

THE MONTANA CONSERVATIONIST

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Montana Association of Conservation Districts is seeking candidates for a Range and Wildlife Conservationist located in Malta.

This position is part of a collaborative effort that includes the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV), to further the delivery of the NRCS Sage-Grouse Initiative. The position provides rangeland technical assistance for the Sage-Grouse Initiative and associated Farm Bill conservation programs to agriculture producers and landowners. The incumbent will be an employee of MACD with daily instruction and leadership provided by NRCS District Conservationist. The position is open until filled or until **February 14, 2014**. The anticipated start date is **March 3, 2014**. The salary range is between \$37,000 and 42,000 per year based on experience and include health and retirement benefits. To apply the application packet must include a resume, three references with contact information, and responses to the following questions:



- ✓ Describe your experience working with landowners.
- ✓ What is your philosophy on sage-grouse conservation?
- ✓ How do you self-motivate your work activities when working alone?
- ✓ Where do you see your career in five years?

Please submit application materials via email to [Shilo Messerly](mailto:Shilo.Messerly@macdnet.org), [Jeff Tiberi](mailto:Jeff.Tiberi@macdnet.org) and mail@macdnet.org. Please visit [MACD's website](http://www.macdnet.org) for a copy of the full job description.

Next rancher roundtable workshop takes on parasites:

The workshop is hosted by the Madison Conservation District and includes a presentation titled, **"Worm no More: Outwitting the Parasite"** facilitated by Dave Scott, National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) Livestock Specialist.

The workshop is scheduled for **January 21** from 12:00 to 2:00 in the basement conference room of the First Madison Valley Bank in Ennis. A second presentation will be held from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Extension Office conference room in Whitehall (309 East Legion St. - "The Old Cheese Factory").

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Cascade Conservation District Hosts 2013 MACD State Convention: Following is a write-up about the goings on during MACD's 2013 State Convention written by Galya Wortman, Cascade Conservation District Chairwoman. The article is provided as written and published in the District's newsletter, "Conservation Chronicle." And check out the convention photo collage the District pulled together to see what you missed if you stayed home! Thanks, Cascade!!

The 72nd annual convention of the Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) was hosted by Cascade Conservation District (CCD) in Great Falls this November. This convention, which rotates to different cities every year, is the annual meeting of the Association where business, including staff evaluations, budgeting, property decisions, and the like, is discussed. In addition, resolutions, which sometimes result in either state or national legislation (or, on occasion, both) are debated and decided upon.

"We didn't get the final tally from MACD, but I'm guessing there were about 200 people in attendance," said CCD chair, Gayla Wortman. "We [the CCD Board and employees] worked really hard to make this an informative and fun convention...and I think we accomplished that." The assembly was addressed by Lt. Governor John Walsh and the Department of Natural Resources Director, John Tubbs. Great Falls Mayor Michael Winters and Cascade County Commissioner Jane Weber were on hand to give a welcome. Commissioner Weber was particularly appreciated as she talked about the need for continued attention to the natural resources and the value of the partnership that the County Commission and the Conservation District has forged over the last few years.

The Convention included a strong focus on the education of the youth of Montana. This emphasis included participation by State FFA Officers. A senior from Central Catholic High School, Kody Diekans, sang the National Anthem so beautifully that tears sprang to the eyes of even the very stoic. After second graders from Holy Spirit Catholic School led the Pledge of Allegiance, students from schools in the Sun River Watershed, under the tutelage of Rai Hahn, presented their multiple year projects during the Education Breakfast. Stevie Neuman, CCD Vice Chair and coordinator of the Education Breakfast, remarked "Everyone knows our youth represents the future. This breakfast gives these young, talented people an opportunity to show case their projects to a wide audience, opening doors for their future that they might not have thought of..."

Amanda Radke, a young rancher from Mitchell, South Dakota, was the keynote speaker. Her message, "When City and County Collide" and "Conserving Our Agriculture Legacy While Celebrating a Modern Age" was about getting the agriculture message out to consumers. The conservation district supervisors are in an unique position to "sell" the idea of conservation and agriculture to people who might not otherwise know or understand how agriculture works. Ms. Radke and the message was well-received. Fortunately, many people had the opportunity to visit with her personally before she departed.

