

Lewis & Clark  
Conservation District

Annual Plan  
2008

(approved 2/14/2008)

*The mission of the Lewis & Clark  
Conservation District is to provide  
leadership in the conservation and wise  
use of soil, water, and related resources.*

## **Forward**

*This plan has been developed by the Lewis & Clark Conservation District with assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and other cooperating groups and individuals. It will establish goals and objectives.*

*This plan is designed to be a dynamic tool in determining needs, establishing priorities and allocating resources toward the solution to the primary resource problems of the Conservation District. It will be in a constant state of review to meet changing needs and conditions of the District in line with the needs and priorities of the resources. This plan will also provide the Conservation District with a pattern to follow as progress from year to year is analyzed and planned to meet the needs of the resource. It will give direction to supervisors in carrying out their responsibilities.*

*All public agencies, including local, state, and federal governments, who have responsibility for conservation and development of land, water, wildlife, forests, and open space have had an opportunity to assist in the development of this plan. The future success of managing activities in harmony with this plan depends on the cooperation of agencies, local organizations, news media, and local educators. Their assistance in implementing, updating, and maintaining the plan will insure its effectiveness as we continue working in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.*

**LEWIS AND CLARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
ANNUAL PLAN  
2008  
Approved 2/14/2008**

**THE MISSION OF THE LEWIS & CLARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT IS TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP IN THE  
CONSERVATION AND WISE USE OF SOIL, WATER, AND RELATED RESOURCES.**

**WATER RESOURCES**

**Objective:** Water quality of streams in Lewis and Clark County are adequate to meet their intended use.

**Goal:** Work with local landowners on an as-needed basis on water quality and quantity issues.

**Action Item 1:** Develop strategy for working with landowners within the watershed of the priority stream segment and gain landowner support for completion of stream assessment.

**Lake Helena Watershed (Prickly Pear, Ten Mile and Silver Creeks)—Ongoing  
WQPD/LCCD/JVCD  
Dearborn—Ongoing/LCCD & NRCS  
Blackfoot River—Ongoing with Blackfoot Ch.  
Elk Creek/Sun River—Complete  
Missouri River—ongoing with MRCDC**

**Action Item 2:** With landowners, begin to develop management alternatives, identify management incentives and cost share opportunities. Complete management plans and implementation schedules; begin implementation.  
**NRCS** **Ongoing**

**Watershed groups where there is landowner support; individual work with  
landowners where there is not enough support for a watershed group.  
Stabilize Elk Creek & Willow Creek to reduce erosion and sediment load.**

**Action Item 3:** Lewis & Clark Conservation District works with landowners on TMDL issues.  
**LCCD**

**Ongoing work with other partner agencies. Dates will be re-assessed as  
necessary.**

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**PLANT RESOURCES**

**Objective:** Lewis & Clark Conservation District assists other weed management activities in the control and reduction of noxious weeds.

**Goal:** Develop and implement an education plan for noxious weed identification, awareness, and control.

**Action Item 1:** Continue working with county, state and federal agencies to share weed information, mapping and planning strategies to maintain the collaborative approach.

**Evans, NRCS, Rollo**

**Ongoing**

**Action Item 2:** Weed management area formation as necessary.  
**Cobb, Murphy**

**Ongoing**

**Dearborn—Work is ongoing and \$500 is budgeted annually.**

**Augusta—Rocky Mountain Front collaborative effort for invasive species work.**

**Extension and County Weed District.**

**Sun River Watershed—Ongoing**

**Action Item 3:** Continue assisting the Augusta Greenhouse with their efforts at building an insectary.

**LCCD**

**Ongoing**

**(Support in the amount of \$2500 budgeted as needed.)**

**Action Item 4:** Participation in the Local Work Group for Funding Allocations

**LCCD/NRCS/FSA/Weed District**

**Annually**

**Action Item 5:** Initiation of weed reward program. Weeds will be orange hawkweed, purple loosestrife and yellow star thistle. At the January 2006 Board Meeting, the Board of Supervisors decided to implement an incentive program in the District. The Board will pay the finder a \$50 reward, with a total maximum limit paid out per year of \$1000. To receive this reward, weed finders have to have their “find” verified by the County Weed District who will then inform the Conservation District that the finder is eligible to be paid.

**LCCD/Weed District**

**Ongoing**

**Objective:** Landowners in Lewis & Clark County manage their grazing lands in a sustainable manner.

**Goal 1:** 200000 acres of well-managed grazing land exist in Lewis & Clark Conservation District by 2005 dependent upon climatic conditions.

