



*Conserving natural resources
for our future*

THE CHINOOK

CODY CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Welcome!

The Cody Conservation District (CCD) is committed to improving the quality of life in our district through good stewardship of our land, water, and natural resources. The CCD will achieve this goal by providing information, education, and technical services to its constituents.

Tree Program

Our 2024-25 tree program has begun! We will accept orders from now until April 4th. Trees will be distributed on April 25. Check out our website for an up to date version of the order form as supply varies throughout the season.

[Order Form](#)

Join us for our next board meeting: November 6th 4:00 P.M.

Do you have conservation ideas for our community? Reach out! We love partnering with people to create habitat for wildlife, keep waterways healthy, and promote resource stewardship!





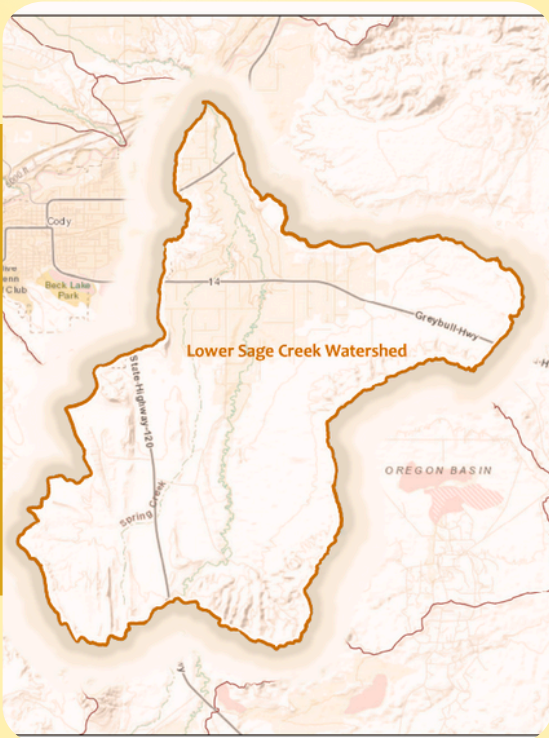
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Lower Sage Creek National Water Quality Initiative

Funding now available for landowners near Lower Sage Creek to address erosion, grazing improvements, irrigation improvements and streambank stabilization!

Contact us at conservecody@gmail.com, or call us at 307.578.8335 for more information
<https://www.codyconservationdistrict.com/funding-now-available-for-landowners-near-lower-sage-creek>



RANCHING for PROFIT

Check out this free day-long workshop where they will discuss and demonstrate the application of effective grazing management principles. Learn how to improve rangeland health and productivity all while creating a profitable business that can stay in the family for generations. Lunch will be included and registration is required to attend.

Free Workshop November 9th





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Bobbie's Yard and Garden Wisdom

Here are some tips and tricks to help you get your yard and garden ready for fall and winter!

Do not apply fertilizer to trees and shrubs until after November 1st. Fertilizer can push new growth which will be easily damaged by frost.

Now is NOT the time to prune. Most pruning should be done in late winter around February. The only things to prune now are dead or damaged plants. Spring blooming plants like lilac are pruned right after blooming so that you don't remove the flower buds.

Perennials can be cut back in the fall or early spring. It isn't as neat, but leaving the plant intact through the winter can help with survival. It also leaves seed heads for birds to feed on in winter, provides habitat for beneficial insects, and gives some texture to the winter landscape.



It is helpful to mulch around perennials, trees, and shrubs for winter protection, but don't apply over 4 inches of mulch. Don't let mulch touch the trunk and stems of plants, and don't put it down until after a frost. Otherwise, you can create a haven for rodents that will chew on your plants.



