

# **Conservation Clamor**

WESTON COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICT

August 2023

### **New Faces**

I'm Cole Wehri, a senior at Newcastle High School and this year's Weston County Natural Resource District (WCNRD) intern. I originally became interested in the district when myself and the rest of the Newcastle Saddle and Sirloin FFA officer team worked with WCNRD, Wyoming State Forestry, and the Newcastle Tree Board to host a Arbor Day tree planting ceremony. Growing up on a ranch just outside of Newcastle, I was super interested in learning about some other facets of agriculture like land/range management and wildlife habitat programs. I'm hoping to learn more about all the different sides of this program to either apply to ranching and everyday life or possibly to find an interest in a future career!





My name is Erin Darlington-Whitcher, and I am very excited about my role as the administrative assistant for the Weston County Natural Resource District. Many of you already know me, as I was born and grew up here in Weston County. I graduated from the Kansas City Art Institute with a degree in Fine Arts in 2011 and have since worked at Newcastle Motors, the Weston County Detention Center, and Gateway Foundation. I have a passion for helping people and look forward to assisting the landowners of Weston County.

### **Well Water Testing**

The district offers a well water cost-share twice a year and the final test date is Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>

Annual Well Maintenance

\$30 Domestic + Bacteria

\$50 Livestock & Irrigation Suitability

\$40 For information about your well's health visit Knowyourwell.org

For more information about Well Water Tests visit: <a href="https://westoncountynrd.org/well-water-testing/">https://westoncountynrd.org/well-water-testing/</a>

Call the WCNRD office to reserve a test kit (307)-746-3264



### **Board of Supervisors**

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

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 ext. 4

Erin Whitcher westoncountynrd@gmail.com

**Administrative Assistant** 

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 ext. 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**

Board Meeting Sept 12<sup>th</sup> @3PM @ District Office

Hazardous Waste Day Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> 10AM-1PM @ Upton High School

Board Meeting October 10<sup>th</sup> @3PM @ District Office

Well Water Testing Day October 24th

variety of

trees, and

shrubs



Black Hills Spruce Tree

Many of the trees and shrubs are great for

- Wind Breaks
- Animal Conservation
  - Snow fences



Hackberry Tree



Laurel Willow Tree

Tree Sales



Did you know the WCNRD also offers the Barnyards and Backyards magazine that we send out quarterly? Any district member is welcome to sign up to get one mailed to you!

If you're interested in getting the magazine call: 307-746-3264

## Wyoming Game and Fish INSTALLED A BOAT CHECK STATION AT THE GATEWAY TRAVEL CENTER, IN



## **2023 HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY**

Saturday, September 23rd

**Upton High School** 10AM-1PM



### Did you know that the Conservation Clamor is also available in your email?



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 us at westoncountynrd@gmail.com or call the District Office at (307) 746-3264, ext. 4 5

## **Don't Feed Wildlife!**

Wildlife Services experts are often asked to assist with wildlife damage problems related to animals that have been accidentally or intentionally fed by people.

Feeding wildlife can lead to a number of serious problems:

- Human food is not healthy for wild animals, and they do not need food from humans to survive. Wild animals have specialized diets, and they can become malnourished or die if fed the wrong foods. Also, animals cannot distinguish food from wrappers or foil and can get sick eating these items.
- Feeding leads to public health concerns. Too many animals in one place increases the chance of disease transmission to people and among other wildlife.
- Animals accustomed to people often lose their fear of people and can become aggressive. Those that become too aggressive may have to be destroyed to protect people and property.
- Birds gathering near or on airports can become victims of bird-aircraft collisions, potentially causing flight delays, damage to aircraft, and loss of human life.
- Animals fed along roads tend to stay near roads, increasing the chance of vehicle-animal accidents.
- Large concentrations of ducks and geese can pollute nearby waterways, backyards and athletic fields. Some waterfowl species drop up to a pound of feces every day!

Many people enjoy living near and watching wildlife. You can help keep animals wild by keeping the following tips in mind.

- Do not encourage wildlife by feeding or leaving food for them.
- Don't allow bird food to accumulate on the ground.
- Don't place food scraps in gardens or compost bins, and use a closed compost bin.
- Keep pet food and water containers indoors, especially at night.
- If you have fruit trees, harvest or dispose of fruit when it is ripe.
- Use metal or durable plastic trash containers with tight fitting lids.
  - Enjoy viewing wildlife at a distance. Respect their space and remember they are wild animals that should stay wild.



