

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- AIS Infor-
mation
Meetings
surround-
ing Fort
Peck Lake



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Phillips Conservation District

Newsletter

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

SPRING 2017

AIS Informational Meetings taking place in and around Fort Peck Lake

In October 2016, aquatic invasive mussel larvae were detected in Tiber Reservoir and suspected in Canyon Ferry Reservoir. Please join your local Conservation District for a series of public meetings to find out what this means for Central and Eastern Montana. All meetings will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the following locations:

May 15th, at the Eagles Club in Lewistown

May 16th at the Great Northern Lodge Room in Malta,

May 17th at the Fort Peck Interpretive Center in Fort Peck,

May 18th at the Summit Corral in Jordan.

It's not just a boater/recreation problem, it's a Montana problem, and there are ways that ag producers, recreationists, and all citizens can help to keep our water resources free from this invasive species. Find out what threats these mussels pose, how they can impact your community and way of life, and how you can do your part to prevent their spread in Montana. For more information call the Phillips Conservation District office at 406-654-1334 ext. 101 or Rachel Frost at 406-454-0056.



*"It is only the farmer who faithfully plants seeds in
the Spring, who reaps a harvest in the Autumn."*

B. C. Forbes



Invasive Mussels in Montana:

What does this mean for my community?

May 16th, 2017

6:00 PM — 8:00 PM

Great Northern Lodge Room

2 South 1st St East
Malta, MT 59538

Hosted by the Phillips
Conservation District.

For more information, contact

Jenifer Anderson at :
jenifer.anderson@mt.nacdnet.net
(406) 654-1334 Ext. 101

AGENDA:

Welcome – Philips Conservation District - 6:00

Aquatic Invasive Species, Montana's Battle – Steve Dalbey,
FWP Fisheries Biologist

- Current State Plan
- How will Mussels Affect Me and My Community
 - ♦ Recreation changes
 - ♦ Mussels and Irrigation
 - ♦ Mussels and Municipal Water Systems
 - ♦ Education and Citizen Commitment

What can I do to Help? – Rachel Frost, Missouri River CD Council

- Central and Eastern Montana Mussel Task Force
- Resources for Local Communities

Question and answer session - 7:15

Travel Home - 8:00

Please visit: musselresponse.mt.gov for more information



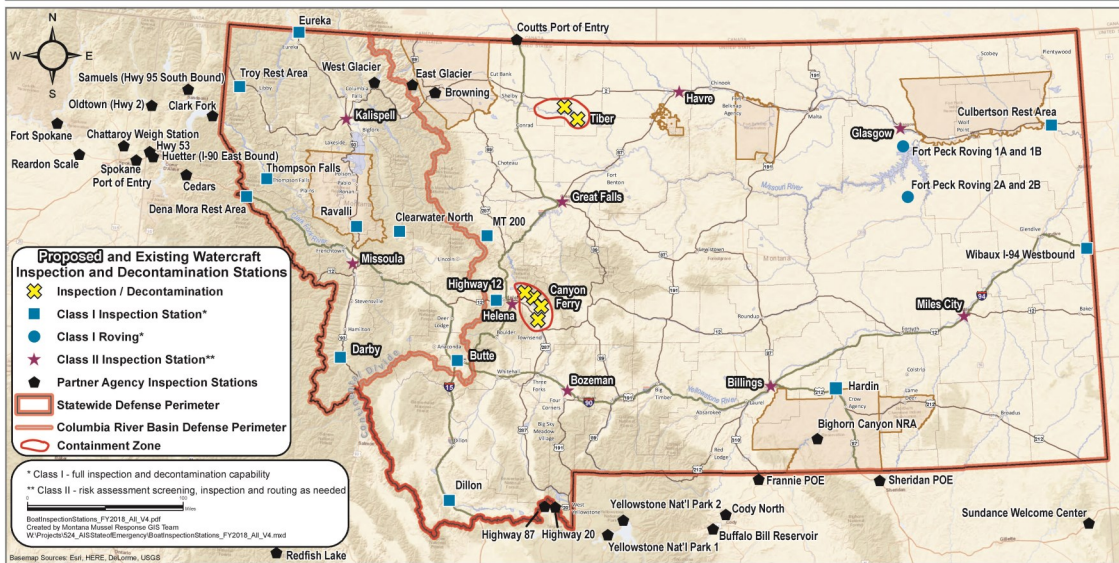
The Montana Department of
Natural Resources
& Conservation



Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks



Proposed and Existing Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Stations - FY2018-19 2/10/2017



Montana Fish
Wildlife & Parks

CLEAN. DRINK. DRY.



