



Lewis and Clark Conservation District

790 Colleen Street, Helena MT 59601 406.502.8591 <https://lewisandclarkcd.org>

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

March 12, 2026

1:00 pm

USDA SERVICE CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM

790 Colleen Street, Helena MT

& Via Zoom Conferencing

<https://lewisandclarkcd.org/march-12-2026-regular-board-meeting/>

1pm-Call to Order

Introductions

Public Comment

310 Permit Applications

310 Project Verification results-Recent

LC-30-24 Alamia

LC-09-26 O'Connell

LC-13-26 Matzinger

LC-14-26 M. Wirth

LC-15-26 Ledcor

LC-16-26 Rickman

LC-17-26 Phillips 66

**some may not be acted upon due to need for inspections or additional information

Review Governance Calendar for March/April

Minutes —February 2026

Financial Statement—February 2026

Outstanding Bills

Supervisor absences

Correspondence

Reports

Printed reports are absolutely welcome.

- NRCS
- DNRC
- SRWG
- MRCDC
- LHWG
- Helena CORE
- WQPD

- Weed District
- MACD
- Supervisor Reports
- Staff Reports

Old Business

WCFC Grant update and question

Update on grant reports

Update on QuickBooks Online migration

Update on records disposal

New Business

Staff evaluations are coming up in April

Announcements

Next meeting—April 9, 2026, Helena USDA Service Center Field Office, Helena Montana, 1 pm.

Adjournment

Upcoming Events & meetings

March 12-LHWG annual mtg 5 pm

March 16-MACD Board meeting 7:30 am

March 18-MCDEO Roundtable 10 am

March 18-Annual Invasives Grass workshop 4 pm

March 24-WQPD meeting

March 28-Gold Country Master Gardener's Symposium

April 9-LCCD Board Meeting 1 pm

April 15-Quarterly Grant Reports due

April 16-SRWG Working Group/Water Mgt meeting and board mtg

April 18-Conservation Elder's Event

April 15-MCDEO Roundtable 10 am

April 20-MACD Board Meeting 7:30 am

April 28-WQPD Meeting

May 11-Area 6 Employees Meeting-Manhattan

May 12-East Helena Ag Day

May 14-LCCD Board Meeting 1 pm

Lewis and Clark Conservation District Public Participation Guidelines

Guidelines for Public Participation. The following guidelines shall serve to assure reasonable and fair public participation in the decisions of the Lewis and Clark Conservation District.

1. Be respectful: Any person who, while testifying, shall use indecorous or abusive language or who shall become boisterous or disruptive shall be barred from further presentation to the Board by the presiding officer, unless permission to continue be granted by a majority vote of the Board.
2. Don't interrupt speakers or the proceedings. The public shall be invited to speak after and only after recognition by the presiding officer. Improper interruptions to the conduct of board business will not be allowed. (Please silence cell phones/other devices.)
3. The speaker should step to the front of the room, and for the record, give his or her name and, if applicable, the person, or organization he or she represents.
4. While the Board is in session, members of the public must preserve order and decorum. No person shall delay or interrupt the proceedings or the peace of the Board nor disturb any member of the public or of the Board while speaking or refuse to obey the orders of the presiding officer of the Board.
5. Public comment is limited to 3 minutes (total time) for items not on the agenda (the presiding officer may not allow comments for items outside of the Conservation District's jurisdiction) and 5 minutes (total time) for items on the agenda. The presiding officer, at situational discretion, may allow more comment time, or comments may be disallowed if they are repetitious. If commenters are not adhering to the guidelines, after one warning, they will be asked to leave the meeting. If they refuse to leave, the presiding officer may recess the meeting until the offender leaves or law enforcement escorts the offender from the meeting. The offender may be subject to disorderly conduct charges (MCA 45-8-101). Repetitive or off-topic comments are not allowed and will be interrupted by the presiding officer.
6. Written statements are welcome and should be provided to the District Administrator at least 1 day prior to the meeting for distribution to the entire board. Written statements may be emailed to admin@lewisandclarkcd.org or delivered to the office of the Lewis and Clark Conservation District, 790 Colleen Street, Helena MT 59601. Submitted written comments will be noted in the minutes of the meeting. Notes may be used during the public comment period. However, previously submitted written statements that are also read aloud during public comment shall be deemed unduly repetitious. All prepared statements shall become a part of the permanent record.

MONTH	FULL BOARD FIDUCIARY RESPONSIBILITIES	BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES	ADMINISTRATOR RESPONSIBILITY OUTSIDE OF BOARD MEETING
APRIL	At the Board Meeting	Outside the Board Meeting	Outside (or prior to) Board Meeting
	Treasurer/Finance Committee duties: (may be included in the Consent Agenda)	Treasurer/Finance Committee Before the Board Meeting	
	Treasurer's Report March Treasurer's report presented for board approval	Review March financials per board policy and create written report for April meeting minutes	7 days prior to April Board meeting, prepare and forward financial reports to Treasurer/Finance Comm for monthly review per CD policy
	Authorization of Expenses April expenses presented for board approval	Review April expense payments and make recommendation to the board for approval	Update progress on Ops plan and be prepared for reporting
	Review of Q-1 Financials. Q-1 Income Statement vs Budget and Balance Sheet for board review and approval.	Review Q-1 financials and readies for presentation to the board.	Filing of Minutes -Submit approved March minutes to County Clerk and Recorder and DNRC's CDB
	Payroll Taxes February payroll taxes presented for board approval	Reviews Payroll Tax report to ensure payments have been submitted.	Grant Reports: Timely filing of DNRC grant reports
		Review mill levy projections and CD budget implications	Review content of Tax Valuation (Mill Levy) notice and forward to Treasurer/Fin Com for review.
	Secretary duties:		Research liability insurance/surety bond options and associated costs.
	Minutes March board minutes presented for review & approval		Monitor and facilitate MACD Resolution Process.
	Signature Presiding officer signs board minutes	Designated board members - Admin Annual Evaluation	Pay April's Payroll Taxes
	Administrator duties:	Finalize the Administrators evaluation documentation and readies to lead board discussion at the December board meeting.	Make MPERA Payments 1 week after pay day
	Filing of Minutes. Minutes are sent to the County Clerk each month.	After the board meeting, draft feedback letter and two board authorized officers meet with Administrator to discuss evaluation feedback.	Prepare DNRC/CDB Admin grant proposal for board review and approval
	Grant Reports. Timely filing of grant reports, especially DNRC which is due by the 15th of the month following the end of a quarter.		
	Mill Levy Projections. Receipt of notification letter or reached out to contact the county for projected mill levy amount for upcoming year. Note: You may have already received this note.		
	Presents: Q-1 annual operational work plan update to the board for review and approval.		
	Additional board items for discussion and/or approval		

Feb Report for Mar meeting**03/12/26 Bd Rpt**Received financial reports and the bank statement from Chris Evans, Dist Admin, L&C Cons Dist, 03/02/2026

Balance Sheet	Prior Month	Current Month	Difference
Assets			
Checking Account	\$11,066.27	\$24,353.06	
Savings Account	\$318,155.84	\$288,160.81	
CD-2812 (cert of deposit) 13Mnth	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	
CD (cert of deposit) Short Term (emp leave pay)	\$22,420.94	\$22,420.94	
CD-7824 (cert of deposit) 90 Day	\$15,139.89	\$15,139.89	
CD-7824 (cert of deposit) 90 Day	\$15,270.74	\$15,270.74	
QB Tax Withholding	\$0.00	\$3,524.44	
Total Assets	\$397,053.68	\$383,869.88	\$13,183.80
Payroll Liabilities	\$69.39	\$3,567.05	
Total Equity	\$396,984.29	\$380,302.83	
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$397,053.68	\$383,869.88	\$13,183.80

The number in Difference column represents the difference in Assets, Liabilities & Equity for the current month AND they should match!

