



THE RURAL LANDSCAPE INSTITUTE
A CATALYST FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL INTEGRITY
IN THE AMERICAN WEST

NEW LANDOWNER RESOURCES

This list has been compiled as a service of the “Owning Eden” initiative, a program designed to welcome new Montana landowners to the state and encourage them to become good neighbors. For more information, please contact us or visit our website.

The Rural Landscape Institute

The Rural Landscape Institute (formerly the Cook Center for Sustainable Agriculture) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization operating out of Bozeman, Montana. Its mission is to enhance the economic vitality of farms and ranches and the integrity of food security throughout the region, thereby securing the health of the land, open space and sustainable rural communities. RLI’s “Owning Eden” project offers assistance in dealing with the changes and challenges of landownership in rural Montana to both residents and newcomers through reference materials, skill building tools, and an informational DVD geared for the Montana newcomer.

7 East Beall Street
Bozeman, MT 59715
406.522.7654

www.RuralLandscapeInstitute.org

Big Hole Watershed Committee

The Big Hole Watershed Committee (BHWC) was formed in 1995 by several Big Hole ranchers and conservationists who were concerned about the future of the Big Hole River and its watershed. The Watershed Committee has reached out to interested entities to develop a viable community-based consensus group. Using the trust and respect they have earned, they forge solutions to difficult problems that impact the river today and tomorrow. The purpose of BHWC is to seek understanding of the river and agreement among individuals and groups with diverse viewpoints on water use and management in the Big Hole watershed.

P.O. Box 931
Butte, MT 59703-0931
406.782.3682

www.bhwc.org

Blackfoot Challenge

The Blackfoot Challenge is a landowner-based group that coordinates management of the Blackfoot River, its tributaries, and adjacent lands. Their mission is to coordinate efforts that will enhance, conserve and protect the natural resources and rural lifestyle of the Blackfoot River Valley for present and future generations. The organization is organized locally and known nationally as a model for

P.O. Box 103
Ovando, MT 59854
406.793.3900

www.blackfootchallenge.org

preserving the rural character and natural beauty of a watershed. Although its charter dates to 1993, Blackfoot landowners have played an instrumental stewardship role since the late 1970s – bringing conservation easement legislation, walk-in hunting areas and recreation corridor management to Montana.

Madison Valley Ranchlands Group

The Madison Valley Ranchlands Group is a non-profit organization that works to keep the ranching way of life in the Madison Valley Area. They accomplish this by developing ways to enhance the economic viability of family ranches; preserving traditional rural community and family ranch values; ensuring productive agriculture through the protection of private property rights and open space, as well as maintaining healthy grasslands, wildlife habitat, and watersheds; working cooperatively with groups, agencies, and individuals who share their goals and commitment to the land. Their programs include Land Stewardship, Weed Control, Beef Marketing, Open Space Conservation, and Wildlife Issues.

P.O. Box 330
Ennis, MT 59729
406.682.3259
www.madisonvalleyranchlands.org

Montana Farm Bureau Federation

Farm Bureau is an independent, non-governmental, voluntary organization with its roots in agriculture. Farm Bureau provides an organization where members may secure the benefits of united efforts in a way that could never be accomplished through individual effort. Montana Farm Bureau is the state's largest agriculture organization. Farm Bureau is local, county, state, national and international in its scope and influence and is non-partisan, non-sectarian and non-secret in character. Farm Bureau is the voice of agriculture producers at all levels. The mission of Montana Farm Bureau is to correlate and strengthen the member county Farm Bureaus; support the free enterprise system and protect individual freedom and opportunity; promote, protect and represent the business, economic, social and educational interests of farmer/rancher members and their communities; and to enhance the agricultural industry in Montana.

502 S. 19th Ave., Ste. 104
Bozeman, MT 59718
406.587.3153
www.mfbf.org

Montana Grain Growers Association

The Montana Grain Growers Association is an organization of Montana grain producers who, by combining their strengths, voices, and ideas, are working to insure a better future for themselves, their industry and the consumer. The Montana Grain Growers Association is a commodity organization representing the interests of wheat and barley growers. They use the contacts and experience gained over the past 40 years to affect the laws, regulations and rules that they farm by. They, with the National Association of Wheat Growers and the National Barley Growers Association, have become the most influential commodity organization in the state and country.

P.O. Box 1165
750 6th Street S.W.
Great Falls, MT 59403
406.761.4596
www.mgga.org

Montana History Foundation

The Montana History Foundation is the leading source for contributions and funding to preserve and protect history resources throughout Montana. The Montana History Foundation offers advice, counsel and support for history projects across Montana within a professional consultation structure.

P.O. Box 863
Helena, MT 59624
406.449.3770
www.montanahistoryfoundation.org

Montana Land Reliance

The Montana Land Reliance is a private, non-profit, nonpartisan land trust comprised of experienced and entrepreneurial professionals and advisers. Its mission is to provide permanent protection for private lands that are ecologically significant for agricultural production, fish and wildlife habitat, and open space. Through Conservation Easements, Montana Land Reliance strives to provide permanent protection for ecologically and historically important private lands and, in so doing, to enrich the positive relationship between these lands and Montana's diverse communities. Conservation of the lands that support agriculture, fish and wildlife resources and open space is their top priority.

