

June 2012

Powder River News

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Dan Mahoney-Supervisor

Kevin Lund-Supervisor

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Range & Wildlife Specialist– Reese
Irvine

NRCS STAFF

District Conservationist–
Allison McKenzie

Rangeland Management
Specialist–Kassie Bales

KES 3rd Graders Get Wet & Wild

What do you get when you take nine 3rd graders to the river? A wet and wild educational experience. To finish out their water quality section in science, the 3rd graders spent an afternoon in the Middle Fork of Powder River with Anita Bartlett learning about water quality and how it effects the macroinvertebrates (stonefly, mayfly, caddisfly, etc. in their larva form) in the water. They also learned about water quality issues in our area and had the chance to find and identify macroinvertebrates in the river. The PRCD would like to thank Mrs. Geis for letting us spend the afternoon teaching her kids about water quality.



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Trees, Trees, and more Trees

This year to celebrate Arbor Day the Powder River Conservation District worked with the Kaycee Schools, the Town of Kaycee, Wyoming State Forestry, and community members to plant over 50 trees in the community in addition to their annual Adopt a Tree Program with the KES students. The Kaycee School received the majority of these trees with 38 being planted on these facilities. Over a two day period District Manager Anita Bartlett worked with Rose McGivney's Ag students to plant these trees. The rest of the trees were planted in the Town Park and at the Red Wall Community Center by community members and the First Southern Baptist Chapel's Youth Group.



An official Arbor Day Celebration occurred on Friday, May 4th, when City Council Member Jenifer Lompe and KMS Band and Lego Robotics Student's joined Anita and Kelly Norris with State Forestry to plant a tree and listen to Mrs. Lompe read the Arbor Day proclamation. Following the reading of the proclamation Mrs. Lompe was presented with and award for the Town of Kaycee as they completed 6 years as a Tree City USA Town.

The PRCD would like to send out their Thanks to the following people: Rose McGivney and her Ag students, Kaycee School Principal Dale Maynard, the teacher and students that pitched in to plant trees, Kaycee School District, Town of Kaycee, Kelly Norris & Paul Wright with State Forestry, Dave, Heather and Jordan Largent, the First Southern Baptist Chapel Youth Group, Mrs. Lompe and Mrs. Davis and their students, and Lee and Cindy Kremers for all of their help, support and efforts on this project. It is because of community member like you we are able to do projects like this to help continually improve our community. Thank You.

PRCD Offering Cost Share Programs

The PRCD is offering two Cost Share Programs: the first is for large rural projects that make a positive difference on the land. This is a cost share program where the PRCD matches 50% up to \$5000, on a reimbursement basis. Projects will be reviewed by staff, then must be approved by the PRCD board before they are initiated. Some examples of projects that qualify under this program are: Solar pumping units, fencing for implementing rotational grazing systems on pastures, or fencing riparian areas to reduce impacts of livestock grazing.

The second cost share program provides incentive for residents and businesses to conserve soil, water and energy. The program also encourages beautification of the landscape. This program matches 50% up to \$1000, on a reimbursement basis. Some examples of projects that qualify under this program are: planting trees and shrubs, xeriscaping to replace traditional lawns, and installation of efficient drip systems for trees and shrubs.

For more information on these cost share programs or for an application please contact the PRCD office at (307) 738-2321 or stop by the office at 350 Nolan Avenue, Kaycee, WY.

The Faces of the Powder River Conservation District

The Powder River Conservation 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 serve staggered four-year terms. 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).

PRCD Board of Supervisors



Kevin Lund-At Large Supervisor

I was born and raised nine miles east of Kaycee. I still live here with my wife, Judy. I have always worked the ranch through different phases. I worked in the oil patch, drove truck, worked construction, but I've always considered farming and ranching my passion. Kaycee is what I call home."



Bill Jones-Urban Supervisor

"I come from a pioneer family from Kaycee. I have lived here most of my life; graduating from Kaycee High School. I have drove school buses for almost 19 yrs. This summer will be my 17th summer being the caretaker of the Dull Knife Reservoir. This past year I have started working for WYDOT. I am married to Michele with three children; Paul, Becca, and Nick. I have enjoyed serving on the Board of Supervisors for the past 2 years."



Amy Icanberry-Rural Supervisor

"I have lived in Kaycee with my husband Matt, and now 3 children, since 2001. Serving on the Conservation District Board is something I enjoy; getting money into the hands of our citizens is a great hobby to have acquired."



George Renkert-Rural Supervisor

"I grew up in Pennsylvania, where we had dairy cows and some cropland. After getting my Ag Economics degree and starting a fencing company, I did some construction work and was employed by the Chicago Board of Trade. My family and I moved to Kaycee nearly 12 years ago and I now manage the Middle Fork Ranch."



Dan Mahoney-Rural Supervisor

"I grew up east of Newcastle, WY on my families ranch and moved to Kaycee in the spring of 1989. I feel Kaycee is a good community and now consider it my home."

PRCD Staff



Anita Bartlett has been the District Manager for the Powder River Conservation District for the past 6 years. Anita received her Bachelor's of Science Degree in Range Management with options in Range Livestock Production and Rangeland Business from Chadron State College in 2005. She currently serves as the Secretary for the Wyoming Conservation District's Employee Association.



