

Spring 2019

Adopt a Species

Increasing understanding of Montana's wildlife and habitat



We are "RAVIN"

We usually don't go around bragging, but this year we have something to "rave" about. The Adopt-a-Species program has been in existence for over 20 years.

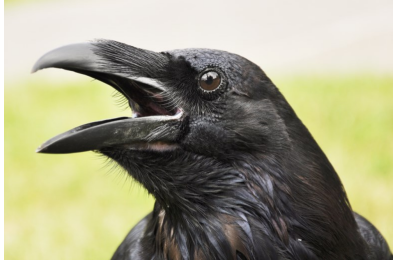
The partners of the **Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest, Foundation for Animals, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks** and the **Montana Discovery Foundation** joined together long ago and have been delivering the message of healthy habitat for Montana wildlife all these many years.

We initially started out in thirteen area schools, and this year we have reached twenty-one schools. The message and mission has not changed along the way. We want students to know about the wondrous wildlife we have in Montana and what we can do to help provide the healthy habitat that is needed for survival.

And we are "ravin" about **Adopt-a-Species teachers!** We want to give a shout out to all of the teachers who participate and the enthusiasm they share in reaching students with such an important message for Montana's wildlife.

This year's art contest gave students the direction for researching and discovering the time of year their species is born and what their first year or two of life is like. The goal was to have students come to understand the things wildlife need to develop into a mature animal, the great odds they overcome to survive into adulthood, and what humans can do to assist in this endeavor.

Let them grow up wild.



Rori Schoenfeld, 5th grade, Radley Elementary

Wolverine

Wolverine kits stay close to their mom for 9-10 weeks and then learn to hunt by age 2. Until then, they may move from den to den to stay safe from predators. The female wolverine has one litter every two or three years. She digs a den with tunnels in a snow drift that is near a piles of rocks. After a gestation period of nearly 2 months, the female wolverine gives birth to a small litter of baby wolverines (known as kits) usually 2 or 3 kits are born.

Sara Dearing, 3rd grade, Radley Elementary



Sylar Pasma, 2nd grade, Smith School



Alayna Morgan, 3rd grade, Rossiter Elementary



Finna Needham, 2nd grade, Kessler Elementary

The Chase

The bison calves ran the predator was chasing mother came to help.

Keegan Terrio-Sparling, 3rd grade, Rossiter Elementary



Lauren Gunderson, 3rd grade, Jim Darcy Elementary

Osprey Facts

Our adopted species is osprey. Osprey are amazing because of their appearance. They are brown black and with very fuzzy feathers. Another amazing thing about osprey is their young. Their young is only one color and that color is gray. The osprey feed their babies fish which is what osprey eat. To get that food the osprey dive into water to get fish. Our adopted species is amazing, right?

Chloe McMurry, Jim Darcy, 3rd grade



Clay Thompson, Kindergarten, Wolf Creek School



Lyla Wood, 3rd grade, Central Elementary

Beaver

There are many amazing facts about beavers. Beavers have orange teeth for eating wood and webbed feet for swimming. They have large flat tails for sending messages to other beavers. They have water proof fur so they can stay warm. Beavers live in lodges and they build them with sticks and mud. Beavers are mammals so they give birth to kits that drink milk. When the kits turn two years old they leave the lodge. Beavers like to eat twigs, leaves and grass. They build the lodge so they have an entrance under the water. As you can see, beavers are amazing animals.

Lyla Wood, 3rd grade, Central School



Ciana Williams, 3rd grade, Central

Amazing Facts About Beavers

They eat twigs and grass. They have orange teeth and webbed feet and a large flat tail and water-proof fur. They live in lodges they build them with sticks and mud. Their entrance is under water and they have a chimney. Their babies drink milk and they leave the lodge at age two and they are called kits. In conclusion, beavers are a very unique animals

Margherita, Central School



Tim, Central Elementary



Josie Donnafield, 2nd grade, Kessler Elem.



Kylie Casey, 3rd grade, Rossiter



Harlow Anderson, 3rd grade, Rossiter



Memphis Stockdale, 3rd grade, Rossiter

Bison Babies

Out on the prairie
Bison calves play together
mother chews on grass
Amalia Kurvink, Rossiter 3rd grade



Braden Erickson, 1st grade, Prickly Pear Ele.



