A Place to Jump, Whoop, Crawl, and Pounce

Summer flew by in a kaleidoscope of sounds, smells and textures. Birdcalls, giggles, wet grass, cottonwood sap, oozing mud, smooth bark, and clear water all added to the tapestry. Each day brought a fresh adventure as the book of nature presented new mysteries, making them touchable, tangible and real. The next generation was finding its place of belonging.

“One of my favorite things in the whole wide world is being outside.”

— Grace
Clark Fork High School student

KLT launched its first summer camp in order to provide a nature-based experience accessible to any child — a time to learn, explore and connect with the land in a safe and supportive environment. But also a time to just be a kid playing in the forest. As the children galloped,
cavorted, roamed and imagined themselves into animal dreams, their sense of wonder was infectious.

Fostering this sense of joy in relation to the land is the reason for Pine Street Woods, a parcel on the edge of Sandpoint and Dover where KLT is planning a community forest. The land’s open meadows and forested groves will provide a space for all ages and abilities to recreate, learn, connect and reflect.

This land will be a permanent home for community programs in the outdoors, and will be a place for our shared legacy of connection with land to pass from one generation to the next.

“A place near our largest town where people can freely engage in the outdoors is essential.”

— John Gaddess, Pine Street Woods supporter and Camp Kaniksu parent
Local partners restoring a landscape

The Bull River of western Montana once snaked through a tangle of native shrubs, wet meadows, and old growth timber as it traversed a glacial valley to meet the Clark Fork River. Today the landscape is much changed. Development, ditching, timbering, road building, and weeds have dramatically altered the valley. And clean water, native fish, and the unique beauty of a rugged landscape hang in the balance.

A network of community partners and dedicated landowners are working tirelessly to restore the corridor of the Bull River. They’re using everything from conservation agreements to revegetation. And after a decade of effort, results are finally becoming apparent.

The channel of the Bull lies within a narrow ribbon of private land sandwiched between steep slopes and rugged peaks. It is here that generations of homesteaders carved out a living, with a host of unintended consequences. It is also here that a network of dedicated partners are working to stitch together a thread of rehabilitated riverbanks.

Today, after ten years of effort, the banks of the Bull are slowly reverting to what they once were. Nearly 500 acres of private lands along the thread of the river have been permanently protected through conservation agreements, and as many as 7,000 native tree seedlings a year have been planted.

The exceptional efforts of the Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group in particular can be viewed in a locally produced film available here: http://lowerclarkforkwatershedgroup.org/roots/

Until the transformation is complete, the battle for the Bull will continue.

“The only real legacy we can leave is to improve something for our children’s children.”

– Brad Warrington
Bull River landowner and conservation partner

©Brita Olson
Now it will also contribute to the legacy of farming and ranching in our region by ensuring that the farmers of tomorrow have a place to tend their crops and stock.

Lois has conserved her farm in partnership with the Kaniksu Land Trust and the Avista Clark Fork Settlement Agreement through a grant program of the Natural Resource Conservation Service. The program helps farmers and ranchers keep their land in agriculture through a voluntary agreement that limits future development.

The farm’s size, important agricultural soils, and extensive frontage along the Pack River and other streams made it particularly important to protect. As development creeps in from increasing growth, this property will help to retain the agricultural values and scenic views that continue to attract new residents.

By granting this easement, Lois has joined the ranks of other conservation-minded producers in the region who have protected their lands for the future. We applaud her decades-long stewardship of the land, and her efforts to ensure that it endures.

“Projects like this are about preserving a way of life.”

– Leonard Wood, neighboring rancher

“Fifty years from now... this land will continue to be available.”

– Lois Blasko, landowner

7 QUICK FACTS

About Kaniksu Land Trust conservation agreements

If you, or someone you know, is interested in conserving your land, here are some quick facts about conservation agreements.

**Voluntary.** Farm, ranch, or wildlife conservation agreements are voluntary and do not require public access. You retain your private property rights.

**Your ownership retained.** You can sell it, lease it, give it to your kids or family, or any combination thereof. The agreement runs with the land.

**Flexible.** Farming, ranching, hunting, forestry, home-based businesses, recreational uses, and a limited number of house sites and/or property divisions may be permitted.

