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20

ANNUAL  
REPORT

**KANIKSU**  
— LAND TRUST —

**MESSAGE**  
**from the Board President**  
**& Executive Director**

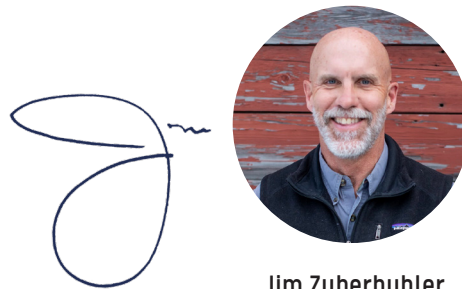
In a year that presented some of the deepest personal challenges of our lives, Kaniksu Land Trust stepped forward in partnership with our communities to provide support where it was needed most.

As schools scrambled to understand how to safely operate, KLT joined school district staff to develop a strategy to encourage children both intellectually and emotionally. With grant and community assistance we were able to offer virtual education opportunities, after school events, tents for outdoor learning, and a much needed season of our nature connection summer camp.

The pandemic taught each of us the value of the outdoors to our mental and physical health. With your help, we worked just steps ahead of hikers, bikers, and walkers to construct new trails and care for the spaces where you love to roam. We were amazed at the number of people who found renewal in our public access properties. Pine Street Woods alone received 20,000 visits in 2020. We continue to seek new places for you to explore because, although the pandemic will subside, your love of outdoor places will not.

As our region and state feel the pressure of growth from every direction, we will continue to conserve important lands, waters, and habitat for each generation that follows us. This past year saw the protection of a critical parcel along the East Fork of the Bull River, which will now provide vital habitat and clean water in the Cabinet Mountains far into the future.

We are proud to be your land trust, working everyday to help improve the lives and land upon which we depend. We do this alongside you -- our volunteers, our community partners and our supporting businesses and organizations. We are honored to steward your legacy of land for the benefit of generations that follow. This work would not be possible without your support.



