



# Conservation CONNECTION

Rosebud and Big Horn Conservation Districts

ROSEBUD CONSERVATION DISTRICT: 270 S. Prospect • P.O. Box 1200 • Forsyth, MT 59327

BIG HORN CONSERVATION DISTRICT: 724 West 3rd Street • Hardin, MT 59034

ROSEBUD CD: Meetings: 1st Thursday • 406-346-7333 ext. 101 • Fax/Phone: 406-346-7479 | BIG HORN CD: Meetings: 1st Thursday • 406-665-3442

NRCS FORSYTH FIELD OFFICE: 406-346-7333 | HARDIN FIELD OFFICE: 406-665-3442 | LAME DEER FIELD OFFICE: 406-477-6494 | CROW AGENCY FIELD OFFICE: 406-638-9102

## One of the good ones...

Rosebud Conservation District lost an extremely valuable supervisor this past month. Reg Hoff served on the board of supervisors for the district beginning in 2015. Rosebud Conservation District would like to honor Reg for his service to the district, his dedication to leadership in soil health, and most importantly, his friendship. Although Reg was a supervisor for only four short years, he was involved in conservation for most of his life. His successes in farming, ranching, extension, and reclamation at the mine leave a legacy that reflects his hard work and determination. There is no doubt this world is a better place as a result of Reg. He was always happy to share what he was doing in his own operation by leading tours, educating other producers, and also by encouraging people to think outside the “conventional box” in regards to farming and ranching. Rosebud Conservation District, along with everyone who was blessed enough to know Reg, will miss his honesty, integrity, and his fantastic stories. Rest well Reg!



Reg is pictured above in his field of peas, oats, and barley.

Photo by R. Banks



## F U F Inc. honored

The family corporation F U F Inc. was named Conservationist of the Year at the Big Horn Conservation District portion of the Community Awards banquet recently. The event was held the evening of April 6, 2018 at the Hardin High School commons room.

F U F Inc. is operated by the families of Jim and Thor Torske. Over the years they have worked with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Big Horn Conservation by participating in the Conservation Stewardship Program to improve both the crop acres and the non-crop acres on the farm. They have established about 50 acres of beneficial insect habitat by planting the pollinator species of Sanfoin, Alfalfa, Lewis flax, Pubescent Wheatgrass and Black Sampson. They have also reseeded odd cropland areas of the farm to herbaceous cover to improve wildlife habitat for pheasants, deer, antelope, and other native wildlife. They also improve the soil on the cropland acres through the use of continuous no-till and the precision application of nutrients.

Annually the Big Horn Conservation District selects a Big Horn County agricultural producer whose conservation efforts merit public recognition.

Displaying their Big Horn Conservation District 2017 Conservation Award plaque are the families involved in making F U F Inc. a conservation-oriented farming operation, l to r: Dean and Janie Delp, Kelly and Jim Torske, and Thor and Kelsey Torske. Photo by Andrew Turck Big Horn County News



Visit us at [www.rosebudcd.com](http://www.rosebudcd.com)

## Water Quality Mini Grants

Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana is seeking to fund local education and outreach efforts in Montana to address water quality issues resulting from nonpoint source pollution. Funding for this mini-grant program is provided by the Montana DEQ via a grant with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under Section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act. Please visit the SWCDM website [www.swcdm.org](http://www.swcdm.org) for the Application, Call for Applications, and more program information. Mini-grants of up to \$3,000 are available and SWCDM has approximately \$12,000 to award for this cycle. The deadline to apply is October 12, 2018 by 5 p.m. Any conservation district, watershed group, NGO, school district, local or county agency, etc., able to manage federal funding is encouraged to apply. Submit questions or completed applications to Jessica Makus, [jessica@macdnet.org](mailto:jessica@macdnet.org).

## 4-H Conservation project earns conservation district award

Myah Van Order, a member of the Community Hustlers 4-H Club, recently earned one of the Big Horn Conservation District conservation awards for her 1st place project displayed at the 2018 Big Horn County Youth and Open Fair in late July. Her project was a notebook titled The Importance and History of Conservation. The first place award is \$200.

The Big Horn Conservation District promotes conservation innovation and annually provides conservation awards of \$200 for 1<sup>st</sup> place and \$100 for second place at the fair.



## RCD continues to promote good forest stewardship through prescribed tree thinning for area producers

In 2008 the Rosebud Conservation District partnered with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Forestry Division. Chris Pilesky, Forester in the Eastern Montana Land Office in Miles City, approached the RCD board of supervisors regarding an opportunity to help farmers, ranchers and land owners across eastern Montana take a proactive approach to forest health and wildfire preparedness and prevention. Since then the conservation district have contracted over \$1 million in contracts treating several thousand acres.

