



HEART OF THE ROCKIES

Working from common ground to find lasting, locally-driven solutions for conservation and communities

WINTER 2020

The Heart of the Rockies Initiative envisions a region where actively engaged people and communities work together across geographic and organizational boundaries to protect, restore, and steward the lands and waters that sustain natural systems and support community livelihoods.

HEART OF THE ROCKIES INITIATIVE

SERVING THE CENTRAL ROCKIES OF NORTH AMERICA

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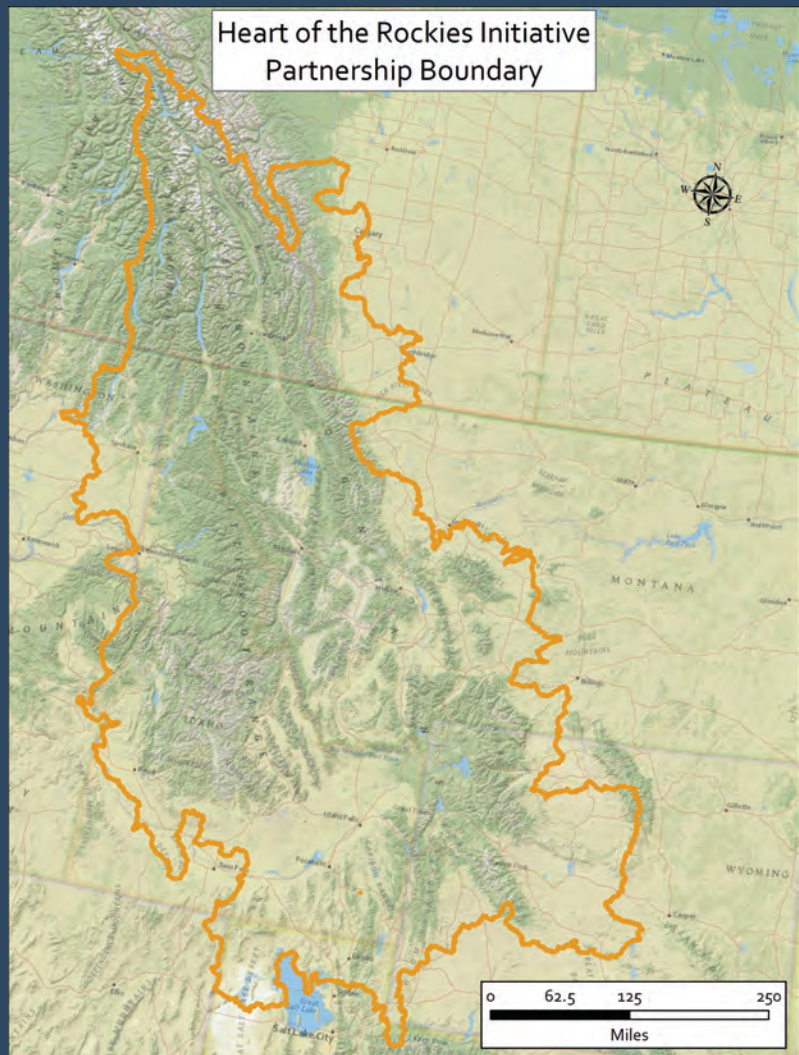
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Bear River Land Conservancy – Logan, UT

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

Jackson Hole Land Trust – Jackson, WY

Kaniksu Land Trust – Sandpoint, ID

Land Trust of the Treasure Valley – Boise, ID

Lemhi Regional Land Trust – Salmon, ID

Montana Land Reliance – Helena, MT

Nature Conservancy of Canada – BC, AB

Palouse Land Trust – Moscow, ID

Payette Land Trust – McCall, ID

Prickly Pear Land Trust – Helena, MT

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation – Missoula, MT

Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust – Pocatello, ID

Teton Regional Land Trust – Driggs, ID

The Conservation Fund – ID, MT, WY

The Nature Conservancy – Idaho

The Nature Conservancy – Montana

The Nature Conservancy – Wyoming

Trust for Public Land – Bozeman, MT

Vital Ground Foundation – Missoula, MT

Wood River Land Trust – Hailey, ID

Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust – Cheyenne, WY

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A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

WELL, 2020, WHAT CAN WE SAY...

