

# 2012 Annual Report



Photograph courtesy of Lee Boman

  
Clearwater Resource  
Council

*Sustaining Both People and Place*

# A Message from the President

Dear CRC Members and Volunteers:

It is my privilege to address the membership of CRC as president this year. 2012 was my first year in that position and a challenging transition year for CRC as we continued our stream and lake work and took on a much greater role in fire-fuels mitigation in the valley. I would like to thank Jon Haufler, our out-going President for his dedication and focus on creating an organization that has been very successful in bringing scientifically based fire and fuels, weeds, and integrated landscape perspectives to our watershed. Jon will continue on the Board.

The Board of Directors and numerous volunteers are the real heroes that truly make things happen in our watershed. There is a continued focus on aquatics with Bruce Rieman and Joann Wallenburn in the lead. Some of the primary activities included:

- Leading the effort on aquatic monitoring with the Southwestern Crown Collaborative including state of the art scientific work on road analysis;
- Work with Students in Action – CRC is working with students and teachers monitoring and learning about our streams;
- The 5<sup>th</sup> successful year of Adopt-A-Lake monitoring of conditions in our lakes;
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> year in our Model Watershed Project with the Bonneville Environmental Foundation;
- Completion of 319 grant with a successful watershed planning effort and published report;
- Expanding Aquatic Invasive Species monitoring program where CRC has become a leader in Southwest Crown and in the region.

Under leadership of Roger Marshall, CRC hired our first community forester and took on the administration and leadership roles in delivering our Fuel Mitigation Program to our valley. CRC received a grant in October 2012 for \$94,000 and is working with Swan Ecosystem Center and the Blackfoot Challenge as partners in this program to our community .

CRC has taken a stronger focus on outreach and education to our community this year. The program is led by Lee Boman. We took on a bigger support role with Loon and Fish Festival and have had a successful year in partnering with Blackfoot Challenge on the programs of Pure Montana Tales.

Ken Barber became our Secretary and Treasurer for CRC this year after stepping down as Executive Director and becoming a member of the Board. I would like to thank Carolyn Mehl, our outgoing Secretary Treasurer for her years of volunteer work in support for CRC. Ken is focusing on getting a new Executive Director in place to support our need for organizational development.

# A Message from the President (cont.)

2013 promises to be a significant year in both programs and in development of CRC as a self-sustaining organization. We will hopefully hire a part time Executive Director with the challenge of moving to full time. Our work in partnering with other organizations will continue and expand. Bruce has plans to start an Adopt-a-Stream program for monitoring and getting baseline data on our watershed streams. Bruce has been our leader in developing citizen science programs with volunteers and our schools. We have received funding from the Seeley Lake Community Foundation to utilize the Students-In-Action program to build a curriculum program for use in our schools. We expect our Fuels Mitigation program to go great guns in 2013 utilizing Matt Arno as our community forester under the program guidance of Roger Marshall. We have received multiple grants to date for the program for 2013.

CRC's success depends on the dedication and support of its board and staff, its volunteers, and the collaboration with our neighboring organizations as we all work for a healthy, resilient watershed and community in the remarkable place we call the Clearwater. Our long-term success depends on an involved and informed community and our collective commitment to the special place we live and work.

Thanks to all,



Bill Wall  
President

## 2012 Board of Directors:

Bill Wall, President  
Bruce Rieman, Vice President  
Ken Barber, Secretary and Treasurer  
Lee Boman  
Shannon Connolly  
Jon Haufler  
Roger Marshall  
Mark Williams

## Staff:

Joann Wallenburn,  
Administrative Coordinator

**Visit us on the web! [www.crcmt.org](http://www.crcmt.org) and on Facebook as CRCMT and on Twitter @crc\_mt**



## **Look for us in the paper!**

CRC contributes to the "Eye on the Environment" section of the Seeley-Swan Pathfinder every month. Our articles focus on natural resource issues important to the Valley. You can subscribe to our "Happenings" newsletters by visiting the website and clicking on the "Join Now" tab.

