



RUBY HABITAT FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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

Comments from the Executive Director

Craig Woodson, the founder and primary benefactor of Ruby Habitat Foundation, long marveled at the Montana rancher's ability to patiently and persistently navigate the challenges of the natural world. The extremes of heat and cold, floods and drought, and the seemingly endless summer days and similarly endless winter nights, were a challenge to operate within for the successful Texas newspaper publisher and businessman. Prior to purchasing his Montana ranch, Craig was used to intricately managing the various inputs and the predictable outcome of his daily efforts. He knew what to expect and when to expect it. During his eighteen year tenure as the owner/operator of Woodson Ranch, he was frequently exasperated by nature's slow pace and occasional, harsh cruelty. Nonetheless, he would annually grow impatient with winter in Texas and set his course to be back in Montana for the mud season. He could not wait to see the snow recede, the mud to come and soon give way to sprouts of green and buds of new growth. I firmly believe it was this annual ritual of renewal and rebirth, resilience if you will, that set the course for the creation of the Ruby Habitat Foundation. Craig made a conscious and altruistic decision to keep the Woodson Ranch intact and operating in spite of the natural challenges.



Similarly, Craig Woodson, and the management of Ruby Habitat Foundation, held concern for the condition of the 11-mile braid of the Ruby River known as Clear Creek, which runs through the western side of the ranch. In the fall of 2010, just before leaving his beloved Ruby Valley for the last time, Craig put the wheels in motion for the restoration of Clear Creek. Those efforts, begun in December of 2020, will transform the channel from its decades-long, unsustainable condition to a renewed, resilient, functioning stream.

During the mud season of 2020, as a tribute to Craig, and to try his patience, we planted a tree. In fact, we planted more than 200 trees! The Heritage Orchard is officially a reality. Although we have done everything we could think of to control the environment at the orchard, we are certain that nature will throw us a challenge or two before we harvest our first crop, but until then, every spring will hold hope of buds sprouting.

We are pleased, that over the years, so many of you have enjoyed the amazing natural wonders of this unique place. You may have come to the ranch to fish, hunt or commune with nature in some other form, but undoubtedly, you departed in awe and with a desire to return. Whether recreating, working, learning or just observing, there is something about this place that imparts a lasting impact.

Ruby Habitat Foundation is proud of our relationship with The Montana Land Reliance and their outstanding success in meaningful land conservation. Their encouragement and wise counsel have contributed, in large measure, to our financial and operational success. You, our loyal supporters, donors, and advisors have also participated in assuring our sustainability. Our outreach and education efforts rely upon your generosity and we look to you for inspiration and recommendations.



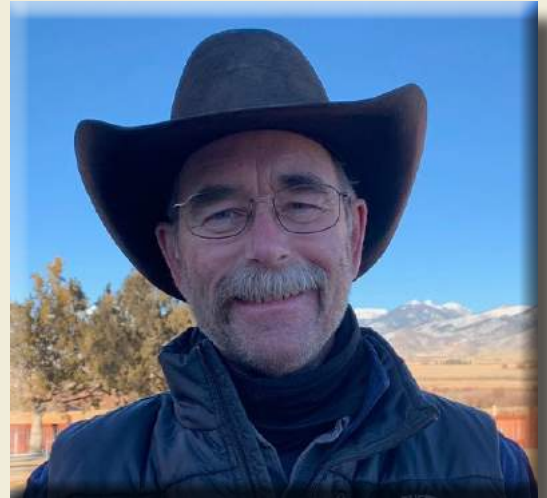
A Grafted Scion In The Orchard

We hope you enjoy this 18th Edition of our Annual Report. Revisit with us the successes of the past year and consider our progress toward accomplishing our purposes. We trust you will continue to partner with RHF as we strive to maintain the spirit and purpose of this place we all cherish. We hope to see you on the ranch in 2021!

