

RUBY HABITAT FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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

Comments from the Executive Director

Millions saw the apple fall, but Newton asked why.

- Bernard Baruch(1870 – 1965) American financier and statesman



The Ruby Habitat Foundation's creator, Craig Woodson, would never have been described as a casual observer. He had a deep-seated drive to ask why, and he did so frequently. Aristotle claimed that "Human Beings are curious by nature." Additionally, Craig was curious *about* nature. From the moment he purchased the Woodson Ranch property, in the fall of 1992, Craig wondered how best to enhance the property's natural characteristics while continuing to operate an agricultural enterprise and maximize the recreational opportunities there. Those three endeavors, though not mutually exclusive, do compete for the same natural resources. Sunlight, water, fertile soils, and open space are necessary for each to succeed. Often, a landowner will select one of the uses listed above as their primary focus for the resources they have available and the other potential uses will be secondary, if considered at all. Craig's desire was that none would take a back seat to the other and if someone (usually me) suggested that was not possible, he immediately wanted to know why. Craig might ask, for example, why a portion of his water rights dedicated toward irrigation couldn't be left in the stream to enhance in-stream flow, and why irrigation "waste" water couldn't first flow into a swale or slough to let sediment and nutrients settle out, before returning to the stream, thereby recharging the groundwater and enhancing wetland characteristics, which in turn attracts both songbirds and waterfowl. Over the 19 years that we worked together to accomplish his vision on Woodson Ranch, Craig never stopped asking "Why?". He may not have had all the answers but he certainly had the curiosity to explore the options. It was his curiosity and questions that led to the creation of this unique, fledgling, perpetual, organization that is carrying on his vision and his penchant to ask why. Newton may have questioned why the apple fell. RHF is wondering why landowners in the Ruby Valley don't diversify and commercially grow several heritage varieties of said apple. Stay tuned for the answer!

Most of you already know that Craig's dear wife Martha passed away in February of 2022. Martha shared and supported Craig's curiosity. Over the 11 years since Craig's passing, Martha inspired the continuing efforts to fulfill their shared vision. For 19 years, she served tirelessly as a Director of Ruby Habitat Foundation. In the fall of 2021, she stepped aside to make room for the next generation of family on the Board and was immediately honored with an appointment as Director Emeritus. We already miss her loving presence on the ranch and her steady, thoughtful, counsel.

RHF will continue to provide the opportunities that so many of you have experienced on Woodson Ranch, whether you came to the ranch to fish, hunt or commune with nature, or just to satisfy your curiosity. If you did visit, we are certain that you departed in awe, with some questions answered and a desire to learn more. Whether recreating, working, learning or just observing, there is something about this place that imparts a lasting impact, and sometimes inspires more curiosity!

We are proud of, and grateful for, 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.

We hope you enjoy this 19th Edition of our Annual Report. Revisit with us the questions of the past year and consider our progress toward satisfying our curiosity. We trust you will continue to partner with RHF as we strive to maintain the spirit and purpose of this place we all cherish, and hope to see you on the ranch in 2022!

Les Gilman, Executive Director



From the Chairman's Desk

I have long wanted to see Yellowstone National Park in the winter. This January, Gloria and I took the time for a snowcoach ride from West Yellowstone to Old Faithful. It turned out to be a day far beyond any expectations I had held. My favorite part of the park has always been the geyser basin with its mud pots and geysers. We were able to walk through this area, and to see it in the winter is an amazing experience that photos cannot do justice to, although I took quite a few. As the day progressed, I thought of what a remarkable and rare area the Ruby Valley is also. It supports a diverse population of wildlife year round. The last Christmas bird count recorded 67 species. This is in the middle of winter! The Ruby River is a tremendous trout stream. The views in the valley are second to none.



