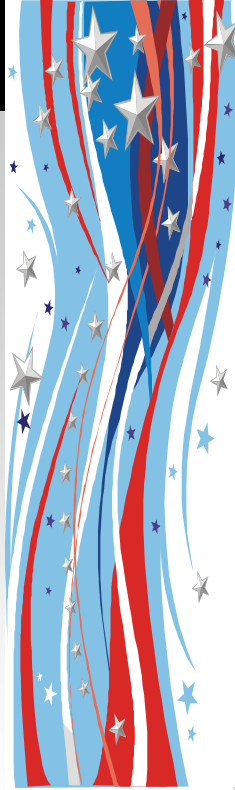


Summer 2016

# Powder River News

## ***INSIDE THIS ISSUE:***

Eleventh Annual Arbor Day Celebration	1
Budget Notice	2
Adopt a Tree with the PRCD	2
Conservation We're All In	3
7 Mid-Summer Lawn & Garden Tips	4
Conservation Planning with the NRCS	5



## ***BOARD OF SUPERVISORS***

**Bill Jones-Chairman**

**George Renkert-Vice-Chair**

**Amy Icanberry-Secretary/  
Treasurer**

**Dan Mahoney-Supervisor**

**Kevin Lund-Supervisor**

## ***DISTRICT STAFF***

**District Manager  
Anita Bartlett**

## ***NRCS STAFF***

**District Conservationist  
Allison McKenzie**

**Rangeland Management Specialist  
Katie Schade**

**Rangeland Management Specialist  
Kassie Bales**

## **Eleventh Annual Arbor Day Celebration**



This year to celebrate Arbor Day the Powder River Conservation District worked with the Town of Kaycee, Wyoming State Forestry, Boys and Girls Club of Kaycee, and community members to plant 2 Quaking Aspen at the Meike Bunkhouse, in addition to their annual Adopt a Tree Program with the KES students.

Kaycee's official Arbor Day Celebration occurred on Wednesday, April 20, when Mayor Tom Knapp and the kids from the Boys and Girls Club joined PRCD District Manager Anita Bartlett and Kelly Norris and Jacob McCarthy with State Forestry to plant the 2 trees and listen to Mayor Knapp read the Arbor Day proclamation. Following the reading of the proclamation Mayor Knapp was presented with an award for the Town of Kaycee as they have completed 10 years as a Tree City USA Town.

The PRCD would like to send out our Thanks to the following people: Meike Bunkhouse, Sandy Dixon, the Town of Kaycee, the Boys and Girls Club, and all of the community members for all of their help, support and efforts on this project. It is because of people like you we are able to do projects like this to help continually improve our community. Thank You.



**Public Notice  
Proposed Budget for:  
Powder River Conservation District  
Fiscal Year 2016-2017**

Expenditures:

Administration:	\$ 69,990
Operations:	\$1,737,744
Indirect Costs:	\$ 15,655
Capital Outlay:	\$ 0
<b>Total Expenditures:</b>	<b>\$1,823,388</b>

Funds to be added to Reserves: \$ 0

**Total Cash Required \$1,823,388**

Revenue:

Anticipated Cash and Revenue:	\$1,178,065
Total General Fund:	\$ 430,157
Estimated Mil Levy:	\$ 217,576
<b>Total Anticipated Revenue:</b>	<b>\$1,825,798</b>

Reserves:

Reserves:	\$ 705,000
<b>Current total in Reserves:</b>	<b>\$ 705,000</b>

The Powder River Conservation District will conduct its Annual Public Hearing for the proposed FY2016-2017 Budget on Thursday, July 14, 2016 at 6:30pm at the PRCD Office located at 350 Nolan Avenue in Kaycee, WY. This Budget Hearing will be held in conjunction with our monthly board meeting. Interested residents are encouraged to attend.

/s/ Anita M. Bartlett  
PRCD Manager

## **Adopting A Tree with the PRCD**

The PRCD continued its Adopt a Tree Program this spring with the Kaycee Elementary Students. Each KES student was able to take home a Common Lilac seedling to plant. This year the kids learned about the importance of Arbor Day and about the tree they took home. The PRCD would like to thank Mrs. LeDoux, Mrs. Streeter, Mrs. White, Mrs. Pavey, and Ms. Allen for allowing their classes to participate in this program.



