

DUBOIS-CROWHEART CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT JULY 2023 - JUNE 2024

Mission Statement

Advocate for education, research, cooperative projects, protection and conservation practices that promote the long term viability of the land, water, vegetation, wildlife, and air quality resources within the District since 1945.

PROUDLY SERVING THE UPPER WIND RIVER COUNTRY SINCE 1945



Meeting Dates

Regular monthly meetings are held at the DCCD headquarters in the Dubois Town Hall every second Wednesday of the month at 4:00 p.m.

Everyone is welcome

Chairman

Todd Hirsch
Rural



Vice Chairman

Bob Finley
Rural



Secretary

Eric Thompson
At-Large



Treasurer

Ashlynn Eastman
Rural



Supervisor

Reg Phillips
Urban



District Manager

Erin Hannelly



NRCS

*District
Conservationist*
Shannon Toomey

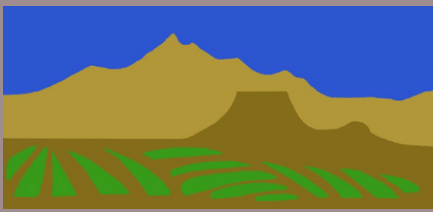


Associate Supervisors

Michael Kenney
Tom Rose

Volunteers

Maria Sage



DUBOIS-CROWHEART CONSERVATION DISTRICT

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Adult Education & CYBER CENTER PRESENTS
GARDENING WITH AN ALTITUDE
Gardening Series
ALTITUDE
GUEST SPEAKER
Vicki Hayman
Office University of Wyoming Extension Services
Free
Registration Required
CLASS DETAILS
Saturday
23 SEPT.
2023
9:00am-11:00am
Location: Adult Ed & Cyber Center Classroom
FOOD PRESERVATION
Register Today:
duboisadulted.eventbrite.com
For more information or to register over the phone, call: 507-455-4101

In 2023, DCCD formed a partnership with the Adult Education Center/CWC to bring free events to District residents. Our first endeavor was a “Gardening with Altitude” series, which wrapped up in Fall 2023. We toured local greenhouses to learn the trials and tribulations of growing fruits and vegetables in our harsh climate. Scott Schell, UW Extension entomologist, and Srikanth Kodati from the University of Connecticut talked about insect pests and plant pathogens and how to remedy infestations. Vicki Hayman, UW Extension, gave a talk on food preservation and each participant received a copy of UW Extension’s “Preserving Foods in Wyoming.” 33 residents attended these events.



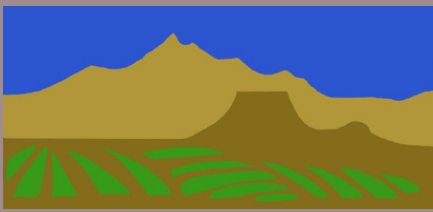
Hummingbirds at Home!

2024 classes were geared towards pollinators. Zach Hutchison, from the Wyoming Audubon chapter gave the dos and don'ts for attracting and maintaining a healthy population of hummingbirds to your property, while dispelling myths such as hummingbirds hitching overseas rides on the backs of migrating Canada geese. This event was held at the Dubois Library. We had 21 very enthusiastic participants.

Backyard Pollinators!

Scott Schell gave a presentation on the evolution of flowering plants and their insect pollinators. With the growing concern over the decline of honey bees and other pollinating arthropods, Scott gave helpful tips on how to provide a healthy ecosystem for them in your backyard. Our local Master Gardener, Maria Sage, demonstrated how to successfully plant and care for flowering plants. She explained the importance of having a variety of annuals and perennials and gave participants starter plants for their own gardens. DCCD offered packets of native wildflower seed. We had 16 attendees.





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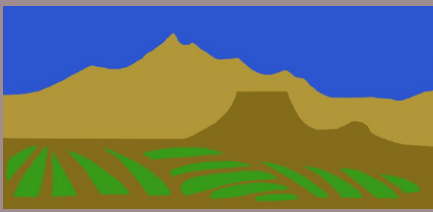
EDUCATION AND OUTREACH



Water Ecology!

