



WATERSHED TOUR

September 14-18

From Land to Water:
*Responsible Practices to Protect Water Quality
Across the Columbia River Basin*



Overview

The Montana Watershed Coordination Council's Fall Watershed Tour is co-hosted this year with the Montana Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Program (PSPP). This multi-day field touring and networking event will take participants from Butte to Hamilton, to Missoula, and around Flathead Lake. Each day will feature group learning, peer exchanges, local storytelling, and on-the-ground project experiences that demonstrate the threats and opportunities water managers face in reducing pollution and toxins throughout the basin. Whether you join for one day or all of them, you are sure to learn something new.

Agenda

Butte, Monday, Sept. 14

8:00 Arrive and Register at Foreman's Park

8:30 MWCC & PSPP Welcome and Run of Day

8:45 Carpool/walk 15 minutes

9:00 Berkeley Pit

- Tour of the Pit and history of the Butte Mining District presented by Sam Klusmeyer and Joe Griffin
- Contemporary Mining and Legacy Cleanup presented by Jeremy Fleege
- Wildlife mitigation presented by Mark Mariano (AppSciTec)

11:00 Driving 15 minutes

11:15 Butte Chamber of Commerce

- Butte and the Columbia River Basin Headwaters History presented by Joe Griffin

11:45 Driving 15 minutes

12:00 Lunch Hour at Father Sheehan Park

1:00 Father Sheehan Park Project

- Green stormwater infrastructure and Father Sheehan Park project presented by Christina Eggensperger (Water & Environmental Technologies)

1:30 Driving 30 minutes

2:00 Basin Creek Municipal Water Plant and Watershed tour presented by Jim Keenan (Butte-Silverbow Water Utility)

5:00 End Tour

(OPTIONAL) Drive along Silver Bow Greenway

Hamilton, Tuesday Sept. 15

8:15 Arrive and Register at Skalkaho Park

8:45 Skalkaho Park

- MWCC & PSPP Welcome and Run of Day
- PSPP Monitoring Overview and Demonstration presented by Janelle Groff (Flathead Lake Biological Station)
- Skalkaho Bend Park - Roots Against Erosion Project presented by Damon Tucker (Bitterroot Water Partnership)

10:15 Driving 30 minutes

10:45 Woodside Fishing Access

- Moisture lab and monitoring demonstration presented by Brett Heitshusen and Audree Armstrong (Montana Department of Agriculture)
- Lysimeter and irrigation monitoring presented by Adam Sigler (Montana State University Extension)

11:45 Driving 15 minutes

12:00 Lunch Hour at Teller Wildlife Refuge

1:00 Teller Wildlife Refuge

- History of Teller Wildlife Refuge presented by Dan Bailey (Teller Wildlife Refuge)
- Wetland mitigation presented by Leah Swartz (Montana Freshwater Partners) and Tom Parker (Geum)
- DEQ wetland study and intro to the Montana Wetlands Council presented by Steve Carpenedo (MT Department of Environmental Quality)
- Motis Tower and Riparian Habitats presented by Mary Scofield (MPG Ranch)

2:45 Driving 15 minutes

3:00 Great Bear Native Plants

- Integrated Pest Management and community projects presented by Aimee Kelley (Great Bear Native Plants)

- Western Montana Native Plant Collaborative presented by Tiffany Lyden (Montana Department of Environmental Quality)
- Tour of Great Bear Native Plants Nursery

4:00 End Tour

Missoula, Wednesday, Sept. 16

8:00 Arrive and Register at Miller Creek

8:30 Miller Creek

- MWCC & PSPP Welcome and Run of Day
- PSPP overview presented by Janelle Groff (Flathead Lake Biological Station)
- Green stormwater infrastructure and Septic EPA Grant presented by Heidi Fleury (Western Montana Conservation Commission)
- Miller Creek restoration project presented by Gretchen Watkins and Jed Whitley (Clark Fork Coalition)
- Monitoring demonstration presented by Callie Nelson and Paige Weigand (PSPP)

9:45 Driving 15 minutes

10:00 Takima Park and Cattail Corner

- Stormwater Bioretention Facilities presented by Maxine Winslow, Tracy Campbell, Marie Nelson and Olivia Hinds (City of Missoula Stormwater)

