



2005

Annual Report

**BLACKFOOT
CHALLENGE**

From the Chair, Jim Stone



It is not often that I pick up a Dictionary to address spelling questions, or try to expand my horizons with new definitions, this computer seems to substitute all of my brain functions into cohesive dialect. All that said I wanted to try and think thoughtfully about the phrase 'partnerships'; we all use this word quite frequently in the Blackfoot and most seem to believe it makes sense. I found my old Webster from the Montana State University days, yes we did use one occasionally to mop up beer spills, and even with the published date of 1976, it had a definition for partnerships. Here they are:

- Associate or Colleague
- Either of a couple who dance together
- One who plays on the same team with one another

These Webster thoughts seem to meld into a functional picture here in the valley. We have many colleagues, if you have been to the Copper Queen or Trixi's there is always a dance to be found, and if you have been associated with any collaborative projects in the past twenty years there are folks playing on the same team with each other. This all seems realistic to me, but do we use this word in the spirit intended or does it become a buzz word that never really gains traction? My bet is that we are true to the term, but take for granted the continual process that it takes to maintain it.

The Blackfoot Challenge has seen a tremendous growth curve over the past fifteen years, but it is really the unique vision of 'partners' in the 1970's that enabled us to be at this level today. We look back to the river corridor agreements, conservation easement legislation, and walk-in hunting programs that got the wheel turning towards a better way to understand each other. None of this came without an amazing amount of trust and commitment to seeing a process, which was widely misunderstood, to becoming the barometer for how watersheds nation wide can do business. The Challenge has traveled this state and many other parts of the country trying to ascertain from others what we can do better here, and what we can offer them as partners in working together. Everywhere we touch down there is commonality to a process; and it is the people. Whether they are community members, landowners, businesses, or bureaucrats they all are individuals with a vision to be sustainable. This is a powerful tool for all of us; it should not make a difference of our backgrounds or philosophys, but the passion to work as partners.

I see great incentives for the future, not in the programs we use, but the individuals we work with. This valley is a special place thanks to generations of people and ideas and enough trust to take a forward step. When we all can agree to take those steps we will have taken a page from those '70's visionaries and given back to them a future that they in turn afforded all of us.

I promise to return that Webster to the shelf for another twenty years, although it did need the dusting, I am sure it will rest peacefully! Thank ALL of you who make the Blackfoot Challenge possible; we look forward to a great year.

From the Executive Director, Tina Bernd-Cohen

Every year with the Blackfoot Challenge is a remarkable experience. 2005 stands out because of the national attention we received from the news media such as the New York Times and our spotlight at the Whitehouse Conference on Cooperative Conservation. With this press has come more local interest and questions about the organization. All good in the growth process of a remarkably successful organization. I would like to thank the Board of Directors and all who have helped make 2005 an outstanding year for the Blackfoot Challenge. Your stewardship, volunteerism and generosity are inspiring and I look forward to working with you in 2006.

Many folks have asked how we become members of the Blackfoot Challenge. Very simply, if you support the Challenge mission, we encourage you to sign and return a membership card. There are no required annual dues, but contributions are appreciated. Membership cards are available at the Ovando Office or on-line at www.blackfootchallenge.org.



Committees of the Challenge:

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

Engaging Communities in Conservation

Education and Outreach Committee, **By Racene Friede, Chair and Ali Duvall, Coordinator**

A number of people call the Blackfoot watershed home – fourth and fifth generation ranchers, smaller acreage landowners, full and part-time residents. From Lincoln to Bonner, seven communities depend on the natural resources and rural character of the Blackfoot for their community well-being whether it's farming and ranching, timber production, outfitting, tourism or recreation. Our task is to engage this broad mix of landowners, businesses, and conservation partners in the work of the Challenge and to provide education about the value of conservation and land stewardship.



2005 Annual Landowner Tour

In 2005, this committee met quarterly to oversee community education projects, coordinated teacher and student education through hosting two Teacher Steering Committee meetings, distributed training materials through an electronic newsletter, and co-sponsored the Adopt-A-Trout program. Other key accomplishments in 2005 included:

Field-Based Learning – The Challenge and its partners coordinated 35 field tours and presentations reaching 1,200 participants including landowners, elementary through college-age students, resource professionals, agency & policy decision-makers. This included the Annual Landowner Tour focused on sites in Helmville and a series

of special topic tours with partners ranging from Fire and Wild land Fuels: A Local Cooperative Approach; a Prairie of the Knobs Botanical Walk; the Secret Lives of Birds in the Blackfoot; and a Weeds, Wildlife and Meadows Workshop.