Financial Stmt (EOM Transactions)	Prior Month end	Current Month start	Difference
Checking Account	\$13,469.52	\$11,066.27	\$0.00
Total Withdrawals (employee pay, savings, cd transfers, etc)	\$21,970.65	\$18,832.06	
Total Deposits (including interest & savings transfers)	\$19,567.40	\$32,118.85	
Ending Balance	\$11,066.27	\$24,353.06	\$0.00

The # in the difference columns should be \$0.00, if not, there an issue to be resolved

Employee Taxes {MPERA, MT State Fund, EFTPS (Fed Taxes), MT Dept of Rev }	\$6,466.82	\$5,954.02	\$512.80
Employee Pay (including pre-tax health benefit)	\$7,102.18	\$7,264.16	\$161.98

The # in the difference columns indicate the differences from last to current month

Profit & Loss Budget vs Actual	Prior Month	Current	Difference
	\$36,495.56	\$19,814.10	\$16,681.46

COMMENTS: QB Tax withholding under Balance Sheet assets is new due to moving to Workmosis. I added the CD numbers to each CD and re-arranged the order to help keep things clear.

MAR GOVERNANCE CALENDAR RESPONSIBILITIES:

Review Feb Financials: I have reviewed the financials & recommend approval/ disapproval of the financial report as presented to me and have created this written report for the Mar meeting.

Review Mar expense payments at the Mar board meeting and make recommendation to the board for approval: The expenses will be reviewed at the board meeting and make a recommendation at that time.

Jeanette Nordahl, Treasurer & Lincoln Area Supervisor**03/03/26**

2026 0312

Outstanding Bills

Workmosis-**\$1552.50**

Montana Conservation Elders-**\$1000.00**

Circle S Seeds

High Elevation Mix (.5 ac)-**\$1498.28**

Backyard Mix (1 ac)-**\$478.08**

Conservation Mix (1 ac)-**\$205.64**

Native Mix (2 ac)-**\$632.25**

TOTAL to CIRCLE S-\$2814.25

Applewood Seed (Lewis Flax)-**\$380.77** (\$480.77-\$100 credit)

Chris Evans-Travel reimbursement-\$94.25



PO BOX 5238
HELENA, MT 59604
PH: 406-603-4730

Invoice

#INV857

Bill To

CHRIS EVANS
LEWIS & CLARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT
790 COLLEEN STREET
HELENA MT 59601

TOTAL

\$1,552.50

Invoice Date

02/28/2026

Customer ID

LEWIS & CLARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Quantity	Item	Rate	Amount
17.25	QBO Conversion Project	\$90.00	\$1,552.50

Subtotal \$1,552.50

Total \$1,552.50

Reminder: the employer is ultimately responsible for the timely filing of employment tax returns and payment of employment taxes for their employees, even if you have authorized a third-party to file the returns and make the payments. Please contact us if you have questions.

RECEIPT OF FUNDS FROM LEWIS AND CLARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT:

\$1,000

TO RECIPIENT: MONTANA CONSERVATION ELDERS.

Montana Conservation Elders thanks Jeff Ryan and all the staff of the Lewis and Clark Conservation District for this generous donation.

DATE OF DONATION: April 18, 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne Chamberlin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a period at the end.

Wayne Chamberlin

Circle S Seeds of Montana Inc.

PO Box 130

Three Forks, MT 59752

Phone: 406-285-3269

Fax: 406-285-7334

Email: circles@circlesseeds.com



Invoice

Date	Invoice #
2/23/2026	89195

Bill To	Ship To
Lewis & Clark Conservation District 790 Colleen Street Helena, MT 59601	

P.O. No.	Terms	Bill of Lading #
	Net Due 30 Days	

Qty	U/M	Description	Price Each	Treat	Amount
1.2	lb	VNS Yellow Prairie Coneflower Lot# 454-565-22A 1.12# pls	43.975		52.77
4.1	lb	VNS Blanketflower Lot# DA086023-29 3.6# pls	42.56829		174.53
4	lb	MN Native Purple Prairie Clover Lot# J3712 2.1# pls	32.325		129.30
10.2	lb	Persist Small Burnet Lot# 1-A10545-B 9# pls	9.87353		100.71
2.4	lb	VNS Maximilian Sunflower Lot# QQ049224-83 2.24# pls	55.30833		132.74
0.4	lb	VNS Rocky Mountain Beeplant Lot# KG032325-11 0.38# pls	93.50		37.40
19.14		Grass Mixing Charge per Pound	0.10		1.91
1	ea	50# Medium Grass Seed Bags 22 x 36 SW MT Native Mix - 2 Acres	0.00		0.00
0.7	lb	Revenue Slender Wheatgrass Lot# BSWS-2 0.7# pls	4.12857		2.89
			Total		
			Payments/Credits		
			Balance Due		

NOTICE TO BUYER: DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTIES AND LIMITATIONS OF DAMAGES.

Circle S Seeds of Montana, Inc. makes no warranties, expressed or implied, of merchantability, fitness for purposes, or otherwise, and in any event liability for breach of any warranty or contract or negligence with respect to such seeds is limited solely and exclusively to the purchase price paid by the buyer of such seeds.

This disclaimer and limitation of liability may not be altered or amended except by an instrument in writing and then only as to those specifically agreeing to the terms of said instrument.

By acceptance of the seeds, the buyer acknowledges that the limitations and disclaimers herein described are conditions of sale and that they constitute the entire agreement between the parties regarding warranty or other liability.

A LATE FEE OF 1.25% /Month (15%per ANNUM) WILL APPLY TO PAST DUE BALANCES. IF COLLECTION IS REQUIRED, BUYER IS SUBJECT TO ATTORNEY FEES.

Circle S Seeds of Montana Inc.

PO Box 130

Three Forks, MT 59752

Phone: 406-285-3269

Fax: 406-285-7334

Email: circles@circlesseeds.com



Invoice

Date	Invoice #
2/23/2026	89197

Bill To	Ship To
Lewis & Clark Conservation District 790 Colleen Street Helena, MT 59601	

P.O. No.	Terms	Bill of Lading #
	Net Due 30 Days	

Qty	U/M	Description	Price Each	Treat	Amount
1	lb	Sel Gen 4 Anatone Bluebunch Wheatgrass Lot# HMS-24-12171	14.04		14.04
0.7	lb	0.7# pls VNS Blanketflower Lot# DA086023-29	41.55714		29.09
0.03	lb	0.6# pls VNS White Yarrow Lot# OD123319-2	51.33333		1.54
2.26	lb	0.03# pls VNS Silverleaf Lupine Lot# V-259302	188.78761		426.66
1.4	lb	2# pls VNS Rocky Mountain Beeplant Lot# KG032325-11	94.89286		132.85
2.7	lb	1.35# pls Timp Northern Sweetvetch Lot# 2023.0359	175.58519		474.08
1.8	lb	2.5# pls VNS Sulfur Buckwheat Lot# V-192772	65.84444		118.52
0.53	lb	0.5# pls VNS Sulfur Buckwheat Lot# V-260576	178.90566		94.82
0.2	lb	0.4# pls VNS Rocky Mountain Penstemon Lot# QQ044022-28	125.70		25.14
		0.2# pls			
			Total		
			Payments/Credits		
			Balance Due		

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Invoice

Date	Invoice #
2/23/2026	89196

Bill To	Ship To
Lewis & Clark Conservation District 790 Colleen Street Helena, MT 59601	

P.O. No.	Terms	Bill of Lading #
	Net Due 30 Days	

Qty	U/M	Description	Price Each	Treat	Amount
0.6	lb	VNS Yellow Prairie Coneflower Lot# 454-565-22A 0.6# pls	47.11667		28.27
2	lb	VNS Blanketflower Lot# DA086023-29 1.8# pls	43.63		87.26
1.3	lb	VNS Maximilian Sunflower Lot# QQ049224-83 1.2# pls	54.70		71.11
0.3	lb	Persist Small Burnet Lot# 1-A10545-B 0.24# pls	8.96667		2.69
0.1	lb	VNS White Yarrow Lot# OD123319-2 0.08# pls	49.40		4.94
2.9	lb	VNS Rocky Mountain Beeplant Lot# KG032325-11 2.7# pls	91.62414		265.71
0.6	lb	VNS Lacy Phacelia Lot# MJ079625-90 0.6# pls	28.96667		17.38
7.22		Grass Mixing Charge per Pound	0.10		0.72
1	ea	Small Polywoven Bags 19x31 Urban Mix - 1 Acre	0.00		0.00
			Total		\$478.08

Payments/Credits \$0.00

Balance Due \$478.08

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Circle S Seeds of Montana Inc.

