

## Projects

### **The Flathead Watershed Sourcebook: A Guide to an Extraordinary Place**

Northwest Regional RC&D is pleased to support the development of the *Flathead Watershed Sourcebook: A Guide to an Extraordinary Place*. The Flathead Community of Resource Educators (C.O.R.E.) Watershed Education Committee has engaged local writer Lori Curtis to produce this important sourcebook for the Flathead community.

*“It is widely agreed that education is the most effective means that society possesses for confronting the challenges of the future. Indeed, education will shape the world of tomorrow.”* UNESCO, 1997

Nowhere is this statement from UNESCO truer than in the challenges we face in maintaining watershed health. The *Flathead Watershed Sourcebook* will be a central source of watershed related information, data, and resources for citizens and educators of the Flathead Watershed.

With the participation of over 50 local organizations, tribes, and agencies involved in Flathead Watershed management, the sourcebook and companion website will provide information on the natural history, climate, biodiversity, cultural history, waterways, water quantity and quality, protections and monitoring, human influences, land management, economics, and watershed conservation and education resources. It is being written for a broad, primarily adult audience in a way that will help citizens to understand their roles and responsibilities in maintaining watershed health, and will facilitate the development by educators of learning tools that accomplish diverse, K-12 watershed education goals. The project also serves as a Master's thesis project for a Master of Science in Environmental Studies, Conservation Biology.

The Flathead Watershed is home to an amazingly diverse community of wildlife and plants. It has one of the most diverse economies in the Rocky Mountain West balanced by education, government, health services, forest products, manufacturing, retail, and tourism. With its rich natural beauty and healthy lifestyle, it is truly an extraordinary place.

Over the long term, it is hoped that the *Flathead Watershed Sourcebook* will contribute to a greater number and breadth of watershed education programs for K-12 students, 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.

Flathead Watershed

