



The Explorer

The Official Newsletter of the Lewis & Clark Conservation District

Volume 62, Issue 3

Summer 2023

Lewis & Clark CD hosts 2023 Day on the Range

Where: Ponderosa Snow Warrior's Clubhouse, Lincoln MT

When: September 21, 2023 starts at 8:30 am

RSVP required-Limit of 35 attendees!

chris@lewisandclarkcd.org or

call 406-389-3884

BBQ Lunch & other refreshments are provided

Learn about Range,
Soils, Weeds, Water,
Forestry, and
Pollinators in Lewis &
Clark County



**Sponsored by the DNRC
Rangeland Resources Program**



2023 Lambing Field Trip

Marc McCauley, a CR Anderson educator, recently took a number of students out to the Sieben Ranch to experience lambing time! Not much cuter than a baby lamb! The Conservation District helped support the trip with some funding for lunch and transportation.



Augusta FFA Chapter!

The Lewis and Clark CD board recently met in Augusta for our regular meeting and Local Work Group. Cody Barnes was there from the Augusta School and FFA program. The chapter in Augusta recently renewed their charter after several years of inactivity and they are taking off with great results!

We look forward to seeing that group's success and hope that they maintain involvement from the community.

New Conservation District Employee



Please welcome our new Resource Specialist, Joe Kremer-Herman. Joe will be working with the 310 Stream Permitting program and other resource related projects, including our education and outreach programs.

Joe grew up in a small farming community in southern Minnesota. Joe's love for the outdoors started in his youth, playing on his family's farm.

Joe earned his B.A. in History and Environmental Studies from Aquinas College in Grand Rapids Michigan. After college Joe traveled, worked, and lived

across the northern half of the United States. Joe interned with the Student Conservation Association in New Hampshire building trails, and taught environmental education. He also taught at Bradford Woods, Indiana University's outdoor center.

When not working, Joe can be either be woodworking in his garage or out in his garden.

To reach Joe, call 406-389-3886 or email joe@lewisandclarkcd.org.

The Latest Lake Helena Willow Soil Lift



In April and May the Lewis and Clark Conservation District provided technical oversight and some grant funding from DNRC to assist a local landowner in addressing some continued erosion on the shore of Lake Helena. This is the 5th project that the CD has assisted with, and it addressed about 330 feet of shoreline that has eroded due in part to ice ramping in

the winter time, and wave action. A significant amount of private property now resides under Lake Helena that landowners are paying taxes on. Improving habitat, species diversity, and reducing sedimentation into the reservoir are our main goals in assisting landowners.

The CD obtained a small grant from DNRC's Conservation District Bureau to pay for a part of the project. This type of project utilizes willow cuttings taken while the plants are dormant. It

doesn't hurt the willows, in fact, it stimulates growth of the willow. Below is a "typical" drawing of this type of project.

These kinds of projects, in order to keep them cost effective, require a large amount of volunteer help. We would like to thank all of the volunteers to assisted, and the landowners who were willing to take on this project.



Looking east, before



Looking east, after project



Looking west, before



Looking west, after project

Lewis & Clark County Local Work Group meeting

The Lewis and Clark Conservation District is hosting 2 Local Work Group meetings in 2023, one was held in Augusta after our regular meeting. The 2nd will be in August after our regular meeting at Lambkins in Lincoln. It will run from 11 to noon.

This meeting is open to landowners, recreationists, agencies and others interested in assisting the Conservation District and NRCS Helena Field Office staff in updating our planning for future years. These meetings help us to identify any changes in natural resource concerns, and assist us in directing our funding toward priority concerns.

If you cannot make this meeting but you have some feedback for us, please email chris@lewisandclarkcd.org or fill out our [Resource Concern Survey](#).

Conservation District Pollinator Initiative

We have a very small amount of seed remaining from this year's pollinator initiative. We have had over 90 requests for seed, but only 78 have picked them up. We have distributed 204,610 square feet of seed so far, just under 5 acres worth!

If you have submitted an interest form and have not yet picked up your seed, please call 406-389-3895 to schedule an appointment to do so!

Water Test Cost Share Program

The CD will reimburse landowners in Lewis and Clark County \$25 when they get their well water tested. Your first call should be to the Lewis and Clark County Water Quality Protection District at 406-457-8584 for recommendations on what tests would be best to run. They should also have test kits available from the Well-Educated program from MSU. Once you've gotten your results back, email a copy to us at chris@lewisandclarkcd.org or mail to LCCD, 790 Colleen Street, Helena MT 59601. There is a limited amount of funding for this program so get your information in soon!

*Check out our website at www.lewisandclarkcd.org. We're also on [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#).
If you prefer to get this newsletter via email, sign up at www.lewisandclarkcd.org.*

District Report-Chris Evans, District Administrator

The second quarter of 2023 was a busy one, with hiring our new Resource Specialist, and getting some of that training done. Spring is a bit of a frantic time with school getting out, and there's usually a pretty high demand for the Rolling Rivers trailer at different events. Since we host the trailer, we also coordinate other organizations who use it.