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Bobbie's Yard and Garden Wisdom

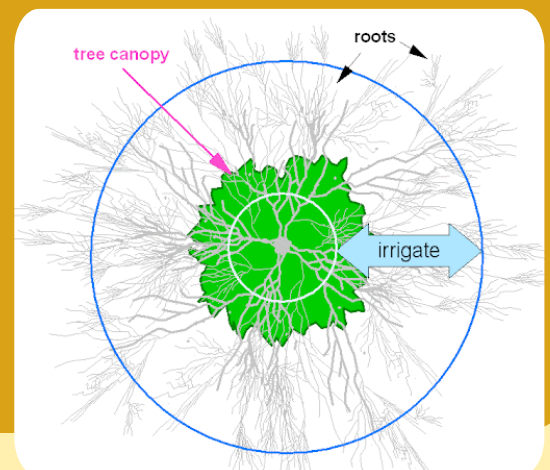
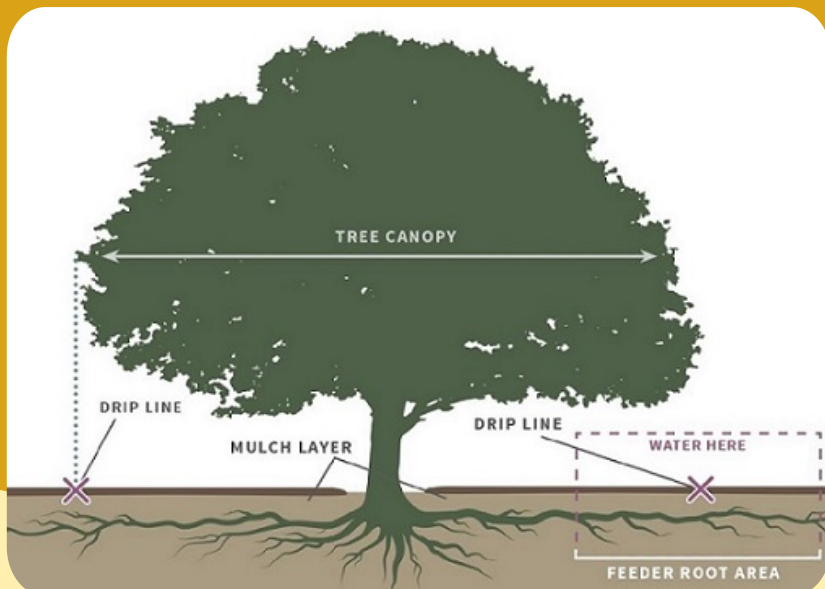
Winter and Fall Watering

Welcome to Wyoming's high plains desert, where we get just 9.3 inches of precipitation a year. Watering is essential! While summer watering is familiar to most, it's important to remember the needs of our landscape outside of irrigation season, too.

Don't stop watering until it freezes.

If you are on raw water, use the last few days of water to put water into the ground for the future. Water deeply. If the weather remains warm, use your hoses and water. It is cheaper than a replacement plant.

Winter watering is important! Our high plains desert climate can be tough on plants, especially anything planted within the last two years. When temperatures reach around 45° and there's no snow cover, watering once every 30 to 45 days is ideal. Even less frequent than that is better than nothing. Spruce trees, in particular, really benefit from winter watering. When temperatures hit 45° and there's no snow pack, watering once every 30 to 45 days is ideal—even less than that is better than none.





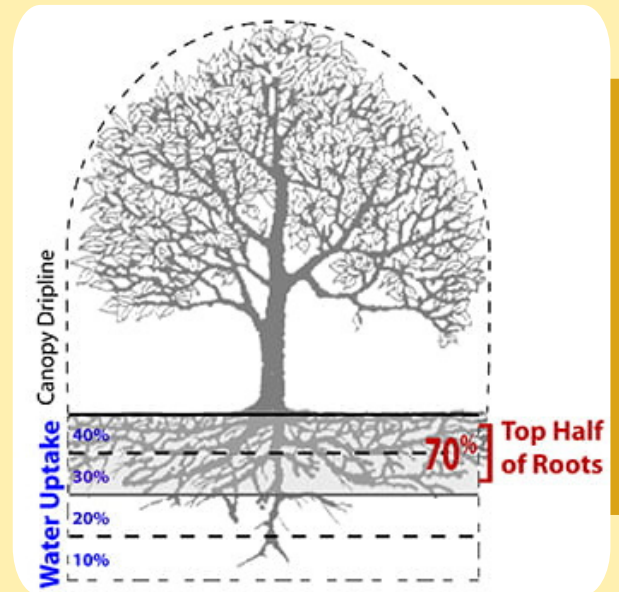
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Bobbie's Yard and Garden Wisdom

