

Spring 2012

Respecting Wildlife

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.

hab-i-tat (hab i tat), *n.* 1. the natural environment of an organism; place that is natural for the life and growth of an organism: *a river habitat.* 2. the place where one is usually found. 3. a special environment for living in over an extended period.

The Adopt-a-Species program, now in its 16th year, was created to increase student understanding of habitat and appreciation of the natural world. And because Montana has some of the best wildlife habitat anywhere in the U.S., students have a diverse palette to choose from to learn about and create images about their school's adopted species. The program focuses on the diversity of wildlife and health of the environment—from grassland, prairies, ponds and streams to forests and alpine tundra.

This year's theme is **Living Respectfully with Wildlife**, which comes through very clearly in the student's writing. The Adopt-a-Species program challenges students to understand that Montana has absolutely the best habitat for a variety of critters and that the collective "we" have a responsibility for keeping it that way.

So with this insert, we hope you learn a little more about living respectfully with wildlife. And understand that there will be a time and place for students, as they reach the upper levels in their education, to learn about conflicts and controversy that may arise from wildlife and land management issues. Right now, we want them to learn to appreciate the great outdoors and the natural world that makes Montana such a special place to live, work, and play. Please see the back page for more about the partners and feel free to contact any for more information about outdoor educational opportunities.



1st Place 3-5 grade

Christopher Shields—Radley School—3rd grade



2nd Place 3-5 grade

Delaney Heppner—Trinity School—5th grade



1st Place K-2 grade category

Rogan Barnwell—Broadwater—2nd grade



2nd Place K-2 grade category

Rylie Schoenfeld—Radley School—2nd grade



3rd Place 3-5 grade

Brookie Ark—Montana City School—3rd grade

Otters, otters, beautiful creatures. Angels of the water. So cute, so clever, so loving. . . They never get wet because they have fur that has magic oil on it. They work together. They live as a family. So please don't hurt them. Don't pollute their water or their food.

Now remember, they are just animals and if you leave them alone they will leave you alone. Remember what I said and you will be glad you did.

Olivia Bartsch—Montana City School—3rd grade

To live with wildlife you need to respect wildlife. To respect wildlife you need to pick up all your trash when you go camping or rowing or boating. NO EXCEPTIONS! You also need to stay a good distance away from the otter or other animals. Don't forget—do not touch any wild animal or else you or the animal might get a disease or the animal might get sick. That's how you respect wildlife.

Parker Virts—Montana City School—3rd grade

Spectacular Eagles

Eagles are soaring high in the sky.
You know it's an eaglet when you hear a cry.
Eagles are very good masters of flight.
They like it by streams and in bright light.
They make their nests big and bold.
They are like giants so behold.
The masters of the sky and flight.
And so look in the light and to your delight
they are very large.
They are very majestic.
They do not hold back.
They will attack.
So look don't touch.

Connor Rigby—Radley School—4th grade



3rd Place K-2 grade category

Erron Simpson—Montana City School—2nd grade



Bridger Nunn —Townsend School—2nd grade

Grizzly bears and black bears are the same in many ways. Grizzly bears and black bears have cubs. They both have fur. They both eat a lot in the fall to get fat for hibernation.

Grizzly bears and black bears are different in many ways. Grizzly bears don't climb trees but black bears do climb trees. Grizzly bears have a hump on their back but black bears just have a flat back. Grizzly bears have long and curved claws but black bears have shorter claws.

Zoey Wickens —Townsend School—2nd grade



Zoey Wickens —Townsend School—2nd grade



Jessica Wilson —Jefferson School—4th grade



Wynter Michiels —Jefferson School—4th grade



Alexis Johnson —Jefferson School—4th grade

Bears Love Nature
Bears live in the forest. They like to be by a stream so they can catch fish. They love the trees so they can scratch their backs against the rough bark. They love their dens. It keeps them warm. I know you love to hike, but there are bears out there so be alert.

