

## Big Horn, Rosebud & Treasure County Conservation Districts

[www.rosebudcd.com](http://www.rosebudcd.com)

[www.bighorncd.org](http://www.bighorncd.org)

# Conservation Connection

Winter 2022

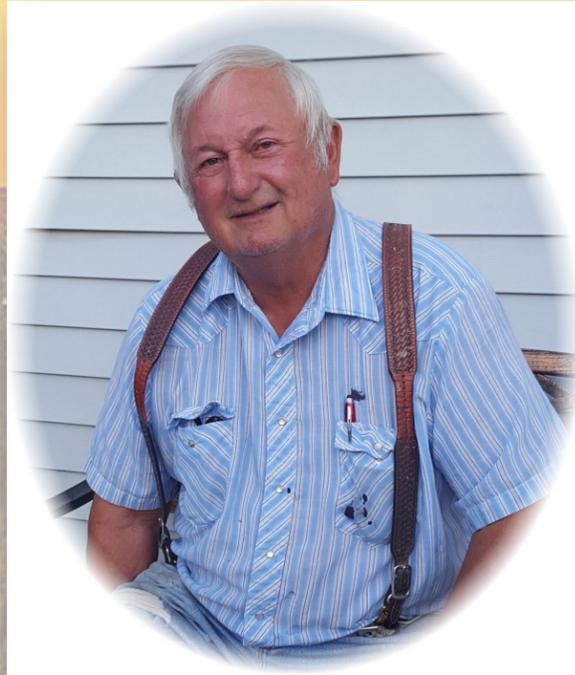
Rosebud Conservation District-270 Prospect-PO Box 1200-Forsyth, MT 59327-406.351.8012-Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday  
Big Horn Conservation District-250 13<sup>th</sup> Street West- Hardin, MT 59028-406.629.3229-Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday  
Treasure County Conservation District-211 Elliot Avenue-Hysham, MT 59038-406.342.5510 ext. 102-Meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday

### In Loving Memory of Bob DeCock

#### Treasure County Conservation Supervisor from 1975-2022

Terry Robert (Bob) DeCock lost his hard-fought battle with cancer January 23, 2022. Three days after his 76th birthday. Bob was born January 20th, 1946, in Miles City, Montana to Oscar and Margaret (Pearson) DeCock. Bob arrived eight minutes before his twin brother Jerry James (Jim). The twins joined the family of two sisters (Marlene and Joyce) and one brother (Gary) to quickly outnumber the girls. Having older sisters was great, they helped Margaret with the care and supervision of the three boys. Bob was raised in Hysham Montana on the second generation family farm. Chores, farming and ranching responsibilities were a daily part of his life. He quickly realized he never wanted to raise chickens or have a milk cow. He attended Hysham Public School from first grade through graduation. Graduating with the class of 1964. Bob attended MSU Bozeman for several quarters, until the time that he returned home to aid with his fathers' failing health. Sharon (Stearns) DeCock caught his eye at the Christmas party in December of 1973 and they were married November 23rd, 1974. A couple years later they had a baby girl Kendra, and two years later a son Travis. Bob may have never changed a diaper, but he instilled honesty, hard work, and having a positive attitude into his children. Bob worked on the farm with his brother Jim. Bob's love for the farm was evident in his dedication to it. It was not a job, it was his way of life. The twins were also ranchers and Bob enjoyed feeding, calving, and being chased by angry momma cows. Bob was also an active board member of the Yellowstone Irrigation District as well as the Treasure County Conservation District. Bob loved people and talking and sharing stories. Bob never met a stranger and made friends everywhere he went. His opening line would be "Where are you from? He was a compassionate and forgiving man, with a desire to mend broken relationships. He would help anyone in need; from giving a ride to buying a tire for a complete stranger. In the last couple years, he made friends and deeply appreciated his nurses in the chemotherapy department. Surviving Bob his wife of 47 years, Sharon; daughter Kendra Whitmus (Luke Coronato); Grandchildren, Hunter Whitmus. Walker Whitmus, Lorraine Coronato; Son Travis (Tonya) DeCock; brother Jerry James (Richelle) DeCock; brother Gary (Ginger) DeCock; sister Marlene (Jack) Sundt and many nieces and nephews. Bob DeCock was preceded in death by his father Oscar DeCock, mother Margaret DeCock, sister Joyce (Harold) Hert, and baby sister Sharon L. DeCock.

