

**Missouri River Country Press Trip Itinerary:  
A GeoTravel Road Trip through Montana's High Plains  
September 15<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

Are you ready for the *real* Montana? This four-day/three-night excursion will provide journalists with a sampler of geotravel\* experiences in this lesser known nook of north central Montana. We'll rendezvous in the high plains town of Malta where we'll visit both the Phillips County Museum and the new Great Plains Dinosaur Museum, tapping into the area's paleo-past. From there we'll head southeast onto the American Prairie Foundation lands, where an interpretive tour will expand our understanding and appreciation for the flora, fauna and geography of this untrammled short grass landscape. We'll overnight in APF's yurt camp and drink in the starry skies. From there we'll head west to the backwater town of Zortman where we'll pan for gold in them thar hills. Later on that afternoon/evening we'll drive over to the Slippery Ann Elk Range where wapiti gather in biblical numbers during the height of the rut. Be prepared to gain a greater appreciation for Montana's heartland.

\* Geotravel is tourism that sustains or enhances the geographical character of a place such as its culture, environment, heritage and the well-being of its residents.

***Tuesday, 9/15, Rendezvous at the Great Northern Hotel in Malta between 2:00 & 3:00pm.***

For those coming from the west – via the Hi-Line – consider a stop in Havre at the Wahkpa Chu'gn Archaeological Site, <http://www.buffalotrip.org/> and/or stop in Chinook to view wildlife exhibit at old movie theater. Once we all gather in Malta we'll head out (at 3:15pm) to visit the Great Plains Dino Museum <http://www.greatplainsdinosaurs.org/>. Afterwards we'll walk next door to the Phillips County Museum to gain a greater understanding for more recent history of this area. Overnight and supper at Great Northern Hotel. Meet for supper at 7:00pm.

*Wednesday, 9/16, Meet in lobby at 8:00am. Check out and pack vehicles. Head for breakfast at The Hitchin' Post. From there we'll caravan onto the American Prairie Lands, <http://www.americanprairie.org/> for a naturalist guided tour (APF has a more detailed itinerary for this day). Overnight and dinner at American Prairie's yurt camp. Drink in the high plains landscape, howl at the moon.*

*Thursday, 9/17, Morning hike followed by breakfast. Then head to Zortman via the Dry Fork Road where we'll connect with John and Candy Kalal for a gold panning experience. Check in at Zortman Motel. Late afternoon, head for CM Russell, Slippery Ann Elk Range, <http://tinyurl.com/kl4gqxg> for evening wildlife watching, bugling, etc. Picnic supper on the range.*

*Friday, 9/18, Those heading south to Billings will stop at Bear Gulch Pictographs (<http://beargulch.net/>). Others will return to Malta to collect cars and continue travels or head home.*

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## **Gear List**

As Montana residents, you all know the drill on our changeable weather and how layers serve us best in regulating our comfort in the outdoors. So, please bring warm, synthetic or wool layers as well as a sun hat and sunscreen. Be prepared for temperature extremes.

- Comfortable walking shoes/boots (due to possibility of cold/wet weather sneakers and running shoes may not be adequate)
- Rain Jacket
- Long Underwear
- Gloves
- Warm hat and ball cap (for sun)

Other Odds & Ends

- Refillable water bottle
- Travel mug for hot drinks
- Small daypack
- Headlamp or flashlight
- Sunglasses
- Binoculars
- Camera
- Towel or wash cloth
- Personal Items/medications

\*\*\* Sleeping bags w/ fresh liners will be provided at the APF yurt camp.

Chris Woolston  
802 Clark Ave.  
Billings, MT 59101  
h. 406-256-3009  
m. 406-698-0624

[woolston4@bresnan.net](mailto:woolston4@bresnan.net)

Chris writes for VIA (AAA magazine), the LA Times and others. He has two VIA assignments he'll be researching on this trip: one on bison and the other on gold. He's a Montana native and has never been to Malta or Zortman.

Jeff Hull  
27075 Nine Mile Road  
Huson, MT 59846  
406-626-1834

[jeffhull@9mile.com](mailto:jeffhull@9mile.com)

Jeff is an accomplished freelance writer and book author who writes for *Outside*, *Travel + Leisure*, *Canadian Geographic* and others. He's also a journalism professor at U of M in Missoula. He has pitched a Hi-Line article to *Outside* magazine and is joining us on this trip to flesh out his research.

Craig & Liz Larcom  
8301 Fox Farm Road  
Great Falls, MT 59404  
406-454-3681

[larcoms@sofast.com](mailto:larcoms@sofast.com)

Prolific freelance writer/photographer team, the Larcoms have produced dozens of articles on Montana. They write for various birding magazines, like *Bird Watcher's Digest*, and also frequently contribute to Northwest Travel magazine, Montana magazine and others.

Maggie McGuane  
513 Geyser St.  
Livingston, MT 59047  
h. 406-222-7041  
m. 406223-3398

[mkmcguane@aol.com](mailto:mkmcguane@aol.com)

Daughter of famous writer, Tom McGuane, Maggie is an accomplished journalist herself, contributing to magazines like National Geographic Adventure and Vogue.

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American Prairie Foundation contacts

Ali Fox  
Partnership Marketing and PR Manager  
o. 406-922-0804  
m. 406-570-2877

[alison@americanprairie.org](mailto:alison@americanprairie.org)

Meg Nicolo  
Event Coordinator  
o. 406-922-0771  
m. 406-451-1675

[meg@americanprairie.org](mailto:meg@americanprairie.org)

**REGION/CVB PROJECT BUDGET**  
 \ GeoTravel Road Trip; Through Montana's High Plain  
 FY10 FAM

	State Tourism Funds		Other Funds		Total
<b>PROFESSIONALSERVICES:</b>					
	\$0	+	\$0	=	\$0
	\$0	+	\$0	=	\$0
	\$0	+	\$0	=	\$0
	\$0	+	\$0	=	\$0
	\$0	+	\$0	=	\$0
	\$0	+	\$0	=	\$0
	\$0	+	\$0	=	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>		<b>\$0</b>		<b>\$0</b>

<b>MARKETING/ADVERTISING:</b>					
		+	\$0	=	\$0
		+	\$0	=	\$0
		+	\$0	=	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>		<b>\$0</b>		<b>\$0</b>

<b>TRAVEL:</b>					
Freight/Shipping	\$0	+	\$0	=	\$0
Booth Space	\$0	+	\$0	=	\$0
Mileage	\$750	+	\$0	=	\$750
Meals (dinner receptions)	\$950	+	\$0	=	\$950
Lodging	\$750	+	\$0	=	\$750
Fees	\$35				\$35
Misc. Snacks, etc.	\$15	+	\$0	=	\$15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>		<b>\$0</b>		<b>\$2,500</b>

<b>OTHER:</b>					
Coordination Costs	\$0	+	\$0	=	\$0
	\$0	+	\$0	=	\$0
	\$0	+	\$0	=	\$0
	\$0	+	\$0	=	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>		<b>\$0</b>		<b>\$2,500</b>

<b>REGION/CVB PROJECT TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>	<b>+</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>
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