In April, we got to have a table display at the Gold Country Master Gardener's Symposium. In April in general we really ramped up the Pollinator Seed distribution, with 2 pick-up days, one in Augusta and one in Lincoln. We also had a couple of pick-up days for seed at the Helena Office. We are sorry to say that our Big Sky Watershed Corps member decided to end her term after a family situation, so we'll miss her the rest of the summer and fall. The CD sponsored only one team for this year's Envirothon, from Capital High School. They did really well overall, and we hope to see more teams next year.

In late April/early May, the CD collaborated with another landowner on a Lake Helena Willow Soil Lift. This is the 4th or 5th project we've helped with out there and we're looking forward to seeing how the shoreline does in the next few years. The CD collaborated with the USFWS and FWP on an event in Wolf Creek "Bears and Bees" where we had more of our Pollinator Seed available to landowners in that area.

In June, the CD participated in the annual Montana Association of Conservation Districts spring board meeting, along with the Montana Conservation District Employee Organization Spring Meeting. The Gear Up camp at Carroll College invited us to showcase the Rolling Rivers Trailer. The kick off to the Summer Education Walks in collaboration with the Helena CORE group took place on June 8th and our first walk was June 27th, the Stream Walk, at the Ten Mile Creek Park.

Partner News

Lewis & Clark County Weed Division

With noxious weed season well on its way the Lewis and Clark County Weed Division is here to help. We offer many amenities to residents and here is a sort list of them.

- Spray and Seeder rentals
- Help with noxious weed management plans.
- A herbicide cost share program for those that have an approved submitted noxious weed manage plan.
- Plant Identification
- Help with obtaining biocontrol.
- Non-Compliance
- No Spray Program for those not wanting the County right of way sprayed next to their properties
- Pesticide Recycle program. Drop them off at our shop 3402 Cooney Ave.

For more information on the Lewis and Clark County Weed Division, call Christian Lehnert at 406-447-8072 or email him at clehnert@lccountymt.gov.

Farm Service Agency

Reminder to File Crop Acreage Reports with Farm Service Agency

Agricultural producers who have not yet completed their [crop acreage reports](#) after spring planting should make an appointment with the County Farm Service Agency (FSA) before the applicable deadline. July 15 is a major reporting date for many crops.

An acreage report documents a crop grown on a farm or ranch and its intended uses. Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planted acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits.

Acreage Reporting Details

The following exceptions apply to acreage reporting dates:

- If the crop has not been planted by the acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar days after planting is completed.
- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to the county office.

- If crops are covered by the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, acreage reports should be submitted by the applicable crop-specific reporting deadline or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

Producers should also report crop acreage they intended to plant, but due to natural disaster, were unable to because of a natural disaster.

Prevented planting acreage must be reported on form CCC-576, Notice of Loss, no later than 15 calendar days after the final planting date as established by FSA and USDA's Risk Management Agency.

FSA offers continuous certification for perennial forage. This means after perennial forage is reported once and the producer elects continuous certification, the certification remains in effect until a change is made. Check with FSA at the local USDA Service Center for more information on continuous certification.

For More Information, please contact your [local FSA office](#).



Sun River Watershed Group

The Sun River Watershed Group would like to welcome our 2023 Montana Conservation Corps Fellow, Emily Kemp. Emily will be working as a field technician, leading SRWG's water quality monitoring program, providing support for weed control efforts,

and assisting with outreach.



Emily is a recent graduate of Wake Forest University in North Carolina, where she received a B.A. in Environmental Studies. Her background includes working for her university's Office of Sustainability as a Garden Intern and Events & Communications Intern. She has also worked for a 300-acre organic farm in her home state of Michigan and served in AmeriCorps as a SNIP Associate with community urban gardens. Her experience in ag and community work has led her to serve with the Montana Conservation Corps at the SRWG. In her free time, Emily can be found hiking, reading, and sketching wildflowers along the Missouri River. You can reach Emily at emily@sunriverwatershed.org.

SRWG has several events coming up this summer, most notably the 25th Annual Weed Whacker Rodeo on July 8 in the Sun Canyon. Information about events can be found at www.sunriverwatershed.org/events and on Facebook. Volunteers needed! Contact Tracy@sunriverwatershed.org or (406) 214 2868 with any questions.



LEWIS & CLARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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LCCD SPONSORS- *"Those who assume responsibility."*

Power Townsend
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LCCD STEWARDS- *"Those in charge of a large estate."*

Prickly Pear Simmental Ranch
Westech Environmental Services
Murdoch's Ranch and Home, Helena

LCCD CHAMPIONS- *"Those who fight for a cause."*

Action Print
Northwestern Energy

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For more information on any of our activities, call the CD Office at 406-389-3895