It was a difficult year for everyone, on many different levels, but we found several silver linings along the way. 2020 shone a light on the importance of land and the outdoors to our health and sanity. It brought us together in new ways to address justice, equity, and inclusion in conservation. It also illuminated the vital importance of region's agricultural producers and our food systems. And land trusts are busier than ever responding to landowner and community interest in our collective work.

At Heart of the Rockies Initiative, we have a vision of working from common ground to keep habitat and working lands connected, for people and wildlife. In spite of this year's challenges, we've continued to bring people together to find lasting, locally-driven conservation solutions. We embarked on exciting new programs this year and we're happy to share these stories with you in this Winter 2020 issue:

We developed a new strategy with our 26 land trust members to keep wildlife habitat connected across the 315 million-acre Central Rockies region.

Our new Rural Development program is helping bridge the too-often polarized values of conservation and rural economies.

The High Divide Collaborative brought landowners, government agencies, and conservation nonprofits together to share best practices for aspen restoration.

And we're co-coordinating a seven-state coalition of landowner-led groups, government agencies, and Indigenous nations working to reduce conflicts between carnivores and ranchers.

We look forward to 2021 and continuing this work and wish you all a safe, healthy, refreshing New Year!

Gary Burnett



Happy Holidays!



Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year from Heart of the Rockies staff and board! We hope that your holiday season brings light and joy to you at the end of this unprecedented year.

This holiday season, will you please consider making a gift to Heart of the Rockies Initiative? Your contribution helps us keep habitat and working lands connected for people and wildlife by working together from common ground. Your gift -- of any size -- makes a huge difference for conservation in this incredible region.

Our generous board and staff have come together and pledged to double your donation. For every dollar you give, they will donate another dollar, up to \$8,000.

We are so grateful for your partnership and for considering a gift to Heart of the Rockies this year. Thank you.

DONATE

Keep It Connected: Putting the funding spotlight on wildlife connectivity and private lands



Photo by Tony Bynum

Many people who own and manage farms, ranches, and timberlands are willing partners in keeping their lands intact for wildlife habitat. Local land trusts are critical partners for bringing tools to the table to conserve working landscapes while protecting wildlife habitat and connectivity. However, the single largest impediment to lasting conservation of the region's wildlife connectivity is access to capital funds.

Unfortunately, many working lands that accommodate the movement and distribution of wildlife don't meet the targets of existing funding sources like the federal Agricultural Land Easement Program or Forest Legacy Program.

These funding sources don't adequately support maintaining wildlife connectivity through private lands. Too often, we lack the private match needed to take full advantage of public funding. When dedicated funding is

available, however, land trusts have a proven track record of success.

To help meet this need, we are launching the Keep It Connected strategy to highlight and market our land trusts' wildlife connectivity projects. The initial portfolio funds 25 active and ready projects, with new projects rotating in as others are completed.

We are seeking increased investment by private foundations and philanthropists who value the region's iconic wildlife and recognize this rare opportunity to keep wildlife habitat connected.

We are also working with the Land Trust Alliance and The Climate Trust to access carbon markets for private capital to support these projects, and are helping to ensure that public funding remains available for private land conservation.



Access to wildlife connectivity funding will enable our land trust members to focus on private land conservation at the scale needed to keep wildlife habitat connected.

We have the opportunity to conserve the large, connected, and functioning ecosystem of the Central Rocky Mountains—in a way that builds local support for conservation at large—but land trusts need increased funding if they are to keep large natural areas connected through private lands.

HIGH DIVIDE COLLABORATIVE UPDATE

Aspen in the Northern Rockies



Field trip participants gather at Birch Creek recreation area near Dillon, Montana, to learn more about aspen management and monitoring.

The High Divide Collaborative co-hosted an aspen workshop with Western Aspen Alliance, BLM, U.S. Forest Service, and MT Dept. of Natural Resources Conservation in September. *Aspen in the Northern Rockies* was a two-day event with a virtual and field-day component.

The field day was held in the Birch Creek recreation area outside Dillon, focusing on an aspen treatment

project from the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest and different monitoring techniques. This project was around 350 acres, and involved cutting, slashing, resting, and jack-pot burning over the course of two years. Thirty participants were at the field day from multiple state and federal agencies, NGOs, and watershed groups.

It was a treat to safely gather with

friends and colleagues during COVID on such a beautiful day.

Due to the high interest, and limited space this year, a multi-day field workshop is planned for 2021.

Please reach out Emily Harkness, Project Coordinator at Heart of the Rockies Initiative if you have questions.

