



# Uinta County Connection

APRIL 2025

## Natural Science - Educator Workshop

This June, the Uinta County Conservation District (UCCD) will be hosting a Natural Science educator workshop at our office in Lyman. This workshop is open to teachers, substitute teachers, non-formal educators, home-school parents, youth group leaders, and anyone wanting to bring the environment into the classroom. PTSB and UW continuing education credits are available.

This will be a fun, hands-on workshop featuring the award-winning curricula of Project Learning Tree (PLT), Project WILD, & Project WET. Participants will receive training and manuals for all three of these outstanding educational programs. Each curriculum focuses on a specific resource area: forests (PLT), wildlife (WILD), and water (WET). The inquiry-based curricula meet NGSS for science, social studies, and language arts; are cross-curricular, and adaptable for grades K-12. The guides are jam-packed with exciting, ready-to-use activities, fully indexed and cross-referenced by subject matter, grade level, skills, time requirements, etc.

Although this workshop is coordinated and taught through Wyoming Project WILD, the UCCD Board of Supervisors has made a generous contribution to reduce the participation cost. The workshop fee is just \$50: half the normal cost! This fee includes five curriculum guides, activity materials, as well as lunch and snacks both days. For those who complete the full workshop, 1 hour of PTSB credit can be obtained for free, and 1 hour of continuing education graduate credit can be obtained through the University of Wyoming for an additional \$60.

To register, download the flyer workshop from our website ([www.uintacountycd.com](http://www.uintacountycd.com)) and fill out the registration portion at the bottom. Follow the instructions on the flyer to mail your registration and payment to Wyoming Project WILD. **Registration deadline is June 2nd.** For background information on the PLT, WET, and WILD programs see: [www.plt.org](http://www.plt.org), [www.projectwet.org](http://www.projectwet.org), & [www.projectwild.org](http://www.projectwild.org).

### Educator Workshop

June 11th - 12th  
8 am to 5 pm

UCCD Office  
204 E Sage St  
Lyman, WY

Workshop  
Sponsors:



### UINTA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

#### Board of Supervisors

Kelly Guild (Chairman), Dennis Cornelison (Vice Chairman), Spencer Eyre (Secretary/Treasurer),  
Kevin Condos, Carol Hamilton (Associate Supervisor), Ty Lester (Associate Supervisor)

M-Th, 8 am - 4 pm  
307-288-0214  
204 E Sage St, Lyman WY

Kerri Sabey  
District Manager  
Email: [ksabey.uccd@gmail.com](mailto:ksabey.uccd@gmail.com)

Katie Lott  
Education Coordinator  
Email: [klott.uccd@gmail.com](mailto:klott.uccd@gmail.com)

# Poster Contest

Open to all school-aged children in Uinta County.

**1st - \$100 · 2nd - \$50 · 3rd - \$25**

Judging Categories: K-1, 2-3, 4-6, 7-9, 10-12

**April 30th Deadline**

Visit our website for more information, contest rules, and entry forms.

[www.uintacountycd.com](http://www.uintacountycd.com)



Our conservation community is dedicated to protecting a wide range of ecosystems—from pristine natural landscapes to carefully managed or enhanced habitats. These efforts are critical in supporting biodiversity and maintaining ecological balance.

Join us in recognizing the importance of these habitats year-round, as we work together to ensure their health and resilience for future generations.

## A QUESTION FROM THE COMMUNITY

***My apple tree did not shed its leaves in the fall. Is there something wrong?  
Should I pull the leaves off?***

Since the fall of 2024 brought early, heavy snow to Uinta County, many of you might be asking the same question about the trees in your yard. Here is our answer:

**Marcescence** is a phenomenon that occurs when deciduous trees hold onto their leaves into the winter instead of shedding them naturally in the fall.

During a typical fall, trees prepare for winter by absorbing nutrients from the leaves and forming an abscission layer at the base of the petiole (leaf stalk) that allows the leaf to break away.

Under abnormal fall weather conditions, the leaves might die without forming an abscission layer and subsequently remain on the tree. Marcescence can be triggered by the following fall weather conditions:

- ⇒ Sudden Temperature Changes: If the weather changes quickly from warm to cold, the leaves may be killed before an abscission layer forms, causing the leaves to remain on the tree.
- ⇒ Warmer-than-usual Fall: If the weather stays warmer longer than normal, the tree may not receive the necessary signals to create the abscission cell layer, and the leaves stay on the tree until they eventually die.

The good news is, that the old leaves will eventually fall from the tree! In fact, some tree species are naturally prone to marcescence. And, newly planted or young apple trees may take longer to develop the ability to shed leaves effectively.

Unless there are other stressors to your tree (like drought/root damage), your tree will be fine and will leaf out normally in the spring.



