

If you're having trouble viewing this email, you may [see it online](#).

Share This: 



In This Issue:

- Big Sky Watershed Corps
- Fall Veterans Green Corps
- Ft Belknap Partnership
- REI Supports Youth in Service
- Salazar Meets with MCC Members

New Partnership Promotes Watershed Health

MCC will partner with the Montana Watershed Coordination Council and the Montana Association of Conservation Districts to offer a new AmeriCorps opportunity – the Big Sky Watershed Corps (BSWC), a service experience that promotes watershed health, community engagement, and professional development. BSWC will support eight AmeriCorps members to serve with conservation districts or watershed-related groups throughout Montana. Members will work with local school, youth, and community groups to educate them about their local watersheds and engage them in field projects such as water quality monitoring, stream inventories and data collection. Data collected will be used to help inform local decision-makers about potential policies and strategies for solutions. This is a new arena for MCC and an exciting opportunity to explore new partnerships





We're planning alumni events throughout the fall. Connect with us on facebook for the latest information.

that provide lasting benefit to the people and lands of Montana.



Veterans Green Corps Fall Offering

This fall, MCC will offer its second session of Veterans Green Corps, a program that focuses on conservation skills and career development for current era veterans interested in employment with land management agencies. Veterans from across the country will meet for two weeks of training, and then head out for six weeks to practice what they learned completing conservation projects with the US Fish and Wildlife Service in the Charles M Russell National Wildlife Refuge, and the US Forest Service in the Bridger-Teton National Forest. Participants receive conservation skills training, saw certification, a living stipend, and an education award for further education and training opportunities, such as Wilderness First Responder courses through Aerie Backcountry Medicine, or NOLS Wilderness Medicine Institute. Participants will also have the opportunity to network with land management employers. Veterans interested in applying should contact MCC for more information.

MCC Partners with Fort Belknap Tribe for Healthy Communities

Throughout July and August, MCC will partner with members of the Fort Belknap Tribe to complete new trails and a new playground in Mission Canyon; an area damaged by fire and heavy flooding. Tribal members, MCC AmeriCorps members out of Billings, and local teens from MCC's Expedition program, will finish building the Hole in the Wall trail, adding to their efforts last season. Additionally, crews will complete work on the South Fork trail, a flat trail designed for all ages and abilities, roughly a 3 mile loop. Crews will also rebuild a fire-damaged playground at the St. Paul Mission School in Hays, Montana. These projects are made possible by a grant from PPL Montana.





REI Supports Youth in Service

Outdoor retailer [Recreational Equipment, Inc.](#) (REI) awarded the Montana Conservation Corps with a significant grant to help engage more youth in service and recruit new volunteers. This support builds on an existing partnership with REI in Bozeman and Missoula to get youth active in the outdoors and involved as stewards improving nearby trails, public lands, and parks. The grant will help mobilize hundreds of local teens as volunteers and prepare them with the skills and enthusiasm to be safe and responsible users of America's great outdoors.

Secretary of the Interior Visits Flathead Valley

In a tour of the Flathead Valley last week, US Department of the Interior (DOI) Secretary Ken Salazar, and newly appointed US Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe, stopped by the Creston Fish Hatchery where they met with members of Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) and the Northwest Montana Native Youth Conservation Corps (YCC). The group discussed existing partnerships between DOI and programs like MCC and YCC, and the potential for these partnerships to lead to careers within DOI. MCC alumni Vince D'Angelo, who now works for US Geological Survey, and Annie Gustafson, who now works for Glacier National Park, talked about the ways in which their experience with MCC helped them gain employment within DOI.



US Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe meets with MCC members. Photo courtesy of Denise Wagner at US Fish and Wildlife Service.

206 N. Grand | Bozeman, MT 59715 US

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.