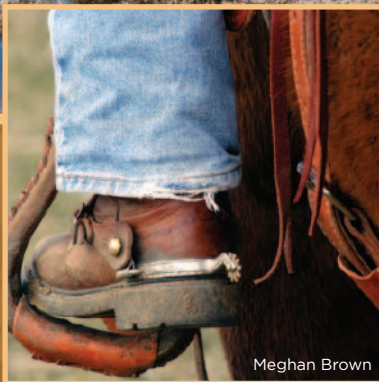


# BLACKFOOT CHALLENGE

## Community-based Conservation



Meghan Brown



Meghan Brown



JSalisbury

## 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

sustaining **COMMUNICATION, TRUST BUILDING AND FORGING PARTNERSHIPS** for future generations by  
conserving natural resources and rural communities in the Blackfoot Watershed of western Montana

# Community-based Conservation

## Inclusive Leadership – Public/Private Partnerships – Working Together

*Local leaders and stakeholders cooperate to build lasting partnerships founded on trust.*

### **Early Stages**

Relationships, dialogue, and trust needed to be established before communities in the watershed felt comfortable embarking on a multiparty process. Recognizing the benefits of participation, landowners such as Bill Potter, directly contributed to the early momentum. “We realized that if you do not make the rules, someone is going to make them for you. It is a lot easier to follow your own rules.”

Blackfoot Challenge co-founder, Land Lindbergh said, “Before the Challenge was formed, there was no forum to handle both the direct and indirect impacts to the river. With the influx of new ideas and people to the valley coupled with the different agendas of all of the agencies, it was time to get in front of the potential issues and try to deal with them.”

Under the leadership of Land and Hank Goetz, former manager of Lubrecht Experimental Forest, private and public partnerships began to share management of the Blackfoot River. Sharing a common ownership border and vision, they worked with long-time partners Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, to agree on granting annual access to the Blackfoot across private land.

### **Formative years**

Those early years proved valuable for catalyzing private and public partnerships among Ovando ranchers like Jim Stone and Greg Neudecker from the USFWS’s Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. For 18 years they have worked to restore Hoyt Creek, and build capacity for cooperative conservation. Reflecting on the utility of the projects, Jim states, “We have not eliminated cows from streamside grazing in all cases but now it is done properly. It saves us money. Everyone is happy and we are putting more pounds of beef on the hoof because we are managing our ground better.”

Working with Greg is what helped build trust with local landowners by informally working “across the kitchen table” to help private landowners conserve their natural resources. This process is helping countless agency staff to build better relations with local landowners by focusing on specific on-the-ground projects. Private landowner gain better access to federal dollars and agency expertise for resource conservation on private land by providing flexible assistance, allowing for the various resource concerns and conditions facing private landowners.

**OUR MISSION:** *to conserve and enhance the natural resources and rural way of life throughout the watershed.*



# Private & Public Partnerships

Partnerships make good use of our natural resources while providing benefits to rural communities. We accomplish more by including all watershed stakeholders in finding consensus and implementing solutions on the ground. This ensures the solutions are sustainable because they come from the people. Trust builds when partners work together.

The inclusive, consensus approach works. Founded in 1993, early partners efforts focused on weed management. By continuing to facilitate open and productive communication between public and private resource managers, partnership investments have grown ten fold from \$131,000 in 2000 to over \$1,600,000 in 2010.

## MULTI-AGENCY INTEGRATED RESTORATION STRATEGY

Cooperation in the Blackfoot Watershed is resulting in a ground-breaking effort by the state and federal government to collaborate with private landowners to develop and implement a landscape-level fire management and forest restoration plan.

### 2010 Blackfoot Project Partners

USDA, Forest Service  
USDA, Natural Resources and Conservation Service  
USDI, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
USDI, Bureau of Land Management  
Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation  
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
Montana Department of Environmental Quality  
Montana Department of Agriculture  
Montana State University  
BCCA Council  
Private forest landowners  
Blackfoot Challenge

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Forestry



Tim Romanov

*“The Blackfoot Challenge is most effective in facilitating public manager and private landowner partnerships to benefit both natural resource conservation and rural communities.”*

— **TIM LOVE**  
SEELEY LAKE  
DISTRICT RANGER,  
FOREST SERVICE



Alicia Vanderheiden

# Working Together

## Building Sustainable Methods for Sustainable Landscapes

*“There’s a growing awareness that it’s going to take local leadership and vision like this to drive progress.”*

—U.S. SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE **TOM VILSACK** SPEAKING ON JUNE 1, 2010 AT AMERICA’S GREAT OUTDOORS FIRST LISTENING SESSION

We believe that the primary challenge for conservation in the 21st Century is how to sustain working landscapes, working communities, and working people. One of the most important building blocks in any region is strong, inclusive, and community-based partnerships—such as the Blackfoot Challenge.