The Montana Department of
Natural Resources
& Conservation



Mussels
Aquatic
invasive mus-
sels of
concern

to Montana are the Zebra and Quagga mussels. These are almost identical in terms of their impact to drinking water infrastructure.

Invasive mussels can remain suspended in the water for 3 to 4 weeks before they find a hard surface to attach to; those that don't find a substrate to attach to will die. Veligers (larval stage) are about 0.07—0.30 millimeters in size depending on stage of growth. Mussels can tolerate water temperatures from 32°F to 96°F. They need a flow rate less than 6 ft/s to attach and a temperature of at least 54°F to reproduce. Adults can survive out of water for 7 days and reach a maximum size of 50 millimeters. Veligers can be transported over considerable distances within a water treatment system before they settle, attach and grow.

Last fall, aquatic invasive mussel larvae was detected in samples from Tiber Reservoir, Canyon Ferry Reservoir, the Milk River downstream of Nelson Reservoir, and the Missouri River upstream of Townsend. Only Tiber Reservoir mussel samples have been verified upon resampling. Extensive sampling will begin again after melt off, spring of 2017.

Aquatic invasive species (AIS), including diseases, are easily spread from one water body to the other. Anglers, boaters, construction workers, pond owners, gardeners, seaplane pilots, field workers - virtually anyone who works or plays in or around water can unknowingly transport these pests on their boats and equipment or allow them to spread via improper management practices. It takes only one mistake to potentially infest a new water body.

For more information about Montana's mussel research and control efforts:

<http://musselresponse.mt.gov>

Items available for Sale or Rent:

Landowner Map Booklets

5.5" X 8.5" Map Booklet.....\$30.00 each
5.5" X 8.5" Map Booklet Satellite.....\$40.00 each
8.5" X 11" Map Booklet.....\$40.00 each
8.5" X 11" Map Booklet Satellite.....\$50.00 each
Wall Map.....\$40.00 each
Shipping & Handling.....\$10.00 each

Fabric Prices

Sunbelt fabric 6' X 300'\$85.00 each
Sunbelt fabric 4' X 300'\$65.00 each
3' X 3' weed control fabric squares...\$1.00 each
Staples.....\$2.00 per lb.
Box of Staples.....\$45.00 each

Sunbelt Fabric Layer Rental

\$10 per day with fabric purchase
\$25 per day without fabric purchase

Planting Products

Hydrosourse crystals.....\$5.00/lb.
Blue-X tree tubes (30 in).....\$1.25 each
Rigid Seedling Protector Tubes..\$.50 each
100 Marker Flags.....\$6.00/bundle

Tree Planter Rental

Minimum charge for up to 400 trees.....\$20.00
401-1,000 trees.....\$.05 per tree
1,000 or more trees.....\$.025 per tree

Conservation Items

Wildlife Escape Ramps.....\$10.00 each



The Below Ground Livestock Crop & Range Soil Health Tour



**Incorporating soil management into cropping systems
and rangeland systems**

June 13 & 14, 2017

Norley Hall, Conrad MT



**MONTANA ASSOCIATION of
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**
We're growing Montana's future.



The Montana Department of
**Natural Resources
& Conservation**

Pondera County Conservation District

Liberty County Conservation District

Glacier County Conservation District

Toole County Conservation District



United States Department of Agriculture



Montana Soil and Water Conservation Society



For more information contact **Pondera County Conservation District (PCCD)**
(406)278-7611 x 3 Email: Lorrie.grosfield@mt.nacdnet.net

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides reasonable accommodations for all persons to participate in NRCS programs and activities. If you require special accommodations, please contact Stacy Eneboe at 406-278-7611 X 12.



Image source: MT Weed Control Association

This plant prefers riparian areas, but can be found in drier soils as well.



