

Heart of the Rockies Initiative

Working to conserve clean water, iconic Western landscapes, and the communities that depend on them.

December 2018

Late Fall sunset over the Rocky Mountain Front, Montana

PARTNERSHIP - HERITAGE - LANDSCAPE - COMMUNITY

As 2018 comes to an end, we look back on a wonderful transition year with new leadership, an expanding staff, and deep reflection on our strategic focus. We appreciate the community of people who make our work possible and are humbled by the opportunity to work with such talented and dedicated people.

Our land trust partners have done innovative and excellent work with willing landowners and communities throughout the Heart of the Rockies region this year. We are forever grateful for their achievements and the people who support them, and for the cumulative impact their work has on the greater landscape of the Rocky Mountain West. We also work with many partners - in federal and state agencies,

universities, public land advocates, conservation groups, landowners, and businesses. This extended partnership and collaboration allows us to have a vision that includes all lands, recognizing the importance of public, private and tribal lands, and all communities, both human and wildlife, in our efforts to conserve continentally significant ecological values at the landscape scale and community values that are prized locally.

This past year has set the stage with powerful momentum as we continue our work to deliver science-based strategy, capacity, and capital funding to our land trust partners. We're looking forward to a bright and successful 2019.

- Your friends at the Heart of the Rockies Initiative

Our vision for this region is of vast landscapes that are ecologically intact, functional, and linked together, and of human communities where local people retain their heritage and sense of place, enjoy a high quality of life, and are connected to nature.

HEART OF THE ROCKIES INITIATIVE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Idaho Falls, ID

