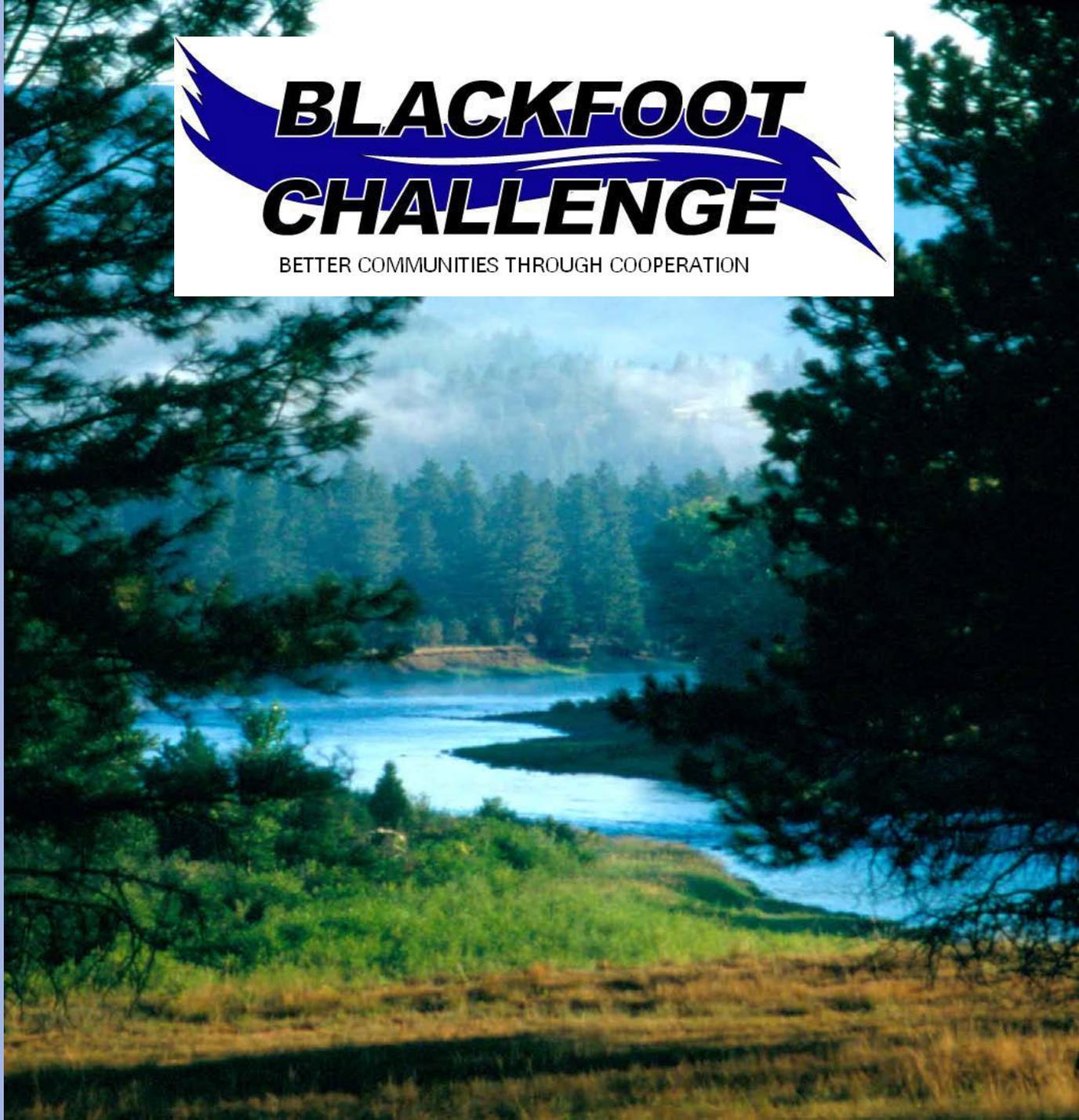
