



Vote YES for Clean Water and Open Lands

This November 4th, voters in Flathead County will be given an extraordinary opportunity—the chance to approve a \$10 million Land and Water Conservation Bond. Similar measures have proven successful elsewhere in Montana, such as in Gallatin and Missoula counties, but this will be the Flathead’s first chance to vote on this type of measure. Voting Yes is a simple, effective way to support the protection of local family farms, clean water, and outdoor access.

We all know living in the Flathead affords us outstanding quality of life. We are surrounded by clean rivers and lakes, critical wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities that are the envy of people all over the country—world-class fishing, hunting, hiking, wildlife viewing, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, you name it. A conservation bond is a powerful tool that can be used to protect the quality of life that both residents and visitors have come to cherish.

The bond measure has been designed to be transparent to the public, with accountability built right



View into Glacier National Park from the Foreman property. (Photo by Marcy Mahr)

Honoring Family History in the North Fork

As trustees of the Helen C. Foreman Family Trust, Margaret (Peggy) Cohn and Edward Foreman felt a responsibility to preserve the family’s remote North Fork acreage as their parents, Orville and Helen, would have wanted. “We were always a very conservation minded family,” said Edward. “Our mother and father both thought the North Fork property was ideal for conservation, so when Peggy and I learned about easements, we were very interested.”

In 2005, they worked with the Forest Service to

place an easement on a little over 10 acres of the property, including the river frontage, but there remained 225 more acres to consider. The heirs to the Trust, thirteen in all, agreed they wanted to spell out specific guidelines for what could and could not be done with the acreage, so they turned to Flathead Land Trust for assistance in pursuing a voluntary conservation agreement. After several months of fine tuning easement language

and completing the required assessments of the property, the 225-acre donated easement is expected to be finalized by the end of October.

As landowners in the area since the 1940s, the Foreman name is well known and well respected in the North Fork. Helen’s uncle L.O. Vaught, after whom Glacier’s Mt. Vaught is named, purchased the late Emil Peterson’s homestead in the 1940s as a family summer home. He then

split the acreage between Helen and her brother Edward Cleary,

whose family still owns part of the original homestead. In the 1950s, Helen and her husband Orville added to their family holdings when they bought the G. Ed Peterson homestead.

Already well established as summer locals in the North Fork by the 1960s, Orville Foreman, an attorney, is still remembered today as one of the founders of the North Fork Compact. Considered one of the first such land planning

“This easement is the culmination of our family’s bent toward conservation.”

2008
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Flathead Land Trust is dedicated to voluntary conservation and thoughtful stewardship of private lands. We initiate and support conservation easements that enhance Northwest Montana's working and scenic landscapes, open spaces, river corridors, wetlands and vital wildlife habitats. We collaborate with family farmers and ranchers, with foresters and outdoor enthusiasts, indeed with people from all walks of life, as thoughtful stewards of the Flathead.

Message from the President

I hope you all had a great summer—I know we did here at Flathead Land Trust. We welcomed a tiny addition to our family in June with the birth of Fiona Grace Anaya Bryant. Fiona and her mom, our Conservation Programs Manager Anastasia Allen, and the rest of the family are doing just fine.

We also welcomed a new member to our family of easement owners. Peggy Cohn and Edward Foreman, trustees of the Foreman Family Trust, donated a 225 acre easement in the North Fork. You'll read more about this wonderful donation inside.

The only sad bit of news to report is that our Conservation Associate, Marcy Mahr, has left us and moved with her family to British Columbia. Her knowledge on conservation matters, along with her friendly and welcoming spirit, will be greatly missed around the office.

I'm feeling really great about the progress made on the North Shore conservation project since my last message to you. As many of you are aware, a large scale development on the North Shore was denied by the County Commissioners back in April. During the debate about this development, FLT stood out as an organization offering options for landowners looking for alternatives to subdividing their land. We're happy to report that in August, working with Montana Dept. Fish, Wildlife and Parks, we signed a purchase agreement with Doug and Donna Miller for their 160 acres on the North Shore.

