

# Bitter Root Land Trust

THE MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF LAND TRUSTS JAN. 6, 2020 NEWSLETTER IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT: IT CONTAINS ONE QUOTE, ONE NUMBER AND ONE PHOTO FROM THE WEBSITE OF EACH MALT MEMBER LAND TRUST.

## QUOTE

“WHEN WE CONSERVED OUR LAND, ALMOST TWENTY YEARS AGO, WE DID IT BECAUSE WE REALLY LOVE THIS PLACE,” PATTI ELDRIDGE EXPLAINED. WHAT PATTI AND HOWARD DIDN’T KNOW AT THE TIME IS THAT THEY WOULD END UP INSPIRING MORE THAN 35 OTHER FAMILIES LIKE THEIRS TO CONSERVE THEIR OWN SPECIAL LANDS. FROM THE “SUCCESS STORIES” WEBSITE PAGE

## NUMBER

40+

NUMBER OF CONSERVATION EASEMENTS CREATED IN THE BITTERROOT VALLEY

## PHOTO

WILDLIFE HABITAT / RANCH GROUND BENEATH COMO PEAKS



# Conservation Fund

## QUOTE

“WE MAKE CONSERVATION WORK FOR AMERICA BY CREATING SOLUTIONS THAT MAKE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC SENSE.” WEBSITE HOME PAGE

## NUMBER

8.2 MILLION; \$2.6 MILLION

AMOUNT OF ACRES THE CONSERVATION FUND HAS PROTECTED IN THE US;  
AMOUNT OF MONEY THE TCF REVOLVING FUND HAS LEVERAGED IN MONTANA TO HELP FUND MONTANA PROJECTS

## PHOTO



THE CONSERVATION FUND HAS MADE THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT A CONSERVATION PRIORITY, AND HAS WORKED WITH PROJECT FUNDERS, AREA LANDOWNERS, STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES AND OTHERS TO CONSERVE OVER 140,000 ACRES ALONG THE FRONT. PHOTO: ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT WETLAND HABITAT BY TODD KAPLAN

# Five Valleys Land Trust

## QUOTE

“THE FIVE VALLEYS WE SERVE ARE THE BITTERROOT, THE BLACKFOOT, THE UPPER CLARK FORK, THE LOWER CLARK FORK, AND THE MISSION-JOCKO. WE BELIEVE THAT THE CHARACTER OF THESE VALLEYS, AND THE THRIVING COMMUNITIES IN THEM, IS ROOTED IN THE CLEAN RIVERS, OPEN LANDS, AND ABUNDANT WILDLIFE THAT SURROUND THEM. WE WORK WITH COMMUNITIES, PRIVATE LANDOWNERS, GOVERNMENTS, AND OTHER PARTNERS TO PROTECT THESE NATURAL TREASURES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THIS AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.”

FIVE VALLEYS LAND TRUST  
“WHO WE ARE” PAGE

## NUMBER

80+

NUMBER OF RACING TEAMS PARTICIPATING AT MARSHALL MOUNTAIN AT RECENT USA CYCLING COLLEGIATE MOUNTAIN BIKE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS EVENTS

## PHOTO

PHOTO OF LINCOLN COMMUNITY RIVER PARK, NEAR TOWN OF LINCOLN. FIVE VALLEYS CURRENTLY OWNS THE PROPERTY, WHICH PROVIDES COMMUNITY ACCESS TO THE RIVER.



# Flathead Land Trust

## QUOTE

“WE BELIEVE IN THE INSEPARABLE RELATIONSHIPS AMONG OUR COMMUNITIES, THEIR PEOPLE AND OUR NATURAL RESOURCES. WE TREASURE THE FLATHEAD’S NATURAL BOUNTY, COMFORTED BY ITS OPEN VISTAS AND MOUNTAIN SPLENDORS THAT BOTH INVIGORATE OUR LIVES AND EXPAND OUR FREEDOMS. AS NEIGHBORS WE SHARE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUSTAINING THIS VIBRANT AND DIVERSE NATURAL SETTING.”

FROM THE FLATHEAD LAND TRUST VISIONS AND PRINCIPLES STATEMENT

## NUMBER

60; 41%

NUMBER OF CONSERVATION EASEMENTS HELD BY FLATHEAD LAND TRUST; PERCENTAGE OF THE FLATHEAD RIVER FLOODPLAIN CONSERVED THROUGH THE RIVER TO LAKE INITIATIVE

## PHOTO



FLATHEAD LAND TRUST HELPED LEAD A PARTNERSHIP IN THE EFFORT TO BUILD THE COLUMBIA FALLS COMMUNITY FISHING POND. FLATHEAD BEACON PHOTO

# Gallatin Valley Land Trust

## QUOTE

“THE VISION OF GVLT IS TO CONSERVE OPEN SPACE ON A SCALE THAT MAINTAINS THE AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE, HEALTHY AND ABUNDANT WILDLIFE HABITATS, CLEAN FLOWING WATERS, AND THE SCENIC BEAUTY OF MONTANA’S GREATER YELLOWSTONE REGION, NOW AND FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS, WHILE ALSO DEVELOPING EXTENSIVE TRAIL SYSTEMS THAT CONNECT COMMUNITIES TO THEIR SURROUNDING NATURAL LANDS AND TO EACH OTHER.”

