More events & opportunities showed up since the July 1 news, so here's another July news

**July is Open Lands Month** -- [Open Lands Month Calendar here](http://www.umt.edu/conservationcalendar). And don’t miss

- **Montana Bicycle Celebration** July 15-17; including the grand opening of Msla to Lolo trail on July 16
- **Sunday Streets.** Free, fun, healthy activities all along Higgins Avenue. No cars. July 17, noon to 4pm.
- See the Conservation Calendar for more FUN FREE events. [www.umt.edu/conservationcalendar](http://www.umt.edu/conservationcalendar)

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Bird Banding with UM Bird Ecology Lab, July 15, July 28 and Aug 8 (7am-9am)

Help UM Bird Ecology Lab to band birds at the Seeley Lake Ranger Station. Gain bird identification skills, learn common birds songs, and get a chance to hold birds in the palm of your hand. Click here for more information.

Restoration Work Party and Celebration for the Clearwater-Blackfoot Project, July 24

Sunday, July 24th; 10:00 am - Work Party (volunteers needed!), 1:00 pm - Celebration; Tupper’s Lake, Clearwater Valley. Cohosted by The Nature Conservancy, Five Valleys Land Trust and Blackfoot Challenge

The 13th Annual Blackfoot River Clean Up, July 30

Saturday, July 30th; 8:00 am; Johnsrud Park. Hosted by the Blackfoot Home and Community Club.

Bitterroot National Forest South Fork of Big Creek Trail Clearing Project, July 31-Aug 6

Volunteers will work on improving the long neglected South Fork of Big Creek Trail in the beautiful Bitterroot Mountains of western Montana. Pack stock will carry the kitchen and other group gear to a great backcountry campsite where the crew will settle in for the week after a fairly flat seven mile hike along Big Creek. The crew will clear over 300 downed trees from the three mile long trail to South Fork and Pearl Lakes using traditional wilderness tools, such as crosscut saws and double bit axes. Then the crew will use hand tools such as pick mattocks and shovels to improve the trail tread passing through the magnificent high mountain valley.

CLICK HERE TO VOLUNTEER

Share your hands-on activity with kids at MT State Fair or River City Roots Festival
We Are Montana in the Classroom will be hosting booths at the Western Montana Fair and at River City Roots Festival. Please email Nathalie.Wolfram@mso.umt.edu if interested in either of the following:

August 11 or August 14 at the Western Montana Fair
Thursday, August 11 is Kids’ Day, and Sunday, August 14 is free-admission day at the Western Montana Fair. Role models from all academic disciplines are invited to lead a hands-on activity for youth and families of all ages. We recommend a 3-hour commitment and encourage departments or programs to team up on either or both of these days between the hours of 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Friday, August 26th or Saturday August 27th at River City Roots Festival
Share a hands-on activity at Missoula’s signature community celebration! We Are Montana in the Classroom will be hosting a booth at the River City Roots Festival from 11-5 pm on Friday and from 9:30-5 pm on Saturday. Role models from all fields are welcome to lead a hands-on activity, with a suggested 3-hour commitment. Consider teaming up with your department or program.

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Webinar on Arsenic and Well Testing, Communicating Risk and Engaging Communities, July 21

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) Superfund Research Program (SRP) and EPA’s Contaminated Site Clean-Up Information (CLU-IN) invite you to join us for the final session in a series of free Risk e-Learning webinars, SRP Water Innovation – An Integrated Approach to Sustainable Solutions: Session IV - Communicating Risk and Engaging Communities: Arsenic and Well Testing, on Thursday, July 21 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm EDT. This session will feature efforts by several SRP Centers to engage communities on private water related to well testing and treatment alternatives. The session will also begin with an overview of the risks of exposure to arsenic, which has a high prevalence in private water wells in some U.S. communities. Visit the CLU-IN website to register and for more information: https://clus-in.org/conf/tio/srpwir4/.

Tour the Mike Horse Dam and Repository, July 23, Aug 20, Sept 24, Oct 22

Join Montana Department of Environmental Quality staff for a tour of the cleanup underway at the headwaters of the Blackfoot River. This year’s tour includes visiting the old mine site up Mike Horse Creek, viewing the old location of the tailing’s impoundment, and the revegetation along Bear Trap Creek, now back in its original channel for the first time in 75 years. The tour will cover the history of the Mine, the cleanup process, and construction of the tailings repository. Tour dates include: July 23, Aug 20, Sept 24, Oct 22
Tours run from 10am to 1pm, and begin and end in Lincoln. For more information and to RSVP, contact outreach@blackfootchallenge.org.

FUNDING

Funding for projects related to improving the health and safety of ag workers, apply by Aug 15

Due August 15 by 5 pm Mountain Time
Up to $25,000
Approximately 9 months

The High Plains Intermountain Center for Agricultural Health and Safety at Colorado State University is accepting applications for projects related to improving the health and safety of those working in agriculture or forestry within the HI-CAHS region (Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming). Applications are being accepted for projects with budgets up to $25,000 and durations of approximately 9 months. The requirements and criteria for pilot/feasibility projects are described in the RFA, which can be found at www.hicahs.colostate.edu/pilots.html.

JOBS

EASTERN MT COORDINATOR of land conservation efforts for MT Land Reliance, apply by July 22

The Montana Land Reliance (MLR) seeks a full-time employee to coordinate its conservation efforts in eastern and central Montana. Base location for this employee will be in Billings or in an adjacent community. The successful applicant will be responsible for fundraising, coordinating/overseeing land transactions with private property owners, and organizational outreach and education. Applicant should have a good working knowledge of production agriculture, marketing, sales, fund-raising, and private property ownership issues, and be comfortable working in team situations with other MLR staff.

The job requires extensive in-state and some out-of-state travel. MLR offers a competitive salary and benefits package.

If you are interested in working for a dynamic private land conservation organization, please send a letter of introduction and resume to:

The Montana Land Reliance, P.O. Box 355, Helena, Montana 59624, on or before July 22, 2016.

To learn more about MLR, visit our website at mtlandreliance.org.

THE MONTANA NATURAL HISTORY CENTER is currently hiring a Teaching Naturalist! The Teaching Naturalist will provide instruction and curriculum development for programs of the Montana Natural History Center. Duties will primarily include teaching (mostly children, but occasionally adults too), working with volunteers and interns, material prep, and organizational outreach. Position is part-time permanent (30 hours/week).

Position is open until filled. Start date is August 24, 2016. See the full job description and application instructions on the MNHC website.

OF INTEREST

Zero Interest loans for MT farmers and ranchers

Community Food & Ag Coalition has recently become a trustee on Kiva.org, enabling CFAC members to be endorsed for 0% interest, zero fee, crowdfunded loans up to $10,000. Click here for a press release and here for CFAC’s program page

Check out this discussion of solar food dryers

http://permies.com/t/3562/food-preservation/kitchen/Solar-Food-Dryers

If you scroll down, you’ll see EVST alum Mark VanDerMeer with his solar food dryer.

Bike Auction. These are bikes that were lost/stolen/abandoned, and have been recovered by the City of Missoula. If no one claims them for 60 days, they are sold at auction. WHEN: July 20 starting at 5pm; WHERE: Gardner Auction Service, 4810 US HWY 93. For more info, contact Ben Weiss, Missoula Bicycle/Pedestrian Program Manager 406.552.6352

Summer newsletters by Vicki Watson