

THE TRUST *for* PUBLIC LAND

CONSERVING LAND FOR PEOPLE



NEWS *from the* NORTHERN ROCKIES

Far from Idle in Idaho

Since 1975, The Trust for Public Land has protected more than 60,000 acres in Idaho, where most folks still live a rural lifestyle: working the land, fishing the streams, and raising families who cherish their beautiful surroundings and outdoor way of life.

The following three projects will add more than 7,000 acres to our tally in Idaho – but more important, they will protect places where local people live and work every day, and people from around the world come to play.

McArthur Lake, located on the northern end of the Idaho panhandle, is a beautiful feature of the 280-mile International Selkirk Loop scenic drive, voted “The West’s Best Scenic Drive” by Sunset magazine. It lies at a natural pinch-point between protected wilderness in the Selkirk and the Cabinet and Purcell mountain ranges. Here, only five miles of rural valley separates the mountains. Prime timberland protects and filters the Cabinet-Purcell Mountain Corridor’s clean water and shelters some of the richest fish and wildlife habitat in the Northern Rockies.

We are working with Stimson Lumber Company to purchase a conservation easement on 6,847 acres, which will link existing public land in the Cabinet and Selkirk mountains and keep significant swaths of the land in sustainable timber management. This provides much more than jobs – it protects a corridor for migrating wildlife, and gives us all the chance to enjoy this beautiful land.



McArthur Lake area is located next to the Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge. It is a home for migrating waterfowl as well as big game, such as white-tail deer, moose, and black bear. Birds are abundant in spring and fall, and locals say June is the best month for both fishing and moose viewing.



Letters

from the Northern Rockies Director and Advisory Board Chair

As we near The Trust for Public Land's 40th year, I've found myself looking back at the tremendous conservation work we have accomplished in the Northern Rockies. Our first projects in the region date back to the mid-70s and focus on protecting lands along the Wild and Scenic rivers of Idaho. Nearly four decades and dozens of projects later, we're still working at river's edge to ensure that places like the Middle Fork of the Salmon River and the Sawtooth National Recreation Area are forever protected. We're also collaborating with The Nature Conservancy and local groups in the Idaho panhandle to protect critical wildlife habitat, working forests, and public access for recreation in the McArthur Lake Wildlife Corridor.

As we mature as an organization, we're also recognizing that our work shouldn't end when lands go into public ownership. So in the Swan Valley in northwest Montana, where we helped acquire nearly 80,000 acres for the public from Plum Creek Timber, we're partnering with local organizations such as Swan Valley Innovations on a new initiative to create and nurture local businesses that work on, and for, the land. This semester we're sponsoring students from Montana State University's Community Design Center to work with SVI to develop a "sustainability campus." We may be 40, but it's never too late to go back to school!

And it's never too late to join us in conserving and sustaining the places we love. I hope you'll join us today.

Deb Love
Northern Rockies Director

In her last letter, Deb announced my appointment as the founding chair of the Northern Rockies Advisory Board. Since then I have focused on recruiting a truly outstanding board. With tremendous help from Deb, the Northern Rockies staff, and Margie Kim Bermeo, our chief philanthropy officer, we have assembled that founding team:

Robert Stephens owns a native-plant nursery in northern California and a ranch in the Boulder River Valley near McLeod, Montana. He currently serves as vice chair of the Santa Cruz Land Trust, was founding chairman of Audubon California, and a board member of the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. He has a passion for fly fishing, horseback riding, biking, and natural history.

Laura Brehm is no stranger to "Griz" country, nor to The Trust for Public Land, where she was our national director of development. Now president and CEO of the University of Montana Foundation, Laura oversees all fundraising, gift administration, investments, and management of private funds for the university. Laura lives in Missoula and loves fly fishing, horseback riding, and hiking with her husband in the heart of the American West.

Robert's and Laura's experience, connections, and knowledge of TPL give our advisory board a running start toward raising resources and providing strategic assistance for Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming.

Larry Garlick
Northern Rockies Advisory Board Chair



Help us Save the Best of America

In the Northern Rockies, The Trust for Public Land protects places where people love to live, work, and play. Every gift has a direct impact on our conservation efforts and is a great investment in our natural world. In the Northern Rockies and across the country, The Trust for Public Land is supplying the vision and tools to weave a magnificent tapestry of protected gardens, parks, forests, rivers, trails, and wild places. We rely on the generosity of people like you to help protect the places we all love.

Far from Idle in Idaho (...continued)

Rodeo Grounds Ranch is only five miles from the historic town of Stanley, Idaho, population 100. For many years the 157-acre ranch hosted the historic Custer County Rodeo. Today, Rodeo Grounds still operates as a working ranch, but as one of only three large properties that remain unprotected in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, and with stunning views of the entire Sawtooth Range, it is extremely vulnerable to subdivision and development. See our cover photo for a taste of its mountain view.

