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Welcome to the River to Lake newsletter.

A Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 17 | April 2013

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Conservation and Restoration

Flathead Land Trust receives Wildlife Conservation Award

Flathead Land Trust received the Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society's 2013 Wildlife Conservation



FLT staff and some R2L partners who nominated FLT for the Award.

Award for 27 years of "outstanding conservation achievements and demonstrated conservation leadership that benefits wildlife resources" said Alan Wood, Wildlife Program Officer for Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

The award also recognizes the land trust's contribution to the collaborative River to Lake Initiative that has focused funding and conservation efforts on the mainstem Flathead River and north shore of Flathead Lake. This landscape includes thousands of acres of wetlands and riparian areas that provide vital wildlife habitat and the most productive agricultural lands in the valley.

Flathead Land Trust Executive Director Marilyn Wood

said as she accepted the award, "It's an honor to receive this year's Wildlife Conservation Award. We work really hard with our partners to find conservation solutions that benefit private landowners and helps preserve what we all love about our rural landscape, clean water and abundant wildlife, so we appreciate when that work gets recognized."

The Montana Chapter of the Wildlife Society represents and serves the professional community of scientists, managers, educators, technicians, planners, and others who work actively to study, manage, and conserve wildlife and its habitats worldwide.

Flathead Land Trust awarded NAWCA grant for River to Lake Conservation project

The Flathead Land Trust was recently awarded a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Small North American Wetlands Conservation



Flathead Lake North Shore

Act (NAWCA) grant of \$75,000 to help fund a conservation project on the north shore of Flathead Lake. River to Lake Initiative partners are excited to

be working on another north shore conservation project.

NAWCA grants help the Initiative compensate landowners for placing a conservation easement on critical wetlands and bird habitat. This is the fourth NAWCA grant awarded to fund River to Lake Initiative projects. More information about this project will be provided when the project is completed.

These projects along the Flathead River and on the lake's north shore conserve clean water, healthy habitat, prime farm land, scenic vistas, and recreation opportunities. For more information about the Flathead Land Trust, visit their website at www.flatheadlandtrust.org.

Flathead River Steward gears up for Spring restoration projects on the Flathead River

In January, Kirstin Gruver, the new Flathead River Steward, started working with River to Lake Initiative partners to plan and engage volunteers to help with river restoration projects.



This spring Kirstin will be helping Diamond B. Ranch landowners Jerry and Aileen Brosten restore vegetated riparian buffers along their stretch of the Flathead River. She is helping coordinate a planting day with a Montana Conservation Corps crew.

Kirstin has also been talking to community groups, including the Girls Scout, the Girls and Boys Club, and the Flathead Valley Community College about the importance of riparian buffers and shallow groundwater, and future volunteer opportunities. Call Kirstin at 406-752-4242 extension 109 if you are interested in exploring opportunities for riparian restoration on your property and volunteer assistance for buffer planting.

New River to Lake Initiative Handouts available

Are you interested in learning more about protecting clean water, wildlife habitat and other special values on your property for your children and future generations? Check out our new River to Lake Initiative handouts *Conservation Easements & You*, and *Conservation Funding for Landowners*, *North American Wetlands Conservation Act*, and *Community Benefits* to learn more about conservation options available to

landowners and the benefits of building a network of conservation for the entire community.

These and other handouts are available at our website: www.flatheadrivertolake.org/index.php/landowner-resources/publications-maps.



Spring Events

May 30

Montana Wetland and Watershed Stewardship Awards Event

The Montana Wetland Council and the Montana Watershed Coordination Council will be presenting their 2013 Wetland and Watershed Stewardship Awards at an award ceremony at the State Capitol in Helena on Thursday, May 30 at 9:00 am. For more information contact Stephen Carpenedo, Wetlands Environmental Science Specialist, Montana Department of Environmental Quality, at (406) 444-3527 or SCarpenedo2@mt.gov. River to Lake Initiative partners were honored with the 2011 Montana Wetlands Award.

June 1

Flathead Lake Kayak Fishing Tournament

Bike & Paddle, a group organized by Alternatives Magazine in Whitefish that promotes clean water, renewable energy, safe food, active transportation and a sustainable healthy lifestyle, is planning a Kayak Fishing Tournament on Flathead Lake on June 1. This group organizes fun events around sports, health, and environmental awareness. To participate or for more information contact Mike Hower, of A Able Fishing Charters and tournament director, at 406-257-5214 or visit www.alternatives-magazine.com/bpevents.html.

June 12

River to Lake Initiative meeting

The next River to Lake Initiative partners' quarterly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 12 in Kalispell. For more information contact Constanza von der Pahlen, Critical Lands Program Director, Flathead Lakers, at 883-1341 or criticallands@flatheadlakers.org.

Visit the River to Lake Initiative website for additional news and events at www.flatheadrivertolake.org.