



## Funding for Diversion Measurement Devices

The Wyoming State Engineer's Office has provided the following update on the Wyoming Diversion Measurement Program. Please note the Application Opening Date will be announced very soon as well as dates for In Person Meetings to take place in Lyman and surrounding areas.

The Wyoming State Engineer's Office, through the Upper Colorado River Commission's award of Section 50233 of Public Law 117-169 (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)), is facilitating the purchase of measuring equipment for water users in Wyoming's portion of the Upper Colorado River Basin. Measurements of diversions will inform state needs, conservation planning and future water user program participation.

This program is an opportunity for water users to benefit from technical assistance to obtain appropriate measuring equipment for primary diversions that is partially, or completely, paid for by the program. Funding amounts are based on average costs of Program equipment.

### **Diversion requirements for eligibility:**

- Diversions must have a valid water right
- Diversions must be located within the Wyoming portion of the Upper Colorado River Basin

Three groups have been identified based on the perfected permitted diversion amounts. Groups A&B require applications that will be available while funding remains.

**Group A diversion amounts under 50 CFS, funding up to \$5K**

**Group B diversion amounts of 50 CFS or above, funding of up to \$20K**

**Group C** telemetry and/or automated headgate program funding awarded at the discretion of the Division Superintendent.

### How to Apply

*Online Application Coming Soon!*

**Apply In Person: Meetings to be held in Baggs, Pinedale, LaBarge, and Lyman later in January. Dates and details coming soon!**  
Wilson Water Group has been contracted to help water users apply and is available by phone, email and will be at the in person events to provide application assistance.

**Application processing may take several months, so applications are encouraged ASAP.**

### **Prepare to apply now by gathering the following information:**

• Average and maximum diversion amounts	• Channel width, depth, and material (e.g. earth, cobble, concrete, etc.)
• Typical flow period	• Current diversion measurement status (none or in disrepair)
• Number of users of diversions	• Type of water use (irrigation, irrigation + stock, etc.)
• Permit number(s)	• Land ownership

To get more information and to access the online application when it is ready, visit [Wyoming State Engineer's Office - Diversion and Telemetry Program](#). We will also have a link to this page from our website, [www.uintacountycd.com](http://www.uintacountycd.com).

The State Engineers Office is available to answer any questions and respond to anything they have missed in their resources and FAQ additions. Water rights can be frustrating to pull together but they are here to help. Contact:

**Mel Fegler**  
Diversion & Telemetry  
Program Info  
307-777-7803

**Travis McInnis**  
Colorado River Basin  
Program Supervisor  
307-276-3870

**Brenna Mefford**  
Funding for Diversion Measurement  
Devices Questions & Application  
Assistance  
307-223-0515  
WYMDT@WilsonWaterGroup.com

# A QUESTION FROM THE COMMUNITY

When & how should I prune my lilac bushes  
to get the most flowers each spring?

## PRUNING TIMING

Pruning not only helps develop strong branches on our trees and shrubs, it also impacts flowering.

Understanding where flowers are produced on a shrub is critical for proper pruning. If you prune at the wrong time, you can remove the flower buds for the upcoming season. If you prune at the right time, you have a better chance at an abundant bloom.

Depending on the species, shrubs generally produce flowers on one of three types of branches:

- Branches that have grown in the current year
- Branches that grew the previous year
- Perennial spurs – short, permanent branches that grow on older wood and remain on the tree for several years continuing to produce flowers

**Summer flowering shrubs** bloom on the current year's growth. These plants should be pruned early in the spring before new growth starts.

Most **spring flowering shrubs**, like lilacs, bloom on growth formed the previous year. This means, that by mid-summer, these shrubs have already formed next year's buds on the new growth. If these shrubs are pruned in summer, fall, or early spring (prior to flowering), flowering buds will be removed. These types of shrubs should be pruned immediately after they're done flowering in the spring.

**Trees and shrubs that flower on perennial spurs** on older wood often require limited or no pruning. Dead or weak branches should be removed as well as encroaching branches.

