



# THE CONFLUENCE



—SWAN VALLEY—  
CONNECTIONS

SPRING 2017



## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

January marked our first year as Swan Valley Connections. It's been a year of big change. After all the furniture, files, and snowmobiles were moved, we began settling in together in our shared home. We combined our offices into the Condon Work Center and now only periodically occupy the Beck Homestead during our student programs. It's been great having all of us together in one place.

We have added two new employees to our family. **Jonathan Bowler** comes to us from Wyoming to teach natural resource policy to our college students, and take the lead on our involvement in collaborative efforts both locally and regionally. **Kirsten Holland**, our new Grants Manager, was added to our staff in January to help secure funds to keep us actively working to promote our mission of collaboration, conservation, and education.

We have designed a full year of programs and projects for 2017, many of which you will read about in this newsletter. We keep vigilant in our work to find new ways to connect people to landscapes and the natural world. Working together with our partners, we have some important conservation work to accomplish in the coming year. Based on our past success, I am without doubt we will be more effective than ever.

Thank you for your continued support. None of this is possible without you.



Maria Mantas, Executive Director

### GROUPS AND ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP

Every year, 200 bicyclists come through our valley with the Tour of Swan River Valley, or TOSRV. Here at Swan Valley Connections, we schedule our grounds and Adopt-A-Highway clean-up to happen prior to this event. Neighbors and friends bring rakes and wheelbarrows to cleanup the yard around our offices and pickup trash on the highway right-of-way along the 2 miles in front of the Condon Work Center. The Montana Department of Transportation furnishes garbage bags, orange vests and highway signs to alert other drivers of the volunteer activity by the highway. If you are interested in participating in our annual clean-up day, **mark your calendar for Tuesday, May 30th at 9:30 am**. Join us for some outdoor time together with friends and neighbors. Lunch provided! Thanks for helping keep our compound and highways clean!



*Maria points out wolverine tracks while monitoring forest carnivores.*

### Swan Valley Connections

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

# CARNIVORE MONITORING UPDATE

From 2012-2016, SVC partnered with the U.S. Forest Service, Blackfoot Challenge, and the SW Crown of the Continent Collaborative Wildlife Monitoring Committee to develop and implement a multi-species monitoring effort focused on wolverine, Canada lynx, and fisher across the upper Swan, Clearwater, and upper Blackfoot watersheds. The objectives of this project are to 1) build a baseline of these species' minimum numbers and distributions across the SW Crown landscape, and 2) monitor this information over time to track changes in the baseline should they occur. This type of multi-species, long-term monitoring can help inform land management decisions that allow for these species to persist over time.

Over the years, we have brought in new partners and have expanded our efforts outside the SW Crown to include BLM lands in the Garnet Range and, most recently, 117,152 acres of former Plum Creek timber lands that The Nature Conservancy (TNC) purchased in the lower Clearwater/Blackfoot watershed. As of 2016, the entire project has detected and identified 42 individual Canada lynx, 31 wolverines, and no fisher.

In 2017, SVC has continued to partner with other entities to monitor rare carnivores within the SW Crown landscape and beyond. SVC, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and Blackfoot Challenge, has continued to survey TNC lands in the Clearwater/Blackfoot watershed, as well as Bureau of Land Management lands within the Garnet Range. In addition, SVC has partnered with MT Dept. Fish, Wildlife & Parks to help survey lands within the SW Crown as part of a larger effort that is focused on surveying modeled wolverine habitat across Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, and Washington. This Western States Wolverine Conservation Program is the first ever effort to document wolverine distribution and abundance in the species' range in the lower 48.

As usual, the 2017 field season had produced many memorable moments: Two wolverines interacting on camera, field crew lynx sightings, bitter cold days, deep snow conditions, snowmobile break downs, Adam's broken wrist, and collaboration with the Whizpops on a wolverine music video!

For more information about these carnivore monitoring projects, visit our [webpage](#), or [SWCrown.org](http://SWCrown.org).