Les Gilman, Executive Director

From the Chairman's Desk

As I write this, the Ruby Valley has settled into the quiet of winter. Once again, the days have become short and the nights long and cold. It feels as though the valley is resting from a full summer's work and storing up energy to begin providing a green lush habitat for abundant wildlife that will depend on new growth as spring arrives and the production of summer comes to full bloom. Although the coming growing season will be different from any before, we know with certainty that the sun will put in longer days and the plant life will produce in proportion to the moisture available. The yearly cycle will begin again.



We, as humans, have been given the responsibility and opportunity to preserve and manage the natural resources in a way that provides long term stability rather than a short term gain. Possibly the largest project that has taken place on the Woodson Ranch is the restoration of Clear Creek that you will read about in this report. It has been a non-functioning stream for many years due to being straightened decades ago. I would imagine this was done not anticipating the long term consequences that would occur. The benefits of this project will be realized for years to come. The fishery of the Ruby River will benefit immensely with the addition of spawning areas and the lower water temperatures that will result. Having the stream in contact with the flood plain will help store water for later-season use and also create wildlife habitat. This project is coupled with the change of irrigation practices that the neighboring properties have supported and joined in on to increase flows in Clear Creek. This is a project that benefits everyone: agriculture, the fishery, and wildlife. I am sure eager to see how the true character of Clear Creek is expressed in the coming years.

The building of an apple orchard to preserve the varieties of apples that have not just survived but thrived in

the Ruby Valley for one hundred years or more is one that has such a good feel to it. Hopefully, there will be visitors one hundred years from now that will eat an apple from the orchard and have a big smile at the delicious taste.



Ruby Habitat Foundation has been, and will continue to be, a leader in southwest Montana, focusing on good natural resource management and the social and economic fabric of our communities. We highly value our many generous supporters. You are true partners as we continue to learn and grow in the never-ending quest of good stewardship. Thank you.

Neil Barnosky, Chairman

A Word From Our Parent Organization

Although the past year has been a challenging time for our nation it has also been a time of great reflection. 2020 brought the need for nature and wide-open spaces to the forefront of the nation's mind. As people rushed to places like Montana, in search of a respite from the global pandemic, we were reminded of just how important the work of The Montana Land Reliance (MLR) and The Ruby Habitat Foundation (RHF) continues to be. Despite any challenges 2020 brought, we have and will continue to move forward, together.

MLR's mission directly supports agriculture 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. The Woodson family's decision to entrust their ranch in partnership with MLR and the creation of RHF is a testament to the core values of Craig and Martha Woodson and of MLR. RHF is a representation of how conservation, farming, and ranching work hand in hand and encourages education and training to broaden the understanding of resource management. Responsible management of private lands, promoting the concept of resource accountability, and developing examples of sound resource management for agriculture and recreational uses are at the center of RHF's mission.

MLR has been delighted to help RHF complete its resource management objectives over the years and admires the incredible job the RHF board of directors and staff does in providing opportunities for hands-on resource management education and outreach. From planting hundreds of apple trees to the Clear Creek restoration project, the MLR staff is always available to lend a helping hand.



It is only with the contributions from RHF and MLR board members, local community members, the Woodson family, and friends like you, that the protection of this special place in the Ruby Valley is possible. Thank you.

We hope that 2021 will find you visiting RHF and we look forward to sharing with you the incredible work that takes place there.

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

**Drone Photo of Woodson Ranch Headquarters,
Courtesy of Eddy Colado**

Outreach Report

Resiliency, according to Webster's, is the "ability to recover from or adjust easily to adversity or change." 2020 provided nearly every person, city, state and nation with an opportunity to demonstrate resiliency. Some did better than others. Woodson Ranch did not escape this sentence, with most programs canceled and just a little more than half of our normal flow of guests.