Bob served on the Treasure County CD since 1975. Bob was a good friend to all. You could always count on him for a good story.



Help us welcome Cole to Pheasants Forever in Hysham's office & Kylie Martin in Big Horn!



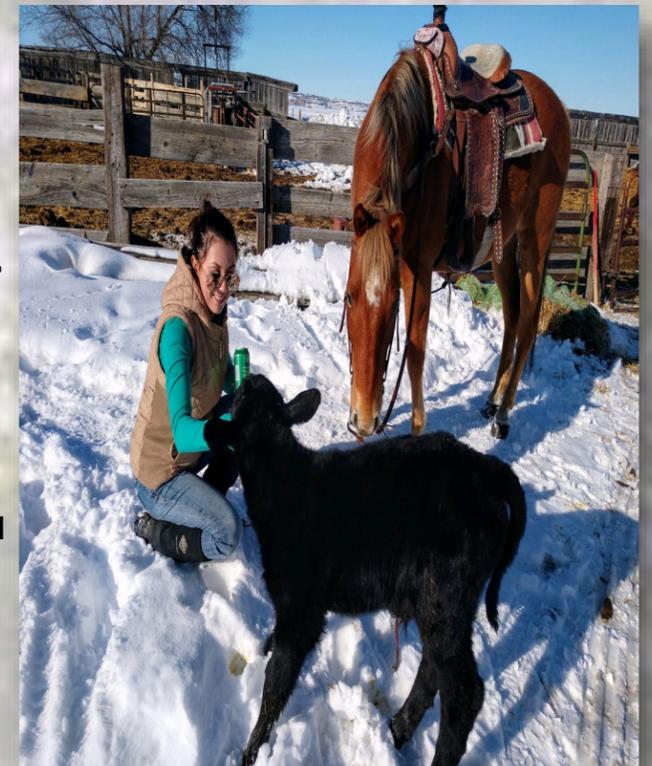
Hello my name, is Cole Stumpf. A little about myself, I was born and raised in Cedaredge, Colorado. Growing up in a small rural community I was active in sports and FFA through school and spent all my time outside of that hunting and fishing or working for family friends on their ranch. After high school, I packed up my stuff and moved to Montana where I attended school at Montana State University. While there I studied Rangeland Ecology and decided that Montana is where I wanted to stay. I graduated in May of 2021 and after working in Wyoming for a summer I have found my way back.

Currently I work for Pheasants Forever as a Range and Wildlife Conservationist. I started this position in January of 2022, I am based out of the NRCS office in Hysham, MT. My focus in this position is to help establish/ preserve upland bird habitat in Southeast Montana. To accomplish this, I work mostly with the Northern Great Plains Grassland Conservation Project. A targeted Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) focused on converting marginal farm ground and less productive monocultures back to native grass lands in the southeast corner of the state. Additionally, I assist the NRCS in administering their conservation programs. I am excited to take on this position and

look forward to working with landowner to accomplish projects that improve their way of life, while benefiting wildlife habitat.

### Kylie Martin Big Horn Conservation District

Hey there! My name is Kylie Martin, and I took over the role of the Conservation Administrator for Big Horn County back in September of last year. I was raised in a small town in Pakenham, Ontario (yes I am a Canuck) and proceeded to move until finally landing in Hardin, Montana! Along with transplanting through North America, my resume holds everything from installing windshields to being a veterinarian technician and many various secretarial positions. Regardless of where I have lived, and which occupation has paid my bills, my love and admiration for the outdoors and those who dwell in it has always been number one! I am so thrilled to start a new chapter helping to preserve our beautiful and great state of Montana!



## Reg Hoff Memorial Scholarship



The Rosebud Conservation District is now accepting applications for the Reg Hoff Memorial Scholarship program. Each year \$1,500 in scholarships with a minimum of

\$500/award, is available to selected Rosebud County Montana graduating high school seniors pursuing higher education in the field of agriculture, conservation and/or natural resources. Applicants must reside in Rosebud County, have a 2.5 GPA and submit an essay with required materials to the Rosebud Conservation District by April 30, 2022.

