

PROTECTING WILD SPACES & HAPPY PLACES

WOOD RIVER LAND TRUST

SUMMER 2022



A FRIENDLIER PLACE FOR LOCAL FAUNA
Removing fencing in Quigley Canyon opens corridors for local wildlife.

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF THE BOW BRIDGE
Remembering the ribbon cutting in 2012 and celebrating the beloved community icon it is today.

GET TO KNOW THE BIG WOOD RED BAND
Could we have a native trout species right here in the Big Wood River?

WOOD RIVER LAND TRUST



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Roland Wolfram - Chair
Bob Ordal - Vice Chair
Karen de Saint Phalle - Treasurer
Barry Bunshoft - Secretary
Jim Barnes
Kathleen Bean
Victor Bernstein
Trish Klahr
Nick Miller
Rebecca Patton
David Perkins
Jeff Seely
Gayle Stevenson
Mark Ullman
Dave Woodward

ADVISORY COUNCIL

David Anderson
Ed Cutter
Ranney Draper
Jack Kueneman
Kathie Levison
Sue Orb
Jeff Johnson

STAFF

Scott Boettger
Executive Director

Amy Trujillo
Deputy Director

Courtney Jelaco
Director of Development

Keri York
Lands Program Director

Camryn Ernst
*Fundraising and Communications
Assistant*

Ryan Santo
River Program Director

Cory McCaffrey
Restoration Specialist

Brandee Smith
Finance and Operations Manager

Abby Dompier
Development Associate

Liz Pedersen
*Manager of Communications and
Community Giving*

Our mission is to protect and sustain the treasured landscapes and life-giving waters of the Wood River Valley and inspire love for this special place for generations to come.

A LETTER FROM THE
BOARD CHAIR
ROLAND WOLFRAM



As I step into the role of Board Chair of the Wood River Land Trust, I am most excited about the deep support of our community and the enormous impact of our team. With your help, we have an over 25-year track record of protecting the places we love and doing our part to keep the Big Wood River Valley special for generations to come – essentially perpetuating that Zen moment when you step outside, look around, take a breath, and feel an upwelling sensation that this place is home.

As I look forward to the next 25 years, there is an opportunity to accelerate our impact through creative partnerships and increased scale. Building on our successful partnerships with the Cities of Hailey and Bellevue, Blaine County, and the State of Idaho we plan to implement a quantum leap in the Big Wood River Greenway from the Bullion Street bridge down the Bellevue Reach. We have partnered with the City of Ketchum on the Warm Springs Preserve acquisition and look forward to opportunities to improve the function and habitat of Warm Springs Creek. Additionally, we see the potential of coordinated regional planning and grants as a multiplier of the impact we can have across the entire Big Wood River watershed. It's a big opportunity and a lot of work.

We are blessed to have a strong organization with great people who are committed to our mission. Those of you who have helped make it strong deserve our thanks and I am grateful to be stepping in to build on that foundation. We need to be strong because there are many challenges that every resident of this valley faces. All of us have seen or felt the impacts of growth, of hotter summers, of water and snow pack shortfalls. We live in an ecosystem that is beautiful because of smart actions and balance; but it is also threatened and under extreme pressure.

One of the most critical learnings from my prior career is the importance of leaving a legacy. In that corporate organization this meant leaving the people, the business, and the brand in a stronger position after your leadership tenure was completed than it was when you took it on. With the Wood River Land Trust, I feel like it's a two-fer: a chance to help make this valley better for the next generation and a chance to help the Land Trust reach the next level. It is a bit of a challenge for sure, but with the ongoing and committed support of all of you, I know that anything is possible and we can all leave that legacy together.



A FRIENDLIER PLACE FOR LOCAL FAUNA

Field Notes from a Spring Day in Quigley Canyon

The hillsides are the emerald green that only happens in the spring as the staff of Higher Ground gather at the parking lot at Quigley Canyon. They're here to help remove barbed wire from deep in the canyon. This relic of the former farm in Quigley Canyon continues to act as a barrier for local big game populations - fragmenting their preferred migration patterns and disrupting their natural movements through the landscape.

