



2021
ANNUAL REPORT

OUR MISSION

The Montana Land Reliance (MLR) partners with private landowners to permanently protect agricultural lands, fish and wildlife habitat, and open space.

The immediate accomplishments of MLR's conservation work are measured in acres of land protected and miles of streambank preserved.

The lasting benefits of MLR's work are the perpetuation of a lifestyle and an economy that rely on responsibly managed private land and the increasingly valuable Montana open spaces that will continue to nourish the spirit of future generations.

*On the cover:
Rocky Mountain Front*

Todd Klassy

Bears Paw Mountains



PROTECTING A LEGACY BUILT BY GIANTS

The mission of The Montana Land Reliance (MLR) has been the same for the past 43 years: to partner with private landowners to permanently protect agricultural lands, fish and wildlife habitat, and open space. As I look back on 2021, this year proved to be no exception. MLR's board and staff continued to focus on protecting the open lands and agricultural traditions that make Montana such a wonderful place to visit or call home.

In 2021, MLR closed on 16 conservation easements, adding 48,952 new acres to our portfolio of protected lands across the state. These new projects bring MLR's total protected acres to 1,220,084, and keeps the organization on track to realize the long-term goal of conserving two million acres by 2040. The completed projects spanned the state, from western Montana's Flathead Valley to McCone County in the east.

The lands protected in 2021 include working farms and ranchlands, critical sage grouse habitat, native grasslands, riparian zones, and areas of the Gallatin Valley under threat of development. With each protected acre, MLR ensures that the Montana we all love will continue to be available for future generations to benefit from and enjoy.

This year also saw the retirement of Lois Delger-DeMars. As my longtime colleague and friend, I want to congratulate Lois on a long and successful career. Lois joined MLR in 1985, when the organization boasted a total of 11 easements, and there were no formal job titles among the four, full time staff. Lois helped mold the organization into what it is today, one of the most successful and financially secure land trusts in the nation. In 2014, Lois moved to the position of Managing

Director, a leadership role she held until her retirement in December 2021. During her nearly four decades at MLR, Lois oversaw the completion of 928 conservation easements, totaling 1,183,797 acres. Her contributions in protecting our working lands and open spaces will be felt long into the future. Along with everyone at MLR, I would like to thank Lois for her years of dedication and hard work. We wish her the very best in retirement!

In June of 2021, MLR lost a long time director, supporter, and great storyteller. Allen Bjergo served on the MLR Board since 1979, shortly after MLR was founded, until his passing. Allen brought experience, expertise, and a wealth of colorful stories about his many lifetime adventures. He will be sorely missed. Our condolence and thanks to his family for sharing Allen all those years.

In this annual report, we recognize several members of the MLR family. Foremost, we celebrate the life and legacy of William (Bill) Broadbent, who passed away in 2021. Bill was one of MLR's most enthusiastic supporters and will be greatly missed. You will read a profile highlighting Bill's life, his conservation efforts across the state, and his ardent support for protecting lands in central and eastern Montana. Thanks to an interview with Bill's wife, Camille Broadbent, we get the opportunity to learn more about Bill's thoughts on private land conservation.

You will also be introduced to the Sauerbier family, this year's recipient of the William F. Long Award. This award is given annually to a landowner who has protected critical bird habitat. The Sauerbiers are a multi-generational ranching family from Alder, Montana, that in 2021, completed an easement with

George Olsen, Board President

With each protected acre, MLR ensures that the Montana we all love will continue to be available for future generations to benefit from and enjoy.



MLR protecting 7,700 acres of Greater Sage-Grouse habitat in Madison County. You will read about the Sauerbier's efforts to protect the sage grouse while maintaining a sustainable ranch operation.

Finally, you will meet Tim Sheehy, recipient of MLR's Conservation Award. Tim is a former Navy SEAL, Army Ranger, Purple Heart recipient, and owner of the Little Belt Ranch in Meagher County. In 2020, Tim worked with MLR to consolidate the former Lazy Daisy, Daisy Dean, and Robidou properties into a single conservation easement, protecting over 6,000 acres of private lands north of Martinsdale. I think you will find his story remarkable and admirable, reflecting the values and work ethic we can all strive for in our own lives.

At last, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to you, our landowners, supporters, donors, advisors, and friends. Your support makes this work possible. I look forward to the new year as we work together to build on MLR's mission of partnering with private landowners to permanently protect our agricultural lands, wildlife habitat, and open space.



Since 1978, The Montana Land Reliance has worked with private landowners all across Montana to meet their conservation goals, including the protection of major watersheds critical to agriculture and wildlife habitat.

1,220,084 acres of ecologically, agriculturally, and historically important land, and 1,906 miles of streambank, are now protected under MLR's 938 conservation easements.

Dearborn River

2021 EASEMENTS

1	Arrington Ranch, LLC	952
2	Bordsen, Marwiyah C.	294
3	Fauth Ranch, LLC	8,086
4	Walter Gruel & Son, Inc.	6,232
5	Hall, Daniel Dennis & Marie F.	149
6	High Lonesome Ranch, LP	190
7	Key O, Inc.	4,375
8	Mohr, Erin E. Mohr, John F. & Jeanne A. Mohr, Lisa A.	406
9	William J. Murdock Trust & Jeanette G. Murdock Trust	4,035
10	Northgate 444, LLC	650
11	Roen, Mitch & Jennifer	1,200
12	Sauerbier Ranches, Inc.	7,705
13	Sauerbier Ranches, Inc.	314
14	Soda Creek, Inc.	13,324
15	Spring Coulee Creek Farm, LLC	360
16	The Nature Conservancy	680

