

2014 Outstanding Service Award

Water is an important element of life on earth and a major focus of the work we do each day. With a desire to make Montana a place to call home, our recipient brought a background of water experience and an energetic work ethic to begin various water quality monitoring projects for Careless Creek, Muddy Creek, Sun River as well as a Bureau of Reclamation irrigation system monitoring program.

As an important component of life, water is used in many ways in Montana. Developing an interest in both applied and basic research, our recipient investigated methods and systems for monitoring and minimizing bacterial loading to surface waters from livestock confinement and feeding areas focusing field research projects in Beaverhead and Gallatin Counties. Not only have these monitoring projects helped to keep a pulse on Montana's valuable natural resource, this recipient's focus on details has provided an amazing attribute in water quality information.

Co-workers speak highly of this recipient's amazing energy level and intensity for getting things done. In addition to the monitoring projects, our recipient has worked to revamp the Well Educated program which has helped prevent nonpoint source ground water contamination from private wells through well owner education while simultaneously providing means to monitor ground water quality. Our recipient has also developed educational videos on septic systems, oil and gas development and worked with watershed groups across the state to develop and implement volunteer monitoring programs. The past 3 years, our recipient has been immersed in the Judith River Watershed Nitrogen Project. This research project is exploring sources of nitrogen in ground and surface water in the Judith River Watershed of central Montana, engaging local producers and residents to find effective solutions to reduce nitrogen levels within the watershed.

The **2014 Outstanding Service Award** is presented to **Adam Sigler, Water Quality Associate Specialist** with the **MSU Extension Water Quality Program**

