

# currents

your voice for clean water | fall 2012



## Building Social Capital through River Care

**W**e know you're seeing it first-hand: the Clark Fork River is on the rebound, and the vital signs of many of its feeder creeks and streams are growing stronger every day. Maybe you were fortunate enough to experience the evidence of cleaner water and healthier stream corridors during your excursions this summer, whether it was landing a brilliantly colored cutthroat or watching a moose munch on riparian plants.

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**currents** is a quarterly publication of the Clark Fork Coalition, a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and restoring the Clark Fork watershed.

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## “That’s a good little dam you’ve got there.”

Those are hardly words you’d expect to hear directed at a conservation group in the West, but the Clark Fork Coalition is far from an average conservation organization.

John Connors, who inspects dams as part of his work as an engineer with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, shared this assessment recently with Coalition staff and board members gathered for a tour at Racetrack Lake. This lake forms the headwaters of one of the Clark Fork River’s most important tributaries, Racetrack Creek.

So just how and why did the Coalition become a dam owner? After years of research and outreach, the Coalition brokered an innovative, groundbreaking water transaction with a local ranching family—resulting in the ownership of Racetrack Dam as well as storage rights to about two-thirds of the water in Racetrack Lake.

This purchase allows us to release water to Racetrack Creek and the Upper Clark Fork River during critical dry periods in late summer and early fall, just when our streams need it the most.

Our visit to Racetrack Lake included adventurous biking and four-wheeling on

boulder-studded Forest Service roads, and a stunning display of wildflowers in lush mountain meadows. We also had a remarkable, hands-on opportunity to open the headgate at Racetrack Dam and release water downstream into the creek.

We heard plain talk about the challenges the Coalition faces in our efforts to create win-win solutions for agriculture and fish in the Upper Clark Fork Valley, and we were lucky enough to participate in a unique conversation with our neighbors who irrigate off of Racetrack Creek.

It was a valuable day for all of us, and a milestone for the organization. I love being part of a conservation group that will do whatever it takes to restore a living river—whether by removing a dam like Milltown that needs to go, or buying and operating a dam in order to put more water back into the creek.

Keep listening for more news about this “good little dam,” and all the other good work of the Clark Fork Coalition.



**Sarah Bates** | CFC Board President

CFC Board & Staff from L-R: Cindy Poett, Karen Knudsen, Sarah Bates, Alicia Vanderheiden, Chris Brick, Barbara Hall





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At the Clark Fork Coalition, we track and measure the positive changes in a number of ways:

- **Milltown Dam and the toxic threat of mining waste stacked behind it have been removed, creating a cleaner and better connected river system;**
- **more streams are getting the water they need to maintain vital connections to mainstem rivers;**
- **headwater creeks that were formerly ailing are now clean and cold enough to support aquatic insects and native trout;**
- **large-scale Superfund cleanup projects to eliminate mining pollution are underway;**
- **environmental stewardship practices are taking root;**
- **partnerships in stream restoration are gelling;**
- **innovative water management practices are gaining popularity;**
- **a restoration economy is hitting stride.**

One of the most important measures of progress, of course, is that more people than ever are embracing the vision of a clean, healthy, and whole watershed, and are participating in—and supporting—the heavy lifting required to get there. We like to think of it as a culture of watershed stewardship in the making—one that will drive ecological and socio-economic revitalization on a scale that matters and in a way that endures.

To expand this “circle of care,” the Coalition is strategically retooling its education and outreach program. What this effort amounts to is a ramping up and revamping of traditional favorites and the launching of several new initiatives. Bundled together, these offerings aim to catalyze leadership in conservation, provide essential skills in river care, and build community cohesion through active water stewardship.

As we implement, grow, and refine this package of programs, we are ever-eager for feedback and ideas from you, our members. What type of water-related events, workshops, tours, or talks appeal to you? Do you know of potential partners or audiences we should reach out to? How can we better serve residents of the watershed? Can you help us spread the word? Please check out the offerings below or at [www.clarkfork.org](http://www.clarkfork.org), and contact us at [info@clarkfork.org](mailto:info@clarkfork.org) to let us know how the Coalition can best engage you and your networks in the cause for clean water. Meanwhile, we hope to see you at one of our events very soon!

