



Powder River's 49th Annual Meeting Looks Ahead to Wyoming's Future

For the second year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Powder River held the Annual Meeting online via Zoom on Nov. 5 – 6. Unlike last year when we decided to forego the speaker and hold only the business meeting, we brought back the keynote speaker event. On the evening of Friday, Nov. 5, over 70 Powder River members and supporters gathered on Zoom to listen to Jason Baldes, Tribal Buffalo Program Manager for the National Wildlife Federation and enrolled member of the Eastern Shoshone Tribe, speak about his work in the reintroduction of wild buffalo onto the Wind River Reservation.

For many years, Powder River's annual meetings have tackled the thorny issues of Wyoming's economic diversification and revitalization. This year's theme, *Reimagining Wyoming: Buffalo, Transformation & Sustainability*, was an effort to understand ecological



A buffalo jumps out of a trailer to its new home on the Wind River Reservation, one of 47 animals released in October. (Photo courtesy of Jason Baldes)

and cultural revitalization as equally important parts of transforming Wyoming's future. Baldes covered years of indigenous people's history, which is also the history of the buffalo, in order to explain why the buffalo is necessary for true ecological, cultural, and economic revitalization.

This work to reintroduce buffalo onto the Wind River Reservation is not about agriculture. In fact, Baldes said they have rejected the distinction of buffalo as livestock as opposed to wildlife. Buffalo are ecosystem engineers and are important as a keystone species that is beneficial to

other animals and the landscape. Furthermore, buffalo can help honor tribal elders and ancestors who were here before colonization. "What we do today honors these people because of what they fought for," he said.

He also wants to ensure that the values of the indigenous

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Proposal to Relax Aethon Discharge Permit Threatens Fisheries, Wildlife and Public Health

In November, Powder River and our allies, Wyoming Outdoor Council and the Natural Resources Defense Council, filed objections to the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality's (WDEQ) proposed changes to Aethon's Moneta Divide discharge permit. This modified discharge permit relaxes some of the permit requirements for the oil and gas produced wastewater that is released into Alkali Creek and flows downstream into Badwater Creek and then on into Boysen Reservoir and the Wind River. Boysen Reservoir and the Wind River are drinking water sources for downstream communities.

Our groups, with the help of consulting scientists, were instrumental in 2020 in stopping proposals by DEQ and Aethon to increase the volume of polluted oil and gas wastewater that is dumped into the streams from two million to eight million gallons a day. We also exposed extensive damage caused by polluted oil and gas wastewater that had been discharged for decades into Alkali Creek. Consequently, DEQ required Aethon to initiate cleanup activities, although these activities remain far from complete. Aethon has failed to utilize the

reverse osmosis plant that Encana built on-site because it is too expensive to operate.

Our consulting scientists, Dr. Joe Meyer, Dr. Harold Bergman, and Mike Wireman, reviewed the new proposed discharge permit and additional public records obtained from DEQ. They recommended additional testing and stronger permit limits to address fisheries, aquatic life, and the discharge of high volumes of volatile organic compounds that can threaten livestock, wildlife and human health. Serious concerns remain regarding existing discharges, proposed permit modifications, and previous damage to the streams.

We requested that WDEQ commit to a timeframe to implement a cleanup plan for the Boysen tributaries that have been degraded by decades of oil field pollutants. Additionally, we stated that, "DEQ should not authorize additional disposal of oil and gas wastewater without having a plan in place to address the contamination that has already occurred."

The scientists recommend that DEQ add chloride to the list of

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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)

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 Staff Attorney-Shannon Anderson
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 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
 Layout: Stephanie Avey
 Photos by Powder River staff and members.

Message from the Chair

Dear Powder River Members and Friends,



You are reading the words of the most fortunate human being in the Rocky Mountain West. Twice now, I have been honored to serve you as the Chair of Powder River Basin Resource Council, an organization that has taken on some of the greatest challenges Wyoming has faced in the last fifty years and has attempted to sculpt the reality in which we now live. It is humbling to serve with a board and staff made up of people belonging in the genius category. Let me tell you a little more about these outstanding people!

The board is made up of a diverse representation of Wyoming citizens. Each board member brings a unique and vibrant perspective to every issue. Some of us are landowners; some of us experience life in agriculture. Some of us have made a life in academia; some have worked in agencies. Some of us have had our retirement plans threatened by exploitation of natural resources. Some have spent a good bit of time working in extractive industries. Some of us are sensitive; some of us are pretty hard-nosed. We sometimes hurt one another's feelings. We sometimes amaze one another with our insight and our experience stories. We are still learning to listen, and we are still learning how to show each other the kind of respect we really want to extend. We are no different from the other citizens of our state and the representatives we elect. We are Wyoming. We really care about the future, and we truly care about all the life in this region, which may or may not have a right to vote. We care about the future and future generations; we care about the present and present citizens. We care about the people who were here before our ancestors arrived, and we care about those who emigrated and those who immigrated. We have taken our care and concern one step further, and we have agreed to give our time and energy to directing this wonderful organization. Every minute we spend with PRBRC, we spend trying to make the best decisions to guide this organization in the wisest, most productive direction, considering all the aspects of every issue. Above all, we attempt to see that our members' interests are represented.

We are so fortunate to have a staff that is dedicated to fulfilling the mission and to becoming exemplary in their field. Our staff members are as diverse as our board. Some are young, just embarking on a career of organizing, and others are seasoned, having spent time in industries that impact Wyoming's environment or working to bring sanity to our regulatory system. Some are native to Wyoming; some have arrived here at different junctures in their careers, and some have recently arrived. All are equally committed to making things better. Some have made their educational choices to strengthen their skills in areas of science, persuasion, or the arts. Most have attended the school of experience, both pleasant and unpleasant. Some have stayed with us for years, and others will do so. Some will move on the similar careers or go into totally different fields. Every one of them brings a strength and an experience set that makes us all richer. They work for little financial reward, and they give a part of their very beings to our organization. They teach us, and they teach everyday citizens to stand up for rights, to speak when it counts, and to seek the truth. We owe a debt of gratitude to each of them.

