

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK
GOVERNOR



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GOVERNOR STEVE BULLOCK
STATE OF MONTANA

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Governor Bullock Presents Montana Neighbor Awards

HELENA--Governor Steve Bullock today presented the Montana Neighbor Award to seven Montanans. Robin and Steve Street of Kalispell, Scott Blackman of Craig, the Cornwell Ranch of Glasgow, Ron and Vonne Schatz of Helena, and Duane Richards of Hammond received the award.

"It's great to recognize these men and women who embody the best of Montana," said Bullock said. "Here in Montana, we still have a sense of community that has been lost in much of the country. We offer a helping hand when our neighbor is in need, and we know that we owe it to the next generation to provide them with a state that's in the same pristine quality we received it."

Award winners must demonstrate an exceptional level of cooperation, land stewardship, conservation ethic, neighborly land access, and community leadership. Recipients are chosen by a committee comprised of the Montana Association of Land Trusts (MALT), Artemis Common Ground, Montana Farm Bureau Federation, The Nature Conservancy of Montana, the Montana Council of Trout Unlimited, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and the Governor's office.

"Our mission is to promote the on-the-ground reality of being a good Montana neighbor in a time of transition in our state," said Glenn Marx, Executive Director of MALT. "We believe that publicizing the good things that are happening will encourage others to undertake similar efforts."

Each award winner receives Montana Neighbor Award certificates signed by the members of the awards committee and by the Governor. The framed document features an Evelyn Cameron photograph from the early 1900s, picturing a hay crew of neighbors working with horse drawn wagons.

Previous winner Warren Ross, of Havre, summarized what the award is really about: Seventy years ago, at the height of the Great Depression, his father had explained to him that they were stewards

of the land. “We might own it,” said Warren. “But it’s our obligation to share it. I’ve never forgotten that.”

PHOTOS: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#)

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