Saturday, September 23rd 10AM-1PM Upton High School Parking lot



When you care for yourself, your family, home, car, yard, and garden, you use a variety of chemical products. Many of these products contain hazardous chemicals. When you no longer want these products, they become hazardous waste. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines four major types of hazardous waste:

### **2023 HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY**

### What can I bring?

That is a great question! The district can take a wide variety of Items at the hazardous waste day, including:

- Automotive- antifreeze, oil, brake fluid, transmission fluid, car batteries (DO NOT MIX AUTO FLUIDS)
- Paints/Solvents- latex or oil based paints, paint stripper, paint thinner, wood preservatives
- Lawn & Garden-fertilizers, pesticides, rodent poisons, fungicides
- Home- bleach, disinfectants, drain cleaner, glues, nail polish remover, household batteries, florescent light tubes, aerosols, lighter fluid
- Electronics- computers, monitors, household printers, laptops, televisions
- · Upton PD will offer prescription drug disposal

### **Donations:**

While we don't charge for this service, we do ask that anyone bringing items for disposal please also bring food to donate to the Upton Food Bank, or a cash donation.

#### Sponsors:

The City of Upton Weston County •Corrosive wastes can cause a chemical action that eats away materials or living tissue. Battery acid is an example.

- •Toxic wastes can cause illness or death. Some such wastes are more dangerous than others. Exposure to a small concentration of a highly toxic chemical may cause symptoms of poisoning. Pesticides, cleaning products, paints, photographic supplies, and many art supplies are examples.
- •Ignitable waste can catch fire spontaneously or burn easily. Examples include charcoal lighter fluid, gasoline, kerosene, and nail polish remover.
- •Reactive waste can react with air, water, or other substances to cause rapid heating or explosions. Acids that heat up rapidly and spatter when mixed with water are examples.

The EPA estimates that the average household disposes of one pound of hazardous waste each year.

### WHAT HAPPENS WHEN HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD WASTE IS ...

### 1. Thrown in the Garbage?

Most residential trash is collected door-to-door or is taken to a transfer station by individuals. Ultimately the trash is taken to a county landfill. Most landfills are not designed for hazardous household wastes. These wastes can leak into water supplies and/or cause air pollution. Hazardous household waste may cause a fire or explosion or give off dangerous fumes.

#### 2. Poured Down the Drain?

When you pour hazardous household products down the sink or flush them down the toilet the hazardous materials enter either a septic system or a municipal sewer system. If you have a septic system, wastewater from your home goes into a tank buried underground. The solids settle out and partially decompose. The remaining wastewater then goes into a drain field where the natural, ongoing processes in the soil help to further break down the wastewater. Toxic materials in that wastewater can kill the helpful bacteria and the system will not operate properly. Some toxic materials move through the soil untreated or unchanged. When this happens groundwater or surface waters may become contaminated. For example, many paint removers and aerosol paint products contain the chemical methylene chloride. This chemical can pass directly through a septic system without breaking down at all. Chlorine bleach can also pass through a septic system without breaking down.

#### 3. Poured in Ditches, Storm Drains, or Gutters?

If you pour hazardous household waste in ditches, storm drains, or gutters, it can poison plants and wildlife, contaminate the soil, and harm children and adults who come in contact with it. When it rains, the hazardous household waste travels directly to nearby streams, rivers, and lakes.

#### 4. Burned?

If you burn hazardous household waste, you risk producing poisonous fumes, contributing to air pollution, or causing an explosion. Controlled burning in special hazardous waste incinerators by trained professionals can be a good disposal method; open burning by an untrained homeowner is not. Some hazardous materials may not burn away completely and become concentrated in the ash; others can pollute the air.

#### 5. Dumped or Buried?

If you dump or bury some types of hazardous household waste, they may leach through the soil and contaminate the soil or water, especially if the waste is persistent or nonbiodegradable. Children, pets, and wildlife may be exposed to such hazardous waste. Dogs frequently are poisoned by drinking antifreeze left on roads or driveways.



**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

### **August 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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