# Aquatic Resources

## *Watershed Planning Group Finishes Work*

Montana DEQ funded the Clearwater Resource Council to form a Water Quality Planning Group (WPG) in 2009. The goals were to: establish a working group and begin characterization of the watershed; engage and educate the local community regarding water quality issues. The first phase of that work was completed in early 2012. Important lessons include: 1) recognition of the very limited information on watershed conditions and the need to prioritize efforts to fill critical gaps; 2) recognition of the tenuous condition of Seeley and Salmon Lakes, and the need to continue monitoring efforts; 3) recognition of the value of collaborative efforts and a thoughtful prioritization leveraging additional support; and 4) recognition of the information that can be gained through volunteer efforts. Priorities for further work focus on development of better information of different nutrient sources; roads and watershed disruption as sources of fine sediment and nutrients; and stream, lake and wetland riparian protection.

## *Lake report addresses status of area lakes*

There has been concern over the years that the lakes of our valley might be degraded by a growing population and development in the watershed. Some scientific work has been done on these lakes in the past, but that information has never been collected and analyzed in one piece. Dr. Vicki Watson of the University of Montana Watershed Health Clinic working with the Clearwater Resource Council recently completed an effort to do just that for Seeley and Salmon Lakes. The report summarizes information from the early 1970's or late 60s through work done in the last few years. The conclusions of the study are that these two lakes are in moderately good condition and have not changed measurably since the earlier work. That's good news, but the report also sounds a note of caution. These lakes show signs of stress and do not have a lot of room to absorb the increasing effects of population growth or watershed degradation. The opportunity still exists to take actions that will stabilize and even improve water quality in Seeley and Salmon Lakes; preserving their beauty and natural and recreational resource values for generations to come.

### **Milestones:**

- ***A watershed characterization and summary of existing information***
- ***Identification of priorities, recommendations for new information and active restoration***
- ***Sampling and analysis plans to guide further work***
- ***Active outreach program to engage and educate the community on water related issues***

## *Another successful year of Adopt-A-Lake*

With support from the Bonneville Environmental Foundation, the Seeley Lake Community Foundation and community volunteers, we completed a successful fourth year monitoring of area lakes. Lake conditions and efforts in the watershed to conserve their character are key to our sense of place and the economic vitality of our community. Results show that our lakes have been in relatively stable condition over the last few years, but they *are* showing some signs of stress. We've been able to use our lake work to make a case for additional work and new funding. We've partnered with Tonya Smith and students at the Seeley-Swan H.S., Montana DEQ, and the Southwest Crown of the Continent Forest Restoration Collaborative to begin monitoring nutrients in streams. This will allow us to begin to understand whether the sources of nutrients to the lakes are actually getting better..... or worse.



Super Volunteers in the Adopt a Lake Program, Jeff and Cathy Harrits

### **Milestones:**

- ***96 volunteer hours***
- ***8 lakes monitored for more than 4 years.***
- ***2011 Adopt-A-Lake report ([web link](#))***

# Aquatic Invasive Species

## *CRC leads efforts in the Southwest Crown of the Continent*

The AIS program was a major new initiative in 2011 and CRC is leading the collaborative effort to keep these intruders out of the Clearwater watershed. Zebra and Quagga Mussels, Eurasian Watermilfoil, Curly Leaf Pondweed and other invasive plants and animals have devastated lakes and rivers across the US. CRC received a grant from the USFS allowing expansion of our efforts to educate the public and monitor our lakes to provide early detection of these invader species.