Still, we are here and, in fact, if the only news you read was about this place, you might conclude that we thrived and all is well. We managed to host over 1000 people for various activities—all properly socially distanced and safe—and we began work on the restoration of the streambed of Clear Creek. We participated in the local game biologist's efforts to understand Chronic Wasting Disease by providing over 75 samples for analysis. We grew an outstanding crop of revenue-generating hay, leased out pastures for area-ranchers' grazing programs to make a little more money, and we kept equipment running and the grounds up-kept in ways that would keep an impressionist painter satisfied. The comments from guests, too, indicate that we helped people connect with the ranch, the river systems, nature, and the space in ways that were restorative. We are proud to fulfill Craig Woodson's vision in such a way.



Cultivating resiliency is a bit of an art, with a sprinkling of science tossed in. Psychologists suggest that certain behaviors will result in a better ability to respond to stress. Actions, even small steps, improve confidence; embracing flexibility, and understanding that some things are beyond our control, helps you act in ways that build strength; ensuring that your perspective views adversity as temporary helps keep hope alive; and choosing optimism is a way to keep one's chin up in the face of headwinds.

We are fortunate here on the ranch to have an abundance of examples which encourage resilience. A walk along the river will reveal trees that have lost limbs in windstorms, but which still reach for the sky. The moose population, shrinking in some areas of the lower 48 states, seems healthy here; we even had a "resident" moose give birth to twins this year which is indicative of a safe and abundant food supply. The cycles of the seasons themselves are a case study in the resiliency of perennial plants.

2021 may be easier or it may be harder. The hay may get flattened in a hailstorm, a beaver may plug up another culvert, the rains might not come, or they might wash out the roads on the ranch. Whatever happens, we will face it and deal with it in a way that we hope inspires you to accept and cope with whatever comes your way, too! We look forward to seeing you on the ranch.

Dave Delisi,
Outreach Coordinator



Fishing & Hunting

The numbers of visitors to Woodson Ranch was down by nearly 50% in all categories in 2020...but NOT fishing or hunting, each category of which saw stable numbers and increased requests for access.

FISHING: 2020 was a year of violent protests, uncontrolled virus spread, and economic hardship. This social upheaval saw people scrambling for safe spaces where risks were lower, and for many people, that meant a trip to Montana's free-flowing, cold, trout streams. Once the Governor's restrictions on quarantining were lifted, the demand for space on Woodson Ranch's 8.5 miles of fishable water was unprecedented. Fortunately, the foresight of our founders and board members ensured that we were well-equipped to handle the requests. With a cap of 4 anglers per day, we were able to continue our managed access program without losing the resource to death.

In fact, by the end of the year, our average fishing visitation was 1.1 people per day, and a little under 3.5 per day during the peak-requested times of July-September. These figures are nearly the same as 2019.

Those who managed to make their requests early enough were rewarded with a fairly good season of fishing with numerous reports of 20+ inch fish. The species ratios continued to be about the same with half the fish being brown trout and half being whitefish. Rainbows are infrequent here on the ranch, although they can be found in the Ruby River closer to the dam.

HUNTING: Unconventional. That's one way to describe the hunting season this year. Overall, in spite of the demand for safe hunting spaces, the numbers of hunters in 2020 was almost identical to 2019: we welcomed about 215 hunters, a few of whom came to pursue feathered targets, while the majority (2/3) came for whitetail deer.

In 2020's General Hunting Season, we facilitated the harvest of 77 whitetail deer from the property. That number was a bit disappointing as our objective was closer to 100. In the previous year, 95 deer were harvested. The difference in 2020 seems to be related to several factors outside of our control. On 2 of the hunting days (20% of the total organized-hunt days), the winds were whipping with destructive force, toppling one of our blinds just hours before the arrival of the hunters. On these days, deer simply hunkered down in their leafy beds to wait out the storm. On another day, we had so many moose running around the property (16 in one day!) that the deer could not find a field where they felt comfortable grazing. One would think that ungulates tolerate each other, but several folks said that they witnessed deer exiting their grazing area as soon as moose arrived.

As an additional challenge, the identification of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in the valley prompted a quick and comprehensive response from Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP). The first phase of this response involved testing every harvested animal for the disease. We geared up for this, learning quickly how to extract the lymph nodes from harvested deer so that they could be sent to a lab in Bozeman for testing. We are exceptionally grateful to the volunteers who assisted with this and other aspects of our hunting program.