Jason Savage

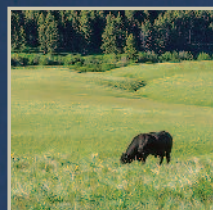
TOTAL 2021 ACREAGE: 48,952

2021 EASEMENT ACREAGE BY HABITAT TYPE



John Lambing

Crop/Hay/Pasture
10,927



John Lambing

Range/Forest
38,025



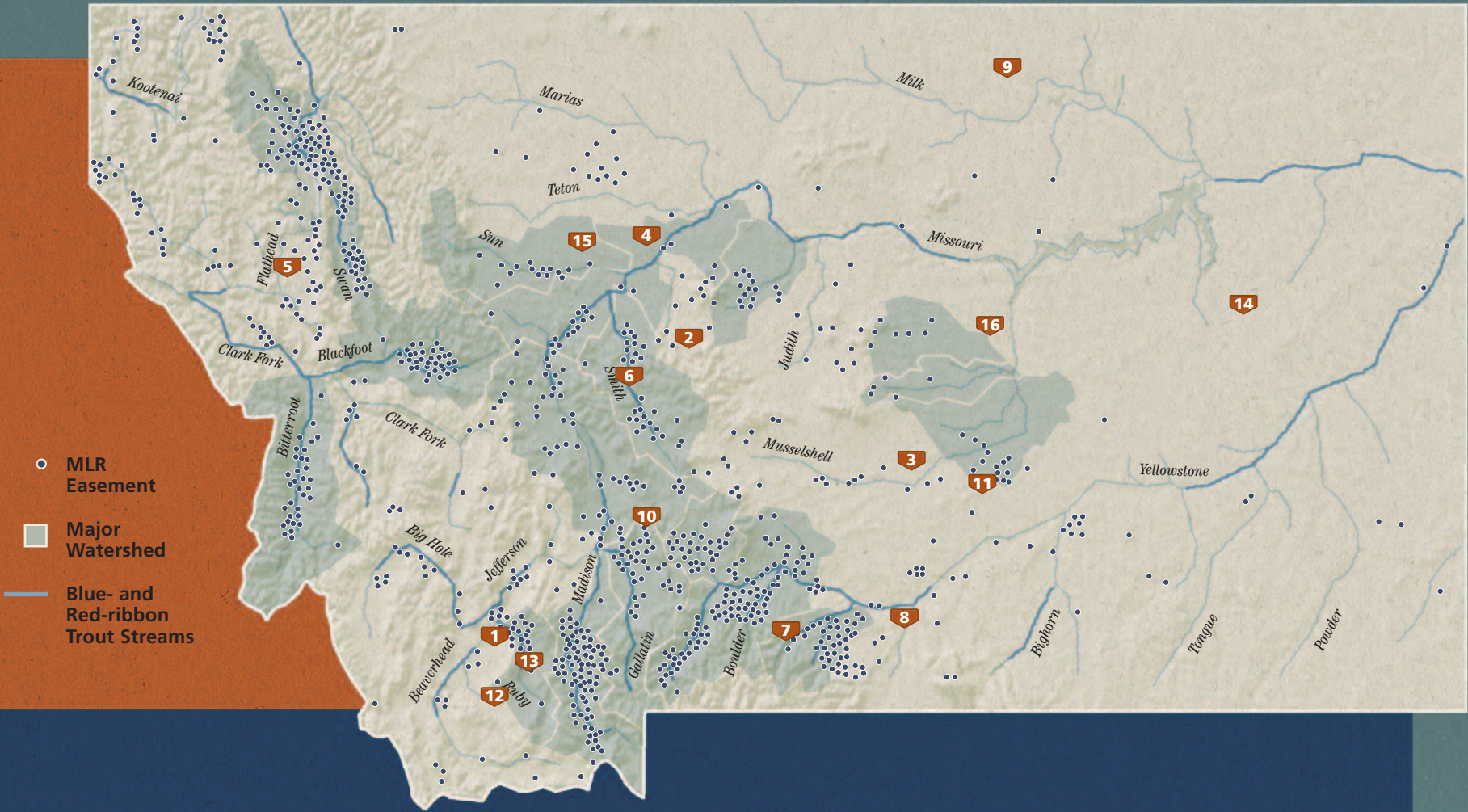
Jason Savage

Wetlands
815



donaldmjones.com

Elk Habitat
14,643

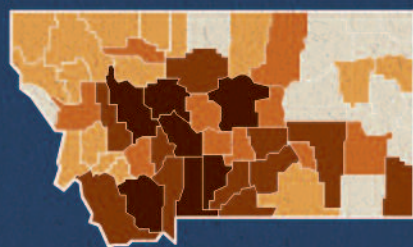


ECOSYSTEMS



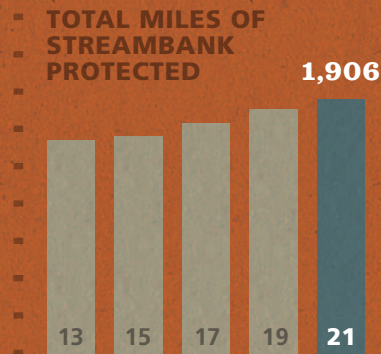
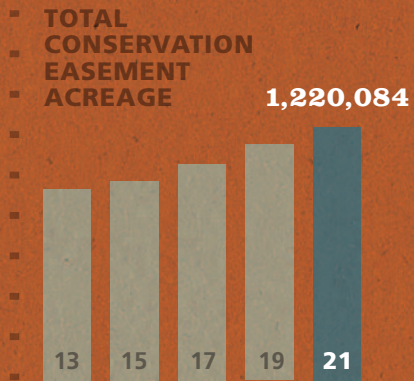
- Northern Continental Divide
- Northern Great Plains
- Greater Yellowstone

ACREAGE CONSERVED BY COUNTY



- 1–10,000
- 10,001–25,000
- 25,001–50,000
- More than 50,000

2021 PRIVATE LAND PROTECTION



Jason Savage

WATERSHED PROTECTION

Private lands make up 18% of Montana's watersheds. Conserving watersheds supports family farms and ranches, a vibrant recreation industry, wildlife habitat, and miles of rivers and streams.



© Tony Eymann

Prairie near Malta



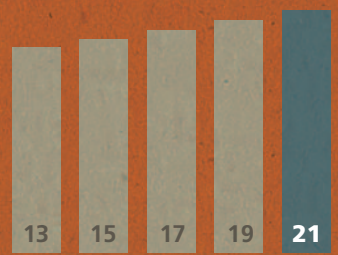
Jason Savage

Mallard Ducks

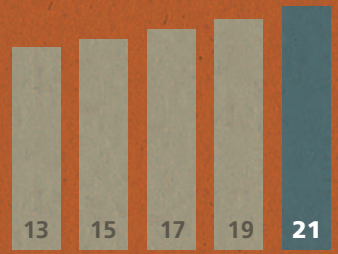
WILDLIFE LEGACY

The preservation of private lands in Montana is key to protecting vulnerable habitat that allows for the diversity of wildlife you can only find in Montana.

WETLAND ACREAGE PROTECTED 46,742



ELK HABITAT ACREAGE PROTECTED 611,369



donaldmjones.com



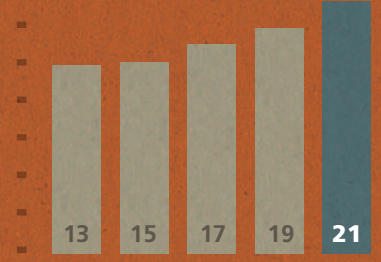
Bull Elk

2021

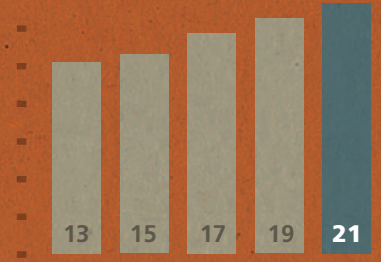


Judith River Valley

CROP/HAY/PASTURE
ACREAGE
PROTECTED 209,665



FOREST/RANGE
ACREAGE
PROTECTED 1,010,419



John Lambing

John Lambing

AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE

Fifty-eight million acres of Montana's lands are in agricultural production. The protection of these working farms and ranches is critical for the preservation of the state's rural communities and agricultural economy.



Upper Smith River Basin

ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION

Private lands contain some of the richest biodiversity found in Montana. Conserving these places is vital to ensuring our ecosystems remain healthy and intact.

Alexis Bonogofsky



Yaak River



Bridger Range

■ NORTHERN CONTINENTAL
DIVIDE ECOSYSTEM
ACREAGE
PROTECTED **20,822**



■ GREATER YELLOWSTONE
ECOSYSTEM
ACREAGE
PROTECTED **328,207**



John Lambing

SOME MAY SAY A LEGACY IS ASSESSED IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER.

