

# METHOW CONSERVANCY NEWS

*For Wildlife ♦ For Farming ♦ For Community ♦ Forever*

*Fall/Winter  
2011 Newsletter*

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**Methow**  
**Conservancy**

## *The History of Hancock Springs*

*This summer, we completed a multiple-year conservation easement project with the Allison Family on 314 acres west of the Weeman Bridge. Much of the land is known as "Hancock Springs," as the land encompasses the year-round spring of that name. The three contiguous easements, completed over six years, protect this spring, the creek that flows from it to the Methow River, river frontage, large areas of intact riparian land and actively worked farmland. It is a vast and structurally complex easement, and it helps create a link between other easements upstream and downstream - truly a jewel of the upper Methow.*

*We thought it would be interesting to not only share the conservation story of this dynamic property, but also offer the human, historical story of the land. Below is Part One of the "History of Hancock Springs." **Read the entire piece, prepared by Mary Kiesau, including Part Two and endnote references, on our website, [www.methowconservancy.org](http://www.methowconservancy.org).***

### **Part One - A Walking Man**

It was the middle of February 1892, and John McKinney was making his way to the Methow Valley, on foot. To say things were different back then is a bit of an understatement. McKinney, a civil war veteran from Phillips County, Kansas, couldn't find work in Kansas so he decided to "hunt up a homestead" and look for work in Washington. We know this because McKinney kept a diary that has survived the last 120 years. It was a small black book, no more than three inches long, that he probably kept in a shirt pocket. Often walking 20 or more miles in a day, in the winter no less, we can imagine that the aging veteran was a strong willed and strong-legged man, but we know little about what he thought of or hoped for. John noted simply what he did, with dates, places and weather intertwined, the brevity of which seemed to coincide with his brisk pace.

On Thursday, February 18th, John McKinney boarded a freight train for Spokane, spending just \$2. Upon arrival in Spokane, he bought a new pair of shoes, perhaps knowing how many miles lay in front of him, and started out for Coulee City, and then Waterville. From Waterville John took a stagecoach to Wenatchee, only to find, "No water. Wood 6 miles distant, \$4.50 per cord. Coal 8 miles southwest. Poor sandy country." We can only assume that he didn't like the area because he immediately began walking back to Waterville, covering 26 snowy miles the first day. All on foot, looking for a land claim he liked, McKinney went to Badger Mountain and Chelan City, which he says was, "quite a shantytown," then "started for Methow," via way of Malott. He went over the Chiliwhist Trail to the lower Methow Valley and then started making his way up the Methow.



*Photo courtesy of Steve Devlin.*

*The McKinney Mountain area below Lucky Jim bluff, shown here in a 1941 aerial photo, has hardly changed in 70 years. Much of the farmland in the upper half of the image, including the ribbon of Hancock Creek and some river front, is now protected with conservation easements by the Allison Family. Other easements and State land protect much of the river front and riparian habitat in the image.*

On his way, we learn that McKinney met and stayed with many of the early and long-lasting pioneers of our Methow heritage. There were evenings with Mr. Malott, Mr. McFarlane, Mason Thurlow, Mr. Sullivan in Winthrop, and the Ventzke brother's, whose homestead was in today's Big Valley area. White people had only just begun to arrive in the remote Methow Valley, which had opened to homesteaders in 1886, so none of these folks had been in the Methow long.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Board of Directors

Char Alkire, *President*

Kevin van Bueren, *Vice-President*

Phil Davis, *Secretary*

Scott Jennings, *Treasurer*

Craig Boesel

Kristin Devin

Jane Gilbertsen

Richard Hart

Mary McCrea

Gordy Reynaud

Beth & John Sinclair

Carrie & Vic Stokes

## Advisory Council

Martha Kongsgaard & Peter Goldman  
(*Co-Chairs*)

Arnie Prentice (*Co-Chair*) & Debra  
Prentice

Caryl Campbell & John Adams

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Carolyn & Duncan Bronson

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Maggie Coon & Mark  
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Maud & Marc Daudon

Barbara Feasey & Bill Bryant

Kathe & Greg Fowler

Suzi Jennings

Mary & Ray Johnston

Ron Judd

Roxie & Carl Miller

Theresa & Lee Miller

Marilyn & Denny O'Callaghan

Gaye & Jim Pigott

Bill Pope

Heather & Ric Redman

Frauke Rynd

Marilyn & Dave Sabold

Fred Wert

*The Methow Conservancy's mission is to inspire people to care for and conserve the land of the Methow Valley, ensuring it will remain a place where future generations can enjoy the rural character and natural beauty we cherish today.*

# Board Member Spotlight

## MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER

### Kristin Devin

Kristin Devin has lived in the valley for 30 years and has raised two children with her husband, Steve, in Mazama. Kristin grew up in New Hampshire. After graduating from the University of Colorado-Boulder with a degree in economics, Kristin moved to the Methow Valley "with a love for this great place, an interest in business and an entrepreneurial spirit." She has been a successful Methow Valley business owner ever since. She co-owned and operated Central Reservations for many years, and still currently owns the Winthrop Liquor Store, the Mazama Ranch House and her own real estate brokerage, Kristin Devin Real Estate.



