Mitch Doherty

LAND PROTECTED: ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT

Vital Ground's first conservation easement along the Rocky Mountain Front marked one of our biggest wins for wildlife in 2019. "It's a small ranch that was my grandfather's that I've been fortunate enough to get back into the family," says landowner partner Mary Sexton of Glen Willow, a 650-acre spread just north of the town of Choteau. The ranch is prime spring habitat for grizzly bears that follow a tributary of the Teton River down from the mountains and onto the property. That made it a conservation priority for our One Landscape Initiative, so we were eager to team up with Mary and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service on an easement that will forever protect both the agricultural and habitat values of Glen Willow.

Full story and video online at:
vitalground.org/annual-report-2019

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2019 ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY

VITAL GROUND
FOUNDATION

One Landscape for Wildlife and People

Full report available online at:
vitalground.org/annual-report-2019

LAND PROTECTED: SWAN VALLEY

In Montana's Swan Valley, grizzly bears, Canada lynx, moose and wolves cross the roads and backyards that lie between mountain ranges. Separating the Mission Mountains and the Bob Marshall Wilderness, the rural valley is both a crucial wildlife corridor and a blueprint for collaborative conservation. It's long been a focal point for Vital Ground, and we were thrilled to partner with the Quinn family—as well as Missoula County and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks—in protecting 200 acres with a new conservation easement in the Elk Flats area near Condon. "The Swan Valley bridges two of the most intact mountain ecosystems remaining on Earth" says Jim Quinn. "We see lots of grizzlies walking through our place and they're all good bears."

Full story and video online at:
vitalground.org/annual-report-2019

Trail camera image courtesy of Jim and Terry Quinn

CREATING COEXISTENCE: In addition to habitat protection, did you know Vital Ground also backs community coexistence work in key grizzly movement areas from Wyoming to Canada? In 2019, thanks to the ALSAM Foundation and donors like you, 12 partner grants funded conflict-prevention efforts like range rider programs, electric fencing and bear-proof sanitation.

LAND PROTECTED: KOOTENAI VALLEY

For three straight years, our Wild River project with the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y) has saved habitat within the crucial Cabinet-Purcell Mountain Corridor of northwestern Montana. Lying along the Kootenai River in a natural bottleneck for wildlife, Wild River exemplifies our larger One Landscape Initiative to protect the most vital corridor habitat on private lands across the region. This particular wildlife linkage connects two small, isolated grizzly populations but was once destined to become a residential subdivision. Now, with two more lots totaling 10 acres purchased in 2019, Vital Ground and Y2Y have protected more than 120 acres in the corridor, a crucial step toward a connected landscape and durable recovery for Cabinet-Purcell bears.

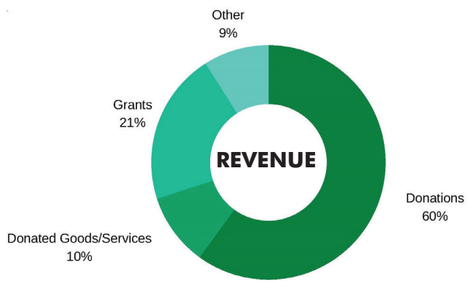
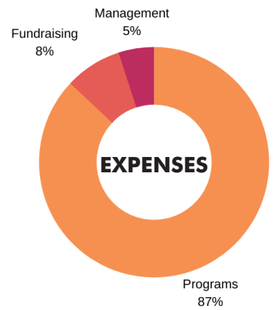
Full story and video online at:
vitalground.org/annual-report-2019

Mitch Doherty

2019 FINANCIAL POSITION

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, The Vital Ground Foundation ended 2019 in a strong financial position. Public support and revenues totaled $2,688,993.00.

During this period, 87.41% of all expenditures was spent on conservation and education programs. Land held for preservation by Vital Ground represented an asset of $5,391,249.00 as of December 31, 2019.

Vital Ground depends on private contributions to finance our conservation work. As a charitable nonprofit organization, our success depends upon the generous support of our many individual donors, foundations and business partners. Donations to Vital Ground qualify as charitable contributions and may be tax-deductible. You can give online today at ***vitalground.org/donate***.

	12/31/19	12/31/18
ASSETS		
Cash, Cash Equivalents, Money Market Funds	1,331,377	1,220,032
Investments	1,174,235	932,242
TOTAL	**2,505,612**	**2,152,274**
Receivables and Prepaids	154,945	107,080
Total Land and Land Improvements	5,415,943	5,338,392
Property, Equipment, Other Assets	129,885	228,834
TOTAL ASSETS	**8,206,385**	**7,826,580**
LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS		
Total Liabilities	46,150	132,163
Net Assets	8,160,235	7,694,417
TOTAL LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS	**8,206,385**	**7,826,580**