



**FLATHEAD
LAND TRUST**
Conserving Our Legacy of Land and Water

VIEW *Points*

 FALL 2010

25 YEARS

SAVING THE FLATHEAD'S SPECIAL PLACES



“Think of the Blasdel federal Waterfowl Production Area, or the new McWenneger Slough fishing access, or a 40 acre addition to Lone Pine State Park, or better yet, many of the farm fields and riparian areas along the lower Flathead River system. They have something in common: the Flathead Land Trust.”

– Daily Inter Lake 9/7/10

BLASDEL WATERFOWL PRODUCTION AREA, A PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

51 conservation projects, 12,000 acres and 25 years span the distance between the 1985 filing of Flathead Land Trust’s incorporation papers and the organization we are today.

Land trusts were relatively unknown in Flathead Valley when a group of residents came together in 1983 to explore the idea of starting a local land trust. They were a diverse group of men and women reflecting the varied interests and concerns in the valley. Many in the farming community were looking for options

to conserve their lands and livelihoods. Flathead National Forest was interested in learning how a land trust might help landowners protect privately held property within forest boundaries. And average citizens wanted to address the changes they were seeing around them every day—changes that could threaten the rural character and cherished landscapes of the place they called home.

Our founders, all volunteers, were dedicated to making Flathead Land Trust successful. They had no office to speak of, a shoe-box for a filing cabinet, and because they were all employed full-time, board meetings began at

7:00 a.m. But they persevered and brought into being one of the first land trusts in the state of Montana and the very first local land trust working in the Flathead Valley.

Our 25th Anniversary allows us to stop and take stock of what’s been accomplished so far, and to thank those that made it happen. From our first donated easement project on Fennon Slough to the nearly 1000 acres of Lower Valley farmland conserved in the past two years, there is a lot for our members, supporters, landowners and partners to be proud of. Turn to pages 6 & 7 for a sampling of FLT’s legacy over the past 25 years.

2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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DON HAUTH

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RYAN HUNTER
Land Protection Specialist

LAURA KATZMAN
Land Protection Specialist

BRAD SEAMAN
Outreach and Development Director

DAWN TACKE
Office and Communications Manager

DAN VINCENT
GNESA Director

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flt@bigsky.net
www.flatheadlandtrust.org

OUR MISSION

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

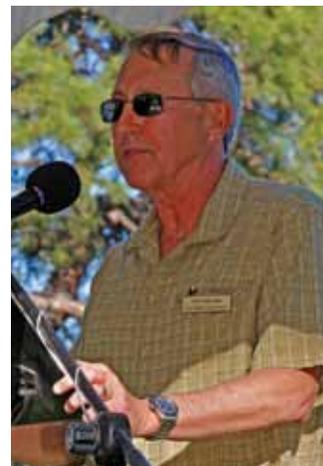


Celebrating 25 YEARS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jim Regnier, Board President

It's been a great experience serving as president of the board during FLT's 25th Anniversary. I've been fortunate to meet many of our early founders and observe how important this organization is to them after so many years. In July, we held a small BBQ for FLT founders and friends at Snappy Sport Senter, one of our long time business members. There, I met many of the men and women who founded the organization and helped it flourish and succeed for 25 years. Listening to their memories of the early days reinforced in me the notion that it's a privilege to serve a cause you believe in—and that you never know how the seeds of that service might one day grow. I'm sure FLT's founders didn't foresee that in 25 years their fledgling non-profit would grow to conserve nearly 12,000 acres of farm and forest, river and wetlands, permanently protecting them for a new generation to enjoy.



I especially want to thank everyone who attended our **25th Anniversary Event at Rebecca Farm** and the businesses who contributed to making it a great success. What an incredible turn out! Close to 200 people bought tickets, including many new faces who hopefully will consider joining our organization. It got a bit cold and rainy, but as one of the guests said, it helped people to feel a camaraderie—"like tough Montanans who want to protect their heritage of land!"



