



# Conservation Clamor

WESTON COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICT

October 2023

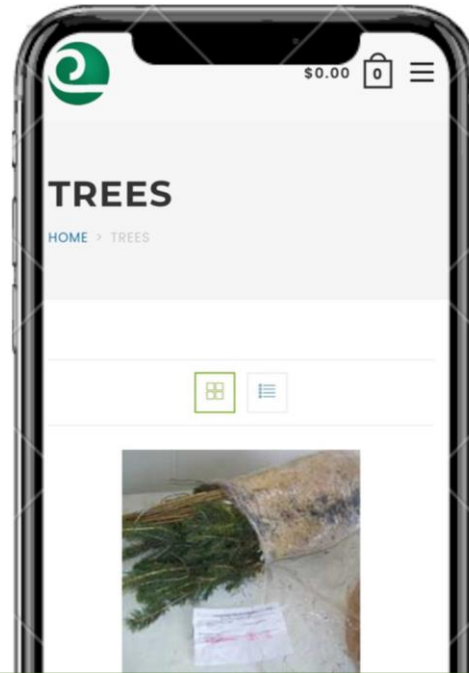
## Check out our new online store!

You can now submit orders for trees, planting supplies, bat boxes, and more, and pay with a credit card online!

Scan to visit our store:



or go to  
[www.westoncountynrd.org/shop](http://www.westoncountynrd.org/shop)



## MITIGATING WILDFIRE DANGER ON YOUR PROPERTY

- Do you own forested land?
- Are you concerned about the potential for wildfire on your property?
- Do you have trees near your home or other structures?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then it is important that you consider the steps you need to take to be prepared in the case of a wildfire.

### Free Property Assessment

The Weston County Natural Resource District offers free property assessments to help homeowners understand the risks on your property. The district also has grant funding that can help landowners create defensible space, reduce fuel loads and prepare their property to better withstand a wildfire.

*Don't procrastinate until the fire is at your door. Call today to set up your free consultation.*

**Stop by the office today or call us at  
(307) 746-3264 x 4.**



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 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](http://westoncountynrd.org)

**You can also connect with us on social media:**

 [facebook.com/westoncountynrd](https://facebook.com/westoncountynrd)

 [instagram.com/westoncountynrd](https://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	October 10 <sup>th</sup> @3PM @ District Office
Tree Sale	October-April
Well Water Testing Day	October 24 <sup>th</sup>
WSGA Succession Planning	November 6 <sup>th</sup> @ Weston County Fairgrounds
Board Meeting	November – To Be Determined

# RANCH SUCCESSION PLANNING

*"A Family Conversation"*



**Wesley Tucker**  
Featured Speaker

This session dives into the very messy world of family business dynamics and how the overlap of family and business relationships creates friction and conflict. We'll discuss strategies to navigate family and business roles, improve communication, deal with sensitive issues, and form a plan to transition ranch ownership and management.

**1:00-4:00pm - Free to Public - Refreshments Provided**

**NOV. 2  
BUFFALO**

Hampton Inn & Suites  
85 Hwy 16 East  
Buffalo, WY 82834

**NOV. 3  
SHERIDAN**

Best Western  
612 North Main Street  
Sheridan, WY 82801

**NOV. 4  
GILLETTE**

Ramada Plaza  
2009 S Douglas Hwy  
Gillette, WY 82718

**NOV. 5  
SUNDANCE**

Sundance State Bank  
123 N 2nd Street  
Sundance, WY 82729

**NOV. 6  
NEWCASTLE**

Weston County Fairgrounds  
24 Fairgrounds Road  
Newcastle, WY 82701

**NOV. 7  
DOUGLAS**

Ruthe James Conference Center  
400 West Center Street  
Douglas, WY 82633

**For more information, contact the Wyoming Stock Growers Association:  
(307) 638-3942 | [info@wysga.org](mailto:info@wysga.org) | [www.wysga.org](http://www.wysga.org)**

Funding provided by:



## Well Water Testing Day

The Weston County Natural Resource District is offering a cost share on well water testing for District members.

The second testing date for this year is Tuesday, October 24th. Please call to reserve your test kits by October 13th. Test kits will be available for pick up October 16-20. Collect your samples on the morning of the 24th and bring them to the District Office by 10 a.m. or the Upton Town Hall by 11 a.m. The samples will be delivered to the lab in Gillette that day.

More than 75 percent of Wyoming's population relies on groundwater from wells for part or all of their drinking water. That means there are over 90,000 wells in the state. While Federal, state, and local government agencies provide education and technical assistance programs for private well owners, it is ultimately the owners who are responsible for maintaining the well and having their water tested. The same holds true for cisterns.