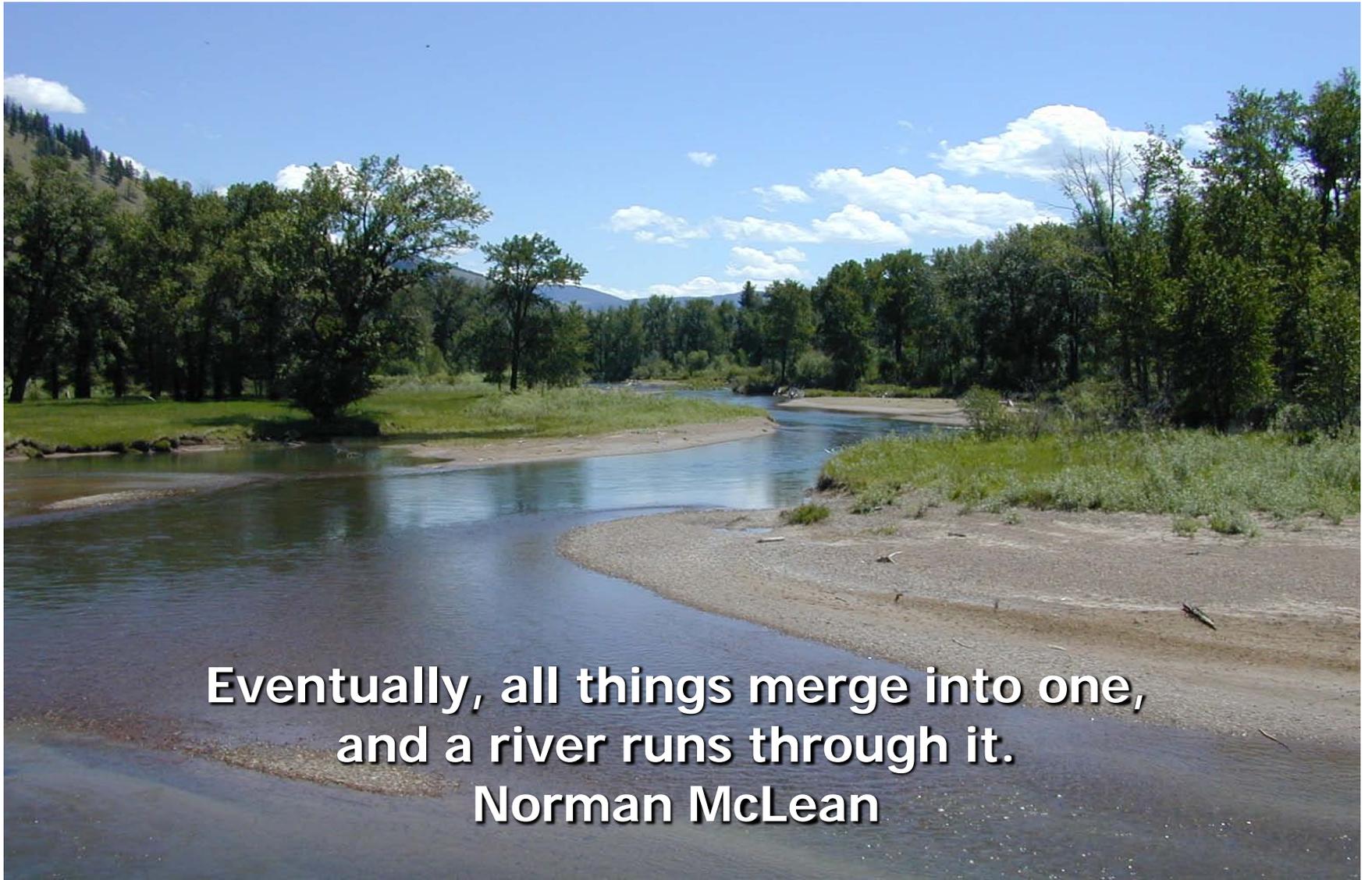




