



Photo by Gravity Shots

Welcome to the River to Lake newsletter.

A Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 10 | Fall 2010

In this issue:

- Critical wetlands, Flathead River riparian corridor and prime farmland protected
- A Landowner's Introduction to Conservation Easement
- Meetings to present new Flathead Watershed topographic and aerial imagery data
- New Flathead River Maps: Channel Migration Zone and Bathymetric maps
- River to Lake Initiative meeting coming up
- Christmas Bird Count volunteers needed
- New book now available - *Flathead Watershed Sourcebook: A Guide to an Extraordinary Place*
- River to Lake Initiative Website launched

Land and Water Conservation

Critical wetlands, Flathead River riparian corridor and prime farmland protected

The Flathead Land Trust worked with various members of the Louden family over several years to conserve over 1,000 acres of prime farm lands, wetlands, and the river corridor along the Flathead River to the east and west of Church Slough. Recently, the final two of seven separate conservation easements were completed.



Project area along the Flathead River

The conservation easements will help the Loudens

maintain their property to pass on to their children while protecting some of the best farm soils in the Flathead, water quality, and fish and wildlife habitat.

Meetings and Workshops

Tuesday, Nov. 16

A Landowner's Introduction to Conservation Easements

The Montana Forest Stewardship Foundation and the Montana Association of Land Trusts are offering a free workshop for landowners on Tuesday, Nov. 16, from 2:00 – 5:00 PM at the second floor conference room in the Earl Bennett Building, 1035 First Ave. West, Kalispell. This is an opportunity to learn about a tool available to landowners to protect forestland, farm and ranch land, wetlands, wildlife habitat and riparian areas. Landowners will learn about the purpose of conservation easements, the process involved and the benefits. For more information visit the R2L website at www.flatheadrivertolake.org (go to News & Events) or contact Glenn Marx, Montana Association of Land Trusts at montanamalt@q.com or 406-490-1659.

Wednesday, Nov. 17

New Flathead Watershed topographic and aerial imagery data

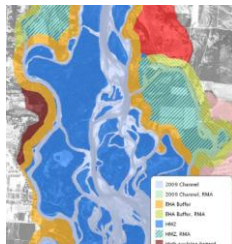
The Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation will host a public meeting on Wednesday November 17, from 7:00 – 9:00 PM at the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks office, 490 North Meridian Rd., Kalispell, to present an overview of new aerial imagery and topographic data for portions of the Flathead Valley, including the Flathead River corridor and Flathead Lake.

The new elevation maps include accurate 2-foot interval contours and will help produce more accurate maps to assist consultants, planners, surveyors, engineers, researchers, contractors, developers, natural resource groups, and any others who deal with development, construction, mapping and planning projects. Please contact Steve Story, State Floodplain Engineer, Montana DNRC, at 406-444-6664.

Tuesday, Dec. 7

New Flathead River Maps: Channel Migration Zone and Bathymetric maps

The Flathead Lakers and the Flathead Conservation District are holding a public meeting on Tuesday, December 7, from 6:30 to 9:00 PM to present two new studies and maps on the Flathead River corridor.



Composite CMZ example

The *Flathead River Channel Migration Zone (CMZ)* provides potential rates of lateral river movement for the river from the Old Steel Bridge to the lake for the next 100 years, based on analyses of historical aerial photos. The *Bathymetric Study* mapped the depth and velocity of the Flathead River from its confluence with the Stillwater River to Flathead Lake. Deep channel areas with fast moving water are most prone to erosion. For more information please contact Constanza von der Pahlen, Flathead Lakers' Critical Lands Program Director at criticallands@flatheadlakers.org or 406-883-1341.

Wednesday, Dec. 15

River to Lake Initiative meeting coming up

The next River to Lake quarterly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 15 from 9:00 to 12:00 at Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.



For more information contact Constanza at criticallands@flatheadlakers.org, 406-883-1341.

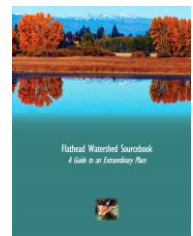
Christmas Bird Count volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed to help with the Christmas Bird Count along the Flathead River on December 14 and January 5. The Flathead River riparian corridors and associated open space is rich in bird diversity. Volunteers help count birds they see or hear in designated spots throughout the valley. The American Bird Conservancy coordinates this effort. For more information contact Dan Casey at 406-270-5941 or visit <http://www.mtaudubon.org/birds/cbc.html>.

Reports and Publications

New book now available - Flathead Watershed Sourcebook: A Guide to an Extraordinary Place

This new book discusses the communities, cultures and natural systems that comprise our watershed. The book was written by Lori Curtis of Bigfork with assistance from the Flathead Community of Resource Educators Watershed Education Committee. It is a great resource for educators, resource managers, public officials, and anyone who loves the Flathead. Check out the book at www.flatheadwatershed.org.



River to Lake Initiative Website launched

The *River to Lake Initiative* website is now available for viewing at www.flatheadrivertolake.org. The website is a useful reference for landowners, partners, and river recreators. It provides information about the Initiative and its goals and accomplishments. It includes resources for landowners, such as information about conservation easements, reports on river projects and studies, maps, and recreation information. It can also be used by partners to post news and events. Please visit the website and let us know how it can be made more useful for you. Contact Constanza von der Pahlen, Flathead Lakers Critical Lands Program Director, for more information or to provide comments at criticallands@flatheadlakers.org or 406-883-1341.

Please send news and information that you would like to share via the River to Lake E-News to criticallands@flatheadlakers.org. If your information or request is time sensitive, you can request that we send an "Action Alert" e-mail.
To unsubscribe send message to above email address.