WOOD RIVER LAND TRUST

Protecting the Places You Love

Year in Review

Heart of the Valley

Species Profile: Make Way for the Moose

Annual Report 2017

FALL 2017

WOOD RIVER LAND TRUST

119 E. Bullion Street Hailey, Idaho 83333 208-788-3947 www.WoodRiverLandTrust.org

Wood River Land Trust (WRLT) is a public benefit Idaho company and is tax exempt under section 501(c)
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Our Tax ID # is 82-0474191.

Contributions to WRLT are tax deductible as allowed by law. Public financial information is available on our website or by contacting our office.

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Photo by Jim Grossman

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SPECIAL THANKS

to Patty Healy for her copy editing skills.

A Letter from Scott Boettger



Most people who love the Wood River Valley and help us protect this special place have probably never heard of Macauley "Mac" Whiting. But if you haven't, you should, because we all owe Mac, and the legacy he created, a big thank you.

Before Mac and his wife, Helen, there was no Wood River Land Trust.

The Whitings were originally from Michigan, but they fell in love with the

Scott and his family at Redfish Lake.

Wood River Valley and decided to retire here. They soon realized that the place they loved, the places we all love along the river and the mountains, the iconic farms and ranches of Idaho, the places that make this corner of the world so special, were disappearing. But instead of simply lamenting the loss of open space, wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities, Mac and Helen decided to do something about it. They decide to put their money where their hearts are, and they put up the funds needed to found the Wood River Land Trust.

Mac served on our founding board of directors and his donations and efforts were the building block that has led to the protection of over 27,000 acres of land and water in and around the Wood River Valley—land that would be worth over \$60 million on the open market, but is priceless to those of us who love it.

Mac passed away recently, joining his beloved wife of 64 years in heaven. A father, a grandfather, a successful businessmen—by any standard most folks would say that Mac lived a good life, but that's when those who know the role he played in creating the Land Trust would say that is mistaken. No, we'll tell you, Mac lived an exceptional life and the impacts he made will continue to be a gift for generations to come—even if most of us who enjoy his contributions don't know who to thank.

When I heard that Mac had passed it reminded me of that great quote from author Chuck Palahniuk, "We all die. The goal isn't to live forever. The goal is to create something that will."

You may not have known Mac, but if you love this place and if you support the Wood River Land Trust, you should be a fan, for Mac had the same visions and beliefs you do, and much like you he made his beliefs make a difference, now and forever.

Thank you for keeping Mac's legacy and his dreams of protecting this truly special place alive and well. Thank you for continuing the important work he helped us begin.

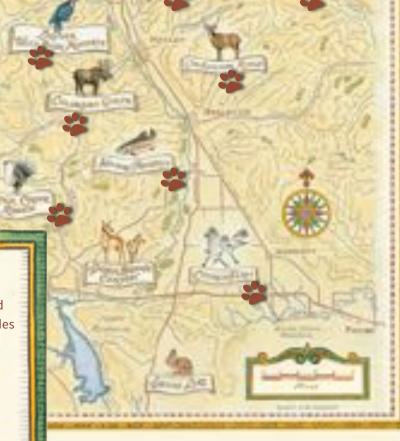
Dog Friendly Preserves

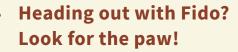
- Lake Creek
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- Independence Creek
- Boxcar Bend
- East Fork
- Blue Grouse
- Porcupine Creek
- Draper Preserve
- Cowcatcher Ridge
- Colorado Gulch
- Howard Preserve
- Rock Creek
- Church Farm

We sure do love our dogs around here. In fact, whenever you walk into the Land Trust offices in Old Hailey our greeting committee almost always includes at least one tail-wagging member of the team.

It's why saving and preserving places to walk and explore with dogs is one of our big goals here at the Land Trust. While the work isn't always easy, or pleasant, we know it's worth it. All we have to do to stay motivated, inspired and feeling appreciated is to head over to one of our preserves and watch our four-legged friends happily leading you on walks. We hope this map will help you and your dogs find more places to explore and enjoy what we work so hard to save.

When you support the Land Trust you're not only helping to protect the places people love, but the places our pets love, too. On behalf of all our beloved dogs, Thank You!







Year in Review

Thanks to your generous support, the Land Trust had another banner year protecting the places we love and safeguarding the natural wonders of the Wood River Valley and our surrounding region. Your support made dreams come true and helped big goals get accomplished during the Land Trust's last fiscal year.

