



## THE NORTH HILLS

Paul Lebel

Missoulians have long cherished the beauty of the afternoon sun illuminating the rolling grasslands of the North Hills. Homesteaders established truck gardens here that nourished the growing town of Missoula in its early years. During cold winter months, elk still browse bunchgrass in these hills.

The conservation this summer of over 300 acres in the North Hills fulfilled a perennial community goal and marked an historic first for one of the leading waste disposal companies in the country. The property has been a City priority for conservation since open space planning efforts began in the early 1990s. Back then, no one would have thought the company that owned the landfill there would play a critical role in conserving the place. But lifelong Missoulian Max Bauer, General Manager for Allied Waste in Montana, and his parents, who started Missoula's landfill, have been working on this for many years. "Our family has always been very conservation-minded. One of our goals has always been to give back to the community. We wanted to do something really special."

That something special happened in July, when Allied

Waste placed a conservation easement on over three hundred acres of grasslands, woody draws and agricultural land in the North Hills. Allied Waste donated over 70 percent of the value of the conservation easement, while Five Valleys and the City of Missoula contributed funds that were essential for completing the easement. City Open Space Program Manager Jackie Corday recognized that the property is one of the highest conservation priorities for the City. "The conservation easement will protect elk winter range, wildlife habitat, and bird nesting and feeding habitat for numerous species, and over 120 acres of soils of local importance," Corday said. The conservation easement protects the scenic value of the property, which can be seen from throughout the Missoula Valley. It also grants the right for a public trail in the future, once a plan has been developed that balances recreational use with wildlife habitat protection.

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*"No matter how busy we are we can look up and enjoy the beauty of the North Hills and know that future generations will benefit from these same scenic views."*

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The conservation easement holds special significance for Allied Waste, because it is the first time the company has donated an easement of this size on land adjacent to an active landfill. That corporate support for fulfilling a community goal made a big difference said Bauer, who added, "Allied Waste is excited about this partnership and the opportunity to truly protect land that means so much to the Missoula community."

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## Field Notes

Positive feedback. It's the only explanation for what's happening at Five Valleys. After record years of conservation you came through last year with record levels of support. With that support you positioned us to be even more effective at protecting for future generations our clean water, wildlife habitat, and family farms and ranches.

I'm happy to report that we're doing it at record pace... again. Today you can celebrate for yourself and for future generations because we are on track for another unprecedented year for conservation, and we're making history along the way.

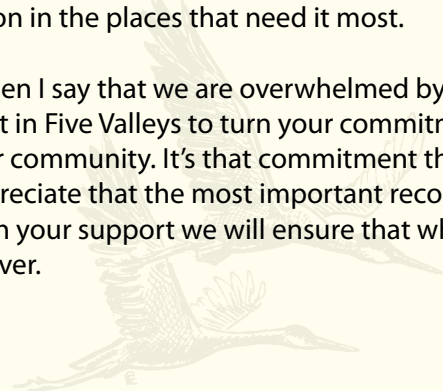
Take a look at our cover story about our partnership with Allied Waste in Missoula's North Hills, where elk can be seen from town on a cold winter day. The ink is still wet on this conservation easement, one that makes history for our community and for a national corporate leader in waste management. We are also in the final stages of completing the first Farm and Ranchland Protection Program easement in Granite County, protecting some of the region's most pristine native grasslands.

But our commitment to thinking big has not compromised our deep commitment to community values at every scale. That's why we're working on a 12.5-acre project that buffers recreational forests on the edge of Missoula, finding new ways to support landowners in the Blackfoot's Woodworth Meadow, and working to extend the Kim Williams trail from Missoula to Milltown's future state park.

Finally, we're making good on a promise to ensure that the records we set are as much about quality as they are about quantity. We've just wrapped up a detailed conservation planning process that will allow us to be more strategic in the years ahead, ensuring we efficiently use our resources to serve landowners in western Montana and deliver lasting conservation in the places that need it most.