The Daily Inter Lake did a feature story on our anniversary, and our executive director Marilyn Wood was quoted as saying, "It's time to give credit where credit is due." Much of this credit goes to our easement landowners and to our members, who year after year contribute membership dollars toward preserving a bit more of the places we all love in Flathead Valley. To read the full Daily Inter Lake article and see more pictures of our 25th Anniversary event, visit www.flatheadlandtrust.org.

WE INVITE YOU TO BECOME A MEMBER . . .



Event Photos: Harley Mumma

**AND BE PART OF
THE NEXT 25 YEARS.**



INSIDE FLT

WELCOME



We're happy to welcome a new Board member to our Board of Directors beginning January 2011.

Muffie Thomson will bring a wealth of experience to our Board, both from her profes-

sional background as well as the many organizations she has served as a volunteer. She is currently the President of Flathead Bank of Lakeside. After 15 years with Flathead Bank in Bigfork, she opened the Lakeside office in 1994. Among her many affiliations, Muffie serves as a Trustee on the board of Northwest Healthcare and is chair of the real estate holding company, Flathead Hospital Development Corporation.



Laura Katzman joined FLT in March, 2010, as our new Land Protection Specialist, focusing on the River to Lake Initiative project area. She earned a Master's

degree in Fish and Wildlife Management from Montana State University, Bozeman in 1998, and has twelve years experience in the natural resource field. Most recently Laura worked as a fisheries biologist for Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks serving as the Aquatic Program Leader for a large-scale hydropower mitigation program in the lower Clark Fork Valley. She took a few years off from her career to raise her two children and moved with her family to the Flathead in 2008.

GOOD-BYES

Also, join us in wishing good luck to two important people who did much for the conservation efforts of Flathead Land Trust. **Anastasia Allen**, who did so much to make our federal grants program and the Loudon farms projects possible the past two years, has left to take a job with the Flathead National Forest. And **Allan McGarvey** has resigned from our Board to continue his education at the University of Washington this fall. As a lifelong resident and Kalispell attorney, Allan brought valuable insight while serving as one of our Board members. They'll both be missed at FLT and we thank them for their contributions!

Free Landowner WORKSHOP

"A Landowner's Introduction to Conservation Easements" is a free landowner workshop sponsored by the Montana Forest Stewardship Foundation and the Montana Association of Land Trusts. The workshop will include presentations on conservation easements, forest management and conservation, and an easement panel Q&A session in which Flathead Land Trust will be participating. For more information, contact:

Glenn Marx 406-490-1659
email: montanamalt@q.com, or
Ed Levert 406-293-2847
email: televert@kvis.net

A Landowner's Introduction to Conservation Easements

November 16, 2010
2:00 – 5:00 pm

Earl Bennet Building, Second Floor
Public Conference Room
1035 First Avenue West, Kalispell

Thanks to Everyone

WHO HELPED MAKE OUR EVENT SO SUCCESSFUL!

EVENT SPONSORS

Rebecca Farm
Somers Bay Café
Stahlberg & Sutherland
The Sustainability Fund
Whitefish Credit Union

BEVERAGE SPONSORS

Colter Coffee
Flathead Lake Winery
Great Northern Brewery
Rocky Mountain Wine Company

RAFFLE SPONSORS

Calamity Creek Outfitters
Grouse Mountain Lodge
Hidden Moose Lodge
Montana Raft Company
Outback Ski Shack
Rising Sun Bistro
Rusty Hendrickson
Spring Brook Ranch
10 Spin Winery
Whitefish Lake Restaurant

SPECIAL THANKS

BrassWerks
Celebrate
Gina Gagnon / SnowGhost Design
Lapp of Luxury Loo
Trevon Baker Photography



MOMENTUM BUILDS ON R2L INITIATIVE

More Prime Farmland PROTECTED IN LOWER VALLEY

Last year we reported on the important agricultural and wetland conservation being undertaken with the Loudon family. In 2009, we helped the extended family place four easements protecting 837 acres. **This April, we purchased an additional easement on 60 acres of agricultural land** belonging to Ben and Maureen Loudon, which borders other Loudon easements completed last summer and fall. This most recent 60-acre piece contains important soils classified as prime farmland so it was a great fit for the Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program (FRPP) which funded the project.

