

# Powder River Conservation District



## Annual Report FY 2012-2013

### *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

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The Powder River Conservation District was established in November 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-eight 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 public.

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 Thursday of each month at the PRCD office and are open to the public.

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## **CHAIRMAN**

George Renkert (rural)

## **VICE-CHAIR**

Bill Jones (urban)

## **SECRETARY/TREASURER**

Amy Icanberry (rural)

## **SUPERVISOR**

Dan Mahoney (rural)

## **SUPERVISOR**

Kevin Lund (at-large)

## **DISTRICT PERSONEL**

Anita Bartlett-District Manager  
Reese Irvine-Range & Wildlife Specialist

## **NRCS STAFF**

Allison McKenzie-District Conservationist  
Kassie Bales-Rangeland Management Specialist

## **HOW TO CONTACT PRCD**

### **Address:**

350 Nolan Avenue  
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 2013-2014 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
- ✧ WCDEA Winter Training
- ✧ WACD Recertification Training
- ✧ Cooperative Agency Training
- ✧ Wyoming Ag in the Classroom Training



## MEETINGS

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

- ✧ Wyoming Conservation Districts Employee Association Meetings
- ✧ WACD Annual Convention in Casper
- ✧ Area I meeting in Sundance, WY
- ✧ Buffalo BLM Field Office Resource Management Plan revision meetings
- ✧ Johnson County Local Work Group meetings
- ✧ NRCS Partnership Meeting
- ✧ Lake DeSmet & Natrona County Conservation District Meetings
- ✧ Johnson County Commissioner meetings
- ✧ SWAT Meetings
- ✧ Stock Trail Users Meetings
- ✧ Wyoming State Forestry/Tree Board Meetings
- ✧ Town of Kaycee City Council Meetings
- ✧ Dull Knife Reservoir Meetings
- ✧ Johnson County Natural Resource Enhancement Team Meetings

## PRCD FUNDING



- Johnson County Mill Levy
- Wyoming Department of Agriculture
- Wyoming State Forestry
- NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection Program
- Anadarko Petroleum Corporation

# 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 its 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 90 seedling Douglas Fir trees to the Kaycee Elementary School for the Adopt a Tree Program.
- \$588 worth of trees were planted at the Kaycee School this year.

## Tree Sales

- Provided a variety of large stock trees, shrubs and seedlings to the community. Approximately 365 seedling trees and 45 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 PRCD visited the Kaycee Elementary School and Middle 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 germinated in the Miraculous Seed lesson. Through this extended activity, they learned why plants need such things as soil, water, and light for continual growth after germination.

✧ **What is a Mineral?**-through a series of six hands on experiments students learned to identify 18 different minerals based on the characteristics of luster, color, streak, hardness, cleavage, fracture, and other special characteristics.

✧ **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 how to make hard tack and where the products come from to make hard tack.



✧ **Mapping Skills**-KMS OREO Class learned how to identify parts of a map, read different types of maps, and how government agencies use maps for agricultural purposes. As well, they were able to utilize the PRCD's mapping software to create maps of their own.



✧ **Flower Dissection**-District Manager Anita Bartlett visited the KMS 6th grade Science class where they dissected tulips in order to learn the parts of flowers and what those parts are used for in the growth and reproduction of the plant.

✧ **Microscopes**-The PRCD went to the KMS 6th Grade Class to assist them with learning the basics of how to use Microscopes.

✧ **Soils**-Anita Bartlett went to the KMS 8th Grade Class and taught them how to determine different soil types.

✧ **National Ag Day**-Anita Bartlett, District Manager visited the KES Classes to give a presentation on where our food comes from. With this year's Ag Day Theme "Hugs and Kisses for Farmers and Ranchers" Anita focused on the agricultural products needed to make Hershey's Chocolate Hugs and Kisses and how these product effect agriculture.



✧ **Animal Adaptations**-PRCD District Manager taught a session on Animal Adaptations and their Habitats. The youth learned about habitats and Adaptations of animals and how these two things are related. They then created their own animal and discussed the special adaptations they have to be able to live in its environment.

# EDUCATION/OUTREACH

## YOUTH EDUCATION CONTINUED...

- **Johnson County 4-H Livestock Clinic & Judging Contest**

The PRCD was proud to sponsor the annual Johnson County 4-H Livestock Clinic and Judging Contest. The first day of this event was a livestock clinic where attendees learned tips and techniques on how to judge different classes of livestock. The second day of this event was the actual livestock judging contest.