Each summer, DCCD works with the National Bighorn Sheep Center, k-12 schools, the Girl Scouts of America, and the Dubois Museum to provide fun environmental education lessons to students ages 8-18. Erin uses her background in aquatic entomology to teach aquatic macroinvertebrate ecology and water quality. Lessons are aimed at teaching pH, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, temperature, how they are related and what it means for aquatic life. Basic macroinvertebrate identification is taught using a simplified dichotomous key. DCCD provides water monitoring kits and gear to collect insect specimens. A total of 36 students went through DCCD's Water Ecology Program this year. In Summer 2023, DCCD partnered with the Dubois Museum to offer interpretive hikes for adults. Erin discussed the cascading effects of introduced fish on native fauna and the stocking history of high elevation lakes in the West. 9 people joined the beautiful hike to Lake Louise.





DUBOIS-CROWHEART CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNUAL CONVENTION IN DUBOIS

2024 *Convention*

Dubois was host for the WACD's Annual Convention for the very first time. Through months of careful planning, in a town that hunkers down after hunting season in November, we were able to ensure ample lodging, delicious food, cozy venues, and awesome live entertainment. Thank you to all of our Conservation District friends for attending and helping to make this a fun and successful event. It will be remembered for a long time to come.



A. Bartlett

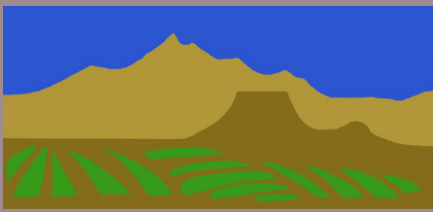


*Thank
you!*



A. Bartlett

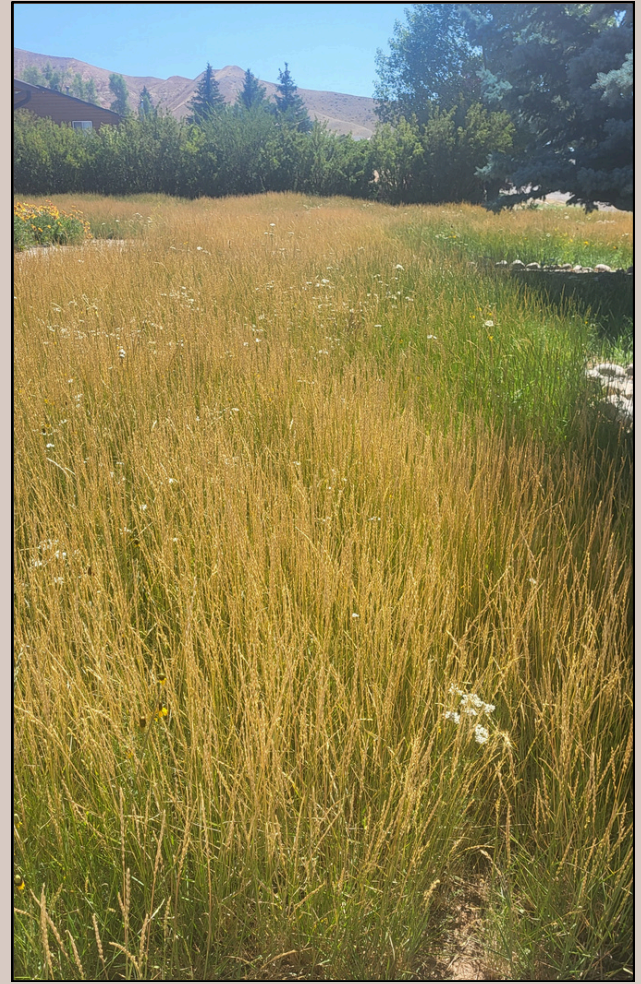




DUBOIS-CROWHEART CONSERVATION DISTRICT

DRYLAND SEED MIX

DCCD works closely with Wind River Seed in Manderson, Wyoming to formulate custom native blends specifically for Dubois, Crowheart, and the surrounding areas. We encourage people to plant native grass seed that is drought resistant and high quality forage and habitat for wildlife. The Dryland Seed mix has five species and is intended to be planted in the valley floor.



