



News Release

Gallatin National Forest
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For Immediate Release
Date: August 4, 2004

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Forest Service Awards Grants to Three Organizations

The Forest Service recently awarded three Rural Community Assistance (RCA) grants to local organizations. The Federation of Fly Fishers, Emerson Center for the Arts, and Montana State University Shakespeare in the Park each received a grant to benefit.

A grant of \$11,500 was awarded to the Federation of Fly Fishers for the Fishing with Lewis and Clark project. National Endowment for the Arts grants of \$10,000 each was awarded to the Emerson Center for the Arts to benefit the Yellowstone Artist-Explorers (YEA) program and Montana State University Shakespeare in the Park.

The Federation of Fly Fishers is developing “Fishing with Lewis and Clark” exhibit. This exhibit will include a physical and virtual exhibit (available on the internet) at the Fly Fishing Discovery Center in Livingston. The exhibit will focus on how Lewis and Clark discovered 11 different species of fish, developed new fishing techniques, and learned fishing methods from the Indians. The YEA program provides opportunities to connect students to the natural resources surrounding the Gallatin valley through art.

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This program began in 2003 and has provided opportunities for approximately 400 community 5th graders. Shakespeare in the Park provides Montana communities with cultural entertainment opportunities and is considered a major summer outdoor event.

RCA grants help rural communities improve living conditions, develop sustainable local economies, enrich their cultures, and enhance their natural resource environments.

Frank Preite, Deputy Administrative Officer for the Gallatin National Forest, remarked, “We are very pleased to be able to offer assistance to these three organizations”. Partnerships like these, which we build through the Rural Community Assistance program, are unique and rewarding.”

Applications for grants are submitted annually through the Forest Supervisors of Montana’s National Forests. Grants are available to communities, counties, and tribes and can be awarded to develop plans, conduct feasibility studies, explore economic ventures, expand or create businesses, create or enhance outdoor recreation and tourism, develop alternative forest products, and enhance natural resources.

For more information, contact any one of the Gallatin National Forest District offices in the communities of Big Timber, Livingston, Bozeman, Gardiner, and West Yellowstone.

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Directory: J:\fsfiles\unit\pao\media\nr_2004
Template: C:\Documents and Settings\mdaley\Application
Data\Microsoft\Templates\Normal.dot
Title:
Subject:
Author: USDA
Keywords:
Comments:
Creation Date: 8/3/2004 3:22 PM
Change Number: 5
Last Saved On: 8/4/2004 2:09 PM
Last Saved By: FSDefaultUser
Total Editing Time: 51 Minutes
Last Printed On: 8/4/2004 2:10 PM
As of Last Complete Printing
Number of Pages: 2
Number of Words: 432 (approx.)
Number of Characters: 2,463 (approx.)