With two kids off to college, Kristin is finding that she now has time to better pursue some of her passions such as hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing, but she adds, "being involved with the Methow Conservancy is high on my list." She feels like the valley will always be her home and protecting its beauty for future generations is very important. While the outdoors and all the recreational opportunities here in the valley is what keeps her motivated, her belief is that "a protected, beautiful environment is a key component to a balanced healthy life," plus a lot of sunshine she adds! Kristin served on the board of the Methow Conservancy from 2004-2010 and we are thrilled to have her back.

## A HEARTY & HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS

**Mac Shelton** and **Paul Butler**, both long-term Methow Valley community members, just finished six years each of Methow Conservancy Board service. They both joined our Board in early 2006. Our by-laws limit board members to two three-year terms and then they must take at least a one year break.

Mac Shelton served as a Board President from March 2008 through March 2010 with tremendous energy, care, passion, and an unflappable positive and can-do attitude. Mac may be best known for his youthful energy and excitement and his ability to make friends with everyone. Mac brought passion and warmth to our outreach efforts and our membership as a whole. His big smile will surely be missed in our Board meetings, but his presence will no doubt still be felt for many years to come.

We are extremely fortunate to have had six years of Paul Butler's time. In 2000, Paul helped form North Cascades Mountain Guides, and in 2006 he became co-owner of North Cascade Heli-Skiing, both in Mazama and for both of which he continues to guide. In 2001, Paul purchased the Methow Valley News, serving as the publisher until this summer when he sold the business. Paul, who is also a husband, father of two children, a coach and a member of a rock-and-roll band, gave considerable time and thought to the work of the Methow Conservancy, from Board meetings and strategic planning sessions, to Committee tasks, to helping at events. Always conscientious, Paul was never afraid to ask hard questions and push us to carefully consider things – and the Methow Conservancy is all the better for it.

Note that we will be honoring two more members of our conservation community at our December Holiday Social & 1st Tuesday program on December 6<sup>th</sup>. See the program details on page 3 and mark your calendars!

## We're applying for Accreditation !

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent arm of the national Land Trust Alliance, will review our application this winter.

**A public comment period is now open.**

Learn more and submit comments at:  
[www.methowconservancy.org/accreditation.html](http://www.methowconservancy.org/accreditation.html)

Methow  
Conservancy

509-996-2870 [www.methowconservancy.org](http://www.methowconservancy.org)

# Educational Experiences

## Conservation Course

*The Ecological History of the Methow Valley  
from the Cascades to the Columbia*

**Mondays, Jan. 30<sup>th</sup> - March 12<sup>th</sup>**

**6:00 - 8:30pm at the Twisp River Pub  
(5:30 - 6:00pm optional dinner & social time)**

Winter is arriving and with it comes the preparations for our 8th annual Methow Conservation Course. This year we'll be stepping back in time to take an ecological and conservation-based tour of the Methow's rich history. Considering how humans both shape their environment and are shaped by it, our six-week course will cover numerous topics, looking at what has affected and shaped the Methow's land, water, wildlife and people over time.

The course is still taking shape - a syllabus with class titles and speakers will be available in the December E-Newsletter. The course will run from January 30th to March 12th with one class per week on Mondays from 6:00 to 8:30pm at the Twisp River Pub (the Pub is closed to the public during our class). An optional dinner is served from 5:30 - 6:00pm for an additional fee. *Class will not meet the week of President's Day.*



Participation in the course includes a binder of reading materials and a field-trip. Tuition is \$125 for Methow Conservancy members. The tuition for non-members is \$150, which includes a discounted one-year membership. Need-based scholarships are available to a limited number of people who are able to volunteer some time to help with the course.

Space in the course is limited to 50 people and we expect the course to fill quickly, as it does every year. Register online at [www.methowconservancy.org](http://www.methowconservancy.org), or contact Mary at [info@methowconservancy.org](mailto:info@methowconservancy.org) or 509-996-2870.

## Holiday Social & Program

*Mark your calendars for a holiday party not to be missed!*

**Tuesday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> at the Twisp River Pub**

**5:00 - 7:00pm Holiday Social**

**7:00 - 8:30pm "1st Tuesday" Program**

You are invited to help us celebrate another amazing year of conservation in the Methow Valley with our annual holiday social! Join us at the Twisp River Pub on December 6<sup>th</sup> for free appetizers, holiday punch and door prizes. We'll also honor two community members with our annual conservation awards.

**The event is free and open to everyone. Please join us!**



John Scurlock

Jagged peaks, deep valleys, vast untouched land as far as the eye can see, and over 300 glaciers make up the North Cascades. Much of this we will never see....until now.

