

Uinta County Connection

Fall 2008



Windbreaks, living snow fences, wildlife habitat and more—



The Uinta County Conservation District will be taking seedling tree orders from October 2008 through April of 2009, and we would encourage you to get your order in early since some species do sell out quick. There are a variety of species of shrubs, deciduous trees and evergreen trees available, all of which are suited for our area. However, site specific conditions such as soil type, water availability, and other local conditions must be taken into consideration when choosing a species.

Trees can be used in a number of ways to benefit you and your property. If planted and cared for correctly, they can be used as windbreaks, snow fences, noise and visual barriers, backyard habitat, streambank stabilizers, and shade. If you're thinking about planting some

trees this spring, now is the time to start preparing. Fall is also the perfect time to start preparation of the planting site. The purpose of fall site preparation is to remove competitive vegetation from the planting area. Existing plants compete with the seedlings for light, water and many of the nutrients in the soil. Heavy competition from weeds, grasses and existing woody cover will choke your planting out in a hurry. Site preparation can be done using mechanical methods such as rototilling, fall-plowing and/or discing, or chemical methods by using selective herbicides. Doing site prep in the fall also allows the disturbed area to collect moisture from precipitation that falls during the winter and early spring.

If you need assistance in planning a windbreak or other

type of tree planting, please call our office. We are willing to visit with you in the office or meet you at the planting site and provide technical assistance where needed. You may also be eligible for financial assistance from the District to help with the cost of installing your planting.

There is a 2009 tree order form included with this newsletter. Order forms are also available on our website and at the UW Cooperative Extension Office in Evanston. You may also call or email us and we can get one to you. The deadline for ordering is April 2009, however, there are certain species that sell out quick, so get your orders in early! If you have questions, or would like help designing your planting, please call Kerri at 307-787-3794 x4 or email at kerri.sabey@wy.nacdnet.net.

Things to consider when ordering Seedlings

- What do you want to accomplish with your planting?
- Where will the planting go?
- What type of soil is in the area?
- How will you water your planting?
- How will you protect your planting from weather, insects, rodents, livestock and/or wildlife?
- Are there any utilities in the area?

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Coming Soon—Range Management School 501



As a follow up to Range Management School 301 which was hosted by UCCD in the Summer of 2007, UCCD will host Range Management School 501 in early 2009. **The 501 Range Management School** is a two day classroom school with presentations on use of prescribed fire, invasive weeds, sustainable ranching, riparian and watershed functions, stream improvements, wildlife and livestock interactions and habitat needs, methods to improve livestock distribution, and a discussion on the "State and Transition" ecological model and how to use it to manage grazing to achieve landscape objectives including benefits to wildlife. The final session of this school will be devoted to providing participants the information and methods they need to effectively develop grazing management plans. Participants will receive notebooks that include all of the information presented during the class and lunch will be provided both days by the Uinta County Conservation District. Keep an eye out for a date, place and time to be announced soon. Please RSVP to UCCD by calling 787-3794 x4 or by emailing kerri.sabey@wy.nacdnet.net. For more information visit our website at www.uin-tacountycd.com.

Happy Halloween



Evanston High School Chemistry Students Test the Waters on the Bear River—



September 24, 2008, Kerri and Dannette joined Evanston High School chemistry students and their instructor, Craig Patterson, to test the waters on the Bear River. Kerri spoke to the students about the Conservation District and the functions of the district. Kerri shared the importance of water monitoring, why the district monitors the waters in Uinta County, and the important role that the district has in helping to safeguard agriculture in Uinta County. The students worked together in separate groups to test the pH, dissolved oxygen and temperature of the water. They compared their findings and then joined together to test the flow of the water with environmental friendly bright green dye.



From Mountain View to Spain, we are celebrating together—

September 23, 2008: Kerri and Dannette took Evanston High School special needs students to the Bear River to test both turbidity and temperature. The students stated they had fun using our equipment and answering their questions about water monitoring and water conservation.

October 2, 2008: Kerri and Dannette spent the afternoon with Boy Scout Community Pack 40 in Evanston, testing for five water monitoring parameters. The Scouts tested for pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature, turbidity and flow. Kerri shared the importance of water monitoring and how different factors contribute to the health of our waters.



World Water Monitoring Day (WWMD) is an international outreach program that builds public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources around the world. Held annually between September 18 and October 18, the program engages communities in monitoring the condition of local rivers, streams, estuaries, and other waterbodies. Worldwide participation is expected to surpass last year when more than 46,000 people tested water quality in 43 countries. The program coordinators, WEF and IWA, plan to expand participation to one million people in 100 countries by 2012.



October 8, 2008: Kerri and Dannette joined 50 of the Mountain View fifth graders, along with fifth grade teachers, Toni Martin, Nora Laho and Jim Hickey, to test the waters on the Smith Fork. The students enjoyed a special visit by our state legislator, Allen Jaggi. Allen shared information about what he does as a legislature and the importance of water in Wyoming. Kerri spoke to the students about the different parameters they would be testing for and what those parameters mean. After that, we all headed down to the river to do the testing. The

students tested for pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature and turbidity in separate groups, so that they could compare each others results. Later, the group gathered together to test the flow of the river, by pouring bright green environmental friendly dye in the river.



5th Grade Youth Camp—

September 11-12, 2008: Dannette joined 48 Mountain View Middle School fifth graders at the Uinta County Youth camp. The campers learned about watersheds and how everyone contributes to the pollution of a river as it flows through a watershed and recognize that everyone's "contribution" can be reduced.



