



BLACKFOOT CHALLENGE

Cover Photo Courtesy Teri Garrison

US Fish and Wildlife Service Watershed Stewardship Award

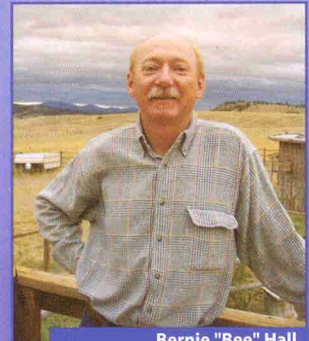
Ralph and Toone Burchenal of the Two Creek/Monture Ranch were awarded a 2004 National Wetland Conservation Award by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for their outstanding contribution to wetland conservation and restoration.



Ralph & Toone Burchenal
Two Creek/Monture Ranch
Ovando, Montana

Darrell Sall Memorial Award

The Darrell Sall Memorial Award for 2004 went to The Nature Conservancy in recognition of the role it has played in the Valley and its most recent efforts to broker the transition of corporate timber lands based on a community-driven plan known as the Blackfoot Community Project.



Bernie "Bee" Hall
Associate State Director for Conservation
The Nature Conservancy of Montana

2004

ANNUAL REPORT

The Blackfoot Challenge is a private non-profit organization whose mission is to enhance, conserve and protect the natural resources and rural lifestyle of the Blackfoot River Valley for present and future generations.

2004 Blackfoot Challenge Board of Directors

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Rolling Stone Ranch, Ovando

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Executive Director:

Tina Bernd-Cohen
Blackfoot Challenge

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From the Chair, Jim Stone

While the majority of the country bases their year on 365 days, the Blackfoot Challenge seems to base their year on the number of meetings a human being can go to! We are fortunate to have had another great year of community-based conservation. Led by a fleet of super-energized folks, we set some impressive milestones for the Blackfoot in 2004. Our Board and committees worked tirelessly to sustain the pace, as there are always new opportunities. We continue to strive towards our mission of enhancing and protecting the natural resources and rural lifestyle of this great landscape.

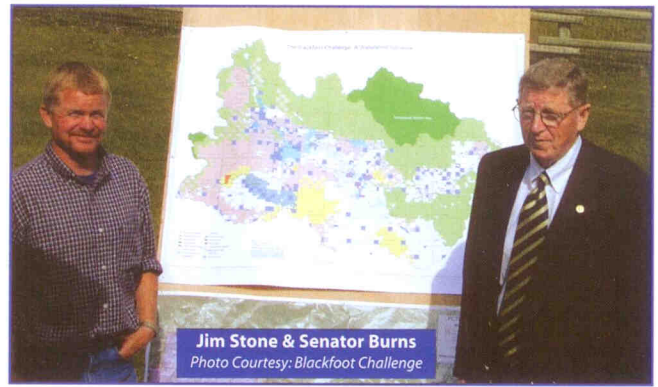
The Blackfoot Community Project began four years ago as an opportunity to look at conserving a small amount of acres north of Ovando. Thanks to the vision of The Nature Conservancy, Plum Creek Timber Company and the Challenge, that grew to a project of 88,000 acres. Today, the Conservancy owns 43,000 acres of timberlands, which will be sold to private, state and federal owners in the next couple of years. And yes...that small acreage north of Ovando will be owned and managed cooperatively with our partners as a community conservation area.

To accomplish a project of this size we needed watershed-wide community support. In maintaining the traditional uses of these lands for grazing, timber and recreation, communities gave us the mandate to proceed. The looming question was the money, how to raise \$10 million in philanthropic funds for the community conservation area and the money to transfer land to state and federal ownership? The answer -- go to Washington, D.C.!

The reality was, we brought Washington D.C. to the Blackfoot with a visit from Senator Conrad Burns. The Senator sat looking north at the community conservation area and explained his position about more public lands and the need to keep sustainable agriculture in the valley. Our group explained that this was a community process and we are comfortable with the diverse ownership and have worked well together for a number of years. Senator Burns remembered buying calves in the Helmville valley years before, told great stories about his ranching history, but before he left said, "If it's home grown, I'll support it." That statement will be forever connected to this effort. Senator Burns has gone beyond support for this project, ensuring the community's vision for the Blackfoot will remain for future generations.

It is a constant reminder that the political system can work, but needs to be based from where we are really affected, at home and in our communities. The Blackfoot Challenge is proud of the efforts of the many folks who make our mission a reality. This is truly a special place.

Thanks to all of our congressional staff, Senator Baucus, Representative Rehberg, and our state and federal partners. Senator Conrad Burns, you have a permanent spot in the heart of the Blackfoot, thank you for all have done and continue to do, to realize our dream.



Board and Committees at a Glance

The Blackfoot Challenge Board of Directors volunteered countless hours running the organization and implementing programs and projects under our **2004 Committees:**

- Drought and Water Conservation
- Conservation Strategies
- Education and Outreach
- Habitat and Water Quality Restoration
- Forestry
- Lewis and Clark
- Weed Steering
- Wildlife
- Executive

Drought and Water Conservation Committee, By Harry Poett, Chair



Dunham Creek
Photo Courtesy: Bruce Andre

Blackfoot Drought Response

2004 proved to be a challenging drought year due to frequently changing conditions. Early snow melt and runoff caused flows in the Blackfoot to peak one month earlier than normal at about half the average volume. On July 30th, flows in the Blackfoot -- measured in Bonner -- dropped below 700 cfs and for the fourth time in five years, the Emergency Drought Response was implemented. Shortly thereafter, heavy precipitation in late August and early September pushed flows back above the 700 cfs trigger, a first in five years of the Drought Program.



