

# Powder River News

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**SEASONS GREETINGS**

### *BOARD OF SUPERVISORS*

Amy Icanberry-Chairman

George Renkert-Vice-Chair

Jim Schiermiester-Supervisor

Dan Mahoney-Supervisor

Bill Jones-Supervisor

### *DISTRICT STAFF*

District Manager-  
Anita Bartlett

### *NRCS STAFF*

District Conservationist-  
Allison McKenzie

Rangeland Management  
Specialist-Johnna Blankenship

## *New Board Members Join the PRC D*

Following the November election the PRC D had a new board member join its ranks. Jim Schiermiester was elected to fill the At-large Position on the Board of supervisors previously held by Jason Williams. Jim moved to Kaycee over 20 years ago with his family from Gillette. He currently owns and operates the family ranch North of Kaycee with his wife Becky and their herd of kids. Jim previously served on the PRC D Board of Supervisors from 1986-1990.

Upon the resignation of Judy Novakovich from the PRC D Board of Supervisors Bill Jones was appointed to fill the Urban Position, through a special appointment by the Wyoming Board of Ag. Bill Jones has lived in Kaycee for most of his life, living and working on the family ranch near Mayoworth. As well, he has driven a school bus for over 15 yrs and been the caretaker for the Dull Knife Dam for 16 yrs. In 2008 they bought a house in Kaycee and moved off the family ranch to be closer to their jobs in town.

**The PRC D would like to thank Judy Novakovich and Jason Williams for their years of service to the Powder River Conservation District.**

# Tree Sales

**The Powder River Conservation District  
is now taking orders for trees.**

## Shrubs

- Rocky Mnt. Maple
- Service Berry
- Red-Osier Dogwood
- Siberian Pea Shrub
- Buffalo Berry
- Western Sand Cherry
- Nanking Cherry
- Chokecherry
- Cotoneaster
- Snowberry
- Red Leaf Rose
- Late Lilac
- Common Lilac



## Fruit Trees

- *Apple*
- *Cherry*
- *Apricot*
- *Pear*

## Large Trees

- Sargent Crab
- Quaking Aspen
- Select Canada Red Cherry
- Green Ash
- Patmore Ash
- Prairie Silk' Honey Locust
- Colo. Blue Spruce
- Austrian Pine
- Ponderosa Pine
- Scotch Pine
- Colorado Spruce

- Please contact the PRC D as soon as possible if you are interested in ordering trees. Orders are subject to availability. Some trees sell out faster than others.
- In order to purchase seedling trees you must own at least 2 acres of land. They come in bundles of 30 or 50 each.

- Caragana
- Chokecherry
- Lilac
- Plum
- Sumac
- Sand Cherry
- Nanking Cherry
- Woods Rose
- Buffaloberry
- Currant
- Service berry
- Red-osier Dogwood
- Wax Current
- Green Ash
- Elm
- Cottonwood
- Native Willow Mix
- Hackberry
- Honeylocust
- Poplar
- Bur Oak
- Coyote Willow
- Peachleaf Willow
- Aspen
- Colo. Blue Spruce
- Douglas fir
- Englemann Spruce
- Pinon Pine
- Ponderosa Pine
- Rocky Mtn. Juniper
- Austrian Pine
- Lodgepole Pine
- Scotch Pine
- Eastern Red Ceder

*December 2010*

## **U.S. District Judge Johnson: USFWS rejection of Wyoming Wolf Management plan was arbitrary and capricious**

**CHEYENNE, Nov. 18, 2010--**In a Nov. 18, 2010 ruling, United States District Judge Alan Johnson ruled that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) rejection of the Wyoming Wolf Management plan was arbitrary and capricious. The court remanded the issue back to the USFWS to fix.

"We are pleased with the decision," Harriet Hageman, attorney for the Wyoming Wolf Coalition, stated. "We have felt all along the USFWS actions weren't based on science."

The Wyoming Wolf Coalition is a petitioner-intervenor in the case of the *State of Wyoming v. United States Fish and Wildlife Service*.

"The deal from the beginning was that the gray wolf would be introduced into and managed in the Yellowstone area," Hageman continued. "The FWS rejection of the Wyoming Wolf Management plan was an effort to force Wyoming to adopt a management plan that ensures that the wolves move throughout the State. That is directly contrary to everything that the FWS told us when they brought the wolves into Yellowstone."

Judge Johnson wrote in his ruling: "There is no scientific or commercial data that suggest the state's dual classification of wolves, in and of itself, cannot meet, accomplish, and maintain the identified recovery goals in the GYA, including northwestern Wyoming."

He continued in his writing: "...the agency's requirement that the trophy game management area, rather than that portion of northwestern Wyoming (including the GYA recovery area) necessary to facilitate movement and ensure dispersal of wolves so as to preserve genetic connectivity and to ensure that self sustaining populations will be maintained above recovery goals, is arbitrary and capricious and should be set aside."

In the order Judge Johnson remanded the matter back to the USFWS saying the agency should determine: "...whether the proposed regulatory framework ensures the conservation and protection of gray wolves in an approved trophy game area in northwestern Wyoming as required by the Endangered Species Act, and to analyze in this context the defense of property and wolf depredation laws in considering whether the management plan is an adequate regulatory mechanism."

