

In 2002, water quality monitoring confirmed that a segment of the Middle Fork of the Popo Agie River “an undetermined distance upstream and downstream from Main Street Bridge” did not meet acceptable standards for surface water quality for fecal coliform levels. Consequently the river was listed as impaired by the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality.

Septic Rehabilitation - We May Be Able To Help

The Popo Agie Conservation District continues to monitor water quality and has implemented numerous best management practices to address the impairment. One opportunity for landowners is a 50% cost-share program to design and install a new septic system or rehabilitate an inadequate or failing system. The grant funding is provided through the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality for projects that constitute a real potential to reduce fecal coliform, *E. coli* bacteria, or nutrient loading to the focus water.

The focus water is described as the listed water (Middle Fork of the Popo Agie), a perennial tributary to the listed water, or a canal/ditch that directly contributes flow to the listed water during the primary contact recreation season (May 1 through September 30). Hornecker, Squaw, and Baldwin Creeks are considered focus waters because they are tributaries to a listed water, but the potential to contribute fecal coliform, *E. coli*, or nutrients to the Middle Fork Popo Agie River mainly exists within the lower portions of the watershed. Therefore, cost share projects on these tributaries will be considered on a case-by-case basis.



- To be eligible for funding the existing system must have been installed prior to July 1, 1973, and must support a single family dwelling.
- If the septic system has failed and effluent has expressed itself at the surface the effluent must be within 500 linear feet from the focus water.
- If groundwater seepage is believed to contribute to the listed water either the septic tank or the leach field must be within 50 linear feet of the focus water.

PACD will administer the grant with technical assistance from the City of Lander and the Fremont County planning staff. In addition to the cost-share incentive, Fremont County is waiving the \$125 application fee for a septic permit.

To determine what level of risk your septic system poses a Homeowner Self Assessment Form has been developed. If homeowners would like more information please feel free to visit us at 221 South 2nd Street, or by calling 332-3114. Be advised that any inquiry or application will be handled with the utmost respect and discretion.

You are invited to attend

This year our tour will focus on areas in Lander where Russian Olive has invaded public and private land that warrants large scale control. There will be a demonstration of equipment used for its removal and control. Rory Karhu, with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Powell, WY will be our main speaker and tour guide. He will share his valuable experience with large scale, multiple approach Russian Olive control in the Big Horn Basin. Participants will be treated to a Dutch oven lunch after the tour.

- When: August 26th, 2010
- Where: Begin and end at the Museum of the American West Parking Lot (1445 Main Street, Lander next to the Lander BLM Office).
Participants will carpool to the demonstration site.
- Time: 9 am to 1:00 pm

Please RSVP Fremont County Weed & Pest (332-1052) or PACD (332-3114) if you are planning to attend in order to plan for lunch. The workshop and lunch is free.

Remember: You can check the snow water equivalent, temperature and precipitation in our local mountains at the Snotel site. <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/snotel/Wyoming/wyoming.html>

5th Annual PAWMA (Popo Agie Weed Management Area) Weed Tour



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www.popoagie.org

SUMMER 2010

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CALENDAR

JUNE

- 11 Deadline to sign up for NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- 12 B&B Workshop: Pine Bark Beetles

JULY

- 1 Deadline to sign up for the Irrigation Water Management (IWM) program.

AUGUST

- 26 PAWMA Weed Tour

Popo Agie Conservation District Board of Supervisors
Steve Dutcher – Chairman
Jack Corbett – Vice-Chairman
Bryan Hamilton – Secretary/Treasurer
Tim Wilson – Member
Gerald Caskey – Member

District Staff
Jeri Trebelcock – Executive Director
Dave Morneau – District Technician
Diana Olson – Program Assistant
USDA NRCS Staff
Kevin Edinger – District Conservationist

Past newsletters are available on our website. You can receive our newsletter via email or regular mail by contacting our office.

Community Project ~ Community Message



South Elementary 5th Grade (Mrs. Sebade and Mrs. Bush) students partnered with Popo Agie Conservation District (PACD) to send a strong message to the Lander community about non-point source pollution.



Thirty-nine students joined forces with staff from PACD and Lander Parks and Recreation to adhere markers on the storm drains, Greenway, and City Park to encourage pet owners to pick up pet waste and be mindful that anything thrown on the street has the potential to end up in the Middle Fork of the Popo Agie. Not everyone realizes that our storm drain system leads right to the river. Steve Dutcher, Popo Agie Conservation District

Chairman, stated that, “It’s very rewarding when students become the teachers to help remind all of us that clean water is everyone’s responsibility”.



You may have noticed a flurry of Farm Bill Program sign-ups this year in our local newspapers and on radio ads. During 2010, NRCS has rolled out a number of new programs and has opted to utilize separate sign-ups for each of them. In the past, we've tried to utilize one sign-up in the late fall for all programs, so I think it may be useful to recap some of our new programs that producers may be interested in for the 2011 sign-up.

A totally new program in 2010 is the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). This program rewards producers for existing conservation efforts provided they are willing to implement additional conservation enhancements on their privately owned or leased lands. These contracts are limited to \$40K/yr for a five year contract. This is the final sign-up for 2010 and the deadline for this program is June 11. NRCS also has several new EQIP initiatives. The EQIP Sage Grouse Initiative includes several incentives for changing planned grazing rotations and for installing or modifying practices aimed at addressing sage grouse issues. Another EQIP program provides cost share for installing "Hoop Houses" for extending growing seasons for small vegetable producers. Finally, an "organic" initiative provides additional cost share practices for producers who are working towards or have organic certification. The Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) has always been available for those interested in enhancing or restoring wetlands. WRP funds are not limited to agricultural produces. This year these funds can be used for removing Russian Olive and Salt Cedar from riparian areas. This program has a great deal of potential in the Fremont County Area.