11:45 Driving 15 minutes

12:00 Lunch at the Missoula Public Library

12:45 Missoula Public Library

- Library's Living Roof project presented by Marie Nelson and Tracy Campbell (City of Missoula Stormwater)
- Introduction to the Stormwater Advisory Council presented by Tracy Campbell (City of Missoula Stormwater)
- AIS Early Detection Monitoring and a Pilot Pharmaceutical Monitoring project presented by Mike Koopal (Whitefish Lake Institute/Western Montana Conservation Commission)
- PSPP groundwater monitoring panel presented by Brett Heitshusen (Montana Department of Agriculture) and Adam Sigler (Montana State University Extension)
- Missoula's dam removal and conservation efforts presented by Morgan Valliant (City of Missoula)
- Introduction to Rattlesnake Creek presented by Matt Trentman (Rattlesnake Watershed Group)

2:15 Driving 15 minutes

2:30 Rattlesnake Creek & Greenough Park

- Invasive species and riparian health presented by Matt Trentman (Rattlesnake Watershed Group)
- Water sampling on Greenough Park presented by Deb Fassnacht (Watershed Education Network)
- Signage and wetland restoration presented by Rob Roberts (Trout Unlimited)
- City of Missoula water acquisition, dam history, and partnerships presented by Morgan Valliant (City of Missoula)

4:00 End Tour

6:00 Pint Night and Trivia at Big Sky Brewing

South Flathead, Thursday Sept. 17

8:00 Arrive and Register at Moise Wetlands

8:30 Moise Wetlands

- MWCC & PSPP Welcome and Run of Day
- Water sampling and wetland mitigation presented by Janelle Groff (Flathead Lake Biological Station)
- Constructed wetlands presented by Tom Parker (Geum)

10:00 Driving 30 minutes

10:30 Deep Water Well monitoring presented by Brett Heitshusen (Montana Dept. of Agriculture)

11:05 Driving 15 minutes

11:20 Lake County Granulator Tour and Overview presented by Brett Heitshusen (Montana Dept. of Agriculture)

11:50 Driving 30 minutes

12:20 Boettcher Park

- Monitoring irrigation return flows project presented by Adam Sigler (Montana State University Extension)

12:30 Lunch at Boettcher Pavilion #1

1:30 Boettcher Park & Polson Golf Course

- Water sampling demonstration and outcomes presented by Janelle Groff (Flathead Lake Biological Station)
- Polson Golf Course project presented by Coby Gierke (Flathead Lakers)
- Montana DEQ 319 program presented by Meagan Gilmore (Montana Dept. of Environmental Quality)

2:30 Driving 30 minutes

3:00 Blue Bay Park

- Fish tissue and water sampling presented by Jasmine Courville and team (Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes)

4:45 Driving 15 minutes

5:00 OPTIONAL- Flathead Lake Bio Station Tour presented by Phil Matson (Flathead Lake Biological Station)

6:00 Evening Celebration and Dinner

North Flathead, Friday Sept. 18

7:45 Arrive and Register at the Flathead Lake Biological Station

8:15 Driving 5 minutes (mandatory carpooling to Cherrywood Orchard and back)

8:20 Cherrywood Orchard

- MWCC & PSPP Welcome and Run of Day
- Best growing practices and responsible pesticide use presented by Cherrywood Orchard

9:30 Drive back to Bio Station

9:45 Driving 1 hour

10:45 Foy's Bend

- Lake issues and compounding effects presented by Samantha Tappenbeck (Flathead Conservation District)
- Bank erosion and monitoring presented by Robin Jones (MWCC and formerly MT Dept. of Transportation contractor)

12:15 Driving 15 minutes

12:30 Lunch at the Old Steel Bridge Fishing Access

1:00 Driving

Location Pending

2:15 Driving

2:30 Laker & Archie Roe Park

- Monitoring demonstration presented by Janelle Groff (PSPP)
- Montana DEQ 319 Program presented by Meagan Gilmore (Montana Department of Environmental Quality)

4:00 End Tour