PO Box 130

Three Forks, MT 59752

Phone: 406-285-3269

Fax: 406-285-7334

Email: circles@circlesseeds.com



Invoice

Date	Invoice #
2/23/2026	89194

Bill To	Ship To
Lewis & Clark Conservation District 790 Colleen Street Helena, MT 59601	

P.O. No.	Terms	Bill of Lading #
	Net Due 30 Days	

Qty	U/M	Description	Price Each	Treat	Amount
0.6	lb	Leo Birdsfoot Trefoil Lot# 1791-8-AVS1289	16.46667		9.88
1.1	lb	0.6# pls Cert. Ladak 65 Alfalfa Lot# 1791-8-AVS1374	6.15455		6.77
1.1	lb	1.1# pls			
14.2	lb	Delaney Sainfoin Lot# DELANEY25DA	5.31549		75.48
12.58	lb	12.58# pls			
1.1	lb	VNS Lacy Phacelia Lot# MJ079625-90	27.39091		30.13
1.04	lb	1.04# pls			
5.1	lb	Persist Small Burnet Lot# 1-A10545-B	9.87451		50.36
4.5	lb	4.5# pls			
0.7	lb	Revenue Slender Wheatgrass Lot# BSWS-2	4.12857		2.89
0.7	lb	0.7# pls			
4.6	lb	Alkar XL Tall Wheatgrass Lot# 24-1-35	6.03913		27.78
3	lb	3# pls			
23.52		Grass Mixing Charge per Pound	0.10		2.35
1	ea	50# Medium Grass Seed Bags 22 x 36	0.00		0.00
		Conservation Mix - 1 Acre			
PAPER WORK IN INVOICED BASKET					

Total \$205.64

Payments/Credits \$0.00

Balance Due \$205.64

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Applewood Seed Company
 5380 Vivian Street • Arvada, CO 80002
 (303) 431-7333 • Fax (303) 467-7886
 Tax ID: 84-0671900



Invoice

Invoice Number INV372971
 Invoice Date 2/23/2026
 Page Number 1 of 1
 Order Number ORD237991

Bill To

Lewis and Clark Conservation District
 790 Colleen Street
 Chris Evans
 Helena, MT 59601
 USA

Ship To

Lewis and Clark Conservation District
 790 Colleen Street
 Attn: Chris Evans
 Helena, MT 59601
 USA

Phone: 406-449-5000 Ext.

Phone: 406-449-5000 EXT. 0112

Customer PO#	Cust ID	Salesperson	Shipping Terms	FOB	Terms	Buyer
EMAIL	LEWI-02	Sara Burns	UPS Ground PPD & ADD	Arvada, CO	NET 30	Chris

Invoiced	B/O	U/M	Item Number	Description	Unit Price (USD)	Ext. Price (USD)
5.00000		LB	LILE	Linum lewisii	\$90.00	\$450.00
Lot: UN111824-E		in 1 Pkg, 5 LB Each		Germ: 94%, Purity: 98.80%, Tested: 08/20/2025		

Applewood Seed Company, Inc. warrants that seed sold is of high quality, that seeds are as described on the container within recognized tolerances in the trade, that seeds have been described as required under State and Federal Seed laws, and that seeds have been tested by a registered seed laboratory. This is the sole warranty; we make none other, express or implied, and disclaim any other warranties including any warranty of fitness for a particular purpose. We cannot guarantee establishment of plants due to various factors over which we have no control. No liability hereunder shall be asserted unless the buyer or user reports to Applewood Seed Company, Inc. within a reasonable period of time (not to exceed 60 days of receipt of seed) any conditions that might lead to a complaint. Our liability is limited to the purchase price of the seed and excludes consequential damages. This is the exclusive remedy. Seeds provided by us are intended for landscaping purposes only and are not for human consumption. We take no responsibility for seeds used other than as intended. NORAM or ISF rules apply.

Subtotal	\$450.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
Sales Tax	\$0.00
Packaging	\$1.50
Freight & Handling	\$29.27
Total (USD)	\$480.77
Credit Applied	-\$100.00
Balance Due	\$380.77

Wire Transfer Information:
 UMB Bank
 1010 Grand Blvd
 Kansas City, MO 64106
 (303) 839-2294

ABA# 101000695
 Account# 9872593464
 Swift# UMKCUS44

Please note that for customers on payment terms, we only accept payments by check or ACH transfer.



Lewis and Clark Conservation District

790 Colleen Street, Helena MT 59601 406.502.8591 <https://lewisandclarkcd.org>

Mileage/Expense Form

Instructions:

1. Limit of one quarter of expenses are to be documented on the form. Use back of form if more room is needed.
2. Submit form to CD office at the end of each month or quarter.
3. ALL receipts must be attached for reimbursement.
4. Form must be signed & dated.

NAME: Chris Evans _____

MONTH or Quarter: February 2026 _____

Date	Purpose (310 on-site inspection, meeting etc.)	Mileage	Expense (Supplies, hotel, meal etc.)
2/26/2026	Circle S seed to get pollinator seed and back	130 miles	
	Carry over from reverse		
	TOTALS	130	

Signature  _____

Date 3/9/2026

SECTIONS BELOW TO BE COMPLETED BY BOOKKEEPER ONLY:

Account	Mileage		Rate	Total
Travel-Mileage	130	x	.725	= \$94.25
Travel-Meals		x		=
		x		
		x		=
		x		= \$
TOTALS	152.8		.7	94.25

Date Paid: _____ Check # _____ Amt \$ _____ Bookkeeper Initials: _____ (See attached check stub)

Reviewed by: Administrator Signature _____ Date: _____

Approved by: Supervisor Signature _____ Date: _____

Monthly Mileage/Expense Form

Breakfast-8.25, Lunch 9.25, Dinner 16.00, Lodging \$110, mileage .70/mile

2025



REPORT TO MT CONSERVATION DISTRICTS MARCH 2026

Catey's Comments

Hello CDs!

My March report includes quite a few CDB updates so please take a look below for more information!

The FY26 P3 Grant Cycle 2 opened February 1st and closes March 15th.

The FY26 CDA Grant Final Report will be sent to CDs on March 1st. The Final Report is due June 30th, 2026.

The FY27 CDA Grant Cycle opens March 1st and closes May 31st. Conservation Districts can apply for 2025 310 reimbursements and 2027 MACD dues within this application.

CDB is hosting a CDA Work Session on March 19th at 10:00 am.

CDB is also conducting an audit of Conservation District general boundaries this year to ensure counties are levying CD mills accurately.

FY26 P3 CYCLE 2

- The FY26 Planning, Project, and Pollinator Grant Cycle 2 opened February 1st and closes March 15th.
- As in previous grant cycles, submitted applications will be featured online for viewing and public comment. Applicants will be required to upload a project photo or the CD's logo to accompany the project synopsis online.
- CDs submitting multiple applications must provide a prioritize statement in their submission.
- Applications must be submitted via Submittable at: <https://grants.dnrc.mt.gov/submit>

FY26 CDA GRANT FINAL REPORT

- The final report for the FY26 CDA grants will be sent out on March 15th via Submittable. The final report is due June 30th, 2026.
- The deliverables for the report are:
 1. A YTD expenditure and accomplishments report. The report should include:
 - i. The district's main expenses for FY26 pertaining to the budget for this grant
 - ii. A summary of accomplishments tied to the district's annual workplan
 2. If applicable, a progress report or statement of completion for your accountability assessment corrective action plan.
- **The Final Report will only be sent to those CDs who received CDA funding.** If your CD only received the MACD dues reimbursements and/or 310 reimbursements, you will not receive, and are not required to submit, a final report.

