



Thank You For Your Support!

More to Accomplish in 2019

November 12, 2019

Greetings!:

Headwaters Montana got a lot done in 2019. With this e-newsletter we report to you on our successes. At the end of each year - *and just once a year* - we return to [ask for your financial support](#). Our successes directly reflect your support.

Headwaters fills an important conservation niche in northwest Montana not covered by other organizations. We bring our grassroots base ([you](#)) into coalitions with other state and national organizations to solve big problems that impact our region.

Our Transboundary Project - Our Main Focus

Again in 2019 our main program remained the "Transboundary Project" where our focus has been on the Kootenai River and pollution coming from Teck Resources' mountaintop removal coalmines in southeast B.C.

Our transboundary coalition includes the **National Parks Conservation Association**, **Salmon Beyond Borders** in Alaska, and **Wildsight** in B.C. And we also work with **Montana Trout Unlimited** and local chapters.



The Secret to Success

Is to Work with Fun People!

Our transboundary team members from NPCA, Salmon Beyond Borders, and other associates. Here we are in Washington, D.C. making the rounds of Senate offices, Department of State, the EPA and others, working to protect the transboundary Kootenai watershed. Our efforts netted about \$1.6 million for water quality monitoring for 2019. We continue to work for additional funds for 2020 to monitor water quality in transboundary rivers between B.C. and Montana, Alaska, Idaho and Washington State.

Teck's pollution represents a millennia-long and multi-generational threat to fish in Lake Koochanusa and the Kootenai River all the way to Idaho. Teck's five enormous mountaintop removal coalmines and



Care to Fish in the Elk River?

The pollution that deformed this fish in B.C.'s Elk River is flowing from Teck's five mountaintop removal coalmines to Montana via the Kootenai River. We're working to set a scientifically valid standard for selenium at the international border in 2020.

- million in 2019.)
- Advocating for a U.S. - Canadian, federal-to-federal **framework** and funding for resolving impacts associated with Teck's pollution.
- Mitigating for landscape and water quality damages by **designating** critical land areas in B.C. for conservation - such as parks and wilderness areas.
- Maintaining and improving **water quality** and **wildlife habitat** at a regional and cross-boundary scale.

four newly approved mines are displacing wildlife and destroying ages-old migratory routes. The industrial mining in southeast B.C. impacts northwest Montana.

Our coalition team goals include:

- Ensuring that the Montana's government **protects** Montana's water quality and citizens.
- Setting a science-based **standard** for selenium (the primary pollutant) at the international border on Lake Koocanusa as soon as possible.
- Securing Congressional **funding** for water quality monitoring at the border in order to hold B.C. accountable for pollution entering Montana. (We secured \$1.6



You've Seen This Photo Before

One of Teck's five mountaintop removal coalmines polluting the Elk and Kootenai watersheds. Teck got approval for four new giant mines while Montana and B.C. have been spending four years talking about a selenium standard. B.C. and Teck are working together to avoid accountability for their pollution of Montana waters. (Photo: Garth Lenz/iLCP)

Other Project Areas Headwaters

also works on other areas of regional concern.

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service
Northern Region
October 2018

Mid-Swan Landscape Restoration & Wildland Urban Interface Project
Scoping Document

Swan Lake Ranger District, Flathead National Forest
Lake, Missoula, Flathead Counties, Montana

Responsible Official: Chip Weber
Forest Supervisor

For Information Contact: Chris Dowling or Sandy Mack
Swan Lake District Ranger Team Leader
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Comments Are Due By: November 21, 2018

Project Website:
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/flathead/landmanagement/projects>



It's Not Sexy, But...

Someone needs to keep track of Flathead National Forest projects now that they have a new forest plan and a lot more discretion in their decision-making. The Mid-Swan Project is a case in point.

- We continue to monitor Flathead National Forest projects, particularly the Mid-Swan Landscape & Wildland Urban Interface Project, and the Comprehensive River Management Plan for the three forks of the wild and scenic Flathead River.
- We led the Montana Wildlife Future Group that issued its final report in January 2019.
- We endorsed and participated in the grassroots outreach of the Montana Outdoor Heritage Project that issued its final report at the end of October.
- We lead a different coalition of groups working to make safer the BNSF rail shipment of **Bakken crude oil** through the Flathead.
- We sponsor the Jack Potter Glacier National Park Stewardship Award that honors those that protect Glacier National Park's natural wealth.
- And we've acted as fiscal sponsor for the Community Association for North

Shore Conservation ([CANSC](#)) that successfully sued Flathead County to have an illegal bridge removed from Flathead Lake's north shore.

Please [Donate](#) to *Headwaters Montana* Today!

We appreciate the demands on your budget and time and greatly appreciate your support. *Headwaters* asks you just once a year for your financial support. Please put us on your donation schedule for 2019 or, better yet, [donate today!](#)

Use our secure on-line [donation portal](#), or send your check to:

Headwaters Montana
PO Box 4310
Whitefish, MT 59911

We can also take gifts of **appreciated financial stocks** if you wish to avoid tax consequences and maximize your gift. Please call us to discuss this option.

As we head to the end of 2019 and into winter, we at *Headwaters Montana* wish you health and happiness and wildlands to explore.

Cheers and thanks!



Headwaters Montana, Inc

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The Bridge to Nowhere

Headwaters supports the work of [CANSC](#) to protect the North Shore of Flathead Lake. Their goal: to have the bridge removed by end of May 2020. This image shows the support pilings upon which the bridge was built. (Photo courtesy of [Lauren Grabelle Photography](#).)

Please Donate

THANK YOU!

***CLICK [HERE](#) TO MAKE YOUR
SECURE ON-LINE DONATION.***