



Conservation Clamor

WESTON COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICT

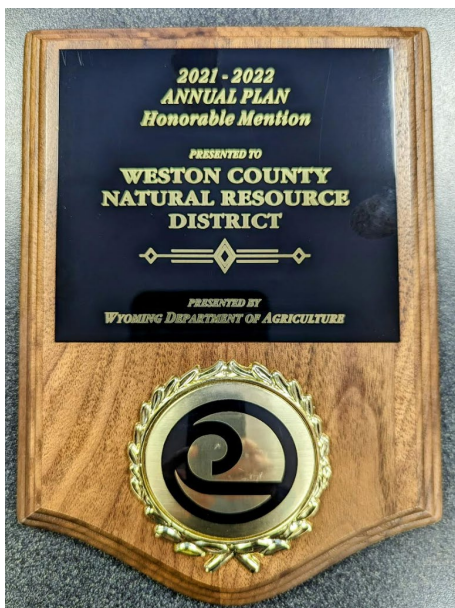
January 2023

Wyoming Natural Resource Rendezvous

The Weston County Natural Resource District was well represented at the 2022 Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts annual convention, part of the Wyoming Natural Resource Rendezvous held in December.

District Manager Caleb Carter and Board Chair David Tysdal both attended the 5-day joint convention with the Wyoming Stockgrowers and the Wyoming Woolgrowers. Lots of good training on soil health, virtual fencing, water rights, carbon sequestration, grazing, and much more. It is always great to get together with our partners in conservation and work together to preserve our natural resources and our way of life in Wyoming.

David Tysdal was elected to represent Northeast Wyoming, Area 1, on the Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation. He was also elected as an alternate representative on the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts Board for Area 1 at the Area 1 meeting in September. The District was also recognized with an Honorable Mention for their Annual Plan for fiscal year 2021-2022.



JOIN US AT OUR OPEN HOUSE!

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND 8AM - 12PM

1225 WASHINGTON BLVD. SUITE 3, NEWCASTLE WY

Staff from the District, NRCS, and FSA will be available to discuss current and future programs or project ideas.

Stop by for a treat and share your ideas with us!

Inflation Reduction Act Investments in FPAC Programs

By: Paul Eitel, DC, NRCS

On August 16, President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) into law. It is a historic, once-in-a-generation investment and opportunity for the agricultural communities that USDA serves. The Inflation Reduction Act will help producers stay on the farm, prevent producers from becoming ineligible for future assistance, and promote climate-smart agriculture by increasing access to conservation assistance.

Conservation

Approximately \$20 billion of Inflation Reduction Act funds will support USDA's conservation programs within the Natural Resources Conservation Service. This includes:

- \$8.45 billion for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- \$4.95 billion for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program
- \$3.25 billion for the Conservation Stewardship Program
- \$1.4 billion for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program
- \$1 billion for the Conservation Technical Assistance Program

These are oversubscribed programs that are well known to farmers and ranchers. This additional investment will help farmers and ranchers implement expanded conservation practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase storage of carbon in their soil and trees.

Board of Supervisors

David Tysdal dtysdal.wcnrd@gmail.com
Chairman, Rural

Tucker Hamilton thamilton.wcnrd@gmail.com
Vice Chairman, Rural

Emily Hartinger ehartinger.wcnrd@gmail.com
Secretary/Treasurer, Rural

Gene Norman gnorman.wcnrd@gmail.com
Supervisor, Urban

Tom Streeter tstreeter.wcnrd@gmail.com
Supervisor, At-Large

District Staff

Caleb Carter ccarter.wcnrd@gmail.com
District Manager (307) 746-3264 x 4

District Hours

7:30 am to 4 pm—Monday-Friday

The USDA is an equal opportunity
provider and employer

NRCS Field Office

Hours: 7 am to 3:30 pm (307) 746-3264 x 3

Paul Eitel paul.eitel@usda.gov
District Conservationist

Tanner Jenks tanner.jenks@usda.gov
Range Specialist

Austin Sommerville asommerville@nwtf.net
National Wild Turkey Federation
Cooperative Forester

***Find us online!***

Be sure to check out our new website for all your updates and WCNRD news. You can find forms to sign up for programs, event details, and much more!

westoncountynrd.org

You can also connect with us on social media:

 facebook.com/westoncountynrd

 instagram.com/westoncountynrd

Mission Statement

“Providing leadership in conserving the natural resources in Weston County by providing information, education and technical assistance to meet the needs of our users.”

UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Jan. | 10 th WCNRD Board Meeting @3pm, District Office |
| Feb. | 14 th WCNRD Board Meeting @3pm, District Office
22 nd WCNRD is hosting an Open House |
| Mar. | 14 th WCNRD Board Meeting @3pm, District Office
3 rd Conservation Cost-Share Deadline |
| Apr. | 11 th WCNRD board Meeting @3pm, District Office
25 th 1 st Well Water Testing day
Black Hills natural Resource camp registration will begin in April |

Annual Tree Sale

Get your tree applications in before April 7th!!!

We offer a wide selection of bare root hand potted trees and shrubs

For more information westoncountynrd.org/seedling-tree-sales



Common Lilac

Black Hills Spruce



Septic Maintenance Cost-Share

Make sure your septic tank is functioning properly! It is recommended homeowners clean them at least every 3-5 years



When was the last time you got your septic pumped? The district offers \$100 toward septic maintenance, so stop by and get an application today!!

westoncountynrd.org/septic-maintenance

Outdoor Education Assistance Grant

This grant is for any youth organization or school organization to participate in any Ag, Conservation, or Natural resource related activities at a lower price!!

Apply for up to \$500 per event!!

Get kids excited to be outside and learn all about Conservation, Natural Resources, and Agriculture

westoncountynrd.org/outdoor-education-assistance-grant

Pick up applications at the Natural resource district and apply today!!



WHY BATS?

They help get rid of mosquitos and many other gardens pests



Bat Boxes are a safe place for bats to go and roost

Bat boxes help protect the bat population by giving them shelter against their biggest predators

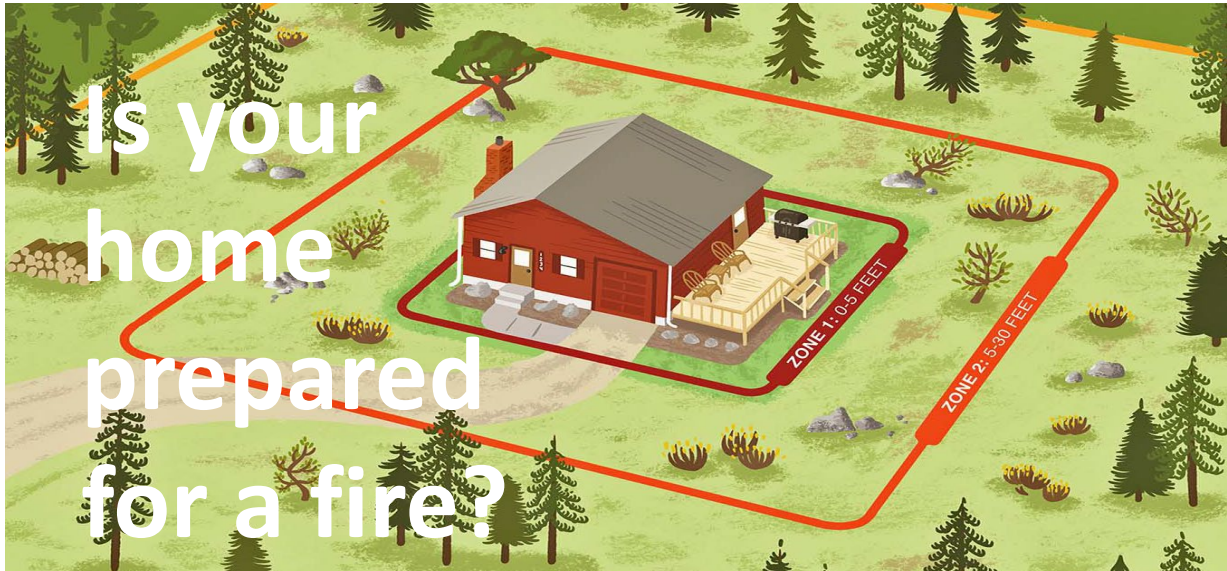
70/30 Cost-Share NRS pays 70% district members pay 30%

We only have 5 left!!

Bat Boxes



Cost-Share



Creating a Defensible Space: Home Ignition Zones, Colorado State Forest Service

Defensible Space

Creating a defensible space around your home and outbuildings is a great place to start. This creates a space where fuels are reduced and where fire crews can safely defend your property. A good defensible space can be created by the elimination of many of the trees, brush, ladder fuels, and dead woody material. It is typically divided into 3 zones. The distances of the zones can vary by terrain and vegetation, typically extending out to 100 to 200 feet.