**Jim Zuberbuhler**  
BOARD PRESIDENT

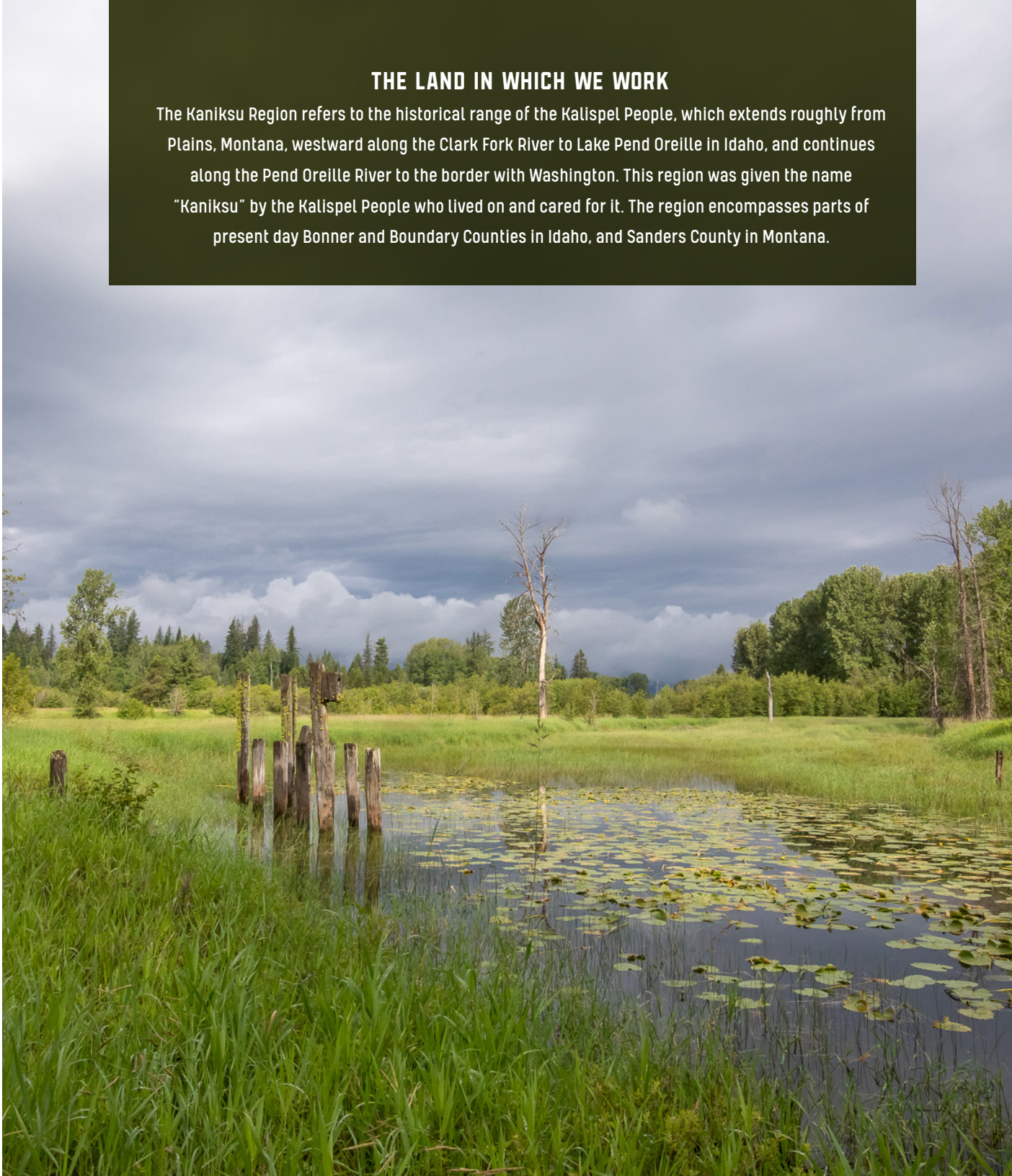


**Katie Egland Cox**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## THE LAND IN WHICH WE WORK

The Kaniksu Region refers to the historical range of the Kalispel People, which extends roughly from Plains, Montana, westward along the Clark Fork River to Lake Pend Oreille in Idaho, and continues along the Pend Oreille River to the border with Washington. This region was given the name "Kaniksu" by the Kalispel People who lived on and cared for it. The region encompasses parts of present day Bonner and Boundary Counties in Idaho, and Sanders County in Montana.





## CONSERVATION

We have a deep respect for the lands of the Kaniksu Region. We work to conserve the forests, farmlands, mountains, and valleys of this area. Through our collective caring for the land and water, we ensure that it endures for future generations.

### PROTECT

## CULTURALLY SIGNIFICANT LANDS



Lands identified by indigenous partners as culturally significant

Lands of regional cultural or historical significance



## PROTECT AND RESTORE WATERWAYS

Shoreline on lakes, rivers, and tributaries

Riparian habitat and wetlands

### PROTECT AND RESTORE

## WILDLIFE HABITAT



Winter range for wildlife

Nesting, resting, or foraging habitat for birds

Spawning or rearing habitat for fish

Wildlife movement corridors and connected lands

Critical habitat for species or natural communities of concern

## COMMUNITY ACCESS

TO NATURAL AREAS FOR RECREATION AND EDUCATION



Important scenic qualities viewable from public vantage points

Public access or increased connectivity for recreation or education





**PROTECT**

## **CLIMATE RESISTANT LANDS**

**Water- holding wetlands**

**Shade producing topography**

**Fire resistant Forests**



**PROTECT**

## **A PERMANENT LAND BASE**

**TO SUSTAIN AGRI-FORESTRY ECONOMIES**

**Important agricultural soils**

**Working agricultural and forest land**

## **PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER**

The Bull River Valley of western Montana is a sinuous snake winding through one of the wildest mountain ranges in the Northern Rockies. Here, grizzly bears still roam and native trout wriggle their way up narrow tributaries to spawn deep in the folds of the mountains all against the stunning backdrop of the Cabinet Range.

This narrow valley is a low-lying safe haven of fresh water, sheltering forests and abundant food. But it's also littered with hazards for wildlife, the greatest of which is the possibility that this life-giving ribbon of private land sandwiched between wild mountains could one day be blocked by houses, driveways, and fences.

This is a uniquely wild and special corner of our world, too special to lose, which is why KLT has focused conservation efforts here since its inception in 2002. KLT has now finalized eight individual conservation projects along the Bull. A protected ribbon of land is taking shape along the curve of a wild river.

The latest, finalized in 2020, protects 44 acres of rich wildlife habitat at the confluence of two streams. This partnership with a private landowner preserves scenic views, clean water, healthy forest, and important habitat for sensitive wildlife species. Together these puzzle pieces of connected lands create a valuable linkage that ensures the character of this valley far into the future.



