



LONGTIME BOULDER VALLEY FAMILY CONSERVES GENERATIONAL RANCH

Bill and Rochelle Brownlee know the Boulder Valley.

Bill's great grandfather, Robert – a well-respected businessman, rancher, Montana Senator and Representative, and inductee into the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame – left a lasting legacy for his family when he purchased the ranch in 1906. Five generations have had the pleasure of continuing this ranching lifestyle.

"It's an incredible place," said Bill. "The ranch has provided a good living for our family and the view of the Boulder out our window is one you can't buy anymore. The wildlife, too – elk, bear, mountain lion, deer, birds, you name it – they love the ranch."

Located ten miles south of Big Timber, the 3,400-acre ranch consists of three parcels nestled against the Absaroka

"[MLR] worked with us to make sure we can still operate our ranch the way we want under the terms of the conservation easement."

–Rochelle Brownlee



Beartooth Wilderness. The property includes native rangeland and irrigated hay meadows along nearly two miles of the Boulder River.

In 2020, the Brownlees began talking with MLR about conserving part of the ranch. "The Boulder Valley has seen its share of newcomers, but many of them recognize how special this part of Montana is and have chosen to conserve their places rather than develop them," said Bill.

"That appealed to us too."

For the Brownlees, completing the conservation easement gave them peace of mind that their ranch will remain available for agricultural production forever. "It was important to us to do what we could to keep this place the way it always has been, and MLR was a good fit to help us do just that," said Rochelle. "They worked with us to make sure we can still operate our



Lynn Donaldson

The easements protect the properties' agricultural viability.

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In partnership with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) program, MLR purchased two conservation easements on approximately 1,700 acres of the Brownlee Ranch in November. The easements protect the properties' agricultural viability and scenic views, and build out a growing neighborhood of conserved properties in the Boulder Valley. Most importantly, though, they help ensure that the Brownlee family's legacy in the Valley will continue long into the future.



Thank You to Our Retiring Land Stewards

As this year's monitoring season draws to a close, MLR is bidding a bittersweet farewell to eight of the team's part-time land stewards. MLR's stewardship program is about a lot more than just monitoring and compliance – it's about forming a forever partnership with landowners. The land stewards are out on the land each year building

relationships with landowners, and often become trusted advisors who are invaluable in ensuring MLR keeps its promise of enduring protection of Montana's open spaces.

These eight land stewards have done incredible, important work during their time with MLR. "Stewardship becomes a larger part of what MLR does as each

year passes," said Stewardship Director Colin Cooney. "Our stewardship team carries a robust knowledge base and a wide array of natural resource expertise, and is an important resource for landowners. We wish Terry, John, Pat, Ron, Jerry, Skip, Gayleen, and Maria all the best and extend our sincere thanks for their time, dedication, and friendship."

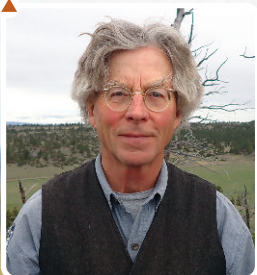


Pat Flanary

"My eight years with MLR have been quite fulfilling. Getting to work with conservation minded easement holders has been very enjoyable. I will particularly miss our annual easement visits."

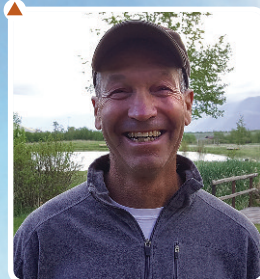
Jerry Iverson

"My time at MLR has been deeply rewarding. And fun – I've enjoyed all my colleagues and every happy hour. Thanks, MLR, and good luck everyone."



Ron Hvizdak

"The best part of being a land steward for MLR is getting to meet people from a variety of backgrounds, and yet most of them have the common interest in seeing the land stay undeveloped and kept whole for a long time. They are the true stewards of the land."



