

RUBY HABITAT FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

**CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF
INNOVATIVE, INSIGHTFUL,
AND
RESPONSIBLE RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT**

Comments from the Executive Director

A little over 25 years ago, in the fall of 1992, I had the good fortune to meet Craig and Martha Woodson for the first time. They had recently purchased what they recognized to be a diamond-in-the-rough in the Ruby Valley. It was to be a ten year retirement project that they would shape and facet into the property that they knew lay beneath that rough exterior. Infusions of imagination, determination, labor and cash brought forth a property of incomparable beauty and diversity which is now known as the Woodson Ranch. That ten year project had changed the land but the land, and the process of stewarding it, had changed the Woodsons. In the spring of 2002, as the 10th anniversary of their ownership of the ranch approached, they made the inspired decision to create the Ruby Habitat Foundation to carry their vision and the stewardship of the resource into the future. Fifteen years later, we look back with pride and amazement upon the legacy they have created and forward with confidence in great things yet to come.

2017 has been a year of 15s. It is our 15 year anniversary, more than 1500 visitors experienced the ranch and we have surpassed \$15M in assets! To give credit where credit is due, this has been a tremendous joint effort:

- The transformation of the ranch into a place of beauty, productivity and diversity is due in no small part to the efforts of Juventino and Luisa Colado Mora. They have lived, worked and raised their family on the ranch. We are all grateful for their 25 years of dedication to this effort.

- The success of the Foundation's administration results from the dedicated, volunteer Board of Directors featured later in this report. Four members of that ten member board were selected for the original board of RHF and have served for the duration of the Foundation's existence. We applaud their commitment and talent. They are Martha Woodson, Robin Mitts, Neil Barnosky and Rock Ringling.

- You, our loyal supporters, donors and advisors have contributed selflessly to our success. Our Outreach and Education efforts rely upon your generosity and we look to you for inspiration and recommendations.

- Dr. Samuel Corl III has annually volunteered his creativity in assembling our beautiful and informative Annual Reports. I hope you will take time to thoroughly review this 15th Anniversary Edition. Revisit with us the highlights of the past year and consider our progress toward accomplishing our purposes.

- The Foundation's association with the Montana Land Reliance has proven to be invaluable. Their encouragement and advice have contributed to the Foundation's success in large measure. All of us at the Ruby Habitat Foundation are grateful to the Directors and the staff of the Montana Land Reliance for their support and assistance over these fifteen years. We celebrate with them in their tremendous achievement in just recently placing their millionth acre under conservation easement. Way to go MLR!

The property is an unparalleled showcase of possibilities for land owners large and small. Educational, agricultural, wildlife and recreational opportunities are shared by family, neighbors, friends and community. The ongoing projects detailed in this annual report are a testament to the Woodson's and the Foundation's commitment to demonstrating what time, effort, creativity and an open mind can achieve. I hope you will choose to continue to partner with RHF as we strive to maintain the integrity of our western landscape and heritage.



Les Gilman receives a gift of appreciation from Martha Woodson

Les Gilman
Executive Director, Ruby Habitat Foundation



From the Chairman's Desk

The Ruby Habitat Foundation's mission statement begins by stating that we are dedicated to preserving and enhancing the natural resources, and social and economic makeup of the Ruby Valley and southwest Montana. This began with our founder, Craig Woodson's, vision of benefiting this area by his generous and thoughtful plan to have a place to show and develop examples of good stewardship and conservation. An opportunity to show that good habitat and working ranches go hand in hand and the platform from which to tell that story to the interested public. It has been 15 years since Craig and his lovely bride, Martha, made this unselfish contribution and I feel we have all benefited greatly from their thoughtfulness.

For any organization to grow and thrive it has to have the right people or personalities to give guidance and vision and actually get the work done. We began with Craig leading the way for us and his decision to partner with the Montana Land Reliance has turned out to be a wise choice. Having two organizations that are dedicated to open space and good stewardship has been a recipe for inspiration and progress, but it is, once again, the people that make that difference and the personalities from MLR have been instrumental in this journey.

