Community-based Conservation

sustaining COMMUNICATION, TRUST BUILDING AND FORGING PARTNERSHIPS for future generations by conserving natural resources and rural communities in the Blackfoot Watershed of western Montana
Community-based Conservation
Inclusive Leadership – Public/Private Partnerships – Working Together

Local leaders and stakeholders cooperate to build lasting partnerships founded on trust.

Early Stages
Relationships, dialogue, and trust needed to be established before communities in the watershed felt comfortable embarking on a multiparty process. Recognizing the benefits of participation, landowners such as Bill Potter, directly contributed to the early momentum. “We realized that if you do not make the rules, someone is going to make them for you. It is a lot easier to follow your own rules.”

Blackfoot Challenge co-founder, Land Lindbergh said, “Before the Challenge was formed, there was no forum to handle both the direct and indirect impacts to the river. With the influx of new ideas and people to the valley coupled with the different agendas of all of the agencies, it was time to get in front of the potential issues and try to deal with them.”

Under the leadership of Land and Hank Goetz, former manager of Lubrecht Experimental Forest, private and public partnerships began to share management of the Blackfoot River. Sharing a common ownership border and vision, they worked with long-time partners Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, to agree on granting annual access to the Blackfoot across private land.

Formative years
Those early years proved valuable for catalyzing private and public partnerships among Ovando ranchers like Jim Stone and Greg Neudecker from the USFWS’s Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. For 18 years they have worked to restore Hoyt Creek, and build capacity for cooperative conservation. Reflecting on the utility of the projects, Jim states, “We have not eliminated cows from streamside grazing in all cases but now it is done properly. It saves us money. Everyone is happy and we are putting more pounds of beef on the hoof because we are managing our ground better.”

Working with Greg is what helped build trust with local landowners by informally working “across the kitchen table” to help private landowners conserve their natural resources. This process is helping countless agency staff to build better relations with local landowners by focusing on specific on-the-ground projects. Private landowner gain better access to federal dollars and agency expertise for resource conservation on private land by providing flexible assistance, allowing for the various resource concerns and conditions facing private landowners.

OUR MISSION: to conserve and enhance the natural resources and rural way of life throughout the watershed.
Private & Public Partnerships

Partnerships make good use of our natural resources while providing benefits to rural communities. We accomplish more by including all watershed stakeholders in finding consensus and implementing solutions on the ground. This ensures the solutions are sustainable because they come from the people. Trust builds when partners work together.

The inclusive, consensus approach works. Founded in 1993, early partners efforts focused on weed management. By continuing to facilitate open and productive communication between public and private resource managers, partnership investments have grown ten fold from $131,000 in 2000 to over $1,600,000 in 2010.

MULTI-AGENCY INTEGRATED RESTORATION STRATEGY

Cooperation in the Blackfoot Watershed is resulting in a ground-breaking effort by the state and federal government to collaborate with private landowners to develop and implement a landscape-level fire management and forest restoration plan.

2010 Blackfoot Project Partners
USDA, Forest Service
USDA, Natural Resources and Conservation Service
USDI, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
USDI, Bureau of Land Management
Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Montana Department of Agriculture
Montana State University
BCCA Council
Private forest landowners
Blackfoot Challenge

DIRECTORS
Brent Anderson
Conifer Logging, Lincoln
Patrick Bannister
Landowner, Potomac
Caroline Byrd
The Nature Conservancy
Andy Erickson
E Bar L Guest Ranch, Greenough
Racene Friede
Landowner, Ovando
Bill Frings & Joel Nelson
Plum Creek Timber Company
Todd Johnson
Pyramid Mtn. Lumber, Seeley Lake
Tony Liane
Montana DNRC
Mack Long
Montana FWP
Tim Love
US Forest Service, Seeley Lake
Jeff McNally
Landowner, Ovando
Harry Poett
Landowner, Ovando
Nancy Anderson
Richard Torquemada
Bureau of Land Management

BOARD AND STAFF

Executive Committee
Jim Stone, Chair
Rolling Stone Ranch, Ovando
Greg Neudecker, Vice Chair
USFWS Partners for Fish & Wildlife
Denny Iverson, Treasurer
Iverson Ranch, Potomac
Amber Kamps, Secretary
U.S. Forest Service, Lincoln
David Mannix
Mannix Brothers Ranch, Helmville