P.O. Box 355
324 Fuller Ave.
Helena, MT 59624
406.443.7027
www.mtlandreliance.org

Montana Stockgrowers Association

Established in 1884, the Montana Stockgrowers Association is a non-profit organization representing nearly 2,500 members that strives to serve, protect and advance the economic, political, environmental and cultural interests of cattle producers, the largest sector of Montana's number one industry – Agriculture. With past officers including Conrad Kohrs and Teddy Roosevelt, the culture of MSGA is steeped in tradition while moving forward to ensure the success of the modern Montana cattle industry.

420 N. California Ave.
Helena, MT 59601
406.442.3420
www.mtbeef.org

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

The mission of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is to ensure the future of elk, other wildlife and their habitat. Since 1984, they have protected and enhanced more than 4.7 million acres of wildlife habitat all across elk country and funded more than 4,900 stewardship, conservation education, and hunting heritage projects in 49 states and eight Canadian provinces. They do this by conserving habitat, promoting sound management of wild elk, fostering cooperation among organizations and individuals, and educating the public.

5705 Grant Creek Road.
Missoula, MT 59808
406.523.4500
www.rmef.org

Undaunted Stewardship

Undaunted Stewardship's mission is to "preserve naturalness and productivity" of Montana's rangelands. A cooperative and multi-faceted program led by federal, state, and private sector agencies, Undaunted Stewardship seeks to ensure the long-term maintenance of the environmental quality and economic productivity of privately-owned, agricultural landscapes - especially areas rich in history along the Lewis & Clark Trail in Montana. Through their Certification/Land Use Program, Undaunted Stewardship helps farmers and ranchers adopt land use practices that maintain or improve the environmental health of their landscapes. In addition, the program monitors results in order to enable farmers and ranchers to evaluate their land use practices and make adjustments as needed to ensure a healthy environment.

College of Agriculture
Montana State University
Bozeman, MT 59717
406.994.7749
www.undauntedstewardship.com

Montana Association of Conservation Districts

Montana's 58 conservation districts (CDs) use locally-led and largely non-regulatory approaches to successfully address general natural resource issues. CDs have a decades-long history of conserving the state's resources by helping local people match their needs with technical and financial resources, thereby getting good conservation practices on the ground to the benefit of all Montanans. Local conservation districts are a valuable resource for landowners and are always willing to offer guidance and assistance with natural resource issues. The MACD website describes the services that conservation districts provide and offers contact information for each CD.

501 N. Sanders
Helena, MT 59601
406.443.5711
www.macdnet.org

Montana Department of Environmental Quality

Montana Department of Environmental Quality is the state's principal environmental management agency. Its mission is to protect, sustain, and improve a clean and healthful environment to benefit present and future generations. The DEQ website provides information on a wide variety of environmental topics including water and air quality, permitting, pollution and energy.

P.O. Box 200901
1520 E. 6th Ave.
Helena, MT 59620
406.444.2544
<http://deq.mt.gov/>

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, through its employees and citizen commission, provides for the stewardship of the fish, wildlife, parks and recreational resources of Montana, while contributing to the quality of life for present and future generations. Their detailed web site offers information on a variety of related topics such as licensing, education, parks, fisheries, field services and their foundation.

P.O. Box 200701
1420 E. 6th Ave.
Helena, MT 59620
406.444.2535
www.fwp.mt.gov

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

The mission of the Department of Natural Resources is to help ensure that Montana's land and water resources provide benefits for present and future generations. As it is structured, the DNRC promotes stewardship of Montana's water, soil, forest, and rangeland resources; regulates forest practices and oil and gas exploration and production, and administers several grant and loan programs.

1625 11th Ave.
Helena, MT 59620
406.444.2074
www.dnrc.mt.gov

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Established in 1935, the Natural Resources Conservation Service is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. With the mission of "Helping People Help the Land," the NRCS provides products and services that enable people to be good stewards of the soil, water, and related natural resources on non-Federal lands. As a result of NRCS's technical and financial assistance, land managers and communities take a comprehensive approach to the use and protection of natural resources in rural, suburban, urban, and developing areas.

10 E. Babcock St #443
Bozeman, MT 59715
406.587.6811
www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov

Bureau of Land Management

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), an agency within the U.S. Department of the Interior, administers 261 million surface acres of America's public lands, located primarily in 12 Western States. The BLM sustains the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Montana State Office
5001 Southgate Drive
Billings, MT 59101
406.896.5000
www.mt.blm.gov

USDA Forest Service

Established in 1905, the Forest Service is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Forest Service manages public lands in national forests and grasslands. National forests and grasslands encompass 193 million acres of land, which is an area equivalent to the size of Texas. Their website offers information on topics such as passes and permits, fires, programs and recreational activities.

Northern Region Office
P.O. Box 7669
200 E. Broadway
Missoula, MT 59807
406.329.3511
www.fs.fed.us

U.S. Senator Max Baucus

Senator Baucus has seven offices in Montana – Billings, Bozeman, Butte, Great Falls, Helena, Kalispell, and Missoula. His website lists full contact information for each one.

511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
202.224.2651
www.baucus.senate.gov

U.S. Senator Jon Tester

Senator Tester has eight offices in Montana – Billings, Bozeman, Butte, Glendive, Great Falls, Helena, Kalispell, and Missoula. His website lists full contact information for each one.

204 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-2604
202.224.2644
www.testersenate.gov

U.S. Representative Denny Rehberg

Congressman Rehberg has four offices in Montana – Billings, Great Falls, Helena, and Missoula. His website lists full contact information for each one.

516 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202.225.3211
www.house.gov/rehberg