



SPANNING DIVIDES

Paul Lebel

The Big Blackfoot and Clark Fork Rivers twist westward between mountain ranges radiating from the spine of the continent. They wind through rich valleys amid vast public lands and family farms and ranches, often separated by no more than a strand of wire, and sometimes not even by that. Here, a responsible land ethic on both sides of the fence provides priceless benefits for all of us who live here—clean, cold water, habitat for diverse and abundant wildlife, and food on our tables.

Just south of Drummond, Sue and Randy Peterson have provided a shining example of just such a land ethic. The 3,774-acre Peterson Angus Ranch in the foothills of the John Long Mountains offers some of the healthiest native short grass prairie in the Upper Clark Fork watershed. In the summer of 2010 the Petersons protected their ranch with a conservation easement held by Five Valleys Land Trust. Peterson Angus Ranch is a place where natural springs

rise up through the grasses and rich soil to form Antelope Creek, home to native cutthroat trout, and life-giving cold, clean waters that feed the Clark Fork River. A hiking trail allowing for nature study and quiet enjoyment will allow for seasonal public access to the summit of Beacon Hill where visitors will be able to look out over the ranch, the

surrounding mountain ranges, and the confluence of Flint Creek and the Clark Fork, far below.

The easement was made possible by a generous contribution from the Petersons, funding from

the Natural Resource Conservation Service Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program, the Montana Natural Resource Damage Program and Five Valleys.

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"This ranch of rolling foothills, patches of timber, wildlife and flowers and springs—what a gem of an acreage."

-Bill Ohrmann, father of Sue Peterson

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The Petersons reflect after signing their conservation easement

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Field Notes

My daughter Fiona has done much in her first two years, but above all else she has forced me to think more carefully than ever about prioritizing my resources. As I'm sure is true for you, a few high priorities are always obvious. Beyond these, however, weighing priorities can feel tricky, but careful consideration gives me confidence that I am wisely spending my most precious resource of all—time.

As Five Valleys' CEO, I know that you trust me to be careful with this organization's resources. Over the past several years I have worked closely with many of you to understand and define our shared values. With a mission to protect our great river corridors, our abundant wildlife habitat, our family farms and ranches, and our scenic opens spaces, many of these priorities were always obvious. Thanks to your investment in us, today we also have a strategic plan and a detailed conservation plan to help us when weighing priorities might be trickier.

Together we can celebrate the fact that taking a moment to define our priorities has only hastened the pace of our work. Since 2007 we have doubled Five Valleys' protected lands in western Montana. So far this year we have protected more than 12,000 acres. At such a pace there is hope that for future generations entire rivers can run clean and free, that our wildlife habitat will remain intact, and that our family farms will keep putting food on our tables.

This is why we are so grateful that you share with us another precious resource—money. With that generous gift you allow us to buy more time to protect forever the places that are a priority for all of us. This newsletter is one way we can all look back and share in celebrating that these places will endure for many generations that follow.

As we look forward, I hope that the recent shared successes will inspire you, as they have me, to realize just how much we can accomplish together. Whether you, too, are a new parent, a new member, or just looking anew at your priorities, I hope you will continue to make Five Valleys' enduring conservation work a meaningful part of your commitment to this community and to the entire world.

GRANT



From atop Beacon Hill one can look south along the John Long Mountains to the jagged peaks of the Anaconda Pintlar Wilderness. To the north, the eyes meet the rugged ridges of the Garnet Range, where the line of sight follows a prominent ridge leading away to form the Chamberlain Mountain complex at the northernmost prow of the range.

The 3,340-acre Sunset Hill conservation easement, also completed in the summer of 2010, lies on the northwest slopes of Chamberlain Mountain at the confluence of the Big Blackfoot and Clearwater Rivers. The easement is part of a 14,000-acre community conservation effort involving former Plum Creek Timber Company lands acquired by The Nature Conservancy as part of the Blackfoot Community Project. The Sunset Hill easement protects spawning and rearing habitat for native trout, and year round habitat for elk, mule deer, white tailed deer and many other mammal and bird species.

The permanent protection of these lands resulted from collaboration among FVLT; The Nature Conservancy; the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service; Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks; and the Missoula County Open Space Bond Program.

The land, now owned by The Nature Conservancy, will eventually be moved into private ownership, and will continue to be managed for wildlife, grazing and timber management, and will also assure the continuation of the public access historically allowed by Plum Creek.