The Rosebud Conservation District wishes to continue to honor Reg Hoff through this memorial scholarship. Reg is remembered for his service to the conservation district, his dedication to leadership, encouragement to think outside of the box on conventional farming and ranching along with his drive to always keep learning and sharing that knowledge with others.

Please visit the Rosebud Conservation District website for information and to apply for this scholarship opportunity at [www.rosebudcd.com](http://www.rosebudcd.com) or you can call or email Bobbi Vannattan at 406.351.8012; [bobbi.vannattan@mt.nacdnet.net](mailto:bobbi.vannattan@mt.nacdnet.net)



### Craig & Shelly Weight received Rosebud County Conservationist of the year!



Rosebud Conservation District hosted the Rosebud & Treasure CD's Annual Banquet March 19th at the Forsyth Country Club.

This years Conservationist of Year award goes to Craig & Shelly Weight. In Rosebud County. When the RCD Board of Supervisors awards this to a producer, they have taken into consideration all of the work and practices that the operation has implemented over the years. This year Craig & Shelly were awarded because of several project's they have been involved with over the years including the management of Russian Olive, planting cover crops to improve soil health and attending workshops and trainings teaching them new and innovative ways to run their business. The Weights have added pivot irrigation systems as well as multiple tree plantings to improve their soil and provide wildlife habitat along the Yellowstone River. Congratulations Craig & Shelly!

Check out MACD Calendar to see what events are coming up near you!

<https://macdnet.org/events/>

## Gardening Workshop

4:30-6:00 pm, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022

@ Living Root Farm

389 Woodley Lane, Hardin, MT

- Learn about Soil Health, and how you can apply this to your garden!
- See a productive No-Till Garden!
- Check out a High Tunnel System!
- Learn about how USDA-NRCS can assist you with gardening and Soil Health!

*Snacks and refreshments will be provided.*

If you are interested in attending, *please RSVP by May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022*, by calling: (406) 629-3234

USDA provides reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities to participate in USDA programs and activities. If you require special accommodations, please contact the Hardin USDA-NRCS

Field Office at: (406) 629-3234 by May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022.



USDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.



## CM Thermal and Fire LLC

CM Thermal and Fire LLC found an interesting open coal seam fire. This is one of our hottest burning coal seams that is close to the surface in southern Powder River county. It is probably close to 3000 degrees (which is what a forge operates at!) Some deep ones are this hot but the ground surface temperatures are frequently 300 to 700 degrees. With the drones we even find some smoldering shallow ones at 75 to 150 degrees that do not display the visual characteristics commonly associated with burning coal seams such as sloughing creek banks, cracks or holes in the ground, hill landslides, as well as smoke and sulphur smell. Your feet get hot standing on them or you might see heat shimmers/mirages if you look close enough but otherwise you may never know it was there! We'll post some of the unique ones we've seen in upcoming posts. Watch for the upcoming KTVQ 2 news special in the next few weeks about our SE Montana coal seam problem and see some of the people involved and the difficulties encountered to find, approach and the complexity of mitigating them.



### Coal Seam Fire Mapping & Management Program

Rosebud Conservation is working with Custer County Disaster & Emergency (CCDES) services, Commissioners from Rosebud, Custer, Powder River, Bighorn & Treasure County along with the Northern Cheyenne and Crow Reservations on this project. The first week of March there were several flights that used heat sensing equipment & a camera to detect high heat abnormalities in the ground throughout the project area. At this time, Cory Cheggus with CCDES is transferring the data and imaging collected into a mapped data base, marking the possible coal seam fires. Once the information is available, it will be sent to each county and the tribes to come up with a plan to ground truth the areas that were mapped in their counties. Rosebud County is planning to hire the off-season fire crews to assist in the county. Rosebud CD will announce the publication of the maps, how the public can access those maps and offer information and contacts for landowners to confirm coal seam fires detected within their property.

If you are interested in being added to a contact list for updates on this project, please reach out to the Rosebud Conservation District by emailing [bobbi.vannattan@mt.nacdn.net](mailto:bobbi.vannattan@mt.nacdn.net) with your contact information, including name, phone number, mailing and email address. You can also call the office at 406.351.8012.

You can also follow us on Facebook by searching for Rosebud Conservation District or our website [www.rosebudcd.com](http://www.rosebudcd.com)

CM Thermal and Fire LLC has a page on Facebook and is a valuable resource for up to date information on coal seam fires, detection and management.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

Views expressed by individual columnists in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the Rosebud & Big Horn Conservation Districts.



