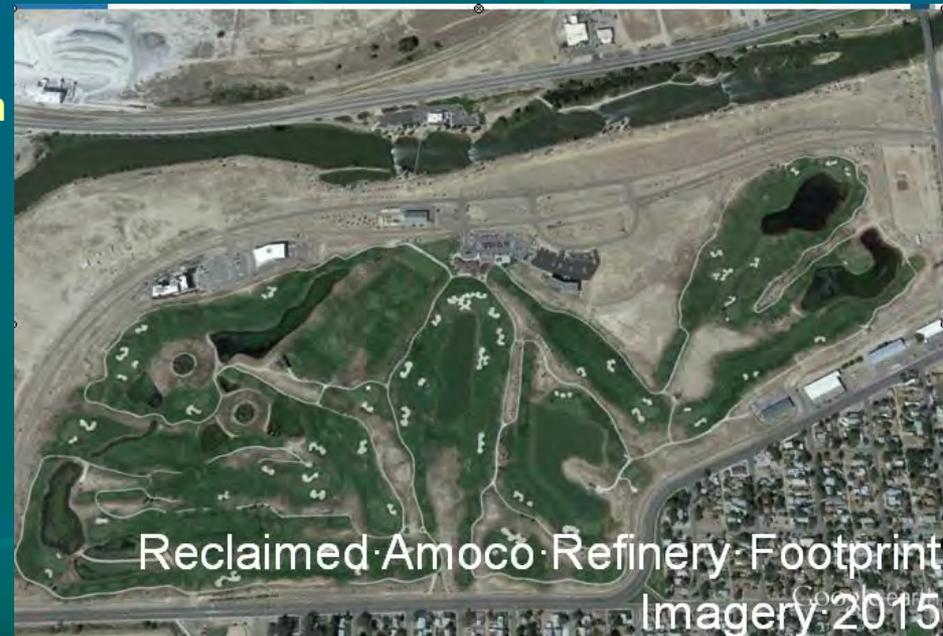
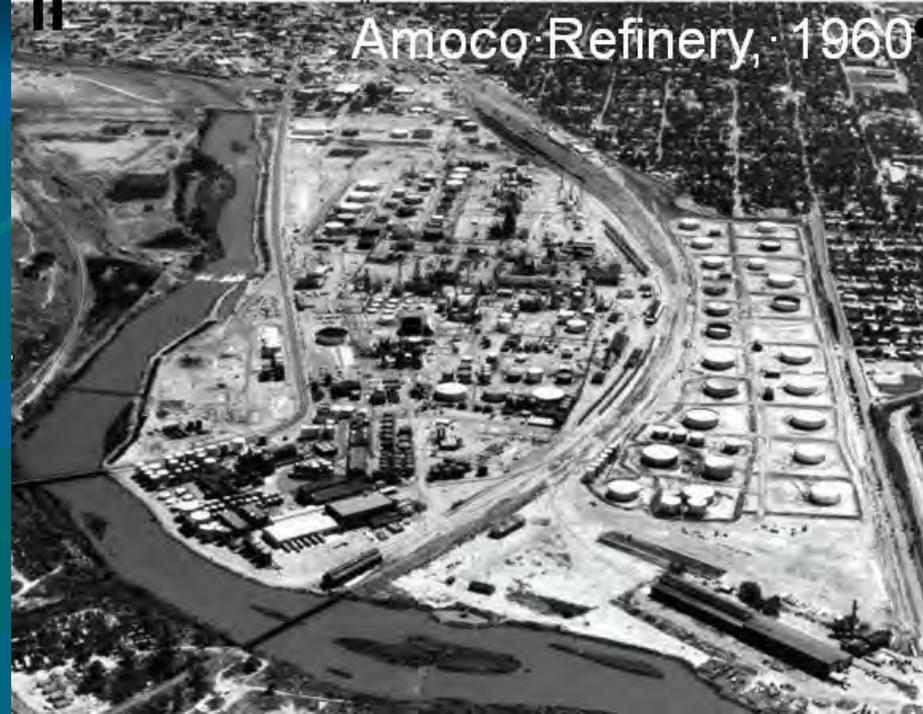
1958 Refineries are no longer dumping their waste