At 7pm we'll start our "1st Tuesday" program, "*Heart of the Distant Mountain*," a special evening of amazing photography with John Scurlock. Flying in his home built airplane, John has amassed an incredible collection of photos from the mountains of the Northwest, highlighting in particular the North Cascades in winter. John's photos are both documentary and flat out stunning. They are so gorgeous they've been assembled into a new book, *Snow & Spire: Flights to Winter in the North Cascade Range*.

John's program will cover his efforts over nine years to photograph mountains and glaciers from northern California to southeast Alaska and from the Coast Ranges to the Rockies, including of course, the North Cascades.

Trails End Bookstore will be there with us selling his new coffee-table book. Trails End has generously offered to give 10% of the evening's sales to the Methow Conservancy!



**Join us for this unforgettable tour of the mountains of the West!**

# The History of Hancock Springs (continued)

Finally, on March 23rd, McKinney found a spot that felt right. Though his journal entry didn't show any emotion for the place, he seems to write with a favorable tone, "Go 3 miles up the river to Mr. Hancock's. Snow too deep to hunt land in timber. Saw butterfly. Frogs croaking." He waited until April 1st to stake his claim. Then, "Together with Mr. Hancock, Mr. Williams and T. Wolfe, we pace off my claim, lying west of Mr. Hancock's." The claim they paced off was 80 acres, and it's the parcel, along with Mr. Hamilton Hancock's (originally spelled Hancox), that is the focus of our story.

John McKinney's land was level with lots of pine trees, ponds and beaver dams, and a year-round spring and creek that flowed to the Methow River. McKinney was a hurricane of activity those early spring days after staking the claim. Starting on a Sunday, he cleaned out the spring and began constructing his first temporary cabin. Monday, he cut a 300-yard wagon road and finished putting the cabin rafters on. Tuesday, McKinney finished his cabin and roof, complete with a door and a window, and a bunk filled with spruce and balsam "feathers." Wednesday, he had the energy to plant a garden of potatoes, turnips, carrots, rutabagas and sunflowers. It was only April 6th, much too early to plant a Methow garden, but being from Kansas we can presume that John didn't know any better. The day after John slept in his own cabin, he rose at 7am and began walking to the mining town of Ruby to look for work. He would end up being gone until June 18th, so maybe his early garden planting was done with forethought rather than ignorance after all.

It took him two full days to walk to Ruby, only to find that there was no work. His journal shows that he was frequently on the go between Ruby, Loomis, Conconully and Palmer Lake for several weeks, finding little to no work until early May when he began work on the boarding house for the stamp mill at Ruby City. McKinney had solid work for six weeks, and the only notable scribbles in his diary were about the weather – it was a very cold, wet spring. On John's return to the Methow Valley, he noted "millions of flowers" and "alfalfa 2 to 4 feet high," but also that someone else's garden seemed late. McKinney, who later became known in the Valley as an avid gardener, even growing many unusual crops such as peanuts and artichokes, may have been wondering how his April 6th garden was fairing.

Back at his place, McKinney immediately began slashing and clearing brush and timber from his land. From his diary notes, it appears that he did this virtually every day for nearly two months, perhaps clearing the land for crops and animals (other old-timers remembered him raising chickens and selling eggs). The cold spring continued into early summer – there was a frost on July 6th that killed his potatoes and beans. Another frost on July 13th damaged Mr. Hancox's potatoes, and yet another frost appeared on August 2nd. These must have been quite a shock but McKinney, as usual, only writes down what happens not what he thinks. On August 8th, John left for Ruby again, on foot of course. On August 31, 1892, the entire downtown core of Conconully burned to the ground. All the neighboring towns donated money, food and supplies to rebuild Conconully and McKinney was able to find work in construction. It wasn't until October 18th that John started walking back to the Methow. Winter was coming, but John may not have realized just how early it could potentially arrive because on October 24th McKinney began building a more permanent log cabin next to Hancock Spring. The structure is still partially there today. McKinney proceeded with tremendous energy, filling his days with hard labor and watching the weather. The first snow came on November 7th, and John noted that it lasted for just 15 minutes and the ground was white for a mere one hour – all of which sounds much like our first snowfalls today. By late November, it was snowing daily and the cabin was not yet tight – there was nothing he could do but continue at a feverish pace. On December 15th, with the snow piling up outside, McKinney indicates that he is done as he notes that the chimney is finished and he proceeds to fell a tree and chop wood for the next two days. John spent the last two weeks of 1892 in the company of others, in Winthrop and around his homestead, mending shoes and clothes for several people.

