

PPL awards \$200,000 to organizations to improve quality of life in Montana

From Helena to Colstrip, Great Falls to Billings, Butte to Miles City and White Sulphur Springs to Bozeman, PPL Montana is partnering with 31 organizations to improve the quality of life in Montana.

The company awarded the organizations a combined \$200,000 in grants from its PPL Montana Community Fund during two rounds of grant awards this year. The grants were awarded to organizations whose projects focus on education, the environment and economic development.

“While our main business is to supply reliable and competitively priced electricity to Montana, we also are deeply involved in supporting the wonderful and inspiring works of organizations that help improve the quality of life in our state,” said Lisa Perry, PPL Montana’s Community Affairs manager.

PPL Montana received more than 180 applications during its two grant cycles. An 18-member, statewide advisory board made up of civic and business leaders, as well as PPL Montana employees, helped determine how best to distribute the community grants.

“It’s encouraging to know that there are so many exciting programs that people are working on to make life better in Montana,” Perry said. “While this makes the decision for our board very difficult, it is rewarding to be able to support a number of these worthy programs.”

For more information on the PPL Montana Community Fund, visit www.pplmontana.com.

This year’s grant recipients are:

Billings Depot, Billings
 Bozeman Symphony
 Burns Telecom Center, Montana State University, Bozeman
 Children’s Museum of Montana, Great Falls
 Colstrip Parent Teacher Organization
 Community Services Fellowship, Sanders County, Noxon
 Eagle Mount Day Camp, Billings
 Education Foundation, Billings
 Great Falls Public Library, Great Falls
 Golden Triangle Community Mental Health Center, Great Falls
 Got Socks Cooperative Clothing Store, Colstrip
 Great Falls Symphony, Great Falls
 LVA Butte Literacy, Butte
 Meadowlark Parent Teacher Association, Billings
 Miles Community College, Miles City
 Montana Audubon, Great Falls
 Montana Conservation Corp.
 Kennedy Parent Teacher Organization, Butte
 Montana Raptor Conservation Center, Bozeman
 Montana 4-H
 Prayer Lodge, Northern Cheyenne Reservation, Busby
 River and Plains Society, Fort Benton
 Roundup High School, Roundup
 Schoolhouse History and Art Center, Colstrip
 Shakespeare in the Parks, Bozeman
 Shepherd Elementary School, Shepherd
 The Quality of Life Corp., Colstrip
 Treasure County Senior Citizens, Hysham
 Trout Unlimited, Helena
 Yellowstone Art Museum, Billings
 Youth, Inc./Stevens Center, White Sulphur Springs



A radio receiver mounted on the Thompson Falls Dam tracks trout that are tagged with radio transmitters.

PPL partners with agencies to help identify permanent passage for trout

Radio receivers mounted on PPL Montana’s Thompson Falls Dam are helping the survival of two rare species of trout on the Clark Fork River in a big way.

“We are collaborating with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to find a permanent solution to help bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout get a lift into their upstream native spawning waters,” said Brent Mabbott, PPL Montana’s senior fisheries biologist.

In 2001, PPL Montana installed a temporary trap so that fish could be

(Continued on page 2)

Nine schools receive education grants; applications being accepted for 2006

With the help of PPL Montana, students across the state this year monitored streams, studied the weather patterns that create droughts, developed a community recycling plan and learned about the life cycle and nutritional value of plants.

Nine schools received more than \$12,000 to support their earth science programs as part of PPL Montana's 2005 Project Earth Environmental Education Grants program.

"There are few things more important to our future than the environment and education," said Lisa Perry, PPL Montana's Community Affairs manager.



"That's why we are so pleased to award competitive grants to teachers who create projects that provide a significant learning experience about the environment."

Teachers use the grants to cover expenses for projects that enhance established classroom curricula or support extracurricular activities of school organizations. A team of PPL Montana employees chooses the winning projects.

The deadline for 2006 grant applications is Jan. 13, 2006. For more information about the program, visit the Environment section of the PPL Montana Web site at www.pplmontana.com.

The 2005 grant recipients were Billings West High School, Billings; Elder Grove School, Billings; Butte High School, Butte; Colstrip High School, Colstrip; Anna Jeffries Elementary School, Cut Bank; Fergus High School, Lewistown; Cherry Valley Elementary School, Polson; Linderman Elementary School, Polson; and Stevensville Elementary School, Stevensville.

Trout passage (Continued from page 1)

captured, trucked above the dam and released to assist in their passage to upstream locations.

Radio transmitters tagged to the fish allow biologists to track the migration and will help with the design and implementation of a permanent passage for the trout.