FY27 CDA GRANT APPLICATIONS

- FY27 CDA grant applications open March 1st and are due May 31st via Submittable <https://grants.dnrc.mt.gov/submit>
- CDs can apply for 2025 310 reimbursements and 2027 MACD dues in the CDA application.
- Based on projected available cash, DNRC has established the FY27 CDA base budget at **\$60,000, which includes the \$3,500 opt-in for MACD dues**. Conservation districts with annual operating budgets below this amount (including regular mill) are eligible to apply for CDA funding.
- All sources of revenue will be considered to assess need, as well as the district's assets, expenses, and level of conservation activities. Preferential consideration will be given to districts with the most limited resources and who are implementing priority projects as identified by its constituents and included in a district planning document. Receipt of funds is not guaranteed and will be based on CD administrative criteria and available funding.
- All CDs are eligible to receive funding for MACD dues and 310 reimbursements.
- Refer to the [CDA grant guidelines](#) for more information including eligibility requirements

CDA WORK SESSION ON MARCH 19TH

- CDB is hosting a CDA Work Session on March 19th at 10:00 am
- The Work Session will cover budgeting and the application for the FY27 CDA grant.
- This will be a collaborative session where CDs can also provide peer-to-peer support.
- Here is the Zoom link for the session:
 - <https://mt-gov.zoom.us/j/87547180625?pwd=VEkxTZGj01ldt0bSQyoA4eJLsCuw36.1>

CDB BOUNDARY AUDIT

- CDB is conducting an audit on CD general boundaries this year.
- The purpose of this audit is to make sure counties are levying CD mills correctly. As I review historic documents, I'm tracking when certain areas were marked as "excluded" from the CD—meaning cities, towns, or other areas where the CD does not collect mill dollars.
- I recently sent emails to CDs to confirm our preliminary findings after reviewing historic documents of CD boundary changes. I asked CDs to review the historic documents they have on file and to reach out to their counties to see if they have additional documents and/or maps of excluded areas.
- Our overall goal is to create an accurate map and reference materials, so CDs clearly understand the boundaries of excluded areas and where the county is levying CD mill dollars.
- Here is a link to the map we are working on updating: [CD Boundary Map](#)
- I understand that some CDs may not have historical files, or that existing files may not be organized in a way that makes them easy to review. I also recognize that counties may have limited capacity to search for documents. While CDs are not required to participate in this audit, I made this request so we can make the audit as accurate as possible.
- If you are unable to review files or contact your county, please let me know. We will continue the audit to the best of our ability using the information we have.
- I can provide the historic documents DNRC has on file with any CDs that are interested.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND DEADLINES

March 1	FY27 CDA Grant Applications opens, <i>Submittable</i>
March 1	FY26 CDA Grant Final Report sent, <i>Submittable</i>
March 4	Oath of Candidacies due, <i>County Elections Office</i>
March 15	FY26 P3 Cycle 2 Application closes, <i>Submittable</i>
March 19	CDB CDA Work Session, <i>Zoom</i>
March 31	Final Reports for P3 grants that expired 12/31/25 due, <i>Submittable</i>
March 31	Boundary Audit Feedback due
April 15	CDB Grants Progress Reports due, <i>Submittable</i>

Please contact me if you would like me to attend meetings via Zoom or in person.



Catey Bauer | Conservation District Specialist
Conservation Districts Bureau, CARDD
Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
1539 Eleventh Avenue, Helena, MT 59601
PHONE: 406-465-0948 EMAIL: catey.bauer@mt.gov



March 3, 2026

Re: February MRCDC Coordinator Report

MRCDC Council Members, Partners, and District Administrators:

Here are the activities the Missouri River Conservation Districts Council (MRCDC) was up to in February.

Several partners are continuing to spearhead the Woody Invasives Working Group (WIWG) effort, including MRCDC. A core planning committee is continuing to meet monthly, planning for the full work group meeting on March 24 in Lewistown and the River Tour on July 16 in the Billings area. Boats are being lined up, grants are being applied for to cover costs, and a lot of in-kind support from the core group is making it possible. An agenda for March 24 will be finalized and sent out soon.

The Milk River Watershed Alliance held a meeting to work on plans for an in-person meeting to be held April 22 in Havre. We are looking forward to the opportunity to connect with partners and have a couple of presentations. We are hoping for presentations regarding virtual fencing for livestock and soil salinity research from the Northern Agriculture Research Center and others.

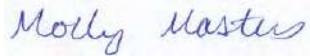
In planning for a presentation at the MonDak Ag Days in Sidney on March, the test flow committee met to discuss logistics and plan for this event. MRCDC will have a booth set up at the tradeshow and give a presentation on our 2024 Test Flow Irrigator Survey data. The USACE will be joining the presentation to share their most up-to-date information on the test flows and design.

The Ranching for Rivers program is going to be getting a little uplift. MACD is reapplying for a DEQ 319 grant. In the meantime, there are still funds to be used this year. We hope to have a call for applications open by the end of February so be on the lookout for that! We have begun discussing how to get local CDs more involved in the program, so if you are interested, let me know.

Other meetings I participated in or listened to over the month were the CEMIST Advisory Council meeting and Petroleum County Conservation District Board meetings.

If you have any questions or follow up about the report or anything MRCD, I can be reached at 406-454-0056 and mrcdc@macdnet.org.

Sincerely,



Molly Masters
MRCD Coordinator

COMING UP

March

- 5-7: MonDak Ag Days, Sidney
- 8: Daylight Savings
- 16: MACD Board meeting
- 23: MRCD Quarterly, Lewistown**
- 24: Full WIWG meeting, Lewistown
- 24-25: EQC meeting
- 25: PCCD Board meeting
- 26: CEMIST Quarterly meeting
- 26-27: WPIC meeting

April

- 6: Easter Monday, closed
- 18: MT Conservation Elders youth event, Helena
- 20: MACD Board meeting
- 21: NRCS State Technical meeting
- 22: CEMIST meeting
- 22: MRWA In-Person meeting, Havre
- 28: MRCD Exec. Committee, 1:00pm**
- 29: PCCD Board meeting

May

- 11: WPIC meeting
- 12-13: EQC meeting
- 18: MACD Board meeting
- 19-20: MRRIC Plenary, Nebraska City
- 20: CEMIST meeting
- 25: Memorial Day, closed
- 26: MRCD Exec. Committee, 1:00pm**
- 27: PCCD Board meeting

Administrator's Report
2026 0312 Board Meeting

CD Related

- Filed the January approved minutes with DNRC and the County & posted them to the district website
- Payroll taxes are paid for February, as well as the MPERA payments.
- Grants:
 - Payments for the 2025 2nd, 3rd and 4th quarters for the Threemile planning grant from DNRC-CARDD FINALLY were deposited on March 2. We had a bit of a back and forth with them when they went back and wanted more detail on the Hydrometrics invoices. Hydrometrics had transitioned to a new pay system and it became increasingly difficult for them to access those detailed records, but apparently DNRC is satisfied—at least for now.
 - DNRC-CDB missed our final report and invoice for the CDG grant, which I found out on the 25th of February, so they have finally submitted that and we should have payment for that soon.
 - The Pollinator, Willow Creek Feeder Canal and Grizzly Gulch Planting grants will all have reports due in April. GID is working on re-vamping the budget and Scope of Work for the Willow Creek Grant now that the court case has finished. Seed has been ordered for the Pollinator program and we have 59 sign ups this year so far.
 - The Brushy Toe Grant has run into another snag, with DNRC-CDB requiring the MEPA checklist. I'm not sure why it took so long to make this decision, but in the future, we should probably just submit that checklist with any grant application with bank work or similar.
- Workmosis-The migration from Desktop to QBO is complete and the person I'm working with at Workmosis has been amazing. She is working with Intuit to finalize some oddball issues. I'm still not super thrilled about the change, but it was a necessary move.
- Staff Meetings: Many of our meetings are done via zoom to enable sharing a screen. I am working with Joe on "keeping the lights on" type procedures and once I finalize those in QBO, will work with him on actually doing the various procedures. Joe is also reviewing a few of the other procedures to make sure we have everything right. I'll probably have him put together a board meeting at some point and let him be "me" at the meeting.
- Workshop: The Invasive Annual Grasses workshop has 25 people so far including CD and NRCS Staff.
- The Gold Country Master Gardener's Symposium will be March 28th at Carroll College this year and they've asked me to have a display there again. I'll probably take pollinator information as well as general information. I may reach out to MACD/DNRC to see if they have any general display type info on districts that they'd like me to use since the Symposium draws people from all over the state.
- Other upcoming activities/events: The Conservation Elders event is in April, the East Helena 4th Graders Ag Day is in May, there's an Area 6 employees meeting in May

