Even Congress praises Montana as The Last Best Place. A great deal is packed into the lyrical nickname. Start with a scenic landscape that features vast wilderness areas, iconic national parks and forests, free-flowing rivers and clear lakes. Grizzly bears, wolves, bison and native fish roam in relatively intact ecosystems. Native American tribes, ranchers, loggers and miners are in the mix, assertively managing natural resources.

But Montana’s special qualities are threatened by increasing problems — a microcosm for how the North American West is the nation’s fastest-changing region. So here’s an invitation: Come to Montana to explore the theme, Wild Rockies and the Changing West. See for yourself, for instance, how the region is arguably No. 1 for climate change impacts — by walking the ground in the aftermath of record-breaking wildfires, or through massive forest insect outbreaks, or by assessing other evidence of climate shifts that will soon require a renaming of Glacier National Park.

See how the region is also No. 1 for charismatic wildlife and wilderness under stress, rampant outdoor recreation and alternative energy projects, population growth and sprawl consuming open space, and private-land conservation deals on millions of acres. All that comes on top of historical problems such as wide-scale reckless mining and logging and campaigns to eradicate predators.

The University of Montana in Missoula — crowned by Rolling Stone magazine as the “most scenic campus in America” — will host the SEJ conference Oct. 13-17 (see the back page for more on the campus and Missoula, a happening town on the cusp of Old and New West).

Conference tours will include Glacier, a Superfund extravaganza, the research navy on the West’s largest freshwater lake, and the environmental programs of one of Montana’s seven Indian reservations (see facing page for more on tours).

We’ll feature SEJ’s typical impressive array of speakers, panels and workshops. They’ll include Montana celebrities, Obama administration officials and experts filling you in on regional, national and international topics. Expect sessions on environmental law and politics (Montana likely has the highest ratio of professional environmentalists per capita), free-market environmentalism (Montana has the leading think tanks), environmental justice (focusing on Libby, a Montana mining town where asbestos has killed hundreds and EPA has declared a public health emergency), and the cutting-edge technologies and philosophical questions of modern wildlife biology. We’ll cap it off with famous Western authors who’ll explore our connections with the natural world.

We know Montana is a long haul for many. We’ll make it worth your investment. Lodging and other expenses will be affordable. Mark your calendar and consider an extended stay — we’ll guide you to interesting activities and scenery away from the conference. Bring your family, your fly rod, hunting gear, hiking shoes, and binoculars.

Finally, don’t forget… we’ll also be celebrating SEJ’s 20th anniversary with a big bash up in the mountains at the rustic-chic Montana Snowbowl lodge!

Conference co-chairs,

James Bruggers
Senior Reporter
The (Louisville) Courier-Journal

Ray Ring
Senior Editor
High Country News

“In the company of mountains, among the everlasting hills, we are supported and consoled by the thought of permanence, by our impermanent fellowship with permanence. There, here, within a hand’s grasp is immortality. The mountain is, and so am I, forever and forever.”

— A. B. Guthrie Jr., Big Sky, Fair Land

Cover art “Spanish Creek” by Margaret Emerson
Advance registration is required for all Thursday tours. Attendance on each tour is strictly limited, so registering early is important. Departure times vary (see below), but all Thursday tours will return to the Holiday Inn about 5:00 p.m. Planning was still under way at the time of printing, so please visit www.sej.org for more details. For those looking for some exercise, tours 2 and 7 are your best options. Other tours involve moderate exercise. Tours 1 and 6 are best suited for wheelchair accessibility.

1  CROWN OF THE CONTINENT: GLACIER NATIONAL PARK
(6:00 a.m. departure, lunch included, $30 fee)
Glacier is the sparkling jewel along the Continental Divide, and is crucial for wildlife habitat connectivity in the Lower 48’s most intact ecosystem. Griz, wolf, wolverine and cougar still roam among mountain goats and bighorn sheep and elk and moose. But climate change threatens to melt the namesake glaciers within two decades and wreak havoc on ecosystems and wildlife. We’ll see some of the clearest, cleanest water in the world as we travel up McDonald Creek to Lake McDonald, stopping at Sacred Dancing Cascade. At the lake you can opt for a rigorous hike to alpine areas or more leisurely walks along interpretive trails. En route, you’ll pass Flathead Lake, the largest freshwater body in the West, and spectacular scenery around every bend. Drive time – 6 hours.

