



Rural Development • Rural Utilities Service • Water & Environmental Program

Hawk Springs to Replace Aging Septic Systems

Hawk Springs, an unincorporated area with only 45 people and one of Wyoming’s lowest median household incomes, needed help. Aging septic systems were contaminating the water wells of residents, and a solution was needed.

USDA Rural Development’s initial step was to fund a preliminary engineering report with a Pre-Development Planning Grant of \$15,000, and leveraged funds from the State of Wyoming, and the Hawk Springs Water & Sewer District. From the report, the community developed a two-phase project to improve their water quality.



Hawk Springs - an unincorporated community in Southeastern Wyoming

Phase one of the solution, currently in final design stages, is to replace the leaking septic systems with a new sewer lagoon and all of the necessary piping and plumbing to connect the businesses and residences to the wastewater system. Funding will be provided by USDA Rural Development, Wyoming State Land Investment Board, and a Mineral Royalties Grant. All 28 households in Hawk Springs pledged to join the new system to meet sustainability requirements and pay monthly user fees to maintain the facility. As one resident commented “without USDA Rural Development, this project would never have happened.”

Phase two will include reviewing the need for a sustainable way to provide drinking water for the future of this small community. As an early indicator that Hawk Springs is on the right path for sustainable growth, since the project got underway, two new businesses have opened and one new house is being built.

Obligation Amount: \$485,000 Grant

Date of Obligation: June 2013

Congressional District: Representative Lummis, AL; Senators Enzi and Barrasso

Partners: State of Wyoming and Hawk Springs Water and Sewer District

Demographics: Unincorporated Hawk Springs, population 45

Impact: Provides a new sustainable wastewater system.