

RUBY HABITAT FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

*BALANCING WILDLIFE,
AGRICULTURE,
RECREATION, AND
EDUCATION
SINCE 2002*



Comments from the Executive Director

It continues to amaze me how the Ruby Habitat Foundation's (RHF) Woodson Ranch means so much to so many.

It is a spectacular place. The combined front and back cover of this report is certainly one of the most photographed images on the ranch, if not in the Ruby Valley. People come to the ranch for a wide variety of reasons and they invariably depart with something to ponder and a desire to return. Whether recreating, working, learning, or just observing, there is something about this place that imparts a lasting impact. That impact is exactly the desired outcome of our founder, Craig Woodson, and those of us who strive to carry on his legacy.

The perpetual Wetland Reserve Easement which we are establishing on the north end of the ranch, the extensive restoration modifications to Clear Creek that we are aggressively undertaking, and the highly anticipated heritage orchard, in the early stages of development, are all examples of the Foundation's commitment to that legacy.

However, RHF is about more than just the ranch property and its spectacular natural resources. It is also about the people. The well kept beauty and diversity of the property are a credit to Juventino and Luisa. They have lived, worked, and raised their family on the ranch for the past 26 years. The warm greeting and wealth of information provided to every visitor by our Outreach Coordinator, Dave Delisi, make this place uniquely welcoming. The all volunteer Board of Directors who are featured later in this report, bring a generous dose of stability, thoughtfulness, insight, and vision to RHF's operation and administration. Our association with The Montana Land Reliance (MLR) continues to prove invaluable. Their encouragement and wise counsel have contributed to the RHF's financial and operational success in large measure. Our growing numbers of extremely talented, intelligent, and hardworking internship alumni have left their mark on the ranch while it in turn has left its mark on them. You, our loyal supporters, donors, and advisors continue to contribute selflessly to our success. Our outreach and education efforts rely upon your generosity and we look to you for inspiration and recommendations.

The Ruby Habitat Foundation's Woodson Ranch and the people involved with its care, strive to provide a memorable experience for every visitor. Educational, agricultural, wildlife, and recreational opportunities are enjoyed by families, neighbors, friends, students, and community. The ongoing projects detailed in this annual report are a testament to our commitment to demonstrating what time, effort, creativity, and an open mind can achieve. Please take time to review in depth this 16th Edition of our Annual Report. Revisit with us the highlights of the past year and consider our progress toward accomplishing our purposes. I hope you will then choose to continue to partner with RHF as we strive to maintain the integrity of this place we cherish and our western landscape and heritage.

We hope to see you on the ranch in 2019!

Les Gilman
Executive Director



From the Chairman's Desk

Stewardship of our natural resources is one of the very important responsibilities we have been entrusted with while we are walking this earth. As early as the ancient story of the Garden of Eden in the book of Genesis, which states “The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and keep it,” man was given the task of good management of our resources. At Ruby Habitat Foundation, we are continuing to focus on what good stewardship looks like. I continue to be amazed and inspired by the new discoveries of how the different parts of the ecosystem work together to benefit the whole. An example that intrigued me is a study that found the insects that provide a critical food source for sage grouse chicks and other shrub- and grassland-dependent birds are 13 percent higher in number in managed versus idled rangelands. It is another example that wise stewardship is *well-managed use*, not *nonuse*. While the Woodson Ranch does not have rangeland, there are many examples how even small areas of diverse habitat can benefit a much larger area. One example in particular is the pollinator plant areas that were developed when Craig Woodson was still with us. Our time on this earth may not be long but what we leave behind can benefit generations of both humans and wildlife. Craig was an example we can all look up to in that regard.



Every once in awhile a quote will catch my attention and make me contemplate the direction I am headed. Recently, a quote by Eric Hoffer (1898-1983) did just that, so I'll share it with you: “Learners inherit the earth, while the learned find themselves beautifully equipped to deal with a world that no longer exists.” As I thought about this in relation to RHF, I feel we have a culture of being learners that was begun by Craig. Our education and outreach programs are touching more people each year. Over 1,800 guests visited Woodson Ranch in 2018 and 24% of those came for science and education events. One example is the Wildlife Speaker Series event that RHF sponsored this past summer about fish in the Ruby River. The learners that attended not only heard about fish, but also how agriculture works to make sure the flows in the river are sufficient to provide good habitat for both fish and wildlife. We are providing the opportunity for others to learn alongside us.

