

# Uinta County Connection



## Voluntary Water Conservation Program Act

The Voluntary Water Conservation Program Act (Wyoming SF0084) establishes a framework in Wyoming for individuals to voluntarily conserve water within the Colorado River Basin – while maintaining their water rights. It is designed to encourage water users in Wyoming’s portion of the Colorado River Basin to participate in voluntary conservation projects. The Act allows participants to reduce consumptive water use without jeopardizing their legal water rights, helping the state meet its obligations under the Colorado River Compact.

To learn more about this Act, please consider attending the public meeting that will be held in Lyman on June 18<sup>th</sup> from 9 am-12 pm at the Lyman High School Auditorium. Below is the official public notice for the three public meetings planned in June.

In this newsletter:

Water Conservation

Well Water Testing

Bridger Valley Water

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### Voluntary Water Conservation Program Act W.S. § 41-3-117 through 41-3-119

The Wyoming Legislature recently passed the Voluntary Water Conservation Program Act that created W.S. §§ 41-3-117 through 41-3-119. The Act establishes a voluntary water conservation program within Wyoming’s portion of the Colorado River basin which includes the Green and Little Snake Rivers and their tributaries. Any person with a right to beneficially use water under a valid water right that diverts water from within Wyoming’s portion of the Colorado River basin may apply to the State Engineer for approval to participate in the program. Pursuant to the Act, the Wyoming State Engineer’s Office hereby provides notice of the Act and how interested persons can obtain program information. Any interested person may obtain program information by visiting the following link to the Wyoming State Engineer’s Office website:

<https://seo.wyo.gov/home/colorado-river-voluntary-water-onservation-program/voluntary-water-conservation-program>,

or by emailing Jack Morey, Deputy State Engineer at [jack.morey2@wyo.gov](mailto:jack.morey2@wyo.gov). Additionally, the State Engineer’s Office will hold public meetings to provide additional information about the Voluntary Water Conservation Program at the following dates, times, and locations:

Pinedale: June 17, 2026  
2:00-5:00 pm  
Sublette Co. School Dist.  
Admin. Bldg.  
665 N. Tyler Ave.  
Pinedale, WY 82941

Lyman: June 18, 2026  
9:00 am-12:00 pm  
Lyman High School Auditorium  
1305 East Clark Street  
Lyman, WY 82937

Baggs: June 22, 2026  
1:00-4:00 pm  
Valley Community Center  
255 W. Osborne St.  
Baggs, WY 82321



### Dirt Works Wyoming is offering a live online masterclass

for Wyoming gardeners starting April 29. *Class Cost \$92*

This class includes 8 sessions throughout the growing season with an opportunity for participants to submit questions. Participants will receive access to a curated list of the best gardening resources and a 10% discount code for all online Dirt Works Wyoming products purchases.



Learn from  
Wyoming Soil Scientist  
Dr. Caitlin Youngquist  
& Gardener/Educator  
Susan Pennington

Register at  
[www.dirtworkswyo.com](http://www.dirtworkswyo.com)

## Saving Every Drop: Water Conservation During Drought



As drought conditions become more severe and prolonged, our urban and rural communities are facing increasing pressure on their water supplies. Drought conditions can place enormous strain on rural communities, where water is not only essential for daily living but also for agriculture, livestock, and local economies. When rainfall is scarce and water supplies dwindle, conserving every drop becomes a shared responsibility. By adopting practical strategies and fostering community awareness, rural areas can better withstand the challenges of prolonged dry periods.

One of the most effective ways to conserve water is by improving efficiency in everyday use. Simple actions—like fixing leaks, installing low-flow fixtures, and using water-saving appliances—can significantly reduce household consumption. In agricultural settings, switching to drip irrigation or scheduling watering during cooler parts of the day helps minimize evaporation and waste.

Livestock care also plays a major role in water use. Ranchers can monitor troughs for leaks, reuse water when safe, and ensure that storage systems are covered to prevent unnecessary loss. Collecting rainwater, even in small amounts, can supplement supply for non-drinking purposes such as cleaning equipment or watering certain crops.