Image Source: MT Weed Control Association

Featured Weed: Saltcedar

From: Montana Weed Control Association

(Tamarix ramosissima and T. chinensis)

Common Names

Tamarisk, saltcedar, tamarix, French tamarisk; small-flowered tamarisk

Description

Saltcedar is a pretty evergreen shrub that can grow up to fifty feet in height. As an invasive shrub, saltcedar can form dense thickets of vegetation, especially along waterways. Leaves resemble juniper leaves; they are scale-like, overlap each other along the stem and are gray-green in color. Stems of saltcedar are slender, light red or orange-colored and flowers are pale pink to white and form dense masses of 2 inch long spikes at the branch tip. Dense plumes of flowers bloom from early spring to late fall, and each plant can produce 600,000 seeds annually. Saltcedar reproduces by root and seeds which are dispersed through water and air. This plant prefers riparian areas, but can be found in drier soils as well.

Key Features

The evergreen shrub appearance and the showy pink flowers that bloom in clusters along tips of stems.

Habitat

Saltcedar is located along streams, waterways, bottom lands, banks and drainage washes of natural or artificial water bodies, moist rangelands and pastures, and other areas where seedlings can be exposed to extend periods of saturated soil for establishment. It has also been found in numerous ornamental locations in urban areas in western Montana. These areas are not typically riparian in nature.

CALCULATING A TREE'S WORTH

Article from Lawyer Nursery November 2016 Newsletter

Every person on this planet is affected by a tree every day of their lives. For those of us in the horticultural industry, trees help pay our bills. Trees contribute to our health, comfort, to wildlife, to the land that we live on and the air that we breath.

Sometimes, there are situations where a dollar value needs to be placed on a tree. A website called National Tree Benefit Calculator provides a starting point to consider www.treebenefits.com.

According to an article by Gail Wells, in Science Findings published September 2010 by Pacific Northwest Research Station, USDA Forest Service in Portland Oregon, two recent studies by Geoffrey Donovan and David Butry have yielded dollar values for street and neighborhood trees in Portland, OR and Sacramento, CA. On average in Portland, street trees added \$8,870 to a home's sale price reflecting a number of valuable amenities including cleaner air, moderated storm water runoff, atmospheric carbon sequestration, reduced energy consumption and improved human health. Extrapolating to the entire city, Portland's street trees have a capital value of \$1.1 billion which translates to \$45 million in annual benefits, far exceeding estimated annual maintenance costs of \$4.6 million.

Trees are much more than products sold in the nursery industry or by-product in the timber industry. It is evident that with continued research, we will continue to discover more of the limitless benefits of trees.



SUGAR MAPLE (ACER
SACCHARUM)

Images courtesy of Lawyer Nursery

*The best friend on
earth of man is the
tree. When we use
the tree
respectfully and
economically, we
have one of the
greatest resources
on earth. -Frank
Lloyd Wright*

Milk River Watershed Alliance News

1120 Hwy 191 S, Ste 2
Malta, MT 59538
(406)654-1334 ext. 101
www.milkriverwatershedalliance.com



Life Line of the Hi-Line

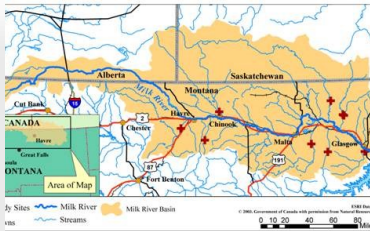
Casey Gallagher, BSWC
Coordinator: Jenifer Anderson

"Lifeline of the Hi-line"

MRWA Board & Staff

Jeff Pattison, Chair
Pat Anderson, Vice Chair
Ken Kiemele
Nancy Heins
Donny Linn

Bruce Anderson
Greg Jergesen
Con Nystrom
Barbara Boberg
Todd Eney



"The Milk River Watershed Alliance is a locally led organization working together to preserve, protect and enhance natural resources within the Milk River Watershed, while maintaining the quality of life."



Sunset on the Milk River,
photo by Jenifer Anderson

2017 River Rendezvous to tour St. Mary's Diversion

2017 River Rendezvous

Save the date!

June 27th, 2017

Join us for a tour of the St. Mary diversion system, and an optional same-day tour of the Canadian irrigation system.