WYOMING Landscape Conservation Initiative; Local Support Needed!

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Tuesday, October 28th

10:00a.m.—1:00p.m.

Lyman Town Hall

The Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative (WLCI) is a long-term science-based effort to assess and enhance aquatic and terrestrial habitats at a landscape scale in Southwest Wyoming, while facilitating responsible development through local collaboration and partnerships.

Wyoming encompasses some of the highest quality wildlife habitats in the Intermountain West and at the same time, this region is an active source of natural gas. To ensure Southwest Wyoming's wildlife and habitat remain viable in areas facing development pressure, the U.S. BLM, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, USDA Forest Service, National Park Service, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation,

the Wyoming Department of Agriculture, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, local conservation districts, and local counties are implementing the Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative (WLCI).

In order to identify local issues that are important to the landscape and cooperatively create projects to address identified needs for local wildlife, habitat and other resource issues, WLCI would like to develop Local Project Development Teams (LPDT) based on 8 digit HUC watersheds. However, no boundary is hard and fast and coordination will need to occur across boundaries. Each LPDT will include local landowners, county commissioners, local biologists, range managers, conservation districts, industry representatives and multiple other interested parties. The LPDT will prioritize their projects annually to provide local-level input on the types of conservation that should occur. *WLCI and the Uinta County Conservation District are looking for local people who are interested in making a difference in Southwest Wyoming's landscape to consider being part of a Local Project Development Team.*

If you have an idea for a project, or would like to be involved with the work of WLCI, you are encouraged to attend the next WLCI meeting hosted by the Uinta County Conservation District on Tuesday, October 28th from 10 am to 1 pm at the Lyman Town Hall. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Kerri with UCCD at 787-3794x4 or Justin with the Wyoming Department of Agriculture at 307-352-0256. Please join us on October 28th!

EQUIP Contracts—

The spring and summer of 2008 was very busy for NRCS as well as producers installing their conservation practices for their EQIP contracts. To all of those who finished up their contracts or are very near to completing them, you did a great job.

To those producers still having to start their contracts, we need to get going on them. The days of doing modifications to reschedule practices are over. The excuse of not having time to install the practices is no longer valid. Some contracts have been modified two or three times just to reschedule the practices to a future date and still nothing has been started.

Because of nationwide audits, NRCS has been charged to clean up these contracts. There are two ways of doing this. One way is for the producer to cancel the contract. The other method is for NRCS to terminate the contract. One word of caution is there could be a penalty for either cancelling or terminating the contract.

With contracts going into the forth or fifth year, the cost-share rates are not inline with current prices. Two years ago, pipe prices jumped 60%. NRCS cost rates do not change once the contract is signed. So that means the rate in the contract does not go up because of rising prices. Center pivots increased approximately 25% from 2006 to 2007. If a producer had installed the pivot prior to the price increase, it would have meant less money out of their pocket.

If you are a producer that has a 2006 contract or earlier, you need to come in and talk to the NRCS. Chances are NRCS will initiate a termination of the contract because of the inactivity of getting started or finishing the contract.

The thing to remember about EQIP contracts is to finish them in a timely manner. The longer you wait the more money it will cost you. If you have questions, please contact the NRCS office in the Lyman Town-hall to discuss your EQIP contract.

UCCD thanks Pat Watson for her years of service at the Conservation District.

We wish you the best in your new endeavors!

Thank You!



2008 Polaris Sportsman EFI ATV

YOUR \$25 TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO THE WYOMING NATURAL RESOURCE FOUNDATION ENTERS YOU IN A DRAWING TO WIN A 2008 POLARIS SPORTSMAN 500 EFI ATV. THE DRAWING WILL BE HELD IN GILLETTE AT THE WYOMING ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS / WYOMING NATURAL RESOURCE FOUNDATION STATE CONVENTION ON NOVEMBER 20. ONLY 500 TICKETS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED.



If you would like to purchase a ticket, give us a call at 787-3794 ext 4.

Uinta County Conservation District
P.O. Box 370, 100 East Sage Street
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(307) 787-3794 ext 4

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Uinta County Conservation District Board of Supervisors

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- Kelly Guild, Vice-Chairman
- Spencer Eyre, Secretary / Treasurer
- Kevin Condos, Member
- Dennis Cornelison, Member
- Carol Hamilton, Associate Member

WEBSITE: www.uintacountycd.com

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Staff

- Jeff Lewis, District Conservationist
- Kevin Fackrell, Soil Conservation Technician
NRCS phone: (307) 787-3211

Project Learning Tree (PLT), Project WILD, and Project WET have all jumped in the same boat teaming up to offer a single workshop offering all of these curricula. PLT, WET, and WILD are award winning resource and environmental education curricula that are very well respected and validated for K-12 programs. These curricula are appropriate for K-12 and all disciplines are welcome and encouraged to attend. Each curriculum offers its own perspective; forests (PLT), water (WET), and wildlife (WILD). *Cost is simple.* You send us \$30 to hold your slot and you'll get it back when you complete the workshop. In other words, the workshop is FREE. Should you register and be unable to attend, your deposit is refundable up to 5 days prior to the workshop. Registration Deadline: December 29, 2008.



January 2 - 4, 2009 - Bridger Valley, Wyoming

*Curricula meets
Wyoming State
Teaching Standards*

*Graduate Credit or
PTSB Credit Available*

For more information, please call UCCD at 787-3794 ext 4