



February 2016



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Conservation Winds

KEEPING THE RANCH IN THE FAMILY

Estate Planning Workshop

Don't miss this opportunity to learn about the basics of estate planning. This workshop is free of charge and taught by native Wyoming Attorney, Robert Wyatt. Mr. Wyatt has 40 years of professional experience in estate and tax planning. We have tailored the workshop for ranch owning families who are interested in keeping their ranch in the family.

February 18, 2016
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Campbell County Public Library
Wyoming Room
2101 South 4J Road
Gillette, Wyoming

This workshop is *FREE* and open to the public and is brought to you through a partnership between the Campbell County Conservation District and the Plank Stewardship Initiative.

Please reserve your space by contacting CCCD at (307)682-1824.



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**LINDSAY WOOD** (307) 670-0171

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Phone: 682-1824 Fax: 682-3813

E-mail: icd@vcn.comWebsite: www.cccdwy.net**Hours: 7:00 AM—4:00 PM****Monday—Friday**

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

NRCS FIELD OFFICE

Phone: (307) 682-8843 Ext. 3

601 4J Court, Suite C

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST:

Tim Kellogg

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST:

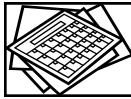
Brandon Elkins

CIVIL ENGINEER, P.E.

Tyrel West

ULTIMA ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:

Vacant

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

February 1-3, 2016	NACD Convention in Reno, NV
February 9, 2016	CCCD Board Meeting
February 15, 2016	Presidents' Day - office closed
February 18, 2016	Estate Planning Workshop
March 8, 2016	CCCD Board Meeting

Winter Watering

by University of Wyoming

Winters in Wyoming can be difficult and are almost always windy. Temperature extremes and constant winds often remove what little moisture remains in the soil from the previous growing season and any snow that may have fallen.

Dry soils can seriously damage root systems of herbaceous perennial plants as well as woody shrubs and trees. The reason is dry soils change temperature very quickly. They also heave, expand, and contract with changes in temperature. The resulting soil movement can physically damage or destroy roots.

Moist soils, on the other hand, change temperature much more slowly, which is one of the basic properties of water. Consequently, soils kept moist during the winter are less susceptible to temperature changes and do not expand and contract like dry soils do. Keeping soil moist tends to save root systems from being damaged.

Evergreens are most susceptible to winter drying since they do not lose foliage during these months. In lawns, grass roots may die, leading to large areas of dead turf. Any plant stressed from winter desiccation is more likely to succumb to disease and insect problems the following growing season.

Spring bulbs may not bloom properly. Lack of water for bulbs can lead to brown or deformed flowers or flowers that don't open at all. Perennial herbaceous plants may show root loss, and crown buds may die due to inadequate winter watering.

If perennial plants, especially new ones, are not watered during the winter, symptoms of winter desiccation may appear during the next growing season. Symptoms usually include branch dieback and leaf burn or even total plant loss.

Mulching and watering during the winter months can help. Mulch tends to insulate the ground and keep the soil at relatively constant temperatures. Watering fills open spaces and can help seal cracks in the soil and minimize root damage caused by temperature swings.

During the winter, when there is no snow cover, when temperatures are above 40 degrees Fahrenheit, when the ground is not frozen, and when the wind is not blowing, homeowners are encouraged to get out their hoses. Water enough to moisten the soil at least 6 to 8 inches down. Remember to drain and store hoses again to prevent ice damage to the hose or water taps.



YOUTH CAMP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Campbell County Conservation District (CCCD) is seeking volunteers for the Black Hills Natural Resource Youth Camp (BHNRYC). The BHNRYC is cooperatively hosted by the CCCD, Powder River Conservation District, and the Weston County Natural Resource District. The BHNRYC will be held June 15-17, 2016 at the Mallo Camp facility located in the Black Hills of Weston County for 9-13 year olds.

This camp provides the youth of Wyoming with an opportunity to learn about natural resources and careers in related fields in an outdoor classroom setting. The camp focuses on hands on lessons designed to explore soil, water, plants, animals, air, and human influences on the environment. Volunteers will be required to complete a mandatory background check by the end of February. If you are interested in volunteering at the BHNRYC please contact Crystal Kellebrew, Camp Director with the CCCD at (307) 682-1824 or cccd2@vcn.com.

The Greater Crossbow Oil & Gas Exploration and Development Project

By Bureau of Land Management

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Buffalo Field Office (BFO) is the lead agency for the development of the proposed Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Greater Crossbow Oil and Gas Exploration and Development Project (Project). The BLM is working with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Douglas Ranger District (DRD) and other federal, state and local agencies as cooperating agencies in the preparation of this EIS.

