

High Country RC&D  
302 Profit Street  
Rexburg, ID. 83440

## Calendar of Events

### Cloud Seeding Meeting

February 9th at Madison County Commissioners Room from 1:30 to 4:00.

### Western RC&D Meeting

January 31st—February 3rd at the Holiday Inn Missoula downtown at the park, Montana .

### RC&D Sponsors Meeting

Thursday March 25th: All sponsors are invited to attend for a light lunch and board meeting.

## Thank You to Our Sponsors

<u>Conservation</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Cities:</u>	<b>High Country RC&amp;D officers and board members:</b>
<b><u>Districts:</u></b>	<b><u>Commissions:</u></b>	Ammon	<b>Chair</b> - Dave Radford, Bonneville County Commissioner
Butte SWCD	Bonneville	Ashton	<b>Vice Chair</b> - Kimber Ricks, Madison County Commissioner
Clark SCD	Butte	Challis	<b>Secretary/Treasurer</b> - Lou Christensen, Mayor of Driggs
Custer SWCD	Clark	Driggs	<b>Board Members</b> - Kent Cummins, Butte County ; Allyn May, Clark County; Wayne Butts, Custer County; Paul Romrell, Fremont County; Michelle Harrington, Jefferson County; Brett Barsalou, Lemhi County; Boyd Bowles, Teton Conservation District.
Eastside SWCD	Custer	Dubois	
Jefferson SWCD	Fremont	Idaho Falls	
Lemhi SWCD	Jefferson	Iona	
Madison SWCD	Lemhi	Mud Lake	
Mud Lake SWCD	Madison	Rexburg	
Teton SCD	Teton	St. Anthony	
Teton, WY CD	Teton, WY	Sugar City	
Westside SWCD		Ucon	
Yellowstone SCD		Victor	

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# High Country Highlights

## High Country Resource Conservation and Development

WINTER 2009 ISSUE

### HCRC&D Annual Tour

The 2009 tour showcased improvements High Country RC&D has assisted in Custer County, Idaho.

Tour participants traveled to the Challis City Park for lunch, a board meeting, and presentations.

One presentation was on the Wildland Mitigation Project. The speakers were Fire Mitigation Specialists, Sarah Wheeler and Kevin Conran with the BLM. They educate, train, and create community action plans that target land owners within the Wildland /Urban Interface.

Custer County Weed Superintendent, Logan Brower, and Karma Bragg from the Custer Soil Water Conservation

District spoke to us about their program accomplishments.

High Country was able to help the Veterans of Custer County Memorial become their own non-profit organization. Since then, they have created books to sell with profits going to the memorial started in Challis.

After lunch and presentations we were able to view the Challis City Skate Park that the RC&D was able to aid in the grant writing process. This skate park has brought the community closer and enabled kids to have a positive outlet for energy.

The last place we stopped was the start of the Veterans of Custer

County Memorial and the Interpretive Center. Both of these bring so much history to Custer and show a great deal of patriotism.

Annual Tour 2009 left participants with a better vision of the range of projects RC&D can support and assist with and also a better education at the challenges that face the area. Thank you Custer County for allowing us to tour your projects this year.



Tour participants gathered at the Challis City Park.

The outgrowth of conservation, the inevitable result, is national efficiency.  
**-Gifford Pinchot**

### Inside this issue:

USR CWMA	<b>2</b>
HF CWMA	<b>2</b>
Cloud Seeding	<b>2</b>
Wild land Urban Interface	<b>3</b>
Meet Board Member	<b>3</b>
Calendar of Events	<b>4</b>
Thanks Sponsors	<b>4</b>

### National RC&D Week

Across the country, RC&D Councils, communities, and partners celebrated RC&D Week from September 21 to 27. RC&D week was designed to celebrate the

growth and success of the program.

This 2009 year also commemorates the 30th anniversary of our own High Country RC&D organization.

The board would like to thank all of those who have worked closely with our council to aid in our area's development, conservation, and management.

### Upper Snake River Cooperative Weed Management Area

Recent elections for the USR CWMA voted Paul Muirbrook as the committee Chairman and Krystal Wengreen as Vice chairman. However, due to IDL budget cut backs and family needs the both needed to resign from their duties. The committee would like to thank both members for all of their help with the team. Paul Faulkner and Mitch Whitmill were voted in their places, and will fulfill the duties until the next elections.

