



## ON DISPLAY - Main level

### 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Classroom and Overall Winners of the 2014 Annual Teton Soil Conservation District Poster Contest

Teton County Courthouse, 150 Courthouse Drive, Driggs, ID

October 10 - November 10, 2014

9AM-5PM

The Teton Soil Conservation District was founded in 1950. In 1982 the first annual poster contest took place in Teton Valley offering fifth and sixth grade students throughout the Valley the opportunity to be taught an environmental lesson on the poster theme of the year in addition to receiving an art lesson on creating a successful poster. Monetary awards are offered to the top three place winners overall. These winners go on to additional competitions throughout the state of Idaho with the potential to compete in the National competition. Our students here in Teton Valley have fared quite successfully in the Division and State competitions.

**Conservation District History** In the early 1930s, along with the greatest depression this nation ever experienced, came an equally unparalleled ecological disaster known as the Dust Bowl. Following a severe and sustained drought in the Great Plains, the region's soil began to erode and blow away, creating huge black dust storms that blotted out the sun and swallowed the countryside. Thousands of "dust refugees" left the black fog to seek better lives.

But the storms stretched across the nation. They reached south to Texas and east to New York. Dust even sifted into the White House and onto the desk of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

On Capitol Hill, while testifying about the erosion problem, soil scientist Hugh Hammond Bennett threw back the curtains to reveal a sky blackened by dust. Congress unanimously passed legislation declaring soil and water conservation a national policy and priority. Because nearly three-fourths of the continental United States is privately owned, Congress realized that only active, voluntary support from landowners would guarantee the success of conservation work on private land.

In 1937, President Roosevelt wrote the governors of all the states recommending legislation that would allow local landowners to form soil conservation districts. Brown Creek Soil & Water Conservation District in North Carolina was the first district established. The movement caught on across the country with district-enabling legislation passed in every state. Today, the country is blanketed with nearly 3,000 conservation districts.