**Tailored to you.** Each conservation agreement is unique to the land it conserves and to your vision for your property.

**Versatile.** Woodlands, wildlife habitat, streams and wetlands, farms and ranches, and recreational opportunities can all be conserved in the same agreement.

**Estate planning benefits.** Conserving your land can help with your estate planning, significantly reduce your estate taxes, and often allows for a smoother transition to the next generation.

**Tax savings.** You may also greatly reduce your federal income tax liability for several years, starting the year you conserve your land. This might help offset capital gains as well.

**Permanent.** Conservation agreements are designed to outlast us all, leaving you with the peace of mind of knowing that your land will remain as it is today long into the future.
Together we are making a big difference... from taking to taking care of our community... the two are closely linked. We couldn’t do this important work without you. Together we are making a big difference...

Individuals

Anonymous (10)
Irene Adler
Joseph Akers
Rob Aldrich & Lisa Palmer
Susan Allen
Judy Anderson & Jerry Cosgrove
Elizabeth J. Arnault
James & Jeanine Asche
Pamela Aunan
Kathy Austin
David & Camille Balfanz
Ian & Cheryl Barrett
Susan K. Beard "Sube"
Lois Blasko
Kelsey Brasseur
Lois Blasko
Susan K. Beard "Sube"

Foundations

Avista Foundation
Cadeau Foundation
Cinnabar Foundation
Cloud Family Foundation Fund
Educational Legacy Fund
Equinox Foundation
Heart of the Rockies Initiative
Inland Northwest Community Foundation
J.A. & Kathryn Albertson Family Foundation
Janus Foundation
Land Trust Alliance
Lightfoot Foundation
LOR Foundation
Tides Foundation

Businesses

( Includes in-kind donations)

Alliance Title & Escrow Corp.
Arthur Goldblum – Acupuncture Center
Berg & McLaughlin Attorneys
D.A. Davidson & Co.
Dory McConnell Duberg Charitable Trust
GI2, Inc.
Gold Creek Ranch Corp.
Idaho Pour Authority
Inland Forest Management Integrative Approach
James Fenton Co.
Johnson Law Firm
Keokee
Larson’s Department Store
Overman’s Western Stone
Panida Theater
PM Land & Cattle
Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce
Sandpoint Computers
Sandpoint Equine
Selkirk Association of Realtors
Selkirk School
USDA Forest Service,
Community Forest Program
A message from Eric

Early spring is an inspiring time as we peer from beneath a crust of snow into a bright new year, while reflecting back on the past 12 months.

Some of the most memorable happenings of 2017 shared a common thread of “legacy,”— the sharing of gifts from one generation to the next. Whether through the conservation of a family farm where cattle rub shoulders with turkeys and trout, or the passing along of a sentimental parcel for the public to enjoy for years to come, the notion of legacy is central to KLT’s vision.

Lester Krause’s far-sighted gift of 20 acres to Kaniksu Land Trust is one example. His deep childhood memories of this land compelled him to donate the property in hopes that others will have the same chance to learn from and connect with it that he did. And because the land is adjacent to Pine Street Woods, it extends this existing project and ensures important access.

Although we work in today’s world, our hearts and minds are ever on tomorrow. Thank you for your far-sighted support. It is because of you that we are able to do so much, and every little bit matters. Regardless of who you are, the legacy of the land belongs to all of us.

Sincerely,

Conservation can’t happen without you. You are making a difference every day.

2017 Operating Income

- Foundation Grants $214,500
- Contributions $61,765
- Other* $73,857
Total $350,122

2017 Operating Expenses

- Program Services $259,090
- Administration $49,017
- Fundraising $42,015
Total $350,122

Expense figures unaudited; audit to be completed soon.

*Contract Fees, Events, Interest, Cash Reserve Draw

©Fiona Hicks Photography
Common Redpoll

Common redpolls are active foragers that travel in busy flocks. Look for them feeding in birch trees or visiting feeders in winter. These small finches of the arctic tundra and boreal forest migrate erratically and sometimes burrow under the snow to survive extreme cold.

Learn more at www.kaniksuandtrust.org/crittercorner