Emily@heart-of-rockies.org

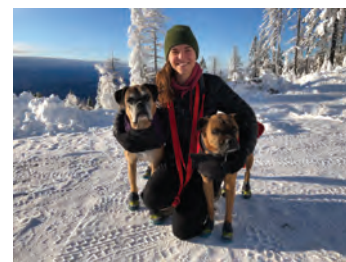
Wildlife movement working group bolstered by 2020 interns

We were excited to have Shauni Secombe and Emma Gjullin join the team for the summer. Both are graduate students at University of Montana in the Natural Resource Conflict Resolution certificate program.

Thanks to funding from the Lincoln Institute, these two helped us move the needle on a wildlife movement working group, and explore environmental justice issues in the High Divide. Emma and Shauni's work complemented and was guided by Michael Whitfield's paper "Toward Holistic Landscape Conservation in the 21st Century."

Emma Gjullin is an Environmental Philosophy and Natural Resource Conflict Resolution graduate student at the University of Montana. She primarily researches the ethics of geoengineering, and is interested in the intersection of science and collaboration.

Shauni Secombe is an Environmental Studies graduate student at the University of Montana, where she is working to complete dual certifications in Environmental Education and Natural Resource Conflict Resolution.



Emma Gjullin



Shauni Secombe

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

USDA Rural Business Development Grants Support Community Conservation Initiatives in Lincoln and Choteau, MT

U.S. Rural Development Rural Business Development Grants in Choteau and Lincoln brought over \$30,000 in local capacity and will collectively support 62 existing jobs and grow 34 positions over the coming years. Projects include trail development and increased promotion and visibility of recreation opportunities.

In Lincoln, Heart of the Rockies partnered with the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, Montana Business Assistance Connection, The Wilderness Society, and Blackfoot Pathways, MSU Western Transportation Institute, Lewis and Clark County, Montana Governor's Office, United States Forest Service and Sculpture in the Wild to deliver resources to Envision Lincoln.

Envision Lincoln is a community group started in 2014 with a focus on revitalization, safety, and recreation tourism. As an unincorporated community, Lincoln was significantly lacking in the capacity needed to put their 2018 in town trails plan into action. The community had also made progress in compiling public access information in hopes of promoting nearby recreation and Lincoln's main street as a hub for opportunities.

HOTR's Rural Development Director worked with the local coordinator, Karyn Good, and partners to submit a USDA Rural Business Development Grant that supports detailed trail

planning as well as an interactive trail map that will be housed on the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce website.

In Choteau, the City of Choteau Area Port Authority was midway through a marketing research and promotion project, including a recently updated a Visit Choteau website to promote tourism in the Rocky Mountain Front town. Our Rural Development Director worked with Mary Sexton at the Port Authority as well as the Chamber of Commerce, Tourism and Business Improvement District, and Sweetgrass Economic Development Association to submit a USDA Rural Business Development Grant to support the Choteau Acantha's development of an interactive recreation map for the website as well as the design and installation of signs on Hwy 87, highlighting two primary gateways to recreation.

In carrying out this work, we were encouraged by the availability of resources and eagerness of program managers to deliver resources to these two frontier towns. Local businesses were quick to quantify the economic impact of increased recreation

tourism. Realizing that access to rural development resources hinges on making the connection between conservation and economic development, Heart of Rockies Rural Development Program also facilitated training for seven land trust partners on Telling the Economic Story of Conserved Lands and Trails and we look forward to partnering more directly with land trust partners to serve community needs in 2021.

An overview of the community project in Lincoln and a summary of tips for accessing the USDA RBDG Grant can be found in the Montana Access Project's webinar recording from December 8th, 2020.



(Left to Right) Erin Farris-Olsen, Rural Development Director at HOTR; Lori Richards, Chamber of Commerce and Owner of the Wheel Inn Tavern*; Becky Garland, Blackfoot Pathways Sculpture in the Wild; and Karyn Good, Envision Lincoln Coordinator.

*great tater tots if you have a hankering

Seven-state coalition wins national award to innovate & evaluate ways to reduce conflict between livestock & predators

Heart of the Rockies Initiative learned in November that we were awarded a Conservation Innovation Grant to co-coordinate a seven-state coalition of landowner-led groups, government agencies, and Indigenous nations working to reduce conflicts between carnivores and ranchers.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service announced that this colossal coalition¹, spanning 20 groups across seven states and two tribal nations, had been awarded a conservation innovation grant of almost \$1 million to reduce the financial and social burden of expanding predator populations through innovation and evaluation of practices that reduce agricultural conflict with predators like bears and wolves.

Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) are competitive grants that drive public and private sector innovation in resource conservation. The project will implement field trials on nonlethal techniques in seven states with six independent producers and 11 local landowner groups, representing more than 600 producers, each year for three years to enable producer-led innovation.

“Grizzly bear recovery in the Northern Rockies is a major conservation success story, but if we don’t develop more and better tools for reducing livestock losses, ranchers in the Madison Valley won’t survive the

grizzly’s comeback,” said rancher and director of coalition partner Madison Valley Ranchlands Group Linda Owens. “Without viable ranches, there will be far less habitat for bears in the long run.”

Heart of the Rockies Initiative was officially awarded the grant, which totals \$886,255 to be spent over three years (2021-23). The High Divide Collaborative played a key role in mobilizing a partnership of landowner-led groups to join the coalition. The team application was a product of the Conflict Reduction Consortium, a group convened by the Western Landowners Alliance to bring landowners into direct dialogue with public agencies and conservation groups to advance solutions to human-wildlife conflicts. The grant is part of a growing acknowledgment of the need for more solutions to human-wildlife conflict including recent passage of the America’s Conservation Enhancement Act and the 2019 John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act.

“The initial work done by the coalition to solicit input from and build relationships with partners and producers in local communities across the project area is commendable and will go a long way toward fostering adoption of proven conservation practices,” said Tom Watson, State Conservationist for NRCS in Montana. “NRCS is excited to support focused

efforts by conservation partners to solve complex issues facing Montana’s farmers and ranchers.”

Partnering closely with landowners and the NRCS, the coalition will work to increase adoption of the most effective practices, which may include electric fencing, range riding, carcass removal, and others. In particular, the program will develop knowledge-sharing resources and work with NRCS to determine the practice’s eligibility for dedicated conservation cost-share funding from the agency.

“Protecting livestock from predators is a complex endeavor,” said Nelson Shirley, president of Spur Lake Cattle Company, which shares land with packs of federally endangered Mexican Gray Wolves in Arizona and New Mexico. “We’re hopeful that new non-lethal methods of preventing depredations can be developed from these field trials”

¹ Western Landowners Alliance, Heart of the Rockies Initiative, Defenders of Wildlife, Northeast Washington Wolf-Cattle Collaborative (WA), Lava Lake Land & Livestock (ID), Centennial Valley Association (MT), Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Region 2, Big Hole Watershed Committee (MT), Granite Conservation District (MT), Ruby Valley Conservation District (MT), Swan Valley Connections (MT), Watershed Restoration Coalition (MT), Madison Valley Ranchlands Group (MT), Krebs Livestock (OR), Blackfeet Nation Stockgrowers Association (MT), Rocky Mountain Front Collaborative (MT), Willow Creek Ranch (CA), Owens Ranch (OR), Truax Ranch (CA), Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes (MT), Spur Lake Cattle Company (AZ/NM)



News around the Heart of the Rockies

Highlights from our members

Bear River Land Conservancy — Logan, UT

Bear River Bottoms is an existing project with PacifiCorp Energy near Trenton, Utah, and is open to public access for fishing, hunting, and general appreciation of nature. Volunteers spent 5,000 hours of work to beautify and restore the property's natural plants.



Bitter Root Land Trust — Hamilton, MT

Bitter Root Land Trust partnered with a valley family to permanently conserve a treasured fishing access site on the West Fork of the Bitterroot River, near Conner, Montana. The official WW White Memorial Fishing Access Site was dedicated in October and is now owned by MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

This was one of those projects that was decades in the making. The Stromberg family held on to a vision of ensuring the 97-acre property remain pristine and open to the public through years of complex processes and fundraising. The project had wide-spread public support, including Ravalli County Fish and Wildlife, MT FWP, and the county commission support through the Open Land Bond program.



Flathead Land Trust — Kalispell, MT

Flathead Land Trust has been working the Sliter family to protect an important part of the North Shore of Flathead Lake in a proposal to create Somers Beach State Park. This area is a critical refueling stop for migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. It is also a recreation hotspot.

The 106-acre project received unanimous approval in December from the Montana Land Board, taking it one step closer to completion. FLT photo.