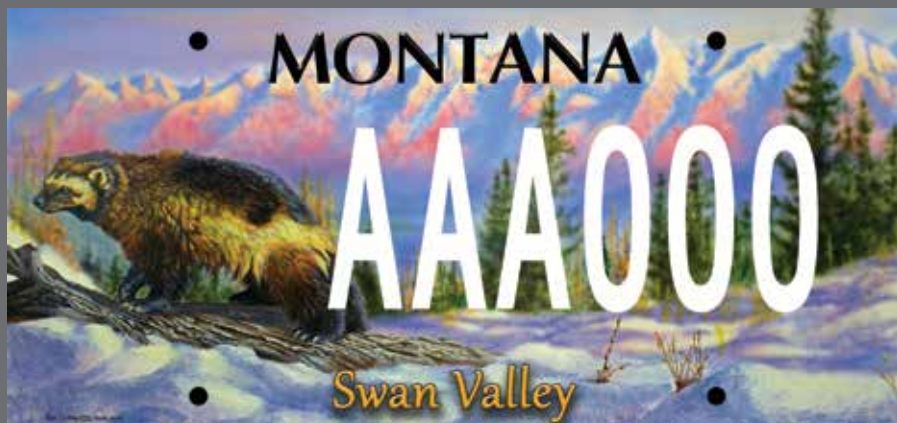
*Lynx tracks crossing a meadow at sundown*



*Wolverine next to snow shoe hare tracks*

## SUPPORT CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION EFFORTS IN MONTANA'S WILD AND SCENIC SWAN VALLEY

The Swan Valley license plate features a spectacular painting of a wolverine in its natural habitat by renowned artist Ron Ukrainetz. For details on how to purchase a license plate visit [SwanValleyConnections.org/Swan-Valley-License-Plate](http://SwanValleyConnections.org/Swan-Valley-License-Plate). Sample plates (not legal for use on a vehicle) are also available.





While this winter sometimes felt like a seemingly endless cycle of shoveling, plowing, and windshield scraping, SVC staff delightedly took advantage of the deep snowpack to teach snow science, animal tracking, and winter survival skills to local adults and k-12 students.

In January, Adam was invited to teach a Chill Expeditions' group of 15 high school students from Philadelphia. These brave teens chose to spend their winter break learning about the Crown of the Continent when temperatures were fluctuating between highs in the single digits and lows down to twenty below zero. Adam spent three days teaching the group land navigation techniques, winter survival skills, and animal tracking. The most impressive example of the group's overall enthusiasm occurred when it came time to build snow shelters. The students worked together to construct 5 large quinzhees (a type of snow shelter where snow is gathered into a pile, left to settle, and then excavated). As the sun set and temperatures dropped well below zero, Adam and the students nestled into their quinzhees and stayed the night.

Andrea and Sara worked with Seeley Lake Elementary (SLE)'s outdoor education program, bringing snow science and animal tracking to forty-five 4th, 5th, and 6th graders. SVC dedicated a separate field day for each topic and for each grade, amounting to 6 different days of winter exploration. We plan to host one final, 3-day round of field teaching with SLE on wetland ecology later this spring.

This winter, SLE's snow science program was based at Seeley's Nordic ski area. There, students dug snow pits and recorded their observations of the various layers, including temperature, texture, and taste. With snow samples taken from the top layer of their snow pit, students theorized about and tested the water equivalence of the snow pack. To test the effectiveness of snow as insulation, students also constructed mini snow shelters for hibernating animals (simulated by cups of warm water) then measured the animals' heat loss over time.

Over the years, SVC has perfected the art of teaching winter track and sign interpretation and we hope to bring this skill to as many local students as possible, both children and adults. Thanks to SLE's incredible assortment of gear, Sara was able to take students animal tracking on cross-country skis! She also brought the wonder of winter wildlife tracking to twelve Potomac School's Explorers Program students and to thirty 5th-8th graders at Potomac. Adam teamed up with the Clearwater Resource Council to teach a tracking class to Seeley Lake residents, including an indoor lecture followed by a field trip.



