

Spring 2018

Adopt a Species

Increasing understanding of Montana's wildlife and habitat



Public Lands are Important for People and Wildlife

Why do we live in Montana? Polls show that the ability to get outside and enjoy fresh air, wild country, wildlife and clean water is the number one reason people choose to live here.

Our public lands provide all of those opportunities. A recent poll found that 96% of Montanans reported visiting public lands—with more than 43% visiting more than 20 times in a year.

Public lands are particularly important for Montana's wildlife. With ample food, water, shelter and space—a healthy habitat—public lands provide safe haven to all species of Montana wildlife.

There is a need to appreciate our public land access because it didn't come easily. Our national forests were some of the first set aside by President Theodore Roosevelt over a century ago. It took decades of effort to protect wild areas and other recreational lands. Our best-in-the-nation stream access was also the result of decades of legislative effort. We are reaping the benefits of previous generations, who fought to keep our public lands accessible for all, to provide healthy places to live for both Montana citizens and our state's precious wildlife.

Our direction for the art contest this year, was to have students think about their favorite public lands and how their species fits into this landscape. They could choose from a national, state or local park, forest or waterway—any place that belongs to all of us—possibly with an inclusion of a sign or symbol that marks the agency responsible for management. For older students we requested essays about their favorite place on public lands. On these pages you will see how students portrayed in both art and writing why public lands are important to them and their wildlife species.

(poll cited in 2016 publication of Montana Wildlife Federation)



Jamie Fessenden, 6th grade, Montana City School



Rori Schoenfeld, 4th grade, Radley Elementary

Public Lands

My favorite place to go is the Smith River. I enjoy looking at the Indian writing and floating the river. I also like to hunt on public land. I like looking at the osprey in their nests that are on poles.

Writing by: Walker Bishop, 3rd grade, Radley Elementary



Brydger Golie, 2nd grade, Wolf Creek Elementary



Joleah Parker, 5th grade, Broadwater Elementary



Kamryn Beckworth, 1st grade, Jefferson School



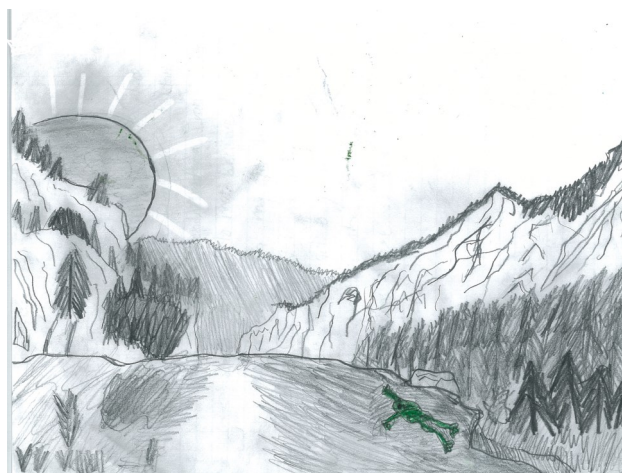
Milena Villalva, 2nd grade, Montana City School

AMPHIBIANS



Mary Irby, 3rd grade, Jim Darcy Elementary

My favorite public lands are Missouri River, Spring Meadow and Gates of the Mountains. The species fits in because the last time I went there during the summer I saw a tiny snake that blended in with the path and I didn't see it—I almost stepped on it. Amphibians and reptiles are our species. *Writing by:* Scotland Brown, 4th grade Jim Darcy Elementary



I think having public lands is important for our society. My favorite place on public land is Iron Mask—a hunting ground above Townsend, Montana. Iron Mask is important to me because I like hunting with my step-dad. Iron Mask is important to our adopted species because they get to go wherever they want in the area and there are streams there so they can get water.

Writing and art by: Thomas, 4th grade, Jim Darcy Elementary



Park Lake is a place that is open to anyone, but it is especially special to me because my family went there during the summer so the frogs had just hatched. I also like Park Lake because we can kayak and there is a campground near by. You could not do these things at a private lake. This is important to our adopted species because this is home to many frogs and our adopted species are Montana amphibians and reptiles. I chose the frog because they are unique and interesting.

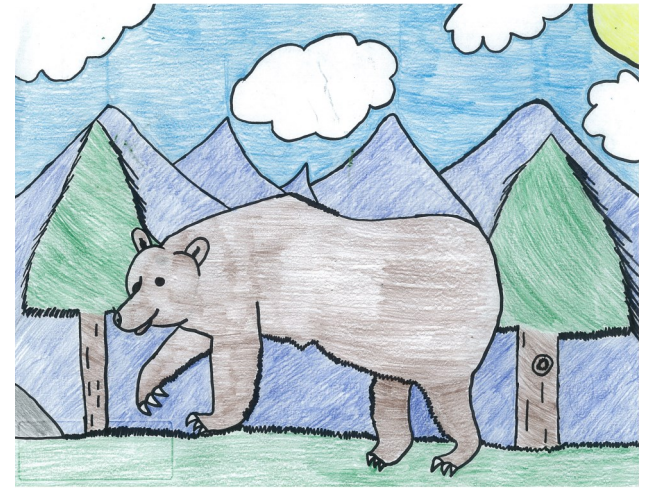
Writing and art by: Hazel, 4th grade, Jim Darcy Elementary