There are many people that have made a difference at RHF over the years and I would like to point out two that I feel illustrate the reason for the growth we have had and also a plan to keep working on our mission for the future. The first is our Executive Director, Les Gilman. He had a close relationship with Craig long before RHF was formed and has continued to be a leader at RHF and in the community after Craig's passing. This is the guy that has a creative approach to each new project and challenge, the guy that gets things done and keeps an order to the organization. We would not be where we are without Les and his talents. Dave Delisi is the other individual I wish to point out. Dave came on board in 2015 as our Outreach Coordinator and at the time it seemed like a stretch to make this a full-time position. Hiring Dave has proven to be a very good decision. His passion for Woodson Ranch, good stewardship, habitat and wildlife is infectious to all that come in contact with him. He has increased the opportunity for education and broadened our outreach to the community and beyond. Les and Dave are examples of doing the work of today while looking to the future, inspiring the next generation.

I have one more personality to look at. Each stream or river has its own personality, its own unique character if you will. Over the years Clear Creek has lost much of its character and gives an impression of sadness or being tired and worn out. As the restoration of Clear Creek begins and as it is brought back to good function I am very anxious to see how it expresses its true character, its personality. This is an exciting project.

I truly want to thank all of you that support RHF in so many ways. Partnering with you makes all this possible.

Neil Barnosky
Chairman, Ruby Habitat Foundation

A Word From Our Parent Organization

The Ruby Valley is one of the few places left in western Montana with a vibrant, traditional agricultural community. One doesn't have to look far to see unfettered, poorly planned rural subdivisions sprouting higgledy piggledy everywhere to affirm just how important agriculture in the Ruby is for both its people and its wildlife.

What else makes the valley so special? Though the Ruby River, the mountains, and open space all play a role, I think the people who love the Ruby and strive to make the community function are the highlight. I believe that the sense of place the residents espouse inspired Craig and Martha Woodson to establish and nurture to maturity the Ruby Habitat Foundation (RHF). The Ruby's people are also what makes the RHF work both as a resource for and as a member of the community, as the Foundation would not flourish if it were not for the community's support. It is a great gift for the Montana Land Reliance to be a part of the Foundation as well as a contributor to the greater community. We can't wait to see what the next fifteen years bring for all of us.

Rock Ringling
Vice-Chairman, RHF
Managing Director, Montana Land Reliance



Outreach Report

Over 1500 people...that's how many folks came to Woodson Ranch last year for various purposes and events. Here in the Ruby Valley, few privately owned properties can boast that they permit such access. We are proud to carry this banner and hold ourselves out to the community as an example of how managed access offers benefits to both the landowner and those who visit.

Indeed, the relationship between Ruby Habitat Foundation and its guests is synergistic. We could not afford to manage the property as we do without the support of our guests and donors. Donations to Ruby Habitat Foundation have been used to support the outreach programs we conduct and which we'll highlight in this year's annual report. Several donors have also specifically designated the Clear Creek project for their donation, and we'll give an update on that as well. And as you can read in some of the quotes from some of our visitors, Woodson Ranch provides reciprocal support to those who visit and make use of this amazing space.



2017 was the 15th year of Ruby Habitat Foundation, and we celebrated by doing more of what we do best: inviting people to come experience this special ranch, this place which wouldn't be here without the foresight of Craig and Martha Woodson, without the thoughtful management provided by Montana Land Reliance and our Board of Directors, and without the generous support of our guests. And we look forward to doing more of the same in the next 15 years and beyond!

Dave Delisi
Outreach Coordinator, Ruby Habitat Foundation



Notable Quotables

Feedback from our Guests

The ranch is really impressive. You guys have a great place and obviously put a lot of hard work into it. Will was seriously impressed with the amount of game around to the degree he could not stop talking about it. We even saw moose and porcupine.

--Bob Inman



Thank you all for what you do to preserve the land, teach us about preservation, agriculture, environment and wildlife. What really is amazing is how you share it. We so appreciate this opportunity.

--Donna & Jake McDonald



I visited for a few days a year ago and was so impressed with the progress you have made.... The words written by Craig said it all: "to be stewards of our natural resources". The vision of Craig & Martha has been so important and now shared by so many Montana ranchers...

--Judith Hazen



I applaud the Woodson Ranch and the Ruby Habitat Foundation for the amazing job you have done to promote not only healthy habitat but the idea that proper management of its natural resources is essential. There is a trend for some land owners in our area to forget that many of us live here because of the opportunity to enjoy the beauty and bounty of the Ruby Valley but you have managed to lead by example and prove that there can be a great relationship between land owners, outdoor enthusiast and sportsman. I want to personally thank the Woodson family and all involved for being such great stewards of the lands you have graciously continued to provide access.