Chill Expeditions



Jeff Harris



Andrea DiNino



Andrea DiNino

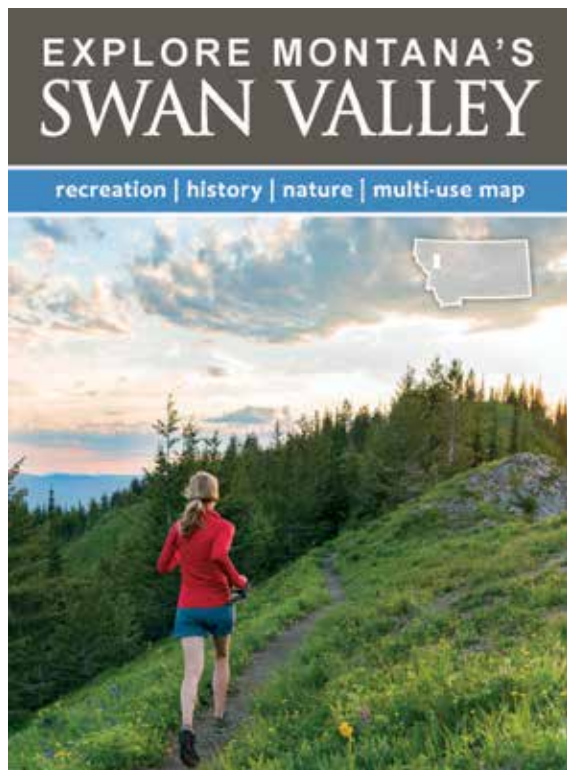
## JONATHAN BOWLER

Jonathan is new to the Swan Valley. Over the past 12 years his path has led him to diverse Western experiences in Colorado, Utah, Oregon, Wyoming, and now to Montana. Following a passion for the landscapes, communities, and wildlife of the West, he has worked as a trail crew leader on Colorado's 14ers, an outdoor experiential educator for the Colorado Mountain College, a permaculture farmer at Oregon's Pacific University, an outdoor guide for adaptive recreation, an instructor for environment and policy courses, and a natural resources researcher at the University of Wyoming. All of these professional experiences led Jonathan to pursue graduate education at the University of Wyoming where he earned degrees in Environment and Natural Resources, Planning, and Water Resources focusing on the human dimensions of resource use and management. Jonathan will bring his experience in collaboration, social-ecological systems, and natural resources to the Crown of the Continent ecosystem and Swan Valley Connections as the Policy and Collaboration Coordinator where he and his family look forward to engaging in a simple, sustainable life among the human and non-human members of the community.



## KIRSTEN HOLLAND

Kirsten joined us in January as our first Grants Manager. In this role, she secures grant funding to support SVC projects and program activities and works closely with staff managing grant tracking and reporting to funders. She has a broad background in nonprofit grant writing, fundraising, and capital projects, as well as public sector experience in land use planning and community development. She's worked for all sizes of nonprofits, from startups on shoestring budgets to a community foundation with over \$1 billion in assets. She spent six years working for Flathead County, so she's familiar with many of our public partners and looks forward to building relationships with our funders. She says joining Swan Valley Connections allows her to combine her professional experience with a personal passion for the natural environment and the wildlife that inhabit it. She got to see some of that wildlife up close recently, when she and Maria spotted a mountain lion taking a leisurely tour of Beck Homestead when they stopped for a visit! In her spare time, she and her husband care for a herd of five horses, five dogs, a bunch of cats, and a mule named Clarence who spends his summers in the Bob.



## EXPLORE MONTANA'S SWAN VALLEY MAP AND GUIDE

Our long awaited Swan Valley Map and Guide is here! Over the last two years SVC has been researching, writing, creating, and editing a new map which is visually appealing and easy to interpret. The map contains the same level of recreational use and access information available on the Swan Lake District Map along with interpretive content about the types of recreation experiences people can expect to have in different regions across the valley. The guide contains interpretive narratives accompanied by historic photos, watercolor artwork, and professional landscape and wildlife photos to showcase the valley's glacial legacy, its rich human history and culture, and the natural values that make it so special today. The map and guide is available for purchase online at [SwanValleyConnections.org](https://SwanValleyConnections.org) and in our office at the Condon Work Center.

Special thanks to Gage Cartographics, Robyn Egloff Design, Steve Lamar and the Upper Swan Valley Historical Society, the Swan River State Forest, the Swan Lake Ranger District, and the LOR Foundation for making this project possible. We would also like to thank Rebekah Rafferty, former SVC employee who spearheaded this project.



By now, you're no doubt aware that aquatic invasive mussels were detected for the first time in Montana last October, on the east side of the divide in Tiber Reservoir and possibly in Canyon Ferry and the Missouri River itself. Governor Bullock responded quickly to declare a natural resource emergency and fund a joint mussel response team. Why is this such a big deal and what are we doing about it?

