

Flathead Community of Resource Educators (CORE) Meeting 1/19/12 Minutes

Attending: Paul (Glacier Institute), Kathy (Hockaday), Melissa Sladek (Crown of the Continent Research Learning Center), Brett Holmquist (Ravenwood), Mary Jo Gardner (Fair-Mont-Egan School), Teresa Wenum (Flathead National Forest), Evie Bradley (Creston Fish Hatchery), Patti Mason (Flathead Conservation District), Laurie Lapan (Bureau of Rec/Headstart) via conference call.

Old Stuff

- 1. Winter Trails Day.** Ashley reported that Audubon assisted at Blacktail. 30 participants gathered, including families new to the area, some which had never seen snow before! Kids of all ages (babies on up) were present. No snow at Lone Pine caused them to cancel their event. Glacier NP had 10 people for the morning walk and 18 for the afternoon walk. No report on the ladies event in the Swan.
- 2. Website.** Hillary reported before Christmas that the website was ready with the exception of the calendar. No word since then. Flathead Conservation District agreed to collect donations for web fees and pay Pixel Solutions. Women in Timber indicated they were willing to donate this year.
- 3. Watershed Ed Committee.**
 - a. Flathead Watershed Sourcebook.** We have funds to produce CDs but would like to make revisions and corrections first. We still need about \$1000 to make that happen, and are looking at private funding sources. We will meet in February to move this forward.
 - b. Field Guide to Outdoor Education Sites.** This out of date publication from CORE is being updated. Ashley and Patti worked on the format and content, and prioritized sites listed in the old book and also on the CORE one page list of sites. Lex has brought Jill Seigmund on board to work to contact all the sites and get the updated information to Patti, Ashley and Lex. It will be put together and placed on the website. Some hard copies will be printed and distributed as well.

New Stuff

- 1. Earth Day event.** Everyone agreed they would like to do something, but also did not want to be the organizers. Melissa is on the GNP Green Team, so will find out at their Feb meeting if they would like to collaborate. A poster project was discussed (as opposed to a contest). Mary Jo is willing to contact schools and peddle the posters for display at downtown businesses. Evie is also willing to help. Patti will contact Jennifer Young with the city of Kalispell to tell her we will be involved if she will take the lead, get the downtown business association involved, and maybe Valley Recycling.
- 2. State Early Childhood Conference.** Hosting of this annual conference revolves around the state, and is applicable to children from infant to 2nd grade. This year it is being held at the Red Lion Inn in Kalispell, with the theme "Get Out – Exploring Beyond the Classroom Door." CORE has been asked to conduct a preconference workshop on October 18th. It will be a combination of the "Reconnecting Children with Nature" workshop from last spring and the combined PLT early ed guide/trunk workshop we did last fall. We discussed some possible locations, including Creston Fish Hatchery/Mennonite Church, Lone Pine Visitor Center, GNP community center, and the Lutheran Church camp on Flathead Lake. There will be an outdoor environments tour associated with the conference as well. For more information, contact Laurie Lapan at llapan@usbr.gov.

A subcommittee was formed to work on this workshop, including Kathy, Teresa, Laura and Patti. Brett also wants to be involved in the workshop.

- 3. Winter Family Program.** Audubon is offering a new program called "Winter Vacations are for the Birds" on Jan. 20 at 11:30 at the Kalispell Library and Jan 24 at 7 pm at Samaritan House. Participants

are encouraged to bring their beach towels and flip flops. If you know an org or community group that would be interested in hosting this program, contact Ashley at audubonashley@gmail.com.

4. **Wilderness Workshop Feb 10-11 with Steve Archibald.** Steve didn't come due to bad weather, but Brett told the group that School District 5 had refused to list the workshop on the PIRnet, so there were only 2 people signed up so far. We discussed some ways to get the word out.

5. **Avalanche Basin information.** Crown of the Continent Research Learning Center has just completed a set of podcasts about Avalanche Basin done with college students. You can access them from this link: <http://www.nps.gov/glac/photosmultimedia/avalanche-basin-podcasts.htm>. They are looking for partners to support their efforts with high school and college level science students.

6. **Great Backyard Bird Count** Feb 17-20. As much or as little as you want. More info at www.birdcount.org or email audubonashley@gmail.com.

7. **Project Learning Tree** Possible Secondary workshop on Focus on Forests Feb 18. PLT Greenschools webinar, free, visit www.plt.org/webinars to learn more.

8. **Fireworks trunk workshop** In Missoula Feb 24-25

9. **MEEA newsletter.** www.montanaeea.org/ check out their latest newsletter

10. **Flathead County Science Fair.** 3-5th grade at Deer Park Feb 23 and 6-8th grade at West Valley School Mar 2. 8 am, lunch provided. They need good judges! Call Annie Sutkus at 892-5719 or marycayedover@gmail.com.

11. **News from Creston Hatchery** They are one of two places chosen for funding to become partners with Arbor Day Foundation to create an Explore Nature Classroom. A network of these outdoor classrooms is being formed around the county. It will be designed this spring and construction will take place starting in July. There will be a teacher's workshop in May to let everyone know what is happening. If anyone has any unique natural things for Evie to include in the classroom, please contact her at Evie_Bradley@fws.gov. They also have the pavilion available for rent by donation only. Call to reserve. They are working again with CSKT who will help assemble and install the classroom.

12. **Ravenwood** has a week long workshop planned from Oct 7-13th on the Art of Mentoring somewhere in the Sandpoint area in Idaho.

13. **Flathead National Forest.** Teresa came with the new Junior Snow Ranger booklet. Jan. 27th is the national launch of the new materials.

14. **Flathead Conservation District.** 1200' restoration project in Whitefish will use Whitefish High School students and the Boy Scouts to make conifer fascines and plant riparian vegetation. Service learning! Construction will be next fall.