Stately Ponderosa pines on the Sunset Hill property

Just east of Chamberlain Mountain, on the south-facing slopes of the Garnets lies the Dutton Hereford Ranch. In late summer of 2010, the Dutton family donated a conservation easement to Five Valleys protecting over 3,000 acres on a portion of the ranch in the Upper Clark Fork watershed. The Dutton family has carefully tended this land for a century. The easement protects upland forest, grasslands, stream corridors, and wetlands.

The Dutton's generous donation reflects a strong commitment to conservation, and wise estate planning that will assure this property remains agriculturally productive, while protecting the natural values that make it important habitat for a large elk herd and many other wildlife species. The property is adjacent to lands already protected with conservation easements, and, like the Sunset Hill easement, it will prevent the further fragmentation of those high priority wildlife linkage areas for a variety of species including grizzly bears, lynx, elk and moose.

Like so many parts of these great valleys, these private lands connect to our public lands. As we worked closely with our partners to complete these three wonderful conservation easements at the core of our working area we were reminded of an important point: Just as our great rivers flow across the landscape, so do the many benefits of land conservation. But these benefits don't just flow down hill, they flow across fence lines, they flow over ridge tops, they flow through communities, and most important they flow down through future generations.



Cows graze on the Dutton Hereford Ranch. Photo by Jim Streeter.

**YEAR-END
MATCHING
CHALLENGE**

YOUR DONATION WILL BE MATCHED UP TO \$75,000

Several generous donors are uniting to issue a matching challenge to Five Valleys supporters to help us meet this year's fundraising goal.

If you are considering renewing your membership or giving a year-end gift, now is the perfect time. Your donation will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$75,000.

For more information contact Glenn Marangelo at glenn@fvlt.org or 406-549-0755.

Where We Work

BLACKFOOT VALLEY- WILDLIFE HAVEN

We are busy working to complete a conservation easement that will protect a key wildlife travel corridor providing safe passage, cover, and forage for elk, deer, grizzly bear and a host of other wildlife species as they move across the upper Blackfoot Valley east of Lincoln. This 108-acre property, adjacent to relatively dense subdivisions both to the east and west, will secure the vital travel corridor between public lands north and south of the river and will supply important year-round habitat for white-tailed deer and other wildlife. The property includes a reclaimed gravel pit that provides waterfowl habitat, as well as fishing and educational opportunities for area schoolchildren.



UPPER CLARK FORK- FAMILY LAND PROTECTION



Twenty years ago the owners of this 140-acre parcel on the upper Clark Fork east of Turah came to Five Valleys hoping to place a conservation easement on this diverse family property. Unfortunately, at the time conditions were not conducive to completing the project. Two decades later, the landowners' children have decided to proceed with their parents' dream for the property. This historic homestead is bordered on one side by the Clark Fork River and abuts National Forest land on another, and provides important seasonal habitat for elk, deer, bear, and a host of other mammals and avian species. The property will protect vital water resources and scenic beauty while also ensuring that future agricultural activities will be accommodated. This project is a good example of the work being done with private landowners to assure that the future of the Upper Clark Fork gets brighter every day.

EXTENDING THE KIM WILLIAMS TRAIL-MISSOULA TO MILLTOWN

The dream of securing a vital link that will extend the Kim Williams trail from downtown Missoula to the future Milltown State Park moved a step closer to reality in late August. Five Valleys signed an option to purchase sixty-five crucial acres from Missoula's Jacobs family that will connect the trail via Deer Creek Road with the future park lands. Five Valleys will serve as a "bridge" purchaser and is working with the city of Missoula, Missoula County, and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) to facilitate the acquisition which will eventually be turned over to FWP. This is another in Five Valleys' cherished tradition of cooperative efforts to secure important public recreation lands in our working area.



HANDS ON THE LAND

Turning an Overgrazed Pasture into a Restoration Opportunity

It didn't take much time for the horses to reduce this pasture to almost bare ground.

