Uinta County Connection

A quarterly publication from the Uinta County Conservation District

Spring 2019

Outdoor Forestry Workshop June 18 & 19, 2019

Article by Briar Harris, UCCD Education Coordinator

Forestry has become a hot topic across the pages of newspapers and our television screens over the last several years. Topics like deforestation, bark beetle and forest fires are among some of the most mentioned. Arguably, some of the methods used over the last 100+ years to preserve and protect our forests haven't always proven to be the best and have actually had the opposite effect. Generally, I have found that as humans, we want to do the right thing when it comes to our natural resources, and forestry is no different. That is why I have learned to love what I do with the education program at the conservation district. I keep coming back to this saying as I learn, teach and engage in conversations about natural resources, "When we know better, we do better." There will be methods and practices, policies and procedures that we will try, believing that what we are doing is the right thing. Unfortunately, there will be times when our efforts will fail, but hopefully we will learn from our mistakes. Science can be tricky, we learn through trial and error, through failures and successes. All of us are part of this scientific effort, on a mission to find the answers. So, it is imperative that we do our part by educating ourselves about natural resources and the issues relating to them so we can make decisions that protect and conserve our natural resources in responsible and practical ways.

Mark your calendars!

Workshop Date: June 18-19, 2019

Place: UCCD office, Uinta Mountains

Registration: by June 4, 2019

Cost: $25.00, includes lunch, snacks & materials for both days

Call 787-3070
or email bharris@bvea.net to register

At the Conservation District, it is our mission to provide opportunities for you to learn about all of the great natural resources we have available to us. We invite you to join us on June 18th & 19th for a 2-day workshop focused on Forestry, a very important resource in Uinta County. Barry Tye, District Forester with Wyoming State Forestry has been invited to share his wealth of knowledge about forestry and will cover topics such as tree biology, tree ID, forest management & forest health. There will be discussions about the bark beetle situation and the recent Meeks Cabin Dam fire and how those two things have impacted our forest. There will be information on what we can do to help prevent these issues in the future. We will also take a deeper look at the role wildlife and livestock play in forestry and forest management decisions. The workshop will include some classroom instruction, but most of our time will be spent in the forest participating in hands-on learning and activities.

This workshop is for anyone who wants to know more about forestry and the important role it plays in our everyday lives. We will also be including some lessons, hands on activities and ideas that educators can use in their classrooms. We have applied for UW, PTSB and STARS credits that will help those who need to continue their education and certifications.

This workshop is only $25.00 and includes meals and materials for the full two days. Please sign up by June 4th to reserve your spot!

UCCD OFFERS BASIC SOIL TESTING

The Uinta County Conservation District offers *basic* soil testing for smaller areas such as lawns and gardens. The test provides information on soil pH, Phosphorous, Nitrogen and Potassium levels. The first sample is free and each sample after that is $5.00. This is a very basic soil test that gives a good indication of what is in your soil and what it may be lacking. Bring us about a cup of your soil sample in a zip-lock bag, and we should have your results in about a week. For larger areas such as pastures and hayfields, we recommend sending your sample to a lab, which we can help you with. The soil testing lab can give a much more detailed report about your soil and what you can do to optimize forage growth. Contact UCCD for more information.

Our Future Depends on Pollinators

The arrival of spring means bugs, bees, flies, ants, moths, butterflies and many other little creatures. Although they seem tiny and insignificant, we as humans could not exist without them! These tiny animals are responsible for pollinating over 80% of the worlds flowering plants and without them, we wouldn't have the things we need to survive such as clothes, shelter, food and much more!

Pollination has many benefits that most of us don't even realize. As bees and other pollinators visit flowering plants, they are providing an essential, life-sustaining function. Most plants need pollination to make seed and produce new plants. Flowering plants produce breathable oxygen that every living thing needs to survive. Flowering plants also help purify water and prevent erosion through roots that hold the soil in place, and foliage that buffers the impact of rain as it falls to the ground. The water cycle also depends on plants to return moisture to the atmosphere.

Of the 1,400 plants grown around the world that produce all of our food and plant-based industrial products; 80% of them require pollination by animals. Visits from bees and other pollinators also result in larger, more flavorful fruits and higher crop yields. More than half of the world's diet of fats and oils come from animal pollinated plants such as oil palm, canola and sunflowers.

Flowering plants depend on pollinators to help them reproduce and keep the cycle of life in motion. Simply stated, we can't live without pollinators.