- Finalizing and fine-tuning procedures that either changed with the move to QuickBooks Online or just need to be updated.
- Staff Evaluations-Evaluations for myself and for Joe are in April since we were both hired in April. I will prepare a form for myself and get it to Jeff and Karl to start with, and will do a draft evaluation for Joe. If supervisors have any input for Joe's evaluation, please feel free to get it to me and I'll pass it along to him.

Ongoing activity if/when I have "down time":

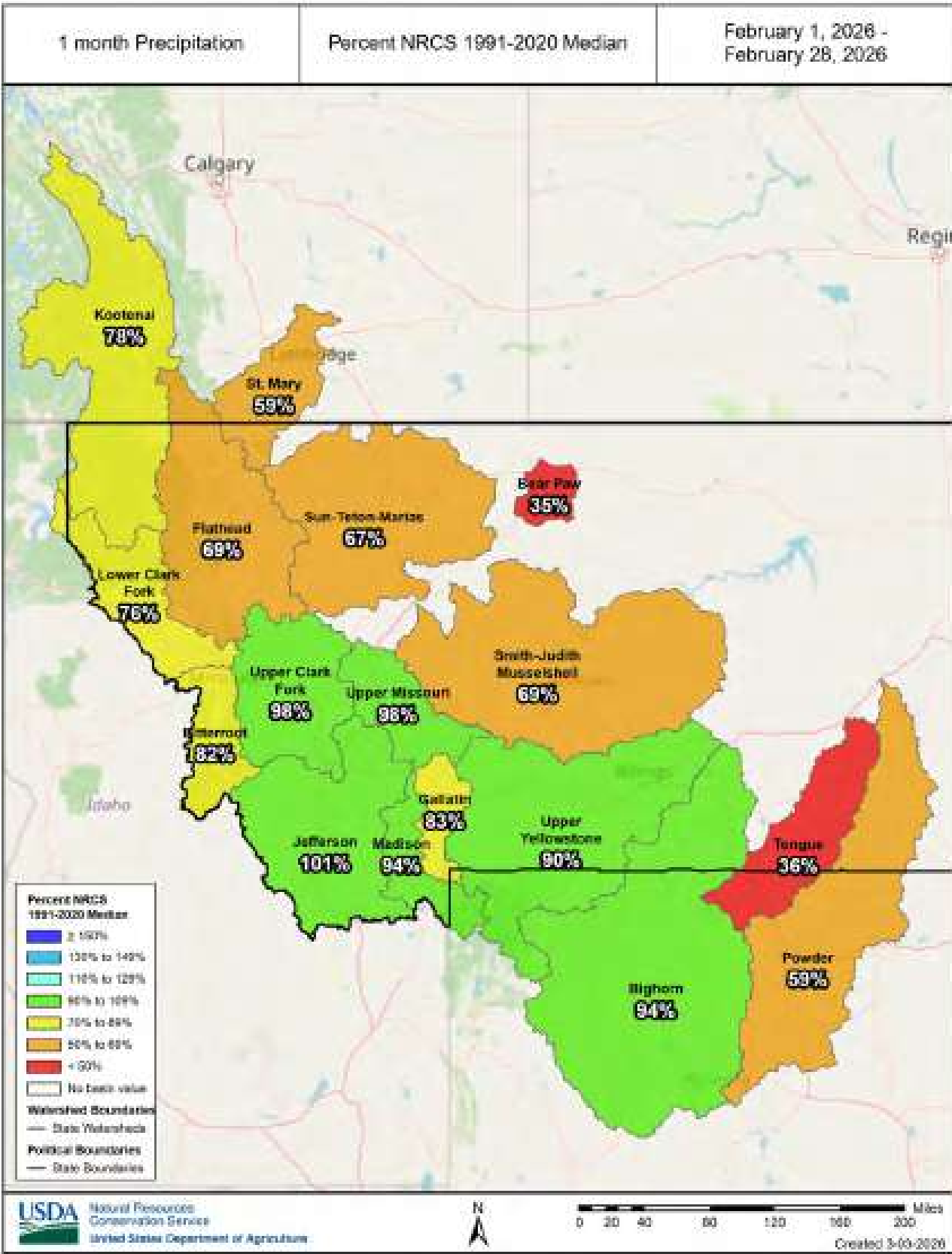
- ❖ Records disposal project-I am starting to hear back from the secretary of states records people with requested corrections to the forms I've filed. There are 21 boxes for their review, 2 for my personnel records, 2 boxes of permanent records, and 1 other to be trashed without review. There are 3 additional boxes that are divided into years of disposal that run through 2034. I'm assuming that Joe will get going on the records for the 310 files that have been scanned.
- ❖ CD Inventory update-Ongoing
- ❖ Working on updating all district related accounts to the "admin@lewisandclarkcd.org" to allow for an easier transition as we replace my position.
- ❖ Deleting duplicate photos from our Google Drive and adding shortcuts as appropriate.
- ❖ Trimming the old flood photos in the drive.

Things on my "keep track of" list:

- Planning board changes

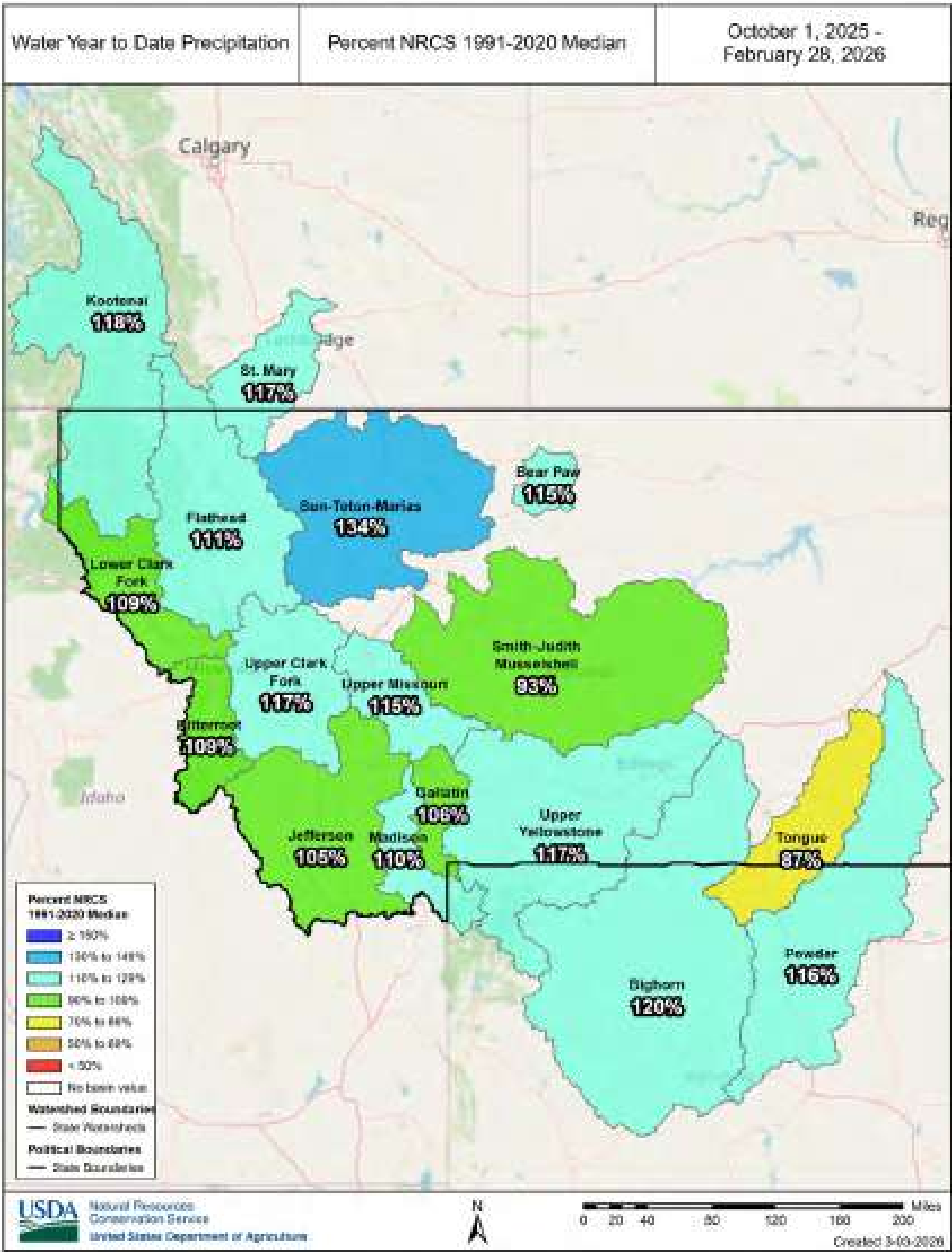
Statewide Overview

Precipitation (Continued)



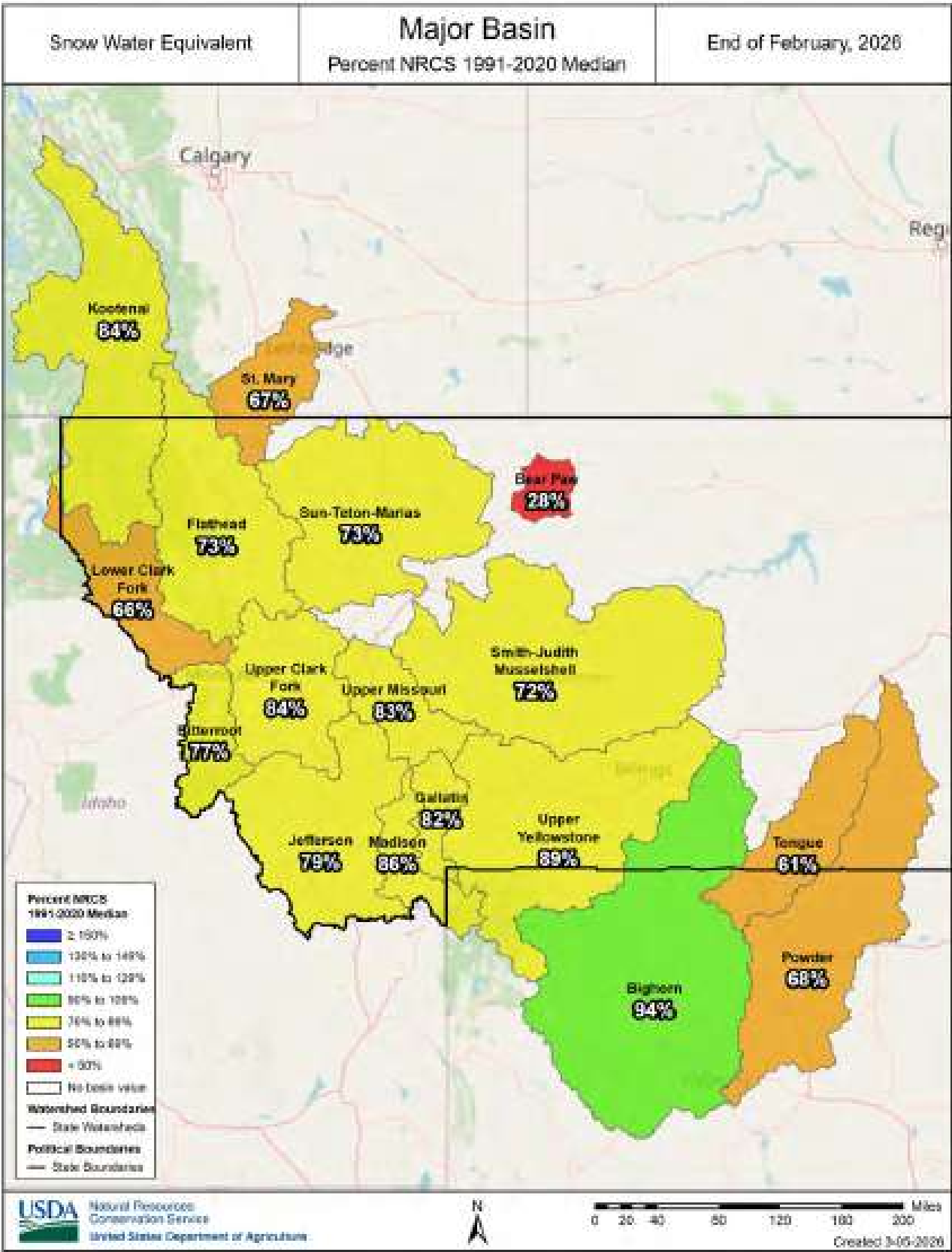
Statewide Overview

Precipitation (Continued)



