

BLACKFOOT CHALLENGE



2013 ANNUAL REPORT

# Message from the Chairman

**S**uccess is best measured by outcomes, and after 20 years of partnerships for the Blackfoot watershed, the Blackfoot Challenge has many reasons to celebrate.

In 1993 there was little doubt for the need to bring communities and diverse interests together. While we may have lacked a refined framework and a clear direction, we knew we could be creative and adaptive and see progress by choosing to focus our early efforts where we agree. From those early vague and sometimes difficult conversations, we can now flash forward to 2013 and see that passion, hard work and a commitment to working together have made a difference.

As I reflect on how fortunate I am to live in the Blackfoot, my gratitude goes to the people who have made this watershed the incredible place it is. As we look to the next 20 years, I know this valley's legacy of community leadership and cooperation will continue to prosper, and I hope it can serve as a call-to-action for the rest of the country. It's time to 'neighbor up.' Through cross-boundary partnerships we must build the respect among rural and urban interests to design a progressive and sustainable future. With these discussions in mind, we celebrate today, knowing we still have our work cut out for us.

I am honored to be associated with such vision, passion and amazing creativity. Together we will continue this work with respect, trust and the commitment to work together, driving forward for the next generation.

Thank you to all the staff, board, members and partners who make this possible!



Photo: Joe Milano

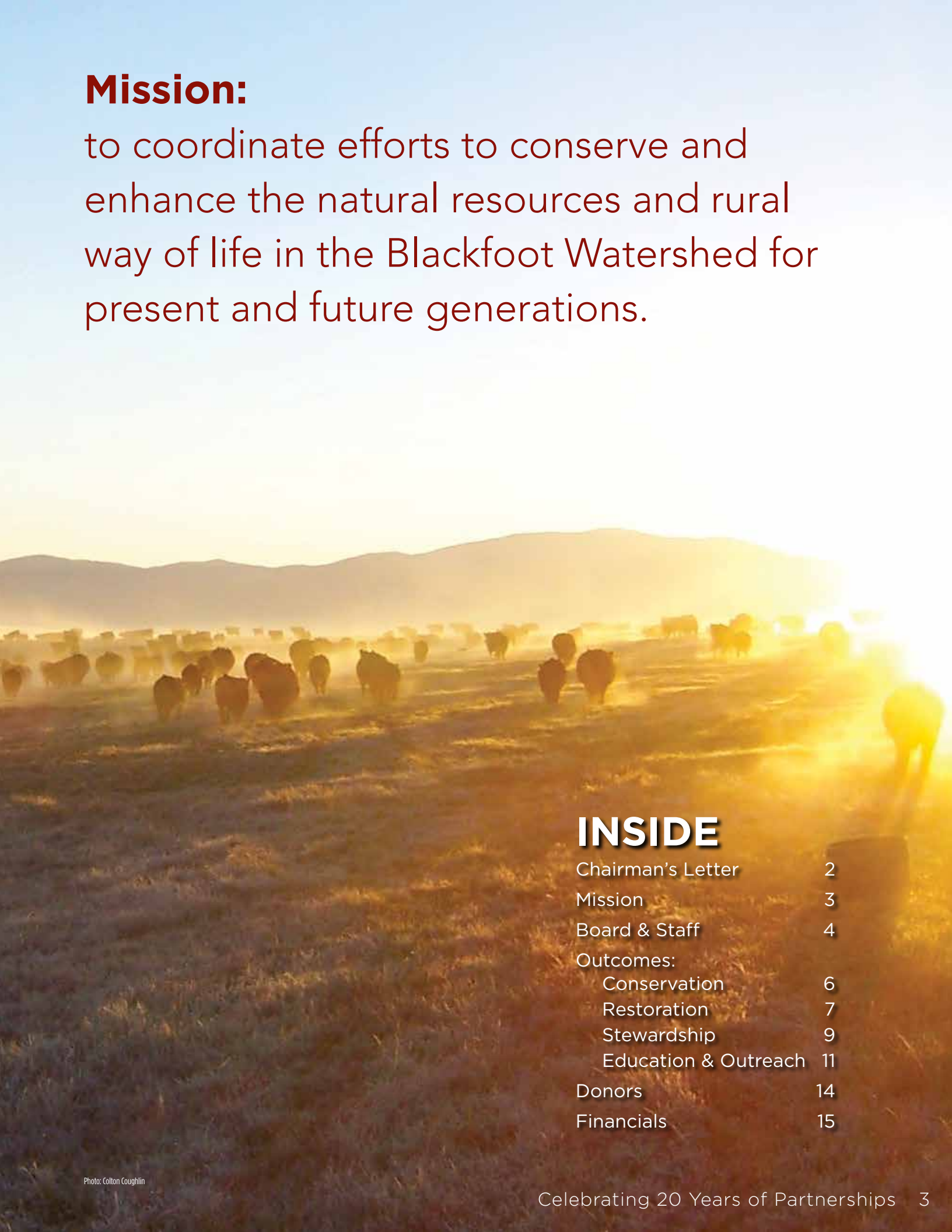
*Jim Stone*  
**Jim Stone**  
Rolling Stone Ranch, Ovando  
Blackfoot Challenge Board Chair

Cover Photo: Stephen Beaumont



# Mission:

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



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# Process

The Blackfoot Challenge is directed through a variety of committees and supporting work groups. Composed of community members, their voluntary efforts help identify community and resource concerns to which the Challenge can respond. These committees have adapted and continue to evolve along with the needs of the watershed.

