

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
Frank Palazzolo ~ 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 ~ Soil Conservationist
Eric Watson ~ Soil Conservationist

**Annual Report 2010-2011
Annual Plan 2011-2012**

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 generally held on the first Tuesday of each month at the USDA Service Center in Powell, Wyoming and are open to the public. The July meeting is later to accommodate the annual budget meeting and is usually set for the first Tuesday following the 15th of the month. Because the July meeting is in the middle of the month we do not meet during August unless there are pressing business issues to handle. Bob Parsons serves 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 |
| Frank Palazzolo | Secretary-Treasurer |
| Regan Smith | Member, RC & D Council Representative |
| Shane Smith | Member |
| Bob Parsons | Associate |

District Staff:

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Ann Trosper | District Manager, Watershed Coordinator |
|-------------|---|

Natural Resources Conservation Service Staff

| | |
|------------|--------------------------|
| Rory Karhu | District Conservationist |
|------------|--------------------------|

Dicksie Michael Soil Conservationist
Eric Watson Soil Conservationist

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
City of Powell
Merlyn and Virginia Ballinger
Northwest Community College

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:

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 Park County area residents. A grant from University of Wyoming "Living a Few Acres" provided the funding for the project. This year we participated in 3 workshops. The first workshop was held on February 10, 2011 and focused on brucellosis issues in Park County. The second workshop was our annual Common Sense Conservation workshop held on February 19, 2011. We had three concurrent sessions including horse care, honeybees, fruit trees, ponds, tree care, game birds, sheep/goats, drip irrigation, native plants for landscaping, new herbicides for treating noxious weeds, water quality, pruning, and how to grow a great garden. During the breaks we offered of an assortment of homemade jams/jellies (conservation tree produce) and home baked bread. Additional hands on activities featured a fun filled Kids Corner, and a horse packing demonstration. A chili and cornbread lunch was provided by the districts. Our guests enjoyed the great door prizes as well. This workshop was attended by 78 people. The third workshop we held regarded fruit tree pruning. The workshop was put together in response to the questions and requests from people attending the Common Sense Conservation project. The workshop was held on March 26, 2011. We met at the USDA parking lot and then used a bus to move participants to 3 different sites where people had a chance to listen to lecture and then do hands on pruning. Nancy Ryan – Park County Master Gardeners – generously let us work on her pear trees and then provided the entire group with a great variety of cookies, fruit, and hot drinks.

For the last three 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 with focus on back-country weed control, 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.

In December we invited Park County representatives to participate in a discussion natural resource issues. We were not able to get the legislators together due to the election of a new governor and their associated responsibilities with their various committees. We continue to send our one-page summaries to each of the representatives with comments on local issues and projects. We hope to continue to serve as a resource for our representatives.

Student Education:

Grade school education efforts included the construction of "Dirt Babies" with second grade classes at Southside Elementary in Powell. We constructed 40 babies and discussed how soils were made, what plants need to live, and the relation of soils and plants to humans. This year we had some very creative dirt babies with more than one three eyed baby.

At Valley School Days we presented soils painting to approximately 35 children. This project took some upfront effort. The soils team and Ann Trosper gathered various colored soils

from local areas. The soil colors we were able to find were green, orange, brown, white/tan, black, and purple. The soils were baked in a slow oven for several hours and then sifted until they would easily move through a flour sifter. Laura Shipley, NRCS soils scientist, Ann Trosper, and Shirley Bell were the classroom leaders. During each session the students were encouraged to look and touch the individual color samples. We would then mix each color with a small amount of water and clear acrylic paint. The children were given either a template or a blank sheet to paint. During the painting time we would talk about why the soils had different colors and where the soils of the various colors could be found. The picture below is an example of soils painting done by Laura Shipley.



Staff and Board Education:

The WCDEA provided an excellent training opportunity in Lander that Ann was able to participate in. We hope the association will continue to offer this kind of needed and hand on training.

In January 2011 Floyd Derry, Frank Palazzolo, and Ann Trosper attended the supervisor training offered in Greybull. This training was valuable and we hope to see additional training offered in the Big Horn Basin for staff and supervisors.

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 2010-2011. 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 the PHS students were not able to attend field water sampling sessions due to scheduling conflicts. We were able to take advantage of volunteer students, Matthew and Serena Poto. Matthew is working to obtain Eagle Scout status and was interested in volunteering his time to assist and learn about water quality testing. Please see the attached report submitted by Matthew. 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.

Watershed planning: This year we are in the process of updating the Shoshone River watershed plan to reflect current activities and to incorporate the Bitter Creek watershed plan. The Bitter Creek plan is due to be updated in 2011. We plan to have this process complete and ready for public comment by November, 2011.

