

Fall 2021

# Powder River News

## *INSIDE THIS ISSUE:*

Well Water Testing Day	1
Wildlife Escaper Ramps	2
Free Materials	2
Recycling Bins	2
FY 20-21 Accomplishments	3
EWP Update	4
State Forestry Project	5
PRCD attends Area and Regional Meetings	5



## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Bill Jones-Chairman

George Renkert-Vice-Chair

Wade Curuchet-Secretary/Treasurer

Dan Mahoney-Supervisor

Kevin Lund-Supervisor

## DISTRICT STAFF

District Manager  
Anita Bartlett

## NRCS STAFF

District Conservationist  
Allison McKenzie

Rangeland Management Specialist  
Shad Mills

## WELL WATER TESTING DAY

The Powder River Conservation District (PRCD) will once again be providing a Well Water Testing Day on Tuesday, October 19th. Sampling Kits can be picked up prior to October 6th at the PRCD Office. Water samples will be accepted at the PRCD Office starting at 7:30am until 1pm on Tuesday, October 19th. For more information please contact the District Office at 738-2321.

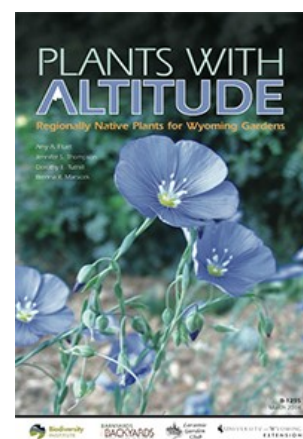
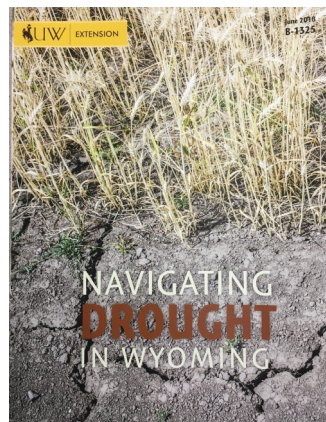
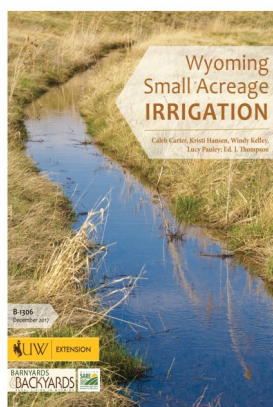
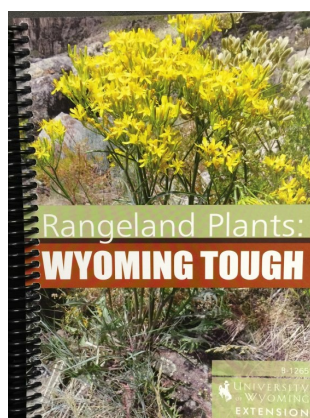
Option	Description	Price	Your Cost	
Option 1	<b>Bacteria Coliform Presence/Absence</b>	\$40.00	\$0	
Option 2	<b>Domestic Water Analysis</b> –Potassium, Sodium, Calcium, Magnesium, Sulfate, Chloride, Hardness, Total Dissolved Solids, Alkalinity, Conductivity, pH, Nitrate+Nitrites	\$125.00	\$62.50	
Option 3	<b>Livestock Suitability</b> -Nitrate + Nitrite, pH, Sulfate, Total Dissolved Solids	\$60.00	\$30.00	
Option 4	<b>Irrigation Classification</b> -Conductivity, Calcium, Magnesium, Sodium, Sodium Adsorption Ration	\$55.00	\$27.50	
Option 5	<b>Domestic Water Analysis + Livestock Suitability + Irrigation Classification</b>	\$125.00	\$62.50	1

Fall 2021

## **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.

## FY 20-21 Accomplishments

### Administration

- Attended Area I meeting, the WACD State Convention, the WCDEA Winter Training/meeting and the NACD Convention. (These meetings were attended virtually due to COVID)
- Acted as a cooperating agent to Buffalo BLM Field Office Resource Management Plan revision meetings.
- Participated in the Barnyard & Backyards educational trainings
- Working to complete the Apprentice Conservation Planning Certification process
- Participated in the Local Working Group Meetings, Johnson County Commissioners meetings, Dull Knife Irrigation Meetings, State Technical Committee Meeting, NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection Program meetings, Johnson County Natural Resource Planning Committee Meetings Johnson County Fire Planning meetings, WY Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust Meetings and the Johnson County Weed Bounty meetings.
- Public Outreach- Publish articles in local newspaper & published 4 district newsletters, continued to maintain & update the district website, and created a District Facebook page.

### Education

- Adult Education
  - City Council & County Commissioners Presentation
  - Legislative & Commissioner Tour of EWP Projects
  - District Facebook Educational Posts
  - Presented at the State Forestry Field Day
- Youth Education
  - Rise and Shine Day Care-Ice Cream in a Bag activity
  - Adopt a Tree Program with KES
  - Ag in the Classroom Activities
  - Microscopes



### Special Projects

- Worked with Town of Kaycee to host an Arbor Day Celebration at the Kaycee Cemetery
- Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day w/ Clear Creek C.D.
- Tree Program
- EWP Projects
  - 15 Mile Overflow Structure-This structure was reinforced to insure it would not wash out.
  - Town of Kaycee/HJP-A short section of the Middle Fork of Powder River's streambanks were stabilized through the town of Kaycee
  - Middle Fork of Powder River Diversions (3)
- The designs for the Moffet, Gosney and Harlan Diversions were completed and the projects were put out to bid for construction. As well, grant funding was secured to assist with the cost of the projects.
- Participated in the Johnson County Weed Bounty Program
- Began our Spruce Budworm Thinning Project on the southern Big Horn Mountains with State Forestry Bark Beetle Funding
- Installed Drip System for the Buffalo Community Orchard in partnership with the Bread of Life Food Pantry in Buffalo, WY.
- Participated in the Black Hills Natural Resource Youth Camp
- Hosted the Annual Weed Bounty Day on the Slip Road in Kaycee, WY

### Water Quality

- Offered a private well water testing day to landowners for them to test their wells for bacteria and Domestic/Irrigation/Livestock use.

