

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF PROTECTING WILD SPACES & HAPPY PLACES

WOOD RIVER LAND TRUST

FALL 2019



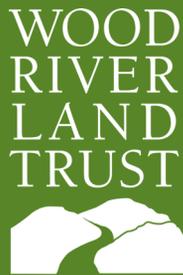
WOOD
RIVER
LAND
TRUST



YOUR NEXT
PRESERVE AWAITS
Help Us Protect
Croy Canyon

INSPIRING FUTURE
GENERATIONS
Students & Conservation —
A Match Made in Heaven

FILM PREMIER AT
THE ARGYROS
The Land Trust's
25th Anniversary



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Hailey, Idaho 83333
www.woodriverlandtrust.org**

Wood River Land Trust (WRLT) is a public benefit Idaho company and is tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

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

Photo Credit: John Finnell



A LETTER FROM

SCOTT BOETTGER

FOR ALL *TOMORROWS...*

The philosopher William James once said, “the great use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it.” At the Land Trust, everything we do is with the intention that our work will outlast us.

One example of this is the 20-year effort of the Land Trust, the City of Hailey, Blaine County, and many landowners and donors in piecing together over 350 acres of land along 3 miles of the Big Wood River to create a place where everyone can enjoy the river. This collective vision, patience and persistence have made the beloved Hailey Greenway possible... And now is the time to add yet another piece to this legacy. Nestled along one mile of Croy Creek, between Carbonate and Della Mountains and the Draper Wood River Preserve, this potential new preserve would add 118 acres to the popular Hailey Greenway, allowing for:

- Opportunities for new trails,
- Protection of important habitat and scenic views, and
- Restoration of the Big Wood River and the opportunity to mitigate flooding.



The property contains one of the rarest and most important habitats in the arid west: an emergent wetland. Fed by groundwater springs, the Croy Canyon wetland is a consistent source of fresh water and serves as a refuge for wildlife throughout the year. This property also surrounds the new Mountain Humane campus, and by keeping the property undeveloped, we can enhance its ability to connect people and pets to the Hailey Greenway, the outdoors, and each other.

Conservation of properties like this has always been a priority of the Land Trust. I hope that you’ll read on to learn more about this property and consider a gift to make it possible. I hope you’ll also enjoy seeing the differences you’re making in the lives of our local youth through our student programs, and how protecting these special places makes this possible.

Together, we can create a legacy of love for the land – not only for today or tomorrow, but for all tomorrows.

Sincerely,

Scott Boettger

“The great use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it.”

—William James



YOUR NEXT PRESERVE *AWAITS.*

THE VISION

Together, we can expand the popular Hailey Greenway and protect more of what makes our home so amazing – **but we need your help.**

We have an opportunity to add 118 acres to the Hailey Greenway to protect habitat for wildlife, restore critical floodplain reconnection for the Big Wood River, and create a new place for people to experience nature close to town.

Let's create another win-win for the community.

A ROCKY, GRAVEL- BOTTOM *HISTORY*

The preserve has the capability to change how we deal with flooding in a holistic way that is beneficial to habitat, the river, and our community.

Protecting Croy Canyon has the capability to change how we deal with flooding in a holistic way that is beneficial to habitat, the river, and our community. But in order to shape the future we want to see for our Valley, we must address the past.

