

APRIL 2024



Sage-Grouse; Get Involved!

If you ranch in Wyoming, you have a high potential for having sage-grouse on your private property and your Bureau of Land Management (BLM) grazing allotments. If you do have sage-grouse or sage-grouse habitat located within your ranching operation, decisions at the state and federal level could impact you.

The Sage-Grouse Habitat Assessment Framework, also known as HAF, is often used by the BLM to determine the suitability of sage-grouse habitats. The HAF “establishes indicators to determine the status of sage-grouse habitat needs at multiple scales and for seasonal habitats. The results of these assessments will provide the necessary information to evaluate whether the BLM-managed lands are meeting the sage-grouse land health habitat standard (Stiver, et al, 2015).”

BLM staff will complete HAF assessment reports to determine if a site is suitable, marginal, or unsuitable sage-grouse habitat. Not all sites are capable of being suitable. Grazing permittees should keep a close eye on how the HAF assessments are incorporated into the Standards and Guidelines Conformance Review and the final BLM Determination.

If BLM’s Determination is identified as not meeting the standard, they must then identify whether or not livestock grazing is the significant causal factor. If it is, the grazing permittee must modify the grazing management to work towards meeting the standard under the proposed action during the permit renewal process.

The Wyoming Department of Ag can help you navigate through the permit renewal process and better understand how HAF is incorporated into the decisions BLM makes on your permit. Contact Senior Policy Analyst, Justin Williams at 307-777-7067.

GET INVOLVED

On April 15, 2024, the BLM released the public Draft Amended Resource Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement (DARMP). There will be a 90-day review period and opportunity to provide comments to the BLM. *Decisions about sage-grouse and their habitat do not just affect ranchers, they can also have impacts on those who utilize public lands.* There is much concern about further restrictions, limiting our access to public lands.

The BLM has scheduled four public meetings across the state and we encourage all livestock grazing permittees and anyone who uses public lands to attend.

- **Thursday, April 18 - Cheyenne - Laramie County Library, 5:00pm - 7:00pm, 2200 Pioneer Ave.**
- **Monday, April 22 - Rock Springs - White Mountain Library, 5:00pm - 7:00pm, 2935 Sweetwater Dr.**
- **Tuesday, April 23 - Worland - Washakie County Library, 5:00pm - 7:00pm, 801 Big Horn Ave.**
- **Wednesday, April 24 - Casper - Natrona County Library, 5:00pm - 7:00pm, 307 E 2nd St.**

If you cannot attend any of these meetings, please comment electronically through the project website: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2016719/570>

Once on the project website, go to the left hand side and click “How To Get Involved” for information on how to make comments on the plan.

Let’s be proactive and protect our values and way of life here in Wyoming!

Information for this article was taken from “The Corner Post” a Wyoming Department of Agriculture Natural Resources & Policy Division Newsletter, Summer/Fall 2023, article titled “Get Engaged, Monitoring Sage-grouse Habitat” by Justin Williams, Senior Policy Analyst.

Poster Contest!

May 1st
Deadline

The theme for the 2024 Stewardship Poster Contest is
"May the Forest Be With You, Always"

1st place \$100 · 2nd place \$50 · 3rd place \$25

Judging Categories: K-1, 2-3, 4-6, 7-9, 10-12

Open to all school-aged children
in Uinta County.

Visit our website for more
information, contest rules, and entry
forms.

www.uintacountycd.com



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District Manager
Email: ksabey.uccd@gmail.com

Katie Lott
Education Coordinator
Email: klott.uccd@gmail.com

SMALL ACREAGE EQUINE MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP



APRIL 22ND

6-8 PM

204 E SAGE ST,
LYMAN WY

MCKENNA JULIAN

UWYO EXTENSION
EDUCATOR

TOPICS:

DIET & EXERCISE
GRAZING MANAGEMENT
POISONOUS PLANTS
WINTER CARE
CARE COSTS

WORKSHOP FREE TO THE PUBLIC



UCCD is offering Home Composter™ bins to Uinta County residents



\$63.00

The Home Composter™ bin

- Large 125 gal. capacity (30"H, 33"W)
- Made of 100% recycled plastic
- Wide opening to view & manage materials easily
- Sliding doors on each side for easy removal of finished compost
- Excellent air flow ventilation
- Lockable lid deters rodents
- 2-piece construction allows for easy turning of materials.

www.uintacountycd.com/home-composting

For more info on
products and home
composting in Uinta
County Wyoming!