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**Sara Schmidt** Outreach, Education,  
BCCA & Conservation Strategies

**Brad Weltzien** Land Steward

**Seth Wilson** Wildlife

\* Board Partner

## Committees

**WATER** Balancing water needs and availability through shared sacrifice and water conservation

**WILDLIFE** Reducing human-wildlife conflict using preventative and proactive abatement strategies

**WEEDS** A holistic approach to controlling invasive and noxious weeds

**EDUCATION** Reaching all ages through place-based education

**FORESTRY** Working to make forests healthier and communities safer from wildfire

**CONSERVATION STRATEGIES** Keeping working landscapes intact by coordinating land conservation and stewardship

**EXECUTIVE & OUTREACH** Generating participation, sharing information, and transferring lessons learned

**1975** Private and public partners establish first walk-in hunting area west of the Continental Divide near Greenough

- A Mike Horse Mine tailings dam near the headwaters of the Blackfoot River bursts, sending 100,000 tons of toxic tailings downstream

**1976** Montana's first conservation easement created near Helmville

**1987** A diverse group of landowners, anglers and biologists found the Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited

- With increasing recreation pressures along the corridor, landowners and public agencies put to the test the Blackfoot River Recreation Management Plan

**1988** Degraded water quality and declined fisheries prompt basin-wide evaluation of fish populations and habitats

**1991** Public and private partners begin discussing formation of a collaborative group with the purpose of supporting cooperative resource management in the Blackfoot

**1992** US Forest Service and Blackfoot Challenge sign a Memorandum of Understanding to "provide a general framework for cooperation and partnership"

- Robert Redford's "A River Runs Through It" debuts

# A LEGACY OF PARTNERSHIP

It wasn't long after Land Lindbergh's arrival to the Blackfoot Valley in 1965 to manage his family's recently purchased ranch when he became part of a public and private partnership that would pave the way for the creation of the Blackfoot Challenge.

As recreation pressures along the Blackfoot River corridor increased in the 1970s, private landowners and public agencies recognized the need for a cooperative and innovative approach to address natural resource threats. Land credits his neighbor at the time, Bill Potter, with initiating this effort. "With private lands lying intermingled within the publically accessible waterways and forest lands, we knew we needed to work with the recreationists, not against them. Bill Potter saw this coming long before most of us did; all the folks coming up from Missoula to go hunting, fishing and boating, he knew they needed to realize they had a critical stake in using and enjoying these resources right along with the rest of us."

This recognition led to two innovative agreements between Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, State Lands, Bureau of Land Management, Champion Timberlands and several private landowners in the Greenough area: the first allowing public access above the Blackfoot's high water mark and the second creating walk-in hunting areas, now known as Block Management Areas, to improve public hunting opportunities.

As the partnerships continued to evolve, Land credits much of the success over the years to having key people around who were willing to become a part of an ongoing process. Further, the importance of relationship-building and personal trust was understood and accepted by a few very dedicated agency employees. "They knew just how far they could push folks without taking the lead. And some of those individuals were willing to stick their professional necks out at critical moments. We were particularly blessed to have Darrell Sall's help; he was nonthreatening, unassuming and quietly very bright. He seemed to know instinctively how to gently persuade the right people to come together at the right moments to make things happen."\*

After 40 years of partnerships, Land reflects on the lessons learned. "The Challenge taught me how to listen. That probably was the most valuable lesson. Try not to start off by arguing your personal position, you already know that pretty well, but begin by listening and understanding the other person's perspective, even if you don't agree with all of it. There will almost always be common values to share, and that's where to start off with any productive discussion about difficult issues."

*\*Darrell Sall served as the Bureau of Land Management's Missoula Area Manager from 1976 to 1997. His leadership, vision and commitment to partnerships laid much of the groundwork for what would become the Blackfoot Challenge.*



Photo: Sara Schmidt

Photo: Kailee Bickford

- Mining pressures increase with open-pit gold mining exploration underway near the headwaters of the Blackfoot River
- American Rivers lists the Blackfoot as one of 10 most endangered rivers in the country

**1993** Blackfoot Challenge Inc. becomes a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and hires first Executive Director Michael Settevendemie

- With North Powell Conservation District, Challenge offers Weed Control/Riparian Grazing Management Workshop for landowners

**1994** In response to community concerns about "protecting the rural lifestyle," Challenge coordinates workshops on estate planning and conservation easements

# Conservation

## Conservation Strategies

In 2000, the Conservation Strategies Committee formed to maintain a legacy of conservation while keeping the working landscapes of the Blackfoot intact. Comprised of federal and state agency land managers, county planners, land trusts and private landowners, the committee continues to meet to share information and resources promoting collaborative conservation across the watershed. Since the beginning of the Blackfoot Community Project in 2003, nearly 76,000 of 89,000 acres purchased from Plum Creek Timber Company have been transferred into public and private ownership. To date, approximately 75 percent of the Blackfoot watershed is in “conserved working status.”

## Blackfoot Community Conservation Area

The Blackfoot Community Conservation Area, an outcome of the Blackfoot Community Project, is a community-managed 41,000-acre area at the intersection of wilderness, national forest and productive valley bottoms just north of Ovando. The 15-member BCCA Council continues to manage the 5,600-acre “core” area for multi-use objectives.

### This year’s accomplishments on the BCCA include:

- Approximately 150 acres of weeds sprayed.
- Five weed biocontrol releases for spotted knapweed.
- 90 acres of forest health treatments completed.
- Second year of Conservation Stewardship Program completed.
- Two gravity stockwater systems installed to complement grazing rotation.
- Continued enrollment in FWP Block Management Program.
- Multiple field tours held for partner and student groups.



Photo: Sara Schmitt



Photo: Lindsey Milcare

**1994** US Fish and Wildlife Service signs the first Cooperative Agreement with the Blackfoot Challenge

- Challenge sponsors Water Rights Workshop in coordination with Montana Watercourse

**1995** Weed Steering Committee forms to coordinate an integrated, locally-led approach to noxious weed management

**1996** Bureau of Land Management enters into Cooperative Agreement with the Blackfoot Challenge

- Jack Thomas becomes Executive Director

**1997** The Challenge coordinates and facilitates a partnership approach to the Blackfoot River Bull Trout Recovery Plan

- Bureau of Land Management contracts with Plum Creek Timber Co. to purchase 12,000 acres in the Blackfoot Corridor, upstream of McNamara’s Landing
- Blackfoot-area teachers attend a Project WET workshop to incorporate water resource education into their curriculum



Photo: Helixworks Flight Services



Photo: Kenneth Cook

# Restoration

## Weeds

The Blackfoot Challenge partnered with multiple agencies, landowners and land managers throughout 2013 to implement weed management activities across approximately 15,000 acres. The release and monitoring of biological control insects complemented a variety of herbicide application methods. Weed management partnerships enabled the Challenge to leverage cost-share grants and other funding, maximizing resources and results across boundaries.