Watershed Boundary Signs – “Welcome to the Blackfoot Watershed-Home of the Blackfoot Challenge”—that’s the sign that travelers will now see when they enter the watershed from Bonner, Rogers Pass, and Avon. Two more signs will be installed in 2006.



Watershed Boundary Sign



2005 Youth Field Day

Annual Youth Field Day – In September, the Challenge hosted an education event for fifth and sixth grade students focused on “Building Sustainable Communities.” Local leaders shared from their expertise and experience on the connections between community, place and livelihood. 130 students and 20 teachers and chaperones representing five local schools attended. A special thanks to those who sponsored the event: the Chutney Foundation, Blackfoot Telephone Cooperative, Lubrecht Experimental Forest, the Ovando Fire Department, Wheat Montana and each of the presenters!

National Conference on Conservation – The Blackfoot Challenge was one of 30 groups and over 1,000 participants that attended the White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation August 2005 in St. Louis, Missouri. President Bush called for the conference in his Executive Order directing federal agencies to promote cooperative conservation by actively working with states, local communities, businesses, non-profit groups and private citizens.



Fire and Wildland Fuels Tour

Webpage – We had 28,766 unique visits to our webpage! Check it out at www.blackfootchallenge.org.

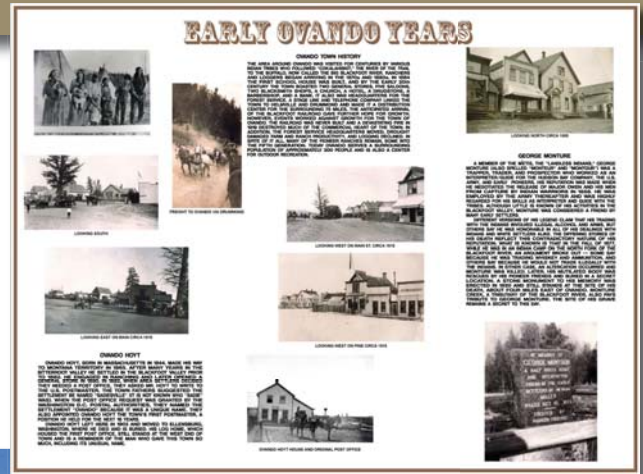
Celebrating Generational Stewardship

Lewis and Clark Committee, By David Cochran, Chair and Ali Duvall, Coordinator

This committee was formed to plan and coordinate public-private activities associated with the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial in the Blackfoot. In December 2005, it sunset with Lewis and Clark celebrations becoming part of our Education program. The committee will leave its marks and contribution to conservation and stewardship with an outstanding "Journey Through The Blackfoot: Lewis Return Trail" full-color driving brochure covering thirty sites that is available at the Challenge office as well as Gateway Kiosks, an Ovando Historical Society Sign, and a Blackfoot Waterfowl Production Area Sign. A special thanks to the committee members who helped with bicentennial planning in the Blackfoot and especially to David Cochran for his leadership and dedication to the project.

In 2005, we constructed the third and final gateway kiosk at Hooper Park Pavilion in Lincoln. Visitors to the watershed are now able to stop in Bonner, Clearwater Junction and Lincoln to learn more about Lewis' travels up the Blackfoot, the Road to the Buffalo, local history, and the importance of stewardship.

Thanks to Chutney Foundation funding and the volunteer efforts of the Ovando Historical Society, a historical kiosk was designed and installed next to the Museum. It features a national and local timeline of events as told through the life of a Douglas fir tree. The locally-crafted sign also explores the lives of Ovando Hoyt and George Monture, two prominent figures in Blackfoot history.