The second phase of FWP's CWD response was to extend the season by 2 months, from December 15 to February 15. Ruby Habitat Foundation elected to participate in this extended season hunt, making space available for those with valid hunting licenses and harvest-tags. By the end of both the regular and extended season, we had harvested 93 deer, and two deer tested positive. This is a low number in comparison with the "hot spot" north of Sheridan where positivity rates ran between 20 and 50% in places.

In summary, 2020 was a year of learning and we are proud of our efforts to support FWP.



Perspective

A few comments from our guests, plus one that guides us in our work

Not much escapes the wild animal's sensibilities! The cranes seemed on full alert yesterday as well. They are in good numbers, these days. I adore seeing, hearing, and – in the morning dampness – smelling our world outdoors. I can move through a day sometimes so oblivious to my surroundings, it is a real treat to immerse for a short time in the gift that is Woodson Ranch.

Doris Fischer

My mother and I...did not leave with a deer this time, but as hunters do, we had the best day out in the field! We shared a lot of laughs and created memories that will last us a lifetime and that is truly what hunting is about for us! Thank you again!

*Lindsay McHugh,
Certified Master Hunter*

We appreciate your efforts to protect the water resources and educate the public on conservation practices in the beautiful Ruby Valley."

Walter Nicholson, III

We are very impressed with the variety of programs RHF has going, particularly the Summer Intern program.

Judy & Gordin Chapin

Please extend my best wishes to Les, the whole extended ranch team and obviously thank you for your efforts. Every time I visit I'm so grateful for you all in keeping this special place special. Sometimes we forget there are actual individuals, people, executing a concept daily, so when appreciative folks show up it looks like it does.... wild, conserved....lightly treaded....beautiful, as much as we can, as things work naturally. My kids and theirs are the true reward..... my kids' kids are not born yet....but I'm excited they will see those apple trees, eat one, have some pie, with me telling them, "I remember when the trees were as big as you, now go get me a beer."

Too much comes and goes, it's nice to know this stays. You're doing something quite important in my opinion, thanks.

Chris Froboese

Thank you for a great afternoon spent on the Woodson Ranch property and for all of your efforts in making this ranch available to the public. I have found that it is becoming more difficult to access riverine riparian areas as time passes. What a wonderful surprise to find the Woodson Ranch and to learn that it is a part of a lasting conservation easement and encourages public visitation..... Of equal importance, I was pleased to learn that the Foundation and family support sustainable agriculture and environmental quality on the land. Too often, I think folks pit environmental and ranching interests against one another. Clearly, that is a false comparison as you all are demonstrating at the Woodson Ranch!

Tom Waring

When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.

Aldo Leopold

Clear Creek: Restoration Update

When you work really hard for something for a long time it's almost impossible to believe that it's coming true.

NASA Astronaut Robert Crippen

Nearly a decade since the idea of restoring Clear Creek was conceived, the work to restore this 11-mile braid of the Ruby River began in earnest in December of 2020.

With earth-moving equipment of prodigious size, Clear Creek is, in a way, just going back to where it came from. Back in the 1950s, this river channel was straightened. At the time, the priority was to increase agricultural production from this rich, riparian landscape.

The consequences of that decision were detrimental in some ecological ways. While the fields from which it had been moved now produced a few more acres-worth of hay, Clear Creek itself suffered a bit. The removal of natural sinuosity allowed the river to flow from one end of the ranch to another faster than before. This makes sense because nearly one-half mile of riverbed had been removed as part of this straightening. It takes substantially less time for gravity to pull water through 2.8 miles than it did 3.3.

The faster-moving water picked up more sediment as it coursed toward the north, and the river began to channelize, or cut through the soils. Deeper and deeper it cut, in some places leaving banks well over a person's head. Further, the water quality itself diminished as more sediment was suspended in the water column.