This year there were 14 CWMA projects. All of the projects were planned and budgeted according to the CWMA's needs, which is what makes this committee so essential and productive. Most of the 2009 projects are wrapped up, and cooperative spray days were successful. In addition, various colonies of biological controls were ordered, collected and distributed throughout the CWMA area.

This season can be counted

as another great year for the area, thanks to all of the project leaders and agency support.

The group has already submitted project plans for the next season.



Cooperative Spray Day-Dan Creek

### Henrys Fork Cooperative Weed Management Area

"I must do something" always solves more problems than "Something must be done."

~Unknown

This summer's Henrys Fork CWMA projects ran with great success. Local landowners have been highly involved spraying their own land using the cost share program. The CWMA is

excited to see that several people are noticing and resolving many of Eastern Idaho's noxious weed problems.

The Henrys Fork CWMA has also been busy with a few other High Country projects including the Holding the Line and Henrys Lake projects.

Starting next year, a change will come to Eastern Idaho's

CWMA programs. Madison and Teton Counties (formerly members of the USRCWMA) will be joining the HFCWMA. The change is due to the physical shape of the land and the way the watershed is laid out. This change is only a matter of changing boundaries, and will give both CWMA's a more direct and targeted attention.

### Excerpts from the National Catalyst

'The NARC&DC is expanding its voluntary Conservation Partnership membership to Regional and State Associations. Associations that join will receive additional membership services including free access to GrantStation Pro, a program which can increase grant funding possibilities. The program has a value of over

\$599.00 per year. The basic annual membership dues will be \$1000.00 for a Regional Association and \$750.00 for a State Association.'

This excerpt was taken from the *In the Spotlight* Section. In addition, if you would like an electronic copy of the quarterly NARC&DC National Catalyst,

notify the Washington office at 202-434-4780.



2009 National Conference Albuquerque BioPark

### Cloud Seeding

During the 2008-09 Cloud Seeding season, 24 ground based generators were placed in Fremont, Teton, Bonneville, Bingham, and Clark Counties. In addition to the ground generators, three remote controlled generators operated from a laptop based in Boise

were donated by Idaho Power. Last year, Idaho Power partnered with the project and played a large part in it's success. This season the company has donated six more remote generators. Our RC&D would like to thank

all of the agency, landowner, city, county, power companies, and irrigations district donations for this year's program. The 08-09 Eastern Idaho weather modification results are posted on our website.

### Wildland Urban Interface

The Wildland Urban Interface project started in 2007. At that time, each of the HCRC&D counties had developed a County Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), however many of them couldn't be implemented due to the lack of targeted technical assistance.

The RC&D Council's primary project objective was to assist our sponsors in turning exist-

ing CWPP's into action. Since the original grant was written, the counties' CWPP were prioritized according to the areas biggest threats. It was also determined whether the level of local expertise available was adequate.

Future goals/objectives for this project include: Meeting regularly with County Wildfire

Working Groups to develop leadership, organize workshops with landowners to provide information and promote action, and to present options for Wildfire Ordinances to County Commissions and Planning & Zoning Boards.

"If the soil is destroyed, then our liberty of action and choice are gone ..."  
- Lowdermilk

### Meet a Board Member/Allyn May



Allyn May grew up in Jackson, Wyoming until his junior year of high school when he and his family moved to Clark County, Idaho. There he finished his high school educa-

tion. He went on to receive an education in hard work, land use, and long hours managing a 400 head beef ranch with his father.

Later, Allyn worked in the home construction industry in and around Clark County. He also served on the county school board for 10 years.

Allyn and his wife now live in Dubois, Idaho, and have five children, 19 grand children, and four great grandchildren.

Three years ago Allyn ran and was elected to now serve as one of three Clark County Commissioners.

When asked about his thoughts on the RC&D organization Allyn commented, "I am excited about the High Country RC&D program. I am one of the newer committee members, but have already seen it's importance in Eastern Idaho. They have helped so much with the Clark County cloud seeding program."