As an organization, we continue to focus on conservation projects within the River to Lake corridor using federal grant funding. Early in 2010, **we received our 2nd FRPP grant in as many years, this one for \$782,000** to use on an ambitious project in the Lower Flathead River valley with high quality farm soils.

We're also **working on an analysis of the River to Lake project area, some 40,000 acres**, aided by Susannah Casey with American Bird Conservancy. We are looking at the initiative's success since 2000 protecting important fish and wildlife habitat such as wetlands, sloughs, riparian area, and the river itself. We hope to complete the analysis this winter.



Photo: Karen Nichols

River to Lake Initiative WEBSITE LAUNCHED

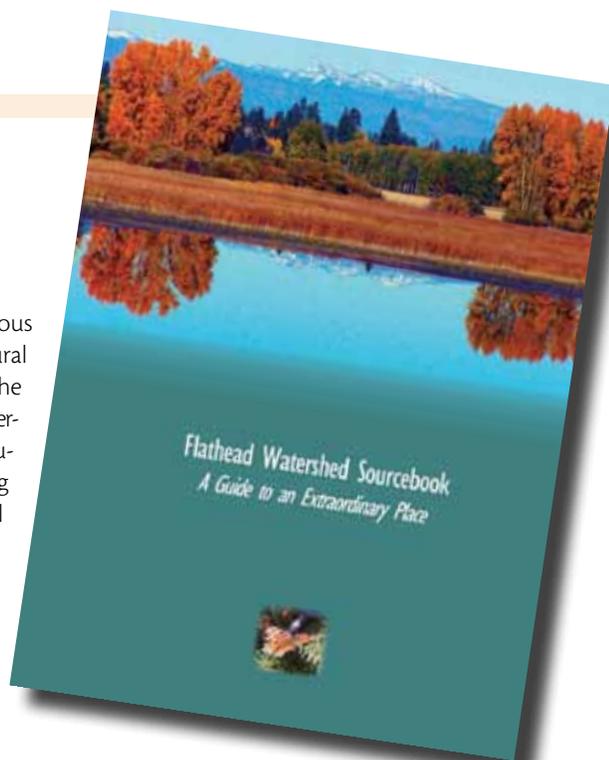
Many people put a lot of effort into creating the new R2L website, but Constanza von der Pahlen with Flathead Lakers and Marcy Mahr, formerly with Flathead Land Trust, especially deserve thanks. We encourage landowners and others interested in the initiative to check it out and learn more about the initiative's goals, accomplishments and partners, plus resources about conservation easements, recreation, and learning opportunities.

Much Anticipated Flathead Watershed Sourcebook TO BE PUBLISHED

What do Charles Dickens and bull trout have in common? What is the Fire on the Land Project? Read the *Flathead Watershed Sourcebook: A Guide to an Extraordinary Place* to find out. This new book by Lori S. Curtis serves as a primer to the Flathead Watershed, providing an informative and entertaining look at the history, places, people and resources that make the Flathead Watershed

so exceptional. In addition to gorgeous photos and fascinating chapters on natural and cultural history, economics of the watershed and more, it includes 50 "Watershed Perspectives." These short individually contributed vignettes, including one from Flathead Land Trust, help tell the story of the watershed from a variety of viewpoints. The book and its companion website will be released in October.

See www.flatheadwatershed.org for more information.



NAWCA GRANT FUELS RESTORATION PROJECT

86 acres OF NEW WETLANDS AT NINEPIPE WMA

In March 2010, Ducks Unlimited and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) completed 88.6 acres of wetland restoration work on the Ringneck Ranch and Davis parcels within the Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuge/Wildlife Management Area in the Mission Valley. This project was part of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant awarded to FLT and partners in 2009. \$100,000 of the \$1 million grant was allotted and expended for this project, with additional funding from FWP Migratory Bird Stamp Program and in-kind contributions from Ducks Unlimited. In addition to assisting with the original grant application and providing matching funds, Ducks Unlimited performed survey work, design, construction management and biological/management consulting on the completed project.

