

CONSERVATION NEWS

McCONE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Going Paperless!

Beginning December 2015, newsletters will only be available electronically.

It can be viewed on our Website:
www.mcconecountycd.com

Email or call the District office to be placed on an email distribution list:
mcconecd@macdnet.org
485-2744 x100

Area producers from Garfield and McCone Counties traveled to Baker and Plevna MT by tour bus on July 16th. We visited 4 different operations. Fallon County sees 10-14 inches of annual precipitation, similar to our area.



Will we find dung beetles?

Soil Health Bus Tour



Dan Buerkle's wheat field



Connor Beach's corn field



Kalyn Bohle's bale grazed field



Connor Beach's high tunnel hoop house

Range Monitoring Day



Studying geology and soils

June 19th @ Quick Ranch—

Local producers met to learn more about the geology, the different types of soils in this area; and how agencies collect data for range management. A BBQ dinner was enjoyed at the Circle City Park later that evening.

**For man, autumn is a time of harvest, of gathering together.
For nature, it is a time of sowing, of scattering abroad.
~ Edwin Way Teale, *Autumn Across America***



Photo: www.csusm.edu

Inside This Issue

DUNS/SAM p.2

2016 Tree Order Form p.3-6

Yellow Star Thistle p.7

DRWA p.7

Draft EIS Bison Conservation & Management in MT p.8-9

IMPORTANT!

Public comment period for the Draft EIS: Bison Conservation and Management in MT ends at 5:00pm September 11th.

ABOUT THE DATA UNIVERSAL NUMBERING SYSTEM (DUNS)

A DUNS number is a unique nine-character identification number provided by Dun & Bradstreet (D&B), a provider of business information reports.

The information required to obtain a DUNS number includes the business / organization name, type, location, number of employees and contact information.

The federal government uses the DUNS number to maintain consistent name and address data about organizations / businesses. This helps maintain and organize applications and contracts across federal agencies.

SYSTEM FOR AWARD MANAGEMENT (SAM)

Once you have your DUNS number, register with SAM at www.sam.gov

You will need:

- DUNS number
- EIN number
- Statistical information about your business
- Electronic Fund Transfer Information

Information for Farm Bill Program Applicants

If your business or organization plans to apply for conservation program or grant funding through USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and you use an **Employer Identification Number (EIN)**, also referred to as a Tax Identification Number (TIN), you will need to obtain a **Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS)** number and be registered with the **System for Award Management (SAM)**. The DUNS number is required for any federal contract application and applicants must register with SAM to receive payments. If you apply as an individual and use your social security number as your EIN, you **DO NOT** need to obtain a DUNS number or SAM.

Who needs a DUNS Number & SAM

As required by the Federal Funding Accountability & Transparency Act of 2006, all entities using an EIN and doing business with NRCS must have a DUNS number and current registration in the SAM database. This pertains to ALL financial assistance, easement programs, and watershed programs, as well as grants, cooperative agreements, and contribution agreements. (NOTE: this currently does not apply to the Farm Service Agency's entitlement payments).

NRCS requires applicants to obtain the required registrations when applying for programs. Applications cannot be fully processed without this information. There is NO cost for registration. If you already have a DUNS number, you do not need a new one for NRCS. The following table can be used to help determine if applicants need to complete the DUNS/SAM process based on their business and Tax ID type.

Business Type Code	Business Type	Tax ID Type	DUNS/SAM required
0	Individual	SSN	No
2	General Partnership	EIN	Yes
3	Joint Venture	EIN	Yes
3	Joint Venture	SSN	No
4	Corporation or Limited	EIN	Yes
4	Limited Liability Company	SSN	No
5	Limited Partnership	EIN	Yes
6	Estate	EIN	Yes
7	Trust-Revocable	SSN	No
7	Trust-Revocable	EIN	Yes
10	Churches, Charities & Non-Profit Organizations	EIN	Yes
17	Trust-Irrevocable	EIN	Yes
18	Individual Operating as a	EIN	Yes

Call Johnna or Ashley for assistance at 406-485-2660 x 114 & x117.

You may request a DUNS number online at: <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform> or by calling Dun & Bradstreet at 866-705-5711 for an application to fax back.

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, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

Conservation Trees & Shrubs

2016 TREE ORDER FORM

Order season

We are now accepting orders for trees and shrubs for the 2016 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 18, 2016. Shipment of trees may be expected by the last week of April 2016 to mid May 2016.