Staff
Gary Burnett,
Executive Director
Traci Bignell
Finance and Grants
Deb Dillree
Clerical Support
Hank Goetz
Lands Director
Brad Weltzien
BCCA Land Steward

Program Coordinators
Brian McDonald
Conservation Strategies, Water, Weeds
Nancy Schwalm
BCCA and Education
Seth Wilson
Wildlife
Erin Zweiner
Forestry

“The Blackfoot Challenge is most effective in facilitating public manager and private landowner partnerships to benefit both natural resource conservation and rural communities.”

— TIM LOVE
SEELEY LAKE DISTRICT RANGER, FOREST SERVICE
Community-based Conservation in the Blackfoot Watershed

Working Together

Building Sustainable Methods for Sustainable Landscapes

We believe that the primary challenge for conservation in the 21st Century is how to sustain working landscapes, working communities, and working people. One of the most important building blocks in any region is strong, inclusive, and community-based partnerships—such as the Blackfoot Challenge.

We believe that these “ground-up” solutions provide the fertile ground for productive investments of private and public resources for conservation and rural values. We also recognize that we need to work with our neighbors to address larger scale challenges such as co-habited wildlife corridors, working land-use in the face of change, and sustainable forest and rangeland management.

Working with our neighbors to the east and west, we hosted the first America’s Great Outdoor events in the Nation. Participants included local leaders from the Rocky Mountain Front, and Blackfoot, Clearwater and Swan River Valleys, and national leaders—Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, CEQ Chair Nancy Sutley, Director of the National Park Service John Jarvis, Senators Max Baucus and Jon Tester, and Governor Brian Schweitzer. The landowners formed the Working Lands Council (Council) to respond to President Obama’s public outreach for America’s Great Outdoors and the vision that it will take more than just what can be done in Washington. Meeting the new test of environmental stewardship means finding the best ideas at the grassroots level. It means helping states, communities and non-profits conserve their own resources. And it means figuring out how the federal government can be a better partner.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDE

- **Support** grass-roots initiatives to address landscape scale conservation by providing resources and technical assistance to community-based conservation leadership and collaboration.

- **Create the right set of incentives and opportunities** for federal agencies to be effective partners in community-based and large landscape conservation.

- **Support the Land and Water Conservation Fund** to allow for broader and reliable conservation, as well as greater leverage of all resources, including conservation easements for private, working lands.

- **Make permanent the enhanced tax deduction** for conservation easement donations as a critical tool for landowners to make the good planning decisions.

- **Fund the new Conservation Forest Land Restoration Program (CFLRP)** to provide incentives for communities to work together for sound forest restoration.

- **Maintain and increase funding** for programs that help federal agencies be good partners in landscape conservation.

“**There’s a growing awareness that it’s going to take local leadership and vision like this to drive progress.”**

—U.S. SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE TOM VILSACK

**SPEAKING ON JUNE 1, 2010 AT AMERICA’S GREAT OUTDOORS FIRST LISTENING SESSION**

March 21, 2012

Dear [Name]

As community members and landowners from across the community, we understand the challenges and value the unique partnerships to develop solutions for sustainable communities.

We believe that these “ground-up” solutions provide the fertile ground for productive investments of private and public resources for conservation and rural values. We also recognize that we need to work with our neighbors to address larger scale challenges such as co-habited wildlife corridors, working land-use in the face of change, and sustainable forest and rangeland management.

Working with our neighbors to the east and west, we hosted the first America’s Great Outdoor events in the Nation. Participants included local leaders from the Rocky Mountain Front, and Blackfoot, Clearwater and Swan River Valleys, and national leaders—Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, CEQ Chair Nancy Sutley, Director of the National Park Service John Jarvis, Senators Max Baucus and Jon Tester, and Governor Brian Schweitzer. The landowners formed the Working Lands Council (Council) to respond to President Obama’s public outreach for America’s Great Outdoors and the vision that it will take more than just what can be done in Washington. Meeting the new test of environmental stewardship means finding the best ideas at the grassroots level. It means helping states, communities and non-profits conserve their own resources. And it means figuring out how the federal government can be a better partner.