Aquatic Vegetation Mapping Workshop on the Clearwater River Canoe Trail

### **Milestones:**

- ***USFS and MT FWP Campground Hosts training on AIS***
- ***Education outreach to lake landowner groups, and general public events***
- ***Sample for Zebra and Quagga Mussels on 6 lakes***
- ***Initiated volunteer sampling for juvenile mussels on two lakes***
- ***Initiated volunteer aquatic vegetation mapping on one lake***
- ***No new AIS have been identified in our valley.***

# Forest and Watershed Restoration

## *CRC plays a key role in implementation of the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program in the SWCC*

The Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project is a program of the U.S. Forest Service that competitively funds collaborative efforts to address fuel mitigation, forest restoration, fish and wildlife habitat improvement, noxious weed treatment and renewable resource management in selected landscapes. The Southwest Crown of the Continent (SWCC) including the Clearwater watershed was one of the first 10 landscapes selected. Comprised of approximately 1.5 million acres across three ranger districts in 3 national forests, the SWCC completed its second full year of activities in 2012. The efforts involve broad collaboration with communities and nongovernmental organizations. CRC is playing a significant role in this initiative including serving on the steering committee, monitoring committee including the aquatic and wildlife working groups, and involvement on the prioritization and partnership committees. The CFLRP project is producing good results having completed a prioritization process, setting monitoring goals, educating the public of the benefits of the project, and initiating a number of on-the-ground treatments.

This program is projected to receive federal support until 2019 and is an important source of funding for its associated projects. In 2012, CRC utilized CFLRP funds through our partnership agreement with the USFS to support aquatic invasive species prevention programs and new water quality research and monitoring. CRC has been a lead in coordination of the aquatic monitoring program specifically bringing new tools and expertise, demonstration projects, and substantial additional funding to the discussion of road restoration and monitoring watershed responses.

# Fuels Mitigation

## *CRC hires new Community Forester to expand role*

Wildfire continues to be a significant threat to our community and other natural resources of the watershed. Fuels mitigation and reducing fire potential around our homes and structures is a top priority. CRC's Community Forester is available to assist landowners with forest and tree management issues, coordinate fuel mitigation activities, obtain funding for fuel reduction projects and educate the community on creating and maintaining healthy forests. For assistance contact Forester@CRCMT.org.

### **Milestones:**

- ***\$255K in new 2012 funding***
- ***\$1.1 million in funding since 2005***
- ***\$1.6 million fuel reduction projects completed***
- ***More than 1100 acres treated***



An example of a healthy forest after removal of hazardous fuels

# Education

## *CRC Continues an Active Role with local Schools*

With significant funding from the Plum Creek Great Classrooms program, Montana DEQ, and the Seeley Lake Community Foundation we have continued our work with local schools. A focus has been on hydrology and water quality of Morrell Creek as a hands-on learning opportunity and service project for students at the Seeley-Swan High School. This work has attracted interest and additional support from the Southwest Crown and the Seeley Lake Community. We anticipate that it will also form the basis for comparative monitoring of other streams in the basin to determine whether existing watershed conditions and planned restoration funded by the Forest Service are having the expected benefits.

Other efforts included fish population monitoring engaging both junior high and high school students, and advising two students working on "advanced problems in science".

### **Milestones:**

- ***Established the only current, continuous flow monitoring site in the Clearwater Basin, on Morrell Creek at the High School, with one year of complete data.***
- ***Completed the first nutrient budget for any stream in the Clearwater since the work of the EPA in the 1970s and have enough funding to add a second year.***
- ***Put a lot of students "in the Creek"***



Electrofishing in Morrell Creek with Seeley Lake Middle School students

# Collaboration

In addition to collaborative efforts that resulted from the SWCC CFLRP project, CRC was active in supporting other local groups, agencies and community organizations. CRC worked closely with the Blackfoot Challenge in weed and outreach activities on the Clearwater. In addition, CRC was active in supporting other community groups by providing information and perspective to the local Sewer Board, and other local initiatives.

Many individuals and organizations funded, worked on, or otherwise supported CRC initiatives in 2012. They include: Ecosystem Management Research Institute; Bonneville Environmental Foundation, Friends of the Teton River, Montana Watershed Coordination Council, The Blackfoot Challenge; Swan Ecosystem Center; Northwest Connections; The Wilderness Society; Missoula County agencies; The State of Montana Departments of Environmental Quality, Fish Wildlife and Parks, and Natural Resources and Conservation; the US Forest Service; the US Geological Survey; the University of Montana; Plum Creek Timber Co., and others.