Lastly, as you know this is an historic election year, and we encourage you to get out and vote. In Flathead County, there



will be a Land and Water Conservation Bond on the ballot and you will be hearing a lot about it as we near Election Day. When deciding how to vote, think about the things that make this such a glorious place to live—is it the views, the sporting opportunities and the rural character of the place that make it so special, or is it the pavement and subdivisions?

Flathead County remains one of the fastest growing counties in Montana, and we can see the changes growth brings every time we drive to work or set out to enjoy the outdoors. Some growth is good, and I believe that we can grow and prosper and still respect and protect the rich heritage of this valley.

The Land and Water Conservation Bond will be a powerful tool to help the county balance growth, protect agricultural lands and wetlands, and conserve the recreational opportunities that mean so much to us in Montana. See you at the polls!

Ken Siderius
Board President

Vote Yes continued from page 1

in. If approved by voters, a local citizen steering committee will be formed to review conservation proposals from the public, with final authority resting with the County Commissioners. All spending would be reviewed by independent, public audit. Funds generated by the bond can be used to permanently protect privately owned land through voluntary conservation agreements, or by purchasing land outright, to ensure lake access or create rural parks, for example. The ballot measure specifies that the funds can only be spent to conserve lands that protect clean water, such as wetlands and streamside areas, habitat, enhance public access to the outdoors or protect family farms and timberland. Based on current values, the bond would cost the

owner of a \$200,000 home about \$18 a year.

As one of the fastest growing counties in all Montana, and home to 3 of the 4 fastest growing cities in the state, we feel there is a responsibility to grow in a way that is true to our values and heritage. It is time to make a commitment to safeguard our water quality, traditional land uses, and our ability to access public land.

All types of people from across the Flathead support the bond—business people, sportsmen and women, community leaders and conservationists alike. We encourage you to learn more by visiting www.flatheadlandandwater.com or contact the Committee for Clean Water and Open Land at 270-0603 or 752-8293.

Staff News

Until we meet again, eh?

By Marcy Mahr

At the end of September, I spent my last few days on FLT's staff. I have loved working for this organization and feel privileged to have worked with some of the best people in northwestern Montana. It has been a very exciting time to be with the Land Trust as we conserved land along the North Shore and the North Fork, and guided the Land and Water Conservation Bond onto the Fall ballot (Vote Yes!). I have enjoyed visiting many of your properties, walking well-worn paths and sharing family stories over a cup of tea. I am bringing many wonderful memories on my journey to Canada. My family and I have moved to the Slocan Valley of southeastern

British Columbia where we will continue farming and doing conservation work. We will frequently be coming back to Montana, so I hope our paths will cross again.

All my best, Marcy

Though Marcy's move had been anticipated for some time, we are still in denial that she is really gone! We already miss her enthusiasm, sharp insights, and vast knowledge about conservation matters—not to mention the fresh fruits and vegetables she shared with us from her farm. Marcy set a high standard for the stewardship work that we engage in at the Land Trust and we wish her and her family the best of luck in Canada.

GNESA Receives Conservation Award



In April 2008, Dan Vincent, the Director of Great Northern Environmental Stewardship Area (GNESA) traveled to Washington D.C. to accept a Cooperative Conservation Award from the Department of the Interior. It was given to GNESA in recognition of a long history of successful collaboration in conserving the natural values of the Middle Fork Flathead River Corridor, while facilitating continued use of the area. GNESA was brought into being in the early 1990s after a series of grizzly bear deaths associated with rail transportation in the Corridor. Today that partnership has expanded to include over 20 organizations, public and private.

From left to right: Lyle Laverty, Assistant Secretary, U.S. Dept. of the Interior; Lindi Harvey, National Park Service; John Waller, National Park Service; Dan Vincent, GNESA; and Secretary Dirk Kempthorne, U.S. Dept. of the Interior.

Tax Incentive Extended

Congress recently extended tax incentives for conservation easements donated between 2006 and 2009. The incentive:

- Raises the deduction a donor can take for donating a conservation easement from 30% of his or her income in any year to 50 percent;
- Allows qualifying farmers and ranchers to deduct up to 100 percent of their income; and
- Extends the carry-forward period for a donor to

take tax deductions for a voluntary conservation agreement from 5 to 15 years.