- **Black Hills Natural Resource Youth Camp**

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

- **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 Fir 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**

The PRCD visited the KMS OREO class and the KHS 10th grade science class to assist in teaching the students the importance of water quality and the how oxygen/carbon dioxide levels in the water effect water quality and aquatic animals. This visit included a trip to the Middle Fork of Powder River where the kids were able to do hands on activities where they tested for Dissolved Oxygen, pH, and nitrates.



- **Livestock Carcass Quality Seminar**

The PRCD was proud to sponsor Travis Hoffman the Colorado Beef Quality Assurance Coordinator and Coach of the Colorado State University Wool and Meat Animal Evaluation Team at the JC Fair where he conducted a Livestock Carcass Quality Seminar that taught youth and adults the importance of carcass quality in market animals.



- **The PRCD assisted in purchasing a Plasma Cutter for the Kaycee FFA.**

- **The PRCD sponsored \$8,257 worth of youth educational seminars and materials.**

## ADULT EDUCATION

- **Deseret Workshop**

The Powder River and Lake DeSmet Conservation Districts hosted a rangeland management seminar featuring Deseret Land and Livestock (DLL). The seminar featured three present and past managers of DLL; Rick Danvir, Bill Hopkin and Gregg Simonds. The three discussed grazing management for rangeland health and ranch sustainability as well as the benefits healthy rangelands have on wildlife.



- **Oil Field Reclamation Tour**

Powder River Conservation District in conjunction with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) hosted a educational field tour that looked at split estate reclamation opportunities.

- **City Council & County Commissioner Presentation**

District Manager Anita Bartlett gave a presentation on the District's programs and services to the Kaycee City Council and to the Johnson County Commissioners and attendees of those meetings.

- **The PRCD sponsored \$2,661 worth of adult educational seminars.**

# SPECIAL PROJECTS

**SPECIAL PROJECTS GOAL:** To provide technical assistance on projects to residents of Southern Johnson County that are not 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 approximately 22 tons of waste was collected.



- **E-Waste Collection**

In November 2012 the PRCD began to collect e-waste within the community, by the end of the fiscal year the district had collected 1,140 pounds of e-waste, 15 computer monitors and 9 TVs. This Program has taken off in the community and keeps a considerable amount of electronic waste out of our landfill.

- **Free Well Water Testing Day**

In September the District hosted it's Annual Free Well Water Testing Day. Approximately 50 private wells were tested for nitrates, nitrites, hardness, pH, and bacteria. Twelve of these well tested positive for bacteria and the district worked with the landowners to treat and re-test the wells.



- **Small Projects Cost Share Programs**

The PRCD offers a Small Project Cost Share Program that provides incentive for residents and businesses on projects that make a positive difference on the land to conserve soil, water and energy. Two cost share projects were completed this past year through our Small Projects Cost Share Program with the districts portion totaling \$397. They include a xeriscaping project and a tree planting project.

- **Tree Plantings at Kaycee Schools**

This year to celebrate Arbor Day the Powder River Conservation District worked with the Kaycee Schools, and community members to plant approximately 20 trees at the school. This was done as a continuation of the tree planting project that was started in the spring of 2012.

- **Boys and Girls Club Community Garden**

This past year the PRCD help to sponsor the Kaycee Boys and Girls Club Community Garden. Club kids worked very hard to design, build, plant, water and weed their garden. At the end of the summer the kids invited the community to their garden where they gave presentations about what they learned through their gardening experience.



- **Raised Flowerbed placed on Main Street of Kaycee**

The PRCD constructed a raised flowerbed next to the Kaycee Post Office on Main Street, to enhance the beautification of Kaycee that has begun in the past few years. This flowerbed was planted with perennial, native, drought tolerant flowers to not only improve the look of main street but to reduce the amount of water needed to make them thrive.

