



Flathead Watershed Sourcebook Educator's Guide

January 20, 2016

SWCDM's 319 Mini Grant program helps fund education and outreach efforts to address non point-source water pollution.

These mini-funding boosts of up to \$2000 can help kick start, expand, or wrap up larger projects.

In the case of the Flathead CD's Flathead Watershed Educator's Guide, two mini grants were instrumental in expanding the usability of an already exceptional project.

In 2010 Lori Curtis, of the Whitefish Lake Institute, and an Associate Supervisor for FCD, wrote the Flathead Sourcebook, a bioregional textbook about the Flathead. The Sourcebook is a rich, watershed-focused textbook that intertwines complex social, historical, economic, and ecological aspects of the Flathead Watershed with over 50 personal vignettes representing a variety of perspectives.

Although the Sourcebook is an incredible educational resource, members of CORE WEC (Flathead Community of Resource Educators Water Education Committee) planned to also facilitate its use in area schools by developing a companion curriculum guide. The group consequently engaged in the process of developing the Flathead Watershed Educators' Guide (Guide).

The five-phase project involved surveying educators & resource professionals to identify important topic area; developing and field testing lessons, production of the guide, and hosting a workshop to introduce the guide to teachers. The program partners want the guide to be a living document, so they'll also seek feedback from teachers and incorporate that feedback into revised editions of the guide before fully distributing it.

FCD applied for a mini grant to help pay a contractor to develop the lessons, and then later applied for another to help pay for the guide's design & production.

Now the Flathead Watershed has both an excellent textbook about their region, and a teacher developed, tested, and approved guide full of lessons for watershed and natural resource curriculum that is specific to their area.

SWCDM's next round of 310 Mini-Grant funding will begin Monday, January 25, so now is a great time to be thinking creatively about how \$2000 can help you address non point-source pollution in your area.