From an ecological standpoint, invasive mussels are a nightmare. These tiny creatures, native to eastern Europe, can reproduce wildly, reaching densities of 10,000 individuals per square foot of lake bed, even to depths of 400 feet. En masse, mussel populations can reduce 80% of the edible plankton from a water body. This can cause a noticeable increase in water clarity because they remove so much of the microscopic organic life from a lake. However, let's not confuse water clarity with water quality: the mussels are robbing plankton and algae which are the foundation of lake ecosystems. Heightened water clarity in this case means a loss of food for anything larger in the water, potentially causing fish populations to crash.

There's no good way to eradicate these organisms from a water body once they have been introduced. Since their initial accidental introduction to the Great Lakes region in the 1980s, the mussels have spread to 30 states. And their location in the Missouri system is a mere 150 miles as the crow flies from the Swan Valley. Our larger watershed, the Columbia river basin, is the last large watershed in the country to remain mussel-free.

Another devastating consequence of mussel introductions is economic: ask anyone you know from the Midwest. In the Great Lakes region alone, the annual cost of zebra mussel prevention and remediation is calculated to be between \$100- \$400 million. These mussels clog underwater pipes as their populations expand to cover any solid surface - in our case potentially affecting hydroelectric dams like Hungry Horse, fish hatcheries such as at Creston, domestic water supply lines, which plenty of folks around Lindbergh, Holland and Swan Lakes rely on, and the irrigation infrastructure that farmers and ranchers in our region require.

What response can we expect to see from the state this season? Boat inspection stations already opened at the beginning of March at Pablo and Clearwater Junction. These stations are open earlier in the season, and will remain open for longer hours, in direct response to the mussel threat. Decontamination stations are being set up around Canyon Ferry and Tiber reservoirs.

In late March, FWP is reviewing public comments on new requirements proposed by the joint response team. Since the primary method for transporting invasive mussels is water hauled by boats and their associated gear, the

new requirements would be based on an "Inspect Before Launch" system. The rules would require any water craft leaving Canyon Ferry and Tiber Reservoir to be inspected, then decontaminated if necessary. The rules would require any water craft coming into Montana from out of state, or crossing from east to west over the Continental Divide in Montana, to be inspected before launching on a Montana waterbody.

SVC is highly concerned about this latest Aquatic Invasive Species issue, especially given the cultural, ecological and economic importance of our local lakes. In conjunction with partners in the Clearwater and Blackfoot, we are crafting a local "Inspect Before Launch" plan that will both protect our area lakes and also be responsive to locals whose boats are only used locally, on uncontaminated waters. We are beginning now to spread the word about prevention to local homeowners, the Condon Community Council, visitors, and students. Starting in summer 2017, SVC will begin AIS monitoring in Lindbergh, Swan, Holland, and Van Lakes; samples from these lakes will be tested multiple times a year for the presence of invasive mussels and aquatic invasive plants.

We need to be prepared for, and supportive of, changes coming our way, all of which are aimed at preserving the beauty, diversity and economy of our region. If you want to follow the latest information on this emerging issue, visit [MusselResponse.mt.gov](http://MusselResponse.mt.gov) or follow news reports from Montana Mussel Response on Facebook. And remember to **Clean, Drain and Dry.**



*Zebra mussel (left) and quagga mussel (right). These adult invasive mussels are tiny, but their impact to lake ecosystems is huge. Dave Brenner, Michigan Sea Grant.*





Spring is a good time of year to think about cleaning up potential fire hazards around your property. The Seeley/Swan occupies a fire-frequent landscape and wildfire season is just around the corner, so consider some ways to reduce the wildfire risk at the same time.

These relatively simple measures of managing forest fuels on your property can greatly reduce the risk of severe wildfire damage:

- In a wildfire, most structures are lost due to the ignition of light debris, such as needles and leaves collecting in roof valleys, or along gutters and under decks, where wind-driven embers easily ignite them. Clean these areas in the spring and as needed throughout the summer. Rake any flammable material away from the entire base of the structure to prevent fire from reaching, and climbing into the structure.
- Thin existing healthy trees to a 10' spacing between branch ends, and remove unhealthy and/or dead trees. Thinning should be accompanied by cleaning up the slash, and utilizing trees and small stems for products such as lumber, pulpwood, or firewood. Prune trees adjacent to structures to a height of 8 feet. The residual slash, consisting of branches and woody debris, should be subsequently piled and burned in a safe season, or chipped/masticated.