We believe that these “ground-up” solutions provide the fertile ground for productive investments of private and public resources for conservation and rural values. We also recognize that we need to work with our neighbors to address larger scale challenges such as co-habitated wildlife corridors, working land-use in the face of change, and sustainable forest and rangeland management.

Working with our neighbors to the east and west, we hosted the first America’s Great Outdoor events in the Nation. Participants included local leaders from the Rocky Mountain Front, and Blackfoot, Clearwater and Swan River Valleys, and national leaders—Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, CEQ Chair Nancy Sutley, Director of the National Park Service John Jarvis, Senators Max Baucus and Jon Tester, and Governor Brian Schweitzer. The landowners

formed the Working Lands Council (Council) to respond to President Obama’s public outreach for America’s Great Outdoors and the vision that it will take more than just what can be done in Washington. Meeting the new test of environmental stewardship means finding the best ideas at the grassroots level. It means helping states, communities and non-profits conserve their own resources. And it means figuring out how the federal government can be a better partner.



Scott Breum

### OUR RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDE

- Support **grass-roots initiatives** to address landscape scale conservation by providing resources and technical assistance to community-based conservation leadership and collaboration.
- Create the right set of **incentives and opportunities** for federal agencies to be effective partners in community-based and large landscape conservation.
- Support the Land and Water Conservation Fund to allow for **broader and reliable conservation**, as well as greater leverage of all resources, including conservation easements for private, working lands.
- Make permanent the enhanced tax deduction for conservation easement donations as **a critical tool for landowners** to make the good planning decisions.
- Fund the new Conservation Forest Land Restoration Program (CFLRP) to **provide incentives for communities** to work together for sound forest restoration.
- Maintain and increase funding for programs that **help federal agencies be good partners** in landscape conservation.

Community-based Conservation in the Blackfoot Watershed

March 21, 2011

Dear Honorable(s) Secretary Salazar, Secretary Vilsack, Chair Sutley and Administrator Jackson,

As community members and landowners from around the Crown of the Continent, we commend the Administration for reaching out to the American public, listening and creating a smart, community-driven conservation agenda to better conserve America’s Great Outdoors (AGO).

Despite our political divisions and economic problems, Americans are united in their love of our shared landscape and rich history, and agree overwhelmingly that we must protect our children’s cultural legacy, conserve their natural resources and their connection with nature. That is absolutely true in Montana.

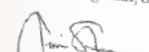
Following the AGO kickoff event in the Blackfoot Valley last spring, we’ve been working as a landowner group representing the Rocky Mountain Front, Blackfoot, Clearwater and Seely-Swan Valleys, to fine-tune our collective conservation priorities. Land-based, community driven conservation (bottom-up approaches), large-landscape protection (working at scale), and stewardship practices (keeping our ecosystems healthy) are the broader keys to conservation around the Crown’s 10 million acres. More specifically, we keep coming back to one core process of four core tools: 1) capacity building for community-based collaboration; 2) full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund; 3) continued support for the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund; 4) implementation of the national network of 21 Landscape Conservation Cooperatives; and 5) coordination and alignment of federal programs within the Farm Bill that provide technical or financial assistance to public and private organizations that support and implement collaborative landscape-scale conservation and education

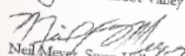
Our Crown landowner group will meet over the next coming months to discuss how we can help integrate our efforts into implementing AGO around the Crown, and to address how we might assist in transferring some of the key lessons learned in our region to other focal areas of the AGO. In working through these issues and in trying to determine how we can provide you with the most valuable input, it would be helpful for us to know the timeline and process for the competitive grant process and AGO implementation. How can Crown landowners be helpful in the execution of AGO?

