

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF PROTECTING WILD SPACES & HAPPY PLACES

WOOD RIVER LAND TRUST

WINTER 2019



WOOD
RIVER
LAND
TRUST



LOOKING BACK ON
25 YEARS
Celebrating Who We
Are Today

A DREAM REALIZED:
Channeling One's Love for
the Valley into Inspiration

LOOKING FORWARD:
It's Now or Never for
our Wild Spaces and
Happy Places



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Hailey, Idaho 83333
208.788.3947**

www.woodriverlandtrust.org

Wood River Land Trust (WRLT) is a public benefit Idaho company and is tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Contributions to WRLT are tax deductible as allowed by law. Public financial information is available on our website or by contacting our office.



A LETTER FROM

DAVE WOODWARD

It has been a beautiful fall October morning in the Wood River Valley. The nights are turning colder; cold enough for a light dusting of snow to appear on the higher ridge lines. The elk bugling at night is such an unusual sound unlike any other, further reminding me that it is time to get my own house in order for the winter. But there is enough warmth in the air that I decide the house chores can wait a little longer. Let's put on the waders, a warm fleece and head out to the Big Wood to see what is going on.

It's times like these that I find myself reflecting upon the past 25 years of the Land Trust while contemplating all that we have to look forward to.

I normally fish in the North Valley, near my home – but today, I decide to head to our Colorado Gulch preserve along Broadford Road. I haven't fished there yet, and I want to check out the stretch where the old bridge used to be. Someday we hope to undertake a major restoration of the Big Wood as it flows through the Hailey Greenway. Years of industry surrounding Hailey and straightening have had a profound impact on our river's ability to function naturally, especially in this stretch.

As I step into the river, I stop to look out upon the stunning vistas of Della Mountain as it meets the Big Wood River. This view, like many others throughout our Valley, is protected forever so all may enjoy it – but only thanks to your support over these years.

Healthy, protected, and accessible lands and water are essential to the way of life for our community, and they always have been. For reasons unique to each of us, we call this Valley our home. But we are also brought together by this sense of place, as we are called upon as one unified community to protect our wild spaces.

It's no secret that our Valley is in the midst of changes – places that we all love that are critical to our quality of life, as well as that of our wildlife, are at risk. We have accomplished a lot in our first 25 years, but our greatest challenges lie in front of us. Over the next 10 years, we as a Valley have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to protect these iconic places that we all love, so that they may exist forever just as the way we remember them today.

As you read through our 25th-anniversary edition of the newsletter, I hope you see a part of yourself in every major accomplishment the Land Trust has succeeded in since our formation in 1994. But most importantly, as we now work to achieve a 10-year vision to retain the brilliance of our Valley for the future, I hope you think about what makes this place your home, and why it is worth protecting – for all generations.

Sincerely,



Dave Woodward
Board Chair

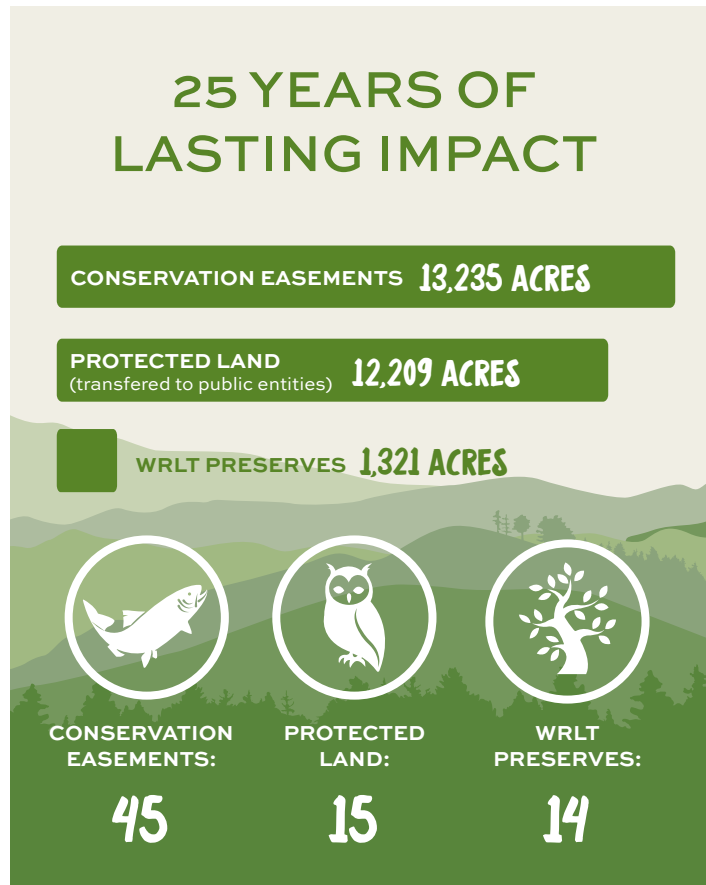


“We are brought together by this sense of place, and we are called upon as one unified community to protect our wild spaces.”

