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Form 990  Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service	Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except black lung benefit trust or private foundation)	OMB No 1545-0047 2011 Open to Public Inspection
	The organization may have to use a copy of this return to satisfy state reporting requirements	

A For the 2011 calendar year, or tax year beginning 01-01-2011 and ending 12-31-2011		D Employer identification number 87-0483446	
B Check if applicable ☐ Address change ☐ Name change ☐ Initial return ☐ Terminated ☐ Amended return ☐ Application pending	C Name of organization THE VITAL GROUND FOUNDATION INC		E Telephone number (406) 549-8650
	Doing Business As		G Gross receipts \$ 1,207,250
	Number and street (or P O box if mail is not delivered to street address)	Room/suite	
	BUILDING T-2 FORT MISSOULA RD		
	City or town, state or country, and ZIP + 4 MISSOULA, MT 59804		
F Name and address of principal officer GARY J WOLFE BUILDING T-2 FORT MISSOULA RD MISSOULA, MT 59804		H(a) Is this a group return for affiliates? ☐ Yes ☒ No H(b) Are all affiliates included? ☐ Yes ☐ No If "No," attach a list (see instructions) H(c) Group exemption number ▶	
I Tax-exempt status ☒ 501(c)(3) ☐ 501(c) () ◀ (Insert no) ☐ 4947(a)(1) or ☐ 527			
J Website: ▶ WWW.VITALGROUND.ORG			
K Form of organization ☒ Corporation ☐ Trust ☐ Association ☐ Other ▶		L Year of formation 1990	M State of legal domicile MT

Part I		Summary		
Activities & Governance	1 Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities PROTECT AND RESTORE NORTH AMERICA'S GRIZZLY BEAR POPULATIONS BY CONSERVING WILDLIFE HABITAT			
	2 Check this box ☐ if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its net assets			
	3 Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a)	3	17	
	4 Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b)	4	17	
	5 Total number of individuals employed in calendar year 2011 (Part V, line 2a)	5	7	
	6 Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary)	6	50	
7a Total unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, column (C), line 12		7a	0	
b Net unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-T, line 34		7b	0	
Revenue			Prior Year	Current Year
	8	Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h)	1,424,061	1,117,368
	9	Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g)	0	20,895
	10	Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d)	6,935	9,409
	11	Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e)	48,897	-5,911
	12	Total revenue—add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	1,479,893	1,141,761
Expenses	13	Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1–3)	350	2,000
	14	Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4)	0	0
	15	Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5–10)	295,669	298,226
	16a	Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e)	0	0
	b	Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25) ☒ 109,604		
	17	Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a–11d, 11f–24e)	482,001	218,624
	18	Total expenses Add lines 13–17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	778,020	518,850
	19	Revenue less expenses Subtract line 18 from line 12	701,873	622,911
	Net Assets or Fund Balances			Beginning of Current Year
20		Total assets (Part X, line 16)	2,769,139	3,290,596
21		Total liabilities (Part X, line 26)	558,711	455,667
22		Net assets or fund balances Subtract line 21 from line 20	2,210,428	2,834,929

Part II	Signature Block
Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.	

Sign Here	***** Signature of officer			2012-08-28 Date	
	GARY J WOLFE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Type or print name and title				
Paid Preparer's Use Only	Preparer's signature	WAYNE R HIETT CPA	Date	Check if self-employed ☐	Preparer's taxpayer identification number (see instructions) P00159424
	Firm's name (or yours if self-employed), address, and ZIP + 4	GALUSHA HIGGINS & GALUSHA PC 101 E FRONT STREET 301 MISSOULA, MT 59802			EIN 81-0272932
					Phone no (406) 728-1800

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? (see instructions) ☒ Yes ☐ No

Part III

Statement of Program Service Accomplishments

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part III

☐

☒

1

Briefly describe the organization’s mission

THE MISSION OF VITAL GROUND IS TO PROTECT AND RESTORE NORTH AMERICA'S GRIZZLY BEAR POPULATIONS BY CONSERVING WILDLIFE HABITAT VITAL GROUND WORKS TO ENSURE THE RECOVERY AND LONG-TERM SURVIVAL OF GRIZZLY BEARS, TOGETHER WITH THE MANY NATIVE SPECIES THAT SHARE THEIR RANGE, THROUGH THE PROTECTION AND RESTORATION OF CORE HABITATS AND LANDSCAPE LINKAGES

2

Did the organization undertake any significant program services during the year which were not listed on the prior Form 990 or 990-EZ?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If “Yes,” describe these new services on Schedule O

3

Did the organization cease conducting, or make significant changes in how it conducts, any program services?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If “Yes,” describe these changes on Schedule O

4

Describe the organization’s program service accomplishments for each of its three largest program services, as measured by expenses Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations and section 4947(a)(1) trusts are required to report the amount of grants and allocations to others, the total expenses, and revenue, if any, for each program service reported

4a

(Code) (Expenses \$ 168,484 including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)

VITAL GROUND IDENTIFIES CRUCIAL GRIZZLY BEAR HABITAT ON PRIVATE LAND, AND WORKS WITH THE LANDOWNERS TO PLACE PERMANENT CONSERVATION EASEMENTS ON THE LAND UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, VITAL GROUND PURCHASES THE LAND OUTRIGHT AND MANAGES IT FOR WILDLIFE HABITAT IN ADDITION, VITAL GROUND MAKES GRANTS TO CONSERVATION PARTNERS TO PROTECT LAND THAT IS DEEMED CRUCIAL HABITAT FOR GRIZZLY BEARS 2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS INCLUDE CONSERVATION EASEMENTS- * MONITORED SEVEN CONSERVATION EASEMENTS IN MONTANA, TWO CONSERVATION EASEMENTS IN IDAHO, AND ONE FOREST LEGACY CONSERVATION EASEMENT IN IDAHO (ALL ACQUIRED PRIOR TO 2011) * COMPLETED THE BANE CREEK FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM PROJECT IN BOUNDARY COUNTY, IDAHO-AN EFFORT TO CONSERVE 720 ACRES OF WILDLIFE HABITAT, AGRICULTURAL AND TIMBER LANDS WITH PERPETUAL CONSERVATION EASEMENTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LANDOWNERS, IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND U S FOREST SERVICE * CONTINUED WORKING TO ADVANCE THE NORTH IDAHO TIMBER COMMUNITIES FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM PROJECT IN BONNER, BOUNDARY AND BENEWAH COUNTIES, IDAHO-AN EFFORT TO CONSERVE 4,117 ACRES OF WILDLIFE HABITAT, AGRICULTURAL AND TIMBER LANDS WITH PERPETUAL CONSERVATION EASEMENTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LANDOWNERS, IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND U S FOREST SERVICE * CONTINUED WORKING TO ADVANCE THE SELKIRK-PURCELL-CABINET LINKAGE INITIATIVE IN NORTHWESTERN MONTANA AND NORTH IDAHO-AN EFFORT TO CONSERVE KEY GRIZZLY BEAR HABITAT LINKAGES BETWEEN THE SELKIRK, PURCELL AND CABINET-YAAK ECOSYSTEMS * CONTINUED WORKING TO ADVANCE THE SWAN VALLEY GRIZZLY BEAR CONSERVATION INITIATIVE IN MISSOULA AND LAKE COUNTIES MONTANA-AN EFFORT TO CONSERVE KEY GRIZZLY BEAR HABITAT AND LINKAGES BETWEEN THE BOB MARSHALL WILDERNESS AND MISSION MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS AREAS LAND OWNERSHIP- * PURCHASED A 71-ACRE PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE YAAK/HWY 2/TROY WILDLIFE LINKAGE ZONE IN LINCOLN COUNTY, MONTANA * MONITORED SEVEN FEE-TITLE CONSERVATION PROPERTIES IN IDAHO THAT WERE ACQUIRED PRIOR TO 2011 * CONDUCTED HABITAT ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITIES ON PROPERTIES HELD FOR THE BENEFIT OF WILDLIFE IN BONNER AND BOUNDARY COUNTIES, IDAHO

4b

(Code) (Expenses \$ 154,916 including grants of \$ 2,000) (Revenue \$ 22,660)

