



# Crook County Natural Resource District Resource Roundup

## Reminder:

We still have **FREE**  
**Stock Water Tank**  
**Wildlife Escape Ramps**  
**Available!**  
Come by our office to  
get yours!

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## Time to Think About Trees!

Every year, the CCNRD sells conservation grade seedlings to the community for uses such as living snow fences, windbreaks, and wildlife habitat. We offer a wide variety of trees from which to choose (see list on 2008 Order Form). Now is the time to consider what trees you want, and let us know so you get the trees you want next spring! Trees should arrive and be ready for pick-up during the first week of May.

Remember, site preparation is critical to the survival of dryland tree and shrub plantings! What does correct site preparation entail? The prepared site must be of adequate size- there should be a minimum of three feet of cleared land around each new planting. The soil in the site must be worked until no large or especially hard clods remain. This loosens the rooting zone, making it easier for the young plant's roots to penetrate the soil. Also, loosening the surface soil enables greater water penetration and minimizes evaporation. Another important effect is that existing plants are removed and can no longer compete with the newly planted tree or shrub for water, nutrients, and sunlight. The cleared area can be maintained through the use of weed barrier



materials or the manual or chemical removal of undesirable species. Site preparation can be done well in advance of planting. This is especially desirable because it minimizes the amount of standing vegetation at planting time and allows time for the installation of fencing and irrigation systems.

So, figure out what trees you want to plant and where, and if the ground is not frozen or too muddy, get your site ready. If you have questions about ordering, planting, or maintaining trees, please come by the office or call us at (307)283-2501.

## UPCOMING EVENTS!

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**\*Tuesday, November 9-  
CCNRD Board Meeting  
USDA Service Center  
Conference Room, 5  
p.m.**

*Please attend our monthly board meetings with any questions, suggestions, or concerns you have for us!*

### **\*Tuesday, January 13-**

**Small Acreage Workshop Focus: Energy Issues Courthouse Basement 5:30 p.m.**

*This will be the first of three workshops put on cooperatively by the CCNRD and the UW Extension Office.*



## Wyoming Associate of Conservation Districts 63rd Annual Convention Held in Gillette

The Campbell County Conservation District hosted the annual convention November 17– 20. People from all over the state and the country attended to discuss current issues, to note major achievements, and to discuss the future of conservation.

Monday and Tuesday were devoted to meetings of the Wyo. Natural Resource Foundation Board of Directors, Wyo. Association of Conservation Districts Board, and Wyo. Conservation District Employees Association.

Wednesday was the kick-off of the largest portion of the convention, and Ralph Brokaw, President of WACD, welcomed everyone to the convention and gave the keynote address which included a heartfelt tribute to Olin Sims, who passed away last December. Olin Sims was remembered as a committed conservationist and leader whose hard-work and passion inspired those around him and paved the way for the future of conservation efforts.

Thursday was filled with educational sessions on topics ranging from rangeland monitoring to watershed based planning, among others. The need for careful, proactive, and local control of natural resources was emphasized again and again. In other words, if local people don't take care of natural resources, someone else will!

Overall, the convention was a great learning experience and a way to get to know the people working on conservation issues around the state and the country. There are plenty of challenges related to the management of natural resources. However, because there are many passionate and capable people dedicated to finding the best possible solutions, the future of locally-led conservation is bright. Together, conservation districts and communities can find both ecologically and economically sustainable ways to utilize their natural resources.

### Watershed Planning: A Grassroots Approach to Water Pollution Management

A watershed is an area of land that drains to a common body of water, and all those who live there impact its health. Many everyday human activities cause small instances of water pollution, and these add up to big problems. To address these, the Environmental Protection Agency and many federal, state, tribal, and local agencies are promoting watershed-based planning or locally driven, collaborative efforts to address water pollution. The CCNRDis among the estimated 4000 locally based organizations involved in community-based watershed protection efforts.

Watershed-based management plans share three characteristics. First, they are hydrologically defined, meaning they are developed with knowledge of the geography, topography, geology, and climate of the watershed. Second, the plans involve all stakeholders (public and private) and are community based. Third, watershed-based plans strategically address priority resource goals, integrate multiple programs, and use adaptive management.

After sections of the river were listed as impaired by WYDEQ in 1996, the CCNRD facilitated a series of meetings with Belle Fourche River area landowners. CCNRD began monitoring the impaired reaches of Donkey Creek and the Belle Fourche in 2002. This monitoring continues today. After the approval of the watershed plan in 2004 by WYDEQ, CCNRD applied for and received EPA funding for remediation efforts. To date, on the ground implementation of the plan includes the rehabilitation of 14 septic systems, three animal feeding operation projects, and three grazing projects, which include fencing and offsite water development. Educational programs are on-going in the schools as are workshops, tours, and informational meetings. (For more information, see [http://conservewy.com/07\\_rpt/crook\\_bf.pdf](http://conservewy.com/07_rpt/crook_bf.pdf).)

