Introduction to the Powell Research and Extension Center

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Introduction
The Powell Research and Extension Center (PREC) is located one mile north of Powell at 747 Road 9 with an elevation of 4,378 feet. PREC has 200 irrigated acres, including 142 acres under surface irrigation using gated pipe and syphon tubes, 54 acres under sprinkler (Figure 1), 2.5 acres under on-surface drip, and 1.2 acres under sub-surface drip. Research at the center focuses on irrigation, weed control, cropping systems, variety trials, and alternative crops. We serve northwest Wyoming, including Bighorn, Fremont, Hot Springs, Park, and Washakie counties.

Full-time PREC employees housed on-site include farm manager Camby Reynolds, research associate Andi Pierson, assistant farm managers Brad May and Keith Schaefer, and office associate Samantha Fulton. The center also houses two faculty members who have academic homes in the University of Wyoming’s Department of Plant Sciences. Assistant Professor Gustavo Sbatella, an irrigated crop and weed management specialist, has been a valuable member of the PREC team for two years. And we are very excited to welcome our new plant sciences faculty member, Assistant Professor Vivek Sharma, who started as UW’s irrigation and agronomy specialist April 4, 2016. We look forward to working with Dr. Sharma. In addition, the site serves as home for the Wyoming Seed Certification Service and Wyoming Seed Analysis Laboratory.

There have been other recent changes at PREC as well. After 10 months of providing service to the center, Professor John Tanaka, associate director of the Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station (WAES), has turned over administrative support duties to Professor Bret Hess, WAES director and associate dean of the UW College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Dr. Hess has been working as a member of the PREC team since late February 2016 while Dr. Tanaka has assumed director duties at the James C. Hageman Sustainable Agriculture Research and Extension Center near Lingle. We have also been fortunate enough to make several technology purchases to upgrade equipment, which improves our research capabilities substantially.

2015 Growing Season
The 2015 growing season was uncharacteristically long with 164 frost-free days (Figure 2). The average

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¹Powell Research and Extension Center; ²Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station.
frost-free period for the Powell area is about 123 consecutive days. The growing season started early with the last frost occurring on May 11 and went much later than usual with the first frost occurring on October 23. We experienced a wet spring with 40% of the annual rainfall occurring in May. Overall the 2015 growing season was exceptional, producing high yields for many producers.

Acknowledgments
We would like to thank PREC staff and faculty members along with employees of the Wyoming Seed Certification Service and Wyoming Seed Analysis Laboratory for their dedication to the work they perform on a daily basis (Figure 3).

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Figure 3. Powell Research and Extension Center, Wyoming Seed Certification Service, and Wyoming Seed Analysis Laboratory faculty and staff include, from left, Debbie Hufford, Tonya Espinosa, Crystal May, Jolene Sweet, Brad May, Mike Moore, Denny Hall, Andi Pierson, Camby Reynolds, Bret Hess, Keith Schaefer, Vivek Sharma, Gustavo Sbatella, and Samantha Fulton. Jill Rice not pictured.