For those who love Montana,

BILL BROADBENT BUILT A LEGACY THE SIZE OF BIG SKY COUNTRY.



Square Butte

IN REMEMBRANCE OF BILL BROADBENT



To have known William (Bill) S. Broadbent and to attempt to articulate who he was and the conservation legacy he leaves behind is at best a daunting task, and at worst, a fool's errand. Bill was born in Akron, Ohio, in 1951 and was raised a short distance away in Cleveland. An only child of Robert (Bob) and Mary Broadbent, Bill learned from his father many of the lessons he would later apply to conservation.

Bill's father started out in a furniture store in Rochester, New York, and spent most of his retail career in Cleveland with Higbee's, a large department store later bought by Dillard's, where he eventually served as chairman. Bill's father was very civic-minded and enjoyed raising money for causes such as the local skating club, Cleveland Play House, and countless others. He knew all the corporate executives in the area on a first-name basis and leveraged those relationships to raise money for organizations important to him. Bill was especially inspired by his father's contribution to the creation of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Bob negotiated the museum's construction in Cleveland, wresting it away from powerful players insisting the Hall be located in New York City. Bill's application of lessons learned, and his conduct in advocacy, suggest he could not have had a better mentor than his father. To Bill, believing in a cause was not just a reflection of values, but a call to action; it was not only a way to live your own life, but a challenge to bring as many others under the tent as possible.

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Occasionally, the call to action came at the least convenient times. In the early 1980s, Bill and his wife Camille, and their young children Will and Avery, were living in California while Bill attended Stanford Business School. Bill later took a position with Lehman Brothers in San Francisco and moved their young family to Atherton, California, where he became friends with a group of colleagues who were fly anglers. Being

outdoorsy by nature, Bill began accompanying the group on fishing trips to Montana, specifically to Paradise Valley.

Camille recalled one weekend when she was at home with their children, and Bill called from Montana. Excitedly, he announced over the phone, "I bought a ranch!" Bill had purchased the Point of Rocks Ranch, a stone's throw from the northern boundary of Yellowstone National Park.

While Camille listened in disbelief, Bill described this somewhat sudden call to action, insisting it was a great opportunity for the family to own a small piece of Montana, but more importantly, to protect a critical piece of wildlife habitat from the development and subdivision that was rapidly moving up the Yellowstone. Inconvenient timing – perhaps, remarkable conviction – definitely.

By way of associations from his undergraduate days at Williams College, Bill connected with The Montana Land Reliance (MLR), a young but growing land trust in Helena. A little over a decade in business, MLR had



All told, Bill's conservation legacy includes 10 conservation easements covering nearly 27,000 acres of working lands and wildlife habitat.

completed 35 conservation easements at the time, a number that has grown to more than 900 conservation easements on over 1.2 million acres today. In 1990, Bill did what he did best and sank his teeth into private land conservation, authentically living his values and placing a conservation easement on their Paradise Valley ranch. Bill gradually assembled more property nearby and permanently conserved that as well.

Bill's love for wide-open spaces intensified as he got older. He became frustrated with the rapid development of the Paradise Valley and turned his interests to central and eastern Montana. Having permanently protected the ranch in Paradise Valley, he opted to sell the property and began working with MLR Managing Director, Rock Ringling, to identify properties for sale in central Montana. The two covered many miles together, compared notes on the pros and cons of each property, laughed a lot, and, well, argued from time to time.

Eventually, in 1999, Bill and Camille purchased what was the John and Lois Hill Ranch near Geyser. Set in the shadows of the iconic Square Butte and Round Butte, the place seemingly had it all. Camille, being the more seasoned big game hunter in the family, recalled the day she and Bill visited the ranch. As they crested the hill leading into the property, four bull elk leisurely ambled over the ridge as if on cue. It was enough to sell Camille, which was enough to sell Bill. They named the place 26 Land & Cattle Company, a play on the fact that both Bill and Camille were born on the 26th day of the month. The ranch delivered exceptional grass for cattle, offered fertile soil for dryland crop production, and included the rugged Arrow Creek Breaks. The diverse landscape provided exceptional

habitat for deer, elk, antelope, sharp-tailed grouse, and other game birds. Over the next dozen years, Bill and Camille added five significant parcels to the home place, permanently conserving all of them for a

total of nearly 24,000 acres. All told, Bill's conservation legacy includes 10 conservation easements covering nearly 27,000 acres of working lands and wildlife habitat.

When working with MLR to complete his first conservation easement in 1990, Bill didn't just dip his toe in the water, that was never his style, he went all-in on private land conservation. He joined MLR's Council of Trustees, a non-voting board of mostly non-residents, tasked with advising the MLR staff and board and assisting with special projects, both land and fundraising related. Bill's fingerprints can be seen all over MLR's success and growth as one of the nation's premier land trusts. Bill provided early counsel on fundraising, the creation of an endowment, and countless other matters. Bill took his role very seriously and showed sincere dedication to MLR.

In 1989, the Broadbent family moved back to the East Coast, where Bill continued his career in investment banking, entering influential circles on Wall Street. Among his ever-growing network of friends, Bill would shamelessly pressure conservation-minded individuals to support MLR's work in protecting Montana's open space. Rarely a week would pass without Bill calling the office in Helena with his latest and greatest ideas of what MLR should be doing, or a list of important contacts to reach out to. Bill had an uncanny ability to aggressively apply pressure, like a talk-at-you New York City boardroom executive, while also demonstrating his love for Montana's open space and agriculture; all along wearing his heart on his sleeve.

Over the years, the Broadbent family has provided very meaningful support for MLR's mission. In 2013, the family increased their contribution in a meaningful way by creating the Broadbent Family Central Montana Fund, which provides assistance to farm and ranch families who wish to conserve their properties and fortify their own legacies, but lack the financial resources to pay for project-related costs. The Fund has been a critical tool in conserving working lands in Central Montana for eight years and hopefully for years to come.



The Broadbent family, from left: Avery, Camille, Bill, and William.

Bill's appreciation of Montana lands and lifestyle extended far beyond the reach of MLR. To Bill, conservation and environmental protection is just common sense. In his mind, an interest in conservation should not be controversial or political. He was fearless in his advocacy for clean air, water, wildlife, and open space. Some may say a legacy is assessed in the eye of the beholder, however, for those who love Montana, Bill Broadbent built a legacy the size of Big Sky Country. It will live on, not only through his children, William and Avery, who now own the ranch, but also by way of the perpetual protection ensured through the conservation easements he placed on the

Bill is and was a big part of what MLR has become, and that legacy will continue to inspire our work for generations to come.



land. Bill is and was a big part of what MLR has become, and that legacy will continue to inspire our work for generations to come.