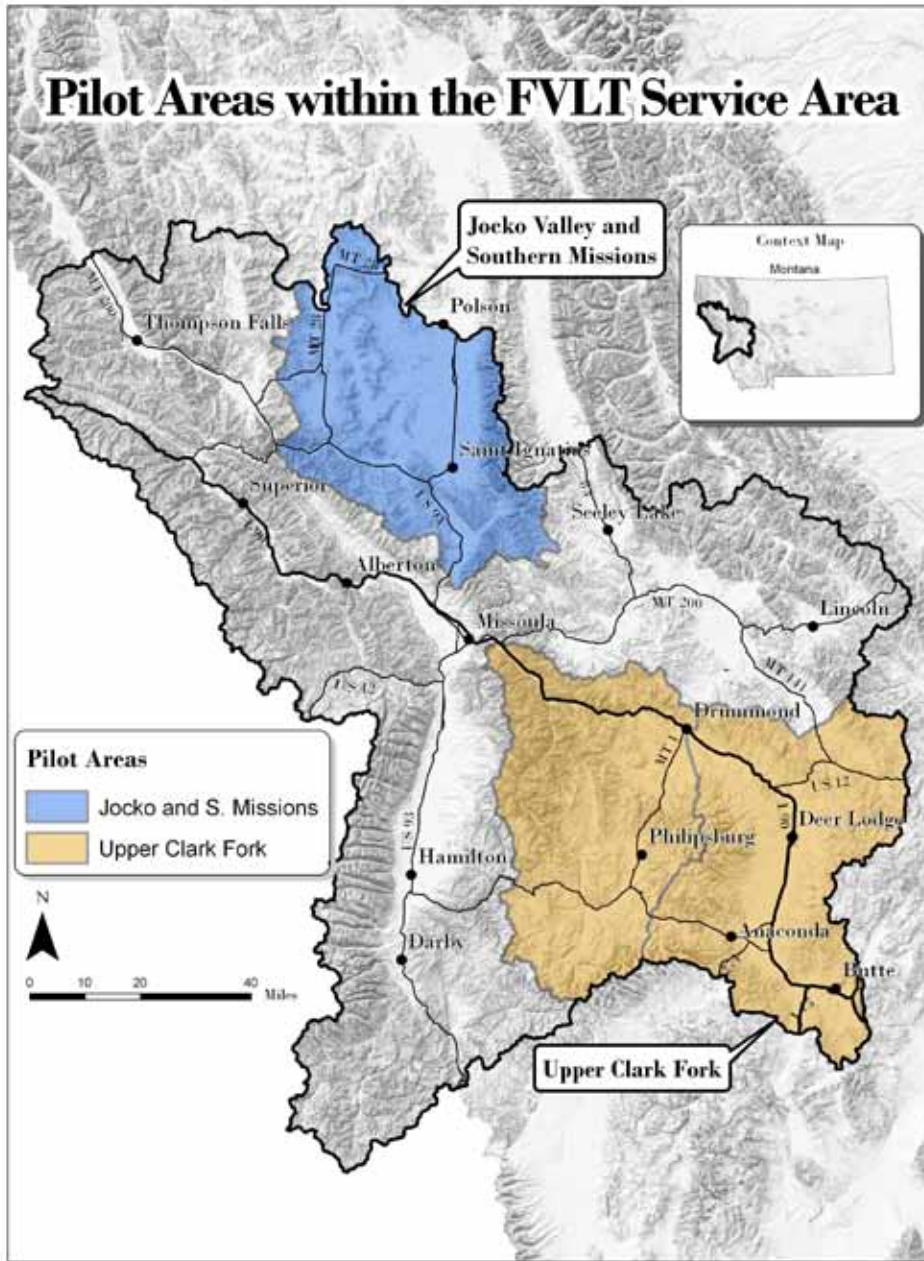
I speak for the entire board and staff when I say that we are overwhelmed by your commitment to this place and your trust in Five Valleys to turn your commitment and support into lasting benefits for our community. It's that commitment that gives me great confidence that you appreciate that the most important records we set aren't about firsts but lasts. And with your support we will ensure that what is extraordinary about this place lasts forever.

*-Grant*



# FLYING BY THE SEAT OF OUR...PLAN?

## *New Strategic Land Conservation Plan to guide future efforts*



It was a daunting year-long task and now it's time for the rubber to meet the road with a pair of pilot projects that will test the validity of Five Valleys' new Strategic Land Conservation Plan. One year ago, armed with reams of data, maps, and feedback from meetings with community groups, landowners, state and federal agencies, and other conservation organizations, our staff began to systematically identify key conservation lands throughout Five Valleys' 10-county working area. With the steady guidance of conservation planning consultant Donna Erickson, and with the tireless assistance of Wyss Foundation intern, Nick Deyo, the plan was completed in late spring of 2010. The final product is intended to assist Five Valleys in achieving two goals:

1. To conserve areas of high ecological, agricultural and community importance; and
2. To promote spatial integrity of the landscape, and to help evaluate and prioritize potential conservation easement projects.

