

Powder River Conservation District



Annual Report July 1, 2007-June 30 2008

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-three years and 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. Of the total area of the PRCO, approximately 910,510.20 acres are privately owned; approximately 312,422 acres are administered by the Bureau of Land Management; approximately 104,468.10 acres are owned by the State of Wyoming; approximately 3,454.80 are owned by the U.S. Forest Service and approximately 546.90 acres are owned by Johnson County.

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. This 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 Southern 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 Wednesday of each month at the PRCD office and are open to the public.

CHAIRMAN

Jason Williams

VICE-CHAIR

Greg Cunningham

SECRETARY

Ray Winsor

TREASURER

Amy Icanberry

SUPERVISOR

Pete Meike

DISTRICT PERSONEL

Anita Bartlett-District Manager

NRCS STAFF

Allison McKenzie-District Conservationist

HOW TO CONTACT PRCD

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ADMINISTRATION

DISTRICT OPERATIONS

- Approved FY 2008-09 Budget
- CPA completed financial review
- PRCD Supervisors and District Manager 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.
- PRCD District Manager attended winter training
- 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 landowners
- PRCD Supervisor Jason Williams was Named Area I Supervisor of the Year at the Area I Meeting held in Gillette
- PRCD Supervisor Pete Meike was named Outstanding Supervisor of the Year at the WACD State Convention in Casper
- PRCD District Manager Anita Bartlett was elected as the Area I Representative for the Wyoming Conservation Districts Employees Association. She will serve a two year term.



PRCD FUNDING

- Johnson County Mill Levy
- Wyoming Department of Agriculture
- Powder River Energy Corporation Grant
- Anadarko Petroleum Corporation

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.

YOUTH EDUCATION

❖ **Ag In The Classroom Activities**

This past year the PRCD visited the Kaycee Elementary School classrooms to present a variety of Ag in the Classroom activities that included:

- ***The Miraculous Seed***-students dissected monocot and dicot seeds to learn the differences in these types of seeds. They also germinated different types of seeds in order to see how different types of seeds grow.
- ***Transplanting***-students transplanted seeds that they grew. Through this process they learned why plants need such things as soil, water, and sun for continual growth.
- ***What is a Mineral?***-a series of six hands on experiments students learned to identify 20 different minerals based on the characteristics of luster, color, streak, hardness, cleavage, fracture, and other special characteristics.
- ***Mapping Skills***-KES 3rd graders learned how to identify parts of a map, read different types of maps, and how government agencies use maps for agricultural purposes.
- ***Simple Machines in Agriculture***-KES 3rd Graders that a variety of simple machines can be found in the world of agriculture. They can include such things as: shovels, wheel borrows, axes, windmills, and plows.
- ***Ice Cream in a Bag***-4th graders learned how different types of plant and animal by-products combined to make an end-product such as ice cream.



❖ **World Water Monitoring Day**

This year the PRCD and KES fifth grade students recognized World Water Monitoring Day through a water sampling/testing experiment.

❖ **Rainfall Simulator**

District Manager Anita Bartlett traveled to Keyline this past Fiscal year to present the rainfall simulator. This simulator teaches the effect that erosion has on different soil types and why it is important to promote range management.

❖ **Adopt a Tree Program**

The PRCD continued its Adopt A Tree Program this spring with the Kaycee Elementary Students. Each KES student was able to take home a Rocky Mountain Juniper or an Eastern Red Cedar seedling tree to plant. This year along with being able to take home a tree, students learned about the importance of Arbor Day and the role trees play in the world today.



❖ **The PRCD sponsored the Natural Resource 4-H Award at the 2007 Johnson County Fair**

❖ **The PRCD worked with Boys & Girls Club to promote agriculture.**



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YOUTH EDUCATION

❖ Johnson County 4-H Natural Resource Skill-a-Thon

This past March District Manager Anita Bartlett participated in the Johnson County 4-H/YCMA Natural Resource Skill-a-Thon. This program is set up to teach the area youth about the natural resources around them, including, wildlife, forest, soil, and water. Anita taught the participants about reclamation and why it is important for industry and landowners to restore disturbed sites to their original condition.

❖ Black Hills Natural Resource Youth Camp

This year District Manager Anita Bartlett and seven youth from Kaycee attended the Black Hills Natural Resource Youth Camp, which is designed to give young people the opportunity to experience the natural world and its resources through hands-on-activities. Anita Bartlett also assisted in the planning and organization of this camp. As well, she gave a presentation on Wilderness Survival at the BHNRYC.



