

# THE MONTANA CONSERVATIONIST

August is Montana Conserva-  
tion Month

[Learn more about events go-  
ing on across the state](#)

Participating is Easy!



1. Upload your logo to our [website](#)
2. Plan a community outreach event! (host a BBQ, volunteer day, informational booth, etc.)
3. Post your event on our statewide [calendar](#)
4. Download our pre-made posters, logos, and press release (all can be customized!) Limited funds are available to assist conservation groups with the costs of printing promotional materials. Inquire today! Contact: Taylor Fridrich [taylor@mtwatersheds.org](mailto:taylor@mtwatersheds.org)



**Lake County Conservation District is hosting this year's tour in the Mission Valley:** The focus of the tour will be intensive "mob" grazing on tame pastures. The first day will feature four ranchers and their mob grazing stories along with a body condition scoring workshop from MSU Beef Cattle Extension Specialist Rachel Endecott. The day will conclude with a banquet at the Ninepipes Lodge near Charlo, with Governor Bullock invited for the keynote address. The second day of the tour will feature an electric fencing demonstration with various techniques and infrastructure. For additional information please contact [Chris Malgren](#), (676-2842x102), [Ben Montgomery](#) (676-2842x111) or [Heidi Crum](#) (444-6619).

**Deadline to renew Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) contracts is September 12,**

**2014:** Producers wishing to renew their CSP contracts can do so anytime between July 11 and September 12, 2014. Participants also have the option of not renewing their contract, and instead competing for a new contract within CSP's general sign-up. [Read More](#)

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## OF INTEREST TO CONSERVATION DISTRICTS:

### ***Federal, state, and local agencies come together to improve drought resiliency:***

Under a first of its kind demonstration project several federal, state and local agencies are partnering to improve drought resiliency in Montana's Upper Missouri River Basin upstream of Fort Peck Reservoir. The project goals are to provide better data on water, snowpack and soil moisture to assist local watershed groups in developing and implementing drought plans. The partnership provides \$400,000 in federal funding and matching state staff time to help farmers and irrigation districts measure and conserve water in the basin. [Read More](#)



### ***National Ground Water Association (NGWA) gearing up for "Protect Your Groundwater Day" (PYGWD) on September 9:***

Organizations that want to host an event in their community to recognize this day can access a wealth of information on the [Association's website](#). The spotlight of "**Protect Your Groundwater Day**" is sharing ways public and private well owners can protect the drinking water supply. Visit the websites below for

information that could be used in your event or for sharing through other media outlets:

- [Groundwater and the earth's water resources](#)
- [Statistics on groundwater use in your state](#) click on "Groundwater's Role in (Your State's) Economic Vitality"
- [Groundwater Protection PowerPoint presentation](#)
- [Groundwater Conservation PowerPoint presentation](#)
- [Free groundwater protection recorded webinar](#) (requires person to register)
- [Free groundwater protection online lesson](#) (requires person to register)
- [Water conservation basics, tips and water use calculator](#)
- [Water use calculator](#)
- [Protect Your Groundwater Day logo](#) [web version]; high resolution logos available on request to [ctreyens@ngwa.org](mailto:ctreyens@ngwa.org)

Organizations planning an event can get more exposure by sending information about their event to [Cliff Treyens](#), NGWA Public Awareness Director, who will list the event on the Association's website.

### ***U.S Geological Survey staff get up close and personal with bugs!***

Sam Droege and his colleagues at the USGS Bee Inventory and Monitoring Lab created highly detailed photos of bee populations and the plants and insects that interact with them. These photos and lightly-edited captions are from the team's [Flickr page](#). [Read More](#)



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## Department of Natural Resource and Conservation (DNRC) Grant Opportunities

### **Prevention and control of aquatic invasive species (AIS):**

The next grant application period is spring 2015. Now is the time to take a look at potential projects and get your ducks in a row if you would like to apply for this funding. The priority AIS are Eurasian water-milfoil, Quagga mussels, and Zebra mussels; however, flowering rush and curly-leaf pondweed control projects will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Visit [DNRC's website](#) for full details.



### **It's time to apply for the second round of grants under the Department's Renewable Resources Grant and Loan Program (RRGL):**

The purpose of the grants is to fund planning efforts for projects that conserve, manage, develop, or preserve renewable resources. Grants can only be used to pay for DNRC-approved contracted services necessary to plan a renewable resource project. The grant cannot be used to cover in-kind services or administration. DNRC will begin accepting applications August 13 with the **deadline for submitting applications being September 2**. Grant awards will be announced October 1. Visit [DNRC's website](#) for details on how to apply for this funding.

### **6th World Congress on Conservation Agriculture (WCCA) focused on practical conservation applications and techniques that will help conserve soil, water and other natural resources, as well as provide economic**

**returns:** The event was held June 22 through 25 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada and was attended by farmers, researchers, educators, agricultural company representatives, government representatives and others from nearly 50 countries. These individuals shared with attendees the opportunities and challenges they face in conservation agriculture. Countries represented included Australia, England, France, Argentina, and several African countries to name a few. [Click here](#) to read more about the happenings at this year's event. If this is something you might be interested in attending, the 7<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Conservation Agriculture will be in Rosario, Argentina, in 2017!