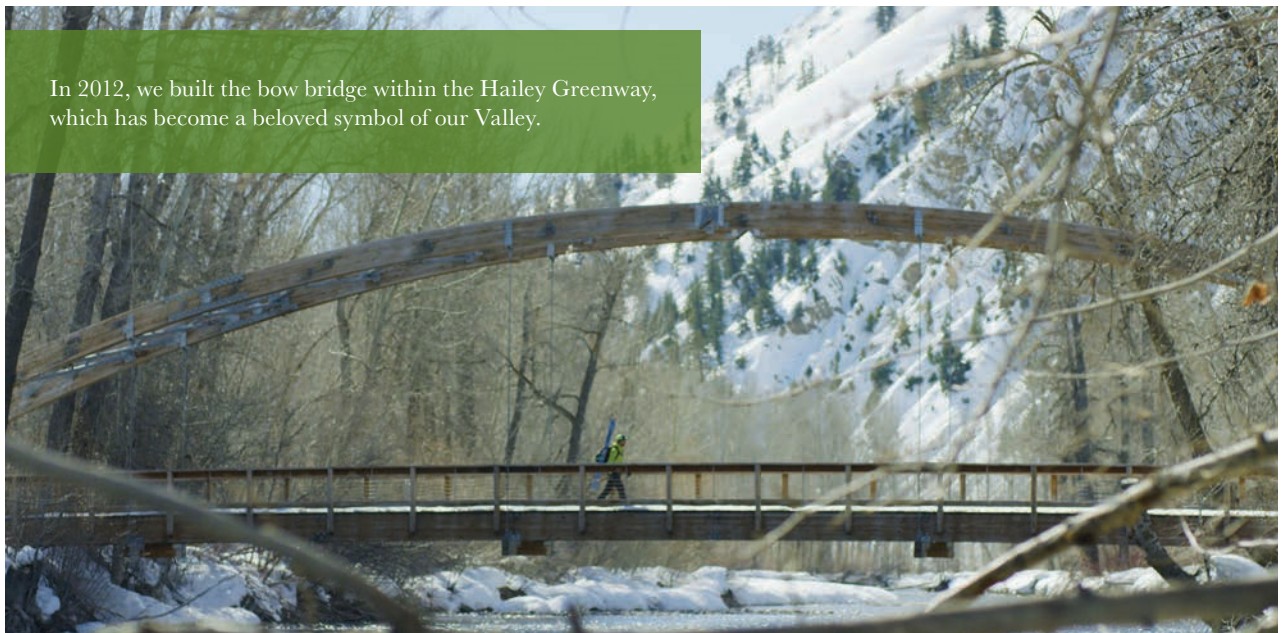
LOOKING BACK ON 25 YEARS

In 1994, a group of Valley residents noticed changes throughout the Wood River Valley. The open spaces that are synonymous with the Valley's allure were quietly being developed, and public access to the Big Wood River was growing more limited. Not willing to sit back and see paradise lost, these individuals came together to form an organization that sought to protect this special place. Thus, the Wood River Land Trust was born. Shortly after, the organization's first employee was hired – Scott Boettger.

Now, over 26,000 protected acres, 75 projects, and 25 years later, we find ourselves reflecting upon all that we have accomplished as a community, while also looking forward to what is to come. Vast open landscapes, pristine waters, healthy wildlife – these things all make up our sense of place here in the Valley. From key properties to people who have been with us since the start, we wouldn't be able to celebrate who we are today without thanking them and reflecting on how we got here.



In 2012, we built the bow bridge within the Hailey Greenway, which has become a beloved symbol of our Valley.



