

Powell-Clarks Fork Conservation District

*1017 Highway 14A, Powell, Wyoming 82435
Phone 307-754-9301 FAX 307-754-2761 Email Ann.Trosper@wy.nacdnet.net*

Board of Supervisors

Floyd Derry ~ Chairman
Ken Borchert ~ Vice-chairman
R. Denny Hall ~ Secretary Treasurer
Regan Smith ~ Member
Shane Smith ~ Member
Bob Parsons ~ Associate Member

District Staff

Ann Trosper ~ District Manager
Watershed Coordinator

USDA NRCS Staff

Rory Karhu ~ District Conservationist
Dicksie Michael ~ Conservation Planner

**Annual Report 2009-2010
Annual Plan 2010-2011**

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: 1017 Highway 14A, 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. Bob Parsons is also serving as an associate (non-elected) member of the board. Bob is the district manager of Park County Weed and Pest and brings significant local expertise to our board.

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
Bob Parsons	Associate

District Staff:

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

Rory Karhu	District Conservationist
Dicksie Michael	District Planner

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
City of Powell
Wyoming Wildlife Trust Fund
First National Bank
Shoshone Conservation District

Administration and Technical Staff

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.

Education/Public Information/Outreach

Public information/Outreach:

In January we worked with Meeteetse and Cody Conservation districts to present a workshop aimed at both large and small livestock producers. The topics discussed were: animal health issues in Park County; upcoming DEQ/EPA water quality regulations/proactive record keeping; rangeland monitoring featuring Sample Point. This workshop was held at the Park County library in Cody and was attended by 16 guests.

PCFCD partnered with University of Wyoming, NRCS, Park County Weed and Pest and the Park County Master Gardeners to continue the small acreage workshop program for the Powell area. A grant from University of Wyoming "Living a Few Acres" provided the funding for the project. The purpose of this workshop was to provide education and discussion on hoop houses, cover crops, dealing with alkaline soils, soils testing, tree plantings, high altitude gardening, water quality issues, and Wyoming grapes and vineyards. 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 Park County fairgrounds in Powell. The Master Gardeners and Ann Trosper prepared homemade jams and jellies from fruits produced from native and conservation plantings to demonstrate potential harvest from these plantings. Chile made with local beef and beans produced at the U. W. experiment station was the main course for lunch. We also offered wine tasting during the Wyoming grapes and vineyard session. There were 105 participants at this workshop.

Two meetings were held with Park County Commissioners. The first meeting was a general update meeting to report and discuss the projects we are working on. This year we discussed local water quality issues, education, and the work that is ongoing to address Russian olive remediation. The second meeting was to deliver and discuss the Wyoming Watersheds Progress 2009 report from WACD.

For the last two years we have participated in a private conservation education/awareness program that Merlyn Ballinger offers at his Whit Creek ranch property. This program is aimed at the Powell High School and Northwest College natural resource students. The agenda for this workshop includes: weed identification and management, water quality issues, forestry, wildlife habitat with focus on range management, and wildlife management focusing on bears, wolves, and elk. We have enjoyed this opportunity to participate in this program and continue to look forward to how we can help Mr. Ballinger's program continue and grow.

This year the winter technical meeting for the Soil and Water Conservation Society was held in Cody. Recognition awards were given for outstanding projects and service relating to natural resource use and conservation. Three of the nominees that we submitted received awards. Virginia and Merlyn Ballinger received the outstanding conservation project award for the Whit Creek Ranch water management project. Their ranch is used for cattle grazing in the summer and handicapped hunting during the fall. We worked with the Ballinger's to complete a water source, install a solar pump and lay extensive piping and tanks for water/grazing management. Gib Mathers with the Powell Tribune has been a wonderful resource for us. Gib received the outstanding press award for his help with informing the public of our efforts regarding water quality in the Bitter Creek and Shoshone River watersheds. Regan and Wendy Smith actively work to educate local children from pre-school through high school about local agriculture and natural resource issues. Wendy teaches at the Powell High School and has developed a wonderful Natural Resource program that we have been privileged to be included in. Regan serves on the PCFCD board and provides continued education to many students. Every year pre-school through grade school students walk through his lambing facilities to learn about sheep and wool production and to see the new lambs. Regan and Wendy shared the outstanding educator award.

In December we invited Park County representatives to participate in a discussion natural resource issues. The representatives that were able to attend were: Representative David Bonner, Senator Hank Coe, Representative Colin Simpson, and Representative Pat Childers. We invited board members and staff from Shoshone, Meeteetse, and Cody Conservation Districts, board and staff from Bighorn and Park County Weed and Pest Districts, board and staff from the Park County irrigation districts, and staff from U. W. Extension Services. This was a very productive meeting between our local representatives and the entities working with natural resource issues. The discussion topics were varied and included water quality efforts and funding, range management, and the need for grasshopper control in this area. The most valuable item that we

got from this meeting is we are now viewed as a resource for our legislative team. During the 2010 session we did get several calls asking for facts and opinions regarding natural resource legislation.

