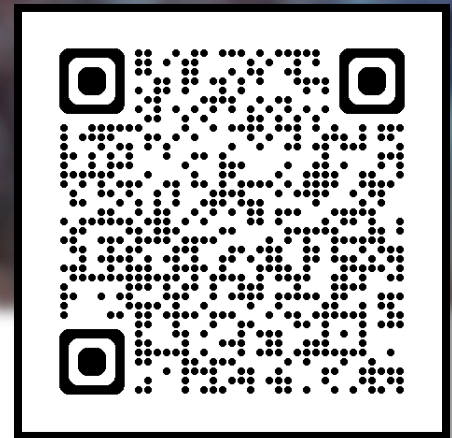
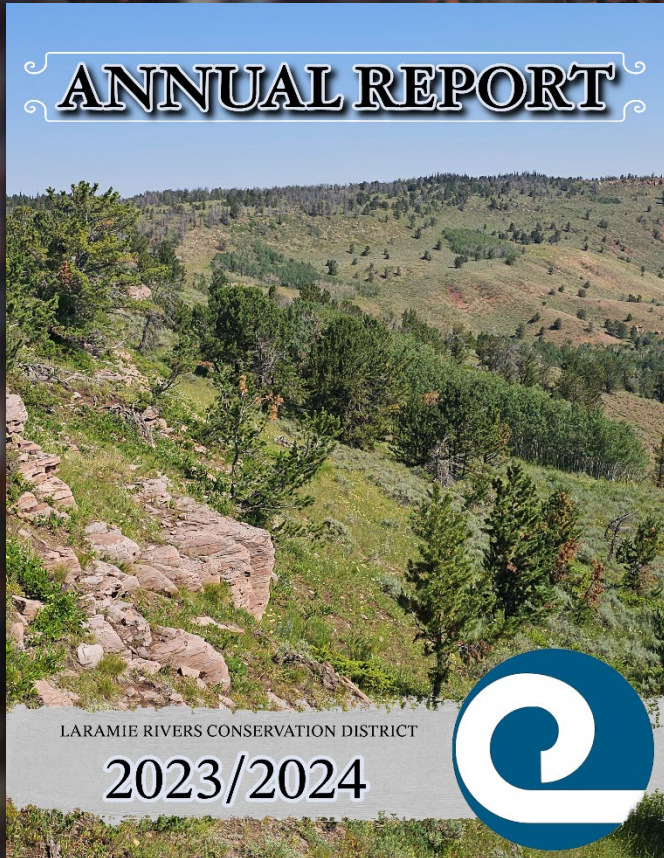


# HIGH COUNTRY CONSERVATION



*Check out our annual report online today!*

<https://www.lrcd.net/annual-reports>



# ANNUAL SUMMARY

July 2023 - June 2024

## DISTRICT OPERATIONS



Hosted state required Special District audit training for county-wide special districts in conjunction with the Area II Meeting of Districts.

Provided \$10,000 in local funding for the Pilot Hill WHMA lease.

Sold 3,889 trees and shrubs to 72 local landowners at the District's Annual Tree Sale.

Contributed \$3,378 to county-wide clean-up efforts through the Tire & Refrigerator Voucher Program.

Sponsored the Bow Fiddle Stream Restoration and the Salamander Well Projects through the Wyoming Small Waters Program.

## PROGRAMS & RESOURCES



Allocated \$82,500 in cost share programs, funding a total of 13 natural resource projects, benefiting a total of 16,842 acres in Albany County.

Converted 5.2 miles of fence to wildlife-friendly standards.

Restored 1.2 miles of streambank.

Farmed and installed 8 Living Snow Fences (LSFs), totaling 875 trees and shrubs planted in Albany County.

Maintained and managed the Labonte Community Garden and the Labonte Bee Hive.

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



Provided 30 custom seed mix recommendations for county landowners.

Reviewed and commented on 15 county notices.

Conducted weekly rural site visits for potential resource concerns and future projects within Albany County.

Monitored rangeland conditions at 15 sites on 6 different ranches.

Provided 2 custom grazing plans for Albany County producers.

## OUTREACH & EDUCATION



Hosted the bi-annual Albany County Conservation Expo consisting of 38 educational booths and over 325 attendees.