We have covered staff and board, but we have neglected the most vital group in our organization: you, the members. When Powder River first formed itself, it was driven by some worried yet hopeful people. They were concerned about threats to their well-being and to the lifestyles they valued. They knew that, if they organized, threw numbers and voices together, and reached the right ears, they could prevail and make a positive change. They were willing to take the risks, to put in the hours and to pool resources. They/You have not changed. You take an active role; you question when you feel changes don't reflect your needs; you protect the past, and you see into the future. We hear and value you. We are all one, and we are strong. Together, we move into that uncertain future. I am grateful to go forward, side by side with you all.

Joyce E. Evans

Powder River Solar Energy Production

Energy Produced: 358 kWh
 Carbon Offset: 546 lbs

We have offset the equivalent of 7 trees in October & November 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.

Arch Sets Up Sinking Fund for Reclamation

As we have been reporting, Arch Resources (formerly Arch Coal) anticipates closing its Coal Creek mine next year. The company is also winding down its Black Thunder mine, which is the second largest coal mine in the nation. The good news is Arch is tuned into long-term reclamation liability, and in addition to keeping up its surety bonds to cover the cost of cleanup, the company has recently established a sinking fund to put money toward end of mine reclamation expenses while the company is still earning a profit from selling coal.



Coal mine in the Powder River Basin

Final reclamation, including complete revegetation of the land, restoration of underground aquifers, and decommissioning of buildings and long-term facilities, takes a decade or more after mining ends and allocating some of the cash earnings from coal sales into a sinking fund helps to ensure funds are available for these long-term costs. While Arch's account is still small, we're pleased to see the company think about the long-term work that needs to be done, as opposed to simply racking up short-term profit which is often the case. We will continue to follow

Creating a sinking fund to ensure there is funding to carry out reclamation work when coal is no longer being mined has been one of Powder River's priority recommendations for companies and regulators.

Arch's progress and continue to call on other coal companies to establish similar funds.

Shannon Anderson
Powder River Staff

Coal AML Fee Reauthorized

As part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Congress passed in early November, the abandoned mine land (AML) fee for coal was reauthorized for another 13 years. While it reauthorized the per-ton fee paid by coal companies at a lesser amount, the bill included a direct appropriation of \$11.3 billion into the AML fund managed by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation & Enforcement (OSMRE), which is passed along to states to carry out reclamation work at abandoned coal mines. The bill marks a historic investment in the AML fund, helping

to generate jobs and important environmental cleanup in coal communities across the country, including in Wyoming.

Powder River worked closely with allied groups in Appalachia to advocate for reauthorization of the AML fee and the additional funding, and we are pleased to see Congress vote the bill through and the President sign it into law.

Shannon Anderson
Powder River Staff

National Coal Council Topples Under Pressure

In November, the Department of Energy (DOE) announced that the National Coal Council's (NCC) charter has expired. DOE has the intent to develop a new charter. Western grassroots groups had sued for access to NCC records, and urged DOE to terminate or restructure the group.

In a letter to the NCC, DOE's Jennifer Wilcox, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary writes, "the Department is in the process of submitting a new charter, revised to reflect matters currently faced by the coal industry, workers, and communities, including priorities established by the Energy Act of 2020 as well as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law enacted this week, and to generally modernize the advisory committee."

On Oct. 15, 2020, WORC, Democracy Forward and Western Environmental Law Center sued the Trump administration for violating the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) by not appointing balanced interests to NCC and by refusing to make fully public NCC meetings and records. The lawsuit sought to compel release of the

"We ask that any new council be balanced with members who represent landowner, taxpayer, environmental, and public health interests. It's vital that people and communities impacted by the coal industry have a voice on this advisory council."

— Bob LeResche

NCC's materials from 2017 to the present and prevent the Council from going about its work until it complies with the FACA requirements.

"We are pleased the Department of Energy has allowed the National Coal Council's charter to expire. This does end the NCC's unethical influence over national energy policy, but can't undo the harm the council has caused over the last several years. We ask that any new council be balanced with members who represent landowner, taxpayer, environmental, and public health interests. It's vital that people and communities impacted by the coal

industry have a voice on this advisory council," said Bob LeResche, Powder River Basin Resource Council and WORC board member from Clearmont, Wyoming.

The NCC is an outside advisory group, which makes recommendations on federal policies related to the production and consumption of American coal. Under President Trump, the NCC worked exclusively to advance the coal industry's economic interests, and it did so behind closed doors. The NCC is composed of two entities

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Too Much Not Enough for WY Oil Drillers

On Jan. 27, President Biden ordered a pause in years of breakneck oil and gas leasing by the Department of the Interior. He wanted to slow the giveaway of federal lands and mineral resources and take time to consider how the leasing program could be improved to better serve American taxpayers, state treasuries, public land users and the millions of citizens suffering accelerating harm from climate change.

Cue angst and lawsuits from the usual suspects — the American Petroleum Institute, Petroleum Association of Wyoming, Western Energy Alliance and a bevy of resource colony politicians. Lawsuits were filed by 16 states in three separate federal courts, and the infamously conservative Fifth Circuit in Louisiana enjoined the leasing pause on June 15, forcing Interior to resume quarterly lease sales.

Before the pause, the Wyoming Bureau of Land Management had compiled a list of 459 tracts suggested secretly by oil and gas drillers and BLM bureaucrats. These tracts contained 888 square miles of subsurface estate, under both public lands and privately-owned surface lands containing ranches, farms and homes.

Then, on the first of November, BLM announced that “only” 195 Wyoming tracts — a mere 280 square miles — were eligible for sale. Worse yet, BLM would be conducting full environmental assessments of these parcels, including analysis of potential greenhouse gas emissions. Again, cue crocodile tears from industry and politicians.

