



*Water, Wildlife, Way of Life*

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Gravity Shots

## Riparian Areas: Key to Clean Water

### Riparian Areas Benefit Us All

Riparian areas are the places where land meets water -- corridors of shrubs and trees along rivers, lakes and streams. They are among Montana's richest natural habitats and are vital to the health and beauty of our waters.

Riparian areas benefit everyone by filtering pollution from stormwater and agricultural runoff, maintaining stream flows, keeping water cool, and curbing erosion. The results are clean water and healthy habitats for fish and wildlife.

### Riparian Buffers Add Value to Your Property:

- Help prevent erosion
- Limit flood damage
- Keep dirt and pollution out of water
- Protect and recharge groundwater
- Provide essential fish and wildlife habitat
- Protect and enhance privacy
- Keeping Montana beautiful

### Flathead River Steward Program

The Flathead River to Lake Initiative's River Steward Program helps landowners restore riparian areas along the Flathead Valley. Call to find out if you are eligible for technical assistance. We can direct you to programs that can help you get started! Contact Franz Ingelfinger, Restoration Ecologist, at 751-4580.

#### *Restoring our rivers*



*"The assistance we've received for planting riparian buffers helps protect this beautiful place on the river for future generations to enjoy", said landowner Aileen Brosten.*

Landowners Jerry and Aileen Brosten are working with Flathead River to Lake Initiative partners to plant riparian buffers on their property, the Diamond B Ranch, a 192-acre farm and weddings business bordering 1.5 miles of the Flathead River.



Healthy riparian areas provide habitat for fish and wildlife and protect clean water.

# Expert Help for Restoring Riparian Buffers

Several local expert agencies are standing ready to help private landowners restore riparian areas

## Natural Resources Conservation Service

The NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) helps agricultural producers revegetate riparian areas on eligible lands. For more information contact Angel Rosario, NRCS District Conservationist, at 752-4242.

## Flathead Conservation District

The Flathead Conservation District has a cost-share program to help landowners revegetate riparian areas. Contact Valerie Kurth, Resource Conservationist, at 752-4220.

## USDA Farm Service Agency

The Farm Service Agency Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) helps agricultural producers protect and restore riparian corridors by compensating farmers who do not farm these sensitive areas through rental payment and cost-share assistance. Contracts last 10 or 15 years. Contact John Nahrgang, County Executive Director, at 752-4220 or visit FSA online at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

## Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks assists landowners with conservation and restoration of important habitat, such as streamside forests, wetlands, floodplains and adjacent uplands. Contact Franz Ingelfinger, Restoration Ecologist, at 751-4580.



*2015 River Steward Megan Stockfisch helped plant native trees and shrubs at the Diamond B. Ranch.*

Since 2004, ten property owners have collaborated with R2L partners to restore over 21 acres and 4½ miles of Flathead County riparian areas.

Join them today!

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**TO LEARN MORE** visit the Flathead River to Lake Initiative's website or stop by or call Initiative partners listed above.