- Encourage native vegetation. Native species are fire tolerant, require little care to thrive on your property, and are beneficial to wildlife.
- Safe access, known as ingress/egress, to your property for the arrival of firefighters and departure for you and your neighbors is critical. Fire-fighting apparatus needs plenty of room to enter, operate, and turn around. Trees should not overhang or encroach on single-lane roads, clearance should be ample around curves, and pullouts should allow vehicles to pass each other. Create a defensible place along roads by thinning, pruning, and burning slash. Post clear signs on your property for arriving fire personnel and if your property is gated, make sure it is wide enough for fire-fighting equipment. Locate water sources, such as ponds and streams, which can be accessed and used by firefighters. Your local fire department will be happy to assist you on proper ingress/egress preparation.



**Fuels Reduction FUNDS  
AVAILABLE for privately-  
owned, forested lands**

**For more information:**

**(406) 754-3137**

**[SwanValleyConnections.org/Forest-Stewardship](http://SwanValleyConnections.org/Forest-Stewardship)**

- If this all seems a bit daunting to you, Swan Valley Connections will conduct a free wildfire risk assessment of your Swan Valley property, and help you obtain Cost-Share funding to treat your property to reduce fire risk and increase forest health. Call 406-754-3137, or email [john@svconnections.org](mailto:john@svconnections.org).



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**Merger Update** - In December, we celebrated our first anniversary as Swan Valley Connections, following the merger of Swan Ecosystem Center and Northwest Connections. The synergy from joining our two organizations has allowed us to provide a broader array of programs, increase their depth and impact, and maximize efficiency to better serve our community and landscape.

**Collaboration in Conservation** - In 2016 we amplified our efforts to facilitate collaboration in conservation, providing a forum for convening stakeholders to determine best approaches for maintaining and enhancing the long-term ecological viability of the Swan Watershed. We began the year hosting the annual meeting of the Swan Lands Coordinating Network, bringing together over 20 agency partners, non-governmental organizations, private landowners, and other stakeholders to devise and implement strategies to meet our collective conservation goals.

We were actively involved with the Southwestern Crown of the Continent Collaborative (SWCC) by staying closely engaged with the USFS Blackfoot Swan Landscape Restoration Project (BSLRP), a large landscape restoration effort that spans three ranger districts on three national forests. Our participation with SWCC also provides opportunities for outreach and experiential learning through interpretive field trips to areas such as Beaver Creek, where significant restoration is underway.

We hosted, convened, and participated in numerous committees, meetings, and events throughout the year, including the Native Fish Committee, the Water Quality Technical Advisory Group, and Swan Valley Bear Resources. We provided outreach for the Flathead National Forest plan revision, supported the Seeley Swan Fuel Mitigation Task Force, and continued our work on the Montana Department of Natural Resources (DNRC) Fire Safe Council. We joined a new collaborative working group, convened to address the threat of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) in Montana.

**Conservation Action and Restoration** - Forest Carnivore Monitoring – For the fifth year, we continued our partnership with USFS on the SWCC Forest Carnivore Monitoring Project in the Swan and Clearwater Valleys, in addition to The Nature Conservancy lands in the Blackfoot Drainage that were incorporated into our monitoring footprint in 2016. We completed a successful 2016 winter season and are currently engaged in the 2017 monitoring season. The data we collect through this work informs forest management and restoration across the Seeley-Swan-Blackfoot region of Montana. Our game camera footage is revealing rarely observed behavior of wolverine, helping us to understand their behavioral ecology.

**Forest Stewardship** - In 2016, we saw a decrease in demand for forest stewardship projects, which we attribute to a wet year (requests generally increase in dry years when threat from fire is more prevalent). Nonetheless, we conducted \$121,000 in cost share project work and made plans to expand into the lower Swan Valley. We applied for and received a Hazardous Fuels Reduction grant for \$100,000 from DNRC to assist private landowners and increased our sales of pheromone packets to ward off beetle infestation in ponderosa pine, lodgepole pine, and Douglas-fir.

