



MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF LAND TRUSTS

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CLARK FORK-PEND OREILLE CONSERVANCY NEWEST MEMBER OF MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF LAND TRUSTS

The Clark Fork-Pend Oreille Conservancy, a land trust working in the Clark Fork River Valley in Montana's Sanders County and in Idaho's Lake Pend Oreille watershed, is the newest member of the Montana Association of Land Trusts.

The Clark Fork-Pend Oreille Conservancy, organized in 2002, is headquartered in Sandpoint, Idaho and works with landowners in Montana and Idaho to protect open lands, ranchlands, forestlands and wildlife habitat through private land conservation projects and conservation easements.

"We're pleased to become a member of Montana's organization of land trusts," said Jim Watkins, president of the Clark Fork-Pend Oreille Conservancy board of directors. "This recognition further validates our mission, our projects and our accomplishments."

The Montana Association of Land Trusts, created in 2005, now includes twelve individual land trusts working in Montana. Some of the land trusts are international or national in scope with state offices in Montana, and some are local, working in a specific geographical area of the state. The association (MALT) serves to coordinate the administrative, policy, legislative and communications efforts of Montana's land trusts. The members of the Montana Association of Land Trusts hold over 99 percent of conservation easements in Montana held by nonprofit organizations.

"We're excited to welcome the Clark Fork-Pend Oreille Conservancy to our association," said Glenn Marx, MALT executive director. "The Conservancy is a relatively small land trust, but is very active in Sanders County and the Lake Pend Oreille area. They've completed four projects already, are currently working on thirteen additional projects and have eight projects on a waiting list."

Montana's land trusts help protect open lands by working closely with farmers and ranchers and a large group of partners that includes county governments, state and federal land and wildlife management agencies, local watershed groups and others. Land trusts and landowners work voluntarily to negotiate an agreement that protects the land from future industrial, commercial or residential development. That agreement is called a conservation easement. Land trusts work to conserve valuable open lands, wildlife habitat, recreational lands, scenic properties, historical lands and work to keep working landscapes in the hands of farmers and ranchers.

To be eligible for Montana Association of Land Trusts membership, the land trust must comply with a series of comprehensive professional standards and practices published by the Land Trust Alliance.

For further information about the CFPOC, please call Robb Mc Cracken, executive director, at 208-263-9471 or via email at robbmceagle@yahoo.com.

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