When this out-of-state landowner learned what had happened at his Rock Creek property he explained that he had recently given permission to a neighbor to graze some horses on his pasture. Five Valleys teamed up with this landowner to turn this compliance issue into a restoration opportunity. The horses were indefinitely removed from the property and a few weeks later the first phase of the restoration treatment was completed. It

consisted of spraying for noxious weeds and re-seeding 12 acres with a mix of native and rangeland grass seeds that was formulated considering the historical use of the property as well as which species were more likely to establish. Nick Holden from Mountain Valley Plant Management LLC helped with the planning and implementation of this project. This year a second round of spraying for noxious weeds was performed.

Today, almost 2 years later, this grassland is looking as healthy as it has ever been. We plan to keep it that way.



BEFORE: November 2008



AFTER: July 2010

2010 RESTORATION PROJECTS

Number of events: 3
Volunteers participating: 54
Plants tended: 7000
Aspen seedlings planted: 175
Volunteer hours worked: 255

We truly appreciate the time and talents contributed by our volunteers. We are busy planning opportunities for you to get your hands dirty with Hands on the Land in 2011. To learn more, contact Ryan Chapin at ryan@fvlt.org or 406-549-0755.



Top right: Trusty volunteer Steve German plants trees in Upper Rock Creek.

Center left: Nearly 2000 shrubs have been planted on Ashby Creek (pictured)

Bottom right: Fixing browse protectors on the Sundance Ranch.

GOT DEFENSIBLE SPACE?

Common Sense Methods to Reduce Your Home's Fire Risk

2010 marks the 100-year anniversary of the legendary Fire of 1910. While the 2010 forest fire season was subdued compared to the wildfire of one hundred years ago, political, natural, and climatic conditions may have set the stage for another potentially catastrophic burn. As a forestland homeowner, will you be ready when the flames come to your door?

In August of 1910, after the flames died down from the Big Burn, a firestorm that torched millions of acres with a single run, the philosophy of fire management on federal lands changed from letting fires burn to expecting them to be extinguished by 10:00 the next morning. This continued fire suppression, combined with beetle-killed trees and increasing global temperatures, has our Montana forests teeming with a dry fuel base that is not unlike that seen in 1910. Luckily, you have almost a year to make sure your property is ready to weather the storm; to make sure you have "Defensible Space".

According to the wildland fire prevention organization Firewise (www.firewise.org), Defensible Space is "the area around a house that is reaching toward an oncoming wildfire. This is an area where the vegetation has been

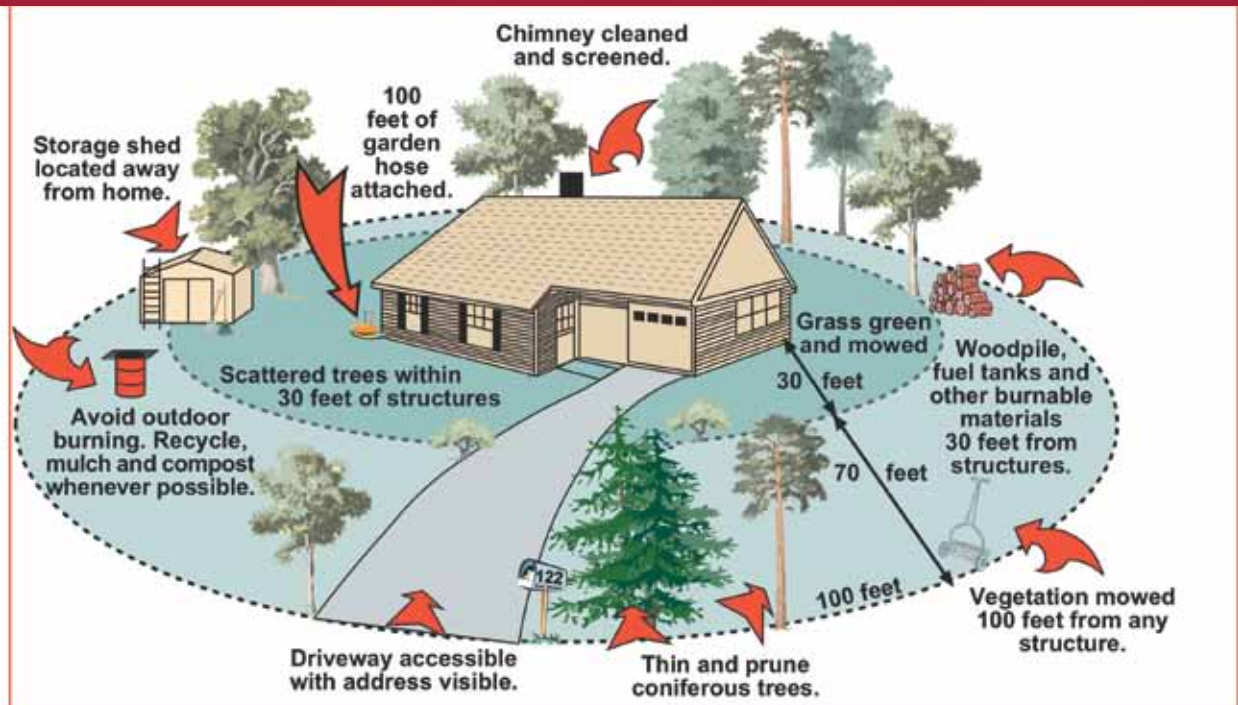
modified to reduce the wildfire threat and to provide an opportunity for firefighters to effectively defend the house."

