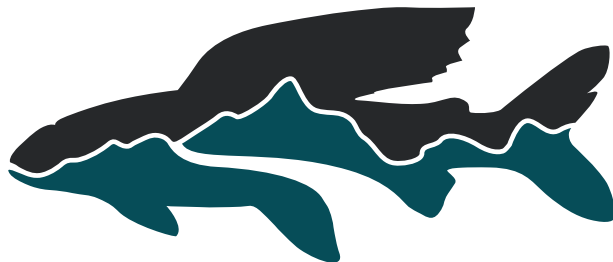


Free Flows

A Quarterly Publication

Upcoming Events

Raffle - NRS 100/100
"Raft-le" Drawing
8/31/18



BIG HOLE RIVER
FOUNDATION

The Big Hole River Foundation's mission is to conserve, enhance and protect the free-flowing character of the Big Hole River, its unique culture, fish and wildlife.

Ian Sears Memorial Donation To Endowment

The Big Hole River Foundation has received a very generous endowment contribution from Lowell Sears in memory of his son Ian. We are saddened by Mr. Sears loss of his son Ian and express our heartfelt condolences to him and his family.

The Big Hole River Foundation Endowment Fund is an "open endowment" and we can accept donations to the fund, which is being held by the Montana Community Foundation. The principle funds remain in the endowment in perpetuity and dividends are distributed annually to the Foundation.

If you would like to contribute to our endowment, please contact our office at 406.560.7089 or email us at bhrf@bhrf.org and we will help you direct your donation to the fund.

Thank you to Lowell Sears for thinking of the Big Hole River Foundation by honoring your son Ian.



"Ian spent many enjoyable days fly fishing on the Big Hole with his dad and grandfather over the years. The Big Hole created great times and memories for us. Thanks to the Foundation for all the efforts to preserve this unique resource for future generations."

Lowell Sears

Spring 2018

In This Issue

Foundation Endowment
Case for Support
Toxic Spill on the Big Hole
Aquatic Invasive Species
Kid's Activities

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Wade's Message

Dear Members,

Nonprofit conservation groups across the country work tirelessly to protect and restore our favorite streams. The Big Hole River is lucky enough to have three such groups and numerous agencies working to conserve, enhance, and protect its unique culture, fish, and wildlife. The Big Hole River Foundation has been redefined over the past two years and is now driven by a lean, hardworking executive board. We have contracted David Dockery, a Montana-raised fisheries biologist from Wild Rivers Consulting, and together we will forge a model of science-based, locally implemented, watershed conservation strategies that will help inform future work on the Big Hole River. As a result, we have so much work to do we're tabling Big Hole River Day this year but stay tuned - we'll throw a big party when our program is up and running!

Now more than ever, protecting our fisheries' health is in our hands. In today's climate it's up to local watershed groups to work together and do more, with less. Many restoration projects occur where funding is most available rather than where restoration may be most needed. Conservation and restoration efforts are rarely assessed for long-term effectiveness within the context of a watershed's overall health.

The Big Hole River Foundation is developing a holistic annual water quality monitoring program for the Big Hole River and we seek to collaborate with groups and agencies already collecting water quality data. Our long-term program will identify pollution trends within the watershed and will help inform future restoration projects in order to ensure time and money are well spent, resulting in more bang-for-the-buck river protection that creates measurable improvements and cost-savings.

While federal law requires states to periodically assess waterway and fisheries health, it doesn't lay out clear requirements for how, where, or when states must act to restore degraded waterways. In many states the lack of a clear restoration mandate has meant that river restoration and conservation projects only occur when funding – or political will – appears.

In fact, Montana has only holistically assessed our extraordinary river once, over a decade ago, at which time the state Department of Environmental Quality placed pollution diets for five different pollutants on the Big Hole. Since that snapshot of our river's health, millions of dollars and countless hours have been spent to restore our river, yet we don't have an updated holistic picture of where we stand today.