Again, thank you for your leadership in better conserving our natural and working lands, our clean water supplies, and our wildlife for our health and for generations to come.

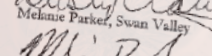
Sincerely,

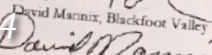
Dusty Cray, Rocky Mountain Front

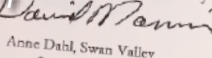
  
Jim Stone, Blackfoot Valley

  
Neil Meyer, Swan Valley

  
Denny Iverson, Blackfoot Valley

  
Melaine Parker, Swan Valley

  
David Mannix, Blackfoot Valley

  
Anne Dahl, Swan Valley

# Conservation

## Using Partnerships to Keep Landscapes Working for All

Through sharing of information and discussion of **strategies for landscape conservation and stewardship**, partners keep working landscapes and the rural way of life in the Blackfoot Watershed intact. One of these strategies is to gather each year to discuss integrating working lands and land management into conservation easements. To date, more than 285,000 acres have been conserved by private landowners, land trusts and public agencies working together, including 110,000 acres of perpetual conservation easements.

The **Blackfoot Community Project**, a partnership between The Nature Conservancy and the Blackfoot Challenge to purchase 89,257 acres of Plum Creek Timber Company land and sell it to private and public buyers, has transferred a total of 71,890 acres to date—16 percent to private owners and 84 to public agencies. A conservation easement was placed on all lands sold to private parties and, in some instances, on lands that went to governmental agencies. In addition, some private buyers sold conservation easements on their existing property. Of the 17,367 acres remaining to be transferred, 60 percent is anticipated for private ownership and 40 percent for public.

### 2010 HIGHLIGHTS

- 14,581 acres in North Chamberlain transferred to DNRC and FWP
- 80 acres on Marcum Mountain transferred to USFWS

### PROJECT SUMMARY OF THE 71,890 ACRES TRANSFERRED

- 23,299 acres to the United States Forest Service
- 11,098 acres to the Bureau of Land Management
- 80 acres to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- 19,353 acres to the Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation
- 6,446 acres to the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- 11,614 acres to private parties including 5,609-acres as the Blackfoot Community Conservation Area

### PROJECT SUMMARY OF THE 33,391 ACRES OF PURCHASED OR DONATED CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

- 10,448 acres to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- 15,907 acres to the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- 6,997 acres to the Five Valley Land Trust in Missoula
- 39 acres to The Nature Conservancy of Montana

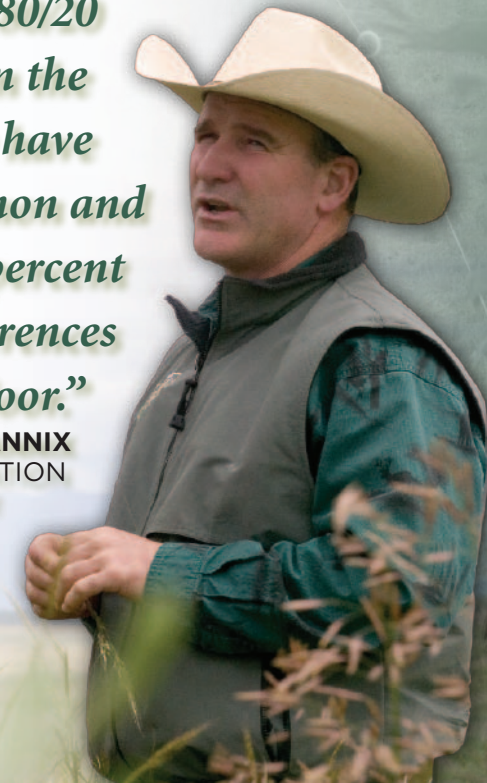


Robb Kendrick

*“We work on real solutions  
that we can all agree on.*

*Known as the 80/20  
rule, we work on the  
80 percent we have  
in common and  
leave the 20 percent  
of our differences  
at the door.”*

