

# Powder River News

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Anita Bartlett

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Rangeland Management Specialist  
Kassie Bales

## AREA I EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Anita Bartlett, District Manager for the Powder River Conservation was named Area I Employee of the Year at this year's area meeting held in Buffalo, WY on September 13<sup>th</sup>. The Conservation District's Area I includes, Sheridan, Johnson, Campbell, Crook, and Weston Counties.

Anita began working for the PRCD in the spring of 2006 and since that time has immersed herself in her work and community life in Southern Johnson County. She promotes programs, encourages participation and educates the youth of the community. She is a valuable resource for education and information and willingly volunteers her services to all who ask.

Anita continues to expand and develop programs that serve the Conservation District. Those programs include such things as: Youth and Adult Education, Well Water Testing Day, Water Quality, Tree City USA, Rural Cost Share Programs, and Sales and Service. This past year Anita was also instrumental in working with the NRCs, County Commissioners, and local landowners to administer the Emergency Watershed Protection Program Projects with works to repair the damage from flood waters in 2015. These projects stabilize stream banks and irrigation structures.

Anita when not busy with District works tirelessly in her community. She is the Secretary/Treasurer, Jr. High Bible Study Teacher, and assists with the Youth Group at the First Southern Baptist Chapel. She serves as a tutor for the local Boys and Girls Club in Kaycee during the school year, organizes local fundraisers, takes photos for the Kaycee Voice, and installs drip systems and does yardwork for the elderly. Anita is also highly active in the local 4-H program where she volunteers for a variety of activities and serves as the sponsor for the Powder River 4-H Club.



## Area I Meeting

This year District Manager Anita Bartlett and Board Supervisor Kevin Lund represented the Powder River Conservation District at the Area I meeting hosted by the Powder River Conservation District at the Bomber Mountain Civic Center in Buffalo, WY. Speakers for this year's Area Meeting included Rusty Schwartz, Wyoming NRCS, who gave an update on their programs and upcoming deadlines, Justin Caudill and Chris Wichmann; WDA, who gave updates on grants, funding, and programs, and Senator Dave Kinskey and Representative Mike Madden who gave updates on current legislative issues.

The Area I Business Meeting was conducted business that was discussed included current legislative issues, a resolution brought forth by the Crook County NRD regarding Pine Beetle Funding, and elections for Area I Director. This years Annual Convention will be held in Riverton, WY November 14-17th and next years Area I Meeting will be hosted by the Weston County Natural Resource District.

During the Luncheon the Wyoming Conservation Districts Employees Association member Bobbie Frank handed out the Area I Employee Awards. These awards included a Longevity Awards given to Sarah Anderson, Crook County NRD (5yrs), Crystal Kellebrew, Campbell County CD(10yrs), Anita Bartlett, Powder River CD (10yrs) and Amy Doke, Sheridan County CD (10yrs) and this years Area I Outstanding Employee of the Year went to Anita Bartlett, Powder River CD. The PRCD would like to congratulate each of you for your hard work and dedication towards improving Natural Resources and Conservation in Area I.



## Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation Raffle

Your \$25 tax deductible donation to the WNRF enters you in a drawing to win:

**1st place**– 2016 John Deere XUV 560 Gator

**2nd place**-Homak Pro Series Rolling Tool Cabinet

This drawing will be held on November 16, 2016 in Riverton, WY at the WACD/WNRF state convention. To get your ticket stop by the PRCD Office at 350 Nolan Avenue in Kaycee.



## **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.

## PREPARING FOR WINTER

As days grow shorter and nights cooler, it becomes clear-winter is almost here. Are your perennial plants ready? If not, here are a few helpful tips to get you ready.



**Roses:** Prune canes back to 10-12 inches and mulch the plants. Hardy shrub-type roses do not need fall pruning.

**Bulbs:** Gladiolus, dahlias, some lilies and other tender bulbs won't survive winter. Dig them up and store them in a cool dry place. Tulips, narcissus, and other hardy bulbs can be planted until you can't get through the soil to get them in the ground. In fact, it's actually better to plant them later, rather than earlier, as they can sometimes break dormancy if the wrong weather patterns occur.

**Autumn Lawn Care:** Tree leaves are a major hindrance to proper grass growth, if they get too thick on your lawn, they can actually kill even a healthy turf by not allowing the grasses to store enough energy for winter survival and proper dormancy. You should also trim any grass that does not normally get cut. Especially around tree trunks, shrubs, and perennials. Longer grass provides shelter for mice, which will make wintertime meals of the bark on such plants.

**Trees:** If you have young trees, protect the trunks from rodent and rabbit damage with hardware cloth. Tree wraps can also be used to protect the trunks of young and smooth-barked trees from winter sun injury, but the tree wraps need to be taken off in the spring. Winter sun injury happens when the sun warms and thaws the bark on the southwest side of the trunk. Cold night temperatures then freeze and kill the cells on that side of the tree. To protect the roots of recently planted trees, spread mulch two to four inches deep around the base as the soil freezes

## RECYCLING BINS

**Powder River Conservation District is offering stackable recycle bins to promote recycling efforts that will increase our landfill's life span.**



**Recycling Bins** 18 gal./72 qt. stacking bin with an easy access front flap. Ideal for recycling or dry storage - indoor or outdoors. Stacks with or without the lid. Front lid stays open when desired.

Recycle bins are being offered for \$7.50 a 50% cost-share rate—original price \$15.00.

