



Regenerative Ag: A Way to Help Ranching & Planet Health

Regenerative agriculture, a management system for ranchers built on following nature's lead, is rapidly gaining attention. The system embodies the critical role that livestock producers can play in reviving depleted soils being rapidly lost to desertification. The practices increase soil health, water retention, and sequestration of carbon in the soil to produce healthier, more abundant forage, decrease the use of ag chemicals, and grow healthy livestock at a profit.

Powder River's ag work includes helping our members understand the science and management practices of regenerative ag. Although there are many complexities, two fundamental concepts are improving soil health and the grazing practices that help build it.

Powder River has sponsored soil health events for several years. The most recent was our April webinar, *Building Healthy Soils for Fat Cows and Ranch Profit*, with well-known regenerative ag expert and rancher Gabe Brown from North Dakota and Ann Fischer, a Natural



Powder River member Joyce Evans at the Baker, MT workshop.

Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conservationist from Montana and fellow regenerative ag rancher.

Our webinar included Brown's story about moving from traditional ranching practices to regenerative ag 20 years ago out of necessity after his ranch was repeatedly devastated by hail and drought. Unable to afford the growing cost of inputs, especially chemical fertilizers, herbicides and pest control, he began experimenting with alternative methods, which today form the basis of regenerative ag.

Brown has been able to double the carrying capacity of his ranch, eliminate most off farm inputs and go from near bankruptcy to sustainable profitability. His presentation focused on reducing input expenses and debunking the myth that there are places where regenerative ag practices cannot be applied. If you missed the webinar, you can watch it on our YouTube channel or our website, www.powderriverbasin.org/what-we-do/agriculture-local-foods.

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Rocky Mountain Power & TerraPower Announce Proposed Nuclear Plant

There's never a dull moment in the Wyoming energy world, and the excitement will only continue to increase as we contemplate an electric grid of the future that results in lower carbon pollution and provides reliability in a time of increasingly extreme weather conditions. Will nuclear energy be a part of that future? Elected leaders here in Wyoming are sure betting on it.

In a huge announcement, complete with political fanfare from Governor Gordon, Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Granholm, and Senator Barrasso, Rocky Mountain Power (PacifiCorp) and a company named TerraPower broadcasted to Wyoming and the world that they would be partnering to build a new nuclear power plant at one of Rocky Mountain Power's retiring coal plants.

Many details were lacking in the announcement, including,

“Perhaps the most dangerous aspect of this latest claim of a ‘silver bullet’ to save Wyoming’s economy is that it once again diverts attention away from our very real crisis in revenue, jobs and community survival.”

– Marcia Westkott

notably, which coal plant the nuclear plant would be located at. But, here is what we know. TerraPower, a company founded by Bill Gates, has been testing out a new sodium-cooled nuclear reactor at its laboratories in Washington. The reactor has been designed by GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy. It is small – only about 345 megawatts of energy – but is “module” in that it can be replicated again and again once successfully built.

The reactor is still in the pre-licensing stage of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) process, and would be the first of its kind. NRC regulations for this kind of nuclear reactor also need to be developed. In short, it still has a long way to go to get regulatory approval.

The reactor design got a big jolt of taxpayer funding last fall, when DOE awarded TerraPower \$80 million. DOE has also promised

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Powder River Basin Resource Council (Powder River) is a grass-roots organization of individuals and affiliate groups dedicated to good stewardship of Wyoming's natural resources. Powder River was formed in 1973 and stands for the preservation and enrichment of our agricultural heritage and rural lifestyle; the conservation of Wyoming's unique land, minerals, water and clean air consistent with responsible use of these resources to sustain the livelihood of present and future generations; and the education and empowerment of Wyoming's citizens to raise a coherent voice in the decisions that will impact Wyoming residents' environment and lifestyle.

Powder River is a member of the Western Organization of Resource Councils (WORC). WORC member groups are Dakota Resource Council, Dakota Rural Action, Idaho Organization of Resource Councils, Northern Plains Resource Council, Oregon Rural Action, Western Colorado Congress, Western Native Voice and Powder River Basin Resource Council.

The services provided by Powder River include public education, community organizing and lobbying as permitted on behalf of its membership. Powder River is a non-profit, 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

Membership dues: \$30 for individuals, \$50 for families and \$20 for students and senior citizens. Powder River is dependent on contributions for its work; contributions, large and small, are welcomed.

Active Affiliate Organizations

- Alliance for Renewable Energy (ARE)
- Clark Resource Council (CRC)
- Cheyenne Area Landowners Coalition (CALC)
- Pavillion Area Concerned Citizens (PACC)
- Sheridan Area Resource Council (SARC)

Board of Directors

Chair.....Marcia Westcott
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 Cissy Dillon, Wayne Lax, David Romtvedt, Shiva Polefka, Gillian Malone, Liza Cuthbert-Millett, Lynne Huskinson, Bob LeResche & Christie Gerrits

Staff

Executive Director- Alyssa Wechsler (Incoming)
 Executive Director-Jill Morrison (Outgoing)
 Executive Administrator-Stephanie Avey
 Staff Attorney-Shannon Anderson
 Communication/Dev. Dir-Robin EH. Bagley
 Organizers- Pennie Vance, Sheridan, Monika Leininger, Lottie Mitchell, Lander and Michele Irwin, Green River.

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Powder River Breaks

Editor: Robin EH. Bagley
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Message from the Chair



Dear Powder River members and friends,

This past year has been one of numerous transitions for Powder River. In the spring of 2020, in response to the pandemic, we moved into our homes, working from computers and telephones and keeping tabs on the world beyond our doorsteps. For a year we Zoomed staff and board meetings online, responded to an active legislative session in January, and created substantive webinars, including a cluster focusing on helping communities respond to the diminishing economic base as a result of the decline in coal markets and subsequent bankruptcies. We bid farewell and gratitude to some cherished board members and staff

and welcomed others, including a new executive director. In April, as the pandemic subsided, we embraced the transition back to our office in Sheridan and secured a second office in Lander. On May 21 at our first in-person board meeting in over a year, I thought the room in Kearney Hall would levitate with the energetic joy and relief radiating from staff and board members as we greeted one another and got to work, finally face-to-face, on a cold late spring day outdoors with plenty of warmth inside.