### Our 2013 accomplishments include:

- 44.2 miles of the Blackfoot River bank treated.
- 12,990 acres of Helena National Forest in the Lincoln and Helmville areas treated.
- 394 acres of BLM land in the Douglas Creek, Chamberlain/Marcum, North Hoodoos and Hamilton Gulch areas treated.
- 153 acres of roadside right-of-way within the Lolo National Forest and Placid Lake State Park in the Clearwater drainage treated.
- Over 450 acres of private land treated.
- Biological control plot establishment and insect releases on spotted knapweed, leafy spurge and yellow toadflax.

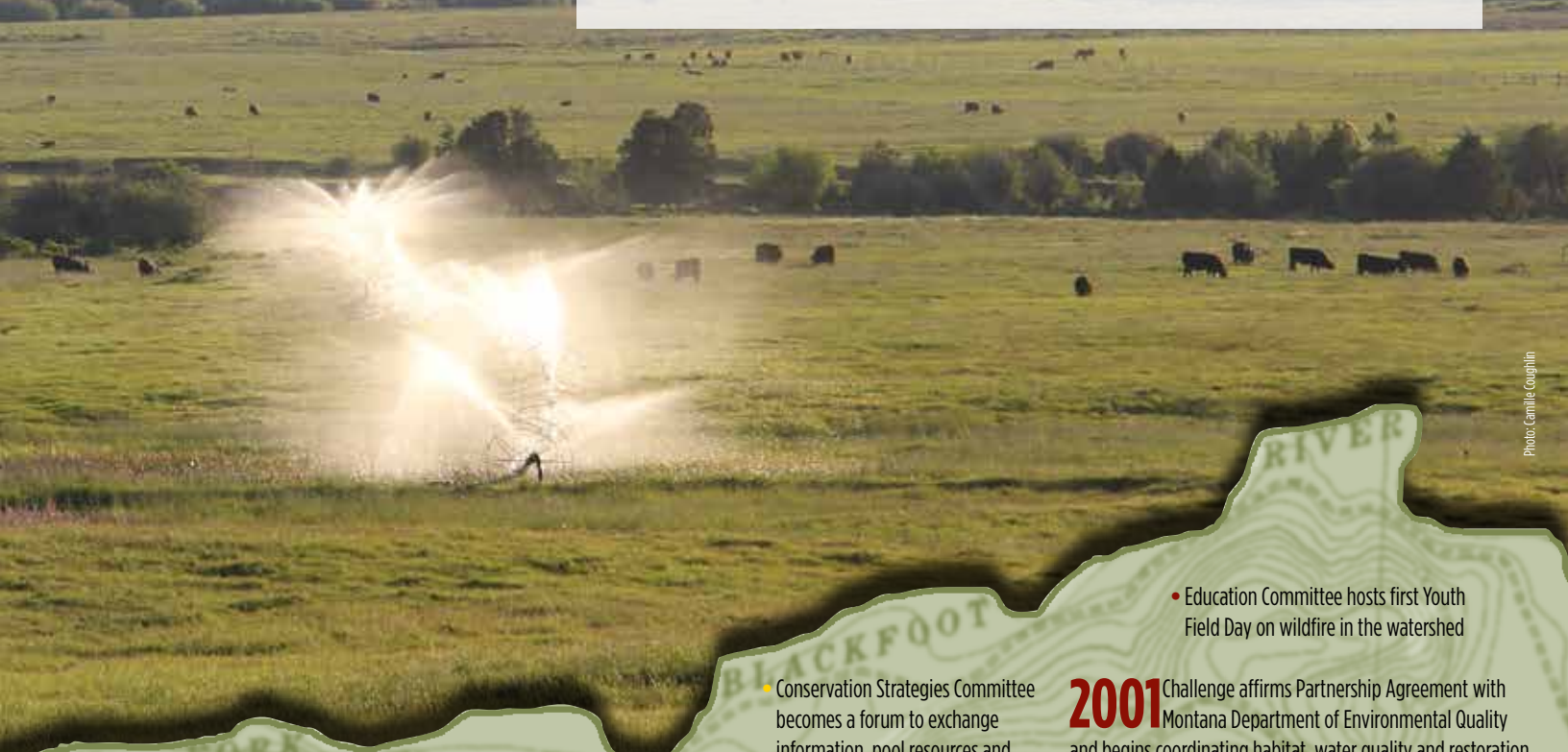


Photo: Camille Coughlin

• Blackfoot Challenge creates the Darrell Sall Memorial Award to honor BLM's Missoula area manager whose leadership helped establish the Blackfoot Challenge

**2000** Challenge hires first full-time Executive Director Tina Bernd-Cohen

- In partnership with landowners, agencies and water users, the Blackfoot Drought Committee forms to coordinate drought response in the valley

• Teachers Steering Committee forms to advise the Challenge on resource education needs

- Lewis and Clark Committee forms to coordinate events commemorating the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial in the Blackfoot

- Education Committee hosts first Youth Field Day on wildfire in the watershed

**2001** Challenge affirms Partnership Agreement with Montana Department of Environmental Quality and begins coordinating habitat, water quality and restoration planning process of the upper Blackfoot's impaired streams

- Blackfoot River Leafy Spurge Cooperative Project begins on 40 miles of public and private lands along the river corridor

# FINDING COMMON GROUND

Becky Garland grew up at the headwaters of the Blackfoot River in Lincoln, Montana. The daughter of a legendary advocate for wilderness designation, conservation is in her blood.