Ovando Historical Society Sign

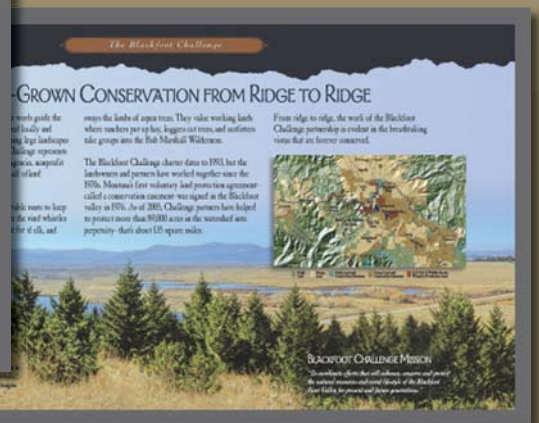


Gateway Kiosk in Lincoln



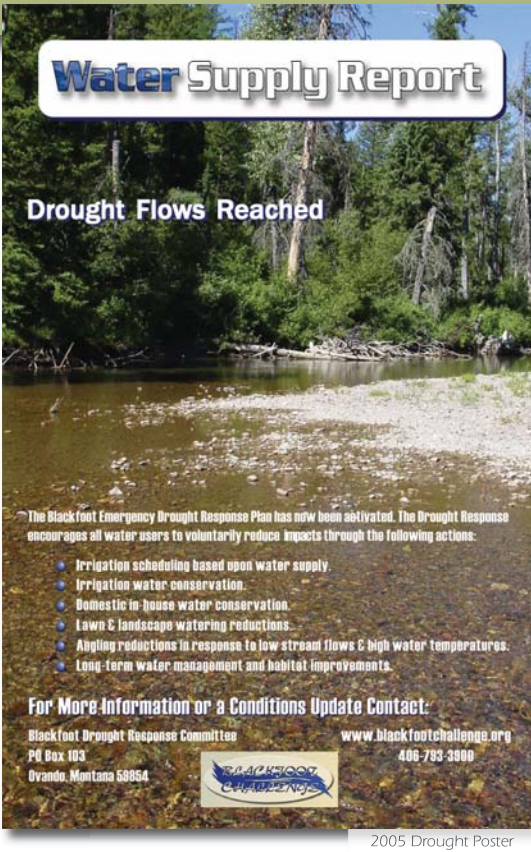
Blackfoot WPA Kiosk

We also completed a three-panel interpretive sign at the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Blackfoot WPA along Hwy 200. The sign focuses on cooperative conservation in the Blackfoot and highlights the role of the US Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge program, the value of stewardship by generations of Native Americans and ranchers, and the home-grown conservation efforts of private and public partners in the Blackfoot. At the site, visitors can walk up a trail to the "Road to the Buffalo" overlook to get a bird's eye view of our ridge to ridge conservation efforts.



Balancing Water Needs Through Shared Sacrifice

Drought and Water Conservation Committee, By Harry Poett, Chair and Brian McDonald, Coordinator



Water Supply Report

Drought Flows Reached

The Blackfoot Emergency Drought Response Plan has now been activated. The Drought Response encourages all water users to voluntarily reduce impacts through the following actions:

- Irrigation scheduling based upon water supply.
- Irrigation water conservation.
- Domestic in-house water conservation.
- Lawns & landscape watering reductions.
- Angling reductions in response to low stream flows & high water temperatures.
- Long-term water management and habitat improvements.

For More Information or a Conditions Update Contact:
Blackfoot Drought Response Committee www.blackfootchallenge.org
PO Box 103 406-793-3800
Divande, Montana 59854

BLACKFOOT CHALLENGE

2005 Drought Poster

Snowpack is the primary factor influencing spring and summer stream flows. With snowpack levels less than 50% of average, many were concerned that 2005 could have been one of the worst drought years in recent memory. Warm spring weather quickly diminished what little snowpack existed, but timely rains in the late spring helped to avoid the worst. Even with the spring rains however, the lack of snowpack proved to be too much and the Emergency Drought Response was implemented for the fifth time since 2000.

The first drought response trigger of 700 cfs was reached on August 1st followed quickly by the 600 cfs drought response trigger on August 9th. Ultimately, flows in the river fell to a seasonal low of 466 cfs. Given these conditions, the 60 participants in this year's voluntary Drought Response helped keep flows from falling much lower and provided much needed water for fisheries during low flow periods. The recreational community also took actions to reduce stress to fish by fishing during morning hours only and using barbless hooks.

Restoration Efforts Making a Difference

The effects of an extended drought on fisheries have been substantial but efforts in the Blackfoot are having positive impacts. Ongoing restoration efforts by partners such as the Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Montana FWP, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service are improving fish habitat, stream flows, and water temperatures throughout the watershed. With the help of restoration and the drought response, water temperatures in the mainstem and critical tributaries stayed mostly below temperature triggers this year despite the low flows.

Drought Message Reaches Blackfoot and Beyond

Restoration efforts and the sacrifice made by irrigators and outfitters in the Blackfoot were highlighted in several regional news stories in 2005 discussing drought, its impacts, and what can be done to prepare for and respond to drought conditions. By reaching those outside of the Blackfoot, we hope that others will be aware of ongoing efforts and respond by taking action themselves while in the Blackfoot. We are humbled by the sacrifice made by so many and it's amazing to have this continued level of participation in our drought response after six consecutive years of drought.



Rock Creek Before Restoration



Rock Creek After Restoration

Water Rights Adjudication in the Blackfoot

In 2005, the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation began their examination of water right claims in the Blackfoot as part of the adjudication process. Approximately 100 water rights holders attended two public meetings hosted by the Blackfoot Challenge, DNRC, and BBCTU to learn about the water rights adjudication process in the Blackfoot.