Originally proposed at 40 acres between 2 projects within the WMA, 3 wetland projects were ultimately completed, creating a net gain of 86.6 acres of new wetlands. Two other existing acres were also incorporated into larger wetland areas.

Robert Sanders, Ducks Unlimited's Manager of Conservation Programs - Montana commented, "I think the Ninepipe project will prove to be one of the most productive shallow wetland



WETLAND CONSTRUCTION AND FINAL RESTORATION ON THE RINGNECK RANCH PARCEL WITHIN THE NINEPIPE WMA IN MISSION VALLEY.

Photos: Ducks Unlimited

restorations in western Montana. Numerous species of birds have already keyed in on the newly flooded habitat and things should only get better as time goes on."

Commenting on the scope and success of the Ninepipe project, Sanders concluded, "Getting this project on the ground was definitely a team effort."



FLT Among First TO RECEIVE TRAVELERS GRANT

In February, the directors of a new program, Travelers for Open Land, awarded Flathead Land Trust \$2,500 each to help protect open lands, improve wildlife habitat, provide recreational access and protect riparian areas in Montana. Other grants went to Gallatin Valley Land Trust in Bozeman, The Nature Conservancy of Montana, and Five Valleys Land Trust in Missoula.

Travelers for Open Land is a new partnership among the Montana Innkeepers Association,

Montana Association of Land Trusts, the Montana Community Foundation, Montana Office of Tourism, and other tourist-related businesses. The program seeks donations from travelers in Montana, which are collected by participating businesses. This money is then used to fund competitive grants among land trusts for land conservation projects.

The grant to Flathead Land Trust helped complete the Loudon farms/Church Slough project, a part of the *River to Lake Initiative*. This project resulted in the permanent preservation of critical habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife, while promoting a productive family farm and enhancing Church Slough,



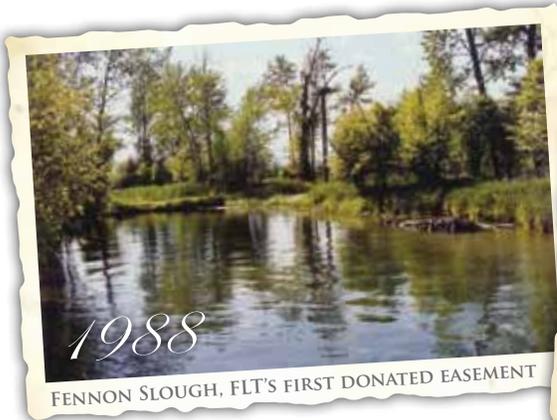
a popular fishing, birding, and recreational area in Kalispell.

To learn more about the Travelers program and the many local participating businesses, visit www.travelersforopenland.org.



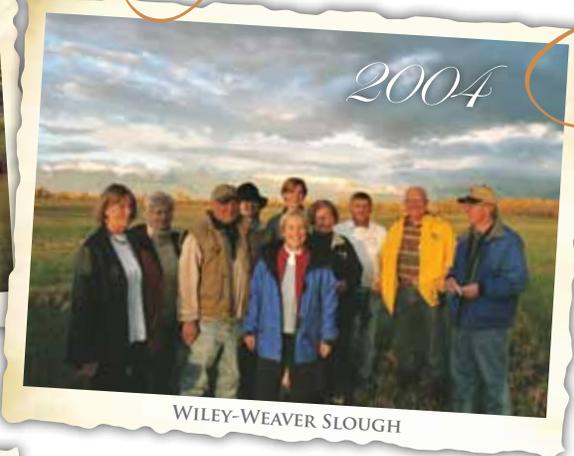
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Saving the Flathead's *Special* Places for 25 years