CONSERVATION EDUCATION VITAL GROUND PROVIDES INFORMATION ABOUT GRIZZLY BEARS, ASSOCIATED WILDLIFE AND HABITAT CONSERVATION ISSUES THROUGH ITS PUBLICATIONS, WEBSITE, PRESENTATIONS, VIDEOS AND OTHER MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES THE ORGANIZATION ALSO PARTICIPATES IN COLLABORATIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE THE CONSERVATION OF GRIZZLY BEARS AND THEIR HABITAT, MINIMIZE CONFLICTS BETWEEN BEARS AND HUMANS, AND ENHANCE THE SURVIVAL OF GRIZZLY BEARS 2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS INCLUDE * PRODUCED 11,500 COPIES OF VITAL NEWS, THE ORGANIZATION'S 16-PAGE NEWSLETTER WHICH REPORTS UPON GRIZZLY BEAR AND WILDLIFE HABITAT CONSERVATION ISSUES, PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS - 6,000 COPIES OF THE SPRING 2011 ISSUE - 5,500 COPIES OF THE FALL 2011 ISSUE* PRODUCED 6,000 COPIES OF A SPECIAL 16-PAGE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY REPORT CELEBRATING VITAL GROUND'S HISTORY AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING ITS FIRST 20 YEARS * PRODUCED AND DISTRIBUTED A RADIO PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT (PSA) CALLING ATTENTION TO THE PLIGHT OF THE GRIZZLY BEAR TRACKING REPORTS ESTIMATE THAT THE PSA WAS AIRED 15,757 TIMES DURING 2011 TO AN ESTIMATED AUDIENCE OF 22,690,480 * PRODUCED TWO SPECIAL MAILERS THAT REPORTED ON GRIZZLY BEAR AND WILDLIFE HABITAT CONSERVATION ISSUES, PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS - 7,000 COPIES OF SPRING MAILER - 7,000 COPIES OF FALL MAILER* MAINTAINED A WEBSITE (WWW.VITALGROUND.ORG) THAT PROVIDES COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC ABOUT GRIZZLY BEARS, WILDLIFE HABITAT CONSERVATION ISSUES, CURRENT GRIZZLY BEAR CONSERVATION CHALLENGES AND PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING 2011, THE WEBSITE RECEIVED 207,742 VISITS RESULTING IN 452,771 PAGE VIEWS * ORGANIZED AND LED TWO ONE-WEEK GRIZZLY BEAR ECOTOURS TO SOUTHWEST BRITISH COLUMBIA PARTICIPANTS LEARNED ABOUT GRIZZLY BEAR NATURAL HISTORY, ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION CHALLENGES * PARTICIPATED IN THE SWAN VALLEY, MONTANA'S ANNUAL BEAR FAIR EVENT TO RAISE THE PUBLIC'S AWARENESS OF BEARS AND HELP REDUCE CONFLICTS BETWEEN BEARS AND HUMANS * CONTINUED WORKING TO ADVANCE VITAL GROUND'S GRIZZLY BEAR CONSERVATION EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CHICAGO ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY AT THE BROOKFIELD ZOO'S GREAT BEAR WILDERNESS EXHIBIT * CONSERVATION EDUCATION GRANTS AWARDED (\$2,325) - AWARDED A \$1,500 GRANT TO WILDLIFE MEDIA TO ASSIST WITH THE PRODUCTION OF BEARTREK, AN EDUCATIONAL FILM ABOUT BEARS OF THE WORLD AND THEIR CONSERVATION NEEDS - AWARDED A \$250 GRANT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA TO SUPPORT THE ANNUAL CROWN OF THE CONTINENT CONSERVATION CONFERENCE - AWARDED A \$575 GRANT TO THE BLACKFOOT CHALLENGE TO SUPPORT THE PUBLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE "CROWN OF THE CONTINENT CONSERVATION EASEMENT BROCHURE "

4c

(Code) (Expenses \$ 0 including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)

IN ADDITION TO ITS LAND CONSERVATION AND CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROGRAMS, VITAL GROUND MAY ALSO PARTICIPATE IN COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS DESIGNED TO PROMOTE THE CONSERVATION OF GRIZZLY BEARS AND THEIR HABITAT, MINIMIZE CONFLICTS BETWEEN BEARS AND HUMANS, AND/OR ENHANCE THE SURVIVAL OF GRIZZLY BEARS 2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS INCLUDE * VITAL GROUND LAUNCHED THE GOBI BEAR INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT CONSERVATION EFFORTS FOR ENDANGERED GOBI GRIZZLY IN MONGOLIA VITAL GROUND WILL RAISE FUNDS TO ASSIST WITH NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENTATION, RESEARCH, COMMUNITY EDUCATION, AND RANGER PATROLS TO REDUCE POACHING

4d

Other program services (Describe in Schedule O)

(Expenses \$ including grants of \$) (Revenue \$)

4e

Total program service expenses \$ 323,400

Part IV

Checklist of Required Schedules

		Yes	No
1	Is the organization described in section 501(c)(3) or 4947(a)(1) (other than a private foundation)? If "Yes," complete Schedule A.	Yes	
2	Is the organization required to complete Schedule B, Schedule of Contributors (see instructions)?	Yes	
3	Did the organization engage in direct or indirect political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I.		No
4	Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Did the organization engage in lobbying activities, or have a section 501(h) election in effect during the tax year? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II.		No
5	Is the organization a section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) organization that receives membership dues, assessments, or similar amounts as defined in Revenue Procedure 98-19? If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III.		No
6	Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds or any similar funds or accounts for which donors have the right to provide advice on the distribution or investment of amounts in such funds or accounts? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part I.		No
7	Did the organization receive or hold a conservation easement, including easements to preserve open space, the environment, historic land areas or historic structures? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part II.	Yes	
8	Did the organization maintain collections of works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part III.		No
9	Did the organization report an amount in Part X, line 21, serve as a custodian for amounts not listed in Part X, or provide credit counseling, debt management, credit repair, or debt negotiation services? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IV.		No
10	Did the organization, directly or through a related organization, hold assets in temporarily restricted endowments, permanent endowments, or quasi-endowments? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part V.	Yes	
11	If the organization's answer to any of the following questions is "Yes," then complete Schedule D, Parts VI, VII, VIII, IX, or X as applicable.		
a	Did the organization report an amount for land, buildings, and equipment in Part X, line 10? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VI.	Yes	
b	Did the organization report an amount for investments—other securities in Part X, line 12 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VII.	Yes	
c	Did the organization report an amount for investments—program related in Part X, line 13 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VIII.		No
d	Did the organization report an amount for other assets in Part X, line 15 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IX.		No
e	Did the organization report an amount for other liabilities in Part X, line 25? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X.		No
f	Did the organization's separate or consolidated financial statements for the tax year include a footnote that addresses the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48 (ASC 740)? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X.	Yes	
12a	Did the organization obtain separate, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Parts XI, XII, and XIII.	Yes	
b	Was the organization included in consolidated, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? If "Yes," and if the organization answered 'No' to line 12a, then completing Schedule D, Parts XI, XII, and XIII is optional.		No
13	Is the organization a school described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? If "Yes," complete Schedule E.		No
14a	Did the organization maintain an office, employees, or agents outside of the United States?		No
b	Did the organization have aggregate revenues or expenses of more than \$10,000 from grantmaking, fundraising, business, investment, and program service activities outside the United States, or aggregate foreign investments valued at \$100,000 or more? If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Part I.		No
15	Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of grants or assistance to any organization or entity located outside the U.S.? If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Part II and IV.		No
16	Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of aggregate grants or assistance to individuals located outside the U.S.? If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Part III and IV.		No
17	Did the organization report a total of more than \$15,000 of expenses for professional fundraising services on Part IX, column (A), lines 6 and 11e? If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part I.		No
18	Did the organization report more than \$15,000 total of fundraising event gross income and contributions on Part VIII, lines 1c and 8a? If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part II.	Yes	
19	Did the organization report more than \$15,000 of gross income from gaming activities on Part VIII, line 9a? If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part III.		No
20a	Did the organization operate one or more hospitals? If "Yes," complete Schedule H.		No
b	If "Yes" to line 20a, did the organization attach its audited financial statement to this return? Note. All Form 990 filers that operated one or more hospitals must attach audited financial statements.		
20b			

Part IV

Checklist of Required Schedules (continued)