Wheel Line Irrigation System
Photo Courtesy: NCAT

Thanks to the 75 individuals and groups participating in this year's drought response, we voluntarily reduced water use and changed angling practices that maintained 60 cfs of instream flow during critical low flow periods, achieving lower water temperatures, increased fish survival, and a healthier river.

The success of the Drought Response continues to grow every year. Through the Emergency

Drought Response, landowners are able to implement individual drought management plans as an alternative to traditional water right calls. The consistency of participants and instream flow savings over the past five years shows that this shared sacrifice approach has worked well for many landowners in the Blackfoot. In addition, a recent study by MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks shows that five years of Emergency Drought Response is making a difference in the Blackfoot. The study demonstrates that shared sacrifice by Blackfoot users is resulting in a decline in angling pressure during years the Response has been implemented.

Long-Term Impacts and Solutions

The Drought Committee and the Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited continued their partnership on several water conservation projects. In 2004, a multi-year restoration effort on Poorman Creek was completed, involving the conversion of an irrigation system and installment of three fish-friendly bridges to increase water use efficiency on a major bull trout stream in the Blackfoot. A second project on the Clearwater River also moved forward with the conversion of an irrigation system and a landowner agreement to help reduce water consumption during low flows, thanks in part to a Chutney Foundation grant.

Thank You!

Drought management during low flows and the health of the river is a watershed-wide issue that can only be addressed through a cooperative effort of the larger community. Many of you may have seen our posters, flyers, and road-side signs while in the Blackfoot this summer. Without the sacrifice of irrigators, outfitters, homeowners, and other water users who live and work in the Blackfoot, the effects of this extended drought would have been much more severe. You make the difference and your continued support is appreciated!

Drought affects everyone
You can help

Blackfoot Low Flow Forecasts -- July 9, 2004
Blackfoot River stream flow is likely to fall below 700 cfs (cfs per second) and reach the surrounding low stream flow level under the following conditions:

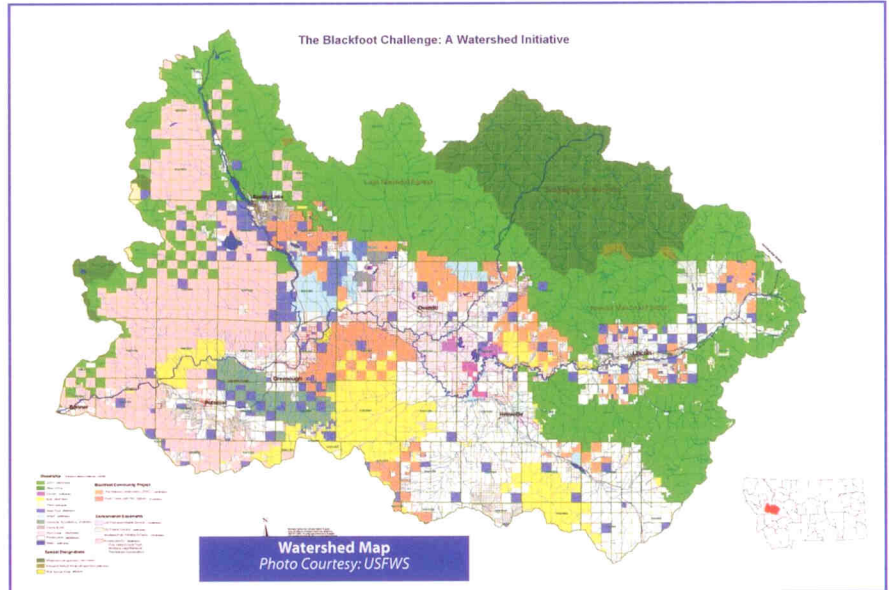
| Precipitation Conditions | Precipitation Date | Predicted Low Flow |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------|
| Average | between August 21 st and 27 th | 617 - 641 cfs |
| Below average | between August 18 th and 27 th | 587 - 617 cfs |
| Well below average | between August 15 th and 18 th | 487 - 587 cfs |

Blackfoot Drought Poster & Road Signs
Photo Courtesy: Blackfoot Challenge



A Conservation Forum

Keeping large landscapes intact requires bringing all the partners to the table and working together on innovative land conservation strategies. In 2004, the committee met quarterly to share information, pool resources and collaborate on conservation activities in the Blackfoot. Over 88,970 acres have been conserved through perpetual conservation easements through this partnership as visually detailed in the Blackfoot Challenge Watershed Initiative Map, which is updated quarterly to help track and guide conservation activities.