When Ordering—NEW!

Beginning in 2016, the minimum order will be one bundle of 25 for conservation grade and 2'-3' and one bundle of 10 for 3'+ bare-root deciduous and conifer specimens. Plugs are sold in bundles of 5. We will no longer split bundles for smaller purchases. Potted conifers and fruit trees can be purchased individually.

This policy change is enacted to bring us back inline with other Conservation District tree programs. We apologize for any inconvenience to our customers.

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 18, 2016.

Cancellation of order

Cancellations to order may be accepted until February 5, 2016. Refund of deposit will be subject to Conservation District and/or vendor policies.

Tree Pick-up and Warranty

Plants are in a dormant stage and field harvested just prior to shipment. Orders should be picked up as soon as possible after delivery notification. **Please note.** 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.



McCONE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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

Conservation Trees & Shrubs

	SPECIES	Conservation Grade Bundles of 25	2'-3' Bundles of 25	3'+ Bundles of 10	Number of Bundles	Total Amount
0001	Almond, Russian	\$31.25	—	—		
0002	Apricot, Hardy	\$31.25	\$43.75	\$25.00		
0003	Ash, Green	\$31.25	\$43.75	\$25.00		
0004	Aspen, Quaking	\$31.25	\$43.75	\$25.00		
0005	Birch, Paper	\$31.25	\$43.75	\$25.00		
0006	Buckeye, Ohio	\$31.25	\$43.75	\$25.00		
0007	Buffaloberry	\$31.25	\$43.75	\$25.00		
0008	Caragana	\$31.25	\$43.75	\$25.00		
0009	Cherry, Nanking	\$31.25	\$43.75	\$25.00		
0010	Cherry, Sand	\$31.25	—	—		
0011	Chokecherry	\$31.25	\$43.75	\$25.00		
0012	Cotoneaster, Pekin	\$31.25	\$43.75	\$25.00		
0013	Cottonwood, Native	\$31.25	\$43.75	\$25.00		
0014	Cottonwood, Siouxland	\$31.25	\$43.75	\$25.00		
0015	Crabapple, Midwest	\$31.25	\$43.75	\$25.00		
0016	Currant, Golden	\$31.25	\$43.75	\$25.00		
0017	Dogwood, Redoiser	\$31.25	\$43.75	\$25.00		
0018	Elderberry	\$31.25	—	—		
0019	Elm, Siberian	\$31.25	\$43.75	\$25.00		
0020	Hackberry	\$31.25	\$43.75	\$25.00		
0021	Honeysuckle	\$31.25	—	—		
0022	Juneberry	\$31.25	\$43.75	\$25.00		
0023	Lilac, Common (purple)	\$31.25	\$43.75	\$25.00		
0024	Lilac, Villosa (lilac-white)	\$31.25	\$43.75	\$25.00		
0025	Maple, Amur	\$31.25	\$43.75	\$25.00		
0026	Maple, Silver	\$31.25	\$43.75	\$25.00		
0027	Maple, Northern Sugar	\$31.25	\$43.75	\$25.00		
0028	Oak, Bur	\$31.25	\$43.75	\$25.00		
0029	Plum, American	\$31.25	\$43.75	\$25.00		
0030	Poplar	\$31.25	\$43.75	\$25.00		
0031	Snowberry	\$31.25	\$43.75	\$25.00		
0032	Sumac, Staghorn	\$31.25	\$43.75	\$25.00		
0033	Walnut, Black	\$31.25	\$43.75	\$25.00		
0034	Willow, Laurel Leaf	\$31.25	\$43.75	\$25.00		