I tell this story thinking of the importance of preserving this unique valley for future generations. Ruby Habitat Foundation is in an important position to help in supporting agriculture to maintain and protect open space for all our wildlife neighbors. The message of good stewardship of our natural resources is central to our mission, and we are actively reaching out to the community and beyond. The restoration of Clear Creek is going to benefit all of the lower Ruby River for future generations. A trip to Yellowstone National Park in the winter heightened my realization of the importance of the work that RHF is doing and the amazing vision that Craig and Martha Woodson have given us to carry on. I am so thankful to be a part of RHF as we look forward to this year and the coming years, to continue to bring leadership and solutions in addressing the resource management issues that are always before us.

2021 saw Martha Woodson, Robin Mitts and Lois Delger-DeMars retire from the RHF board. Their wisdom and commitment has been of the highest value. It has been an honor serving with each one.

In February of 2022 we received the sad news that Martha Woodson had passed. Martha brought with her a brightness, a special presence, that couldn't be missed. She was always encouraging and thoughtful in her service on the RHF board and to those around her. She will be sorely missed by all.

I want to express my appreciation to our many partners that so generously support RHF. I also want to extend an invitation to each one to come visit Woodson Ranch on a cold winter day. Winter has its own special beauty that it puts on display at the ranch. Thank you again for your continued support.

Neil Barnosky, Chairman



A Word From Our Parent Organization

When interviewed by *Big Sky Journal* in 2009 about the success of the Ruby Habitat Foundation (RHF), Craig Woodson spoke about his decision to partner with The Montana Land Reliance (MLR). He recalled that when he met with MLR staff it was clear that MLR's mission was very much in line with what he and Martha wanted for the ranch. Craig noted that the two parties were able to come to a "good-old-boy agreement without lawyers!" Craig and Martha's intention was to leave the land better than they found it, and that intention is what drives the mission and vision of RHF to this day.

The partnership between MLR and RHF continues to be strong and vibrant. MLR's mission to work with private landowners to permanently protect agricultural lands, fish and wildlife habitat, and open space is still the core purpose of our organization, and we are proud to be a part of the land stewardship work RHF is doing in the Ruby Valley.

The past year brought its share of challenges, transition, and opportunities. MLR met all of these with the same focus and determination that has been instrumental in building the organization into one of the largest and most efficient land trusts in the nation. In 2021, MLR closed on 16 conservation easements, adding 48,952 new acres to its portfolio of protected lands across the state. These new projects bring MLR's total protected acres to over 1,220,000.

This year, MLR saw the retirement of Lois Delger-Demars after 37 years of a remarkable and successful career. Lois began her career at MLR in 1985, when the organization boasted a total of 11 easements, and there were no formal job titles among the four, full time staff! During her nearly four decades at MLR, Lois oversaw the completion of 927 conservation easements, totaling 1,183,797 acres, and served on the RHF Board since 2012. Her contributions in protecting Montana's working lands and open spaces will be felt long into the future. Along with everyone at MLR and RHF, I would like to thank Lois for her years of dedication and hard work.

I would also like to thank RHF outgoing board members Martha Woodson, Lois Delger-DeMars, and Robin Mitts for their service and dedication during their tenure on the RHF Board of Directors.



As we move into 2022, I look forward to the new opportunities that await. From planting more apples trees to further restoring Clear Creek, MLR staff is ready to lend a helping hand. As always, I'd like to thank the RHF and MLR board members, local community members, the Woodson family, and all the supporters that make it possible for MLR and RHF to continue the good work of protecting and stewarding the open lands and agricultural traditions that make Montana such a wonderful place to visit and/or call home.

Sincerely,

-George Olsen, MLR Board President



Outreach Report

The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing.

— Albert Einstein

Regardless of its implications for felines, the drive to learn answers motivates us here at Woodson Ranch. Throughout the years, various experiments have taught us much. We have learned what it takes, for example, to teach a cow to eat thistle; we have explored the pros and cons of organic vs. inorganic fertilizers; we compared a field treated with glyphosate (Roundup™) vs. methods in practice prior to the arrival of glyphosate on the market (1974); and we have analyzed various treatments to improve soil health. Two years ago, we embarked on a journey to expand and diversify our agricultural operation by planting a Heritage Apple Orchard (see page 8), and we are learning as we go, and hope to share practical learnings with anyone interested as things progress.



