

TOGETHER, WE CAN CONSERVE

THE HEART OF THE FLATHEAD VALLEY



You can help seize an opportunity to conserve 155 acres of rich farmland along the Flathead River with valuable wetland habitat vital for birds, fish, and wildlife that is part of a network of critical lands in the core of the Flathead Valley. This exceptional land is an essential part of our natural landscape that is at risk of being lost to development. With your help, we can permanently protect it for future generations.





The “Flathead River Conservation Project” will help protect the heart of our valley, the Flathead River and Flathead Lake.

The Flathead River and Flathead Lake are rare gems unmatched anywhere else in the western United States. Flathead Lake is the largest freshwater lake west of the Mississippi River and one of the cleanest lakes in the world. It is fed by the Flathead River, the life blood of the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem with headwaters in Glacier National Park and the Bob Marshall Wilderness complex.

The project will add to a stronghold of conserved private and public lands that are important to sustaining the Flathead River and Lake’s excellent water quality, abundant fish and wildlife, rich farm soils, and the incredible quality of life we enjoy in the Flathead Valley. A collaborative effort called the Flathead River to Lake Initiative helped to build this network of conserved land totaling almost 12,000 acres. It safeguards 53% of the wetlands, 50% of the high quality riparian areas, 42% of the 100-year floodplain, and 45% of the lands overlying shallow groundwater along 43 miles of the Flathead River and 7 miles of the north shore of Flathead Lake.



the adjacent river habitat. Thousands of waterfowl not only use the river and wetlands on the parcel, but also its farmland which they rely on to feed and refuel during migration. The conservation project will keep rich soils identified as “prime farmland” or “farmland of statewide importance” by the Natural Resource Conservation Service in agricultural production. The family has been farming and stewarding this wildlife-rich land for almost 100 years. Conservation will ensure the family’s agricultural legacy lives on in perpetuity. The project will also protect water quality and healthy function of the Flathead River as the land includes 34 acres of floodplain and 69 acres overlying shallow groundwater.



The project will add a critical puzzle piece that is adjacent to 725 acres of conserved private land, securing a much larger connected piece of our landscape. It is also close to another 2,350 acres protected by conservation easements.

The project will protect 33 acres of wetlands and riparian areas along a third of a mile of the Flathead River. A plethora of wildlife use this land, and threatened bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout, a species of special concern, use

Development is quickly replacing prime pieces of wildlife habitat and farmland in this part of the valley especially as properties are subdivided into parcels less than one acre in size along the river. ***If we do not seize this conservation opportunity now, we may lose this incredible piece of open space and rich habitat forever.***

We have obtained significant funding for the “Flathead River Conservation Project” already and the landowners have generously agreed to donate over a third of the project’s estimated value in a bargain sale. We have secured a large federal grant for \$513,000 from the Natural Resources Conservation Service pending we raise non-federal matching funds. We need your help to raise the remaining \$105,000 in non-federal match to bring this valuable conservation project to fruition, and save our water quality, rich habitat and agricultural heritage in the heart of the Flathead Valley.



PLEASE DONATE TO THIS IMPORTANT CONSERVATION PROJECT AT 406-752-8293 OR WWW.FLATHEADLANDTRUST.ORG, AND HELP US SPREAD THE WORD.