Kristin Troy
Salmon River Lodge
Salmon, ID

STAFF

Gary Burnett
Executive Director

Bray Beltrán
Science Director

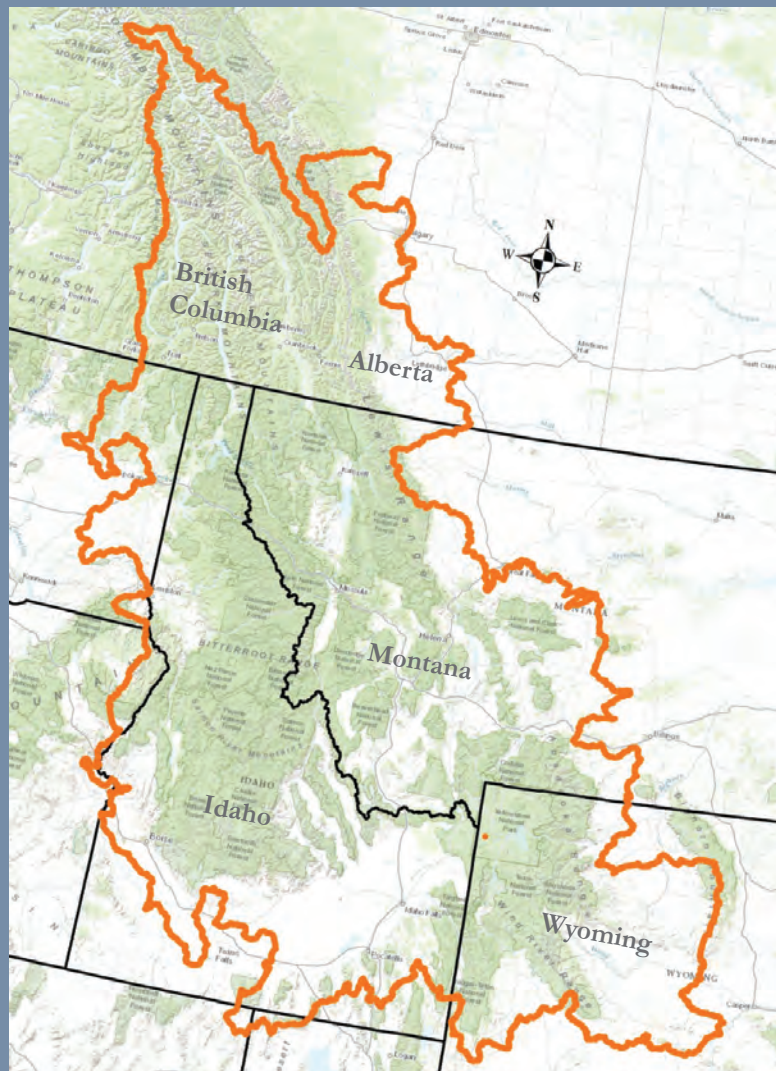
JoAnn Grant
Program Director

Emily Harkness
Project Coordinator

Kali Orton
Development Director

120 HICKORY ST - SUITE B
MISSOULA, MT 59801

OUR SERVICE AREA



HEART OF THE ROCKIES MEMBER LAND TRUSTS

Bitter Root Land Trust – Hamilton, MT

Five Valleys Land Trust – Missoula, MT

Flathead Land Trust – Kalispell, MT

Gallatin Valley Land Trust – Bozeman, MT

Inland Northwest Land Conservancy– Spokane, WA

Lemhi Regional Land Trust – Salmon, ID

Jackson Hole Land Trust – Jackson, WY

Kaniksu Land Trust – Sandpoint, ID

Nature Conservancy of Canada - BC, AB

Palouse Land Trust – Moscow, ID

Prickly Pear Land Trust – Helena, MT

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust – Pocatello, ID

Teton Regional Land Trust – Driggs, ID

The Conservation Fund

The Nature Conservancy – Idaho

The Nature Conservancy – Montana

The Nature Conservancy – Wyoming

Trust for Public Land

Vital Ground Foundation – Missoula, MT

Wood River Land Trust – Hailey, ID

Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust
– Cheyenne, WY

WWW.HEART-OF-ROCKIES.ORG

LightHawk partnership helps highlight local action in the Centennial Valley



August 2018 - With aerial support from LightHawk, we toured the Centennial Valley by small aircraft with landowners, and local and national partners, to learn about local action like the wildlife conflict-reduction program of the Centennial Valley Association. The big sky vantage point helped us see how the valley connects with Yellowstone National Park, Henry's Lake, and Madison and Ruby valleys.

Pictured (L to R) are LightHawk volunteer pilot Ray Lee, HOTR's Gary Burnett, ranchers Alan and Yvonne Martinell, Liz Bell of the Wilburforce Foundation, TNC's Jim Berkey, and National Geographic's Chris Johns.

Fall Partnership Meeting held in Missoula with field tour in the Blackfoot Watershed



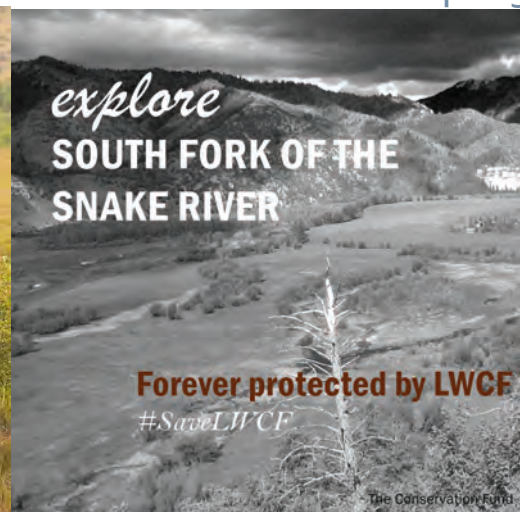
October 2018 - New Board member, Denny Iverson, talks with partners about his family's ranching history in the Potomac area of the Blackfoot Valley, his approach to stewardship, and the complex Blackfoot - Clearwater project that conserved thousands of acres of productive forest lands.

Pictured (L to R) are Lovina Englund of Palouse Land Trust, Peter Brown of Gallatin Valley Land Trust, Andrea Silverman of Prickly Pear Land Trust, Vickie Edwards of Five Valleys Land Trust, Denny Iverson, and Board President Heather Greene.

Showing support for one of the Nation's premiere conservation programs



Congressman Mike Simpson talks with participants about past successes of the LWCF program on the banks of the South Fork of the Snake River.



In our effort for re-authorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), we worked with the Idaho LWCF Coalition on a fantastic event in August.

