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## **Jack Creek Water Monitoring Project**

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### **Abstract Text:**

Jack Creek is a mountain stream watershed system located within the Madison Range east of Ennis, Montana and is a tributary of the Madison River. Encompassing waters from Lee Metcalf Wilderness, Cedar Creek Wilderness and Moonlight Basin Ski Resort, Jack Creek originates in high elevation environments and flows through developed and undeveloped areas, rangeland, pasture and cropland as it makes its way to the Madison River. Jack Creek is an exceptional study area because it is an easily accessible main channel of a small watershed feeding directly into the Madison River, home to several blue ribbon trout fisheries and one of three rivers forming the Missouri River. Proper management of water resources is vital to maintaining health and productivity of the Madison and points downstream, while preserving what made the region so unique and leave a legacy for future generations of people and wildlife. An uncommon collaborative partnership between developers, private landowners, university researchers and a school district was formed based on the shared belief of "giving back to the community". Partners wanted to develop a volunteer water monitoring project along Jack Creek for multiple reasons: 1) to monitor Jack Creek to preserve and/or maintain water quality; 2) to introduce students to the practical/applicable side of math and science through experiential learning while gathering useful water quality and quantity data; and 3) to educate people of all ages about habitat and ecology, wildlife management, ethical hunting practices, responsible development and environmental stewardship by providing opportunities that give people a deeper appreciation and foster a deeper understanding and involvement with our environment.

### **Impact Statement:**

This is the end of the first season so we cannot make any broad assumptions, but we did gather quality baseline data for future comparisons and took 15-20 students from each class between 6 and 12th grade streamside for a day of monitoring.