



# Powder River Conservation District

**Annual Report**  
**July 1, 2009-June 30 2010**

## **Mission Statement**

The Powder River Conservation District's mission is to provide education and leadership for the conservation of our natural resources, the wise use of Wyoming's waters, the improvement of our environment, and the preservation of our agricultural heritage through a responsible conservation ethic.

# 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-five 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 PRCD, 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 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**

Amy Icanberry (rural)

## **VICE-CHAIR**

George Renkert (rural)

## **SECRETARY/TREASURER**

Judy Novakovich (urban)

## **SUPERVISOR**

Dan Mahoney (rural)

## **SUPERVISOR**

Jason Williams (at-large)

## **DISTRICT PERSONEL**

Anita Bartlett-District Manager

## **NRCS STAFF**

Allison McKenzie-District Conservationist

Johnna Blankenship-Rangeland Management Specialist

## **HOW TO CONTACT PRCD**

### **Address:**

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P.O. Box 48

Kaycee, WY 82639

### **Phone:**

(307) 738-2321

### **Fax:**

(307) 738-2107

### **Email:**

Anita.Bartlett@wy.nacdnet.net

### **Website:**

[www.powderrivercd.org](http://www.powderrivercd.org)

# ADMINISTRATION & OPERATIONS

**ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS GOAL:** To be accountable for all public funds and ensure all District programs are carried out in a responsible manner.

## ACCOUNTING

The District continues to maintain responsible financial procedures and records to be accountable of all funds that it receives. The 2009-2010 budget was prepared in accordance with all state statues and submitted to the Johnson County Commissioners, Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts, and the Wyoming Department of Agriculture. All monthly, quarterly, and yearly state and federal reports were filed in a timely manner.

## TRAININGS

The District staff and/or Board Members attended the following trainings:

- ✧ Wyoming Conservation Employee's Association Training
- ✧ Wyoming Department of Ag Supervisor Training
- ✧ Wyoming Ag in the Classroom Natural Resource Rendezvous



## MEETINGS

The District Staff and/or Board Members attended the following meetings:

- ✧ Southwest and Pacific Region Meeting in Dubois, WY
- ✧ Wyoming Conservation Districts Employee Association Meetings
- ✧ WACD Annual Convention in Cheyenne
- ✧ Area I meeting in Ucross
- ✧ Powder River Watershed Steering Committee meetings
- ✧ Buffalo BLM Field Office Resource Management Plan revision meetings
- ✧ Johnson County Local Work Group meetings
- ✧ Northeast RC&D meetings

## AWARDS

The PRCD awarded the following awards to local members of the community:

- ✧ Outstanding Elected Official-Johnson County Commissioner Delbert Eitel
- ✧ Outstanding Cooperator-Jane Ann Gosney
- ✧ Outstanding Supervisor-Greg Cunningham
- ✧ Teacher of the Year-Shawn McDougald (Kaycee Middle School Science Teacher)



At the Area I Meeting two PRCD Supervisors received longevity awards for their years of service.

- ✧ Greg Cunningham-15 years of service
- ✧ Amy Icanberry- 5 years of service

## PRCD FUNDING

- Johnson County Mill Levy
- Wyoming Department of Agriculture
- Anadarko Petroleum Corporation
- Wyoming Small Water Development Commission
- NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection Program

# INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

**INFORMATION DISSEMINATION GOAL:** To provide conservation information to the public through a comprehensive media plan.

## Newsletters

The District's Quarterly newsletter "Powder River News" was mailed to more than 300 Southern Johnson County households, four times last year. Included in these newsletters was information regarding District and NRCS activities, events, and educational articles on a variety of natural resource topics.

## Website

The District continues to update the website monthly to keep the public updated on it's programs and activities.

## Media

Numerous news articles and advertisements were published in the Kaycee Community Voice, Buffalo Bulletin, and the Wyoming Livestock Roundup detailing the District's activities, projects, programs, and other information.