A report from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) indicated that the river was impaired and its current health-trajectory was not sustainable. In other words, the poor water-quality situation was destined to continue getting worse.

Ruby Habitat Foundation, with Les Gilman at the helm, began the Herculean task of improving things.



Before addressing this water-quality issue, we focused on water quantity. Every year until 2018, water users exercised their rights to use Clear Creek water for irrigation. The impact of this was to de-water the stream just when the temperatures were at their hottest.

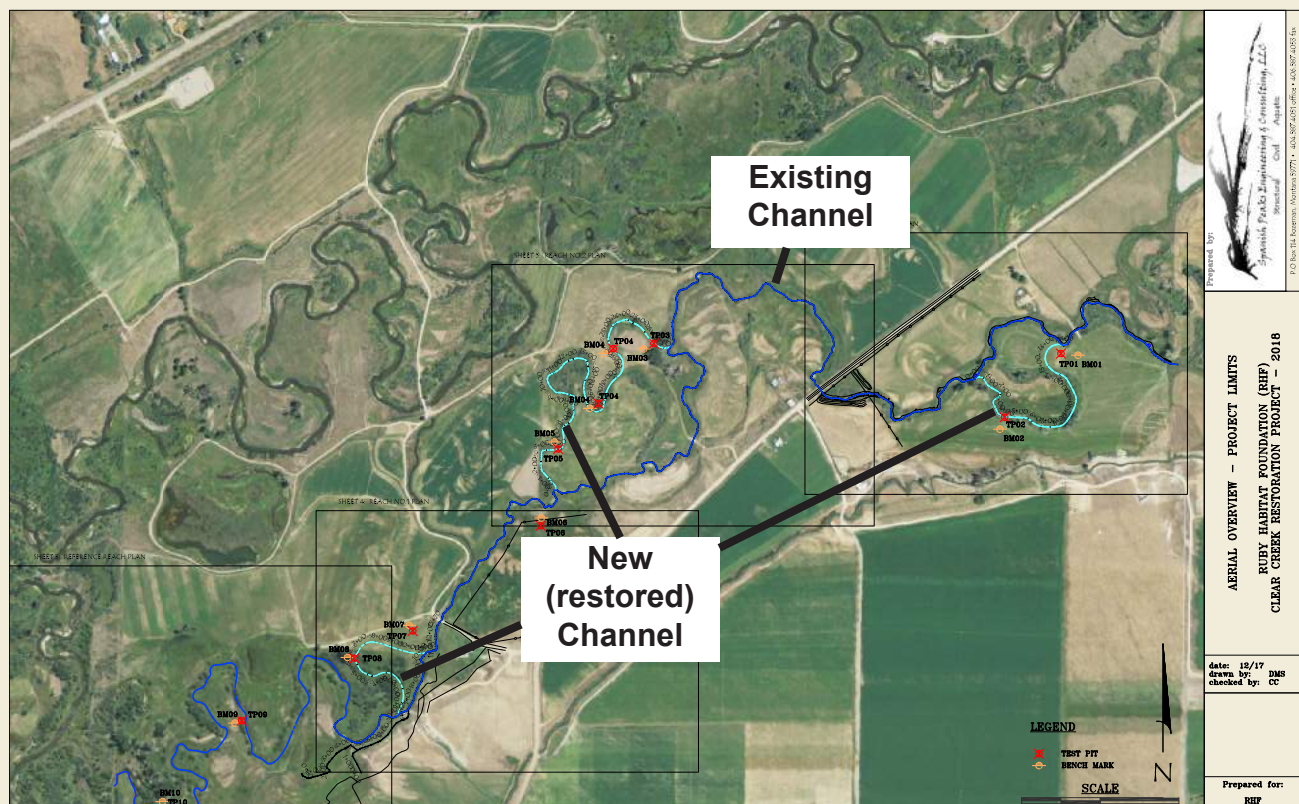
A confluence of fortunate decisions and efforts addressed this very issue. First, we applied for and received an Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) grant from the Federal Government. This program provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to address natural resource concerns and

Clear Creek: Restoration Update (cont.)

deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, increased soil health and reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, improved or created wildlife habitat, and mitigation against drought and increasing weather volatility. We used the money from that grant to install pivots on our and neighboring ranches to improve irrigation efficiency on the especially-porous soils which, prior to the pivots, consumed an enormous amount of water for flood-irrigation. The result: less water used.

