

Trail News

May 1, 2014



From the *Meeteetse Conservation District*

P.O. Box 237 • 910 Park Avenue • Meeteetse, WY 82433

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Bernie Spanogle, *Firewise Coordinator*

Ginny Davis, *Clerk*

NRCS:

Rory Karhu, *District Conservationist*

***** THE STATUS OF THE MCD FARM BILL INSECT AND DISEASE TIMBER SALE NOMINATION FOR THE WOOD RIVER AREA *****

***** WOOD RIVER HAZARD FUEL REDUCTION PROJECT *****

***** STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTING *****

On May 14th at 6:00 p.m., the Wapiti District Ranger, Susan Stresser, and her staff are presenting an overview of the *Farm Bill*, the *Wood River Hazard Fuel Reduction Project*, and *Stewardship Contracting*, at the MCD office located at 910 Park Avenue.

Following the USFS presentation, BERNIE SPANOGLE, Park County Firewise Coordinator and new MCD employee, will present an overview of his duties and services. Participants will learn how wildfire can threaten their property and lives and how to mitigate and make their properties and structures safe from a wildfire.

The MCD regular monthly Board of Supervisors meeting will convene afterwards.

!!! Cost of Fighting Wildfires in 2014 !!!

!!! Projected to be Hundreds of Millions of Dollars over Amount Available !!!

WASHINGTON, May 1, 2014--According to a Congressionally-mandated report issued today, the U.S. Forest Service and the Department of the Interior (DOI) are projected to spend over \$470 million more than is available to fight wildfires this season. According to the report, the Forest Service and Interior may need to spend \$1.8 billion fighting fires this year, while the agencies have only \$1.4 billion available for firefighting.

Over the last three decades, fire season lengths have increased by 60-80 days and annual acreages burned have more than doubled to over 7 million acres annually. In addition, growing housing development in forests has put more people and houses in harms' way, also making firefighting efforts more expensive. Last year, 34 wildland firefighters died in the line of duty as fire burned 4.1 million acres and destroyed more than 1,000 homes across the country. If the fire season is as costly as the study predicts, the Forest Service and the Interior Department will be forced to take funding out of other critical programs that increase the long-term resistance of National Forests and public lands to wildfire. Both Departments have had to divert funds from other programs to fund firefighting efforts for 7 of the last 12 years.

"Fire borrowing," as it's known, takes funding away from forest management activities such as mechanical thinning and controlled burns that reduce both the incidence and severity of wildfires. In addition to fire borrowing, over the last two decades, the Forest Service has also had to shift more and more money to firefighting, thereby reducing foresters and other staff by over 30% and more than doubling the number of firefighters. For more details and to read a complete copy of this article, please contact the USDA Office of Communications at 202-720-4623, Jessica Kershaw at 202-208-3100, or visit their website at <http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAO/bulletins/b4e450>.

***** USDA Announces Additional Support for Small and Midsized Farmers and Ranchers *****

USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack announced additional support and resources for America's small and midsized farmers and ranchers. The announcement includes \$7 million in university research awards in support of small and midsized producers; \$8.8 million in technical assistance for small, socially-disadvantaged producers and Rural Cooperative Centers; and a marketing certification program for small and very small grass-fed beef producers. More information about USDA tools and resources available to small and mid-sized farmers, including information about this announcement, is available by visiting: www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=fmlp&topic=landing.

--- ATTENTION RANCHERS & RESOURCE MANAGERS ---

Lake DeSmet Conservation District is giving a *Sage Grouse Update & Landowner Opportunities* workshop on Tuesday, May 13th, 2014, from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm at the Johnson County Fire Hall in Buffalo, WY. Deadline to register is Thursday, May 8th. Lunch will be provided to those who register. Please call 307-684-2526, ext. 3 for more information and to register.

MARKETING, AGRICULTURE, & YOU CONFERENCE

The conference is being held on MAY 5-6, 2014 at the Worland Community Center. Cost is \$100.00 per person and walk-ins are welcome. Conference registration begins at noon on May 5th, conference concludes at noon on May 6th. The registration fee includes a “Wyoming Made” dinner on May 5th. Keynote Speaker is Carrie Mess (aka Dairy Carrie) a leading social media AGvocate. For more information and to pre-register, contact Kacy Atkinson at 307-777-6319 or at kacy.atkinson@wyo.gov. Accommodations are available at the Comfort Inn in Worland. Contact them at 307-347-9898 and ask for the WBC May Conference rate.

