

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

R. Denny Hall ~ Secretary Treasurer

Regan Smith ~ Member

Shane Smith ~ Member

District Staff

Ann Trosper ~ District Manager

Watershed Coordinator

USDA NRCS Staff

Dicksie Michael ~ District Conservationist

Annual Report 2007-2008

Annual Plan 2009

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

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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
R. Denny Hall	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
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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
Park County Master Gardeners
Powell High School
Wyoming Wildlife Trust Fund
First National Bank

Administration

Ann Trosper is the District Manager and Watershed Coordinator for the district. 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. Her responsibilities include water quality monitoring, public outreach, grant administration and implementation and general office duties.

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. This year we were able to participate in the employee certification training offered in Cheyenne: cooperating agency training offered by the Bureau of Land Management and weed identification training offered by Park County Weed and Pest.

Education/Public Information/Outreach

Public information/Outreach:

PCFCD partnered with NRCS, Wyoming Game and Fish and the Park County Master Gardeners to develop the first small acreage workshop for the Powell area. First National Bank of Powell and a grant from U. W. “Living a Few Acres” provided the funding for the project. The purpose of the workshop was to provide education and discussion on water quality issues, land use, irrigation, trees, wildlife and natural landscaping. The target audience was the growing number of small acreage (less than 40 acres) property owners in Park County. The workshop was held at

the U. W. Experiment Station in Powell. Following the classroom education was a bus tour to allow viewing and hands-on training.



Regular updates have been presented to Park County Commissioners regarding water quality efforts. In addition presentations were made to the commissioners regarding the benefits of the digital soil survey project. With the help of Nephi Cole, a project is underway to digitize the existing soils maps. The project is a partnership between NRCS soils team and Park County Planning and Zoning.

This spring we co-sponsored a workshop “Red Trees and Pine Beetles” dedicated to educating the public on the issues the Shoshone Forest is facing with the current pine beetle epidemic. The partners in the workshop were Meeteetse and Cody Conservation districts, and Western Wyoming RC & D. The group enjoyed speakers from Wyoming State Forestry, Shoshone National Forest, local foresters, and the Park county conservation districts.

TREES-TREES-TREES were the subject of our April 12, 2008 tree pruning workshop that we sponsored in conjunction with the Park County Master Gardeners. This workshop was held at the University of Wyoming Experiment Station where we had the opportunity to learn about tree pruning and then participate in hands-on pruning of various tree and shrub species. We enjoyed great weather and learned a lot about good tree health.

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.

Household septic systems This year we completed the watershed plan implementation grant (WDA) and septic remediation (319) grant. We were able to cost share on 23 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 offered 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 and expired on June 30, 2008. (Note: the expiration date included a one month extension).



The table below details the septic information

District	Funding Source	Proposal Type	Watershed	Amount Funded	Estimated Project Cost	Acres	Resource Concern
Powell	BC319	Septic remediation	Bittercreek	72,694.00	145,387.40		Impaired water body

Education and awareness Powell Tribune, our local newspaper, continues to give wonderful support to our activities by publishing great articles regarding Bitter Creek testing and detailing the Fed319 septic grant. Additionally we co-sponsored a small acreage workshop and bus tour in February. Topics discussed were irrigation practices, wildlife, water quality, trees, land use/grazing, and natural landscape techniques. After a great lunch provided by the First National Bank we enjoyed a bus tour to view and discuss projects in the area. Several presentations have been made to Park County Commissioners to update them on the Bitter Creek project and other conservation district efforts. In addition we continue to meet with local service organizations to keep them updated on conservation district activity. One of our goals is to keep elected officials aware of our progress. Last year we made multiple presentations to Park County Commissioners to inform them about district activities. We also sent our one page summary to the Park County representatives to inform them of our activity and to offer our assistance as they worked through legislative environmental issues. This spring members of our board met directly with Representative Alan Jones, Representative Colin Simpson, Representative Elaine Harvey, Representative Pat Childers, and Senator Hank Coe to discuss water quality funding concerns in Park County.

Water Quality Monitoring In 2007 and 2008 we used the WDA Watershed plan implementation grant funds to monitor sites on Bitter Creek. The purpose of this monitoring was to look at fecal coliform and E. coli rates prior to and during the septic remediation process. A subsequent grant has been obtained to monitor for fecal coliform and E. coli on the same sites during 2008 and 2009.



Shoshone River

The Shoshone River (HUC 10080014) was listed on Wyoming's 2004 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. The Shoshone River is classified as a Class 2 stream supporting agriculture, fish and wildlife, industry, human drinking water, aquatic life and full contact recreation.