And now, on June 30, we mark another transition: Jill Morrison's retirement as a Powder River employee. I hope you will take the time to read Dustin Bleizeffer's excellent article about Jill, originally published in WyoFile last December and reprinted with permission here. Bleizeffer's tribute underscores the scope and history of Jill's 30 years of dedicated service in forming Powder River as a prominent and effective organization in our state and region. Those of us who have worked closely with Jill couldn't agree more, even as we struggle to pull our appreciation into words. As organizer Pennie Vance observes, "It is difficult to capture Jill's bigger than life role in the development of PRBRC." And yet, we try. In response to my request for comments about Jill's contribution to Powder River, I received a bounty of tributes which I have selected and have excerpted below:

"There is no way to sum up Jill Morrison in a few words. She is a force of nature...relentless, highly intelligent, passionate, caring, unwavering, strategic, humorous, and ethical. Our organization has been blessed to have her for all of these years, and I have been blessed to have her along my side for the past thirteen plus years as my colleague and friend...She has supported me and made me better in so many ways." - Shannon Anderson

"If I were to sum up Jill's essential qualities, they would include a love for people and for the natural world, an uncanny ability to inspire others, a keen eye for strategy, and a relentless determination." - Ronn Smith

"Indisputably, for decades Jill has provided a bedrock of organizing knowledge and power for Powder River staff and members. However, she has also been invaluable in supporting me in moving into my role as incoming Executive Director. Her shoes are impossibly big to fill, but I'm immensely grateful to inherit the legacy of this solid, sustainable, and well-directed organization." - Alyssa Wechsler

"There is no better mentor than Jill Morrison to learn about Wyoming's long and tense relationship to extractive industries. I give gratitude to Jill's leadership, endless hours of work, kind and compassionate influence, and her incredible grit to never give up. Cheers to this phenomenal woman who has dedicated her career to protecting the resources we all treasure. The people of Wyoming, whether they know it or not, will forever be grateful for her dedication." - Monika Leininger

"What I can say is that she has been the heart, brain and soul of Powder River for 30 years. Carol and I joined because of her, as have many other dedicated members I'm sure. Her most amazing and valuable talent is that she seems to know everyone in Wyoming — their family histories, the histories of their ranches, their business and social relationships, and their general life views. That's what makes her a uniquely effective organizer. That and her unflagging persistence. More than once working with Jill on a specific issue, I've been ready to just throw in the towel and walk away. She doesn't even understand that concept — she just perseveres and eventually wins." - Bob LeResche

"Giants in government and industry might match or even supersede her strength, but few, if any, have Jill's deep-rooted giant oak tree level of commitment to a cause, unwavering belief in personal responsibility to do what's right, bone crushing stamina to fight the good fight to the end or ability to rally the powerless to levels of collective strength that they never knew they had. All of that rolled up into one beautiful, brilliant, talented, nearly tireless person adds up to a truly remarkable woman." - Pennie Vance

"I met Jill over the phone when she offered me an opportunity to work with the PRBRC. I was comfortable speaking with Jill right away. I appreciated her acknowledging my experience as a coal

PRECorp Responds to CBM Downturn

Powder River Energy Corporation (PRECorp) got approval from the Wyoming Public Service Commission (PSC) this month to change its industrial power line rates and policies in response to the downturn in coalbed methane (CBM) development in the Powder River Basin. Overall, the changes will remove a line-extension policy specific to CBM and instead integrate CBM lines into other industrial power line policies. In its application to the PSC, PRECorp detailed that the number of CBM customers it serves has declined significantly to only 23 customers, and the cooperative expects sales from CBM activities to cease altogether in the not-too-distant future.

Powder River submitted comments to the PSC supporting PRECorp's changes, and especially its policies that protect residential and agricultural power customers from any costs and risks associated with industrial power line extensions, like those built to benefit coal mines and oil and gas operations. PRECorp separates industrial from non-industrial customers in its power line extension policies to ensure that the costs incurred are adequately covered by the industrial customers. PRECorp also changed its policies to require 30% of the line cost in up-front payments prior to performing any design or other work on large industrial power line projects to reduce financial risk to the cooperative and its members.

Powder River's comments also asked the PSC to inquire about the status of CBM power line decommissioning, given the amount of

power lines left on the landscape after the CBM downturn. In response to our comments, the PSC asked PRECorp to provide additional information on decommissioning. The information provided included the following:

- PRECorp has de-energized line sections where it is possible to reduce operating losses and line exposure where power lines are no longer serving active CBM meters;
- PRECorp initiated the removal of CBM lines for the first time in 2018, and line removal is under a three-year process. This means we are just starting to see the first batch of power line decommissioning finish the process;
- In this process, PRECorp consults with landowners on whether there is a continued need for the line; and
- PRECorp maintains a special account to cover CBM line decommissioning, and believes that the current balance of just under \$20 million is sufficient to cover all costs.

We appreciate the PSC and PRECorp's review of this issue, and we look forward to additional decommissioning of CBM power lines.

Shannon Anderson
Powder River Staff

Coal Self-Bonding Continues to Decline

Good news! As a result of new regulations and public recognition of the risk of self-bonding of coal mines, there is only one operator left with self-bonds. Within the past year, Tri-State, Basin Electric, and PacifiCorp replaced their self-bonds with safer third-party sureties to cover the costs of coal reclamation work at the Dry Fork and Bridger coal mines. This means, Kiewit's Buckskin Mine north of Gillette is the only coal mine that continues to self-bond.

Wyoming's success story on replacing approximately \$2 billion in self-bonds over the course of the past several years has national

significance, showing that there is no longer an industry need for the controversial practice. Powder River continues to work with allied groups from across the nation's coalfields to call on the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation & Enforcement (OSMRE) to phase out self-bonding altogether.

Shannon Anderson
Powder River Staff

Powder River Welcomes New Organizer

Hello Powder River members! I am thrilled to be joining you as a community organizer focusing on oil and gas issues. I care deeply about environmental justice, and I believe that community-led advocacy around fossil fuel extraction issues is an important avenue to ensuring that all Wyoming citizens can enjoy clean air, fresh water, and beautiful public spaces for years to come.

I grew up in Santa Cruz, California and attended Stanford University, where I received a degree in earth systems. While in school, I worked in state and national parks, first in Santa Cruz County and then in Hawai'i and Yosemite. Following my work in Yosemite, I started a program with a friend called Open



Outdoors, where we worked to break down barriers to access in national parks while recognizing indigenous sovereignty on lands nation-wide. After graduation, I worked at the Epic Institute, where I researched and modeled pathways to staying under 1.5°C of global warming.

I am particularly excited to live in Wyoming because of the amazing variety of natural spaces and the easy access to them. I am looking forward to exploring the communities I will be working in by foot and bike, backpacking in the Wind River Range, and climbing in Wild Iris. I can't wait to learn from and work with you all!

