
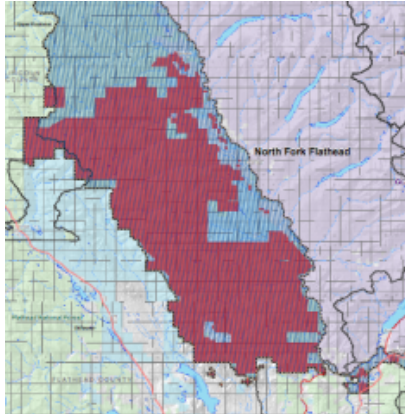
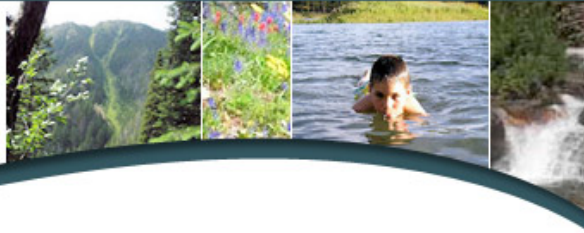


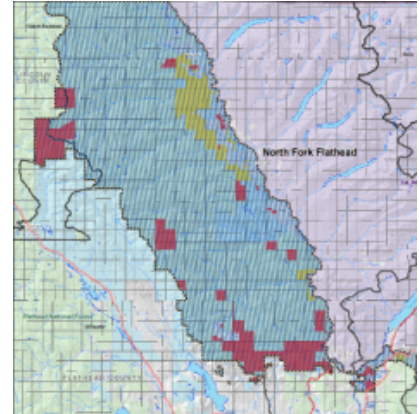
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PROTECTING THE WATER, WILDLIFE AND OUTDOOR HERITAGE OF THE CROWN OF THE CONTINENT.



SEASON'S GREETINGS!

It's Official: More than 80 percent of dormant oil and gas leases in the North Fork Flathead have been successfully retired... *at no cost to the U.S. taxpayer.*



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The Perfect Gift for Present and Future Seasons

December 24, 2010

Dear [member_name_first]:

Please compare the two maps of the North Fork Flathead River above.

- The map on the left depicts, in purple, the dormant (inactive) oil and gas leases on the Glacier View Ranger District of the Flathead National Forest as they existed at the start of 2010.
- The map on the right depicts the current, remaining leases in the same geography.

As you can see, senators Baucus and Tester have made great progress in gaining the voluntary relinquishment of over 80 percent of these leases at no cost to the U.S. taxpayer. We call that success!

Removal of these leases in conjunction with Senate Bill 3075, which would permanently withdraw mineral resources from federal lands in the North Fork, will prevent any future industrial development of this type, thus protecting our downstream water quality, Glacier Park, and Flathead Lake, as well as the important transboundary wildlife corridor and the outdoor heritage of the valley.

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee passed S. 3075 on August 5, but the Senate adjourned without taking up or completing the measure. Senators Baucus and Tester will reintroduce the bill when the Senate returns for the next Congress.

Headwaters Montana thanks senators Baucus and Tester for their efforts and success. We also thank Governor Brian Schweitzer for his leadership in gaining the essential breakthrough with Prime Minister Gordon Campbell of British Columbia. It was Schweitzer's successful Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with B.C. in February that provided the momentum to make progress across the Transboundary Flathead.

If you wish to write and thank [Baucus](#), [Tester](#), and [Schweitzer](#) for their diligent work to protect the North Fork, please click on their names to go to their on-line comment pages.

Senator Baucus and Tester's success caps a full year of concentrated effort to protect the North Fork. More remains to be done. **Headwaters Montana** will begin 2011 with an announcement of the final phase of protection for this vital watershed.

In the meantime, we wish to thank everyone for their support and assistance for making this success happen.

Season's Greetings and Happy New Year!

2010 TIMELINE:

- February 9: The B.C. government announces in the annual Throne Speech the decision to ban oil, gas and mineral development in the Canadian Flathead River valley.
- February 18: Premier Gordon Campbell and Governor Brian Schweitzer meet during the 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver to sign the B.C. - Montana MOU.
- March 4: Baucus and Tester introduce S. 3075, the North Fork Watershed Protection Act of 2010.
- April 28: ConocoPhillips voluntarily relinquishes its interest in 108 federal oil and gas leases covering approximately 169,000 acres in the region.
- June 2: Chevron voluntarily relinquishes its interest in four leases covering approximately 11,121 acres.
- June 28: At Baucus and Tester's request, President Obama discusses cooperative efforts to protect the North Fork with Canadian Prime Minister Harper.
- July 14: Anadarko voluntarily relinquishes its interest in eight leases, jointly owned with ConocoPhillips, covering 24,111.57 acres.
- July 14: Allen and Kirmse, Ltd. voluntarily relinquishes its interest in 50 leases, jointly owned with ConocoPhillips, covering 50,000 acres.



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~ Thank You! ~

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