I want to thank each of you that support RHF, you are our partners.

Neil Barnosky
Ruby Habitat Foundation, Chairman

A Word From Our Parent Organization

The success of private land conservation in Montana, as well as that of The Montana Land Reliance (MLR), is founded in the conservation ethic of Montana's landowners. Such a conservation ethic can be homegrown in the heart of a fifth-generation ranch kid, for example, or it can be taught. The Woodson Family's decision to protect their ranch in partnership with MLR after just one decade of ownership, and the existence of the Ruby Habitat Foundation (RHF), is testament to such learning.

As MLR celebrates its 40th year in business, MLR's leadership is learning to navigate a new generation of landowners, from both in- and out-of-state. Though MLR has taken steps to educate young conservation leaders in its Future Montana Committee and other outreach activities, nothing replaces an education in Montana's unique conservation ethic by experience. RHF is in a unique position to teach this conservation ethic. Whether these lessons and love for place manifest through a hike on RHF's nature trails, a science class' entomology project along the banks of the Ruby River, by casting a line into one of the Ruby River's deep pools in pursuit of its inhabitants, or by watching RHF's eagle cam and other near-100 bird species on Woodson Ranch, this experience is paramount to creating a connection and love for place.

To some extent, we are all still learning what Craig Woodson knew: conservation is at its heart about people and their love of place. The success of MLR's mission is contingent on these connections to Montana's landscape, as people protect what they love. We are grateful for RHF and the Woodson Family not only for their commitment to providing an unparalleled community resource, but also for helping people from every corner of the globe understand that there is no place like Montana. MLR looks forward to the next 40 years of conservation partnership with its friends in the Ruby Valley.



George Olsen
President of the Board of Directors, The Montana Land Reliance

Outreach Report

The smiles, comments, and the notes of thanks I receive from guests to Ruby Habitat Foundation's Woodson Ranch tell me that we are doing something right here. In particular, we provide the space where people experience a mixture of solitude, new knowledge about the outside world, and better understanding of how human actions impact that world. We hosted over 1,800 people at the ranch in 2018, with the largest category of guests being fly fishermen (28%). Visitors coming for science and education opportunities comprised 24%, and hunters were the third largest group of guests here at a little over 10%.

One of my favorite comments came after our Wildlife Speaker Series event in August. At that event, as Neil noted on P. 2, we hosted over 150 folks for a dinner and then a presentation on "Trout & Agriculture." After the presentation, a local resident approached me and said, "I love coming to things like this because, with each one of them, I learn more about how everything is interconnected." And it was clear that she meant that not in some sort of cosmic-zen-like way, but in a very grounded way: trout survive here in the Ruby Valley during dry months because a guy in Alder gets on the phone, calls a guy downstream and says, "Hey...could you cut back on irrigation by X% today because our flows are at Y level." This person recognized that the connections are pragmatic, measurable, and important.

It is satisfying to see that one critical aspect of RHF's mission, the part stating our objective as, "encouraging education and training to broaden the understanding of resource management issues, and responsible management of private lands," is not only being fulfilled, but also that it brings pleasure to those who experience it.

At the time this annual report is being written, most of 2019 is still in front of us. Rest assured that we will continue to focus on providing access to quality experiences that highlight the benefits of balancing agriculture with wildlife, and that we will leverage our special place in the valley to offer a place where people can learn and grow. Perhaps the best part of being part of this organization is the fact that we will do this not only in 2019, but for many, many years to come.

Dave Delisi,
Outreach Coordinator, Ruby Habitat Foundation




Sheridan Kindergarten Goes Outside

For the Birds

Did you know that birdwatching is among the more popular outdoor activities in the United States? Chances are, since estimates of those who self-identify as birdwatchers run as high as 20%, you know someone who takes this hobby seriously. A US Fish & Wildlife study showed that, in 2006, the most recent year data was collected, Americans spent \$36 billion on the hobby. While online sources bounce around the statistics, depending apparently on which master they are serving, the fact is that this figure is in the same ballpark as is “fishing,” and by “fishing” they mean everything from deep-sea fishing for soaring sailfish to powerbaiting a catfish out of a pond, as well as the substantially-smaller subset of flyfishing.

