



## Path To Eden Resource Book

### **Welcome**

We hope you find Path to Eden to be both enjoyable and educational. Because there are so many issues that landowners need to be familiar with – far too many to include in this DVD – here are some additional sources of information that may help you on your journey down the Path to Eden.

There are several local organizations that can be very helpful in addressing natural resource issues on your ranch. To save time and effort, it is important to understand the services each organization offers. Whether you are a life-long Montanan or a new-to-Montana landowner, there is often much confusion when it comes time to seek out resource and permitting information.

### **Conservation Districts**

Conservation Districts, better known as CDs, are units of local government designed to help citizens conserve their soil, water, and other renewable natural resources. There is at least one Conservation District located in every county in Montana.

A selection of services offered by Conservation Districts:

- Permitting for water projects
  - 310 permits
- Water quality
  - Monitoring pollutants
- Riparian management
  - Stream restoration assistance
- Saline seep reclamation
  - Assistance in reclamation/control of saline seep
- Conservation equipment
  - Rental of weed sprayers, tree planting equipment, etc.

To locate your local Conservation District, go to [www.macdnet.org/mtlinks.htm](http://www.macdnet.org/mtlinks.htm)

For more information about services offered by Conservation Districts, go to [www.macdnet.org](http://www.macdnet.org)

### **MSU Extension**

Montana State University Extension, better known as simply “Extension,” is a statewide educational outreach located in every county and on every reservation. Extension is a non-regulatory organization linking information available at Montana State University to people across the state.

A selection of services offered by Extension:

- Rangeland management
  - Monitoring lands - grazing plans
- Wildlife management
  - Enhancing habitat and populations
- Water quality
  - Monitoring pollutants
- Weed control
  - Identifying noxious weeds and offering suggestions for control
- Fertilizer and pesticides recommendations
- Timber management
  - Offering a forest stewardship program

To locate your local Extension office, go to [www.extn.msu.montana.edu/directory/field.asp](http://www.extn.msu.montana.edu/directory/field.asp)

To find out more about the services Extension has to offer, go to [www.extn.msu.montana.edu](http://www.extn.msu.montana.edu)



### **Natural Resources Conservation Service**

Natural Resources Conservation Service, better known as NRCS, and formerly known as the Soil Conservation Service, is the federal agency that provides technical and financial assistance to help private landowners make management decisions that sustain ecological systems and agricultural operations. NRCS offers assistance in areas from range management and weed control to crop rotations and wildlife habitat.

A selection of services offered by NRCS:

- Conservation planning
  - Helps you to identify areas of your land you would like to improve and develop solutions to address those areas
- Financial assistance (based on qualifications)
  - Cost share programs
  - Easement programs
  - Stewardship reward programs
- Soil survey
  - Conducts, analyzes, and publishes quality soil surveys for use in land management decisions
- Plant materials for conservation
  - Provides native plants to help solve natural resource problems such as erosion and wetland degradation
- Grazing lands conservation initiative
  - Offers a voluntary approach to maintaining and improving the health of privately owned grazing lands through technical assistance, research, and education.

Get more information at [www.mtglici.org](http://www.mtglici.org)

There are NRCS offices in most counties, often located in the same building or in close proximity to the local Conservation District.

To locate the NRCS office nearest you, go to [www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/directory/areaoff.html](http://www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/directory/areaoff.html)

Detailed information about all of the NRCS conservation programs and technical resources can be found at [www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov)

### **Access Laws**

Interpreting access laws can be a difficult task for landowners. To find out more about Montana's access laws and legal issues in general, contact: State Bar of Montana Lawyer Referral Service at 406.442.7660 or go to [www.montanabar.org](http://www.montanabar.org)

### **Historical Buildings**

Many historical ranch buildings have been inadvertently destroyed when new landowners begin renovations. If you are interested in finding out whether the existing buildings on your property have historical significance, please contact:

Montana History Foundation at 406.449.3770 or go to [www.montanahistoryfoundation.org](http://www.montanahistoryfoundation.org)

### **Hunting Season Licensing**

For information regarding Montana's hunting seasons and special landowner license and permit provisions, contact:

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) Licensing Bureau at 406.444.2950 or [www.fwp.mt.gov/hunting/seasonslicenses/default.html](http://www.fwp.mt.gov/hunting/seasonslicenses/default.html)

For additional information on Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) Landowner Programs, go to [www.fwp.mt.gov/habitat/landowner.asp](http://www.fwp.mt.gov/habitat/landowner.asp)

To locate the FWP field office nearest to you, go to [www.fwp.mt.gov/contact](http://www.fwp.mt.gov/contact)

### **New Construction**

Building Near Water - Since areas near Montana's rivers, streams and lakes are among the most popular rural development sites in Montana, it is important that landowners evaluate the impact their building site will have on the wildlife and environment before they build.