To shine a light on the importance of LWCF, several conservation groups hosted float and ground

tours and a celebration on the South Fork of the Snake River on Aug. 23.

The celebration included Idaho's Rep. Mike Simpson, staff members for Sens. Jim Risch and Mike Crapo, local landowners, community leaders, and conservationists, and received positive press. That week

also saw a coordinated social media blitz to #SaveLWCF.

Similar efforts have been underway with our partners in Montana and Wyoming, as well, with a broad spectrum of interests looking to Congress to act on this important program.

Michael Whitfield honored with National Conservation Leadership Award



Friends and colleagues celebrate with Michael after he was presented with the Land Trust Alliance's Kingsbury Browne Conservation Leadership Award at Rally in Pittsburgh in October.

Photo by DJ Glisson II, courtesy of LTA

The Heart of the Rockies Initiative's former executive director, Michael Whitfield, received the Land Trust Alliance's (LTA) Kingsbury Browne Conservation Leadership Award & Fellowship during LTA's Rally 2018 in Pittsburgh. The award is presented to an individual whose leadership resulted in extraordinary accomplishments for land conservation and the land trust community.

Throughout his 30-year career in the land trust community, Michael has been a trusted leader, inspiring mentor, creative visionary, and a true champion of locally driven partnerships.

He was a founding board member and then executive director of Teton Regional Land Trust (TRLT) in Driggs, Idaho. He led TRLT for 15 years, building it into an effective and influential land trust. His passion and vision led to conservation of some of the most irreplaceable land and waters of the region and established TRLT as an

innovative, principled, and respected community partner.

In 2008, Michael expanded his influence and took the helm as executive director of the Heart of the Rockies Initiative. Michael and TRLT had been early participants of this initiative that began in 2002. He long believed that by working together land trusts across this region could bring

more resources to the table and elevate each other's work.

Until he retired in November 2017, his leadership significantly increased the stature of this partnership and succeeded at bringing much needed capacity building, capital funding, and conservation planning to land trust members.

Today, the Heart of the Rockies Initiative is known as a great incubator of new ideas, like Terrafirma, a national easement defense insurance program, and state land trust associations. It is recognized as a ground-breaking and remarkable partnership known for sophisticated and collaborative approaches. It has elevated the profile of private land conservation and is respected for telling a story that is hopeful, inclusive, and solution-oriented.

"At a time when many land trusts in the West were really asking the question, 'Should we be working on community-based conservation or should we be focused on landscape-level conservation,' Michael was one of the first people answering that question with, 'Both. We should be doing both things,'" said Wendy Ninteman, the Land Trust Alliance's Western director. "That passion and that commitment and that integrity are really contagious."

Michael will serve in the Kingsbury

"I have long believed that land trusts and those who lead them are critical players in the conservation of entire landscapes — rural and urban, eastern and western, landscapes human-dominated and truly wild."

- Michael Whitfield

Browne Fellowship at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy for 2018-2019. For the fellowship, he will engage in research, writing and mentoring with the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, a think tank devoted to land policy that's based in Massachusetts.

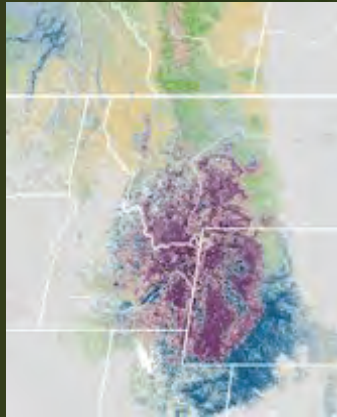
A Land Trust Alliance press release contributed to this article.

Birds and land trusts make a great partnership

The Heart of the Rockies Initiative joined the Advisory Team of the Cornell Land Trust Bird Conservation Initiative in October. This initiative of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology looks to maximize the mutual benefits that birds and land trusts can provide to each other by providing bird-related resources, tools (like eBird), partnership, and funding opportunities.

An expanded land trust grants program will be announced in January to provide funding for high priority, bird-focused conservation projects. Look for the Request for Proposals, and other great information on the initiative, at www.birds.cornell.edu/landtrust/.