WE ARE THE LAND TRUST

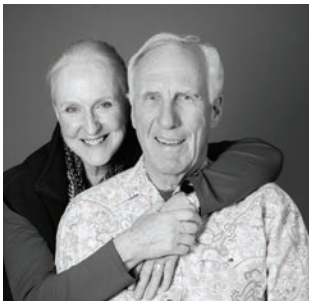
While we don't have enough pages to thank everyone that has made our success over the years possible, we wanted to feature a sampling of those within our community who have helped further the Land Trust's mission. To everyone who has worked with us towards our goals over the years – we truly appreciate your continued support.



Julie Weston & Gerry Morrison
Julie and Gerry's passion for the Wood River Valley began when they were kids, as they often visited to ski and play outdoors. As they grew older, they joined the Land Trust as supporters in its efforts to protect wild spaces. They were especially inspired by a morning trip to Rinker Rock Creek Ranch where they saw breeding sage grouse, an important indicator of Land Trust's impact.



Pam Feld
Pam Feld is one of the founding Board Members of the WRLT and has been with our organization since it was just an idea among a small group of Valley residents. Pam was a strong proponent of all the great things that land trusts can do for a community, and she took on a role that helped cement what our organization is today. Pam, we thank you for all of your contributions to the Land Trust since the beginning!



Ed Cutter
Ed Cutter has been a central figure in the Land Trust's development over the past 25 years. He has worn many hats for the organization, including Board Member, Treasurer, and Vice President. Ed was critical to the internal development of the Land Trust and continues to assist the organization through a variety of endeavors, while also serving on the Land Trust Alliance's national TerraFirma Board.



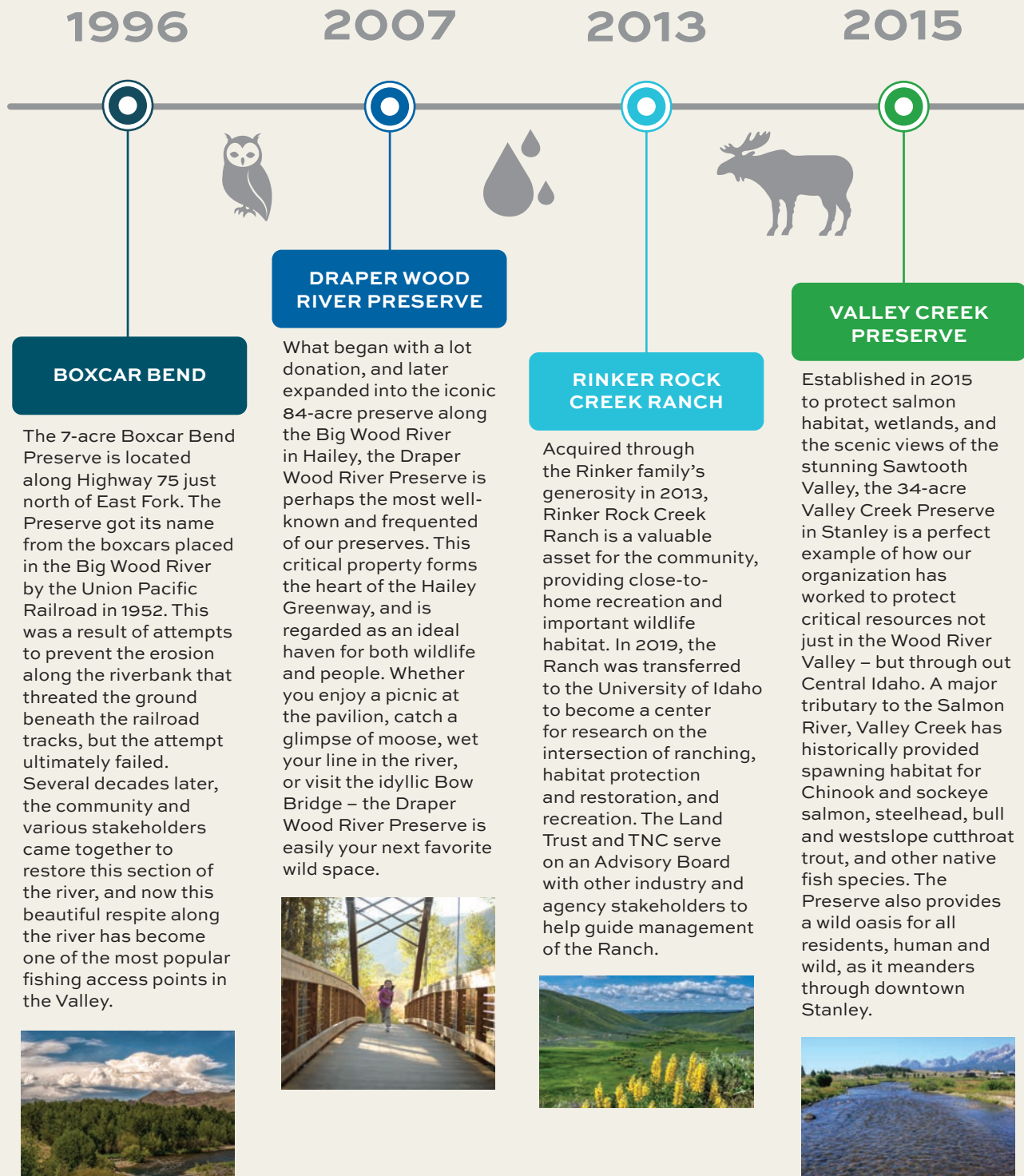
Holly & Chris duPont
Often found on the slopes or on the water, Holly and Chris duPont raised their family here in the Valley and are driven by a love for the outdoors. The duPonts have supported our organization through their foundation for some years now, and are proud to support work that ensures visitors and residents alike are able to experience the outdoor recreational opportunities that are synonymous with our Valley's way of life.