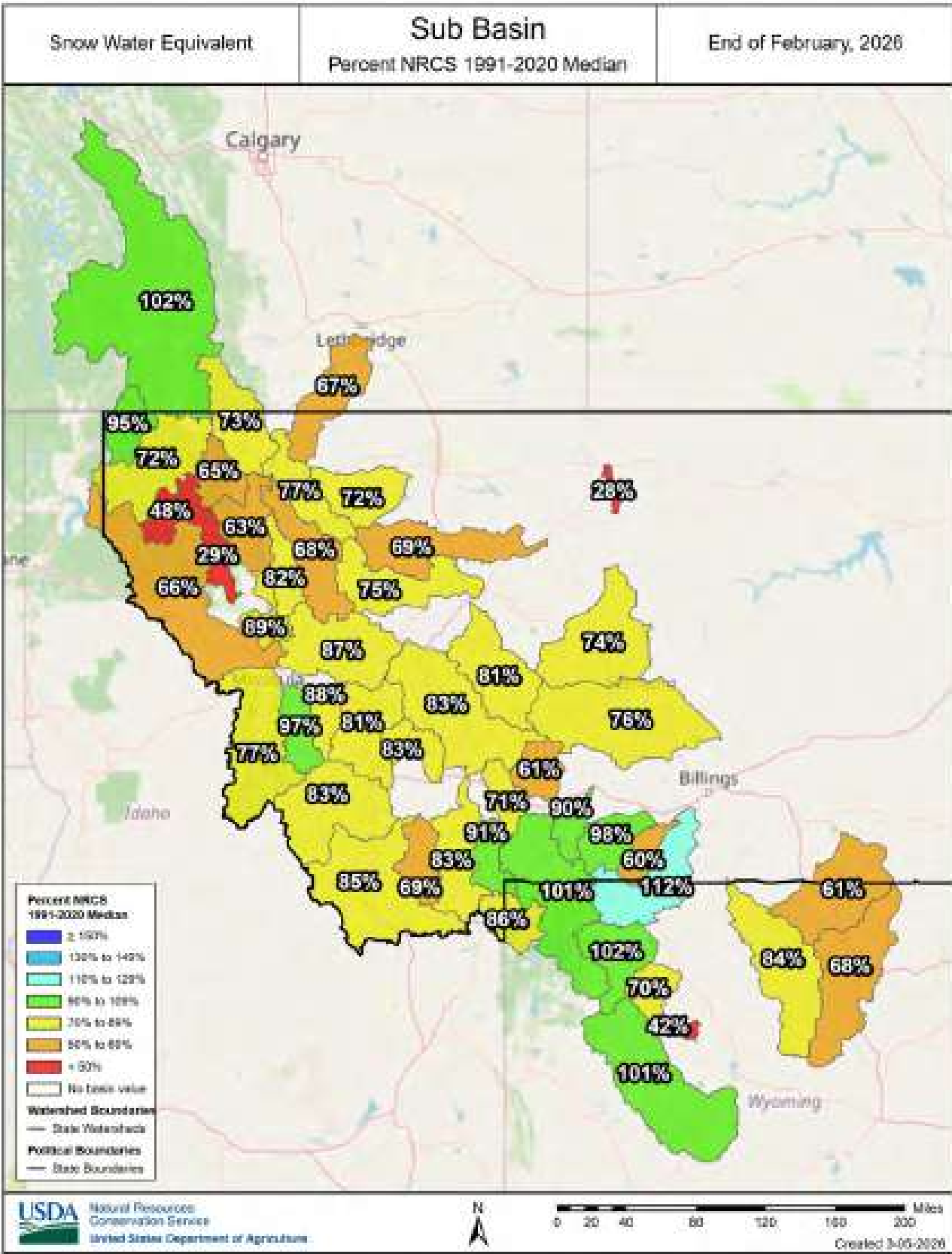
Statewide Overview

Snowpack (Continued)



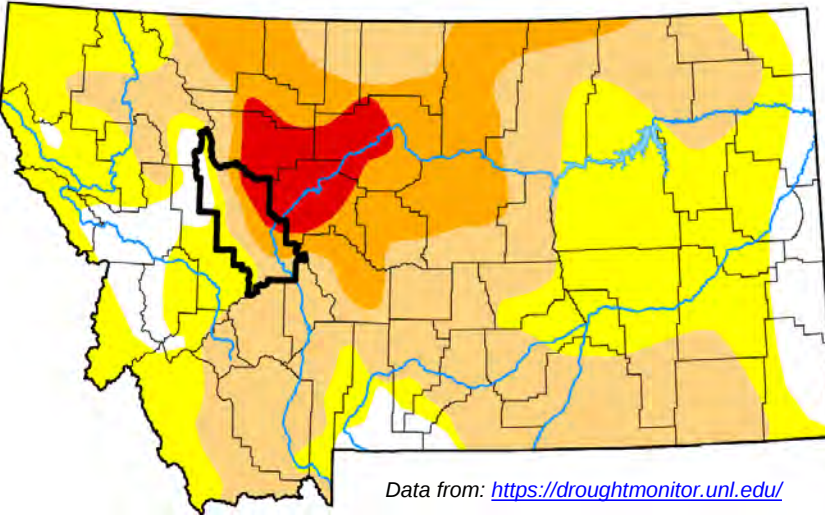
Statewide Overview

Snowpack (Continued)

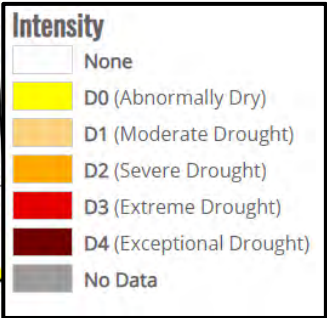


UPPER MISSOURI WATER SUPPLY REPORT

MARCH 2, 2026



2026-02-26



OVERALL DROUGHT

- Drought conditions moved towards **D1** from D2, however **D3** has increased by **11%**.
- May not yet reflect current conditions

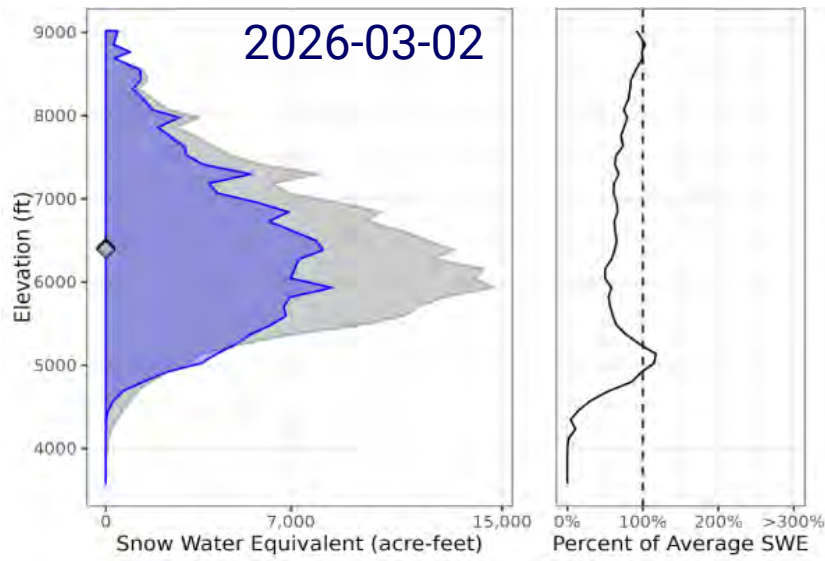
RESERVOIR STORAGE

- Canyon Ferry is **76%** full, **97%** of the 30-yr average.
- Minimal change



SNOWPACK AND PRECIPITATION

- Snowpack across four SNOTEL sites in the Upper Missouri increased to the **30th percentile** relative to the 1991-2020 period. But this increase is driven by **Nevada Ridge (77%)**, while **Tizer (0%)** is at an all-time low.
- Below-average snowpack across all elevations. Especially at low elevations due to above-average air temps.
- February precip was above typical range (**0.61 inches**; AgriMet) driven by two events.



◆ 2026 ◊ Median Climatology (2004 - 2026)
Data from: <https://drought.climate.umd.edu/>

Helena Valley

4 Sites: (Percentile)
Boulder Mountain: **19%**
Frohner Meadow: **11%**
Nevada Ridge: **77%**
Tizer Basin: **0%**

SWE represents the total water volume available in the snowpack

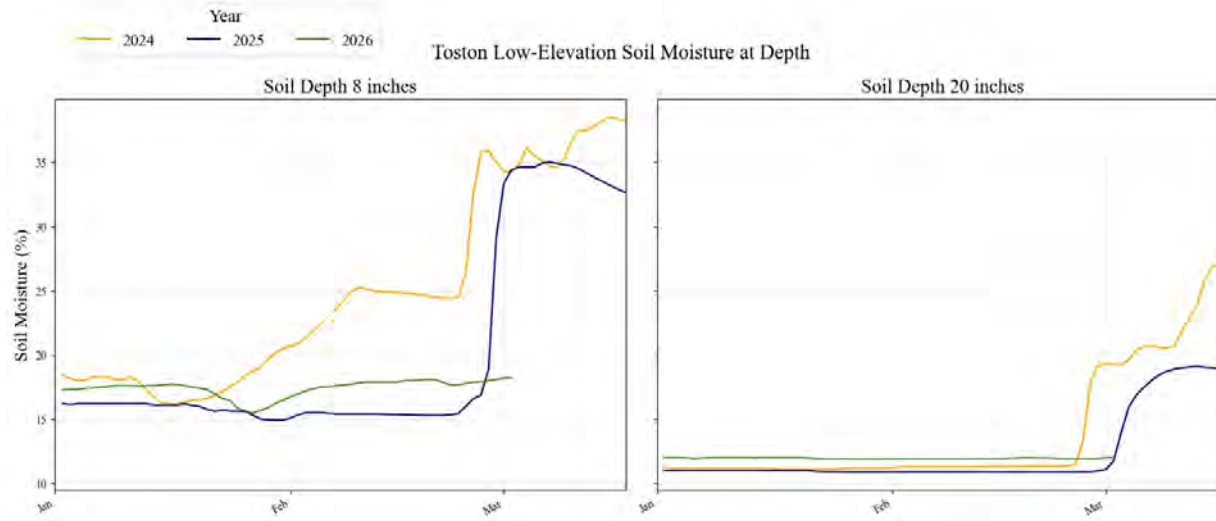
Data from: <https://nwcc-apps.sc.egov.usda.gov/basin-plots/#MT>

STREAMFLOW

- Streamflow at Prickly Pear Creek remains below the **25th percentile**
- No values were reported for Tenmile Creek due to ice effect, which is typical for this year.