21	Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants and other assistance to governments and organizations in the United States on Part IX, column (A), line 1? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and II</i>	21		No
22	Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants and other assistance to individuals in the United States on Part IX, column (A), line 2? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and III</i>	22		No
23	Did the organization answer "Yes" to Part VII, Section A, questions 3, 4, or 5, about compensation of the organization's current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J</i>	23		No
24a	Did the organization have a tax-exempt bond issue with an outstanding principal amount of more than \$100,000 as of the last day of the year, that was issued after December 31, 2002? <i>If "Yes," answer questions 24b-24d and complete Schedule K. If "No," go to line 25</i>	24a		No
b	Did the organization invest any proceeds of tax-exempt bonds beyond a temporary period exception?	24b		
c	Did the organization maintain an escrow account other than a refunding escrow at any time during the year to defease any tax-exempt bonds?	24c		
d	Did the organization act as an "on behalf of" issuer for bonds outstanding at any time during the year?	24d		
25a	Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations. Did the organization engage in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person during the year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I</i>	25a		No
b	Is the organization aware that it engaged in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person in a prior year, and that the transaction has not been reported on any of the organization's prior Forms 990 or 990-EZ? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I</i>	25b		No
26	Was a loan to or by a current or former officer, director, trustee, key employee, highly compensated employee, or disqualified person outstanding as of the end of the organization's tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II</i>	26		No
27	Did the organization provide a grant or other assistance to an officer, director, trustee, key employee, substantial contributor, or a grant selection committee member, or to a person related to such an individual? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part III</i>	27		No
28	Was the organization a party to a business transaction with one of the following parties? (see Schedule L, Part IV instructions for applicable filing thresholds, conditions, and exceptions)			
a	A current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i>	28a		No
b	A family member of a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i>	28b		No
c	An entity of which a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee (or a family member thereof) was an officer, director, trustee, or owner? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV</i>	28c		No
29	Did the organization receive more than \$25,000 in non-cash contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M</i>	29		No
30	Did the organization receive contributions of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets, or qualified conservation contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M</i>	30		No
31	Did the organization liquidate, terminate, or dissolve and cease operations? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part I</i>	31		No
32	Did the organization sell, exchange, dispose of, or transfer more than 25% of its net assets? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part II</i>	32		No
33	Did the organization own 100% of an entity disregarded as separate from the organization under Regulations sections 301.7701-2 and 301.7701-3? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part I</i>	33		No
34	Was the organization related to any tax-exempt or taxable entity? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Parts II, III, IV, and V, line 1</i>	34		No
35a	Is any related organization a controlled entity of the filing organization within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)?	35a		No
b	Did the organization receive any payment from or engage in any transaction with a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2</i>	35b		No
36	Section 501(c)(3) organizations. Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2</i>	36		No
37	Did the organization conduct more than 5% of its activities through an entity that is not a related organization and that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part VI</i>	37		No
38	Did the organization complete Schedule O and provide explanations in Schedule O for Part VI, lines 11 and 19? Note. All Form 990 filers are required to complete Schedule O	38	Yes	

Part V Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax Compliance			
Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part V ☐			
		Yes	No
1a	Enter the number reported in Box 3 of Form 1096. Enter -0- if not applicable. .	1a	7
b	Enter the number of Forms W-2G included in line 1a. Enter -0- if not applicable.	1b	0
c	Did the organization comply with backup withholding rules for reportable payments to vendors and reportable gaming (gambling) winnings to prize winners?	1c	Yes
2a	Enter the number of employees reported on Form W-3, <i>Transmittal of Wage and Tax Statements</i> filed for the calendar year ending with or within the year covered by this return.	2a	7
b	If at least one is reported on line 2a, did the organization file all required federal employment tax returns? Note. If the sum of lines 1a and 2a is greater than 250, you may be required to e-file (see instructions).	2b	Yes
3a	Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more during the year?	3a	No
b	If "Yes," has it filed a Form 990-T for this year? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O.	3b	
4a	At any time during the calendar year, did the organization have an interest in, or a signature or other authority over, a financial account in a foreign country (such as a bank account or securities account)?	4a	No
b	If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country: _____ See instructions for filing requirements for Form TD F 90-22.1, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts.		
5a	Was the organization a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction at any time during the tax year?	5a	No
b	Did any taxable party notify the organization that it was or is a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction?	5b	No
c	If "Yes" to line 5a or 5b, did the organization file Form 8886-T?	5c	
6a	Does the organization have annual gross receipts that are normally greater than \$100,000, and did the organization solicit any contributions that were not tax deductible?	6a	No
b	If "Yes," did the organization include with every solicitation an express statement that such contributions or gifts were not tax deductible?	6b	
7	Organizations that may receive deductible contributions under section 170(c).		
a	Did the organization receive a payment in excess of \$75 made partly as a contribution and partly for goods and services provided to the payor?	7a	No
b	If "Yes," did the organization notify the donor of the value of the goods or services provided?	7b	
c	Did the organization sell, exchange, or otherwise dispose of tangible personal property for which it was required to file Form 8282?	7c	No
d	If "Yes," indicate the number of Forms 8282 filed during the year.	7d	
e	Did the organization receive any funds, directly or indirectly, to pay premiums on a personal benefit contract?	7e	No
f	Did the organization, during the year, pay premiums, directly or indirectly, on a personal benefit contract?	7f	No
g	If the organization received a contribution of qualified intellectual property, did the organization file Form 8899 as required?	7g	
h	If the organization received a contribution of cars, boats, airplanes, or other vehicles, did the organization file a Form 1098-C?	7h	
8	Sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds and section 509(a)(3) supporting organizations. Did the supporting organization, or a donor advised fund maintained by a sponsoring organization, have excess business holdings at any time during the year?	8	
9	Sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds.		
a	Did the organization make any taxable distributions under section 4966?	9a	
b	Did the organization make a distribution to a donor, donor advisor, or related person?	9b	
10	Section 501(c)(7) organizations. Enter		
a	Initiation fees and capital contributions included on Part VIII, line 12.	10a	
b	Gross receipts, included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, for public use of club facilities.	10b	
11	Section 501(c)(12) organizations. Enter		
a	Gross income from members or shareholders.	11a	
b	Gross income from other sources (Do not net amounts due or paid to other sources against amounts due or received from them).	11b	
12a	Section 4947(a)(1) non-exempt charitable trusts. Is the organization filing Form 990 in lieu of Form 1041?	12a	
b	If "Yes," enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the year.	12b	
13	Section 501(c)(29) qualified nonprofit health insurance issuers.		
a	Is the organization licensed to issue qualified health plans in more than one state? Note. All 501(c)(29) organizations must list in Schedule O each state in which they are licensed to issue qualified health plans, the amount of reserves required by each state, and the amount of reserves the organization allocated to each state.	13a	
b	Enter the aggregate amount of reserves the organization is required to maintain by the states in which the organization is licensed to issue qualified health plans.	13b	
c	Enter the aggregate amount of reserves on hand.	13c	
14a	Did the organization receive any payments for indoor tanning services during the tax year?	14a	No
b	If "Yes," has it filed a Form 720 to report these payments? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O.	14b	

Part VI

Governance, Management, and Disclosure For each "Yes" response to lines 2 through 7b below, and for a "No" response to lines 8a, 8b, or 10b below, describe the circumstances, processes, or changes in Schedule O. See instructions.
Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part VI ☒

Section A. Governing Body and Management

		Yes	No
1a	Enter the number of voting members of the governing body at the end of the tax year		
1a	17		
b	Enter the number of voting members included in line 1a, above, who are independent	1b	17
2	Did any officer, director, trustee, or key employee have a family relationship or a business relationship with any other officer, director, trustee, or key employee?	2	Yes
3	Did the organization delegate control over management duties customarily performed by or under the direct supervision of officers, directors or trustees, or key employees to a management company or other person?	3	No
4	Did the organization make any significant changes to its governing documents since the prior Form 990 was filed?	4	No
5	Did the organization become aware during the year of a significant diversion of the organization's assets?	5	No
6	Did the organization have members or stockholders?	6	No
7a	Did the organization have members, stockholders, or other persons who had the power to elect or appoint one or more members of the governing body?	7a	No
b	Are any governance decisions of the organization reserved to (or subject to approval by) members, stockholders, or persons other than the governing body?	7b	No
8	Did the organization contemporaneously document the meetings held or written actions undertaken during the year by the following		
a	The governing body?	8a	Yes
b	Each committee with authority to act on behalf of the governing body?	8b	Yes
9	Is there any officer, director, trustee, or key employee listed in Part VII, Section A, who cannot be reached at the organization's mailing address? If "Yes," provide the names and addresses in Schedule O	9	No

Section B. Policies (This Section B requests information about policies not required by the Internal Revenue Code.)

		Yes	No
10a	Did the organization have local chapters, branches, or affiliates?	10a	No
b	If "Yes," did the organization have written policies and procedures governing the activities of such chapters, affiliates, and branches to ensure their operations are consistent with the organization's exempt purposes?	10b	
11a	Has the organization provided a complete copy of this Form 990 to all members of its governing body before filing the form?	11a	Yes
b	Describe in Schedule O the process, if any, used by the organization to review the Form 990		
12a	Did the organization have a written conflict of interest policy? If "No," go to line 13	12a	Yes
b	Were officers, directors or trustees, and key employees required to disclose annually interests that could give rise to conflicts?	12b	Yes
c	Did the organization regularly and consistently monitor and enforce compliance with the policy? If "Yes," describe in Schedule O how this was done	12c	Yes
13	Did the organization have a written whistleblower policy?	13	Yes
14	Did the organization have a written document retention and destruction policy?	14	Yes
15	Did the process for determining compensation of the following persons include a review and approval by independent persons, comparability data, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision?		
a	The organization's CEO, Executive Director, or top management official	15a	Yes
b	Other officers or key employees of the organization	15b	Yes
	If "Yes," to line 15a or 15b, describe the process in Schedule O (see instructions)		
16a	Did the organization invest in, contribute assets to, or participate in a joint venture or similar arrangement with a taxable entity during the year?	16a	No
b	If "Yes," did the organization follow a written policy or procedure requiring the organization to evaluate its participation in joint venture arrangements under applicable federal tax law, and take steps to safeguard the organization's exempt status with respect to such arrangements?	16b	