Helpful information regarding stream setbacks can be found in “Room to Roam - Protecting Your Natural Environment: A New Home Builder’s Guide to Responsible Development Near Rivers, Streams, and Wetlands.”

To request a copy of this guide or for more information on this topic, go to <http://water.montana.edu/setback>  
Building in Forested Areas - Landowners should consider potential issues that accompany construction in a forested area. Montana State University Extension Forestry offers information about living snow fence, wildfire hazard reduction, and alternative forest management practices.

For more information contact Montana State University Extension Forestry at 406.243.2773 or go to [www.forestry.umt.edu/hosting/extensionforestry](http://www.forestry.umt.edu/hosting/extensionforestry)

### **Noxious Weeds**

Montana’s current unprecedented growth is bringing with it the realization that not only can noxious weeds reduce property values, but they can be extremely expensive to control unless detected early. Extension, NRCS, and Conservation Districts are all resources for noxious weed management.

To find additional information about noxious weeds, go to the following sites:  
Statewide Noxious Weed Awareness and Education Campaign [www.weedawareness.org](http://www.weedawareness.org)

Montana Weed Control Association - [www.mtweed.org](http://www.mtweed.org)

### **Water Project Permitting**

A 310 Permit is required for any activity that physically alters or modifies the bed or immediate banks of a perennial flowing stream. Examples include creating ponds, building bridges, and installing culverts.

Contact your local conservation district to begin the permitting process.

There are additional resource materials available that further clarify the water permitting network.

“A Guide to Stream Permitting in Montana”

Available by contacting the Conservation and Resource Development Division at Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) at 406.444.6667 or by going to [www.dnrc.mt.gov/cardd/publications](http://www.dnrc.mt.gov/cardd/publications)

“Montana Stream Management Guide for Landowners, Managers and Stream Users” Available by contacting the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) at 406.444.7425

For additional permitting information, go to [www.dnrc.mt.gov/permits/stream\\_permitting/default.asp](http://www.dnrc.mt.gov/permits/stream_permitting/default.asp) or [www.deq.mt.gov/wqinfo](http://www.deq.mt.gov/wqinfo)

### **Water Rights**

To research your water rights, contact:

DNRC Water Resources Division - Water Rights Bureau at 406.444.6601 or go to [www.dnrc.mt.gov/wrd](http://www.dnrc.mt.gov/wrd)

There is additional landowner information and resource links available on our website [www.pathtoeden.org](http://www.pathtoeden.org)



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Executive Producer/Project  
Coordinator  
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Gallatin Conservation District  
[www.gallatincd.mt.nacdnet.org](http://www.gallatincd.mt.nacdnet.org)

JLF & Associates, Inc.  
[www.jlfarchitects.com](http://www.jlfarchitects.com)

Montana Association of Conservation Districts  
[www.macdnet.org](http://www.macdnet.org)

Montana Association of Counties  
[www.maco.cog.mt.us](http://www.maco.cog.mt.us)

Montana Association of REALTORS®  
Quality of Life Principles  
[www.montanarealtors.org](http://www.montanarealtors.org)

Montana Chamber Foundation  
[www.montanachamberfoundation.org](http://www.montanachamberfoundation.org)

Montana Department of  
Environmental Quality  
[www.deq.mt.gov](http://www.deq.mt.gov)

Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks  
[www.fwp.mt.gov](http://www.fwp.mt.gov)

Montana Grazing Lands  
Conservation Initiative  
[www.mtgcli.org](http://www.mtgcli.org)

Montana History Foundation  
[www.montanahistoryfoundation.org](http://www.montanahistoryfoundation.org)

Montana State University Extension  
[www.extn.msu.montana.edu](http://www.extn.msu.montana.edu)

Montana Stockgrowers Association  
[www.mtbeef.org](http://www.mtbeef.org)

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
[www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov)

Off the Beaten Path, LLC  
[www.offthebeatenpath.com](http://www.offthebeatenpath.com)

The Rural Landscape Institute  
[www.rurallandscapeinstitute.org](http://www.rurallandscapeinstitute.org)

Southwest Montana Farm and  
Ranch Brokers

State Bar of Montana  
Lawyer Referral Service  
[www.montanabar.org](http://www.montanabar.org)

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