

# STILLWATER VALLEY WATERSHED COUNCIL



*Making a Difference in the Stillwater Valley, MT*

## Our Mission

We will provide an open forum in which all interested parties may work in a collaborative effort to sustain our rural quality of life and protect and enhance our natural resources. We are committed to research and educating our Stillwater Valley residents and the public about our watershed and the steps we can take to preserve and maintain the integrity of the river, the land and the beauty of our valley. We will endeavor to bring together public, private and government resources, funding and grants to achieve our goals.

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**Lindsey Clark,**  
**SVWC Coordinator**

*"What you do today can  
improve your tomorrows."*

~Ralph Marston

## BOARD PERSPECTIVE | Noel Keogh

### ***Cries for Help and the New Normal***

I AM CERTAIN THE DAWN OF JUNE 13, 2022 WILL REMAIN A HORRIFYING MEMORY FOR MANY OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE STILLWATER VALLEY WATERSHED. Anyone having a residence or property along any of the Stillwater's main tributaries awoke to one of the most extreme natural disasters this area has ever seen in documented history. Raging flash flood currents quickly eroded streambanks causing loss of roadways and bridges. Many houses were literally swallowed up by the raging waters. Crops and animals were lost.

Everyone in our watershed is familiar with the devastation our river corridors have received but in tandem there have been many miracles. The miracle that no human lives were lost that night is amazing. I have heard of some cases of loss of animals, both domestic and wildlife, but to my knowledge, there have not been major instances of animal loss. Another great miracle was the outpouring of help and support from neighbors, friends, and strangers, to house, feed, swamp out the mud, or lend a hand however they could to those needing help.

*"I am certain the dawn of  
June 13, 2022 will remain  
a horrifying memory for many."*  
*Noel Keogh, Nye area rancher*

This sense of cooperation and community assistance has been the backbone of the principles of the Stillwater Valley Watershed Council (SVWC) since its beginning over 10 years ago. SVWC goals and direction should not change, but those of us who live, love, and enjoy our incredible waterways must accept the new challenge of restoring these waterways to the pristine rivers we love. This must be done with forward-thinking on a watershed level. The rivers have created a new route in some places down our valleys.

*Continued to page 2*

## SAVE THE DATES!

***More info inside...***

**JULY 26** - Backpack Sprayer Fill Opportunity, 9 am, Nye Fire Hall

**JULY 27** - SVWC Board of Directors Meeting, 7 pm, Cobblestone

**AUGUST 11** - Rescheduled 3W's Workshop & SVWC Annual Meeting

**AUGUST 11** - SVWC's Summer Celebration & Fundraiser

**AUGUST 14** - Stillwater River Float & Weed/Trash Pull

**SEPTEMBER 1** - Deadline to sign up for CWCP spraying

## BOARD PERSPECTIVE | Noel Keogh

continued from page 1



In many cases, we will have to accept Mother Nature's decision on where the rivers should be. We cannot expect in every location to re-channel the rivers back to where they were and to rebuild. So many of these new channels and deposits will be the new normal.

A major challenge we do need to accept is the clean-up of debris that has piled up everywhere along these rivers. Another major effect will be the "flush" of noxious weed seeds that have been deposited out into our floodplain. These seed deposits in new, rich, silt soil. Lacking competitive vegetation, this is the perfect situation for new weed infestations to flourish. We have to increase our

diligence and dedication in this area so as not to lose much of the gains our council and community have made in the last decade.

Whether you are an affected landowner, a recreationalist or just someone who loves the beautiful river valleys of the Stillwater watershed, please answer the cries for help and do your part to support the stewardship of our rivers. All proceeds from SVWC's Summer Celebration on August 11 will go toward future river cleanup and restoration efforts. Please come join us!

Noel



Devastation on the Stillwater. As flood waters recede, debris is left behind. Photo by Bud Chenault.

