



Myth of the Misunderstood

Are bats blind? Can owls turn their heads in a complete circle?

Kids love to learn facts about nature but sometimes misconceptions can sneak into the factoids they learn. This year the Adopt-a-Species committee wanted to encourage students to learn about Montana wildlife with a side dish of myth busting. Teachers and librarians guided students to research, find credible information sources, and write about their findings.

The Adopt-a-Species program has been part of the curriculum in local schools for over 20 years, and was brought to 21 schools in 2022. This program is presented by partners, including the **Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest, Foundation for Animals, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks** and the **Montana Discovery Foundation**. Area schools receive a trunk containing information about a different Montana wildlife species each year. In the spring, we invite students to participate in the Adopt-a-Species Art and Writing Contest—Please enjoy this year’s winners!



Adley Hayes, 1st Grade, Prickly Pear Elementary



Josiah Boyd, 5th Grade, Smith Elementary



Clay Thompson, 3rd Grade, Wolf Creek School



Wyatt Erickson, 4th Grade, Four Georgians Elementary



Karleigh Cory, 2nd Grade, Wolf Creek School

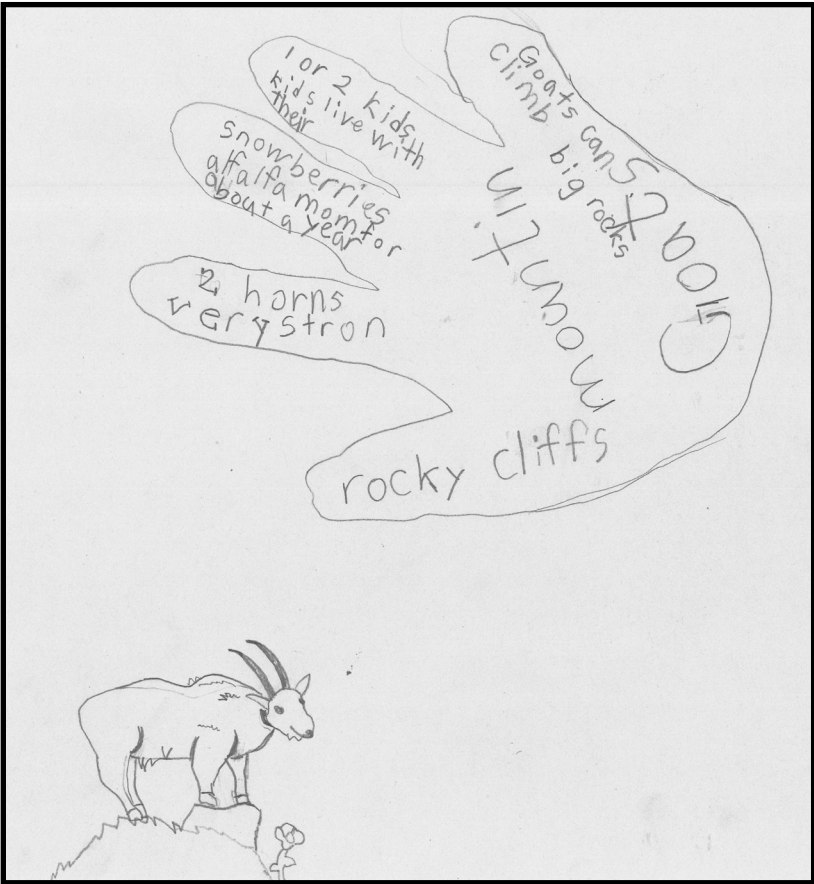
Did you know bats can eat over 600 insects in less than 1 hour? Also, Bats aren't blind. Bats are actually really cool if you get to know them!

Don't worry, bats don't want to hurt you but you still need to stay away from them, you don't want to give them white nosed syndrome, which is a fungus. I bet you didn't know a group of bats is sometimes called a cloud. Bats are actually the only mammals that can truly fly.

If you like fruit you must like bats because over 300 species of fruit rely on bats.

Bats are so cool! Go Bats!