Jim Keating
Jim Keating is the Executive Director of the Blaine County Recreation District, which has been a critical community partner to the Land Trust on numerous projects. Most recently, the Land Trust's partnership with BCRD resulted in the protection of Quigley Canyon for the greater community. "Through unique partnerships like the Quigley Canyon Project, we successfully serve our community and achieve our mutual goals," says Keating.

25 YEARS

Of Conservation



2016

2018

2019



HOWARD PRESERVE EXPANSION

What started with the initial acquisition of 7.4 acres, the Howard Preserve has expanded to over 35 acres over the years to solidify its reputation as a beloved place that provides public access to the Big Wood River, in addition to opportunities for education and community partnerships, including the Friends of the Howard Preserve and the City of Bellevue.



COLORADO GULCH

Thanks to the support of our community, what originally started as a small conservation easement has now become one of the most celebrated protected areas along the Big Wood River, and serves as one of the most important components of the Hailey Greenway. In 2018, the Colorado Gulch Preserve was expanded by nine acres thanks to the generosity of a silent donor and big fan of the Land Trust. This Preserve is well-regarded as a community treasure, and rightfully so. With a multi-use trail system, protected river corridor habitat for wildlife, and multiple ongoing restoration projects, this area has plenty to offer everyone in the Valley.



QUIGLEY CANYON

At one point, Quigley Canyon's 1,400 plus acres, stretching four miles east from Hailey, was proposed for a sprawling suburban-style development. After years of failed attempts, the property's developer, Hennessey and Company, came up with a new idea. Instead of spreading homes throughout Quigley Canyon, a variety of homes are now consolidated adjacent to the city limits land. Land surrounding the development was donated to the school district and to the BCRD, and the rest of the canyons – 1,278 acres – were placed under a conservation easement now held by the Land Trust. The easement protects wildlife corridors for deer, elk, and other species, conserves agricultural uses, and ensures public access for hiking, biking, Nordic skiing, and more.



