



SOUTHWEST MONTANA  
**SAGEBRUSH**  
PARTNERSHIP

Presenter: Sean Claffey

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# SOUTHWEST MONTANA SAGEBRUSH PARTNERSHIP

BLM

NRCS

FWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife

USFWS Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge

MT FWP

DNRC

USFS Beaverhead Deerlodge Forest

The Nature Conservancy

Heart of the Rockies Initiative

Beaverhead Watershed Committee

Big Hole Watershed Committee

Ruby Watershed Council

Centennial Valley Assoc.

University of Montana Western



# Project Overview

## Southwest Montana Sagebrush Partnership

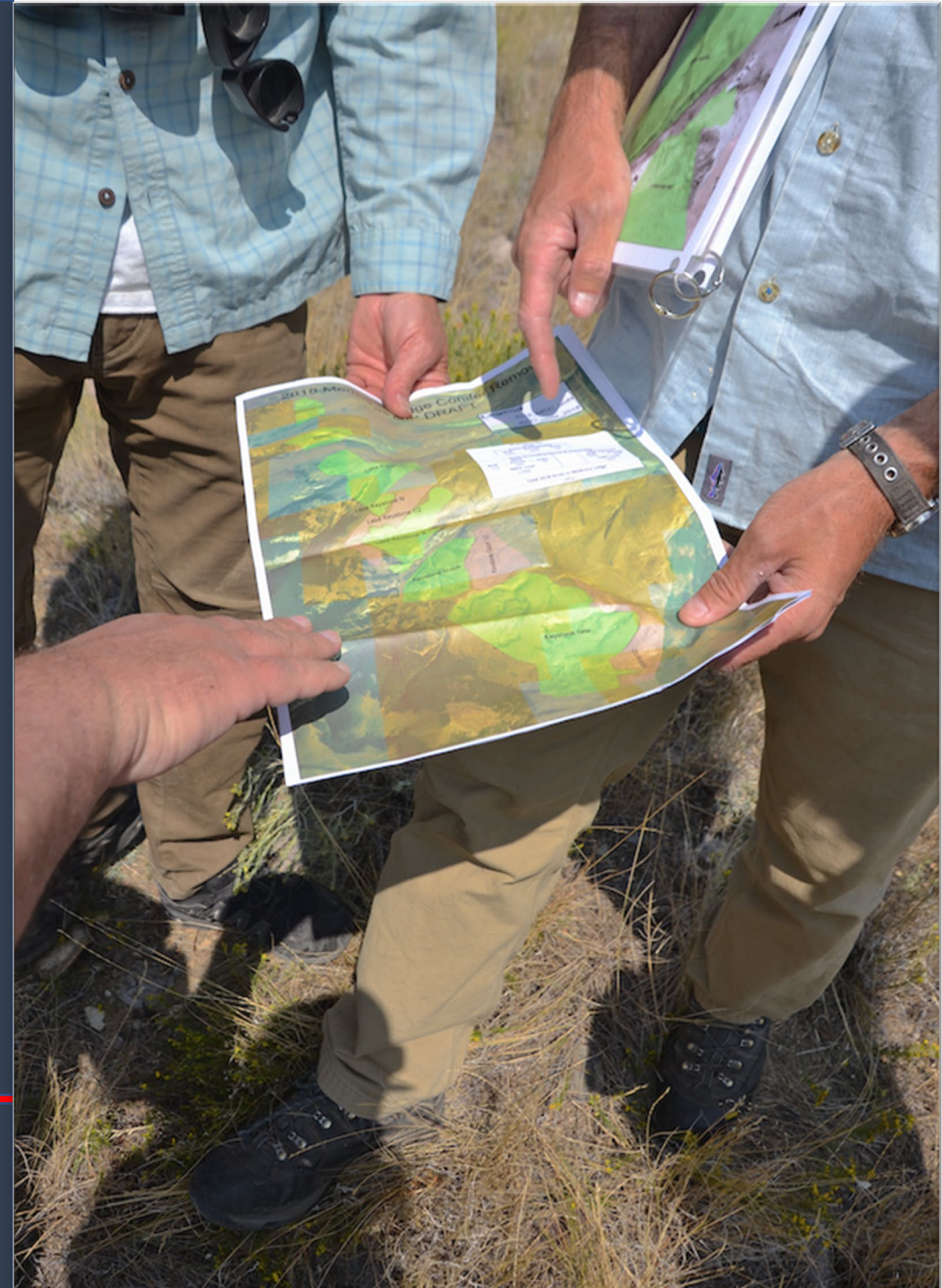
Need for better coordination.

