



FLATHEAD
LAND TRUST

Local Roots. Local Harvest.

2010 ANNUAL REPORT

2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Seizing Opportunities: 2010 AND BEYOND

2010 was a dynamic year. Even as we took time to celebrate our 25th Anniversary and the incredible habitat protected in that time, Flathead Land Trust was forging ahead with new projects and planning for the future. If 25 years has taught us anything, it's this: the momentum for conservation in Flathead Valley can turn pretty quickly. When momentum is on your side—when opportunities present themselves—you have to be ready to act.

So in 2010, there was no slowing down, we remained at the ready. Most significantly, we wrapped up the Loudon Family Farms project, a large scale undertaking encompassing 7 conservation easements and spanning several years. It was an honor to work so closely with the Loudens, a family whose history on their land spans four generations.

As many of you know we also invested considerable energy and resources in an attempted purchase of the North Shore Ranch property, site of a proposed subdivision on the North Shore of Flathead Lake next to a national wildlife refuge. Our purchase offer, put together with diverse funding sources, came after Flathead County Commissioners settled a lawsuit and reversed their initial denial of the subdivision. Our purchase offer was turned down by the developers, but frankly, we were heartened by the outpouring of public support and inspired by the passion that Flathead Valley residents voiced about this most iconic of local landscapes.

But all is not lost on the North Shore, nor along the Flathead River above the lake. This is a main focus area of our organization and of the collaborative *River to Lake Initiative*. As part of this ongoing initiative, about which you'll read more inside these pages, we and our partners are channeling our energies into some innovative collaborations. We're intent on protecting this corridor so critical to wildlife and water quality in the valley. At least half a dozen high quality projects are in varying

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jim Regnier, Board President



JIM AND LINDA REGNIER

"When conservation opportunities present themselves, we must be ready to act."

stages of development for 2011-2012, and there are calls coming in almost weekly from interested landowners.

One characteristic that enables FLT to react quickly to conditions on the ground is we're a local land trust with local roots. At the same time, we have productive partnerships with any number of local, state and national organizations and agencies. To my mind, it's the best of both worlds: when you support this organization, you are supporting private, local land conservation at its best, but you are also part of a broader effort to get the most critical projects done in northwest Montana, no matter who gets the headline.

Our first quarter century under our belts, FLT's Board of Directors and staff are busy looking to the future. While we can't predict exactly which conservation opportunities will present themselves down the road, we're doing everything we can now to keep the momentum moving in the right direction. With your continued input and support, we'll be ready for any opportunity that comes our way.

OUR MISSION

Flathead Land Trust is dedicated to the conservation of northwest Montana's land and water legacy through voluntary agreements with private landowners.

Saving The Flathead's Special Places:

2010 IN REVIEW

- Completed the final three of seven Loudon Family Farm easements, bringing lands protected by the Loudon family to nearly 1,100 acres.
- Received our second project-restricted Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program grant, this one for \$782,000. This federal grant supports our River to Lake Initiative (R2L) with all funding passed directly to landowners.
- With partners, launched the collaborative website, www.flatheadrivertolake.org, to promote R2L and engage landowners.
- Great Northern Environmental Stewardship Area became its own nonprofit 501(c)(3) in 2010. GNESA was a program affiliate of FLT since the early 1990s.
- Initiated projects for multiple donated easements stretching from Whitefish to Creston to Marion. Three are expected to close in 2011.
- Successful 25th Anniversary event and Annual Meeting held in August, including great media publicity promoting local land conservation.
- Continued to utilize North American Wetland Conservation Act funding—Ninepipe WMA wetland restoration project completed in Mission Valley by Ducks Unlimited and MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks. FLT administers this federal grant.
- 2 new Board members joined our Board of Directors, effective 2011.
- Successfully monitored all conservation easements.
- Completed a successful financial audit for 2009 program year, initiated by FLT to comply with federal grant requirements.