As we head out across the flat fields, we see old fence posts unencumbered by barbed wire. The Land Trust has been working on fence removal for years now, and most of the easy to reach fencing has been removed by volunteers from across the community - from the Sage School, to local hunting apparel company First Lite, to the team at Higher Ground, who was here a year ago.

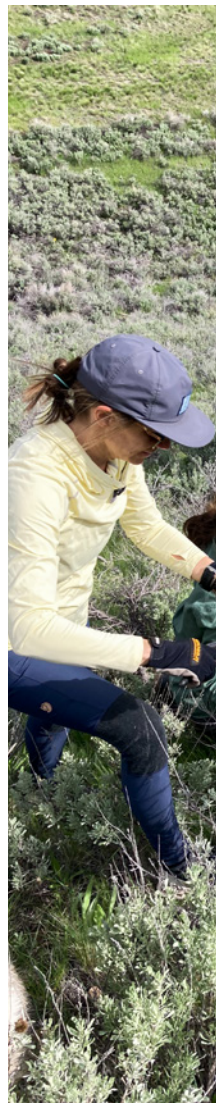
We reach the hillsides that are still strung with barbed wire, and the team gets into action - cutting wire off of posts, rolling the wire into coils, and walking the wire out of the brush. It is hard, labor intensive work, but as the hours go by, the pile of barbed wire grows - a visual testament to the dedication we're making to open up this landscape to the wildlife who need it most.

After the volunteer event, Restoration Specialist Cory McCaffrey elaborates on the importance of these kinds of projects:

"The seasonal movement of ungulates (and many other wildlife) is dependent on gradients such as forage, temperature, elevation, and moisture. Tracking waves of spring green-up is referred to as "surfing the green wave". The opposite could be said about late fall, as ungulates move lower in elevation, surfing the white wave of snow, avoiding the lower limit of their temperature gradient."

Migration corridors are so critical because they are the intersection between the polar ends of preferred habitat gradients. Without them, wildlife are vulnerable and subject to conditions for which they are not adapted. As habitat throughout the country is fragmented by man-made barriers, projects like this one become increasingly important.

To get involved with our efforts to open up this landscape for local wildlife, sign up to volunteer or make a donation today. Your support ensures that we can not only protect, but also restore these lands for the wildlife that call this Valley home.





LEAVING A LEGACY FOR WILDLIFE

“Whatever we can do to help the Land Trust to not only preserve the views and the wildlife habitat, but also to keep invasive species down just makes the world a better place AND makes all of us more appreciative.”

What does ‘leaving a legacy’ mean to you? For Kathy and Bernard Brown, it means ensuring the sweeping landscapes of the Wood River Valley remain open for wildlife. Kathy and Bernard recently made a bequest in their will to the Wood River Land Trust, and took a moment to reflect on the impact that decision will make.

Bernard has been a passionate hunter and advocate for healthy habitats his whole life: “I figured out a long time ago that habitat equals good places for critters, so that’s how I got involved. I helped start a Conservation Club when I was in high school and I went on from there and got a degree in Forestry and an MS in wildlife habitat management.”

Bernard served Ducks Unlimited for 35 years, while Katherine was an ER Registered Nurse. Their kids all moved to the Valley years ago. (Their son is a pilot and owns Denali Air. Their daughters both work in the Valley - one owns Redoux Decor in Hailey, and the other is an events manager for Revelry Group in Ketchum.) Once Bernard and Katherine retired they moved to be close to them, and quickly became involved with the Land Trust as sustaining members.

As they’ve watched both the Valley and their own family grow, they made the decision to leave a portion of their estate to the Land Trust.

“We talked about it and decided to leave money to organizations that were going to do the best with it. We have a great respect for the Land Trust. You folks made it very easy - we just let it be known that we wanted to do this, filled out the paperwork, sent it in and that was pretty much it.”