Several resolutions were discussed including Fuels Mitigation and reduction planning, legal clarification of reserved water rights and one regarding the "wild and free roaming buffalo" which would put more restraint on the transit and confinement of buffalo. This resolution, submitted by Valley County Conservation District, was passed out of committee and the general session. MACD will work with the Montana Legislature to amend Montana Law to clearly state that bison or buffalo that are not kept in the confines of those wishing to house them will be defined as domestic livestock and subject to Montana Laws.

Overall, deemed a success, the convention was packed full of good information giving Conservation Districts and partners new energy. The convention will be held in Butte in 2014. The organizers will begin work early in the year to bring supervisors, employees, and our partners to the Mining City.

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<http://www.macdnet.org/>

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OF INTEREST TO CONSERVATION DISTRICTS:

Sunni Heikes-Knapton featured in Bozeman Daily Chronicle's "20 under 40": For the second year, the Chronicle's Business Journal has narrowed down a list of nominees to identify the top 20 most accomplished people under the age of 40 in southwestern Montana. Heikes-Knapton is the Madison watershed coordinator. [Read More](#)

Conservation District workshops scheduled for February in Miles City:

✓ ***Advanced Supervisor Training***

February 10 & 11

Please contact Carrie (Petroleum Conservation District - **429-6646**) for information about capacity grant funding available to help with travel expense for this workshop!

✓ ***310 Administration Workshop***

February 11

✓ ***Tips on Being an Effective Chair***

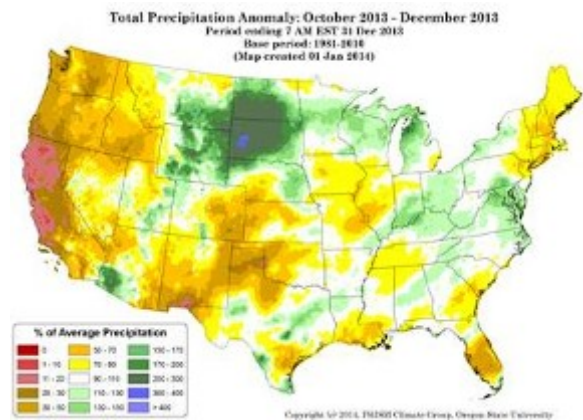
Late February (2 hr. video conference)
~NRCS Office

For more information about these workshops please contact [Karl Christians](#) (**406-444-3022**). Districts in the western part of the state, don't despair. Christians is working to plan these same workshops closer to you in the spring!



Montana State University's January "Weed Post" discusses Medusahead: This species is an annual exotic grass. It's slen-

der and bright from the seed head, which points outward and upward. Medusahead looks similar to the native grasses bottlebrush squirreltail (*Elymus elymoides*) and foxtail barley (*Hordeum jubatum*). The difference is that the mature inflorescences of the native species fall apart easily when handled, while medusahead inflorescences stay intact. [Click here](#) to access the latest edition for more information about the impacts, habitat, spread, and mitigation of this invasive weed.



California could experience severe water restrictions due to lack of winter snowpack: This is according to the [National Water and Climate Center's](#) most recent [snowpack and drought report](#). The report for October through December 2013 shows California in the red for total levels of precipitation.

Summary of last Statewide TMDL Advisory Group (STAG) meeting available online: The last STAG meeting was held November 15, 2013. Those unable to attend or who attended and would like a summary of the meeting can visit the Department of Environmental Quality's [STAG website](#) to download a copy. A listing of past meeting agendas, summaries and other associated materials is also available through the website. Please contact [Carrie Greeley](#) (**406-444-6749**) if there is a problem with or difficulty accessing the materials.