Lottie Mitchell
Powder River Staff

It's Past Time to Prepare for Coal Country's Future

Wake up, Wyoming! Coal country needs help, and help has not been forthcoming from industry or from our politicians.

A much bigger illness than COVID-19 faces our coal industry, but no vaccine can stop it. And no one seems to be seriously seeking a cure. Companies are struggling; production's sharp decline has steepened; rail traffic is down; layoffs and furloughs abound. These symptoms began way before 2020. Believe what you will about climate change or a "war on coal," the simple fact is coal is no longer cost competitive with renewable energy or natural gas. Coal will keep losing market share, more coal power plants will close, and those that are left will burn less coal.

Ask Peabody and Arch, the last giant coal companies still in the Powder River Basin. They pled lack of price competitiveness to argue at the Federal Trade Commission for a joint venture to operate their mines. They lost, and now Arch have announced their plans to shut down their Coal Creek Mine and scale back Black Thunder Mine, which a few short years ago produced roughly 10% of the nation's coal. Now, they are planning to leave the Powder River Basin entirely.

Lighthouse Resources' bankruptcy caused the first complete and permanent closure of a major Powder River Basin coal mine (Decker) earlier this year. Most of Decker's now-unemployed miners are members of my community of Sheridan.

Over 80% of Powder River Basin mines have been through bankruptcy proceedings in recent years. The mines still operating have new owners and reduced production. These new owners are all less well capitalized than were their bankrupt predecessors in better days.

Last October marked the one-year anniversary of newcomer operators Eagle Specialty Materials (now Prairie Eagle Mining) and Navajo Transitional Energy Company (NTEC), both privately held companies with headquarters outside the state. Their employees and communities have little information about company finances, but they do know these smaller outfits have less access to capital and provide little confidence in the long-term future of mines, jobs and communities. Miners, small business suppliers, utilities and municipal governments are all understandably worried, having been burned so recently before. Many have seen their neighbors lose health care benefits and even retirement savings, and wonder if they're next.

Recent bankruptcies have also meant a big loss of local and state taxes, as well as tens of millions of dollars in unpaid federal coal royalties, half of which would have come back to Wyoming. A short time ago Campbell County was one of the wealthiest counties in our state, and a major contributor to statewide education funding. Their tax base has collapsed, and local governments are facing significant budget challenges.

And let's not forget the yet-to-be-reclaimed lands and water that

could be a foundation for future economic activity. Tens of thousands of acres of land still need to be restored to pre-mining condition and productive surface use—hopefully before the companies that are left walk away themselves. The Department of Environmental Quality needs to require honest mine closure plans, ensuring the mines state a realistic end of life date and a reclamation plan that will restore the land before the company leaves or goes bankrupt. The state should pressure companies to include worker transition planning, job retraining, and retirement benefits.

Analyst Dan Cohn, in a recent Sightline Institute report "Planning for Coal Mine Closure in the Powder River Basin," succinctly stated, "Every coal miner, and everyone in a coal community, deserves credible information about the outlook for the industry and for the major employers in the area. And they also deserve serious plans and resources to support people building a life after coal. The transition is coming faster than most people think."

The Wyoming Legislature refuses to even discuss revising our tax structure. They repeatedly reject Medicaid expansion even as they see miners dispossessed of their employer health care plans and sometimes their pensions. The governor quixotically pursues lawsuits against other states to force them to buy coal-fired electricity or build coal export facilities. He cuts supplemental unemployment benefits. Together they concoct statutes to force Wyoming citizens to subsidize coal plants and pie-in-the-sky carbon capture processes by paying higher electricity rates.

Given all this, as I sit here today, I can't help but think we need better leadership to represent the interests of the people of coal country. We need state and local government and business leaders who will put miners and communities first and recognize today's reality. The energy transition is happening before our very eyes. It's high time to find solutions to rebuild the revenue that coal used to bring, the jobs the industry used to provide, and the communities that built today's Wyoming.

Bob LeResche
Clearmont

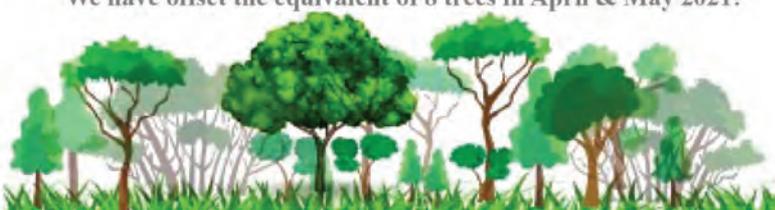
Bob LeResche is a former Commissioner of Natural Resources of Alaska, energy executive and investment banker. He and his wife Carol own a ranch and heirloom vegetable farm near Clearmont, Wyoming. He is a board member of the Powder River Basin Resource Council and the Western Organization of Resource Councils.

Editor's Note: This is reprinted from the June 4, 2021 issue of the Casper Star-Tribune.

Powder River Solar Energy Production

Energy Produced: 469 kWh
Carbon Offset: 715 lbs

We have offset the equivalent of 8 trees in April & May 2021!



Did you know that Powder River has a YouTube Channel?

You can find us by going to YouTube.com and searching PowderRiverBasinRC. All of our solar stories and our oil & gas impact videos are available to watch.

Powder River & CALC

tell the EPA to Cut Methane Pollution

In May, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a public engagement process to begin crafting new rules to tackle methane and associated pollution from new and existing oil and gas operations. As a part of this process, EPA hosted listening sessions in mid-June to allow communities, Tribes, businesses, organizations, and industry to weigh in and make their voices heard ahead of a September rulemaking process.

Powder River and affiliate organization Cheyenne Area Landowners Coalition (CALC), testified to the EPA about the importance of reducing the release of toxic chemicals from oil and gas drilling and production to protect public health and safety.

“We believe these rules are long-overdue, and they are reasonable steps to protect the public health of citizens living and working near oil and gas wells and associated infrastructure,” said Wayne Lax, who serves on the CALC board and lives in Laramie County.

Powder River also told the EPA it was important to reform federal methane rules to represent landowners who are impacted by complex ownership rules related to eminent domain and forced pooling. In these cases, mineral rights have priority over surface ownership, and landowners are without the legal power to say no to nearby oil and gas development.



Gas flaring near Cheyenne

This action from the EPA follows President Biden’s executive orders issued in January as response to former President Trump’s rollback of Obama-era rules that would restrict the amount of natural gas that companies are able to flare and vent. President Biden has made climate change and methane reductions a key piece of his platform. Additionally, in April, the U.S. Senate narrowly passed a resolution to undo the Trump administration’s rollback of methane emissions standards.

