



2026 Spring Newsletter

625 E. Madison Avenue Suite #1 • Riverton, WY 82501
(307) 463-0636 • www.lowerwindrivercd.com

Dates To Remember:

March 18, 2026 - Board of Supervisors meeting
12 p.m.

March 24, 2026 - **National Ag Day!**

Click on the link for more info.



April 9, 2026- Board of Supervisors meeting
12 p.m.

April 15, 2026 - Well Water Testing Day 9-12 p.m

April 17, 2026 - Last Day to order trees!

May 1, 2026 - Tree and Shrub Sale Pick up-
LWRCD Office.

**May 1, 2026 - Community and Resource
Enhancement Cost-share applications due!**

May 14, 2026 - Board of Supervisors meeting,
12 p.m.

May 20, 2026 - Well Water Testing Day 9-12 p.m.

*For all current events, find and like
us on Facebook!*



Spring highlight! Information about the NACD-themed “Soil. Where It All Begins” **poster contest** will be distributed to area schools, community groups and homeschool students before the first day of spring. Please check our website and education page for more details. **Please keep us in mind for your Natural Resource education and outreach needs- we’re always happy to help!!**



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Rod Rivers - Chairman
Richard Denke - Vice Chairman
Ron Lucas - Secretary /
Treasurer
Nick Biltoft - At-Large
Supervisor
Scott Pettit - Urban Supervisor

Meetings are held on the 2nd
THURSDAY of every month at
12:00 pm

Meetings are open to the public

OFFICE STAFF

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Bobby Thoman
District Engineer

NRCS STAFF

Acting District
Conservationist
Jake Hogan

Programs Assistant
Molly Koch

The Area NRCS, Farm Service
Agency (FSA) and Rural
Development offices are
located in the
USDA Service Center
508 N. Broadway in
Riverton
307-856-7524

What's been Happening!

The LWRCD has had a busy first few months of 2026, with organizing and attending various meetings and events, and planning spring programs!

- LWRCD attended the Legislative Meet and Greet at the Riverton Branch Library, hosted by the Riverton Chamber of Commerce, January 2nd. The event provided an opportunity to hear from area Senators and Representatives about priorities for the upcoming legislative session and to share updates about the LWRCD.
- LWRCD shared updates on ongoing and upcoming projects at a Riverton Kiwanis meeting and the Fremont County Cattlemen's annual meeting in January, as well as Midvale Irrigation District's annual meeting in February.
- In January, LWRCD partnered with the Fremont County Weed and Pest District to host a Lower Wind River Weed Management Area meeting. The group, which had been active prior to 2010, brought together 24 participants from several agencies to reconnect and begin discussing shared weed management priorities and projects. Participants will meet again this spring to explore opportunities for collaboration on future weed control efforts.
- Cathy attended the Montana Soil Health Symposium in Billings February 2-4, which featured presentations on regenerative agriculture, grazing management, and soil and plant health.
- The LWRCD participated in Farm & Ranch Days in Riverton on February 11-12. The District hosted a booth with our NRCS partners and brought the 6-foot No-Till Drill for display. It was a great opportunity to attend informative sessions hosted by the University of Wyoming Extension and connect with constituents. Thanks for stopping by to visit!
- LWRCD staff attended the Wyoming Conservation District Employees Association Training in Casper in early March. Cathy was on the planning committee for the event, and Rodney presented on our equipment rental programs.



In Like a Lion, out Like a Lamb (or so we hope)?

Spring officially begins on March 20, though this winter has been anything but typical. The past few months have brought above-average temperatures and dry conditions, leaving many across our area watching the weather closely as we head into the growing season. Resources like University of Wyoming Extension's Barnyards & Backyards Magazine, including the latest hard copy available at our office, and updates from University of Wyoming Ag News offer helpful articles and timely

information on how changing weather conditions can impact our trees, soils, and Wyoming landscapes. For these and other weather related resources and upcoming events see below!