The little black book for John McKinney's 1892 describes a year of big transitions, endless hard labor, innumerable miles of walking, and a new life. We don't know what he felt or thought, but we do see that he helped many people and that people helped him. He visited with numerous people up and down the Valley in all his comings and goings and must have been well-liked. John McKinney only lived in the Methow Valley for 10 years, or so, and we don't know much about his life after 1892. Maybe he continued to journal, but why was the little black diary from 1892 the only one found? We may never know. From other accounts from folks who remembered him, we know that he was a bit of a craftsman, constructing chairs and other furniture from willow or rawhide, making snowshoes, creating his own tools and so on. He could sew clothes and cobble shoes. He was a gardener by anyone's standards but not necessarily a farmer. He and a man named Charlie Randall established the first sawmill in the Methow, and he may have shared his land with Charlie Briggs at some point (Charlie takes over McKinney's "claim" when he leaves). And though we don't have statements to prove it, we can fairly well guess that he left a positive and lasting impression on people. His name has stuck with the Methow Valley for 120 years. Southwest of the Weeman Bridge, between Kumm Rd and Wolf Creek Rd, is the spring and creek that flowed from McKinney's place to the Methow. These are called Hancock Spring and Hancock Creek for the Mr. Hancock (Hancox) that was John's friend and neighbor. The mountain that rises above and behind Lucky Jim Bluff is called McKinney Mountain; a nearby one-room school typical of the era, serving the area until approximately 1930, was the McKinney Mountain School; and the whole area was, and still is, locally known as the McKinney Mountain area. John McKinney left the Valley in 1902, or so, to seek care and retirement in an "old soldier's home" on the coast. He was found dead near the Wenatchee train depot. It's thanks to Frank Kumm that we are all able to look back in time and imagine John McKinney's life at Hancock Springs. Frank, who purchased the land in 1923, found the diary in McKinney's log cabin long after John was gone; it now resides with the Okanogan County Historical Society... **Find Part Two plus footnotes, on our**

**website, [www.methowconservancy.org](http://www.methowconservancy.org).**



*The "Hancock Springs" easements protect a cold water spring and the entire length of Hancock Creek. The historic "milk house," which helped keep milk cold for local dairy farmers, still stands on top of Hancock Spring next to the big barn. The structures are well-known to cross-country skiers as the Methow Community Trail goes right by the old buildings. Photo by Steve Bondi.*

# Celebrating 15 Years!



We helped create Methow Recycles and jumpstarted the facility with the Valley's first metal drive in 1998.



Since 2008, the Methow Beaver Project has relocated nuisance beavers to upland sites to improve water quantity and quality watershed-wide.



Some of our earliest Board members were L to R: Brad Martin, Ellen Lamiman, Dave Sabold & Denny O'Callaghan. Here they are in the mid-90s and, now retired, in 2010.



For three years, dozens of volunteers helped with our Cage-a-Tree riparian restoration project.



Our Shrub-Steppe Survey in 2004 covered 4,500 acres and led to many conservation easements.



We love doing educational fieldtrips! Here's one at Hancock Creek during the early phases of restoration in 2007.



In the early 2000s, our Paperboys concerts were big community events and fundraisers for us.



Press and take home cider, and see hundreds of friends, new and old, at our annual Cider Squeeze & Social at the Sabold's.



Our "1st Tuesday" educational programs, with unique presentations both indoors and out, have been running for over 13 years.



Every easement, since 1996, is monitored annually.



A community celebration was held at the successful completion of the Imagine the Methow campaign in 2010.

# From the Director

Dear Members and Friends,

In fishing, there is a distinct thrill that comes with that moment when a fish takes hold of your fly or lure and a surge of adrenaline fills your body as you work to set the hook and prepare to bring the fish to hand.

A recent Friday afternoon provided an opportunity to seek such an experience right outside our downtown Winthrop office. The outing was much less about actually catching fish, and much more about seizing upon the beauty of the day, wading in the crystal clear October waters of the Methow, and enjoying the warm and vibrant glow of the fall colors along the river bank.



Executive Director, Jason Paulsen, enjoying some time outside the office (right off the back porch to be exact!) on a brilliant October afternoon. Photo by Mary Kiesau.

As luck would have it, I had only fished for a short while before my bright pink strike indicator plunged out of sight, signaling either a fish taking my fly(!)... or a “snag” on the river bottom. Regardless, the adrenaline surged and I quickly set the hook. Almost immediately my line snapped with a “pop,” and I watched as my strike indicator and fly drifted slowly downstream. It had almost certainly been a snag. Or maybe a big one got away!

As I sat on a rock mid-stream and re-tied my gear, it occurred to me that fishing and 15 years of successful conservation work here at the Methow Conservancy have more in common than meets the eye. While we all love nothing more than celebrating the conservation easement projects we complete successfully, the fact is that sometimes, for a myriad of reasons, a project doesn't come to fruition. It can feel like the fish that gets away.

Yet, every good fisherman knows there is always another day to try again. The river is always here. As a land trust, so is the Methow Conservancy. Our land protection efforts are permanent and therefore, our vision and responsibilities are long-term.

We are currently seeking accreditation from the National Land Trust Accreditation Commission as yet another indication of our commitment to perpetuity. Through this rigorous examination of every aspect of our organization, we will emerge even more prepared to give conservation a permanent home in the Methow Valley.

For 15 years, our members - you - have literally made our work possible. We hope you take some comfort in knowing that the conservation efforts you support will endure forever. By ensuring that the Methow Conservancy is a highly-functioning, long-term thinking, and patient organization, we create opportunities for conservation projects to emerge (or re-emerge when their time is right). We also inspire a community to value conservation so that future generations can know the Methow Valley's clean rivers, fertile farms, and breathtaking open spaces.