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15th Annual Association Of Montana Floodplain Managers Conference is March 24 through 27 at the Billings Hotel & Convention Center: Those interested in attending should submit this registration form by **March 1, 2014.**



AMFM
P.O. Box 1305
Helena, Montana 59624-1305
mtfloods@mtfloods.org
www.mtfloods.org

15th ANNUAL AMFM WORKSHOP

“FLOODPLAIN FUNDAMENTALS”

BILLINGS HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER | BILLINGS, MONTANA | MARCH 24-27, 2014

REGISTRATION FORM

Each individual from your agency or organization attending the workshop must complete a separate Registration form. For more than one attending from your office, please copy additional forms as necessary. Registration forms **must be received by March 1, 2014.** Please mail or email this form and other correspondence to: AMFM, PO Box 1305, Helena, MT 59624-1305 (conference@mtfloods.org).

NAME: _____

PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATION(S): ☐ CFM ☐ PE ☐ PLS ☐ RS ☐ GISP ☐ Other _____

TITLE: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ ** EMAIL: _____

REGISTRATION FEE: Includes workshop binders and materials, continental breakfasts, luncheons, breaks and evening social events. Please make checks payable to AMFM. ** (*e-Certificates will be sent for attendance to the address above*)

- ☐ Workshop Registration (*Annual AMFM Membership Included*) \$150.00
- ☐ Student (*Must bring valid Student ID*) \$50.00
- ☐ Lead Presenter or Exhibitor/Sponsor (*only one (1) allowed per organization*) \$0.00

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

- ☐ Check enclosed # _____
- ☐ Paypal (*on Website*) Confirmation #: _____
- ☐ Will pay on-site (*cash or check only*)

Total amount due

\$ _____

LODGING INFORMATION: Reservations may be made with the Billings Hotel & Convention Center by calling 800-537-7286). Rooms have been reserved from Monday, March 24 to Thursday, March 27, 2014. Please identify yourself with the Grp Code #FLOOD. **Room Blocks will ONLY be available until March 01, 2014,** so make your reservations early!

CFM PREP SESSION & EXAM:

CFM prep session and exam will be offered on the first day of the workshop. The prep session is complimentary, however those who wish to take the exam **must submit an application with fees to ASFPM at least two weeks before the exam date.** **PLEASE INDICATE WHICH SESSION YOU PLAN TO ATTEND** More information about the CFM exam and application are available at www.floods.org.

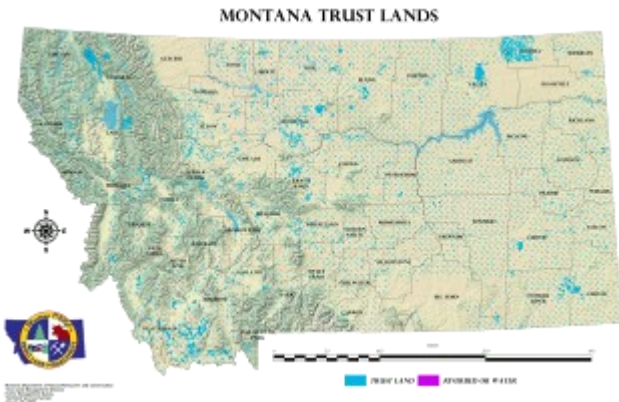
- ☐ CFM Prep Session..... March 24 (1-5 pm)
- ☐ CFM Exam..... March 24 (6-9 pm)

“Ensuring the Responsible Management of Montana Floodplains Through Communication, Cooperation, and Education”

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The Governor's sage grouse council deliberates in one of their last meetings before sending him the state's plan for consideration.



The question of the day – "Should states have ownership of public lands?" That was topic taken up by the Environmental Quality Council during its January meeting. A Utah state representative, asked to testify during the meeting, urged Montanans to investigate assuming ownership and management of some or all of Montana's federal lands. The Council is reviewing laws, court decisions and financial impacts associated with managing public lands. In the western U.S.

about 50% of federal land is under state control compared to about 90% in the eastern states. National parks, military installations, Indian reservations, congressionally designated wilderness and a few other parcels are not part of the equation; but there remains a lot of acreage that could be impacted. [Read More](#)

Related Article ~ The Nature Conservancy (TNC) helps protect Montana lands through conservation easements that restrict development: Two recently negotiated easements; 500 acres in the forest along the Upper Big Hole River and 14,000 acres on the Rocky Mountain Front, have put TNC at the million acre mark for protecting lands in Montana. A lot of those acres are still "working lands". Over the past 35 years, TNC has worked to educate landowners on how conservation easements can help preserve their land. Conservation easements restrict development rights and preclude subdivisions, drainage of wetlands, plowing of native prairie and commercial gravel pits. [Read More](#)

