

## Backyard Composting Class Offered

Composting is the process of turning organic matter, such as food scraps, leaves and animal products, into a rich soil amendment. These materials are decomposed by microorganisms, worms and other organisms into a dark-colored, nutrient-rich, soil-building conditioner called humus. Compost enriches the soil, helps retain moisture, provides a valuable source of nutrients for plants, and can improve drainage. The process occurs slowly in nature, but by establishing a backyard compost pile, this biological process can be accelerated by managing temperature, oxygen, and moisture contents. The result is a rich, earthy, sweet-smelling humus that can be mixed into garden beds, added to flower pots, or used as mulch for perennials and woody plants. It is an excellent and inexpensive organic soil amendment.

### Backyard Composting

April 27, 2023

6-8 pm

UCCD Office

204 East Sage Street

Lyman, WY

There are many advantages of composting including:

- Less dependency on synthetic fertilizers
- Ability to alter soil pH so that it is more suitable for growing fruits & vegetables
- Reduces waste generated as kitchen scraps & yard products
- Improves soil structure & increases water-retention

If you want to learn more about backyard composting and participate in a hands-on demonstration of starting a compost pile, we invite you to attend our Backyard Composting class on April 27<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm at the Uinta County Conservation District Office.

Our guest speaker and entertainer for the class will be Hudson Hill, Agriculture & Natural Resources Extension Educator out of the Afton UW Extension Office. He will talk about what goes into a compost pile, how to manage it, steps for success, and weather permitting, he will do a hands-on demonstration on how to start a pile. This is sure to be an evening full of great information and laughs.



**Hudson Hill**  
Ag & Natural Resources  
Extension Educator

Reference: [Backyard Composting Using Simple, Small-scale Methods \(wyoextension.org\)](http://wyoextension.org)

## Well Water Testing Day



More information to come!  
Check our website & social media  
pages as well as flyers around  
town for info on May registration  
and June testing day.

(307) 288-0214  
[www.uintacountycd.com](http://www.uintacountycd.com)

## Lyman Greenhouse Sale

MAY 1st- May 23rd

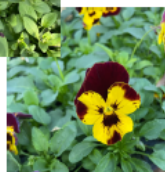
\* After the 23rd flowers will be available at  
Wall Brothers Grill & Farmers Market

Hours- Mon-Thur. 8-4

Pickup

Lyman High School  
1305 East Clark Street, Lyman, WY 82937

For questions  
Call (307)-786-4100 or go to  
Lyman WY FFA Facebook Page



# DID YOU KNOW?

## Water striders, water skippers, water skeeters, pond skaters...

No matter what we call them, we all know what they are, and we all remember being fascinated by them at some point in our lives. Here are answers to some of the question you might have about 'water striders'.

### How do water striders stay on top of the water?

- Water striders have thousands of specialized hairs on their legs. These microscopic hairs are notched with tiny grooves which trap and hold air bubbles. The trapped air helps repel water and create a buoyancy even greater than that of duck feathers.

### How do they move so quickly?

- Water striders have three specialized pairs of legs. Two short front legs are used mainly for seizing prey from the surface of the water. The two middle legs act as paddles and work with the powerful back legs (which are longer and also do the steering and breaking) to give water striders incredible speeds of up to one hundred body lengths per second on the water!

### Can these insects fly?

- Of the 1,700 species of water striders widely spread across the northern hemisphere, many have wings and many do not. Whether or not a species has wings seems to depend on necessity and habitat conditions.
  - \* No Wings: Wing development and maintenance require energy that evolution sees little reason to expend if not necessary.
    - Species of water striders that live in calm, expansive, and long-lasting wetlands have no need to fly away from their habitat therefore are less likely to have wings.
    - Wings may also be easily damaged in swift or turbulent water. Thus, for water striders that thrive in moving water habitats and have no reason to leave, the energy costs of maintaining wings outweigh the benefits of having them.
  - \* Wings allow some species to adapt to changing water conditions or a wide variety of habitats.
    - For species that live in unpredictable, small, or ephemeral water bodies, it is advantageous to be able to fly away before the water dries up.
    - Species found far from running water, such as those on small puddles or high mountain deserts puddles usually have wings as an adaptation to find new habitats.
    - Some species are polymorphic, meaning environmental conditions can prevent or trigger wing development in subsequent generations depending on habitat conditions.

### Are water striders beneficial to the environment?

- Water striders are important predators of insects, especially mosquito larvae! With their amazing speed and specialized front legs, they seize their prey. (But don't worry, although they might eat each other if there are no other insects or larvae to be found, they won't bite you).

The next time you see a water strider, take time to observe it in context with these fascinating facts. Remember to share your curiosity and knowledge with the children in your life!

### References:

<https://blog.nature.org/2017/04/10/7-cool-facts-water-striders-skipppers-pond-skaters-weird-nature/>  
<https://www.nwf.org/Educational-Resources/Wildlife-Guide/Invertebrates/Water-Striders>



# THE EPIC OF THE BEAR RIVER CUTTHROAT TROUT

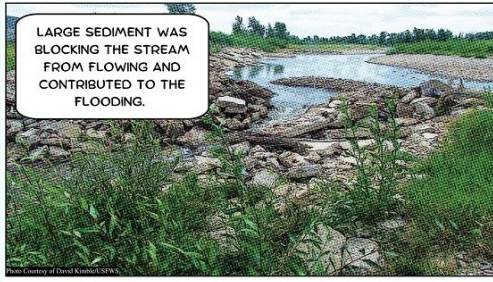
## THE AMAZING ALMY DITCH



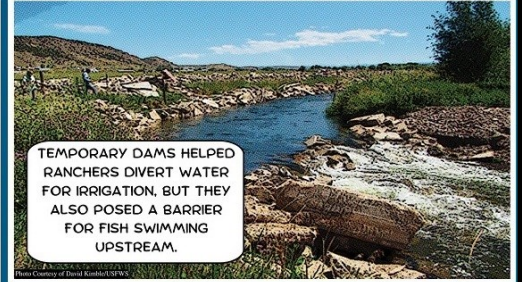
FOR GENERATIONS, AND AS EARLY AS 1952, THE BEAR RIVER FLOODED ITS BANKS WHEN IT REACHED THE ALMY DITCH.