Taegan Gathman, 3rd Grade, Radley Elementary



Charlie Brouwer, 2nd Grade, Jefferson Elementary

Adopt-a-Species Art Contest 2022

Myth of the Misunderstood



Prickly Pear Elementary—Grizzly Bear



Aziadidea Miller, 1st Grade, Prickly Pear Elementary



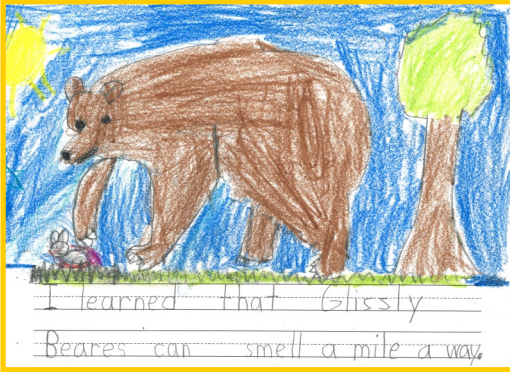
Olivia Smith, 2nd Grade, Prickly Pear Elem.



Emma Johnson, 1st Grade, Prickly Pear Elementary



Noah Loomis, 2nd Grade, Prickly Pear Elementary



Henley, 1st Grade, Prickly Pear Elementary

The Lynx

Carmella Johnson, 5th Grade, Broadwater Elementary

Amazingly, people used to think the Lynx could see the future!

Why might they think that though?

Is it because they hide in the shadows?

Or maybe it was just made up because the lynx is a keeper of secrets?

How could this be true though? How could a wildcat see into the future?

That could not be true though. How believable does it sound for a lynx to see the future when no human being can. If a lynx really could see in the future, then what might they see? Their own future or a human's future? Really, there is no way an animal could see the future. Sure, they may have secrets, but no lynx can see the future.

Broadwater Elementary—Canada Lynx

The lynx has been thought to be able to do many wacky things such as seeing through walls. People thought that a lynx could see through walls, people thought this because a lynx can see really far away, Did you know a lynx could see a mouse from 250 feet away!

Noah McMullen, Broadwater Elementary



Madison Whitman, 4th Grade, Broadwater Elementary



Mila Munro, 4th Grade, Broadwater Elementary

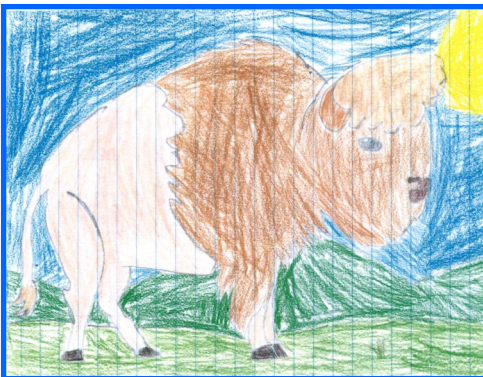


Zinneah Mehus, 4th Grade, Broadwater Elementary

Kessler Elementary—Bison



Liam Stewart, 2nd Grade, Kessler Elementary



Adeline Juers, 5th Grade, Kessler Elementary



Sam Crowson, 4th Grade, Kessler Elementary



Annie Pentecost, 2nd Grade, Kessler Elementary

Myth: Bison and buffalo are the same.
Facts: Bison and buffalo are not the same. True buffalo live in Asia and Africa.

~Ruth Lay, 4th Grade, Kessler Elementary

Many people say that bison are slow because they are so big but really, they are quite quick, they can run up to 35 miles an hour!

~Declan Kuntz, 5th Grade, Kessler Elementary

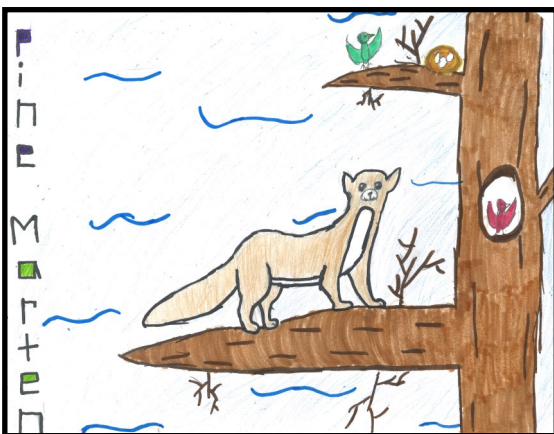


Taylor Thompson, 2nd Grade, Kessler Elementary



Gwyneth Stevens, 3rd Grade, Kessler Elementary

Rossiter Elementary—Pine Marten



Avery Harlow, 4th Grade, Rossiter Elementary

In Ireland the Pine Marten is called "Cat Crainn" which means tree cat. I think a better name for the pine marten would be...
"Ambusher, because it can hide in trees and hunt for its prey. And it's a cool name."

