



Annual Report 2013

An **ENDURING** commitment
to our **AGELESS** lands



The Kaniksu Land Trust

Our Mission

The **Kaniksu Land Trust** works with interested landowners and organizations in northern Idaho and northwestern Montana to protect, maintain, and enhance natural resources and recreational values that contribute to our quality of life.

Our Vision

The **Kaniksu Land Trust's** vision is that 100 years from now, there will still be:

- Large tracts of undeveloped land to provide critical habitat for all species.
- A permanent land base to sustain vibrant, varied agriculture and forestry.
- Community access to natural areas for recreation and outdoor activities.
- Pristine waterways such as Lake Pend Oreille, the Clark Fork River and their tributaries.
- Sustained economic vitality due to well-balanced conservation and development.

Kaniksu Land Trust

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From Executive Director Eric Grace

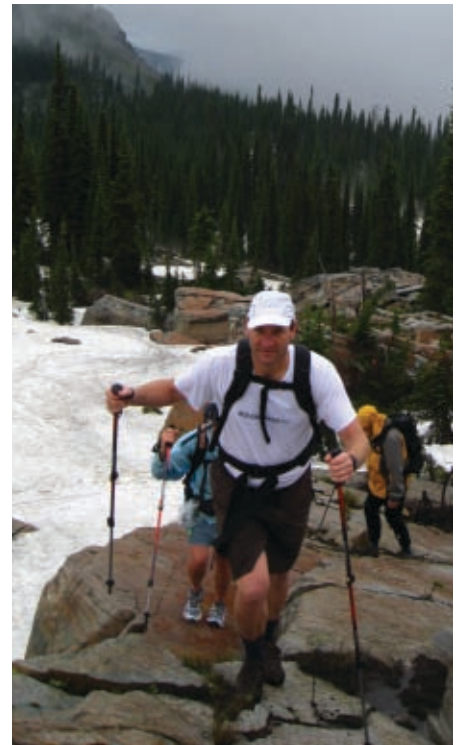
Two years and two months – that’s how long it’s been since taking the helm of the Clark Fork-Pend Oreille Conservancy, as Kaniksu Land Trust (KLT) was then known.

One never really knows what to expect with a move and a new job. Of course, I was optimistic the decision to relocate would be the right one. Clark Fork-Pend Oreille Conservancy was a solid organization, and Sandpoint seemed like a great community with passionate folks who care about each other and their quality of life. So far my expectations have been met many times over.

The first step was to think about how the organization communicates with the population it serves. Even with its funny name, Clark Fork-Pend Oreille Conservancy had a good track record of conservation work, and it seemed poised to make a significant impact in the community. However, very few people knew we existed. My first step was to address this.



In 2012, we announced the new name: Kaniksu Land Trust. The name was used by Kalispel peoples to describe the geographic region of northern Idaho, northwestern Montana and a bit of eastern Washington. We also worked to broaden our conservation programs from mostly habitat protection to include other lands as well. (See “Sherwood Forest a Gift for All,” page 4.) The goal was to show the community the importance of the work that KLT does, and



Eric Grace hikes the backcountry of the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Area.

how we all benefit from land conservation.

The increased awareness has led to increased demand for our conservation programs. To address this, in July we hired Regan Plumb as a land protection specialist. She is actively working on five projects, and we hope that by the end of 2014 we will have added another 700 to 1,000 acres of protected land!

This growth is exciting. I am extremely pleased with the support that we have received. This community needs a local land trust to protect the areas that are vital to us. We have a remarkable landscape that provides so much – indeed, that is one of the main reasons we all choose to live here. Let’s make sure that we do not take this for granted. Let’s protect and preserve what we have so that it remains for generations to come. That will be the legacy of the Kaniksu Land Trust, but we cannot do it without you.



Big Sky Ranch Conservation Easement,
Trout Creek, Montana

Conservation Update by **Regan Plumb**

Kanixsu Land Trust is pleased to announce the closing of three important conservation projects during the past year, which collectively contribute more than 380 acres to currently protected properties in Idaho and Montana.

December 2012 saw the closing of a conservation easement on the popular Sherwood Forest, a 142-acre property located within a few miles of downtown Sandpoint (see story, page 4). This wooded property is a longtime favorite among hikers and bikers; the owners continue to allow public access contingent on respectful use.

