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Clearwater Resource Council receives \$243,000 Grant from Bonneville Environmental Foundation for Model Watershed Project

March 22, 2011 – Seeley Lake, MT – Clearwater Resource Council (CRC), a collaborative community-based non-profit organization that focuses on natural resource challenges and opportunities in the Clearwater Watershed of Montana, is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a \$243,000 grant from the Portland, Oregon-based Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF). CRC is the fourteenth Model Watershed project in the nation funded through BEF's Model Watershed Grant Program and the first in Montana. The grant will be used to support CRC's efforts over the next decade to restore and conserve lake and stream habitats important for native trout populations, recreation, water supply and the economy.

By taking a long-term, holistic view to improving water resources and the recovery of native trout populations, BEF's Model Watershed program represents a cutting-edge approach. To achieve sustainable results, BEF provides long-term financial and scientific support spanning a 10-year period. For each Model Watershed project selected, BEF commits to provide scientific support, the services of a professional independent scientific review team, and funding for monitoring and assessment over the full duration of the project.

"CRC is enthusiastic to engage in a long-term partnership with BEF in a Model Watershed project that could help address water quality, water dependent resources, and watershed integrity in the Clearwater Watershed." said Jon Haufler, CRC President. "The partnership between CRC and BEF will greatly enhance the capability of our organization to coordinate restoration efforts as well as engage the community using the BEF model watershed process."

The Clearwater Watershed was selected as the newest addition to the Model Watershed program because of the ecological importance of the Clearwater River and its tributaries, the opportunities for significant positive outcomes, and existing work being done by CRC. The Model Watershed project will complement CRC's current efforts to monitor lake water quality, terrestrial and aquatic habitat restoration and foster the recovery of bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout populations. In addition, CRC will engage the community through outreach activities on the importance of watershed health and develop community-based programs to

promote water and watershed conservation.

“We are impressed with the clear passion and dedication among CRC’s Board, staff and community,” explains Todd Reeve, Vice President, Watershed Programs at Bonneville Environmental Foundation. “BEF’s partnership with CRC creates remarkable opportunities to maximize the impact of landscape scale restoration and the overall progress of watershed conservation.”

Restoring Stream Health and Wildlife Populations

As part of the southwest sector of the Crown of the Continent Eco-region, the Clearwater Watershed comprises aquatic and terrestrial resources of high ecological value. In addition to its network of streams and rivers, the Clearwater Watershed supports a chain of natural lakes that are unique in the Clark Fork Basin in their ecological, recreational, and aesthetic values, and are central to the local and regional economies.

The Clearwater Watershed supports a particularly important aquatic community in the region. The River and its tributary streams support some of the few remaining genetically pure populations of westslope cutthroat trout and populations of threatened bull trout. The six larger lakes support populations of lake migratory bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout that are unique in the upper Clark Fork River basin. Several streams in the watershed are considered critical spawning and early rearing habitats for these species.

About Clearwater Resource Council (CRC)

The Clearwater Resource Council was formed in 2003 by a group of local citizens interested in a place-based organization focused on natural resource issues in the area. CRC works to initiate and coordinate efforts that will enhance, conserve, and protect the natural ecosystems and rural lifestyle of the Clearwater River region of Montana for present and future generations. For more information see <http://www.crcmt.org>.

About the Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF)

An entrepreneurial nonprofit, Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) is creating a more sustainable future by investing now in clean energy and fresh water. Customers who buy independently certified BEF Carbon Offsets and Renewable Energy Certificates support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the development of new renewable energy facilities, while customers who buy BEF's Water Restoration CertificatesTM support the return of water to critically dewatered streams and rivers. All BEF customers and donors support long-term watershed restoration and renewable energy education for students and communities nationwide because BEF reinvests its net revenues to fund its Model Watershed and Solar 4R Schools programs. Since it was established in Portland, Ore. in 1998, BEF has been a pioneer in helping people and companies become better stewards of the environment. Learn more at www.b-e-f.org.