Community cooperation is essential during drought. Sharing resources and coordinating water usage schedules can make a meaningful difference. Educational efforts—through schools, local organizations, and newsletters like this one—help spread awareness and encourage responsible habits.

Planning ahead is equally important. Investing in water storage systems, maintaining wells, and exploring alternative water sources can provide a buffer during especially dry seasons. Local leaders and residents alike should work together to develop drought preparedness plans that reflect the unique needs of their area.

While drought conditions can be challenging, they also present an opportunity for communities to come together and adopt more sustainable practices. When individuals, households, and communities work together, the impact is powerful. By conserving water today, rural areas can protect their livelihoods, preserve natural resources, and build resilience for the future.

## Poster Contest

**SOIL** is the starting point for healthy food, clean water, thriving habitats, & resilient communities.

Soil does a lot more than grow plants, it:

- holds water    · cycles nutrients
- provides homes for billions of organisms
- keeps roots in place    · helps prevent flooding
- supports wildlife & people alike

**Soil.**  
Where it all Begins



NACD Stewardship Week 2026

Contest open to all school-aged students in Uinta County.

**April 29th  
Deadline**

Find rules & entry forms at  
[www.uintacountycd.com](http://www.uintacountycd.com)

## UINTA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT



### Board of Supervisors

- Kelly Guild, Chairman
- Spencer Eyre, Vice Chairman
- Ty Lester, Secretary / Treasurer
- Kevin Condos, Member
- Wade Stoddard, Member
- Carol Hamilton, Associate Member

### District Staff

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Kerri Sabey<br>District Manager<br><a href="mailto:ksabey.uccd@gmail.com">ksabey.uccd@gmail.com</a> | Katie Lott<br>Education Coordinator<br><a href="mailto:klott.uccd@gmail.com">klott.uccd@gmail.com</a> |
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# Why Testing Your Well Water Matters More Than You Think



For millions of households, well water is a trusted and essential resource. It flows straight from the ground into homes, providing water for drinking, cooking, and cleaning. But unlike municipal water systems, which are regularly monitored and treated, private wells are the responsibility of the homeowner. That means the safety and quality of your water depend on one crucial step: Regular Testing.

## Invisible Risks Beneath the Surface

Well water can appear clean, clear, and even taste perfectly fine—yet still contain contaminants that pose serious health risks. Substances like bacteria, nitrates, and other contaminants are invisible to the naked eye and often undetectable without proper testing. These contaminants can enter groundwater through natural deposits, runoff, septic systems, or nearby industrial activity. Without testing, there is simply no reliable way to know what is in your water.

## Health Impacts You Can't Ignore

Contaminated well water can lead to both short-term and long-term health issues. Bacterial contamination, such as coliform or E. coli, can cause immediate gastrointestinal illness. Long-term exposure to other contaminants has been linked to more serious conditions. Regular testing helps identify these hazards early, allowing you to take corrective action before they impact your health.

## When and How Often Should You Test?

Experts recommend testing your well water at least once a year for basic indicators like bacteria, nitrates, and pH levels. However, additional testing may be necessary if:

- You notice changes in taste, color, or odor
- There has been flooding or nearby construction
- A household member experiences unexplained illness
- You have recently installed or repaired your well system

Comprehensive testing every few years is also a smart way to check for less common contaminants.

## Protecting Your Investment

Your well is more than just a water source—it is an investment in your property. Regular testing not only safeguards your health but also helps maintain the integrity and value of your home. If issues are detected early, treatment solutions such as filtration systems or well maintenance can prevent more costly repairs down the line.

## Peace of Mind Starts with a Simple Test

Testing your well water is a small effort with significant benefits. It provides peace of mind, knowing that the water your family relies on every day is safe and clean. Participating in the Uinta County Conservation Districts Well Water Testing Day is a great way to have your well water tested at a reasonable cost and help give you a better understanding of what is in your well water.