2  WILD TROUT, WILDERNESS AND (GLOBAL) WARMING
(6:30 a.m. departure, lunch included, $30 fee)
If you like humpty or humping, Royal Wulffs or the howling kind, this tour will get you up early and out into the kind of last best places that Montana is famous for. We’ll use vans, not big buses, to transport small groups to wild areas outside Missoula. We’ll fish or hike through the early afternoon, then return to Missoula for micro-brews or warm coffee, along with fish stories and discussions with experts about how climate change is already impacting Big Sky Country wilderness, forests and trout. Specific trails and fishing holes are still being confirmed, so check www.sej.org in the future for more details. Drive time – 2.5 hours.

3  CLARK FORK RIVER: RESTORING THE NATION’S LARGEST SUPERFUND SITE
(7:00 a.m. departure, lunch included, $30 fee)
Travel along a section of Montana’s historic, colorful and much-abused Clark Fork River, the 100-mile stretch that makes up one of the nation’s largest Superfund cleanup sites. Visit Butte, home of the immense Berkeley Pit copper mine, once the “richest hill on earth,” now ground zero for the massive cleanup. Stops also include: Anaconda, site of the Anaconda Copper Co.’s historic smelter works; Opportunity Ponds, where cleanup crews are depositing many tons of the contaminated soils, to the chagrin of local residents; ranches along the Clark Fork, where restoration work continues; and Milltown, where the cleanup included removal of a large dam. Drive time – 4 hours.

4  MANAGING WILD LANDS AND WILDLIFE IN THE WILD WEST
(7:15 a.m. departure, lunch included, $30 fee)
Take a tour along the glorious Blackfoot River – immortalized in the Norman Maclean memoir “A River Runs Through It” – and come face to face with the wide range of environmental issues in the West. Along the route, we’ll talk with rangers, ranchers and conservationists about living with wolves and grizzly bears; stop at the 28,000-acre Lubrecht Experimental Forest to learn about wildfires and pine beetles; find out how the river is nearly being loved to death by anglers and river runners after decades of poisoning from historic mining; and meet members of the Blackfoot Challenge, featured in Field & Stream magazine for their efforts to preserve large, intact landscapes that maintain rural lifestyles and benefit wildlife and fisheries. Drive time – 3 hours.

Continued

5  MANAGING INDIAN COUNTRY: STORIES OF COOPERATION AND CONFLICT
(7:30 a.m. departure, lunch included, $30 fee)
Journey to the Flathead Indian Reservation and the majestic Mission Mountains to explore the intersection of traditional culture and natural resource management. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes are at the forefront of asserting sovereignty rights over natural resources. Along the Peoples’ Highway (aka US 93), check out the ecologically friendly features, including a dramatic wildlife overpass and underpasses that protect extensive wildlife corridors. Stop at the National Bison Range to learn about disagreements over how much authority the tribes should have in managing bison. A swing through the Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuge may yield sightings of migrating waterfowl, including reintroduced trumpeter swans. Other topics may include water rights negotiations, Flathead Lake and native fire management. Drive time – 3.5 hours.

6  FLATHEAD LAKE: THE PRISTINE AND THE ALIEN
(8:00 a.m. departure, lunch included, $30 fee)
Stretching for nearly 30 miles beneath shining snow-capped peaks, Flathead Lake is one of the largest freshwater lakes in the world – and one of the most pristine. Residents around the lake have taken measures to protect the fabled water quality, yet there are still many threats. Beneath the surface lurks an unnatural food web tangled by decades of human tinkering. Invasive species threaten native trout, and lakeside and upstream developments as far away as Canada generate pollution. Join us for a day on the Jessie B, a scientific research vessel. We’ll check out aliens and water quality with biologists, limnologists and other scientists at the University of Montana’s Flathead Lake Biological Research Station. Drive time – 3.5 hours.