**OUR RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDE**

- **Support** grass-roots initiatives to address landscape scale conservation by providing resources and technical assistance to community-based conservation leadership and collaboration.

- **Create the right set of incentives and opportunities** for federal agencies to be effective partners in community-based and large landscape conservation.

- **Support the Land and Water Conservation Fund** to allow for broader and reliable conservation, as well as greater leverage of all resources, including conservation easements for private, working lands.

- **Make permanent the enhanced tax deduction** for conservation easement donations as a critical tool for landowners to make the good planning decisions.

- **Fund the new Conservation Forest Land Restoration Program (CFLRP)** to provide incentives for communities to work together for sound forest restoration.

- **Maintain and increase funding** for programs that help federal agencies be good partners in landscape conservation.

Scott Breum
Conservation

Using Partnerships to Keep Landscapes Working for All

Through sharing of information and discussion of strategies for landscape conservation and stewardship, partners keep working landscapes and the rural way of life in the Blackfoot Watershed intact. One of these strategies is to gather each year to discuss integrating working lands and land management into conservation easements. To date, more than 285,000 acres have been conserved by private landowners, land trusts and public agencies working together, including 110,000 acres of perpetual conservation easements.

The Blackfoot Community Project, a partnership between The Nature Conservancy and the Blackfoot Challenge to purchase 89,257 acres of Plum Creek Timber Company land and sell it to private and public buyers, has transferred a total of 71,890 acres to date—16 percent to private owners and 84 to public agencies. A conservation easement was placed on all lands sold to private parties and, in some instances, on lands that went to governmental agencies. In addition, some private buyers sold conservation easements on their existing property. Of the 17,367 acres remaining to be transferred, 60 percent is anticipated for private ownership and 40 percent for public.

2010 HIGHLIGHTS
- 14,581 acres in North Chamberlain transferred to DNRC and FWP
- 80 acres on Marcum Mountain transferred to USFWS

PROJECT SUMMARY OF THE 71,890 ACRES TRANSFERRED
- 23,299 acres to the United States Forest Service
- 11,098 acres to the Bureau of Land Management
- 80 acres to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- 19,353 acres to the Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation
- 6,446 acres to the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- 11,614 acres to private parties including 5,609-acres as the Blackfoot Community Conservation Area

PROJECT SUMMARY OF THE 33,391 ACRES OF PURCHASED OR DONATED CONSERVATION EASEMENTS
- 10,448 acres to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- 15,907 acres to the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- 6,997 acres to the Five Valley Land Trust in Missoula
- 39 acres to The Nature Conservancy of Montana

“We work on real solutions that we can all agree on.
Known as the 80/20 rule, we work on the 80 percent we have in common and leave the 20 percent of our differences at the door.”
—DAVID MANNIX FIFTH GENERATION RANCHER
The Blackfoot Community Conservation Area (BCCA), a 5,600-acre area of mid-elevation forest, native grassland parks and free flowing streams that provides habitat for a plethora of native species and abundant recreational opportunities, was formally established in 2005. A fifteen member Council meets with a Blackfoot Challenge hired land steward and agency partners to discuss cooperative management for multiple use objectives for the Blackfoot Community Conservation Area.

**BCCA HIGHLIGHTS**

- Year-around Block Management agreement with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
- Established 11 campsites to reduce impacts to vegetation and to contain bear attractants
- Seeded 33 acres of native grass following fire management
- Spot spraying weeds on 75 acres and release of biocontrol insects
- Cleared eight miles of firebreak to allow passage of emergency vehicles
- Restored 170 acres of ponderosa pine and fescue savannah
- Established four rotational grazing pastures
- Developed five springs
- Held four educational and information tours
- Offered free Christmas tree permit

The Blackfoot Subbasin Plan, produced with Trout Unlimited to address conservation and monitoring in the Blackfoot Watershed was adopted by the Northwest Power and Conservation Council. www.nwcouncil.org/fw/subbasinplanning/blackfoot/plan/default.htm.
**Restoration**

**Landscape-level Public and Private Restoration**

**Forest Restoration and Fire Management**
The Greenough/Potomac and North Powell Fuels Task Forces work with public and private landowners to create fire safe communities and improve fire management across ownerships. Bringing this cooperation to a landscape level, the Lolo and Lincoln Working Groups of the Montana Forest Restoration Committee, Multiagency Integrated Restoration Strategy Blackfoot Project, and the Southwestern Crown Collaborative Project are integrating the efforts of private landowners and public land managers.