# **BLACKFOOT CHALLENGE**

BETTER COMMUNITIES THROUGH COOPERATION

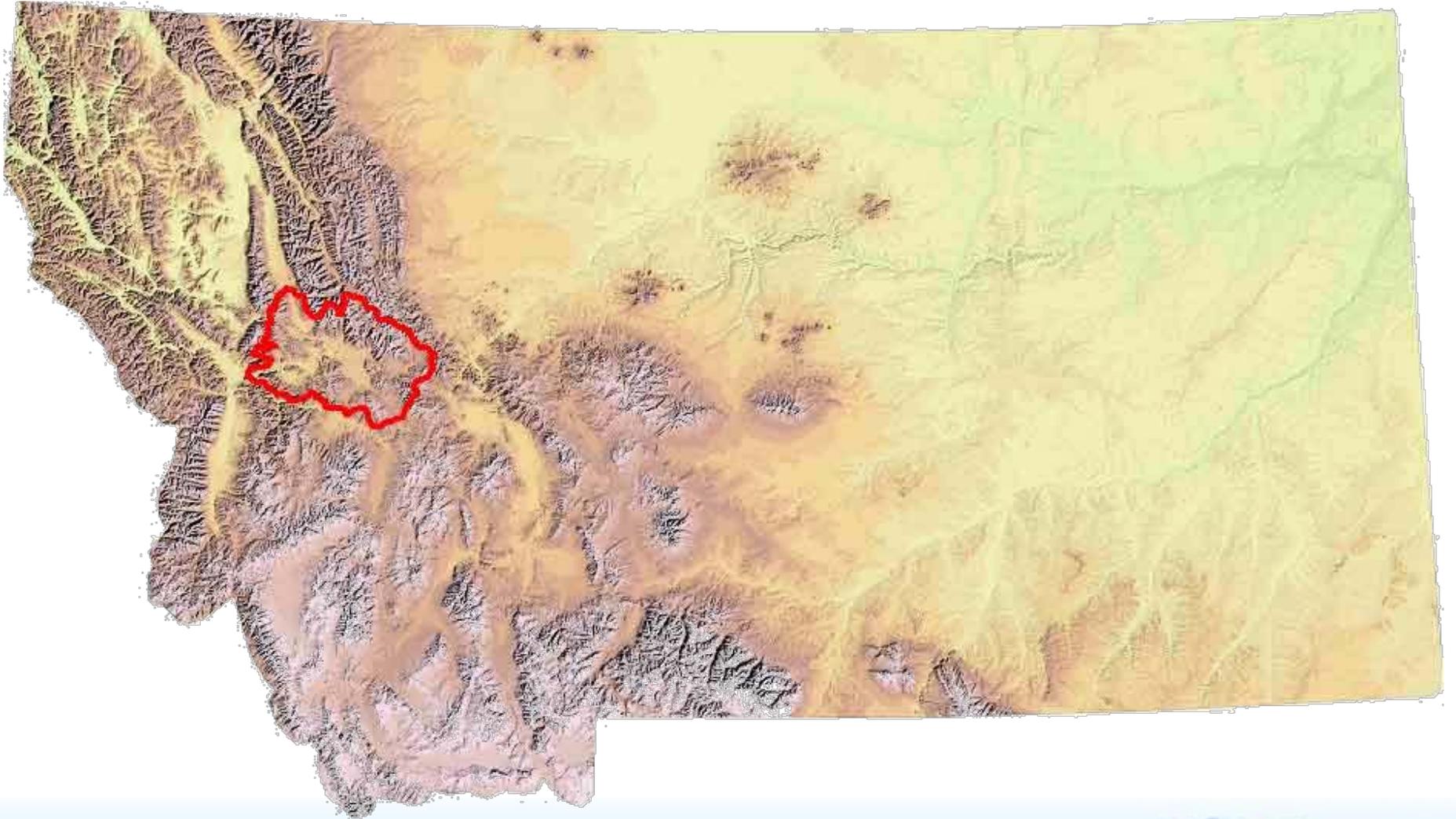




Eventually, all things merge into one,  
and a river runs through it.  
Norman McLean