Our plan is to protect the land with a conservation easement that will allow the owner to continue traditional ranching while safeguarding the land's natural values and guaranteeing recreational access for anglers to Valley Creek – a stream teeming with rainbow and cutthroat trout.

In all, The Trust for Public Land has completed seven projects in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, from a one-acre parcel in Stanley to the 1,800-acre Piva Ranch. Our aim is to ensure that this beautiful area remains intact and open to all, a place where world-class outdoor recreation, traditional land use, and irreplaceable wildlife habitat co-exist for the benefit of all.



“The Rodeo Grounds Ranch is the most historically important and largest unprotected scenic property in the Stanley Basin, a vital piece of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area,” says Paul Hill, president of the Sawtooth Society, a community based nonprofit dedicated to protecting the unique qualities of the area. “The Society is particularly pleased to be partnering with The Trust for Public Land in a joint effort to preserve this special place in perpetuity.”



Inside the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness, we're on track to protect the **Morgan Ranch**, a 160-acre pocket of privately held land that dates back to the gold-rush era of the late 1800s. At 2.3 million acres, the Frank Church is the country's second-largest protected wilderness area, a magnet for people seeking truly unspoiled natural land.

The Morgan Ranch property is just downstream from the Boundary Creek put-in, the most popular access point on the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. This spectacular whitewater river runs for 100 miles through pristine backcountry,

where rare species including Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, as well as wolf, bighorn sheep, black bear, and wolverine, still thrive, to be glimpsed by lucky whitewater rafters and backpackers. We are working with the land owner (pictured here as a young girl) and the U.S. Forest Service to protect their ranch for wildlife, and for hikers to explore and enjoy in perpetuity.



Enjoy the Whitewater of the Salmon in Style

The Trust for Public Land has a well-established five-star reputation for its TPL Trips program. We offer small groups of people extraordinary access to the places we know best – the places we have helped to save for everyone to enjoy. In 2012, you can join us on an unforgettable whitewater adventure on the Main Fork of the Salmon River.

Everyone who travels down this magnificent river as it runs deep within the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness falls in love with its grand scenery, fascinating history, and big waves. Away from the rapids, we'll tie up on giant sandy beaches and take gentle hikes, play in soothing hot springs, and look out for wildlife and birds.

This special trip, scheduled for July 24-29, 2012, has been specially created for The Trust for Public Land by ARTA River Trips to highlight the personality of the Main Salmon and the very special role we have played in keeping it wild for you to enjoy.

For more information, or to book this trip of a lifetime, call Hilary Mulligan at 530.621.3453 or email her at trips@tpl.org.



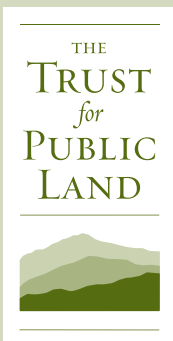
Jobs in the Woods

In our last newsletter we told you about President Obama's *America's Great Outdoors* initiative, which aims to protect, connect, and restore our natural lands, and most important, reconnect our youth with the great outdoors. The initiative's progress report, which came out this fall, identifies the Crown of the Continent as one of the nation's top-priority landscapes, not just because of its ecological importance but also its long history of community engagement in landscape-scale conservation and restoration.

In the Swan Valley, where with our help more than 80,000 acres have been conserved, the community is now focusing its attention on how to help manage those lands in a way that is sustainable for both the forest and the rural community that depends upon it.

To help the community achieve its objective of making sustainable timber management a cornerstone of a dynamic,

thriving rural economy, The Trust for Public Land is sponsoring a cooperative design studio at Montana State University's Community Design Center. This semester, five architecture students are working with the Swan Valley community to design an integrated, sustainable business campus that will host a suite of local businesses creating sustainable wood products, producing energy, growing food, and offering experiential education. The idea is to foster successful new business ventures, create local jobs, and get our next generation of land stewards engaged in the great outdoors.



The Trust for Public Land conserves land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens, and other natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come.

tpl.org

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PHOTOS: COVER: RODEO GROUNDS RANCH—ALEX DIEKMANN; MCARTHUR LAKE—RANDY BEACHAM; INSIDE LEFT: LARRY AND DEB—KENTON ROWE; BLACKFOOT VALLEY RANCHER—TED WOOD; INSIDE RIGHT: RODEO GROUNDS RANCH—ALEX DIEKMANN; MORGAN RANCH—MORGAN RANCH FAMILY ARCHIVES; RIVER RAFTING—ARTA RIVER TRIPS; BACK: SWAN VALLEY MILL—TED WOOD; STUDENTS—MSU-SOA-CDC.