

2010 WESTERN RC&Ds IN MONTANA'S BIG SKY



CREATING TOMORROW'S FOOD & ENERGY

Missoula, Montana
January 31 - February 3
Co-hosted by

Western Resource Conservation and Development Association, Inc.
Bitter Root Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.
Montana's Resource Conservation and Development Areas

2010 WESTERN RC&Ds IN MONTANA's BIG SKY

Creating Tomorrow's Food and Energy

2010 Western RC&D Association Annual Conference

January 31 - February 3

Holiday Inn **Missoula Downtown at the Park**, Missoula, Montana

WELCOME

Friends,

It is our pleasure to invite you to the 2010 Western States Regional Conference of Resource Conservation and Development Councils serving our ten Western States planned for Sunday, January 31 through Wednesday, February 3, 2010 in Missoula, Montana.

As our respective home states and communities add strength to our recovering economy, we are in an effective position to offer leadership and “technological know-how” in some cornerstone knowledge areas. Our 2010 Conference will focus on building our internal interaction and will feature two major subject tracks: Sustainable, Renewable Energy and Food to Table projects. There will also be an opportunity to share Stories of highly Successful projects from around our Region and to informally exchange ideas and cautions. Some outstanding additional training chances are proposed for those who choose to take part. A major part of one day will feature a choice of several tours to visit successful operations on-the-ground.

Review the Registration Form at your leisure and let us hear from you.

Sincerely,



James H. Freeman, Board Chairman

For the: Bitter Root Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

It seems that Food and Energy are two topics that are often on our minds when we visit with our families, our communities or proponents of RC&D natural and human resource development projects. As we seek answers to these situations and seek to implement solutions, RC&Ds and our communities are often faced with new challenges to create a successful outcome. Our Western RC&D Association will provide you with new and successful approaches in supporting local food systems and sustainable energy as well as ideas in developing new and successful approaches to working with your communities.

As the population of the world continues to grow at sometimes alarming rates and as we all continue to expand the amount of food and energy that we consume, we need to ask ourselves how we are going to provide the quantities and quality of energy that we need to sustain a reasonable supply of food and energy for ourselves and those who come after us. As our RC&Ds and communities search for answers to food and energy and seek to implement solutions, we are often faced with a need to adapt and develop new approaches.

As our world becomes smaller in terms of travel, communication, and interconnected societies, we begin asking questions that we never asked 50 years ago when we were a much more agrarian centered country. Now we become interested not only in the type of food we eat, but even more interested in the quality of food that we consume. Knowing the source of our food and the inputs that produced it is a valuable bonus. Did it come from another country? Does that country control herbicides and pesticides as closely as the U.S.? Are we buying from producers from other parts of our country, when we could be buying from a nearby food entrepreneur that may not have enough sales to stay in business for long? These are but a few of the questions that are often of concern and this conference will answer many of these questions and more as presenters interact with participants to discuss farm to table issues and successes.

Recent spikes in energy prices remind us all that the demand for traditional sources of energy has outpaced the supply and discovery of traditional sources. As the population increases and the consumption of energy per person increases, especially in previously less developed but densely populated areas of the world, prices for these commodities increase and drive our economies to search for new sources of energy in addition to bolstering the traditional supplies. This conference will discuss some of the energy issues facing Montana and our neighboring western states and deal with some of our efforts to create renewable energy at the same time we are shoring up the production of energy from traditional sources.

Our tours will further amplify discussions of the development of sustainable energy and local food systems and how partnerships and nonprofit leadership can help implement projects. On Wednesday, February 3, we will explore successful RC&D and nonprofit approaches to project implementation and how to avoid unnecessary risks in project management.