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Gallatin Conservation District relocates to new office in Manhattan:

The move was necessary due to the need for expansion, our own identity, and a more centrally located location. The new office is located at 120 South 5th Street; one block from main and one block from Broadway Street. The four condo units have been converted into an office for staff, kitchen/hall/restrooms, a conference room, and an additional expansion or rental office.

The conference room is able to seat 50 and offers a white board, a 55" Wi-Fi TV, and new conference table and chairs. The CD plans to add a 50-unit audience response system in the near future. The room is available for rent at \$75.00 for a full day, \$50.00 for ½ day, and \$25 for 1-2 hours. Rental includes use of the kitchen, tableware, and coffee. Deposits may be required if food is served.

The District also purchased three vacant lots located directly west of the office. The total area is 65 feet by 140 feet and will be turned into an Education and Outreach Center. The center will feature community gardens, a greenhouse, xeriscape lawn, pollinator garden, warm season & cool season pasture grasses, rain garden, composting, native trees & shrubs, wildflower garden, hummingbird habitat, and a pergola. The District's Ameri-Corps Member, Erin Wall, is managing the planning and Phase I. The lots will need to be excavated and fenced and Erin has this work starting in April/May.

The new contact information for the GCD is:

PO Box 569
Manhattan, MT 59741
406-282-4350
www.gallatincd.org

Supervisor John Moodry testifies in support of SB 301 in front of the Senate Agricultural Committee.



OF INTEREST TO CONSERVATION DISTRICTS:

Scientists are attacking bark beetles with music: The saying is that "music soothes the savage beast." Well, bark beetles aren't really beasts but they are savage in their decimation of the nation's forests. A Santa Fe musician and composer, David Dunn, hears beautiful music in the sounds made by the beetles. Dunn has used his musical talent to help scientists from Northern Arizona University launch a sonic weapon to fight bark beetles and it appears to be working.

Dunn says that the beetles are sensitive to sound, using it to organize their world. Playing Dunn's recording of the beetles is interfering with their sensing and organizing. Scientists are using sounds from different species and a combination of aggression and courtship calls hoping to confuse the beetles so they won't reproduce! [Click here](#) to find out more!



Interesting article about life in the oil fields from National Geographic: The March online issue carried the [article](#) that shared how this new oil frenzy has boosted the U.S. fuel supply and at what cost. The picture shows the growth in the area since 2000.

NACD is looking to connect with conservation district forestry staff around the country:

Soon, **Forestry Notes** will offer a monthly e-Newsletter, allowing for more story sharing, forest health education, and activity and/or project ideas to enhance District forestry programs. To join the electronic mailing list, send an email to [Forestry Notes](#). Forestry Notes is also searching for conservation district foresters to manage a regular blog on NACD's new website. The blog will offer ideas for how conservation districts can engage forest landowners and bring more conservation practices to America's private forest lands. Anyone interested in helping manage the blog should send an email to Forestry Notes editor [Mike Beacom](#).

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www.nacdnet.org/news/publications/forestrynotes

FORESTRY NOTES

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS



Drought webinars brought to you by the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS):

[Click here](#) for the spring schedule of NOAA's Regional Drought Webinars. Listen to NOAA and state climatologists from the region assess current and forecasted conditions as the set-up unfolds for the crop year. Thank you to Jess Aber from the Governor's Drought Advisory Committee for sharing this information.

FROM OUR PARTNERS:

Get ready for Stewardship Week, April 28 through May 5:

The theme for this year's National Association of Conservation Districts' (NACD) Stewardship Week is **"Where Does Your Water Shed?"**. Visit NACD's [Stewardship page](#) for a downloadable news release, Public Service Announcements (PSAs), proclamations, coloring pages showing the new mascot, Shed, and much more. Community outreach materials are available from the [NACD Marketplace](#). Those that **place an order before March 15** can receive a 10% discount on orders of \$150 or more. Use code **water2013** during the check-out process.