**Native Fish** - In 2016, we continued a long-term, intensive study of the genetic health and hybridization levels of westslope cutthroat trout in the Swan. Over 23 field days, we captured around 550 individual fish from 7 streams, mostly cutthroats, and gathered genetic samples from over 420 of them. UM's Conservation Genetics lab is analyzing data from our partners' and our samples, and we should be getting results back in the coming months.

**Noxious Weed Treatment** - We were successful in securing \$23,000 in noxious weed cost share support from the Montana Weed Trust Fund to assist 37 private landowners in treating 1048 acres.

**Recreational Trails** - We secured \$55,000 from the USFS and Montana FWP's Recreational Trails Program to open and maintain campsites and trails in the Swan Front and Mission Mountains Wilderness for 2016 and 2017. We also completed one of the year's signature projects, "Explore Montana's Swan Valley: Map and Guide." We addressed the need to provide community members and visitors with better information by publishing a map and guide that tells the story of the Swan Valley's human history, natural history, and highlights recreational access to trails, campgrounds, and other public amenities.

**Watershed Restoration** – We led the effort to secure a \$70,000 grant from DEQ for watershed restoration work in the Lower Swan. We will work with DNRC to repair roads at five sites in the Lower Swan to help reduce sediment runoff to streams.

**Wetland and Stream Restoration** – In partnership with the USFWS, we maintained our dialogue with landowners on wetland/stream restoration projects, completing a second restoration project for one landowner totaling 14.25 acres to date and continuing progress on a two-acre aspen restoration project on another property.

**Wildlife** – In collaboration with Swan Valley Bear Resources (SVBR), we implemented conflict avoidance actions and conducted private property consultations, meeting 100% of property owners' requests for assistance. We constructed two permanent electric fences, two temporary fences and completed one fence repair. We also purchased 35 bear resistant containers, which we loan to residents free of charge. Our partnership with SVBR includes hosting outreach events like the Spring Bear Wakeup Social and the Summer Bear Fair. The 2016 Bear Fair was held at the north end of the Swan Valley in Ferndale, an area that has emerged as a conflict hotspot for grizzly bears and people in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem. Over 225 people attended these two events to learn about bear ecology, behavior, conservation, and conflict resolution strategies.

**Experiential Learning** - This past year, we continued providing experiential learning for college students through our semester programs: Wildlife in the West and Landscape & Livelihood. These programs challenge young adults to understand the complexities of land and resource management. We provided internships for five alumni and college students in 2016.

We conducted six youth programs including Seeley-Swan Discovery Day, Game Cameras in the Classroom at Potomac Middle School, Animal Tracking at Seeley Middle School, three Summer Day Camps, a Herp survey and native fish work at Bigfork High School, and ran a Children's Learning Station at the annual Blackfoot Trumpeter Swan release day. We also successfully engaged with Seeley schools and have a broad array of programs planned for elementary education in 2017.

We offered numerous community learning opportunities for people of all ages throughout the year, including children's activities at the Summer Bear Fair and an interactive booth at the Condon 4th of July celebration with educational materials, artwork, and game camera videos. We conducted a field tour in May for partners of the Owl Creek Restoration Project and the general public to view the remarkable transformation of this once degraded stream. In July we offered an Animal Tracks and Sign workshop, teaching participants how to identify wildlife by track, scat, behavior, and gait patterns. In August we offered an evening program related to the Northwest Montana moose population and also hosted an interactive three-day forest stewardship course to teach management skills for a healthy forest. In the fall, we offered an all-day educational tour, "A Walk in the Woods." This event for community members and business leaders included visits to local businesses that utilize wood products and a tour of private lands forest stewardship projects to highlight the value of our local natural resources. October also included the Carnivore Monitoring Update, an annual opportunity to share results of our ongoing effort to gather baseline data on wolverine, Canada lynx, and fisher across the Southwest Crown of the Continent landscape.

Thanks to our partners, 2016 was a successful first year for Swan Valley Connections!