The Big Horn, Rosebud & Treasure County Conservation Districts proudly salute and thank our Service men and women at home and overseas.

## Soil Health Management System

BY: Farm Forum

Soil health management systems are agricultural systems that prioritize the health of soils by reducing soil disturbance and keeping living roots in the ground. Healthy soils should protect soil carbon and nutrients, capture and store water, and promote soil organisms. To develop healthy soils, we recommend:

- Armoring the soil
- Minimizing soil disturbance
- Increasing plant diversity
- Maintaining continual live plant/roots
- Integrating livestock
- How can integrating soil health principles help farmers and the environment?

The first soil health principle, "soil armoring," is all about keeping the ground covered as much as possible. For example, farmers can leave crop residues instead of tilling. The residue acts as a shield, protecting the soil from wind and water and reducing soil evaporation rates to keep moisture available for plant use. Ground cover reduces runoff, and nutrient loss, an economic savings to farmers. Residue and living plants provide habitat for beneficial microorganisms, which, along with bacteria and fungi, are responsible for organic nutrient cycling.

The second soil health principle is minimizing soil disturbance. Soil disturbance could be biological (overgrazing), chemical (over-application of fertilizer and pesticides) or physical (tillage). Minimizing soil disturbance allows natural soil structure to develop, with large pores to infiltrate rainwater and small pores to hold water during dry spells. Good soil structure also protects soil organic matter, an important component of crop productivity. Plant diversity is another important component, mimicking the multifunctionality and resiliency of natural plant communities. Plant diversity can reduce pest and disease, pressure, leading to lower pesticide and herbicide use. It can also provide greater economic stability to the farmer, bringing in different crop markets and spreading out labor.

The fourth principle, incorporating a living root year-round, integrates the first three principles, but highlights the unique role of roots. Roots change soil biology and structure. Plants feed carbon to soil microbes, enhancing nutrient cycling at the root surface. In a cash-grain cropping system, cover crops are a good way to integrate these principles.

Another way of improving soil health is livestock integration, as livestock manure jump-starts soil biological activity. Economically, livestock provide an opportunity for farmers to grow more perennials and cover crops for forage. Livestock can be integrated on row crop land by allowing winter and fall grazing of cover crops and crop residues, and spring and summer grazing of annual and perennial plants.

## When is a 310 permit needed?

A 310 permit is REQUIRED if you are planning ANY project that physically alters or modifies the bed or banks of a stream. The purpose of the permit is to minimize soil erosion and sedimentation, protect and preserve streams and rivers in their natural or existing state, and to prevent damage to the lands and property immediately adjacent to streams and rivers.

The application process is easy, simply pick one up at your local conservation district, upon completion, return the application to the office. An inspection of the proposed project is necessary, afterwards, the Board of Supervisors determine the fate of the 310 permit. Sometimes additional permits are required and it is the responsibility of the producer to secure all permits before beginning any projects.

**All Perennial Streams in Big Horn , Rosebud & Treasure Counties  
Require a 310 Permit!  
If you are not sure please contact your local conservation district!**

## Rosebud Conservation District

### Cover Crop Cost Share

Rosebud Conservation District is looking for producers who are seeking diversity in no-till cropping systems, **Incentive- \$20 per acre with a max of 20 acres**

The purpose of the soil health incentive is to encourage the utilization of cover crops in no-till cropping systems. The proper cover crop can economically control erosion, reduce runoff, increase organic matter, break up crop disease patterns, cycle deep nutrients, and be used for haying and/ or grazing. RCD will pay the actual seed and seeding cost up to \$20 an acre up to 20 acres or \$400 per producer in the conservation district boundaries. Responsibilities of the producer are to prepare a weed free seed bed, note all important observations, agree to tours and news article, if applicable, and provide information regarding fertilizer techniques. A requirement of the cost share agreement is that seed mixtures consist of at least three species of seed in the cover crop planting

**Contact Rosebud Conservation District at 406.351.8012**

### Tree Sale

Rosebud Conservation District is offering trees/shrubs/plants/ and landscaping fabric for individual sale on our Tree Sales website through the end of April. You can go to [www.rosebudcd.com](http://www.rosebudcd.com) and click on the trees for sale text to take you directly to our tree sales website. Trees will be delivered the last week of April and the first week of May. We will make appointments with you to pick up your tree order in Forsyth.