Keeping Working Landscapes Intact

Conservation Strategies Committee, By Greg Neudecker, Chair and Ali Duvall, Coordinator

Private working ranches, forests, water and wetland resources combined with vast tracts of national forest and wilderness lands are integral pieces of the landscape. In 2005, the committee met quarterly to share information and accomplish on-the-ground cooperative conservation and stewardship activities. The partnership added conservation easements that now total 75 conservation easements on 90,000 acres. Also this year, the easement-holding organizations revised their template language to build flexibility into conservation easements while meeting the key purpose of protecting conservation values for perpetuity.



Working Ranch in Helmsville



Doney Lake

Doney Lake Conservation & Restoration

Doney Lake lies at the southern edge of Ovando Mountain in the heart of the Blackfoot Community Conservation Area. The Lake, formerly a natural wetland covering 85 acres, was ditched and dammed in the 1940s for water storage and draw-down by downstream irrigators in the summer and fall. This dam was listed as a high-hazard dam by the State in the 1980s, citing that if the dam washed out it would send 2 feet of water over-top of Highway 200. The dam was reconstructed in November 2005, with all parties agreeing to manage the lake in a way that meets multiple objectives—irrigation, dam safety criteria, and wildlife and fisheries values. The restoration received support from multiple partners including matching funds from Ducks Unlimited and a North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) Grant. NAWCA funds also helped conserve over 1,700 acres of glaciated wetlands, associated grasslands and riparian habitat in the Tupper Lakes area, east of Kleinschmidt Flat.

Blackfoot Community Project, By Hank Goetz, Blackfoot Lands Director and Alicia Vanderheiden, Coordinator

The Blackfoot Community Project, a partnership between the Blackfoot Challenge and The Nature Conservancy, is a local effort to guide the future ownership and management of lands formerly owned by Plum Creek Timber Company in the Blackfoot Valley. 2005 activities illustrate the breadth and depth of commitment to this endeavor from many individuals and organizations. 11,000 acres were purchased by the Conservancy bringing the total land acquisition to date to 54,000 acres. Of this total, 9,460 acres of project land have been sold to private and public landowners and 9,755 acres have been placed under conservation easements by the Fish & Wildlife Service to prevent subdivision development. In addition, both Plum Creek and the Conservancy helped negotiate agreements in the Lincoln region that will increase access to neighboring public lands.

Thanks to support from our Congressional Delegation, in FY05, \$18.3 million in federal funds was awarded for land acquisition by public agencies. Our FY06 request for \$7.4 million was approved providing \$6 million for fee title acquisitions by the Forest Service and \$1.4 million for conservation easements by Fish, Wildlife & Parks in the Nevada Creek region. With the generous support from many private partners, we raised \$6.4 million in gifts and pledges toward our \$10 million private campaign goal.

In 2005, momentum was gained on a remarkable component of the project, the Blackfoot Community Conservation Area—a 41,000 acre tract of land around Ovando Mountain. The land is owned by the Forest Service, the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks and The Nature Conservancy and includes a 5,600 acre parcel that will be owned and operated by the community through the Blackfoot Challenge. This unique cooperative management venture was showcased in June 2005 during a national convention on Community Forests held in Missoula, MT. A 15 person council comprised of private landowners, users and public land managers was appointed in 2005. They met 4 times to discuss a vision and management plan for the core 5,600 acre area.

Our cooperative goal is to conserve these project lands for traditional uses such as recreational access, grazing, wildlife habitat, forestry and economic stability.

Ovando Mountain



Restoring Habitat, Streams and Fisheries

Habitat and Water Quality Restoration Committee, By David Mannix, Chair and Brian McDonald, Coordinator

Water Quality Planning Work Continues

Water is undeniably one of the most important resources of the Blackfoot valley. It is used by agricultural producers, wildlife, fish, livestock, recreationists, businesses, and homeowners. Since 2000, the Habitat and Water Quality Restoration Committee has been working with Montana DEQ to develop water quality restoration plans, or TMDLs, for the Blackfoot Watershed. In 2005, progress was made on the Middle Blackfoot and Nevada Creek plans with a field assessment of road crossings and metals related sampling. The majority of data collection for these two planning areas is complete and the process will now move into final plan preparation with completion in 2006. Attention will shift to the Lower Blackfoot in 2006 and 2007.

Blackfoot Restoration Action Plan

In 2005, the Challenge partnered with Montana FWP, the Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Hydrometrics Inc. and others to develop the Blackfoot Restoration Action Plan. The Plan integrates three major programs that are currently driving restoration efforts in the watershed – fisheries, TMDLs, and drought. Restoration needs and opportunities for 127 streams are identified in the Action Plan, and will serve as a guide to restoration partners and future collaborative efforts.