Well Water Testing Day Coming in JULY

Normally, we hold our well water testing day in June, however, this year we will hold it on July 15th. Remember, you must pre-register and pay for your chosen test kit by the July 1st deadline in order to participate.

Living in a rural area, it is pretty likely the water that supplies your home comes from a well. According to the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality website, “you are solely responsible for the maintenance of your private water well, and are required to maintain it in such a condition that it does not contribute to contamination of groundwater.” One way to prevent contamination is to properly maintain your well through regular inspection and then addressing any issues you find right away.

There is no government agency that regulates or regularly tests water quality from private water wells in Wyoming which means it is up to you, as the private well owner, to have your well water tested. Having your well water tested regularly gives you an idea if there are issues that need to be addressed and protects the health of your family.

How can I get my well water tested?

Every year, the Uinta County Conservation District offers a Well Water Testing Day. This program is used to educate well owners and remind them to get their well water tested regularly. Through this program, UCCD helps with the cost of testing and shipping, so that private well owners can get their water tested at a more affordable rate.

How does it work?

The program is simple, just follow these basic steps:

1. Choose which test option is best for you, then pre-register and pre-pay by July 1, 2024.
2. Pick up the sampling kit you ordered from the UCCD office in the Valley, or the UW Extension Office in Evanston the week of July 8, 2024.
3. Sample your water the morning of Monday, July 15, and bring the sample back to the UCCD office by 9am or the UW Extension office before 10:00 am!
4. We will take care of the rest!

Don't assume your well water is safe. Take advantage of UCCDs 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.

**All results will be sent directly to the private well owner from the lab, UCCD does not see any of the results.*

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

Wyoming Resource Education Days

Dates: June 17-20, 2024

Place: Pathfinder Ranches (near Alcova)

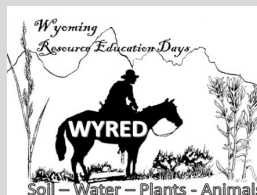
Who can attend: Youth who have completed the 8th grade - 18 years. Any person of any age may enter the Range Contest without attending the camp. *UW & PTSB credits available for teachers; see website for details.*

Registration Deadline: Early May 24/Late Jun 7.

Registration Fees: UCCD will sponsor Uinta County students who attend the entire camp.

Registration Includes: Manual, lodging & meals.

More Information: www.uintacountycd.com/wyred



Should I be watering my trees right now?

If the soil around your herbaceous perennials and woody plants is dry, and the air temp has been over 40° for more than a few days, you should give your plants a good drink.

It's important to keep the soil around the roots of your trees and perennial plants moist! Watering now will not cause them to come out of dormancy early.

Uinta County Conservation District

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

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CHANGE OF SERVICE REQUESTED



Upcoming Dates to Remember:

April 18	Seedling Tree order deadline
April 22	Earth Day
April 22	Small Acreage Equine Management Workshop, UCCD office
April 26	Arbor Day
April 28 - May 5	NACD Stewardship Week
May 1	UCCD Poster Contest Deadline
June 17-20	WYRED, Pathfinder Ranches, near Alcova
July 1	Well Water Testing Pre-Registration Deadline
July 15	Well Water Testing Day - for those who have pre-registered

WYOMING LANDOWNER SURVEY

**If you own or manage between 1 to 160 acres of land in Wyoming,
the University of Wyoming Extension wants to hear from you!**

The UWyo Extension is conducting a survey so that they can better provide Wyoming landowners/managers with practical, user-friendly informational resources on subjects such as gardening, growing trees, snow control, pasture management, weed control, raising livestock, and a whole lot more.



- *This survey is being conducted by the Small Acreage Issue Team (Barnyards & Backyards).*
- *This survey has been designed so that it will not collect identifying information. Data collected by this survey will be reported in the form of statistical summaries.*
- *At the end of the survey you will be redirected to a page where you can enter your mailing information, if you choose, to receive **a free one-year subscription of the Barnyards & Backyards magazine.** First 500 respondents are eligible. This information will be stored separately from your survey data.*
- *Participation is voluntary and you may discontinue participation at any time.*

To take the survey,



scan this
QR code

or

visit the UCCD homepage
and follow the link.
www.uintacountycd.com