--Jason George

A Clear Path for Clear Creek

In the mid 1950s, nearly 40 years prior to the arrival of Craig & Martha Woodson, the 11-mile braid of the Ruby River known as Clear Creek was altered for the benefit of agriculture. As was common at the time, the landowners determined to square off and level some fields for crop production in areas where Clear Creek curled through the land. At the time, Clear Creek was primarily viewed and used as an irrigation conveyance system--that is, it was used to get water from Point A to Point B, and the goal for that water was to put it on a field used for crop production. Straightening the creek bed simply meant the water got to where it was going a little bit sooner, and that was generally believed to be a good thing.

In a testimony to unintended consequences, that straightening of Clear Creek resulted in a faster flow rate, and that caused the water to cut down through its bed faster than is natural. Like a scalpel, the river cut through the valley floor, removing earth and sediment and sending it further downstream, into the Ruby River itself. This loss of sediment caused the stream to cut deeper and deeper, past arable soil and into cobble and soil that hadn't seen sunlight in millennia. The banks "grew" higher and higher until high-water events simply gushed through the channel without overflowing onto the surrounding riparian area and exacerbating the sediment-removal problem. The roots of the nearby riparian plants had to work harder and dig deeper to find water. These effects led to the labeling of Clear Creek on Woodson Ranch as "Not Sustainable" in the 2012 Lower Ruby River Riparian Assessment by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).



The bed of Clear Creek is, in some places, 6' or more below the top of the banks, meaning it has disconnected from its flood plane entirely.

To return the stream to a sustainable state, the Ruby Habitat Foundation and cooperating landowners have embarked on a multi-year initiative to restore and improve Clear Creek, with emphasis on stream bed restoration and water quality & quantity enhancements. The end result will enhance the riparian areas and improve the fishery, not just on Clear Creek, but on the Ruby and likely the Beaverhead and Jefferson to which the Ruby connects.

The project has numerous moving parts, not the least of which is close cooperation with landowners through whose property Clear Creek flows as well as those who have water rights connected to Clear Creek.

PHASE 1: Keep It Wet

By the time this annual report is published, much of Phase 1 will be in progress. This phase is focused on ensuring adequate flows in Clear Creek. As a source of water for irrigators, Clear Creek has been depleted of water at different times of the year. The irrigation cycle in the Ruby Valley typically involves 2 cuttings of hay. One is generally in early July and the other is in mid to late August. Growing hay in our semi-arid climate requires an abundance of supplemental water. At both of these critical water-use periods, the level of water in Clear Creek drops dramatically, often to the detriment of the fish as shallow water tends to be warmer and trout do not like

warm water.

This phase will shift the dependence on decreed water from the stream to stored water out of the Ruby Reservoir. Furthermore, it will involve the installation of center-pivot, sprinkler irrigation systems on adjacent irrigated acres (including Woodson Ranch). Irrigating with pivots instead of flood irrigating makes sense in the areas affected due to the very porous soils which require copious amounts of water for flood irrigation.

In sum, Phase 1 keeps water in Clear Creek. A United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) grant and support from local landowners and donors to Ruby Habitat Foundation are making this project possible. A memorandum of understanding among landowners and water users will ensure that Clear Creek's flows will remain sustainable.



PHASE 2: Fix The Habitat

In cooperation with the NRCS, Ruby Habitat Foundation has agreed to place nearly 400 acres of Woodson Ranch under a Wetland Reserve Easement. This easement will restrict, in perpetuity, further development within its boundaries. As part of this easement, NRCS will fund the restoration of Clear Creek's stream bed. This project is in its early stages but work has begun. In the fall of 2017, Kingfisher Consulting and Spanish Peaks Engineering and Consulting, both out of Bozeman, surveyed the existing stream bed and an environmental analysis was completed, delineating existing wetlands and searching for any species of concern. Over the winter, the engineers and consultants will create a design for the restored stream bed. A significant aspect of this project will include the removal of fish passage barriers. These impediments to spawning exist on the lower end of Clear Creek and, when removed, will allow trout from the nearby Ruby River to migrate up Clear Creek to do what fish do. We expect that the engineering plan will also "un-straighten" the portions of the creek that were altered back in the 50's. Adding sinuosity back to the stream will slow the river down, reducing sedimentation and improving fish habitat. The project will also reconnect the stream with its flood plain and allow high water events to access the adjacent riparian areas, saturating them, enhancing habitat and storing that water for late-season release.