When talking about private land conservation, Bill often said, "The window of opportunity is closing." We will never know the degree to which Bill believed that or whether he was just applying his own special brand of searing intensity and passion to his pitch. Either way, there is a lesson here for all of us. We should all take a page out of Bill's book of advocacy; we should all dig that deep and find that

passion to make the world a better place. While we miss hearing Bill's deep voice on the other end of the phone, there is comfort knowing that his impact transcends his life. His legacy of conservation is preserved within MLR, and in the landscapes he protected. Whatever one's belief of heaven or an afterlife, rest assured, Bill has a clear view of open plains and the sunrise reflecting off the rugged cliffs of Square Butte.

While it is impossible to put into words the legacy Bill leaves behind and the profound impact Bill made on The Montana Land Reliance, he would not want us to ramble on. There is work to be done.



2021 CONSERVATION AWARD

Little Belt Ranch: Tim & Carmen Sheehy and Matt Sheehy

The tragic events of September 11, 2001 inspired 15-year-old Tim Sheehy to serve his country. In 2004, at the age of 18, he joined the military, and worked his way into the elite Army Ranger and Navy SEAL units. Tim met his wife, Carmen, who was also a Marine, while serving in Afghanistan, and the two spoke of moving to Montana when their military careers were over. While serving in Afghanistan, Tim was wounded, and awarded the Bronze Star with Valor and a Purple Heart. After retiring from the military in 2013, and with a new child, Tim and Carmen decided to start anew in Big Sky Country. They moved into a tent on a small 60-acre farm outside of Belgrade, where they enjoyed Montana's scenic views, and looked forward to growing their family.



As a veteran pilot, Tim saw an opportunity to apply some of the airborne technology he had used as a Navy SEAL to benefit public safety, such as search and rescue, law enforcement, and wildland firefighting.

In 2014, Tim and Carmen founded Bridger Aerospace, with the goal of providing services for ranchers who had lost cattle, search and rescue, and locating wildland fires for the U.S. Forest Service. However, it quickly became evident that the aerial sensor technology developed by the company had real-world applications beyond finding the stray Black Angus. Tim recalled that as he got to know the wildland firefighting industry better, he and his partners started to understand the real structural challenges that the United States has with regard to its aging aerial firefighting fleet. Bridger Aerospace is now one of the largest aerial firefighting companies in the nation, with over 20 aircraft and growing. The sensor technology Tim and his team developed is used to map wildfires, and has been converted to help the military detect enemy drones attacking troops. Today, the business is located in Bozeman and employs 300 engineers, pilots, and mechanics.

In 2019, Tim and Carmen Sheehy and Matt Sheehy purchased the Lazy Daisy, Daisy Dean, and Robidou ranches in an attempt to reconsolidate the historic Cameron Ranch in Meagher County. At over 7,000 deeded and 10,000 federal and private leased acres, the

newly formed Little Belt Ranch is approaching 20,000 contiguous acres along the Little Belt Mountains. In 2020, the Sheehy family partnered with The Montana Land Reliance (MLR) to permanently conserve the ranch, ensuring it will remain scenic and open space in perpetuity.

When asked why he chose the Lazy Daisy, Tim noted, "Central Montana is my favorite part of the American West. It is an amazing region with very special people and an incredible landscape. It's tough country, windy, cold, and remote, but that's what drew me to it. Central Montana is kind of like a time warp. Other scenic valleys have gone the way of luxury resorts and subdivisions, but the Martinsdale area is still big ranch and farm country. We are committed to keeping the ranch in agricultural production and ensuring it stays as one contiguous operation for as long as we can."

MLR is pleased to award Tim and Carmen Sheehy and Matt Sheehy the 2021 Conservation Award in recognition of their work in protecting the Little Belt Ranch. When asked what it means to have a conservation ethic, Tim stated, "We do not own the land, we are just the current stewards of it. Someone else will walk the ranch in 1,000 years, and they will have no idea who I am. It's important to me that we leave it better than we found it. God isn't making any more land, and we need to take care of that which we have."



“We are committed to keeping the ranch in agricultural production and ensuring it stays as one contiguous operation for as long as we can.” –Tim Sheehy



2021

WILLIAM F. LONG CONSERVATION AWARD

Sauerbier Ranch: Dan & Janet Doornbos and Kristy Sauerbier

Lewis and Clark first mentioned

the “Cock of the Plains” in June 1805, while traveling along the Marias River in Montana. They ordered that several of the birds be shot, examined, and prepared for dinner. Captain Lewis noted that the bird was “only tolerable in point of flavor...and not as good as pheasant.”

While perhaps not the most desirable dinner fare, the two-foot tall, four-pound Greater Sage-Grouse impressed Captain Clark, who included a 300-word description and drawing of the bird in his journal. He noted the sage grouse’s large size, its ability to camouflage, and its preference for sagebrush habitat. Importantly, he noted that the sage grouse was overly abundant everywhere they went.



Today, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has listed the iconic Greater Sage-Grouse as a threatened species. Habitat loss due to wildfire, resource extraction, fence collisions, predation, and conversion of sagebrush habitat to other uses have reduced bird numbers to a fraction of their historic populations. In an effort to avoid a listing under the Endangered Species Act, 11 western states, including Montana, have implemented conservation strategies to address declining numbers. In Montana, much of the best sage grouse habitat is located on private ranchlands, creating a unique opportunity for federal and state agencies, conservation organizations, and ranchers to work together to accomplish meaningful sage grouse conservation.

The Sauerbier Ranch conservation easement, completed in 2021, is an excellent example of such collaboration. In 2011, the Sauerbier Ranch (owned by Dan and Janet Doornbos and Kristy Sauerbier), partnered with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Sage Grouse Initiative to make management changes on the ranch. Through a multi-year partnership, NRCS funded fencing improvements, helped implement a rotational grazing system, and improved water distribution on the property. In return, the family agreed to reduce cattle numbers on sage grouse sensitive areas, install reflectors on cross fencing, and take down a particular quarter-mile stretch of fence known as the “sage grouse decapitator.” The outcome was an improved and more profitable cattle operation, and increased protections for sage grouse.

Building on that success, the Sauerbier Ranch partnered with The Montana Land Reliance (MLR) to secure funding through the NRCS Agricultural Lands Easement program and State of Montana Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program to purchase a perpetual conservation easement on a portion of their ranch in Madison County. The 7,700-acre easement protects four active sage grouse breeding sites (leks) and prohibits converting sagebrush habitat to cropland.

When asked how the conservation easement fits with their long-term goals for the ranch, the family noted that the goal has always been to keep the ranch as long as possible. With the conservation easement in place, the property will remain in one piece, and will continue to be a sustainable cattle operation long into the future.



Reports by Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks indicate sage grouse in southwest Montana are maintaining a healthy population. You can legally hunt sage grouse in Montana, but Dan would like to see them protected and recover a bit more. He used to hunt them when he was younger, but now prefers to watch them from the truck. He mentioned that if you shoot one, there is the trouble of eating it, and the birds don’t taste that good anyway. It seems he and Captain Lewis would agree on that.



While perhaps not the most desirable dinner fare, the two-foot tall, four-pound Greater Sage-Grouse impressed Captain William Clark, whose journal description noted its preference for sagebrush habitat.



FOREVER MONTANA SOCIETY

kcenterphotography.com

Near Dixon

The Forever Montana Society exists to honor those who have left a lasting legacy of conservation, and to inspire others to do the same.

