

MADISON RIVER *currents*

WINTER 2009 NEWSLETTER

PATAGONIA AWARDS GRANT TO MRF



lake creek project PPL Awards MRF \$8,000 Grant

Patagonia has awarded a \$4,000 grant to the Foundation to help fund the work on Lake Creek project. The MRF application was processed by the Patagonia store in Dillon, MT. Patagonia supports through its eco-grants program a wide range of conservation organizations and projects worldwide. We're very proud the company selected the Foundation as a recipient for one of its highly competitive grants. Patagonia founder Yvon Chouinard and MRF lifetime member Craig Mathews of Blue Ribbon Flies in West Yellowstone co-founded One Percent for the Planet, a program to enlist businesses to donate 1 percent of sales to local conservation organizations. So far more than 1,000 businesses have joined. We encourage your business to join the effort and direct your contribution to the Madison River Foundation.



The old water wheel and dam on Lake Creek.
Photo by Travis Lohrenz, FWP

The project, a partnership between MRF, the U.S. Forest Service and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, now is ready to be completed in 2009. It involves drilling a well and running 6,000 feet of waterline from Lake Creek, a tributary of the West Fork of the Madison, to the top of Wade Lake bench. This will provide an alternate source of water on a nearby grazing allotment, thereby eliminating the need to draw water from the creek, especially in late summer when flows are at a minimum. Once completed the project will restore brown trout passage upstream to important spawning areas currently blocked by a small dam on Lake Creek. Foundation negotiations with Northwest Energy resulted in the utility agreeing to donate the cost of connecting the new well to a nearby power line. In addition, the Foundation has received an \$8,000 grant from PPL Montana for the project. PPL Montana is the utility that operates the dams on the Madison-Missouri system.



MONTANA FWP RIVER USER SURVEY

In fall 2008 the Foundation funded an extensive scientific survey of Madison River users by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. The survey was mailed in September to a representative sampling of anglers and property owners along the river from Hebgen Lake to Three Forks. As FWP's recreational management specialist Charlie Sperry notes "the survey should provide valuable information about how anglers and landowners perceive recreation on the Madison River. This in turn will aid management decisions and help assess the need for additional management planning." We'll report on the results and analysis of the survey in the spring edition of *Madison River Currents*.

fish out of water

These whimsically decorated mega-trout were a huge hit when they were unveiled at the 2008 Fly Fishing Festival. The project of the Madison County Economic Development Council benefits local charities, including the Foundation. The trout are on public display around the county and will be sold at auction at the 2009 festival. Forty-five percent of the money raised from the sale of the trout painted by Trudi Gilliam currently on display at the Lodge at Sun Ranch will go to MRF.



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mrf gear

Check out MRF gear on our website www.madisonriverfoundation.org
HATS · SHIRTS · SIGNATURE FLY BOXES · OTHER GOOD STUFF

WIGWAM WORK WRAPS UP



MRF PHOTO
MRF volunteers examine their stream restoration efforts on Wigwam Creek.

On-going stream improvement work on Wigwam Creek, a tributary of the Madison, should be completed this coming summer. MRF volunteers installed in-stream improvements in 2005-2006. The final two phases of the project involve fencing to keep cattle out of the creek on the associated grazing allotment and creation of alternate watering sources for the stock. Wigwam sustains a population of native cutthroat trout. The project is intended to protect this population as well as introduce Westslope cutts to a currently fishless tributary of Wigwam. The project is a partnership of MRF, the Madison Ranger District of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, and PPL Montana.

SHOW YOUR COLORS & SUPPORT MRF



There's a real pot of gold at the end of this rainbow.

"Cooper Ranch Rainbow" by Boise, Idaho artist Judy Deam is a limited edition (100) giclee color print on archival watercolor paper. The print measures 24 x 18 and is numbered and signed by the artist. Through a special arrangement with the artist, when you purchase an unframed giclee print of "Cooper Ranch Rainbow" for \$225, the Madison River Foundation receives a contribution of \$100. This colorful print will make a superb addition to your art collection that you will enjoy for years to come. Plus you'll be making a significant donation to the foundation and its mission. Send a check or call the Foundation to place your order. Credit cards also accepted.

Cabin Creek Barrier Will Protect "Cutts"

Cabin Creek is a tributary of the Madison that enters the river below Hebgen Dam. The creek sustains a population of native Westslope cutthroat trout, including a genetically pure population in the upper reaches. To protect the cutthroat from genetic introgression of rainbow trout from the main stem of the river, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks plans to install a barrier to prevent upstream passage of rainbow trout into the upper reaches of Cabin Creek. MRF has received a \$5,000 grant from PPL Montana to help fund FWP's survey and engineering design work for such a barrier.

WEST MADISON DITCH FISH SCREEN

Thousands of unscreened water diversions from rivers and streams pose a threat to fish populations across the country. For the past several years, community and MRF volunteers have turned out in the fall to rescue fish trapped in the West Madison ditch when it was de-watered for winter. In 2007 the two-day volunteer effort returned more than 2,500 fish to the river, from a handsome 20-inch brown to hundreds of fingerlings. Now a permanent solution to the problem may be in the offing. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is working with the owner of Valley Garden Ranch, operator of the ditch, and is assessing the installation of a self-cleaning screen to prevent fish passage into the canal. The Foundation is partnering with FWP and the ditch operator to find a permanent fix. PPL Montana has provided \$40,000 for preliminary design and engineering work.