Woodson Ranch has long been known as a flyfishing destination, but we love our feather-loving friends, too. In fact, with the help of avid birders, we have carefully documented 96 species of birds on the ranch. Those of you who know how to use eBird, the on-line database of birds, are welcome to help us by documenting your observations. Here is a list of what we have documented so far:



American coot
American goldfinch
American kestrel
American robin
American white pelican
American widgeon
Audubon's warbler
Bald eagle
Bank swallow
Barn swallow
Belted kingfisher
Black-billed magpie
Black-capped chickadee
Black-headed grosbeak
Blue-winged teal
Bobolink
Brewer's blackbird
Brown-headed cowbird
Canada goose
Cedar wawing
Chipping sparrow
Cinnamon teal
Cliff swallow
Common goldeneye
Common grackle
Common merganser
Common nighthawk
Common raven
Common yellowthroat
Crow
Downey woodpecker
Dusky flycatcher

Eastern kingbird
European starling
Evening grosbeak
Gadwall
Golden eagle
Gray catbird
Gray partridge (huns)
Great blue heron
Great horned owl
Greater yellowlegs
Green-winged teal
Hairy woodpecker
Hooded merganser
Horned lark
House finch
House wren
Killdeer
Lazuli bunting
Least flycatcher
Long-billed dowitcher
Long-eared owl
MacGillivray's warbler
Mallard
Marsh wren
Mountain chickadee
Mourning dove
Nighthawk
Northern flicker
Northern goshawk
Northern harrier
Northern rough-winged swallow
Northern shoveler

Northern shrike
Oregon junco
Pie-eyed grebe
Pine siskin
Red-tailed hawk
Red-winged blackbird
Ring-necked pheasant
Rock pigeon
Rough-legged hawk
Ruby crowned kinglet
Sandhill crane
Savannah sparrow
Song sparrow
Spotted sandpiper
Townsend solitaire
Tree swallow
Trumpeter swans
Violet green swallow
Virginia rail
Warbling vireo
Western kingbird
Western meadowlark
Western tanager
Western wood-pewee
White-crowned sparrow
Wild turkey
Willow flycatcher
Wilson's phalarope
Wilson's snipe
Wilson's warbler
Yellow warbler
Yellow-headed blackbird

Clearly Improving

As many of Ruby Habitat Foundation's friends may already know, we have been working over the past couple of years to improve Clear Creek in several significant ways.

The background to this story--briefly--is that this 11-mile braid of the Ruby River has been assessed as "Not Sustainable" by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). This judgment prompted RHF to focus efforts on improving the water quality and quantity issues on Clear Creek while also working to ensure the river flows as nature intended in spite of decades of various culverts, diversions, and other interventions in the streambed.

We are pleased to report that the first hurdle--water quantity--has been cleared. Thanks to a USDA Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) grant, as well as the involvement and cooperation of all the landowners through whose property the river flows, 2018 saw the highest flows in Clear Creek in several generations. Let that sink in for a minute--truly, the stream has more water flowing in it than has been seen in over 60 years.

Next on the docket is addressing the issue of water quality. The streambed was straightened back in the '50s and this channelization caused the water in the channel to move more quickly than it did prior. This acceleration caused long stretches of the river to cut down through the soils and all that sediment has had a detrimental effect on the water quality. Simultaneously, as the river cut deeper through the valley floor, it disconnected from its historic floodplain and the natural cycle of spring flooding in the river's riparian area simply stopped.



A young bull moose splashes through a properly-functioning stretch of Clear Creek during high water this past spring

To solve this, RHF partnered with NRCS to devise a plan. First, to fund the plan, RHF agreed to place a significant portion of the ranch under a Wetland Reserve Easement which protects those acres from any further development in perpetuity. In exchange, the NRCS agreed to fund the re-working of the streambed itself. Engineering work has been completed and the new streambed will be placed back in some of its historic channels. This streambed work is likely to begin in 2019.

Now, RHF is actively fundraising for the final step. This will involve engineering and constructing a water management structure at the head of Clear Creek. This structure must control flows, largely without human intervention, and it must do so in high water, low water, and everything in between. To date, we have raised \$16,000 of the \$80,000-\$100,000 needed for engineering costs. That large estimate reflects not only the complexities of the structure itself, but also the fact that the solution must take existing river forces into consideration up- and downstream from the structure. This means RHF needs to employ fluvial geomorphologists to analyze the entire system. *If you are willing to assist with this project financially, please contact us.* Our email and physical address, along with phone number, are on the back of this report. And whether you assist financially or not, keep your eye on this project because it promises to benefit not only Clear Creek but also the entire Ruby Watershed and downstream rivers as well!