2021 was the 19th year since Ruby Habitat Foundation was established, and thanks to the curiosity of our founders, Craig and Martha Woodson, we have uncovered and shared a fair amount of information regarding agriculture in the Ruby Valley. In many ways, some of our less agriculture-focused activities have been a form of experiment, too. What happens when a private landowner invites, as we did in 2021, over 1600 people to visit their property? How does the public view such a place, particularly when viewed through the lens of a society beset by a pandemic? The answer seems to be “with great favor.” Martha and Craig have left a wonderful legacy. The demand for open space, with room to spread out, has, in fact, dramatically increased the number of requests for access we receive over just the past two years.

This increase in demand, of course, is a “good problem” for an organization. It beats, in any case, the opposite. But it does create challenges. Largely, we take reservations for fishing on a first-come, first-served basis; our self-imposed, resource-focused decision to limit fishing to four rods per day has made accommodating all requests impossible, but we try. And, we are grateful for all who do come out because they often act as eyes and ears for us, informing us when something seems out of place.

As we enter now our 20th year since inception, it is apparent, more than ever, that the curiosity instilled in us by our founders is one of our most important and relied upon values. With Martha Woodson’s recent passing, the sun suddenly seems a little less bright. But, in her and Craig’s names, we plan to maintain our curiosity by asking the challenging questions and sharing our results. We encourage you to do the same, and to ask us the questions you have about agriculture, land use or grazing practices, conservation easements, hunting, or about anything you think we might know the answer to. We may not, but we have a broad network of friendly folks who probably do. Or, it might just prompt us to conduct an experiment to find out. Our outreach program is designed to facilitate two-way communication, so give us a call, send an email or text, or better yet, stop in and say hello!

*Dave Delisi,
Outreach Coordinator*



Fishing & Hunting

2021 saw a return to what we consider “almost normal” numbers. Over 1600 people paid us a visit, with Fishing and Hunting being the two most frequently cited reasons for visiting, followed closely by Birding, Science, and Exercise, in that order.

FISHING: 2021's fishing is a tale told by two different observers. On the one hand, the experiences of the folks fishing on Woodson Ranch were largely positive. Good numbers and sizes of fish kept people happy. However, these experiences differ from what one might expect given the results of the annual fish count conducted by Fish, Wildlife and Parks. That data indicated the lowest numbers and sizes of fish in the river since data was first collected, over two decades ago. We are quite concerned about these numbers because they parallel similar results from a number of rivers throughout Southwest Montana.

Given the concerns, we plan to make a change to our fishing policy, and we plan to conduct an experiment to assist our understanding of the life cycle of trout. The change we plan to make is to close Clear Creek from November 1 to May 1. This lengthy closure will, we believe, accomplish two things. First, it will prevent damage to the redds, or spawning beds, of trout in this system from the time the eggs are laid to the time the fish emerge from the redds. And second, it will give this braid of the Ruby a solid chance to fully recover from the disturbance caused by our year's long restoration which was completed in April of this year.

We also plan to set up an underwater camera on a fish redd this coming fall, and to place a temperature data logger in the water nearby. The purposes of this will be multi-fold, but specifically, we hope to learn what the conditions are under which the fish, having spent months in the gravels as alevins with their egg sac still attached, finally emerge as fry. Additionally, we hope to hook this camera up to our solar power plant and to stream the image from start to finish. This will inform us a bit more regarding when, specifically, it is safe to walk across the fish redds. And that might allow us to shorten the length of time we keep Clear Creek closed.

