



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 • 406-629-3229

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

~Class of 2020~

College Scholarships Offered

Scholarships are available to

Graduating Rosebud County High School Seniors

Who are pursuing a college degree in a

Natural Resource Field

(Examples: Sustainable Agriculture, Ecology, Range Science,
or Environmental Studies)

To obtain a scholarship application:

- Go to www.rosebudcd.com to download an application
 - Stop by the office at 270 Prospect in Forsyth
- Give the district a call at 346-7333 and we will mail one to you

Please return completed application to Rosebud Conservation District by May 15, 2020



Hardin Grass Class Workshop Held

Seanna Torske

Supervisory District Conservationist
Crow Agency, Hardin, and Billings Work Unit

On September 18th and 19th, 2019 the Hardin Grass Class Workshop was held at the Big Horn County Historical Museum in Hardin, MT. The Big Horn Conservation District sponsored this workshop through a MT DNRC 223 Grant for Ventenata prevention and education.

Nikki Rife, USDA-NRCS Bozeman Area Range Management Specialist, and Joel Laliberty, USDA-NRCS Bozeman Area Resource Conservationist for Technology, both gave presentations throughout both days of the workshop on the “how’s” and “whys” of grazing management. On the second day, Joel and Nikki worked with the participants to develop a grazing plan for their livestock operation, utilizing maps of their ranches that Randell Hopkins, USDA-NRCS Soil Conservationist for Hardin Field Office, had developed with each of the participants over the past month.

The workshop attendees were given a great toolbox to get them off to a great start in managing the grazing on their ag operations! The Hardin Field Office hopes to hold another Grass Class Workshop in 2021, so keep an eye out for it!



Nikki Rife (left), USDA-NRCS Bozeman Area Range Specialist, and Joel Laliberty (center), USDA-NRCS Bozeman Area Resource Conservationist for Technology, speak to Grass Class participants.



Rosebud Conservation District

Cover Crop Cost Share

Rosebud Conservation District is looking for producers who are seeking diversity in no-till cropping systems.

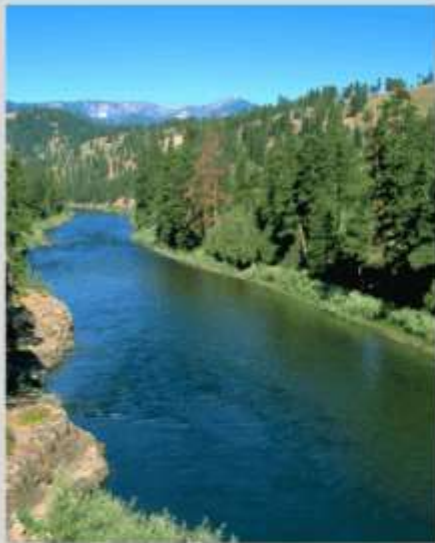
Incentive- \$20 per acre with a max of 20 acres

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



Visit us at www.rosebudcd.com



**OCTOBER
14-16, 2020**

**SUMMIT TO STREAM:
CONNECTING PEOPLE,
WATER, AND FORESTS**

Copper King Hotel in Butte, Montana

More information available at mtwatersheds.org



Working to Extinguish Coal Seam Fires

The Rosebud Conservation District has secured a \$50,000 DNRC planning grant that will eventually lead to extinguishing coal seam fires in southeastern Montana. As many as 1,000 coal seams may be burning in an area that involves five conservation districts, with more yet to be discovered. These fires are difficult and expensive for landowners to put out on their own and lead to more fires and conservation concerns. The Rosebud Conservation District will establish a work group to develop a strategic plan, map the fires, interview landowners and others, and develop priorities for extinguishing the fires. This is yet another example of local conservation districts stepping up and taking leadership in complicated conservation issues. Contact Rosebud Conservation District for more information at 406-346-7333 or bobbi.vannattan@mt.nacdnet.net



Are YOU Living On The Bank???

A new website was recently launched for landowners who live near rivers and streams, or for those who are considering buying property with rivers and streams. Living on the Bank has been a collaborative project with a number of Conservation Districts, the Yellowstone and Missouri River Conservation District Councils and the DNRC. The site provides information to help landowners protect and enjoy their property and includes guidelines on:

- Buying land and selecting construction sites
- Floods, erosion and fire
- Property improvements
- Protecting the land investment
- Stream dynamics (not as scary as it sounds!)
- Invasive species
- Permitting
- And more!

For more information go to www.livingonthebank.org.

-Bringing Watercraft into Montana-

Planning to Bring Watercraft into Montana?

All watercraft entering Montana are required to be inspected for aquatic invasive species. You must obtain an inspection before launching on Montana waters. Stop at all open inspections stations you encounter.

- Montana will accept inspections conducted in Idaho and Wyoming. Proof of inspection is required.
- Boats with a ballast or bladder, such as wakeboard or wake-surfing boats, that intend to launch on Montana waters must obtain a decontamination before launching.

Non-resident watercraft launching in Montana must purchase a Vessel AIS Prevention Pass (AISPP). Purchase the Vessel AISPP at FWP regional offices or [online here](#).

- Motorized watercraft fee is \$30. Required for all watercraft that have a motor.
- Nonmotorized watercraft fee is \$10. Required for all nonmotorized watercraft.
- Proof of purchase can be electronic (cell phone) or paper receipt, there is no decal.
- The Vessel AISPP expires on December 31.

The Vessel AISPP is not transferable between vessels.



SAVE THE DATE!

RANGELAND
RESOURCES COMMITTEE



Montana Youth Range Camp August 3rd -6th, 2020 C Bar N Ranch Augusta, MT

Hosted by Lewis & Clark Conservation District

Campers will be introduced to 25 of Montana's important range plants—grasses, forbs, and shrubs and will learn about the interaction of soils, water, plants, wildlife, and livestock on the range. The camp provides an excellent opportunity for youth of varying backgrounds to become more aware of the value and potential of Montana's rangeland. This well organized, balanced, and educational program brings together range professionals and interested students to learn in the great outdoors. Evening programs and activities allow campers an opportunity to meet new friends and develop lasting friendships.

Visit BHCD at www.bighorncd.org



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



"The Promised Land always lies on the other side of a Wilderness." ~Havelock Ellis~

"Some call it the middle of nowhere. I call it the center of my world." ~Unknown~

"I am in love with Montana. For other states I have admiration, respect, recognition, even some affection, but with Montana it is love." ~John Steinbeck~

"That peace, safety, and concord may be the portion of our native land, and be long enjoyed by our fellow-citizens, is the most ardent wish of my heart, and if I can be instrumental in procuring or preserving them, I shall think I have not lived in vain." ~Thomas Jefferson~

Noxious or Native?

Know your surroundings!

POISON HEMLOCK

What is Poison Hemlock?

Poison Hemlock is a poisonous biennial plant that has leaves similar to a wild carrot, but has purple blotches and a thick stem. It can grow up to 10 ft tall!

Why should you know about it?

Poison Hemlock is very poisonous to not only cattle and livestock, but also people. It shouldn't be touched, ingested or even inhaled. It slows your heart-rate down, causes dizziness, and paralyzes your nervous system, and then paralyzes your muscles and eventually KILLS you.

Well, Where do they grow?

They prefer moist areas like creek beds and swamps. On our reservation they are currently all over up Muddy Creek, along the Rosebud, and in Lame Deer.

How can you get rid of it?

You CAN pull them by hand but please wear protective gear like gloves, long sleeve, a mask and even glasses. After pulling the weeds make sure to bag them because their stalks can be poisonous for up to 3 years!

<https://www.kingcounty.gov/services/environment/animals-and-plants/noxious-weeds/weed-identification/poison-hemlock.aspx>



COW PARSNIP

What is Cow Parsnip?

Cow Parsnip is an herbaceous plant that has large flat leaves, a large flat top of flowers when blooming, and can grow up to almost 7 ft tall!

Why should you know about it?

Cow Parsnip looks very similar to Poison Hemlock so it is important to be able to tell the difference but they also have a lot of medicinal and really cool uses! But do be careful because if you get the clear sap on your skin and go out into the sun it can burn you!

Well, Where do they grow?

They prefer areas of high elevation. Nice cool spots that get a good amount of water. On our reservation you can find them along the road to Green Leaf.

What Can you do with it?

Some of the most common uses for these plants are playthings and food. Cheyennes would often use the stems for whistles. Other tribes would peel and eat the stocks. Its other common name is Indian Celery for that reason!

<https://www.prairiemoon.com/heracleum-maximum-cow-parsnip-prairie-moon-nursery.html>



For more info contact NRCS @ **406-477-6494**
An Equal Opportunity Provider, Employer, and Lender

* Cheyenne Plant Information from "*The Plant Lore of the Northern Cheyenne*" by Bill Tallbull

Visit us at www.rosebudcd.com

~Wildlife Profile~

Northern Harrier (Circus hudsonius)...

-Most often hunt over grasslands and prefer nesting in dense grass or hay fields.

- Diet consists of small mammals mostly, but they will also eat insects, amphibians, birds, and reptiles.

-Are one of the few bird species to stay in Montana all year long, although some will migrate south for the winter.

-Have a distinct flight style, "floating" close to the ground, while hunting.

-Are easily identified by the white patch on their rump while flying.



** A special THANK YOU to Heather Nenninger for providing all the intriguing facts about Montana's native wildlife to the Conservation Connection!!!

We will miss you ♥

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!*

****Fascinating Facts****

* Corn is sometimes referred to as “yellow gold” because it is used to make so many products and by-products.

* The processing of corn starts with the kernel, there are usually 200-400 kernels on each cob

* the United States produces about 40% of the world’s corn supplies and accounts for over half of corn exports

* Some products made from corn are: cereal, taco shells, animal feed, penicillin, whiskey, and ethanol fuel



Visit BHCD at www.bighorncd.org

~For Sale or Rent~

Rosebud Conservation District

270 Prospect Forsyth, MT 406-346-7333

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
- *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)

~Upcoming Event~

Enhancing Your Livestock Operation
Surviving in a World of Change

Dr. Allen Williams

A champion of the grass-fed beef industry & an expert in grazing methodology and regenerative agriculture, Allen Williams helps restore soil health for improved water retention, reduced runoff, increased land productivity, enhanced plant & wildlife biodiversity, & healthier food. He developed many of the original grass-fed protocols & technologies now adopted by the grass-fed sector.



Dr. Fred Provenza

Fred Provenza directed an award-winning research group that pioneered an understanding of how learning influences foraging behavior and how behavior links soils and plants with herbivores and humans. Provenza is one of the founders of an international network of scientists and land managers committed to integrating behavioral principles with local knowledge to enhance environmental, economic, and cultural values of rural and urban communities.

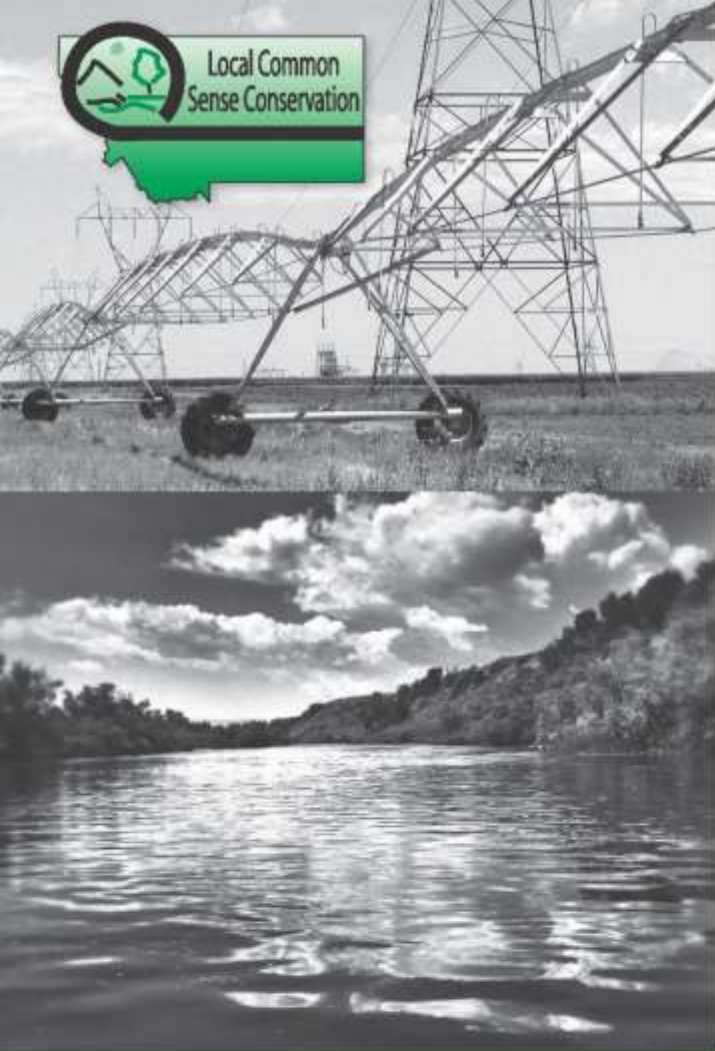


June 23rd & 24th
Baker, MT



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**PROTECT OUR
WATERS**

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