SVWC's ANNUAL SUMMER CELEBRATION | Thursday, August 11, 2022



# STILLWATER VALLEY WATERSHED COUNCIL

## We Invite you!

Help us celebrate community camaraderie, SVWC's ongoing stewardship efforts,  
and the rural quality of life we enjoy in the Stillwater Valley.

### Thursday, August 11. Anipro Event Center

Details: 5 pm social hour, dinner, entertainment & auction fun to follow  
Cost: \$40 in advance, \$45 at the door, kids 12 and under free  
Tickets: [www.stillwatervalleywatershed.com](http://www.stillwatervalleywatershed.com), SVWC board members,  
First Interstate and Yellowstone Banks in Absarokee

All proceeds go to future river cleanup and restoration efforts!



**#WATERSHED STRONG**—All proceeds from SVWC's annual fundraiser will go to river cleanup and restoration efforts! Contact Lindsey if you're interested in sponsoring the event.



## NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL

### COST-SHARE INCENTIVES AVAILABLE

**IT'S NOT TOO LATE! WE MUST ALL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MANAGING OUR PROPERTY** to keep the Stillwater Valley from being infested with noxious weeds. According to the Montana County Noxious Weed Control Act (7-22-2116), it is unlawful for any person to permit noxious weeds to propagate or go to seed on their land.

Until September 1, the SVWC will be offering Stillwater Valley landowners the opportunity to join with your neighbors in an effort to protect the natural ecosystem of the our Valley's watershed.

### Cooperative Weed Control Program Enrollment Deadline September 1

This summer and and into fall, the SVWC will continue the "top-to-bottom" approach at weed management, expanding the programs reach downriver and to tributaries that flow into the Stillwater River. Due to the flood, lack of access routes into many subdivisions, and the extreme channel migration, the Upper Stillwater areas will be treated in September.

Interested in taking advantage of this opportunity? Please complete the form on page 11 and return it by **September 1** in order to enroll your property. We have to increase our diligence and dedication in this area so as not to lose much of the gains our council and community have made in the last decade.

**With your membership of \$35 to the Stillwater Valley Watershed Council, and pre-payment of \$100, we are offering you the following opportunities:**

- Coordinate commercial applicators (at a reduced rate) to control your noxious weeds;
- Cost-share chemical expenses for **first year program enrollees**;
- Provide an educational campaign, offering management tools necessary to successfully maintain a weed-free area, such as the backpack fill program (July 26).
- On July 26, we will fill your backpack/handheld sprayer (or rent one from the Stillwater Weed District), with appropriate chemical. In order to help you combat your weeds, this opportunity is no cost for SVWC members. We will also provide a demonstration on proper spraying methods, in addition to a weed ID lesson. DETAILS: Nye Fire Hall, 9-11 am.



### Funds Available for Large Acreage Noxious Weed Control Cost-Share

The SVWC continues to utilize funds from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to continue the cost-share program to control noxious weeds for large tract landowners. Over the past 10 years, the RMEF has contributed \$90,000 to aid in the control of noxious weeds within the Stillwater watershed.

**Who is eligible?** Landowners owning greater than 20 acres with weed infestations located on, or adjacent to elk habitat can apply. Cost-share for this program is prioritized by earliest request date.

**What can you do?** If you would like to participate and take advantage of this opportunity, please complete the "Large Acreage Cost-Share Request" form on page 11, or go to our website under "Newsletters and Forms". The SVWC Board of Directors will approve your application prior to receipt of cost-share. Funds are limited so send in your application today!

### NOW IS YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE YOUR WEED CONTROL EFFORTS GO FURTHER!



## NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL

### BENEFITS OF FALL SPRAYING | Dana Weatherford, Stillwater Weed Coordinator



AS WE DOVE INTO THE 2022 SPRAY SEASON, MOST OF THE STILLWATER COUNTY LANDOWNERS WERE THINKING, “OH BOY, HERE WE GO AGAIN.” After enduring a tough year in 2021 with drought, expensive livestock feed, and grasshoppers, the spring of this year wasn’t offering much hope in regaining ground. But moving forward into late spring, the rain came and it was welcomed with open arms by everyone. However, there became a point where too much was “too much.” Between drought and high water hardship, Montanans are resilient and will move forward.

