



Marias River Watershed

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Quarterly Newsletter
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NEWSLETTER

Website: www.mariasriver.com

Protecting and Improving The Land and Resources

NOXIOUS WEED UPDATE

By: Dan Picard, Pondera Co. Extension Agent

Rain makes grain and it sure helps make grass too. This year's good grass production helped hold back some the noxious weed problems in North Central Montana. Although in areas where the grass was a little thin or in disturbed areas the weeds really took off and we saw Canada thistle, Spotted Knapweed and



Canada thistle

other weeds take advantage of the extra moisture. Growth started little later than usual so that made early noxious weed spraying a little more of a challenge. Once spraying started, the weather caused some delays in timely spraying, but the extended nice weather this fall really helped with the fall treatment programs.



Spotted knapweed

Area producers that need help developing a noxious weed management plan can contact their local Weed Supervisor or county agent. A fall treatment program can be developed for knapweed and other problem weeds. In the fall after the first good frost is a good time to get the best herbicide results on field bindweed.

Landowners that have noxious weeds and are busy or don't have equipment may want to consider contracting with one of the local commercial applicators that deal primarily with noxious weed spraying. The fee charged may be by the acre or by the hour. Check with your local weed supervisor for a list of local applicators that deal with spot or small acreage spraying. This is a great way to get some work done on those hard to reach spots or to help out if you don't have the equipment or time.

As I visit producers around the county, there is a new grassy weed, not on the noxious weed list, that has showed up this year on the road edges. Pigeon grass or green foxtail really did well this year and I urge producers to monitor this weed if it is next to your property. Yes there are chemicals that can be used to manage it in cropland, but if you don't have it in your cropland, it will pay big dividends to keep it out. Green foxtail is a common pest on irrigated land in our region but so far I have heard of little or no infestations in dryland. Contact your local agent for assistance on identification of this weed.



Pigeon grass



Pigeon grass

The Board & Regional Chairs:

- Paul Kronebusch-Chairman
- Barb Cole-CoChairman
- Lawrence Bold
- Roy Doore
- Coo Coo Boggs
- Ramsey Offerdal
- John Rappold

The MRW Annual Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday January 11 at the Chester Lutheran Church in Chester

Conservation District Contacts:

- Pondera 406-278-7611 ext. 101
- Glacier 406-873-5752 ext. 101
- Liberty 406-759-5778 ext. 102
- Toole 406-434-5234 ext. 113
- Big Sandy 406-378-2298
- Hill 406-265-6792 ext. 101
- Chouteau 406-622-5627 ext. 101

This newsletter was compiled and edited by Kody Farkell, PCCD Administrator

Annual Meeting Date Slated for 1/11/11

The Marias River Watershed Annual Meeting be held at the Chester Lutheran Church on January 11, 2011. Project updates will be given. Other potential speaker topics may include the Rocky Boy water project ; using pesticides in riparian areas; or Cottonwood release for re-generation The meal will be soup/salad/sandwich/dessert. Contact your local conservation district or watch your local newspaper for more information.

Clarification on the status of the Russian olive :

There have been some questions under what circumstances Russian olive may enter Montana. Russian olive is classified as a Priority 3 regulated plant. This classification means that the plant *“ . . . has the potential to have significant negative impacts. The plant may not be intentionally spread or sold other than as a contaminant in agricultural products. The state recommends research, education and prevention to minimize the spread of the regulated plant.”*



This mean Russian olive cannot be sold within the state or purchased from an out of state nursery for importation into Montana.

MRW Fall Update

The Marias River Watershed held their quarterly meeting at the Marias River Electric in Shelby on October 12, 2010. Guest speaker for the meeting was Dr. Sharlene Sing. She received her PhD in Land Resources and Environmental Sciences (Agro-ecology) from MSU in Bozeman. For her PhD research, she examined the spatial and biotic interactions of a weed (wild oat) and insect pest (wheat stem sawfly) infesting Montana dryland spring wheat fields. From January 2002 to October 2005, she was employed as a post doctoral research entomologist at the Rocky Mountain Research Station in Bozeman where she investigated weed biological control and the ecology and management of weeds in post-burn environments. Dr. Sing currently works as an entomologist for the US Forest Service.

A contract with WWC Engineering was discussed. WWC was chosen as the engineering firm to lead the Pugsley Bridge repair project, which is anticipated to begin in late March/early April. The Board approved Liberty County Conservation District signing the contract with WWC Engineering for this project

Warren Kellogg reported on his on-going monitoring of the Marias River. As of the meeting date he had completed 4 samplings and had plans for another round of sampling in early November. Monitoring will continue into 2011.

Warren Kellogg also reported that the Russian olive inventory downstream was performed in late August/early September.

The next MRW meeting will be the group's annual meeting on January 11, 2011 in Chester.