We expect restoration construction, along with all of its improvements, to begin in the late fall of 2018.

We are very excited about this major project but we still have funding gaps we need to fill. Contact us if you are interested in helping us financially. We will keep you informed through our newsletters to which, incidentally, you can subscribe on our website if you haven't already.



Reaching Out...

We work hard at Woodson Ranch to fulfill the mission statement of the Ruby Habitat Foundation. That mission statement includes “encouraging education and training to broaden the understanding of management issues, and responsible management of private lands.” On the next couple pages you’ll see some examples of how we worked toward that goal in 2017.



On September 27, we hosted the Annual Kids’ River Resource Day. Students from multiple schools and multiple grade levels came to learn about the ways of Mountain Men, how to identify trees and aquatic invertebrates, the value of “leave no trace” use of our public lands, and numerous useful and interesting skills.

Adults also came to learn about their natural environment. On August 15, in cooperation with the Wildlife Conservation Society’s Community Partnerships Program, we hosted a wildlife speaker potluck dinner and presentation. Patrick Donnelly from the Intermountain West Joint Venture came and presented to over 200 people who came from all over Southwest Montana and beyond.



We continued our partnership with the local high school’s science classes with further work to classify our aquatic invertebrates according to location on the ranch. Here, Jacob Gilman readies a screen to capture the miniature life forms. This class also made use of our chemical analysis kits to assess the characteristics of our waterways. By providing a venue for the students to accomplish real science, we also benefit from the increased understanding of our resource.

...and Making Contact



On August 24, we hosted a tour of Clear Creek from the point of its distributary out of the Ruby River down to where it reconnects with the river 11 miles later. We noted several salient facts, including that the control structure will require substantial engineering, and also that we may need to do some additional work to prevent the Ruby from avulsing prior to the distributary so that the Clear Creek channel is not cut off entirely.

In what we hope will become an annual event, the Ruby Habitat Foundation Board unanimously voted to establish a “Family Fishing Day” in which children can come with a parent or guardian and fish--using flies, lures or bait--and keep a fish or two to eat. A departure from our standard “flies only, catch & release” ethic, we hope this event inspires young folks to take up the sport of fishing--and also hope it brings families together in one of the healthiest activities we know! In this photo, Bob Haddock and his grandson Ezra wander to the head of the next run.



When the eagle nest was taken over by a pair of Canada Geese, the Sheridan and Alder school kids took it in stride...both school’s kids wrote letters from the eagle to the geese and the Sheridan students came out for a field trip to visit the nest and look at the mama goose whom they named “Rebecca”.

Finding One's Muse

In April, the students from the Sheridan High School came out and spent some time getting in touch with their muse. This poem is but one of several which reflected the caliber of the students as well as the atmosphere of the Ruby Valley



*I am from the small valley boxed
in by mountains
Where secrets are not really
secrets
Where one half of the sky is
covered by black clouds, the other
clear & sunny.*

*I am from back roads
Where speed doesn't apply
Where baseballs fly through win-
dows and kids run to apologize.*

*I am from tall brown grass with a
bit of green underneath*

*I am from the craziness of a city yet the calmness of a stream
Where cows roam free and birds chirp through the sky.*

*I am from four-wheelers running into buildings, horses break through fences and animals that
talk back as though they were your children
Where horse and cow feces could be candle scents*

*I am from parents calling school and pulling kids out to help out on the ranch
Where mountains are the back yard
Where fences were made to keep
out not keep in.*

*Where building bird houses was
a class project
I am from small town Montana
where everyone knows everyone.*

--Kaitlynn Fritts



Getting One's Goose

In 2015 and 2016, we had a pair of Bald Eagles fledge two eaglets. Figuring their nest would make a great spot to install a streaming webcam, we did so in January of 2017 thanks to a generous donor. The results: two Canada Geese took over the nest! Both the Alder and Sheridan Schools kept close tabs on the nest, watching the birds during "snack time", coming to visit on a field trip, and holding contests to see when the goslings would hatch. The Sheridan School kindergarten kids named the mama goose Rebecca. They also wrote letters to the geese, and some from the geese to the eagle, and some from the eagle to the geese. Here are a couple we thought you'd enjoy.

Always do your best!

Dear Rebecca,
 I Love you.
 How are your eggs doing? I Hop they hatch soon.