Data from: <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/06061500/#dataTypeId=continuous-00060-0&startDT=2024-01-01&endDT=2025-06-09>

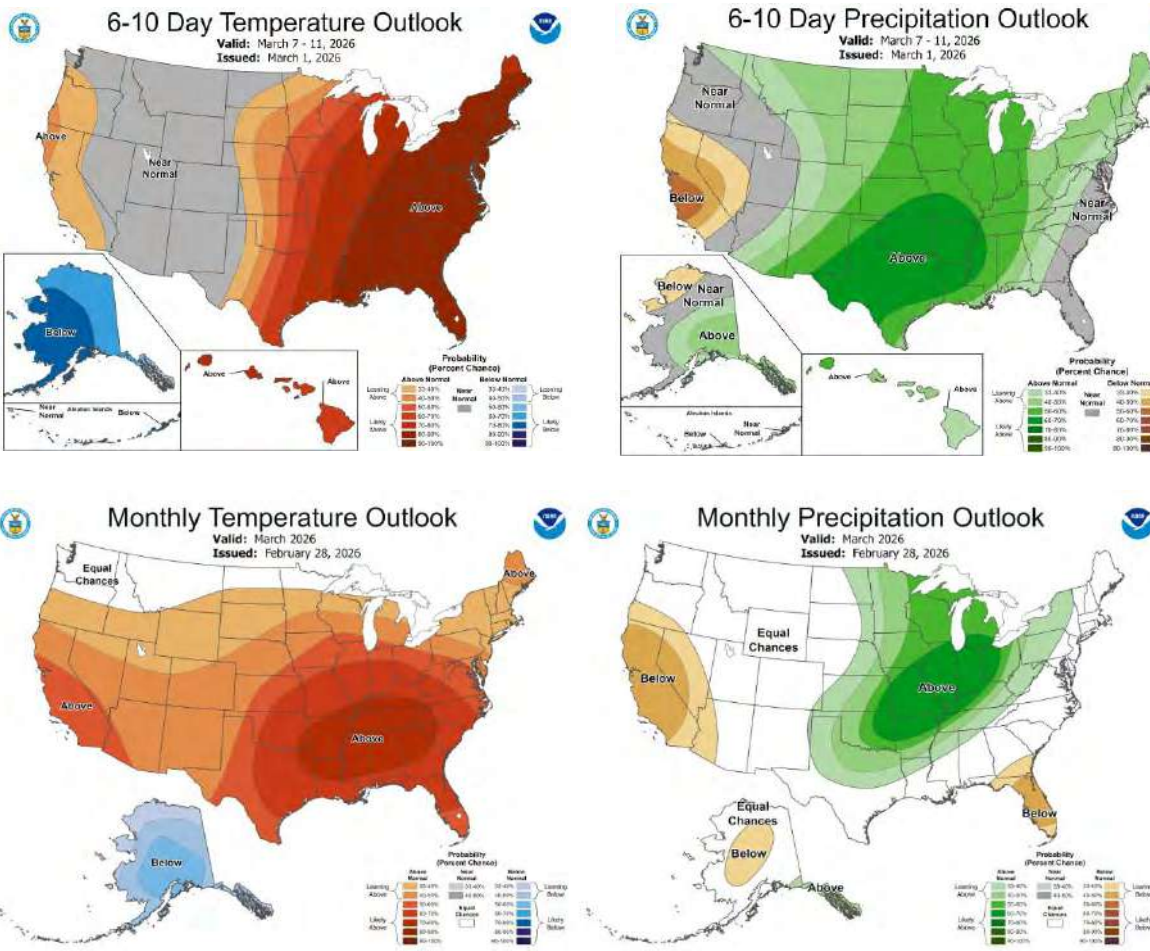
SOIL MOISTURE



Data from: <https://climate.umn.edu/mesonet/>

- Low-elevation soil moisture increased slightly in February due to precip, but no consistent seasonal recovery due to limited snowpack.
- Mid-elevation conditions could not be assessed due to unavailable data.

MARCH WEATHER OUTLOOK



- A low-pressure system may move through the area 3/8 to 3/10 hoping for higher elevation snowfall if temps are cold enough.
- Above-average precip is possible with the storm, but temps remain high.
- Monthly outlook suggests near-normal conditions.

Data: <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>

Produced by: Maddie McKee Fry | Hydrologist | Montana DNRC | Madeline.mckee Fry@mt.gov

Revisiting Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)

By Jane Mangold, Montana State University Extension Invasive Plant Specialist

Introduction Garlic mustard, a biennial mustard native to Europe, was featured in the [2015 June Weed Post](#). This post revisits the species as it has been increasingly reported in Montana and is now listed in Lewis and Clark County. Efforts in Montana are focused on learning to identify garlic mustard so we can find it and manage it early and proactively.

Identification First-year rosette leaves are kidney-shaped with scalloped margins. Leaves of second-year plants are heart-shaped at the base of the plant while upper leaves are smaller, triangular, and arranged alternately; leaves have toothed margins and pointed tips. A plant will have single or multiple flowering stems and can range in height from one to four feet. Flowers are white with four petals and occur in button-like clusters. Long, slender seed capsules, called siliques, are green initially then turn brown and curve slightly as they mature. Leaves and stems give off a garlic odor when crushed.

Habitat Garlic mustard forms dense stands, especially in the understory of deciduous forests, and has been especially impactful in New England and the Midwest.

Garlic mustard produces phytotoxic chemicals that can inhibit growth of tree seedlings as well as alter soil biological and chemical properties. In Montana, reports of garlic mustard have been small populations in urban settings.

Management, including a recent development in biological control Where garlic mustard is not well-established, early detection and rapid response is the main objective and being confident in garlic mustard identification is critical. Hand-pulling is effective for small infestations, and mowing second-year plants before seed development is also effective. There are several chemical control options, and the best option depends on the situation. In most cases, applications should be applied at the rosette to bolting stage. If plants are found, management should be swift and highly effective to prevent seed production and spread. For places where garlic mustard is well-established, there is good news regarding biological control: the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) issued approval for releasing the root crown weevil *Ceutorhynchus scrobicollis* to biologically control garlic mustard. The larvae of this tiny weevil eat within the root crown, shoot bases, and leaf stalks (petioles) of garlic mustard. Canada approved the release of *C. scrobicollis* in June 2018, and results have been encouraging.



Garlic mustard reports in Montana in the last 5 years (burgundy rectangles) and 10-20 years (yellow-orange rectangles). Map courtesy of Montana Natural Heritage Program, fieldguide.mt.gov.



Photo: Jane Mangold, MSU



Photo: Chris Evans, bugwood.org

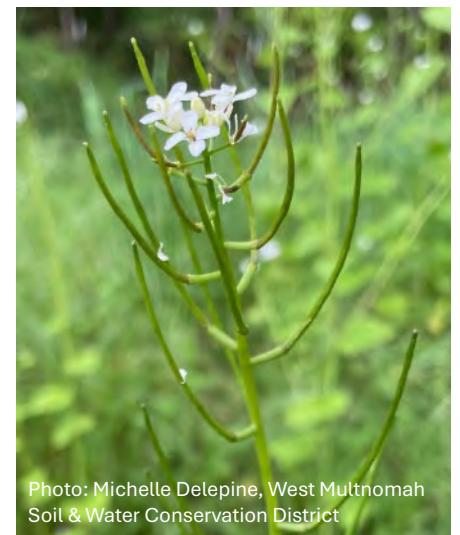


Photo: Michelle Delepine, West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District