

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY IN

IDAHO

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

On the Cover

Larkin Miller napping peacefully at the head of a canoe in Priest Lake. This photo was taken by Larkin's mother, Robyn Miller, Idaho's director of conservation programs.

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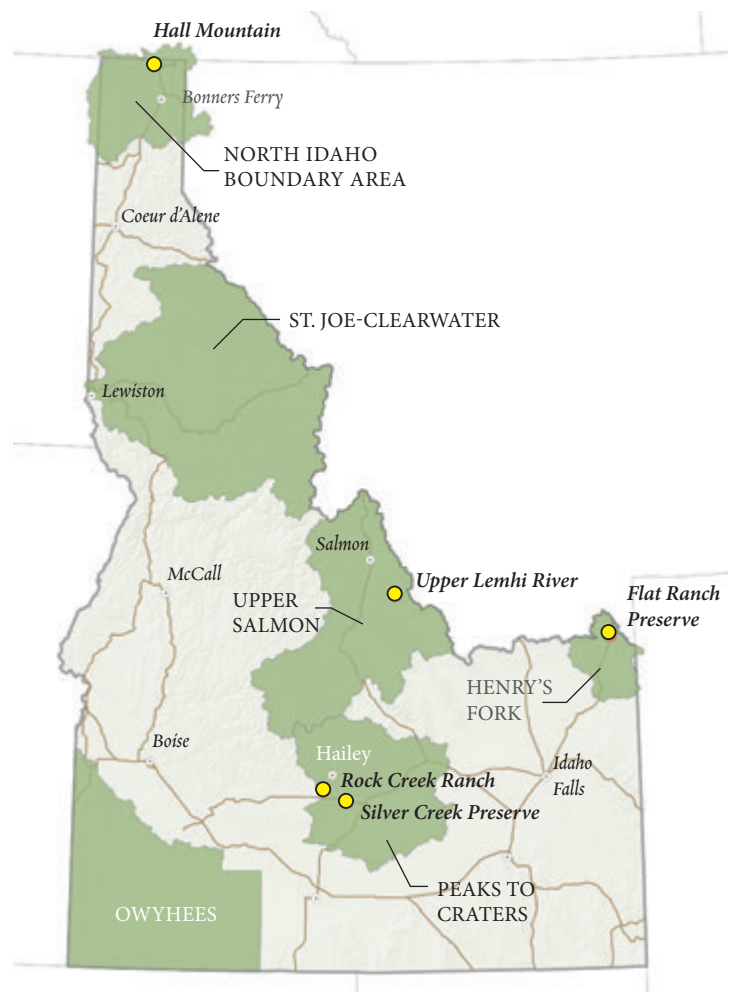
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● THESE DOTS INDICATE AREAS FEATURED IN THE ANNUAL REPORT. THE NATURE CONSERVANCY WORKS THROUGHOUT IDAHO, INCLUDING THE LARGE, NATURAL AREAS IDENTIFIED IN GREEN ON THIS MAP.

Dear friend,

When I was a little girl, we would visit friends at a beautiful ranch in the Stanley Basin. Exploring on foot, riding horses and playing in streams, we watched for various forms of wildlife passing through the ranch (including the resident skunk family, my favorite).

Even then I knew the ranch was special: I vividly recall sitting on the front porch and feeling small as I gazed at the wide open space before me and towering peaks in the background.

Twenty years later, driving through the area with my husband and two children, my daughter suddenly exclaimed, “Look, Mommy, isn’t that pretty?!” Glancing out the window, I realized she was pointing at the same ranch where decades ago, at about

her age, I sat on the porch and thought the exact same thing. A wave of nostalgia and appreciation washed over me as I realized how fortunate we were that long ago someone had made the decision to conserve this unique place — allowing another generation to experience it.

