

## **2013 MONTANA STORY AWARDS AND GRANTS**

These grants are given to the conservation or educational organization selected by the winners of the annual Best Conservation Story Contest at [ConserveMontana.org](http://ConserveMontana.org).

**[Connect the Dots, Draw the Line: No Otter Creek Coal Mine](#)** by **Alexis Bonogofsky** takes you to a pasture along Otter Creek in southeastern Montana. Montana ranches and members of the Northern Cheyenne tribe host a ceremony with totem pole carvers from the coastal Lummi Nation in September to pledge cooperation in the fight against new coal mines and the seizure of private ranchland for the purpose of exporting coal to China and other Asian countries.

Grant recipient: [National Wildlife Federation Tribal Lands Partnership Program](#)

**[Smart for Ranches, Good for Rivers](#)** by **Karen Knudson** introduces you to the Thomas ranch family whose water-saving innovations are helping deliver abundant, clean water flows to trout spawning beds in Gold Creek near Drummond. And to their happy surprise, the Thomas' wintering calves are healthier and gaining weight faster.

Grant recipient: [Clark Fork Coalition](#)

**[Plight of the Pika and the Power of Citizen Science](#)** by **April Craighead** traces the steps of citizen scientist Tom Forwood as he roams the remote Tobacco Root Mountains to collect data on Montana's cutest alpine critter, the pika, which may be the species most imperiled by climate change in Montana. Forwood and dozens of other citizen scientists have documented pika in 258 locations since 2010.

Grant recipient: [Craighead Institute](#)

**[Is There an App for That?](#)** by **Gary and Judy Matson** is a whimsical portrait of their friend Chuck Erickson, a Navy veteran and retired pipefitter who has invested hard work, diverse skills, and personal passion in his quest to restore the natural confluence of the Blackfoot and Clark Fork rivers at Bonner.

Grant recipient: [Friends of Two Rivers](#)

**[Find Your Way to Citizens Climate Lobby](#)** by **Kristen Walser** is the personal story of a Bozeman woman whose empathy for people around the world has inspired her to become a leader in Montana's climate action movement. She joins citizen lobbyists around the nation to advocate a revenue-neutral carbon tax on climate pollution that would return a tax refund windfall to American taxpayers.

Grant recipient: [Bozeman Citizens Climate Lobby](#)