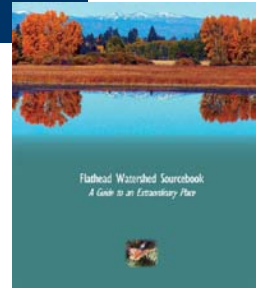


Northwest Regional RC&D

Flathead Core Watershed Sourcebook



The Flathead Watershed Sourcebook: A Guide to an Extraordinary Place

Thanks to the support of Northwest Regional RC&D, the *Flathead Watershed Sourcebook: A Guide to an Extraordinary Place* was published and is being distributed throughout the Flathead Valley. Viewed from a bioregional perspective, the book discusses the many people and systems that make up the Flathead Watershed—one of the most biologically intact ecosystems in North America. The book was developed for the Flathead Community of Resource Educators (CORE) Watershed Education Committee and written by Flathead author and recent master's graduate Lori Curtis. The project also serves as the author's master's thesis project for a Master of Science in Environmental Studies, with a concentration in Conservation Biology.

The colorful, 260-page book generally defines a watershed, and specifically describes the Flathead Watershed including its natural history, climate, biodiversity, cultural history, town profiles, water bodies, water usage and quality, influences and protections, land ownership and management, agricultural production, economics, and watershed conservation and education resources. In addition to the central content and scientific sidebars, it includes over 50 "Watershed Perspectives." These short, individually contributed vignettes help tell the story of the watershed from a variety of viewpoints.

It is a "must have" book for long-time residents as well as new community members and visitors. And it is an essential sourcebook for the development of learning tools by Flathead Watershed resource educators. The Flathead Watershed Sourcebook weaves science and art, nature and human nature into an appealing and informative publication. The entire book was also developed into a website at www.flatheadwatershed.org.

With the participation of over 50 local organizations, tribes, and agencies involved in Flathead Watershed resource management, the sourcebook and companion website provide valuable information and resources. The book has been received well by citizens, scientists, and educators, and is already being used in high school and college class coursework. Plans are also underway to develop watershed education programs for K-12 students.

Initial project sponsors include: F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber, Flathead Audubon Society, Flathead Basin Commission, Flathead Conservation District, Flathead County River Commission, Flathead Lakers, Flathead National Forest-Flathead County Resource Advisory Committee, Flathead Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Glacier Association, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, River Design Group, The Sustainability Fund, and Whitefish Lake Institute. Sponsors are still needed to cover some of the production and distribution costs. Sponsorship donations can be sent directly to RC&D. See <http://www.flatheadwatershed.org/order.shtml> for more information.

Over the long term, it is hoped that the *Flathead Watershed Sourcebook* will contribute to increased watershed-sensitive development of land and roads, improved construction practices particularly in susceptible riparian and wetland areas, more sensitive water usage, more sustainable recreational behaviors, improved agricultural practices, a decrease in polluted runoff reaching Flathead Lake, and by the overall improved health of the watershed.

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