



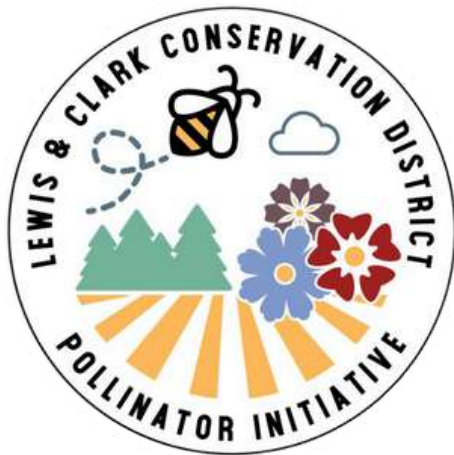
The Explorer

Volume 64, Issue 2

Spring 2025



Pollinator Initiative 2025



LEWIS & CLARK CD POLLINATOR SEED PICK UP DATES-2025

April 9th & 17th
USDA Service Center
790 Colleen Street
Helena MT
9 am - 4 pm

April 21st
Augusta Montana Community Center
Main Street, Augusta
10:30 am-2:30 pm

May 1st
Lincoln Montana Library
11 am - 2 pm

For more information email chris@lewisandclarkcd.org or go to our website at <https://lewisandclarkcd.org/programs/pollinator-initiative/>



The time is here to pick up your seed! See the dates above! If these dates don't work, you'll need to schedule an appointment. Chris works mostly remotely, so don't just stop into the office and expect to pick up your seed. We have had 97 applicants to-date **and may very well run out of seed this year before filling all the applications.** If you haven't yet, and still want to, sign up today, using the QR code above, or go to our website at <https://lewisandclarkcd.org/programs/pollinator-initiative/> to sign up, and to find more information about site preparation and seed mix information.

What we know about the status of NRCS funds and programs

- On February 20, Secretary Rollins instructed the Natural Resources Conservation Service to resume issuing payments to farmers and ranchers for three programs funded in part by the Inflation Reduction Act: the Environmental Quality Incentive Program, the Conservation Stewardship Program, and the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program. Portions of these programs funded by the Farm Bill had not been paused.
- That action released not only the approximately \$20 million in reimbursement requests received prior to January 20, but also those requests received after January 20 for existing, approved contracts.
- Secretary Rollins continues to evaluate other paused funding as she ensures that programs are focused on directly supporting America's farmers and ranchers.

Regarding potential lease terminations:

- Secretary Rollins fully supports President Trump's directive to eliminate wasteful spending and ensure taxpayer dollars are used effectively.
- USDA is optimizing building capacity and consolidating underutilized offices to reduce inefficiencies while continuing to prioritize frontline services for farmers, ranchers, and rural communities.
- For further information regarding the termination of federal leases, please contact the General Services Administration (GSA).

We are seeking 2 new Supervisors!

