



August 2015



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Conservation Winds



“Conservation: We’re All In”

By Anita Bartlett, PRCD

Area youth gathered once again at Mallo Camp north of Newcastle, WY to participate in the Black Hills Natural Resource Youth Camp June 10-12th. The purpose of this camp is to give youth the opportunity to experience a wide variety of activities and educational

sessions teaching them about the natural world and its resources. Other activities included fishing, the Wildman Hike: teaches kids about predators and prey relationships, a talent show, a presentation on astrology, and various games.

Each child participated in six educational sessions: “Feathered Creatures”, “Native Fur”, “Treemendous Fun”, “Casting for Food”, “Hidden Treasures.” and “Target Practice”.

“Feathered Creatures”, presented by Dustin Downey with the Audubon Rockies taught campers how to safely capture birds and discussed the kind of data taken about the birds they capture. The kids even got to help catch and release the birds caught during the lesson.

Lacey Gurien, with the Weston County Natural Resource District presented “Native Fur” where campers learned about native fur bearing animals and learned how to identify those animals based off their fur and other characteristics.

“Treemendous Fun” with Jesse Halverson, from Project Learning Tree explained to the youth what trees need to survive (soil, water, sunlight, etc). They also learned to age trees off of tree cookies.

Todd Caltrider, Habitat Biologist with WY Game and Fish taught campers all about “Casting for Food”. This activity taught campers how to cast, fish, and properly care for caught fish. Campers were allowed to practice their casting skills and catch fish.

“Hidden Treasures” presented by Jeremy Dedic, from State Forestry gave a demonstration in Geocaching, where campers had to utilize GPS units to find 2 cache sites. Geocaching is a treasure hunting game where you use a Global Positioning System (GPS) to hide and seek containers with other participants.

Finally, Blair Gauthier with Campbell County Conservation District, had “Target Practice”. They taught youth the correct way to shoot a bow and arrow, safety while shooting and let the kids do a little “target practice”.

Sponsors for the Black Hills Natural Resource Youth Camp were Weston County Natural Resource Districts, Niobrara, Campbell, and Powder River Conservation Districts, WY Department of Agriculture, Thunderbird Wildlife Consulting Inc., Pinnacle Bank, L&H Industrial, Inc., and Christ of the King Lutheran Church.

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Phone: 682-1824 Fax: 682-3813

E-mail: icd@vcn.com

Website: www.cccdwy.net

Hours: 7:00 AM—4:00 PM

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NRCS FIELD OFFICE

Phone: (307) 682-8843 Ext. 3
601 4J Court, Suite C

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST:

Tim Kellogg

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST:

Katie Carpenter

RANGE CONSERVATIONIST RMBO/NRCS/BLM:

Brandon Elkins

CIVIL ENGINEER:

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**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

- ◇ July 30- 31 and August 1-2, 2015 Campbell County Fair
- ◇ August 9-15, 2015 Wyoming State Fair
- ◇ August 11, 2015 CCCD Board Meeting
- ◇ September 3-4, 2015 World Water Monitoring Challenge with Sage Valley Jr. High
- ◇ September 7, 2015 Closed for Labor Day Holiday
- ◇ September 8, 2015 CCCD Board Meeting
- ◇ September 9, 2015 Area I Meeting in Sheridan

Wyoming files lawsuit with 11 other states over Waters of the United States Rule

Governor Matt Mead announced today the State of Wyoming has joined in a lawsuit filed against the US Environmental Protection Agency and the US Army Corps of Engineers over the agencies' Waters of the United States rule. Governor Mead has opposed this rule since it was first proposed and he will help lead a coalition of twelve states in litigation against the final rule. The final rule was published in the Federal Register today.

"I am disappointed at the lack of consideration shown to the states throughout this process," said Governor Mead. "When I saw the original draft of the rule it was so flawed, I asked the agencies to withdraw it. Nonetheless, the agencies, without addressing significant concerns raised by Wyoming and other states, charged ahead."

The Clean Water Act recognizes states as having primary responsibility for land and water within their boundaries. The coalition which filed the Complaint today includes the States of North Dakota, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, South Dakota, and Wyoming. The New Mexico Environment Department and New Mexico State Engineer are also parties. "This rule expands the reach of federal agencies to lands and waters beyond the bounds set by Congress," said Mead. "It is wrong for Wyoming, for every state and for the United States, and it is unlawful."

