

contributing organizations



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# conservation corner

## Kaniksu Land Trust Looks Back-and Moves Forward

eric grace

The Kaniksu Land Trust was founded in 2002 as the Clark Fork-Pend Oreille Conservancy. Originally, land conservation programs were aimed at key fish habitat using funding from Avista Corporation's mitigation program (required as part of the 1999 relicensing of the dams at Cabinet Gorge & Noxon Rapids). Working in conjunction with Idaho Fish and Game and Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, KLT completed multiple projects along the Bull River, Pack River and Twin Creek.

In 2009, KLT expanded its focus to include the protection of working forest and ranch lands. The Gold Creek Ranch conservation easement in the Selle Valley permanently protected 643 acres of ranch lands.



Another 616 acres of working land abutting Morton Slough on the Pend Oreille River were protected in 2011.

With the changing of our name in 2012, we broadened our conservation programs to include a wider segment of property types, with the "Sherwood Forest" in Sandpoint being a prime example. This property is used extensively for hiking and biking. The landowners donated a conservation easement ensuring the parcel can never be subdivided or developed, and the local bike club, the Pend Oreille Pedalers, assist with the trail maintenance.

This project is the type of community collaboration that will allow KLT to have the biggest impact on the largest audience. This growth is a logical transformation for KLT. We still maintain a strong relationship with Avista and other partners on protecting key fish habitat, and we still protect working lands. However, we now actively seek projects with other conservation values, such as beautiful views and public access. (The strength of the Kaniksu Land Trust is that we offer a variety of options tailored to each property. In other words, we can protect a wide range of different types of lands, as long as there is some significant

natural attribute that should be protected.) As we diversify our programs, we also need to diversify our funding sources. Avista mitigation funds are restricted to habitat protection. We need broad support if we are to work for the entire community. We are currently working on many exciting conservation opportunities, but we



Morton Slough

need your help. As you plan your year-end charitable giving, please consider the Kaniksu Land Trust.

For more information or to make a contribution, please visit our website [www.Kaniksu.org](http://www.Kaniksu.org) or call the office (208) 263-9471.