



August 2016



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Conservation Winds

“Conservation: We’re All In”

By Anita Bartlett, Powder River Conservation District

Area youth gathered once again at Mallo Camp north of Newcastle, WY to participate in the Black Hills Natural Resource Youth Camp June 15-17th. 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, and various games.

Each child participated in six educational sessions they included: “Bird Banding”, “Who Did It?”, “Wild about Fire”, “Casting for Food”, “Stream Detectives” and “Target Practice”.

“Bird Banding”, presented by Jacelyn 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 “Who Did It?” where campers learned how to identify tracks and scat from wild animals in our area.

In the session “Wild About Fire” Captain Chris Kenney, Tabitha Pillen, Austin Kenney with the Newcastle Volunteer Firefighters, and Jeremy Dedic with Wyoming State Forestry explained to the youth what firefighters must do when they respond to a fire, the data they need to record, and looked at the tools and equipment that is used to fight fires.

Bill Bradshaw, Wyoming 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.

“Stream Detectives” presented by Jason Martineau and Chad Rieger from Wyoming DEQ gave a demonstration how to take a few simple water samples to test the health of a stream and how to collect Macroinvertebrates. Both the samples and the type of Macroinvertebrates found in the stream help them to determine if a stream is healthy or not.

Finally, Bob Pollo and Steve Miller, had “Target Practice”. They taught youth how 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 District, the Campbell County Conservation District, the Powder River Conservation District and a generous grant received from the Campbell County Community Public Recreation District.

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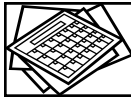
Brandon Elkins

CIVIL ENGINEER, P.E.

Tyrel West

ULTIMA ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:

Shelby Atwood

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

August 4-7, 2016

Campbell County Fair

August 9, 2016

CCCD Board Meeting

September 5, 2016

Labor Day—office closed

September 6, 2016

CCCD Board Meeting

September 13, 2016

Area I Meeting in Johnson County

September 14-16, 2016

NACD Regional Meeting in CA

NEWSLETTER CHANGES!

WITH THE RECENT BUDGET REDUCTIONS, THE CCCD WILL REDUCE THE NUMBER OF MAILINGS FROM 6 TIMES A YEAR TO 4 TIMES A YEAR. YOU WILL RECEIVE A NEWSLETTER IN AUGUST, NOVEMBER, FEBRUARY AND MAY.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL, PLEASE CALL 682-1824 OR EMAIL CCCD2@VCN.COM.

THANK YOU!

Disaster Assistance Available for Agriculture Producers in Ten Wyoming Counties

CHEYENNE, Wyo. – The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced ten counties in Wyoming are eligible for disaster assistance due to drought. Governor Matt Mead received a letter from USDA Secretary Thomas Vilsack designating four counties as primary disaster assistance areas and six counties as contiguous disaster areas.

“For those areas affected by drought, this designation is critical,” Governor Mead said. “It opens the door for federal assistance important to Wyoming.”

The four primary counties are: Big Horn, Johnson, Sheridan and Washakie. The contiguous counties are: Campbell, Converse, Fremont, Hot Springs, Natrona and Park. Qualified producers in these counties can be considered for assistance, including emergency loans, from the USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA). For more information, please visit your local FSA office at 307 682-8843 or go to: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.



New Water/Range Technician, Jay Quintanilla.

I grew up in Teton County, WY and recently graduated from the University of Wyoming (UW) with a Bachelor's of Science in Energy Resource Management and Development with a concentration in Air, Land, and Water and a Minor in Restoration Reclamation Ecology. I have worked in the environmental consulting field and have also conducted academic research in areas of hydrology and air quality.

I'm looking forward to working on projects with the Conservation District that can benefit the community and allow me to advance my love for science and the environment. I thoroughly enjoy spending time outside, backpacking, biking, fishing, and hunting with my wife and two dogs. I'm excited to explore the North East parts of Wyoming and learn more about the areas' unique ecology and wealth of natural resources.

NRCS MESSAGE

All NRCS financial assistance program funding has been obligated for 2016. We are now accepting applications for 2017. If you are thinking about signing up for a program or would like more information about NRCS programs, please call the Gillette Field Office at 307-682-8843 x3.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CCCD BOARD MEMBER?

