



# Trail News

February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020

From the

## Meeteetse Conservation District

[www.meeteetse-conservewy.net](http://www.meeteetse-conservewy.net)

P.O. Box 237 • 1906 State Street • Meeteetse, WY 82433

### **Board of Supervisors:**

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*Steffen Cornell*

Resource Specialist/

Firewise Coordinator:

*Joshua Kipley*

### **NRCS:**

District Conservationist:

*Rory Karhu*

## **NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION MEETING**

The Conservation Districts in Big Horn, Park, and Washakie Counties would like to invite the public and any agencies with an interest in conservation issues to participate in a Local Work Group meeting to be held on Monday, **February 24<sup>th</sup>**, 2020 at the Lovell Fire Hall, 314 Nevada Avenue, Lovell, WY at 1:00 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to receive input from a broad range of local stakeholders – individuals, organizations, businesses, and agencies – that have an interest in natural resource conditions and needs in Big Horn, Park, and Washakie Counties, and to provide that information to the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). The Farm Bill stipulates that conservation programs must continue to be locally led. Through these local meetings, the public is given an opportunity to help local conservation leaders set priorities such as helping prioritize resource concerns and priority watersheds and identify other local concerns. For more information, contact your local conservation district at (307)868-2484 or [meeteetse@conservewy.net](mailto:meeteetse@conservewy.net).

## **NEW 'WILDLIFE CROSSING' INITIATIVE**

Nearly 6,000 big game animals like deer, pronghorn, elk, moose, bighorn sheep and mountain goats die each year from collisions with vehicles on Wyoming's highways and interstates. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department along with the Wyoming Department of Transportation is hoping to change those statistics with the launch of a new initiative, **Wildlife Crossing**, to keep wildlife and drivers on the go. The new initiative focuses on raising funding and awareness for reducing wildlife-vehicle collisions. "Our vision for all wildlife crossing projects is to ensure wildlife are able to easily and safely cross highways in order to access important seasonal habitats," said Brian Nesvik, Game and Fish director. "We're partnering with the Wyoming Department of Transportation to reduce collisions and design roads with wildlife in mind." Wildlife Crossing comes on the heels of Gov. Mark Gordon's Executive Order, 'Protection of Migration Corridors' that was signed today. "We've already seen major accomplishments with the work that's been done so far with wildlife-vehicle collision mitigation but we still have more to do," said Director of WYDOT K. Luke Reiner. "Our mission is to help keep the traveling public safe and our partnership with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department is one way we can do that." For more information on Wildlife Crossing and how the public can support wildlife visit: <https://wgfd.wyo.gov/wildlifecrossing>.



## **GAME AND FISH HOSTING 2020 SEASON SETTING MEETINGS**

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department is holding public meetings and has opened a comment period to gather public input on several hunting season regulations. Game and Fish sets hunting seasons annually based on public input, annual harvest data, population monitoring data, individual herd unit objectives and ongoing habitat evaluations. The regulations include: **Chapter 2**, General Hunting Regulation - **Chapter 5**, Antelope Hunting Seasons - **Chapter 6**, Deer Hunting Seasons - **Chapter 7**, Elk Hunting Seasons - **Chapter 8**, Moose Hunting Seasons - **Chapter 9**, Bighorn Sheep and Mountain Goat Hunting Seasons - **Chapter 11**, Upland Game Bird and Small Game Hunting Seasons - **Chapter 14**, Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons and Light Goose Conservation Order - **Chapter 15**, Wild Bison Recreational Hunting Season - **Chapter 20**, Fall and Spring Wild Turkey Hunting Seasons

- **March 25<sup>th</sup>** @ 6:00 p.m. in **Meeteetse** at the Meeteetse Conservation District
- March 26<sup>th</sup>** @ 5:30 p.m. in **Powell** at the Park County Fairgrounds
- March 30<sup>th</sup>** @ 5:30 p.m. in **Cody** at the Park County Library



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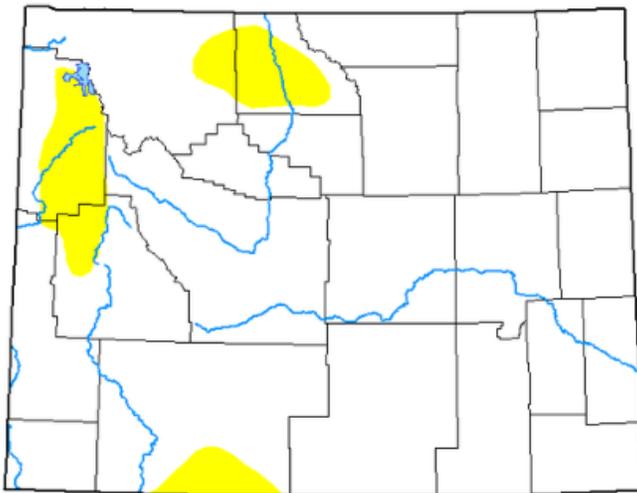
**NEXT MCD BOARD MEETING: WEDNESDAY MARCH 11<sup>TH</sup> @ 3:00 P.M. 1906 STATE ST. MEETEETSE ~ PUBLIC IS WELCOME ~**

