

INFORMATION PACKET

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Friday, May 7, 2021



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Fire Department Monthly Report - [Casper Fire-EMS - YTD Incident Report](#)

We are CASPER

Communication Accountability Stewardship Professionalism Efficiency Responsiveness

The Grid

A working draft of Council Meeting Agendas

May 11, 2021 Councilmembers Absent:

Work Session Meeting Agenda Items	Recommendation	Allotted Time	Begin Time
Recommendations = Information Only, Move Forward for Approval, Direction Requested			
Meeting Followup		5 min	4:30
American Legion Memorial	Direction Requested	10 min	4:35
6th Cent Survey	Direction Requested	30 min	4:45
Health Department Budget Request	Direction Requested	30 min	5:15
Franchise Agreement with Vast Broadband	Move Forward for Approval	10 min	5:45
Tentative Budget to Council	Information Only	5 min	5:55
Agenda Review		20 min	6:00
Legislative Review		20 min	6:20
Council Around the Table		10 min	6:40
Approximate Ending Time:			6:50

May 17, 2021 Councilmembers Absent:

Special Work Session Meeting Agenda Items	Recommendation	Allotted Time	Begin Time
Recommendations = Information Only, Move Forward for Approval, Direction Requested			
Budget Review	Direction Requested	3 hours	4:30
Approximate Ending Time:			7:30

May 18, 2021 Councilmembers Absent:

Regular Council Meeting Agenda Items	Est. Public Hearing	Public Hearing	Ordinances	Resolutions	Minute Action
Public Hearing: Zone Change of Proposed Lot 3, Methodist Church Addition MBA (Currently Described as a Portion of Lot 1, Methodist Church Addition) from R-1 (Residential Estate) to C-2 (General Business).		N			
Parking Regulations and Restrictions – Chapter 10.36. - 3rd Reading			N		
Replat Creating Harmony Hills Addition No. 3. 2nd Reading			N		
Replat Creating Kensington Heights Addition No. 3. 2nd Reading			N		
Granting a Franchise to Clarity Telecom, LLC, d/b/a Vast Broadband for the Construction and Operation of a Cable System. 1st Reading			N		
Authorizing a Lease Agreement between the City of Casper and Casper Youth Baseball for Use of Washington Park Ballfield.				C	
Authorizing a Lease Agreement between the City of Casper and Casper Baseball Club for Use of the Crossroads 4 Baseball Field.				C	
Authorizing a Lease Agreement between the City of Casper and the Casper Softball Association for Use of the 13th and Sycamore Ballfields.				C	
Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Wyoming Department of Transportation for Traffic Control Box Public Art.				C	
Authorizing the 2021-2023 Council Goals.				C	
Approving a Vacation and Replat Creating The Nolan Addition.				C	

The Grid

A working draft of Council Meeting Agendas

May 18, 2021 (continued) Councilmembers Absent:

Regular Council Meeting Agenda Items	Est. Public Hearing	Public Hearing	Ordinances	Resolutions	Minute Action
Authorize a Contract for Professional Services with HDR Engineering, Inc., for the Casper Rail Trail Extension Plan, in an Amount not to Exceed \$59,943.74.				C	
Authorizing a Transportation Alternatives Program Agreement with the Wyoming Department of Transportation, in the Amount of \$500,000, for the Paradise Valley to Robertson Road Bridge Project.				C	
Authorizing a Contract for Professional Services with Golder Associates, Inc., in the Amount of \$51,290, for the Solid Waste Planning Service Project.				C	
Authorizing a Contract for Outside-City Sewer Service with J & T Properties LLC.				C	
Authorizing an Agreement with the Natrona County Conservation District in the Amount of \$40,000.				C	
Authorizing the Issuance of a Taxicab Company License to Michael Donahue, d/b/a Eagle Cab, Located at 2804 Coulter Drive.					C

May 19, 2021 Councilmembers Absent:

Special Work Session Meeting Agenda Items	Recommendation	Allotted Time	Begin Time
Recommendations = Information Only, Move Forward for Approval, Direction Requested			
Class & Comp Review	Information Only	20 min	4:30
Budget Review	Direction Requested	2.5 hours	4:50
Approximate Ending Time:			

May 25, 2021 Councilmembers Absent:

Work Session Meeting Agenda Items	Recommendation	Allotted Time	Begin Time
Recommendations = Information Only, Move Forward for Approval, Direction Requested			
Meeting Followup		5 min	4:30
Wyoming State Liquor Code Changes	Direction Requested	30 min	4:35
Link Drive	Direction Requested	30 min	5:05
Agenda Review		20 min	5:35
Legislative Review		20 min	5:55
Council Around the Table		10 min	6:15
Approximate Ending Time:			6:25

The Grid

A working draft of Council Meeting Agendas

June 1, 2021 Councilmembers Absent:

Regular Council Meeting Agenda Items	Est. Public Hearing	Public Hearing	Ordinances	Resolutions	Minute Action
Establish Public Hearing for City Budget for 6/15/21	C				
Replat Creating Harmony Hills Addition No. 3. 3rd Reading			N		
Replat Creating Kensington Heights Addition No. 3. 2nd Reading			N		
Zone Change of Proposed Lot 3, Methodist Church Addition MBA (Currently Described as a Portion of Lot 1, Methodist Church Addition) from R-1 (Residential Estate) to C-2 (General Business). 2nd Reading			N		
Granting a Franchise to Clarity Telecom, LLC, d/b/a Vast Broadband for the Construction and Operation of a Cable System. 2nd Reading			N		
Summary of Proposed Budget Submitted to Council (published in minutes)					

June 8, 2021 Councilmembers Absent:

Work Session Meeting Agenda Items	Recommendation	Allotted Time	Begin Time
Recommendations = Information Only, Move Forward for Approval, Direction Requested			
Meeting Followup		5 min	4:30
Health Department Proposed Fee Schedule Changes	Direction Requested	30 min	4:35
2021 International Business Code		30 min	5:05
			5:35
Agenda Review		20 min	
Legislative Review		20 min	
Council Around the Table		10 min	
Approximate Ending Time:			

Future Agenda Items

Council Items:

Item	Date	Estimated Time	Notes
Strategic Plan			2021
Roof Inspections			
Formation of Additional Advisory Committees			
Mike Lansing Field Update			Fall of 2021
Missing Persons			Summer 2021
Bus Stop Safety/Shoveling - Public Awareness			
Excessive Vehicle Storage in Yards			
Graffiti Abatement & Alternatives			
Stormwater Enterprise			After July 1
LGBTQ Safe Place			

Staff Items:

Limo Amendment			
Sign Code Revision			
Blood Borne Pathogens			
DEA			After July 1
GIS Demo			

Potential Topics-- Council Thumbs to be Added:

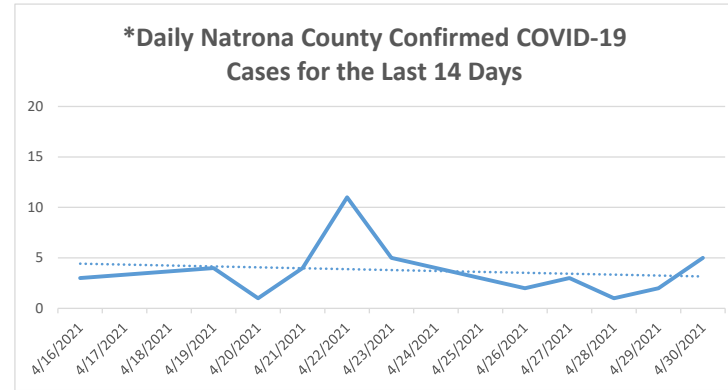
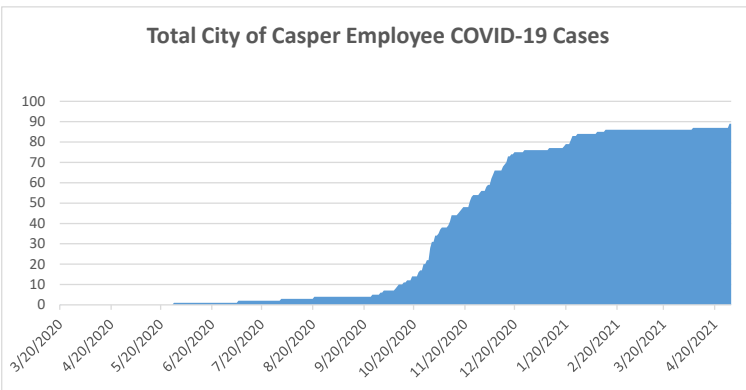
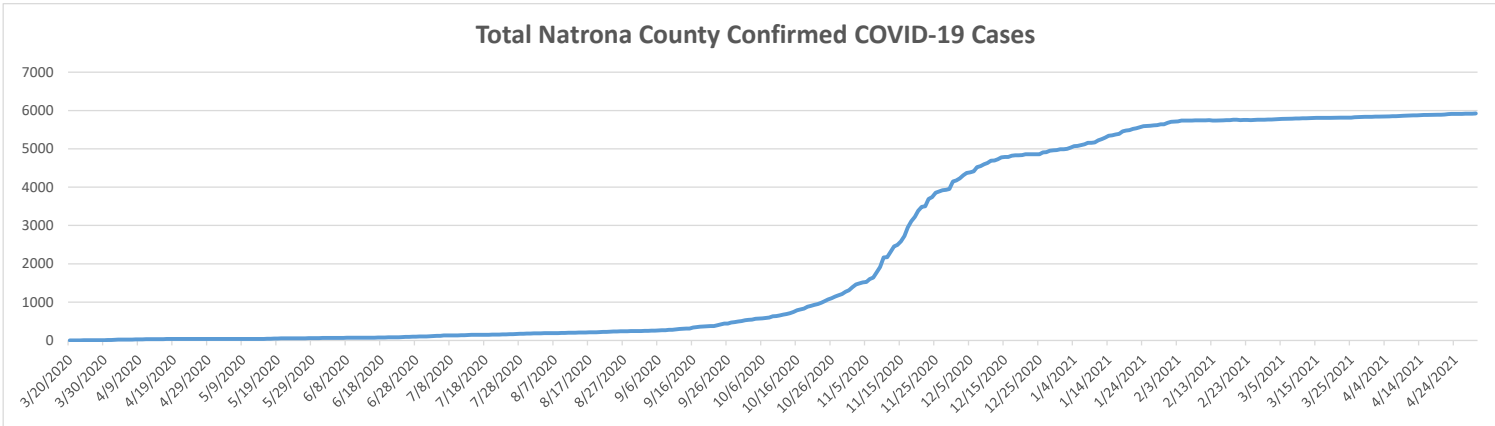
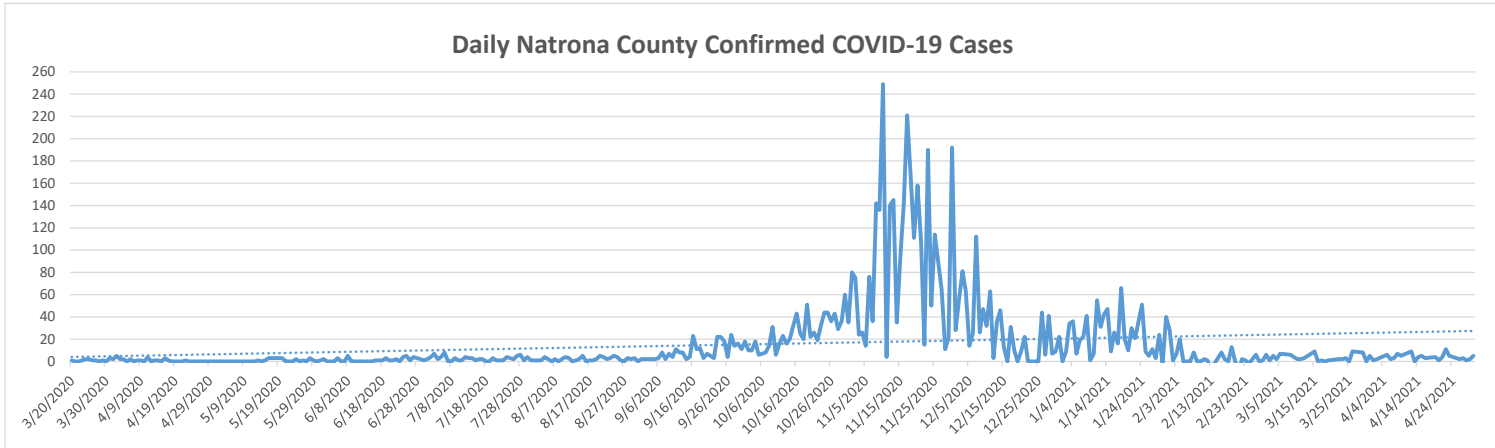
Resolution for Removal of Majestic Trees?			
Restructure of Community Promotions			
Handheld Device Use While Driving?			
One Cent FY21 Cut			After Budget

Future Regular Council Meeting Items:

Public Hearing: FY22 Budget Adoption/Action on Resolution/Publication			June 15, 2021
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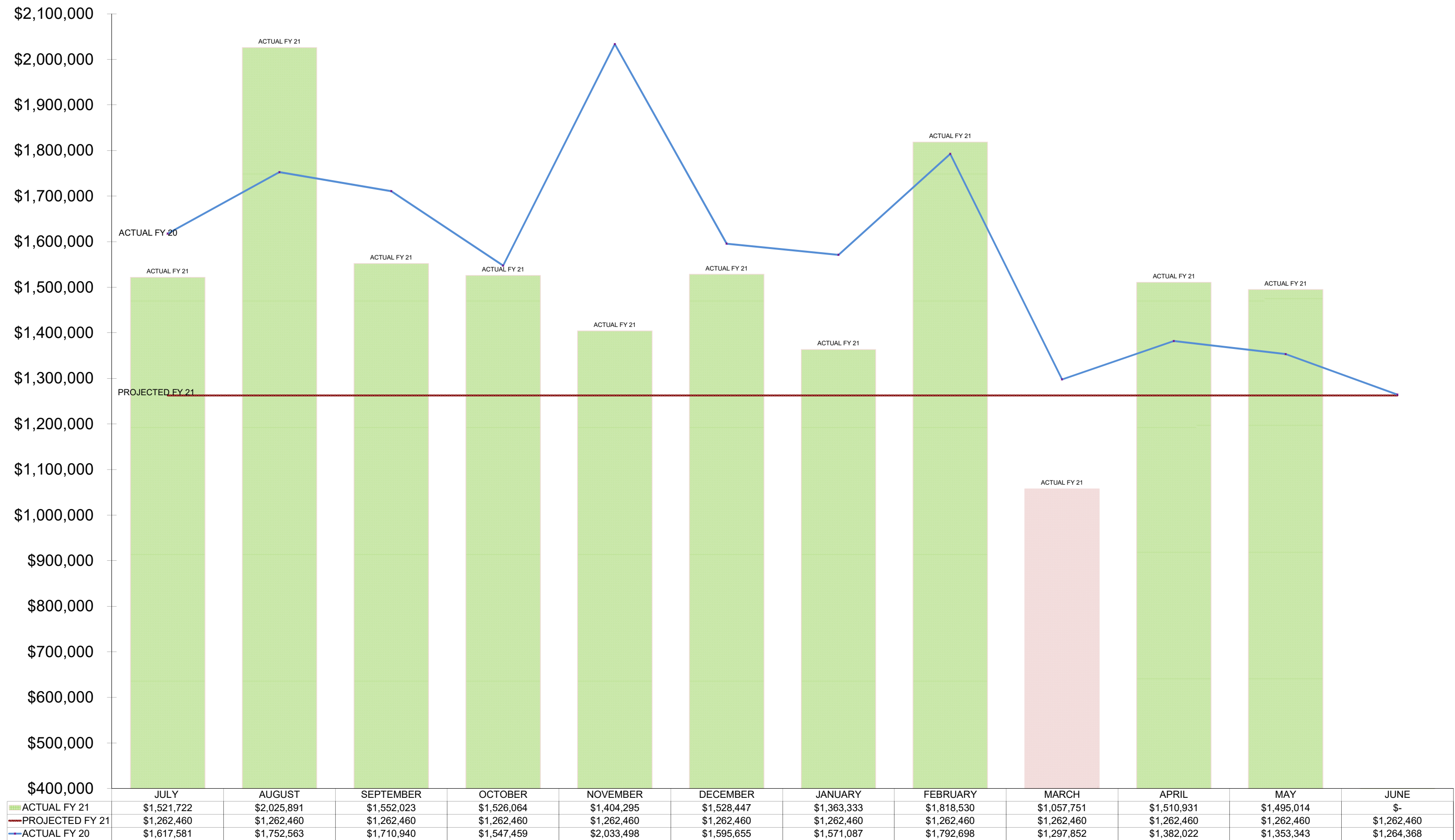
Retreat Items:

Economic Development and City Building Strategy



*State no longer reporting data on the weekends

Sales Tax FY 2021 Versus Projection and Prior Year



	ACTUAL FY 20	PROJECTED FY 21	ACTUAL FY 21
YTD TOTAL	\$ 17,654,697	\$ 13,887,059	\$ 16,804,002
YTD VARIANCE			\$ 2,916,943
			% Difference
CHANGE FROM FY21 PROJECTED TO FY21 ACTUAL-SAME MONTH			18.42%
CHANGE FROM FY21 PROJECTED TO FY21 ACTUAL-YEAR TO DATE			21.00%
CHANGE FROM FY20 ACTUAL TO FY21 ACTUAL-SAME MONTH			10.47%
CHANGE FROM FY20 ACTUAL TO FY21 ACTUAL-YEAR TO DATE			-4.82%
			In Dollars
CHANGE FROM FY21 PROJECTED TO FY21 ACTUAL-SAME MONTH			\$232,554
CHANGE FROM FY21 PROJECTED TO FY21 ACTUAL-YEAR TO DATE			\$2,916,943
CHANGE FROM FY20 ACTUAL TO FY21 ACTUAL-SAME MONTH			\$141,671
CHANGE FROM FY20 ACTUAL TO FY21 ACTUAL-YEAR TO DATE			-\$850,695

City of Casper
Optional 1% and State Shared Sales Tax Receipts
91.67% of Fiscal Year 2021 has Lapsed

Below is the optional Sales tax report for FY21 we are currently at 96.67% of the budget year.
 General Fund is up 21% from projected year to date which is at 110.92% of budget.
 1%16 is up 23.42% from projected year to date which is at 113.14% of budget.

