

# YELLOWSTONE RIVER CONSERVATION DISTRICT COUNCIL

## FACT SHEET

EXHIBIT 8  
DATE 1/15/07  
HB 116

1371 Rimtop Drive  
Billings, MT 59105

Nicole McClain, Coordinator  
Phone: 406-247-4412  
Fax: 406-247-4429  
Home Phone: 406-222-5702  
Cell Phone: 406-223-5702  
YellowstoneRiver@aol.com

Don Youngbauer, Chairman  
PO Box 68  
Forsyth, MT 59327  
Phone: W 406-346-2131  
H 406-346-2935  
Don@rosebudcd.org

Bob Hector, Vice-Chairman  
4912 Pryor Road  
Billings, MT 59301  
406-252-4332  
bhector@peoplepc.com

### Conservation District Council Members:

Carbon County  
Will Alexander

Custer County  
Walter Rolf

Dawson County  
Kenny Nemitz

Park County  
Daryl Stutterheim

Prairie County  
Dave Schwarz

Richland County  
Tony Barone

Rosebud County  
Don Youngbauer

Stillwater County  
Steve Story

Sweet Grass County  
Paul Gilbert

Treasure County  
Phil Fox

Yellowstone County  
Bob Hector

McKenzie County, ND  
Orvin Finsaas

MACD  
Luther Waterland

RAC  
John Moorhouse



**Vision: A healthy river and riparian system capable of sustaining the needs of Montana citizens and communities.**

### HISTORY

The Yellowstone River stretches over 670 miles and is the longest free-flowing river in the lower 48 states. Originating in Yellowstone National Park, it drains 70,000 square miles of land before it joins the Missouri River west of Williston, North Dakota. In addition to an abundance of fish and wildlife, the Yellowstone River supports a wide variety of agricultural, domestic, industrial, and recreational uses.

The natural and historic significance of the Yellowstone River, combined with major floods in 1996 and 1997, elevated interest and increased public debate over the impacts of human activities on the River. The lack of information upon which to base permitting decisions emphasized the need for public forums to discuss complex issues and potential solutions. Governor Marc Racicot created the Upper Yellowstone River Task Force in 1997 to address problems arising from the floods and begin studying the cumulative effects in Park County. In 1999, the **Yellowstone River Conservation District Council** was formed to address conservation issues on the entire river.

### WHO WE ARE

The **Yellowstone River Conservation District Council** (Council) is made up of representatives from twelve conservation districts bordering the main stem of the Yellowstone River), a representative from Montana Association of Conservation Districts, and the Chair of the Council's Resource Advisory Committee (RAC). The Council has a chair, a vice-chair; one each selected from the upper, and lower reaches of the river (see sidebar). The Council receives technical assistance and advice from the MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, US Department of Environmental Quality, US Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Geological Survey, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and other agencies.

### MISSION STATEMENT

The Council's purpose is to provide local leadership, assistance, and guidance for the wise use and conservation of the Yellowstone River corridor's natural resources to sustain and improve social, environmental, and economic values. This purpose is founded on the following fundamental precepts:

1. the need for sound scientific information on which to base management decisions;
2. the need for broad-based local, regional, and national dialog to define a shared vision of the River;
3. the need for technical and financial assistance to address sustainable use issues on the Yellowstone River;
4. the need to educate and inform the public;
5. the need to provide a mechanism for resolving issues among all users and stakeholders.