## The Methow Valley Field Guide

Perfect for your Pocket!

This “pocket naturalist guide” created by the Methow Conservancy features 124 plant and animal species. Trees, shrubs, flowers, birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammals are included. The laminated booklet also contains a simple map highlighting five of the Valley's many public areas where people can easily access trails, enjoy wildflowers and view wildlife.

The field guide is available for \$6 at the Methow Conservancy or several locations around the Valley. The Conservancy can mail it to you too!



Methow  
Conservancy

The Methow Conservancy is an independent, local, non-profit land trust dedicated to inspiring people to care for and conserve the land of the Methow Valley.

www.methowconservancy.org  
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I am thankful for the support of a community that understands we work in the realm of perpetuity and that we plan to continue to be here, ready to respond with the right conservation tools, when the timing is right.

There are a lot of great places in the American West to spend a sunny October afternoon casting flies at fish, but I can think of few other communities where conservation has been embraced as a core value like it has here in the Methow Valley.

Thank you for all that you have made possible over the past 15 years, and for all that your support today will make possible in the future as the Methow Conservancy stands ready to meet the opportunities of tomorrow.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Paulsen'.

Jason Paulsen, Executive Director

See more great posts from Jason and other staff on our new Blog!  
[www.methowconservancy.blogspot.com](http://www.methowconservancy.blogspot.com)

# Imagining the Methow

The impact of your support of our *Imagine the Methow Campaign for Conservation* continues to grow! Although it has been more than a year since we celebrated reaching our fundraising goal of \$20 million for conservation in the Methow Valley, we are still putting the funds to good use on the ground.

***Below are just a few of the amazing properties you have helped protect.***



*The 400-acre Baron Place conservation easement in the middle Methow Valley is a conservation jewel with intact and undeveloped wild lands, diverse habitat zones, and abundant and scenic open space and unobstructed ridgelines. Photo by Steve Bondi.*



*The Parrington conservation easement protects wetlands, beaver ponds, cottonwood forests and 1150 feet of river front, which will support endangered fish species by providing critical elements like side channels and pools, large woody debris, and shade for cooler water temperatures. Photo by Eric Bard.*

## To date, the campaign has helped us:

- protect more than 2,300 acres
  - o 36% shrub steppe
  - o 34% agricultural land
  - o 23% riparian
  - o 7% forest and other
- complete 33 new conservation projects, with more than 10 new projects in progress!



*A creative and collaborative process to reduce and reconfigure development enabled us to protect 73 scenic and farmable acres at the Mazama Junction. Here, an area once slated for intense development is now actively farmed. Photo by Mary Kiesau.*



*The Stennes property has been a working farm and ranch since 1894. Five generations later, the Stennes' are still farming and caring for this beautiful property south of Carlton. Photo by Eric Bard.*



# Fueling our Engine

## Membership Matters

Fall is undoubtedly a special time in the Methow Valley. Trees burst into color, rivers flow cold and clear, and before you know it snow brightens the hillsides. It is a time thanksgiving and reflection -- there's just a feeling in the air. It is also time for the Methow Conservancy's **Annual Operating Fund Drive**.

Once a year we ask our supporters to renew their commitment to the future of the Methow Valley by becoming a member for the year. Your mailbox (the old fashioned snail mail variety) should have recently delivered your membership renewal notice or a request to join for the first time. That envelope is your chance to speak, now and for future generations, for the land of the Methow Valley.

Our **Annual Operating Fund** is the engine that keeps conservation running at the Methow Conservancy. It supports our inspiring educational programs, scientifically-based stewardship efforts, incredible staff, and all of the organizational infrastructure (phones, paper, computers, lights, etc.) that produces so much conservation work out of our little office in downtown Winthrop.

As the brief financial summary to the right shows, we rely on individuals, businesses and private foundations for **70%** of our operating funds. Last year, we leveraged an additional \$3 million in funds specifically for land protection and restoration projects thanks to our members' support. That's a powerful return on investment!

We only launch our **Annual Operating Fund Drive** once a year -- no fancy fundraising strategies to trick you into giving again and again.

**That envelope you just received from the Methow Conservancy is important; please open it, read it, think about what this beautiful landscape means to you, and then, please renew your membership.**

If you lost that envelope, or didn't receive one, there's a handy form on the inside backcover of this newsletter that you can cut out and send in or you can donate online at [www.methowconservancy.org/membership.html](http://www.methowconservancy.org/membership.html).