Status and Trends Monitoring Project Completed

A two-year watershed-wide monitoring effort funded by EPA, USGS, DEQ, NRCS, and the Chutney Foundation was completed. The health of the Blackfoot watershed was monitored at twelve fixed stations spread throughout the basin. The status and trends monitoring focused on a suite of physical, chemical and biological measurements to evaluate water quality and overall watershed health. The monitoring looked at changes in stream flow, water temperature, sediment, toxic metals, algae-stimulating nutrients, as well as aquatic habitat. From a basin-wide perspective, it appears that water quality in the Blackfoot watershed is supporting beneficial uses such as fisheries, although there are problem areas in need of restoration.

Habitat and Restoration Projects

Our partnership with the Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited (BBCTU) grew stronger in 2005 as we teamed up on five restoration projects. Rock Creek has been a focus for BBCTU for several years and has resulted in numerous projects throughout the entire stream. This year, partners used sodmats to reshape over 5,000 feet of the over-widened, straightened, and shallow stream channel. More recent partnership

projects included approximately 6,200 feet of restoration on Wasson Creek in order to restore channel depth and sinuosity. Work upstream of the channel restoration which includes off-stream water development and grazing management was also initiated.

Projects on Ward and Warren Creeks involved off-stream water development, stream bank improvements, and grazing management to reduce sedimentation, reduce stream channel impacts, and improve riparian habitat. A culvert replacement on Arrastra Creek will improve fish passage and migration in the upper reach of the stream and improve sediment and flow conveyance above and below the crossing.

BBCTU completed many other important projects in 2005 including 2,000 feet of channel restoration on Jacobsen Spring Creek, revegetation projects on Poorman Creek and Rock Creek, and a new bridge installed on Chamberlain Creek. BBCTU plays a lead role in stream restoration in the watershed. Their partnership with restoration projects tied to water quality improvements is appreciated.

Land Stewardship

The Blackfoot Challenge land steward worked with 29 landowners this year on 20 ranches completing range inventories on 15,000 acres and providing project design support. Ultimately, our success in determining

and achieving balanced and healthy habitat is more about people than it is about resources. The relationships forged, trust built, and diversified knowledge gained as we work from different backgrounds towards common objectives maybe the best of our collective works. Thanks to the private and public land stewards and our restoration partners.



Warren Creek Pipelines



Warren Creek Water Gap



Wasson Creek Before



Wasson Creek After

Building Awareness About Weeds

Weed Steering Committee, By Jim Stone, Chair and Ali Duvall, Coordinator



Cheat Grass

Integrated Weed Management through Private and Public Partnerships

The Blackfoot Challenge weed partnership uses a holistic approach to control undesirable, invasive, and noxious weeds. Twelve landowner-led Weed Management Areas are the key to our cooperative on-the-ground weed management efforts. In 2005, more than 150 private and public landowners and two homeowner associations implemented integrated weed management on their lands thanks to funding from the Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund and several other partners.

We also hosted field tours, trainings and workshops to build awareness on integrated weed management across ownership boundaries including our Annual Watershed-Wide Weeds Steering Committee Meeting. In June and August, we continued our tradition of sponsoring Weed Pulls/River Cleanup Days at Russell Gates where volunteers are making a concerted effort to manage spotted knapweed and leafy spurge populations through hand pulling efforts.



Leafy Spurge

The 40-mile Blackfoot River Leafy Spurge Cooperative Project, addressing the primary upland leafy spurge seed source within the watershed, continued for its 5th year, including 42 landowners from River Junction to Angevine Park. Also, year two of a bio-control monitoring project was implemented to assess population levels of biological weed control release sites.



2005 Weed Pull



Sheep Grazing on the Mannix Brothers Ranch

Multi-Species Grazing

In August 2005, the Blackfoot Challenge and its partners hosted a field tour in Helmville to share information on how cattle, sheep and goats have been used to graze spotted knapweed on 5,000 acres on the Mannix Brothers Ranch. The 40 participants included private landowners, weed leaders, county and agency weed specialists and decision-makers, MSU researchers and extension agents, and sheep and goat owners. The tour provided a close-up look at exclosures, monitoring plots and areas where sheep or goats have grazed the ranch since 2000. An evening BBQ and presentation, attended by 80 folks, further explored the benefits and challenges both ecologically and economically to multi-species grazing.