Protecting your homes by:

- Replacing wood roofs with steel or asphalt shingles
- Thinning trees to reduce crown coverage
- Moving shrubs away from homes/pruning shrubs
- Relocating propane tanks away from structures
- Moving firewood off decks of homes
- Installing spark arrestors in chimneys
- Clear pine needles, pinecones, and leaves
- Clear gutter of debris
- Plant fire resistant plants



Oil creek Fire, 2012, Deana Tavegi

TO ASSIST LANDOWNERS WE CAN

- Provide property assessments
- Write fire mitigation plans
- Provide cost-Share assistance

For more information call the office at (307) 746-3264 OR visit our website at westoncountynrd.org/wildfire-mitigation

EWC Community Ed

Educational Opportunity!!

Join District Manager Caleb Carter on
Thursday, January 26th at 6 pm
High School Library

How Safe is Your Property from Wildfire?

Learn the why and the most effective strategies to mitigate fuels on your property

Other Treatments Include

Fuel Treatment

Outside of the defensible space zone fuel treatment specifications are followed. This zone remains forested, but trees are thinned to a minimum of 4 feet between crowns.

Fuel Break

A fuel break is a strip of land along roads, property perimeter, or other strategic area designed to break up the tree canopy to slow or stop a crown fire.

Growing Trees in Weston County

This is a three series class Caleb Cater is teaching about growing trees in Weston County. The classes are completely free and very informational

To sign up for classes call: 307-746-3603
or visit ewc.wy.edu/newcastle

Classes are from form 6pm-7pm

Classes & Dates

“Shade and Ornamental Trees for Weston County”
Thursday, February 16th

“Can You Grow Fruit Trees in Wyoming Thursday,
March 16th

“Windbreaks and Living Snow Fences” Thursday,
April 13th

Did you know the WCNRD also offers the Barnyards and Backyards magazine that we send out quarterly. Any interested in a subsection is more than welcome to sign up!

If you're interested in getting the magazine call (307) 746-3264 x 4



2023

WELL WATER TESTING

APRIL 25TH & OCTOBER 24TH ARE THE TESTING DAYS

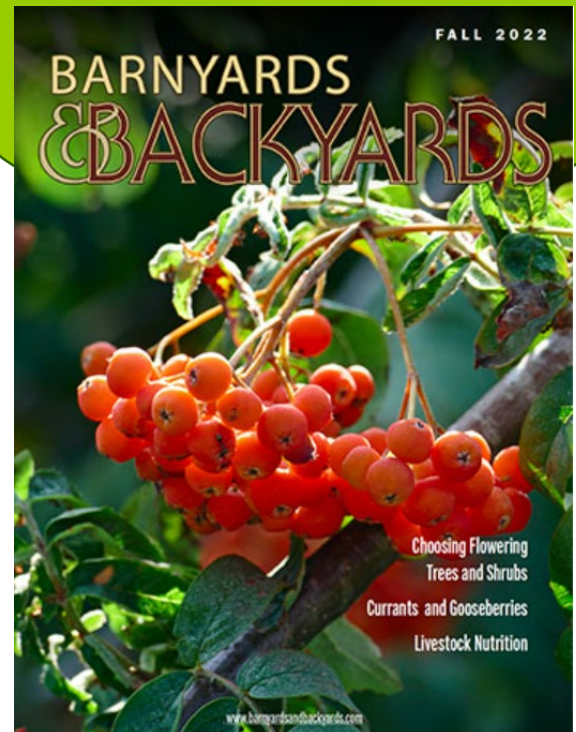


Do you know your water quality?

Our 2023 dates are set call today to reserve your test kit

For more information call:
(307) -746- 3264





Did you know that the Conservation Clamor is also available in your email? **E-Newsletter**

In an efforts to save money and reduce our paper usage, we email the same newsletter to over 200 district members, saving over \$500 per year! That allows us to put more money into our conservation efforts.

If you would rather receive your newsletter via email, please contact Caleb Carter at ccarter.wcnrd@gmail.com or call the District Office at (307) 746-3264, x 4

Controlling Cheatgrass and Japanese Brome on Rangelands

By; Tanner Jenks, NRCS Rangeland Specialist



July 15th, Japanese brome in Weston County

Invasive annual grasses like Cheatgrass and Japanese brome are a common problem on western rangelands. This means they are also a common sight in Weston County. These grasses can take over rangelands that are overgrazed or after wildfires and out compete desirable native species. While cheatgrass can provide decent forage in the early spring, it only lasts for a few weeks before it starts to head out and die. Then it is useless as forage, creates a wildfire danger, and has low wildlife value. There are ways to help control it and bring back more desirable perennial grasses. Herbicide and controlled grazing are the two most effective methods for treatment right now.

