



## Is a Forestry & Tree Seedling Program right for your CD?

Montana Conservation Districts that are evaluating their Annual Plan of Work and Long-Range Plan may want to consider adding and/or expanding the **Forestry and Tree Seedling program**. A number of conservation districts have a **Tree Seedling program** by where they purchase seedling stock from the Montana State Nurseries out of Missoula and/or other nurseries.

If a Tree Seedling Program is a current or future conservation district program, a few questions to evaluate for your upcoming Annual and/or Long - Range Plans are as follows:

### **Tree Seedling Sales: How Is Marketing Helping Your District Increase sales (quantity and \$)?**

- Has **your CD marketing** led to an increase in tree seedling sales? Do you have refrigeration that you can store your tree seedlings in during sale and/or use for CD until land owners / land managers can coordinate pick up and ground installation? In communities where there are nurseries selling tree seedling stock, you might want to evaluate the conservation district policy of the Conservation District tree seedling sales.

### **Forestry Program: Combining NRCS & FSA Program Cost Share Funding**

- In addition to individual sales, **what additional inventory** needs to be ordered for NRCS and partnering natural resource agencies / organizations (Extension Service, FFA and others) conservation practices?

### **Shelterbelts and windbreaks: NRCS, FSA and Other Practices**

- Consult **Farm Services Agency** to see what cost share exists.
- Consult **NRCS's Montana home page and Tech** Guide to see what cost share dollars are available (EQIP, Conservation Security Program, additional programs like Organic, Beginning Farmer, etc.). It is possible in 2020, for **Local Work Groups (LWG) to develop a MT Conservation TIPS** of establishing a # of windbreaks and the need of X amount of dollars to accomplish that field office by field office. If your ag producers identify that new windbreaks / shelterbelts are needed and/or existing windbreaks need renovation and updated with new stock in areas where trees have been dead or dormant.
- **Whom provides the technical resource assistance** (NRCS or CD staff) with the windbreak / shelter belt design? Site visit, species selection, resource objectives defined (wind reduction, aesthetics, building, livestock, road protection) and / or drafting the windbreak design and coordination / assistance with the planting.
- Several districts have **tree planting equipment** (tree planter, weed barrier machine) and maybe a few have a tractor. Often Conservation Districts also sell the 300' and 600' weed barrier and staples to land owners and land managers. Is the **Conservation District tree planting equipment rental policy** available and updated? Is the CD charging enough for the equipment usage (deposit, maintenance and program goals, as well as profit for the CD)?

### **Additional Forestry Programming: Fire Mitigation, Healthy Forests, Neighborly Good Stewardship**

- Does the Conservation District have additional programs and projects related to mitigating fire control on property and adjacent to buildings?
- Does your CD have a Defensible Spaces program in play to manage your silvicultural?