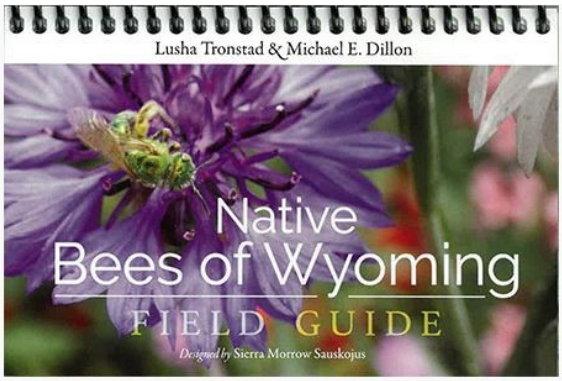
Pollinators in Wyoming include a variety of bees, butterflies and moths, beetles, wasps, hummingbirds and of course…..wind! Unfortunately, pollinator numbers are in decline around the world for reasons known and unknown. Some of the known reasons for decline include loss of habitat, improper use of pesticides, pollution, and invasive species.

The good news is that there are things we all can do to help! You can promote pollinators by planting native plants that are adapted to the local climate and soil conditions. A diversity of flowering plants will provide habitat for a large variety of native pollinators.

Use a wide variety of wildflowers so there is always a flower in bloom from early spring through late fall. This will provide food and habitat pollinators need to survive the changing seasons. Here's a tip: Avoid modern hybrid flowers, especially those with "doubled" flowers. The pollen, nectar and fragrance has often been left out of these flowers.

Eliminate pesticides whenever possible. If pesticides are used, apply the least-toxic materials and spray at night when bees and most other pollinators are not as active. Read labels carefully and use according to the instructions.

Create a damp salt lick for butterflies and bees. Use a dripping hose, drip irrigation line, or place your bird bath on bare soil to create a damp area. Mix a small bit of sea salt or wood ashes into the mud.



An illustrated field guide to the native bees of Wyoming.

Bees are the most important pollinators in Wyoming. With an estimated 800 species of bees in our state, it is important for us to do what we can to keep them healthy and numerous. We can improve habitat and find and identify species to help scientists keep track of numbers. In order to help with bee identification, the University of Wyoming Biodiversity Institute has just completed the Native Bees of Wyoming Field Guide for purchase from the institutes Shop webpage at www.wyomingbiodiversity.org/shop.

For more information about pollinators and how to promote them on your place, stop by the Uinta County Conservation District. We have a lot of information we would love to share with you!

References used for this article:

https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators
https://www.wyomingbiodiversity.org/Education/k-12-education/pollinator-education
"Promoting Pollinators on your place A Wyoming Guide" University of Wyoming Extension, http://www.uwyo.edu/barnbackyard/resources/pollinators.html

There's an App for that....

The Bee Smart® Pollinator Gardener is your comprehensive guide to selecting plants for pollinators specific to your area. Never get caught wondering what plants to buy again!

With the **Bee Smart® Pollinator Gardener's** easy user interface, browse through a database of nearly 1,000 native plants. Filter your plants by what pollinators you want to attract, light and soil requirements, bloom color, and plant type.

This is an excellent plant reference to attract bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, beetles, bats, and other pollinators to the garden, farm, school and every landscape.

BeeSmart® Pollinator Gardener

UCCD Programs & Upcoming Events...

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787-3070

Coming Soon! Well Water Testing Day

Must pre-register by June 12, including test option and payment. On June 25th, take sample and return to UCCD .

Available test options :

• Bacteria Coliform	FREE
• Annual Well Maintenance	$24.00
• Family Water Quality	$58.50
• Livestock Suitability	$22.50
• Irrigation Suitability	$27.50

Register Online!

UCCD will be using Zedi, an EPA Certified Lab in Riverton, Wyoming. The district will take care of all shipping procedures and costs. All you have to do is take the sample and bring it to us!!

For Details Call (307) 787-3070
or visit: www.uintacountycd.com

Uinta County Conservation District

Uinta County Conservation District, 204 East Sage Street, Lyman, WY

SAVE THE DATE....

September 4, 2019

Uinta County SOIL HEALTH DAY

Invited guests speakers and experts will share their knowledge of soil health

Time: 9:00 am—3:00 pm

Place: Beck Ranch in beautiful Lonetree, Wyoming

Lunch will be provided!