Student Education:

Powell High School natural resource students participated in water quality monitoring on Bitter Creek. The purpose was to teach the students about the use of a sample analysis plan and water quality testing procedure on sites near their homes. We had 50 students that participated in both the classroom and field testing sessions. The students also looked at historical and current data results. In addition to the water quality monitoring, the natural resource students wrote 4 grant applications from the Wyoming Wildlife Trust Fund youth program. The grant requests included projects for knap weed control in a small acreage subdivision, re-vegetation after Russian olive removal, and soil moisture monitoring.

Katie Kipp was our 2010 work experience student from Powell High School. Katie worked for one semester during one class period. She was wonderful help and maintained a very upbeat attitude regardless of what we asked her to do including stuffing envelopes, data entry, assisting with monitoring, filing, cleaning, and assembling education projects. Her student experience work led to becoming a Student Training Experience Program (STEP) employee with NRCS this summer. We have certainly enjoyed working with Katie and we hope her experience with us will lead to completion of her degree and employment in the natural resource conservation field.



Grade school education efforts included the construction of “Dirt Babies”. With Katie’s help we constructed over 70 dirt babies and presented a soils class to K-3 students from Valley, Wapiti, Clark, and Cody Eastside schools. Our first effort was with the students at Valley

School on the South Fork of the Shoshone. Laura Shipley, NRCS Soils Scientist, helped keep the project on task.



Staff Education:

At the Area III meeting Bobbie Frank discussed the need to keep aware of and track the flora and fauna that we observed during monitoring. Her comment was “today we need to know about the leopard frog; tomorrow we might need to know about mallard ducks”. With that in mind I updated the water quality database that I was using to address flora and fauna. Along with that I developed MSAccess 101 level training manual using our water quality database for examples and student training exercises. I presented 16 hours of training on the database and training manual to Kristin Tilley-Shoshone CD, Steve Jones, Wendy Thulander, and Emily Ewart – Meeteetse CD, and Dianne Russell-Cody CD. I also mailed the training manual to Kelly Brown and Wendy Smith for their reference. Carla Thomas and Jim Kirsch has also received a copy of the database and training manual. Both Meeteetse and Hot Springs conservation districts are using customized versions of the database for water quality data storage and retrieval. Please see the attached manual.

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. We are continuing to monitor on sites in both watersheds.

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: Due to lack of funding we were unable to continue any project work associated with septic remediation in 2009-2010. We are continuing education and outreach efforts regarding septic health and maintenance and we are continuing to monitor water quality for E. coli in Bitter Creek.

Education and awareness

Powell Tribune, our local newspaper, continues to give wonderful support to our activities. Additionally, we continue to work with Powell High School students on water quality monitoring efforts in Bitter Creek. This year 50 students participated in an E. coli and sediment study at Bitter Creek 9 sample site. Several presentations have been made to Park County Commissioners to update them on the Bitter Creek project and other conservation district efforts. 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.

Water Quality Monitoring Since 2007 we have used WDA water quality grant funds to monitor sites on Bitter Creek. The purpose of this monitoring was to look at fecal coliform and E. coli rates. A grant has been obtained to monitor for fecal coliform and E. coli on the same sites through June, 2012.



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: This year we continue to work on projects defined in the Shoshone River Watershed Plan and district long range plan. Projects include education, outreach, invasive species remediation and monitoring

Education and awareness The conservation district has made a strong effort to keep the local and state government informed about Shoshone River watershed issues.

Water Quality Monitoring Since 2008 we have used WDA water quality funds to monitor sites on the Shoshone River. We have obtained a WDA grant to allow continued monitoring through June 2012.

Summary of Work Activity

District Annual Report **District: Powell**

Watershed	Source	Proposal Type	AmountFunded	# of Projects	Estimated Project Cost	Acres	Private Funds
Shoshone							
	AMA						
		Brush management	\$76,933.00	7	\$102,020.34	278	\$25,087.34
	EQIP						
		Irrigation Sprinklers	\$59,725.00	1	\$79,633.33	100	\$19,908.33
		Irrigation All Other	\$106,088.00	6	\$137,968.63	312.1	\$31,880.63
	WRP						
		Wildlife Initiative	\$66,161.00	2	\$83,107.69	20	\$16,946.69
		Brush management	\$325,716.00	7	\$434,288.00	2280	\$108,572.00
	Totals		\$634,623.00	23	\$837,017.99	2990.1	\$202,394.99

Invasive Species and Wildlife Programs

Local producers are working together to address invasive weed species in Park County. A CRM set up to focus on Russian olive and salt cedar has been formed. The steering committee is co-chaired by John Kendrick and Dave Campbell. The other steering committee members are: Ann Trosper, Ken Heinrich, Bob Mason, Bob Parsons, and Josh Shorb. They have obtained a Wyoming Wildlife Trust fund grant in the amount of \$300,000.