## CONNECTION

SUPPORT PLACE BASED PROGRAMS AND  
OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE ALL

STRENGTHEN OUR WORK AND RESOLVE  
THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

INCREASE ACCESS TO NATURAL AREAS FOR  
RECREATION & EDUCATION

CONNECTION IS AT THE HEART OF OUR WORK. WE  
STRIVE TO BREAK DOWN BARRIERS IN ORDER TO  
CONNECT OUR COMMUNITY WITH THE LAND. WHEN  
WE CONNECT EACH OTHER WITH LAND WE LEARN  
TO VALUE AND PROTECT IT,  
TOGETHER.

**CONNECTION** is at the heart of KLT's work. Whether connecting important conservation lands, connecting community members with nature, or connecting with new partners and friends, these connections make our community what it is: a place where people care about the land and each other.

These aspects of community harken back to the very first people who lived on and cared for the lands of our region, the people of the Kalispel Tribe. Kaniksu Land Trust is inspired to connect with members of the Kalispel Tribe in order to honor their history of stewardship of the lands that sustain us, to learn from their stories and traditions, and to provide shared support for our "sister" community forest properties.

Indian Creek Community Forest, located north of Newport, Washington, and just a handful of miles as the crow flies west of Pine Street Woods, was an early recipient of the U.S. Forest Service Community Forest Program grant that helped to bring Pine Street Woods to life. The staff of the Kalispel Tribe's Natural Resources Department has worked tirelessly to create a model of thoughtful forest management, natural resource education, and community engagement on the Tribe's Indian Creek property. They have also offered generous support for KLT's land stewardship efforts at Pine Street Woods.

It is an honor for KLT to have the opportunity to connect with representatives of the original stewards of this landscape as we navigate the challenges of caring for Pine Street Woods, together with our community. Connecting with the history of this land helps us to more clearly visualize what is possible for its future. And connecting with friends and neighbors is how we will achieve that vision.

**Take a drive and visit Indian Creek Community Forest. For more information go to [www.knrd.org](http://www.knrd.org)**





## CONNECTION

### INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIP

#### PROPOSES OUTDOOR CLASSROOM DESIGNS

Students and teachers in our public schools know too well the challenges of classroom learning during COVID -19. If there were ever a time to explore out-of-the-box alternatives, a pandemic would seem to be it.

When KLT's in-school outreach programs came to a screeching halt in March 2020, the organization quickly pivoted. KLT realized that this could be a shining moment for outdoor education and began to discuss a permanent outdoor learning venue with staff from University of Idaho and Lake Pend Oreille School District. From this idea came a fortuitous partnership with Colorado College, located some 1,150 miles away.

"We're so excited about this creative opportunity to support learning outcomes in our community, both now and into the future," said KLT Executive Director Katie Cox. "When innovative organizations gather around a common objective, anything seems possible."

With a basic vision of what might be possible, architecture faculty at Colorado College committed to using the Sandpoint outdoor classroom concept as a design challenge for an architecture studio course taught (remotely) during the fall. The Colorado College students "met" with students, teachers, and administrators at Farmin-Stidwell Elementary and Washington Elementary proceeded to create thoughtfully designed outdoor classroom models customized to the climate and needs of local schools.

The design students earned work experience on a real world project while the local school district received consultation and design work. The best part of all was that the students were directly involved in the design process, which was fitting as the project is intended to directly benefit their educational experiences.

"So often design in an academic setting happens in a vacuum and the student has very little engagement with the end-user. This project has afforded the opportunity for Colorado College students to provide a more considerate and inclusive approach with the hope that the end product will elevate the experience of the LPOSD student," shared Zac Stevens, Architectural Design Instructor at Colorado College.

"As I look forward to our outdoor learning spaces, this project has brought a larger perspective on what might be possible," Farmin-Stidwell Elementary School Principal Erik Olson said.

Long after COVID-19 safety precautions have become obsolete, generations of children will continue to benefit from access to outdoor spaces for health, wonder, and learning. The outdoor classroom may be a guarantee of that reality for all children.





## COMMUNITY

Our work together as a **community** leads to lasting and far-reaching impacts. Our efforts are guided by integrity, compassion, and honesty. We care about and respect our community members and strive to forge relationships based on mutual benefit and trust.

