



TCD = TETON CONSERVATION DISTRICT; PCFCD = POWELL-CLARKS FORK CONSERVATION DISTRICT;
 CCD = CODY CONSERVATION DISTRICT; MCD = MEETEETSE CONSERVATION DISTRICT.

Do You Know Park County?

Resources Available to Landowners For Assistance in Land Management Issues

- Cody Conservation District
- Meeteetse Conservation District
- Park County Government
- Park County Master Gardeners
- Park County Planning and Zoning
- Park County Weed & Pest Control District
- Powell-Clarks Fork Conservation District
- USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
- University of Wyoming Extension
- Wyoming Game & Fish Department

Do You Know...???

...BUYING LAND IN PARK COUNTY REQUIRES CARE. If the price seems too good to be true, **do you know...**

- ♦ That much of the private land in Park County is high plains desert, averaging less than 10 inches of precipitation per year?
- ♦ If there is legal access and who maintains the roads?
- ♦ If there is good ground water? Water for irrigation?
- ♦ Emergency response times (sheriff, fire, medical care) under some conditions, notably weather, may be very slow.
- ♦ If snow removal service is provided?
- ♦ If power/phone service is near as power poles are pricey? Will anything besides native shrubs and grasses grow?
- ♦ That by law, Wyoming is a “fence out” state? It is the landowner’s responsibility to fence out grazing livestock. Problems with the legal aspects of access, especially if you gain access across property belonging to others. It is wise to obtain legal advice and a legal insurable easement.

DO YOU KNOW PARK COUNTY CLIMATE?

Life in the western US, and Wyoming in particular, depends upon adaptations for a harsh climate. Scientists define climate as the mean value of thirty years of continuous weather data. Trends may be slightly different depending upon which thirty-year time period is selected. Long-term recorded climate data is available.

HOW DOES CLIMATE AFFECT US?

The US Department of Agriculture has established Plant Zones, 1 through 10, to generally describe climate conditions. The horticulture industry labels plant material with the zone number for which the plant is most suitable. Park County’s populated areas range from zone 6 in its northeast corner, 5 at Powell and Cody to 3 at Meeteetse.

DO YOU KNOW...THE PARK COUNTY GROWING SEASON?

It’s generally about 90 to 120 days, has early and late freezes, has frequent variation in spring and fall, and is highly dependent on site elevation and aspect.

DO YOU KNOW...SUCCESSFUL GARDENERS harden off tomatoes (acclimatize) before putting plants outside in the spring by gradually exposing the tomato starts to outdoor conditions of light and temperature so that individual plants change their physiology in response to exposure to stress? Take the advice of reputable horticulturalists while learning about how climate and soil affect the plants you want to grow. Recognize that the Park County environment may not suit the plants you thought you wanted, and look for acceptable alternatives. Plants from elsewhere usually won’t do well here unless they are from a similar climate and soil. But before you give up on your desired flora, inventory the physical features of your site and try to identify the micro-climates on the site. The aspect (amount of slope and its direction) is important, because of the combination of water infiltration, sun angle, and temperature. Notice the types of established local vegetation that grow on similar sites nearby.

If it will grow anywhere, it’s probably invasive!

DO YOU KNOW...PARK COUNTY SOIL?

Our soils are usually alkaline (pH>7) and vary greatly with location? Many soils have high clay, salt, or sodium content; often soils are low in organic matter and fertility; in summary, creating difficult growing conditions for many plants. For some places in the County, as part of an ongoing statewide program, soils mapping has been done by the NRCS and is available on the NRCS website.

DO YOU KNOW...SOIL FERTILITY

Soil fertility is the capacity of soil to produce plant growth and development. It varies by site and can be changed somewhat with management (soil amendments, fertilizer, and water). Plants need carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium, sulfur, calcium, and magnesium. In addition, plants need smaller amounts

of iron, manganese, zinc, copper, molybdenum, boron, and chlorine. Soil fertility can be measured with a soil test. Add fertilizers or amendments as recommended by the soil testing laboratory for the crop proposed. The site may need changes in irrigation practices. Windbreaks can mitigate evaporation. Mulch can slow water evaporation and release organic carbon. Pastures may need to be reseeded with appropriate, adapted species. To learn more about your soil we recommend a soil sample be taken. Contact your local UW Extension to see how this is done.