“It is clear that the BLM is continuing its efforts to make public lands energy development as expensive and difficult as possible,” moaned Pete Obermueller of PAW.

“It’s just another effort to bring everything to a screeching halt.” carped Steve Degenfelde of little Kirkwood Oil and Gas, LLC of Casper.

State Sen. Bo Biteman imagined a broader conspiracy at work, tweeting, “In case you’re wondering why you are paying more at the pump. The Biden administration is choking off domestic supply of oil and gas.”

Let’s think about this. Two important facts stand out.

First, why do industry and their politicians need to lock up 888 square miles of Wyoming in this one lease sale? An Alaska Commissioner of Natural Resources once told the Alaska Miners Association he’d like to see “more mining and less whining.” The same seems to apply to the poor, downtrodden Wyoming oil and gas industry. Today there are more than 7,800 square miles of leased non-producing federal mineral rights

waiting to be developed. This is more land area than Campbell and Sheridan counties combined. Conservation Economics Institute estimates that “Wyoming has ... stockpiled [enough] non-producing acres ... [for] 67 years of drilling opportunities on federal lands.”

It makes much more sense for Wyoming industry to drill this New Jersey-sized acreage they’ve already leased, rather than demanding to lock up 888 more square miles of Wyoming.

Second, by conducting full environmental assessments of these parcels before leasing, BLM is simply fulfilling its legal obligation to consider the social and environmental impacts of its actions. This will be the first time social costs of carbon and climate change are considered. The National Environmental Policy Act requires agencies to consider impacts on social, cultural and economic resources, as well as on natural resources. NEPA also requires that federal actions attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, risk to health or safety, or other undesirable and unintended consequences.

Any Wyomingite who has lived here long has seen and felt critical drought, bigger and hotter wildfires and new wind and weather patterns. Whether you’re a rancher choosing between cutting your herd or paying \$250/ton for hay trucked in from Nebraska, a produce farmer watching greens burn up in early summer heat waves, or a fly fisherman unable to catch and release because high water temperatures over-stress native trout, you’ve begun to feel climate change. It upends traditional commerce and lifestyles, and it sometimes poses serious risk not just to the environment, but also to our property, health and safety.

Overwhelming scientific evidence concludes that climate change is human caused, is accelerating rapidly, and can be sufficiently slowed only by drastically reducing the burning of fossil fuels within the next decade. Ignoring what is obvious to the 197 nations participating in the Paris and Glasgow climate conferences, pretending that climate change is not a problem and begging for hundreds of square miles more of oil and gas leases in Wyoming is nothing more than whistling past the graveyard.

Bob LeResche
Clearmont, WY

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

DOI Releases Report on Oil and Gas Program

On the Friday after Thanksgiving, the Department of the Interior (DOI) released a much-anticipated and long-overdue report with recommendations on reforming the federal oil and gas program. Originally expected in “early summer,” the report got delayed because of political interplay between the DOI and the White House. The report ended up being quite short, at a mere dozen pages, and missed the mark by not including any recommendations related to dealing with the climate change consequences of federal oil and gas development. Instead, the report focused on fiscal improvements to royalties and other government revenue from leasing and development, and financial assurance. The report mainly summarized a myriad of Government Accountability Office (GAO) and DOI Inspector General reports from over the years, highlighting that these watchdog agencies have “for decades . . . sounded the alarm bell on the Federal oil and gas program.”

DOI’s proposed reforms, including raising royalty rates and increasing bonding to cover reclamation costs, are meant to “provid[e] a fair return to the American public and States from Federal management

of public lands and waters, including for development of energy resources and designing more responsible leasing and development processes that prioritize areas that are most suitable for development and ensure lessees and operators have the financial and technical capacity to comply with all applicable laws and regulations.”

Unfortunately, the report came up short in explaining how the recommendations would be implemented or the timeline for new regulations or policies needed to carry out the proposed reforms.

In response to the report, Powder River Board Member Bob LeResche released the following statement:

“While we appreciate Interior’s intentions to reform the federal oil and gas program, we hoped they would suggest more specifics. We believe more sweeping change is needed for the people of Wyoming to receive their fair share from sale of these publicly owned resources. Federal royalty and lease rates are paltry, and the agency’s plan doesn’t raise them enough. The energy world is changing quickly, and time is running out for

DOI Releases...Continued from previous page

communities that have supported the oil and gas industry for decades; they should get their due before the inevitable decline.

“Bonding requirements, while somewhat improved, still will not adequately protect taxpayers from the burden of cleaning up orphan wells, which grow in number every year. Minimum per well bond amounts must be increased to match changes in technology, complexity and depth of modern wells, inflation, and risk of abandonment. As they are writing these new standards, BLM should immediately adjust bonds when they reinstate high risk leases or extend applications for permits to drill.

“BLM should revise their leasing program to offer only areas of high potential for oil and gas production with access to existing

oil and gas infrastructure, and avoid nominating or leasing low potential lands.

“To reduce the current rash of speculative leasing by hedge funds and other such entities, reforms must ensure that bidders, leaseholders and operators are publicly identified and financially and technically qualified to develop leases.”

As we have done for decades, we will continue to advocate for strong reforms to the federal oil and gas program, and we will work to ensure the proposed recommendations from the DOI are swiftly and effectively implemented.

Powder River Staff

EPA Releases Draft Rules to Reduce Methane Pollution

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently released new rules to reduce methane pollution. Prior to these rules, the last nationwide crackdown on methane was in 2016, when former President Obama's EPA released new requirements for oil and natural gas production. The recently released rules improve the 2016 standards. For the first time, the EPA will limit methane from existing oil and natural gas infrastructure, increase leak detection and repair for large methane-emitting sites, require oil wells to route the gas to a sales line or use gas onsite instead of venting or flaring unused gas, regulate emissions from loading and unloading, and require zero-bleed pneumatic controllers.

