

March 2014

# Powder River News

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## PRCD Offering Cost Share Programs

The PRCD is 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 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 11, 2014. 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. These applications are reviewed monthly and can be applied for at any time during the year.

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.

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## Rain Barrel & Composter Sales

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.

Our Composters are 60 gallon black plastic. Why use black barrels? Black absorbs heat from the sun better than any other color, and as experienced composters know, the hotter the temperature of the contents, the faster the barrels will produce finished compost. Put in your "greens and browns", give the barrels a spin and you will be well on your way to making your own compost, far better than money can buy.



The PRCD will be selling rain barrels and composters at the significantly reduced price of \$45 for rain barrels and \$85 for composters. Order forms are available at the PRCD office. If you have an interest in purchasing rain barrels or composters please contact the District at 738-2321 or by email at [anita.bartlett@wy.nacdnet.net](mailto:anita.bartlett@wy.nacdnet.net)

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## RECYCLING BINS

**Powder River Conservation District is offering stackable recycle bins to promote recycling efforts that will increase our landfill's life span.**



**Recycling Bins** 18 gal./72 qt. stacking bin with an easy access front flap. Ideal for recycling or dry storage - indoor or outdoors. Stacks with or without the lid. Front lid stays open when desired.

Recycle bins are being offered for \$6.50 a 50% cost-share rate—original price \$13.00.

# Spring Landscaping Tips

## Early Spring

### **Prune Fruit Trees**

Most fruit trees, including apples, pears, cherries, and peaches, benefit from being thinned every year. This encourages a more open habit that keeps the trees healthy and makes it easier to harvest the produce. The best time to prune is before new growth develops.

### **Pull Back Winter Mulch**

If you spread a layer of winter mulch to protect your plants from heaving, you'll want to remove it when plants begin to grow and danger of extreme winter temperatures has passed. Keep mulch or some type of covering handy to protect your plants in the case of an unseasonably late arctic blast.

### **Prune Roses**

In most regions, you'll want to prune your roses just as or before new growth emerges from the canes. Cutting your roses back encourages strong, healthy shoots that will produce lots of blooms. A trim also gives the plants a more open habit, which helps them resist diseases such as black spot.

### **Cut Back Ornamental Grasses**

Cut back ornamental grasses to about 4 inches tall before or just as they put out new growth. This is also the time to divide ornamental grasses, if you wish to do so.

### **Prune Summer Flowering Shrubs**

If any of your summer-blooming shrubs, such as butterfly bush, potentilla, and summersweet, are getting out of hand, give them a haircut in early spring. This won't affect their blooms because they make their flowers on new growth.

## Early Spring to Mid-Spring

### **Divide Overgrown Perennials**

Give older perennials new life by dividing them. Dig up varieties (such as Siberian iris, aster, coreopsis, yarrow, and many hostas) that form dense clumps and split them apart. They'll bloom better when they're not crowding each other out -- and you end up with more plants to fill in your yard or to share with friends and neighbors. You don't need to worry about dividing peonies, bleeding hearts, baptisias, amsonias, or hellebores; these varieties do just fine on their own. Splitting them can set the plants back.

### **Plant Trees and Shrubs**

Spring's cool, moist conditions make it the perfect time to add trees and shrubs to your yard. There are many reasons to grow trees and shrubs: They add value and beauty to your property; they can shade your home, reducing your summer energy bills; and if you select fruit-bearing varieties such as apples or blueberries, they supply food for your family. The most common mistake when planting trees and shrubs is planting them too deeply. The root flare, where the roots meet the trunk, should be at or just above the soil level.

## Mid-Spring to Late Spring

### **Prune Spring Blooming Shrubs**

Once your forsythia, camellias, lilacs, and mock oranges finish flowering for the season, give them a haircut if they need it. They start making next year's floral display just a few weeks after they finish blooming, so cut them back as flowers fade so you won't be disappointed next year.

\*\*\*Information obtained from the Better Homes and Gardening website: <http://www.bhg.com/gardening/>

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# NRCS Update

NRCS is changing a little on the structure but not the faces. Kassie Bales will be moving to Buffalo and working out of the NRCS office in Buffalo. She is excited about becoming a homeowner and taking the next step in her life. She will be traveling to Kaycee a couple times a week to also cover the Kaycee office. The government plans to fill the Kaycee position with a new, full time person when budget restraints allow. Until then Kassie, Allison and John will all be traveling from Buffalo to cover the office. Please do not hesitate to contact us at the Buffalo office with ANY questions or concerns. The office number in Buffalo is (307) 684-2526 ext. 3.



## We Want Your Input

The Powder River Conservation District is interested in holding education workshops and tours and we would like your input. What type of workshops would you like to see (landscaping, trees, range management, reclamation, energy development, etc)? What time of day/year works best (morning, afternoon, evening, all day/half day or spring, fall, summer, or winter)? Is there any particular speaker you would like to hear? Any information you can provide us with would be greatly appreciated. We want to provide you with the best possible educational experience possible.

Past workshops and Tours have included Range Management 101, 301, and 501,



Ranching for Profit, Grazing Management, Rangeland management, Holistic Resource Management, Gardening in Wyoming, Xericaping, and Trees and Shrubs for Wyoming.

To provide us with feed back you can stop in at the district office (350 Nolan Avenue), send us a letter, call us at (307) 738-2321 or e-mail us at [anita.bartlett@wy.nacdnet.net](mailto:anita.bartlett@wy.nacdnet.net)

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## PRCD Continues to Collect E-Waste

E-waste (electronic waste) is the fastest growing form of toxic waste in the world. It is probably no surprise that considering our current age of technology and computers, e-waste makes up a significant portion of waste on the Earth. However, what is surprising to most people is that e-waste is toxic. Some of the toxic substances of e-waste include the heavy metals, Mercury, Cadmium and Lead

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 just over 2000 pounds or 1 ton of E-waste (this does not include the 28 computer monitors and 22 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. **The PRCD is no longer accepting TVs larger than 48 inches.**



Please feel free to drop of 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

### **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.

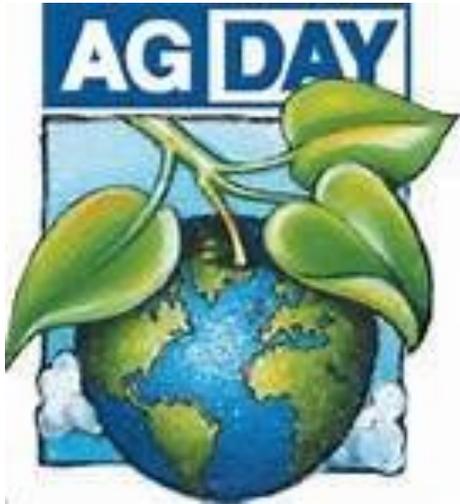
*Powder River Conservation District  
P.O. Box 48  
Kaycee, WY 82639*

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Kaycee, WY  
Permit #1



PRCD Board Meeting-April 10th at 6:30pm at the District Office

National Ag Day-March 25th



*March 25th or National Ag Day is about recognizing - and celebrating - the contribution of agriculture in our everyday lives. The PRCD wants to recognize and thank all of our local Ag Producers for their contribution to our community, state, and nation.*

*THANK YOU*

The PRCD is an equal opportunity employer.

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