Next, the EPA will begin creating new rules to reinstate the Obama-era standards and apply them to existing sources nationwide. The White House hopes that these new rules will send a strong signal to the international community that the U.S. will take climate obligations seriously.

The EPA is accepting written comments to help the agency to assess whether to proceed with a formal rulemaking process. Members of the public can submit comments until July 30, 2021. To submit your comments online, visit www.regulations.gov/ and search for the docket: “EPA-HQ-OAR-2021-0295” and press “comment” or contact one of Powder River Staff members, and we will walk you through the process.

Monika Leininger
Powder River Staff

Laramie Unveils New Solar Array

The City of Laramie has completed the installation of a solar array to serve the Laramie Community Recreation Center and the Ice & Event Center. This project represents the first major step toward the City of Laramie’s carbon neutrality goal. According to the city, these facilities were selected for the inaugural solar investment due to their impact toward the municipal goal of reaching net zero emissions by 2050 as well as for their ability to serve as an educational site for the thousands of annual guests visiting both facilities each year.

“The Rec Center and the Ice Center do a lot for the health of this community by making people physically fit and helping people with rehab; these facilities take a lot of power. Our staff was already investigating how we can break down the cost,” said Laramie City Councilor Erin O’Doherty at the groundbreaking ceremony for the solar arrays.



ARE member and Technical Solar Salesman Leo Pueblitz stands next to a new array that serves power to the Laramie Community Recreation Center and the Ice & Event Center. Photo credit: Creative Energies.

This project was made possible by a Blue Sky Grant through Rocky Mountain Power (RMP), Laramie’s utility provider. The Blue Sky Program is funded by the option for participants to pay \$1.95 per 200 kWh block per month on their electricity bill and helps fund solar installations in communities served by the utility. Customer participants of the program have helped fund the installation of 159 community-based renewable energy projects at schools, food banks, houses of worship, municipal offices, and nonprofit organizations.

Alliance for Renewable Energy of Laramie (ARE) helped educate the City of Laramie on the opportunity for Blue Sky Grants and submitted letters of support in the application. This year, RMP allocated \$300,000 to be used for Wyoming projects.

Monika Leininger
Powder River Staff

Longtime Landowner Advocate Reflects on Decades of Activism

One of Jill Morrison's most memorable moments as a landowner advocate and organizer for the Powder River Basin Resource Council came early in her career. In the early 1990s, she helped lead a campaign to turn out public comments against a proposal to store spent nuclear fuel in the state.

So many people heeded that call that "we broke the fax machine in the governor's office," Morrison recalled.

A conservation peer of Morrison's has a story about another moment. They were standing outside after a public meeting grousing about how to best convince Wyoming policymakers to take on climate change. Morrison, who apparently thought her peer wasn't being strident enough, was already walking to her car when she turned and said "Maybe take a fucking position."

Morrison chuckled at the memory during an interview with WyoFile, saying "age has kind of mellowed me out." It's natural to get frustrated in her line of work, she added, especially when confronted with social injustices and how they're often allowed to persist. "You have to keep a good sense of humor and learn to build relationships with people you don't always agree with ... and try not to make it personal."

Morrison will retire from the Powder River Basin Resource Council in June after 30 years with the organization, most recently as executive director. She is known throughout the state for her tenacity in advocating for landowners.

Morrison, along with her PRBRC members and colleagues, is responsible for helping push landmark reforms to protect land and water in coal mining, for stronger protocols to reduce the occurrence of toxic orange clouds from coal mine blasting and for an instrumental role in reforming Wyoming's split-estate laws to better protect surface owners dealing with energy development. She was a driving force behind the state's recent efforts to replace self-bonding for coal mine reclamation with stronger surety requirements, and she pushed the state to beef up efforts to reclaim orphaned oil and gas facilities.

In her line of work, Morrison said, there are often more losses than wins. Progress still happens, though. The key, she said, is to continually widen your circle and to help others find their voice.

After three decades in the maw of activism, community organizing and watchdogging government, her colleagues say Morrison's legacy is standing up for values most everyone can agree on, even if they disagree on how to achieve them.

"Jill is a veritable force of nature," Wyoming Outdoor Council senior conservation advocate Dan Heilig said. "If you're a proponent of a very bad industrial project and you're at a public meeting or hearing that's packed full of people and you happen to see, out of the corner of your eye, Jill Morrison enter and take a seat, that's the last thing you want to see."

Wyoming roots

Morrison's Wyoming roots date back to 1890 when her great-grandfather homesteaded on Laramie Peak, near Esterbrook. The family moved to western Nebraska eight years later to farm in the Mitchell Valley region. There, her parents and paternal grandmother instilled a sense of work ethic and community, she said.

"We raised sweet corn, picked it and then had to go door-to-door



Photo courtesy of Dainis Hazners

in our community and a nearby town to sell it in order to raise money to buy a horse," Morrison recalled.

When the family lost the Nebraska farm during the 1980s farm crisis, it inspired a resolve to fight for social justice and against "power concentrated in the hands of large corporations," she said.

Morrison worked as a waitress while earning her English degree at Arizona State University. While there, she also volunteered as an organizer against the licensing and building of the Palo Verde nuclear power plant west of

Phoenix. During that work she was inspired by the work of a handful of attorneys and journalists, including Don Devereux and Kathy McManus. Those connections led Morrison to Los Angeles, where she began producing investigative documentaries before accepting a reporting position at a local public television station.

Morrison honed her investigative skills freelancing stories on the side, including undercover work to reveal horse-drugging in the horse racing industry as well as illegal smuggling of exotic birds and the wild bird trade.

"I realized that investigative reporting, or good reporting, could help change things and could address problems," Morrison said. "But I also saw that it took more than telling a story to create positive change. While good journalism is integral to a functioning democracy, so is organizing work."

Morrison wanted to see more results from her work, and wanted to return to her rural roots. She ended up in Wyoming, taking a position as organizer for the Powder River Basin Resource Council in 1990.

Fighting for landowners

The PRBRC formed in the early 1970s in response to plans to industrialize huge swaths of the Powder River Basin with surface coal mining and dozens of coal-fired power plants. Few laws were on the books to protect surface owners who eked out a living dry-land farming and ranching on the arid plains.

Its founders, including Bill and Bernie Barlow, Ed Swartz, Sally Forbes and others, played pivotal roles in shaping the Wyoming Environmental Quality Act of 1973, the Wyoming Industrial Development Information and Siting Act of 1975 and the federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977.