With perpetuity in mind, the Forever Montana Society is open to all consenting MLR easement donors and to those who have provided for MLR's mission in their overall financial and estate plans. Their gifts will help sustain agricultural lands, fish and wildlife habitat, and open space for generations to come. This list recognizes those who have agreed to be listed as Forever Montana Society members.

Learn more about the Forever Montana Society at mtlandreliance.org.

ABN Ranch
Arrington Ranch, LLC
Bartz, Tim & Trish
Berghold, Joanne & Billy
Bibler, Carol
Blanchet, Richard
Boyle, Rich & Jan
Brander, Linda
Burke, Steve & Gretchen
Byrne, Sam & Tracey
Chamberlin, Wayne
Conlon, Suzanne
Connell, Jeanne
Custer Battlefield
Preservation Committee
Dale, John & Cheryl
Dietrich, Christian
& Michelle

Thomas G. Eppich Trust
Fauth Ranch; KJ & Lindsay
Fauth & Family
Frazer, Eliza & Barry Hood
Freeman, Jr., Lee A.
French, Dave & Priscilla
Giese, Monte & Jeanna
Gingras, Paul & Sally
Goeddel, David & Alena
Guyette, Jim & Kay
Hall, Barry & Eleanor
Hegness, Paul
Henderson, Jay & Janette
Hohenlohe, Christian & Nora
Hutchins, Judith
Johnson, James & Sharon
Kalt, Joe & Judy Gans
Kellogg, Dennis & Kitty

Kelly, Francis J., MD
& Deloris L.
Kelly, Kathryn
Kenyon, Lynn
Kerkvliet, Joe, PH.D.
Kiesling, Bob
King, Donald & Janemarie
Kress, Karen Bates
Laszlo, Jr., Andrew & Paulette
Legg, William
Leuschen, David
Long, Bill & Billie Miller
Mills, William A.
Montag, Kim & Jeff
Navratil, Gerald J.
& Maryellen
NN Land & Cattle
Perry, Joe L. & Debby L.

Pfeiffer, Steven B.
R.V. Ranch Co.
Ringling, Rock & Bobbi Uecker
Ritchey, David & Sue
Roth, Jane R.
Sauerbier Ranches
Schatz, Deborah & Greg
Schmidt, Chester, MD
Schutz, Jeffrey H. & Family
Smith, Carol
Smith, Michael
Spanjian, Kris & Ray Gilbertson
Talcott, Terry
Taylor, Jim & Valerie Anne
Thorell, Carole
Torgrimson, Christine
Wilson, III, Kendrick R.
& Ann Jackson

FAMILY OF FRIENDS

The Montana Land Reliance thanks the individuals and organizations that have contributed to its success during the past year. MLR also extends thanks to those who have asked to remain anonymous.

INDIVIDUALS

Abbott, Cody E.
Abbott, Jr., Frances H. & Frances M.
Abernethy, Samuel F.
Abrahamson, Eric S. & Donna B.
Adams, Chris
Adams, Lori
Aitken, Gary
Alexander, Karen
Allen, Anna & Wills
Alton, Todd & Sharon
Anderson, Heidi
Anderson, Julia
Anderson, Kori & Jason Fleege
Anderson, Mike
Anderson, Richard M. & Laurie
Andrews, Prudence Jane
Andy, Rob & Amor
Angiolillo, Bruce D. & Carol
Apgar, Sean
Arneson, Arnie & Sue
Michael D. & Susan H. Arneson Family
Ashworth, Sarah J.
Atkinson, Michael P. & Melissa P.
Avis, Charlie
Avis Family
Avis, Freddy
Avis, Gregory M. & Anne R.
Babcock, Linda F.
Bales, Charles
Bales, Charles "Chip" C., IV
& Anne Donovan
Barker, Brian F. & Sally L.
Barnosky, Neil & Gloria
Baucus, John F. & Nina
Baumler, Mark F., PH.D.
& Ellen B., PH.D.
Bean-Dochwahl, Janet
Beck, Ray
Beckworth, Brad
Beevers, Kelly
Bell, Matt & Amber
Bell, Ronald S. & Kelly M.
Bendick, Eric
Bennington, James L.
& Josephine K.
Berg, Rick & Gayle
Berghold, Joanne & William D.
Berman, David & Sandra
Bermont, Shelly & Clay Lorinsky
Berninghausen, Tom
& Nancy Cook
Bibler, Carol & Jim Watson
Biehl, Daniel
Bingel, Thad
Binger, James M. & Patricia S.
Bird, Ralph
Bissell, Gael & Richard D. Mace
Bixby, Mae & Levi Zell
Bjergo, Allen & Jacqueline
Bliss, Charles D. & Virginia L.
Boone, Jean
Bordsen, Marwiyah
Boudeman, Sherwood M.
& Sharon C.
Boulerice, Jennie
Bowman, Carolyn L.
Boyer, Christopher F. & Jennifer
Boyette, Van R. & Susan H.
Braig, Robert A. & Beverly J.
Branch, George & Sara
Brandborg, Beki
Brander, Linda L.
Breaux, Leslie J.
Brescia, Joseph A.
Brim, Michael & Arlyne
Brim, Patrick C. & Sue A.
Broadbent, William S. & Camille W.
Brockway, Dean
Brokaw, Thomas J. & Meredith A.
Brown, David R.
Browne, Kristen E. & Jamie
Bryan, Pamela R. & William L.
Bucklin, Linda Hale
Bucklin, Nicholas
Burke, Stephen B. & Gretchen H.
Burnett, Gary
Burton, Jr., Joseph J.
Busby, III, Col. Arthur E. & Patricia
Butler, Amie F.
Byrne, Sam & Tracey

Cahill, Edward L.
& Kathleen Mooney-Cahill
Callander, Charles & Melanie
Campbell, Catherine S.
Campbell, Sara
Carlson, George A. & Francis I.
Carron, John C. & Traci L. Telander
Carron, Reid & Rebecca L. Rom
Cassell, Jr., John L. "Jay"
Chaffin, Eric
Chanania, Andrew
Chase, John A.
Chenoweth, Joe & Lorrie
Cholnoky, John & Amy
Christensen, Ben & Anja
Christensen, Stephanie Ann
Christofanelli, Kevin
Claiborn, Steven & Barbara H.
Clarke, Michael & Christine
William R. & Katharine M.
Closs Family
Cole, Connie & Dave
Cole, David & Peggy Osburn
Collins, III, William F.
Collins, Jr., John & Anne
Colton, Shane D.
Conn, James
Cooley, David E. & Jody
Copeland, Christie & Bruce
Copeland, Jeffrey
Corbin, Parker
Cote, David M. & Maureen
Court, Virginia & James V.
Cowles, Jr., Reynolds R. & Evelyn C.
Cox, Jack & Joyce
Cox, Millard & Mina J.
Cox, William "Jay" & Dody
Coyne, Colum
Crain, Mr. & Mrs. Rogers
Cullman, Edward
Cummings, Jim
Curtis, Nanci Ames
Dakin, Sarah G.
Dalby, Ann
Dale, John S. & Cheryl L.
Dana, Andrew C. & Susan W.
Dana, John L. & Margo
Daniel, Keifer C.
Danziger, Frederick M.
Davey, Matt
Davidson, Karen
Davis, Steven
Day, Sarah W.
Delano, Lyman & Diana P.

