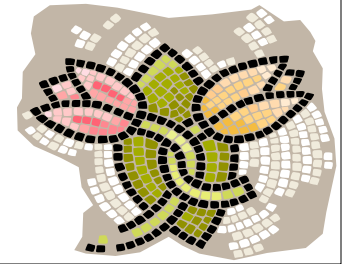


# CCCD EXPRESS



C O N V E R S E C O U N T Y C O N S E R V A T I O N D I S T R I C T

**Board of Supervisors**

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Johnna Blankenship,  
Range Conservationist

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## THINK SPRING



### American Agriculture:

**Abundant. Affordable. AMAZING.**

National Ag Week is March 14th—March 20th with the National Ag Day celebration on March 20th. Did you know American agriculture not only provides you food and clothing, but also helps meet needs around the world? Plus, American agriculture is not just producing more food, it's producing higher quality and at a lower cost.

The National Ag Day program believes that every American should:

- understand how food, fiber and renewable resource products are produced.
- value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy.
- appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products.
- acknowledge and consider career opportunities in the agriculture, food, fiber and renewable resource industries.

### AGRICULTURE IS PART OF YOUR LIFE

Products we use in our everyday lives comes from the plant and animal by-products produced by America's farmers and ranchers:

\***Health Care**—pharmaceuticals, surgical sutures, ointments, latex gloves, x-ray film, gelatin for capsules and heart valves.

\***Construction**: Lumber, paints, brushes, tar paper, dry wall and tool handles.

\***Transportation**—Fuel, lubricants, antifreeze, tires and upholstery.

\***Personal Care Products**: Shampoo, cosmetics, lotions, fingernail polish, toothpaste.

\***Education**—Crayons, textbooks, chalk, desks, pencils and paper.

\***Sports**: Uniforms, baseball bats, leather equipment and shoes.

Learn more at [www.agday.org](http://www.agday.org)

**“WYOMING WISE”  
GARDENING AND LANDSCAPING  
WORKSHOP**

**DOUGLAS**  
April 1, 2010  
5:30 p.m.  
Cooperative  
Extension  
Office



**GLENROCK**  
April 22, 2010  
5:30 p.m.  
Town Hall  
Council  
Chambers

5:30-5:45 p.m.—Welcome/Refreshments  
5:45-6:45 p.m.- Native and Adapted Landscape  
Plants for Wyoming. –Tom Heald, UW Cooperative  
Extension Service  
6:45-7:15—Weed Identification and Management –  
Cheryl Schwartzkopf, Converse County Weed & Pest  
7:15-7:45 p.m.—Composting –Becky Harris, Master  
Gardener  
7:45-8 p.m.—Questions and Wrap-Up  
**Workshop is FREE!! Door Prizes!!**  
**Pre-Registration is not required but requested.**  
**Contact Michelle @ CCCD 358-3050 ext. 109**

Conservation of our natural resources is important in every community. Look for ways to be involved at your home, local schools or with community conservation projects. There are plenty of conservation habits that help conserve water, provide shelter for animals, birds and insects as well as increase their food supply. Habitats are all across North America and around the world; you can find them in forests, grasslands, deserts, wetlands, arctic tundra as well as right outside your backdoor and in your community. Healthy habitats can include native plants, water features such as ponds, wetlands and rain gardens. Planting native trees along stream banks to stabilize the soil, preventing soil erosion or planting native plants to attract pollinators help make you good stewards of the land. 2010 marks the 55<sup>th</sup> year of the National Association of Conservation Districts Stewardship Week. Help us celebrate Habitat Stewardship Week **APRIL 25 to May 2, 2010** Contact CCCD for a wealth of useful information.



**NRCS NEWS-TIM SCHROEDER**

**MARCH SNOW PACK UPDATE FOR SE WYOMING**

The winter of 2010 is not setting any moisture records at this time. Areas in the pacific NW which are being impacted by El Nino have actually set some all time low snow pack totals. For SE Wyoming our wettest months of the year are just ahead of us. So we still have time to make up for any deficiencies in the water content of our snow pack. Below is a summary of snotel site information for SE Wyoming.

<b>Snotel Site</b>	<b>Snow Depth</b>	<b>% Average Water Content in Snow</b>
<b><u>Laramie Range (Lower North Platte)</u></b>		
Windy Peak	26"	88
Laprele Creek	34"	73
Reno Hill	49"	100
Casper Mountain	43"	84
<b><u>Snowy Range (Upper North Platte)</u></b>		
Brooklyn Lake	61"	84
Sand Lake	84"	90
N. French Creek	101"	123
Cinnabar Park	58"	—

**NRCS SAGE GROUSE INITIATIVE COST SHARE PROGRAM**

This spring the NRCS will be announcing a cost share initiative to help improve sagebrush and sage grouse habitats across the western US states. This will be a cost-share opportunity much like the NRCS’s Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) contracts. At this time it appears that emphasis for this program will be grazing management in known sage grouse areas and the states sage grouse core areas. Stay tuned for more information and announcement of sign up dates.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE’S EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY POLICY**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# DISTRICT HAPPENINGS

CCCD hosted a Wyoming Rangeland Management 201 School presented by Wyoming Society for Range Management on February 17, 2010 at the Dry Creek Hall in Bill, Wyoming. Participants learned about developing monitoring objectives, tools and methods to aid in monitoring, ecological site descriptions, applying monitoring data, matching the animal to the resource and low-stress animal handling.