# SPECIAL PROJECTS

## SPECIAL PROJECTS Continued....

- **Dull Knife Reservoir Emergency Action Plan (EAP)**  
The PRCD Partnered with the North Fork Water Users to finalize their Emergency Action Plan for the Dull Knife Reservoir.
- **Middle Fork Stream Bank Stabilization Project**  
The PRCD began working with local landowners, county commissioners and school district to begin an assessment of a portion of the Middle Fork of Powder River to evaluate what can be done to reduce erosion on the stream banks.
- **Drip Irrigation/Weed Barrier/Irrigation Dam/Rain Barrel/Composter Sales**  
The PRCD sells drip irrigation hose, parts, weed barrier, rain barrels, composters and irrigation dam material as a service to Southern Johnson County.

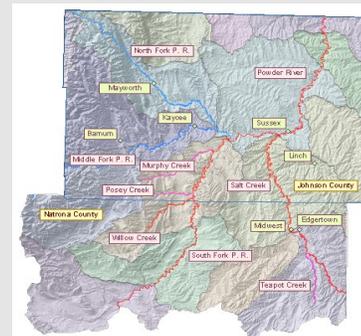


# WATERSHED PLANNING

**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 practice were making a difference in water quality.
- Continued water monitoring on the Powder River for an impairment of the arsenic standard.
- 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.
- 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 croplands. The district will work in cooperation with other county, state, and federal agencies.

## RURAL COST SHARE PROGRAM

The PRCD offers Rural Cost Share Program that is designed for large rural projects that make a positive difference on the land; to conserve soil, water and energy. Ten Rural Cost Share projects were completed this past year with the District's portion totaling \$37538. The projects included installing solar panels/pumps, drilling wells, cross fencing pastures, putting in stock water pipelines, storage tanks, and irrigation pipelines.



## WORK COOPERATIVELY WITH THE NRCS

### • Environmental Quality Incentives Program

- ✧ Stock Water Development-2 new 2013 contracts processed along with 10 active contracts which focus on stock water development
- ✧ Irrigation Development-1 active contract which focused on irrigation improvements.
- ✧ Sage Grouse Initiative-3 new 2013 contracts processed along with 11 active contracts that focus on the improvement of sage grouse habitat.

### • Conservation Plans

- ✧ Proper Grazing Management
- ✧ Irrigation Water Management

### • Wetland Reserve Program

- ✧ There are 2 active contracts with in the district and work begun on the projects to develop ponds to increase habitat for wildlife dependent on riparian areas.

### • Conservation Stewardship Program

- ✧ 4 active contract which focus on rewarding current conservation practices and encourage new conservation efforts.

### • 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 continued to evaluated the water sources on the stock trail and determined which sources were still in need of improvement. Following the evaluation, one site was selected; Alkali Springs located at the base of the mountain; restoration work was done on it so that it is now a reliable source of water for the stock trail user to utilize.

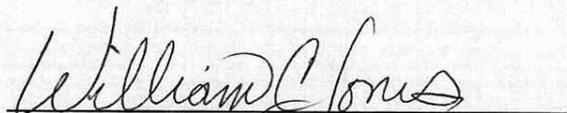
### • Maintain Fences

The PRCD and the Kaycee Stock Trail Users evaluated the fences on the stock trail and supplies were ordered to make repairs where they are needed.

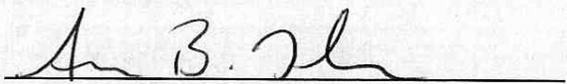
*We, the Supervisors of the Powder River Conservation District, as duly authorized by the Wyoming Conservation District law, hereby adopt this 2012-2013 Annual Report as the culmination of the work completed within this conservation district for the 2012-2013 fiscal year.*

  
George Renkert, Chair

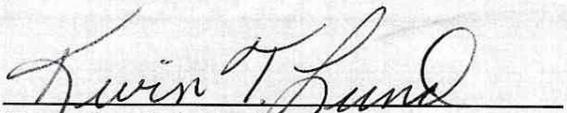
10-10-13  
Date

  
Bill Jones, Vice-Chair

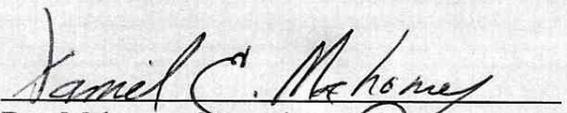
10 Oct. 2013  
Date

  
Amy Icanberry, Secretary/Treasurer

10 Oct. 2013  
Date

  
Kevin Lund, Supervisor

10-10-13  
Date

  
Dan Mahoney, Supervisor

10-10-13  
Date