**Next NACD Urban and Community Conservation Webinar takes on the Illinois Urban Manual:**

Scheduled for 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time on Thursday, March 21, the webinar will present the history and the process used to update the standards within the manual. Kane-DuPage, Kendall and North Cook Soil and Water Conservation Districts will also present information on how the manual is used by Soil and Water Conservation Districts, highlights of a particular standard, and the IUM's connection to the Indiana EPA's NPDES permit.

Remember, there is no cost to participate, however space is limited so contact [Debra Bogar](#) right away if planning to attend. Bogar will send information on how to access the webinar via return email.

Bureau of Land Management hires new manager for the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument:

Michael Kania replaces former monument manager Gary Slagel, who retired in June and had served as manager since the monument was created in 2001. Kania's background in managing natural resources and his broad experiences in working with the public will make him a great addition to BLM's central Montana team.

Kania joins the BLM from the Intermountain Region of the U.S. Forest Service in Ogden, Utah, where he was the regional recreation planner. Prior to that position, Kania served as district ranger in Alaska and staff officer on the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.



**Montana backs U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on imposition of new pollution standards:**

EPA has decided to deny a request that the federal government impose new pollution standards for nutrients entering rivers. A federal judge approved a motion filed by Montana in support of this decision. The request was in the form of a lawsuit filed by environmental groups. Governor Bullock and Attorney General Tim Fox agreed to file the motion on Montana's behalf believing the new standards would interfere with Montana's authority over nutrient pollution entering the state's rivers.

Nutrient standards are necessary to help keep the waters of the Mississippi River basin clear to improve the "dead zone" in the Gulf of Mexico. Fertilizer, urban runoff, and other pollution have been flowing into the Gulf since the 1980s resulting in an area that is now uninhabitable for fish and other marine creatures.

U.S. Forest Service is now accepting grant applications for the 2012 Hazardous Fuels Woody Biomass Utilization Grant Program:

Projects seeking funding should use woody biomass, such as material removed from forest restoration activities, wildfire hazardous fuel treatments, insect and disease mitigation, forest management due to catastrophic weather events, and/or thinning overstocked stands. The woody biomass must be used in a bioenergy facility that uses commercially proven technologies to produce thermal, electrical or liquid/gaseous bioenergy.

Funding is for assistance in completing the necessary engineering design work required to secure public and/or private funding for construction for developing local enterprises to better utilize woody biomass.

The application deadline is April 8, 2013. For more information, [click here](#) or visit the [U.S. grants website](#).

**Funding opportunity from USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS):**

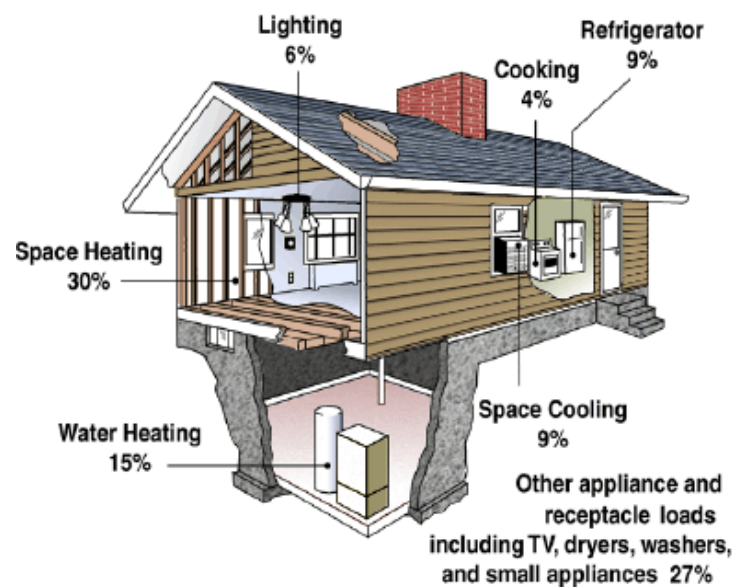
NRCS will provide up to \$25 million in grants to help develop and demonstrate cutting-edge ideas to improve conservation on private lands. Conservation Innovation Grants are available for state and local governments, federally recognized Indian Tribes, non-governmental and educational organizations, private businesses and individuals with applications due March 15. [Click here](#) for more on this grant opportunity. [Click here](#) to apply electronically. Those interested in finding out more about this funding opportunity can also visit or call their local NRCS office.