Also closing in December 2012 was a conservation project on the East Fork of the Bull River. This 139-acre mixed conifer forest includes a riparian corridor and provides habitat for numerous wildlife species, including federally listed threatened bull trout. Protection of this property will ensure the continuation of responsible forestry practices, including the management of streamside vegetation that protects water quality.

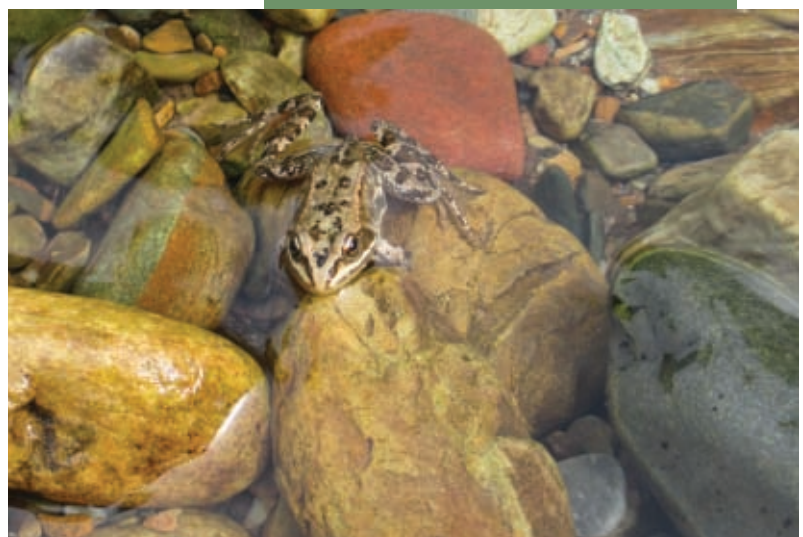
In June 2013, we finalized a 100-acre easement on the Big Sky Ranch in Trout Creek, Montana. This scenic property, composed of mixed conifer forest and agricultural lands, provides quality habitat for a variety of wildlife species, including moose, elk, bear and white-tailed deer. Protection of this property will help ensure continued sound management of its forest resources, grazing habitat and agricultural land.

We cannot thank the dedicated landowners enough for their commitment to preserving these important lands!

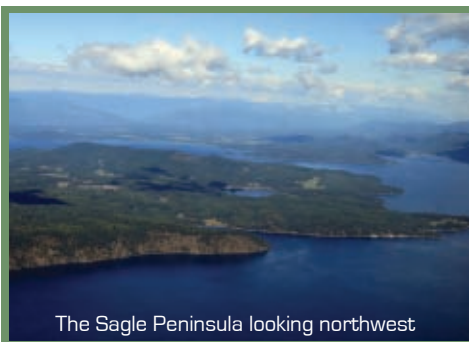
KLT is proud of its conservation accomplishments over the past 12 months. Additionally, we are working on many new projects that will greatly increase the number of acres we protect.



Regan Plumb was hired in 2013 as the land protection specialist.



A frog resting in a newly protected section of the East Fork of the Bull River is an indicator of a healthy ecosystem.

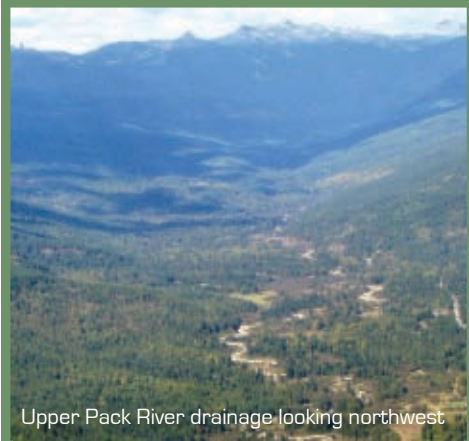


The Sagle Peninsula looking northwest

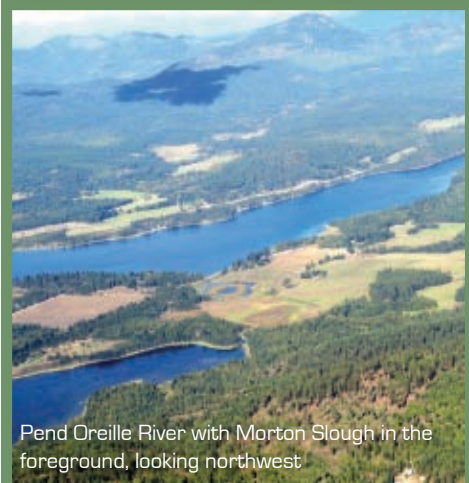
Flyovers

Twice this summer Kaniksu Land Trust staff and friends hitched a free ride to do conservation easement monitoring and scout out some new potential projects from the air. Our thanks go to LightHawk, a national nonprofit that connects conservation organizations with pilots who want to donate their expertise, aircraft and fuel. It is a great way to get a sense of the landscape and capture some remarkable photographs.