CRC Board Member Bruce Rieman with Ladd Knotek of Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks

# Community Outreach

## *Community outreach activity increases in 2012*

CRC's expanded community outreach programs most notably with the continuation of Pure Montana Tales—a natural and cultural history series of presentations aimed at a broad spectrum of the community. Over the course of the year, 7 programs were held in Seeley Lake and Ovando in conjunction with the Blackfoot Challenge. Program topics ranged from Native American usage of the Clearwater to a seminar on how to use bear spray.

Volunteer programs also expanded primarily with the Adopt-A-Lake efforts and Aquatic Invasive Species work. In addition, several CRC Staff, Board Members and Volunteers assisted local schools with outdoor learning programs including Discovery Days and the Students-in-Action program. In addition, CRC recognized Tonya Smith, Patricia Bouta, and Don Bissell with the notable "Dragonfly" Award for outstanding service on natural resource issues in our community. Scott Tomson, a long time Board member was recognized for his considerable support to the community as well.



"Smoke" Elser discusses his experiences as a back-country outfitter in the Bob Marshall Wilderness at a PMT program.

### **Milestones:**

- **11 articles on natural resource and cultural history topics in local newspaper**
- **Led efforts with local schools to enhance natural resource education programs**
- **7 Pure Montana Tales programs held**

# Contributors

*The following individuals and organizations generously contributed to CRC in 2012*

Anonymous • Land Lindbergh • Stan and Colleen Nicholson • Carol and Robert Brodie • Lawrence A Casper MD • Sidney Burgess • Patrick and Sue Constantinides • Lyle Daniels • Orville Daniels and Olleke Rappe – Daniels • Erick and Suzanne Hatfield • Roger and Rhea Johnson • Jean Lorentz • Kelsi Luhnnow • Jim Moose and Kirstie K. Wilson • Jerry and Deborah O’Connell • Placid Lake Landowners Association • Samuel C. and Beverly R. Reynolds • William Roberts • Dennis Rolston • Rovero’s • Daniel and Susan Stone • Seeley Lake Community Foundation • Rebecca White • Jon Haufler and Carolyn Mehl • Lee Boman • Guido Niederoest and Patricia Bouta • Scott Tomson • Don Bishop • Joann and David Wallenburn • Ken and Paula Barber • Missoula County Resource Advisory Committee • Bonneville Environmental Foundation • Montana Department of Environmental Quality • Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation • Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks • US Forest Service • Ecosystem Management Research Institute • University of Montana • Plum Creek Timber Company • Missoula County Office of Rural Initiatives • Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited • Blackfoot Challenge • UM Flathead Lake Biological Station • The University of California at Davis • US Forest Service/Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program

# Financials

Statement of Financial Position	
Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2012	
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<i>Current Assets</i>	
Cash	\$ 84,054.26
Accounts Receivable	\$ 3,922.33
<i>Fixed Assets</i>	
Furniture and Equipment	\$ 818.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 88,794.59</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
<i>Current Liabilities</i>	
Accounts Payable	\$ 1,005.29
Payroll Liabilities	\$ 289.82
Prepd. Program Expenses	\$ 2,515.40
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ 3,810.51</b>

Statement of Activities	
Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2012	
<b>INCOME</b>	
<i>Contributed Support</i>	\$ 94,124.52
<i>Miscellaneous Income</i>	\$ 13.78
<i>Earned Revenues</i>	\$ 860.89
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 94,999.19</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>	
<i>Payroll Expense</i>	\$ 32,922.39
<i>General Business Expenses</i>	\$ 1,617.82
<i>Outside Contract Services</i>	\$ 9,901.19
<i>Travel and Meetings</i>	\$ 626.10
<i>Communications</i>	\$ 1,802.31
<i>Materials and Supplies</i>	\$ 3,599.59
<i>Staff Development</i>	\$ 277.70
<i>Other and Miscellaneous</i>	\$ 1,060.19
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$ 51,807.29</b>