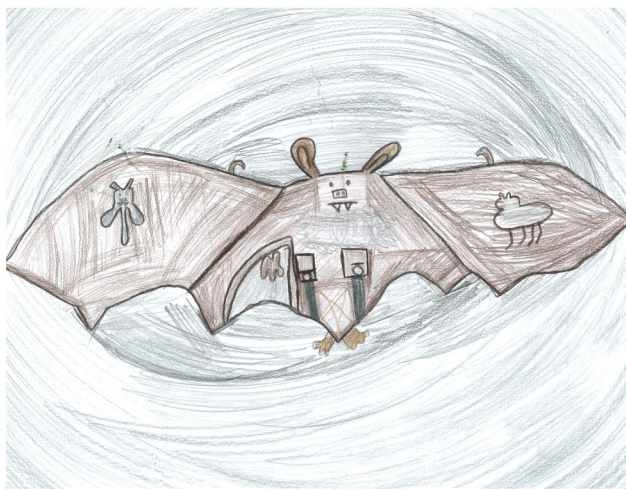
Abby Einspahr, 4th grade, Wolf Creek Ele.



Maddy Schritz, 5th grade, Townsend School



Aspen Slyker, 4th grade, Townsend School



Bradley Klipfel, 5th grade, Wolf Creek Ele.



Max Wickens, 2nd grade, Townsend

The Northern Cascades are part of the Grizzly bear's habitat. There is lots of food. Berries, moose, elk, grass, moss and possibly shellfish. There are lots and lots of bears in Glacier National Park. Lots of food, too. The animals there are well raised by their parents so it means higher populations of Grizzly bears. On the east side of Glacier all the bears stay in lowlands of aspen groves and meadows. Bears only come to high land to hibernate. Grizzly bears can be dangerous of course but not always. Grizzly bears are aggressive hunters too, they will even take other grizzly bear's food! If there is any weird things going on in your neighborhood check for these signs. Knocked over garbage, claw marks on sheds and ripped locks. Grizzly bears are a huge threat to cattle. Grizzly bears have a menu on cattle. Grizzly bears are cool because of their habitat and because of how they act. What do you think of Grizzly bears?

Writing by: Alexis Fryer, 2nd grade, Townsend School.



Barrett MacDonald, 3rd grade, Townsend



Kyndal Sell, 1st grade, Eastgate Elementary



Bailey, 1st grade, Eastgate Elementary



Dasha Rogge, 3rd grade, Bryant School



Madison Ann, 3rd grade, Bryant School

Humans and Beavers Sharing Public Lands

Canyon Ferry Lake is public land in Montana. My family and I like going to Canyon Ferry Lake. We can play on land. We can swim out real far and swim down deep and find rocks.

Why is this area good for beavers? It has lots of mud. It has lots of land and trees. The water is deep so beavers can swim under and hide from predators.

Beaver have adaptations that help them survive. A long tail that helps them swim fast. They have sharp teeth that help cut willow trees down. They also have warm fur to keep warm in winter.

Take care of public land so people and beavers can use the lake. And to keep beavers and other animals safe.

Writing by: Marlee Blake, 3rd grade, Bryant

Beavers and Humans Sharing Public Lands

Sun River is my favorite public land area in Montana. I enjoy going to Sun River because it's beautiful and I like rafting and fishing there.

Humans are not the only ones who enjoy Sun River. This place is a clean, healthy river where beavers live. There are a lot of sticks to build their dams. What's good is that people "bearley" disturb the beavers.

Beavers have long teeth because they allow beavers to cut trees for their dams. Thick and oily fur helps them keep their bodies warm and dry. The cool thing is the beavers can escape bears by going under water.

Writing by: Trinity Love, 3rd grade, Bryant



Payton Elyse Robles, 2nd grade, Smith School



☞ Bailey Rose Storm, 2nd grade, Smith School

HAPPY
Earth Day



Iris McLaine, 1st grade, Hawthorne Ele.



Braydon Bullock, 3rd grade, Hawthorne Ele.



June Forsyth, 4th grade, Hawthorne Ele.



Leah Thomas, 4th grade, Trinity School



Dimitri Hylton, 4th grade, Trinity School



Katerina Routzahn, 4th grade, Broadwater School



Ada Johnson, 2nd grade, Boulder Elementary



Saphirah Rowe, 4th grade, Boulder Elementary



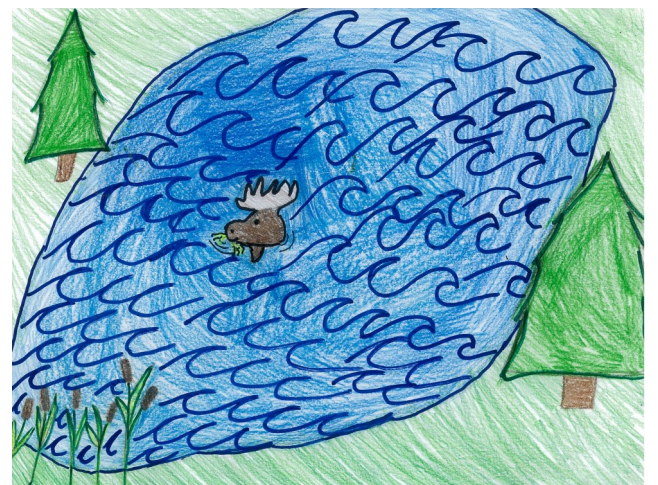
Emma Veach, 3rd grade, Broadwater School