#### Rosebud Conservation District

270 Prospect Forsyth, MT 406-351-8012

##### For Sale:

- \*Wildlife Ramp~ \$20.00
- \*Gate Latch~ \$20.00
- \*Marking Flags (5"x8")~ \$10.00/ bundle

##### For Rent:

- \*Track Filler~ \$100.00/day or \$200.00/week
- \*No Till Drill~ \$7.00/acre (200 acre maximum)

##### Books For Sale:

- \*Range Plants of Montana~ \$15.00
- \*Rosebud County Land Ownership Map Books \$28.00/small or \$40.00/ large \$38.00/small aerial view or

#### Treasure County Conservation District

211 Elliot Avenue Hysham, MT 59038 406-342-5510 ext. 102

##### For Sale:

- \*Marking Flags (5"x8")~ \$10.00/bundle
- \*Wildlife Ramp~ \$20.00

##### For Rent:

- \*Great Plains Native Grass Drill~ \$7.00/acre (200 acre maximum)

##### Books For Sale:

- \*Treasure County Land Ownership Map Books~ \$16.00 small or \$20.00/large

#### Big Horn Conservation District

205 13th Street West. Hardin, MT 59034 406-665-3442

##### For Sale:

- \*Moisture Probe~ \$65.00
- \*Wildlife Ramp~ \$25.00
- \*Hydro source Plant Gel~ \$7.00/pint

##### For Rent:

- \*Tree Planter~ \$.10/tree (\$30.00 min)
- \*Fabric Layer~ \$.10/tree (\$30.00 min w/o fabric purchase) or \$.05/tree + fabric cost (w/ fabric purchase)

~For Sale or Rent~

## USDA Offers Online Tool for Drought-Stricken Ranchers to Estimate Compensation for Feed Transportation

An online tool is now available to help ranchers document and estimate payments to cover feed transportation costs caused by drought, which are now covered by the **Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-raised Fish Program (ELAP)**. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) updated the program this year to include feed transportation costs as well as lowered the threshold for when assistance for water hauling expenses is available. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will begin taking applications this fall.

"Drought has had a tremendous impact on producers, and we are thinking outside the box to help producers mitigate the effects of drought, which is a necessary first step to realizing the Secretary's vision of ensuring agricultural producers get a fair share of the food dollar," said FSA Administrator Zach Ducheneaux. "From climate change to COVID-19, we are continuously working to make our programs as flexible as possible and so they effectively help producers face today's challenges."

The new **ELAP Feed Transportation Producer Tool** is a Microsoft Excel workbook that enables ranchers to input information specific to their operation to determine an estimated payment. Final payments may vary depending on eligibility.

#### To use the tool, ranchers will need:

- Number of truckloads for this year.
- Share of feed cost this year (if splitting loads).
- Mileage per truckload this year.
- Number of truckloads you normally haul.

### Rosebud Conservation District Reserved Water



Montana's water reservation law provides an opportunity to legally allocate water for future consumptive uses as well as to maintain in-stream flows to protect water rights, aquatic life, and water quality.

The conservation district water reservations are for agricultural irrigation and in some districts for stock watering. Districts rely on land users within the basin to develop the water resource and put the reserved water to use. Districts encourage land users and resource managers to apply for reserved water for new or

supplemental irrigation projects.

A reservation is subject to protection under the Montana Water Use Act and is an appropriate water right protected by law. In the case of the conservation district, the right is held by the district on behalf of the individual users. Individuals will apply to the district once they have plans to put the water to use. A water user receives an authorization or permit from the district for the right to use a portion of the district's reserved water. Legally, this is the same as when an individual obtains a permit from the Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC) to use water.

The Rosebud Conservation District, as a water reservation holder, is responsible for apportioning the reservation in an equitable manner. The district is also responsible for administering the use of its reserved water and in accordance with the "Board of Natural Resources Board Order Establishing Water Reservations". Rosebud Conservation District holds a water reservation of 87,003 acre-feet per year with a maximum flow rate of 540.7 cubic feet per second from the main stem of the Yellowstone River which has a priority date of December 15, 1978 (4:18 P.M.)