Five Valleys Land Trust — Missoula, MT

Five Valleys Land Trust announced the completion of a new agricultural conservation easement in the Potomac Valley in October with the Sheehy family. This 194-acre project conserves important agricultural soils and wildlife habitat in the Blackfoot River watershed, and was supported by NRCS ALE program and Missoula County Open Land Program. FVLT photo.



Gallatin Valley Land Trust — Bozeman, MT

Gallatin Valley Land Trust celebrated their 114th conservation easement in October with the Solso Family of the Paradise Valley. This project is the fourth project with the Solso Family, owners of the Legacy Ranch, and brings the total acreage conserved by this family to more than 4,600. GVLV photo.

Inland Northwest Land Conservancy — Spokane, WA

In October, Inland Northwest Land Conservancy celebrated the purchase of Waikiki Springs Nature Preserve, a 95-acre property on the Little Spokane River and INLC's first owned and managed property. The Preserve will soon be open to the public for all ages to enjoy to the outdoors. This project is in collaboration with the Spokane Tribe of Indians. The Preserve is on the Tribe's ancestral lands.



Jackson Hole Land Trust & The Conservation Fund — Jackson, WY

The Jackson Hole Land Trust announced in September that the 240-acre Loomis Ranch located in the Upper Green River watershed was transferred to the Bridger-Teton National Forest. Nearly encircled by the national forest, the protection of Loomis Park Ranch effectively consolidates 280 acres within the forest, eliminates subdivision threats, preserves historical agricultural use and protects wildlife habitat, including several important elk, mule deer, and pronghorn migration routes. This conservation effort was made possible through funding from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund in partnership with The Conservation Fund. Photo by Dan Schlager, TCF.



Kaniksu Land Trust — Sandpoint, ID

Pine Street Woods is now a nation-wide success story. In October, Pine Street Woods was chosen by the Coalition for Recreational Trails as one of the recipients of its 2020 Tom Petri Recreational Trails Program Annual Achievement Awards. The awards – honoring former U.S. Representative Tom Petri (WI) - recognize outstanding use of Recreational Trails Program funds. Specifically, Pine Street Woods was recognized in the Multiple-Use Management and Corridor Sharing category. KLT photo.

Land Trust of the Treasure Valley — Boise, ID

In December, the BLM purchased a 560-acre property— known as the Healy Toll Road parcel—from the Land Trust of the Treasure Valley using money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The acquisition will secure public access in perpetuity to the northwest Boise foothills parcel and open approximately 3,040 acres of adjacent BLM-managed public lands that previously lacked formal legal access.



Lemhi Regional Land Trust & The Nature Conservancy - Salmon, ID

Lemhi Regional Land Trust and The Nature Conservancy have been a part of a 25-year partnership with local ranchers and several agencies to enhance fish habitat, working ranches, and local communities in the Lemhi Basin. This partnership was featured in the Post Register's Life on the Range in November, telling the story of how local ranchers have worked to improve habitat for salmon and steelhead that migrate more than 800 miles from the Pacific Ocean.



Montana Land Reliance — Helena, MT

In the Flathead Valley farmland is being lost at an unsustainable rate. Richard and Grace Blanchet, brother and sister, ran a 320-acre farm here near Columbia Falls for 50 years and witnessed the loss of farmland in the valley. To preserve local agricultural heritage, they left their farm to the Montana Land Reliance, in what is believed to be the largest land donation the organization has ever received in the Flathead Valley. The property was placed in a conservation easement in 2006. Proceeds from the sale of the property will now be used to conserve more Flathead Valley farmland. MLR photo.

Nature Conservancy of Canada — Invermere, BC

The Nature Conservancy of Canada announced this summer that it acquired 637 acres to add to their Kootenay River Ranch Conservation Area. The parcel has prime grassland and open forests, featuring native bunchgrass savannah with areas of ponderosa pine, larch and Douglas-fir, and is important for badgers, bears, elk, deer and many species of birds.

Palouse Land Trust — Moscow, ID

Palouse Land Trust celebrated their 25-year anniversary in 2020. Since their founding in 1995, they have worked with landowners to conserve 2,040 acres across the Palouse Prairie. In that time, the populations of Whitman and Latah counties have increased 27% putting pressure on working lands and open spaces.

Payette Land Trust — McCall, ID

Payette Land Trust worked with the Hansberger family to conserve an iconic riverfront property on the South Fork of the Salmon River. The 100-acre South Fork Ranch is quintessential in the Salmon River's remarkable history, and is surrounded by the steep hillsides of Payette National Forest and is across the river from the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness.