## CATALYZING YOUTH LEADERSHIP

**Affinity Float:** Every July, we host dozens of local youngsters from children’s shelters and youth homes for our annual float down Alberton Gorge on the Clark Fork. Flip ahead to pages 16-17 to see photos from our 2012 event—a day of good, wet, fun.

**Envirothon:** The Coalition trains students from Philipsburg High School on how to solve complex



environmental issues facing rivers, forests, soils, and wildlife in order to compete in a statewide Envirothon Competition.

**Hands on the Ranch:** Our Hands on the Ranch program offers high school students a unique opportunity to assess stream health and design restoration solutions on working lands—right in their own backyard. Eight to ten senior students are then selected to participate in the Restoration Certification Program, an advanced training program that gives students marketable job skills and a small stipend.

**Stormdrain Stenciling:** Storm drains in Missoula empty directly into the river, a stream, or our drinking water aquifer. The Coalition works with local schools and community volunteers to paint drains with reminders to keep pollutants out of these conduits to our irreplaceable waters.

## PROVIDING SKILLS & EXPANDING KNOWLEDGE

**Hazardous Waste Certification Course:** Large-scale Superfund cleanups and restoration projects are ramping up in the Upper Clark Fork, and that means jobs. The Coalition is organizing and co-hosting courses in hazardous materials handling to give local residents the skills and certification required by OSHA for securing jobs in ecological remediation.

**Living Near Water:** We collaborate with planners, conservation districts, and organizations of realtors to organize and teach “Living Near Water” continuing education courses throughout the Clark Fork basin, including Missoula, Ravalli, Deer Lodge, Granite, and Mineral Counties. **Email [liz@clarkfork.org](mailto:liz@clarkfork.org) to reserve a spot in our next course in Missoula on September 6.**

**Water Walks and Talks:** In 2012, we refurbished and re-launched our “Water Walks and Talks” program in Missoula to provide monthly

gatherings focusing on water-related topics of importance and interest in the Clark Fork watershed. And, thanks to a series of generous sponsors from our local business community, we’ve been able to offer giveaways, prizes, free food, and more.

### “Working with Water” Workshop:

The Coalition has designed a workshop to help landowners and irrigation districts learn the nuts-and-bolts of win-win flow restoration contracts that provide incentives and revenue for waters users to re-water streams that run dry.

## CREATING COMMUNITY COHESION

**Clark Fork River Cleanup:** The Coalition’s Annual Clark Fork River Cleanup brings together 700 community members, school clubs, civic groups, and business associations to pick up thousands of pounds of trash that accumulate along 15 miles of urban riverbanks in Missoula. **Mark your calendars: the next River Cleanup will take place on Saturday, April 20, 2013.**

**Restoration Workdays:** We regularly host workdays for students, citizens and civic groups across the Clark Fork basin. Workdays serve as hands-on learning sessions for participants to learn about everything from local natural history and river ecology to the restoration and cleanup efforts underway in our communities.

**Superfund Supper Club:** The ambitious and important 10-year Superfund cleanup project of mining wastes in the Upper Clark Fork will impact over 100 ranchers and private landowners. The Coalition created a Superfund Supper Club as an informal way to gather with other landowners to air concerns and ideas, and share notes on cleanup. ↓

Friday, Sept. 28

### THE KIDS RIVER EXPO & CLEANUP

We’re thrilled to be bringing back a long-standing Missoula tradition with an added twist—a daylong watershed learning event and river cleanup for local 6th graders with exploratory learning stations, and a Kids Cleanup of riverbanks in downtown Missoula.

Want to learn more or become a sponsor? Visit [www.clarkfork.org](http://www.clarkfork.org)

## How Fire Creek Stays Wet

### A "SPLIT-SEASON" WATER LEASE IS KEEPING A NATIVE TROUT STRONGHOLD FLOWING AND CONNECTED

The Ninemile Creek watershed, located 20 miles west of Missoula, is the largest watershed in the Middle Clark Fork, draining nearly 186 square miles. Native fish like westslope cutthroat trout and the threatened bull trout live here, relying on the vast networks of creeks and streams for spawning and survival.