Clearwater Resource Council  
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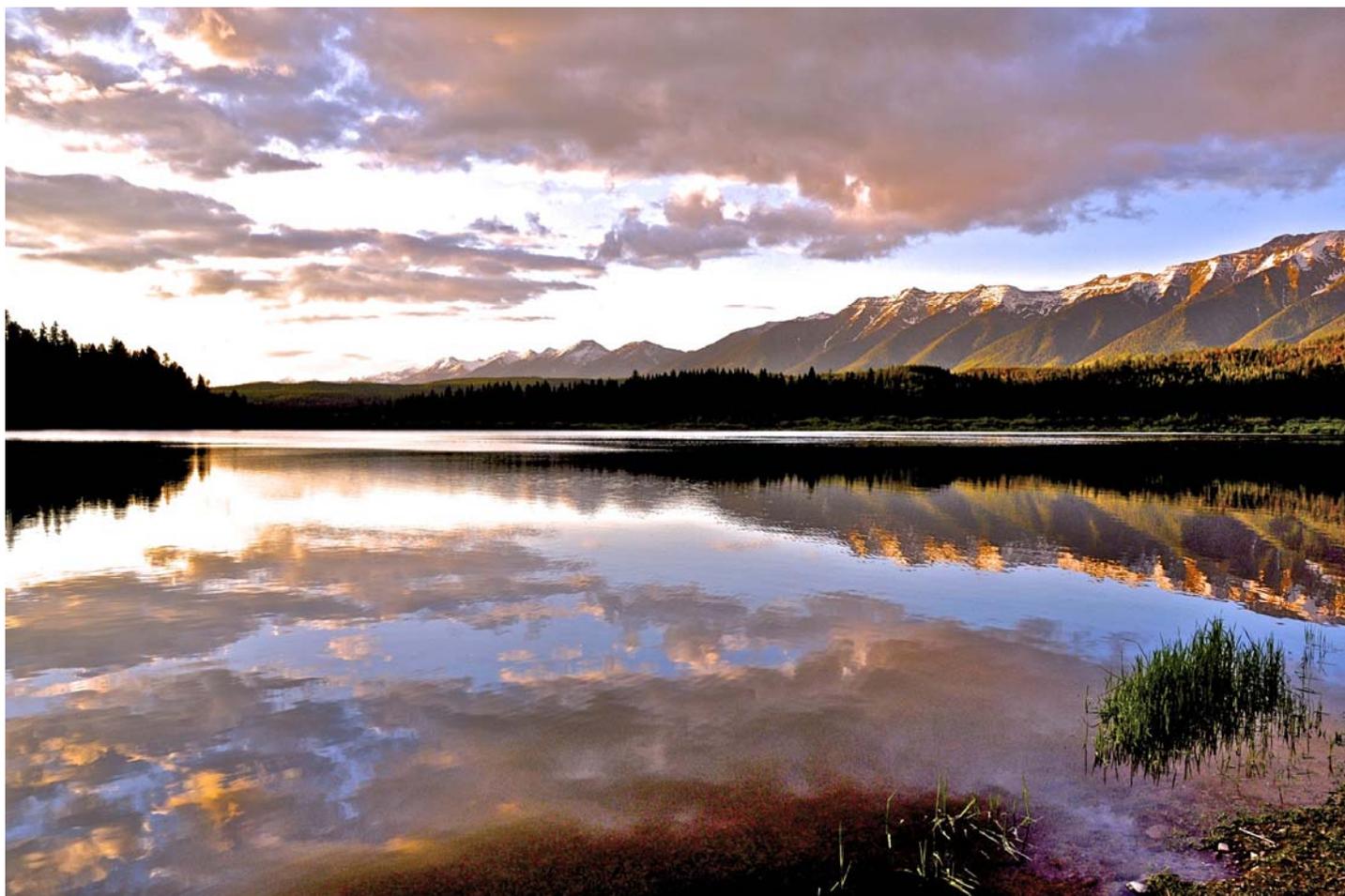


Photo courtesy of Lee Boman

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