Archer Talia, 1st grade, Four Georgians



Deagan Solan, 3rd grade, Four Georgians



Peyton Skinner, 4th grade, Four Georgians

"There would be very little point in my exhausting myself and other conservationists themselves in trying to protect animals and habitats if we weren't at the same time raising young people to be better stewards."
» Jane Goodall



Peyton Stearns, 3rd grade, Clancy Elementary



Hagen Paddock-Francisco, 4th grade, Central



Caoimhe Gallagher, 5th Grade, Central



Mya Smith, 3rd grade, Clancy Elementary



Paityn Pfister, 3rd grade, Rossiter Elementary



Macy Gamble, 3rd grade, Rossiter Elementary



Birdie Heuser, 5th grade, Central Elementary



Josie Oxarart, 2nd grade, Montana City



Rebecca Wheelock, 5th grade, Montana City

WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY, May 5th Helena Regulating Reservoir— 9 am to 1 pm



Zoey Simono, 2nd grade, Radley Elementary



Myles Westerhold, 3rd grade, Radley Ele.



Hailey Yonnkin, 3rd grade, Radley Elementary

Ospreys

The osprey is a bird that goes under water then gets a fish. Then the osprey brings it back to the nest and feeds its young. Once their babies get older they do the same thing—it is kinda like a cycle.

My favorite public place is Spring Meadow because you swim there and there are O.S.P.R.E.Y.S! And you can fish there too! But you can walk there too. And that's why I love Spring Meadow!

Writing by: Gracie Hall, 3rd grade, Radley Elementary



Leila, 4th grade, Radley Elementary

Our Public Lands Are Important

Ospreys hunt for fish. They dash through the water to grab the fish out of the water. They can live in a national forest and state parks. They usually live by lakes, ponds and rivers.

Writing by: Justin Katsilas, 3rd grade, Radley

Rivers

My favorite place on public land is rivers. I like rivers because I like to fish on them with my family. I think rivers are important to our adopted species because the water keeps them moist, give them food and there are lots of homes there for them. Writing by: Taylor Lay, 4th grade, Jim Darcy Elementary



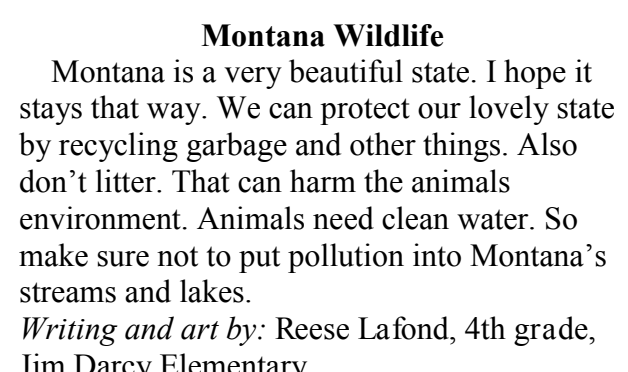
Caleb Queen, 5th grade, Radley Elementary



Faith Howard, 5th grade, Radley Elementary



Payton Nordahl, 2nd grade, Warren Elementary



Montana Wildlife

Montana is a very beautiful state. I hope it stays that way. We can protect our lovely state by recycling garbage and other things. Also don't litter. That can harm the animals environment. Animals need clean water. So make sure not to put pollution into Montana's streams and lakes.

Writing and art by: Reese Lafond, 4th grade, Jim Darcy Elementary



Katelyn Gonzalez, 5th grade, Warren Elementary



Maria Lee, 1st grade, Jefferson Elementary



Eliza Loveland, 3rd grade, Jefferson Elementary



Carson Kyle, 3rd grade, Jefferson Elementary

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-Lewis & Clark National Forest

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

The Forest's 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.

HLCNF is committed to providing quality visitor information, education and outreach to the community. As part of these efforts, HLCNF 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

The Montana Discovery Foundation is a nonprofit that provides hands-on experiences in nature, working to get kids and adults outside, improve wildlife habitat and watershed health, promote responsible recreation, and interpret nature for students of all ages.

MDF provides free environmental education to diverse audiences. Through a multitude of programs in 19 area schools, guided hikes and events year-round, MDF hopes to lead people to value and promote Montana's natural resources. 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 go to www.fwp.mt.gov or visit Montana WILD, FWP's premier education center, located at 2668 Broadwater Ave (south side of Spring Meadow Lake State Park). MT WILD provides conservation education and outdoor recreation opportunities for both youth and adults. It also houses an interpretive visitor center with fish and wildlife displays designed to increase the knowledge of visitors of all ages!