

June 2011

Powder River News

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Tree City USA	1
Protecting your Home from Fire	2
City Park Entrance Gets a Face-lift	3
Wildlife Escape Ramps	3
Plant Facts	4
Rain Gauges	4
Cost Share Program	5
Budget Hearing	5

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-Vice-Chair

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District Manager-
Anita Bartlett

NRCS STAFF

District Conservationist-
Allison McKenzie

Rangeland Management
Specialist-Kassie Bales

Kaycee Celebrates 5 Years as Trees City USA

In conjunction with the Powder River CD's Tree Workshop held May 25th, the Town of Kaycee celebrated 5 Years as a Tree City USA. Kaycee is one of the smallest town in Wyoming (second to Chugwater) to have this designation. During the Tree City USA celebration Kelly Mumm, Wyoming State Forestry, presented Mayor Tom Knapp with a plaque and flag to be displayed at Town Hall. As well, the Mayor read the Arbor Day proclamation and two Green Ash Trees were planted in observance of Arbor Day.

To qualify for Tree City USA, a town or city must meet four standards established by the National Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters.

1. It must establish a Tree Board that must be legally responsible for the care and management of the community's trees.
2. It must pass a Tree Care Ordinance that will provide for clear guidance for planting, maintaining, and removing trees from streets, parks and other public places.
3. It must establish a community forestry program with an annual budget of at least \$2/capita.
4. It must organize an Arbor Day observance and proclamation with a simple tree planting event or an awards ceremony.



June 2011

Protecting Your Home From Wildfire

Submitted by: Jim Shell, Johnson County Fire District

City, County, State, and Federal fire protection officials in Johnson County are concerned about the potential for property loss or injury to residents from wildland fires. As we enter the summer and fire season they are asking homeowners and ranch owners to shoulder responsibility for providing the first line of defense for their own property. Spring is a good time to deal with landscaping issues that may become a big problem in wildfire events.

Fires occurring in natural or agricultural vegetation can pose a serious threat to homes and other property throughout Johnson County. Homes are lost to wildland fires almost daily across the nation. Over the past three years homes have been lost to wildfire in neighboring Natrona County, and Sheridan County. Johnson County is certainly not immune because:

- There is more fuel to burn. Combustible vegetation and debris accumulates to high levels as vegetation matures and or cures. (Wet springs like this year produce excess fuel loads)
- More homes are being built in areas with vegetation that may burn and ignite structures.
- There is an increased risk for fire starts. More people live in, work in, or visit Johnson County than ever before, leading to a greater risk for human caused fires.
- A reported wildfire can reach structures before the fire department does as fire departments often must travel long distances.

Residents are being encouraged to look carefully at conditions surrounding the home. Structures may be at risk whether in grasslands or a forest environment; whether close to a fire department or a long distance away. Even within city limits, hazardous conditions may exist that threaten homes in the event of a fire starting in outdoor vegetation.

The County and City fire chiefs say property owners can significantly improve the chance for structures to survive a wildfire by following six simple steps. (1) Identify and delineate a defensible space area 60 feet to 100 feet around structures (the size depending on slope and fuel conditions). (2) Remove all dead vegetation and woody material within the defensible space. (3) Thin dense concentrations of shrubs and trees within the defensible space, increasing spacing between plants. (4) Prevent fire from burning from the ground fuels into tree tops by removing low branches within 6 feet of the ground and removing shrubs and grasses under tree limbs. (5) Create an area at least 30' around structures that is "lean, clean, and green". Keep this area free of dry vegetation or objects that might ignite from sparks. Keep grasses cut short (4"-6"). Establish an area at least 3' wide around the foundations of buildings free of combustible material. Irrigated grass, rock mulches, sidewalks, and gravel paths etc. work well. Clean all leaves and debris from the roofs and gutters. (6) Maintain your defensible space regularly.

The County publication "Living With Fire, A Guide for the Homeowner" provides more details on creating defensible space and other steps to take to protect the homes and other structures. The Johnson County Living With Fire Program provides grant funds to qualifying homeowners to help cover costs of creating defensible space around homes in some parts of the county. For a copy of the guide and information regarding grants for creating defensible space contact the Johnson County Fire Mitigation Coordinator at 307 620-0091 or the Powder River Fire District at 307 738-2574. Arrangements can be made for an evaluation of your home and property.

June 2011

City Park Entrance Gets a “Facelift”

The Powder River Conservation District with the assistance of Joyce Black, Kaycee Maintenance Staff and Kassie Bales, NRCS gave the entrance to the Kaycee Park a “facelift”. This new look includes the addition of raised flower beds planted with water wise plants to promote water conservation, the Park Rules sign has been repainted, trees and shrubs were pruned, dead growth was removed, and hauled away. As well, two new trees have been planted and pruning and removal of dead growth has begun on trees and shrubs within the park. Future plans for the improvement of the park plant life includes additional pruning, mulching of all trees and shrubs, and removal of dead or hazardous trees.

Before



After



FREE WILDLIFE ESCAPE RAMPS FOR STOCK WATER TANKS

Please contact the Powder River Conservation District at 738-2321 or 350 Nolan Avenue, Kaycee, WY if you are interested in placing Wildlife Escape Ramps in your stock tanks. Currently we only have fiberglass escape ramps available but hope to have expanded metal escape ramps available by fall.

June 2011

PLANT FACTS

Common Name: Poison Hemlock

Species: *Conium maculatum* L.

Life Span: Perennial

Origin: Introduced

Season: Cool

Growth Form: Forb; erect, highly branched; flowers May to August, reproduces by seed.