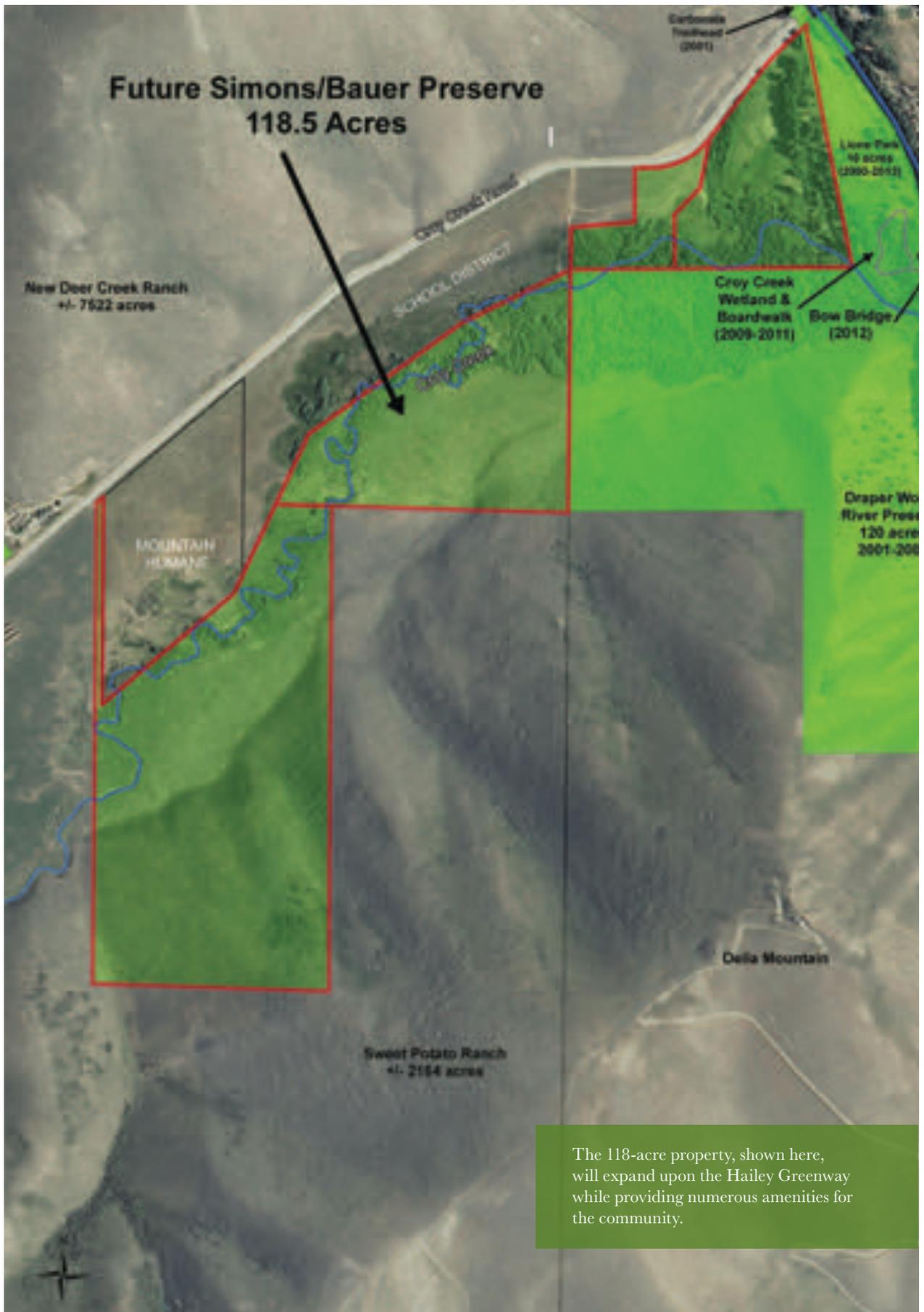
Throughout our country's history, we've altered rivers and wetlands to meet our needs. Our Valley's settlement was no different. In the late 1800s, the river near present-day Lions Park was used to power sawmills. The City of Hailey had two sawmills, one on either side of the river.

Unlike eastern bedrock streams, the Big Wood has a gravel bottom that shifts with each high-flow event. Thus, it was soon discovered that maintaining operation of the mills and preventing flooding of the structures was mutually impossible, and the mill on the western side of the river was abandoned in the early 1900s.

Unfortunately, closing the mill did nothing to inhibit the efforts to "control" the river. With the advent of heavy machinery, it became common practice to bulldoze the river channel, straightening its course and pushing the gravel to form berms to avoid flooding in the immediate area. This created and exacerbated flooding issues downriver.



Studies have shown that 85% of all wildlife species native to the area- both aquatic and terrestrial – depend on riparian and/or wetland habitat at some time during their life. This includes elk, waterfowl, song birds, beavers, amphibious and fish species. The property also contains an artesian spring that serves as a critical water resource for Hailey, our river, the wetlands, and our wildlife.