7  PRESERVING WILDLIFE IN A CHANGING WORLD
(8:30 a.m. departure, lunch included, $30 fee)
It’s hard enough to manage wildlife amidst a growing population and sprawl, but climate change complicates that task. We’ll hear from land managers and see some innovative efforts, including tribal biologists who have created bridges and tunnels across highways and protected land corridors to facilitate the movement of grizzly bears and other wildlife. We’ll see an urban elk herd, in Missoula’s backyard, and track it in real time on a computer. We’ll hear how wolves are intensively managed through hunting and non-lethal means. And, we’ll look at how climate change is affecting lynx and snowshoe hares, whose coat color isn’t changing fast enough to keep them camouflaged in a West with much less snow. Drive time – 3 hours.
WESTERN WILDFIRES: ECOLOGY, ECONOMICS AND ETHICS
(9:00 a.m. departure, lunch included, $30 fee)
Explore places that will shape future wildfire policies throughout the West. Follow footsteps of men and women who fought two recent wildfires that threatened the Missoula area. Hike into burned areas and visit Missoula’s Aerial Fire Depot, home to America’s original Smokejumper Base and a birthplace of wildfire ecology research. Bus transits will be short to maximize time on the ground with scientists and other experts. Speakers will explain the costs (economic and ecological) of wildfire-suppression practices spanning a century; the risks (economic, social and political) of ”let-it-burn” decisions; and the ethics of determining which places and human-made structures to try to “save” and why. Drive time – 2 hours.

THINGS THAT GO BOOM: THE CONSERVATIONIST CULTURE OF GUNS AND HUNTING
(12:15 p.m. departure, lunch NOT included, $20 fee)
Visit the national headquarters of the Boone & Crockett Club and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, two leading hunting-conservation organizations. Find out about conservation efforts for big game in the Rocky Mountains. Discuss important issues that surround shooting, hunting and firearms, including the use of lead vs. non-lead shot in waterfowl hunting, traditional hunting rifles vs. the sport-utility rifle, local conservation and game management tools, and more. Finally, get a feel for guns on an autumn day in the Montana outdoors with a stop at the Deer Creek shooting facility, where, after some hands-on safety instruction, we’ll do some target, clay, and trap shooting. Drive time – 1 hour.

AGENDA
SEJ’s 2010 annual conference officially begins Wednesday afternoon, October 13, with our opening reception, followed by dinner, special welcomes and the SEJ awards ceremony.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13
Before the official beginning, we offer two workshops concurrently from about 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, as well as an afternoon ice-breaker session with European journalists. Please see www.sej.org for more details, including the presenters, lodging, transportation and other logistics.

All-Day Workshop 1: Video Training
Join SPJ’s Denise Dowling, a broadcast journalism instructor at the University of Montana, and others for hands-on video training. Participants will learn multimedia concepts and visual journalism skills, including camera techniques, video gathering and basic video editing. This three-part workshop includes the option to shoot video on a Thursday tour, then edit your footage at a three-hour Saturday afternoon session. You’ll need your own camera – a Flip camera or digital camera with video capability will work, but not a cell phone. Pre-registration and $60 fee required. See www.sej.org for details. Space is limited. SEJ members only. This workshop is sponsored by the Society of Professional Journalists and hosted by the University of Montana School of Journalism.

All-Day Workshop 2: Environmental Law, Western Style
Broaden your knowledge of environmental policies and laws. Legal eagles from the University of Montana School of Law and other experts offer a guided tour through public land and resources law, environmental law, Native American law and the contemporary challenges posed by enforcement of these laws. Sessions explore laws that govern land, water, rocks, trees, and air, as well as: the basic structure of the justice system, including states vs. feds, criminal vs. civil, and legal goals vs. journalism goals; emerging issues, including climate change, alternative energy, depleted and over-subscribed water basins; and free online research tools for locating case law, statutes, and regulations. A panel offering tips on future environmental law stories wraps up the day. Pre-registration and $60 fee required. See www.sej.org for more details. Space is limited. This workshop is hosted by the University of Montana School of Law.

Afternoon Ice-Breaker: Transatlantic Roundup
Participants in the U.S.-European Environmental Journalists Conference on Tuesday and Wednesday present a summary of their conclusions. The U.S.-European conference agenda includes discussion of the different, and similar, challenges facing environmental journalists on either side of the Atlantic and how they try to deal with them.