American Rivers • Blackfoot Challenge • Big Blackfoot Chapter Trout Unlimited • Clearwater Resource Council • Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes • Defenders of Wildlife • Flathead National Forest • Friends of the Wild Swan • Lake County • Lolo National Forest • Montana Conservation Corps • Missoula County • Montana Department of Environmental Quality • Montana Department Fish, Wildlife & Parks • Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation • Montana Land Reliance • Montana Natural History Center • Montana Wilderness Association • The Nature Conservancy • Southwestern Crown of the Continent Collaborative • Swan Lakers • Swan Valley Community Council • Swan Valley Elementary School • University of Montana College of Forestry and Conservation • U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service • Vital Ground Foundation



## ASSETS

### Current Assets

Cash	231,090
Accounts Receivable	53,838
Inventory	3,954
Prepaid Expenses	4,945
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>293,827</b>

### Fixed Assets

Equipment	7,697
Vehicle	20,080
Land - Elk Creek Conservation Area	32,000
Accumulated Depreciation	(15,340)
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>44,437</b>

### Investments

299,957

## TOTAL ASSETS

**638,221**

## LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

### Liabilities

#### Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	3,985
Payroll Liabilities	48,055
Tuition Deposits for 2017	8,250
Other Liabilities	542
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>60,832</b>

### Total Liabilities

60,832

### Net Assets

Unrestricted Net Assets	90,807
Restricted Net Assets (Incl. Land)	87,168
Board Designated Net Assets	399,414
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>577,389</b>

## TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

**638,221**

## Operating Revenue:

**2016**

Government Agency Grants & Contracts	354,911
Tuition & Course Fees	162,950
Private Foundation & NGO Grants	148,633
Donations	131,245
Program Services, Events & Other	66,067
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>863,806</b>

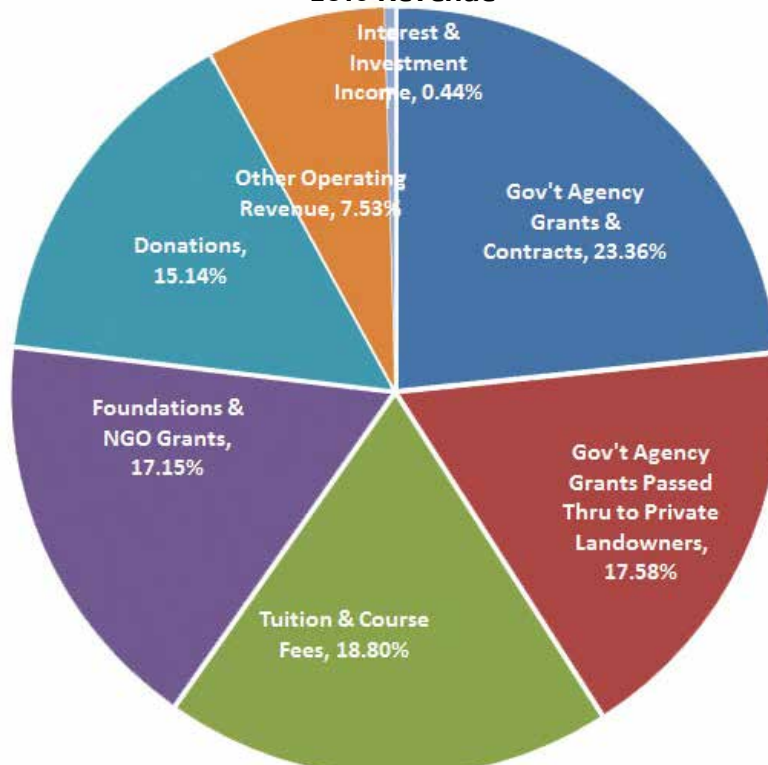
## Operating Expenses:

Stewardship & Restoration	221,041
Education	201,058
Wildlife & Aquatics	119,261
Recreational Trails	58,201
Conservation	22,072
Public Info & Visitor Services	20,880
Outreach & Communications	36,988
Elk Creek Conservation Area	3,256
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>	<b>682,757</b>
Administration & Fundraising	195,636
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>878,393</b>