HUNTING: The scourge of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) among Ruby Valley ungulates continues. At certain locations north of Sheridan, a mere 6 miles north of Woodson Ranch, infection rates among harvested whitetail deer were above 50% among male deer. The hunting program on Woodson Ranch yielded 80+ harvested deer, and 2 of them were “positive” for CWD. While we feel fortunate to have such a relatively low prevalence of this illness, it is still a concerning situation that we plan to monitor. Having facilitated the testing of nearly every harvested deer from the ranch introduced additional labor requirements, and we are grateful to the volunteers who helped us with this process. We also partnered with FWP staff to ensure speedy delivery of the lymph nodes and tissue samples, and appreciate the pickup service provided by that State-run organization. CWD does not appear to be declining, we are happy that the nearly 140 people who hunted on the ranch had both a high success rate and a low rate of infection in their harvested animals.

We have other hunting-access programs on the ranch in addition to the well-utilized whitetail deer hunting program. We have a population of turkeys that strut their stuff and we have allowed some hunting of those big birds; and we have allowed dozens of folks to come out and hunt waterfowl. While we used to stock and hunt pheasants on the property, we have discontinued this unsustainable practice.

In total, we provided access for hunting to approximately 250 people in 2021. This fulfills our mission to provide access so people can see how balancing wildlife and agriculture yields not just fruit, but meat as well!



Experiences

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

...the peace and quiet; the expansive views; the early signs of impending spring; the unconfining space and so much more were all very gratifying and enjoyable.

Beverly and Frank Ford

Thank you for the opportunities this season. The ranch is a wonderful place and provides a great benefit to the community.

Steve Janzen

We enjoyed every minute at the ranch.... We are grateful for everything you do, the work of the foundation, all of which keeps Woodson Ranch such a beautiful and special spot. We look forward to our next visit.

Susan Cardenas and
William Belobraidich

Our Sunday at the ranch was, as always, a magical experience.

Thomas Keifer

We enjoyed another fine day at Woodson Ranch and really appreciate you making that possible for us. We saw a little of the Clear Creek restoration after we saw you and it is impressive. The banks look very stable and it will be interesting to follow how the improvements impact the river over time. No moose today, but abundant wildlife nonetheless. Thanks again.

Karen and George Kimberly

What a truly wonderful environment! What a jewel in Montana. Clearly, some folks had some vision, but thank you to the folks who keep it up while letting others enjoy it. Truly remarkable.

Ross Twiddy

Experiments that are made with spirit and accuracy are of incomparable value in every branch of natural philosophy; those of agriculture, which is the most useful of those branches, must be particularly valuable. ~ Arthur Young.

The Woodson Ranch is such a special place—we saw cranes, pheasants, ducks, moose, deer, turkeys, muskrats, blackbirds, infinite unidentifiable songbirds, magpies, ravens, brown trout, whitefish, and many other creatures.

Alice Buckley and
Zachary Brown

Caught a lot of fish on nymphs and a white head weighted streamer.....a few on a black streamer too but mostly the lighter colored. Pretty much all on the Ruby though I think Danny picked up 1-2 on Clear Creek. I think the biggest fish caught was in the 24" range....wow. Really nothing of note on top. The weather really cooperated and a good time was had by all. Again, many thanks.

Margaret & Jeffrey Loeb

It is truly remarkable what the Ruby Habitat Foundation offers to the community, and we are continually thankful to have such a wonderful opportunity to observe nature at its finest.

Renee and Greg Granken



Clear Creek Update

Water is the Driving Force of All Nature.

– Leonardo da Vinci

The quote from the inimitable Leonardo da Vinci is a useful one in that, in spite of its all-encompassing perspective, it seems true. It's also true that water is what forced Ruby Habitat Foundation, along with a host of cooperating partners, donors, grantors, agencies, and surrounding landowners to embark on a restoration of this 11-mile braid of the Ruby River on Woodson Ranch. Having identified this stretch of the river as the most impaired and in need of help, both from a water quantity and quality perspective, we did a number of things that bode well for the river, and, in fact, all the "Nature" in and around the river.