Flickr, 2025

## POWER HOUR

**Date:** Thursday May 1, 2025, 12:00—1:00 pm

**Topic:** Learn about the Lyman FFA Greenhouse Sale - history, purpose, plants on hand, costs, etc.

**Place:** 204 East Sage St, Lyman WY (UCCD Office)

*Free to attend. Free light lunch with RSVP*

To RSVP, call 307-288-0214 or email [ksabey.uccd@gmail.com](mailto:ksabey.uccd@gmail.com)



# Calling All Ranchers...

## Invitation to participate in National Soil Health Project

There is a new nation-wide project called “**Probing Our Country’s Soil Health**”. It is being funded by NRCS and others. A major goal of the project is to build a national soil health database, and new and improved tools for benchmarking and interpreting soil health metrics. The anonymous data will be used to expand a new and exciting tool called the Soil Health Assessment Protocol and Evaluation (or **SHAPE**). This tool helps provide better references for farmers seeking to understand and build soil health. Learn more in this short video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GJXW9LYXb9Y>). Learn more about SHAPE: <https://access.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/saj2.20668>.

In Wyoming, the project is seeking for about 10-12 rancher participants. Each will contribute 2 or 3 fields (e.g., annual crops, hay, pasture, rangeland).

### If interested in participating, you will need to:

- Sign up for a 1-hour Zoom Meeting where a facilitator will lead you through a management survey for 2 or 3 fields. <https://scheduler.zoom.us/savannah-kitchen/probing-our-countrys-soil-health>.
- Grant access to fields for hand-probe soil sampling 2 or 3 sampling sites from each field. Normally this will happen 3-6 months after the survey; you will be notified beforehand.

### Participating landowners will receive:

- A personalized soil health report of your fields.
- A copy of a book called “Probing Our Country’s Soil Health”. This will be a hard-copy photo book illustrating soil health across the country and the outcomes to this project.
- An appreciation gift card

*\*\*All contact information, farm management, and soil health data for participants will be kept confidential. The data that is published will protect the identity of participants.*

**To enroll as a landowner participant, select a time from one of the following facilitator schedule links. Once these times have been filled, more will be made available:** <https://scheduler.zoom.us/savannah-kitchen/probing-our-countrys-soil-health>

If you have questions, please reach out to Dr. Matt Yost at [matt.yost@usu.edu](mailto:matt.yost@usu.edu) or 435-797-4210.

*Healthy soil is essential for human health. Soil provides many functions from growing nutritious food, to filtering and cleaning our water. This project is a great way to be involved in helping build a national soil base that can benefit current and future generations for years to come. UCCD would encourage anyone interested in being part of the project to sign up today!*

## Introducing Tanner Liby...NRCS District Conservationist

Tanner was born and raised in Kansas, received his undergraduate degree from Kansas State University in Wildlife and Outdoor Enterprise Management, then received a Master’s in Wildlife and Fisheries Resources from Clemson University. He worked for the Wyoming Game and Fish out of college for a summer job as a temporary Habitat and Access Technician, worked for a year and a half as a Farm Bill Biologist for Pheasants Forever in Southwest Kansas, and has been with the NRCS since 2021, with stops in Manhattan, Kansas, Archer City, Texas, and now Rock Springs, Wyoming. His hobbies include hunting, fly fishing, hiking, and spending time with his wife Madison and their two dogs.

Stop by the NRCS office or give Tanner a call and help us welcome him to our community! We look forward to building our partnership with NRCS and working with Tanner to serve producers in our area!

Tanner is covering the office in Uinta County as well as the Rock Springs office. Here is his contact information:

### Tanner Liby

District Conservationist

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Cell: 307-338-3326 Email: [tanner.liby@usda.gov](mailto:tanner.liby@usda.gov)



# Uinta County Conservation District

P.O. Box 370,  
204 East Sage Street  
Lyman, WY 82937  
(307) 288-0214  
www.uintacountycd.com

PRSRT STD  
AUTO  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Lyman, WY  
Permit No. 11

## CHANGE OF SERVICE REQUESTED



### Upcoming Dates to Remember:

April 22	Earth Day
April 27 - May 3	Stewardship Week - Theme: "Home is where the Habitat is"
April 25	Arbor Day
April 30	Poster Contest Deadline: Grades K-12
May 1	POWER HOUR: Lyman FFA Greenhouse students - UCCD Office, Lyman
June 11-12	Natural Science Educator Workshop, UCCD Office, Lyman
June 16 - 20	WYRED, Saratoga area

## HOW ARE WE DOING?

### Uinta County Conservation District needs your input!

To help us understand the impact of UCCD to our stakeholders, please take this 5-minute survey to let us know how we are doing and what else we can be doing for you and Uinta County. Your input on engagement, impact, satisfaction, and suggestions will help guide improvements and enhance our services.



### Please take the survey today by doing one of the following:

- Scan the QR code in this article
- Visit [www.uintacountycd.com](http://www.uintacountycd.com)
- Follow this link ([UCCD Survey](#))

As you likely know, UCCD integrates grants, cost-share programs, education, surface water monitoring, and other public services to promote natural resources and agriculture, enhance communities, and improve the lives of individuals and families in Uinta County. With your help, we will continue well into the future.

If you have any questions about this survey or any of our programs, please reach out to us:

- Email: [uintacountycd@gmail.com](mailto:uintacountycd@gmail.com)
- Phone: 307-288-0214

Thank you!

UCCD Supervisors and Staff