Dear Eagle Family,
 Eagle, I'm sorry that the goose took your nest. why don't you eat the goose or get the nest back next year. It makes you weak and tiny.

Dear Goose
 why did you take my nest I'm in a dog house floating to Africa with a dog biteing me all day. How will I get back home?
 Sincerely
 lost eagle.

Dear Goose,

I am wondering how you will get your babies out of the nest, and why you took an eagle's nest instead of putting it on the ground.

I hope all your babies will hatch and stay alive.



Dear Eagle,

I am sorry that the goose kicked you out of your nest. I hope that you are ok. I have a question for you, and its pretty weird. Why would the King of all birds let a goose take its nest? I mean, come on, it's a goose and you are an Eagle you should have won and kept your nest. Well have a very good day.

If you want to see what's happening currently on our eagle (goose) nest, you can check it out here:

<https://rubyhabitat.org/home/projects/current-projects/eagle-cam/>

2017 RHF SUPPORTERS

Our thanks to all who have supported our efforts financially and otherwise over the past year.

Quite simply, we could not do this alone.

Individuals

Acuff, Nancy & John
Adams, Cynthia & Stephen
Allen, Anita & James
Ambrozy, Joe
Anderson, Joseph
Andrews, Kim & John
Anonymous
Barnosky, Gloria & Neil
Bartoletti, Robert Thomas DMD
Beal, Margaret & Loeb, Jeffrey
Belcamino, Gregory
Bennett, Elizabeth & Walter Jr.
Bergeson, Neil
Bernhardt, Anne & George Alexander
Birdsong, Warren Lee
Bjergo, Allen
Blair, Grace
Bloom, Tonia & Marshall
Boggess, Carol & Joseph
Bogue, Susanna
Bombassaro, Donna
Bombassaro, Jeanne & Savinski, Mark
Bowler, Tom
Bradford, Lesley & Thomas
Bradley, P. & R. B.
Brewer, Karen & Edward
Brim, Arlyne & Michael
Brim, Sue & Patrick
Brosier, Marjorie
Bryan, Dennis
Bryan, Linda & Stephen
Burke, Jenny & Ed
Burkey, Shelley & Steve
Burkholder, Janice & Kenneth
Caminito, Gina & Tom
Cargill, Austen
Carlson, Kurt C.
Chan, Steve DDS
Chavooshian, J. Dean
Cherry, Mary Kay & James
Childrey, Elizabeth & Bill
Chillot, Barbara & Elmo, John
Christofferson, Michele & Robert
Clark, John
Clarke, Sara & James
Clausen, Ron
Corl, R. Brooks
Cowles, Evelyn & R. Reynolds
Cox, Faris
Cox, George
Crandall, Janet & William
Cunningham, Bill
Dale, Cheryl & John
Delisi, Carol & Dave
Demott, Robert
Deshong, Lee
Dietrich, Gary
Ditchfield, Michael
Dixon, John
Dorsey, Richard
Downey, Daniel
Doyle, Sandra & Thomas
Drake, Daryl
Durrer, Michael
Dyke, Nancy
Eckhardt, Mark
Eidson, Gayle & James
Ellis, Richard
Engebretson, Carol & Mark
Engel, Kathryn & Craig
Estler, J.T. & R.C.
Field, Timothy
Fischer, Doris
Fishman, Michael
Ford, Beverly & Frank
Fordyce, Linda & Jim
Fraser, William
Froboese, Chris
Gaddis-Philips, Karen
Gardner, Steven
Gaulding, Rodger
Geary, Laura & Mike
Geoffrion, Stephen
Gerner, Robert "Rocky"
Gilbert, Patricia & Carey
Gilman, Anita & James
Goldthwait, Ann & Glenn
Gould, William Jr.
Graff, Harry
Graff, Rita & Richard
Granken, Renee & Gregory
Grassi, Jamie & Mark
Griffith, Virginia & Thomas
(*MAJ GEN, USAF, RET*)
Grundman, Dennis
Hadley, Lori & Gary
Haglund, Donna & Jules
Hall, Eleanor & C. Barrows
Hardy, Paulette & Frank
Harris, Teresa & Mike
Haymart, Debra
Hazen, Judith
Heily, Deanna & John
Higgins, Gretchen & Cory
Hillendahl, Carl M.
Hilles, Lillian & Richard
Holland, Yvonne & Noel
Hoover, John David
Iacopi, John
Isles, Bradley
Jacklin, Susan
Jakubowski, Shirley & Walter
Jessell, Linda & Charles
Johansen, Judith & Kirk
Johnson, Gary
Johnson, Leonard
Johnson, Steven
Joys, David
Juhl, Bruce
Kaufman, K.C. & Robert
Karp, Ronald
Kasnet, Gary
Kearns, Steve
Keifer, Thomas F.
Kelley, Amy & Scott
Kelly, Kathryn
Kenworthy, Heather & Dan
Kiefer, Paul
Kimberly, Karen & George
Kramer, Jim
Lakewold, Carolyn & Goldberg,
Freddie
Lane, Dianne & Tad
Laudenbach, Toby & Brian
Larson, Susan & Kuchcinski, Gary
Leary, Kathryn & Thomas
Legg, William M.
Levin, Dora & Mark
Lower, Anne
Luna, Cassandra Grassi-
McAlister, Alexander & Family
McCallister, Terry
McClelland, Elizabeth & Doug
McDonald, Donna & Jake
McGuire, John T.
McKeever, Christine & Frank
McLoughlin, Kelly & Peter
McNamara, Connor
McNeill, M. Collins
Mergenthaler, Danny
Miller, Charles
Miller, Rebecca & Revel, George
Miller, Katherine & Logan
Miller, Sylvia & Nicholas
Mills, Charles
Miracle, Daniel
Mitchell, Julie & Douglas
Mocilac, Tom
Moll, Bill
Montag, Kim & Jeff
Montague, Chris
Moran, Ellen & R. Matthew
Moret, Michele & Randy
Morris, Louise