Land Protection Snapshot

AS OF 12/31/2010

	2010	2009
Number of Easements	45	42
Acres Protected through Conservation Easements	9,812	9,561
No. of Partnership Projects	9	8
Acres Protected through Partnership Projects	2,220	2,134
Total Acres Protected	12,032	11,695

FLT Stewardship ~ Protecting the Montana We Love

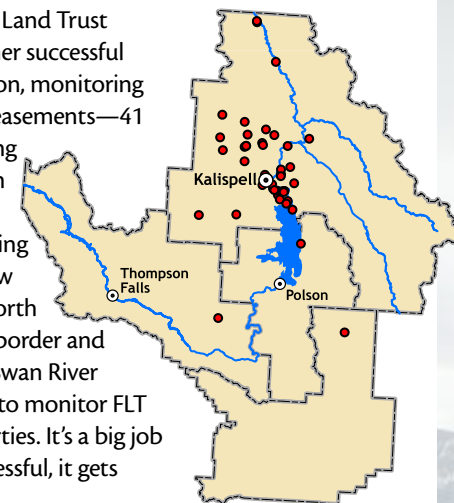
"As proud owners of a very small part of The Last Great Place, we realize that we have a role to play in protecting the Montana we love. However, we know we cannot do this alone. So we turn to Flathead Land Trust. Their dedication to their mission gives us comfort that the preservation of Montana's precious land is in good hands."

*— Alan and Sallie Gratch,
FLT Easement Donors & Members*

HIGHLIGHTS

STEWARDSHIP WRAP-UP

In 2010, Flathead Land Trust completed another successful stewardship season, monitoring all conservation easements—41 at the time. During each short season (usually June to October, depending on when the snow flies), we travel north to the Canadian border and south along the Swan River beyond Condon to monitor FLT protected properties. It's a big job and, if we're successful, it gets bigger every year.



When a project is completed, it is just the beginning of the story. We are obligated to monitor all easements "in perpetuity" to ensure they continue to protect the special values on the land, such as wildlife habitat, scenic open space, and traditional agricultural uses.

Every field season, a Land Protection Specialist walks each property and talks with the landowners. We produce a monitoring report detailing current conditions and land uses, and address areas of concern, if any. Relationships and communication are key, especially as landowners change over time. Ensuring owners were familiar with easement terms was a priority for us in 2010 and will remain so going forward.

In 2010, FLT was also awarded a small grant to create display signs for easement owners to post on their property, informing others the land is protected. 35 signs were requested by 19 landowners, so you may see them as you travel about the Flathead. Special thanks to the Jerry Metcalf Foundation for grant funding and to our easement owners!

2010 Highlights:

LOUDEN FAMILY FARMS

PROTECTED LANDS



Cultivating Conservation

2010 saw the close of one of the most complex and far reaching projects FLT has yet undertaken. 3 years in the making and 7 easements later, a rich Lower Valley network of farmland, wetlands, and Flathead River lands of incalculable value to the community has been protected.

Though each easement has its own special attributes—river frontage, fish and migrant bird habitat, prime farm soils, etc.—the project was conceived in 2008 as a whole.

As reported in 2009, the first easement was on the interior of Church Slough, an ox-bow of Flathead River containing some of the highest quality wetlands in Flathead Valley and heavily utilized by an incredible array of migratory birds and other wildlife. Shortly after, 3 more expansive agricultural easements were completed, and in 2010 the final 3 transactions were finalized. These last easements add another 250 agricultural acres to the overall farm protection. Crops rotated include winter and spring wheat, barley, lentils, peas and canola.

Louden Family Farms BY THE NUMBERS

1088	Total Acres Protected
855	Acres Prime Farmland
67	Wetland Acres
7	Easements
4	Miles Flathead River Shore Line

The sparsely developed nature of the Loudon properties is all the more significant due to its location and diversity of habitat—river and slough, a short stretch of Ashley Creek, upland field and cultivated meadow. These easements, which limit development and encourage strong stewardship practices, mean that riparian and aquatic plant communities will continue to thrive, important wildlife travel routes will remain open, and the deep fertile soils for which Lower Valley is famous will continue to be farmed.

An anchor project within the broader *River to Lake Initiative*, funding for the Loudon Family Farm easements included grants from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program through USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, as well as funding from Bonneville Power Administration's Resident Fisheries Mitigation Program.

Additionally, a portion of the value of each easement was donated by the Loudon family. Our thanks to all the members of the extended family for their generosity and for making the process such a great experience for the Land Trust and the community.