1959 Casper's sewage plant begins primary treatment of sewage

1977 Casper's sewage plant begins secondary treatment of sewage

1981 Master planning for the concept of a Platte River parkway/trails system begins

2005 Amoco property remediation complete—includes Three Crowns Golf Course, walking trails, and white water park







**Founded in 2006 by
Two Fly Foundation
City of Casper**

Purpose:

**To foster a healthy and sustainable
river system that is a catalyst for
economic development and
improved quality of life in the
Casper area.**

**Public-private partnership of 39
private companies and organizations
and 10 governmental agencies**



What We' ve Done
or
Look What Love Has Done



Steps to Restoration

- **1. Hands-on Community Restoration known as Volunteer Day (2007 to present)**
 - Russian olive removal and regrowth monitoring
 - Planting and protecting native vegetation
 - In-river, creek, and bankside cleanup
- **2. North Platte Environmental Restoration Master Plan (2012)**
- **3. Design and Construction of Restoration Projects (2013 to present)**



Volunteer Day

4,700+ volunteer participants
since 2007

Removed six mature stands of
Russian olive trees (thousands!)

Monitored Russian olive regrowth
in all removal areas

Wire-wrapped over 2,000 trees

Treated 20 acres of cheat grass

Re-seeded 20 acres of river
uplands with native grasses

Cleaning up has paralleled the
primary restoration focus

Removed more than 1,356,000
pounds of debris

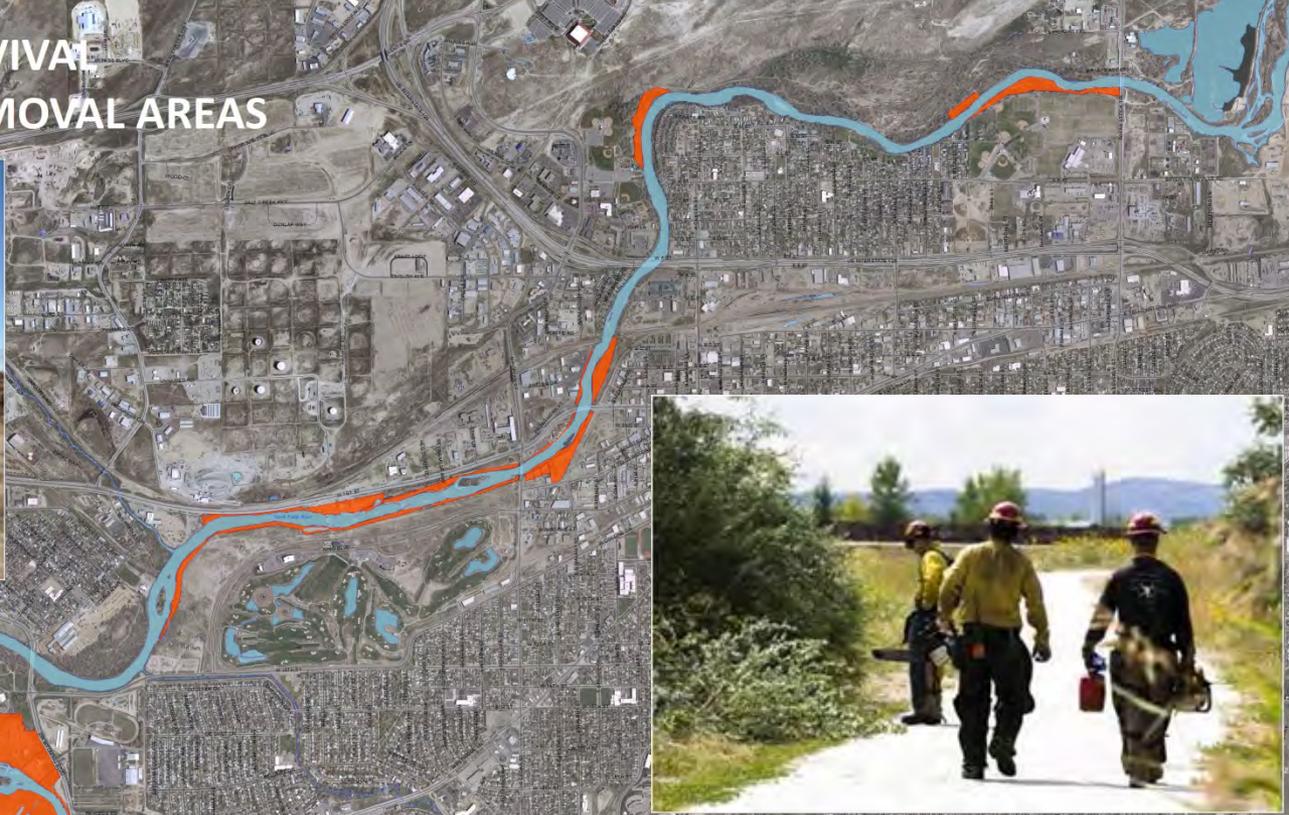


Volunteer Day



Cleaning up has paralleled the primary restoration focus

PLATTE RIVER REVIVAL 100% RUSSIAN OLIVE REMOVAL AREAS



1,377 Russian olives removed from river left—Morad Park water wells



Most significant ecosystem improvement, to date, is the Russian olive removal

N

Crossroads/Adventure Park 2007 before Russian olive removal



Crossroads/Adventure Park 2013 four years after Russian olive removal