# CATTLEFAX SEES POSITIVE CATTLE OUTLOOK FOR 2020

Beef demand is strong and with U.S. cattle numbers plateauing, prices are likely to be stronger in the year ahead as consumers at home and abroad support industry profitability. That was the message delivered during the popular CattleFax outlook session, held as part of the 2020 Cattle Industry Convention in San Antonio, Texas. Weather is expected to play a supporting role for agriculture during the year ahead, according to Dr. Art Douglas, professor emeritus at Creighton University. He said that following repeated El Niño events during the past five years, the U.S. will shift to a La Niña pattern, which will shift much of the nation outside of the northwest and southeastern portions of the country toward conditions slightly warmer and drier than last year, which will be favorable for planting and growing conditions during the spring and summer. CattleFax Vice President of Research and Risk Management Services Mike Murphy predicted that corn and soybean acres will increase during the year ahead, with corn plantings rising 4 million acres to 94 million acres and soybean acreage rising 7 million acres to reach 83 million acres. He predicted 2020 spot corn prices to trade in a range of \$3.50 to \$4.00 per bushel, down 15-20 cents per bushel from 2019, unless weather issues become a significant factor. He noted, however, that trade could present an upside to the projected prices, particularly in light of the recently signed U.S./China trade agreement. Trade also will play a significant role in beef and cattle markets, according to CattleFax Vice President of Industry Relations and Analysis Kevin Good, who said he expects higher total animal protein production to be offset by strong demand and increasing exports. During the year ahead, Good said record-large U.S. beef production will reach 27.7 billion pounds. However, he projected that increases in beef exports and decreases in beef imports will result in per-capita beef supplies of 58.4 pounds, an increase of just 0.4 pounds over 2019 levels. Growing demand and increasing beef prices at the consumer level will be supportive of cattle prices, with leverage beginning to shift away from the packing sector as more shackle space becomes available during the year ahead. Good said CattleFax projects fed steer prices to average \$120 per hundredweight during 2020, an increase of \$3 from the previous year. Through the year, he noted downside risk to the \$108 level, with resistance at the top near the \$130 level. Calf prices are also expected to move higher in the year ahead, with 550-lb. steer prices trading in a range of \$155 to \$180, averaging \$170, up \$6 per hundredweight from 2019 levels. Feeder prices will also rise, with 750-lb. steers trading from \$140 to \$160, with a yearly average of \$150, also \$6 per hundredweight higher than last year's average. Good noted that additional supplies of utility cows, the product of several years of aggressive expansion, are likely to challenge the cull cow market. He projected utility cow prices should range from the low \$70 level to a fall low near \$55, while averaging near \$65 per hundredweight for the year, an increase of \$5 per hundredweight over 2019 levels. CattleFax CEO Randy Blach closed the session highlighting the strong demand that is highly favorable to the entire industry. He noted that there is significant outside interest in U.S. protein production, which is also highly supportive and a positive sign for the future. Blach noted that global demand for all proteins is strong, with beef being a major beneficiary of that demand, and also noted that although the leverage has been largely held by the packing sector, that too would begin to shift during the year ahead, with more dollars flowing back into the live cattle segments. However, Blach pointed out that although the market outlook is positive during the year ahead, the U.S. beef industry needs to be vigilant and maintain a competitive posture.



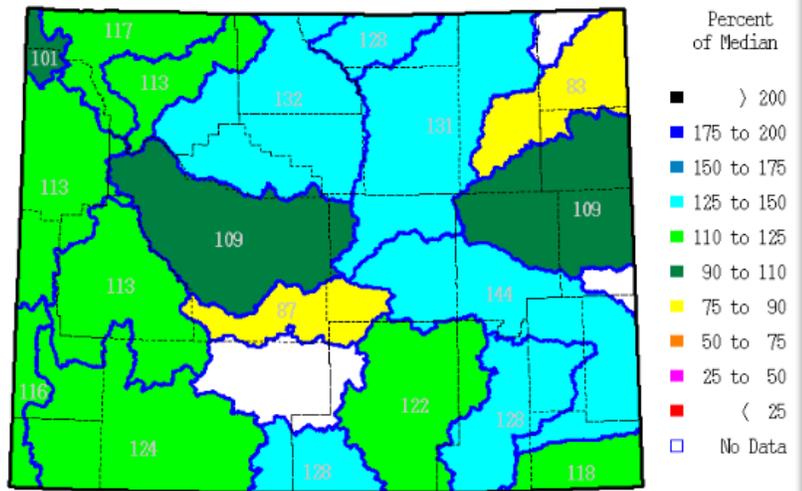
## U.S. Drought Monitor Wyoming



- Intensity:
- None
  - D0 Abnormally Dry
  - D1 Moderate Drought
  - D2 Severe Drought
  - D3 Extreme Drought
  - D4 Exceptional Drought

## Snow Water Equivalent 02/18/2020

SWE: Is the amount of water contained within the snowpack



- Percent of Median
- > 200
  - 175 to 200
  - 150 to 175
  - 125 to 150
  - 110 to 125
  - 90 to 110
  - 75 to 90
  - 50 to 75
  - 25 to 50
  - < 25
  - No Data