In late summer and fall, water levels in many creeks across the Ninemile fall below optimal levels, stressing our native fish. In response, the Coalition has brokered several water leases to add much-needed water to thirsty streams and keep feeder creeks connected to the mainstem Ninemile.

Fire Creek is one of those thirsty creeks. Which is why we're excited to report that the Fire Creek Ranch has entered into a five-year agreement with the Coalition to put more water into Fire Creek thereby improving habitat for westslope cutthroat trout in this key coldwater fishery.

The Fire Creek Ranch is no stranger to water transactions, having partnered with the Coalition on water leasing projects since 2005. This particular water deal is technically referred to as a "split-season lease," meaning the ranch will stop irrigating from Fire Creek each year, starting July 1 and extending to October 15. This popular method of improving streamflows still allows landowners to irrigate early in the year when flows are plentiful, and compensates them for taking a break from irrigating during the hot summer months when water levels drop and sustaining aquatic life in a creek becomes a challenge. The Fire Creek Ranch lease showcases a fantastic example of a win-win solution for agriculture and stream health.

During the past ten years, we've engaged multiple ranchers in the Ninemile in flow restoration, and now hold four water leases. These projects add water to streams when fish need it most, and generate income for local agricultural producers. And as an added bonus, the Ninemile flow deals complement Trout Unlimited's and the U.S. Forest Service's efforts to restore stream habitat that has been denuded by decades-old mining activities. Interested in learning more about this project in particular or flow restoration in general? Contact Andy Fischer, [andy@clarkfork.org](mailto:andy@clarkfork.org) ↓

#### TRACKING PROGRESS

Our stream restoration technicians have spent a number of days in 2012 surveying stream levels and temperatures on Fire Creek, a key tributary to Ninemile Creek. Fire Creek has the coldest water in the Ninemile drainage, and boasts a unique ecosystem of old-growth Western Red Cedar, an increasingly rare forest type.

The Coalition recently entered into a five-year renewal agreement with a local ranch, to ensure that Fire Creek has plenty of clean, cool water to sustain its resident population of native westslope cutthroat trout.

The Fire Creek water lease renewal is supported through a grant from the Columbia Basin Water Transactions Program, funded through Bonneville Power Administration and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Thank you to all our supporters at CBWTP.



# In the Field with CFC staff

Summer is a busy time at the Clark Fork Coalition—especially for our team of field technicians. We have more than 20 water transactions in play, adding water to streams in the Bitterroot, Blackfoot, Upper and Middle Clark Fork watersheds, and all of them need to be monitored to ensure success.

As a result, our field staff routinely logs hundreds of hours each summer season, measuring stream levels, temperatures, and trends across the Clark Fork basin. This data is invaluable, because it helps us track and measure the progress of our restoration projects, make informed decisions about future efforts, and deploy our resources where they generate the biggest ecological returns and build the most social capital. ↓



## MONITORING FLOW

In 2011, the Coalition purchased a water right on Racetrack Creek from the Clines of R Bar N Ranch. As new owners of the water right, the Coalition is improving flows in Racetrack Creek by releasing water stored in a reservoir at the headwaters of the creek during the dry summer months.

Stream monitoring is a critical component of our restoration effort on Racetrack Creek. We take flow and temperature readings throughout the summer to ensure that the creek has enough water to sustain a healthy fishery and support local agricultural operations.



# Abandoned But Not Forgotten

## FOREST ROSE MINE CLEANUP GETS UNDERWAY

**H**igh in the headwaters of Dunkleberg Creek, above the town of Drummond, the toxic tailings of the long-abandoned Forest Rose Mine are on their way out, and Dunkleberg Creek, a feeder stream of the Clark Fork River, is getting a dramatic facelift.

Forest Rose was last operated in 1947 as a lead, zinc, and copper mine. But since then, dammed-up wastes in the creek bed have created a substantial threat to people, fish, and wildlife. The tailings leak lead, zinc and cadmium to the stream, while arsenic and lead in the soil pose a hazard to forest visitors.