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**Do you want to help us save paper by reading CCNRD newsletter on-line? If you are interested, please call the office and give us your email address. We will then email you the newsletter instead of printing and mailing it! THANK YOU FOR GOING PAPERLESS!**

November 2008



The deadline for Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) signups for 2009 work will be Jan 16<sup>th</sup>. This is the program used most often in the county to address stock water improvements and irrigation cost share assistance. Another option for EQIP is the assistance available for modifying or moving corrals or winter pastures to improve water quality in the county. Cost-share assistance is approximately 50 percent, and can be up to 75 percent for certain practices. EQIP funding for Crook County appears very similar to last year at this time. Typically there are about 35 out of 60 applications funded each year.

We will also be taking applications for the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP). The WRP is mostly used for creating or restoring wetlands for waterfowl habitat. WHIP can be used many ways in developing wildlife habitat. Some examples include food plots, wildlife watering facilities, wildlife reservoirs etc. These 2 programs are funded at the state level and can be tougher to obtain funding.

It will be important this year to have eligibility paperwork completed for any program by sign up time. If you are a first time applicant, please come in early to allow time for eligibility processing. Anyone with questions about cost share assistance with these or any program we assist with, please call the office at 283-2740 ext 3 or stop by. We'll be glad to assist any way we can. Terry

### New Employee at CCNRD

Hi! My name is Sarah Barton, and, for those of you who don't know me, I would like to introduce myself. I live outside Upton with my husband, Tony. My parents, Bob and Mary Yemington, live on a ranch near Devil's Tower where I was introduced to ranching and the natural resource management it entails. Today, I still raise a few horses and cattle and am learning how to deal with the challenges of keeping livestock on small acreage. I attended school in Sundance, with the exception of my junior year which I spent as an exchange student in Germany. I graduated from the U. of Wyo. in 2005 with a degree in German and International Studies. I re-enrolled and am working on a Master's degree in International Studies focusing on international rangeland management and grazing systems. My research focuses on data collected using remote sensing technology on a cattle ranch in Weston County and is still ongoing. As the Program Coordinator at the Crook County Natural Resource District, I look forward to working with the community on natural resource issues. Having local control of important issues like natural resource management is something I adamantly support. It is the people who live in this area who best know the challenges we face and the avenues through which they can be addressed. I am thrilled to be a part of this important organization and look forward to working with you in the future!

### Hunters- Partners in Conservation

Each fall, bright orange becomes especially fashionable, and whether or not you hunt, it is hard not to be aware of the season. The orange hats and vests may be hard to miss, but the importance of hunters to conservation may not be so obvious to those who don't hunt. Early conservation efforts were mostly driven by hunters who recognized the damage that unregulated hunting was doing to the resource base. These sportsman advocated the development of a sustainable, equitable way to manage America's wildlife: the North American Wildlife Conservation Model. The founding principles are: wildlife belongs to all of the people, hunting should not be for profit or frivolous reasons, laws are needed to protect wildlife and ensure ethical hunting, and science should be used to shape management. Most of the cost of wildlife management was to be paid for through fees and taxes levied on sportsmen, and this continues today. Through this system, American wildlife, game and non-game, and their habitats have been successfully managed for generations, a significant accomplishment in conservation. (For more, see Steve Ferrell's article, *Conservation is driven by hunters*, in "Wyoming Wildlife News" [Nov.-Dec. 2008].) It is in the interests of both hunters and conservationists to consider the values they share and the ways in which they can work together to protect and manage natural resources. The potential for cooperation is huge.

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**Crook County Natural Resource District Mission Statement**  
*To Provide Coordinated Leadership in Resource Conservation to Assist and/or  
 Meet the Needs of Resource Users*

**We're on the web:**  
[www.ccnrd.org](http://www.ccnrd.org)

Stop by the office or call to pick up a copy of the *Barryards/Backyards* magazine or any other publications on various natural resource topics!

**Non-Profit Organization**  
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 Wayne Garman- Chairman  
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 Tom Ferrell- Member  
 James Geis- Secretary  
 Ted Parsons- Urban Member

**NRCS Staff**  
 Terry Everard- District Conservationist  
 Sherry Keyworth- Conservation Technician  
 Mark Emrick- Civil Engineering Technician  
 Jason Nehl-Natural Resource Specialist  
 Shirley Mitch- Contract Assistant

**District Staff**  
 Nick Weiland, Water Quality Specialist  
 Sarah Barton- Program Manager  
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