



## Pondera County Conservation District

## Local Common Sense Conservation

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### 66TH ANNUAL CONVENTION HELD IN BOZEMAN

On November 13-15 Pondera County Conservation District Supervisors Paul Jones and Ramsey Offerdal, along with District Administrator Kody Farkell, attended the 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) convention at Bozeman's Holiday Inn.

"Thinking Outside Of The Box" was the theme for this year's convention, encouraging conservationists from around the state to discover new ways of educating others about Montana's natural resources and implementing new and effective conservation practices. There were a total of eight concurrent sessions, some including topics such as Conservation District (CD) Supervisor Roles and Responsibilities, CDs Role

"THIS YEAR'S CONVENTION PROVIDED A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE THE EVER-CHANGING ROLES OF CDS"

In Fighting Noxious Weeds, CDs Roles With Carbon Sequestration and 310 Law Procedures, Procedures and Penalties. "This year's convention provided a great opportunity to explore the ever-changing roles of CDs," reported Pondera County CD Supervisor Paul Jones.

Wednesday evening included the annual fundraising event for the Montana Association of Conservation Districts Employee Organization (MACDEO). This year's event, called "Bodacious Bites and Bull Biddin" entertained the group as they placed bids and received winnings for correct guesses to several bull riding rounds. The MACDEO fundraising event helps to provide travel and educational opportunities to CD employees throughout the year, allowing them to serve their local conservation district more efficiently.

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### MACD AREA MEETING GOES TO CHESTER

*Courtesy of Marlene Moon, Liberty County CD*



The annual Montana Association of Conservation District's (MACD) Area 3 meeting took place in Chester in October. Area 3 is made up of Districts from Glacier, Toole, Pondera, Teton, Cascade, Fergus, Liberty, Judith Basin, Hill, Choteau, Big Sandy, Blaine and Phillips counties. Pondera County Conservation District (PCCD) Supervisors

Jack Judisch and Paul Kronebusch, along with Administrator Kody Farkell, were in attendance. Area meetings are held around the state prior to the State MACD convention. This year's convention was held in Bozeman November 14-16, 2007.

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## NRCS NEWS - BY STACY DENNY ENEBOE

### NRCS OFFICE UPDATES

NRCS is working on producer 2008 contracts for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). Because the 2002 Farm Bill has been extended until the House and the Senate approve a new Farm Bill, the office has been charged with completing EQIP contracts prior to Christmas. This is three months earlier than normal.

Office personnel are hoping that this earlier than normal contracting period will benefit both the producers and NRCS. By completing contracts under the current farm bill program rules, staff and producers will not be forced to learn and implement new rules in a short amount of time. This earlier contracting deadline will also enable producers to get started a bit earlier than normal putting into practice some conservation practices.

If you have been working with NRCS on existing contract implementation the staff appreciates your patience. Starting in January NRCS staff will be helping all contract holders implement their schedules practices.

#### CAMELINA AS AN ALTERNATIVE FUEL: ARTICLE CORRECTION

In the last newsletter there appeared an article on Camelina. In the article was some misinformation on growing and raising this alternative crop. Producers are able to fertilize Camelina, but as of now there is no pesticides or herbicides labeled for Camelina. Camelina, and any bio-products of Camelina, cannot be fed to animals or humans.

For additional information related to MT laws and regulations on growing Camelina you can contact the following individuals at MT Dept. of Agriculture in Helena.

##### Pesticide use:

Aimee Bamber (406) 444-3676

##### Feed and Seed Uses:

Andy Gray (406) 444-0512

Bob Church (406) 444-5410

#### OILSEEDS FOR FUEL, FEED AND THE FUTURE WORKSHOP

If you are interested in learning more about on-farm biodiesel production and raising oilseed crops, consider attending a workshop held in Billings on January 9-10, 2008. The workshop is part of the Oilseeds For Fuel, Feed and The Future project, run by the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT). The Workshop will take place January 9-10 starting at 8:00 am at the MSU-Billings College of Technology Campus. On-site registration will begin at 7:30 am.

The cost of the workshop is \$35 for participants who pre-register and \$45 for registration the day of the conference. The deadline to pre-register is January 4. For more information on, or to register for this event, contact NCAT at 1-800-272-6228 or e-mail [tammyh@ncat.org](mailto:tammyh@ncat.org). For additional information visit the Oilseeds Project website at [www.ncat.org/oiseeds.html](http://www.ncat.org/oiseeds.html).

## MACD CONVENTION CON'T...

More concurrent sessions, reports from CD partners, a recognition ceremony for veterans, and an informative presentation on marketing your CD filled the last day of the convention. The convention ended with a dinner, awards ceremony and auction. This year's auction, bringing in approximately \$5,000, provides funding for CD's to participate in Montana's legislative session, helping to promote Montana's conservation issues.