Delaski, Kenneth E.
Delmue, Jason
Deveny, Tom W.
DeYoung, James W. & Penelope W.
Diamond, Daniel L. & June S.
Dietrich, Garrett W. & Carolyn
Dolan, Stephen
Donnelley, II, Thomas E.
& Barbara C.
Doolittle, Jr., John Q. & June K.
Dorn, Joseph W. & Palmer
Dowling, Michael P.
Duke, Gar & Nicole Friend
Eder, Sr., Bert P. & Jo Ann
Edwards, Bruce
Edwards, John & Gayla
Ellis, Janet H. & James C. Hansen
Ellwood, Libby & Jim
Elron, Carol Jo R.
Emery, Bob & Dana Morton
Emmett, Tyler & Morgan
Engebretson, Mark F. & Carol M. H.
Epple, Andrew C. & Paulette J.
Epstein, Stuart
Erickson, Jay & Ann Gilkey
Erwin, William A.
Fanizzi, Fred & Maria
Feckanin, John
Feurring, Douglas
Fife, Doug
Fisher, Richard & Joanne
Fitzgerald, Paul
Flowers, Natalie
Foster, Pete
Foster, Timothy E. & Ellen P.
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France, Elizabeth
Frater, Hugh R.
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Frazer, Eliza H. & Barry G. Hood
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Freeman, William H.
& Elizabeth Joyce
Friend, Robert B. & Michelle
Gainer, Devon
Galbreath, Lizanne
Galvin, Christopher B. & Cynthia B.
Galvin, Frances
Garcelon, Travis & Sophie
Garlick, Lawrence & Pamela
Garten, David B. & Anita W.
Sam Gary, Jr., Family
Gasser, Gabrielle
Geist, David
Gersten, Keith
Gestring, Jessie P.
Gettelman, Michael & Barbara
Gewirz, Michael K. & Cleo S.
Gillam, Con & Daphne
Gilmor, Zachary
Gingras, DMD, Paul & Sally
Goeddel, David V. & Alena Z.
Goldberg, Frederick
& Carolyn Lakewold
Goldwarg, Eric
Goodman, Jana
Goodwin, J. Barton & Elizabeth F.
Gordon, Richard & Cheryl Watkins
Gray, Randall H.
& Nora Flaherty-Gray
Greenblatt, Russell
Grusin, David & Nancy E. Newton
Guckenberg, David S. & June
James M. Guyette Family
Guynn, Peter C. & Caroline C.
Gwilliam, Scott L. & Jennifer B.
Haglan, William Clayton
Hall, C. Barrows & Eleanor L.
Hall, Dan & Marie
Hall, Joanie & Robert
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Haring, Jr., William F.
& Carol McSweeney
Harris, Jerrold B. & Bobette J.
Harris, Lisbeth (Lou Ann)
Hart, William F. & Elizabeth S.
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Hauth, Donald K.
Hawks, Jane & Bob
Hayes, George & Catherine
Herland, Libby
Herman, Sidney N. & Margaret D.
Hess, Philip
Hiassen, Carl A. & Fenia
Hibbard, Chase
Hibbard, Scott & Gretchen
Hibbard, Tyrrell & Mary
Higgins, Janet K.
Higgins, Tyler
Hill, Marilyn & Wayne
Hill, Megan
Hoffman, Mark R. & Mary N.
Hohenlohe, Christian C. & Nora R.
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INDIVIDUALS, CONTINUED

Kempff, Jonathan & Janet	Matelich, George E.	Olsen, George S. & Ellen Vogelsang	Rolet, Xavier R.	Suhre, Joseph	Tureck, Judy & Hugo
Kennon, Aaron J. & Annika R.	McCandless, Jason	Ossorio, Jr, Frederic E. & Stacy M.	Romatowski, Peter J.	Swindlehurst, Joseph T.	Van Dyk, Kendall & Christine
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Kiesling, Robert	McDermott, Edward T. & Emily Q.	Owen, David L. & Kathryn J.	Roos, Kathie M. & Neal W. Blossom	Taylor, James H. & Valerie Anne	Van Wetter, Hannah
King, Jr., Donald A. & Janemarie	McGrail, Thomas	Owen, Morgan & Marisa	Rosenthal, Edward S. & Nancy G.	Taylor, James S. & Denise	Vana, Jordan
Kingman, Brett	McGuane, III, Thomas F. & Loraine B.	Owen, Russell & Jill	Rostad, Phil	Tempest, Jennifer Phelps	Vana, Judy
Kingsley, Anna-Lisa	McIntosh, Christian	Packard, Julie	Roth, Jane R.	Thisted, Elizabeth G.	Vermillion, MD, Clinton D.
Klein, Marianne	Mclvor, William C.	Paine, Jr., Peter S.	Roy, Caroline	Thomason, Rich & Sally	& Margaret H.
Klein, Peter D. & Anne F. Ashbaugh	McLane, Linda Harper & P. Andrews	Page, Norman	Rubin, James S. & Gretchen	Thome, Diana	Vermillion, Dan
Klockman, Jane D.	McManus, Sandra J.	Paoli, David R. & Monica Conrad	Rubin, Robert E. & Judith O.	Thorell, Lennart M. & Carol C.	Vogel-Wright, Hedwig G.
Knell, Charles A. & Marcia S.	Melzer, Tyler	Parker, Paul W. & Anne P.	Sampson, John	Tight, Peter	von Clemm, Emmiliese
Knudsen, Kathy L.	Merrill, John	Parkinson, Don M.	Santa, John L. & Carol M.	Tingle, Gene A.	Waller, John & Amy
Koval, Robin, Fred, Graham, & Brice	Merritt, John B.	Patterson, Donna	Satterthwaite, Frank L. & Janet	Tingley, Jr., Nathaniel R.	Wallner, Fred & Mary Kay
Krause, Caroline	Messina, James & Taya Cromley	Patterson, Thomas A. & Kristi	Scharnberg, William	Townsend, Jerry	Walter, John & Wendy
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Kuhn, Jr., Walter & Nancy	Meyer, Stanley F.	Peck, Charles & Yuryra Guzman	Schiltz, Sharon	Tucker, Sara	& Sarah Lobeck-Walton
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Lahey, John & Deborah	Mitchell, Douglas & Julie	& Nancy MacKinnon	Schurz, Franklin		
Lalani, Sal & Carol	Mohn, Blair & Megan	Peters, Elliot	Schutz, Jeffrey H.		
Landes, Paul H.	Monn, Mark	Petersen, Gerald R.	& Charlotte Caldwell		
Langlas, Steve & Catherine Bergman	Montag, Jeffrey M. & Kim H.	Peterson, Jess	Schwab, Charles R. & Helen O.		
Larsen, Lisa A. & Raymond Flaherty	Montagne, Claudia	Pfeiffer, Steven B.	Seal, Christian G.		
Laslovich, Nate	Montague, Chris	& Kristin Reagan Pfeiffer	Seitz, Dr. Frank		
Laszlo, Ann G.	Morgan, Lance & Gloria Borger	Phelps, Chris	Shearer, Cindy		
Laszlo, Jr., Andrew & Paulette	Morgens, Edwin & Linda	& Margaret Hollow-Phelps	Sheffler, Kathleen		
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Leaphart, William	Murdock, William	Poett, III, Henry W. & Cynthia S.	Siderius, Charles E.		
Ledger, Mark T. & Ann A.	Musselman, Jeff	Polemis, Michael A. & Barbara M.	Siderius, Kenneth L.		
Legg, William M.	Musser, Bill, Linda, Philip, & Lila	Poole, Ingrid	Siebel, Jr., Kenneth F. & Judy		
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Levy, Paul	& Dr. Adrian Fisher	Rahr, David & Bridget	Smith, Gordon & Nicole		
Lindbergh, Land M.	Nelson, Davilyn L.	Rahr, William T.	Smith, Michael K.		
Lipsick, Joseph & Laurel	Nicholson, Alan & Nancy	Raible, Joe & Barbara	Smith, Paul "Brud"		
Littlefield, Max	Nicholson, Steven L.	Ramirez, Kelly & Marcus Pearson	Smith, Robert E.		
Loeb, Jeffrey & Margaret	Nickerson, William H. & Jane M.	Randall, Forrest B. & Barbara E.	Sollers, III, Joseph Sedwick & Magge		
Logan, David A. & Mildred E.	Norsworthy, George	Rasmussen, Robert S.	Sorensen, Jerald L. & Patti		
London, Mimi	Nova, Dan & Annette	Rauner, Bruce V. & Diana Mendley	Spanjian, Kris & Ray Gilbertson		
Long, William & Billie Miller	Nussbaum, Brad & Pauline	Rausenbush, John C. & Marcia	Spinelli, Margaret A. & Felix J.		
Longhart, Fred	Nutt, Robert	Reed, Glenn W. & Barbara W.	Steiner, Ernest & Anna		
MacDowell, Rosalie A.	Nutt, William & Deborah S.	Reed, Thomas	Stephens, Ralph C. & Betsy W.		
Mackley, Julie A.	O'Connor, Elise	Retzler, Christopher J. & Karen H.	Stephenson-Love, John D.		
MacLay, Helena & John W. Larson	O'Connor, Roy S. & Susan	Rice, Errol	Steuert, Michael D. & Deborah J.		
MacLeod, Jay	O'Dell, Matt & Katie Stokes	Richards, S. F. & Bruce William	Stevenson, Carol S.		
Madden, Elizabeth	O'Steen, John & Judi	Rill, Pamela	Stolp, Staci		
Mannix, Cole	Odegaard, Paul & Suzanne	Ringling, Rock & Bobbi Uecker	Stout, Richard O. & Janet P.		
Margolis, Heather	Ogden, Roger H.	Robbins, Gary L. & Cheryl J.	Stowell, Jeffrey L. & Carol S.		
& Timothy C. Warner, Jr.	Ohman, Christopher C.	Roberts, Donald & Carol	Straub, Patrick, Brandy, Adela,		
Marks, Heidi	& Tamara J. Uecker	Roe, Sandra B.	& Mikaela		
Martin, Sandy & Anne	Olinger, Skip & Deborah	Rokita, Rusty R. & Deborah A.	Strobel, Emily		

