

# Adopt-A-Species Newsletter

“All our efforts to conserve wildlife are for naught if we fail to sow the seeds of an environmental ethic in the next generation.” A. Berkovits



## FIND OUT WHAT IT MEANS TO ME

Okay, now that you've got Aretha Franklin's song running through your head, it's time to find out about the **Spring Art and Essay Contest**. The Adopt-a-Species theme for this year is **Respect Habitat, Respect Wildlife**. Drawing respect might be hard to conceptualize for some so we thought we would share what the Adopt-a-Species committee will be looking for as we judge the contest. The greatest respect a student can show for wildlife is learning more about them, so we will be looking for **a prominent picture of their species**. From there, let their imaginations fly. Below are some ideas to share with your students for showing respect:

### When Camping or Hiking or Playing

- Avoid getting too close to wildlife, use binoculars
- Make your observations brief, then move on
- Don't ever chase an animal
- Travel in small groups
- Take only memories (and pictures), leave only footprints
- Don't disturb flowers, seeds or vegetation—they are part of the food chain for wildlife
- Don't litter
- Don't feed any wildlife
- If you see a nest or an animal home, leave it alone.
- Never remove baby animals from their homes
- Puncture inflated balloons after use and dispose of properly
- Scoop the poop!—always pick up your pet's waste and dispose properly

### When Fishing

- Dispose of fishing lines properly
- Eliminate poisons—when fishing use nontoxic alternatives to lead sinkers and jigs

### While Boating

- For environmentally friendly boating, observe “no wake” signs
- Don't let items blow overboard and add to marine debris
- Be vigilant about oil leaks from boat engines

### On a Shoreline

- Protect waterside trees and shrubs
- Plant shoreline vegetation to filter pollutants
- Pave less, hard surfaces can cause severe run-off and erosion

### At the Beach

- Leave it clean
- Watch your step—if you are in sensitive habitat, use a canoe or kayak for viewing if possible
- Some butts don't belong on the beach—pick up cigarette butts—they take two years to break down

### Here are other things that can be done at home or in the community to help habitat, and, ultimately, wildlife

- Share your knowledge—spread the word about Montana's wildlife
- Take action—organize a campus or neighborhood cleanup
- Use water sparingly
- Plant native plants to reduce the amount of water needed for landscaping purposes
- Reduce the use of herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers.
- Turn off lights and appliances, TV, too, when you're not in the room.
- Inspect and weatherize your wall outlets, windows and doors for air leaks to improve energy efficiency
- Walk, bike or carpool and use public transportation

## Adopt-A-Species a Wildlife Education Partnership

January, 2008



### Save the Date—

May 7, 2008

1– 3 pm at the Lewis & Clark Library for the annual Adopt-a-Species Teacher's Workshop.



### Inside this issue:

<i>Contacts</i>	2
<i>Species List</i>	2
<i>Teacher Request Form</i>	Insert
<i>Discover Montana's Ecosystems</i>	3
<i>Classroom Ideas</i>	3
<i>Standards &amp; Objectives</i>	4
<i>Creature Feature</i>	4

