

## **Missoula County Youth in Restoration Program 2026**

### **Background**

The Missoula County Weed District is excited to announce the 12th year of the Youth in Restoration program. This initiative empowers high school students to contribute to land management projects and conservation efforts in collaboration with agencies such as:

- City of Missoula Conservation Lands
- University of Montana Natural Areas
- Lolo National Forest
- Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation
- Missoula County Parks, Trails, and Open Lands
- Montana Biocontrol Project
- National Bison Range
- Great Burn Conservation Alliance
- Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
- Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- Five Valleys Land Trust

Participants will gain hands-on experience through activities such as biological insect control, aquatic monitoring, natural resource mapping, mechanical weed control, revegetation, trail maintenance, and more across Missoula County and surrounding areas.

This program provides students with:

- A deeper appreciation for public lands
- Understanding of multi-use management and ecological/economic balance
- Insight into various career paths in natural resource management
- Experience with federal and county government agencies to enhance resumes and college applications

### **Position Details**

**Job Title:** Youth in Restoration Crew Member

**Employment Period:** June 16, 2026 – Week of August 14, 2026

**Work Hours:** 35-40 hours per week for 8-9 weeks

**Compensation:** \$16.50/hour

### **Responsibilities:**

- Collect and analyze data on insects and plants
- Hike to project sites (1-10 miles)
- Remove invasive weeds manually
- Re-vegetate areas with native plants
- Install and remove wildlife barriers

- Survey aquatic plants and monitor ecosystems
- Trail maintenance including brushing and clearing
- Identify and monitor plant species

**Requirements:**

- Ability to work in hot summer conditions with direct sun exposure
- Physical capability to hike 1-5 miles and perform strenuous labor
- Comfort handling non-threatening insects
- Strong organizational skills
- Willingness to learn GPS unit operation
- Availability for occasional overnight camping at project sites
- Commitment to missing no more than four days of employment
- Team-oriented mindset

**Transportation:** Students must arrive at the Missoula County Department of Ecology maintenance building (located at the Missoula County Fairgrounds). Transportation to and from work sites will be provided by the crew leader.

**How to Apply**

Please complete the application form below and return it by **May 8th, 2026** to:

Missoula County Department of Ecology & Extension  
Attn: Steffany Rogge  
1075 South Ave W  
Missoula, MT 59801

Or email the completed application to: [srogge@missoulacounty.us](mailto:srogge@missoulacounty.us) (email is preferred).  
For questions, call **(406) 258-4211**.

## 2026 Youth in Restoration Program Student Application

### Personal Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of School Completed (as of June 2026): \_\_\_\_\_

### Application Questions

1. **Why are you applying for this position?**

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2. **What experience do you have that might help you with this position?**

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3. **What experience do you have working outdoors?**

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4. **Are you able to perform strenuous physical labor (e.g., hiking 5+ miles in hot, dry summer conditions)?**

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5. **Are you willing to work early/late hours and some weekends?**

Yes  No

If yes, explain:

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6. **How well do you work on a team? Provide an example.**

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7. **What local conservation or natural resource issues are you knowledgeable about or have experience with?**

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8. **Do you consider yourself organized? Provide examples.**

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9. **What do you foresee pursuing as a career? Explain.**

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10. **Is there anything else you would like us to know when considering your application?**

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## Past Work Experience

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates Employed: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for Leaving: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates Employed: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for Leaving: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates Employed: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for Leaving: \_\_\_\_\_

## References

Please list three references (excluding family members):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relation: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relation: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relation: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_