2005 Multi-Species Grazing Tour

Reducing Human-Wildlife Conflicts

Wildlife Committee, By Greg Neudecker, Chair and Seth Wilson, Coordinator

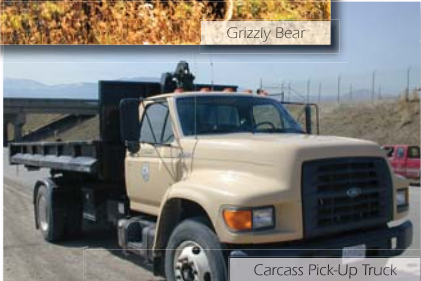
The Wildlife committee was formed in 2002 to exchange information and coordinate wildlife management and conservation efforts. A landowner advisory group of seven local landowners and land managers provide the Wildlife Committee with overall direction. Through committee hosted meetings, workshops, field demonstrations, projects, and on-one-one visits, the Wildlife Committee works to solve problems that local residents care about.



Grizzly Bear

Grizzly Bear Conflicts Remain Low in 2005

The collaborative efforts of the Wildlife Committee continue to help reduce human-grizzly bear conflicts throughout the Blackfoot. We had another very low conflict season in 2005 with a total of 12 reported and verified human-grizzly bear conflicts compared to approximately 20 in 2004. In 2005 there was one road-kill mortality also on Hwy 200 of a sub-adult grizzly of unknown sex. There were no grizzly bears trapped in the Blackfoot in 2005 for conflict management purposes. Two female grizzlies were trapped and fitted with radio collars for research purposes. Keeping bears away from humans, property, and protecting human safety is our goal.



Carcass Pick-Up Truck

Livestock Carcass Pick-Up Program Continues to be Supported by Ranchers

In 2005 the Wildlife Committee, MT Dept. of Fish, Wildlife, & Parks, Brown Ferris Industries, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Blackfoot landowners removed 340 livestock carcasses from ranches that would otherwise attract grizzly bears into close proximity with people and property. We hired two Blackfoot residents to regularly visit ranches and pick up carcasses and transport them to the BFI landfill in Missoula. The cost of the program was shared by ranchers, BFI, USFWS, FWP, and the Blackfoot Challenge.



Electric Fence in Grizzly Bear Country

Fencing Projects as part of our Ranching in Grizzly Bear Country Program

In 2005, we constructed nearly 13,000 feet of new electric fences on 3 ranches to deter grizzly bears, wolves, and other predators from calving areas and grain sheds. We were pleased to collaborate with the Natural Resources Conservation Service on these important efforts and will partner with them on several new projects in 2006.

Neighbor Network Continues to Monitor and Respond to Grizzly Bear Activity

This pilot project will help residents monitor grizzly bear activity and take actions to keep attractants away from grizzly bears. In 2005, we worked with nearly 100 residents to develop 9 "neighborhood clusters" with the help of local volunteer coordinators who use phone tree lists to call their friends and neighbors when bears are around to prevent conflicts from occurring. Under this program, residents can check-out and borrow a variety of devices including bear resistant trash cans, free-of-charge, to avoid problems.



Neighbor Network



Louie Bouma with Swans

Trumpeter Swans Released

Ten Trumpeter Swans were released on a private wetland in the Blackfoot Valley on June 23rd, 2005. Louie Bouma, a landowner in the upper Blackfoot Valley was instrumental in the return of the Swans. Biologists anticipate releasing 10 to 20 swans each year over the next 5-10 years until we have 7 active breeding pairs within the Valley. Long-term we expect to have up to 30 breeding pairs throughout the watershed. This program would not have been possible without the incredible support from private landowners within the valley and in particular a generous anonymous financial donation for reintroduction.

Executive Committee, By Tina Bernd-Cohen, Executive Director



The Blackfoot Challenge Board of Directors and Executive Committee provide the administrative, fiduciary and strategic planning oversight to the organization. With an administrative office in downtown Ovando, folks have a chance to stop in and get to know us. Over 160 private individuals and organizations supported the work of the Blackfoot Challenge in 2005, as well as local, state and federal partners, and the Montana Congressional Delegation. We are grateful for your support to help us achieve our mission. Together we can make a remarkable difference in shaping the future of the Blackfoot River valley.

Thanks to our 2005 Contributors:

Ralph Allen • Robert & Nancy Anderson • Bruce Andre • Robert Anning • Anonymous (9) • Christin Archambault in honor of Jon Farrar • Norman & Rose Baier • Patrick & Bernaditte Bannister • Bar Lazy M Enterprises, LLC • Bar Lazy M Enterprise, LLC in memory of Steve Bryant • Woodrow & Christine Barstad • Jim & Norma Bauer • Pat & Diane Bennett • Tina Bernd-Cohen & David Smith • Traci Bignell • Blackfoot Angler & Supply • Ellen Blum • Bonner Development Group • Sara Boyett • Bryan & Meg Bradshaw • Clair & Rose Marie Bradshaw • Joe & Cindy Bradshaw • Jane Braxton Little • Scott Brinker • Cooper & Anne Burchenal • Bob Bushnell • Caroline Byrd • William Carey • Lee Carter • Castellini Foundation in honor of Ralph Burchenal • The Chutney Foundation • Cinnabar Foundation • David Cochran • Thomas Cody • The Community Foundation of the Central Savannah River Area/Summit Fund in honor of Mr. & Mrs. Braye Boardman • The Community Foundation of Jackson Hole/Hofley Donor Advised Fund • Rick Cooksey • Jay & Camille Coughlin • Michael Czerwinski • Fred Danforth & Carlene Larsson • Ty & Alyssa Daniels • Defenders of Wildlife/The Bailey Wildlife Foundation • John Delano • Deutsch Bank Americas Foundation • David Dimling • Edwin Douglass • Ali Duvall • Pen & Liz Edwards • Robert Ekey • Jon & Linda Ender • The Charles Engelhard Foundation • Andy & Connie Erickson • Zella Erickson • John & Jan Farrar • Five Valleys Land Trust • Bruce Fleming • Howard & Peggy Fly • Racene Friede • Clark & Woodie Fuller • Jim & Shirley Garison • Hank Goetz • Henry N. Goodwin • H. North Goodwin • Bob & Patricia Griffes • Lyle & Gail Grimes Charitable Foundation • Tom & Sheila Hatch of the Nevada Creek Ranch • Randy & Donna Hawkins • Skip Hayes • Joseph & Louise Head in honor of Ralph Burchenal • Thomas Heekin • Philip & Bonnie Henault • Tony & Janice Hicks • William & Linda Hicks • George & Nancy Hirschenberger • Carla Hoopes • Beverly Hoover • William Hopple • Howe Family Foundation • Thomas Hunter • Denny & Charlotte Iverson • Jeffrey Jackson • Gary & Sharon Jacobsen • Todd & Twyla Johnson • Tana Kappel • William Keating • Henry P. Kendall Foundation via TNC • Lisa Kemp • Elmore Kindel • Bob & Ellen Knight • Alan Knudsen • Jon & Diane Krutar • Keith & MaryAnn Kvenvolden • Polk Laffoon • LEAW Family Foundation • Land & Janet Lindbergh • Joseph Lindner • Wendy Lofting • Tim & Donna Love • Lovett-Woodsum Charitable Foundation • Gerald & Rene Lyons • Ian MacLachlan • Mannix Brothers, Inc. • Bert & Darlene Mannix of the Mannix-Raymond Ranch, LLC • Brent & Stacy Mannix • Dan Masee • Brian McDonald • Don & Barb McNally • Wayne & Eloise McNally • Allen McNeal • Monty & Betty Miller • LeRoy Moline in memory of Tom Collins • Montana Community Foundation/Alan & Jean Kahn Endowment Fund in honor of Paul & Carolyn Laws Roos • Missoula County Weeds District • MT Department of Environmental Quality • MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation • Montana State University Watercourse • The Nature Conservancy • Greg Neudecker • Stan & Colleen Nicholson • Roy O'Connor in memory of Steve Bryant • Jan Parks • Jill Perelman • Minneapolis Foundation/Peregrine Capital Management, Inc., Fund • North Powell Conservation District • Plum Creek Timber Company • William Portman • Wym & Jan Portman • Brian & Joanne Rapp • Royal Riedinger • Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation • John & Sandra Roe • C. Rood of Product Packaging & Design • Paul & Carolyn Laws Roos • Bob & Dawn Rowland • John Ruthven • George & Betty Schaeffer • Hugh & Barbara Sheehy • L.H. Simkins in honor of Ralph Burchenal • Ralph Smilde • Dave Smith • Lawrence Snideman • Rob Stebbins • James Stoehr • Louis & Ella Stoker • Jim & Colleen Stone of the Rolling Stone Ranch • John & Jane Stone • Jim & Karen Stutzman • Don & Ann Sullivan • Swan Woods, LLC • Dudley Taft • Randy & Sharon Teague • The Thanksgiving Fund of the American Endowment Foundation • George Thurmond • Robin Tokmakian in memory of Barbara Haines and her father Roscoe Haines • Mark Toland • Robert Trumpy • John & Stephanie Tubbs • Beverly Tucker • Tulsa Community Foundation/Joe Parker Fund in honor of Fred Danforth • James Utterback in honor of Paul & Carolyn Laws Roos • US Bureau of Land Management • US Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation • US Environmental Protection Agency • US Fish & Wildlife Service • Valmont Industries, Inc • Pete & Maria Van Loben Sels • Klaus & Beate von Stutterheim • Todd & Suzanne Voss • Harold & Marilyn Weiner • Brad Weltzien & Alicia Vanderheiden • Dave & Lonnie White • Whitman College • Price & Laura Williams • Seth & Jennifer Ellis Wilson • John Zanotti • Zoe, LLP • Larry & Carol Zuberbier • Thank you to those who have contributed through the Nature Conservancy for the Blackfoot Community Project.