Kathy reflects on the legacy they’ll leave to their children, grandchildren, and to the wildlife throughout the Valley saying “We just want to keep the land open - simply just to look at.” The breathing room that preserving open spaces creates is at the heart of the Brown’s love for this special place.

“In closing, I would say that we’d like to encourage other people to give. We are not wealthy people but you can certainly leave some portion of what you have to the organization to do good.”

JOIN THE FOUNDERS’ CIRCLE AND PLAN YOUR LEGACY FOR THE VALLEY

To join Wood River Land Trust in protecting the Valley through your will or estate plan, contact Courtney Jelaco at (208) 788 3947 or cjelaco@woodriverlandtrust.org



10 YEARS OF THE

FROM WHEN WE ANNOUNCED THE BRIDGE IN 2012



"After nearly two years in the making the Bow Bridge of the Big Wood River was completed this fall, and it was christened with a public ceremony and ribbon cutting. This wonderful new addition was the mastermind of Leslie Howa of HOWADESIGN. Leslie conceptualized and designed the bridge and also worked as the coordinator of the bridge construction under the direction of an anonymous donor who funded the project in its entirety. The inspiration for the design and name of the bridge comes from Leslie's passion for the sport of archery and the Native American history of the area."

This is an excerpt from the 2012 newsletter article announcing the opening of the Bow Bridge. From the moment the bridge was opened in 2012, it became a beloved community icon.

CELEBRATE THE BRIDGE WITH US!

On October 6 from 12-5, we will be out at the Bow Bridge hosting a birthday party! Stop by anytime for a slice of Bow Bridge birthday cake, and to share your own stories of the Bridge. We will have a community story board for you to share your favorite memories, and encourage you to bring your favorite Bridge photo!

THE BOW BRIDGE

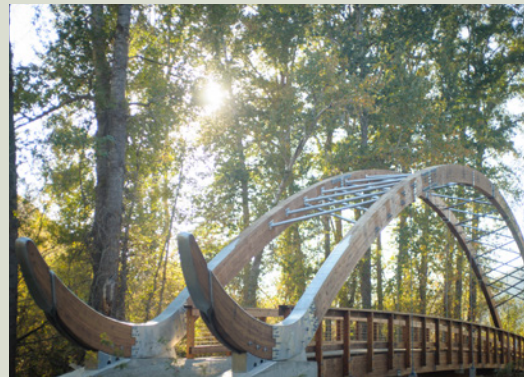
TO THE COMMUNITY TREASURE IT IS TODAY

Fast forward to today, and the Bridge continues to be the face of Hailey. The Bow Bridge has hosted weddings and quinceañeras, and has been witness to all of the quiet joys of daily life.

Seasons have changed around the bridge, as has our community. This small, undiscovered "hidden gem" now sees hundreds of people and dogs crossing through on a daily basis.

Even with all our community has seen over the past decade, the simple charm of the bridge has continued to inspire appreciation of the present moment.

As we reflect on the 10-year anniversary of the Bridge, we know that whatever the future may hold, our community will rise to the occasion, with the same grace and beauty that the Bridge holds as the jewel of the Greenway.



LOOK FORWARD TO THE NEXT 10 YEARS

The Bow Bridge was made possible by a generous anonymous donor, but the land it sits on, and the ongoing support needed to manage the trails around it is made possible by our generous community of donors. Please consider making a gift today - as a birthday present to the Bridge and the memories it holds for all of us.

Today. Tomorrow. Forever.

WARM SPRINGS PRESERVE

Restoration Director, Ryan Santo, explains how we can make a big impact on Warm Springs Creek

PROJECT PARTNERS

City of Ketchum
Wood River Land Trust

FUNDING

Thus far, we have \$500,000 pledged for this restoration by the Cimino Family. We still have a long way to go with raising funds for this project. Your support today will ensure that we can make a big impact on this critical tributary.