For more information on the Conservation Tax Incentive, visit our website at www.flatheadlandtrust.org or the Land Trust Alliance at www.lta.org. If you would like an informative LTA brochure on the tax incentive, along with other materials about pursuing an easement, call us at 752-8293 or email flt@bigsky.net.

Bicyclists Visit from Finger Lakes Land Trust

On August 12, 2008, three intrepid supporters of Finger Lakes Land Trust in upstate New York embarked on a fundraising (and awareness raising) journey they dubbed "Coast to Coast for Conservation." Starting in Washington and ending in Maine, they are visiting conserved lands and land trusts as they travel 4000 miles across the country.

Jim Kersting and Brad Edmondson are the riders, with driving support provided by Jim's wife, Sara.

They arrived in Flathead Valley on August 27th and toured the North Shore of Flathead Lake with Marilyn Wood. "It was so much fun to meet with them," said Marilyn. "They were blown away by the North Shore and all that stands to be lost if unchecked development happens there."

about their adventures. An excerpt from their visit to the Flathead:

meanders through a 40-mile corridor after it leaves Glacier National Park. It winds south to Flathead Lake, the largest natural freshwater lake west of the Mississippi River. It's mostly on private land, and the land is under intense development pressure as an urban corridor emerges between Whitefish and Kalispell. We met with Marilyn Wood, Executive Director of the Flathead Land Trust. She took us to a knoll overlooking the undeveloped north shore of the lake. 'This is an iconic Montana landscape,' she said. 'If we can't save this, we ought to just pack up and go home.'

Wood says that the question of what to do about the river corridor has been hanging in the air for a long time. The [North Shore Estates] development proposal called

the question, just as it did in the Adirondacks, or in Canandaigua Lake, NY, or in hundreds of other places. In the end, it comes down to whether or not the community has the will to protect its natural beauty.

Today things look good for the Flathead River. Wood and her board are out there working like hay farmers who see rain clouds on the horizon. They're conjuring up the community."



Marilyn Wood describes the North Shore conservation project to Jim Kersting, a rider with Coast to Coast for Conservation.

To read more about their North Shore visit and the rest of the Coast to Coast for Conservation tour, visit www.fllt.org/blog.



Not sure what to give this holiday season?

Give the gift that supports local land conservation and strengthens the rich heritage of Flathead Valley:

A Gift Membership to Flathead Land Trust

Just fill out the remittance envelope tucked in this newsletter. Provide your donor information and the recipient's name and address. We'll send the lucky recipient a beautiful card acknowledging your gift, and send you a receipt. You can use the same remittance envelope to make your own year-end or annual contribution, or to make a memorial or tribute gift, too.



Glacier area connection goes back to 1890s

Continued from page 1

agreements in Montana, the compact grew out of the concerns of some residents about the threat of subdivision and potential environmental harm that could come with no land use plan in place. Foreman's vision progressed from an idea to informal group planning meetings to a final compact written and formalized by Orville in 1971. The compact, with slight revisions, is still in effect today.

The Foreman family history in the Glacier Park area goes back much farther than ownership in the North Fork, though—much farther, in fact, than the existence of Glacier Park itself. Though L.O. Vaught purchased the first piece of family land in the '40s, he first visited the region in 1896 on an extended camping trip with friends on Lake McDonald. He and his friends continued this summer tradition for nearly 25 years, only moving camp to Upper Quartz Lake when tourism from the newly established Glacier Park brought a lot more people to their corner of the world. Over time, Vaught's niece Helen wanted her family, including her children Peggy, Connie and Edward, to come along. Because the children were too small for wilderness camping, they re-established the Lake McDonald camp tradition in 1933 and continued there until 1948, when Vaught purchased the Peterson homestead.

There are two residential areas on the current property, representing the locations of the original Emil and Ed Peterson homesteads. The original homesteaded cabins remain on both parcels and are still used today, along with other original outbuildings, a log building converted to a bunkhouse, and a "new" cabin built by Helen and Orville in the 1960s.