**2010 FOREST/FIRE HIGHLIGHTS**
- 61 acres of fuel mitigation completed
- 13 structures protected through the North Powell Fuels Mitigation Task Force
- Formed Seeley Swan Blackfoot Biomass Working Group
- 163 landowners reached through outreach programs
- NRCS EQIP Special Initiative for Forestry and Fire Management funded to cost share with private landowners
- Planning for impact over a 2 million acre landscape for forest restoration and fire management

**Weed Management**
Integrated weed management practices were applied to approximately 11,000 acres in the Blackfoot Watershed by agencies and landowners. Perhaps the best example of collaborative, cross-boundary weed management is along the Blackfoot River.

The Blackfoot Leafy Spurge Project is now in its 10th year. More than 40 miles of the Blackfoot River were treated for leafy spurge across public and private ownerships. Partners include:

- Private landowners
- Public agencies
- Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund
- Powell and Missoula Counties

The Blackfoot Challenge partnered with the U.S. Forest Service to treat weeds in the Bear Creek and Lake Creek drainages. Nine miles of road were sprayed to control blueweed as well as 400 acres of toadflax infestations.

The Blackfoot Challenge and the U.S. Forest Service also supported local 4-H groups as they collected 2,400 cyphocleounus (knapweed eating bugs) last summer. The bug collection day was organized by the Clearwater Resource Council, Randy Teague (Woodworth Vegetation Management Area), and Missoula County. The bugs were released by partners throughout the watershed as part of ongoing biological weed control efforts.

*We hosted two volunteer weed pulls at the Russell Gates Fishing Access Site in 2010 – our 12th year!*
### Stewardship

**Maintaining Connections**

As grizzly populations expand in the Blackfoot, conflicts have decreased due, in part, to an array of practices that have been adopted by the valley’s residents. And as wolf populations have dramatically increased in the watershed since 2007, livestock losses have been moderate thanks to ranchers who have worked together with contracted riders to closely monitor herds, wolf activity, and to take precautions to reduce depredations.

As we work hard at home, our partnerships are inspiring efforts by other ranching communities in Montana, Oregon, Wyoming, and across international borders to Alberta, Canada. At the end of the day, maintaining connections builds the trust that is essential for reducing conflicts with wildlife.

**Drought** and low flow concerns were high as snowpack was well below normal (about 50-60%) in 2010. Record precipitation in May helped to offset the light snowpack, allowing stream flows to remain near average through June. Despite this, low flows seemed inevitable following warm, dry weather in July and the Drought Committee prepared to implement a response. Flows in the Blackfoot River briefly fell below the 700 cubic feet per second Drought Plan trigger in August. Precipitation in August provided adequate moisture to carry stream flows and water temperatures through the most critical period and fortunately Drought Response was only in effect for seven days.

The Blackfoot **Irrigation Efficiency** Program Results
- Thirteen new sprinkler irrigation system efficiency evaluations completed
- More than 400,000 kilowatt hours of energy savings identified since the program began in 2008
- Evaluations resulted in 125,000 kilowatt hours of energy savings by irrigators. That’s enough energy to power the average Montana home for nearly 13 years!
- New program worked with several irrigators from Greenough to develop irrigation scheduling plans.
- Plans ensure efficient use of irrigation water on more than 1,400 acres
- Irrigation scheduling helped some identify problems like uneven water distribution and inaccurate application amounts

---

**2010 HIGHLIGHTS**
- 313 livestock carcasses removed in 2010
- 2,000 livestock carcasses removed since program began in 2003
- 96% reduction in grizzly bear conflicts from 2003-2010
- 55,000 feet of electric fencing protecting calving areas, homes, and beehives
- 2 portable electric fencing systems for on-call use
- 1 full time range rider and 2 assistants
- 120 residents in neighbor network
- 90 community volunteers participating in annual wolf monitoring

---

"The information we received from the Blackfoot Challenge Irrigation Scheduling Program is invaluable. It’s a tool we can use to increase production, reduce expenses, and ultimately be better stewards of the resource."