RIVER ENHANCEMENTS

- Riparian enhancement
- Wood augmentation
- Bridge refabricating
- Floodplain connectivity
- Bank stabilization and setback

PROJECT COST

\$1,500,000

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Wood River Land Trust (WRLT) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Ketchum (City) to partner in enhancing the floodplain and in channel habitat and improve irrigation efficiency of the recently acquired Warm Springs Preserve. This will improve overall habitat on site, and benefit the Big Wood River system as well.

TIMELINE

The following schedule has been established by the City:

- April/May 2022 – retain design team for Master Plan-COMPLETED!
- Summer 2022
 - Conduct public engagement opportunities
 - Engage City Council and Planning and Zoning meetings
- Master plan finalized January 2023

Currently, the flood/stream restoration is dependent on fundraising. As funds become available we would anticipate beginning the restoration work in the late fall/early winter of 2023.

PROJECT GOALS AND BENEFITS

The City received a quote that includes upgrading and replacing portions of the irrigation system which includes; excavation of the irrigation pond, new piping, and upgrading the pump station. The quote also includes planting native plants after the floodplain restoration.

Reducing water use by constructing irrigation efficiencies and incorporating drought-tolerant and native plants will reduce water needs. This is an opportunity to use excess water from irrigation efficiencies to increase instream flows in the Big Wood River. Opportunities like this should be a priority for enhancing the Big Wood River due to the increase in water use valley-wide and extreme drought conditions.

STREAM/ FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION

The scope of the restoration portion of the Master Plan is large and has the potential to enhance approximately 1 mile of Warm Springs Creek and approximately 20 acres of floodplain habitat. The floodplain enhancement could entail removing 3 to 5 feet of artificial fill that was used to create the previous golf course. Stream restoration will look into treatments that will increase cover and complex habitats by using large woody debris structures and treatments to allow for adequate sediment transport capacity. This is the last opportunity in the lower Warm Springs Creek for large-scale restoration.



Land The Language of Restoration



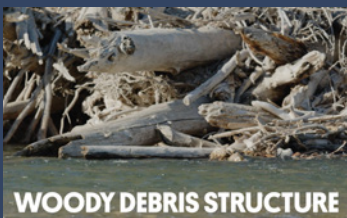
Rip rap is human-placed rock or other material used to armor shorelines, streambeds, or bridge abutments to prevent scour or erosion. Rip rap doesn't provide habitat and can increase erosion at either end of the rip rap.



The main channel is the largest cross section of the river. The Big Wood River does braid and split, but the majority of the time, it is a single main flow - this is the main channel of the river. Restoration of the main channel offers unique opportunities and challenges.



Side channels are smaller channels that connect to the main channel, but that aren't always full of water. The slower, often shadier waters are a refuge for juvenile fish to grow. Side channels have historically been filled in to accommodate development, and restoring and reconnecting them to the Big Wood is a great way to increase habitat diversity.



Large woody debris structures are naturally occurring features in rivers and provide habitat complexity and cover for juvenile and adult trout. Idaho Department of Fish and Game found that 71% of rainbow trout were observed in habitats associated with woody cover, whereas only 4% of trout were observed near riprap.



This is habitat that is found within the channel of a river and can be observed as the small pools, eddies, and riffles that provide fish with food, oxygen, and other necessities.