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.

TMDL: Work is beginning on the TMDL for the Greybull and Big Horn rivers. We were included on the team to help evaluate and pick the consultants that will actually do the project work.

**Summary of Work Activity
District Annual Report – Powell Clarks Fork Conservation District**

| Watershed | Funding Source | Resource Concern | Description | Acres | Funded | Estimated Project Costs | Number of Projects |
|------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Clarks Fork | EQIP | Irrigation | Structure for water control | 120 | 4954.00 | 6605.33 | 1 |
| Shoshone | AMA | Range | Brush management | 62 | 2599.81 | 3466.41 | 3 |
| Shoshone | AMA | Pasture | Brush management | 961 | 69119.78 | 92159.70 | 20 |
| Shoshone | AMA | Wildlife | Brush management | 256 | 37565.11 | 50086.81 | 4 |
| Shoshone | EQIP | Crop | Irrigation – pipe | 351 | 37706.98 | 50275.98 | 10 |
| Shoshone | EQIP | Crop | Irrigation Sprinklers | 342 | 172466.70 | 229955.60 | 3 |
| Shoshone | EQIP | Crop | Irrigation – other | 743 | 93069.12 | 124092.18 | 11 |
| Shoshone | EQIP | Pasture | Irrigation – pipe | 12 | 757 | 1009 | 1 |
| Shoshone | EQIP | Pasture | Irrigation – pond | 46 | 16489.20 | 21985.60 | 2 |
| Shoshone | EQIP | Pasture | Irrigation – facility | 50 | 925.00 | 1233.33 | 1 |
| Shoshone | EQIP | Wildlife | Inadequate cover – Fence | 150 | 2382.30 | 3176.40 | 1 |
| Shoshone | EQIP | Wildlife | Inadequate cover – Tree/shrubs | 150 | 229.04 | 305.39 | 1 |

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 continued to be active. The steering committee is co-chaired by John Kendrick and Dave Campbell. The other steering committee members are: 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-two varieties of trees (1740 seedlings) were purchased by 37 landowners for spring planting.

Land Use Planning

Subdivision Reviews

This district maintains an 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 3 subdivision and 5 special 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"> Continuing |
| <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"> 1 presentation 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 water quality 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"> 3 workshops during 2011 |
| <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, Valley Days, Southside School |
| <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"> Continuing Have made plans to incorporate Deaver High School science class into testing early in 2012. |

| | |
|---|---|
| <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"> • Development work complete/ working on analysis and mapping |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to work to keep public informed of water quality results | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing |
| <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 |

2011 Financial Summary

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Beginning Balance | \$22,752 |
| Revenues | |
| WDA | \$40,442 |
| Tree Sales | \$2,552 |
| Interest | \$85 |
| Sub Division Review | \$100 |
| Small Acreage Grant | \$524 |
| Reimbursed Expenses | \$3,766 |
| Total Revenue | \$47,469 |
| Expenditures | |
| Administration | \$4,344 |
| Operations | \$28,462 |
| Total Expenses | \$32,806 |
| Cash on Hand at End of Year | \$37,415 |

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 that will increase community awareness of conservation district activities and programs.

- Continue regular presentations to Park County Commissioners
- Continue regular news articles regarding natural resource in the Bitter Creek and Shoshone River watersheds.
- Present and participate appropriate workshops in Cody and Powell area

Outreach

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

- Continue to promote and participate with Ag in the Classroom projects
- Continue to build on small acreage work shop activity
- Continue to offer water quality workshops to local high school teachers and 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

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 natural resource signage
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

Anticipated Budget

Powell-Clarks Fork Conservation 2011-2012 Budget

| CASH AND ANTICIPATED REVENUE | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| CASH ON HAND 6/30/2011 | |
| Working | |
| Checkbook | 4,729 |
| Tree Checkbook | 1,791 |
| CD2 | 10,861 |
| CD1Tree | 4,104 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 21,486 |
| <hr/> | |
| ANTICIPATED REVENUE | |
| <hr/> | |
| Biennium funding | |
| | \$ |
| Lab | 2,806 |
| | \$ |
| PCFCD | 8,823 |
| | \$ |
| Park County Predator Board | 1,000 |
| | \$ |
| WDA Water Quality Grant (CD52052) | 16,562 |
| | \$ |
| Interest | 50 |
| | \$ |
| Tree Program | 1,500 |
| | \$ |
| Sub-Division Reviews | 250 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$ |
| | 30,991 |
| <hr/> | |
| TOTAL CASH AND REVENUE | 52,476 |
| <hr/> | |
| TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSE | 39556 |
| <hr/> | |
| REMAINING CASH AND REVENUE | 12,920 |