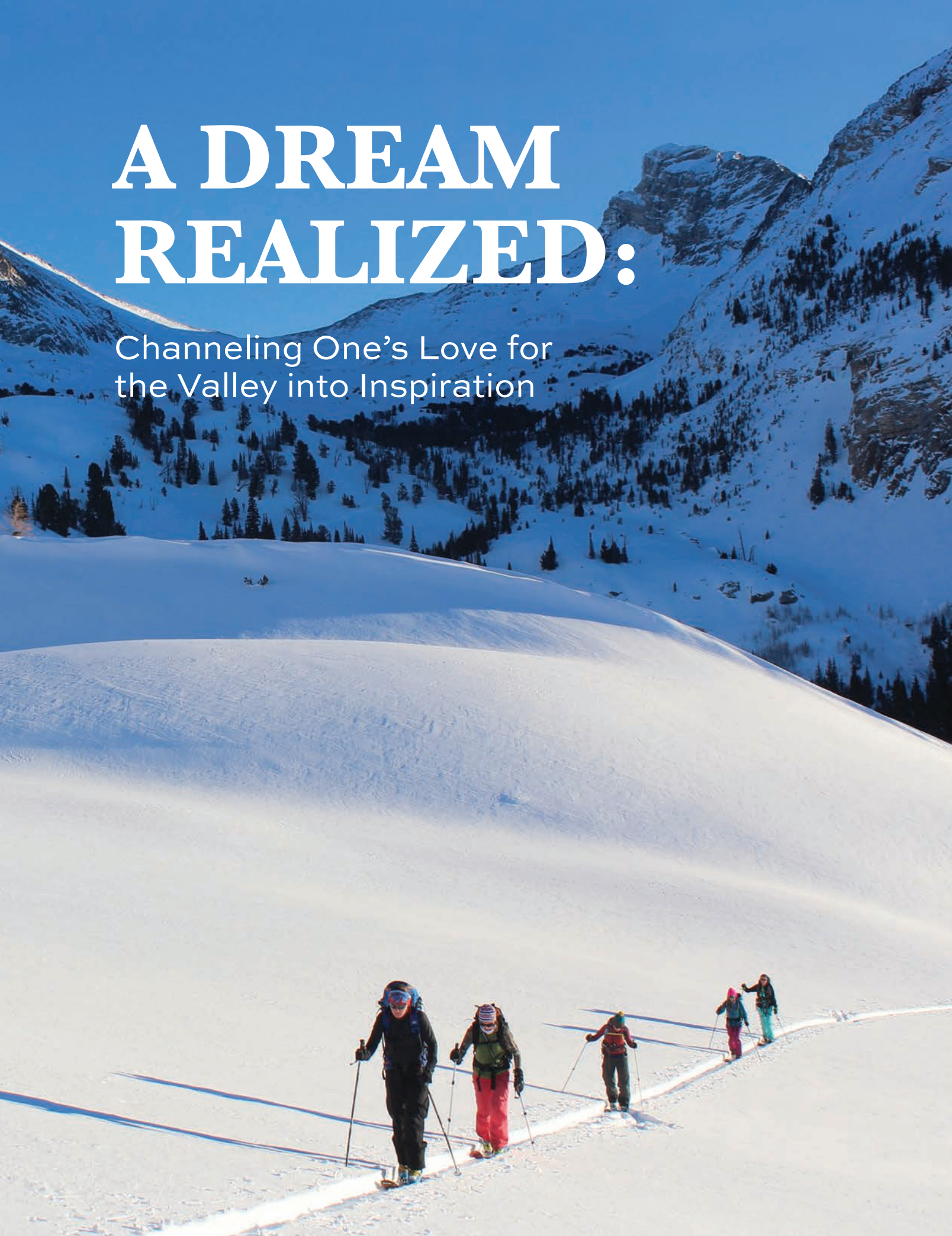
SIMONS-BAUER

The most recent addition to the Hailey Greenway, the 118-acre Simons Bauer Preserve is an important wildlife and now recreation corridor and contains extensive wetlands including a 1-mile section of Croy Creek that feeds into the Big Wood River. This property also allows for the opportunity to reconnect the Big Wood River to its floodplain at Lions Park. Simons-Bauer has the capability to change how we deal with flooding downriver in a holistic way that is beneficial to habitat, the river, and our community.



A DREAM REALIZED:

Channeling One's Love for
the Valley into Inspiration



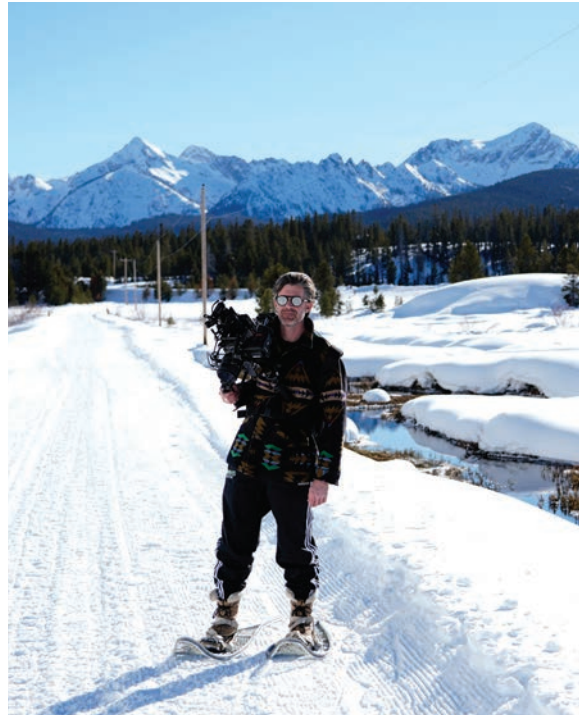
When we discussed how best to celebrate our 25th anniversary with the community,

