RUBY HABITAT FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT 2014

THE REAL

Dedicated to Innovative, Insightful, and Responsible Resource Management

Comments from the Executive Director

Spring in the northern Rockies is a wonderful time! Craig Woodson used to look forward with great anticipation to what he lovingly called "the mud season". Certainly spring is a time of transition. Frozen ground to life giving earth, wildlife and livestock perpetuating their very existence and plants moving from dormancy to sprouting are all part of the wonder and beauty of spring. All of us here at the Ruby Habitat Foundation find a tremendous satisfaction in seeing the plans for the coming year begin to take shape as spring arrives.

Your generous support of our work is encouraging and motivates us to continue to conduct meaningful trials in soil health, fertilizer application, pollinator establishment, perennial habitat plots, and reestablishment of native plants and shrubs. Our gates are always open to educational tours and outreach events featuring the work we have been doing. The Woodson Ranch is a spectacular example of agriculture, wildlife, recreation and education coexisting on the landscape. Some of our efforts are featured in this annual report and others you will just have to come see for yourself.



High on our list of priorities for the coming years is the "Clear Creek Project." Clear Creek is an eleven mile long braid of the Ruby River that flows through the Woodson Ranch on the west side of the valley floor. Our plan calls for modifications, upgrades and enhancements to the man-made and natural features of the stream to better meet the needs of the wild trout fishery, the other wildlife, the irrigators, and the recreationists. Ask us about the project next time you visit the ranch or watch for updates in future annual reports.

Our association with the Montana Land Reliance continues to prove invaluable. Their encouragement and advice have contributed to the Foundation's success in no small measure. All of us at the Ruby Habitat Foundation are grateful to the Directors, the Board and the staff of the Montana Land Reliance for their support and assistance.

Please take time to review this year's Annual Report in depth. Once again, the talented Dr. Samuel Corl III has volunteered his creativity in assembling this summation. As you read it, revisit with us the highlights of the past year and consider our progress toward accomplishing our purposes.

On behalf of the Board of Directors I extend a heartfelt thank you for the support of our many friends over the years. We believe we are making a difference. There is however, much yet to achieve in our effort to preserve and enhance the conservation values of this great area.

I hope you will choose to continue to partner with RHF as we strive to maintain the integrity of our western landscape and heritage.

Les Gilman Executive Director Ruby Habitat Foundation



Les Gilman Welcomes Members of the Historical Society to a Presentation on the Dredging and Mining Activities in the Early Days of the Ruby Valley

Ruby Habitat Foundation 2014

Each year at Ruby Habitat Foundation we continue to build on the knowledge gained and the lessons learned from past efforts. In endeavoring to tell the story of the importance of good stewardship of our natural resources our values are what will guide the direction we travel. Building on a solid base of respect for what has been passed to us guides the decisions that are always before us. With the realization that we will never arrive we keep our minds open to new ideas and listen to our hearts to continue on with the passion to preserve the open spaces of this wonderful area we are fortunate be a part of.

As spring arrives and the Ruby Valley begins to wake up with the sights and sounds of new life, it is impossible not to be energized to press forward. What will this year bring to us for new challenges? Will we have good moisture or will this year be a dry one? We know that both are import in the larger scheme; personally I prefer good moisture. The Woodson Ranch is rich with diverse examples of habitat for the many

species that make the Ruby Valley home for all or part of the year. The stoic moose and colorful pheasants that are year round residents and the noisy Sandhill Cranes and wily fly fishermen that are residents for a shorter time all benefit from a diverse and healthy habitat. The importance of protecting open space is the message these residents speak to us. Whether these spaces are large or small there are always opportunities to provide good habitat. At Woodson Ranch all of this happens in the midst of a productive agricultural community; that is a story to share.

Craig Woodson, our founder, had a vision of responsible resource management and a passion to discover ways to best accomplish this. We are thoughtfully pushing forward to carry out his commission. The work that is done now is a foundation for future generations to build on. We are committed to telling the story of wise use of our natural resources. I want to thank each of our many partners; you are an important part of telling this story.

Neil Barnosky Chairman, Ruby Habitat Foundation



The Montana Land Reliance (MLR) is excited by the growth and growing maturity of the Ruby Habitat Foundation. From the beginning, Craig Woodson challenged all of us involved with his vision for the Ruby Valley. By joining RHF and MLR he expanded his vision for community to include the entire State of Montana. Now, with RHF participating in local initiates involving agriculture combined with the emphases on private land conservation from MLR, the two organization are stronger together, pushing the boundaries of what it means to be both a nonprofit and an agricultural land trust.