—BRYAN RUNNION
PAWS UP RANCH

---

**Community-based Conservation in the Blackfoot Watershed**
Education
Serving All Ages

We served 400 students and nearly 1,000 adults through place-based educational programs in all seven communities and eleven schools within the Blackfoot Watershed. Our partners include private landowners, local teachers, conservation organizations and public agency partners.

To cover a wide-breadth of topics to engage participants of all ages through:

- Tours
- Workshops
- Outdoor treks
- Classes

SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

- Pre-K Days
  - Monthly preschool program to engage young families in learning about nature.
- Wiley Weasel Adventures
  - Rotating K-3 program to learn communication, history and geography to foster a sense of place.
- Youth Field Day
  - Annual field day for 4-6th graders to engage in hands-on learning.
- Adopt-A-Swan Program
  - Curriculum and annual field day for 7-8th grade students to engage in restoration of the trumpeter swan.
  - Online access to learn about trumpeter swans, recovery efforts, track swans, network, and download curriculum

- Montana Natural Resources Youth Camp
  - 33 high school students spent one week engaged in hands on learning in the field
- Community Education Program
  - Three programs attracted more than 100 adults to learn about oral history and wildlife tracking
  - Program to engage adults and families in learning about our Watershed.

We continued outreach and engaged 1,500 friends and neighbors by hosting the annual Partners Tours and the Annual Member’s Meeting. We reached additional audiences through our website and from participation in dozens of presentations, public meetings and press releases.

Schedule of upcoming events can be located on our website calendar at www.blackfootchallenge.org

“I continue to support the Challenge’s efforts to expand the educational programming in the Blackfoot watershed because the Challenge has helped me develop an understanding of how every part of the valley depends on us, as the human component, to make careful, fair, and wise decisions about its resources.”

—SANDRA ROE, LANDOWNER AND RETIRED TEACHER WITH THE NEXT GENERATION!
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. Critical gifts from private individuals help us meet and match requirements for these project funds and provide the bulk of operating funds for committees. We are grateful to the following individuals, organizations, businesses and foundations that truly care about the Blackfoot and its future. Their support in 2010 made our work possible.