~Reid Willard, 3rd Grade, Rossiter Elementary

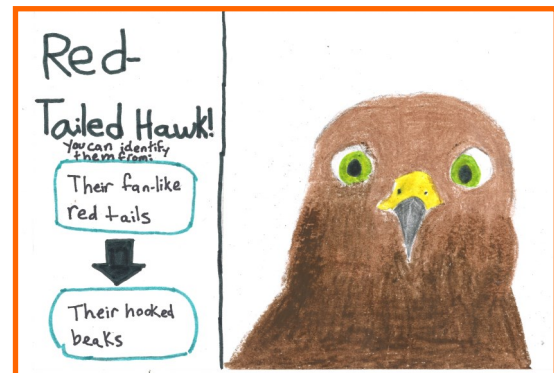
I know pine martens have retractable claws that...
"help them climb up tall trees. They retract their claws when they walk on the ground."

~Kaden Krempel, 3rd Grade, Rossiter Elementary



Chloe R., 5th Grade, Rossiter Elementary

Hawthorne Elementary—Red-Tailed Hawk



Iris McClain, 4th Grade, Hawthorne Elementary

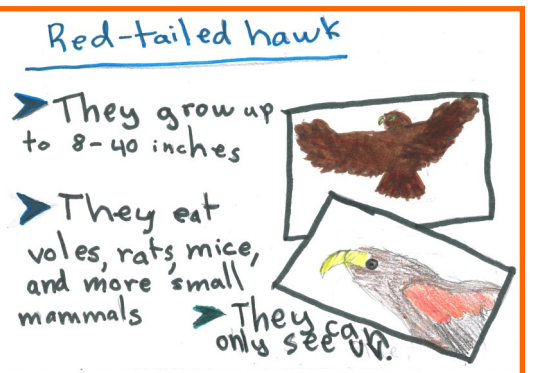
"Red-tailed hawks incubate their eggs (sitting on eggs to warm them). Because they cannot fully digest food, they throw up fur and bones in pellets."

Timothy Shuber, 5th Grade, Hawthorne Elementary

"There are two basic kinds of hawks. They are accipiters, or ambushing hawks, and buteos, or soaring hawks."

Gavin Lee, 4th Grade, Hawthorne Elementary

"The red-tailed hawk is a large bird of prey. It's wing span can go up to 4 feet. That's the size of me!" - Elvis Roope, 4th Grade