Following these pruning timing guidelines for each of the three flowering types will help you get the most abundant bloom from all your flowering shrubs, not just your lilacs. Refer to the chart to determine what flowering type your shrubs fall into.

*Lilacs - continued on Page 3*



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## COMMON FLOWERING SHRUBS

Summer flowering on current year's growth	Spring flowering on previous year's growth	Flowers bloom on perennial spurs
Elder	Barberry	Prunus
Hibiscus	Cotoneaster	Quince
Hydrangea*	Dogwood	
Potentilla	Forsythia	
Privet	Honeysuckle	
Rose*	Hydrangea*	
Spiraea*	Lilac	
	Rose*	
	Serviceberry	
	Spiraea*	
	Sumac	
	Viburnum	
	Willow	

\*Dependent on the variety

Chart adapted from <sup>1</sup>

## COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT GRANTS

Application Deadline: April 13

Apply  
for up to  
**\$5,000!**

Opportunities for local groups and organizations to serve and improve the community. For more details and an application visit

[www.uintacountycd.com](http://www.uintacountycd.com)

## Poster Contest

The 2026 Stewardship Poster Contest theme is  
**Soil. Where it all Begins**

Soil is incredibly powerful, & it does a lot more than grow plants! When we take care of soil, we take care of everything it supports.

School-aged children, put your thinking caps on. Contest deadline is April 29.

Visit our website for more information, rules, & entry forms! [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  
District Manager  
Email: [ksabey.uccd@gmail.com](mailto:ksabey.uccd@gmail.com)  
Katie Lott  
Education Coordinator  
Email: [klott.uccd@gmail.com](mailto:klott.uccd@gmail.com)



The University of Wyoming Extension is excited to announce the 2nd Annual Southwest Wyoming Ag Days on [January 22nd](#), from 10am-3pm at the South Lincoln Training and Events Center in Kemmerer, WY! This event will feature presentations on range management, cow herd nutrition, wildfire smoke & cattle, and ranch economics. Keynote speaker, Lucy Pauley from the WY Department of Ag will focus on succession planning. There will be a tradeshow featuring ag-focused companies, and vendor registration is still open. This event is FREE to attend, but please RSVP to McKenna Julian ([mbrinton@uwyo.edu](mailto:mbrinton@uwyo.edu) or 307-828-4093) by January 15, 2026 for lunch.

# **Seedling Tree Order Deadline April 16, 2026**

Call or stop by for a copy of the order form.  
Order forms are also available online:

307-288-0214  
204 East Sage St., Lyman WY  
[www.uintaccountycd.com](http://www.uintaccountycd.com)

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***Lilacs* - continued from page 2**

## PRUNING METHODS

With the explanation above, knowing 'when' to prune your flowering shrubs is straightforward. Knowing 'how' to prune them, however, is more complex and species specific.

For **lilacs**, pruning should be thought of as maintenance or rejuvenation pruning. And remember, it is always best to use a pair of hand pruners and never use hedge shears on your lilacs.

The following is a good explanation of **maintenance pruning** for your lilacs. You will better understand what this means as you watch your lilac grow and work with it from year to year:

"As canes become old (more than 1-1½" in diameter) saw them off close to the ground to provide room for new vigorous sprouts arising from the base. Many people, in ignorance, do just the opposite: they keep the larger, older canes and remove the young green sprouts that arise from the base. You eventually end up with a clump of base stems topped by a fringe of green foliage at the top that yields sparse flowers. Take a close look at the plant every spring to see if there are any canes to remove. You may not need to cut one out every year, but look every year to make that decision."<sup>1</sup>

**Rejuvenation pruning** is required if lilacs have not had proper pruning for several years and are overgrown and unruly in habit:

“Many people mistakenly believe that these shrubs have stopped flowering at this point. Oftentimes what’s actually happening is the flowers are being produced on just the upper portions of the shrub where the plant has reached a taller height and is exposed to sunlight. Once they’ve reached this stage, we’re often left to stare at bare, woody branches at eye level and below. For these overgrown shrubs, we can remove entire older canes or stems that are 2” in diameter or larger to encourage a rejuvenation of the shrub. We want to apply the rule of thirds when doing this type of pruning – Remove approximately one third of the older canes or stems each year for 3 years. This gives the shrub a chance to slowly transition back to a fuller, shorter shrub with more new growth filling in from the bottom.”<sup>2</sup>