# TREE PROGRAM

**TREE PROGRAM GOAL:** To promote the planting of trees that will improve our watersheds, benefit the environment, our communities and aid in the conservation of our natural resources.

## Tree Program

- Provided informational handouts on planning, planting, and the maintenance or windbreaks and shelter belts.
- Made the tree planter available to landowners for the planting of seedling trees.



- Donated approximately 80 seedling Douglas Fir trees to the Kaycee Elementary School for the Adopt a Tree Program.

## Tree Sales

Provided a variety of large stock trees, shrubs and seedlings to the community. Approximately 120 seedling trees and 150 large stock trees and shrubs were ordered and planted for conservation purposes.

# EDUCATION/OUTREACH

**EDUCATION/OUTREACH GOAL:** To strengthen, expand, and build a strong public education and outreach program that will create an understanding of natural resource conservation through a variety of youth and adult education opportunities.

## YOUTH EDUCATION

### • Ag In The Classroom Activities

This past year the PRC D 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?*-through 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.



✧ *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.

✧ *Mini Gardens*-Each student in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade class started garden plants in their own mini green house. They were responsible for the care of these plants. From watering to transplanting them as the need arose. At the end of the school year they were allowed to take the plants home and plant them in a garden there. They will be able to harvest and eat what they have grown. The project gives them a

since of what it takes to produce the food we eat.

- ✧ *Fifth Grade Field Trip*-The KES 5th Grade Class traveled to the Dull Knife Battle field for their end of the year field trip. There they learned the history of the battle in the morning. In the afternoon the students worked with District Manager Anita Bartlett to identify macro invertebrates in the stream, how they relate to water quality, and types of fish that feed on them. Following the lesson students went fishing in the stream.



✧ *Johnson County 3-4th Grade Rendezvous*- The 3-4<sup>th</sup> grade students in all elementary schools in Johnson County gathered to hold a Rendezvous to learn skills that early pioneers/mountain men would have known. This year Anita taught a lesson on identifying animal tracks, why it is important to know what type of animal one is tracking and how this can be useful today.



• **The PRC D sponsored the Natural Resource 4-H Award at the 2009 Johnson County Fair.**

• **The PRC D worked with Boys & Girls Club to promote agriculture.**

# EDUCATION/OUTREACH

## YOUTH EDUCATION CONTINUED...

- **Black Hills Natural Resource Youth Camp**

This year District Manager Anita Bartlett assisted with the planning of the Black Hills Natural Resources Youth Camp and three youth from Kaycee attended the Camp, which is designed to give young people the opportunity to experience the natural world and its resources through hands-on-activities.

- **Johnson County 4-H Science, Engineering and Technology (S.E.T.) Day Camp**

The SET Day Camp is one way in which youth in Johnson County have the opportunity to explore the areas of Science, Engineering, and Technology. This year District Manager Anita Bartlett assisted with the camp and taught lessons on energy, changes of states of matter, and assisted with lessons on teambuilding and engineering.



- **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 Douglas Fur 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.



- **World Water Monitoring Day**

This project allowed the KES 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class to test water from the river and compare it to bottle and tap water. They also learn why having clean water is important to our environment.



- **Flower Plantings**

Each elementary class was able to plant a different type of flower. These flowers are started from seed and grown in the classrooms. Once the flowers were large enough they were transplanted into pots and given as appreciation gifts to the members of the Parent/Teacher Organization (PTO). This project had two purposes, first to teach the kids how to start plants from seeds and the care needed to grow them, second it allowed the students to thank the PTO for all that they do.

## 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 by these conservation groups to improve the natural resources within Johnson County.

- **Conservation Update**

The PRCD hosted its annual conservation update for local landowners, elected officials, and oil and gas companies. This past year the updated featured updates by the Johnson County Weed & Pest, NRCS, and the Powder River CD. As well as, a presentation by WWC Engineering on the District's water quality and the progress made on the Murphy Creek UAA to be submitted to WDEQ.