Five Valleys has identified two areas where we will be launching pilot projects to test the utility of the plan, the upper Clark Fork River Basin and the Jocko and southern Mission Valleys. Both have tremendous conservation opportunities, while each faces different threats to their rich natural resources. We will be reaching out to these communities to identify new partners in conservation while offering additional support to conservation efforts already underway in these communities. Five Valleys board and staff members are eager to better serve these communities and expand the impact and benefits of conservation throughout our service area.

# Where We Work



## BITTERROOT – SAPPHIRE MOUNTAINS

Five Valleys will protect more than 1440 acres in the Sapphire Mountains with a conservation easement this year as part of our partnership with The Nature Conservancy to help protect over 310,000 acres of former Plum Creek Timber Company land in western Montana through the Montana Legacy Project. This property encompasses an entire tributary's watershed– from ridge top to ridge top – which is home to a dense population of



westslope cutthroat trout. The importance of this property is magnified by its location within an important wildlife corridor linking the Bitterroot and Sapphire Mountains. This corridor is used by large herds of elk, not to mention black bears, wolves, mountain lions, and other mammals and birds. Five Valleys can thank its founding and current members for empowering us to do responsive, community-based projects such as this conservation easement with The Nature Conservancy.

## MISSOULA – PATTEE CANYON



At Five Valleys we don't judge the value of a potential project solely by the number of acres. We take the time to research and consider the more complex conservation underpinnings of a project that are, in the end, the true measure of success. So when the Tiede family inquired about

doing a conservation easement on their 12.5 acres at the top of Pattee Canyon, Five Valleys investigated whether a project on their property could help achieve a larger goal. This easement will protect a portion of Deer Creek and the surrounding riparian habitat, provide open space for those who visit Pattee Canyon, and reduce user conflicts adjacent to the recreation area. Through the generosity of the Tiedes and five other landowners who have donated conservation easements in Pattee Canyon, Five Valleys will have protected 276 acres in the watershed.



Paul Lebel

## JOCKO VALLEY – RE-CREATING TRAIL SYSTEM

Five Valleys knows that community trails aren't just for city folk. Rural residents of small communities throughout western Montana also value safe routes to schools and trails where they can exercise outdoors and connect with friends and natural places. Five Valleys is working with a dedicated group of community members called the Jocko Valley Trails Committee and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes' Natural Resources Department to recreate a system of trails in the Jocko Valley. Since time immemorial, Indian people moved freely across the land, but in the last century many of the old trails were blocked off by railroads, highways and development. Initial efforts to re-create this trail system are focusing around the Arlee School and connections to the tribal restoration demonstration area along the Jocko River.



## ROCK CREEK—CROWN JEWEL FISHERY

Timing is everything, and sometimes it takes years for the right moment to arrive to protect precious family lands with a conservation easement. After nearly twenty years of discussion and planning, the time has arrived for the Madsen family, owners of a richly diverse and beautiful 157-acre parcel straddling Rock Creek. The land, less than a mile above Rock Creek's confluence with the Clark Fork River, has been a high conservation priority. Cottonwood gallery forest along the braided stream channel gives way to stately ponderosa pine and meadows, providing wonderful wildlife habitat and protecting a legendary trout fishery. This bargain sale easement is made possible with funding from Missoula County Open Space Bond Program, the State of Montana's Upper Clark Fork River Basin Remediation and Restoration Program, and Five Valleys' Rock Creek Special Protection Fund.



## BLACKFOOT—SUNSET HILL



After years of hard work, the final large conservation transaction of the 89,000-acre Blackfoot Community Project is imminent. This homegrown initiative was born of collaboration between The Nature Conservancy, the Blackfoot Challenge, Five Valleys Land Trust, public land management agencies, and local communities to purchase critical wildlife habitat and working lands from Plum Creek Timber Company and transfer the lands to public agencies or private landowners with conservation protections in place.