Despite the positive impact of these rules, many stakeholders hope to see the rules go further to address flaring and venting loopholes. The EPA held a public hearing in late November to receive input on the newly released draft rules. Powder River members Maria Katherman and Alex Bowler testified to the EPA about the importance of these rules and regular monitoring of wells near communities impacted by oil and gas development.

“The new methane requirements for the oil and gas industry have the potential to significantly improve air quality in Laramie County, as well as the rest of the state,” said Alex Bowler, a member of Powder River's affiliate organization, Cheyenne Area Landowners Coalition

(CALC).

Katherman pushed the agency for enforcement. “We can have all the regulations you want, but unless there is continuous monitoring and accurate reporting, these regulations will continue to be dodged. I hope we can depend on some increased inspections regularly. We would like to have a very clear way for citizens to report individual companies and see monitoring in real-time,” testified Katherman, a Powder River Board member.

After the conclusion of the federal rulemaking process, each state and tribal entity will be required to design and implement standards for this existing infrastructure, which must be at least as stringent as the federal emissions standards. These plans must be submitted sometime in 2023, and Powder River will remain engaged with and provide comments on Wyoming's implementation plan. The recently released methane rules are open to the public for comments, all comments must be submitted by Jan., 14, 2022. You can visit Western Organization of Resource Council's methane action page to make your voice heard: www.worc.org/take-action-tell-epa-to-protect-us-from-methane-pollution/.

**Monika Leininger
Powder River Staff**

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ecological-based knowledge systems are included in modern day resource management and economic restoration.

Baldes said for indigenous people, bringing the buffalo back is like putting a piece of their identity back that was taken from them. Furthermore, it's important for all Americans to understand the story of the buffalo because everything is connected and happens in cycles. “What we do to the Earth, we do to ourselves...we are all here on this planet together, and we are all here in Wyoming together.”

To learn more about Baldes's work, visit www.nwf.org/tribalbison or to support his work, visit www.nwf.org/givetobuffalo. The recording of his keynote presentation is available on Powder River's YouTube channel.

This being the second year of meeting virtually, the necessary business, including board nominations, discussion and voting on resolutions, and a review of the organization's 2021 work was handled expeditiously by Chair Marcia Westkott. Board elections were held with the following members being elected: Joyce Evans, Lynne Huskinson, Maria Katherman, Barbara Chase, and Greg Findley.

Westkott also recognized several other Board members who served this year: Stacy Page, Shiva Polfka, Joan Tellez, and Christy Gerrits. Powder River members passed new resolutions on electric vehicles and inclusivity. See the full resolutions printed in this issue for details.

The Annual Meeting Silent Auction was also held virtually, spanning a 10-day period in order to give people time to bid on the items. Scaled back to just 20 items, the auction was a success as Powder River members and supporters enthusiastically bid on a variety of unique Wyoming items. We want to thank all of the donors to the Silent Auction and the auction participants. This event remains an important fundraiser for the organization.

Powder River continues to be flexible and creative in coming together, and we sincerely appreciate our members helping us meet those needs. That being said, we hope we can gather in person next year for Powder River's 50th Annual Meeting.

**Robin EH. Bagley
Powder River Staff**

Regenerative Ranching – Life Depends on It

To most people, concern about soil health is something only gardeners and farmers need to worry about in order to raise giant pumpkins, succulent tomatoes and amber waves of grain. Truth is, the only way we can enjoy healthy food (food at all, for that matter) is through healthy soil, which is increasingly in short supply.

According to multiple well-documented studies by experts in the field of regenerative ag, soils across the planet have suffered years of degradation, largely from flawed, conventional agricultural practices such as deep tillage, planting monocrops (think wheat, corn and soybeans) year after year, confined animal feeding, overgrazing, and heavy applications of industrial herbicides, fungicides, pesticides, and fertilizers.

Not only do these conventional practices degrade the soil we depend on and the food we eat, (as you can imagine, chemicals that wipe out bugs and weeds are deathly on the minute lifeforms that create healthy soil) they also make growing food increasingly expensive and release large quantities of carbon into our atmosphere.

For ranching states like Wyoming this is additionally problematic in that all grazing animals are too often given a greenhouse gas black eye. However, when regenerative practices are applied, those grazers who spend little or no time in confined feedlots have shown that they are an essential tool in resolving soil degradation and retaining carbon in the soil where it belongs.

Soil science is very complex and there are no quick fixes to soil degradation. However, replacing conventional agricultural practices with regenerative agriculture is proving to be the ONLY long-term,

scientifically backed, affordable, and doable practice that can save our soil, food system, agricultural communities and suffering atmosphere.

Regenerative agriculture is not a trend. It's not in competition with any other system because it's the only system that's sustainable, affordable and, according to leaders in the field, can be successful almost anywhere on earth. The transition from conventional ag to regenerative ag is not a simple one, but more and more ranchers and farmers in Wyoming and around the world are proving that with the right tools and support, it can be done.

Powder River Basin Resource Council is ramping up efforts by organizing our *Regenerative Agriculture Wyoming* campaign to help Wyoming citizens and lawmakers understand and transition through education, resource sharing, work with other groups, and our budding regenerative rancher to rancher support group.

Look for regular mail, email and social media bulletins from *Regenerative Agriculture Wyoming* informing you about the ins and outs of regenerative ag, webinars, fieldtrips, and our ongoing Zoom gatherings of regenerative ranchers who meet to share notes, stories, successes and failures of becoming (or thinking about becoming) a successful regenerative agricultural producer. For more information, please email Pennie Vance, Ag and Local Foods Organizer at penniev@powderriverbasin.org or call at 307-672-5809.

Pennie Vance
Powder River Staff

Powder River is Hiring!

Powder River is seeking applicants to fill the position of Organizer.