Founding the organization, "was based on the fact that their entire livelihoods — ranching — was threatened by coal mining," Morrison said. "There were no regulations or framework in the early 1970s and [coal mining] was booming. They were threatening to mine right through their land and water, and that's why they came together."

Although made up of a politically diverse, and often stubbornly independent collection of ranchers, the PRBRC had grown into an adept force for property rights and environmental protections by the time Morrison arrived in 1990.

Morrison began pouring over dense volumes of permitting and regulatory documents at local, state and federal offices and became a staple of public meetings.

Much of her time then, and still today, is spent at kitchen tables with PRBRC members, learning about challenges and potential threats to their property, ranching operations and health.

Jill's Farewell Letter

For the past 30 years Powder River has been my community. It has been such an honor to work with so many of you to protect our resources and the quality of life we cherish in Wyoming. The people involved in this organization have given me a grateful heart and a treasure trove of memories. Our David vs. Goliath efforts often succeeded in making a difference in shaping



public policy and ensuring the public interest was protected, rather than corporate interests or profits.

Some of the memorable campaign successes and issues we worked on over the past three decades include: protecting the Little Horn and the surrounding critical habitat in the Big Horns from an unnecessary and destructive energy project and launching the now famous Little Horn run; getting domestic and livestock water wells replaced after they were lost due to coal mining and coalbed methane (CBM) drilling; passing landmark legislation to provide landowners with more rights when negotiating with oil and gas companies; implementing restrictions on coal blasting practices to stop the formation of toxic orange clouds of nitrogen oxide, or NOx, that threatened the lives of nearby residents; reforming CBM water discharge policies and preventing industry from releasing polluted discharge water into Clear Creek; increasing bonding for oil and gas wells and ensuring thousands of orphan wells were plugged and reclaimed; getting regulations passed to require baseline water testing before oil and gas drilling; increasing setbacks from oil and gas wells; protecting the Fortification area from oil and gas impacts; requiring the disclosure of fracking chemicals; organizing landowners and neighbors on Bird Farm Road to defeat a gravel pit and asphalt plant; protecting the Madison Aquifer, Boysen Reservoir and the Wind River from oil and gas waste disposal; exposing and helping to prevent Wyoming from wasting billions on the boondoggle Oxy land/mineral purchase, and launching efforts to transition Wyoming from a fossil fuel dependent economy to a new renewable future.

We defeated so much bad legislation, I can't even remember it all. However, I do recall our herculean efforts to defeat legislation that tried to make Wyoming the nuclear waste dump for the nation and our success in killing the crimes against critical infrastructure bill at least three times. There is always more work to do and more challenges ahead, and I have faith that Powder River along with our allies will accomplish much more.



All these organizing efforts were successful because of the combined work of individuals and groups. We came together to protect the Wyoming we value. In addition to the important work and purpose this organization provided, I am grateful to so many members and leaders for your intelligent minds and generous hearts. Let me highlight the leadership as well as the endless, delicious food provided by Bernie Barlow, Nancy Sorenson, and Marge West when they welcomed the many visitors I brought to their homes to hear the stories of CBM development run amok. Thank you, Bernie, Nancy, and Marge!



I also want to acknowledge the mentorship and assistance I received from Digger Moravek, Bill Barlow, Ronn Smith, Ed Swartz, Stacy Page, Roger Sanders, Wilma Tope, Kevin Lind, Marcia Westkott, Bob LeResche, Joyce Evans, Gillian Malone, and so many others. A big thanks to all of my colleagues - past and present - who I've had a lot of laughs and good times with while doing this important work. Finally, a big thanks to my kids and family who endured and supported me in this work.

Powder River's critical leadership in Wyoming will continue. I want to leave you with some advice from the great leader and organizer, Shirley Chisholm, who said: "If you don't have a seat at the table then bring a folding chair." I look forward to supporting this organization as member and volunteer and I hope to see you around Wyoming as I enjoy this beautiful state.

With love and gratitude,

Jill Morrison



2021 Energy Transition Webinar Series

Wraps Up, Work Continues

Powder River recently concluded this season's webinar series. Building on the energy transition discussion from last year's *Reclaiming & Growing Wyoming's Future* series, this year's offerings had an intentional focus on families. In our work, we have learned that traditional transition plans are usually too little too late, and wanted to get a conversation going about how Wyoming might approach things differently and focus on proactive family wellbeing. Our main goal was to give individuals the knowledge that there are things within their control they can prepare for, but we also wanted to begin identifying gaps in services, so as a state we can address these issues together.

While our first webinar, *Family Resources for a Changing Wyoming Workforce*, was primarily focused on various employment opportunities in the state, it was also meant to set the tone of the series with a focus on families. The discussion also brought to light the importance of the services that can support working families.

In our second webinar, *Tools for Tough Times During Wyoming's Energy Transition*, we dove deeper into those services, while also giving families helpful tools they could use right away. Being proactive with family finances, like debt management and retirement planning, plus focusing on what you can control in your daily living through regular exercise, time in nature and social connections are self-help tools people can access. There are a number of support services families can be made aware of before a crisis occurs, including counseling, child care, and rental assistance.

Our third and final webinar, *Resources & Opportunities of the New Economy*, focused on economic development, but from the perspective of family wellbeing. We hoped not only to inform families of the various support services available for starting a small business, but also to consider intentional development as a way to utilize federal funds for investment in the long-term resiliency of communities. Speakers addressed the importance of planning, the need to build local leadership capacity, attracting economic diversity, and the value of taking a regional approach when identifying a community's assets.

The speakers assured us that we can leverage our unique place in the economic landscape and stay true to our shared values through intentional recruitment of businesses and professionals. There are many great things about Wyoming that others are discovering. We can help retain what we love about Wyoming and support workers and their families through mindful community development. "We need to change in order to stay the same," said CEO of the Wyoming Business Council, Josh Dorrell.

As several speakers noted, there are no silver bullets or one-size-fits-all answers for families or communities facing the economic impacts of global energy transition, but Wyoming does have an opportunity to invest in ways that move us forward to a sustainable future. An integrated approach including public services, nonprofits, and private enterprise is needed.

Citizen engagement in community development and grassroots support of critical services can inspire state and federal policies that work for Wyoming. Any gaps we can identify now are opportunities to link to funding that would enable us to proactively address identified needs.

As noted throughout the discussions in all of the webinars, one of the greatest obstacles is getting the word out about services to those

"We need to change in order to stay the same."

