

Endorsed by Flathead Audubon April 2020

American Rivers
Headwaters Montana
Flathead Lakers
EFlathead Trout Unlimited
National Parks Conservation Association



Making Rail Shipments of Hazardous Materials Safer

Oil Safe Flathead is an *ad hoc* group working to make safer the rail shipment of Bakken crude and other highly toxic cargo on Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) trains that travel through the Flathead Valley. We seek your group's endorsement of this common sense objective.

BNSF moves millions of gallons of Bakken crude oil through the Flathead Valley every day. A derailment and release or an explosion of one of these trains could kill citizens, destroy buildings and property, and permanently degrade the waters of the Flathead River, Flathead Lake, Whitefish River and Whitefish Lake.

No one thinks these shipments will stop. But many think that – with citizen input – these shipments can be made safer.

We seek a congressionally authorized "rail safety and spill prevention plan" for the Flathead BNSF rail corridor. This plan would require citizen input, examine the facts and science of rail shipment, and determine the best way to carry crude oil and other hazardous materials.

Many other communities all along BNSF rail lines in Montana share similar concerns. Oil Safe Flathead recognizes that the hazards of rail transport of Bakken crude are a statewide and national concern. We are adding our local voice to the growing chorus that asks Congress to set a higher standard of safety for this explosive cargo.

What We Are Asking You to Consider

We ask that your organization endorse Oil Safe Flathead's request for a *congressionally authorized rail safety and spill prevention plan for the Flathead.*

We ask that you consider making a similar request of Montana's congressional delegation for a rail safety and spill prevention plan for your community.

Oil Safe Flathead will list your organization as a supporter of this rail safety plan, as well as in its social media and promotion materials. ###