Wyoming Resource Education Days
WYRED
Soil – Water – Plants - Animals

JUNE 11th-14th

Where: Wheatland, WY

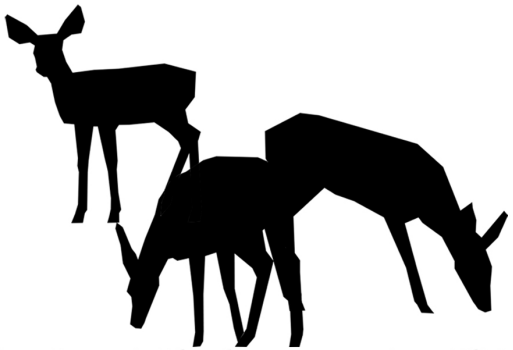
The WyRED Newsletter includes a Registration for the camp as well as UW Continuing Education Credits & PTSB Credits Registration. Watch for it mid April. If you have any questions please get a hold of Briar Harris 307-787-3070 or bharris@bvea.net

Mule Deer Winter Survival

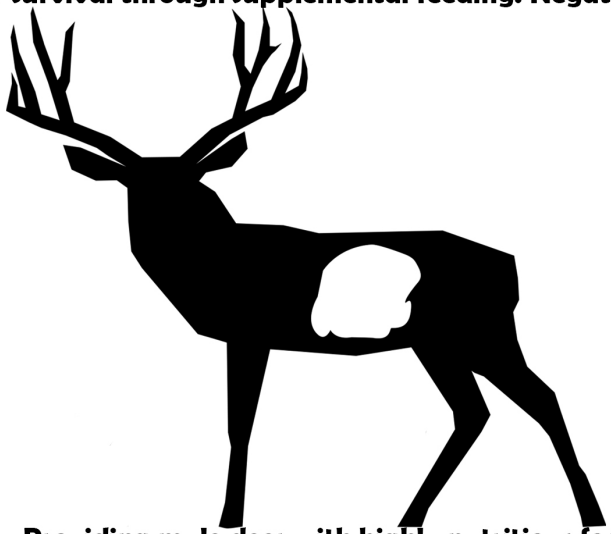
Mule Deer winter survival is largely dependent on the deer's body condition when entering the winter season in relation to how food availability and winter conditions deplete vital fat reserves. These fat reserves are built up during the more favorable spring and summer months before forage quality drops off during late summer and fall.

Mule Deer adapt to these gradual shifts in food quality with changes to the ratios of microorganisms found in the rumen. They also decrease their metabolic rate and overall activity.

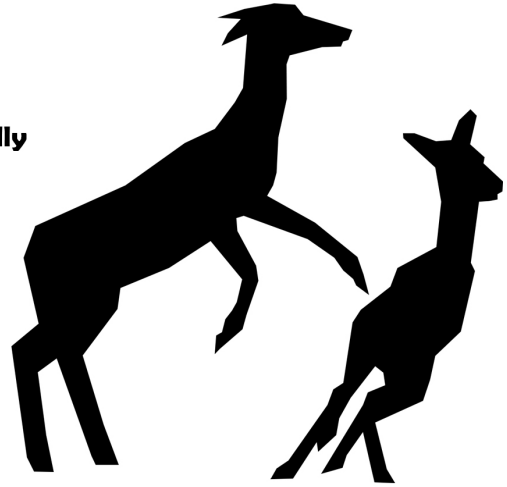
Due to these evolutionary traits, it can be harmful to attempt to aid Mule Deer winter survival through supplemental feeding. Negative impacts include the following:



Large numbers of deer congregating around a supplemental food source can increase social stress and contention. These stresses can drain valuable energy needed for survival.



Supplemental feeding can create artificially high concentrations of mule deer, greatly increasing the risk of predation and disease transmission.



Providing mule deer with highly nutritious food in contrast to their naturally occurring winter forage is often fatal to the animal. A sudden increase in calorie dense feed, such as corn or other grains, results in an abundance of lactic acid in a rumen unadjusted to the quality of feed, resulting in rumen acidosis and death. Other individuals have been found starved to death with a rumen full of feed they could not digest.

The Mule Deer has been surviving the changing seasons in the west for a long time. Doing our best to allow their evolved adaptations to function naturally is the best way we can promote their winter survival.

By Grant Redden

USDA Climate Hubs
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

What is a Climate Hub and How Does It Help Me?

The purpose of climate hubs is to deliver science-based knowledge, practical information, management & conservation strategies, and decision tools to farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners that will help them adapt to weather variability and changing climatic conditions.

USDA's Climate Hubs are a unique collaboration across the department's agencies. They are led by Agricultural Research Service and Forest Service senior Directors located at ten regional locations, with contributions from many other programs including the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and the Risk Management Agency. The Climate Hubs link USDA research and program agencies in their regional delivery of timely and authoritative tools and information to agricultural producers and professionals.

Wyoming is under the direction of the USDA Northern Plains Climate Hub (NPCH), along with 5 other states: Montana, Colorado, South Dakota, North Dakota and Nebraska. The USDA NPCH strives to enable working land managers to make sound, climate-informed decisions to ensure robust and healthy agricultural production and natural resources under increasing weather variability and a changing climate.