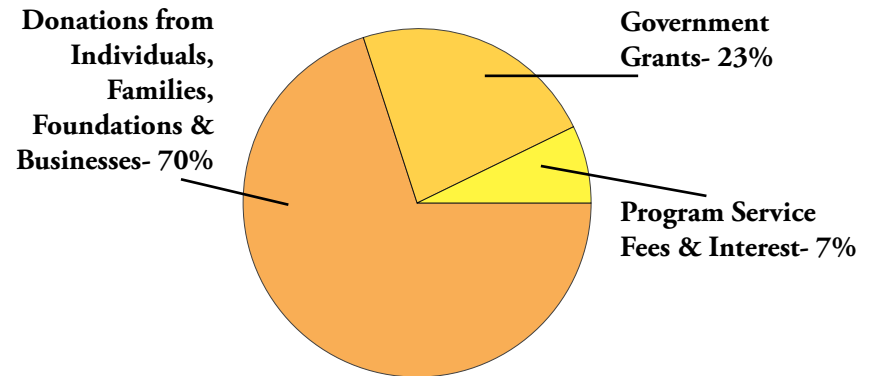
Thank you! As we celebrate the Methow Conservancy's 15th birthday, we continue to be honored to have your trust and support. Together we can do amazing things for this Valley we all love.

We'd also like to add a big hearty thank you to all the volunteers who helped us prepare and mail our annual appeal. Thanks go to: Vicki Caldwell, Chris Hartwig, Scotte Kilby, Roxie Miller, Frauke Rynd, Margo Young, Char Alkire, Wendy Waichler, Ann Henry, Karen Edwards, Teressa Skye, Andy Roth, Erik Brooks and Lyn Roth. We couldn't have done it without you!

## A Quick Look at our Financials

(for April 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011)

**FY 2010-11 Operating Support = \$704,513**



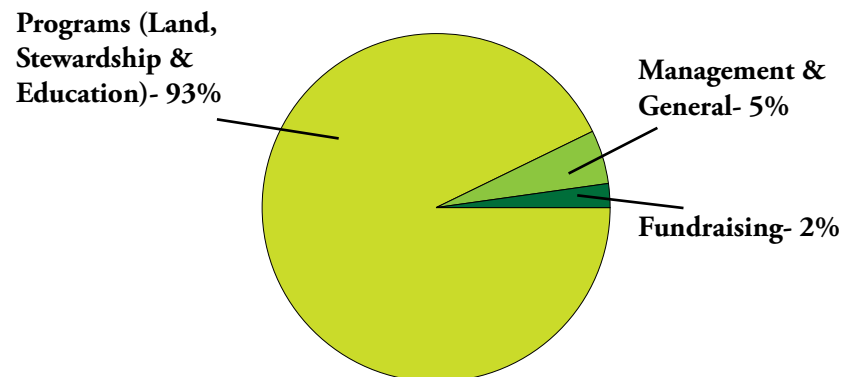
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\$2,963,243 we secured for land protection & restoration projects

=

**\$3,667,756 in total revenue for FY 2010-11**

**FY 2010-11 Expenses (Operating & Capital) = \$3,614,351**



### Net Asset Balances

Unrestricted (including owned land and outstanding pledges)	\$4,853,685
Temporarily Restricted	\$1,022,063
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$5,875,748</b>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$38,472</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$5,914,220</b>

NOTE: These financial statistics are based on draft year-end financial statements. Final copies of our audited financial statements and 990 tax return are available by calling 509-996-2870. It's important to note that accounting for land transactions - and especially conservation easement purchases and donations is complex and that GAAP rules applied to our 990 and audited tax statements will show different calculations than those included on these draft statements. Our intent with these pie charts is to provide a simple picture of how we use our funds and what your support makes possible.

# Field Notes

As a land trust and an educational organization, thoughtful land stewardship is central to everything we do at the Methow Conservancy.

The Methow Conservancy creates conservation easements with private landowners to permanently protect certain conservation values here in the Methow Valley. These values include wildlife habitats, rich agricultural lands, river shoreline and floodplains, scenic landscapes, and open space. These easements not only restrict certain types of development, they also require that the Conservancy partner with easement landowners to help steward the land.

After we create a baseline survey of the property, we write a stewardship plan specific to the land keeping in mind the landowners concerns and future plans. Then, at least once a year, we meet with each easement landowner to monitor the easement and discuss changes in the land and any landowner concerns. We retake photographs at each “photopoint” spot, and visually survey the land to document man-made (e.g., irrigation installation, fence repair) and natural (e.g., floods, fire, plant growth) alterations to the landscape. We also list any other observations such as fish or wildlife sightings, neighboring land uses, changing vegetation, etc. This annual visit is a chance to both monitor the land and partner in stewardship by checking in with the landowner and making suggestions or alterations to stewardship plans.

