

To protect and preserve the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument by educating the public, advocating for responsible access and environmentally responsible uses, and supporting groups and agencies that protect and restore the Monument.

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Missouri Breaks News

Winter 2017

New Staff at Friends of the Missouri Breaks!



Hello Friends!

For many of you, this is my first opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Tim Dwyer and at the end of August I was hired to be the Executive Director of the Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument. My predecessors have placed us in the wonderful position to take a major step in our organization's evolution. Now it is my role to carry this forward and take the organization to the next level. This is something that I cannot do alone. Over the years your voices and support have brought about the change that has so greatly impacted and benefitted the Monument.

I am excited and honored to come into this position at this point in the organization's life. The organization is growing and exciting new options are open to us. Of course, we must remain diligent in our work of protecting the Monument, but we also have the opportunity to expand in our Education, Stewardship and Restoration efforts.

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Summer 2016 Recap

The Friend's continued to build and improve our on the ground impact upon the monument in 2016 by setting new highs for number of trees planted and acres cleared of invasive plants along the Missouri. Our field season started in March with two volunteer cottonwood plantings at Eagle Creek and Slaughter River Campgrounds. With the help of nearly 20 volunteers we were able to plant 153 young trees at the two sites, and we continued our unrivaled success in survival rates with 89% of the planted trees making it through the scorching summer months. This year the watering duties were performed by two crews that we hired from Montana Conservation Corps. In hiring the conservation corps crews we were able to give 12 new canoeists a chance to experience the Monument and advocate for protecting its resources around the country.

In addition to watering the trees the crew worked with BLM staff to complete projects benefiting the Monument's natural resources and recreational opportunities. Throughout the year the crew worked with BLM weeds crews to treat 80 acres of land along the river for Russian olive, tamarisk and other non-native plant species. The crew also collected and released many thousands of bio-control agents to help combat the future spread of more invasive. With the Monument's recreation staff the crew worked to repair damages to the fencing enclosure at Hole in the Wall Campground, along with completing the fencing and groundwork for the new Lone Tree Coulee Campground.

Following the summer season of work for the Friend's MCC crew, the final stewardship event for 2016 took place at James Kipp Recreation Site on National Public Lands Day. Volunteers from around the region joined BLM and Friends' staff in completing much needed projects around the campground's trails and sites. We look forward to building upon our past work in 2017. This coming year will be our biggest yet for building sustainable stewardship of the Monument that we treasure so dearly. Please keep your eyes out for continuations of annual stewardship events and the beginnings of new ones in the coming months.

-Joe Offer
Stewardship Director



Stewardship Director Joe Offer, BLM employees, and volunteers pose for a photo after planting at Slaughter River. Photo by Brian Woolf

New Staff! (cont'd from p. 1)

A bit about myself, I am a Montana native. Growing up in Bozeman with a family that believed in service and the outdoors I learned what it meant to give back. It didn't take long for me to realize that public lands were an essential part of my life; I want to ensure that the youth of tomorrow have the same access and opportunities that I had as a young person. I recently ended a 14 year career as Regional Director for the Montana Conservation Corps. It was a truly rewarding position which allowed me to give back to Montana Public lands while providing youth opportunities to become the leaders of tomorrow. I am excited to bring my experience to the Friends, and to continue my life's work.

In the weeks and months ahead, and working with my new colleagues, I look forward to becoming acquainted with all of you as we work together to preserve and protect the Missouri Breaks National Monument. I hope that you all look back on your past and recognize the importance of the work and support that you have given over the years. Montana's public lands are a treasure worth protecting and now more than ever it is important that you continue to be involved.

Sincerely,

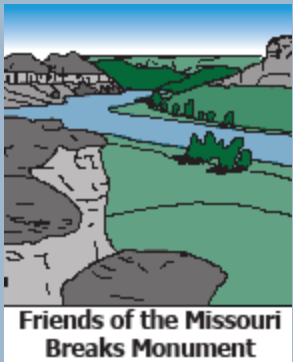


Tim Dwyer
Executive Director

Meet John Schlepp, our new Membership and Outreach Manager



John joined The Friends in December of 2016. Originally from Bozeman MT, he grew up exploring the mountains of Southwest Montana by boots, bikes, and skis. After receiving a Bachelors degree in Photography from Montana State University, he spent 2 seasons with the Montana Conservation Corps building and maintaining trails in Northwest Montana. He then moved east and developed a trails program for a Land Trust in Albany, NY, while at the same time managing the volunteer program for a large Food Bank. He recently moved back to Montana and is excited to explore more of the state with his friends and family. When not at The Friends, John can be found at various ski resorts, wilderness areas, and rivers across the state, or in Helena with his wife and 2 cats.



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To protect and preserve the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument

Give monthly to the Friends!

Want to support our work regularly, with no need for renewal letters? Then join our monthly giving club! The Cottonwood Club is named in honor of our hard work to restore the Monument's cottonwood forests.



Giving monthly is easy and secure, and is a great way to support our work and be part of the Friends community without having to renew your membership.

Join the Cottonwood Club with your credit card today! You'll keep your membership current and never need to renew. (Of course, if you ever want to cease giving, that's easy to do too.) You'll also receive special quarterly insider emails.

You can join via our secure website,
www.missouribreaks.org.

Thanks, Cottonwood Club members, for your continued support!