First, we addressed the water quantity issue by working with neighbors to secure alternate irrigation-water sources. These neighbors purchased "stored" water from the reservoir which, unlike water rights from the river which convey with the landowner, are a fungible commodity. That stored water will now be delivered to their thirsty fields via a nearby irrigation canal. The neighbors who did this are to be commended for it means that the water in Clear Creek, to which they have a legal right, will now stay in Clear Creek. Additionally, thanks to an "Environmental Quality Incentives Program" grant from the USDA, we helped those neighbors, and Ruby Habitat Foundation itself, to purchase irrigation pivots, or sprinklers, to distribute the water on the fields. This will save on labor as well as conserve the finite, and therefore precious, water.

Next, we addressed the water quality issue in Clear Creek. Because Clear Creek's natural meanders had been straightened back in the 1950s as an effort to facilitate hay-cropping, thereby shortening it, water was now flowing through the valley at a faster rate than the river-bed could handle. The river began to cut down through the bed and had soon disconnected from its former flood plane. This caused most high-water events to stay confined to the river's banks and exacerbated the erosive force of the water. All that riverbed sediment was now either suspended in the water column, or deposited in the gravels fish use for spawning and insects use for habitat. None of this is ecologically positive.

Our solution was to put the river back in its old channels, slowing the water down. We also peeled back banks and, in some areas, raised the bed itself, so that the river could flood during high-water events. We created sloughs and low-spots where that flood water could go, creating more wetland habitat and allowing that water to stay here on the landscape for a longer period of time before making its way to New Orleans.



A Newly Restored Section of Clear Creek on a Snowy Day

This solution was implemented with the immense help of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, a government agency. They agreed to fund this stream project to facilitate Ruby Habitat Foundation's placement of a Wetland Reserve Easement on the property. This easement now protects, *in perpetuity*, the valuable wetland characteristics on nearly 1/3 of Woodson Ranch.

In sum, this multi-year project was a monumental, legacy ensuring project whose beneficiaries will include the fishery, the wetland ecology within and around the riparian zone, the valley's resilience to drought conditions, and all the people who enjoy open and undeveloped spaces. We are grateful to all who participated and helped support this project, and invite you to come out and see the remarkable results!



An Apple For a Day, an Orchard for a Lifetime

Even if I knew that tomorrow would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree.
-Martin Luther

Apples, apples, apples. We can't stop thinking about apples. The Heritage Apple Orchard that we began two years ago occupies our thoughts like few projects have, Clear Creek notwithstanding.

In an acre of land near our guest lodging site, the Hill House, we planted about 200 apple trees using root-stock from a nursery, and then, in the first year of this project, grafted leaf buds to these plants. Those grafted leaf buds came from some 17 sites throughout the Ruby Valley; these source locations contained apple trees approaching the end of their respective life spans, and this imminent loss of all those old cultivars motivated us to save them for future generations. Our "new" orchard contains some 13 different types of apples. Apples with names like Dolgo, Duchess, Transcendent, Transparent and Martha, are not the kinds you'd expect to find in your grocery store.

Our ultimate aim is to save these varieties and to acknowledge the source from which they came, securing that link to the past. Many of the source orchards were planted over 100 years ago. Eventually, when the apples produce--likely within the next couple of years--we plan to provide a source of both food and fun to the community through cider-pressings, community pick days, and perhaps even a co-branded cider to celebrate the agricultural heritage of the Ruby Valley.

It is part of Ruby Habitat Foundation's mission to support agriculture and the diversification of agriculture operations in the area, and one way we can do that is with demonstration projects like this one. Already, we have learned some valuable lessons. First, remember to keep the gate to the orchard closed because the ungulate population in the valley views an open door to an orchard like a kid views the open door to Cousin's Candy in the nearby town of Virginia City. The trees experienced an unplanned pruning event this past November as a result of that oversight.

We also learned that apple trees are quite sensitive to herbicide as we nearly undid months of work in our efforts to control weeds within the orchard itself. This practical tidbit of information might encourage someone trying to duplicate our efforts to spend more time controlling weeds in the plot before actual planting. Grafting, too, has been instructive. Our grafting success rate is something just over 50%. This is a great percentage in baseball, but merely average in the grafting world. The takeaway is that orchards take time.

