



Trail News

June 7, 2011

from the **Meeteetse Conservation District**

P.O. Box 237 • 910 Park Avenue • Meeteetse, WY 82433

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Hello from the MCD!

---- What is the Purpose of the Rangeland Health Assessment Program? ----

The purpose of the Rangeland Health Assessment Program (RHAP) is to assure the development and use of credible data in the assessment of Wyoming Rangelands by providing through the Wyoming Department of Agriculture a structured approach that fosters and assists in collaborative efforts to monitor rangelands involving, as applicable, landowners, lessees, permittees and federal and state land agencies.

The short-term goal of the program is to sustain viable levels of federal land grazing by providing credible data to assist federal land agencies in completing required permit National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis and to enable agencies and permittees to defend against challenges to grazing permit renewals and management plans.

The long-term goal of the program is to assess trends in the health of all rangelands and assure the use of credible data in making adjustments in their management where indicated. **Monitoring will help maintain or improve the economic viability of the livestock grazing industry and its contribution to the Wyoming economy.**

So please come join us on **June 16th for a Federal Grazing Permittee Monitoring Meeting at 7:00 pm at the MCD office in Meeteetse.** The MCD, Shoshone NF, and the Cody and Worland BLM will host a meeting for federal grazing permittees to discuss permittee rangeland monitoring, cooperative monitoring, and Wyoming's Rangeland Health Assessment Program, which can be used to provide funding for range monitoring on federal lands. For more information or questions please call the MCD office at (307) 868-2484 or email: mcd@tctwest.net and visit <http://agriculture.wy.gov/divisions/nrp/resource-management/rangeland>

----- Attention: Bighorn Basin Oil and Gas Development Meeting -----

You are invited to join the Bighorn Basin Resource Alliance for an insightful evening about Bighorn Basin oil and gas development. A comprehensive, county specific meeting will be held in each county of the Bighorn Basin:

- ♦ **June 20, 6 to 8 PM: Days Inn: 115 East Park St., Thermopolis**
- ♦ **June 21, 6 to 8 PM: Museum and Cultural Center: 2200 Bighorn Avenue, Worland**
- ♦ **June 27, 6 to 8 PM: Lovell Community Center: 1925 Highway 310, Lovell**
- ♦ **June 28, 6 to 8 PM: Grizzly Room, Park County Library: 1500 Heart Mountain Street, Cody**

Please share with all interested parties. Appetizers will be served. These informational meetings are opportunities to better understand your county revenue: where it comes from and where it goes. These presentations are coupled with an update about the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) draft Resource Management Plan (RMP). The RMP determines how the BLM will manage approximately 3.2 million federal surface acres for the next 20 years. If you live, work or recreate in the Bighorn Basin, you should attend these meetings. The future of the BHB as we know it will change. Get involved to make it a positive change!

Facts about the RMP:

- 76% of land in the Big Horn Basin is directly controlled by the federal government either through surface management, mineral management or both.
- RMP dictates how public lands are controlled from recreation (hunting, fishing, hiking, ATV's, snowmobiling, etc.) to farming and grazing.
- Restricts /limits access to publicly owned lands for wildlife protection, wild lands designations, wild and scenic designations.
- Outcome may affect jobs by limiting future access to mineral development, property tax revenues and personal income.

Ideally, the audience will leave with a better understanding of the RMP and how to comment on the RMP. You can make a difference –the more substantive comments the BLM receives supporting reasonable public land access, the more likely the RMP's outcome is positive. For more information contact: Monica M. Deromedi, Natural Resources Growth Coalition (formerly CBNGA) website: www.cbnga.com email: monica@cbnga.com P.O. Box 148 Thermopolis, WY 82443 (307) 864-2355 office (307) 399-5301 cell phone.

Trail Tidbit: “Nobody ever drowned in their own sweat.” – Ann Landers

----- Leopold Conservation Award -----

The deadline for Leopold Conservation Award application is June 30th. Sand County Foundation (SCF), the Wyoming Stock Growers Association (WSGA), Encana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc., and Peabody Energy are proud to present the Leopold Conservation Award recognizing extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation to a Wyoming rancher as part of WSGA's Environmental Stewardship Award Program, including a check for \$10,000 and an automatic entry into the National Cattlemen's Beef Association's national awards program. For further information, please see the Leopold Conservation Award website: www.leopoldconservationaward.org/ The Leopold Conservation Award in Wyoming is made possible through the support of The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, and Farm Credit.

----- Reminders and Updates -----

Local Government Cooperating Agencies host BLM Bighorn Basin RMP Revision Public Meetings. The BLM is changing its Resource Management Plan (land use plan), commonly referred to as the "RMP". This plan will direct management on 3.2 million acres of BLM lands for the next 20 years. Local governments have been participating in the RMP revision since 2008, representing your interests. These are **YOUR** public lands so come and learn what management the BLM has planned for your area and continue to tell us what is important to you.

- ♦ **The MCD and other Local Governments still need your input** to best understand your way of life on your public lands. Besides wanting your input so that we can incorporate your ideas into the public comment process, we want to help **YOU** effectively communicate your perspective to the BLM.