Section C. Disclosure

17	List the States with which a copy of this Form 990 is required to be filed ☒ UT
18	Section 6104 requires an organization to make its Form 1023 (or 1024 if applicable), 990, and 990-T (501(c)(3)s only) available for public inspection. Indicate how you made these available. Check all that apply. ☒ Own website ☐ Another's website ☒ Upon request
19	Describe in Schedule O whether (and if so, how), the organization made its governing documents, conflict of interest policy, and financial statements available to the public. See Additional Data Table.
20	State the name, physical address, and telephone number of the person who possesses the books and records of the organization. ☒ GARY J WOLFE BUILDING T-2 FORT MISSOULA RD MISSOULA, MT 59804 (406) 549-8650

Part VII

Compensation of Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, Highest Compensated Employees, and Independent Contractors

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part VII

Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees

1a Complete this table for all persons required to be listed Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year

- List all of the organization's **current** officers, directors, trustees (whether individuals or organizations), regardless of amount of compensation, and **current** key employees Enter -0- in columns (D), (E), and (F) if no compensation was paid
- List all of the organization's **current** key employees, if any See instructions for definition of "key employee "
- List the organization's five **current** highest compensated employees (other than an officer, director, trustee or key employee) who received reportable compensation (Box 5 of Form W-2 and/or Box 7 of Form 1099-MISC) of more than \$100,000 from the organization and any related organizations
- List all of the organization's **former** officers, key employees, or highest compensated employees who received more than \$100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations
- List all of the organization's **former directors or trustees** that received, in the capacity as a former director or trustee of the organization, more than \$10,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations

List persons in the following order individual trustees or directors, institutional trustees, officers, key employees, highest compensated employees, and former such persons

Check this box if neither the organization nor any related organizations compensated any current or former officer, director, or trustee

(A) Name and Title	(B) Average hours per week (describe hours for related organizations in Schedule O)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)						(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W-2/1099-MISC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W-2/1099-MISC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional Trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee	Former			
(1) ROBERT KOONS CHAIRMAN	5 00	X		X				0	0	0
(2) STUART STRAHL VICE CHAIRMAN	4 00	X		X				0	0	0
(3) DAVID WESLEY SECRETARY	4 00	X		X				0	0	0
(4) CHARLIE EISEMAN TREASURER	5 00	X		X				0	0	0
(5) SANDY BECKY TRUSTEE	3 00	X						0	0	0
(6) JACK CAPP TRUSTEE	3 00	X						0	0	0
(7) DOUG CHADWICK TRUSTEE	15 00	X						0	0	0
(8) CAROLYN DOBBS TRUSTEE	1 00	X						0	0	0
(9) TOM FEY TRUSTEE	1 00	X						0	0	0
(10) JOE MATZA TRUSTEE	2 00	X						0	0	0
(11) MAUREEN MAYER TRUSTEE	6 00	X						0	0	0
(12) BANU QURESHI TRUSTEE	1 00	X						0	0	0
(13) LYNNE SEUS TRUSTEE	5 00	X						0	0	0
(14) SALLY SMYTH TRUSTEE	4 00	X						0	0	0
(15) DEBI STRONG TRUSTEE	1 00	X						0	0	0
(16) JOHN SWALLOW TRUSTEE	1 00	X						0	0	0
(17) KELLY WILSON TRUSTEE	1 50	X						0	0	0

Part VII

1b	Sub-Total	▼			
c	Total from continuation sheets to Part VII, Section A	▼			
d	Total (add lines 1b and 1c)	▼	71,167	0	15,558

2 Total number of individuals (including but not limited to those I
\$100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization) 0

		Yes	No
3	Did the organization list any former officer, director or trustee, key employee, or highest compensated employee on line 1a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual</i>	3	No
4	For any individual listed on line 1a, is the sum of reportable compensation and other compensation from the organization and related organizations greater than \$150,000? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual</i>	4	No
5	Did any person listed on line 1a receive or accrue compensation from any unrelated organization or individual for services rendered to the organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such person</i>	5	No

Section B. Independent Contractors

1 Complete this table for your five highest compensated independent contractors that received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year.

(A) Name and business address	(B) Description of services	(C) Compensation

2 Total number of independent contractors (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization ►0

Part VIII

Statement of Revenue

				(A) Total revenue	(B) Related or exempt function revenue	(C) Unrelated business revenue	(D) Revenue excluded from tax under sections 512, 513, or 514	
Contributions, gifts, grants and other similar amounts	1a	Federated campaigns . . .	1a					
	b	Membership dues	1b					
	c	Fundraising events	1c					
	d	Related organizations	1d					
	e	Government grants (contributions)	1e					
	f	All other contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts not included above	1f	1,117,368				
	g	Noncash contributions included in lines 1a-1f \$ 8,390						
	h	Total. Add lines 1a-1f		1,117,368				
Program Service Revenue	2a	MEMBERSHIP DUES	Business Code 531390	20,895	20,895			
	b							
	c							
	d							
	e							
	f	All other program service revenue						
	g	Total. Add lines 2a-2f		20,895				
	Other Revenue	3	Investment income (including dividends, interest and other similar amounts)		10,026			10,026
4		Income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds . .						
5		Royalties						
6a		Gross rents	(i) Real	(ii) Personal				
		b	Less rental expenses					
		c	Rental income or (loss)					
		d	Net rental income or (loss)					
7a		Gross amount from sales of assets other than inventory	(i) Securities	(ii) Other				
		b	Less cost or other basis and sales expenses					
		c	Gain or (loss)					
		d	Net gain or (loss)			-617		-617
8a		Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ of contributions reported on line 1c) See Part IV, line 18						
		a	19,116					
		b	Less direct expenses	b	28,514			
c		Net income or (loss) from fundraising events . .			-9,398		-9,398	
9a		Gross income from gaming activities See Part IV, line 19						
		a						
		b	Less direct expenses	b				
c		Net income or (loss) from gaming activities . .						
10a		Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances						
	a	7,326						
	b	Less cost of goods sold	b	5,604				
	c	Net income or (loss) from sales of inventory . .		1,722			1,722	
Miscellaneous Revenue		Business Code						
11a	OTHER REVENUE	900099	1,765	1,765				
b								
c								
d	All other revenue							
e	Total. Add lines 11a-11d		1,765					
12	Total revenue. See Instructions		1,141,761	22,660	0	1,733		

Part IX Statement of Functional Expenses

Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations must complete all columns
All other organizations must complete column (A) but are not required to complete columns (B), (C), and (D)
Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part IX

Do not include amounts reported on lines 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b, and 10b of Part VIII.		(A) Total expenses	(B) Program service expenses	(C) Management and general expenses	(D) Fundraising expenses
1	Grants and other assistance to governments and organizations in the United States See Part IV, line 21	2,000	2,000		
2	Grants and other assistance to individuals in the United States See Part IV, line 22				
3	Grants and other assistance to governments, organizations, and individuals outside the United States See Part IV, lines 15 and 16				
4	Benefits paid to or for members				
5	Compensation of current officers, directors, trustees, and key employees	86,727	43,363	21,682	21,682
6	Compensation not included above, to disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B)				
7	Other salaries and wages	162,601	107,512	13,399	41,690
8	Pension plan contributions (include section 401(k) and section 403(b) employer contributions)				
9	Other employee benefits	31,269	20,786	2,666	7,817
10	Payroll taxes	17,629	10,754	2,468	4,407
11	Fees for services (non-employees)				
a	Management				
b	Legal				
c	Accounting				
d	Lobbying				
e	Professional fundraising See Part IV, line 17				
f	Investment management fees				
g	Other	42,311	31,541	6,410	4,360
12	Advertising and promotion	9,721	9,225	496	
13	Office expenses	75,912	48,533	14,431	12,948
14	Information technology				
15	Royalties				
16	Occupancy	13,045	6,522	3,262	3,261
17	Travel	21,374	14,343	3,272	3,759
18	Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any federal, state, or local public officials				
19	Conferences, conventions, and meetings				
20	Interest	14,317	14,317		
21	Payments to affiliates				
22	Depreciation, depletion, and amortization	4,329		4,329	
23	Insurance	4,565		4,565	
24	Other expenses Itemize expenses not covered above (List miscellaneous expenses in line 24f If line 24f amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 24f expenses on Schedule O)				
a	GIFTS	8,098	1,394	344	6,360
b	MEALS & ENTERTAINMENT	7,403	5,462	701	1,240
c	DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS	5,395	4,685	110	600
d	LICENSES & TAXES	4,878		4,878	
e					
f	All other expenses	7,276	2,963	2,833	1,480
25	Total functional expenses. Add lines 1 through 24f	518,850	323,400	85,846	109,604
26	Joint costs. Check here ☐ if following SOP 98-2 (ASC 958-720) Complete this line only if the organization reported in column (B) joint costs from a combined educational campaign and fundraising solicitation				

