

The logo for the Blackfoot Challenge, featuring the words "BLACKFOOT" and "CHALLENGE" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The text is set against a blue, stylized banner that has a jagged, flame-like edge on the right side. The banner is positioned diagonally across the top of the page.

BLACKFOOT CHALLENGE



**2018
Annual Report**

MISSION

To coordinate efforts to conserve and enhance natural resources and the rural way of life in the Blackfoot watershed for present and future generations.

APPROACH

At our core, the Challenge is a way of doing things. We bring people together, facilitate respectful conversations focused on shared values, and build trust. By following this approach, we coordinate responses to community needs and find homegrown solutions that stand the test of time.

CORE VALUES

- Inclusiveness
- Collaboration
- Transparency
- Trust



Jim Stone and Randy Gazda checking on a newly-installed electric fence.

Cover photo by Sara Schmidt
Photo by Seth Wilson

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Sara Schmidt Communications Manager

Jennifer Schoonen Water Steward

Brad Weltzien Land Steward

Sydney Weydemeyer Operations Manager

* Board Partner



Photo by Brad Weltzien

BLACKFOOT COMMUNITY CONSERVATION AREA:

60 acres of open pine grassland
restored to historic conditions

*"We're all committed to this place, private
landowners and public agencies alike. We come
together to share, think big picture, and come
up with solutions that work for everyone.*

I'm proud of what this place has become."

—**BEN SLAGHT** BCCA COUNCIL CHAIR

CONSERVATION STRATEGIES:

1 Estate and
Succession Planning
Workshop delivered



Photo by Sara Schmidt



Photo by Eliza Wiley

SWANS:

5 trumpeter swan nests
produced 11 cygnets
(baby swans)



Photo by Elaine Caton

EDUCATION:

More than 200 students and adults engaged in place-based learning about wildlife, water, forests, and fire science

“I feel like if I ask for help providing watershed education programs to my students, it will be there.”

—SURVEY FEEDBACK FROM A BLACKFOOT WATERSHED TEACHER



Photo by Karen Laitala

SEELEY LAKE

VEGETATION:
370 acres treated
across fence lines

OVANDO

Blackfoot River

Blackfoot River

LINCOLN

WYOMING

POTOMAC

GREENOUGH

HELMVILLE

WATER:

More than 100 landowners received weekly irrigation and soil health reports



Photo by Eliza Wiley

FORESTRY:

More than 400 acres treated to increase community safety and improve forest resilience



Photo by Signe Leirfallom

LAND STEWARDSHIP:
50 landowners received personalized stewardship assistance



Photo by Brad Weltzien

RURAL SUSTAINABILITY:

1 Envision Lincoln plan produced, outlining next steps for economic and community development



Photo by Amy McNamara

LINCOLN

*“Living and ranching in the Blackfoot means sharing the space with a diverse array of wildlife. **We have to be willing to modify old habits and adapt as we go.** As we do, we become ever-better stewards of this landscape.”*

—JUSTIN IVERSON IVERSON RANCH



Photo by Blackfoot Angler

WILDLIFE:

More than 90% of ranchers participated in conflict reduction programs

The Mannix family has owned and managed a diverse ranch in the heart of the Blackfoot watershed since 1882. Five generations of Mannixes have worked this landscape interwoven with streams that irrigate crops, provide water for cattle, and support blue ribbon native trout fisheries.



Photo by Peggy Mannix

"If you can focus on the 80% of issues that we agree on, we can work together, build trust, and find success."

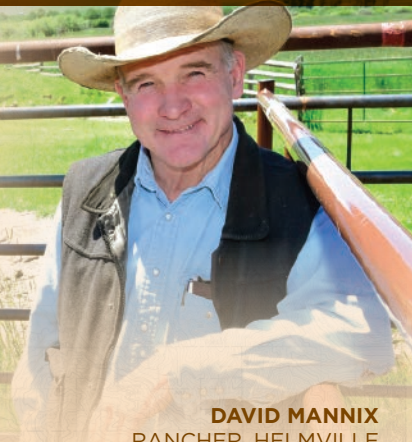
"Clean water is an indicator of sustainable management. Ranchers manage that landscape and it's a measure of how well we're doing it. In a real practical sense it's about our survival."