Conserving Land

As open space and wildlife habitat continue to dwindle both locally and nationally, there is nothing more important than saving land and water. That's why we were thrilled to be able to harness the support of our community to purchase 150 acres at Colorado Gulch. Forever protecting this popular place to bike, fish, hike, ride horses and walk dogs had long been on our executive director Scott Boettger's wish list. Thanks to you, that dream came true last fall. The community also rallied to help us add 24 acres to the extremely popular Howard Preserve in Bellevue. We also made a lot of positive headway on protecting other important and iconic lands around the valley, including placing an easement on 10 acres along Warm Springs at the base of Bald Mountain.



Chad Stoesz leads a nature walk through Colorado Gulch. Photo by Kat Cannell



Wood River High School's class of 2019 cleans up trails at Draper Wood River Preserve. Photo by John Finnell

Restoring Habitat

Saving land is important, but so is making sure that land, water, wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities are healthy. That's why the Land Trust dedicates lots of staff time and resources to restoring the land we save. This work may not be as glorious as saving land, but it is just as important. This year, we continued to rehabilitate sections of the Big Wood River and its tributaries like Elkhorn Creek. We also planted native vegetation and worked on controlling noxious weeds at our properties throughout the region. Our far-reaching restoration work at Rock Creek Ranch is already showing positive results for fish, flora and fauna at the 10,400 acre ranch.



Future environmental leaders from Wood River High help keep the valley beautiful. Photo by John Finnell.

Fostering Future Leaders

The best part of the work we do here at the Land Trust is that it not only has positive impacts on our current state, but it also assures that future generations can enjoy our stunning natural surroundings as well. We are always trying to team up with and foster young leaders in our community. We need folks who can keep fighting the good fight for years to come. This last year, we paired up with students from just about every local school, from 2nd graders to high school seniors, to help us make positive impacts. Elementary school kids helped us battle noxious weeds, middle school students planted native species and high school students helped keep our trails in good shape. One of the highlights was when our Student Conservation Council held a Student Film Fest to honor what "Land Means to Us." The entire event at the Limelight Hotel was inspiring. Thanks for helping us groom future environmental leaders!

Inspiring Our Community

We have big dreams at the Land Trust. And we know we can't accomplish them all by ourselves. It's what inspires us to team up with anyone who can help make them come true. Over the past year we've partnered with a wide variety of groups to do everything from helping students rehabilitate lands (Thanks WOW Students, Wood River High School, Hailey Elementary and The Sage School), to bringing educational events that create Trout Friendly and Water Smarty landscapes (Thanks Blaine County Noxious Weed Department, the Environmental Resource Center and the City of Hailey), to leading the charge to study and find healthy solutions for our beleaguered Big Wood River (Thanks Blaine County, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, The Nature Conservancy, Trout Unlimited and the Wood River Water Collaborative). We've also had help raising money for our worthy cause. The Hailey Coffee Company partnered with us to celebrate Idaho Gives Day, Mahoney's Bar and Grill hosted a fundraiser for Howard Preserve for us and the Elephant's Perch nominated us for a grant from Patagonia. Thanks to our partnerships, we've had a very successful and productive year, and the future looks bright.



Patti Lousen leads a Trout Friendly workshop. Photo by Mike McKenna



Now in its the 13th year, the Heart of the Valley monthly photo contest is designed to honor this gorgeous region we're blessed to call home—or our second home—and the talented people who share our love for this place.

Earlier this year, the Land Trust joined forces with The Chamber of the Wood River Valley to expand the reach of the "HOV" and improve its prizes. Each month is now themed with prizes that match the theme of the month. The winners are also awarded their prizes, along with a nice ovation, at The Chamber's monthly Business After Hours events held throughout the valley.

The theme for August, "Dog Days of Summer," was a big hit and we were flooded with fabulous photos of people and their pets enjoying all our area and our properties have to offer. Choosing the three winners was so difficult that we have decided to celebrate several other great shots as Honorable Mentions by publishing here.

UPCOMING HOV THEMES

October - Harvest/Fall Colors November - First Snow

December - *Light Up the Month*

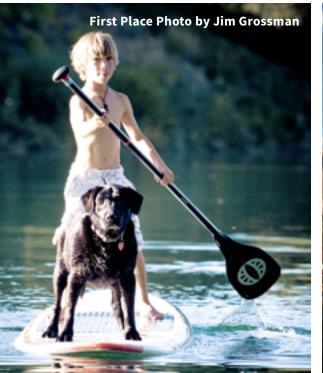
Submit photos: entry@hovwoodriver.org

Congratulations to our August 2017 winners

Jim Grossman (cover and first place),

Nate Hoff and Abbey Christensen.