—DAVID MANNIX  
FIFTH GENERATION  
RANCHER



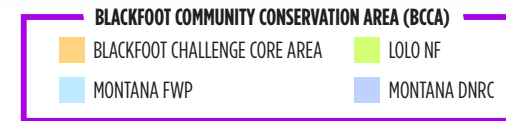
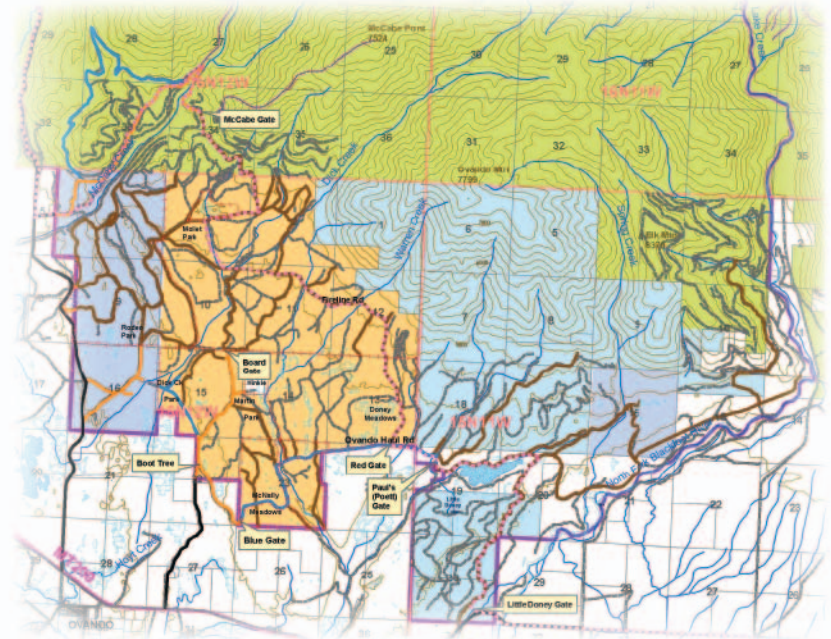
The **Blackfoot Community Conservation Area (BCCA)**, a 5,600-acre area of mid-elevation forest, native grassland parks and free flowing streams that provides habitat for a plethora of native species and abundant recreational opportunities, was formally established in 2005. A fifteen member Council meets with a Blackfoot Challenge hired land steward and agency partners to discuss cooperative management for multiple use objectives for the Blackfoot Community Conservation Area.

### BCCA HIGHLIGHTS

- Year-around Block Management agreement with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
- Established 11 campsites to reduce impacts to vegetation and to contain bear attractants
- Seeded 33 acres of native grass following fire management
- Spot spraying weeds on 75 acres and release of biocontrol insects
- Cleared eight miles of firebreak to allow passage of emergency vehicles



Nancy Schwalm



- Restored 170 acres of ponderosa pine and fescue savannah
- Established four rotational grazing pastures
- Developed five springs
- Held four educational and information tours
- Offered free Christmas tree permit

The **Blackfoot Subbasin Plan**, produced with Trout Unlimited to address conservation and monitoring in the Blackfoot Watershed was adopted by the Northwest Power and Conservation Council. [www.nwcouncil.org/fw/subbasinplanning/blackfoot/plan/default.htm](http://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/subbasinplanning/blackfoot/plan/default.htm).

# Restoration

## Landscape-level Public and Private Restoration

### Forest Restoration and Fire Management

The Greenough/Potomac and North Powell Fuels Task Forces work with public and private landowners to create fire safe communities and improve fire management across ownerships. Bringing this cooperation to a landscape level, the Lolo and Lincoln Working Groups of the Montana Forest Restoration Committee, Multiagency Integrated Restoration Strategy Blackfoot Project, and the Southwestern Crown Collaborative Project are integrating the efforts of private landowners and public land managers.

### 2010 FOREST/FIRE HIGHLIGHTS

- 61 acres of fuel mitigation completed
- 13 structures protected through the North Powell Fuels Mitigation Task Force
- Formed Seeley Swan Blackfoot Biomass Working Group
- 163 landowners reached through outreach programs
- NRCS EQIP Special Initiative for Forestry and Fire Management funded to cost share with private landowners
- Planning for impact over a 2 million acre landscape for forest restoration and fire management

### Weed Management

Integrated weed management practices were applied to approximately 11,000 acres in the Blackfoot Watershed by agencies and landowners. Perhaps the best example of collaborative, cross-boundary weed management is along the Blackfoot River.