**Why should you test your water quality?** Common contaminants found in well water include iron, lead, fluoride, arsenic, nitrates and nitrites, and bacteria. Most do not have a noticeable smell, taste, or color, and lab testing is the only way to get an accurate measurement of how much is in your water. Many of these contaminants are linked to cancer and other health issues. For example, drinking formula made with water that contains too many nitrates can cause methemoglobinemia (blue baby syndrome) in infants, and high levels of nitrate in drinking water are associated with an increased risk of premature birth.

If you are using well water for agricultural purposes, it's important to test it for irrigation and livestock suitability as well. Water quality can have a major influence on crop and livestock productivity. Irrigating with water that has high levels of salts (calcium, magnesium, sodium, and potassium) will eventually result in soil salinity, which can stunt crop growth and cause soil infertility. High levels of some substances will make the water unpalatable to livestock, and they may refuse to drink it, leading to dehydration. If it is the only available water, the animals will eventually drink it, which could lead to them ingesting toxic amounts of that substance. Other substances might not affect palatability, but they can still be detrimental to animal growth and health.

**Why not just use a kit you can buy online or in stores?** There are many water testing kits available online and in stores, and we encourage you to test your water, regardless of which kit or service you use. Kits that provide instant results often use test strips or solutions with a color code system, which can be difficult to read and don't provide the quantified results that laboratory tests do, but they can still be a good indicator of whether there is an issue with your water that needs further attention. The district offers this program to encourage testing by helping defray some of the cost.

**When should you test your water?** The National Ground Water Association (NGWA) and Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) recommend well owners test their water at least annually for bacteria, nitrates, and any contaminants of local concern. NGWA and DEQ also recommend a more comprehensive test every five years. For cisterns, it is recommended that owners test at least annually, though many health departments recommend testing for bacteria every six months.

### You should also test when:

- There is a change in the taste, odor, or appearance of the well water, or if a problem occurs such as a broken well cap, inundation by floodwaters, or a new contamination source such as a chemical or fuel spill.
- The septic system has recently malfunctioned.
- There is an unexplained illness in the household or recurring incidents of gastrointestinal illness.
- A member of the household is pregnant or has an infant under six months of age.
- Your neighbors find contaminants in their wells.

### WELL WATER TESTS

Annual Well Maintenance - \$30

Domestic + Bacteria - \$50

Irrigation and Livestock Suitability - \$40



# 2024 Seedling Tree Order Form

**Conditions of Sale:**

1. No plant purchased from the WCNRD or their distributors may be resold as a living plant
2. Payment must accompany order. Refunds will not be given for cancelled orders after 3/1/2023
3. If trees ordered are not available, a refund will be issued, unless a substitution is requested
4. Nursery staff and the WCNRD are not responsible for errors in inventory count
5. **NO WARRANTY, EXPRESSED, OR IMPLIED, IS MADE BY WCNRD OF THE SEEDLING STOCK.**

<b>For office use only</b>	Order # _____
	Date received _____
	Amt. paid \$ _____
	CK# _____

I have read and agree with the above "Conditions of Sale."

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Name and/or Organization \_\_\_\_\_ In-District  Out-of-District

Primary Contact's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Orders must be received with payment by April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024.**

Species	Variety	Units	Total
<b>Towner State</b> – Units of 50 (indicate 1 unit for 50 trees, 2 for 100, etc.)			
<b>Lincoln Oakes</b> – Units of 25 (indicate 1 unit for 25 trees, 2 for 50, etc.)			
<b>Crestwood Growers</b> – Sold as single plants			
<b>5% Sales tax</b>			
<b>TOTAL</b>			

