

Media Advisory

June 4, 2014

Contact: Mary Guokas, 406.444.1343

Floodplain Outreach Specialist

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

Programs commemorate 1964 Flood

Helena will host one of many programs occurring in the state and in Canada to remember the 1964 flood.

On Saturday, June 14 from 2-3 p.m. in the Montana Historical Society Museum's auditorium, 225 N. Roberts, the presentation, "50 Years Later: Hindsight and Perspectives on the 1964 Flood Disaster along the Sun River near Great Falls" will be given free of charge. Gain insight from a 1964 flood survivor, Vic Reiman, who today is a Montana Historical Society representative. Discover what's happened along the Sun River since the 1964 Flood and learn about floodplains from a different perspective, from that of a floodplain program professional and Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation staff, Mary Guokas.

The City of Great Falls and Cascade County will host an Open House with community speakers on Thursday, June 12, from 4-6 p.m. at the Great Falls Civic Center in the Gibson Room. Bring your stories and / or photos of the 1964 Flood for an opportunity to have them recorded; or just bring yourself and be prepared to hear interesting tales from a dramatic event.

Lesser known is the fact that the 1964 Flood affected Waterton Lakes National Park in Canada, as well as Glacier National Park. The annual Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park Science Day is a free event, although park entrance fees apply. Check it out on July 29th, it's an event to explore behind the scenes, by hearing first-hand from park scientists, historians and other experts about discoveries and history of the world's first International Peace Park, Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. One of the presentations will be on the history of the 1964 Flood. The time for that presentation has not yet been set.

The 1964 Flood is historically interesting and it also serves as a reminder. According to Traci Sears, Montana's National Flood Insurance Program Coordinator, "I hope that people will learn from history and continue to be flood-conscious of what we build and do in our floodplains. Today 134 communities in the state have floodplain regulations, something most communities didn't have in 1964 and something that will help protect communities in the event of high water. We certainly don't want a 1964 flood event repeated."