Be aware of how deep the roots you are watering are and how deep the water is going. You may have to take a shovel out and dig down to see how deep your water is reaching. The results will likely surprise you!

Understand that if you are watering trees in a lawn, the water has to pass through all of the root zone of the grasses before it is available to the trees.



Cleaning Up the Garden

Sanitation is one of the best tools to control weeds and pests. Any garden debris that is diseased or infected with insects should be disposed of in the trash, not composted. Compost in Wyoming usually does not get hot enough to kill pathogens or pests.

Removing weeds around the garden area will help remove pests searching for overwintering areas.

A layer of mulch over the garden area at the very end will be helpful in keeping the area ready for planting in spring.

Bring in house plants Shower plants off to remove any dirt and insects. Keep the plants quarantined for a few weeks to make sure they don't have an insect problem that could spread to your other plants.

Happy Gardening!



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Upcoming Events

Our next Art and Info Class is
November 14th from 3:45 P.M. to 4:45 P.M.
in the **Children's Activity Room of the Park
County Library.**

We will be learning about bison!

Our December Art and Info Class is
December 12th from 3:45 P.M. to 4:45 P.M.
We will be learning about hibernation!



WELL WATER TESTING

We have a cost-sharing program for qualifying individuals within the CCD District Boundary who are a property owner (or renter with permission from owner) whose primary water source is a well. This is not for commercial purposes. Please visit our office to pick up a sample bottle.

**Testing parameters include
lead, nitrate, nitrite, and coliform bacteria.**

Please drop off your sample bottles to our office on
November 5th from 8:30-11 A.M. and we'll take them up to Billings for you! If this date does not work for you, we are still happy to cost share with you, but you'll need to transport the samples yourself. We will have another event in the spring as well.



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Notes from Our Friends at Weed and Pest

The Pesticide and Household Hazardous Collection Days

were held on September 6th and 7th in Powell and Cody respectively. This is a collaborative effort put on by the Cities of Powell and Cody, The Park County Landfill and Park County Weed and Pest (PCWP). There was a great turnout by Park County residents to dispose of these potentially harmful products in a safe and responsible manner.



We would like to remind folks that items such as alkaline batteries can be disposed of in your regular garage. Latex paint can also be put in the regular garbage as well as long as it is no longer liquid. Just take the lid off until dry or throw some kitty litter in there to dry it up and then toss it in the garbage. (Latex paint is by far one of the products that we get the most of and therefore increases the cost of the event.) The landfill accepts some items on a regular basis such as lithium batteries (as long as ends are taped), vehicle batteries, used motor oil, florescent bulbs, led bulbs. They do not accept anti-freeze or commercial quantities.

Cheatgrass Project

Park County Weed and Pest completed a cheatgrass project in August with the Meeteetse Conservation District, BLM, the Western Landowners Alliance, and several private landowners in the Meeteetse area. We were able to treat just over 10,400 acres using Rejuvra® herbicide at a cost of \$636,500. Money for the project came from grants, agency funding as well as private landowners. This work was done utilizing aerial application. Additional acreage will be treated next season.



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Notes from Our Friends at Weed and Pest

Palmer Amaranth

With several more confirmed incidents of Palmer amaranth in Park County, it is important that we remain extra vigilant in looking for this weed! It might show up along a roadside, in a row crop, under your bird feeder, in the fence line, or along the ditch. Because this species is resistant to many herbicides, the potential costs to our agriculture production could be huge. There are several specific characteristics to look for.