**Rosebud Conservation District has 82,196.40 acre-feet and a flow rate of 462.38 cubic feet per second available.**

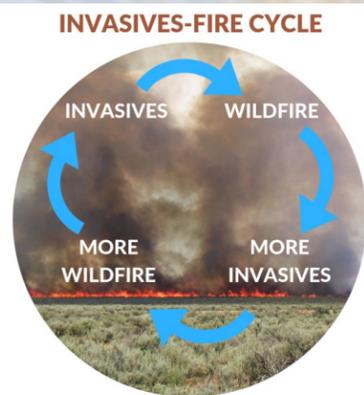
If you are in need of reserved water and would like more information or an application contact Rosebud Conservation District's Administrator Bobbi Vannattan at 406-351-8012 or visit our website at [www.rosebudcd.com](http://www.rosebudcd.com)

## Invasives & Fire

Sagebrush once covered roughly 247 million acres in western North America. Today, this imperiled landscape is half its original size and rapidly shrinking due to invasive annual grasses and rangeland fire. In this ecosystem, historic fire return intervals in native sagebrush steppe would occur every 30 to 100+ years.

Today, widespread annual grass invasions, climate change, and other human activities have accelerated wildfire cycles, increased fire size and severity, and lengthened fire seasons to the point that post-fire recovery and current wildfire management practices cannot keep up. Hotter and drier conditions combined with human-ignited fires have increased the length of the fire season in western sagebrush rangelands. Where invasive annual grasses become established, fire return intervals have greatly increased and some areas have experienced wildfire every 5 to 15 years.

Fire sizes have increased substantially over the past two decades, with fires over 100,000 acres becoming more common. A large majority of wildfires in the United States are human-caused (e.g., campfires, target shooting, fireworks, arson). In 2018, human ignitions accounted for approximately 64 percent of fires and 55 percent of acres burned on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands covering the majority of the sagebrush biome across the West. Conversely, in some areas, fire has become less frequent due to human activities, which also has implications for sagebrush communities. The invasive-wildfire cycle poses a major threat to wildlife, ranchers, local communities, recreationists, and others who depend on this ecosystem for their livelihood and rural way of life.



**Fire is one of the primary factors linked to population declines of sage-grouse due to loss of sagebrush and conversion to invasive annual grasses. Wildfires have burned nearly 4 million acres of Greater sage-grouse habitat over the past four years (2018-2021). Take Action**

While wildfire has long been an issue in the American West, most of the public and policy discussion has addressed wildfire-related challenges in forested systems. Data suggests the invasives-wildfire cycle is likely the most dangerous threat to rangelands, with just 55% of western rangelands occupying their historical range today. For example, of the total acres burned over the past 19 years in the continental U.S. across all land ownerships, 56% burned in rangelands and 44% burned in forests. Most recently, between 2018-2021, wildfires burned nearly 4 million acres of Greater Sage-grouse habitat, with more than 70% of these fires occurring on BLM and private lands.

## Ranch Systems & Viability Planning (RSVP)

World Wildlife Fund's (WWF) Sustainable Ranching Initiative is partnering with ranchers across the Northern Great Plains to increase sustainable grassland management on one million acres in five years.

The Ranch Systems and Viability Planning (RSVP) network supports ranchers through: technical assistance; scholarships for continuing education; ongoing soil, vegetation and bird monitoring; an innovative cost-share program; and other tools to make ranches ecologically and financially healthy for future generations. The program aims to prevent the conversion of rangeland into cropland, improve water infiltration and overall soil health, increase biodiversity on the landscape and support rural communities and family ranches.

The SRI program recognizes that each producer is unique and has different goals for their land, families, and communities. We are excited to offer the RSVP program as a unique and flexible program that will help ranchers meet those goals while increasing the health of rangelands and the ranch's bottom line.

There are two main ways that ranchers can participate in the program. The first way is to enroll your ranch in RSVP and gain access to all program benefits including our cost-share program. The second way is to participate in RSVP network activities including ranch tours, online webinars and workshops and other educational offerings.

In 2021, the first year of the program, we have enrolled 27 ranches totaling close to 300,000 acres in central and eastern Montana, western South Dakota and the Sandhills of Nebraska. RSVP ranchers have utilized the program to attend Ranching for Profit schools, attend grazing and soil health workshops, install water and fence infrastructure and other conservation projects and develop grazing plans.

