



# 2016

PRICKLY PEAR LAND TRUST  
ANNUAL REPORT

connecting land  
and people



# MISSION

To inspire connections to  
the landscapes, water, wildlife,  
recreation and agricultural  
heritage of west-central Montana  
through conservation, now  
and for future generations.



*All photos in the 2016 annual report are courtesy of Eliza Wiley.*

## Dear Members, Volunteers, Supporters and Friends,

What a year! For Prickly Pear Land Trust, 2016 was a time of growth, diversification and opportunity.

In the spring, we stood side by side with our supporters and military-disabilities community and trail-advocate partners and announced the acquisition of the new Tenmile Creek Park, part of the larger 550-acre Peaks to Creeks Initiative. The vision for the park is to provide a place for everyone in our community — no matter age or physical ability — to connect with the outdoors. This park, along with our open space easements and trail projects, is just one more way to engage the community in conservation.

In the fall, PPLT staff and board met to assess PPLT's progress during our first 20 years and to discuss the outlook for conservation in our region for the next 20 years. For land trusts throughout Montana, the changing political and real estate environment presents not only great challenges but also incredible opportunities that make our work in building community and conservation more important than ever.

As the community landscape evolves, so too does the work of land trusts. To address these challenges and opportunities, PPLT staff and board crafted a new mission statement, found on the facing page.

People connect with the outdoors in many ways. Our mission is to ensure and cultivate those values and connections to build happier, healthier and stronger communities for Montana's future generations. We believe conservation is an essential service, and our work in our three program areas — community conservation, private land conservation and trails — seeks to achieve exactly that.

**You inspire us.** You make it possible for PPLT to continue to build connections to the outdoors and to create new opportunities for community conservation. Thank you for making 2016 such a wonderful year!

With gratitude,

Mary Hollow, Executive Director

Jim Utterback, Board President







**Community conservation means happy trails for all.**

# community conservation



*"I am honored to partner with PPLT on the Peaks to Creeks project and trails, and look forward to future partnerships that aid in bringing the community together."*  
—James Bissett Jr., CEO,  
Spring Meadow Resources

Not everyone can enjoy a hike up Mount Helena. Whether it's because of mobility issues, health concerns or any other number of reasons, trails in the South Hills trail system aren't accessible or enjoyable for all. That's where PPLT's Peaks to Creeks project comes in. Tenmile Creek Park offers wide, flat, crushed granite trails easily accessible to everyone.

to enjoy the accessible trails next to their home. All Helena residents will have the opportunity to see and feel the source of their drinking water.

Community conservation means happy trails for all. And in 2016, PPLT moved closer to that goal with progress on our Peaks to Creeks projects.

Veterans at the VA hospital recovering from traumas of war can cross the street and touch nature. Residents at Spring Meadow Resources will be able

***Tenmile Creek Park gives visitors the opportunity to see and feel the source of Helena's drinking water.***





# trails



Happy trails lead to happy places, and PPLT couldn't continue its work in the South Hills Trail System without the help of the happy faces of hundreds of volunteers.

In 2016, more than 200 volunteers provided close to 700 hours of work. In addition, two Montana Conservation Corps crews provided more than 560 hours of work. That's more than 1,260 hours combined!

Two scouts from Troop 214 completed their Eagle Scout projects. Mark Mousel constructed a trail on the east property line of PPLT's Tenmile Creek Park. Daniel Leas rerouted the lower portion of the Pinchot Trail to make it more sustainable.

***Volunteers help keep trails happy.***




We also want to thank all the volunteers who attended PPLT's Trail Workdays, not only the individual volunteers but also groups representing Girls Thrive, Helena Dynamos, Carroll College, Deloitte Consulting, Montana Bicycle Guild, Helena middle and high schools, and PPLT's Adopt-a-Trail and Trail Committee volunteers.



**In 2016, more than 200 volunteers provided close to 700 hours of work.**





**"The window that a person owns a piece of land is small."**

— Bill Gehring



# private land conservation

From a high point on his ranch off Lincoln Road, fourth-generation rancher Bill Gehring can see Helena to the south, the Sleeping Giant to the northeast and, creeping into view from almost every direction, houses that are part of minor subdivisions.