Becky was at the forefront of the creation of the collaborative that would become the Blackfoot Challenge. "We needed a way to become more efficient with information sharing and to avoid duplication of efforts. When the Trout Unlimited chapter wasn't able to take on certain issues with the agencies, we needed another vehicle to get them more involved."

Becky credits Mother Nature with playing a big part in the formation of the Challenge. Resource threats were coming to a head and people knew it. "The tailings dam at Mike Horse Dam broke twice, once in the 1960s and again in 1975. Gold mining was being proposed near Lincoln. People started realizing what could happen."

One of the Blackfoot Challenge's first efforts entailed cross-boundary invasive weed management. "Weed management was an easy door to open. It was non-controversial. We all had weed problems, it was something we could come together over."

When asked, Becky says the largest lesson she learned from being involved in the Blackfoot Challenge was the importance of finding common ground. "We didn't have tons of time so I needed to learn the art of compromise. When people didn't see eye-to-eye, we needed to remind ourselves to look for the common ground. People were willing at the table but the partnerships were really tested when we needed to start making changes on the ground. In those moments, the leadership was important. It was time consuming, but passion kept me at the table. We were committed to making this place better."

"I learned that you could have a different opinion and still be friends. The bond with the people I've met... we will be heartfelt friends forever. It changed my life for the better."



Photo: Sara Schmidt

# Restoration

## Forestry

In 2013 significant progress was made in portions of the Blackfoot watershed toward our goal of increased fire safety. The loss of 19 young firefighters' lives in the Yarnell, Ariz., fire reminded us how important this goal is. Though we escaped any major fires in our watershed, homes were burned in nearby Lolo Creek, and Colorado's Black Forest Fire destroyed 486 homes, the state's most destructive fire on record. The loss of lives and property to wildfire is preventable, especially in Western Montana where we can live safely in the forest after fuels are reduced to manageable levels. To this end, landowners and land managers treated hundreds of acres of fuels in and around our communities in 2013.

### Our forestry accomplishments include:

- 400 acres of fuels treated using Blackfoot Challenge cost-share funding.
- Hundreds more acres treated as a result of technical assistance and partnerships with agencies and other groups.

- Grade school students begin tracking fish migration through Adopt-A-Trout program

- Landowner Advisory Group forms to advise the Challenge on wildlife-livestock conflict reduction strategies

**2002** Pending large-scale sales of Plum Creek Timber Co. lands, Blackfoot Community Project begins

- Grizzly bear and people conflicts escalate, leading to formation of Wildlife Committee



# Stewardship

## Wildlife

Throughout 2013 the Wildlife Committee continued to work to reduce grizzly bear-human conflicts and to proactively address wolf-livestock conflicts. Overall, conflicts with grizzly bears and wolves remained low despite an adult grizzly female mortality. New challenges emerged for us in 2013 like the seasonal use of agricultural crops by grizzlies. We will bring our “team lift” approach to this important issue in the coming years. Wolf-livestock conflicts were low in 2013 with two probable livestock losses to wolves and no wolves removed for depredations. Our livestock carcass removal program, extensive system of electric fences, and our wolf and livestock monitoring program continue to help keep overall conflicts with carnivores low in the Blackfoot Valley.

### Our 2013 wildlife accomplishments include:

- Over 5,000 livestock carcasses removed in Blackfoot and Granite County since 2003.
- Five new livestock carcass management programs modeled after the Blackfoot Valley underway in Montana (2), Washington State (2), and Alberta (1).
- 18 electric fences on calving areas installed to protect livestock.
- Three wolf packs and 12 livestock herds intensively monitored with range riders and radio telemetry across 45,000 acres.
- Over 2,100 hours of livestock monitoring logged by range riders and cooperating producers.



Photo: Eric Graham



Photo: Seth Wilson



Photo: Seth Wilson

**2003** Blackfoot Land Steward begins working with landowners, land trusts and agencies to coordinate conservation and restoration on private lands

- Grizzly bear attractants begin being removed from ranch boneyards through Carcass Pick-Up Program

**2004** Blackfoot Trumpeter Swan Restoration Program begins

- The Nature Conservancy purchases 43,000 acres from Plum Creek Timber Co. for \$33 million
- Doors open at the Blackfoot Challenge office in Ovando
- Natural Resources Conservation Service enters into Cooperative Agreement with the Challenge

**2005** Fifteen-member community council forms to oversee management of the 5,600-acre Blackfoot Community Conservation Area core lands

- Twelfth landowner-driven Weed Management Area established
- Neighbor Network heightens awareness of grizzly activity through phone tree lists and bear-resistant trash can rentals

# Stewardship

## Water Resources

The Blackfoot Challenge takes a comprehensive approach to caring for our shared and limited water resources. From drought management to irrigation efficiency, water stewardship strategies unite landowners, agencies and conservation partners under common goals. In 2013, the Challenge completed its fourth year of the irrigation scheduling program, helping irrigators apply the right amount of water at the right time to meet crop production and water efficiency goals. Late summer also brought low river flows and necessitated active drought response. Overall, the lessons learned through all Blackfoot Challenge water programs helped to inform other watershed groups in 2013, most notably through the Challenge staff's participation in drafting the new Montana State Water Plan.

### Our water program has:

- Updated nearly 100 irrigators and partners weekly with irrigation scheduling reports.
- Placed 1,200 acres under irrigation scheduling, bringing the four-year total to nearly 5,000 acres.
- Completed the Blackfoot Irrigation Guide to help irrigators implement scheduling.
- Conserved 32 million gallons of water through cooperative Blackfoot drought response.
- Implemented Best Management Practices on 70.25 miles of roads to reduce sedimentation.