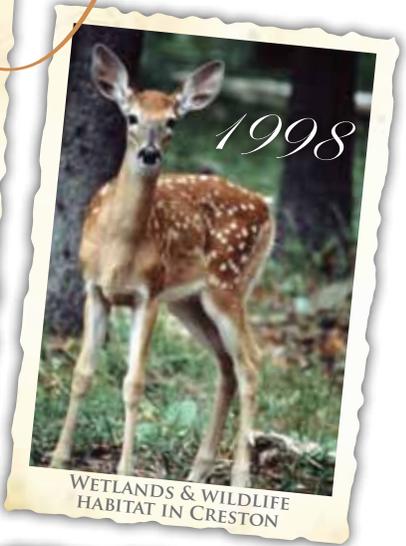
1988

FENNON SLOUGH, FLT'S FIRST DONATED EASEMENT



2004

WILEY-WEAVER SLOUGH



1998

WETLANDS & WILDLIFE
HABITAT IN CRESTON



2009

LOWER VALLEY FARMLANDS



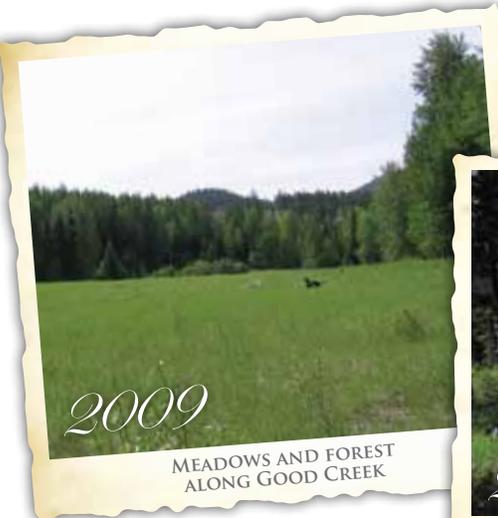
2000

FORESTED LANDS ON TAYLOR CREEK



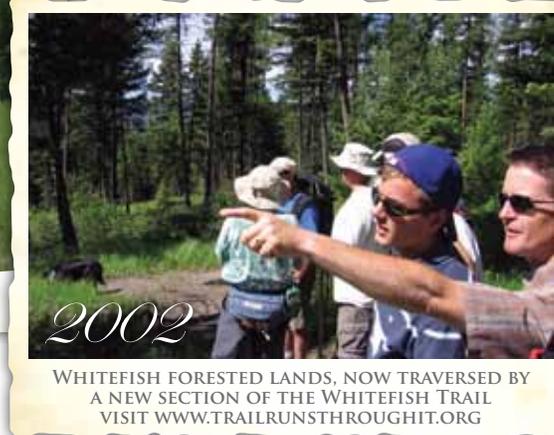
2002

CAMAS PRAIRIE RANCHLAND



2009

MEADOWS AND FOREST
ALONG GOOD CREEK



2002