Presented Stream Trailer demonstrations to 375 Albany County elementary students at the annual Ag Expo.

Hosted 3 public Water Quality Workshops.

Partnered with the City of Laramie and other local agencies to host a Tree Pruning Workshop with 24 participants.

Conducted 2 educational Plant Walks with 44 participants.

This spring, the District hired a seasonal employee to help maintain our community garden space located at LaBonté Park. **Meet Arley!!**

Arley's main roles include much of the overall maintenance and upkeep of the public garden spaces. Mulching, weeding and watering are important daily needs of the garden, but Arley provides so much more than just that! He is a knowledgeable and friendly face for our public patrons visiting the garden. If you see Arley around, be sure to thank him for all of his hard work this season!



# ARLEY

ANDERSON

Arley grew up in Laramie, spending summers in Pinedale on his family's ranch. He graduated from the University Of Wyoming in 2008 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Rangeland Ecology and Watershed Management with a minor in Reclamation of Drastically Disturbed Lands. Since then he has worked for both the Laramie Rivers Conservation District and the Sublette County Conservation District as well as his family's ranch. In his free time he enjoys fishing, snowboarding, and spending time with his daughter.



## Did you know LRCD offers cost sharing on various analysis testing for rural well water, forage, and soil sampling?

The District wants to encourage landowners to better understand the quality of their natural resources through lab analyses. One way the District encourages landowners towards being more informed is by reimbursing 50% of the lab testing costs, up to \$250. Our natural resources often change over time, and it's always smart to know exactly what nutrients or contaminants you might have in your water, soil, or forage whether it's for our own gardens, stock water, or hay for your livestock.

Since it's hay season and many of us are either busy finishing up baling or stocking up for the upcoming winter, I thought I'd briefly outline some key items from a hay sample analysis we should keep in mind. Check out the next page for my breakdown!

Contact LRCD's Rangeland & Watershed Resource Specialist for more information!

### Holly Dyer

Email: [holly.dyer@lrzd.net](mailto:holly.dyer@lrzd.net)

Direct: 307-223-3270



## MOISTURE CONTENT

IDEAL TO HAVE BALE MOISTURE  
CONTENT BELOW 15%

HAY THAT IS BALED ABOVE 20% MOISTURE CONTENT CAN CAUSE MOLD, WHILE HAY BALED TOO DRY CAN RESULT IN DECREASED FEED QUALITY DUE TO INTRODUCING DUST AND LOSING LEAVES

## DRY MATTER

THIS IS THE AMOUNT OF  
FEED THAT IS NOT WATER.

DRY MATTER IS IMPORTANT IN THE TESTING PROCESS TO STANDARDIZE NUTRIENT VALUE ACROSS FEED TYPES.

## ASH CONTENT

TYPICALLY THE ASH CONTENT  
SHOULD BE BETWEEN 6-8.

RESULTS THAT ARE HIGHER, MAY BE FROM SAMPLES THAT HAD EXCESS DIRT/DUST KICKED UP INTO THE FORAGE DURING THE BALING PROCESS.

## CRUDE PROTEIN

FOR GRASS HAYS, CP IS OFTEN BETWEEN 8-14%  
LEGUME-GRASS MIXED HAYS RANGE BETWEEN 14-17%  
LEGUME-ONLY HAYS CAN RANGE BETWEEN 18-21%  
MAYBE EVEN HIGHER!

INDICATOR OF THE NUMBER OF AMINO ACIDS IN HAY. PROTEIN REQUIREMENTS IN AN ANIMAL VARY BY THE ANIMAL TYPE, AGE, AND REPRODUCTIVE STAGE. FOR EXAMPLE, A COW WHO IS IN PEAK LACTATION WILL NEED A FEED TYPE THAT IS HIGHER IN PROTEIN THAN A YEARLING.

## RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY (RFQ)

THE TABLE HERE SHOWS RFQ INDICES  
SUGGESTED FOR DIFFERENT CATTLE TYPES

INDICATOR USED TO COMMUNICATE THE OVERALL HAY QUALITY FOR BOTH LEGUME HAY AND GRASS HAY.

