

# Connecting to Nature Initiative

May 2008

At the Creston National Fish Hatchery we have 12 school tours scheduled for the months of April and May. For these 2 months alone we will have approximately 300 students visiting our Hatchery.

This year we have the new nature trail and a tour guide to take the students through the hatchery and then a walk on the new trail. We have 13 interpretive signs along the trail and four benches, a brochure will be completed this summer.

This spring we provided fish for Montana Fish and Parks Family Day, Northwest Montana Sportsman's Show, Salish Kootenai Tribes Fishing Day, Crow Reservation Fishing Derby, Maelstrom Air Force Base Fish Days.

Creston National Fish Hatchery displayed educational and historical exhibits in Public Display area at the Community Library in Columbia Falls for 2 months. This display included a "Name the Fish" contest and the results were covered by the local paper. The Hatchery will continue to use this Public Display for three months during the summer and fall.

Creston National Fish Hatchery also participates in C.O.R. E., Flathead Community of Resource Educators, a network of individuals and organizations working together in cultural awareness and understanding about the natural, historical, and cultural resources of the Flathead Region.

Creston Fish and Wildlife Center is inviting 3<sup>rd</sup> graders from local schools (150 students) to participate in the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Fish Day Event. Stations this year are: Fishing Equipment and Casting, Hatchery Building Tour, Fish Truck and Equipment Display, Underwater Camera and Exhibits, Fish Anatomy, Fish ID, Aquatic Habitats, Photo Board, Art Contest/ People and Nature as the theme, Firewise/prevention display.