The Blackfoot Leafy Spurge Project is now in its 10th year. More than 40 miles of the Blackfoot River were treated for leafy spurge across public and private ownerships. *Partners include:*

- Private landowners
- Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund
- Public agencies
- Powell and Missoula Counties

The Blackfoot Challenge partnered with the U.S. Forest Service to treat weeds in the Bear Creek and Lake Creek drainages. Nine miles of road were sprayed to control blueweed as well as 400 acres of toadflax infestations.

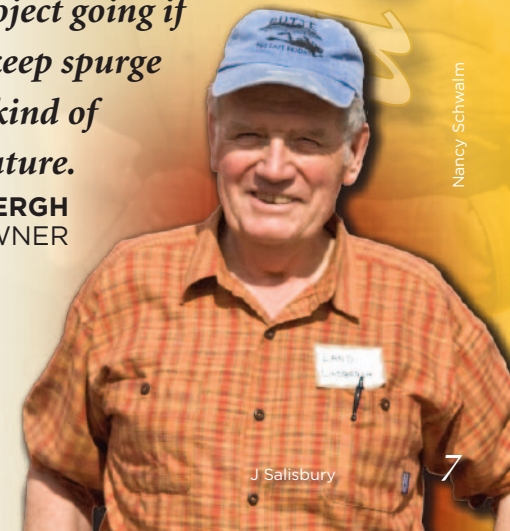
The Blackfoot Challenge and the U.S. Forest Service also supported local 4-H groups as they collected 2,400 cyphocleonus (knapweed eating bugs) last summer. The bug collection day was organized by the Clearwater Resource Council, Randy Teague (Woodworth Vegetation Management Area), and Missoula County. The bugs were released by partners throughout the watershed as part of ongoing biological weed control efforts.

*We hosted two volunteer weed pulls at the Russell Gates Fishing Access Site in 2010 – our 12th year!*



*Over the past 10 years, I've seen spurge density and growth decline substantially along the river and it's primarily because of the Blackfoot Leafy Spurge Project. Controlling spurge on my property is much more manageable at this point. It is an absolute must to keep this project going if we are to keep spurge under any kind of control in the future.*

— LAND LINDBERGH  
LANDOWNER



Restoration

Nancy Schwalm

## Stewardship

### Maintaining Connections

As grizzly populations expand in the Blackfoot, conflicts have decreased due, in part, to an array of practices that have been adopted by the valley's residents. And as wolf populations have dramatically increased in the watershed since 2007, livestock losses have been moderate thanks to ranchers who have worked together with contracted riders to closely monitor herds, wolf activity, and to take precautions to reduce depredations.

As we work hard at home, our partnerships are inspiring efforts by other ranching communities in Montana, Oregon, Wyoming, and across international borders to Alberta, Canada. At the end of the day, maintaining connections builds the trust that is essential for reducing conflicts with wildlife.

**Drought** and low flow concerns were high as snowpack was well below normal (about 50-60%) in 2010. Record precipitation in May helped to offset the light snowpack, allowing stream flows to remain near average through June. Despite this, low flows seemed inevitable following warm, dry weather in July and the Drought Committee prepared to implement a response. Flows in the Blackfoot River briefly fell below the 700 cubic feet per second Drought Plan trigger in August. Precipitation in August provided adequate moisture to carry stream flows and water temperatures through the most critical period and fortunately Drought Response was only in effect for seven days.

*“The information we received from the Blackfoot Challenge Irrigation Scheduling Program is invaluable. It’s a tool we can use to increase production, reduce expenses, and ultimately be better stewards of the resource.”*

—BRYAN RUNNION  
PAWS UP RANCH

### The Blackfoot **Irrigation Efficiency** Program Results

- Thirteen new sprinkler irrigation system efficiency evaluations completed
- More than 400,000 kilowatt hours of energy savings identified since the program began in 2008
- Evaluations resulted in 125,000 kilowatt hours of energy savings by irrigators. That’s enough energy to power the average Montana home for nearly 13 years!
- New program worked with several irrigators from Greenough to develop irrigation scheduling plans.
- Plans ensure efficient use of irrigation water on more than 1,400 acres
- Irrigation scheduling helped some identify problems like uneven water distribution and inaccurate application amounts



