

WCDEA News

NOVEMBER 2015



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ Message from the President
- ◆ District Happenings
- ◆ New Employees
- ◆ Longevity Awards
- ◆ Employees Meeting Agenda
- ◆ WCDEA Executive Committee

A Message From the Executive Committee

Greetings!

“Partners in Resource Excellence” is the theme of this years’ Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts, Wyoming Weed & Pest Council and Society for Range Management-Wyoming Section Annual Convention.

Our WCDEA Business Meeting is set for Tuesday, November 3rd from 9:30am till 11:30 am. The agenda can be found on Page 14 of this newsletter.

Please don’t forget to bring your silent auction items. The funds raised are used to put on trainings, purchase longevity and Employee of the Year awards and provide scholarships to members for trainings and conferences.

Outstanding Area Employees Named

Outstanding Area I Employee: Carrie Rogaczewski, District Manager, Sheridan County CD–Carrie’s greatest challenge is to keep the Sheridan County CD operating and productive without the benefit of a mill levy. She has established remarkable partnerships with governmental entities and a number of non-profits. These partnerships have resulted in funding opportunities and also joint successes. Carrie is exceptional at acquiring and administering grants and is repeatedly successful in obtaining grants from various entities.

Outstanding Area II Employee: Denise Lucero, District Assistant, N. Platte Valley CD– Denise is a team player who is self-motivated, resourceful, inquisitive and cheerful. All these qualities make her an exemplary employee but what makes her an Outstanding Area Employee is the fact that her enthusiasm and imagination has opened a closed door in the local school district. Denise has revitalized the education program and is also invaluable when it comes to looking for new ways to grow and expand the District’s connection to the communities in Goshen County.

Outstanding Area IV Employee: Jeri Trebelcock, Executive Director, Popo Agie CD– Under Jeri’s leadership, PACD has developed a reputation for being the “go to “ organization for supporting balanced use and sustainability of our natural resources and for nurturing cooperation between agencies and landowners. Jeri has been successful in building “bridges” locally, statewide and nationally. She has received numerous recognitions from many entities throughout Wyoming for her enthusiasm, planning, perseverance and dedication to agricultural and to natural resource efforts. She has served as the liaison for the Wyoming Conservation District Employees Association and WACD Board for over 10 years and was elected as a board member for the National Employees Association for the Southwest Region in 2012.



Greetings,

It's hard to believe that it has been a year since we gathered together in Sheridan. Where does the time go? This past year the Association has seen the completion of the WCDEA website, a very successful Winter Training, 9 employees receive Longevity Awards (with their years of service ranging from 5-25 years) and 3 well deserving employees named Area Employees of the Year. Many of us also saw record breaking flood waters, the Sage Grouse not warrant the protection of the Endangered Species Act, the WOTUS policy stayed from taking effect, and many other excellent examples of partners working together to make a positive impact in our communities, districts, and on our natural resources.



As we move towards convention, there are a few things I would like you to take under consideration. First, we will be holding elections for the President and Treasurer Positions. The President and Treasurer positions are for 2 year terms and if you are interested in either of these positions more information is provided on page 13 of the newsletter. Second, I would like you to consider and come with ideas regarding some of the items to be discussed on the agenda (page 14) during our employees meetings. Those include when/how you would like to present

Area Awards, how you feel about non-due paying members of WCDEA attending our trainings, and how we handle donations to members/employees. These are important topics that effect all of you and we want to know what you think. Finally, I would like to encourage you to bring silent auction items to Convention. The funds raised from the WCDEA Silent Auction go towards funding our scholarship program, trainings, and employee awards (Longevity and Area Employees of the Year). If you have any questions or comments please don't hesitate to call, e-mail, or track me down. I am always happy to listen, lend a hand, and will do the best I can to assist you in any way I can.

In closing, I want to say Thank You to each and every one of you for your hard work and dedication to your District. I also want to take a moment to thank my fellow Officers and Executive Committee members for all of their hard work and dedication to continue to grow and improve our Employees Association. Thank You!