EN PLEIN AIRE

Ambrose Bierce (1842-1914), Civil War Veteran, prolific writer and poet, once described working *en plein aire* as working in “that part of one’s environment upon which no government has been able to collect taxes...chiefly used to inspire poets.” Well, a picture is worth a lot of words, they say, so when RHF was approached by the Southwest Montana Arts group, we embraced the idea of allowing these oil painters to come out and spend time painting on the ranch.



Duncan Bullock holds a framed version of the painting at right, standing at the spot where she received her inspiration.



Lisa Curtis got the inspiration for the painting at left with her feet firmly planted on the banks of the Ruby River.

If you are an artist looking for a venue wherein to seek your muse, give Dave Delisi a call for access.

Nurturing Nature...

“We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.” *Native American proverb.*



Buffalo Berry is a native plant that produces a red berry that can be used to produce jams and syrups. Historically, it has been removed from the landscape because its thorny branches prevent grazing animals from reaching the grass underneath. Woodson Ranch has quite a bit of it, and 2018 was a banner year for the crop of red berries with some local ranchers saying they had never seen such prolific production.

Food plots on the ranch provide a meal for many of the birds on the ranch. The wild turkeys and the pheasants both seem to love the wheat. The turkeys focus on eating it, while the pheasants seem to use it more for cover in the spring and summer and a highly nutritious food source in the late fall and winter months.



We have no shortage of whitetail deer on the ranch. A recent conversation with the wildlife biologist indicates that there are over 2,800 of these graceful ungulates roaming up and down the Ruby Valley. That's more than the number of people!

...so that She Can Nurture Us Right Back

In May, the Sheridan Middle School Art students came out to create natural sculptures in the deeper, less-accessible spots on the ranch.



Springtime brings wildflowers and smiles.



They certainly were not competing, but it sure would appear that Jillian caught a bigger brown than did her dad this past September!

Heritage Apple Program

There was a time when parts of Montana grew apples commercially. While cows, hay, and grain now dominate Montana's agricultural scene, there are still pockets of apple trees that produce delicious and varied fruits. These old trees stand in defiance against the notoriously formidable forces of winters in Montana.

What they have then, is a certain *chutzpah*, a *moxie* that amounts to survivor traits. By selecting DNA in the form of grafts from the best of these trees, we hope to create a Heritage Apple Orchard that will have a variety of apples--from eating-apples to cider-apples. We may also incorporate a few other fruit crops.

Our current plan is to create this orchard up near the Hill House, the lodging on the ranch which already has a garden available for our guests.

This project is designed with the community in mind. We plan to showcase the space, provide some fruit for the community to enjoy, and perhaps sell some of the apples and cider. If you are living in the Ruby Valley and know of old apple trees that are still producing high-quality fruit, let us know as we need grafting stock. If you are inclined to assist this project, which requires funding for fencing and other setup needs, as well as ongoing labor once it's in place, let us know!

Something Fishy



For the first time in quite some time, the Ruby River on Woodson Ranch was the subject of a fish count this past spring.

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks' Fisheries Biologist for the Ruby and Beaverhead rivers, Matt Jaeger, and his crew came out in April and used electro-shocking to conduct a thorough survey of about a mile of both the Ruby River and Clear Creek. The results were informative

and will serve as a baseline for the fishery here. In future years, particularly after the streambed work on Clear Creek is completed, we will be able to see how the fish numbers change.

In the Ruby, results showed about 580 brown trout per mile. The number of rainbow trout was negligible--almost zero. The number of whitefish was similar to the number of brown trout.

In Clear Creek, there were about 270 brown trout per mile, and zero whitefish or rainbows. This is interesting for two reasons: first, Clear Creek is only about 1/3 the volume of the Ruby, but it has about 1/2 the number of trout; and second, the absence of native whitefish is indicative of the stream's impaired status as whitefish are a clean-water indicator. We hope our scheduled work on this stream makes it more habitable for that native fish!

The Company We Keep

It is with immense pride that we are affiliated with folks who were duly recognized for their efforts in 2018. Both Les Gilman, our Executive Director, and our parent organization, The Montana Land Reliance (MLR), received significant and well-deserved awards this year.

On October 12, 2018, the Land Trust Alliance (LTA) conferred its President's Award, the highest honor awarded by the land trust community, upon MLR.

