

October 2, 2015



Judy Anderson
Community Consultants
PO Box 617
Kinderhook, NY 12106-0617

Dear Judy,

Change is happening all around us, and it's because of you. I wanted to give you an update on how, thanks to your past support, people are welcoming nature into their lives, realizing the power and beauty of our natural landscape, and taking steps to ensure it's around for good. Your impact is huge, and it's being felt right now.

New joys, hands in the dirt

This summer we were able to offer weekly sessions in partnership with Sandpoint's Kinderhaven, a group foster home and emergency shelter for children.

Many of these kids have faced significant trauma in their lives, something that a bit of love, attention, and joy in the out-of-doors can begin to heal.

From picking blueberries to petting alpacas, feeding fish to finding birds, "these adventures gave me a new respect for nature and everything in it," said one child.



But perhaps more importantly, these programs impart the healing touch of kindness and nature; providing solace and laughter, all summer long. With growing community support, like yours, we hope to provide more opportunities like these for kids—ensuring that everyone has the chance to grow, in connection with nature.

Touching the future

Your support is also helping enrich the lives of students at Clark Fork High School. Land trust staff are partnering with the school to bring their academic studies outdoors with applied learning and inquiry.

From forestry skills and bugs to outdoor art and snow science, nature's classroom can't be matched—and national research is backing this up.



Educators are realizing that applied learning using the outdoors as a tool can be an enriching and life-long experience. In addition, these young people are developing an appreciation for natural places that they will carry with them throughout their lives.

Dear Judy,
Thanks to your support,
these programs are possible.
folks in our community are
experiencing nature in new and
unique ways. Thank you for all
you have done to make this
possible. See you
soon!
Er

This land is part of my family

Janice and Rowley of Western Pleasure Guest Ranch are not the first in their family to understand the importance of the land.

But it's because of this deep connection that the entire Wood family chose to conserve the Ranch property. "This land and my family, we're one and the same," said Janice's dad, Jim Wood, while reflecting on the decision.

Now the Wood family is helping to inspire others, and to make sure conservation is possible for families like theirs.

This past summer they graciously hosted the Kaniksu Trail Run Series with us on their ranch. Over 100 runners and walkers came out to support conservation and test their mettle while enjoying stunning views of the Selkirks, as well as some pretty steep trails, and a fun time.



Many thanks to Janice and Rowley Schoonover, operators of the Western Pleasure Guest Ranch.

Walking the talk

Finally, I wanted to mention how I am continually impressed by the dedication and commitment shown by people like you: families, individuals, newcomers and those who have been around Idaho and Montana for generations. It's inspiring to see so many interested in conserving land for tomorrow, managing their forests sustainably, or simply providing opportunities to connect a fellow human being to working lands or natural places.

This summer and fall has been tough for many of us because of the fires. Yet I wanted to let you know that working together, to make the world a healthier, more vibrant and beautiful place to live, is something that we can do, one day at a time. I hope your family is safe and please know that I am proud to be walking the talk with you.

If you'd like to learn more about what we've been up to, from land protection to community programs, I'd love to chat sometime. Don't hesitate to get in touch.

Thanks and best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric Grace". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "E".

Eric Grace

P.S. If you would like the latest conservation news and event notices, sign up for our free e-news at www.kaniksu.org, or follow us on Facebook. It's a great way to stay up-to-date.



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PROJECT UPDATE

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