

High Country Conservation

Spring 2023

INTRODUCING

Mandy Marney



Mandy Marney is the newest elected Board Supervisor for LRCD! She currently serves the district in the capacity of Vice-Chair.

Mandy also serves as the Senior Associate Director for University of Wyoming Extension.

She is passionate about empowering landowners to be good stewards of natural resources. LRCD is an excellent resource to make this happen. Mandy believes in the mission of LRCD to provide leadership for the conservation of Albany County's soil and water and all other natural resources, and looks forward to working with her fellow board members.

Establishing BMPs

To wrap up this series on water quality and employing best management practices or BMPs, I will focus on stormwater runoff management in urban areas. Stormwater runoff is water that is directed from surfaces that are impervious (pavement, rooftops and asphalt) to a nearby waterway. This runoff carries pollutants like dirt, chemicals, and pet waste directly into streams and rivers and have adverse effects on water quality overall.

Stormwater that flows off of new construction sites and bare ground carries a large amount of sediment directly to streams and rivers. This increases the turbidity of the river, which also effects water temperatures. The temperature fluctuations could have a detrimental effect on aquatic species and their habitat. One BMP that could be implemented to protect new construction sites is installing silt fencing and reseed the disturbed land as soon as possible after construction.

Overuse of lawn fertilizers/pesticides and improper management of pet waste drastically increase the nutrient loading of streams and rivers. This increase in nutrient loading causes a parallel increase in harmful cyanobacteria and E. Coli. Water bodies that have increased levels of either of these bacteria should be avoided as they can present human and pet health concerns. Properly cleaning up pet waste, bagging it up and disposing of the waste in trash bins is the most effective BMP to mitigate bacteria growth. As for fertilizer and pesticides, please read all warning and product labels and be sure not to over apply these chemicals.

Stewardship is key when implementing best management practices. We can all keep our streams and rivers healthier by evaluating our own habits and behaviors and recognizing the efforts we can take to improve water quality in our community.

- Martin





2023 Legislative Session Recap



— STATE OF WYOMING —
67th LEGISLATURE

Interested in current snow pack data and how it could affect your location Spring?

The Water Resources Data System (WRDS) is a clearinghouse of hydrological and climatological data for the State of Wyoming!

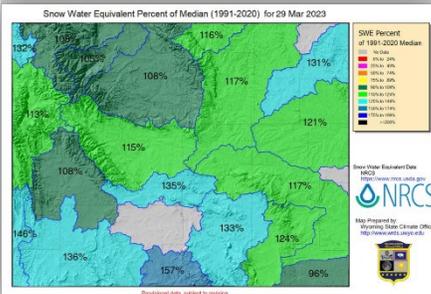


Did you know that LRCD is just 1 of 32 conservation districts in the state? Each conservation district has their own locally elected board of supervisors who then represent their area for the WY Association of Conservation Districts (WACD). Each district and their board members have a legislative voice to lobby for or against various bills being considered during the state legislative session held each year in February.

In this year's session, WACD and their staff kept a close eye on 32 different bills spreading across a wide array of topics. Many bills regarded trespassing on private lands, State Land Leasing procedures, livestock disease control, subdivision requirements, weed and pest mitigation efforts, and bills related to the recreation industry. Some of these bills, WACD provided testimony in support of and some they opposed.

Overall, WACD generally supported bills such as the Water Omnibus bill which appropriates State mineral royalty money into various programs that then fund conservation projects or bills that supported establishing wildlife habitat efforts across the state. WACD generally opposed bills that encouraged a decrease in conservation district's operating budgets. For a full list of bills that were eventually signed into law this session, visit <https://governor.wyo.gov/state-government/bills>.

Additionally, if you're interested in having your voice heard on natural resource conservation issues on the state-level, reach out to your local conservation district and their board members for more information on how they're involved with the next legislative session.



Find current and up-to-date Snow Pack and Water data here:

<http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu/>



2023 LARAMIE COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP DAYS

April 22nd – May 7th

Let's "Team Up to Clean Up!"

Community Cleanup for 2023 will be spread out over a period of 16 days, from April 22nd through May 7th.

Spring Fever?

We're here to help!