- Josh Dorrell

who could benefit. In many cases it is as simple as people not knowing these services are available. Our webinars have started this discussion and are a good place to start learning what is available.

What we learned:

- There is more in our control than we think. This goes for individuals, families and communities.
- Community foundations and business-ready community grants are tools to build financial resources while communities work on next steps.
- Gaps in services are actually opportunities to connect to funding. Health insurance and mental health are identified gaps in this state. With an entrepreneurial mindset, services can be provided by both public and private enterprise. There are examples of innovative programs and policies already existing within Wyoming as well as outside the state.
- Intentional recruitment can support sustainable community development, which in turn supports families, which then support transitioning workers.

Our speakers included representatives from public services, including Wyoming Workforce Services (Director Robin Cooley), the Community College Commission (Dr. Kim Dale, President of Western Wyoming Community College), Wyoming Department of Family Services (Ombudsman Clint Hanes), and the Wyoming Business Council (Josh Dorrell and Ron Gullberg). We had representatives from private enterprise (Jay Stender of the WY Ranch and formerly Forward Sheridan) and nonprofit sectors (Katie Hogarty of CLIMB Wyoming), a former coal miner (Lynne Huskinson of Gillette), a mental health professional (Dr. Hollis Hackman, retired psychologist with the Veterans' Administration), and a resources and communities researcher (Kelli Roemer of Montana State University) who offered a variety of perspectives and ways to address transitions that collectively offer significant support.

Our moderators included Wyoming Representatives Cathy Connolly and Chad Banks, supporters of Medicaid expansion and proactive transition legislation, and Dr. Rob Godby, who wears many hats, but is primarily the state's chief economist. Together they are influential leaders in both recognizing economic reality and the need to be as proactive as possible. Our webinar series also touched on the need to address the state's tax structure, as well as how to prioritize federal funds, and these are ongoing conversations around the state.

All of our participants and many attendees are already leaders in the ongoing conversation and policy actions needed, but we need to broaden and deepen the bench. This is an opportunity for citizens to step up and make a difference. We need people who care about the future of our communities and beyond. Successful energy transition in Wyoming will have positive implications for the planet.

One webinar attendee let us know they are worried the national focus on climate change is more concerned with how quickly energy transition occurs rather than how justly, both socially and environmentally. They appreciated our attention to the human impacts of transition and talking about how we might do it justly and responsibly. We need to acknowledge both realities: the global environment and social costs of climate change, and the costs borne by energy workers and communities.

Sincere thanks to all who attended, participated, and helped put the webinars together. Many people contributed, and the staff at Powder River provided a team effort! We're igniting conversations around

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Longtime Landowner...Continued from page 6

“When you live and work on the land, it’s instilled in you that that land and water is what’s sustaining your family and it’s what will sustain all of us into the future,” Morrison said. “I think that’s something that comes from being close to the land.”

Conflicts of a gas boom

No one was prepared for the massive coal-bed methane gas boom that gripped northeast Wyoming beginning in the late 1990s through 2010. CBM developers envisioned — and the state eagerly tried to accommodate — ambitions for 50,000 wells throughout the Powder River Basin in Wyoming and Montana.

The unprecedented boom relied on pumping massive volumes of water from coal aquifers to release the coal-bed methane gas. In order for the endeavor to be profitable, developers insisted on dumping the saline water at the surface, which often flooded ephemeral streams and usually dry draws year-round, wreaking havoc on ranching operations. The massive transfer of untreated water, along with the unprecedented scale of industrial activity, consumed Morrison’s and the PRBRC’s focus for more than a decade.

“When that industry boomed, Wyoming was on its back as a state economy,” former Casper Star-Tribune Editor and former Equality State Policy Center Executive Director Dan Neal said. “The state had been through a horrible recession in the 1990s, and energy people didn’t want anybody standing in their way.”

Local and state elected officials saw the boom as a godsend to save Wyoming’s economy after a long oil and gas slump in the 1990s. They were eager to accommodate developers, even if that meant tweaking state regulations to do so. The boom also created divisions among ranchers in the region — the PRBRC’s core membership. Some who held rights to mineral royalties stood to make millions, while others only stood to suffer the negative impacts.

One major win for the PRBRC and landowners was a reform to the state’s split-estate laws, giving surface owners better leverage to negotiate with developers who owned the right to drill for minerals below their ranching operations.

For many, Morrison — backed by the PRBRC and its members — came to represent the industry’s biggest threat. She, and the PRBRC, were frequent targets of critical public comments, op-eds and letters to the editor. To others, Morrison and PRBRC were the only allies they had to help save their livelihoods. Morrison found comfort and resolve in teaching others how to organize and to find the confidence to speak out, she said. She also made a point to recruit and elevate women in organizing efforts.

“Jill helped me find my voice to confront these things in a reasonable way,” former PRBRC chairwoman and Powder River Basin rancher Nancy Sorenson said. “She’s an educator, she’s an organizer and she holds your hand when you’re worried and scared, and that’s a wonderful thing.”

The art of advocacy in Wyoming

The nature of the PRBRC’s work, and Morrison’s commitment to it, often puts them at odds with Wyoming’s dominant energy industry and the state’s prevailing politics.

“I always thought one key to the Powder River Basin Resource Council’s success was strong advocacy for property rights,” Neal said. “It’s always been interesting to me to see when that puts them in conflict with more conservative policymakers.”

Morrison is effective, Neal added, because she has an analytical mind and understands the cultural and political landscape.

“To be in that kind of work, you’re up against people that are far better funded than you,” Neal said. “It can be a spiritually daunting business, and you have to have a lot of people you like working with and working for.”

Sen. Eli Bebout (R-Riverton) rarely found himself on the same side of a policy debate with Morrison. But, he said, she consistently adds to the quality of policy discussions.

“We certainly did have a different view on responsible development of our minerals,” Bebout said.

Bebout said he’s never questioned Morrison’s commitment to and love for Wyoming. “When the dust settles, we need to have the responsible development along with reasonable protections.”

Jonah Energy vice president Paul Ulrich has interacted with Morrison on Wyoming energy issues for 20 years, he said — sometimes in opposition, but more often in collaboration. For example, they clashed on the groundwater contamination issue in Pavillion, but collaborated to find compromise on plans to protect greater sage grouse.

“It’s challenging in Wyoming,” Ulrich said. “We all care about habitat and wildlife, and in my case we care about my industry and the jobs we provide.”

“I felt Jill has approached the most challenging issues with a sensibility to Wyoming,” Ulrich continued. “That says something. We may see things differently and have different approaches. But that responsibility to Wyoming land and Wyoming landowners is an important perspective.”