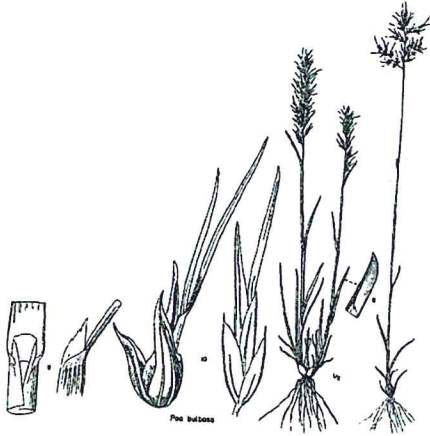
A copy of the Complaint is available on the Governor's website.

—Provided by Gov. Matt Mead's Office

BULBOUS BLUEGRASS PROJECT

By Lindsay Wood and Blair Gauthier

Currently bulbous bluegrass (*Poa bulbosa* L.) is a problem on many hayfields and rangelands in Northeastern Wyoming. The drought of 2012 exacerbated this problem. Areas of the highest impact are those adjacent to roads and pipeline right-of-ways used by Coal-Bed Methane operators, as well as any new or not fully established hay or pasture plantings. This experiment is designed to identify mechanical or cultural treatment options that may prove helpful in decreasing the economic impact or potential spread of this invasive plant while limiting the use of expensive and little studied chemical treatments.



Bulbous bluegrass is prevalent in many areas of the west and is continuing to spread. It is a plant similar to cheat grass in terms of its growth patterns and lack of nutritive value for grazing species during most of the year; however this plant reproduces both by seed and vegetatively, adding to the difficulty in keeping it controlled. Similarly to cheat grass it is relatively easy to kill an individual plant but difficult to remove or control a stand once it is established. This is a very competitive species in the late fall and early spring, which allows it to utilize the water in a system that would otherwise be used by more beneficial plant species. Bulbous bluegrass infects rangelands used for all forms of domestic livestock production, as well as cropland used for the production of hay and wheat.

Mechanical treatments for weed control can be difficult to develop given the volatile nature of climatic conditions. Often a certain practice is done based on an expected time of year for a certain condition to exist or a time of year that best fits in with the rest of the operations timeline. This experiment will be designed with increased plot monitoring so that treatments may be applied when a certain set of conditions exist for the plants.

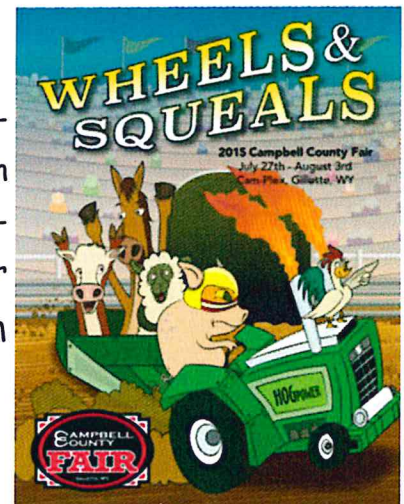
After one year of monitoring the plots on all three locations the data shows that any type of treatment, grazing and/ or tillage can help reduce the amount of bulbous bluegrass. The data across all three study sites suggest that early spring when bulbous is just starting to emerge and before native grasses establish is the best time to apply a tillage treatment. Early spring tillage treatments showed the greatest increase in perennial grasses with the greatest decrease in bulbous bluegrass. Overall, the best treatment would be to till the bulbous bluegrass in the early spring, but any type of mechanical treatment helps. Further monitoring throughout the next year will help further determine the best practices to help control bulbous bluegrass.

"Wheels and Squeals" at the 2015 Campbell County Fair

Stop by the CCCD booth during the Campbell County Fair,
July 30th through August 2nd!



Crystal will also be presenting the stream/erosion educational activity outside the Wyoming Center daily from 11am–12pm and 2pm–3pm!



Gain an advantage against weeds with the proper adjuvants!