2010 Highlights: WORKING TOGETHER

PARTNERSHIPS



River to Lake Initiative

2010's Loudon Family Farms project is a prime example of the ambitious goals of the *River to Lake Initiative* (R2L). This collaborative effort focuses conservation on the Flathead River corridor from Columbia Falls to the North Shore of Flathead Lake. Recognized as having high biological value with unparalleled scenery and recreational opportunities, the main stem of the Flathead River is also critical to maintaining water quality in Flathead Lake.

R2L partners work to provide incentives and conservation options for landowners interested in protecting their land. **Some 10,000 acres have thus far been protected in the focus area, including nearly 4,000 acres since the project began, and 18 miles of Flathead River shoreline.**

In addition to great landowners, our R2L Partners include:

- American Bird Conservancy
- Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Flathead Audubon
- Flathead Lakers
- Intermountain West Joint Venture
- MT Dept Fish, Wildlife & Parks
- Montana Land Reliance
- Natural Resources Conservation Service



Overview of the *River to Lake Initiative* focus area. For a detailed map including protected lands, visit www.flatheadrivertolake.org.

Other Great Partnerships

In 2010, FLT hosted several outings for FLT members and supporters, led by local experts in their fields. We will continue to offer seasonal outings, adding a ski/snowshoe event for the winter. 2010 events included:

- **Dan Casey with American Bird Conservancy** guided us on a spring birding tour to some local hot spots, including a recently conserved Loudon property along Flathead River. To learn more about ABC, visit www.abcbirds.org.
- **Brian Manning with Montana DNRC** led a summer hike on an FLT easement property that is now part of the Whitefish Trail. To learn more about the Lupfer Loop and other sections of the Whitefish Trail, visit www.whitefishlegacy.org.
- **Dr. Lex Blood, geologist and executive director of The Sustainability Fund**, led an action packed geology tour around the Flathead in the fall. To learn more about the Flathead Community of Resource Educators, visit www.flatheadcore.org.

To sign up to receive invites to FLT outings, email us at flt@bigsky.net. (And to see more pictures from 2010 events, turn to page 6.)

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Anonymous (11)
 Stan and Gloria Amon
 Cheryl and Arvin Amundson
 Jennifer Asebrook and Richard Menicke
 Gordon Ash and Susan Kemper
 Bill and Margaret Baird
 Randy and Rayne Beach
 Tom and Sharon Bengtson
 Gael Bissell and Rick Mace
 Cameron Blake and Sandy Gray
 Rebecca and Robert Blickenstaff
 Lex Blood and Judith Pressmar
 Nathaniel Blumberg
 Gene and Barbara Boyle
 Bill Breen
 Lynne Brett and Angel Rosario
 Kathryn Britton
 Patricia and Ralph Brown
 John and Kris Bruninga
 Linda Burkhart
 Chris and Maureen Byrd
 Gerard and Loretta Byrd
 Milt and BJ Carlson
 Tom and Kris Carlson
 Gary Carver
 Patricia and John Case
 Dana and Stephanie Christensen
 Bubba and Leta Chustz
 Allan and Phyllis Clark
 James and Jeannie Clarke
 Connie Cohen
 Richard Cohen
 Mike and Diane Conner
 Steve and Gerry Connolly
 Paul Conrad
 Diane Conradi
 Bill Corwin
 David and Dawn Cummings
 Steve and Sue Cummings
 Bill and Sarah Dakin
 Carol Daly
 Edward DeBartolo
 Dennis and Terry Divoky
 Michael and Jordonna Dore
 Greg and JoAnn Dramer