Charlie & Sydne Abernathy • Gary Aitken • Tom & Teresa Allen in memory of William Fogarty • Dr. Jeff Alm • Bob Anderson • Brent & Carla Anderson • Robert & Nancy Anderson • (B) Anonymous Donors • Anonymous in honor of Barbara Haines Tokmakian & Roscoe Haines • Christin Archambault in honor of John & Jan Farrar • Patrick & Bernadette Bannister • John & Nina Bauscu • Jim & Norma Bauer • Big Bear Sign Company, Inc. • Big Blackfoot Coalition • Traci Bignell • Geoffrey & Nancy Birnbaum in honor of Patricia Haire • Eldon & Helen Beck • Jon & Anne Bertsche • Neal Blossom & Kathie Roos • Jim & Sally Bogaert • H. Michael Borgens in memory of William Fogarty • Louie Bournia • Boyle, Deveny, Meyer • Bryan & Meg Bradshaw • Tom Browder & Carolyn Lewis • Gary & Wanda Burnett in memory of Anne Burnett • Jamie, Jason & Jenny Burnett in memory of Anne Burnett • William Bucklin • Kathleen Burchett • Jerry & Laura Burns • Caroline Byrd • John & Betty Cardwell in honor of Anna Cardwell & Margaret Craig • California Cattlemen’s Assoc • Virginia Causey • The Chutney Foundation • Cinnabar Foundation • Clearwater Equipment • Richard Clough • David Cochran • Bob Colley & Kate Godfrey • The Compton-Hunter Gal • Margaret & Harry & Cindy Poett • Ponderosa Snow Machines • William Fogarty in memory of Jenny & Kathy Curran • David Danforth • Carlene Larsson • John & Cheryl Dale • Ty & Alyssa Daniels • Frank & Pat DeLeo • Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation • Larry & Debbie Dillree • Ila B Dousman Fund • Betty duPont • Ali Duvall • E-L Ranch • Pen & Liz Edwards • Jon & Linda Ender • The Charles Engelhard Foundation • Frank John Anderson • Todd & Twyla Johnson • Tamarra Leigh Jordan • Amber Farago in memory of William Fogarty • David Fawcett in honor of Potter & Vero Families • Racene Friede • Carol Fries • Corie & Laurice Fritz, Morris Ranch • Patricia Fogarty in memory of Bill Fogarty • Tim & Sue Furey in honor of Marietta & Bob Pfister • Lyle & Gail Grimes Charitable Foundation • Gateway Printing of Missoula • Richard & June George • Hank & Cathy Goetz • Granite Conservation District • Greater Yellowstone Coalition • Bob & Patricia Griffes • Maurice Guay • Neva Hassanein • Geraard Hatheway • Joseph & Louise Head • Heart Bar Heart Ranch, Inc. • Ralph & Billie Higgins • Dale Hinkle • Ron and Clarice Hinman in memory of William Fogarty • Tom & Candace Hinz • Joe & Betty Hollander • Gordon & Bette Hoven in memory of William Fogarty • Jerry & Rochelle Hover • Tim Edwards & Gayle Hudgins • Hurlbut Farm & Forestry Inc. • Tom Iide and Shari Mariugh in memory of the Copenhaver Brothers-Howard, Gene, Wendell • Denny & Charolotte Iverson • J & J Manufacturing • Gary & Sharon Jacobsen • Jake & Kristi Jacobsen in memory of Harold & Hazel Jacobsen • Gerry & Chuck Jennings • Heather Johnson & Brad Andres • Robert Johnson • Todd & Twyla Johnson • Tamara Leigh Jordan • Amber Kamps • The Kelley’s • Lisa Kemp in honor of Dad and Cindy Poett • Lisa Kemp in honor of Mr & Mrs HW Poett • Richard & Marilyn Kemphorn • David & Kathy Keshimer in memory of Maors Lorenz • Steve Klotzel & Andrea Morgan, Greenwing Restoration • Bob & Ellen Knight • Charles & Marcia Knell • Polk Laffoon in honor of Ralph & Toone Burchenal • Tom & Judy Lehman • Tony Liane • Land Lindbergh • Jerome Loendorf • Wendy Lofting in honor of Bill & Betty Potter • Gary A. Long in memory of Tammy Lynn Long • Tim & Donna Love • Lovett-Woodsum Charitable Foundation, Inc. • Renee & Ernest Lundberg • Fred Lurie • Gerald & Rene Lyons • Manley Ranch • Mannix Brothers, Inc. • Mannix-Raymond Ranch, LLC • Brent & Stacey Mannix • Les & Rita Marcum • Jerry & Sharon Marks • Bill Massie • Dan Massie • Philip A. Mason • Brian & Tyra McDonald • Randall McDonald • Shari McDonald • Mike & Sharon McLane • Don & Barb McNally • Maynard McPhee • Ted & Kim Mead • M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust • Montana Wilderness Association • MT Department of Natural Resources • MT Environmental Protection Agency • MT Poverty Water Well Drilling, Mark & Bonnie Christopher • Michael John Murphy • National Forest Foundation • Natural Resources Conservation Service • The Nature Conservancy • Karen & Tim Neel • Pariac & Becky Neibergs • Harold & Anne Nelson • Jim & Fay Nelson • Nevada Creek Ranch • Stan & Colleen Nicholson • North Powell Conservation District • Jerry & Deborah O’Connell • Roy & Susan O’Conner • Pat O’Herren • Oral Surgical Associates in memory of William Fogarty • Partners for Conservation • PAWS UP Foundation • Donald & Rosemarie Phillips in memory of William Fogarty • Ken & Pam, Pitman Machining • Plediades Foundation • Plum Creek Foundation • Plum Creek Timber Company • Coral & Huter Gal • Margaret & Harry & Cindy Poett • Ponderosa Snow Machines • Port of Montana in memory of William Fogarty • Wym & Jan Portman • Bill & Betty Potter • Ken & Pam Price • Jay & Kay Proops • Robert Purcell & Sarah Swanberg in honor of Stuart Swanberg • Bob & Judy Rangitsch • Republic Services, Inc. • Royal Riedinger in honor of Ralph & Toone Burchenal • Jon & Karen Rimmel • John & Sandra Roe • Sandra Roe in memory of John Roos • J.C. and Corinne Roos • Edward Rosenthal • Bob & Dawn Rowland • Salisbury Images • Robert Sanders • Ezra & Nancy Schawlm • Charlie Sehorn • Robert Shaw • Hugh & Barbara Sheehy • Ron & Addie Shields • Paul Shiler • Ty & Alivia Smith • Fritz & Nancy Snideman in memory of William Fogarty • Gregory and Jennifer Sokoloff • Sonoran Institute • Jay & Sandy Stitt • Wade, Diana & Marjorie Stitt • Steve & Virginia Stocks • Jim & Colleen Stone, Rolling Stone Ranch • John & Jane Stone • Delbert & Carolyn Straub • Jim Streeter • Jim & Karen Stutzman • Bill Sullivan • Sustainable North West • Randy & Sharon Teague • Rich Torquemada & Cherie Peacock • Joseph & Regina Turner • University of Montana • U.S. Bank of Helena • U.S. Bureau of Land Management • U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service • U.S. Forest Service • James & Marcia Valeo Foundation • Valmont Industries, Inc. • Peter & Maria Van Loben Sels • Elisabeth Van Woert • Juanita Vero • Louis & Mary Vero in honor of Emmanuel Vero • U.S. Army CW3 • Klaus & Beate von Stutterheim • Mark Wilms & Noreen Walsh • Vicki Watson • Brad & Corbin Weltzien • Gary & Beverly Weltzien • David & Mary Wesley • Scott Frost & Valerie West • Kevin Wetherell • Price & Laura Williams • Douglas Webber & Nancy Winslow • Erin Zwier.