By Aaron Ide, Campbell County Weed and Pest

Most people that regularly apply herbicides know that they need to add adjuvants (usually called surfactants) to their herbicides to get more effective control of the weed species they are targeting. What many people do not know is that there are many different types of adjuvants that do a large variety of things. While one might work well on one species of weed, it may work poorly on another because of the plants differing characteristics. Another one may work well with one type of herbicide, but poorly with another, because of the herbicides chemical or physical properties. This is why you always want to check your herbicide's label for what adjuvant they recommend. Hopefully this article will open your eyes to all the different adjuvants, and maybe a few that can even make your chemical control a little more efficient and successful.

There are two primary categories of adjuvants, the first being activator adjuvants. There are a few types of products that fall in this category, but only two are used frequently. The first is surfactants, which are the most widely used adjuvant. This is usually the reason that all adjuvants are referred to as surfactants. Surfactant, which is short for surface acting agent, is primarily used to break surface tension on the leaf allowing better penetration into the plant. The main surfactant that is used is Non Ionic Surfactant (NIS); most herbicides will give this as one of adjuvants of choice on the label. Induce and RII are the two NIS that we usually carry. The other main type in this category are the oils, which include crop oil concentrate (COC), vegetable seed oil (VSO), or petroleum oil concentrate (PSO). These usually have some NIS mix into the concentrations, and are usually used when your target species have a smaller area to apply the herbicide (i.e grasses). We do not always have oil adjuvants in stock, so if you need this type of adjuvant, call us before hand to check for availability. These two types are by far the widest recommended when referring to most herbicide labels, but there are other options to team with these products to help make your herbicide perform at the best of its ability.

The other category is utility adjuvants, which includes agents that provide a variety of secondary benefits. There are too many to list here, so I will highlight a few types that applicators in and around Campbell County might benefit from the most. The one in this group that is used the most is dyes, which are mix with herbicide for a visual of what has been and has not been sprayed. This is a great tool to use to prevent treating areas twice, and to make sure you are not missing areas. Another important agent is spreaders, sometimes called wetting agents, these are usually mixed with a surfactant or oil and work alongside it to spread the herbicide over the entire leaf or stem. We carry a product called Syltac, which is a COC, mixed with a spreader. This product we primarily only use on Dalmatian Toadflax, because of its hard waxy leaf, we need the extra help of the wetting agent to perforate the leaf and get the herbicide into the plant. The last one could be the most important if you are spraying large quantities of glyphosate. In this country we usually have very hard water, which especially in the case of glyphosate (RoundUp) can tie up your active ingredient and prevent it from getting to the plant. How can we fix this problem, there are a few options. If you are spraying a small area, just up your rate, which in a lawn or garden situation might end up being a 3-4% solution. If you are applying glyphosate to a large area such as a crop field this would cause your herbicide cost to skyrocket, so you need to add a water conditioner, which would probably be Ammonium Sulfate (AMS). This product frees up the glyphosate in the spray solution so it can be taken in by the plants. Some of the other utility adjuvants range from anti drift agents to deformers that can be added to your herbicide to make your application process more efficient.

Always consult your herbicide label, when deciding on an adjuvant. While almost every herbicide needs a surfactant or an oil concentrate, some may have been added to the herbicide during production (Glystar Plus). Hopefully, with the help of your herbicide label, you can choose the right adjuvant(s) for your application, which will lead to the most effective use of your herbicide. If you need recommendation beyond the label, feel free to contact us at our office (682-4369) with any questions or concerns on what adjuvants are best for your situation.

EAB ADVISORY NOTICE

Emerald ash borer (EAB) is an exotic insect whose native range includes eastern Russia, northern China, Japan and Korea. First detected in the US in Detroit, Michigan in 2002, EAB has spread across most of the eastern US and west into Kansas and Colorado. The closest detection to Wyoming was confirmed in Boulder County, Colorado in September 2013. **EAB has not been detected in Wyoming.**



EAB is largely thought to have gained access to the US via solid-wood packing material or crates comprised of ash wood. EAB larvae kill any species of ash (mostly green ash, *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) by chewing on the inner bark and building serpentine tunnels in the xylem. Trees ranging from one to greater than 50 inches in diameter have been attacked and killed by EAB.

