

# Master Naturalists Geology Field Trip

April 26, 2014

## A Passage Through Time or What is Old is now New Again.

Meet at the southeast parking lot of Wal-Mart (the far side away from highway 95). We will car-pool and caravan east to Hwy 200 on the Kootenai Cut-off Rd and continue east to Clark Fork.

4 mi – NOT A STOP – on left, north of the highway is the McGee Livestock Barn. The rock pit behind is the most westward exposure of Belt Rocks on Highway 200.

25 mi – In Clark Fork, turn right on Stephan St., follow to River Road, traveling a total of 6 miles.



31 miles (6 mi) Twin Creeks gravel exposure is on the left – turn around and park.  
GEOLOGIC GOLD!!! Bedding, grain size relationships, Law of Original Horizontality, Law of Superposition depositional environments, wild speculation, Flights of Fantasy.

32 mi (1 mi) – Return to Twin Creeks Aluvial Fan: formation, implications, and other factors.

33 mi (1 mi) – Castle Rock Belt Rock Exposure – layering, depositional environment, glacial evidence.

34 mi (1 mi) – NOT A STOP – we are dropping off of a bench as we head back to Clark Fork. This structure may be a giant ripple.

35 mi (1 mi) – River Lake Road – Missoula Flood discussion and look at water gap

37 mi (2 mi) – Return to Clark Fork and Hwy 200. Turn left and continue to Main St., Turn right on Main St and proceed

38 mi (1 mi) to Lower Mosquito Creek Lane. Turn around and park.  
Talus slopes: look for mud cracks, ripple marks, other rock fabrics. Discuss indicator species, talus environment, etc.,

40 mi (2 mi) Return to Clark Fork. Turn right on Hwy 200 and continue across bridge. Park on Spring Cr. Rd. view Lightning Creek and discuss braided stream and water.

42 mi (2 mi) NOT A STOP – Traveling west on Hwy 200 sloughs on left are old river channels.

43 mi (1mi) Turn left across Hwy 200 and park in pull out area. Views and discussion of Clark Fork Delta

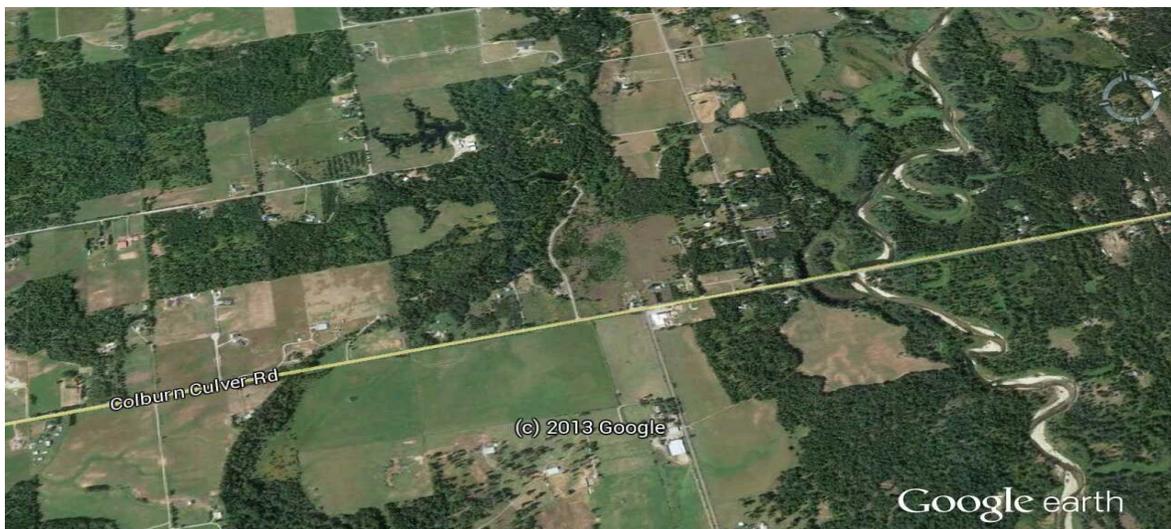
47 mi (4 mi) NOT A STOP – Relocation of Hwy 200 destroyed extensive kokanee spawning bed along the former shore.

51 mi (4 mi) Trestle Creek Recreation Area – Lunch

56 mi (5 mi) – Proceed to Colburn-Culver Rd and turn North (right). We will drive approximately 4 miles, because of a lack of turn outs, we will not make a stop until we reach the dune fields. As we drive north, watch the evolution from level fields to hummocky terrain.

58 mi (2 mi) – At approximately 2 miles we will drop onto a river terrace. Try to identify possible old river channels.

59 mi (1 mi) – After another 1 mile we drop down to the current river bottom at Pack River Bridge. How many old channels do you see?



60 mi (1 mi) – After another mile we have climbed back to the older terrace and will pull over on the side of the road at the dune fields. Exercise Caution! There is no turn out and we will park on the road shoulder.

65 mi (5 mi) – Sandpoint Conglomerate, Mountain uplift and weathering – an interesting and local geologic formation.

67 mi (2 mi) – West to US 95, turn south (left) and return to Wal Mart. On the right traveling back see the fairly large valley with a very small stream. The stream is termed underfit and the valley is the old course of the Pack River.

73 mi (6 mi) Welcome Wal-Mart Shoppers! End of Field Trip.