

## **Flathead Basin Commission**

The Flathead Basin Commission (FBC) was created in 1983 by the Montana Legislature to monitor and protect water quality and the natural resources in one of the State's most important watersheds. The FBC is a uniquely structured non-regulatory organization that works to accomplish its mandate in a consensus-building manner, stressing education, cooperation, broadly based community involvement, partnerships with agencies and nonprofit groups, and the voluntary participation of Basin residents. Consistent with the duties of the Commission as stated in the establishing statute the Commission considers its role in the Basin to:

- Coordinate water quality protection and monitoring activities
- Ensure water quality, economic, land use and natural resource data is gathered, analyzed, interpreted and disseminated to the public and responsible agencies
- Facilitate policies and actions that have a positive result on water quality and natural resources
- Provide leadership in making the case for Basin water quality and protection of its natural resources

The twenty-three member Commission represent a cross-section of citizens and local, state, tribal, federal and provincial agency representatives who strive to identify the Basin's water quality and natural resources problems and work collectively to implement the most effective solutions. The Agency members of the Commission are prescribed in statute; the citizen members are appointed by the governor for four-year staggered terms.

The Flathead Basin Commission has become a model of successful citizen and inter-agency cooperation in a geographically vast and ecologically diverse watershed characterized by its overall pristine character, international dimension, and multi-jurisdictional nature.

Currently, the FBC top priority projects include, but are not limited to:

- Transboundary negotiations
- Transboundary socio-economic impact analysis
- Invasive species basinwide planning
- Basinwide surface water quality monitoring plan
- Shallow groundwater monitoring study (includes VOCs, SVOCs, PPCPs)
- Website design/portal
- Water Quality/Wastewater District(s) forum/workshop
- Select land use planning issues (i.e. setbacks)
- Development of critical lands GIS layer(s)
- TMDL education and outreach