Part X

Balance Sheet

					(A)		(B)
					Beginning of year		End of year
Assets	1	Cash—non-interest-bearing			343,425	1	648,003
	2	Savings and temporary cash investments				2	
	3	Pledges and grants receivable, net			252,500	3	5,900
	4	Accounts receivable, net				4	
	5	Receivables from current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees. Complete Part II of Schedule L				5	
	6	Receivables from other disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B). Complete Part II of Schedule L				6	
	7	Notes and loans receivable, net				7	
	8	Inventories for sale or use			14,977	8	15,267
	9	Prepaid expenses and deferred charges			4,805	9	3,398
	10a	Land, buildings, and equipment, cost or other basis. Complete Part VI of Schedule D	10a	1,949,506			
	b	Less: accumulated depreciation	10b	18,923	1,551,849	10c	1,930,583
	11	Investments—publicly traded securities				11	
	12	Investments—other securities. See Part IV, line 11			437,316	12	523,845
	13	Investments—program-related. See Part IV, line 11				13	
	14	Intangible assets				14	
	15	Other assets. See Part IV, line 11			164,267	15	163,600
	16	Total assets. Add lines 1 through 15 (must equal line 34)			2,769,139	16	3,290,596
Liabilities	17	Accounts payable and accrued expenses			13,351	17	9,918
	18	Grants payable				18	
	19	Deferred revenue				19	
	20	Tax-exempt bond liabilities				20	
	21	Escrow or custodial account liability. Complete Part IV of Schedule D				21	
	22	Payables to current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, highest compensated employees, and disqualified persons. Complete Part II of Schedule L				22	
	23	Secured mortgages and notes payable to unrelated third parties			545,360	23	445,749
	24	Unsecured notes and loans payable to unrelated third parties				24	
	25	Other liabilities (including federal income tax, payables to related third parties, and other liabilities not included on lines 17-24). Complete Part X of Schedule D				25	
	26	Total liabilities. Add lines 17 through 25			558,711	26	455,667
Net Assets or Fund Balances	Organizations that follow SFAS 117, check here ☒ and complete lines 27 through 29, and lines 33 and 34.						
	27	Unrestricted net assets			1,844,546	27	2,399,161
	28	Temporarily restricted net assets			190,463	28	251,841
	29	Permanently restricted net assets			175,419	29	183,927
	Organizations that do not follow SFAS 117, check here ☐ and complete lines 30 through 34.						
	30	Capital stock or trust principal, or current funds				30	
	31	Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, building or equipment fund				31	
	32	Retained earnings, endowment, accumulated income, or other funds				32	
	33	Total net assets or fund balances			2,210,428	33	2,834,929
	34	Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances			2,769,139	34	3,290,596

Part XI Reconciliation of Net Assets

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part XI ☐ ☒

1	Total revenue (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	1	1,141,761
2	Total expenses (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	2	518,850
3	Revenue less expenses Subtract line 2 from line 1	3	622,911
4	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (must equal Part X, line 33, column (A))	4	2,210,428
5	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain in Schedule O)	5	1,590
6	Net assets or fund balances at end of year Combine lines 3, 4, and 5 (must equal Part X, line 33, column (B))	6	2,834,929

Part XII Financial Statements and Reporting

Check if Schedule O contains a response to any question in this Part XII ☐ ☒

		Yes	No
1	Accounting method used to prepare the Form 990 ☐ Cash ☒ Accrual ☐ Other _____ If the organization changed its method of accounting from a prior year or checked "Other," explain in Schedule O		
2a	Were the organization's financial statements compiled or reviewed by an independent accountant?		No
b	Were the organization's financial statements audited by an independent accountant?	Yes	
c	If "Yes," to 2a or 2b, does the organization have a committee that assumes responsibility for oversight of the audit, review, or compilation of its financial statements and selection of an independent accountant? If the organization changed either its oversight process or selection process during the tax year, explain in Schedule O	Yes	
d	If "Yes" to line 2a or 2b, check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were issued on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both ☒ Separate basis ☐ Consolidated basis ☐ Both consolidated and separated basis		
3a	As a result of a federal award, was the organization required to undergo an audit or audits as set forth in the Single Audit Act and OMB Circular A-133?		No
b	If "Yes," did the organization undergo the required audit or audits? If the organization did not undergo the required audit or audits, explain why in Schedule O and describe any steps taken to undergo such audits		

SCHEDULE A
(Form 990 or 990EZ)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Public Charity Status and Public Support

Complete if the organization is a section 501(c)(3) organization or a section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust.

▶ Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ. ▶ See separate instructions.

OMB No 1545-0047

2011

Open to Public
Inspection

Name of the organization THE VITAL GROUND FOUNDATION INC	Employer identification number 87-0483446
---	--

Part I Reason for Public Charity Status (All organizations must complete this part.) See instructions

The organization is not a private foundation because it is (For lines 1 through 11, check only one box)

1

☐

A church, convention of churches, or association of churches **section 170(b)(1)(A)(i).**

2

☐

A school described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii).** (Attach Schedule E)

3

☐

A hospital or a cooperative hospital service organization described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii).**

4

☐

A medical research organization operated in conjunction with a hospital described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii).** Enter the hospital's name, city, and state

5

☐

An organization operated for the benefit of a college or university owned or operated by a governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(iv).** (Complete Part II)

6

☐

A federal, state, or local government or governmental unit described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(v).**

7

☒

An organization that normally receives a substantial part of its support from a governmental unit or from the general public described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)** (Complete Part II)

8

☐

A community trust described in **section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)** (Complete Part II)

9

☐

An organization that normally receives (1) more than 33 1/3% of its support from contributions, membership fees, and gross receipts from activities related to its exempt functions—subject to certain exceptions, and (2) no more than 33 1/3% of its support from gross investment income and unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 tax) from businesses acquired by the organization after June 30, 1975 See **section 509(a)(2).** (Complete Part III)

10

☐

An organization organized and operated exclusively to test for public safety Se**section 509(a)(4).**

11

☐

An organization organized and operated exclusively for the benefit of, to perform the functions of, or to carry out the purposes of one or more publicly supported organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or section 509(a)(2) See **section 509(a)(3).** Check the box that describes the type of supporting organization and complete lines 11e through 11h

a

☐

Type I

b

☐

Type II

c

☐

Type III - Functionally integrated

d

☐

Type III - Other

e

☐

By checking this box, I certify that the organization is not controlled directly or indirectly by one or more disqualified persons other than foundation managers and other than one or more publicly supported organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or section 509(a)(2)

f

☐

If the organization received a written determination from the IRS that it is a Type I, Type II or Type III supporting organization, check this box

g

☐

Since August 17, 2006, has the organization accepted any gift or contribution from any of the following persons?

(i)

a person who directly or indirectly controls, either alone or together with persons described in (ii) and (iii) below, the governing body of the the supported organization?

(ii)

a family member of a person described in (i) above?

(iii)

a 35% controlled entity of a person described in (i) or (ii) above?

h

☐

Provide the following information about the supported organization(s)

	Yes	No
11g(i)		
11g(ii)		
11g(iii)		

(i) Name of supported organization	(ii) EIN	(iii) Type of organization (described on lines 1- 9 above or IRC section (see instructions))	(iv) Is the organization in col (i) listed in your governing document?		(v) Did you notify the organization in col (i) of your support?		(vi) Is the organization in col (i) organized in the U S ?		(vii) Amount of support?
			Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Total									

Part II

Support Schedule for Organizations Described in IRC 170(b)(1)(A)(iv) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)
(Complete only if you checked the box on line 5, 7, or 8 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part III. If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part III.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2007	(b) 2008	(c) 2009	(d) 2010	(e) 2011	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received (Do not include any "unusual grants.")	1,464,848	919,519	1,104,650	1,424,061	1,117,368	6,030,446
2 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						
3 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						
4 Total. Add lines 1 through 3	1,464,848	919,519	1,104,650	1,424,061	1,117,368	6,030,446
5 The portion of total contributions by each person (other than a governmental unit or publicly supported organization) included on line 1 that exceeds 2% of the amount shown on line 11, column (f)						927,700
6 Public Support. Subtract line 5 from line 4						5,102,746

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2007	(b) 2008	(c) 2009	(d) 2010	(e) 2011	(f) Total
7 Amounts from line 4	1,464,848	919,519	1,104,650	1,424,061	1,117,368	6,030,446
8 Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources	12,431	9,133	3,226	6,935	10,026	41,751
9 Net income from unrelated business activities, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						
10 Other income (Explain in Part IV) Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets						
11 Total support (Add lines 7 through 10)						6,072,197

12 Gross receipts from related activities, etc (See instructions)

12

13 First Five Years If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

14 Public Support Percentage for 2011 (line 6 column (f) divided by line 11 column (f))	14	84 030 %
15 Public Support Percentage for 2010 Schedule A, Part II, line 14	15	94 360 %

16a 33 1/3% support test—2011. If the organization did not check the box on line 13, and line 14 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization

b 33 1/3% support test—2010. If the organization did not check the box on line 13 or 16a, and line 15 is 33 1/3% or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization

17a 10%-facts-and-circumstances test—2011. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, or 16b and line 14 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts and circumstances" test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part IV how the organization meets the "facts and circumstances" test The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization

b 10%-facts-and-circumstances test—2010. If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, or 17a and line 15 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the "facts and circumstances" test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part IV how the organization meets the "facts and circumstances" test The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization

18 Private Foundation If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, 17a or 17b, check this box and see instructions

Part IIIPart III

Support Schedule for Organizations Described in IRC 509(a)(2)
(Complete only if you checked the box on line 9 of Part I or if the organization failed to qualify under Part II. If the organization fails to qualify under the tests listed below, please complete Part II.)