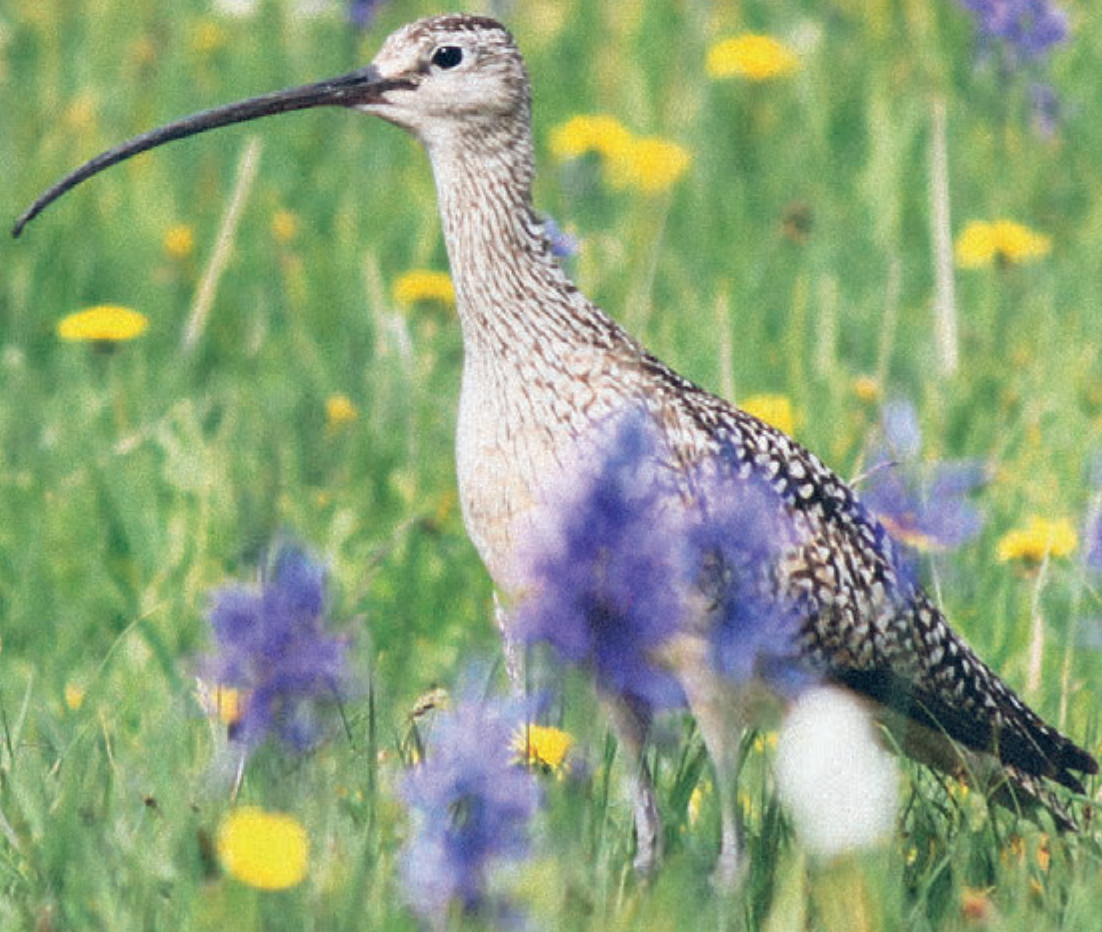
So many aspects of The Nature Conservancy’s mission speak to me, but at the top of the list is the tangible and lasting legacy of our work. In a world where success and results are often fleeting, I have the joy of knowing that our important conservation and restoration work will mean something not only to our generation, but to the many generations to come.

Thank you for making this work possible,

Toni Hardesty

Toni Hardesty, Idaho State Director

“The Flat Ranch and its immediate vicinity support between 70 and 100 nesting pairs of long-billed curlew in a 1,500-acre expanse,” says Rob Cavallaro, regional wildlife biologist with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. “This makes the Flat Ranch one of the densest curlew nesting areas in eastern Idaho, and a crucial population for conservation of this species statewide.”



FLY *with* ME



PUBLIC FOLLOWS MIGRATORY JOURNEY OF 'HENRIETTA' THE LONG-BILLED CURLEW

By Lisa Eller, director of communications

In May, there is still snow on the ground when the distinctive call of the long-billed curlew, a high-pitched “Curlee! Whit, whit, whit,” begins to echo across the Conservancy’s Flat Ranch Preserve.

In a matter of weeks the calls grow louder as spring turns to summer, until a flurry of curlew activity seems to engulf the ranch. The males, using flight displays, calls and ritualized fighting, establish territories and attract a mate.

Once a female selects her mate, she lays her eggs in a shallow

Through the observatory’s curlew study, which is tracking curlews from several areas across the West, we are able to follow the birds on their amazing migrations.

scrape in the short grass on the preserve and the pair takes turns incubating the eggs. A couple of weeks after the eggs hatch, the female starts the next phase of her journey, leaving the care of the chicks to her mate.

In the past when curlews left the ranch, biologists had little information about where they went and how they fared. Yet as long-billed curlew populations and their summer and winter habitats have declined in recent years, insights into

their migration patterns have become increasingly vital to their conservation.

This year, as part of a joint effort between the Conservancy and the Intermountain Bird Observatory (IBO) at Boise State University, one female curlew — named Henrietta by members of the public — wore a 9.5 gram satellite transmitter upon leaving the ranch.

In late June, radar showed that Henrietta stopped briefly in Ogden, Utah. She then departed directly for Sonora, Mexico, presumably to feed from the rich shoreline habitats there. She has since spent most of her time on a small peninsula to the south of Puerto Peñasco, an area more than 900 miles from Flat Ranch.

Through the observatory’s curlew study, which is tracking curlews from several areas across the West, we are able to follow the birds on their amazing migrations. The project brings science and monitoring “to life” for the general public and makes it easier to connect with and get excited about birds, says Jay Carlisle, IBO research director. “Ultimately, we’ll only have as much success in conservation as we succeed in engaging our growing human population.”

The female long-billed curlew, tracked by IBO and the Conservancy, was named “Henrietta” by members of the public through social media.

Thank you to the Idaho Brewing Company and others who have made it possible for us to track curlews.



Open vistas stretch for miles at Rock Creek Ranch.

PHOTO BY JOHN FINNELL

Leaving a Legacy

THE RINKER FAMILY AND ROCK CREEK RANCH

By Lisa Eller, director of communications

Rock Creek Ranch looks much like it did when Harry Rinker bought it nearly 20 years ago. Its rolling hills seem to stretch forever into the distance; big bushes of sagebrush and clusters of aspen trees dot the landscape. Water meanders from one end of the 10,400-acre property to the other end. In fact, water is what caught Harry’s attention when he first set eyes on Rock Creek.

“Like many things, he had the foresight to realize the value of water to this land,” says Bart Rinker, Harry’s son. “Couple that with the amount of water on this property, and my father saw great potential.” The importance of this precious resource was highlighted this year when Blaine County declared an emergency state of drought.

.....
“The community has given us a lot over the years, and we wanted to give something back.”
.....

