

# NEWS from up the CREEK

Lolo Watershed Group's quarterly newsletter  
Summer 2015

## Upcoming Events

Sunday, September 13, 2-8pm  
Watershed Education Network's  
Mayfly Fling Fundraiser  
@ Ten Spoon Winery

Sunday, September 26, 3-7pm  
Lolo Creek Pre-Hibernation Party!  
@ Lolo Dance Center and  
Campground

Wednesday, October 14, 5:30-8pm  
Pint Night  
@ Lolo Peak Brewing Co., Lolo

## We Want You to Join Us

Lolo Watershed Group is looking for new leadership on our board of directors. We are seeking members to broaden our depth of knowledge, experience, and ideas.

Our current president is working on the 7th year of her second 3-year term in office. While she plans to remain on board, she has stepped down as President. This is an unpaid, but very rewarding position for guiding work in our watershed.

Please contact our secretary Kascie Herron at [kascie.herron@gmail.com](mailto:kascie.herron@gmail.com) with any questions.

## Fire and Water on Lolo Creek



Landscape of Lolo Creek fire burn area September 2013



Revegetation of Lolo Creek fire burn area as of July 2015

The Lolo Creek Fire Complex of 2013 has left a reminder for all of us about how quickly fire can spread under windy and dry conditions.

Although the fire scar will be visible for decades, the natural process of regenerating the forest and wetlands along the creek corridor is interesting to observe. We are pleased to see the shrubs and herbaceous vegetation regrowth even during the 2015 dry conditions.

In a project funded by Montana's Department of Environmental Quality and in cooperation with the Clark Fork Coalition, some of the severely burned areas that have not regenerated well will be planted with riparian shrub species to help in protecting Lolo Creek's water quality. Browse protection will be used to protect vegetation as it becomes established.

## Danger of Drought

With record low water flows on some rivers in our area due to low snowpack this winter, record and near record high temperatures, and limited early summer rainfall, it's no surprise that the U.S. Drought Monitor map shows our area to be in severe to extreme drought.

As always, we need to be aware of fire danger in our watershed, and to be mindful of our water use. We can't predict when or where a wildfire may occur, but we know the conditions are right for fire spread in our area.

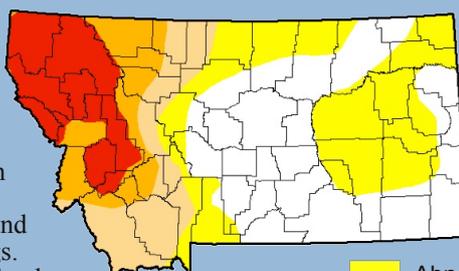
Be cautious when you are out

enjoying our wild lands and at home make sure your landscaping is fire-wise with plenty of spacing between trees and free of combustible vegetation around houses and out buildings.

Lolo Creek will almost certainly disconnect from the Bitterroot River this summer as it has in a few of our past summers. Our ranch irrigators

are aware of the low water conditions and are using their water rights wisely.

We can do our part to conserve water as well.



Source: [droughtmonitor.unl.edu/](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/), Sept 1, 2015.

Lolo Watershed Group

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