



Crook County Natural Resource District Resource Roundup

RESOURCE ROUNDUP

September 2008

Reminder:

We still have **FREE** Stock Water Tank Wildlife Escape Ramps

Available!

Come by our office to get yours!

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Watershed Planning Update

*First of all, Leslie and Nick would like to say what a pleasure it is working in Crook County and getting to know more and more of the folks here!

After eight weeks of water sampling, we are still seeing high water levels, along with high *E. coli* numbers. That can be expected with the amount of rain we're getting, and the fact that it's the middle of the recreation season.

Along with bacteria testing, we're working on getting stream gauges up at all the sites, and we're hoping to be able to measure stream flow rate. We've even gained access to a new, important sampling site near Donkey Creek. This will help give us a more comprehensive picture of water quality on the Belle Fourche and Donkey Creek.

Aside from that, we passed our water sampling audit at the end of May with



flying colors. This audit, performed by Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ), assured our sampling techniques are still up to WDEQ standards.

**Here at the CCNRD, we hope everyone is having a great summer! Remember, if you're going RVing or camping anywhere, dispose of waste water, dishwashing water, pet waste, etc. properly. During the recreation season, bacteria levels in rivers, streams and lakes can get high when waste water is allowed to enter these water bodies. Have fun and help keep our water clean!*

UPCOMING EVENTS!

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***Tuesday, August 5– CCNRD Board Meeting, USDA Service Center Conference Room, 5 p.m.**

Attend our monthly board meetings to express any questions, concerns or suggestions you have for us!

***August 2008– Possible Small Acreage Workshop, Topic: Landscaping/Soil and Water Quality, Date and Time: TBA**

***July 26– August 3– Crook County Fair!**



CCNRD's Cost Share Program: How You Can Help Clean the Belle Fourche River!

Water quality monitoring is only one part of the effort to get stretches of the Belle Fourche River off the EPA's impaired water bodies list. As many folks know, CCNRD has cost share funding available to help land-owners implement Best Management Practices. Whether you are familiar with this program or never heard about it before, this information can get you started thinking about what you can do to help!

What are Best Management Practices (BMP)?

BMPs are guidelines to reduce non-point source pollution due to livestock, wildlife and humans. They are designed to protect water quality and to prevent new pollution.

What are some examples of BMPs?

Critical area planting, fencing off pastures and utilization of stock water tanks are ways to protect surface and ground water. Animal waste can be managed through waste utilization or storage in a proper waste storage structure. Runoff can be controlled by dikes or flood water diversions, grassed waterways, sediment control basins or other water control structures.

What types of projects can CCNRD fund?

- Animal Feeding Operations or Confined AFO Relocation projects
- Stock Water Developments, corrals, fencing, winter pasture protection

- Anything that will have a positive impact on reducing fecal coliform on the Belle Fourche River

What's the catch?

- The property must be in the Upper Belle Fourche River Watershed AND have a water quality concern
- The project must utilize BMPs
- The total project cost must be matched at a 50% rate with non-federal cash or volunteer contributions

We have had many successful cost share projects in the past and are ready for even more! Come by our office or call to find out more about past projects or if your dream project qualifies!

Wildfire: Beware & Prepare



**Remember—Maintain a
“Defensible Space”**

Crook County has grant funding through Wyoming State Forestry which is available to help you create defensible space around your home. If you require any further information, contact Jeff Garman at (307) 283-2778 or (307) 290-2237

CCNRD also has a video from Wyoming State Forestry on Defensible Space available for Crook County Residents, call the office or stop by to check it out!

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!



I'm hearing good reports on the hay yields around the county. The heavy rains have also caused damage especially in the NE part of the county. Some fairly old reservoirs are showing their age and the spillways are failing. We have quite a few requests from landowners to inspect and provide plans for repair work. Depending on the needs and feasibility of the project, there may also be some cost share assistance available through the EQIP or WHIP programs we administer. A word of caution on repairing reservoirs: they can get fairly expensive. What used to cost

about \$10,000 a few years ago, is running about \$17-20,000 today. This is due to many factors including inflation of materials, labor costs and added design requirements. Maybe there are other alternatives to put livestock water out there. Wells and pipelines are good examples. If wild-life water is the primary purpose, reservoirs are usually the choice. Each reservoir site must be evaluated for design functionality, State and NRCS engineering requirements and cost-benefits of the whole project. We haven't assisted in building or repairing many reservoirs in recent

years for the above stated reasons. We try our best to keep costs down, but don't be surprised when you see the estimated costs. Everyone wants a fishing pond in their backyard, but sometimes they just aren't feasible with the public's dollars involved.

Workshop News

In the past, CCNRD has held a number of workshops providing information on living on and working with the land. Most recently, we, along with NRCS and WY Game and Fish, hosted Dr. Roy Roath from Colorado State who talked to us about rangeland management. More specifically, he discussed how landowners can increase rangeland production while providing a suitable habitat for sage grouse. This is important, as Wyoming would like to show healthy num-

bers of sage grouse in a time where populations are declining.

We would like to continue putting on workshops such as these, and our next opportunity is coming up. We are working on putting together two small acreage workshops to be held in August and September. The topics will address ways to live efficiently and productively on only a few acres. Please stay tuned for more details next month!

Just For Fun!

Here's a puzzle for the young and young at heart!

Look for these words up, down, diagonally, backwards, or forwards:

- Watershed
- Rain
- Frog
- Blue Heron
- Walleye
- Oxygen
- Algae
- Bacteria
- Trout
- River

W A T E R S H E D B S
 U A R B A T K I T L M
 R O L H I W T R O U T
 H V E L N A L G A E N
 B A C T E R I A R H R
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 E C O X Y G E N D R V
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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

Stop by the office or call to
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 magazine or any other
 publications on various
 natural resource topics!

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