MLR would like to thank all of those involved with RHF for your great support in 2014. Some of you served on the board of directors, hiked, fished, observed the numerous farming practices or maybe just sat and watched a nice day go bye. Whatever your relationship, thanks and we look forward to seeing you on the ranch this year.

the Montana LAND RELIANCE

Rock Ringling Managing Director Montana Land Reliance





Dillon Middle School Students Explore the Impact of Agricultural Practices on the Environment

On two separate spring days in April of 2014, Woodson Ranch hosted the entire 7th and 8th grade classes from Dillon Middle School. Due in part to 80 mph winds in Laurin, a downed power line across the highway, and the roof escape hatch being nearly torn from the bus, the 2013 trip had been diverted for safer ground in Sheridan. This year however, the weather cooperated and allowed nearly 160 students to embark on an adventure which would cross multiple curriculums. Each one experienced hands on projects and lectures to educate them on issues from soil health to photography, low cost cattle production to news article writing, riparian ecology to poetry and even a little fly fishing lesson just to round out the day.

Prior to the field trip, the students were introduced to the book "The Omnivore's Dilemma" by Michael Pollan. Not without controversy, this piece was selected to show the students the power of persuasive writing,



while at the same time introduce them to relevant topics, some of which were addressed at Woodson Ranch. With several debatable topics fresh in their minds, the students were posed with many difficult questions regarding agricultural practices and how our food is grown; how some of those practices impact our environment and what we can do to moderate those effects. At Ruby Habitat we are always looking for new ways to do things better. Such innovations could mean improving the soil health, decreasing the dependence on synthetic fertilizer, utilizing year round grazing or producing 100% grass fed beef just to name a few. To hear students interested in these issues and being able to show them what we are doing differently made for an excellent, interactive setting. Bringing students to the field and opening their minds to both natural resource and agricultural management, while showing them, in person, how we can utilize and enhance both on the same landscape is what the Ruby Habitat Foundation is all about.

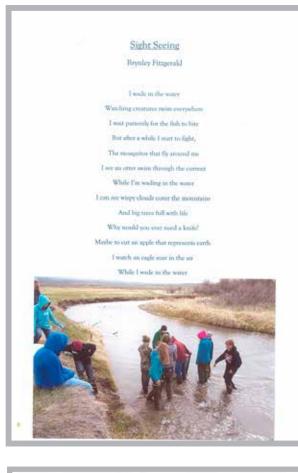
After walking the nature trail, visiting our soil health project, and listening to both Les Gilman, our Executive Director and local rancher, and Dan Durham, District Conservationist for the NRCS, talk about the different projects, numerous students had an "ah-ha" moment. You could see the lights come on and the connections being made.

To give the students an example of the results from utilizing best management practices on the ranch, how better than to teach



them how to fly fish and let them catch some of the ranch's giant trout. With help from a couple of local guides and outfitters, the students were able to wet a line. Several students caught multiple fish and a few even landed some that broke the 20" mark. Overall the trips were a huge success.

In addition to the one hundred sixty Dillon Middle School Students, Woodson Ranch also hosted the 7th grade class from Ennis. They too toured the ranch and walked the nature trail. Every year the Foundation strives to interact and host school groups from around the state, providing them with a landscape for learning.





Outreach activities similar to this Dillon Middle School field trip are increasingly popular and an important part of the Foundation's commitment to our broader mission.

HOUR OS WE AMOUT MA KAN I MANNI thatk os notyveus VOU -Holle monthy the trip! Aloust Published by: A Grommin Date: 5/14/14 hugar Feature Article: Alish solid the water one of That over hand share of the not hand the open the not solid the open the not solid the open the notion have been NEW 901 20 aux workers Ingellica fores - thoras 1 Valer 11 The Dillon Middle School 30 Lourd Fly Fishing Taylor Dugan hoi Bugn Thanks a lot! Thankyou For alla RICONDE Andrews Lenieux the tston Taylor I 947 ALGUA BED Vell had Abl Thank yo D-Jeag Thanks to the tond 05 Sm Thank you so much I had a blast! Thank yo the Low Mitor much the letting Vitting Thank your Thanks for - Baca VonSight Today are on Thanks for the graffer a for a fun that Adventured June for Baca VonSighe Thank You away from school Kristion the averonic day ?! Theoligon for the most Thank you Thankyou arante the the 54 kis No. Every one from Woodson Ranch thank you for letting us come fish, while Whanty the up positives. The stream more thange you see the willows, being scored do a nature walk, and watch all of the amazing animals. Apon WINSA Thanks for a great day at THANK treps where the inter take pickure of is the wordship Rance School away from school -Beadley 00 hyanne tranks 11 for the arence! ~ hitch! 84

Soil Health Trial Update 2015

We are now in the fifth year of our soil health experiment on the Woodson Ranch. The intent of this project is to gather and disperse information on the applicability of no-till farming and cover crops for building soil organic matter and soil structure in our arid environment.