Wetland pond on the old Ed Peterson homestead, south of Mud Lake. (Photo by Jason Cohn)

Today, the descendants of Helen and Orville continue to enjoy the family home during summer visits. The land is still wild and provides natural habitat for many of the same native plants, fish, and wildlife that abounded in the time when L.O. Vaught first came to love it. Common loons, bald eagles, raptors, bull trout, westslope cutthroat trout, grizzly and black bears, mountain lions, grey wolves,



Old barn after a hard winter, Spring 2008. (Photo by Marcy Mahr)

deer, elk and moose all call this area home.

In 1999, Tim Foreman, Edward's son, completed the Forest Stewardship course and developed a stewardship plan for their acreage. This carefully crafted plan will form the basis for their management of the forested land in the future.

L.O. Vaught purchased the first family land, Peggy says, because "he felt so strongly about Montana, not just for education and recreation, but for general health and well being." Peggy is proud that five generations of the Foreman family have now had the experience of learning about wilderness conservation from spending time on the property, and share Vaught's strong feelings for the place. "This easement is the culmination of our family's bent toward conservation," added Edward. Because family members are scattered from Oregon to Pennsylvania and as far away as Amsterdam, Peggy considers the property "a very important emotional center for the family." But the value of this donated easement extends beyond the Foreman family itself, and beyond the benefits to the land that has been protected. The Foreman's effort to honor Orville and Helen and their North Fork heritage has value for all us who enjoy knowing there are places out there that will remain forever wild, and that there are families like the Foremans who care enough to protect them.



A Conservation Milestone on the North Shore

Flathead Land Trust is excited to be working with Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks on a landmark project—the North Shore State Park/Wildlife Management Area (WMA), which resulted from community and private landowner interest in a broader conservation vision along the North Shore of Flathead Lake. The 160-180 acre project is located between Montana Hwy 82 and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Flathead Lake Waterfowl Production Area.

FLT holds a purchase agreement with landowners Doug and Donna Miller for the 160-acre tract proposed for acquisition and is negotiating with another willing landowner for additional acreage. Funding for these purchases would come primarily from the State's Access Montana program and private sources. As reported earlier in the year, the Land Trust received a Doris Duke Foundation grant to be used toward North Shore projects, and a portion of this grant would go toward the purchase price as well. The properties contain about 10 acres of wetlands, with the balance primarily in agricultural production.

The North Shore of Flathead Lake provides many important and unique natural resource values. According to Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), the primary objectives of the North Shore State Park/WMA include:

- Protect and enhance riparian/wetland habitats
- Protect and restore grasslands needed for upland birds and waterfowl
- Protect connectivity across the Flathead Valley for wildlife
- Protect water quality of Flathead Lake
- Provide opportunity and access for public hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, hiking, camping, and other public recreational uses

FWP received favorable public comments about the North Shore State Park/WMA during the 30-day public review of the environmental assessment in September. The acquisitions would be co-managed by both Parks and Wildlife divisions within FWP. The State Park component will be limited to approximately 25 acres with the balance of lands managed primarily for wildlife, habitat, educational, and compatible recreational purposes.

The North Shore State Park/WMA would be a keystone project within the River to Lake Initiative, a collaborative effort that focuses on conservation along the main stem of Flathead River to the North Shore of Flathead Lake. The primary goal of the initiative is to



Aerial view of Flathead Lake's North Shore.

(Photo by Karen Nichols)

Inset: Osprey viewed from the Federal Waterfowl Production Area, adjacent to the Miller property. (Photo courtesy of Mt. Dept. Fish, Wildlife & Parks)

work with partner agencies, landowners, and a variety of organizations to protect large parcels of critical habitat in the corridor, including wetlands, riparian areas, and adjacent farmland. The effort to protect the North Shore has proven to be something that our members and the community are passionate about. We are proud to be working with the Miller family and FWP on this important project.