State Shared Sales Tax

	Date Received	Amount Received	Amount Budgeted	Actual-Budget	Percent of Annual Budget	
FY 2021 General Fund	7/6/2020	\$ 1,521,722	\$ 1,262,460	\$ 259,263	10.04%	
	8/10/2020	2,025,891	1,262,460	763,431	23.42%	
	9/9/2020	1,552,023	1,262,460	289,563	33.66%	
	10/6/2020	1,526,064	1,262,460	263,604	43.74%	
	11/5/2020	1,404,295	1,262,460	141,835	53.00%	
	12/4/2020	1,528,447	1,262,460	265,987	63.09%	
	1/7/2021	1,363,333	1,262,460	100,873	72.09%	
	2/4/2021	1,818,530	1,262,460	556,070	84.10%	
	3/5/2021	1,057,751	1,262,460	(204,709)	91.08%	
	4/5/2021	1,510,931	1,262,460	248,471	101.05%	
	5/6/2021	1,495,014	1,262,460	232,554	110.92%	
	Jun			1,262,460		
	Total FY 2021		\$ 16,804,002	\$ 15,149,519	\$ 2,916,943	
Optional 1% Tax						
FY 2021 1%16	7/6/2020	\$ 1,265,670	\$ 1,033,333	232,336	10.21%	
	8/10/2020	1,677,982	1,033,333	644,649	23.74%	
	9/9/2020	1,299,470	1,033,333	266,136	34.22%	
	10/6/2020	1,282,918	1,033,333	249,585	44.56%	
	11/5/2020	1,184,279	1,033,333	150,946	54.12%	
	12/4/2020	1,272,486	1,033,333	239,152	64.38%	
	1/7/2021	1,136,779	1,033,333	103,446	73.55%	
	2/4/2021	1,517,479	1,033,333	484,146	85.78%	
	3/5/2021	892,575	1,033,333	(140,758)	92.98%	
	4/5/2021	1,254,151	1,033,333	220,817	103.10%	
	5/6/2021	1,245,170	1,033,333	211,837	113.14%	
	Jun			1,033,333		
	Total FY 2021		\$ 14,028,958	\$ 12,400,000	\$ 2,662,291	
Total		\$ 30,832,960	\$ 27,549,519	\$ 5,579,235		

April 15, 2021

Police Chief McPheeters
Casper Police Department
201 No. David Street
Casper, WY 82601

Mr. McPheeters:

I would like to applaud the law enforcement community of Natrona County for the efforts made the first week of April/or last week of March utilizing the DEA funds for drug enforcement.

I've read several negative comments (waste of taxpayer's money, should focus on other crime, etc.) and I just can't understand why people in our city are against laws being enforced. "Breaking a law" is breaking a law, no matter the law! As I read the news articles, it seems everyone pulled over "was in violation of something".

The stops allowed for persons "breaking the law" to be cited or arrested for whatever the violation. Isn't this what law enforcement is paid to do, and if continued, could cumulatively "clean up" our city.

1. Casper has some terrible drivers who make illegal turns, don't use turn signals, improper lane changes, speeding, etc. – they deserve to be pulled over and issued a citation or a warning. These "minor infractions" cause accidents. They put other drivers at risk. If drivers were stopped more frequently, they may change their driving habits, or even better – some may park their cars. People need to remember: driving is a privilege, not a right.
2. These random stops are one way to encounter drivers who are drunk or impaired in some way. Again, making it safe for others.
3. These stops can encounter persons in possession of illegal drugs (no matter what type of drug) or stolen possessions.

Also, the federal funds were available – why not allow Natrona County and its officers to benefit from the monies. I wish funding allowed for this many law enforcement officers to be on duty ALL the time, as I would like to see increased patrols of various kinds targeting violators. If criminals got the message "Casper will not tolerate such activity" maybe some less-desirables would leave the area.

It would be interesting to know, of the drugs confiscated during this task, how many persons were locals vs. people "passing through"?

I'd like to see Casper return to the safe city it used to be. Thank you, your department, and other law enforcement agencies for your service.



Mary Minihan
1180 Derby St.
Casper, WY 82609

Youth Council Agenda

Sunday, 5.2.2021

Officers

Kenzie Martini, *Chair*

Bryce, *Vice Chair*

Brooklyn, *Secretary*

Jimmy, *Treasurer*

Agenda

1. 4:30

- a. Call Meeting to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Review of Minutes

2. 4:30-5:15

Discuss:

- a. City Council's Annual Objectives
- b. Strategic Plan notes

3. 5:15-5:30

Elaborate:

- a. Student Forum
- b. Casper Civic Day
- c. YC Conference

4. 5:30

- a. Adjourn
-

Casper's Council of People with Disabilities (CCPD)

MINUTES from Meeting Held on Thursday, April 29, 2021 at 11:30 AM

Participation via Microsoft Teams Online & In-Person at City Hall, 200 North David St., Casper

Attendees: Voting Members: Austin Berlin, Chairperson; Nikki Green, Vice-Chairperson; Renate Pullen, Secretary; Zulima Lopez, Treasurer; Masha Flinn, Linda Jones, John Wall, Bonnie Wilson

Liaisons, Alternates & Guests: Ray Pacheco, City Councilman; Matt Kowalski, County Liaison; Jeremy Yates, Casper Area MPO; Liz Becher, Community Development Director, City of Casper; Geri Daily, City of Casper; Erwin Reitsma, WILR; Amy Burns; Leann Rogers; Susan Bentley; Sam Burkett, Laramie

1. Roll Call
2. Minutes from March 25, 2021 Meeting – Nikki Green made a motion to approve the minutes, and John Wall seconded the motion. The CCPD members approved the minutes from the previous meeting.
3. City Council Representative to address any City of Casper business that may affect or be of interest to the CCPD: Councilman Pacheco addressed the updates to transportation with the City not renewing its contract with CATC. The new City system will be in effect May 8th, with no changes at this time to rates or routes. Councilman Pacheco assured the group that the City is well prepared for this transition. The priority to the City is the passengers or riders and ensuring transportation needs are being met.
4. Question & Answer (Q & A) with the City Council Representative: John Wall had some questions regarding the transition. John had gathered questions from CATC passengers and The Bus passengers. Riders wanted assurances that they would be picked up and transported in a timely manner. Liz Becher also addressed questions regarding the City's transportation plans. Ms. Becher discussed the software being used. The City is currently still in negotiations with the software vendor. The City does have the passenger database available. All CATC dispatchers were retained. John posed the question if bus drivers will be retained from CATC. Of all the bus drivers, they have retained all but three drivers due to retirement. Ms. Becher will be putting together a FAQs for their website. John asked if all bus stops would stay the same, and Ms. Becher confirmed that they would stay the same with new signage with the new brand. No changes in cost at this time, and no changes in the voucher system. Previously purchased vouchers will be honored. Hours of operation will remain the same at this time, but hours will be looked at in the future. Jeremy Yates with the Casper Area MPO will have a draft of the Strategic Transit Plan out late next month for public comment for 30 days, and public outreach will occur.
5. Old Business:
 - Discuss updates from Committees since the previous CCPD meeting to address established priorities as listed below:
 - o QOL Committee – Zulima Lopez, Chairperson
 - o Public transportation priorities & projects – Jeremy Yates with Casper Area MPO updated the Council on the status of the transit study. A draft of the Strategic Transit Plan should be out late next month for public comment for 30 days, and public outreach will occur. There was a public meeting on April 28, 2021 at Gruner Bros. The Public

Participation Plan is out for public comment currently through June 11th. Trails Plans are upcoming.