Duties:

- Develop and implement organizing and grassroots campaign plans for diverse issue-based campaigns to reduce the impacts of energy development in Wyoming, with a particular focus on expanding renewable energy and keeping utility rates affordable;
- Recruit new members and engage in organizational outreach activities;
- Provide direction and support to members who are addressing issues of concern to the organization;
- Collaborate with members on research, campaigns, and communications;
- Represent Powder River to external public and private entities, including government departments, the state legislature, the media, and regulated businesses;
- Coach members to develop leadership, public presentation, and organizational skills;
- Participate in organizational fundraising, communications, and event responsibilities as assigned;
- Perform other activities as required or assigned.

Qualifications:

- Commitment to Powder River's mission, issues and values;

- Ability to work well with people from diverse backgrounds and viewpoints;
- Strong speaking and writing skills;
- Willingness and ability to work flexible hours, including some evening and weekend hours, and to travel;
- College degree (or equivalent work experience);
- Strong background in natural resource management, clean energy, agriculture and/or Wyoming issues preferred;
- Experience in issue-based campaign work, communications and/or fundraising also a plus.

Compensation and Benefits:

Base salary is \$42,000. Powder River offers a generous benefits package including health and dental insurance, vision, paid vacation leave, paid holidays and paid long-term sabbatical leave.

How to apply:

This position is open until filled, but we encourage applications as soon as possible. We expect to start interviews in January 2022. Powder River has two office locations, Sheridan and Lander, and while this position can be located anywhere in Wyoming, proximity to one of the offices is preferred.

If interested, please email a cover letter, resume, and two brief writing samples to info@powderriverbasin.org (include Organizer Position Application in the subject field)

Wyoming Voices Project Moves Forward

The first phase of the Wyoming Voices pilot project recently wrapped up, harvesting eight stories. The process was facilitated with StoryCenter, whose workshops provide skills and tools that support self-expression, creative practice, and community building. The video storytelling project will inform our work in Southwest Wyoming on energy transition.

“One of the most striking takeaways from this workshop for me was feeling each person’s connection to the southwestern part of Wyoming. Against this backdrop of buttes, vast open spaces, rivers carving into the land, and blue, blue skies, the storytellers spoke about searching for fossil fish, raising buffalo, making a living through coal, gas, and wind—but mostly about their connections to their parents and grandparents, and what they want for their own children,” said Mary Ann McNair, StoryCenter’s program director.

We went into the project with the assumption that Wyoming voices are a lot more diverse than the dominant narrative would have us believe. Even a group like Powder River is made up of members with different opinions and perspectives that impact ongoing conversations within the organization around the scope of our work. The participants had diverse backgrounds, work experiences, and reasons for loving Southwest Wyoming. So it wasn’t surprising that while all of the stories were distilled into three-to-four-minute videos, they were all different.



sure who the audience is. It is easier to tell a story if you know who is listening.” Storytelling is normally an iterative process, but the digital product alone doesn’t allow for that. The participants in our Wyoming Voices pilot project are pioneers who took some risks jumping into the unknown. Our intent is to elevate their voices in a way that leaves them feeling empowered.

We also learned how to do things better next time with the story process. (We have another 10 stories planned for next year). Some of what we’ve learned so far is that community building and storytelling are both endeavors that include a certain level of creative risk. We also learned that while people prefer face to face contact, we can connect virtually - though Wyoming faces many hurdles in that regard. Those obstacles have both implications and opportunities for policy making in education and health, as well as civic engagement.

The pilot project still has a research segment to it. In partnership with the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources at the University of Wyoming, we will be screening the video stories to a couple of focus groups. Community leaders will watch the videos and answer a series of questions about each, including what they saw, what themes appeared, and ways to connect to policy decisions.

One participant of a pilot focus group said that viewing the stories had a “humanizing effect that puts faces to coal communities,” offering some hopeful insights into how the stories of Wyoming Voices can be used to support grassroots-based, sustainable community development.

Meanwhile, a lot of changes are forecast for Southwest Wyoming, and local voices need to be part of the process. It’s part of our work at Powder River to make sure that those voices are both informed and elevated.

Our first collection of Wyoming Voices represents people who are also not averse to change, but they are also concerned about how political leaders will respond. It’s important to them that decisions include the creative and resilient people here who share many of the same place-based values. Our ongoing work is to empower citizens by informing them of the facts and helping them engage with the process. Grassroots power building and sharing can offer homegrown solutions versus corporate dependency.

The story circle experience was a reminder that we each see things differently, but together we can create a clearer vision. We look forward to building on our common ground.

We will make the videos available on our website and YouTube channel as soon as possible. We’ll also be doing some outreach for the Wyoming Voices story project once the focus groups are complete in December. Stay tuned for updates!

Michele Irwin
Powder River Basin Staff



Powder River staffer Michele Irwin had the opportunity to participate in the story creation process, and found that sharing the story circle experience was itself a form of community building. Participant Susan Hunzie, former mayor of Diamondville and a leader in community health, spoke about her grandfather, who spearheaded unionizing the local miners after the 1923 disaster. Sharing her story connected her to the current needs of her community and how they might be addressed.

“The process was enlightening on developing a message of hope,” she said.

Another storyteller appreciated the opportunity to see his story from another perspective. He had been wrestling with how he was “supposed to feel” about having made his living in coal, but can now see the benefits it brought to his family and the community. A couple of stories reflect on booms of the past while others are already riding the winds of the future. People spoke passionately and poetically about what they want to leave for future generations.

The facilitators with StoryCenter used deep listening and guided prompts to help steer narratives towards proactive action. It was an empowering experience that revealed participants’ grit and what people love about living here.

Part of this pilot project is to discover how the process itself has value, as well as how stories can be used to add value to our work. We already have some ideas in mind, but also need to let the project run its course. One comment from one of our storytellers was, “I’m still not

Will Carbon Capture Be the Next Wyoming Boondoggle?