*Fall 2016*

## Deadlines for NRCS Programs

The Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) deadline for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) applications is Friday, October 21, 2016. EQIP is a voluntary conservation program that helps agricultural producers in a manner that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals. Through EQIP, agricultural producers receive financial and technical assistance to implement structural and management conservation practices that optimize environmental benefits on working agricultural land. AMA provides financial assistance to agricultural producers to voluntarily address resource issues such as water management, water quality, invasive species control, and erosion control by incorporating conservation into their farming or ranching operations. EQIP and AMA applications are accepted year round, however, the NRCS has an application deadline or "cut-off" date for ranking and approving applications. If you have a conservation project that you would like to apply for please submit it before 4 p.m. on Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, in order for your project to be ranked during this funding period. If you have questions about these programs or any other potential conservation project please stop by our offices in either Kaycee or Buffalo. The Kaycee Field Office can be reached at: 307-738-2321 and the Buffalo Field Office can be reached at: 307-684-2526.

Information about the NRCS and all of our programs can also be found at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/wy/home/> click on the programs tab and choose the program that you are searching for (EQIP, AMA, and CSP are located under the "Financial Assistance" tab).

Katie Vaporis – Rangeland Management Specialist – Kaycee Field Office

## NRCS Alert

The NRCS has issued alert that a telephone and email scam regarding the renewal of System for Award Management (SAM) registration is working its way to participants in farm bill programs. Those contacted are being asked to follow up with a phone call to complete their SAM registration and to sign up for another ID number by paying \$3,500 for a one-year or \$5,000 for a two-year renewal. If they do not, they are told they will be fined.

There is no required financial cost to obtain either a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) or SAM registration. If you are contacted in this manner please contact your local NRCS office at 350 Nolan Avenue, Kaycee, WY or calling us at (307) 738-2321 ex. 101.

*Fall 2016*

## *FY 2015-2016 Accomplishments*

### **Administration**

- Attended Area I meeting and the WACD State Convention
- Acted as a cooperating agent to Buffalo BLM Field Office Resource Management Plan revision meetings.
- Attended the WCDEA Winter Training and the WACD/WDA Employee Certification Training.
- Participated in the Local Working Group Meetings, Johnson County Commissioners meetings, Stock Trail Users Meeting, Dull Knife Irrigation Meetings, and WY Conservation District Employee Association Conference Calls and meetings.
- Served as the Wyoming Conservation District Employees Association President
- Public Outreach- Publish articles in local newspaper & published 4 district newsletters, continued to maintain & update the district website



### **Education**

- Adult Education
  - Estate Planning Workshop
  - Native Landscape Workshop
  - Cheat Grass Management Workshop
  - City Council & County Commissioners Presentation
- Youth Education
  - Adopt A Tree Program with the Kaycee Elementary School
  - Ag in the Classroom Activities
  - The Miraculous Seed and Transplanting
  - What Is a Mineral?
  - Flower Dissection
  - Microscopes
  - Plant Cells/Plant Kingdoms
  - Animal Tracks and Soil
  - Black Hills Natural Resource Youth Camp
  - Johnson County 3-4<sup>th</sup> Grand Rendezvous
  - Boys and Girls Club of Kaycee Summer Science Week



### **Special Projects**

- Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day w/ Lake DeSmet C.D.
- Tree Program
- Collected and recycled electronic waste
- Small Project Cost Share Programs-one Small cost share project was completed this year;
- Tree Plantings at Meike Bunkhouse
- Completed work on three Exigency Emergency Watershed Protection Projects and obtained funding for three Non-Exigency Emergency Watershed Protection Projects.
  - Tree City USA/Arbor Day Celebration



### **Water Quality**

Offered a free private well water testing day to landowners for them to test their wells for bacteria and Domestic/Irrigation/Livestock use.

### **Rangeland Management**

6 Rural Cost Share projects were completed this past year. They included three solar pumps/panels, to irrigation improvement projects, drilling a well, and installing a new water storage tank

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

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
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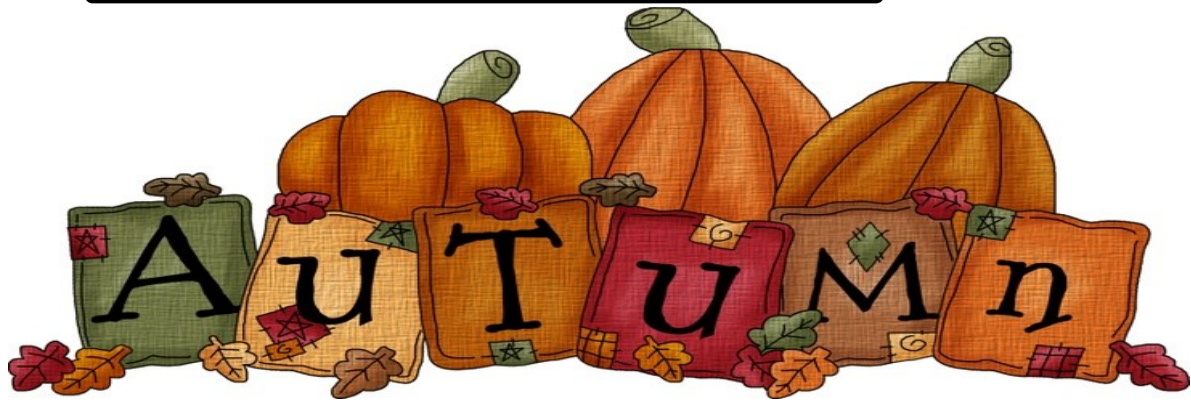
PRCD Board Meeting: Thursday, October 13th at 6:30 PM at the District Office

Well Water Testing Day: Tuesday, October 4th– 7:30-1pm @ District Office

PRCD/NRCS Office Closed for Columbus Day-Monday, October 10th

PRCD Board Meeting: Thursday, November 10th at 6:30 PM at the District Office

PRCD/NRCS Office Closed for Veterans Day –Friday, November 11th



The PRCD is an equal opportunity employer.

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