As fences are mending, literally and figuratively, landowners need to be aware and on the look-out for noxious weeds. After experiencing two hardships back-to-back the ecosystem is in a shocked state. New seed banks have been exposed where weeds will thrive if not addressed ASAP. It will be critical to control sprouting noxious weeds that will be competing with once established desirable grasses.

Moving forward, the fall season offers great opportunities to control weeds. Perennial and rosette stage plants have proven to have effective control later in the season as they move carbohydrates to their roots for winter storage. Herbicides can be readily transported to the roots. Leafy spurge, houndstongue, spotted knapweed, Canada thistle, and Sulphur cinquefoil are some of “our old friends” that will be coming back with vengeance and have proven to be effectively controlled through fall applications. Another advantage to fall spraying is the timing of application. The “more” flexible timing can be completed after the late summer rains, light frosts, all the way to the killing frost. Lastly, the cooling temperatures make getting the job completed more bearable.

In summary, when it comes to weed control, fall spraying is another tool to add to that weed management toolbox. Weed control is a concept that is not a one-time deal. Therefore, the best method for controlling any noxious weed is an integrated weed management approach utilizing all options available for each weed species. For help identifying your noxious weeds, please call the Stillwater County Weed District for assistance, (406) 322-1106.

### DRONES, A VIABLE OPTION FOR WEED CONTROL | Steve Tyrell, Integrated Ag Services

INTEGRATED AG SERVICES, INC. (IAS) NOW PROVIDES DRONE SPRAYING AS A PREMIUM SERVICE FOR LANDOWNERS AND MANAGERS. We are excited to have been the first commercial company in Montana to secure an FAA 137 Certification and License, Federal Exemptions, as well as State Commercial and Aerial applicators Licenses.

Over the past 25 years, IAS has successfully managed noxious weeds on many complex projects. One challenging variable was how to efficiently treat infestations in remote, rugged, and sensitive terrain. Another challenge was how to surgically apply appropriate selective treatment without risking applicator safety or tracking and causing soil disturbances. We began researching drone applications over 3 years ago to effectively operate in these challenging areas.

Drone technology is a great tool for riparian meadows, open parks, and exposed rocky and steep hillsides. We look forward to working with the Stillwater Valley Watershed Council to bring this innovative approach to the challenge of managing noxious weeds in Montana!

Parks, the opportunity arose to treat noxious weeds on much needed US Forest Service land. After the first year of attempting to control priority noxious weeds areas within literally thousands of acres, it became apparent that ground control alone was not going to be enough. The SVWC tried to work with the USFS for aerial spraying via helicopters and after a very successful spotted knapweed kill, the USFS decided helicopters weren’t the right fit for treating weeds on federal ground. However, drones were okay.

Steve Tyrell of IAS was contacted and the planning began. For the past year, SVWC has worked with USFS personnel to map and scout infested areas ideal for drone spraying—hard to reach, relatively small patches of weeds, within line of sight access (for optimal drone control and safety).

The drones will be in action later this summer!



#### Backstory

With funding received in 2018 from MT Fish Wildlife &



## WATER QUALITY

## STILLWATER ROSEBUD WATER QUALITY INITIATIVE | Tom Osborne

THE STILLWATER ROSEBUD WATER QUALITY INITIATIVE (SRWQI) HAS COMPLETED 19 MONTHS OF STREAM MONITORING, which will be two Water Years in September. The SVWC has obtained grants and donations to cover the cost of laboratory analyses through February 2023. All labor and operating costs are donated by volunteers or covered by cooperating organizations including the SVWC, Stillwater Conservation District (SCD) and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

The project involves monitoring basic water quality parameters like dissolved oxygen, nutrients and sediment levels at nine sites in the Stillwater-Rosebud drainages usually mid-month. The project's volunteer hydrologist, Tom Osborne, says that with two years of data, we will begin to see some seasonal trends at each site and evaluate water quality changes from upstream to downstream. The team will also make some basic comparisons between the 2021-2022 data and earlier data collected at some of the same or similar locations.

