

Spring 2011

Postcards
from the

Wild

Adopt-a-Species



Partners with Wildlife

This program is presented in partnership with the Foundation for Animals, Helena National Forest, Montana Discovery Foundation, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, and the students and teachers of nineteen area schools.

In the Classroom

Picture postcards in the U.S. began with the souvenir issues sold at the World Expo in Chicago in 1893. The hobby of postcard collecting began soon after and continued unabated until the beginning of World War I.

In the decade between 1905-1915—the Golden Age of Postcards—literally millions of postcards were printed, sold and mailed. Official USPS figures for the year ending in 1908 showed that seven hundred million postcards had been mailed in this country and this number continued to climb in the next decade.

Today we know that students have probably sent plenty of e-mails, but we would be surprised if they had sent a postcard as a way of communicating. This year's theme was challenging the students to create a **Postcard from the Wild** depicting their species in its habitat, then writing a note on the back about their species to a pen pal of their choice.

The Adopt-a-Species partners supplied the teachers with a 5 x 7" postcard template with the instructions of having students draw a picture of their species in a postcard design. They could illustrate with borders or words or where every their imaginations took them. On the back they were to write their message to a pen pal—either imaginary or real. In some cases students even created a real pen-pal relationship so more people would learn about Montana's spectacular habitat that is home to so many unique critters.

The opportunity for creativity was endless and the students did a great job of portraying their animal and educating us with their writings. They incorporated a time honored way of communicating while providing a portrait of an important aspect of life in Montana.

We hope you enjoy their creativity and read their writings so you too can learn a little more about Montana's Wildlife in **Postcards from the Wild**.



1st Place 3-5 grade category

Shaina Silvonon—Four Georgians—5th grade



2nd Place 3-5 grade category

Kaisha Gerhardt—Jim Darcy—4th grade



1st Place K-2 grade category

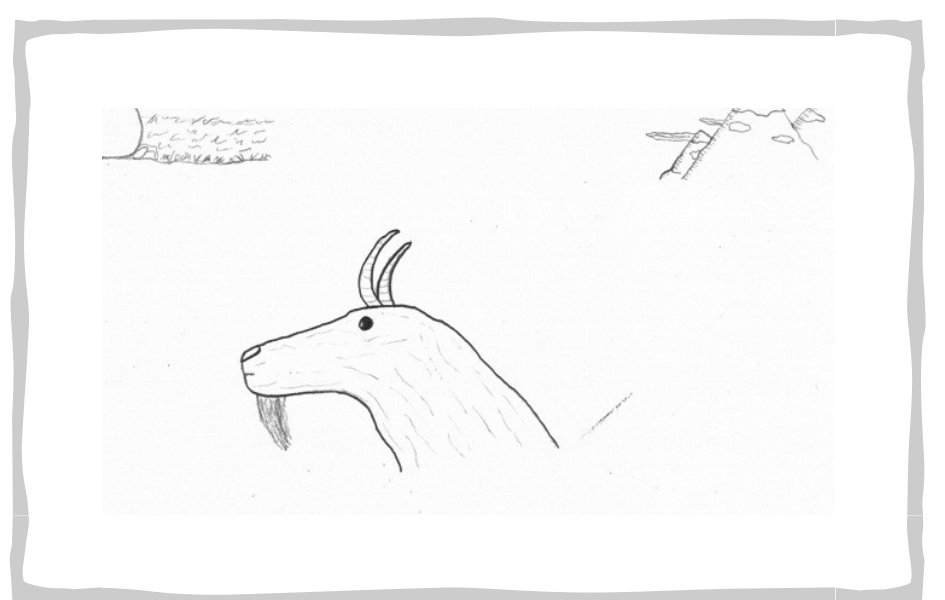
Norah White—Jim Darcy—1st grade

Dear 2nd Graders,	PLEASE PLACE STAMP HERE
Long, long ago, long ago there was land that connected the continent to the state of Alaska.	
There used to be millions and millions of bison.	
They eat grasses. The habitat is mostly on the plains where there are tall grasses. Here is some more interesting facts. The old days were different than the ones we have today. People used to kill them for nothing. That's how they nearly got extinct like dinos and wooly mammoths. Then the government made laws to protect them.	
From, Zachary	
Zachary Boles—Jim Darcy—2nd grade	