There are a block of rooms available at the Comfort Inn in Shelby under MRWA. Call 406-434-2212 to reserve.

RSVP by May 26th, 2017

Jenifer Anderson, 406-654-1334 ext. 101, jenifer.anderson@mt.nacdnet.net
or

Rachel Frost, 406-454-0056, mrcdc@macdnet.org

MRWA and MRCDC quarterly meetings will be June 26th, 2017 at the Comfort Inn in Shelby

You're Invited

Update from BSWC Member, Casey Gallagher

At orientation training for the Big Sky Watershed Corps, we were warned that it would take us a few months for us to get acclimated to our sites and the nature of our work; a bit of a hindrance considering our terms are only 11 months. This was not the case for me! Sure, there was an adjustment period for me to learn about the community, resources, economy, agriculture, livelihoods, and the Milk River watershed, but the community's willingness to guide me has expedited that transition process.

During my five months serving for the MRWA, I have been involved with many education and outreach efforts. I have updated our website www.milkriverwatershedalliance.com, I have created us a Facebook page, I have been updating and creating new brochures and display boards for the MRWA and the different projects we are involved in. I created Milk River watershed education lesson plans that I have taught in Malta High School and Irle Elementary School in Glasgow. I will be attending the Outdoor Classroom in Glasgow, where I will be using the Rolling Rivers trailer, a great hands on experience for children.

I have successfully written a watershed management grant to use towards our educational video project. The video project will be on the integral role of the Milk River and the importance of rehabilitating the St. Mary diversion system which is 100 years old! The educational video project will encompass many of my efforts during my service term.

I have attended many meetings for partner organizations and different groups in communities within the Milk River watershed. The Milk River watershed covers more than just the Milk River. It is very important to understand the needs and priorities for all residents to best serve the community.

I have been assisting the hydrologist in Glasgow with flow measurements along tributaries to the Milk River. I participated in Malta Parks and Rec clean up day at Trafton Park, and Valley County's clean up day. I have participated in a Cottonwood planting project on the Missouri River where we planted 80 Cottonwoods to help restore a riparian buffer to help stabilize the banks from erosion.

I'm coordinating with weed districts to assist inventorying Salt Cedar on the Milk River. I will be assisting Jenifer, the coordinator of the MRWA, to plan for the River Rendezvous which will be touring the St. Mary diversion system. I have been off to a great start and am very much enjoying the Hi-Line and the beauty of the landscapes and the unique and zealous communities.

Milk River Watershed Alliance News

1120 Hwy 191 S, Ste 2
Malta, MT 59538
(406)654-1334 ext. 101
www.milkriverwatershedalliance.com



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Coordinator: Jennifer Anderson
Casey Gallagher, BSWC

“Lifeline of the Hi-line”

“The Milk River Watershed Alliance is a locally led organization working together to preserve, protect and enhance natural resources within the Milk River Watershed, while maintaining the quality of life.”

The Milk River Watershed Alliance has hired Banik Communications of Great Falls to produce an educational video on the Milk River and the necessity for the rehabilitation of the St. Mary diversion system.



We believe that the most powerful way to explain the importance and complexity of the St. Mary’s diversion system, which can provide up to 90% of the flow for the Milk River, is through short film. By showing the location, extent of the project, beneficiaries, and consequences of failing to act, we can instill a sense of urgency to rally support to move the project forward so the Milk River can continue to provide for our communities. The MRWA plans to share the video at stakeholder meetings, lobbying efforts for congress and legislature, and local viewing events within the watershed.

Beneficiaries of the Milk River include municipalities such as Havre, Chinook, and Harlem, irrigators, recreationists, local businesses, sportsmen, First Nation’s with federal reserved water rights, and wildlife and wildlife interests.

Banik’s contracted services include outreach and coordination, expert interviews, professional narration, videography, editing, a music bed, short video cuts for online teasers, a full length video, and public relations. The MRWA has secured funding through the DNRC’s 223 grant and the watershed management grant, and generous contributions from Valley, Hill, and Phillips County Commissioners, Two Rivers Economic Growth Council, and Phillips County Economic Growth Council. The Milk River provides a \$2 billion return for a rehabilitation cost of \$200 million. Currently, 75% of the rehabilitation cost will fall upon irrigators in the watershed; an unrealistic operations and maintenance cost that will be detrimental to our communities along the Hi-Line.