Relative Forage Quality	Cattle Type
100 – 200	Heifer (18 – 24 mo.) Dry Cow
140 – 160	Dair Cow (1-3 mo. Of lactation). Dairy Calf
125 – 150	Dairy Cow (last 200 days lactation). Heifer (3-12 mo.) Stocker Cattle
115 - 130	Heifer (12-18 mo.). Beef Cow/Calf Pairs

(Adapted from: Undersander, 2003)

## LINGIN

NORMAL RANGE: 6.5-8%

A COMPOUND THAT REPRESENTS THE INDIGESTIBLE PORTION OF THE FEED. IF THIS NUMBER IS HIGH IN A FEED, IT GENERALLY INDICATES LOW FEED DIGESTIBILITY AND ADDITIONAL SUPPLEMENTS WILL BE NEEDED. LINGIN LEVELS INCREASE AS THE PLANT MATURES.



# ***Dowlin Diversion Rehabilitation Project***

Laramie Rivers is excited to partner with the City of Laramie to address the needed repairs to the Dowlin Ditch diversion. In the early 1900's, the construction of the Dowlin Ditch diversion was to serve approximately 2,500 acres of flood irrigated pastureland with territorial water rights from the Big Laramie River. The City of Laramie purchased the Monolith Ranch in 1981 with the intent to transfer these water rights for Agriculture Use to Municipal Use in the future as needed. Even in the late 1970's the City of Laramie understood how critical access to water was within the Laramie basin. Last fall the City of Laramie was able to purchase the neighboring property that also had early water rights from the Big Laramie River that was access via the Dowlin Ditch diversion. This purchase made the City of Laramie the majority user of the Dowlin Ditch diversion. Over the years minor repairs have occurred on this full stream diversion, does not allow fish passage. As part of the rehabilitation items to address are making diversion fish friendly, easier, and safer maintenance and operation and address any streambank erosion.

The current diversion is a complete fish barrier all year round. This does not allow for fish and other aquatic species to migrate up or down stream. The inability to move aquatic species throughout the riverine system can influence the genetic diversity and habitat connectivity within the river. The new structure on the river, to divert the water into the Dowlin Ditch, will include a fish ladder to aid in the year-round fish movement around the diversion.

The new diversion will be constructed, to improve safety and operation ease, to include an Obermeyer Gate that is pneumatically operated. During operation, air bladders that operate and support the Obermeyer Gates are inflated to raise the gates into place. The operation of these air bladders will occur from the safety of the riverbank. In the past, the operation of the diversion involved a bridge over the river that was accessed to manually operate a slide gate to divert the water into the ditch, during high flows this was a very unsafe task staff managing the water. When not in use these gates will lay flat in the river allowing for large debris to flow downstream.

At this time, I would also like to mention the other partners on this project include the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Wyoming Game and Fish, Ducks Unlimited, Wyoming Water Development Commission and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. These large diversions rehabilitations would not be possible without a wonderful team of partners to assist with fundraising and sponsorship.

**Courtesy of Martin Curry**  
**LRC District Manager**





# ALBANY COUNTY OUTDOOR LIGHTING

## Purpose of Lighting Regulations?

The purpose of the Albany County Outdoor Lighting Regulations is to reduce light trespass, glare, and light pollution, to reduce energy costs, promote public safety and preserve the county's pristine night sky.

**These Regulations apply to all new development (since September 2nd, 2010) and replacement of light fixtures for existing developments.**

The primary method for compliance with these regulations is shielding outdoor lights so that the direct light from the fixture is directed downward and does not cross property lines.

## Outdoor Light Sources

Light sources should be concealed or shielded to minimize glare, light pollution, and light trespass to surrounding properties. All lights should be shielded to direct down.

Light levels measured 20 feet from property lines of the parcel where the light fixture is located should not exceed one-tenth foot-candle as a direct result of the adjacent property's lighting.

## University Observatory Areas

Within three miles radiuses of the University of Wyoming Observatories (Red Buttes and Jelm Mountain), outdoor lighting shall utilize low pressure sodium lights.