The 67<sup>th</sup> Annual MACD Convention is slated for November 12-14, 2008 in Missoula. For more information, contact the MACD Office at 406-443-5711.

## AREA MEETING CON'T...

The event was opened by LCCD Chairman, Lanny Jones. US Senator Jon Tester was invited as the keynote speaker, but was unable to attend. Senator Tester did provide a message that was read and that outlined several areas of concern he, Senator Baucus and Representative Rehberg are addressing in Congress. Chouteau County Conservation District submitted a Resolution asking MACD, the Forest Service, Congress and the President to consider a variety of other tools when making decisions on fire management, including suppression, during drought years...citing the need and concern to have water available for communities and landowners.



MACD President Mattelin presides over the Area 3 meeting

MACD President Buzz Mattelin presided over the business meeting. Steve Hedstrom, Judith Basin CD and Mark Suta, Glacier County CD were elected as Area 3 Directors. District Supervisors and Associates who have provided volunteer leadership in conservation throughout Area 3 were presented with longevity pins. From PCCD these included Paul Jones (10 years), Ramsey Offerdal (25 years) and Richard Preputin (25 years).

Following agency/organizational reports, the group enjoyed a spaghetti dinner catered by women from the Chester Assembly of God Church. This was followed by a tour of the Earl Fisher BioFuels facility in Chester. Partners and area producers, Brett Earl and Logan Fisher, hosted the tour.

### Equipment for Rent

- Towner Disk
- 5-yard scraper
- Tree Spade
- Tree Planter
- Weed Barrier Layer
- Level & Tripod
- Garmin GPS Unit

#### Also Available for Sale:

- 2007 Pondera County Ownership Maps
- Marker Flags

For more information contact

*The Pondera County Conservation District*



**278-7611, Ext. 101**

or visit

**pondera.mt.nacdnet.org**

### 310 PERMITS REQUIRED

A 310 Permit is REQUIRED if you are planning ANY project including the construction of new facilities or the modification, operation, and maintenance of an existing facility that may affect the natural existing shape and form of any stream or its banks or tributaries. Any private entity or non-governmental individual that proposes to work in or near a stream on public or private land MUST obtain a 310 Permit PRIOR to any activity in or near a perennially flowing stream. Please contact the PCCD for permit applications.

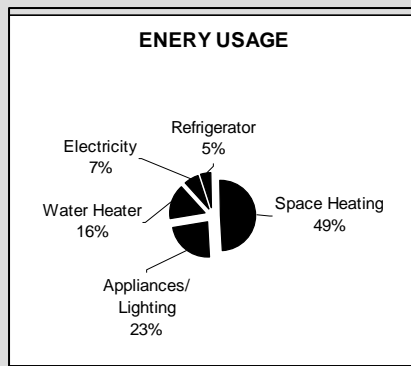
## EASY ENERGY SAVING IDEAS

Information Found At <http://www.deq.mt.gov/Energy/index.asp>

When discussing energy-saving ideas it is necessary to understand how your home uses energy. The reason is that energy equates directly to dollars. Your energy bill contains two types of usage: base-load consumption and heating consumption. Base-load usage consists of year round energy such as water heating, refrigeration and lighting.

Your base-load energy cost is approximately equal to your total June, July or August energy usage, since your heating system is not operating. To determine your approximate heating energy for a year multiply your June gas and electricity use by 12, then subtract that figure from your total annual electric and gas usage. The remaining amount is your approximate heating energy consumption. This is typically the biggest utility expense for a home.

Heating energy consumption generally occurs in the fall, winter and spring months. Natural gas is usually the most economical heating fuel and is used by 60% of Montana homeowners. The enclosed chart breaks down Montana DEQ's estimated energy use for a typical Montana home:



There are several free or inexpensive steps you can take to save energy in each room of your home:

### KITCHEN

1. Wash only full loads of dishes using the shortest wash cycle possible. Air dry dishes.
2. Don't "peek" in the oven more than necessary.
3. Preheating is only necessary for cooking times of less than one hour.
4. Use the microwave, not oven, to reheat food.

5. Keep your refrigerator away from heating appliances.
6. Keep refrigerator temperature at 38°F-42°F and freezer between 0°F and 5°F.

### LIVING ROOM

1. Use a programmable thermostat.
2. Keep thermostat set at 68°F or less when at home, as low as 55°F at night or when away.
3. Use natural light to your advantage; keep shades open during the day, closed at night to prevent heat release.
4. Set lights on timers or dimmers when you are away.

