



Welcome to the River to Lake newsletter.

A Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 9 | Summer 2010

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Land and Water Conservation

2010 River to Lake Action Plan completed

Several *River to Lake Initiative* partners got together to in May to develop a 2010 R2L Action Plan, the second one for the Initiative to assess project needs, identify opportunities, and coordinate and implement projects. Partners discussed short and long term goals, ways to measure success, partner capacity and funding needs, and identified key tasks and partner commitments needed to implement projects from May 2010 through August 2011. For more information contact Constanza, Flathead Lakers' Critical Lands Program Director, at criticallands@flatheadlakers.org, 406-883-1341.

Meetings and Workshops

Flathead Land Trust celebrates 25 years

On August 28, the Flathead Land Trust will celebrate 25 years of conservation work in the Flathead Valley. The evening starts with a free Annual Member Meeting at 5:00 pm, followed by a



dinner, concert, and presentation from 6:00-9:30 pm at the Pavilion at Rebecca Farm. Tickets are \$35 per person and can be ordered online at www.flatheadlandtrust.org. For more information Dawn Tacke, Office and Communication Manager, 406-752-8293.

Celebrating 10 Years of Success Protecting Critical Lands

The Flathead Lakers initiated the Critical Lands Project in 2000 to address concerns that rapid growth and development could damage lands and waters critical to maintaining the quality of Flathead Lake. A diverse group of people, came together to collaborate on conservation, restoration and education projects.

Critical Lands Project partners decided to first focus efforts in the Flathead River corridor from Columbia Falls to Flathead Lake, including the lake's north shore. This partnership and project is the *River to Lake Initiative*. Priorities for protection include wetlands, riparian forests, floodplains and associated uplands.

River to Lake Project accomplishments are numerous, but most telling is the more than 5,000 acres of critical lands protected through voluntary

conservation easements and land acquisitions. Thanks to all of you who have helped protect Flathead critical lands over the past decade!

River to Lake Initiative meeting

The next River to Lake quarterly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 15 from 12:00 to 2:00 pm at Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. For more information contact Constanza at criticallands@flatheadlakers.org, 406-883-1341.



Montana Watershed Symposium: Connecting Communities

The Montana Watershed Coordinating Council is holding a Watershed Symposium on September 7-9th, at the Red Lion Colonial Hotel in Helena. The symposium focuses on values, resources and threats that help connect communities and accomplish watershed conservation goals. For more information or to register visit the MWCC website at <http://mtwatersheds.org> or call Anne Schwend, MT Watershed Coordination Council Co-Chair at 406-444-1806.

Wetland Program Capacity Building Workshop

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality and the Environmental Protection Agency are hosting a workshop to build the capacity of States and Tribes to protect and restore wetlands and riparian areas. The workshop will be held in Bozeman September 21-24. For more information visit deq.mt.gov/wqinfo/Wetlands/2010capacitybldghome.mcpx or call Lynda Saul, Wetland Program Coordinator, DEQ, at 406-444-6652.

Reports and Publications

River to Lake Initiative Website coming soon

The *River to Lake Initiative* Website will be launched within the next month. The website contains information about the initiative's mission and goals, accomplishments, and partners, as well as resources for landowners, including information about conservation easements, reports, and maps. To visit the website please go to www.flatheadrivertolake.org.

For questions and comments contact Constanza von der Pahlen, Flathead Lakers' Critical Lands Program Director at criticallands@flatheadlakers.org or 406-883-1341.

New Montana Stream Mitigation Procedure Report released

The US Army Corps of Engineers released new a Montana Stream Mitigation Procedure report. The report provides the Corps' procedures for calculating debits and credits associated with compensatory stream mitigation in Montana. For more information contact [Todd Tillinger](mailto:Todd.Tillinger@army.mil), Montana Program Manager, or visit www.nwo.usace.army.mil/html/od-rmt/mtsmp.html.

Effects of Urbanization on Stream Ecosystems now available

A USGS study examines how stream ecosystems respond to urban development. Specifically, the report examines the effect of urban development on biological communities, hydrology, habitat, and stream chemistry throughout the United States. Key findings include:

- streams are significantly affected by urban development
- even small levels of urban development had an immediate negative effect on macroinvertebrates
- changes to the biota in streams depends on the region of the country due to differences in climate, geology, natural vegetation, and historical land use patterns, more so than on the level of urban development.

To read the reports or watch video podcasts visit <http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa/urban>.

Please send news and information that you would like to share via the River to Lake E-News to: criticallands@flatheadlakers.org. If your information or request is time sensitive, you can request that we send an "Action Alert" e-mail. To unsubscribe send message to above email address.