I look forward to seeing all of you in Laramie.

Anita M. Bartlett, WCDEA President

“EVERY
ACCOMPLISHMENT
STARTS WITH THE
DECISION TO TRY.”



District Employees Receive Longevity Awards

This year 10 District Employees received Longevity Awards for their years of dedicated service to their Districts. They include:

25 Years of Service

Jim Cochran
Victoria Dietz

Laramie County CD
Washakie County CD

20 Years of Service

Jeri Trebelcock

Popo Agie CD

15 Years of Service

Randy Williams

Teton CD

10 Years of Service

Brady Irvine
Brenda Ashworth

Platte County RD
Star Valley CD

5 Years of Service

Jennifer Hinkhouse
Lisa Ogden
Diana Olson
Sharon Harrell

Campbell County CD
Natrona County CD
Popo Agie CD
Sublette County CD



**Jim Cochran and Brady Irvine
with their Longevity Awards**



**Heidi Sturman presents Denise
Lucero with her Outstanding
Area II Employee Award**

Congratulations and Thank You for all that you do!



The WCDEA website is up and running! Please visit www.wcdea.com to see all of the helpful resources available to you as a part of the Association.

The website administrators are Joan McGraw and Diana Olson. They ask that you contact them with any changes or corrections that need to be made. Also, please be sure to send them your picture so the employee directory can be completed.

“Don’t be afraid to give your best to what seemingly are small jobs. Every time you conquer one it makes you that much stonger. If you do the little jobs well, the big ones will tend to take care of themselves.”

~Dale Carnegie



Outdoor Education Day

Submitted by: Diana Olson, Popo Agie CD

For the last five years, Popo Agie Conservation District (PACD) has participated in **Outdoor Education Day**. This fun, full day event of hands-on outdoor education brings together 9 agencies, college students and all the 4th graders in Lander (130 to 140 students).

The adventure takes place at Central Wyoming College (CWC) Sinks Canyon Center. CWC students act as "tour guides" that escort "travelers" to each station where they get their "passport" stamped.



Fourth graders practice many outdoor skills such as wading a river, identifying plants, animals, birds, and fish. Students learn survival skills such as what to do if they encounter a bear, mountain lion, or sudden severe weather. In addition, students are taught the importance of outdoor ethics and leave no trace. The following agencies provide the education at the various stations: PACD, Wyoming Game and Fish, US Forest Service, Wyoming State

Forestry, BLM, National Weather Service, US Fish and Wildlife, Audubon Society, and UW Extension.

PACD participates by being a proud supporter of this event and is involved in the interagency planning, designing and printing the passports, and teaching students about the importance of riparian areas at the stream trailer station.

10th Annual Arbor Day Celebration

Submitted by: Anita Bartlett, Powder River CD

This year to celebrate Arbor Day the Powder River Conservation District worked with the Town of Kaycee, Wyoming State Forestry, Boys and Girls Club of Kaycee, and community members planted 2 Quaking Aspen at the Meike Bunkhouse, in addition to their annual Adopt a Tree Program with the KES students.

Kaycee's official Arbor Day Celebration occurred on Tuesday, May 5th, when Councilwoman Jennifer Lompe and the kids from the Boys and Girls Club joined PRCD District Manager Anita Bartlett and Kelly Norris with State Forestry to plant the 2 trees and listen to Councilwoman Lompe read the Arbor Day proclamation. Following the reading of the proclamation Councilwoman Lompe was presented with an award for the Town of Kaycee as they have completed 9 years as a Tree City USA Town.

The PRCD would like to send out our thanks to the following people: Meike Bunkhouse, Sandy Dixon, the Town of Kaycee, the Boys and Girls Club, and all of the community members for all of their help, support and efforts on this project. It is because of people like you we are able to do projects like this to help continually improve our community. Thank You.





World Water Monitoring Challenge

Submitted by: Crystal Kellebrew, Campbell County CD

(WWMC) is an international education and outreach program that builds public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources around the world by engaging citizens to conduct basic monitoring of their local waterbodies.

