

High Country Conservation



GETTING TO KNOW YOUR WATER

In Wyoming, there are no state requirements for rural landowners to test their water supplies nor are there state or federal agencies that regulate the quality of private water supplies. This means that rural homeowners need to test and monitor their own domestic and livestock water supplies. In Albany County, some of the things that affect the quality of well water are calcium and sulfate because there is so much gypsum in the sediment in the valley and E.coli bacteria from septic systems. The WDEQ suggests that all domestic water wells be tested for Tier 1 and Tier 2 constituents every 3-5 years. Since the costs of test can run a few hundred dollars, LRCD offers a cost share program that will reimburse up 50% of the cost of the testing. Interested residents can go to the cost share program page on our website (www.LRCD.net) and download the Soil, Water, and Plant Analysis Cost Share application. It can be filled out and emailed, regular mailed, or dropped off at our offices at 5015 Stone Rd. The two local testing labs are Wyoming Analytical Labs and Wyoming Dept. of Ag Analytical Lab. Applicants should contact them directly to obtain pricing information and the test bottles. Labs can also help determine what tests best suit the location of the property. For help understanding test results LRCD Director, Tony Hoch, is available to review results and answer questions. WYDEQ recommends testing for the following:

ANNUALLY

- Nitrates
- E.coli Bacteria

INITIALLY & EVERY 5 YEARS

Tier 1 Sampling

- Turbidity
- Total Dissolved Solida
- Antimony
- Arsenic
- Barium
- Beryllium
- Cadmium
- Total Chromium

- Copper
- Free Cyanide
- Fluoride
- Lead
- Mercury
- Selenium
- Thallium

- EPA Safe Drinking Water Act
- Organics
- Radionuclides

INITIALLY & EVERY 3-5 YEARS

Tier 2 Sampling

- pH
- Specific Conductivity

- Total Dissolved Solids
- Alkalinity
- Barium
- Calcium
- Iron
- Magnesium
- Sodium
- Chloride
- Sulfate
- Fluoride
- Lead
- Arsenic
- Total Organic Carbon

LRCD Soil, Water, and Plant Analysis
Cost Share Program

Potable Water * Trace Minerals in water
Irrigation and Livestock water * Forage testing for nutritional value
Soil testing for gardens for crops

The SW&P Analysis Cost Share is a matching program in which up to 50% of project costs may be reimbursed by the District up to \$500 total. Our knowledgeable staff can assist with understanding the different tests that are available, where testing labs are located, and how to read results.



TAKING A LOOK AT MULE DEER POPULATIONS

Mule deer and elk are iconic species in Wyoming but mule deer have recently seen a dramatic population decline. Decline has been attributed to disease, predators, increase in oil and gas leases on traditional grazing lands, loss of land to suburbanization, and disruption of migration corridors. The decline and reduced habitation area has, in turn, opened up more range for elk resulting in a large increase in their populations. An increase in elk may sound like a good thing but it increases pressure on the shared ecological niches could be affecting the recovery of mule deer populations, so finding balance in the system is a necessity. A recent effort to understand and address



the underlying reasons for population decline in the west is the Deer-Elk Ecology Research Project (D.E.E.R Project). This project is a collaboration of the Muley Fanatic Foundation, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, and the Haub School of Environment & Natural Resources. The goal of the project is to identify the factors affecting mule deer growth as well as developing a better understanding of the ecology of elk and their interactions with mule deer. To find out more about this important research go to www.deerproject.org to read the current updates in findings. People can also provide support for the project by “adopting” a deer. As part of our mission to protect natural resources, Laramie Rivers Conservation District participates in the local mule deer discussions and contributes resources toward wildlife issues in our region. Martin Curry is involved in the Sheep Mountain Mule Deer Working Group that has developed a management plan that can be found on the Wyoming G&F website (wgfd.wyo.gov/Habitat/Statewide-Mule-Deer-Initiatives/Mule-Deer-Public-Working-Groups/Sheep-Mountain) LRCD recognizes the efforts of the many groups, agencies, and organizations, like the D.E.E.R Project, that are looking for answers to this complex problem. Other places for information on Wyoming’s Mule Deer populations are:

- Wyoming Mule Deer Foundation (muledeer.org/state/Wyoming)
- Wyoming Migration Initiative (migrationinitiative.org)
- Muley Fanatic Foundation (muleyfanatic.org)
- Wyoming Game & Fish—Mule Deer Initiative (wgfd.wyo.gov/Habitat/Statewide-Mule-Deer-Initiatives)



Its never too early to start thinking about your next summer's projects. If you have a project in mind like a living snow fence, a low-water landscape, a pollinator garden, or other natural resource conservation project LRCD may be able to help fund up to 50% of it. Give us a call and we can help you get started!

Regular Cost Share Program

Application can be found at www.lrcd.net
50% or up to \$1000 contributed to
your qualifying project!