### 2010 HIGHLIGHTS

- 313 livestock carcasses removed in 2010
- 2,000 livestock carcasses removed since program began in 2003
- 96% reduction in grizzly bear conflicts from 2003-2010
- 55,000 feet of electric fencing protecting calving areas, homes, and beehives
- 2 portable electric fencing systems for on-call use
- 1 full time range rider and 2 assistants
- 120 residents in neighbor network
- 90 community volunteers participating in annual wolf monitoring





# Education

## Serving All Ages

We served 400 students and nearly 1,000 adults through place-based educational programs in all seven communities and eleven schools within the Blackfoot Watershed. Our partners include private landowners, local teachers, conservation organizations and public agency partners.

*To cover a wide-breadth of topics to engage participants of all ages through:*

- Tours
- Workshops
- Outdoor treks
- Classes

### SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

- Pre-K Days
  - Monthly preschool program to engage young families in learning about nature.
- Wiley Weasel Adventures
  - Rotating K-3 program to learn communication, history and geography to foster a sense of place.
- Youth Field Day
  - Annual field day for 4-6th graders to engage in hands-on learning.
- Adopt-A-Swan Program
  - Curriculum and annual field day for 7-8th grade students to engage in restoration of the trumpeter swan.
  - Online access to learn about trumpeter swans, recovery efforts, track swans, network, and download curriculum



Blackfoot Challenge 2010 Annual Report

- Montana Natural Resources Youth Camp
  - 33 high school students spent one week engaged in hands on learning in the field
- Community Education Program
  - Three programs attracted more than 100 adults to learn about oral history and wildlife tracking
  - Program to engage adults and families in learning about our Watershed.



We continued **outreach** and engaged 1,500 friends and neighbors by hosting the annual Partners Tours and the Annual Member's Meeting. We reached additional audiences through our website and from participation in dozens of presentations, public meetings and press releases.

Schedule of upcoming events can be located on our website calendar at [www.blackfootchallenge.org](http://www.blackfootchallenge.org)

*"I continue to support the Challenge's efforts to expand the educational programming in the Blackfoot watershed because the Challenge has helped me*

*develop an understanding of how every part of the valley depends on us, as the human component, to make careful, fair, and wise decisions about its resources."*

**—SANDRA ROE,**  
LANDOWNER AND RETIRED  
TEACHER WITH THE NEXT  
GENERATION!

Education



## Donors

Our **private and public donors and grantors** provide the funding for our work. The majority of projects are funded with state, federal, and foundation grants. Critical gifts from private individuals help us meet and match requirements for these project funds and provide the bulk of operating funds for committees. ***We are grateful to the following individuals, organizations, businesses and foundations that truly care about the Blackfoot and its future. Their support in 2010 made our work possible.***