Also, eBird's new Status and Trends analysis provides detailed population information for 107 species of North American birds, as well as dynamic maps providing a depth of information in key areas useful to land trusts.



Trumpeter Swan abundance map from the newly released eBird Status and Trends analysis found at ebird.org.



Courtesy Jackson Hole Land Trust

Science Corner: Gene-flow Connectivity

The Heart of the Rockies Initiative is partnering with the Center for Large Landscape Conservation and Northern Arizona University on a research project that engages scientists and stakeholders in the study of the parameters needed for successful gene flow in wildlife corridors.

We know as development and habitat

fragmentation increase, connectivity will become more vital on the landscape. What we don't know are the attributes which make connectivity successful.

Principal investigators are Dr. Paul Beier of Northern Arizona University and Dr. Andy Gregory of Bowling Green University.

The study seeks to determine the traits of successful corridors, such as critical width, critical road density, or other factors compatible with long-term gene flow through a corridor.

This project is generously supported by a grant from the Hewlett Foundation.

A MILLION THANKS.....WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU

Our work is supported by gifts from:

Brainerd Foundation
Bray Beltrán & Rebecca Hale
Brian Bean
Charlotte Martin Foundation
Chris DeForest
Cinnabar Foundation
Cross Charitable Foundation
Dave & Susie Work

David Hillary
Denny Iverson
Emily & Sam Harkness
Eric Grace
Gary & Wanda Burnett
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Kali Orton & Eli Hannon
Karen Rice
Kendeda Fund
Linda Merigiano
Martha Hayes

Michael Whitfield
Mithun Family Foundation
Sarah Breckenridge
Toni Ruth
Vital Ground Foundation
Wendy Hughson
Wendy Ninteman
Wilburforce Foundation

Fresh Faces on Staff at Heart of the Rockies

We are excited to introduce two new staff members at the Heart of the Rockies Initiative, who are great additions to our fundraising efforts and our work with the High Divide Collaborative.



Emily Harkness

In the spring of 2018, we created a High Divide Collaborative internship, hiring a part-time intern to help coordinate the Collaborative. Emily Harkness has a BS in Zoology and a graduate certificate in Natural Resource Conflict Resolution. Emily's primary role with the Collaborative is to coordinate the newly established work groups, providing partners with capacity to act strategically on specific conservation challenges in the High Divide. We just moved Emily from an intern position to a part-time Project Coordinator.



Kali Orton

We have restructured our vacant Development Director position and hired a new person into the position. Kali Orton holds an MS in Environmental Studies and a graduate certificate in Natural Resources Conflict Resolution from the University of Montana, and brings over a decade of experience in conservation nonprofit administration and development to her role at HOTR. Kali will be instrumental in diversifying our income, both for the partnership and our operating budget.

Denny Iverson joins the Heart of the Rockies Board

Denny Iverson grew up on a farm in Minnesota, moving to Potomac with his parents in 1975 as a teenager. The Iversons bought a ranch there that Denny, his wife Charlotte, his brother Les and sister-in-law Sue continue to operate today. The next generation is starting to take root there in the form of Les' son Justin and his wife Jennifer. Denny's own kids hope to come back one day and take over his duties on the ranch. Denny serves on the Five Valleys Land Trust board, the Blackfoot Challenge board, and is a past member of the Missoula County Open Lands Citizen Advisory Committee.

The Iversons placed an easement on their ranch some years ago and most recently, Denny and Charlotte placed an easement on some of their own farmland that the ranch operates along with the home ranch. Denny spent 30 years working as a logger to support his ranching habit before selling the business three years ago to ranch full time.