SVWC Coordinator, Lindsey Clark, stressed that the data collected by this project is of a non-regulatory nature,

intended to provide some basic indicators of stream health to inform the residents of the Stillwater Valley and protect all the uses we make of our streams for this generation and those to come. Look for a presentation on the SRWQI at the SVWC's "3-W's Workshop" on August 11.



For more information, contact Lindsey Clark (406.780.1249) or Tom Osborne (406.698.4120).

## EPIC FLOODS OF 2022 | Tom Osborne

WHEN THE SVWC WATERSHED SAMPLING TEAM CONDUCTED THE MONTHLY SAMPLING EVENT on May 16, 2022, the Stillwater River was at its all-time low flow for that date—395 cubic feet per second (CFS) at the USGS gage downstream of Absarokee. This gage has been measured continuously since 1935. The reason for this was the lingering effect of the 2021 drought and a cool spring which had delayed snowmelt.

The water stored in the snowpack in the Stillwater River basin on April 4 was at its lowest since 1981 when on-line records began. But in April and May, repeated storms dumped snow in the Beartooths, with a large dump of wet snow over Memorial Day weekend, which contained 5-inches of water and is clearly shown in the Snotel data. Much of the mid-elevation snowpack was near the melting point.

An "atmospheric river" of moisture from the Pacific reached southern Montana June 10-12. Rainfall amounts on the plains were moderate, but 2-3 inches fell in the mountains. Rain melts snow much more rapidly than even warm temperatures. The NWS reported that the rain plus snowmelt caused from 4-9 inches of water to quickly reach the rivers all around the Beartooth-Absaroka Mountains.

The Stillwater River, which had recovered to near normal by the first week of June, shot up the morning of June 11 to over

6,500 CFS, the typical annual flood peak. By about midnight of June 12, the flow hit 12,000 CFS, which is the previous all-time record flood that occurred in 1967. The massive peak hit at about 1:30 pm on June 13, which the USGS currently estimates reached 23,200 CFS at the gage. The USGS will survey the high-water marks and river channel to produce a final peak value. A hydrograph of the river from May into July is shown in Figure 1 (below). *Continued to page 6*

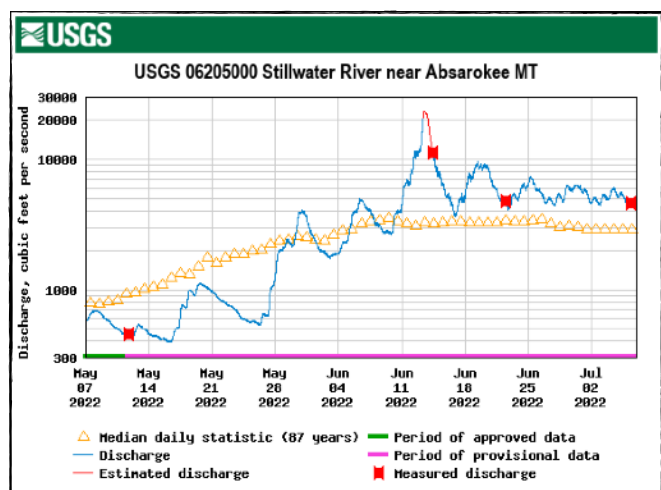


Figure 1. May-July 2022 stream flows at USGS gaging station south of Absarokee.

