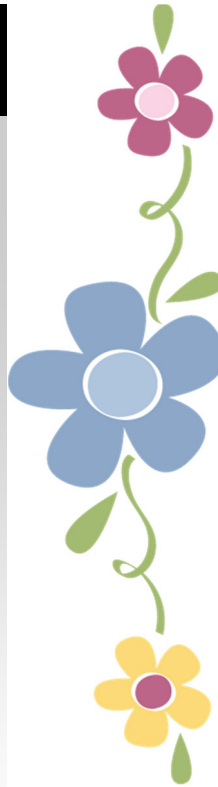


Spring 2021

Powder River News

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Wade Curuchet-Secretary/Treasurer

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Kevin Lund-Supervisor

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District Manager
Anita Bartlett

NRCS STAFF

District Conservationist
Allison McKenzie

Rangeland Management Specialist
Shad Mills

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 Wednesday, June 30, 2021. 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.

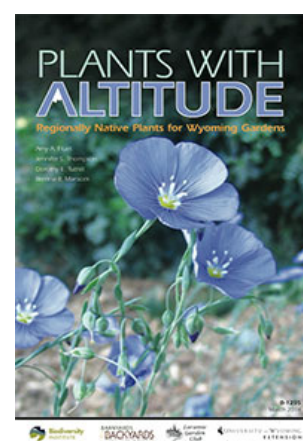
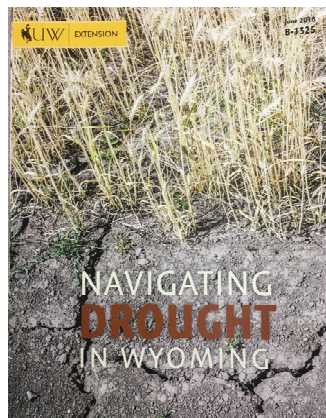
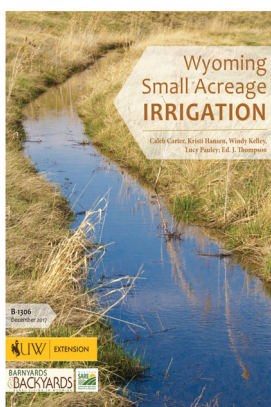
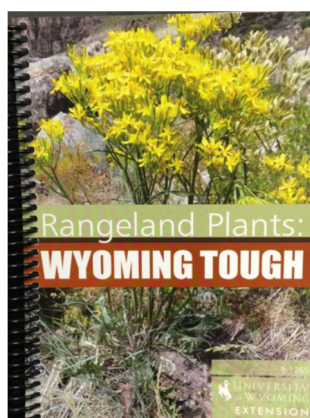
For more information on these cost share programs or for an application please contact the PRCD office at (307) 738-2321 or stop by the office at 350 Nolan Avenue, Kaycee, WY.

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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.

Quarantine against the Importation of Marimo Balls or Moss Balls into the State of Wyoming

Doug Miyamoto, Director of the Wyoming Department of Agriculture has issued the following:

Marimo balls, a type of algae also know as Cladophora balls, moss balls, lake balls or Cladophora aegagropila were recently detected by the Game and Fish personnel in aquarium plants sold at local pet stores in several states including WY, MT, and UT to be infested with zebra mussels, an aquatic invasive species that has cost the U.S. taxpayers more than \$1 billion in damage annually. Marimo balls are native to Japan and Europe and are sold as aquarium and aquatic ornamental plants at pet stores and aqua scaping and aquarium stores. Marimo balls are not native to Wyoming's waterways and systems.

Zebra mussels are listed as one of the 5 most unwanted aquatic invasive species by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Zebra mussels are highly fertile, with females releasing up to 5 million eggs per year, allowing populations to grow exponentially. It is predicted that the total cost to the United States of the zebra mussel invasion will be at \$3.1 billion over the next ten years. To date there are no known infestations of zebra mussels in Wyoming's waterways and systems.

Aquarium plants and animals present a significant threat of introducing invasive species into water treatment and native ecological systems. The aquarium trade has contributed approximately a third of the world's worst aquatic and invasive species. It is believed that the zebra mussels are likely to be introduced into Wyoming through the importation of infested marimo balls or moss balls.

Aquarium plants, including algae, like marimo balls or moss balls, that are grown, offered for sale, sold, or distributed in Wyoming are considered nursery stock under WY state statutes. Pursuant to Wyoming statutes nursery stock and plants are farm products, and are therefore subject to a quarantine against the importation into Wyoming by the Director of the Wyoming Department of Agriculture.

Thus, the Director of the Wyoming Department of Agriculture has declared a quarantine against the importation into the State of Wyoming all marimo balls, a type of algae also know as moss balls. This quarantine went into effect March 9, 2021 and will remain in effect until replaced or removed by the Director.