- Smooth
- No hair



- Open
- Unbranched
- Very long

Here is a link to the fact sheets on our website:

<https://parkcountyweeds.org/palmer-amaranth/>

If you suspect you might have this plant or know where it may be, please contact our office 307-754-4521.



Fall is a great time to treat some of the most persistent weeds. Not that herbicides are our first line of defense, they are just a tool in the toolbox! Depending on the species and its life cycle, herbicides can be an effective method of control. Of course, there are many variables to consider, so we must look at the complete picture, where the weeds are, severity of infestation, future plans, timings, etc.

In fall, consider treating Canada thistle, field bindweed, and quackgrass. Even if we get a frost or two, herbicide applications can be very effective. Please give us a call if you have these species so we can make the best recommendations on herbicide choice. Just as all weeds aren't created equal, neither are herbicides! Get the right product for the right weed.

Call 307-754-4521 or 307-254-1758.



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Notes from Our Friends at Weed and Pest

Don't forget to take advantage of our cost share programs! These include (but aren't limited to):

- **Perennial grass seed mixes (we carry 5 different varieties that do very well here). We also have the seeder available to rent to get the seed in the ground.**
- **Fall glyphosate cost share window is open now-especially for fields that grew beans or grain if they haven't been plowed.**

Fall is also a great time to let PCWP help you in developing a plan for your property. We have knowledgeable staff that can assess the condition and species present, make recommendations for mitigation of any weeds-both nuisance and noxious, and assist you in obtaining your goals for the property. We can also point you in the right direction of other entities that may be able to help you with other projects such as fencing, irrigation, etc. With shorter days and cooler temps, now is the time to get out and walk your property. Remember consultations are free for Park County landowners, so take advantage of our services.

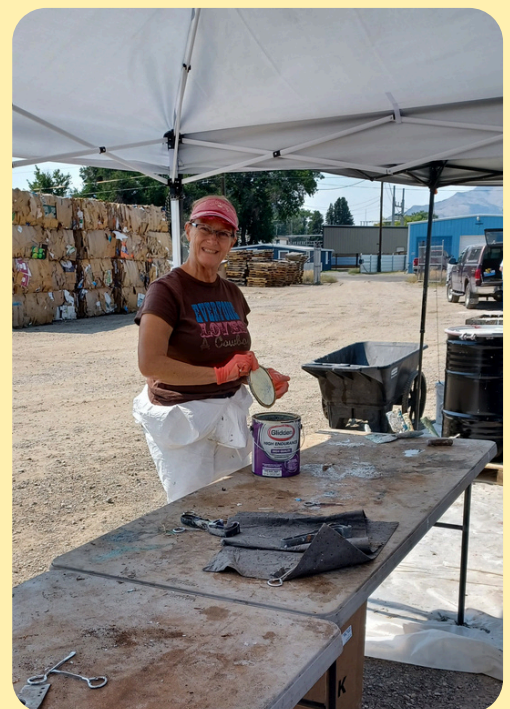
Happy Fall Y'all!

***Park County Weed & Pest Control
District***

***1067 Road 13
Powell, WY 82435***

***Phone: 307-754-4521
Powell Phone: 307-527-8885
Cody Fax: 307-754-9005***

www.parkcountyweeds.org





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Fire Update from our District Forester

Frank Mitchem

The Clearwater Fire East of Wapiti, Wyoming started on Friday, July 19, 2024. The cause of the fire was lightning. It is currently 93% contained and is at 1,966 acres. Due to the steep rocky terrain with lack of roads and trails, it will not be fully out until late fall.

