

POWDER RIVER BREAKS

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ENCOURAGING RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT TODAY ~ FOR TOMORROW



Effects of OBBB on Wyoming

Tudor Marks
Powder River Member

As we are bombarded with the latest waves of chaos from Washington, including a government shutdown, it is difficult to focus on the specifics of what will actually impact us in Wyoming. To help with this, our affiliate organization, the Western Organization of Resource Councils (WORC) has

recently completed a detailed analysis of the impacts of the One Big Beautiful Bill, or OBBB, on all citizens and then, more specifically on Wyoming and its neighboring states in the Rocky Mountain West and the Great Plains.

SPECIFIC AREAS OF IMPACT:

OIL AND GAS

The portion of the bill relating to oil and gas reversed many of the reforms previously created by the Inflation Reduction Act and instituted a new industry subsidy, a 25% reduction of royalty rates paid by oil and gas companies, which decreases funds coming into the federal treasury and oil and gas producing states like Wyoming. It opened over 200 million acres of federal land to oil and gas development and, at the same time, limits the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) discretion in denying leases where controversial land issues arise. This unregulated expansion of leasing on public lands will take a toll on the environment and the health and safety of the public. The bill also delayed the implementation of the Methane Emission Reduction Program. These actions will have negative financial and environmental impacts on Wyoming.

COAL

The section of the OBBB devoted to coal contains several provisions intended to prop up this industry. The two main provisions of the bill are those which reduce the royalties paid by coal operators to the state and federal governments and secondly to significantly expand the area of public lands available for coal production. These provisions are potentially crucial to Wyoming as the largest coal producing state in the US.

The first provision, to greatly reduce royalties paid to the state and federal government, is especially important to Wyoming. Under that provision, royalties on surface mines were reduced by 40% which according to a study by Wyoming NPR, could cost the state \$50 million dollars annually. This loss of revenue will divert money away from Wyoming schools, healthcare, roads and other state programs.

The second provision, to expand the amount of public land available for coal leasing, is likely to have little impact due to the decline in world coal markets and the resulting lack of interest from coal producers to place more land under lease.

MEDICAID AND RURAL HOSPITAL CLOSURES

Overall, OBBB cut \$1 trillion from nationwide healthcare programs. This was done by making Medicare and Medicaid harder to access. Nationwide, the Congressional Budget Office



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Message from the Chair



I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Lynne Huskinson and I am the new Board Chair of Powder River Basin Resource Council. I've been a Powder River member and a board member for over five years as well as a board member for the Western Organization of Resource Councils, our umbrella organization. When I moved to Gillette my senior year of high school I had no idea two years later I'd be driving a haul truck for Amax Coal Company. From 1979 until 2019 I was a heavy equipment operator for seven different coal companies at the same mine. On July 1st 2019 the company I worked for laid off 600 coal miners without warning. I retired and have not been a coal miner since then. I met Shannon Anderson, Powder River's former staff attorney, when we realized we were in the same MSNBC story featuring the Blackjewel Bankruptcy in Gillette. I then heard from former Powder River director, Jill Morrison, and before you know it I had been organized into becoming a member of Powder River! In 2020 I testified at the legislature about what had happened in our coal community by letting a vulture capitalist buy two coal mines. One legislator reminded me of what coal had done for the state and that I should be more respectful, but I believe that Wyoming people deserve their fair share of what we have given the extractive companies, not the other way around.

I loaded a lot of coal before I thought about what I was doing to the environment. I'm not ashamed of being a miner but I am not proud of everything either. Now I want to do whatever I can to pay it forward so that my grandchildren can play in the forests and fish in the lakes, and so that their children will get the same opportunities and so on.

I'm thankful for our Powder River members who helped get us to where we are today. Our communities deserve a resource they can turn to for answers about issues like AI data centers, nuclear facilities, uranium mining, country of origin labeling for meat products, and more! I'm looking forward to serving Powder River Basin Resource Council and especially meeting more members. I look forward to this new year of 2026 to use our voice and people power to make a difference.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynne Huskinson".

