

JANUARY 2023

Uinta County
Conservation
District

P.O. Box 370
204 East Sage St
Lyman, WY 82937

New Phone #
(307) 288-0214

M-Th
8a m-4 pm

UINTA COUNTY *Connection*



Community Enhancement Grants Available

The Uinta County Conservation District is now accepting applications for the **Community Enhancement Grant Program**. Applications can be written for any amount up to \$5,000.

Many great projects have been completed through this grant program, could yours be next? This grant program provides a great opportunity for local groups and organizations to allow their members to serve the community and make it a better place to live. UCCD offers these grants in an effort to increase community awareness and promote sound resource stewardship. There are so many possibilities! We encourage you to “think outside the box” and come up with some great projects that will benefit your family, friends, neighbors and the community you live in.

Projects that address soil erosion, water quality and quantity, vegetation resources, energy conservation, wildlife habitat, natural resource education or that beautify the natural landscape along public corridors are all eligible, but there are many more! We just ask that all projects be completed within the boundaries of Uinta County.

The grants are open to any groups, teams, clubs, schools, partnering agencies, businesses, church groups, scout groups or other civic organizations with a sincere interest in making a difference and providing service to your community.

For more information and an application, visit our website at www.uintacountycd.com, give us a call at 307-288-0214 or send us an email; ksabey.uccd@gmail.com. Applications are due April 10th, 2023.

**Applications Due
April 10, 2023**

Board of Supervisors

Kelly Guild (Chairman), Dennis Cornelison (Vice Chairman), Spencer Eyre (Secretary/Treasurer),
Kevin Condos, Ty Lester, Carol Hamilton (Associate Supervisor)

Kerri Sabey
District Manager

Email: ksabey.uccd@gmail.com

Grant Redden
Natural Resource Specialist

Email: gredden.uccd@gmail.com

Katie Lott
Education Coordinator

Email: klott.uccd@gmail.com

Funding Available for Innovative Ways to Use Water in Agriculture

Threatening mandates to restrict water use in western Wyoming are causing some pretty big concerns among those who rely on water for irrigation and ranching operations. So, when the Conservation District received this information about a funding opportunity for farmers and ranchers, we wanted to share it with those we thought could benefit from it. Any questions about this funding opportunity will need to be directed to the LOR Foundation at connect@lorfoundation.org.



FIELD WORK

LOR's Field Work initiative will provide funding for research into innovative approaches to using water in agriculture. Farmers and ranchers in rural parts of Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming are eligible for up to \$10,000 to implement innovative water projects. The hope is that this real-world research will reveal solutions that can be used throughout the West to grow food while contending with unprecedented drought.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

LOR's Field Work initiative is open to farmers and ranchers in rural areas in Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming. Applicants must have independent authority to make changes to water use on the land.

WHAT COUNTS AS RURAL?

We will use the USDA's Rural-Urban Continuum Codes to distinguish urban and rural counties. Generally speaking, counties that are part of metro areas with populations of at least 50,000 are considered urban counties. However, some counties that contain an urban area—or part of one—also have a large agricultural presence, and we will consider applications from farmers and ranchers in these counties.

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBLE PROJECTS?

LOR is looking for innovative projects costing up to \$10,000 that improve outcomes in the following areas: water efficiency, water reliability, water quality, crop yield or crop diversification, and labor efficiency. We recognize that innovation can happen in a number of ways and are hoping to learn from a wide variety of projects that range from entirely new technologies, products, and practices to expanding or tweaking an existing approach for a new purpose, in a new place, or potentially to provide additional community benefit. Potential project types might include those addressing water diversion, water storage, water delivery or application, water measurement, land management, groundwater sources, and power.

Projects must be completed in 2023 and must include a commitment and plan for reporting learnings.

LOR aims to explore a diversity of project types across our region, so location and project type will be taken into consideration during the review process.

Projects that are ineligible for LOR's Field Work initiative include:

- Those in which over 50% of the budget is allocated for planning, engineering services, or technical assessments.
- Those by any business cultivating, processing, or bringing psychoactive marijuana to market (hemp is allowed).

HOW DO I APPLY?

Beginning Feb. 1, you can submit a project proposal at lorfoundation.org/field-work. We will accept applications through Feb. 22 and notify applicants by March 15. We will evaluate all applications before making a final decision about any proposal. More information about Field Work is available at lorfoundation.org/field-work.

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Reach out to us at connect@lorfoundation.org

ABOUT THE LOR FOUNDATION: LOR works with people in rural places to improve quality of life. The LOR Foundation is currently working with Taos and Questa, New Mexico; Libby, Montana; Lander, Wyoming; and Cortez and Monte Vista, Colorado.