## How does it work?

The program is simple, just follow these basic steps:


- Choose the test option best for you, then pre-register and pre-pay by May 20, 2026. (check or cash only)
- Pick up the sampling kit you ordered from the UCCD office in Lyman, or the UW Extension Office in Evanston May 26-June 2 during business hours.
- Sample your water the morning of Wednesday, June 3rd and bring the sample back to the UCCD office by 9 am or the UW Extension Office before 10:00 am!
- We will take care of the shipping.
- Results will be sent directly to the private well owner from the lab, UCCD does not see any of the results.

Do not assume your well water is safe. Take advantage of UCCD's Well Water Testing Day to be sure it is! Please see the table below for details about the tests being offered and the cost. Contact UCCD or visit our website for more information and to register. Visit [www.uintacountycd.com](http://www.uintacountycd.com) today!

Options	Description	Lab Rate	Your Cost
Option 1	Annual Testing—Bacteria Presence/Absence, Nitrate	\$27	\$0
Option 2	Full Well Test—Bacteria Presence/Absence, Conductivity, Magnesium, Manganese(total), Sodium Adsorption Ratio(SAR), pH, Sodium, Nitrate, Total Dissolved Solids(TDS), Calcium, Iron(total), Hardness, Potassium, Alkalinity, Chloride, Fluoride and Sulfate	\$217.00	\$108.50

UCCD's Annual Well Water Testing Day is a cost share program available to anyone living in Uinta County.

Register online at [www.uintacountycd.com](http://www.uintacountycd.com)



Uinta County Conservation District  
 P.O. Box 370, 204 East Sage Street  
 Lyman, WY 82937  
 (307) 288-0214  
 www.uintacountycd.com

PRSRT STD  
 AUTO  
 U.S. Postage Paid  
 Lyman, WY  
 Permit No. 11





**2026 Redbooks**

Available at the UCCD  
 office in Lyman & the UW  
 Extension office in  
 Evanston



**Upcoming Dates to Remember**

April 22 April 24 April 26-May 2 April 29 April 30 June 3 June 15-18	Earth Day Arbor Day Stewardship Week - Soil. Where it all Begins Poster Contest Deadline Power Hour - Fundamentals of Bridger Valley Water Well Water Testing Day WYRED, Loomis Park - Daniel, WY
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<b>Lyman FFA Greenhouse Sale</b>		
	April 27 - May 20 Mon - Thurs 8am - 4pm	Lyman High School 1305 East Clark Street Lyman, WY
✻	✻	✻
		Questions? Call 307-786-4100 or visit Lyman WY FFA on Facebook
		

# Understanding the Fundamentals of Bridger Valley Water

**Do you know the three water-managing entities in Bridger Valley Wyoming?**


- Bridger Valley Water Conservancy District manages the Stateline and Meeks Cabin Dam Reservoirs and the supply of agriculture/irrigation water.
- Bridger Valley Joint Powers Board owns and operates the water treatment plant. They manage the distribution of treated water through a network of distribution systems serving Mountain View, Lyman and other county residents.
- Wyoming State Engineers Office manages the water and flow levels in the rivers and streams. They deal with water rights and well permits on personal property.

**Gain insight into Bridger Valley’s Water Infrastructure and Management**

from experts with the Bridger Valley Water Conservancy District and the Bridger Valley Joint Powers Board by attending the “Understanding the Fundamentals of Bridger Valley Water” Power Hour. This seminar will be hosted by the Uinta County Conservation District on Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup> from Noon until 1pm.

Seminar presentations will:

- Provide essential, firsthand knowledge regarding local water management, supply, treatment, and distribution.
- Provide answers to common questions from **homeowners with BVJPB service** regarding the drought, water usage, water storage, and water restrictions.

<p><b>POWER HOUR</b></p> <p>Thur. April 30 12:00 - 1:00</p> <p>Uinta County Conservation District Office</p> <p>204 E Sage St. Lyman WY</p>	<p><b>RSVP</b> by April 28</p> <p>Call: 307-288-0214</p> <p>Visit: uintacountycd.com</p> <p>Scan:</p> 
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*Thanks for reading!*