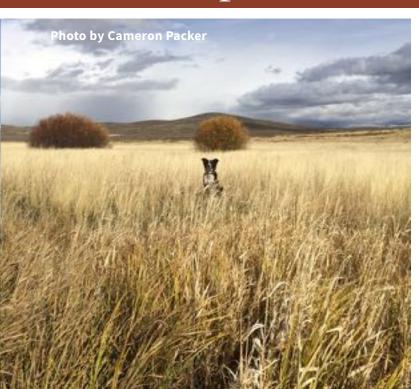








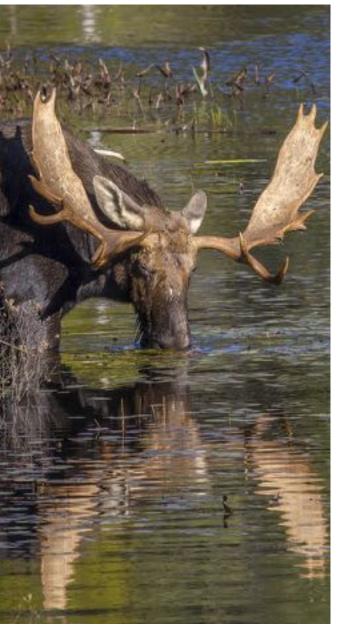
The Importance of Picking Up After Your **Poo**ch!



Most of us dog lovers have no idea how dangerous and impactful our dog's waste can be.

We think dog waste makes good fertilizer, but that's not the reality. For a variety of reasons, dog waste is one of the most toxic things we put into the environment, with the Environmental Protection Agency listing it in the same category as insecticides and toxic chemicals like oil spills and mine run-off. That is, unfortunately, why trails near watersheds all across the country, and even right in our backyard of Boise, are starting to be closed down to dogs. We sure don't want that to happen here, so please remember to always pick up after your pooch. The environment and our fellow dog walkers are grateful for your efforts.





for the Moose

Species Profile

By Mike McKenna

Moose are the biggest animals you're likely to see at one of our preserves or easements. Averaging over 5 feet tall at the shoulder and weighing as much as 1,800 pounds, the largest members of the deer family seem big enough to be invincible. But it turns out that's far from the case.

Moose are struggling across North America, especially in places like Minnesota and New England where populations have seen a sharp decrease. Numbers are also down in Idaho, but the good news is that thanks to the open spaces and watery habitat you're helping us save, moose populations are remaining steady in and around the Wood River Valley.

"We're holding our own," says Jake Powell, wildlife biologist for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. "The Wood River Valley has historically had good moose habitat. They're here and they're holding on for now, despite us taking away more and more habitat every year."

Aspen, willow and cottonwood forested areas around rivers, ponds and marshes are the ingredients for prime moose habitat. That's why moose have became a common sighting along our waterfront preserves, where we've been able to protect and preserve pockets of their ideal riparian habitat.

Thanks to your help, we've continued to increase havens for moose in our ever-growing world. Over the past year alone, we've been able to use your support to save prime moose habitat at Colorado Gulch, along Warm Springs and at Valley Creek in Stanley. We've also been able to continue restoring moose habitat everywhere from Elkhorn Creek and various sections of the Big Wood River all the way over to the Pioneer Mountains and out to Rock Creek Ranch.

Restoration work at Rock Creek Ranch, which is owned and managed through a unique partnership with the Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy and the University of Idaho, has quickly proven to be a boon for moose.

"We see deer, some elk, coyotes and of course rattlesnakes during the summer, but we have been seeing lots and lots of moose this year," says Wyatt Prescott, the cattle manager for the 10,400 acre working ranch and study facility.

The more moose we see at these places—places they've long called home—the more hope we have for both the health of the species and the habitat they share with us. So we'll keep trying to save more space for them and to improve what we've already protected.

We're happy to report that, thanks to your support, we're making a positive difference for moose.



Dogs and Moose **Don't** Make Good Playmates

With their engorged snouts, large ears and dark, gentle eyes, moose can look downright huggable. But that's never a good idea. It's always best to give wildlife plenty of space, especially when that wildlife weighs more than a grand piano.

While moose in our region are generally used to people and physical encounters are rare, incidents of uncomfortable dog and moose encounters are more common.

Moose can feel threatened by dogs, especially when the dogs bark or run after them. Naturally, moose will sometimes act aggressively in



these cases. To help keep everyone safe, Idaho Department of Fish and Game wildlife biologist Jake Powell recommends that you always keep your dog leashed when moose are present and be sure to give wildlife of any kind plenty of space. A frightened moose may be aggressive or may get spooked and injure itself running into traffic or through thick terrain. Moose are even more vulnerable in the winter, when running from dogs may use up the last of their energy stores.