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT NOXIOUS WEEDS?

- ◆ That noxious weeds are those weeds proven to cause harm to our native rangelands, wildlife, agriculture production, or humans due to aggressive, invasive behavior?
- ◆ That many people are unaware of the threats noxious weeds pose to desirable vegetation?
- ◆ That “noxious” is a legal term allowing state and local control of those species?
- ◆ That Wyoming has 25 designated noxious species and that Park County has an additional 11 species declared noxious.
- ◆ That Russian olive has been declared a noxious plant species by the State of Wyoming?
- ◆ That noxious weeds may be growing on your property?
- ◆ That Park County is a “Quarantine County”? In 1980, Park County put a countywide quarantine into effect requiring a no-cost **mandatory** inspection and release of farm products, including hay, prior to movement from the place of production. Ensuring that products are free from noxious weed seeds and/or propagating plant parts helps prevent the spread of noxious weeds throughout the county.
- ◆ “Certified Weed Free Forage” products are required on all Federal lands and producers are charged for the voluntary certification program?
- ◆ Park County Weed and Pest Control District (W&P) can provide technical assistance and help landowners deal with noxious species?
- ◆ Most noxious weed infestations are preventable?
- ◆ Cost share is available for herbicide for many of our worst noxious weed species.
- ◆ More information can be found @ www.parkcountyweeds.org or 307-754-4521

DO YOU KNOW...HORSES NEED MANAGEMENT TOO

- ◆ Water is most critical but frequently abused or overlooked.
- ◆ Feed type and quality is crucial to the overall health and well being of your horse. Hay is a major feed used in horse diets, but is it soft or hard hay? Is it dusty, mature or immature, bleached, or is there harmful trash? Grains are not all equal, some are dusty and moldy. Whether grain is high in fiber, energy, or protein will dictate how and to what type of horse the grain should be fed, and in what amounts.
- ◆ The animal: A horse requires a nutrient intake based on body size, activity level, weather conditions and production level. A mature gelding, a weaned colt, and pregnant, lactating, or open mares all have different nutritional requirements and feed needs that are modified by the level of activity or work demand and the environment. Ensure the proper nutrient intake by blending feeds to form a daily ration.
- ◆ Horses are herbivores (plant eaters) but their digestive system is somewhat different from other herbivores such as cattle and elk. Knowledge of how their digestive system works may help alleviate problems such as grass founder or colic.
- ◆ One horse can require over 40 acres of native forage per year and supplemental feed is usually required?
- ◆ That to develop an effective feeding and/or grazing program for your horse you must define the:
 - Time - how long you plan to feed and/or graze your horse; will it be two weeks, three months, or what?
 - Resource - a little more complicated. It's the water, the feed type, quality, and availability.
 - Animal you are working with?

DO YOU KNOW...ABOUT PASTURES

- ◆ That managing pastures in our desert setting balances grass species, irrigation timing and amount, weed control, pasture rotation, grazing impact, and haying?
- ◆ A mix of either native or introduced cool season grasses works well.
- ◆ Irrigation should deliver the right amount of water to the roots of the grasses when they need it, and the water is regulated by your irrigation district.
- ◆ Weed-free pastures and hay are valuable products in high demand. Quality-robbing weeds are best controlled using combined cultural, mechanical, and chemical means.
- ◆ A large pasture can be divided with electric fencing into three smaller pastures used in rotation, re-growing grass in the two pastures not in use.
- ◆ Many pastures are used for exercising horses, not feeding them. Horses are kept in corrals during most of the day and fed hay and let out into pasture for exercise only for a couple of hours a day, minimizing negative grazing impacts on your pastures.
- ◆ Grass pastures may be hayed during the summer. Usually, only one grass hay crop is possible before irrigation water is reduced in summer.