A 5 member Board of Supervisors governs the Campbell County Conservation District. 3 Supervisors are rural, 1 is urban, and 1 is designated as at-large. The registered voters of Campbell County elect Supervisors during the general election. They serve staggered 4 year terms, with 2 positions available at one general election and 3 positions at the next general election. Supervisors are unpaid, elected volunteers who attend a monthly board meeting, and are involved in overseeing the activities of the Conservation District.

There are 2 board positions up for election in November. Both are rural positions. Individuals must file at the Campbell County Elections Office, August 10th through 29th. Please contact our office or the County Elections office for more information.



Bitter Creek Forest Health Project

By Jennifer Hinkhouse, District Manager

Keeping forest stands healthy is a huge undertaking that requires cooperation across landownerships. The Campbell County Conservation District (CCCD) initiated discussions with private landowners as well as federal and state partners to select an area that covered two private landowners with property adjacent to Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property and State Lands. This project was completed in June, 2016 and consisted of 199.6 acres in northern Campbell



County where private, state and federal partners were interested in managing forested acres. The State had an interest in putting together a timber sale on their property and following up with thinning of remaining understory within the next few years. BLM was also interested in performing fuels treatments on their property, this included juniper removal and understory thinning. The private landowners in this area are livestock producers, and saw the potential of opening stands up, increased forage production, and livestock access to cover. The private landowners also had an interest in decreasing the potential for catastrophic fires, as there have been several in the area. The property was also utilized for hunting and the benefits to the wildlife were also a key interest. This project benefited wildlife by protecting crucial cover for a variety of species. The treatments will also promote the growth of a variety of understory species that provide valuable forage to wildlife. This landscape scale project created a more resilient stand that is capable of recovering from wild-fires, and attacks from insects and diseases in the future.



BULBOUS BLUEGRASS FIELD DAY by Jay Quintanilla, Water/Range Technician

On June 21st 2016, CCCD Board Chair, Lindsay Wood invited residents from Campbell County and the surrounding area to participate in a Bulbous Bluegrass Workshop near Arvada WY. In 2014, Lindsay applied for an Agriculture Producers Research Grant Program through the Wyoming Department of Agriculture, to investigate methods that may help control the spread of Bulbous Bluegrass through mechanical treatments. The workshop brought together residents, industry, and agencies to hear about the preliminary results from Lindsay Wood's research, and visit three of her experimental plots.

One important lesson learned from Lindsay Wood's research is a need for a flexible and adaptive site specific management plan. Lindsay explains that, "What may work one year, might not work for the next". This observation was reinforced by the large variation in seasonal precipitation levels and temperature regimes during the three year experiment. A single treatment couldn't be identified as an overall solution for the spread of Bulbous Bluegrass, but it was clear that a mechanical treatment applied to a site during the spring could help reduce the spread, especially if there was a strong potential for native perennial regrowth on the site. The workshop also encouraged participants to discuss their own struggles with controlling the spread of Bulbous Bluegrass. These collaborative discussions allowed individuals to look at the problem as a whole, and learn from others about techniques that could be applied when designing an adaptive management plan. Final results from her study will be released later this year, and CCCD will help distribute these materials and offer additional education outreach to interested parties.

This workshop also featured a native plant and weed identification exercise presented by Tim Kellogg and Brandon Elkins from the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) along with Quade Schmelzle from Campbell County Weed and Pest. This field demonstration was offered as an educational opportunity to reinforce the principals involved in the control of economically important farm and range lands.