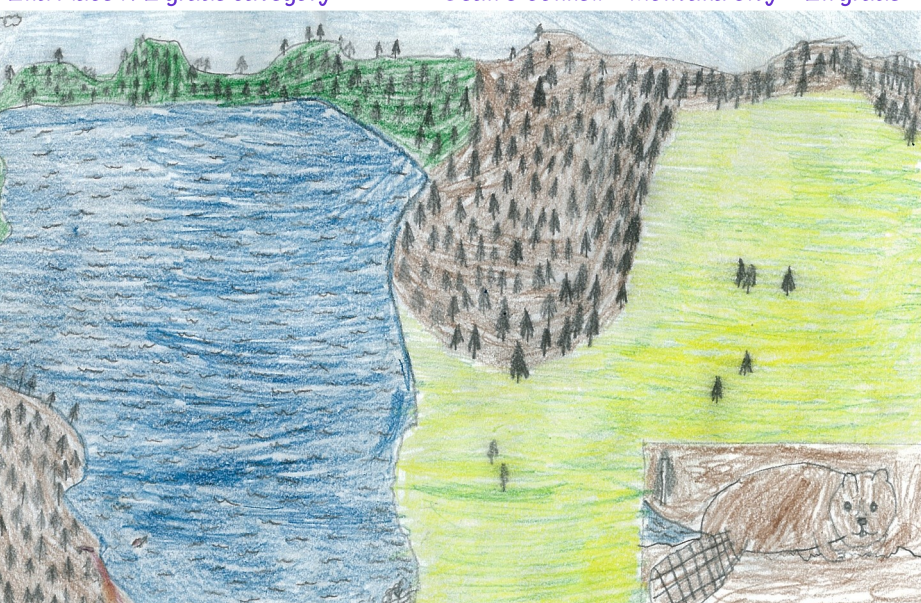
2nd Place K-2 grade category

Sean O'Connell—Montana City—2nd grade



3rd Place 3-5 grade category

Chris Bokovoy —Radley Elementary—5th grade



3rd Place K-2 grade category

Ethan Peterson—Kessler School—grade 2

Dear A.J.	PLEASE PLACE STAMP HERE
Some beavers build dams with using more than 1,000 logs. Beavers have underwater tunnels in their dams to keep them safe. Beavers also have a special lodge in their dams to keep their babies safe. Once baby beavers are two years old they need to build their own dams. Beavers live to be around 12 years old. Predators of beavers are muskrats, otters, and coyotes.	
Tom	
Tom	
Tom	

Tom Norris—Kessler School—3rd grade



Chance Cross —Warren School—4th grade

Black Bear Warren Elementary



Ryan Satterfield —Warren School—4th grade

Dear Allison,

I went hiking in camp and we saw a black bear with her cub. The cub was so cute! So when we got back this is what I learned that night. That black bears eat grasses, dandelions, blue berries, ants, bees, yellow jackets (one almost stung me), leaves, wildflowers, nuts, acorns and meat when it can get it. And that females/sows give birth in January to 2 or 3 cubs. A she weighs 300 pounds and males weighs 500 pounds.

Love, Emily

Emily Kelly —Warren Elementary—4th grade



Ashley Wade —Warren School—4th grade

Dear Joe,

You know what we've been learning in school? It's about black bears. We learned that in the middle of the second summer cubs leave their mother. And one day we went camping and we saw a bear. We learned the hard way that it can smell things far away. That was an adventure and it was a close one.

Your friend,
Quinten

Quinten Gonzalez (or Gonzo)—Warren Elementary—4th grade



Jennifer Grossman —Jim Darcy School— 4th grade



Alyvia Blotkamp —Jim Darcy School— 1st grade

Bison Jim Darcy Elementary



The buffalo is one of the biggest, roughest animals in the West. This animal can weigh up to 2 tons. WOW! The female can give birth to 1 calf. The males fight over the pretty female. You should never get in a fight with a buffalo. Once buffalo were endangered but today there's still not a lot of buffalo. If you want to see a buffalo go to Yellowstone Park.