The 118-acre property, shown here, will expand upon the Hailey Greenway while providing numerous amenities for the community.

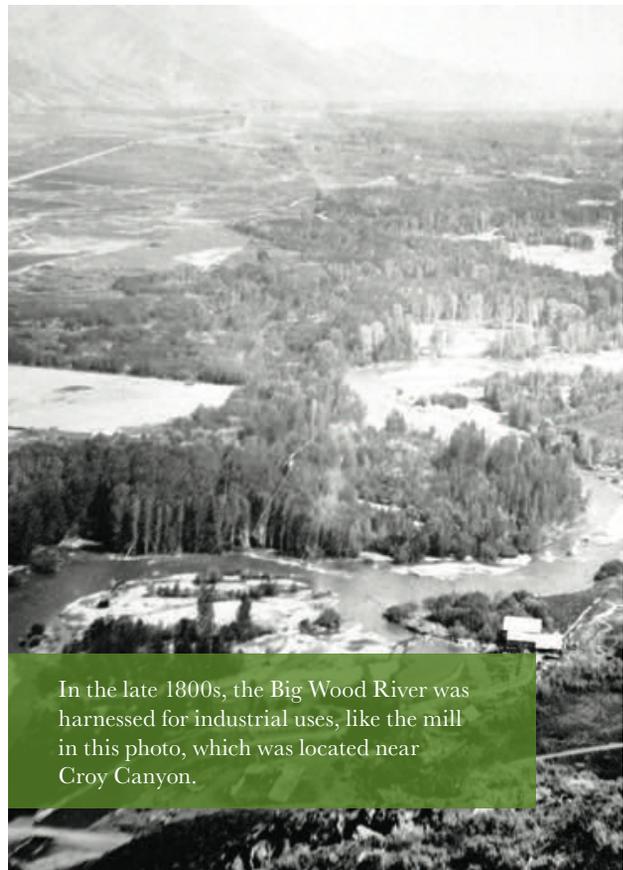
ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE

Following the 2017 floods, the Land Trust and the City of Hailey worked to incorporate flood mitigation concepts into the Hailey Greenway Master Plan. With this property, we have our greatest opportunity to address the cause of flooding by reconnecting the Big Wood to its floodplain at Lions Park. We are working with Blaine County, the City of Hailey, and the Army Corps of Engineers to remove the fill material under Lions Park – which was once a dump following the disbandment of the mill – so the river can once again sheet-flood the Croy Creek wetlands on the proposed preserve, slow down flood waters, and function naturally through Lions Park without depositing additional sediment downstream.

These are all critical components of the greater Hailey Greenway Master Plan. We need your support to accomplish the first step in that process – purchasing this property.

Acquiring the land behind Lions Park represents our best chance to address the cause of flooding, while protecting more habitat and places to connect with nature. That’s what we call a win-win.

With this property, we have our greatest opportunity to address the cause of flooding at Lions Park.



In the late 1800s, the Big Wood River was harnessed for industrial uses, like the mill in this photo, which was located near Croy Canyon.