JUNE-

- Crystal provided the Scat and Track identification activity to 53 participating at the Boy Scouts camp on June 1st.
- Debbie attended a State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) training in Cheyenne on June 1, 2016.
- On June 2, Crystal provided a water quality activity at Gillette Fishing Lake for 11 in the Green Clover 4H club.
- Jennifer and Jay traveled to the Timber Stand Improvement project for an inspection on June 3.
- Water monitoring on Donkey Creek began on June 6 and will continue on the Little Powder River.
- Jennifer completed a field water quality monitoring audit with Cathy Rosenthal, WACD and Beth Kelly, WWC Engineering on June 7.
- Jay and Jennifer traveled to the Timber Stand Improvement project for an inspection on June 8.
- Crystal provided the animal tracks, great migration and fun bandana activities for 25 students attending the Summer Library program in Wright on the morning of June 8.
- Crystal and Jay (CCCD), Brandon (NRCS), Alison (Wyoming Stock Growers Association/The Nature Conservancy) and Dustin (Wyoming Game and Fish) provided the soil tunnel, water cycle, furs, animal tracks, great migration and fun bandana education sessions to 80 attending the Summer Library program in Gillette in the afternoon of June 8.
- Jennifer and Debbie attended the Wyoming Department of Enterprise Technology open meeting concerning the collection of data on June 9.
- Jennifer traveled to the Timber Stand Improvement project for a final inspection on June 13.
- All staff attended the Board meeting on June 14.
- On June 15, Jennifer attended the National Forest Advisory Board meeting in Rapid City.
- Crystal as Camp Director, attended the Black Hills Natural Resource Youth Camp, June 15-17 with 106 youth participating.
- Jennifer attended the BLM Resource Management Plan meeting on June 16 in Buffalo.
- Crystal provided the fun bandana and animal tracks activity for 50 Hillcrest kindergarten summer students on June 20.
- 26 people attended the Bulbous Bluegrass Field Day hosted by the CCCD in Arvada on June 21.
- Crystal provided the animal tracks and fun bandana activity for 50 Hillcrest kindergarten summer students on June 27.
- Crystal and Jay provided the stream erosion trailer activity on June 29 for 18 Lakeview students attending the summer library program.
- The Donkey Creek watershed committee meeting was held on June 29 with 8 representatives attending.
- A Special Board meeting was held on June 30 to approve final expenditures for the fiscal year.

JULY-

- Jay and Debbie completed the water monitoring on the Little Powder River on July 5.
- Bob Maul and Jennifer attended the Special District Task Force meeting in Casper on July 8.
- July 11 was the Forest Working Group meeting in Gillette attended by Jennifer and Jay.
- All staff attended the Board meeting and Budget meeting on July 12.
- Jennifer and Jay attended the Water Quality Training Module 3 in Lander on July 19 and 20.
- Crystal provided the Soil Tunnel activity to 20 students on July 19 at the Lakeview summer library program.
- The Animal Tracks activity was presented at the Social Skills Camp on July 21 to K through 12 students by Crystal.
- On July 28, Crystal provided the Solar Oven activity to 20 students at the Lakeview summer library program.
- Jennifer attended the Forestry Resource Policy Group meeting in North Carolina, July 31– Aug 4.

Cowboy Boots

AND HOMETOWN ROOTS

2016 CAMPBELL COUNTY FAIR
JULY 29TH - AUGUST 8TH
CAM-PLEX, GILLETTE, WY



Stop by the CCCD booth during the Campbell County Fair, August 4th-7th!

You will be able to visit about the projects we have been working on and get some great educational information at the same time.

During the Fair, Crystal will be presenting the stream/erosion educational activity outside the Wyoming Center at 11am and 1pm Thursday—Saturday and at 1pm on Sunday!



Don't FALL behind on Weed Control

By Aaron Ide, Campbell County Weed & Pest

Most people think when summer wraps up, it puts an end to weed control for another year. This certainly is not the case for many weed species. Fall can be an excellent time for control and in some cases the best time for control. If you let these noxious weeds go until spring, you will find yourself in a hole to start next year. Employing your weed control strategy into fall will pay big dividends reducing time and money inputs the following season.