There have been a few hiccups along the way however, the Rosebud Complex fires in 2012, which included the Ash Creek Fire, burned 249,000 acres. The funds were unallocated, and the district applied for a program called Forest in Focus, \$100,000 were awarded and the money was used to treat several hundred acres that burned within the white tail divide area as well as other areas affected directly by the fires.

RCD continues to promote good forest stewardship and recently closed a Wildfire and Urban Interface grant in the amount of \$86,451, with a total project cost of \$115,650 and 257 acres were treated. The district also received \$50k in funds to treat an additional 117 acres through Forest in Focus 2017, which will run through December 31, 2018.

Rosebud Conservation District will continue to seek out and apply for future programs involved in reducing wildfire risk, and cleanup of biomass for eastern Montana. The district recently submitted a proposal for funding through the WUI program and will undergo the interview process in October 2018. Partnerships and outreach is an important part of these programs and without all the willing producers and amazing USDA offices in our area, we would not be able to offer, manage and complete these programs successfully.

If you are interested in participating in any of these and similar programs, stop in and visit with your local conservation district, area forestry representative, or NRCS staff in your area.



# Spring Development Workshop

**Noon-3pm, Thursday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**Library Programs Room**  
**Little Big Horn College**  
**Crow Agency, MT**

Are you interested in learning about springs, and how to develop them for stockwater use?

## Topics Include:

- Components of a Spring Development
- Methods for Protecting Springs
- Designing a Spring Development
- Maintaining Spring Developments
- Much more!

## Speakers Include:

- Evan Van Order, USDA-NRCS Soil Conservationist
- Seanna Torske, USDA-NRCS District Conservationist

**No RSVP is required, and there is no cost to attend.**  
**Free Lunch provided through the LBHC Equity Program.** For any questions, please contact  
**Seanna Torske at: (406) 629-3220.**

*USDA provides reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities to participate in USDA programs and activities. If you require special accommodations, please contact the Hardin USDA-NRCS Field Office at: (406) 629-3220 prior to September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018.*



*USDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.*



# Rangeland Management Basics Workshop

Noon-4pm, Tuesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
Library Programs Room, Little Big Horn College  
Crow Agency, MT

Do you want to learn how to best manage your rangeland for your livestock? Please join us for an afternoon of learning!

#### Topics Include:

- Methods for Completing a Rangeland Inventory
- Plant ID Basics
- Developing Stocking Rates
- Different Methods for Implementing a Grazing Plan

#### Speakers Include:

- Joel Laliberty, USDA-NRCS Bozeman Area Resource Conservationist
- Nikki Rife, USDA-NRCS Bozeman Area Rangeland Management Specialist

No RSVP is required, and there is no cost to attend. Free Lunch provided through the LBHC Equity Program. For any questions, please contact Seanna Torske at: (406) 629-3220.

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**CLEAN. DRAIN. DRY.**

# Rosebud Conservation District Reserved Water

Montana's water reservation law provides an opportunity to legally allocate water for future consumptive uses as well as to maintain in-stream flows to protect water rights, aquatic life, and water quality.

The conservation district water reservations are for agricultural irrigation and in some districts for stock watering. Districts rely on land users within the basin to develop the water resource and put the reserved water to use. Districts encourage land users and resource managers to apply for reserved water for new or supplemental irrigation projects.

A reservation is subject to protection under the Montana Water Use Act and is an appropriate water right protected by law. In the case of the conservation district, the right is held by the district on behalf of the individual users. Individuals will apply to the district once they have plans to put the water to use. A water user receives an authorization or permit from the district for the right to use a portion of the district's reserved water. Legally, this is the same as when an individual obtains a permit from the Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC) to use water.



The Rosebud Conservation District, as a water reservation holder, is responsible for apportioning the reservation in an equitable manner. The district is also responsible for administering the use of its reserved water and in accordance with the "Board of Natural Resources Board Order Establishing Water Reservations". Rosebud Conservation District holds a water reservation of 87,003 acre-feet per year with a maximum flow rate of 540.7 cubic feet per second from the main stem of the Yellowstone River which has a priority date of December 15, 1978 (4:18 P.M.)

Rosebud Conservation District has  
83,249.40 acre-feet and a flow rate of 466.07 cubic feet per second available.