A businessman and commercial developer, Harry saw the ranch as a long-term investment for his family. Since coming to Sun Valley for winter recreation in the 1950s, Harry had developed a handful of subdivisions including Gimlet and Golden Eagle. He placed part of Rock Creek Ranch in a trust for his four children.

Located just west of the Wood River Valley with access from Highway 20, the ranch seemed destined to become a housing

development. The Rinker family considered this and other options over the years. But in 2013 they began to consider a much different future for the property.

The Wood River Land Trust and The Nature Conservancy approached the family about selling the ranch for conservation. The ranch’s intact fish and wildlife habitat, size, location and threat of development made it a high priority for protection.

Rock Creek Ranch encompasses the entire Rock Creek drainage southwest of Hailey and consists of high-quality sagebrush-steppe habitat, aspen forest and riparian corridors along Rock Creek. The property, surrounded on all sides by public lands, contains summer range for elk, as well as summer and winter range for mule deer. Several sage-grouse leks, or breeding grounds, are found on and near the property.

“In talking to the conservation groups, we began to see the value in leaving the ranch undeveloped,” says Bart Rinker. “The community has given us a lot over the years, and we wanted to give something back. It was a family decision to put the ranch into the hands of conservation and wildlife groups.”

In 2014, the Wood River Land Trust and the Conservancy purchased Rock Creek Ranch. The groups worked with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to place conservation easements on much of the property, which will restrict its development even as ownership changes. The long-term goal for the property is for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to manage it for wildlife and responsible recreation.



Remembering Bud Purdy

HOW ONE RANCHER HELPED
SAFEGUARD IDAHO'S SILVER CREEK

By Dayna Gross, conservation manager

We often think of places shaping us; rarely does a person shape a place. But Bud Purdy was a different and remarkable person. We are fortunate — for both conservation and the community — that he committed himself to Idaho and Silver Creek in particular.

Bud first came to Picabo in 1928 at age 10 to work the family ranch (and have some fun, as kids do, he would say). He received his degree in business from Washington State University in 1938 near the end of the Great Depression; since no jobs were available, he headed back to Picabo to help with the ranch. While he had not planned on returning, he ended up more or less staying there his entire life. In 1950, he and his brother Bill bought the cattle side of the operation. Over the years, Bud was ahead of his time in business as well as in conservation.

While Bud claimed he was not technically a cowboy, to me he epitomized the Western way of life. The Western cowboy symbolizes the ultimate in independence, strength and freedom. In high school I cut out a picture from National Geographic of two cowboys, father and son, and have carried it around for 20 years. It now hangs in my boys' room: there is just something about that picture. And there was something about Bud Purdy; I knew it the day I met him.

I was first introduced to Bud in 2003, when I was the Silver Creek preserve assistant. He warned me of The Nature Conservancy with a smile and a laugh. The next time I ran into Bud and every time after that, he would say, "Huh, you're still here. ..."

Shortly after we met, Bud was thrown off his horse and run over by a cow — yes, you read that right — run over by a cow. He broke his hip and collar bone, and had a few other

scrapes and scratches. Only a few months later, he was riding horses again and working as hard as ever.

As I find with most farmers and ranchers, Bud had an innate conservation ethic. In 1995, Bud and his family became the largest donor of a conservation easement in the Silver Creek area. While Bud openly questioned the Conservancy's work, he saw the value in conserving his land in perpetuity through an easement. That was one of the things I valued most about Bud — he was honest and open with his criticism, careful with his praise, and that made him trusted and sought out. People wanted to know what he thought because he wasn't going to tell you something that wasn't true.

Bud traveled all over the world, advising the Mongolian government on grazing practices, and often flying to Mexico to hunt. He hung out with Ernest Hemingway and Gary Cooper, and was always willing to tell his own stories. I must have called him 50 times to set up interviews or bring people to meet him, and he never said no. He flew his small plane everywhere and drove slowly on the highway. I ended up behind him many times — driving 30 mph in a 65-mph zone — and my husband and I used to joke that if it were anyone else we would be generally irritated, but because it was Bud, it was no big deal.

Bud Purdy shaped my time at Silver Creek and every management decision I made there. He always had input, good or bad, and a way of delivering it that made me listen. His true and lasting impact on conservation will live on, benefiting generations to come in Idaho.

Leonard N. "Bud" Purdy died Monday, April 14, 2014, at the age of 96 of natural causes at his home on Silver Creek west of Picabo.



LEE CREEK

IMPERILED CHINOOK SALMON RUNS
RESURGE IN UPPER LEMHI RIVER

By Lisa Eller, director of communications



Spawning Chinook salmon at the headwaters of the Lemhi River.

PHOTO BY RON TROY/TNC.

At midday, the water was alive with flapping fins and splashing water at the headwaters of the Upper Lemhi River on the Beyeler family ranch.

A remarkable sight was unfolding.

Dozens of wild Chinook salmon, each more than 20 inches long and upwards of 25 pounds, had returned hundreds of miles from the Pacific Ocean to spawn in their home waters.

The arduous journey the salmon endured to and from the ocean — some 600 to 900 miles away — was not lost on Conservancy staffers, who watched in awe as they witnessed one of nature’s greatest migrations.

But to understand what makes this sight even more remarkable, one could look back 20 years, to a time when residents, biologists and others believed the valley’s salmon would never return.

While we still have a long way to go, the future looks brighter today, says Ron Troy, Central Idaho field representative for The Nature Conservancy in Idaho. Although official counts are not in, the wild salmon run to the Lemhi River in 2014 is expected to be the largest in 13 years.