Conservation Easements

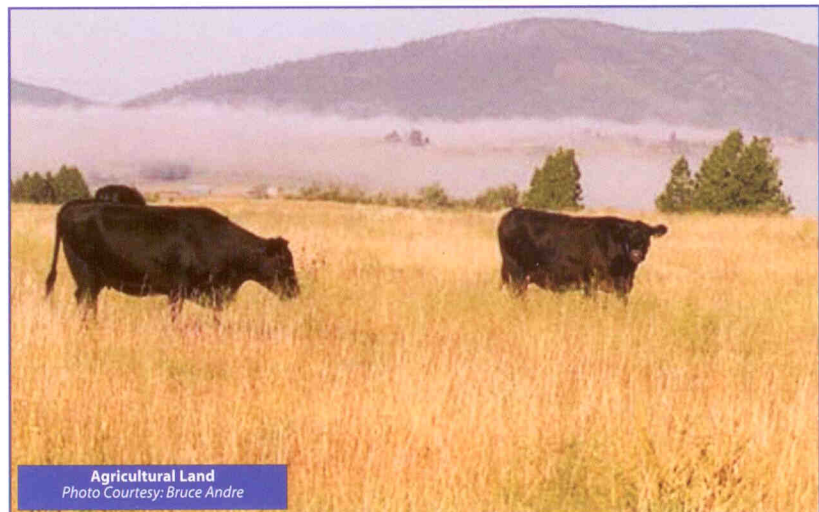
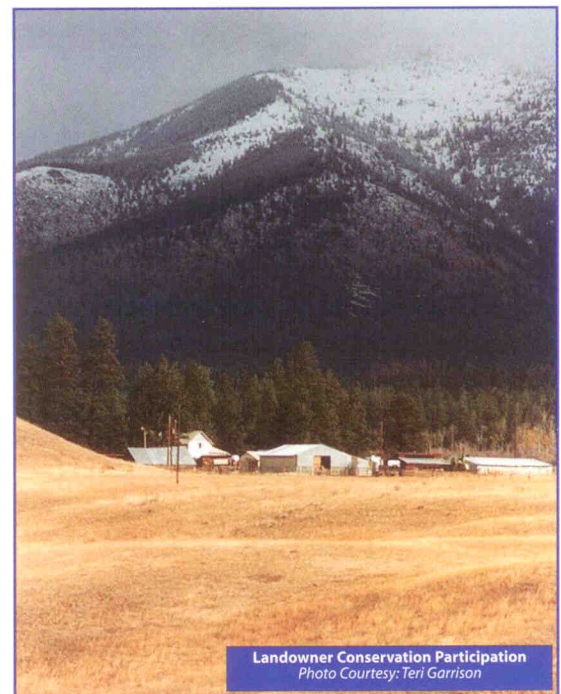
Conservation easements are an important tool to help keep the landscape and traditional working ranches intact. In 2004, a work group formed to discuss how to build flexibility into conservation easements and ensure they are working for landowners, land trusts, agencies, and county planners. The group made progress, including the agreement of all Blackfoot easement-holding organizations to review and refine their easement template to ensure terms work for present and future landowners.

Wetland Conservation Accelerates

We moved forward with the \$1 million North American Wetland Conservation grant, identifying qualifying wetland parcels and landowner interest. This grant will fund conservation easements on 2,804 acres to preserve a unique complex of glaciated wetlands, associated grasslands, and riparian habitat.

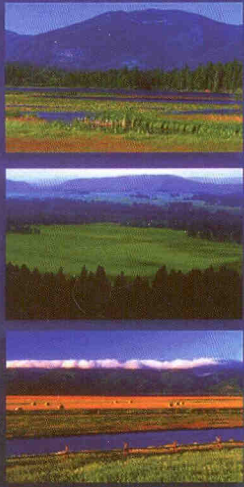
Conservation Resources Database

To encourage strategic conservation, the committee created a GIS (Geographic Information Service) mapping project that places conservation data in a resource library for community members and partners. In 2004, the database was finalized, and organized by eight core focus areas throughout the watershed including community, agricultural, and biological values. The library will be available on-line in the near future.



Blackfoot Community Project - Corporate Timber Lands in Transition, By Hank Goetz, Lands Director

BLACKFOOT COMMUNITY PROJECT



Our Lands, Our Future

Blackfoot Community Project Brochure
Image Courtesy: Westridge Creative

The Blackfoot Community Project, a cooperative effort between the Blackfoot Challenge and The Nature Conservancy, involves the purchase and re-sale of up to 88,000 acres of Plum Creek Timber Company lands to conserve the rural character and natural resources of the watershed. All project lands, from the headwaters of the Blackfoot to the Clearwater drainage, will be re-sold to both public and private owners based on a community-driven plan developed through a series of community meetings.

The project has gained incredible momentum, measured in multiple successes and community involvement. In 2004, The Nature Conservancy purchased 42,927 acres (nearly half of the project's total acreage) from Plum Creek Timber Company for \$33 million. 3,834 acres on the Blackfoot-Clearwater Game Range marked the first re-sale of project lands, through the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, to permanent ownership by MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks. A number of transactions will follow in 2005. The Nature Conservancy holds options to acquire the remaining project acreage during the next few years.

The project made critical funding headway this past year thanks to our congressional delegation and private donors. \$5 million in Land & Water Conservation Funds (LWCF) was awarded for US Fish and Wildlife Service conservation easements and fee title acquisition by the Bureau of Land Management.

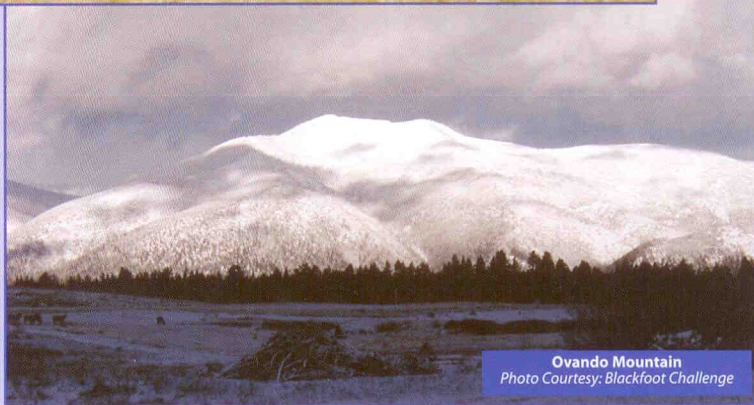
LWCF and Forest Legacy FY05 requests for \$18.3 million gained Congressional approval guaranteeing fee title acquisition of project lands by public agencies, marking the largest LWCF appropriation nationally. Success in the private sphere has been equally remarkable. Just one year into the private fundraising effort, donors have contributed \$4 million towards the \$10 million campaign goal.