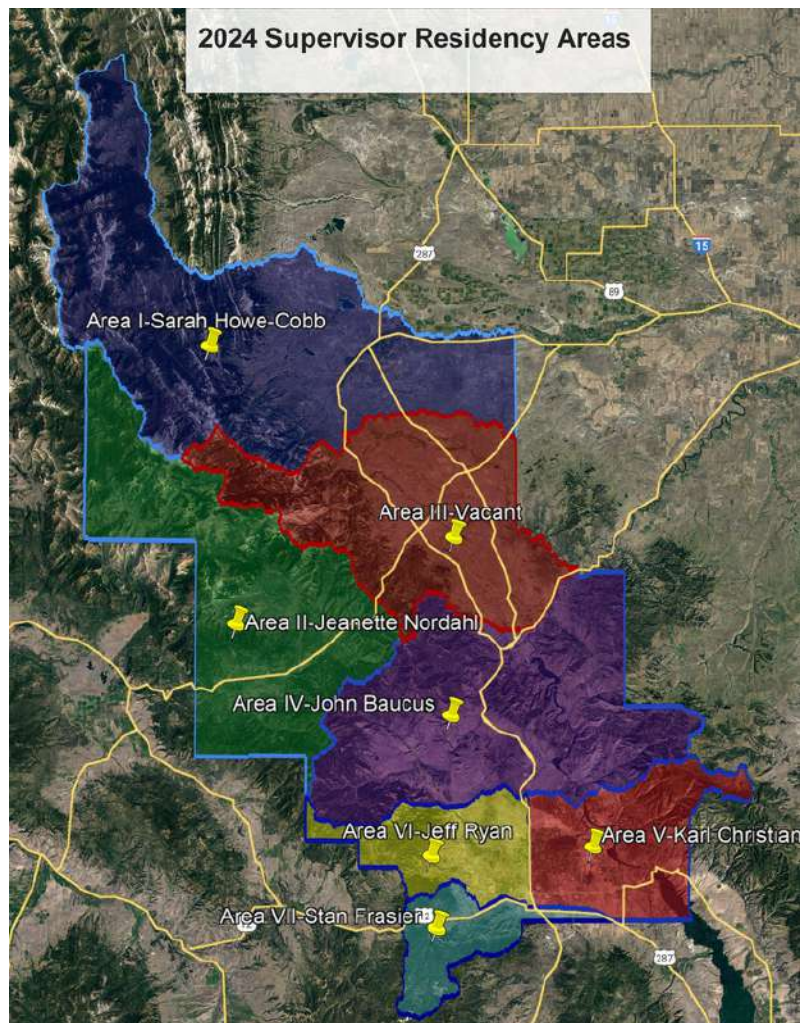
Lewis & Clark Conservation District is looking for a couple of new Board members. Area 3 is currently vacant and Area 2 will be vacant at some point this winter.

Lewis & Clark CD is unique in that it has residency requirements, meaning that a person has to live in the area that they are elected to represent. Current board members can appoint a person to fill the positions until the end of the current term, or the next general election, whichever comes first.

Conservation Districts are political subdivisions of state government and the Board of Supervisors is an independent organization, directing the mission and activities of their district within the realm of their authority. From administering the Stream Permitting Law, to education projects, and more, each supervisor on the Board can provide guidance and their energy in directing the District mission.

[Read more and fill out an interest form!](#)

If you, or someone you know, might be interested in learning more about the positions, please contact Chris Evans at 406-502-8591 or email chris@lewisandclarkcd.org.



Upcoming 2025 Conservation District Activities

- **April 9th**-1st Pollinator Initiative Seed Distribution Day-790 Colleen Street, Helena 9am - 4pm
- **April 17th**-2nd Pollinator Initiative Seed Distribution Day-790 Colleen Street, Helena 9am - 4pm
- **April 19th**-Montana Conservation Elders Outdoor Youth Experience
- **April 21st**-3rd Pollinator Initiative Seed Distribution Day-Augusta Community Center, Augusta 10:30 am- 2:30 pm
- **April 22nd**-5:30 pm Free Pollinator Workshop Ten Mile Brewery
- **May 1st**-4th Pollinator Initiative Seed Distribution Day-Lincoln Library, Lincoln 11 am - 2pm

310 Permit Requirements

A reminder for landowners and managers in Lewis & Clark County, applying for a permit to do any work that may affect the stream bed or the banks of any perennial stream in the county, as well as the shores of Canyon Ferry, Hauser and Holter Reservoirs **is mandatory.**

There is no fee for the 310 permit with Lewis & Clark Conservation District. We work closely with landowners to make sure that their project is the best project possible.

Project include, but aren't limited to, culverts, bridges, boat ramps, docks, bank stabilization etc. If a project might impact, directly or indirectly, the bank or shore, a permit will be required.

We work with the Gilly App's [online permitting application](#), or you can fill out the [pdf version](#).

You can also scan the code below with your smart phone and go right to the app.

For more information, email joe@lewisandclarkcd.org or call Joe at 406-594-9823.



WHEN:
APRIL 19TH
10AM-3PM
FOR ALL YOUTH!

LOCATION:
LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS HELENA
FREE TO ATTEND

MONTANA MATTERS YOUTH OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE

ALL YOUTH, JOIN OVER **40** OUTDOOR, WILDLIFE AND CONSERVATION BASED ORGANIZATIONS TO LEARN, SHOOT, CAST, AND MUCH MORE. COME HAVE FUN, MAKE MEMORIES, AND WIN PRIZES INCLUDING SUMMER CAMPS!