The Conservancy has spent the past several years restoring salmon and steelhead habitat in the Lemhi and Pahsimeroi valleys, working hand in hand with numerous partners in the

Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Program.

Even with the improved numbers of Chinook returning to the Upper Lemhi, Troy points out that we are far from done in restoring this critical spawning and juvenile-rearing habitat. Unexpected events such as drought or flood could have devastating impacts on this extremely fragile Chinook salmon population.

“We can’t waste any time in increasing the amount and type of habitat available to this remarkable fish, so that we can send large numbers of juvenile fish down the system to contend with dams, predators, ocean conditions, etc.,” Troy says. “It is nice to see how many people: landowners, agencies and (nongovernmental organizations) are diligently working to aid in the restoration of these imperiled runs.”

This year the Conservancy, local ranchers and partners completed a four-year project that restored connectivity to the lower Big Eightmile, lower Lee Creek and an important channel of the Lemhi River where Chinook spawning occurs. The project removed 11 barriers to fish passage and increased flows to the Lemhi River and three of its tributaries.

All of the restoration occurred in the Upper Lemhi River Basin, a critical spawning and juvenile-rearing area for Chinook salmon.

Understanding Grizzlies

RESEARCHERS DISCOVER GRIZZLIES FROM DIFFERENT REGIONS SHARE GENES, HIGHLIGHTING IMPORTANCE OF CORRIDOR CONSERVATION.

By Lisa Eller, director of communications

In 2011 research ecologist Katherine Kendall and her team began piecing together the most comprehensive and scientifically sound estimate of the grizzly-bear population in the Cabinet-Yaak Mountains, one of only six designated recovery areas for grizzly bears in the country.

Kendall, who led a project collecting grizzly-bear hair samples in the area over a year, hails from the U.S. Geological Survey's Glacier Field Station in Glacier National Park. In the end, team members gathered more than 18,000 hair samples from scent-baited, barbed-wire fences wrapped around stands of trees, and from natural bear rubs.

“These results mean that bears from separate populations have been able to interact, which is vital to the survival of the species.”

After processing DNA from 11,280 samples, Kendall's team made some surprising discoveries.

Between June and September 2012, the researchers identified about 39 grizzly bears belonging to the populations in the Cabinet-Yaak area. But they also found three that did not carry these genes.

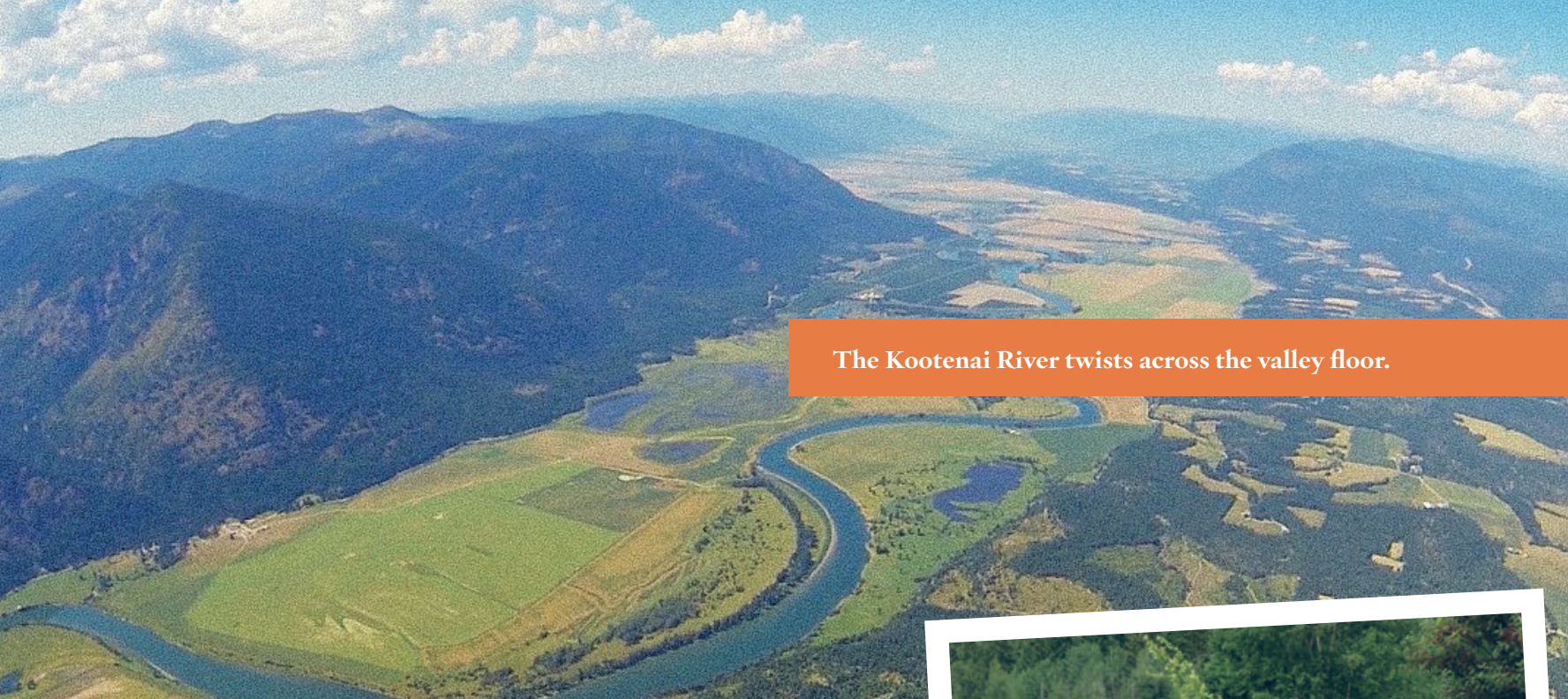
One male grizzly detected in the West Cabinets was the offspring of parents from the Canadian side of the Selkirk Mountains, which span the northern portion of the Idaho Panhandle, Eastern Washington and southeastern British Columbia.