## WATER QUALITY

### EPIC FLOODING OF 2022

Besides words like epic, unbelievable and humongous, what can we say about this event? Hydrologists describe floods in terms of their mathematical probability, or “return frequency”, meaning, how often should we expect to see a peak of a certain magnitude. The “10-year flood” on the Stillwater at the gage is 9,270 CFS, while the “100-year flood” is 12,400 CFS. This means that the 1967 flood peak was close to the 100-year event. A chart showing the relationship of flood return frequency to discharge is given in Figure 2 (below).

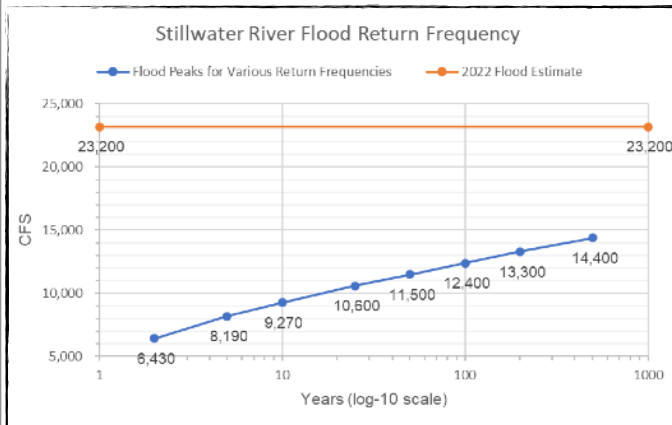


Figure 2. Stillwater River flood return frequency

Based on Figure 2, we see that the 2022 flood peak was much larger than the predicted 500-year event. For comparison's sake, drawing 4 of a kind in poker, or being born with 11 fingers or toes has a similar probability as the 500-year event. This flood, however, was so large that we can't really ascribe a return frequency with the data we have. It blew our mathematical predictions out of the water, so to speak.



Riddles Cliff bridge put up a good fight against the raging water. Photo courtesy of Bud Chenault.

continued from page 5



## Stillwater Conservation District & Proper Permits

It's the law! If you are planning to do work on or near a waterway in Montana, one or several permits may be required.

Emergency stream-modification projects undertaken as an immediate response to flooding requires an Emergency Form 275. Landowners must contact the Stillwater Conservation District (SCD) within 15 days of taking the emergency action and submit the completed Emergency Form. This permit is not required before any project activity begins.

To qualify as an emergency action, Montana law states the project must be the result of an “unforeseen event or combination of circumstances that calls for immediate action to safeguard life, including human or animal, or property.”

Even before the epic floods of 2022, the SCD has encouraged residents and contractors living on or near a river or stream to familiarize themselves with the stream-permitting process, including the types of permits needed before starting an in-stream project.

A 310 permit is required for any non-emergency streambed or streambank modification project within Stillwater County. Permits can be downloaded from SCD's website, [www.stillwatercd.org/forms](http://www.stillwatercd.org/forms). All 38 applicable streams in Stillwater County are listed here as well. Carbon County has a similar process.

This list is not exclusive since all natural perennial flowing streams within the district are included within these rules. The SCD may, from time to time, add or change this list—upon its own motion or petition of interested parties.

Please know it is a misdemeanor to initiate a non-emergency project without a permit to conduct activities outside the scope of the permit, to violate emergency procedures or to use prohibited material in a project.

Because the 310 Joint Application can take up to 60 days to complete; landowners planning a project should contact the SCD well in advance of the planned starting date. The applicant is responsible for obtaining all necessary permits and landowner's permission before beginning work.

For more information on current permits, please contact the SCD office.