Now that our nation is finally getting serious about climate change, elected officials and company representatives are rushing to pursue carbon capture projects in an attempt to keep coal going in a “net zero” carbon world. Carbon capture is not new, however, and many projects over the past decade plus have been proposed. These projects have all been abandoned before being built or discarded after the fact because of economic and technological problems. Even the one project that has made it to the finish line, at the Dry Fork power plant near Gillette, only captures a very small portion of the carbon dioxide from that coal unit,

and while there are modest plans to expand and capture the carbon dioxide for permanent underground storage, the proposals are still in the preliminary research stage at the University of Wyoming. For these reasons, Powder River members passed a resolution at the 2020 Annual Meeting opposing further state or federal investment in carbon capture projects at coal plants. After all of the hype in the glossy public relations materials is removed, members like you are left wondering if carbon capture is simply too little too late to do any good to address climate change, let alone “save” coal jobs and revenue.

Nevertheless, the hype continues. Let’s start off with House Bill 200. Remember this bill from the 2020 legislative session? It is the nation’s first – and likely only – mandate for utilities to install carbon capture at coal plants and use that power to generate electricity for customers. Modeled after renewable energy standards passed in other states, the bill left the key details for rulemaking before the Wyoming Public Service Commission (PSC). The PSC wrapped up that rulemaking this fall, and the upshot is utilities have to look at the possibility of carbon capture at *every* single coal unit – or explain why that unit is not available for carbon capture because of economic or technical reasons. In short, the rules require the *highest possible* amount of carbon capture. Under the rules, utilities have to submit a plan to the PSC this coming March that will lay out their analysis and proposal to implement this new mandate. Only investor-owned utilities are subject to the rules, meaning while Rocky Mountain Power, Black Hills Energy/Cheyenne Light, and MDU have to submit proposals, the rural electric cooperatives are exempt from compliance.

The legislative goal of House Bill 200 is try to and stop retirements of coal plants like the Dave Johnston power plant near

Further complicating matters on the economic side of things is Wyoming customers alone are forced to cover the costs of compliance with House Bill 200, resulting in a small pool of ratepayers to shoulder the burden of these billion dollar projects.

Glenrock, but given the age of the plants and other technical and economic concerns, the jury is still out on whether carbon capture will help achieve this goal. Further complicating matters on the economic side of things is Wyoming customers alone are forced to cover the costs of compliance with House Bill 200, resulting in a small pool of ratepayers to shoulder the burden of these billion dollar projects. Powder River was closely engaged in the rulemaking process, and we will pay attention to the plans submitted in March, objecting or raising questions on behalf of our members as needed. **If you haven’t already done so, sign up for our Wyoming Association of**

Ratepayers to stay engaged and informed: wyoassociationratepayers.com.

On the national side, Congress is busy passing along the costs of carbon capture onto the federal treasury. The recently signed into law infrastructure bill contains more than \$12 billion in funding for carbon capture projects. And Congress isn’t stopping there. The “Build Back Better Act” aka the budget reconciliation bill (yes that bill that has been delayed for months because of political wrangling) contains a 70% increase in the federal tax break for carbon capture projects, extends the timeframe for the tax breaks to projects that start construction before 2032, and allows it to be paid through a direct payment versus the current tax credit scheme. Companies are also hoping to amend the bill to water down monitoring requirements designed to ensure carbon dioxide stays underground and conditions of the tax credit requiring a larger percentage of carbon dioxide to be captured at a facility. With these amendments, the tax break (called the 45Q program) could result in tens of billions of dollars for fossil fuel companies and utilities. The question remains whether these additional subsidies will be enough to finally put carbon capture projects over the finish line, but the policy will certainly attract a bunch of companies willing to try.

Billions aside, Powder River will keep its nose to the ground to sniff out the reality from the hype. We will continue to represent the interests of our members in having our utilities generate affordable, clean power. Stay tuned and stay engaged to help us achieve this mission.

**Shannon Anderson
Powder River Staff**

Donate a Car to Powder River



Powder River staff members travel around Wyoming, and we put a lot of miles on our cars. We keep them well-maintained as we want the staff to travel safely. However, the vehicles do eventually wear out. In the past we have been lucky enough to have members donate cars in good condition, which is a wonderful gift for Powder River.

If you have a reliable, dependable car that you would like to donate, please contact the office at 307-672-5809. Thanks to all of our members for their continued support!

Smith: It's Time to Shift Carbon Capture Priorities

An article in the Nov. 21 Casper Star-Tribune on carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) is titled, "Carbon capture may not be coal's savior. But it could spawn an industry all its own." There is ample evidence supporting the first proposition and contradicting the recent spate of federal research grants and state legislative actions tied to coal-based carbon capture. For Wyoming, the second proposition may hinge on the realignment of carbon capture research to focus on non-coal sources of carbon dioxide, such as natural gas turbines and combined cycle plants. These have become the resource of choice to generate baseload power and to back up intermittent wind and solar. In 2020, U.S. electricity production from natural gas more than doubled that of coal.

The push to commercialize coal carbon capture finds itself at the mercy of a rapidly diminishing fleet of coal-fired power plants. Market forces led to the retirement of 40% of U.S. coal generating capacity between 2010 and 2019. This trend will continue, since the capacity-weighted average age of operating plants is 42 years, and most plants are retired by age 50. No new coal plants of significant size have come online in this country since 2013. Morgan Stanley predicts that "electricity from coal will likely disappear from the U.S. power grid by 2033, largely replaced by renewable energy resources."

Whether or not this forecast is overly aggressive, the history of capturing carbon from coal plant exhaust is fraught with technical and economic failure. The coal-fired Petra Nova plant in Houston provides the largest and most recent case study. The plant purportedly shut down last year due to low oil prices, but the rebound to over \$60 per barrel in 2021 has not triggered any plan to restart it. More likely, Petra Nova's frequent outages and 46% capacity utilization during the first five months of 2020 convinced its backers to cut their financial losses. According to Reuters, the plant suffered chronic mechanical problems and routinely missed its targets.