Simple Steps you can Take to Create Defensible Space:

1. Clearly mark the access road and address of your home so emergency vehicles can find your property.
2. Thin tree and brush cover at least 30 feet (further if your home is on a slope) from your home. Make sure to dispose of slash left from thinning.
3. Make sure all burnable fuels (branches, firewood etc) are at least 10' away from your home, propane tank, and other buildings.
4. Use metal roofing and fire retardant siding on all buildings.
5. Make sure you have an ample water supply and hoses set up to dispense it.

For a complete guide on creating defensible space, go to: <http://dnrc.mt.gov/forestry/Fire/Prevention/Documents/LivingwFireFSM2009.pdf>

Summary-Protect Your Home From Wildfire





UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3RD, 5-7PM: FIVE VALLEYS LAND TRUST HOLIDAY PARTY. Stop by our office at 117 W. Broadway for food, fun and fellowship. And take a good look around because we are going to be moving soon!

JANUARY, 2011: FIVE VALLEYS MOVES TO NEW OFFICES AT 255 W. FRONT. We will need a lot of help with the move, so stay tuned for more information or contact Meredith at meredith@fvlt.org or 549-0755 if you would like to pitch in. Luckily we aren't going far, so it should be relatively easy.

SATURDAY, MAY 21ST, 2011: 17TH ANNUAL FVLT BANQUET AND AUCTION. This perennial event seems to get better every year. Tempting auction items, live music, sumptuous food and great friends are a winning combination. Don't miss it.

THURSDAY, JUNE 23RD, 2011: NORTH HILLS EASEMENT CELEBRATION. Join Five Valleys and Allied Waste as we celebrate the conservation of more than 300 acres in the North Hills.

DID YOU KNOW...

When the Five Valleys River Parks Association was formed back in 1972, the original intent was to plan for a series of public parks and natural areas along the Clark Fork and Bitterroot Rivers? The goals were to enhance the beauty of Missoula, provide for public access and recreation, and protect wildlife habitat and water quality. The founders envisioned their effort with these elegant words:

“The river park system contemplated will take many years to develop, perhaps becoming a continuing project capable of linking generations in gracious civic enterprise.”

And that is exactly what has happened. The original planning effort is the foundation for Missoula’s enviable system of parks and trails connecting the broader community. Today, Five Valleys Land Trust continues to work with the City of Missoula, Missoula County, and citizens across ten western Montana counties in that “gracious civic enterprise” that has now protected more than 60,000 acres of key river corridors, scenic open spaces, wildlife habitat, agricultural land, and the recreational opportunities they provide.

We strive to achieve the worthy vision of that group that gathered in the cold of January 1972 to dream of a better future for this treasured landscape.



'10 NEW BOARD MEMBERS

THANK YOU TO THESE COMMUNITY MEMBERS FOR THEIR ENERGY AND DEDICATION DURING THEIR FIRST YEAR OF SERVICE.



Lucy Beigle: Lucy has worked in public relations, marketing and communication for 12 years, and has taught Public Relations, Public Speaking and Interpersonal Communication at The University of Montana. Lucy recently joined the board of directors after helping to organize the annual fundraising banquet for several years. She currently chairs the Banquet Committee and is on the Board Effectiveness Committee.



