



SPRING 2020

Victory Gardens

During World War II, the U.S. government rallied Americans to plant “victory gardens” to help alleviate food shortages and supplement rations. An estimated 20 million victory gardens were planted in backyards, on rooftops, and community green spaces across America. These plots produced about 10 million tons of food, or roughly 40 percent of the nation’s vegetables during that time. The effort was also considered a “morale booster” by empowering gardeners with a purpose during wartime, and rewarding families with fresh produce.

After the 2008 recession, victory gardens made a comeback. And they will again this growing season. Whether you’re new to gardening or you’re a green thumb hungry to learn more, the University of Idaho extension in Teton County, Idaho is offering a free online Victory Garden course. The program was created to train individuals and families on how to “successfully plan, plant, harvest, prepare and preserve affordable and healthy food.” The self-guided class includes ten online sessions with lectures, activities, and readings. The course is available to take at your own pace up until December 2020. Check out our blog, *Field Notes*, for a link to the class and some local gardening tips. We’d love to hear about your victory garden—share your stories, photos, and gardening tips with phoebe@tetonconservation.org.



World War II victory garden poster (Food and Drug Administration).

Bank Stabilization & Bioengineering Workshops

In early March, Teton Conservation District partnered with Trout Unlimited, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and Snake River Fund to bring experts from around the country to present on streambank stabilization methods that balance public and private infrastructure needs with ecological stewardship. Over 80 local government staff and elected officials, engineers, stream restoration professionals, and interested public attended the technical workshops.



Bank stabilization is often necessary to protect infrastructure like roads, bridges, and buildings from meandering rivers. However, using certain techniques to control the Snake and Gros Ventre River can have unintended ecological consequences. For example, intermittent or seasonal flooding is necessary for cottonwood regeneration. It’s no coincidence that the cottonwood’s fluffy white catkin dispersal coincides with the tail end of spring runoff; cottonwoods seeds germinate in the saturated substrate after the high water recedes. Maintaining a dynamic floodplain to the greatest extent possible is necessary for cottonwood communities to perpetuate over time, supporting not only the trees but the numerous species, including amphibians, songbirds, raptors, moose, elk, bears, beavers, muskrats and more, that depend on riparian habitat.



JACKSON HOLE
clean water
coalition

Trout Friendly Landscaper & Business Partner Certification

Become a Trout Friendly certified landscaping business! The JH Clean Water Coalition invites landscaping, lawn care, and other interested businesses to a free online training on Trout Friendly Lawn practices on April 28 from 8:30 to 10:30 am. The program is designed to help landscapers create and maintain quality lawns and gardens while limiting adverse impacts on water from fertilizer and pesticide runoff, protecting people, pets, and wildlife. The event is free and open to anyone to attend, but you must register at: www.jhcleanwater.org/initiatives/trout-friendly-partners

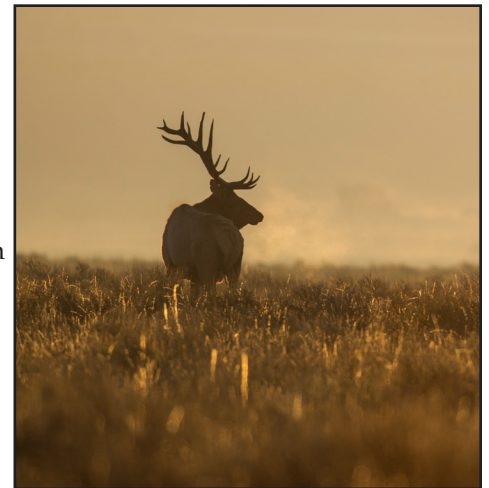
Partners in Conservation Grants

Teton Conservation District awards Partners in Conservation (PIC) grants annually for local natural resource projects relating to water, agriculture, wildlife, restoration, sustainability, and more. This year, the Teton Conservation District board granted \$98,372.87 to the following 16 projects:

- Bridger-Teton National Forest: Teton Wilderness Bear Pole Installation
- Bridger-Teton National Forest: Stream Trailer Construction
- Grand Teton National Park Foundation: Kelly Hayfields Restoration Project Vegetation Management (Phase 5)
- Huidekoper Ranch: Labor Saving Upgrades for Small-Scale Vegetable Production
- Jackson Hole Public Art: Water Quality Public Art - Wild Walls and Daylight Cache Creek
- J-W Subdivision: J-W Nitrate Treatment, Construction, and Operation
- Linn Ranch: Lily Lake Reservoir Infrastructure
- Montana State University: Butterflies as Bioindicators in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem
- Orijin Media and Josh Metten: Denizens of the Steep - A Backcountry Skiing and Conservation Film
- Teton Botanical Garden and National Museum of Wildlife Art: Rocky Mountain Native Plant Garden
- Teton Plants: Teton County Native Plant List for Landscapes, Restoration, Highways
- University of Wyoming (Monteith Shop): Western Wyoming Bighorn Sheep Nutrition and Disease
- University of Wyoming (Katherine Gura): Using Recorders to Assess Population Trends for Great Gray Owls in Teton County
- Veterinary Initiative for Endangered Wildlife: Mortality Investigation of the Sublette and Jackson Moose Herds
- Wyoming Stargazing: Next Generation Science Partners Website and Advertising
- Wyoming Wildlife Advocates: Watch for Wildlife



Great Gray Owl by Steve Poole.



Elk at Kelly Hayfields by Ryan Sheets.

NRCS Local Work Group Meeting

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Teton Conservation District are hosting the annual Local Work Group meeting from 1 to 3 p.m. on April 21, 2020. The purpose of the annual meeting is to provide local agricultural producers with information on NRCS programming and funding opportunities, solicit feedback on NRCS programs, and consider local funding and natural resource priorities. Find more information and the video conference invitation at www.tetonconservation.org/nrcs.

CONTACT US

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