By Kaisha

Kaisha Gerhardt Jim Darcy School— 4th grade

The bison is an amazing creature. Some males are 6 feet at the shoulder! Their tails are about 17 inches long. They like to graze on grass from the Great Plains. Mostly they live on the plains. There are not nearly as many bison roaming around in Montana and other states as there were farther back in time. This is because of a couple reasons. First, people making railroads would just hit bison. Second, the people were trying to cut off the Native Americans main source of food.

Tasha Peterson—Jim Darcy School — 4thgrade



Connor Romero—Jefferson School— 4th grade

Grizzly Bear Montana City School



Ellen Yin—Montana City School—3rd grade



Becca Madden—Montana City School—2nd grade

Dear Pen Pal,

Hi! My name is Taylor Peterson and I have some facts about the grizzly bear for you: Grizzly Bears are endangered. They cover only 2% of their old range. In 1982 children voted for their official state animal and the grizzly bear won. They way to tell the difference between a grizzly bear and a black bear is that Grizzly Bears have a hump.

Sincerely, Taylor Peterson

Taylor Peterson—Montana City School—3rd grade

Dear grandma and grandpa,

I am learning about Grizzly Bears. Grizzly bears have good sense of smell and Grizzly Bears have bad eye sight. Did you know that? They also live in the mountains and valleys.

Love you so much,
Savanna Geiszler

Our Adopted Species !

Savanna Geiszler, Montana City School— 2nd grade



Lance Gonzales—Jefferson School— 3rd grade

Dear Pen Pal,

The Osprey lives near lakes, rivers, ponds and marshes. The Osprey's favorite food is fish—particularly suckers and squawfish. The Osprey has a body length of 21-24 inches, a 5-6 foot wing span and weighs 2 1/2 to 4 1/2 pounds. Did you know that the Seattle Seahawks are named after the osprey? The osprey can lay up to 4 eggs. The osprey's life is up to 34 years.

From,
Brady Grigsby

Brady Grigsby—Jefferson School—4th grade

Osprey Jefferson School



Moose Boulder Elementary



Unidentified—Boulder Elementary—grade ?



Kaitlyn—Boulder Elementary—grade ?

Dear Pen Pal,

I'm writing to you about a moose. The moose is an awesome animal. The moose is in the deer family and is black, brown, and gold.

Your friend,
Callie

Callie—Boulder Elementary—grade ?



Miya Nettleton—Rossiter School—grade 3

Mountain Lion Rossiter School



Dear Traveler,

I'm studying the mountain lion in school.
It's favorite food is deer but it will eat anything—
from grasshoppers to moose. The mountain lion is
a very good hunter. It lives in the mountains.

Your friend,
Ryan Johnson

Ryan Johnson—Rossiter School—3rd Grade



Grace Jones—Rossiter School—3rd Grade

Dear Traveler,

Montana is a FUN state. You should come here.
It is cool here. I like the mountains with elk, deer,
bunnies, and mountain lions. We have a lot of them
We are popular for our deer and mountain lions. Our
mountain lions have very long tails. They live high in the
mountains.

Sincerely, Lane

Lane Antonick—Rossiter School.—3rd grade



Mason Greene—Four Georgians—1st grade



Kristina Gailushas—Four Georgians—1st grade



Josh Brandt—Four Georgians—5th grade

Dear Chelsia Cheetah,
Right now I think you are living the "High-life"
down in South America. My home keeps having to
be moved, due to some humans. There's very scarce
food in the winter, and I haven't seen many of my kind
lately. I can survive though. I love Montana. I had jack
rabbit but I'm still working on those ears! I found a cozy
little creek with lots of trees, many mice and squirrels
come by! Write back soon!

Your feline, Lily Lynx

Shaina Silvonon—Four Georgians—5th grade

Dear Frank,
Hi! This is an Adopt-a-Species. These animals are
called a lynx. These animals could be gone and never
be seen again. The lynx does not like to be seen,
though they are really cool animals. They also like
to eat rabbits and they also live in the mountains.
I hope you learn more.

Sincerely,
Tayeler

Tayeler Diaz—Four Georgians—5th grade

Dear Lolo the Monkey,

I've heard you're doing great. I'm doing pretty good.
I have been working on a picture of a Lynx. If you see
one, contact me. I will come to the site and take a
picture. I have figured out all of what the lynx eats. They
eat rabbits, squirrel, me. The lynx really likes the cold.
Believe it or not, I have tufts of hair coming out of my
fuzzy little ears. O, and Lolo the monkey, if you see
me— say hi! (P.S. if I ever come across you I hope I never
eat you. O and can you bring me a rabbit?)