Among the dozens of abandoned mines in this area, this one stands out: One of the tailings dams collapsed in 1992, sending a large slug of polluted water and sediment downstream. And although the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) made emergency repairs, the threat lingered, awaiting the required studies—and dollars—to make cleanup happen.

Now, thanks to a cooperative cleanup effort undertaken by Granite County, the USFS, and Montana's Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ), crews are moving the tailings this summer into a safely high and dry repository on USFS lands. The Clark Fork Coalition helped get this project rolling by securing grant funds for project planning, meeting with the agencies, and identifying the repository site that regulators ultimately selected. Over \$2 million dollars for on-the-ground work comes from the federal surface mining grant program, and local contractors from Drummond and Philipsburg were awarded the bids for road improvements and waste hauling. Work started in late June and should wrap up before the snow flies.

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◀ Crews diverted Dunkleberg Creek through a pipeline for the duration of the project..







When the project is finished and Dunkleberg Creek emerges from beneath 90,000 cubic yards of tailings, the site and stream channel will be restored to provide clean water for the resident population of native westslope cutthroat trout. We're happy to see another toxic blemish removed from a waterway in the Upper Clark Fork—and we're guessing fish, wildlife, and recreationists will be, too. ↓

Questions on the cleanup on Dunkleberg Creek?  
Contact Will at [will@clarkfork.org](mailto:will@clarkfork.org).

▲ Crews excavate the future repository site, where the mining waste will be safely stored.

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▼ Crews removing 90,000 cubic yards of tailings at Dunkleberg Creek.

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# Kennecott & the Copper Cliffs

## COPPER MINING GIANT TAKING A CLOSER LOOK AT THE BLACKFOOT

Near the old mining ghost town of Garnet, above the lush, rural Potomac valley, there's an outcrop of rock stained iridescent blue and green with copper

minerals. That colorful cliff has inspired numerous surveys to see if there's mineable ore in the area. The most recent explorer is Kennecott Exploration Co., a wholly owned subsidiary of the multinational Rio Tinto Group.



Tim Johnson

Kennecott has been sporadically investigating this area since 2005. At a meeting in the Potomac Community Center on May 31, 2012, a representative from the company's Salt Lake City office said that they're now taking it another step, with magneto-telluric surveying that will help them better define the extent of the ore body. The Kennecott spokesperson was quick to emphasize that they are still very early in the exploration process, and that the company doesn't know if the ore body is economically feasible to mineable. Only 1% of the targets they ever investigate become a mine.

Although it's much too early to speculate on the environmental consequences of a mine here, experience tells us that we should be concerned. As a result, we will be tracking the project carefully.

Questions? Contact Chris Brick at [chris@clarkfork.org](mailto:chris@clarkfork.org) . ↓



Tim Johnson

Views of the Potomac Valley, where Kennecott Exploration Co. is conducting surveys.



Tim Johnson

# Section 35 & Mike Horse Wastes

## AGENCIES SELECT STORAGE SITE FOR TOXIC MINE WASTE IN THE BLACKFOOT

**T**he goal of a cleaned-up Upper Blackfoot just got a whole lot closer. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) announced in July that it is moving forward with “Section 35” as the chosen repository site for 1 million cubic yards of metals-contaminated mine waste from the abandoned Mike Horse Mine site, at the river’s headwaters.

At the Clark Fork Coalition, we are pleased that the process is moving ahead, because the current location for much of the wastes—in a streambed at the headwaters of the Blackfoot River—is simply not safe. And of the many sites that agency scientists investigated, Section 35 is the most protective of the environment.

A few questions linger about Section 35’s groundwaterlevels, but by making a decision, agency scientists now can begin to answer them. According to USFS officials, the agency will get started on a detailed site-specific investigation designed to ensure Section 35 is safe, and to figure out where within the 360-acre site the 30 acres of contaminants should sit. This is the process the USFS followed in the first go-around when “Paymaster” initially ranked out as the best location for storing the mine’s tailings. In that case, the design-level data had regulators ulti-

mately backing away from the site, and going back to the drawing board. It’s possible this could happen at Section 35, too, but we won’t know until scientists collect and analyze the additional data.

