



Conservation CONNECTION

Rosebud and Big Horn Conservation Districts

ROSEBUD CONSERVATION DISTRICT: 270 S. Prospect • P.O. Box 1200 • Forsyth, MT 59327

BIG HORN CONSERVATION DISTRICT: 724 West 3rd Street • Hardin, MT 59034

ROSEBUD CD: Meetings: 1st Thursday • 406-346-7333 ext. 101 • Fax/Phone: 406-346-7479 | BIG HORN CD: Meetings: 1st Thursday • 406-665-3442

NRCS FORSYTH FIELD OFFICE: 406-346-7333 | HARDIN FIELD OFFICE: 406-665-3442 | LAME DEER FIELD OFFICE: 406-477-6494 | CROW AGENCY FIELD OFFICE: 406-638-9102

Conservation Trees For Your Land

Seanna Torske, USDA-NRCS

Are things a little breezy at your place? Do you feel like you can't stand up straight because you're always leaning into the wind? Even if it's not THAT bad, you might be thinking about getting some trees planted at your place. Many Conservation Districts offer conservation grade trees for order and sale in the spring. The Big Horn Conservation District is one such CD, and they accept orders until mid-to-late March, with trees being delivered around the end of April. It's best to get your tree orders submitted as early possible in order to ensure your selection is available.

Here are a few things you may want to consider when planning for a tree planting:

Purpose - Will this planting serve as a windbreak for your farmstead, protection for livestock, food for wildlife, or even all of the above?

Depending on *what* you want to use your tree planting will determine the length, width, and species of trees/shrubs for your planting.

Location- Where your planting is located can change just *what* kind of trees/shrubs can be planted there. If the site periodically experiences flooding, you may need to select trees that can withstand periodic flooding (most coniferous trees/shrubs can't withstand this, but trees such as Cottonwood can put up with temporary, periodic flooding or high-water tables better). Or, if the site you're planning is located in a fairly arid area, you would need to plan accordingly. Also, make sure the site is located far enough back from your driveway or county/state roads to prevent blowing snow from drifting onto roads in the winter. Also, some counties/states may require these plantings to be set back so many feet from roads.

Soils- The soils present on your planned site will also give you a good idea as to what species are best suited to grow and thrive on the soils for your site. A deep, well-drained soil will support a more diverse species of trees and will also support a longer tree lifespan than a shallow soil. You can get this information either by visiting your local NRCS Field Office, or you find the soils for your place by going online to Web Soil Survey. Each soil type has a Conservation Tree/Shrub Suitability Group (CTSG), with group numbers ranging from 1 to 10, with 1 being the best location and 10 being an "unsuited" location.

Your local NRCS Field Office can assist you in designing and planning your tree/shrub planting. Contact them today!



Rosebud Conservation District

270 Prospect Forsyth, MT 406-346-7333

~For Sale or Rent~

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 \$50.00/large aerial view

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

724 W 3rd Street Hardin, MT 59034 406-665-3442

For Sale:

- *Moisture Probe~ \$65.00
- *Wildlife Ramp~ \$25.00
- *Hydrosorce 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)

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 406.346.7333**

Big Horn Conservation District

Cover Crop Cost Share Available

It's time to think about utilizing a cover crop in no-till cropping systems. In order to encourage producers to learn about the benefits of cover crops, the BHCD initiated a program to pay the actual cover crop seed costs up to:

\$20 per acre with a max of 40 acres

Producer responsibilities to participate in this program are to prepare a weed-free seedbed, use a minimum of three species of seed in the cover crop mix, and agree to tours and newsletter articles, if applicable, concerning the experience.

**Contact Big Horn Conservation District
at 406-665-3442, ext. 112**



Visit us at www.rosebudcd.com

Invasive Grasses Workshop Held

Randell Hopkins USDA-NRCS

On Thursday, September 27, 2018, MSU Extension and USDA-NRCS hosted a workshop focusing on the identification and management of invasive annual grass species. The workshop was well attended! Evan Van Order (USDA-NRCS) presented on the identification characteristics of invasive grass species, such as Cheatgrass, Japanese brome, Ventenata, and Medusahead. Molly Hammond (MSU Extension) spoke on management options pertaining to the control of these invasive species. Tom Pratt (Big Horn County Weed Department) spoke about equipment available for lease from the county to help control invasive species. Steve Sanders (Bridger AgVentures, LLC. / Bayer Environmental Service) spoke on how Esplanade 200 SC herbicide can be used for rangeland renovation and restoration efforts. He also spoke on the economic benefits of controlling invasive species on rangelands. The afternoon consisted of a field tour at the Sunlight Game Ranch near Hardin. Attendees braved the rainy weather and enjoyed seeing test plots that showed annual grass control using various rates of herbicides. A huge "Thank You" goes out to the Big Horn Conservation District for providing the free lunch. If you were unable to attend the workshop, the Big Horn Conservation District recorded the workshop with their camcorder and it will be available on their YouTube channel. (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRk-WSTW2ynUNSBgJ6Q_dBcg)



Justin Hossfeld, of the Sunlight Game Ranch, explains one of the Esplanade 200 SC control test plots on the field tour. Photo credit: Molly Hammond, MSU Extension

Rocky Schwagler joins Rosebud Conservation District's Board of Supervisors

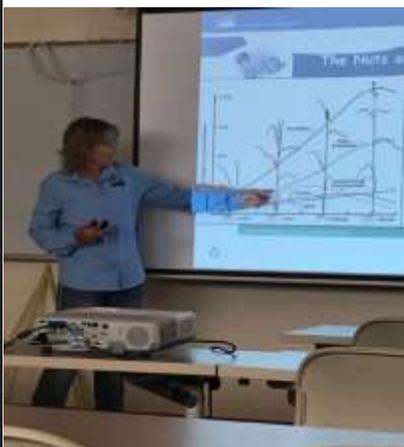
Rosebud Conservation District has gained a new board member! Rocky Schwagler officially joined the board of Supervisors for RCD as an Urban Supervisor for the city of Colstrip. Rosebud Conservation District considers themselves extremely lucky to have Rocky join the board. Rocky brings with him over 35 years of experience in agricultural, most recently holding the position of NRCS District Conservationist in Forsyth. Rocky joins Doug McRae (Chairman), Dave Davenport (Vice Chairman), Jason Brewer (Treasurer), Don Youngbauer, Alan Mereness, Bonnie Prince (Urban Supervisor), and Dennis Kenney (Associate Supervisor) on the Rosebud Conservation District Board of Supervisors.

visit us at www.rosebudcd.com

Range Workshop Held September 18th

Seanna Torske USDA-NRCS

A Range Management Basics Workshop was held on Tuesday, September 18th, 2018, at Little Big Horn College in Crow Agency, MT. Nikki Rife, USDA-NRCS Bozeman Area Range Management Specialist, and Joel Laliberty, USDA-NRCS Bozeman Area Resource Conservationist for Technology, both gave presentations at this workshop regarding Range Plants, Inventories, Grazing Plans, and more. When it comes to implementing a grazing rotation on your range and pasture, in the words of Nikki Rife, "You're only limited by your



creativity." A huge "Thank You" goes out to Nikki and Joel for speaking; for Randell Hopkins (USDA-NRCS) for setting up the workshop; and to Velma Pickett (LBHC) for providing the lunch through the LBHC Equity Program. If you couldn't attend this workshop, the Big Horn Conservation District recorded the workshop with their camcorder, and will be available on their YouTube channel! (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRkWSTW2ynUNSBgJ6Q_dBcg)

Nikki Rife, USDA-NRCS Bozeman Area Range Specialist, speaks to workshop attendees.

Invasive Species Workshop



Rosebud Conservation District, along with numerous other agencies, belongs to the Central and Eastern Montana Invasive Species Team (CEMIST). The purpose of CEMIST is to provide outreach, education, and resources, regarding Aquatic Invasive Species, to stakeholders and inhabitants east of the Continental Divide. In October, Rosebud Conservation District and the Musselshell Watershed Coalition, both members of CEMIST, worked together to

arrange a workshop to educate Montana's irrigators about the immense impact Quagga and Zebra

Mussels may have to irrigation systems. The damage that can be done by an invasive mussel is almost incomprehensible. The mussel will clog intakes, diversions, pipes, pumps, and really any other hard surface. The treatment to rid an irrigation system of mussels is extremely expensive and not always effective, so prevention is key. The workshop was held



at the Huntley Project Museum of Irrigated Agriculture, located in Huntley Project, Montana. Larry Pennington was the very informative speaker for the day. Larry is an irrigator from Idaho who has studied these invasive mussel species extensively. Through his experience Larry was able to engage and educate local irrigators. For more information on Aquatic Invasive Species visit www.CleanDrainDryMT.com



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
82,880.40 acre-feet and a flow rate of 464.61 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 406-346-7333 ext. 8012

visit us at www.rosebudcd.com

"In seed time learn, in harvest teach, in winter enjoy." ~William Blake~

"We need the tonic of wilderness. We can never have enough of nature." ~Henry David Thoreau~

"One touch of nature makes the whole world kin." ~William Shakespeare~

~Rosebud Conservation District Tree Sales~

- Tree orders are now being taken and will continue through March 31, 2019
- For the best availability, please place orders before December 15th
- There is a large variety of trees, shrubs, grasses, and perennials offered
- Delivery will be in late April or early May, weather dependent
- Pricing and ordering information is available at www.rosebudcd.com or the Forsyth USDA Service Center, located at 270 Prospect Street
- Please contact Monica with questions or to place an order at (406) 346-7333 ext. 8023 or monica.boyer@mt.usda.gov



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.

Rosebud County

- ◆ Yellowstone River
- ◆ Tongue River
- ◆ Rosebud Creek
- ◆ Reservation Creek
- ◆ Otter Creek
- ◆ Armell's Creek
- ◆ Numerous Other Creeks

Big Horn County

- ◆ Big Horn River
- ◆ Tongue River
- ◆ Little Big Horn River
- ◆ Rosebud Creek
- ◆ Numerous Other Creeks

Treasure County

- ◆ Yellowstone River
- ◆ Big Horn River
- ◆ Sarpy Creek

*All Perennial Streams in Big Horn, Treasure, and Rosebud Counties Require a 310 Permit!
If you are unsure, please contact your local conservation district!*

Join us for *HEALTH*
SOIL Workshops

JANUARY 2019

Featuring

RACE KING, KEITH BERNS,
AND DEREK AXTEN

JAN 14 • GREAT FALLS • HOLIDAY INN
with Keith Berns, Derek Axten, & producer panel

JAN 15 • THREE FORKS • THE GATHERING PLACE
with Race King, Keith Berns & Derek Axten

JAN 16 • BILLINGS • BIG HORN RESORT
with Race King, Keith Berns & Derek Axten

JAN 17 • FORSYTH • ROSEBUD FAIRGROUNDS
with Race King, Keith Berns, & producer panel

JAN 18 • SIDNEY • MSU EXTENSION OFFICE
with Race King & Keith Berns

Hosted by

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS OF MONTANA,
MONTANA NRCS, AND LOCAL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Spring Development Workshop Held

Seanna Torske USDA-NRCS

A Spring Development Workshop was held Thursday, September 20th, 2018 at Little Big Horn College in Crow Agency, MT. Evan Van Order, USDA-NRCS Soil Conservationist, visited with workshop attendees about the types of springs, components of a spring development, designing a spring development, and operation/**maintenance of a spring development**. Evan's presentation gave the attendees a great start for them to consider when developing springs on their land. A free lunch was **provided by the LBHC Equity Program**. If you couldn't attend this workshop, the Big Horn Conservation District recorded the workshop with their camcorder and will be available on their YouTube channel! (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRkWSTW2ynUNSBgJ6Q_dBcg)



Evan Van Order, USDA-NRCS Soil Conservationist, speaks to workshop attendees about spring developments.

~ Wildlife Profile ~

Swift Fox (*Vulpes velox*)...

- Spend most of the day in their dens, which are made by themselves or another mammal, and are nocturnal.
- Are considered a Species of Concern in Montana.
- Diet consists of small mammals like jackrabbits, cottontails, and mice although, they will consume birds and insects.
- Habitats are generally found in arid plains and open prairie., in Montana they are most likely to be found north of the Milk River or in the southeast corner of the state.
- Are commonly mistaken for young coyotes or red foxes.
- If you are interested in having a free presentation for your group or class, about wildlife, conservation, or habitat please contact Heather Nenninger at 406-346-7333.



****Read upcoming editions of the Conservation Connection for more intriguing facts about Montana's native wildlife, presented by Heather Nenninger, Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI) Partner Biologist!**



Montana Soil and Water Conservation Society presents...

February 5th and 6th, 2019

Plan, Prepare, & Pass It On: Ag Business Strategies for Today & the Future

Featuring: *Jolene Brown*

Northern Hotel in Billings, Montana



February 5th (Tuesday)

February 6th (Wednesday)

8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

7:30 AM – 2:30 PM

[Click Here to Register](#)

Jolene Brown – Workshop presentation

Breakfast with speaker Lane Nordlund

Lunch

Montana Businessman– Singh Construction, Billings

Key Advisors Panel (moderated by Jolene Brown)

Panel of Operations:

- Estate Planning Educator (Marsha Goetting)
- CPA (Wipfli-Curt Barnekoff)
- Attorney (Kristen Juras)

How do we plan in agriculture? For next year, long term and succession...

Moderator: Lane Nordlund

4:00 pm: Marsha Goetting

- Black Leg Ranch– Jerry Doan (North Dakota)
- Durham Ranch– John Flocchini (Wyoming)
- Mannix Bros. Ranch (Helmville)
- County Rail Farm (Missoula)

Estate Planning in Montana

5:00pm: Social “Burgers, Beer, & Bull”

Featured speaker, Jolene Brown, from West Branch, Iowa, is a farmer, author and award winning communicator. Brown is a champion for agriculture and consultant for family-owned businesses.



USDA is an equal opportunity employer, provider and lender.

If you need special accommodation, contact Marni Thompson at (406)596-1195.



****Fascinating Facts****



- * Trees produce oxygen and reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere
- * Planting trees can help prevent erosion
- * Dendrochronology is the dating and study of annual rings in trees
- * Some trees can live for thousands of years, making them the longest living organisms on Earth
- * The shaded area from a tree can be up to 45 degrees cooler than an area in direct sun
- * Leaves appear green because chlorophyll absorbs red and blue light energy, causing the green energy to **bounce off the leaf's surface.**

~Upcoming Events~

Soil Health Workshop

Holiday Inn Great Falls, Montana January 14, 2019

For more information: Ann McCauley ann@macdnet.org or www.swcdm.org

Soil Health Workshop

Lewis and Clark Motel Three Forks, Montana January 15, 2019

For more information: Ann McCauley ann@macdnet.org or www.swcdm.org

Soil Health Workshop

Big Horn Resort Billings, Montana January 16, 2019

For more information: Ann McCauley ann@macdnet.org or www.swcdm.org

Soil Health Workshop

Rosebud County Fairgrounds Forsyth, Montana January 17, 2019

For more information: Ann McCauley ann@macdnet.org or www.swcdm.org

Soil Health Workshop

Richland County MSU Extension Office Sidney, Montana January 18, 2019

For more information: Ann McCauley ann@macdnet.org or www.swcdm.org

Plan, Prepare, and Pass It On

Northern Hotel Billings, Montana February 5-6, 2019

For more information: Marni Thompson 406-596-1195 or Mark Henning 406-853-5452 or www.mtswcs.org

Montana Youth Range Camp

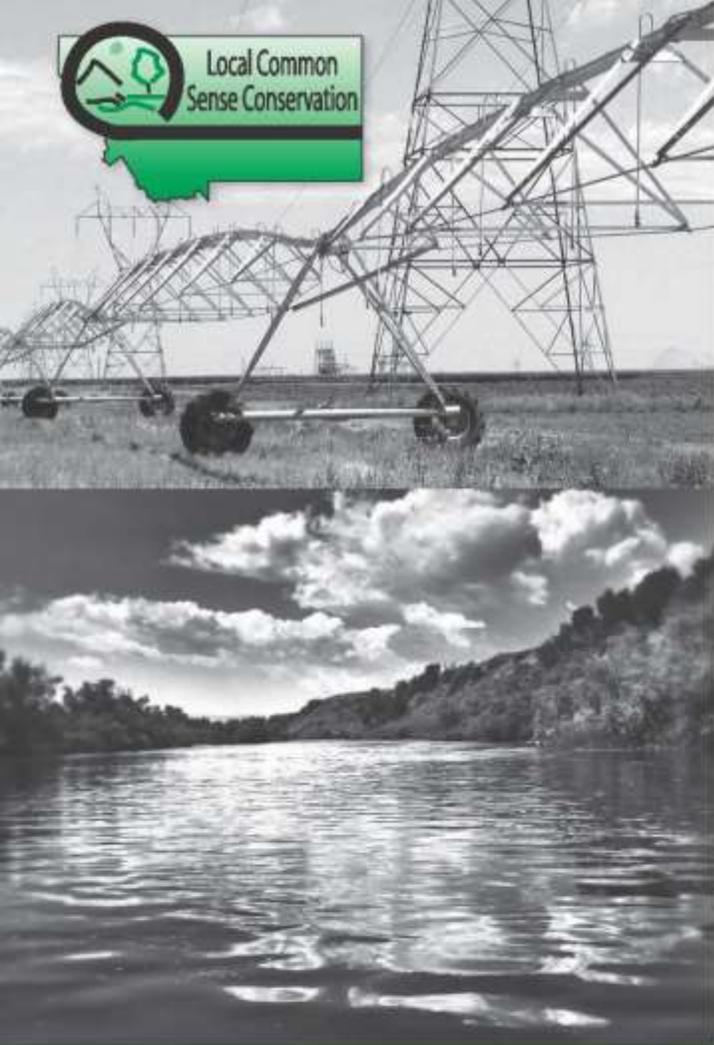
Hyalite Lions Camp Bozeman, Montana June 25-28, 2019

For more information: Mary Hendrix 406-282-4350 admin@gallatincd.org



NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
BILLINGS MT
PERMIT 294
ECRWSS

Postal Customer



**PROTECT OUR
WATERS**

To learn how you can help protect the great state of Montana from Aquatic Invasive Species visit www.cleandraindrymt.com

The bottom section of the page is a large green rectangle with a dark border. Inside, there is a blue graphic of the state of Montana. The text 'PROTECT OUR WATERS' is centered within the map. 'PROTECT' is in green, 'OUR' is in orange, and 'WATERS' is in white. Below the map, there is a line of text in a dark green font: 'To learn how you can help protect the great state of Montana from Aquatic Invasive Species visit www.cleandraindrymt.com'.