

Trail News

June 21st, 2018



From the

Meeteetse Conservation District

www.meeteetse-conservery.net

P.O. Box 237 • 1906 State Street • Meeteetse, WY 82433

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HELP PREVENT WILDFIRES ON YOUR PUBLIC LANDS

Spring precipitation has brought an abundance of grass and other fine fuels, including cheatgrass, to public lands. In addition to last year's dried grasses, these fine fuels can ignite readily and burn easily once they dry out. As things heat up, please follow these simple tips on how you can do your part to prevent wildfires on your public lands. Doing so will assist the BLM in our commitment to keep public landscapes healthy and productive through shared conservation stewardship.

- Prior to departing on your summer adventure, please take a moment to check your tires and ensure they are properly maintained. One of the many causes of roadside fires is tire wires from the tread of vehicle tires.
- If towing a boat or trailer, ensure your safety chains are properly secure and not dragging on the ground.
- Never park your vehicle over dead grass and avoid driving through tall grass—your vehicle can ignite the fuels and start a fire.
- All off-highway vehicles are required to have a Society of Automotive Engineers approved spark arrestor. Maintain your spark arrestor and keep it free of carbon buildup.

- Carry a shovel and fire extinguisher in your vehicle or off-road vehicle.
- If using equipment to weld, grind or mow that could generate sparks, have firefighting equipment—shovels, rakes, water and garden hoses, and an ABC-rated fire extinguisher—available for use.

When camping on public lands, never leave your campfire unattended. Ensure your campfire is “dead” out before leaving or turning in for the night. If your campfire is too hot to touch, it's too hot to leave. Drown with water, stir and repeat until its cold. Each year, firefighters respond to several escaped campfires throughout Wyoming. Don't let yours be one of them. If target shooting, please take all the proper precaution measures to be fire-safe—select an area that is free of flammable materials and bring a fire extinguisher or water to extinguish any flames. Exploding targets are one of the major causes of wildfires on public lands in Wyoming. Please take extra precaution if using exploding targets. Tracer ammunition is prohibited for use on all public lands in Wyoming per the year-round wildfire prevention restrictions. Remember—one small spark can start a wildfire! In the event of a wildfire, while you may be curious or worried, avoid approaching to watch firefighting efforts. Firefighters must stop fighting fire when onlookers are in dangerous areas or vehicles have blocked road access to the fire. Most firefighting aircraft will not be able to drop water or retardant if you are in the area. If a firefighter asks you to leave the area, it is for your own safety. Firefighter and public safety are the top priorities in wildfire management. If you operate an unmanned aircraft system (UAS), commonly called a drone, please remember that unauthorized UAS flights over or near a wildfire endanger the lives of pilots, firefighters and members of the public. In 2017, at least 36 public drone incursions occurred over or near wildland fire incidents, necessitating the shutdown of aerial firefighting efforts. When aerial firefighting efforts are halted, fires often become larger. It's a good idea to program the county dispatch phone number in your cell phone contacts in case you ever need to report a fire, and you can always dial 911 to report a fire. Contact your local BLM office for more information.



BIRDSFOOT TREFOIL HIGHLIGHTED

A new bulletin from the University of Wyoming Extension addresses some of the major factors to consider when establishing birdsfoot trefoil. Birdsfoot trefoil is a potential alternative to alfalfa, especially under poor acidic soil conditions and where a bloating-free forage legume is desired, said Anowar Islam, Extension forage specialist. The bulletin is *Birdsfoot Trefoil: Establishment and Management as Monocultures and Mixtures in Wyoming*, B-1321. Birdsfoot trefoil is adapted to Wyoming conditions and performs well when grown either as a monocrop or in mixtures with compatible grasses and legumes, Islam said. “Although slow to establish, the plant produces high yields of high nutritive-value forage,” he said. The free bulletin can be viewed or downloaded by going to uwyo.edu/uwe and clicking on the Find a Publication link. Type either the title or number in the search field.



FOREST SERVICE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY FOR GREATER SAGE-GROUSE PLANNING

The Forest Service is proposing to amend the Forest Service land management plans that were amended in 2015 regarding greater sage-grouse conservation in the states of Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, Wyoming, and Utah. A [Supplemental](#) Notice of Intent (NOI) to create a Draft Environmental Impact Statement was published in the Federal Register on June 20, 2018. The NOI listed several categories of potential changes, but more specific proposed adjustments to the text in the plans can be found by following the links for [Colorado](#), [Idaho](#), [Nevada](#), [Wyoming](#), [Utah](#). Commenters are encouraged to provide specific responses to textual edits that are being considered. This [Sage-Grouse Bulletin](#) provides an update on the development of plan amendments in advance of a June 21, 2018 Notice of Intent. It also includes information on planning timelines and the decision framework. The U.S. Forest Service is considering developing amendments to current sage-grouse conservation plans. Public involvement is important for adding meaningful participation from the early phases of planning through finalization of the plan amendments and subsequent monitoring. A [public participation strategy](#) has been designed to assist with communication within the Forest Service and between the Forest Service and the public.



USDA RESUMES CRP ENROLLMENT

As part of a 33-year effort to protect sensitive lands and improve water quality and wildlife habitat on private lands, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will resume accepting applications for the voluntary Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Eligible farmers, ranchers and private landowners can sign up at their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office until Aug. 17th. “The Conservation Reserve Program is an important component of the suite of voluntary conservation programs USDA makes available to agriculture producers, benefiting both the land and wildlife. On the road, I often hear firsthand how popular CRP is for our recreational sector – hunters, fishermen, conservationists and bird watchers,” U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue said. “CRP also is a powerful tool to encourage agriculture producers to set aside unproductive, marginal lands that should not be farmed to reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, provide habitat for wildlife and boost soil health.”



MEETEETSE WEATHER

| Date | Precip in. |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 06/01/2018 | 0.24 |
| 06/02/2018 | ** |
| 06/03/2018 | ** |
| 06/04/2018 | 0.00 * |
| 06/05/2018 | 0.00 |
| 06/06/2018 | 0.00 |
| 06/07/2018 | 0.55 |
| 06/08/2018 | 0.13 |
| 06/09/2018 | ** |
| 06/10/2018 | ** |
| 06/11/2018 | 0.00 * |
| 06/12/2018 | 0.00 |
| 06/13/2018 | 0.00 |
| 06/14/2018 | 0.00 |
| 06/15/2018 | 0.00 |
| 06/16/2018 | ** |
| 06/17/2018 | ** |
| 06/18/2018 | 1.03 * |
| 06/19/2018 | 0.52 |
| 06/20/2018 | 0.03 |
| Totals : | 2.50 in. |

* Indicates Multi-Day Accumulation

WYOMING WATER SUPPLY ABOVE AVERAGE

Wyoming May 2018 precipitation was 120 to 130 percent of average, according to the June 2018 Wyoming Water Supply Outlook. Current water year precipitation is averaging 100 to 110 percent of normal across Wyoming. Mountain snowpack across Wyoming was 80 to 90 percent of median in early June. Overall, near normal snowmelt streamflow volumes, at 95 to 105 percent average, are still expected across Wyoming during the rest of the snowmelt runoff season. Wyoming reservoirs storages are at 110 at 120 percent of average for June.

REMINDERS & UPDATES

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MCD PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING AND NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

~ WEDNESDAY, JULY 11TH ~

12:00 P.M. 1906 STATE STREET, MEETEETSE

*** PUBLIC IS WELCOME ***

HAPPY TRAILS TO YOU!