More efficient with limited resources.

More collaborative, cross-boundary management.

Need to increase pace and scale of  
stewardship work

Increase community connection to  
conservation





# Project Overview

## Primary Threats

Since 2018:

Conifer Expansion- Over 35,000 acres

Riparian and wet meadow habitat degradation- 1,300 structures, over 10 miles

Barriers to wildlife movement (fences) – 62 miles

Invasive annual grasses (cheatgrass)- over 1000 acres

### Conifer Expansion



### Riparian & wet meadow degradation



### Barriers to Wildlife



### Invasive annual grasses





# Southwest Montana Sagebrush Partnership

## Capacity Positions



**BLM  
Montana/Dakotas**



**Conservation Coordinator**

June 2018

The Nature  
Conservancy  
Montana



**Project Manager**

January 2022

HEART  
OF THE  
ROCKIES  
INITIATIVE

A Land Trust Partnership

**Stewardship Assistant**

(seasonal)  
May 2021

The Nature  
Conservancy  
Montana



**Stewardship Technician**

(seasonal)  
May 2022



NFWF

**Wildlife Project Coordinator  
(aka Fence Coordinator)**

March 2021



**Youth Employment Program**

**Dillon Project Coordinator**

May 2021



THE STEELE-REESE FOUNDATION



Primary funders are located to the left of the position title. The hosting entity logo is located to the right of each position

Need a  
workforce!

## Developing Local Contractors



Woody Biomass Utilization  
*Restorative Forestry Sort-Yard*

Start-up  
Forestry  
Contractors



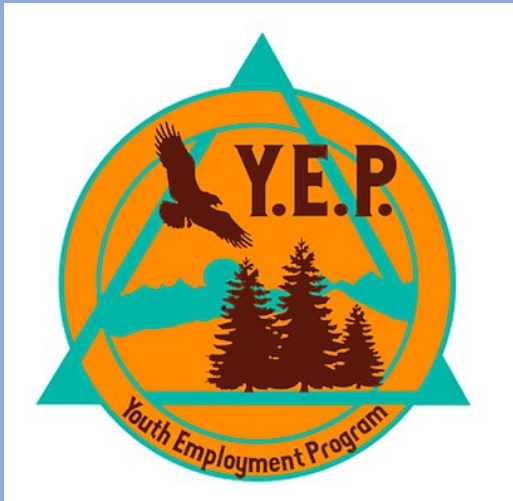
## Youth Employment Program



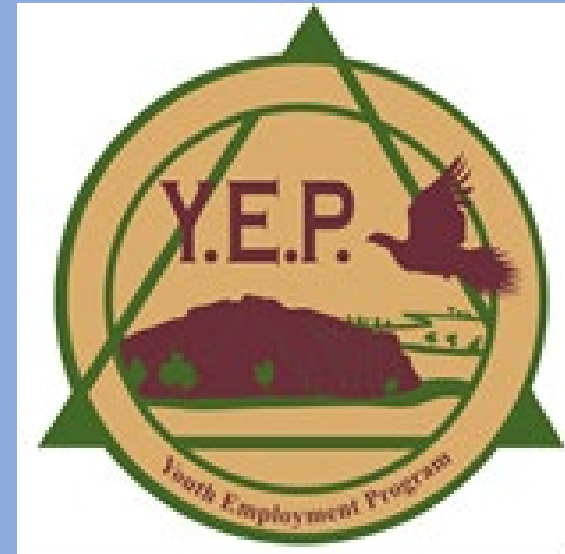








Salmon, ID - 1994



Dillon, MT 2021





# Youth Employment Program



Category	Crew Lead	Crew Assistant Lead	Conservation/Recreation Crew Members
Pay	\$15.00 hour	\$13.00 hour	\$9.20- \$13.00 hour
Working Dates	May 15th to August 15th Flexible	May 15th to August 15th Flexible	Second week in June through August 15th, Flexible
Job Duties	Leadership (6 Crew members): Project Completion Mentoring/Managing Crew Administrative tasks Create a fun and supportive environment	Lead teams (3 Crew members) Assistant lead in Preparation Mentoring Crew Members Learn! Have Fun!	Be Prepared Be Professional Accomplish task in a timely manner, Learn! Have fun!
Needed experience	Work experience (seasonally outside) or two seasons as an Assistant Lead	College age, working outside, working in teams	None needed



