

June 2013

# Powder River News

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## Adopt A Tree with the PRCD

The PRCD continued its Adopt a Tree Program this spring with the Kaycee Elementary Students. Each KES student was able to take home a Douglas Fir seedling tree to plant. This year the kids learned about the importance of Arbor Day, information about the tree they were adopting, and how to plant and care for their tree. The PRCD would like to thank Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Streeter, Mrs. Geis, Mrs. Pavey, and Mrs. LeDoux for allowing their classes to participate in this program



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## E-Waste Collection Continues

The Powder River Conservation District wants to thank everyone who has brought in their E-Waste and encourage anyone who has E-Waste to please bring it in to us. So far we have collected approximately 940 pounds of E-waste (this does not include the 15 computer monitors and 9 TVs collected as well). The E-waste we collect is donated to Cutting Edge Industries a division of NOWCAP Services in Casper. NOWCAP & Cutting Edge Industries exist to create employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities or people who have experienced a brain injury.



Please feel free to drop off your E-waste at the District Office located at 350 Nolan Avenue in Kaycee, WY. Below you will find a list of items that we can e-recycle:

Answering Machines	Batteries (Not Car Batteries)
Cable Boxes (analog & Digital)	Cables & Wire
Calculators	Cameras
CD-rom Drivers	Cell Phones
Circuit Boards	Computers
Computer Towers	Connectors
Consumer Electronics	Electronic Components
Floppy Drives	Hard Drives
Insulated Cable (copper & aluminum)	Keyboards, Mice, etc.
Laptop & Notebook Computers	Stereo Components
Surveillance Equipment	Telecommunications Equipment
Security Systems	Servers
Video Equipment	Video Game Equipment
TVs	Computer Monitors

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## National Ag Day

National Ag Day is a day to celebrate the contribution of Agriculture in our everyday lives. March 19, 2013 was designated as Ag Day. This day is set aside to encourage every American to: understand how food and fiber products are produced, value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy, and to appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products. Agriculture provides almost everything we eat, use and wear on a daily basis. But too few people truly understand this contribution. Each American farmer feeds more than 144 people ... a dramatic increase from 25 people in the 1960s. Quite simply, American agriculture is doing more - and doing it better. As the world population soars, there is an even greater demand for the food and fiber produced in the United States.



To Celebrate National Ag Day the PRCD visited the Kaycee Elementary Classes and discussed with them what National Ag Day was, the importance of American Agriculture, and where our food comes from. With the theme "Hugs & Kisses" for Farmers and Ranchers youth learned about how Hershey's Chocolate is produced and the agricultural products contained in the chocolate. Each child was excited about the "Hugs & Kisses" they received and were ready to go out and share them with local farmers and ranchers.

Thank you to all of your local Agricultural Producers and all that you do to contribute to our community.

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**Public Notice  
Proposed Budget for:  
Powder River Conservation District  
Fiscal Year 2013-2014**

Expenditures:

Administration:	\$ 87,172
Operations:	\$197,371
Indirect Costs:	\$ 14,369
Capital Outlay:	\$ <u>0</u>
<b>Total Expenditures:</b>	<b>\$293,912</b>

Funds to be added to Reserves: \$106,741

**Total Cash Required \$400,653**

Revenue:

Anticipated Cash and Revenue:	\$142,795
Estimated Mil Levy:	<u>\$260,000</u>
<b>Total Anticipated Revenue:</b>	<b>\$402,795</b>

Reserves:

Current total in Reserves: \$600,000

The Powder River Conservation District will conduct its Annual Public Hearing for the proposed FY2013-2014 Budget on Thursday, July 11, 2013 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 monthly board meeting. Interested residents are encouraged to attend.

/s/ Anita M. Bartlett  
PRCD Manager

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**PRCD Cost Share Program**

The PRCD is offering a Rural Cost Share Program for large rural projects that make a positive difference on the land. This is a cost share program where the PRCD matches 65% up to \$20,000, on a reimbursement basis. Projects will be reviewed by staff, then it must be approved by the PRCD board before they are initiated. **The deadline to turn in applications is 4pm on Friday, July 12, 2013.** Some examples of projects that qualify under this program are: Solar pumping units, fencing for implementing rotational grazing systems on pastures, and stock water pipelines.

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.

## Seven Mid-Summer Lawn and Garden Tips

In July and August, the thrill of the garden's spring rebirth has worn off, the days are hot, and the mosquitoes are voracious. To save time and sweat while keeping your lawn and garden healthy, here are seven garden dos and don'ts for mid-summer.

**1. Manage watering.** The rule that your lawn or garden needs an inch of water a week is a good starting point, but it overlooks many variables. For example, in dry or windy weather, plants lose more water through the minute pores called *stomata* in their leaves. Wide or flat leaves lose water faster than narrow or plump leaves. And plants growing in soil with a lot of clay need watering less often than a plants growing in sandy soil, because sand drains faster. So rather than rely solely on the 1-inch rule, observe your soil and your plants. Here are clues that it's time to water:

- The soil is dry an inch or two below the surface. To check, stick your finger into the ground near the plant roots or dig out a slice with a trowel.
- The lawn doesn't bounce right back when you step on it.
- The leaves of garden plants show the slightest sign of wilting.

