



Photo: Harvey Locke

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April 5, 2016

Dear Greetings! :

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In today's America, you can't avoid T-Shirt slogans. They're everywhere. Not seeing your point of view expressed on TV? Then turn yourself into a human billboard! Be funny, be obscene, but be assured that the small canvas size means you have to be direct.

Please click [here](#) to make your donation through our secure, on-line service.

I recently received a T-shirt from a friend. I don't wear t-shirts with slogans. But it was a nice gesture. Lately, however, I'm feeling like it might be time to put it on. It reads: "*I Can't Believe I'm Still Protesting This Crap.*"



Whether your work on environmental issues directly or support them with your letters and dollars, most of us know the effort to protect the environment is constant. Or as another well-known slogan goes, requires "Endless Pressure, Endlessly Applied."

In the Flathead Valley it may seem that the natural environment suffers from constant assault. More and more people move here because they love it; then

they love it to death - as yet another saying goes.

Headwaters Montana covers a number of important conservation issues in the Crown. And while some of these issues constitute a risk to the environment, others represent opportunities to accomplish significant conservation goals.

In this issue of *Headwaters Montana News*, we provide updates on these issues, but we want to start by acknowledging some of the really great work accomplished locally - **by many** - for the environment and healthy communities.

Yes, more "crap" persists and continues to get proposed. But Montanans really love their state *and* the natural state of their environment. Let's keep that in mind as we acknowledge good work and take on the next challenge.

I think I'll keep that friend's T-shirt in the dresser drawer a little longer.

Cheers!



Dave Hadden, Director

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Let's Celebrate What Conservationists Have Protected Lately! - Hats Off to Everyone!!!

Stoltze Land: Two conservation easements on Stoltze Land and Lumber Company land have protected 3,020 acres in the [Haskill Creek](#) watershed near Whitefish, and 7,150-acres parcel in [Trumbull Creek](#) near Columbia Falls. The easements protect water, forest products, wildlife and recreation.

Other Private Land: The work of the [Flathead Land Trust](#), [Montana Land Reliance](#), [Vital Ground](#), and [Flathead Lakers' Critical Land Project](#) have ensured a growing acreage (more than 13,000-acres) of private land voluntarily protected from subdivision through conservation easements for the benefit of water, wildlife, agriculture, and public open space.

Public Access: [Foy's to Blacktail Trail](#) has raised more than \$2.2 million and secured land and easements to connect Herron Park to Blacktail Mountain.

The Whitefish Legacy Project has helped protect thousands of acres of State Land from development and continues to build the Whitefish Trail for public recreation.

The North Fork Flathead: North Fork Watershed Protection Act of 2014 removed the potential for energy and mining activity on over 300,000-acres of US Forest Service Land.

Civil Dialogue: The Whitefish Range Partnership made management recommendations to the Flathead National Forest that established of civil dialogue and helped administratively protect the 83,000-acre Whitefish Range Wilderness among other agreements. (The Flathead National Forest will release its draft, revised management plan in late April or early May. Stay tuned for some fun reading!)

These represent some of the most recent and visible conservation successes.

We're fortunate to live in the beautiful Flathead.

Let's keep it that way!

What's Headwaters Montana Working On?



Only humans have a larger brain for body size than Grizzlies amongst terrestrial mammals. Kill them for trophies? We need to focus on this emerging threat.

- **De-list and Hunt the Grizzly Bear?** The US Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed a new "delisting rule" for the Yellowstone Grizzly Bear. A little far-afield from the Flathead, we know, but the Yellowstone delisting process represents a dress rehearsal of the soon to come Northern Continental Divide Grizzly Bear delisting process. Montana, Wyoming and Idaho have proposed to divvy up the "surplus" national treasures to trophy hunters. Do Montanans really want Grizzly's to be hunted? *Headwaters Montana* has started a new "Grizzly Bear Project" to find out. You'll hear more about this soon.
- **"Oil Trains" Threaten the Middle Fork Flathead River and Flathead Lake** Each week the Burlington Northern Sante Fe Railroad (BNSF) ships over 36 million gallons of highly explosive and toxic Bakken crude oil by rail

car over Marias Pass and along the wild and scenic Middle Fork. There have been 37 derailments between 2000 and 2012. *Headwaters Montana* has elevated this issue to one of its top concerns for 2016. We are working with a coalition of groups to conduct a 'dye test' that simulates a oil train derailment.



Oil Train Derailment (not the Middle Fork Flathead).

Photo credit:

<http://chieforganizer.org/>



Aerial View of development at Hutton Ranch, Kalispell, MT.

Photo source:

<http://www.huttonranchplaza.com/>

● **Open Space Greets Us Each Day** Subdivision and commercial development of prime agricultural lands and open space in the Flathead Valley has been picking up with the economic recovery.

We've teamed up with the [Montana Land Reliance](#) and the [Flathead Land Trust](#) and others to form the "Flathead Working Lands Committee" to find a solution to this constant loss of a vital

public resource.

● **Wilderness Protects Your Water, Wildlife, and Recreation Heritage**

Headwaters Montana helped achieve the Whitefish Range Partnership's 83,000-acre recommended wilderness in the Whitefish Range. And we've been at the Kootenai Stakeholder table where 189,000 acres has been recommended for wilderness. We continue to work with our partners to bring these proposed wilderness areas to Montana's delegation for congressional action.



Working to protect more of the Cabinet Mountains. Photo credit: Dave Hadden



"Connect it Protect it"

That's what we do.

● **Flathead Wild Sits at the B.C. Provincial**

Table *Headwaters Montana* continues to represent Montanans' interests in protecting the international Rocky Mountain wildlife corridor as part of [Flathead Wild](#). The B.C. government officially commenced a process that will protect the corridor. Flathead Wild looks to achieve the Wildlife Management Area and up to three new provincial wilderness areas in B.C.

● **Ten Lakes Wilderness Study Area - Still Home to Snowmobiles**

Headwaters Montana joined the Montana Wilderness Association, The Wilderness Society, and Winter Wildlands Alliance to defend the Kootenai National Forest's decision to prohibit motorized and mechanized equipment in recommended wilderness areas designated by the 2015 revised forest management plan. The case



will determine whether the USFS has the discretion to protect wildlands in this way prior to congressional designation. [Earthjustice](#) is representing our position.



● **Want a Water Bottling Plant in Your Neighborhood?** *Headwaters Montana* is working with neighbors and other conservation partners [to slow down](#) the apparently greased approval process for the [Montana Artesian Water Company's](#) plans to fill 1.2-billion 20-oz. plastic bottles per year at its facility in Creston.

We'll provide you with more details on all these topics throughout the year. Thanks for your commitment to keeping the Flathead the special place that it is!

Thank You!

Click [HERE](#) to make a donation to Headwaters Montana!

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Protecting the Water, Wildlife and Traditional Outdoor Heritage in the Crown of the Continent!

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