### OFFICE

1. Set computer to switch to "sleep mode" during shorter periods of inactivity.
2. Turn off or turn computer to "hibernate" during longer periods of inactivity.
3. Take advantage of direct light or daylight when working on your computer.
4. Turn off all lights when not in use.

### BATHROOM

1. Install "flow control" devices in showers and faucets.
2. Repair any leaky faucets.
3. Unplug hairdryers, curling irons, etc when not in use.

### LAUNDRY

1. Set washer at appropriate water level for load size.
2. Wash in cold cycle whenever possible; always rinse in cold water.
3. Clean dryer lint filter between each load.
4. Only dry clothes for as long as necessary. Extra time only increases energy use.
5. Check filter in your heating system monthly.

## 2008 SPRING TREE PLANTING SEASON QUICKLY APPROACHING

It is once again time to start planning for your spring tree plantings. Montana Conservation Seedling Nursery order forms are now available at the District office or online at [www.dnrc.mt.gov/forestry/nursery](http://www.dnrc.mt.gov/forestry/nursery). Seed sources from the Montana Interagency Tree & Shrub Improvement Study (MITOSIS) are used whenever possible. These seed sources have been included in a ten-year trial testing their viability to Montana's condi-

tions. Priority is given to landowners with more than 10 acres. Those with less than 10 acres will have their order processed after March 1, 2008.

Weed barrier will be available for purchase through the Conservation District. Orders must be placed by March 1, 2008 to avoid shipping charges. Don't forget to get on the list to rent the District's tree planter and fabric layer!

## WHAT IS THE "310 LAW"???

Under the Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act, also known as the "310 Law," Montana Law has established that all natural rivers and streams within the state must be protected and prohibits stream alterations, except when deemed necessary and appropriate.

The purpose of the 310 Law is to minimize soil erosion and sedimentation, protect and preserve Montana's rivers and streams to their natural state and to prevent property damage to adjacent landowners.

The 310 Law requires approval by the local conservation district of any project that physically alters or modifies a stream, therefore striving to preserve water quality. Any individual or corporation proposing construction in a perennial stream, as defined by the local conservation district, must apply for a 310 permit.

Applications are reviewed by the conservation district; an on-site visit is conducted by a member of the conservation district, Fish, Wildlife & Parks and the applicant. The conservation district's Board of Supervisors then determines if the proposed project upholds the purpose of the law. The conservation district may modify the application in a way that will reasonably and appropriately allow the project to be completed.

PURPOSE OF  
THE 310 LAW IS  
TO...PROTECT  
AND PRESERVE  
MONTANA'S  
RIVERS AND  
STREAMS...

If you plan to do any work in or near a perennially flowing stream you must first be issued a permit. Applications must plan on 30-60 days for the application process to be completed and permit issued.

## MACD OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS

The Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) offers *two \$500 Scholarships* to Montana students wishing to further their education. Recipients must be enrolled in, or plan to enroll in, a course of study that allows them to explore natural resource issues.

For more information contact the District office at 278-7611 ext 101 or MACD at 443-5711.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

JACK JUDISCH, CHAIRMAN  
KORY KOVATCH, VICE CHAIRMAN/URBAN SUPERVISOR  
KEITH VANDENBOS, TREASURER  
O. RAMSEY OFFERDAL, SUPERVISOR  
PAUL KRONEBUSCH, SUPERVISOR  
PAUL JONES, SUPERVISOR  
CHUCK DEBOO, ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR  
DICK PREPUTIN, ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR  
ED DROGEMULLER, ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR  
JUM MUNROE, ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR  
KODY FARKELL, DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR  
STACY ENEBOE, NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST  
MACD  
DNRC  
PONDERA COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE  
JANE HOLZER, MSCA  
WESTERN TRIANGLE EXPERIMENT STATION  
STEVE BECKER, PONDERA CO. WEED SUPERVISOR  
PONDERA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**December**

5th - Hanukah Begins  
20th - Range Days Planning Meeting  
25th - Christmas Day (Office Closed)

**January**

1st - New Year's Day (Office Closed)  
8th - Marias River Watershed Meeting - Shelby  
14th - PCCD Regular Meeting  
18th - Range Days Planning Meeting  
21st - Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Office Closed)

**February**

5th - Marias River Watershed Annual Meeting  
11th - PCCD Regular Meeting  
14th - Valentine's Day  
18th - President's Day (Office Closed)  
21st - Range Days Planning Meeting

CAR-RT Presort  
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Conrad, Mt.  
Permit No. 52

PONDERA COUNTY  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
406 NORTH MAIN  
CONRAD MONTANA 59425