Another male found in the Yaak was the offspring of a father from the Whitefish Range and a mother that lives in the Whitefish Range and Salish Mountains. A third male, a part-time resident of the Yaak, was the offspring of parents from the Whitefish Range.

As Kendall explains, these results mean that bears from separate populations have been able to reconnect, which is vital to the genetic health of these populations. And in order for bears to move between populations, they must be able to travel safely through the intervening habitat.

“Gene flow among these populations is important for recovering the Cabinet-Yaak population and ensuring the long-term conservation of grizzlies in northern Idaho and Montana,” Kendall says. “Protected corridors between the remnant populations are vital to encouraging that connectivity.”

Since 2007 the Conservancy has worked with willing landowners to conserve private lands that lie between the Cabinet-Yaak and Selkirk mountains within Boundary County, Idaho.



The Kootenai River twists across the valley floor.

PHOTO BY TNC/COMMUNICATION DESIGNS

“This place has been all of those things and more”

THE GAUSES – A FOREST LEGACY STORY

By Lisa Eller, director of communications



PHOTO BY LISA ELLER/TNC

Dave Gause felt drawn to Bonners Ferry while traveling through the area for work in the early 1970s. The mountainous, green landscape reminded him of his rainy and cloudy hometown of Enumclaw, Washington.

Not too long after seeing the area, Dave and his friends Charlie McCrum and Barb Lindgren purchased 160 acres that bordered Hall Mountain and millions of acres of public forests. The three ended up building homes on two parts of the property: Dave settled on 60 acres, while Charlie and Barb took ownership of 100 acres.

“I wanted a place that was capable of giving me a certain lifestyle, a place where I could make some sort of living, a place with animal life around, a place we could grow food and raise children,” Dave says. “This place has always been all of those things and more.”

Today the scenery surrounding the property, though dotted with a few more homes, is still spectacular. Sightings of wildlife such as cougars, grizzly bears and mountain goats are periodic but not uncommon.

Reflecting on the past 30 years, Dave, a retired teacher from nearby Mount Hall Elementary School, says the land was “always there for him.” He and his wife Janet, who still teaches at Mount Hall, built a beautiful home where they raised three children. The national forest lands bordering their home acted as a natural playground for the kids.

Now in retirement, Dave continues to manage his land, which includes harvesting trees, selling logs and cutting firewood for winter, their primary heat source. In the past, Dave cut lumber from his own logs on a small portable mill that he and Charlie bought years ago. Dave is also a blacksmith. It is all meaningful and satisfying work.

Long after they are gone, Dave and Janet would like the property to remain as it has for decades. They are working with The Nature Conservancy to protect the land permanently through the U.S. Forest Service’s Forest Legacy program, administered by the Idaho Department of Lands.

“(Development) never appealed to me, and I was never comfortable with the idea,” Dave says. “Our kids agreed that this place and its integrity are more important than what we would get out of it at a given moment.”

Around the World in Search of Birds

BOB GRIFFITH – A DONOR STORY

By Lisa Eller, director of communications



The morning we spoke with Bob Griffith, a longtime Nature Conservancy supporter, he was making plans to take his grandson to see 3,000 tundra swans that had landed in a nearby wetland along the Coeur d'Alene River. It would be one of many trips to watch and photograph birds that Bob took over the years. His love of photography, especially of birds, was the foundation for his and his wife Dee's 20-year commitment to supporting conservation.

“Through photography I became interested in nature. Suddenly I appreciated the things that before I was stepping over, on or around.”

When did you develop an interest in nature?

It happened later in life. Through photography I became interested in nature. Suddenly I appreciated the things that before I was stepping over, on or around. I had been traveling around the world with my wife — a lot of trips to North Africa — just capturing historical sites. That was just a hobby. Then I started (photographing) the birds at the Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge in Washington. I went on to taking photos around the feeders by our house, photographing mostly finches and warblers. This interest

led to more travel out of the area, seeking specific species. I loved puffins so I traveled to Alaska and got (photos) of all three species.

I enjoy watching things that are unaffected by man, are disturbed by my presence — that can be warblers on Mount Spokane or puffins in the Pribilofs.

What are some of your favorite places? (Note: Bob and Dee took 50 trips in 20 years during retirement. They went to all seven continents two or more times.)

The Pribilof Islands (a group of four volcanic islands off the coast of mainland Alaska in the Bering Sea), South Georgia Island (in the southern Atlantic Ocean) — I have a lot of favorites.

Why do you support The Nature Conservancy?

We met a couple of people on a photography trip to Yellowstone who spoke highly of TNC. We started to get to know the staff in Coeur d'Alene, where my wife and I attended high school. The TNC staff did a good job of telling us about the mission and had a plot of ground (in Cougar Bay) that needed some permanent signage. We donated to that. We continued to support the programs over the years because of shared interests in protecting habitat.

Bob Griffith passed away March 27, 2014, at the age of 84, after a brief and courageous fight with cancer.