Debra and Anders Engdahl
 Bruce Ennis and Margaret Davis
 Charles Ensign
 Linda and Wade Fredenberg
 Gail and Scott Galloway
 Mike and Cindy Galvin
 Mary and Don Garner
 Hi and Mary Gibson
 Richard Gordon and Cheryl Watkins
 Alan and Sallie Gratch
 Peter and Caroline Guynn
 David Hadden
 Bruce Harris
 Lee Harris
 Robin and Craig Harrison
 Annemarie Harrod
 Dennis Hatton
 Don Hauth
 Gary and Lynn Havens
 Brace and Kathleen Hayden
 Dave Heine
 Wilson and Charlotte Higgs
 Ryan and Eve Hunter
 Karin Hilding and Robert Gordon
 Richard and Suzanne Hildner
 Susan How
 Susie and Elliot Hulet
 Warren and JoAnn Illi
 Alyson Illich
 Larry and Patricia Ingvalson
 Trish and Chuck Issel
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 Erika Johnson and David Sandler
 Kathy Johnson
 Dr. Glenn and Hazel Johnston
 David and Jean Jones
 Elizabeth and Scott Jones
 Laura Katzman and Chris Downs
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 Walter and Nancy Kuhn
 Jim and Launa Lackey
 Peter and Tana Leander
 Larry Lee
 Nina and Stuart Levitt
 Jonathan and Nancy Lippincott
 Dr. Tom and Gerene Little

Ben Long and Karen Nichols
 Fred Longhart
 Diane and Bill Lundgren
 Jim and Norma MacKenzie
 Gayle and Scotty MacLaren
 Nick and Wendy Marshall
 Ron Matelich
 Pat and Riley McClelland
 Sue and Greg McCormick
 Cathryn McDevitt
 Shawn McDyre
 Allan and Valeri McGarvey
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 Robert O'Neil and Bobbie Truckner
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 Roger and Sue Sherman
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 Ken Siderius and Cathy Malarchick

Richard and Joan Siderius
 Jennifer and Justin Sliter
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 Lucy Smith
 Don and Phyllis Snow
 Jerry Sorensen
 David and Haydi Sowerwine
 Robin Steinkraus
 Howard Stephenson
 Cas Still and Andy Baxter
 Dia Sullivan
 Roger Sullivan
 Dawn Tacke
 Bruce Tannehill and Gail Cleveland
 Art and Diane Thompson
 James and Betty Thompson
 Steve Thompson
 Muffie and Jack Thomson
 Connie Valentine
 Denise and Mark VanArtsdale
 John and Kristen VanDenburgh
 Dr. Loren and Sherry Vranish
 Kyle and Susan Weber
 Robert and Nancy Westberg
 Heidi Westmoreland
 Chuck and Karen Williams
 Rebecca and Larry Williams
 Linda and John Winnie
 Lynn and Frank Woods
 Alison Young
 Andrew Zimet and Linda Farmer

BUSINESS MEMBERS

Alba Capital Management-
 Dawn Oehlerich
 Bruce Boody Landscape Architect, Inc.
 Christensen, Moore, Cockrell,
 Cummings & Axelberg, P.C.
 D.A. Davidson/Kalispell-Tyler Bebee
 Eisinger Auto Group
 Forestration, Inc.
 Fraser Management & Consulting
 Freedom Bank
 Glacier Bank
 Grouse Mountain Lodge
 Illi Real Estate Appraisal & Consulting

Insty Prints
 Johnson, Berg, McEvoy, &
 Bostock, PLLP
 Knife River
 Law Office of Diane Conradi
 Lion Mountain, Inc.
 Merlin Data Publishing Corporation
 Montana Academy
 Moose's Saloon
 North Country Builders
 Re/Max Mountain View
 Roger K. Newman, DDS
 Snappy Sport Senter
 Stanley Steam and Boiler Consultants
 Third Street Market
 Thomas, Dean & Hoskins, Inc.
 Whitefish Credit Union

FOUNDATIONS-FUNDS-OTHER

Cadeau Foundation
 Flathead Fund of the Flathead
 Community Foundation
 Flathead Lakers
 Heart of the Rockies Initiative-
 Wilburforce Foundation
 James and Wanda
 Hollensteiner Foundation
 Homer A. and Mildred S.
 Scott Foundation
 Ila B. Dousman Fund, Inc.
 Jerry Metcalf Foundation
 Kramer Family Fund of the
 Whitefish Community Fdn.
 Montana Association of Land Trusts
 Norcross Wildlife Foundation
 Roling Family Fund
 Ruth and Sam Neff Fund
 Sahandaywi Foundation
 The Bibler Foundation
 The Carlson Charitable Fund
 The Cinnabar Foundation
 The Sustainability Fund of the
 Flathead Community Foundation
 Travelers for Open Land
 Turner Foundation