## 2007-2008 School Contact List

School	2007-2008 Adopted Species	School Contacts	Address
Broadwater 324-1132	Mountain Goat	Annie Tague rtague@helena.k12.mt.us	900 Hollins Helena 59602
Bryant 324-1185	Bald Eagle	Larry Hanson lahanson@helena.k12.mt.us	1529 Boulder Helena 59601
Central 324-1237	Lynx	Deb Johnson djohnson@helena.k12.mt.us	402 N. Warren Helena 59601
Four Georgians 324-1324	Black Bear	Helga Stimson hstimson@helena.k12.mt.us	555 West Custer Helena 59602
Hawthorne 324-1378	Prairie Dog	Peg Hunter phunter@helena.k12.mt.us	420 Madison Av Helena 59601
Jefferson 324-2079	Red Fox	Sherri Haller shaller@helena.k12.mt.us	1023 Broadway Helena 59601
Jim Darcy 324-1429	Grey Wolf	Shelly Sharp ssharp@helena.k12.mt.us	990 W. Lincoln Road Helena MT 59602
Kessler 324-1687	Big Horn Sheep	Susan Beckstrom sbeckstrom@helena.k12.mt.us	2420 Choteau Helena 59601
Radley 227-7710	Red Tail Hawk	Kate Dartman kdartman@ehps.k12.mt.us	PO. Box 1280 East Helena 59635
Rossiter 324-1514	Bison	Cynthia Mulvaney cmulvaney@helena.k12.mt.us	1497 Sierra Road Helena 59602
Smith 324-1528	Black Footed Ferret	Jodee Martello jmartello@helena.k12.mt.us	2320 5 <sup>th</sup> Ave. Helena 59601
Warren 324-1616	Pine Martin	Sue Nyland snyland@hotmail.com	2690 York Road Helena. MT 59602
Boulder 225-3316	Grizzly Bear	Janice Crawley janice.crawley@bgs.k12.mt.us	205 S. Washington Boulder MT 59632
Canyon Creek 368-2230	Mountain Lion	Katrina Chaney katrinachaney@yahoo.com	PO Box 523 Canyon Creek, MT 59633
Clancy 933-5531	Beaver	Lisa Heitt lheitt@clancy.k12.mt.us	6 N Main Clancy, MT 59634
Lincoln 362-4201	Otter	Annette Gardner agardner@lincoln.k12.mt.us	P.O. Box 39 Lincoln Mt 59639
Montana City 442-6779	Moose	Jan Martineau jmartineau@metnet.mt.gov	11 McClellan Creek Rd Clancy MT 59634
Townsend 266-3942	Bald Eagle	Beth Clarkson eclarkson@townsend.k12.mt.us	201 N. Spruce Townsend MT 59644
Wolf Creek 235-4241	Osprey	Valerie Cundall wolfcreekschool@in-tch.com	PO Box 200 Wolf Creek MT 59648

## Committee Contacts

Organization	Contact	Address & Phone	E-mail
Foundation for Animals **classroom visits	Marilyn Evans Mikal Kellner **Carla Wambach	PO Box 389 Helena, MT 59624 443-6532	mkfa@mt.net www.montanawildlife.org
Helena National Forest	**Liz Burke	2880 Skyway Drive Helena, MT 59601 495-3713	lizburke@fs.fed.us
Montana Discovery Foundation	**Debbie Anderson **Samsara Chapman	2880 Skyway Drive Helena, MT 59601 495-3711, 495-3718	debbieanderson@fs.fed.us samsarachapman@fs.fed.us
MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks	**Kurt Cunningham	PO Box 200701 Helena, MT 59620 449-1312	kcunningham@mt.gov
MT Wildlife Federation	Jan Cronin	PO Box 1175 Helena, MT 59624 458-0227	jcronin@mtwf.org

## Discover Montana Ecosystems—New from Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Montana teachers seeking new tools to connect students to Montana's natural world can now turn to a new interactive website created by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

"FWP's [Discover Montana Ecosystems](#) website is designed to provide educators with new, interactive, and entertaining learning opportunities aimed at increasing their students' awareness and understanding of the flora, fauna, and natural processes that are a part of life in Montana," said Kurt Cunningham, FWP's education specialist in Helena.

The website was created with the help of Bill Hug, former Montana State University education professor, to meet specific science curriculum standards and is designed to provide upper elementary and middle school teachers with in-the-classroom projects specifically geared to Montana communities.

Much of the fish and wildlife information contained within the website is associated with FWP's recently completed Comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Management Strategy, which lists and assesses the condition of 170 fish and wildlife habitats—from the mountains to the prairies—and the animals that live there.

"We worked extremely hard to ensure that the information contained in the Discover Montana Ecosystems website meets or exceeds Montana science curriculum standards," Cunningham said. "And we worked equally hard to test it on students and teachers to make [Discover Montana's Ecosystems](#) as fun and entertaining as it is educational."

The website will serve as resource for home-schoolers, scouts, 4-H projects, and K-12 teachers and students. Those who visit the website can learn about Montana's fish and wildlife species, and the places where they live, from videos, games, images and more.