## A SHARED APPROACH TO DROUGHT

In the last 13 years, the Blackfoot Drought Plan has been enacted eight times — demonstrating the real need for this coordinated response. By early August of 2013, the Blackfoot River had dropped below the 700 cfs flow trigger for implementing the plan once again. The Drought Committee went into overdrive, coordinating with outfitters, irrigators and the general public to initiate and encourage a shared response to the low river conditions. Water updates and drought response requests went out regularly to nearly 100 landowners and 120 river outfitters. Dozens of irrigators voluntarily stepped up to scale back or discontinue irrigating. Anglers followed fishing restrictions, limiting the timing and location where they could fish. In the process of this “shared sacrifice,” we estimate that as much as 32 million gallons of water was conserved, helping to protect native fisheries and equitably share the responsibility for ensuring a healthy river system.

Photo: Stephen Beaman

### 2005<sup>First</sup> Annual

Landowners (later Partners) tour showcasing cooperative restoration efforts in the Helmville Valley

- Blackfoot Challenge attends White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation

**2006** Outreach efforts gain momentum, with 19 field tours and 42 presentations reaching 2,419 individuals in a single year

- Harvard awards Challenge \$100,000 Innovations in Government grant to help spur landowner-led community-based conservation efforts across the country

- Conservation Strategies Committee estimates landowners have contributed over \$48 million to date to maintain the intact landscape of the Blackfoot

### 2007<sup>Wolves</sup> return to the Blackfoot Valley near Helmville

- Livestock carcass composting begins at Department of Transportation composting facility near Clearwater Junction

# Education & Outreach

While both education and outreach weave their way through all programs, a focus on fostering resource stewardship in the watershed's youth began early on. The outdoors is the best classroom for teaching students about natural resources and the rural way of life. Developed in association with teachers, Youth Field Day and the Adopt-A-Swan Program continue to be mainstays of the Challenge's approach to place-based education. We are very thankful to work with the many creative and passionate educators who call the Blackfoot home.

In 2013, we continued to share the community-based approach to conservation with those eager to learn. We reached 3,230 individuals through tours, workshops and meetings within the watershed as well as at regional and national scales.

- In May, over 100 students attended the Annual Trumpeter Swan Release outside Ovando, participating in learning stations and a Q & A with state agency directors.
- 85 people joined us for a Partners Tour of Bonner and Milltown on June 15th.
- 150 4th- to 6th-grade students attended the Annual Youth Field Day at Garnet Ghost Town in September.
- 185 watershed residents turned out for Your Voice for Land and Community discussions in Bonner, Greenough, Ovando, Lincoln and Seeley Lake in late September.
- In October, 65 public and private partners participated in the second community-based conservation transferability workshop in Salmon, Idaho.



Photo: Gretchen Strommaler



Photo: Amy Vann



Photo: Sara Strimdt



Photo: Amy Vann

• Gary Burnett becomes Executive Director

• Blackfoot Community Project private fundraising campaign reaches its \$10 million goal

• As flows in the Blackfoot fall below 700 cfs at Bonner, Drought Response Plan implemented for seventh time in eight years

• The Nature Conservancy acquires 20,000 acres of former Plum Creek lands, completing the land purchase phase of the Blackfoot Community Project

**2008** First Partners for Conservation conference held in Seeley Lake, bringing the collaborative approach to private lands conservation to a national scale

• Montana Legacy Project starts as The Nature Conservancy begins purchasing Plum Creek Timber Co. lands throughout the Southern Crown of the Continent

• Forestry Committee forms to prioritize fuel mitigation efforts, strategize on treatments, and increase wildfire safety in communities

• Water Resources Committee launches Irrigation Efficiency Program

• Public and private partners formalize the Blackfoot Watershed Cooperative Conservation Agreement

**2009** Total acres under conservation easement in the watershed rises to 110,000

# YOUR VOICE FOR LAND AND COMMUNITY

As we reflect on 20 years of outcomes for the resources and people of the Blackfoot, we asked for your help evaluating our progress as well as prioritizing for the years ahead. In September, the Challenge partnered with Headwaters Economics and The Wilderness Society to host a series of discussions centered around three themes: environment, community and economy. What do we value the most today? What do we want to be different in the future? And how can the Challenge help realize that vision?

Across the watershed we heard that people value the high quality of life the Blackfoot has to offer. People are neighborly, kind and respectful. We value the watershed's rural character, agricultural heritage, and health of the natural environment.

Looking to the future, people see deliberate, diverse and sustainable economic development that doesn't compromise these values. In addition, people would like to see the health of fisheries, forests and other resources continue to improve. And as in the past, education about natural resources and rural livelihoods remains a priority.

At the end of 2013, the Economics Workgroup formed in response to the high number of economic-related concerns, while the additional feedback will continue to inform committees' priorities for years to come.

To view a full summary of results from Your Voice for Land and Community Discussions, visit [www.blackfootchallenge.org](http://www.blackfootchallenge.org).



**2009** Education Committee launches Adopt-A-Swan program and students begin attending annual trumpeter swan releases

- US Forest Service enters into Cooperative Agreement with the Challenge

- Partners develop landscape-level plan for forest restoration and fire management throughout the Southwestern Crown of the Continent

- Range Rider program begins, monitoring grizzly and wolf activity near livestock

**2010** Electric fencing installed to protect calving areas, beehives and homes from predators reaches 55,000 feet

- Working Lands Council forms to establish direct communication between landowners in the Southern Crown and the Departments of Interior and Agriculture

- 34,000 acres of former Plum Creek lands on the southern rim of Potomac Valley are sold to Montana DNRC as part of the Montana Legacy Project

- Challenge and partners host the nation's first America's Great Outdoors listening session in Ovando

**2011** Trumpeter Swans hatch cygnets in the Blackfoot for the first time in over 100 years

- Total irrigated acres scheduled for efficient water application rises to 2,600

## IN CHALLENGE LIES OPPORTUNITY

George Hirschenberger found himself with a rare opportunity in 1990. While working for one of Montana's most respected conservation organizations, The Nature Conservancy, he was tasked with finding the best place to work on a large landscape initiative. After 12 months, his search led him to the Blackfoot.