Staff Profile

DAYNA GROSS

CONSERVATION MANAGER REFLECTS ON LIFE, WORK AT SILVER CREEK

By Valerie Connor, operations assistant

Dayna lives a stone's throw away from her office in a setting that is both peaceful and vibrant. Swallows, hummingbirds, hawks, ducks and cranes call, hover and zip around. Moose, coyote, elk and mountain lions frequent the rich lushness of the valley, and of course there are fishermen – lots of them. Silver Creek Preserve receives about 10,000 visitors annually. Silver Creek's clean, spring-fed water and sinuous course supports up to 5,000 fish per mile, making it a world-class fishing destination. Birders have cataloged 150 species of birds on the preserve.

Dayna and I met for the first time at The Nature Conservancy's office at Silver Creek Preserve. The August sun was bright and warm, and we moved the picnic table into the shade to talk. Dayna has lived at Silver Creek Preserve for nearly ten years, working, living, and raising a family. The majority of her tenure was spent as the preserve manager, and only very recently has she accepted a new role as conservation manager.

When I ask about this change, she admits that she misses field work and sitting behind a screen all day is challenging. However, she sees the opportunity to influence positive action in the world, and that path leads her behind a desk.

She balances her time indoors by staying involved in a couple of her favorite projects—one of which are the volunteers who are instrumental to the success of the preserve. One of her favorites is Pete. When Dayna arrived at the preserve, there were many projects left unfinished and the facilities were in disrepair. She found a 10-page letter from Pete, a volunteer who had experience managing lands. He outlined all of the improvements that needed to be made, complete with photos and descriptions.

Dayna tackled each item on Pete's list, then wrote him back and invited him to the preserve to see the fruits of her

labor. Pete returned and over the years became a friend and mentor for Dayna, returning again and again to Silver Creek. It turned out that Pete and Dayna's mother had worked together years before, and as so much in life, the circle was completed.

I am curious about your ability to be an artist and a scientist at the same time.

The creative process is one and the same for both disciplines, though it does involve different parts of the brain. The first step is to identify the challenge and then systematically work towards a solution. Sometimes, when the work is complete,

it's apparent that my hypothesis or vision was flawed, so I try again. And sometimes, you nail it. Art generates an emotional response to a place or a topic. It helps connect people to a place. And when you communicate effectively, people are more apt to listen.

What do you love most about your work?

The volunteers, who return year after year and become like family, the talented and professional partners I get to work with and the local landowners add depth and meaning to my everyday work. Building these relationships is not only personally gratifying, but helps further the goals of The Nature Conservancy.

How do you balance work and family life?

I take some time every day to do something for myself, whether that means going for a run, doing yoga or just sitting—it helps me be more present when I need to be. My two sons have taught me the benefits of being focused. Being in the moment was not something that came easily, but kids know when you aren't paying attention – they see your thoughts floating off and they have a way of pulling you back. The most successful people are those who have the ability to focus at work, at home and in every venture they undertake.



By the NUMBERS



PHOTO BY KEN MIRACLE

95

percentage of sage-grouse males in Idaho included in protected habitat designations proposed by the state of Idaho.



PHOTO BY RON TROY/TNC

77

species of birds—including 13 imperiled species in need of conservation — found on or near Big Creek Ranch on the Pahsimeroi River. The Nature Conservancy manages conservation easements on 3,859 acres of the ranch.

8.83

Additional miles of stream made accessible to native, wild fish in the Lemhi Valley.

347

acres of sagebrush-steppe habitat conserved in the southern Pioneer Mountains, bringing the total of acres protected in the southern Pioneers to 65,412 acres. This total includes all easements stewarded by the Conservancy, the Wood River Land Trust and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.



PHOTO BY BILL MULLINS

54

Increase in cubic feet per second (cfs) of water to the Upper Lemhi River through collaborative restoration projects with Lemhi Valley farmers and ranchers.

Conserving Idaho's vast, open natural areas takes hard work and a variety of tools, including restoration, collaboration and advocacy. We are proud of the tremendous accomplishments of our dedicated staff, volunteers and partners. Here is a "by the numbers" look at what we have achieved over the past year with your support.

2,100

trees and shrubs planted since 2007 by staff and volunteers near Garden Creek Preserve in Hells Canyon.



PHOTO BY TNC/COMMUNICATION DESIGNS

62

number of direct, local jobs created in 2013 through forest-restoration activities in the Selway-Middle Fork forests. These forests are part of the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program, which encourages collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration of priority forest landscapes.

23,917

acres treated in 2013 for hazardous fuel reductions in the Nez-Perce Clearwater forests as part of the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program.

73,000

acres surveyed for active sage-grouse leks near the 45 Ranch in the Owyhees by Owyhee Air.



PHOTO BY HAMILTON WALLACE

107,156

wetland plants, shrubs and willows planted by volunteers, staff and contractors as part of the restoration of Kilpatrick Pond at Silver Creek Preserve.



PHOTO BY TNC

698

fish per mile counted on the Conservancy's Flat Ranch Preserve by Idaho Department of Fish and Game in 2013. Of this total, 86% were rainbow trout, 12% were Yellowstone cutthroat trout and 2% were cutbow (a Yellowstone cutthroat and rainbow trout cross). By contrast, a 1988 survey conducted by IDFG found 259 fish per mile on the ranch.

From the Nation's Capitol to Idaho's Mountains

By Will Whelan, director of government relations

An ancient migration pathway for bear, moose and other large animals is permanently protected from development north of Sandpoint.

A spring creek in the Pahsimeroi Valley flows for the first time in decades and is immediately inhabited by dozens of Chinook salmon.