This final large transaction involves Five Valleys taking the lead on purchasing a conservation easement over 3,440-acres of forests and riparian areas above Sunset Hill Road, with Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks (FWP) holding a conservation easement on an adjacent 13,400 acres. Together the conservation easements will protect nearly 17,000 acres of one of the most crucial linkage zones for grizzly bears and Canada lynx between the vast wilderness complexes to the north and south. The area lies within a major raptor migration route and includes nearly 18 miles of streams important for westslope cutthroat trout. Public hunting access will forever be secured on these lands that make up one of the oldest and most popular public hunting areas in Montana. The Sunset Hill property has a long history of timber management and grazing, sustainable levels of which will continue. Missoula County, the Montana Fish & Wildlife Conservation Trust, FWP and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service have generously contributed funds to help protect this significant wildlife habitat, working forest and recreational land.

### 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 lands like these.

# CHEW ON THIS

## *Tips for Controlling Mountain Pine Beetle Infestations*



Mountain Pine Beetle

The Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) is wreaking havoc across Montana. Millions of acres of pines are dead or dying. The MPB is native to the western forest. Drought and forest overcrowding have helped MPB populations to achieve levels that may be the highest in recorded history. Only time will tell, but

currently Montana forestry experts predict the current infestation epidemic will last at least another 2-4 years.

The MPB is indeed changing the landscape from green to shades of red and orange, but there are proactive management techniques that the private landowner can use to ward off attacks on uninfected trees. A fairly universal approach follows these steps:

### **Thin your forest**

A healthy and diversified stand is better able to survive by "pitching out" the attacking beetles. To make a significant

impact, thin stands to approximately 80 square feet per tree.

### **Remove the thinned timber**

Thinning is useless unless the downed timber is removed appropriately. You may either haul the logs to market or chip, burn or bury the logs on site.

### **Treat specific trees with a chemical spray or pheromone packets**

This final step is appropriate for protecting single trees against infection near homes, but is not practical on a

landscape scale due to its expense. Trees should be sprayed, and pheromone packets should be in place, by July 1st.

With continued forest stewardship, we can all make a difference in Montana's fight against the Mountain Pine Beetle. For more detailed information please contact your DNRC Service Forester. Conservation easement landowners may contact Five Valleys Land Trust.

**A healthy and diversified stand is better able to survive by "pitching out" the attacking beetles.**



## MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE CONTROL RESOURCES

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation: [www.beetles.mt.gov](http://www.beetles.mt.gov)

Locate Your DNRC Service Forester: [www.dnrc.mt.gov/forestry/assistance/servicemap.asp](http://www.dnrc.mt.gov/forestry/assistance/servicemap.asp)

Workshops and Presentations on Insects and Diseases: MSU Extension Forestry (406) 243-2773;

[www.cfc.umt.edu/extensionforestry/](http://www.cfc.umt.edu/extensionforestry/)



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT- STEVE GERMAN

“It is a good thing to do”

There are few volunteers as reliable as Steve German. For the last seven years he has been a faithful and strong advocate of Hands on the Land (HOTL), our restoration and education program. Whether it is pulling weeds, planting trees or watering thirsty plants he is always there and ready to help.

Steve’s involvement with HOTL began at the Sundance Ranch in May 2003 where he helped to plant willows. Since then he has been an enthusiastic and active participant in HOTL work parties. “The most enjoyable thing about the HOTL events is, obviously, a large bag of guacamole chips”- he jokes, but then rapidly adds, “Actually, I take great satisfaction from the coming together of a group of volunteers to accomplish something that benefits the land.”

When asked why he keeps coming back to the HOTL events he said, “Because it is a good thing to do. I feel it is very important for each of us to have a

personal connection with the land, as time goes by and more land is protected, stewardship will become our prime responsibility”.



*Steve fixing a browse protector*

Since his retirement as a civil engineer, Steve became the groomer of the Pattee Canyon ski trails for the Missoula Nordic Ski Club and spends many of his winter days skiing. In the summer, when he is not at one of our HOTL events, he enjoys long bike rides around our beautiful Montana landscapes.