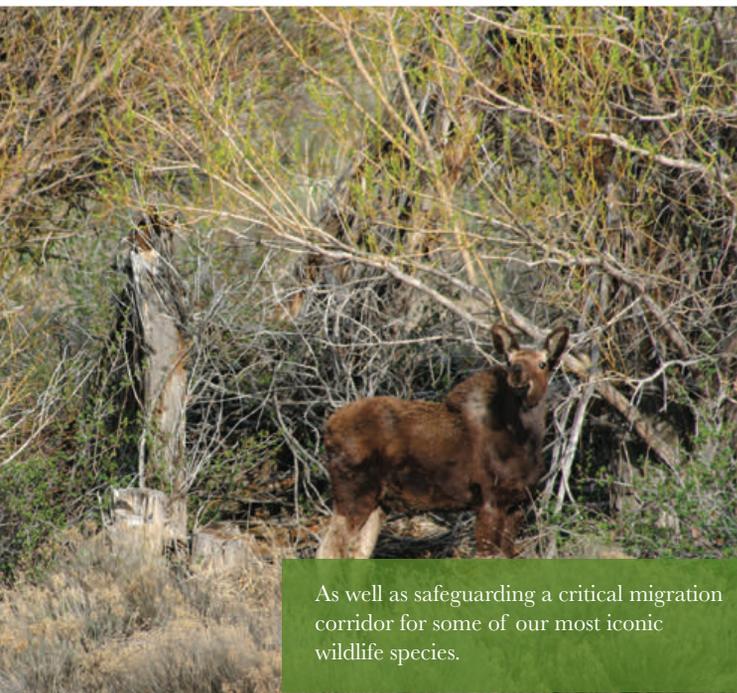




Your support will mean more opportunities for families to connect with each other in nature.



And more ways for you and your beloved animals to spend time outdoors, together.



As well as safeguarding a critical migration corridor for some of our most iconic wildlife species.

AN ASSET FOR THE COMMUNITY

Further Enhancing Our Community's Way of Life

Once we acquire this land, the Hailey Greenway will expand from 350 acres to 468 acres. That means 468 acres of protected habitat for wildlife, reconnection of our river to its floodplain, expansive access for our community to recreate, and an open space corridor that protects an important wild and happy place.

Access to a healthy river and abundant recreational opportunities are critical to our way of life. Enhanced hiking, fishing, birding, biking, learning, and connecting – these are just a few of the activities this new preserve has the potential to provide for the community, and anyone who loves our Valley.

The preserve will connect the popular trails at the Draper Wood River Preserve with the new Mountain Humane campus in Croy Canyon. What this means is:

- More opportunities for you and your furry friends to enjoy the outdoors in a relatively pristine setting,
- More opportunities for you to enjoy the unrivaled open spaces view of the Valley and additional trails for you to hike,
- More ways for our community's youth to engage with nature,
- More improved habitat for our river and wildlife,
- And a priceless treasure for all to enjoy.

But we still need your help to cross the finish line. With your support, we are confident that we can meet the collective vision of a healthier, more diverse, and more accessible Wood River Valley – for both wildlife and people.

Please consider a gift today and donate at woodriverlandtrust.org to help make this a reality.

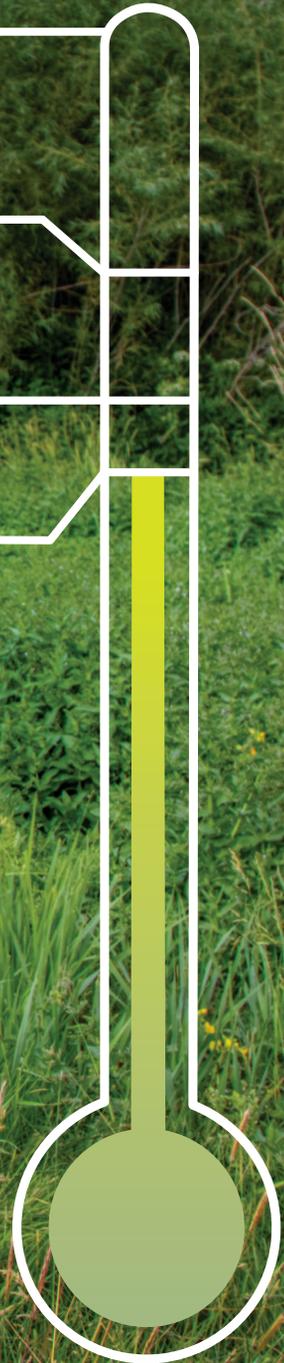
Thanks to you, we have raised
\$486,000 for
your new preserve... But we
still need your support!
Please consider a gift today.

\$705,000
STEWARDSHIP &
ENDOWMENT

\$575,000
PLANNING &
IMPLEMENTATION

\$500,000
ACQUISITION

CURRENT
LEVEL



INSPIRING

FUTURE GENERATIONS

STUDENTS & CONSERVATION – A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN

Over the course of 2018 and 2019, the Land Trust, in collaboration with our partners, completed projects with schools from Ketchum to Carey to serve students from grades 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th, and 7th grades. These projects ranged from releasing bugs that target invasive weeds, building new trails at our Colorado Gulch Preserve, learning about the importance of native pollinators, and creating art and poetry in nature.