- Quality of Life Sub-Committee will meet in May to resume discussion of the transportation priorities and develop a plan to address them.

- Public Relations (PR) Committee – John Wall, Chairperson

- John provided an update for the PR Sub-Committee. John has sold 8 calendars so far. John rode many routes of the buses to get input on the transportation changes this past month.
- Zulima continues to work with the City of Casper IT team on development of a CCPD webpage on the City's website which would have the mission, a place for our meeting minutes, etc. It was asked of the CCPD whether they would like a link from the Residents page or the City Council page. A link from both pages was preferred as both are applicable. Jeremy Yates discussed using a purchased URL for the MPO website and has liked this. It was moved by John Wall and seconded by Renate Pullen and approved by the CCPD to have Zulima purchase a URL and look into this further. Zulima won't spend more than \$40.00 without coming back to the group to discuss options. Zulima will try to have a draft of the webpage ready for review at the May meeting.

- Events Committee – Nikki Green, Chairperson

- Nikki discussed participation in the Central Wyoming Fair & Rodeo City Parade on July 13th. The group decided it would be a good idea to have a booth along the parade route to sell calendars, answer questions from the public, etc. Discussion occurred about providing small water bottles to the public as well. The Events Sub-Committee will meet in May to discuss a plan.

- Fundraising Committee – Linda Jones, Chairperson

- Calendar Fundraising Project Update – The calendars are printed and ready to be sold. Some have already sold. It was brought up that calendars could be sold at a CCPD booth at the City Parade on July 13th. Linda requested we do another calendar for 2022, and Zulima stated that we have the template ready now, and it would give us adequate time to put one together more timely. The theme suggested by Linda was service animals. Zulima has calendars for any members to take and sell if they would like.

6. New Business:

- Financial Report – Presented by the Treasurer – Updates were discussed, and the report is attached to these minutes. Revenue: \$70 cash on hand due to calendar sales; Expenses: \$162.50 to Mountain States Lithographing for the calendars. Remaining budget through June 30, 2021 is \$1460.69. Fund within City Council's budget is \$1530.69.
- Liz Becher passed out a press release regarding the Casper transit system including information regarding new phone numbers, brands and the same hours of operation for Casper Area Link (Fixed Route) and ASSIST (dial-a-ride service). The press release is attached to these minutes. There will be a card produced the size of a business card to go to doctors' offices, the hospital, CDC, social service agencies with the new phone numbers to spread the information. John brought up surveys for passengers on the buses to get their input. Ms. Becher will look at this after the transition on May 8th, and they will be forming an advisory committee, and she would like to see input from our Council as well on this advisory committee.

- Zulima reported that the Senior Center is now open and will be serving lunch.
 - Regarding selling calendars – Matt Kowalski spoke to the Library regarding selling our calendars, and hopefully we can partner with them to sell the calendars at their community events. Ms. Becher requested some calendars at the transit offices.
 - Zulima met Catherine Morris, a Vision Specialist with the NCSD, at the public meeting last night and visited about the challenges the students have crossing streets. Ms. Morris stated there can be a sensory experience of blindfolding and trying to cross streets without your vision so you can experience what it's like to be blind. We could possibly do this at upcoming events.
 - Zulima will begin attending engineering meetings again with the City.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 PM. The next scheduled meeting will be held online through Microsoft Teams as well as in-person at City Hall for up to 12-14 attendees in the Downstairs Conference Room. Due to high school graduations occurring on May 27th, it was decided to reschedule the May meeting a week early. The meeting is scheduled on May 20, 2021 at 11:30 AM.

Minutes taken by: Renate Pullen, Secretary

CCPD Treasurer Report - April 2021

CCPD Revenues as of 4/29/2021

Name	Deposit Date	Amount	Comment
Linda Jones	4/29/2021	\$ 50.00	Calendar sales
Zulima Lopez	4/29/2021	\$ 20.00	Calendar sales
Total Revenue		\$ 70.00	

CCPD Expenses as of 4/29/2021

Vendor	Invoice Date	Date Paid	Amount	Check or Card
Mountain States Lithographing	4/7/2021	4/21/2021	\$ 162.50	Check
Total Expenses			\$ 162.50	
Budget			\$ 1,623.19	
Remaining Budget			\$ 1,460.69	
Fund Balance	\$			1,530.69

Liz Becher

From: Jolene Martinez
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 6:53 PM
To: Jolene Martinez
Subject: news release -- new phone numbers for Casper area transit system

Pasted below is a news release on the new phone numbers for the Casper area transit system.

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Liz Becher, Community Development Director
Community Development Department
lbecher@casperwy.gov
307-235-8255

New phone numbers announced for Casper area transit system

Transit system will include dial-a-ride and fixed route bus service

Casper, Wyoming (**April 28, 2021**) – The City of Casper will begin operating transit services in Casper, Mills, Bar Nunn, Evansville, and areas of Natrona County on May 8, 2021. The City will continue operating the Fixed Route, which will be called Casper Area Link (the Link, for short), and Dial-A-Ride Service, which will be called ASSIST.

Riders may call the following new phone numbers for service or assistance, beginning at 8 a.m. May 8, 2021:

Fixed Route (Casper Area Link) – 235-8287

Dial-A-Ride Service (ASSIST) – 235-8273

The hours of operation will be 6:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. on Saturday for Casper and 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and no Saturday for Mills and Evansville. The services areas will remain the same as those being currently served in the Casper area. Further information is available from Happy Transit at 307-235-8255.

All City of Casper e-mails and attachments, except those defined as attorney/client communications or confidential/privileged information, may qualify as public records under the Wyoming Public Records Act, W.S. § 16-4-201 *et seq.*, and are subject to public disclosure pursuant to this Act.

DATE: MAY 5, 2021
TO: CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
FROM: HEIDI ROOD, HUMAN RESOURCES TECHNICIAN
SUBJECT: CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION MEETING

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 2021

1:00 P.M.

CONFERENCE CALL

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#) (Video)

Or call in (audio only)

(307) 314-2685

Phone Conference ID: **349 506 93#**

AGENDA

1. Approval of April 7, 2021 Meeting Minutes
2. Certify Firefighter Trainee List
3. Other Business
4. Set Next Meeting Date(s)
June 2nd – Certify Senior Police Officer List
July 7th
5. Adjourn



WYOMING CENTER

 **SinclairTix.com**

WESTERN TRADITION

MEETS

ATHLETIC

EXCELLENCE

IN CASPER, WY

COLLEGE NATIONAL FINALS RODEO

JUNE 13-19

COLLEGE NATIONAL

FINALS RODEO

BUY TICKETS NOW

**COLLEGE NATIONAL FINALS RODEO
JUNE 13 - 19 IN CASPER, WYOMING
ALL TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW!**

For more than twenty years, the College National Finals Rodeo has made its home and legacy in Casper, Wyoming. No where else in the world can you find the most elite college athletes and animals going head to head in the dirt, competing to be crowned the best. More than a rodeo, CNFR is a celebration of our western tradition and athletic excellence that once you've experienced, you'll never forget.