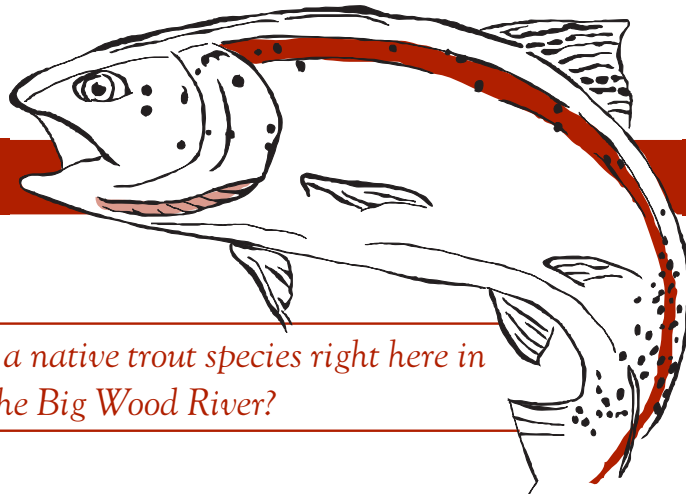
A floodplain or flood plain or bottomlands is an area of land adjacent to a river which stretches from the banks of its channel to the base of the enclosing valley walls, and which experiences flooding during periods of high flows. A large part of the development in the Wood River Valley is situated in the historic floodplain of the Big Wood River.



Channelization is the slow and steady process of building up the streambanks of a river, forcing it into a path, instead of allowing it to meander across its floodplain. Channelization generally occurs as a way to 'tame' the river to protect development. Channelizing a river increases the speed of the water, reduces the habitat that fish have access to, and increases the sediment flowing through the system. Rivers do not like to be told what to do, and will eventually jump out of attempts to channelize it, wreaking havoc.

BIG WOOD

RED BAND



Could we have a native trout species right here in the Big Wood River?

Do you know who the fish at the end of your line is? As it turns out, it could be a native species of red band trout!

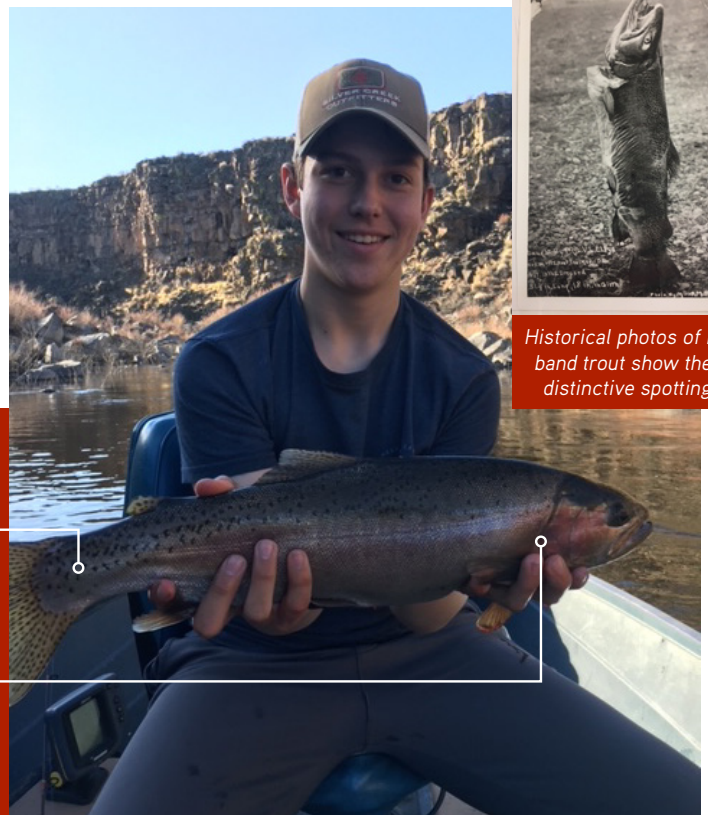
That's right, according to very preliminary data by Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), the native trout species that historically inhabited the Big Wood Basin could still be a healthy part of the local fish populations.

For decades, IDFG has been stocking the Big Wood Basin with coastal rainbow trout from California, eventually stocking over 80 million fish. Local lore assumed that these coastal rainbow trout were interbreeding with the local redband trout, leading to the loss of the native species.

Over the last couple of years, IDFG has been conducting genetic studies throughout the basin, and preliminary results show that, surprisingly, there has been very little integration between the coastal strain and the Big Wood River Red Band strain!