Since we started this effort "soil health" has become common agricultural terminology nationwide. Look for it on Google or YouTube and you will find dozens of inspiring articles and videos about farmers, ranchers and agencies working hard to improve soils for a better bottom line and a healthier environment. Even the big agricultural companies are acknowledging the importance of healthy soils in trade publications

Soil Organic Matter is the foundation for a functioning soil ecosystem. SOM fuels the microbes that carry out critical belowground activities. It contains important nutrients that, when mineralized over time, provide a lasting food source for plants. SOM also helps the soil matrix hold more water, often the most limiting factor for growth in our environment.

So what is Soil Organic Matter? The entire answer is very complicated, and deserves a lot more of your time. However, in general, SOM is dead plant and animal matter that has been decomposed into simpler carbon compounds by soil



the soil by critters and form the backbone of the soil ecosystem. We also need to encourage as much root growth as possible throughout the year, as roots are a critical source of carbon and other foods required by soil life.

These materials will

be incorporated into

critters to incorporate it into the soil.

microbes. The carbon originated in our atmosphere and was then "fixed" in a plant by photosynthesis. That plant eventually ended up in the soil to be eaten by critters.

The longer these carbon chains reside in the soil, the longer they grow. They also get harder and harder to eat, becoming more likely to stay in the soil as humus, the stuff that gives soil its beautiful dark color.

Healthy Soil is Resilient Soil

and advertisements. Hopefully we are witnessing a lasting change in our attitude towards soil as a living resource.

Since the advent of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides following World War II, soil has been treated like a sterile medium that simply holds up plants, and requires regular destruction and supplementation to produce a crop. We are now re-learning that soil is actually a thriving biological system that can meet many of our demands without these inputs if cared for properly. In other words, healthy soils are resilient soils that can continue to produce a crop despite fluctuations in weather patterns, pests, and input costs.

Unfortunately, this shift in management mentality cannot come fast enough.

Carbon is the Key

Future SOM waits on the surface of our no-till field, ready for critters to incorporate it into the soil.

Building soil means building Soil Organic Matter and ultimately the amount of carbon stored in a soil. To do so requires that we leave abundant plant residue on the soil surface as crop stubble, forage residue, and manure.

Studies from around the world indicate that current farming practices will only afford us enough soil to feed people for decades, not generations. It is easy to think this doesn't apply to us here in SW Montana, but we have all seen the soil blowing off fields this winter, and know deep down this resource can only last for so long.

Soil is the foundation of everything we do and care about in this community, and therefore must be considered with every management decision we make. Healthy soils provide food, habitat, clean water and clean air. It is our sincere hope that this project will help encourage the adoption of practices that not only conserve our soil, but restore and build it as well.

right under out feet. Given the chance, the soil will store all the carbon we can feed it. At the same time these carbon compounds provide a lasting food source for critters and plants alike and allow our soils to function at their full potential. Sure seems like a "no-brainer" to us.

Soil Organic Matter at the Woodson Ranch

SOM is measured annually on the Woodson Trial using conventional soil tests. Currently OM ranges from 3% - 4%. Rapid change in OM as part of this study is unlikely for a few reasons. First, we started out with good SOM levels compared to 1-2% at neighboring properties and 5% in native plant communities. Secondly, this process takes time. Again, it's slow to build but easy to burn. And finally, our climate is cold and dry, while plants and microbes (the sources of SOM) like warm and wet.

However, there is always room for Simply maintaining improvement. existing conditions is not going to cut it with the ever increasing demand on limited resources. Our goal is to see continual increases in Organic Matter up to 5-7% or even more.

What is your goal?

Future SOM waits on the surface of our no-till field, ready for

Unfortunately, building SOM is much harder than destroying it. Microbes are always eating our OM, so we need to put more back than is consumed each year. Moreover, a couple passes with a plow, or years of careless overgrazing can rapidly undo decades of soil building.

