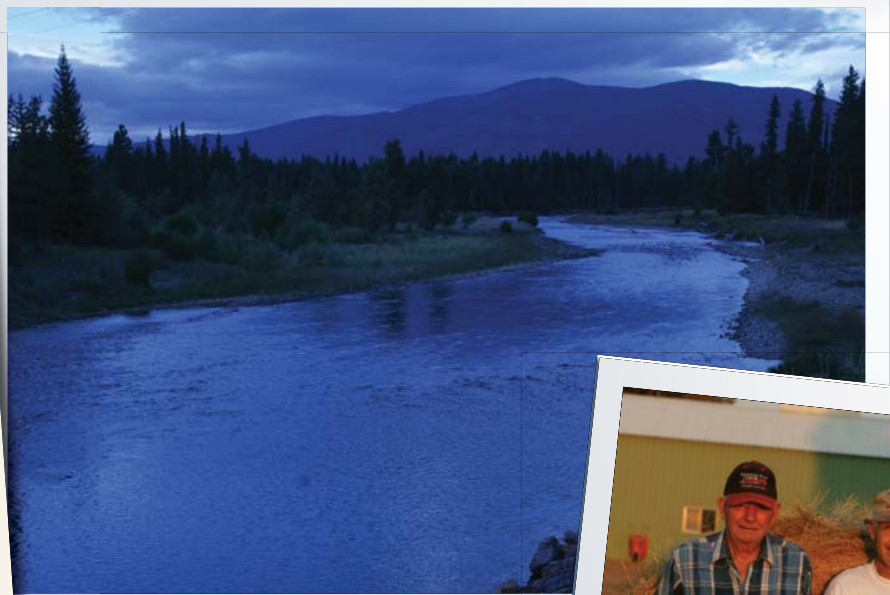


BLACKFOOT CHALLENGE

ANNUAL REPORT 2006



Cover Photos by Robb Kendrick

FROM THE CHAIR - JIM STONE



Jim, Colleen & Brady Stone
(Photo by Robb Kendrick)

As the years slip by and more grey hairs poke out from underneath our hats, I am constantly reminded how lucky we are to live in a place as special as the Blackfoot. The Blackfoot is indeed a special place, but it's the people who live and breathe this land that makes it unique, we need to stop periodically and be sure we remind ourselves and neighbors of that.

In May of this year the Blackfoot Challenge recognized how unique we are to the West by being awarded The Innovations in American Government Award from the Ash Institute and the Harvard Business School. This award is given every year to seven innovative programs throughout the country. Picked from more than eleven hundred applicants, narrowed down to one hundred and then to eighteen, we found ourselves at the Harvard Business School, cowboy boots, jeans and a coat

and tie, trying to explain thirty years of the Blackfoot in five minutes! In the

true spirit of Montana we had the panel laughing and in the end David Gergen, the chairman of the panel, telling us a joke. With all that said, in July we learned that we had been chosen as one of the winners to receive a one hundred thousand dollar grant to help the Blackfoot Challenge in education/outreach here in the Blackfoot and in other parts of the country. It is still not apparent if Harvard has recovered from two visits of the Blackfoot'ers, but we are watching the mailbox for our honorary Harvard degrees!

The innovation for the Blackfoot has always been about people and our ability to work collaboratively to get things done. It has been generations of rural America that has sat back and let others dictate what we do out on the landscape, we think the Challenge's innovation of cooperative conservation should be marketed by people on the land and educated to the people making the policies. It is not reasonable to believe we can live within the shadow of the Rocky Mountains and expect life to remain the same; we should be developing innovative ways to create opportunities and sustainable futures. We have the tools; it is all of us with the passion to see change and a heritage that can be nurtured. There is only success if we and others can learn from it, that is what the Blackfoot Challenge and its partners lend to our communities and others across this country.

Thanks to all of our partners and landowners for making this another great year in the Blackfoot Valley!



(Photo by Robb Kendrick)

Committees of the Challenge:

A mosaic of mixed species forests, creek and river bottoms, rolling native prairies and working ranchlands comprise the Blackfoot River Valley. Its natural beauty and resource abundance is due in large part to the private and public landowners that have been stewards of the land for generations. The mission of the Challenge, coordinating efforts to protect the natural resources and rural lifestyle of the Blackfoot River Valley, is carried out through the work of our committees:

- Wildlife
- Habitat and Water Quality Restoration
- Education and Outreach
- Drought and Water Conservation
- Conservation Strategies
- Weeds
- Executive Committee

Collaborating to Reduce Human-Wildlife Conflicts

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-tours, projects, and one-on-one visits, the Wildlife Committee and our work groups focus on solving problems that matter to local residents.