We also worked with our neighbors as they switched water sources from Clear Creek to stored water from the Ruby Reservoir. The result of that? More water stayed in Clear Creek during the time when fish needed it most.

Now, we are addressing the water quality issue by slowing the river down a bit. The map shown here will give you an idea of where we are returning the river to its old oxbows. In the end, Clear Creek will be about one-half mile longer on Woodson Ranch.



This map of clear creek shows the existing channel in navy-blue, and the new channel in turquoise.

All of this takes great commitment, great effort, and tremendous cooperation with stakeholders from around Southwest Montana. It also takes money, and that's another success story in and of itself. Working with the NRCS, we placed a Wetland Reserve Easement on roughly 400 acres of Woodson Ranch, not only preserving the wetland areas on the property but also preventing future development of these lands in perpetuity. This is in perfect sync with our mission to “work with landowners, educational institutions, foundations and other entities to protect and enhance open space and wildlife habitat.”

Further, in exchange for this decision to preserve those 400 acres, the NRCS agreed to fund the restoration of Clear Creek's streambed. We hired *R.E. Miller and Sons* to conduct the restoration work.

And here we are, nearing completion of this enormous project, with numerous excavators, various dump trucks, and a bulldozer or two, pushing back the hands of time while keeping a hopeful eye on the future.

Clear Creek: Restoration Update (cont.)



**An excavator digs up gravel to place in the streambed.
That hole, which will be filled in upon completion, is some 12' deep!**

When it's done, several aspects of the project point toward improved fisheries and riparian areas. The fact that old-style irrigation diversions will be replaced with fish-friendly diversions means that trout will suddenly have dramatically-improved access to spawning beds. The river's high banks will be peeled back, allowing the river some elbow-room to flood during high-water events. Some portion of this water will be "banked" in the soils for release later in the year, and those damp soils will allow willows and other riparian plants to return. The substrate of the river itself will once again be gravelled, much to the benefit of the insects that trout need for food.

The cleaner water, too, might cause a return of native fish species, particularly the Mountain Whitefish which prefers cleaner water than Clear Creek affords. Time will tell.

In sum, like many projects of such magnitude, this is the handiwork of many people, but it started with Craig Woodson and Les Gilman who pushed the first domino over some 10 years ago. We look forward to sharing this space with visitors, and to welcoming the whitefish back, too! 🦉

Heritage Apple Orchard Update

*Hope is a thing with feathers that perches in the soul and sings
the tune without the words and never stops at all.*