If you are in need of reserved water and would like more information or an application contact  
Rosebud Conservation District's Administrator Bobbi Vannattan at 406-346-7333 ext. 101



"Conservation is a cause that has no end. There is no point at which we will say our work is finished." ~Rachel Carson~

"Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of the water or watching the clouds float across the sky is by no means a waste of time." ~John Lubbock~



# When is a 310 permit needed?

A 310 permit is REQUIRED if you are planning ANY project that physically alters or modifies the bed or banks of a stream. The purpose of the permit is to minimize soil erosion and sedimentation, protect and preserve streams and rivers in their natural or existing state, and to prevent damage to the lands and property immediately adjacent to streams and rivers.

The application process is easy, simply pick one up at your local conservation district, upon completion, return the application to the office. An inspection of the proposed project is necessary, afterwards, the Board of Supervisors determine the fate of the 310 permit. Sometimes additional permits are required and it is the responsibility of the producer to secure all permits before beginning any projects.

## Rosebud County

- ◆ Yellowstone River
- ◆ Tongue River
- ◆ Rosebud Creek
- ◆ Reservation Creek
- ◆ Otter Creek
- ◆ Armell's Creek
- ◆ Numerous Other Creeks

## Big Horn County

- ◆ Big Horn River
- ◆ Tongue River
- ◆ Little Big Horn River
- ◆ Rosebud Creek
- ◆ Numerous Other Creeks

## Treasure County

- ◆ Yellowstone River
- ◆ Big Horn River
- ◆ Sarpy Creek

*All Perennial Streams in Big Horn, Treasure, and Rosebud Counties Require a 310 Permit!  
If you are unsure, please contact your local conservation district!*

**"Wayne's World" Grass and Grazing**  
In cooperation With Richland County CD and Williams County SCD

*Featuring*  
**Ken Miller**— Telling his story on how to improve the land  
2017 North Dakota Leopold Conservation Award Winner  
**Rick Caquelin**— NRCS Area Range Specialist  
Range Nutritional Balance  
**Brett Allen**— NPARL— Brome Grass Restoration Project  
**Wayne Berry**— Landowner— utilizing planned rotational grazing, yearling operation, portable & solar watering systems

**October 15, 2018**  
10:00 am— 3:00 pm  
Berry Ranch 34604 County Road 134 Fairview MT

Directions to Ranch from Sidney: Hwy 201 East to County Road 346, South 1 1/4 miles  
From Fairview: Hwy 201 to County Road 346 South 1 1/4 miles, Road will be marked  
Lunch courtesy Richland County CD & Williams County SCD  
For more information or to RSVP-RSVP is not necessary but does help with planning for meals  
Call Julie @ 406-433-2103 x3001

YOU'RE INVITED TO:

**Help identify specific irrigation water management project opportunities in the  
Yellowstone River Basin**



**REGIONAL OPEN HOUSES**

**Huntley**

**Tuesday, Sept. 18**

Yellowstone Valley Electric Co-op - 150 Co-op Way

**Forsyth**

**Wednesday, Sept. 19**

Rosebud Co. Library - 201 N. 9th Ave.

**Glendive**

**Thursday, Sept. 20**

Moose Lodge - 415 N. Merrill Ave.

**Big Timber**

**Tuesday, Oct. 16**

Carnegie Public Library - 314 McLeod St.

**6 - 8 p.m.**

*Complimentary dinner provided*

**Hosted by:**



*Providing leadership and  
guidance for the wise use of  
the Yellowstone River's natural  
resources*

*For more information, contact Dan Rostad: 406-930-0594*



## Big Horn Conservation District Cover Crop Cost Share Available

It's time to think about utilizing a cover crop in no-till cropping systems. In order to encourage producers to learn about the benefits of cover crops, the BHCD initiated a program to pay the actual cover crop seed costs up to:

**\$20 per acre with a maximum of  
40 acres per producer.**

Producer responsibilities to participate in this program are to prepare a weed-free seedbed, use a minimum of three varieties of seed in the cover crop mix, and agree to tours and newsletter articles, if applicable, concerning the experience.

Contact Big Horn Conservation District  
at 406-665-3442, ext. 112

## Rosebud Conservation District's Cover Crop Cost Share

Rosebud Conservation District is looking for producers who are seeking diversity in no-till cropping systems.

***Incentive- \$20 per acre with a maximum of 20 acres***

The purpose of the soil health incentive is to encourage the utilization of cover crops in no-till cropping systems. The proper cover crop can economically control erosion, reduce runoff, increase organic matter, break up crop disease patterns, cycle deep nutrients, and be used for haying and/or grazing. RCD will pay the actual seed and seeding cost up to \$20 an acre up to 20 acres or \$400 per producer in the conservation district boundaries. Responsibilities of the producer are to prepare a weed free seed bed, note all important observations, agree to tours and news article, if applicable, and provide information regarding fertilizer techniques. A requirement of the cost share agreement is that seed mixtures consist of at least three varieties of seed in the cover crop planting.