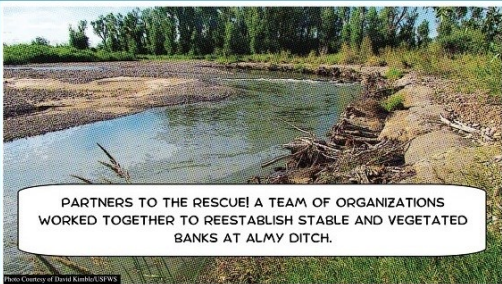
LARGE SEDIMENT WAS BLOCKING THE STREAM FROM FLOWING AND CONTRIBUTED TO THE FLOODING.



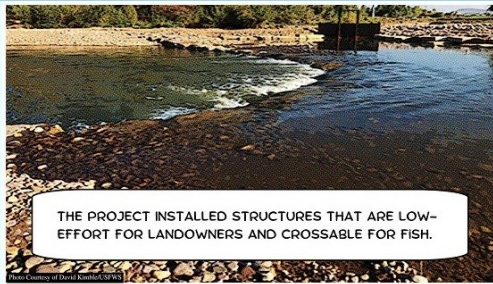
TEMPORARY DAMS HELPED RANCHERS DIVERT WATER FOR IRRIGATION, BUT THEY ALSO POSED A BARRIER FOR FISH SWIMMING UPSTREAM.



PARTNERS TO THE RESCUE! A TEAM OF ORGANIZATIONS WORKED TOGETHER TO REESTABLISH STABLE AND VEGETATED BANKS AT ALMY DITCH.



THE PROJECT INSTALLED STRUCTURES THAT ARE LOW-EFFORT FOR LANDOWNERS AND CROSSABLE FOR FISH.



THE ADVENTURING BEAR RIVER CUTTHROAT TROUT CAN CONTINUE ON THEIR JOURNEY UPSTREAM!



Uinta County residents may not be aware of the vast amount of restoration work being done on the Bear River near Evanston. Its important to know about, because not just the fish are benefiting!

Since 2018, three phases of work have been completed to improve over 4 miles of the Bear River. Planning for phase four of the restoration project is in the works!

As a collaborator, the Uinta County Conservation District recognizes the amount of funding, coordination, and groundwork that goes into to such projects. But more importantly, UCCD recognizes the benefits to wildlife and humans alike as stream banks are stabilized and permanent irrigation diversions are established:

- The amount of **sediment in the river is reduced, improving the overall water quality** for aquatic life and humans.
- Agriculture and residential **lands are protected from streambank erosion.**
- Permanent diversions allow for **fish passage and more efficient irrigation.**
- **Riparian areas become more established:**
  - \* promoting longer term vegetation growth which equates to more shade/cover
  - \* improving habitat for a wide range of species diversity (plant and animals)
  - \* improving filtration and water quality
  - \* reducing flooding
  - \* increasing groundwater recharge
- **Recreation opportunities and scenic beauty are amplified** along the rivers and adjacent riparian areas.

We are grateful that so much work is being done right here in our county.

“Stream restoration projects of this size and scope are no small undertaking,” noted Kerri Sabey, District Manager, Uinta County Conservation District. “They would not be possible without the collaboration and cooperation of many different partners including landowners, private organizations, government agencies, and experienced engineers and contractors.”

\*The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has written articles with these comics about the [Almy Ditch](#) and the [Evanston Dam](#) projects.

Follow the links on our website to read the articles ([www.uintacountycd.com](http://www.uintacountycd.com))



UINTA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
P.O. Box 370, 204 East Sage Street  
Lyman, WY 82937  
(307) 787-3070

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## CHANGE OF SERVICE REQUESTED

## YOUR CONSERVATION TAX DOLLARS AT WORK!



For more information about bees,  
soils, gardening or other natural re-  
source topics, visit...



VISIT US ON THE WEB! [WWW.UINTACOUNTYCD.COM](http://WWW.UINTACOUNTYCD.COM)

## April is Wyoming Native Plant Month

In March 2023, Governor Gordon officially designating April as “WYOMING NATIVE PLANT MONTH.” The Garden Club of America has led this effort across all 50 states to increase awareness of the crucial role native plants play to healthy and diverse ecosystems and to pollinators and other wildlife.

Governor Gordon encourages Wyoming residents to recognize and celebrate the importance of native plants to Wyoming’s rich biological heritage by planting native trees and flowers, removing non-native invasive plants, and educating themselves about the many benefits of native plants. **We hope you will share this news and continue to support and promote the importance of native plants in your communities.**

Look for additional native plant information and resources on the Wyoming Native Plant Society website:  
<http://www.wynps.org/>



### Uinta County Conservation District

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### Uinta County Conservation District Board of Supervisors

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

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