**Stillwater Conservation District, c/o Sharon Fletetis**  
**334 N. 9th St. | PO Box 48, Columbus, MT**  
**Office: (406) 322-5359 ext. 101**  
**[sharon.fletetis@mt.nacdn.net](mailto:sharon.fletetis@mt.nacdn.net) | [www.stillwatercd.org](http://www.stillwatercd.org)**

## WATER QUALITY



### THOUGHTS ON FLOOD AND FISH | Ben Bailey, FWP Fisheries Biologist

**FISH HAVE BEEN LIVING WITH FLOODS FOR A MILLENNIA.** They are quite elastic and will move out to the margins and onto the floodplain to get out of the way of high velocities, following waters back as flows recede. That being said, the June flood was historic in magnitude and waters in some places receded quite quickly. Surely some fish were stranded and lost. Most likely not enough fish were lost to see any population level effects.

Rainbow trout eggs were likely still in the gravel (not hatched yet). These kinds of flows would scour redds and destroy eggs. It is possible that we could see a reduction in year class for trout, especially Rainbows. However, eroding banks recruit new spawning gravels and new side channels provide habitat for juveniles which should lead to stronger age classes in subsequent years.

Scott Opitz, fish biologist in Livingston, said “Floods are kind of like a reset for the system and should actually benefit fish in the long term.” Below is a graph of Opitz’s long term

electrofishing data from the Mill Creek Section of the Yellowstone River, just below Emigrant. You can see maybe a drop in numbers from historic levels after the back to back high flow events in 1996 and 1997. Then numbers bounce right back to likely better than pre-flood in the early 2000’s.

Mike Ruggles, former biologist in Billings and was around for the flooding on the Musselshell River in 2011. He agrees these floods should be a benefit to fisheries in the long-term but mentioned that loss of stream length from avulsions decrease available habitat for fish. He also mentioned how much side channel habitat can benefit fisheries. So, if you can live with that new side channel in your yard, let’s try to keep it. Also, channel restoration that keeps or increases stream length should be considered.

*“We need to think of the rivers as part of a legacy that we will leave behind.”*

Ben Bailey

I believe that if there are any long-term effects to fish from this flooding event it will be from habitat loss due to mitigation efforts after the flood. Channelizing and decreasing the rivers interaction with its floodplain will have permanent impacts to the entire river ecosystem.

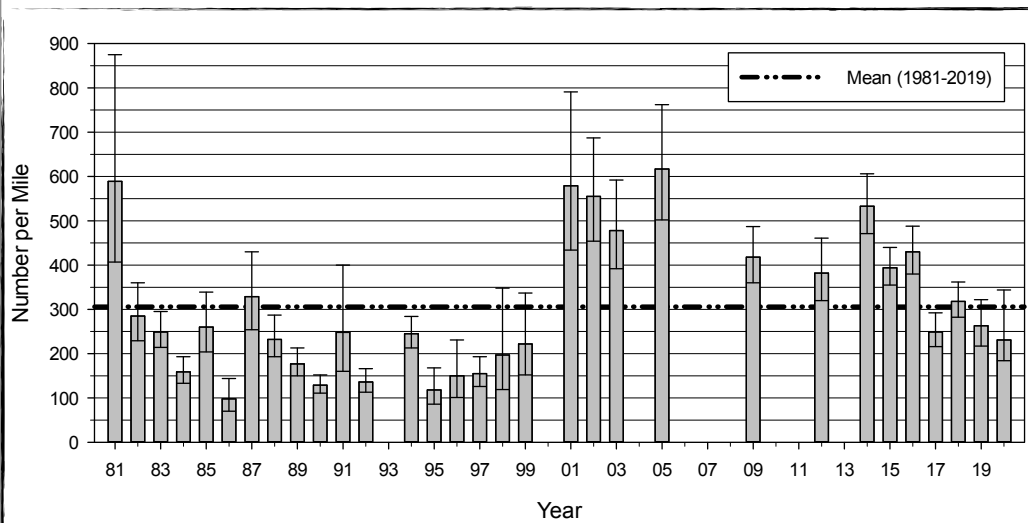


Figure 3. Long term electrofishing data (1981-2020) from the Mill Creek Section of the Yellowstone River, just below Emigrant.



Farmyard flooding near Nye, June 14, 2022.