Over the years, David has experienced the power of partnerships firsthand, through ranch improvements such as sustainable grazing plans, effective drought planning, and restored trout habitat.

When David joined the Blackfoot Challenge Board in 2002, he brought with him the "80/20 rule," a hallmark of the Challenge's community-based approach.

"We can agree on so many things if we just talk to people about what they want to achieve. If you can focus on the 80% of issues that we agree on, we can work together, build trust, and find success. Then if we do disagree, the trust is there to keep working on the other 20%."

"Most of our kids would like to return to the ranch, if they haven't already. A major reason why is because of this approach. We actively work together. This attitude attracts people."



DAVID MANNIX
RANCHER, HELMVILLE

Photo by Eliza Wiley

When Leigh and Kyle Kelley got married on the banks of the Blackfoot River in 2001, they could only imagine how those waters would bind them, their forthcoming family, their community, and ultimately their livelihood.

Today, Leigh and her husband manage the Paws Up Ranch, a job that puts them at the center of decisions that will impact both them and the entire watershed for years to come.

“Our vision of the river was narrower in the past. Now we recreate on it, share it with friends and family, teach our kids science in its waters.”

A search for community-based solutions led Leigh to become a board member of the Blackfoot Challenge. Outfitters, guides, irrigators and fish – all depend on the health of the river.

“The water binds us all together, and we have to find a balance between these uses. A drought management plan helps us do that here on Paws Up Ranch.”

She sees the work at the Blackfoot Challenge as seeking to find common ground in a shared landscape, with the greatest beneficiaries being her children.

“When I look long-term, we want to set future generations up to succeed – and that means looking at a variety of perspectives, not just our own.”



Photo by Eliza Wiley

“The water binds us all together, and we have to find a balance between these uses.”

LEIGH KELLEY & FAMILY
RANCH MANAGER, PAWS UP
GREENOUGH



Photo by Eliza Wiley

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We extend enormous gratitude to our many 2018 donors! The majority of our projects are funded with public, private and foundation grants, while gifts from private individuals are critical to match and coordinate these project funds. Your support in 2018 made our work possible.

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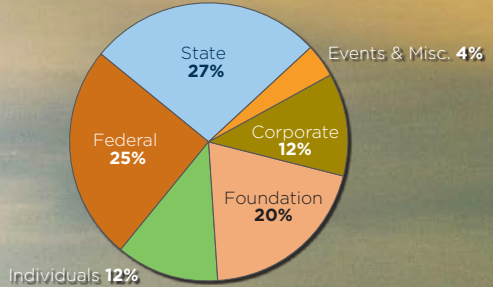
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (DEC. 31, 2018)

NET ASSETS

WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	\$ 129,835
ENDOWMENTS	
Blackfoot Stewardship Endowment Fund	\$ 639,598
BCCA Endowment Fund	\$ 415,704
WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	\$ 330,747
BLACKFOOT COMMUNITY CONSERVATION AREA (LAND)	\$ 1,891,284
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 3,498,943
TOTAL LIABILITIES	(\$ 81,103)
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$ 3,498,943

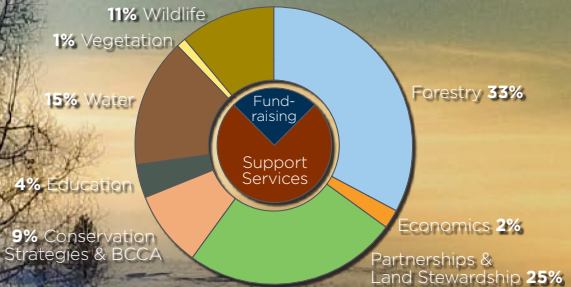
SOURCE OF FUNDS

Programs \$928,977
Unrestricted \$168,241



USE OF FUNDS

Programs \$1,010,860
Support Services & Fundraising \$285,100



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Blackfoot Challenge, Inc

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