



Powder River Conservation District



Annual Report
July 1, 2005-June 30 2006

Mission Statement

The Powder River Conservation District's mission is to provide conservation education and leadership for the betterment of our natural resources and improvement of our environment and to be a cooperating agency with other government entities administering our natural resources.

Powder River Conservation District

The Powder River Conservation District was established in August of 1955. Petitions for the organization of a Soil Conservation District, were circulated at various organization meetings at Barnum, Kaycee, Sussex, and Mayoworth, and signed by ranchers located in the southern end of Johnson County.

Many changes have been made in the past fifty-one years. However, the district continues to grow and provide service to the citizens of Southern Johnson County. There are approximately 1,220,528 acres within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Powder River Conservation District. The district has one incorporated municipality, the Town of Kaycee, with a current population of 270. The main drainages in the District are the North Fork, Middle Fork, Red Fork, and South Fork of the Powder River. The majority of the district is composed of native rangeland, both private and government.

The agriculture of the Powder River Conservation District is centered around livestock operations. Irrigated areas are used primarily for the production of hay and small grain as supplemental food for livestock. The mineral industry includes oil and gas production, bentonite, uranium, and coal reserves. The scenic ranching community is rich in heritage and history.

PRCD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The Powder River Conservation District is governed by a five member Board of Supervisors. Three supervisors are rural, one is urban, and one is designated as at-large. They are elected by the residents of Johnson County during the general election. They serve staggered four year terms, with two positions available at a general election one year and three positions available at the next year. Supervisors are unpaid, elected volunteers who attend monthly board meetings and are actively involved in overseeing the activities of the conservation district. Board meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at the PRCD office and are open to the public.

CHAIRMAN

Pete Meike

VICE-CHAIR

Jason Williams

SECRETARY

Ray Winsor

TREASURER

Amy Icanberry

MEMBER

Greg Cunningham

DISTRICT PERSONEL

Anita Bartlett-District Manager

NRCS STAFF

Allison McKenzie-District Conservationist

HOW TO CONTACT PRCD

Adress:

350 Nolan Avenue

P.O. Box 48

Kaycee, WY 82639

Phone:

(307) 738-2321

Fax:

(307) 738-2107

Email:

Anita.Bartlett@wy.nacdnet.net

ADMINISTRATION

NEW STAFF

In April 2006, PRCD's District Manager Wendy Wag-
oner resigned after 1 1/2 years of service. Anita Bartlett
was hired as the new District Resource Coordinator/
Manager. Anita graduated from Chadron State College
in Chadron, Nebraska with a Bachelor of Science De-
gree in Range Management with options in Range Live-
stock Production and Rangeland Business.



PRCD FUNDING

- Johnson County Mill Levy
- Wyoming Private Grazing Lands Team
- Department of Environmental Quality
- Wyoming Department of Agriculture
- Wyoming State Forestry
- Coordinated Resource Management

DISTRICT OPERATIONS

- Approved FY 2007 Budget
- CPA completed financial review
- Supervisors and District Manger attended Area I Meeting and the WACD State Convention
- Worked Cooperatively to promote those areas of common interest in the state, federal and local partnership in natural resources conservation
- Participated in training seminars
- Addressed local concerns and planned cooperative efforts with the Town of Kaycee
- Worked with Kaycee Schools to promote Ag-In-the Classroom
- Sponsored informational workshops for land-owners



DISTRICT PROGRAMS & SERVICES

EDUCATION GOAL: The Powder River Conservation District will work to educate the public and our youth on the importance of conserving our natural resources.

❖ Ecology Camp

A three day Ecology Camp was held at HR Camp near Laramie Peak. Students from Kaycee Middle School studied forest ecology and learned how to determine the age of a tree, the damage that has been done, or tell when times of drought occur by looking at a tree cookie. They also walked through the forest and saw downed trees and learned what they are good for,. They saw trees struck by lightning and trees that were twisted or misformed. Also at HR Camp they participated in activities to help develop teamwork and leadership skills.



KMS Students examine a Tree Cookie at ecology camp.

❖ National Ag Day

National Ag Day was celebrated by Kaycee Elementary First Grade students when District Conservationist Allison McKenzie and FFA members visited their classroom. First graders were told the importance of agriculture in the world today. Also students made bracelets that represent the components (soil, plants, animals, sun, water, etc.) of agriculture.

❖ Earth Day

Earth Day was celebrated when District Manager Anita Bartlett visited Kaycee Elementary School and taught students about the effects of pollution on the Earth. They learned that things they do everyday can have an effect on the planet.



KES Second Graders examine the effects of pollution on our enviroscape.

