



Powder River Conservation District



Long Range Plan FY 05-09

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

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Chairman: Pete Meike

Vice Chairman: Jason Williams

Secretary: Ray Winsor

Treasurer: Amy Icanberry

Member: Greg Cunningham

CONSERVATION DISTRICT STAFF

**Anita Bartlett
District Manager**

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

**Allison McKenzie
District Conservationist**

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***Office Location
350 Nolan Avenue
Kaycee, WY 82639***

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Introduction

The Powder River Conservation District is committed to representing the people of Southern Johnson County at the local level. With this guidance, the district will provide the leadership to initiate the necessary programs that will meet the peoples' needs for the conservation of natural resources within Southern Johnson County. The Powder River Conservation District receives up to 1 mill levy funding through an approved property tax assessment from residents of Southern Johnson County for administration and program operations.

Every five (5) years the Powder River Conservation District reviews and revises the Long Range Report in order to involve local constituents in setting long range planning guidelines and goals. A completed Long Range Report also serves as a way to achieve accountability to both the district and to the community. This spring the district mailed surveys to all the people within the conservation district boundaries in order to give each person the opportunity to provide ideas and suggestions for long range planning. The district also gathered information from the recently completed Kaycee Community and Southern Johnson County Assessment. The assessment was conducted by the Wyoming Rural Development Council with approximately 230 people from the area participating over a 3-day period in January 2004. This assessment became a valuable tool in the district's planning process.

The Powder River Conservation District meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. the district office. All meetings are open to the public.

The Powder River Conservation District is an Equal Opportunity Employer



HISTORY

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 261. There is an elementary school and high school located at Kaycee. The Town of Kaycee is located 70 miles north of Casper, and 45 miles south of Buffalo traveling Interstate Highway 25 nearly through the center of the district.

The normal precipitation pattern in the PRC D reflects the least amounts during December, January, and February, slowly increasing to a peak in the last half of May and the first half of June. Precipitation generally is the result of frontal weather systems, weather activity caused by upslope conditions during winter and thermal activity during summer. Air temperature in the PRC D differs dramatically between seasons and between daily maximums and daily minimums. The total annual precipitation is 10 to 14 inches. Winds average about 8 to 10 mph annually. The main drainages in the District are the North Fork, Middle Fork, Red Fork and the South Fork of the Powder River. The majority of the district is compressed 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 and bentonite, uranium and coal reserves. Tourism and recreation have increased in recent years and the Kaycee Area Chamber of Commerce is located at the north end of the main street in Kaycee to assist travelers. The Hoof Prints of the Past Museum is a memorable experience for all who visit the town. The scenic ranching community is rich in heritage and history. There are numbers of big game animals, including deer, antelope, elk and moose, that bring many hunters to the area and fishing is a favorite past time during the spring/summer/and early fall months.

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POWDER RIVER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Conservation Districts are the only local government charged specifically by state statute with natural resource management. Conservation districts are subdivisions of state government, much like school boards. Each district is governed by a board of five supervisors. Supervisors are locally elected officials who serve without pay. By state statute three are rural, one is urban and one is designated as at-large. They are elected to staggered four-year terms, with two positions available at a general election and three positions at the next general election. These staggered terms improve the stability and consistency for conservation district programs. Supervisors may come from many different occupations. All supervisors must reside within the boundaries of their district and be residents of Wyoming. As a district supervisor, each person serves as a grass roots representative of landowners and the general public, providing leadership and direction in natural resource conservation programs. Upon taking the oath of office, each supervisor agrees to carry out the responsibilities of their position in accordance with the Wyoming Conservation District law (W.S. 11-16-101 through 134).