Species	Variety	Size	In-District	Out-of-District		
<b>Towner State Nursery – Sold in Units of 50 – Bare Root and Plug</b>						
<b>Trees</b>			Bare Root	Plug	Bare Root	Plug
Black Hills Spruce	Plug or Bare Root	8-15"	\$65.50	\$81.50	\$98.50	\$122.00
Colorado Blue Spruce	Plug or Bare Root	6-12"	\$59.50	\$81.50	\$89.00	\$122.00
Golden Willow	Plug or Bare Root	10-15"	\$59.50	\$81.50	\$89.00	\$122.00
Ponderosa Pine	Plug or Bare Root	8-15"	\$59.50	\$81.50	\$89.00	\$122.00
Rocky Mountain juniper	Plug or Bare Root	8-15"	\$65.50	\$81.50	\$98.50	\$122.00
<b>Shrubs</b>						
Caragana	Bare Root	15-18"		\$60.00		\$89.00
Chokecherry	Bare Root	12-18"		\$60.00		\$89.00
<b>Trees</b>						
Bur oak	Plug	6-15"		\$81.50		\$122.00
Hackberry	Plug	8-15"		\$81.50		\$122.00
Siberian Larch	Plug	8-12"		\$81.50		\$122.00
<b>Shrubs</b>						
Juneberry	Plug	6-12"		\$81.50		\$122.00
Silver Buffaloberry	Plug	8-15"		\$81.50		\$122.00
<b>Lincoln Oakes Nursery – Sold in Units of 25 – Bare Root Only</b>						
<b>Trees</b>						
Black Walnut		10-24"		\$37.50		\$56.50
Bur Oak		10-24"		\$44.00		\$66.00
Golden Willow		10-24"		\$44.00		\$66.00
Native Cottonwood		10-24"		\$37.50		\$56.50
Poplar	Prairie Sky, Lombardy, Hybrid	10-24"		\$44.00		\$66.00
<b>Shrubs</b>						
Crabapple	Dolgo, Red Splendor	10-24"		\$44.00		\$66.00
Currant	Black	10-24"		\$37.50		\$56.50
Lilac	Common	10-24"		\$37.50		\$56.50
Lilac	Villosa	10-24"		\$44.00		\$66.00
Nanking Cherry		10-24"		\$37.50		\$56.50
Russian Almond		10-24"		\$37.50		\$56.50
Skunkbush Sumac		10-24"		\$44.00		\$66.00
Wolfberry		10-24"		\$37.50		\$56.50
<b>Crestwood Growers – Sold as a single plant in a 5-gallon pot</b>						
<b>Trees</b>						
Austrian Pine		5 gallon		\$31.50		\$47.00
Bur Oak		5 gallon		\$46.50		\$69.50
Colorado Blue Spruce		5 gallon		\$31.50		\$47.00
Golden Willow		5 gallon		\$27.50		\$41.50
Mulberry (fruitless)		5 gallon		\$46.50		\$69.50
Poplar	Lombardy, Siouxland	5 gallon		\$27.50		\$41.50
<b>Shrubs</b>						
Chokecherry		5 gallon		\$46.50		\$69.50
Cotoneaster	Peking, Cranberry	5 gallon		\$27.50		\$41.50
Crabapple	Prairifire, Profusion	5 gallon		\$46.50		\$69.50
Creeping Juniper	Blue Chip	5 gallon		\$27.50		\$41.50
Hawthorn		5 gallon		\$46.50		\$69.50
Potentilla		5 gallon		\$27.50		\$41.50

Orders and payments can also be submitted through our online store.

More varieties are available online, as well as species information, recommendations, and planting supplies.

[www.westoncountynrd.org/shop](http://www.westoncountynrd.org/shop)

or call us at (307) 746-3264 x4



## Bat Boxes are Back!

*Cole Wehri, WCNRD Intern*



In 2022, the District purchased bat boxes and offered them to local community members as a cost share. We were able to assist landowners in placing 12 boxes around Weston County, and are currently in the process of collecting feedback on their experience. We are also interested in hearing from others who have their own bat boxes or have observed bats roosting or any bat activity on their property.

Bats are often seen as pests, infamous for making attics, garages, and barns their homes. Despite their reputation, bats are actually a crucial part of many ecosystems and provide quite a few benefits to people and other animals. Firstly, bats are great at pest control, catching from 1000 to 4000 mosquitoes, beetles, and millers in just a single night. Bats also pollinate plants at night, preferring pale, nocturnal ones and dispersing seeds as they fly around.

Bat populations in Northern America have been declining, one factor being an invasive fungus called *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*, which causes white-nose syndrome, an often fatal disease in bats. The fungus is predominantly underground, usually in caves, and spreads directly from the fungus or nose-to-nose contact between bats. While in these environments, the disease typically kills 70-90 percent of the colony. This disease usually weakens bats during hibernation and kills them during pup season; bat boxes provide a warm environment after leaving hibernacula (the cave/ hibernating place) and increases the chances of mothers to survive. Habitat loss, including native roosting areas, is another reason for this decline, and bat boxes can aid these bats in their survival by providing safe roosting areas.

White-nose syndrome does not affect bats that are not in hibernation, so you don't have to worry about sick bats contaminating others in the boxes. Bat boxes are also especially helpful for endangered species of bats in sparse areas like Wyoming, that sometimes don't have natural roosts.

As we wrap up the first year of this project and continue into our second, we are looking for ways to improve our program. If you have a bat box or bats around your property, a visit to our website at <https://westoncountynrd.org/all-about-bats/> to share your experience with the bats' roosting habits would be greatly appreciated. These online forms are super helpful to us, as we use the information to learn about the best practices and uses for bat boxes.



We still have a few bat boxes left, so if you are interested in purchasing one, give us a call at 307-746-3264 ext. 4



A bat with white-nose syndrome.

Photo courtesy of US Fish and Wildlife Service

Scan for more information on bats and bat houses.

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



**Weston County Natural Resource District**

1225 Washington Blvd. Suite 3

Newcastle, WY 82701

(307) 746-3264, ext. 4

[westoncountynrd@gmail.com](mailto:westoncountynrd@gmail.com)

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

**October 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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