# Sustaining YEP.... Projects!

Sagebrush Partnership Capacity  
Recruitment  
Employee Development Opportunities

BLM

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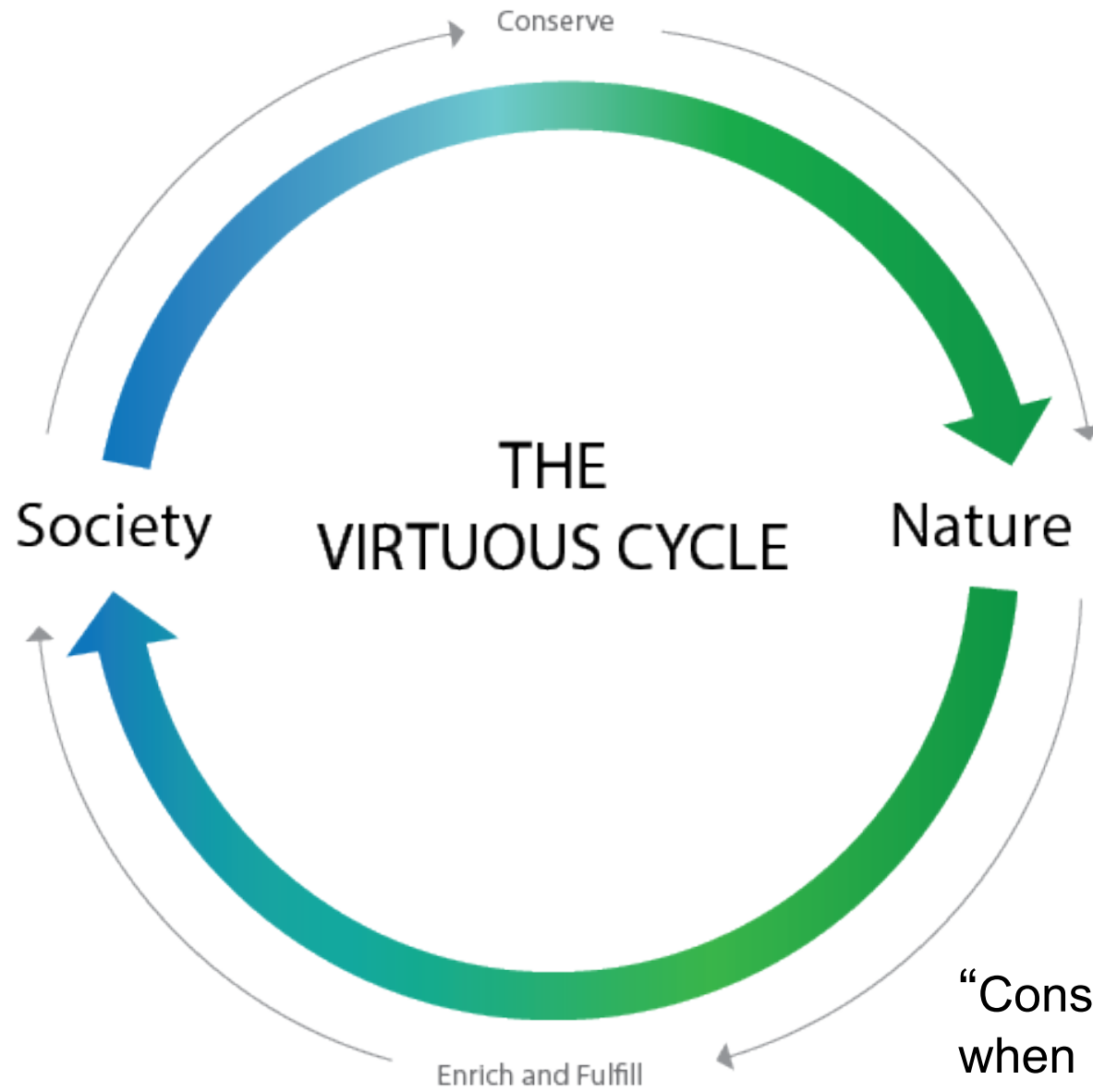
Ruby Watershed Council

Centennial Valley Assoc.

University of Montana Western







“Conservation success is most sustainable when it is the result of systemic change within a **socio-ecological system..**”

*From TNC Conservation by Design 2.0*



# Thank you

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