Seedling Tree Program

Powell Clarks Fork Conservation District continued a tree seedling program providing low-cost conservation seedlings for residents’ conservation efforts. Twenty-seven varieties of trees (1740 seedlings) were purchased by 13 landowners for spring planting.

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 10 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 participation in these meetings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
<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 regular presentations to Park County Commissioners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 presentations made during fiscal year to PCC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue regular news articles through Powell Tribune and Cody Enterprise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present septic and small acreage workshops 	<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"> Continue to build on small acreage work shop activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshops 01/09/10 and 2/20/10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work with NRCS staff promoting and participating with Ag in the Classroom projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ballinger Wilderness Retreat for PHS and Northwest college students
<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"> May 2010
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work with Park County Weed and Pest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In progress

<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"> • Shoshone River WDA Baseline Monitor – continue the baseline monitoring of the Shoshone River 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports submitted on time, expenses recorded, water quality monitoring complete per grant timeframe
<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"> • WDA grant awarded for 2010-2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop data base 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Done
<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 – Continue work as identified in watershed and long range plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnerships • <i>Objective – to continue to develop and enhance existing partnerships</i> 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue cooperative efforts with Cody Conservation District and Meeteetse Conservation District 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue cooperative efforts with NRCS and Wyoming Game and Fish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue cooperative efforts with Park County Weed and Pest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree Program • <i>Objective – to continue to develop and enhance existing partnerships</i> 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold annual seedling tree sales from October through April 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Done
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop tree sales and species database 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Done

2010 Financial Summary

Beginning Balance	43765
Revenues	
WDA	13087
Tree Sales	2777
Park Co. Weed and Pest	1676
Meeteetse CD	253
Interest	54
Sub Division Review	225
Donation	250
Total Revenue	18322
Expenditures	
Construction	0
Sales Tax	94
Administration	1100
Operations	35429
Indirect Costs	2713
Total Expenses	39336
Cash on Hand at End of Year	22751

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 regular presentations to Park County Commissioners

- Continue regular news articles through Powell Tribune and Cody Enterprise for watershed issues on Bitter Creek the Shoshone River
- Present appropriate workshops in Cody and Powell area
- Present updated conservation activity presentation to local civic organizations

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
- Continue to support and participate in Ballinger Wilderness Retreat

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/ Bitter Creek Monitor –continue monitoring on the Shoshone River and Bitter Creek.
- Continue to seek 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.
- Participate in consultant select process for the Greybull/Big Horn River TMDL.

Watershed Plan Implementation

Objective – to work on tasks as outlined in the Long Range Plan to implement tasks as outlined in the Shoshone River and Bitter Creek watershed plans

- Shoshone River Watershed Plan – Arrange for necessary meetings with Shoshone River Watershed Plan steering committee to update them on current efforts to implement the watershed plan.
- Bitter Creek Watershed Plan – Arrange for necessary meetings with the Bitter Creek Watershed Plan steering committee to update them on current efforts to update and implement the watershed plan
- Complete program to mark City of Powell storm drains with conservation and natural resource signage to reduce the amount of chemical wastes being dumped into those drains
- Continue work with invasive species CRM to address Russian olive infestation in the Shoshone/Clarks Fork watersheds

Partnerships

Objective – to continue to develop and enhance existing partnerships

- Continue efforts with Cody Conservation District and Meeteetse Conservation District
 - Further develop and deliver MS Access training associated with PCFCD water quality database. Focus will be on migration from Access 2003 to Access 2007 and increasing output reports and plots as users determine. The aim is to link the database with GIS mapping tools.
 - Share database structure with other interested conservation districts
- Continue cooperative efforts with NRCS and Wyoming Game and Fish
- Continue cooperative efforts with Park County Weed and Pest.
- Continue efforts with Powell Tree Board and Park County Master Gardeners
- Continue efforts with Shoshone River/Clarks Fork Invasive Species CRM

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
- Hold annual tree pruning workshop in spring
- Complete output on tree information database

Anticipated Budget

Powell-Clarks Fork Conservation 2011 Budget

CASH AND ANTICIPATED REVENUE	
CASH ON HAND 6/30/2011	
Working	
Checkbook	4,776
Tree Checkbook	5,591
CD2	10,829
	21,196
ANTICIPATED REVENUE	
<hr/>	
Biennium funding	
Lab	\$ 2,200
PCFCD	\$ 8,823
WACD UAA Funds	\$ 1,700
WDA Water Quality Grant	\$ 15,000
Interest	\$ 50
Tree Program	\$ 1,500
SubDivision Reviews	\$ 250
TOTAL	\$ 29,523
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TOTAL CASH AND REVENUE	\$50,719

We, the supervisors of the Powell Clarks Fork Conservation District, as duly authorized by the Wyoming Conservation Districts Law, hereby adopt the 2007 Annual Report and 2008 Annual Plan of Work.

Chairman

Date

Vice-Chairman

Date

Secretary

Date

Member

Date

Member

Date