The LTA's President's Award is given on a selective basis to an individual or organization "whose leadership has enriched the land conservation movement and whose contributions encourage commitment and action throughout the land trust community and private landowner community." The LTA represents 1,200 land trusts supported by more than 100,000 volunteers and 5 million members nationwide. Since its establishment in 1982, the LTA has bestowed the award only four other times.



Rock Ringling addresses the crowd while accepting the President's Award on behalf of MLR. Standing behind Rock are George Olsen, Christian Dietrich, Will Trimbath, Matt Bell, and Gusty Clarke.



*Les Gilman At The Family Ranch
Photo Credit: Anna Ingram*

Each year, the Ruby Valley Conservation District recognizes one individual for their Stewardship Award. This award is bestowed on the person, nominated by his or her peers, with accomplishments in the following areas:

- Practices or projects that directly benefit natural resources;
- Innovative and successful approaches to stewardship challenges;
- Benefits to the community through their stewardship activities.

Les Gilman accepted the 2018 award from the Ruby Valley Conservation District. Les, the RHF Executive Director since 2002, accepted his award with a thoughtful commentary, saying, "When you first get into this business, you believe you will change the land with all of your good ideas; eventually though, you come to understand that, instead, the land has changed you."

It is truly an honor for Ruby Habitat Foundation to be affiliated with people of such high character as Les and all the folks at MLR. Congratulations on your well-earned awards!

2018 RHF SUPPORTERS

Our thanks to all who have supported our efforts financially and otherwise over the past year.

Quite simply, we could not do this alone.

Individuals

Chris Adamo
Joseph Anderson
Kim & John Andrews
Anonymous
Sally & Brian Barker
Gloria & Neil Barnosky
Jeff Barron
Laurie & Robert T. Bartoletti
Peter Beauchamp
Harvey Bell
Neil E. Bergeson
Anne & George Alexander Bernhardt
Warren Lee Birdsong
Allen Bjergo
Donna Bombassaro
Jeanne Bombassaro & Mark Savinski
Thomas P. Bowler
Lesley & Thomas Bradford
R. B. & P. Bradley
Michele & William Brennick
Karen & Edward Brewer
Arlyne & Michael Brim
Sue & Patrick Brim
Donald Brose
Sarah Brosier & Bill Cunningham
Dan Brosier
Karen Brown
Kurt Carlson
Heather & Scott Carr
Judith & Gordon Chapin
J Dean Chavooshian
Mary Kay & James W. Cherry
Elizabeth & Bill Childrey
Michele & Robert Christofferson
John W. Clark
Ron Clausen
R. Brooks Corl
Evelyn & R. Reynolds Jr. Cowles
James Faris Cox
Sarah & David Craig
Lisa Cutting
Cheryl & John Dale
Khaled Demachiki
Robert Demott
Lee Deshong
Michael Ditchfield
John Dixon
Helen Donovan
Dr. Daniel Downey
Sandra & Thomas Doyle
Nancy Dyke
Mark Eckhardt
Daniel Ecklund
Gayle & J. Eidson
Carol & Mark Engebretson
J. T. & R. C. Estler

Janet & John Ethen
Larry Evans
Sherrie & Richard Fast
Jack E. Favero
Caroline & C. G. Feldman
Dan Field
Tim Field
Leslie Findling
Doris L. Fischer
Beverly & Frank, Jr., Ford
James Fordyce
Chris Froboese
Sharon & Wayne Froboese
Steven Gardner
Rodger D. Gaulding
Mike Gettleman
George Geoghegan
Patricia & Carey Gilbert
Clark Glickman
Carolyn Lakewold & Fredrick Goldberg
William M. Gould, Jr.
Rita & Richard Graff
Renee & Gregory Granken
Virginia & Thomas Griffith, Maj. Gen., USAF
Dennis Grundman
Lori & Gary Hadley
Richard E. Hafenfeld
Roger Hajosy
Leita & William Hamill
Leslie & Nick Hanauer
H.F. & P. A. Hardy
Judith Hazen
Bill Headley
Deanna & John Heily
Benjamin Helsten
James Highland
Lillian & Rick Hilles
Henry Hoffman
Yvonne & Noel Holland
John David Hoover
Jim Hoschouer
Judith Hutchins
John Iacopi
Shirley & Walter Jakubowski
Tony James
Nancy & Joseph Janik
Susan & Ray Jenkins
Gary Johnson
Leonard Johnson
Richard J. Johnson
Steven J. Johnson
Tracy & Greg Johnson
Lynne Y. Johnston
David & Jon Joys
K.C. & Bob Kaufman
Thomas F. Keifer, II
Paul H. Kiefer
Karen & George, Jr., Kimberly