There is a lot of talk these days about the effects of carbon in our atmosphere, and what to do about it. The answer is

Two widespread crop invaders in the Ruby Valley are quackgrass and Canada thistle. Countless gallons of chemical and diesel have been used to "renovate" infested fields, but they are still as prevalent as ever, suggesting they like what we are doing.

Till It

Our trial plots make it pretty clear that these species love to be tilled. In fact, due to their rhizomotous (root-spreading) nature, tillage helps them to disperse and thrive throughout crop fields. Each pass of a disk or plow cuts the roots into tiny pieces that can grow into a new plant. The contrast between the tilled and no-tilled plots at the Woodson Ranch is quite striking. Over the 4 years Canada thistle patches have grown considerably in tilled plots and actually stop when they get to the plots that haven't been disturbed with a plow in recent years.

In addition to the impacts of tillage on soil structure and organic matter, this observation highlights another cost of tillage that might not justify the shortterm bump in yields.

Fertilize It

Another eye opener has been how well synthetic nitrogen fertilizer stimulates quackgrass in grain and alfalfa plots. Side by side comparisons of fertilized vs. unfertilized plots clearly demonstrate how our management choices can have unintended consequences.

This makes perfect sense as abundant nitrogen benefits the grass more than the alfalfa (which can fix its own) and gives it the competitive advantage. This highlights the need to tailor nutrient applications to the desired crop and base inputs on soil test results rather than "the way we have always done it."



This spring, 2015, photography clearly shows how last year's tillage and fertilizer have benefited quack grass on the conventionally tilled hay barley plot on the left, while invaders are nearly absent on the no-till hay barley plot on the right.

The Next Step, Limit the Inputs

Typically no-till farming uses glyphosate herbicide to kill weed competition before direct seeding. (This is how we have done it at the Woodson Ranch) It is relatively inexpensive and very effective. However, many consider this method a "necessary evil" for conserving soil. Others worry it is a pending catastrophe.

These concerns are justified. We know that glyphosate creates herbicide resistant super-weeds and it is now nearly ubiquitous in water supplies, vegetables, and even processed foods. Moreover, new research is suggesting this chemical needs to be listed as a carcinogen and has negative impacts on soil critters.

Therefore, the next step in creating safe, economically viable, soil building agriculture is to reduce the need for synthetic chemicals when possible in notill and conventional systems.

Bring On the Livestock

For maximum soil improvement, livestock need to be incorporated into farming systems. Grazing animals (not those in a feedlot) are an incredibly efficient way to take sunlight and nutrients, and turn them into consumable protein. In the process of grazing forage, livestock return huge quantities of nutrients to the soil in the form of manure



Happy Cows Recycling Nutrients at the Woodson Ranch Soil Health Trial Plots.

and urine. These products stimulate microbes and boost the mineralization process. Even cattle saliva has been shown to stimulate growth in plants and microbial activity in the soil!

If grazing standing forage is not an option for a given field, feeding hay right back on the spot it was grown is the next best option. This will keep nutrients in the system, rather than down the road to the neighbor's or worse yet, in a feedlot.

It has been difficult to fully incorporate cattle into the Woodson Trials for several reasons, but as this project progresses livestock need to be a bigger component to close the nutrient loop, show real improvements in organic matter and reduce input requirements. Fortunately, we are blessed with many beautiful cows in the Ruby Valley who will work for food!

The Numbers Don't Lie

2015 Alfalfa Crops	Production in Tons	
	No Fertilizer	Fertilized
No-Till Alfalfa (Following Barley)	1.0	2.9
No-Till Alfalfa (Following Barley And Peas)	1.6	3.4
No-Till Alfalfa (Following Cover Crop Cocktail)	2.1	2.6
Conventional (Plowed) Alfalfa	1.9	2.7

2015 yields from the Soil Health Trials demonstrate that no-till farming is a viable alternative for converting old grass pasture into productive alfalfa fields without ever using a plow or destroying valuable organic matter and soil structure.

