



Trail News

May 15, 2014

From the *Meeteetse Conservation District*

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*** MANAGING MULE DEER HERDS ***

In The Owl Creek/Meeteetse and Basin Areas

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) will be holding a public meeting on May 22nd starting at 6:00pm at the Meeteetse Senior Center, 1105 Park Avenue, Meeteetse.

The intent of the meeting is to gather public input regarding proposed mule deer herd unit objective changes. This is basically to find out how many mule deer do we want to manage for. The herd units up for public review are the Owl Creek/Meeteetse mule deer herd (hunt areas 116-120) and the Basin mule deer herd (hunt areas 125 and 127). For more information please contact Bart Kroger at 307-347-2997 or email him at bart.kroger@wyo.gov.

--- RE-CERTIFICATION WATER QUALITY TRAINING ---

WACD training will take place at the CWC Sinks Canyon Center in Lander on May 28-30, 2014. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Holiday Inn Express at a rate of \$89.00/night. Please call the hotel 307-332-4005 and **reserve your rooms by May 16, 2014 (TODAY!!)** to get the discounted group rate. Registration forms and copies of the agenda are available at the MCD office or will be sent via email upon request. **Registration deadline is May 23, 2014.**

CoCoRaHS April Summary and Map

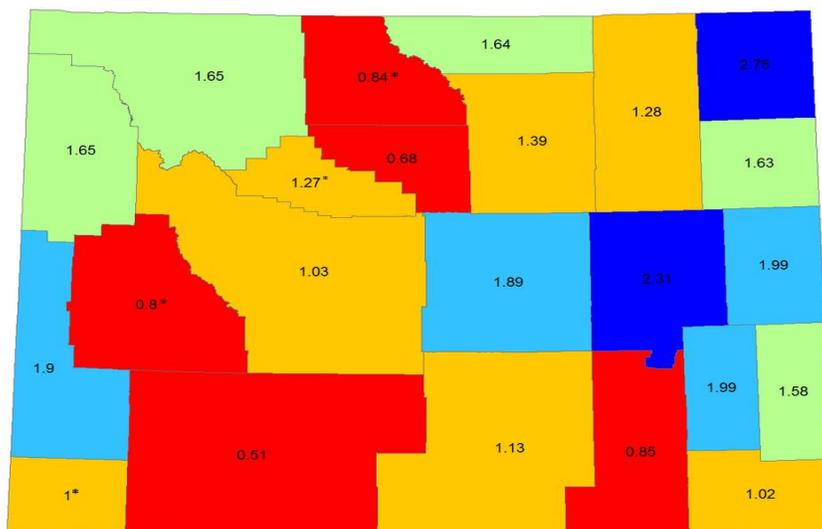
Happy May! So far the April showers (and snow storms) have not brought any May Flowers yet. April was a pretty strong month for CoCoRaHS in Wyoming and was in the top 10 (number 9 to be exact) as far as the number of observations entered per day and ranked 10th for the number of observers who made at least one report this month. It is expected that both of these rankings may change as people continue to enter their observations for April.

Drought conditions in the state are minimal at the moment, only the southern parts of Sweetwater County (and a very small part of extreme southeast Uinta County) are in D0 or "Abnormally Dry." At the beginning of April, this category affected Carbon, Lincoln, Sublette, and Fremont counties as well so there was some improvement over the last month. A preliminary, by-county precipitation summary for April 2014 is now available at:

www.wrds.uwyo.edu/sco/CoCoRaHS/summaries/2014Apr.html?ML. A map (below) shows totals and is also available in a larger format at: www.wrds.uwyo.edu/sco/CoCoRaHS/summaries/2014AprMap.html?ML

CoCoRaHS - April 2014 Precipitation Totals by County (in Inches)

NOTE: An asterisk (*) next to a value indicates that there were days in the month for which no observations were entered so the total precipitation shown may be low.



This is the 29th Monday Snow Report for the 2014 Water Year. Last year at this time the state median fell to 85% with a low of 54% and a high of 105% of median. This year the state median rose to 152% with a low of 98% and a high of 177% of median. For those of you with INTERNET access, the report and map showing SWE percentages for the state can be found at: www.wrds.uwyo.edu/wrds/nrcs/nrcs.html. Median info at: www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/normals/median_average.htm

**USDA Announces Effort to Cut Energy Costs
for Farmers, Ranchers, Rural Small Businesses**

***Up to \$12.3 Million in Grants and \$57.8 Million in Loan Guarantees
Available In Rural Energy for America Program***

WASHINGTON, May 5, 2014 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that USDA is seeking applications from rural small businesses and agricultural producers for funding to make energy efficiency improvements or to install renewable energy systems.



USDA is accepting applications for:

- Renewable energy system and energy efficiency improvement loan guarantee and grant combinations;
- Renewable energy system and energy efficiency improvement loan guarantees; and
- Renewable energy system and energy efficiency improvement grants.

Requests for grants may not exceed 25 percent of a project's cost – either for stand-alone grant requests or for grants combined with loan guarantees.

Information on how to apply for REAP funding and on the application deadlines (which vary by project type) is available on page 25564 of the [May 5, 2014 Federal Register](#).

Here is the link: www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-05-05/pdf/2014-10054.pdf.



Rural Development

United States Department of Agriculture



***** USDA Announces \$78 Million Available for Local Food Enterprises *****
Historic Investment Will Support Entire Local Food Supply Chain

WASHINGTON, May 8, 2014 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that USDA is making a historic \$78 million investment in local and regional food systems, including food hubs, farmers markets, aggregation and processing facilities, distribution services, and other local food business enterprises. "The 2014 Farm Bill has given USDA new tools, resources and authority to support the rural economy," Vilsack said. He (Vilsack) also said that \$48 million in loan guarantees for local food projects is now available through the USDA's Rural Development's Business & Industry Guaranteed Loan Program (www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_gar.html), and \$30 million is available through competitive grants via the Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) website at: www.ams.usda.gov/. For a copy of the entire news release, please contact the MCD office.

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

May 22 ~ 6:00 p.m. WGFD Public Meeting regarding *Managing Mule Deer Herds* at the Meeteetse Senior Center.

May 28-30 ~ Re-certification Water Quality Training at CWC Sinks Canyon Center in Lander

May 28 ~ 1:00 p.m. MCD Board of Supervisors' Special Meeting to discuss budget FYE 2015, Firewise, & more. The public is welcome

June 11 ~ 7:00 p.m. MCD Board of Supervisors' regular monthly meeting at the MCD office, 910 Park Avenue, Meeteetse. The public is welcome.

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! Bernie, Blaise, Ginny, Steffen, and Steve