“There is nothing more nourishing than being surrounded by the beauty of nature. The gift of space, birdsong, and fresh air has been a true blessing during this period (and perhaps a survival strategy). I credit my trips to Pine Street Woods as critical to my overall health and sustainability. I am ever grateful.”

—REGULAR VISITOR TO PINE STREET WOODS

If there was ever a doubt that the power of partnerships can elevate results, 2020 proved otherwise. In a year that produced fresh challenges at every turn, KLT was inspired by friends and supporters to constantly seek creative solutions to promote wellness and resilience through partnership and collaboration. As a result, we continued to grow, together, in spite of everything.

When KLT’s education and outreach programs ceased in the spring, we partnered with the Land Trust Alliance to develop virtual programs for children stuck at home, outdoor adventure races for families seeking an active outlet, and a solo volunteering opportunity that attracted national attention. When a spring windstorm uprooted hundreds of trees at Pine Street Woods, Bonner Soil and Water Conservation District partnered in the purchase of a portable sawmill to support a new sustainable forestry and education initiative, and volunteers rallied to assemble it one bolt at a time.

Summer brought the return of our popular children’s nature connection summer camp with help from the Avista Foundation and Selkirk Association of Realtors and with new health protocols in place). Children needed it more than ever this year, and parents made sure to tell us so. Community partners Sandpoint Nordic Club and Pend Oreille Pedalers invested hundreds of volunteer hours improving trails at Pine Street Woods, which received an estimated 20,000 visits over the course of the year. The beautiful timber frame porch donated by Collin Beggs Design Build Timberframing provided outdoor shelter throughout the seasons. And dozens of individuals and businesses supported a creative fundraising event that allowed people to be safe and outdoors while still supporting the work of KLT.

When fall arrived, children returned to in-person learning, and families met the fresh challenge of an abbreviated school day. KLT partnered with Lake Pend Oreille School District to erect schoolyard tents for outdoor learning and developed a special after-school nature connection program to fill the new gap in supervision for young children of working parents. Soon after, an innovative partnership with a college in Colorado led to a classroom effort to design permanent outdoor learning structures tailored to individual schools and students in our community. These adaptive programs would not have come about during an “ordinary” year, nor in the absence of an extraordinary community. We are so very grateful for those who have continued to walk this path with us. You continue to make so very much possible along the way. We are proud to partner with you.





**When our world shut down in March 2020, the KLT staff working from home began to brainstorm on ways to support our community during their greatest hour of need. Our Education Director created a wildly successful adventure race that families could do at Pine Street Woods. Exploration, time outside and fresh air was what we all needed.**



One young girl was particularly smitten with KLT's new after-school outings at Pine Street Woods. When the weather turned wintry, participants were asked to wear weather appropriate footwear for romping in the snow and sloop. This little girl was determined not to miss a day of the program so she packed her second pair of tennis shoes. This was all she had.

When KLT realized the girl's predicament, the organization reached out to two community retailers with a plea for help. Without hesitation, the local businesses each donated a pair of warm winter boots to outfit the little girl and her sister. Now cold, wet feet can't distract them from the joys of learning and playing in the woods of winter.



## FIRST RECIPIENT OF THE KLT THUJA PLICATA VOLUNTEER AWARD

Many of us who are working day in and day out dream of the time when we will slow down in our professional lives. We may think about taking trips, learning new hobbies, or just finally having the time to read a good book.

It is rare that you find someone who, instead, chooses to flex their servant heart and devotes over 40 hours a week in support of their community through service to non-profits and others. Ross Longhini chose that path when he moved to Sandpoint, Idaho in 2011.

Over the years Ross has had an immeasurable impact on many of us by supporting youth, guiding non-profit organizations, working with the recreation community and municipalities on recreation expansion, supporting building projects for the community and his church, and leading and growing the Sandpoint Nordic Club.

When Pine Street Woods became a reality, Ross came to the table to provide leadership and support. His devotion to breaking down the barriers that keep people from enjoying nature was inspiring. Ross spent so much time in support of KLT that we began to forget that he wasn't actually on the staff – he was a VOLUNTEER for goodness sakes!

While others were out fishing and hunting (which Ross also loves) Ross was volunteering; guiding our trails committee, planning and building new trails, leading the Outdoor Recreation Center build, offering his never-ending knowledge on EVERYTHING, or wielding a chainsaw from a bucket 30 feet up! Never seeking commendation, he was concerned with how we were doing given our staff workload!