"Moose seem docile and tame and they're fairly tolerant of people and pets," Jake says. "But you need to give them their space."

We are the Land Trust

Get to Know Gayle Stevenson, Board of Directors



Gayle (pictured left) with Doris Tunney at a WRLT event.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WITH THE WRLT?

I was asked to join the Board of Directors in 2015. Prior to my board involvement, I assisted the Land Trust with some real estate projects. When I joined the board, my eyes were truly opened to the complexities of Land Trust conservation efforts and what these efforts have meant to our valley over the last 23 years.

WHY DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED WITH WRLT?

As a realtor for over 25 years in our valley, I am on the land daily and my job often entails sharing with people what makes this place so special. This is a place where people care about where they live, the natural beauty, the fresh air, the undeveloped open vistas. Our connection with nature is a huge part of our sense of community. I became involved with the Land Trust to help preserve and protect the landscape that contributes to our identity, our sense of community and quality of life.

WHAT IS YOUR SUN VALLEY STORY?

I grew up skiing in California as a child and was always a mountain girl at heart. I took a winter off from college in 1975 and came to Sun Valley with girlfriends to work and ski. I not only fell in love with Sun Valley but I met my husband, Alan, on Baldy that year. We were married in 1979 and returned to Sun Valley in 1981 when he was hired as the Moritz Community Hospital Administrator. I worked in convention sales for the Elkhorn Resort. We were fortunate to raise three boys in Sun Valley and now have time to give back to our wonderful community.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT BEING INVOLVED WITH WRLT?

I truly enjoy working with Land Trust board members and staff who share the same passion about protecting our land and rivers. We are fortunate to have very talented staff whose vision and dedication to conservation is inspiring.

WHAT ARE THE FAVORITE PROJECTS YOU HAVE HELPED THE LAND TRUST WITH?

The Valley Creek Preserve in Stanley is an exciting project and still a work in progress. It was established in 2015 to protect salmon habitat, wetlands and the scenic views of the stunning Sawtooth Valley. The preserve covers 34 acres, including wet meadows and a one mile stretch of Valley Creek, making the property the largest undeveloped area in the city of Stanley.

FAVORITE LAND TRUST PRESERVE OR EASEMENT?

Without a doubt our Colorado Gulch Preserve. The board took a huge leap of faith when the opportunity to purchase this property was presented to us and we had 30 days to figure out the funding. The community support was extraordinary from so many perspectives. The preserve will allow future generations to enjoy the Big Wood River and connect with the land and the water in a very real and personal way. It will allow us to restore natural habitat, provide natural flood ways and is critical to river restoration.



Gayle out enjoying our great land.

Donors

Thank you to each of you who invested in the land, water, wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities that make the Wood River Valley so memorable. Your gifts from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017 protect the places you love!

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Land Trust supporters celebrate our work at our annual Donor Party. **Photo by Kat Cannell**

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Outgoing board of directors member Jack Kueneman is honored for his important contributions to the Land Trust. Photo by Kat Cannell

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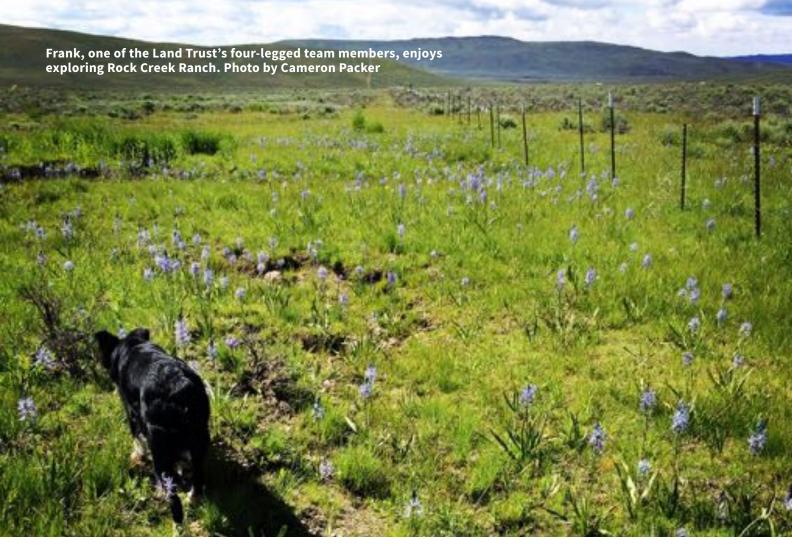
Mike and Sally Merz