We began planning for a 5,600-acre conservation area, located north of Ovando. The area is characterized by important community values, including recreation, public access, grazing, and timber harvest and encompasses an important biological transition zone between national forest and productive valley bottoms. A special management council with a broad range of community interests will be created by the Challenge in 2005 to develop a plan for this area and coordinate it's management with surrounding lands.

The project -- modeling collaborative conservation at its best -- relies on an

amazing partnership between landowners, public agencies, private land trusts and other conservation organizations, local and state government representatives, and members of our congressional delegation. Since December 2001, more than 120 project and community meetings have been coordinated. To track the Blackfoot Community Project's progress, please visit our website.

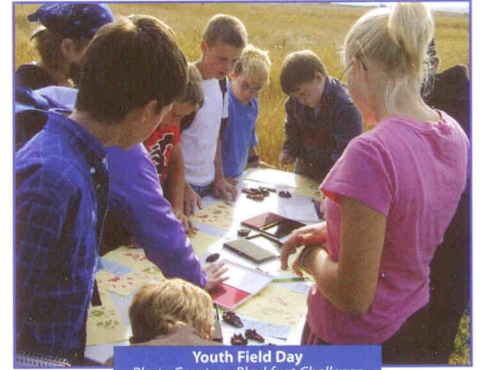
Chris Heggem with Blackfoot Community Project Partners
Photo Courtesy: Blackfoot Challenge



Ovando Mountain
Photo Courtesy: Blackfoot Challenge

Youth Field Day

95 students, teachers, and parents from four local schools participated in the 2004 Youth Field Day, with the theme "Trapped in the Blackfoot: Furbearers, Predators and Their Habitat" at the H2-O Ranch in Helmville. Students learned from resource professionals and experienced trappers about beavers, pine marten, lynx, bears, and other land and water critters and the value of trapping for research, wildlife management, livelihood, and recreation. Handling, operating, and maneuvering around traps in an ethical manner was a highlight for many of the students. The H2-O Ranch is one of our Outdoor Learning Sites which provides important resource education and stewardship opportunities. Watch in 2005 as this committee develops three additional outdoor learning sites in the Blackfoot.



Youth Field Day
Photo Courtesy: Blackfoot Challenge

Working with Teachers

The Blackfoot education program is built around the resource education needs of teachers and students. Our Teacher Steering Committee met in April and November to discuss issues of importance to schools and guide our efforts. We sponsored a 2-day teacher workshop in October, with the theme "Meriwether Lewis in the Blackfoot: A Journey of Discovery" at Lubrecht Experimental Forest. 21 teachers from 8 schools participated and learned from local experts about the Corp of Discovery's expedition and natural history of the Blackfoot through examining plants, animals, and artifacts that existed 200 years ago when Lewis passed through the watershed.

Tours and Workshops

In 2004, the Challenge hosted twenty tours with over 500 participants including landowners, resource professionals, elementary through college age students, and community members. The Blackfoot Landowner Tour in July was a smashing success, despite the dust and heat, with over 100 landowners and project partners attending and visiting project sites highlighting our on-the-ground conservation and ending with a social barbecue at the Lake Upsata Guest Ranch. We also hosted three thematic workshops focusing on: Forest Management & Fuel Reduction Opportunities, Multi-Species Grazing, and Lewis' Journey Through the Blackfoot. Stay tuned for a 2005 Summer Stewardship Series for landowners.



2004 Landowner Tour
Photo Courtesy: Blackfoot Challenge



Adopt-A-Trout Program
Photo Courtesy: Elaine Caton

Building Our Community Network

Community awareness, participation and involvement is central to the Challenge mission. In 2004, we launched our new website, located at www.blackfootchallenge.org.



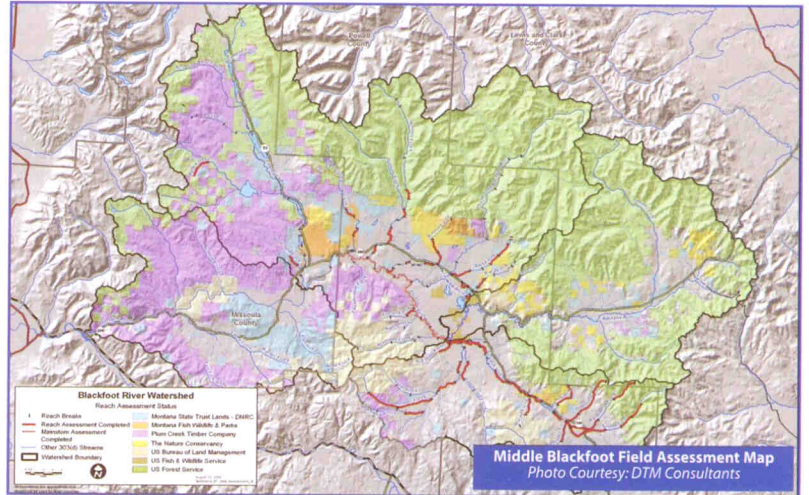
The site provides access to news, events, and opportunities for involvement with Challenge programs and projects.

