



Northwest Regional RC&D

Hot Springs Sustainability Project

The Hot Springs Sustainability Project (HSSP) is a non-profit Community Foundation created to develop Hot Springs, Montana as an Eco-Educational Community model by setting a precedent for sustainable development and providing funding opportunities for local businesses, landholders and homeowners to participate in private development in the areas of economic, ecological and sociopolitical sustainability. The HSSP was established in December, 2009. 2010 has been their first full year of operation.

The mission for the Hot Springs Sustainability Project is to generate the financial resources to create sustainable community through individual commitment and accountability and to foster ecological awareness, sustainable living practices and community values through active Community Development participation in the areas of Sustainable Agriculture, Green Development and Restoration, Renewable Energy Technology and Regional Networking. Current HSSP Projects include:

The Lower Flathead Watershed Knapweed Pilot Project: The goal of this project is to educate about and promote the use of biological control as part of an integrated approach to management for Knapweed on a watershed level. A coordinated regional approach to weed management has two primary goals; 1) development of a long term plan with landowners working together; 2) implementation of the most effective, environmentally sound and economical approach. The Knapweed Project began in September 2010 and expects to be completed within 12 months. The HSSP received a Partnership Grant from NRCS to complete the feasibility study and is currently seeking funding for the planning and implementation phases of the project.

The Technology, Education and Communication Center (TEC): The Technology, Education and Communication Center will serve as the central hub of Community Development for the Hot Springs Sustainability Project and the access point for members of the community to educational resources in the areas of Green Development and Restoration Renewable Energy Technology and Regional Networking. The HSSP received grant funding from Enerby Corps to hire a full time person for 10 months to staff the TEC Center. The HSSP is currently seeking funding for operational expenses for the TEC Center.

Community Greenhouse Project: The goal of the Community Greenhouse Project is to provide Hot Springs residents with the nutritional, mental/emotional and social benefits of having access to a year round energy efficient greenhouse environment Greenhouses will also create opportunities for community interaction through greenhouse activities and make available cost-effective, fresh, organic produce during the winter months. The HSSP is currently seeking funding for the Community Greenhouse Project.

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