Grizzly Bear Conflicts Continue to Remain Low - The collaborative efforts of the Wildlife Committee continue to reduce human-grizzly bear conflicts throughout the Blackfoot. Abundant bear foods coupled with multiple Wildlife Committee programs resulted in a low conflict season in 2006. There were seven reported and verified grizzly bear conflicts in 2006 compared with twelve in 2005. No grizzly bears were trapped for management purposes nor any grizzly bear mortalities reported in the Blackfoot watershed this year. There were no verified grizzly bear livestock conflicts. One male grizzly was trapped in the Seeley Lake area and outfitted with a GPS collar for research purposes. Keeping bears away from humans, property, and protecting human safety is our goal through our combination of programs and strong support from residents.

Blackfoot Ranchers Support Livestock Carcass Pick-Up Program - In 2006, 306 livestock carcasses were removed from ranches that would otherwise attract grizzly bears into close proximity with people and property thanks to the support of the Wildlife Committee, MT Dept. of Fish, Wildlife, & Parks (FWP), Allied Waste Services, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Blackfoot area ranchers, and a Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Conservation Innovation Grant. Approximately 71% of active Blackfoot ranchers participate in this program. We hired a Blackfoot resident to regularly visit ranches and pick up carcasses and transport them to the Allied Waste Services landfill in Missoula.

Fencing Projects Assist Ranching in Grizzly Bear Country Program - This year we constructed 12,600 feet of new electric fences on four ranches to non-lethally deter grizzly bears, wolves, and other predators from calving areas and grain

sheds. We also constructed eight new electric fences around beehives in the watershed. We were pleased to collaborate with the NRCS, FWP, FWS, and Keystone Conservation on these efforts.



NeighborNetworkContinues to Monitor and Respond to Grizzly Bear Activity - We reached 100 residents, using nine neighborhood clusters, whereby local volunteer coordinators use phone tree lists to call their friends and neighbors when bears or wolves are around to prevent conflicts from occurring. Residents can check-out and borrow a variety of devices including bear resistant trash cans, free-of-charge, to avoid problems. This project helps residents monitor grizzly bear activity and take actions to keep attractants away from grizzly bears.

Trumpeter Swan Activity - Seventeen trumpeter swans were released on three separate ranches in the Blackfoot Valley in 2006. All released swans have red neck-collars with white numbers making them easily distinguished from non-marked migratory swans from Canada. In the last two years, we have had over 160 collared swan observations throughout Montana. Biologists anticipate releasing another 15 swans in 2007 and will continue releases until seven active breeding pairs are established in the Valley. Please report any sightings of Trumpeter Swans with red neck collars to Kevin Ertl at (406) 793-0050. Thanks for the incredible support from private landowners in the valley and a very generous anonymous financial donation for reintroduction.



Grizzly Bear (Photo by Randy Smith)



Livestock Carcass Pick-Up (Photo by Seth Wilson)



Trumpeter Swans (Photo by Alex Bodyaev)



Grizzly Bear Radio Tracking Demonstration (Photo by Seth Wilson)

HABITAT & WATER QUALITY RESTORATION COMMITTEE



Water Quality Monitoring - Kleinschmidt
(Photo by Bob Anderson)



Water Quality Monitoring - Kleinschmidt Creek
(Photo by Bob Anderson)

Restoring Streams and Habitat

By David Mannix, Chair & Brian McDonald, Coordinator

The Habitat and Water Quality Restoration Committee was formed in 2000 to oversee development of the Habitat and Water Quality Restoration Plans for the four TMDL Planning areas in the Blackfoot and to promote habitat and water quality restoration. The Committee coordinates the public-private partnership efforts, facilitates stakeholder involvement, and partners with the BBCTU and others on habitat restoration and water quality monitoring projects.

Restoration Project and Partnerships – We continued our partnership with the Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited (BBCTU) in 2006 by teaming up on the Hoyt Creek restoration project. The Hoyt Creek project was completed in October and involved restoring 11,400 feet of stream channel as well as improving the current irrigation system. The restored channel will provide improved habitat, flow and water temperature for fish. It is also likely to improve water quality in Monture Creek downstream of the project site.