First, herbicide treatment is probably the most effective but also the most expensive option for control of cheatgrass and Japanese brome. There are several herbicides that have been shown to be effective such as glyphosate, imazapic, and indaziflam. Glyphosate is a low-rate early spring application before perennial and other desirable plants come up. Imazapic and indaziflam are applied in the late summer or early fall before cheatgrass emergence. These last two are more targeted and should not affect desirable native plants. Herbicide control will only work if there is native vegetation left or a viable seedbank to replace the cheatgrass once it is terminated. If there is not, reseeding will also need to take place to reestablish the native plant community. Without reseeding, the area will become weeds or cheatgrass will return and money will have been wasted.

Another option is targeted grazing to reduce and control cheatgrass. This is a cheaper alternative but does take longer and more time is involved. On areas with heavy populations of cheatgrass, livestock can be used at a heavy stocking rate to graze infested areas early in the spring before the seed heads develop. This should be done over a short duration and two grazing passes will need to be done on these areas in the same season to stunt the grass enough that it won't develop seed. The short grazing time also helps prevent damage to desirable perennial species. This targeted grazing will need to be repeated for 2-3 years to get effective control and reduce the seed bank, which is only viable for 2-3 years. Cheatgrass makes great forage in the spring so there is another benefit to using grazing. Using temporary fencing is also useful to target the specific areas that are infested and concentrate the grazing. After these areas are grazed, they should be deferred until native species have matured to give them a chance to grow and establish themselves.

Still, the best way to control cheatgrass is the avoid it in the first place through proper grazing management. That is not always possible though if new land is already infested or wildfire has led to cheatgrass establishment. Drought also makes it easier for these annual grasses to invade when perennials are stressed. Using good grazing management like resting and deferring these areas from grazing can give the native perennials a chance to recover and resist invasion. However, when control is needed, the options discussed can be effective in controlling cheatgrass and Japanese brome. If left untreated forage losses and wildfire risk will continue to increase and wildlife habitat will decrease. For more info on chemical control contact your local weed and pest and for more info on grazing your local NRCS office.

Ag Legacy

Helping agriculture nurture its legacy. . .

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING EXTENSION

What is your transition plan?

Smoothing the Transition

THINKING BEYOND TRADITIONAL ESTATE PLANNING

A smooth transition of your family farm or ranch to the next generation requires preparation, communication, and planning. **Where are you in the process?**

Where do you see your operation in 5, 10, or 20 years?

Do you have a plan to get there?

Has the plan been discussed? Is there agreement?

Each location will include

- Estate Planning Resources - *preparing to meet the professionals*
- Management Showdown - *an interactive discussion about differences in perspectives between generations*
- Issues in Legacy Planning - *going beyond the issues for a smooth transition, how to get started, what to do when things get rough*

	Sundance	Newcastle
DATE	March 1 st	March 2 nd
TIME	6 - 8 pm	6 - 8 pm
VENUE	Sundance State Bank Meeting Room <i>(N end of US Post Office)</i>	Weston County Events Center <i>(Fairgrounds)</i>
ISSUES IN LEGACY PLANNING	<i>Growing Relationships With the Next Generation</i>	<i>Mentoring the Next Generation</i>

Registration

Cost: \$10 (allows participant to attend both programs)

Registration includes a light meal and take-home materials.

Register on Eventbrite: bit.ly/smoothingthetransition



Questions?
Weston County NRD
(307) 746-3264 or x 4
Crook County NRD
(307) 283-2870 x 129



Weston County
Natural Resource District

Weston County Natural Resource District

1225 Washington Blvd. Suite 3

Newcastle, WY 82701

(307) 746-3264, ext. 4

ccarter.wcnrd@gmail.com

**Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
Rate
Newcastle, WY
Permit No. 52
Return Service
Requested**

January 2023 Conservation Clamor

Meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month
at 3:00p.m. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

The Weston County Natural Resource District is an equal opportunity employer

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Wyoming Natural Resource Rendezvous

NRCS, FSA, and the WCNRD to host an Open House

Controlling Cheatgrass and Japanese Brome on Rangelands

2023 Well water testing dates set

Annual Tree Sale order due by April 7th! *Catch our EWC Community Ed tree classes!*

Fuel mitigation assistance for your property

Community Tree Grant applications available

Conservation Cost- Share applications due March 3rd!

Upcoming programs: Smoothing the Transition: *going beyond traditional estate planning*