It is our plan to install the trellis system this spring. This will result in nine rows of semi-dwarf trees tethered and trained to grow in such a way as to facilitate harvest.

None of our efforts could have been possible without the help of good instructors. The Western Agricultural Research Center (WARC) in Corvallis, Montana. Several times, WARC has provided both labor and expertise which was vital to our orchard venture. That place, by the way, is in the middle of a fundraising effort to improve their facilities, so if you are feeling inspired and charitable, they could use your support.

Next time you are in the neighborhood, let us know if you'd like a tour of this special spot on the ranch.



Katrina Mendrey from WARC
Prepares a Graft



Martha Woodson

April 29, 1932-February 3, 2022

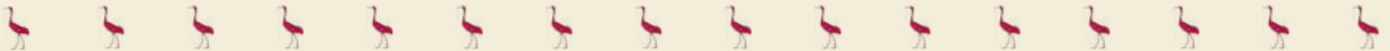
It is with a sad heart that Ruby Habitat Foundation acknowledges the passing of Founder, Martha Hill Woodson, on February 3, 2022. Her obituary is below.

Martha and Craig (1933-2011) bought what became known as Ruby Habitat Foundation's Woodson Ranch in 1992, forever transforming this portion of our beautiful valley for the better. Since its establishment, thousands and thousands of people have visited this piece of property through Ruby Habitat Foundation's managed access program, the purpose of which is to demonstrate how agriculture, wildlife, and recreation can thrive together. Craig and Martha's shared vision for this place, now in its 20th year as Ruby Habitat Foundation, will live on, but today, we mourn this heartfelt loss.

Until her passing, Martha remained involved in the operational aspects of Ruby Habitat Foundation in several legacy-ensuring ways. She helped, for example, to establish and then support the Hill Education Endowment which has been used to provide learning opportunities for adults and children. And, partly because of her love of flowers, she embraced the Foundation's efforts to encourage pollinators by planting several pollinator plots which will bloom in her memory for years to come.

Martha's annual return to the ranch always coincided with the time that the sandhill cranes were dancing; henceforth, it will be difficult to see those birds leaping for joy without thinking of Martha.

As the obituary below attests, the family suggests donations to Ruby Habitat Foundation in lieu of flowers. Donations may be sent to Ruby Habitat Foundation, PO Box 638, Sheridan, MT 59749 or made electronically via the "Donate Now" button on the Ruby Habitat Foundation website, www.rubyhabitat.org.



Martha Hill Woodson passed away Thursday, February 3, 2022, at her home.

A memorial service was held at 10:30 am on February 12, at Greenwood Funeral Homes' Live Oak Room, Fort Worth, Texas. A Montana gathering and memorial service will be held later in the spring at a time and place yet to be determined.

Martha was born on April 29, 1932, in Grand Rapids, Michigan to Lawrence Alexander Hill and Josephine (Coral) Hill. She graduated from East Grand Rapids High School and then attended University of Michigan and majored in English with a minor in Art History. She was a member of Delta Gamma Sorority, selected



Martha Woodson Enjoying A Spring Day
on the Banks of the Ruby River



Martha Woodson (cont.)

for the Mortar Board honor society, and President of Panhellenic before graduating in 1954. She married her sweetheart from college, C. A. Mitts III and became busy raising three sons. Her husband's career in banking took her to Chicago, Illinois, Beaumont, Texas and then Fort Worth. She was active in the Junior League in both Texas cities. She eventually became employed at Neiman Marcus in Fort Worth first as a saleswoman, then managed a department before becoming the Human Resources Manager. For a brief time, she managed the store and after enjoying 15 years in retail, retired.

After enduring a divorce, she met and married Charles Craig Woodson in 1987. They both loved the outdoors, especially hiking and fly-fishing. Eventually Martha assisted her husband in purchasing some land in Montana and establishing the Ruby Habitat Foundation on what became known as Woodson Ranch.

Martha loved life, loved her family, enjoyed traveling, and enjoyed the outdoors.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles Craig Woodson, and her first husband, C. A. Mitts III.