Green ash is native in Sheridan, Campbell, Weston, Crook, Johnson, Natrona, Converse, Niobrara, Goshen, and Platte Counties. Ash is common in riparian areas such as the Platte River. There are stands of green ash mixed with ponderosa pine, bur oak, and cottonwood in Crook County. Although the composition of ash genera in Wyoming is stark compared to EAB established states such as Michigan, there are substantial ash in many community parks, cemeteries, and greenways. Green ash comprises 20% to 40% of community-tree inventories statewide and is one of the four most common trees within community boundaries along with Siberian elm, blue spruce, and cottonwood.

Although Wyoming's ash trees have little, if any, host resistance to EAB, **insecticide treatments and removals in anticipation of EAB are not recommended at this time.** Prior to positive detection, landowners and municipalities are encouraged to check for signs and symptoms of EAB (<http://emeraldashborer.info>) and to promote a diversity of tree species in future plantings.

Wyoming's long geographical distances between communities thus long distances between populations of green ash would make EAB adult flight (if ever established) as a vector of spread to new areas very difficult. The most likely vectors of EAB are firewood and raw ash-log transport and to a lesser degree nursery stock. The best thing to do is **DON'T MOVE FIREWOOD.** Residents living where EAB is established are disallowed to transport ash outside of EAB quarantined areas. Wyoming residents are encouraged to only purchase firewood from local sources or cut firewood from a local forest.

Wyoming's Emerald Ash Borer Response Plan can be viewed at www.wsfd.wyo.gov.

Cowboy Chuck and Chip Four Man Golf Scramble

Aug. 11, 2015 • 1:00 p.m. T-Time • Douglas, Wyo.

Douglas Community Golf Course - \$75 Per Person Entry Fee

Held in conjunction with the Wyoming State Fair & Rodeo

- Two mulligans at \$5 each available during registration
- Dinner provided following the tournament
- Prizes awarded to the top four teams
- Open to all ages • Pick your team

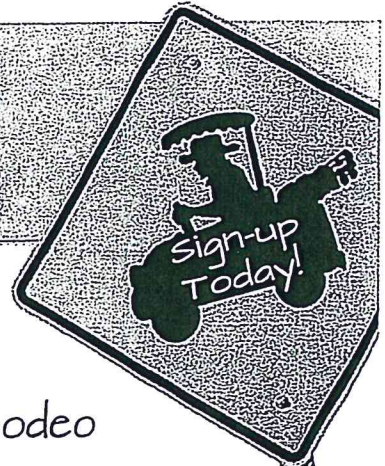
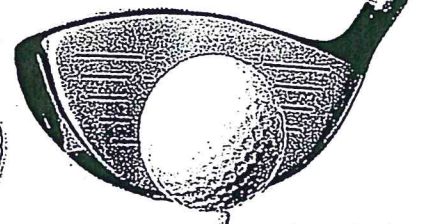
Pre-register at 307-351-0730 or by emailing Jen@WyoFFAFoundation.com

Proceeds benefit the Wyoming FFA Foundation
& the Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation



Wy. Natural Resource Foundation
517 E. 19th St.
Cheyenne, WY 82001
(307) 632-5716
Bobbie.Frank@ConserveWy.com
WyNaturalResourceFoundation.com

Wyoming FFA Foundation
P.O. Box 71
Cheyenne, WY 82003
(307) 351-0730
Jen@WyoFFAFoundation.com
WyoFFAFoundation.com



JUNE -

- ✦ Blair traveled to Spotted Horse with CC Weed and Pest to site visit a bulbous bluegrass project on June 2.
- ✦ Jennifer attended the CC Hazardous Mitigation Meeting on June 4.
- ✦ Blair and Debbie began water monitoring the Little Powder River on June 4.
- ✦ Debbie attended the final GLEE meeting to review comments provided by the attendees on June 8.
- ✦ All staff were present for the Board meeting on June 9.
- ✦ Crystal was Camp Director and Blair taught an activity and participated at the Black Hills Natural Resources Youth Camp with 96 youth June 10-13.
- ✦ Jennifer attended the National Forest Advisory Board meeting in Rapid City on June 17.
- ✦ Crystal assisted 200 youth with educational activities at the 4-H Camp June 23 and 24.
- ✦ Bob Maul, Jennifer, Debbie and Blair participated in a reclamation tour of North Antelope Rochelle Mine on June 24.
- ✦ Crystal provided the Animal Tracks and the Scat identification activity to 21 students attending the Lakeview Summer Program on June 29.
- ✦ A Special Board Meeting was held June 30 to review the fiscal financial report and payment of bills on June 30.