GALLATIN VALLEY LAND TRUST’S MISSION STATEMENT

## NUMBER

45,000

NUMBER OF ACRES OF PRODUCTIVE RIVER BOTTOMS, PRIME AGRICULTURAL LANDS, AND CRITICAL WILDLIFE CORRIDORS GVLT HAS CONSERVED THROUGHOUT THE GALLATIN, SHIELDS, AND PARADISE VALLEYS

## PHOTO



FROM THE TRAILS PORTION OF THE WEBSITE: “THE VARIETY OF WAYS THAT WE WORK ALLOWS US TO ADDRESS NEEDS IN ALL PARTS OF THE TRAIL SYSTEM, ENSURING NEW ACCESS, SAFETY, AND EXCELLENT USER EXPERIENCES.”

# Kaniksu Land Trust

## QUOTE

KLT’S STEIN CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROTECTS 86 ACRES OF FREE-FLOWING BULL TROUT HABITAT AND HEALTHY MONTANA FORESTLANDS IN THE HEART OF THE SCENIC BULL RIVER VALLEY. PROJECTS WHICH SUPPORT BULL TROUT HABITAT ARE HOW KLT BEGAN, AND WE ARE ALWAYS PROUD TO ENSURE THAT THIS THREATENED SPECIES HAS CLEAN WATER IN WHICH TO LIVE.

FROM KLT’S ‘CONSERVATION’ PAGE

## NUMBER

3

NUMBER OF KLT-OWNED COMMUNITY ACCESS PROPERTIES IN NORTH IDAHO AND NORTHWEST MONTANA; PINE STREET WOODS, THE MANNING BUFFER, AND CABINET VIEW NATURE AREA

## PHOTO

CAMP KANIKSU, A NATURE-BASED SUMMER CAMP OFFERED BY KANIKSU LAND TRUST, DESIGNED TO BE AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL CHILDREN IN THE COMMUNITY.



# The Montana Land Reliance

## QUOTE

“MONTANA’S FUTURE IS TIED TO THE LAND AND TO THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE ON AND MANAGE IT. MLR ENVISIONS A FUTURE WITH ENDURING LANDSCAPES THAT KEEP MONTANA’S AGRICULTURAL LANDS AND COMMUNITIES HEALTHY AND FLOURISHING OVER THE GENERATIONS.”

MESSAGE FROM BOARD PRESIDENT GEORGE OLSEN

## NUMBER

855; 1,045,258

NUMBER OF CONSERVATION EASEMENTS MLR HOLDS SINCE ITS FIRST EASEMENT IN 1978; NUMBER OF ACRES OF CONSERVATION EASEMENTS MLR HOLDS, MORE THAN ANY OTHER MONTANA ENTITY

## PHOTO

HORSE AND BARN, FROM MLR’S “LET’S BE FRIENDS” WEBSITE FACEBOOK INVITATION.



# The Nature Conservancy of MT

## QUOTE

“THE NATURE CONSERVANCY IN MONTANA IS DEDICATED TO PROTECTING OUR WATERSHEDS AND TRANSFORMING THE WAY WE MANAGE LIMITED WATER SUPPLY. BECAUSE ONLY A BASIN-WIDE APPROACH CAN PROVIDE THE WATER CONSERVATION EFFECTS NEEDED TO ADEQUATELY IMPROVE WATER FLOW, WE ARE COLLABORATING WITH KEY PARTNERS IN THE MISSOURI HEADWATERS, INCLUDING LANDOWNERS, STATE AGENCIES, FEDERAL AGENCIES, AND LOCAL WATERSHED ORGANIZATIONS TO ACHIEVE MEASURABLE GOALS.”

TNC WEBSITE PAGE ABOUT FRESHWATER CONSERVATION

## NUMBER

1 MILLION

ANNUAL HABITAT LOSS OF GRASSLAND BIRDS IN THE NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS AND IN WINTERING GROUND IN TEXAS

## PHOTO

PHOTO ILLUSTRATING WEBSITE ARTICLE ABOUT RECENT MONTANA TNC’S USE OF THE LWCF TO CONSERVE LAND AND MAINTAIN ACCESS NEAR THE BLACKFOOT RIVER. STEVEN GNAM PHOTO



# Prickly Pear Land Trust

## QUOTE

PPLT HAS STAYED TRUE TO ITS ROOTS AND TODAY IS A CREATIVE CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION WHOSE GUIDING PRINCIPLE IS TO “CONNECT LAND AND PEOPLE.” WE WORK TO REACH THIS GOAL BY FOCUSING ON THREE KEY AREAS: TRAILS, LANDS, AND COMMUNITY CONSERVATION.