Milanni Minelli, 1st grade, Prickly Pear Ele.



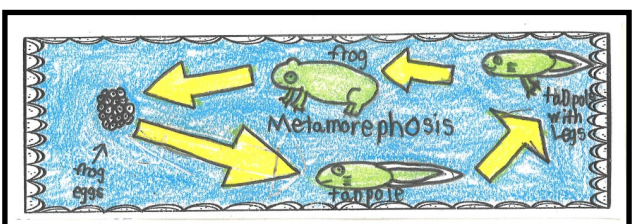
Emma Taylor, 2nd grade, Prickly Pear Ele.



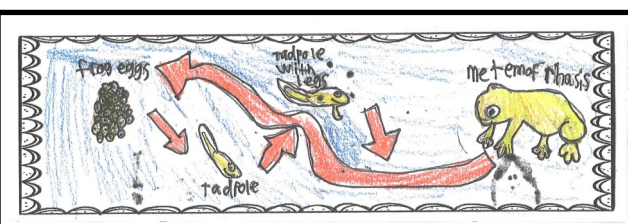
Tate Cullen, 2nd grade, Smith School



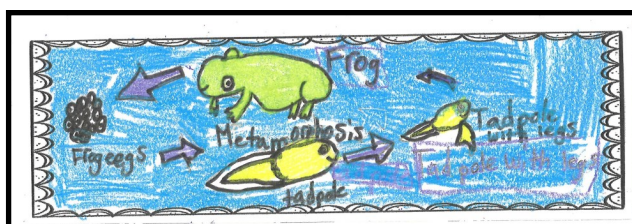
Ayla Duncan, 2nd grade, Smith School



Arlo Bullock, 3rd grade, Hawthorne Elem.



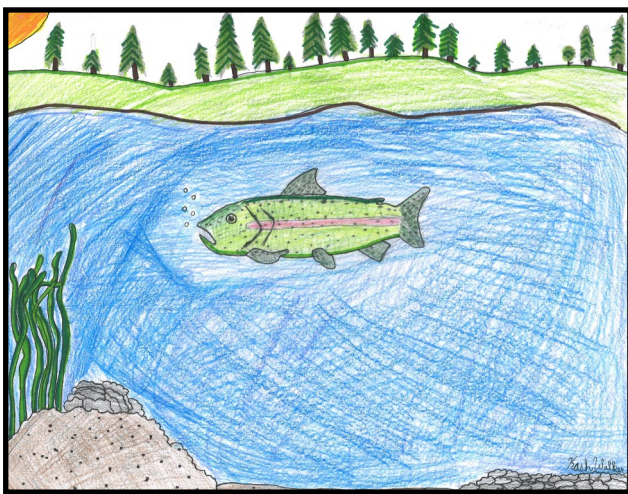
Hailey James, 2nd grade, Hawthorne Elem.



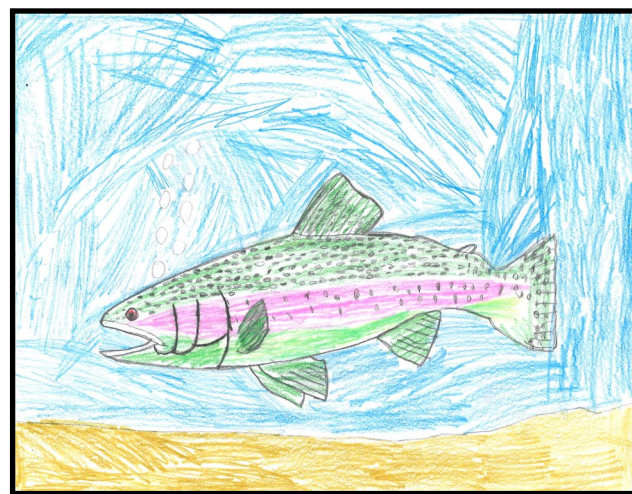
Rylee Stewart, 2nd grade, Hawthorne Elem.



Cecelia Genger, 3rd grade, Montana City



Kash Walker, 4th grade, Montana City School



Rhet Carsten, 3rd grade, Montana City School



Natalee Tiensvold, 1st grade, Warren Elem.