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Kathryn Britton in memory of
 Michael Britton
 Larry Lee in memory of
 Thomas Flynn
 Larry Lee in memory of
 Dr. John Milton Small

TRIBUTE GIFTS

William Cloys for
 Brad and Susan Seaman
 Patti Peters for
 Sue and Roger Sherman
 Barbara and R.H. Seaman, Jr. for
 Brad Seaman
 Brad and Susan Seaman for
 Mr. & Mrs. R. H. Seaman, Jr.
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Seaman
 Kimberly Seaman
 Robert Seaman for
 Barbara & Ted Seaman
 Brad Seaman

STEWARDSHIP & PROJECTS

Iron Horse Development
 Dr. Glenn and Hazel Johnston
 Betty Loudon
 Ben and Maureen Loudon
 Bruce and Janice Loudon
 Ken and Patty Loudon
 Richard and Carol Nelson

IN-KIND & VOLUNTEERS

Lex Blood
 Dan and Susannah Casey
 Steve Cummings
 Andrew Dana
 Mike Davis
 FLT Community Advisors &
 Committee Members
 Gina Gagnon/Snowghost Design
 Ben Long/Resource Media
 Marcy Mahr
 Harley Mumma
 Stahlberg & Sutherland, PC

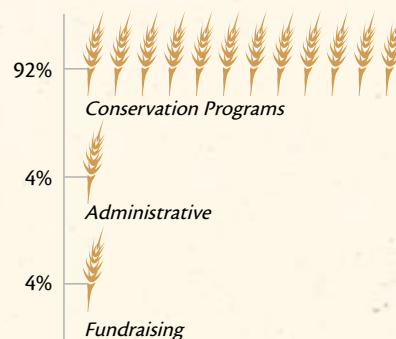
And another big THANK YOU to sponsors and guests who attended our 25th Anniversary party at Rebecca Farm!

INCOME SUMMARY

Dues/Contributions/Event	\$60,043
In-kind (Project & Operations)	\$9,159
Stewardship Donations	\$19,500
Grants-Operating	\$108,150
Grants-Project Restricted	\$597,641
Interest/Dividend Income	\$7,628
Program Service Fees	\$2,500
Gain/Loss (investments)	\$5,931
Other Income	\$18,340
Total Income for 2010	\$828,892

EXPENSE SUMMARY

Conservation Programs	\$920,811
Administrative	\$36,083
Fundraising	\$38,936
Total 2010 Expense	\$995,830

ASSET SUMMARY AS OF
12/31/2010

Checking & Savings	\$130,238
Fixed Assets	\$1,662
Accounts Receivable	\$4,505
<i>Investment accounts:</i>	
Projects Fund	\$126,978
Stewardship	\$179,592
Endowment Fund	\$52,978
Total Assets	\$495,953
Liabilities	\$36,570
Net Assets	\$459,383

NOTES:

Summaries include both operations and project restricted income.
Expense Summary includes transfer of GNEA program affiliate assets to new 501(c)(3).

NOTES:

Summaries depict unaudited financial reports.
Most recent audited financials available upon request.



SNAPSHOTS FROM FLT SPONSORED EVENTS IN 2010. THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO JOINED US!

To receive invitations to special events and outings, send your email address to flt@bigsky.net.

Annual Report photos and maps courtesy of:

Calypso Ecological Consulting, Dan Casey, Susannah Casey, Sue Cummings, Karen Nichols, and Harley Mumma.

FLATHEAD LAND TRUST MEMBERS KNOW ~



**FLATHEAD
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Conserving Our Legacy of Land and Water

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Kalispell, MT 59903-1913

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We All Need Room To Roam



"My Norwegian great-grandparents homesteaded in the Flathead Valley in the 1880s. Though not as pristine as when they homesteaded, the Flathead remains extraordinarily special. It supports a unique quality of life dependent on open space and sensitivity to the natural world. These features need to be conserved and maintained, and membership in Flathead Land Trust provides an active means to do just that."

— Dean Robbins,
New Member, 2010

To join us in protecting wildlife habitat, family farms, and the scenic wonders of Flathead Valley,
visit www.flatheadlandtrust.org.