Photos courtesy Sandii Mellen



Upper Pack River drainage looking northwest



Pend Oreille River with Morton Slough in the foreground, looking northwest



Sherwood Forest a Gift for All



treat the area with respect to ensure the privilege of access remains. This contribution is a remarkable act of generosity – a terrific asset to the community for years to come.

The Pend Oreille Pedalers, a local bicycle club, also deserve tremendous thanks for establishing and maintaining the property’s extensive trail network. We look forward to continuing this great partnership.

The property that is home to the popular Sherwood Forest, aka Syringa Trails, will remain undeveloped forever thanks to a conservation easement finalized in December 2012. The 142-acre, Dover, Idaho property is located on the north side of U.S. Highway 2, with access from Pine Street on “Greta’s Segway.”

This is a unique project as it is the first parcel that Kaniksu Land Trust has protected with the primary benefit being public access. There are, of course, other natural attributes, such as scenic beauty and habitat.

Because the property is privately owned, it is important that visitors

From top to bottom: Trail through conifer forest created by the Pend Oreille Pedalers; bridge to keep bikers and hikers out of the streambed; trail built in 2013 that uses natural features to enhance the hiking or biking experience.





Headwaters of the Colorado River from the documentary "Chasing Water"

Wild and Scenic Film Festival Entertains Again Raising Funds, Awareness for KLT

For the fourth year in a row, the Kaniksu Land Trust hosted the popular Wild and Scenic Film Festival.

Shown at the Panida Theater, the short films ranged from the quirky "Two Laps" to the beautifully filmed documentary "Chasing Water," a story of a trip down the entire length of the Colorado River. (Did you know the Colorado River is depleted before it can empty into the Pacific Ocean? It hasn't reached the ocean since 1998.) Most of the films had an environmental message, but some, such as "The Man Who Lived on His Bike," did not necessarily illustrate an issue but rather merely entertained.

"We show films that attest to the passion of the human spirit: Passion for the environment, passion for community and passion for one another," commented Eric Grace, Kaniksu Land Trust executive director, during his opening remarks for the 2013 Wild and Scenic Film Festival.



The quirky film "Two Laps" was a hit.

Kaniksu Land Trust hosts the festival to raise awareness and as a fundraiser. It usually nets around \$3,000 from corporate sponsorships, tickets, raff es, and beer and wine sales. (See List of Supporters, page 8, for a complete listing of all sponsors).

Equally important is the awareness it generates for KLT. It is currently the largest annual event used by KLT to educate the public on its conservation programs.

Keep an eye out for the fifth annual Wild and Scenic Film Festival in 2014.

Legacy Giving

Help Support the Kaniksu Land Trust by Establishing a Planned Gift

As you think about your financial and estate planning, please consider a legacy gift to the Kaniksu Land Trust (KLT). Many techniques exist to provide you or your heirs with significant tax savings while providing KLT much-needed revenue for our land conservation programs. It can be as simple as specifying in your will that a donation be made to KLT, or more complex, such as establishing a charitable remainder trust.

Some of the possible options are described on our website (www.kaniksu.org). For more information on planned giving, please contact the office at 208-263-9471.

Financial and estate planning options should be discussed with your financial planner, accountant and/or an estate planning attorney, especially in light of recent changes to federal statutes.



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Special thanks to Jim and Sandii Mellen for use of their photography and to Keokee for design.



Big Picture Legislative Update

The Kaniksu Land Trust (KLT) works locally. However, KLT has the support of statewide and national organizations to make sure that challenges to conservation in Boise, Helena and Washington, D.C., are responded to quickly and professionally.

We are honored to play a role in these four quality organizations.

- In Idaho, we are part of the nascent Idaho Coalition of Land Trusts (www.IdahoLandTrusts.org). This is a service organization that assists all Idaho land trusts by providing a voice for conservation issues in Boise, and doing much of the outreach to statewide partners and other stakeholders.