Danica 3rd grade, Warren Elementary



Grace, Upper Montessori, Central Elementary

Red Fox

First, I will tell you what it looks like. The red foxes' fur color can be red-orange, silver, black, red, and reddish-brown. They are in the dog-like family. They weigh 10 to 15 pounds. Females are 2 feet tall and males are 3 feet tall. Their tail helps them balance and the tip of their tail is white. A red fox's fur is thick in the winter and thin in the summer.

Next I will tell you about their habitat. They are found in Canada, United States, Europe, and Asia. They live in the forests, desserts, grasslands, fields, woods, farms, towns and dens.

Now I will tell you about their diet. Red fox are omnivores so they eat plants and meat. The plants they eat are grass, fruit, nuts, and other plants. For meat they eat birds like ravens, they also eat rabbits. Red fox eat mice, rates, insects, and worms, too. When they get the chance to, they eat garbage.

Now let me tell you about their pups/kits. Pups/kits are in their den for 5 weeks and their fur is usually black.

Last, I will tell you about their predators. Their predators are humans, bears, wolves, and eagles. Scientists have figured out a lot about red fox.

Sharlise Hill, Warren Elementary

Red Foxes

Vulpes-Vulpes is the scientific name of the red fox.

Did you know red fox is the largest fox. A male is 3 feet tall. Females are 2 feet tall. They have bushy tails that cover 30% of their body. They have pretty coats like red, orange, and sometimes brown. Red fox can adapt to many different environments. They can live in forests, grasslands, mountains, and deserts. There is a habitat in an environment like the desert for example. The desert is very hot usually.

They can eat a lot of different foods! They eat spiders, worms, and bugs. That is gross!!! They also eat rodents like squirrels and rabbits. Red fox eat berries like blueberries and strawberries. They even eat garbage!!

I think baby red fox are cute. Baby fox are called pups or kits. Red fox can have 6 to 12 kits. They have a gray coat and drink milk from their mom. When the pups 3 weeks old they will start playing with their siblings. When the kits are 5 weeks old, they will explore away from the den.

Red foxes are predators and prey. Their predators are big cats like panthers, bob cats, and lynx. Also coyotes and wolves.

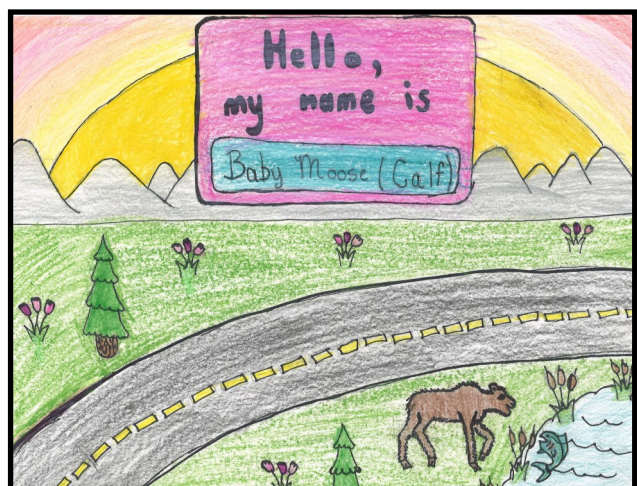
Red foxes are interesting to learn about. Bella Murolo, Warren School Elem.



Althea Culbreth, 2nd grade, Townsend School



Kyla Meissner, 4th grade, Townsend School



Kaitlyn Noyes, 5th grade, Townsend School

Moose

I am going to talk about the moose's habitat. One things is that they eat aquatic plants like birch bark, dogwood, pine cones and water lilies. They can eat up to 70 pounds of food. Another thing I learned about is the geographic region (where they live) like Asia, USA, Europe, South American and Canada.

And now predators—like people, ticks, bears and wolves.

Now for fun facts. I will tell you about physical characteristics like the bell which is the skin on its neck and huge paddle-like antlers. Moose can live for 20 years. Moose can hold their breath for a minute. I hope you had fun learning about moose's habitat and facts.

