IS THE FLATHEAD READY FOR AN OIL TRAIN SPILL?

TRAINS HAULING EXPLOSIVE, TOXIC CRUDE OIL PLAY RUSSIAN ROULETTE WITH MONTANA'S CLEAN WATER, JOBS, RECREATION, AND WAY OF LIFE.

We deserve to know the plan for preventing a disaster and if disaster strikes.
Burlington Northern Santa Fe moves up to 3 million gallons per train of Bakken crude oil along the southern boundary of Glacier National Park, upstream of Flathead Lake and through the communities of West Glacier, Columbia Falls, and Whitefish.

Bakken crude is notoriously explosive and toxic. So far, we have avoided a catastrophic derailment of oil cars in northwestern Montana, as has happened in Mosier, Oregon, along the Columbia River in 2016, and other communities. Yet we know that derailments can happen in our rugged, inaccessible terrain.

When oil cars spill – or even explode – along the Middle Fork or along the shores of Whitefish Lake, it will be a recipe for local economic and ecologic disaster. Oil could reach Flathead Lake in less than 48 hours and be impossible to completely remove. Oil would also contaminate groundwater, drinking water, and wells throughout the valley.

BNSF has developed a “Geographic Response Plan” for a derailment. Unfortunately, the public has been excluded from reviewing or commenting it.

What is the prevention plan?

Given the high risk, locals have the right to know and insist that every measure is taken to safeguard our water, economy, public health, and way of life.

Clean water is not important to just my business. Glacier National Park is about the clean water. Clean water runs through the heart of our business.

-Hilary Hutcheson, Business Owner and Fishing Guide
The people of Montana have every right to participate and comment on the development of a “Prevention Plan” that does everything possible to reduce the likelihood of an oil train derailment.

Flathead Lake is one of the most priceless lakes in the world. If we had an entire 80-car train go into the Middle Fork it would be a disaster beyond belief.

- Dr. Jack Stanford, Retired Director and Emeritus Professor, Flathead Lake Biological Station, University of Montana

I drop my kids off for elementary school right next to the oil tracks at West Glacier Elementary. Every time I see an oil train go down the valley it gives me a bad feeling and I worry.

- Erin Sexton, Parent and Coram resident

If Burlington Northern-Santa Fe wants to be a good corporate neighbor, it needs to recognize just how special Glacier Park and the Flathead watershed are. We deserve an open discussion to prevent and mitigate the risk of potential oil train derailments.

- Steve Rosso, President, Flathead Lakers

BNSF RESPONSE

TEAMS ARE IN MISSOULA

HOURS AWAY FROM THE RAILS.

BNSF HAS NOT MADE PUBLIC ITS “GEOGRAPHIC RESPONSE PLAN” IN CASE OF AN OIL TRAIN DERAILMENT.

BNSF HAS IDENTIFIED THE NEED BUT REFUSED TO BUILD ADDITIONAL AVALANCHE SHEDS ALONG THE MIDDLE FORK RIVER CORRIDOR.
Contact one of your elected representatives and tell them that you’re concerned about the threat of an oil train derailment to your clean waters, and the lack of official oversight.


Take the first step in protecting your clean water by joining us at
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Brought to you by local business owners, sportsmen and conservationists.