- In Montana we are well represented by the Montana Association of Land Trusts (www.MontanaLandTrusts.org). Formed in 2005 to meet a serious challenge to the legal underpinnings of conservation easements, MALT has grown into an organization with national recognition for providing a powerful and unified voice for conservation in Montana.



- The Heart of the Rockies Initiative (www.heart-of-rockies.org) is a partnership of

24 land trusts in the United States and Canada working to conserve iconic Western landscapes and the communities that depend on them. HOTR provides vision, science, and international cooperation to the work being done by 24 land trusts, protecting habitat and private ranch, farm and timberlands in the Rocky Mountains of Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, British Columbia and Alberta.



- Nationally we are one of 1,600 member organizations of the very robust Land Trust Alliance (www.LTA.org). The Alliance provides critical resources to groups like KLT in the form of technical assistance, information dissemination, advocacy and professional development. The Alliance also spearheaded the national land trust accreditation program, a voluntary accreditation program aimed at ensuring that land trusts meet very high ethical and professional standards.



The conservation efforts of Kaniksu Land Trust may be local, but we are part of something much bigger. It is reassuring that we have the backing of multiple partners working for us to ensure that policy makers recognize the importance of private land conservation efforts.

Financials

Revenue/Expense Report		
	12 months ending December 2012	Jan. 1 - Oct. 31, 2013
Public Support		
Foundations and Corporate Grants	73,000	70,650
Donations	10,312	18,370
Contributed Services	1,500	
Total Public Support	\$84,812	\$89,020
Revenue		
Service Fees	14,402	20,063
Fundraising Events	8,828	6,792
Investment Income	480	225
Other	670	31
Total Revenue	24,380	27,111
Total Income	\$109,192	\$116,131
Expenses		
Program Services	95,549	75,059
Administrative	31,803	24,886
Fundraising	19,862	16,879
Total Expenses	\$147,214	\$116,824
Net Income *	(\$38,022)	(\$693)

*2012 was a rebuilding year. Cash reserves covered the loss. We project to break even in 2013.

Statement of Financial Position	
as of 12/31/2012	
Current Assets	
Cash and Equivalents	147,541
Receivables	7,887
Total Current Assets	155,428
Total Fixed Assets	500
Other	200
Total Assets	\$156,128
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	1,298
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	85,736
Restricted (long-term stewardship fund)	69,094
Total Net Assets	\$156,128

Kaniksu Land Trust Needs Your Support Make an Investment in Pre- serving Your Community

Like all nonprofits, Kaniksu Land Trust (KLT) relies on the support and generosity of the people who share our vision. As the chart to the left illustrates, a majority of our funding comes from foundation support, and to a lesser extent, corporations and individuals. As we grow our conservation programs, it is imperative that we diversify our revenues. To do this we need individuals like you to make a personal investment.

There are many ways that you can help. The easiest is to go online to www.kaniksu.org and make a donation using our PayPal account, or put a check in the mail.

We also offer monthly or quarterly giving options. This is great for you (and us!), as it evens out cash flow. This can be set up as an Electronic Funds Transfer (no transaction fees) or as a recurring credit card payment. Instructions are on our website, or please call the office and one of the staff can assist you.

We also accept gifts of securities. Upon receipt, KLT converts these to cash for use as general operations. Especially this year with the strong gains in stock markets, donating appreciated securities can have significant tax advantages. Your tax deduction is for the market value of the gift, but KLT does not have to pay capital gains taxes on the appreciation when the shares are liquidated (which you would if you sell them first). Contact KLT for more information.

Regardless of the amount or method, we are remarkably grateful for all contributions.

List of Supporters June 2012 to November 2013

Thank you to all the individuals and businesses that support the Kaniksu Land Trust throughout the year. We could not operate without your support.

Supporters

For on-line privacy and security concerns, we do not list the names of individual donors on the Kaniksu Land Trust website

Wild & Scenic Film Festival Product Sponsors

All Seasons Garden & Floral
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7B Board Shop
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Foundations

Cinnabar Foundation
Equinox Foundation
Heart of the Rockies Initiative
Idaho Coalition of Land Trusts
Inland Northwest Community Foundation
Land Trust Alliance
Norcross Wildlife Foundation

We apologize for any omissions or errors in our List of Supporters. Please contact the office for any corrections.

Festival Sponsors

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