# SPECIAL PROJECTS

**SPECIAL PROJECTS GOAL:** To provide technical assistance on projects to residents of Southern Johnson County that targeted in other project areas.

## SPECIAL PROJECTS

- **Hazardous/Household Waste Collection Day with Lake DeSmet C. D.**  
The PRCD work with Lake DeSmet Conservation District 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 5th 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 Kaycee Gardening Clubs annual gardening party.
- **Free Well Water Testing Day**  
In September the District hosted it's Annual Free Well Water Testing Day. Approximately 30 private wells were tested for nitrates, nitrites, hardness, pH, and bacteria. Fourteen of these well tested positive for bacteria and the district worked with the landowners to treat and re-test the wells. All fourteen wells were successfully treated and tested negative for bacteria.

- **Russian Olive Removal Program**

The PRCD partnered with local landowners, Johnson County Weed & Pest, and contractors to remove Russian Olive Trees from the stream banks of the Middle Fork of Powder River as it flows through Kaycee.



- **Restored the Bozeman Trail/Welcome To Kaycee Landscape Plot**  
The PRCD worked with the Town of Kaycee to remove trash and dead shrubs, repaint the signs, and planted three new shrubs to replace the ones that were removed in the Bozeman Trail/Welcome to Kaycee Landscape Plot.
- **Chris LeDoux Memorial Park**  
The PRCD donated approximated 12,000 square feet of weed barrier and the new drip/sprinkler system to the Chris LeDoux Memorial Park. As well they assisted with placing the weed barrier, drip system and helped with the landscaping (planting trees, flowers, and laying rock and mulch).
- **Staff Gauge Installation**  
The PRCD install 3 staff gauges within the Powder River Watershed. These gauges were installed on the Red Fork of Powder River, Middle Fork of Powder River, and the North Fork of Powder River. The gauges are used to monitor flood water and two are used to estimate the flow of water that will must flow through the Town of Kaycee.

- **Veteran's Memorial Landscaping Project**

The PRCD partnered with the Hoof Prints of the Past Museum and the Kaycee Ladies Auxiliary to create a Veteran's Memorial in downtown Kaycee. The PRCD landscaped and planted flowers on property owned by the Hoof Prints of the Past Museum. Following completion of the landscaping project the Kaycee Ladies Auxiliary placed a Veterans' Memorial Plaque.



# SPECIAL PROJECTS

## SPECIAL PROJECTS Continued.....

- **Tree Planting at the Baseball Field**

The PRCD work with the Town of Kaycee and the Johnson County School System to place a shelter belt along the right outfield fence line at the new baseball field.

- **Drip Irrigation/Weed Barrier/Irrigation Dam/Rain Barrel Sales**

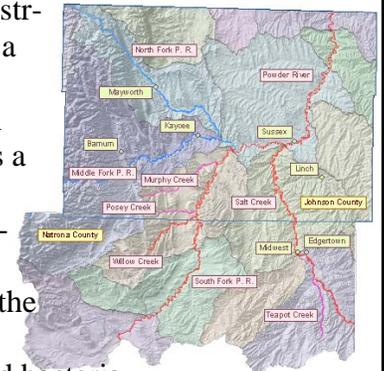
The PRCD sells drip irrigation hose, parts, weed barrier, rain barrels and irrigation dam material as a service to Southern Johnson County.

# WATERSHED PLANNING

**WATERSHED PLANNING GOAL:** Promote and protect the quality of Wyoming's waters, reduce siltation of streams channels and reservoirs, promote wise use of Wyoming's water. Continue working towards removing impaired streams from the 303(d) list.