What Does a Warm, Dry, Windy Winter Mean for Wyoming Landscape Plants? <https://uwagnews.com/warm-dry-windy-winter-wyoming-plant-effects/>

Hydrologic and Climate data, including snowpack, precip & drought: <https://www.wrds.uwyo.edu/>

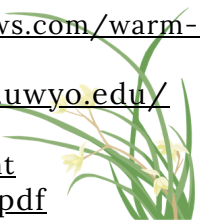
Snowpack and Effects on Drought: National Grazing Lands Coalition webinar March 18, 2026:

<https://www.grazinglands.org/events/graze-on-over-snowpack-effects-on-drought-management>

Crop Bulletin: <https://esmis.nal.usda.gov/sites/default/release-files/795804/wwcb0926.pdf>



Photo courtesy:
University of Wyoming AgNews



Happening this Spring!

The LWRCD has a Great Plains 10-foot drill and a 6-foot drill available for your spring planting needs. From dryland species to cover crops, No-till planting helps maintain soil structure and improve long-term soil health by keeping cover on the ground.

- Rental rates are \$15 per acre within the District, with a \$200 minimum for the 10-foot drill and a \$100 minimum for the 6-foot drill. Outside of District fees and mileage rates apply.
- The District provides delivery and pick-up of the drill, along with comprehensive, hands-on instruction to ensure proper calibration and safe operation.
- A deposit is collected when the drills are delivered, and full payment is due after use.

Reservations are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis, and spring is our busiest time of year. We encourage producers to contact the office early to secure a spot on the planting schedule and avoid delays once field conditions are ready! To reserve a drill or discuss your planting plans, call Rodney at (307) 463-0636.



For more information, check out the No-Till Drill page on our website!

Spring Well Water Testing Events

The LWRCD offers two spring well water testing events
April 15th and May 20th

How it works:

1. Pick up a sampling test kit (options listed below) from our office, preferably by April 13th.
2. Collect your sample the morning of the testing event
3. Return it to our office between 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
4. We transport samples to Energy Laboratories in Casper
5. Results are sent back to us and we send them directly to you.

| Test | Description | Your Cost |
|--|--|-----------|
| Option 1: Total Coliform Bacteria Test | Bacteria - Presence / Absence | FREE |
| Option 3: Family Water Test | Bacteria, Arsenic, Anions by Ion Chromatography, Fluoride, Lead, Nitrogen, Nitrite, pH, Total Dissolved Solids, Hardness, Metals | \$25.00 |
| Option 4: Livestock Suitability Test | Alkalinity, Livestock Suitability; Irrigation Classification, pH, Total Dissolved Solids, Nitrogen, Nitrate + Nitrite | \$25.00 |

The program is available only to residents on rural water well systems within the LWRCD. Well water is only accepted within the testing kits provided by LWRCD. Call 307-463-0636 with questions or to plan a time to pick-up your testing kit.

“With over 53,000 private wells in Wyoming, a significant portion of the state’s population depends on groundwater for their drinking water supply. Since no state or federal agency regulates the water quality of private wells, it’s essential for well owners to regularly inspect, maintain, and sample their wells, while also being aware of nearby threats to groundwater on their property.” WDEQ, www.knowyourwell.org day 3/13/26



Soil Testing is available year round for citizens in our district.



Soil Testing Program

The LWRCD provides Soil Testing to help landowners make informed decisions about nutrient, fertilizer and water management, as well as better understand their soil type(s) for planting.

How To participate:

- 1) LWRCD provides sample bags and instructions.
- 2) Take your sample and return it to us, and we’ll ship it to Stuckenholz Laboratory in Twin Falls, Idaho.
- 3) We’ll share the results when they are complete.



Other Way To Participate:

Participants may use a lab of their choice. Once your samples are complete bring your receipt to our office for a reimbursement.

If you have any questions please use the QR code or contact us at (307)463-0636



www.lowerwindrivercd.com • 625 E. Madison Avenue Suite 1, Riverton WY

Harvest WY Conference

Season Extension & Production Basics wyoextension.org/harvestwyo/

Growing Longer & Better!