Contact the Rosebud Conservation District office at  
406.346.7333 or stop by the office located at  
270 Prospect Street in Forsyth.

# ~ Wildlife Profile ~

## Greater Short-horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma hernandesi*)...

- Occupies a variety of habitats, but is most often found in short grasslands, sagebrush, and arid pine forests.
- Are classified as a "sit-and-wait" predator, as they don't often actively hunt their prey. Ants make up most of their diet, although the lizard may also eat beetles and grasshoppers.
- Have a unique defense for canine predators, when provoked, they will build blood pressure behind the eyes and spray their attacker with blood.
- Females have live births and may result in as many as 48 babies at once. When first born, the babies are less than one inch in length.
- Are called a "Horny Toad" in some regions.
- If you are interested in having a free presentation for your group or class, about wildlife, conservation, or habitat please contact Heather Nenninger at 406-346-7333.



**\*\*Read upcoming editions of the Conservation Connection for more intriguing facts about Montana's native wildlife, presented by Heather Nenninger, Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI) Partner Biologist!**

## **\*\*Fascinating Facts\*\***



- \* Four out of five wildfires are started by people
- \* Fuel, oxygen, and a heat source are the three conditions that need to be present for a wildfire to burn and is often referred to as the fire triangle
- \* Wildfires travel at about 14 miles per hour
- \* A crown fire is a fire that spreads quickly by burning across the tops of trees
- \* In some ways, wildfires can be beneficial as they clear dead and diseased plants so new plants can grow
- \* Traditional methods of fighting wildfires include water dousing, spraying fire retardants, clearing away vegetation, and deliberately starting fires, called controlled burning

[www.rosebudcd.com](http://www.rosebudcd.com)

### **Rosebud Conservation District**

270 Prospect Forsyth, MT 406-346-7333

#### **For Sale:**

- \*Wildlife Ramp~ \$20.00
- \*Gate Latch~ \$20.00
- \*Marking Flags (5"x8")~ \$10.00/bundle

#### **For Rent:**

- \*Track Filler~ \$100.00/day or \$200.00/week
- \*No Till Drill~ \$7.00/acre (200 acre maximum)

#### **Books For Sale:**

- \*Range Plants of Montana~ \$15.00
- \*Rosebud County Land Ownership Map Books \$28.00/  
small or \$40.00/large \$38.00/small aerial view or \$50.00/  
large aerial view

### **Treasure County Conservation District**

211 Elliot Avenue Hysham, MT 59038 406-342-5510 ext. 102

#### **For Sale:**

- \*Marking Flags (5"x8")~ \$10.00/bundle
- \*Wildlife Ramp~ \$20.00

#### **For Rent:**

- \*Great Plains Native Grass Drill~ \$7.00/acre (200 acre maximum)

#### **Books For Sale:**

- \*Treasure County Land Ownership Map Books~ \$16.00/  
small or \$20.00/large

### **Big Horn Conservation District**

724 W 3rd Street Hardin, MT 59034 406-665-3442

#### **For Sale:**

- \*Moisture Probe~ \$65.00
- \*Wildlife Ramp~ \$25.00
- \*Hydrosorce Plant Gel~ \$7.00/pint

#### **For Rent:**

- \*Tree Planter~ \$.10/tree (\$30.00 min)
- \*Fabric Layer~ \$.10/tree (\$30.00 min w/o fabric purchase)  
or \$.05/tree + fabric cost (w/ fabric purchase)

**~For Sale or Rent~**



## ~Upcoming Events~

### **Montana Range Tour**

Sidney, Montana September 5-6, 2018

For more information: Julie Goss 406-433-2103 ext. 3001 or [julie.goss@mt.nacdnet.net](mailto:julie.goss@mt.nacdnet.net)

### **Rangeland Management Basics Workshop**

Little Big Horn College Crow Agency, Montana September 18, 2018

For more information: Seanna Torske 406-629-3220 or [seanna.torske@mt.usda.gov](mailto:seanna.torske@mt.usda.gov)

### **Yellowstone River Conservation District Council Regional Open House**

Yellowstone Valley Electric Co-op Huntley, Montana September 18, 2018

For more information: Dan Rostad 406-930-0594 or [dan.rostad@mt.nacdnet.net](mailto:dan.rostad@mt.nacdnet.net)

