

# Powder River Conservation District



*Anita Marie*

## Annual Plan of Work FY 2020-2021

### *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.*

# ADMINISTRATION & OPERATIONS

**ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS GOAL:** Account for all public funds and ensure all District programs are carried out in a responsible manner.

- Maintain a legal and balanced District budget.
- Attend board meetings and keep an official record of all board meeting decisions.
- Complete Financial Reviews and Audits as required by law.
- Comply with Chapter 1, Wyoming Conservation Districts Financial Policies in order to receive state funding.
- Complete all state and federal reports.
- Seek alternative funding sources through available grants.
- Meet the public needs by providing information or referral.
- Participate in all meetings required and pertinent to District operations.
- Develop and maintain partnerships between the Natural Resources Conservation Service, University of Wyoming Extension Service, Wyoming Game & Fish, United States Fish & Wildlife Service, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Wyoming Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and other entities.
- Provide opportunities for professional development of staff and board members.
- Address local concerns and planning through cooperative efforts with the Town of Kaycee.
- Assure that the District's Mission Statement is being met.
- Administer the Kaycee Stock Trail Users Coordinated Resource Management program.



# INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

**INFORMATION DISSEMINATION GOAL:** Provide information to the local community, and local, state, and federal agencies to increase natural resource awareness through a comprehensive media plan.

- Publish the quarterly District Newsletter-”Powder River News” which is sent out to approximately 340 Southern Johnson County residents.
- Maintain and update the District website: [www.powderrivercd.org](http://www.powderrivercd.org).
- Promote information about conservation programs and activities to the community through local newspapers, and the District newsletter.
- Involve the agricultural and urban communities in the District's Long Range Planning efforts.
- Photograph District activities and events.



# TREE PROGRAM

**TREE PROGRAM GOAL:** Promote tree plantings to reduce erosion, improve aesthetic values, enhance wildlife habitat cover, enhance energy conservation, and protect livestock.

- Hold the annual seedling tree sale.
- Hold the annual large stock tree/shrub sale.
- Prepare and offer applications for tree orders to qualified applicants.
- Assist customers with species selections for their area and soil type.
- Provide information for proper tree planting, care, and maintenance.
- Provide outreach materials and hands-on programs to the local schools and youth organizations concerning the importance of trees.
- Provide technical assistance in the design of windbreaks, stream bank stabilization, other conservation plantings and drip irrigation systems.
- Maintain existing living snow fence projects.



# EDUCATION/OUTREACH

**EDUCATION/OUTREACH GOAL:** Will strive 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.

- Work with local school administrators and teachers to promote and implement Ag-in-the-Classroom projects, such as:



- \* World Water Monitoring Day
- \* Ecology Camp
- \* Adopt a Tree Program
- \* Earth Day
- \* National Ag Day
- \* Minerals
- \* Wildlife Habitats
- \* Natural Disasters and their effects on a community
- \* Germination & Transplanting
- Support the Johnson County 4-H Program and the Kaycee FFA.
- Promote the Wyoming Ag in the Classroom Toolboxes to area schools, Boys and Girls Clubs, and 4-H groups.



- Sponsor and participate in the Black Hills Natural Resources Youth Camp.
- Sponsor and assist with educational workshops targeted towards natural resource issues.
- Provide educational presentations on District projects and activities to the residents of Southern Johnson County, natural resource managers and agencies, and elected officials.
- Educate elected officials on Conservation Districts and Natural Resource Issues.

# SPECIAL PROJECTS

**SPECIAL PROJECTS GOAL:** Ensure that all aspects of both rural and urban conservation project efforts are achieved.

- Host the Annual Well Water Testing Program to insure the health and quality of private water wells.
- Work with the Town of Kaycee, WY State Forestry, and other partners to hold the Annual Arbor Day Celebration.
- Work with Johnson County Weed & Pest and the Clear Creek Conservation District on county wide Noxious/Invasive Species Removal Program.
- Work with the Clear Creek Conservation District to host the annual Johnson County Household and Hazardous Waste Collection Day.
- Sell irrigation dam material, drip irrigation supplies, rain barrels, composters, and weed barrier.
- Be an active member of the steering committee for the BLM's Resource Management Plan Revision.
- Host the Bi-Annual PRCD Natural Resource Photo Contest.
- Be an active member of the Johnson County Natural Resource Management Plan committee.
- Work with the Town of Kaycee and private landowners to prune and mulch trees within city limits.
- Offer Cost Share Programs for small projects to support conservation practices that will benefit our natural resources.
- Work with the Town of Kaycee and the Buffalo Recycling Board to promote and support the recycling program in Kaycee.



- The PRCD will continue to work with the NRCS, local landowners, Johnson County Commissioners, and irrigation users to repair damages caused by flood waters in the spring of 2019. The project sites include the Harlan Diversion, Gosney Diversion, Moffet Diversion, the stream bank of the Middle Fork of Powder River through Kaycee, and the 15 Mile water control structure on Powder River. With these projects the district will search out and apply for grant funding to offset the cost to the District/Landowners not covered by the NRCS's EWP program which provides 75% of the construction cost and 100% of design cost.
- Work in conjunction with the Wyoming State Forestry to facilitate a thinning project on private lands to promote forest health in stands of trees infected with the Western Spruce Budworm. This project is funded through a grant from the WY State Forestry Bark Beetle Damage Mitigation Grant Program.

# WATERSHED PLANNING

**WATERSHED PLANNING GOAL:** Promote, protect and improve the quality and quantity of Wyoming's waters, reduce siltation of stream channels and reservoirs, promote the wise use of Wyoming's water for use now and for future generations.

- Voluntarily address water quality issues for streams listed on the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality 303(d) Threatened & Impaired Waterbodies List.
- Communicate with other government agencies to improve the water resources within our district.
- Cooperate with local landowners to provide guidance and information on water quality assessment efforts.
- Provide activities to local schools and youth organizations targeting the importance of water quality.
- Provide technical assistance for the installation of irrigation systems to enhance the water quality of the watershed.
- Maintain local partnerships to coordinated watershed planning efforts.
- Work with the NRCS to provide landowners with recommended Best Management Practices to help reduce non-point source pollution.
- Provide education on new water rules and regulations to insure a well informed public.



# NATURAL RESOURCES

**NATURAL RESOURCES GOAL:** Improve the condition of Southern Johnson County's private, state, and federal range, pasture, and crop acreage.

- The PRCD's Rural Cost Share Program is designed to assist with projects that make a positive difference on the land: to conserve soil, water, and energy, for cooperators who do not meet qualifying criteria for federal or state programs (not enough acreage, not a full-time operation, etc.) or were not funded (Federal or State funds ran out). Eligible projects may be implemented on private lands as well as adjacent public lands with rights/approval.
- Work Cooperatively with the BLM & Stock Trail Users CRM to improve the stock trail through projects such as developing/improving water sources and maintaining fences.
- Work Cooperatively with the NRCS on the following projects:
  - \* EQIP Contracts
  - \* Sage Grouse Initiative Program
  - \* Conservation Plans
  - \* Kaycee Flood Protection Project
  - \* Prescribed Grazing Plans
  - \* Irrigation Water Management Plans
  - \* Emergency Watershed Protection Program
- Continue to be a member of the Local Work Group.

