

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

March 12, 2011 Western RC&D Meeting, Lewiston, ID

The meeting was attended by 12 members and we had a good discussion of issues and concerns. The group moved to forward their comments to the Western Board for action:

1. Encourage the National RC&D Board to support forest and wood products and resources production, including their use as biomass to energy programs.
2. Encourage the National RC&D Board to support maintenance of PILT payments to western rural counties.
3. Encourage the National RC&D Board to support the rights of States and local governments to maintain local controls of their water rights and water uses and to protect their water resources from unwanted movement and migration.
4. Encourage the National RC&D Board to support reclamation and quality protection of water and ground water from oil and gas well activities.
5. Encourage the National RC&D Board to recognize the negative cultural and economic effects on rural western States that the recent energy transmission corridors for electricity are causing. The numerous very large transmission lines are unfairly targeting rural areas with outdated eminent domain laws never intended for this scale of projects. There are concerns that western rural areas will become "energy plexes" for larger urban areas without proper compensation or recourse (i.e. eminent domain laws written decades ago). We support a new annual method for compensation of the real cost to rural communities and landowners for the permanent uses by energy corridors (i.e. gas and electric).

Respectfully submitted by Kent Rudeen, Three Rivers RC&D.



Quality Assurance Committee

There was no meeting of the Quality Assurance Committee due to lack of notice. I recommend that the Western Board President appoint a chair for each committee prior to the conference so that the meeting can be as productive as possible.

Respectfully submitted by Kent Rudeen. Three Rivers RC&D