The primary goal of World Water Monitoring Challenge is to educate and engage citizens in the protection of the world's water resources. Many people are unaware of the impact their behaviors have on water quality. Conducting simple monitoring tests teaches participants about some of the most common indicators of water health and encourages further participation in more formal citizen monitoring efforts.



Predator Management Board presenting a predators and rabies education session.

To accomplish this important task, the CCCD staff organized volunteers and activities to help test the water with 275, 7th grade students from Sage Valley Junior High on September 3 and 4. While comprehensive monitoring goes on all year, World Water Monitoring Challenge unites volunteers and water professionals to highlight the important role that monitoring plays in protecting water

quality.

On September 1 and 2, Crystal Kellebrew with the CCCD provided the Enviroscope activity for 350, 7th grade students to learn more about the watersheds in which they live, how watersheds work and how protecting their waters can have beneficial impacts downstream.

On September 3 and 4 a total of 14 volunteers representing CC Weed and Pest, Powder River Energy, Predator Management Board, Wyoming Game and Fish, Waster Water Treatment Plant, CCCD and Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality presented activities at the Gillette Fishing Lake. The activities they presented included studying macro invertebrates, weed identification, bird migration, predators and rabies education and a hands-on water erosion exhibit. This event provided students with hands-on activities, allowing them to link water ecology to their local water bodies.



Blair Gauthier with the CCCD demonstrating a hands-on water erosion exhibit



“Conservation: We’re All In”

Submitted by: Anita Bartlett, Powder River CD

Area youth gathered once again at Mallo Camp north of Newcastle, WY to participate in the Black Hills Natural Resource Youth Camp June 11-13th. The purpose of this camp is to give youth the opportunity to experience a wide variety of activities and educational sessions teaching them about the natural world and its resources. Other activities included fishing, the Wildman Hike teaches kids about predators and prey relationships, a talent show, a presentation on astrology, and various games.

Each child participated in six educational sessions they included: “Feathered Creatures”, “Native Fur”, “Treemendous Fun”, “Casting for Food”, “Hidden Treasures.” and “Target Practice”.

“Feathered Creatures”, presented by Dustin Downey with the Audubon Rockies taught campers how to safely capture birds and discussed the kind of data taken about the birds they capture. The kids even got to help catch and release the birds caught during the lesson.



Lacey Gurien, with the Weston County Natural Resource District presented “Native Fur” where campers learned about native fur bearing animals and learned how to identify those animals based off their fur and other characteristics.

“Treemendous Fun” with Jesse Halverson, from Project Learning Tree explained to the youth what trees need to survive (soil, water, sunlight, etc). They also learned to age trees off of tree cookies.

Todd Caltrider, Habitat Biologist with WY Game and Fish taught campers all about “Casting for Food”. This activity taught campers how to cast, fish, and properly care for caught fish. Campers were allowed to practice their casting skills and catch fish.

“Hidden Treasures” presented by Jeremy Dedic, from State Forestry gave a demonstration in Geocaching, where campers had to utilize GPS units to find 2 cache sites. Geocaching is a treasure hunting game where you use a Global Positioning System (GPS) to hide and seek containers with other participants.

Finally, Blair Gauthier with Campbell County Conservation District, had “Target Practice”. They taught youth how the correct way to shoot a bow and arrow, safety while shooting and let the kids do a little “target practice”.

Sponsors for the Black Hills Natural Resource Youth Camp were Weston County Natural Resource Districts, Niobrara, Campbell, and Powder River Conservation Districts, the WY Department of Agriculture, Thunderbird Wildlife Consulting Inc., Pinnacle Bank, L&H Industrial, Inc., and Christ of the King Lutheran Church.



The Wyoming Way to Tackle Wildfire

Submitted by: Lacey Gurien, Weston County NRD (excerpted from NACD Forestry Network)

The best defense against catastrophic wildfire is a good offense – sound forest management to improve forest health and reduce fuel loads. But state and federal land managers often do not have the luxury to invest; same as catastrophic wildfires consume forests, fire suppression dollars consume budgets.