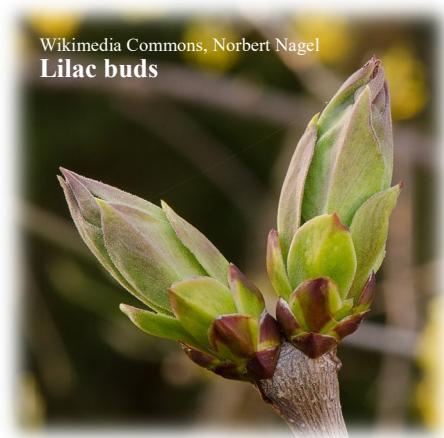
A helpful video on pruning lilacs can be found on the Russel Tree Experts “When and How to Prune Lilacs” article listed in the references below.

For the pruning needs of other common flowering shrubs, please refer to the “List of Common Flowering Shrubs and their Pruning Needs” guide also listed in the references below.

## References:

<sup>1</sup>List of Common Flowering Shrubs and their Pruning Needs. Colorado State University, based on a publication by Dennis Hill (2005). [CommonFloweringShrubsandPruningNeeds.pdf](#)

<sup>2</sup>When and How to Prune Lilacs. Walter Reins (2020). Russell Tree Experts — When and How to Prune Lilacs.



Wikimedia Commons, Norbert Nagel  
**Lilac buds**

## Snow Pack & Water Data

Visit the University of Wyoming  
Water Resources Data System at:  
[www.wrds.uwyo.edu/wrds/nrcs/nrcs.html](http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu/wrds/nrcs/nrcs.html)

# Uinta County Conservation District

P.O. Box 370, 204 East Sage Street  
Lyman, WY 82937  
(307) 288-0214  
[Www.uintacountycd.com](http://Www.uintacountycd.com)

PRSR STD  
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Permit No. 11



## 2026 Redbooks

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



### Upcoming Dates to Remember:

January 22	Southwest Wyoming Ag Days-South Lincoln Training & Events Center, Kemmerer, WY
February 7	Winterfest, Bear River Greenway
April 13	Community Enhancement Grant Application Deadline
April 16	Seedling Tree Order Deadline
April 22	Earth Day
April 26 - May 2	Stewardship Week & Poster Contest <b>"Soil. Where it all Begins"</b>
April 30	Arbor Day

\*Watch for dates of future workshops, meetings and Power Hours! Follow us on Facebook & check out our website!

## Dennis Cornelison Retires After 46 Years of Service



Dennis Cornelison was appointed to the Uinta County Conservation District Board of Supervisors on June 12, 1979 and served on the board until his retirement in August of 2025. During his time on the board, Dennis was instrumental in helping the district obtain a mill levy which has allowed the District to provide for the conservation and development of natural resources in Uinta County.

During his 46 years of volunteer service as an elected board member, Dennis has been impressed with the amount of work the district has been able to accomplish. Some of the notable projects Dennis mentioned included many streambank stabilization projects, repairing washed out irrigation infrastructure, water development projects and the growth of the seedling tree and the education programs. Dennis has enjoyed working with the other board members and the staff at the conservation district and has especially enjoyed his visits while riding back and forth to district functions with Kelly Guild, the current chairman. UCCD is grateful to Dennis and the many years he served the district and the impact he has made on all of us.

*Thank you Dennis!*

Dennis was honored at UCCD's annual Community Leaders Dinner in November where he was presented with an aerial photo of his ranch south of Evanston.

*Left:* UCCD board members from L to R: Wade Stoddard, Carol Hamilton, Ty Lester, Gayle and Dennis Cornelison, Kelly Guild, Kevin Condos, Spencer Eyre



*Above:* Kelly & Dennis