APRIL 25, 2026, HOLIDAY INN, CODY,



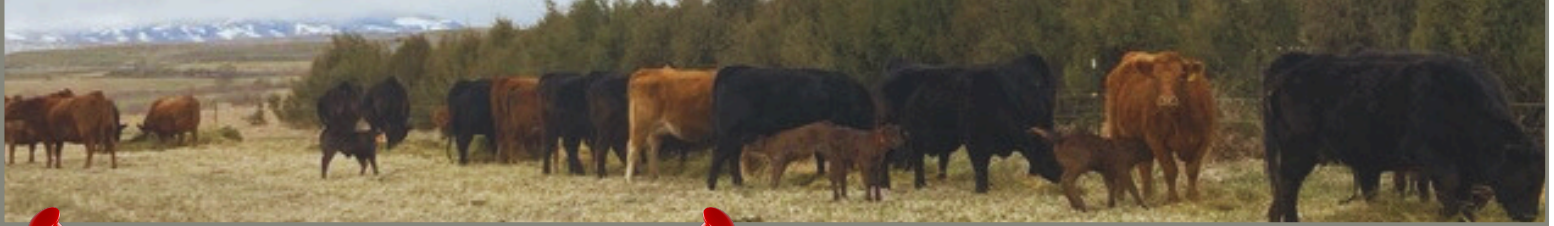
More Happening this Spring!

“The Best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago! The second best time is now!”

The Lower Wind River Conservation District Tree and Shrub Sale is in full swing! The 22 seedling tree and shrub species suited to our area, sold through our program are commonly used for windbreaks, erosion control, wildlife habitat, and other conservation practices.

Orders can be placed through the Tree and Shrub Online Store on our website, at our office, or by printing an order form also from the website. Orders are filled on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last. Weed barrier, tree protectors, staples, and a weed barrier machine are also available. **Tree pickup is scheduled for May 1 at our office!** 🌳

We recently received a great message from constituent Kara Stoll: *“With this incredible wind we’ve been having, we are sure thankful for our windbreaks so we have a nice place to feed. The trees all came from the LWRC D Tree Program!”*



Resource Enhancement and Community Enhancement Cost-Share Applications Due May 1st!

Resource Enhancement project examples include irrigation water management, streambank stabilization, windbreaks, solar stock water wells, spring development, fencing, and habitat improvements. **50% cost-share up to \$10,000 per project.**

Community Enhancement project examples include educational events, rain collection, permeable pavements, demonstration projects for energy or water conservation, soil erosion prevention and xeriscaping. **50% cost-share up to \$5,000 per project.**

Call our office today to discuss your project ideas or visit our website for more information!

Tree and Program Surveys

Like Kara’s message above, we enjoy hearing how our programs are working for you! Rodney recently emailed No-Till and Soil Testing Program surveys to those who have utilized these programs within the past year. Thank you to everyone who has responded & congratulations to the survey drawing winners! If you haven’t had a chance yet, the surveys can still be completed. We would also like to hear from those who have purchased trees in the past. We are working on sending an email to recent tree program participants, but for those receiving this newsletter electronically, the **Tree Program survey and other program surveys can be completed by clicking on the icons below.** Thank you for helping us better understand the effectiveness of our programs and how we can continue to improve them!



Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Gary Beach Memorial SCHOLARSHIP

Open to applicants enrolled at junior-level (59 credit hours completed) or higher at the University of Wyoming or an accredited Wyoming community college eligible Bachelor’s degree program in one of the following academic majors: environment and natural resources, water resources, rangeland ecology and watershed management, or a related field.

Award Amount
\$1,650

Scan the QR to visit our website to access the application form



Please submit application by
July 20th, 2026



Other Grant Opportunities & Technical Assistance

Several water, rangeland, and education grant opportunities will also open this spring. If you have a rangeland health project idea within the District or a water-related project in the Ocean Lake area that could reduce sediment and other pollutants entering Ocean Lake drains, please contact our office! The District provides Engineering Technical Assistance for a variety of project ideas & needs.

GARDEN EXPO BACKYARD & OUTDOOR LIVING

Saturday, April 18, 2026
from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Lander High School. The Garden Expo is a FREE family-friendly event that focuses on gardening, backyard living and outdoor recreation. Stop by our booth and say hello! You won’t want to miss it!