Althea, Townsend School



Bryleigh Erickson, 4th grade, Townsend



Zach Kaiser, 4th grade, 4 Georgians



Brydger Golie, 3rd grade, Wolf Creek School



Daniel Ninahuanca, 5th grade, Wolf Creek

Mountain Lion Cubs

Mother mountain lions teach their cubs to attack meat she brings home. The cubs learn to be quiet and stealthy hunters. The cubs can climb trees making it easy to pounce on their moving prey. They sharpen their claws on trees. The cubs can swim well so they can get things from the water.

Bradley Klipfel, 6th grade, Wolf Creek School



Mary Irby, 4th grade, Jim Darcy

Facts About Osprey

Our adopted species are Osprey. First we will talk about its appearance. First of all an Osprey has some cool brown, black, and white feathers. Another cool thing about an Osprey is that they have a black beak. The next thing we will talk about is its food. First of all about its food is it loves fish. It dives for fish in shallow parts of the water because it can only dive three feet deep in the water.

Next we will talk about their habitat. They usually live near rivers and lakes but sometimes they live near bays. They make their nests out of bones, sticks, and seaweed.

Last of all we will talk about their young. The babies hatch from eggs and their first flight is either in 51 or 54 days after they hatch. Now we come to the last fact about osprey the parents teach the babies survival skills. We need to protect Osprey.

Rees Sonsteng, 3rd grade, Jim Darcy School



Cammie, 1st grade, Jim Darcy Elementary

Amazing Osprey
Ospreys come in all different shapes and sizes. Their appearance is cool. Osprey's have nice brown, black, and white feathers. Also a nice black beak. They of course eat fish, hut how do they get the fish? It's not like the fish just appear. They have to dive in the water to get the fish. Ospreys live near lakes, rivers, and bays. They make their nest out of bones, sticks and seaweed. They make their nests on rocks, trees, or bushes. The babies hatch from eggs. Baby ospreys get all their sweet moves from their parents. Baby ospreys can first fly at 51-54 days. We need to protect our amazing birds!

Camree Case, Jim Darcy, 3rd grade



Kailey Baker, 2nd grade, Broadwater Elem.



Andreah Bachmeier, 3rd grade, Broadwater



Emma Veach, 3rd grade, Broadwater Elem.

**Save the Date: International Migratory Bird Day Outdoor Fair, May 4th,
Helena Regulating Reservoir— 9 am to 1 pm.**



Kalea Dill, 1st grade, Boulder Elementary.

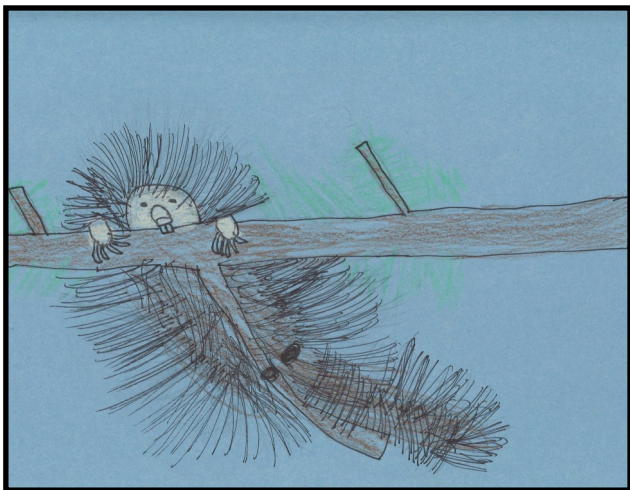


Bailey, Upper Montessori, Central Elem. .



Ava Carey, 2nd grade, Boulder Elementary .

Earth Day



Ida Jaynes, 2nd grade, Jefferson Elementary



Charlotte Crowley, 2nd grade, Jefferson



Cera Martinez-Agge, 4th grade, Boulder .



Bode FitzSimmons, Kinder, Trinity School



Jocelyn Pritchard, 3rd grade, Trinity School



Riley McGrath, 4th grade, 4 Georgians



Tinzin Hylton, 2nd grade, Trinity School



Giulia Pisciarelli, 4th grade, 4 Georgians



Lauren Curtiss, 5th grade, Radley Elementary



Lauren Betz, 5th grade, Radley



Kaleah Walking Child, 5th grade, Radley

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 over twenty 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 visit www.fwp.mt.gov.