Jonathan Schoof—Jefferson School— 4th grade

*For if one link in nature's chain might be lost,
another might be lost until the whole of things
will vanish piecemeal.*

Thomas Jefferson

Grizzlies may look funner than summer.
They are afraid and don't want to play.
Why can't we learn to share
the forest with the bears?
Bears live in the mountains and are omnivores.
If we don't treat them with care
there won't be any bears.
If the Grizzly bears aren't here in the summer,
that would be a bummer.

Grayson Bonilla —Jefferson School—4th grade



Tyson Carpenter—Broadwater School—3rd grade



Greysen S—Clancy Elementary—3rd grade



Hali Flanders—Clancy Elementary—3rd grade

Let the Pine Marten live in peace.

The Pine Martens live in the forests. They're fast and sneaky animals. Also they have bushy tails. Their habitat is green and peaceful. They live in lodges. Also they steal bird eggs. They wrestle each other. Their ears are straight up when scared. If you had a race with the Pine Marten you would not outrun it. If you are in the forest and see a fast motion with a bushy tail it's probably a Pine Marten. They can climb head first down a tree. Cats can't do that or can they?

They're amazing animals once you get to know about them. You'll be amazed how magnificent they are. They have small ears but can hear [sounds] many miles away from where they are. Never try to kill them. They should live in peace, not in harm. Most of the damage is from us. We're in their home—they aren't in ours.

Lauren—Clancy Elementary—3rd grade



Hailey Steeger—Clancy Elementary—3rd grade

Pine Martens are related to weasels. They have long, fluffy tails. They are small with a pale buff, golden brown, or reddish, yellowish chest. They are mammals. They weigh about 2 lbs. Pine Martens are also excellent climbers. Pine Martens are listed as threatened in some areas.

We can save the Pine Marten's habitat by not littering because they could get cut on cans. We also shouldn't take a baby even though the mom sometimes isn't there. We also shouldn't dig around in a Pine Marten's nest. That can upset them and the parents might not come back to their babies.

Amanda Klein—Clancy Elementary—3rd grade



Grayce Wilkins—Four Georgians—1st grade



Drew Briggs—Central School—4th grade



April Thompson—Kessler School—2nd grade



Ryan Brandt—Four Georgians—1st grade

Helping the Red-tailed Hawk Habitat
Helping the red tailed hawk is easy. If you see one leave it alone. If you are taking a hike and you see a red-tailed hawk just take another path. And don't take pictures, yell, or run at it. It could be frightened and fly away and if he's really scared it could leave or not have babies. Another way to help red tailed hawks is planting a tall tree, it will give them more places to make their nest. Red-tailed hawks are one of my favorite animals. It will be hard for me to remember them if they're extinct.

Drew Briggs—Central School—4th grade



Ethan Fife—Kessler School—2nd grade



Tanner Tangen—Rossiter School—3rd grade



Jillian Kaufman—Rossiter School—3rd grade



Haley Jose—Rossiter School—3rd grade

Partner's Note

We were impressed with the effort that went into the beaver's artwork—the teacher allowed (messy) mixed media (toothpicks, plaster, water colors), which is great for getting students to really think about their species habitat creatively. Great job Rossiter!

Beavers build lodges to keep warm in the winter. The beavers build dams across rivers so they can get across from side to side instead of swimming. Some people damage their homes.

They have warning signals to keep their family safe. Beavers build their lodges so that not even a bear can get in. They have a refrigerator under their lodges because in winter the water gets frozen so they can just swim to get food from their refrigerator and go to their lodge and eat.

Tasha Pearson—Rossiter School—3rd grade

Beavers

Beavers are very spectacular animals. We should help their habitat. We should be kind to them. If I put a lot of effort into a snowman or a snow fort I don't want anybody to wreck it. But it normally happens. And it is the same with beaver lodges. It is not a good feeling when somebody messes with your work.