Section A. Public Support						
Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2007	(b) 2008	(c) 2009	(d) 2010	(e) 2011	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions, and membership fees received (Do not include any "unusual grants.")						
2 Gross receipts from admissions, merchandise sold or services performed, or facilities furnished in any activity that is related to the organization's tax-exempt purpose						
3 Gross receipts from activities that are not an unrelated trade or business under section 513						
4 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						
5 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						
6 Total. Add lines 1 through 5						
7a Amounts included on lines 1, 2, and 3 received from disqualified persons						
b Amounts included on lines 2 and 3 received from other than disqualified persons that exceed the greater of \$5,000 or 1% of the amount on line 13 for the year						
c Add lines 7a and 7b						
8 Public Support (Subtract line 7c from line 6.)						

Section B. Total Support						
Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in)	(a) 2007	(b) 2008	(c) 2009	(d) 2010	(e) 2011	(f) Total
9 Amounts from line 6						
10a Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources						
b Unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 taxes) from businesses acquired after June 30, 1975						
c Add lines 10a and 10b						
11 Net income from unrelated business activities not included in line 10b, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						
12 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part IV.)						
13 Total support (Add lines 9, 10c, 11 and 12.)						
14 First Five Years If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here						

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage			
15 Public Support Percentage for 2011 (line 8 column (f) divided by line 13 column (f))	15		
16 Public support percentage from 2010 Schedule A, Part III, line 15	16		

Section D. Computation of Investment Income Percentage			
17 Investment income percentage for 2011 (line 10c column (f) divided by line 13 column (f))	17		
18 Investment income percentage from 2010 Schedule A, Part III, line 17	18		
19a 33 1/3% support tests—2011. If the organization did not check the box on line 14, and line 15 is more than 33 1/3% and line 17 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and stop here . The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization			
b 33 1/3% support tests—2010. If the organization did not check a box on line 14 or line 19a, and line 16 is more than 33 1/3% and line 18 is not more than 33 1/3%, check this box and stop here . The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization			
20 Private Foundation If the organization did not check a box on line 14, 19a or 19b, check this box and see instructions			

Part IV **Supplemental Information.** Supplemental Information. Complete this part to provide the explanation required by Part II, line 10; Part II, line 17a or 17b; or Part III, line 12. Also complete this part for any additional information. (See instructions).

Facts And Circumstances Test

Explanation

SCHEDULE D

(Form 990)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Financial Statements

▶ **Complete if the organization answered "Yes," to Form 990, Part IV, line 6, 7, 9, 10, 11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e, 11f, 12a, or 12b**
▶ **Attach to Form 990. ▶ See separate instructions.**

OMB No 1545-0047

2011

Open to Public
Inspection

Name of the organization
THE VITAL GROUND FOUNDATION INC

Employer identification number

87-0483446

Part I

Organizations Maintaining Donor Advised Funds or Other Similar Funds or Accounts. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 6.

	(a) Donor advised funds	(b) Funds and other accounts
1	Total number at end of year	
2	Aggregate contributions to (during year)	
3	Aggregate grants from (during year)	
4	Aggregate value at end of year	
5	Did the organization inform all donors and donor advisors in writing that the assets held in donor advised funds are the organization's property, subject to the organization's exclusive legal control? ☐ Yes ☐ No	
6	Did the organization inform all grantees, donors, and donor advisors in writing that grant funds may be used only for charitable purposes and not for the benefit of the donor or donor advisor, or for any other purpose conferring impermissible private benefit? ☐ Yes ☐ No	

Part II

Conservation Easements. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 7.

1

Purpose(s) of conservation easements held by the organization (check all that apply)

☐ Preservation of land for public use (e g , recreation or pleasure)

☐ Preservation of an historically importantly land area

☒ Protection of natural habitat

☐ Preservation of a certified historic structure

☒ Preservation of open space

2

Complete lines 2a–2d if the organization held a qualified conservation contribution in the form of a conservation easement on the last day of the tax year

	Held at the End of the Year
a	Total number of conservation easements
b	Total acreage restricted by conservation easements
c	Number of conservation easements on a certified historic structure included in (a)
d	Number of conservation easements included in (c) acquired after 8/17/06

3

Number of conservation easements modified, transferred, released, extinguished, or terminated by the organization during the taxable year ▶ 0

4

Number of states where property subject to conservation easement is located ▶ 2

5

Does the organization have a written policy regarding the periodic monitoring, inspection, handling of violations, and enforcement of the conservation easements it holds?

☒ Yes ☐ No

6

Staff and volunteer hours devoted to monitoring, inspecting and enforcing conservation easements during the year ▶ 66 00

7

Amount of expenses incurred in monitoring, inspecting, and enforcing conservation easements during the year ▶ \$ 3,752

8

Does each conservation easement reported on line 2(d) above satisfy the requirements of section 170(h)(4)(B)(i) and 170(h)(4)(B)(ii)?

☐ Yes ☐ No

9

In Part XIV, describe how the organization reports conservation easements in its revenue and expense statement, and balance sheet, and include, if applicable, the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that describes the organization's accounting for conservation easements

Part III

Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 8.

1a

If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116, not to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education or research in furtherance of public service, provide, in Part XIV, the text of the footnote to its financial statements that describes these items

b

If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116, to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide the following amounts relating to these items

(i) Revenues included in Form 990, Part VIII, line 1 ▶ \$

(ii) Assets included in Form 990, Part X ▶ \$

2

If the organization received or held works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets for financial gain, provide the following amounts required to be reported under SFAS 116 relating to these items

a

Revenues included in Form 990, Part VIII, line 1 ▶ \$

b

Assets included in Form 990, Part X ▶ \$

For Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Intructions for Form 990

Cat No 52283D

Schedule D (Form 990) 2011

Part III

Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets (continued)

3

Using the organization's accession and other records, check any of the following that are a significant use of its collection items (check all that apply)

a

☐ Public exhibition

d

☐ Loan or exchange programs

b

☐ Scholarly research

e

☐ Other

c

☐ Preservation for future generations

4

Provide a description of the organization's collections and explain how they further the organization's exempt purpose in Part XIV

5

During the year, did the organization solicit or receive donations of art, historical treasures or other similar assets to be sold to raise funds rather than to be maintained as part of the organization's collection?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Part IV

Escrow and Custodial Arrangements. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 9, or reported an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21.

1a

Is the organization an agent, trustee, custodian or other intermediary for contributions or other assets not included on Form 990, Part X?

☐ Yes

☐ No

b

If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIV and complete the following table

	Amount
1c	
1d	
1e	
1f	

c

Beginning balance

d

Additions during the year

e

Distributions during the year

f

Ending balance

2a

Did the organization include an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21?

☐ Yes

☐ No

b

If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIV

Part V

Endowment Funds. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 10.

	(a)Current Year	(b)Prior Year	(c)Two Years Back	(d)Three Years Back	(e)Four Years Back
1a	Beginning of year balance	2,700	2,600	2,600	
b	Contributions	1,000	100		
c	Investment earnings or losses				
d	Grants or scholarships				
e	Other expenditures for facilities and programs				
f	Administrative expenses				
g	End of year balance	3,700	2,700	2,600	

2

Provide the estimated percentage of the year end balance held as

a

Board designated or quasi-endowment ▶ 0 %

b

Permanent endowment ▶ 100 000 %

c

Term endowment ▶ 0 %

3a

Are there endowment funds not in the possession of the organization that are held and administered for the organization by

(i)

unrelated organizations

3a(i)

Yes

No

(ii)

related organizations

3a(ii)

Yes

No

b

If "Yes" to 3a(ii), are the related organizations listed as required on Schedule R?

3b

4

Describe in Part XIV the intended uses of the organization's endowment funds

Part VI

Land, Buildings, and Equipment. See Form 990, Part X, line 10.