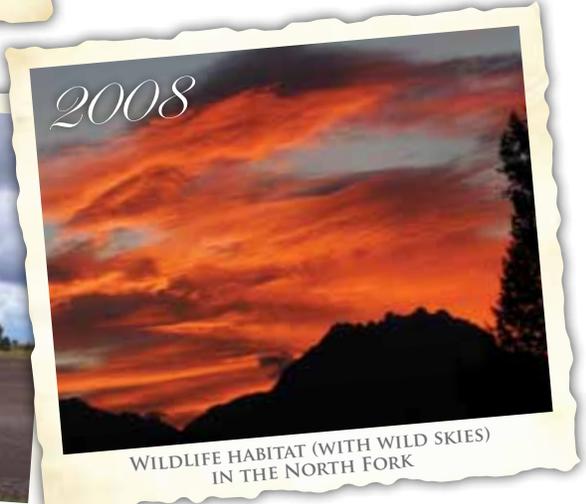
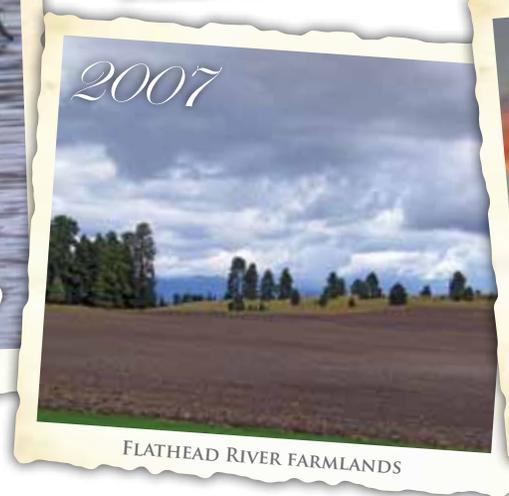
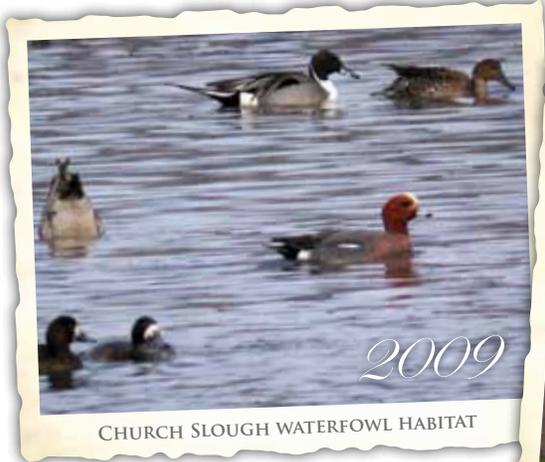
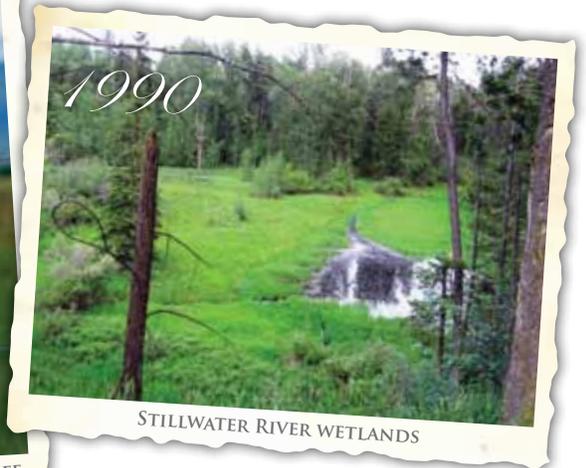
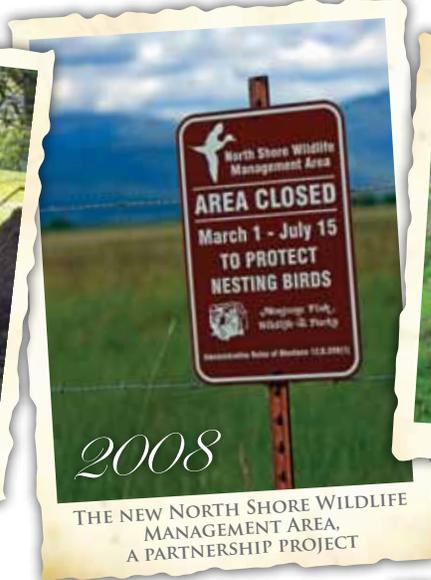
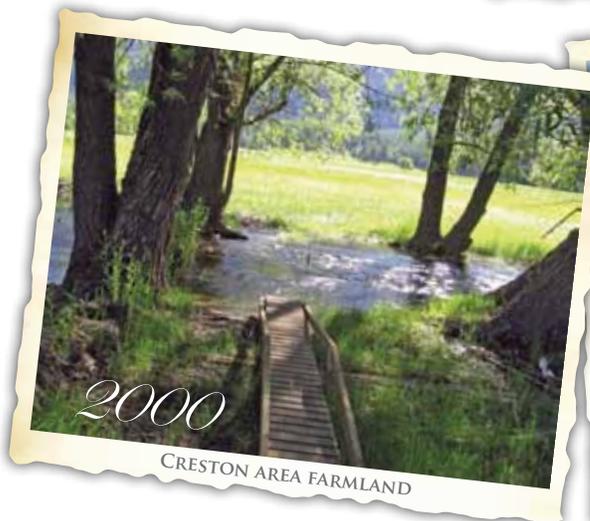
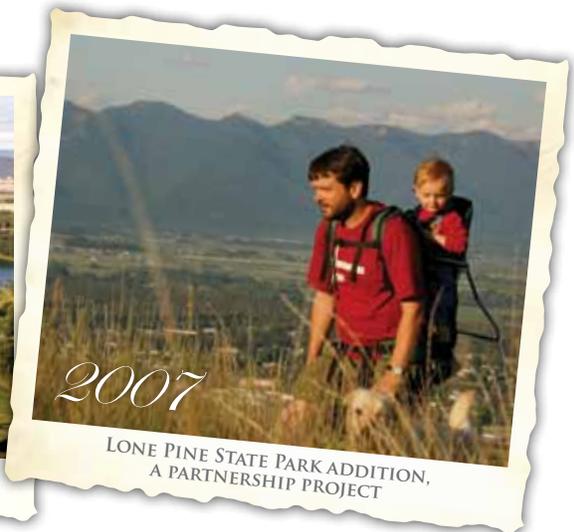
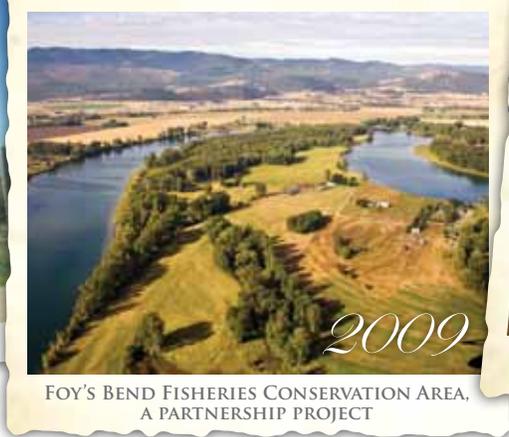
WHITEFISH FORESTED LANDS, NOW TRAVERSED BY
A NEW SECTION OF THE WHITEFISH TRAIL
VISIT WWW.TRAILRUNSTHROUGHIT.ORG



