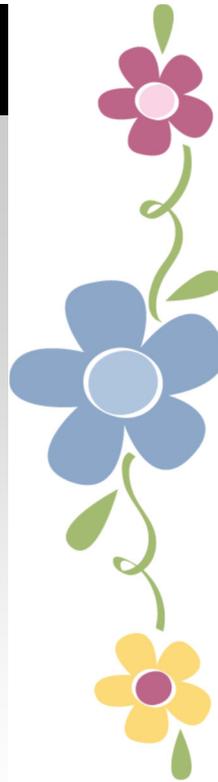


Spring 2020

Powder River News

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PRCD Begins Long Range Planning

The PRCD wants to hear from you. Every five years the District is charged with the task of developing a new Long Range Plan. This plan becomes the foundation on which our future plans and projects will be based. The PRCD is locally funded and as a local taxpayer we feel you should have an invested interest in our planning process. We would appreciate your recommendations on where the natural resource problems are in the district and how we can work together to solve them. We encourage you to fill out the Long Range Plan Survey that was sent out to you a few weeks ago and return it to us so we can benefit from your opinions.



It is the intent of the PRCD to send a survey to every household within the District, if for some reason you did not receive one and would like to give us your opinion additional surveys are available at the District office. Please feel free to contact the PRCD office or any of the District Supervisors with questions or comments.

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 Tuesday, June 30, 2020 . 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.

Western Spruce Budworm Douglas Fir Project

The southern end of the Big Horn Mountains Douglas Fir population is currently being devastated by a Western Spruce Budworm epidemic. The Western Spruce Budworm (WSBW), or *Choristoneura freeman* is a native species to the Big Horns. Currently 67,000 acres of Douglas Fir and mixed-conifer forest are infected by the WSBW and causing major defoliation damage in the southern Big Horn Mountains.

Phase 1 of landscape level active management will be to thin approximately 254 acres on state and private acres in addition to working with the BLM to thin 130 acres of federal lands. The PRCD will work with the WSFD to thin thick stands of Douglas Fir and mixed-conifer stands of multiple age groups which will help decrease WSBW infestation rates. Technical assistance from WSFD will help determine which trees are suited for wood production, are important for wildlife habitat, and will facilitate successful regeneration. This project will benefit state, private, and federal lands and will build lasting relationships for the continuum of active forest management in this area of the Big Horn Mountains.

The Powder River Conservation District plans to implement a program that:

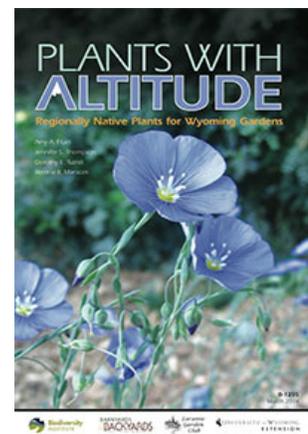
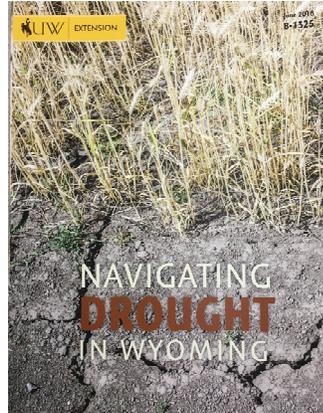
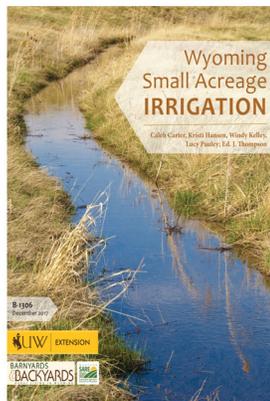
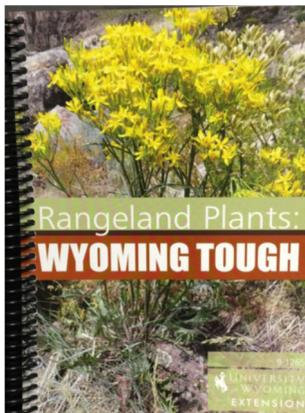
1. Provides a proactive forest health thinning component for private and state lands
2. Viably treats WSB infected Douglas fir and mixed-conifer forested areas through mechanized thinning
3. Increases timber sale production by assisting with timber marketing and subsidizing timber industry to remove the selected trees.
4. Capitalizes on a large-scale, multi-landowner project.

The PRCD is excited to begin implementing this project in the fall and plan on conducting our first thinning project next summer.

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

PLEASE CONTACT US AT 738-2321 IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PLACING RAMPS IN YOUR STOCK TANKS.

Stop in and get your Free copy of these great books!!!



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 \$7.50 a 50% cost-share rate—original price \$15.00.

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

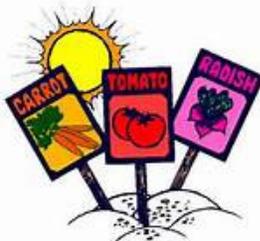
Spring's cool, moist conditions make it the perfect time to add trees and shrubs to your yard. There are many reasons to grow trees and shrubs: They add value and beauty to your property; they can shade your home, reducing your summer energy bills; and if you select fruit-bearing varieties such as apples 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/>

Spring 2020

NRCS Update New Employee-Caleb Gray

My name is Caleb Gray and I am the new Range Conservationist in the NRCS Buffalo Field Office. I graduated from the University of Wyoming in 2018 with a Bachelor's degree in Rangeland Ecology and Watershed Management and minors in Soil Science and Restoration and Reclamation Ecology. I have prior experience with the NRCS through UW and the Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit (CESU) collecting vegetation and soil data to be compiled for ecological site descriptions. Working at UW this past year before starting with the NRCS, I was given the responsibility of overseeing a graduate student's project from collecting and entering data to planning visits to sites on private land and helping implement prescribed burns. The purpose of the project was to determine the best season to use prescribed fire as a means to control cheatgrass in sagebrush while keeping sagebrush mortality low.

As I join the NRCS team I look forward to meeting and helping the farmers and ranchers of Johnson County to the best of my abilities.



Upcoming Emergency Watershed Projects

The Powder River Conservation District (PRCD) and the NRCS has obtained funding to complete 5 Emergency Watershed Program (EWP) Projects this year. Though as start date for these projects is unknown with the current pandemic we are hopeful to get started following high run off. These projects are due to the 2019 flooding event and will be a much needed improvement to the community.

Working West to East, these projects include, the Harlan Streambank and Diversion project, which will include the stabilizing of the stream bank and the replacement of a diversion. The second project is the replacement of the Moffet Irrigation Diversion and the stabilization of streambank of the Middle Fork of the Powder River. The third project is another Diversion and streambank stabilization project on the Gosney Diversion. The



next project is within the Town of Kaycee and will work to stabilize the bank from the Old HWY 87 Bridge to the Harold Jarrard Project the PRCD & NRCS Completed a year ago. The final project is the repair of the 15 Mile Water Control Structure.

We are looking forward to working with the landowners and NRCS to complete these projects and we will be keeping the public up to date on the projects as we move forward. As always, if you have any questions please feel free to contact us.

*Powder River Conservation District
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PRCD Board Meeting: Tuesday, April 14th at 6:30 pm in the District office

PRCD Office closed Friday, April 10th for Good Friday

PRCD Board Meeting: Tuesday, May 12th at 6:30 pm in the District Office



The PRCD is an equal opportunity employer.

Find us on the web: www.powderrivercd.org