*Having just finished our 2011 annual monitoring, we asked our stewardship staff to share some of their favorite memories from this year with you. Enjoy!*



Heide Andersen says, “Two of my favorite moments come from Moccasin Lake Ranch, a 1400 acre easement that I monitored on horseback, on bike and on foot over the course of three days. One afternoon, I ended up at the historic homestead with my horse Guinness. The place so was enchanting. I sat enjoying lunch and imagined my horse and I were homesteaders from the late 1800s. On another day, while hiking and biking around the lake, Mary Kiesau and I came across the resident bald eagle and his/her nest. We watched it from binoculars and then tried to identify all the various ducks on the lake.” (Photo of Heide monitoring the Moccasin Lake property on a mountain bike by Mary Kiesau)

Mary Kiesau says, “My favorite moment was seeing a juvenile wood duck on a pond within the Heath easement. Just getting to walk around that property and to talk to Harold & Tina about what they see and how the land changes is a real treat. In a single day, I saw bear and cougar tracks, numerous piles of bear scat, a wood duck and a ring-necked duck, belted kingfishers and pileated woodpeckers, a garter snake, lots of beaver-chewed trees, and a dynamic, wild floodplain that is allowed to do what it is meant to do. (Photo of Mary peering into a woodpecker cavity by Dana Visalli)



Dawn Woodruff says, “My favorite moment was visiting the Kominak easement for the first time. I’ve driven by it many times and appreciated the open space - but on the ground what seemed like a steep, open slope is really an undulating hillside with pockets of aspen and sumac and scattered OLD pines. There were incredible vistas, lots of blooming mariposa lilies, lazuli buntings and more grouse than I have seen in the Valley in a long time. It would be a very desirable place for multiple houses - but the conservation easement will keep it just the way it is forever. (Photo of Dawn looking up a plant species by Steve Bondi)



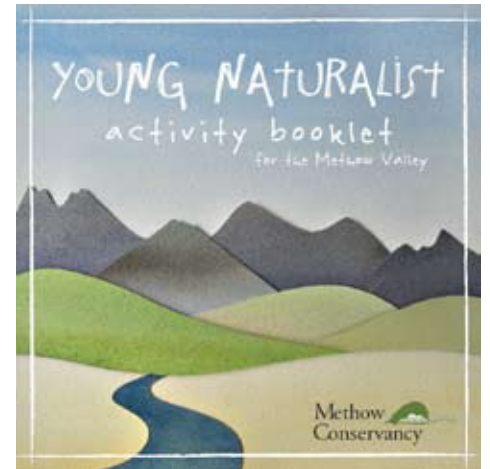
Julie Grialou says, “Two of my most favorite moments from this field season were (1) sharing an appreciation of the river and the land on an easement with some amazing land stewards. These folks did not live on the land, but they took walks on their property almost everyday. They knew so much about the land and were also excited for any new info I could offer, and (2) monitoring a property this fall -- there was a light drizzle, beautiful fall, glowing colors, and smells that made me want to breath deep. (Photo of Julie searching for spadefoot toads and tadpoles by Jason Paulsen)

# The Kids' Page!

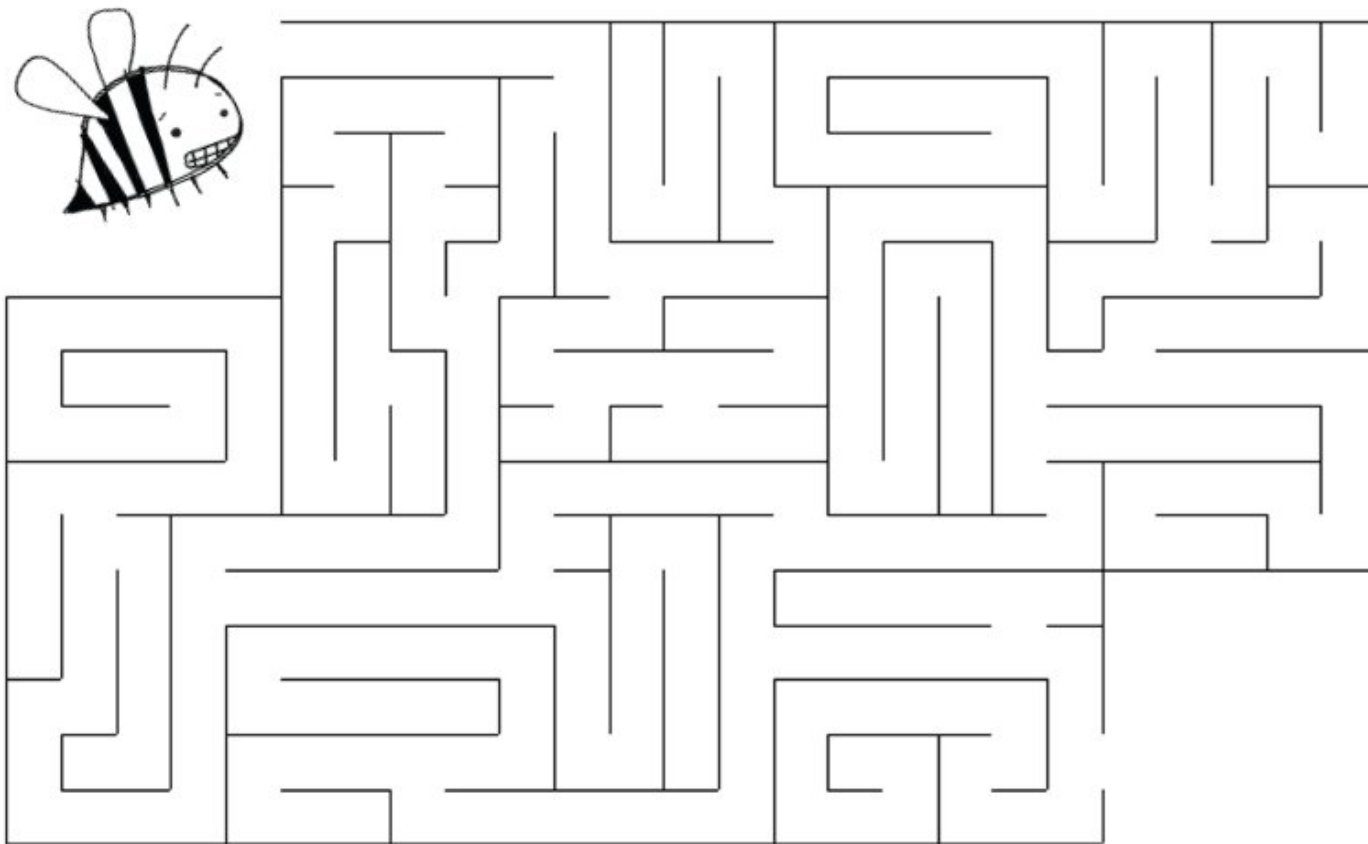
The maze below is a page from our new *Young Naturalist Activity Booklet*, released this summer. This 16-page booklet features a variety of fun nature-related activities, including a hiking scavenger hunt, matching animals to their tracks, a crossword puzzle, coloring pages and much more. Plus, there are interesting "Did You Know" facts like "did you know the bark of large ponderosa pine trees smell like butterscotch!"

