



# Big Hole Watershed Committee

Monthly Meeting Agenda

March 21, 2018 – 7:00pm\*

Divide Grange – Divide, Montana

\*Please note the time change from 6pm to 7pm due to Daylight Saving's Time.

## Introductions

### Meeting Minutes

Review of February 2018 Minutes

### Reports

- Precipitation and Snowpack/Streamflow Report
- Director's Report
- Steering Committee Report
- Wildlife Report
- Restoration/Land Use Planning Report

## Discussion

### New Business

#### Meeting Topic 1: High Intensity Livestock Grazing Program

*Presentation by: Dave Scott, Montana Highland Lamb*

*Background:* Dave is a sheep producer with a ranch just south of Whitehall that has a short duration, high intensity, year-round livestock grazing program. He will illustrate how productive sheep can be in an intense operation in which they harvest forage, provide fertilizer, and cause disturbance that mixes organic matter back into the soil. Dave's high intensity grazing program produces healthy soil rich in microorganisms with high production, higher water-holding capacity, and no need for additional fertilizer inputs. Dave's ranch, Montana Highland Lamb, raises and direct markets over 200 lambs per year to restaurants, institutions, food stores, and customers at farmer's markets.

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#### Meeting Topic 2: Irrigation Scheduling & Soil Moisture Monitoring

*Presentation by: Barry Dutton, Land and Water Consulting*

*Background:* Barry Dutton, Principal with Land and Water Consulting, will present the fundamentals of his irrigation scheduling program. This innovative program, which has been operating for several years in the Blackfoot River Watershed, provides accurate and detailed information, including soil water holding capacity for the root zone, actual crop water usage,

and predicted crop water usage to participating producers on a weekly basis. The program also provides several hints and techniques for measuring actual irrigation application rates, effective irrigation rates, uniformity of irrigation systems, and simple hands-on methods to monitor soil moisture content. Barry will share the program and discuss its success with the Blackfoot Challenge and the Blackfoot River watershed.

### **Upcoming Meetings & Events**

- April 18, 2018, 7-9pm @ the Divide Grange – BHWC Monthly Meeting. *Topic: Big Hole Watershed Fishery Update by Jim Olsen, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.*
- May 16, 2018, 7-9pm @ the Divide Grange – BHWC Monthly Meeting. *Topic: Invasive Weeds in the Big Hole Watershed – presented by representatives from local counties, state & federal agencies, and contractors.*

### **Adjourn**