Prickly Pear Land Trust — Helena, MT

The Potter Ranch, Prickly Pear Land Trust's largest and most visible conservation easement to date, protects the Spokane Hills in the Helena Valley. The Potter Ranch is one of the few remaining working ranches of its size in the valley and abuts an additional 6,300 acres of BLM land. Photo by Kevin League.

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation — Missoula, MT

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) recently announced that they worked with the Dvorak family and MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks on a 612-acre addition to the Garrity Mountain Wildlife Management Area near Anaconda. The land is important for all manner of big game like elk, deer, moose, and bighorn sheep. It also has riparian areas important for westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout.

Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust — Pocatello, ID

The Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust was featured in a two-part series in the Bingham News Chronicle in December. Part one is a great overview of SSLT's history and how they work with landowners to conserve working lands in southeast Idaho. Part two provides one landowners' experience through the process of placing a conservation easement on their property.



Teton Regional Land Trust — Driggs, ID

Teton Regional Land Trust continues collaborative work in the Teton Creek

Corridor and recently announced a new conservation easement with Teton County on a former proposed site for a road and bridge facility. More than a half mile of Teton Creek runs through the property, lined with mature cottonwoods, aspens and riparian shrubs. The conservation easement preserves the open space along the Teton Creek Corridor and allows for public access along a gravel pathway. The intended recreational uses for the pathway include biking, walking, and horseback riding with a winter closure to provide secure and undisturbed habitat for wintering big game. Photo by Brian Smith, with aerial support from LightHawk.

The Conservation Fund — Driggs, ID

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and The Conservation Fund announced in September that 960 acres of land located in a remote forested area in Teton County, Idaho was protected in perpetuity, thanks to a partnership that also included the Teton Regional Land Trust, supportive landowners at the Beartooth Group, Teton County Commissioners, the Valley Advocates for Responsible Development (VARD) and Idaho's Congressional delegation. The Maytag-Teton Timbers property was a private inholding surrounded by public lands, and the parcel created navigational issues for outdoor enthusiasts interested in accessing the national forest. The Forest Service's acquisition of this property effectively helps consolidate the area within the northern end of the Big Hole Mountain range, eliminates subdivision threats, reduces wildland-urban interface fire concerns from the local community and protects critical wildlife habitat and watersheds. It was made possible by the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The Nature Conservancy — Idaho

A new Story Map highlights climate-resilient sites across the continental U.S. that collectively represent the extraordinary natural diversity of the country... and includes Idaho's own Pioneers to Craters landscape and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Each of these sites have unique topographies, geologies, and other characteristics that can help withstand climate impacts and keep nature safe in the face of climate change. Check out the Story Map.



The Nature Conservancy — Montana

The Nature Conservancy in Montana announced a new project in southwest Montana that conserves superb wildlife habitat and family ranching. The Willow Basin Ranch southwest of Dillon was recently protected under a conservation easement with the Jones family, preserving an agricultural operation and wildlife habitat across 4,000 acres. This was supported by the NRCS' agricultural conservation easement program. The ranch falls within a massive and relatively undisturbed region of intermingled public and private

land – which, combined, exponentially increases the value of these easements to wildlife that range from grizzly bears and moose to pygmy rabbits and songbirds. It is some of the most productive habitat for greater sage-grouse in the entire Rocky Mountains. Many of the ranches have, like the Jones's, been in the families for generations.

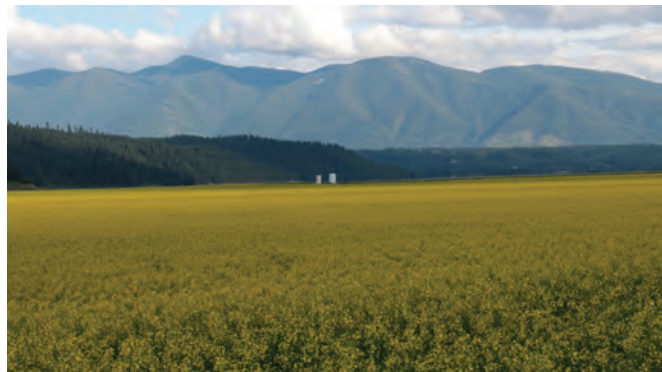
The Nature Conservancy — Wyoming

Trevor Bloom, Community Ecologist for The Nature Conservancy's Wyoming Chapter and a Research Associate for Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative, explores "For Everything There Was a Season: Retracing History Reveals Ecological Shifts in the Greater Yellowstone" during the final Draper Museum's Lunchtime Expedition of 2020. The recording is available [here](#).