Visitor Center Grand Opening



(Photo courtesy of Mt. Dept. Fish, Wildlife & Parks)

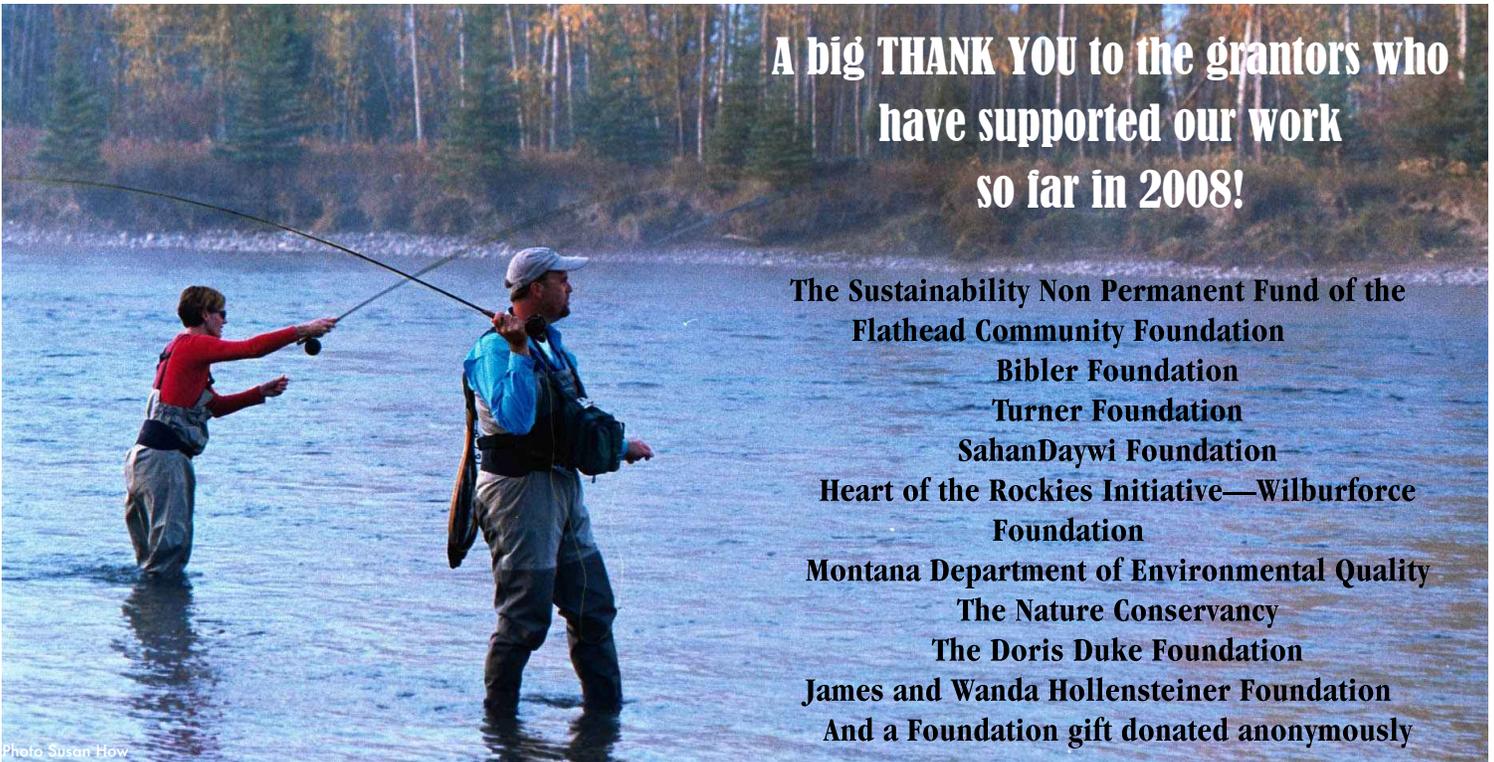
FLT Board President Ken Siderius, along with two helpers from the audience, cuts the ribbon at the new Lone Pine State Park Visitor Center. FLT holds an easement on the new 40 acre addition in the park, acquired by the state in fall 2007.

Cal Tassinari Endowed Scholarship Award

Congratulations to Henry King, the 2008-2009 Cal Tassinari Endowed Scholarship recipient. Henry graduated from Whitefish High School in 2008, and will be taking prerequisite classes in Natural Resource Management at FVCC.

