

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Tour da Bear” on Friday, Aug. 23, Displays Best-Practice Solutions for Safe People, Safe Bears

Evening Tour of Chicken Coops, Beehives, Garbage Cans/Cages, etc. in Rattlesnake Will Inspire and Show How

MISSOULA, MT (Aug. 12, 2013) – The Rattlesnake Creek Watershed Group (RCWG) will host a “Tour da Bear” early Friday evening, Aug. 23, between 5 and 8. The self-guided tour begins in Greenough Park (1001 Monroe), breaks at Pineview Park (Pineview Dr.), and concludes at Ten Spoon Winery (4175 Rattlesnake). Participants go their own pace on bikes or other transportation to examine electrified chicken coops and gardens, ponder designs for keeping bruins out of trash cans and dumpsters, chat with experts, and learn about the challenges of urbanized bears.

The tour is free, family-friendly, and open to all. First, pick up maps and get oriented at the RCWG table near the Greenough Park parking lot. About 10 sites in the Lower and Upper Rattlesnake will be featured, with docents to explain. Ten Spoon, the final site (with an electrified beehive), will be open for wine tasting. Participants who complete the tour win a treat.

In addition, respected bear expert Chuck Jonkel leads a tour of “Greenough Park from a Bear’s Perspective” at 5:30 pm (meet at the GREENOUGH PICNIC SHELTER). Cyclists who want a guided tour gather at the RCWG table at 6:00.

Event sponsors include Missoula Parks and Recreation, Defenders of Wildlife, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, Ten Spoon Winery, and Treasure State Donuts.

Rattlesnake Creek is a corridor for bears. Drawn in late summer by wild and domestic fruit, bears have learned to eat human attractants like unsecured garbage, livestock & bird feed, and chickens. In the Rattlesnake, Animal Control and Fish Wildlife and Parks respond to over 100 bear-human encounters a year, and many bears are killed by cars, injury during relocation, and euthanasia. Though bears have entered homes, no person has yet been injured. So far the bears have black, but Grizzlies are active just up the creek in the Rattlesnake Wilderness.

RCWG is a nonprofit committed to protecting and preserving the Rattlesnake Creek Watershed through education, science, and stewardship. More info: <http://bearapple.org> OR on Facebook under Rattlesnake Creek Watershed Group