Contentious issues blanketed the state in those days, George recalls. "The bull trout was about to be listed right on the heels of the spotted owl, bumper stickers demanded federal lands be "Cow Free in '93," a spike in gold brought new cyanide leach mine proposals, poor water quality and riparian conditions plagued federal agencies, and disputed public access to navigable waterways was headline news. Drought years in the late 1980s renewed perennial contests over in-stream vs. diversion water rights, and wildfire management policy was a hot button after the severe burns of 1988. Lordy!"

In that charged environment it was clear to George that without a rock solid basis of trust, building public/private partnerships would be a slow process. "But controversy often leads to opportunity and the opportunity to do the most good was in the Blackfoot."

"About the time TNC decided to renew its focus on the Blackfoot, some new landowner incentives and project dollars came into play as well. Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited was out in front, restoring fish habitat. The Fish and Wildlife Service and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks had dollars to purchase easements and protect and improve wildlife habitat. We were able to use these resources to build on the earlier success of establishing public access on private lands. About then I realized this just might work!"

But, capturing the synergy of the early 1990s to bring private, corporate, conservation, state and federal interests together was going to be the biggest challenge. "Those first meetings were freewheeling and driven mostly by parties interested in specific projects and outcomes. There was little precedent in taking on a task so large and complex in scope. During the first three years we wondered if this informal coop would last, but gradually a common vision and local leadership emerged. By 1994 it was clear that this organization would have a solid constituency and staying power; buy-in was increasing as one successful project gave birth to another."

"The Challenge now has a remarkable track record thanks to its dedicated and able leaders. Twenty years on seems like a good time to tip our hats to those who stepped up to the challenge, well before it was known as the Challenge. You likely know who they are, if not ask around. I can't help but mention several who are now gone, people like Bill Potter, Darrell Sall, Ernie Corrick, Cora Barbour, Don Valiton and Tommy Geary. Their commitment to partnerships and contributions to this watershed will never be forgotten."

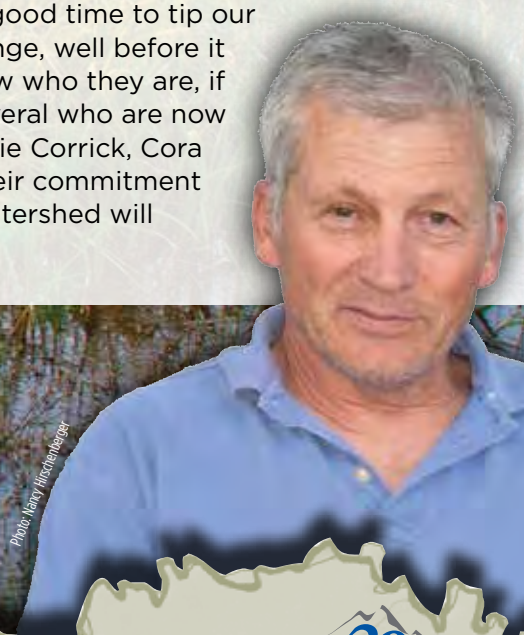


Photo: Henry Hirschenberger

- With 17 partners, developed a landowner's guide to conservation easements in the Southern Crown

- Energy savings identified through Irrigation Efficiency Program reaches 483,000 kWh

**2012** First Transferability Conference held in Seeley Lake to share the approach to community-based conservation across the country

- With public partners, Forestry Committee begins offering technical assistance and cost-share funding to landowners undertaking fuels reduction projects

**2013** The Blackfoot Challenge celebrates 20 years of partnerships



# Donors

Our private and public donors and grantors provide the funding for our work. The majority of projects are funded with state, federal and foundation grants. Gifts from private individuals are critical to match and coordinate these project funds.

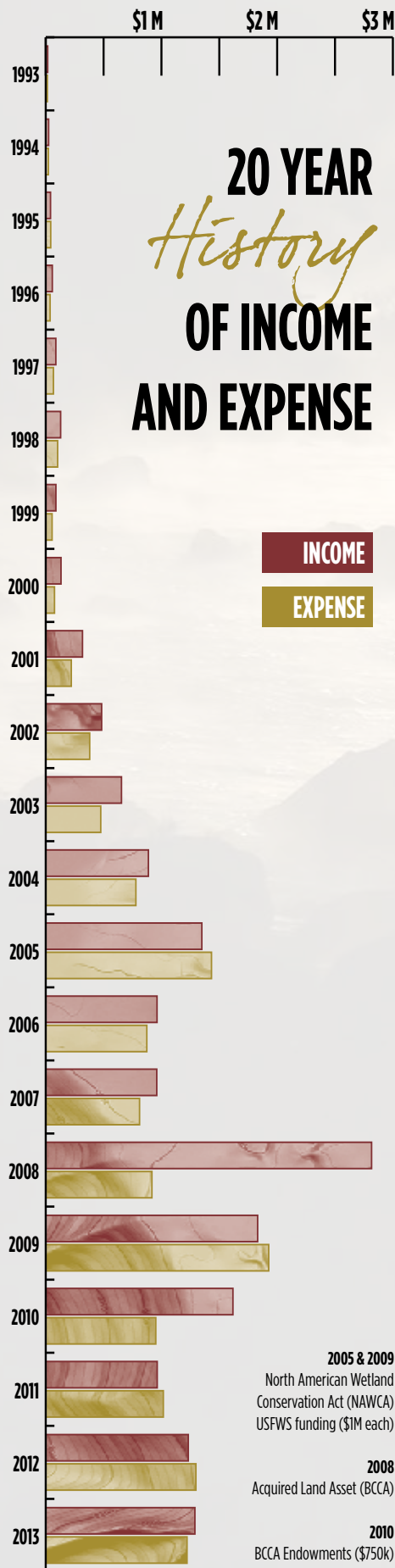
***We are thankful to the following individuals, organizations, businesses and foundations that truly care about the Blackfoot and its future. Their support in 2013 made our work possible.***