Reese Irvine is the Range & Wildlife Specialist for the Powder River CD and the Lake DeSmet CD. Reese received his Bachelor's of Science Degree from the University of Wyoming in Range Management with minors in Reclamation as well as Farm and Ranch Management. Prior to moving to Buffalo, Reese spent three years as a Range Technician for Grand Teton National Park.

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PLANT FACTS

Common Name: Coyote Willow

Species: *Salix exigua*

Life Span: Perennial

Origin: Native

Season: Cool



Growth Form: Dioecious shrub; rhizomatous, stems and branches spreading to form a rounded crown; flowers May to June, fruits June to July, reproduces from seeds and rhizomes.

Vegetative Characteristics:

Leaves: alternate, simple; blades sessile or petiolate, linear to lanceolate; margins glandular-serrate to irregularly dentate to entire below middle.

Stems: twigs reddish-brown to gray, flexuous; leaf bud scars V-shaped, slightly raised; trunk bark gray-green to brown, smooth, shallowly furrowed with age.

Other: variable species with a least 2 subspecies

Floral and Fruit Characteristics:

Inflorescences: catkins; staminate catkins emerging after the leaves on new, leafy shoots, erect or ascending; pistillate catkins on new shoots, ascending to slightly drooping

Flowers: unisexual, apetalous; staminate scales ovate to obovate, acute, densely pubescent on both sides, greenish-yellowish, deciduous; stamens 2; pistillate scales rounded, greenish-yellow, pubescent on both sides; ovary sparsely pubescent.

Fruits: capsules born in catkins, capsules ovoid, blunt, glabrous or slightly pubescent, splitting into 2 valves.

Historic, Food and Medicinal Uses: American Indians used peeled stems to make baskets and made a tea from the bark to treat fever and headache.

Livestock Losses: none

Forage Value: Fair for cattle and good for sheep; valuable browse for wildlife

Habitat: valleys, stream banks, marshy areas, ditch banks, occasionally on dry ground.

sited from *North American Range Plants*, Fifth Edition, Stubbendieck, Hatch, Butterfield.

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

The Johnson County Local Work Group will meet on **Wednesday, July 11th, 2012 at 10:00 am at the NRCS/Lake DeSmet CD office, 621 W. Fetterman, Buffalo, WY**. The purpose of this meeting is to identify priority resource concerns for the Johnson County. The public is invited (i.e.: Agriculture Producers, Ag Industry, etc.). Contact the Powder River Conservation District (307) 738-2321) or the Lake DeSmet Conservation District (307) 684-2526 ext. 3 for more information.

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An Update from Kassie & Anita

Summer has arrived once again and it seems to find us busy as ever. With such busy schedules we wanted to keep you updated on what was happening this summer. Kassie will be working part time in the Casper NRCS Field office as the Acting District Conservationist. The current District Conservationist accepted a new job so Kassie is filling in until a new person is hired which should be until Mid July. She hopes to be in the Kaycee Field office Monday Mornings and Fridays. However, you can always reach her at the Casper Field Office (307) 261-5402 ext 113. She is sorry for any inconvenience that will cause you. As well, if you can't reach Kassie please feel free to call Allison McKenzie in the Buffalo Field Office (307) 684-2526 ext 106. Kassie and Allison do not want to sacrifice anything with Kaycee during the busy time so please don't hesitate to track one of them down in Casper or Buffalo.

For the most part Anita will be in the office this summer. With the exception of a few meetings and some work in the field. When both Kassie and Anita are out of the office we will post where we have gone and when we are expected back. If you need to leave a message for Kassie or Anita in the Kaycee office that number is (307) 738-2321. We want to thank you for your patience and understanding during this busy time of the year.

(P.S. We are not moving or leaving you, we are just extremely busy this time of year.)

Public Notice

Powder River Conservation District Notice to Voters

Applications for nominations for the Powder River Conservation District are available at the Johnson County Clerk's Office. The filing dates are August 8th through August 27, 2012 (not more than 90 days and not less than 70 days before the General Election to be held November 6, 2012).

Positions up for Election:

- Two (2) Rural Position each are a four (4) year term.
- One (1) unexpired At-Large Position which is a two (2) year term
- One (1) Urban Position which is a four (4) year term

In order to be eligible for a rural position you must live outside of an incorporated town but within the boundaries of the Powder River Conservation District. To be eligible for the urban position you must live inside the town limits of and incorporated town within the boundaries of the Powder River Conservation District. To be eligible for the At-Large Position you must live within the boundaries with of the Powder River Conservation District.

/s/ Anita M. Bartlett
PRCD Manager

FREE WILDLIFE ESCAPE RAMPS FOR **STOCK WATER TANKS**

WE HAVE TWO TYPES OF RAMPS AVAILABLE: EXPANDED METAL AND FIBERGLASS. PLEASE CONTACT US AT 738-2321 IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PLACING THE RAMPS IN YOUR STOCK TANKS.

*Powder River Conservation District
P.O. Box 48
Kaycee, WY 82639*

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Mark Your
Calendars!!!

Local Work Group Meeting-Wednesday, July 11, 2012 @10 am in Buffalo

PRCD Board Meeting- Thursday, July 19, 2012 @ 6:30 pm



The PRCD is an equal opportunity employer.

Find us on the web: www.powderrivercd.org