The State of Wyoming is doing its part to reverse this trend. Recent fire seasons in Wyoming have been mild, leaving unused money from the state's suppression fund. The governor's office, with approval from the state legislature, made the money available for the removal of mountain pine beetle-infested trees throughout the state. Two \$1 million grants were created for the work, under the direction of the Wyoming State Forestry Division.

Wyoming Forest Health Program Leader Les Koch explains that several state partners were identified as potential cooperators for the funding; a number of conservation districts stepped up immediately to the challenge. "They've been the main force," he says.

Both the Weston County and Crook County Natural Resource Districts (NRD) were rewarded funding for mountain pine beetle mitigation projects. The efforts aim to treat tens-of-thousands of acres – much of it private – throughout the region with the help of dozens of partners and a combined budget of close to \$800,000. Both projects are at the midway point of the two-year funding.

The Black Hills Regional Mountain Pine Beetle Working Group holds monthly in-person meetings where partners advance projects from their on-going action plan. Weston County NRD District Coordinator Lacey Gurien was one of 22 attendees at the April meeting. The group works across state boundaries to include players from South Dakota State Forestry, and welcomes diverse stakeholders from local timber companies, county weed control, Bureau of Land Management, Natural Resource Conservation Service, local RC&Ds and representatives from the U.S. Forest Service.



Individual projects in year one of the grant included GPS tracking and treatment of more than 45,000 beetle-infested trees, of which 12,000 were salvaged by a local lumber mill.

"In my years working on conservation efforts this is the best collective I've seen," says Gurien, "Federal and state partners and other groups coming together with landowners. It's truly an all-lands approach to addressing the problem."

Weston County NRD also brings landowners to the table for education and planning. The district helps organize lunch-and-learn workshops that educate landowners on topics such as how to identify mountain pine beetle infestation, why management improves forest health, and how management can help prevent against future beetle attacks. Says Gurien, "Naturally, they want their land to be a viable forest and they want to do their part in stopping the (beetle) epidemic."

Gurien is also working with Jeremy Dedic of Wyoming State Forestry Division on educational outreach. The two bring harvested material containing live beetles into the classroom where they discuss a range of topics, such as the positive effects forest management has on wildlife. The kids can see galleries of larvae in the chunked wood and gain an appreciation for the need to manage the current beetle epidemic. "Visits begin with kids having blank looks on their faces, but once they start interacting with the samples they become more engaged and they form opinions and ask questions," Gurien says. A couple students are currently exploring using the topic for their science project with assistance from Wyoming State Forestry.

The highlight of the program may not be the amount of beetle-infested wood coming out of the Black Hills but rather where that wood is headed. One of the great obstacles in treating public and private beetle-infested forests has long been the assumed low-end value for the material being extracted. The beetles leave a blue stain that some view as a defect; the Council of Western State Foresters released a brochure recently, however, supporting the use of the material, noting blue stain lumber will not weaken over time, is not a form of mold and is just as durable as non-stain lumber.

The work excites Gurien, who admits she knew little about the epidemic before relocating to Wyoming earlier this year. "We're making a difference by treating dead trees," she says, "but just as important we're salvaging all we can and trying to get ahead of the beetle."

To learn more about these projects, contact Weston County NRD District Coordinator Lacey Gurien at 307-746-3264, or via email at lacey.gurien@wy.usda.gov



New Employees Join the WCDEA Family

The Wyoming Conservation District Employees Association would like to welcome all of our new employees to the WCDEA Family. We wish you all the best of luck in your new positions!

Raesha Sell; Office Manager, Crook County NRD



Raesha started with Crook County Natural Resource District in July of 2015. Ms. Sell's passion for the outdoors and the wonders of nature led her to pursue a degree in Environmental Biology and Outdoor Education. While in college she met her husband who is from Sundance, Wyoming. Ms. Sell's desire to work in the environmental sciences made the CCNRD office manager position a great fit. She is enthusiastic about helping kids connect with nature and encouraging adults to look beyond their busy schedules and into the resources that make their life better. Ms. Sell has an eagerness to learn and overcome challenges. She is looking forward to directly helping the residents of Crook County and their resources.