This news has the Land Trust staff very excited about the possibility of encountering this special Red Band trout. Our restoration staff - Ryan and Cory - have been conducting redd counts to observe the different spawning patterns of the red band versus the coastal rainbows, and have been developing more comprehensive pre and post monitoring of our river restoration projects - to better understand the impacts of our restoration efforts on all of the diverse species who depend on the Big Wood.

Our work is ongoing, and we could use your help! If you would like to see more research and information about our local fishery, make a donation today, to pursue science and research projects that can give us additional insight into our fishery.



Historical photos of red band trout show their distinctive spotting.

Is your fish a Red Band?

Look for fewer spots overall on a red band VS a rainbow trout - and they'll be clustered toward the tail.

The red band will have a deep red patch near its gills that flows into its namesake red band along the bottom of the spots.



MORE THAN A HOBBY

Local birders play a critical role in conservation

Strolling through the Draper Preserve at sunrise, Kathie Levison spots a mother black-chinned hummingbird and her nest. Based on her other observations, she knew that there were three fewer baby birds than on her walk the day before. These morning walks are almost meditative for Kathie, allowing her to notice more about the preserve than most people might notice in a lifetime.

The Wood River Valley is known for stunning landscapes that foster all kinds of adrenaline-inducing outdoor recreation, from skiing to mountain biking. Many of these hobbies are thrilling because you get to go fast, whizzing through forests and past rivers. Birding is an outdoor hobby that forces you to slow down, and observe the surrounding environment with intention. As a result of spending hundreds of hours immersed in and closely observing nature, many birders have an intimate knowledge of bird populations that goes far beyond just identification.

This past spring, the Wood River Land Trust teamed up with Boise State University and local birding enthusiasts to put their expertise to use as part of a new community science bird surveying program made possible by a grant from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

The goal of this program is to engage and empower community members to turn their birding observations into data that can be used to inform land management decisions and measure restoration efforts on Land Trust preserves. With robust training and protocols, volunteer efforts can help provide high quality data both locally and globally.

For the pilot year, 10 committed volunteers took part in intensive trainings through Cornell and BSU before completing in-field surveys from May 15-21 and June 12-18. Surveys took place at the Land Trust's Howard, Colorado Gulch, and Draper Preserves, at the City of Ketchum's new Warm Springs Preserve, and the Hulen Meadows pond, where volunteers tracked their observations closely using the e-bird app. The volunteers identified over 1,100 birds, ranging from warblers to kestrels. Bird count data from this spring will be used as a baseline for future surveys.

The Land Trust is excited to build on the momentum of this survey as we head into our Christmas Bird Count this winter. If you are a birder- whether you're a novice, an expert, or somewhere in between, we could use your help! Sign up to volunteer online or for our e-news to stay in the loop.





119 E. Bullion Street
Hailey, Idaho 83333
www.woodriverlandtrust.org

Wood River Land Trust is a 501(c)(3) organization (Tax ID: 82-0474191). Contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law. Public financial information is available by contacting our office.



NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ACMS



COME HELP

CLEAN UP OUR RIVER

The Wood River Land Trust is gearing up to host the 5th Annual Big Wood River Clean Up! This is an awesome way to spend the morning with your friends and family, giving back to the river that gives our community so much.

We'll have three locations - the Howard Preserve in Bellevue, the Draper Preserve in Hailey, and Towne Square in Ketchum.

Stop by one of the locations for your clean up supplies and directions from Land Trust staff!

This year, we're also hosting a celebration after the clean up at Ketchum Towne Square! Come and enjoy music, brunch foods, and drinks as our "thank you" to you for helping clean up our beloved river!

DETAILS

SEPT

CLEAN UP AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS FROM 9-11

17

BRUNCH PARTY AT KETCHUM TOWNE SQUARE FROM 11-1

9-1

SIGN UP AT WOODRIVERLANDTRUST.ORG