A forest stand in North Idaho is thinned to make it more resilient to fire, and a nearby old logging road that bleeds sediment into a trout stream is blended back into the landscape.

Native sagebrush habitat lost to a fire is replanted with native grasses, forbs and shrubs to accelerate the return of sage grouse.

These actual examples of conservation achievements in

“Without Congress’ continued commitment to conservation, much of our work would simply be impossible.”

Idaho’s serene natural areas can be traced directly to actions taken in the noisy and sometimes chaotic environs of the nation’s capital. In short, the level of federal support for Idaho wildlife and natural places really matters.

The Nature Conservancy’s conservation accomplishments almost always rest on a “three-legged stool” made up of voluntary commitments by landowners, private funds donated by conservationists, and public funds appropriated by Congress. The public funding leg is often essential when we are partnering with working ranchers, farmers, and forest owners who want to work with nature but can’t afford to donate the full value of a conservation project. Without



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN NAFZGER

Congress’ continued commitment to conservation, much of our work would simply be impossible.

This is why the Conservancy has long advocated for common-sense laws that recognize the value that nature adds to our lives and our livelihoods. We believe our economy, well-being and quality of life depend on clean air and water, productive lands and healthy ecosystems of plants and animals.

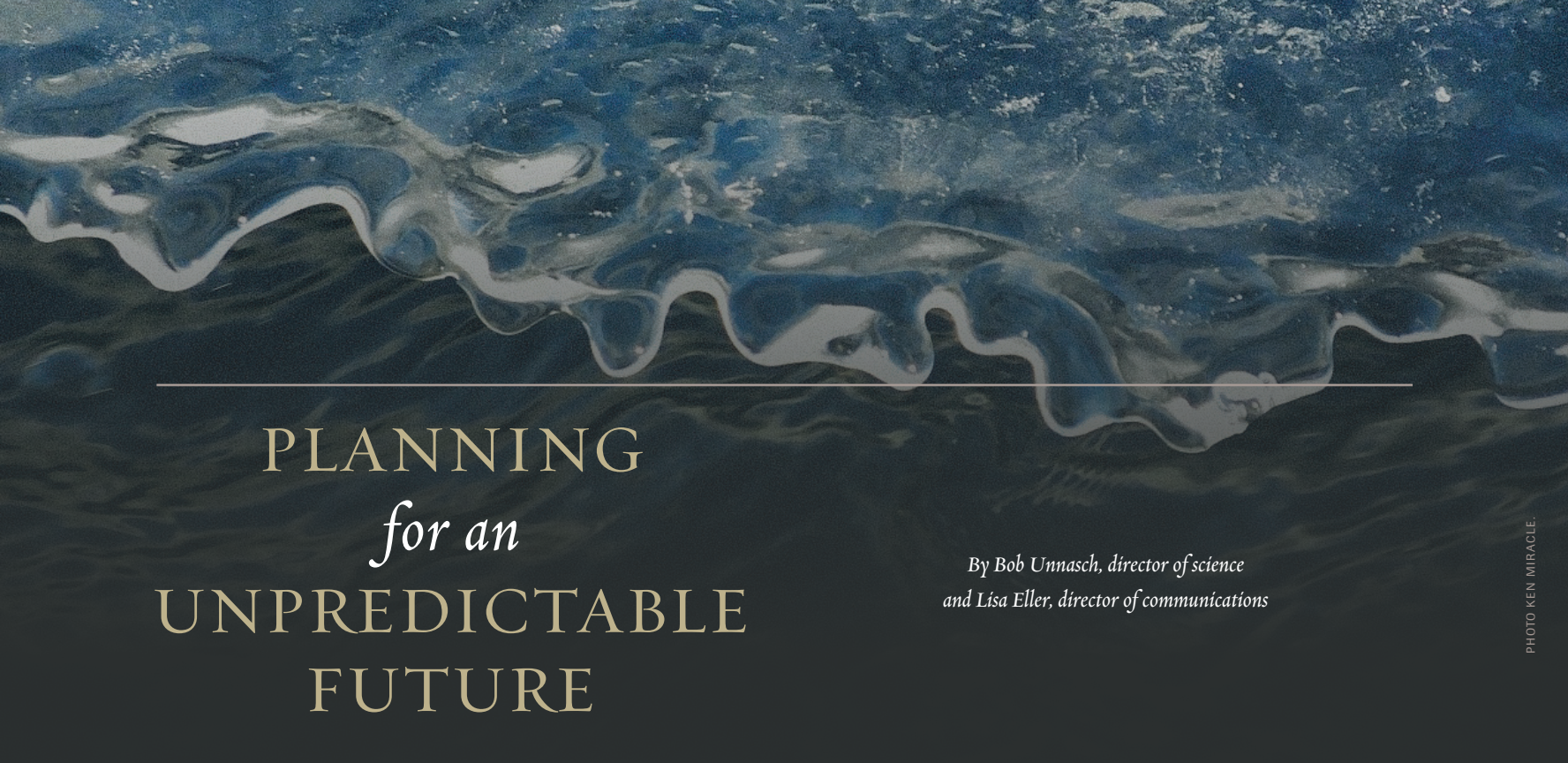
Over the last year, that message has helped us break through partisan gridlock and score two major victories for conservation:

2014 Farm Bill

This year’s Farm Bill was among the strongest ever for conservation. It sustains funding for core stewardship programs, launches a new regional partnership program to leverage conservation results, imposes a “sodsaver” provision to prevent loss of soils and grasslands, links conservation compliance to crop insurance assistance, and permanently reauthorizes stewardship contracting, which is a major driver of restoration on public lands.