Carmen McIntyre; Program Coordinator, Crook County NRD

Carmen oversees watershed improvement projects and the water quality monitoring program for the District. She also works with other staff to respond to policies that impact Crook County, and represents the District during the environmental review process for resource development projects. Ms. McIntyre has 16 years of program and project-level experience in natural resource management. Prior to working for the CCNRD, Ms. McIntyre was an Environmental Scientist with Michael Baker Engineering, Inc.; she also previously worked for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians where she served as Watershed Coordinator, and then Manager of their Office of Environment and Natural Resources. Her area of expertise includes NEPA compliance, watershed management, environmental permitting, and monitoring. Ms. McIntyre is well acquainted with preparing quality assurance documents, planning documents and program or project-specific monitoring plans, as well as funding proposals. Ms. McIntyre graduated from the University of North Carolina at Asheville with a B.S. in Environmental Studies-Natural Resource Management. Carmen and her husband and son reside near Keyhole Reservoir. She's proud to say that like his mom and dad, her son loves being outside and he's become well-adjusted to the breeze so common here.



Jan Johnson; District Coordinator, South Big Horn CD



My name is Jan Johnson. Born and raised in Wyoming and graduated from Greybull High School where both of my kids also graduated from. Married to my boyfriend, Jeff Johnson, for (30) thirty years. Have two children and two wonderful grandchildren and hoping for more. I joined the Conservation District team on May 12, 2015 and am enjoying it a lot. I worked in the Extension Service for 13 years and it's like coming back home with all of the producers that I use to work with...except some of them are their children who I had in 4-H.



Jenn Rasmussen; Outdoor Education Specialist, Washakie County CD

Jenn Rasmussen was born and raised in a small farming community in Minnesota; moving to Worland with her husband and 3 children in 2010.

She graduated from Soil & Water Conservation Technology in 1997 and returned to teach the following year. Over the years she has worked for Engineering Firms managing the office, lab and field testing. Growing up she was very active in 4H, FLA and other Community Development organizations/boards and has stayed active in different community groups over the years.

She is looking forward to getting back into the field and sharing her excitement for science and the environment.

Jenn enjoys getting her fingers dirty in her flower and vegetable gardens, exploring the wilderness, hunting, fishing, photography, crafting and spending time with her family.



Karen Fenton; Program Specialist, Washakie County CD



Karen Fenton joined the Washakie County CD in May. She lives in Ten Sleep with her husband and two teenage sons, where they manage a small ranch. After finishing her MS in Range Management at the University of Wyoming, Karen worked in natural resource management in both the government and private sectors.

“I’m excited about the role the conservation districts play in the application of natural resource management,” says Karen. “I believe Wyoming’s conservation districts provide a unique service. I especially appreciate the pro-active approach, helping land owners incorporate the latest natural resource management techniques in a way that best fits their operations. I hope my personal experience on Wyoming farms and ranches helps me to understand and assist our clientele at WCCD”

Karen is a part-time program assistant in the Worland office. In her spare time she likes to hike, cross country ski, ride horses, and indulge her obsession with photographing native plants.

Kelsie Beck; District Manager, Popo Agie CD

The Popo Agie Conservation District welcomed Kelsey Beck as the District Manager in August, 2015. Originally from Colorado, Kelsey saw the light and moved north to the land of forever west. Kelsey has been a resident for the past 9 years, making Lander he home these past 4 years. Prior to coming to the district she worked for Wyoming Game and Fish Department and she taught environmental science at the Wind River Tribal College. She is an alumni of the University of Wyoming, having completed her master's degree in Botany, focusing on sagebrush and soil texture gradients. Her undergraduate degrees' consists of Environment & Natural Resource, and Wildlife Fisheries Biology & Management. She has certificates in Reclamation and Restoration Ecology in addition to GIS. Her love and passion for open spaces and the great outdoors has greatly influenced her career and hobbies which include riding horses, bow hunting, fishing, and spending time with her family and friends.