Description of property	(a) Cost or other basis (investment)	(b) Cost or other basis (other)	(c) Accumulated depreciation	(d) Book value
1a Land		1,917,403		1,917,403
b Buildings				
c Leasehold improvements				
d Equipment		32,103	18,923	13,180
e Other				
Total. Add lines 1a-1e (Column (d) should equal Form 990, Part X, column (B), line 10(c).)				1,930,583

Part XI Reconciliation of Change in Net Assets from Form 990 to Financial Statements			
1	Total revenue (Form 990, Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	1	1,141,761
2	Total expenses (Form 990, Part IX, column (A), line 25)	2	518,850
3	Excess or (deficit) for the year Subtract line 2 from line 1	3	622,911
4	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	4	1,590
5	Donated services and use of facilities	5	
6	Investment expenses	6	
7	Prior period adjustments	7	
8	Other (Describe in Part XIV)	8	
9	Total adjustments (net) Add lines 4 - 8	9	1,590
10	Excess or (deficit) for the year per financial statements Combine lines 3 and 9	10	624,501

Part XII Reconciliation of Revenue per Audited Financial Statements With Revenue per Return			
1	Total revenue, gains, and other support per audited financial statements	1	1,785,736
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12		
a	Net unrealized gains on investments	2a	1,590
b	Donated services and use of facilities	2b	642,385
c	Recoveries of prior year grants	2c	
d	Other (Describe in Part XIV)	2d	
e	Add lines 2a through 2d	2e	643,975
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1	3	1,141,761
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, but not on line 1		
a	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a	
b	Other (Describe in Part XIV)	4b	
c	Add lines 4a and 4b	4c	0
5	Total Revenue Add lines 3 and 4c. (This should equal Form 990, Part I, line 12)	5	1,141,761

Part XIII Reconciliation of Expenses per Audited Financial Statements With Expenses per Return			
1	Total expenses and losses per audited financial statements	1	1,161,235
2	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part IX, line 25		
a	Donated services and use of facilities	2a	642,385
b	Prior year adjustments	2b	
c	Other losses	2c	
d	Other (Describe in Part XIV)	2d	
e	Add lines 2a through 2d	2e	642,385
3	Subtract line 2e from line 1	3	518,850
4	Amounts included on Form 990, Part IX, line 25, but not on line 1:		
a	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b	4a	
b	Other (Describe in Part XIV)	4b	
c	Add lines 4a and 4b	4c	0
5	Total expenses Add lines 3 and 4c. (This should equal Form 990, Part I, line 18)	5	518,850

Part XIV Supplemental Information

Complete this part to provide the descriptions required for Part II, lines 3, 5, and 9, Part III, lines 1a and 4, Part IV, lines 1b and 2b, Part V, line 4, Part X, Part XI, line 8, Part XII, lines 2d and 4b, and Part XIII, lines 2d and 4b Also complete this part to provide any additional information

Identifier	Return Reference	Explanation
DESCRIPTION OF HOW ORGANIZATION REPORTS CONSERVATION EASEMENTS	PART II, LINE 9	THE ORGANIZATION REPORTS THE DONATED VALUE OF CONSERVATION EASEMENTS IN REVENUE IN THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY THE DONATED VALUE OF THE EASEMENT LESS \$1, THE AMOUNT RECORDED IN THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR EACH CONSERVATION EASEMENT, IS RECORDED IN THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY AS A PROGRAM EXPENSE THE COST OF THE CONSERVATION EASEMENT TO THE ORGANIZATION IS RECORDED IN THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY AS A PROGRAM EXPENSE
DESCRIPTION OF UNCERTAIN TAX POSITIONS UNDER FIN 48	PART X	VITAL GROUND IS A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION AND IS EXEMPT FROM FEDERAL AND STATE INCOME TAXES UNDER SECTION 501(C)(3) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE THE COMPANY APPLIES GENERALLY ACCEPTED ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES FOR RECOGNITION OF UNCERTAINTY IN INCOME TAXES AND PRESCRIBING A RECOGNITION THRESHOLD AND MEASUREMENT ATTRIBUTE FOR THE RECOGNITION AND MEASUREMENT OF A TAX POSITION TAKEN OR EXPECTED TO BE TAKEN IN A TAX RETURN IN THE COURSE OF ITS ASSESSMENT, VITAL GROUND HAS DETERMINED THAT IT IS SUBJECT TO EXAMINATION FOR INCOME TAX FILINGS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR THE 2008 THROUGH 2011 TAX YEARS IN THE EVENT THAT THE COMPANY IS ASSESSED PENALTIES AND OR INTEREST, PENALTIES WILL BE CHARGED TO PENALTIES EXPENSE AND INTEREST WILL BE CHARGED TO INTEREST EXPENSE

Additional Data

Software ID:
Software Version:
EIN: 87-0483446
Name: THE VITAL GROUND FOUNDATION INC

Form 990, Special Condition Description:

Special Condition Description

SCHEDULE G
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Information Regarding Fundraising or Gaming Activities

**Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, lines 17, 18, or 19,
or if the organization entered more than \$15,000 on Form 990-EZ, line 6a.**

▶ Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ. ▶ See separate instructions.

OMB No 1545-0047

2011

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization
THE VITAL GROUND FOUNDATION INC

Employer identification number

87-0483446

Part I Fundraising Activities. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 17.

1 Indicate whether the organization raised funds through any of the following activities. Check all that apply.

- a** ☐ Mail solicitations
- b** ☐ Internet and e-mail solicitations
- c** ☐ Phone solicitations
- d** ☐ In-person solicitations
- e** ☐ Solicitation of non-government grants
- f** ☐ Solicitation of government grants
- g** ☐ Special fundraising events

2a Did the organization have a written or oral agreement with any individual (including officers, directors, trustees or key employees listed in Form 990, Part VII) or entity in connection with professional fundraising services?

☐ Yes ☐ No

b If "Yes," list the ten highest paid individuals or entities (fundraisers) pursuant to agreements under which the fundraiser is to be compensated at least \$5,000 by the organization. Form 990-EZ filers are not required to complete this table.

(i) Name and address of individual or entity (fundraiser)	(ii) Activity	(iii) Did fundraiser have custody or control of contributions?		(iv) Gross receipts from activity	(v) Amount paid to (or retained by) fundraiser listed in col (i)	(vi) Amount paid to (or retained by) organization
		Yes	No			
Total ➡						

3 List all states in which the organization is registered or licensed to solicit funds or has been notified it is exempt from registration or licensing

Part II Fundraising Events. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 18, or reported more than \$15,000 on Form 990-EZ, line 6a. List events with gross receipts greater than \$5,000.

Revenue		(a) Event #1	(b) Event #2	(c) Other Events	(d) Total Events
		<u>KNIGHT INLET TOUR</u>			(Add col (a) through col (c))
		(event type)	(event type)	(total number)	
1	Gross receipts	18,568			18,568
2	Less Charitable contributions				
3	Gross income (line 1 minus line 2)	18,568			18,568
Direct Expenses	4	Cash prizes			
	5	Non-cash prizes			
	6	Rent/facility costs			
	7	Food and beverages			
	8	Entertainment			
	9	Other direct expenses	20,034		20,034
	10	Direct expense summary Add lines 4 through 9 in column (d) ►			
	11	Net income summary Combine lines 3 and 10 in column (d). ►			
					(20,034)
					-1,466

Part III Gaming. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" to Form 990, Part IV, line 19, or reported more than \$15,000 on Form 990-EZ, line 6a.

Revenue		(a) Bingo	(b) Pull tabs/Instant bingo/progressive bingo	(c) Other gaming	(d) Total gaming
					(Add col (a) through col (c))
1	Gross revenue				
Direct Expenses	2	Cash prizes			
	3	Non-cash prizes			
	4	Rent/facility costs			
	5	Other direct expenses			
	6	Volunteer labor			
		☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No	
7 Direct expense summary Add lines 2 through 5 in column (d) ►					()
8 Net gaming income summary Combine lines 1 and 7 in column (d) ►					

9 Enter the state(s) in which the organization operates gaming activities _____

a Is the organization licensed to operate gaming activities in each of these states? ☐ Yes ☐ No

b If "No," Explain _____

10a Were any of the organization's gaming licenses revoked, suspended or terminated during the tax year? ☐ Yes ☐ No

b If "Yes," Explain _____

- 11

Does the organization operate gaming activities with nonmembers?

Yes

No
- 12

Is the organization a grantor, beneficiary or trustee of a trust or a member of a partnership or other entity formed to administer charitable gaming?

Yes

No

13

Indicate the percentage of gaming activity operated in

a	The organization's facility	13a
b	An outside facility	13b

14

Provide the name and address of the person who prepares the organization's gaming/special events books and records

Name

Address

15a

Does the organization have a contract with a third party from whom the organization receives gaming revenue?

Yes

No

b

If "Yes," enter the amount of gaming revenue received by the organization \$ and the amount of gaming revenue retained by the third party \$

c

If "Yes," enter name and address

Name

Address

16

Gaming manager information

Name

Gaming manager compensation

\$

Description of services provided

Director/officer

Employee

Independent contractor

17

Mandatory distributions

a

Is the organization required under state law to make charitable distributions from the gaming proceeds to retain the state gaming license?

Yes

No

b

Enter the amount of distributions required under state law distributed to other exempt organizations or spent in the organization's own exempt activities during the tax year \$

Part IV

Complete this part to provide additional information for responses to question on Schedule G (see instructions.)

Identifier	ReturnReference	Explanation
------------	-----------------	-------------

SCHEDULE O

(Form 990 or 990-EZ)

Department of the Treasury

Internal Revenue Service

Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ

Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on Form 990 or to provide any additional information.