Joe Miczulski and Angie Rayborn

Charles and Jeanette Miller

Nancy and John Mohr Julie Molema

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Jennifer Montgomery Christie and Ed Moore Jonna Moore Kim Morgan Mountain High Landscapes **Mountain Wanderlust** Daphne Muehle Marr and Nancy Mullen Holly Myers and Kirk Neely Kim Neill Andrea Nelson and Rod Harten Richard and Carol Nelson **Bruce Norvell** Jay and Louise Wilson Noyes Stacy OLeary Roger and Kathryn Olson Peter and Barrie O'Neill David and Lindsay Ormsby Nancy and James Osborn Tess O'Sullivan and Jeremy Fryberger **Dorothy Ann Outzs** Valdi Pace Alice C. Packer Nick Parish and Sandy Bowman Jack and Sharon Parker Roxanna and Mark Parker John and Cydney Pearce John and Diane Peavey Karen R. Pederson

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Bold = Big Wood Society members

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Mary Hughs

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These partners help us to change landscape values by promoting water conservation, pesticide reduction and native plant use throughout the valley.

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Silver Creek Outfitters, Terry Ring
South Valley Pizzeria
Stromberg Moore Hardwoods
The Chamber of the Wood River Valley

Wood River Sustainability Center

Dedicated Volunteers



The Wood River High School's class of 2019 volunteers for the Land Trust. Photo by Jonh Finnell

Al Amato **David Anderson Larry Barnes** Keith Battista Easten Beck Florence K. Blanchard Tom Blanchard Fred Brossy **Sharon Browder Barry Bunshoft Tess Burchmore** Judy Cahill **Richard Carr** Mark Caywood **Catherine Chanel** Ann Christensen

Leo Corrales Up A Creek Steve Crosser **Ed Cutter** Melanie Dahl **Rick Davis** Ranney Draper Dale Ewersen John Finnell John Flattery **Shelly Forsling** John French Chris Gammon **Robin Garwood** Tracy Groll Chris Hansen

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Hailey Elementary
School: Laurie Roark's
2nd Grade
Pioneer Montessori:
Tom Downey's
students

students
Silver Creek
Outfitters: Ewald
Grabher, Mark
Milkovich, Jim
Sommercorn
Wood River High
School: Jennifer
Bradshaw's students
Wood River Middle
School: Dan
Gralenski's 6th Grade
and Erica Liebel's
students



Staff Spotlight

Get to Know Cameron Packer, Stewardship Coordinator



HOMETOWN: Berwyn, Pennsylvania

EDUCATION: Undergrad degree in Environmental Geography at Colgate University with a Masters in Natural Resources from the University of Idaho.

FAMILY: Frank - my three- year-old border collie from the Animal Shelter.

TIME WITH WRLT: Seasonally at Rock Creek Ranch since May 2016.

REASONS YOU CHOSE THE LAND TRUST: I've always admired the work the Land Trust does throughout the valley protecting open spaces and public access.

WHAT'S YOUR SUN VALLEY STORY: I spent a summer here in college and fell in love with Idaho. After graduating, I moved to Boston but couldn't stop daydreaming about the Gem State, so I packed up my car and moved back. Now, 14 years later, I'm still finding new places to explore in the Wood River Valley and throughout Idaho.

FAVORITE PART OF WORKING FOR WRLT: The variety. I get to spend time outdoors doing many different projects, and I get to work with and learn from lots of different people with varying backgrounds.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO OUTSIDE OF WORK: Hike, fly fish, backpack, ski (alpine & Nordic), read, knit.

FAVORITE PROJECT YOU'VE HELPED THE LAND TRUST

WITH: Rock Creek Ranch. It's been exciting to watch the partnership with the University of Idaho evolve over the past two field seasons on the ranch.

FAVORITE LOCAL FOOD: Rickshaw in Ketchum.

FAVORITE LOCAL HANGOUT SPOT: Anywhere on the Big Wood River (fishing, swimming, walking the dog).

PART OF IDAHO YOU'D LIKE TO EXPLORE: More of the Frank Church Wilderness. It's such a big, wild, intriguing area.

FAVORITE LAND TRUST PRESERVE OR EASEMENT: 1'm

looking forward to exploring them all! I'm really excited about the new Colorado Gulch Preserve and all it has to offer, but having spent most of my time on Rock Creek Ranch I have to say it is my current favorite.

Wood River Land Trust protects and restores land, water, and wildlife habitat in the Wood River Valley and its surrounding areas. We work cooperatively with private landowners and local communities to ensure these areas are protected now and for future generations.



The accreditation seal is awarded to land trusts meeting the highest national standards for excellence and conservation permanence.

WOOD RIVER LAND TRUST



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