# Blackfoot Watershed



# Crown of the Continent Ecosystem

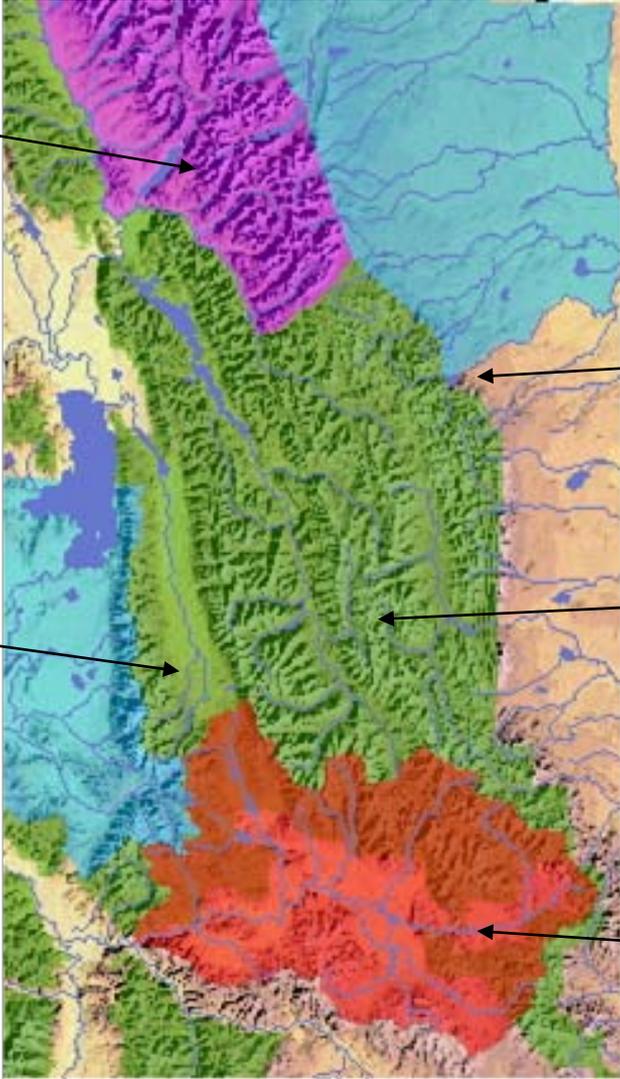
Glacier  
Waterton  
National Park

Rocky Mountain  
Front

Swan  
Watershed

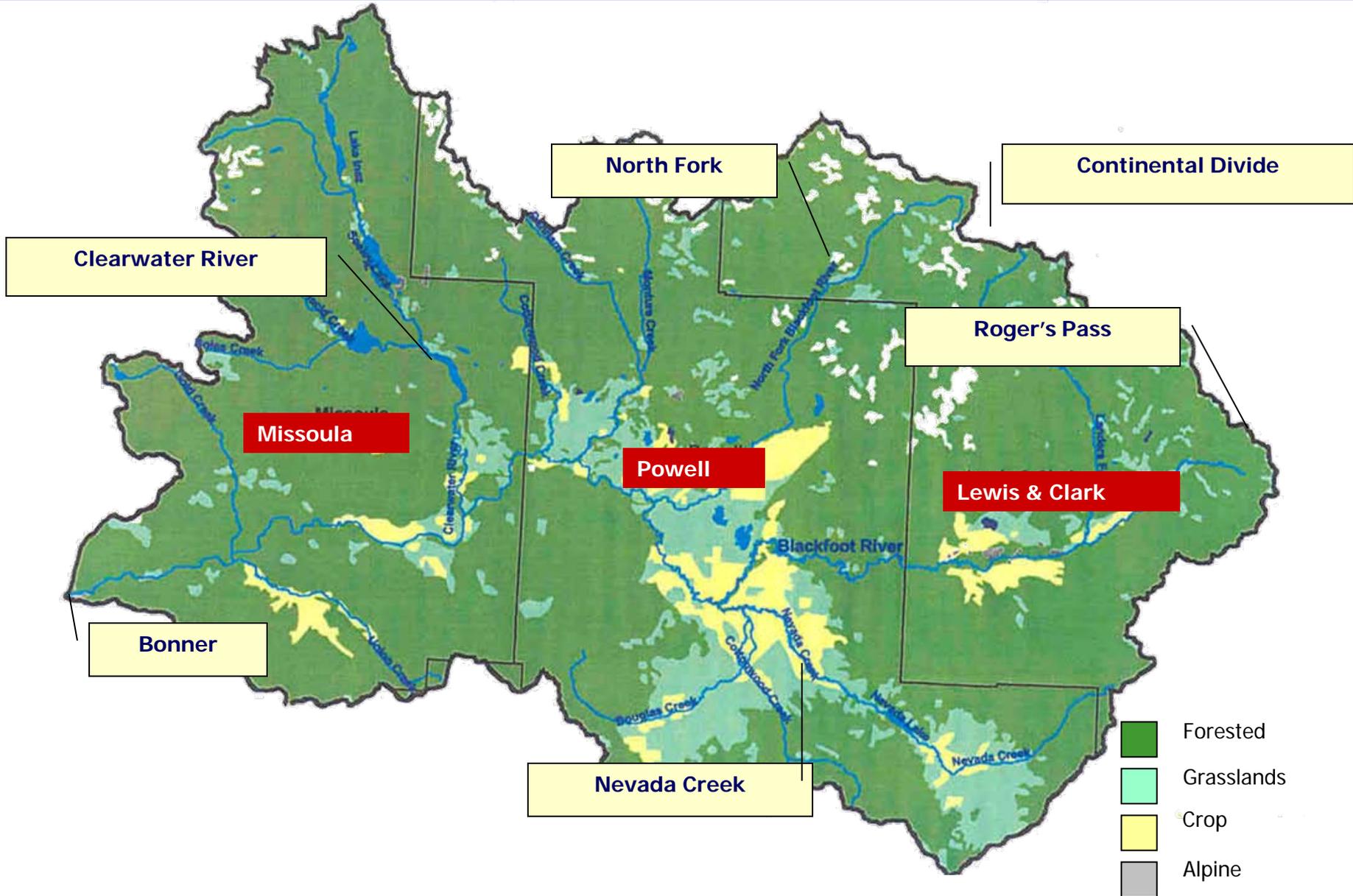
Bob Marshall  
Wilderness

(10 million acres)