Charlie & Sydne Abernathy ■ Gary Aitken ■ Tom & Teresa Allen in memory of William Fogarty ■ Dr. Jeff Alm ■ Bob Anderson ■ Brent & Carla Anderson ■ Robert & Nancy Anderson ■ (8) Anonymous Donors ■ Anonymous in Honor of Barbara Haines Tokmakian & Roscoe Haines ■ Christin Archambault in honor of John & Jan Farrar ■ Patrick & Bernadette Bannister ■ John & Nina Baucus ■ Jim & Norma Bauer ■ Big Bear Sign Company, Inc. ■ Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited ■ Traci Bignell ■ Geoffrey & Nancy Birnbaum in honor of Patricia Haire ■ Eldon & Helen Beck ■ Jon & Anne Bertsche ■ Neal Blossom & Kathie Roos ■ Jim & Sally Bogaert ■ H. Michael Borgens in memory of William Fogarty ■ Louie Bouma ■ Boyle, Deveny, Meyer ■ Bryan & Meg Bradshaw ■ Tom Browder & Carolyn Lewis ■ Gary & Wanda Burnett in memory of Anne Burnett ■ Jamie, Jason & Jenny Burnett in memory of Anne Burnett ■ William Bucklin ■ Kathleen Burchett ■ Jerry & Laura Burns ■ Caroline Byrd ■ John & Betty Cardwell in honor of Anna Cardwell & Margaret Craig ■ California Cattlemen's Assoc ■ Virginia Causey ■ The Chutney Foundation ■ Cinnabar Foundation ■ Clearwater Equipment ■ Richard Clough ■ David Cochran ■ Rob Colley & Kate Godfrey ■ The Computer Gal ■ Margaret Copenhaver in memory of R.Wendell Copenhaver ■ Larry & Kathy Curran in memory of William Fogarty ■ Fred Danforth & Carlene Larsson ■ John & Cheryl Dale ■ Ty & Alyssa Daniels ■ Frank & Pat DeLeo ■ Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation ■ Larry & Debbie Dillree ■ Ila B Dousman Fund ■ Betty duPont ■ Ali Duvall ■ E-L Ranch ■ Pen & Liz Edwards ■ Jon & Linda Ender ■ The Charles Engelhard Foundation ■ Andy & Connie Erickson ■ John & Jan Farrar ■ Thomas L. Farago in memory of William Fogarty ■ David Fawcett in honor of Potter & Vero Families ■ Racene Friede ■ Carol Fries ■ Corie & Laurice Fritz, Morris Ranch ■ Patricia Fogarty in memory of Bill Fogarty ■ Tim & Sue Furey in honor of Marietta & Bob Pfister ■ Lyle & Gail Grimes Charitable Foundation ■ Gateway Printing of Missoula ■ Richard & June George ■ Hank & Cathy Goetz ■ Granite Conservation District ■ Greater Yellowstone Coalition ■ Bob & Patricia Griffes ■ Maurice Guay ■ Neva Hassanein ■ Geraard Hatheway ■ Joseph & Louise Head ■ Heart Bar Heart Ranch, Inc. ■ Ralph & Billie Higgins ■ Dale Hinkle ■ Ron and Clarice Hinman in memory of William Fogarty ■ Tom & Candace Hinz ■ Joe & Betty Hollander ■ Gordon & Bette Hoven in memory of William Fogarty ■ Jerry & Rochelle Hover ■ Tim Edwards & Gayle Hudgins ■ Hurlburt Farm & Forestry Inc. ■ Tom Ide and Shari Marihugh in memory of the Copenhaver Brothers-Howard, Gene, Wendell ■ Denny & Charolette Iverson ■ J & J Manufacturing ■ Gary & Sharon Jacobsen ■ Jake & Kristi Jacobsen in memory of Harold & Hazel Jacobsen ■ Gerry & Chuck Jennings ■ Heather Johnson & Brad Andres ■ Robert Johnson ■ Todd & Twyla Johnson ■ Tamara Leigh Jordan ■ Amber Kamps ■ The Kelley's ■ Lisa Kemp in honor of Dad and Cindy Poett ■ Lisa Kemp in honor of Mr & Mrs HW Poett ■ Richard & Marilyn Kempthorn ■ David & Kathy Kesheimer in memory of Maors Lorenz ■ Steve Klotzel & Andrea Morgan, Greenwing Restoration ■ Bob & Ellen Knight ■ Charles & Marcia Knell ■ Polk Laffoon in honor of Ralph & Toone Burchenal ■ Tom & Judy Lehman ■ Tony Liane ■ Land Lindbergh ■ Jerome Loendorf ■ Wendy Lofting in honor of Bill & Betty Potter ■ Gary A. Long in memory of Tammy Lynn Long ■ Tim & Donna Love ■ Lovett-Woodsum Charitable Foundation,

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*We also acknowledge the many photographs and in kind donations we received throughout the year.*

*We strive to list each and every donor accurately, but errors and omissions do sometimes occur. We deeply apologize if we have missed you. Please, if your name has been incorrectly listed or does not appear, contact the Ovando Office at (406) 793-3900.*

***“The future relies on the generous and trusting nature of our partners.”***

**—JIM STONE**  
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF DIRECTORS



# Financials

A \$750,000 grant from The Nature Conservancy resulting from the Blackfoot Community Project added substantially to our endowments and Sources of Funds in 2010. This endowed principal is managed by the Endowment Committee to benefit the Blackfoot Community Conservation Area, other conservation lands and associated lands resulting from the Blackfoot Community Project, and the Blackfoot Watershed. The BCP Operating Reserve, a cash fund, is also managed by the Endowment Committee for the short-term needs of the BCCA until the endowment funds provide sustainable annual allocations. The Board of Directors manages all the Challenge's finances by approving an annual operating budget funded from secured sources, and investing four reserve funds and three endowments for long-term stability.