Adopt-A-Trout

Five Blackfoot schools participated in the third annual Adopt-A-Trout Program. Check out their activities on the Challenge Webpage or <http://fwp.state.mt.us/adopta-trout>.

Improving Water Quality

Our focus is developing water quality restoration plans, or TMDLs, for the Blackfoot watershed. After three years of hard work, the Sediment and Metals water quality restoration plans for the Blackfoot Headwaters planning area were completed and approved in 2004. The plans will guide efforts to implement restoration projects and best management practices that improve water quality on impaired streams and can be reviewed at the Lincoln Library, Challenge Ovando Office or on-line from our website link.



Middle Blackfoot Field Assessment Map
Photo Courtesy: DTM Consultants

In July we conducted a physical assessment of impaired streams in the Middle Blackfoot and Nevada Creek with field crews visiting over 50 sites on 25 streams collecting information on stream condition and identifying restoration opportunities. 30 volunteers from various partners donated their time and expertise. Landowners also played a big part in the effort walking streams with field crews and sharing their knowledge of the land. Plan development will continue on these streams and begin for 10 streams in the Lower Blackfoot.

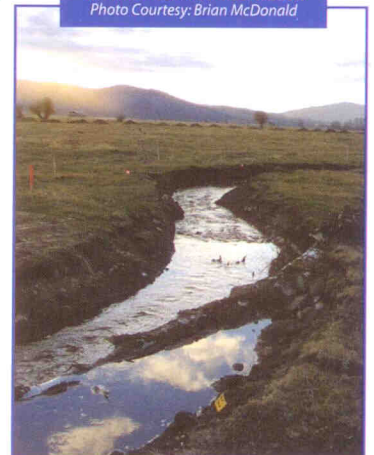
Warren Creek Before Restoration
Photo Courtesy: Brian McDonald



Restoration and Partnerships

In 2004, the Blackfoot Challenge passed through funds to the Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited to support the Warren Creek restoration project. Several decades ago, Warren Creek was channelized resulting in loss of fish habitat and natural stream function. The Warren Creek project involved the construction of 9,700 feet of new channel and fish habitat structures as well as the replacement of an irrigation diversion structure allowing for improved fish passage while maintaining use for irrigation.

Warren Creek After Restoration
Photo Courtesy: Brian McDonald



Status and Trends Monitoring Program

Water quality monitoring is important to understand the effects of restoration in the Blackfoot such as the Warren Creek project. It is also important to understand the collective effects of restoration on a larger scale. In 2004, with funding from the EPA, USGS, and DEQ, the Blackfoot Challenge instituted a basin-wide Status and Trends Monitoring Program that includes six water quality sampling events and a one-time biological sampling at 12 sites throughout the Blackfoot. Data collected in 2004 will be used to develop a baseline of water quality conditions in the Blackfoot. Future sampling will show water quality trends over time as well as the cumulative effects of restoration.

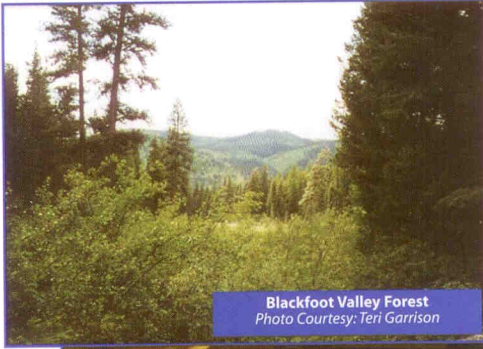
Land Stewardship

The Blackfoot Challenge Land Steward, Allen McNeal, met with 32 landowners or their land managers this year to advise on land stewardship practices and opportunities, completing management plans and developing several grazing projects and water quality restoration projects throughout the watershed. We look forward to his assistance in 2005.



Blackfoot Partners Conducting Stream Assessment
Photo Courtesy: Blackfoot Challenge

Forestry Committee, By Tim Love, Chair



Blackfoot Valley Forest
Photo Courtesy: Teri Garrison

Roughly 80% of the 1.5 million-acre Blackfoot watershed is forested. In 2004, a Challenge work group met to exchange information on forest management issues and to organize a workshop. 45 people attended the half-day workshop in October entitled "Forest Management and Fuel Reduction Opportunities" at Lubrecht Experimental Forest. Speakers representing private industry and agencies provided contact information on available resources and assistance programs for private landowners and discussed forest health, management practices, ownership responsibility, market opportunities, and unique programs like Fuels for Schools conducted by the US Forest Service.



Forestry Workshop
Photo Courtesy: Blackfoot Challenge

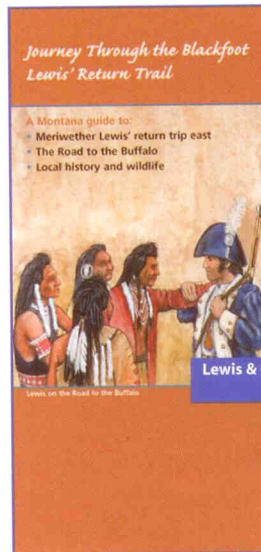
The Challenge, along with other sponsors, began organizing a 3-day national conference entitled "Community-Owned Forests: Possibilities, Experiences and Lessons Learned" that will be held June 16-19, 2005 in Missoula. The gathering will bring practitioners from around the country to explore issues, options, and experiences in community forest establishment, governance, management and use, and will include field trips to the Blackfoot and Swan Valleys.