"PPL Montana has been funding a fish technician who works with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks to assist with the fish passage study," said Laura Katzman, a Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks fish biologist in Thompson Falls. "PPL Montana is providing valuable resources for gathering information about fish passage at Thompson Falls Dam and is working with the state to attain the goal of permanent fish passage."



"Moon Day River," painted by Mira Darham, 7, of Bozeman, won a grand prize in the River of Words international poetry and art contest.

PPL co-sponsors River of Words poetry, art contest

PPL Montana partnered with The Montana Watercourse and Montana Project WET to sponsor a River of Words program in the state during the 2004-2005 academic year.

River of Words is an international poetry and art contest that focuses on watersheds. The contest encourages students to explore the natural and cultural history of where they live, and to express, through poetry and art, their discoveries.

The contest was open to children and teens ages 5-19. Mira Darham, 7, of Bozeman was a grand prize winner, and Jackson and Ella Darham, both 14, were art finalists. Other Montana entries were also submitted by students from Ophir School and CPRDKIDS Afterschool program in Colstrip.

Visit www.riverofwords.org for more information on River of Words. For information on Montana's River of Words contest, contact Frances Moore, education outreach coordinator for Montana Watercourse, at fmoore@montana.edu.

Black Eagle Island opened to public for recreation

PPL Montana opened Black Eagle Island in June, enabling visitors to enjoy the beauty, history and recreational opportunities of a man-made island that had never before been accessible to the public.

Visitors now can visit the island's exceptional stone walls, restored truss bridge and interpretive viewing plaza below the falls. In addition, they can hike, bike, kayak, canoe, fish and picnic around the island, which offers outstanding views of the falls, the remains of Paris Gibson's first hydropower plant, the river canyon, birds and wildlife.

"Black Eagle Island is an example of our commitment to partner with communities, government, and environmental and civic organizations to improve the quality of life in Montana," said Pete Simonich, PPL Montana's manager of hydroelectric generation.

"This project marks an important milestone in the addition of public recreation enhancements to the Missouri River corridor in Great Falls."

Simonich said a major partner in the project was Recreational Trails Inc., a nonprofit group that works to maintain the Rivers Edge Trail. Additional partners included the City of Great Falls; Cascade County; Lewis and Clark National Forest; the state Bureau of Land Management; Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks; and the Montana Conservation Corp.



PPL's Hauser Dam, northeast of Helena, is one of seven PPL dams along the Missouri River.

PPL honored for stewardship of rivers

For the third time in four years, PPL Montana has received the "Outstanding Stewardship of America's Rivers Award" from the National Hydropower Association.

The award recognizes the company for its role in managing environmental and recreational resources at its eight hydroelectric generation facilities and one storage reservoir along the Madison-Missouri River corridor.

"Each year, we recognize a handful of hydropower companies that excel at harmonizing their projects with the environment," said George Martin, president of the National Hydropower Association, in announcing the award.

"Healthy rivers and a viable hydropower resource are not mutually exclusive goals, and PPL Montana is proof of that," he added.

PPL Montana was among only 10 hydroelectric generation companies across the country to receive the award this year.

The company has committed \$23 million from 2000 through 2009 to improve recreation and water quality, enhance wildlife habitats, restore fisheries and protect endangered species on the Madison and Missouri rivers. Using these funds, the company has worked with its partners to leverage an additional \$50 million in state, federal and private conservation funds.



Lisa Perry

PPL Montana employee selected for state leadership program

Lisa Perry, Community Affairs manager for PPL Montana, has been accepted into Leadership Montana.

The organization's mission is to develop a sustainable core of committed leaders, from communities, business and government, who understand the issues that Montana's economy and environment face as the state looks to the future.

Seven sessions are held statewide throughout the year, beginning in September. The "class" of participants will graduate in May 2006.

PPL Montana's Corette plant named one of safest in country

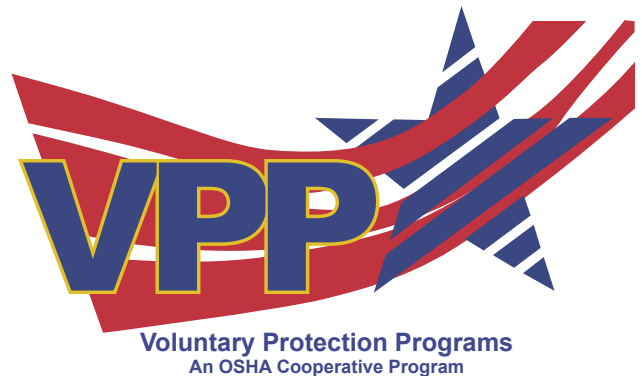
PPL Montana's Corette power plant is the first industrial site in the state to receive a top federal safety award for its health and safety programs.