Fred Kirk
Karl Komatsu
Jim Kramer
Paulette & Andrew Laszlo
Toby & Brian Laudenbach
Erin & Eric Leber
Dwight E. Lee
William M. Legg
John Leonard
Dora & Mark Levin
Steve Liebmann
Jeffrey Loeb
Jennifer & Patrick McClellan
Elizabeth Ann McCrury
Emily & Edward McDermott
Neal McEwen
John T. McGuire
Christine & Frank McKeever
The McKenna Family
Sean McKenna
James McMahon
M. Collins McNeill, IV
Danny Mergenthaler
Carole Dunnells Miller
Kim & Charles Miller
Charles W. Mills
Julie & Doug Mitchell
William R. Moll
Kim & Jeff Montag
Connie & Michael Morgan
Louise D. Morris
Rich Morrissey
Francisca Moseley & Eric Johnson
Paul Moseley
Christopher Mumme
John Mundt, Jr.
Susan & Michael Neinstedt
Patricia & Walter Nicholson
Bill Noonan
E. Wayne Nordberg
Roy S. O'Connor
Patrice & Bernard Oglietti
Christopher Ohman
George S. Olsen
Pamela & James Pappenfus
Gail & Harry Parks, Jr.
Judy & Steve Parks
Donna Patterson & William R. Fraser
Julie & Michael B. Pearce
Catherine A. Peltier
Jonathan Perera
Janis & Lt. Col. Terry H. Phillips
Pierrette & Roger Plourde
Jean & Jim Prough
Thomas A. Pruitt
Janice & John Przonek
Christine & Donald "Kit" Querna
Dennis Rahlves

2018 RHF SUPPORTERS

(Continued)

Marguerite F. & Les Reeves
Janice & Stephen Renock
Fred Rice
S.F. & Bruce Richards
Tom Roberts
Anne & Thomas Rodhouse
Judith & Robert Rubin
Robert Ruedisili
Stephen Ruedisili
Barbara, MD, & Edward Rumberger, DDS
Krista & John Sampson
Phillip Sasser
Patricia & Stephen Sawczuk
Barbara A. and Robert C. Schoenfeld
Michele & Thomas Schroeder
Robert Scott
Dick Seale
Janna & Jamie Shennan
Renata & Stephen Shore
Estelle Shuttleworth
Carole & Gary Sisson
Susan & Ben Smith
Nancy Smrcka & James Kramer
Jana Jill Snyder
Dale C. Spartas
D. Michael Spradlin, DDS
Kathy A. Stevens
Frank Stewart
Paul Stilmark
Martin Sublett
Susan & William Taylor
Jeff Thorp
Deena & Patrick Toalson
James Tracy
Catherine & Normand Tremblay
Waring Tribble, Jr.
Todd Troshynski
Darlene & Ron Tussing
Ross Twiddy
James C. Wallace
Pamela & John Wells
Carolyn & Thomas Wenrich
John David Wimberly
Mary & Charles Wintzer
Twink & Jim Wood
Jenny & Steve Wood
Martha Woodson
Janet & Richard Young, MD

We hope we noted everyone who helped us financially last year. If we omitted you, please accept our apology and let us know so that we can note it for next year!

Organizations

Benevity Causes
Benevity Community Impact Fund
Bell & Anderson LLC
Carr Family Fund
Elizabeth & Bill Childrey Family Fund
Dobkin Family Foundation
The Donnelley Foundation
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Grassi Winery
William & Leita Hamill Family Foundation
Hells Canyon Creek, LLC
Iacopi Lenz & Company
JP2 Management
Johansen Family Trust
Kenworthy Electric Inc.
Lewis & Clark Chapter TU SW Montana
Lewis & Clark Expeditions, Inc
McAlister Family Fund
M. C. McNeill & Co., LLC
McGuire Family Foundation
Missoula Bone & Joint Surgery Center
The Montana Land Reliance
Montana Project Healing Waters

The Moseley Family Fund
North Carolina Community Foundation
National Christian Foundation
Opportunity Bank
P&J Ranches
Reed Family Foundation
Renaissance Charitable Fund
Ruby Dell Ranch
Ruby Valley Brew
Ruby Valley Lodge
Sacred Dirt, LLC
Saltchuk Resources, Inc.
Sandru Ranch
Schwab Charitable Fund
Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Smith Animal Hospital
SRI River Holdings, LLC
Suffolk Foundation
Susan & William Taylor Family Fund
Upper Canyon Outfitters, Inc.
WWC Engineering
YourCause, LLC trustee for Chevron
Employee Funds

We recognize that much of the uniqueness of this space is the result of donations and appreciation from our guests. In retrospect, we have--together--accomplished much in 2018 and in the previous 16 years since our inception.

