



Contact Us at 406-677-0069

JULY 2016

Clearwater PARTNERS

Trail Funding News

CRC just received notice of a \$21,000 grant from the USDA's Rural Business Development Grant Program for planning and development of the Seeley Lake Trails Project.

Revive and Thrive at Tupper's Lake

Put Sunday, July 24, 10-5 pm on your calendar for the annual Revive and Thrive event, a volunteer work party and celebration to benefit the Clearwater-Blackfoot Project.

Coordinated by The Nature Conservancy, **The Blackfoot Challenge** and Five Valleys Land Trust.

Tupper's Lake is located in the Blackfoot Valley approximately 2.5 miles from Seeley and 2 miles north of Placid.

To volunteer, RSVP to Helen Jenkins at hjenkins@tnc.org or 406-543-6681.

Clear Vision

The mission of the Clearwater Resource Council is to engage the community and facilitate efforts that will enhance, conserve, sustain, and protect the natural resources and rural lifestyle of the Clearwater Watershed for present and future generations.

To receive this quarterly newsletter, email info@crcmt.org or call 406-677-0069.

Join us on July 10 to Envision a New Trails System for Seeley Lake

Something big is happening in Seeley Lake. For over a year, a local group of recreational enthusiasts have been discussing the potential of a comprehensive multi-purpose trail system. Our vision: to create a trail system that would not only link Seeley Lake to the great outdoor recreational opportunities we have around us, but also link our community to our neighboring towns and trails.

Q. Who is working on the Seeley Lake Trails System?

A. The drivers of this project are leaders from diverse recreational user groups such as Seeley Lake ROCKS, the Seeley Lake Driftriders Snowmobile Club, the Seeley Swan ATV Club, Seeley Lake Community Foundation, and the Wilderness Sportsman's Club, facilitated by the Clearwater Resource Council with technical support from the Ecosystem Management Research Institute. Additional participants represent the interests of the local business community, outfitters, mountain bikers, trail runners, schools, and the elderly and handicapped. We are also working in conjunction with the large scale landowners in our valley including the Nature Conservancy, DNRC, FWP and the U.S. Forest Service to ensure any proposed trails meet all agency parameters and are in the best interest of Americans in the long run.

Q. Why do we need a comprehensive Trails System?

A. Currently the Clearwater Valley has a network of trails and roads on public and private lands that provide some access for the diverse recreational activities that are in high demand by both residents and tourists. Unfortunately, it's often difficult or impossible to access these trails. Miles of trails are not maintained or form incomplete loops or are placed in such a manner

to damage sensitive environmental areas. Consequently, a careful balance must be maintained between preserving natural resources on public lands and expanding recreational uses where appropriate. A system of well-signed, multi-use trails will draw new visitors to our valley and help to build our local economy.

Q. Where will the trails be located?

A. Decisions about the location of trails or their uses that we seek will not be made until the entire community has the opportunity to provide input on what they want to see in a trail system and a clear decision making process involving the public has been established. However, the project cannot continue to the community input phase until we receive adequate funding to provide project oversight, meeting facilitation, and technical support. We think the best way to accomplish such a big task is for all groups who use trails and interested individuals to work together and invite input from the entire community. To this end, we draw inspiration and ideas from many other Montana communities that have had the tenacity and vision to create trail systems.

Q. How can I learn more?

A. CRC's summer event, Celebrate the Clearwater, will feature the stories from prominent trail creators from around the state at Camp Paxson, Sunday, July 10 from 3-7 pm. Guest speakers include Heidi Van Eversen of the Whitefish Trails and Russ Ehnes of the National Off-Road Vehicle Conservation Council (NOVCC) in Great Falls. Trails partner organizations will provide additional information about their groups, and the Trails Project leaders will give a full update of our progress.



Presents

**CELEBRATE THE
CLEARWATER**

TRAILS FOR EVERYONE

SUNDAY, JULY 10, 3-7 PM

**CAMP PAXSON
ON SEELEY LAKE**



Speakers:

Russ Ehness of the National Off Highway Vehicle Conservation Council

Heidi Von Everen of The Whitefish Trail

Get updated on the progress of the Seeley Lake Trails Project.

We envision creating a landscape-wide multi-use trail
system in the Clearwater watershed.

Join us to learn from the experience of the keynote speakers and the
trail systems they've created.

**Free cookout plus music, silent auction and kayak raffle.
All proceeds go to the Trails Project facilitated by CRC.**

*** For more information, contact Jenny at 754-0034, jenny@crcmt.org.**