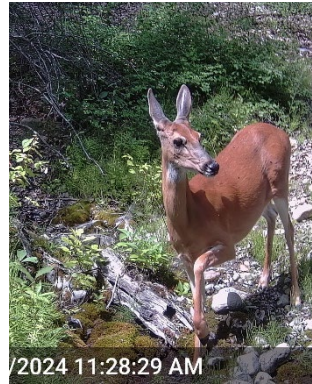
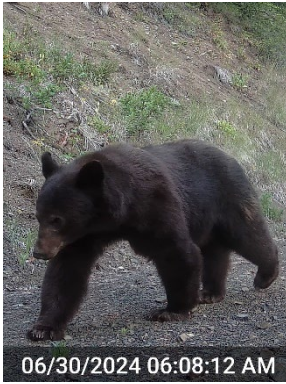


The Sunny M Ranch conservation opportunity allows us to reinforce four core community values, around which we now anchor our management of this land: wildlife habitat, farming, trails, and supporting the Methow Valley economy through affordable housing.

PROTECT VITAL WILDLIFE HABITAT



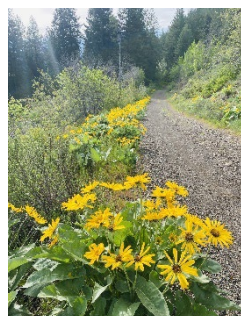
Volunteer work crews have been key to our barbed wire fencing removal program over the summer. By removing unnecessary fencing and replacing beneficial fencing (to protect ecologically sensitive areas like wetlands), we are improving wildlife habitat on the Sunny M. The wildlife-friendlier fencing design we use allows larger animals to jump over the top wire while smaller animals can pass under the bottom wire. Game cameras continue to show us some of the hundreds of species of animals—mammals, birds, and amphibians, both diurnal and nocturnal—going about their business on the Sunny M.

PRESERVE SIGNIFICANT FARMLAND



In addition to leasing about 400 acres of irrigated Sunny M farmland to the Hover Family, who have been farming those fields for many years, we turned our attention to spiffing up the iconic Sunny M barn and outbuildings. The crew at Twisp River Painting completed the pressure washing, priming, and painting, and a group of volunteers helped us paint the door and window trim on a hot August day. Check out the difference before and after!

MAKE TRAIL ACCESS PERMANENT



We continue to operate under a Memorandum of Understanding with [Methow Trails](#) to provide year-round access to the 10+ miles of summer and winter trails on the Sunny M Ranch and to ensure they remain available for community use forever. We provide the land and access easements to the trails, and Methow Trails manages and maintains the trail system, including grooming, managing ticket/pass sales, and hosting events. Our fencing inventory and removal program has allowed for the removal of several swing, stretch, and roll gates, allowing easier summer passage for cyclists, runners, and horseback riders.

PROVIDE HOUSING THAT IS AFFORDABLE FOR PEOPLE WHO WORK IN THE METHOW VALLEY



Our goal continues to be making land available for affordable housing on the Sunny M Ranch. The bulk of our work toward this goal is currently exploring the best legal and engineering strategies for bringing domestic water to the eventual housing parcel. Water rights and other entitlements are complicated; this will be a multi-year process. In addition to hydrology specialists and water rights attorneys, we also work with Navigate LLC. They specialize in affordable housing collaborations that involve land trusts and are helping us shape our process on a model that they have used successfully in Montana. We've held two public info sessions specifically about affordable housing on the Sunny M, as well as

a third public update about our work in all four core areas of Sunny M.

SUNNY M RANCH MANAGEMENT PLAN



Although our staff and volunteer crews spent A LOT of time weeding over the spring and summer, there's more to land management than just pulling hound's tongue and Russian thistle! All accredited land trusts are required to create a management plan for property they own. We spent time last spring creating a management plan that is guiding us in being responsible and accountable stewards of the Sunny M Ranch. The Executive Summary is available to the public [HERE](#). The management plan serves as both board-level governance and staff-level workplan.

OUR BOARD & STAFF THE SUNNY M RANCH



The Sunny M Ranch is a large and diverse piece of property, with wetlands, shrub-steppe, riparian areas, sections of forest and uplands, irrigated farmland, and dryland parcels. Owning and caring for this unique and beautiful piece of land is an honor and a responsibility that we take seriously. We are glad to have the community's help in stewarding the Sunny M Ranch.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO PROTECT AND CARE FOR THE SUNNY M RANCH!