A report by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis claimed Petra Nova's shutdown "highlights the deep financial risks" facing other CCUS projects in the works. The report concludes that Petra Nova failed to perform as advertised and that other planned coal-fired carbon capture projects face a similar fate. "Proponents of these projects are selling an unproven dream that in all likelihood will become a nightmare for unsuspecting investors."

Like most CCUS demonstration projects, Petra Nova incorporated a

liquid amine solvent to separate the carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the flue gas. Its owners claimed to have achieved 90% CO₂ removal but failed to account for the carbon emissions from its auxiliary power and steam generation. Even under ideal circumstances, this process pays a 25% energy penalty due to the required pumps, compressors, and steam used to reheat the solvent. This added fuel cost, along with amplified capital and operating costs, would destroy any chance that coal has to compete in the electric power market.

This is not to discount the merits of CCUS research. Ongoing carbon sequestration research in Wyoming could prove worthwhile as a strategy applicable to any large source of CO₂. Also, a membrane separation technology scheduled for testing at the Integrated Test Center near Gillette may hold promise for non-coal applications. It would reduce the energy penalty and water consumption compared to liquid absorption and eliminate hazardous chemical emissions. But the prohibitive cost of achieving suitable carbon separation efficiencies calls for application-specific research and development.

The carbon capture component of CCUS research should steer away from coal, and target emission reductions from sources that are expected to grow in demand. Examples include natural gas-fueled power generation, cement manufacturing, biofuel refining, hydrogen production from steam methane reforming, and pre-combustion separation through fossil fuel gasification. These processes all present challenges distinct from coal plant emissions (e.g., the much lower carbon content and higher temperature of gas turbine exhaust).

The former CEO of the Global CCS Institute applauded the current move from CCUS "being falsely identified only as a coal fired power generation technology to being increasingly embraced as a vital element of meeting the climate challenge." It is time to shift federal and state carbon capture priorities away from outdated technologies that have little commercialization potential toward those that could make a real and timely difference in the battle to slow climate change.

Ronn Smith
Powell, WY

Editor's Note: This is reprinted from the Dec. 5, 2021 issue of the Casper Star-Tribune.

2021 Powder River Resolutions

Support for Inclusivity in Powder River Basin Resource Council Work

WHEREAS, Powder River Basin Resource Council's mission is to advocate and educate on behalf of the conservation and responsible use of natural resources so as to sustain human communities while assuring the health and vitality of the earth;

WHEREAS, healthy communities, both biological and social, are diverse communities;

WHEREAS, the questions we face in our decisions concerning resource use and management are inseparable from the social questions concerning fair treatment and inclusivity that we face in our human communities;

WHEREAS, we cannot make decisions about our relationship to the air, land, and water without taking into account the diverse experiences

and hopes of all community members;

WHEREAS, taking such diverse experience into account requires being fully inclusive, that is, attentive to, and listening to each voice;

WHEREAS, just and equitable treatment of one another is the precondition to just and equitable treatment of the earth;

WHEREAS, our efforts on behalf of the health of the land, air, and water as well as the health of both human and non-human communities are driven by love—love of the natural world, of the beings that inhabit that world, and of our fellow human beings;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Powder River Basin Resource Council supports and fosters in its work universal inclusion of the array of voices that exist in our local communities and in the interlocking web of communities in our society.

2021 Resolutions...Continued from previous page

Support of Electric Vehicles Infrastructure and Equitable Taxation

WHEREAS, the petroleum-fueled transportation sector is now one of the largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the nation and is a contributing factor to air pollution and climate change, threatening the health of our residents and the sustainability of our planet;

WHEREAS, it's vital that transportation move toward the adoption of clean energy technology, including electric vehicles (EVs), that reduces our dependence on fossil fuels and supports a healthy environment and economy;

WHEREAS, as the nation transitions to EVs, we face challenges regarding taxation and road maintenance since EVs do not pay fuel taxes;

WHEREAS, Wyoming currently has one of the highest vehicle registration surcharges for EVs while providing no incentives for EV purchase or charging;

WHEREAS, EVs need affordable and reliable energy for charging;

WHEREAS, with flexible smart grid connections, EVs can serve as storage and return that energy to the grid;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Powder River Basin Resource Council supports state and local investments in EV charging station infrastructure needed to accommodate the transition to EVs and their integration into a flexible, reliable, smart grid;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Powder River Basin Resource Council supports equitable taxation of EVs that help to replace vital fuel tax revenue for the state of Wyoming, without reducing the competitiveness or accessibility of EV purchase.

Proposal to Relax...Continued from page 1

monitored pollutants. Aethon's failure to comply with chloride limits has been a chronic problem, causing significant adverse impacts to aquatic life, and monitoring for chloride is necessary to evaluate whether the proposed chloride compliance schedule is sufficient to protect aquatic life. We also noted that monitoring for chloride in Badwater Creek downstream from the authorized discharges is a critical element in this evaluation.

In addition to chloride, the sampling results we reviewed from the discharge testing revealed high levels of benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylenes, or BTEX, in Aethon's discharge. The BTEX concentrations reported in the discharge samples were 500 times above the safe drinking water limit and these chemicals are known to be toxic and carcinogenic. Wyoming regulations prohibit produced water discharges that contain toxic materials in concentrations or combinations which are toxic to human, animal or aquatic life. We requested that WDEQ require an effluent limit for BTEX and enforce that limit. We also noted that the permit prohibits "discharges of drilling fluids, acids, stimulation waters or other fluids derived from the drilling or completion of wells are not allowed under this permit." Yet these high levels of

BTEX are likely coming from drilling and completion activities and DEQ is ignoring and failing to address the problem.