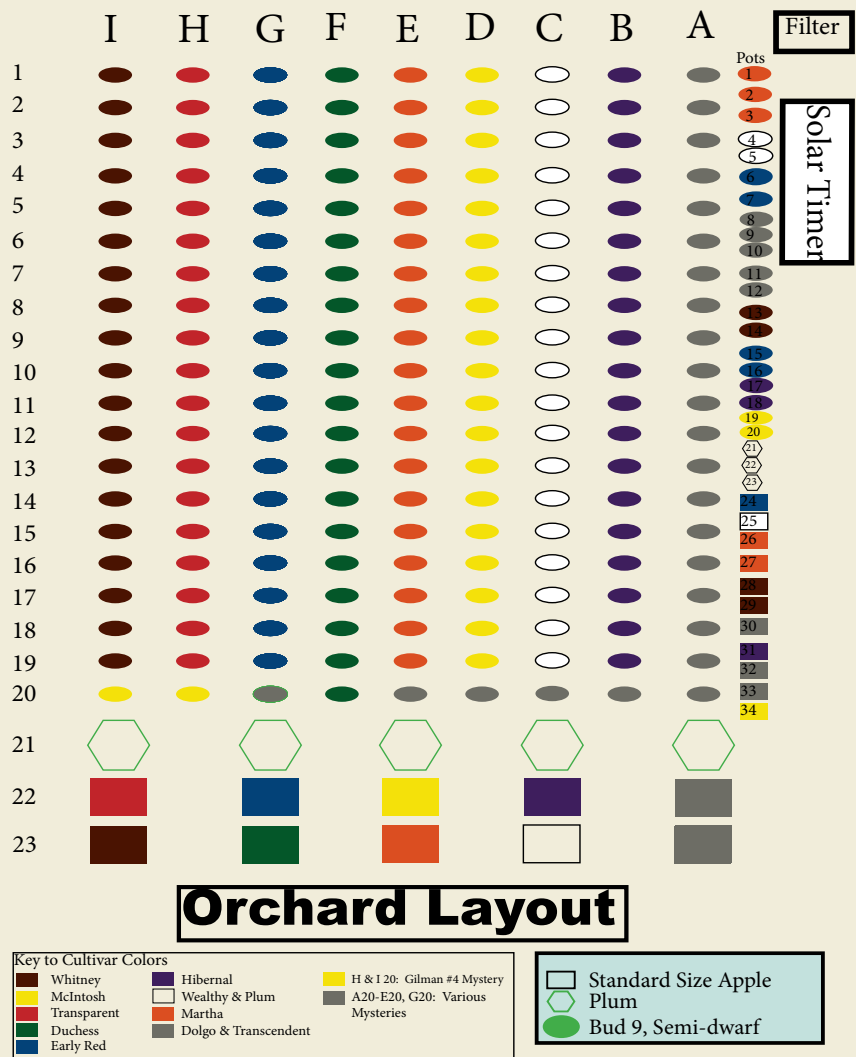
Emily Dickinson

To say that we are excited about the potential of our Heritage Apple Orchard would understate things substantially. Many of our efforts on Woodson Ranch are founded on a combination of knowledge and hope, and we are probably a little bit longer on the latter than the former when it comes to apples, but we are learning quickly.

About an acre in size, the orchard project progressed nicely in 2020. The process was sequential, with one important step after another. First, in March, we augmented the soil with locally sourced cow manure. Then, in April, we built a fence, one designed to deter the threat posed by deer, moose, porcupines, bears....just about anything bigger than a breadbox. With counsel from experts from Washington state, we installed an irrigation system that runs on a solar-powered timer provided by *Kenworthy Electric* in Sheridan. Then, with help from staff at *Montana Land Reliance*, and *Ranch Resources* in Sheridan, we planted the 230 root-stock plants.

Throughout the summer, we nurtured these plants, doing our best to control the weeds while monitoring moisture in the soil and irrigating as appropriate. In August, we partnered with the Western Agricultural Research Center to apply grafts to each of the root stock plants. The grafts, which determine what type of apple each plant produces, came from 17 different locations around the Ruby Valley. Some of the varieties are apple varieties still found in stores today, like McIntosh. But most are rather obscure, with names like Wealthy, Hibernial, Dolgo, and Duchess. In a serendipitous nod to our founder, Martha Woodson, we even planted a whole row of a variety named "Martha".

Most of the root stock plants received two grafts, so we have a little insurance in case some of the grafts fail. Still, the obstacles between today and a glass of cider are significant. The pH in the soil is more basic than apples find ideal, the fence won't keep out the codling moths or fire blight, and voles in Southwest Montana are legion. But, we are optimists at our core. With a little luck, and a lot of work, we hope that our work to keep DNA from old orchards alive in that single acre will yield blossoms in the spring and fruit in the fall, demonstrating resilience for the next 100 years. If you'd like to see the orchard, just let us know! 🐦



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

Quite simply, we could not do this alone.