Not everyone is happy with this decision, mainly because of the disruption, noise, dust, and danger associated with the 3 or 4 summers it will take to construct the repository and haul the toxic sediments away from their present location. We believe that the worst of the impacts to landowners can be mitigated by building an overland haul road that directly links the mine site with Section 35. This will keep the many thousands of truck-loads off Highways 200 and 279, thus eliminating threats to public health and safety. The haul road would be expensive (possibly \$1 million), but well worth it. If it proves feasible, we will advocate for having it built.

Bottom-line: the Coalition is excited that the repository decision is in place, and we’re eager to see agencies make progress toward cleaning up the toxic tailings that have long threatened the headwaters of the Blackfoot River.

Questions about Mike Horse Mine cleanup?  
Contact Chris Brick at [chris@clarkfork.org](mailto:chris@clarkfork.org). ↓



Cleanup of the Mike Horse Mine at the headwaters of the Blackfoot River is around the corner.

Bruce Gordon - Ecoflight 2012

## Milltown Park ... Coming Soon

**MONTANA'S NEWEST STATE PARK IS ON TRACK FOR A 2013 OPENING**



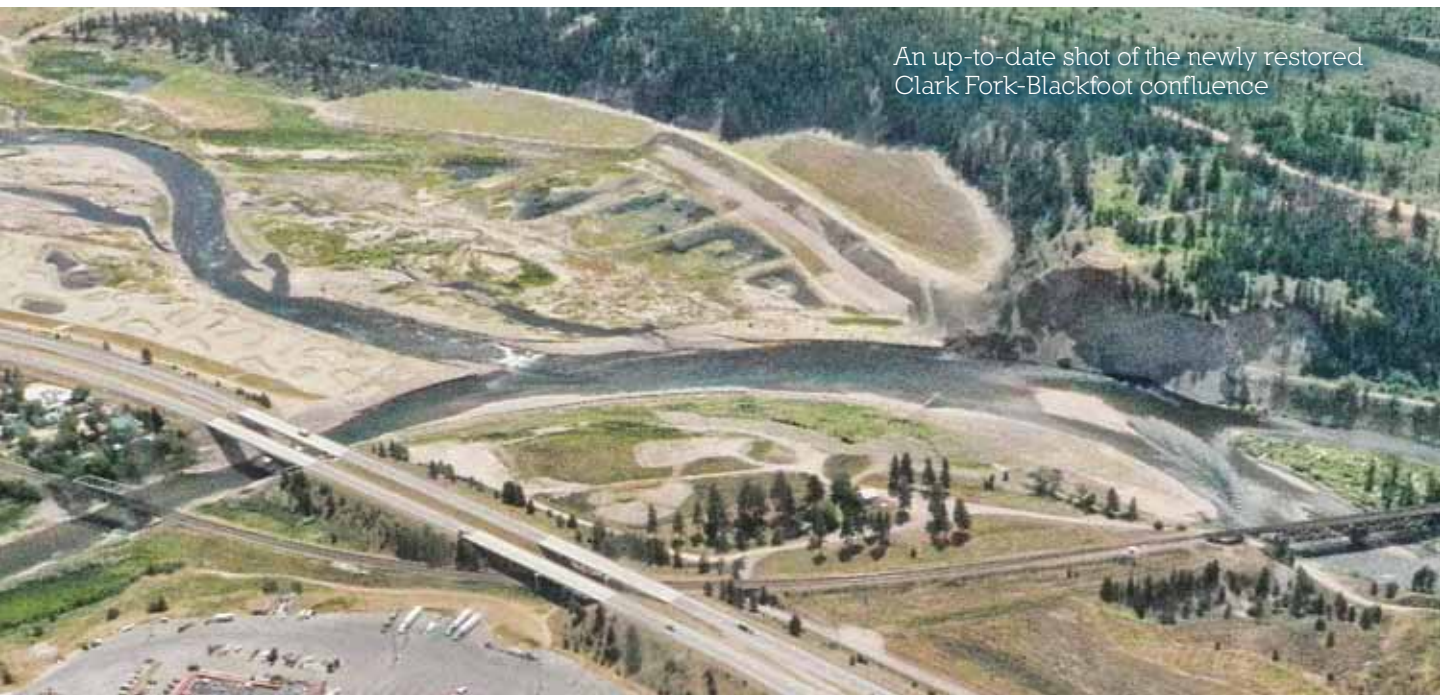
The public enjoyed touring the confluence at CFC's "Walk & Talk" in May 2012.