FROM PPLT’S HOME PAGE

## NUMBER

70+

MILES OF TRAILS PPLT HAS BUILT, STEWARDS AND MAINTAINS IN THE HELENA AREA

## PHOTO



THE PRICKLY PEAR LAND TRUST GREENWAY PROJECT WAS APPROVED IN 2019 AND WILL ULTIMATELY SERVE AS A MAJOR ASSET TO THE COMMUNITY OF EAST HELENA. THE GREENWAY PROJECT IS PART OF THE ASARCO CLEANUP SETTLEMENT AND IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE PPLT WILL BE STARTING PROJECT DESIGN WORK, NEGOTIATING TRAIL EASEMENTS WITH PRIVATE LANDOWNERS, AND WORKING WITH MONTANA RAIL LINK TO NAVIGATE THE RAILROAD TRACKS THAT RUN THROUGHOUT THE AREA. PPLT HOPES TO START SOME WORK IN LATE 2020, BUT OTHERWISE THEY ANTICIPATE TRAIL WORK IN 2021 AND BEYOND.

# Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

## QUOTE

“THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION BELIEVES THAT HUNTING IS CONSERVATION. EARLY AMERICAN LEADERS LIKE THEODORE ROOSEVELT SHAPED A SET OF IDEALS NOW KNOWN AS THE NORTH AMERICAN MODEL OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION. THEY DECLARED THAT WILDLIFE BELONG TO ALL OF US. THAT EVERY CITIZEN IS ENTITLED TO HUNT AND FISH. AND THAT SCIENCE-BASED, STATE-REGULATED HUNTING WOULD DRIVE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT. TODAY, THE U.S. HAS THE MOST SUCCESSFUL SYSTEM IN THE WORLD. AND NO ONE DOES MORE TO UPHOLD IT THAN HUNTERS.”

FROM THE RMEF CONSERVATION PAGE

## NUMBER

235,000

NUMBER OF RMEF MEMBERS

## PHOTO



RMEF AND OTHERS HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN RESOLVING CRAZY MOUNTAIN ACCESS ISSUES AND WORKED WITH LOCAL LANDOWNERS, US FOREST SERVICE AND OTHERS TO DESIGN AND BUILD A NEW TRAIL IN TIME FOR MONTANA'S YOUTH HUNT AND GENERAL RIFLE SEASON. RMEF PHOTO

# The Trust for Public Land

## QUOTE

MONTANA'S HASKILL BASIN PROVIDES NEARLY 75 PERCENT OF THE WATER SUPPLY FOR THE TOWN OF WHITEFISH, LOCATED NEAR GLACIER NATIONAL PARK. THE BASIN'S WORKING FOREST HAS BEEN HARVESTED BY F.H. STOLTZE LAND & LUMBER COMPANY FOR A HUNDRED YEARS, SUPPORTING A TIMBER INDUSTRY KEY TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY EVEN TODAY.

WEBSITE INTRODUCTION TO THE SUCCESSFUL HASKILL BASIN CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROJECT

## NUMBER

6,132

NUMBER OF ACRES TPL PURCHASED FROM STIMSON LUMBER COMPANY AND WERE ADDED TO THE LOLO NATIONAL FOREST TO PROTECT OUTDOOR RECREATION ACCESS

## PHOTO

GECHO RANCH, WITH SPHINX MOUNTAIN IN THE BACKGROUND. TPL WORKED WITH MLR AND THE NRCS TO CONSERVE 1,406 ACRES OF MADISON COUNTY RANCH LANDS. ALEX DIEKMANN PHOTO



# Vital Ground Foundation

## QUOTE

“WE FOCUS OUR EFFORTS ON CRUCIAL AREAS WHERE PRIVATE LANDS CONNECT THE WILD STRONGHOLDS OF THE NORTHERN ROCKIES. BY PROTECTING THESE VITAL CORRIDORS, WE FOSTER MOVEMENT AND CRUCIAL GENETIC EXCHANGE BETWEEN GRIZZLY POPULATIONS AT RISK OF ISOLATION. CURRENTLY, OUR ONE LANDSCAPE INITIATIVE AIMS TO PROTECT 188,000 ACRES IN 33 KEY LINKAGE AREAS IDENTIFIED THROUGH RIGOROUS COLLABORATIVE PLANNING.”

FROM THE VITAL GROUND “ABOUT US” PAGE

## NUMBER

100,000; 1,850; 8

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF GRIZZLY BEARS IN NORTH AMERICA FIVE CENTURIES AGO; APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF BEARS IN US NOW; NUMBER OF ACTIVE HABITAT PROJECTS ON VITAL GROUND “CURRENT PROJECTS” PAGE

## PHOTO



PHOTO BY ROBERT SCRIBA. PICTURE IS FROM THE VITAL GROUND “ABOUT THE GRIZZLY” PAGE, WHICH CONTAINS THIS SENTENCE: A LAND TRUST FOR GRIZZLY BEARS? IT MIGHT SOUND LIKE A STRANGE COMBINATION, BUT THE TRUTH IS THIS: BEARS ARE JUST THE BEGINNING.