Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument
2020 BSWC Member Blog- July

Cottonwood Monitoring Float July 15th-17th:

In June and July I was joined by volunteers on my maintenance floats through the white cliffs. During these trips we restocked bathrooms, watered trees, and conducted cottonwood survival surveys. How rewarding to see a new generation of cottonwoods thriving at each of our planting sites! I was also fortunate enough to have met with a group of law school students out of U of M at Hole in the Wall campsite for an educational talk about the Friends and our work in the monument.

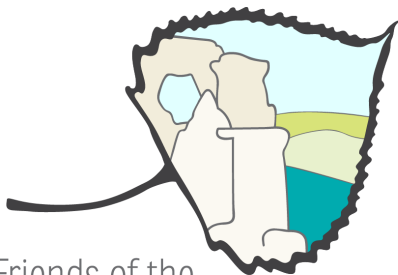### Interpretive Center Beautification Day July 18th:

The Interpretive Center (IC) in Fort Benton was in dire need of some upkeep so the Friends, along with 20 volunteers, spent the day pulling weeds, trimming trees, and clearing signs on the nature trail. Together we hauled 3 full trailer loads of debris from the grounds of the IC and saw drastic improvements to the grounds while working up a sweat.

Wilderness Study Area Monitoring Float July 24th-27th:

My visit to the lower section of the monument for our first WSA monitoring float of the season was absolutely the highlight of July. The Friends and a handful of volunteers floated from Judith Landing to James Kipp Recreation Area and documented the plant composition, condition, and evidence of human and wildlife use on each of the six WSA's.

This less visited part of the monument offered a quiet beauty that was no less spectacular than the white cliffs section of the river. Along the way we were able to see several bull elk peering at us from the shore and a small bunch of female bighorn sheep clinging to the hillside across from our first night's campsite.

The remnants of old homesteads checker the banks of the Missouri in this stretch, giving a glimpse into what it was like to be one of the first settlers to try to tame this wild country.

Friends of the MISSOURI BREAKS MONUMENT

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