Blackfoot  
Watershed

# Blackfoot Watershed ~ 1.5 million acres

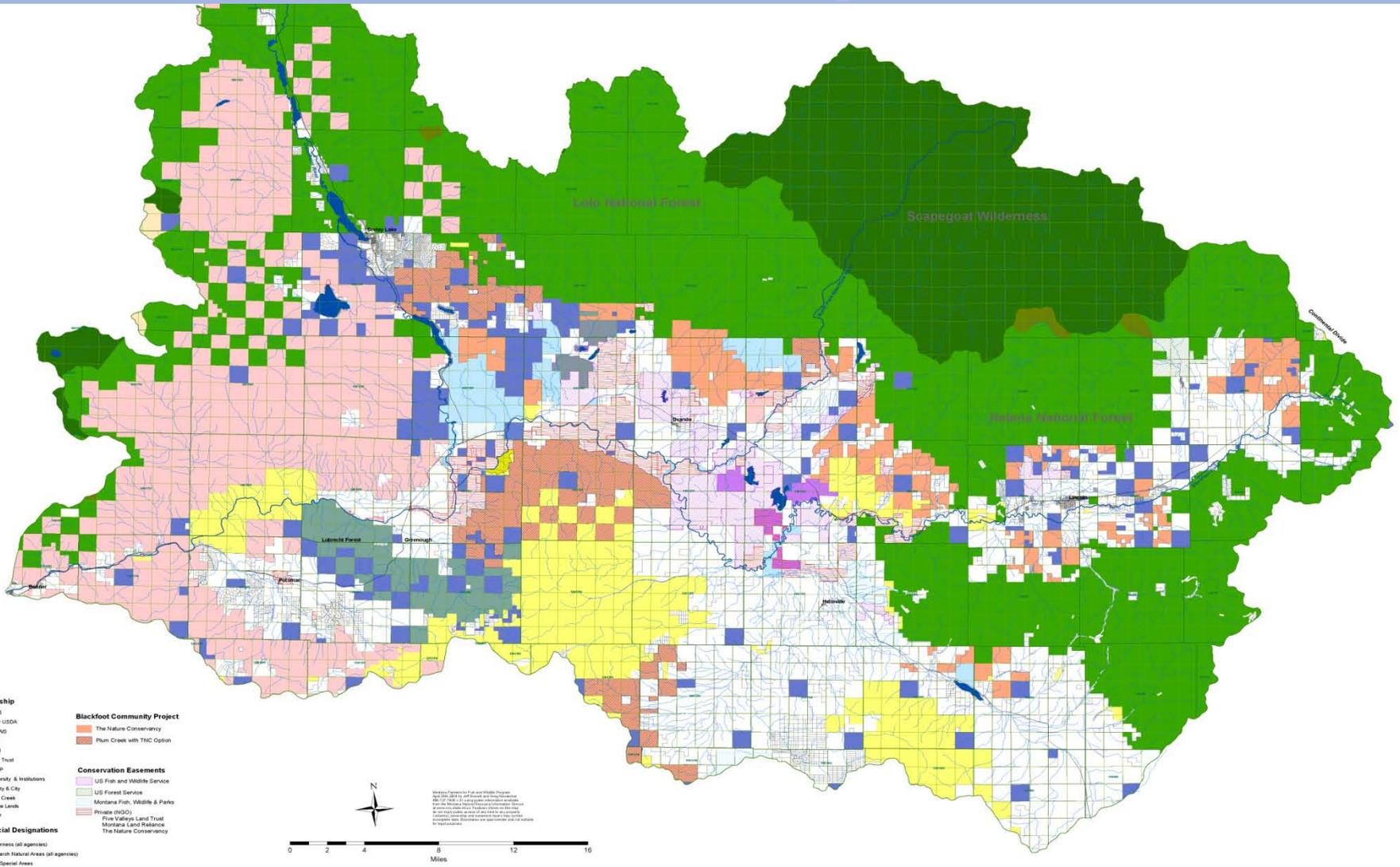


# Seven Communities



- 
- 8,096 residents
  - 2,800 households
  - Largest density is 300 persons per square mile
  - Growth of 21% between 1990-2000

# Ownership





**BLACKFOOT  
CHALLENGE**



**BLACKFOOT  
CHALLENGE**



**BLACKFOOT  
CHALLENGE**

# 1,900 Miles of Perennial Streams





# A RIVER OVERDONE

It runs straight and hard — on a map or from an airplane it is almost a straight line running due west from its headwaters at Rogers Pass on the Continental Divide to Bonner, Montana, where it empties into the South Fork of the Columbia. It runs hard all the way.

— Norman Maclean, "A River Runs Through It."

By GRANT SASEK  
IR Staff Writer

**T**he Big Blackfoot River still runs hard. But the river Norman Maclean immortalized in "A River Runs Through It" has changed from one of the West's premier trout streams into one of the West's most endangered streams.

The river's decline has reached the point that American Rivers designated it Wednesday as one of the 10 most endangered rivers on the continent.

"It has been overdone," said Lincoln native Becky Garland. "It has been over-mined, over-cut, over-fished, over-recreated and overlooked."