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Willey, Elizabeth & Larry
Wimberly, John David
Wintzer, Mary & Charles
Wiseman, Gregory
Wood, Twink & Jim
Wood, Jenny & Steve
Wood, Sam
Woodard, Kimberly & Charles
Woodson, Martha
Young, Janet & Richard
Zeff, Nicole & David
Zimmerman, Allen - Ruby Valley Lodge

We thank you all from the bottom of our hearts. It is possible that we have omitted someone, and if that someone is you, we sincerely apologize. Do let us know so that we can list you in future reports.

In Memoriam

2020 brought sorrow to many, and we were moved by the loss of several friends and supporters.

Among them was George Swan. George was born in 1931 and became a helpful fixture and leader in the Ruby Valley. Involved in agriculture as the head of the Upper Ruby Stock Association, in banking as one of the buyers of the bank in Twin Bridges in the 1980s, as well as the Twin Bridges school district where he was a board member for nearly 20 years, George was a force for good in the community. He was also instrumental in the founding and early years of Ruby Habitat Foundation. He is survived by his sweet wife of 63 years, Betty. His departure leaves a void we feel deeply.

Thank you, George, and Godspeed.



George Swan



Sam Corl left our stable in 2020, and this also feels like an earthquake to us. Sam, Martha Woodson's cousin, was a frequent visitor to the ranch after Craig and Martha purchased it. He volunteered his time to create our Annual Reports for a number of years, lending his keen eye for editing and photography to our efforts. Thank you Sam--we miss you, too.



Samuel S. Corl, III

Ruby Habitat Foundation 2020 Financials

Foundation Operations:

Income	\$270,978
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$150,153</u>
Net Income	\$120,825

General Fund Cash & Investments: \$304,199
(Pays the day-to-day expenses that finance the operation of the foundation.)

Rural Heritage & Open Lands Fund: \$110,517
(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: \$150,189
(Income from this endowment finances conservation education and outreach
to landowners and the general public. These funds come from designated gifts.)

Visitor Center Building & Donated Art \$44,423
Foundation Operations Assets as of 12-31-2020 **\$609,328**

Woodson Ranch Operations, Projects, & Endowment:

Income	\$291,581
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$228,248</u>
Net Income	\$63,333

Fixed Assets
Improvements & Equipment \$848,918
Land \$7,762,145¹
Woodson Ranch Endowment \$8,789,635²
Ranch & Endowment Assets as of 12-31-2020 **\$17,400,698**

¹*Restricted land bequest, subject to life estate, plus land purchases and improvements*

²*The 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 2020	\$184,158
Total Net Assets as of 12-31-2020	\$18,010,026

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.

Ruby Habitat Foundation Board of Directors

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
Retired, The Montana Land Reliance--
Helena, Montana

Woodson Family

Lisa Matthews
Livingston, Texas
Treasurer, Robin Mitts
Kerrville, Texas
Leslie Vanderpool
Georgetown, Texas
Secretary, Martha Woodson
*Sheridan, Montana &
Fort Worth, Texas*

Ruby Valley Community

Chairman, Neil Barnosky
Rancher--Sheridan, Montana
Bruce Peterson
Rancher--Alder, Montana
Steve Wood
Rancher--Sheridan, Montana

Executive Director

Les Gilman
Alder, Montana

Founder

Charles Craig Woodson (1933-2011)

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.

Support Us If You Can!

Over the past 4 years, Ruby Habitat Foundation's managed access program has **welcomed over 5000 people**--let that sink in--for a myriad of purposes including flyfishing, birding, education, hunting ducks & deer, among other aims. Few private properties can say the same. Your financial support will ensure that these efforts continue.

To make a donation, just send us a check, payable to *Ruby Habitat Foundation* and send to:

Ruby Habitat Foundation
PO Box 638
Sheridan, MT 59749

You may also donate through our website, www.rubyhabitat.org. Just look for the Donate Now button. Ruby Habitat Foundation is a 509(a)3 tax exempt support organization to the Montana Land Reliance. Our tax ID is 45-0487621.



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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**Dave Delisi: dave@rubyhabitat.org
Les Gilman: lgilman@ranchresources.net**