

Powell-Clarks Fork Conservation District

781 Lane 9, Powell, Wyoming 82435

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Board of Supervisors

Floyd Derry ~ Chairman
Ken Borchert ~ Vice-chairman
Duane Dearcorn ~ Secretary Treasurer
Regan Smith ~ Member
Shane Smith ~ Member

District Staff

Ann Trosper ~ District Manager
Watershed Coordinator

USDA NRCS Staff

Dicksie Michael ~ District Conservationist
Dave Lopez ~ Civil Eng. Technician
Robin Bayley ~ Soil Conservationist

Annual Report 2005-2006
Annual Plan 2007

History

The Powell-Clarks Fork Conservation District was organized in 1954. The District boundary changed in 1974 when supervisors were elected on the general election ballot. The present area of the District is approximately 537,000 acres. Within the District are approximately 500 operating units and about 325 cooperators. The annual growing season is 107 days with average precipitation being 12-15 inches per year.

Our conservation district is responsible for directing conservation programs that serve to conserve the soil, water, and vegetation within our district. Water quality continues as our primary focus. Conservation successes are due to the stewardship of the local landowners and concerned citizens of our district.

How to Contact PCFCD

Address: 781 Lane 9, Powell, Wyoming 82435
Phone: 307-754-9301 x112
Fax: 307-754-2761
Email: Ann.Trosper@wy.nacdnet.net

Board of Supervisors

The Powell Clarks Fork 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 Powell Clarks Fork Conservation District during the general election. They serve staggered four year terms of office. Supervisors may come from many different occupations but must reside within the boundaries of the district and must be residents of Wyoming.

Supervisors are unpaid, elected volunteers who attend monthly board meetings and are actively involved in overseeing district activities. Board meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at the USDA Service Center in Powell, Wyoming and are open to the public. Members of our current board are:

Floyd Derry	Chairman
Ken Borchert	Vice-Chairman
Duane Dearcorn	Secretary-Treasurer
Regan Smith	Member, RC & D Council Representative
Shane Smith	Member

District Staff:

Ann Trosper	District Manager, Watershed Coordinator
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Natural Resources Conservation Service Staff

Dicksie Michael	District Conservationist
Robin Bayley	Soil Scientist
Dave Lopez	Civil Engineer Technician

The Powell Clarks Fork Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service work in tandem to implement local conservation practices.

Partners

Powell Clarks Fork Conservation District would like to thank the following organizations for their support in our conservation and resource development efforts.

Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Wyoming Department of Agriculture
Wyoming Ag in the Classroom
University of Wyoming
National Association of Conservation Districts
Farm Service Agency
Wyoming Game and Fish Department
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
Park County Weed and Pest
Park County Planning and Zoning
Bighorn Basin Resource Conservation and Development
Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation
Cody Conservation District
North Big Horn Conservation District
Crook County Conservation District
Hot Springs Conservation District
Meeteetse Conservation District

Administration

New staff member – Ann Trosper was hired in March to fulfill watershed coordinator and district manager responsibilities. Ann has a background of project management stemming from 30+ years working for the oil and gas industry. She has also had experience in grant writing and management.

Training – Powell Clarks Fork Conservation District is becoming very involved in local, state, and Federal issues affecting our natural resources. Training and attendance at meetings is necessary to better serve our local community. PCFCD is very appreciative of the training opportunities that are offered through WACD, Wyoming Department of Agriculture, and the University of Wyoming. PCFCD staff and or board members attended the following training this year:

- Water Quality Training – Module 2
- Wyoming Watershed Conference
- Water Quality Training – Module 3
- Shoshone Forest Stewardship Contracting Workshop
- Big Horn Basin/ Wind River Water Plan Workshop
- Crook County Conservation District Septic Workshop

Education/Public Information/Outreach

Classroom activities:

In association with NRCS staff participated in Ag in the Classroom activities with 4th grade students. Activities included Ag in Action Role Play and the Watershed Game. Additionally PCFCD provided water quality workbooks to Eastside Elementary in conjunction with Earth Day.

Public information/Outreach:

The focus of public information and outreach for Powell Clarks Fork Conservation District was Bitter Creek water quality. This year we mailed “A Wyoming Homeowner’s Guide to Septic Systems” brochure to 1410 homeowners in rural areas of Bitter Creek Watershed. We participated with Bitter Creek Steering Committee regarding implementation of the Bitter Creek watershed plan pertaining to septic remediation. We developed a septic workshop to be presented in October 2006. A presentation to Park County Commissioners detailing the recent 319 grant and subsequent activity is planned for October 2006. Powell Tribune has been very helpful in our efforts to reach the public. They published three news articles detailing Bitter Creek issues and the work the conservation district is doing.