Opening Reception and Dinner
Ease into the Montana scene and the conference spirit, while connecting with SEJ friends. To welcome you, we’ve invited Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer and his sidekick, Jag the border collie, and CNN founder Ted Turner, who owns many conservation-oriented ranches providing millions of acres of habitat for bison and other wildlife. Native American singers will raise the roof with their haunting refrains, and a slide show rolling in the corners will display beautiful Montana vistas. And the sustenance will be sustainable. With UM’s Farm to College Program, you’ll know where your food came from – Montana!

SEJ Awards for Reporting on the Environment
They are the most important stories on the planet, and we’ll unveil the best of the best. Join us for the SEJ Awards for Reporting on the Environment, to hear from the reporters themselves, to discover the story behind the story, and to be inspired by simply great work that changes the world, bit by bit, one story at a time.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14
Tours: See previous page for details on SEJ’s 2010 field expeditions across western Montana.

Independent Hospitality Receptions
Wind down after the tours with food and drink and good conversations with old friends and new acquaintances as you wander the receptions and displays and photo and art galleries. Please visit www.sej.org beginning in August for details.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15
Breakfast Plenary – American Treasures: The Future of the National Parks
America’s national park system is nearing its 100th anniversary with new momentum. Visitation is up, stimulus funding is paving roads and fixing historic buildings, and PBS filmmaker Ken Burns highlighted the system’s rich history last year. But challenges and controversies still loom: new rules allowing more guns in parks, billions in backlogged repairs, stalled plans to establish new parks, and a dearth of visitors from minority communities. What are the big national park stories ahead that reporters will find on their to-do lists? And how can we write them better?
Opening Plenary – The Changing West
The West is arguably the most dynamic region in the U.S., with the most obvious environmental and natural-resource issues, population growth and development impacts. Nobel laureate climate scientist Steve Running will kick off this plenary panel, explaining how climate change hits hardest in the West. Other speakers will explore big-picture trends in the vast federal lands that define the region, including wilderness and charismatic species, as well as tribes asserting their sovereignty rights over natural resources, and how the West also has cutting-edge conservation efforts focused on private land that provides habitat connectivity. We’ll address the question, if we can’t protect the environment here, where can we?

Network Lunch
Choose a discussion table on a wide range of timely topics and reporting tips, or join a breakout session with lively newsmakers.

Afternoon Plenary – The IPCC and the Politics of Climate Change
While climate change science continues to advance and evidence of global catastrophe mounts, the politics of climate change remains unsettled more than 20 years after scientists began calling the alarm. Attempts to change our fossil fuel economy and consumer lifestyles haven’t progressed very far and there are major obstacles blocking climate change legislation in the U.S. This panel will address the politics of climate change both nationally and internationally. Will Europe and developing countries help convince the U.S. to act, or will internal politics continue to stall international efforts?

Beat Dinners
The Garden City offers a delightful fare of foods to satisfy anyone’s taste buds, from spicy Thai and gourmet vegetarian to buffalo burgers and juicy Montana prime rib – all in historic downtown Missoula.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16
Breakfast Plenary – Wolves, Grizzlies and Humans: Where’s the Balance?
Humans and large predators are struggling to coexist in fragmented habitat and a sea of humanity, despite expensive wildlife restoration efforts. These “charismatic megafauna,” like wolves, grizzly bears and mountain lions, sometimes attack and kill livestock, and even go after an occasional person or family pet. There are programs to compensate ranchers for their losses, and the offending animals are often tracked down and killed. But politics and compromises rule the day – not science. Experts from the front lines will reflect on the degree of control they exercise, where the field of wildlife management is headed and the different approaches that might provide for a better balance and a healthier ecosystem.

Lunch and Plenary – Western Energy Frontiers
The West leads the nation in the potential for solar, wind, geothermal and wave energy, and with concerns about climate change, there’s increasing pressure to develop them. But how much and how fast? And what of all the many miles of new transmission lines that will be needed? Some environmentalists and communities are pushing for such development, while others are fighting to protect the integrity of natural landscapes and open spaces. How will all that shake out? And meanwhile, what’s the future for coal, nuclear, oil-shale and natural gas? This panel plots the next 10 years in energy development, framing the issues and identifying the challenges and opportunities.

