

Spring 2022

Powder River News

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Bill Jones-Chairman

George Renkert-Vice-Chair

Wade Curuchet-Secretary/Treasurer

Kevin Lund-Supervisor

Vacant-Supervisor

DISTRICT STAFF

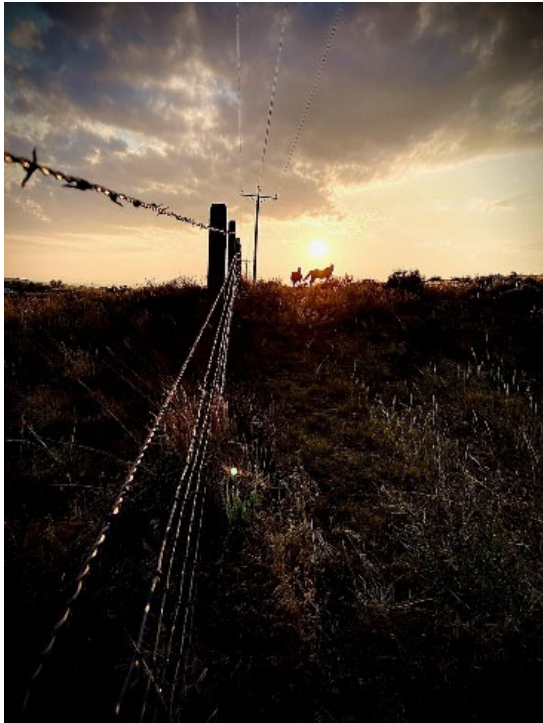
District Manager
Anita Bartlett

NRCS STAFF

District Conservationist
Allison McKenzie

Rangeland Management Specialist
Shad Mills

Bailee Alger Wins National Photography Contest



On Monday, February 14, 2022, at the 76th Annual National Association of Conservation District's Convention the winners of their photo contest were announced and our own Bailee Alger was among the winners. Bailee won the Youth Division for the Agriculture and Conservation Across America category with a picture she had taken of horses at sunset.

Bailee is an 8th grader at Kaycee Middle School and took this picture with her iPhone. Her eye for detail and getting the right shot is truly amazing. It is our hope that she continues to put her talent to good use and promoting the Wyoming way of life through pictures to those around her.

The Powder River Conservation District is extremely proud of this young lady and were very privileged to sponsor her picture in the NACD Photo Contest.

Mahoney Resigns from PRCD Board



It is with great sadness that the Powder River Conservation District announces that Dan Mahoney has resigned off of the District board after 12 years of services due to health reasons. We will miss Dan's wealth of knowledge. Dan was always willing to show up and help with projects or anything else we needed him for. With Dan's resignation the PRCD is in the process of working with the Wyoming Department of Agriculture and the Wyoming Board of Agriculture to appoint a new board member. The PRCD hopes to make an announcement soon on who that new board member will be.

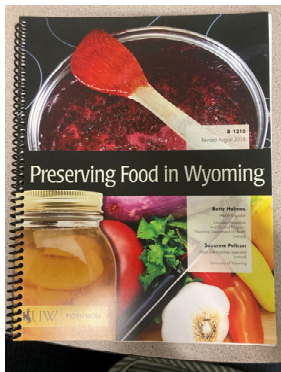
PRCD Offering Cost Share Programs

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, 2022. 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.

Preserving Food In Wyoming



The PRCD has free copies of this publication available in their office. Please stop by and pick up your copy today.

Preserving a variety of foods through canning. Includes the special considerations needed to can at the higher elevations of Wyoming.

We also have many other free publications and educational materials available. Don't hesitate to inquire on the information we can obtain for you. We love providing any assistance we can to you.

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 2022

Emergency Watershed Protection Program Update

Since the flood of 2019 on the Middle Fork of Powder River the PRC D has been working to find funding for and complete five Emergency Watershed Protection Projects through the NRCS's EWP Program. These projects 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 the 15-Mile Syphon Overflow Structure and the bank stabilization of the Middle Fork of Powder River through the Town of Kaycee have been completed and the other 3 in various stages of construction.



Moffet Irrigation Diversion and Bank

Stabilization Project: This project had a rough start, between headwalls being incorrectly fabricated and a bout of COVID through the construction crew we are happy to say that this project has turned out beautifully. While not 100% complete (seeding and willow stakes need to be planted), the construction portion of installing cross vanes, toe wood, flood plain, headwall, and irrigation pipe is complete. It is our hope that the seeding and willow staking will take place in late April. This new diversion

structure will insure landowners get their irrigation water and provide fish passage and habitat for wildlife.

Gosney Irrigation Diversion and Bank

Stabilization Project: This project is not 100% complete seeding and willow stakes need to be planted, and additional cross vane structure and approximately 250 feet of toe wood structure needs to be installed. It is the District's hope that the seeding and willow staking will take place in late April and the rest of the construction will take place in mid-June. This completed diversion structure will insure landowners get their irrigation water and improve fish passage and habitat.



Harlan Irrigation Diversion and Bank

Stabilization Project: This project is not 100% complete seeding and willow stakes need to be planted. It is the District's hope that the seeding and willow staking will take place in late April. This completed diversion structure will insure landowners get their irrigation water and improve fish passage and habitat.

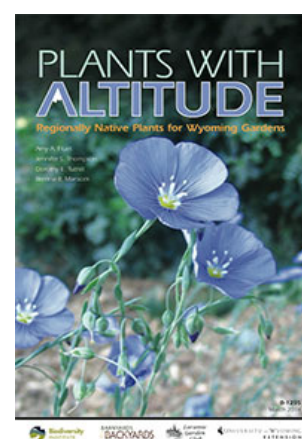
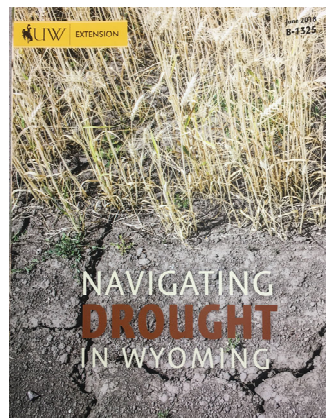
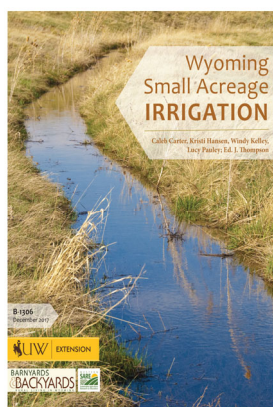
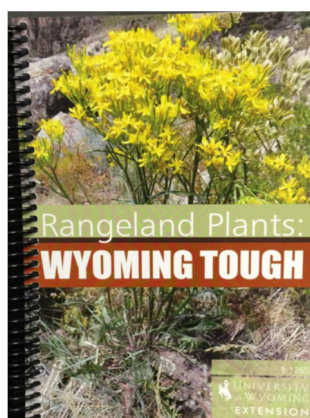
Due to the scope and size of these projects, additional funding sources to supplement the NRCS's EWP program funds has been secured from the following grant partners: Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation, the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, US Fish and Wildlife 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 PRC D.

Spring 2022

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.

*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, May 10th at 6:30 pm in the District office

PRCD Office closed Monday, May 30th for Memorial Day

Weed Bounty Pull Day: Monday, June 6th at 3pm in Buffalo, WY

PRCD Board Meeting: Tuesday, June 15th at 6:30pm in the District Office.



The PRCD is an equal opportunity employer.

Find us on the web: www.powderrivercd.org