For many who have watched the Clark Fork-Blackfoot confluence go from blocked and polluted to free-flowing and clean, the public access part of the project has seemed slow to come. Good news: it's not far away. Word has it, the Clark Fork River may be open to floaters by late 2012, and the Blackfoot River will open by July 1, 2013, with a new boat ramp installed just half a mile upstream of the town of Bonner.

We hope to see the new state park that now encompasses the former site of Milltown Dam and Reservoir open in 2013, enabling people to experience this legendary confluence in whole new ways. According to Milltown Park's manager, Michael Kustudia, park development has encountered a bit of red tape associated with the sorting out of land transactions, zoning, and floodplain clearance.

In the meantime, you can visit the bluff overlook to get a birds-eye view of the confluence and enjoy a paved trail and interpretive signs that enhance your visit. And, don't forget that the park design plans are housed online at [www.milltownstatepark.org](http://www.milltownstatepark.org) if you'd like a preview. Questions about the park? Interested in joining the new "Friends of Milltown Park" group? Please contact the Milltown Park manager, Michael Kustudia, at [MKustudia@mt.gov](mailto:MKustudia@mt.gov).

An up-to-date shot of the newly restored Clark Fork-Blackfoot confluence



CFC Board & Staff Tour 2012

# Thanks

to the Racetrack Water Commissioner for offering a tour of Racetrack Lake to CFC Board & Staff this summer. We enjoyed an adventure-filled, high-impact day of learning and exploring!



Fall 2012 © CURRENTS



## Keeping Invaders at Bay (for now)



Curlyleaf pondweed has been spotted on both the Bitterroot & Clark Fork Rivers near Missoula.

It's that time of year again—time to inspect your boats, boots, and river gear to make sure we keep our lakes and rivers clean and invader-free. As you'll remember, some of the biggest threats to our waters are aquatic invasive species, including weeds, snails, parasites or the dreaded zebra and quagga mussels. An infestation of invasive species costs millions of dollars for taxpayers; it can damage drinking and irrigation water pipes; it can decimate native species and disrupt food chains; and it can create unsightly and unpleasant shores along our rivers and lakes.

Fortunately, Montanans are doing a good job of holding the worst invaders at bay. You've probably seen check stations set up along highways or at boat ramps in the watershed. These stations are run by Montana's Departments of Agriculture and Fish Wildlife and Parks, and are dedicated to preventing the spread of invasive species.

To date, state officials have inspected over 17,000 watercraft since check stations opened in mid-May.



Crews pulling Eurasian watermilfoil in summer of 2012.

About 175 boats have been reported as “fouled” with an invasive weed, mussel, or contaminated mud or water. Luckily, those fouled boats were thoroughly cleaned before they entered a waterbody. But these check stations can’t look at every single boat. We need your help to make sure that our rivers stay clean and invasive-free.

This year alone, nearly 80 mussel-infested boats have been stopped on the borders of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington, most coming from Lake Mead on the border of Arizona and Nevada. Quagga mussels were discovered in Lake Mead in 2007, and have already increased tenfold to 1.5 trillion in just five years. These invasive mussels likely hitchhiked a ride on a boat traveling from the Great Lakes, where the mussels have been causing hundreds of millions in damage since their arrival 20 years ago in the ballast water of an ocean-going ship from Eastern Europe.

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council—which oversees the Columbia River hydroelectric dam system in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana—announced this summer that it’s seeking \$2 million in federal aid to add watercraft inspection and decontamination stations to intercept boats carrying mussels. These rapidly multiplying, thumb-sized mollusks could wreak havoc on hydro facilities, ranchers’ irrigation systems and lakes prized for recreation. For instance, the Los Angeles water district spends almost \$15 million each year trying to control quagga mussel infestations that have damaged its water supply systems.

