



PHOTO BY JENNY TOLLEFSON

50,000 ACRES PROTECTED

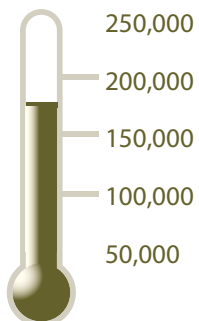
Great things often grow from humble beginnings. Back in the winter of 1993, three years after the Five Valleys River Park Association became Five Valleys Land Trust; the first official newsletter proudly announced the acquisition of three conservation easements totaling 53 acres, two in the Grant Creek area and one on Waterworks Hill. No mean feat for an organization with a shoestring budget, a part-time executive director, a cubby hole for office space, and a tireless board of directors (some of whom still serve on the board).

By the end of this year, those humble beginnings will have grown to a 50,000 acre mosaic of land across eight counties in western Montana protected through conservation easements or public acquisition. Each new parcel adds another important piece to this mosaic, and each one that's protected is just as precious as the last,

whether it is a 4000 acre ranch containing wonderful grasslands and vital winter range, a smaller hillside property that provides a majestic, unmarred view for all who pass by, or a five acre tract along a crystal trout stream.

Of course, the challenges remain. The vision of an intact and interconnected natural landscape gracing the growing communities of Montana cannot be realized in two short decades, or perhaps even over a century of community enterprise. But for those of us who live here, for the landowners we have worked with and the friends and communities who so generously support and encourage our work, the effort to protect this living landscape for generations yet to come is a worthy and rewarding one.

STEWARDSHIP CHALLENGE 2009: Down to the Wire



We're getting closer. With little more than a month remaining in 2009, we need to raise another \$75,000 to secure the Cotswold Foundation's \$250,000 matching challenge. So far more than 450 supporters have contributed toward this important challenge—as new donors or by increasing their annual giving with gifts ranging from \$5 to \$25,000. Every donation makes a difference.

Please consider making a special year-end contribution above and beyond your past annual giving and/or pass this newsletter along to a friend and encourage them to join. By helping us meet this challenge, you'll enable Five Valleys to take strategic steps over the next few years to protect and preserve more of western Montana's natural legacy for future generations. Contact Glenn at 406-549-0755 or glenn@fvlt.org with any questions or for more information.

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117 W. Broadway • P.O. Box 8953
Missoula, MT 59807
(406)549-0755 • FAX: (406)728-2841
www.fvlt.org • office@fvlt.org



2.5 MILES OF ROCK CREEK PROTECTED

In September we finished a fencing project on 2.5 miles of the East Fork of Rock Creek. This wildlife friendly fence along the creek excludes cattle from the riparian corridor in an effort to protect and restore the riparian vegetation, improve water quality and enhance native trout habitat. Funding for this project was provided by the Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks' Future Fisheries Program, West Slope Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Five Valleys Land Trust and a generous in-kind donation from DGBS Fencing. We commend the Cadieux family for their foresight and commitment to the protection and restoration of the riparian habitat, cold water fishery, and water quality of Rock Creek.



PHOTOS BY ALINA NIKLISON



Upper Left: Overview of the upper section of the East Fork of Rock Creek.

Center: In spring, camas flowers bloom profusely along the creek.

Lower Right: Wildlife-friendly fences allow small animals to safely crawl under and larger ones to jump over.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, December 4th

Five Valleys Land Trust Holiday Party~5-7pm, FVLT Office, 117 W. Broadway. Stop by for some holiday cheer.

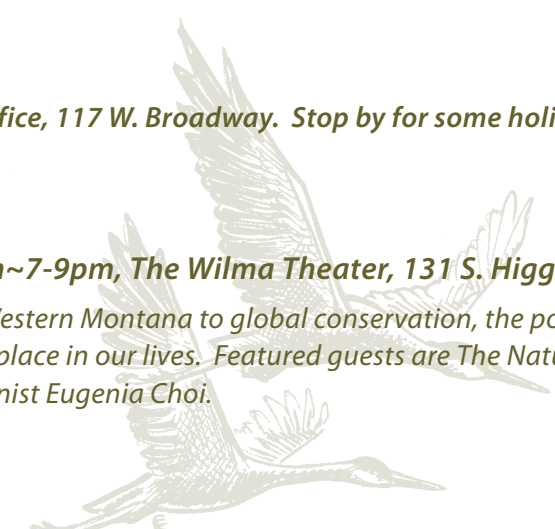
Thursday, February 4th, 2010

A Celebration of the Art and Science of Conservation~7-9pm, The Wilma Theater, 131 S. Higgins

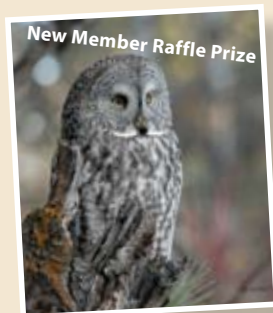
Join us for a free program highlighting the importance of Western Montana to global conservation, the power of people to protect these treasures, and the importance of place in our lives. Featured guests are The Nature Conservancy's lead scientist M. Sanjayan and virtuoso violinist Eugenia Choi.

Saturday, May 22nd, 2010

16th Annual FVLT Banquet and Auction~ Always a fun and festive evening, this event is a great way to celebrate the accomplishments and support the projects of Five Valleys Land Trust.