### **Headwaters Economics produces interactive maps to help users understand commercial activities on National Forests:**

These maps address activities such as [gross receipts from commercial activities](#) and [timber cut and sold reports](#). Both are interactive maps that are part of the organization's larger work on [county payments reform](#). For more information contact Mark Haggerty ([406.570.5626](tel:406.570.5626) | [\[email\]](#)). [Read More](#)

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**Yellowstone River Conservation Districts Council's (YRCDC) summer boat tour of Sweet Grass County highlighted in the Big Timber Pioneer:** The article, entitled "**Seeking A Balance Between Man, River**" talks about the event where elected officials, water biology and wildlife experts, engineers, and others came together to view local bank stabilization projects, channel dynamics, and riparian and avian habitats along the Yellowstone River. A key topic was the use of stabilization, different kinds of stabilization and channel migration zones. This was also a good time for people living in different areas of the river to see how different the Yellowstone is in different reaches. Also discussed during the tour was the 2015 release of the Cumulative Effects Study. [Read More](#)



## **FROM OUR PARTNERS:**

**National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) planning con-**

**tinues for annual meeting February 1 through 4, 2015 in New Orleans:** Appropriately titled "**Conservation – Key to a Healthy Nation**", the [annual meeting](#) should have something for everyone. Check out NACD's website for all the current and upcoming details about the meeting, especially if there's interest in attending!

**NACD Soil Health Forum and Conservation Tour kicks off with praise for a bipartisan resolution supporting voluntary, incentive based, private land conservation implemented through cooperation with local soil and water conservation districts.** NACD President Earl Garber said this resolution is just one step in ensuring an affordable, safe and abundant supply of food, fiber and fuel to support the world's growing population. [Read More](#)

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**Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) soil scientist discusses soil issues during episode of "Out on the**



**Land":** Wayne Gabriel, from Temple, Texas, appeared on the program's episode that aired the end of July. The episode will be shown again on October 28 and 29 on cable chan-

nels RFD TV and FamilyNet. [Click here](#) to access the website to search for the channels by cable provider within your zip code or check out the [program's website](#) to watch episodes via the internet.

**Montana forestry officials say the mountain pine beetle epidemic has passed its peak but is not over yet:**

The latest survey shows more than 526,000 acres of pine trees were infested with the beetle in 2013. The most active outbreaks remain in the southern part of the Bitterroot National Forest and in the Big Hole area in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. Since 2000, the epidemic has spread across more than 6 million of Montana's 25.6 million acres of forest on private, state and federal lands. [Read More](#)

# Calendar

Aug & Sept 2014

## THE MONTANA CONSERVATIONIST

**August 5** ~ Bitterroot Valley Pasture Walk, Corvallis, for more information contact [Stacy Pease](#) (363-5010 x110)

**August 6** ~ No-Till Gardening Workshop, 389 Woodley Lane, Hardin, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., for more information contact [Seanna Torske](#) (665-3442 x 101)

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

**August 16** ~ Farm Tour and Workshop, Whitefish, for more information contact [Jeff Schahczenski](#) (494-8636)

**August 25** ~ MACD Executive Committee Call, for more information contact Jan Fontaine (443-5711)

**September 1** ~ Labor Day

**September 4** ~ Governor's Range Tour, Ronan, for more information contact [Chris Malgren](#) (676-2842 x 102)

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

**September 9** ~ Grandparent's Day

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

**September 23** ~ Area VI Meeting, Hosted by Lewis & Clark CD in Helena, for more information contact Jan Fontaine (443-5711)

**September 23** ~ Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium, Bighorn Resort in Billings, for more information contact [Jennifer Cole](#)

**September 24** ~ Area IV Meeting, hosted by Carbon CD in Joliet, for more information contact Jan Fontaine (443-5711)

**September 25** ~ Area II Meeting, hosted by Custer CD in Miles City, for more information contact Jan Fontaine (443-5711)

**September 26** ~ Area I Meeting, hosted by Garfield CD in Jordan, for more information contact Jan Fontaine (443-5711)

**September 30** ~ Area III Meeting, hosted by Cascade CD in Great Falls, for more information contact Jan Fontaine (443-5711)

### **Toyota exploring wireless charging system for its new Prius Plug-In:**

The Company has already announced its [testing of the WiTriCity's wireless charging system](#) on the Prius Plug-In. The system is based off technology developed at MIT and the concept of "positional freedom."

What does that mean? Well, you know how your garage door won't function if the light sensors are not aligned with each other. With positional freedom, the car and the charging pad don't need to be precisely aligned to deliver a charge. This will make the charging process easier for car owners. [Read More](#)



### **China's citizens petition higher authorities for help with catastrophic pollution affecting their communities:**

The arduous task of maneuvering through the bureaucratic red tape began for Luo Jinzhi in 2009 after the death of her husband from cadmium poisoning.

To date, national agencies have directed Luo back to her local government for action and she has yet to hear from anyone. Luo lives in the village of Shuangqiao, in China's Hunan province where a chemical factory is a major employer, including Luo's husband. Cadmium related deaths in the area have grown and there is evidence that a national soil pollution crisis may already be too big to handle. [Read More](#)



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

[tmc@macdnet.org](mailto:tmc@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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