Through a conservation easement with Prickly Pear Land Trust and partial funding from the Lewis & Clark County Open Space Bond, and grants from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Travelers for Open Lands, Gehring will keep his 3,000-acre ranch safe from development and ensure that future generations enjoy the view of wide open space.

"Once it's gone, it's gone forever," Bill said. "Hopefully, this will be my legacy to the land; this will be

my stewardship. The window that a person owns a piece of land is small. God gave me the gift to preserve this."

In addition to the Gehring Ranch, PPLT finalized a conservation easement on 125 acres of ranch land near York. The new easement protects important habitat for elk, deer, black bears, mountain lions, beavers, bobcats, rainbow and brown trout, several species of bats, and many species of birds, including bald eagles, golden eagles, and osprey, and includes a public access component.

***The Gehring Ranch has been in the same family for four generations and has seen little change since it was homesteaded in 1864.***





# THANK YOU

## \$5,000 and above

Anderson ZurMuehlen  
Willow Springs Foundation  
City of Helena  
High Stakes Foundation  
Montana Community  
Foundation  
Blue Cross Blue Shield  
of Montana  
Dick & Margaret Anderson  
Cinnabar Foundation  
Harry Israel  
& Mary Douglass  
Bob Kiesling  
John & Laura Heit  
Tim Ballweber  
Lee Harrison & Fred Olson  
Speyer Family Foundation  
Jim & Cindy Utterback  
First Interstate Bank  
LeRoy & Diana Schramm  
The Beth & Michael  
Cummings Foundation  
John Morrison  
& Catherine Wright  
The Orvis Co.  
Anonymous

## \$2,500 – \$4,999

Alice & Ed Santos  
St. Peter's Hospital  
Ken Ford & Heather Grahame  
Morrison Sherwood  
Wilson Deola  
Chelsey & Mike Frank  
Sam Phares  
John & Debra Beaver  
Curt & Mary Larsen  
Aubrey & Brad Hutchison  
Donna Barer  
Dave & Sandy Ashley  
Barb Howe & Jim Hunt

Great Divide Cyclery  
Dawn & John North  
American Chemet  
Ballweber Orthodontics  
Confluence Design  
Fischer Physical Therapy  
Helena Motors  
Nate & Lisa McCarthy  
Joan Poston  
Richard & Helen Rietz  
Sullivan Financial Group  
Toyota

## \$1,000 – \$2,499

Barrett & Laura Adams  
Mary Louise Backus Rankin  
Ed & Mary Barrett  
The Base Camp  
Anonymous  
Blackfoot River Brewing Co.  
Richard Bruner  
Art & Amie Butler  
Keith & Laren Carparelli  
Christensen & Prezeau, PLLP  
Terry Cohea  
David & Connie Cole  
Lisa & Tom Cordingley  
Crowley Fleck PLLP  
Andrew & Leah Cupino  
CWG Architects -  
Tony Perpignano  
Tim & Jennifer Davis  
Lucy Dayton & Mark O'Keefe  
Elkhorn Dental/Helena  
Orthodontics  
Eric & Ellen Feaver  
Sarah Fenton & Randall Rake  
Keith & Susan Foster  
Alvaro Freyre  
Helena McDonald's  
George's Distributing Inc  
Anonymous

Linda Gryczan  
& Constance Enzweiler  
Kerry Hale & Mark Aagenes  
Headwater Rafts -  
Art Keeler & Betsy Burns  
Helena Area Community  
Foundation  
Helena Tourism Alliance  
Helena Ultra Runners League  
Phil Hohenlohe  
& Andrea Rankin  
Paula Jacques & Patrick Cirillo  
The James Brown  
Law Office, PLLC  
Jane Kollmeyer & Terry Chute  
George & Ruth Krauss  
Ann Mary Norton  
& Jonathan Krauss  
John & Gale Kuglin  
Rob & Melanie LaClair  
Michael & Cheryl Lamb  
Lamb & Carey Law Offices  
Angie Leprohon  
& David Nimick  
Jason & Sarah Loble  
Todd & Libbi Lovshin  
Jodi Mattson & John Perros  
McBride Family Foundation  
Dennis & Deborah Milburn  
Brian Morris & Cherche Prezeau  
Ken & Sherry Morrison  
Morrison Maierle, Inc  
Alan Nicholson  
Northwestern Energy  
Opportunity Bank of Montana  
Ron Hunter  
Kevin & Mary Pitzer  
Placer Motors  
Jason Reese  
Bob Rowe & Melanie Reynolds  
Jon Satre & Paulette Etchart  
David Schatz