### **Yellowstone River Conservation District Council Regional Open House**

Rosebud County Library Forsyth, Montana September 19, 2018

For more information: Dan Rostad 406-930-0594 or [dan.rostad@mt.nacdnet.net](mailto:dan.rostad@mt.nacdnet.net)

### **Yellowstone River Conservation District Council Regional Open House**

Moose Lodge Glendive, Montana September 20, 2018

For more information: Dan Rostad 406-930-0594 or [dan.rostad@mt.nacdnet.net](mailto:dan.rostad@mt.nacdnet.net)

### **Spring Development Workshop**

Little Big Horn College Crow Agency, Montana September 20, 2018

For more information: Seanna Torske 406-629-3220 or [seanna.torske@mt.usda.gov](mailto:seanna.torske@mt.usda.gov)

### **Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Conference 2018**

Double Tree Hilton Billings, Montana October 2-4, 2018

For more information: [womensteppingforward@gmail.com](mailto:womensteppingforward@gmail.com)

### **Watershed Symposium 2018**

Whitefish Lake Lodge Whitefish, Montana October 10-12, 2018

For more information: [mtwatersheds.org](http://mtwatersheds.org)

### **"Wayne's World" Grass and Grazing**

Berry Ranch Fairview, Montana October 15, 2018

For more information: Julie Goss 406-433-2103 ext. 3001 or [julie.goss@mt.nacdnet.net](mailto:julie.goss@mt.nacdnet.net)

### **Yellowstone River Conservation District Council Regional Open House**

Carnegie Public Library Big Timber, Montana October 16, 2018

For more information: Dan Rostad 406-930-0594 or [dan.rostad@mt.nacdnet.net](mailto:dan.rostad@mt.nacdnet.net)

### **Montana Association of Conservation Districts Annual Convention**

Billings Hotel and Convention Center Billings, Montana November 13-15, 2018

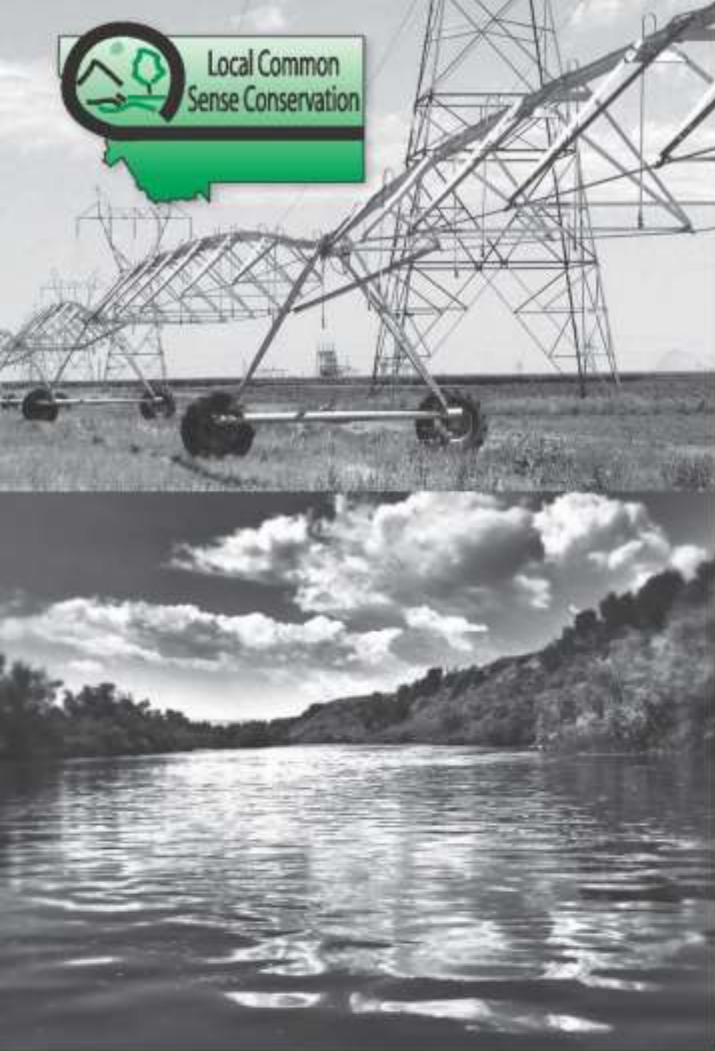
For more information: MACD 406-443-5711 or [mail@macdnet.org](mailto:mail@macdnet.org)





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**PROTECT OUR  
WATERS**

To learn how you can help protect the great state of Montana from  
Aquatic Invasive Species visit [www.cleandraindrymt.com](http://www.cleandraindrymt.com)