2017 RHF SUPPORTERS

(Continued)

Morrissey, Richard
Moseley, Paul
Moseley, Susan & Furman
Moss, Charles
Mumme, Constance & Kenneth
Nelson, Stephanie & Robert
Nicholson, Patricia & Walter
Nienstedt, Susan & Michael
Niles, Kenneth
Nix, Joe
Noonan, Bill
Nugent, Sandra & Ball, Robert
O'Connor, Roy
Ody, Margaret & David
Ohman, Christopher
Olsen, Cristina & Stephen
Packwood, Shery & JB
Pappenfus, Pamela & James
Parks, Judy & Steve
Pearce, Julie & Michael
Peltier, Catherine
Pett, Ian
Phillips, Janis & Terry
Plourde, Pierrette & Roger
Poett, Cynthia & Henry
Prator, Theresa
Prough, Jean & Jim
Pruitt, Thomas
Querna, Christine & Donald "Kit"
Ratcheson, Peggy & Robert
Reeves, Margie & T. Leslie
Renock, Janice & Stephen
Richards, S.F. & Bruce
Rubin, Judith & Robert
Ruedisili, Robert
Rumberger, Barbara MD & Edward DDS
Sampson, Krista & John
Sandru, Jody & Rick
Sasser, Phillip
Sawczuk, Patricia & Stephen
Sayer, Dr. Thomas
Scharf, Randy
Schoenfeld, Barbara & Robert
Schroeder, Michele & Thomas
Seale, Dick
Sheets, Frank
Shore, Renata & Stephen
Shuttleworth, Estelle
Smith, Susan & Ben
Smrcka, Nancy & James
Steiner, Sharon & Eugene
Sterbis, Sharon & Michael
Stevens, Kathy A.
Taylor, Suzy & Bill
Thomas, Grace & Robert

Thorp, Jeff
Toalson, Deena & Patrick
Tremblay, Catherine & Normand
Twiddy, Cameron
Vanbeek, Edward
Vogelsang, Ellen & Olsen, George
Wallace, Jan & Jim
Wayt, Jason
Weiss, Gregory
Wellington, Julie & James
Wellman, Janet
Wells, Pamela & John
Wenrich, Carolyn & Thomas
Wilson, R.D.
Wilson, Richard
Wood, Jenny & Steve
Wood, Twink & Jim
Woods, Dr. Michael
Woodson, Martha
Wotherspoon, Caroline & Craig
Young, Janet & Richard

