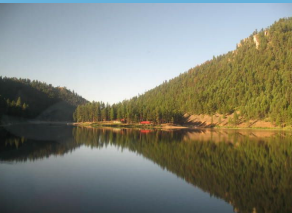
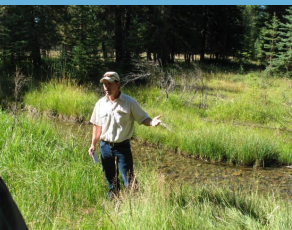


# The Blackfoot Challenge



On August 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 30 landowners, individuals from counties and municipalities, and members of the OWC Rural Team set out on a journey to Ovando, Montana, to



visit a watershed organization called the Blackfoot Challenge.

The Blackfoot Challenge is a landowner-based group that coordinates management of the Blackfoot River, its tributaries, and adjacent lands. The Challenge has existed since 1993 and has had 15 years of experience working collaboratively to build trust, partnerships and a culture of working together to successfully solve problems that arise in their watershed.

This group has no shortage of success stories. To date they have initiated projects in noxious weed management, protection of landscapes through conservation easements, stream restoration, water conservation, improved fisheries and wildlife habitat, and reduction of human and wildlife conflicts.

During our visit, we were given the opportunity to learn about some of the projects that the Challenge has been involved in, some of the lessons that were learned, and how to effectively work together to achieve the common goal of a healthy, viable watershed. Watershed Group Members in the Oldman River Basin also shared with members of the Blackfoot Challenge the many successful projects that they are involved in right here in the Oldman Watershed.

We'd like to thank all that participated in this event and to those counties, municipal districts, and agencies that contributed financially and in-kind to make this tour a success!

For more information on the Blackfoot Challenge, please visit their website:

<http://www.blackfootchallenge.org/am/publish/index.php>