❖ Wyoming Resource Education Days

The Wyoming Resource Education Days (WyRED) allows students and adults to spend a week on a historic working ranch. This year, 53 students and adults learned about range management, geology, soils, plant physiology, plant identification, ecological sites, range utilization, water quality, riparian ecology, wildlife interactions, weed control and fire ecology. Barry Crago, owner of the Willow Creek Ranch, took the group on a historic tour of the area, pointing out old teepee rings, the stagecoach trail, a buffalo jump, and Hole in the Wall, the actual hideout for Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid!



ADULT EDUCATION

➤ Annual Virtual Tour

Held in conjunction with the Johnson County Weed and Pest and the Lake DeSmet Conservation District, this virtual tour highlighted the projects and efforts made to control pest and invasive species within Johnson County. Projects highlighted included: mosquito abatement and West Nile Virus, Salt Cedar Integrated Pest Management Project, the Leafy Spurge Project, and the Russian Olive Listing and Alternative Plantings Project.

➤ Gardening in Wyoming Workshop

This workshop was designed to teach local gardeners about the importance of Xeriscaping, how it conserves water, and the types of flowers, grasses, trees, and shrubs that are best suited to grow in Wyoming.



DISTRICT PROGRAMS & SERVICES

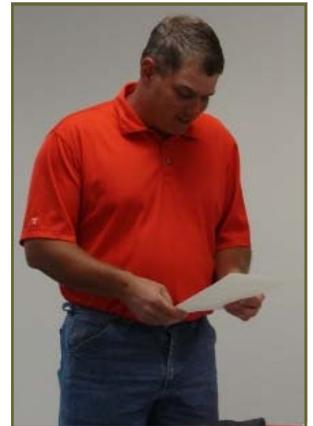
SPECIAL PROJECTS

❖ **Hazardous/Household Waste Collection Day with Lake DeSmet C. D.**

The PRCD work with LDCD and other sponsors to hold a Hazardous Waste Collection Day in Buffalo for the people of Johnson County. There was a great turn out and a lot of waste was collected.

❖ **Arbor Day Celebration**

During the 3rd Annual Arbor Day Celebration Kaycee Mayor Allen Streeter read the Arbor Day proclamation and spoke about the importance of Arbor Day. This celebration was held in conjunction with the Gardening in Wyoming Workshop.



SALES

❖ **Tree Sales**

Approximately 350 large trees/seedlings were sold to local community members and ranchers.

❖ **Drip Irrigation/Weed Barrier/Irrigation Dam Sales**

The PRCD sells drip irrigation hose, parts, weed barrier and irrigation dam material as a service to Southern Johnson County. These items are in high demand and it is easier for people to pick supplies up in Kaycee than to travel to the local co-op.

WATER QUALITY

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.

- ❖ The PRCD continued to monitor the South Fork of Powder River, Willow Creek, and Murphy Creek to determine current water quality of these streams, and to see if implemented best management practice were making a difference in water quality.
- ❖ New monitoring sites were developed along Willow Creek and Murphy Creek in an attempt to identify the source of selenium that causes the impairment within the Powder River Watershed.
- ❖ Began writing a UAA for Selenium impaired streams to change the site specific criteria in an attempt to delist streams on the 303(d) list.
- ❖ Watershed Planning processes continued in an attempt to improve the quality of water within the PRCD. The Powder River Watersheds Water Quality Management Plan should be completed in the Fall of 2008.



NATURAL RESOURCES

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

Work Cooperatively with the NRCS

- ❖ **EQIP Contracts**
 - ❖ 13 new 2008 contracts have been awarded with the main focus on stockwater development
- ❖ **Conservation Plans**
 - ❖ Proper Grazing
 - ❖ Irrigation Water Management
- ❖ **Stockwater Pipeline Designs**
 - ❖ Over 14 miles of Stockwater Pipeline has been designed during the 2007-2008 Fiscal Year.
- ❖ **Local Work Group**
 - ❖ Established local priorities and ranking criteria for local applications
- ❖ **Environmental Assessment**
 - ❖ Sponsors: Town of Kaycee, PRCD, NRCS
 - ❖ NRCS has completed the Kaycee Flood Protection Design for the town, and the Environmental Assessment was approved May 27, 2008.



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

- ◆ **Develop Reliable Water Sources**
 - ◆ The PRCD and the Kaycee Stock Trail Users began working on gaining approval to start water development projects on the Stock Drive. Construction of projects should begin in late summer of 2008.
- ◆ **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.