The [Discover Montana Ecosystems website](#) is free and can be accessed at [fwp.mt.gov](http://fwp.mt.gov). Scroll to the bottom of the page and click the [Discover Montana Ecosystems icon](#).

### Classroom Ideas



**Poetry**— is another way for a student to become more aware of wildlife. Let them sit quietly for a few minutes thinking of characteristics and habitat for **their** species. Have them use their senses to think of what the animal may be experiencing. Then have them try one of the following forms of poetry—or any style you like.

#### Acrostic Poetry—

Marmots

**M**ammals of a mountain meadow

**A**lso known as Rock Chuck

**R**eady for a good long sleep in

**M**onths of fall and winter, slumbering

**O**n grass beds underground

**T**hat is so they can't be found

**S**afe from wolf, coyote and fox

#### Haiku

Japanese Haiku is a form of poetry with only three lines.

The first line contains five syllables, the second line has seven and the third line has five again.

*From a leafy screen*

*A mule deer dashes forward*

*Startled by shadow*

*An old silent pond*

*Into the pond a frog jumps*

*Splash! Silence again*

Also, in Haiku, the first two lines describe the scene and the third line expresses surprise or discovery.

**Elevator Demonstration**—Here's a great way to teach students about how wildlife might feel if we get too close. Create an "elevator" space with an open door—use masking tape on the floor.

1. Have one student be prepared to act in a somewhat "intimidating" manner and wait out of sight.
2. Have other students enter the elevator and act normal. Discuss what "normal" is.
3. Have the "intimidating" student enter and get into other students personal space in the elevator. Discuss the difference in behaviors. Usually people move away or try to get off the elevator. Emphasize that wildlife reacts the same way if we've gotten way TOO CLOSE.

## Program Mission, Goals & Standards

### Program Mission:

To increase student awareness and understanding of Montana wildlife and the need for habitat stewardship

**Goal 1:** Participating students will increase their awareness of Montana wildlife through study of their adopted species.

**Goal 2:** Participating students will increase their awareness of native habitat and how to be good stewards of the land.

**Goal 3:** Participating students will improve and utilize their science, art and writing skills to teach others about their adopted species.

### State Standards Addressed:

**Science Content Standard 3:** (1) A student must be able to demonstrate knowledge of characteristics, structures, and function of living things, the process and diversity of life, and how living organisms interact with each other and their environment.

**Writing Content Standards 1, 2, 5:** A student must be able to write clearly and effectively. A student must apply a range of skills and strategies in the writing process. Students recognize the structures of various forms and apply these characteristics to their own writing.

**Art Content Standards 1, 3:** A student must be able to create, perform/exhibit, and respond in the Arts; develop and refine art skills and techniques, ideas, pose and solve problems, and discover meaning.

**Social Studies Content Standards 1, 3:** Students will access, synthesize, and evaluate information to communicate and apply social studies knowledge to real-world situations; Students will apply geographic knowledge and skills (e.g. location, place, human/environment interactions, movement, and regions).

## Mountain Lion's Adapt . . .

### What adaptations help the mountain lion be a successful hunter?

- Long tail for balance
- Powerful hind legs for speed
- Long canine teeth for killing prey
- Sharp teeth for tearing and chewing meat
- Sharp claws for grasping prey
- Flexible spine for leaping
- Tawny coat for camouflage

### Mountain Lion Fun Facts

- Mountain lions can reach speeds up to 44 mph
- They can jump 20 ft. from a standing position
- They normally leap vertically up to 8 ft.
- They can leap horizontally 40 ft.
- They have been known to leap vertically 16 ft.
- A cougar has been witnessed jumping 12 ft. up into a tree with a deer in its mouth
- Mule deer are a primary food source for mountain lions, but they will hunt species as small as insects and rodents



**Predator**

## So do Mule Deer

### What adaptations do deer need to survive in the wild?

- Huge ears to detect danger
- Strong teeth for chewing tough plants
- Pogo stick running for covering rocky and uneven ground, and to change directions quickly
- Hooves and antlers for kicking and defending from enemies
- Short woolly hair to trap warm air and to help them stay warm
- Strong scent for recognizing each other, attracting mates, and finding lost moms and babies



**Prey**