^^^ Stop EPA & Corps Wetlands Jurisdiction Land & Water Grab ^^^

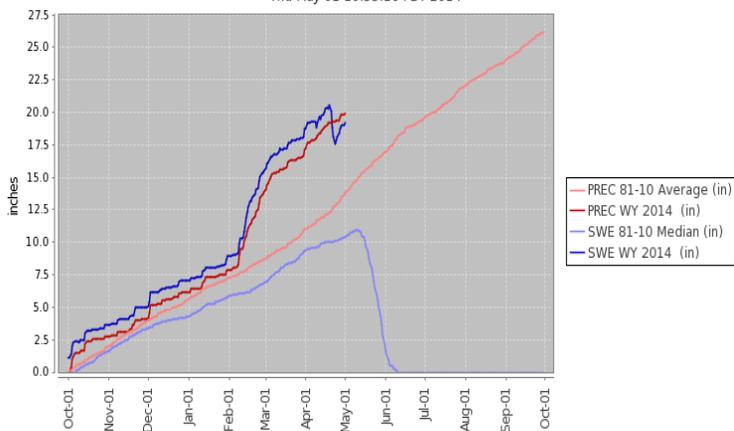
The EPA and Corps of Engineers continue their effort to bypass the word “Navigable” in the Clean Water Act thereby expanding the lands and waters they can regulate to nearly all waters and lands in the United States. If successful, the EPA and Corps will effectively undermine the word “Navigable” in Clean Water Act so the EPA and Corps of Engineers will have wetlands jurisdiction over all waters of the United States and “all activities affecting all waters of the United States.” That means private property, ranching, farming, mining, logging, recreation, rural roads and many other uses. That includes nearly all land in the U.S. also.

You can stop the EPA and Corps by getting both your Senators and your Congressman to support taking the funding away from the EPA and Corps for their proposed new Clean Water Act regulations. This is important because the EPA just released their proposed new Wetlands Jurisdiction Regulations and a new report on Wetlands and the jurisdiction of EPA and the Corps of Engineers over most of the water and land in the US.

Call your Senator at 202-224-3121 for a copy of the new EPA wetlands jurisdiction report. That is important to engage them in a dialogue about the term “Navigable” and Wetlands Jurisdiction. Call your Congressman at (202) 225-3121 and make the same request. The idea is to get both your Senators and your Congressman up to speed on this issue and taking action to protect you. That means taking the money away from EPA and Corps for these new regulations. Type [EPA Clean Water Act Regulations](#) into Google and click on “Rules and Regulations” or visit their website at: www2.epa.gov/laws-regulations.

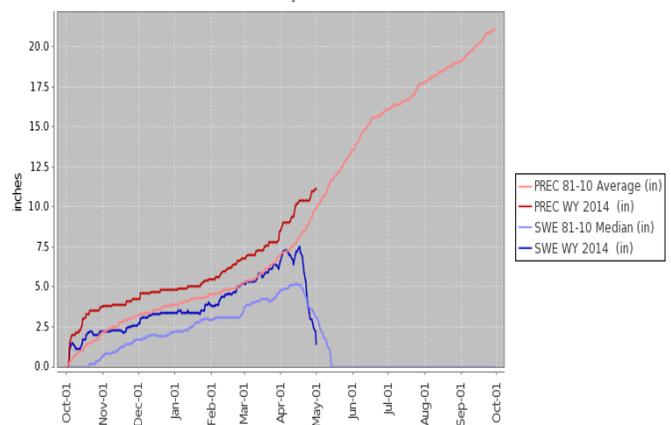
Wyoming (PST) SNOTEL Site KIRWIN (560) (09F24S) Daily series for wateryear=2014

Station (560) WATERYEAR=2014 (Daily) NRCS National Water and Climate Center - Provisional Data - subject to revision
Thu May 01 10:33:16 PDT 2014



Wyoming (PST) SNOTEL Site TIMBER CREEK (819) (09E03S) Daily series for wateryear=2014

Station (819) WATERYEAR=2014 (Daily) NRCS National Water and Climate Center - Provisional Data - subject to revision
Thu May 01 10:37:19 PDT 2014



-----Reminders and Updates-----

- May 6** ~ Drought Contingency Plan Workshops for USFS and BLM Permittees from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- May 6** ~ USDA Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program Grant Webinar at 4:00 p.m.
- May 13** ~ Sage Grouse Update & Landowner Opportunities Workshop in Buffalo, WY from 10am-2pm.
- May 14** ~ Presentations by the USFS & the MCD Firewise Coordinator begin at 6:00pm at the MCD Office
- May 14** ~ MCD Board of Supervisors' regular monthly meeting at the MCD office, 910 Park Avenue, Meeteetse. Begins at 7:00pm or after the presentations.

Through its *Trail News*, the MCD hopes to keep the community informed, and all of us here, as your local government, encourage you to give us feedback, fresh ideas and comments so that the District can represent the Meeteetse community in the best way possible. For a copy of the Trail News by email, please call us at 307-868-2484 or send an email request to: mcd@tctwest.net.

Happy Trails to You! Blaise, Steffen, Bernie, Steve and Ginny