Ambrose Randash, 5th Grade, Hawthorne Elementary

Wolf Creek School—Bighorn Sheep



*Brayden Overduyn, 3rd Grade,
Wolf Creek School*



*Aidan Fowler, 2nd Grade,
Wolf Creek School*

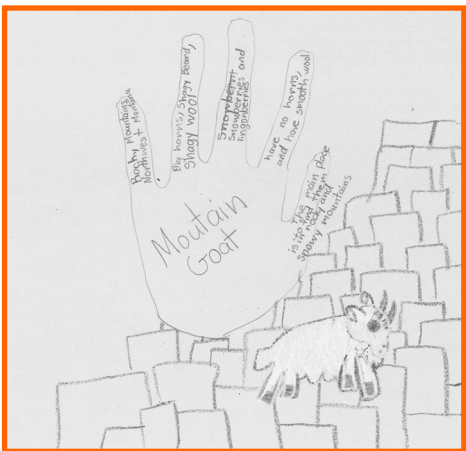


*Nakoma Duvall, 3rd Grade,
Jefferson Elementary*

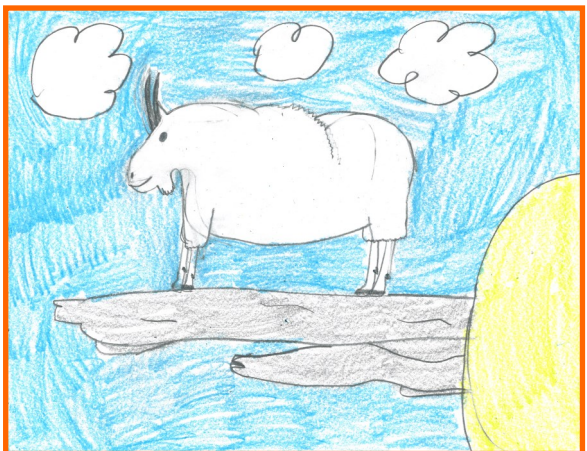
Jefferson Elementary—Mountain Goat



*Morgan Browne, 3rd Grade,
Jefferson Elementary*

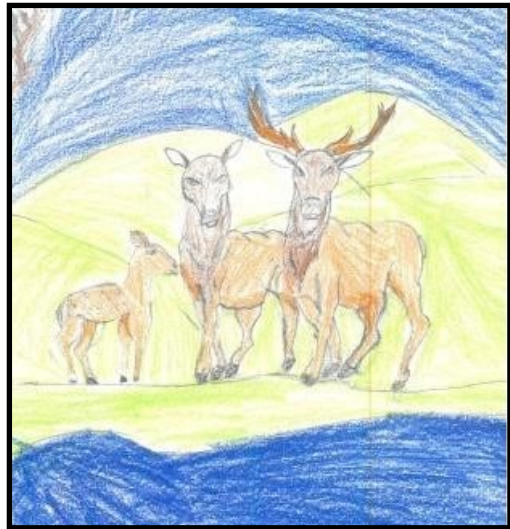


*Lilly Poortenga, 2nd Grade,
Jefferson Elementary*



*Jade Feldman, 3rd Grade,
Jefferson Elementary*

Smith Elementary—Elk



*Hannah Boyd, 4th Grade,
Smith Elementary*



*Emily Kennedy, 2nd Grade,
Smith Elementary*



*Shylie Price, 2nd Grade,
Smith Elementary*

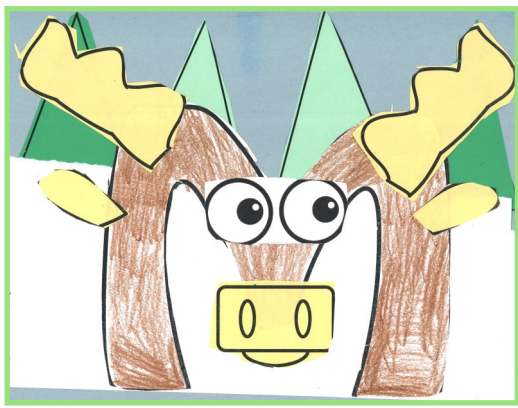


*Clara G, 4th Grade, Smith
Elementary*

Bryant Elementary—Moose



*Ja'Mariyah Brock, 1st Grade,
Bryant Elementary*



*Haylie Sizemore, Kindergarten,
Bryant Elementary*



*Mikey Staley, 1st Grade,
Bryant Elementary*

Central Elementary—Montana's Owls

Central Montessori students got creative with the assignment and did some mythbusting about many animals!



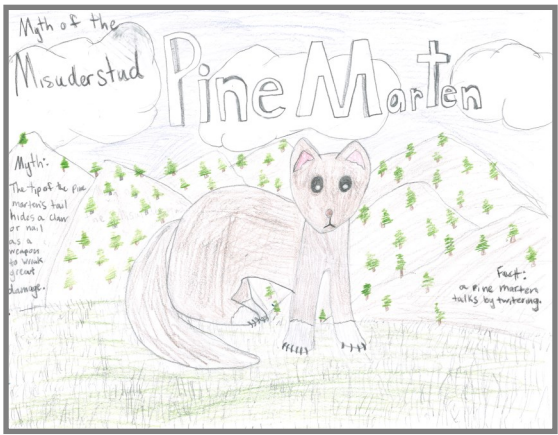
*Emily League, 4th-5th Grade,
Central Elementary*