It is now up to the USFWS to determine if they will appeal the decision. If they appeal, the case would go before the 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals.

In 2004, 27 different associations, including agriculture, wildlife interests and county government joined together to form the "Wolf Coalition."

"Wildlife interests, county governments and agriculture have come together recognizing the need to protect livestock and the depleted wildlife populations," Hageman stated. "This broad diversity of organizations shows the significant impacts wolf introduction is having on Wyoming citizens."

**-END-**

# PLANT FACTS

**Common Name:** Western Ragweed

**Species:** *Ambrosia psilostachya*

**Life Span:** Perennial

**Origin:** Native

**Season:** Warm

**Growth Form:** Monoecious forb, erect, branching above; flowers August to October, reproduces from roots and seeds; forms extensive colonies from creeping rootstocks.



**Vegetative Characteristics:**

**Leaves:** alternate and opposite, simple; branches lanceolate to oblong; margins entire to toothed; surfaces covered with appressed, pustular-based hairs, resinous.

**Stems:** erect, simple below, branched above.

**Floral and Fruit Characteristics:**

**Inflorescences:** staminate heads in racemes; pistillate heads in axillary clusters below staminate heads.

**Flowers:** unisexual, heads discoid;

**Fruits:** achene; enclosed in a hard spiny “bur” formed by the indurate involucre; pappus absent.

**Historic, Food and Medicinal Uses:** leaves were steeped by American Indians and used as a treatment for sore eyes; pollen causes hay fever.

**Livestock Losses:** may accumulate nitrates, milk produced from cows grazing this forb has a bitter taste, resin may induce dermatitis.

**Forage Value:** worthless for livestock and wildlife, generally unpalatable, cattle may graze it in early spring and late summer.

**Habitat:** prairies, barrens, hills, pastures, and roadsides.

\*\*sited from *North American Range Plants*, Fifth Edition, Stubbendieck, Hatch, Butterfield.\*\*



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**Now you can know the answer.**

**The Powder River Conservation District has**

**Free rain gauges available-**

**Please stop by and pick yours up today!**



## NRCS Update

Thank you Kaycee and Southern Johnson County. Working here has been an experience that I will never forget. While I was sorting my papers in the Kaycee Field Office, I came across the notes I took at the NRCS State Sage Grouse Training in June of this year. Sage grouse are amazing little creatures; there really isn't any other species quite like them anywhere in the world. The more I've learned about them, the more I realize how much we have to learn. A few interesting facts:

- 50% of all the greater sage grouse in the world are in Wyoming.
- According to Wildlife Biologist Wendell Gilgert from Portland, Oregon, finding food generally isn't a problem for sage grouse; getting fed without getting eaten is. Wendell told us, "Predation is always an emotional issue, but usually predation doesn't have nearly the affect on chick survival as does loss or degradation of nesting and brood rearing habitat," and although expansion of ravens and red foxes can cause problems for the nesting sage grouse, habitat is more crucial to chick survival than predator control.
- The primary threats to sage grouse habitat are invasive species (especially annual bromes and conifers), infrastructure (mining, oil, and gas), wildfire, tillage, and in some cases grazing.
- It is estimated that over 43% of the sagebrush steppe in North America has been lost.

Anyone interested in learning more about sage grouse should take look at the sage-grouse guide book recently published by the University of Idaho as a resource for land owners and managers entitled Sage-Grouse Habitat In Idaho: A Practical Guide For Land Owners And Managers. It can be found on The Idaho Fish and Game Sage-grouse web page at [http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/plans/sage\\_grouse/](http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/plans/sage_grouse/).

Another excellent source of information is a document written and published this year by the University of Wyoming, USDA NRCS, Wyoming Game and Fish Department and others entitled Grazing Influence, Objective Development, and Management in Wyoming's Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat With Emphasis on Nesting and Early Brood Rearing.

The NRCS is working closely with other Federal Agencies, local Conservation Districts, Wyoming Game and Fish, landowners, and others to promote conservation practices intended to increase sage grouse chick survival. If you would like to learn more about our work, or if you are interested partnering with us to protect a beautiful, unique species that is truly one of our greatest treasures, please call or stop by the Kaycee Field Office or the Buffalo Service Center.



## Rain Barrel Sales

Have you ever considered using a rain barrel to water your garden? The Powder River Conservation District may be able to help. Using a rain barrel is a great way to store water from rain and snow events. The water can then be used to water plants and gardens. It also benefits water quality by reducing the amount of run-off, which picks up pollutants on the ground and carries them to streams. The PRCD has begun to sell rain barrels at the significantly reduced price of \$55 per barrel. Order forms are available at the PRCD office and they will be taking orders until March 1, 2011.

If you have an interest in using rain barrels please contact the District at 738-2321 or by email at [anita.bartlett@wy.nacdnet.net](mailto:anita.bartlett@wy.nacdnet.net)

*Powder River Conservation District  
P.O. Box 48  
Kaycee, WY 82639*

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
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Mark Your  
Calendars!!!

PRCD Board Meeting– Thursday, January 13, 2010 @ 6pm

Office Closed– Friday, December 24th and Friday, December 31, 2010



The PRCD is an equal opportunity employer.

Find us on the web: [www.powderrivercd.org](http://www.powderrivercd.org)