Lewis and Clark Committee, By David Cochran, Chair

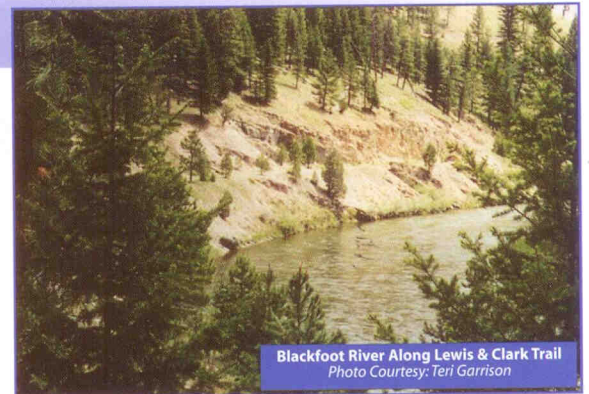
2004 marked the completion of a full-color driving brochure and map entitled "Journey Through the Blackfoot: Lewis' Return Trail." The brochure covers 30 sites along Highway 200, starting in Bonner and ending at Rogers Pass. Introducing residents and visitors to the Road to the Buffalo, the trail used by Native Americans for thousands of years, and in turn the route that Lewis and party followed in 1806, the brochure provides a comprehensive natural history guide to the Blackfoot. For copies contact the Blackfoot Challenge office at 406-793-3900.

We also completed the second of three kiosks on sites located in Bonner, Clearwater Junction and Lincoln. Visitors are now able to stop in Bonner and Clearwater Junction and view the Blackfoot Valley through the eyes of Native Americans and Meriwether Lewis, with its incredible natural diversity of wildlife and plants.

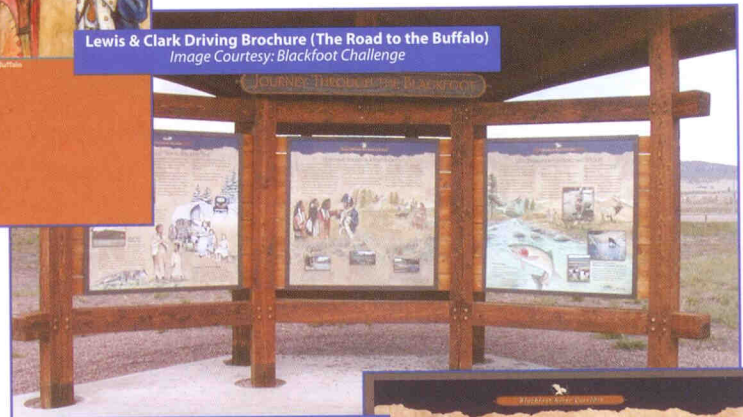
Planning for an additional interpretive sign, located at the Blackfoot Waterfowl Production Area on Hwy 200, was also started. This project will visually illustrate how cooperative conservation in the Blackfoot by public and private partners is keeping large landscapes intact along Lewis' Return Trail.



Lewis & Clark Driving Brochure (The Road to the Buffalo)
Image Courtesy: Blackfoot Challenge



Blackfoot River Along Lewis & Clark Trail
Photo Courtesy: Teri Garrison



Lewis & Clark Kiosks (History & Stewardship)
Photo Courtesy: Wendy Smith



Weed Steering Committee, By Jim Stone, Chair

Education & Awareness

The Weed Steering Committee promotes integrated weed management strategies to limit the impacts of noxious weeds on native rangelands, forests and riparian corridors in the Blackfoot. In 2004, together with our partners, we coordinated a number of field tours, trainings, and workshops related to new invaders, plant ecology, revegetation, "leave no weeds," and weed management area participation.



Sage & Knapweed
Photo Courtesy: Bruce Andre

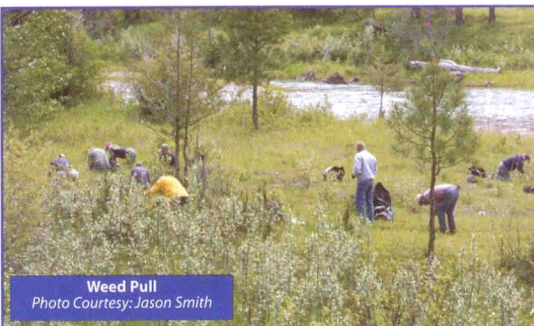
The Steering Committee hosted its Annual Meeting in March with participation from Weed Management Area leaders, Powell, Missoula, and Lewis and Clark County weed coordinators and extension agents, federal and state agency staff. The committee also continued the annual tradition of sponsoring two Weed Pulls/River Cleanup Days at Russell Gates in June and August where leafy spurge and spotted knapweed populations are being significantly reduced.

Weed Management

Twelve landowner-driven Weed Management Areas (WMA) including Avon, Nevada Creek, Patterson Prairie, North Fork, Middle Blackfoot, River Junction, Douglas Creek, Double Arrow, Woodworth, Greenough, Potomac, and the Blackfoot River, lead our on-the-ground noxious weed management. More than 110 private and public landowners and two homeowner associations implemented chemical weed management on their lands, thanks to funding from the Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund, Missoula County Landowner Grant Program, the Natural Resources & Conservation Service Environmental Quality Incentives Program, and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.