Gayleen Malone

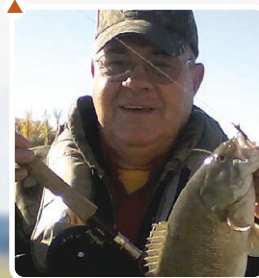
"My past 24 years with MLR have been a memorable experience. I played a part in keeping open spaces in the Paradise Valley and northern Park County, where I was raised, and that is important to me."



Maria Mantas

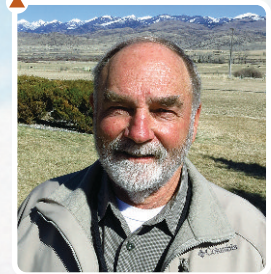
"Conservation of Montana's open spaces and wild places is why I came to work for MLR. But what I soon discovered was the added bonus of working among the finest people I have known in my career. It has been incredibly gratifying to be part of MLR's team of dedicated and highly skilled conservationists."

John Moorhouse

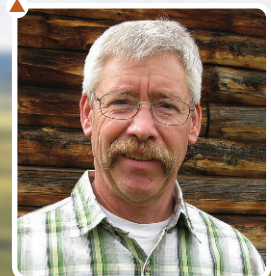


Skip Kowalski

"I joined MLR in 2012 to monitor conservation easements in the Bitterroot Valley. Although I have witnessed significant reductions in working farms and ranches, wildlife habitat, and open space over the years, tremendous opportunities to conserve working landscapes across Montana remain. MLR is critical to conserving these remaining lands. I am grateful and honored to have worked with the exceptional folks at MLR."



Terry Althaus





Conservation Sustained by End-of-year Support

MLR has been growing to meet the demand for conservation easements from landowners seeking assistance in protecting their farms and ranches. The budget needed to support this growth has risen steadily to accommodate additional land project specialists and stewards on staff, easement legal review, and effective outreach tools.

It is only because of the generous support of our core group of conservationists that MLR can sustainably grow to help our neighbors, as our operations funding is entirely privately raised from foundations and individual donors. We all share

a common goal of protecting vital open space, clean water, rich soils and grasslands, and critical wildlife habitat for the benefit of both current and future generations.

Please consider donating in the enclosed envelope or online using the QR code provided. Your support will allow us to expand our reach and help the next generation of easement donors make their impact on protecting Montana's future.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

mtlandreliance.org/donate



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mtlandreliance.org



WE'VE MOVED!

We are thrilled to announce that The Montana Land Reliance officially has a new home! After months of planning and preparation, we are very excited to be opening the next chapter in our very own building. The new building is better suited to meet the needs of MLR's staff and also provides room to grow as we look to the future. We extend our wholehearted appreciation to the supporters who helped make this dream a reality.

Please note our new address:
**401 N. California Street
Helena, MT, 59601**



Our new home base for conservation, the Campbell-Olsen building.



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NEWS

WINTER 2024

LEAVE A LEGACY OF CONSERVATION

It takes all of us to keep MLR's promise of enduring protection of agricultural lands, fish and wildlife habitat, and open space for generations to come.

MLR's work would not be possible without those who have included MLR in their overall financial and estate plans through planned gifts such as bequests, gifts of real and personal property, gift annuities, charitable trusts, life estate gifts, and more.

You can leave a lasting legacy of conservation with a gift of any size or type—with greater impact than you thought possible. Many types of planned gifts also qualify you for membership in the Forever Montana Society, which pays tribute to those who have helped MLR

create an enduring legacy of conservation and offers special membership benefits. Providing lasting conservation through planned giving enables you to support MLR's work while providing yourself with financial benefits.

MLR welcomes the opportunity to work with advisors of donors who are considering planning a gift to MLR. We are happy to offer fully confidential expertise and assistance in finding the best fit for a gift that matches the donor's financial, philanthropic, and estate planning objectives.

Please contact us for more information or to start a conversation about how we can help during the gift planning process.



Call 406-443-7027 or visit mflandreliance.org

Lynn Donaldson