50 FT CLIMBING WALL | FLY CASTING | PELLET GUN + ARCHERY RANGES | NINE MILE PACK STRING | AND MORE!!

WIN A CHANCE TO ATTEND SUMMER CAMP (YOUTH AGES 7-17) | FOOD AVAILABLE ON-SITE (CASH ONLY)

QUESTIONS?
CONTACT: WAYNE CHAMBERLIN 406.459.9427, TOM PEDERSEN 406.461.2349
OR EMAIL INFO@MONTANAYOUTHOUTDOORS.ORG

Our contact information has changed.
You can reach Chris Evans at 406-502-8591 or by email at chris@lewisandclarkcd.org, and Joe Kremer-Herman at 406-594-9823 or by email at joe@lewisandclarkcd.org.



MONTANA
ASSOCIATION of
CONSERVATION
DISTRICTS

NATURAL RESOURCE STUDENTS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Two \$1,000 Scholarships are available for Montana students—high school seniors or students who are attending an accredited post-secondary institution in Montana may apply.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: APRIL 18, 2025

Madi Larson | madi@macdnet.org | 406.443.5711

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- ✓ Must be a US citizen with Montana residency
- ✓ Minimum grade point average of 3.0
- ✓ Enrolled in or planning to pursue a course of study related to Montana's natural resources

ELIGIBLE COURSES OF STUDY:

agriculture, agribusiness, animal science, range science, forestry, environmental science, land resource science,

SCAN QR CODE TO
VIEW APPLICATION
DETAILS AND
REQUIREMENTS



SCAN QR CODE TO APPLY!

**Students may receive a scholarship both as a high school senior and once during post-secondary career.*

District Report

Chris Evans, District Administrator & Explorer Editor

With spring here, things are speeding up at the Conservation District. Last quarter we spent a lot of time preparing for the spring rush of activities, especially the Pollinator Initiative and education events. The CD has been working with our state association during the legislative session, keeping track of bills and other issues that may affect the district. We've also been preparing for summer work on grants that we sponsor for projects.

In the next few months we will be busy with projects and other activities. Get your 310 Permit applications in at least 3 weeks advance of our 2nd Thursday of the month board meetings to get your projects done!

Partner News



The Sun River Watershed Group (SRWG) is a 501c3 nonprofit that works with partners to restore and protect the resources of the Sun River watershed and its communities. We work from Gibson Dam to Great Falls, across Cascade, Teton, and Lewis & Clark Counties. You can learn more about SRWG at www.sunriverwatershed.org or by following us on Facebook.

In January, SRWG added a new Watershed + Outreach Program Coordinator, Madison Colyer. We first met Madison last year as a Big Sky Watershed Corps member, hosted by Hill County Conservation District in Havre. Madison will be heading up SRWG's programs, including Water Quality, Weed Control, and more. You can learn more about Madison on our [website](#), or drop her a note at madison@sunriverwatershed.org to say hello!

This spring and summer, SRWG is bringing back your favorite events:

- April 26: Freezout Lake Spent Ammo and Trash Pickup
- May 10: Rain Barrel Workshop in Fairfield. Registration is open now.
- June 16: Suds for the Sun pint night at Mighty Mo Brewery
- July 12: Sun Canyon Weed Whacker Rodeo
- August 7: BBQ at the Ballpark with SRWG

Visit our Events page or Facebook for details, and contact Madison if you have any questions.

After a brief freeze, SRWG's federal grants are active again so we can get projects going! We have selected Confluence Consulting to design our Muddy Creek Restoration and Resilience Project. The Confluence team will begin surveys and data collection this spring. We have other projects coming soon. Contact Tracy@sunriverwatershed.org for more information.

SRWG will host our semi-annual Water Management Working Group meeting on April 16 at the Fairfield Ambulance Training Center at 10 am. This meeting will be followed by SRWG's board meeting. Both are open to the public. Details are available on the SRWG website or by contacting Tracy.

Water Test Cost Share Program

Lewis & Clark Conservation District 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. You may also get your test kits from other labs that do water testing.

Once you've gotten your results back, email a copy of your results and invoice 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!



