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CONSERVATION CORNER

A lot has happened at Kaniksu Land Trust over the past several months!

Eric Grace

As community support for our projects continues to grow, there is great headway being made in our efforts to make this a great place for people from all walks of life to live, work, and play.

A passion for the land



The first is a story of passion, through which a beautiful piece of land was conserved to honor a father's dream. More than 40 years ago, the Ross family fell in love with Montana's Bull River Valley. They carved out a life for themselves amidst the rich bottomland, determined to raise their children alongside the free-flowing waters of the Bull. Decades later, the Ross' grown son, Jamie, fulfilled his father's dream of forever safeguarding his family's land from the creeping threat of development. So what do 40 years of loving the land have to do with Kaniksu Land Trust and you? Well, families like the Ross' are asking for our help to conserve their family lands and we couldn't do it without the community's ongoing support. The Ross' continue to pay their property taxes, own and manage the land, and can sell it or pass it on to the next generation. Yet they have accomplished peace of mind.

Peace of mind- not just for the birds

Bonner County is home to remarkable people, as well as remarkable birds. When Fred and his wife conserved their property, they did so to ensure that the birds and other wildlife would always have a place to call home. This summer, Fred graciously hosted a free birding program. His passion was contagious and the event was so popular we had to schedule a second. You would think that, in the many years Fred has spent exploring his property, he would have seen it all—but not so. In addition to the over 140 species already spotted, we saw a brand new bird, and were able to share the joy of being outdoors with new friends. This coming year we will be working with landowners to host free, fun and family-oriented programs.

Why is this?

Because we know conservation is only as strong as the next generation of conservationists. Now is the time to capture the hearts of youth through the passion of those, like you, who already understand how wonderful—and fragile—our community's lands are.



Trails on the horizon

KTL is helping with trail planning for greater Sandpoint. We hope that together, in partnership with community groups, businesses, schools and

municipalities, we'll be able to create more amazing trails in the future. We invite you to share your thoughts by taking a survey. To participate, go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/bonnercosurvey>. No internet access? Let us know and we'll get you a paper copy. Trails are now recognized throughout the country as a vital component of economic development and community health. They also provide new opportunities for people to experience the wonder and beauty of our community.

Coming this fall... Want to know more about KLT? Join us for a hike of the Sherwood Forest on "Green Friday," November 28th, at 1:00 PM. Come walk off the previous day's turkey dinner. All are welcome. Call 208-263-9471, check our website: www.kaniksu.org, or see the post on our Facebook page for details!

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