We also acknowledge the many photographs and in kind donations we received throughout the year.

We strive to list each and every donor accurately, but errors and omissions do sometimes occur. We deeply apologize if we have missed you. Please, if your name has been incorrectly listed or does not appear, contact the Ovando Office at (406) 793-3900.

“... relies on the generous and trusting nature of our partners.”

— JIM STONE
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Community-based Conservation in the Blackfoot Watershed
A $750,000 grant from The Nature Conservancy resulting from the Blackfoot Community Project added substantially to our endowments and Sources of Funds in 2010. This endowed principal is managed by the Endowment Committee to benefit the Blackfoot Community Conservation Area, other conservation lands and associated lands resulting from the Blackfoot Community Project, and the Blackfoot Watershed. The BCP Operating Reserve, a cash fund, is also managed by the Endowment Committee for the short-term needs of the BCCA until the endowment funds provide sustainable annual allocations. The Board of Directors manages all the Challenge’s finances by approving an annual operating budget funded from secured sources, and investing four reserve funds and three endowments for long-term stability.

**Financials**

The Blackfoot Challenge 2010 Annual Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>UNRESTRICTED</th>
<th>TEMPORARY RESTRICTED</th>
<th>PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Reserve</td>
<td>$4,801</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designated Program Reserve</td>
<td>$53,852</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Designated Operating Fund</td>
<td>$106,849</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BCP Operating Reserve</td>
<td>$205,788</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>$195,485</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 3,265,732</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 0</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION** (Dec 31, 2010)

**Source of Funds**

- Corporate: 46.6%
- Government: Federal/State: 33.4%
- Foundation: 9.7%
- Individual Giving: 5.3%
- Administration & Fundraising: 13.5%
- Programs: 86.5%
- Interest & Misc: 3.0%

**Use of Funds**

- Programs: 86.5%

---

“In my 32 years of auditing, I find the Blackfoot Challenge the most efficient in their use of the government funds.”

— Wayne Hintz
CPA

---

Randy Smith 2010 Annual Report
The 2010 Darrell Sall Memorial Award went to our outstanding and long-time partners, the Bureau of Land Management, and to their regional field manager of many years and Secretary of the Challenge Board of Directors, Nancy Anderson. They share in this honor for their significant contributions to natural resource management and rural community values in the Blackfoot Watershed.