Steve is an example of commitment and community service. We truly appreciate the generosity of time and spirit he has demonstrated for the past seven years. It is because of the invaluable help of volunteers like him that we can accomplish the mission of Hands on the Land. ➡

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 1ST- SHRUB MAINTENANCE & NATURE WALK AT THE SUNDANCE RANCH

Spend a fun morning watering shrubs and enjoy an afternoon nature walk at the beautiful Sundance Ranch near Ovando. This is our largest restoration project.; we need your help to nurture the more than 6,000 native shrubs and trees that were planted in 2003 to improve native trout habitat.

A delicious picnic lunch (including guacamole chips) and refreshments will be provided.

For more information contact Alina Niklison at [alina@fvlt.org](mailto:alina@fvlt.org) or 406-549-0755.

# '10 SPRING BANQUET AND AUCTION — BY THE NUMBERS

People having fun	517 (record-setting attendance!)
Dollars raised for conservation	\$122,980 in gross receipts
Number of auction items	28 in the live auction; 117 in the silent auction
Number of dinners	1 Napa Valley Style Dinner 1 Ethnic Dinner of Choice 1 Chef's Table 1 Four Course Dinner
Number of fantastic volunteers	46
People contributing to Fund-A-Dream	78 people were inspired to help us continue our work in key areas like the Upper Clark Fork Watershed.
People in costume	2. Board member Jim Valeo in goggles, scarf and leather jacket to promote his WWII bi-plane ride and UM mascot Monte for the Griz Game Package.
People arriving with FVLT license plates	According to the number of entries in the license plate raffle, 55.
Number of photographs	205, thanks to official banquet photographer John Belobraidic. See a few on the back page.

## DID YOU KNOW...

We know it today as Jacobs Island, but in 1974, when the Five Valleys River Park Association, now Five Valleys Land Trust, transferred the island land near UM to the City of Missoula, it was known as Van Buren Island. In 1973, the First National Bank, now First Interstate Bank, through its Chairman of the Board Theodore Jacobs and President Randy Jacobs purchased the land and gifted it to Five Valleys in celebration of the bank's 100th anniversary. The name was later changed to honor the Jacobs family. The island was the first major component of what has become one of Missoula's treasures...our wildly popular river park system.



## WANT TO LEND A HAND?

From event planning to watering shrubs; from filing to photography, there's lots to help out with at Five Valleys. To sign up, go to [www.fvlt.org/involved/index.html](http://www.fvlt.org/involved/index.html) and fill out the online volunteer interest form.

# STRUCTURE FOR CREATIVITY



Watching paint dry. Cleaning out the refrigerator. Waiting in line. All are more exciting than the task we assigned to MBA student Holly Biehl this spring semester. The intrepid Holly took up the challenge with aplomb

and collaborated with Five Valleys staff to design a new electronic filing system that has already driven an increase in efficiency and productivity. "I wanted to help establish enough structure to build a safe environment that will

allow staff to be more creative and collaborative," Holly explains. The perpetual nature of conservation easements demands that future staff members be able to easily access and maintain important files. She credits Five Valleys for having the foresight to take on this task that will benefit the organization for years to come.

Holly's favorite part of the project was her 1:1 meetings with staff. "It is so interesting to get to know everyone's personalities and work styles. I like to keep in mind that we aren't just managing information, we are managing people."

When she graduates from UM, Holly would like to work for a small conservation organization. Through her stellar work on this project, she has proven that she would be an asset to any organization.

## MOUNT JUMBO'S STORY

Have you ever hiked to the "L"? Or just looked up at Mount Jumbo during your busy day? Did you know that Five Valleys Land Trust, along with the City of Missoula, the US Forest Service and other nonprofit partners were instrumental in protecting this Missoula landmark forever?

Soon, Jumbo visitors who begin their trek at the Cherry St. trailhead will be able to learn about the conservation and natural history of the mountain. Five Valleys is collaborating with the City of Missoula to install an

interpretive kiosk at the site.

Not surprisingly, the project is a "family affair". Five Valleys members Nancy Seiler and Deborah Ritchie Oberbillig designed the panels. Banquet volunteer extraordinaire Damian Mast constructed the kiosk. And when we asked members to submit photos, you responded with a multitude of images.

Be on the lookout for the completed kiosk sometime in August.