Simmering on the burners are *funding needs for ongoing and future projects*:

- The engineering work for our Clear Creek project water management structure is \$80,000 to 100,000 with \$16,000 already raised;
- We are in the planning phase for a heritage (read: local and old stock) apple orchard. Given the above-mentioned deer on the property, we need a stout fence and a recent estimate is \$15,000.
- Part of our mission includes education, and our Summer Intern program exemplifies our deep dive with one individual. The cost, which includes the intern's salary and lodging is about \$8,000.

Finally, we'd be happy and honored to assist you with a **legacy gift**. We have staff available to help with your planned giving efforts, including any of the following: bequests, gift annuities, charitable trusts, life estate gifts, life insurance policies, beneficiary designations, or retirement assets.

We plan to be here in the Ruby Valley in perpetuity, stewarding the land and resources in ways that inspire and educate, that conserve and respect. Your contribution can help RHF take this long view and ensure that your grandchildren, and their grandchildren can experience what we have only just begun to accomplish. Contact Dave Delisi or Les Gilman to learn more.

Feel free to designate how you'd like your donation spent, and regardless of how you chose to contribute, **THANK YOU** for your support!

All of us at Ruby Habitat Foundation

Ruby Habitat Foundation 2018 Financials

Foundation Operations:

Income	\$230,009
Expenses	\$215,448
Net Income	\$14,561

General Fund Cash & Investments: \$204,446
(Pays the day-to-day expenses that finance the operation of the foundation.)

Rural Heritage & Open Lands Fund: \$78,290
(Designed to provide funding for outreach and land conservation efforts.
General fund surpluses and designated gifts create the balance of this account.)

Hill Education & Outreach Endowment: \$76,399
(Income from this endowment finances conservation education and outreach
to landowners and the general public. These funds come from designated gifts.)

Visitor Center Building: \$41,173
Foundation Operations Assets as of 12-31-18 **\$400,308**

Woodson Ranch Operations, Projects, & Endowment:

Income	\$440,320
Expenses	\$267,916
Net Income	\$172,404

Fixed Assets

Improvements & Equipment	\$696,785
Land	\$7,783,237 ¹
Woodson Ranch Endowment	\$6,084,823 ²
Ranch & Endowment Assets as of 12-31-18	\$14,564,845

¹Restricted 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.

Ruby Habitat Foundation Combined Total:

Net Income 2018	\$186,965
Total Assets as of 12-31-18	\$14,965,153

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. Audit copies are available upon request.



Left to right: Lisa Matthews, Steve Wood, Martha Woodson, George Olsen, Leslie Vanderpool, Lois Delger-DeMars, Neil Barnosky, Robin Mitts, Bruce Peterson and Rock Ringling

Ruby Habitat Foundation Board of Directors

Group A--The Montana Land Reliance

Lois Delger-DeMars
Managing Director, The Montana Land Reliance--*Helena, Montana*

George Olsen
President, The Montana Land Reliance & Retired CPA--*Helena, Montana*

Vice-Chairman, Rock Ringling
Special Projects Visionary, The Montana Land Reliance--*Helena, Montana*

Group B--Woodson Family

Lisa Matthews
Jarrell, Texas
Treasurer, Robin Mitts
The Woodlands, Texas

Leslie Vanderpool
Stephenville, Texas
Secretary, Martha Woodson
Sheridan, Montana & Fort Worth, Texas

Group C--Ruby Valley Community

Chairman, Neil Barnosky
Rancher--*Sheridan, Montana*

Bruce Peterson
Rancher--*Alder, Montana*

Steve Wood
Rancher--*Sheridan, Montana*

Executive Director

Les Gilman
Sheridan, Montana

Founder

Charles Craig Woodson (1934-2011)

RUBY HABITAT FOUNDATION 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 long-term 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 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 (1933-2011)
Founder*

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