Chair, Board of Directors

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, Nebraska Organizing Project, North Dakota Native Voice, Northern Plains Resource Council, Oregon Rural Action, Western Colorado Alliance for Community Action, 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

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ASSISTANT DIRECTOR.....	Katherine Schrock
COMMUNITY ORGANIZER....	Claire Deuter
COMMUNITY ORGANIZER.....	Stephen Magnifico

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POWDER RIVER BREAKS

Photos by Powder River staff and members

Welcoming Back a Successful Harvest Celebration

This year's Harvest Celebration, planned and hosted by the PRBRC Board of Directors, was enjoyed by over 80 people. The event included a roasted half-hog and a buffet of homemade side dishes, reunions between friends, Pies by Guys auction and musicians jamming on the porch of Kearney Hall near the town of Story. A success of the evening included being very close to meeting the goal of a zero-waste event. Pictured is Board Member Barbara Chase holding up a bag.

A quick web search on Zero Waste can detail how to host your own celebration & gatherings.

Peer-Reviewed, International Definition of Zero Waste: "The conservation of all resources by means of responsible production, consumption, reuse, and recovery of products, packaging, and materials without burning and with no discharges to land, water, or air that threaten the environment or human health." As reported by the EPA, December 2018.



Young boy offering up a bid during "Pies by Guys"

Board Member Barbara Chase holding up the bag of minimal waste



Thank you to the 2025 Board of Directors for sponsoring the Harvest Celebration

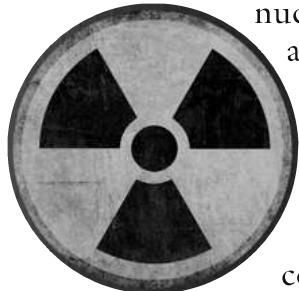
NEEDING NUCLEAR TRANSPARENCY

Claire Deuter
Powder River Staff

One can hardly open the Wyoming news these days without seeing something about nuclear power. There is great debate about the future of nuclear in the state. Industry and government officials tout the benefits that would come with the expansion of the nuclear industry, such as jobs and economic opportunities, but many community members wonder

who they can trust and whether their elected officials are being transparent with their constituents. I've spoken with Powder River members who feel lost in their search for unbiased information. They ask, "Who is looking out for us? How will this affect my community and environment? Where will they put the nuclear waste?"

Governor Gordon recently spoke at a Wyoming Business Alliance event where he emphasized the importance of nuclear energy in an "all-of-the-above" energy policy. The Governor enthusiastically embraces the future of nuclear energy but Wyoming state law still sets limits on the storage of nuclear waste. Wyoming law does not allow the storage of out-of-state nuclear waste in Wyoming. This law was one of the



barriers that led Radiant Industries to move its proposed microreactor project from Bar Nunn to Tennessee.

Not every nuclear project deals with nuclear waste, but that doesn't mean the community doesn't have questions. The 165-year old company BWXT proposed a nuclear fuel plant in Gillette that would not create or store nuclear waste. The company has held public information sessions throughout the state, showcasing its cutting edge technology and projected jobs for the community. While these public meetings do provide information, the information is still coming from the industry and does not satisfy the community's need for unbiased information.

While I do not have all the answers myself, I do know that there is power in people.

We can come together and demand answers. This is our state, after all. Industry may come and go, but Wyomingites are the ones who are here for the long haul. If you have similar concerns and questions on nuclear, please call me at the Powder River office at 307-672-5809 so we can work together to protect our Wyoming communities.

Does the Data Add Up?

Donna Birkholz & Stephen Magnifico
Powder River Staff

Data centers and AI (artificial intelligence) are in the news all over the country and here in Wyoming, too. In many cases, data center proposals are negotiated with city councils or county commissioners under an NDA (non-disclosure agreement). Data centers contain servers which enable large volumes of data to be stored and used "in the cloud," and have existed for awhile - but these newer data centers are much larger and enable the storage and manipulation of vastly more data, now being used to power AI (like ChatGPT and AI art programs) and data-gathering by corporations and even the government. In some cases, proposed

data centers will consume more electricity than the city (or even state) where they are being built.

People are concerned about data centers for a multitude of reasons, including the potential for increased electrical bills, air quality concerns, the water supply, potential lack of community input, impacts on long term job opportunities, and more.

Powder River wants to respond to data center questions from an informed position and anticipates that we will have a resolution regarding data centers and AI at our next annual meeting. Therefore, we've established a committee to study data centers and AI. Please let us know if you have questions or concerns about data centers and artificial intelligence.

Coal: Can't Force a Comeback

Claire Deuter
Powder River Staff

The Trump administration in recent weeks has taken steps to revive the coal industry by rolling back regulations and appropriating \$625 million in a coal spending package. Governor Gordon applauded Trump's efforts. But can the government really revive coal? The facts show otherwise.