Mini-Tour Bonanza
Sign up on-site beginning Wednesday afternoon for SEJ’s popular mini-tours. Options this year may include: Hiking and biking the nearby Rattlesnake Wilderness Area; Hawk Watch banding at a raptor migration route at Rogers Pass; paddling the Clark Fork River through Missoula; University of Montana’s unique Farm to College program; skiing and ranching and the urban/wildland interface; and UM’s birds and bees and wildlife labs or a federal biohazard lab.

SEJ’s 20th Anniversary Party: Last Call at the Last Run Inn
October can get chilly in Missoula. What better way to warm up than dining, drinking and dancing in a rustic ski lodge? Join us at the base of Montana Snowbowl’s ski slopes for roaring fires, mountain vistas and a rockin’ band. Located just 12 miles outside Missoula, Snowbowl sits in the secluded alpine splendor of Lolo National Forest. Belly up to the wood-paneled bar in the Last Run Inn or dance the night away in the A-frame ski chalet. We’ll have gourmet wood-fired pizzas, a host of hors d’oeuvres, and the best brews Big Sky country has to offer. It’s SEJ’s 20th anniversary celebration, so keep on eye on the website for updates, including expected VIP guests. Pre-registration and a $35 fee required.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17
Western Authors at a Western Ranch
This is not your grandparents’ West. But the West has been changing for some time. We’ve been debating cows vs. condos, mink vs. manure, and trees vs. board feet for over two decades. Where does this conversation go now? What are the West’s most pressing and salient issues? How does one get these stories out in the current publishing landscape? Bill Kittredge and a panel of Western authors will tackle these questions and more over a hearty breakfast at the picturesque Washington Ranch in the hills above Missoula. Ranch hikes and our book publisher pitch slam follow the breakfast panel. Full breakfast is included. Pre-registration and $25 fee required.

Post-Conference Tour: Glacier Park and Conservation at the ‘Crown of the Continent’
Explore one of the most extraordinary landscapes on the continent and the largest intact ecosystem in the Lower 48 – some 3 million acres stretching along the Continental Divide from just east of Missoula to the Canadian border in Glacier National Park. We’ll hear conservation success stories and looming threats; talk with tribal, government, NGO, and private land-owners; shoot clay pigeons at the Boone & Crockett Club ranch; hike daily; and stay in some of the region’s grand historic lodges. Come experience Montana’s wild country. The tour departs Missoula after the Sunday authors program and returns to Missoula at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 20. The $400 fee covers transportation, lodging and most meals throughout the trip. Deadline to sign up is Sept. 6. Deadline to cancel for refund, less $25 processing fee, is September 16.

Sunday Stay-Overs
If you don’t have the time for the three-day Glacier tour, stick around for Sunday afternoon and evening after the conference ends – fly or drive home on Monday instead – to choose from a variety of activities you can do on your own or with friends. We’ll provide info on Missoula area attractions, like how you can dip in nearby hot springs pools, go fishing or hiking, paddling or bicycling (boats and bikes can be rented locally), explore local green buildings and smart urban infill or historic Old West ghost towns. You’ve earned a few hours off, might as well take the time where the taking is good.

Continued
SESSIONS

Friday and Saturday Concurrent Sessions
Check www.sej.org for updates on sessions and speakers beginning in July.

THE CRAFT
- Venture Capitalists and New Media Entrepreneurs
- Freelance and Book Authors Pitch Slams
- Non-Profit Environmental Journalism
- Follow the Money: A Computer Workshop
- Build Your Own Website: A Computer Workshop
- Citizen Journalism: The Rebirth of Local Reporting?
- Three Environmentalists Walk into a Bar… A Humor Workshop
- You Were There: Mobile Media Publishing
- Teaching EJ: A Three-Hour Workshop

THE WEST
- Covering Wildfire: Lessons from the Fire Line
- Western Water Use and the ESA
- Trans-boundary Issues: Pollution and Wildlife Migration
- Tribes and Salmon, Linked for Millennia
- Former Forest Service Chiefs Roundtable

THE CLIMATE
- Population, Consumption and Climate Change
- CEOs and the Business of Climate Change
- Can Geo-Engineering Save Us?
- Climate Change and Energy Issues on Tribal Lands