Brianna McEntee; District Technician, Converse County CD



Brianna McEntee was born and raised in Lennox, South Dakota. She grew up on an acreage with her parents, older sister, and younger brother. Her family actively raised Ring-neck Pheasants for 13 years at their home and actively participated in any hunting season possible in South Dakota. While in high school she was involved in multiple sports and developed a passion for wildlife. She attended South Dakota State University (go Jacks!) where she majored in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. While at SDSU she was active in multiple clubs, a professional sorority, and was involved in Residential Life. After graduation at SDSU, Brianna ventured to Rapid City, SD to work with deer, elk, big horn sheep, mountain goats, and the occasional mountain lion. Now, she has settled into the Douglas life and is excited to begin a new adventure.

Zach Byram; District Manager, Lake DeSmet CD

Zach Byram is the District Manager for Lake DeSmet Conservation District. He holds a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology and Management (2001) from the University of Wyoming. Zach has 13 years of combined professional experience including applied field work and research with federal and state agencies including the U.S. Forest Service, USDA National Wildlife Research Center, Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, and private environmental consulting. Zach has a diverse biological survey background that includes avian, small mammal and fisheries surveys as well as reclamation success monitoring, sage-grouse habitat suitability assessments, and GIS mapping. Zach lives in Buffalo, Wyoming with his wife and three children ages 10, 6, and 2. In his spare time Zach can be found coaching youth sports, hunting, fishing, or volunteering on the Johnson County Search and Rescue.



Lacey Gurien; Coordinator, Weston County NRD

Born and Raised in the Natural State, I grew up with a deep appreciation for the outdoors as my second teacher. After realizing that I wanted to delve deeper in the natural world it would only be fitting that I chose to pursue a career where I could share my passion for the outdoors. I obtained my bachelor's degree at Arkansas Tech University in Fisheries and Wildlife Science in 2011 where I focused on fisheries and water resources. In 2012, I accepted a position with Arkansas State Parks as the Aquarist for Lake Dardanelle State Park where I stayed for two years before moving to Newcastle. During my stay with the state park I really honed in on natural resource education for a variety of ages. I developed and shared programming with the local schools and groups in order to ignite a flame. I have an enthusiastic nature and contagious love for all that is wild. I am constantly learning new things, hiking, fishing, crafting, and exploring new places with my four-legged sidekick.





Nolan Hicks; Resource Specialist, Meeteetse CD

We are pleased to welcome aboard, Nolan Hicks, as our new Resource Specialist, who is filling the vacancy left open when Blaise Allen moved on to the NRCS Greybull office. Nolan was born and raised in Meeteetse, enjoys hunting, fishing, team roping, golfing, and going on pack trips. Growing up, he was active in high school sports and FFA and played a year of collegiate basketball for Dickinson State University. He also received his coaching certificate in basketball from Casper College, going on to earn his Bachelor's Degree at the University of Wyoming in Rangeland Ecology and Watershed Management with a minor in Reclamation and Restoration, placing third as a team of eight at the National Undergraduate Range Management Exam. He is also active in the National Society of Range Management (SRM) and was Treasurer for the Wyoming section student chapter during the 2014-2015 school year.



Mike Henn; District Manager, Sublette County CD

Michael Henn has been selected as the new District Manager for the Sublette County Conservation District (SCCD). Michael is joining the SCCD after several years of employment with the Office of State Lands and Investments. Michael, a Wyoming native, has been involved in agriculture and natural resources his entire life. He received his bachelors and masters degrees from the University of Wyoming in Rangeland Ecology and Watershed Management. After college, Michael worked for the Idaho Department of Lands as a Senior Lands Resource Specialist-Range in Owhyee County, Idaho. In 2006 Michael moved back to Wyoming to work for the Office of State Lands and Investments as a Senior Lands Management Specialist. In 2013 he was promoted to Field Staff Supervisor. In his free time Michael enjoys team roping, hunting, fishing, and spending time with his family. Michael, his wife and two daughters look forward to enjoying all of the outdoor recreation that Sublette County has to offer.