Sincerely, The Lynx

Davis Thomas—Four Georgians—5th grade

Lynx Four Georgians School



Mountain Goat Radley School



Aubrey Irwin—Radley School—5th grade



Unidentified—Radley School—? grade



Alana Vickory—Radley School—5th grade

Adopt-a-Species Lead Teachers

Special thanks to these Adopt-a-Species Lead Teachers who help coordinate the program in their schools.

Teacher	School	Species
Janice Crawley	Boulder	Moose
Maria Unrah	Broadwater	Pine Marten
Matt Ventresca	Bryant	Gray Wolf
Katrina Chaney	Canyon Creek	Black-footed Ferret
Jill Downing	Central	River Otter
Lisa Heitt	Clancy	Bald Eagle
Helga Stimson	Four Georgians	Lynx
LeeAnn Berry	Hawthorne	Bald Eagle
Sherri Haller	Jefferson	Osprey
Shelly Sharp	Jim Darcy	Bison
Emily Hankins	Kessler	Beaver
Annette Gardner	Lincoln	Red-tailed Hawk
Jan Martineau	Montana City	Grizzly Bear
Kate Dartman	Radley	Mountain Goat
Allyson Hamill	Rossiter	Mountain Lion
Virginia Dundas	Smith	Bighorn sheep
Jennifer Anderson	Townsend	Red Fox
Sue Nyland	Warren	Black Bear
Nellene Hickel	Wolf Creek	White-tail Deer

Kate Dartman—Featured Teacher

The Adopt-a-Species partners selected Kate Dartman as our *Featured Teacher* for the year 2010-2011 because she has gone above and beyond with her commitment to the Adopt-a-Species Program. As the liaison, she relays AAS news, gets other teachers excited about the program and we have had record participation from Radley School. Here is more information about Kate and why she is dedicated to the Adopt-a-Species Program.

Kate grew up in Helena. She received a BA in Elementary Education from Carroll College and a Masters Degree in Education from MSU Northern. Her teaching career began in Forsyth, Montana. She then returned to Helena in 1984. She has been teaching and sharing her enthusiasm for education in East Helena for over 25 years and she is currently celebrating 30 years of teaching!

While growing up in Montana, her family enjoyed camping, fishing, and other outdoor activities and the family continues to cherish the Montana lifestyle.

The Adopt-a-Species program has been a wonderful fit for the classroom environment. The East Helena school community has always enthusiastically supported Adopt-a-Species. The program provides a valuable mechanism to promote adoption and instill within students the importance of habitat preservation.

(Note: Because Kate had full participation from her fellow teachers, they turned in their entries first and requested they be sent back so they could use the postcards in a pen-pal relationship. The winning art had been scanned and the postcards written up, and postcards sent back post-haste. In the meantime, there was a computer malfunction and the messages were lost. The situation was disheartening, but we very glad that, at least, the images had been saved.)



Claire Downing—Central School—2nd grade



Pilar Santos—Central School—3rd grade



Emma—Central School—grade

Dear Mom and Dad,
The river otter is very playful and active animal. They are about 3 to 4 ft. long. River otters normally live 8 to 9 years in the wild. In the zoos they can live as long as 21 years. The father is not allowed to come near the pups until they are six months old. The pups are helpless until they are six weeks old. The mother has two or three pups at once. Pup's eyes don't open until they are 5 weeks old. The river otters are carnivores. They eat crayfish, slow swimming fish, amphibians, insects, mammals and birds. I like the river otter.

Love,
Pilar

Pilar Santos—Central School—3rd grade

River Otter Central School



Red-tailed Hawk Lincoln School

Dear Mom and Dad,

This year our Adopt-a-Species is the river otter. The river otter is a sleek animal. It has smooth hair with a cream tummy. The river otter snorts to warn other otters of danger. River otters are very, very, very playful. They flip around in the water and chase each other. I like the river otter because it's active.