From beginning to end, the river runs due west for 130-some miles through large valleys and tight canyons. For the river — and its fish — it is a run through an environmental gauntlet.

Pollution from abandoned mines foul its upper reaches. Logging and agriculture stress the river's middle section. The lower, wider portion of the Blackfoot is crowded by growing numbers of recreationalists.

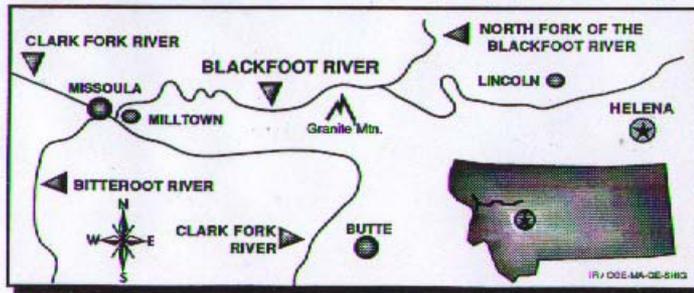
Through it all, the Big Blackfoot remains beautiful. Except for where it begins.

"There's the Goddamnest mess of minerals up here you've ever seen," 68-year-old Dan Kornec said from the office of the White Hope Mine.

## Blackfoot 'in danger' as it flows through people



The Blackfoot River just before it meets the Clark Fork. (Staff photos by Grant Sasek)



"Mining them is this country's tradition."

Kornec or other family members have operated the White Hope Mine — which is in a drainage of the Blackfoot's headwaters — since World War I.

The mine operates in the shadow of the Mike Horse Mine, an inactive mine infamous among conservation groups.

Even though the Mike Horse closed for the last time more than 30 years ago, barren

creeks of acidic, rust-colored water heavy with copper, iron, zinc, manganese and cadmium still flow from it and other nearby mines into the Black-

(More RIVER, page 8A.)



Miner Dan Kornec: "It ain't going to get cleaned up overnight."