Watershed planning: A grant has in place with WDA to support watershed planning on the Shoshone River. Powell Clarks Fork and Cody Conservation Districts are working across district boundaries with our watershed steering committee to address water quality issues on the Shoshone River from Buffalo Bill Reservoir through the PCFCD East boundary. Nephi Cole with NRCS is facilitating the meetings. Meetings commenced in the fall of 2006. At this time we have 16 active steering committee members. The watershed planning project is nearing completion with public comment and review expected the fall of 2008.

Education and awareness The conservation district has made a strong effort to keep the local government, primarily Park County Planning and Zoning and Park County Commissioners informed and engaged in the watershed planning efforts. In order to minimize mailing costs we have used postings on our web site to publish the different watershed plan draft versions. Linda Gillette with Park County Planning and Zoning is a participant on the Shoshone River watershed steering committee. Copies of the final plan will be sent to all of the local Wyoming legislators.

Water Quality Monitoring In 2007 we obtained grant funds to monitor sites on the Shoshone River. This data will be used as baseline data as we prepare a work plan to address conservation projects along the river. Monitoring will commence in July 2008.



Irrigation Management Activity

The table below details the irrigation projects for the year.

District	Funding Source	Proposal Type	Watershed	Estimated Project Cost	Acres	Resource Concern
Powell	EQIP	Irrigation All Other	Bitter Creek	15,024.00	27	Irrigation-CDL and gated
powell	EQIP	Irrigation All Other	Bitter Creek	48,906.00	176.5	Irrigation-gated
Powell	EQIP	Irrigation All Other	Bitter Creek	33,732.86	75	Irrigation-gated/buried
Powell	EQIP	Irrigation All Other	Bitter Creek	15,600.00	30	Irrigation-sediment pond
Powell	EQIP	Irrigation All Other	Bitter Creek	31,200.00	16	Irrigation-sediment ponds
Powell	EQIP	Irrigation All Other	Shoshone	40,980.00	72	Irrigation-buried/surge valves
Powell	EQIP	Irrigation All Other	Shoshone	43,852.00	182	Irrigation-CDL
Powell	EQIP	Irrigation All Other	Shoshone	40,507.43	283	Irrigation-gated
Powell	EQIP	Irrigation All Other	Shoshone	16,224.00	69	Irrigation-gated pipe
Powell	EQIP	Irrigation All Other	Shoshone	108,832.29	256.5	Irrigation-gated/buried
Powell	EQIP	Irrigation All Other	Shoshone	52,790.00	111	Irrigation-gated/buried/surge valve
Powell	EQIP	Irrigation All Other	Shoshone	6,195.71	49	Irrigation-gated/cross fencing
Powell	EQIP	Irrigation All Other	Shoshone Alkali Creek	6,336.00	40	Irrigation-gated
Powell	EQIP	Irrigation All other	Shoshone Alkali Creek	28,594.00	88	Irrigation-gated/buried
Powell	EQIP	Irrigation Sprinklers	Shoshone	64,020.00	70	Irrigation-full circle pivot
Powell	EQIP	Irrigation Sprinklers	Shoshone Alkali Creek	70,110.00	60	Irrigation-1/2 circle pivot
Powell	EQIP	Irrigation Sprinklers	Shoshone Alkali Creek	83,624.00	90	Irrigation-full circle pivot

Animal Waste and Grazing Management

One project to move livestock and corrals off live waterways was approved in 2007. In addition a grazing management plan was approved for 600 acres that border the North side of the Shoshone River. This project includes spring developments, cross fencing, pipeline and tanks.

PCFCD was pleased to work with Wyoming Wildlife Trust, NRCS, University of Wyoming and Rocking H Ranch on a water enhancement project at Whit Creek. This project will improve livestock and wildlife water availability.

The table below details animal waste and grazing management activities.

District	Funding Source	Proposal Type	Watershed	Amount Funded	Estimated Project Cost	Acres	Resource Concern
Powell	EQIP	Livestock Waste	Bitter Creek	24,103.00	48,206.00		Livestock Waste/sheep
Powell	EQIP	Range	Bighorn	62,581.00	125,162.00	4875	Grazinglands
Powell	EQIP	Range	Clarks Fork	28,007.00	56,014.00	490	Grazinglands
Powell	EQIP	Range	Shoshone Alkali Creek	36,747.00	52,495.71	206	Grazinglands





Seedling Tree Program

Powell Clarks Fork Conservation District continued a tree seedling program providing low-cost conservation seedlings for residents’ conservation efforts. Twenty one varieties of trees (2470 seedlings) were purchased by 23 landowners for spring planting. One of these projects included a 325 tree planting around new construction.