BBCTU took the lead in implementing four major projects under the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) EQIP Special Initiative. The Blackfoot Challenge and North Powell Conservation District land stewards provided support to these projects through the development of conservation plans with the landowners. The Blackfoot Challenge also partnered with NRCS and MT DEQ to monitor the effects of restoration activities, collecting restoration data on Arrastra Creek, Hoyt Creek, Kleinschmidt Creek, and Nevada Creek. In 2007, the Challenge will begin collecting data on several new projects as well as follow up monitoring on projects completed in 2005 and 2006.

Blackfoot Land Steward Work Group – Collaborating on numerous projects this year has strengthened the relationship between restoration partners in the watershed. The partners are gaining a better understanding of each others projects through meetings of the Blackfoot Land Steward Work Group which met three times in 2006 to exchange information on project and issues as well as to coordinate on the ground efforts. Collectively, the number of projects being implemented by various partners in the Blackfoot is impressive.

Water Quality Restoration Planning - The Blackfoot Challenge continued its partnership with MT Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to develop water quality restoration plans and TMDLs (Total Maximum Daily Loads) focusing on the Middle Blackfoot, Nevada Creek, and Lower Blackfoot planning areas in 2006. After these plans are complete in 2007, DEQ will be a strong partner committed to helping us implement projects identified in the restoration plans that will offer landowners a number of approaches for improving water quality.

In 2006, data collection efforts began in the Lower Blackfoot which is the first step in the planning process. Sediment, fish habitat, temperature, metals, and nutrient data were collected on all 303(d) listed streams in the Lower Blackfoot this year. Analysis of this data will begin this winter followed by TMDL development. We would like to thank the landowners in the Lower Blackfoot who participated in data collection efforts this year and landowners in the Middle Blackfoot and Nevada Creek who have been extremely supportive throughout this process.



Stream Restoration - Hoyt Creek
(Photo by Ryan Aashiem)



Stream Restoration - Hoyt Creek
(Photo by Ryan Aashiem)

EDUCATION & OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Engaging Communities in Conservation

By Racene Friede, Chair
& Ali Duvall, Coordinator

The Education Committee dates back to the beginning of the Challenge. It has expanded to include watershed education and outreach programs that promote resource education and land stewardship; and builds a watershed-wide partnership around the resources. Our target audiences include teachers, students, private landowners, community members, recreationists, and visitors to the watershed.

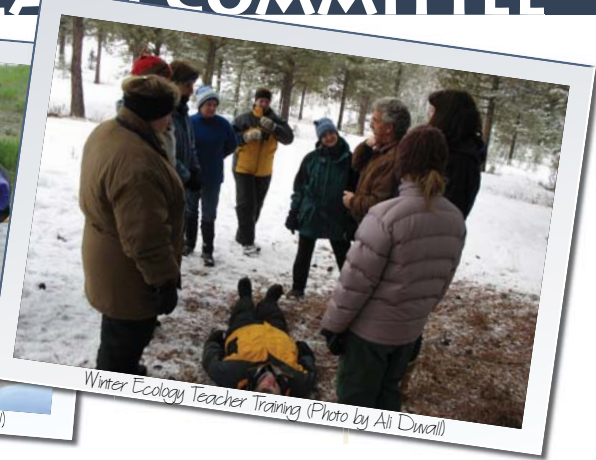
Teacher Support - In 2006, our teacher steering committee, comprised of representatives from all eight schools in the Blackfoot watershed, met in April and October to advise the Challenge on resource education needs and discuss issues of importance to local schools. We hosted two separate professional education workshops for UM Graduate, Undergraduate and OPI credit.

In February, a 2-day workshop was organized around the theme Winter Ecology. Teachers from seven schools (grades K-10) attended and learned about weather, microenvironments, the physics of snow, animal adaptations, and human survival in winter. Teachers used the "Living with Winter" educational trunk, heard presentations by speakers, participated in outdoor discovery and group discussions, with written materials and related curricula to investigate topics and practice inquiry-based ways to teach them.