Please feel free to drop by or call Kevin Edinger at the Conservation District Office (332-3114) with any questions or if you're interested in one our programs.

Trees improve water quality by slowing and filtering rain water as well as protecting aquifers and watershed.

Trees are the longest living organisms on earth

Tree roots stabilize soil and prevent erosion.

One of the tallest soft wood trees is the General Sherman, a giant redwood sequoia of California. General Sherman is about 275 ft with a girth of 25 ft.

Dendrochronology is the science of calculating a tree's age by its rings. Tree rings provide precise information about environmental events, including volcanic eruptions.

BARNYARDS & BACKYARD WORKSHOP

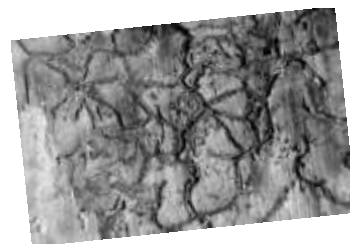
Bark Beetles



This is the last B&B workshop for this summer. It will be different than most of our workshops in the past—you'll need your hiking boots! Don't worry, it won't be anything too rigorous. This should be a really fun and educational event that will talk about the history of the Sinks Canyon State Park, our watershed and overview of the tree damage looking up and

down the canyon. Darrell Trembly, who has been with the park for almost 20 years will discuss the changes he has seen in the trees and how the bark beetles are affecting our local trees. We will walk through the trees and identify tree species and beetle damage.

You will be armed with knowledge on how to protect our backyard trees and our neighbor's trees. There are things to know when gathering firewood and precautions to take to try and stop the spread of pine bark beetles in town. We want to educate folks on safety issues when handling a chainsaw. Two of our local forestry women will give a demonstration and a couple of gals that "have never handled a chain saw in my life" will give it a go. Anyone who would like to try handling a chainsaw and get some help and instruction will have the opportunity to try also. If you've ever wanted to try, this would be a great opportunity.



All those attending this workshop will have their name put in a drawing for a free Dolmar PS-45 chainsaw. We are planning a spectacular finish as presenters will cut down a large hazard tree. You won't want to miss this one!

June 12th

8:00 am to 12:00 noon

Sinks Canyon State Park, Popo Agie Camp Ground (Swinging Bridge) 1 mile past the visitor's center



RURAL WELL WATER TESTING RESULTS



In May, fifty-nine landowners participated in a free well water testing event sponsored by the District. Landowners collected their well water sample in the morning and brought them to the district to be transported to Precision Labs in Riverton for analysis. Of the 59 samples analyzed 17 samples had Total Coliform present and 1 was positive for *E-Coli*. The lab results were sent directly to the landowner with a fact sheet outlining steps to take depending on the severity of the results.

Total Coliform is a group of bacteria which are present all around us and not thought to be directly dangerous to human health. However, these bacteria are not naturally present in groundwater and are an indication that more harmful organisms might be present. **The lab immediately contacted the landowner who's drinking water well was present for *E-coli*, which indicates that the water has been exposed to feces and an immediate risk to human health exists.**

Irrigation Water Management Assistance

Applications are currently being accepted for cost-share assistance through Popo Agie Conservation District's Irrigation Water Management (IWM) Program. "This conservation program is designed to provide cost-share assistance to ditch companies or groups as an incentive to improve irrigation water delivery systems," Jeri Trebelcock, the Executive Director says. "Since irrigation practices dominate water usage in this area, the District Board recognizes how valuable improvements to existing irrigation systems are in conserving our water resources". In addition to water conservation, the program objectives include reducing soil erosion, improving water quality, and increasing production.

The deadline for applications is July 1. The PACD Board will review and consider the applications for funding assistance during their August Board meeting. Applications are available from the Popo Agie Conservation District Office at 221 S. 2nd Street in Lander, or by calling 332-3114.



YOUTH EDUCATION NEWS

For many years, PACD has sponsored a local poster contest based on the National Association of Conservation District's annual theme in celebration of Soil and Water Stewardship Week. This year's theme was, "Conservation Habits = Healthy Habitats". The contest was offered to two age groups: 5th graders and High School students. This year's winners for the fifth grade age group were Adrienne Matthews (2nd place) and Johanna Nielsen (1st place) both from South Elementary. The High School winners were Chris Norman (2nd place) and Camille del Duca (1st place) both from Lander Valley High School. The second place winners received \$25 and the first place winners received \$50 and a chance to compete at the state level. Thanks to all the students who participated!



2010 PACD Poster Contest winners (l-r) Adrienne Matthews, Johanna Nielsen, Camille del Duca, and Chris Norman with PACD Chairman Steve Dutcher.

This Spring, PACD has been traveling throughout the district presenting lessons on water and trees. The water cycle is a school district benchmark for third graders. An interactive water cycle, a couple of songs, and some role-playing all help the students understand that water is everywhere and it is constantly on the move.

Our adopt-a-tree program is offered to fourth grade students. About 120 Colorado Blue Spruce trees were "adopted" out this year.