Conservation Trees & Shrubs

	SPECIES	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL AMOUNT
	CONIFER, POTTED	Individual Pots		
0035	Cedar, Eastern Red —2 Gallon—18" -30"	\$15.00		
0036	Juniper, Rocky Mountain —1 Gallon—14" -20"	\$10.00		
0037	Pine, Ponderosa—1 Gallon—8" -14"	\$10.00		
0038	Pine, Scotch—1 Gallon—10" -16"	\$10.00		
0039	Spruce, Black Hills—1 Gallon—10" -18"	\$10.00		
0040	Spruce, Colorado Blue —1 Gallon—10" -12"	\$10.00		
0041	Spruce, Colorado Blue—2 Gallon—14" -24"	\$15.00		
	CONIFER, BARE-ROOT	Bundles of 25		
0042	Cedar, Eastern Red	\$31.25		
0043	Juniper, Rocky Mountain	\$31.25		
0044	Pine, Ponderosa	\$31.25		
0045	Spruce, Black Hills	\$31.25		
0046	Spruce, Colorado Blue	\$31.25		
	CONIFER, PLUG	Bundles of 5		
0047	Pine, Ponderosa	\$10.00		
0048	Spruce, Black Hills	\$10.00		
0049	Spruce, Colorado Blue	\$10.00		
	FRUITTREE, BARE-ROOT	Each Tree		
0050	*Apple—Haralred, Haralson, Honeycrisp, Honeygold, Norland, Red Baron, Snowsweet, Statefair, Sweet Sixteen and Zestar	\$27.00		
0051	Cherry, Bali "Evans"	\$30.00		
0052	*Plum—Black Ice, Pipestone and Toka	\$28.00		
	*Specify what type of Apple or Plum in your order.			
	VINES FOR WILDLIFE	Bundles of 25		
0053	Bittersweet	\$31.25		
0054	Grape, Riverbank	\$31.25		
0055	Woodbine	\$31.25		
	NATIVE GRASS, PLUG	Bundles of 5		
0056	Bluestem, Big Bonilla	\$20.00		
0057	Bluestem, Little Badlands	\$20.00		
0058	Indiangrass, Tomahawk	\$20.00		
0059	Switchgrass, Dacotah	\$20.00		

Conservation Trees & Shrubs

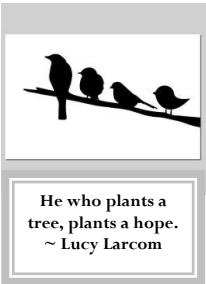
	SPECIES	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL AMOUNT
	NATIVE PERENNIAL, PLUG	Bundles of 5		
0060	Black-eyed Susan	\$15.00		
0061	Columbine, American	\$15.00		
0062	Coneflower, Purple	\$15.00		
0063	Coneflower, Yellow	\$15.00		
0064	Mexican Hat	\$15.00		
	SPECIALTY, BARE-ROOT	Bundles of 25		
0065	Raspberry, Caroline	\$100.00		
0066	Raspberry, Killarney	\$100.00		
0067	Strawberry, Allstar	\$15.00		
	FABRIC	Each		
0068	6' x 500' Fabric Roll	\$130.00		
0069	3' x 3' Fabric Square	\$0.75		
0070	4' x 4' Fabric Square	\$1.00		
0071	Fabric Staple	\$0.10		
0072	Fabric Staple, Box of 500	\$50.00		

ITEM #	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	PRICE	SUBTOTAL
00				
00				
00				
00				
00				
00				
00				

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.

ORDER TOTAL _____
50% DEPOSIT _____
BALANCE DUE _____

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
PHONE _____
METHOD OF PAYMENT
☐ Cash
☐ Check



Official use only:



DRWA TESTIFIES IN D.C.

Dry-Redwater Regional Water Authority (DRWA) had the opportunity to testify on behalf of some key legislation in Washington D.C. on June 18, 2015.

Jerry Meissner, DRWA Chairman, traveled to D.C. to testify in front of the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power.

Jerry spoke in support of S.1552 (Clean Water for Rural Communities Act) and S.1365 (Authorized Rural Water Projects Completion Act). If passed, S.1552 will provide DRWA with Federal Authorization and S.1365 will provide funding for DRWA to grow.

DRWA is optimistic about future development and would appreciate your assistance. Let your voice be heard by contacting your Elected Officials to show your support for DRWA!

Mandi Nay
DRWA Coordinator
406-485-DRWA
drwa@midrivers.com



*If there is magic on this planet,
it is contained in water.
~ Loren Eiseley*

310 PERMIT

Montana's Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act, otherwise known as the 310 law, requires that before you plan to work in or near a year-round perennial stream or river on private or public land, a 310 permit must be obtained through your local conservation district.

Featured Noxious Weed: Yellow Star Thistle



Photo: NRCS Plant Database

Biological Control of Yellow Star Thistle

- Yellow Star Thistle Hairy Weevil (*Eustenopus villosus*)

These hairy weevils feast on the star thistle flowers, helping to reduce the amount of seeds each plant produces.