Growing Pollenizers for the Sake of Pollinators

A pollinator is the biotic agent that moves pollen from the male anthers of a flower to the female stigma of a flower to accomplish fertilization or 'syngamy' of the female gametes in the ovule of the flower by the male gametes from the pollen grain. A pollinator is different from a pollenizer, which is a plant that is a source of pollen for the pollination process. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pollinator

Almost everyone, if given the knowledge and opportunity, quickly comes to appreciate the beauty and wonder of the natural world. Regardless of season, location or circumstance, we hold the earth and its inhabitants in high regard. Over the years, the Ruby Habitat Foundation has made an effort to restore native plant communities on the Woodson Ranch. Increasingly we have begun to work with a variety of native and introduced flowering shrubs and forbs for a number of reasons:



A Bee Does Its Thing At the Visitor Center Pollinator Plot

1. Pollinators visit flowers in search of food, mates, shelter and nest-building materials. The energy that powers pollinator growth, metamorphosis, flight and reproduction comes from sugars in nectar, and the proteins, fats, vitamins and minerals from pollen grains.

2. Due to numerous factors, all pollinators, not just bees, are experiencing severe population declines across the United States. Pollinator species play a vital role in the production and the reproduction of many plants. The Ruby Habitat Foundation joins the many governmental and nongovernmental organizations that are advocating the establishment of pollinator friendly plant communities (pollenizers) to aid in habitat creation for pollinating species.

3. Most plants require the assistance of pollinators to produce seeds and fruit. About 80% of all flowering plants and over threequarters of the staple crop plants that feed humankind rely on pollinators.

4. More than 3,500 species of native bees help increase crop yields. Some scientists estimate that one out of every three bites of food we eat exists because of animal pollinators like bees, butterflies and moths, birds and bats, and beetles and other insects. - See more at: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/plantsanimals/pollinate/#sthash.

5. The incredible bond of the partnership is that neither the polleinizer nor the pollinator can exist in isolation – one relies upon the other.

What Is That Really Tall Grass Over Near the Fishing Cabin and Next to the Welcome Center?



Summer Interns Jack Hood and Katherine Michels Standing Next to One of Several Plots of Great Basin Wildrye on Woodson Ranch

Basin wildrye, also commonly known as Great Basin wildrye, was once a very abundant and widely occurring species throughout the Northwest of the North American Continent. When Captain Simpson, of the topographical Engineers, explored the route for a wagon road across the central Great Basin in the mid 1800's, he marveled at the grass in the valley bottoms that reached to his saddle stirrups. Basin wildrye clumps may reach 3 feet in diameter and stand 3 to 6 feet tall (10 feet under excellent soil and climate conditions). That must have been a tall horse that Captain Simpson was riding.

During much of the 20th century, range managers discounted basin wildrye as a forage species. In the 1980s researchers reported on its values and the need to reestablish this species for its resource values below:

Wildlife: Because basin wildrye is a tall upright bunchgrass, it is

considered excellent cover habitat for small animals and birds, excellent nesting cover for upland birds, and excellent standing winter feed and cover for big game animals. The large seeds which persist in the seed head late in the season provide valuable winter nourishment.

Grazing/rangeland/hayland: Basin wildrye is generally not recommended for spring or summer utilization, because it has an elevated growing point and is easily damaged by overgrazing. Basin wildrye is palatable to all classes of livestock and wildlife. It is a preferred feed for horses in spring and is considered a desirable feed for cattle, sheep, elk, deer, and antelope in the spring. It is considered a desirable feed for cattle and horses in early summer, late fall, and winter. It reaches its peak production in protein per acre from mid-June through August. Protein levels can be as high as 20 percent and decrease to about 7 to 8 percent protein as it matures and cures.

Ruby Habitat Foundation 2014 Financials

Foundation Operations:		
Income	\$147,630	
Expenses	\$113,909	
Net Income	\$33,721	
General Fund Cash & Investments: (Pays the day-to-day expenses t	hat finance the operation of the found	\$111,989 lation.)
	r outreach and land conservation effor ignated gifts create the balance of this	
•	: inances conservation education and ou public. These funds come from design	
Visitor Center Building and Office Cabi	n:	\$114,389
Foundation Operations Assets as of	12-31-14	\$477,616

Woodson Ranch & Endowment:

Income Expenses	\$582,422 \$218,791	
Net Income	\$363,631	
Fixed Assets		
Improvements & Equipment Land		\$636,506 \$7,312,500 ¹
Woodson Ranch Endowment		\$5,948,063 ²

Ranch & Endowment Assets as of 12-31-14

¹*Restricted land donation subject to life estate*

²The income from Woodson Ranch Endowment is used for the operation and maintenance of the Ranch, to ensure its protection and continued viability.