The first thing that needs to be done for correct late season weed management is proper identification, if the plant species you are trying to control is an annual that has already set it's seed, you are doing no good. Prime examples of these species are kochia, Russian thistle, sunflower, and common cocklebur. These species need to be treated earlier in the season before reaching maturity. Also, biennial species such as musk and scotch thistle can be controlled, but they go dormant earlier than many perennial species, so mechanical control (chopping/digging out rosettes), may be a better option than using a herbicide during the fall months. September and October can be ideal time for herbicide application on perennial plants, but timing can still greatly affect the efficacy of the herbicide and the ability of that systemic chemical to move into the root system of the targeted species. A prime example is Canada Thistle, spring through midsummer is a good time to apply herbicide to this plant, but as summer wraps up and the plant begins to set seed the plant is primarily dormant. This makes application of herbicide very ineffective because of little plant activity. Ideally you would wait until the plant begins to produce fall regrowth to apply your chemical control agent. The plant will actively be working to bring in water and nutrients to supplement that fall regrowth and stockpile winter reserves in the root system, which will help the chemical move through out the entire plant. Usually as long as you can still see green in the plant you can treat this thistle with good success. If you can hit this application window, we have seen the fall application yield better results than the treatments earlier in the year. Another species, Russian Knapweed, can be treated deep into the fall, usually until snow prevents application, and even after the plant appears dead. Milestone (Aminopyralid) at 7 ounces per acre has seen great results on this species. We have also seen great results on Dalmatian Toadflax in the fall with Telar (Chlorsulfuron) at 1 ounce per acre. These fall treatment can also help prevent grass damage as some species go dormant for the winter before the application is applied. This is only a few examples of key species that can be controlled using fall treatment methods.

This fall don't let the weeds get the upper hand, and put you behind the 8-ball next spring. A well-timed herbicide application can have you coming out smelling like roses next spring. There are many species that are extremely susceptible to fall treatment, so if you have a weed species that you want to treat, but haven't been able to implement any control on this year, there is still time. If you have any questions on which species or which products work best in the fall, please stop by the Weed and Pest office or give us a call (682-4369).

Farm Service Agency County Committee Nomination Period

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced the nomination period for farmers and ranchers to serve on local Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees began Wednesday, June 15, 2016.

To be eligible to serve on a FSA county committee, a person must participate or cooperate in an FSA administered program, be eligible to vote in a county committee election and reside in the local administrative area where they are nominated.

Farmers and ranchers may nominate themselves or others. Organizations representing minorities and women also may nominate candidates. To become a candidate, an eligible individual must sign an FSA-669A nomination form. The form and other information about FSA county committee elections are available at www.fsa.usda.gov/elections. 2016 nomination forms must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 1, 2016.

FSA will mail election ballots to eligible voters beginning Nov. 7, 2016. Ballots must be returned to the local county office via mail or in person by Dec. 5, 2016. Newly-elected committee members and alternates will take office on Jan. 1, 2017.



CAMPBELL COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
(CCCD)
FY 2015-2016 SUMMARY

CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

- **Earth Day Bracelets** – 2050 packaged by CCCD for distribution to 12 Districts for activities in partnership with Soil and Water Conservation Society
- **Ag and Natural Resources Expo** – Host 865 3rd grade students representing 19 schools, 2 private and home schools. 22 Gillette and Wright FFA members volunteered all day, 65 exhibitors presenting 30 activities
- **Seedling Tree Program** – sold 3372 seedling trees, 14 rolls of weed barrier and 42 tree protectors
- **4th Grade Free Tree Program** – 460 trees purchased with a CC Parks and Rec 1% grant and presented to students along with an educational activity, 14 schools participated. 20 additional trees were donated to CC Parks and Rec for replacement trees in past project areas
- **Black Hills Natural Resources Youth Camp** – 106 youth attended (9-13 years old), sponsored by CCCD, Weston and Powder River Conservation Districts
- **World Water Monitoring Challenge** – 275 7th grade students from Sage Valley Junior High participated in 6 different natural resource activities
- **Timber Stand Improvement Project** - 199.6 acres of timber thinned on private property in coordination with Wyoming State Forestry Division for fire hazard, wildlife improvement, and insect and disease control
- **Campbell County Forestry Working Group** - Monthly meetings with state and local agencies and landowners to prioritize areas of concern in Forest Health.
- **Deep Pot Cottonwoods for Riparian Restoration Study** - initiate project in partnership with UW Sheridan Research and Extension utilizing 200 locally sourced cuttings and 100 purchased bareroot cottonwoods to be grown in deep pots in a green house for transplanting in 2017
- **Mackey Road Wetland Mitigation Project** - an increase in vegetation was noted and monitoring in partnership with Peabody Energy will continue not to exceed 5 years or until mitigation is determined

CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION PRESENTATIONS:

- Enviroscope model and other water related educational activities were presented to youth, adults and organizations on 22 separate occasions to a total of 2078 individuals
- Nature, Soil and Wildlife educational presentations on 17 different occasions to a total of 814 individuals

