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PROTECTING THE WATER, WILDLIFE AND OUTDOOR HERITAGE OF THE CROWN OF THE CONTINENT.



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More Success to Celebrate: BC Introduces Mining and Energy Ban Legislation

October 5, 2011

Dear [member_name_first]:

It's time to celebrate!

British Columbia's new premier, Christie Clark, has made good on her predecessor Gordon Campbell's commitment to ban mining and energy extraction in the headwaters of the transboundary Flathead River.

Yesterday, her Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Steve Thomson, introduced Bill 2, the [Flathead Watershed Area Conservation Act](#).

With the certain passage of this bill this year, B.C. will have completed its commitment to ban mining and energy extraction as one part of the historic B.C. - Montana MOU signed in February 2010 at the start of the Vancouver Winter Olympics.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) and The Nature Conservancy of Montana (TNC) will provide \$9.4 million to fund the conservation aspects of the agreement and compensate the 'sunk costs' of mining and energy companies with leases (tenures) in the watershed.



Success Makes Us Happy

Premier Christie Clark's administration has introduced Bill 2 the [Flathead Watershed Area Conservation Act](#) to fulfill the Liberal Party's commitment to ban mining and energy extraction in the headwaters of the transboundary Flathead River.



Threat Averted

It bears repeating: the BC-MT MOU is only a gentleman's agreement. Until Bill 2 and S. 233 pass the BC legislature and Congress, respectively, the deal's not done.

Now with introduction of Bill 2, the North Fork Flathead is closer than ever to protection from the worst kind of industrial impacts. (Photo credit: Garth Lenz / iLCP)

On the Montana side, senators Baucus and Tester's senate bill 233, the North Fork Watershed Protection Act of 2011, awaits Senate committee action. At this point it



Columbia to take the second step,” O’Loughlin said. “The international community has recognized that the Flathead Valley is so important that it would be eligible to be a world heritage site, if the government would declare one-third of the Flathead Valley as a national park.”

Goals North and South of the Border

In addition to the expansion of Waterton Lakes National Park, *Headwaters Montana* and Flathead Wild continue to work for additional conservation goals to permanently protect the outstanding natural and ecological treasures of the transboundary Flathead. These goals include:

- [Extinguishing the mineral rights under 18,000 acres of state land](#) in the North Fork, otherwise the minerals under these lands could be developed in the future.
- [Pass legislation](#) that directs the US Forest Service to manage the 400,000 acres of the Whitefish Range for fish, wildlife, quiet recreation and wilderness values; we have begun the effort to reach this goal.
- [Create a Wildlife Management Area](#) north of the border that would protect the wildlife corridor between the border and Banff National Park.

What You Can Do

The job of protecting the North Fork Flathead Watershed is not yet done. *After 10 years of effort... it's just getting started!*

You involvement to date has helped bring us to the point of this *initial success*. The North Fork needs you to stay engaged.

Please [support](#) our work on behalf of your interests. With your financial support we will ensure the completion of the mining and energy ban south of the border [and](#) the protection of the Whitefish Range.

~ ***Thank You*** ~



Taken for Granted?

We can't take our wildlife and clean water for granted. Our ancestors practically exterminated all large wildlife by 1900; they also worked hard to replenish what was once ruined. Now it's up to us to build on their conservation success. (Photo Credit: Joe Riis / iLCP)



Please Stay Engaged

- Pass this email to a friend and invite them to join [Headwaters Montana](#)
- help us help you protect our wilderness legacy; any donation large or small goes to work locally protecting the Flathead.

~ **Thank You** ~

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