**BLACKFOOT  
CHALLENGE**

# IS THIS TRAIN WRECK AVOIDABLE?



**Blackfoot  
Challenge**

*Blackfoot Watershed*

*Resource Threats*



**BLACKFOOT  
CHALLENGE**

# "Ridge to Ridge"



# MISSION

**Coordinate efforts that will enhance  
and conserve the natural  
resources and rural way of life in the  
Blackfoot River Valley.**

*Support environmentally responsible resource stewardship  
through cooperation of public and private interests*

**Local Business  
Community**

**Private  
Landowners**

**State Agencies**



**Federal  
Agencies**

**Corporations**

**THE BLACKFOOT  
CHALLENGE**

**Conservation  
Organizations**

**Recreationists**

**Non-profit  
Organizations**

# Blackfoot Challenge Board

- Private Landowners/Ranchers
- Business Owners
- Plum Creek Timber Company
- Pyramid Mountain Lumber
- Conservation Groups
- State Agencies
  - MT Fish Wildlife & Parks
  - MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
- Federal Agencies
  - US Forest Service
  - US Fish & Wildlife Service
  - Bureau of Land Management



# Blackfoot Challenge Board

- **Build trust and credibility**
- **Communicate, cooperate, share information**
- **Private landowners lead**

# Goals to Meet Our Mission

Foster communication between public agencies and private landowners

Recognize and work with the many diverse interests

Bring together public and private resources to avoid confrontation & resolve issues

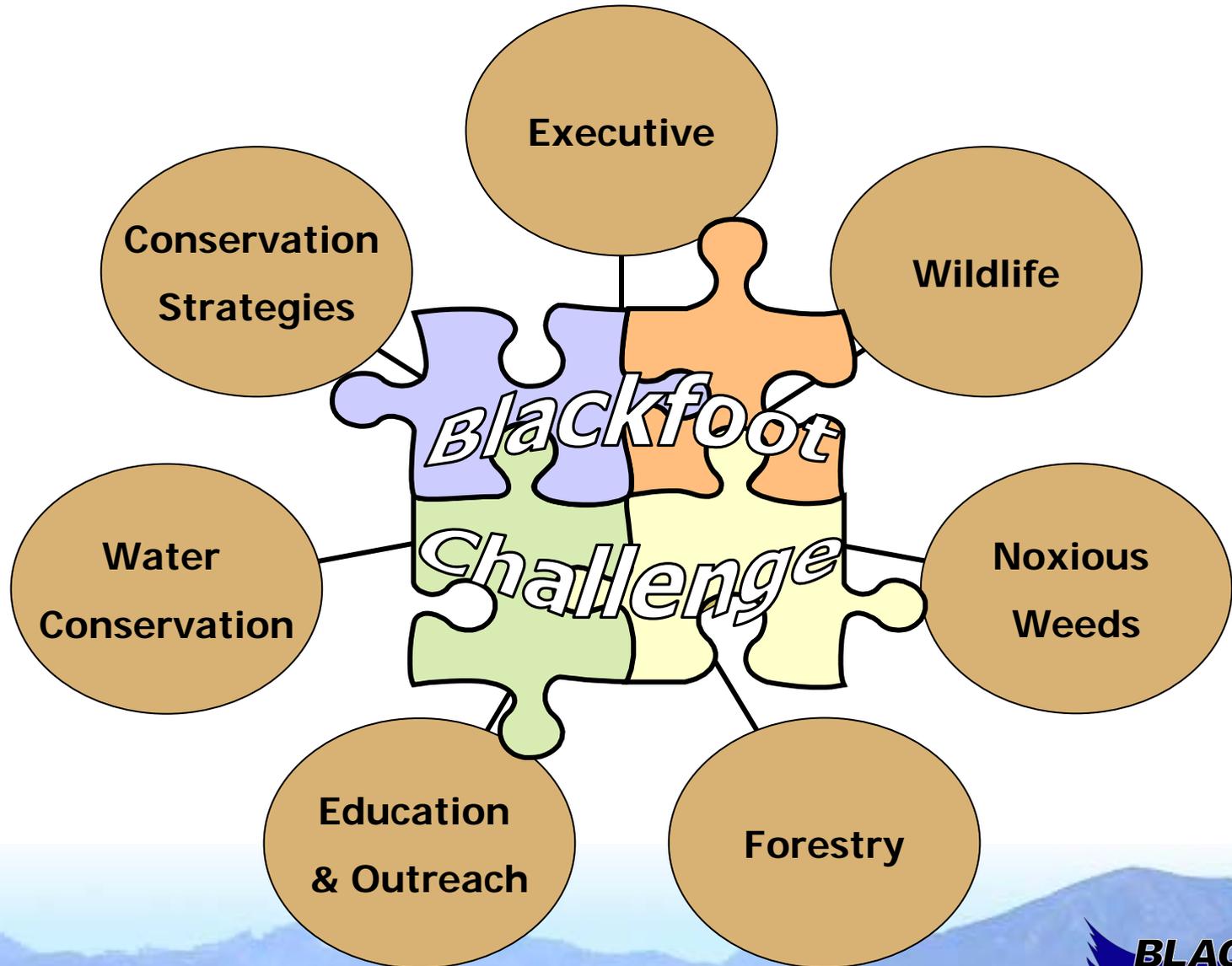
Share technical information with communities