The Trump administration attempted to hold coal lease auctions in Montana and Wyoming in October but halted the attempt after receiving incredibly low bids for the federal coal. For Montana's Spring Creek Mine, the Navajo Transitional Energy Company, the sole bidder, bid \$186,000 for 167 million tons of federal coal. That results in less than a penny per ton of coal, a strikingly low price compared to \$1.10 per ton from the last major sale in the region over a decade ago. After this flop, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) postponed a coal lease sale for the West Antelope III Mine in Wyoming's Powder River Basin.

This failed auction should not come as a surprise. Data shows that cheap natural gas, renewables, and other energy sources have been increasing the share of energy production in the nation while coal declines. Despite the facts, politicians in D.C. keep pushing to bring back coal. In Congress, Wyoming's delegation is attempting to invalidate the BLM's Buffalo Field

Office Resource Management Plan Amendment (RMPA) which banned future federal coal leasing in the Powder River Basin. The BLM finalized the amendment last year after years of consultation with hundreds of local ranchers, farmers, property owners, and others in Wyoming whose livelihoods depend on responsible management of public lands and minerals in the Powder River Basin. Our Wyoming senators and representative should take a look at the harsh reality for coal before they put all their time into forcing more sales. The failed West Antelope III auction shows that forcing coal's comeback is not a fruitful effort.

On top of all this, the federal government slashed the royalty rates for coal in an attempt to attract industry. Industry pays royalties to the federal government for the extracted federal resources. The federal government then gives a portion of the royalties to the state where the production occurred, allowing the state to fund community needs like schools and roads. Drastically reducing royalty rates in a flopping market is not the way to set up Wyoming communities for success.

Our decisionmakers being in denial about the state of the coal market will not help Wyoming. Lawmakers need to look at the economic reality of the energy market and start making decisions that provide funding and stability for our communities.

Plastic Reduction Tips for 2026

1) Carry reusable bags:

Use them for all shopping, not just groceries!



- Forgot your bags?

Ask for paper bags to pack your purchases.

- Bought only one or two items?

Decline the plastic bag and expose the receipt with your purchase.

2) Carry a "zero-waste" kit:

Pack a reusable fork, knife, spoon, and straw to avoid plastic cutlery.

3) Reduce micro-plastics by using a simple online search to learn how!

Member Opportunity!

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

~ Margaret Mead

Would you like to be more involved in Powder River Basin Resource Council's efforts? The PRBRC Board of Directors is looking for members who are interested in joining its committees. From events to issue topics, we have a place where we can use your voice. Please call the office (307-672-5809) to learn more about how you can help build Powder River's effectiveness.

INTRODUCING PRBC'S NEW STAFF LINE-UP

Donna Birkholz

Donna is the product of a Montana ranch family - the two Montana ranches are raising the fifth and sixth generation on those properties, and her Wyoming cousins are raising second, third, and sixth generations on their ranches.

Donna graduated with degrees in history and anthropology from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She returned to the West with a Master's in cultural anthropology from the University of Kansas - and a husband, Paul, who was born and raised in Sheridan. They brought up their two children in Sheridan while operating their family business. Donna is an avid downhill skier and enjoys time in the mountains and traveling around our beautiful state. Indoors or outdoors, Donna generally has a book in her hands (She is currently reading Matthew Henry's *Hydronarratives*).

Before joining us at Powder River Basin Resource Council, Donna worked in collegiate student affairs, with UW Cooperative Extension, with the Daniels Fund, at the family business, and as a volunteer fiber arts leader with 4-H. She is the current board chair for the Wyoming chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), in addition to being an AFSP Advocacy Ambassador.

Community, stewardship, and caring for the land for the benefit of subsequent generations is in Donna's DNA, and she is excited to continue Powder River Basin Resource Council's proven, member-driven efforts to ensure that Wyoming's land, air, and water are healthy and responsibly managed.



Claire Deuter



Claire is a community organizer based in Sheridan. She focuses on a variety of issues to empower individuals and protect Wyoming's air, water, land, and communities. She also leads Powder River's communications work.

Claire joined the Powder River team in 2022 as a renewable energy organizer and attorney where she focused largely on protecting rooftop solar policies. She later worked as a campaign coordinator for the Western Organization of Resource Councils with a focus on oil and gas and carbon capture issues. She returned to Powder River in 2025 to continue fighting for Wyoming. She looks forward to working with members to address issues in energy development, agriculture, and more.