This year, the Big Hole River Foundation will design a long-term water quality monitoring program that will assess waterway health, help the state of Montana keep current water quality data for better management and assist fellow local watershed groups in their shared quest to protect this beloved river.

Join us in supporting science-based river protection on the Big Hole...so we can pay it forward!

Sincerely,

Wade

NRS 100/100 "RAFT-LE"

Tickets are on sale now - Hurry, only 100 will be sold
Drawing will take place on August 31, 2018 or when all tickets are sold,
whichever comes first

Prize - NRS Otter 130
Self-Bailing 13'

Neptune Gray raft with fishing frame, large stern seat
mount w/seat, anchor system, tie down straps,
repair kit and Sawyer oars.

Tickets \$100 Each

Odds have never been better for you to win! (1:100) and help BHRF improve the odds of building a Quality Water Monitoring Program for the Big Hole River!

For as little as 28 cents/day you can support our mission to conserve, enhance and protect the free-flowing character of the Big Hole river, its unique culture, fish and wildlife.

The challenge confronting local watershed planning and management across the nation is one of focus: we need to target the right areas, and use the right tools, to achieve a measurable result. In a world of finite resources, time and energy, what's needed is an objective science-based approach to river protection and restoration that uses credible data to guide measurable projects, healthy rivers and vibrant fisheries. And, you can help by purchasing your raffle ticket today.

Cut out and return the ticket order form below or visit our online raffle page at:
<https://rafflecreator.com/pages/22832/bhrf-nrs-100100-raft-le>

Big Hole River Foundation NRS Raft Raffle Ticket Order Form \$100 Each	
Name	_____
Address	_____
City, State Zip	_____
Phone	_____

**RAFFLE TICKET
ORDER FORM**
*Mailed tickets must be received in our office no
later than August 31, 2018*

Thank You

We are grateful to the following members and donors who have renewed or made recent contributions and gifts in support of our mission as of June 10, 2018. Every effort has been made to maintain accuracy in our donor lists. If we have made any errors, please call 406-560-7089 or email bhrrf@bhrrf.org.

Cash Donations

Anonymous ~ Robert & Holly Asmuth
Ron & Valerie Fick ~ Kenneth & Mary Gaines
Arnold Gaunt ~ Bill Good ~ David Guckenberger
Hamilton Ranches/David & Tony James
John & Judy Jacobson - Cash Donation
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Memorial Donations

Lowell Sears in memory of his son Ian
Bill & Michele Brennick in memory of Jim Matteucci
Jean Wall in memory of John Lawrence Fowler
Kathleen Hanson in memory of John Fowler
Gail & Rick Beers in memory of John Fowler
Ruth & Peter Dow in memory of John Fowler
Rex & Nan Winter in memory of Christopher Winter
Mary Rowe in honor of Beth Gordon

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Kid's Day Donors Thank You!!!

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Richard & Laurie Wright
Numerous Other Volunteers

KID'S DAY ON THE BIG HOLE 2018



TOXIC SPILL ON THE BIG HOLE

Last month a truck carrying 48,000 pounds of powdered molybdenum (moly) crashed into the guard rail at Thompson's Corner in the Jerry Creek section of the Big Hole River, dumping its load along the roadway and river bank. Luckily, little more than dust entered the river. The truck was traveling its preferred route from Montana Resources' mine in Butte to a processing facility in Challis, Idaho. Though responsibility fell to the trucking company, Montana Resources immediately sent a pumper truck from Butte to begin cleanup and we are very thankful for this good neighbor effort.

Neither the DEQ nor the mining company know much about the effects of this particular heavy metal in a waterway. A moly spill has never happened near a waterway in Montana before. According to DEQ there is no cleanup standard for molybdenum ore for soil and Montana does not have a water quality standard for molybdenum.

It seems we dodged a bullet and the Big Hole was not affected but we've asked the environmental consultant for the trucking company in charge of the cleanup to consider assisting us in conducting a small tissue sample study near the site of the wreck to confirm. In the meantime, we are looking ahead for opportunities to minimize the chance of a wreck like this happening again and in the event one does, make sure those who respond are safe. Board member Tom Davis was formerly a

safety director on the Bakken oil fields and is pulling together best management practices for volunteer cleanup response.