▶ Attach to Form 990 or 990-EZ.

OMB No 1545-0047

2011

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization
THE VITAL GROUND FOUNDATION INC

Employer identification number
87-0483446

Identifier	Return Reference	Explanation
	FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION A, LINE 2	LYNNE SEUS (TRUSTEE) AND DOUG SEUS (NON-VOTING TRUSTEE EMERITUS) ARE MARRIED TO EACH OTHER
	FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 11	THE 990 IS PREPARED BY THE ORGANIZATION'S ACCOUNTING FIRM, REVIEWED BY THE ORGANIZATION'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PROVIDED TO THE ORGANIZATION'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT, AND THEN APPROVED BY THE ORGANIZATION'S FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE (A COMMITTEE OF THE ORGANIZATION'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES)
	FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 12C	THE "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST" POLICY IS REVIEWED AND SIGNED ANNUALLY BY ALL TRUSTEES AND EMPLOYEES
	FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 15	THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMPENSATION IS REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES THE TOTAL EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION BUDGET IS REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AS PART OF THE ANNUAL BUDGET REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION (OTHER THAN THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR) IS NOT INDIVIDUALLY REVIEWED BY THE BOARD, BUT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PUBLISHED SALARY SURVEYS (LAND TRUST ALLIANCE AND TRAINING RESOURCES FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY) ARE USED TO PROVIDE COMPARATIVE COMPENSATION GUIDELINES
	FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION C, LINE 19	AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, FORM 990 AND IRS LETTER OF DETERMINATION ARE POSTED ON THE ORGANIZATION'S WEBSITE OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL DOCUMENTS (FORM 1023, ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION, BYLAWS, CONFLICTS OF INTEREST POLICY, AND OTHER GOVERNING POLICIES) ARE PROVIDED UPON REQUEST
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS OR FUND BALANCES	FORM 990, PART XI, LINE 5	NET UNREALIZED GAINS ON INVESTMENTS 1,590
	FORM 990, PART XII, LINE 2C	THIS PROCESS HAS NOT CHANGED FROM THE PRIOR YEAR

Form

4562

Depreciation and Amortization
(Including Information on Listed Property)

OMB No 1545-0172

2011

Attachment
Sequence No 179

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service (99)

See separate instructions.

Attach to your tax return.

Name(s) shown on return THE VITAL GROUND FOUNDATION INC	Business or activity to which this form relates FORM 990 PAGE 10	Identifying number 87-0483446
--	---	--------------------------------------

Part I Election to Expense Certain Property Under Section 179

Note: If you have any listed property, complete Part V before you complete Part I.

1 Maximum amount (see instructions)	1	500,000
2 Total cost of section 179 property placed in service (see instructions)	2	
3 Threshold cost of section 179 property before reduction in limitation (see instructions)	3	2,000,000
4 Reduction in limitation Subtract line 3 from line 2 If zero or less, enter -0-	4	
5 Dollar limitation for tax year Subtract line 4 from line 1 If zero or less, enter -0- If married filing separately, see instructions	5	

6 (a) Description of property	(b) Cost (business use only)	(c) Elected cost	
7 Listed property Enter the amount from line 29	7		
8 Total elected cost of section 179 property Add amounts in column (c), lines 6 and 7	8		
9 Tentative deduction Enter the smaller of line 5 or line 8	9		
10 Carryover of disallowed deduction from line 13 of your 2010 Form 4562	10		
11 Business income limitation Enter the smaller of business income (not less than zero) or line 5 (see instructions)	11		
12 Section 179 expense deduction Add lines 9 and 10, but do not enter more than line 11	12		
13 Carryover of disallowed deduction to 2012 Add lines 9 and 10, less line 12	13		

Note: Do not use Part II or Part III below for listed property. Instead, use Part V.

Part II Special Depreciation Allowance and Other Depreciation (Do not include listed property) (See instructions)

14 Special depreciation allowance for qualified property (other than listed property) placed in service during the tax year (see instructions)	14	
15 Property subject to section 168(f)(1) election	15	
16 Other depreciation (including ACRS)	16	

Part III MACRS Depreciation (Do not include listed property.) (See instructions.)

Section A

17 MACRS deductions for assets placed in service in tax years beginning before 2011	17	3,662
18 If you are electing to group any assets placed in service during the tax year into one or more general asset accounts, check here		

Section B—Assets Placed in Service During 2011 Tax Year Using the General Depreciation System						
(a) Classification of property	(b) Month and year placed in service	(c) Basis for depreciation (business/investment use only—see instructions)	(d) Recovery period	(e) Convention	(f) Method	(g) Depreciation deduction
19a 3-year property						
b 5-year property						
c 7-year property						
d 10-year property						
e 15-year property						
f 20-year property						
g 25-year property			25 yrs		S/L	
h Residential rental property			27 5 yrs	MM	S/L	
			27 5 yrs	MM	S/L	
i Nonresidential real property			39 yrs	MM	S/L	
				MM	S/L	

Section C—Assets Placed in Service During 2011 Tax Year Using the Alternative Depreciation System						
20a Class life					S/L	
b 12-year			12 yrs		S/L	
c 40-year			40 yrs	MM	S/L	

Part IV Summary (see instructions)

21 Listed property Enter amount from line 28	21	
22 Total. Add amounts from line 12, lines 14 through 17, lines 19 and 20 in column (g), and line 21 Enter here and on the appropriate lines of your return Partnerships and S corporations—see instructions	22	3,662
23 For assets shown above and placed in service during the current year, enter the portion of the basis attributable to section 263A costs	23	

Part V

Listed Property (Include automobiles, certain other vehicles, certain computers, and property used for entertainment, recreation, or amusement.)
Note: For any vehicle for which you are using the standard mileage rate or deducting lease expense, complete **only** 24a, 24b, columns (a) through (c) of Section A, all of Section B, and Section C if applicable.

Section A—Depreciation and Other Information (Caution: See the instructions for limits for passenger automobiles.)

24a Do you have evidence to support the business/investment use claimed? ☐ Yes ☐ No						24b If "Yes," is the evidence written? ☐ Yes ☐ No			
(a) Type of property (list vehicles first)	(b) Date placed in service	(c) Business/ investment use percentage	(d) Cost or other basis	(e) Basis for depreciation (business/investment use only)	(f) Recovery period	(g) Method/ Convention	(h) Depreciation/ deduction	(i) Elected section 179 cost	
25Special depreciation allowance for qualified listed property placed in service during the tax year and used more than 50% in a qualified business use (see instructions)							25		
26 Property used more than 50% in a qualified business use									
		%							
		%							
		%							
27 Property used 50% or less in a qualified business use									
		%				S/L -			
		%				S/L -			
		%				S/L -			
28 Add amounts in column (h), lines 25 through 27 Enter here and on line 21, page 1						28			
29 Add amounts in column (i), line 26 Enter here and on line 7, page 1							29		

Section B—Information on Use of Vehicles

Complete this section for vehicles used by a sole proprietor, partner, or other "more than 5% owner," or related person
If you provided vehicles to your employees, first answer the questions in Section C to see if you meet an exception to completing this section for those vehicles

30 Total business/investment miles driven during the year (do not include commuting miles)	(a) Vehicle 1		(b) Vehicle 2		(c) Vehicle 3		(d) Vehicle 4		(e) Vehicle 5		(f) Vehicle 6	
31 Total commuting miles driven during the year												
32 Total other personal(noncommuting) miles driven												
33 Total miles driven during the year Add lines 30 through 32												
34 Was the vehicle available for personal use during off-duty hours?	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
35 Was the vehicle used primarily by a more than 5% owner or related person?												
36 Is another vehicle available for personal use?												

Section C—Questions for Employers Who Provide Vehicles for Use by Their Employees

Answer these questions to determine if you meet an exception to completing Section B for vehicles used by employees who **are not** more than 5% owners or related persons (see instructions)

37 Do you maintain a written policy statement that prohibits all personal use of vehicles, including commuting, by your employees?	Yes	No
38 Do you maintain a written policy statement that prohibits personal use of vehicles, except commuting, by your employees? See the instructions for vehicles used by corporate officers, directors, or 1% or more owners		
39 Do you treat all use of vehicles by employees as personal use?		
40 Do you provide more than five vehicles to your employees, obtain information from your employees about the use of the vehicles, and retain the information received?		
41 Do you meet the requirements concerning qualified automobile demonstration use? (See instructions)		
Note: If your answer to 37, 38, 39, 40, or 41 is "Yes," do not complete Section B for the covered vehicles		

Part VI Amortization

(a) Description of costs	(b) Date amortization begins	(c) Amortizable amount	(d) Code section	(e) Amortization period or percentage	(f) Amortization for this year
42 Amortization of costs that begins during your 2011 tax year (see instructions)					
43 Amortization of costs that began before your 2011 tax year				43	667
44 Total. Add amounts in column (f) See the instructions for where to report				44	667