Mark & Andrea Scherting  
Bill & Audra Shropshire  
Robin Shropshire  
& Shaheen Siddiqui  
John & Luanne Smith  
Will Snider  
Ron Bartsch & Bekka Cantrell  
Al Swanson  
Brian & Vanessa Sybert  
Suzanne & Dick Thweatt  
Leah & John Tietz  
Bill Tonidandel & Pam Attardo  
Ken & Stephanie Wallace  
Ron Waterman  
Tim & Barbara Wetherill  
Nate McCarthy, Wipfli  
Jason & Erin Woodrow  
Heidi & Clif Youmans  
Anderson ZurMuehlen & Co.

## \$500 – \$999

Bob & Carolyn Adams  
Kyle Spencer - Allegra  
Jessica Bailey & Lyn Stimpson  
Ed Bangs  
Big Dipper Ice Cream  
Big Sky Acoustics, LLC  
Big Sky Cyclery  
BKBH Shareholders  
John & Charlotte  
Bowen hollow  
Jennifer Brunsdon  
Marc & Kelli Butenko  
Russ & Karen Cater  
Matt Cohn  
& Mary Ellen Holverson  
Dr. JT Crepps  
Mike Dalton  
Shaun & Lin Deola  
Chris Dorrington  
Sharla Dosier  
Dowl HKM - Cody Salo

Judy & Fred Flanders  
Bill Gallea  
Laura George  
Jeff & Libby Goldes  
Todd Gordon  
Mary K Grande  
Dori Grosshauser  
Helena High Green Group  
Phil Hess  
Tyrrell & Mary Hibbard  
Chase Hibbard  
& Emily Stonington  
Bergetta & Lanny Hubbard  
Chris & Carol Hunter  
Marcus & Lisa Kelley  
Renee & John Kowalski  
Dave & Nina Krainacker  
Leisure Village  
Ingrid & John McLellan  
Sherry & David Meador  
Jim Munoz  
Susan Nimick  
Greg Normandin  
Phil Odegard  
Performance Injury Care  
Simon Perkins  
& Elisabeth Van Woert  
The Perkins Charitable  
Foundation  
Bob & Toni Person  
Ken & Brenda Price  
Robert Rasmussen  
Real World Design  
Rialto Bar  
Deborah Schaaaf & Ron Floyd  
Vonne Schatz  
Katie Schulz  
Katie & Jeff Sealey  
Jason & Rebecca Seyler  
Harlan & Bill Shropshire  
Timmie & Mike Mueller  
Phillip & Beth Steele

Jack Stults & Daphne Crosbie  
Chris & Angie Charlton  
Daniel & Cassie Trost  
Larry Turney  
Valley Bank of Helena  
Rachel Weiss  
Jamie & Florence Williams  
Jim & Marilyn Williams

## \$250 – \$499

Nancy Aagenes & Jason Jonas  
American Storage - Tim Davis  
Sue & Leland Anderson  
Jeff & Janiece Balcken  
Don & Joan Bishop  
Paula & Mark Blessinger  
Neal Blossom & Kathie Roos  
Jock & Teri Bovington  
Joe & Chrissy Brand  
Ann Brodsky  
Tom & Ann Brooke  
Carolyn Caldwell  
Russ Cargo  
Andrew Carson  
Casne & Associates, Inc  
Bob Clarke  
Cleanwater Montana  
Properties - Mitch Kowalski  
Hunter & Karen Coleman  
Terry & Sharon Copenhaver  
Mike & Pat Cotter  
Gerry & Marilyn Daumiller  
Margaret Ulvestad  
& Doug Dellwo  
John & Anna Doran  
Anne Hedges  
& Michael Downey  
Dr. Thomas & Lisa Evans  
Bob & Marylis Filipovich  
Ray Flaherty & Lisa Larsen  
Ann Gilbert  
Heather Greene