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WYOMING ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

In March 1941, the State Legislature passed an enabling act which established conservation districts in Wyoming. Conservation districts were to direct programs protecting local renewable natural resources. Formed in 1945, the WACD is a non-profit, non-governmental organization of 34 conservation districts in 23 counties. An executive director maintains an office in Cheyenne and oversees the direction and coordination of all districts. The WACD is made up of five areas and serves as a state voice for conservation districts on state and national policy, legislation, communication, and funding for conservation activities. Each area elects two supervisors to serve as area directors on the WACD board. The Powder River Conservation District is within Area 1, along with five other districts located in Johnson County, Sheridan County, Campbell County, Crook County and Weston County.

DISTRICT'S MISSION

Wyoming conservations district's mission is to provide leadership for the conservation of Wyoming's soil and water, protect the agriculture resource base, promote the control of soil erosion, promote and protect the quality and quantity of Wyoming's water, provide assistance to reduce the siltation of stream channels and reservoirs, promote wise use of Wyoming's water and all other natural resources, preserve and enhance wildlife habitat, protect the tax base and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of this state.

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

The National Association of Conservation Districts is a non-profit, non-governmental organization representing over three thousand districts and their state associations in the fifty states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. The NACD lobbies for federal conservation legislation and funding in Congress.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

The Natural Resources Conservation Service has a long extensive tradition of work with conservation districts. The NRCS is authorized to cooperate and furnish assistance in the conservation of natural resources through an approved Cooperative Working Agreement with the Powder River Conservation District. A full-time District Conservationist is stationed at the PRCD office.

WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

In 1987, the Wyoming Legislature abolished the State Conservation Commission and transferred the responsibilities to the Wyoming Board of Agriculture their responsibilities. Their responsibilities include: assist and guide districts in the preparation and carrying out of programs for resource conservation, review and coordinate district programs, distribute state funds to the districts and disseminate information concerning the activities and programs of the conservation districts. The Wyoming Board of Agriculture has designated the Natural Resources section to administer Wyoming Conservation District law W.S. 11-16-101 et seq.

GOALS AND ACTIONS

Based on the input of the community, the Powder River Conservation District adopted the following Goals and Actions to achieve management of the natural resources within their jurisdiction:

Goal: EDUCATION

The Powder River Conservation District will promote natural resource education through programs and activities that enhance learning for the youth. Informational workshops, tours and speaker seminars will be provided for the public.

- 1. Teach and present natural resource conservation education programs in the local school system.**
- 2. Work with the teachers in the Kaycee elementary and Jr./Sr. high schools to encourage cooperation in implementing Ag-in-the-Classroom educational activities.**
- 3. Seek out grants to fund local educators with conservation teaching aids and attendance at natural resource seminars and workshops.**
- 4. Organize and sponsor informational and educational tours and seminars for the public.**

Goal: INFORMATION

The Powder River Conservation District will provide information to residents and to local, state, and federal agencies regarding natural resource issues and topics.

- 1. Provide news and information through district newsletters and local newspapers.**
- 2. Create and distribute informational brochures.**
- 3. Set up displays and exhibits.**
- 4. Recognize volunteer efforts.**

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Goal: TREE PROGRAM

The Powder River Conservation District will encourage tree plantings by providing technical assistance and sales programs.

- 1. Administer a spring tree sales program.**
- 2. Provide tree planting aids, such as planting equipment and drip irrigation materials.**
- 3. Work in cooperation with WY Department of Transportation to establish shelterbelt plantings through the WY State Forestry Living Snow Fence Program.**

Goal: BEAUTIFICATION

It is important to the people of the community to have a clean town and city and county parks with flowers, trees, and a walking trail. The Powder River Conservation will support these efforts.

- 1. Work in cooperation with the Town of Kaycee to maintain the tree planting and replacement of trees at the City Park.**
- 2. Encourage youth groups to establish beautification projects on the main street and at public buildings.**
- 3. Support a spring cleanup throughout the community with access to the City Landfill for one day at no cost.**
- 4. Work with the Town of Kaycee and other local and state agencies to access funding sources in order to construct walking/biking trails within the community.**

Goal: RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

The Powder River Conservation District will continue to promote the improvement and wise use of all rangelands within the district.

