

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT FOR ANNUAL YELLOWSTONE RIVER PROJECT

For More Information: Kayhan Ostovar, Rocky Mountain College Assistant Professor of Environmental Science & Fish and Wildlife Conservation; (406) 657-1175 / kayhan.ostovar@rocky.edu

Re: Yellowstone River Clean Up

When: Saturday, September 17, 2011, 9:00 a.m.

Where: Starting at Duck Creek Bridge for the river float crew. We will float to Coulson Park stopping to clean up sections along the way. The City of Billings helps us haul away what we collect at each location.

Sponsors: Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, Billings Clinic Foundation, Exxon-Mobil, Wal-mart, Rocky Mountain College Environmental Science Program, Northern Plains Resource Council, and the National Audubon Together Green Program with Toyota.

Need: Volunteers, drift boats, rafts and other stable water craft.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BILLINGS – For the 5th consecutive year, the Rocky Mountain College environmental science program will be teaming up with the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society to clean up the Yellowstone River, on September 17, 2011.

“The Yellowstone River is the longest free-flowing river in the United States. Much of the section that we float was impacted by the oil spill in Laurel,” said Kayhan Ostovar, Rocky Mountain College Assistant Professor of Environmental Science & Fish and Wildlife Conservation.

Volunteers, drift boats, rafts and other stable watercraft are needed to help float the river to remove waste and debris. The float crew will start at Duck Creek Bridge and continue

to Coulson Park.

“This year we will be using GPS technology to map out large trash items that will take heavier equipment to move. While we can’t remove these items at this time we hope to in the near future,” added Ostovar, who is organizing the project.

On top of hauling away trash, this project directly relates to the Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society osprey monitoring project. New nests of the bird can be scouted from the river and long term data of the bird populations can be recorded.

The City of Billings helps haul away the “literally mountains of trash,” Ostovar noted.

For more information about volunteering please contact Kayhan Ostovar at (406) 657-1175 or email kayhan.ostovar@rocky.edu

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8/30/2011