All Tickets are on sale now.

- General Admission Seats are \$10 each (Saturday's ticket is reserved)
- Reserved Seats are \$20 each
- Box Seats are \$25 each *All prices increase by \$5 for Saturday's performance **All tickets for Tuesday night are just \$10!

[BUY TICKETS](#)

**#CNFR #CNFR2021 #Rodeo #SinclairTix
#VisitCasper #ThatsWY**

From: Roehr, Mary <Mary.Roehr@charter.com>
Sent: Monday, May 3, 2021 12:03 PM
Subject: Charter/Spectrum Rate Adjustments

Good Morning.

At Charter Communications (“Spectrum”) we continue to enhance our services in order to offer more entertainment and communication choices, and to deliver the best value to our customers. We are committed to offering our customers products and services we are sure they will enjoy.

Programming fees charged by TV networks we carry are the greatest single factor in higher cable prices, and continue to rise. Despite our best efforts to control these costs, this has resulted in a change in the rates we charge our customers.

Effective on or after May 2, 2021, customers are being noticed via bill message of the following monthly pricing changes, which will take effect on or after June 2, 2021. Customer promotional rates will not change until the end of the promotion period.

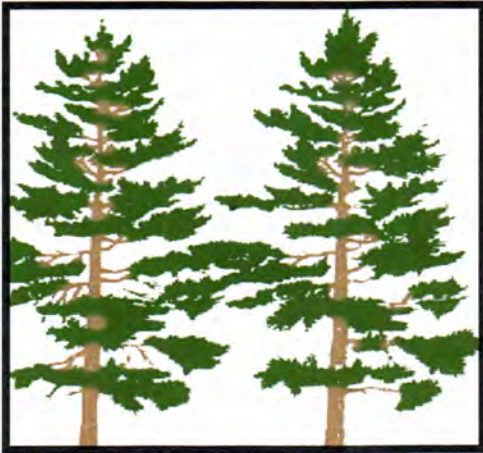
Services/Products/Equipment	Pricing Adjustment
Broadcast TV Surcharge	Will increase by \$1.54. This reflects the costs incurred from local Broadcast TV Stations.
Seasonal Broadcast TV Surcharge	Will reduce by \$6.45.
Spectrum Receiver/Digital Adapter	Will increase by \$1.00 per receiver/adapter.
Charter Digital Home	Will increase by \$10.00.
Spectrum TV Select	Will increase by \$3.00.
Spectrum TV Silver	Will increase by \$8.00*.
Spectrum TV Gold	Will increase by \$8.00*.
Latino Tier	Will increase by \$1.00.

* Except certain grandfathered/Active packages where increase is \$3.00.

If you have any questions about this change, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
Mary Roehr


Mary Roehr | Director, Government Affairs, Colorado, Montana, Wyoming | C: 406-671-7956
951 W. Custer Ave. | Helena, MT 59601



Casper Mountain Forest Stewardship Association Natrona County Mountain NEWS

Spring/Summer 2021

SPONSORED BY: Casper Mountain Forest Stewardship Association and
Wyoming State Forestry Division Cooperating

Notes from CMFSA President Lisa Evers

Happy spring! I hope you all wintered well and remained safe, Healthy and warm. As many of you know winter snow pack didn't really start to accumulate until March. The "snowmageddon" storm brought over six feet of snow to the top of the mountain as well as some very impressive drifting.

Once the snow is mostly melted and the ground is still saturated with moisture, is an excellent time to get started with your mitigation and maintaining a healthy forest projects. While snowshoeing around the mountain this winter I noticed quite a few trees that either blew over or were unhealthy and fell over. Most of these were in areas I hike in the summer and were standing then. Please check all of your property closely and take any debris to the slash pile on East End Road.

Even with all the snow Natrona County received late winter, early spring, the national Weather Service still considers us to be in severe drought for our County. Granted, all the snow on the mountain has helped, it still depends on how hot, dry and windy the spring summer and fall seasons are to keep the fire danger low.

Casper Mountain Fire Department has responded to fire calls every month this year. The fires at the base of the mountain in early March off Scenic Drive and Bates Creek in early April are signs of exactly how dry it is. Even though these fires were in the low lands, their close proximity to the mountain is of concern. As things heat up and dry out from the foothills to the top of the mountain we may expect to see extreme fire behavior on the mountain.

Please continue to be diligent with your mitigating efforts, removing diseased and damaged trees and dead fall. Contact the Natrona County Wildfire Mitigation team at 234-6116 with any questions on how to prepare you cabin or property for a wildland fire. Your efforts now are the key to help reduce the damage to your property during a wildland fire.

I hope to see many of you at the Casper Mountain Forest Stewardship Association meeting at the Ag building on May 26, 2021 starting at 7:00 PM. Mask and social distancing will be followed.

Thank You
Lisa Evers President & Chief of Casper Mountain Fire

Benefits of Thinning Your Forest

Increased Growth: Private landowners have demonstrated repeatedly that properly managed, working forests have both economic and ecological benefits. Regular thinnings provide an improved environment for maximizing a site's growth potential, which results in larger, healthier trees and more valuable timber. As a silvicultural practice, thinning allows for the continued growth of the healthiest preferred species within a timber stand while removing the suppressed, diseased and low-vigor trees that will impede the growth of the entire stand. Many of the low-vigor trees in such stands continue to grow at a reduced rate until competition claims them or they are removed via thinning. An integral piece of properly managing the forest is the removal of these trees, which can also serve as unnecessary fuel load during a fire event.

Improved Utilization: While the economic benefits of regularly removing suppressed and dying trees are minimal, intermediate thinnings do pay for themselves and provide the economic advantage of improving the health of the entire timber stand. Arranged thinnings during growth cycles will yield wood that can be utilized for pulp, chip or pellet operations. Again, while the economic gain may be minimal in this case, the health of the overall stand is improved and thus, the value of the overall stand increases.