The 40-mile Blackfoot River Leafy Spurge Cooperative Project, addressing the primary upland leafy spurge seed source within the high water mark of the river, was implemented and expanded to include an additional 23 landowners and 4 miles of river frontage from Johnsrud to Angevine, due to the efforts of private landowners, BLM, DNRC, and FWP in the Cottonwood Drainage.



Weed Pull
Photo Courtesy: Jason Smith

The Lincoln Ranger District provided spray equipment and personnel for a day to help private landowners in the Patterson Prairie WMA control weeds. The Ponderosa Snow Warriors contributed more than 476 hours of volunteer time to control noxious weeds along 500 miles of trails/roads.

Alternative Weed Control through Multi-Species Grazing

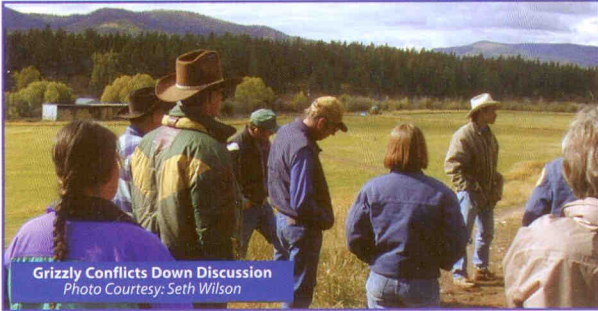
Two large-scale sheep grazing projects were employed to target spotted knapweed on more than 6,000 acres of impacted range. The Weed



Grazing Workshop
Photo Courtesy: Blackfoot Challenge

Steering Committee sponsored a multi-species grazing roundtable and field tour in August on the Mannix Ranch which included Dr. Fred Provenza, of Utah State University, and Montana State University staff working on the Mannix grazing project. The roundtable workshop was followed by a public meeting in Ovando focused on multi-species grazing with over 60 community members attending.

Wildlife Committee, By Greg Neudecker, Chair



Grizzly Conflicts Down Discussion
Photo Courtesy: Seth Wilson

Grizzly Bear Conflicts Down 67% from 2003

The collaborative efforts of MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) and the Wildlife Committee appear to be reducing human-grizzly bear conflicts throughout the Blackfoot. In 2004, there were 20 total reported human-grizzly bear conflicts compared to 60 reported conflicts in 2003 according to FWP. In 2003, there were 5 grizzly mortalities in the watershed and in 2004 there were 3 known mortalities caused from a hunter-related incident, an illegal kill under investigation, and a vehicle collision on HWY 200. Seasonal variation in bear foods and changes in bear activity will impact future numbers, but keeping bears away from humans, property, and protecting human safety is our goal through prevention.



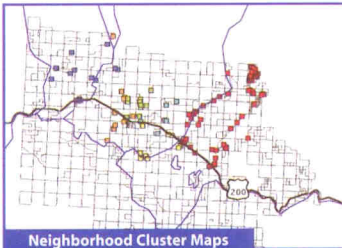
Carcass Removal
Photo Courtesy: Seth Wilson

Participation in Livestock Carcass Pick-Up Program Increases

In 2004, 204 livestock carcasses were removed from ranches in the Blackfoot that would otherwise attract grizzly bears into close proximity with people and property. This was a 224% increase from 2003 with 63 carcasses. We hired two Blackfoot residents to visit ranches, pick up carcasses and transport them to the BFI landfill in Missoula. Many thanks to ranchers, BFI, FWP and the USFWS for your support of this program!

Ranching in Grizzly Bear Country Program

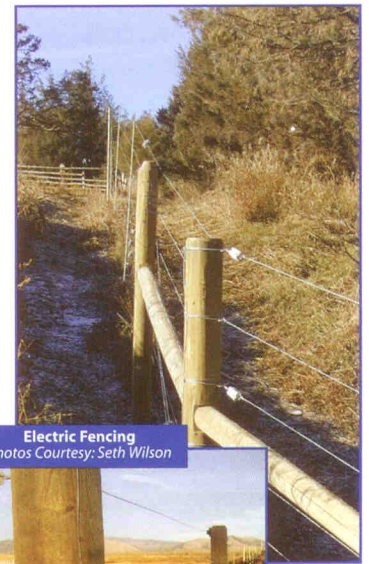
We continue to assist ranchers who live and work in grizzly bear country to prevent conflicts in collaboration with FWP. In 2004 we constructed more than 14,000 feet of electrified fences on two ranches to deter grizzly bears from calving areas and sheep bedding areas. We also conducted 35 GIS mapping exercises with the help of ranchers locating attractants and developing a community-supported and scientifically based plan to further reduce conflicts.



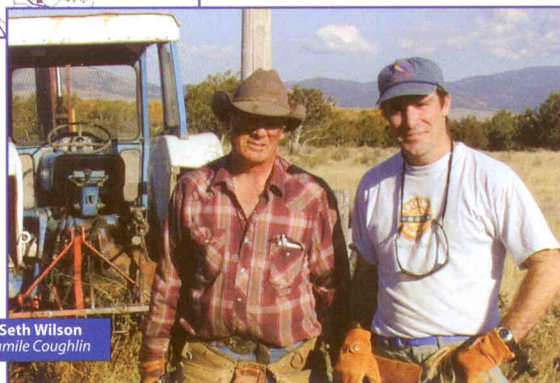
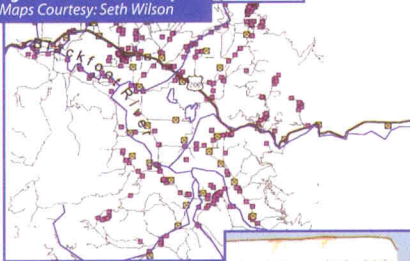
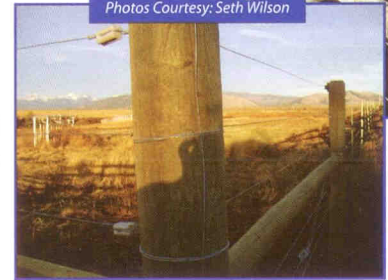
Neighborhood Cluster Maps
Maps Courtesy: Seth Wilson