Two presentations have been made to Park County Commissioners regarding the benefits of the digital soil survey project. Participating in these discussions were Nephi Cole, and Darrel Schroeder.

Water Program

Within Powell Clarks Fork Conservation District there are two water bodies that are currently listed as impaired due to fecal Coliform levels. Bitter Creek was listed as impaired in 2000. The Shoshone River has recently been listed as impaired for fecal Coliform an unknown distance upstream from Bighorn reservoir.

Bitter Creek

Bitter Creek (HUC 10080014) was listed on Wyoming’s 2000 303 (d) impaired water body list as impaired by fecal Coliform bacteria. The source of the impairment was unknown. Possible sources included but were not limited to: agriculture and wildlife waste; and failing or inadequate household septic systems. Bitter Creek is classified as a Class 2 stream supporting agriculture, fish and wildlife, industry, human drinking water, aquatic life and full contact recreation.

Water shed planning activities for Bitter Creek are now completed and work is beginning on the implementation of the plan. Key elements in the Bitter Creek Watershed Plan include: Education and Awareness, Water Quality, Agriculture Waste Management, Agriculture Grazing Management, Irrigation Management, and Household Septic Systems.

Key to the success of our watershed plan regarding septic remediation is the Bitter Creek Septic Remediation 319 grant. This grant with Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality offers a 50/50 cost share opportunity to our cooperators for septic systems that were installed prior to July 1, 1973. This grant was signed in May 2006.

Education and awareness

Activities that were accomplished this year include a massive mailing of the “A Wyoming Homeowners Guide to Septic Systems” brochure. This brochure was sent to all of the improved property owners in the Bitter Creek watershed. The purpose of the mailing was to list septic owner responsibilities, discuss how a septic system works and to let our cooperators know about the 319 grant opportunity. Powell Tribune, our local newspaper, also published a great article regarding the grant and the septic project.

Additionally we are working on a septic workshop scheduled for October 2006 to allow cooperators, contractors, plumbing/septic equipment manufacturers, and government representatives to meet together. A presentation was made to Park County Commissioners in June to update them on the Bitter Creek project.

Household septic systems

We are currently accepting applications for septic remediation/repair cost share. Applications will be ranked and reviewed in September 2006 with installations planned for late fall 2006 or early spring 2007.

Water Quality Monitoring

A sample analysis plan was developed during 2006 for the district including sites in the Bitter Creek watershed. This plan has been sent to Wyoming DEQ and the Wyoming State Lab for approval. Existing sampling and analysis equipment was inventoried. Repairs to existing equipment were made as appropriate. An Idexx incubator, a Quanti-tray 2000 sealer and a black light have been purchased to allow in-house analysis for fecal Coliform and E. coli. Field equipment including a Hach turbidity meter, chest waders and boots were also purchased. Sampling will begin this fall pending approval of the SAP and written permission from landowners.

Irrigation Management Activity

During 2006 five irrigation projects for gated and/or buried pipe were approved and started. These projects will improve irrigation practices on 416 acres for a total cost of \$49,500..

Animal Waste and Grazing Management

Three projects are in progress to move corrals and livestock off live waterways within the Bitter Creek Watershed. Additionally there are 2 more projects pending approval and funding.

Shoshone River

Watershed Planning

Two cooperative meetings have been held discussing the Shoshone River. Attending these meeting were Cody Conservation District board, Wyoming DEQ, NRCS, and Powell Clarks Fork Conservation District board and staff. PCFCD does have a WDA grant in place to cover the costs of sampling and analysis for base bacterial data. Our Sample and Analysis plan written this year covers proposed sample points on the Shoshone River. Sampling will commence upon obtaining written landowner permission and approval of the SAP. An additional grant is pending approval and funding to cover the costs of locally led steering committee meetings to develop a Shoshone River watershed plan.

Seedling Tree Program

Powell Clarks Fork Conservation District continued a tree seedling program providing low-cost conservation seedlings for residents' conservation efforts. Eleven varieties of trees (1300 seedlings) were purchased by 17 landowners for spring planting. One of these projects included a 160 tree planning for a riparian border. Four additional tree projects for windbreaks/living snow fence were planted using trees purchased outside the conservation district.

Land Use Planning

Subdivision Reviews

This district maintains a very active working relationship with Park County Planning and Zoning. To date this year we have provided to the planning and zoning soils information and district correspondence on recommendation letters on 46 subdivision or land use requests.