*Eleanor Petersen, 4th-5th
Grade, Central Elem.*



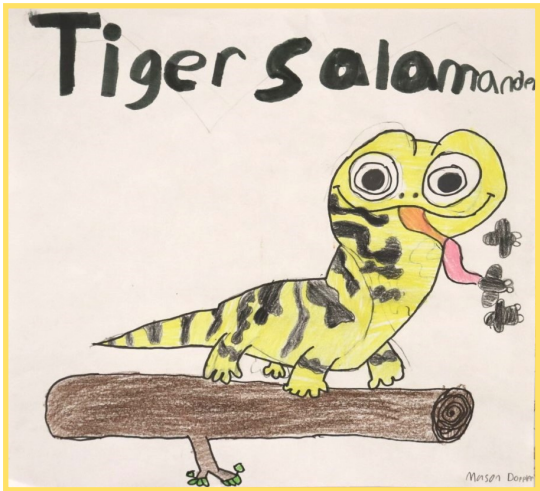
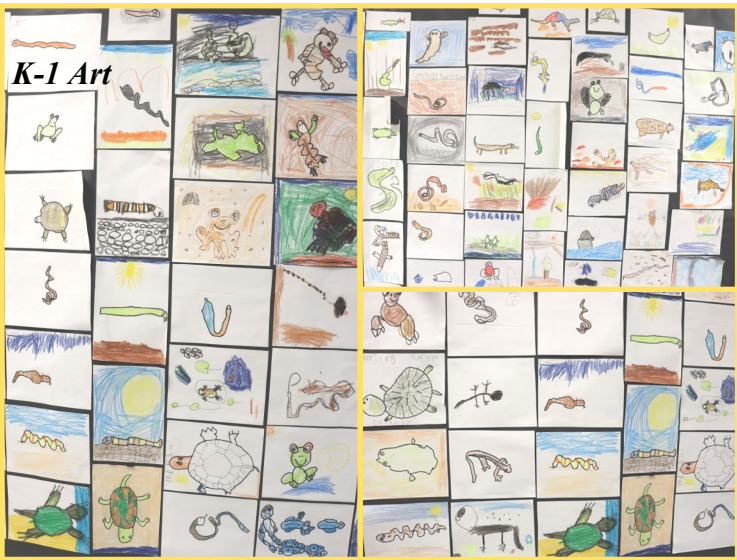
*Madilynn Cobb, 4th-5th
Grade, Central Elem.*



*Cerys Harrington-Ma, 4th-5th
Grade, Central Elementary*

Warren Elementary—Reptiles and Amphibians

We received a collage of Kindergarten-1st grade art from Warren students along with the pictures from grades 3-5!



Mason Doppler, Warren Elementary



Sophie Stockburger, Warren Elementary

World Migratory Bird Day 2022—a week of festivities!

www.montanadiscoveryfoundation.org/wmbd

Four Georgians Elementary—River Otter



Addison Halseth, 5th Grade,
Four Georgians Elem.



Lily Cron, 5th Grade,
Four Georgians Elem.



Dante Johnson, 4th Grade,
Four Georgians Elem.



Laryn Juvik, 2nd Grade,
Four Georgians Elem.



Kylah Curley, 2nd Grade,
Four Georgians Elem.



Eternity Rodes, 1st Grade,
Four Georgians Elem.

First of all, river otters are mammals, they are expert swimmers and can stay under water for 3-4 minutes.

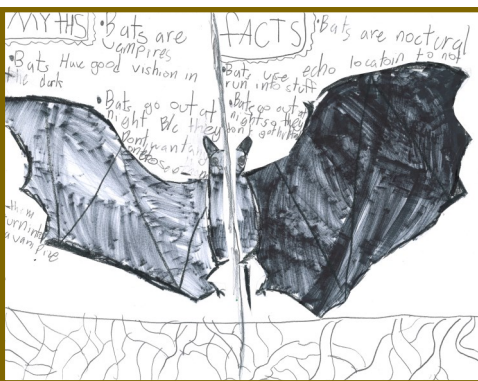
River otters are carnivores, they eat frogs, clams, crayfish, birds, and other small mammals. They also, use their sensitive whiskers on their snout to help find prey. When they find their prey they use their paws to hold their food. The river otter hunts for a long 3-4 hours a day. The North Pacific otter eats more for weight and to stay warm in the cold climates they live in.

The river otter lives in the fresh water and on land, but they don't live in Antarctica or Australia. They stay in dens and are usually born in them.

Lastly, river otters are very important to the eco-system and they are very interesting to learn about.