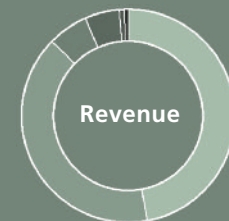
Jim Greene & Martha Vogt  
Neil & Kathleen Harrington  
Siobhan Hathhorn  
& John Hines  
Jane & Rick Hays  
Diana Holshue  
Brad & Jody Hurd  
Sarah Jaeger  
Lynn & Pietro James  
Jewett Excavating  
Callie Johnson  
Kimberly Kallestad  
Eloise Kendy & Tim Byron  
Joe Kiely  
Bonnie Lambert  
& Marshall Mayer  
John Lambing  
Brad & Barbara Lancaster  
Judy Landecker  
& Charles Udell  
Paul & Renate Lehmann  
Gordon & Judy Levin  
Lewis & Clark Tap Room  
Tom & Peggy Likens  
Ron & Barb Marcoux  
Pad McCracken  
& Nisan Burbridge  
Angela McDannel  
& Bruce Kuyper  
Andrew & Katie McLain  
Nancy & Adam McLane  
Heather McRee  
& Dan McCardle  
Tim Meloy & Kay Satre  
Taffy Miller  
Christine Mills  
Paul & Orpha Montgomery  
Mosaic Architecture, PC  
Mountain Meadow Inn  
Lois & Robert Olsen  
Richard Oppen & Sally Mueller  
Luke & Amanda Osborne

Neil & Kimberly Patterson  
Craig & Gwen Pozega  
Rick Pyfer  
Susan Miles & Wilbur Rehmann  
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Robert Peccia  
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Taco Del Sol - Shalon Hastings  
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Meghan Trainor Wirth  
& Gregory Wirth  
Ralph Yaeger  
Zackheim Creative

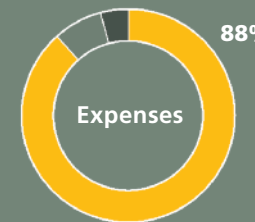
Amounts include auction  
purchases and in-kind  
services and donations.  
A special thanks to all  
members who donated  
through workplace giving  
and to those who gave  
to the organization's  
endowment through the  
Montana Community  
Foundation.

## 2016 financial summary

Fiscal year ending  
December 31, 2016



Total assets	\$3,748,176
Liabilities	\$ 610,129
Net assets	\$3,138,047
Unrestricted net assets	\$3,017,368
Restricted net assets	\$ 120,679
Conservation land held	\$2,612,752
Investments	\$ 833,561



Donated conservation easements and land	\$2,228,788
Grants	\$1,918,270
Dues and contributions	\$ 278,196
Fundraising events	\$ 253,735
Sales and program fees	\$ 44,605
Investments and other	\$ 24,478
Total Revenues	\$4,748,072
Trails and conservation programs	\$2,371,870
Fundraising	\$ 202,095
Administration	\$ 112,294
Total Expenses	\$2,686,259

Notes: Prickly Pear Land Trust is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization under 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code. This financial information has not yet been audited.

## PRICKLY PEAR LAND TRUST

40 W. Lawrence, Suite A  
PO Box 892  
Helena MT 59624

406-442-0490

[pricklypearlt.org](http://pricklypearlt.org)

### STAFF

**Mary Hollow**  
Executive Director

**Andrea Silverman**  
Land Protection Coordinator

**Lanie White**  
Development Manager

**Claudia Davis**  
Administrative Services

**Peggy O'Neill**  
Communications and  
Events Coordinator

**Evan Kulesa**  
Trails Coordinator

**Nate Kopp**  
Project Associate

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Tyrrell Hibbard**  
**Chris Hunter**  
**Paula Jacques**  
**Sarah Jaeger**  
**Jane Kollmeyer**  
**Jonathan Krauss**  
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**Dawn North**  
**Ed Santos**  
**LeRoy Schramm**  
**Jim Utterback**  
**Erin Woodrow**