In addition to urging everyone to inspect, clean, and dry their boats and river gear, the Coalition is partnering with the Montana’s Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation and a variety of county weed districts and watershed groups to inventory



State officials inspected 17,000+ watercraft in 2012.

and monitor lakes and rivers, too. Unfortunately, a few outbreaks of weeds have been spotted, including Eurasian watermilfoil in Beaver Lake (Flathead County) and curlyleaf pondweed in slow-moving side channels of the Bitterroot River from Chief Looking Glass Fishing Access Site to the confluence with the Clark Fork River (particularly near Fort Missoula). Management and control treatments, like herbicides or weed mats, are helping to eradicate these aquatic weed infestations—including the large infestation of Eurasian watermilfoil blanketing dozens of acres of the Noxon Reservoir in the lower river.

Stay up-to-speed on aquatic invasive species at [www.clarkfork.org](http://www.clarkfork.org) and look for the latest sightings on [www.facebook.com/clarkforkcoalition](https://www.facebook.com/clarkforkcoalition) ↓

## INSPECT, CLEAN, DRY

Need a place to hose down your boat or waders? Visit the Missoulian Angler Fly Shop located at 802 South Higgins in Missoula to make use of its free boat wash station—especially if you’re traveling between different rivers and lakes!

The Coalition helped set up this station, and we’re thrilled it’s up and running for river lovers in the Clark Fork basin. Thanks to the Missoulian Angler.

# INSPECT. CLEAN. DRY.

## PUBLIC BOAT WASHING STATION

DO YOUR PART TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



engage

FALL 2012 CURRENTS

THANK YOU  
to our sponsors of the  
**2012**  
Affinity Float!



## Full Boat Sponsorships

- First Security Bank
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- Thomas Grissom
- Missoula Bone & Joint
- Nick Nichols & Robin Tawney Nichols
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- Liz Rantz
- Redfield Construction, Inc.
- Terrazas Law Offices
- Pam & Sandy Volkmann
- Western Montana Clinic
- Lois & Shelton Williams

And, a **BIG** thank you to our partners for participating in this event!

- Talbot Boys & Girls/Radtke Home
- Tom Roy Youth Guidance Home
- Shirley Miller Attention Home
- Anaconda Boys & Girls Club
- Mountain Home Montana
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters Missoula

Of course, a HUGE thanks to **ROW Adventures** for donating their time and energy to this spectacular event. We couldn't do it without you!



## ORDER TODAY

In 2005 and with the generous help of two conservation partners, the Clark Fork Coalition purchased Dry Cottonwood Creek Ranch, a 2,300 acre working red angus cattle ranch in the Deer Lodge Valley. As part of our effort to demonstrate promising, profitable ranching models, we now finish several of our steers on grass, butcher them locally, and sell the meat directly to consumers throughout the Clark Fork watershed.

Why grass-fed? It's much leaner than feedlot-produced beef. Plus, it's twice as high in omega-3 fatty acids, an essential, heart-healthy, unsaturated fat. Not only is the beef healthy for you, it's healthy for the cows. Grass is tastier for the cows and helps keep them healthy without any antibiotics, growth hormones, or steroids. At DCCR, we feed our grass-finished cattle only natural grasses and alfalfa, unlike conventional feedlots that fatten their cows with grain.

And, when you buy grass-finished beef from CFC, you are supporting independent, family ranchers and processors in western Montana, and helping to benefit agriculture, streams, local fish and wildlife, and open space. Ready to order? Visit [clarkfork.org/ranch](http://clarkfork.org/ranch) for more info.

## COOKING CLASSES

Not only are we taking orders for quarter, half and whole beef from the Dry Cottonwood Creek Ranch we manage, but we've also lined up several venues to help teach you how to buy, store, and consistently prepare delicious grassfed beef under the tutelage of local food guru, Kristen Lee Charlson.

Although best known as publisher of *edible*MISSOULA magazine, Kristen is an accomplished chef, caterer and home-cook. She is dedicated to educating and empowering others about seasonal food, traditional food preparation and the joy and economy of eating local. Join us and learn more about her new venture—**THE HEIRLOOM PROJECT**—coming to downtown Missoula in 2013.