Tinley Gane, 3rd Grade, Four Georgians Elementary

Radley Elementary—Montana's Bats



Hinata Blair, 5th Grade,
Radley Elementary



Trenton Atkinson, 4th Grade,
Radley Elementary



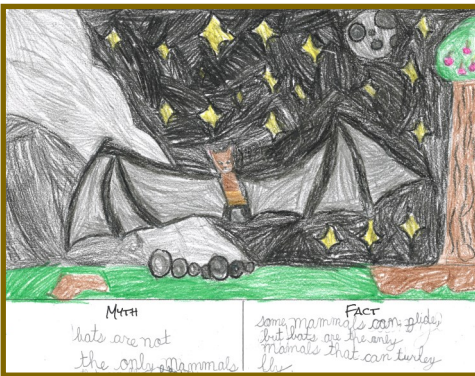
Hunter Scotton, 4th Grade,
Radley Elementary



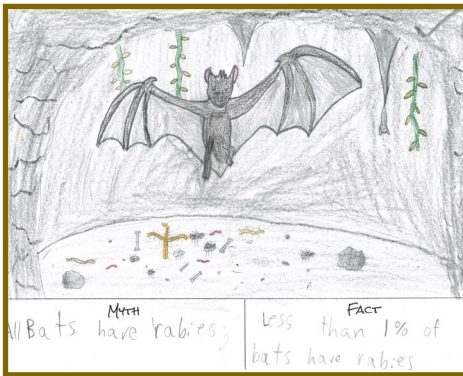
Alex Frankforter, 4th Grade,
Radley Elementary



Myla C., Radley Elementary



Tarryn Wigen, 3rd Grade,
Radley Elementary



Tyler Leuthard, 3rd Grade,
Radley Elementary

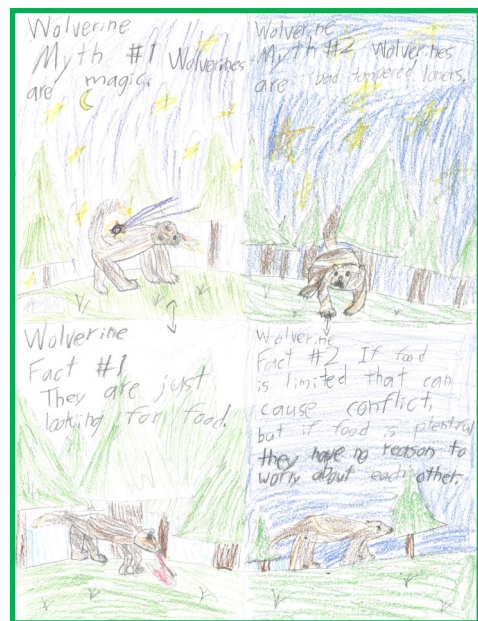


Addison Bakke, 3rd Grade,
Radley Elementary

Myth: Bats suck blood. Fact: Bats don't suck blood, however, vampire bats do exist and they do drink blood from non-human animals.
Addie Lute, 3rd Grade, Radley Elementary

Myth: All bats have rabies. Fact: Less than 1% of bats have rabies.
James Johnson, 3rd Grade, Radley Elementary

Jim Darcy Elementary—Wolverine



Matthew Bailly, 5th Grade,
Jim Darcy Elementary



Hudson Feller, 5th Grade,
Jim Darcy Elementary



Brysen Kasper, 5th Grade,
Jim Darcy Elementary



Lilly Munro, 2nd Grade,
Jim Darcy Elementary



Owynn Hayes, 2nd Grade,
Jim Darcy 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 Montana's 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 local students, highlighting the importance of Montana habitat conservation for wildlife. Find more information about Foundation for Animals at our website: www.foundationforanimals.org.

Helena-Lewis & Clark National Forest

Straddling the Continental Divide, the HLCNF is rich in natural and cultural resources. Its diverse topography and geology provides majestic scenery

where 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 where wildlife is abundant.

The HLF 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 its inception and appreciates how current partnerships have revitalized a great education program focusing on habitat. For more information, visit <https://www.fs.usda.gov/hlcnf>

Montana Discovery Foundation

The Montana Discovery Foundation is a nonprofit that provides hands-on experiences in nature, improves wildlife habitat and watershed health, promotes responsible recreation, and interprets nature for students of all ages.

MDF provides free environmental education to diverse audiences. Providing a multitude of

programs in many area schools, guided hikes, and events year-round, MDF hopes to lead people to value and promote Montana's natural resources. Keep up with Montana Discovery Foundation opportunities 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 natural 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.