Stewardship Coordinator Cameron Packer appreciates the extra pairs of hands in the field. “Getting out on the land with students is so rewarding,” Packer says, “Not only are they a big help in taking care of the land that the Land Trust manages, it is wonderful to see the kids engaging with their surroundings and really experiencing how important ecosystem health is, not just to wildlife but to our community as well.”

One fun project was our *Individual Expression and Nature* project. We wanted to allow students to showcase and express the benefits that nature provides to both physical and mental health. Wood River Middle Schoolers wandered through Colorado Gulch Preserve, sketching, taking photos, and writing poems about nature. We were blown away when the students later presented their work. It shows just how much we need open spaces and happy places to explore and express our creative sides. The students’ work is on display at Black Owl Coffee in Hailey – please take a look next time you’re there.



By getting students out on the land, they are able to explore their connections to nature, and just how important protected open spaces are for those connections.



From artistic expression to streamside ecology and trail restoration, our projects allow students to engage with nature through many activities.



Thanks to you, students can learn about the importance of ecosystem management, like these girls here during our biocontrol day with bugs!





Dear Mr. Goldfarb,

My name is Carter, we've never met but I just got home from a talk you gave about the importance of beaver conservation, and what we can do for each other as denizens of the same planet. Before today I had never heard of you or your book, and knew about beaver conservation only through an A.P Biology class I took last year taught by Wood River Land Trust Student Conservation Counsel adviser Larry Barnes. But after listening to you talk tonight I have a newfound appreciation for beavers.

As a graduating senior at Wood River High School, and resident of this valley, I have had unbelievable opportunities to explore and learn to love and respect the ecosystems in which I grew up. I plan on attending university next year to study ecology and wildlife biology at Boise State, and people like you are a source of endless inspiration. In a time where I find myself hanging my head in embarrassment and fear of the reckless and ignorant actions of my government, elders, and peers, people like you remind me to pick my head up and keep fighting for a brighter tomorrow and greener planet. So I would like to thank you for taking the time to talk in our valley today, and for your dedication conservation. It may not seem like much but seeing and hearing from people like you who care about even the little guy in our ecosystems serve as an inspiration and reliable guide for us young conservationists.

Once again, Thank you.

Carter



INSPIRING FUTURE LEADERS

The Land Trust's Student Conservation Council provides high school students with the opportunity to give back to the community and our environment. The SCC creates projects across the Valley that enrich both our community and our greater ecosystem.

This year, our roster of twelve students heard about a compelling book by Ben Goldfarb that was changing the national perspective on a commonly overlooked rodent – the North American beaver. Goldfarb's book describes the important role that beavers play in watershed ecology.

After reading this book as a group and learning how the Land Trust has worked with partners to enhance beaver habitat on our preserves, our students in the SCC wanted to get involved. They looked to Quigley Canyon, just east of Hailey. Historically, this area once held many beavers that occupied the streams and greater watershed, however these animals no longer exist in the same numbers they used to.

To help give beavers a boost, the SCC will begin restoring native vegetation around the Quigley Pond this fall. By replanting willows and providing the type of vegetation that beavers need, we hope beavers will again return to Quigley Pond to begin their task of restoring a complex ecosystem.

But the project didn't stop there. The SCC students invited Goldfarb to the Valley, where he, along with Land Trust Staff and SCC members, spoke to students at the Sage School, the Community School, and Wood River High School about the importance of these rodents. Later that night, Goldfarb spoke to a packed house at the Community Library, where folks from all ages left as newly minted Beaver Believers.