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Watson, Lorraine
Wayman, Karen & Thomas Gaa
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Wellenstein, Michael S. & Cori E.
Welles, Jeff & Maud I.
Werner, Jack F. & Carol Ann
Weyerhaeuser, Robert M.
Wheeler, Col. James & Jane
Wheeler, Patrick & Sarah
Williams, Burton & Joan
Williams, Conrad "Duke"
Wilson, III, Kendrick R.
& Ann Jackson
Wilson, David

The Wilson Family
Wilson, John L. & Jan
Wilson, Julie Rae
Wilson, Suzanne
Wimberly, J. David
Winstead, David L.
Wolf, Lauren
Woodsum, Steve & Anne R. Lovett
Wortman, Kirk
Wright, Theodore M. & Elizabeth H.
Wrinkle, Guy Curtis & Cynthia
Yackel, John P. & Eleanor R.
Yates, Maura
Zackheim, Hugh & Karen
Zaideman, Robert & Julie
Zovickian, Stephen & Jan

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IN MEMORIAM

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Bjergo, Allen
Blazer, Robin
Borman, Susan
Brandborg, Stewart M.
Broadbent, William S.
Burkhart, Daniel
Cameron, Gilbert
Campbell, Sara "Sally"
Flynn, Kelly
Grundhofer, John "Jack"
Koenig, Herb
Higgins, Frank
Laszlo, Ann
Miller, J.O.
Ottey, Mark
Rahn, Joene
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Reints, Jack
Robocker, Cathryn "Jean"
Schiltz, Donald
Shryer, Jeffrey
Siderius, Thomas
Smith, Farwell
Sperry, Janet
Stanchfield, Frank M.
Thisted, Ralph
Walton, William A.
Watson, Thomas L.
Wilson, Penelope
Woodson, Martha

The Montana Land Reliance

lost an important Board member this past year when Allen Bjergo passed away. MLR expresses its appreciation for the service Allen Bjergo rendered to MLR for the past 42 years. During Allen's tenure on the MLR Board of Directors, and with his guidance, MLR grew from a small land trust to one of the largest and most respected land trusts in the nation. From his service with the Army National Guard to his extension work with the Montana State University, and his volunteer efforts to improve rural life across the globe, Allen was an inspiration for how to live a life of service. He was an incredible storyteller and is greatly missed by everyone at MLR.

The MLR Family of Friends

lost an important member this past June when Jeff Shryer passed away unexpectedly. Jeff was MLR's 2020 Conservation Award winner and had dedicated the last years of his life to increasing the conservation of private lands in Montana. He put his time, tremendous energy, intellect, and experience to work; and he did so with the great enthusiasm with which he lived his entire life. He left the vast majority of his estate to MLR through a planned gift. We like to believe that Jeff's spirit knows what a legacy is being created through his forethought, actions, and generosity. We are grateful to have known Jeff as a friend and partner in conservation. He will be sorely missed by all of us at MLR.



THE MONTANA LAND RELIANCE

Thanks to the continued support of its generous donors, The Montana Land Reliance (MLR) had another banner year in 2021.

MLR's operations continue to be amazingly efficient, with expenditures for the year running under budget. Revenues for the year exceeded expenditures – as they have for the past 43 years – resulting in a gain of \$1,036,668 in the General Fund. MLR was able to make grants to the Montana Land Reliance Foundation (the Foundation) in the amount of \$324,853 in 2021. These grants allow for continued growth in the corpus of the Foundation's investment accounts.

2021 FINANCIAL REPORT

Income	\$ 2,932,171
Expenses	\$ 1,874,228
<hr/>	
General Fund	\$ 4,781,216
Accounts Receivable/Payable	\$ 331,339
<hr/>	
Land Acquisition Fund	\$ 7,065,616
<hr/>	
Total Assets <i>as of 12-31-21</i>	\$11,846,843

MLR photo

Ruby Valley



THE MONTANA LAND RELIANCE FOUNDATION

Fiscal responsibility has always been a hallmark of both the Montana Land Reliance Foundation (the Foundation) and The Montana Land Reliance (MLR). In 2021, the Foundation was able to grow our investment portfolio by 15% to over \$37 million while continuing to provide significant support for MLR operations.