ENERGY AND THE ECONOMY
- Tar Sands from Alberta to Missoula and Beyond
- Covering Western Coal: What’s the Future?
- Biofuels: Beyond Corn and Soybeans
- Clean Energy Economy and the Environment

POLLUTION AND SOLUTIONS
- Covering Reproductive Health and the Environment
- Community Disaster: Libby’s Deadly Asbestos Dust
- Nanotechnology: Should We Sweat the Little Things?
- Environmental Restoration and the New Army Corps

THE SANDBOX
- Midterm Elections and the Environment
- The Return of Nuclear Power: Coming to a Town Near You?
- New Sheriff’s Review: Environmental Crime and Enforcement
- Toxic Substances Control Act: What’s Next?

THE SOAPBOX
- Wilderness Bills and Environmental Politics
- Sponsored Research: It’s Not Just Following the Money
- Hospice Ecology: Helping Doomed Species Depart
- Biomimicry: Research that Emulates Nature

HOW TO REGISTER
Register Online at www.sej.org

Make your check payable to SEJ.

Pay by credit card? Fax your registration to: (517) 485-4178
Questions? Call (800) 878-5131 (U.S.) or (517) 485-2309 and ask for SEJ conference registration.

Registration can be confirmed only when payment is received.

Cancellation Policy: If you cancel your registration in writing by Sept. 13, 2010, you will receive a full refund less a $50 processing fee. Non-attendance does not constitute cancellation. Substitutions may be made. Mail or fax your request for cancellation to Convention Management Services Inc.

Member Dues: Current members only: You may include your dues payment of $45 (students and Canadian members, $35; Mexican members, $30) with your registration fee. You must already be a member of SEJ to renew with conference registration.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES

Member rates apply to SEJ members only. SEJ membership is restricted to journalists, professors and students. Please visit www.sej.org/get-involved/join to learn about eligibility and to apply for membership.

Membership applicants: Do not include your new member fees with conference registration. Membership applications submitted after Sept. 1, 2010, may not be processed in time for the conference. Before registering at the member rate, follow the instructions for applying for membership at www.sej.org/get-involved/join.

MEMBERS
By 8/16/10 $190
After 8/16/10 $235
Single day (Please specify which day)
By 8/16/10 $100
After 8/16/10 $110

STUDENTS $75
Membership is not required for the student rate. However, students may be eligible for and will benefit from membership. Visit www.sej.org for details.

NON-MEMBERS
Save money! Subscriptions to SEJ’s quarterly newsletter, SEJournal, include conference fee discounts for up to three people per subscription.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
- Corporate: $200 (saves 10% off non-member registration fees for up to three people)
- Government: $80 (saves 30% off non-member registration fees for up to three people)
- Non-profit: $75 (saves 30% off non-member registration fees for up to three people)
- University: $55 (saves 50% off non-member registration fees for up to three people)
- Small non-profit: $50 (saves 50% off non-member registration fees for up to three people)
- Individual: $45 (saves 50% off non-member registration fees)

To take advantage of subscriber discounts, subscribe today by including your subscription fee with your conference payment. Please contact SEJ at sei@sej.org or (215) 884-8174 if you are unsure about your category.
CORPORATE SUBSCRIBERS
REGISTRATION FEE
By 8/16/10 $900
After 8/16/10 $990
Single Day (Please specify which day)
By 8/16/10 $360
After 8/16/10 $405

NON-PROFIT/GOVERNMENT SUBSCRIBERS
By 8/16/10 $700
After 8/16/10 $770
Single Day (Please specify which day)
By 8/16/10 $280
After 8/16/10 $315

INDIVIDUAL, UNIVERSITY, SMALL
NON-PROFIT SUBSCRIBERS
(annual budget of $1 million or less)
By 8/16/10 $500
After 8/16/10 $550
Single Day (Please specify which day)
By 8/16/10 $200
After 8/16/10 $225

NON-MEMBERS WITHOUT SUBSCRIPTION
By 8/16/10 $1,000
After 8/16/10 $1,100
Single Day (Please specify which day)
By 8/16/10 $400
After 8/16/10 $450

Important Deadlines!
AUG. 16: Postmark deadline for early discount registration
SEPT. 1: Deadline for membership applications to be considered in time for registering as a member
SEPT. 13: Deadline to cancel in writing for refund less $50 processing fee
Deadline to book hotels:
SEPT. 6: Hilton Garden Inn
SEPT. 11: Holiday Inn
SEPT. 17: Doubletree Hotel Missoula Edgewater

Lodging
This year, two downtown hotels have room blocks set aside for Annual Conference attendees, as well as one hotel near the airport.