When the accident happened Thompson's Corner residents, Montana Disaster and Emergency Services, Beaverhead County Disaster and Emergency Services, the Beaverhead County Sanitarian, and the Montana Department of Transportation all responded to the scene.

Moly is not classified as a hazardous material by the Department of Transportation but that is not the same as not being hazardous. In an occupational setting, exposure to moly would be measured and controlled within OSHA guidelines. In common terms we would consider moly caustic - it causes irritation to eyes and is harmful if inhaled causing irritation to the respiratory system. If OSHA guidelines were followed, the clean-up crew would have been trained on proper sanitation procedures such as hand washing and proper irrigation if they felt a burning sensation in the eyes. Skin protection also should have been worn. We are very grateful to the Big Hole Valley residents who jumped into action with shovels and trash cans to prevent this substance from entering the river and we want to make darn sure they are safe in the future. After all, we're here to conserve a unique culture as well as a pristine river!



Photo by Meagan Thompson, The Montana Standard



Photo by Jacke Maher

HELP PROTECT OUR WATERS AND NATIVE AQUATIC SPECIES

Watercraft Inspection Stations are again set up throughout Montana. If you are hauling watercraft of any kind, you must stop. It's the law.

Montana law requires everyone transporting motorized or nonmotorized watercraft to stop at all inspections stations. This includes rafts, drift boats, canoes, kayaks, paddleboards, personal pontoons, and sail boats.

Your watercraft must be inspected if:

- You encounter an open inspection station.
- You are coming into Montana from out-of-state.
- You are traveling west over the Continental Divide into western Montana (the Columbia River Basin).
- You are coming off Tiber or Canyon Ferry Reservoirs.
- You are launching anywhere within the Flathead Basin and your watercraft last launched on waters outside of the Flathead Basin.

What You Can Do

When recreating in Montana, protect our waters by following these aquatic invasive species laws.

The three steps of Clean, Drain, Dry greatly minimizes the risk of spreading Aquatic Invasive Species into new locations.

CLEAN: Completely remove all mud, water, and vegetation before leaving the access area.

DRAIN: All water from watercraft and equipment.

DRY: Your watercraft and equipment. Aquatic invaders can survive only in water and wet areas.

To protect Montana's waters and native aquatic species, please follow these rules and guidelines: Clean Drain Dry

For more information please visit <http://cleandraindry.mt.gov/Watercraft-Inspections>



BHRF Trout in the Classroom

In January of each year The Big Hole River Foundation provides trout eggs for an elementary school to foster through their hatching into a survivable size (about five months later), when the students release them into a large supporting pond for the trout. Judy Boyle, Supervising Teacher/Authorized Representative, for Divide School submitted the following report of her young students' experience. This is not only fun and rewarding, but an important exercise in introducing our youth to the science and ecology of our fisheries and surrounding plant life. Thank you to our little up and com-ing fishers for your enthusiasm and support

We had a very successful release. We raised and released 72 fish! Up from 10 last year!

The kids had a great time with these fish and learned so much!

Our first batch of eggs came via FedEx and only five fish survived only to die a month after hatching. The fine folks at the Ennis Fish Hatchery gave us another batch of eggs that my husband picked up from them and drove them right to us so they did not freeze in the back of a delivery truck! (We think that is what happened or it was the shock of being put into a warmer (54 degree) tank.) In both batches, there was one fish that was hatched deformed. They remained curled in a C shape and lived for about a month liv-ing on the bottom of the tank and swimming in a frantic way. Another fish was hatched with a hernia type deformity. He was eventually eaten by a bigger fish so the kids learned that big fish eat little fish! The only part of the fish eaten was the head. The big fish swam around

with it sticking it out of his mouth and then spit him out. "Yeck!" from some of the kids, "Cool!" from others! The kids asked me to take the little fish out of the tank so they could see it and I did. They were amazed the bones were so thin and translucent. They wanted to know why the big fish did not eat the whole thing.