we thought to ourselves – “how can we celebrate and display all that makes our Valley so special and worth fighting for?” If you’ve spent time in the Wood River Valley, you know how inspirational this place is. A short film featuring our Valley’s beauty seemed like the perfect vehicle. But we didn’t want just anyone to create this film – we wanted someone that has roots here, someone that understands firsthand how valuable everything we have here is, and how fragile these special places are. Immediately, Matt Larson came to mind. Matt is a filmmaker currently based out of Paris, France; however he is originally from the Valley. So when the Land Trust approached Matt about creating a film to commemorate the organization’s 25th-anniversary, it was a dream come true for him.

Many of us can recall experiences in our childhood that have had a profound effect on who we are today. For Matt, those experiences entailed spending his childhood years with friends down by the Big Wood River in Hailey – around what is now the Colorado Gulch Preserve, to be exact. Matt and his family moved to the Valley when he was young, and it was here where his experiences in nature shaped Matt’s early creative tendencies, and later his ambitions.

After a brief stint of living in Elkhorn, Matt’s family moved to Hailey when he was in sixth grade where he reconnected with his childhood – now lifelong – friends. Through these friendships, Matt discovered a world of exploration down by the river. One of Matt’s friends, Alex, had shown him a rudimentary ‘fort’ he had created down by the river (really, it was a few overturned logs that created a dirty and dark space).

“Not only do we have so much to be thankful for, but we also have so much worth fighting for.”



Fascinated by a seemingly remote world less than a mile away from their houses, the group of friends soon embodied a *Lost Boys* mentality.

Inspired by the 1991 *Robin Hood* film starring Kevin Costner, Matt and his friends Ben and Alex spent the entirety of the summer attempting to build the most complex fort a group of middle schoolers could construct at the time. “For us, our desire to be in nature became almost like an addiction – it was our connection to fantasy, and really is probably a feeling that lies deep down inside all of us,” says Larson. For children of Matt’s age, the haven of being able to play in nature down by the river or in open spaces allows imaginations to evolve and transform. Jumping into the river was a rite of passage, the only limitations to life were the amount of hours left of daylight, and there was never really any threat to this whole other world that existed in nature. Or so Matt thought.

PARADISE FOR SALE

Some months later, Matt and his friends stumbled upon a “For Sale” sign staked into the ground of a large empty lot on lower Broadford Road down by the river. From then on, the only thing that Matt and his friends thought about was, “how are we going to be able to buy this property, and how can we make sure it stays the same way forever?”

From these experiences, Matt’s ambitions slowly grew to where he felt compelled to venture from the Valley in order to pursue his creative skillset. But he has always been humbled by his childhood roots and his experiences in nature down by the river. “We evolved there, we made forts there. Through these experiences, we opened up our minds and they grew us up in some ways while solidifying our values emotionally. I couldn’t imagine these places disappearing or becoming privatized or other kids in the Valley not being able to have the same experiences we did.”

And while Matt pursued a career in film around the world, he was always anchored by his lifelong goal – to return to the Valley and buy that lot on lower Broadford by the river, so that it would remain open and undeveloped forever. So when the Land Trust announced plans to purchase 150 acres down in Colorado Gulch in order to protect the space forever, Matt’s childhood dream had been realized.