## FOREST HEALTH

### STILLWATER FOREST STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVE



DON'T BE FOOLED, EVEN THOUGH 2022 WILL GO DOWN IN HISTORY AS THE YEAR OF THE 500 YEAR FLOOD, WILDFIRES ARE STILL AN EVER-PRESENT THREAT. Through proactive management, the SVWC can help you manage your land to reduce the risk of a catastrophic wildfire with an ongoing project dedicated to connecting forest landowners, like many of you within this watershed, with resources to help manage your land for your priorities.

**A professional can answer a variety of questions including:**

- ◆ How do I protect my forest and home from wildfire, insects and disease?
- ◆ How can I attract more wildlife to my property?
- ◆ How can I leave my land better than when I got it?

**Who qualifies?** Landowners in the Stillwater watershed, located in the outlying areas of Columbus, Absarokee, Nye, Fishtail, Dean and Roscoe, with small tract forests or larger forested rangeland areas along the Beartooth Front qualify for this program provided to help improve your land.

**How do you participate?**

Contact Lindsey to schedule your FREE site visit from a forestry professional. The SVWC can help you formulate a plan for you, making it feasible to improve the safety of your home and property in the face of a wildfire.

Simply fill out the form on page 11 of this newsletter and mail it to SVWC at PO Box 112, Absarokee, MT 59001.

### PROOF IS IN THE WORK

**THE MAJORITY OF HOMES LOST TO WILDFIRE ARE FIRST IGNITED BY EMBERS** from fires that are oftentimes miles away. By reducing the susceptibility of the area immediately around the home and the home itself, the chances of a structure surviving an ember storm or small spot fire are greatly increased, creating defensible space.

Funded through SVWC's Forest Stewardship Initiative, Jerry and Sheri Cross had only positive comments with the results of their recent project, "We are very happy with having our 40 acres mitigated. We feel much safer from a fire and believe it has increased the value of our property." Below are before and after pictures of a 40 acre hazardous fuels reduction project recently completed southwest of Columbus.



Above left: Jerry and Sheri Cross look into a draw with dog hair thick ponderosa pine ripe for a burn. Above right: The same stand of ponderosa opened up to a 30 foot variable crown spacing with the goal of forcing a fire to the ground where it is better able to be controlled.

***"What a pleasure it has been to work with the SVWC and forestry crew on a plan to mitigate fire by cleaning up our property. Having lived through the Derby Fire, the Cathedral Fire, and numerous smaller threats, I am relieved to have access to this wonderful program. The SVWC's forestry personnel are very knowledgeable and the program very affordable!"***

*Deb Griffin, Nye area landowner*



## WATERSHED HAPPENINGS

## 3 W'S WORKSHOP (WEEDS.WATER.WILDFIRE) | AUGUST 11

WE INVITE YOU TO COME LEARN ABOUT NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE STILLWATER VALLEY ON AUGUST 11! The morning session will be all about noxious weed management and ID. The post-lunch portion will be dedicated to water quality & wildfire mitigation. Lunch and speakers sponsored by DNRC, Corteva Agriscience and Helena Agri-Enterprises LLC.

**SVWC's Three W's Workshop  
& Annual Meeting**

**Weeds. Water. Wildfire**

**August 11, 2022**

**Anipro Event Center**

**10:00 am FREE Lunch**

Please RSVP by August 8 to  
svwc2010@hotmail.com  
or call 406.780.1249.

## A COMMUNITY TAKES ACTION | FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR POST-FLOOD DAMAGE

From the first hours and days after the flooding began, the community rallied like never before. The Stillwater Conservation District was at the forefront of the disaster. Sharon Flemetis, District Administrator, and the dedicated SCD volunteer board, and FWP fisheries biologist spent countless hours on the front lines approving emergency permits as well as putting boots on the ground for post-flood recovery assistance.