The second workshop featured a 5-day summer teacher training entitled Discover the Blackfoot: Bringing Local Ecology, Geology and History into the Classroom. This field-based workshop, facilitated every three years, was also attended by thirteen teachers from seven local schools (grades K-12). Topics included nature and



Discover the Blackfoot Teacher Training (Photo by Ali Duvall)



Winter Ecology Teacher Training (Photo by Ali Duvall)



Youth Field Day 2006 (Photo by Ali Duvall)

narrative journaling, restoration and stewardship efforts in the Blackfoot, archeology, roadside geology, wetland ecology and plant identification, avian ecology, forest function and stewardship, and Milltown Dam remediation, restoration and redevelopment.

Youth Support - To engage students in resource education, the 6th Annual Youth Field Day for fifth and sixth grade students was held in September at Lubrecht. This year's theme was Tracking and Navigation Using Tools and Technology in the Blackfoot. The field day focused on integrating outdoor education with the curriculum needs of local watershed schools, providing hands-on, technical navigation and mapping skills to students. 129 students from six area schools attended.

Community Education and Outreach - The Challenge hosted or participated in 19 field-based tours and 42 presentations, reaching 2419 participants. A key event was the Annual Partners Tour with site visits to Jacobsen Spring Creek, Mollet Park, and Doney Lake offering landowner education on land conservation, stream restoration, and wildlife management. We also hosted three Blackfoot Watershed Series field days covering Local History & Identification of Native & Invasive Plants; Birds, Plants and Wetlands of the Blackfoot Community Conservation Area; and, Discover the Buffalo Road, a Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Event in Lincoln, MT. In October, we hosted a tour for US Department of Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne.

Check out the Blackfoot Challenge website (www.blackfootchallenge.org) which received 608,159 hits in 2006.



2006 Partners Tour (Photo by Ali Duvall)



Secretary of Interior Dirk Kempthorne tour (Photo by Ali Duvall)



Blackfoot Challenge Website

DROUGHT & WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Conserving Water and Balancing Water Needs During Low Flows

By Harry Poett, Chair & Brian McDonald, Coordinator

The Drought Committee was formed in 2000 looking for ways to balance water needs with water availability during drought years. The Committee works with all water users including ranchers, anglers, floaters, government agencies, homeowners and community businesses to mitigate the natural resource and economical impacts of drought through the implementation of various conservation practices.

Emergency Drought Response - 2006 started out very promising. Through April, snow pack was well above normal and provided some much needed recharging of water resources in the Blackfoot. In May, the summer stream flow outlook changed dramatically as extremely high temperatures caused a rapid depletion in snow pack and subsequently an early runoff. Committee members were hopeful that despite the early

runoff, ideal snow pack earlier in the year might be enough to get through the critical summer stream flow period. Stream flows held up as well as could be expected during June but eventually fell below the 700 cfs drought plan trigger in late July. For the first time in seven years, high water temperatures triggered mandatory fishing restrictions on the Blackfoot River and critical bull trout tributaries.

Similar restrictions were implemented on the Clark Fork and Bitterroot Rivers this year as water temperatures presented problems regionally.

2006 marked the sixth time in seven years that the Blackfoot Drought Response Plan has been implemented and water users continue to answer the call. 60 irrigators and 8 outfitters participated in this year's Drought Response. In addition to these participants, many landowners made commitments to long-term water conservation through stream restoration and in-stream flow maintenance projects. Collectively,



Soil Moisture Monitor Demonstration
(Photo by Brian McDonald)

these efforts are benefiting the long-term health of the river while maintaining the rural values of the watershed. Once again we thank all Blackfoot water users for your continued commitment and support.

Taking lessons learned from the past seven years, a working group was formed to look for ways to improve the Drought Plan and ensure its long term success. Refinements to the Plan are needed, but perhaps the biggest change is a philosophical one -

- recognizing the importance of long-term management of water resources and that "drought" may actually be the norm in the arid west.



Irrigation Seminar - May 2006 (Photo by Brian McDonald)

Long-Term Water Conservation

- In the spring of 2006, we stepped up efforts to establish a long-term water conservation program by sponsoring an irrigation efficiency seminar. Representatives from Valmont Irrigation, who co-sponsored the event, spent the day with ten irrigators from around the valley discussing how pivot maintenance, new technologies, and understanding water application needs can lead to water conservation, higher production, and economic benefits. The National Center for Appropriate Technology and the Natural Resources Conservation Service were also on hand to discuss the importance of soil moisture and demonstrated a variety of methods for monitoring soil moisture content. Building on the success of the irrigation seminar, the Challenge is exploring several funding sources help advance the long-term water conservation program and take advantage of irrigation system improvement opportunities.