Shari Meeks; Range Program, Sublette County CD

Shari Meeks grew up in southwest Minnesota, in the heart of agriculture. Much of her childhood was spent on her Grandparents' Century Farm, helping with livestock and growing row crops. Shari's Grandmother had a huge garden...and she was just the girl to jump in and get her hands dirty! This is where Shari's passion for agriculture and natural resources started. Shari focused her classes in high school around natural resources and worked on several wetland and tall grass prairie restoration projects in and around her hometown. Shari continued her endeavors at South Dakota State University where she obtained a Bachelor's degree in Rangeland Management and participated in Range Club and on the Collegiate Soils Judging Team. Shari's senior year she took First Place Individual in the Region 5 Soils Judging Contest. When Shari wasn't digging in a soils pit or working, you could find her fishing for walleye and northern pike, hiking, hunting, or riding her horse, Norman. Norman and Shari moved out to Jackson, Wyoming in 2006 to work for the Bridger-Teton National Forest. This wonderful state embraced them and now they live in Bondurant with her husband, Zane, and two kids, Noel and Tessa. From 2006-2015, Shari's career was pieced together; working for Nelson Engineering, the Wyoming Department of Agriculture, and as a seasonal contractor. Shari is thrilled to be a part of the Sublette County Conservation District Range program and looks forward to the adventures this job entails.





Bree Lind; Range Program, Sublette County CD

Bree grew up in Challis, Idaho and spent her childhood hunting, fishing, and hiking in the mountains of Idaho with her family. She has always had a passion for rangelands and the ranching community. Bree attended the University of Idaho and obtained her degree in Rangeland Ecology and Management. She then went on to work on her Master's degree at the University of Wyoming and is currently pursuing her degree in Rangeland Ecology and Watershed Management. The project Bree is working on focuses on the economic and social characteristics of ranchers who utilize public lands.

Blair Gauthier, Water & Range Technician, Campbell County CD

Blair Gauthier is a recent graduate from the University of Wyoming with a Bachelor's degree in Rangeland Ecology and Watershed Management. Blair was born and raised south of Rozet on a ranching and small farming operation. He was an active 4-H member in Campbell County and graduated from Moorcroft High School. After high school he proceeded to continue his education at the University of Wyoming in agriculture. He spent the last several summers on a local weed spraying crew to help land owners eradicate unwanted weed species. He enjoys engaging in outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing, camping, and snowmobiling as well as helping out on the ranch especially during haying season. Blair plans on a long and successful career with the Conservation District as a Water and Range Technician.



Jeri Trebelcock Retires

Jeri began her career with Popo Agie Conservation District (PACD) in 1995. During her 20 year career she has always strived to “meet the needs of all constituents within our district boundary” (to quote Jeri), and ensure that the district remains relevant to the local community. Thanks to this philosophy and vision, our District is funded by a mil levy election recall.



When you reflect on Jeri and her long history with our District, you start to speak about projects that have time frames that are measured in years. Lander's flood mitigation project is one of those projects. Jeri has spent countless hours attending meetings with County Commissioners, City officials, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Governor. When necessary, Jeri has rolled up her sleeves and joined in to help place sandbags and coordinate efforts where needed even if it meant staying up most of the night. We have seen changes in Mayors, City officials, and County Commissioners, but Jeri has been there to help educate folks on the history of past flood mitigation efforts and encourage forward progress in the future. Under her leadership, PACD was awarded a “Commanders Award for Public Service” from the USACE and Senator Barrasso recognized PACD for their assistance during the Flood of 2010 in a “Congressional Record” that was presented on the U.S. Senate Floor.

Agricultural producers think of Popo Agie Conservation District whenever they need a hand caring for their natural resources. Jeri has worked hard to nurture relationships between producers and agencies. In 2013, Jeri received the “Friend of Agriculture” award presented by the Wyoming Department of Ag.

