

# Crook County Natural Resource District Annual Summary

Year in Review July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

[www.ccnrd.org](http://www.ccnrd.org)

The Crook County Natural Resource District (CCNRD) has been working diligently over the past year maintaining the Forest Health, Water Quality, Soil Health, Tree Sale, Outreach, and Waste Management programs. The CCNRD is always looking for new opportunities to expand programs as we continue to improve the natural resources in Crook County. See below for a more in-depth summary of each program.

**Water Quality:** The CCNRD received a \$20,000 grant from the Wyoming Department of Agriculture to monitor water quality and to provide cost assistance on range and water improvement projects. In 2022, 5,266 feet of cross fencing, 4,948 feet of pipeline and two livestock water tanks were installed on private property. The CCNRD currently manages a 319 grant from the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality for joint efforts shared with Campbell County Conservation District. Water samples are taken on impaired stretches of the Belle Fourche River and Donkey Creek to assess *E. coli*, ammonia, and chloride concentrations.

**Forest Health & Wildlife Habitat Improvement:** The CCNRD successfully wrote five forest health and wildlife improvement grant applications and were awarded funds from the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Wyoming Game and Fish Commission, Wyoming Governor's Big Game License Coalition, and the Muley Fanatics Foundation. Contracts were awarded to six landowners and 295.5 acres of forest health and wildlife improvement projects were completed. Nine hazardous fuels reduction projects were contracted, and 71.5 acres of projects were completed along the Pine Ridge Road area.

**Outreach:** The CCNRD continues to provide education on natural resource topics at elementary schools and youth camps. The CCNRD was present at the Crook County Fair with a booth for educational materials and program information as well as a display case in the Crook County Courthouse several times per year. An estate planning workshop was held in March 2023. A District website was created.

**Soil Health:** CCNRD has continued the partnership with Plank Stewardship Initiative to offer cost share assistance to implement the five principles of soil health on their property. Fifteen contracts were fulfilled, and 1,245.6 acres of cover crops were planted in Crook County as a result.

**Tree Sale:** In the spring of 2023, the CCNRD offered the tree sale program for the second time since 2011. 735 conservation grade potted trees, shrubs and berries were sold to 80 county residents. The response to the sale continues to be positive and the CCNRD plans to continue offering the tree sale. In 2023 compost bins were offered and 34 bins were sold.

**Waste Management:** The CCNRD hosted two electronics recycling events in August 2022 in the Sundance and Hulett communities. Over 7,344 pounds of electronic waste was collected, for a grand total exceeding 62,000 pounds in 7 years. Sponsor contributions allowed the first 100 pounds to remain free for the residents of Crook County.

