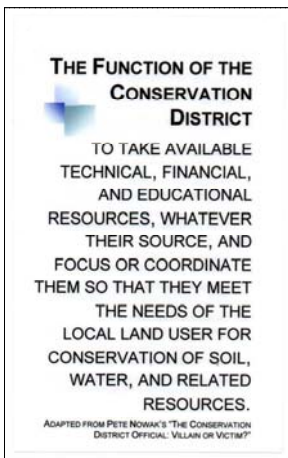




Natural Resource Issues:

Purpose: In a collective effort between DNRC and MACD, this months training will be a hands on exercise that each supervisor should partake in. Times have changed and more than likely, so have your local natural resource issues. Identifying and prioritizing natural resource issues can be difficult. Therefore, we hope to make it easy with the goal of this months training being two fold.

- To get supervisors to take time and identify their 3 top natural resource issues, &
- Prioritize those issues.



- Furnishing of supplies and equipment
- Selection, acquisition, and funding of water storage sites
- Rulemaking authority
- Research
- Engineering
- Educational Programs and Events
- Range Programs
- Cooperate or enter into agreements
- Accept donations, gifts, and contributions in money, services, materials
- Construct, improve, operate, and maintain any structures
- Purchase, lease, or manage projects undertaken by the United States or the state within the district boundaries

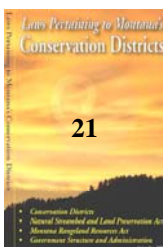
This effort will be continued in February with a “project development” exercise that will serve three goals.

- Help districts develop projects that will be put on the ground.
- Have each of the 58 districts identify a project with a scope and budget, and submit it to MACD by November 2010. This will help MACD’s goal of securing general funding, at the next legislative session, to develop and implement your projects.
- Assist in the development/update of your annual work plan and long range plan.

Remember: *The project comes first, then the funding will follow!*

What CD’s Can Do: As a reminder, CD’s have statutory authority to do just about anything that will address the conservation of soil, water, and related resources. Under the Operation of CD’s, (MCA 76-15-401-411) the statute spells out a number of things a CD can do such as:

- Study of problems
- Develop soil and water conservation plans
- Operation of projects and works
- Acquisition and management of property



Natural Resource Issues: There are a wide variety of natural resource issues or topics that can be addressed with projects administered or executed by your district. However, keep in mind, the list below is not “all inclusive” of today’s concerns. As times changed, so may local natural resource issues in your district.

- Soil
- Vegetation
- Water Resources–Quality–Quantity
- Changes in land use
- Range Management, Grazing practices
- methods of cultivation/ growing of vegetation/, cropping/tillage
- Irrigation
- flood prevention/control
- Drainage
- fish and wildlife
- recreation
- erosion control/erosion prevention
- development of power
- supplying water for fire protection, livestock, or public, domestic, industrial, or other uses.

Identifying Natural Resource issues is a continual process, and not always an easy process. However, when an issue arises, bring it to the board and discuss it. Address it in your long range plan as well.

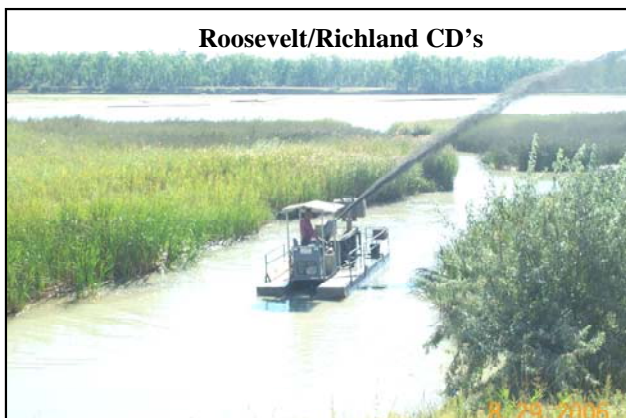
Natural Resource Issues Cont'd :

Exercise:

- Supervisors, spend 8 minutes **identifying** your top natural resource issues on the blank list below.
- Prioritize** them.
- Take one minute to go around the room and **share** your top 3 natural resource issues with the other supervisors. *Be specific on what your issues are. For example, weeds are an issue, but identify type and location such as drainage or area.*
- As you think about and discuss natural resource issues, **ideas, thoughts or comments** may arise on how these issues can be addressed. Feel free to jot those ideas down for future reference as well on the Potential Projects list. (next column over)
- Don't** let anything inhibit your thoughts such as, "that'd be too costly", or "that'll never happen". Think positive, and good things will come.
- Schedule time** during a board meeting to discuss and prioritize issues at the Board level.

My Top Natural Resource Issues are:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____



Roosevelt/Richland CD's

The Richland/Roosevelt CD dredge is an example of perseverance and foresight. After clearing a number of hurdles with design and permitting agencies, the dredge has proven to be extremely beneficial not only for the CD and producers in those districts, but also a benefit to piping plover habitat.

Ideas of Potential Projects/efforts to Address Natural Resource Issues:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Note: No need to worry about flushing the topics/projects out during this exercise. Brainstorm your initial ideas/thoughts at this time. We'll work out details in the future!

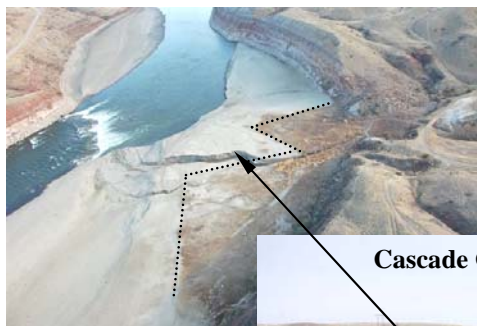
Looking ahead: This is the first step to reaching the goal of identifying one project in each district by November 2010.

Feb 10 –10-Minute "Project Development" exercise.

Jun 10 –Mid year progress check at MACD Spring Mtg.

Nov 10 –Projects into MACD for statewide compilation.

Remember: May 15, 2010 is the dead line for any RDG or RRGL grants. So, you may need to expedite this process.



Cascade CD & MRCDC

The Cascade CD and the Missouri River Conservation District Council (MRCDC) are working with Malmstrom Air Force Base to address the **Whitmore Ravine** erosion and sediment concerns. This huge undertaking is moving forward in the right direction due to the perseverance of the District and the MRCDC. The above photos, showing the amount of sediment from Whitmore ravine erosion, were taken in Nov 09 when the Missouri River, behind Cochrane Dam, was lowered by PPL. Normal water level is the dashed line on the photo.