EOG Resources Inc. proposes to develop 1,500 oil and natural gas wells on 100 multi-well pads in Wyoming's southern Campbell and northern Converse counties.

The project area is between Wright and Bill, Wyoming, primarily west of WY Highway 59. It includes parts of 9 townships, centered on T42N:R73W to T42N:R71W, T41N:R73W to T41N:R71W, T40N:R72W to T40N:R71W, and T39N:R72W. The project area is about 107,000 acres, which includes approximately 93,000 acres of private surface (87 percent of the project area), 8,200 acres of surface administered by the State of Wyoming (8 percent of the project area), and 5,700 acres of the Thunder Basin National Grassland administered by the USFS (5 percent of the project area). There is no BLM-administered public surface within the project area. The project area includes about 66,000 acres (62 percent of the project area) of BLM-administered federal fluid mineral estate. The remainder of the project area has fluid minerals managed by the State of Wyoming or private owners.

EOG proposes a "spine and rib" approach that would use multiple well pads (i.e., the ribs) that are strategically placed along a primary corridor system that includes pipelines and utilities (i.e., the spines). This design is intended to minimize surface disturbance, habitat fragmentation, truck traffic, and air emissions compared to that of a traditional oil and gas field development project.

The Notice of Intent to prepare the EIS was published in the Federal Register on October 26, 2015, initiating a public scoping period which ended on December 31, 2015. Comments received during the scoping period will be considered during the development of the EIS.

Campbell County Weed and Pest News & Notes:

By Aaron Ide

New Building Update-We have moved to our new facility (11 Northern Drive) on the north end of town. It is located on Northern Drive at the intersection of Hackathorn Drive. This is just east off of Highway 14/16 on Northern Drive. Northern Drive is located at the bottom of the hill as you head north of town towards the airport. Please stop by, and we would be glad to give you a tour.

Early Detection Rapid Response-Dalmatian Toadflax-We started an EDRR program for Dalmatian Toadflax last spring. We had noticed a large increase in the abundance of this species in the last few years and wanted to act quickly to try to stop this problem before it became completely out of hand. We will likely implement the same program in 2016. If you have Dalmatian Toadflax on your property please let us know, and we will set up a plan for control at no cost to you.

Black Tailed Prairie Dog Control Project-Campbell County Weed and Pest recently finished a control project in the area of Weston/Rocky Point Road (About 30 miles NE of Gillette) for black tailed prairie dogs. There were roughly 12,000 acres treated for this project. We are very happy with early results.

Russian Knapweed Control Project-At the end of October, we finished the third and final year of the Russian Knapweed Project along the Little Powder River Drainage north of Gillette along Highway 59. This year's treatment area was roughly north of Little Powder River School to the state line. Treated area for 2015 was just over 1,200 acres bringing the project total to around 5,700 acres. Early results from the previous two years have shown great results.

Leafy Spurge Control Program-Our summer crews continued its fierce fight against Leafy Spurge. This year's backpack crews treated over 150 acres of infestations. If you have this problem weed on your property please contact us for control options.

Private Application Training/Recertification Course is set for February 2nd at 1 PM in the Cottonwood Room in the George Amos Building. This course is required for applicators looking to apply Tordon, Dimlin, and all prairie dog rodenticides on their own property.

Campbell County Weed and Pest Control District will be having an open house on February 23rd from 10 am - 4 pm to celebrate the opening of our new facility and National Invasive Species Awareness Week (Feb. 21st-26th). A variety of light food and drinks will be provided.

Website-Don't forget about our website. This is an excellent resource for multiple pieces of information. The website address is www.ccgov.net/189/Weed-Pest

Timber Stand Improvement Projects Needed

Please contact the CCCD at 682-1824 by February 8th, if you are interested in a cost share project to thin timber on your property.



Legislative Update

Annually, the CCCD board and staff meet with the legislative members representing Campbell County to discuss District activities and the upcoming legislation session.

On December 21, Senator Driskill, and Wasserburger; Representatives; Kasperik, Pownall, Clem, and Edwards reviewed the following agenda items: CCCD Annual Report and Budget, Long Range Plan 2016-2020, Watershed Updates, Forestry Program and an update on the Trespassing to Collect Data law.

The CCCD appreciated being able to visit with the members and discuss the issues of concern.