TAKING FLOW MEASUREMENTS

Photo by Jenifer Anderson

Casey Gallagher assists MT DNRC taking flow measurements.

By Casey Gallagher

Flow measurements can be taken a variety of different ways to determine the discharge, which are in units such as cubic feet per second (cfs). During my most recent measurement with the MT DNRC Hydrologist, Mike Dailey in Glasgow, we used a small catamaran that had an Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ADCP) attached to it. The sensor at the bottom would calculate different depths, as we pulled it from the next. Via blue-send the raw data at one end of the measurements are beneficial to help gauge floods, droughts, face water relation-inefficiencies, water allocation, and im-



widths, and velocities one end of the canal to tooth, the ADCP would to the laptop stationed bridge. Flow measurement to help gauge groundwater and sur-ships, water budgets, ter allocation, and im-

The planter, the farmer, the mechanic, and the laborer...

form the great body of the

people of the United States,

they are the bone and sinew

of the country

men who love

liberty and

desire nothing

but equal rights

and equal laws.

Andrew Jackson



1120 Hwy 191 S, Ste 2
Malta, MT 59538

Phone: 406-654-1334 ext. 101

Email: jenifer.anderson@mt.nacdnet.net

The Phillips Conservation District holds its monthly meetings the second Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. in the conference room of the USDA building, located at 1120 Hwy 191 South. These meetings are open to the public.

Conservation District Board & Staff

Bob Breipohl, Chairman

Matt Simonson, Vice-Chairman

Bill French

Pat Anderson

Paul Mortenson

Gary Knudsen, Urban Supervisor

Merrilyn Black, Urban Supervisor

Hal DeBoer, Associate Supervisor

Jenifer Anderson, Administrator & Editor

Montana's conservation districts are political subdivisions of state government, created by the legislature in 1939. A non-paid elected and appointed board of supervisors governs the activities of a conservation district. The 58 conservation districts in Montana are part of a national network of over 3,000 conservation districts similarly organized in all 50 states.

Their main function is to conduct local activities to promote conservation of natural resources. The activities vary from district to district, but generally include education or on-the-ground conservation projects. Conservation districts, however, have the authority to pass land use ordinances if necessary to conserve local natural resources. In addition, individuals planning to work in or near a perennial stream or river must first receive a permit from their local conservation district.



310 Permits

Phillips Conservation District is reminding landowners that a 310 permit is legally required if they are planning any project in or near a perennially flowing stream.

Any private entity or non-governmental group planning any project that may affect the shape of a stream or its banks must obtain a 310 permit prior to beginning any such activity.

This applies to natural perennial-flowing streams, rivers or springs, including the bed, immediate banks, and channels of the entire stream from its mouth to its source even if portions go dry periodically. Both state and local rules apply.

Construction of new facilities, or the modification, operation or repair of an existing facility, are all subject to this requirement.

This includes, but is not limited to, projects such as bridges, culverts, irrigation structures, bank stabilization, diversions

and stream restoration.

Application for 310 permits are to be made by the person performing the work or acting on behalf of the landowner, such as contractors, developers, ditch companies, or the landowners themselves.

The purpose of the 310 Law (Montana's Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act of 1975) is to ensure that projects on perennial streams will be carried out in ways that are not damaging to the stream or adjoining landowners.

310 permit applications are free, and are available at the Phillips Conservation District (1120 Highway 191 South, Suite 2, Malta) or online at <http://dnrc.mt.gov/permits/streampermitting/jointapplication.asp>

Upcoming Events

PCD Monthly Meeting.....	May 16
AIS Informational Workshop Malta.....	May 16
CMR-WG Meeting.....	May 19
MT Ag Summit Great Falls.....	May 31-June 1
FY 2018 EQIP Applications.....	June 2
PCD Monthly Meeting.....	June 13
Barthelmess CSP grazing tour.....	June 15
Matador Symposium.....	June 14
MRWA Quarterly meeting.....	June 26
River Rendezvous Tour @ St. Mary's Diversion.....	June 27