

Beyond Timber and Trekking: Exploring the Role National Forests and Grasslands Play in Protecting Drinking Water Supplies

Dr. Kelly Mott Lacroix
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Special Seminar
Tuesday, March 26, 2019
3:30-4:30 pm
Lewis Hall Room 304
Montana State University

When you think of the U.S. Forest Service what comes to mind? A place to hike or bike? Land set aside for timber harvest or mineral extraction? These very visible values of the lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service are often the extent of our understanding of the value of National Forest System (NFS) lands. There is, however, another important role that your forests play - providing abundant clean water for drinking and irrigating. In fact, protecting water supplies for downstream users was one of the two reasons NFS lands were set aside over 100 years ago, and today 1 in 5 Americans rely on water supplies that originated on NFS lands. This seminar will explore the history of watershed management on NFS lands, a recent analysis of the role these lands play in protecting water supplies through data on surface water and groundwater protection areas, and the possibilities these data present for innovative partnerships to improve and protect watershed condition on our nation's forests and grasslands into the future.



Kelly Mott Lacroix is the Forest Hydrologist and Watershed Program Manager for the Tonto National Forest in Arizona. Over the past decade she has worked at the national and state levels and in academia and non-profits on watershed hydrology and water management and policy. She received her PhD from the Arid Lands Resource Sciences program at the University of Arizona where she studied environmental flow needs of desert ecosystems and effective mechanisms of stakeholder engagement to incorporate those flows into policy and practice.

For accommodation requests, contact Meghan Heim, MSU Ecology Department, 406-944-2018 or meghan.heim@montana.edu