Reduced Vulnerability to Disease and Insects: Maintaining proper stand density is essential to reducing tree damage from both disease and insects. As a rule, healthy trees are less susceptible to insect infestation than unhealthy ones. For example, the Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) is the most harmful insect to forests in the US. The University of Georgia Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health notes that, "Uninfested trees are generally larger, have thicker bark, greater crown/bole ratios, larger crowns, and faster growth rates, and occur in less dense stands. The infested trees were usually located in heavily stocked stands that were under stress." While other factors can also impact the health of a stand, "high stand density was the most important factor predisposing stands to MPB attack."

Genetic Enhancement: Genetic enhancement can also be achieved through proper and regular thinning. Trees removed in thinnings are usually inferior, diseased or have objectionable shape, which is sometimes due to genetics. By removing such trees early and prior to forest regeneration, the landowner or land manager can minimize the number of trees with undesirable traits in a stand.

Environmental Benefits: Thinnings will alter the environment of the forest, which is a good thing. Thinnings allow the penetration of light, which increases the temperature of soil as well as the availability of moisture and nutrients within the soil. With these changes, forest vegetation flourishes and produces a more favorable habitat for wildlife. Thinnings will invariably reduce the canopy of the forest, which allows a greater amount of rainwater to reach the forest floor as well.

Fire Prevention: Despite the benefits of thinning listed above, opponents typically rely on the same, haggard argument that is not rooted in environmental science or best forest management practices. These same opponents typically believe that "letting nature take its course" is the preferred method of managing our forests, and they generally eschew any economic gain that might result from forest management and the sale of timber. While Mother Nature has indeed used fire to control forest growth for eons, managing the damage and mitigating the risk that extreme wildfires pose to communities is a challenge that must be addressed. The best available science (and experience) tells us that proper thinnings and controlled burns are the most effective ways to minimize fire exposure.

Conclusion: Thinning is an important silvicultural practice that increases the growth potential of the forest as well as the return on investment with higher-vigor and higher-value trees. As noted above, thinning is also a practice that improves the overall health of the forest by mitigating disease and insect susceptibility while minimizing catastrophic fire risk. An unmanaged forest is an unhealthy forest, as well as a potentially dangerous tinderbox of wildfire fuel.



A thinned mature lodgepole pine stand located on Casper Mountain.

COMING EVENTS 2021

Casper Mountain Forest Stewardship Association Annual Meeting
Wednesday May 26th at 7:00 pm
Agriculture Resource & Learning Center
2011 Fairgrounds Road

Learn about current forest health issues locally and statewide.

Casper Mountain Landowner Field Day
Friday June 18th at 10:00 am.

This year's location of the Field Day will be held in the field and will not have an inside component.

Restrooms will be available. Lunch will be provided.

A post card will be sent out before the field day with the exact meeting location and agenda.

Learn hands on about forest health issues affecting Casper Mountain,
as well as touring implemented forest and wildland fuels management projects.

How Drought Affects Trees

Drought affects trees directly by slowing or arresting growth, and causing injury or death. It also affects them indirectly, by increasing their susceptibility to wildfire, insect pests and disease. A drought may be short-lived, perhaps lasting one growth season, but its impact on a tree's health—and, ultimately, a forest's—can last much longer.

Trees have evolved protective mechanisms to deal with water stress, but there are many external factors that determine the effects of drought, including soil composition and topography, as well as the mix, age and density of trees. For example, soils high in clay tend to retain moisture better than sandy ones but trees put down shallower roots in clay, making them more susceptible to water shortages. All these make the relationship between drought and tree health a complex one.

Most plants are 80 to 95 percent water. They use it for transpiration (the release of water vapor through openings in the leaves called stomata), but also to produce energy, in the form of carbohydrates, through photosynthesis.

Under drought conditions, plants may close the stomata in their leaves to limit transpiration and thereby conserve water. If the shortage of water is prolonged, photosynthesis will cease, along with the plant growth it supports. Plants will also drop their leaves to conserve water. If drought persists, trees will eventually die.

Effects of drought:

Deciduous trees, which can drop leaves to decrease the demand for water, tend to withstand dry spells better than conifers, but both types will show signs of water stress. Here are some signs that your woods are under stress from lack of water:

Deciduous Trees

- Wilted leaves: The broad leaves of most hardwoods wilt when water is in short supply. However, some species, such as oak, tend to be more resistant to it. Wilting usually happens during the day, followed by a recovery at night. This is called temporary wilting. When a drought worsens, the trees may progress to permanent wilting.
- Curled, warped or crinkled leaves.
- Scorched leaves that are brown along their edges.
- Discoloration (brown or yellow).
- Dropped leaves.

Conifers

- Second-year needles turn yellow or red.
- Needles drop prematurely, i.e., before two years.
- Bark beetle attack.



Maintain Defensible Space

Keep your property lean and green to help protect your family and home.

Defensible space is essential to improve your home's chance of surviving a wildfire. It's the buffer you create between a building on your property and the grass, trees, shrubs, or any wildland area that surround it. This space is needed to slow or stop the spread of wildfire and it helps protect your home from catching fire, either from direct flame contact or radiant heat. Defensible space is also important for the protection of the firefighters defending your home.

Defensible Space Zones—Two zones make up the required 100 feet of defensible space.

Zone 1 extends 30 feet* from buildings, structures, decks, etc.

- Remove all dead plants, grass and weeds (vegetation).
- Remove dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your yard, roof and rain gutters.
- Remove branches that hang over your roof and keep dead branches 10 feet away from your chimney.
- Trim trees regularly to keep branches a minimum of 10 feet from other trees.
- Relocate wood piles to Zone 2.
- Remove or prune flammable plants and shrubs near windows.
- Remove vegetation and items that could catch fire from around and under decks.
- Create a separation between trees, shrubs and items that could catch fire, such as patio furniture, wood piles, swing sets, etc.

Zone 2 extends 100 feet out from buildings, structures, decks, etc.

- Cut or mow annual grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches.
- Create horizontal space between shrubs and trees.
- Create vertical space between grass, shrubs and trees.
- Remove fallen leaves, needles, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches. However, they may be permitted to a depth of 3 inches.

Natrona County Wildfire Mitigation Projects

The Natrona County Wildfire mitigation projects started with a vision by Bryan Anderson and Sam Weaver back in 1998. The program became the model for other wildfire mitigation programs which were developed in the State of Wyoming. Since the beginning 682 acres of Shaded Fuel breaks have been installed which will assist firefighters in slowing down a wild land fire occurring in the top of the trees and on the ground.

332 landowners have taken advantage of the cost share which equates to 416 acres of private land treated. The defensible space and/or fuel treatments projects can help reduce the damage from a wildland fire to a structure or property.