Examine and learn from cumulative effects on our lands



# Private-Public Partnership

# Committees



# 17 Work Groups



# PARTNERS

## +500 Private Landowners

### Federal Agencies:

Bureau of Land Management  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Fish & Wildlife Service  
Forest Service  
Geological Survey  
Natural Resources &  
Conservation Service

National Park Service

### State Agencies:

Agriculture  
Commerce-Travel MT  
Environmental Quality  
Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
Natural Resources & Conservation  
Dept of Transportation  
Lewis & Clark Bicentennial  
Commission  
Natural Resources Information  
Service  
Montana State University  
University of Montana

## Local Agencies/Organizations

Conservation Districts  
Weed Districts  
County Commissions  
Planning Departments  
Salish-Kootenai Tribal  
Historic Preservation Office  
Local Communities & School  
Districts- Bonner, Helmville,  
Lincoln, Ovando, Potomac,  
Seeley Lake, Sunset  
Local Fire Departments

## Private Corporations &

### Businesses:

Blackfoot Angler & Supply  
Blackfoot Commercial  
Blackfoot Telephone  
Bonner Econ, Dev. Corp  
Bouma Post & Pole  
Browning Ferris Industries  
Cenex  
Double Arrow Homeowners  
North Fork Crossing

Plum Creek timber Company  
Pyramid Lumber Company  
E Bar L Guest Ranch  
Lake Upsata Guest Ranch  
Sieben Livestock Company  
Stimson Timber Company  
Stray Bullet Café  
Trixi's Bar  
Valmont Irrigation Company  
Western Fuel

### Outfitters:

Blackfoot River Outfitters  
Double Arrow Outfitters  
Grizzle Hackler  
John Perry's MT Fly Fishing  
Lewis & Clark Expeditions  
Missoulian Angler  
MT Fly Goods  
Paws Up Ranch Outfitters  
Pro Outfitters  
The Kingfisher  
Wapiti Outfitters



Ranches:

Bignell Ranch  
Iverson Logging  
Mannix Brothers Ranch  
Mannix-Raymond Ranch  
Meadow Spring Ranch  
Knob & Kettle Ranch  
Nevada Creek Ranch  
Paws Up Ranch  
Rolling Stone Ranch  
Sieben Ranch  
Sundance Ranch  
Two Creeks/Monture Ck Ranch

Foundations

Bunting Family Foundation  
Cinnabar Foundation  
Charles Engelhard Foundation  
Chutney Foundation  
Duetsch Bank Americas F.  
Great Bear Foundation  
Henry P. Kendall Foundation  
L.E.A.W. Family Foundation  
Lewis & Clark Trails Heritage F.

Living With Wildlife Found.  
MT Community Foundation  
National Fish & Wildlife F.  
Pumpkin Hill Foundation  
Rocky MT Elk Foundation  
The Minneapolis Foundation  
Tulsa Community Foundation  
Wilberforce Foundation  
ZOE Foundation

Non-Profit Partners:

Audubon Society  
Big Blackfoot Chapter of  
Trout Unlimited  
Brown Bear Resources  
Clark Fork Coalition  
Clearwater Resources Council  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Ducks Unlimited  
Five Valleys Land Trust  
MT GIS Users Group  
Montana Land Reliance  
Montana Natural History Ctr.  
MT Snowmobilers Assoc.

Montana Riparian Assoc.  
Montana Trout Unlimited  
MT Watershed Coordination  
Council  
Montana Wetlands Legacy  
Montana Wilderness Assoc.  
Montana Wilderness Society  
National Center For  
Appropriate Technology  
The Nature Conservancy  
Northern Rockies  
Conservation Cooperative  
Ponderosa Snow Warriors  
River Network  
Sonoran Institute  
Travelers Rest Preservation  
Heritage Association  
Watershed Education Network  
Yellowstone to Yukon  
Congressional:  
MT Delegation & Staff  
11 consultants/contractors





# **Better Communities Through Cooperation**