*This information was taken from a memo sent from the Wyoming Department of Agriculture and further information regarding the quarantine can be found at: www.wyagric.state.wy.us. Further information regarding zebra mussels can be found at: <https://wgfd.wyo.gov/Get-Involved/AIS-moss-balls>

If you have a Moss Ball

Please follow these steps to keep Wyoming's Waters free of zebra mussels

- Remove any pets from the water and tank
- Remove the moss ball, and other plants and any water from the aquarium and put them into a heat-safe pot. Do not dispose of any water down the drain or toilet.
- Inspect the moss ball and tank for zebra mussels and if you find any contact your local Game & Fish regional office
- Boil the moss balls, plants and any water it's been in contact with at least five minutes.
- Dispose of the moss ball and other plants in the trash.
- Pour out the boiled water on a semi-permeable surface. That could be a houseplant or outside-like grass or soil-that is not located near standing water or a storm drain.

Creating a Defensible Space for Your Home

A defensible space is an area around a structure where fuels and vegetation are treated, cleared, or reduced to slow the spread of wildfire towards the structure. It also reduces the chance of a structure fire moving from a building to surrounding areas. A defensible space also provides room for firefighters to do their jobs. Your house is more likely to withstand a wildfire if grasses, brush, trees and other common forest fuels are managed to reduce a fire's intensity. This does NOT mean your landscape must be barren.

Fire is unpredictable. It can find the weak link in your home's fire protection scheme and gain the upper hand because of a small, overlooked factor. While you may not be able to accomplish all measures below, each will increase your home's safety. Begin your work closest to your house and move outward.

- ◆ The dimensions of a defensible space are subjective and depend on site characteristics, but typically extends a minimum of 75 feet around a home. This distance should be extended if the structure is located on a slope.
- ◆ Thin out continuous trees and brush cover around structures in the initial 15 feet.
- ◆ Beyond the initial 15 feet, trees should be thinned to 10-12 foot crown spacing. Occasionally, clumps of 2 or 3 trees are acceptable for a more natural appearance if additional space surrounds them.
- ◆ Mow dry grass and weeds to a height of 6 inches or less for a distance of 30 feet from all structures.
- ◆ Dispose of all slash and debris left from thinning by either chipping, hauling away or piling and burning (check with your local fire department for burning restrictions).
- ◆ Remove shrubs and small trees, or other potential "ladder" fuels from beneath large trees. Left in place, these fuels can carry a ground fire into the tree crowns.
- ◆ Trim branches which extend over roof eaves.
- ◆ Remove branches within 10 feet of chimneys.
- ◆ Maintain the defensible space annually by removing debris, shrubs and other vegetation which has accumulated during the year.
- ◆ Clean pine needles, leaves, and other debris from roofs and gutters. This will eliminate any ignition source for firebrands, especially during hot, dry weather.
- ◆ Stack firewood and wood piles at least 30 feet from any structure. Clear away flammable vegetation within 10 feet of these woodpiles.
- ◆ Make sure an outdoor water supply is available, complete with a hose and nozzle that can reach all parts of the house.

Even small steps to protect your home and property will make them more able to withstand fire. Quite often during a wildfire threat, fire agencies will pre-deem a home a "casualty" because of bad defensible space. This decision is made before the fire gets there!!! This means the agency will use resources on a home with a better chance of survival and leave yours to withstand the fire on its own.



Spring 2021

Shad Mills Joins NRCS Staff in Kaycee

My name is Shad Mills, I grew in Southwest Idaho in a town called Kuna. I got my Bachelor's degree in Wildlife and Wildland conservation from Brigham Young University (BYU) in Utah. After an internship with the Agriculture Research Service in Eastern Oregon I decided to focus on Range management. I then received my Master's degree in Agronomy with an emphasis in Range management from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). After graduating I eventually got a job with the NRCS in North Central Montana. I am excited to be here in Kaycee and work in this area.



EWP Projects Underway

Town of Kaycee/HJP EWP Project-This project is under construction and many of the new features have been installed. The rock cross vane, soil lifts and rock rip rap have been placed. There is dirt work, rock rip rap, and seeding to be completed, but it is the hope of the PRCD and the contractor that this project (weather pending) will be done by early April at the latest. We are excited for this next phase of stabilizing the banks of the Middle Fork of Powder River and restoring the flood plains through town.



15 Mile EWP Project-This project will stabilize the 15 Mile irrigation overflow structure and the banks around the structure. This project will insure that the Sahara Ditch irrigators receive their irrigation water. A contractor has been selected and they have begun to mobilize materials to complete this project. Due to our weather conditions the construction has been delayed slightly but the hope of the PRCD and the contractor that the project will be completed by April 15th at the latest.

Gosney/Moffett/Harlan Diversion EWP Projects- These three projects will replace the traditional push up diversion structures with a cross vane structure, as well streambank stabilization measures and cross vanes will be installed down stream. At this time 90% designs have been completed and the PRCD hopes to have final designs in April and be under contract for construction by June of 2021. Permitting for these projects is complete and the district continues to look for grant funding to help offset the cost of the projects not covered by the NRCS. At this time the District has secured grant funding from the Wyoming Wildlife Natural Resource Trust, Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

We look forward to seeing these improvements installed in Southern Johnson County.

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

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



PRCD Board Meeting: Tuesday, April 13th at 6:30 pm in the District office

PRCD Office closed Friday, April 2nd for Good Friday

PRCD Board Meeting: Tuesday, May 11th at 6:30 pm in the District Office



The PRCD is an equal opportunity employer.

Find us on the web: www.powderrivercd.org