Soil Survey

Powell Clarks Fork Conservation District supports the digital soil survey program and views this data as necessary for soils management. Park County is faced with very heavy sub-division activity. In addition to the agricultural needs, accurate soils data is necessary for water and sewage disposal management.

Financial Summary

Beginning Balance		\$68,784.00
State Assistance	\$5,433.00	
Program Fees	\$1,712.00	
Other income	\$564.00	
Total Income		\$7,709.00
Equipment Purchases	\$5,654.89	
All Other Expenditures	\$23,534.11	
Total Expenditures		\$29,189.00
Current Balance		\$47,304.00

Plan of Work

Administration

Objective – to meet WDA and WACD administrative guidelines and requirements and to ensure that all Powell Clarks Fork Conservation District programs are carried out in a timely and responsible manner.

- Hold regular monthly Board of Supervisor meetings, to make sure public is aware of these meeting and to encourage public participation in these meetings.
- Develop and maintain accurate and legal District budget
- Provide the Board of Supervisors accurate and timely financial information so that they can make appropriate decisions.
- Comply with WDA and WACD financial policies in order to receive state funding
- Complete all required state and federal reports
- Provide opportunities for development for staff and board members
- Attend meetings and trainings to increase knowledge of natural resources and to stay informed of local, state, and national conservation issues.
- Complete and distribute and Annual Report and Annual Plan of Work

Public Awareness

Objective – to promote activities and programs increasing community awareness of conservation district activities and programs.

- Continue quarterly presentations to Park County Commissioners
- Continue regular news articles through Powell Tribune regarding Bitter Creek
- Commence quarterly newsletter regarding Shoshone River watershed plan
- Commence regular conservation information articles through local newspapers
- Present Septic workshops in Cody and Powell area
- Present updated conservation activity presentation to local civic organizations
- Commence participation in local business and county fairs

Outreach

Objective – to work towards building strong public knowledge. To provide a friendly and visible resource to our local community for conservation information and assistance.

- Continue to work with NRCS staff promoting and participating with Ag in the Classroom projects
- Commence work with Powell grade schools emphasizing Earth Day and Stewardship Week activities
- Work with local high school science teacher to demonstrate and provide hands-on water quality testing for local students

Water Quality

Objective – to complete mission tasks as outlined in various existing water quality grants and to continue to apply for replacement funds to keep these projects viable.

- Bitter Creek Watershed Plan Implementation WDA – complete reports, accurately record expenses, continue to monitor water quality per approved SAP
- Bitter Creek Septic Remediation 319 grant – facilitate septic improvements/replacement for approximately 20 sites, complete required reports, accurately record expenses
- Shoshone River WDA Baseline Monitor – develop and get approval for SAP. Develop and get approval for data storage, continue to monitor per SAP
- Continue to apply for additional grants to maintain Bitter Creek and Shoshone River monitoring efforts
- Continue to work to keep public informed of water quality results

Watershed Planning

Objective – to complete mission tasks as outlined in various existing watershed planning grants

- Equipment and watershed capacity building – complete purchase of equipment, complete final report, close grant
- Bitter Creek WDA Watershed plan development – complete and publish final report, close grant
- Shoshone River Watershed Plan Development – work with locally let steering committee group to develop watershed plan for Shoshone River from Buffalo Bill reservoir through the Powell Clarks Fork Conservation District boundary. Work in conjunction with Cody Conservation District to accomplish this.

Partnerships

Objective – to continue to develop and enhance existing partnerships

- Continue to attend meetings and work with Shoshone Forest on Shoshone Cooperating Agency Coalition
- Continue efforts with Cody Conservation District and Meeteetse Conservation District
- Continue cooperative efforts with NRCS and Wyoming Game and Fish

Tree program

Objective – to continue to promote tree plantings that will protect our watersheds, water resources, serve as erosion control, provide benefit to the environment and meet landowner objectives

- Hold annual seedling tree sales from October through April
- Develop local landscape project to demonstrate tree products and conservation practices

Anticipated Budget

Beginning Balance	\$47,304		\$47,304
Anticipated Income			
Biennium Funding	\$8,823		
Grant Monies	\$111,000		
Local Funding	\$1,400		
Water Quality	\$2,300	\$123,523	
Anticipated spending			
Personnel	\$30,000		
Payroll Taxes	\$2,296		
Administrative Expens	\$3,421		
Operations	\$100,000		
Capital Outlay	\$3,500	\$139,217	
Planned balance June 30, 2007			\$31,610