With Spring nearly upon us, we're all itchin' to get outside and start working the land – whether its picking up those home improvement projects where we left off last Fall, planting new trees, or getting ready to irrigate those hay meadows.

With the warm weather around the corner, we wanted to highlight some of the services we offer to Albany County residents. Many of you already know about the Living Snow Fence cost share program LRCO offers. But did you know that we have other cost share programs and other services we provide to our community?

Here's a quick rundown of the other services we offer.

Seed Mix Recommendations: LRCO researches what types of native grass seed are best for your specific property given the ecological site and purpose. We'll put together the seed composition along with a list of seed distributors and our recommended seeding rate (how many pounds of live seed per acre is needed to accomplish your goal). This comes in handy especially with reclaiming land after finishing any construction project or if you're simply trying to choke out invasive weeds and bolster the existing native grass community. To request this, shoot our Resource Specialist, Holly Dyer, an email at holly.dyer@lrcd.net. The best time to seed is between Oct 15 and May 15!

Soil or Water Testing: Curious about the quality of your soil and water? LRCO offers up to \$500 of matched funds for anyone pursuing a soil/water test on their property.

Grazing Plans: Want to know if you're grazing below or above your land's carrying capacity? LRCO offers rangeland monitoring free of charge to help landowners understand the best way to maximize grazing and forage production on their lands.

Rural Cost Share Program: If you've got a project on that honey-do list that is related in any way to conservation of natural resources whether its developing a new watering system, re-designing a corral to better manage wind and snow on your property, or installing new wildlife-friendly fence, you're likely eligible to receive up to \$7,500 of funding through LRCO's rural cost share program. Have a project in mind? Give us a call!

Equipment Rental:

Small Seed Dew-Drop Drill and Harrow -- \$30/half-day or \$45/full day. This Dew Drop "drill" and harrow is designed to be pulled behind an ATV or pickup. The rate at which the seed is spread below can be manually adjusted to meet your seeding needs.

Poly Pipe Welder -- \$25/half-day or \$45/full day. These welders (LRCO has 2) come in handy when fixing leaky poly pipe typically used in stock irrigation or other well projects.

Do you know of a young person that would be interested in participating in *Range Camp*?

Contact LRCO today to see how we can help!
info@lrcd.net

WY SRM held the first Range Camp in 1976 at Buffalo, WY. Range camp coined its name, WyRED-Wyoming Youth Resource Education Days, in 1993, and aside from 1995 & 2020, has occurred every year since.

Wyoming Youth Resource Education Days

June 26-29, 2023

Town of Sheridan, WY



SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2023 AT 10 AM - 1 PM

Salamander Saturday

Berry Biodiversity Conservation Center

★ Interested

🔔 Going

...

Your response is visible to the hosts and Only me >

🕒 3 hr

🚩 Event by The Biodiversity Institute

📍 Berry Biodiversity Conservation Center
N. 10th St. & E. Lewis St., Laramie, WY 82071 · 4 mi

ANY
QUESTIONS
?

We want to hear from you!!

Contact LRCD STAFF
Mon-Fri 8am – 4:30pm
307-721-0072

To help LRCD offset their printing costs, would you please consider joining our email distribution list to receive electronic newsletters in the future?

If so, please email
natasha.dangler@lrcd.net

~ Upcoming Events ~

- April 15th Salamander Saturday!
10am-1pm @ The Berry Biodiversity Center
- April 19th LRCD Monthly Board Meeting 12-3pm
- April 22nd – May 7th 2023 Laramie Community Clean-up Days
- April 28th & 29th LRCD Tree & Shrub Pickup
in the Red Barn @ the Albany County Fairgrounds
- April 30th – May 7th NACD's Stewardship Week: *One Water*
- May 3rd LRCD Water Quality Workshop 5-7pm
@ the Albany County Public Library conference room
- May 24th LRCD Monthly Board Meeting 12-3pm
- May 29th Memorial Day - USDA & LRCD offices closed



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Laramie Rivers Conservation District

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www.lrcd.net

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Carol Price, Secretary/Treasurer
Mandy Marney, Vice Chair
Larry Munn, Supervisor
Zach Iddings, Supervisor

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.