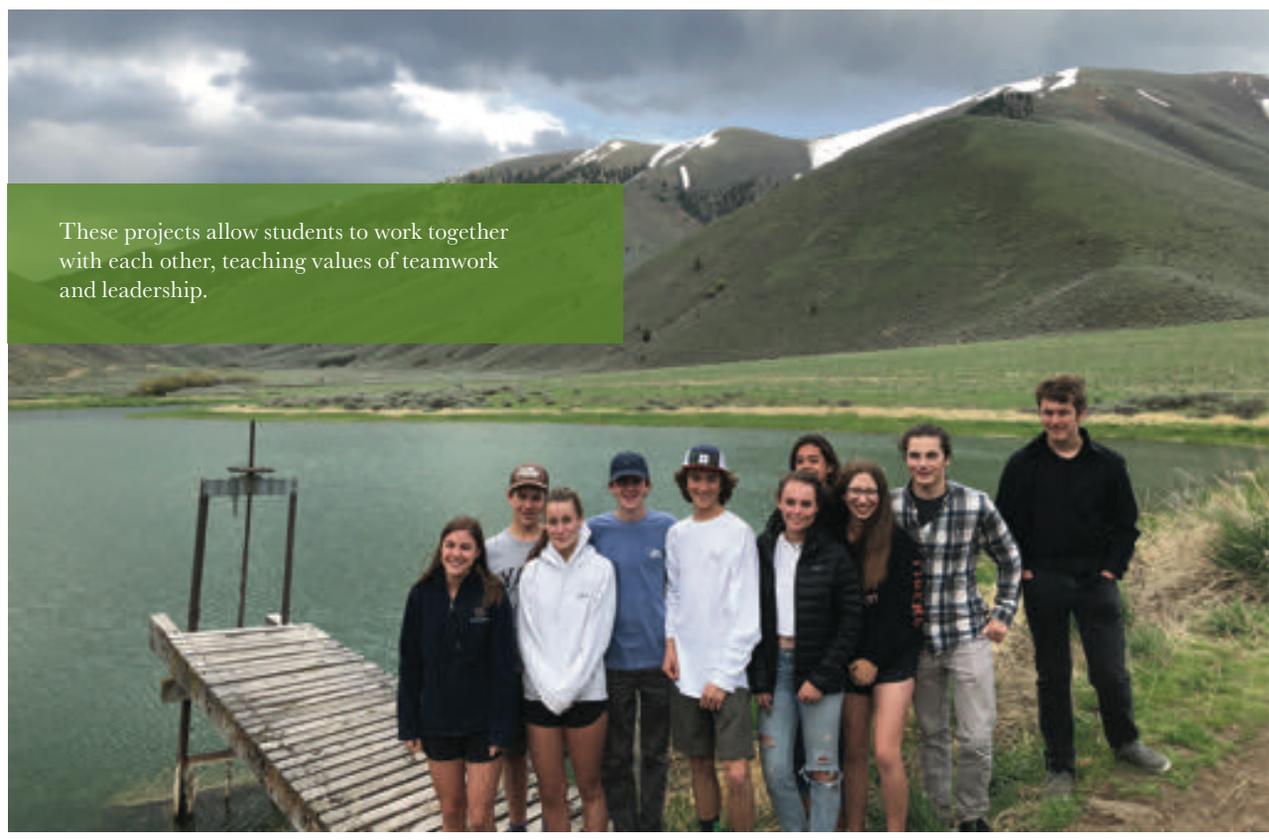
“ Let the children be free; encourage them; let them run outside when it is raining; let them remove their shoes when they find a puddle of water; and when the grass of the meadows is wet with dew, let them run on it and trample it with their bare feet; let them rest peacefully when a tree invites them to sleep beneath its shade; let them shout and laugh when the sun wakes them in the morning. —Maria Montessori ”

Research shows that when kids play and learn in nature, they're *happier, healthier, and create lasting bonds* to the land and with each other.

That's why we work with partners throughout the Valley to engage K-12 students through a variety of conservation-focused projects.

LOOKING FORWARD

The proposed new preserve in Croy Canyon will mean more land for recreation, more partnerships created, and more opportunities for the youth of our Valley to experience nature so close to town. We're so very excited for the future of our community, and that future starts with kids.



These projects allow students to work together with each other, teaching values of teamwork and leadership.

CHANNELING PASSION THROUGH THE LAND TRUST

GET TO KNOW OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER

The Land Trust's Board Members are true champions of the organization. Recently, we sat down and chatted with one of our new board members, Dave Perkins, to learn a little more about him.