**2. Mow high.** Every type of lawn grass has a recommended low and high mowing height. Now is the time to mow high, so the taller grass shades the ground, which keeps the lawn's roots cooler and slows water evaporation from the soil.

**3. Don't feed your lawn.** Whether you live in the North or the South, the hot and often dry months of July and August are when the lawn grows more slowly. Wait to fertilize until fall, when cooler weather prompts grass to grow fatter roots in anticipation of winter.

**4. Lightly feed vegetable plants and flowers.** Unlike your lawn, which wants to be left alone right now, vegetables and annual flowers such as petunias, geraniums and impatiens appreciate a light feeding now, because they're expending a lot of energy blooming and producing fruit.

**5. Think twice about spraying lawn weeds.** Before you spray broadleaved weeds such as dandelions with a weed killer read the product label carefully for cautions against using it in hot weather. Many weed killers can also kill lawn grass if you apply them on a warm day, even if you spray early in the day when it's still cool.

If the label says the herbicide is safe to apply, don't be heavy-handed — applying more than the recommended amount can also damage the grass. And because the lawn grows slowly in mid-summer, the grass won't fill in those dead spots anytime soon. Weeds might, though.

**6. Remove faded flowers.** To keep flowering plants blooming longer, remove old flowers that have withered and are turning brown — a practice called *deadheading*. The exception is plants that you want to go to seed.

**7. Give container gardens special attention.** Plants growing in containers and hanging baskets don't have the luxury of sending their roots far and wide in search of water and nutrients. During the heat of summer, plan to water containers frequently — sometimes twice a day, if the pot is small or you've packed plants closely together.

Fertilize plants in containers more often than plants in the ground. Experts recommend a variety of different feeding approaches, but feeding every 7 to 10 days with a half-strength liquid fertilizer is a reasonable starting point. Another option is to use a slow-release dry fertilizer once a month. Observing your plants and drawing on your experience helps you find an approach that works for you.

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## “Conservation: We’re All In”

Area youth gathered once again at Mallo Camp north of Newcastle, WY to participate in the Black Hills Natural Resource Youth Camp June 12-14th. The purpose of this camp is to give youth the opportunity to experience a wide variety of activities and educational sessions teaching them



about the natural world and its resources. Other activities included fishing, the Wildman Hike teaches kids about predators and prey relationships, a talent show, a presentation on bats and their benefit to the world, and various games.

Each child participated in six educational sessions they included: “Survival of the Fittest”, “Trivia”, “Treasure Hunt”, “Casting for Food”, “How Many Bears?”, and “Target Practice”. “Survival of the Fittest”, presented by Ian Scott with Gillette College, taught campers basic knot tying skills and how to STOP when lost in the wilderness. STOP stands for Stop, Think, Observe, and Plan.

Lindsay Wood with Wyoming Ag in the Classroom presented “Trivia” where campers learned about beef nutrition, by products, animal facts, and safe animal handling.

“Treasure Hunt” with Jeremy Dedic, from Sate Forestry gave a demonstration in Geocaching, where campers had to utilize GPS units to find 2 cache sites. Geocaching is a treasure hunting game where you use a Global Positioning System (GPS) to hide and seek containers with other participants.

Campbell Count Conservation District Technician Kevin Quick and Troy Achterhof with WY Game and Fish taught campers all about “Casting for Food”. This activity taught campers how to cast, fish, and properly care for caught fish. Campers were allowed to practice their casting skills and catch fish.

“How Many Bears?” is what Tim Kellogg, District Conservationist for the NRCS (Campbell County Field office) wanted to know? He gave a presentation how many bears can survive in an area based on the food, shelter and water available to them. This was demonstrated through an activity where kids “gathered food and water” in an area then calculated to see if they were able to gather enough to survive.

Finally, Ryan Mar and Adam Wyant with NRCS had “Target Practice”. They taught youth how the correct way to shoot a bow and arrow, safety while shooting and let the kids do a little “target practice”.

Sponsors for the Black Hills Natural Resource Youth Camp were Weston County Natural Resource Districts, Niobrara, Campbell, and the Powder River Conservation Districts.



## **FREE WILDLIFE ESCAPE RAMPS FOR STOCK WATER TANKS**

WE HAVE TWO TYPES OF RAMPS AVAILABLE: EXPANDED METAL AND FIBERGLASS. PLEASE CONTACT US AT 738-2321 IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PLACING THE RAMPS IN YOUR STOCK TANKS.

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

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

PRCD Board Meeting—Thursday, July 19, 2013 @6:30 PM

PRCD Board Budget Hearing– Thursday, July 18, 2013 @ 6:30 pm



The PRCD is an equal opportunity employer.

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