AW400 Soil Moisture Monitor (Photo by Robb Kendrick)



CONSERVATION STRATEGIES COMMITTEE

Keeping Working Landscapes Intact

By Greg Neudecker, Chair & Ali Duvall, Coordinator

In 2000 the Conservation Strategies Committee formed to continue the legacy of conservation and keep the working landscapes of the Blackfoot watershed intact. Comprised of federal and state agency land managers, county planners, land trusts and private landowners, the committee meets quarterly to share information and pool resources promoting cooperative conservation across the watershed. The Blackfoot Challenge does not take conservation easements, but promotes easements as a tool.

Conservation Easement Partners – This year the conservation partners continued to identify and coordinate their efforts using the Blackfoot Challenge watershed map which characterizes land ownership and conservation easements. Partners also developed a summary of cooperative land conservation in the Blackfoot watershed highlighting conservation easement and fee title acquisitions since 1975, when the first conservation easement

was signed in the valley. To date, 113 conservation easements have been acquired on 93,383 acres which includes 2,191 acres acquired in 2006 by the Montana Land Reliance.

To date, a total 37,220 acres have been conserved through fee title purchase by public agencies (not including lands involved in the Blackfoot Community Project). Private landowners have contributed just over \$48 million to maintain the legacy of an intact landscape.

Natural Resources Database

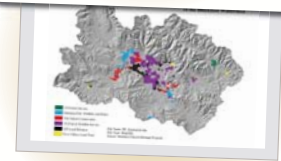
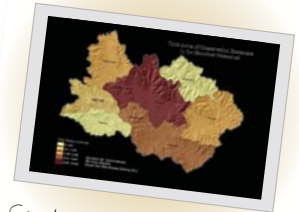
– This year we finalized a Natural Resources Database which includes datasets for the entire watershed on community, agricultural and biological values. The purpose of the database is to provide conservation partners and rural communities with information on land statistics, population demographics, economics, developable lands, timber, range, croplands, spatial components, vegetation, and wildlife. By providing resources and tools like the database, the Committee hopes to work with partners on collaborative initiatives and guide development in ways that promote sustainable communities, protect outstanding natural resources, and contribute to quality of life in the Blackfoot watershed. The Natural Resources Database is available in hard-copy binder format or CD at the Blackfoot Challenge office.

The Conservation Easement Work Group held their annual meeting to share how each organization is building flexibility into their easement documents to ensure management can evolve with the land while conservation values can be protected for perpetuity.

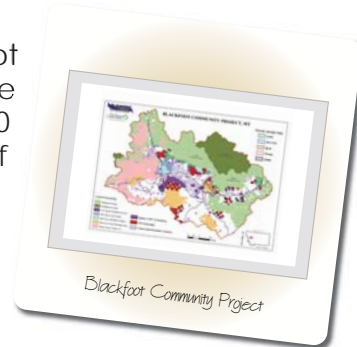


CSC Landscapes

(Photos by Robb Kendrick)



Blackfoot Community Project - 2006 was another great year for the Blackfoot Community Project. Begun in 2004, the BCP is a cooperative effort between the Blackfoot Challenge and The Nature Conservancy to purchase as much as 88,000 acres of Plum Creek Timber Company land in the valley and re-sell it to a variety of public agencies and private individuals according to a community-based plan. TNC purchased an additional 13,970 acres from Plum Creek in December and agreed to purchase the 1,100 acre Little Doney Lake parcel early in 2007. To date the Conservancy has purchased 68,076 acres. With the sale of 15,142 acres to the Forest Service and 2,481 acres to the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation through the Land Banking Program, the Conservancy has resold over 26,000 acres.



Our Community Project received excellent financial support from public and private sources this year. We received \$2.7 million from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the Habitat Conservation Program to purchase conservation easements on intermingled project lands and private ranch land southwest of Lincoln. The purchase will help enable traditional ranchers to continue their way of life and at the same time preserve conservation values on over 4,000 acres. Thanks to the generosity of countless individuals, businesses and foundations, we are over three-quarters of the way to our private fund raising goal of \$10,000,000.



The Blackfoot Community Conservation Area (BCCA) is an innovative and unique feature of the Blackfoot Community Project – a 41,000 acre tract of land surrounding Ovando Mountain.