Holiday Inn Downtown at the Park is located near the north bank of the Clark Fork River. The hotel is close to a host of Missoula’s dining and drinking establishments. Shuttles will run from the hotel to the University Center, but attendees should know that they can also reach campus via a 15-minute walk along the Riverfront Trail.

The Holiday Inn has a complimentary shuttle from Missoula International Airport (MSO). Call the front desk when you land.

Doubletree Missoula Edgewater is a few blocks farther from downtown, but right on the Clark Fork River. It will also have shuttle service to campus and is a slightly shorter walk for those who choose to take the trip on foot.

The Doubletree also has a complimentary shuttle from Missoula International Airport (MSO); just call the front desk when you land.

The Hilton Garden Inn Missoula is conveniently located near the Missoula International Airport and a 10-minute drive from campus and downtown. The Hilton also has a complimentary shuttle from Missoula International Airport (MSO), and for conference events as availability allows.

Transportation

By Plane:
Missoula International Airport (MSO)
Missoula, MT
www.flymissoula.com
15-minute drive to hotels

Spokane International Airport (GEG)
Spokane, WA
www.spokaneairports.net
198 Miles (about 3-hour drive) to Missoula

By Car:
Missoula is in western Montana right off of I-90
3 Hour drive east from Spokane, WA
3 Hour drive west from Bozeman, MT

By Bus:
Greyhound Bus Lines
800-231-2222
www.greyhound.com
SOCIETY OF ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISTS
Founded in 1990, SEJ is the world’s oldest and largest membership association of professional journalists, educators and students dedicated to more and better coverage of environmental issues. SEJ’s mission is to strengthen the quality, reach and viability of journalism across all media to advance public understanding of environmental issues. As a grassroots educational group dedicated to the highest standards of public service journalism, SEJ is independent and nonpartisan. All SEJ programs, publications and services are designed and organized by journalists. The group has more than 1,500 members working in print, broadcast and online news media throughout the U.S., Canada, Mexico and 27 other countries. Their reporting reaches millions of readers, listeners and viewers worldwide, on a daily basis. For more information visit www.sej.org.

MISSOULA
Between conference events, stroll on riverside trails out the back of your hotel and walk around downtown or through campus. Downtown is the vital core of a metro area of 65,000 residents, with colorful brewpubs and old timber-industry saloons, trendy shops and coffee joints, creative urban infill and green buildings, and an airport served by three major airlines. Missoula is headquarters for major conservation groups and institutes such as the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, the 123-year-old Boone and Crockett Club, Institutes for Journalism & Natural Resources, the Adventure Cycling Association and Outdoor Writers of America, as well as regional offices for groups such as the National Wildlife Federation and Trout Unlimited. A five-minute drive from downtown takes you to the trailhead for a national wilderness area, the Rattlesnake. Roughly an hour’s drive takes you to several national wildlife refuges featuring bison and waterfowl; it’s two-and-a-half hours to Glacier National Park and five hours to Yellowstone National Park.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA
The 156-acre campus in Missoula makes a beautiful spread near the confluence of three rivers. The university has renowned faculty such as Steve Running, a co-winner of the Nobel Peace Prize for his work on climate change; Chris Servheen, the top federal grizzly-bear biologist; and Jerry Bromenshenk, who uses honeybees to assess environmental hazards. Other faculty expertise ranges from geosciences and river restoration to environmental writing, forestry and environmental law. The university’s programs include the Flight Laboratory, where birds are studied in wind tunnels, particle image velocimetry, 3-D kinematics and slow-motion video. There are 129,000 plant specimens in the university herbarium, 24,000 animal specimens dating back to the 1800s in the zoological museum, a 28,000-acre experimental forest and a farm that grows food for the campus and low-income families. You can walk trails from campus along Missoula’s riverbanks or hike switchbacks up Mount Sentinel to an overlook of the urbanized valley.