Because of this quick action, the SCD is partnering with the NRCS to provide local sponsorship for the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program. Through EWP, local NRCS personnel will conduct flood damage assessments to determine program eligibility and evaluate potential alternatives to protect property from further damage. After site assessments are complete, the SCD will develop an agreement with the landowner that describes available financial and technical assistance, which may be significant. Site assessments have already begun in many locations.

Contact the Stillwater Conservation District at 406-322-5359 x 101, as soon as possible to determine eligibility for EWP flood recovery assistance and to begin the site assessment process. EWP information is also available on the NRCS Montana website at [www.mt.usda.gov](http://www.mt.usda.gov) under "Programs".

***The SVWC is geared up to help! When waters recede, the rivers return to their new normal, and emergency resources have been exhausted, please contact the SVWC to see how we can help assist in your flood recovery process.***



## ~2022 SVWC Memberships~

**WE TRULY APPRECIATE the support of our dedicated membership. It is our hope that SVWC programs and opportunities offered to you will continue to grow and enhance your watershed and your lives!**

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## ~Donations of \$300 or Greater~

**Absarokee Community Foundation~Frans & Dana Andersson~Barb Bryant & Scott Mitchell~  
Fishtail Basin Ranch~Ryan & Staci Grimm~Leuthold Family~Nye Community Foundation~Lowell &  
Ruth Quenemoen~Sibanye Stillwater Mining~Jim & Andrea Stampfel~Molly Tollefson & Jesse Licht**

# Stillwater Valley Watershed Council

## Program Enrollment & Membership Form



Landowner Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Local Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Stillwater County Property Location: (physical address, subdivision, lot):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Approximate # of acres in the project (include acres infested with noxious weeds or acres enrolled in fuels reduction program):  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Please check all that apply, sign and return.**

☐

I am interested in participating SVWC's programs: weed control\*\*, water project, hazardous fuels reduction or:  
\_\_\_\_\_

*\*\*Cost-share for SVWC's large acreage weed control program is prioritized by earliest request date. For landowners/managers that have requested cost-share in the past, the SVWC Board of Directors will place a higher priority for cost-share on those that have developed a Weed Management Plan (WMP). A template WMP from the Stillwater Weed District can be found on SVWC's website at: [www.StillwaterValleyWatershed.com](http://www.StillwaterValleyWatershed.com) under "Newsletters and Forms".*

☐

I am interested in developing a WMP for the purpose of this project.

☐

Enclosed is my current WMP.

☐

Please assist me in developing a WMP

☐

I'd rather not complete a WMP.

☐

Yes, I want to join the SVWC. Enclosed is \$35 for annual membership.

☐

I do not wish to participate in SVWC's weed control projects but in doing so, recognize that I am required to comply with the existing Montana Noxious Weed Law.

☐

I am already a member of the SVWC.

Please indicate your contact information and property location even if you do not wish to participate in the program.  
This will let us know if we have made contact with all landowners.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN TO: PO BOX 112, ABSAROCKE MT 59001**

[www.StillwaterValleyWatershed.com](http://www.StillwaterValleyWatershed.com)

406.780.1249

[svwc2010@hotmail.com](mailto:svwc2010@hotmail.com)

## STILLWATER VALLEY WATERSHED COUNCIL

NONPROFIT  
STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
BILLINGS, MT  
PERMIT NO. 1

SVWC  
PO Box 112  
Absarokee, MT 59001

406.780.1249  
svwc2010@hotmail.com  
www.stillwatervalleywatershed.com  
Find us on Facebook!

*"Coming together is a beginning, staying  
together is progress, and working together  
is success."*

- Henry Ford

We are a volunteer group of local residents and interested representatives working together to enhance the quality of our rural Montana lifestyle by protecting, restoring and conserving our abundant natural resources through good stewardship and community involvement for this and future generations.

# STILLWATER VALLEY WATERSHED COUNCIL



COLUMBUS

ABSAROKEE

FISHTAIL

DEAN

NYE

ROSCOE