Claire grew up in Rapid City, South Dakota. She studied Political Science and Global Studies at South Dakota State University and received a Certificate in Environmental and Natural Resources Law from Lewis & Clark Law School.

In her free time she likes to explore the outdoors, travel, and volunteer at Second Chance Sheridan Cat Rescue where she currently serves as board president. She lives in Sheridan with her partner, dog, and three cats.

Stephen Magnifico

Born in Memphis, Tennessee, Stephen developed a passion for the outdoors at a young age while spending summers and holidays in the nearby Ozark Mountains of Arkansas. After moving to Arizona and working for a while as a residential solar salesman, he would later go on to travel the West, eventually landing in Montana's Paradise Valley. It was there that he became interested in the unique environment and issues of the Mountain West. He would eventually return to Arizona to work in campaigns for political candidates and causes that aligned with his values of protecting our climate and environment. Meanwhile, Stephen continued his schooling through an online program at the University of Memphis, eventually graduating with a degree in Business Administration.

Now, after several years of experience building community through short-term political campaigns, he is excited to build



We ARE Laramie.

long-term community power around issues affecting Wyoming's environment and communities.

In his free time, Stephen can be found hiking, camping, rafting, and otherwise enjoying the natural world with his wife and dog. He also enjoys helping locally based political organizations build power and run effective campaigns.

Natalie Future Plans and Goodbye



After nearly a year and a half at Powder River, I have made the difficult decision to leave Wyoming for an opportunity to live in Zurich, Switzerland, where my husband will be researching precipitation formation in the Alps for ETH Zurich.

I am so incredibly grateful for my time at Powder River. Having the opportunity to learn from staff, board members, and members across the state is something I will always remember about my time in Wyoming. I have learned how truly special Wyoming is—its beauty, its people, and the remarkable change that a group of dedicated citizens can make. It really is a small town with long roads!

Powder River's strength lies in being member-driven. Your voices, concerns, and actions are what make this work possible. I encourage you to continue using your voice to help protect Wyoming. I look forward to hearing about all the wonderful things Powder River will continue to accomplish—as the organization's first member in Switzerland!

What does Grassroots Organizing Mean to You?

At our Annual Meeting, we asked members this question. The word cloud shows the most frequent words that appeared in their responses.



In future editions of the Breaks, we'll be including an organizing tip or lesson for our members. For this edition, we invite you to reflect: What does grassroots organizing mean to you?

Powder River's 53rd Annual Meeting

Unleashing Our Potential

Donna Birkholz
Powder River Staff

On October 25th, members of Powder River Basin Resource Council gathered in Sheridan for our 53rd annual meeting. The theme for this year's meeting was "Unleashing our Potential," and noted local author Sam Western was our keynote speaker while the Fire Ants provided musical entertainment.

We began with our business meeting, where the theme of "Unleashing Our Potential" was apparent, as we discussed the past year and plans for the coming one. While there were no new member resolutions this year, there were robust discussions of current and potential issues, ranging from coal, oil, and gas, to data centers and more.

As usual, our silent and live auctions had many sought-after items donated by members and community businesses, ranging from foods to artwork to experiences. Whether you were interested in something sweet for your breakfast (jams, honey), a work of art for your walls, or a holiday date with brunch and a WYO theater performance, there was something for everyone.

Natalie even brought a Juneauper Gin from Alaska, which was hotly contested.

Everyone enjoyed gathering with new and old friends to reconnect. It was a pleasure to have founding members and recent (or potential) members gathered together because of our commitment to protecting Wyoming's rural way of life as we steward its land, air, minerals, and water.

Local author Sam Western was our keynote speaker. His most recent book, *The Spirit of 1889*, examines how the states which were created from the Dakota Territory have grown and changed since their initial statehood, and argues that we need our region to return to the original values of our early statehood and embrace pluralism. Western's address reminded us again of the need to "unleash our potential" and work for the betterment of our state.

Please plan to attend next year's Annual Meeting! We look forward to seeing you over the coming year, but the Annual Meeting is a special opportunity to celebrate the year's achievements and begin planning our efforts for the following year.

