

## MONTANA WATER FACTS

More than 170,000 miles of streams and rivers meander through Montana. The state ranks third in total stream miles in the continental U.S.

Montana contains the headwaters for three continental watersheds: the St. Mary's River, the Columbia River, and the Missouri River.

Wetlands and riparian areas (streamside green zones) cover 1- 4% of Montana. These places support half of Montana's plant species and 38% of amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals of special concern.

Water withdrawn for irrigation accounts for more than 97.6% of water withdrawn in Montana each year and waters 2.82 million acres.

35% of Montanans rely on ground water for their drinking water. The remaining 65% use surface water.

The average total home water use for each person in Montana is 100 gallons per day.

Producing a typical lunch--hamburger, French fries, and a soft drink--uses 1500 gallons of water. This includes the water needed to raise the potatoes, the grain for the bun, the grain needed to feed the cattle, and the production of the soda.

One gallon of used motor oil can contaminate up to one million gallons of water.

Sources: See [www.mtwatercourse.org](http://www.mtwatercourse.org)

## CONTACT US

The Montana Watercourse, founded in 1989, is a nonprofit, statewide water education program.

If you would like to learn more about the Montana Watercourse, the services we offer, or about local water resources, please contact us:

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*Fostering stewardship of  
Montana's water resources by  
providing education,  
information, and resources  
for all water users.*

WATER POLICY INTERIM

COMMITTEE

JULY 9, 2009

EXHIBIT 9

## WHAT IS THE MONTANA WATERCOURSE?

Every person who lives in or visits Montana participates in water management because we drink the water, wash with it, harness it for work, play in it, conserve and protect it.

The Montana Watercourse is a statewide water education program that supports water resource decision making and stewardship by providing unbiased information, resources, tools, and education to all water users. Its approach is neutral, inclusive, and cooperative.

## WHO CAN USE OUR SERVICES?

### Individuals

Landowners, community members, and citizens receive practical information and the tools to make wise water resource decisions through presentations, workshops, trainings, publications, and tours.

### Water Oriented Organizations

We enhance water educational capacity of local organizations through joint programs, workshops, events, and assist in the development of new local watershed groups. We also act as a resource and partner in statewide efforts to promote stewardship.

### Educators

K-12 teachers and other youth educators receive tailored water education training and resources using Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) and other curricula. We also provide water monitoring training, curriculum guides, and professional development opportunities.

## WHAT DO WE DO?

The Montana Watercourse provides all water users with information and educational forums on essential water resource topics. Topics and services include:

**Water Management & Conservation:** Information and the connection to resources, professionals, and tools to assist all water users in making decisions that effectively enhance their objectives.

**Watersheds:** Scientific, social, and economic aspects of local watersheds, and connection to stakeholders and further resources.

**Water Quality:** Factors that make water healthy, volunteer monitoring training, and assistance in understanding the legal, social, and scientific issues affecting individual and community decisions.

**Water Rights:** How they work, what you need to do, and where to go.

**Wetlands and Riparian Areas:** Basic knowledge, understanding how these areas support human activities, and connection to further support and assistance.

**Ground Water:** Understanding how ground water works and best management practices.

**Aquatic Life:** Understanding interactions between water resources, plants, fish, fowl, and other creatures.

## ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FROM THE MONTANA WATERCOURSE

The Montana Watercourse supports your local efforts through an array of resources, including:

- Co-sponsorship of water resource seminars, workshops, and trainings.
- Volunteer water monitoring training for communities and schools.
- Assistance with local water education program development assistance.
- Publications and guides on water resource and watershed topics.
- Teaching trunks filled with interactive water resource activities.
- Educator workshops, training, and tours using Project WET materials.



*Stream Monitoring Training*