



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2023 | VOL. 2 ISSUE 1

CONSERVATION UPDATE



Fresh Beginnings

As the holiday season wraps up, new beginnings are on the horizon. An opportunity to get a new perspective and anticipate the year ahead. The blanket of snow on our farmland and home places remind us that each year brings a fresh start. We hope you enjoy this issue of the PCCD Conservation Newsletter. In this issue you will find an article on Montana's Snow Survey, upcoming events for your calendars, conservation trees for pick up, a potential new TIP for Pondera County, an upcoming local working group meeting to prioritize conservation efforts in our community, and more! We also wanted to let you know that we have a new website available to inform you and keep you up to date with the conservation district. Please visit <https://ponderacd.macdnet.org/> and check it out!

Newsletter Content:

- **Fresh Beginnings**
- **Upcoming Events**
- **Montana Snow Survey**
- **Conservation Trees**
- **NRCS TIP**
- **Local Working Group Meeting**



Upcoming Events:

- **PCCD Next Board Meeting** Tuesday, January 10th, 2023 at 8 a.m. at the USDA Service Center Conference Room in Conrad, MT
- **Farming and Ranching without the Bank** January 10th, 2023 at Wibaux Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall, Wibaux, MT
- **MT Soil Health Symposium 2023** February 8-9th at Billings Hotel and Convention Center Register at <https://mtsoilhealth.org/>
- **Local Working Group Meeting** Date TBD in February or March. Will be hosted in Conrad, MT



Montana Snow Survey

The NRCS Montana Snow Survey Program provides mountain snowpack and precipitation data via manual snowpack measurements (Snow Courses) and the SNOwpack TELelemetry (SNOTEL) network to forecast snowmelt-driven runoff during spring and summer. This information is provided for decisions relating to agricultural production, fish and wildlife management, municipal and industrial water supply, urban development, flood control, recreation, power generation, and water quality management.



Equipment for Rent

- Level \$25/day
- Doppler Flow Meter \$250
- MCCA Measuring Probe \$10/day
- Towner Disc \$10/acre first time over, then \$6/acre. \$250 deposit
- Tree Spade \$20/tree, \$250 deposit
- Scraper
- Fabric layer \$20/roll, fabric purchased @ PCCD covers cost for rent. \$250 deposit
- Tree planter \$0.15/tree, \$50/day minimum if 1-333 trees. \$250 deposit

Deposits are refundable upon payment of any required repair charge

See Rental Agreement form for more details



Conservation Trees:

If you ordered trees through PCCD this year, they will be available for pick up in April. For any questions, please call 406-278-7611 x1048 or email ponderacd@gmail.com.

If you are interested in ordering trees for the following spring, you will need to place your order with PCCD by October. PCCD has tree order forms available for pick up at the office starting in September. We ask that you fill out your order forms and get them turned in by the **beginning of October**. Tree inventory goes quickly, get your order submitted early.

Sale!

Items for Sale:

- Trees for Conservation- Inquire with PCCD for ordering next fall
- Landscape Fabric- \$125/roll (6' x 500' roll)
- Montana Women History Book- \$22
- Marker Flags- \$12/bundle (100 per bundle)
- Map Ordinance Book- \$35

YOUR LOCAL NRCS AT WORK

Potential TIP for Pondera County

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Conrad, MT is considering a potential Targeted Implementation Plan (TIP) in Pondera County for the 2024 funding year. This potential TIP focuses on soil health improvements for cropland in the area north and west of Valier, MT.

Focus would be improved soil health on cropland involving producers who are committed to implementing the principles of soil health by adding a diverse crop rotation, keeping a living root in the soil as often as possible, keeping the soil covered, integrating livestock, and nutrient management.

This TIP has the potential to assist local farmers with cost share on cover crops, crop rotation, soil testing, and nutrient management. Some of our goals with this TIP are to increase soil cover, increase soil biology, increase soil carbon, and decrease inputs over the course of five years.



**Want to learn more?
Please call Sarah
Zielke at NRCS at
406-576-1058 by
January 2, 2023.**

**No requirement to
sign up at this time,
we are just
inquiring who is
interested.**

Coming Soon

Local Working Group Meeting



NRCS of Conrad and PCCD are working closely to plan a local working group meeting to take place this late February or early March. The purpose of this meeting is to gather local groups that share values of conserving natural resources, and other vital aspects to our agricultural community to pinpoint the top conservation projects in our area.

Working in collaboration will allow us to develop a plan and course of action to practice common sense conservation in our local areas. Members of the public are welcomed to attend. Please call 406-278-7611 x 1048 for a date confirmation in the upcoming weeks.

Seeking Interest:

PCCD has been asked if the community would like to work in partnership with Montana Wildlife Federation for tracking wildlife migratory paths in our area. The organization is promoting their new app called Wildlife Xing. Volunteers would be able to help the organization track data of wildlife movement by downloading the app, and taking count of the areas wildlife cross through marking it in the app. If you or someone you know is interested please email ponderacd@gmail.com.



Superfood Juice:

To Boost Heart Health + Memory:

- **2 medium beets (12 oz.), peeled and cut up**
- **3 medium carrots, scrubbed and cut up**
- **1 medium apple, cored and cut up**
- **1 cup blueberries**

Carefully add all ingredients to a high power juicer. Pour juice into a clean pitcher. If desired, skim foam from top of juice and discard. Serve immediately.



PCCD Board:

Jack Judisch, Chair

Paul Jones, Supervisor

Roger Paulsen, Urban Supervisor

Bryce Johns, Supervisor

Ramsey Offerdal Jr., Supervisor

Keith VandenBos, Supervisor

Cole Peebles, Urban Supervisor

Kaysie Steele, Administrator

PCCD holds
monthly
board
meetings on
the second
Tuesday of
each month at
8 a.m. Please
call 406-278-
7611 ext. 1048
if you would
like more
information.