Building Power

Lessons from Rural Electrification

Natalie Johansen
Staff

Rural electrification stands as one of America's most successful grassroots movements— one that literally changed the lives of millions of people by bringing power to rural America. At Powder River, we talk often about building power through grassroots organizing. The story of rural electrification is a reminder that community power means exactly that—power!

In the 1930's the cities had power while in rural America, one in ten rural households were able to turn lights on. Rural communities did what grassroots organizers have always done—they saw a problem, talked to their neighbors, and they organized to solve it themselves. The Rural Electrification Act of 1936 didn't hand rural Americans electricity—it gave them the tools to bring themselves power. Out of this movement, rural electric cooperatives began, continuing the people driven model they still use today. By the 1950's, cooperatives had connected over 90% of American farms to the electric grid.

Today, rural electric cooperatives serve 42 million Americans across 56 percent of the nation's land. They still remain true to their grassroots model, where they are owned by the members they serve. Every member gets a vote and can even have a seat on the board as well. Here in Wyoming, there are fourteen cooperatives bringing power to 104,000 homes, businesses, ranches, and farms across the state according to the Wyoming Rural Electric Association.

The story of rural electrification holds lessons for anyone working to strengthen communities in Wyoming. Rural electrification was successful because it addressed a real, felt need—the best organizing begins with listening to what communities actually need. Co-op members didn't just vote once and walk away—they attended meetings, served on boards, and held representatives accountable, demonstrating that democracy requires participation.

If you're a member of a rural electric cooperative, we encourage you to get involved, whether by attending meetings, running for the board, or simply staying informed. Start by visiting your cooperative's website to learn about upcoming annual meetings, board elections, and member programs. You can also visit the Wyoming Rural Electric Association to learn more about cooperatives across the state. Whether you're engaging with your electric co-op or our campaigns for clean water, clean energy, or agriculture, the work is the same— building power from the ground up.



Looking Ahead to the Legislative Session

Claire Deuter
Powder River Staff

As we begin a new year, Powder River is preparing for the upcoming legislative session in Cheyenne. Like we do every year, Powder River will diligently track bills that our members care about. We will have boots on the ground at the Capitol and send email updates to our members. This year's session is a shorter budget session, and although the goal of these types of sessions is to focus on the state budget, lawmakers will likely cover other topics too. These

topics could include nuclear energy, local foods, net metering, eminent domain, and more.

We highly encourage you as a member to raise your voice and get involved in the legislative process. Legislators want to hear from you! Your voices, especially when added together, make all the difference. Keep an eye out for our action alerts so you can call or email your legislators, or better yet, testify at committee meetings. You can also find information on the legislative session on Powder River's website. Powder River's staff is here to help you at every step of the way.

estimates 10 million people will lose access to healthcare. Among other impacts, this load of uninsured patients will likely begin to overload emergency rooms as indigent clients resulting in a giant load of debt to be borne by hospitals, many of which are rural and poorly funded.

Based on reporting from the Center for Healthcare Quality and Payment Reform, 90 rural hospitals in our eight state region are at risk of closure due to these changes. Of these 90, 29 are at imminent risk within 2-3 years. In Wyoming, seven hospitals are deemed to be at risk of closing; four of which are at imminent risk in the next 2-3 years.

NUTRITION AND HUNGER

While there were huge cuts totaling \$187 billion to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) nationally, WORC's sources estimate that fewer than 2,000 individuals in Wyoming are at risk of losing all their benefits and fewer than 3,000 risk losing some portion of SNAP. These estimates were clearly made prior to the current government shutdown.

NEPA

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) has been crucial since the 1970s in ensuring that communities and the environment are protected by requiring a full environmental review and public comment period for projects on public lands. The OBBB has weakened the Act by mandating a sped up approval process and allowing project

sponsors to prepare their own NEPA documents. These changes are especially damaging given the inadequate and underfunded staffing at approval agencies. In many cases projects can go forward without any public input.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

During the two years ending in 2023 the eight state region including Wyoming saw a 5.12% increase in jobs in the clean energy sector with a strong increase in generation and storage capacity from the renewable energy sector. The OBBB's provisions to eliminate clean and renewable tax credits, rescinding all remaining clean energy funds from the IRA, and establishing unattainable timelines and requirements for clean energy projects by private individuals, companies and nonprofits will ultimately cause jobs gained in this sector to dissipate, together with the economic growth previously generated.

SUMMARY

These colossal changes to the structure of our government were made on party-line votes with slim majorities. Wyoming's representatives in the Senate and the House voted to support this bill, as did the majority of representatives from our neighboring states.