High concentrations of sulfides, chloride and total dissolved solids (TDS) are causing damage. According to our experts, the TDS exceeding 5,000 mg/L in the effluent have clearly harmed aquatic life in Alkali Creek. We wrote, "Although maintaining the current permit's load limit of 908 tons TDS/month might help to protect aquatic communities in Boysen Reservoir and downstream in the Wind River, the continued lack of an effluent concentration limit for TDS has potential to and has likely already harmed aquatic life in Alkali Creek and downstream in Badwater Creek, threatening aquatic life use designation for these surface waters."

We emphasized to DEQ that given the toxic pollutants involved, we oppose removing pollutants from the permit. The permit needs to be strengthened rather than relaxed and DEQ has failed to justify these changes, which violates federal and state anti-backsliding provisions.

Jill Morrison
Powder River Member

National Coal Council.....Continued from page 3

that are functionally identical — the Council chartered under FACA and a 501(c)(6) not-for-profit corporate entity called "NCC, Inc."

WORC released a letter from members this past September detailing the highly inappropriate relationship between the NCC, and its corporate alter ego, National Coal Council, Inc. WORC urged Secretary of Energy, Jennifer Granholm to scrutinize and restructure or terminate the NCC. The letter described how the NCC includes no perspectives from individuals or organizations working to address the negative impacts of coal extraction, and there are no clear lines of separation between NCC and NCC, Inc. The industry association blatantly funds and influences the work of the NCC, resulting in biased information to the Department of Energy on behalf of the coal industry.

"The National Coal Council was a group of corporate lobbyists

masquerading as a government advisory committee, so the Department of Energy is right to let the group's charter expire," said Ellen Pfister, a Northern Plains Resource Council board member who ranched adjacent to coal development in Montana's Bull Mountains. "Any new council must represent the interests of all stakeholders, especially those directly impacted by coal development. First priorities for any new advisory body should be determining how to create new jobs for coal workers by cleaning up mined lands and accurately assessing the larger financial and social burdens that coal production brings to bear on our climate, water, and air quality."

Western Organization of Resource Councils

BLM to Analyze Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Oil & Gas Leasing

On Nov. 1, the Wyoming Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced that only 195 of the 459 parcels originally proposed were eligible for inclusion in the upcoming oil and gas lease sale, deferring the remainder of the parcels because of conflicts with sage-grouse habitat protection policies. They also announced that they would be conducting a full environmental assessment of the remaining parcels, including an analysis of the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the federal leasing program. While environmental analysis of parcels has routinely included potential impacts of leasing and subsequent oil and gas development on air and water resources and wildlife habitat, the agency's review of climate change causing pollution has been limited. BLM announced a new policy to consider a robust accounting of methane and carbon pollution, in addition to reviewing the social costs of carbon for the first time.

It's long past time for a comprehensive greenhouse gas emissions analysis to be a part of BLM's decision to lease or not lease parcels for oil and gas development. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to consider environmental effects, including impacts on social, cultural, and economic resources. Climate change, a result of ongoing greenhouse gas emissions from oil and gas development, undeniably causes environmental degradation and increases risks to human health. NEPA requires consideration of alternatives and measures to mitigate those impacts, which should include a no-lease alternative.

In Wyoming, the negative effects of climate change are becoming more evident and the science is undeniably clear. Following record-breaking high temperatures this summer, this fall has been unseasonably warm. Increasing winter temperatures, particularly at high elevations,

decrease snowpack and increase the likelihood of 'rain-on-snow' events, which erode snowpack even further. Springtime is warmer and begins earlier, meaning melting occurs too early and too fast, leading to water shortages impacting grazing lands and farming.

Wildfire intensity and frequency is also increasing. Exposure to smoke from these fires increases the risk of both acute and chronic respiratory illness, and can travel from hundreds of miles away to force us inside even when there is no nearby fire. Smoke poses a risk to wildlife as well, not to mention the habitat impacts that can occur after large and intense wildfires.

"These effects will get exponentially worse in the coming decades unless we cut emissions in half by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050. As one quarter of all US emissions come from leases on our federal lands, we can't avoid the worst impacts of global warming if we allow these emissions to increase. It is imperative that the BLM consider emissions and climate impacts when evaluating any new leases on our public lands," Greg Findley, Powder River board member and Lander resident said.

While the BLM has not said if it will defer lease parcels or stop leasing altogether because of climate change concerns, starting to consider climate impacts in the scope of the agency's environmental review is an important step in the right direction. When considering greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the proposed leases, we hope the administration will realize offering almost 200 parcels in Wyoming is inappropriate under NEPA guidelines.

Lottie Mitchell
Powder River Staff

Three Cheers for Four Years

After four years, I've made the difficult decision to leave my post at Powder River. In my tenure at our organization, I've grown unequivocally close to our members and the genuine people who live across Wyoming's mountains, valleys, and plains. I've had the absolute pleasure of working on a variety of issues for our organization including renewable energy, agriculture, oil and gas, coal transition, and our legislative work. I'm so thankful I've had the opportunity to get to know and learn from our amazing staff and leaders.

As hard it is to leave my current role, I am overjoyed that in my new position I will remain close to my roots here at Powder River. In January 2022, I will begin my new position at our regional network, the Western Organization of Resource Councils (WORC). Powder River

and several other organizations formed WORC in 1979, and WORC has helped to provide training, coordinate issue work, and advance our vision of a sustainable and just society through community action for the last 40 years. At my new position as Oil and Gas Regional Organizer, I will be organizing across the seven states and several sovereign tribal nations we serve to coordinate action on federal and state oil and gas issues. As you might know, mitigating pollution caused by oil and gas development is one of the issues nearest and dearest to my heart...and I'm just getting started. Let 'er buck!

Monika Leininger
Powder River Staff

Thank You For All Your Support!!

**WISHING YOU A
HAPPY HOLIDAY!**



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Save the Date

2022

28 January Board Meeting, Online

14 February Wyoming Legislature Starts

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 percent-

age 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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