Love,
Greer

Greer MacDonald—Central School—3rd grade



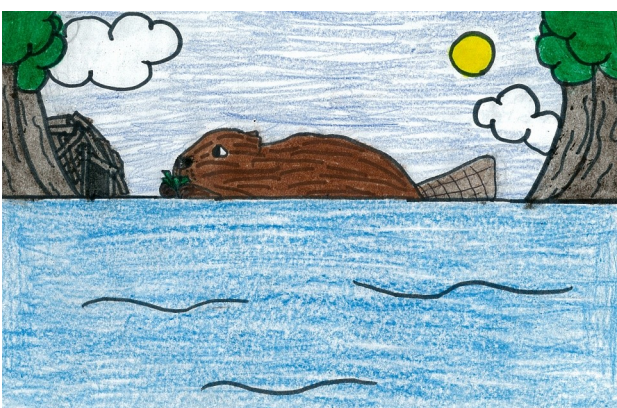
Jerilyn Dietz—Lincoln School—5th grade



Karissa Ninahuanca—Lincoln School—5th grade



Elizabeth Fuller—Lincoln School—5th grade



Emma Brandt—Kessler School—5th Grade



Catherine Burbidge—Kessler School—1st Grade



Cameren Field—Kessler School—3rd grade

Dear Pen Pal,
My name is Meghan. I go to Kessler Elementary School. Our Adopt-a-Species animal is the beaver. They live in rivers, streams, and freshwater lakes near woodlands. They are excellent swimmers and divers. Beavers have 3 eyelids on each eye. They are found in America, Canada, Asia and Europe. Beavers are the largest rodents in the world. They are such amazing mammals. They weigh from 40-95 lbs.

Yours Truly,
Meghan Logan

Meghan Logan—Kessler School—3rd grade



Meghan Logan—Kessler School—3rd Grade

Beaver Kessler School

Dear Emma,
Kessler is learning about beavers. Here is what I know: beavers can hold their breath for 15 minutes. Beavers have 20 teeth. If a beaver's tail is fat, it has a healthy environment. The beaver uses its tail to steer. Beavers are born in April. They live up to 12 years old. In the winter, they swim under the ice. Some dams are more than a thousand feet long. Beavers live at our pond. I hope you like my picture.

Love, Cameren

Cameren Field—Kessler School—3rd grade

The Partners

Foundation for Animals

The Foundation for Animals is a unique nonprofit foundation dedicated to addressing the critical needs of animals, both domestic and wild. The Foundation provides assistance to well-managed projects that promote animal welfare, prevent animal suffering, and provide improvements for animals.

The Adopt-a-Species program encourages K-5 school children to learn about wild animals and habitat needs. The Foundation for Animals has been involved with the program since inception, and has been instrumental in bringing educational films, and eco-entertainers to area students to increase their knowledge of the conservation of Montana habitat for wildlife. For more information about the Foundation for Animals, please visit our website at www.foundationforanimals.org.

Helena National Forest

Straddling the Continental Divide, the HNF is rich with natural and cultural resources. Its diverse topography and geology provides great scenery

and recreational opportunities abound.

The Forests' mountain ranges contain a wide array of plant and animal life. Native cutthroat trout and other fish species populate clear mountain lakes and streams and wildlife is found everywhere.

HNF is committed to providing quality visitor information, education and outreach to the community. As part of these efforts, HNF has been involved with the Adopt-a-Species program since inception and appreciates how current partnerships have revitalized a great education program focusing on habitat. For more information, please call 406.449.5201.

Montana Discovery Foundation

MDF is organized to provide hands-on experiences in nature that will lead people to value and promote Montana's natural resources. MDF provides free environmental education to a diverse audience.

Programs include snow school in winter months, hosted hikes and moonlight hikes

year-round and MDF provides key support for a multitude of programs in 19 area schools. This conservation education and recreational outreach engages more than 8,000 outdoor enthusiasts each year. For more information, please call 406.495.3711 or check out the website at www.montanadiscoveryfoundation.org.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, through its employees and citizen commission, provides for the stewardship of the fish, wildlife, parks and recreational resources of Montana, while contributing to the quality of life for present and future generations.

It is the belief of FWP that safe, knowledgeable, involved and responsible participants are essential for effective management and conservation of Montana's resources, and that active participation leads people to develop an interest to conserve and manage those same resources. For more information visit www.fwp.mt.gov.