

## **Methow Conservancy Press Release**

**Date:** October 18, 2004

### **Methow Conservancy Director Steps Down**

Katharine Bill, the Executive Director of the Methow Conservancy, announced last week her resignation from her current role in order to work on specific land protection projects and add flexibility to her schedule. Bill became Executive Director in spring 2002, and prior to that was Stewardship Director for two years.

"Katharine has been a tremendous asset to our organization," said Deb Prentice, President of the Board of Directors. "Through her remarkable service and leadership, the Methow Conservancy has become one of the most successful small land trusts in the West."

"Although we will miss Katharine's enthusiasm at the helm, we are confident that because of her efforts, and because of our other highly qualified staff and a very dedicated board of directors, the Methow Conservancy is in a strong position to move forward under a new Executive Director," said Prentice. "Besides, Katharine will still be affiliated with us in a different capacity."

Under Bill's leadership, the Methow Conservancy has grown significantly. To date, the organization has protected more than 3,700 acres of land and more than 10 miles of shoreline in the Methow Valley with conservation easements. With almost 1,000 individual members, the Methow Conservancy also runs a monthly educational lecture series, provides scholarships for local educators to attend natural history workshops, and offers land stewardship planning for landowners in the Valley.

"I'm particularly excited to see the range of people and viewpoints that the Methow Conservancy involves," says Bill. "I believe that this organization has created a bridge between groups that typically become polarized, and this common ground has allowed unusual conservation successes to occur in a short amount of time. The Conservancy board and staff are exceptionally caring, smart and dynamic, and I feel fortunate to have been Director. I look forward to what the future will bring for all of us here."

The Methow Conservancy has formed a search committee and will be advertising for the job nationwide and locally. The Committee hopes to fill the job as early as January 2005. Bill will stay on as Executive Director until a new Director has been hired. The Search Committee invites anyone who is interested to pick up a job application at the Methow Conservancy office or contact Katharine Bill at 996-2870 for more information.

The Methow Conservancy is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to inspiring people to care for the land by accepting voluntary conservation easements in the Methow Valley, providing conservation education opportunities for visitors and residents, and assisting with community-based conservation projects.

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