And just think if somebody wrecked your home? To protect beavers habitat, when you see a lodge just don't go near it. That would really help. You should always treat beavers the way you would like to be treated.

Preslie Smith—Rossiter School—3rd grade



Emily Hagengruber—Radley Elementary—3rd grade

How could you live respectfully with Bald Eagles:

First you can be quiet for the bald eagles. Next you can tell someone who is good with animals to help you if you see a bald eagle that is hurt and they can help.

You can also help them by putting poles up so they won't get shocked on the power poles. And since they like fish we can release the fish we have caught when we go fishing.

In conclusion, these are marvelous birds and we want to help keep them safe.

Emily Hagengruber—Radley Elementary—3rd grade



Maddy Lee—Radley Elementary—3rd grade



Maria Martinez—Radley Elementary—5th grade



Sealey Raymond—Radley Elementary—5th grade



Grace Jones—Radley Elementary—4th grade

Living with Bald Eagles Respectfully.

There are many amazing things to learn about Bald Eagles. So we as a community need to make sure the environment is safe for Bald Eagles and other animals.

We should stay away from an eagle's nest. Because if we don't then our scent will get by or on the nest and the mother will never come back.

Don't leave a fire burning. It could cause a forest fire and could burn down the trees. And it will get very smoky and it will be hard for animals and maybe people to breath. Don't leave trash out. Eagles could get their necks caught in the trash. If you leave trash it could be poisonous to them. I think bald eagles are amazing.

Cassie Smith—Radley Elementary—3rd grade



Brynn Bender—Radley Elementary—3rd grade

There are many ways to live respectfully with the bald eagle. First, stay on the trails. When I go hiking I stay on the trails. The signs say stay on the trails. Second, don't throw things at trees. People throw rocks at trees and sand walls with holes. Baby birds are in the holes. Third, build far away from eagle nests. If you build too close you might cut down trees with nests. Nests need to be kept safe. Eagles are valuable birds and we should always respect our national bird.

Raina Shaw—Radley Elementary—3rd grade

Partner's Note

Radley Elementary in East Helena provided a plethora of submissions from a wide range of classes so we received a lot of great art and writing that couldn't be overlooked. We hope you like learning about and admiring the Bald Eagles these East Helena students have created and written about.



Alannah Springer—Radley Elementary—5th grade



Katherine Buchanan—Radley Elementary—5th grade

How can you be respectful to your species?

We are nice to the species by recycling and not littering. Keep your distance so you don't get hurt and so the animal doesn't get hurt either. Try to car pool, walk or ride your bike so you don't pollute the air as much. Try not to use plastic bottles when you can reuse water bottles. Use a sail or paddle boat. It won't hit a fish so it won't kill the fish so the bald eagle can eat the fish.

Try not to waste an animal if you aren't going to eat it. It's a waste of meat. Try not to cut down trees if you aren't going to use it for anything. It's a waste of trees. We can save wildlife if we don't cut down trees.

The bald eagle is a species that were almost extinct but they aren't anymore because we can't hunt them. Please don't hurt our species anymore.

Tosha Tuper—Radley Elementary—5th grade

We need to protect the bald eagles. They are our national bird. Even though they have been taken off the endangered species list we need to protect them so they don't become endangered again.

First, we can watch bald eagles from a safe distance away. For an example you can stay in designated wildlife watching areas or on designated trails. Also, if the place that your are at doesn't have designated areas or trails and you see an eagle stay away. Leave the eagle in peace. Next, be careful what kind of bug killer or poison you use. If a bug eats poison and then an eagle eats the bug, the eagle will be eating a poisoned bug. This will cause the eagle to be poisoned and possibly die. The bald eagles are still threatened in most of the US. That's why we still need to protect them. Now that you know ways to protect the bald eagles you can tell others and raise awareness for them.