Does the oil coming from the Bakken fields present a danger? That's the question being asked after several recent accidents. In a step to address the issue, the U.S. Department of Transportation issued a safety alert warning the public, emergency responders and shipers about the potential high volatility of crude from the Bakken oil shale patch. It's believed this oil may be more flammable than traditional forms of oil. Following are several related stories for those interested in reading more.



[After train fires, feds warn Bakken oil may be more flammable than others](#)

[Safety questions after ND oil train derailment](#) Associated Press

[\[\\$\\$\] Crude-Oil Impurities Are Probed in Rail Blasts](#) The Wall Street Journal

[Train collision in North Dakota sets oil rail cars ablaze](#) Reuters

[Residents allowed to return home after smoky North Dakota rail crash](#) Reuters

[North Dakota mulls study of state's oil volatility](#) Associated Press
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FROM OUR PARTNERS:



Montana Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Announces National EQIP Initiatives for 2014: Three national initiatives are being offered in Montana through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP): On-Farm Energy, Organic, and Seasonal High Tunnel.

While NRCS accepts applications for EQIP on a continuous basis throughout the year, there will be a cutoff deadline of **February 21, 2014** for FY 2014 funding of these initiatives. For more information about EQIP, or other programs offered by NRCS, please contact your local USDA Service Center or visit [Montana's NRCS website](#).

Department of Agriculture is accepting applications for economic assistant grants and loans: This funding is available to provide economic assistance to agricultural producers, businesses, public and private organizations, educational institutions and local governments. Applicants must enter into activities that add value to Montana's agricultural commodities, expand markets, and increase financial returns to the state.

The Agriculture Development Council has designated the following areas for potential growth, eligible for zero percent interest rate loans:

- Malting production projects;
- Irrigation projects that serve multiple agricultural users; or
- Businesses transitioning beyond direct sales/farmers markets.

The funding is through the state's Growth Through

Agriculture (GTA) Program. The next application deadline is **January 31, 2014**. For details about eligibility rules and application procedures click on one of the following links:

- <http://www.fundingmt.org>
- www.fundingmt.org, or
- <http://www.agr.mt.gov>

Questions may be directed to Angie Nelson or Lindy Davies at **406-444-2402** or by emailing gta@mt.gov.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announces awardees of grants under its Agricultural Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices program:

Those receiving the funding are to reduce the use of potentially harmful pesticides; lowering the risk to bees while controlling pests and saving money.

This year's grant recipients and their projects are:

- The Louisiana State University ~ minimize impacts to bees from insecticides used in mosquito control.
- The University of Vermont ~ reduce pesticide use and improve pest control while increasing crop yields on 75 acres of hops in the Northeast.
- The Pennsylvania State University ~ protect bees and crops by reducing reliance on neonicotinoid pesticide seed treatments and exploring the benefits of growing crops without them.

For more information visit EPA's Regional [Agricultural IPM Grants website](#).

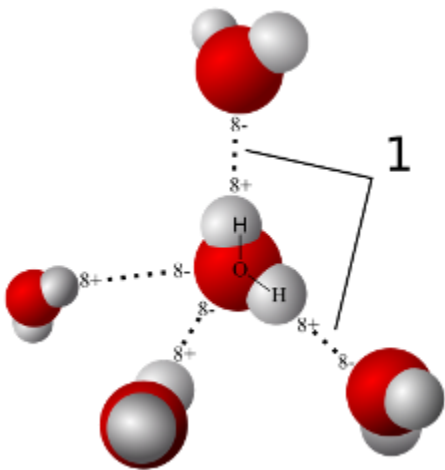


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CONSERVATION AROUND THE WORLD