**A Rangeland Management 301 School will be held on June 15th** and will give the participants a chance to learn and practice monitoring methods hands-on. Keep watching for more information!

A special thanks to Bev and Peggy at Penny's Diner in Bill for catering a wonderful lunch!



## RENEWABLE ENERGY WORKSHOP APRIL 24, 2010

In partnership with CCCD, the Converse County Extension Service is holding a small scale renewable energy workshop on April 24, 2010 at the McKibbean Cafeteria on the Wyoming State Fair Grounds.

The day will kick off with coffee and donuts at 9:30 a.m. Topics that will be addressed are as follows:

- Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, On Farm Opportunities
  - Selecting a Contractor-What you need to know
- Participants will also be able to tour two properties where renewable energy is being used. One will feature an off-grid system, and one will feature a grid-tied system. The workshop is free to the public and lunch will be provided. For more information contact Ashley

at the Converse County Extension Office. Please RSVP to the Extension Office by 5 p.m. on April 21st so that adequate meal planning can be made. Converse County Extension Office—358-2417



### TIME IS RUNNING OUT...

To order your Rain Barrels and Composters. Each item is on display at the District office. Stop by and order yours today—supplies are limited!

### TREE PRUNING WORKSHOP

March 12, 2010 2-3 p.m.  
UW Cooperative Extension Building  
Presentations, Refreshments, Equipment  
Demonstrations. Sponsored by  
Wyoming State Forestry

### NATURAL RESOURCE ISSUES IN COVERSE COUNTY

The Converse County Conservation District is beginning work on their Long Range Management Plan.

Enclosed in this newsletter is a Questionnaire. We are inviting your input, ideas, questions and concerns as we start to define our direction for the next five years.

Please help us!! Fill out and return the questionnaire to CCCD by May 7, 2010.

An online version of the survey will also be available. Go to [www.conserveconverse.org](http://www.conserveconverse.org)

and click on the Long Range Plan Questionnaire link. CCCD is giving away a 2 ft. Rocky Mountain Juniper to one lucky winner who returns a questionnaire!

Be sure to identify yourself if you wish to be entered into the drawing! Call the District if you have any questions.



### Seedling Tree Sales Continue Until April 2, 2010

Several species have already sold out. You are encouraged to contact the office for current availability and to place your order ASAP. Trees may be picked up at the District office **April 27th 12 p.m.—6 p.m.**

Please do not arrive prior to 12 p.m. as the staff needs time to prepare the trees for distribution.



[www.conserveconverse.org](http://www.conserveconverse.org)

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**CONVERSE COUNTY  
CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT**

911 S. Windriver Drive  
Douglas, WY 82633

Phone: 307-358-3050 ext. 4  
Fax: 307-358-5719

E-mail: [michelle.huntington@wy.nacdnet.net](mailto:michelle.huntington@wy.nacdnet.net)

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**MARCH:**

**14-20: National Ag Week**

**14: Daylight Savings Time Begins**

**18: CCCD Board Meeting**

**APRIL:**

**1: Wyoming Wise Gardening Workshop  
-Douglas**

**4: Easter**

**15: CCCD Board Meeting**

**22: Wyoming Wise Gardening  
Workshop—Glenrock**

**24: Renewable Energy Workshop**

**ATTEND A CCCD BOARD MEETING**

The Converse County Conservation District holds Board Meetings the third Thursday of each month starting at 4:00 p.m.

We welcome your input, ideas, questions, and concerns regarding our projects and programs!

Meetings are open to the public pursuant to Wyoming Statute 16-4-403.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW  
FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS**



**MAY 18, 2010—WELL WATER TESTING DAY  
(DETAILS WILL BE IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER)**

**JUNE 4, 2010—PINE BEETLE WORKSHOP**

**JUNE 8, 2010—CONVERSE COUNTY FIREWISE  
PROJECT TOUR**



**SPRING  
FOWARD**

**Move Clocks Ahead  
One Hour  
March 14th**

**SAGE GROUSE FOUND “WARRANTED BUT PRECLUDED” FROM  
ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT PROTECTION**

A finding by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that, [based on accumulated scientific data and new peer-reviewed information and analysis](#), the greater sage-grouse warrants the protection of the Endangered Species Act but that listing the species at this time is precluded by the need to address higher priority species first. The greater sage-grouse will be placed on the candidate list for future action, meaning the species would not receive statutory protection under the ESA and states would continue to be responsible for managing the bird.

Adding the species to the candidate list will allow the Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies an opportunity to continue to work cooperatively with private landowners to conserve the candidate species. This includes financial and technical assistance, and the ability to develop conservation agreements that provide regulatory assurances to landowners who take actions to benefit the species. One such agreement was signed last month in western Idaho, encompassing an area of over half a million acres.

Greater sage-grouse are found in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, eastern California, Nevada, Utah, western Colorado, South Dakota and Wyoming and the Canadian provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. They currently occupy approximately 56 percent of their historical range.

Excerpt taken from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Go to: <http://www.fws.gov/wyominges/> for the full news release and information on what the ruling means for you.