PRBRC attorney Shannon Anderson — Morrison’s longtime colleague — said that not everybody appreciates Morrison’s tenacity.

“Jill rubs the wrong way sometimes because she knows she needs to be tough, the power balance being what it is, and we’re just a scrappy little group of half a dozen staff and a couple thousand members,” Anderson said.

Future of Wyoming advocacy

Morrison plans to stay involved in landowner advocacy in Wyoming after she retires, she said, but she’s looking forward to “stepping back.”

She plans to travel more, including on horseback, exploring her beloved Bighorn Mountains just outside her home of Story. She looks forward to spending more time with her Wyoming friends, working her garden and playing music.

She also plans to help renovate the Kearney Community Hall in nearby Banner.

Morrison is proud of her efforts to help lift women’s voices in civic participation and advocacy, she said. Currently, the PRBRC staff is entirely women — not an intentional design, but a “happy accident,” she said.

It does feel a bit odd, she added, to step back from advocacy work just as the state and its citizens face historic economic, environmental and cultural challenges. However, she’s confident in what she sees as a growing commitment among young people to shaping Wyoming’s future.

“There’s a lot of young people here who love this state and are yearning to put in place some of their ideas and practices, and we need to give them a voice and give them a platform,” Morrison said. “Our elders have wisdom and there’s a lot that’s going to come from all segments of the population who see that Wyoming has another future besides mining coal or developing oil and gas. We don’t just have to be a resource colony.”

Anderson said the PRBRC will announce a new executive director in a few months. As for Morrison, “she’ll be missed.”

“Her legacy is building this organization into a voice for Wyoming’s people, and a voice for our future,” Anderson said.

Dustin Bleizeffer
WyoFile.com

Editor’s Note: This was reprinted from the December 22, 2020 issue of WyoFile. [WyoFile](http://WyoFile.com) is an independent nonprofit news organization focused on Wyoming people, places and policy.

Regenerative Ag...Continued from page 1

Fischer shared practical examples from ranchers in her area regarding how to get water to the regularly repositioned grazing paddocks required in regenerative ag. She also shared information on a successful rancher-to-rancher group in eastern Montana that meets regularly to share their experiences, listen to experts, and take part in a yearly fieldtrip. Participating ranchers say that the group is a great way to find out what's working and what's not in their regenerative ag practices, to educate them on the complexities, and to form a supportive community with like-minded folks.

To gain more in-depth knowledge of regenerative ag practices, Powder River staff member Pennie Vance attended a June workshop in Baker, Montana, *Enhancing Your Livestock Operation...Surviving in a World of Change* with Dr. Allen Williams and Dr. Fred Provenza.

Dr. Williams focused on grass-fed beef ranching and how to manage livestock to improve the soil, forage, and livestock health while reducing off-farm inputs. His talks included two field trips to a nearby pasture where attendees were able to see the impact of intensive grazing by a herd of heifers on several small paddocks, one only three-quarters of an acre, fenced by single wire electric fencing, while a group of 60 or so people watched nearby.

For readers who've experienced the temperament of flighty, yearling heifers, imagining them grazing in a new, tightly confined area as calmly as a herd of old cows with a crowd of humans nearby is nothing short of miraculous. Trainability and a wisely culled herd are important components of regenerative ag.

Dr. Provenza discussed his research on the connection between human health, increased nutrient density and quality of beef from livestock grazed on healthy soils and forage, all covered in his book, *Nourishment: What Animals Can Teach Us About Rediscovering Our Nutritional Wisdom*.

Rocky Mountain...Continued from page 1

up to \$2 billion more to support the licensing, construction and demonstration of this first-of-a-kind reactor by 2028. However, that additional funding is contingent upon future Congressional appropriations and requires a 1:1 industry match.

Even with the massive amount of taxpayer subsidies promised, this would be a multi-billion project for a relatively small amount of energy. According to the industry-standard levelized cost of energy study, new nuclear power facilities cost about five times more than wind energy. The next big step will be Rocky Mountain Power's consideration of the nuclear reactor in its energy planning analysis, called an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), to assess whether the reactor meets the "least-cost, least-risk" criteria for selecting energy resources.

To be fair, there are some promising features of this reactor design compared to others we have seen proposed over the years. The reactor has increased efficiencies, and it includes a nitrate salt molten salt energy storage system, which can pair with renewable energy to provide reliable "on-demand" power. And, it uses less water than other reactors (although still a lot more water than solar or wind energy).

But the questions about the cost, and other concerns such as nuclear waste storage, loom large. Regarding waste, the project proponents have merely stated that it "will be stored safely and securely at the same site as the reactor until the United States identifies a permanent geologic repository." Of course, the U.S. is without a permanent geologic repository for nuclear waste with permitting of Yucca Mountain indefinitely on hold. In other words, Wyoming should be prepared to be the permanent site for any waste produced by the reactor.

Along with all of you, we will be asking the tough questions of the project proponents over the coming months and years.

Williams and Provenza are affiliated with Brown, in the Understanding Ag program. A good source of information on all of these experts as well as a host of valuable resources is available at their website, understandingag.com. Vance also met with a number of Baker area ranchers who are members of the Eastern Montana rancher group. They generously shared positive feedback about their group and offered to help our Wyoming rancher group move forward. Vance was joined by Powder River members and ranchers, Joyce and Mike Evans.

Mike reflected on the conference saying he would, "highly recommended" it to others. "The results (of adaptive management) are worthwhile," he said, and went on to applaud the opportunity to learn "practical tips and procedures for the restoration of any grazing operation," and that "a person can start with a small area and expand... as the operator learns and gains experience."

Joyce commended the profitability, ecological and health aspects of the conference, "Adaptive management allows ranchers to use their livestock and their intelligence to keep carbon in the soil where it belongs while better meeting the nutritional needs of their animals, in turn providing healthier food for consumers. Yes, it is hard work to change the way a ranch has always been run, but higher profits and huge improvement to the soil and livestock seem to outweigh the tendency to resist change."

If you have questions or are interested in being part of the Powder River rancher to rancher regenerative ag group, please email Vance at penniev@powderriverbasin.org.

Pennie Vance
Powder River Staff

In response to the announcement, Powder River Chair Marcia Westkott, made the following statement:

"While we support efforts to reduce carbon emissions, we have many questions surrounding Governor Gordon's proposal to build a small nuclear reactor in Wyoming. This technology is still experimental and unproven; the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has yet to license a design, so this announcement appears to be premature. Additionally, we have concerns about the cost to build the facility, how much water will be needed for its operation, and how the waste will be safely stored.