From our local Gardening and Backyard Living Expo to regional Coordinated Resource Management, Jeri has provided leadership and vision to our District. We say a heartfelt thank you for your years of service.



WCDEA Officer Positions

Are you interested in serving on the WCDEA Officer Team? If so here is some important information for you. This year during the WACD Convention at the WCDEA meeting two Officer Positions are up for election. However, there are some things you should consider if you choose to run for a WCDEA Office. First, will your Board of Supervisors support your decision? Second, do you have time to commit to the position? Lastly, do you know what you are making a commitment to do?

Below are the duties for the WCDEA Officer Positions up for election at this year's Convention. These duty descriptions are taken from the WCDEA Bylaws.

President: The President shall be the principal executive officer of the Association and shall in general supervise and control all of the business and affairs of the Association. The President shall perform all duties incident to the office of President and all duties which the Executive Committee may prescribe from time to time.

Treasurer: The Treasurer shall have custody of all Association funds and securities and shall keep a full and accurate account of all receipts and disbursements and shall deposit all moneys, securities and other valuable effects in the name of the Association in such depositories as may be designated for that purpose by the Executive Committee. In general the Treasurer shall perform all the duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the President or by the Executive Committee.

Glen Leavengood

This past month we lost a great friend and conservationist with the passing of Glen Leavengood. Glen dedicated 21 years to the Saratoga-Encampment-Rawlins



Conservation District and served many years in the WCDEA as an Area IV rep, Vice-President and President. While he served in the WCDEA he provided us with strong leadership and gave us direction to grow and improve as individuals and as an Association. Glen was a strong advocate of enhancing our natural resources and making sure District employees had all the knowledge and skills necessary to accomplish this goal.

Glen, you were one of a kind and you will be greatly missed.



WCDEA Employee's Meeting Agenda



WCDEA
Annual Convention Meeting
November 3, 2015
Laramie, WY
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.



- **Call to Order**
- **Minutes**
 - 2014 Convention & 2015 Winter Training Meetings
- **Financials**
 - Budget
- **Partners Report**
 - WACD
 - WDA
 - NRCS
- **Committee Reports**
 - Scholarship Committee
 - Training Committee
 - Website Committee
- **Old Business**
 - Area Employee Awards
 - Non-due Paying Members Attending WCDEA Trainings
- **New Business**
 - Small Acreage Outreach (Barnyards and Backyards)-Jennifer Thompson
 - Election of Officers
 - President
 - Treasurer
 - Any Other Business
- **Adjournment of the Business Meeting**



Who Is Your WCDEA Executive Committee?

President: Anita Bartlett; Powder River CD

Vice President: Crystal Kellebrew; Campbell County CD

Treasurer: Lisa Ogden; Natrona County CD

Secretary: Michelle Huntington; Converse County CD

Area I Representatives:

Sarah Anderson; Crook County CD

Jennifer Hinkhouse; Campbell County CD

Area II Representatives:

Heidi Sturman; Niobrara CD

Tony Hoch; Laramie Rivers CD

Area III Representatives:

Steffen Cornell; Meeteetse CD

Victoria Dietz, Washakie County CD

Area IV Representatives:

Joan McGraw; Medicine Bow CD

Diana Olson; Popo Agie CD

Area V Representatives:

Dawn Arnell; Little Snake River CD

Karen Pecheny; Sweetwater County CD

WACD Liaison: Jim Cochran; Laramie County CD

If you have any questions or comments regarding employee issues please feel free to contact any one of us.

“THE COURAGE OF
LEADERSHIP IS
GIVING OTHERS THE
CHANCE TO
SUCCEED EVEN
THOUGH YOU BEAR
THE RESPONSIBILITY
FOR GETTING THINGS
DONE.”

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Scholarship Committee
Joan McGraw
Jennifer Hinkhouse
Tony Hoch
Tori Dietz
Karen Pecheny

Website Committee
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