



Watershed Education Network

Growing the next generation of watershed stewards

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Milltown Dam Journeys Program (MDJP)

Watershed Education Network (WEN) has developed an inquiry-based program to enrich students' learning of the history of mining in the Clark Fork River watershed and the changes taking place in the watershed during the Milltown Dam Removal and Superfund clean-up and restoration processes. Our curriculum targets 5-8th grades and high schools throughout western Montana.

The removal of the Milltown Dam is monumental, and its legacy – of both its existence and dismantling – is bound for history books. WEN has created a program to take advantage of this unique opportunity and involve and educate our local communities. As future stewards of the river, students need a “place-based” program that provides students with connections to the past, current and future of the Clark Fork River. With these connections, it is our hope that they will care for their rivers and adjacent ecosystems well into the future.

Relying on expertise from agency personnel, scientists and community members that work with the Milltown Dam Superfund process, WEN developed place-based curriculum and engaging presentations for teachers and students to learn about their watershed. The Milltown Dam class presentations will be supplemented by a class field trip, with activities, to the Milltown Dam site to see the Milltown Dam remediation and restoration process for themselves.

The Milltown Dam Journeys Program consists of:

Lesson One: Classroom

A PowerPoint presentation on mining history and a mining activity will be conducted on day one (approximately 55 minutes).

Lesson Two: Classroom

A PowerPoint presentation on the Clark Fork River Superfund and a time-line activity will be conducted on day two (approximately 55 minutes).

Fieldtrip

Students will participate in activities at the Milltown Dam site during the field trip including an update on remediation and restoration activities, re-development plans, a info-cache exploration and a bull trout activity (approximately two hours).

Lesson Three: Classroom

Students will be given a program wrap-up summary using a jeopardy-style activity (approximately 55 minutes).