❖ World Water Monitoring Day

This year the PRCD and KHS science classes recognized World Water Monitoring Day through a water testing field trip. The PRCD water monitoring consultant, Cheryl Nauss, with Environment Design Engineering, gave a presentation on water monitoring protocol. Following that students collected water samples.

❖ Range Contest

The PRCD held a Range Contest for area individuals, 4-H, and FFA members to practice their plant identification skills prior to attending the Wyoming State Range Contest.

❖ Kaycee Elementary students participated in a Poster/Coloring Contest.

❖ The PRCD sponsored the FFA Champion Showmanship Steer Award at the 2006 Johnson County Fair

❖ District Manager Anita Bartlett attended the Black Hills Natural Resource Youth Camp, where she conducted a presentation with the Rainfall Simulator.

❖ The PRCD also hosted many informational lectures for members of the community to attend. They included a GPS Training, Septic Systems & Soils, The Pole Mountain Litigation, the Animal Identification Program, Identification & Treatment of Invasive & Noxious Weeds, and Financial Incentives for Renewable Energy Systems & Energy Efficiency Improvements for Businesses & Farmers/Ranchers.

DISTRICT PROGRAMS & SERVICES

SPECIAL PROJECTS

❖ **PRCD Annual Trade Show**

The Powder River Conservation District's 6th Annual Ag Trade Show was well attended by both vendors and members of the community. Vendors ranged from farming equipment to art work to informational booths for government and county agencies. These vendors included Johnson County Weed & Pest, Johnson County 4-H, NRCS, Will Berg-Cowboy Artist, Heartland Kubota, and Morton Buildings. During the trade show there were 4 informational speakers, with topics including a GPS Training, information on the Animal Identification Program, the Pole Mountain Litigation, and Soils and Septic Systems. To round out our trade show we had a complimentary dinner and awards program.



Nephi Cole (Watershed Coordinator for WACD/NRCS) speaks about Soils and Septic Systems at our Trade Show.

❖ **Tree Sales**

Approximately 785 trees/seedlings were sold to local community members and ranchers.

❖ **Landscaping Project**

The wagon wheel flower garden at the Harold Jarrard Park was replanted with perennials. Each year the PRCD will add new perennials to the garden as an improvement and will continue to maintain the garden through watering and weeding. With the use of perennials the flower garden will not have to be completely replanted as it has been in the past.



Community members work together with State Forestry Personnel to plant trees and shrub at our Arbor Day Celebration

❖ **Arbor Day Celebration**

During the 1st Annual Arbor Day Celebration the PRCD held a tree workshop. Hands-on activities taught proper pruning and planting techniques. Guest speakers shared information on tree identification and selection for our local soil types. At the end of the day local 4-H members helped to plant 2 new trees and 18 shrubs at City Hall. Those who attended received a free Scotch Pine Seedling.

WATER MONITORING

Water Quality Goal: Promote and protect the quality of Wyoming's waters, reduce siltation of stream channels and reservoirs, promote wise use of Wyoming's water.

- ❖ Started Phase III of Watershed Assessment
- ❖ Filed Final Report with WY DEQ
- ❖ Continued to monitor Salt Creek and South Fork of the Powder River
- ❖ New monitoring sites were developed along Willow Creek, Posey Creek, Teapot Creek, and Murphy Creek in an attempt to identify the source of selenium that causes the impairment on the South Fork of the Powder River.
- ❖ A U.A.A was submitted on behalf of Anadarko Petroleum Inc, in hopes of removing Salt Creek from the 303(d) list. Approval is still pending.



RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

Rangeland Management Goal: The Powder River Conservation District will promote programs to assist landowners with decisions and options for proper management of rangelands. The district will work in cooperation with other county, state, and federal agencies.

Work Cooperatively with the NRCS

- ◆ **EQIP Contracts**
 - ◆ 11 new 2006 contracts have been awarded with the main focus on stockwater development
- ◆ **Conservation Plans**
 - ◆ Proper Grazing
 - ◆ Irrigation Water Management
- ◆ **Stockwater Pipeline Designs**
 - ◆ Over 20 miles of Stockwater Pipeline has been designed from July '05 to June '06
- ◆ **Local Work Group Member**



Work Cooperatively with the BLM and Stock Trail Users CRM To Improve Stock Trail

- ◆ **Develop Reliable Water Sources**
 - ◆ The PRCO and the Kaycee Stock Trail Users were awarded grant money for the 5 grants they applied for with the Small Water Development Commission to improve/develop water sources on the Kaycee Stock Trail.
- ◆ **Maintain Fences**
- ◆ **Control Noxious Weeds**
 - ◆ Worked towards developing a plan with the BLM and Johnson County Weed & Pest to control noxious weed along the stock trail.