John Corwin (Treasurer): Educated at both UM and MSU, John is a commercial lender at Missoula Federal Credit Union. His conservation ethic and appreciation of the outdoors came from his father, a life-long outdoorsman. John has served on several nonprofit boards, including Trout Unlimited and Montana Trout Foundation. He presently serves as Vice President of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). John is married with three children.



Mary Lynn Eiseman: As a 5th generation Montanan, Mary Lynn grew up exploring the open lands and clean waters of western Montana. Guided by her parents and maternal grandmother, her early years were shaped by the great outdoors. Mary Lynn is a partner in the PEAK Health and Wellness Center. She and her husband Charlie (a former board member) placed a conservation easement on their Pattee Canyon property in 2001. Mary Lynn is excited to work with FVLT to continue the legacy of conservation that has shaped her life.



Kathy McAllister: Kathy grew up in Tucson, Arizona, and earned her degree in Forest Management at Northern Arizona University. Kathy spent 33 years working for the US Forest Service, moving to Missoula in 1996 and serving as the Deputy Regional Forester for the Northern Region until her retirement in 2008. Kathy is learning how to be retired with the able assistance of her husband Martin, an archaeologist, and their three black labs.



Jeffrey Roth: As a native Missoulian, Jeff recognizes the changes in the local landscape and values the importance of stewardship. He is an attorney with Boone Karlberg P.C. Prior to entering private practice, he worked for the Honorable Donald W. Molloy, the chief federal judge in Montana. Jeff attended college at the U. S. Naval Academy and continues to fly as a pilot in the Navy Reserves. He is the past president of Habitat for Humanity of Missoula and currently serves on the board of Missoula Rotary.



Pam Volkmann: Pam is rejoining the board, having previously served from 1996 to 2001. A graduate of Stanford University, she first visited Montana 30 years ago and fell in love with western Montana's mountains, lakes, and rivers. Pam worked for many years as a registered nurse and a full-time mom of two. She and her husband Sandy have been long-time supporters of Five Valleys and are active with numerous non-profit organizations throughout the community.

WELCOME LEWIS KOGAN - NEW CONSERVATION PROJECT MANAGER



We're pleased to welcome Lewis Kogan as the newest addition to Five Valleys' Land Protection staff. Joining FVLT as a Conservation Project Manager, Lewis couldn't be more excited about the opportunity to team up with landowners and the Five Valleys crew to pursue conservation work in his own backyard. A Missoula native and University of Montana graduate, Lewis grew up exploring the mountains, rivers, and backroads of Western Montana, and is driven by a deep love for this place he calls home. Seems like a good fit to us too, Lewis... Welcome to the team!

Membership—where Five Valleys' cycle of success begins.

Members contribute secure gifts online or in the mail.



Their support builds our capacity to connect with landowners and develop relationships.



These successes are celebrated by the community and more members get involved.



With trust, willing landowners create the opportunities for staff and volunteers to protect clean water and open lands, and restore important habitat.



NEW MEMBERS

David and Kerry Allmacher
Jeanne Marie Brabeck and
Denis Thane

David and Judy Calahan
Jennifer Cameron
Bill Carey
Steven and Ellen Carey
Mark and Judy Chapman
Colin Chisholm
Fran Coover
John and Vicki Corwin

Bob and Lucy Deaton
Dan Dickey
Smoke and Thelma Elser
David and Caroline Emmons
Craig and Antje Engelhard
Ron and Clara Erickson
Gary Fee and Jo Burris
Karl Flaccus
Don and Mary Gillespie
Martha Goodloe and Annie
Sondag
Janet Harrison
Jone and Mike Hayes

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Jacqueline Kiner
William and Katie Knotek
Giovanna McLaughlin and
Saul Seyler
Vicki and Richard Micheletto
Carol Miller
Gary and Sheila Morrison
Don and Mary Nelson
Joni Packard
Walter and Peggy Peschel
Cathy Ream
Sue Reel and Dick Hutto

Sarah Richey and Dave Bell
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Patrick Ryan and Christine
McCarthy-Ryan
Frank and Kelly Scariano
Stephen Schombel
Diana Six
Elizabeth and John Slown
Phil Smith
Karen Spierling
Ben Sudduth
Mary Vaughan
Juanita Vero