Dave is the current Vice Chairman of the Orvis Company, and brings an impressive array of conservation experience and passion to the Land Trust. Our organization is made stronger because of his expertise, and we're glad he's by our side as we embark on exciting new developments.

Originally from Cleveland, Ohio, Dave recalls his early memories of the outdoors through hunting and fishing adventures with his father. Dave's father started a local hunting operation in the countryside near the East Side of Cleveland, which is where Dave developed his passions for hunting and fishing early on. Dave recalls how his father was always involved in conservation work, and was a self-taught naturalist. When Dave was 9, his family acquired the Orvis Company, and shortly after he received his first fly rod. In the early 1980s, Dave's father's property was placed into a conservation easement, and Dave became familiar with Land Trusts.

Dave's commitment to conservation stemmed from experiences he had at his grandmother's property in Georgia. Dave's grandmother was a renowned hunter and angler, and the land she lived on was ideal quail habitat. It was those memories in Georgia where Dave discovered a profound appreciation for wild, open spaces.

Dave and his wife, Nancy Mackinnon, discovered the Wood River Valley some years ago, as they visited for the unparalleled skiing and fishing opportunities. To this day, Dave and his family, along with their bird dogs, frequently visit the Valley to celebrate their love for the outdoors. "With all conservation, there's a sense of urgency in that the world is growing, more and more people are appreciating the outdoors and utilizing the resources, so providing places for people to enjoy the outdoors and landscapes while also preserving these landscapes is important. Helping the Land Trust move at a pace so that we can preserve what makes our Valley so special so that our children may enjoy it is what I'm most looking forward to with the organization." We couldn't agree more, Dave. We're excited for what's in store.

Dave Perkins has served on the board of Tall Timbers Research Station, the Teddy Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, the Ruffed Grouse Society, the Bonefish & Tarpon Trust, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.



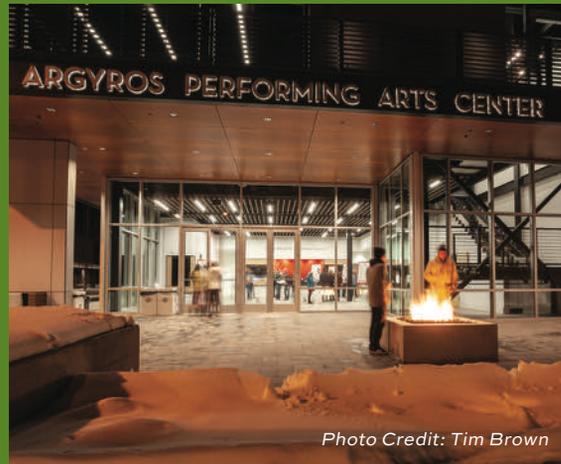
"Helping the Land Trust move at a pace so that we can preserve what makes our Valley so special so that our children may enjoy it is what I'm most looking forward to with the organization."

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE

DECEMBER 10, 2019
25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Please plan to join us at the Argyros Performing Arts Center in Ketchum for a special celebration of the Land Trust's 25th Anniversary with a film narrated by Mariel Hemingway. To reserve your seat, please contact our offices at 208-788-3947.



CROY CANYON TOURS

If you are interested in seeing our new project at Croy Canyon firsthand, please plan to join us on one of our Community Tours. We are offering tours of the property on **Wednesday, September 18th at 11 am**, and **Wednesday, October 9th, at 11 am**. Look for our sandwich boards with the Land Trust logo situated on Croy Creek Road!

COMMUNITY WORK DAYS

We will be announcing details for community volunteer workdays this upcoming fall, so if you're interested in learning more, please sign up for our e-news at www.woodriverlandtrust.org

To stay up-to-date with all of our events, make sure you are signed up for our e-newsletter, and are a fan of the Wood River Land Trust on Facebook and Instagram. If you have any questions, please email our Community Engagement Coordinator at msteinwurtzel@woodriverlandtrust.org

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PROTECTING WILD SPACES & HAPPY PLACES

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For 25 years, we've worked diligently to protect the land, water, wildlife, and recreational opportunities that make the Wood River Valley a place where you can connect...or disconnect.

GET INVOLVED
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