Blackfoot Challenge Income and Expenditures

January 1, 2005 - December 31, 2005

Income

Carryover from 2004		\$ 642,771	
Private Donations and Grants			
Individuals and businesses (145)	\$ 64,527		
Foundations (7)	\$ 14,499		
Corporate/Land Trusts (4)	\$ 10,045		
Private Grants (11)	<u>\$ 197,745</u>		
		\$ 286,816	(21%)
Public Grants		\$ 1,053,691	(78%)
Interest & Gain/Loss/Misc		<u>\$ 8,624</u>	(1%)
Total New Income		\$ 1,349,131	

Expenses

Operations, Programs, & Projects	\$ 1,432,548
Total Expenses	\$ 1,432,548

Carry-Over Operations, Programs & Projects \$ 559,354

Expenses by Program Areas

Conservation Strategies	\$ 599,517	(42%)
Habitat & Water Quality	\$ 598,872	(42%)
Operations & Strategic Plan	\$ 103,005	(7%)
Wildlife	\$ 91,550	(6%)
Education & Outreach	\$ 23,394	(2%)
Drought, Weeds, Lewis & Clark Trail	<u>\$ 16,210</u>	(1%)
Total	\$ 1,432,548	

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Front Cover: Blackfoot River/Teri Garrison; Inside Cover: A View From Helmville/Seth Wilson; Page 1: Monture Creek Landscape/Traci Bignell, 2005 Annual Landowner Tour/Bruce Andre, Watershed Boundary Sign-Hwy 141/Tina Bernd-Cohen, 2005 Youth Field Day/Ali Duvall, Fire and Wildland Fuels Tour/Alicia Vanderheiden; Page 2: Ovando Historical Society Sign/Big Bear Sign Company, Gateway Kiosk in Lincoln/Amber Kamps, Blackfoot WPA Kiosk/KLB Exhibits; Page 3: 2005 Drought Poster/DNRC, Rock Creek Before Restoration/Jeff Everett, Rock Creek After Restoration/Greg Neudecker; Page 4: Working Ranch in Helmville/Bruce Andre, Doney Lake/Greg Neudecker, Ovando Mountain/Traci Bignell; Page 5: Warren Creek Pipelines/Brad Weltzien, Warren Creek Water Gap/Brad Weltzien, Wasson Creek Before/Don Peters, Wasson Creek After/Ryen Aasheim; Page 6: Cheat Grass/Bruce Andre, Leafy Spurge/Larry Burton, 2005 Weed Pull/Ali Duvall, Sheep Grazing on the Mannix Brothers Ranch/Ali Duvall, 2005 Multi-Species Grazing Tour/Ali Duvall; Page 7: Grizzly Bear/Randy Smith, Carcass Pick-Up Truck/Seth Wilson, Electric Fence in Grizzly Bear Country/Seth Wilson, Neighbor Network/Seth Wilson, Louie Bouma with Swans/Greg Neudecker; Page 8: Kleinschmidt Flat with the Moon/Ali Duvall; Page 9: Working Ranch in Ovando/Ali Duvall; Back Cover: BCCA Council Meeting/Ali Duvall; The Roes on Spread Mountain/John & Sandra Roe

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

2005 Blackfoot Challenge Board of Directors

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Executive Director:

Tina Bernd-Cohen
Blackfoot Challenge



The **Blackfoot Community Conservation Area Council** was appointed by the Blackfoot Challenge Board to work on the development of a management plan for the Blackfoot Community Conservation Area. The council includes:

Ralph Allen, Dean Bennett, Jim Bauer, Alyssa Daniels, Kevin Ertl, Steve Kloetzel, Donna Hawkins, Tony Liane, Tim Love, Don & Barb McNally, Betty Miller, Jack Rich, Bob & Dawn Rowland, Bob Sheppard, and Mike Thompson.



The **2004 Darrell Sall Memorial Award** was presented in 2005 to John and Sandra Roe for their strong conservation ethic and commitment to protecting the natural heritage and rural traditions of the Blackfoot River Valley. They participate in Blackfoot Challenge

programs and have become major supporters of the Blackfoot Community Project. John serves as co-chair of the BCP Campaign Work Group.

**BLACKFOOT
CHALLENGE**
"Better Communities through Cooperation"

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