The fish were transported in a cooler with a battery-powered aerator. The water was 1/2 tap and 1/2 tank with a freezer pack to keep the water cold. The kids had containers to release the fish. They would collect pond water, come to me for a fish and gently release the fish into the pond.

All in all, it was another successful fish raising! We cannot wait to do it again next year!

Enjoy the pictures and your summer!





Annual Montana Tech Science Fair Awards Big Hole River Foundation Winners



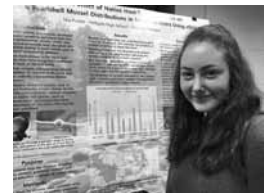
The annual Montana Tech Regional Science and Engineering Fair Division 1 and 2 took place in early March. Board member Sheila Youngblood judged at the event and chose the best water related projects for the Big Hole River Foundation awards. Award winners receive a cash donation from the Foundation as well as a one-year membership. Congratulations to all of this year's winners!

The elementary school level winner was Townsend Middle School's 6th grader Riley Rauser whose science project was titled: *Water Mania*.

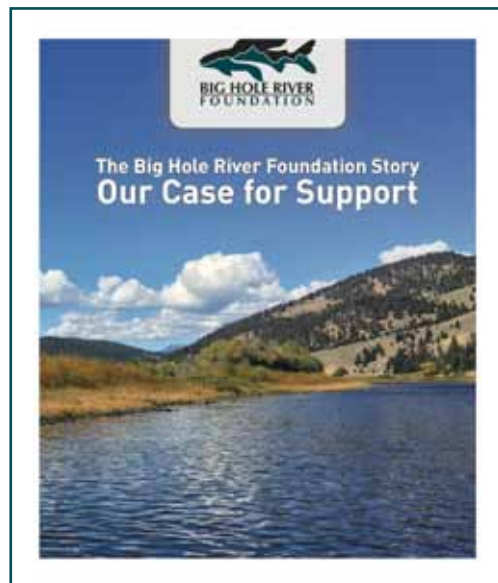


Our winners in the middle school division are Ophir School 7th graders Kylie Crouch and Mina Solaimani for their project titled: *How Ocean Pollution Affects Marine Life*

Our winner in the high school division is Hellgate High School 10th grader Mia Foster. Mia's project was titled: *Examining the Effect of Absence of Native Host Species on Western Pearlshell Mussel Distributions in Montana Rivers Using eDNA*.



hot off the press!



Be sure and ask about our *Case for Support* which highlights :

- Why the Big Hole River is Important
- Our New Primary Initiative for Water Quality Monitoring
- How we are championing the cause through Research and Conservation
- And much more....

The scope of our efforts to conserve the Big Hole is profound and foundation-al...and yes, challenging. We are in this for the long haul and we would like you to be in it with us too. In the Big Hole River Valley, conservation is more than just an intellectual or monetary buy-in to preserving or restoring the pris-tine characteristics of the river, its fisheries and ecosystem. It's personal...it's the protection of a community's living space and soulful serenity for many a generation past and future.

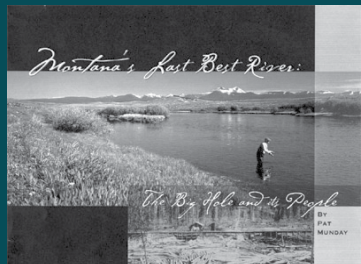
Give us a call, send us an email or better yet make a donation (all amounts matter)!

Thanks in advance!

BHRF Merchandise

The Big Hole River Foundation has books, logo fishing shirts, vests and hats for sale. To order, please visit our website at www.bhrf.org.

Montana's Last Best River: The Big Hole and it's People by Pat Munday.
George Grant signed edition \$59.95 + S&H
Dave Whitlock print edition \$49.95 + S&H.