RSVP is funded by Cargill, McDonalds, the Walmart Foundation and others. The SRI team looks forward to working with you and your ranch to meet your goals and protect grasslands.



## Rosebud Conservation District Local Working Group Survey

**PLEASE RESPOND BY JULY 1, 2022.**

Available:

Rosebud Conservation District website- [www.rosebudcd.com](http://www.rosebudcd.com)

You can pick up a copy at the Forsyth USDA Office, 270 Prospect ST, Forsyth

Request a copy mailed directly to you, just call :

406.351.8012-Bobbi Vannattan RCD

406.351.8018-Danny Pratt NRCS DC

The Rosebud Conservation District regularly hosts a meeting of local people to give feedback on the state of natural resources, environmental concerns, and provide opportunities to address environmental problems with meaningful solutions. Rosebud Conservation District uses this information to support grant requests and help the local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) prioritize local funding opportunities.

This year the Rosebud Conservation District has elected to get your feedback via a survey, included below. You can complete the survey by hand and mail or deliver it to the Rosebud Conservation District in Forsyth OR you can call the Rosebud conservation office, and someone will visit with you over the phone and record your input.

Thank you for taking the time to give us your feedback so that we can help ensure our activities and the activities of our partners are as positive for the people of Rosebud County as possible. We will consider all of the responses we receive before July 1 in our next planning sessions.

**What natural resource problem would you pay to have solved?**

**What new natural resource issues or ideas are you excited about or researching?**

**Who would you like to partner with to solve your natural resource concerns?**

**What type of help do you need to fix the resource concerns you need to address?**

Financial                      Planning                      Permitting                      Design

**What do you think is the best solution to your natural resource related problem?**

**How closely are you involved in agriculture?**

Ag Producer                      Ag Business                      Ag Family                      Ag Community

**What area of Rosebud County are you most familiar with?**

**Where in Rosebud County are you seeing resource concerns that need to be addressed?**

**Would you be able or willing to visit with NRCS about identifying and treating natural resource concerns?**

**What questions do you have about how conservation impacts your financial position?**

**Do you have any concerns that stop you from participating in federal or local conservation programs?**

Missed the Sign Up                      Don't Understand the Rules                      Other

**Would you like someone to contact you about developing a conservation plan?**

**Would you like to be on a conservation email or phone contact list?**

Name:                      Address:                      Phone:                      Email:

**You can return your survey to the Rosebud Conservation District in a number of ways:**

Email: [rosebudcd29@gmail.com](mailto:rosebudcd29@gmail.com)

US Postal: PO Box 1200, Forsyth MT 59327

Drop it Off: 270 Prospect Street, Forsyth MT 59327

Call it in or if you need assistance: Danny Pratt-NRCS CD 406.351.8018

Bobbi Vannattan RCD Administrator

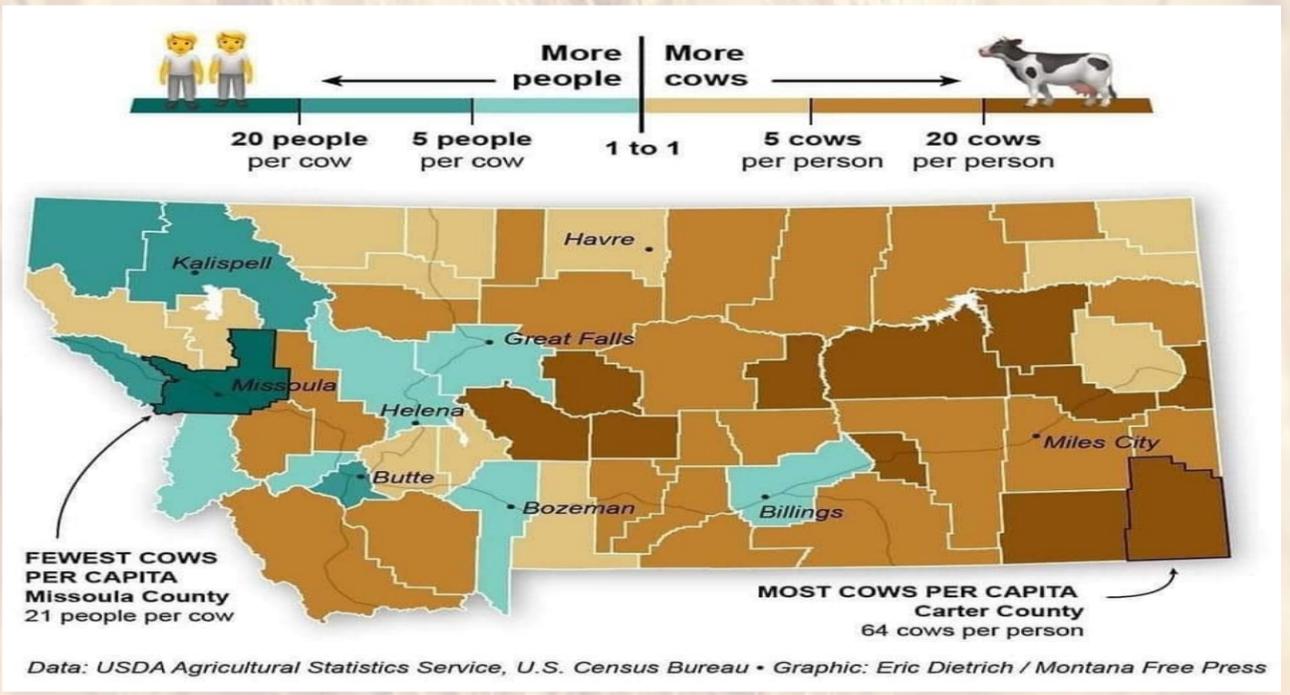


## NO-Interest Loan Program

The Rosebud Conservation District no-interest loan program was created in 1982 in order to encourage people to install conservation practices and utilize the money that was available to the district. The Districts no-interest loan is available to area producers for the development of conservation practices and systems as a part of a conservation plan to benefit agricultural land within the Rosebud Conservation District. Conservation program loans can be applied in a number of different practices including; storage tanks, stream bank stabilization, pumps, irrigation pipelines, grass seeding, water-spreading, fencing, reservoirs, dams, stock tanks, pipelines, pivots and sagebrush clearing.

The Rosebud Conservation District loan program is an excellent tool to help you achieve your conservation goals. Loans are available up to \$50,000 with a 0% interest rate. There is an administrative fee of three percent. Applicants apply through the Rosebud Conservation District Board of Supervisors, applications are accepted and reviewed at the regular meeting. Loan Payments will begin on December 15, not less than 6 months after the loan date. Applicant are encouraged to become cooperators of the District. Loans will NOT be allowed for reseeding Capability Class 6,7 &8 lands that have been converted after January 1, 1983.

For more information or an application, for the No-Interest Loan Program, contact Bobbi Vannattan at the Rosebud Conservation District office at 406-351-8012 or email: [bobbi.vannattan@mt.nacdnet.net](mailto:bobbi.vannattan@mt.nacdnet.net) or check out our website at [www.rosebudcd.com](http://www.rosebudcd.com).



**NRCS, FSA & CD's across Montana & Covid 19**  
**Call each office for the current covid regulations or to schedule an appointment**  
**Rosebud Conservation: Bobbi 406-351-8012;**  
**Treasure Conservation: Angie 406-342-5510**  
**Big Horn Conservation: 406-629-3229**

We are considering offering the Conservation Connection in a digital format available through email and on our website. If you would prefer to receive our newsletter in your email on a quarterly basis please send your name, email and mailing address to Bobbi Vannattan at [bobbi.vannattan@mt.nacdnet.net](mailto:bobbi.vannattan@mt.nacdnet.net) or call the Forsyth, Hysham or Big Horn Conservation District to let us know and we will remove you from the mailing list and add you to the email list.

## Preston McGregor performs for the RCD TCCD Annual Banquet.

We would like to thank Preston McGregor for an evening of amazing music during the 2022 Rosebud Conservation and Treasure County Conservation Districts Annual Banquet. Preston is a local student who is very talented on the guitar and has an amazing singing voice. He plays and sings a mix of folk, alt-country and rock music. Preston is also involved in many sports and programs in school and locally. Preston also performs in a band with his uncle. We are excited to watch this young man grow and show the world his amazing talents.