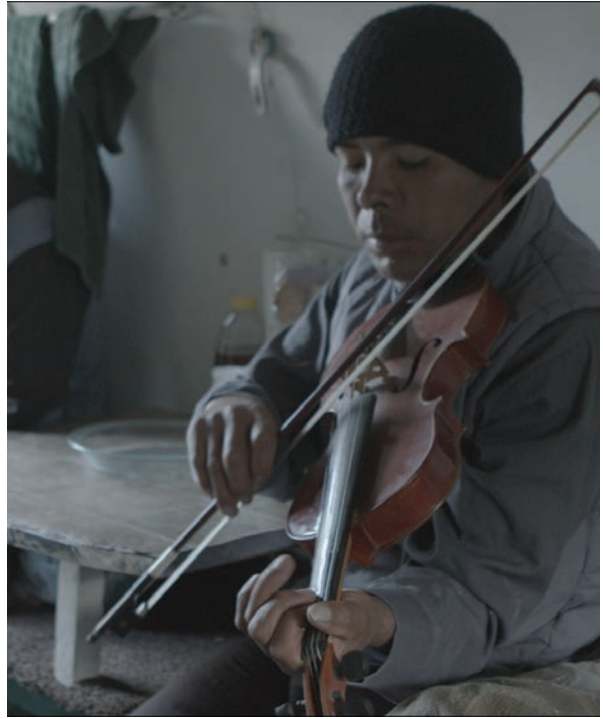
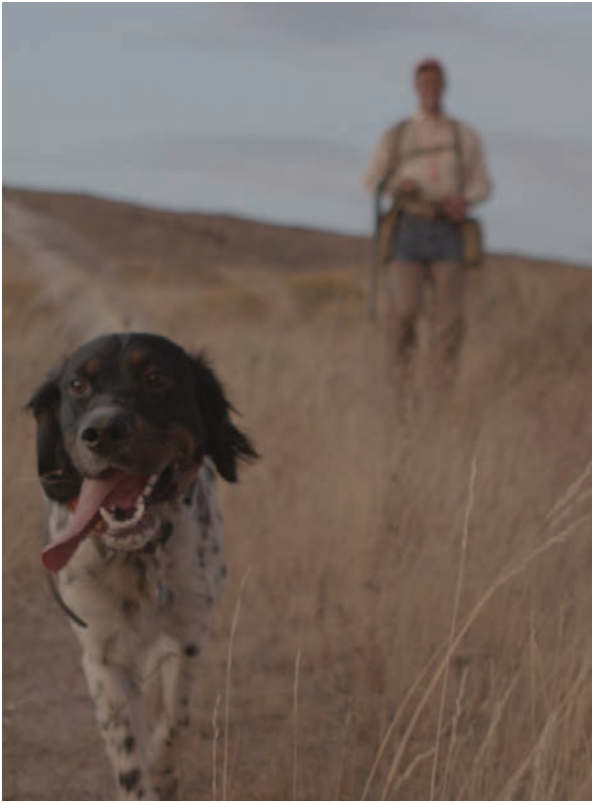
Now, three years later, Matt is gifting to our community a film that he hopes will serve as an inspiration for others to take action and protect each and every one of our own little “havens” of open space.

Over the past three seasons including winter, spring, and fall, Matt has trekked through four feet of snowpack up mountains, skied down hills, woken up well before dawn to track wildlife, waded through fast river currents, and ventured among sheep herds to capture the epic footage contained in this short film. He hopes that by creating the film, and by showing people what makes our Valley so beautiful on a big screen – from moose, to elk, to pronghorn, to birds, to fish, to clean water, to clean air, and to open spaces – not only do we have so much to be thankful for, but we also have so much worth fighting for.

HOME premieres Tuesday, December 10th at the Argyros Performing Arts Center. Please visit www.woodriverlandtrust.org for more information and call 208.788.3947 to reserve your seat. We also have so many people to thank for their help in creating this project, including:

Josephine and Bill Lowe
James and Alison Luckman
Heart of the Rockies Initiative
Don Zimmer at Sun Valley Records

“I couldn't imagine these places disappearing or becoming privatized or other kids in the Valley not being able to have the same experiences we did.”



THANK YOU TROUT FRIENDLY PARTNERS!

The Trout Friendly Program is a Land Trust initiative that helps people throughout the Valley learn how to conserve water and keep our river healthy and Trout Friendly. A big thanks to our partners who help make this possible. The leadership and expertise that they bring to educating the public on reducing water needs and pesticide use have benefited the health of the Big Wood River. Through these partnerships, we have created the Water Conservation Landscaping Guidelines and Drought Tolerant Plant List. This is an easy to use guide to convert your landscape to be water-efficient, reduce weeds, and be beautiful! Next year, the Trout Friendly program plans to revitalize the Blaine County Arboretum and convert portions of Colorado Gulch Preserve to a native pollinator meadow. Stay tuned!