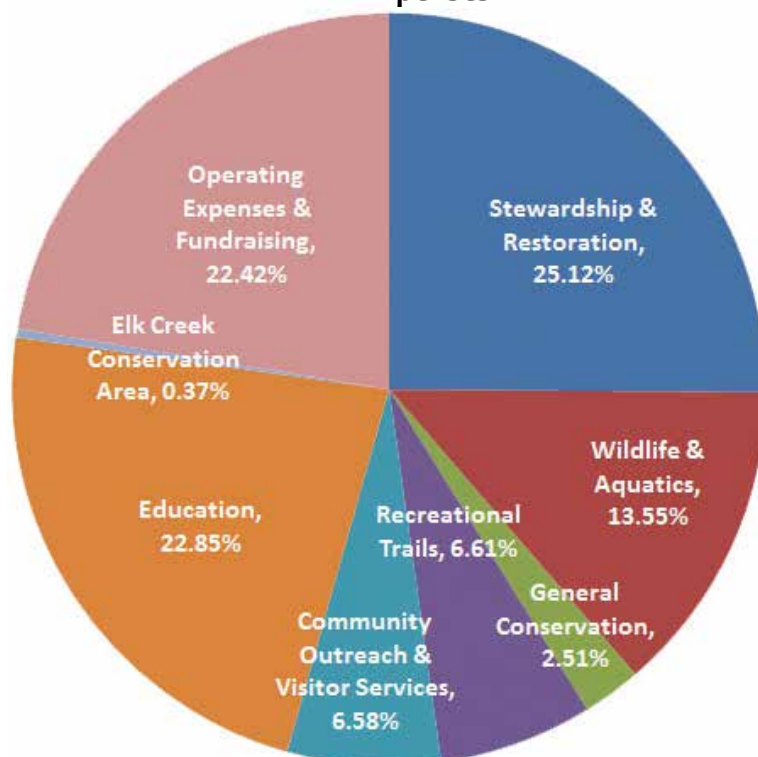
## Net Operating Surplus/(Deficit)

**(14,587)**

## 2016 Revenue



## 2016 Expenses



Swan Valley Connections Executive Committee oversees the fiscal management of assets, balancing long term financial stability with current operational needs. The executive committee provides oversight for investment (through a professional investment manager) of fiscal assets to provide long term growth as well as current income within a balanced and appropriately conservative investment portfolio. In addition, the executive committee recommends for approval by the entire board of directors an annual operating budget and the strategic allocation of unrestricted and board designated net assets to support the continuing mission of Swan Valley Connections.

## COMING UP

**Spring Bear Wake-Up Social**

**Thurs., Apr. 20th - 6:00 pm at Swan River Community Hall, Bigfork**  
*A community event to help people learn about grizzly bear behavior, biology, and conflict management*



Cory DeStein

**Era of Megafires**

**Thurs., Apr. 27th - 6:00 pm at Seeley Lake Community Hall, Seeley Lake**

*Fire and landscape ecologist Dr. Paul Hassburg will present compelling videos and photos, describing why forest conditions throughout the West are now conducive to megafires, what's at stake, and how we can tackle the problem. Free BBQ prior to the presentation.*

**“Bud’s Place”**

**Fri., May 5th - 7:00 pm at Swan Valley Community Hall, Condon**

*USFS District Ranger, soldier, fur trapper, wilderness advocate, and Condon resident Bud Moore, is featured in a 60 minute film by George Sibley. Q&A following the film with Bud's son, Bill Moore.*

**Wildlife in the West**

**May 22 - July 1**

*A 9-credit college field program on the ecology and management of endangered species in Montana's working landscapes.*

**Grounds and Adopt-A-Highway Clean-Up**

**Tues., May 30th - 9:00 am at Condon Work Center**

*Lunch provided!*

**Bear Fair**

**Sat., June 3rd - 12:00 pm at Swan Valley Community Hall, Condon**

*Learn about living with bears*

**Swan Lands Coordinating Network Annual Meeting**

**Thurs., June 22nd, 1:00 – 5:00 pm, Potluck 5:00 - 7:00 pm**

**At Swan Valley Community Hall, Condon**

**Swan Valley Connections' Summer Celebration**

**Save-the-Date! Thurs., July 20th, Condon**

*Square-dancing with The Beet Tops. Additional information to be announced.*



**For details visit [SwanValleyConnections.org/Events](https://SwanValleyConnections.org/Events)**



# Support Swan Valley Connections

Make your check out to "SVC" and send to:  
**Swan Valley Connections, 6887 MT Hwy 83, Condon, MT 59826-9005**  
or, donate online: [SwanValleyConnections.org](http://SwanValleyConnections.org)

Swan Valley Connections is a 501(c)3 non profit - all gifts are tax deductible  
(EIN 81-0512368)

## Thank you for your support!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

New address? Check here. ☐ Keep my donation anonymous. ☐