Memorials

Wilson, John IMO
Ruby the Labrador
Gertie, Jake's dog

Organizations

American Endowment Foundation
American Online Giving Foundation
Bell & Anderson LLC
Benevity Causes
Benevity Community Impact Fund
Childrey, Elizabeth & Bill Family Fund
The Community Foundation for the
National Capital Region
Dobkin Family Foundation
Donedei Winery
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Grassi Winery
Hells Canyon Creek, LLC
Iacopi Lenz & Company
Johansen Family Trust,
Kenworthy Electric Inc.
Kindred Spirits Gift Gallery Ltd.
Lewis & Clark Chapter Trout Unlimited SW
Montana
Lewis & Clark Expeditions, Inc
M. C. McNeill & Co., LLC
McGuire Family Foundation
Missoula Bone & Joint Surgery Center
Moll, William - Sporting Treasurers
Montana Project Healing Waters
National Christian Foundation
Ody & Wilson, P.C.
P&J Ranches
Saltchuk Resources, Inc.
Sandru Ranch
Schwab Charitable Fund
Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Smith Animal Hospital
SRI River Holdings, LLC
The Moseley Family Fund
Upper Canyon Outfitters, Inc.
YourCause, LLC trustee for Chevron
Employee Funds

*We hope we did not miss anyone...
if we did, we apologize and hope you
will let us know so we can correct it in
next year's report.*

Ruby Habitat Foundation 2017 Financials

Foundation Operations:

Income	\$235,101
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$176,934</u>
Net Income	\$58,167

General Fund Cash & Investments: \$177,804
 (Pays the day-to-day expenses that finance the operation of the foundation.)

Rural Heritage & Open Lands Fund: \$83,934
 (Designed to provide funding for outreach and land conservation efforts.
 General fund surpluses and designated gifts create the balance of this account.)

Hill Education & Outreach Endowment: \$70,825
 (Income from this endowment finances conservation education and outreach
 to landowners and the general public. These funds come from designated gifts.)

Visitor Center Building: \$41,173
 Foundation Operations Assets as of 12-31-17 \$373,745

Projects, Woodson Ranch Operations & Endowment:

Income	\$568,118
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$377,834</u>
Net Income	\$190,284

Fixed Assets

Improvements & Equipment	\$686,211
Land	\$7,567,286 ¹
<u>Woodson Ranch Endowment</u>	<u>\$6,548,463²</u>

Ranch & Endowment Assets as of 12-31-17 \$14,801,960

¹*Restricted land donation subject to life estate*

²*The income from Woodson Ranch Endowment is used for the operation and maintenance of the Ranch, to ensure its protection and continued viability.*

Ruby Habitat Foundation Combined Total:

Net Income 2017	\$248,451
Total Assets as of 12-31-17	\$15,175,706

RHF is a 509(a)(3) tax-exempt support organization to the Montana Land Reliance, a 501(c)(3) corporation. Our Tax identification number is 45-0487621. Each entity is audited annually and independently. Audit copies are available upon request.



Ruby Habitat Foundation Board of Directors
 Left to Right: Neil Barnosky, Lois Delger-DeMars, Steve Wood, Leslie Vanderpool, Bruce Peterson, Martha Woodson, Robin Mitts, Rock Ringling and Lisa Matthews. Not pictured: George Olsen.

Ruby Habitat Foundation Board of Directors

Group A--Montana Land Reliance

Lois Delger-DeMars
 Managing Director, Montana Land Reliance--*Helena, Montana*

George Olsen
 President, Montana Land Reliance & Retired CPA--*Helena, Montana*

Vice-Chairman, Rock Ringling
 Managing Director, Montana Land Reliance--*Helena, Montana*

Group B--Woodson Family

Lisa Matthews
Jarrell, Texas

Treasurer, Robin Mitts
The Woodlands, Texas

Leslie Vanderpool
Stephenville, Texas

Secretary, Martha Woodson
Sheridan, Montana & Fort Worth, Texas

Group C--Ruby Valley Community

Chairman, Neil Barnosky
 Rancher--*Sheridan, Montana*

Bruce Peterson
 Rancher--*Alder, Montana*

Steve Wood
 Rancher--*Sheridan, Montana*

Executive Director

Les Gilman
Sheridan, Montana

Founder

Charles Craig Woodson (1934-2011)

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RUBY HABITAT
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Landowners and resource managers are bound by law to protect the environment and prevent resource degradation, but we have a higher obligation to be good stewards of our natural resources, sharing them today and preserving them for future generations. The decisions we make and the actions we take affect our own environment as well as that of the wildlife, our neighbors and future generations.

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