SEEDLING TREE SALES

With the snow and frigid temperatures, planting trees is probably the last thing on anyone's mind. However, now is the best time to start planning that spring planting and getting your seedling tree order submitted to the Conservation District as soon as possible.

If your goal is to plant a living snow fence, now is a great time to look around and see where the snow has drifted. If you have been endlessly plowing snow this winter, you may want to consider planting trees that will catch snow in an area that is less used and out of the way.

Maybe you're tired of the wind hitting your house or your livestock need a place that is more protected from the wind, consider planting a wind break in those areas.

Seeding trees can serve a variety of purposes and are more affordable than planting a large number of bigger trees. Yes, they are seedlings, but if planted in the right place with the right conditions, they will thrive and grow a lot faster than you think.

If you aren't sure which species will grow best in your planting location, you can go to our website and click on each available species for a more detailed description that includes soil and water requirements. While you are there you can also print out an order form, <https://www.uintacountycd.com/seedling-trees>.

Order forms are due by April 13, 2023. If you have questions, please give us a call.



**April 13, 2023
Order Deadline**

Windbreaks, living snow fences, wildlife habitat and more—

Upcoming Dates

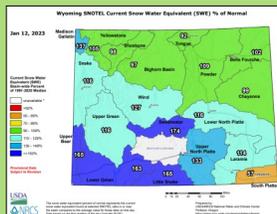
- February 11**—Winter Festival, Evanston
- April 10** — Community Enhancement Grant
- April 13** — Seedling Tree order deadline
- April 22** — Earth Day
- April 27** — Composting Workshop
- May 6** — Poster Contest— Deadline
- June 26-29** — WyRED, Sheridan, WY

SNOWPACK?

Wyoming Water Outlook
NRCS SNOTEL Data

Access from the 'News & Events' page of our website.

Scroll to the bottom & click on the colored map.
Updated daily!



B.E.A.R PROJECT PRESENTS

WINTER FESTIVAL

BEAR ICE PONDS
75 BEAR RIVER DR. EVANSTON, WY
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

FEB 11

BEER & FOOD AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

- Free XC Ski's/Ice Skate Rentals available at the Recreation Center
- Ice Skating ALL Day
- XC Ski Races - 12:00 pm
- Curling Event - 2:00 pm
- Kids Activities

READ BEFORE YOU SIGN



They say there is money to be made...

Carbon capture and sequestration are hot topics right now: Reducing CO₂ emissions by removing the carbon dioxide produced from the burning of fossil fuels (coal, gas, oil, etc.) before it enters the atmosphere, then storing it deep underground.

Because of this...

It is no surprise that several ranchers and landowners in Uinta County have received letters and written contracts from companies wanting to purchase or lease easements and 'pore space' beneath their ground for the purpose of carbon capture and sequestration.

However...

The Uinta County Conservation District **strongly advises** any ranchers and landowners who have received such letters or contracts to **seek legal assistance and advice before signing any documents related to selling or leasing easements or subsurface 'pore space'**.

Stay tuned...

UCCD cannot give legal advice, but we have done some research on this topic and would like to help inform local ranchers and landowners. We are in the process of organizing an informational meeting in the near future on the topic of carbon capture, with the possibility of a presentation from one of the companies who are seeking to purchase or lease 'pore space'. Watch our website and Facebook page, look for flyers and emails.


We have a new telephone number! Give us a call at
307-288-0214


Hey Kids...

NACD Stewardship Week is April 30 – May 7, 2023

This year's theme is
"ONE WATER"



Watersheds are areas of land that channel rainfall and snowmelt to creeks, streams, and rivers, eventually leading to outflow points such as reservoirs, bays, and the ocean.

We all live in a watershed. The entire earth is covered in small- and large-scale watersheds which are all connected. The water cycle is continuous. We share the water in our watershed with other people, with animals, and with plants. It is all **ONE WATER**...

Start thinking creatively about what this topic means to you. The Poster Contest is open to all K-12 public, private, and home school students in Uinta County. For rules and entry forms visit our website at: www.uintacountycd.com.

Hey Educators...

Let us help you with your Natural Resource and Agriculture lessons!!

Our Education Coordinator is available to teach hands-on, standard-based lessons in (or out) of the classroom focusing on the natural resources and agriculture here in Uinta County.



We have interactive lessons and resources to promote world, national, and regional activities such as National Soil and Water Stewardship Week, World Water Monitoring Day, Wyoming Ag in the Classroom, Earth Day, and Arbor Day.

