



MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF LAND TRUSTS

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MEMO

TO: Montana Association of Land Trusts Membership

FR: Glenn Marx, Executive Director

RE: Monday Update

Skiers and Riders for Open Land at Big Sky was “wonderful”

Big Sky Resort played host to Skiers and Riders for Open Land on April 9-10 and by all measurements the event was a “wonderful” success. Several hundred people turned in Skiers and Riders for Open Land coupons, the skiing conditions were fabulous, the spaghetti dinner was fun and well attended and for an inaugural event Skiers and Riders for Open Land succeeded at every level. We won’t have a final tally from Big Sky until later in the week, but for a first-time event skiers in large volume did discover and did use the coupons for reduced lift tickets. In addition to the income for Travelers for Open Land from the coupons (\$5 from every coupon is contributed by Big Sky Resort to TFOL) and spaghetti dinner, at least two businesses owners (skiing at Big Sky using coupons) stopped to learn more about Travelers for Open Land and will likely establish the program in their businesses, a landowner expressed interest in a conservation easement, several people asked to learn more about private land conservation and the best part was everyone seemed to be excited and pleased to participate in the event.

There are many, many people, organizations and businesses deserving of profound thanks for their role in planning and promoting Skiers and Riders for Open Land at Big Sky. The management and staff at Big Sky Resort were terrific and their generosity and support is tremendously appreciated. Everyone at Big Sky was professional and pleasant and it was really a treat to work with them.



Mike Scholz and the staff at Buck’s T-4 did an amazing job on the spaghetti dinner/dance and Mike’s leadership made the whole event possible. Betsy Baur was a tireless advocate and her planning efforts and enthusiasm for Skiers and Riders for Open Land truly made the event a success. The Montana Land Reliance participated in all phases of Skiers and Riders for Open Land and bought radio ads in the Bozeman market to help promote the event. Thanks to Blue Cross Blue Shield for their cooperation and for donating our major raffle prize on Saturday night. Thanks to Gallatin Valley Land Trust, The Vital Ground Foundation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and The Trust for Public Land for donating items for the spaghetti dinner raffle, thanks to everyone within the land trust community (Prickly Pear Land Trust, MLR, TPL, TNC and Five Valleys Land Trust) for their personal participation at the event. Thanks to the “You Name It Band” from Helena for their outstanding performance Saturday night at Buck’s. Thanks to all the skiers who used the coupons, thanks to all the folks who turned out for some excellent spaghetti and music/dancing, and thanks to everyone (including the Montana Community Foundation) who helped spread the word. Hundreds of thousands of email alerts and announcements buzzed through cyber space leading up the event.

Skiers and Riders for Open Land ended on a nice note Sunday morning when a woman who had been at the spaghetti dinner on Saturday night stopped by on her way to the chair lift. She thanked us for putting together the event and said, “This whole thing, all of it, has been wonderful.” She’s right. It kinda was wonderful.

You can see photos of the event on my Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=1680855259&sk=photos>.

Technical Assistance Grant Applications Coming to MALT Members on April 12 – Thanks to the efforts of Wendy Ninteman and the Land Trust Alliance, MALT members will be able to participate in a 2011 Technical Assistance Grant Program. In 2010, the Alliance and MALT were able to fund three \$2,500 grants – to Prickly Pear Land Trust, Gallatin Valley Land Trust and Bitter Root Land Trust – to help those land trusts address immediate organizational needs. The 2011 Technical Assistance Grant Program will be similar to 2010. There will be a required matching component to the grant, grants will be approximately \$3,000, only MALT members are eligible to apply and the grants are flexible in that the submitted application must demonstrate “the creation, improvement or innovation of new practices or strengthen existing practices that advance organizational impact.”

Grant applications will be sent to the twelve MALT members tomorrow about 9:00 AM. The deadline to submit an application is May 6, and the Alliance/MALT will make grant decisions by the end of May.

Please let me know if you have any questions after you’ve reviewed the grant application form. Thanks again to the Land Trust Alliance for making this grant program available to MALT members.



Gallatin Valley Land Trust Featured in Outside Bozeman Magazine

– The Spring 2011 edition of Outside Bozeman magazine features a couple articles about Gallatin Valley Land Trust, including GVLT’s work on area trails and an interesting “Seven Questions for GVLT” article by Becky Edwards. Outside Bozeman is available for no charge throughout the Gallatin Valley and online at <http://www.outsidebozeman.com/magazine.php?action=magazineTeasers&issueID=40>.

The articles focused on GVLT are titled “Wide Open” and “The High Road.”

Outside Bozeman has also been supportive of Travelers for Open Land.

Presentation Scheduled to Peaks and Prairies Land Trust – Peaks and Prairies Land Trust, a non-MALT land trust headquartered in Red Lodge and Billings, has invited me to give a presentation about MALT to the land trust board of directors in Billings on Thursday, April 14. Peaks and Prairies Land Trust is an all-volunteer land trust that is attempting to expand its presence in south central Montana.

Forest Landowner Conference in Helena on April 18 – Just a reminder that MALT members are welcome to attend and participate in the 2011 Montana Forest Landowner Conference “Maintaining Healthy Forests for People and Wildlife” at the Red Lion Colonial Hotel on Monday, April 18. For more information visit the conference website at http://www.consulting-foresters.com/?id=landowner_conference.



Great Falls Tribune Photo Contest Winners – The Great Falls Tribune announced its 2011 Photo Contest winners over the weekend, and the winning entry was a photo from St. Mary’s Lake near Glacier Park. The third place photo is shown here, a photo by Paul Snyder of Great Falls showing the Rocky Mountain Front near Bynum. Go to the Tribune’s website at <http://www.greatfallstribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2011104100308> to see more winning photos.