Advanced Irrigation Solutions
Arborcare
BigHorn Landscaping
Big Wood Landscape
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Cooper Landscapes
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Native Landscapes
Nichols Landscapes
Organic Solutions
Sawtooth Botanical Garden
Silver Creek Supply
Sun Valley Water and Sewer
The Turf Company
Thunder Spring
Webb Landscaping
Whitehead Landscaping
Winn's Compost



LOOKING FORWARD:

IT'S NOW OR NEVER FOR OUR WILD SPACES & HAPPY PLACES



Imagine places throughout the Valley that are special to you. Places you walk your dog, places you hike, places you connect with the community, places you connect with yourself, and places you connect with nature. Places like the Warm Springs Dog Park, the Sun Peak Picnic Area, and other areas throughout our Valley that help make up our sense of place.

Now imagine these places in one to two years. Have they been developed? Has public access been eliminated? Or have these places been preserved for their character – or in some cases restored – for the benefit of all in our Valley? It's no secret that our home is in the midst of changes. The changes that are happening now will affect our very way of life and sense of place, and they threaten what makes our home here so amazing. The threats of development for profit at the expense of habitat, access, and our sense of belonging are very credible and they are happening now.

That's why the Land Trust is poised to act on a 10-year vision to retain the brilliance of our Valley by catalyzing and executing lasting acquisitions and programs that secure critical lands, water, and wildlife in perpetuity – but we can't do this without our community support.

Over the next 10 years, we have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to fight these threats in order to keep the Wood River Valley as special as we all remember it to be.

How will we accomplish this? Well, the strength of the Wood River Land Trust has always been our community, for without you all that we've been successful in over the past quarter century would be impossible.

To succeed in our vision, we must work together to enable a Valley-wide movement for stewardship and lasting impact. Every one of us benefits from our connections to the land, water, and wildlife that surround us, and every one of us can play a part in our goal of improving the vitality of our Valley. We must sustain and restore the Big Wood River – the resource that provides for all life in our Valley. To do so, we will need to work on property stewardship, community, and governmental partnerships, and restorative actions to provide our community with a healthier and more resilient river system that supports people, wildlife, and fish. And of course, we must work together to secure and protect the iconic lands and places we all love. By creating programs and initiatives to enable stewardship and public access, we can ensure that the Valley's open spaces, ecosystems, and habitat will be protected and will provide inspiration for generations to come.

Places in our Valley that are so dear to our heart are facing challenges. Places that inspire love, harbor memories, and strengthen our connections to nature, and ourselves. These places call to each of us for action, before they are forever lost. But only together, can we answer the call to protect our wild spaces. It's up to us. It's our call. **Will we answer it?**

“The changes that are happening now will affect our very way of life and sense of place, and they threaten what makes our home here so amazing”



GIVE THE GIFT OF OPEN SPACE

STOCK GIFTS MAKE GREAT "CENTS"

With the end of the year quickly approaching, a gift of stock to the Wood River Land Trust may be a tax-wise contribution. If you have appreciated stocks, it is simple to make a gift that can have favorable tax benefits.

Your broker can help you make the transfer, but if you have any questions, be sure to contact us. Below are the instructions to share with your broker about making a gift of stock to Wood River Land Trust.

1. Contact your stockbroker

Your stock broker can make a direct electronic transfer of your stock certificates to WRLT's account with the following information:

Charles Schwab

DTC # 0164

Code 40

Account Registration:

Wood River Land Trust

Account Number:

7811-0294

Charles Schwab Number for

Contra/DTC Hotline:

602-355-9003

2. Give your stockbroker Wood River Land Trust's taxpayer identification number: 82-0474191

3. Notify WRLT of the transfer

so we can properly credit you as your name will not be with the wire of securities:

Courtney Jelaco

Director of Development

208.788.3947 ext 106 or

cjelaco@woodriverlandtrust.org

4. Please provide WRLT with the following information:

- Name of security;
- Number of shares to be donated; and
- Name and phone number of your stockbroker

HOME

a film about what matters most

**JOIN US FOR THE PREMIERE
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10**

**ARGYROS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, KETCHUM
RSVP TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT:
208.788.3947**

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR EVENT SPONSOR:



SILVERCREEK
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PRODUCTION COORDINATOR MATTHEW STEINWURTZEL CINEMATOGRAPHY BY MATT LARSON AND JULIEN BORNE EDITED AND COLORED BY MATT LARSON DIRECTED BY MATT LARSON

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PROTECTING WILD SPACES & HAPPY PLACES

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For 25 years, we've worked diligently to protect the land, water, wildlife, and recreational opportunities that make the Wood River Valley a place where you can connect...or disconnect.

EXPLORE NEW WAYS TO GIVE.
CALL OR DONATE TODAY:
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