DO YOU KNOW...ABOUT IRRIGATION DISTRICTS

- ◆ Those questions concerning water rights on lands within the irrigation district should be directed to the irrigation district.
- ◆ Just because you have an irrigation distribution ditch on your property doesn't mean you have the right to use it.
- ◆ To contact Irrigation Districts regarding the location of facilities such as ditches, underground drains, and the District's rights-of-way and easements?
- ◆ You cannot inhibit the flow of water to downstream users.
- ◆ That encroachment of any permanent structures, landscaping, and the planting of trees and shrubs is prohibited within the rights-of-way or over a tile drain?
- ◆ Not to plant Chinese elm, cottonwood, willow, and silver maple trees within 100 feet of an underground clay drainage tile? Less than 8 feet deep, drains are clogged by tree roots. Those utilities crossing Irrigation District facilities require a special use permit from the District.

DO YOU KNOW...BEAR COUNTRY IS UNIQUE

- ◆ Grizzly and black bears roam western Park County throughout the Absaroka mountain range, its river valleys, and foothills, well outside Shoshone National Forest.
- ◆ Living in bear country differs from life in other rural or urban settings? These tips and other information from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (G&F) may help you avoid conflicts and encounters with bears at home.
- ◆ Store garbage in a bear-resistant container or in a building, taking it out the morning of pickup or directly to the landfill. Contact G&F as the availability of bear proof garbage containers.
- ◆ Store livestock grain, pet food, petroleum products, and fertilizers inside a building or in a bear resistant container.
- ◆ Feed your pets indoors when at all possible and clean up excess feed if they are fed outdoors.
- ◆ Bird feeders attract bears!
- ◆ Compost only sawdust, leaves, and grass - no table scraps!
- ◆ Keep barbecue grills clean and store indoors.
- ◆ Avoid planting fruit or nut producing trees and shrubs.
- ◆ Temporary electric fencing can deter bears from beehives, grain sheds, and vegetable gardens.
- ◆ The G&F has a bear conflict prevention program. Questions regarding these large predators can be answered through the G&F office. Also available to you:
- ◆ *Staying Safe in Bear Country* and *Living in Bear Country*, both in DVD or VHS format.
- ◆ *Living With Bears*, by Linda Masterson, can also be purchased through the G&F online store at <https://wgfd.wyo.gov/ae/p-172-living-with-bears.aspx>

DO YOU KNOW...WILD LAND FIRE CAN BE DEVASTATING

- ◆ How to help protect yourself and your property from wildfire? Your local fire department can help! To **report** your controlled burn **in advance** to Park County Dispatch 1-800-786-2848, 527-8700 in Cody, 754-8700 in Powell? ...**And, report when it's out!**
- ◆ To go the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) www.nifc.gov "Fire Information" for fire conditions?
- ◆ **Are you** prepared for fire season? Learn how to make your home safer through landscaping, construction methods, and even just planning ahead before there is a wild land fire in your area. Cost-sharing is sometimes available! Park County Firewise-<http://codyconservationdistrict.com/firewise.php>
- ◆ Contact **Wyo. State Forestry Division**, Riverton, 856-8655 or visit Wyoming Fire wise related links: <http://www.firewisewyoming.com>, www.firewise.org, and <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/fire/> .

DO YOU KNOW...ABOUT WILDLIFE HABITAT AND RIPARIAN AREAS

Wildlife managers are always looking for ways to improve habitats for all species of wildlife, and private lands are a very important component of these efforts. **How?** Set goals and objectives for your land that will allow you to take a planned management approach.

- ◆ **HOW TO GET STARTED?** Visit the G&F Department and meet with the biologists and others. Habitat extension bulletins address specific wildlife and fisheries issues on private land - available at the G&F office or <http://gf.state.wy.us/habitat/index.asp>. The green, densely vegetated riparian areas around our surface waters contain some of the most important habitats for nearly all species of wildlife and provide a multitude of benefits to all residents of the county?
- ◆ Most riparian areas in Park County are private lands, giving owners valuable resources and opportunities for productive wildlife habitats, and bestowing on the owners a critical stewardship responsibility? Like other vegetative systems, riparian systems, can be damaged when mismanaged. The most common threat to riparian areas is loss of vegetation causing increased sedimentation and pollution from surface runoff, erosion of stream banks, higher water temperatures, and more frequent and severe flooding. A good approach to riparian management usually involves management of surface disturbance and grazing, weed control, and repairing damage with grass seeding, and/or native tree and shrub planting.
- ◆ That salt cedar (tamarisk) is a huge threat to riparian areas?