- Russian olive out competes native vegetation and interferes with natural plant succession and nutrient cycling
- The displacement of native plant species and critical wildlife habitats affects native birds and other species
- Areas dominated by Russian olive do not generally have a high concentration of wildlife

Restoration Master Plan

- **Site Reconnaissance**
 - Riparian vegetation
 - Wetlands
 - Habitat for and use by wildlife
 - Geomorphic condition
 - Bank stability and erosion rates
- **Develop conceptual restoration design**
 - River & habitat improvement
 - Re-vegetation plan
 - Stormwater quality enhancements
- **Permitting**
- **Cost estimate & benefits analysis**
- **Funding Sources**

Construction

Site 5 (North Casper)
Estimated cost: \$4,370,000

Site 6 (Knife River)
Estimated cost: \$3,835,000

Site 7 (First Street)
Estimated cost : \$1, 050,000

Site 4 (Izaak Walton/Ft Caspar)
Estimated cost: \$4,600,000

Site 2 (WY Blvd) & Site 3 (Water Treatment Plant):
Contract cost: \$2,500,000

Site 1 (Morad Park)
Contract cost: \$1,300,000



Benefits

- Protected drinking water wells/sources and improved water quality
 - Reduce bank erosion by 821.4 tons/year
 - Stormwater filtration with wetlands
- Established high benchmark on how we treat the river and our water resources
- Sustainable vegetation communities with more cottonwoods and improved bank aesthetics
- Improved fisheries habitat and fishing
- Raised awareness of the economic benefits of a healthy river and riparian area, conservation, and ecological balance
- Enhanced recreational opportunities & places for people to gather
- Demonstration of how urban areas and natural areas can co-exist with vibrancy

Who We Are How We Are Doing It or The River

North Platte River Restoration
Casper, Wyoming



Governor Dave Freudenthal



Our lifestyle, our wildlife, our land and our water remain critical to our definition of Wyoming and to our economic future.

