

*Equipping young people
to be engaged citizens*

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MCC earns invasive plant control award

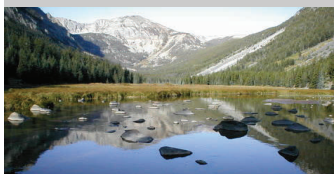
Paul Wicks of Teton County nominated the MCC for the [Montana Weed Control Association's](#) "Outstanding Youth Award." As the 2007 recipient, the MCC won a plaque and cash prize! For six years, the MCC has been creating weed-free habitat along the [Rocky Mountain Front](#). Crews managed 200 acres of weeds on the Front and 2,500 acres statewide in 2007. The MCC manages invasive plants by GPS mapping, hand pulling, and chemically treating infestations. The MCC also collects insects to use as [biological controls](#).

Gearing up for 2008



Staff across the state are busy preparing for the 2008 season. With significant revisions made to our education manual and project schedules filling up, we are buzzing with excitement. One short month lies ahead of us — 43 [crew leaders](#) arrive on Feb. 11th — before trainings, retreats, and service projects make the spring fly by. If you could use an MCC crew, now is the time to [contact a regional supervisor](#).

Alumni Spotlight: Karin Kvale



After MCC, Karin Kvale worked summer jobs with the Forest Service, promoted conservation in Indiana, and earned a bachelor's degree in environmental science. Karin (Helena 2001) is now studying climate change at the [Univ. of Victoria](#) in [British Columbia](#). She is pursuing a master's degree in [atmospheric science](#). "Thanks, MCC, for giving young people a way to open their minds, fill their lungs, and be a force for good in the world!" wrote Karin.

Regions merge, create Central Divide



The MCC reformed its structure to more efficiently serve Montana's public lands and more of its rural communities. The Helena and Great Falls regions merged this winter; field crews based in Helena will implement conservation projects in the area encompassed by both of these regions, now referred to as the Central Divide. Regional offices in Kalispell, Missoula, Bozeman, and Billings will remain in their current locations; however, to better reflect their service areas, their names will change to the Northern Rockies, Western Wildlands, Greater Yellowstone, and Eastern Wildlands, respectively.