Charlie & Sydne Abernathy • Allegra in Helena • American Public Land Exchange • Brent & Carla Anderson • Bob Anderson • Anonymous (6) • Matt & Melissa Arno • Randy Arnold • Patti Bailey & Don Hurst • Baltimore Community Foundation • Patrick & Bernadette Bannister • Ken & Paula Barber • Tom & Karen Barbour in memory of Bill Potter & David Vietor • Patti Bartlett • Jim & Norma Bauer in memory of John Stone • Max Bauer • Margaret Baylor in honor of Ralph & Toone Burchenal • Eldon & Helen Beck • Gene Benedict in memory of John Stone • Dean & Angela Bennett • Big Bear Sign Co. - Jeff & Wendy McNally • Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited • Traci Bignell in memory of John Stone • Bignell Ranch Co. • Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative • Ellen Blum • Boone & Crockett Club • Louie & Gertrude Bouma • Boyle, Deveny & Meyer • Bryan & Meg Bradshaw • Clair & Rose Marie Bradshaw • Stan & Glenda Bradshaw • Johnny & Katherine Bratton in memory of John Stone • Nancy Braun • Scott A & Anne Breum • Pat & Nina Brock • Tom Browder & Carolyn Lewis • Chris Bryant & Julie Kightlinger • Gary & Norma Buchanan • Gary & Wanda Burnett • Gary & Wanda Burnett in memory of John Stone • Larry Burton • Bob Bushnell • Caroline Byrd in memory of John Stone • Jerry & Elizabeth Cain • Sharon Chen & Peter Carlin • Chutney Fund of the Montana Community Foundation • Cinch Design • Clearwater Equipment • Clearwater Resource Council • Clearwater Montana Properties Inc. • CoBank • Conservation Northwest • Copper Queen Bar • Rob Colley & Kate Godfrey • Rick Cooksey • David Cooley in memory of John Stone • Duane Coombs • Cross Charitable Foundation, Inc. • Robert & Delores Curry in memory of John Stone • John & Cheryl Dale • Fred Danforth & Carlene Larsson • Alyssa & Ty Daniels • Bill Davis • Debbie & Larry Dillree • Ducks Unlimited Inc. • David Durando • Ken & Susan Dvorak • Tim Edwards & Gayle Hudgins • Pen & Liz Edwards • Jon & Linda Ender • Andy & Connie Erickson in memory of John Stone • Zella Erickson in memory of John Stone • Kevin & Robin Ertl in memory of John Stone • Tom & Terri Farago • John & Jan Farrar • Brian Ferrasci-O'Malley • Pat Fogarty in memory of Bill Fogarty • Foundation for Community Vitality • Eliza Frazer & Barry Hood • Nancy Frey • Racene Friede • Scott Frost & Valerie West • Randy Gazda • Geary Brothers Ranch Inc. • Gerrish H. Milliken Foundation in memory of John Stone • Hank & Cathy Goetz • Henry N. Goodwin in honor of Cooper Burchenal • Grey Wolf Enterprises • Lyle & Gail Grimes Charitable Foundation • Maury Guay • Bernie Hall & Marta Ernst in memory of John Roe • Mary Hamilton in memory of John Stone • Jane Harvey & Charles Curtis • Joseph Head in honor of Ralph & Toone Burchenal • Headwaters Economics • Ralph & Billie Higgins • Dale & Yalanda Hinkle • George & Nancy Hirschenberger • Mike & Sue Holzer • Horejsi Charitable Foundation Inc. • Harry & Cindy Houze • Linda Hugulet in memory of John Stone • Dean & Dana Hunt • Bud & Randy Hunter • Justin & Jennifer Iverson • Denny & Charlotte Iverson • Gary & Sharon Jacobsen • Steve Jester • Bob Johnson • Todd & Twyla Johnson • Heather Johnson & Brad Andres • Amber Kamps • Steve Kamps • Tim & Lisa Kemp in honor of Harry & Cindy Poett • David & Kathy Kesheimer • Steve Kloetzel & Andrea Morgan • Bob & Ellen Knight in memory of John Stone • Rick & Sue Knudsen • Hod Kosman • Tim LaMarr • Tom & Judy Lehman in memory of John Stone • Arlene Levy • Tony Liane • Adam Lieberg in honor of Seth Wilson and the Blackfoot Challenge Wildlife Program • George & Shelley Liknes • Lincoln Telephone Co. • Land Lindberg & Janet McMillan in memory of John Stone • Brett Lindelof • Jerry Loendorf • Wendy Lofting in memory of John Stone • Lonestar Ranch • Tim & Donna Love • Lovett-Woodsum Charitable Foundation