Martha Gives Her Grandson, Michael,
Some Flyfishing Instruction

Survivors include her sons, David Mitts; Douglas Mitts and his wife Lisa; Russell Mitts and his wife Lisa; Craig's daughters, Lisa Matthews; Leslie Vanderpool and her husband, Steve; grandchildren, Michael, and wife Karma; Timothy, and wife Katie; Jessica, Matt, Matthew, Catherine, Megan, Michael, and Charles; and great grandchildren Isabel and Escher, and many other family and friends.

In lieu of flowers the family would appreciate donations to the Ruby Habitat Foundation, Box 638, Sheridan, MT 59749.



2021 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.

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Lakewold, Carolyn & Goldberg, Fred
Landes, Paul
Laszlo, Paulette & Andrew
Laudenbach, Toby & Brian
Leary, Tom
Leber, Erin & Eric
Leonard, John
Levin Family Trust



2021 RHf SUPPORTERS

(Continued)

Levin, Dora & Mark
 Lewis & Clark Expeditions
 Liebmann, Steve
 Lininger, Rob
 Loeb, Margaret & Jeffrey
 Loeb, Joseph
 Losby, Ben
 Love, Sandra & Jewell
 Lowry, Scott
 Luckel Family Trust, The
 Luckel, Ray
 Lukas, Tom
 Lynch, Craig
 MacDonald, Robin
 Madison Double R
 Massie, Andrew
 Masuda, Linda & Kuni
 McCandless, Jason
 McClure, Eva
 McCormick, Bruce
 McDermott, Emily & Edward
 McDonald, Robin
 McEwen, Neal
 McFadden, Donnie
 McKeever, Christine & Frank
 McLean, Annette & Bob
 McMahon, James
 McNeill, M. Collins IV
 Mending Waters Montana
 Mergenthaler, Kirsten & Danny
 Merrick, Thomas
 Messersmith, Beth & Don
 Miller, Kim & Charles
 Miller, Rebecca
 Mills, Charles W.
 Mitchell, Julie & Doug
 Mitts, Robin
 Moll, William R.
 Montag, Kim & Jeff
 Montford, Sharon & Robert
 Moran, Ellen & R. Matthew
 Morgan, Michael
 Morris, Louise D.
 Morrisey, Rich
 Moseley Family Fund
 Moseley, Susan & Furman
 Moseley, Paul
 Mueller, Derrick
 Mumme, Kathleen & Christopher
 Nicholson, Patricia & Walter
 Nicolaou, Linda & Jim
 Nielsen, Norm
 Nienstedt, Susan & Michael
 Niles, Kenneth
 Nix, Joe F.
 Noonan, Bill
 O'Connor, Roy S.
 Oglietti, Patrice & Bernard
 Olsen, George S.
 P & J Ranches

Packwood, Shery & JB
 Parks, Judy & Steve
 Patterson, Donna & Fraser, William R.
 Pearce, Michael B.
 Peltier, Catherine A.
 Peters, Elliot
 Plourde, Christina & Roger
 Poett, Cynthia & Henry
 Poggione, Leo
 Porter, Frank Lee
 Powers, Mary
 Probst, Gretchen
 Prough, Jean & Jim
 Pruitt, Thomas A.
 Przonek, Janice & John
 Querna, Christine & Donald
 Rahlves Family Trust, The
 Rahlves, Sally & Dennis
 Ratcheson, Peggy & Robert
 Rathert, Terry
 Reed Family Foundation, Inc.
 Reed, Lisa & Keith
 Reeves, Margie & Les
 Richards, S.F. & Bruce
 R.L. Winston Rod Co.
 Roberts, Sandra & Tom
 Rogers, Matson
 Rogers, Samuel
 Rozell, John C.
 Rubin, Judith & Robert
 Rugheimer, Lynn & Peter
 Rumberger, Barbara MD & Edward DDS
 Rusmore, Barbara & Clark, Michael
 Saltchuk Resources, Inc.
 Sampson, Krista & John
 Sandru, Rick
 Sasser, Phillip
 Sawczuk, Patricia & Stephen
 Schoenfeld, Barbara A. & Robert C.
 Schroeder, Michele & Thomas
 Scott, Chuck
 Scott, Rachel & Charles
 Scranton, Eric
 Seale, Dick
 Seale, Michael & Robert
 Segal, Betsy & William
 Selden, Denise & Bauman, Bruce
 Shaffer, Kathleen & Tom
 Shennan Family Fund, The
 Shennan, Janna & Jamie
 Shore, Renata & Stephen
 Shuttleworth, Estelle
 Siana, Carol & Stephen
 Smith, Susan & Ben
 Smith, Diana & Bruce
 Smrcka, Nancy & Kramer, James
 Snyder, Jana Jill
 Stein, Lori & Carl
 Sterbis, Sharon & Michael
 Stevens, Kathy A.

