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Our Lake for Life



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conservation corner

Where are we headed?

By Kyler Wolf, Clark Fork-Pend Oreille Conservancy

These last few months have been an exiting time at the Clark Fork - Pend Oreille Conservancy, let me share with you why!

In a word, transition: (noun) 1. Movement, passage, or change from one position, state, subject, concept, etc. to another; Synonym: Change... So what is changing?

First off, let me say that many things will remain constant. We will continue to work with landowners, placing voluntary conservation easements on their properties. We have had tremendous success in the past 10 years, protecting in perpetuity almost 1,800 acres in Bonner County and Sanders County, Montana combined. We will continue to perform this role for the community and expand our land conservation goals in the future. The real change is focused on organizational development, community outreach and involvement, long term sustainability and growth.

In September of 2011 we

hired a new Executive Director, Eric Grace, who for the past 14 years was the executive director at a land trust in western New York State. His most compelling experience was growing the previous organization into one of the most well respected land trusts in New York. Eric is now applying the lessons learned through experience to guide the CFPOC through its transition and growth.

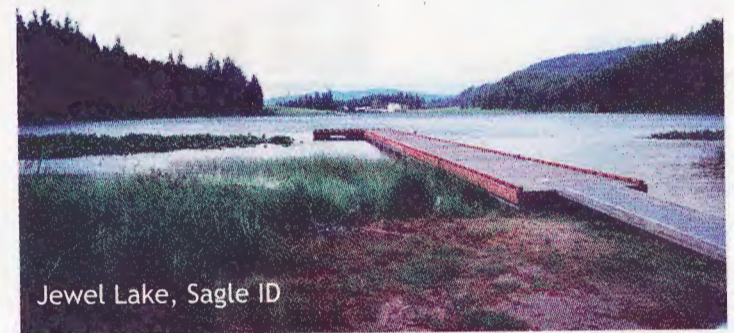
Additionally, we are pleased to welcome two new members to our Board of Directors. Jim Watkins rejoined the board after a hiatus of 5 years. Previously Jim had served as our board president. He brings with him a wealth of real estate knowledge, extensive experience in property transactions, a long-standing commitment to land conservation, and a passion for our area's water bodies and the fish they contain. Our second addition is truly a new board member; Jim Zuberbuhler is a Financial Advisor with D.A. Davidson here in Sandpoint. Jimmy Z (as we refer to him here in the office) brings with

him a diverse background in finance, education, organizational development, and passion for the outdoors, along with a host of other interests and community involvement. The timing of these additions to our board and staff could not be better; leadership, experience, diversity and vision are all instrumental in the growth of an organization. Eric and the two Jim's bring it in spades.

So where are we headed? Basically, we are focused on continuing our conservation successes while increasing our membership base and expanding our reach into the communities we serve. This will include things like brand recognition (who we are, what we do), organizational development (hiring staff),

accreditation with the Land Trust Alliance (only 158 of over 1,700 land trusts hold this honor), and other areas that build a stronger and sustainable land trust. After almost 10 years of serving our area as the only locally based land trust, it is time to up our game.

Now is the time to get involved. We are moving into a new chapter, and we want you to join us on the journey. If you are not a supporting member of our organization, now is the time to join. As we make this transition from a fledgling conservation organization to a full-service land trust, community involvement and support will be instrumental to that success. We are working to protect



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this area's watersheds, wildlife habitat, forests, farmland, scenic beauty, public access to recreational opportunities and much more. The projects we complete all have benefits to our community and to future generations. We are protecting the very things that make Northern Idaho and Western Montana jewels in the Pacific Northwest crown. With your support we can continue to expand our reach and build a legacy of conservation that will be enjoyed by all that live, visit and recreate here, now and in the future.

In the past year alone we have added over 300 acres of land protected by conservation easements to our list of successes. By the end of this year we anticipate the completion of projects totaling almost another 500 acres. We do this through a combination of private and foundation funding, grant funding, and project contracts. Up to this point, a relatively small portion of our budget has come from individual donations from our community. We are hoping that with all of the positive changes we are making, more people in our community will be inspired to make contributions, join our cause and support our organization as we continue to conserve the valuable resources that make this area what it is.

For more information about the changes we are making, joining as a member, making (tax-deductible) contributions, please contact Eric Grace or Kyler Wolf at the Clark Fork - Pend Oreille Conservancy. (208) 263-9471 or by email: info@cfpoconservancy.org. Our web address is: www.cfpoconservancy.org and you can find us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/CFPOC