2003

MCWENNEGER SLOUGH &
SURROUNDING FARMLAND

For 25 years, Flathead Land Trust has worked to safeguard the most treasured natural areas and productive agricultural soils in Flathead Valley. On these pages is a sampling of the conservation work we've accomplished—together with partners, members and other financial supporters, and landowners as diverse as the lands they protect.



THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO CAPTURED THE GREAT SHOTS YOU SEE ON THESE PAGES:
Lex Blood, Dan Casey, Jason Cohn, Flathead Land Trust, Gravity Shots, Don Hauth, Susan How, Harley Mumma, and Karen Nichols.



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Conserving Our Legacy of Land and Water

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FROM THE NORTH FORK TO THE NORTH SHORE FLATHEAD LAND TRUST IS THERE



PHOTO COLLAGE FEATURES PAST FLATHEAD LAND TRUST PROJECTS (clockwise):
Flathead river lands, Bladel Waterfowl Production Area, Lone Pine State Park and Church Slough.

For 25 years, Flathead Land Trust has dedicated itself to protecting the Flathead's lakes, rivers, farms and forests. But we didn't do it alone. **Members are the piece of the puzzle that make FLT's conservation work possible.** If you value the great outdoors, our agricultural heritage and the scenic wonders of Flathead Valley, we invite you to join us as we get to work on the next 25 years!

**Become a Member at
www.flatheadlandtrust.org
Help Conserve our Legacy of
Land and Water**