Stockton, Leslie & Daniel
 Suffolk Foundation
 Swan, Elizabeth
 Taylor, Susan & William W. III
 Teesdale, Bill
 Tilt, Sara & Whitney
 Tracy, James
 Trimbath, William W.
 Twiddy, Ross
 Uecker, Roberta & Ringling, Paul
 Urbanowicz, John MD
 Urell, Thomas
 VanBeek, Edward
 Voigt, John G.
 Wallace, James C.
 Waring, Judith & Thomas
 Wellington, Julie & James
 Wells, Pamela & John
 Weltner, Betsey
 West, Marie & Bruce
 Wierzba, Jane & James
 Wiese, Jessie
 Willey, Elizabeth & Larry
 Wimberly, John David
 Wiseman, Gail & Gregory
 Wood, Sam
 Wood, Twink & Jim
 Wood, Jenny & Steve
 Woodson, Martha
 Young, Janet & Richard, MD
 Zeff, David

HONORARIUMS (Donations have been made on behalf of these folks):

Brackett, Glenn
 Foy, Jasmine
 Johnson, Greg
 Kanouse, M.C. "Bud"
 Rahlves, Shannon
 Waldie, Scott
 Wright, Andy

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.



Ruby Habitat Foundation 2021 Financials

Foundation Operations:

Income	\$287,409
Expenses	<u>\$242,894</u>
Net Income	\$44,515

General Fund Cash & Investments: \$237,337
(Pays the day-to-day expenses that finance the operation of the foundation.)

Rural Heritage & Open Lands Fund: \$131,247
(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: \$187,614
(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 \$48,244
Foundation Operations Assets as of 12-31-21 **\$604,442**

Woodson Ranch Operations, Projects, & Endowment:

Income	\$480,112
Expenses	<u>\$215,823</u>
Net Income	\$264,289

Fixed Assets
Improvements & Equipment \$541,282
Land \$9,033,562¹
Woodson Ranch Endowment \$10,064,538²
Ranch & Endowment Assets as of 12-31-21 **\$19,639,382**

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

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 2021	\$308,804
Total Net Assets as of 12-31-21	\$20,243,824

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

George Olsen

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

Rock Ringling

Retired, The Montana Land Reliance
Helena, Montana

Vice-Chairman, Kendall Van Dyk

Managing Director, The Montana Land
Reliance--*Helena, Montana*

Woodson Family

Lisa Matthews

Livingston, Texas

Catherine Mitts

Georgetown, Texas

David Mitts

Conroe, Texas

Secretary/Treasurer, Leslie Vanderpool

Georgetown, Texas

Ruby Valley Community

Chairman, Neil Barnosky

Rancher--*Sheridan, Montana*

Bruce Peterson

Rancher--*Alder, Montana*

Steve Wood

Rancher--*Sheridan, Montana*

Emeritus Director

Martha Woodson (1932-2022)

Sheridan, Montana & Fort Worth, Texas

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 5 years, Ruby Habitat Foundation's managed access program has **welcomed over 7000 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 write us a check 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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