



# MONTANA ASSOCIATION of CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

*We're growing Montana's future.*

## February - March 2021 Programs Update

### Grant-Funded Programs:

#### 1. Education & Outreach Mini-Grant Program

- a. FY2019 contract: Ongoing, 2/11 subawards completed. All funds encumbered.
- b. FY2020 contract: Call for Applications close March 26th.
- c. FY2021 contract: Executed (2022 Round of funding)

#### 2. Flathead Basin Wastewater Partnership (FBWP)

- a. Application & Reporting forms for cost-share program are developed
- b. Jill, BSWC, has developed maps and webpages for the program on LCCD's and FCCD's websites and is now developing an outreach plan with a FBWP subcommittee.

#### 1. Ranching for Rivers

- a. \$15,000 funds available for projects.
- b. All incoming applications will be reviewed on April 7<sup>th</sup>
- c. Working with DNRC-Rangelands, MRCDC, DEQ, and RSA (Ranching Steward Alliance) on interest for continued program or similar-type programs.

#### 2. Watershed Stewardship Funding

- a. Ongoing. \$6,125 for BSWC member spent, remaining fund for Gallatin CD & admin

#### 3. District Assistance & Communications

- a. \$5,000 DNRC Agreement has been spent/expired
- b. New DNRC Agreement (\$25,000) executed.

### NRCS Contribution Agreements

#### 1. Conservation Delivery Agreement (Pollinators, Soil Health, & Conservation Stories)

- a. Agreement was extended by one year. (\$ 133,342.64 remaining)
  - i. \$ 59,146.16 for Soil Health Symposium
  - ii. \$ 46,860.29 for Conservation Stories (\$31,000 for Carter CD, \$6,125 for BSWC cost-share, remaining unencumbered)
  - iii. \$ 27,336.19 for Pollinators (\$ 18,375.00 for BSWC cost-share, remaining unencumbered)
- b. Soil Health Symposium:
  - i. Currently 3 sponsorships taken - \$ 6,000 plus Mill Coors has confirmed their Reception Sponsorships and will be providing all reception refreshments.
  - ii. Confirmed pre-conference workshop on Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> with Jolene Brown, CSP

#### 2. Montana Conservation Partnership Initiative

- a. Subawards
  - i. MRCDC: \$ 49,436.64

- ii. Valley CD/MRWA: \$ 100,000.00
  - iii. Blackfoot Challenge: \$ 30,000.00
  - iv. Bird Conservancy of the Rockies: \$ 174,043.60
  - v. Pheasants Forever: \$ 811,150.00
  - vi. Little Beaver CD: \$ 78,050.00
  - vii. YRCDC: \$ 60,000
  - viii. TOTAL encumbered: \$ \$1,302,680.24 (Funds expire September 2022)
- b. Sage Grouse Initiative:
- i. Working on a new agreement with WWF for Malta-position support (\$5,800/yr)
  - ii. New SGI Range Conservationist for the Malta office will be starting June 7th
  - iii. Some discussions regarding a possible position in Circle

### **Bridger Plant Materials Center**

- Attending 03/12 meeting in Bridger
- LLC transition is on hold until after MACD-SWCDM merger is finalized and the Bridger deed and NRCS agreements are updated with the MACD name.

### **Other Activates**

- Invited to join partner conservations with the Ranchers Stewardship Alliance as well as the Northern Great Plains Join Venture.
- Participating in some discussions regarding Soil Health coordination efforts.
- Drafting an AmeriCorps Planning Grant application that is due April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Coordinating Soil and Land Committee meetings and the development of a Forestry Subcommittee.