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 11 subdivision or land use requests.

Plan of Work – Report Card

Administration	
<i>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.</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold regular monthly Board of Supervisor meetings, to make sure public is aware of these meeting and to encourage public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Done

participation in these meetings.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and maintain accurate and legal District budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide the Board of Supervisors accurate and timely financial information so that they can make appropriate decisions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comply with WDA and WACD financial policies in order to receive state funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete all required state and federal reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide opportunities for development for staff and board members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend meetings and trainings to increase knowledge of natural resources and to stay informed of local, state, and national conservation issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete and distribute and Annual Report and Annual Plan of Work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
Public Awareness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Objective – to promote activities and programs increasing community awareness of conservation district activities and programs.</i> 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue quarterly presentations to Park County Commissioners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 presentation made during fiscal year to PCC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue regular news articles through Powell Tribune regarding Bitter Creek 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 newspaper articles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commence quarterly newsletter regarding Shoshone River watershed plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Web site developed, newsletter articles included with quarterly FSA newsletter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present Septic workshops in Cody and Powell area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present small acreage workshop in Powell area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outreach <i>Objective – to work towards building strong public knowledge. To provide a friendly and visible resource to our local community for conservation information and assistance.</i> 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with local high school science teacher to demonstrate and provide hands-on water quality testing for local students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Quality <i>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.</i> 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bitter Creek Watershed Plan Implementation WDA – complete reports, accurately record expenses, continue to monitor water quality per approved SAP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports submitted on time, expenses recorded, water quality monitoring in progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bitter Creek Septic Remediation 319 grant – facilitate septic improvements/replacement for approximately 20 sites, complete required reports, accurately record expenses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Septic remediation work is complete on 23 approved cost share systems. Report and expenses have been submitted in a timely manner.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shoshone River WDA Baseline Monitor – develop and get approval for SAP. Develop and get approval for data storage, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAP completed and approved by DEQ,

continue to monitor per SAP	database developed and implemented. Our grant application for monitoring funds has been approved, monitoring in progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to apply for additional grants to maintain Bitter Creek and Shoshone River monitoring efforts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtained Shoshone River/Bitter Creek monitoring funds from 2008-2010
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work to keep public informed of water quality results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watershed Planning <i>Objective – to complete mission tasks as outlined in various existing watershed planning grants</i> 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2006-2008 grant is complete, additional funding will be applied for to complete the project

Financial Summary

Construction	\$50,026.00	
Re-Payment of Grant	\$14,926.00	
Administration	\$9,917.00	
Operations	\$33,283.00	
Indirect	\$931.00	
Total Expenditures		\$109,083.00
Current Balance		\$18,469.00

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 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 regular presentations to Park County Commissioners
- Continue regular news articles through Powell Tribune regarding Bitter Creek and Shoshone River water quality issues
- Maintain web site
- Present appropriate workshops in Cody and Powell area
- Present updated conservation activity presentation to local civic organizations
- Complete Long Range Plan for 2008-2013

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
- Continue to build on small acreage work shop activity
- Work with local high school science teacher to demonstrate and provide hands-on water quality testing for local students
- Continue to work with Park County Weed and Pest

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.

- Shoshone River WDA Baseline Monitor –continue the baseline monitoring of the Shoshone River.
- 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
- Commence annual drinking water well testing service.

Watershed Planning

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

- Shoshone River Watershed Plan Development – Continue work with locally led steering committee group to develop watershed plan for Shoshone River from Buffalo Bill

reservoir through the Powell Clarks Fork Conservation District boundary. This project is a joint effort with Cody Conservation District.

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
- Continue cooperative efforts with Park County Weed and Pest.

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
- Investigate adding weed barrier and tree protection products to the tree sales

Anticipated Budget

Powell-Clarks Fork Conservation 2009 Budget										
CASH AND ANTICIPATED REVENUE										
CASH ON HAND 6/30/2008										
	Working Checkbook		3,704							
	Tree Checkbook		4,082							
	CD1		0							
	CD2		10,682							
			18,469							
ANTICIPATED REVENUE										
Biennium funding										
	Lab		\$ 2,216							
	PCFCD		\$ 8,825							
	NRCS Partnership		\$ -							
	319 Septic grant		\$ 35,540							
	Interest		\$ 40							
	Tree Program		\$ 1,500							
	Shoshone River		\$ 14,866	Must be spent by 12/31/08						
	Bitter Creek Shoshone River		\$30,000							
	SubDivision Reviews		\$ 345							
		TOTAL	\$ 93,332							
TOTAL CASH AND REVENUE				111,800						