What to do? WORC emphasizes that to turn this around will require a long and dedicated effort from Wyoming and neighboring states focused on grassroots community organizing.

We need to stick together, pay attention to opportunities, and engage where required!

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

As we begin 2026, we'd like to welcome the new members to our Board of Directors. In 2025, we added Eric Krszjzaniek, Jill Morrison, Andrea Knutson, and Wilma Tope to our board. They join our Chair, Lynne Huskinson, our Vice Chair, David Romtvedt, our Secretary, Liza Cuthbert-Millett, our Treasurer, Bob LeResche, and our other board members, Gillian Malone and Maria Katherman. Our new and returning board members are working hard to ensure that Powder River Basin Resource Council's membership continues to be able to work together for the good of Wyoming.

We would be remiss if we didn't also extend a hearty "Thank you!" to the board members who have recently left the board. The dedication, humor,

hard work, and commitment which Barbara Chase, Tudor Marks, Joyce Evans, and Dudley Case brought to our board as they stewarded PRBRC to the present moment, with all the growth and opportunities that it provides, were invaluable.

Please note our upcoming board meeting dates and locations:

JAN 23, 2026 9 am, Zoom

MAR 20, 2026 9 am, Zoom

MAY 8, 2026 11 am, Sheridan area (location TBD)

JUL 24, 2026 11 am, Laramie area (location TBD)

SEP 18, 2026 11 am, Casper or Gillette (TBD)

NOV 8, 2026 9 am, Sheridan (location TBD)

Principles of Community Organizing

October 20-23rd, Billings

Donna Birkholz,
Powder River Staff

This October, Sheridan organizer, Claire Deuter, and I spent three days in Billings for a community organizing training. The Western Organization of Resource Councils (WORC) hosts POCO (Principles of Community Organizing) every spring and fall, and new staff at Powder River Basin Resource Council attends the training. I was told that POCO would be a powerful experience and that I would learn a great deal there. This was Claire's second POCO, but she wanted a refresher as she moves back into an organizer position.

Our fellow POCO attendees came from a diverse assortment of organizations; POCO is well known for its quality, so we were joined by an urban farmer from Chicago, by a farming organization member from Missouri, and another from Minnesota. Our other attendees ranged from Colorado to Montana. Some were paid organizers, some were executive directors, and some were interested members. All were committed to learning more about community organizing.

POCO was, indeed, an amazing experience, and one I will reflect upon in the coming months

as I settle into my position as the Executive Director of Powder River Basin Resource Council. One realization I had during the training is that community organizing is what created Powder River Basin Resource Council. Ranchers and concerned community members worked with more ranchers and community members to build PRBRC, because together they had the power to make positive changes for themselves and their communities. More than fifty years later, Powder River Basin Resource Council continues that legacy, organizing to address the issues facing our region.

Principles of Community Organizing taught us skills we will use as we work with and for PRBRC. It connected us with our classmates and the larger organizational network, providing us with perspective and support as we all work to become better organizers. It was an invaluable training. As a WORC affiliate, Powder River is able to send our interested members to POCO trainings. If you are interested in learning more about how our member-driven organization works, and how to make our efforts more effective, please let our office know and we can connect you to the next POCO training.

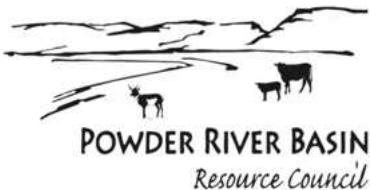
Shop Local Foods

Our community organizer Claire attended the Wyoming Food Coalition Annual Conference in Riverton in November. She had a great time meeting local producers and learning about how we can build Wyoming's local foods economy.

“I learned that buying even just one local food product per week can make a big impact on the local foods economy,” said Claire.

Find local producers and farmers market directories at Wyoming Food Coalition's website at www.wyfoodcoalition.org.





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Please Consider PRBRC in Your Planned & Legacy Giving

The Powder River “family” has been thinking a lot about the future lately, 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 has served its members since 1973. So we are inviting you, our extended family of members and donors, to consider including the Powder River Basin Resource Council in your estate plans. Following are suggested ways to do so:

- Through your retirement account
- Through your life insurance policy
- Formal Will or Living Trust Document
- Charitable Remainder Trusts
- Sale of 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 it may also benefit you.

Thank you

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