MRF PHOTO
Fisheries biologist Pat Clancy of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (in white shirt) surveys site of potential fish screen with operators of the West Madison ditch.

COL. GREGORY JASPERS

TEST PILOT, FLY FISHERMAN & FRIEND OF THE MADISON

Last October near Las Vegas, Nevada, Col. Gregory Jaspers (ret.) died in the crash of his replica P-51 Mustang. Col. Jaspers, 52, was a 30-year veteran of the Air Force. A top test pilot who studied engineering under legendary astronaut Neil Armstrong, Col. Jaspers commanded the 410th Flight Test Squadron at Edwards AFB. He flew almost every aircraft in the Air Force's inventory, including

the Nighthawk stealth fighter during flight testing at Area 51. When he was not flying Col. Jaspers was fly fishing and his favorite river was the Madison. Col. Jaspers' family asked that donations be made to the Foundation in his memory to help preserve and protect the river he loved. We appreciate both Col. Jaspers' distinguished service to our country and his family's support for MRF.

BLUE RIBBON FLIES SUPPORTS MRF WITH UNIQUE OFFER

Craig and Jackie Mathews of Blue Ribbon Flies in West Yellowstone are lifetime members and loyal supporters of the Foundation.

In 2008 the couple received the Foundation's Friend of the Madison Award. All you fly tiers might be interested in this unique offer from Blue Ribbon's recent online newsletter: "Here's something you can purchase knowing every cent of your purchase goes to work on the Madison River, through the Madison River Foundation, for a river conservation project. We have worked a deal with Tim Bozorth of Dillon, where he makes beautiful fly tying bodkins out of scrap bamboo pieces he gets from Sweetgrass Rod Company of Twin Bridges. The "Boo Boys" of Sweetgrass donate the bamboo, Tim designs and makes these unique bodkins, we sell them, and the entire purchase price is donated to the foundation! Each bodkin is unique and very beautiful and only \$6.99!!!"

Call Blue Ribbon at 406-646-7642 or visit www.blue-ribbonflies.com to place your order and support the Foundation.



McGuire MEMORIAL FUND

When planning your charitable giving, please consider the Dick McGuire Memorial Fund founded by Craig and Jackie Mathews to honor the memory of the longtime guide, wild trout advocate, and friend of the Madison River. Last year the fund raised approximately \$5,000 for projects that directly benefit the Madison River. The fund is administered by the Foundation. Contributions are tax deductible.

Double that Donation with a Corporate Matching Gift

Ask your employer about corporate matching gifts. Many companies offer their employees programs to match charitable donations dollar-for-dollar. This is a great way for MRF members to double their contribution. The Foundation is a tax-exempt non-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is eligible for such matching charitable gifts. And remember, the Foundation also can accept donations in the form of stocks, bonds and securities. Contact the MRF office for details.

Thank You

Since publication of the fall 2008 newsletter we have added several new lifetime members:

- Jeff & Gerri Borsuk of McAllister, MT
- Victoria Finch of Lafayette, CO
- Howell & Krystyna Raines of Henryville, PA
- Dante P. Webster of Santa Ynez, CA

Welcome and thank you for your support!




MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & DONATION FORM ~ 2009 ~

MADISON RIVER FOUNDATION

Our Mission

WE WILL ENDEAVOR TO PRESERVE, PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE MADISON RIVER ECOSYSTEM FOR THE MUTUAL BENEFIT OF WILDLIFE AND ALL PEOPLE WHO USE IT BY EMPLOYING PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE AND ADVOCATING WORTHY PUBLIC POLICY TO ENSURE THE FUTURE WELL-BEING OF THIS VALUABLE RESOURCE.

Would like to become a member with full rights and privileges at the level noted below:

		Fill in Amt Due
Lifetime	\$1000	_____
 Royal Wulff	\$100	_____
 Stonefly	\$50	_____
 Caddis	\$25	_____

In addition, I wish to contribute:
\$ _____

I am a current member of the foundation and wish to contribute: \$ _____

TOTAL CONTRIBUTION \$ _____

MEMBERSHIP DUES AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

_____ FULL NAME

_____ ADDRESS

_____ CITY STATE ZIP CODE

_____ PHONE NUMBER

MRF ALSO ACCEPTS CREDIT CARDS

CHARGE MY: AM EX VISA MC DISCOVER

ACCT # _____ / _____ EXP DATE

_____ SIGNATURE

Please mail this form, with your check to :
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2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY 16TH

Board of Directors Meeting

MAY 9TH

Adopt-a-Highway Varney Road Cleanup

MAY 15TH

Guides & Outfitters BBQ

MAY 18TH

Board of Directors Meeting

JUNE 26TH

Annual Meeting of Membership
and
"Guardians of the River" Gala Banquet

AUGUST 8TH

Adopt-a-Highway Varney Road Cleanup

SEPTEMBER 4TH - 6TH

7th Ennis on the Madison
Fly Fishing Festival

OCTOBER 10TH

Adopt-a-Highway Varney Road Cleanup