

MORaine

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Wallowa Land Trust Executive Director Kathleen Ackley said her organization, as well as the Wallowa Lake Moraines Partnership, wants to

see the East Moraine remain a sustainable, undeveloped working landscape that offers cultural significance, public access, livestock grazing and wildlife habitat as well as timber related resources.

Ackley said she had heard in early February that the grant

application had made the list, but refused to believe it until she saw it in writing with her own eyes with help from The Trust for Public Land.

"Of course, Congress still has to pass the budget — this is just the president's recommendations. But being as

we're number three, chances are pretty good we'll get the money."

Ackley said she was impressed by the high ranking, as the \$3 million grant from the previous year ranked 10th nationally.

"Obviously our project

competed well this year, since it got an even higher ranking than previously," she said.

Ackley said that the next step in the process will be doing more joint appraisal work on the property with the landowner, an independent appraiser, the Oregon Department of

Forestry and the USFS.

"In order to get federal government dollars ... we have to go through a very specific appraisal process, and you have to do it with the funding agency. The idea is that this process is safeguarding the public trust."

And she'll be taking a lot of management skills with her, no matter what career path she chooses.

Whitney's application was stellar, according to Enterprise High School supervisor and ag teacher Stephanie Schofield.

"What's unique about Whitney is her family is not involved in the cattle industry — it's 100 percent her passion, idea and management," Schofield said. "Whitney has built her own project from the ground up. I think that made her unique from a lot of other applicants. (Also) Whitney is a very good writer; she's very detail oriented and takes a lot of time to get that application right. So, I'm sure her application was very good reading, too."

Schofield helped seven Enterprise High School and FFA members to apply for the scholarship. Not all had the natural storytelling skill and eye for detail of Whitney, but all were able to turn in compelling work, Schofield said.

"A lot of times when you can write an essay about something you're passionate about, you're motivated to really work on something, like writing, that might not be your best skill."

GRANTS

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It's not just a love of tradition that drives Ethan's enthusiasm for trapping. Walking along Wallowa River where a family friend has enlisted him to trap for muskrats, he emphasizes the practical applications of trapping in agriculture.

"These muskrats are digging up into the banks and eroding the banks away," he

said. "Same thing with the beavers — they build dams and flood out the crop land."

Ethan started his business a year ago, trapping bobcats and skunk with his father. When he became interested in trapping mink, an activity for which his dad had little experience but plenty of traps, Ethan taught himself through books and YouTube videos.

"I just basically watched some videos about it and went and set a trap that night, and the next day I came back and

there was a giant mink in it. ... My dad showed me how to skin the mink. Ever since then I've skinned all the mink and muskrats and coyotes and everything."

Though his clients have been mostly family and friends so far, he plans to expand and advertise his services online. Ethan intends to make it more than a hobby. Although he makes little from the furs — just \$25 for a mink and \$5 for a muskrat — he is serious about making his business pay.

"I'd still have a job but this would be like a second job, almost," he said. "I'd have to have a whole lot of traps out in a place where there's an abundance of fur to catch enough to really make any money."

As for whether he plans to keep his business local, Ethan thinks it's possible. "I think it could happen around here, I'd have to be trapping a lot of different things. I'd have to have a

line out for everything."

Ethan has hung out his shingle as a licensed trapper already: "Young Licensed Trapper available to remove certain nuisance animals. If you are dealing with destructive muskrat, mink, beaver ... please contact Ethan by calling 541-426-4713. Enterprise and Joseph Areas."

Whitney Evans

Whitney Evans, daughter of Petra and Tyler Evans of Enterprise, is following a Wallowa County tradition, but it's not a family tradition. The family farm on Russell Lane was set up for horses, but Whitney found out early on that she preferred being around cows.

"I really always liked agriculture, and I grew up in Portland and there wasn't a lot of that there. When we came out here (in 2012) I met a few people with cows and I helped them with theirs and I loved it."

The very next year, while she

was in 8th grade, she won her first heifer through the Stockgrower's Heifer Award. With the assistance of her FFA teacher, Stephanie Schofield, she purchased Herefords from David and Linda Bird of Halfway.

"They're all really gentle," she said. "(Bird's) had some Herefords that were really tame and they were people who really cared about their animals. It seemed like a good fit."

By saving back her heifers every year, and getting lucky with having heifer calves every year, she now has six cows she shows, sells and manages. She's been doing this without a squeeze chute — an essential piece of cattle-handling equipment for a cattle breeder who uses artificial insemination every year in addition to inoculating and otherwise doctoring or maintaining the health of her little herd.

Dave and Jeff Parker have been assisting with the AI process, using a squeeze-chute system familiar to many beginning ranchers: the gate folded back against the fence with the cow wedged between the two panels.

Her grant money will help her purchase a real squeeze chute, making husbandry projects more comfortable and safer for both cow and handler.

Whitney will be college bound in a few years and she's looking at the medical field, but

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Student of the Week



Eyreus Rooney
Enterprise High School

Eyreus Rooney has earned a 3.83 GPA while at EHS. She has completed AP Language and Composition and has just completed BMCC Writing 121. She is currently enrolled in College Writing 122. She has excelled in the sciences taking Animal Science, Physics, Chemistry and Advanced Biology. She is currently enrolled in Pre-Calculus. Thanks for your hard work Eyreus and for making EHS a better place.

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