\$13,897,069

Ruby Habitat Foundation Combined Total:

Net Income 2014	\$397,352
Total Assets as of 12-31-14	\$14,374,685

RHF is a 509(a)(3) tax-exempt support organization to the Montana Land Reliance, a 501(c)(3) corporation. Our Tax identification number is 45-0487621. Each entity is audited annually and independently.

These people and organizations contributed significantly to the vision and the work of the Ruby Habitat Foundation in 2014. Our gratitude is genuine, and inadequate as a measure of their loyalty and support.

Anonymous Nancy & John Acuff Mary Gwyn & James Addison Joseph Anderson Kim & John Andrews Gloria & Neil Barnosky Dr. Laurie & Dr. R. T. Bartoletti Elizabeth & James Barton Diana & Richard Beattie Gregory R. Belcamino Neil E. Bergeson Anne & Alex Bernhardt Grace L. Blair M. D. Philip Bowles Glenn Brackett Sue & Patrick Brim Dorothy Brown James K. Budelman Shelly & Steve Burke Luana & Gregor Campbell Austen Cargill Kurt Carlson Eric Carson Michele & Robert Christofferson John W. Clark Nick Cobler R. Brooks Corl Samuel Corl III Evie & Dr. R. Reynolds Cowles Jr. George Cox Janet & William Crandall Cheryl & John Dale Robert Demott Eric S. Dobkin Robert P. Dougherty Jr. Dr. Daniel Downey Daryl Drake Michael Durrer Kendall Van Dyk Nancy Dyke Carol & Mark Engebretson Janet & John Ethen Barbara & Michael Ewing Sherrie & Richard Fast Tom Faure Doris L. Fischer James C. Flood Barbara & Michael Gettelman Donna & Les Gilman Carolyn Lakewold & Fredrick M. Goldberg J. Barton Goodwin Mr. & Mrs. Bruce C. Gottwald William M. Gould Jr. Rita & Richard Graff Dennis Grundman Roger Hajosy Leslie & Nick Hanauer Jan & Frank Higgins Carl M. Hillendahl Lillian & Rick Hilles Eliza Frazer & Barry Hood John David Hoover

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Organizations

Ansun Graphics, Inc. Benedict Builders, LLC Brown Law Firm, PC Gettelman Philanthropic Fund Kenworthy Electric, Inc. Missoula Bone & Joint Surgery Center Montana Land Reliance Newfield Exploration North Carolina Community Foundation P & J Ranches Ranch Management, Inc. Ruby Springs Lodge Ruby Valley Lodge, LLC SaltChuk Resources, Inc. Schwab Fund for Charitable Giving Shennan Family Fund Silicon Valley Comm. Foundation SRI River Holding Sweetgrass Rods, LLC Turner Enterprises, Inc. United Way of King County Upper Canyon Outfitters Vibrant Enterprises Assc., Inc. Williamson Enterprises, Inc.

In Memoriam Dick Lower Barrett Morris Gary Neal Craig Woodson Randy Witt



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Rock Ringling, Vice-chairman Managing Director, Montana Land Reliance – Helena, Montana

Lois Delger-DeMars Operations Manager, Montana Land Reliance - Helena, Montana

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Steve Wood Rancher – Sheridan, Montana

Executive Director

Les Gilman Sheridan, Montana

Founder

Craig Woodson 1934-2011 Sheridan, Montana

Mission Statement

The Ruby Habitat Foundation is dedicated to preserving and enhancing the natural resources, and social and economic makeup of the Ruby Valley and southwest Montana by, among other things:

- Supporting agriculture in the community and the diversification of agricultural operations to ensure the longterm viability of working ranches;
- Working with landowners, educational institutions, foundations, and other entities to protect and enhance open space and wildlife habitat;
- Encouraging education and training to broaden the understanding of resource management issues, and responsible management of private lands;
- Promoting the concept of resource accountability and developing examples of minimal impact resource management for agricultural and recreational uses while protecting the environment.

"Landowners and resource managers are inherently bound to a high level of resource accountability. We are bound by law to protect the environment and prevent resource degradation, but we have a higher obligation to be good stewards of our natural resources, sharing them today and preserving them for future generations. The decisions we make and the actions we take affect our own environment as well as that of the wildlife, our neighbors and future generations."

Charles Craig Woodson, Founder, 1933-2011

RUBY H. BITAT foundation

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Becky Kean, Director of the Montana Raptor Conservation Center introduces a friend to an audience of "rapt" supporters of the Ruby Habitat Foundation.