*Summer 2016*

## **“Conservation: We’re All In”**

Area youth gathered once again at Mallo Camp north of Newcastle, WY to participate in the Black Hills Natural Resource Youth Camp June 15-17th. The purpose of this camp is to give youth the opportunity to experience a wide variety of activities and educational sessions teaching them about the natural world and its resources. Other activities included fishing, the Wildman Hike teaches kids about predators and prey relationships, a talent show, and various games.

Each child participated in six educational sessions they included: “Bird Banding”, “Who Did It?”, “Wild about Fire”, “Casting for Food”, “Stream Detectives” and “Target Practice”.

“Bird Banding”, presented by Jaquelyn Downey with the Audubon Rockies taught campers how to safely capture birds and discussed the kind of data taken about the birds they capture. The kids even got to help catch and release the birds caught during the lesson.



Lacey Gurien, with the Weston County Natural Resource District presented “Who Did It?” where campers learned how to identify tracks and scat from wild animals in our area.



In the session “Wild About Fire” Captain Chris Kenney, Tabitha Pillen, Austin Kenney with the Newcastle Volunteer Firefighters, and Jeremy Dedic with Wyoming State Forestry explained to the youth what firefighters must do when they respond to a fire, the data they need to record, and looked at the tools and equipment that is used to fight fires.

Bill Bradshaw, Wyoming Game and Fish taught campers all about “Casting for Food”. This activity taught campers how to cast, fish, and properly care for caught fish. Campers were allowed to practice their casting skills and catch fish.

“Stream Detectives” presented by Jason Martineau and Chade Rieger from Wyoming DEQ gave a demonstration how to take a few simple water samples to test the health of a stream and how to collect Macroinvertebrates. Both the samples and the type of Macroinvertebrates found in the stream help them to determine if a stream is healthy or not.

Finally, Bob Pollo and Steve Miller, had “Target Practice”. They taught youth how the correct way to shoot a bow and arrow, safety while shooting and let the kids do a little “target practice”.

Sponsors for the Black Hills Natural Resource Youth Camp were Weston County Natural Resource District, the Campbell County Conservation District, and the Powder River Conservation District.



## Seven Mid-Summer Lawn and Garden Tips

In July and August, the thrill of the garden's spring rebirth has worn off, the days are hot, and the mosquitoes are voracious. To save time and sweat while keeping your lawn and garden healthy, here are seven garden dos and don'ts for mid-summer.

**1. Manage watering.** The rule that your lawn or garden needs an inch of water a week is a good starting point, but it overlooks many variables. For example, in dry or windy weather, plants lose more water through the minute pores called *stomata* in their leaves. Wide or flat leaves lose water faster than narrow or plump leaves. And plants growing in soil with a lot of clay need watering less often than a plants growing in sandy soil, because sand drains faster.

So rather than rely solely on the 1-inch rule, observe your soil and your plants. Here are clues that it's time to water:

- The soil is dry an inch or two below the surface. To check, stick your finger into the ground near the plant roots or dig out a slice with a trowel.
- The lawn doesn't bounce right back when you step on it.
- The leaves of garden plants show the slightest sign of wilting.

**2. Mow high.** Every type of lawn grass has a recommended low and high mowing height. Now is the time to mow high, so the taller grass shades the ground, which keeps the lawn's roots cooler and slows water evaporation from the soil.

**3. Don't feed your lawn.** Whether you live in the North or the South, the hot and often dry months of July and August are when the lawn grows more slowly. Wait to fertilize until fall, when cooler weather prompts grass to grow fatter roots in anticipation of winter.

**4. Lightly feed vegetable plants and flowers.** Unlike your lawn, which wants to be left alone right now, vegetables and annual flowers such as petunias, geraniums and impatiens appreciate a light feeding now, because they're expending a lot of energy blooming and producing fruit.

**5. Think twice about spraying lawn weeds.** Before you spray broadleaved weeds such as dandelions with a weed killer read the product label carefully for cautions against using it in hot weather. Many weed killers can also kill lawn grass if you apply them on a warm day, even if you spray early in the day when it's still cool.

If the label says the herbicide is safe to apply, don't be heavy-handed — applying more than the recommended amount can also damage the grass. And because the lawn grows slowly in mid-summer, the grass won't fill in those dead spots anytime soon. Weeds might, though.