MEMORIALS

Gary G. Brown
Bruce Huls
Chris Spurgeon
Richard Thomas

IN HONOR OF

Ron and Kathy Clausen
Jeff and Lukia Roth
Erin and Rob Saldin
Carol Baldwin

NEW MONTHLY GIVING CLUB MEMBERS

John and Vicki Corwin
Janet Harrison
Diana Kightlinger

IN-KIND BUSINESS DONORS

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Andy Dana / Conservation Law Associates
Nelson Kenter Photography
Partners Creative
Sally Johnson / Johnson Law Firm
Streeter Photography

Ryan Sudbury / Sudbury Law

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Hightower Real Estate
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Yellowstone Photo

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The Brainerd Foundation
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Cotswald Foundation
Charles Engelhard Foundation
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Heart of the Rockies Initiative
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Northwestern Energy
The Pleiades Foundation
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Max & Betty Swanson Foundation
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Turner Foundation
Wilburforce Foundation

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT-HEATHER KRONNER

The first week Heather was in Missoula, she was chatting with board member Amber Sherrill at a fundraiser for another organization. "Amber asked me if I wanted to come to a Banquet Committee meeting with her. I said 'sure'--it seemed like a great way to meet people. "

Once at the meeting, she was immediately impressed with the professionalism and knowledge of the staff, the dedication of board and committee members and the friendly and welcoming atmosphere. She decided to get involved with the committee because of the caliber of the people she met. "I thought that if these people were so passionate about Five Valleys, it must be worthwhile," she explains. As someone new to Missoula and trying to find her niche, it was easy for her to feel a part of the family.

This feeling only intensified when Heather went out into the community to ask business owners for auction items. She was surprised at how easy it was to solicit donations, considering that she was new to the area and the organization. "Once I mentioned that I was from Five Valleys Land Trust, people said that they wanted to contribute. Not only that, they were eager to welcome me to town and tell me about all of the best local biking and hiking spots." She found that people were excited about western Montana and proud of

its natural amenities. That is why they are so willing to help conserve what is special about this place. Heather feels the same way about making a positive impact on her new home.

Heather credits her conservation ethic to her father and the rural way of life that she grew up with. "My dad was a farmer when it wasn't 'cool'. He cared about sustainability because it was the right thing to do." She marvels that

in Missoula, community members value people who grow and raise local food. It wasn't like that during her childhood in rural Ontario.

Heather and her husband Kevin are continuing the conservation tradition with their family. This summer the whole crew helped nurture riparian shrubs on the Sundance Ranch near Ovando, even appearing in a front-page Missoulian article about the work day.

Heather's invaluable assistance with the banquet

and willingness to jump in and help wherever needed inspired us to ask her to be FVLT's volunteer liaison. So if you get a call from a soft-spoken woman asking if you would like to come in and help put together a year-end appeal letter mailing or bring a snack to the holiday party, you will know that you are speaking with the incomparable Heather Kronner.



The Kronner family in Glacier National Park

SHAPE YOUR LEGACY



CLEAN WATER. WORKING FARMS AND RANCHES. WILDLIFE HABITAT. OUTDOOR RECREATION.

What kind of legacy would you like to leave for future generations?

For more information on how you can include Five Valleys in your estate planning, please contact Glenn at 406-549-0755 or glenn@fvlt.org.

HELP US SPREAD THE WORD!

Recycle this newsletter by passing it along to a friend or neighbor and encourage them to become a member of Five Valleys Land Trust. Member support is critical in protecting our vital open spaces.

ATTENTION SHUTTERBUGS

YOUR TALENT AND CREATIVITY ARE NEEDED

A picture can transport you to a place, evoke a feeling, ignite the senses. It is the most powerful way to tell our story, aside from first-hand experience.

We need photos of every season, particularly featuring people enjoying our rivers, mountains and open spaces.

We would also like to build a team of photographers we can ask to be on hand at our events.

To get involved, contact Meredith Printz at meredith@fvlt.org or 406-549-0755.





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Cover Story: Spanning Divides



GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

THE ANSWER TO YOUR HOLIDAY GIFT DILEMMA



Photo by Nelson Kenter

Need a holiday gift idea? Consider giving a gift that truly gives back all year long.

In addition to receiving our newsletter, annual report, and invitations to outings and events, gift recipients will receive a Five Valleys tote bag accompanied by an announcement of your gift.

To take advantage of this gift membership opportunity, call us at 406-549-0755 or follow the donation button on our website at www.fvlt.org.

Conservation Values Protected*