Why buy local? What information do I need? Is grassfed beef cooked differently from grain fed feed? Kristen will answer your questions, provide must-have cooking tips, and more!

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**Wednesday, October 10**  
**From Cow to Tasty Cuisine**  
**12 – 1 pm**  
**CFC offices, 140 S. 4th St. W.**  
**FREE**

Treat your taste buds with some samples of CFC beef, and learn some cooking tips for uncommon cuts as part of our monthly Walks and Talks series.

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**Wednesday, October 24th**  
**Beef Cooking Class**  
**6 - 9 pm**  
**Missoula Food Co-op with MUD**  
 \$10 MUD member, \$20 non member

Want to buy local grassfed beef but not sure where to start or how to prepare it? Join us as we partner with MUD for a three-hour class, complete with tips, recipes, and down and dirty details. Space is limited, so register early. Contact [Alicia@clarkfork.org](mailto:Alicia@clarkfork.org) for more info.

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## THREE SIMPLE WAYS TO GIVE BACK TO THE CLARK FORK RIVER

With steadfast support from our members these last many years, the Coalition has made incredible strides in the effort to restore the Clark Fork to full health and vitality. We've come so far in our work to protect clean water and vibrant communities, but we still have much to do. We're relying on you—our members and supporters—to help us get this critical work done. Here are a few unique ways you can increase your impact on behalf of clean water:

**1** Do you want to make a real impact for clean water? Consider setting up an automatic \$10 monthly donation. Simply visit [clarkfork.org](http://clarkfork.org) and click the DONATE NOW button to start your recurring payment. These repeat gifts add up quickly and give us a dependable source of funds that we can rely on.

**2** Do you work for the State of Montana? State employees can enter pledges for the Clark Fork Coalition using code 5361 during the State Employees Charitable Giving Campaign, which takes place this year between September 24 and November 2. We'll also be promoting our work at the annual Nonprofit Fair in Helena on September 24.

**3** Are you affiliated with The University of Montana? The UM Charitable Giving Campaign provides university employees with an easy way to give back to their community by donating to local nonprofits like the Clark Fork Coalition. UM employees can enter pledges for CFC starting on October 31, 2012.

Renew your membership or join us online at [www.clarkfork.org](http://www.clarkfork.org)

## Save the Dates

### THE CLARK FORK RIVER CELEBRATION

The Clark Fork is a river on the rebound. Learn more about the amazing recovery underway on rivers and streams across western Montana, and celebrate with neighbors and friends at the first-ever Clark Fork River Celebration and Brewfest in Deer Lodge on Saturday, September 29. Hosts will showcase a long list of local brews at the brewfest, plus we'll have music from the nationally-acclaimed Wylie and the Wild West. Join us at the historic Deer Lodge prison for food, vendor booths, beer tent, barbeque contest, and live music starting at 12 noon until 9 PM! Questions? Visit [www.deerlodgefun.com](http://www.deerlodgefun.com)



### CFC HOLIDAY PARTY - DEC. 7<sup>TH</sup>

It's fall, and the holiday season is right around the corner. Join us for our annual Holiday Party and Wine Raffle on First Friday, December 7 from 5-9 pm at the CFC offices at 140 South 4th Street West. Like always, we'll have plenty of music, food, drink, and cheer, along with our famous wine raffle. Plus, we'll be hosting a special silent auction to complement the festivities, and ring out 2012 in style. See you there!



P.O. Box 7593  
Missoula, MT 59807

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## BUILDING THE CIRCLE OF CARE FOR THE CLARK FORK

Clean water. Healthy streams. Thriving communities.

**W**e're thrilled to witness the signs of recovery across the Clark Fork basin. And, most importantly of all, we're excited to witness even more people fully embracing the vision of a fully restored and functioning watershed.

Yet we know there is a tremendous amount left to be done. We see an urgent need to connect even more landowners, teachers, families, and decision-makers to the cause for clean water.

- \$50 – CAMPAIGNER
- \$75 – SUPPORTER
- \$100 – ADVOCATE
- \$250 – ACTIVIST
- \$500 – SPONSOR

Will you help us build  
a healthier watershed today?

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city, state, zip

I want to pay by credit card:

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