The Foundation Board takes its role as stewards of the Foundation’s investment portfolio very seriously and works with MLR management and Morgan Stanley to balance protecting the investment funds for the future, earning income to support MLR’s operations, and providing growth. The Foundation’s investments are managed to ensure compliance

with our investment policies and to enhance the Foundation’s financial strength.

In 2021, the Foundation granted \$300,870 to MLR from the Land Protection Fund to support stewardship and easement monitoring. Additionally, the Foundation granted \$140,193 to MLR for education and outreach and \$20,000 for conservation activities.

Investment earnings (including changes in market value) were \$4,919,704 in 2021 – a 15% return on investments net of fees. The Foundation received \$324,853 from MLR and this income, combined with the investment value increases and earnings grew the net assets of the Foundation from nearly \$33 million to over \$37 million after reflecting grants to MLR and other expenses.

The Foundation Board members – Karen Kress, Phil Rostad, Tom Patterson, Kirsten Feldman, and myself are honored to have helped oversee the investments of the Foundation. By continuing this legacy of prudent financial stewardship, funding for MLR’s conservation efforts will be available for many, many years to come. On December 31, 2021, my term and Phil Rostad’s term on the Foundation Board ended. The Foundation and MLR give thanks to Phil for his many years of service to the Board.

*Doug Mitchell,
MLR Foundation President*



Kirsten Feldman will serve as President in 2022 and we welcome Skip Olinger, Chris Montague, and John Heyneman as new Foundation Board members.

Last, but certainly not least, neither MLR nor the Foundation would be the successful organizations they are today without the service of Lois Delger-DeMars. We will be forever thankful for Lois’ commitment, and are thrilled that MLR’s own Katie Stokes will be taking over the role of Finance and Operations Director.

Thank you for contributing to the important work of The Montana Land Reliance. Your visionary leadership and steadfast support makes a powerful impact protecting Montana’s treasured open spaces.

2021 FINANCIAL REPORT

Land Protection Fund <i>The corpus is available to defend and protect land already under easement. Income is used for stewardship projects, monitoring of easements, and completing easements for donors who cannot cover these costs.</i>	\$ 21,331,960
Education & Outreach Fund <i>Income finances conservation education and outreach to landowners and the public.</i>	\$ 11,601,979
Conservation Fund <i>A permanent, irrevocable endowment designed to accept gifts from individuals or direct gifts from corporations, partnerships, or estates.</i>	\$ 3,150,045
MLR General Operating Fund <i>Account used for day-to-day operations of MLR.</i>	\$ 1,461,218
Traditions Fund <i>A permanent, irrevocable endowment designed to accept planned gifts from individuals or direct gifts from corporations, partnerships, or estates.</i>	\$ 62,230
Foundation Operating Fund <i>Account used for day-to-day operations of the Foundation.</i>	\$ 11,950
Total Assets <i>as of 12-31-21</i>	\$ 37,619,382

*a 509(a)(3) support organization to The Montana Land Reliance

RUBY HABITAT FOUNDATION

The Ruby Habitat Foundation* is dedicated to preserving and enhancing the natural resources and social and economic makeup of the Ruby Valley and southwestern Montana.

2021 FINANCIAL REPORT		BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Income	\$ 767,521	Group A: The Montana Land Reliance George Olsen; Rock Ringling, Vice-president; Lois Delger-DeMars
Expenses	\$ 458,717	
Net Income	\$ 308,804	
Rural Heritage & Open Lands Fund	\$ 131,247	Group B: Woodson Family Martha Woodson, Secretary; Robin Mitts, Treasurer; Leslie Vanderpool; Lisa Matthews
Hill Education & Outreach Endowment	\$ 187,614	
Woodson Ranch Endowment	\$10,064,538	
General Fund	\$ 237,337	Group C: Ruby Valley Community Neil Barnosky, President; Bruce Peterson; Steve Wood
Fixed Assets		
Equipment & Improvements	\$ 541,282	
Land	\$ 9,033,562	Executive Director Les Gilman
Visitor Center & Donated Art	\$ 48,244	
Total Assets as of 12-31-21	\$20,243,824	Outreach Coordinator Dave Delisi

*a 509(a)(3) support organization to The Montana Land Reliance



Sandhill Cranes

kevinleaquephoto.com



*Neil Barnosky, Ruby Habitat
Foundation Chairman*

I have long wanted to see Yellowstone National Park in the winter. This January, Gloria and I took the time for a snow coach ride from West Yellowstone to Old Faithful. It turned out to be a day far beyond any expectations I had held. My favorite part of the park has always been the geyser basin with its mud pots and geysers. We were able to walk through this area, and to see it in the winter is an amazing experience that photos cannot do justice to, although I took quite a few. As the day progressed, I thought of what a remarkable and rare area the Ruby Valley is also. It supports a diverse population of wildlife year-round. The last Christmas bird count recorded 67 species. This is in the middle of winter! The Ruby River is a tremendous trout stream. The views are second to none.

I tell this story thinking of the importance of preserving this unique valley for future generations. Ruby Habitat Foundation (RHF) is in an important position to help in supporting agriculture to maintain and protect open space for all our wildlife neighbors. The message of good stewardship of our natural resources is central to our mission and we are actively reaching out to the community and beyond. The restoration of Clear Creek is going

to benefit all of the lower Ruby River for future generations. My trip to Yellowstone National Park this winter heightened my realization of the importance of the work that RHF is doing and the amazing vision Craig and Martha Woodson have given us to carry on. I am so thankful to be a part of RHF as we look forward to this year and the coming years, to continue to bring leadership and solutions in addressing the resource management issues that are always before us.



2021 saw Martha Woodson, Robin Mitts, and Lois Delger-DeMars retire from the RHF Board. Their wisdom and commitment has been of the highest value. It has been an honor serving with each one.

I want to express my appreciation to our many partners that so generously support RHF. I also want to extend an invitation to each one to come visit the Woodson Ranch on a cold winter day. Winter has its own special beauty that it puts on display at the ranch. Thank you again for your continued support.

2021

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Billings, MT

Kirsten Feldman
Businesswoman
Nye, MT/New York, NY

Caroline Kurtz
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2021 Annual Report

Essay and award stories by MLR staff.

Design by Real World Design.

Printed by Advanced Litho Printing.

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Staff can assist you in determining the most suitable option for your financial needs.

Call us at 406-443-7027
or visit mtlandreliance.org

Because MLR is a non-profit corporation, contributions made to MLR are tax-deductible. Planned gifts are one way to make a meaningful impact on MLR's mission, but there are many ways that families, individuals, foundations, corporations, and organizations can provide financial support for MLR's conservation work.

Stock gifts are welcome and MLR has a very streamlined process in place through its investment team at Morgan Stanley to assist donors to ensure a smooth, well-documented transaction.

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