### NEW MEMBERS

Susan Armstrong  
David and Joey Banks  
John Belobraidic  
Jennifer Boyer  
Leta Brown  
Chris Bryant & Julie Kightlinger  
Jacob Chadwell & Rose Benton  
Kelly Chadwick  
Austin and Danielle Chapin  
Ryan and Kate Chapin  
David Claman  
Nancy Cooper and Dave Chrison  
Brenda and Joel Cusker

David Duncan and Adrian Arleo  
Vickie Edwards and Paul Rudd  
Tim and Sue Furey  
Anne Garde  
John Garrity & Jean Thorstenson  
Jessica Glebke  
Nancy Greenfield & Walter Carollo  
Richard Hamma  
Jacob Henderson  
Lindsey Holst  
Shirley Holden  
Emmy Ibison & Dave Grace  
Bob and Beth Jaffe  
Dorian Janson  
Adam Johnson  
Diana Kightlinger

Abigail Kimbell  
Hannah Kirby-Zimmerman  
Nora and George Leighton  
Annie Little  
Robert and Grace Lucas  
Melissa Lynn  
Meghan Martin  
Tim McCue  
Jennifer McNulty  
Emily & Simone Musco  
Jacky and Abbott Norris  
Bernie and Jodi Nowak  
Pat O'Herren  
Jason and Melissa Olsen  
Holly Olson  
Paul and Karen Overland

Kaia Peterson & Chris Chitty  
Sue and Randy Peterson  
Sally Phillips  
Dan Pletscher & Holly Thompson  
Scott and Tina Potter  
Katie Pritchard  
Bill and Gayle Pruitt  
Andy Robinson  
Jeffrey Roth  
Richard and Marjorie Rothermel  
Bob and Sue Rowe  
Russ and Ruth Royter  
Troy & Blossom Savage  
Chris Schatte  
Jaki Schonbachler  
Maer Seibert

Aaron and Amy Shattuck  
Mark Shomion  
Bonnie Smith  
Theo Smith  
Fred Stewart  
Jim and Colleen Stone  
Jim and Sara Streeter  
David and Jan Swanson  
Cynthia Unrau  
Linda Vishoot  
Karen Ward & Keith Thurlkill  
Patty Jo Watson  
Stew and Meg Weis  
John Weyhrich  
Susan White  
Karen Williams

Nancy Wilson  
Geraldine Wolf  
Kristina Young

**MEMORIALS**

Denali  
Lyle Bagnell  
Aspen Belobraidic  
Nancy Borgmann  
Rachel and Bob Griffin  
Edie Toole Oberley  
Chris Spurgeon  
Richard Thomas  
Deloit Wolfe

**IN HONOR OF**

Barbara Barmeyer Dietz  
Dirt Girls  
Jonathan Haber and Susan Barmeyer  
Kendahl Jan Jubb  
Grant Kier  
Keith Lenard  
Mark and Marie Porter  
Jeff and Lukia Roth

**NEW MONTHLY GIVING CLUB MEMBERS**

John Belobraidic  
Ryan and Kate Chapin  
Orville & Olleke Daniels  
Mae Nan Ellingson  
Tom Graff  
Hannah Kirby-Zimmerman  
Traci Sylte

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Gateway Printing  
Iza Asian Restaurant  
Le Petit Outre  
Peter Lesica  
Missoula International Airport  
Missoulian

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Nelson Kenter Photography  
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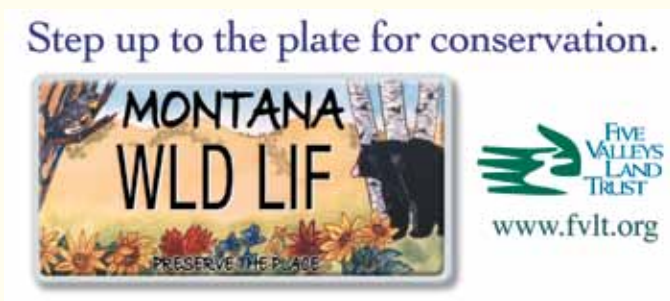
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Barney Jette Jewelry Design  
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Discovery Ski Area  
Ferguson Law Office  
Five Valleys Audubon Society  
Grizzly Hackle

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Jane O'Holly Productions  
Jason Olsen Family Dental  
JCBD Developers, LL  
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McMillan Home Inspection  
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Office City  
Open Road Bicycles and Nordic Equipment  
Partners Creative  
Properties 2000-Don Sokoloski  
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Maer Seibert Yoga Studio  
Volunteer Software, Inc.  
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The Nature Conservancy  
Norcross Wildlife Foundation  
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Prudential Montana/Gillespie Foundation  
Max & Betty Swanson Foundation  
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Wilburforce Foundation

# STEP UP TO THE PLATE FOR CONSERVATION



What you put on your license plate says a lot about you. GR8 VUZ means you love great views. FMLY FRM says you believe in family farms. And when you put one of those on a Five Valleys Land Trust license plate, it says you love it enough to help conserve it.