BLM's RMP Public Meetings Run from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. The BLM hosts its Draft RMP meetings as follows:

- Tuesday, June 7, 2011 - Worland Community Center, 1200 Culbertson Ave., Worland, WY 82401
- Wednesday, June 8, 2011 - Big Horn County Weed and Pest Office, 4782 Highway 310, Greybull, WY 82426
- Monday, June 13, 2011 - Lovell Community Center, 1925 Highway 310, Lovell, WY 82431
- Tuesday, June 14, 2011 - Holiday Inn, 1701 Sheridan Ave., Cody, WY 82414
- Wednesday, June 15, 2011 - Park County Fairgrounds General Exhibit Hall, 655 East 5th St., Powell, WY 82435

<http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/wy/programs/planning/rmps/bighorn/docs/newsletter.Par.83536.File.dat/0411.pdf>

Email: BBRMP_WYMail@blm.gov Worland Field Office, 101 South 23rd Street, PO Box 119, Worland, WY 82401-0119 Phone (307) 347-5100. Cody Field Office, 1002 Blackburn Street, Cody, WY 82414. Phone (307) 578-5900.

June 7 - Wyoming Rangeland Management School 301 hosted by Campbell County CD at 601 4J Ct., Gillette. \$20 registration per ranch operation or individual buys the school notebook, WY Monitoring Guide, & handouts. (No fee if you attended a 201 School). Lunch and breaks provided by the CCCD. Contact Blaine Horn at (307) 684-7522 or bhorn@uwyo.edu.

June 10 - Registration Deadline for June 22-23 Natural Resources Educational Workshop in Lander. Popo Agie Conservation District brings Project WET (Water Education), Project WILD (Aquatic Wildlife and Habitat Education), and Project Learning Tree (Forest Education). The workshop will be 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Wednesday & Thursday, at the Museum of the American West (MAW), 1445 Main St. in Lander. Registration costs \$30 to reserve your slot. All curriculum materials, drinks, snacks, and lunches will be provided. Choose between PTSB credit or graduate credit through the University of Wyoming. You can earn one credit hour (PTSB or graduate) for the entire 2-day workshop. Workshop facilitators will make arrangements for accreditation. PTSB credit is free. If you want graduate credit, bring a check for \$50 made payable to the University of WY on the day of the workshop. Cost of the workshop is \$30. Please contact Dave Morneau, PACD, at 307-332-3114 to register.

June 16 - Federal Grazing Permittee Monitoring Meeting at 7:00 pm at the MCD office in Meeteetse. The MCD, Shoshone NF, and the Cody and Worland BLM will host a meeting for federal grazing permittees to discuss permittee rangeland monitoring, cooperative monitoring, and Wyoming's Rangeland Health Assessment Program, which can be used to provide funding for range monitoring on federal lands.

June 23 - Deadline for "It's a Weed Not a Wildflower!" Poster Contest sponsored by PCWP for kids through age 10. Entries receive a prize and one lucky kiddo will get a new bike! Check out www.parkcountyweeds.org for rules and info.

June 30 - Deadline for submitting comments on the Draft Meeteetse Conservation District Land Use Management and Resource Conservation Plan (LUMRCP), 2011. The Draft MCD LUMRCP, 2011 was released for public comment May 13, 2011. The Draft Plan is posted on the MCD website <http://www.meeteetsecd-wy.gov/> and paper copies are available at the MCD office, 2103 State Street, Meeteetse, WY 82433. Contact MCD (307) 868-2484 or mcd@tctwest.net for more info.

90% Cost Share on Fuels Reduction for Park County Private Landowners: The Bureau of Land Management has provided funds through an Assistance Agreement so that Park County Fire Districts can assist private landowners with reducing fuels (trees and brush) to protect rural structures and lessen the risk of catastrophic wildland fire. Park County Fire Warden, Russell Wenke, is administering these funds. If you have a residence and associated structures that could be threatened by an approaching wildland fire, **90% of the costs associated with removing and/or thinning trees and brush on your property can be reimbursed.** Guidelines have been established in order to assist in determining how much can be reimbursed.

If you choose to participate, the Park County Fire Warden will visit the site with our local State Forester who will develop a land stewardship plan. The plan will outline the project and will provide you with an analysis of the amount that can be reimbursed. Payments made to a contractor or for your own labor and equipment can be reimbursed. If you have questions about the program or any other fire safety questions please contact Park County Fire Warden, Russell Wenke at (307) 527-8551.

Park County Weed and Pest Control District Herbicides and Equipment Available in Meeteetse. Park County Weed and Pest Control District (PCWP), in cooperation with the MCD is open for business, and has herbicides, plus some application equipment available for local landowners and taxpayers at its facility in Meeteetse (formerly the Park County Sheriff's Office). Anyone interested in purchasing chemical or using application equipment can contact PCWP at (307) 754-4521 to make arrangements or drop by the MCD. Equipment available for lease at Powell includes a rangeland seeder, 2 slide-in spray units for trucks, a waterjet stinger, and backpack sprayers. Contact PCWP in Powell for prices and availability at (307) 754-8884. Visit pcwp@wir.net

THE NEXT MCD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING will be 7:00 P.M., Wednesday, June 8, 2011, at the MCD office, 910 Park Avenue, Meeteetse.

Through its *Trail News* and through the *Meeteetse Community Bulletin*, the MCD hopes to keep the community informed, and all of us here, as your local government, encourage you to give us feedback, fresh ideas and comments so that the District can represent the Meeteetse community in the best way possible. For a copy of the *Trail News* by email, please call us or send an email request.

Happy Trails to You! *Emily, Steve, and Wendy*