New Neighbor Network Launched

This pilot project is designed to empower local residents to monitor grizzly bear activity and take actions to keep attractants away from grizzly bears. Working with FWP, we helped organize nearly 100 residents into 8 "neighborhood clusters" with local coordinators who use phone tree lists to help residents prevent conflicts from occurring. Under this program, resident contractors can check-out and borrow a variety of devices including bear resistant trash cans to avoid problems.



Electric Fencing
Photos Courtesy: Seth Wilson



Jay Coughlin & Seth Wilson
Photo Courtesy: Camile Coughlin

Resource Guides Assist Landowners

The Living with Wildlife Foundation and FWP continue to assist the Blackfoot Challenge with important education and outreach including the Living with Predator Resource Guides. (Please visit www.lwwf.org for more information.)

Executive Committee, By Tina Bernd-Cohen, Executive Director

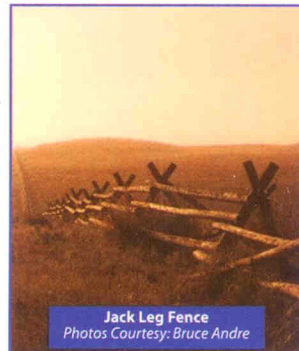
The Challenge is grateful for your support. We could not accomplish our mission or dream of taking on the kinds of issues and projects we do without the generous support of local landowners and businesses, non-profit partners, as well as local, state and federal agencies and the backing of the Montana Congressional Delegation. With your sustained financial support, we can continue achieving remarkable results.

Volunteers

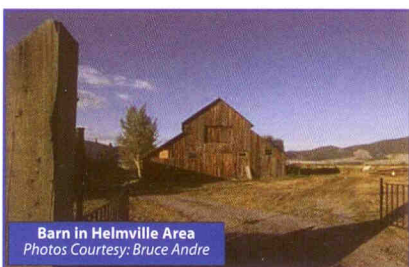
Over 500 people donated time or were involved in Challenge activities in 2004. A core group worked hard to get the Ovando Office ready to open in December 2004, by building, painting and cleaning the downstairs office and by donating equipment and supplies.

Special Thanks and Looking to the Future

The Blackfoot Challenge is indebted to the Chutney Foundation for its sustained support of the Blackfoot Challenge projects that cover the full range of resource and community activities including school programs, teacher training, community outreach, weeds management, wildlife management, drought response, water conservation, land stewardship and local history as well as support for the Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited habitat restoration projects.



Jack Leg Fence
Photos Courtesy: Bruce Andre



Barn in Helmville Area
Photos Courtesy: Bruce Andre

We also wish to thank the Engelhard Foundation and the Cinnabar Foundation whose pledges and annual grants have helped sustain our core operations.

Although we are achieving remarkable results, we cannot sustain our efforts without valley-wide community support and an infusion of private philanthropic dollars. In 2005, we are seeking sponsors who will make an annual pledge over the next three years to the *Blackfoot Stewardship Cooperative Fund* to support our organization and resource stewardship programs for the long-term. We hope you will become a Blackfoot Challenge sponsor. Please contact our Executive Director Tina Bernd-Cohen, stop by our Ovando office at 403 Main Street or write to us at PO Box 103, Ovando, MT 59854.

Blackfoot Challenge Income and Expenditures

January 1, 2004 - December 31, 2004

Income

Private Donations and Grants

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Individuals and businesses (68) | \$100,838 |
| Foundations (2) | \$ 7,600 |
| Corporate/Land Trusts (4) | \$ 30,200 |
| Private Grants (5) | \$237,129 |
| | \$375,767 (42%) |

Public Grants **\$497,194 (56%)**

Interest & Gain/Loss **\$ 14,300 (2%)**

Total New Income **\$887,261**

Expenses

Operations, Programs & Projects **\$779,187**

Total Expenses **\$779,187**

Carry-Over Operations, Programs & Projects **\$108,074**

Memorial and Honorary Donations 2004

- Anonymous in memory of Howard Copenhaver.
- Tokmakian in memory of Roscoe Haines and his daughter Barbara Haines Tokmakian.
- Alan & Jean Kahn Endowment Fund, a component of the Montana Community Fund, in honor of Paul Roos.

Donors to the Blackfoot Stewardship Cooperative Fund 2004

A fund to sustain the Blackfoot Challenge resource stewardship partnership programs.

- James Bauer
- De and Beth Little
- Gordon B Mann of Sullivan and Mann Lumber Company
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- John Stone
- Zoe LLP
- Jim and Colleen Stone

Work Place & Corporate Match Giving

Bert von Stutterheim and Deutsche Bank



Please stop by and visit our new
Blackfoot Challenge Headquarters
at 403 Main Street in downtown Ovando.

Contact the Blackfoot Challenge:

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E-Mail: rsranch@blackfoot.net

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Better Communities through Cooperation