Megan Cuddy—Radley Elementary—5th grade



Tuck Clark—Radley Elementary—5th grade



Aelish Barrs—Hawthorne School—1st grade

Mountain Lion

big furry
pouncing eating jumping
their names are Cougar, Puma, Panther, and Catamount.
purring creeping crawling
tan intelligent
Mountain Lion

Ella—Hawthorne School—1st grade

Blackfooted Ferret

Be careful around them
Leave them alone
Act calm
Care for their habitat
Keep homes safe
Follow signs
Owning a ferret is wrong
Our home is their home so don't poison
Treat their habitat how you want to be treated
Each person who touches a ferret leaves a scent so don't touch
Don't litter

Ferrets eat prairie dogs so don't feed them human food
Every ferret eats prairie dogs
Respect their habitat
Respect their space
Everybody should not touch ferrets
Treat them with care!

Kelly Nance—Boulder Elementary—3rd grade



Meadow Grace—Boulder Elementary—3rd grade

People can live successfully with black footed ferrets if we protect their habitat. Don't kill a lot of prairie dogs because black footed ferrets eat them. Never shoot a black footed ferret or else the number of them will go down. Do not take one out of the wild for a pet. Don't ever try to handle a black footed ferret. Leave them alone. Help save their species.

Ethan Smartnick—Boulder Elementary—4th grade



Megan McCauley—Jim Darcy Elementary—3rd grade

To me living with wildlife means to live respectfully with earth's nature. You should never touch wildlife because it could get you or that animal hurt. You should be quiet around animals because you could wake up their young. And that is what you need to know about living with wildlife.

Audrey Hofer—Jim Darcy Elementary—3rd grade



Nikki Backeberg—Jim Darcy Elementary—2nd grade



Steen Driesson—Jim Darcy Elementary—3rd grade

Living with wildlife means to be quiet around wild animals. It means put out your campfire when you're done camping because if you don't put out your campfire it will burn down the forest.

Living with wildlife means don't try to harm animals or try to bring them home. Living with wildlife means don't touch eggs or babies. If I touched a baby, I think the baby would say, "Please don't take me home, this is where I belong."

Don't disturb the animals while they're eating because the animal could attack you or they'll just walk away.

So just remember to not harm wildlife.

Mike Fitzwater—Jim Darcy Elementary—3rd grade

Wildlife can be cool but we need to learn how to treat animals nicely. How would you like it if somebody saw you and started to throw rocks at you? Or if somebody came up to your house and cut it down? Or if you were sleeping and somebody just started to yell at you for no reason? So if you don't want it to happen to you, then don't do it to animals. Please live respectfully with our wildlife.

Trent McMaster—Jim Darcy Elementary—3rd grade



Alyssa Wilson—Warren Elementary—4th grade

Lynx Rap Song

My name is lynx
I'm like a cat
I hunt by day
Unlike a bat
I eat food like
Squirrels and mice
Voles and grouse
Because they're so nice.
My colors they are
gray and brown
I like these colors
cause they are so down
I got big feet
Cause I like to climb
I climb so high
I run out of time
I live in the forest
With trees so big
Bushes so dense
I got to dig
When food is scarce
I swim and fish
unlike my cousins
who eat from a dish
I love my babies
They are so small
If I don't protect them
My enemies'll eat them all.

Alyssa Wilson—Warren Elementary—4th grade

Dear Sis,

I think that I could get along with a Lynx or any other kind of wild life. I would never feed wild animals because if any animal(s) think you're always going to feed them and you stop feeding them then they will die because they will forget how to hunt for their own food. If you go camping pack up all your food, coolers, and all of your other items.

Nobody should ever try to disturb nature or any other kind of wildlife. I will always keep my distance from all animals. I will not ever try to destroy anything in nature. I would never cut down trees, destroy any animals homes (such as trees, holes, dens, caves, or logs even).
Love, your sis,

Haley

Haley Schmitt—Warren Elementary—4th grade



Haley Schmitt—Warren Elementary—4th 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.