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Jeff Ryan--Board Chair, and Area 6
Karl Christians--Vice Chair and Area 5
Jeanette Nordahl--Treasurer and Area 2
John Baucus--Member and Area 4
Stan Frasier--Member and Area 7
Sarah Howe-Cobb--Member and Area 1
Area 3-Vacant
Elena Frederick-Associate Supervisor

LCCD STAFF

Chris Evans--District Administrator
Joe Kremer-Herman--Resource Specialist

NRCS STAFF

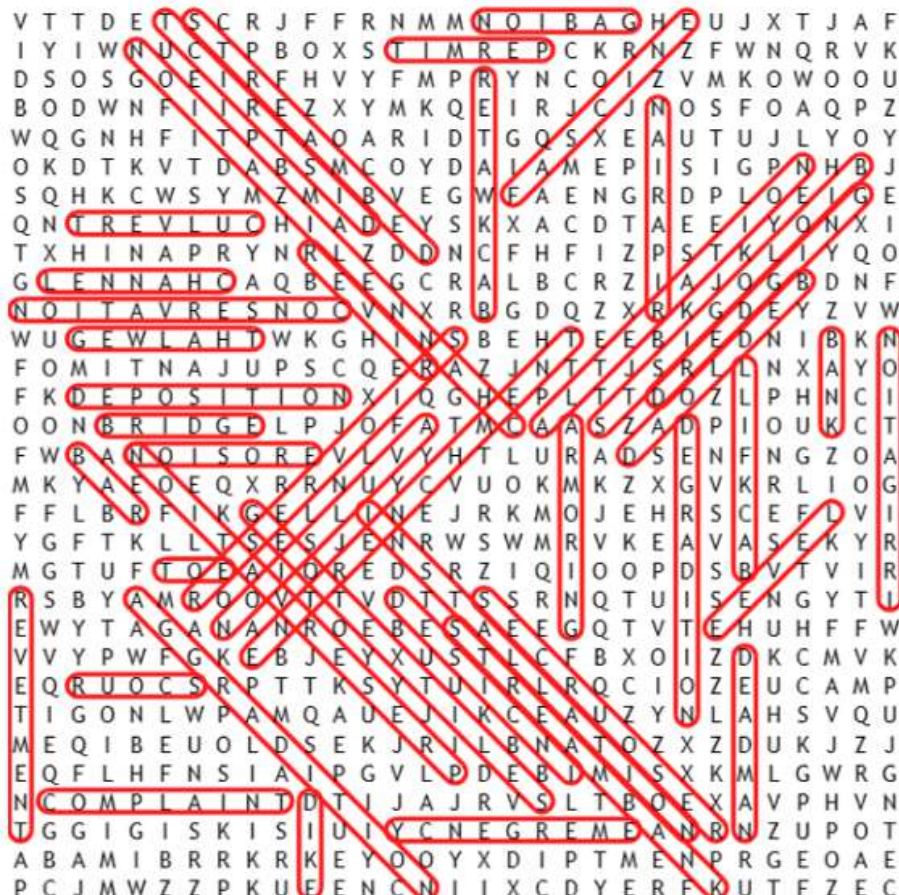
Rebecka Ayre--Supervisory DC
Andrew Kretschmer--District Conservationist
Jason Saari--Soil Conservationist
Zach Williams--Forester

Stream Permitting Required!

If you are planning any work that may affect the streambed or the banks of any perennial stream, or on the shores of Canyon Ferry, Hauser or Holter Reservoirs, in Lewis & Clark County, you are required to fill out a permit application with the Conservation District, along with a number of other agencies, using the [Joint Application](#). Culverts, bridges, fords, streambank work, construction etc. all require a permit.

In the event of any emergencies, where life, crops or property may be at risk, landowners are allowed to do the minimal amount of work to protect their property, but need to file a Notice of Emergency within 15 days of completing the work. Before and after photos are particularly helpful in these cases.

If you see a project that is affecting a stream somewhere in the county, and want to know if it's permitted, please contact our Resource Specialist, Joe Kremer-Herman at 406-594-9823 or via email at joe@lewisandclarkcd.org.



Word Search Creation Credit: Supervisor Jeanette Nordahl

Key to the
Word Search
from
January's
issue

For more
information
about the
Conservation
District, check
out our [website](#),
or find us on
[Facebook](#) or
[Instagram](#)!