Due to the location and terrain of the Clearwater Fire, a strategy of containment was decided. The steep rocky terrain was deemed a serious hazard to firefighters, thus natural containment features were identified and used to stop the fire spread. Benefits of a containment strategy include:

- Creates habitat that many plants and animals utilize.
- Creates barriers to harmful insects and diseases such as bark beetles, Western spruce budworm and mistletoe.
- Adds valuable nutrients to the soil.
- Promotes plant and wildlife diversity.
- Creates a “burn scar” which potentially minimizes the size of future wildfires and reduces fuel load within the fire footprint.



Clearwater Fire-North Fork Shoshone
August 4, 2024

Junior Conservationist Zone



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Animal Journeys

Many of the animals in our area are in the midst of a long journey: their seasonal migration! Animals travel to find the best places to live during different seasons so that they can breed, find food, or hibernate.

Various species migrate each year. Turtles swim across oceans to lay eggs where generations have laid eggs before them. Monarch butterflies migrate in huge, dazzling swarms across the continent. Arctic terns migrate from the North Pole all the way to the South Pole, traveling around 25,000 miles each year!



Animals do not have maps or GPS, so how do they navigate these long migrations? Many animals rely on memory, using familiar landmarks to guide them. For many species, older animals often lead the migration, showing younger animals the path they have followed for generations. Some species may even use the Earth's magnetic field for guidance. They also sense changes in the seasons, like the length of daylight, and use the sun, stars, and even smells to find their way.

We can feel the weather cooling off these days, and the animals know that winter is approaching too. You may notice changes in where our local ungulates, mammals with hooves, are hanging out around here. Our elk, mule deer, and bighorn sheep spend their summers high in the mountains. In winter, they travel to lower elevations where it is warmer and food is easier to find. We also have thousands of birds migrating in our skies, some flying thousands of miles to avoid harsh winter weather.

Mule deer and elk spend their summers in high mountain meadows, but they move to lower elevations in large herds when the snow becomes too deep. Both species rely on these seasonal movements to find food and survive the harsh winters.



Junior Conservationist Zone



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Animal Journeys



Pronghorn, the fastest land animal in North America, can reach speeds of up to 60 miles per hour as they dash across the open plains. They often move to areas where wind clears the snow, exposing grass for them to graze. These animals depend on open spaces and favorable weather to complete their migration and find food during the cold months.

<https://birdcast.info/migration-tools/live-migration-maps/>

Many birds have been on journeys above our heads lately too. About 350 species of North American birds migrate all the way down to South America every year! Some of the species passing over Wyoming in this season include Wilson's Warbler, Western Wood Pee-Wee, and Vesper Sparrow. Check out the link to Birdcast's migration maps to learn more!

Migration is an amazing feat, but it's also full of challenges. Animals have to maintain their energy for the journey, traverse difficult terrain, and avoid predators. On top of that, many animals face man-made obstacles like roads and fences.



Junior Conservationist Zone



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Animal Journeys

There are many ways we can adapt our lifestyles to how the wildlife around us is moving. We can use wildlife-friendly fences around properties that animals migrate through. These specially designed fences allow deer, elk, and pronghorn to safely pass through or under them, reducing the chance of animals getting trapped or injured. To protect both animals and our vehicles, we can pay extra attention to the road and slow down. Birds often use the stars to navigate at night, so bright artificial lights can throw them off course. To help our migrating birds, we can reduce light pollution by turning off unnecessary outdoor lights during migration seasons.



Wildlife photography by Jacob Krueger

Junior Conservationist Zone



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Animal Journeys

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H O Y V N A V I G A T E S Z D

Find these words:

Bighorn

Deer

Elk

Journey

Migration

Navigate

Predators

Pronghorn

Seasons

Summer

Tern

Ungulate

Learn more:

kids.britannica.com/scholars/article/migration/110424

nhpbs.org/natureworks/nwep4c.htm

www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Arctic_Tern/overview

wgfd.wyo.gov/wyoming-wildlife/movement-matters/big-game-migration

dashboard.birdcast.info/region/US-WY

absarokafenceinitiative.org/



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CODY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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