

# Outstanding Achievement Award Citations

## Stewardship

### **Philbert Gonzales**

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Phil Gonzales has made significant contributions to the profession of range management through his long career with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Phil is widely respected throughout the range community in Wyoming for his expertise, his ability to get people to work together, and his commitment to resource management.



Phil was instrumental in implementing the Double Crossing Integrated Pest Management Project. This project is in its 10th year and is highlighted on the NRCS website. It uses a variety of management techniques to control leafy spurge and improve rangeland conditions on 51,000 acres. Phil lobbied for and obtained \$300,000 needed to complete and have published the Northern Johnson County Soil Survey. Phil also played a major role in the Clear Creek Stream Restoration project. This project enhanced fish habitat along Clear Creek which runs through the city of Buffalo Wyoming. This was a multi-agency project involving the city of Buffalo, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and numerous other state and federal agencies. Under Phil's guidance the Buffalo Conservation District was the first conservation district in Wyoming to take on Resource Inventory under the Technical Service Provider (TSP) Program. Eventually the District agreed to provide guidance and assistance for the entire state. He spearheaded the Muddy Creek wetland project and has worked with other stream restoration projects.

Phil is the State Sage Grouse Coordinator for NRCS. He developed the Score Card used by NRCS and others for the Mixed Sagebrush/Grass Plant Community for sage-grouse and sagebrush obligates. He has also developed course materials and provided hands-on and indoor training on range management tools for sage-grouse enhancement in numerous workshops.