(Dave Freudenthal)

izquotes.com

Two Fly Foundation



Cindie Langston



Chad Pregracke

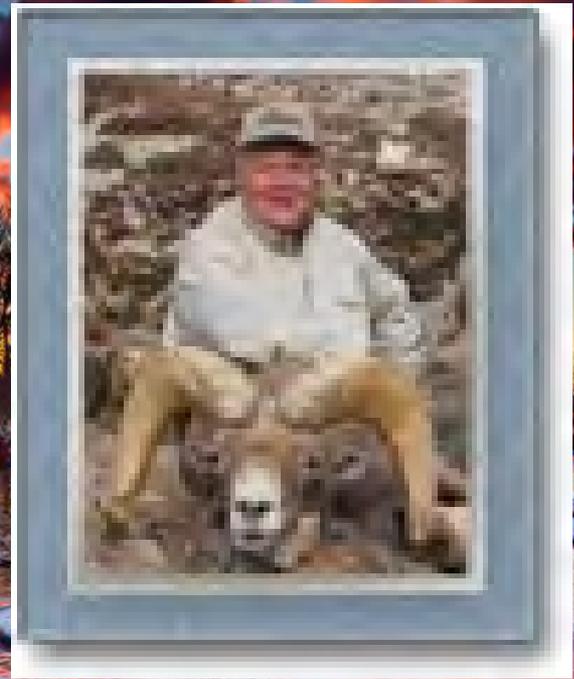
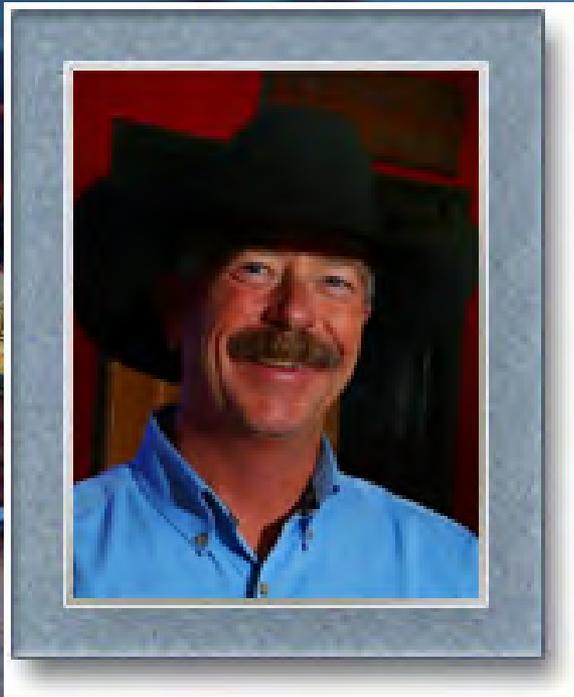


Tom Forslund & Casper City Council



Neil “Mick” McMurry





Bob Budd, Bob Anderson &
Wyoming Wildlife & Natural
Resource Trust

A Few of the Partners

Wyoming Game & Fish
Trihydro



A Few of the Partners

BLM

Natrona County Weed & Pest

Wyoming State Forestry



Casper Citizens

Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve.

Martin Luther King Jr.



Lessons learned and how to do more with less





River restoration is hard work and expensive. It requires:

- strong leadership & strong collaboration
- a master plan based on solid science and study
- millions of dollars in construction funding
- community support
- political will



A Catalyst for Change? What Are the Reverberations?

Can it focus attention on the importance of green infrastructure , natural resources and economic development?

Can it focus attention on sustainability?

Can it focus attention on connected green space and open space to create meaningful access to nature within city limits throughout the state?

Can it focus attention on how our individual, every day actions including business and development decisions impact our water resources?

Can it demonstrate that development, conservation, and quality of life enhancements can coexist to create a vibrant city and vibrant state?



I wake to sleep, and take my waking slow.
I feel my fate in what I cannot fear.
I learn by going where I have to go.

from *The Waking* by Theodore Roethke



North Platte River Revival Project has become a major part of Casper's Community.