"On the issue of uranium mining, we need to remember that these operations will not replace the revenue lost by coal's decline. There are no royalties and very little severance tax generated from uranium mining, so communities will not realize a windfall from this endeavor.

"Perhaps the most dangerous aspect of this latest claim of a 'silver bullet' to save Wyoming's economy is that it once again diverts attention away from our very real crisis in revenue, jobs and community survival. Wyoming's elected leaders have still not come forward with a real plan to address lost jobs, declining revenues and the dissolution of coal communities. This speculative feasibility study will not do that."

Powder River Staff

Message from the Chair...Continued from page 2

miner...Thankfully Jill was persistent giving me another opportunity as a board member with the PRBRC... So thank you Jill for all of your hard work and sage advice. Thank you for making a difference in our state and our local communities.” - Lynne Huskinson

“Jill has always gone out of her way to bring new community members into the fold of the Powder River family. She’s helped farmers, ranchers and former miners and drillers find their own voices and become community leaders in their own right for sound stewardship of our great state...And she has set the moral and professional compass for generations of younger folks who had the privilege of interning or working for her, and who now, later in their careers, still look to and are led by her singular example of dedication, courage, strategic vision, and fearless, values-driven action.” - Shiva Polefka

“Jill was the driving force that created the alliance of the Cheyenne Area Landowners Coalition with PRBRC. I certainly felt that we were at a big disadvantage in dealing with the oil and gas industry and their activity in Laramie County. Jill and the PRBRC really helped to get us on much more solid footing... We were treated as a credible group and so

much of that was built through Jill’s guidance and leadership. We all owe her a great deal and are so thankful for our association and friendship. Personally, when I felt overmatched in our county struggles, Jill was a reassuring voice I could count on and did many times. I will always be grateful for that.” - Wayne Lax

“Jill is an incredible woman, with so much energy, enthusiasm and talented in so many ways. She is a role model for work, and as a human.” - Michele Irwin

“Through the hard times Powder River faced, Jill has been here to make sure we kept our heads up, and stayed motivated. No matter what happens in life, or where the roads may lead me, Jill will always have a special place in my heart.” - Stephanie Avey

In closing, I simply want to add my deep appreciation to Jill for helping to make my stint as Powder River Board Chair easier than it could have been. It wasn’t simply because I was the beneficiary of her generous encouragement and knowledge. That was, indeed, a constant. But what is also true is that Jill does her homework and expects the same from other team members. As Bob LeResche mentioned, Jill knows the people of this state, their communities, work, struggles, and values.

But she also makes it a point to get down in the weeds to understand the issues. She visits fracking sites, attends commission hearings, talks to policy makers, industry moguls, workers, and ranchers, and she reads governmental reports as well as local newspapers. She has an uncanny ability to keep her ear to the ground to anticipate metaphoric fire storms. And if she and our staff/board team don’t have the knowledge she thinks we need in order to form an opinion, she recommends hiring a top notch consultant to help us. All this adds up to our having the confidence and the legitimacy to advocate for what we think is right. It is this staunch adherence to evidence-based advocacy that has built Powder River’s reputation and has afforded me the trust to endorse the various positions we take as an organization.

If you would like to honor Jill in person, please join us for a party for her on July 24 at 5 PM in Kearney Hall. True to Powder River tradition, it is a potluck, so bring a dish to share, a chair to sit upon, and—if you have one—a musical instrument to play.

Gratefully,

Marcia Westcott

2021 Energy...Continued from page 8

dinner tables and amongst our friends, but also amongst our public servants. We’re already leaning into next steps, and encourage others to also take up threads of the conversation as well.

For the full experience, you may find the archive of videos of all

our webinars on our website www.powderriverbasin.org/what-we-do/coal and our YouTube channel.

Michele Irwin
Powder River Staff

SAVE THE DATE

15th Annual Harvest Celebration & Potluck

Saturday, August 28th, 2021

Dinner - 5:30 pm, Pies by Guys Auction - 7 pm
Kearney Hall - Highway 87, I-90 Exit 44 Story/Banner

\$15/adults - \$10/children 12 & under



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Encouraging Responsible Development Today... _____ For Tomorrow...

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2021

23 July	Board Meeting, Buffalo
24 July	Celebrate Jill, Kearney Hall
28 August	Harvest Celebration, Kearney Hall
17 September	Board Meeting, TBD
6 November	Annual Meeting, Sheridan
7 November	Board Meeting, Sheridan

Planned Giving and Estate Planning Gifts

The Powder River "family" has been thinking a lot about the future lately, because, as the saying goes, "We aren't getting any younger." We want to make sure this organization remains viable for future generations in the same way it serves today's members. So we're inviting you, our extended family of members and donors, to consider including Powder River in your estate plans.

Your gift would create a living legacy allowing Powder River to continue our work far into the future and helping ensure Wyoming remains the place we know and love for our kids and grandkids.

As one long time Powder River member, Digger Moravek stated, "I want to raise Hell long after I'm gone." You too can do this through a bequest to Powder River.

The two easiest ways to include Powder River in your estate planning take little time (and no legal assistance).

- **THROUGH YOUR RETIREMENT ACCOUNT** (Your IRA, Roth-IRA, SEP-IRA, 401(k), or other such account): Name *Powder River Basin Resource Council* as a Primary beneficiary for a percentage. One percent, 10%, 25% or whatever you wish. You can do this through the account custodian, or often even on the custodian's website in a few minutes (Powder River's Tax ID is 74-2183158).

- **THROUGH YOUR LIFE INSURANCE POLICY:** - Name *Powder River Basin Resource Council* as a primary beneficiary of any percentage of your life insurance policy. You can do this through your insurance agent or the insurance company, or often even on your insurance company's website in only a few minutes (Powder River's Tax ID is 74-2183158).

If you are preparing a formal will or living trust document, you can include Powder River Basin Resource Council as a primary beneficiary of a specific dollar amount or percentage of your estate. If you already have such an instrument, you can have it revised to include Powder River. This is probably best done through your attorney.

Finally, there are several more complex tax-advantaged ways to contribute to Powder River's future and receive continuing income and tax advantages during your lifetime. These include "charitable remainder trusts" and sale of appreciated and depreciated securities. Please consult your legal and financial advisors about how you can use such tools to support Wyoming's most effective grassroots member organization, and how you might benefit.

If you have any questions, please give Powder River a call at 307-672-5809

Thank you!

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