## WATER QUALITY

- The PRCD continued to monitor the three sites set up on 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 practices were making a difference in water quality.
- Continued winter water quality monitoring on the three sites on the South Fork of Powder River, Willow Creek, and Murphy Creek to see if there is a trend in selenium concentrations during different seasons.
- Utilized the District's Watershed Inventory to prioritize watershed activities within the District.
- Provided activities to the local schools and youth organizations targeting the importance of water quality.
- Hosted a Free Well Water Testing Day to test for nitrates, nitrites, pH, and bacteria.
- Worked with cooperators to address water quality concerns through USDA programs.



## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POWDER RIVER WATERSHED WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

- Completed the background documentation for a Use Attainability Analysis to address Site Specific Criteria for the Selenium Standard on Murphy Creek.
- Provided DEQ an annual update on the progress of the watershed plan.
- Maintained local partnerships to coordinate watershed planning efforts.
- Worked cooperatively with the NRCS to provide landowners with recommended BMP's to help reduce non-point source pollution.
- Utilized USDA incentive programs and alternative funding sources for new projects and continued water conservation projects.
- Met with the Powder River Watersheds Steering Committee to update them on the progress of the watershed plan.

# NATURAL RESOURCES

**NATURAL RESOURCES GOAL:** The Powder River Conservation District will promote programs available 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**
  - ✧ 3 new 2010 contracts have been awarded with the main focus on stockwater development
- **Conservation Plans**
  - ✧ Proper Grazing Management
  - ✧ Irrigation Water Management
- **Stockwater Pipeline Designs**
  - ✧ Over 10 miles of Stockwater Pipeline was been designed during the 2009-2010 Fiscal Year.
- **Irrigation**
  - ✧ TTT Irrigation Improvements within the South Fork Watershed
  - ✧ JKL Irrigation Improvements on the Middle Fork Watershed.
- **Dull Knife Dam**
  - ✧ Worked on the Emergency Action Plan and finding funding for the rehab of the dam.
- **Wetland Reserve Program**
  - ✧ One application was processed and work has begun on the project.
- **Farm Land Protection Program**
  - ✧ One application was approved and work has begun on the project.
- **Town of Kaycee Berm Design**
  - ✧ With the completion of the Environmental Assessment the NRCS is working on the design for the flood protection project with the town of Kaycee.
- **Local Work Group**
  - ✧ Established local priorities and ranking criteria for local applications



## WORK COOPERATIVELY WITH THE BLM AND STOCK TRAIL USERS CRM TO IMPROVE THE STOCK TRAIL

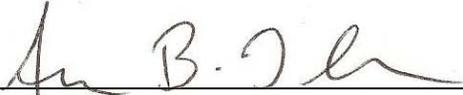


- **Develop Reliable Water Sources**

The PRCD and the Kaycee Stock Trail Users worked cooperatively to install a stock water pipeline and tanks on a stock rest west of Kaycee on the 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.

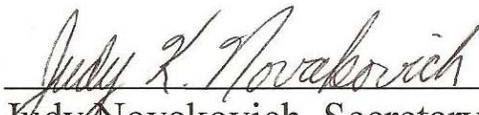
*We, the Supervisors of the Powder River Conservation District, as duly authorized by the Wyoming Conservation District Law, hereby adopt this 2009-2010 Annual Report at the culmination of work completed within this conservation district for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.*

  
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Amy Icanberry, Chair

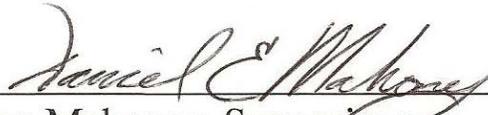
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George Renkert, Vice-Chair

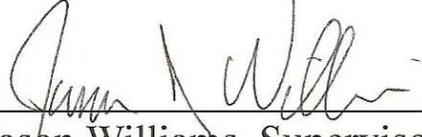
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Judy Novakovich, Secretary/Treasurer

7/19/10  
Date

  
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Dan Mahoney, Supervisor

7-19-10  
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Jason Williams, Supervisor

7/19/10  
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