The colorful plate with the mountains and bear you see around town is popular for good reason. It's an attractive plate featuring art by local painter and longtime Five Valleys supporter Kendahl Jan Jubb. More importantly, the money raised by the plate does extraordinary work for the

landscape. Proceeds have helped to protect local treasures such as Mount Jumbo and Mount Sentinel. They've helped to keep local families on their farms raising local produce. And they've helped protect water and wildlife habitat.

When you purchase a vehicle or renew your registration, join the more than 15,000 people who have chosen the Five Valleys Land Trust license plate. It costs only \$20, but it can make a world of difference. Ask your county motor vehicle department for details or contact Meredith at meredith@fvlt.org or 406-549-0755.

# THANK YOU BANQUET SPONSORS

## Presenting Sponsor



## Pioneer Sponsors



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Peak Health and Wellness Center  
Saint Patrick Hospital and Health  
Sciences Center  
Big Sky Commerce



Kristi DuBois



Kristi DuBois



## INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE

To best enact our mission to protect and preserve western Montana's natural legacy, over the past several years the support of Five Valleys' partners has enabled us to think big—directing our efforts toward long-term goals and objectives. A key aspect to the momentum we've generated and the success we've seen has been effective organizational planning. As the latest product of our planning, earlier this year we completed a Strategic Land Conservation Plan to focus our conservation efforts on the highest priority lands throughout our service area. Collectively, these efforts are strengthening our effectiveness in creating a permanent legacy to benefit wildlife populations, our communities, and future generations.

With a shared desire to protect the natural values we all cherish, an increasing number of our supporters are also doing their own planning to focus on the priorities in their lives.

Whether it's remembering Five Valleys in your will or considering a gift annuity or other planned giving instrument, by including Five Valleys Land Trust in your estate planning you not only perpetuate your partnership in our success, you also help assure that the natural values that enrich your life today will continue to inspire the lives of generations to come.

Please contact Glenn at 406-549-0755 or [glenn@fvlt.org](mailto:glenn@fvlt.org) to learn more about how you can include Five Valleys in your estate plans.

Photos by John Belobraidic

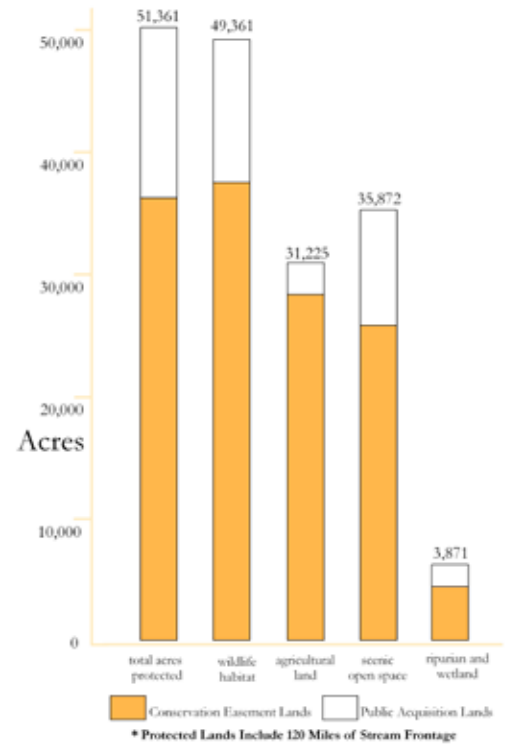


Top right: FVLT supporters hold their bid cards aloft during Fund-A-Dream

Center left: New BFFs Amy Duerk and Monte.

Bottom right: Meagan Misner smiles big after her winning bid.

Conservation Values Protected\*



# Cover Story:

## Longtime Open Space Priority in North Hills Conserved



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