

Montana Association of Conservation Districts



Mini-Grants for Grouse Result in Creative Projects & New Partners

The summer wind carries the scent of sagebrush as teenagers from the **Montana Conservation Corps** collect seeds to be grown in greenhouses and then planted as part of sagebrush restoration efforts. The teens are making a difference for sage grouse, learning about sustainable ranching, and getting an idea what the word “habitat” really means.

The MCC project is one of four mini-grants that **MACD** recently awarded. The **Bureau of Land Management**, mindful of the status of sage grouse, funds the grant program, now in its fourth year. MACD has the connections and experience to run it successfully. The results tell the story of how mini-grants lead to an even greater collaboration on behalf of sage grouse, crossing public and private borders.

In addition to the MCC project, recent dollars are supporting a sage grouse population assessment on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, a sagebrush seed collection effort by **Little Big Horn College** for plantings on the Crow Reservation, and a wildlife fence marker and escape ramp supply project by **Pheasants Forever**.

“Montana sends food products all around the world. We are suppliers. Helping landowners with sustainable ranching benefits both sage grouse and cattle - it’s a win-win. We’re seeing a bright future for the state economically, too.”

~Elena Evans, executive director, MACD



Meet the Montana Association of Conservation Districts

About

MACD represents Montana’s 58 conservation districts that take locally led and voluntary approaches to conserve natural resources. Conservation districts are local units of government under state law. In Montana and across the country, the 3,000 districts help landowners with technical and financial resources to put conservation practices on the ground. MACD is governed by a statewide Board of Directors, who simultaneously serve as district supervisors.

To carry out the specific directives of the Board, MACD maintains an office and small staff in Helena. MACD shares information, builds partnerships, obtains grants, and works with the National Association of Conservation Districts to influence national policies.

Role with Sage Grouse Initiative

MACD is a strong partner and voice for the Sage Grouse Initiative. The Association hires and administers three SGI field staff positions, stationed in Glasgow, Forsyth and Malta; runs a small grants program for sage grouse conservation with support from the Bureau of Land Management: and is part of a fencemarking partnership designed to accelerate availability, delivery and installation of free fence markers throughout Montana’s sage grouse range.



Contact

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