The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration has awarded the plant "Star" certification in the agency's Voluntary Protection Program. The program recognizes companies that go beyond compliance to protect worker health and safety. The VPP Star certification is the highest safety recognition given within the program.

"At PPL Montana, health and safety come first," said Brad Spencer, PPL Montana's vice president and chief operating officer. "Employees at Corette have challenged themselves to continuously improve plant safety. Their success is reflected in the new Star status, and their efforts protect one of our greatest assets — our people."

Later this year, PPL Montana's Kerr hydroelectric facility is expected to apply for the designation; and the company's Colstrip power plant will start the two-year VPP process, as well.

VPP participant sites generally experience 60 percent fewer lost-workday injuries than the average for their industries. Only about 1,250 of the more than 7 million sites that OSHA monitors nationwide have achieved VPP recognition.



Colstrip equipment donated to MSU-Billings tech program

After upgrading equipment at the Colstrip power plant, PPL Montana found a smart way to recycle the old simulator and the programmable logic controllers. The equipment was donated to Montana State University-Billings for the College of Technology's process plant technology program.

"While we can no longer use this equipment, it is a wonderful learning tool for the students in the process plant technology program," said Lisa Perry, Community Affairs manager. "The students get hands-on practice and a realistic view of what it's like to work in the control room of a power plant."

The equipment will provide students with experience in plant start-up, operation and shutdown procedures, and will simulate abnormal plant conditions that require timely and accurate response.

The equipment was transported to the college, installed and made ready for student use by PPL employees, who donated their time to the project.



PPL poster contest promotes water safety

PPL Montana is sponsoring a water-safety poster contest for students in Billings, Butte, Colstrip, Great Falls, Helena, Missoula, Polson and Thompson Falls. The contest, for children in grades 3-5, is designed to raise awareness about water safety while encouraging students to have fun and be creative.

"Montana is one of 10 states where drowning surpasses all other causes of death to children ages 14 and under," said Lisa Perry, PPL Montana's Community Affairs manager. "These accidents often result from a lack of knowledge about potential dangers. Educators can make a difference by using this contest to impart important and possibly lifesaving lessons to their students."

The prize-winning entries will be featured in a special calendar that will be distributed to schools, community leaders and PPL Montana facilities. Each grand-prize winner will receive a certificate and two shares of PPL Corporation stock. For more information, contact Lisa Perry at 406-237-6914.

PPL Montana volunteers roll up their sleeves for Day of Caring events

PPL Montana and PPL EnergyPlus volunteers brightened up a camp for children in Butte and helped seniors in Billings with outdoor chores during recent United Way Day of Caring events.

Employees in Butte joined others from the region in cleaning and renovating buildings at the Kiwanis Club's Sunshine Camp. The camp is free and offers children ages 8-12 the opportunity to swim, bowl and enjoy other activities.

Employees in Billings cleared brush, weeded flower beds, painted a porch and cleaned windows while supporting Big Sky Senior Services. The nonprofit organization assists seniors and provides services that help them remain in their homes.

"It felt good to work with others from PPL and the community and to give something back," said Butte volunteer Todd Tregidga, an accounting analyst for PPL Montana and president of the United Way of Butte and Anaconda.



Top to bottom:

Brad Spencer, vice president and chief operating officer of PPL Montana, clears weeds and brush from a flower bed at the home of a Billings senior citizen.

PPL volunteer Damon Obie supports Big Sky Senior Services and lends a hand washing windows at a home in Billings.

Volunteers help weatherproof a cabin at the Kiwanis Sunshine Camp in Butte.



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PPL Montana joins celebration of Lewis and Clark's historic journey

On June 13, 1805, Capt. Meriwether Lewis, traveling with a small advance party, heard “a roaring too tremendous to be mistaken” and saw in the distance mist rising from the Great Falls of the Missouri River.

That same spray and roar created by the falls greeted several hundred Lewis and Clark history buffs who gathered at PPL Montana's Ryan Dam in June to commemorate the bicentennial of one of the pivotal points of the Corps of Discovery's legendary journey and exploration of the western United States.

The event was part of the national Lewis and Clark Signature Series marking the bicentennial of the journey to the Pacific Coast.

Ryan Dam, on the Missouri River 10 miles northeast of the city of Great Falls, offers visitors good views of the Corps of Discovery's original route and a sense of the size of the falls.

PPL Montana's Rodney Caldwell also helped commemorate the bicentennial by delivering a presentation on the history, construction and mechanics of PPL's Cochrane, Ryan, Morony, Black Eagle and Rainbow dams. Caldwell delivered his presentation as part of “Explore Big Sky,” a Signature Series event.

Environmental Currents is your source of information about PPL Montana's commitment to the environment. It's just one more way we're putting our energy into Montana communities.

Questions or comments? Contact:

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