



Protecting an Iconic Property - Hailey Hot Springs Ranch



Proposal Questions

Mission/History Of Organization

For 30 years, the Wood River Land Trust's mission has been to protect and sustain the treasured landscapes and life-giving waters of the Wood River Valley and inspire love for this special place for generations to come. We've protected nearly 28,000 acres, created 18 public access preserves, and restored over 14 miles of the Big Wood River and

JEDI Efforts and Impact

We serve the community of the Wood River Valley with a population of over 25,000, as well as an estimated 6 million visitors to the south-central Idaho area each year. Due to the doubling of the Hispanic population in our community to over 30%, there has been growing recognition of the importance of diversity and inclusion of underrepresented

its tributaries. These efforts have given us cherished spaces like the Hailey Greenway, Boxcar Bend, Howard Preserve, and Warm Springs Preserve—where our community can explore, recharge, and connect with nature. As our Valley grows and environmental pressures increase, we're committed to protecting more vital habitats for plants and animals, restoring more river miles for trout and wildlife, and keeping the Valley a vibrant place to live, work, and play—today and for generations to come.

minority populations in nature and outdoor spaces. We strive to make our preserves accessible to all through universal access trails and bilingual signage. Our preserves provide a diverse range of recreational opportunities for our community and visitors, featuring cherished fishing, biking, hiking, and gathering spots to be enjoyed forever.

Final Success Protect 2,300 acres of critical wildlife habitat and 9 miles of riparian habitat and wetland ecosystems, providing refuge for numerous wildlife species and a place for lasting community enjoyment and recreation.

Location Details Our goal for this acquisition is to protect this incredible place and have it be available entirely for the public benefit of our community. Acquiring this property will protect critical habitats for sensitive species like sage grouses, migration routes for elk and mule deer, and habitats for moose, pronghorn, and sandhill cranes. It will also protect over 9 miles of creeks and streams that flow through the property, including geothermal resources - this is actually the site of the old Hailey Hot Springs Resort, which operated in the late 1800s. Acquiring the property will also permanently protect access to popular trails that the community has grown to love out Democrat Gulch, a place that dries out first in the spring time and becomes a sea of lupine and wildflowers.

Biodiversity in Project Area It addresses a critical need in Blaine County by protecting lands that will help maintain ecological resilience in the face of climate change, and it will protect an important recreation area for our community and access to surrounding public lands. Preserving Hailey Hot Springs Ranch means safeguarding: 1) A vital wildlife route where sage grouse, sandhill crane, elk, mule deer, and pronghorn move freely, as they have for centuries. 2) Nine miles of riparian habitat and wetland ecosystems providing refuge for numerous wildlife species. 3) A climate-resilient landscape identified by TNC as crucial for our region's environmental future.

Expected Economic & Recreational Impact The preservation of Hailey Hot Springs Ranch can also enrich the lives of people. If the acquisition is successful, the partners envision the potential for: 1) A separated bike path along Croy Canyon Road from downtown Hailey, through this property and to the hiking and biking trails in Croy Canyon; providing safer and more enjoyable access for people recreating in the canyon. 2) Permanent access to existing trails and public lands – securing access that has been threatened in the past, and creating an uninterrupted 6.6-miles of continuous trails from Colorado Gulch to the saddle of Democrat Gulch. 3) Exploring the potential for re-opening public access to the hot springs. 4) Area students conducting research and learning alongside University of Idaho scientists, making discoveries that will guide conservation efforts across our region.

Local youth discovering their connection to nature through partners' after school programs and innovative outdoor education programs.

Strategy & Timeline For Final Success Since we started this effort just in mid-November, we've raised over \$10.7M in commitments so far, and we continue to push. We have until December 31st to raise the rest of the funds. We're continuing to seek individual donations

Key Decision Makers Key decision-makers for this project include major philanthropic funders. We already have strong momentum and buy-in from local governmental and community leaders, as evidenced by the Blaine County Recreation District

and grant funding for the acquisition. We had some federal funding allocated toward this project, but that is currently on hold, so we're doubling down on the foundation support and fundraising. Our partners at the Blaine County Recreation District and The Nature Conservancy Idaho have also been fantastic in helping to raise funds for the project, with collaborative fundraising bringing in over \$1.2M so far, and the BCRD contributing \$500,000 to help secure the property. We are also working with local affinity groups to try to reach 100% community participation in the acquisition of this property.

commitment and support from The Nature Conservancy and University of Idaho. Our approach includes direct engagement with the community through presentations, site visits, and community gatherings to highlight the ecological and recreational value of this acquisition. Engagement from the business community—particularly outdoor recreation, conservation-focused brands, and companies invested in sustainable tourism—could significantly bolster our efforts. Their support through sponsorships, employee engagement programs, and public endorsements will expand our reach and demonstrate widespread backing for this project.

Elevate Voices

We are committed to ensuring that conservation efforts reflect the diversity of our community. Hailey's population is now over 30% Hispanic, yet representation in outdoor spaces remains limited. To address this, we're designing bilingual interpretive signage and outreach materials to ensure all community members feel welcomed in our protected lands. Additionally, we are partnering with local schools, youth organizations, and affinity groups to engage underrepresented groups in conservation through educational programs, volunteer opportunities, and guided outings.

Measurable On-Ground Outcomes

Protection of 2,300 acres of wildlife habitat, securing critical migration corridors and key ecosystems. Restoration of 9 miles of riparian habitat, improving water quality and fish habitat. Permanent public access to existing trails, ensuring uninterrupted recreational opportunities in Democrat Gulch, and surrounding public lands. Installation of bilingual and accessible signage, fostering inclusive community engagement. Advancement of a long-term stewardship plan, setting the foundation for habitat restoration and climate resilience efforts.

TCA Funding Plan

TCA's support will help close the funding gap to permanently protect this iconic landscape. Your investment will secure critical habitat for wildlife, preserve access to beloved trails, and ensure that Hailey Hot Springs Ranch remains a resource for recreation, education, and conservation in perpetuity. One hundred percent of this funding will directly contribute to land acquisition, making a lasting impact on both the natural environment and the community that depends on it.

How long it took to complete application

Confidential Items

At this time, there are no confidential elements in our proposal. We welcome the opportunity to share our vision with member companies and their employees, as broad community support is essential to making this project a success.

Other Relevant Application Details