- 1. Cooperate with the Johnson County Weed and Pest Control District in the control of noxious weeds and pests.**
- 2. Educate and provide information to local landowners about programs available through federal, state, county and local programs.**

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(Cont.) RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

- 3. Participate in Local Work Group meetings prioritizing Farm Bill program applications and funding.**
- 4. Provide assistance, as requested and approved, for conservation planning programs with the NRCS.**
- 5. Promote local people to educate themselves about grasses by information and visual tours of the existing established Grass Trial Plot.**
- 6. Provide published Southern Johnson County Soils Survey information in order to prevent soil erosion by mining, construction, and rangeland improvements.**
- 7. Encourage proper grazing management planning and water storage development for livestock.**
- 8. Support national forest fire suppression efforts for the safety of people, livestock, wildlife and range.**

Goal: WATER RESOURCES

The Powder River Conservation District will strive to improve and protect the quality of waters within the district and to seek out adequate water storage supplies.

- 1. Work in cooperation with landowners and industry to address EPA/DEQ water quality impairments of Salt Creek and Powder River.**
- 2. Assist the Town of Kaycee with watershed planning due to flooding problems encountered from the Powder River. Cooperate with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Corps of Engineers.**
- 3. Encourage habitat water developments through federal and state programs.**
- 4. One recurring interview comment throughout the Kaycee Community Assessment process was the need for water storage via construction of a dam. Water is needed for irrigation and further development could be implemented for ranchers if a dam were built. The district will work in cooperation and support ample irrigation supplies for ranchers.**
- 5. Keep current on information addressing coal bed methane issues and concerns within the Powder River basin.**
- 6. Promote private well monitoring.**
- 7. Address septic system risks.**

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Goal: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Participate in subdivision reviews and development concerns. Increase ranchers' access directly to consumers.

1. Provide subdivision reviews as required by law.
2. Support efforts to help ranchers expand their customer base on new and emerging agricultural markets. Others ideas expressed through the Kaycee Community Assessment included a meat packing plant, a place to take wool, lamb coop-processing facility, a scale to weigh animals and hay, and a state inspected plant for locally raised beef.

Goal: QUALITY OF LIFE

The Powder River Conservation District will strive to preserve quality of life by strengthening local economic and community stability while promoting controlled growth, maintaining customs, culture, and natural resource base by local involvement of local people in the decisions affecting the community.

1. Help to find ways to provide housing for the elderly and develop land for additional affordable housing needs.
2. Locate funding sources for recreational activities for the youth.
3. Support increased access to reliable health care services on a regular basis.
4. Encourage recruitment of clean, low impact new industry in the Kaycee area.
5. Support a balanced growth with established heritage, flavor, and culture.
6. Support and maintain a traditional, western small community which is based primarily upon ranching and agriculture and other multiple uses and encompass all the related support services traditional to the community.
7. Provide a viable voice for the local people in the county decision-making process.



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Goal: AGENCY COOPERATION

The Powder River Conservation District will strive to work with all federal, state and local agencies to promote the betterment of our natural resources.

- 1. Continue to provide a commitment to the Big Horn National Forest Revision Plan working agreement.**
- 2. Provide input if requested and cooperate with the Bureau of Land Management on issues affecting Powder River Conservation District land management decisions.**
- 3. Support the Town of Kaycee by cooperating with mutual programs benefiting both the community and district.**

ADOPTION OF LONG RANGE PLAN

The Powder River Conservation District Board of Supervisors would like to thank all the people who participated in the planning process for the Long Range Report for the next five years. Due to you input and efforts, the district was able to set priorities and address concerns expressed by you the local people. We will strive to provide the leadership that you have, through an elected process, chosen us to maintain.

Dated: _____

Signatures:

Pete Meike, Chairman

Jason Williams, Vice Chairman

Ray Winsor, Secretary

Amy Icanberry, Treasurer

Greg Cunningham, Member