DO YOU KNOW...YOUR GOVERNMENT AGENCIES???

Local

BOCC - Board of County Commissioners

CD - Conservation District

CCD - Cody Conservation District

MCD - Meeteetse Conservation District

PCFCD - Powell-Clarks Fork Conservation District

TCD - Teton Conservation District

MLPAAC - Meeteetse Local Planning Area Advisory Committee

P&Z - Park County Planning & Zoning

W&P - Park County Weed & Pest Control District

State of Wyoming

G&F - Wyoming Game and Fish Department

HC - Hydrographer/Commissioner of the SEO

DO YOU KNOW...HOW TO READ THE ALPHABET SOUP???

State of Wyoming (Continued)

SEO - State Engineer's Office

WSFD - Wyoming State Forestry Division

WWDC - Water Development Commission

WYDOT - Department of Transportation

Federal (US)

NRCS - Natural Resources Conservation Service

BLM - Bureau of Land Management

EPA - Environmental Protection Agency

FEMA - Federal Emergency Management Agency

FSA - Farm Services Administration

USBR (BuRec) Bureau of Reclamation

USFS - US Forest Service

USFWS - US Fish & Wildlife Service

RESOURCES:

Barnyards & Backyards Rural Living in Wyoming: <http://www.uwyo.edu/barnbackyard/>

Conservation Districts: Cody CD, 899-0037, http://codyconservationdistrict.com/ccd_about.php

Meeteetse CD, 868-2484, www.meeteetsecd-wy.gov

Powell-Clarks Fork CD, 754-9301, <http://www.pcfcd.org/>

Fire:

- ♦ Cody Volunteer Fire Department, 1125 11th Street Cody, 527-8780, Burn Permits 527-8700, codyfireschool@parkcounty.us Website: <http://www.codywyomingfire.com/>
- ♦ Meeteetse Volunteer Fire Department: 868-2627, www.townofmeeteetse.com/page8.html ,
- ♦ Park County Dispatch 1-800-786-2848, Cody - 527-8700, Powell - 754-8700
- ♦ Park County Fire Warden, 527-8551 (w), 899-7507 (c)
- ♦ Park County Deputy Fire Warden, 527-8552 (w), 899-7508 (c)
- ♦ Powell City Fire Department 754-2211
- ♦ WY State Fire Marshal, Wyo. Department of Fire Prevention & Electrical , 777-6264, <http://wyofire.state.wy.us>
- ♦ WY State Fire Service Directory <http://wyofire.state.wy.us/training/pdf/Directory.pdf>

Wyoming Game & Fish - 527-7125

Irrigation Districts:

- ♦ Badger Ditch Company (Clark) 645-3051
- ♦ Cody Canal 587-3727
- ♦ GVID Greybull Valley Irrigation District 868-2601
- ♦ Heart Mountain Irrigation District 754-4685
- ♦ Lakeview Irrigation District (South Fork) 587-4003
- ♦ North Fork Valley Ditch 587-7580
- ♦ Shoshone Irrigation District 754-5741
- ♦ Willwood Irrigation District 754-3831

Bridger Plant Materials Center (406) 662-3579, (<http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/mtpmc>)

NRCS: Cody Field Office, 587-3251

Powell Service Center, 754-9301

Park County Courthouse (Many County offices) Toll Free 800-786-2844

Park County Master Gardeners, Powell, 754-8836 - Cody, 527-8560

Rules and Regulations: Park County Planning Office, 527-8540

Surface Water Regulations: State Engineer's Office: <http://seo.state.wy.us/>

UW – Extension

- ♦ Park County – 527-8836
- ♦ Washakie County – 347-3431
- ♦ Big Horn County – 765-2868
- ♦ Hot Springs County – 864-3421
- ♦ Powell Research and Extension Center, Powell, WY 754-2223

Water: State Engineer's Office, 777-7354, <http://seo.state.wy.us/>

Weed information: Park County Weed and Pest Control District, www.parkcountyweeds.org or 307-754-4521

Wyoming Weed and Pest Council website: www.wyoweed.org



Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Glen Whipple, Director, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming 82071.

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