The endowment was established with FVCC in 2005 to honor the late conservationist, educator, and friend of the Land Trust, Cal Tassinari. Scholarships benefit college students studying natural resource management, forestry, biology, wildlife biology, environmental science or a related field. FVCC manages the endowment and awards the scholarship annually. Contributions can be made to the scholarship fund by sending a check to FVCC Foundation-Cal Tassinari Scholarship Fund.

We consider it a great honor to be involved with this scholarship fund and wish Henry the best of luck in his college career!



A big THANK YOU to the grantors who have supported our work so far in 2008!

The Sustainability Non Permanent Fund of the Flathead Community Foundation

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Heart of the Rockies Initiative—Wilburforce Foundation

Montana Department of Environmental Quality

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Photo: Susan How

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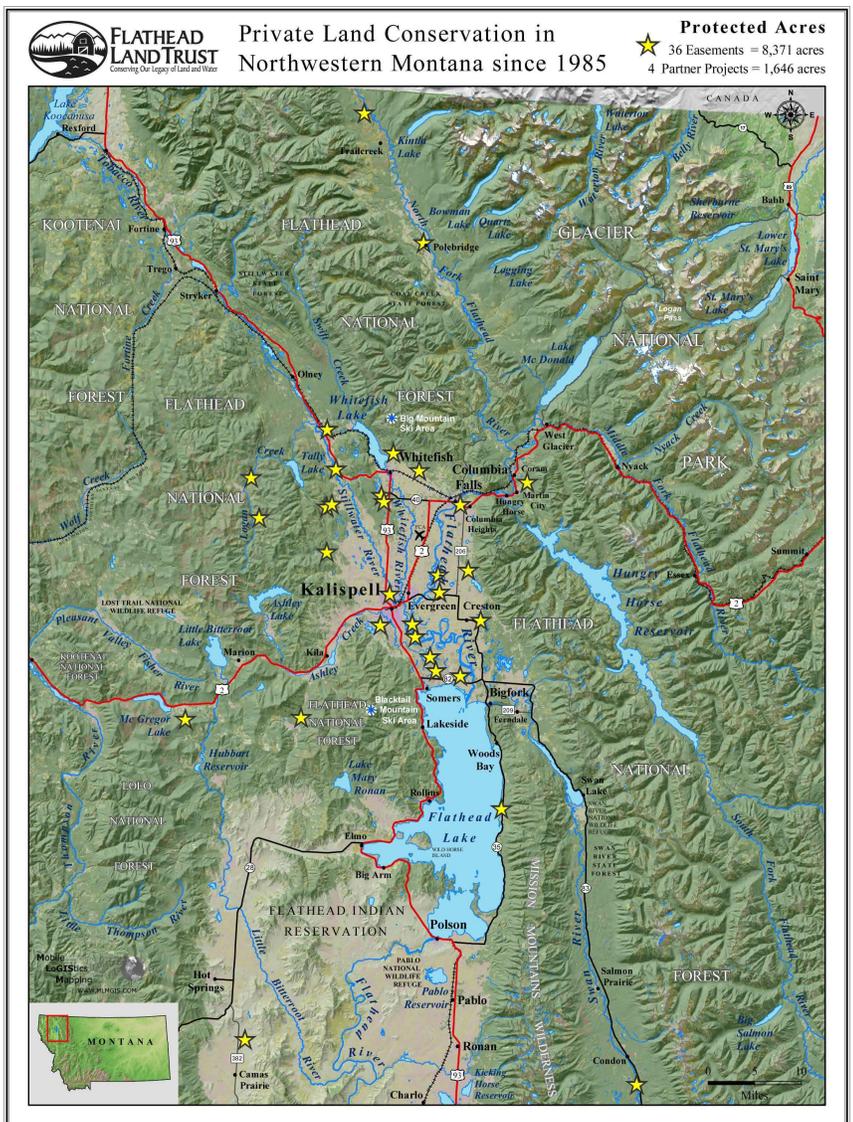
Flathead Land Trust is growing every year, thanks to the support of our members and partners in conservation.

Number of conservation easements held by FLT: 36

Number of acres protected through these easements: 8,371

Number of acres protected through partnership projects: 1646

Total number of acres protected: 10,017



Mobile LoGistics Mapping