First Friday at Five Valleys a Smashing Success~31 New Members



Great Grey Owl by Kristi DuBois



Friends old and new come together.



Snow Falls from Larger Trees by Nelson Kenter

DID YOU KNOW...

That Five Valleys Land Trust was called Five Valleys River Park Association until 1989? With the help of grant funding from Missoula County, the all-volunteer River Parks Association was transformed into a qualified land trust with a staff of one part-time executive director, Amy Eaton Royer. In 1992, during Amy's tenure, FVLT joined with the City of Missoula to facilitate the public acquisition for the City of Missoula of the 400-acre Rattlesnake Greenway. This was the first of what was to become a tradition of cooperative conservation efforts with private landowners, local government, agencies and the community at large.

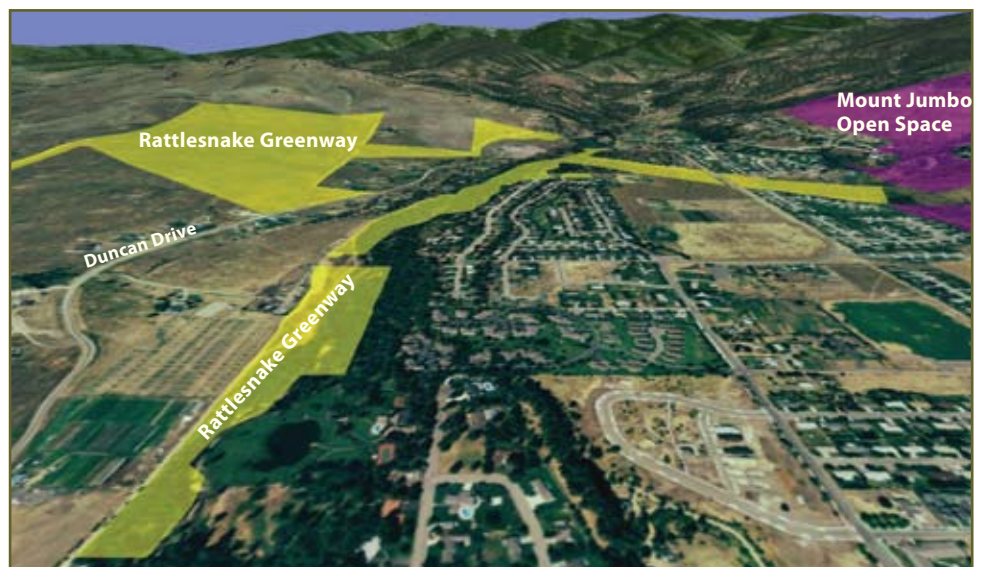
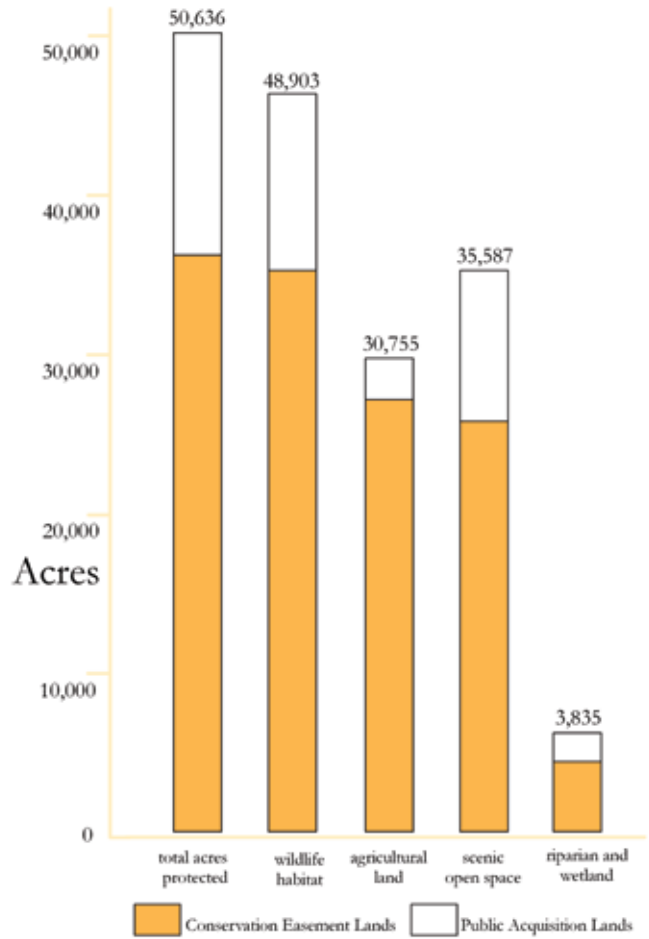


PHOTO BY ALINA NIKLISON



Five Valleys staff and board have lunch at Doe Brothers in Philipsburg after a busy morning of strategic planning. From left: Meredith Printz, Ciche Pitcher (smr. board mbr.), Jim Royan, Chuck Tribe, Grant Kier, Anne Fogel-Burchenal, Lucy Beighle, Elizabeth Drummond, Sean Benton, Amber Sherrill, Julie Gardner, Jim Brown, Jim Valeo, Jim Cusker, Don Sokoloski, Glenn Marangelo, Greg Tollefson, Ryan Chapin

Conservation Values Protected*



* Protected Lands Include 119 Miles of Stream Frontage



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