Albany County Planning  
1002 S 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Laramie, WY 82070  
307-721-2568  
planning@co.albany.wy.us

**Please visit the County Website for complete Lighting Regulations:** [albanycountywy.gov/263/Regulations-Zoning-Map](http://albanycountywy.gov/263/Regulations-Zoning-Map)

The regulations can be found in the Albany County Zoning Resolution: Chapter 6. Development Standards, Section 2. Lighting Regulations (Page 6-3)



COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT  
**GRANT APPLICATIONS**

**DUE BY: MARCH 14<sup>th</sup> 2025**



[WWW.LRCD.NET](http://WWW.LRCD.NET)




**LARAMIE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE**

The LBC currently has grant funding available for projects that work to enhance the visual aesthetics of Laramie. Community members, both public and private, are encouraged to apply!

All questions and inquiries should be submitted to:

**[beautifylaramie@gmail.com](mailto:beautifylaramie@gmail.com)**

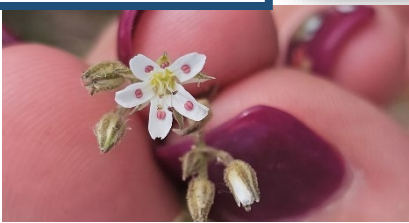
Please join Albany County Extension for...

## NATURE JOURNALING WORKSHOPS!

No artistic talent or previous journal experience required! We are excited to share different ways to journal and tips that can help you capture your observations while out and about in Wyoming or in your own backyard.

- **8/17**.....\$30  
Snowy Range  
**RSVP AND FEE DUE 8/13**
- **9/7**.....\$30  
Vedauwoo  
**RSVP AND FEE DUE 9/3**
- **10/5**.....\$30  
Optimist Park  
**RSVP AND FEE DUE 10/1**

To participate in one or more of these workshops, **RSVP** at [blitynsk@uwo.edu](mailto:blitynsk@uwo.edu) OR (307)-721-2571



Fees must be paid on or before the **RSVP** deadline or you will not be registered for the workshop(s)! Cash or check will be accepted at the Albany County Extension Office.

3520 S. 3rd Street, Suite A, Laramie, Wyoming 82070

With an **RSVP** AND a paid fee, you will receive a supply kit during the workshop that includes the following:

- COLORED PENCILS
- SHARPENER
- GRAPHITE PENCILS
- DRAWING JOURNAL

Final location and directions will be emailed to attendees after the **RSVP** deadline. Location will likely require driving a short distance on dirt roads. We recommend cars with at least average clearance. Carpooling encouraged.



## ~ Upcoming & Local ~



Check out our Facebook page for the latest district information and updates!

**PREFER AN ELECTRONIC VERSION?**  
EMAIL [INFO@LRCD.NET](mailto:INFO@LRCD.NET)  
TO BE ADDED TO OUR EMAIL DISTRIBUTION LIST!

- ❖ **Sept. 2** Labor Day Holiday – Office Closed
- ❖ **Sept. 6** Area II Annual Meeting | Lusk, WY
- ❖ **Sept. 25** LRCD Monthly Meeting
- ❖ **Oct. 23** LRCD Monthly Meeting
- ❖ **Nov. 7** Albany County Stockgrowers Annual Mtg
- ❖ **Nov. 13** LRCD Monthly Meeting
- ❖ **Nov 19-22** Annual Convention | Jackson Hole, WY
- ❖ **Nov. 28 & 29** Thanksgiving Holiday – Office Closed

*High Country Conservation*

*September 2024*

*LRCD's Mission: To provide leadership for the conservation of Albany County's soil and water and to promote the sustained use of Wyoming's water and all other natural resources. To preserve and enhance wildlife habitat, protect the tax base and to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of Albany County through a responsible conservation ethic.*

***LRCD Board of Supervisors***  
Mandy Marney, Board Chair  
Ruth Shepherd, Vice-Chair  
Carol Price, Secretary/Treasurer  
Larry Munn, Supervisor  
Zach Iddings, Supervisor

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**Laramie Rivers Conservation District**  
5015 Stone Road, Laramie, WY 82070  
(307) 721-0072 | [info@lrcd.net](mailto:info@lrcd.net)  
[www.lrcd.net](http://www.lrcd.net)