DECEMBER -

- ✦ Crystal presented several natural resource education activities to 10 student teachers attending the Gillette College on December 1.
- ✦ On December 2, Jennifer and Blair met with representatives from BLM and State Forestry to review the Timber Stand Improvement project.
- ✦ Debbie attended the Garden and Landscape Education Expo planning meeting on December 2.
- ✦ The FSA/CCCD/NRCS Holiday Open House was held on December 3 and attended by 37 guests.
- ✦ Jennifer traveled to Casper for a Small Acre Initiative Team meeting on December 7.
- ✦ The Board Meeting was held on December 8.
- ✦ On December 10, Jennifer attended the BLM Greater Crossbow Oil and Gas Project EIS scoping meeting.
- ✦ Crystal presented the Soil Layer Activity to 14 homeschool students on December 14.
- ✦ On December 17, Debbie attended the City of Gillette Stormwater meeting.
- ✦ Attending the Legislative Breakfast on December 21 were Senators Jeff Wasserburger and Ogden Driskill; Representatives Norine Kasperik, Roy Edwards, Bill Pownall and Scott Clem; board members Travis Hakert and Lindsay Wood; Associate Board Member, Brenda Schladweiler and the CCCD staff.

JANUARY -

- ✦ Jennifer and Blair held Timber Stand Improvement tours for a total of 15 contractors on January 5 and 7.
- ✦ Debbie participated in a Focus Group meeting with UW/Extension on January 7.
- ✦ All staff attended the CCCD Board meeting on January 12.
- ✦ A Donkey Creek/Stonepile Creek watershed plan meeting was held on January 20. Attending were representatives from the City of Gillette, NRCS, CCCD and interested landowners in the watershed.
- ✦ On January 21, Jennifer and Blair met with representatives from BLM and State Forestry to review the Timber Stand Improvement project.
- ✦ A CCCD Appreciation Dinner for the staff and board members was held on January 22.
- ✦ Crystal participated in a Project Learning Tree Early Childhood workshop on January 23 in Sundance.
- ✦ Jennifer attended the Chamber of Commerce Eggs and Issues Legislative Breakfast on January 26.
- ✦ Debbie attended a Garden and Landscape Education Expo meeting on January 27.
- ✦ Blair attended a Sage Grouse Policy meeting in Casper on January 27.
- ✦ Jennifer attended the Forest Service Prairie Dog IDT team meeting on January 28 in Douglas.
- ✦ Jennifer traveled to Reno, NV for the NACD annual convention January 29 through February 3.

A MESSAGE FROM THE NRCS:**UPCOMING FARM BILL DEADLINES**

- EQIP: February 19- Second sign-up deadline for 2016 funding
- CRP: February 26- Sign-up deadline for 2016 General (Cropland) CRP
- CCRP: Continuous- Contact NRCS office if interested
- CSP: Continuous but a sign-up deadline for 2017 funding will be announced
- Conservation Easements: Continuous- Contact NRCS office if interested

ANNUAL REMINDERS

- Complete your adjusted gross income (CCC-941) form with FSA
- Complete an AD-1026 with FSA if you are plowing up any old hayfields and need to update your highly erodible conservation plan with NRCS
- Update and renew your DUNS and SAM.gov information if you operate as an entity and have a Farm Bill Contract with NRCS
- Update your direct deposit information with FSA and/or NRCS if you have recently changed your banking accounts

PLEASE CONTACT THE NRCS OFFICE AT (307) 682-8843 X3 WITH ANY QUESTIONS.

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



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Gillette, WY 82716

Phone: (307) 682-1824 Fax: (307) 682-3813 E-Mail: icd@vcn.com

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



WYOMING AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM BOOKMARK CONTEST

Contest is open to all Wyoming 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students.

Entries must be postmarked no later than February 19, 2016 to be eligible for the contest.

Only one entry per student.

Entries must be submitted on the designated entry form template found on Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom (WAIC) website: www.wyaitc.org.

Entries should be submitted on a heavyweight/card stock paper.

Bookmark submission must encompass the 2016 theme: Wyoming Stewardship.

Contact information must be complete and clearly printed on the entry form. This information is utilized to send out information to all participants and finalists. WAIC staff will call if information is incomplete.

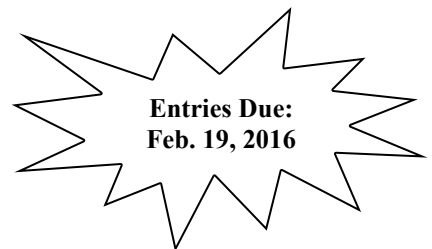
Bookmark must be student's original artwork and message created within the 2015-16 school calendar year.

DO NOT use metallic pens or crayons for artwork submissions.

Colored pencils are preferred.

Submit entries to:

Wyo. Agriculture in the Classroom
PO Box 347
Cheyenne, WY 82003



Original artwork will not be sent back to students. If you want a copy of the artwork, please make sure to have a copy made prior to mailing in student's submission.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT WAIC AT 307-369-1749