Trust for Public Land — Bozeman, MT

The Trust for Public Land, in partnership with Southern Pine Plantations, doing business as SPP Montana (SPP), and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, announced in December the permanent protection of 7,256 acres of timberland in Flathead County, known as the Lost Trail Conservation Easement. This conservation easement provides permanent public access to exceptional recreation lands while allowing SPP to continue sustainable timber harvesting, all while protecting unique wildlife habitat adjacent to the Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge. Photo by TPL.



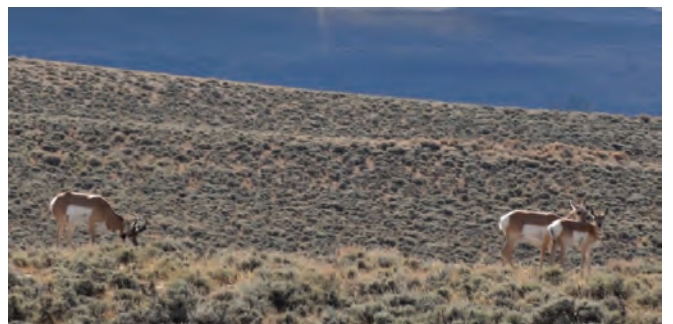
Vital Ground Foundation — Missoula, MT

The Vital Ground Foundation and Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y) purchased new land in December in a northwestern Montana subdivision where the groups have been working with willing landowners to conserve a crucial wildlife corridor for several years. The organizations' collaborative Wild River Project now covers more than 125 contiguous acres along the Kootenai River near the town of Troy. Located near the confluence of the Yaak and Kootenai rivers, the site represents a natural bottleneck for wildlife moving across the valley. The Kootenai River splits the Cabinet and Purcell mountain ranges, each of which is home to a small population of grizzly bears as well as Canada lynx, wolverine and other sensitive species. VGF photo.



Wood River Land Trust — Hailey, ID

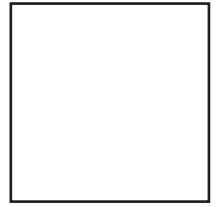
Wood River Land Trust is part of a partnership with The Nature Conservancy in Idaho and the University of Idaho on the Rinker Rock Creek Ranch. The ranch is a unique living laboratory where researchers are learning how rangeland management and conservation intersect. The 10,400-acre ranch was featured in coverage by Idaho News 6 in the Fall. See the clip [here](#). WRLT photo.



Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust — Cheyenne, WY

The Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust and Bousman Livestock Inc. have partnered to permanently conserve 1,295 acres in the Upper Green River Valley, just east of Boulder, Wyoming. Nestled between the Wind River and Wyoming mountain ranges, the ranch provides majestic views and critical wildlife habitat for deer, moose, and pronghorn. The property is home to 1/2 mile of Boulder Creek and three small ponds, which sustain fish and waterfowl populations. The ranch is also an important resource for Wyoming sage grouse, the entirety of the property being in Core Area, with several Wyoming Game and Fish identified lek sites nearby. WSGTLT photo.

HEART OF THE ROCKIES INITIATIVE
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HEART OF THE ROCKIES INITIATIVE

A LAND TRUST PARTNERSHIP

MISSION

To ensure connected habitat and working lands for people and wildlife by increasing the pace of durable conservation in the Central Rockies of North America.

VALUES

COLLABORATION - We believe collaboration is the key to lasting conservation. As an inclusive, nonpartisan organization, we are committed to helping all our partners communicate and cooperate across sectors, politics, ideologies, cultures, and geographic boundaries to accomplish shared goals.

COMMUNITY - We believe that conservation is rooted in local actions and needs. We bring a community-based approach, founded upon concern and respect for all people and communities of our region.

EQUITY - We value and embrace the differences that occur among all individuals within our community, and strive to provide advantages to all people regardless of, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, neurodivergence, and socioeconomic status.

EXCELLENCE - We maintain high professional standards, ensuring that both the Heart of the Rockies Initiative and our members are effective, impactful, financially sound, equitable, and sustainable organizations. Our work is guided by scientific understanding and local knowledge.

INTEGRITY - We are accountable to our members, partners, funders, and communities. We operate with transparency, ethics, and authenticity.