2014 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)

This may be the most important environmental law that no one has ever heard of. Congress adopts a new version of WRDA once every several years to update the legal authority and direction for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ water projects. The law’s impact on the nation’s dams, flood control structures, recovery from storms, rivers and wetlands is huge – and has not always been benign. The Conservancy worked with a broad coalition to get better recognition of natural solutions such as barrier islands and wetlands as means to adapt to and recover from devastating storms and floods. The law also directs the Corps to reconsider how existing infrastructure can be better operated to address modern needs, including conservation of aquatic ecosystems.



PLANNING *for an* UNPREDICTABLE FUTURE

By Bob Unnasch, director of science
and Lisa Eller, director of communications

PHOTO: KEN MIRACLE

Remarkably, Idaho is still home to every species that was here when Lewis and Clark first crested the Lemhi Pass in 1805. Modern-day adventurers still come across Chinook salmon spawning, elk bugling and giant salamanders hiding within the state's large, connected wildlands.

Yet scientists predict that over the next century, average annual temperatures in the Pacific Northwest will increase by between 2 and 5 degrees Fahrenheit. Extreme weather events, insect infestations, disease outbreaks, flooding and catastrophic wildfires will become more common, significantly shifting the distribution of Idaho's plants and animals. Shrinking mountain

snowpacks will threaten wolverine and pika. Earlier and warmer spring temperatures will lower streamflows, reducing habitat for salmon and trout.

In fact, researchers forecast that by the year 2100, 20 to 30 percent of the Northwest's species will change in abundance, distribution or both. We can expect species loss, with many species' ranges expanding or contracting.

Now a team of Conservancy scientists, including Idaho's Bob Unnasch, is taking on the challenge of identifying how ranges will shift and where the Conservancy should work in future decades.

Here in Idaho, the Conservancy will use the team's findings to pinpoint the most climate-resilient areas in the state. Through this forward-thinking, science-based approach to conservation, the Conservancy will become even more effective and efficient in accomplishing its mission of conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends.

How Conservancy scientists identified "highly resilient" areas

For the past 50 years, The Nature Conservancy's scientists have been on the forefront in developing methods to identify areas key to conservation. These analyses relied on knowledge of the distribution of plant communities and the location and range of important species. But with ranges of plant communities and species shifting,

the task of determining where to do conservation has become increasingly complex.

In recent years, a team of Conservancy scientists found clues to determining critical areas in the enduring features of soils, geology and topography, that (unlike plant communities) remain stable through time and with climate change.

Scientists discovered that combinations of these enduring features – together with

microclimates – determined biological diversity. They began grouping the features into 150 categories, or "land facets."

Using land facets and spatial data, the team identified "highly resilient" areas that support species with the best chances of surviving into the future. The Conservancy's science teams completed this analysis for the Northeast, Southeast and Pacific Northwest in 2014.



Volunteers planting trees and shrubs at the Conservancy's Garden Creek Preserve. Pictured are Dale Brege from Grangeville, Idaho, and Dee and Terry Sweeney from Redmond, Wash.

Volunteers

*"We make a living by what we get,
but we make a life by what we give."*

— Winston Churchill

Thank you to our volunteers and interns! Together they contributed many hours to education, maintenance, weed control, trail building, habitat restoration, photography and so much more. Our work would not be possible without them.

AJ Chlebnik

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2014 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2014

“Every child is born a naturalist.
His eyes are, by nature, open to the
glories of the stars, the beauty of the
flowers and the mystery of life.”

~ Ritu Ghatourey

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	2014	2013
Dues and contributions	\$3,368,502	\$5,095,158
Grants and contracts	548,629	2,133,134
Gifts of conservation land	573,313	10,487,983
Investment income	1,715,708	1,053,777
Other income	363,275	253,803
Other internal support	(193,843)	(88,605)
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$6,375,584	\$18,935,250

EXPENSES

Conservation programs	\$3,144,201	\$2,683,977
General administrative, communications & fund-raising	828,568	897,279
Costs of land sold or transferred to government agencies and conservation partners ¹	-	(30,028)
Support for global priorities and other internal support	539,101	527,783
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$4,511,870	\$4,079,011
NET RESULT, Support and Revenue over Expenses ²	\$1,863,714	\$14,856,239

ASSET, LIABILITY & NET ASSET SUMMARY

Cash in operating funds	\$308,929	\$382,383
Cash in land funds	3,769,215	4,148,133
Land preservation fund	10,373,942	10,373,913
Endowment investments	8,318,047	7,469,177
Book value of conservation land	72,437,434	71,846,788
Other assets	4,426,052	1,214,272
TOTAL ASSETS	\$99,633,619	\$95,434,666
Internal loans (Land Fund)	\$3,679,154	\$1,343,945
External notes & mortgages payable	10,000,000	10,000,000
Other liabilities	350	320
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$13,679,504	\$11,344,265
Endowment funds	\$8,318,047	\$7,469,177
Land preservation funds	373,942	373,913
Land funds and reserves	76,987,617	75,767,219
Operating funds	274,509	480,092
NET ASSETS	\$85,954,115	\$84,090,401
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$99,633,619	\$95,434,666

¹ Includes final market adjustments for land transactions not previously recorded.

² The excess of “Support and Revenue over Expenses” provides the funds needed to purchase conservation land and to strengthen endowments and reserves that support long-term land stewardship and support operations.

As always, we are appreciative of the generous support of our donors, including those who remember us in their estate planning.



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