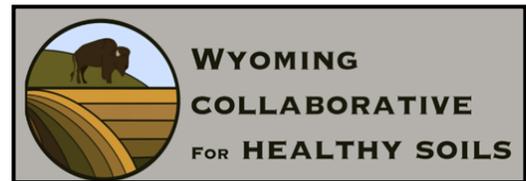


Lessons are free of charge, can be adjusted to meet requests and are available to school classrooms, home-school groups, and other youth organizations.

WHAT IS WCHS?

Wyoming Collaborative for Healthy Soils

Wyoming's diverse agricultural sector has a long legacy of land stewardship. Farmers and ranchers across the state employ practices to manage and improve soil health. These practices often also have the benefit of increasing producer bottom lines, conserving water, reducing erosion, improving forage quality, and increasing yields. Many voices from Wyoming's farming and ranching communities have begun exploring ways to support the voluntary adoption of these practices.



WCHS seeks to bring these voices together and provide a forum to identify ways to support farmers and ranchers in the voluntary adoption of soil health practices.

Specifically, the Wyoming Collaborative for Healthy Soils (WCHS) will:

Convene stakeholders from multiple arenas. WCHS will be a forum for farmers, researchers, local practitioners, service providers, and policymakers to come together as we consider the best path forward for soil health policies and programs in Wyoming.

Gain input from a broad group of Wyoming farmers and ranchers. WCHS aims to be a coalition that represents the diversity of the state's agricultural community. As such, we will seek participation from a wide spectrum of farmers and ranchers throughout our efforts. As a coalition, we are committed to remaining results-oriented and non-ideological.

Provide a roadmap for improving agricultural soil health based on this stakeholder process. WCHS members will work together to combine best practices from other states, proposals from coalition members, and stakeholder feedback into a consensus vision for soil health programming and policy that will benefit the greatest number of farmers and ranchers across the state.

As a member of Wyoming's agricultural community, we value your input and invite you to participate. Please join us February 9 from 10:00 to 11:30 for our second WCHS Collaborative Meeting.

We are excited to **share the results** of stakeholder outreach (Surveys and Listening Sessions) that took place over the fall and winter of 2022! We look forward to hearing your observations and recommendations based on the report we will share at this meeting.

The meeting will be held virtually via [Zoom](#) (details below).

Please share this invitation with others in your community that may be interested in participating.

Topic: WCHS Collaborative Meeting

Time: Feb 9, 2023 10:00 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8044963240?pwd=U1Z3SXp0aHBkdFpzaUIXekdzSk56Zz09>

Meeting ID: 804 496 3240

Passcode: wchs

One tap mobile

+17193594580,,8044963240#,,,,*266094# US

+17207072699,,8044963240#,,,,*266094# US (Denver)

UINTA COUNTY Conservation District

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Lyman, WY 82937
Phone: 787-3070

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CHANGE OF SERVICE REQUESTED



2023 "Redbooks"
in stock



STATE POSTER CONTEST WINNERS!

Congratulations to three of our Uinta County students who recently won the Wyoming Association of Conservation District's (WACD) State Poster Contest!

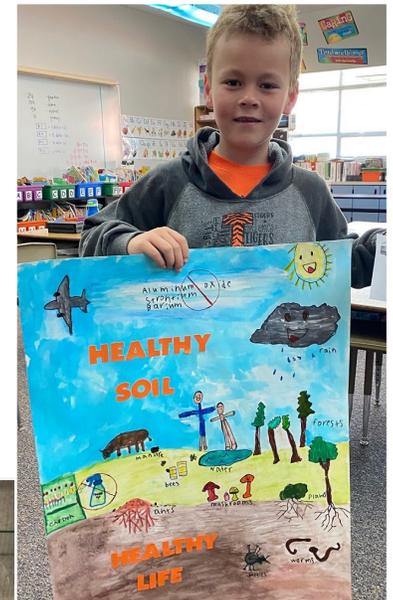
Elena Eggleston, Oliver Dillree, and Anna Jo Short, all of Uinta County, were first-place winners in their divisions (K-1 grade, 2-3 grade, 10-12 grade respectively).

These students received an award and were recognized at the WACD annual meeting in December.

The three posters will now advance to the national competition in New Orleans to be judged by the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) in February.

UCCD facilitates this opportunity by hosting an annual local poster contest for all K-12 grade public and home school students in conjunction with NACD's Soil and Water Stewardship Week each spring.

-See Pg 4 for 2023 Poster Contest Information-



2022 Theme