Vegetative Characteristics:

Leaves: alternate, pinnately compound, fernlike; glabrous.

Stems: erect from a stout taproot, stout, highly branched, glabrous, purple spotted, internodes hollow.

Other: plant is a biennial producing a rosette of leaves the first year and flowering the second year; plant has a sour, musty, or mousy odor.



Floral and Fruit Characteristics:

Inflorescences: compound umbles, convex, open; umbellets 9-13 flowered, pedicels spreading.

Flowers: perfect, regular; calyx teeth absent; corolla white, petals 5 notched, clawed.

Fruits: schizocarp; broadly ovoid, laterally flattened, glabrous, grayish-brown; ribs prominent, undulate, 2 seeded; seed flattened to concave, deeply and narrowly sulcate.

Historic, Food and Medicinal Uses: an extract from this species was used to put Socrates to death

Livestock Losses: highly poisonous to livestock, contains several alkaloids; alkaloid poisons in the roots, leaves and fruits are the most toxic.

Forage Value: usually unpalatable.

Habitat: moist soils of pastures, rangelands, roadsides, stream banks, and disturbed sites.

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

Ever ask someone “How much rain did we get?”

Now you can know the answer.

The Powder River Conservation District has

Free rain gauges available-

Please stop by and pick yours up today!



June 2011

PRCD to Offer Cost Share Programs

The PRCD will be offering two Cost Share Programs: the first is for large rural projects that make a positive difference on the land. This is a cost share program where the PRCD matches 50% up to \$5000, on a reimbursement basis. Projects will be reviewed by staff, then must be approved by the PRCD board before they are initiated. Some examples of projects that qualify under this program are: Solar pumping units, fencing for implementing rotational grazing systems on pastures, or fencing riparian areas to reduce impacts of livestock grazing.

The second cost share program provides incentive for residents and businesses to conserve soil, water and energy. The program also encourages beautification of the landscape. This program matches 50% up to \$1000, on a reimbursement basis. Some examples of projects that qualify under this program are: planting trees and shrubs, xeriscaping to replace traditional lawns, and installation of efficient drip systems for trees and shrubs.

For more information on these cost share programs or for an application please contact the PRCD office at (307) 738-2321 or stop by the office at 350 Nolan Avenue, Kaycee, WY.

**Public Notice
Proposed Budget for:
Powder River Conservation District
Fiscal Year 2011-2012**

Expenditures:

Administration:	\$126,642
Operations:	\$266,563
Indirect Costs:	\$ 13,640
Capital Outlay:	\$ 0
Total Expenditures:	\$406,845

Emergency Reserves: \$200,000

Total Cash Required \$606,845

Revenue:

Anticipated Cash and Revenue:	\$400,847
Estimated Mil Levy:	\$205,998
Total Anticipated Revenue:	\$606,845

The Powder River Conservation District will conduct its Annual Public Hearing for the proposed FY2011-2012 Budget on Tuesday, July 19, 2011 at 6:30pm at the PRCD Office located at 350 Nolan Avenue in Kaycee, WY. This Budget Hearing will be held in conjunction with our regular monthly board meeting. Interested residents are encouraged to attend.

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

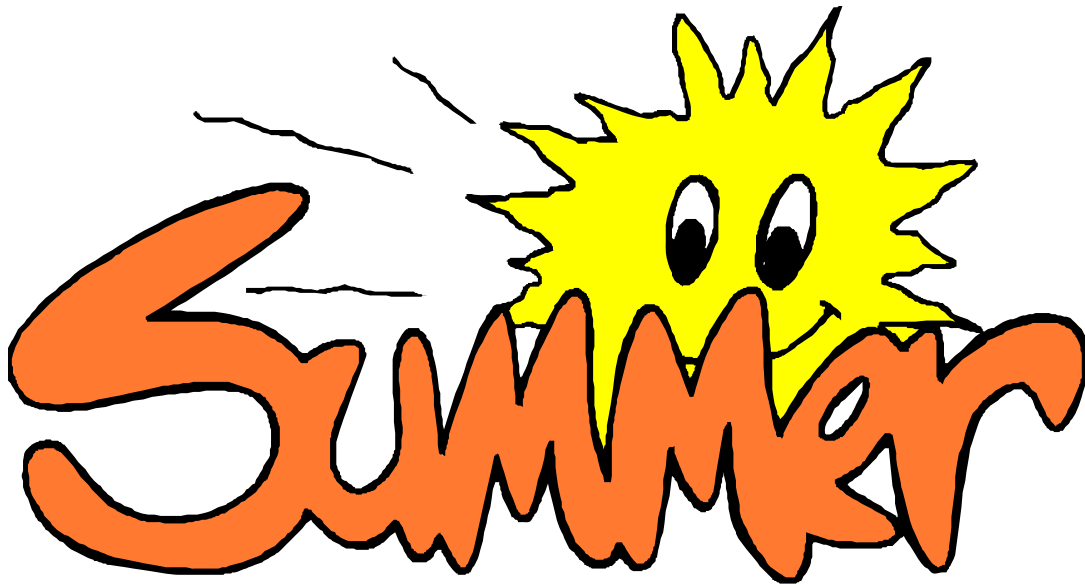
Non-Profit
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Office Closed-July 4, 2011 in observance of Independence Day

PRCD Board Meeting- Tuesday, July 19, 2011 @ 6:30 pm

PRCD Budget Hearing-Tuesday, July 19, 2011 @ 6:30pm

Mark Your
Calendars!!!



The PRCD is an equal opportunity employer.

Find us on the web: www.powderrivercd.org