

Winter 2016

# Powder River News

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## WACD 71st Annual Convention

This year District Manager Anita Bartlett and District Supervisor Kevin Lund attended the 71st Wyoming Association of Conservation District (WACD) State Convention in Riverton, WY on November 15-17th. Approximately 220 District Supervisors, District Staff, State and Federal Agencies, Agricultural Producers and other Natural Resource Professionals gathered from across Wyoming to take part in this event that focused on “Excellence in Resource Stewardship through Excellence in Governance”.

Trainings and workshops held during the Convention included : Emergency Watershed Protection Program, Fair Labor Standards Act , SuiteWater Modernization and Functionality Update, Special District Board Member Training, Navigation the Waters of the US, Clean Water Act, 404 Permitting, Wyoming Nutrient Strategy Update, and the Special District Task Force Discussion. Along with these training/workshops, attendees had the opportunity to listen to the Keynote Speaker, Ann Moore, the Executive Director for the Center for Cowboy Ethics, as she spoke on Cowboy Ethics and Excellence in Governance.



Anita & Kevin also attended committee meetings, the Wyoming Conservation Districts Employees Association (WCDEA) meetings, and the Annual WACD Board Meeting. During the WACD Awards Luncheon Katie Vaporis was named the 2016 Outstanding Technician and Anita was named the 2016 Outstanding WACD Employee. (More Information on these awards can be found on pg. 2 &3)

## WACD OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Anita Bartlett, District Manager for the Powder River Conservation was named the Wyoming Association of Conservation District's Outstanding Employee for 2016 during the WACD Annual Convention in Riverton, WY on November 16<sup>th</sup>.

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. She is a natural teacher and works well with educators and professionals to bring educational programs to the District.



The youth programs that Anita develops and takes into the schools and the community encourages hands on participation developing leadership skills and engaging students in learning about conservation.

Anita works well with other agencies, contractors and land owners to bring everyone together to work for a common goal. An example of this is her diligent work with the NRCS, County Commissioners, and local landowners to administer the Emergency Watershed Projects Program. In May of 2015 Southern Johnson County saw record breaking flood water to the Powder River. These flood waters brought about significant damage to stream banks and caused erosion problems bringing threats to life and property. The District with the assistance of the NRCS has procured Exigency and Non-exigency EWP funding to repair the damage from these flood waters, thereby fixing stream banks and stabilizing buildings and irrigation structures.

Anita has served as the Wyoming Conservation District Employee's Association president for the past three years, prior to that she has served as the Association's Vice-President (1yr), Secretary (4yrs), and as an Area I Representative (1yr). Anita works diligently with the Association to promote the Conservation District Employees and to further their knowledge and skills through trainings.

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 helps organizes local fundraisers, and takes photos for the Kaycee Voice. In closing we ask that you understand that this only touches on part of Anita's virtues. She is a valuable employee for the District and a worthy recipient of this recognition. Her work promotes the wellbeing of Wyoming's natural resources, her personality endears herself to the community and her passion is reflected in the District programs and patron participation.

### **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.

## **WACD 2016 OUTSTANDING TECHNICIAN**

Katie Vaporis, Rangeland Specialist for the NRCS-Kaycee Field Office, was named the Wyoming Association of Conservation District's Outstanding Technician for 2016 during the WACD Annual Convention in Riverton, WY on November 16, 2016.

Katie came to the Kaycee Field office in May of 2016 from the Worland Field office and didn't get much chance to settle in and get her bearings set. Kaycee saw record breaking flood water at the end of May and Katie hit the ground running, with a crash course in the Emergency Watershed Project Program she assisted the PRCD, NRCS District Conservationist, and Engineers with field work and paperwork to obtain federal assistance for Exigency EWP Funding for 3 projects on the Powder River. Katie assisted NRCS Engineers with surveying, the District with water sampling, and even surviving the elements to certify seeding in the snow to meet the late November deadline on a project. After completing the Exigency EWP projects Katie continued to assist the District with filing paperwork for Non-Exigency EWP funding to finish repairing the damage done by the May 2015 flooding. The PRCD was notified in March of 2016 that they would be awarded Non-Exigency EWP funding for all 3 projects. This required more paperwork and survey work from Katie on top of her regular work load.



In addition to her assistance with the EWP Projects, Katie has assisted the District on their Cost Share Program. She has helped to certify fences, pipelines, stock tanks and storage tanks. Her advice has been invaluable and in the year she has been in Kaycee has worked hard to go above and beyond her regular work duties to ensure that the producers/landowners of Southern Johnson County have all the knowledge and tools they need to improve their operation. The PRCD cannot thank Katie enough for her diligent work and assistance to the District.