The booklet is available for \$3 from our office and several businesses in the Methow, or you can download a free copy from our website. See [http://www.methowconservancy.org/activity\\_booklet.html](http://www.methowconservancy.org/activity_booklet.html)

Special thanks to our volunteer Education Committee and to Baylie Peplow, a local teacher, artist and graphic designer, for helping us make the booklet!



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*"MVSTA customers come to recreate in the beautiful wide open and protected areas of the Methow Valley. The Conservancy is the group responsible for so much of this protection and land conservation. We are proud to have a strong relationship with such an effective and hard-working land trust."*

*- MVSTA Staff*

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*If you would like to enroll your business as a member, contact Sarah at 996-2870 or [sarah@methowconservancy.org](mailto:sarah@methowconservancy.org)*

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## Upcoming Events

**December 6<sup>th</sup>: Annual Holiday Social & First Tuesday Program**, at the Twisp River Pub. Holiday Party starts at 5pm with drinks, appetizers and awards. The 1st Tuesday program, **“Heart of the Distant Mountain: Photographic Flights Across Western North America,”** with renowned photographer **John Scurlock** will run from 7:00 - 8:30pm. See page 3 for more details. Free and open to all.

**January 7<sup>th</sup> - February 18<sup>th</sup>: *Inspired by the Methow***, Confluence Gallery art show featuring works from local and regional artists inspired by the Methow landscape including conservation easement lands.

**January 3<sup>rd</sup>: First Tuesday program** TBA, 7:00 - 8:30pm at the Twisp River Pub. Free.

**January 30<sup>th</sup> - March 12<sup>th</sup>: 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Methow Conservation Course - *The Ecological History of the Methow Valley from the Cascades to the Columbia.*** Meets Mondays from 6:00 – 8:00pm with an optional dinner at 5:30. No class on Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>. Registration required; space limited; tuition is \$125 for members, \$150 for non-members. Stay tuned to E-News for more details!

**February 7<sup>th</sup>: First Tuesday Program, “After the Fire – Five Years Post Tripod,”** 7:00- 8:30pm at the Twisp River Pub. Free.

**March 6<sup>th</sup>: First Tuesday program, “New Land--North of the Columbia,”** 7:00 - 8:30pm at the Twisp River Pub. Co-sponsored by the Methow Conservancy and the Shafer Historical Museum. Free.

*Stay tuned to E-News or Facebook, or contact us at 509-996-2870 or [info@methowconservancy.org](mailto:info@methowconservancy.org) for more information.*

### *Inspired by the Methow*

A Confluence Gallery show

Jan. 7 - Feb. 18 at the Confluence Gallery  
opening reception 4 - 8pm on Jan. 7

The Confluence Gallery, in conjunction with the Methow Conservancy, is sponsoring an exhibition that will celebrate the Valley and the artists who live here. In a range of styles and media, artists created pieces that were inspired by the Methow Valley. Many artists visited private properties that hold Methow Conservancy conservation easements to inform and inspire their piece. Come see and celebrate all that the Methow has to offer in this captivating show while learning more about the efforts of the Methow Conservancy.

All artwork sold benefits the artists and the Confluence Gallery. The Methow Conservancy connected artists with easement landowners and values the opportunity to showcase easements and educate the public about our work.

Methow  
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www.methowconservancy.org  
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