Land managers and owners which include the Forest Service, the MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, the MT Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks, and a number of private owners have agreed to manage this parcel cooperatively. At the heart of the area is a 5,600 acre tract that will be owned and managed by the community through the Blackfoot Challenge. The BCCA Council, a 15 member group consisting of neighboring landowners, the recreating public and public land managers, is preparing a land management plan for the area. The Council met monthly in 2006 and developed a guiding philosophy, mission statement, and draft goals and management objectives for 12 major resource issues



Blackfoot Community Conservation Council (Photo by Ali Dineen)

WEEDS STEERING COMMITTEE

Cooperative Weed Management

By Jim Stone, Chair & Ali Duvall, Coordinator

A key issue affecting the Blackfoot is the spread of noxious weeds. Species like spotted knapweed, leafy spurge, yellow toadflax, Canada thistle, houndstongue, sulfur cinquefoil, and oxeye daisy pose a threat to landowners working to maintain native range and grasslands. A strong private-public partnership has evolved since the 1980s to cooperate on integrated weed management across the watershed, linked by twelve landowner-led Weed Management Areas (WMA), three county weed districts, and federal and state public agencies.

Weed Partners - In 2006, 150 private and public landowners and two homeowner associations implemented integrated weed management on their lands. The 40-mile Blackfoot River Leafy Spurge Cooperative Project, involving 42 landowners from River Junction to Angevine Park, partnered for its 6th year to address the upland leafy spurge seed source within the watershed.

The Blackfoot Weeds Steering Committee met in February. Over 50 public and private partners attended to learn about the newest herbicides, biocontrol, revegetation and grazing alternatives, and species identification of one of our newest invaders in the Blackfoot - yellow flag iris. We co-hosted the Annual Blackfoot Weed Pull and River Cleanup Days with the Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited in June and August at Russell Gates Fishing Access, where a new kiosk that promotes cooperative weed and river management was designed and installed in 2006.

A Bio-control project, in its third year, assessed and monitored various insects and their effects on spotted knapweed (*Cyphocleonus achates* and *Larinus* species), leafy spurge (*Aphthona nigricutis* and *Aphthona lacertosa*), and yellow toadflax (*Mecinus janthinus*).

A series of bug mount displays were developed for education purposes. Partners also continued multi-species grazing field trials with researchers from Montana State University documenting sheep utilization of spotted knapweed on 5,000 acres at the Mannix Brothers Ranch.

Weed Playing Cards - To promote weed identification, the Blackfoot Challenge and its partners developed weed playing cards showcasing the 27 different species identified on Montana's Noxious Weed List, including known and new invaders. Playing cards are available at the Blackfoot Challenge office.

NRCS Grant Award - Powell County Weed District and the Blackfoot Challenge was awarded a \$122,500 Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative Grant from the Natural Resources and Conservation Service. This grant will be used to promote integrated weed management, prevention, and education. This award emphasizes the value of cooperation between private and public landowners and innovative weed management to benefit the ecological and economic integrity of the Blackfoot watershed.



Yellow Flag Iris (Photo by Jason Smith)



Weed Playing Cards (Photo by Teri Garrison)



Weed Pull & Russell Gates Weed Sign (Photo by Ali Duvall)



NRCS Grant Award (Photo by Ali Duvall)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

By Tina Bernd-Cohen, Executive Director

The Executive Committee was formed in 2000 to serve as the finance and administrative oversight arm for the organization, overseeing the budget, expenditures, and fund-raising, as well as the work of the Executive Director.

The Blackfoot Challenge Board of Directors and Executive Committee would like to thank the individuals and organizations who volunteered their time, who participated in our programs and who supported the work of the Blackfoot Challenge in 2006. Special thanks to the following folks who provide in-kind donations and support: Ron Aasheim, Bruce Andre, Elaine Caton, Suzie Hayes & Mark Smith, Cooper Burchenal, Robb Kendrick, Teri Garrison, KR Office Interiors, and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

THANKS TO OUR 2006 CONTRIBUTORS:

Charles & Sydne Abernathy Contributions in honor of Ralph Allen & Marion McKenna Wedding American Public Land Robert & Nancy Anderson Anonymous (7) Christin & Andrew Archambault in honor of John & Jan Farrar Baltimore Community Foundation Patrick & Bernadette Bannister John Baucus Jim & Norma Bauer Eldon & Helen Beck Dean Bennett Tina Bernd-Cohen & David Smith in honor of Eloise Kendy & Tim Byron Big Blackfoot Trout Unlimited Traci Bignell Morgan & Renata Bonar Jennifer Boyer Sara & Becky Boyett Bryan & Meg Bradshaw Joe & Cindy Bradshaw Stan & Glenda Bradshaw Tom Browder James & Beverly Brown Meghan Brown George Brutscher Cooper Burchenal James Burchenal Ralph & Toone Burchenal Robert Rogan Burchenal Foundation L.C. Burns Caroline Byrd John & Betty Cardwell Cory Carman Michael Carothers Centennial Construction Cinnabar Foundation Clearwater River Realty, Inc Richard Clough Ronald & Beth Cocchiarella David Cochran Community Foundation of Chattanooga, Inc. The Council for Excellence in Government Richard Crisler Tammera Crone Pat & Kathy Curran Robert & Delores Curry in memory of Mark Mier Michael Czerwinski in honor of John & Jan Farrar Fred Danforth & Carlene Larsson Jim Davis Henry & Lou Darr Jim Davis Frank & Pat DeLeo Deutsch Bank Americas Foundation David Dimiling Betty duPont Ali Duvall E/L Ranch Pen & Liz Edwards Contributions in honor of Tim Edwards & Gayle Hudgins Wedding Andy & Connie Erickson John & Jan Farrar David Fawcett in honor of the Bill Potter Family Five Valleys Land Trust Bruce Fleming Howard & Peggy Fly William & Patricia Fogarty Patty Foresman Foundation on behalf of Lila Bahin Eliza Frazer & Barry Hood Clark & Woodie Fuller Meredith Gahan Hank Goetz H. North Goodwin James Greene Lyle & Gail Grimes Charitable Foundation Bee Hall Melvin Hamilton James Haughey in memory of Don Valiton Skip Hayes Joseph & Louise Head in honor of Samantha Head William & Linda Hicks Bill & Dena Hooker Steven & Emma Lou Hotho Harry Houze IBM International Foundation Denny & Charolette Iverson Gary & Sharon Jacobsen Christine Jardine-Bourdeau Cathy Jenni Heather Johnson & Brad Andres Jamie & Lisa Johnson Roger & Rhea Johnson Bob Kane Henry P. Kendall Foundation Robb Kendrick David & Kathy Kesheimer Steve Kloetzel & Andrea Morgan Rick Knudsen Rich Lane Tom & Judy Lehman Tony Liane Land & Janet Lindbergh Jerome Loendorf Wendy Lofting in honor of the Stroud Water Research Center Tim & Donna Love Fred Lurie in memory of Steve Bryant Gerald & Rene Lyons L.E.A.W. Family Foundation, Inc. Lovett-Woodsum Charitable Foundation, Inc. Manley Ranch Mannix Brothers, Inc. Brent & Stacey Mannix Mannix-Raymond Ranch, LLC McCormick's Sunset Guest Ranch Joe McCoy Brian & Tyra McDonald John & Sandra McInnis Don & Barb McNally Wayne & Eloise McNally in memory of Katy Delano Monty & Betty Miller Minneapolis Foundation Missoula County Weed District LeRoy Moline in memory of Tom Collins Bud Moore Montana Land Reliance Jeff & Heather Musselman MT Department of Environmental Quality MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation MT Fish Wildlife & Parks Montana State University Watercourse National Forest Foundation Greg Neudecker Nevada Creek Ranch Stan & Colleen Nicholson North Powell Conservation District The Nature Conservancy Roy O'Conner Pat O'Herren Patricia O'Keefe Kathy & Ralph Ojala Marc Oken in honor of Paul Roos Jan Parks Kent Perelman Ken Pitman in memory of Robert Pitman Plum Creek Timber Company Harry & Cindy Poett Wym & Jan Portman Predator Conservation Alliance Jay & Kay Proops Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation John & Sandra Roe Paul Roos & Carolyn Laws Roos Edward Rosenthal Sand County Foundation Anthony Sansalone in honor of the Wingspread Ranch Megan Sarnecki in honor of Jerry & Carolyn Underwood Schwab Fund for Charitable Giving Charlie Sehorn Robert Shaw Hugh & Barbara Sheehy Ralph Smilde in memory of Peter Smilde David Smith Mark & Lisa Smith Ty & Alivia Smith Jack & Susan Smock Lawrence Snideman Adolph Solvie Specialized Engineering Walter & Georgina Staggs Tania Stepanian James Stoehr Louis & Ella Stoker Jim & Colleen Stone John & Jane Stone Jim & Karen Stutzman Dudley Taft Randy & Sharon Teague Travis Thurmond & Kathy Schoendoerfer Robin Tokmakian in memory of Barbara Haines and her father Roscoe Haines John & Stephenie Tubbs in honor of Stephen Ambrose Joseph & Regina Turner US Bureau of Land Management US Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation US Environmental Protection Agency US Fish & Wildlife Service Peter & Maria Van Loben Sels Klaus & Beate von Stutterheim Douglas Waldron Douglas Webber Art Weiner & Carol Fries Harold & Marilyn Weiner Brad Weltzien & Alicia Vanderheiden Marc & Tracy Whitehead Kathleen Williams The Wilderness Society The Wildlife Society-Idaho Chapter Seth Wilson & Jennifer Ellis Nancy Wirth Zoe, LLP

