

2018 Annual Report

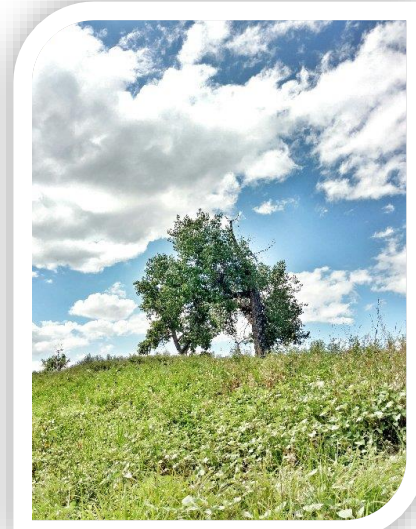


Phillips Conservation District
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Summary

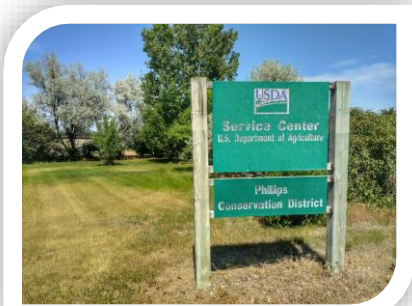
The Phillips Conservation District works to protect and conserve soil, water, farmland, rangelands, woodland, wildlife, energy and other renewable resources on private lands. The District is governed by a group of appointed and elected Supervisors who represent the residents of Phillips County.

Supervisors for the Phillips Conservation District include Chairman Bob Breipohl, Vice-Chairman Matt Simonson, Treasurer Gary Knudsen, Bill French, Paul Mortenson, Pat Anderson, Merrilyn Black; Associate Supervisor Hal DeBoer and Administrator Jenifer Anderson. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. in the USDA Building and are open to the public.



Services/District Business

Conservation Districts administer the 310 law, which requires a 310 permit for any activity that physically alters or modifies the bed or banks of a perennially flowing stream. Applications are available at the District office or on-line, and there is no charge for the permit.



The Conservation District works closely with **the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**. Shilo Messerly is the NRCS District Conservationist.

Phillips CD houses the **SWCDMI/SGI Range Conservationist** position, Martin Townsend.

PCD has available two **TDS/Salinity Water Meters** for testing livestock water quality. With the drought and declining water quality during the Summer of 2017 and continuing into 2018, several landowners have been

using the meters to test their water.

PCD offers **irrigation meters/sensors** at wholesale price to landowners. PCD also sells landowner plat maps, survey flags and conservation fabric.

The Phillips CD is a member of the **Milk River Watershed Alliance (MRWA)**, and serves as the employing agency and grant administrator. PCD sponsors a Watershed Management Grant to fund a Coordinator for the MRWA, as well as a DNRC 223 grant to fund an irrigation efficiency

assessment along the Milk River. PCD Supervisors Pat Anderson and Merrillyn Black serve on the MRWA Board.

Supervisor Bob Breipohl serves on the **Montana Association of Conservation District's** (MACD) Board of Directors as an Area 3 representative. Supervisor Pat Anderson chairs the MACD District Operations Committee.

PCD houses and supervises the Milk River Watershed Alliance **Big Sky Corps Member**.

District Supervisors were involved in the **Local Working Group** process to determine local priorities for EQIP funds.

Supervisors Bill French and Bob Breipohl were honored for their many **years of dedicated service** to the Phillips Conservation District and to conservation in Montana. Bill has served on the Board for over 60 years and Bob has served over 30 years. At their December meeting and Christmas dinner, the Board of the Phillips Conservation District gifted each of them a jacket thanking them for their service.



PCD continues to submit **comment letters on Federal issues affecting Phillips County**. PCD submitted comments to the BLM opposing APR's request to change all of their BLM permits to year-round grazing, to change livestock to bison and to remove interior fences.

The District continues to **offer for sale** conservation trees and shrubs, fabric and other planting products, and Phillips County landowner maps. Tree orders will be accepted until April 1st. Please feel free to stop by the office in the USDA building for further information or assistance.



Education/Community Outreach

Evergreen seedlings were distributed to students countywide by the District Supervisor Gary Knudsen and Administrator Jenifer Anderson.

PCD provided awards for winners in the **Zortman Weed Pull**.

The District **website** can be viewed at www.phillipsconservationdistrict.com. Phillips Conservation District is also on Facebook.

The Phillips Conservation District **publishes quarterly newsletters**.

PCD made a cash donation towards the **Rancher’s Stewardship Alliance** for their Phillips County celebration.

PCD sponsored a high school team from Malta to compete in the **Envirothon** competition.

The District donated several rolls of conservation fabric to the Malta High School, for the **FFA/FCSC school garden project**.

Phillips Conservation District is a booster member of the **Montana Range Days**, and usually sponsors area youth to attend.

PCD contributed to the **2018 Transboundary Grasslands Workshop** in Glasgow, MT. The workshop was sponsored by the Alberta Prairie Conservation Forum and focused on community conservation groups on both sides of the Canadian/Montana border.

Phillips Conservation District Supervisors and Administrator **actively participate in the Charles M. Russell Community Working Group**. The group formed to enhance and preserve the ecological, economic and social well-being of the 6 Counties surrounding the Refuge. Participants in the group include agency representatives, landowners, grazing permittees, county commissioners, conservation districts, interest groups and engaged citizens. The group meets bi-monthly, rotating through the 6 counties

Tours/Workshops

Phillips Conservation District collaborated with NRCS specialists and their county Extension Agent to host a **grazing and water quality workshop** in January.

Also in January, PCD hosted an **Exempt Water Rights Workshop**, featuring Jim Beck of the Missouri River Conservation Districts Council.

PCD, along with a local Agricultural Educator is hosting a **Winter Gardening Workshop** in October.