Books by George Grant
Grant's Riffle
Montana Trout Flies
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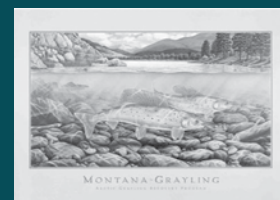


Columbia Fishing Shirts
Long Sleeve in many sizes and colors
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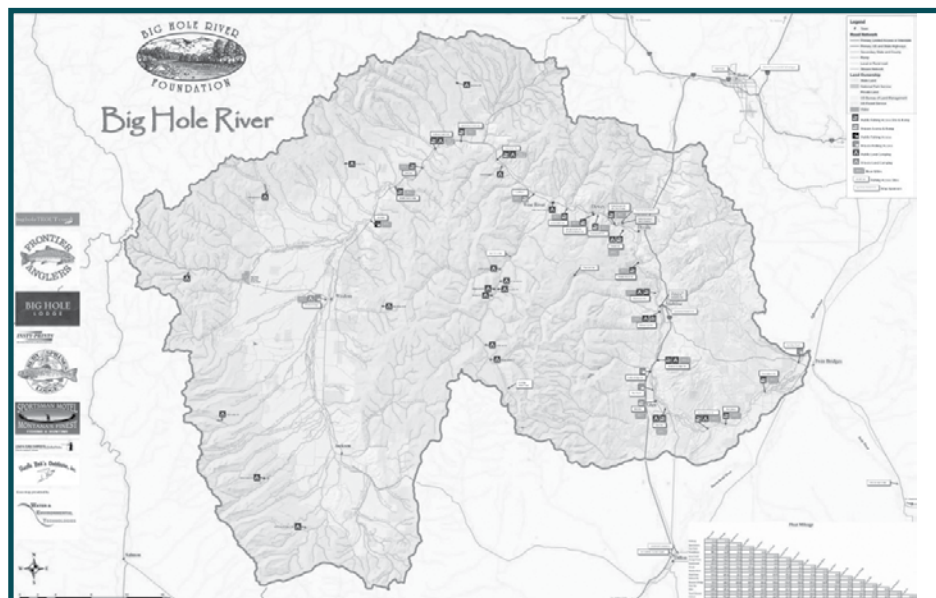


Hats
Black, Charcoal & Sage with logo
\$20 + S&H

Montana artist Monte Dolack's "Montana Grayling" posters
These beautiful posters of Arctic grayling are worthy of fine framing
\$25 each plus S&H



Big Hole River Maps available in local shops or order online at www.bhrf.org for \$9.95 + S&H



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big hole river day

The Foundation Board of Directors has elected not to hold Big Hole River Day in 2018.

While this event has been wildly successful and fun for our attendees, the labor, time and effort on the part of a mere few has given us pause on how we might better bring joy with a bit less effort.... and preserve our people, as well as our river.

Community outreach is fundamental to the foundation's cause and we are planning a series of smaller venues that will bring members of our donor community together. We are seeking input from YOU on how we might carry out the larger River Day event in the future.

In the meantime we have our NSR 100/100 "Raft-le" coming up...so be sure and purchase a ticket...the odds are better than ever for you to have a chance to win!

AMAZON SMILE PROGRAM

You shop. Amazon gives. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Big Hole River Foundation whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Show your support of the Foundation by starting your shopping at smile. [amazon.com/Big Hole River Foundation](https://www.amazon.com/Big-Hole-River-Foundation).

Help save paper and printing costs by going green

**If you would prefer to receive this newsletter in digital PDF format only, please drop us an email at bhrf@bhrf.org with the subject line
GO GREEN**

**And don't forget to sign up for our periodic on-line version of
Free Flows at www.bhrf.org**



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I wish to support the mission of the Big Hole River Foundation by becoming a member or making a tax deductible donation.

Please consider a tax deductible life membership gift to the Big Hole River Foundation

Please enroll me at the following level:

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- Wise River (\$75)
- Pintler (\$100)
- Grayling (\$250)
- Life Member (\$500)
- Memorial Donation (include information)
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