Thank you to those who have contributed through
The Nature Conservancy for the Blackfoot Community Project.



Photos by
Robb Kendrick

BLACKFOOT CHALLENGE INCOME AND EXPENDITURES

January 1, 2006 – December 31, 2006

Income

Carryover from 2005		\$ 559,354	
Donations (163)	\$	190,750	
Private Grants	\$	103,930	
	\$	294,680	(31%)
Public Grants	\$	632,981	(66%)
Interest & Gain/Loss/Misc.	\$	34,249	(3%)
Total New Income		\$ 961,910	

Expenses

Operations, Programs & Projects	\$	873,654	
Total Expenses		\$ 873,654	

Carry-Over Operations, Programs & Projects \$ 647,610

Expenses by Program Areas

Habitat & Water Quality	\$	363,490	(42%)
Conservation Strategies	\$	224,991	(26%)
Wildlife	\$	117,659	(12%)
Operations & Strategic Planning	\$	100,511	(12%)
Education & Outreach	\$	44,106	(5%)
Weeds, Drought, Lewis & Clark, Other	\$	22,897	(3%)
Total	\$	873,654	

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.

2006 Blackfoot Challenge Board of Directors

Officers:

Jim Stone, *Chair*
Rolling Stone Ranch, Ovando

Greg Neudecker, *Vice Chair*
USFWS Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program

Dave Cochran, *Treasurer*
North Powell Conservation District

Nancy Anderson, *Secretary*
Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management

Denny Iverson
Logger & Rancher, Potomac

Board:

Caroline Byrd
The Nature Conservancy

Andy Erickson
E Bar L Guest Ranch, Greenough

Racene Friede
Landowner, Ovando

Todd Johnson
Pyramid Lumber

Amber Kamps
Lincoln Ranger, US Forest Service

Tony Liane
Area Manager, MT Dept of Natural Resources

Mack Long
Region 2 Supervisor, MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Tim Love
Seeley Lake Ranger, US Forest Service

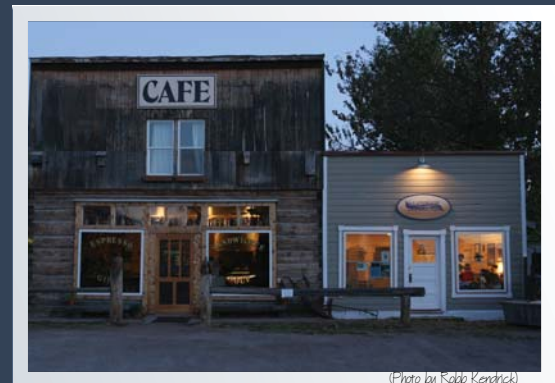
David Mannix
Mannix Brothers Ranch, Helmville

Jeff McNally
Landowner, Ovando

Denny Sigars
Plum Creek Timber Company

Executive Director:
Tina Bernd-Cohen
Blackfoot Challenge

2005 Darrall Sall Memorial Award will be presented to the Chutney Foundation at the Partners Tour in June 2007. Through their sustained and generous grants to support the programs of the Blackfoot Challenge, for over a decade, the Chutney Foundation has made a substantial commitment to protecting the natural heritage and rural traditions of the Blackfoot River valley.



BLACKFOOT CHALLENGE

"Better Communities through Cooperation"

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Traci Bignell, Administrator

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