**Action Item 1:** Landowners along the impaired stream segments are encouraged to develop grazing management plans when stream assessments indicates that water quality is being impacted by domestic livestock grazing.

**NRCS, LCCD**

**Annually**

**Missouri River  
Lake Helena Watershed  
Dearborn River**

**Elk Creek/Sun River Watershed  
Blackfoot River**

**Action Item 2:** Annually conduct grazing land tours and workshops, which feature practical applications to management challenges and problems.

**LCCD, NRCS**

**Annually**

**For 2008 ideas include Prickly Pear projects, Dearborn, Priest Pass thinning projects, Sieben Ranch demonstration tour out of Lincoln, Supervisor Tour on Hilger Hereford.**

**Action Item 3:** NRCS and others report to the Lewis & Clark Conservation District regarding on-going grazing management assistance provided to landowners. This item pertains to individual units unrelated to group planning activities.

**NRCS**

**On-going**

**Action Item 4:** Resource data, which characterize Lewis & Clark Conservation District grazing lands, are kept current and up to date. These databases are on a county and/or watershed scale.  
**NRCS, Evans, County** **On-going**

**Action Item 5:** Coordinate with Farm Services Agency County Committee for Drought Planning for 2008.  
**Evans, Supervisors, Associate Supervisors, NRCS**

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**LAND RESOURCE**

**Objective:** To encourage the wise use of the lands of Lewis & Clark County.

**Goal:** Provide assistance and encouragement to the landowners of Lewis & Clark County.

**Action Item 1:** Work with the Heritage Lands Work Group to develop their direction and vision in protecting the farm and ranch lands and other open space in the county.

**Action Item 2:** Work with the County Planning Groups to help create policy on the wise use and development or non-development of the agricultural lands of the county.

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**PEOPLE RESOURCE**

**Objective:** Maintain quality customer service in Lewis & Clark County.

**Goal:** Provide conservation education opportunities targeting issues in Lewis & Clark County.

**Action Item 1:** Organizes the small acreage landowner workshops on an as-needed basis. Work with County Extension as well as other agencies to present timely conservation topics for large and small acreage landowners.

**Action Item 2:** Annually sponsors or co-sponsors with the county weed board a weed workshop for landowners, which includes identification and control strategies.  
**By supervisor area** **Annually**

**Continued support of the Weed Whacker Rodeo in the Sun River Canyon.  
Continued efforts in the Dearborn and Lincoln areas.**

**Action Item 3:** Educators in Lewis & Clark County are aware of the Youth Education curriculums available from the Conservation District.  
**Evans** **Annually**

**Information sent to schools annually as the office receives it.**

**Action Item 4:** District administrator coordinates and maintains a quality newsletter as one form of learning media for Lewis and Clark County residents.  
**Evans** **On-going**

**The mailing list is now kept at the District Office to facilitate changes.**

**Action Item 5:** Outreach that addresses weed identification and control.  
**Evans, Supervisors, NRCS** **Ongoing**

**Will be combined with the Land Stewardship Series, weed workshops and/or other seminar/workshop opportunities.**

**Action Item 6:** Continued outreach and marketing will be done with the Conservation District web site, [www.lccd.mt.nacdnet.org](http://www.lccd.mt.nacdnet.org). Meeting notices and current events, as well as District History will be covered with this web site.  
**Evans** **Ongoing**

**Goal:** Legislators representing Lewis & Clark County understand the role of the Lewis & Clark Conservation District and understand the natural resource challenges the District addresses.

**Action Item 1:** A strategy is developed which will enable the District to inform and educate Lewis & Clark legislators regarding conservation districts, natural resource issues and challenges.  
**Evans, Supervisors** **Ongoing**

**Legislative names and addresses are updated regularly from the State Government Web site. Special mailings utilizing the Conservation District Brochure will be made annually. Other information will be sent as necessary. Legislators and other government officials are on the District's newsletter mailing list.**

**Action Item 2:** Host a meeting with Lewis & Clark County legislators to share supervisors and MACD view points pertinent to proposed natural resource legislation.  
**Evans, Supervisors** **Legislative years**

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**Revisions Approved February 14, 2008**

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**Stan Frasier, Chairman**

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**L. Scott Blackman, Vice Chairman**

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**Ronald G. Schatz, Treasurer**

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**Gary Murphy, Member**

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**Bob Bushnell Member**

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**Stephen Granzow, Member**

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**Wm. Michael Cobb, Member**

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**Mindy Gauthier, District Conservationist**