Denmark, with a setup much like Silicon Valley, is becoming an agriculture superpower: Denmark expects its food exports to reach about \$9 billion by 2020. Every weekday 20,000 pigs are delivered to the Danish Crown slaughterhouse, a state-of-the-art facility that is the size of about ten football “pitches”. That’s ten times 110 yards by 70 yards – you do the math! The city of Horsens, in the central part of the nation, is where Denmark is applying the logic of clustering; much like California’s electronic industries clustered in Silicon Valley. The Danish Crown slaughterhouse is just one of several industries that have located their business in Horsens; many of which are agriculture related or support the state-of-the-art machinery that runs the slaughterhouse. Not bad for a country smaller than the state of Montana! [Read More](#)



University of Minnesota exploring clean energy: The University is a comprehensive research and land-grant university that works to solve the toughest challenges across the state and world. One of the challenges of economic and practical importance is finding a means of harnessing power from hydrogen. Hydrogen produces only water vapor as a post-combustion waste product; in other words, a clean-burning fuel source. Learning to adapt hydrogen for modern consumption would provide a plentiful fuel source that is harmless to the environment.

The University, at their West Central Research and Outreach Center (WCROC) in Morris, Minnesota, is creating fertilizer from thin air in a carbon-neutral, wind-to-ammonia pilot project. More information about this project can be found on the [wind section](#) of the University’s [Renewable Energy Initiatives](#) website.

Greening of the bicycle: “How could a bicycle get greener?” you may ask; it’s already pretty low in the energy use area. It’s not the carbon foot print of the bike however, that is being considered. Bicycling takes a lot of personal energy and you have to be pretty dedicated to bicycle around town rather than drive. What if there was something that would make it easier to get that bike moving? Well, researchers at MIT have developed what they’re calling the “Copenhagen Wheel”, which is designed to store energy and save it for when most needed – like that hill on the trek up to your office building. And it’s easy to use, just snap it onto your bike and start peddling. As with many renewable energy items, however, it’s not cheap. Superpedestrian has licensed the technology and is selling the wheel for \$699. So, how does it work? There’s a 350W motor and a 48 volt lithium-ion battery that captures braking energy and then dols it out based on need. There’s also a special app that allows users to adjust when the wheel kicks in, and lock the bike’s wheel in place until the user comes in range via a Bluetooth connection. [Read More](#)



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Calendar

January Thru February

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January 20 ~ Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 21 ~ MSU Winter Grazing Seminar,

January 27 ~ MACD Executive Committee Call, for more information contact Jan Fontaine (**443-5711**)

January 29 & 30 ~ [Montana Winter Grazing Seminar](#) in Miles City, for more information contact [Heidi Crum](#) (**444-6619**)

February 2 ~ Ground Hog Day

February 10 ~ MACD Conference Call, for more information contact Jan Fontaine (**443-5711**)

February 10 & 11 ~ Advanced Supervisor Training, Fort Keogh, Miles City, for more information contact [Karl Christians](#) (**406-444-3022**)

February 11 ~ 310 Administration Workshop, Fort Keogh, Miles City, for more information contact [Karl Christians](#) (**406-444-3022**)

February 12 ~ Lincoln's Birthday

February 15 ~ Valentine's Day

February 17 ~ President's Day (Holiday)

February 22 ~ Washington's Birthday

February 24 ~ MACD Executive Committee Call, for more information contact Jan Fontaine (**443-5711**)

Wildlife biologist James Bailey publishes new book titled "American Plains Bison Rewilding An Icon"

Bailey was a professor of biology at Colorado State University where he taught big-game management and wildlife nutrition. He has published multiple books about wildlife issues and moved to Montana when he retired. He now lives in Belgrade and studies the bison of Yellowstone National Park. [The cover of James A. Baily's new book is courtesy of [Farcountry Press](#)] [Read More](#)



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MONTANA CDs: LOCAL COMMON SENSE CONSERVATION

Please send your thoughts as to how to improve **The Montana Conservationist** to

jtiberi@macdnet.org

Unless specifically requested, **The Montana Conservationist** is not sent to CD Supervisors. MACD relies on District Administrators to forward **The Montana Conservationist** to the Board Chair, Supervisors, Associate Supervisors and CD Staff. Thank you.

The Montana Conservationist is made possible by a 223 Grant from DNRC