

## **Randall RC&D Missouri River Breaks Efforts in 2009**

The Lewis and Clark Watershed Implementation Project was just one of many efforts by Randall RC&D in 2009 to address the wants and needs of the landowners and resources along the Missouri River.

**A Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative** offered by the SD NRCS was applied for in 2009. Our initiative was titled, "Missouri River Breaks Forest and Rangeland Management Initiative". This was an 8 year initiative in eleven counties along the Missouri River. It asked for \$800,000 in cost share assistance dollars to fund needed practices not currently addressed. Under the submitted initiative eight goaled practices would have been cost shared aimed at Woody draw management; noxious/invasive weed and brush control; cedar encroachment control; and native tree planting in riparian areas. This initiative was not funded.

A 3 year Federal/State **Forestry Challenge Grant** was jointly applied for with Lower James RC&D and could provide many benefits if funded. Ten counties and 120,000 acres would receive educational outreach, planning and technical assistance for an initial 3 year period. Timber stand improvement, forest product marketing and jobs are some of the potential offshoot benefits of this \$136,800 grant if funded. This grant application is still pending.

Working with nine county weed supervisors along the river a USF&W Foundation "**Pulling Together Initiative**" application was submitted with Lower James RC&D as a partner. This initiative would have provided 50% cost share dollars to private landowners to help control noxious weeds on pasture, range, forest and recreational land. It also would have helped fund many weed control field days and educational events. Local source funding was \$115, 525 and grant dollars asked for was \$100,000. This initiative application was not funded in 2009.

**Specialty Crops** hold promise in the Missouri River breaks area and over the last 2 years Randall RC&D has assisted a private landowner secure 2 small grants. Ginseng and hazelnut are being tried in Gregory County under these grants. Ginseng holds promise as a high value cash crop for the root and the seed. It is very specific in its soil, shade requirements and cultural requirements and seems to be doing well so far. Stay tuned for some field day events and publicity on these specialty crop trials.

A **Randall Creek Watershed** meeting was held in September with partnering agencies. This watershed is on the west and just south of Ft. Randall Dam and encompasses land in NE and SD. This sub-watershed is within the larger Lewis and Clark Watershed and has many problems that could be addressed by a "sub-watershed" project driven by landowners. One more partner meeting is planned and this will possibly be followed by a watershed landowners meeting to see if the desire for a project is present.

By way of the Conservation Partnership and the **Lewis and Clark Watershed Implementation Project** 229 landowners received technical assistance and most received cost share dollars for ag waste, winter feeding areas and numerous other BMP's in 2009. A brief scan of the Watershed project payments shows well over \$300,000 was spent in 2009.