*“In my 32 years of auditing, I find the Blackfoot Challenge the most efficient in their use of the government funds.”*

— WAYNE HINTZ  
CPA

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (Dec 31, 2010)

### ASSETS

#### UNRESTRICTED

Annual Reserve	\$4,801
Designated Program Reserve	\$53,852
Board Designated Operating Fund	\$106,849
BCP Operating Reserve	\$205,788

TEMPORARY RESTRICTED \$195,485

#### PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED

Blackfoot Stewardship Endowment Fund	\$493,067
BCCA Endowment Fund	\$305,842
Endowment Fund	\$8,764

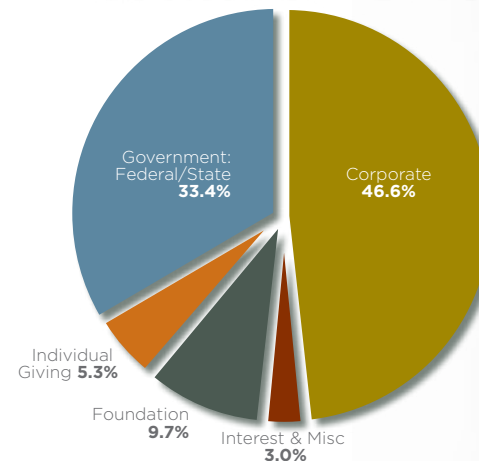
BLACKFOOT COMMUNITY CONSERVATION AREA (LAND) \$1,891,284

**TOTAL ASSETS \$ 3,265,732**

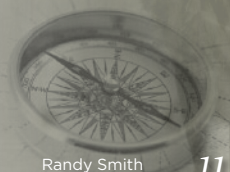
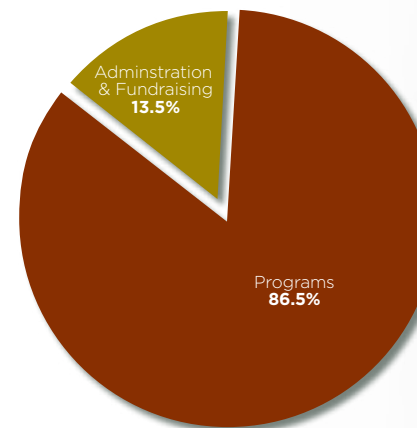
**TOTAL LIABILITIES \$ 0**

**TOTAL NET ASSETS \$ 3,265,732**

## SOURCE OF FUNDS



## USE OF FUNDS





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sustaining **COMMUNICATION, TRUST BUILDING AND FORGING PARTNERSHIPS** for future generations by conserving natural resources and rural communities in the Blackfoot Watershed of western Montana

The **2010 Darrell Sall Memorial Award** went to our outstanding and long-time partners, the **Bureau of Land Management**, and to their regional field manager of many years and **Secretary of the Challenge Board of Directors, Nancy Anderson**. They share in this honor for their significant contributions to natural resource management and rural community values in the Blackfoot Watershed.



Tina Bernd-Cohen



Nancy Schwalm

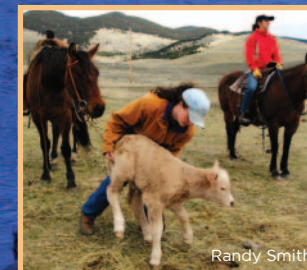


Nancy Schwalm

### THE DARRELL SALL CONSERVATION AWARD

*Darrell served as the Area Manager for the Bureau of Land Management in Missoula from 1975 until his death in 1997 at the age of 57. He worked tirelessly throughout his career on behalf of the people who share a love for the Blackfoot. His commitment resulted in locally-based efforts that enhance, conserve and protect the resources and rural lifestyle of the valley. He was immensely successful at building trust and creating and nurturing partnerships to achieve these goals.*

*Darrell was instrumental in bringing about many of the lasting benefits which Blackfoot Valley residents and the public enjoy today. This award is presented by the Blackfoot Challenge to individuals and organizations who have made major accomplishments toward protecting and conserving natural resources of the Blackfoot River valley.*



Randy Smith



Meghan Brown