

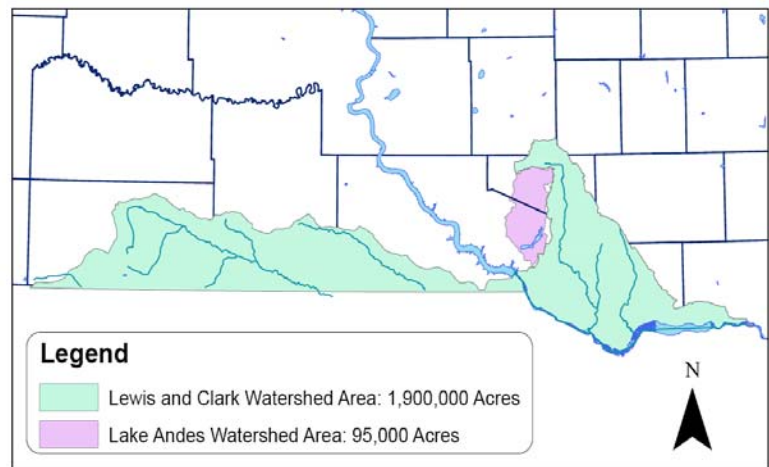
# Randall RC&D – Annual Report – FY2008

Fiscal Year 2008 was a successful year for the Randall RC&D Council with 4 new projects adopted and 13 projects completed. Nine grant applications were submitted relating to the completion of Randall RC&D goals and projects for a total of \$1,370,891.00. Three grants have been received, two denied and four are pending. The council continues to administer the very successful Lewis and Clark Watershed Implementation Project. Two project area expansions took place adding 1,158,000 acres. Many non-profit capacity building and educational events took place and were either sponsored by the council or attended by council members.

## **Lewis & Clark Watershed Implementation Project – Segment 1 Expansion**

The council's project that perhaps impacts the greatest number of people continues to be the Lewis & Clark Watershed Implementation Project (L&CWIP). This summer, the project was approved for expansion to include the watershed area west of the Missouri River and the Lake Andes sub-watershed. The project area now consists of 2 million acres encompassing eleven partner Conservation Districts. In FY-2008, a total of \$303,937.00 of project funds were spent on cost share practices. 175 landowners applied project goaled Best Management Practices. L&CWIP cost share funds have mostly been used in combination with NRCS EQIP funds allowing more landowners to implement needed practices and complete practices they otherwise would not have been able to afford. Major implementation funding is provided through a Clean Water Act Section 319 Grant.

## **Lewis and Clark Implementation Project Area**



## **Lake Andes Watershed Improvement**

The RC&D Council is working with the Charles Mix County Lake Restoration Organization to assist them with restoring the impaired uses of Lake Andes Lake. A 319 EPA grant was approved to conduct eight non-point source pollution educational workshops in the 95,000-acre watershed and to form a citizen's lake water quality monitoring program. Lake water testing will be completed monthly by volunteers for clarity and coliform bacteria. A partnership of state, federal and local organizations and conservation agencies will help conduct the workshops.



### **First South Dakota Agricultural Energy Workshop**

On February 15, 2008, Randall RC&D held the first of its kind Agricultural Energy & Energy Efficiency Workshop in Wagner, SD. Seventy interested individuals attended. As a Randall RC&D and a SD RC&D Association project, the Council worked with the state-wide agricultural energy committee in identifying and leading actions needed to facilitate on-farm investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy.



### **Weed Management Area Development**

The Randall RC&D and Lower James RC&D Councils saw the need and potential benefits of exploring the potential of a 9-county Weed Management Area encompassing the counties along the Missouri River in southeast South Dakota. The two councils teamed up and brought the county organizations, and land managers together. There was overwhelming support for this effort and the councils have since assisted the group in developing a strategic plan.



### **Leadership Development**

In January 2008, RC&D Council members Martin Drefs and Rex Winter traveled to Las Cruces, New Mexico, to attend the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Western RC&D Conference. February 2008 saw Les Labahn and Art Hertz traveling to Washington, DC, to attend the National Association of RC&D Councils Annual Leadership Forum. In March, Roger Huizenga and Art Hertz attended a Non-Profit Management training session hosted by South Central RC&D and featuring Donna Hunter, NARC&DC, as trainer.



Art Hertz, Senator John Thune and Les Labahn

### **2009 Western RC&D Conference**

Randall RC&D council members are preparing for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Western RC&D Conference to be held in South Dakota at the Spearfish Holiday Inn & Convention Center. The Randall Council is in charge of the Exhibit/Sponsorship portion of the conference.

### **A few of the other Projects and Activities Include:**

Delmont Rural Volunteer Fire Protection District project (new truck and equipment); Geddes Museum Project (grants to help fix historic buildings); Oyate Trail Project (assist in promoting a 400 mile trail sale); Cavalier Corner (assist in finding funds for community activity center for after school kids); Tabor Lakeside Use Area (assist with campground, boat ramp and trail development); Native Prairie Garden development near Kimball; and assisting with 2 Grazing Workshops per year.