WATER QUALITY:

- Water monitoring on Little Powder River – 2 sites and Donkey-Stonepile Creek - 6 sites
- Assist Crook County Natural Resource District monitoring on Belle Fourche River
- Level I Belle Fourche River Watershed Study - 1 Small Water Project in progress
- Monthly meetings to revise Donkey Creek Watershed Plan with Watershed Steering Committee

COOPERATING AGENCY STATUS:

- USFS Interdisciplinary team – Prairie Dog Management Plan
- BLM Resource Management Plan/Land Use Plan Amendments
- USFS National Forest Advisory Board for the Black Hills

PUBLIC OUTREACH:

- Hosted Local Work Group Meeting with 23 attending
- Provide booth and staff during the Campbell County Fair/Trade Show for 4 days to 212 adults/children
- Co-host 3 Landowner Lunch and Learn workshops with UW Extension having a total of 30 attend
- Co-host USDA Service Center Open House with FSA and NRCS with 37 attending
- Host Estate Planning Workshop, co-sponsored by Plank Stewardship Initiative with 32 attending
- Co-sponsor of Garden and Landscape Education Expo with UW Extension, Master Gardeners, City of Gillette and Campbell County with 800+ attending
- Host Bulbous Bluegrass Field Day in Arvada with 26 attending
- Staff and/or board members attended 40 local meetings/workshops and 42 meetings/workshops out of town

- District updates presented to Campbell County Cattlewomen, Campbell County School District Principals, Gillette City Council, Campbell County Commissioners, and Campbell County Senators and Representatives
- Maintain and update District website and Facebook page
- Publish, print, and mail (in house) 1200 newsletters bi-monthly
- Distribute 300 copies of Barnyards & Backyards quarterly



State Fair Time 2016 Four Man Golf Scramble

Held at the Douglas Community Golf Course • Douglas, Wyo.

Aug. 16, 2016 • Register at noon • 2 p.m. T-Time

\$75 per golfer • Mulligans \$5 each

Prizes for top 4 teams

Open to all ages

You pick your team

**Dinner provided after the
tournament**

**Register your team today at
Jen@WyOFFAFoundation.com
or 307-351-0730**

**Entries limited to 25 teams and taken
on a first-come, first served basis**



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517 E. 19th St. • Cheyenne, WY 82001
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Wyoming FFA Foundation
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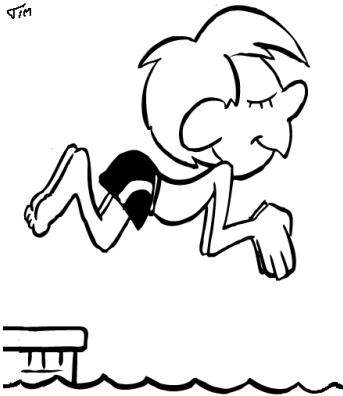
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



NACD WELCOMES BILL TO KEEP RED TAPE AT BAY

WASHINGTON, June 13, 2016 – The National Association of Conservation Districts is pleased to support H.R. 5451, legislation introduced by Reps. Ann Kuster, D-N.H., and Rick Crawford, R-Ark., that would exempt landowners who participate in voluntary conservation programs from costly and unnecessary reporting requirements.

“Federal reporting requirements were never intended to burden farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners,” NACD CEO Jeremy Peters said. “They were meant to enhance transparency around the government’s granting and contracting processes. Producers committed to enhancing water and air quality, wildlife habitat, and soil health were never supposed to get tangled up in this.”

Current law requires any business entity – including farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners – to register with the federal government’s System for Award Management (SAM) and obtain a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number in order to receive financial assistance from federal agencies like the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Mandating that farmers and ranchers comply with these time-consuming requirements complicates conservation delivery and can discourage landowners from participating in NRCS cost-share programs.

“Financial assistance is crucial to the adoption and implementation of conservation,” Peters continued. “The ‘Improving Access to Farm Conservation Act’ would ensure that the producers of America’s food, fuel, and fiber aren’t obligated to jump through hoops to receive the NRCS cost-share assistance they need to put effective conservation on the ground.”