Inc. • Jeffrey & Susan Lubetkin • Fred Lurie • Lydia Macauley • C. Robert Manby in honor of the Mannix Family • Mannix Brothers Inc. • Mannix-Raymond Ranch LLC • Terry Mansfield • Carol Marburger in memory of John Stone • Bruce Margolius in honor of the Raymond Ranch • Gerald & Sharon Marks • Phil & Cate Mason in memory of John Stone • Bill Masee • Gary & Judy Matson • Laurie, Mike & Janice McCormick • Mike & Sharon McLane • Eloise McNally in memory of John Stone • Don & Barb McNally • Ted & Kim Mead • Microsoft Matching Gifts Program • Susan Milliken in memory of John Stone • Missoula Electric Cooperative • Montana Department of Environmental Quality • Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation • Montana Department of Transportation • Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks • Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Foundation • Morris Ranch • Marguerite Munsche • Montana Watershed Coordination Council • National Fish & Wildlife Foundation • Paraic & Becky Neibergs • Greg & Ryen Neudecker in memory of John Stone • Nevada Spring Creek Partners LLC • Larry & Nadine Newman • Stan & Colleen Nicholson in memory of John Stone • Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative • Harold (Tom) & Patricia Nygren • Roy O'Connor • Susan O'Connor • Andrew & Karen Oberg • Jacquelyn Ostervold in memory of C. Lloyd Ostervold • Orvis Company Inc. • Park County Community Foundation • Patty Foresman Foundation in appreciation of the Ovando Gran Fondo • Patty Foresman Foundation in memory of John Stone • Paws Up Foundation in memory of Bill Potter • Plum Creek Timber Company • Harry & Cindy Poett • Ponderosa Snow Warriors • Wym & Jan Portman • Ken & Pam Price • Jay & Kay Proops • Rebekah Rafferty • Craig Rawlings • Leslie & Charles Ray • Samuel & Beverly Reynolds • Deborah Richie Oberbillig • Roy Riedinger in honor of Ralph & Toone Burchenal • Sally Roch • Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation • Sandra Roe • Janna Rolland • Rolling Stone Ranch - Jim, Colleen & Brady Stone • Rolling Stone Ranch in memory of John Stone • Dennis & Mata Rolston • Chris Rood in memory of James Stoehr • Kathie Roos & Neal Blossom • Paul & Carolyn Roos • Paul & Carolyn Roos in memory of John Stone • Edward & Nancy Rosenthal • Dave Rosgen in honor of Jim Stone & Ryen Neudecker • Susanne Sanders in memory of John Stone • Mary Savina • Janelle Schiller • Judy Schmidt • Sara Schmidt • Tony & Jennifer Schoonen • James R. & Christine M. Scott • Charlie & Christine Sehorn • Bob Shaw & Nancy Rose • Hugh & Barbara Sheehy • Alex Sienkiewicz • Brian & Karen Sippy • Social Venture Partners • Bill & Peggy Sproul • State of Montana - Block Management • Stranahan Foundation • Steve & Virginia Stocks • Jane Stone • Bill Sullivan & Sid Long • Sustainable Northwest • SWCDM Inc. • T & C Fencing • Jay & Diane Tanner • The Brainerd Foundation • The Cinnabar Foundation • Randy & Sharon Teague • Edy Thogersen • Grant & Diana Thornbrough • Robin Tokmakian in memory of Barbara Haines Tokmakian & Roscoe Haines • Rich Torquemada & Cherie Peacock • Trixi's Antler Saloon LLC • Joseph & Regina Turner • University of Montana • US Bank • USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service • USDI Bureau of Land Management • USDI Fish & Wildlife Service • USDA Forest Service • James & Cindy Utterback • Leigh Ann & Fred Valiton • Pete & Maria van Loben Sels • Louis & Mary Vero • Klaus & Beate von Stutterheim • Vicki Watson • Douglas Webber & Nancy Winslow • Art Weiner & Carol Fries • Brad & Corbin Weltzien • Gary & Beverly Weltzien • David & Mary D. Wesley • Wildland Hydrology • Jamie Williams • Charles & Elinor Williamson • Seth Wilson & Jennifer Ellis • Gary & Rita Wolfe in honor of Jim, Colleen & Brady Stone • Yager/Van Duzen Environment Stewards • Susan Zentz in memory of John Stone

**We acknowledge the many members who submitted their photographs and the in-kind donations we received throughout the year and extend our gratitude. We strive to list each and every donor accurately, but errors and omissions may occur. If you notice an error, please contact us at (406) 793-3900.**

# 20 YEAR History OF INCOME AND EXPENSE



# Financials

The Board of Directors takes a conservative approach to financial governance.

The Finance and Endowment Committee manages the reserve and endowment funds for long-term stability and makes recommendations for annual allocations to the budget.

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (Dec 31, 2013)

### NET ASSETS

UNRESTRICTED \$ 121,572

### TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED

Program Funds \$ 29,438

Program Reserve \$ 10,000

Operating Reserve Fund \$ 142,159

Blackfoot Community Project Operating Fund \$ 152,303

### PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED

Blackfoot Stewardship Endowment Fund \$ 645,750

BCCA Endowment Fund \$ 401,046

### BLACKFOOT COMMUNITY

CONSERVATION AREA (LAND)\* \$ 1,891,284

**TOTAL ASSETS \$ 3,393,552**

**TOTAL LIABILITIES \$ 11,982**

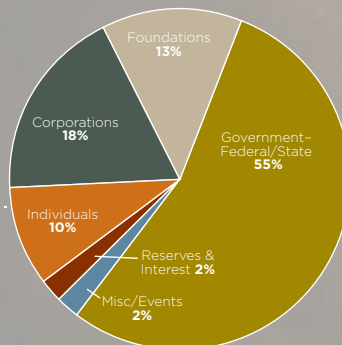
**TOTAL NET ASSETS \$ 3,381,570**

\* Assets that may not be sold, transferred or granted any security interest.

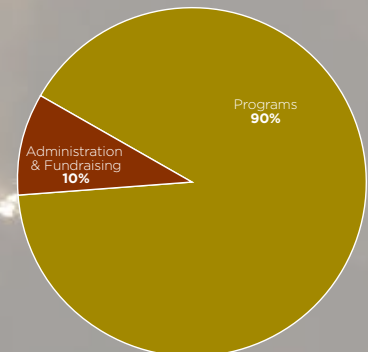
The Board of Directors approves an annual budget of expenses funded by secured sources of income.

## 2013 SOURCE AND USE OF FUNDS

**INCOME**  
\$1,289,152



**EXPENSE**  
\$1,221,222





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to our friend:

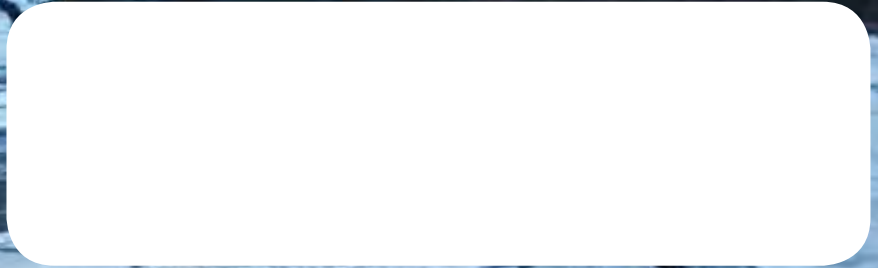


Photo: Stephen Beaumont