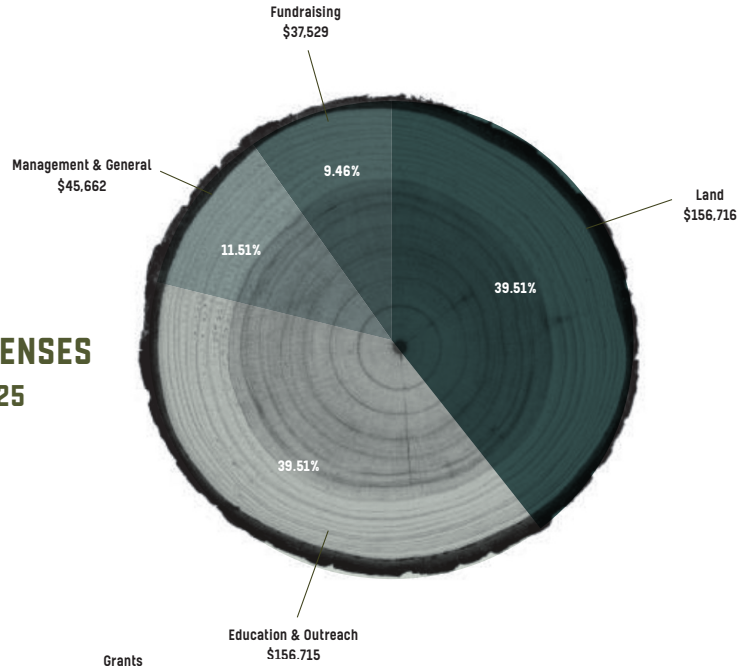
Pine Street Woods owes Ross Longhini a few years of his life. Kaniksu Land Trust owes him a debt of gratitude. Knowing Ross, he would say that no one owes him anything. Ross leads by example in hopes that others will be inspired to also devote time in service to others. It is fitting that we honor Ross's legacy by creating the Thuja Plicata Award, which will be granted to individuals who inspire through service to conservation and community. As Ross moves on to inspire another community in Montana, it warms our hearts to know that he was the first recipient of this annual award. We are eternally grateful and will miss him immensely.



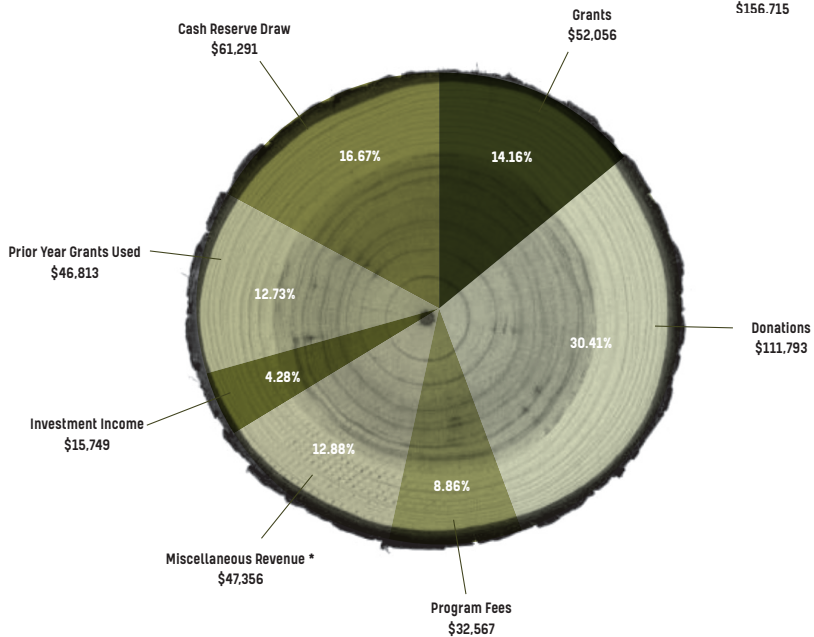


# THE NUMBERS

## TOTAL EXPENSES \$367,625



## TOTAL INCOME \$367,625



\*Note: Miscellaneous income includes service fees, forest management proceeds & PPP loan forgiveness

### KANIKSU LAND TRUST

was honored to be one of twelve trail projects and programs chosen nationwide by the Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT) as recipients of its 2020 Tom Petri Recreational Trails Program Annual Achievement Awards. The awards - honoring former U.S. Representative Tom Petri (WI) - recognize outstanding use of Recreational Trails Program (RTP) funds. Pine Street Woods was recognized in the category of Multiple-Use Management and Corridor Sharing. This award would not have been possible without the countless hours of volunteer support and multiple partner organizations that invested time and passion into the actualization of Pine Street Woods.