Photo: Charles Turner, USDA ARS, Bugwood.org

The yellow star thistle has a bushy appearance; stems are grayish-green in color and can grow 3' to 5' in height. Leaves are covered with hairs that look thick and wooly. The leaves that occur at the base are up to 3" long and have deep lobes; the leaves that occur on the upper portion of the stalk are short and narrow, giving the stem a "winged" appearance.

This plant produces bright yellow flowers that are surrounded at their base by sharp spines that are up to 3/4" in length. **Yellow star thistles reproduce only through seeds.** Each plant can produce up to 75,000 seeds in a single growing season. Seeds typically germinate after about a year, but can remain viable in the soil up to 10 years.

Yellow star thistle has a taproot that can grow to depths of 3 feet. This long taproot provides the plant with the capacity to survive in hot, dry climates. Habitats are disturbed areas, roadsides, rangelands, waste areas, overgrazed lands, pastures, hay fields, along waterways, roadsides and forests.

If ingested by horses, yellow star thistle causes "chewing disease"; a neurological disorder that creates brain lesions and ulcers in the mouth that can be fatal.

Weeds are nature's graffiti. ~ Janice Maeditere

Integrated Weed Management (IWM)

- Mechanical applications such as hand pulling, hoeing, or mowing should be done before the plant produces viable seeds. Flower-heads develop in early summer until a killing frost. On average, seed-heads required about 21 days to progress from the pre-bloom stage to petal termination.
- Fire management: Consult local authorities for assistance
- Herbicides: Consult local Weed Board and/or Extension Agent for assistance

Draft EIS: Bison Conservation and Management in Montana

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the purpose of this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)?

To determine if bison restoration is appropriate and if so, what potential opportunities are feasible and consistent within Montana's laws, policies, rules, and regulations.

How are bison currently classified in Montana?

Bison are designated as both a wildlife species in need of management and a species in need of disease control in Montana.

Don't the bison that migrate out of Yellowstone National Park count as wild bison?

Those bison are considered wildlife but they fall under management of the Interagency Bison Management Plan which is based in large part on minimizing disease transmission risk to domestic livestock; not restoring bison as a native species to Montana.

How does this process differ from the current Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP) revision process?

Although the two projects focus on the same species, they are entirely separate efforts. One focuses on the potential of additional conservation bison herds in Montana and the other focuses on the on-going management of Yellowstone bison.

FWP's statewide bison restoration EIS has been developed to consider bison restoration somewhere in Montana where animals can be managed as a native species. The first step of the development process for this EIS (scoping) has been completed and the draft EIS has been published for review and comment by the public. The public comment period for this document is from June 11 – September 11, 2015.

The EIS for revising the IBMP, of which FWP and the National Park Service are co-lead agencies for developing, is the plan that will only guide management of bison that migrate out of Yellowstone National Park into Montana. The scoping process for the development of this draft EIS will conclude on June 15, 2015. The draft EIS for replacing the 2000 IBMP is tentatively scheduled to be available for public review and comment the summer of 2016.

What is FWP's statutory requirement to manage bison?

FWP is required to manage wildlife, fish, game, and nongame animals in a manner that prevents the need for listing under the state or federal list of endangered species and in a manner that assists in the maintenance or recovery of the species.

What alternatives are being analyzed in the draft EIS?

- Alternative #1: No Action
- Alternative #2: Restoration of a Publicly Managed Bison Herd on the Private and/or Public Lands of Willing Landowner(s)
- Alternative #3: Restoration of a Publicly Managed Bison Herd on Tribal Lands
- Alternative #4: Restoration of a Publicly Managed Bison Herd on a Large Landscape Where there are Minimal Conflicts with Livestock

How does FWP evaluate these alternatives when they are based on hypothetical scenarios?

At least one "case study" has been included for each of Alternatives #2-#4 to illustrate a real life scenario that fits the general criteria of the alternative. Potential impacts to the human and physical environment are evaluated for each alternative, however, the evaluation is indeed based on broad restoration scenarios.

Continued on page 9

Case Studies

- Alternative #2: American Prairie Reserve (Montana) and the Henry Mountains (Utah)
- Alternative #3: Book Cliffs (Utah)
- Alternative #4: Pink Mountains (Canada) and Wood Bison (Alaska)

What guidelines would FWP use to guide bison restoration within Alternatives #2-#4?