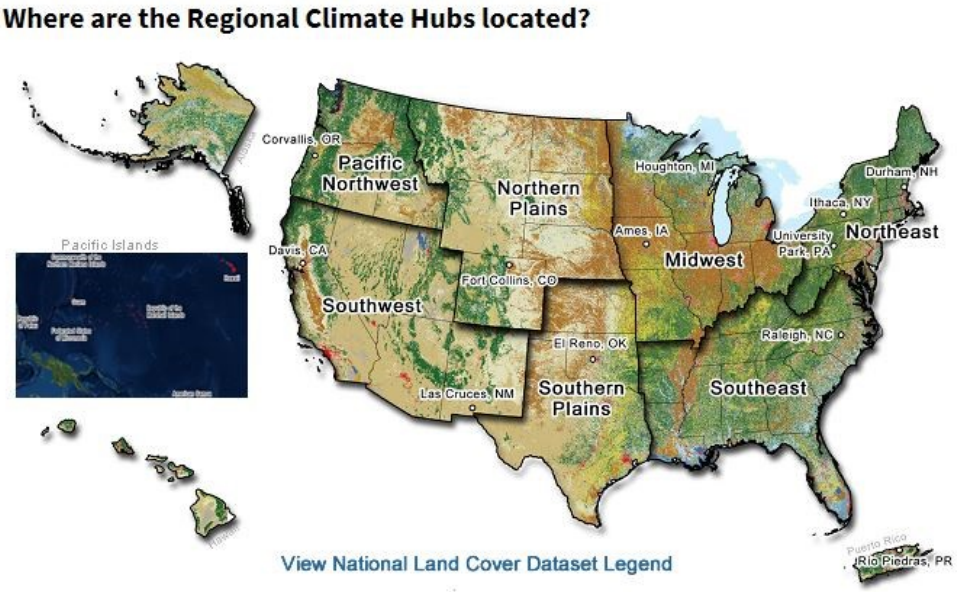
The USDA NPCH recently had their first Outreach Exchange since it was started 5 years ago. The purpose of the Exchange, which was held in Ft. Collins Colorado, was to share the fruits of their labors with other professionals, organizations, and agencies who also work with ag producers in the region. Education about the climate hub as well as the science behind it was the primary focus of the Exchange with talks by Katharine Hayhoe of Texas Tech University, Brad Udall of Colorado State University and others. Secondary, but also of extreme importance, was the tools, programs and ideas that have come from the NPCH that are available now and those that are in development.

Some of the tools and information that were introduced at the NPCH Outreach Exchange could be very beneficial those in Uinta County. These include:

- "AgriTools", an app developed by Tyler Williams and his team at the University of Nebraska Lincoln (UNL). Right now, the app is specifically designed for Nebraska but they are currently working on expanding it to be available throughout the country. This app provides easy access to location-specific climate and weather information important to the agricultural industry.
- The University of Nebraska also has websites that could be modeled in other areas that are great sources of information:

  Weather-ready.unl.edu

  Cropwatch.unl.edu/hailknow
- An educational curriculum for 6-8 grades on Climate & Weather by Montana State University (MSU) was also introduced and could be adapted to local classrooms and other organizations.
- Another educational curriculum called "Wildfires, Lessons Learned" by Domo Woodham, also of MSU, is another tool that can be used in local classrooms or by other organizations to provide educational opportunities.



The word climate simply means weather over time. However, because it is so often used in conjunction with the words "change" and "Global Warming", many have associated it as something negative. We can probably all agree that climate is simply weather over time and that climate does change. "So what?" you might ask. Well, when what we eat and what we wear, and the products we use everyday come from agriculture, climate means everything! The livelihoods of so many living here in Uinta County depend on agriculture. Not only do they provide the things their own families need, but they also provide quality products that the world depends on to be sustainable.

For more information about USDA Climate Hubs and how you can be involved, visit https://www.climatehubs.oce.usda.gov/about-us.

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For more information about bees, soils, gardening or other natural resource topics, visit...

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Lyman FFA Greenhouse Sale

The Lyman FFA Greenhouse sale officially runs from April 29-May 24 M-Th 8-4pm. Customers can come directly to the greenhouse anytime during those hours. All proceeds go directly back into funding the LHS Ag program. We are offering hanging baskets, planter pots, window boxes, geraniums, dahlias, strawberries, assorted veggies and annuals in 4 packs.

Know Your Soil Temp.... Soil temperature plays a crucial role in the success of your garden. UCCD has a couple of soil thermometers available for check out if you interested in knowing the temperature of your soil as you begin planning to plant your garden.

*Cool season plants such as peas, lettuce and spinach can be planted in soil that is 40°
*Warm season plants such as tomatoes and peppers need soil to be at least 60°

Uinta County Conservation District

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www.uintacountycd.com
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