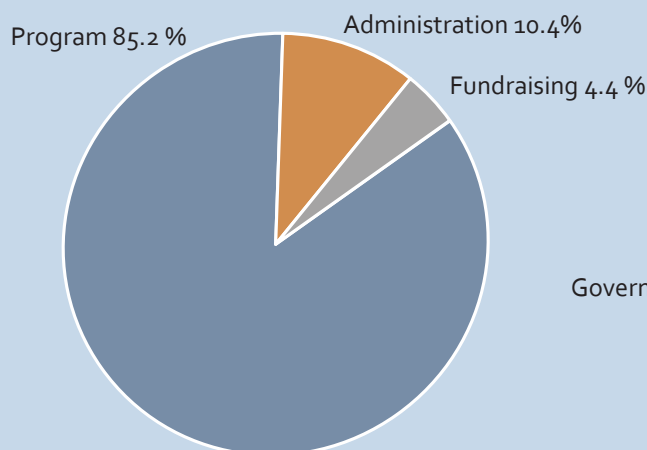
Denny Iverson, Iverson Ranch, Potomac, Montana

Over the years Denny has been an instrumental voice for conservation and collaboration, helping find solutions to predator-livestock conflicts, the resale of corporate timber lands following a community-driven plan, and most recently, the future of economic development in a rural watershed. He has a five-year-old grandson whom he hopes will take over the ranch when he's finally ready to give up the reins in his 90s.

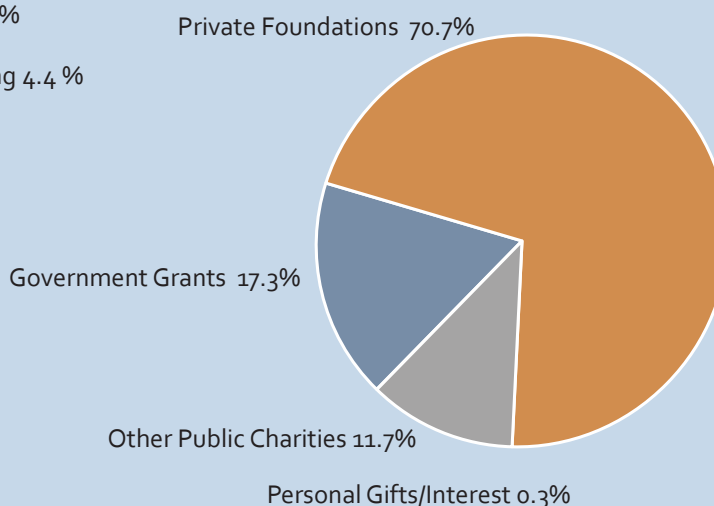
FINANCIAL REPORT

Our 2017 Financials were audited by an independent accounting firm, Peterson CPA Group, P.C., of Missoula, MT, and approved by the Board of Directors in May 2018.

EXPENSES BY CATEGORY - \$366,307 TOTAL



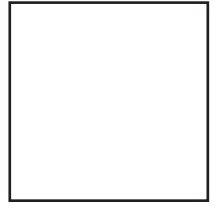
SOURCES OF SUPPORT - \$363,328 TOTAL



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION DECEMBER 31, 2017

	2017 (Audited)
ASSETS	
CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 254,640
Pledges receivable	200,000
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	454,640
OTHER ASSETS	
Security deposit	150
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 454,790
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable	\$3,740
Accrued payroll liabilities	10,601
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$14,341
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted	\$273,255
Temporarily restricted	167,194
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$440,449
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$454,790

HEART OF THE ROCKIES INITIATIVE
120 HICKORY STREET - SUITE B
MISSOULA, MT 59801



MISSION

To increase the pace and durable impact of conservation for both the continentally irreplaceable landscapes of the Central Rocky Mountain corridor and community values that are prized locally.

VALUES

Relevant, community-based conservation - *Our approach to conservation is based upon concern and respect for the people and communities of our region.*

Long-term landscape scale outcomes - *We work with many partners to ensure dynamically connected, resilient and sustainable landscapes and communities across the Central Rocky Mountain corridor for the long-term.*

Trust to sustain our ability to work collaboratively - *Our members, partners, funders, and communities must have confidence in our ability to do what we say we will do. We value our integrity and ability to add value.*

Scientific, knowledge based approach - *Our work is guided by application of scientific understanding and respect for local knowledge.*

Organizational excellence - *We work to ensure that both we and our members are effective, impactful, financially sound, and sustainable organizations that meet their stewardship obligations.*

Transboundary outcomes - *We are committed to communicate and cooperate with many partners across state, provincial, and international boundaries, and strive to set a global example for cooperative conservation action.*