FWP worked with a constituent group to identify general guidelines that fall into four categories:

1) project site guidelines; 2) bison source herd guidelines; 3) herd management guidelines; and 4) program implementation guidelines. These guidelines are described within Chapter 3 of the draft EIS.

Some particular guidelines that would apply to any restoration project: 1) only animals free of reportable diseases and free of cattle gene introgression would be used; 2) a pre-restoration range assessment would be conducted; 3) a well thought out containment and management plan would be completed; 4) full funding would be secured for at least a five- year test period; and 5) local community involvement would be required.

How much would a bison restoration project cost?

It is difficult to determine costs of a restoration project in detail when no specific location for restoration has been identified. A full cost assessment would be conducted within a follow up site-specific Environmental Assessment if FWP determines to implement one of the alternatives calling for restoration.

What is the next step if the ‘no action’ alternative is selected?

Selection of the ‘no action’ alternative does not prevent FWP from engaging in discussions on bison restoration. However, FWP would likely reduce resources invested in these discussions until new opportunities or funding resources are identified to move forward with restoration.

Will the final Record of Decision for this EIS select a site for bison restoration?

No, the decision will identify potential opportunities and guidelines for restoration if it is determined to move forward with some effort.

What is the next step if an alternative to restore bison is selected?

FWP could solicit project proposals that include site details and funding opportunities. A site-specific Environmental Assessment would need to be conducted for any particular project. A separate public scoping process would be conducted for any follow up Environmental Assessment.

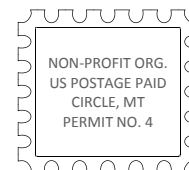
What is the timeline for the remainder of this process?

Following release of this document on June 11 there will be a 90 day comment period. All comments will be due by close of business, September 11, 2015. Another 60 to 90 days will be needed to process comments and finalize the EIS. A final Record of Decision will be announced in late 2015 or early 2016.

- * *The EIS can be viewed and downloaded at FWP’s website or obtained on a CD at FWP’s headquarters office in Helena. To request a CD copy of the EIS be mailed to you, send a written request to: FWP – Statewide Bison EIS, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620.*
- * *The public comment period will extend through **5 p.m., Friday, September 11.***
- * *You may make your comments online by visiting http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/publicComments/2015/draftEisBisonConservAndMgmtinMT_draftEIS.html— Opportunity for Public Comment*



IF YOU WANT TO SEE THIS NEWSLETTER IN COLOR,
VISIT WWW.MCCONECOUNTYCD.COM



MCCONE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

106 10th Street
P.O. Box 276
Circle, MT 59215

Phone: 406-485-2744 x100
Email: mcconed@macdnet.org
Website: www.mcconecountycd.com
Like us on Facebook! [McConecountycd](https://www.facebook.com/McConeCountyCD)

Conservation District Board & Staff

Steve Wanderaas, Chairman
Casey Nay, Vice-chairman
Larry Nagel, Treasurer
Jenny Garoutte, Rural Supervisor
Brant Quick, Rural Supervisor
Josh Murphy, Rural Supervisor
Dusty White, Rural Supervisor
Mary Hendrix, Administrator & Editor

Partners in Conservation

Johnna Blankenship, DC, NRCS
Ashley Kiehl, Soil Conservationist, NRCS
Mandi Nay, Coordinator, DRWA

Upcoming Events

September 2015

2 Board Meeting, Circle
11 Draft EIS Public
Comment Period ends
23 Area 1 Meeting

October 2015

1 Tree ordering begins
7 Board Meeting, Circle

November 2015

1 Daylight Savings
Time ends at 2am
4 Board Meeting, Circle
15-19 MACD
Convention, Missoula

MCCONE COUNTY POSTAL PATRON

MCCONE CONSERVATION DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT CONSERVATION DISTRICT AUTHORITY

Mission Statement—By performing a leadership role in conservation for McCone County, the District will develop a more sustainable and economic resource management plan for the community.

Conservation District Authority—MCA 76-15-102. Declaration of policy. It is hereby declared to be the policy of the legislature to provide for the conservation of soil and soil resources of this state, for the control and prevention of soil erosion, for the prevention of floodwater and sediment damages, and for furthering the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water and therefore to preserve natural resources, control floods, prevent impairment of dams and reservoirs, preserve wildlife, protect the tax base, protect public lands, and protect and promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the people of this state.

Coming Soon



Autumn carries more gold in its pockets than all the other seasons. ~Jim Bishop