### Rangeland Management

- 2 Rural Cost Share projects were completed this past year. They included the installation of a water pipeline, stock tanks, drilling of a new well and fencing.

## Emergency Watershed Protection Program Update

Since the flood of 2019 on the Middle Fork of Powder River the PRCD has been working to find funding for and complete five Emergency Watershed Protection Projects through the NRCS's EWP Program. These include the stabilization/reinforcement of the 15 Mile Syphon Overflow Structure, the bank stabilization of a part of the Middle Fork of Powder River through the town of Kaycee, and three diversions (Moffet, Gosney & Harlan) on the Middle Fork of Powder River. At this time two of these projects have been completed and the other 3 in various stages of construction.



The 15 Mile Syphon Overflow Structure was a project done in conjunction with the Powder River Irrigation District, the Sahara Ditch Company and the NRCS. Construction began in March of this year and was completed in April. The contractor WyoDak used large rock to reinforce the overflow structure.



The PRCD worked with the Town of Kaycee, JC Commissioners, WYDOT, private landowners and the NRCS to continue the bank stabilization project that began with the 2016 flood. This project completed the bank stabilization from the HWY 87 bridge east through the Town of Kaycee. This project was constructed by Barnum Inc.

The final three projects are the replacing of three diversions and bank stabilization at the Middle Fork of Powder River located at Moffet, Gosney, and Harlan's. These projects were designed by WWC Engineering and were contracted to Barnum Inc. for construction. At this time the construction of these projects are in the beginning stages and we hope to see completion of these projects by the end of 2021. Due to the scope and size of the projects additional funding sources to supplement the NRCS's EWP program funds has been secured from the following grant partners: Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation, the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Resource Legacy Fund. We are extremely thankful to be working with these partners in order to be able to complete projects like these in our community. We are also grateful to our other partners: Private Landowners, Town of Kaycee, JC Commissioners, NRCS, WYDOT, PR Irrigation District, Sahara Ditch Company, Trout Unlimited, and WACD for their continued support of our efforts and willingness to work with the PRCD.



## Spruce Budworm Thinning Project Completed

The southern end of the Big Horn Mountain's Douglas Fir population is currently infected by the Western Spruce Budworm. While the WSBW is native to the Big Horns it's current infestation level is high enough it is doing considerable damage to the Douglas Fir population. The District has been working with Wyoming State Forestry to decrease the population to levels that are far less damaging. Currently 67,000 acres of Douglas Fir and mixed-conifer forest are infected by the WSBW and they are causing major defoliation damage in the southern Big Horn Mountains.



With this issue in mind the District applied for a WY State Forestry grant to assist with the thinning of 400 acres of private forested lands and 40 acres of state forested lands. The



district was awarded the grant in the amount of \$130,978, which would pay for the entirety of the project, that included 3 private landowners and a section of state property. The District contracted the project out to Soto Tree Services out of Rapid City, SD. The project got underway in June of 2021 and was completed by the end of August.

While there is still a lot of work to be done to control the WSBW we are very thankful to be able to complete this project this summer and look forward to doing additional thinning projects.

---

## PRCD Attends Regional and Area Meetings

Board Supervisor Kevin Lund and District Manager Anita Bartlett attended the Southwest & Pacific Regional Meeting in Jackson, WY on August 30-31st. Throughout the meeting they discussed natural resource issues that effected the entire region, including: National Water Quality Initiative, public lands, invasive species and much more. As well, there was considerable discussion on how to market conservation districts to promote the conservation efforts we do in our communities. The conference wrapped up with a tour of a few of the amazing projects that Teton Conservation District has completed.

Kevin and Anita, along with District Conservationist Allison McKenzie, attended the Area I meeting in Dayton, WY. At this meeting attendees were able to tour a RCCP project completed in Dayton that stabilized streambanks that were threatening homes. Along with the tour, attendees were give updates by the NRCS, WY Depart. Of Ag, WY Assoc. of Conservation Districts, and discussed legislative issues that effect the natural resources of Wyoming.



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

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

Mark Your  
Calendars!!!

PRCD Board Meeting: Tuesday, October 12th at 6:30 pm in the District office

PRCD Office closed Monday, October 11th for Columbus Day

Well Water Testing Day: Tuesday, October 19th from 7:30-1pm

PRCD Board Meeting: Tuesday, November 9th at 6:30 pm in the District office

## Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation Raffle

Your \$25 tax deductible donation to the WNRF enters you in a drawing to win:

**1st place**– 2021 John Deere XUV 560E Gator

**2nd place**– STIHL MS 362 Chainsaw

This drawing will be held on November 30th in Cody, WY at the WACD/WNRF state convention. To get your ticket stop by the PRCD Office at 350 Nolan Avenue in Kaycee.



The PRCD is an equal opportunity employer.

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