**6. Remove faded flowers.** To keep flowering plants blooming longer, remove old flowers that have withered and are turning brown — a practice called *deadheading*. The exception is plants that you want to go to seed.

**7. Give container gardens special attention.** Plants growing in containers and hanging baskets don't have the luxury of sending their roots far and wide in search of water and nutrients. During the heat of summer, plan to water containers frequently — sometimes twice a day, if the pot is small or you've packed plants closely together.

Fertilize plants in containers more often than plants in the ground. Experts recommend a variety of different feeding approaches, but feeding every 7 to 10 days with a half-strength liquid fertilizer is a reasonable starting point. Another option is to use a slow-release dry fertilizer once a month. Observing your plants and drawing on your experience helps you find an approach that works for you.

## **2017 is just around the corner... let NRCS help you with your conservation planning needs.**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) uses a nine step planning process whenever it begins a project. The purpose of the steps is to develop and implement plans that protect, conserve, and enhance natural resources within a social and economic perspective.

### **The Nine-Step Conservation Planning Process:**

#### **1 - Identify Problems and Opportunities**

Everyone needs a reason to plan. Planning can start with a problem, an opportunity, shared concerns, or a perceived threat. Initial opportunities and problems are first identified based on readily available information provided by the client(s).

#### **2 - Determine Objectives**

During this step, the stakeholders identify their objectives. A conservationist guides the process so that it includes both the stakeholder needs and values and the resource uses and on-site and off-site ecological protection. Objectives may need to be revised and modified as new information is learned later in the inventory and analysis stages. Objectives may not be finalized until Step 4 of the planning process.

#### **3 - Inventory Resources**

In this step, appropriate natural resource, economic and social information for the planning area is collected (this has to be completed before the applicant is eligible for cost-share programs). The information will be used to further define the problems and opportunities. It will also be used throughout the entire process to define alternatives and to evaluate the plan. It is important that as much information as possible can be collected so that the plan will fit both the needs of the landowner and the natural resources.

#### **4 - Analyze Resource Data**

Study the resource data and clearly define existing conditions for all of the natural resources, including limitations and potential for the desired use. This step is crucial to developing plans that will work for a landowner and their land. It also provides a clear understanding of the baseline conditions will help to judge how effective a project is after it has been put into place.

#### **5 - Formulate Alternatives**

The purpose of this step is to achieve the goals for the land, by solving all identified problems, taking advantage of opportunities, and meeting the social, economic, and environmental needs of the planning project. With NRCS conservation planning, we often can help landowners formulate alternatives based on **cost-sharing programs** that help offset the financial expense of implementing conservation practices.

#### **6 - Evaluate Alternatives**

Evaluate the alternatives to determine their effectiveness in addressing the client's problems, opportunities and objectives. Attention must be given to those ecological values protected by law or executive order.

#### **7 - Make Decisions**

At this point the landowner chooses which project or plan will work best for their situation. The planner prepares the documentation.

#### **8 - Implement the Plan**

Technical assistance is provided to help with the installation of adequate and properly-designed conservation practices. At this point in NRCS conservation planning, our conservation engineers step in and make designs based on our technical standards. Also, assistance is given in obtaining permits, land rights, surveys, final designs, and inspections for structural practices.

#### **9 - Evaluate the Plan**

Conservation planning is an ongoing process that continues long after the implementation of a conservation practice. By evaluating the effectiveness of a conservation plan or a practice within a plan, stakeholders can decide whether to continue with other aspects of an overall areawide plan.

NRCS provides voluntary, incentive-based conservation to landowners in Johnson County. NRCS helps landowners develop conservation plans to implement conservation practices that clean the air we breathe, conserve and clean the water we drink, prevent soil erosion and create and protect wildlife habitat. Please call 684-2526 or stop by and visit with Allison McKenzie or Kassie Bales in the Buffalo Field Office or Katie Schade in the Kaycee Field Office at 738-2321.

*Helping People Help the Land*

*USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.*

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

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Kaycee, WY  
Permit #1

Mark Your  
Calendars!!!

PRCD Board Meeting: Thursday, July 14th at 6:30 PM at the District Office

Budget Hearing: Thursday, July 14th at 6:30 PM at the District Office



The PRCD is an equal opportunity employer.

Find us on the web: [www.powderrivercd.org](http://www.powderrivercd.org)