



Marias River Watershed

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Quarterly Newsletter
Winter 2011

NEWSLETTER

Website: www.mariasriver.com

Protecting and Improving The Land and Resources

Summer Flooding & Cleanup Activities at Lake Elwell

By Michael Hilliard, USBR Natural Resource Specialist

2011 has been an eventful year and brought many challenges to Tiber Reservoir (Lake Elwell). As a result of record snowpack and spring rainfall, runoff throughout the entire area was substantial. Further, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) was asked by the U. S. Army Corp of Engineers to hold back water at Tiber to help control flooding downstream on the Missouri River. Accordingly, Lake Elwell increased in elevation very quickly and reached levels that have never before been seen. Lake Elwell ultimately reached elevation 3011.5 feet, inundating the majority of the recreation facilities around the reservoir in the process. The reservoir has subsequently been drafted to more normal levels in preparation for this coming spring runoff, but much of the high water aftermath remains.

Before inundation occurred, many preventative measures were undertaken by Reclamation. Restrooms were pumped, cleaned, and closed-off to the public, picnic tables were moved to higher ground,

pumps were removed, roads were closed, and signs were placed at each recreation area to caution the public about submerged items and floating debris.

As water levels have receded, Reclamation has power washed and cleaned all the restrooms and pavilions that were inundated, re-opened roads, collected miscellaneous debris that was scattered throughout the area, begun removing some of the displaced recreation shelters, developed plans to reseed some of the inundated areas (to help control noxious and nuisance weeds), and is working with Liberty County on developing plans to rebuild recreation shelters.

There are still plenty of high water cleanup and recreation projects that need to be accomplished. If there are interested parties that would like to offer services and/or time as a volunteer for Reclamation, we appreciate and encourage those parties to contact 406-759-5077. Volunteering offers many benefits in appreciation for the contribution of your time and talents.

Beginning in 2012 the Marias River Watershed meeting dates will change. The January 2012 meeting is scheduled for Monday January 9th at 1:00pm at Marias River Electric in Shelby. From that point on quarterly meetings (April, July, October) will be held the **2nd Tuesday of the month** at Marias River Electric in Shelby from 1:00pm - 4:00pm. Please check with your local conservation district to make sure date/location of the meeting has not been changed.

The Board & Regional Chairs:

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

The next regular MRW Quarterly Meeting is scheduled for Monday January 9th at 1:00pm, Marias River Electric, Shelby

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

Weed & Pest Control- Choosing a Commercial Applicator

By Pam Converse, Pondera Co. Weed Supervisor

There are many times where you might be inclined to use a commercial applicator. Maybe the large amounts of precipitation lead you to hire an aerial applicator as you are unable to get into the fields with your own equipment or a late season results in being too busy haying to do the spraying on your pastures. You could have just found noxious weeds on your property and came to the conclusion that you just aren't ready to tackle weed control on your property just yet. Those patches of Canada thistle or Dalmatian toadflax are just too big and well established for you to get good control. Whatever the reason there are many things to keep in mind when hiring someone to do the work for you.

A commercial pesticide applicator is a licensed applicator hired by another individual to apply pesticides, either aerially or on the ground. Commercial applicators may be certified in one or more categories, which determine what pesticide can be applied and where they can and cannot apply them. They obtain their license by taking a test for each category through the Department of Agriculture. License fees must be renewed yearly and recertification credits must be obtained or the tests must be retaken. Though your neighbor has a private applicators license, he is not licensed to do the work on another person's property. This means that you can't hire your next door neighbor to do the work if they are not certified as a commercial applicator.

To chose a commercial applicator there are several things to keep in mind. First you should always check with them and make sure they are licensed and insured in Montana. They should be able to provide

you a copy of their license, which is issued by the Montana Department of Agriculture licensing and registration office as well as their insurance information from their carrier. You may also check on the Department of Ag's new website at <http://agr.mt.gov/> to find licensed applicators and pesticide dealers in your town or county and to make sure their license is current. Your county weed district may also be able to provide you with a list of applicators in the area. They may also have the information for contractors that mow properties or that can provide sheep or goats for grazing. They can also help you find out if the quote you received is adequate and that the herbicides to be used are effective on the target and appropriate for the area. Many commercial applicators can also provide you with a list of references as well.

As with any contracted job, check with several different applicators. Plan ahead as they may be hard to get a hold of during their busy time of year, which typically ranges from May to October. Request a cost estimate, list of herbicides to be used, approximate date they could do it and find out if there are any special instructions (grazing restrictions, pet avoidance, etc.).

It is ok to do the work yourself, even if you do not have a license, as long as you are applying a non-restricted pesticide obtained legally through a licensed dealer to your own or leased property. Be sure to read and follow the label and if you have any questions, check with the department of agriculture, your county weed district or your extension office.

Contact your local Weed District at:

Chouteau County	Craig Ferris	406.622.5821	choweed@fortbenton.com
Glacier County	Bill Bandel	406.873.4362	billbandel@hotmail.com
Hill County	Terry Turner	406.265.4453	tordonturner@hotmail.com
Liberty County	Jim Ghekiere	406.759.5673	weedguy@co.liberty.mt.gov
Pondera County	Pam Converse	406.271.5673	pocoweed@3rivers.net
Toole County	(open position)	406.434.2742	tcroad@3rivers.net