## VOLUNTEERS: OUR HATS ARE OFF TO YOU

From caring for the forests and trails of Pine Street Woods to reviewing conservation projects, dealing with dog waste, and addressing envelopes, KLT would not be what it is without the support of these amazing individuals.

Apex Construction Services	Lori Getts & Clement Yonker	Mike McCoy	Erin Plue
Patty Balch	Kevin Glynn	Jim Mellen	Bob & Kylie Presta
Rod Barcklay	Celeste Grace	Julie Meyer	Rick Price
Tim Bareis	Dan Hanson	Steve Meyer	Jeffrey Rich
Barrett Family	Keith Hertel	Kim Miller	Sanchez Family
Collin Beggs	Pete Hicks	Lance Miller	Mike Sapp
Bob & Marty Betts	Jeannie Higgs	Matt Mire	Levi Schoonover
Doug Bradetich	Hans Hurt	Sean Mirus	Ezra Stafford
Dave Brown	Judy Hutchins	Charles Mortensen	Lawson Tate
Colin Burnett	Sue Jordan	Chris Munro	Jeff Thompson
Barry & Brent Campbell	Kalispel Tribe	Alex Murray	Troy Tvrdy
Mathew Conger	Tyler Kee	Ben Murray	Jim Vandersloot
Brian Cox	Herbert Klein	Candice Nelson	Liz Wargo
Kathi Riba Crane	Susannah Kretzschmar	Karen Neorr	Kara Waters
Tom Dabrowski	Chad Landrum	Renee Nigon	Matt Weber
Rich Del Carlo	Amy & Jameson Longanecker	Stefanie Nostdahl	Jason Welker
Shaun Deller	Vicki & Ross Longhini	Hallie Owen	Tom Whalen
Echo Springs Transitional Study	Courtney Lorraine-Berg	Dan Patterson	Matt Wiebe
Mike Ehredt	Bill Love	Jim Payne	Hans Wildebush
Greg Flint	Christopher Lunde	Jeff Pennick	Michael Wolcott
Lee & Allison France	Patrick Lynch	Radley Peterson	Steve York
Coral & Jared France	Ian Lynch	Steve Petesch	Denise Zembryki & Ron Mamajek
John & Maia Gaddess	Jennifer MacDonald	Jed & Hilary Petterson	Jim Zuberbuhler
Ben Garrison	Jimmy Matlosz	Nicky Pleass	







## SUPPORTERS

Thank you  
for your  
generous  
support  
**\$1,000 +**

Marc & Janet Bocciardi  
Chris & Genevieve Campbell  
Alanna Chaffin \*  
Brian & Katie Cox \*  
Nancy Dooley & Reid Treadaway  
Lisa Gerber & Patrick Werry  
Lori Getts & Clement Yonker  
Nate & Gina Hall  
Houlihan Family  
Judy Hutchins  
Nathan & Becky Kanning  
Daniel Krabacher & Cate Huisman  
Vicki & Ross Longhini  
Charles & Kimberly Manning  
Julie & Steve Meyer  
Shawna & Laird Parry \*  
Timothy & Margaret Petersen  
Kylie & Robert Presta  
Julia Preston  
Limerick Charitable Trust  
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Gloria & Bill Stuble  
Clarence & Linda Van Dellen  
Zach & Hannah Vollmer  
Libby Walker \*  
Liz Wargo & Jason Welker \*  
Denise Zembryki & Ron Mamajek  
Jim Zuberbuhler