Living Snow Fences/Shelterbelts
Raised bed vegetable gardens
Education Efforts
Renewable Energy
Drip irrigation

USDA Website Puts Soils Information, Tools at Your Fingertips

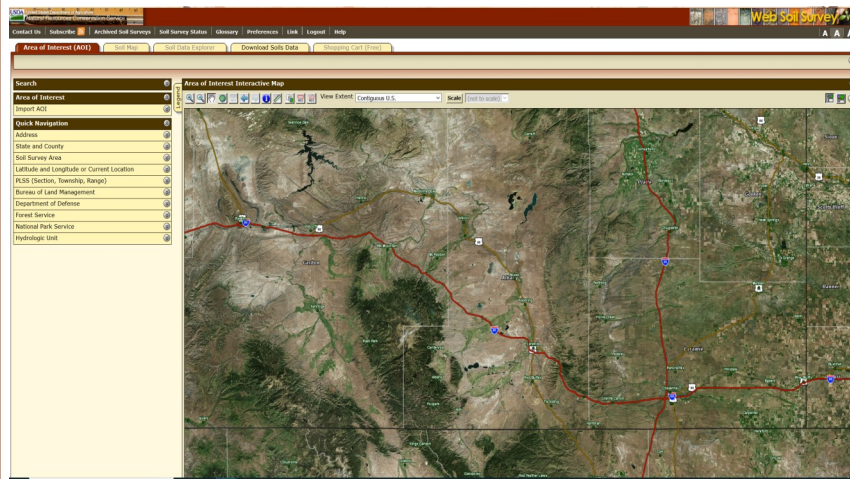
WASHINGTON, Oct. 5, 2018 – USDA has re-designed its Soil Tools web page, to now serve as a one-stop source for new, leading-edge tools and technologies to help farmers, ranchers, and other land users understand, evaluate and conserve soils.

Managed by USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the web page offers single-site access to soil data and maps, soil databases, digital soil applications, climate data, descriptions of soils, ecological sites, statistical packages and soil-property calculators. The USDA maps and information are free with no user ID or password required.

“Along with air, sunlight and water, soil is one of the four building blocks of life on earth,” said Dave Hoover, Director of the National Soil Survey Center. “Soil is tied, in some way, to everything we use as a society. This new web portal makes it easy to find and use soils data, and provides unique, interactive tools for all customers of soils information.”

Highlights include:

- Access to download up-to-date soil data and maps used for comparing soils over broad areas, make conservation planning and soil evaluation easier.
- Access to Web Soil Survey and other tools that provide the ability to search for soils maps and data by location.
- Access to soil apps that display and allow users to access data and view interactive maps.
- Access to calculators for soil texture and water budgeting.



The new resources are made available thanks to the joint effort of the National Cooperative Soil Survey partnership, which includes Federal and State agencies, universities, and professional societies, and exists to cooperatively investigate, inventory, document, classify, interpret, disseminate, and publish information about soils.

To use the Soil Survey tools and technology go to: <https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm>

National Weather Service Monthly Precip (inches)

Laramie Regional Airport - Preliminary Data

Source: <http://www.weather.gov/climate/index.php?wfo=cys>

Month	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
January	0.06	0.04	0.13	0.30	0.03	0.13	0.05	0.31	0.14	0.38	0.16	0.15	0.68	0.12	0.31	1.09	0.15
February	0.07	0.25	0.10	0.20	0.05	0.09	0.16	0.04	0.30	0.49	0.95	0.42	0.51	0.67	0.12	0.29	0.12
March	0.95	0.95	0.00	0.49	0.21	0.85	0.26	0.06	0.50	0.40	trace	0.34	0.54	0.17	1.94	0.38	0.91
April	0.23	1.28	1.32	0.81	0.58	0.95	0.38	1.30	2.14	1.96	0.54	0.71	0.80	1.73	2.56	1.11	0.30
May	0.82	1.73	0.69	1.06	0.86	1.42	3.59	1.36	1.24	1.21	0.21	0.99	2.55	2.71	2.01	1.47	1.66
June	0.38	0.82	2.86	3.29	0.46	0.33	1.81	2.36	2.29	1.36	0.24	0.44	0.76	0.77	1.68	0.19	1.12
July	0.50	1.11	1.07	0.97	1.57	2.20	0.58	2.30	0.78	1.17	1.48	1.89	3.32	2.39	0.40	1.35	0.89
August	1.47	0.78	1.77	0.70	1.40	1.74	1.56	1.03	1.16	0.65	0.34	2.34	1.63	1.30	1.03	1.51	0.72
Sept.	0.58	0.76	3.03	0.43	1.25	1.51	1.19	0.90	0.06	0.89	0.47	3.05	2.07	0.34	0.77	0.99	0.07
October	0.75	0.46	0.62	1.05	0.61	1.42	0.18	0.96	1.49	1.31	1.01	2.08	0.30	2.05	0.04	0.96	0.54
November	0.06	0.59	0.22	0.71	0.06	0.07	0.24	0.38	1.46	0.41	0.16	0.46	0.54	0.42	0.73	0.77	
December	0.07	0.42	0.04	0.06	0.09	0.35	0.20	0.72	0.76	0.06	0.42	0.1	0.14	0.55	0.21	0.23	
Total:	5.94	9.19	11.9	10.07	7.17	11.06	10.20	11.72	12.32	10.29	5.98	12.97	13.84	13.22	11.80	10.34	6.48

**LARAMIE RIVERS
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**
5015 STONE ROAD
LARAMIE, WY 82070



NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #9
LARAMIE, WY
82070

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The graphic features a central globe with a green swirl logo overlaid on it. The logo is a stylized 'e' shape with the text "LARAMIE RIVERS CONSERVATION DISTRICT" around it. Surrounding the globe are various environmental icons: a house with a green roof, a solar panel, a recycling symbol, a tree, and a bird. The background is a light blue gradient.

SAVE THE DATE
Laramie
Conservation
Expo
April 13
2019