JULY -

- ✦ Water monitoring continues on Little Powder River. Blair and Debbie also began sampling on Donkey Creek/Stonepile Creek July 9. Blair is assisting Crook County Natural Resource District with monitoring of the Belle Fourche River in July and August.
- ✦ Travis attended the NACD Summer Board meeting in Spokane, WA July 11-13.
- ✦ All staff attended the CCCD Board meeting on July 14.
- ✦ CCCD hosted the Local Work Group meeting held in Buffalo on July 15. Jennifer and Crystal attended.
- ✦ Crystal provided the educational activity of making solar ovens to the students attending the Lakeview Summer Program on July 16 and provided the stream/erosion trailer activity on July 21.
- ✦ Crystal provided an animal and scat identity activity and nature hike for the Hillcrest summer students on July 20 and July 27.
- ✦ Audubon Rockies hosted the Keyhole Kids Day for the Boys and Girls Club on July 23. Crystal and Brandon provided educational activities for the day.
- ✦ CCCD staff provided educational activities and information during the Campbell County Fair July 30, 31 and August 1 and 2.

Water Quality - Microbial Source Tracking

The Little Powder River and Donkey/Stonepile Creek have a history of exceeding bacterial levels set by state guidelines for safe recreational use. While some sources of pollution can be narrowed down by on the ground observations, many sources are difficult to track. These sources are considered Non-Point Source Pollution, which by nature are difficult to isolate. CCCD conducts water quality monitoring annually to monitor bacterial levels but are unable to categorize the fecal indicator bacteria. CCCD plans to use Microbial Source Tracking as a tool for positive change in the next two years. Commercial laboratories can test water samples for specific source markers. Markers can indicate whether the bacteria is human or non-human. It is not about pointing fingers, but gathering information to lead to voluntary, collaborative mitigation of the source identified. CCCD is committed to the health and safety of our community. Our goal is to gather more specific information to target our efforts to work voluntarily with landowners to reduce or eliminate the sources of pollution and bring bacterial levels down within the designated range for safe recreational use.

Campbell County Conservation District
601 4J Court, Suite D
P.O. Box 2577
Gillette, WY 82717 - 2577



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WYOMING NEWS

June 16, 2015 U.S. Representative Cynthia Lummis (WY-at large) was part of a bipartisan coalition to secure language in the Fiscal Year 2016 Interior and Environment Appropriations bill that will restore wolf management to the State of Wyoming and the states in the Great Lakes region. The language is part of a multi-pronged approach that includes stand-alone legislation: [H.R. 884](#). “The science has spoken: the gray wolves in Wyoming and the Western Great Lakes are recovered and will continue as such under the capable management of the states,” said Rep. Lummis. “I am pleased to be a part of this bipartisan effort to uphold this true conservation victory. It is time we treated this as the win it is and return management to the states.”



July 2, 2015 [Enzi: Time to shift power back into states' hands](#)

States and businesses face thousands of rules, regulations, and unfunded mandates from the federal government every year, unfortunately, they have few options to fight back.

Recently U.S. Senator Mike Enzi, R-Wyo., introduced a constitutional amendment to redistribute power to states. Enzi's resolution would give states the authority to repeal any federal regulation or law, which would provide states with the ability to act in the best interest of their citizens.

“States and businesses are often faced with the burden of complying with one-size-fits-all federal regulations. When federal mandates hurt states and local economies, there are few options to help resolve the problem other than the backlogged court system,” said Enzi. “This amendment stands up for states' rights and gives them another option to find solutions to regulatory problems. Ultimately, the states know what is best for them and it is time to shift the power back into the states' hands. Even when federal regulations may have good intentions, they can create situations in which they cause more harm than good.”

Enzi's amendment would allow federal laws and regulations to be repealed if two-thirds of states — 34 in total — pass a resolution to do so. The two-thirds requirement acts as a safeguard to ensure that any repeal has a true bipartisan consensus and that the impact of truly burdensome federal laws and regulations are not left to the courts.