### **\$1-\$999**

Shannon Abromeit  
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Susan Allen  
Preston Andrews & Patricia Ericsson  
Anonymous (6)  
Kelly & Jack Armstrong  
Elizabeth J. Arnault  
James & Jeanine Asche \*  
Eileen Atkisson & Lawrence Blakey \*  
Pamela Aunan  
Katie & Josh Barcklay \*  
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Jac & Susan Kean  
Tony Corsini & Emily LeVine  
Kathi & Charlie Crane  
Deborah Crossett  
Kathleen Crouch & Chris Munro  
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Lexie de Fremery  
Jack & Janice DeBaun  
Hailey Decoto  
Chase DeForest & Kirk Johnson  
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Mary Donovan  
Debra Duwe  
Ginny Egland Lyke  
Eric & Jill Eldenburg  
Steve & Britt Elgar  
Sue Elsa \*  
Elinor Emm  
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Lovina Englund  
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Allison France  
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John & Maia Gaddess  
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Kyler & Joline Wolf  
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Robert & Mary Gordon  
Diana Gore  
Celeste Grace  
Eric Grace \*  
Nichole & Jeremy Grimm \*  
Susan Bates-Harbuck & John Harbuck  
Cindy Hayes  
Chris Hecht & Cheyenna Whittier  
David Heep  
Gray Henderson \*  
Matt & Jenny Hicks  
Steven Holt  
Kathy Hubbard & Keith Congleton  
Hans & Ali Hurt

Recognizing our **\$1,000 +** Businesses  
& Organizations. Thank you!





Carolyn & Robert Inge  
 Bryant Jones  
 Margery Josephson  
 Jaime Jovanovich-Walker  
 Debra & Robert Kellerman  
 Nancy Kertis & Dave Lux  
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 Mark & Susan Kubiak  
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 Jim & Sandii Mellen \*  
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 Sandra Murdock  
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 Kevin Murray  
 Brendan Naples  
 Linda & Steve Navarre  
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 Amanda Wilson  
 Jana & Thomas Wojcik \*  
 Michael Wolcott  
 Jared & Amy Yost

## FOUNDATIONS

Avista Foundation  
 Cadeau Foundation  
 Cloud Family Foundation Fund  
 Equinox Foundation  
 Hughes Family Foundation  
 Idaho Community Foundation  
 Land Trust Alliance  
 Sangham Foundation

## BUSINESSES

Alpine Shop  
 Boeing Company  
 Community Consultants - Judith Anderson \*  
 Evans Brothers Coffee Roasters  
 Gold Creek Ranch Corp.  
 Idagon Homes  
 Idaho Forest Group  
 Idaho Forest Products Commission  
 Inland Forest Management  
 Kochava  
 Outdoor Experience  
 Sandpoint Medical Massage & Bodyworks  
 Selkirk Association of Realtors  
 Uptic Studios  
 Winter Ridge Natural Foods Market

Matchwood Brewing Company  
 Pend d'Oreille Winery  
 Pend Oreille Pedalers  
 Red Wheelbarrow Produce  
 Rief Welding  
 Sandpoint Computers  
 Selkirk Association of Realtors  
 Ted Diehl  
 W Design  
 WildWood Grilling

## IN-KIND

219 Lounge  
 Alpine Shop  
 Apex Construction Services  
 Archeological & Historical Resource Consulting  
 Collaborative Trails  
 Colter's Creek Winery  
 Evans Brothers Coffee Roasters  
 Fiona Hicks Photography  
 Kooke  
 Larson's Good Clothes

\*Denotes those individuals who have chosen to make recurring monthly gifts to KLT. This is a powerful way to provide consistent monthly support to KLT.

*Thank you.*

## SELKIRK SOCIETY MEMBERS

Eileen Atkisson & Lawrence Blakey  
 David Heep  
 Malcolm & Pam Kinney  
 Sue PaDelford

Kaniksu Land Trust celebrates the individuals with the foresight and generosity to make life income or bequest provisions for KLT.







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Sandpoint, ID 83864

**OFFICE:** 1215 Michigan St., Suite A  
Sandpoint, ID 83864

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info@kaniksu.org  
kaniksu.org

A photograph of a forest floor covered in brown pine needles and fallen leaves. Several tree trunks are visible, with a large, textured tree trunk in the foreground on the right side. The background shows a dense forest of tall trees with green foliage.

**Board**  
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Nate Hall, Secretary  
Diane Williams, Treasurer  
Rich Del Carlo  
Dan Krabacher  
Katherine Maudrone  
Bruce Sterling  
Kyler Wolf

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Katie Egland Cox, Executive Director  
Dave Kretzschmar, Education Director  
Anne Mitchell, Operations Manager  
Regan Plumb, Conservation Director  
Marcy Timblin, Communications Director

Photo Credits: Fiona Hick