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## **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.

## Emergency Watershed Protection Program

The Powder River CD and the NRCS want to take a moment to update the community on our Emergency Watershed Protection Program Projects as there are many of you who will be affected by these projects or see the benefits from them. We would like to thank everyone for their continued patience as we work towards completing these projects.



- The Sahara Diversion EWP project was designed to repair streambank erosion that occurred during the 2015 flood. Construction began on this project September 30<sup>th</sup> and was completed December 2nd.

- The Harold Jarrard Park EWP project as in the final design stages, but when the design was submitted to the Army

Corps of Engineers. The Army Corps had some changes to the design that they would like made. The NRCS Engineers are currently working to modifying portions of the design to meet the requirements of the Army Corp. There will be no significant changes from the draft design issued to the landowners.

- The Nolan Diversion EWP project is still in the Final draft design stages and the NRCS Engineers hope to have a final design to the PRCD by the middle of December and the District hopes to put this project out to bid the end of December/beginning of January.



The Harold Jarrard Park and Nolan Diversion projects will have a formal bid process and pre-bid site visit, but at this time those dates have not been set.

Please continue to watch the Voice and Buffalo Bulletin for bid notices and do not hesitate to contact the PRCD or NRCS with any question that you may have.

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

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## ***TREE SALES***

### **The Powder River Conservation District is taking orders for trees.**

Tree orders will be accepted until Friday, March 24, 2016. The PRCD has available large stock trees, shrubs, fruit trees, and seedling trees. A full list of trees can be obtained from the PRCD. Orders are subject to availability as some types of trees sell out faster than others.

In order to purchase seedling trees you must own at least 2 acres of land. They come in a variety of bundle sizes so please stop in for an order form. Please contact the PRCD as soon as possible if you are interested in ordering trees.



## **How the NRCS Application Process Works**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) mission is, "Helping People Help the Land." The NRCS accomplishes this mission by helping farmers and ranchers design, implement, and potentially provide financial assistance for conservation practices. But how exactly does the NRCS application process work?

If you have any resource concerns on your property like erosive soils, lack of adequate livestock water, inefficient irrigation water use, etc. please stop by your local NRCS office and talk to the field office staff. The NRCS accepts applications year round for all of the offered programs. However, the NRCS receives funding once or twice per fiscal year, this is called a batching date. Once NRCS receives their batching date all applications received before or on that date are put into that round of funding. Any applications received after that date will be put into the next batching date. To find out more about applications you can go online or into your local office to speak to the field staff about your resource concerns. Field offices will help you decide if the programs are a good fit for you.

The first step of the application process will be establishing or updating records with the Farm Services Agency (FSA). You will be considered ineligible if you do not have records up to date with FSA. Once records are established with FSA, the NRCS will gather more information on your property that is pertinent to the project. This information can include soil type, resource concerns, proximity to listed streams, vegetation inventory, slope of a field, etc. NRCS uses this information to create a plan for your project. Engineers may be consulted for certain practices such as livestock water pipelines, pivots, wheel lines, etc. Once information is gathered the NRCS will rank your application.

The ranking process involves inputting the information gathered from your property into an online form that every NRCS office uses. This form will generate a ranking score based on the resource concerns and items being planned to address the resource concerns. Once the application is ranked each field office will have a division meeting. Johnson County is in a division with Sheridan and Campbell Counties, which means they share the money allocated to the division. At this meeting, offices will check that all questions were answered using the same criteria to ensure fair ranking scores. They will then order the applications with similar projects. Rangeland will rank with other rangeland projects, sprinkler will rank with other sprinkler applications. The division's money will be allocated to the applications with the highest ranking score in each category. Money is allocated down the line until the division is out of funds. If your application is ranked high enough, and receives funding; you will be notified by the NRCS and your application will be moved into a contract. If your application did not receive funding you will be notified and asked if you would like to roll your application into the next batching date.

There are two field offices in Johnson County, one located in Buffalo and the other in Kaycee, that would be happy to help you with any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to stop by or call. **Buffalo NRCS Field Office:** 307-684-2526. **Kaycee NRCS Field Office:** 307-738-2321.

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

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
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Permit #1



PRCD Board Meeting: Thursday, January 12, 2017 at 6:30 PM at the District Office

PRCD/NRCS Office Close December 26, 2016 for Christmas

PRCD/NRCS Office Closed January 2, 2017 for New Years

PRCD/NRCS Office Closed January 16, 2017 for Martin Luther King Jr Day



The PRCD is an equal opportunity employer.

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