Tech News and Things from Space

Check out the list of the 2013 top ten emerging technologies: Just about every market has its "latest in advanced technologies." Maybe this is how it was in those heady years when electricity and the secrets of flight were first discovered. Many of the types of emerging technologies are keyed toward improving a major environmental, economic or social problem – climate change, pollution, scarcity of natural resources. [Click here](#) to check out the 2012 list of the top ten emerging technologies according to the World Economic Forum Global Agenda Council on Emerging Technologies. To read more on this topic, [click here](#) to read the article published in the Washington Post.

Looking for solutions to save energy but don't have the money for high tech, then go low tech: Home weatherization is considered the "low hanging fruit" of energy savings. There's been lots of excitement over breakthrough technologies and advanced energy research and development – most of which is still pretty pricey. The best way to see energy savings in your home is to pick up the caulking gun! Statistics suggest that weatherized homes saved occupants an average of over \$400 in their heating and cooling bills over the course of one year. So, if you're interested, [click here](#) for some tips on do-it-yourself home weatherization tips.

Typical Household Energy Use



Calling all rock hounds – thars' diamonds under that thar crater! What crater – the Popigai crater in an isolated region of northern Siberia in Russia. The crater is 100 km wide and was formed roughly 35.7 million years ago from an asteroid impact that was between five and eight kilometers.

"Impact diamonds" are formed when an existing diamond seam is hit by an asteroid or meteor. Diamonds formed by this method are harder than normal diamonds, making them good for industrial and scientific uses.

This is what some believe happened in this area and that same "some" are speculating there are trillions of carats with the potential to supply the world diamond market for the next 3,000 years. [Click here](#) to find out more.

**Calendar
March — May 2013**

March 5 ~ Winter Workshop Series 3 – Livestock and Land Health through Drought Resiliency, Ennis, for more information call 406-842-5741 x100 or 102

March 10 ~ Daylight Savings Time begins

March 10 – 16, 2013 ~ [15th Annual National Groundwater Awareness Week](#)

March 11 ~ MACD Board Conference Call, for more information contact Jan Fontaine (**406-443-5711**)

March 17 ~ St. Patrick's Day

March 20 ~ First Day of Spring

March 25 thru 27 ~ [Western Aquatic Plant Management Society conference](#), Coeur d'Alene Resort

April 8 ~ MACD Board Conference Call, for more information contact Jan Fontaine (**406-443-5711**)

April 22 ~ MACD Executive Committee Call, for more information contact Jan Fontaine (**406-443-5711**)

April 28 thru May 5 ~ Stewardship Week, for more information visit NACD's [Stewardship page](#)

May 12 ~ Mother's Day

May 13 ~ MACD Board Conference Call, for more information contact Jan Fontaine (**406-443-5711**)

May 18 ~ Armed Forces Day

May 27 ~ Memorial Day

May 28 (Tuesday) ~ MACD Executive Committee Call, for more information contact Jan Fontaine (**406-443-5711**)

May 30-31 ~ MACD Spring Board Meeting, Helena

Students from India's Delhi University are using metro trains to harness wind:

The plan is to install small wind turbines on the Delhi metro network to generate electricity. The students believe that the small turbines can, under ideal conditions, generate up to 500 watts per hour (or 12 kW in a day). With frictional losses and other ground conditions, a more realistic output is around 200 watts per hour (or 4.8 kW in a day). [Click here](#) to find out more about this project.



Have iPad will travel:

Nissan is equipping its Leaf to be driven by an iPad or robot. Straight out of science fiction, the iPad would enable a person to take over driving the car or

switch to "auto drive" – a robot system that would drive the car for you. Check out the [videos](#)! The next phase of the testing is to teach the robot to understand complex traffic flows and make decision on the best routes to take. [Read more](#) here.



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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.

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