Unfortunately I have not been successful in obtaining any additional grants therefore our program in Natrona County will be coming to an end. Any projects already established or new programs developed this summer will need to be completed by the end of October 1st 2021. After that date defensible space for new structures will still be required by the Natrona County Development Department in order to receive a building permit for Casper Mountain. The matching funds will not be available.

Letters will be sent to all landowners who currently have projects in the works reminding them of the dead line for being reimbursed.

John Farrell, Coordinator

NFP Cost-Share Practices & Rate Changes

PRACTICE	COST-SHARE%	MAXIMUM Practice Cost	Cost-Share Rate NOT TO EXCEED
Defensible Space	50%	\$4,200/treatment	\$2,100/treatment
Fuel Treatment	50%	\$1,600/acre	\$800/acre
Fuel Breaks	50%	\$1,800/acre	\$900/acre

DEFENSIBLE SPACE—Thinning, pruning, and fuels removal, as prescribed by the Wildfire Mitigation Plan by a Resource Professional, in a circular area not less than 100 feet from the exterior of a residence or business structure. Defensible Space Rate can also be used for planned construction site of a residence or business structure.

FUEL TREATMENT—Thinning, pruning, and fuel removal in areas other than the defensible space described above, as prescribed by the Wildfire Mitigation Plan written by a Resource Professional. Slash shall be removed from the site, chipped or piled for burning.

FUEL BREAK—Thinning, pruning and fuel removal in key areas identified by a Resource Professional and Wildfire Mitigation Plan. Key areas being those identified to support wildland firefighting suppression actions. Slash shall be removed from the site, chipped or piled for burning. Fuel breaks shall be at least three contiguous acres in area to qualify.

Landowner may hire a contractor or complete the work themselves. Records are to be kept of landowner in-kind hours and are to be turned in to the County Firewise Program upon completion of the practice.

Contact the Natrona County Firewise Office at (307) 234-6116 to schedule an appointment for developing a Defensible Space Plan for your property.

Casper Mountain Slash Pile

With the onset of even dryer weather conditions, we no longer have the opportunity to dispose of slash by burning on site. Due to the attraction of Ips Beetles to green slash throughout the spring and summer months, it is not a wise practice to leave green slash on the property. The Casper Mountain Slash Pile is available to those wishing to dispose of slash. This is being provided as a courtesy by the Natrona County Roads, Bridges, and Parks. We would like to review a few courtesy guidelines pertaining to this slash pile:

1. No “trash” items, especially those which do not burn or which produce toxic fumes.
2. No items with nails or other objects which can puncture tires.
3. No stumps, these often do not burn up and can be a problem if they smolder and snow cover disappears.
4. Pile from the inside of the pile, outward. Piling along the edge of the pile, prohibits others from utilizing the pile.
5. Please try and keep the pile as tight and compact as possible as loose piles do not burn well.
6. Please follow these guidelines and remember that this is a community SLASH pile.



Thank you to the Natrona County Roads, Bridges, and Parks for the use of the site and the maintenance of the slash pile.

Vegetation Management Notes

BLM High Plains District

Casper Mountain Projects:

An additional 350 acres were treated in 2020 on the Coal Mountain project using large masticators to cut and/or shred juniper that was encroaching into the shrubland communities allowing species such as antelope bitterbrush, mountain mahogany, serviceberry, and sagebrush to thrive. This treatment improved wildlife habitat, particularly mule deer seasonal habitat, and reduced hazardous fuels in the area. The entire project area is delineated as crucial big game winter range, but also supports a small herd of elk seasonally.

Juniper reduction treatment is planned this summer in the Bates Hole area on 212 acres near Eagle Ridge. A contract will be issued to cut and pile junipers that are encroaching onto the shrub and grassland areas. This will reduce hazardous fuels and improve wildlife habitat by allowing the shrubs and grasses to reestablish.

Cleanup of the BLM portion of the East End Road fuels treatment will continue this summer. Crews will gather and pile the slash that resulted from the project to reduce hazardous fuels and increase the effectiveness of the road as a potential containment feature in the event of a future wildland fire.

Muddy Mountain Projects:

Many of the existing piles on the Pitchpine project were burned over the winter. Fuels reduction will continue on the project this summer. The project encompasses around 350 acres near Pitchpine Creek. Upcoming work in the area will include a cutting contract to continue restoring the meadows and mountain shrub communities, as well as thinning fuels in the timbered islands to reduce hazardous fuels and improve wildlife habitat.

Planning for additional treatments in the Pitchpine and Muddy Mountain areas area will be taking place throughout the summer as well.



Wyoming State Forestry Division Staff Change

The vacant Cooperative Resource Forester position was filled this winter by Jamie Schmidt who started in her new position on February 26th of this year. This position assists program managers with various projects within the Cooperative Forestry grant programs. These Cooperative Forestry Programs include Forest Health, Rural Forestry Assistance, Fuels Reduction and Urban & Community Forestry. Jamie will be assisting program managers, as well as working with districts on various program related projects.

Jamie came to Wyoming State Forestry Division from Black Hills, where she was a forester for Neiman Enterprises working on projects in both South Dakota and Wyoming sides of the Black Hills. Jamie received her degree in Forest Management from Colorado State University, she had been working with the Colorado State Forest Service as a Stewardship Forester and forester before going to work for Neiman Enterprises. Prior to securing her forestry degree she was in field of Atmospheric Science before deciding the Forestry was a better fit for her. Hopefully many of you meet Jamie soon at one of our landowner field days, workshops or meetings.

Casper Mountain Forest Stewardship Association
Natrona County Mountain NEWS
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Casper, Wyoming 82602-0281

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New Member ___ Renew Member ___

Name _____

Permanent Address _____

_____ Zip Code _____

Mountain Address or Property Location _____

_____ Zip Code _____

Phone (home) _____ (work) _____

Name of spouse _____

Are you a landowner? Yes ___ No ___ Is your spouse? Yes ___ No ___

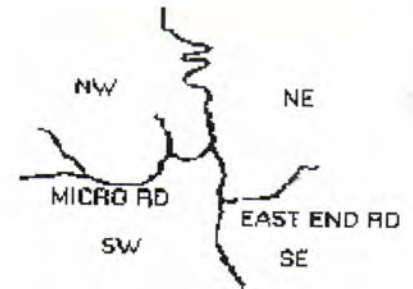
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I would like my newsletter sent by: ___ Mail ___ e-mail ___ Both ___

My e-mail address is: _____



In what division is your land located?

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| NW | <input type="checkbox"/> | Rattlesnake Mtns | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| SW | <input type="checkbox"/> | South Bighorns | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| NE | <input type="checkbox"/> | Muddy Mountain | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| SE | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |