

Conservation News

McCone Conservation District

Tree Order
Form inside

**New! Soil
Health
Workshop
February 2015**



Source: cornell.edu

A Special Thank You
to Workshop
Lunch Sponsors
Farmers Union Oil
& CHS Farmers
Elevator!

Range Conservation Workshop Held October 16th

Local producers enjoyed a great educational opportunity paired with wonderful food at the McCone County fairgrounds. Guest speakers traveled from across the state and neighboring North Dakota to share their knowledge and successes. Guest speakers were:

Bill Milton: Applying Holistic Resource Management to his ranch operation in Roundup. He encouraged quality of life discussions within key partnerships.

Terry Heck: Grazing management practices to include flexible stocking rates.

Jay Fuhrer: The carbon cycle and grazing systems—how to shorten up the exposure period and lengthen the recovery period of rangelands.

Todd McPeak: A strong grazing system with no creep feed produces improved heifer selection in his operation. "Everything that is alive plays a role."

Kodie Olsen & Michelle Gorder: The rainfall simulator. Seeing is believing!

DRWA is excited to share we have our first official users connected and receiving services! The Sidney South section of pipeline went live on September 15, 2014. DRWA's Sidney South line is currently using the City of Sidney's water as an interim source. Additional users continue to connect as they complete construction on their individual service lines.

The eastern Montana construction season has come to a close and plans are made for DRWA construction goals in 2015. We hope to complete two additional extensions off the Sidney South pipeline. Also, we are working on plans for constructing mains outside the Town of Circle, using the Town of Circle's water as an interim source.

DRWA continues to work with possible funding sources in order to move on a pipeline extending from the Culbertson to Fairview and serving rural users along the way. Further, DRWA continues to work through the Bureau of Reclamation processes in an attempt to obtain Federal Authorization for the entire DRWA service area. Federal Authorization would open up additional funding opportunities and allow DRWA to expand at a much quicker pace.

If you may be interested in enrolling to be part of DRWA, please contact Mandi.



Email: drwa@midrivers.com
Telephone: (406) 485-3792
Website: www.midrivers.com/~drwa

Volume 14, Issue 4
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**EROSION
CAUSED BY
WIND & WATER
Combined
Equals to 6.0 TONS
of SOIL LOSS per
ACRE per YEAR in
MONTANA**

Soil Loss by: Wind 4.3 tons,
Water 1.7 tons

Source: 2007 National
Resources Inventory

In the News

- MCD News
- NRCS News
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- Education

Contributors:

Mary Hendrix, MCD

Johnna Blankenship, NRCS

Mandi Nay, DRWA



Local Work Groups

By Johnna Blankenship, NRCS

A Local Working Group is an assembly of individuals who represent various agricultural interests in their county. The purpose of the Group is to meet at least once per year to discuss natural resource priorities then determine by consensus how to address resource concerns through NRCS conservation activities and programs. The LWG creates recommendations on how Agency staff, programs, and assets should be used to promote conservation locally. The Local Working Group meetings in many cases provide the only opportunity for area farmers, ranchers and other stakeholders to present their priorities and concerns to the NRCS.

There has not been an active Local Working Group, and so no LWG meeting in McCone County for the last several years. This is unfortunate because the Group would actually have significant authority with regard to how Agency policy is developed and how resources are applied. Without guidance from the Local Working Group, the Field Office is not able to present recommendations to the State Technical Advisory Committee. The Committee then has nothing to say to the State Conservationist on behalf of the agricultural producers in the county. At this time, I have no way to forward your concerns and recommendations to the State Office. Lacking these recommendations, someone else, either in Miles City or Bozeman, will make the conservation decisions for McCone County.

A strong and active Local Working Group will help to assure that NRCS Conservation program dollars, technical assistance, staff and other resources will be allocated according to the recommendations of our farmers and ranchers.

The Circle Field Office and McCone Conservation District are working to organize a Local Working Group meeting in 2015. The time and location will be announced. Please plan to attend this very important meeting. Please also thoughtfully consider applying for membership to the Group. Your insight, experience, and perspective are needed to make our Local Working Group successful.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) applications for fiscal year 2015 will be accepted until further notice. Please call the Field Office to speak to Johnna or Ashley about this unique opportunity to put your conservation plan in motion.

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) applications will be accepted for program year 2016 until June 1, 2015. If you are considering a conservation plan including practices such as prescribed grazing, livestock water improvements, cover crops or any others, please call for an appointment. We'd be happy to talk with you about this program and how we can help you realize your natural resource conservation goals and objectives.

USDA NRCS Circle Field Office: 406-485-2660

"The drops of rain make a hole in the stone not by violence but by oft falling." ~Lucretius



Like us on Facebook! [mcconeconservationdistrict](https://www.facebook.com/mcconeconservationdistrict)

"Coming together
is a beginning.
Keeping together
is progress.
Working together
is success."
~ Henry Ford



United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC, 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

CONSERVATION TREES & SHRUBS



McCone Conservation District

Providing quality trees and shrubs for wildlife shelterbelts, windbreaks, erosion control and yard beautification projects—all at an affordable price!

2015 TREE ORDER FORM

Order season

We are now accepting orders for trees and shrubs for the 2015 planting season. Order fulfillment are based on availability, so we encourage purchasing early to guarantee species and size. Please note prices and inventory may be subject to change without notice. Orders will be taken until March 20, 2015. Shipment of trees may be expected by the last week of April 2015 to mid May 2015.

Payment

A 50% deposit must be made at the time of purchase. The remaining balance will be payable upon receipt of products. Cash or check payments only. Please make checks out to McCone Conservation District.

Changes to order

Changes to order may be accepted until March 20, 2015.

Cancellation of order

Cancellations to order may be accepted until February 6, 2015. Refund of deposit will be subject to Conservation District and/or vendor policies.

Warranty

Although we try to secure the best plants and schedule timely deliveries, plants are a perishable product and therefore, not guaranteed. Replacement and/or refunds will be subject to Conservation District and/or vendor policies.

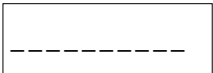
Please note

If you don't see what you are looking for in the order form, please contact the Conservation District for assistance.

CONSERVATION TREES & SHRUBS



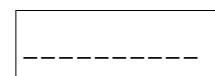
	DECIDUOUS SPECIMEN	CG	2'-3' **	QUANTITY
0001	Apricot, Hardy			
0002	Almond, Russian			
0003	Ash, Green			
0004	Aspen, Quaking			
0005	Birch, Paper			
0006	Buckeye, Ohio			
0007	Buffaloberry			
0008	Caragana			
0009	Cherry, Mayday			
0010	Cherry, Nanking			
0011	Cherry, Sand			
0012	Chokecherry			
0013	Cotoneaster			
0014	Cottonwood, Siouxland			
0015	Crabapple, Midwest			
0016	Currant, Golden			
0017	Dogwood, Redoiser			
0018	Elderberry			
0019	Elm, Siberian			
0020	Hackberry			
0021	Honeysuckle			
0022	Juneberry			
0023	Lilac, Common			
0024	Maple, Amur			
0025	Maple, Silver			
0026	Maple, Northern Sugar			
0027	Oak, Bur			
0028	Oak, Red			
0029	Plum, American			
0030	Poplar			
0031	Seaberry			
0032	Silverberry			
0033	Sumac, Staghorn			
0034	Walnut, Black			
0035	Willow, Laurel Leaf			



CONSERVATION TREES & SHRUBS



	CONIFER SPECIMEN	BARE ROOT	PLUG	QUANTITY
0036	Cedar, Eastern Red (Bare Root & #20 Plug Only)			
0037	Juniper, Rocky Mountain (Bare Root only)			
0038	Pine, Ponderosa (Bare Root only)			
0039	Spruce, Black Hills (Bare Root & #10 Plug Only)			
0040	Spruce, Colorado Blue (Bare Root & #10 Plug Only)			
	CONIFER SPECIMEN	1 GALLON	2 GALLON	QUANTITY
0041	Pine, Austrian			
0042	Pine, Ponderosa			
0043	Spruce, Black Hills			
0044	Spruce, Colorado Blue			
	FRUIT TREES	4'-5'— ONLY		QUANTITY
0045	*Apple—Cortland, Haralred, Honeycrisp or McIntosh			
0046	*Plum—Black Ice, Toka or Superior			
	*Please specify type or species of fruit tree.			
	VINES FOR WILDLIFE	CG ONLY		QUANTITY
0047	Bittersweet			
0048	Woodbine			
	NATIVE GRASSES	#20 PLUGS ONLY		QUANTITY
0049	*Bluestem, Big Bonilla or Little Badlands			
0050	Indiangrass, Tomahawk			
0051	Switchgrass, Dacotah			
	*Please specify type or species of Bluestem grass.			
	NATIVE PERENNIALS	#20 PLUGS ONLY		QUANTITY
0052	Black-eyed Susan			
0053	Columbine, American			
0054	*Coneflower, Purple or Yellow			
0055	Flax, Appar			
0056	Mexican Hat			
	*Please specify color of coneflower ordered.			
	SPECIATY ITEMS	VARIES		QUANTITY
0057	Raspberry—Killarney			
0058	Strawberry—Allstar			



CONSERVATION TREES & SHRUBS

2015 TREE ORDER FORM

DECIDUOUS SPECIMEN PRICE LIST

Conservation Grade (CG)

1-24 \$1.50 each plant

25+ \$1.25 each plant

2'-3' Specimen **

1-24 \$2.00 each plant

25+ \$1.75 each plant

CONIFER SPECIMEN PRICE LIST

Bare Root

1-24 \$1.50 each plant

25+ \$1.25 each plant

Plugs

#10 Styro \$2.00 each plant

#20 Styro \$3.00 each plant

POTTED CONIFERS PRICE LIST

1 Gallon \$10.00 each plant

2 Gallon \$15.00 each plant

NATIVE GRASSES & PERENNIALS

#20 Styro \$3.00 each plant

SPECIALTY & FRUIT TREES: Please ask for prices.

Item #	Description	Quantity	Price	Subtotal
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Order Total _____

50% Deposit _____

Balance Due _____

** Nurseries may only carry larger plants. Please note that prices will be higher for larger plants. You will be notified of any substitutions in sizes.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Method of Payment

☐ Cash

☐ Check

Official use only:

SALINE SEEPS

Taking more than 300,000 acres of cropland out of production in Montana

What are Saline Seeps? Saline seep causes a salt buildup that reduces productivity of the soil. Saline conditions also contaminate groundwater and surface water used for domestic purposes, livestock, and wildlife. Saline seep water, predominately sodium and magnesium sulfate salts, is often nearly as salty as sea water.

What causes Saline Seeps? Saline conditions can be created by any change that converts native range or perennial forage to a land use less efficient in using precipitation or irrigation water. The predominant land use change in the Northern Great Plains has been to crop-fallow. Both the soil profile and underlying bedrock in central and eastern Montana have an elevated and highly soluble salt content. Most of the saline seeps have formed since the 1940s with the advent of large-scale crop production. Salinity problems are generated by salts leaching from the soil into the groundwater.

How do Saline Seeps form? Water in excess of what can be stored in the annual-crop rooting zone or used by growing crops dissolves salts in the soil and leaches down to build up a water table on top of the bedrock. The artificially created water table gradually rises until the water reaches the surface to evaporate, leaving a white crust of salts. The recharge areas for the seepage are generally within 1 or 2 miles from the discharge area and often much closer. Groundwater does not recognize surface boundaries, so often the recharge area ownership is shared or controlled by other producers.

Solutions to Seeps: There are three general solutions to address saline seeps. They may be used separately or in conjunction with each other.

- Saline seeps, developed with the advent of crop-fallow, can be reclaimed with a 5-to 10-year rotation from crop to perennial forage for haying/grazing in the recharge area. The deep-rooted crop most commonly used is alfalfa, but other legumes and grasses can be used.
- Perennial vegetation planted under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) mimics alfalfa hay in lowering the static water table when placed in the recharge area.
- Switching from the crop-fallow system to a flexible but more intensive annual cropping system can help prevent salinity problems. The flex-crop system should always follow the forage rotation and can include cereal grain, oilseed, and annual legume crops.

Where do I get help? Two organizations that can provide help are MSCA and your local conservation district. Each one will coordinate activities with the USDA and other agencies at your request to provide opportunities for financial and technical assistance. MSCA provides a groundwater assessment and site-specific reclamation plan. MSCA does charge for the groundwater investigation; however, USDA cost-share is available. There is no charge for the initial site visit with the producer to see whether an in-depth investigation is needed or whether verbal recommendations are sufficient. Working with MSCA is voluntary, as is implementing any of the recommendations. MSCA can work with individual producers or small groups and on the watershed level. Contact MSCA at 406-278-3071.





MARY HENDRIX, EDITOR AND
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

MCCONE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

106 10th Street,
PO Box 276
Circle, MT 59215

Phone: 406-485-2744

Email: mcconecountycd@yahoo.com



Find us on the Web!

www.mcconecountycd.com

Board Members

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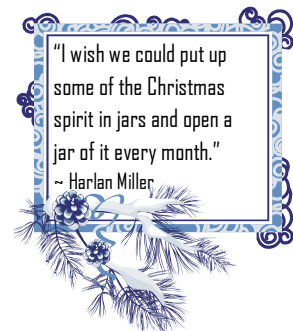
Casey Nay, Urban Supervisor

Partners in Conservation

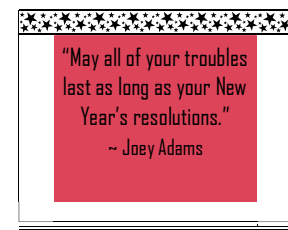
Johnna Blankenship, NRCS District Conservationist

Ashley Kiehl, NRCS Soil Conservationist

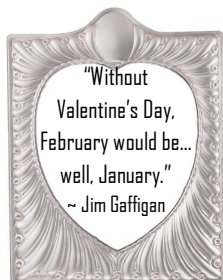
Mandi Nay, DRWA, Coordinator Extraordinaire



"I wish we could put up
some of the Christmas
spirit in jars and open a
jar of it every month."
~ Harlan Miller



"May all of your troubles
last as long as your New
Year's resolutions."
~ Joey Adams



"Without
Valentine's Day,
February would be...
well, January."
~ Jim Gaffigan

Mark Your Calendars

Board Meeting, December 3

DRWA Meeting, December 12

Christmas Eve, December 24

Christmas Day, December 25

New Year's Eve, December 31

New Year's Day, January 1

Board Meeting, January 7

DRWA Meeting, January 9

ML King Day, January 19

Board Meeting, February 4

DRWA Meeting, February 13

Valentine's Day, February 14

Presidents Day, February 16

DECEMBER 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

JANUARY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Scheduled meetings are subject to date and time change. Meeting agendas will be posted one week prior to board meetings. The general public is welcome to attend. Please call 406-485-2744 for further questions.

Thanks Again! to Ryan, Jeane and The Circle Banner. You are Awesome!

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