DRYLAND MIX PLANTED IN A YARD AT THE DUBOIS GOLF COURSE. RECLAIMED FROM TUMBLEWEEDS AND THISTLE



SLENDER WHEATGRASS



BLUEBUNCH WHEATGRASS



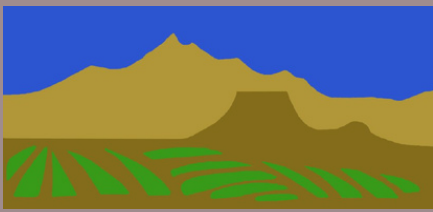
BIG WHEATGRASS



INDIAN RICEGRASS



THICKSPIKE WHEATGRASS



DUBOIS-CROWHEART CONSERVATION DISTRICT

FORESTED SEED MIX AND WILDFLOWER SEED MIX

We also sell a grass seed mix with three species designed for forested properties at higher elevation. In addition, we have a wildflower mix with twelve species to promote insect pollinators and hummingbirds. Once established, all of these grasses and wildflowers will not require much additional watering, if any at all. This year, we sold 143.25 lbs of seed.



SNAKE RIVER WHEATGRASS



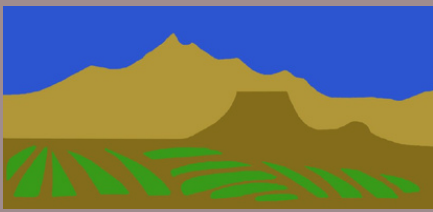
IDAHO FESCUE



MEADOW BROME



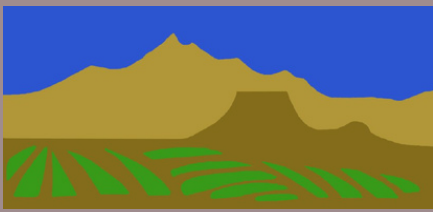
ABOVE LEFT: FORESTED GRASS SEED MIX AND WILDFLOWER MIX TOOK THE PLACE OF CHEATGRASS AND INVASIVE MUSTARDS. ABOVE RIGHT: ROCKY MOUNTAIN BEE PLANT CREATES AN ENTIRE HEDGEROW ON THE SIDE OF A HOUSE.



DUBOIS-CROWHEART CONSERVATION DISTRICT COST SHARE PROGRAM

DCCD provides a cost share for conservation projects within the District such as wildlife habitat improvement, water conservation, and food security. This year, we funded 4 greenhouses, 1 hydroponic tower, and 1 project to restore native grasses to a 13 acre parcel in an open space of a subdivision. Lower Wind River Conservation District's no till drill was used to seed 250 lbs of dryland mix.





DUBOIS-CROWHEART CONSERVATION DISTRICT

COST SHARE PROGRAM



We partnered again with the Town of Dubois to offer a free well water test day for District residents. DCCD cost shares the coliforms test, while participants can pay for additional tests if they so choose. The Town courier delivers our water samples to Energy Labs in Casper and we distribute the results. This was our third year contracting Energy Labs. We had 26 participants this year and are anticipating more in the future.

We sold 9 bundles of seedling trees from Lincoln Oakes and an additional 27 flowering plants and shrubs from Sweetwater Garden. Customers can purchase seedlings, trees, and other plants at a discounted price from going straight through a nursery. We also deliver the goods from Riverton to Dubois for a convenient pickup. All species sold are ones that can live in our climate, USDA Plant Hardiness Zone 5. However, we also supply planting instructions to ensure maximum success.



WORKING PARTNERS

**Adult Education and Cyber Center
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Bureau of Land Management
Central Wyoming College
Dubois Anglers and Wildlife Group
Dubois Museum
Fremont County School District #2
Fremont County Weed and Pest
Jackson Hole Land Trust
National Bighorn Sheep Center**

**The Nature Conservancy of Wyoming
Northern Arapaho Tribe
Shoshone National Forest (USFS)
Town of Dubois
Water for Wildlife
Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts
Wyoming Department of Game and Fish
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resources Trust
UW Fremont County Extension**