Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument 2020 BSWC Member

My name is Mikayla Moss and I am the 2020 Big Sky Watershed Corps member for the Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument. I am originally from Colorado, but after moving to Montana in January I have had the opportunity to get to know the monument in a special way. Throughout my time with the Friends I will be writing about some of the highlights of my experiences in the breaks.

First float through the White Cliffs—May 16th-18th:

It’s a real milestone for everyone who loves the Missouri Breaks Monument to float through the white cliffs section of the river. Although I was able to see some beautiful areas of the monument before my first float trip, turning a bend in the river and laying eyes on the first big sandstone formations was a transformational experience. Along with amazing geology, we spotted several bald eagles, a mating pair of ospreys, and spent an evening watching a coyote scavenging on the banks of the river.

National Trails Day Volunteer Event—June 6th:

On June 6th the Friends, along with the BLM and MWF, were able to host our first volunteer event of the year. The night before the project we camped near the rim of the canyon and watched a lightning storm move across the horizon, threatening to rain-out the event. However, the next day, facing more dicey weather, we were able to make some real progress on fixing up the Old Army Trail with a great group of people. The volunteers muscled up the steep trail, some even jogging at the end to make sure they saw the best possible view before the rain set in.